



***The Barrington Hills Observer  
November 2013 Resident Survey  
Results Report***

**December 2, 2013**

## Introduction

On November 13, 2013, [The Barrington Hills Observer](#) released the “Barrington Hills 2013 Resident Survey.” Subscribers to The Observer were notified of the opportunity to participate, and over nine hundred invitations were sent via email to Barrington Hills residents as well. The recipients of these initiations represented a broad cross section of residents in our Village and every email address available to us was utilized.

The twenty-three item survey included:

- ✓ Two general questions to gain an understanding of who was participating
- ✓ Twenty opinion items related to various governmental bodies residents are taxed for
- ✓ One general comment area for participants to share their personal opinions and experiences

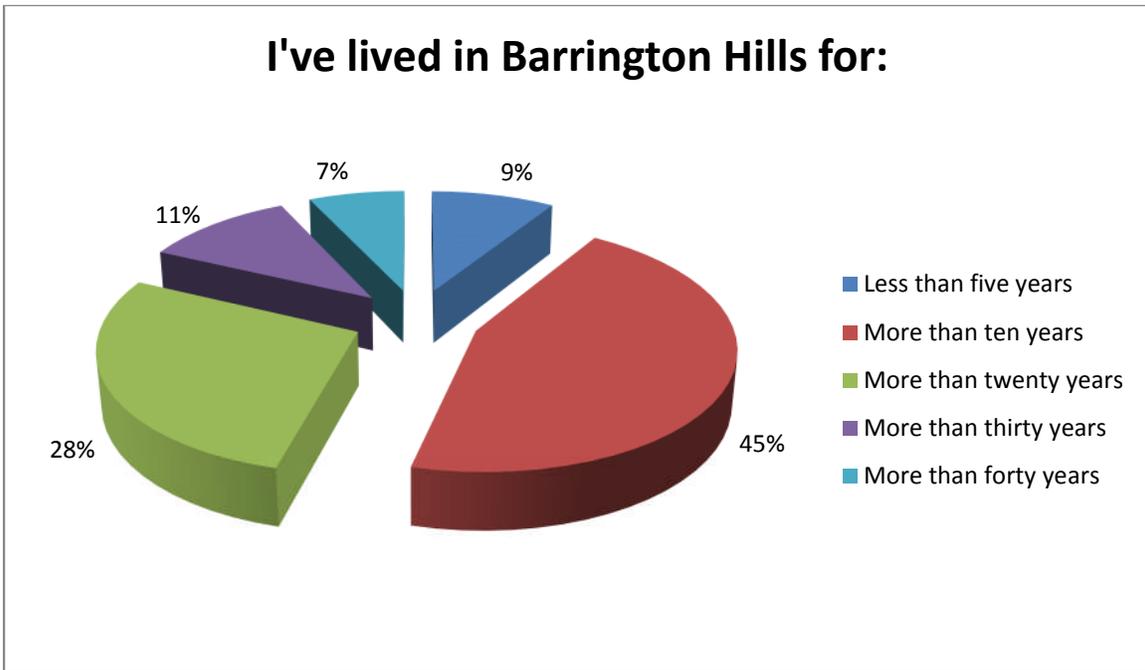
The survey was available for completion from November 13 through November 18, 2013. Nearly one hundred thirty participated on the first day of release, and at the conclusion of the survey period, just over two hundred residents had completed the survey.

A compilation of survey answers by item follows. Any questions or comments related to this report can be directed to [BHObserver@gmail.com](mailto:BHObserver@gmail.com). Comments can also be posted directly to The Observer.

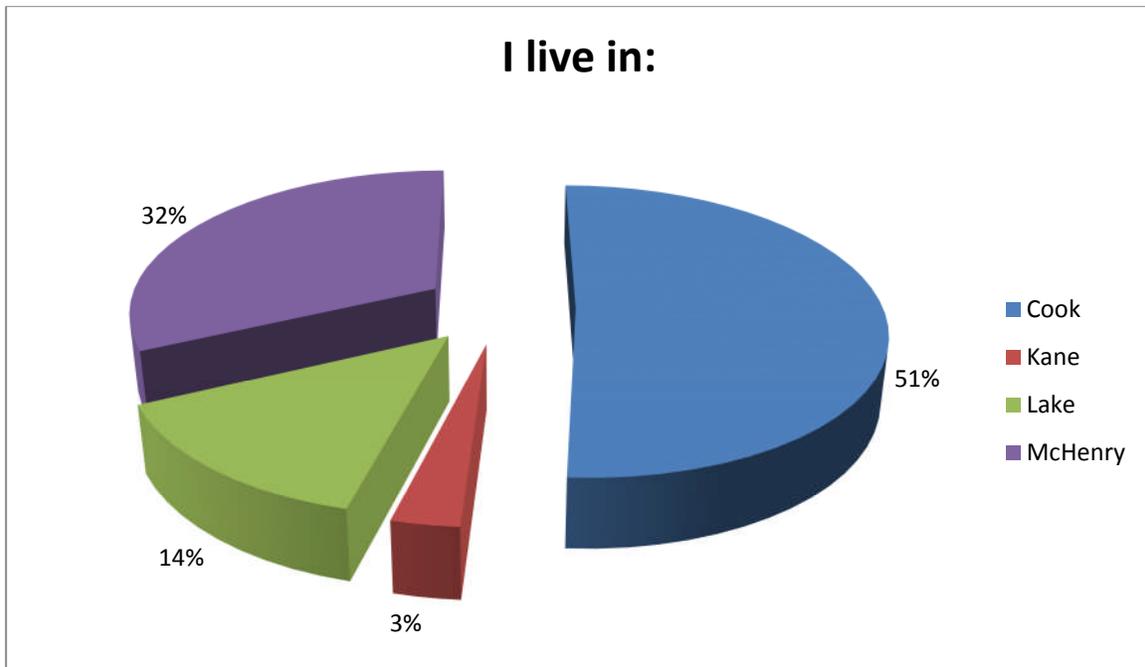
We thank all those who took part in this, our second annual survey of Village resident’s opinions.

- The Observer

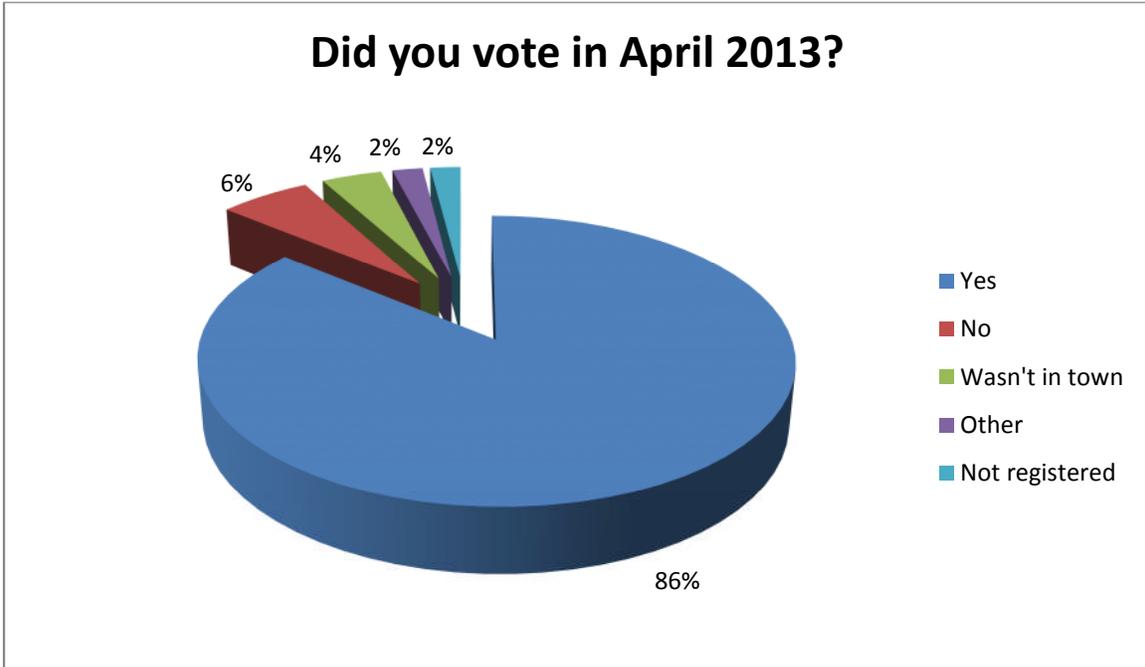
1) How long have you lived in Barrington Hills?



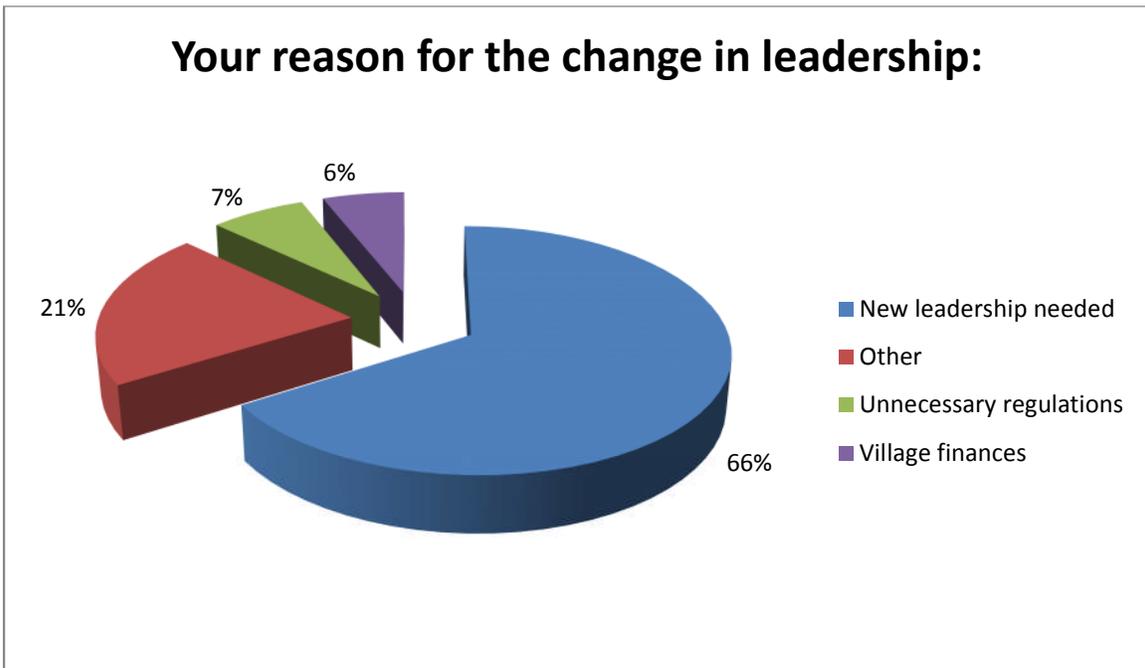
2) Which county do you live in?



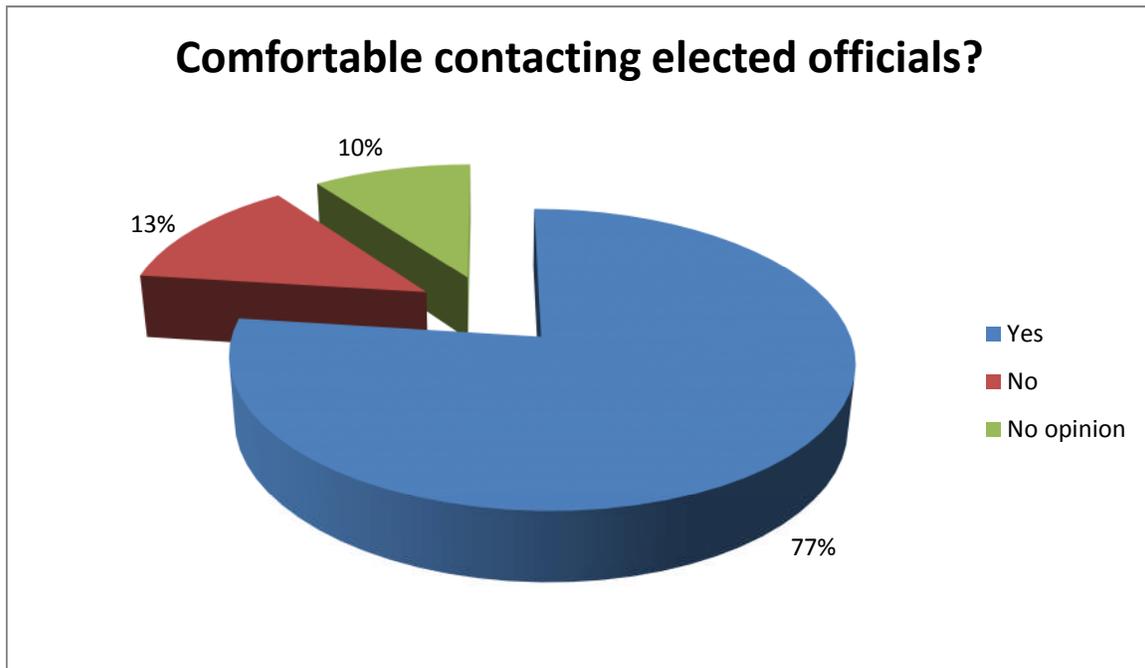
3) Did you vote in the April 2013 Village election?



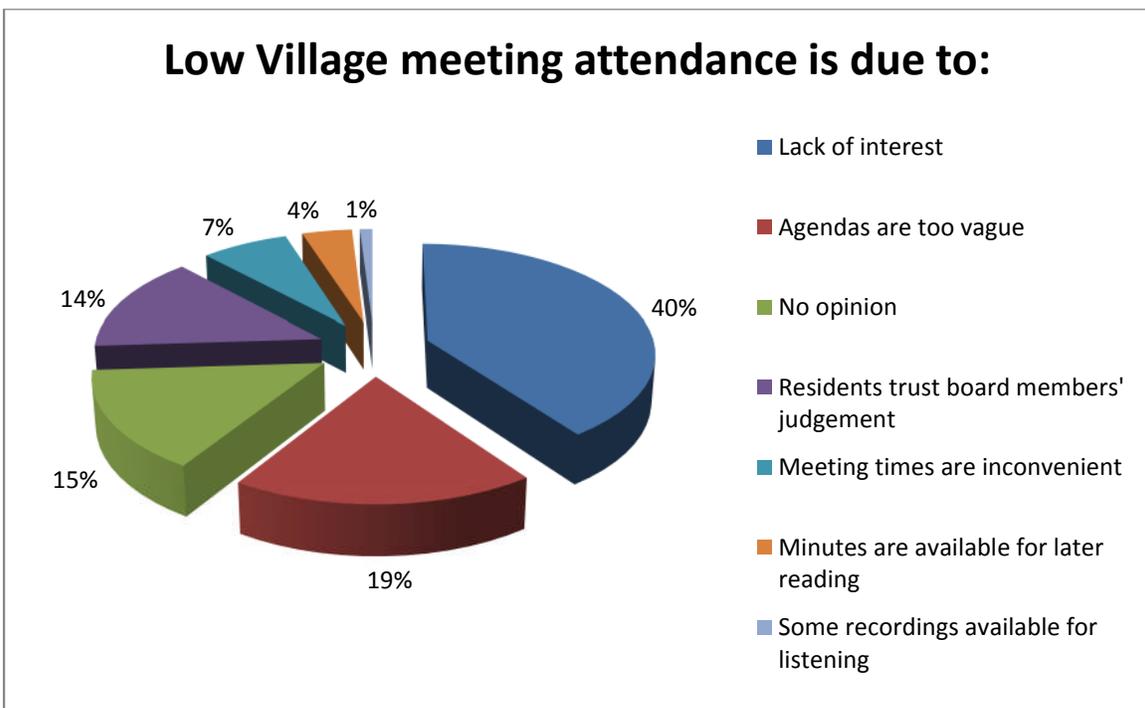
4) What do think the primary reason was for a change in leadership in the last election?



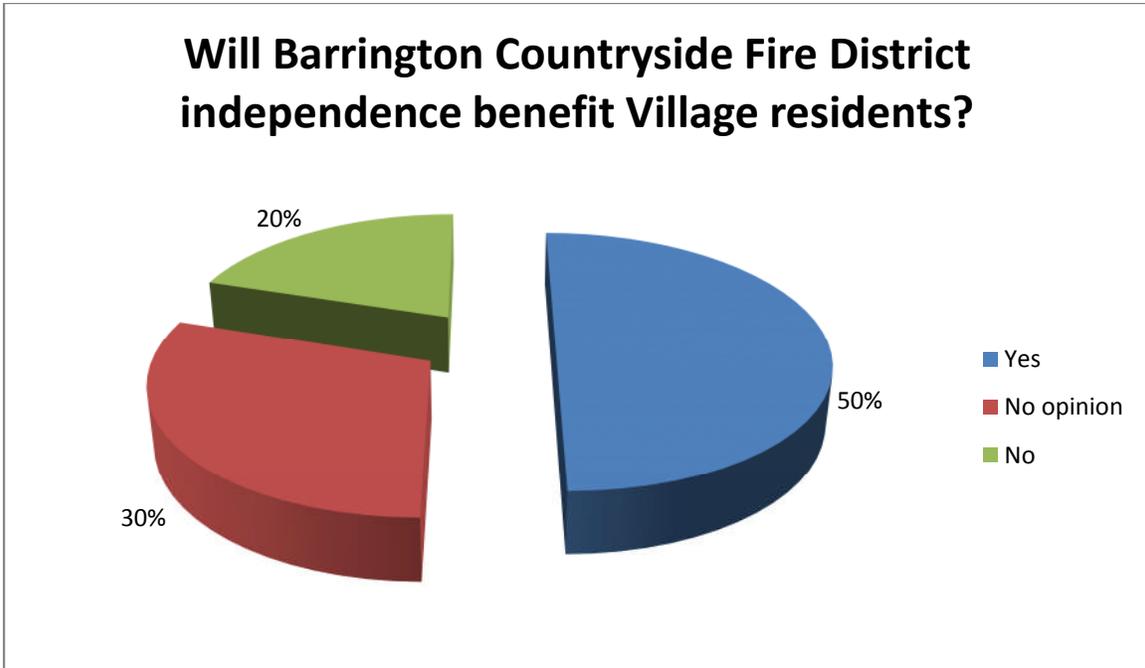
5) Do you feel comfortable contacting the Village President or any Trustee with questions, concerns or suggestions?



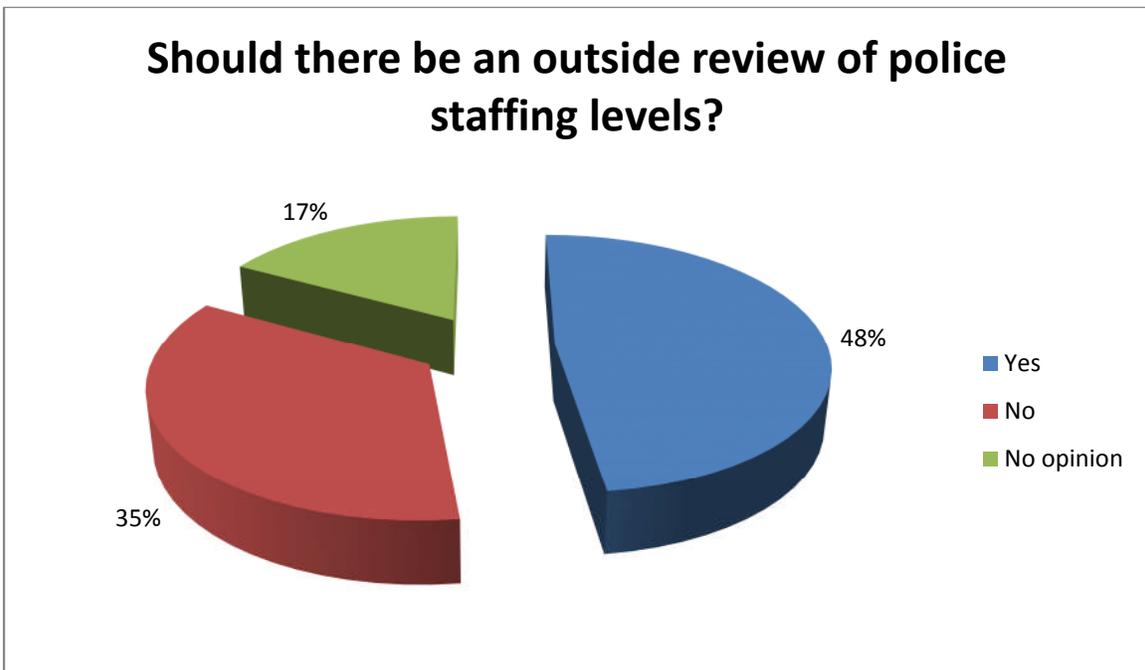
6) It seems attendance is generally low at Village Board, Plan Commission and Zoning Board meetings unless there is a topic on the agenda of high interest. Why do you think residents don't attend meetings?



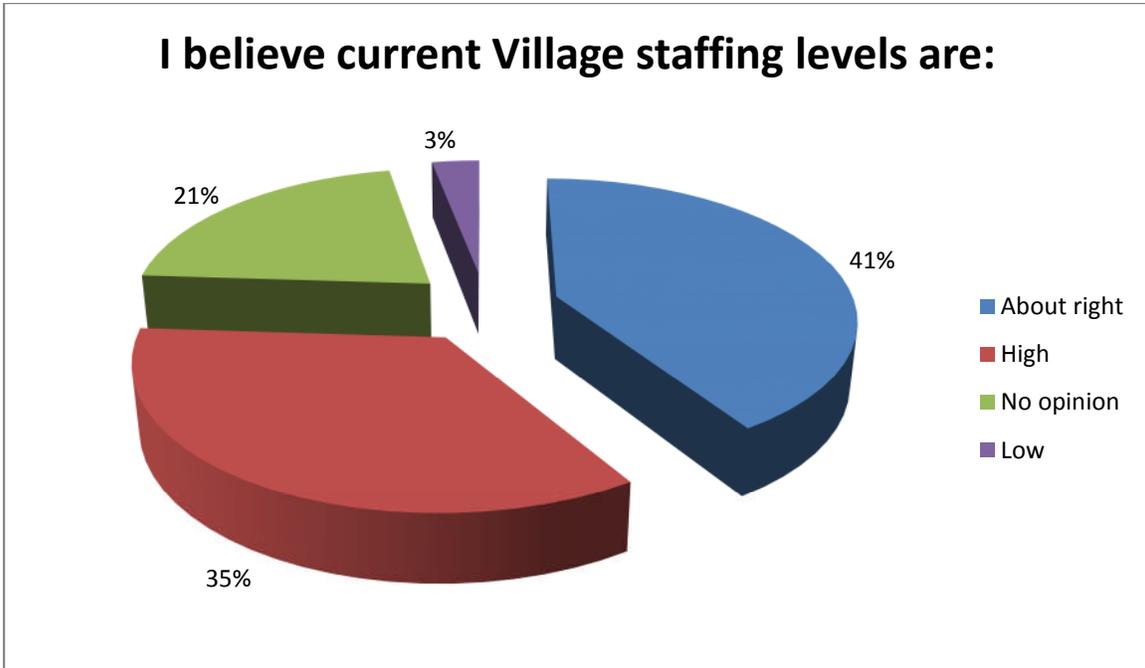
7) Last summer, the Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District board decided to split from the Village of Barrington and form a completely independent body. Do you think this decision will benefit Village residents?



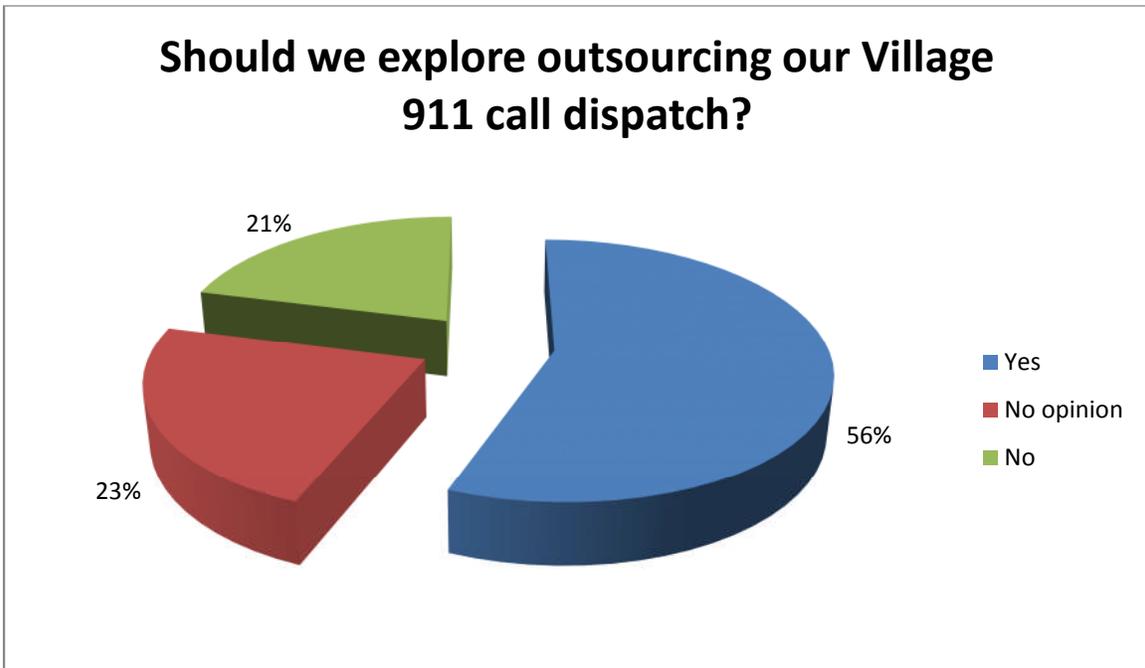
8) In the last few months, our Village Board has settled some very expensive union issues with our police officers and the Metropolitan Alliance of Police. At this time, do you think the Village should invest in having an outside party evaluate our police protection and staffing for future planning?



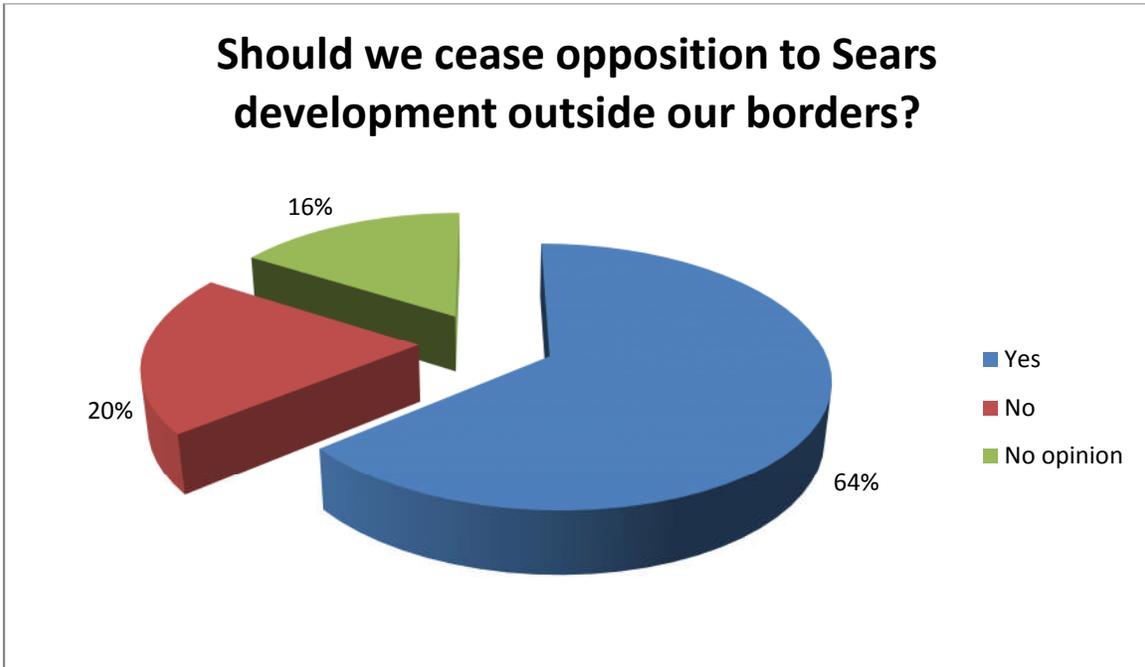
9) Like most governments and businesses, the highest expenses that our Village incurs annually are devoted to employee salaries and benefits. Barrington Hills employs about thirty-four people between the police department and Village hall staff. Does this seem high, low, or just about right?



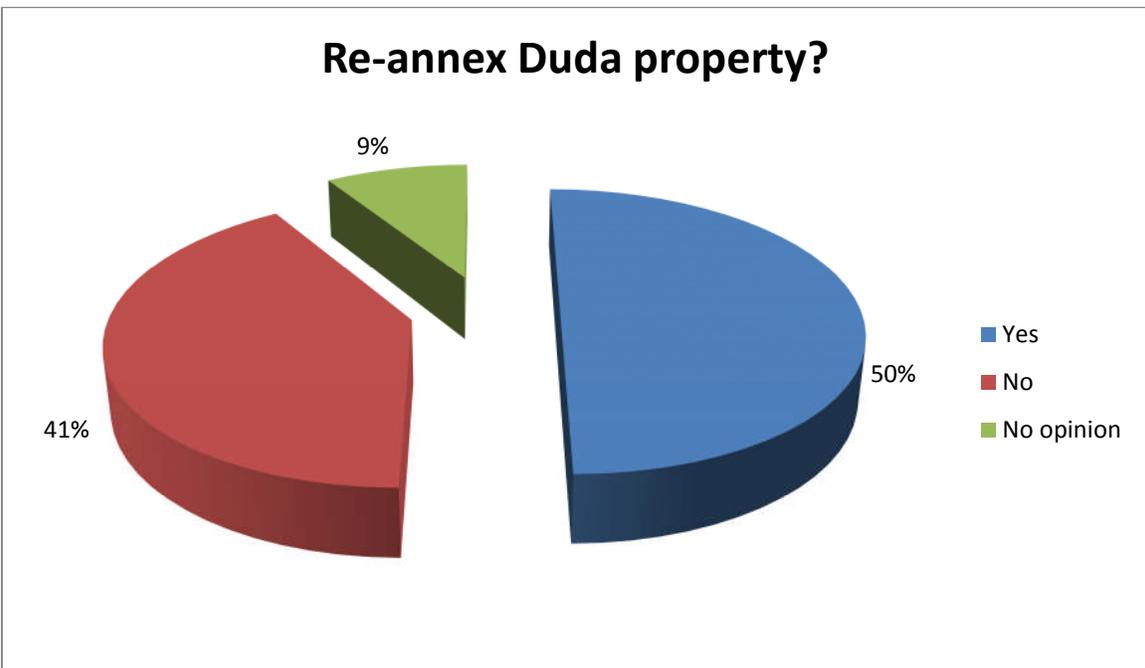
10) Our Village Hall based 911 call center will require some expensive six-figure upgrades in technology in the near future. With the Fire Protection District's announced move to employ a regional 911 call dispatch, do you think our Village Board should consider the same move given that many municipalities are doing so?



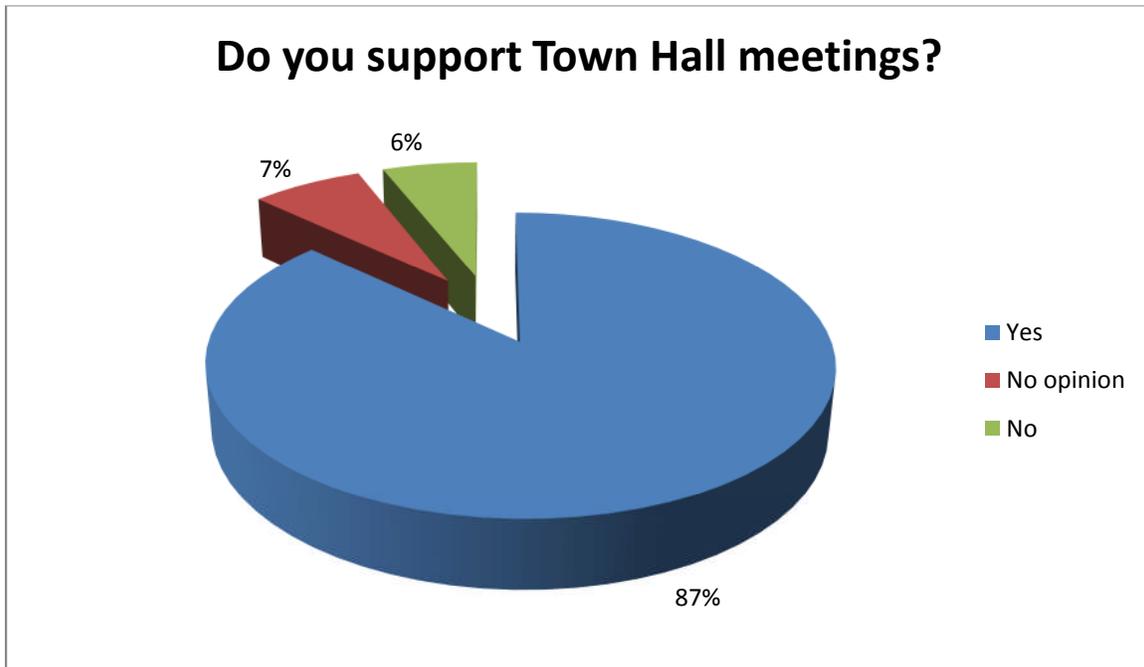
11) The apparent reason for our long-running legal defense against Sears has been over an easement that was placed on the property they purchased many years ago south of Higgins Rd. in Hoffman Estates. If allowing development of this property by Sears outside of our borders will end the expensive legal bills, should we grant it?



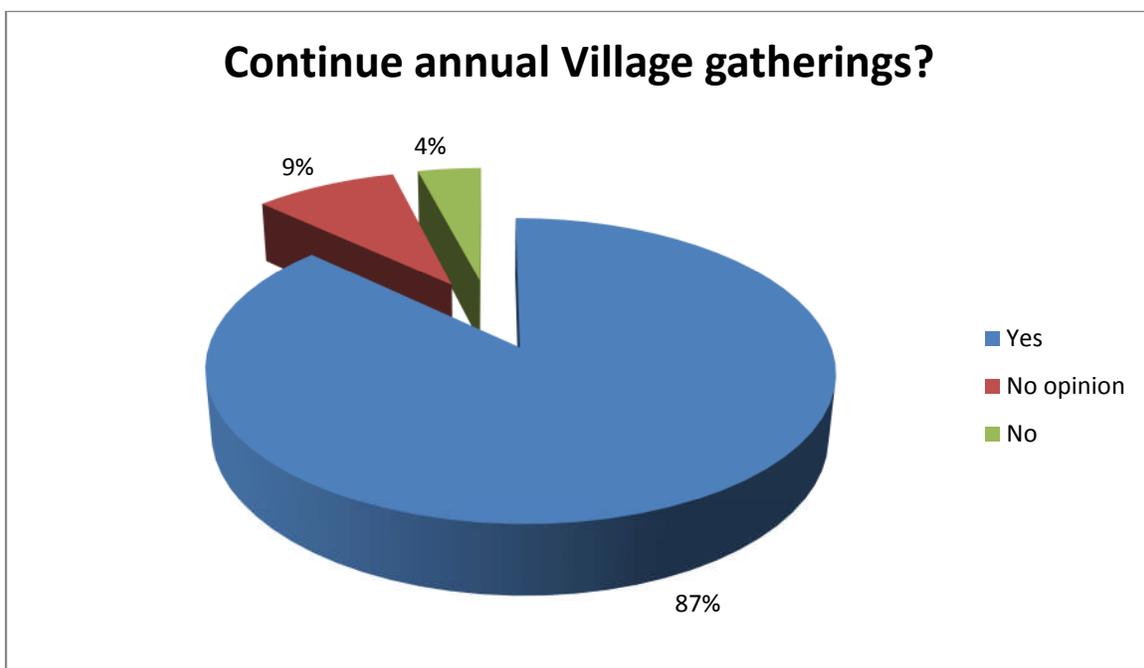
12) Large parcels of land known to many as the "Duda property" are now for sale. Portions were once in the Village were lost to deannexation some years ago. Should the Village Board seek to work with the buyer to re-annex the land into the Village, understanding that it is unlikely that much of the land will be developed as five-acre parcels?



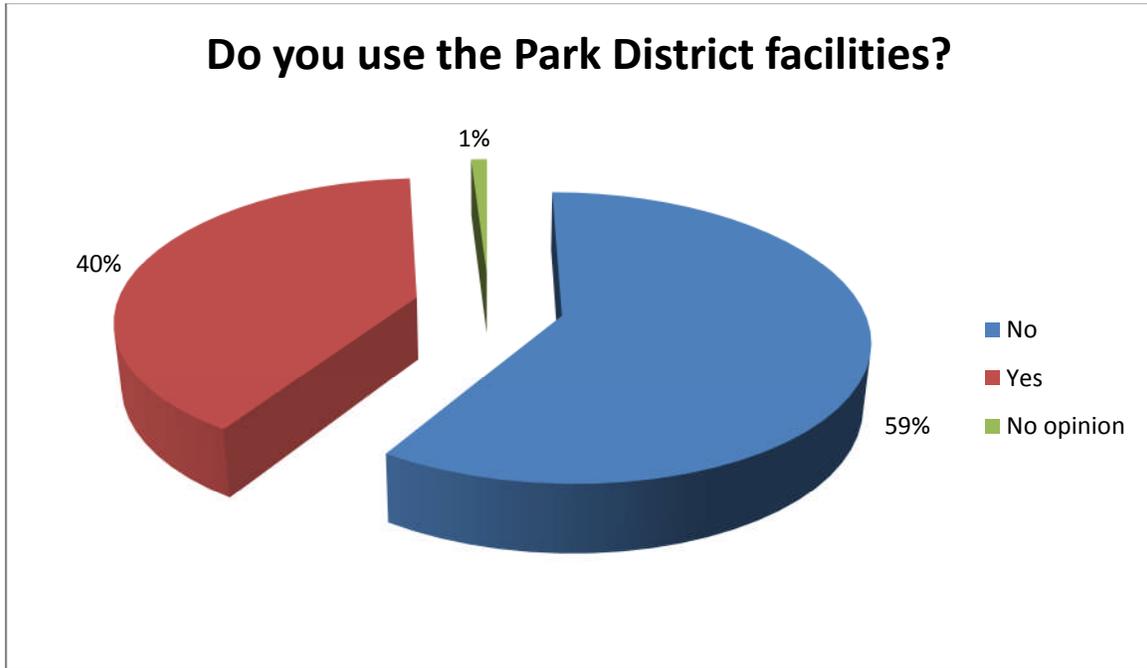
13) Our Village Board held its first “Town Hall” formatted meeting in October for the Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District to present and take questions from attendees. Do you think our board should expand on this and host future meetings where trustees present their “state of the Village” status reports and take questions directly from residents?



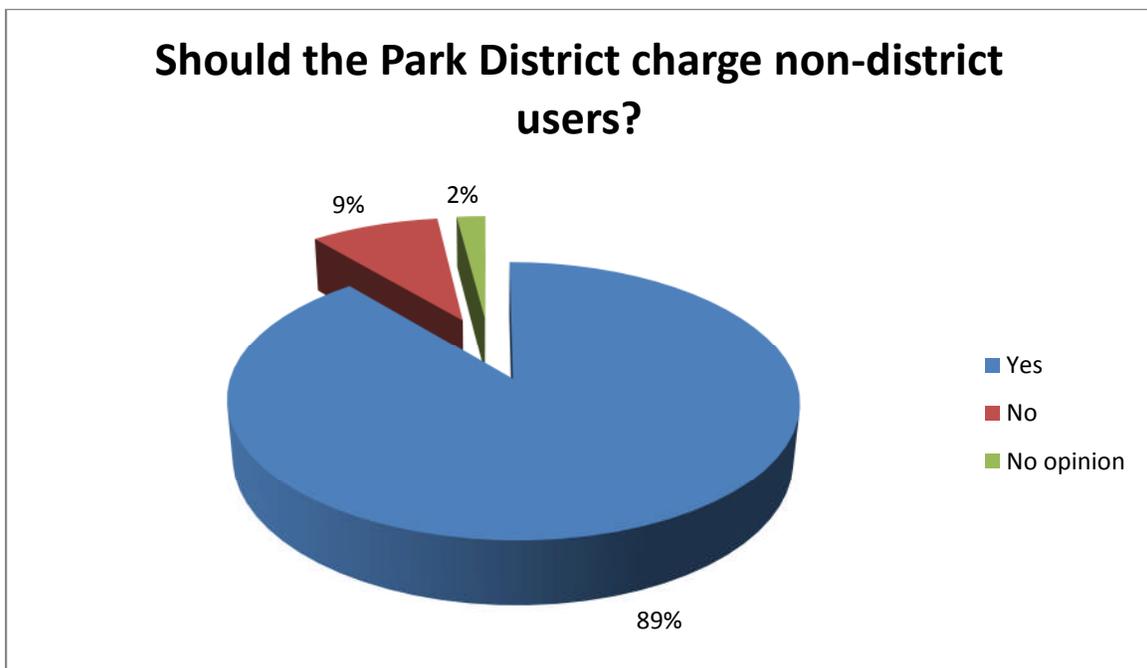
14) October’s inaugural “Hills are Alive Heritage Fest” drew a reported 800 attendees at the Barrington Hills Park District Riding Center. Through contributions and donations, the event was fully funded with no cost to taxpayers. Using this model and considering the success, do you think this should become a regular annual event?



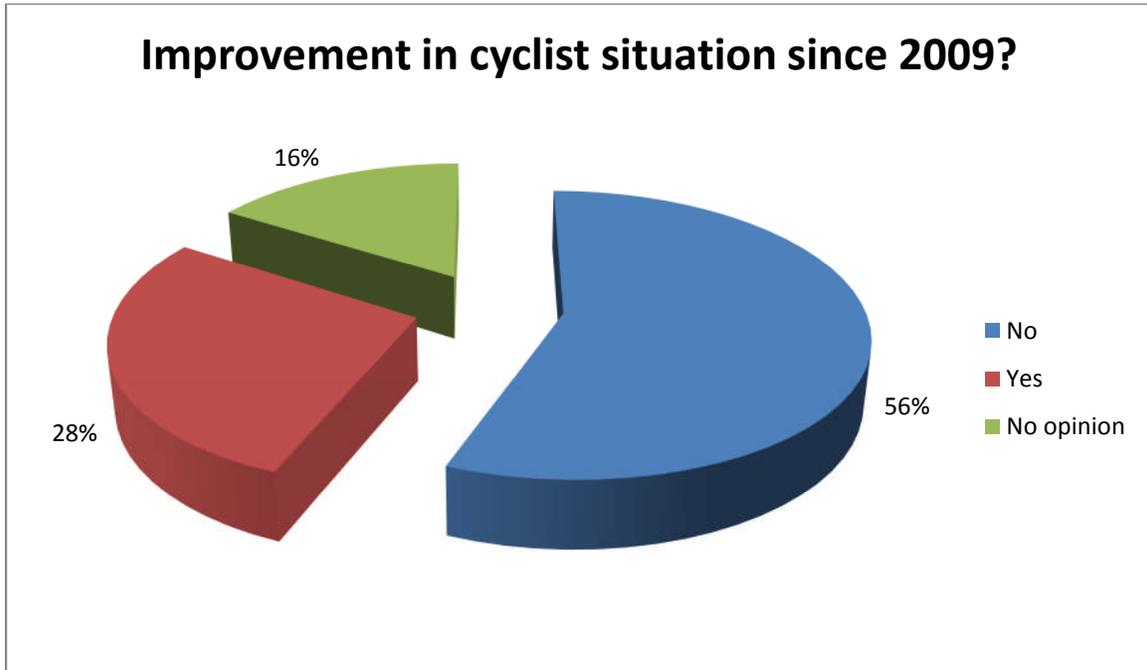
15) While we're on the subject, do you or anyone in your family use any of the facilities currently offered by the Barrington Hills Park District (i.e. the Riding Center or the Countryside Elementary based tennis courts and baseball field)?



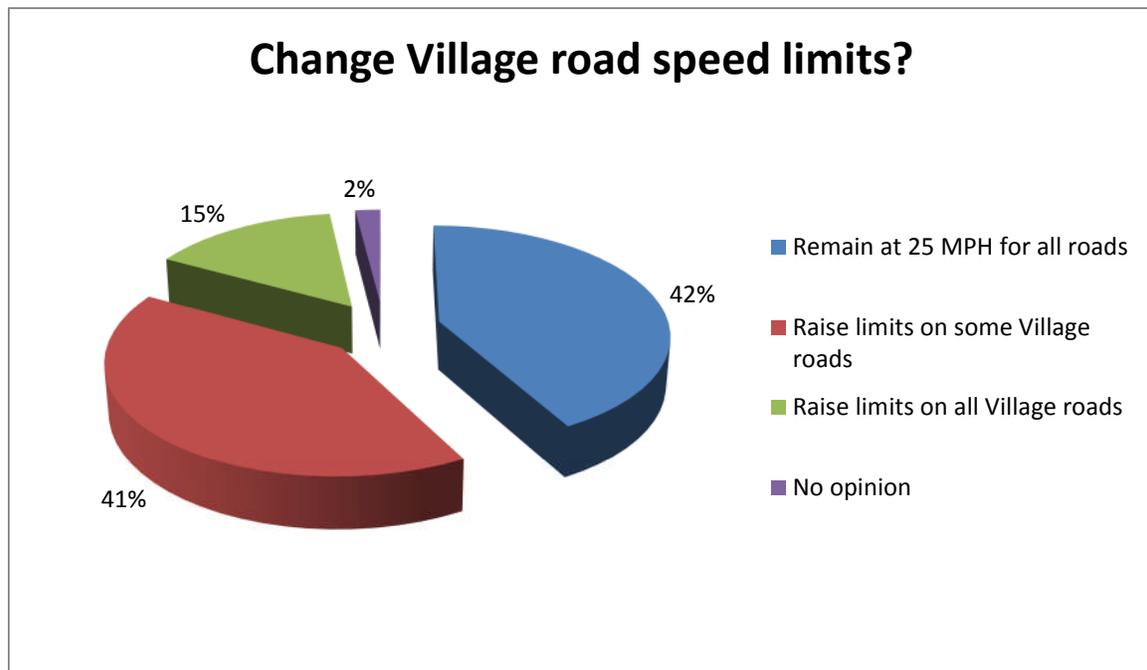
16) Unlike most municipal park districts, the Barrington Hills Park District does not charge "out of district" fees to non-residents who use the facilities, or to trainers who conduct private lessons there. These users who do not live in the district, but benefit from it, do not contribute taxes toward management and upkeep of the facilities. Do you think our Park District should charge non-residents and trainers to use the facilities to offset the property taxes paid by residents?



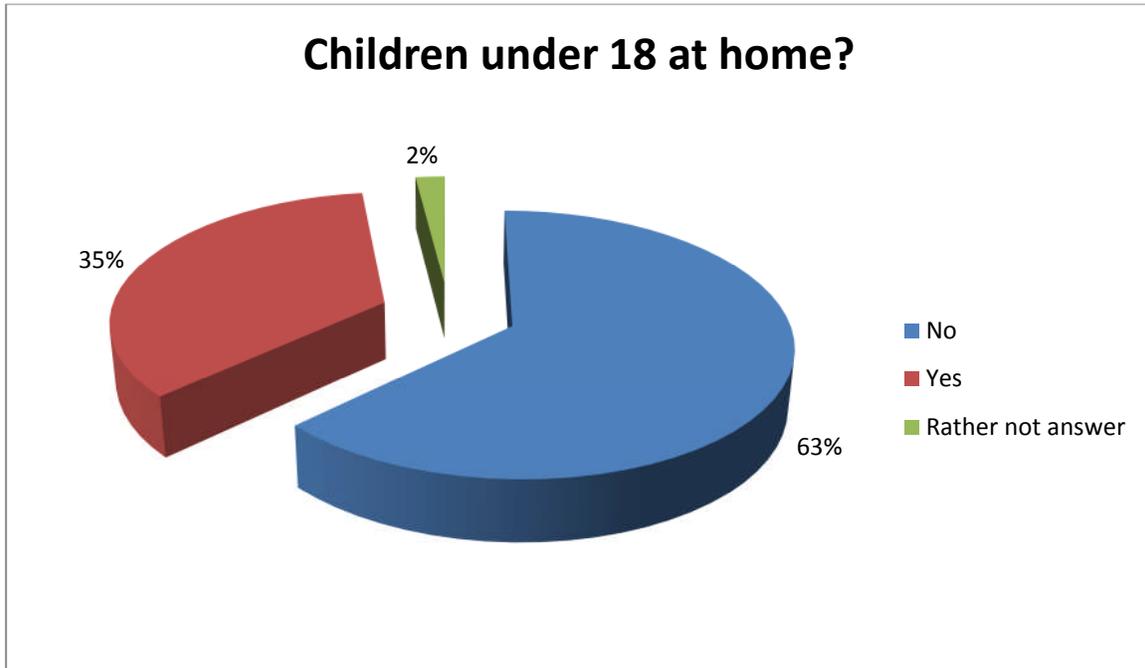
17) In 2009, our Village enacted two ordinances requiring bicyclists to ride in a single file on all Village roads, and to prohibit reckless riding behavior by cyclists. These codes are only enforceable on Village owned and maintained roads (not county or state roads). Have you noticed any improvements since these ordinances were enacted?



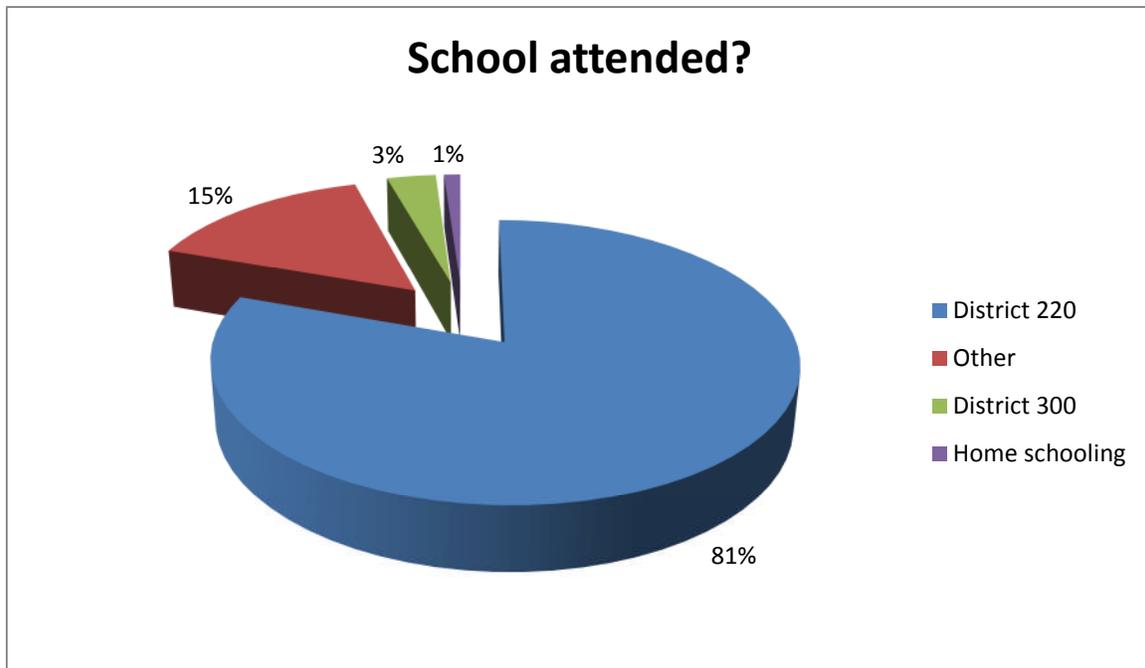
18) At various points in time, the Village reduced the speed limit on most Village roads to a consistent 25 MPH. Should the Village maintain this speed limit, or consider raising it?



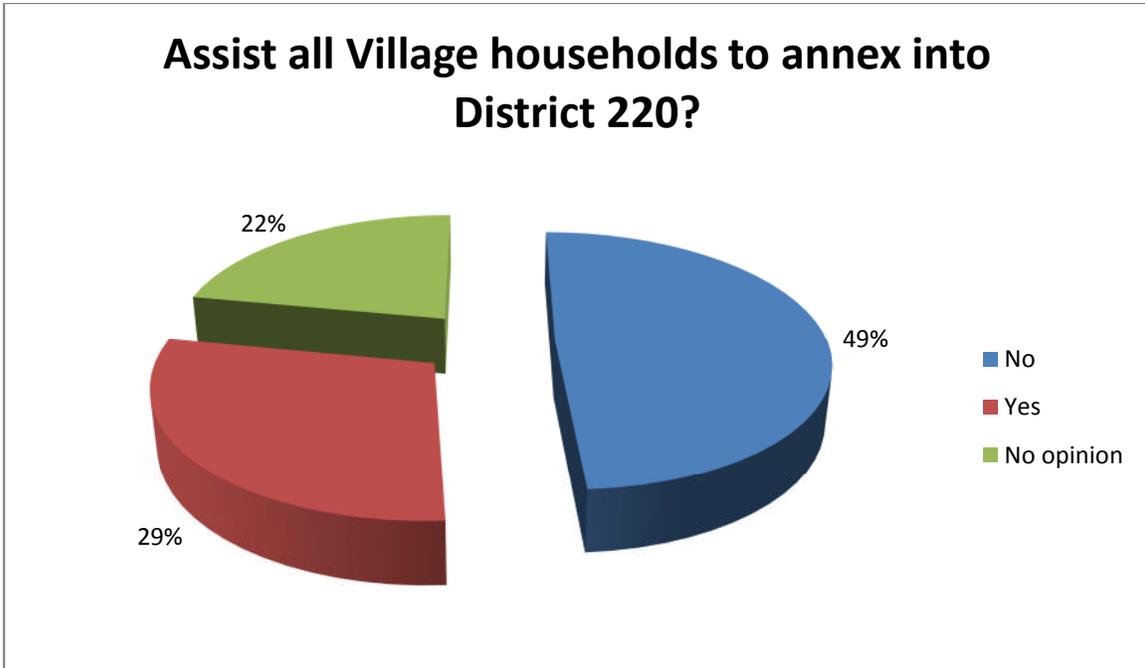
19) Do you have children under the age of eighteen living in your home?



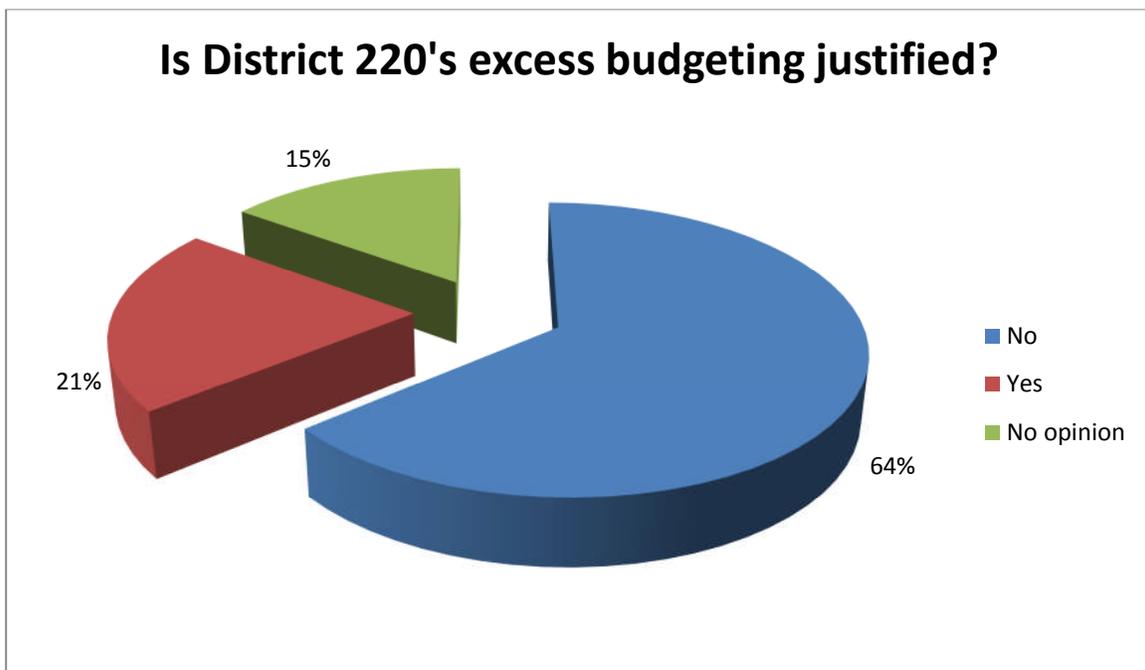
20) If you have, or had at one time, children under 18 living at home, where do/did they attend school?



21) At one time, the Village was attempting to assist households in District 300 to be annexed into the Barrington 220 school district, but that effort seemed to stop a few years ago. Do you believe the Village should reengage this effort, given the recent declines in 220 enrollments?



22) Barrington District 220's School Board recently approved a surplus budget for 2014 which provided for \$3M more in revenue than expenditures. D220 justifies this by saying that the excess funds in the reserve account will act as a safeguard in case of future decreases in funding. Do you think the District is justified in accumulating such a large budget year surplus given the comparatively vast reserves they already enjoy?



23) Thank you for taking the time to express your opinions! Do you have any comments that might better express your views on life in Barrington Hills that were not addressed in this survey? If so, please feel free to share your perspectives:

### Confidential comment participation

