

Solihull Place Survey 2016

This report summarises the headline findings of the Solihull Place Survey carried out by Protel Fieldwork Ltd on behalf of the Solihull Partnership in the summer of 2016. The results have been analysed in-house by the Solihull Observatory. This survey follows those conducted in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 albeit with some additional new questions.

Survey Sample

The survey returned a total of 710 responses with a valid Solihull address, although not all of these were complete. The sample is subject to a maximum standard error of +/-3.7% at the 95% confidence level on an observed statistic of 50%. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that responses are representative of those that would be given by all Solihull residents, had each completed a questionnaire, to within +/-3.7% of the percentages reported. This is consistent with previous years.

Responses have been divided into three broad geographical areas:

- North Solihull Regeneration Wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge, Smith's Wood). Referred to as **north Solihull** in text;
- Urban West Wards (Castle Bromwich, Elmdon, Lyndon, Olton, Silhill, St Alphege, Shirley East, Shirley West, Shirley South). **Urban west** in text;
- Semi-rural south and east (Bickenhill, Blythe, Knowle, Dorridge & Hockley Health, Meriden). **Rural** in text

There were at least 23 responses in each of Solihull's 17 wards (average 41 per ward). The breakdown of responses by broad area is shown in the table below.

	Respondents	% Respondents	% Solihull 18+ Population
North Solihull	182	26%	17%
Urban West	368	52%	54%
Rural	160	23%	29%
Total	710		

The Survey sample matches the gender split in the Solihull 18+ population, but is slightly under-representative of all age bands 18-54 years and correspondingly overweight in those aged 55 to 85 years and over. The sample matches the broad ethnic breakdown of the Borough's 18+ population (91% white, 9% Black or Asian Minority Ethnic).

A full breakdown of the sample is available in the appendix at the end of this report.

Key Points

A large majority of respondents to the 2016 Solihull Place say that they are satisfied with their local area as a place to live (85%).

The survey also shows that Solihull is a cohesive borough, with 83% of respondents saying that people from a different background get on well together in their local community.

Evidence relating to civic participation is more mixed, with slightly more people disagreeing that they can influence decisions that affect their local area than agreeing (46% disagree, 39% agree).

The proportion of who take part in some form of formal volunteering has fallen over recent surveys, with 22% of respondents volunteering at least once a month and a further 9% doing so less often.

However, this decline in formal volunteering has been offset by a rise in the proportion saying that they either regularly or periodically help in their local community on an informal basis.

Very few respondents (5%) say that they have been personally subject to harassment or intimidation, although feeling safe after dark and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) are a concern for a significant minority.

On average 62% of respondents say that they feel safe in their local area after dark, compared with 17% who feel unsafe. The proportion saying that they feel unsafe rises substantially among those living in the three North Solihull wards (34% compared to 12% elsewhere in the borough).

This is consistent with previous surveys and, in part, reflects, the fact that more North Solihull respondents have a concern about each of nine types of ASB.

Among all Solihull respondents vehicle nuisance was the most frequently cited ASB problem, with this the only type of ASB where more people cited it as a local problem than in 2014.

More respondents agree that local partners appropriately tackle ASB and protect the most vulnerable people in the community than disagree.

There is little evidence to suggest that social isolation is a widespread problem, with, for instance, very few respondents saying that they don't know anyone in their local area (3%) and most saying that they socialise with friends or family at least once a month. At the same time 85% say that a neighbour would give them practical help if they fell ill (52% definitely, 33% possibly).

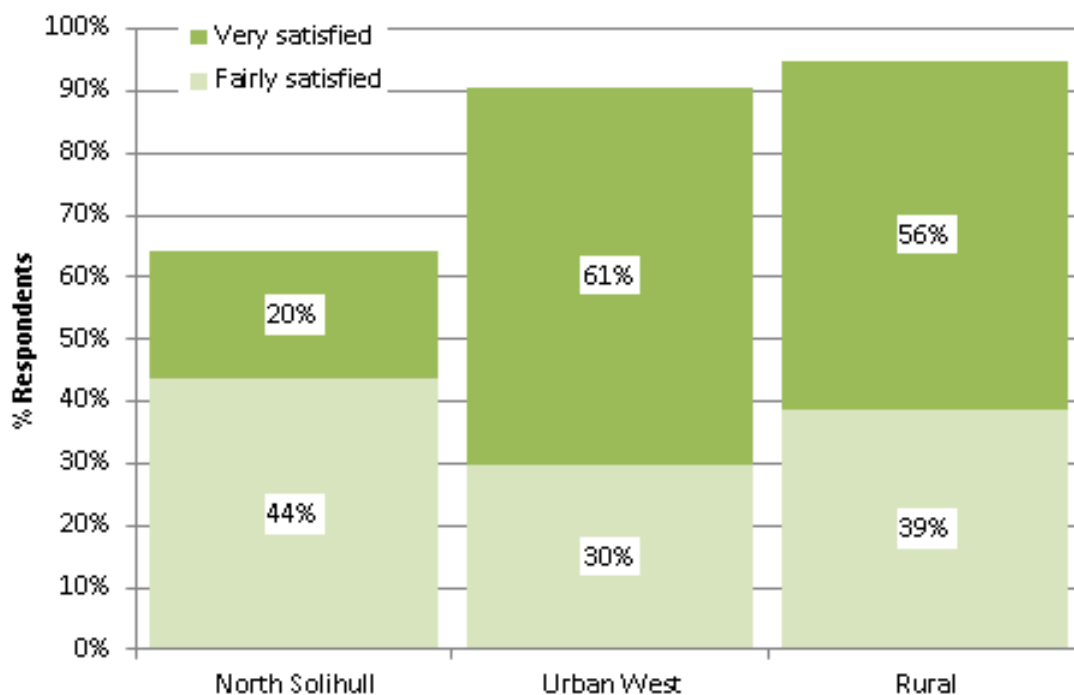
Satisfaction with Place to Live

85% of respondents say that they are satisfied with their local area as a place to live (49% very satisfied, 35% fairly satisfied) compared to 8% who are dissatisfied (3% very dissatisfied).

	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied
North Solihull	64%	22%	14%
Urban West	91%	3%	7%
Rural	95%	3%	3%
Solihull	85%	8%	8%

By area, levels satisfaction levels are highest in the rural wards (39% fairly satisfied, 56% very satisfied) and lowest in North Solihull (44% fairly satisfied, 20% very satisfied). This is consistent with previous surveys.

Satisfied with Local Area as Place to Live



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

The proportion of all Solihull respondents satisfied with their local area as a place to live fell slightly compared with previous surveys (90% in 2011, 88% in 2012, 89% in 2013, 89% in 2014). This is largely due to a reduction in positive responses in North Solihull, although it should be noted that levels of dissatisfaction have been largely unchanged in this area (from 11% in 2013 to 14% in 2016) and it is an increase in numbers saying that they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied that has risen.

Satisfaction with Local Area as Place to Live						
	2013		2014		2016	
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
North Solihull	78%	11%	76%	12%	64%	14%
Urban West	90%	6%	95%	3%	91%	7%
Rural	94%	3%	94%	2%	95%	3%
Solihull	89%	6%	89%	5%	85%	8%

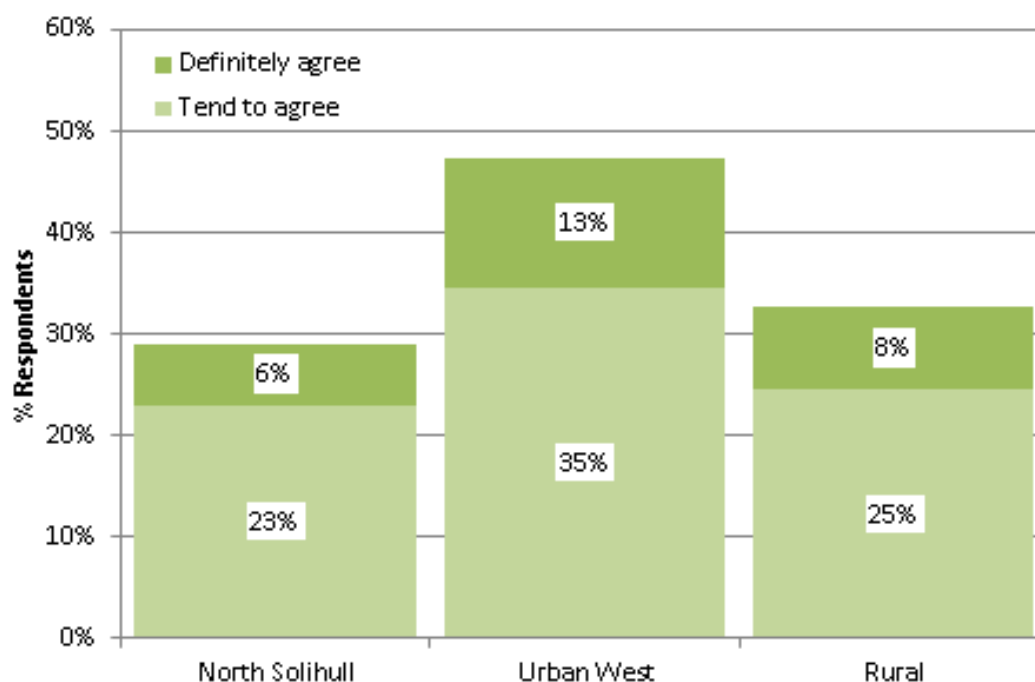
Civic Participation - Influencing and Taking Part in Local Decisions

39% of respondents agree that they can influence decisions in their local area (10% definitely agree, 29% tend to agree) compared to 46% who disagree (23% definitely disagree).

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
North Solihull	29%	56%	15%
Urban West	47%	40%	13%
Rural	33%	50%	18%
Solihull	39%	46%	15%

By area, respondents from the Urban West wards are most likely to agree (47%). In both North Solihull and Rural wards more respondents disagree that they can influence local decisions than agree.

Agree Can Influence Decisions in Local Area



Source: SMBC- Place Survey 2016

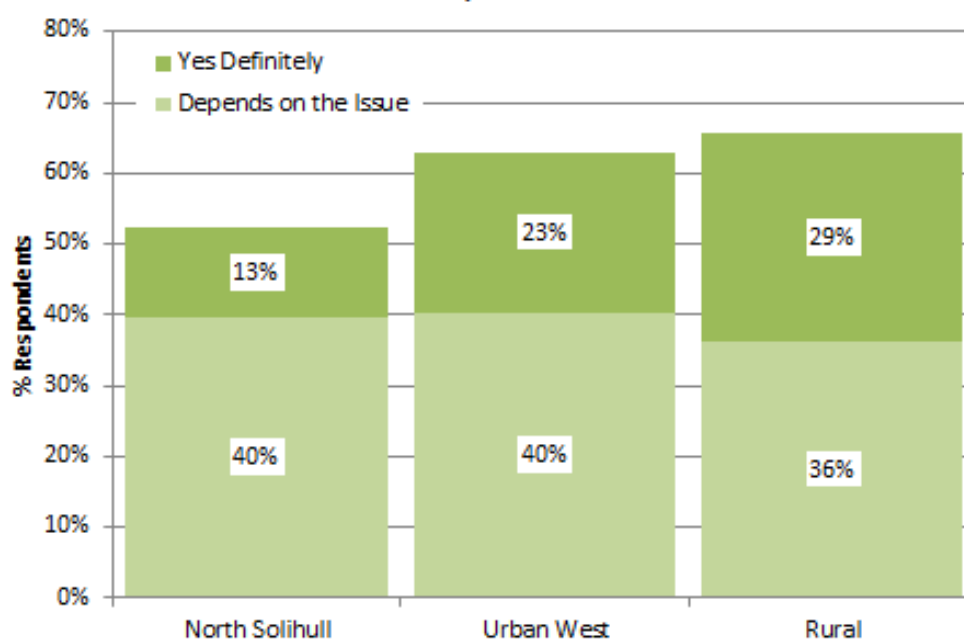
There has been a fall in the proportion of respondents who agree that they can influence decisions over recent surveys (44% 2013 to 39% in 2016), with this trend evident across both North Solihull and Rural wards. At the same time, however, the proportion across Solihull as a whole who actively disagree that they can influence decisions has also fallen (51% in 2013 to 46% in 2016).

	Can Influence Decisions in Local Area					
	2013		2014		2016	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
North Solihull	38%	55%	40%	54%	29%	56%
Urban West	45%	50%	38%	50%	47%	40%
Rural	45%	52%	45%	47%	33%	50%
Solihull	44%	51%	40%	50%	39%	46%

Just 22% of respondents say that they would like to be more involved in the decisions that affect their local area, with a further 39% saying that it would depend on the issue. By area, the differences across the borough are relatively narrow, although fewer respondents from North Solihull would definitely like to be more involved in local decisions.

	Yes	Depends on the Issue	No
North Solihull	13%	40%	43%
Urban West	23%	40%	35%
Rural	29%	36%	31%
Solihull	22%	39%	36%

Would Like to be More Involved in Decisions That Affect my Local Area



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

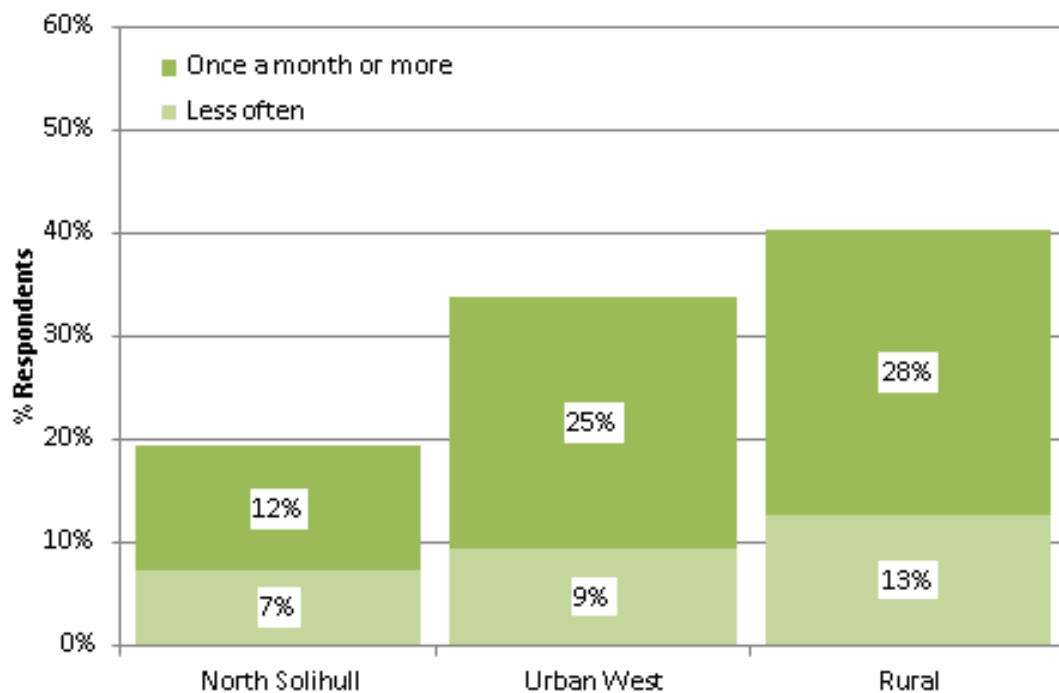
Formal Volunteering and Help in Local Community

31% of respondents say that they have taken part in some form of formal volunteering over the last 12 months (22% at least once a month, 9% less often) compared to 67% who haven't taken part.

	Once a month or more	Less often	Not at all	Don't know
North Solihull	12%	7%	80%	1%
Urban West	25%	9%	66%	0%
Rural	28%	13%	54%	6%
Solihull	22%	9%	67%	2%

At 40% participation is highest in the rural area (28% once a month, 13% less often) and lowest in North Solihull (12% once a month, 7% less often). This pattern is consistent with previous years.

Take Part in Formal Volunteering



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

The proportion of respondents taking part in formal volunteering had been increasing in each year, from 39% in 2011 to 46% in 2013, but this trend has reversed over the last two surveys, with the rate in 2016 the lowest on record. The reduction in participation in 2016 is evident across all parts of the Borough.

	Take Part in Formal Volunteering				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2016
North Solihull	27%	26%	41%	30%	19%
Urban West	37%	41%	43%	43%	34%
Rural	48%	47%	54%	53%	40%
Solihull	39%	41%	46%	42%	31%

61% of respondents say they have helped in the local community over the last 12 months (41% at least once a month, 20% less often).

	Once a month or more	Less often	Not at all	Don't know
North Solihull	31%	11%	57%	1%
Urban West	47%	21%	32%	0%
Rural	38%	29%	28%	6%
Solihull	41%	20%	37%	2%

Respondents from the urban west wards are most likely to have helped in their local community (68%) and those from North Solihull least likely (42%).

Help in Local Community



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

Unlike formal volunteering the proportion of respondents saying they have helped in the community has trended upwards over recent surveys, from 47% in 2011 to 61% currently. All areas of the borough recorded a significant increase over this period.

	Help in the Community				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2016
North Solihull	41%	46%	55%	56%	42%
Urban West	49%	52%	57%	58%	68%
Rural	46%	54%	65%	74%	67%
Solihull	47%	52%	59%	61%	61%

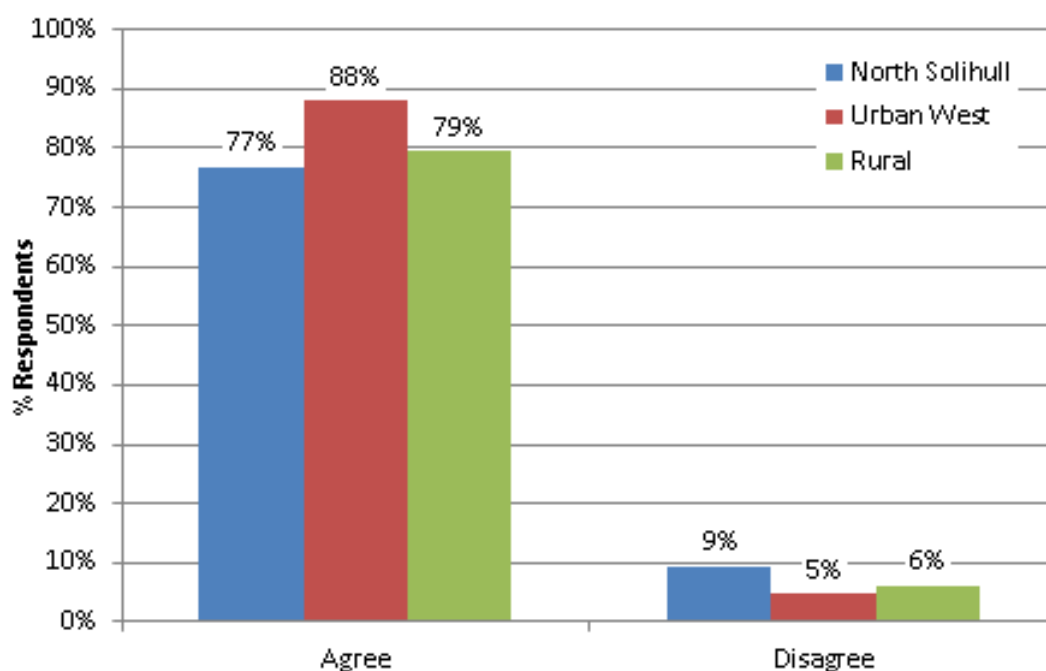
People From Different Backgrounds Get on Well Together in Local Area

83% of respondents agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area (44% definitely agree, 39% tend to agree) compared with 6% who disagree (3% definitely disagree).

	Agree	Disagree	Too Few/All the Same	Don't Know
North Solihull	77%	9%	9%	5%
Urban West	88%	5%	4%	3%
Rural	79%	6%	6%	8%
Solihull	83%	6%	6%	5%

A large majority of respondents agree that people from a different background get on well together in all three areas of the Borough, ranging from 88% in the Urban West to 77% in North Solihull.

Agree/Disagree People From Different Backgrounds Get on Well Together in Local Area



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

In 2016 the proportion of respondents who agree that people from a different background get on well together was the highest yet recorded, with all three areas of the borough showing a strong upward trend since 2013.

	Agree People from a Different Background Get on Well Together				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2016
North Solihull	77%	74%	69%	75%	77%
Urban West	82%	84%	73%	82%	88%
Rural	77%	74%	72%	72%	79%
Solihull	80%	78%	72%	78%	83%

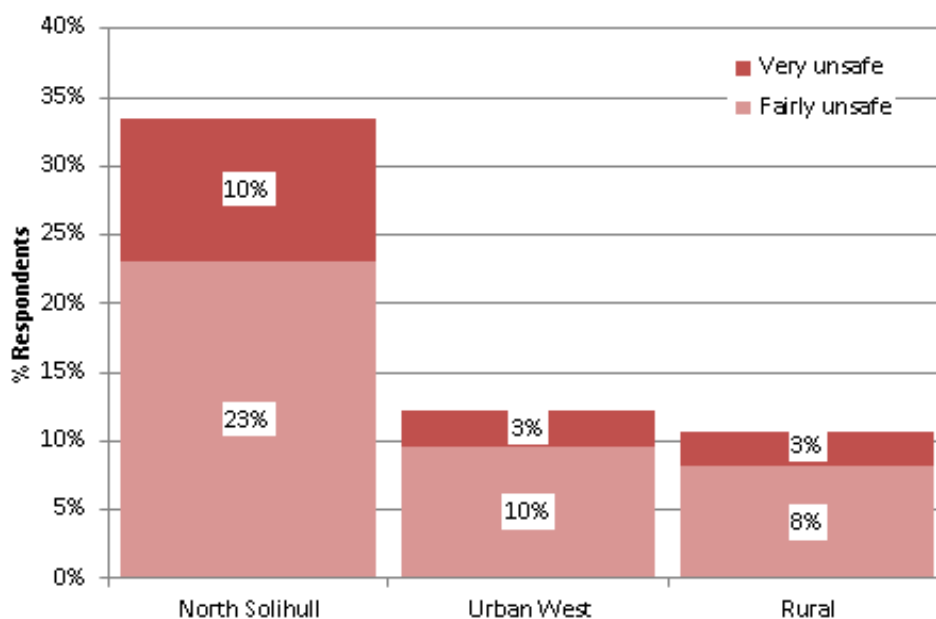
Feeling Safe

62% of respondents say that they feel safe after dark in their local area (24% very safe, 38% fairly safe) compared with 17% who feel unsafe (5% very unsafe).

	Safe	Neither	Unsafe	Don't Know
North Solihull	45%	11%	34%	11%
Urban West	65%	10%	12%	12%
Rural	76%	7%	11%	6%
Solihull	62%	10%	17%	10%

As with previous years there is a substantial difference between North Solihull and the rest of the borough on this measure. For instance, at 34%, respondents from North Solihull are by far more likely to say they feel unsafe after dark (10% very unsafe), than those in the rest of the Borough (12%).

Feel Unsafe After Dark in Local Area



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

At a borough level the proportion of respondents who feel safe after dark in their local area has been largely unchanged over the last three surveys, although between 2014 and 2016 there was a fall in those feeling safe in North Solihull (from 50% to 45%) and an increase in those feeling unsafe (from 29% to 34%). However, the results in this area have fluctuated over time, with the results from 2016 more positive than those from 2013.

	Feel Safe After Dark					
	2013		2014		2016	
	Safe	Unsafe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe	Unsafe
North Solihull	34%	45%	50%	29%	45%	34%
Urban West	65%	21%	67%	14%	65%	12%
Rural	79%	11%	72%	15%	76%	11%
Solihull	64%	22%	64%	18%	62%	17%

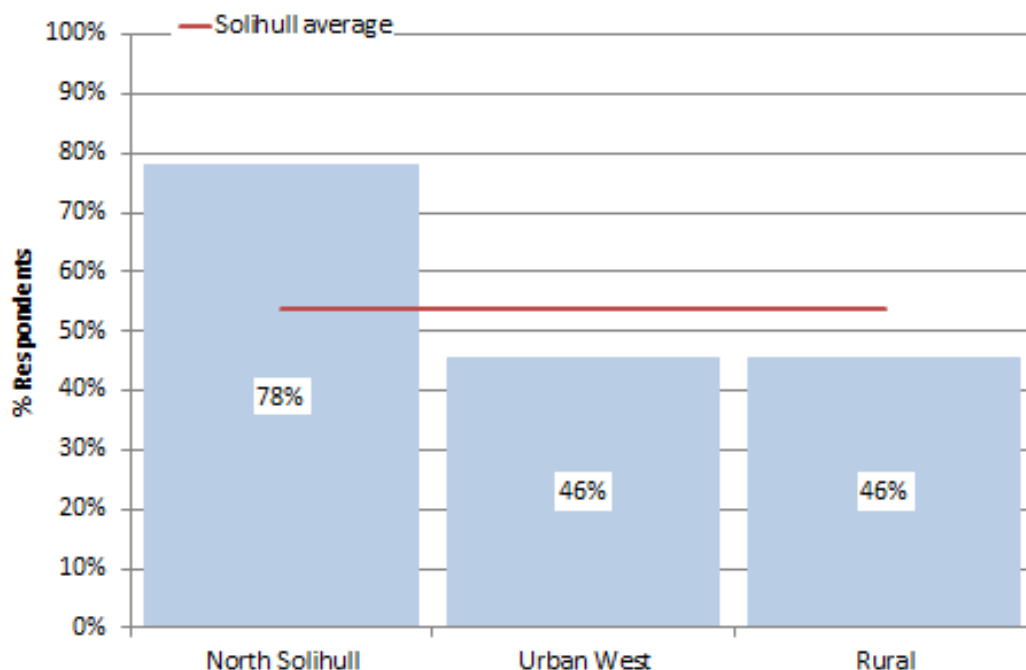
93% of all respondents feel safe in their local area during the day, ranging from 95% in the urban west to 90% in North Solihull.

Anti-social Behaviour

A total of 54% of respondents said that at least one of nine different types of ASB was a problem in their local area. 31% say that there is a problem with more than one of these issues and 7% have a problem with five or more. This is consistent with previous years.

78% of North Solihull respondents say that they have a problem with at least one of the listed types of ASB, compared with 46% in both the urban west and rural wards.

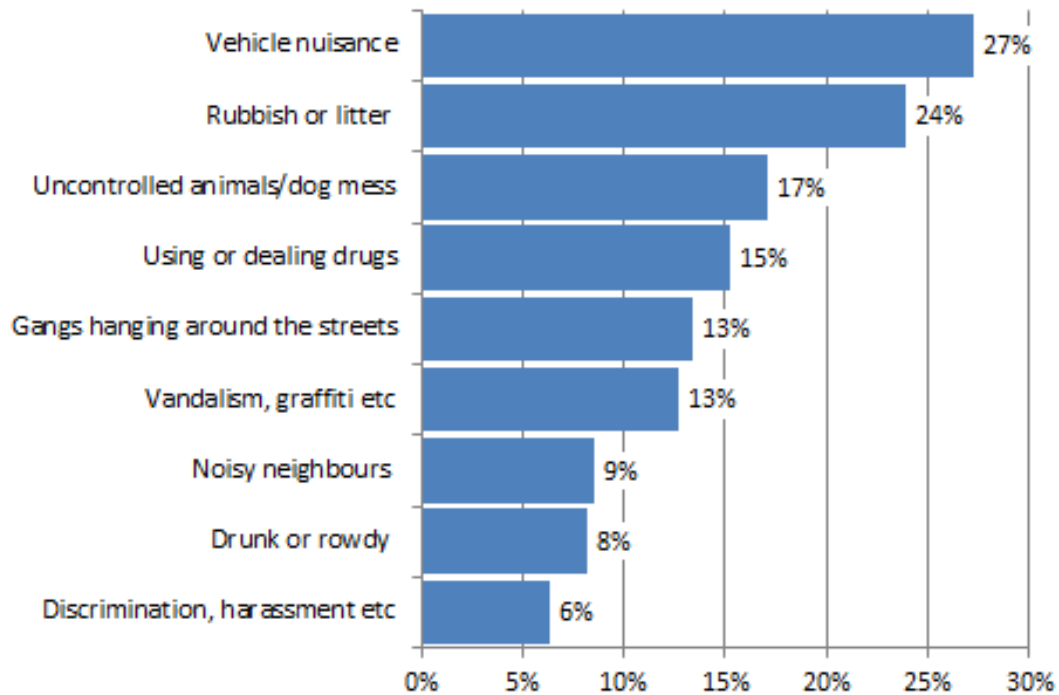
Problem with at Least one of Nine Types of ASB



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

Around a quarter of respondents said each vehicle nuisance like joyriding and abandoned cars (27%) and rubbish or litter lying around (24%), were a problem in their local area. Vehicle nuisance was the only type of ASB where there was a notable increase in the proportion of residents who think it is a problem when compared with 2014 (from 18% to 27%). However, there was a marked reduction in those citing uncontrolled animals dog mess over this period (from 27% to 17%)

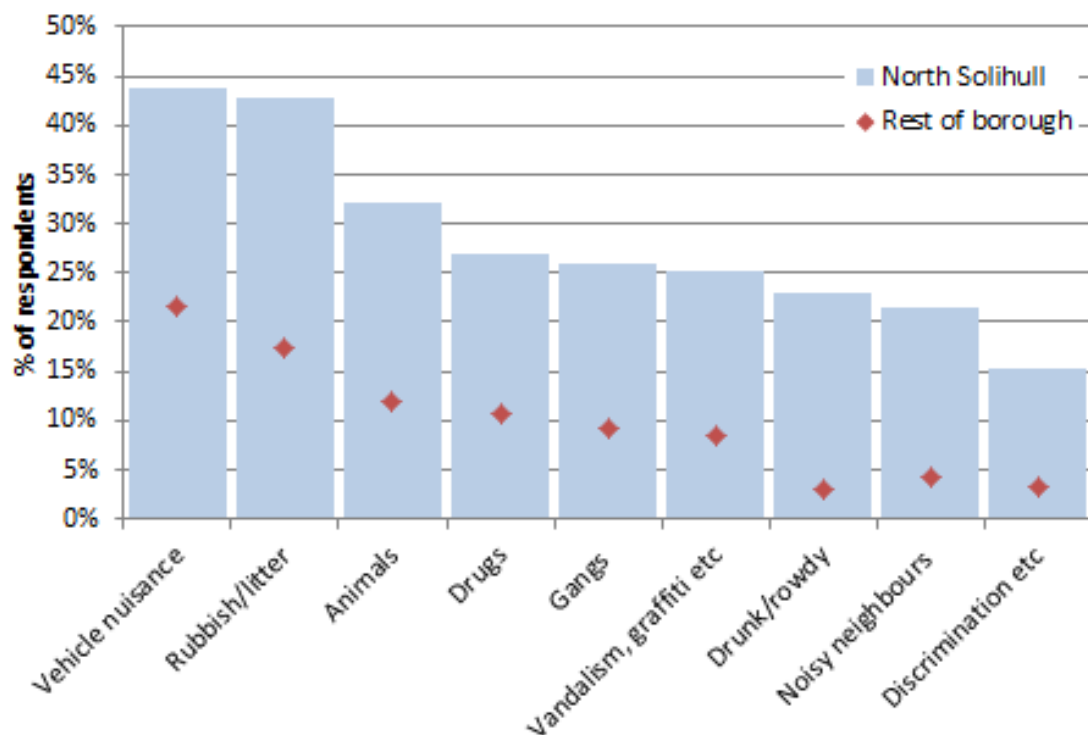
Problem in Local Area



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

Proportionally far more people say that they have a problem with each of the nine types of ASB in North Solihull than elsewhere in the borough. At least one in three North Solihull respondents say there is a problem with vehicle nuisance (44%), rubbish or litter lying around (43%) and uncontrolled animals (32%). Between 2014 and 2016 the proportion of North Solihull respondents citing vehicle nuisance increased markedly (from 33% to 44%), with similar rises in those citing noisy neighbours (from 11% to 22%) and people being drunk or rowdy in public places (from 13% to 23%). By contrast those citing uncontrolled animals fell from 41% to 32%.

Problem with ASB in Local Area



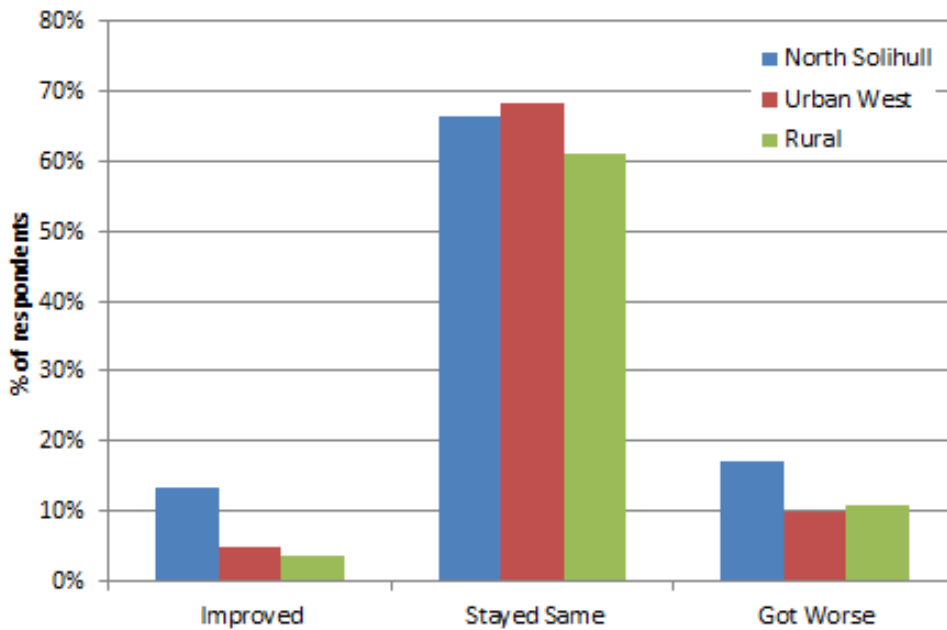
Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

7% of respondents say that ASB has got better in their local area over the last 12 months, 66% say it has remained the same and 12% say it has got worse.

	Improved	Stayed Same	Got Worse	Don't Know
North Solihull	13%	66%	17%	3%
Urban West	5%	68%	10%	17%
Rural	4%	61%	11%	25%
Solihull	7%	66%	12%	15%

A slightly higher proportion in North Solihull say it has improved than elsewhere in the borough (13% compared to 5%), although the proportion saying it has got worse is also higher (17% compared to 10%). This is consistent with the results from 2014.

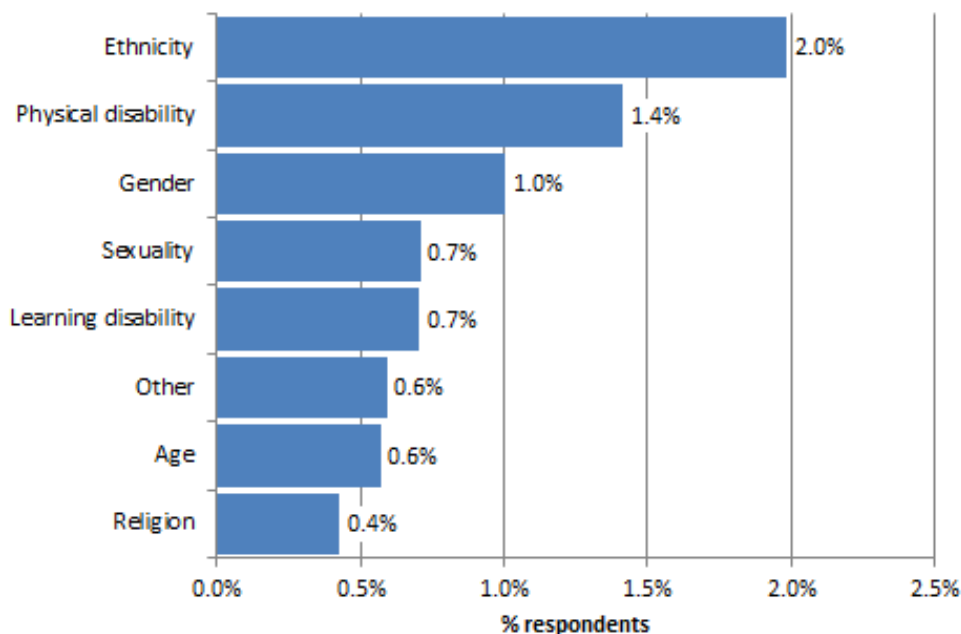
Change in ASB Over Last 12 Months



Just under 5% of respondents say they have personally experienced some form of harassment or intimidation, with only small differences between the three areas of the borough (7.7% in North Solihull, 4.1% in Urban West, 3.8% in Rural).

Ethnicity was the most common type of harassment or intimidation cited, although this involved just 14 out of over 700 responses (2%).

Suffered Harassment or Intimidation By Reason

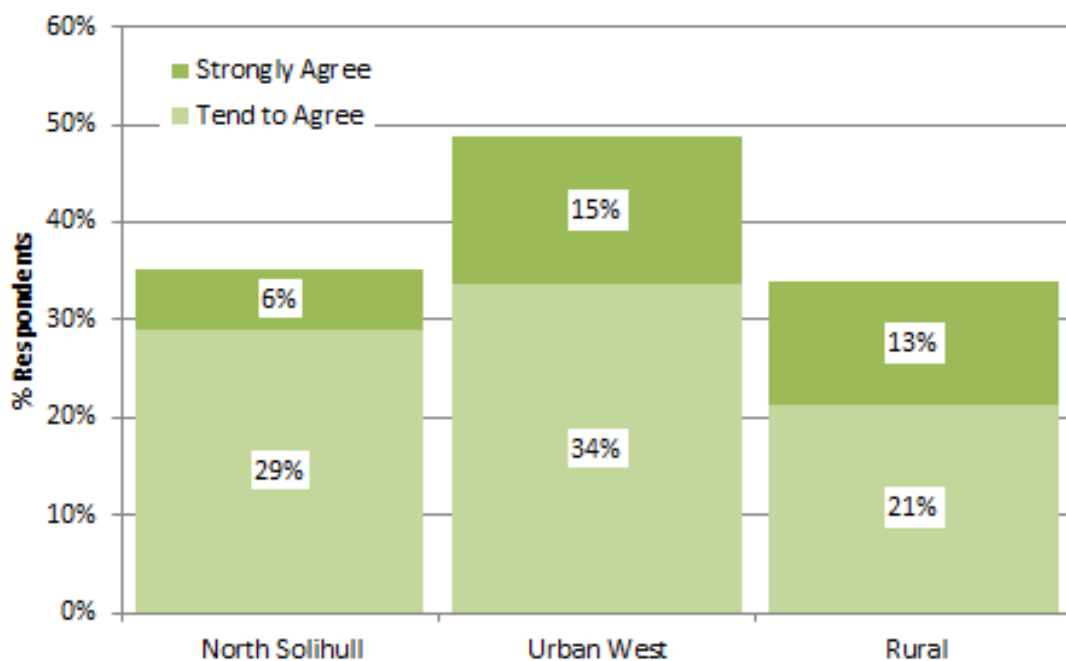


42% of respondents agree that the police and SMBC appropriately tackle ASB in their local area (12% strongly agree, 30% tend to agree) compared with 16% who disagree (6% strongly disagree).

	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Don't Know
North Solihull	35%	26%	31%	8%
Urban West	49%	19%	9%	23%
Rural	34%	16%	14%	36%
Solihull	42%	20%	16%	22%

Respondents from the urban west wards are more likely to agree (49%) that the police and SMBC are taking appropriate action than those from either North Solihull (35%) or the rural wards (34%). Those from North Solihull were far more likely to disagree than across the rest of the borough (31% compared to 10%). However, it should be noted that a large proportion of residents in the urban west and rural wards answered don't know on this question.

Agree Police & SMBC Appropriately Tackle ASB in Local Area



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

Protecting Vulnerable People

A new question in 2016 asked respondents whether they agree or disagree that the police, social services, health and other partners are protecting effectively the most vulnerable people in their community.

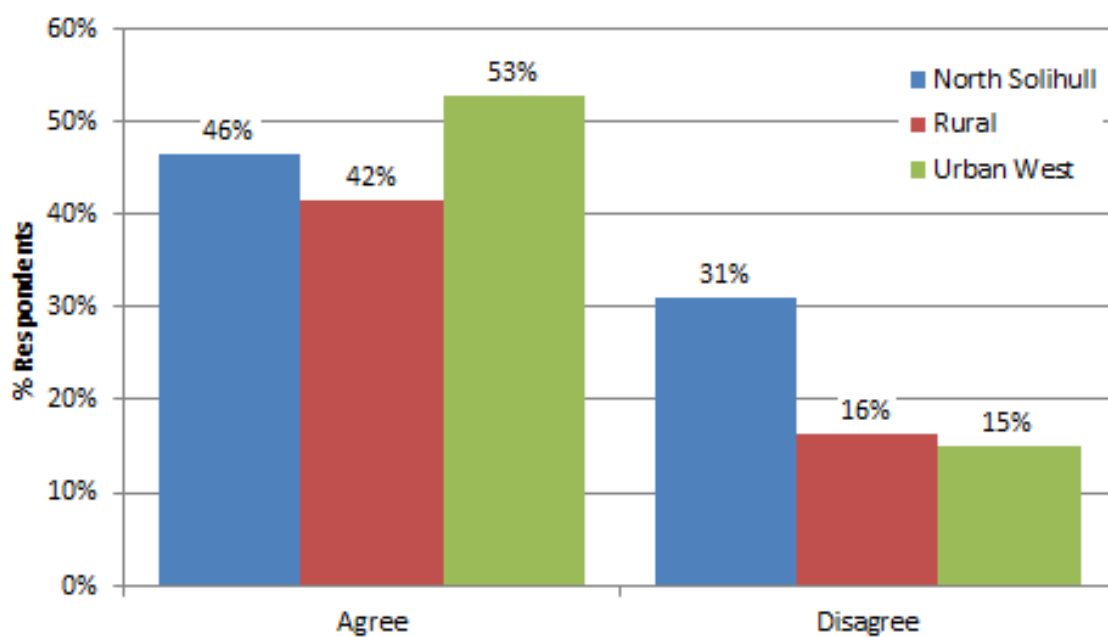
As with the previous question on tackling ASB a large number of respondents stated that they don't know whether local partners are effectively protecting vulnerable people, although of those who expressed an opinion more expressed a positive opinion than negative.

49% of respondents agree that local partners are effective in protecting the most vulnerable people in the community compared with 19% who disagree.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
North Solihull	46%	31%	23%
Urban West	53%	15%	32%
Rural	42%	16%	42%
Solihull	49%	19%	32%

In terms of those that agree that local partners are effective in protecting vulnerable people the range is relatively narrow across the borough (from 53% in the urban west to 42% in rural wards). However, respondents in North Solihull are far more likely to disagree than those from elsewhere in the borough (31% compared to 15%).

Police, social services, health & other partners are protecting effectively the most vulnerable people in your community



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

Social Isolation and Wellbeing

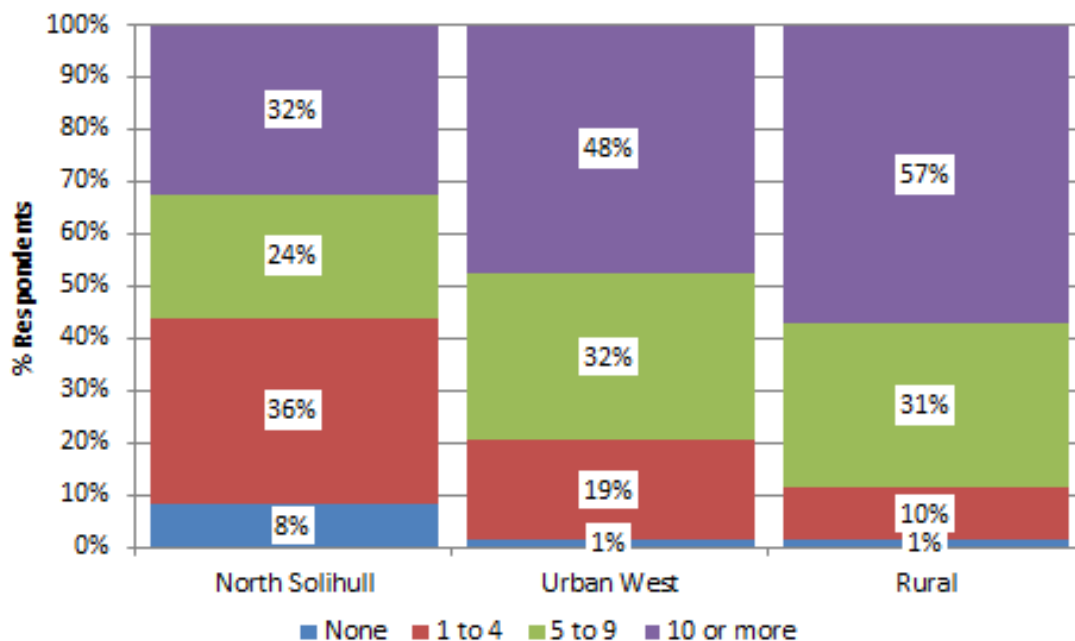
A range of questions have been introduced to the 2016 survey looking at the issue of social isolation and wellbeing in the community.

Just 3% of Solihull respondents say that they don't know anyone in their immediate neighbourhood by name, with 76% saying that they know 5 or more people (30% 5 to 9 people, 46% 10 or more).

	How many people on your street (or in your immediate neighbourhood) would you say you know by name?			
	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 or more	None
North Solihull	36%	24%	32%	8%
Urban West	19%	32%	48%	1%
Rural	10%	31%	57%	1%
Solihull	21%	30%	46%	3%

Respondents from North Solihull or more likely to say that they don't know anyone in their immediate neighbourhood by name than elsewhere in the borough (8% compared to 1%) and less likely to say that they know five or more (56% compared to 82%).

How many people on your street (or in your immediate neighbourhood) would you say you know by name?



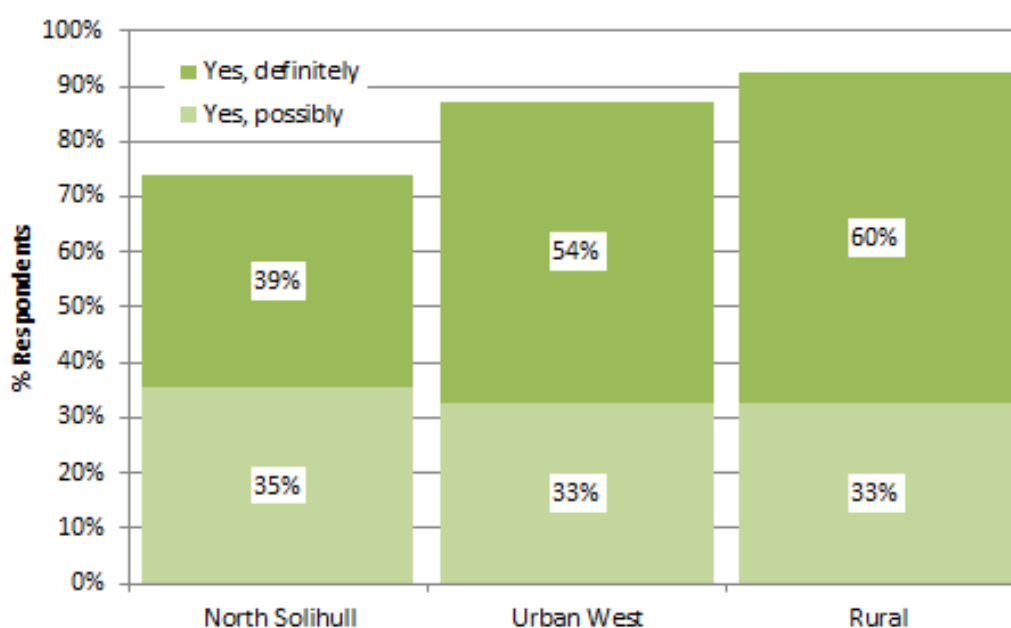
Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

85% of Solihull respondents say that a neighbour would give them practical help if they fell ill (52% definitely, 33% possibly) compared with 15% who think it is unlikely (6% very unlikely).

Respondents from the rural wards (92%) and those from the urban west (87%) are more confident of receiving help than North Solihull residents (74%).

	Yes, definitely	Yes, possibly	Fairly unlikely	Very unlikely
North Solihull	39%	35%	15%	10%
Urban West	54%	33%	7%	5%
Rural	60%	33%	6%	2%
Solihull	52%	33%	9%	6%

A neighbour Would Provide Practical Help if you Fell Ill



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

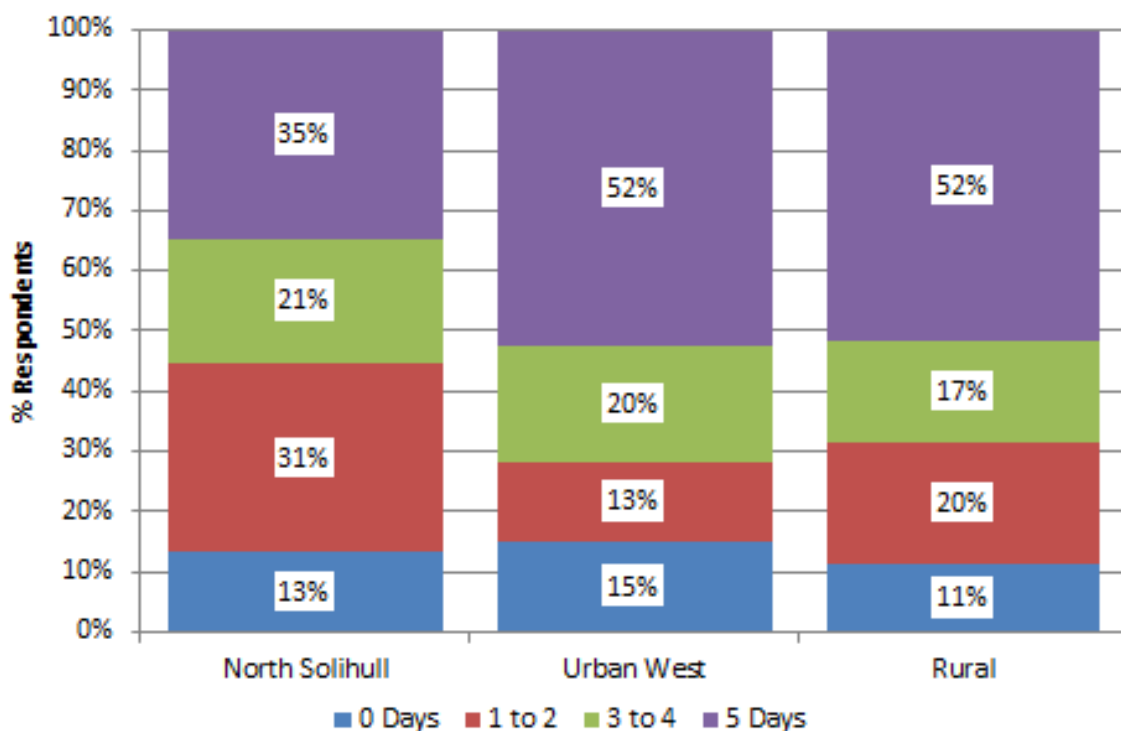
Just 4% of Solihull respondents say that they never meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues, with a 67% saying that they socialize several times a month. There are few significant differences across the borough on this measure.

	How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives, or work colleagues?			
	Several times a month	Once or twice a month	Less than once a month	Never
North Solihull	61%	25%	9%	4%
Urban West	71%	18%	7%	4%
Rural	66%	28%	4%	3%
Solihull	67%	22%	7%	4%

48% of Solihull respondents say that they were physically active in five out of the last seven days, with just 14% saying that they were not active in any day over this period. The proportion of people who were inactive varies little across the borough, but at the other end of the scale fewer did physical exercise on 5 out of seven in the North of the borough.

	Number of Days Physically Active in Last 7 Days			
	0	1 to 2	3 to 4	5
North Solihull	13%	31%	21%	35%
Urban West	15%	13%	20%	52%
Rural	11%	20%	17%	52%
Solihull	14%	19%	19%	48%

Number of Days Physically Active in Last 7 Days



Source: SMBC - Place Survey 2016

Using a ten point scale respondents were asked to rank how satisfied they feel with the quality of their life overall, with 10 representing completely satisfied and 1 not at all satisfied.

22% of Solihull respondents say that they are completely satisfied with their life, with 65% selecting one of the top three responses (8 to 10). At the other end of the scale just 1% say that they not at all satisfied with their life, with 4% selecting one of the bottom three responses (1 to 3). Respondents from North Solihull are less likely to say that they are completely satisfied with their life than those from elsewhere in the borough (14% compared to 24%), and are also less likely to choose one of the top three points on the scale (48% scale points 8-10 compared with 71%). Although very few North Solihull respondents say that they are not at all satisfied with their life, a similar disparity between North Solihull and

the rest of the borough is evident when the bottom three points of the scale are assessed (11% chose scale points 1 to 3 compared to 2% across rest of the borough).

	Completely Satisfied (scale point 10)	Top three (8-10)	Not at all Satisfied (scale point 1)	Bottom three (1-3)
North Solihull	14%	48%	1%	11%
Urban West	25%	71%	1%	2%
Rural	22%	73%	1%	3%
Solihull	22%	65%	1%	4%

Appendix 1: Survey Sample

Age Band	Respondents	% Total
18-24	54	8%
25-34	74	10%
35-44	63	9%
45-54	101	14%
55-64	141	20%
65-74	127	18%
75-84	102	14%
85+	38	5%
Not Stated	10	1%
Total	710	
% of Known age		
All 18-64	433	62%
All 65+	267	38%

Status	Respondents	% Total
Working full-time (over 30 hours a week)	182	26%
Working part-time (less than 30 hours per week)	91	13%
Unemployed and available for work	28	4%
Full-time education	18	3%
Looking after the home	43	6%
Permanently sick / disabled	12	2%
An unpaid carer	15	2%
Wholly retired from work	296	42%
Doing something else	11	2%
Not Stated	14	2%
Total	710	

Household Type	Respondents	% Total
Single Person	137	19%
Multiple Occupancy all adults	366	52%
Multiple Occupancy with Children	174	25%
Not Stated	33	5%
Total	710	

Gender	Respondents	% Total
Female	395	56%
Male	299	42%
Transsexual / transgender	1	0.1%
Not Stated	15	2%
Total	710	

Health	Respondents	% Total
Has a Limiting Long Term Illness	139	20%
Doesn't Have a LLTI	552	78%
Not Stated	19	3%
Total	710	

Caring	Respondents	% Total
Unpaid Carer, 1 - 19 hours per week	62	9%
Unpaid Carer, 20 - 29 hours per week	25	4%
Unpaid Carer, over 50 hours per week	39	5%
Not a Carer	566	80%
Not Stated	18	3%
Total	710	

Area	Respondents	% Total
North Solihull	182	26%
Urban West	368	52%
Rural	160	23%
Total	710	