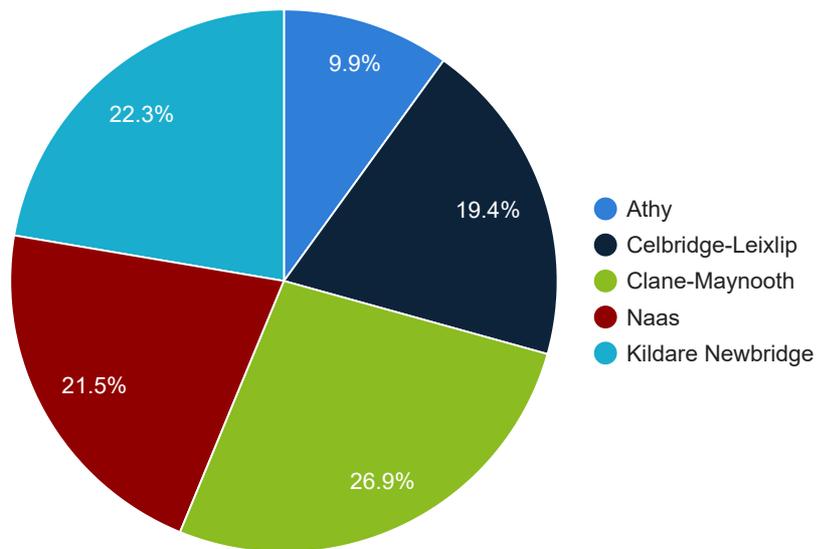




Kildare County Council
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

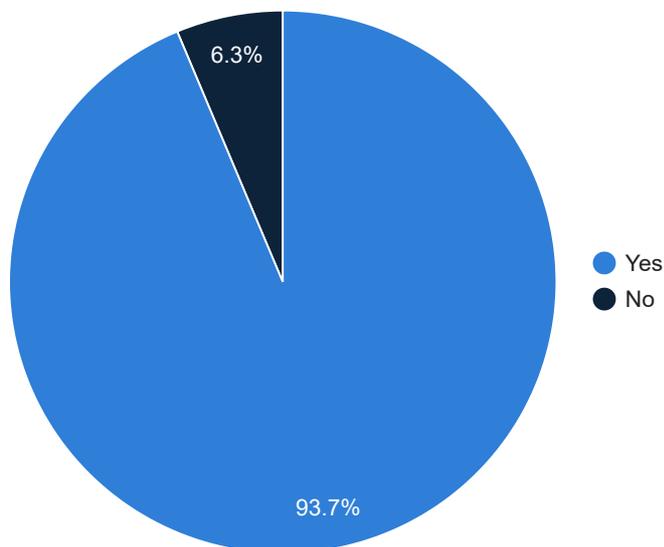
KCC Parks Maintenance Follow Up Survey

Q1. Please choose your Municipal District (MD)



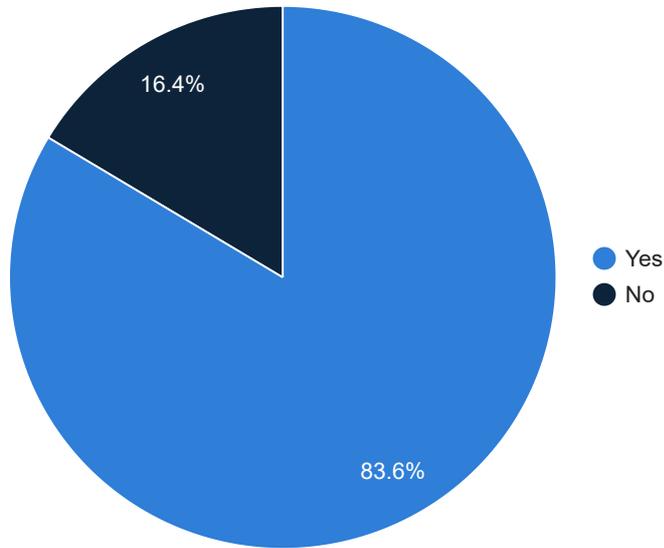
Number of responses: 242

Q2. In your opinion did you prefer the appearance of the areas mown at 6 week intervals and the meadows cut annually compared to the traditional bi-monthly mown areas?



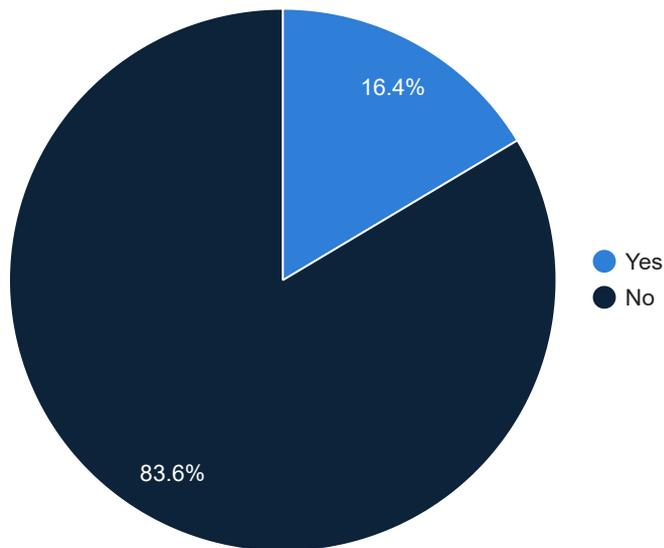
Number of responses: 238

Q3. Did you notice an increase in biodiversity in the pilot areas – for example more native wildflowers, vegetation, insects, birds and other wildlife?



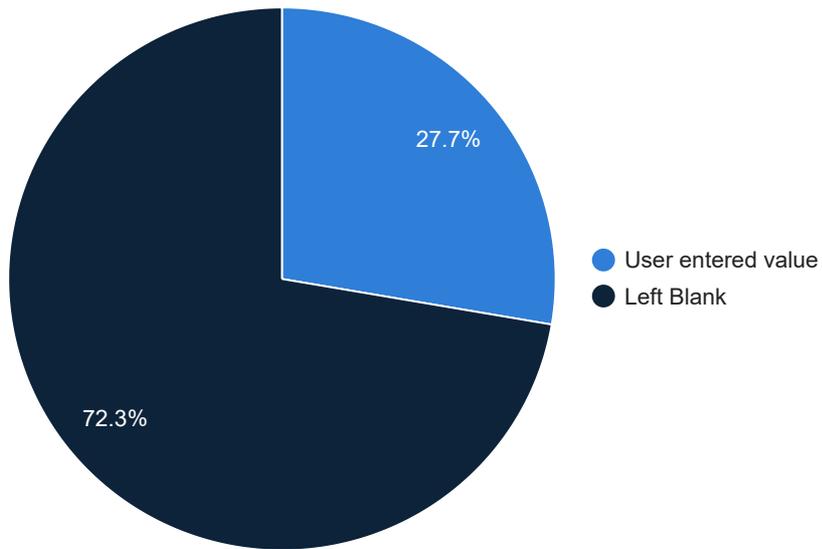
Number of responses: 238

Q4. In your opinion were there any negative or off-putting items during the trialing of the pilot sites?



Number of responses: 238

Comment (maximum 250 characters)



Number of responses: 242

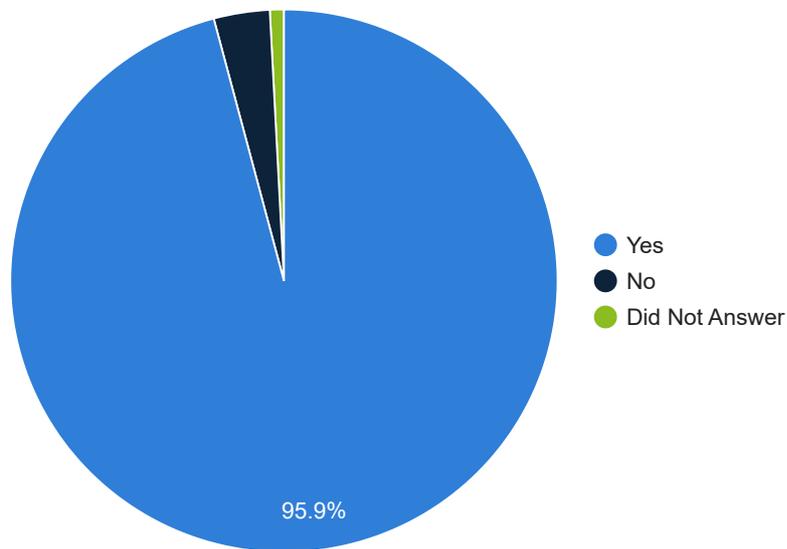
Comment (maximum 250 characters)

- Some increase in weekend litter, probably litter sticking on longer grass. Nice movement of meadow length grass. Edge verges (18 inches) may need mowing slightly more often for tidiness.
- Only positive things to say . Completely the way to go forward
- You tend to get the same "its untidy" comment, however signage (Managed For Wildlife) explaining why can resolve that quickly with many people.
- I feel the more regular maintenance of the green areas looks cleaner and neater and improves overall appearance if the area but I would forgo that for the betterment of the wildlife.
- Insect hotel in Liffey Linear Park was very overgrown and barely visible. The new fairy walk is a lovely addition to the park for kids
- I'm afraid I can't say I noticed any differences really. However due to lockdown I haven't been out in the car and have only been walking locally.
- Roadside verges - leave grow & maintain once / twice PA - however litter hidden by the "long grass" can be scattered around when cut. Suggest litter patrol periodically. Some complain at "untidiness" but when objective explained tend to be happier.
- I think it's really important to keep finding more and more areas around the town were the above could happen.
- It was so nice to see more butterflies bees swallows and bats with all the extra wildflower and wild areas.
- Who become responsible for disposal of the grass arisings at the final cut in September
- in addition there was an increase in the amount of berries and small fruits around the area providing food for birds at this time of year
- Lack of knowledge by persons as to what the project was about
- Surgical masks discarded
- Just to say, bees and other pollinators hibernate in long untouched grass over winter. Also, cutting back on grass and breaking up the soil allows natural seed in the soil to germinate. Both techniques are beneficial as they help both aspects.
- The grass was cut recently by the leixlip library which I was surprised at
- The increase in biodiversity in the pilot areas has been widely noticed, commented on and positively received.
- Increase in dog poo!
- I didnt see many areas that were not cut back. Leaves are needed on ground for insects to feed birds in spring if u want biodiversity need less work. ;)
- please plant more wildflowers ... perfect spot locally is around the Gordon Bennett sculpture on R448 at Timolin turnoff
- I think it was all positive. It was lovely to see all the colours and bees and butterflies. Butterflies seem to be dwindling massively
- The amount of wild flowers and grasses with all the different colours made the areas more interesting look at and watching out for the different bees and birds certainly helped through lockdown!
- very encouraging to see nature allowed rather than manicured. Helps the children to understand nature and wildlife
- I didn't notice a big difference as it's only the 1st year plus if you are not mowing certain parts maybe planting a wild flower meadow would help encourage wildlife
- The increase in biodiversity and the more natural look are huge positives for me.
- Found there was litter getting dropped in the areas
- I live outside Athy and haven't been walking in the park over the summer but I saw no evidence of any reduction in mowing in any areas just really tightly mown grass with wildflowers mown as soon as they appeared and herbicide sprayed everywhere
- Grass cuttings were left on the Clane Inner Relief Road road surface for some time - this needs to be avoided as it attracts detractors/opposition to this worthwhile initiative
- Long grass more ticks and potential diseases sease

- Litter in the taller grass
- I would like to see it extended to all areas and a ban on pesticide use,
- Not enough flowers
- INCREASE in litter
- If the edges could be swept / maintained, more it would look better
- We need more meadow and wild areas.
- Well done - let's keep explaining the benefit of this to increase acceptance by the public
- I loved going for walks around the ring roads with an wide range of wild flowers. Was great for mental health. So wonderful to see nature do it's think instead for being cutback.
- There was a lot of dog poo in the long grass.
- Littering
- Accumulation of litter in longer grass, some weedslike thistle & docks in abundance.
- If anything the balance is still wrong. More areas need managing for wildlife and biodiversity
- As I walked my dog I often stood and watched butterfly's they were attracted to the unmoved greens.
- Along the very edge of roads it looked v untidy
- it is lovely to see the wild flowers blooming again and look forward to seeing more and more of them as they regain their foothold, or roothold.
- I found that the areas looked more natural, nothing off-putting.
- This was not just very welcome as the array of colour and wildlife was beautiful but also VERY necessary. We face a biodiversity crisis as well as climate crisis with species disappearing at an alarming rate. This pilot needs to become the norm.
- People less lightly to pick up dog foul in the wild areas
- cut grass need to be collected to foster growth of pollinator plants
- Nature is not tidy. We have to choose whether we want a functional or ornamental environment.
- The un-mown areas take a bit of getting used to
- Road works, estate walls damaged during road and pathway construction especially around historic site of White Abbey/Carmelite Friary, Kildare Town. Such a shame!
- unfortunately, in areas of long grass there was rubbish dumped, empty cans. hidden from view and dog faeces. Must
- Could go for even more areas maintained this way!
- Needs to be clear demarcation at verges of areas mentioned
- Would prefer more wild flowers sown
- A lot more rubbish collected in the longer grass or maybe because it looked 'untidy' people thought littering was ok. We definitely enjoyed looking at all the different plants and bees and bugs
- It wasn't explained to the general public. A detailed notice should have been displayed at each of the areas
- We at Newbridge Tidy Towns very much welcome this pilot project and would look forward to additional sites within Newbridge being added to the programme in the coming years.
- Along the back road to the racecourse was beautiful
- Build up litter in the pilot sites due to the extra vegetation. This is not an issue with the maintenance programme, but with people's behaviour.
- Sadly issue with rubbish & dog fowling
- Certain areas looked unkempt
- Saw alot more rubbish about eg soft drink bottles cans etc
- Nice to see wild flowers returning
- Increased pollen allergies and bites from insects
- I think the green areas should be left at least relatively untouched, to promote biodiversity and the revitalisation of nature.
- I particularly liked the area in Monread Park, and wish for there to be more wildflower areas installed in future. There are many areas which are not used for sport, e.g. perpheries and by edges of trees etc which would be suitable.
- I hope Kildare County Council applies this biodiversity-friendly approach to many more areas.

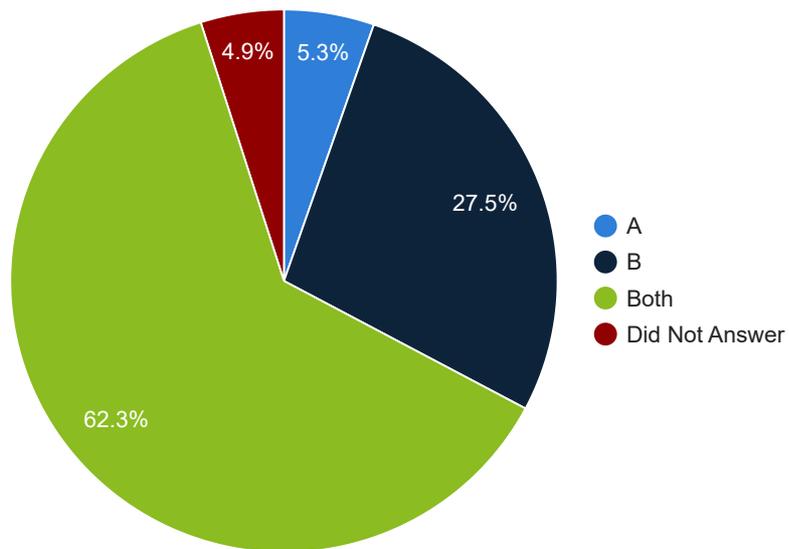
Number of responses: 67

Would you prefer more meadows to be allowed to develop naturally across the county? And if so which type or both?



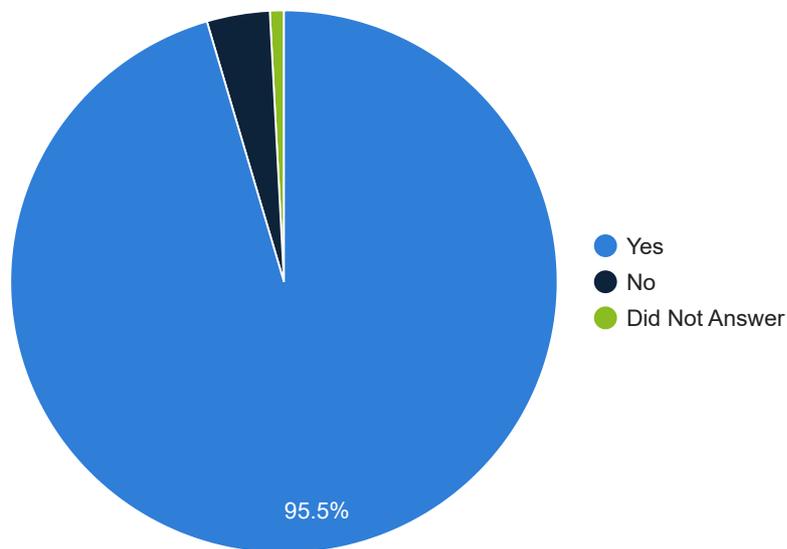
Number of responses: 242

If Yes – A, B or both



Number of responses: 244

Q6. Would you prefer to see strimming of edges, around street furniture, along walls and other areas not easily accessed by mowers to be undertaken 3 times per maintenance season rather than spraying these areas with herbicide?



Number of responses: 242