

Appendix 2 – Consultation Overview

Response from Have Your Say Consultation

1) In what capacity are you responding to this consultation? Tick all that apply

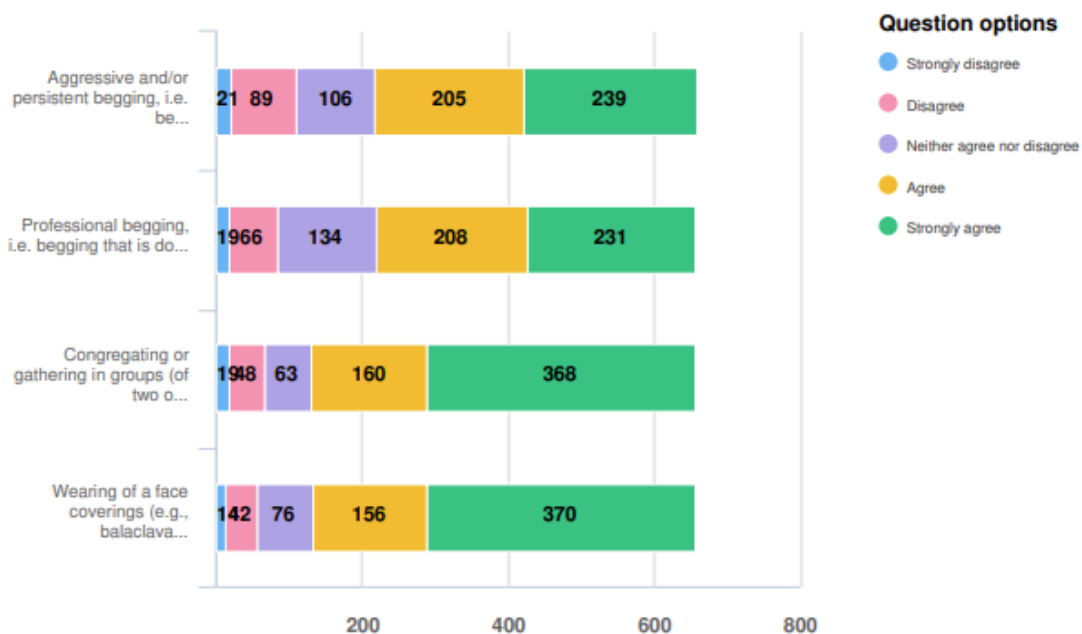


Question options

- I live in H&F
- I am a frequent visitor to H&F
- I am a representative of a local group or organisation
- I run a business in H&F
- Other (please specify)

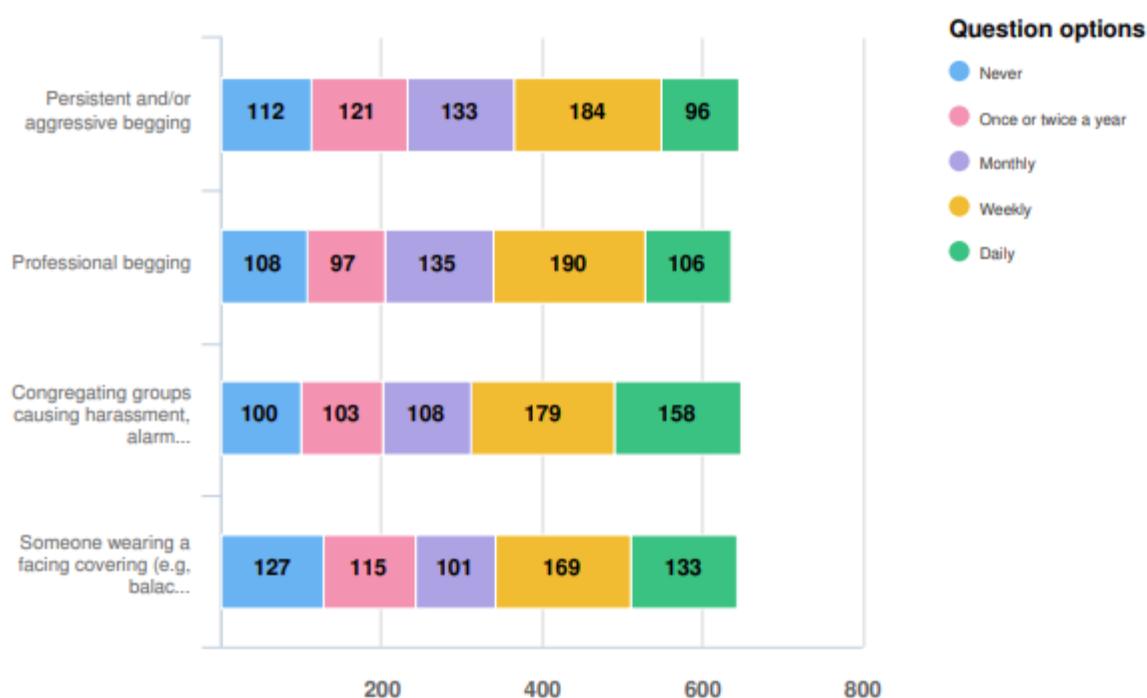
Optional question (445 response(s), 220 skipped)

2) To what extent do you think that the following behaviour is a problem in public spaces in Hammersmith & Fulham?



- Aggressive and/or persistent begging -Total – 660, Agree or strongly agree – 67%, Strongly agree – 36%
- Professional begging – Total – 658, Agree or strongly agree – 67%, strongly agree – 35%
- Congregating in groups of two or more and causing ASB – total 653, Agree or strongly agree 80%, strongly agree – 56%
- Wearing of a face covering (e.g balaclava) – total – 645, Agree or strongly agree – 82%, strongly agree – 57%

3) How frequently have you experienced each of the following behaviours in the last 12 months?



- Aggressive and/or persistent begging -Total – 646, Daily or weekly – 43% Never – 17%
- Professional begging – Total – 636, Daily or weekly – 47%, Never – 17%
- Congregating in groups of two or more and causing ASB – Total 648, Daily or weekly 52%, Never – 15%
- Wearing of a face covering (e.g balaclava) – Total – 645, Daily or weekly 47% Never – 20%

4) What impact have these behaviours had on you, your family and community?

The below responses provide an overview of the themes that were seen in the consultation responses.

In support

Across the prohibitions

- *I am scared to go out after 5pm on Friday and Saturday nights and have had to call the police and contact the LET team numerous times a week for over a year*
- *All negative - fear -being scared -being uncomfortable walking alone or a night - disturbance of sleep - avoiding going out- witnessing violence and aggression- shouting and swearing - speeding and noise from mopeds and cars*
- *Fear of walking home from the station at night alone Lack of sleep due to noise outside Wanting to move away from the borough Weekly contact with police / LET*
- *I scared to leave my house after 5/6pm since a group of youth is always on my street harassing everyone who pass by, it's very unpleasant and more than once they shouted insults towards me and my 7 year old daughter, they used to kick our front door every weekend.... I don't feel safe to go and buy anything after 6pm*
- *I feel nervous being out by myself when it's either quiet or dark.*
- *I represent a residential group. We see increase in ASB year on year. We as residents are doing as much as we can to combat this I.E neighbourhood watch, working with pub managers etc, which is why we feel it absolutely necessary to continue to the PSPO to contribute to further to safety of residents and specifically our young children and vulnerable adults.*
- *General feeling of being unsafe and while commuting back and forth from school*
- *The begging issues affect our local shops and cafés, making visiting them less pleasant. The sight of young men going around on bikes in balaclavas is intimidating and makes me feel gang culture is on the rise*
- *I, and my friends, have taken longer or more circuitous routes to avoid walking past persistent beggars, or youths wearing face coverings. I have also been shaken by an encounter with an aggressive beggar.*
- *Groups of 'youths' are intimidating and cause anxiety. They and several guys in balaclavas are in this area 24/7. Drug dealing etc.*

- *I pass substance dealing or abuse on nearly a daily basis. Identity concealing face covers make me feel unsafe on a weekly basis. There are beggars in the area I see so regularly, they became part of the environment, where they shouldn't.*
- *Persistent groups hanging around corners especially the main roads which is intimidating. A lot of drug use and men/boys in balaclavas wizzing around streets on bikes and scooters.*

Congregating groups of 2 or more people causing ASB

- *We regularly have groups of youths displays to-social behaviour in our street. This makes us frightened to walk down the street alone and causes significant distress. We have a street What's App and there are weekly reports of someone having to call the police but frequently, nothing is done*
- *Racist, violent, intimidating. Aggressive. Congregate in big groups. Kicking balls at passing cars. Intimidating residents. Knocking on doors and spraying stuff in people's faces. Damaging fencing and gates!!*
- *Congregating groups causing harassment alarm and distress are alarming and threatening. They often occur around here at night, making lots of noise, so it is impossible to sleep and the LET is normally busy so are unable to come out for a number of hours*

Professional, aggressive and persistent begging

- *The level of begging in LBHF has increased, and we have had a beggar regularly ask for money from my spouse - she was even followed to our home once, which was very distressing.*
- *I have learnt not to engage with any beggars as I have previously been a victim of assault due to denying money to a beggar on my morning commute at Shepherd's Bush tube station.*
- *Just fed up with people constantly asking for money and when you say no been spat at and hit for not giving money makes you feel unsafe going out*
- *Terrifies me especially as I have witnessed some of these beggars be very aggressive, literally coming up so close to people invading their personal space whilst aggressively asking for money and then being very verbally abusive when they're not given anything. These indicators are so persistent, see them at least three times a week, especially on my way back from work.*

Face coverings

- *Find it intimidating people wearing things cover their faces, tends to be a lot on motorbikes or scooters*
- *Face coverings are intimidating and impacts feeling safe on the street or at corner shop entrances. Likewise with groups of (usually young) men. Face coverings do usually give the impression of negative intent.*
- *People wearing balaclavas are intimidating as they are hiding their identity and the only reason for that is to avoid being recognized in the committing of a crime*
- *I find the face coverings particularly in quiet residential streets most intimidating when walking alone*
- *It's very scary and threatening behaviour. Balaclavas on e bikes especially, entirely unnecessary and just terrifies everyone.*
- *There are too many e-bike, e-scooter and motorbike riders zooming around on the roads and even pavements with face coverings designed primarily to conceal their identity and/or create a menacing environment to others. Presumably done to avoid CCTV and scrutiny. Please take action!*
- *We see there is a network of young people with faces covered on bikes in H&F probably delivering drugs . It is distressing to see that this is so blatant and hopefully CCTV will help police track and trace them.*
- *Youths wearing face masks is particularly distressing specially when their circulate on bikes. These behaviours have made me want to avoid king street Hammersmith and the Fulham palace road, which is a shame as this is my local high street. People wearing face masks are also alarming along the river walk and on side streets.*
- *I find it quite obvious that young men wearing balaclavas on high powered e-bikes are trying to conceal their identity and are up to no good. Particularly on the Thames towpath I encountered these riding at high speed in a reckless manner*
- *Fear, concern about the purpose of covering the face to hide identity. Is it drug related and with this comes knife and gun crime*
- *Had my phone snatched by a man with a covered face on a scooter. Also witnessed another incident of it happening at a different occasion. Completely traumatizing. Any loud noises behind me now is triggering and gives me anxiety*
- *General feeling of unease and wariness, you watch where you are going and who might cross your path. Often masked youths are on bikes, congregated groups tend to hang around drinking from cans*

Not in support of the prohibitions

General all prohibitions

- *I disagree with the "blanket bans" available to police officers, Local Enforcement Teams and Council officers under PSPO legislation This legislation confers draconian powers on lazy authorities. Do not go down this route. Use existing laws for more specific offences.*
- *I've never experienced any of these and neither has my family. Therefore there is no impact*
- *I don't like these 'behaviours' but I think the problem is systemic and a solution will only be found by addressing the cause of the behaviour and not by punishing individuals*
- *No issues for me or my family. I think law enforcement has sufficient powers to deal with any-social behaviour without this proposed increased power*
- *I don't like these 'behaviours' but I think the problem is systemic and a solution will only be found by addressing the cause of the behaviour and not by punishing individuals.*
- *I'm more concerned about providing Youth Services and activities for people I feel relatively safe in this part of London*
- *I have significant concerns about the prohibitions on congregating in of two or more, and on restricting face coverings. These proposed prohibitions could be used to prevent lawful protest and free speech. I regard them as deeply inappropriate for our borough.*
- *I disagree with most of these suggested prohibitions because they open the door to abuse of powers on behalf of the police. There is a sense of creeping authoritarianism in this country which is deeply troubling and whilst wanting to be protected from crime I fear that affording the police such wider powers will affect the civil liberties and freedoms of ordinary , law abiding people.*

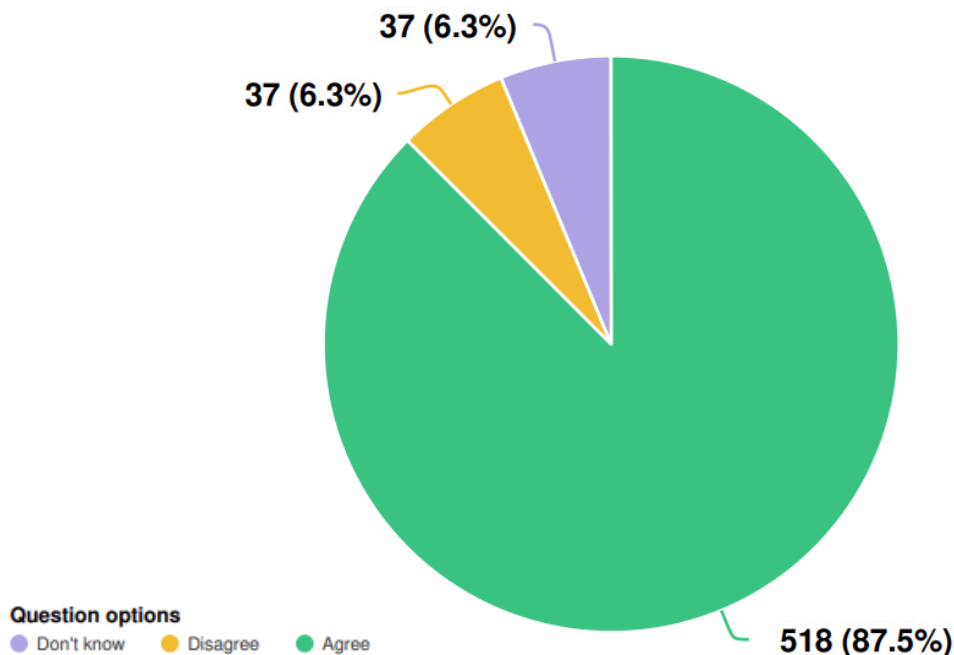
- All of these could be abused by law enforcement and allow them to misuse their power. Treating people with kindness and compassion is the answer, not shame and punishment

Specific to restrictions proposed for begging

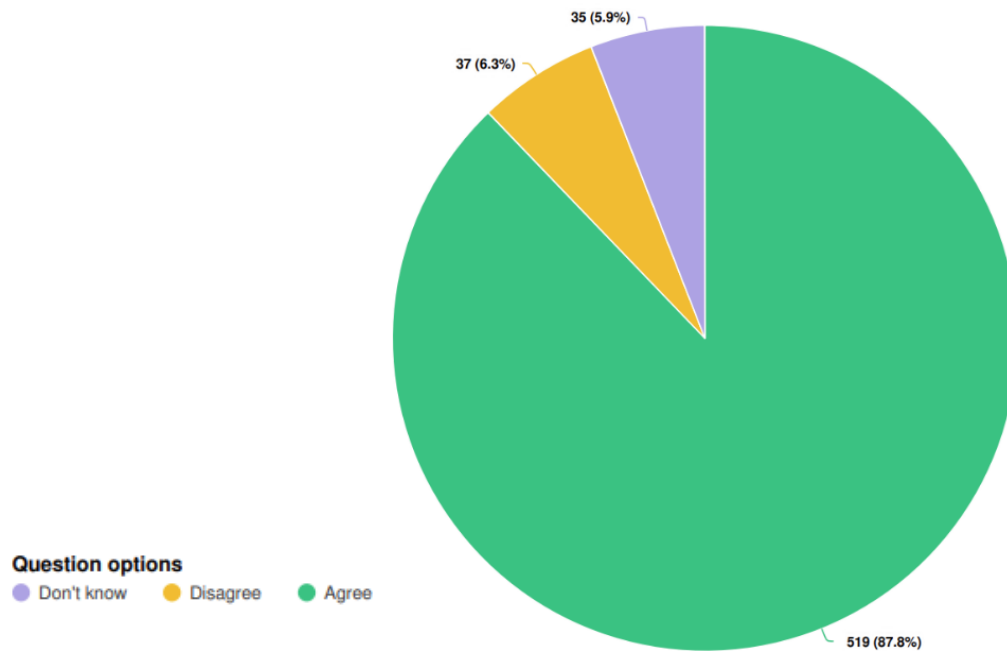
- Could the problem with begging be solved with better coordination with social services. We often see the same people begging. Perhaps help the genuine ones and the professionals will stand out more? Then track the professionals. It can't be that difficult to watch them and then arrest?
- I hear people complaining but this has not had a personal impact on me. I see people begging occasionally but I don't find it alarming. I think this is a consequence of inequality and lack of public services
- There is a sense that the ones begging never find a way out of that life, it's disheartening and feels as though better resources should be available to them.
- Concern that those engaging in aggressive begging are receiving needed services in areas of mental health, substance abuse rehabilitation, etc. - just banning them won't solve the social issues on its own. Probably ditto for those zooming around in groups on bikes with face coverings, re: employment and youth services
- While I have seen people begging, it is usually on the tube or in town and not in LBHF and it has never caused me so much distress that I would favour giving the council additional powers.
- I think LBHF council needs to improve services and support for those that need it and intervene when it is organised crime e.g. professional begging.
- I feel sad and uncomfortable when I see the amount of homeless people begging around Hammersmith Broadway, but in majority of cases they do not seem harmful
- Begging is not a rampant problem Instead of kicking people when they're down by finding people who likely don't have the means to pay for it and causing them grief, the council should invest in more homeless shelters and treating people with respect and reaching out to rehabilitate rather than shame or punish People often fall into these lives. It should be up to the council to help then put of it
- There is a sense that the ones begging never find a way out of that life, it's disheartening and feels as though better resources should be available to them.
- It's a delicate balance between those who are genuinely struggling and left no choice but to beg. They need support from local authorities and not just 'pushed on' somewhere else. If you really want to address the issue you need to start with why are they homeless / begging and seek to assist them.

5) To what extent do you agree or disagree that the council should include these restrictions in the borough wide PSPO

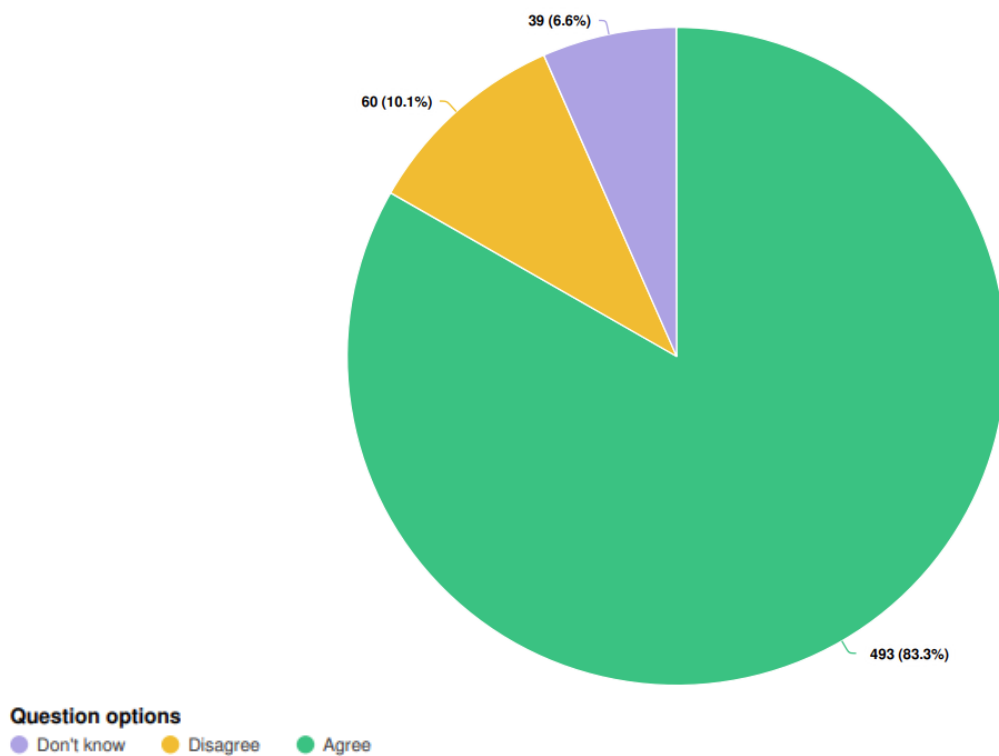
Professional begging



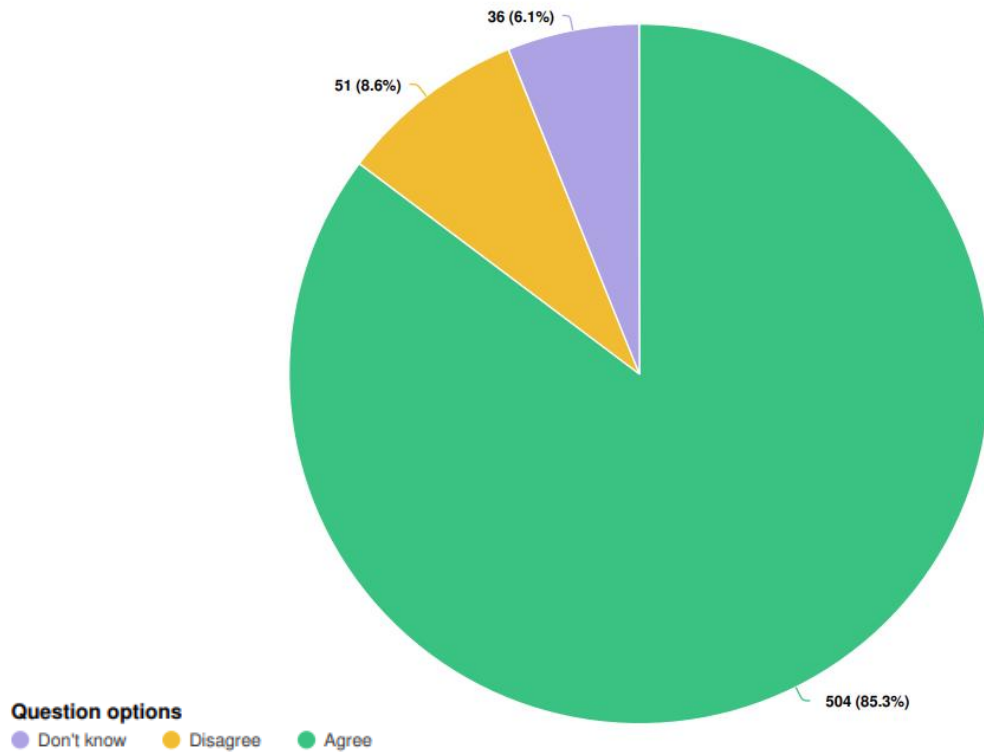
- **Aggressive and persistent begging**



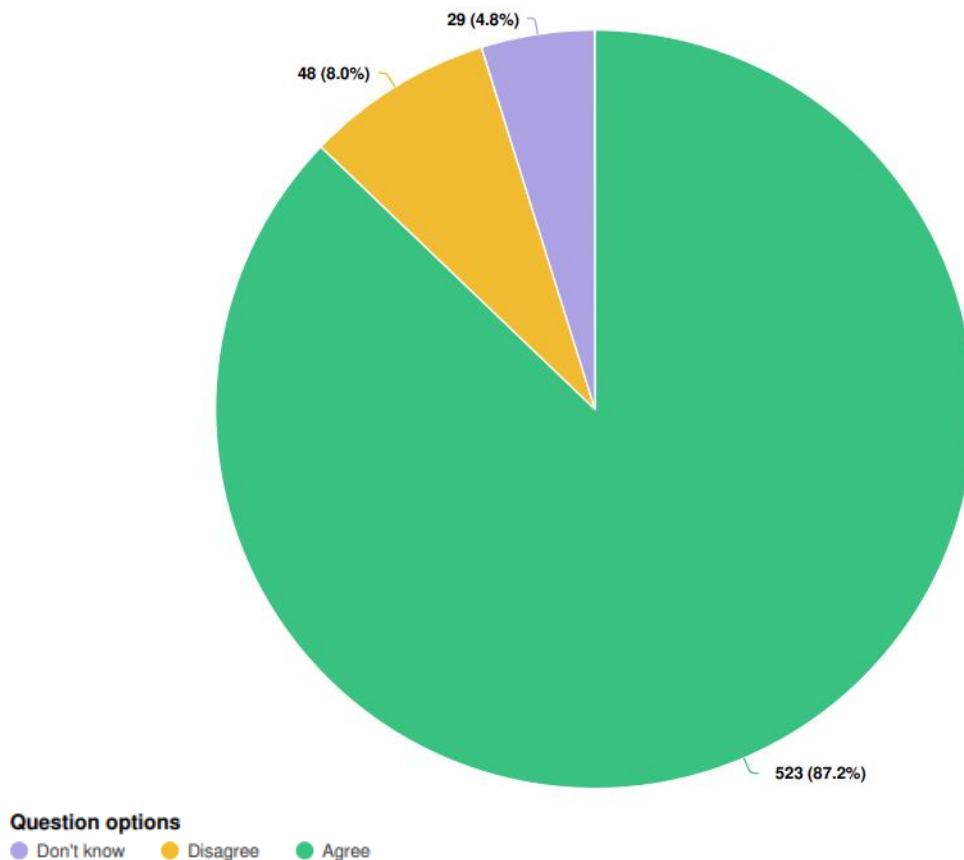
- Congregating in groups of 2 or more and causing ASB



- Congregating in groups of 2 or more and causing ASB – no person should remain in the specified area or return for a period of 24 hours

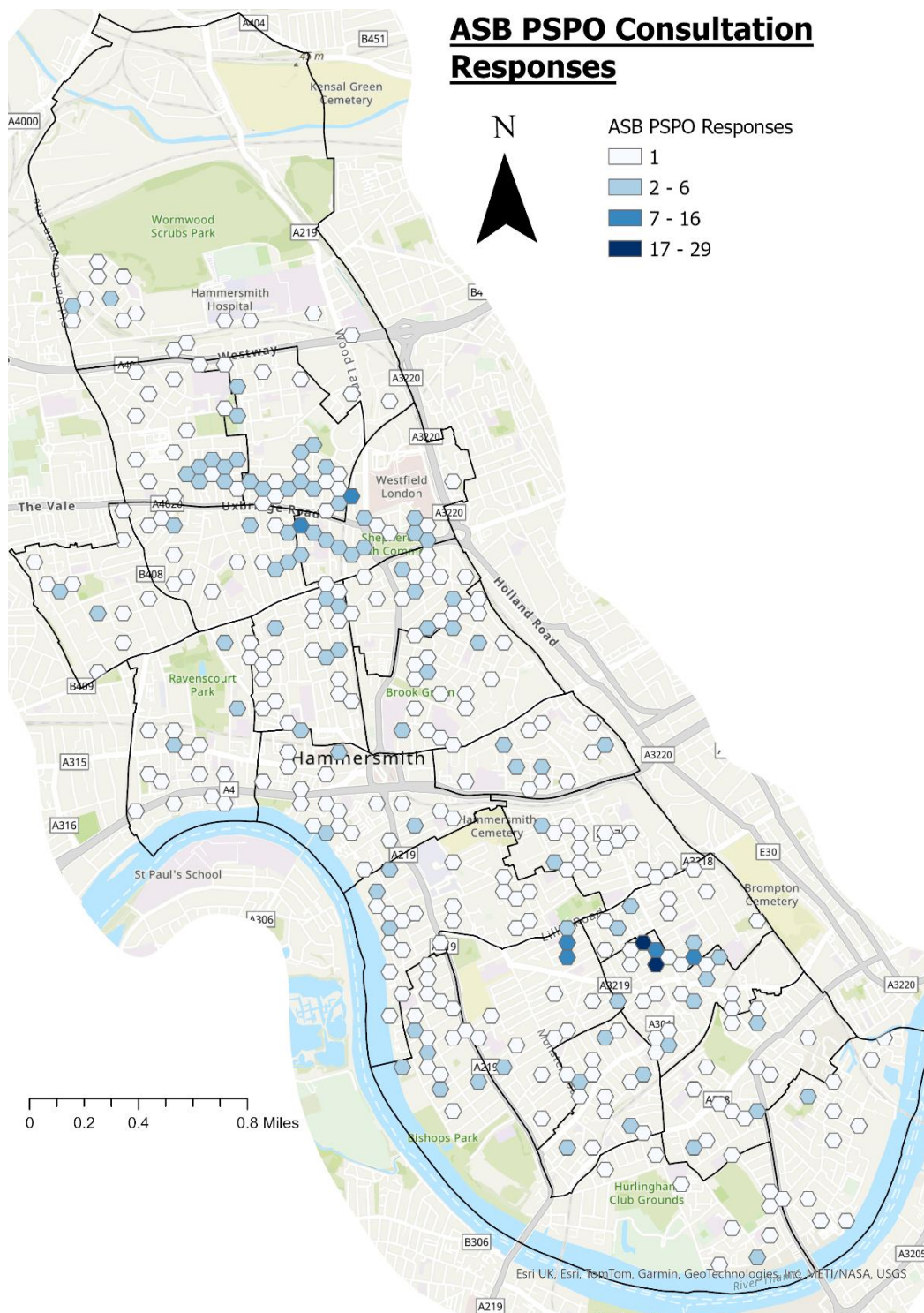


- **Wearing a face covering in an attempt to conceal their identity**



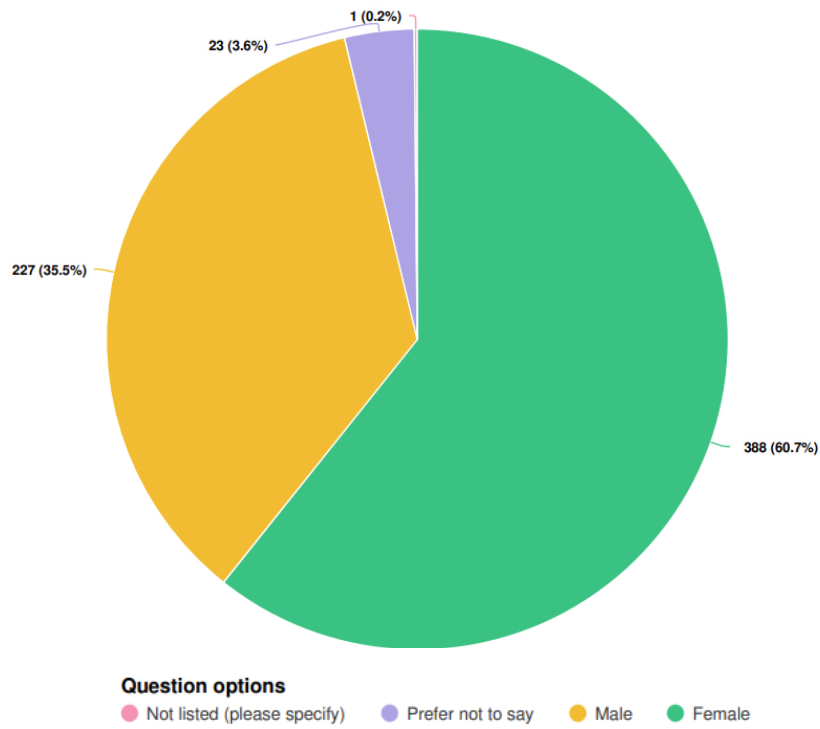
Map of consultation responses

The map below shows the postcodes in the borough where responses to the consultation were received from. The map demonstrates a good response rate from across the borough.

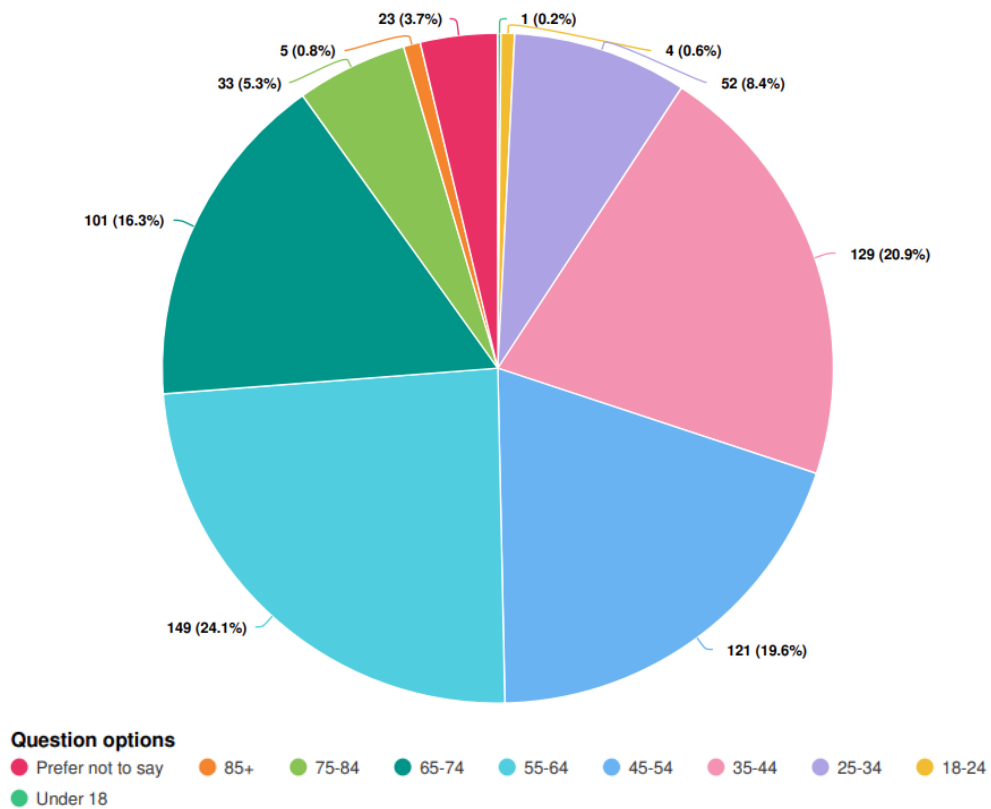


EDI questions

1) What is your sex?



2) What age group do you belong to?



groups
participants

