

Our Area 2035

Results of the Public Engagement Exercise

(February – June 2022)

Caernarfon Area



1 Introduction

- 1.1 The aim of the Our Area 2035 Project is to hold a discussion with local communities in order to identify what is important to residents and how they would like to see their area develop over the next 10 – 15 years.
- 1.2 Our aim is to work together and develop solutions with organisations, groups and individuals. At the end of the project 13 specialised regeneration plans will be created to reflect the priorities and aspirations of local communities.
- 1.3 The first step to the project involved holding conversations with Councillors, Community and Town Councils and local regeneration groups in order to establish:
 - **What is good about** the area?
 - **What is not so good about** the area?
 - **What changes would you like to see happen** in the area in the next 15 years, that would make the area a better place to live?
- 1.4 **8** Community/Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members in the Caernarfon Area presented their ideas regarding what should be the local priorities for the area in the period up to 2035. These responses were used as a basis for the second stage of wider public engagement.
- 1.5 In February 2022 a public engagement exercise was launched for each of the 13 areas, with local people being invited to contribute to the shaping of the Our Area 2035 project by filling in a simple survey online or on paper.
- 1.6 In order to encourage as many people as possible to participate, a comprehensive engagement campaign was organised, which included:
 - Press releases and a radio item;
 - Advertisements in the local papers;
 - Information leaflets;
 - Messages and videos through social media;
 - Prominent messages on the Cyngor Gwynedd website home page;
 - Attending the North Wales Pride event in Bangor.

1.7 In addition, a series of visits and face to face meetings were organised to hear the voices of groups and individuals that are seldom heard. These included:

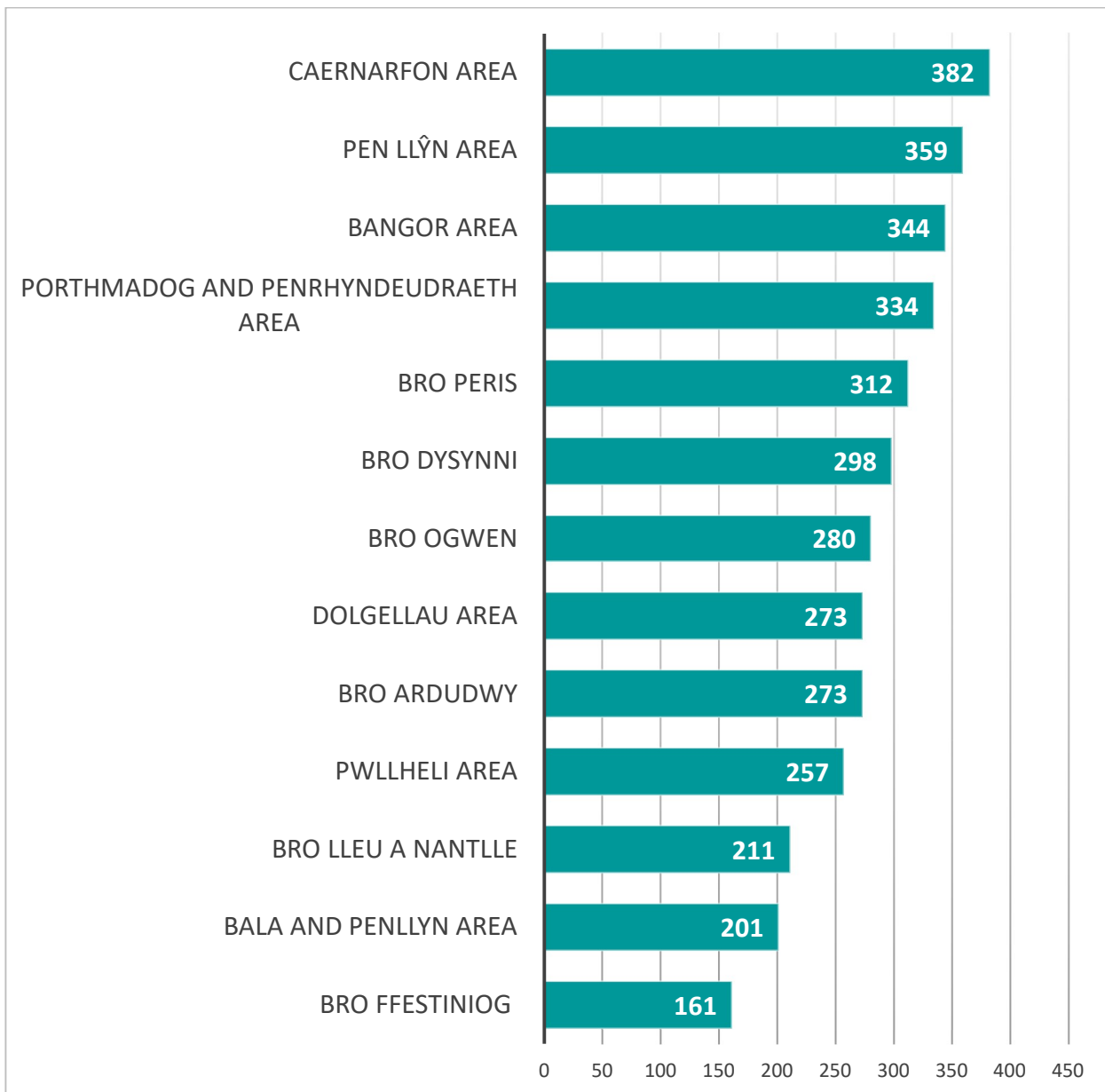
- GISDA Blaenau Ffestiniog – A discussion session with members of the Young People Board and a session with members of the GISDA LGBT+ Club.
- GISDA Caernarfon – A discussion session with members of the GISDA LGBT+ Club.
- GISDA Pwllheli - A discussion session with members of the GISDA LGBT+ Club.
- Dementia Actif Gwynedd, Barmouth - A discussion session after the physical exercises.
- Dementia Actif Gwynedd, Dolgellau - A discussion session after the physical exercises.
- Dementia Actif, Nefyn - A discussion session after playing Boccia at Tafarn yr Heliwr.
- Dementia Actif, Caernarfon - A discussion session after the physical exercises.

2 County Overview

3,776 individuals across Gwynedd took the opportunity to have their say:

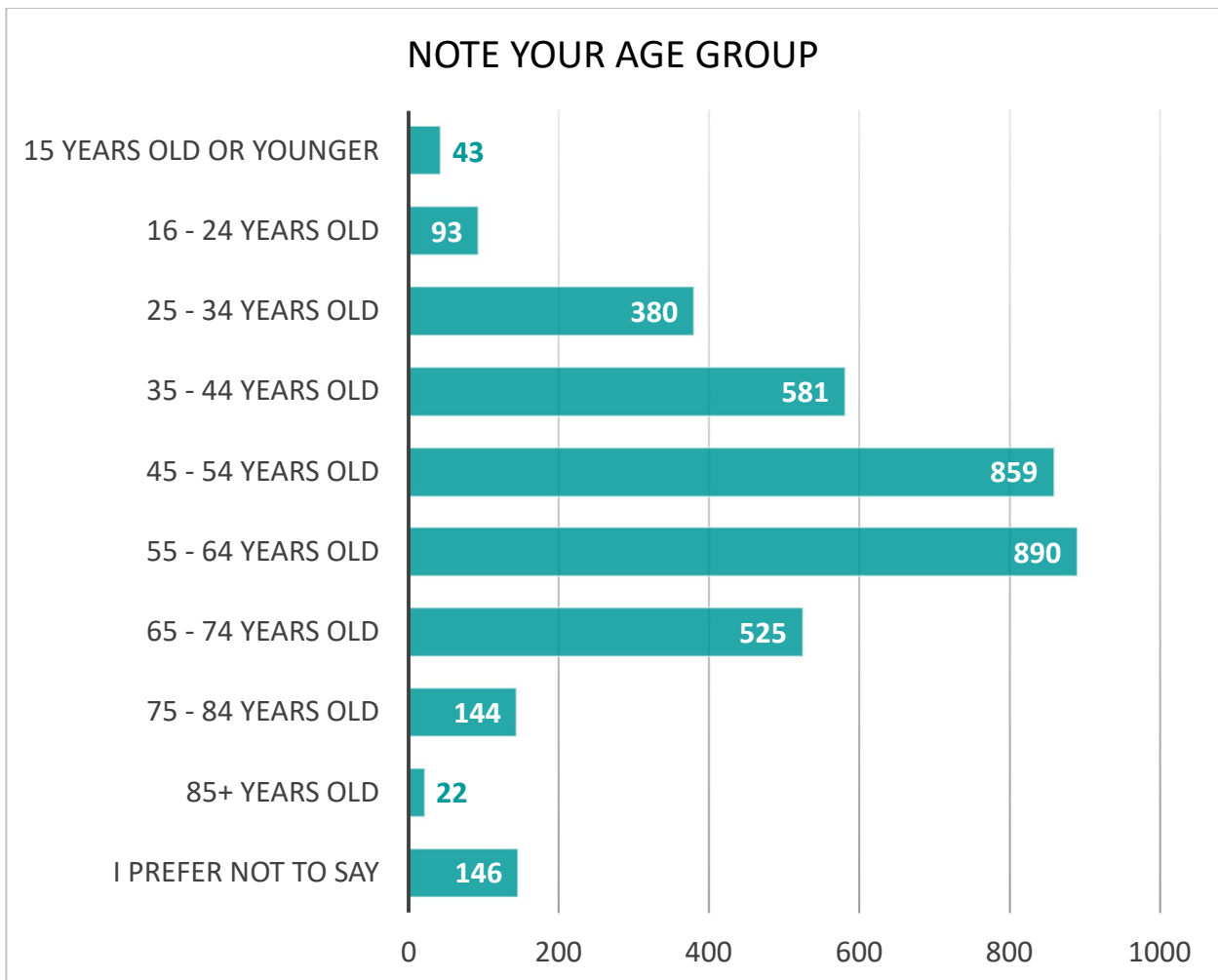
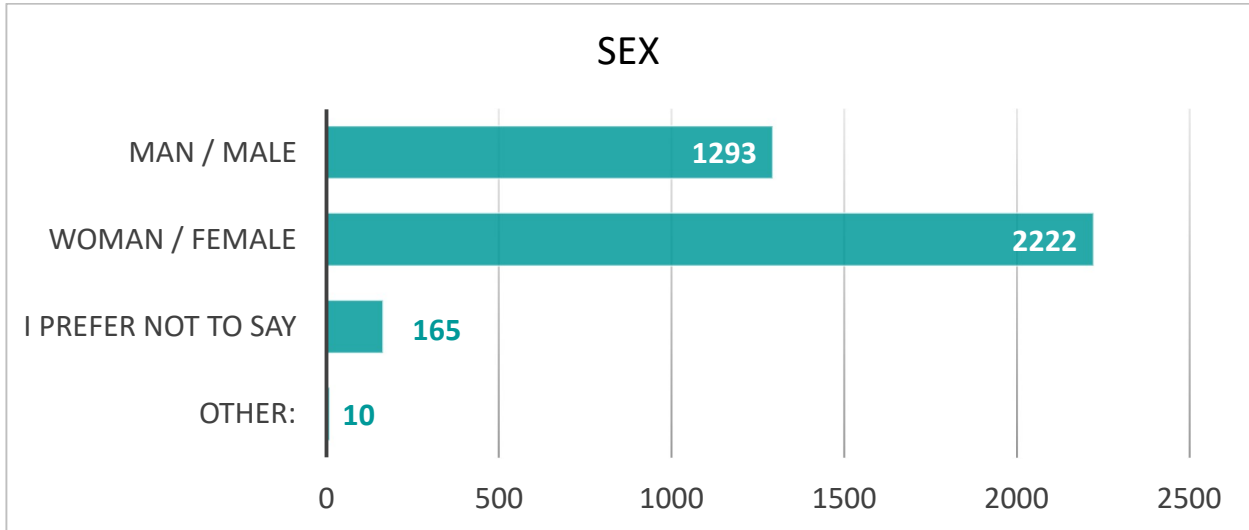
- **3,675** of these completed the online survey.
- **10** completed the paper survey that was available in libraries, 'Siop Gwynedd' or by phone request.
- **6** completed the 'Easy read' version of the survey.
- **85** people attended face to face sessions for **young people, young people in the LGBT+ community, older people and people living with dementia.**

2.1 Number of respondents per area*

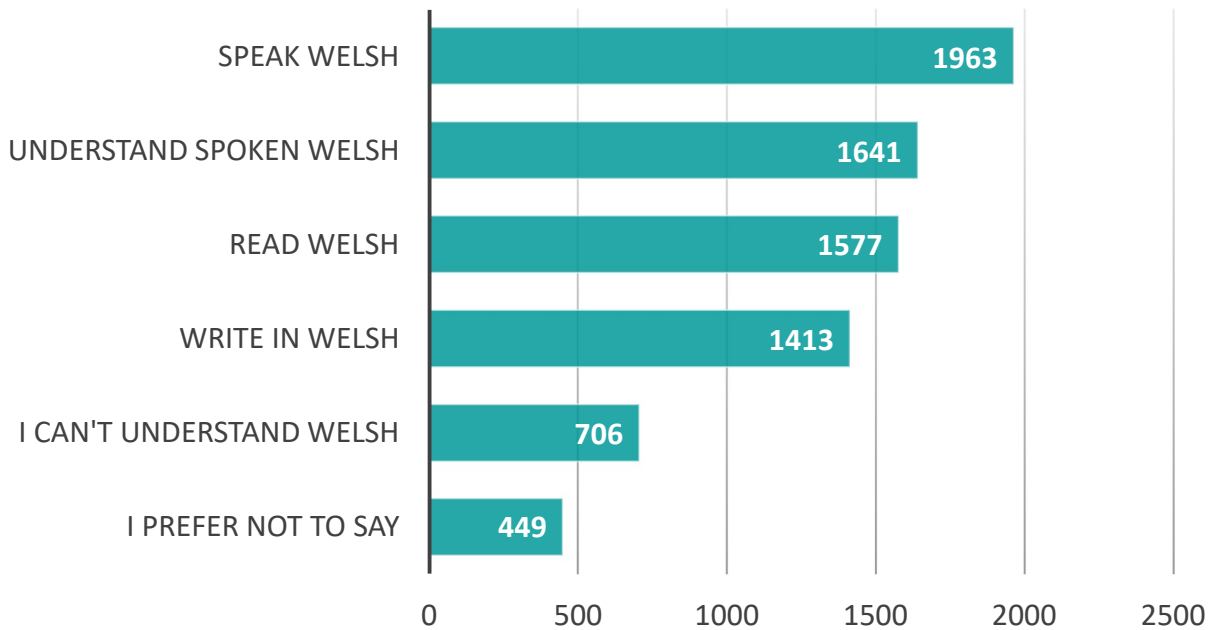


* For the online and paper survey.

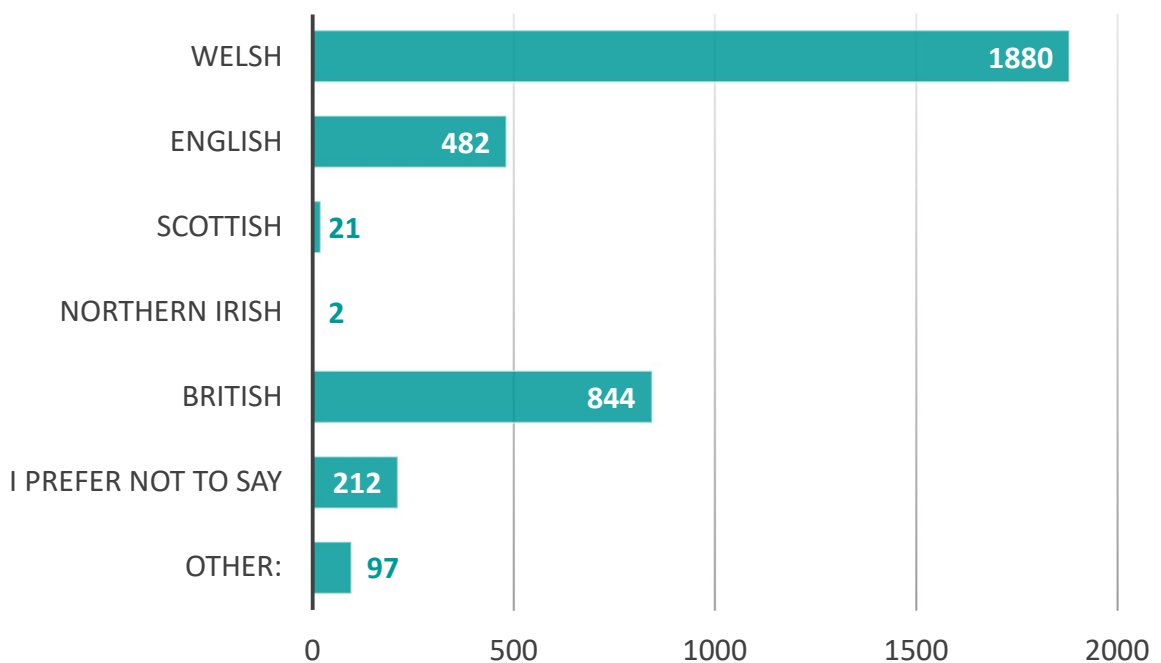
2.2 Overview of the Respondents to the Public Survey for Gwynedd



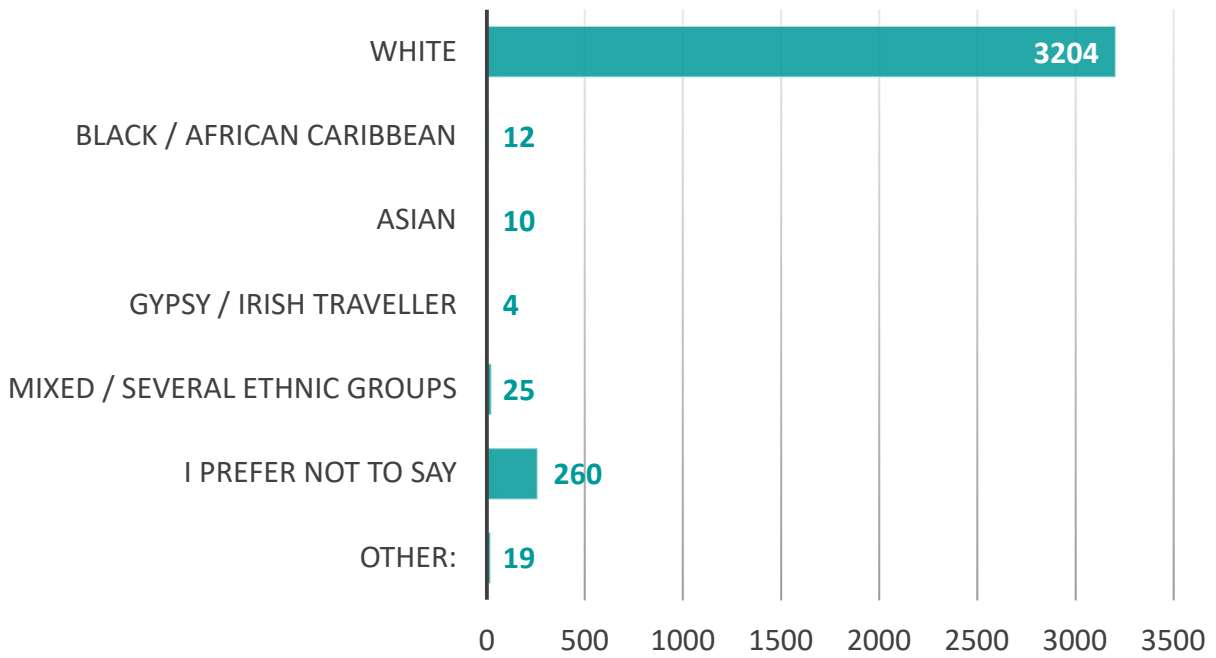
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND, SPEAK, READ AND/OR WRITE IN WELSH?



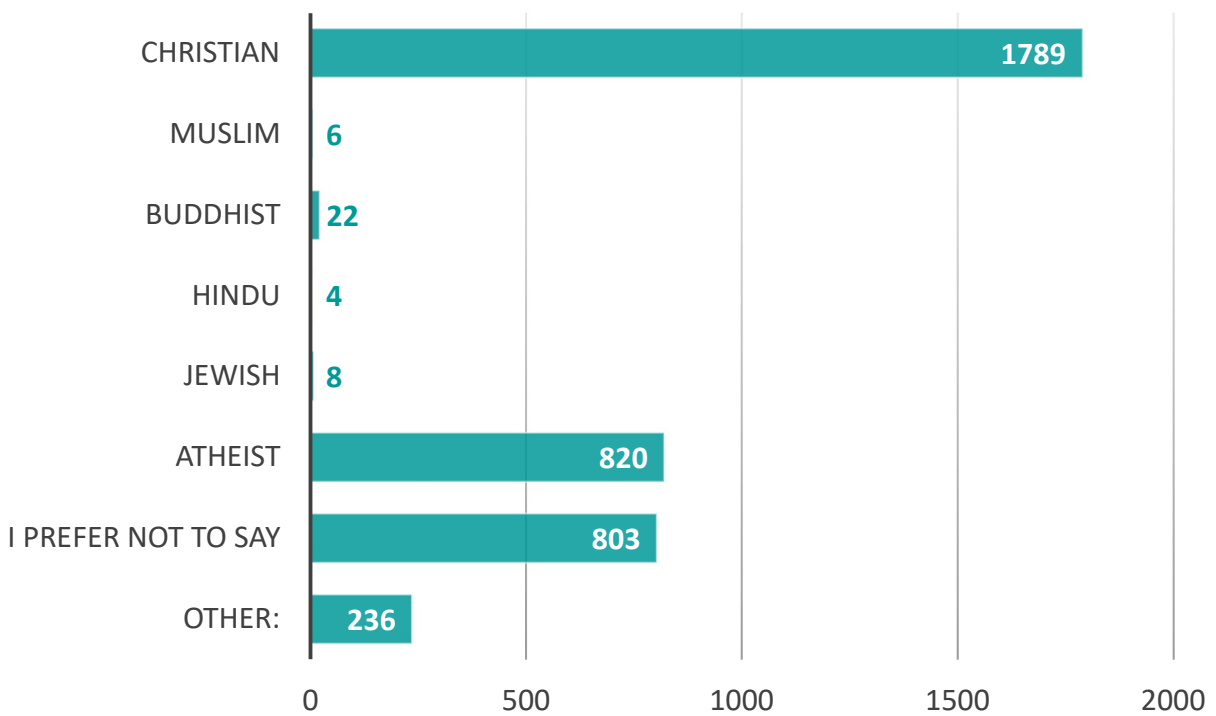
NATIONALITY OR NATIONAL IDENTITY?



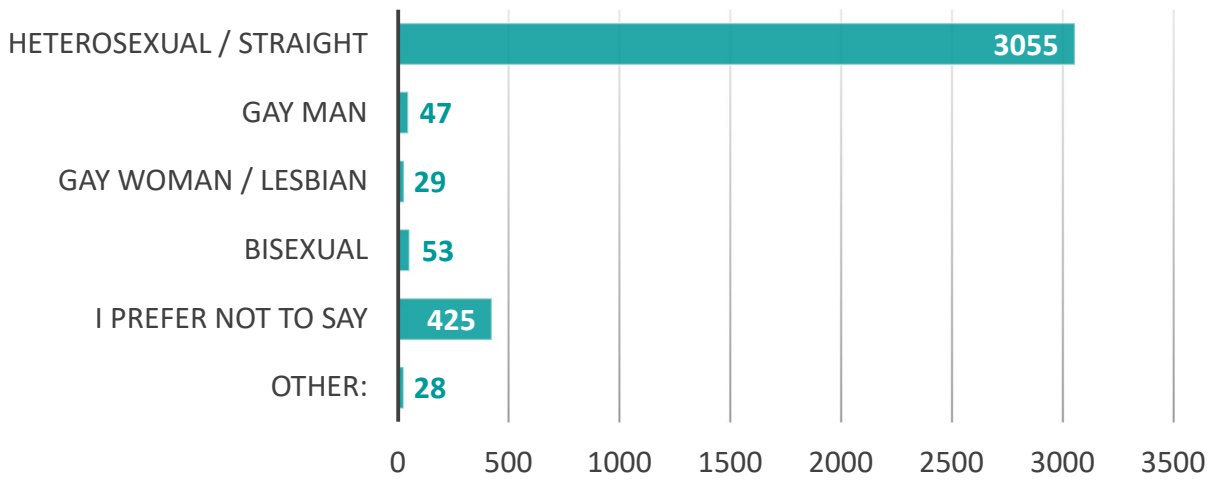
WHAT IS YOUR RACE?



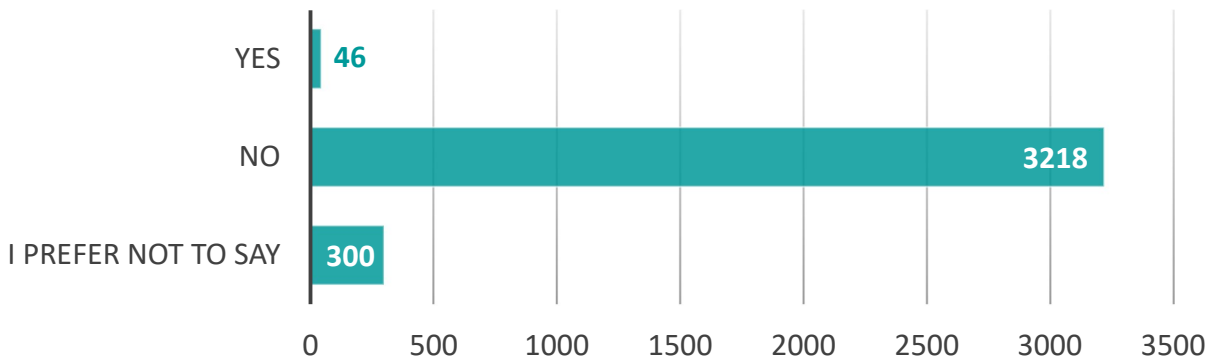
WHAT IS YOUR RELIGION?



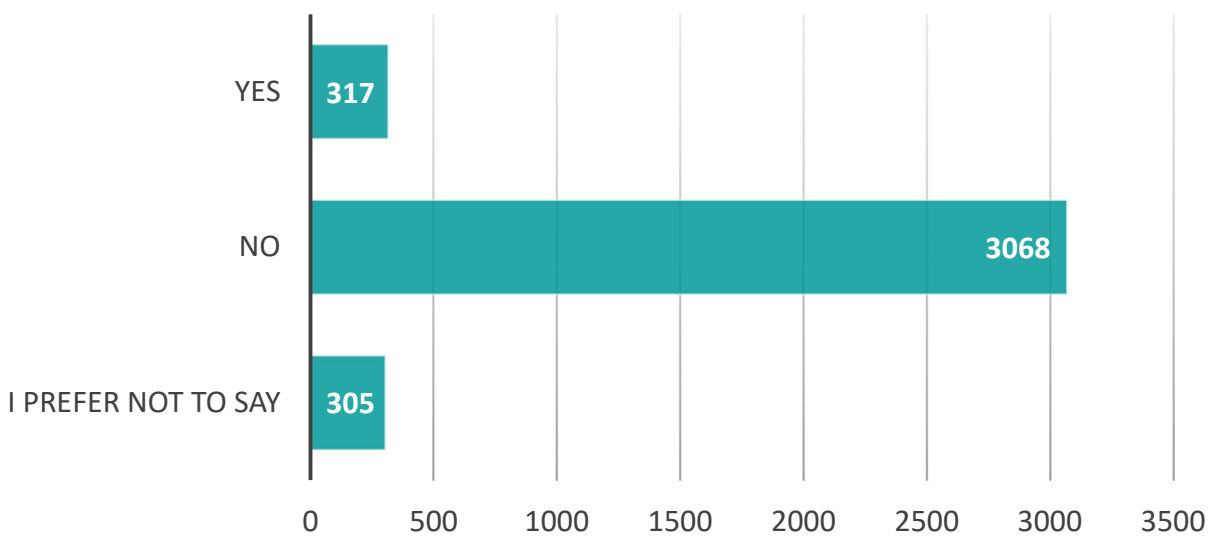
WHICH OF THESE BEST DESCRIBES YOU?



HAS YOUR GENDER IDENTIFICATION CHANGED FROM WHEN YOU WERE BORN?



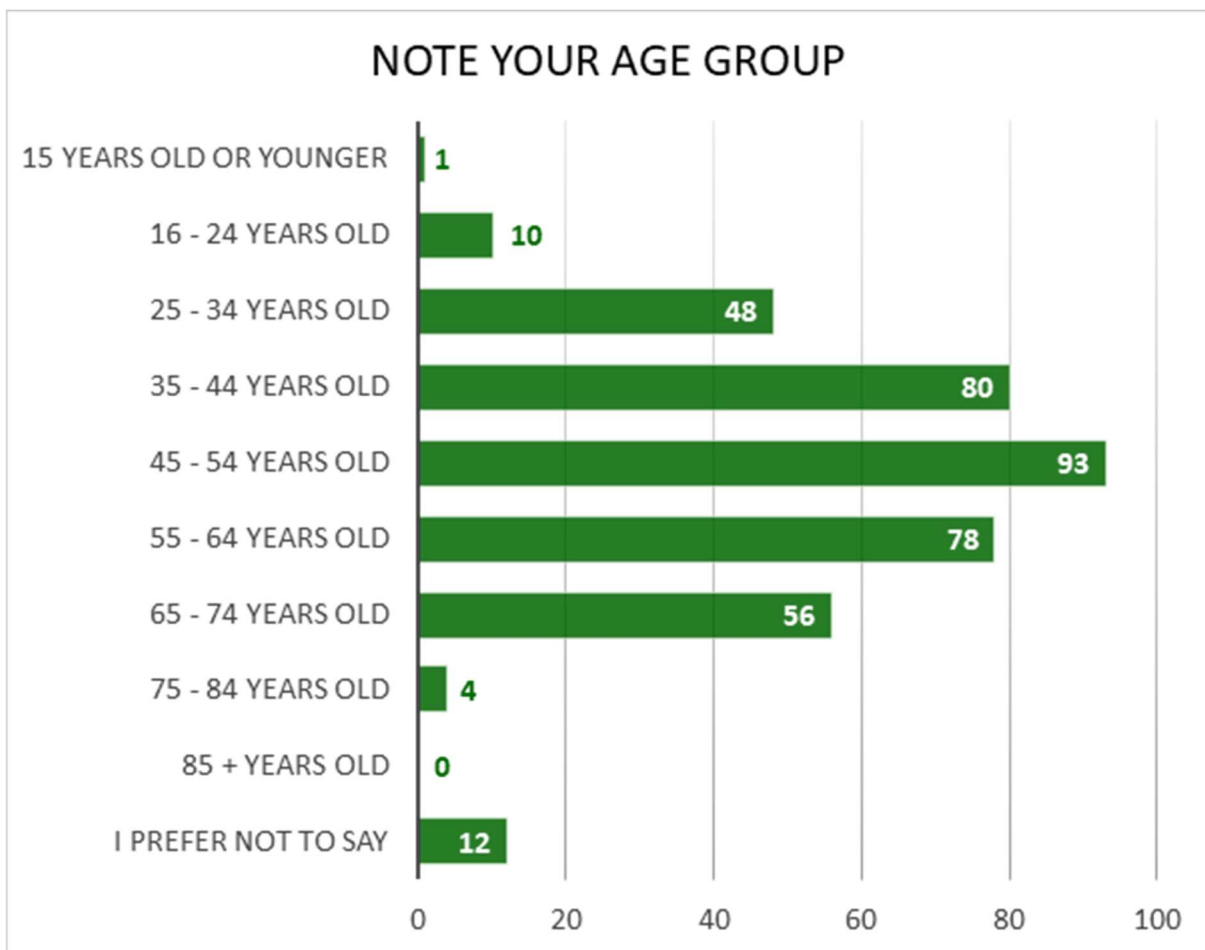
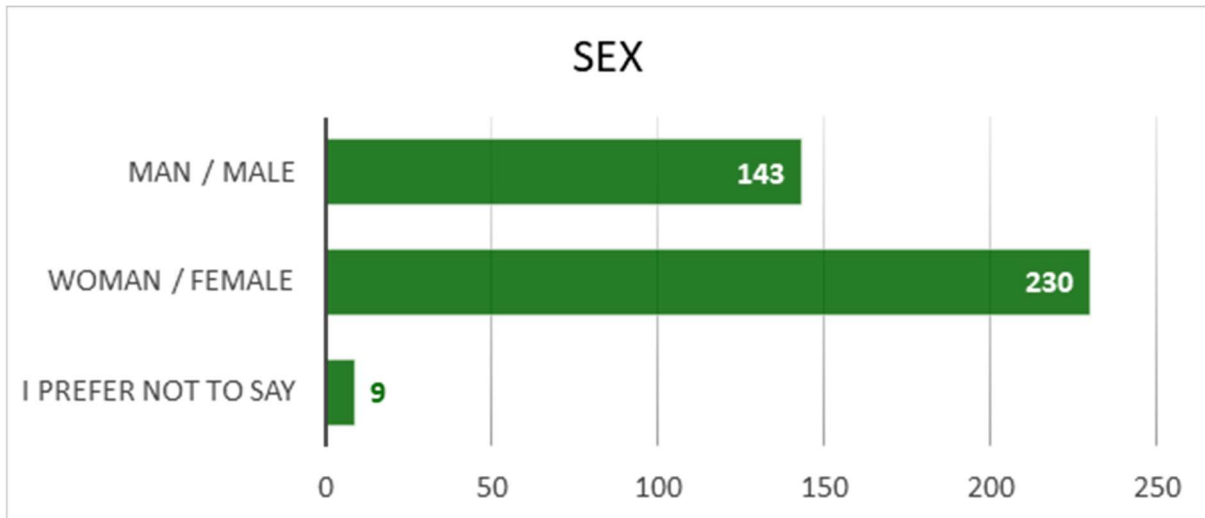
DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A DISABLED PERSON?



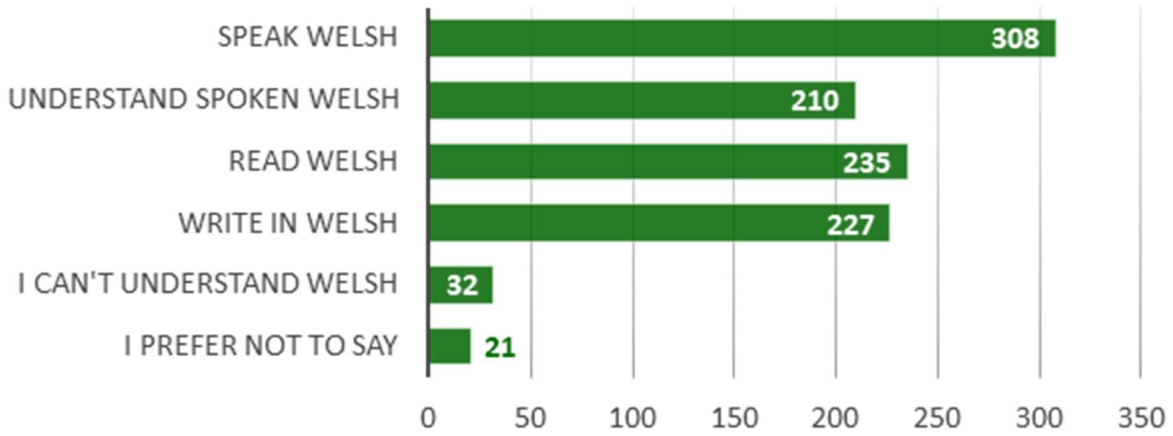
3 Caernarfon Area Results

3.1 Overview of the Respondents to the Public Survey for the Caernarfon Area

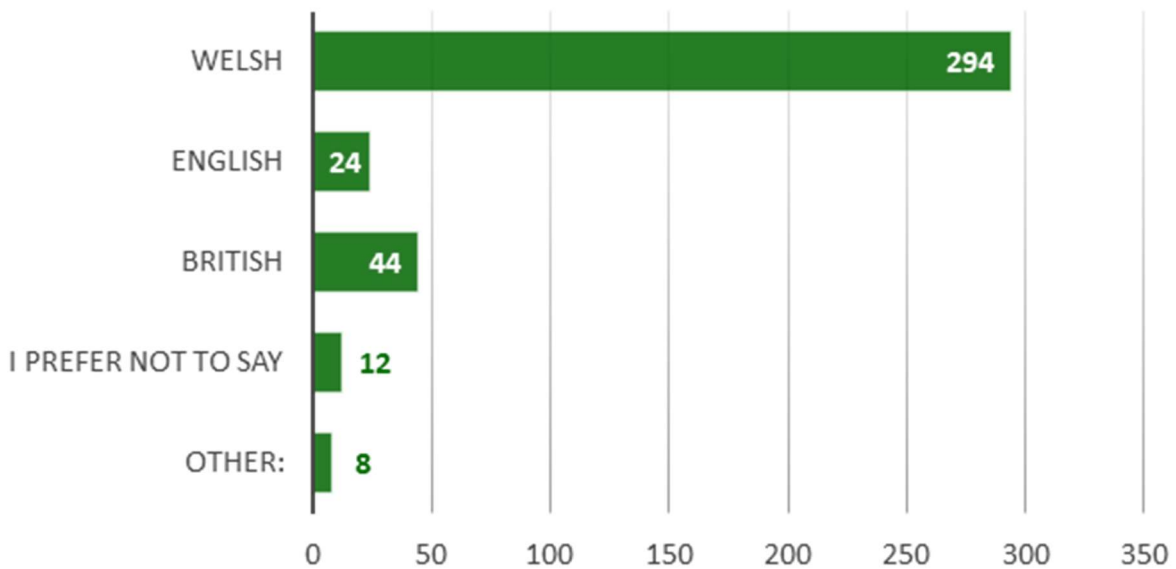
3.2 The Our Area 2035 survey for the Caernarfon Area received **382** responses.

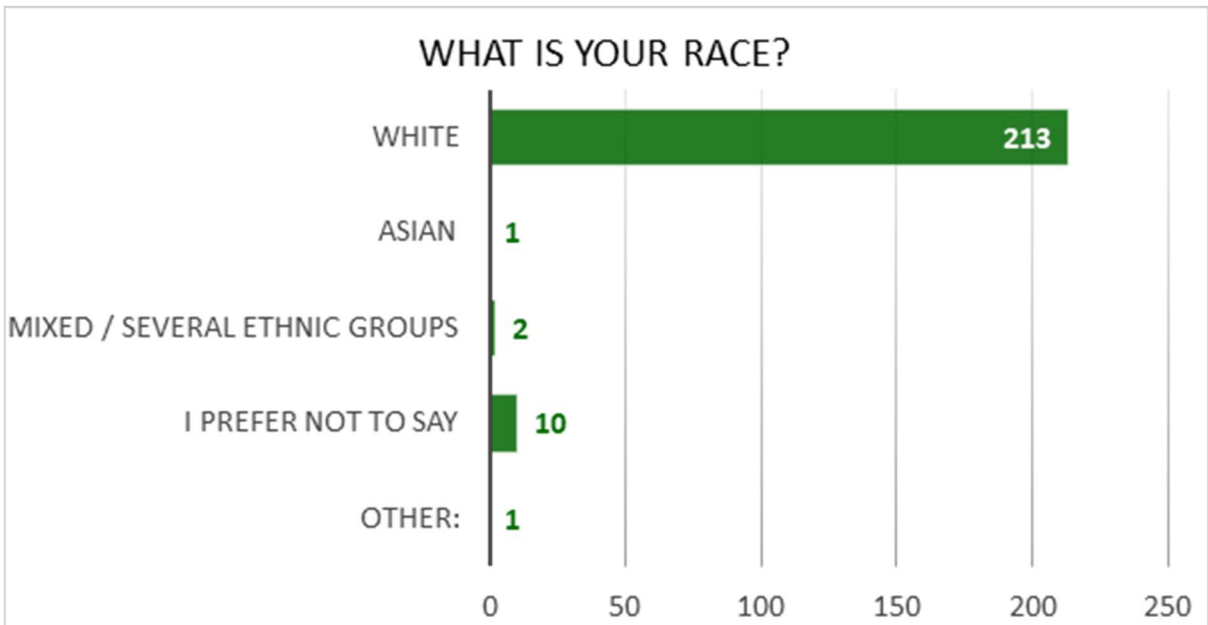
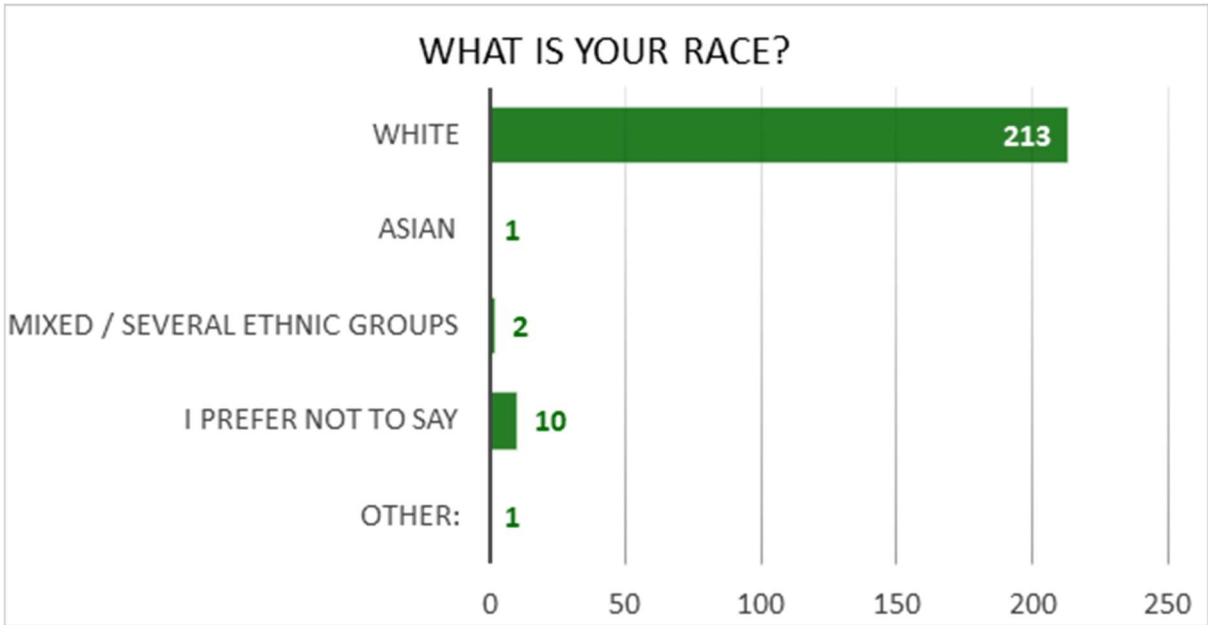


CAN YOU UNDERSTAND, SPEAK, READ AND/OR WRITE IN WELSH?

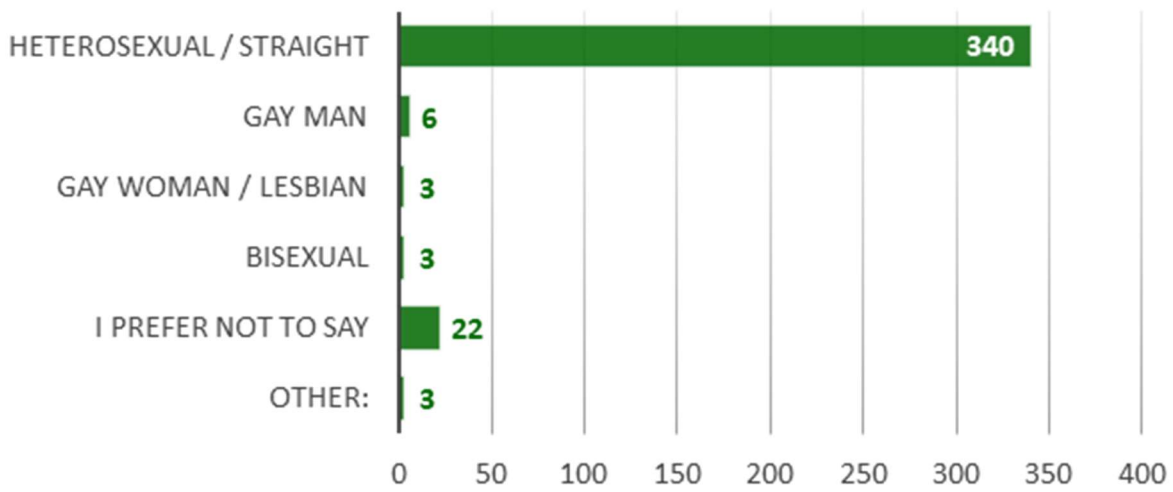


NATIONALITY OR NATIONAL IDENTITY?

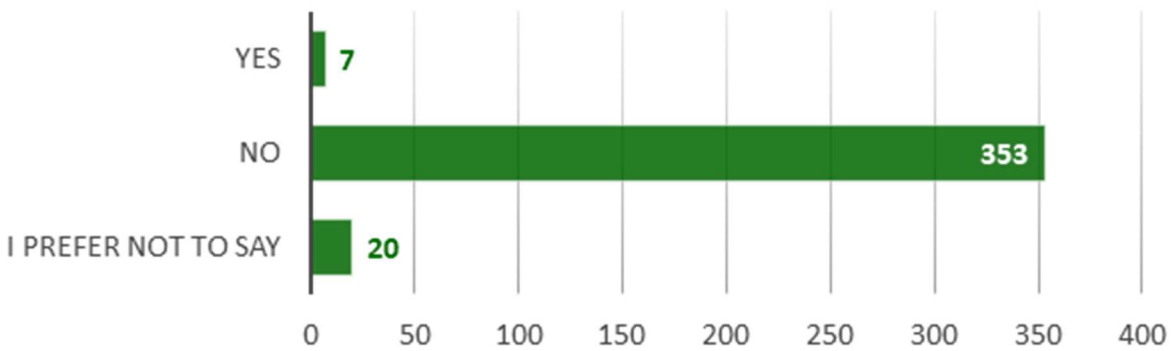




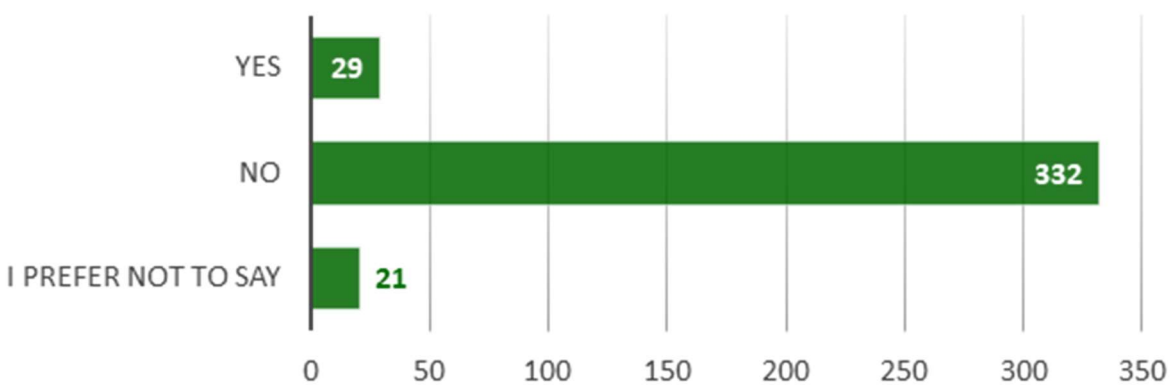
WHICH OF THESE BEST DESCRIBES YOU?



HAS YOUR GENDER IDENTIFICATION CHANGED FROM WHEN YOU WERE BORN?



DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A DISABLED PERSON?



4 Number of respondents per town or village in the Caernarfon Area.

4.1 The table below shows the number of respondents per town or village in the Caernarfon Area.

Town/village	Number of respondents
• Caernarfon	260
• Arall:	78
• Bontnewydd	30
• Llanfaglan	7

5 What is good about the Caernarfon Area?

5.1 The table below lists the themes prioritised by Community/ Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members of the Caernarfon Area. As part of the public engagement consultation, the residents of the Caernarfon Area were invited to choose up to 5 themes that they agreed with the most.

What <u>is good</u> about the Caernarfon Area?	Number of times the theme was prioritised
• The Welsh language and culture	257
• The natural environment and proximity to mountains, the seaside and the countryside	222
• The heritage and history of the area	202
• The standard of walking and cycling paths and coastal path	148
• Community spirit and friendliness	146
• Leisure and cultural facilities - Leisure Centre, Cinema, Library etc	111
• The area's ability to attract tourism for economic benefit	101
• It's a safe area	87
• Amenities such as shops, cafes and restaurants	78
• Education provision and good schools in the area	69
• Local produce and businesses	61
• Hardworking organisations, charities, enterprises and voluntary groups in the area	56
• A wide range of activities and opportunities are available to young people locally	23
• Employment opportunities	12
• A number of social activities take place in the area	7

5.2 In response to the question '**Note anything else that is good about the Caernarfon Area that isn't mentioned above**', **70** additional comments were received from the residents of the area. A number of the additional responses offered further comments about the above themes e.g. Community spirit and friendliness (n=7); The Welsh language and culture (n=7); Local produce and businesses (n=3).

Of the comments that noted something else that is good about the area, the most popular themes were:

Theme	Number of respondents who noted this
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new bypass 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to the A55 and other road networks 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to Eryri National Park and slate areas 	3

5.3 In addition to the above, a face-to-face session was organised with the Dementia Actif Gwynedd group in the Arfon Leisure Centre, Caernarfon. These comments can be seen in Appendix A.

5.4 In addition to the above, face-to-face sessions were organised with young people from the LGBT+ community in conjunction with the charity GISDA. These comments can be seen in Appendix B.

5.5 All additional comments received will be considered as part of the work to develop plans for the area.

6 What is not so good about the Pen Llŷn Area?

6.1 The table below lists the themes prioritised by Community/ Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members of the Caernarfon Area. As part of the public engagement consultation, the residents of the Caernarfon Area were invited to choose up to 5 themes that they agreed with the most.

What is <u>not so good</u> about the Caernarfon Area?	Number of times the theme was prioritised
• Litter, untidiness and the general look of the area is a problem	197
• More support and investment is needed to regenerate Caernarfon town centre	178
• The lack of suitable and affordable housing for local people to buy or rent	167
• The local economy is fragile, there is not enough support for businesses and shops are closing	166
• Anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse is an issue in the area	162
• The lack of high salary and full-time jobs locally	141
• The lack of provision and activities for young people	137
• Poverty is a problem in the area	116
• The high number of second homes and holiday homes in the area	111
• Problems relating to parking, road conditions and traffic in many parts of the area	80
• Arrangements for pedestrians and vehicles on the Maes	79
• Concern about the area's health, well-being and care provision	67
• The public transport network in the area is inadequate	59
• People have negative attitudes and theories about the area and its people	56
• Many community groups, organisations and initiatives are in place but better collaboration among the groups is needed to avoid duplication	22

6.2 In response to the question ‘**Note anything else that is not so good about the Caernarfon Area that isn’t mentioned above**’, **146** additional comments were received from the residents of the area. A number of these additional responses offered further comments about the themes above e.g. Litter, untidiness and the general look of the area is a problem, with a strong emphasis on the dog fouling issue (n=33); Anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse is an issue in the area (n=10); Problems relating to parking, road conditions and traffic in many parts of the area (n=9); More support and investment is needed to regenerate Caernarfon town centre (n=9); Arrangements for pedestrians and vehicles on the Maes (n=7).

Of the comments that indicated something else that is not so good about the area, the most popular themes were:

Theme	Number of respondents who noted this
• Lack of suitable and accessible paths and pavements to connect Caernarfon with surrounding villages.	10
• Comments regarding Cyngor Gwynedd’s work in general.	8
• Shops closing.	7
• Lack of quality part-time and full-time jobs.	7
• Seagulls.	5
• Comments about the perceived lack of support for the tourist industry in the area.	4

6.3 In addition to the above, a face-to-face session was organised with the Dementia Actif Gwynedd group in the Arfon Leisure Centre, Caernarfon. These comments can be seen in Appendix A.

6.4 In addition to the above, face-to-face sessions were organised with young people from the LGBT+ community in conjunction with the charity GISDA. These comments can be seen in Appendix B.

6.5 All additional comments received will be considered as part of the work to develop plans for the area.

7 What changes would you like to see happen in the Caernarfon Area in the next 15 years, that would make the area a better place to live?

7.1 The table below lists the themes prioritised by Community/ Town Councils, organisations, groups and local Members of the Caernarfon Area. As part of the public engagement consultation, the residents of the Caernarfon Area were invited to choose up to 5 themes that they agreed with the most.

What changes would you like to see happen in the Caernarfon Area in the next 15 years, that would make the area a better place to live?	Number of times the theme was prioritised
• Plans to improve the appearance of the area - tidying up, more bins, wildflowers etc	188
• Plans to create high value work and jobs in the area	171
• Plans to ensure suitable housing to meet the needs of local people	170
• More facilities need to be provided for the young people of the area and encourage them to play a more active part in the community	163
• Plans to reduce anti-social behaviour	159
• Schemes to support local businesses and enterprises to set up and prosper	136
• A greener area – more renewable energy schemes, reducing plastic use, setting up car charging points, tree planting schemes etc	129
• An effective Sustainable Tourism Scheme to better control tourism and maximise the economic potential for local people	107
• Plans to maintain and develop the area's public footpaths, cycle and walking paths	93
• Plans to develop a local public transport network that is accessible, integrated and suitable to the needs of the area	76
• Better provision within the health and well-being sector in the area as well as the development of a community hub to signpost individuals to suitable services	73
• Plans to maximise the area's history and heritage	66
• Plans to ensure more community events take place in the area	55
• Plans to improve local community facilities and resources to bring people together	46
• More sports facilities and fitness activities in the area	32
• Strengthen the relationship between the Local Authority and local community initiatives and groups	32

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better communication and collaboration between groups, organisations and community-based enterprises 	25
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7.2 In response to the question **‘Note anything else that you think isn’t mentioned above’**, **96** additional comments were received from the Caernarfon Area residents. A number of these additional responses offered further comments about the themes above e.g. Plans to improve the appearance of the area - tidying up, more bins, wildflowers etc including tackling the issue of dog fouling (n=8); A greener area – more renewable energy schemes, reducing plastic use, setting up car charging points, tree planting schemes etc (n=5); Plans to create high value work and jobs in the area (n=5); Plans to ensure suitable housing to meet the needs of local people (n=4); Better provision within the health and well-being sector in the area as well as the development of a community hub to signpost individuals to suitable services (n=4).

Of the comments that noted something else about the area, the most popular were:

Theme	Number of respondents who noted this
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to develop and to invest in Caernarfon town centre 	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce legislation to effectively manage holiday homes and second homes 	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to develop the appearance of the Foryd 	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackling issues relating to parking in some area 	4

7.3 In addition to the above, a face-to-face session was organised with the Dementia Actif Gwynedd group in the Arfon Leisure Centre, Caernarfon. These comments can be seen in Appendix A.

7.4 In addition to the above, face-to-face sessions were organised with young people from the LGBT+ community in conjunction with the charity GISDA. These comments can be seen in Appendix B.

7.5 All additional comments received will be considered as part of the work to develop plans for the area.

8 Next steps

- 8.1 During the autumn, all the feedback we have received from the residents and organisations of the Caernarfon Catchment area will be considered during workshops with local organisation as part of work to develop Local Action Plans.
- 8.2 The Action Plan will seek to incorporate the projects and activities of a wider range of organisations that contribute to the improvement and regeneration of the Caernarfon Catchment area.
- 8.3 As part of the Regeneration Framework, arrangements will be set in place to monitor and co-ordinate the implementation of the Action Plan, taking into account existing working arrangements and partnerships.
- 8.4 The timetable for the next steps are:
- Workshops with Local organisations : October / November 2022
 - Draft Action Plans prepared : March 2023
 - Comments and additions received to the draft document : April 2023
 - Revised Action Plans prepared : April / May 2023
 - Monitoring and co-ordination arrangements in place : May 2023
- 8.5 Details of the Local Action Plans will be available on Cyngor Gwynedd's website (www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru)
- 8.6 We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who have taken the time to give their opinion and to contribute to the work of improving and strengthening our communities.

Appendix A

Comments received during the face-to-face session with the Dementia Actif Gwynedd group in Arfon Leisure Centre, Caernarfon (07/07/22).

What's good about the Caernarfon Area?

- Good walking routes.
- Frequent buses going to many places.
- Art lessons for the elderly.
- Byw'n lach.
- Good community and neighbours.
- Great activities in the Gallery, as well as good films in the cinema.
- The Welsh language – everyone speaks Welsh in the streets and in the shops.

What's not so good about the Caernarfon Area?

- The high street has deteriorated.
- Not much for young children to do.
- Fewer Shops.
- The appearance of the area in general e.g. rubbish, grass growing.
- The Bontnewydd path to the train station is messy.
- Not many work opportunities in the area.
- Local people having to pay to enter the Castle – didn't have to in the past.
- Not fond of the location of the buses.
- Fountain gone from the Maes.
- Slates can be slippery on the Maes.
- Signs for Cei Llechi not clear enough.
- House prices are high.

What changes would you like to see happen in the area that would make it a better place to live?

- Keep paths tidy.
- Lower rates to help and support independent shops.

Appendix B

Comments received during the face-to-face session with GISDA LGBT+ Club - Caernarfon (13/6/22).

What's good about the Caernarfon Area?

- Friendly Community.
- Nice walking and cycling routes.
- Good skate park.
- Good places to go for food.
- Youth/social clubs.
- Clean air.
- A good creative community - 'Life in full colour.'
- Castle and heritage.
- Welsh language is spoken naturally in the area.
- Opportunities to volunteer - have had good experiences in the Gallery, charity shops and cafes.
- Various jobs, especially creative ones.
- Caernarfon food festival.
- Regular market.
- Good pubs.

What's not so good about the Caernarfon Area?

- Stigma around young people.
- Hate crimes and matters regarding bullying.
- Perceptions about the work of the police.
- Inadequate / unreliable transport links and other bus issues.
- Drugs are used openly in the area.
- Accommodation and support – no safe options.
- Lack of financial support in terms of further education and for young people in general.
- Poverty is a major problem in the area and the cost of living is high.
- 'Parc hwyiaid' is full of broken glas.
- Need more CCTV in the area.
- The town centre and the feeling that it is unsafe, especially after dark.

- Health and wellbeing e.g. matters relating to usage of correct pronouns and having trouble changing names on medical records; long time to get an appointment; insufficient mental health support.
- Not enough education about the LGBT+ community. Everyone needs to put in the effort to learn.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- Unable to afford driving lessons – too expensive to get lessons, license and test.

What changes would you like to see happen in the area that would make it a better place to live?

- Late Cafes for young people.
- A pub for the LGBT+ community.
- More community support workers.
- More safe places to socialise.
- Being able to see live bus times like in the cities.
- See bus driver salaries go up.
- An under 25 bus pass.
- Tackle negative attitudes towards the LGBT+ community.



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