



South Brent Old School Community Centre

Community Consultation Report 2024 SUMMARY

1. Background and Context

South Brent Old School Community Centre provides an ever-increasing range of community activities and facilities, but in a building that is nearly 150 years old, and which is showing its age.

The Centre is owned by the South Brent Old School Community Centre charity and managed by a group of trustees. The trustees are charged with managing the building and, under its charitable powers, providing facilities and services for everyone in South Brent and the surrounding area. The need is great, and ever growing, and we want to ensure we can continue to support the local community for the next 150 years.

This consultation builds on the initial Village Voice consultation in 1997, and the Reaching Out to Everyone consultation in 2017.



2. Aims of the Consultation

- To share the situation with the Centre's roof and share possible rejuvenation options with the community.
- To gain and reflect community and stakeholder views and feedback on the proposed rejuvenation options for the Centre.
- To start raising the profile of the rejuvenation project to help secure broader involvement, support and funding from the community.

3. Methodology and Time Frame

The Consultation took place during September and October 2024. Questionnaires were available in hard copy and online.

Open engagement events were held in the Centre to promote consultation and engage directly with the community. These 'drop in' sessions were held weekly between 11th September and 9th October 2024.

Consultation Evening events were held with partner organisations and groups in South Brent on 24th September and 8th October 2024, alongside a separate Partners' questionnaire.

The Charity's AGM & Fundraising Appeal launch on 24th February 2025 included headline feedback on the Consultation findings.



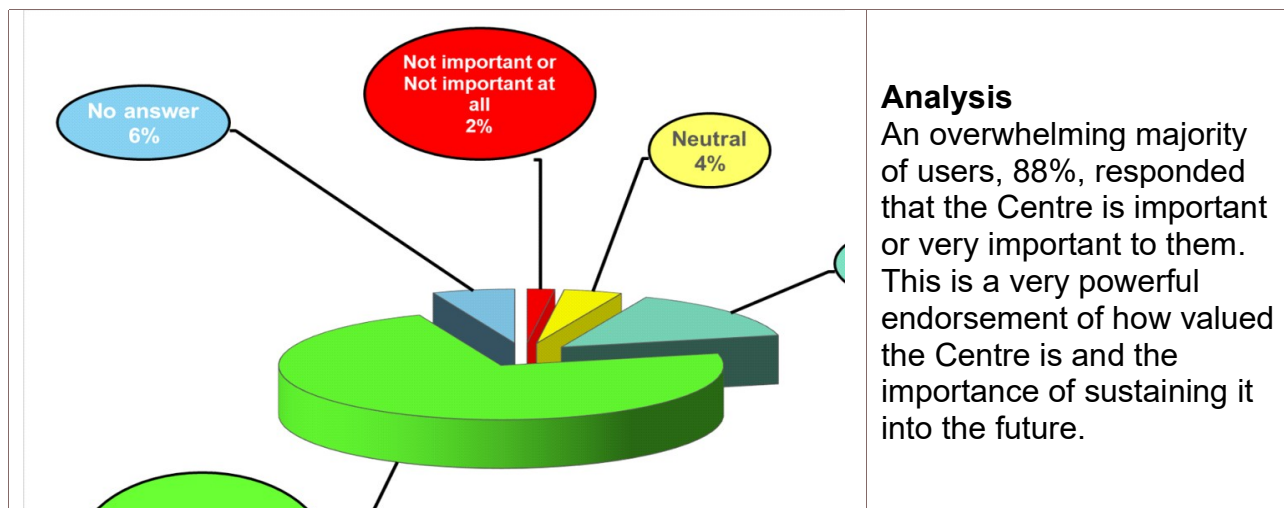
4. Results

400 individual completed consultation questionnaires were received, as well as 14 partner questionnaires.

This is a significant (13.3%) and welcome response from a community of approx 3,000, giving confidence for Centre trustees to develop plans and future activities endorsed by the community it serves.

A summary of that feedback is highlighted below:

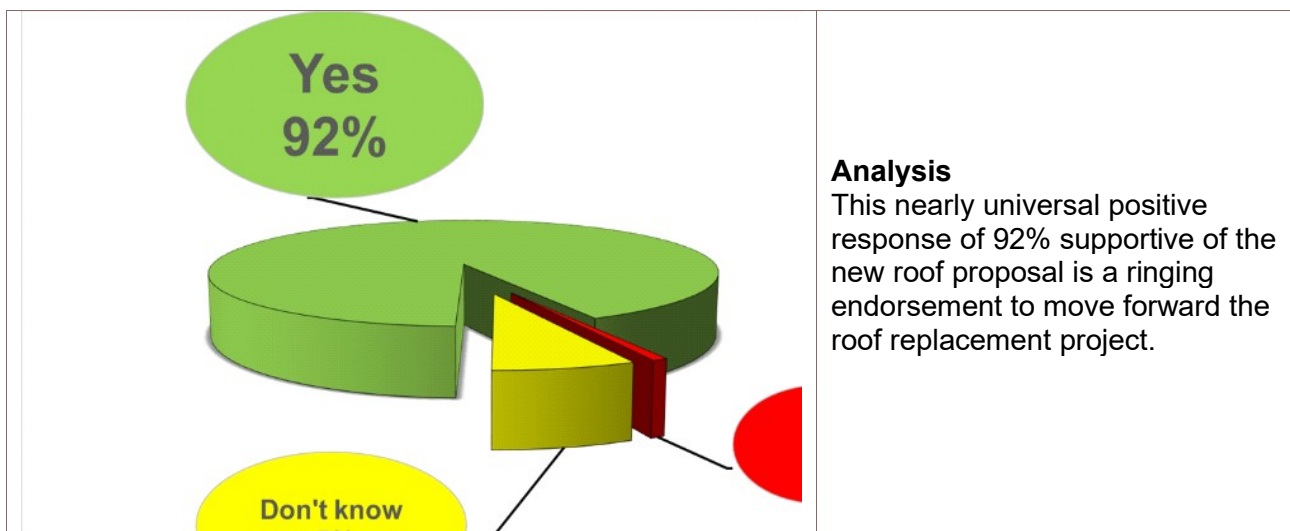
How much do you value the Old School Community Centre?



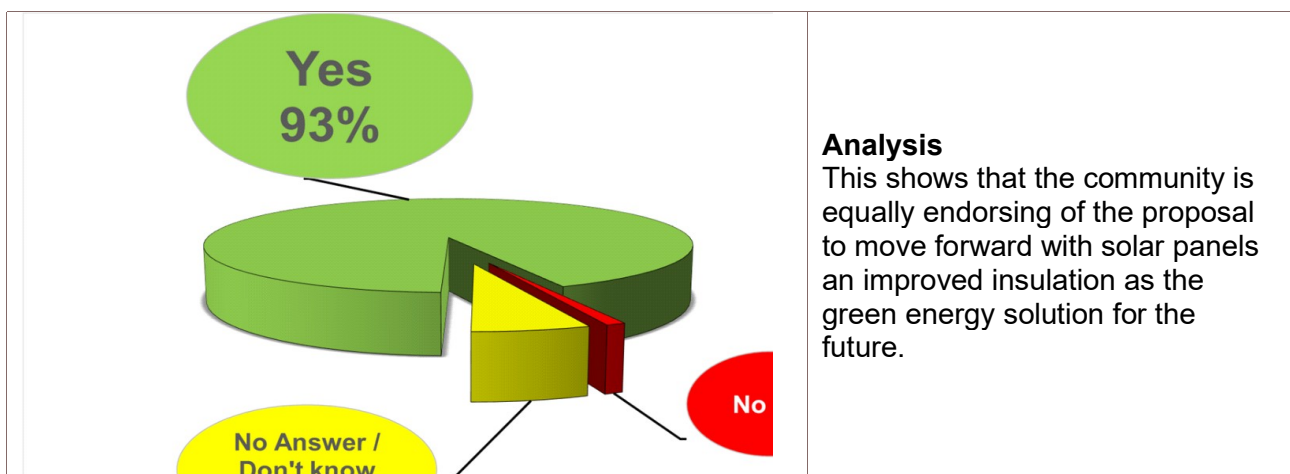
The following questions focused on how to sustain and develop the Centre, ensuring that the value and benefits which the community benefits from are continued for the next 150 years.

The range of options and development stages reflect the complexity of the Old Schools physical make up and the potential cost involved in developing them.

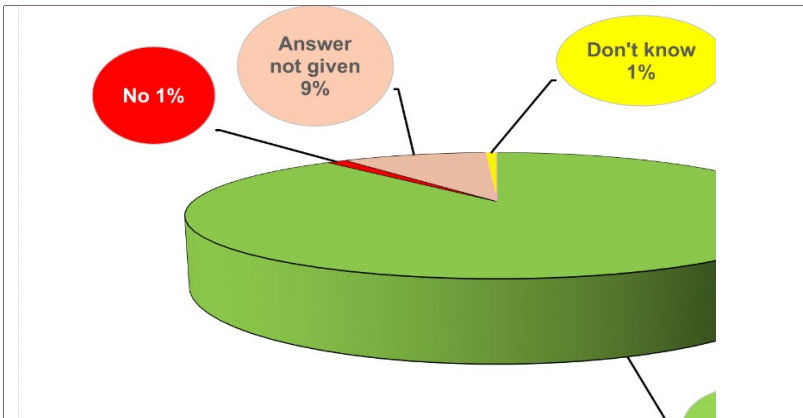
Do you support our proposal that the ageing 150-year-old roof needs to be replaced to secure the Centre's future?



Do you support our proposal that when the roof is replaced, solar panels and improved insulation should be included in the project to reduce energy use?

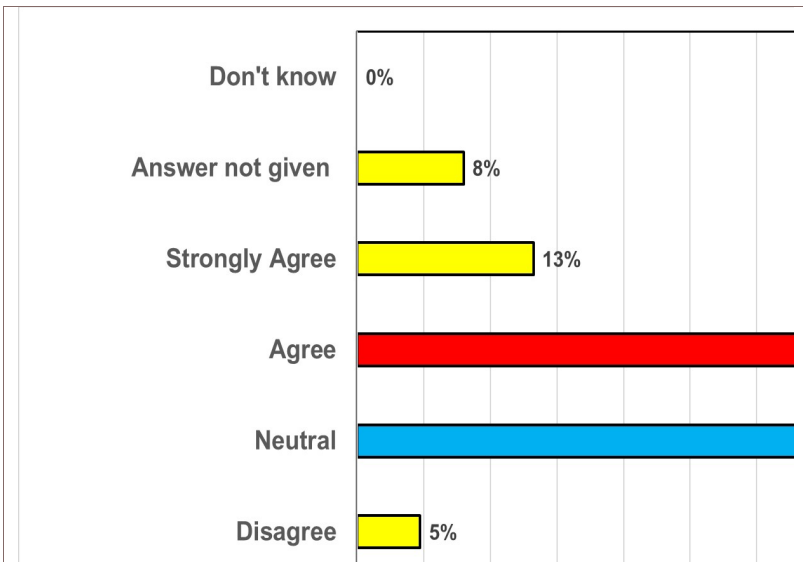


Do you support upgrading the system of heating and energy use throughout the Centre?



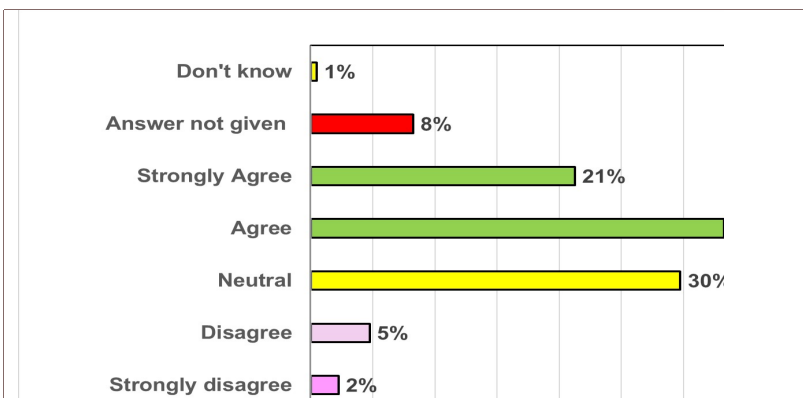
Analysis
 Nearly 90% are in favour of updating and improving the heating system, to ensure that the Centre is warm and welcoming for the next 150 years.

It may be possible in the future to improve entrance and toilet facilities, subject to funding being obtained. Do you think there is a need for this?



Analysis
 A marginal majority (52%) were in favour of improving the entrance etc., with a sizable 34% neutral on the issue, reflecting its longer term aspirational nature.

It may be possible in the future to build offices in the roof space for hiring out to individuals, charities or local businesses, subject to significant future funding being obtained. Do you think there is a need for this?



Analysis
 54% were in favour of the expensive additional option of expanding into the roof should the significant extra funds be available.

These responses give trustees a clear steer on the priorities that can now be focused on and developed. A complex task with multiple components, outlined in Next Steps.

5. Next Steps

The Rejuvenating the Centre project pulls together the planned improvement of the fabric and energy efficiency of the building as endorsed in the consultation.

Key tasks include:

- Fundraising with a community appeal, grant funding and the generosity of the local community. Joint work with partners to maximise funding opportunities with over £500,000 raised to date (Aug 2025).
- Finalising plans and technical surveys working closely with the relevant professionals and consultants. Co design through engagement with key partners in the Centre to collectively arrive at the best design and layout plans.
- Marketing the Centre and improving communication on the Project's progress. Ensuring we get our message out through a range of media and events.
- Updating the strategic context for the Centre Strategic Plan 2025.

6. Further information

A copy of the **Full Consultation Report** with appendices can be viewed on our website:

<https://www.theoldschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/SBOSCC-Consultation-Report-2024-with-Appendices.pdf>

More information about the **Rejuvenating the Centre** project can be found on our website:

<https://www.theoldschool.org.uk/home/rejuvenating-the-centre/>

Donations can be made on our JustGiving page:

www.theoldschool.org.uk/home/rejuvenating-the-centre/

Get in touch:

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