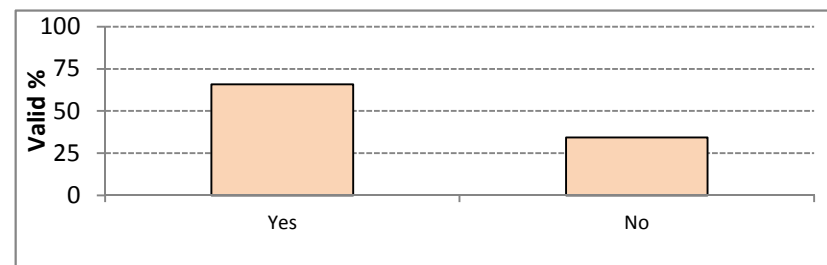


# Non-domestic rate discretionary rate relief Based on 84 responses

**Q1 - As a business rate payer are you aware of following reductions:**

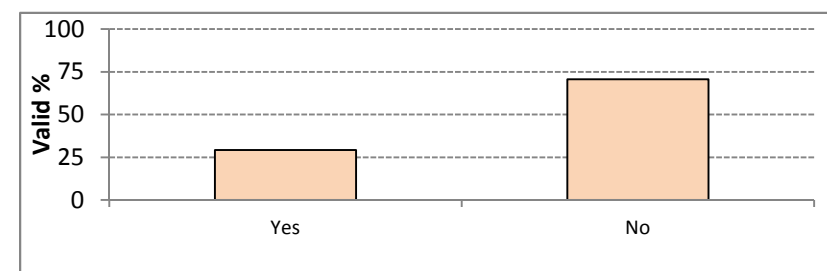
**Q1.a - Charitable or Kindred Organisation Relief**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Yes	46	54.8	65.7
No	24	28.6	34.3
Total	70	83.3	100.0
Missing	14	16.7	
Total	84	100.0	



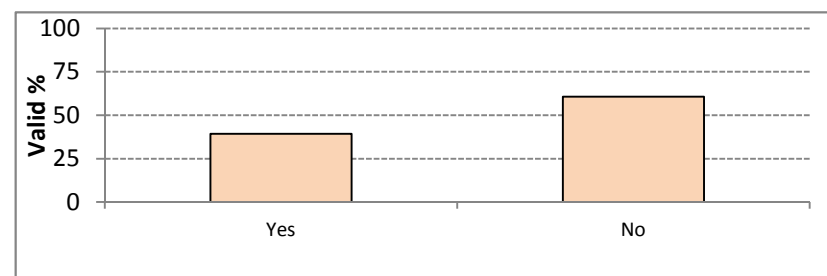
**Q1.b - Hardship Relief**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Yes	17	20.2	29.3
No	41	48.8	70.7
Total	58	69.0	100.0
Missing	26	31.0	
Total	84	100.0	



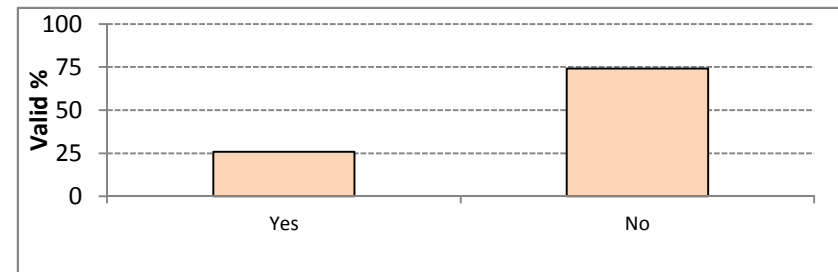
**Q1.c - Part Occupied Relief**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Yes	22	26.2	39.3
No	34	40.5	60.7
Total	56	66.7	100.0
Missing	28	33.3	
Total	84	100.0	

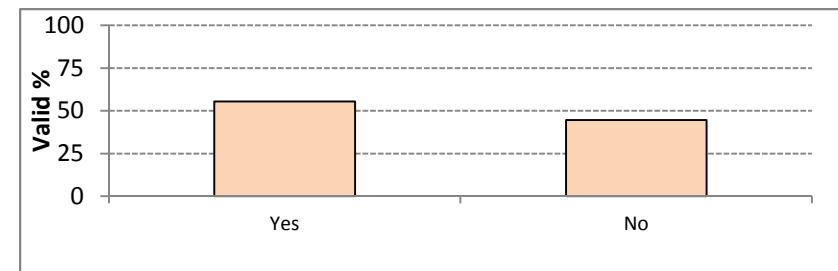


**Q1.d - Rural Shop Relief**

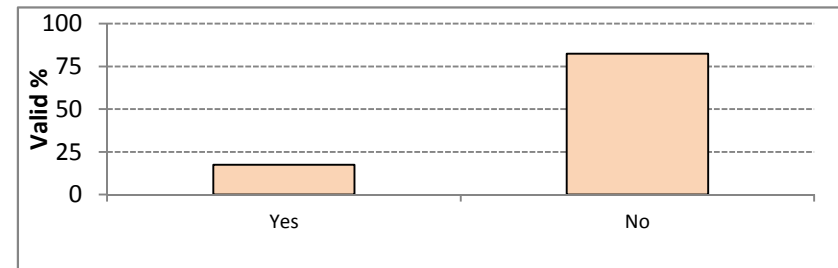
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	15	17.9	25.9
	No	43	51.2	74.1
	Total	58	69.0	100.0
Missing		26	31.0	
Total		84	100.0	

**Q1.e - Small Business Relief**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	36	42.9	55.4
	No	29	34.5	44.6
	Total	65	77.4	100.0
Missing		19	22.6	
Total		84	100.0	

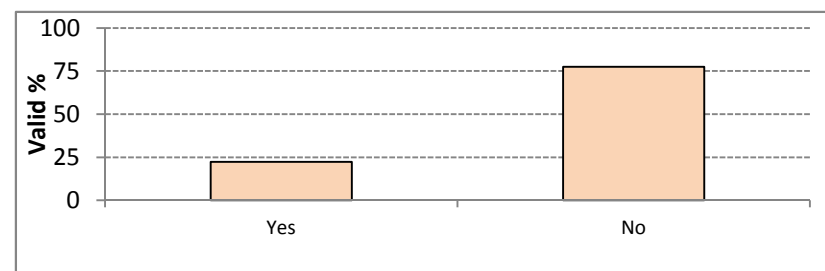
**Q1.f - Retail Relief**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	10	11.9	17.5
	No	47	56.0	82.5
	Total	57	67.9	100.0
Missing		27	32.1	
Total		84	100.0	



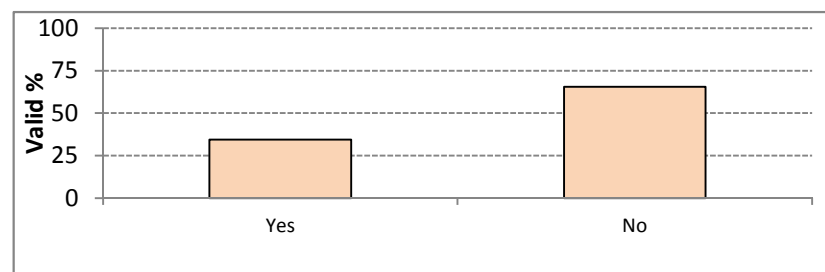
**Q1.g - Reoccupation of Empty Retail Premises Relief**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	13	15.5	22.4
	No	45	53.6	77.6
	Total	58	69.0	100.0
Missing		26	31.0	
Total		84	100.0	



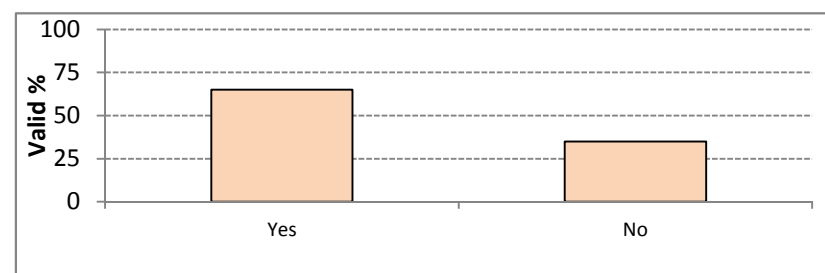
**Q1.h - Discretionary relief for sporting organisations**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	21	25.0	34.4
	No	40	47.6	65.6
	Total	61	72.6	100.0
Missing		23	27.4	
Total		84	100.0	



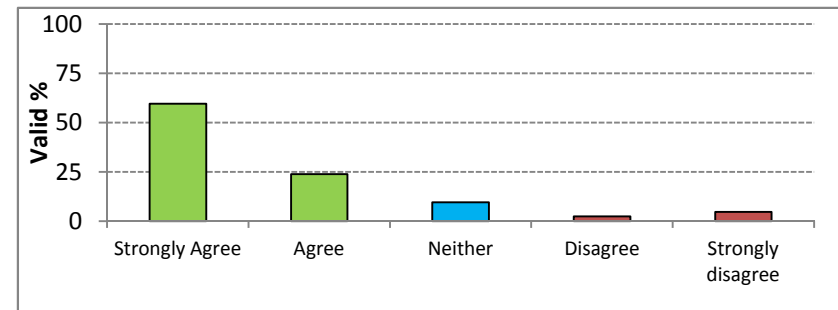
**Q2 - Are you currently in receipt of any of the above?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	52	61.9	65.0
	No	28	33.3	35.0
	Total	80	95.2	100.0
Missing		4	4.8	
Total		84	100.0	



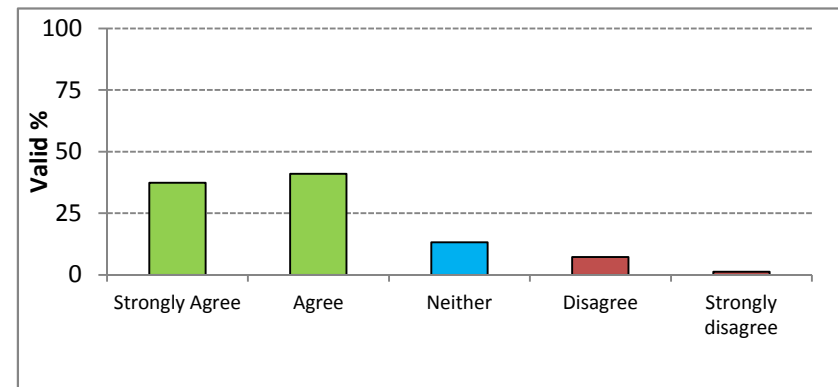
**Q4 - Discretionary relief can also be paid to organisations whose aims should be charitable or otherwise philanthropic (working to improve the lives of Central Bedfordshire residents), or concerned with the promotion of social welfare, education, science, literature or the fine arts as well as recreation/sports. How far do you agree or disagree with this?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	50	59.5	59.5
	Agree	20	23.8	23.8
	Neither	8	9.5	9.5
	Disagree	2	2.4	2.4
	Strongly disagree	4	4.8	4.8
	Total	84	100.0	100.0



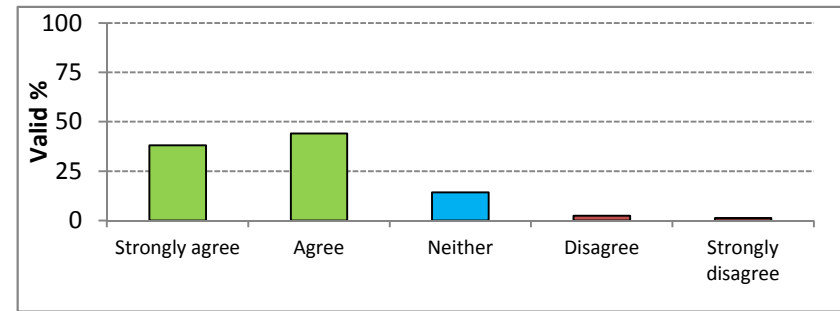
**Q5 - Whilst the Council accepts that clubs and organisations provide a valuable leisure facility, it must be remembered that any relief granted is partially paid for by the Council Tax payers of Central Bedfordshire. Because of this, consideration is given as to the ratio of members within the club who reside in Central Bedfordshire to the overall membership (for example, a club based in Central Bedfordshire with the majority of members living in central Bedfordshire will be more likely to receive rate relief than a club with the majority of members living in Hertfordshire).  
How far do you agree or disagree with this?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	31	36.9	37.3
	Agree	34	40.5	41.0
	Neither	11	13.1	13.3
	Disagree	6	7.1	7.2
	Strongly disagree	1	1.2	1.2
	Total	83	98.8	100.0
Missing		1	1.2	
Total		84	100.0	



**Q6 - Clubs within Central Bedfordshire are encouraged to have an active Youth Development Policy, provide their facilities for use by disabled people or special interest groups. Clubs are also encouraged to provide coaching/ workshops/ training and/or their facilities free of charge or at reduced rates to these groups to ensure the opportunities are accessible and affordable to all residents. The Council also wishes to see facilities provided that compliment its own or new community initiatives that it does not provide so a discretionary rate is applied. How far do you agree or disagree with this?**

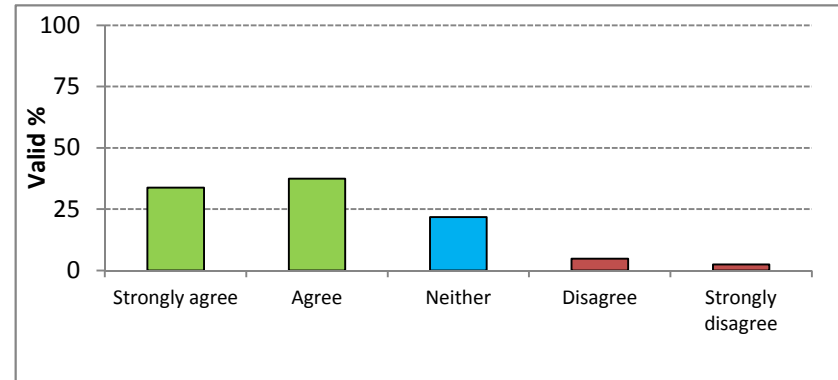
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	32	38.1	38.1
	Agree	37	44.0	44.0
	Neither	12	14.3	14.3
	Disagree	2	2.4	2.4
	Strongly disagree	1	1.2	1.2
	Total	84	100.0	100.0



**Q7 - Community interest groups (CIC's) are a new type of limited company designed specifically for those wishing to operate for the benefit of the community rather than for the benefit of the owners of the company. This means that a CIC cannot be formed or used solely for the personal gain of a particular person, or group of people. CIC's can be limited by shares, or by guarantee, and have a statutory "Asset Lock" to prevent the assets and profits being distributed, except as permitted by legislation. This ensures the assets and profits are retained within the CIC for community purposes, or transferred to another asset-locked organisation, such as another CIC or charity. An example of a CIC in Central Bedfordshire is Preen.**

**How far do you agree or disagree that CIC's should receive discretionary rate relief?**

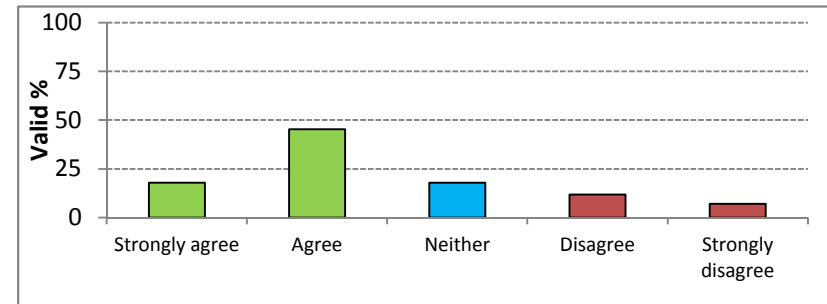
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	28	33.3	33.7
	Agree	31	36.9	37.3
	Neither	18	21.4	21.7
	Disagree	4	4.8	4.8
	Strongly disagree	2	2.4	2.4
	Total	83	98.8	100.0
Missing		1	1.2	
Total		84	100.0	



**Q8 - The Council receives requests from rate payers asking that the rateable value of a specific premise be split on a temporary basis between the occupied and unoccupied portions and that the Council then only charge rates of the occupied portion. The Council acknowledges that only part of a property may be occupied and charges accordingly for the temporary period.**

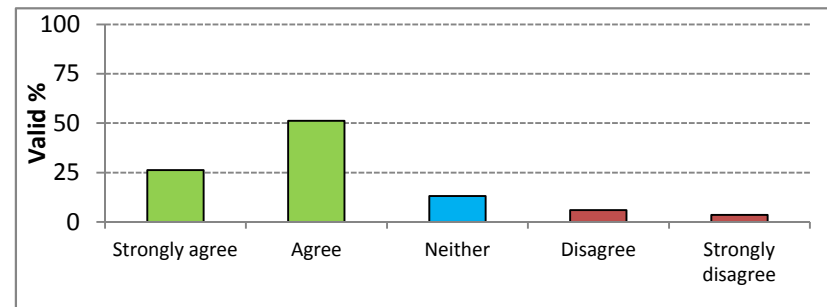
**How far do you agree or disagree?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Strongly agree	15	17.9	17.9
Agree	38	45.2	45.2
Neither	15	17.9	17.9
Disagree	10	11.9	11.9
Strongly disagree	6	7.1	7.1
Total	84	100.0	100.0



**Q9 - The burden of proof for hardship lies with the rate payer. Whilst the authority can award hardship rate relief there is no obligation to do so unless evidence of hardship can be established. How far do you agree or disagree that rate payers who fulfil the above should receive discretionary rate relief?**

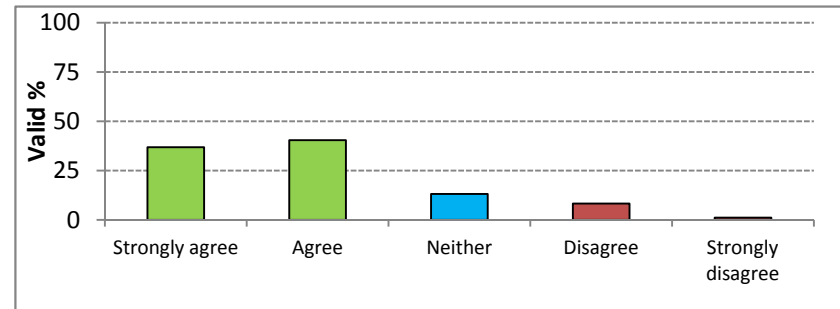
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Strongly agree	22	26.2	26.2
Agree	43	51.2	51.2
Neither	11	13.1	13.1
Disagree	5	6.0	6.0
Strongly disagree	3	3.6	3.6
Total	84	100.0	100.0





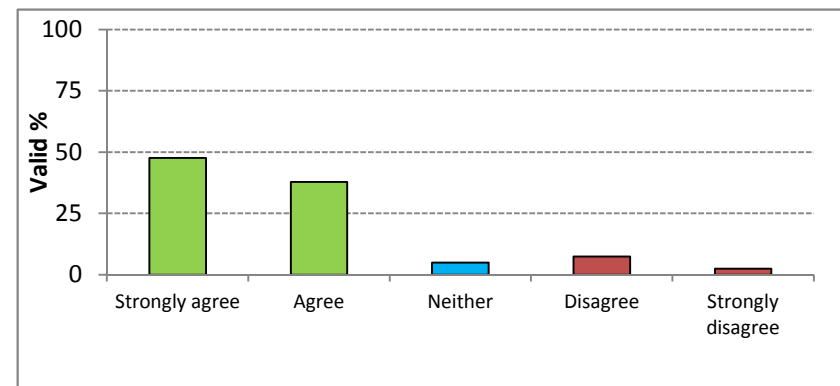
**Q10 - To be eligible for Hardship relief, the rate payer must provide three years of trading accounts which should be included in the application. The rate payer must demonstrate that it is in the interests of the local council tax payers of the area that the rate relief is awarded by the Council as the award of relief is at a direct cost to the Council. How far do you agree or disagree that rate payers must provide the above information to qualify for discretionary rate relief?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Strongly agree	31	36.9	36.9
Agree	34	40.5	40.5
Neither	11	13.1	13.1
Disagree	7	8.3	8.3
Strongly disagree	1	1.2	1.2
Total	84	100.0	100.0



**Q11 - Small business rate relief is a self-funding scheme, which ensures that larger companies pay more business rates to enable the smaller business to pay less. How far do you agree or disagree?**

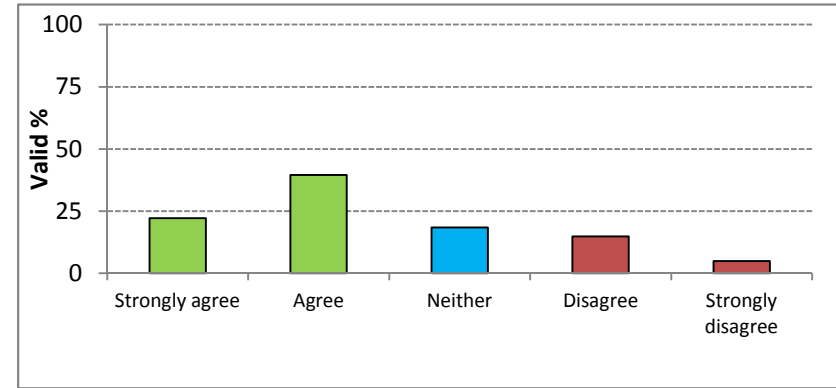
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Strongly agree	39	46.4	47.6
Agree	31	36.9	37.8
Neither	4	4.8	4.9
Disagree	6	7.1	7.3
Strongly disagree	2	2.4	2.4
Total	82	97.6	100.0
Missing	2	2.4	
Total	84	100.0	



**Q12 - Properties that will benefit from the relief must have a rateable value of £50,000 or less and are wholly or mainly being used as shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments.**

**How far do you agree or disagree?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	18	21.4	22.2
	Agree	32	38.1	39.5
	Neither	15	17.9	18.5
	Disagree	12	14.3	14.8
	Strongly disagree	4	4.8	4.9
	Total	81	96.4	100.0
Missing		3	3.6	
Total		84	100.0	



**Q13 - Rural Rate Relief is a scheme of relief for qualifying businesses situated in rural areas. Businesses that qualify are General Stores, Post Offices, Petrol Filling Stations, Public Houses and Food Stores.**

**The business must be in a rural area that has a population of no more than 3,000 people on 31st December of the preceding financial year. Relief is only available on occupied properties. The relief will only be awarded by a demonstration of the importance of the business to the local community by the applicant. How far do you agree or disagree with this?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	27	32.1	33.8
	Agree	39	46.4	48.8
	Neither	10	11.9	12.5
	Disagree	1	1.2	1.3
	Strongly disagree	3	3.6	3.8
	Total	80	95.2	100.0
Missing		4	4.8	
Total		84	100.0	

