

Grenfell Projects Fund

Consultation report and findings
April 2021

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Introduction

Background

The Community Participation Team were keen to understand the views of residents on the Grenfell Projects Fund to help shape Year Two of the programme. The Grenfell Projects Fund provide grants to local organisations to support those most affected by the Grenfell tragedy. It has again been co-designed with local residents, who have told us how the funds should be spent and how funding decisions should be made.

An online survey was promoted via email, through conversations with residents and via The Curve. The online survey ran between 18 February 2021 - 9 April 2021. A range of stakeholder engagement sessions took place between November 2020 and April 2021 to capture feedback about the Grenfell Projects Fund, with a summary of these discussions included in this report.

Methodology and report

There were 99 respondents in total. Not all respondents answered all questions. Where graphs are shown, percentages are used. Base numbers represent the total number of respondents for each question.

For analysis purposes, any multi-option questions which have Strongly Agree, Agree, Strongly Disagree and Disagree as options, these have been combined to create: Agree (Strongly Agree + Agree); and Disagree (Strongly Disagree + Disagree). These will be outlined where appropriate throughout the report.

Appendix

The appendix contains details of all themed comments made by respondents in relation to the consultation, and all notes from stakeholder discussion groups. All other responses and data are in the report. The appendix is available upon request.

Equalities

Equalities data is presented on the '**About Respondents: Demographic Breakdown**' section.

Acknowledgements

The Council would like to thank everyone that took the time to take part in the exercise and gave their views.

Results at a glance – Survey Findings

- A total of 64 per cent agreed that they would ***‘recommend applying the Grenfell Projects fund to a friend/neighbour’***, whilst half (50 per cent) agreed that the ***‘Grenfell Projects Fund was a success’***.
- Around a quarter (26 per cent) of respondents disagreed with the statement that ***‘the process for applications to the Grenfell Projects Fund was fair and transparent’***.
- When asked about potential changes to the Grenfell Projects Fund, a total of 44 per cent selected that they would prefer to ***“keep themes the same, but change the decision-making process”***, whilst a total of 39 per cent preferred to ***‘keep themes and decision-making process the same’***. A total of 11 per cent of respondents preferred to ***‘change the themes and the decision-making process’***.
- Of those who wanted to keep the same themes, but change the decision-making process, half (50 per cent) outlined that they would like a ***‘combination of a resident-led panel and public vote’***, to be implemented, whilst 43 per cent would like to see a ***‘resident led assessment panel’***, included as part of the decision-making process.
- Just under half (48 per cent) of respondents would like to be kept updated about the Grenfell Projects Fund via the ***‘Kensington and Chelsea Council website’***, whilst just over a third (36 per cent) would like to be kept up to date via ***‘monthly meetings’***.
- Around a fifth (21 per cent) of respondents were ***‘White British’***, 14 per cent of respondents were ***‘Other ethnic group – Moroccan Arab’***, and a total of 12 per cent of respondents were ***‘Black or Black British – African’***, and a total of 11 per cent of respondents were ***‘Black or Black British – Caribbean’***.

Results at a glance – Stakeholder Engagement

Feedback from the various stakeholder groups

- Kensington and Chelsea Interfaith Focus Group
- Grenfell Projects Fund Year Two: Community Conversations (Involvement & Design)
- Grenfell Community Assembly - GPF
- Grenfell Projects Fund Stakeholder Engagement/Consultation Feedback

Greater information and responsibility given to the community to shape the Grenfell Projects Fund through a resident-led, bottom up approach

Stakeholders discussed a need for greater engagement from the Council early on in the process to enable better alignment with the needs of the community. It was outlined that there needs to be improved and a more inclusive advertisement campaign for the Grenfell Projects Fund to give the community more information to make decisions. There was also a discussion around the governance of the Grenfell Projects Fund, and a call for the Council to decrease their role in running the fund by commissioning voluntary organisations and/or sourcing more administrators within the Community, utilising resources such as a Community Led Residents' Panel and/or a World Café to oversee this process.

Stakeholders also outlined the need for a longer consultation period for the Grenfell Projects Fund and that this should be led by, and involved with, local residents to deliver what the community needs. It was suggested that the community should be given funding to appoint community administrators to oversee the Grenfell Projects Fund, reporting to a local community board/resident-led steering group/assessment panel who will have greater responsibility in running the programmes. It was raised that there should be a bottom-up approach to grant assessment with clear objectives, guidelines and a direction from, and co-designed with, the local community to identify community based solutions.

Greater transparency to help build trust

Discussions were had that there should be greater transparency around the distribution of funds and clarity of why all the organisations are funded. It was highlighted that there needs to be evidence that shows the funds allocated to projects show that they will benefit the community and have clearer outcomes linked to Grenfell Recovery, and that applications have Value for Money and there is evidence of social impact and outcomes. Transparent reports, case studies & numbers of attendees to be provided, so everyone can see the numbers with regards to participation (no other information though).

Results at a glance – Stakeholder Engagement

Improvements to Participatory Budgeting and Decision Making Day

There were discussions centred around improving the voting process for the Grenfell Projects Fund, as there were concerns that it felt like a popularity contest that put too much pressure on presenters, that there was potential bias from voters towards friends, and a lack of protection from vocal members within the community. Concerns were also raised about the funding of some of the projects with a lack of clarity as to why some were funded, and others weren't and also that there was no balance between the number of projects in each group, and that an unfair distribution of funds benefited projects in undersubscribed categories compared to very competitive oversubscribed categories. It was also mentioned that the decision days themselves were too long and with too many presentations, and that the events seemed expensive and some of the projects had questionable value to the local community.

Stakeholders suggested a need for weighted applications based on a percentage across each theme, as opposed to the standard £100,000 across the six category areas. It was also suggested that the Council and sponsors should pay out smaller amounts funding at different stages of the project and not all at once at the beginning of the project. Also, it was discussed that the funding pot needed to be divided between smaller groups and larger groups, and that they shouldn't be competing for the same money. A suggestion was that theme one would be divided into two pots – a larger pot for bigger groups, and a smaller pot for individuals or new collectives.

Stakeholders outlined that there should be a better voting system at the decision day event to improve the overall process of the events, and that more intermediate venues should be used, instead of larger halls. It was also suggested that there should be a focus on one theme per decision day event to simplify the process and make it easier and clearer to follow and that the council should incorporate ICT and Multimedia before the decision day with pre-recorded videos to improve the overall process. Stakeholder suggested that there should be a facility that allows for multimedia applications uploaded onto the Kensington and Chelsea Website/YouTube Account to improve interaction. There were also requests for having more frequent updates to the Kensington and Chelsea website, and more marketing of the events in general.

Results at a glance – Stakeholder Engagement

Improved communication of the GPF

Stakeholders outlined a need for improved communication of the Grenfell Projects Fund, making it easier to understand submissions and how to get involved. It was suggested that this could include an online platform for submissions, the development of a mind mapping exercises which can create a centralised community database of Grenfell related services, and easier, more visual explanations on the website, explaining the processes for the Grenfell Projects Fund. Stakeholders suggested working with the communications team at Kensington and Chelsea to explore how interactive videos could be added to the website to engage more residents and use different social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

More involvement of young people

A common discussion point was that young people should be given more ownership as part of the Grenfell Projects Fund, and opportunities for them to be more involved throughout the process, to experience greater opportunities to influence the fund. There were concerns amongst stakeholders about young people in particular, and the risks of them becoming disillusioned if they're not given the right opportunities to get involved.

Continued support for the GPF

Stakeholders outlined that there were many special projects that have made a difference as a result of the Grenfell Projects Fund and that the participatory budgeting process was seen as a change for the better – an attempt to put power back into the community. It was also suggested, that despite the emergency of Covid-19, there is still a strong desire to put more funding into activities that are able to take place despite COVID.

Results at a glance – Stakeholder Engagement

Sustainability post-Grenfell Projects Fund

Stakeholders suggested creating an *Umbrella CIC* that smaller organisations and/or new collectives can be a part of to identify local needs and solutions, share resources and do joint bids.

Greater clarity for sponsors and applicants

Stakeholders outlined that there needs to be clearer guidance for sponsors so they can have a better understanding of their responsibility for releasing funding (e.g. buying materials/items compared to showing the impact of what has been done as part of the project). It was mentioned that there needs to be clearer timeframes regarding the funding process, including the closing date, funding being awarded and money being released by the Council and/or sponsor. The Council should contact sponsors and have a predetermined list, which could be provided to applicants prior to PQQ, and made clear to everyone - categorising organisations differently depending on size. It was also raised that applicants need to know what venues were available in North Kensington, and that the Council should produce a venue list to give to perspective applicants.

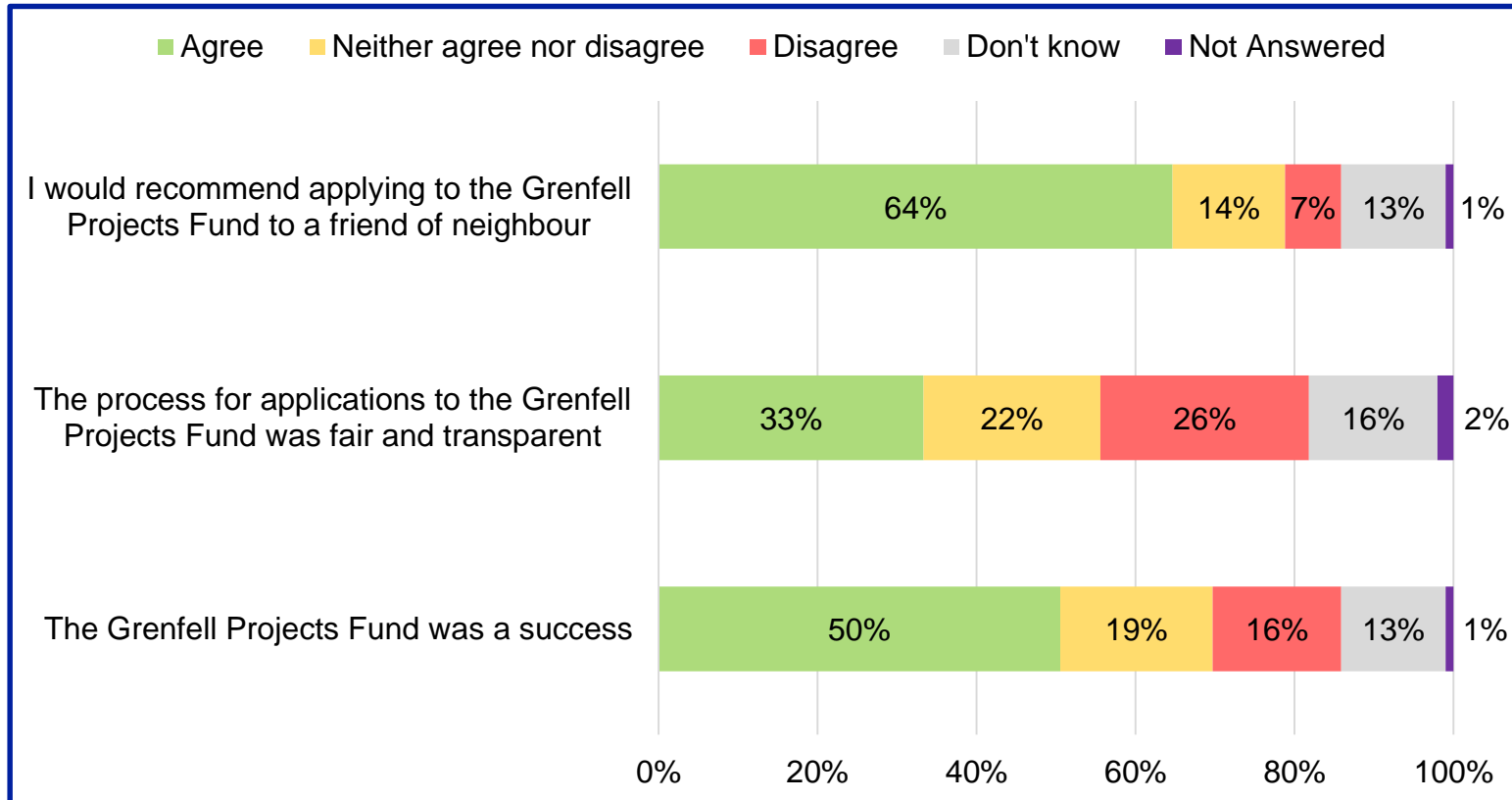
Pre-qualifying qualification (PQQ) process

Stakeholders suggested that the Grenfell Projects Fund launch needs to happen at the same time as the PQQ is made available online and more focused on due diligence, leading straight into the Expression of Interest Form and not kept separate. It was also suggested that the Council should produce a Grenfell Projects Fund frequently asked questions (FAQ) document to give to prospective applicants.

Summary charts – Overall views of Grenfell Projects Fund

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements related to their experience of the Grenfell Projects Fund:

- A total of 64 per cent agreed that they would ***'recommend applying the Grenfell Projects fund to a friend/ neighbour'***, whilst half (50 per cent) agreed that the ***'Grenfell Projects Fund was a success'***.
- Around a quarter (26 per cent) of respondents disagreed that ***'the process for applications to the Grenfell Projects Fund was fair and transparent'***.



*Combined scale applied: Strongly Agree/Agree = 'Agree'; Strongly Disagree/Disagree = 'Disagree'

Base: 99 (all responses)

Survey comments - Improvements to Grenfell Projects Fund

Respondents were asked to provide comments on what they felt could improve the Grenfell Projects Fund in the future. Comments made have been themed and the themes with two or more comments are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen overleaf, with the full list of themes and comments made can be found in appendix two.

Theme	Count
Improve the fairness of the voting system	5
Better co-ordination with community and local people	5
Better communication of the process and the event	4
Smother application process	2

Base: 14 (all comments)

Survey comments - Improvements to Grenfell Projects Fund

“The voting system was biased and unfair - things kept changing on the day and was very unclear. I liked that residents had opportunity to vote however some applicants were coached a lot more than others to be able to word applications in order to fit into categories with less applications therefore more chance of success.”

Improve the fairness of the voting system

“By getting more of the locals to get involved in the decision making as they are the main part of the community. Instead of people sitting on the decision making but they are not really part & parcel of the community.”

Better co-ordination with community and local people



“The 2nd event was very poorly advertised, consequently, it was very poorly attended and was therefore unrepresentative of a whole North Kensington need. There was also confusion about the need to reregister and some people who had been on the original list and attended the 1st session, were then turned away at the 2nd for 'not being on the list'! At this 2nd event, as well, certain groups had mass 'supporters' turn up just to vote for them, who then left.”

Better communication of the process and the event

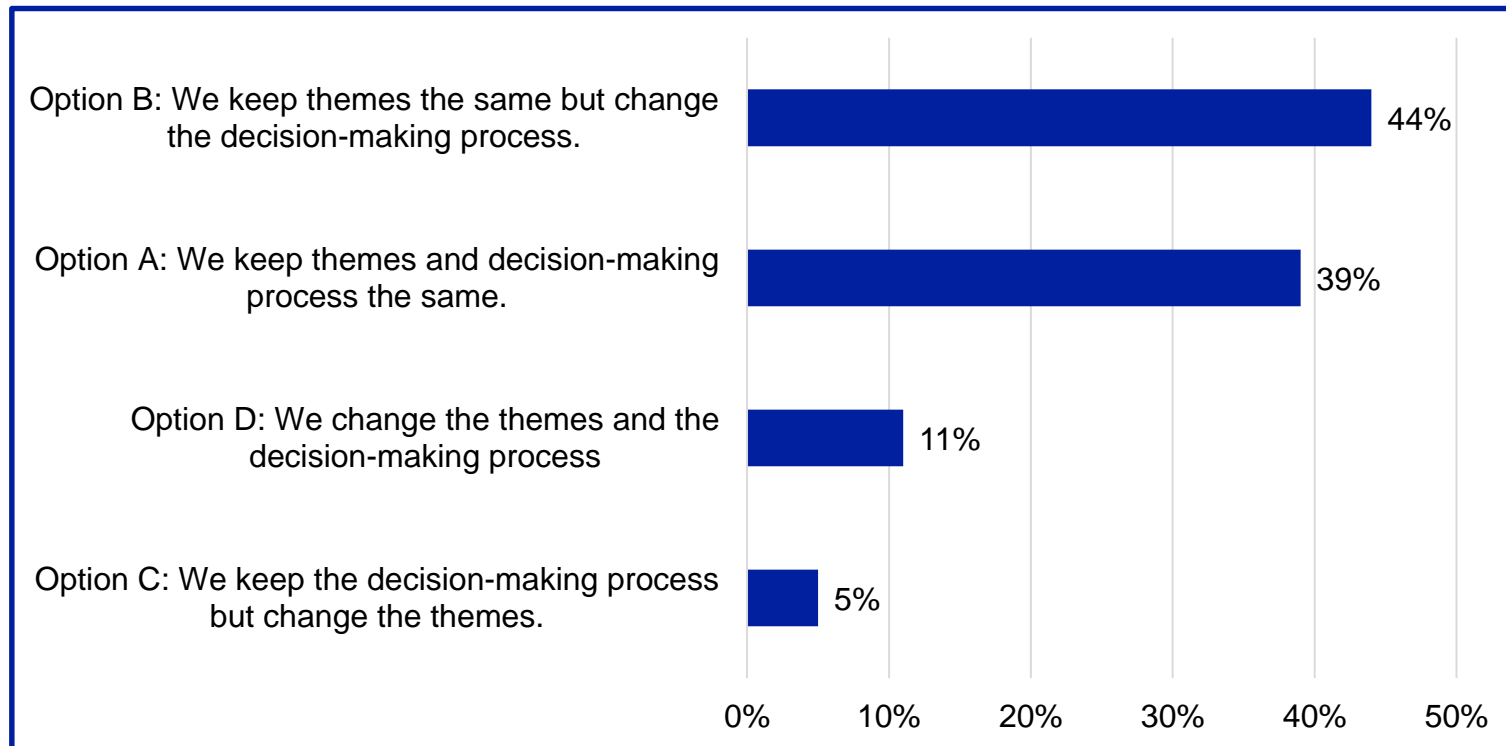
“Having set times and dates for the funding to be announced and released, make sure dates are set up to help individual's fill out forms are kept.”

Smoother application process

Summary charts – Future of Grenfell Projects Fund

Respondents were given a list of options and asked to select which one they preferred for the future delivery of the Grenfell Projects Fund:

- A total of 44 per cent selected that they would prefer to “**Option B: keep themes the same, but change the decision-making process**”, whilst a total of 39 per cent preferred to ‘**Option A: keep themes and decision-making process the same**’.
- A total of 11 per cent of respondents preferred to ‘**Option D: change the themes and the decision-making process**’.

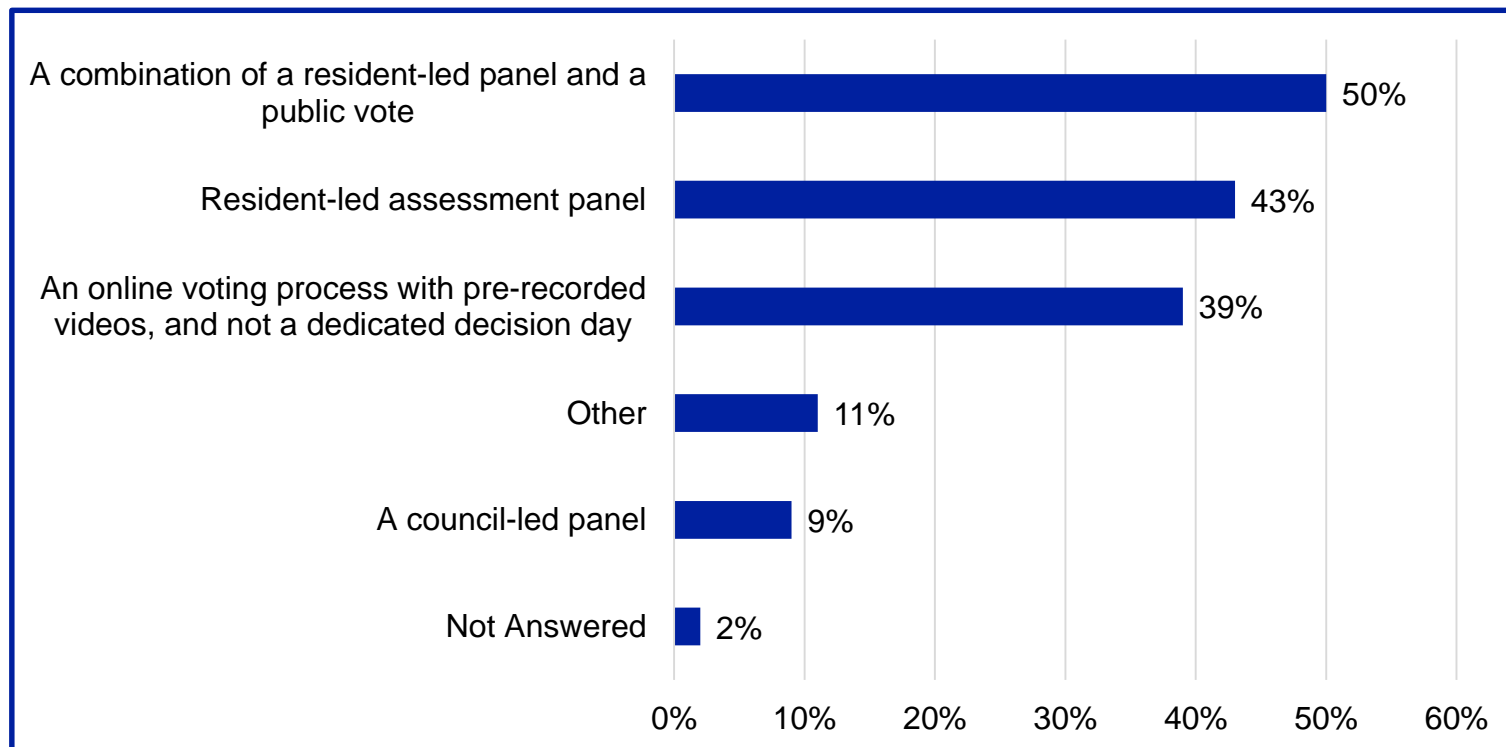


Base: 99 (all responses)

Summary charts – Future of Grenfell Projects Fund

Respondents who preferred **Option B: We keep the themes the same but change the decision-making process**, were given a list of changes to the decision-making process, and asked to **select all** that they would like to see implemented:

- Around a half of respondents (50 per cent) outlined that they would like a **'combination of a resident-led panel and public vote'** to be implemented, whilst 43 per cent would like to see a **'resident' led assessment panel'** included as part of the decision-making process.
- A total of 39 per cent of respondents outlined that they would like to see **'an online voting process with pre-recorded videos, and not a dedicated decision day'**.



Base: 39 responses

Survey comments – Future of Grenfell Projects Fund (‘Other’ responses)

Respondents who selected **Option B: We keep the themes the same but change the decision-making process** were able to provide comments about any other suggestions they had changes to the decision-making process for the Grenfell Projects Fund. Due to the low number of responses, theming of comments wasn’t possible. All comments to this question have been included below.

- *“Would suggest limiting eligibility for funding to smaller organisations, e.g. turnover below £500,000, to ensure that the funding is not dominated by larger groups.”*
- *“Council / Residents”*
- *“I think a panel of external experts. They would be non bias and have the level of professionalism to assess what projects being pitched are deliverable. Also, the idea being presented isn’t enough, the person/persons delivering a project should also be assessed.”*
- *“Involve Kensington and Chelsea Social Council”*
- *“A dedicated decision day that is maybe online open for a few weeks but not recorded. It should be application based put in front of the residents.”*
- *“Bring in more young people especially those who are in need of this funding as it demonstrates they aren’t being neglected and get a fresh mindset, so possibly include those who are in YOT.”*
- *“The major task to be creating for opportunities for employment. Had been looking for job in Grenfell corner job research no hope at all. Please do some for creating job priority for residence only.”*
- *“Voting devices were accessible to members, who used multiple devices to register a bias. As members left, uncollected devices were not securely monitored. This left some applicants feeling dismayed at efforts to contribute to their community, having received a score indicative of no confidence. The description of the vote rankings was also insensitive, especially for those who were new to business/start-up.”*
- *“Joint council and resident led panel.”*

Base: 9 (all comments)

Summary charts – Future of Grenfell Projects Fund

Respondents who preferred **Option C: We keep the decision-making process but change the themes** were given a list of changes to the themes, and asked to **select all** that they would like to see implemented. There were a total of **five respondents** who selected this option, and the options these five respondents selected have been included in the table below. This is because, using percentages for such a small base number, can lead to misleading percentage figures.

Theme	Count
Activities for target groups (for example: men, disabled people, LGBTQ+, women, older people)	3
Education and employment	3
Health and wellbeing	2
Environmental projects	1
COVID-19 related support	1

Base: 5

Survey comments - Future of Grenfell Projects Fund

Respondents who selected **Option D: We change the themes the decision-making process**, were asked to provide comments on what they felt this should be. Some of the comments made have been included below, with the full list of comments made available in appendix two.

Respondent comment: *“Themes should change to include areas where there is a clear lack of service provision in the local area. This can be done by auditing what has already been funded and matching those services to what is required by RBKC, in the coming year, to meet residents' needs. For example, Educational Opportunities could specify "catch-up" lesson delivery for secondary school pupils years 10-12. There is no service/meeting place specifically for women, (of all races, not a small ethnic group); and RBKC are committed to social inclusion and supporting all residents. A new theme could be women's support services! I think all themes need to be more specific and centred around what the local authority needs to deliver, as a priority. This will require a change in the decision making process because the new themes will have to be worked out and agreed with the community. This will allow residents to match their skills to what is required and make applications to the fund, only if they can make a measurable contribution to the community as a whole. This will support an efficient use of the funds.”*

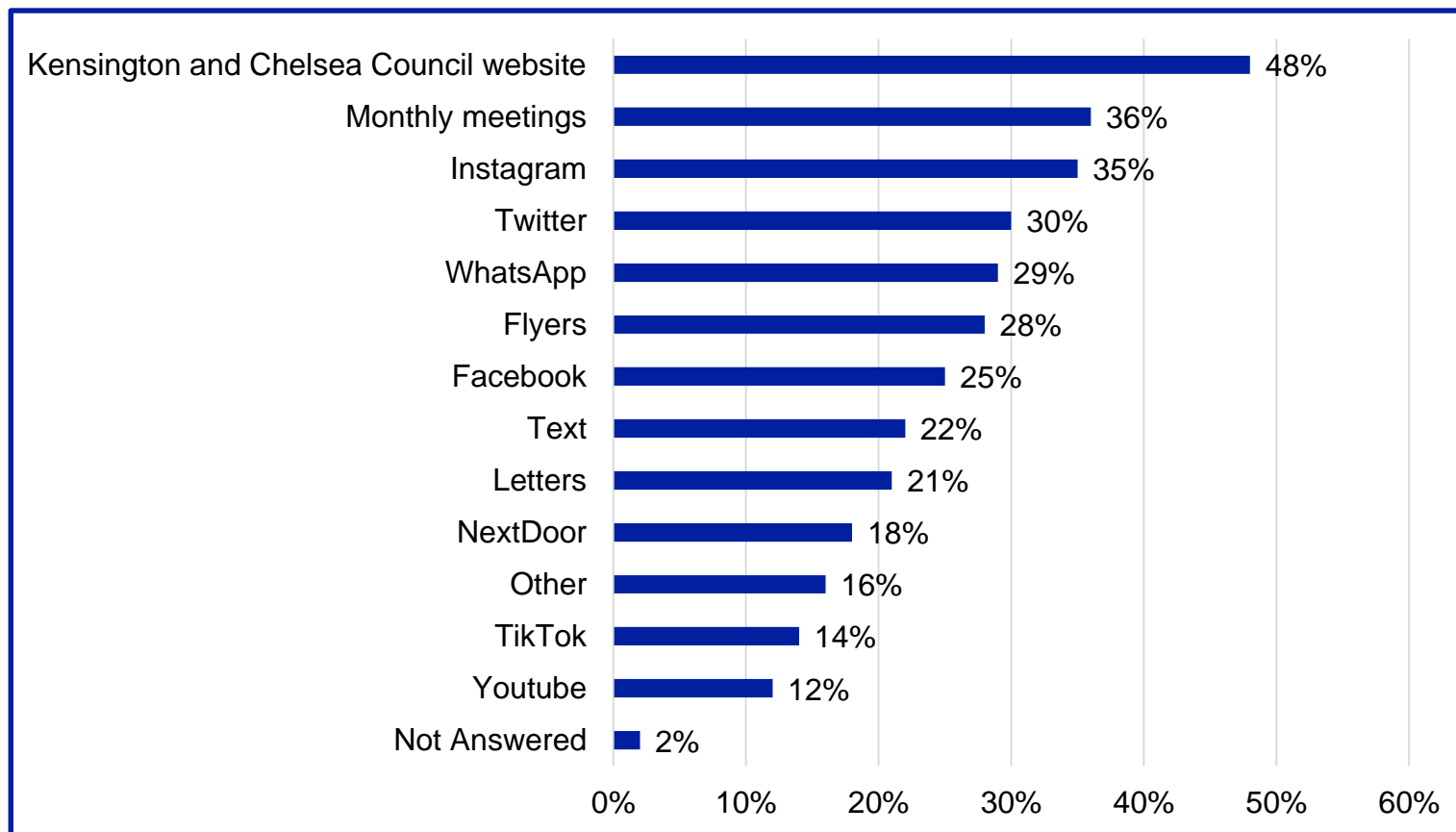
Respondent comment: *“We need to look at what already works and what the gaps still are, rather than having themes we could have Neighbourhood Networks with overlapping, mutually beneficial resources and offers. For example, young people usually live in families, so it's important both to dovetail offers to children with support for parents and grandparents. Everyone benefits from more green spaces, and all groups could work together to develop and use them. We need a much more strengths based approach rather than the patronage we currently have as a default in RBKC, with people being defined as "vulnerable" rather than as wise and resilient. And outcomes of all funded projects need to be reported publicly, so blagging is replaced by accountability.”*

Respondent comment: *“Themes - some of the themes could stay the same, however we need to reflect on what the pandemic has exposed and how this has impacted on the needs of the community. It's important the decision making process is based on merit rather than a popularity contest, and that the decision makers have an opportunity to look at the range of proposals, ensuring the broadest range of projects are funded thereby negating the risk of duplication.”*

Summary charts – Communications

Respondents were asked to select which ways they would like to be kept updated about Year Two of the Grenfell Projects Fund:

- Just under half (48 per cent) of respondents would like to be kept updated via the **'Kensington and Chelsea Council website'**.
- Just over a third (36 per cent) would like to be kept up to date via **'Monthly meetings'**.



Base: 99 (all responses)

Survey comments – Communications ('Other' responses)

Respondents who selected 'Other' when asked about which method they would like to be contacted about the Grenfell Projects Fund, were able to provide comments about any other suggestions they had. Below is a table which outlines that 'email/e-newsletter' was the most popular theme when respondents were asked about another method of communication. There were a total of four comments which were not included in the 'email/e-newsletter' theme, and these have been included below.

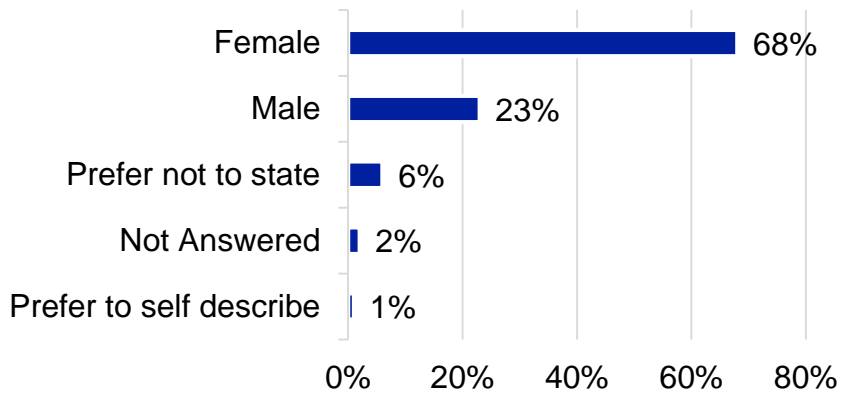
Theme	Count
Email/e-newsletter	15
Other	4

- "North Kensington News / through landlords and housing associations"
- "Regular updates to pages by successful projects as part of the monitoring process, people could sign up to notifications so they could track their progress"
- "Telephone"
- "Creating fund for self employment or focus to engage with unemployed"

Base: 19 (all comments)

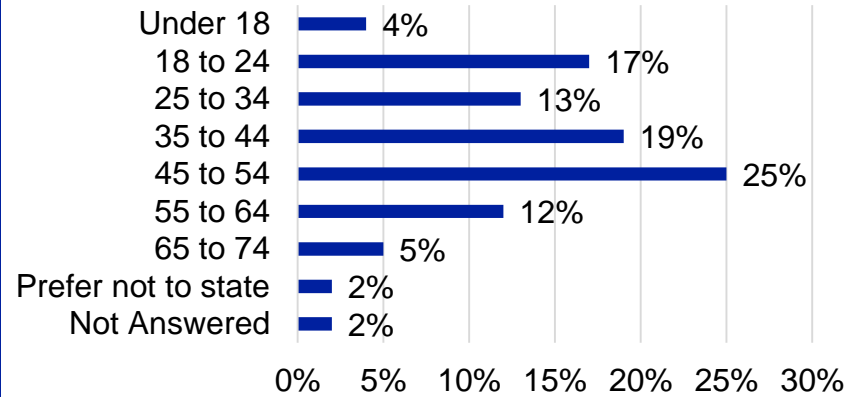
About respondents: Demographic Breakdown

What is your sex?



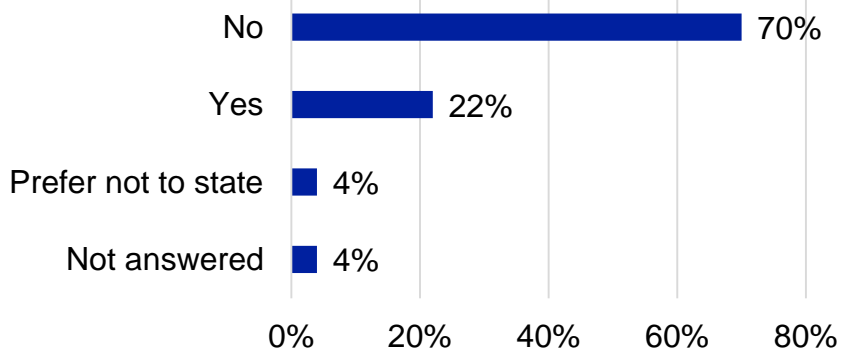
Base: 99 (all responses)

Which age group are you?



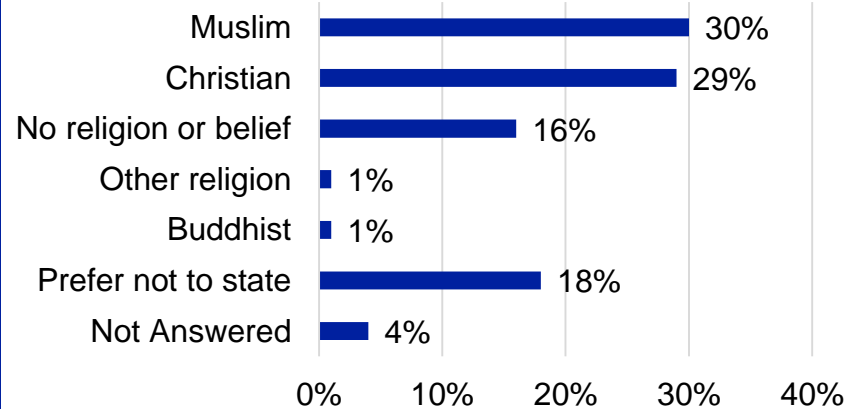
Base: 99 (all responses)

Do you have a disability/long-term illness?



Base: 99 (all responses)

What is your religion?

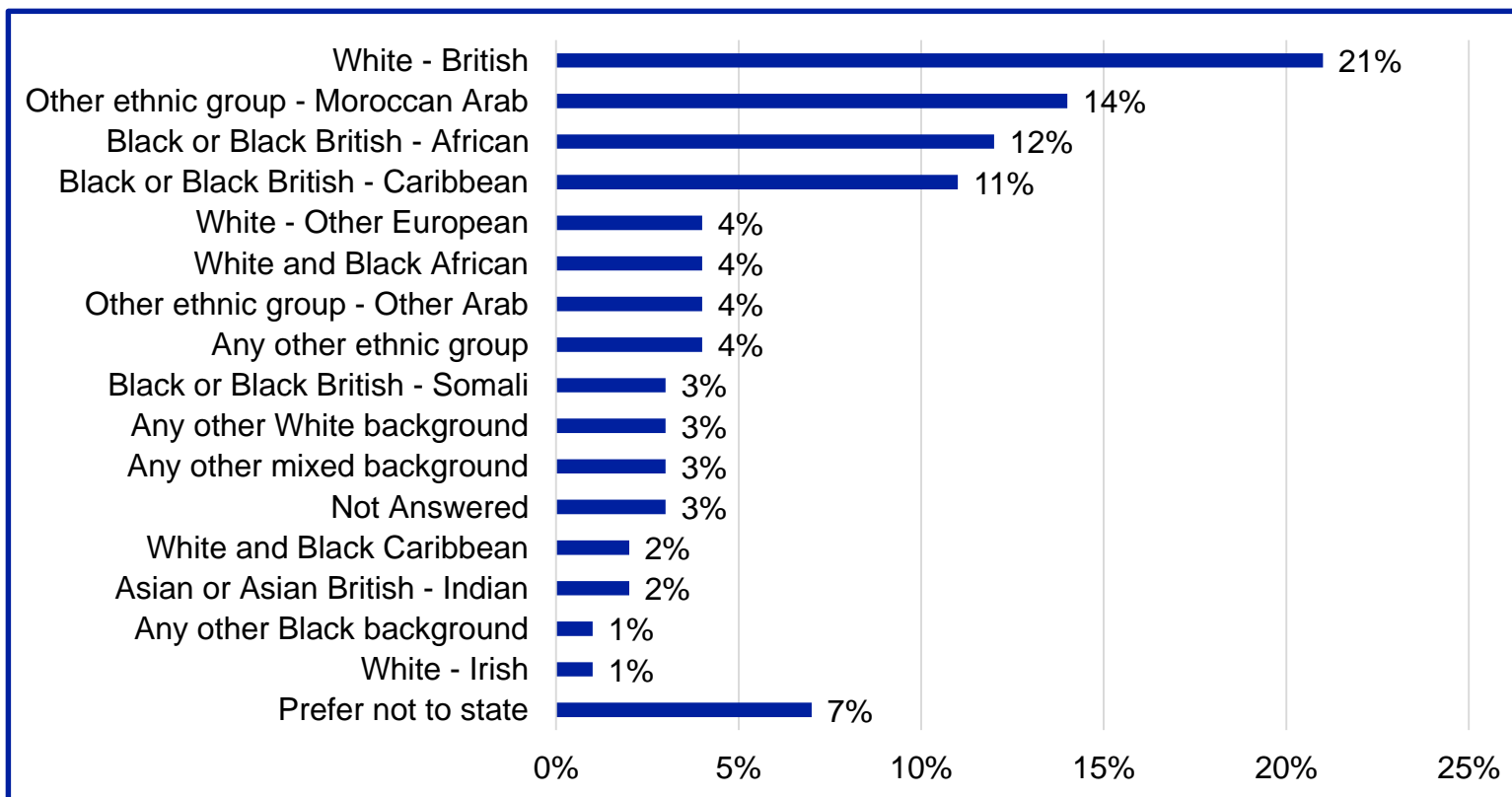


Base: 99 (all responses)

About respondents: Ethnicity Breakdown

Respondents were asked to outline their ethnic group:

- Around a fifth (21 per cent) of respondents were **'White British'**.
- A total of 14 per cent of respondents were **'Other ethnic group – Moroccan Arab'**
- A total of 12 per cent of respondents were **'Black or Black British – African'**, and a total of 11 per cent of respondents were **'Black or Black British – Caribbean'**.



Base: 99 (all responses)