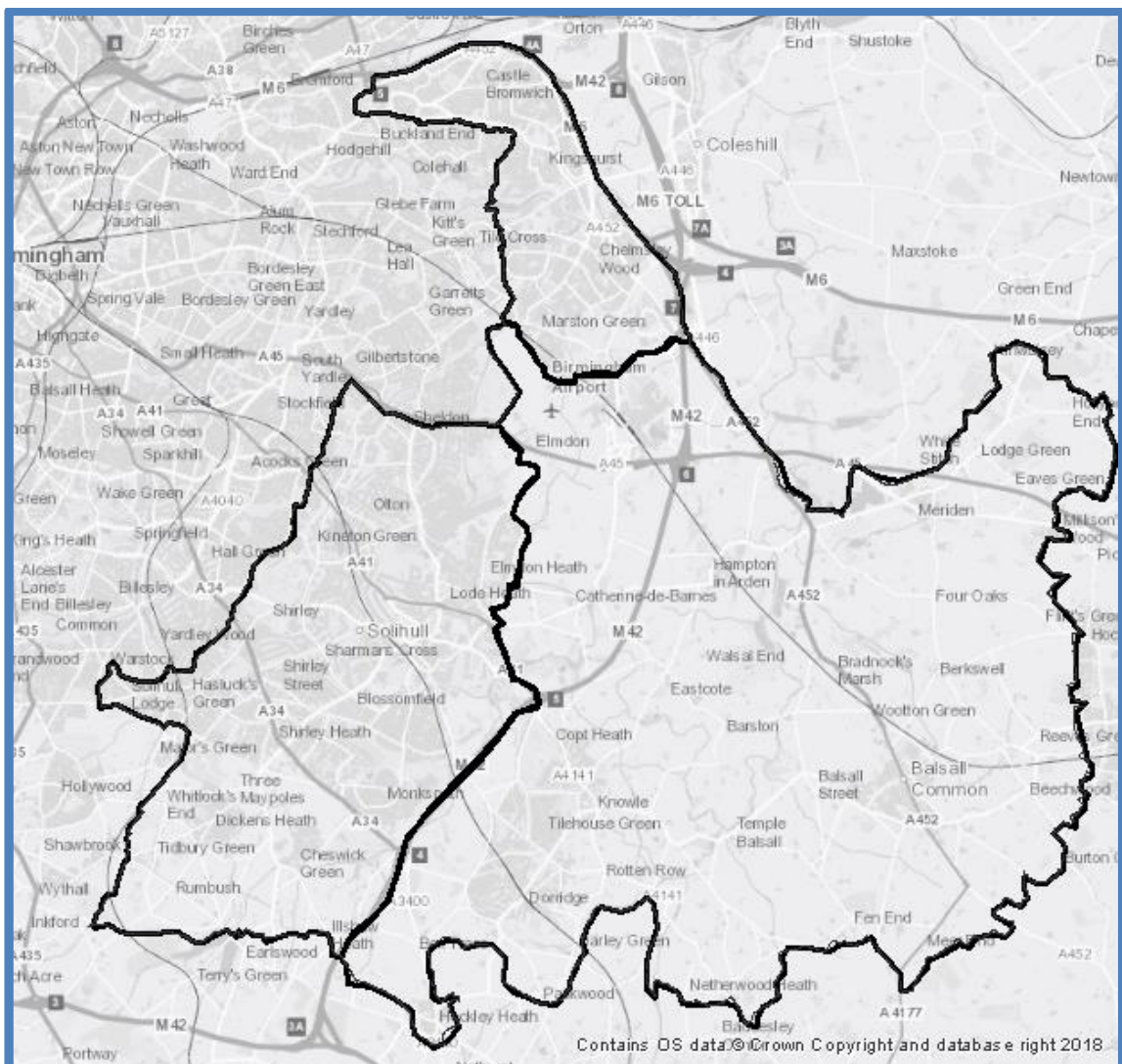


Solihull Residents' Perception Survey 2025



Introduction

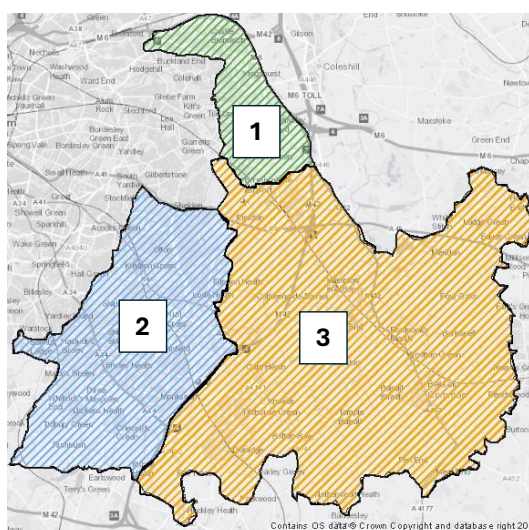
A Solihull residents' perception survey has been done every two years from 2012 to 2022. The planned survey in the Autumn of 2024 was delayed but was carried out in March 2025 and funded by the Community Safety Partnership. It asks Solihull adults about their local neighbourhood, community safety, civic participation and climate change.

In 2025 there were 788 responses reflecting the Solihull population by locality, age and gender. An enhanced number of responses were gathered from North Solihull residents to allow more granular analysis of people and issues in the area. This above-average North Solihull response weight is accounted for in the main survey by weighting replies so that they reflect the true size and nature of the Solihull population.

The number of responses from the Ethnic Minority community and from those with a limiting long-term illness or disability are both slightly lower than the Solihull adult average.

Residents' Perception Survey 2025 Sample Summary			
	Responses	% Responses	% 18+ Population
North Solihull	314	40%	27%
West Solihull	385	49%	54%
East Solihull	89	11%	19%
Males	355	45%	48%
Females	433	55%	52%
Age 18-64	575	73%	73%
Age 65+	213	27%	27%
White	706	90%	85%
Ethnic Minority	77	10%	15%
With Limiting Long-Term Illness	110	14%	20%
Without Limiting Long-Term Illness	674	86%	80%
Total	788		

The three Solihull locality areas are shown in the map below.



Solihull Localities

- 1 North Solihull**
- 2 West Solihull**
- 3 East Solihull**

Key Points

The Local Neighbourhood

- Most Solihull respondents to the 2025 residents' perception survey are satisfied with their local area as a place to live (78%).
- But satisfaction levels fell between 2020 and 2025 in both North Solihull (from 80% to 70%) and the rest of the borough (from 93% to 81%).
- 55% of respondents say that their area has got worse in the last two years compared to 45% who think the area has got better or stayed the same.
- The proportion of respondents saying that their area has got worse has increased from 38% in 2022 to 55% in 2025.
- However, most people who think that their area has got worse over the last two years are still satisfied with their local area as a place to live (64%).
- 84% of respondents agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area. A high level of social cohesion is evident across all three Solihull localities.
- 89% of Solihull respondents feel strongly that they belong to their local neighbourhood. The sense of belonging in all Solihull localities is much stronger than the England average.
- A respondent's sense of neighbourhood belonging is linked to the extent their social network and the degree to which they feel lonely.
- Women and respondents aged 65 or over have more extensive social networks than men and working aged people. Social networks are weaker in north Solihull. The residents' perception survey suggests that loneliness in Solihull is rare.
- Just 18% of respondents agree there are activities for young people and adolescents in their local area, with the response from people in North Solihull particularly negative.

Community Safety

- A large majority of respondents to the residents' perception survey feel safe during the day in all Solihull localities, with no age or gender differences.
- Solihull town centre is seen as a safer location than either Shirley or Chelmsley Wood town centres, although many respondents were unable to decide.
- 48% of respondents feel safe in their local area after dark, compared to 38% who feel unsafe, with people in North Solihull least likely to feel safe.
- Men feel safer after dark than women and working aged people feel safer than those aged 65 and over.

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- The proportion of respondents who feel safe in their local area after dark fell from 59% in 2022 to 48% in 2025 with a corresponding increase in those saying that they feel unsafe (from 27% to 38%).
- The decline in people feeling safe in their local area after dark is apparent in North Solihull (from 45% to 35%) and the rest of the borough (from 64% to 52%).
- 87% of people think that at least one of the 13 specific types of anti-social behaviour (ASB) or crimes are a problem in their local area.
- Burglary and vehicle crime is the most frequently cited ASB problem (59%), followed by rubbish & litter lying around (45%), people using or dealing drugs (38%), and vehicle nuisance such as joyriding or abandoned cars (35%).
- Except burglary & vehicle crime each type of ASB/crime is regarded as a greater problem among respondents from North Solihull than by those living elsewhere in the borough.
- This gap is particularly significant with regards to uncontrolled animals, rubbish & litter lying around, vandalism & graffiti, knife crime and people using or dealing drugs.
- Survey respondents who say that they feel unsafe after dark in their local neighbourhood are far more likely to say that ASB is a problem.
- People with a weaker sense of belonging have a more negative view of community safety and think ASB is a problem than the rest of the population.

Civic Participation

- 55% of respondents to the residents' perception survey have taken part in some type of volunteering in the last 12 months (formal volunteering or informal help in local community) compared to 45% who haven't participated. The participation rate is 44% in North Solihull compared to 63% across the rest of the borough.
- 30% of respondents have taken part in formal volunteering in the last 12 months (19% at least once per month). The Solihull participation rate is in-line with the England average.
- The formal volunteering participation rate in Solihull has trended downwards since 2018.
- 34% of Solihull respondents agree that they can influence decisions in their local area, compared to 59% who disagree (26% definitely disagree).
- However, the Solihull response is still more positive than the England average, with just 23% agreeing they can influence local decisions across the country.
- The percentage agreeing that they can influence decisions fell across in all Solihull localities from 2012 to 2018 but has remained broadly the same since then.
- 41% of respondents want to be more involved with decisions that affect their local area, 27% say that it depends on the issue and 31% don't want to be more involved.

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- The desire to be more involved is higher outside of North Solihull and among women and young people.
- The extent to which people feel that they can influence decisions that affect their local area seems to have little impact on their willingness to become more involved.

Climate Change

- 68% of respondents to the residents' perception survey are concerned about climate change (22% very concerned). People living in North Solihull, men and working aged people are less likely to be concerned.
- 57% of respondents say that they have a good knowledge of what they can do to combat climate change. Just 8% say that they don't know any actions they can take to combat climate change.
- Knowledge about climate change is lower among North Solihull respondents than those from elsewhere in the borough.
- 98% of respondents say that they have engaged in at least one action to support climate action compared to just 2% who have taken no action.
- Of 12 specific actions the most common engaged in by survey respondents was recycling (95%), followed by saving energy at home (79%), upcycling (74%), reduced waste (69%) and walk, bike or take public transport (63%).
- Respondents are most likely to engage in climate action that are routine (recycling) or that are likely to save money (saving energy at home).

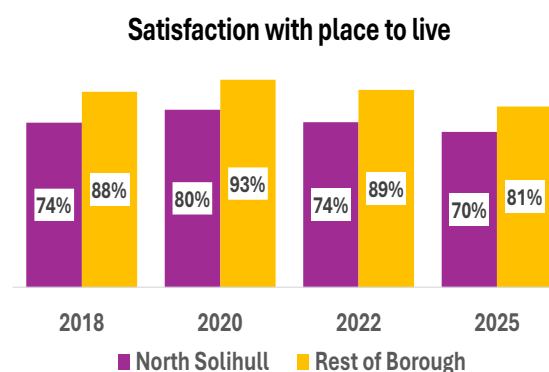
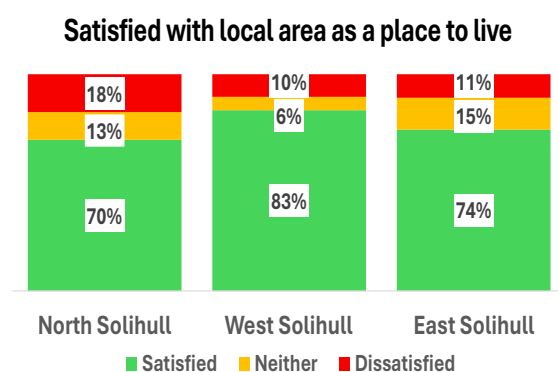
The Local Neighbourhood

Satisfaction with area as place to live; how area has changed; community cohesion; sense of belonging to local neighbourhood; social isolation; activities in local neighbourhood.

As in past years, a large majority of Solihull residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live (78%). Just 12% are dissatisfied (4% very dissatisfied).

In 2025 there were high levels of satisfaction in all Solihull localities, with no major age and gender differences.

Between 2020 and 2025 the proportion of people satisfied with their local area as a place to live has fallen in both North Solihull (from 80% to 70%) and the rest of the borough (from 93% to 81%).



Satisfaction with place to live in Solihull is slightly higher than England (78% vs 74%), although this is due to the high levels of satisfaction shown by respondents from West Solihull.

Satisfaction with Place to Live							
	Very Satisfied	Fairly Satisfied	Neither	Fairly Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied		
Solihull	28%	50%	10%	9%	4%	78%	12%
England	28%	46%	16%	8%	3%	74%	11%
North Solihull	18%	52%	13%	11%	6%	70%	18%
West Solihull	29%	55%	6%	7%	4%	83%	10%
East Solihull	40%	34%	15%	10%	1%	74%	11%

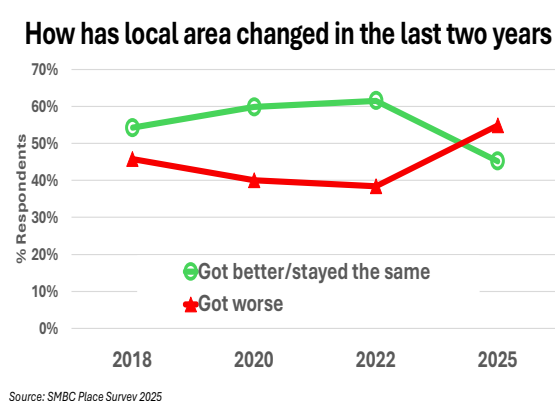
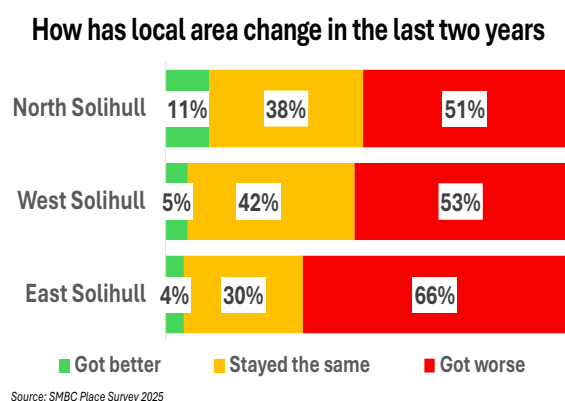
Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025; Community Life Survey 2023/24, Department for Media, Culture & Sport

45% of Solihull respondents say that their local neighbourhood has got better (7%) or stayed the same (38%) over the last two years, with more saying that their area has got worse (55%).

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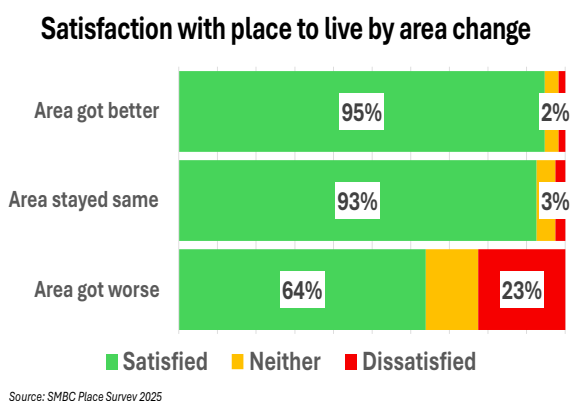
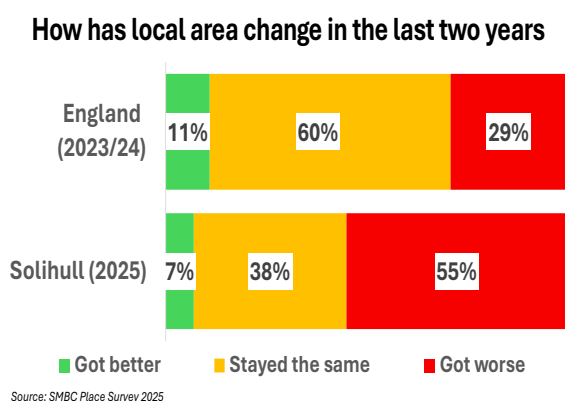
Respondents from East Solihull are the least positive on this measure with 66% saying their local area has got worse. There are only small age and gender differences with men and working aged people slightly more positive.

There was little change in this metric from 2018 to 2022 before becoming more negative in 2025, with the proportion of respondents saying that their area had got worse rising from 38% in 2022 to 55% in 2025.



Far more Solihull residents think that their area has got worse over last two years than England (55% vs 29%). Just 7% think their area has got better, which is also lower than the England average (11%).

Even among those respondents who think that their area has got worse over the last two years most are still satisfied with their local area as a place to live (64%). However, 23% are dissatisfied with their local area as a place to live compared to just 2% who think their area has got better or stayed the same.

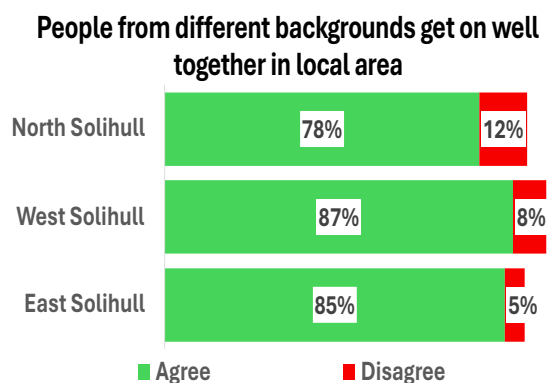


84% of respondents agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area, while just 9% disagree (2% definitely disagree). A high level of social cohesion is evident across all three Solihull localities.

There is little variation in sentiment between age and gender groups.

April 3, 2025

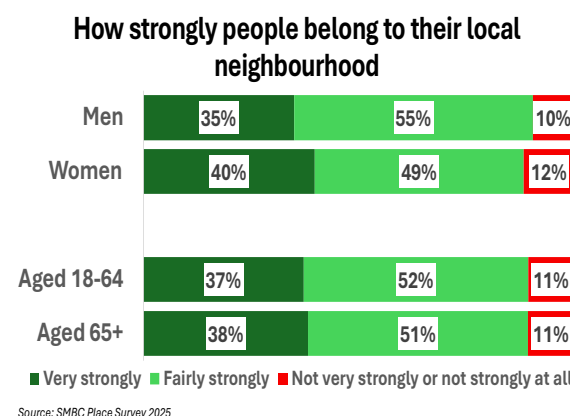
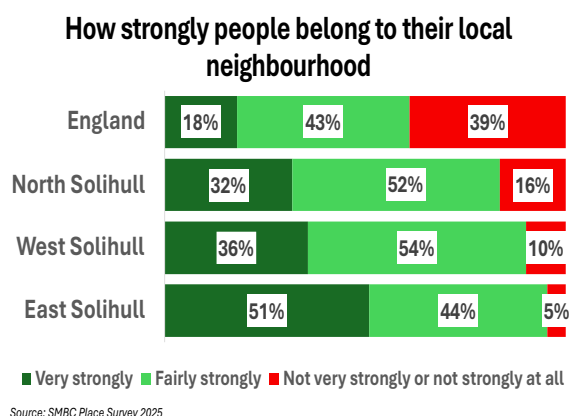
The proportion of Solihull respondents that agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area is broadly in-line with the England average (84% vs 81% England).



Agree people from different backgrounds get well together	
	% Agree
England	81%
Solihull	84%
North Solihull	78%
West Solihull	87%
East Solihull	85%
SMBC Place Survey 2025 & Community Life Survey 2023/24	

89% of Solihull respondents feel strongly that they belong to their local neighbourhood (37% very strongly). The sense of belonging is much stronger in all Solihull localities than across England.

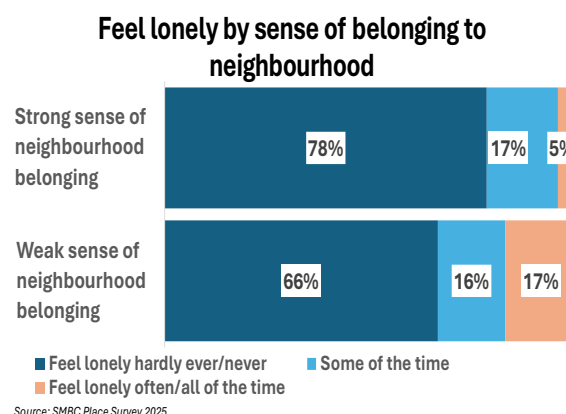
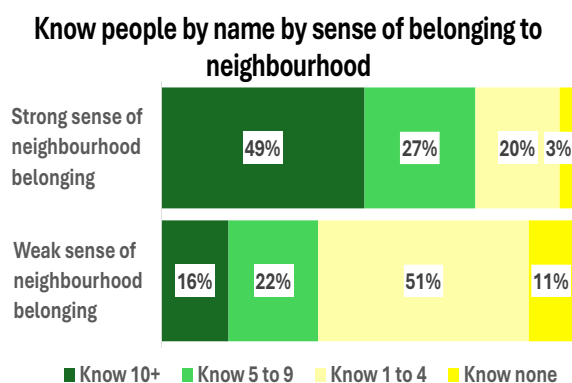
There is little age and gender differences, although the strength of belonging is higher among Solihull women than men.



Respondents with a stronger sense of belonging know more people in their neighbourhood. For instance, 49% of people with a strong sense of belonging know 10 or more people in their neighbourhood compared to 16% of people with a weaker sense of belonging.

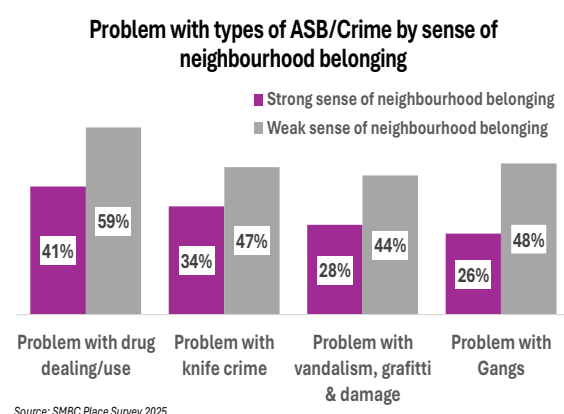
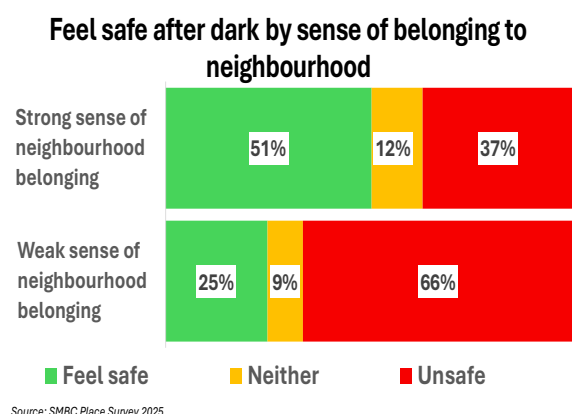
People with a weak sense of belonging are also more likely to feel lonely than other respondents to the survey.

April 3, 2025



People with a weaker sense of belonging have a more negative view of community safety than the rest of the population. For instance, 66% of people who do not feel strongly that they belong to their local neighbourhood feel unsafe after dark compared to just 37% of those with a stronger sense of belonging.

Moreover, respondents who have a weaker sense of belonging to their local neighbourhood tend to think that specific types of antisocial behaviour or crime are a problem in their local area. For instance, 26% of people who feel strongly they belong to their local neighbourhood think that gangs hanging around the streets are a problem compared to 48% of people who don't feel a strong sense of belonging. Similar disparities are found in relation to the problems of drug dealing/ use in local area, knife crime and vandalism.

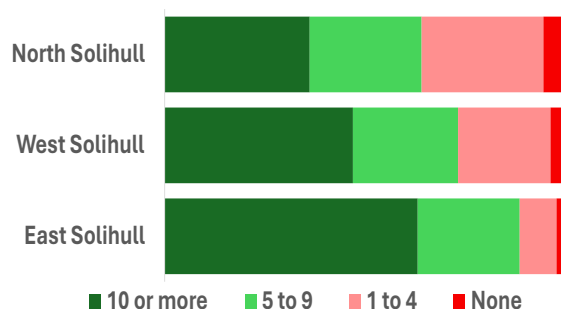


47% of respondents to the residents' perception survey say that they know 10 or more people in their local neighbourhood by name, with a further 27% saying they know between 5 and 9 people by name. Just 4% say they know nobody by name.

This varies by locality with people from North Solihull least likely to know 10+ people (36% vs 51% rest of borough) and most likely to know nobody (6% vs 3% rest of borough). Women and respondents aged 65 or over are better connected than men and working aged people.

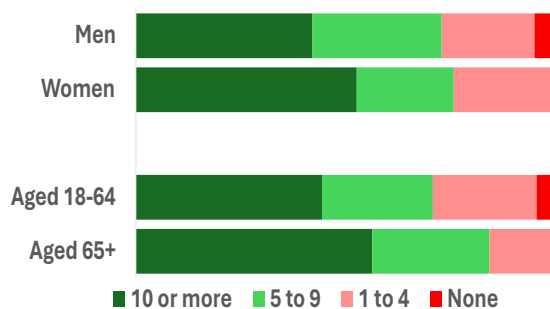
April 3, 2025

How many people in your local area do you know by name?



Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025

How many people in your local area do you know by name?

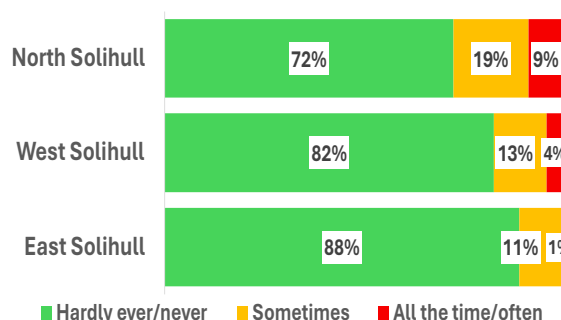


Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025

Loneliness in Solihull is rare. 81% of survey respondents say that they are never or hardly ever lonely and just 5% are lonely often or all the time. Loneliness is slightly more common in North Solihull (72% never/hardly ever lonely; 9% lonely often/all the time) and among women (78% never/hardly ever lonely; 6% lonely often/all the time). There is little difference in the responses from working aged people and those aged 65 and over.

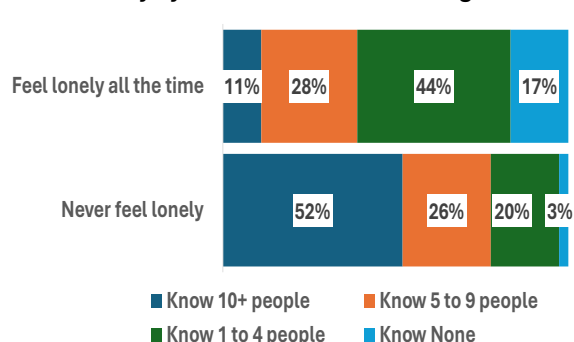
There is a link between loneliness and the extent of a respondent's social network (as measured by knowing the names of neighbours), although knowing numerous neighbours by name is no guarantee that an individual hardly ever or never feels lonely.

How often are you lonely?



Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025

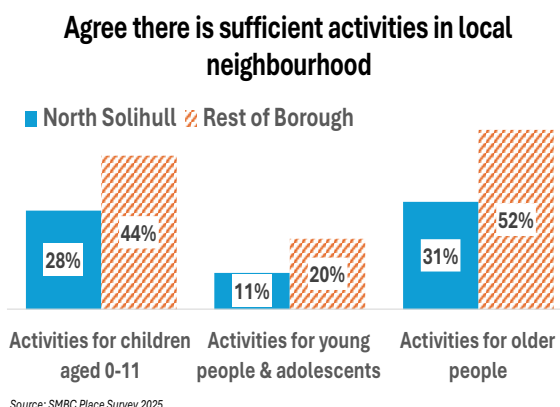
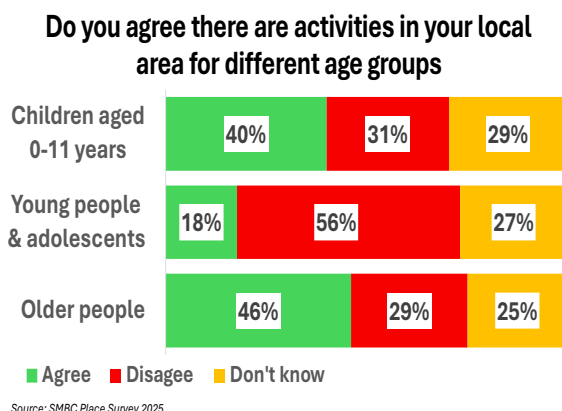
Feel lonely by extent to which know neighbours



Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025

Survey respondents are most likely to agree that there are enough activities for older people in their local neighbourhood (46% of all respondents), followed by children aged 0-11 years (40%). Just 18% of respondents agree there are activities for young people and adolescents in their local area, compared to 56% who disagree (19% definitely disagree).

For all three age groups there is a significant disparity in the proportion of people who agree there are sufficient activities between those from North Solihull and people elsewhere in the borough. For instance, 28% of North Solihull respondents think there are activities for children aged 0-11 years compared to 44% of those from elsewhere in the borough.



Community Safety

Feeling safe during the day, after dark and in specific localities; Anti-Social Behaviour.

A large majority of the residents' perception survey respondents feel safe during the day (86%) and few feel unsafe (8%). There are only small differences between the three Solihull localities and on an age or gender basis.

Solihull town centre (46%) is seen as a safer location than either Shirley town centre (31%) or Chelmsley Wood town centre (11%). Although, particularly in respect of Shirley and Chelmsley Wood town centres many respondents were unable to decide.

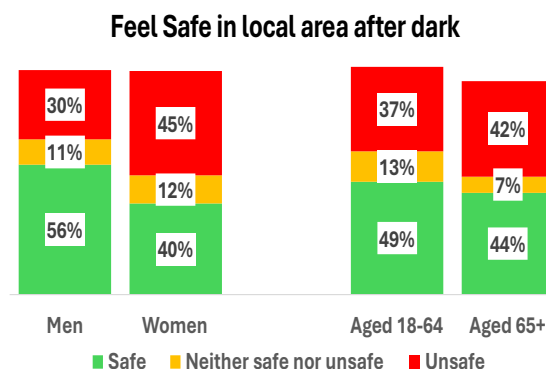
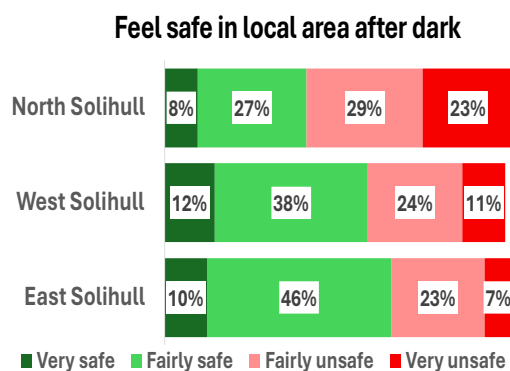
Solihull Town Centre Safety				
	Safe	Neither Safe nor unsafe	Unsafe	Don't know
Solihull Town Centre	46%	14%	24%	17%
Shirley Town Centre	31%	10%	20%	40%
Chelmsley Wood Town Centre	11%	9%	33%	47%
Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025				

48% of respondents feel safe in their local area after dark, compared to 38% who feel unsafe (13% very unsafe). There is a significant divide between the responses of people from North Solihull and by those living in the rest of the borough on this issue.

More respondents from North Solihull feel unsafe after dark in their local area than feel safe (35% safe; 52% unsafe including 23% very unsafe), while the reverse is true in the rest of the borough (52% safe; 33% unsafe including 10% very unsafe).

Men are more likely to feel safe than women (56% vs 40%) and working age adults more likely than those aged 65 and over (49% vs 44%).

April 3, 2025

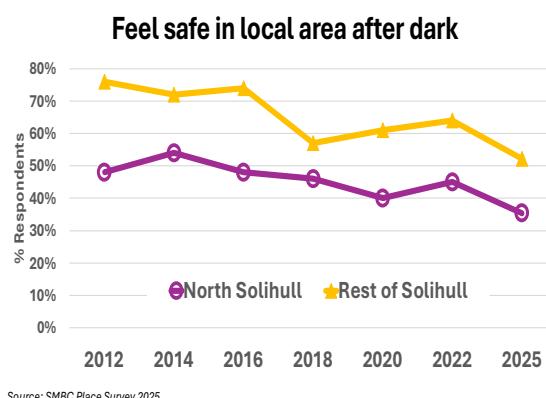
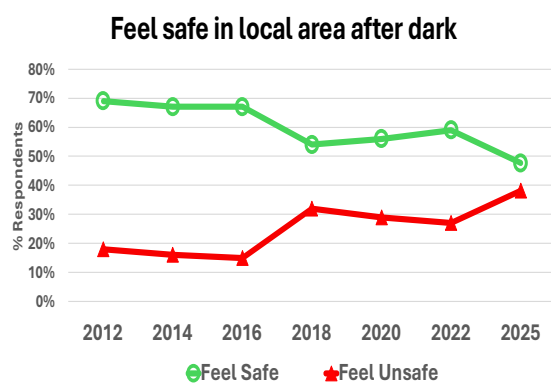


The proportion of survey respondents who feel safe in their local area after dark fell from 59% in 2022 to 48% in 2025 with a corresponding increase in those saying that they feel unsafe (from 27% to 38%).

Historically, the balance between those who said they felt safe and those who felt unsafe significantly worsened in 2018, before remaining at the same level in both 2020 and 2022.

The decline in people feeling safe in their local area after dark in the 2025 survey was apparent among respondents from North Solihull (from 45% feeling safe to 35%) and the rest of the borough (from 64% to 52%).

Historically, the proportion of people reporting that they feel safe in their local area after dark has been evident in both North Solihull and the rest of the borough from 2012 through to 2025 – consistently in the case of North Solihull, more unevenly in the rest of the borough.



87% of people think that at least one of the 13 specific types of anti-social behaviour (ASB) or crimes are a problem in their local area, including 49% who say that more than three types are a problem and 26% who say more than six are a problem.

Respondents from North Solihull are far more likely to say that multiple specific types of ASB/crime are a problem in their local area than those from elsewhere in the borough. For instance, 42% of people living in North Solihull say that more than six out of 13 specific types of ASB/crime are a problem compared to 15% of those from the rest of Solihull.

% of respondents who say that a specific type of ASB/crime is a problem in their local area (13 listed ASBs/crimes)			
Number of ASBs/crime that are a problem	Solihull	North Solihull	Rest of the Borough
None	16%	9%	21%
1 to 3 types	38%	30%	44%
4 to 6 types	23%	25%	23%
7 to 9 types	15%	23%	10%
More than 9 types	11%	19%	5%
At least one type	87%	97%	81%
More than 3 types	49%	67%	38%
More than six types	26%	42%	15%
<i>Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025</i>			

Across Solihull burglary and vehicle crime is the most frequently cited ASB problem (59% of survey respondents), followed by rubbish & litter lying around (45%, people using or dealing drugs (38%, and vehicle nuisance such as joyriding or abandoned cars (35%).

At the other end of the scale people are far less likely to say that noisy neighbours (11%), rowdy and drunk people (12%), domestic violence (13%) and violence against women or girls (15%) are a problem in their local neighbourhood.

Apart from burglary & vehicle crime each type of ASB/crime is regarded as a greater problem among respondents from North Solihull than by those living elsewhere in the borough.

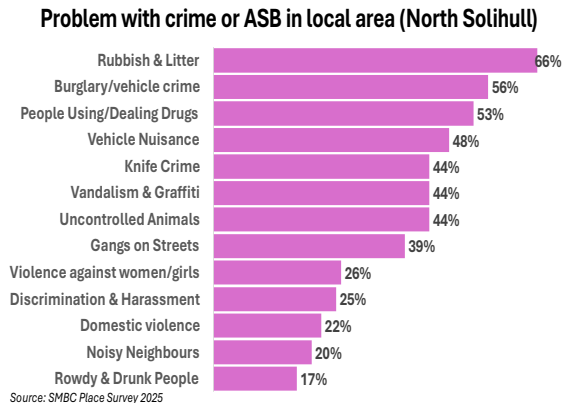
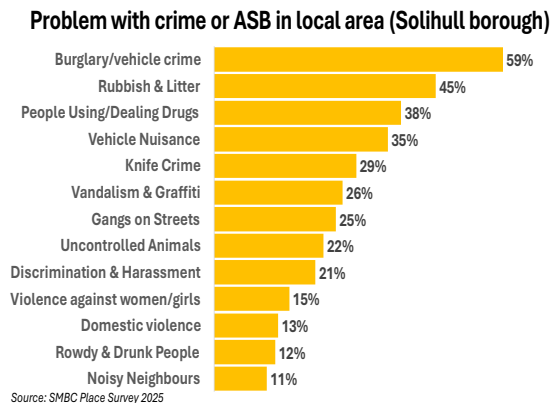
In percentage point terms the gap between North Solihull and the rest of the borough is particularly significant with regards to uncontrolled animals, rubbish & litter lying around, vandalism & graffiti, knife crime and people using or dealing drugs.

% of respondents who say that a specific type of ASB/crime is a problem in their local area				
Type of ASB/Crime	Solihull	North Solihull	Rest of Borough	Percentage point gap
Burglary/vehicle crime	59%	56%	60%	-4%
Rubbish & Litter	45%	66%	38%	28%
People Using/Dealing Drugs	38%	53%	33%	20%
Vehicle Nuisance	35%	48%	31%	17%
Knife Crime	29%	44%	23%	21%
Vandalism & Graffiti	26%	44%	20%	24%
Gangs on Streets	25%	39%	20%	19%
Uncontrolled Animals	22%	44%	14%	30%
Discrimination & Harassment	21%	25%	19%	6%
Violence against women/girls	15%	26%	12%	14%
Domestic violence	13%	22%	10%	12%
Rowdy & Drunk People	12%	17%	11%	6%

Place Survey 2025 - Summary

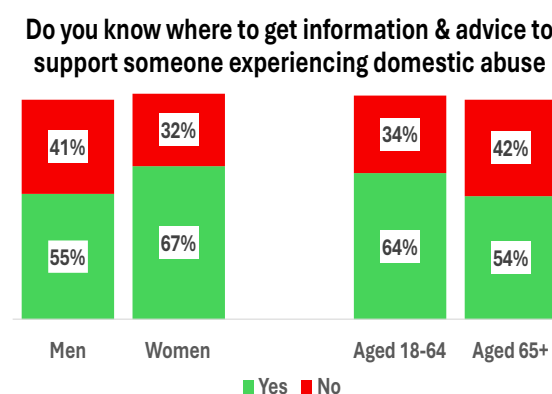
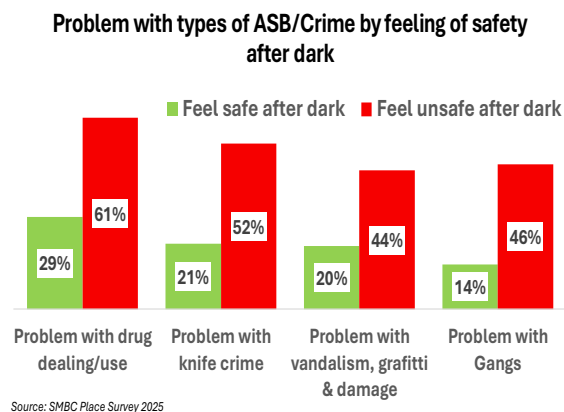
April 3, 2025

Noisy Neighbours	11%	20%	12%	8%
Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025				



Survey respondents who say that they feel unsafe after dark in their local neighbourhood are far more likely to say that ASB is a problem. For instance, 61% of people who feel unsafe say that there is a problem with people dealing or using drugs compared to just 29% of people who say that they feel safe after dark.

61% of respondents say that they know where to get information and advice to support someone experiencing domestic abuse compared to 36% who don't know where to go. There is little differences between the Solihull localities on this measure, although women (67%) and younger adults (64%) are more likely to know where to get support.



Civic Participation

Formal volunteering; help in the community; influencing local decisions.

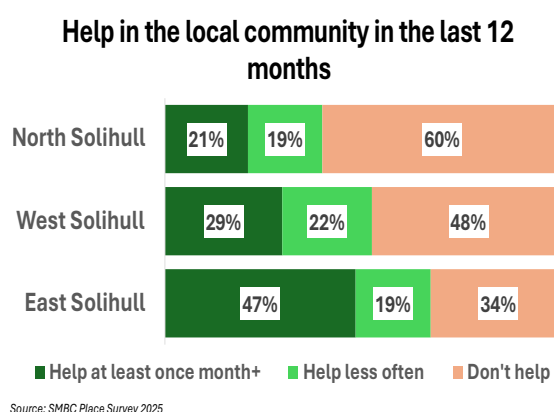
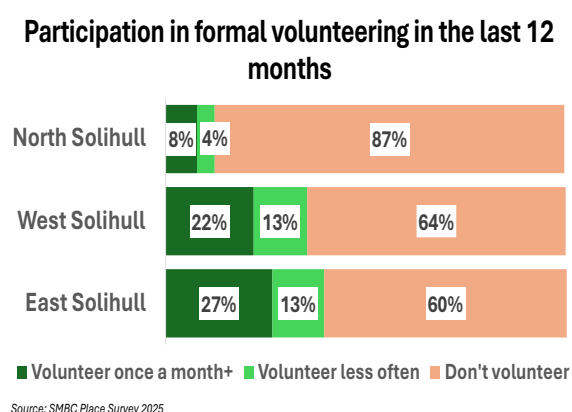
55% of respondents to the residents' perception survey have taken part in some form of volunteering in the last 12 months (formal volunteering or informal help in local community) compared to 45% who haven't participated. There is a geographical divide with a participation rate of 44% in North Solihull vs an average of 63% across the rest of the borough.

April 3, 2025

30% of respondents have taken part in formal volunteering in the last 12 months such as providing unpaid sports coaching or supporting a church or faith-based organisation, including 19% who do so at least once per month. Participation highest among those living in East Solihull (40%) and lowest in North Solihull (12%). There are few age and gender differences, although older people are more likely to take part at least once per month (24% people aged 65+; 17% people aged 18-64), with working age adults more likely to participate on an irregular basis.

51% of respondents have given informal unpaid help in their local community in the last 12 months such as regularly helping an elderly or disabled neighbour or regularly picking up litter/tidying up the local area. This overall participation rate consists of 30% who help at least once per month and 21% who do so less frequently.

Participation is highest among those living in East Solihull (66%) and lowest in North Solihull (39%). There are few age and gender differences, although the percentage of women providing help at least once per month is higher (33% vs 27% men).



Participation in formal volunteering by Solihull adults is like the England average (30% vs 28%) but higher outside of North Solihull (36% average across rest of borough). More Solihull survey participants help in their local community than the Community Life Survey average for England (51% vs 44%). This is particularly noticeable outside North Solihull (55% average across rest of borough).

The proportion of Solihull adults responding to the survey who participate in formal volunteering or provide help in the community have both trended downwards since 2018. For example, the formal volunteering participation rate has gone from 42% in 2018 to 30% in 2025.

April 3, 2025

% People Participate in Volunteering at least once in last year		
	Formal Volunteering	Help in Community
England	28%	44%
Solihull	30%	51%
North Solihull	12%	39%
West Solihull	35%	52%
East Solihull	40%	66%
<i>SMBC Place Survey 2025 & Community Life Survey 2023/24</i>		

Participation in formal & informal volunteering in Solihull

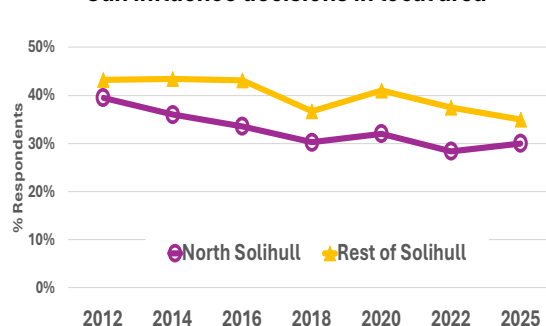
Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025

34% of Solihull respondents agree that they can influence decisions in their local area, compared to 59% who disagree (26% definitely disagree). The proportion that agree ranges from 30% in North Solihull to 41% in East Solihull, with working aged adults slightly more likely to agree than those aged 65 and over (35% vs 31%).

Despite most respondents feeling that they can't influence local decisions the balance in Solihull is still more positive than the Community Life Survey average for England. It is notable that the England average fell in the last Community Life Survey for the first time in a few years, with proportion of respondents agreeing that they can influence local decision edging down from 27% in 2022 to 23%.

The percentage of respondents who agree that they can influence decisions fell substantially in both North Solihull and across the rest of the borough from 2012 to 2018 but has remained broadly the same since then. For instance, in North Solihull the proportion of people who feel that they can influence decisions fell from 40% in 2012 to 30% in 2018 the same as it is now.

Influencing Decisions in Local Area		
	% Influence	% Can't Influence
England	23%	77%
Solihull	34%	59%
North Solihull	30%	63%
West Solihull	33%	59%
East Solihull	41%	55%
<i>SMBC Place Survey 2025 & Community Life Survey 2023/24</i>		

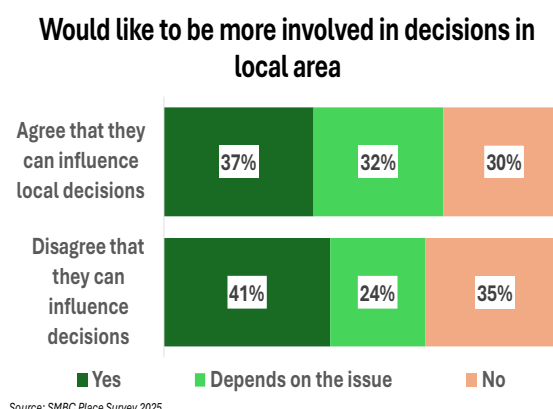
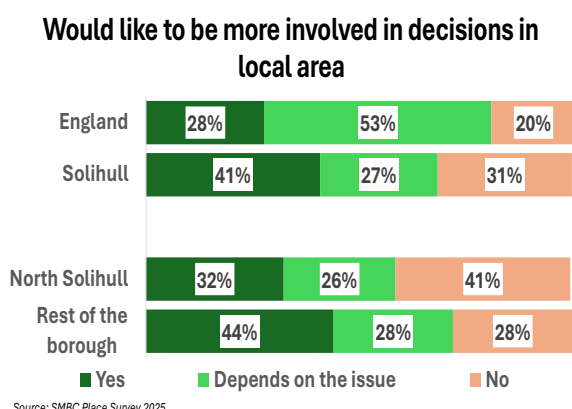
Can influence decisions in local area

Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025

41% of respondents to the place survey want to be more involved with decisions that affect their local area, 27% say that it depends on the issue and 31% don't want to be more involved. The desire to be more involved is higher outside of North Solihull and among women and young people.

Compared with the England average from the Community Life Survey more people in Solihull want to be involved with decisions (41% vs 28%) but fewer would be more involved depending on the issue (27% vs 53%).

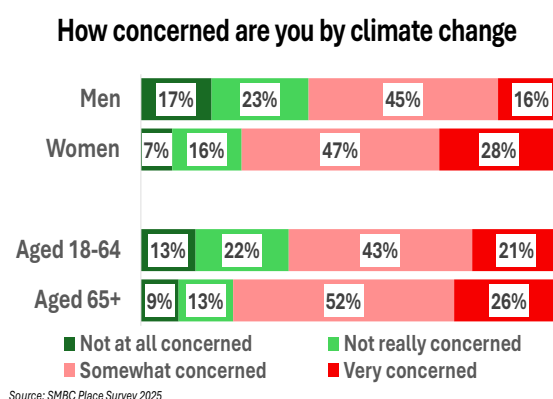
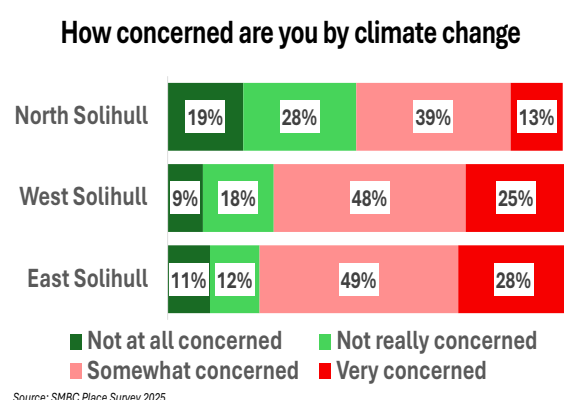
The extent to which people feel that they can influence decisions that affect their local area seems to have little impact on their willingness to become more involved in the process. For instance, while 41% of people who disagree that they can have an influence say that they want to be more involved, this figure is not much higher than those who agree that they can have an influence (37%).



Climate Change

Concern about climate change; awareness and support of climate action

68% of respondents to the residents' perception survey are concerned about climate change (22% very concerned). There are differences between localities and gender, with people living in North Solihull (52%), men (60%) and working aged people (64%) less likely to be concerned.



57% of Solihull respondents to the survey say that they have a good knowledge of what they can do to combat climate change, with a further 34% saying that they have some knowledge but are generally unsure. Just 8% say that they don't know any actions they can take to combat climate change.

Knowledge about climate change is lower among North Solihull respondents than those from elsewhere in the borough. For instance, 40% of those from North Solihull say that they have a good knowledge of actions they can take compared to 63% of people living in the rest of the borough.

There are few age or gender differences on this issue.

98% of respondents say that they have engaged in at least one action to support climate action compared to just 2% who have taken no action, with only small differences between localities, age or gender.

Of 12 specific actions the most common engaged in by survey respondents was recycling (95%), followed by saving energy at home (79%), upcycling (74%), reduced waste (69%) and walk, bike or take public transport (63%).

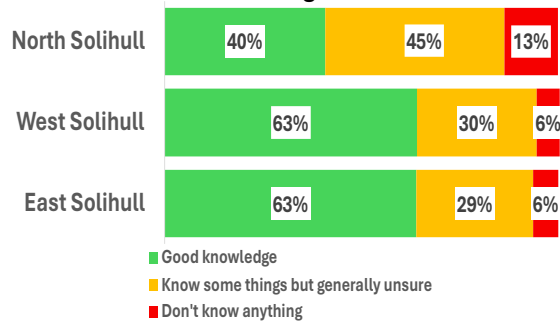
Respondents are more likely to engage in actions that are routine (recycling) or that are likely to save money (saving energy at home) and are less likely to take action that incurs capital expenditure (eg switch to electric vehicle) or is not a routine part of daily life (take part in campaign; take part on community clean-up).

Excepting travel (walk, buke or take public transport; reduce amount of flying) people from North Solihull are less likely to engage in specific actions than respondents from the rest of the borough. The percentage point gap in engagement between respondents from North Solihull and the rest of the borough is particularly wide in respect of upcycling, saving energy at home, reducing waste, changing diet, changing home energy source and switching to electric vehicle.

Respondents Engaged in Activities to Support Climate Action				
Action	Solihull	North Solihull	Rest of Borough	% Point Gap
Recycling	95%	89%	97%	8%
Saving energy at home	79%	69%	82%	13%
Upcycling	74%	61%	79%	18%
Reduced waste	69%	62%	72%	10%
Walk, bike or take public transport	63%	64%	63%	-1%
Spend money differently	38%	36%	38%	2%
Changed diet	38%	28%	41%	13%
Reduced flying	26%	29%	20%	-9%
Take part in community clean-up	18%	14%	19%	5%
Changed home energy source	17%	9%	19%	10%
Switch to electric vehicle	14%	7%	17%	10%
Take part in campaign	6%	3%	7%	4%
<i>Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025</i>				

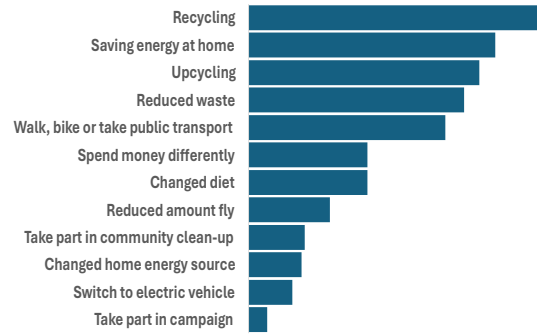
April 3, 2025

Aware of actions I can take to combat climate change



Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025

Done any activity to support climate action



Source: SMBC Place Survey 2025