



LGBTQIA+ **Congleton Pride** **2023 Survey Results**

June 2023

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Method and Purpose

Congleton Pride ran two online surveys, both based on best-practice examples from around the world

- The **'Attitudes' Survey** is based on international standards to evaluate the general public's attitudes to LGBTQIA+ people.
- The **'Community' Survey** asks LGBTQIA+ people what it is like living in Congleton

Both were initially carried out in late 2021 and repeated in early 2023

- Response in 2023 was lower for the public Attitudes Survey (n=77 vs 133) but similar for the Community Survey (n=43 vs 38)



RESULTS

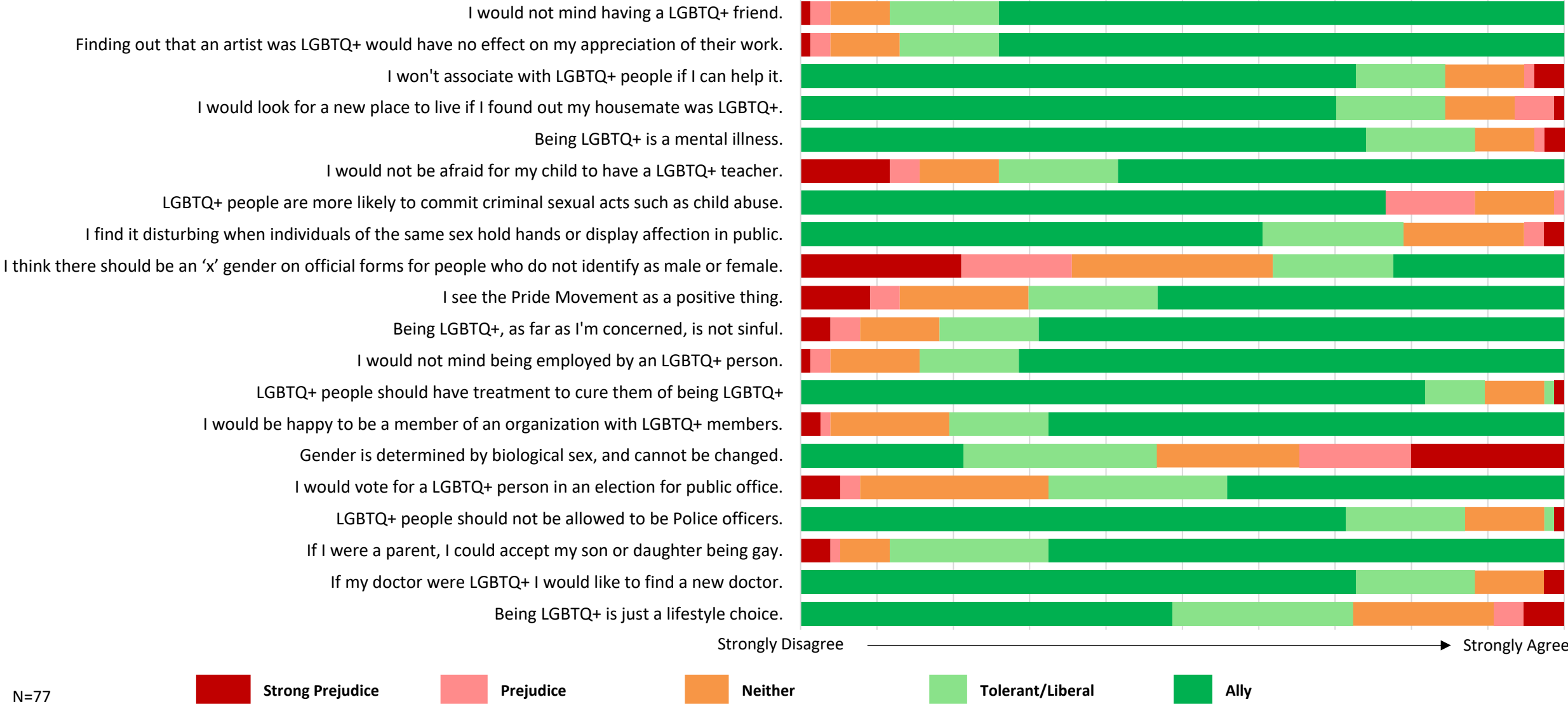
Congleton LGBTQIA+ Public Attitudes Survey 2023



The majority of respondents were tolerant and liberal-minded overall, but there is evidence of the need for some education

2023

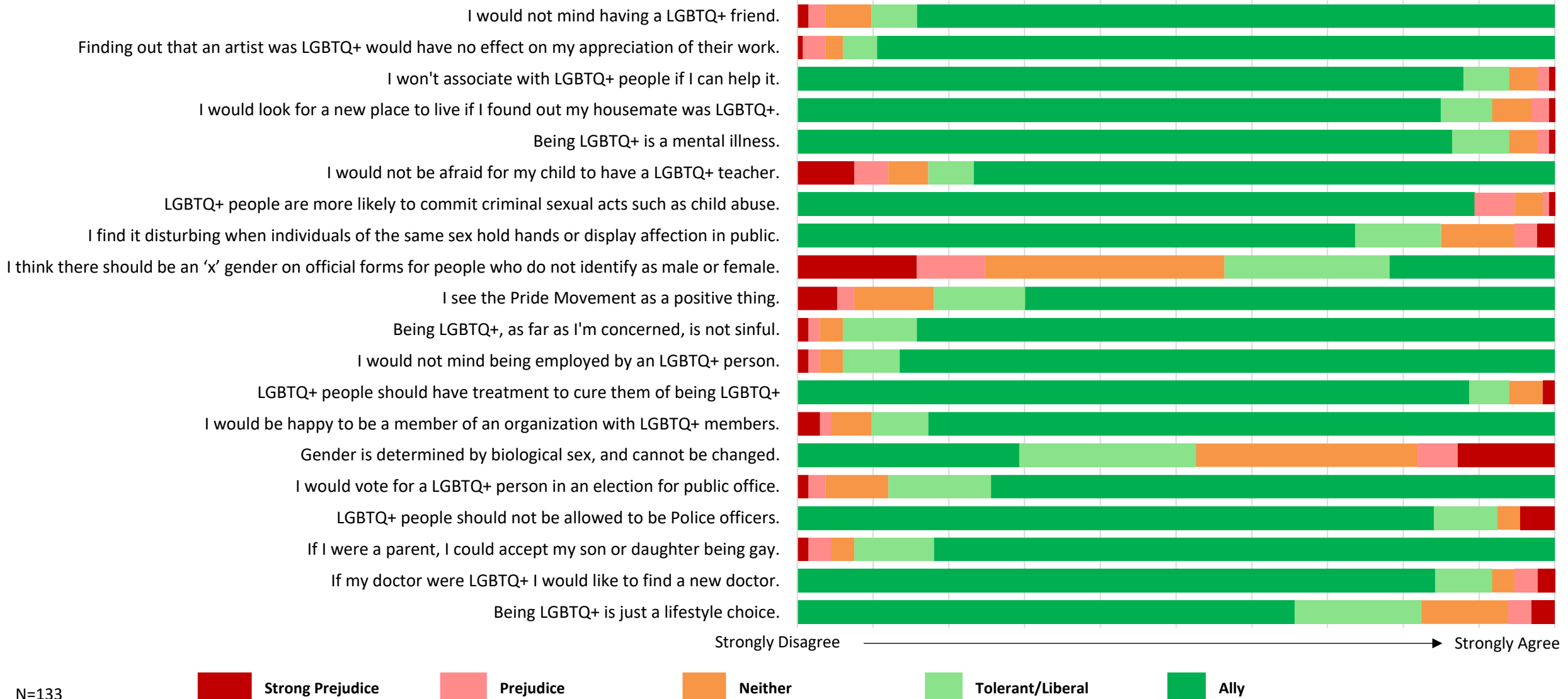
Please tell us if you agree with the following statements with regard to LGBTQIA+ people (2023)



...with a slightly less tolerant response than previously

2021

Please tell us if you agree with the following statements with regard to LGBTQ+ people (2021).



Our 'LGBTQ+ Friendliness Index' has slipped slightly in the last 2 years

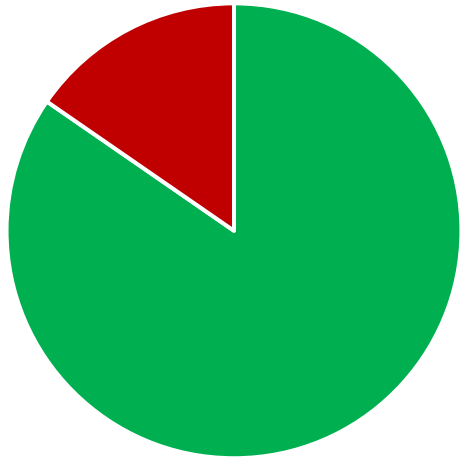
Statement	2021	2023
I would not mind having a LGBTQ+ friend.	4.7	4.6
Finding out that an artist was LGBTQ+ would have no effect on my appreciation of their work.	4.8	4.6
I won't associate with LGBTQ+ people if I can help it.	4.8	4.5
I would look for a new place to live if I found out my housemate was LGBTQ+.	4.7	4.5
Being LGBTQ+ is a mental illness.	4.8	4.6
I would not be afraid for my child to have a LGBTQ+ teacher.	4.4	4.1
LGBTQ+ people are more likely to commit criminal sexual acts such as child abuse.	4.8	4.6
I find it disturbing when individuals of the same sex hold hands or display affection in public.	4.5	4.3
I think there should be an 'x' gender on official forms for people who do not identify as male or female.	3.2	3.0
I see the Pride Movement as a positive thing.	4.4	4.0
Being LGBTQ+, as far as I'm concerned, is not sinful.	4.7	4.4
I would not mind being employed by an LGBTQ+ person.	4.8	4.5
LGBTQ+ people should have treatment to cure them of being LGBTQ+	4.8	4.7
I would be happy to be a member of an organization with LGBTQ+ members.	4.7	4.4
Gender is determined by biological sex, and cannot be changed.	3.5	3.1
I would vote for a LGBTQ+ person in an election for public office.	4.6	4.0
LGBTQ+ people should not be allowed to be Police officers.	4.7	4.5
If I were a parent, I could accept my son or daughter being gay.	4.7	4.5
If my doctor were LGBTQ+ I would like to find a new doctor.	4.7	4.6
Being LGBTQ+ is just a lifestyle choice.	4.4	4.1
LGBTQ+ 'friendliness' of Congleton	91%	85%

As seen previously, questions on gender seem to require the most work

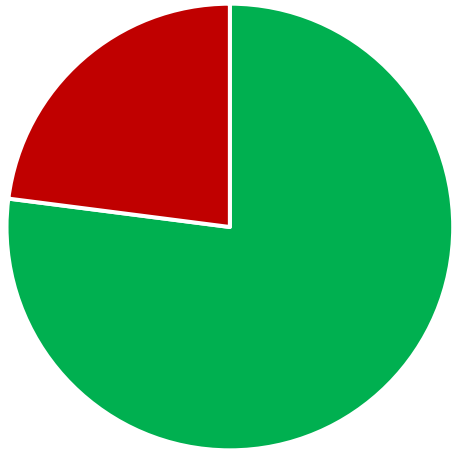
What do the public think about Congleton Pride?

Do you think having an annual Pride Event is a positive thing for Congleton?

2021
N=133

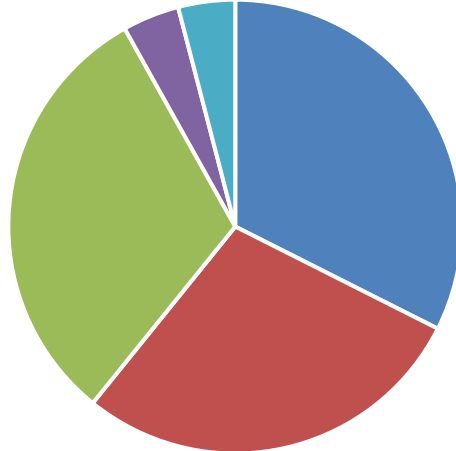
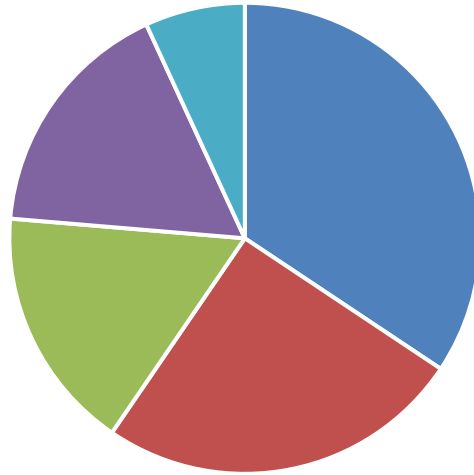


2023
N=77



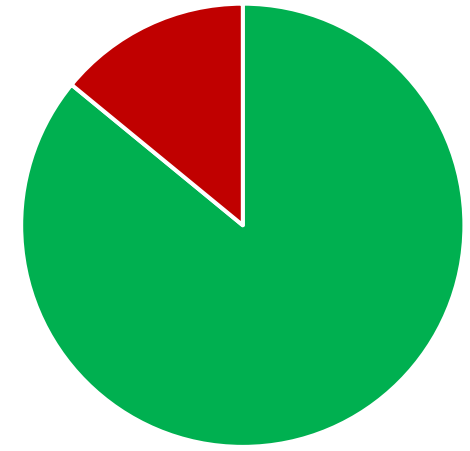
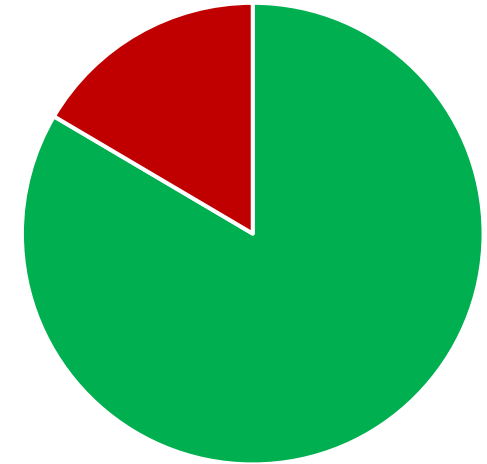
■ Yes ■ No

With respect to Congleton Pride event last year, what did you do?



- I attended
- I wanted to go but couldn't
- I didn't want to go
- I didn't know it was happening
- I didn't live in Congleton then

Do you think Congleton is a good place for LGBTQ+ people to live?



■ Yes ■ No



Some mixed views this time about the value of an annual Pride event

Do you think having an annual Pride event is a positive thing for Congleton?

We all need to be kind and understanding to each other .

I can't see that being LGBT is something particularly to celebrate. It should just be taken for granted.

There are many more important things we could do with our time and money

Possibly positive, and unlikely to be negative.

Brings the community together, whether a member of the LGBTQIA+ or not. Always super positive happy events!

i have several friends who identify as lgbtqia+ four of my very best friends in fact . 3 of them dont agree with pride events ironically . I dont either . I have zero issues with people who identify in this way - i value all people the same . I dont have any issues . I dont think sexuality should be shoved in ones face though . So now see zero need for a pride event . I dont run around shouting i'm straight - so see no need for pride events to take place . Its accepted more main stream now - so lets just keep peoples sexuality as their business . I state again - i have no issues with people identifying - but dont see the need for blasting it at a pride event and neither do 3 of my gay friends

It is important that any town encourages equality and acceptance for all and more importantly, it needs to be inclusive of everyone no matter what their sexual orientation or class etc etc.

I love going to the pride events, it's great seeing everyone come together

The old Congleton Carnival was for everybody. I see no reason for a minority of the population to have a specific separate event

When is straight pride going to be held, or a normal carnival aimed at everyone, why should a minirity percentage have an annual event.

I'm a straight white middle aged man, who's never once had to justify my existence. No one else should have to either.

I don't understand why it's needed and needs to be celebrated. Just live your life no one really cares if you're gay or straight.

Yes, however I hope I hope that one day we won't need a pride because everyone will just be accepted

I don't mind either way as long as it's not pushed in your face.



Do you think Congleton is a good place for LGBTQIA+ people to live?

No better or worse than anywhere else of a similar size

I think some residents are quite narrow minded. Not just in this instance but with respect to colour and even gender.

I'm not sure Congleton offers a great deal for the community but the Pride festival is a great step forward

I would like to think it is improving in a large part down to the work Congleton Pride continues to do. However, I don't think it is for me to decide if it is a good place or not. I need to hear that directly from the LGTBQIA+ community.

As good as for anybody else.

No one cares if you're gay or lesbian.

Yes, but not strongly. I feel like it's trying? But I don't feel like it's a great place to live as someone who regards themselves as very Liberal, so in that thought I think I would feel more uncomfortable here if I was LGBTQIA+

No idea but glad the town supports pride

It can be, but I feel there are many who hold bigoted views

I don't think people care either way - far too many other serious issues to worry about - like money !!! lack of doctors surgeries etc

I think in general yes, but as always there is a small vocal that make it more difficult than it should be. There is more work to do to make everyone feel welcome, safe and at home

I think some of the local churches need to drastically change their outlook and approach for LGBTQIA

Compared with the problems caused by race, poverty, or disability, this issue is almost irrelevant

But it could still be better!

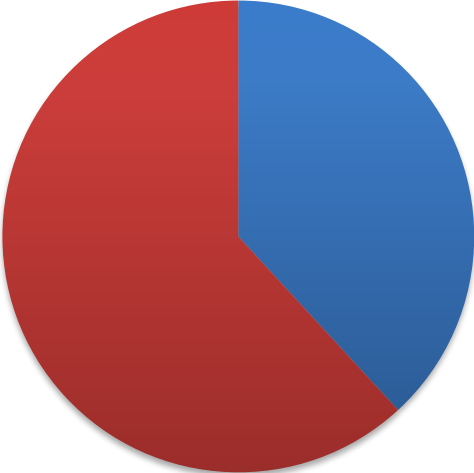
Don't know/ hope so x 12

Don't care

Some new cynicism, not seen in 2021

Demographics of Public who answered survey

What is your gender? Are you



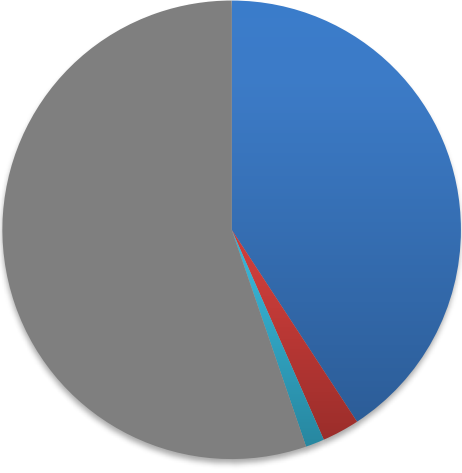
Male Female Other/Prefer not to say

What is your age?



Under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44
45-54 55-64 65+

What is your religion?



Christian Buddhist Jewish
Hindu Muslim Sikh
Other religion No religion



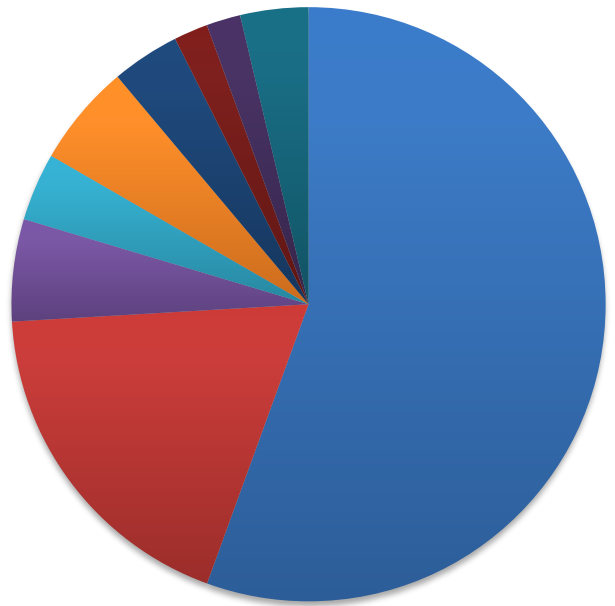
RESULTS

Congleton LGBTQIA+ Community Survey 2023



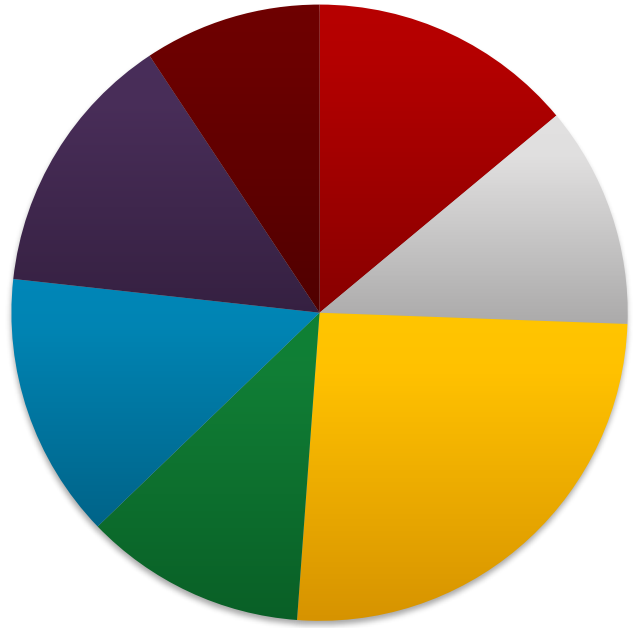
Demographics of LGBTQIA+ Respondents

Do you consider yourself to be (choose all that apply):



N=43

What age range are you in?

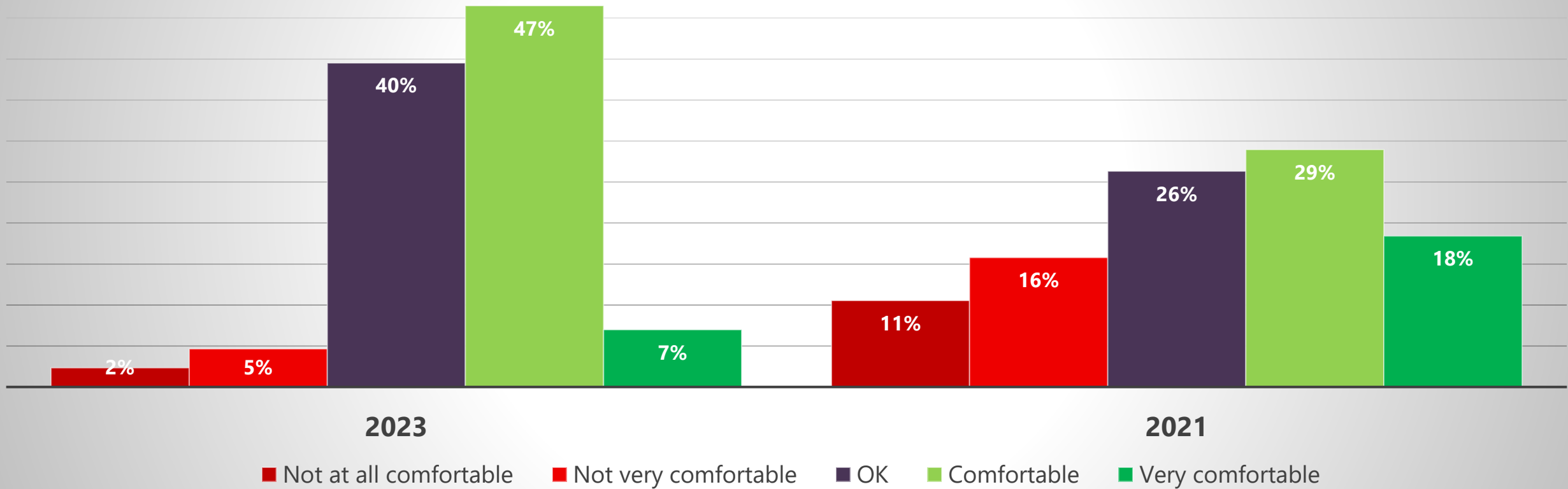


N=43



Almost 90% of LGBTQIA+ people now feel 'comfortable' or 'OK' in Congleton, up from 55% in 2021, but only 7% feel 'very comfortable'

How Comfortable do you feel being LGBTQIA+ in Congleton?



2021 N=38 2023 N=43



How LGBTQIA+ people feel about living in Congleton in 2023

Not (yet) experienced homophobia, and everyone seems polite!

We have walked the streets and been in shops wearing rainbow tie and at times holding hands. We felt respected in Wetherspoon and most shops.

No one has ever given me a reason not to feel comfortable

Congleton is a welcoming place and I feel safe here. Friends and my partner have experienced mild homophobia in the town, but I haven't had that myself.

Although there is a lot of love in many communities there is still a lot of internalised hate with older and younger generations that may not understand each other

I've had many years to get used to the attitude of others - almost!

I pass pretty well so don't really fear about being assaulted or hate crimed. If i didn't pass well i would feel uncomfortable.

I experience little confrontation, however it only takes them few incidents for me to be constant looking over my shoulder. Which in turn makes me less comfortable.

I still feel the older generation and younger people don't get the fact that being gay is normal. People act differently towards you.

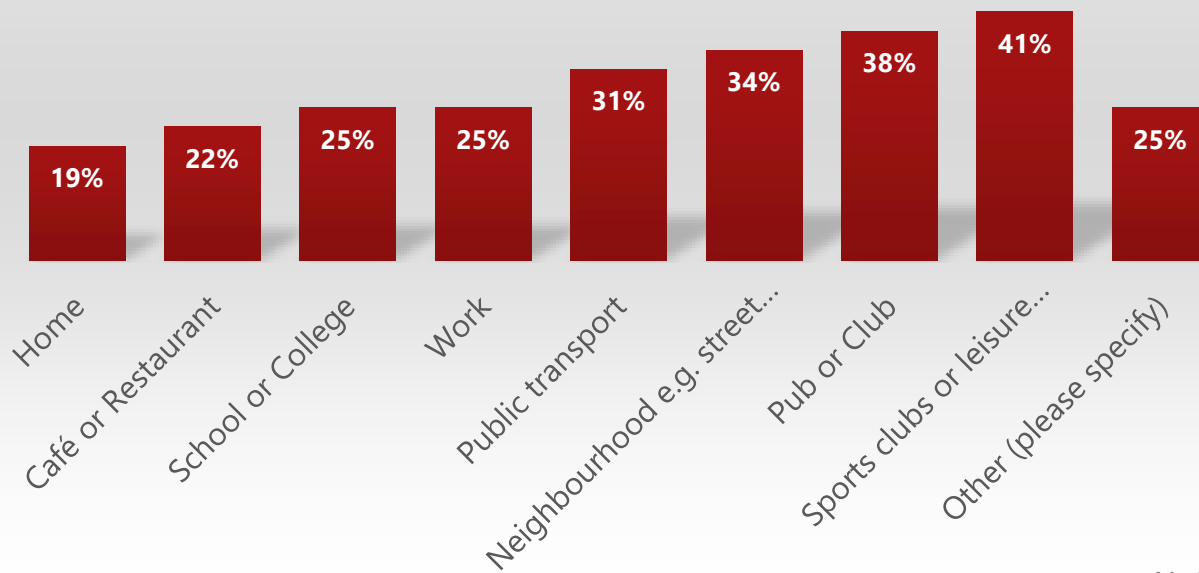
It can be a bit uncomfortable as everyone makes a lot of jokes and hate crimes towards gays. in my opinion

There is still a lot prejudice against LGBTQIA+ Community in Congleton, especially on social media

I feel safe being out in public, only more recently as I was experiencing homophobia from the same individuals on a regular basis. The police were less than helpful and suggested I tried to settle the matter in a "civil" manner in the form of speaking to those people. Out of the question, why suggest having someone put themselves in harm's way in an attempt to resolve a situation? Despite having another police officer come to my home to reassure that my reports would be taken seriously I cannot have trust in that it will. The time frame between the initial report and something actually being done is around 2-3 weeks from experience. Again from experience other incidents have happened that may have been prevented had my report been taken seriously in the first place. As a positive I have a good network of people I know in the town and this makes me feel safer - despite this there is nothing like knowing your local authority will take an interest in actually dealing with it. Admittedly there is a scale of severity with reports the police receive but someone's mental well-being has to be priority regardless of that person's identity LGBTQIA+ or otherwise. Funding and time cannot be used as a get out clause for not supporting members of the community. This is people's lives and safety!

There is concern about openness, especially in sports facilities and pubs

Is there anywhere that you have avoided being open about being LGBTQ+ for fear of a negative reaction from others?



N=32

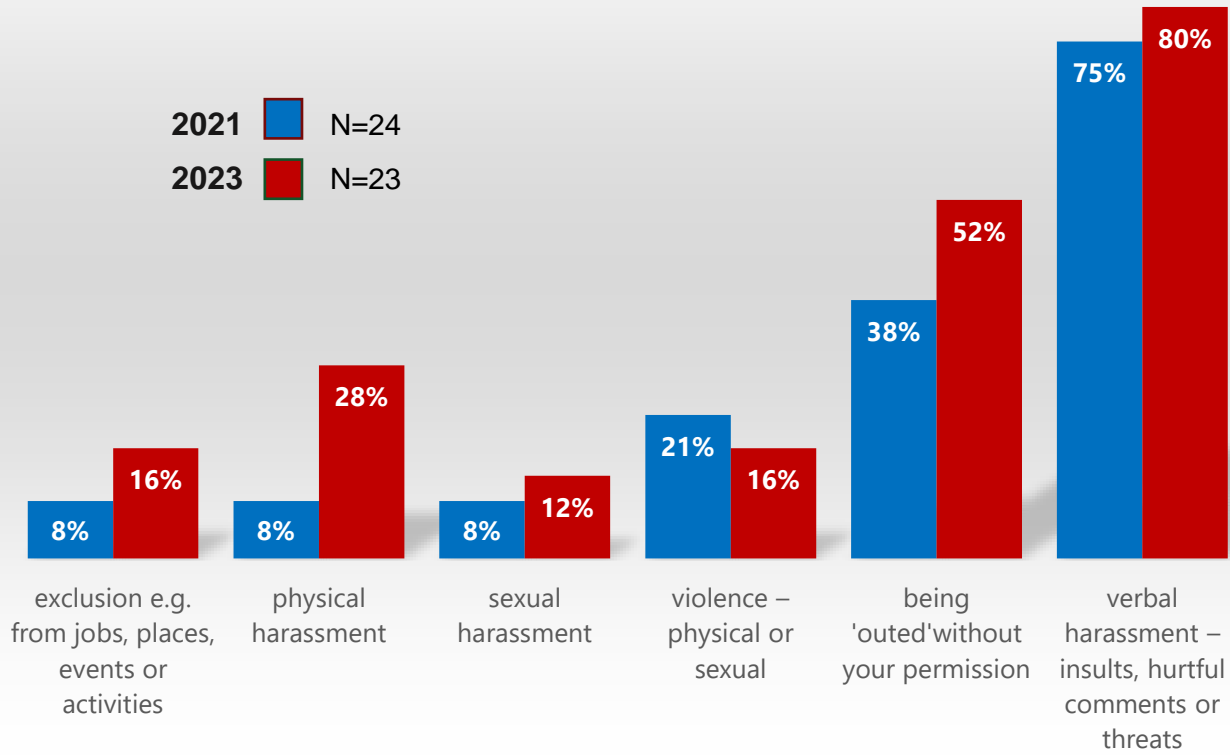
Other: At a church I previously attended

No specific places... but generally in public I don't present as femme as I want, as often as I want

Before i came out I had massive anxiety about familial reactions

54% of 2023 respondents have experienced harassment or abuse

In Congleton, due to being LGBTQ+, have you ever experienced:



Minor incidents at pride 2022

Just some rude comments from people I've come out to

Being outed is awkward. I'm open with people I know - friends and colleagues. It's never been an issue - but I would prefer it's on my terms. I'm much more cautious with religious acquaintances. Within a short while I know how people will behave around me and I can avoid the pronoun game. ("What does my partner do? Oh - They're a nurse...")

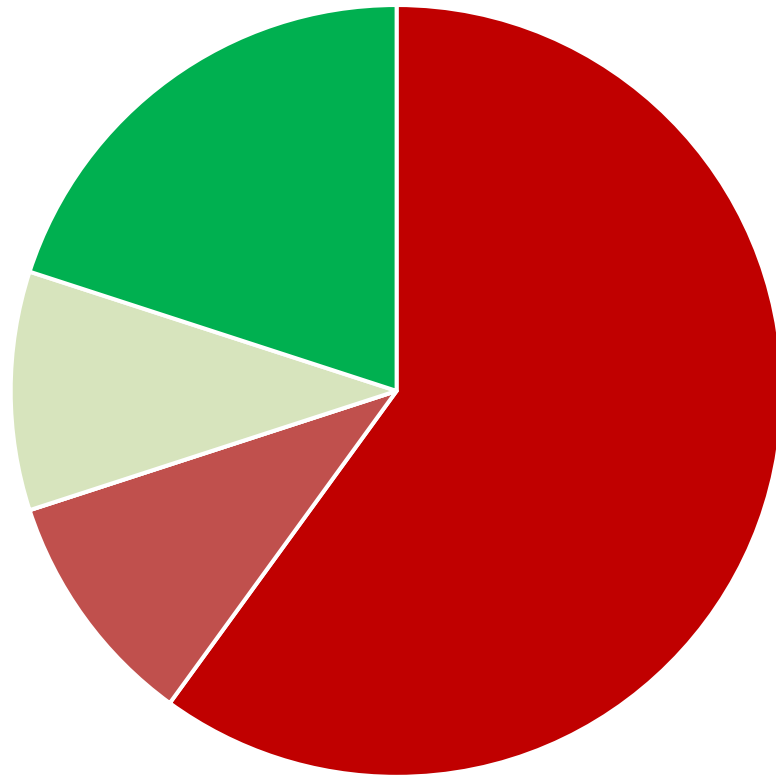
Some heterosexual women think it is okay to objectify gay men as almost an accessory by having them as a "gay best friend" to avoid homophobic allegations

Comments used to get shouted out about me in class and the teachers didn't do anything. Luckily that hasn't happened in a while.

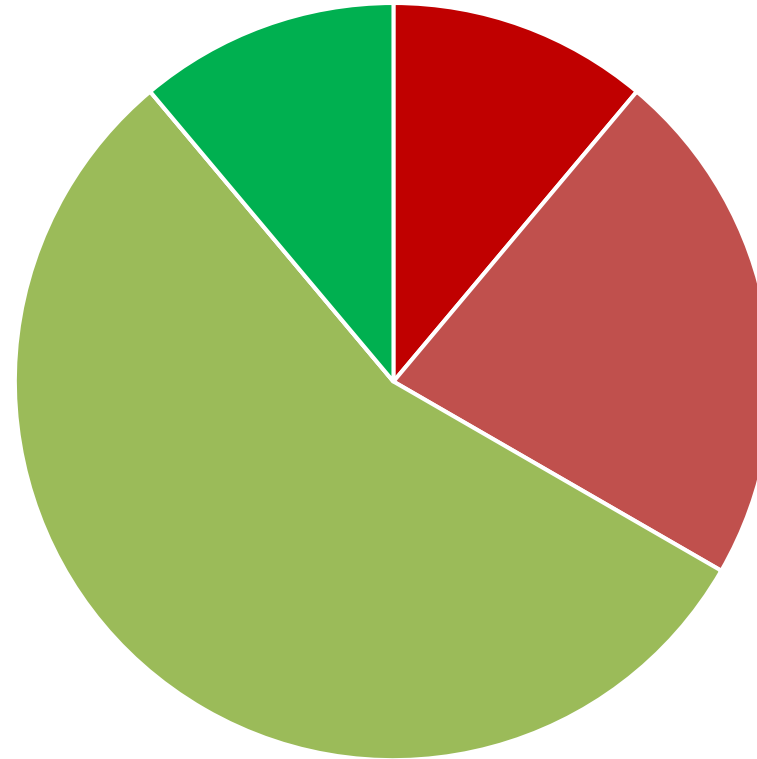
Being shouted by gaggles of young men along the high street. Being stared at makes me very uncomfortable. Especially some of the men make me very uncomfortable. I'm not sure what they'll do.

The level of satisfaction with action taken on reporting abuse has improved, although numbers are still small

If you have reported harassment, abuse or violence to an authority in Congleton, how satisfied have you been with the action taken and outcome(s) :



2021 n=10



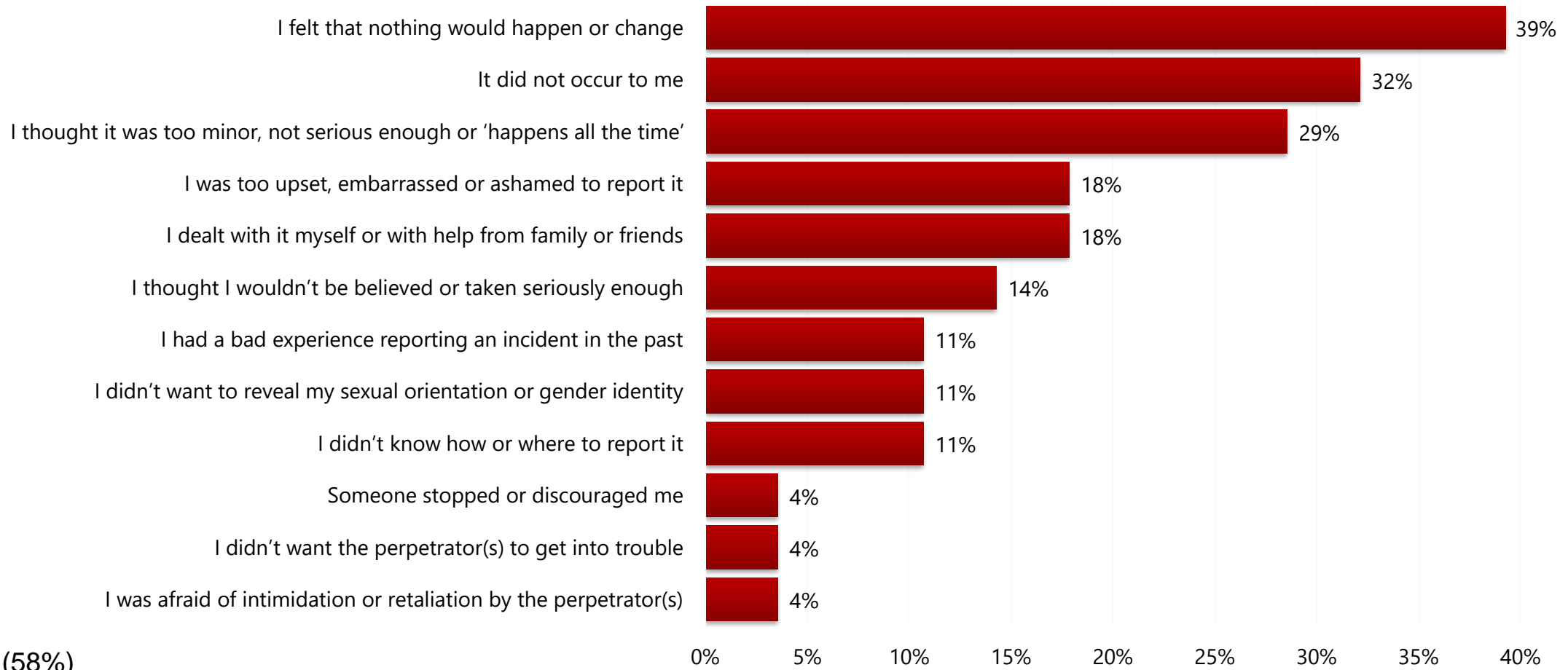
2023 n=9

- Very dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Completely satisfied



More than half of responding LGBTQIA+ people experienced abuse and chose not to report it for a number of reasons

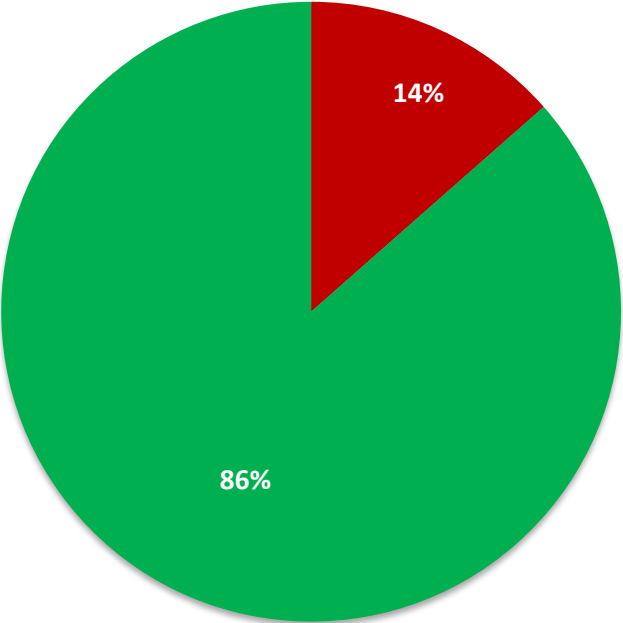
Have you experienced harassment, abuse or violence and NOT reported it in Congleton? If so, why didn't you report it?



N=25 (58%)

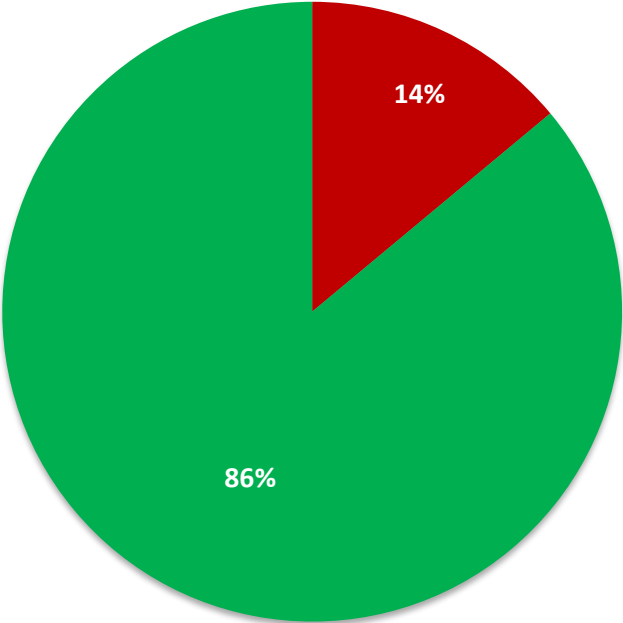
Accessing public services in Congleton is no different from 2 years ago

Has the fact you are LGBTQIA+ been a barrier to your accessing public services (health, education, social services, police/justice system etc)?



2021
N=37

■ Yes
■ No

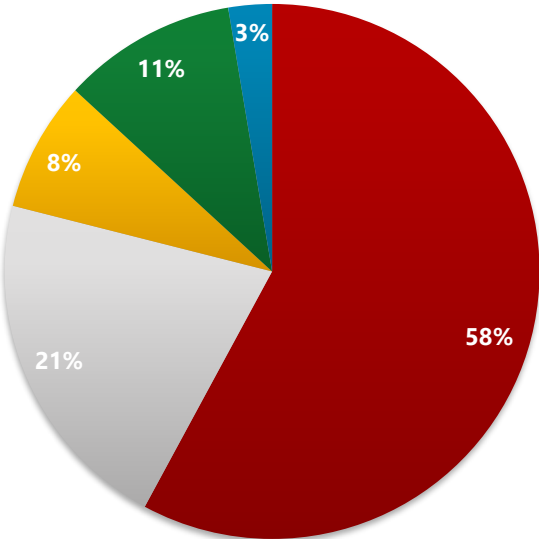


2023
N=43



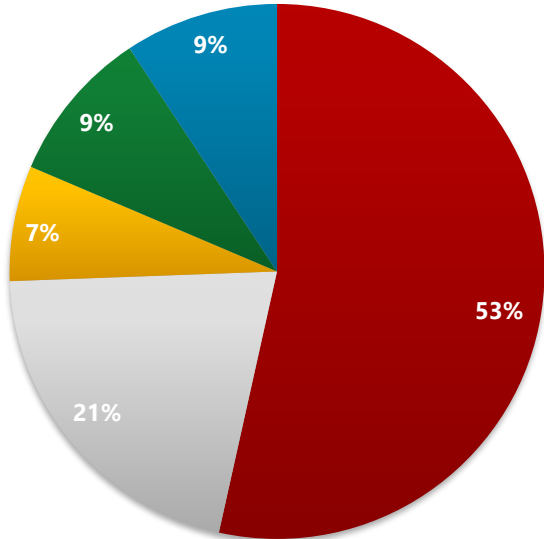
More than half attended the Pride Event

With respect to the Congleton Pride 2019 event, what did you do?



2021
N=38

With respect to the Congleton Pride 2022 event, what did you do?

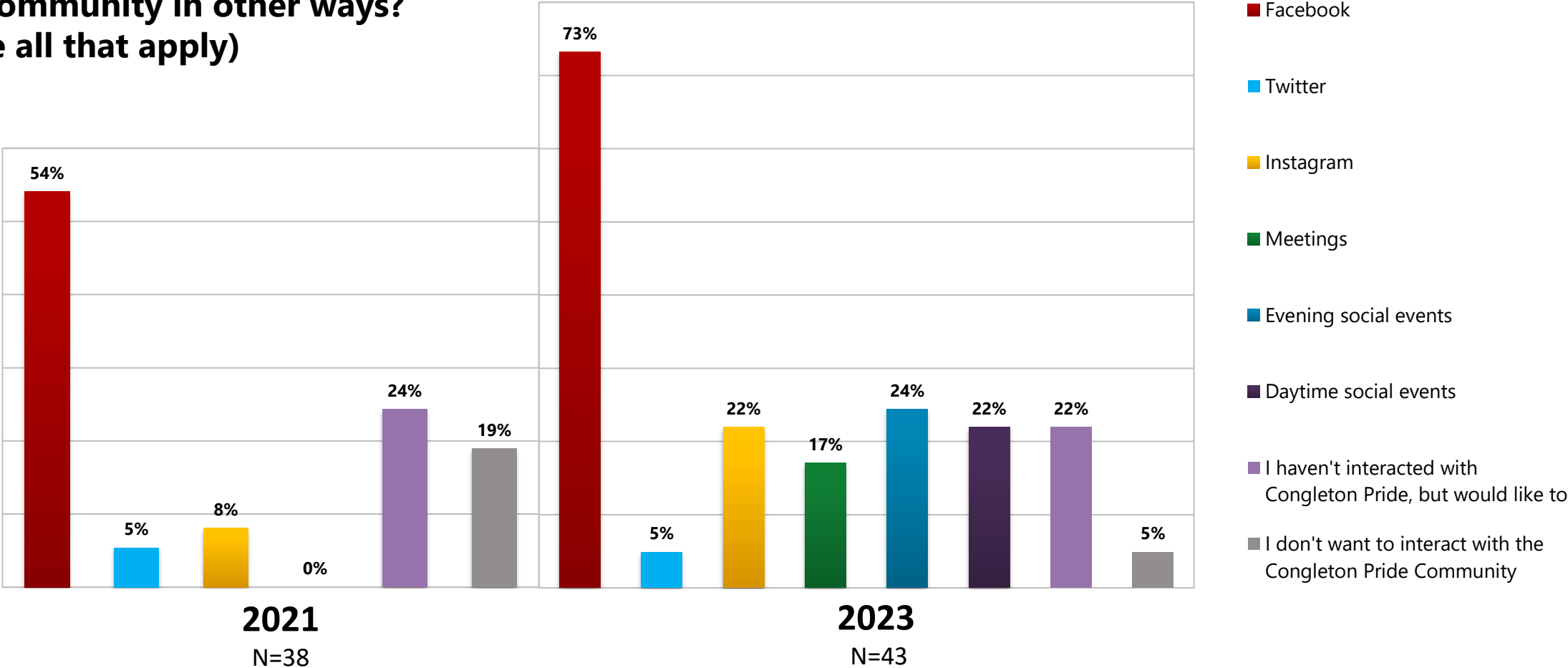


2023
N=43



There are now more ways to interact with Pride, and more people are doing so

Do you interact with the Congleton Pride Community in other ways?
(choose all that apply)



Congleton Pride Comments from LGBTQIA+ Community

I suggest making it bigger and more obvious that it is a pride event rather than a general event such as makers market or jazz and blues

More outside stalls selling lgbt+ community stuff

Maybe an LGBTQIA+ Information stall that handed out leaflets to help educate heterosexual or questioning people and maybe a sexual health stall with information for LGBTQIA+ people

I found it weird that there was a straight bloke making misogynistic jokes about women/his wife on the mic most of the time I was there. I understand it's what people find funny sometimes but it was weird to see at a pride event.

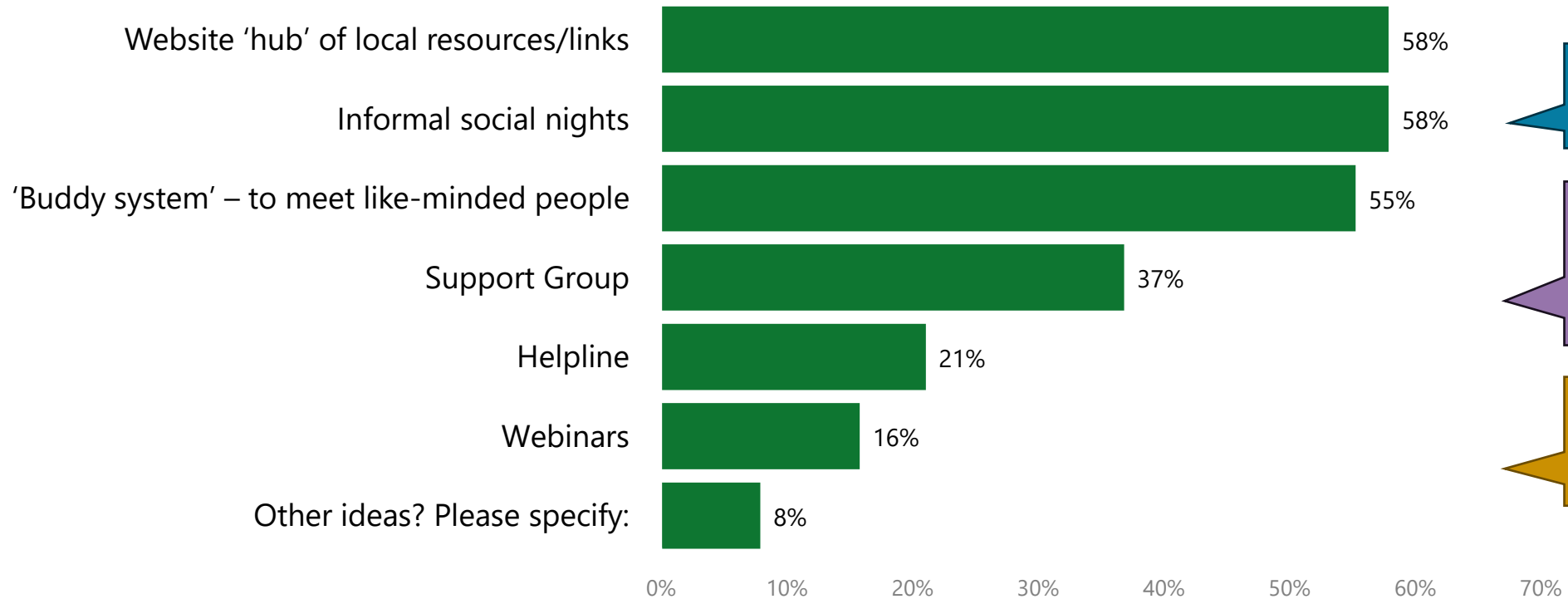
Perhaps having the stage in front of the town hall facing west. I felt it was too cramped when the stage was at natwest. People are watching the events while others are trying to squeeze past. It got very crowded. Specially when the barriers were moved into the road for acts that required more space.

Improve the headline act.

More community outreach

Congleton Pride has gone from strength to strength each year and has arguably become the highlight of the town's calendar - replacing the carnival. I would like to see more community engagement away from the one day a year - perhaps a discreet helpline or webchat for people to ask for more information. Is there access to LGBT-specific healthcare, counselling, safe rental property and community groups. I'm aware of the coffee afternoon at Blueys but are there other events after work or at weekends that people can join in with?

Other things respondents would like from Pride



A more obvious hub place that openly show you can find pride members there

Invest funds into supporting individuals directly!! Pride events are great however it's vital to have more 1:1s with vulnerable individuals.

Would be great to meet more people around my age in informal things both online & in-person. i.e. early to late 20s.

n=30

Conclusions

- ❖ Overall, Congleton has improved for LGBTQIA+ people, but there is still work to do.
- ❖ Members of the community still experience harassment and abuse, and most don't report it for various reasons
- ❖ LGBTQIA+ people interact with Congleton Pride more, and in a wider variety of ways
- ❖ Public attitudes are more polarised, with some very supportive, yet the appearance of 'anti-Pride' or 'anti-woke'-type comments
- ❖ This is not surprising, given the national narrative, especially around trans people, and the biased coverage in the national (and some local) media
- ❖ As previously, LGBTQIA+ people want more than an annual event, and there is a significant number asking for signposts to information, help and support
- ❖ Some of Congleton Pride's ongoing and planned activities, like relaxed social events, the new website content, and plans for a 'community' stall, will help to address this

Next Survey: 2025

