

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The BESS Staythorpe Residents Action Group were concerned about the validity of the survey results publicised by Instinctif Partners on behalf of ECAP Renewables, because there is a very clear sense of feeling in the local villages, high attendance at resident's meetings discussing the proposal and a significant number of objections lodged with Newark and Sherwood District Council Planning Department
- 1.2. The Action Group chose to produce and distribute their own survey based on the Instinctif one to compare results. Without available resource to employ a PR consultancy the group chose to use the leading global survey platform, Survey Monkey, to generate a basic survey using exactly the same questions as Instinctif.
- 1.3. During the Covid-19 pandemic each of the three villages set up a WhatsApp group to provide a method of communication between villagers, provide help and support for each other such as collection/delivery of medication, shopping, walking dogs and providing general help where needed, sometimes just a joke or tale to lift the moods of those in isolation. The village WhatsApp groups proved a huge success and have continued to be a great source of communication across the parish and are very widely used. They are used to communicate events, lost and found, items for recycling, sharing photos and news.
- 1.4. The survey was produced using the same questions as the Instinctif Survey with one additional question asking if the respondent had been consulted as part of the door to door survey. The survey also captured a village location, postcode and house number as an optional field.
- 1.5. A link to the Survey Monkey survey was provided on the three individual village WhatsApp groups for Averham, Kelham and Staythorpe on 12th May 2023. The survey was closed 22nd May 2023 and results analysed.
- 1.6. Unlike the Instinctif survey extending its door to door survey to villages outside the parish namely Rolleston, Fiskerton and Upton, it was decided to keep our survey within the parish and ask the opinion of those closest to the proposed development who are most impacted by the proposal in an attempt to **optimise rather than maximise** response participation.
- 1.7. Not every respondent answered every question, therefore, percentage figures relate to the numbers who responded to each individual question, which varies. Detailed response numbers are provided in section 4 of this report.

2. Headline Feedback from the Residents Community Survey

- 2.1. A total of 96 parish residents participated in the survey and responded to the questions about the proposed Battery Energy Storage System, which we understand is a very good take-up level, especially given the survey did not incorporate villages further afield.
- 2.2. A majority **65% of respondents had not been contacted as part of the door to door survey** conducted by Instinctif on behalf of ECAP Renewables. Of the 35% that had been contacted, 11% chose not to engage with their survey. This suggests **only 24% of local residents closest and most impacted by the proposal took part in ECAP's door to door survey.**
- 2.3. All residents (100%) were aware of the proposals for the BESS Site.

- 2.4. There was a consensus in support of using more electricity from renewable sources with 57% agreeing, 25% disagreeing and 18% unsure.
- 2.5. Overall wind and solar were most popular forms of energy generation followed by tidal and nuclear. A number of respondents selected gas and commented that this would be in conjunction with carbon capture. No one selected Fracking and other comments included Hydro Electric and home generated solar.
- 2.6. A large majority of residents 92% said they were concerned about the impact of climate change.
- 2.7. Hardly surprising that 93% of residents had personally been impacted by rising energy costs
- 2.8. Remarkably there was an equal balance in numbers in support of the principal of Battery Energy Storage Systems to balance the grid with 38% neither agreeing nor disagreeing and 24% unsure.
- 2.9. The Instinctive survey included a question on the take up of community support funding to individual households in the three villages – we understand this is not a material consideration for planning department purposes, but chose to include this in our residents survey. **Only 38% (35 no) of respondents said they would accept the funding if the application were approved.**
- 2.10. **Overall 70% of residents stated they were against the proposals with 20% in support.**
- 2.11. There were 3% relatively supportive and 6% relatively against – this equates to **76% of residents against and 23% supportive of the proposals** with 1% having no strong feelings either way.
- 2.12. **The highest concerns for opposition focused on site selection and location being so close to residential properties, public rights of way, railway line and river along with the safety aspects of the technology malfunctioning and thermal runaway. Other repeatedly mentioned comments included the size of the development in relation to other similar sites, impacts on the rural community and the wider environment and wildlife. Emphasis was also placed on untested technology, noise impacts, flooding issues, lack of regulations and guidance, and use of agricultural land. Other comments referred to the cumulative effect of this and other proposed developments in the area.**
- 2.13. In general, support focused on achieving a sustainable future with renewable energy for a better environment and reduced effects of climate change. Comments were noted about decarbonising the grid and providing cheaper electricity. Some comments simply said nimbyism must stop and support for the community benefit payment.

3. The Approach to the Residents Survey

- 3.1 Using Instinctif's expertise in generating the initial door to door survey and based on available resource and capacity of the Residents Action Group it was decided the most effective way of communicating, gathering and understanding the views of our local community would be to use a globally well-known online platform, Survey Monkey and the well-used method of local communication, WhatsApp groups, to distribute the survey. We understand from a number of residents that the method of door to door survey was very leading with the brief information heavily weighted in favour of the development and some residents found it intimidating.
- 3.2 The **opportunity for respondents to remain 'anonymous'** by only noting their village location meant that the survey would be more likely to engage and record the views of the community as a whole regardless of how strongly they feel about the proposal. The results show a spread and those in support and against of the proposals felt secure to not indicate a location, simply give a village location or in some cases provide postcode and house number.

3.3 The Survey Monkey platform sends a thank you message when a survey is submitted and if the person attempts to complete again it displays a message to say, you have already completed this survey. It also records IP addresses of all respondents so we are able to ensure there were not multiple responses from the same households/individuals or any attempt to influence the results.

3.4 The local area selected for the survey was kept to the **local residential areas closest to the proposed development and are most impacted by the proposal to optimise rather than maximise** response participation. A map has been produced to show the areas responses were recorded

3.5 The survey included the following questions:

Q1. Were you approached by Instinctif on behalf of ECAP to take part in their door to door survey?

- Yes - responded to their survey questions
- Yes - but chose not to engage in their survey
- No
- Village (Postcode and House Number preferred but optional)

Q2. Are you aware of the proposal?

- Yes
- No

Q3. Do you support using more electricity from renewable sources in your local area?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

Q4. What is your preferred form of energy generation to ensure continuity of supply in times of system stress locally?

- Wind
- Solar
- Gas
- Nuclear
- Coal
- Biogas
- Fracking
- Hydrogen
- Tidal
- Other (please specify)

Q5. Are you concerned about the impact of climate change?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

Q6. Have you personally been impacted by rising energy costs?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

Q7 Given that renewable energy generation is intermittent, do you support the principle of Battery Energy Storage Systems to balance grid deployment?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

Q8. If the scheme is approved, would you accept the community support funding?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No
- Any other comments

Q8 From 1 to 5, how supportive are you of this proposed Battery energy storage system?

- Supportive
- Relatively supportive
- No strong feelings either way
- Relatively against
- Against
- What is the main reason for your views?

3.6 Unlike the door to door survey which was conducted during working hours on a Thursday and Friday the Survey Monkey survey was available for completion 24/7 and over a period of several days to capture those who may be at work or on holiday – 12th to 21st May.

3.7 Survey Monkey provided further detail to show:

- The typical time taken to complete the survey was 3 minutes and 44 seconds
- The most skipped question was Q4 skipped by 5 respondents and Q8 skipped by 4 respondents
- The first 63 responses were completed on the day the link was first shared 12/05/23, notably a number were completed on 19th May and again after a reminder the survey was closing on 21st May

3.8 In line with the comment from Instinctif that 103 respondents from a local area in a survey of this nature gives an accurate representation of very local views - we conclude that **96 respondents from a more local perspective gives a more accurate representation of very local views.**

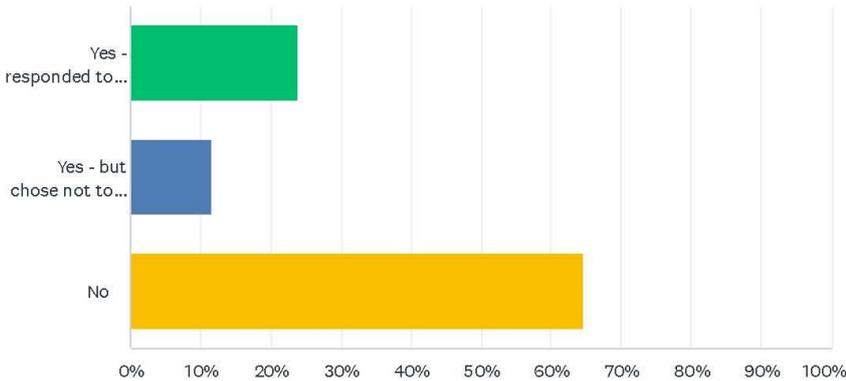
4 Results

Staythorpe Battery Energy Storage System Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q1 Were you approached by Instinctif on behalf of ECAP to take part in their door to door survey?

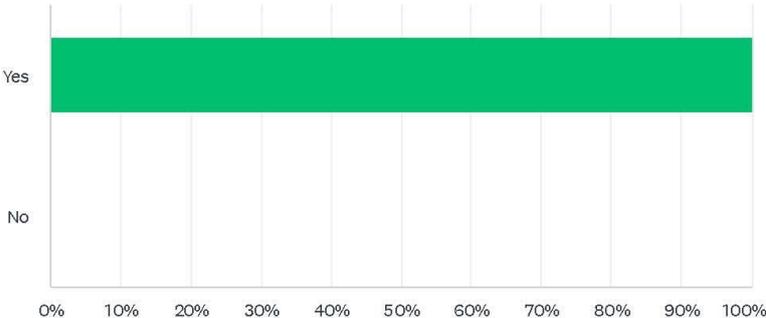
Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes - responded to their survey questions	23.96%	23
Yes - but chose not to engage in their survey	11.46%	11
No	64.58%	62
TOTAL		96

Q2 Are you aware of the proposal?

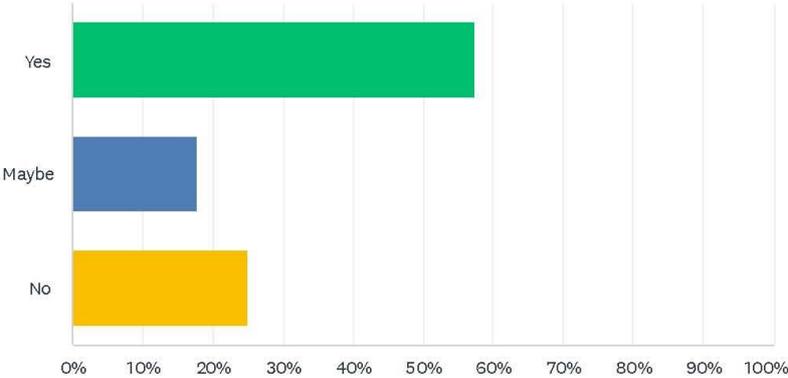
Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	100.00% 96
No	0.00% 0
TOTAL	96

Q3 Do you support using more electricity from renewable sources in your local area?

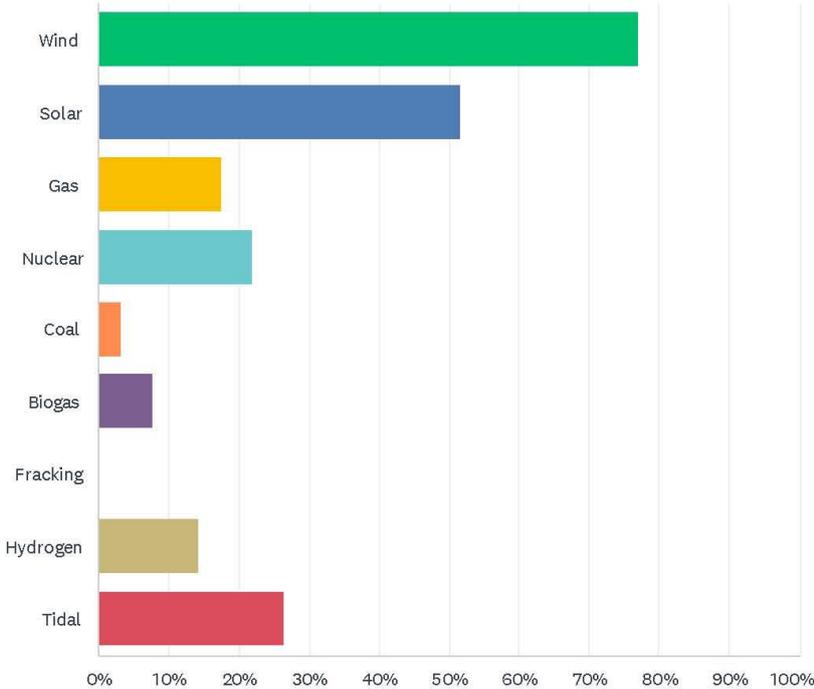
Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.29%	55
Maybe	17.71%	17
No	25.00%	24
TOTAL		96

Q4 What is your preferred form of energy generation to ensure continuity of supply in times of system stress locally?

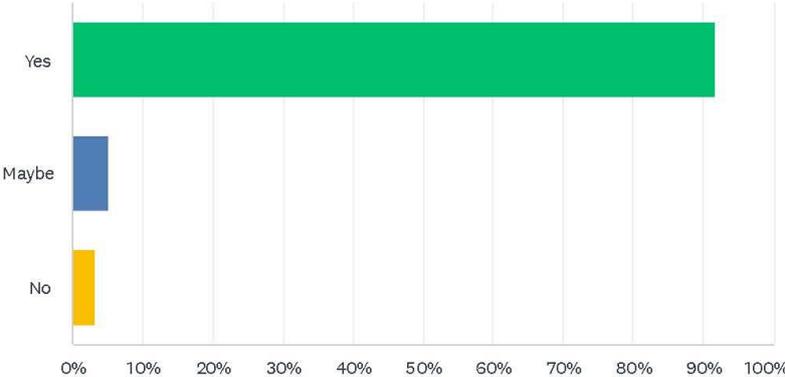
Answered: 91 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Wind	76.92% 70
Solar	51.65% 47
Gas	17.58% 16
Nuclear	21.98% 20
Coal	3.30% 3
Biogas	7.69% 7
Fracking	0.00% 0
Hydrogen	14.29% 13
Tidal	26.37% 24
Total Respondents: 91	

Q5 Are you concerned about the impact of climate change?

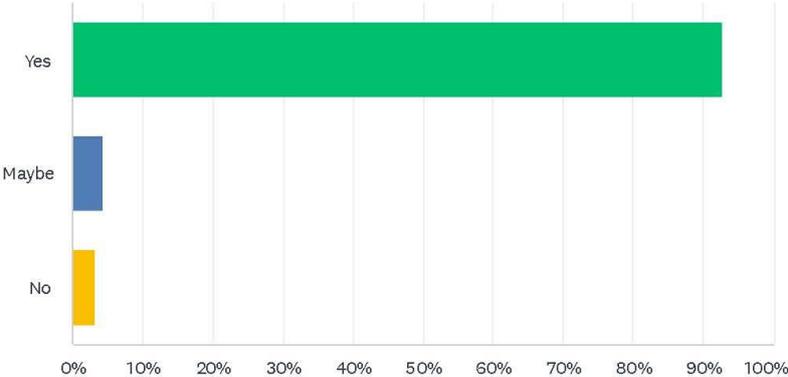
Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	91.67% 88
Maybe	5.21% 5
No	3.13% 3
TOTAL	96

Q6 Have you personally been impacted by rising energy costs?

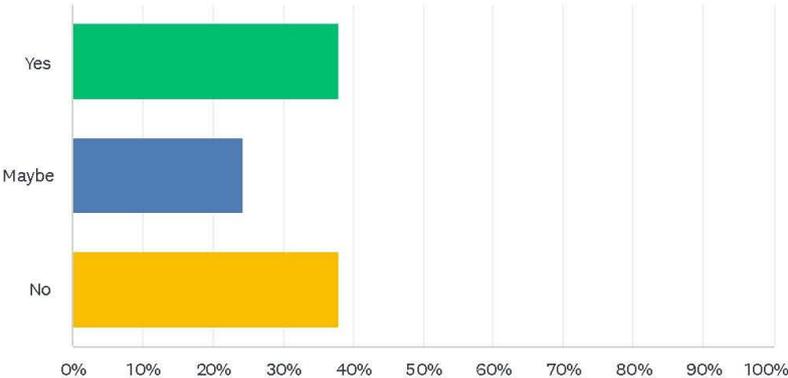
Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	92.71% 89
Maybe	4.17% 4
No	3.13% 3
TOTAL	96

Q7 Given that renewable energy generation is intermittent, do you support the principle of Battery Energy Storage Systems to balance grid deployment?

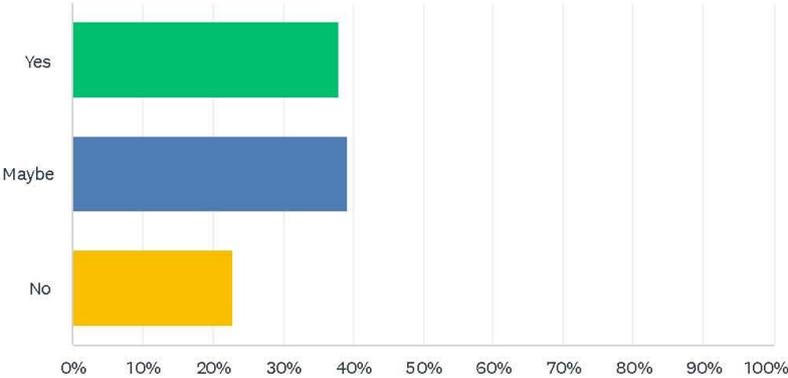
Answered: 95 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	37.89% 36
Maybe	24.21% 23
No	37.89% 36
TOTAL	95

Q8 If the scheme is approved, would you accept the community support funding?

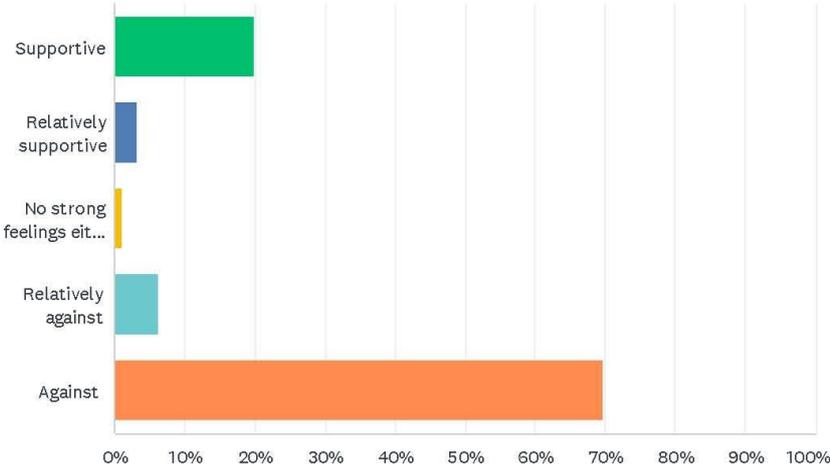
Answered: 92 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	38.04%	35
Maybe	39.13%	36
No	22.83%	21
TOTAL		92

Q9 From 1 to 5, how supportive are you of this proposed Battery energy storage system?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0

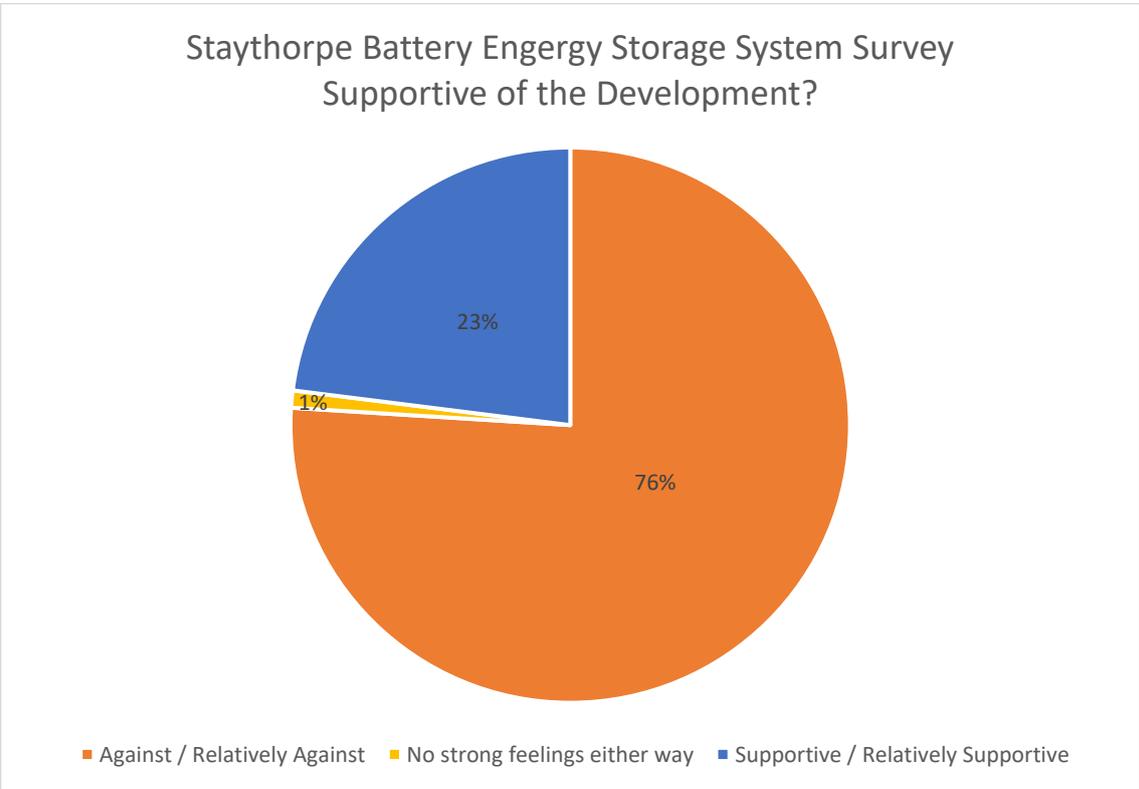
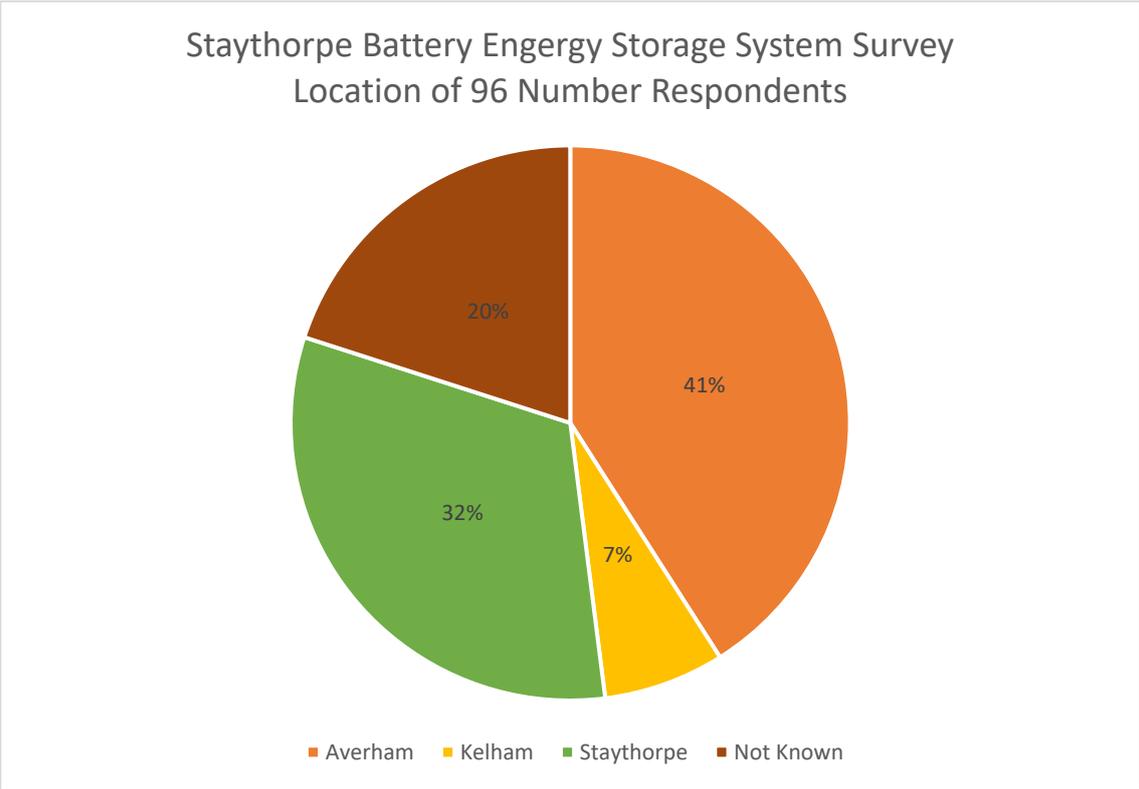


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Supportive	19.79% 19
Relatively supportive	3.13% 3
No strong feelings either way	1.04% 1
Relatively against	6.25% 6
Against	69.79% 67
TOTAL	96

5 Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1 A total of 96 residents participated in the survey and responded to the questions about the proposed Battery Energy Storage System, which we understand is a very good take-up level, especially given the survey did not incorporate villages further afield.
- 5.2 A large majority **65% of residents had not been contacted as part of the door to door survey** conducted by Instintif on behalf of ECAP Renewables. Of the 35% that had been contacted, 11% chose not to engage with their survey. This suggests **only 24% of local residents closest and most impacted by the proposal took part in ECAP's door to door survey.**
- 5.3 All residents (100%) were aware of the proposals for the BESS Site.
- 5.4 There was a consensus in support of using more electricity from renewable sources with 57% agreeing, 25% disagreeing and 18% unsure.
- 5.5 Overall wind and solar were most popular forms of energy generation followed by tidal and nuclear. A number of respondents selected gas and commented that this would be in conjunction with carbon capture. No one selected Fracking and other comments included Hydro Electric and home generated solar. It is important to note that this question allowed multiple options to be selected by the respondent.
- 5.6 A large majority of residents 92% said they were concerned about the impact of climate change.
- 5.7 Hardly surprising that 93% of residents had personally been impacted by rising energy costs
- 5.8 Remarkably there was an equal balance in numbers in support of the principal of Battery Energy Storage Systems to balance the grid with 38% neither agreeing nor disagreeing and 24% unsure.
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6 Survey Respondents



Grey area outlined in orange represents the proposed site location for the Battery Energy Storage Site
Red location symbols represent respondents who provided postcode and / or house number
Blue location symbols represent respondents who provided village name only
Note there were 18 respondents who chose not to give location details

