



Boralex

Survey of Residents of
Kirknewton and
West Calder & Harburn
Community Council Areas on
Revised Proposal for a
Wind Farm at Fauch Hill

Final Report

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SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

FACE-TO-FACE SURVEY

The face-to-face survey, which involved 877 interviews across the Kirknewton and West Calder & Harburn areas, shows substantial majority support for the proposition that society should move towards generating electricity from renewable sources of energy along with support in principle for the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource; a significant minority of people do indicate that they are undecided about these things, however.

Overall, 39% of face-to-face survey respondents indicated that they considered Fauch Hill to be an acceptable location for a wind farm compared to 10% that expressly disagreed (the balance giving a neutral or “don’t know” response). The pattern of responses was broadly similar in each of Kirknewton (42% yes, 12% no) and West Calder & Harburn (37% yes, 10% no).

A significant majority of face-to-face respondents also consider it important that the proposal would contribute to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets and that it would not require government subsidies.

Overall, 42% of face-to-face respondents either strongly supported or tended to support the proposal, with 15% strongly in support. 9% either strongly or tend to oppose the revised proposal. Support overall is marginally higher in Kirknewton (43% support, including 18% strongly support). A significant proportion of respondents either express a neutral view or say that they “don’t know”.

RESPONSES SUBMITTED AT PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

Amongst the 31 individuals that submitted responses at the public exhibitions hosted by Boralex, there is again substantial support for the view that society should move towards generating electricity from sustainable sources and for the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource; these respondents also consider it important that the proposal would contribute to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets and that it would not require government subsidies.

Overall, 45% of those attending the exhibitions felt that Fauch Hill was an acceptable location for a wind farm. This figure was significantly higher amongst those from Kirknewton (63%) and significantly lower amongst those from West Calder & Harburn (27%).

RESPONSES SUBMITTED AT PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS (CONTINUED)

Amongst those submitting responses at the exhibitions there were quite different views between those from Kirknewton (63% of whom either strongly supported the proposal or tended to do so) and people from West Calder & Harburn, for whom this figure was only 27%, with 47% indicating opposition to the proposal. Overall, 45% of those submitting responses at the exhibition indicated some measure of support for the proposal with 29% indicating some measure of opposition (the balance giving either a neutral or “don’t know” response).

ONLINE SURVEY

Amongst the 53 valid responses to the online survey received by the time the survey was closed on the morning of 6th March, there is again substantial support for the view that society should move towards generating electricity from sustainable sources but more limited (though still majority) support for the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource; only a minority of these respondents consider it important that the proposal would contribute to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets and that it would not require government subsidies.

Amongst online respondents specifically there is a high level of disagreement that Fauch Hill is an acceptable location for a wind farm. This is particularly so amongst those online survey respondents identified as being from West Calder & Harburn, 100% of whom consider that Fauch Hill is not an acceptable location for a wind farm (the figure amongst Kirknewton respondents to the online survey is 78%). The results of the online survey are also quite distinct from the face-to-face survey in so far as a significant majority oppose the proposal. This is the case both amongst Kirknewton respondents (78% oppose) and West Calder & Harburn (100% oppose, including 95% that strongly oppose).

COMMENTS ON SUITABILITY OF LOCATION

Across the different strands of data gathering, the most common reasons given for believing Fauch Hill to be a suitable location were: that the proposed location was sufficiently remote and away from built up areas; general support for renewable energy; a perception that there would be a community benefit payback; and, an expectation that this would be an effective location for a wind farm. A range of other reasons were mentioned less commonly, relating to issues such as: limited impact on the individual; employment impact; positive views on the appearance of wind farms; the smaller scale of this proposal compared to that put forward previously; and, the presence of existing wind farms in the area.

COMMENTS ON SUITABILITY OF LOCATION (CONTINUED)

Amongst those that did not consider Fauch Hill to be a suitable location, the most common classifiable comments related to a perceived negative impact on landscape / views / countryside - these comments relating specifically to visual impact. Other comments were quite diverse and related to issues such as: a preference for alternative locations; a preference for alternative forms of renewable energy; impact on wildlife; noise concerns; specific comments on proximity to the regional park; perceived cost of energy from wind farms; a view that wind energy was inefficient; and, concerns over traffic generated.

Two broad themes emerge from the analysis of comments from the “undecided” group. The first relates to individuals that in some fashion do not believe they know enough to form a view (this is articulated in different ways; sometimes as a general lack of information on the issue, sometimes as a lack of knowledge of the specific location and sometimes as an expressed desire for more information about the proposal). The second broad theme relates to the concerns that people express regarding issues such as: visual impact and the number of wind farms; the effectiveness of wind energy; and, concerns over wildlife. As this is the “undecided” group, then implicitly they would wish to see such concerns addressed before they were to consider the site as an acceptable one for a wind farm.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PROPERTIES WITHIN 4KM OF SITE

Across the three strands of data gathering, IBP have identified responses from 25 individuals that live within 4km of the proposed development. The views of this group are quite distinct from those of others that responded.

Overall, support for the proposal amongst those living within 4km of the site is 12% (4% strongly support and 8% tend to support); this compares to 72% that express opposition of whom 64% “strongly oppose”. This varies significantly from the views of others, where 41% support to some degree and 12% oppose to some degree.

1.0 BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Boralex is a Canadian-listed renewable energy developer and operator, with extensive operations in Canada and France.
- 1.2 It acquired the wind farm rights at Fauch Hill in the autumn of 2016 and is proposing a new wind farm project at Fauch Hill, which would be its first investment in Scotland.
- 1.3 The new proposal is reduced in scope from a proposal that was previously put forward for this site, which went to Public Local Inquiry in 2013, and was subsequently turned down.
- 1.4 The key elements of the new proposal include:
 - 12 turbines (compared to 23 in the initial proposal)
 - Total generating capacity of 39.6 to 43.2MW (compared to 69MW in the original proposal)
 - A site area of 173 hectares (compared to 439 hectares in the original proposal)
 - A project lifetime of 25 years.

Boralex have identified 39 houses within 3km of the proposed development.

- 1.5 The proposed site straddles the community council areas of Kirknewton and West Calder & Harburn. As one element of its engagement with local communities relating to this new proposal, Boralex commissioned IBP Strategy & Research to undertake a survey of the views of local people, focused particularly on the two community council areas.

OBJECTIVES

1.6 The specific issues investigated were:

- General views as to the need or otherwise for society to move towards generating electricity from renewable sources of energy.
- Support or opposition, in principle, to the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource.
- Acceptability of Fauch Hill as a location for a wind farm, and reasons for this.
- Importance, or otherwise, of aspects of the proposal including its contribution to the Scottish Government's green targets and the lack of need for government subsidies for the project.
- Overall support or opposition to this revised proposal, and reasons for this.

The survey questionnaire is included as Appendix 1.^{1 2}

METHODOLOGY

1.7 There were three elements to the data gathering process:

- A face-to-face survey of residents across the community council areas.
- The opportunity to complete a hard copy self-completion questionnaire at public exhibitions hosted by Boralex on Thursday 2nd February (Kirknewton) and Friday 3rd February (West Calder).
- Through an online survey hosted by IBP, with local stakeholders such as the community councils and local Development Trusts promoting the availability of this.

¹ Slightly different formulations of the survey were required for the different strands of data gathering but the wording of the questions on which this report is based did not change, so only the questionnaire from the face-to-face survey, which was greatest in scope, has been included here.

² Appendices are provided under separate cover.

Residents were asked to participate in only one of these options as the content of each was the same. Addresses were also requested and IBP have checked for duplicates. Any such duplicates, or cases where no address was provided, have been edited out of the data set.

- 1.8 Fieldwork for the face-to-face survey took place between Monday 6th February and Thursday 16th February 2017. IBP interviewers sought to cover as wide a range of properties as possible across the community council areas with the aim of securing a level of response that would lead to a confidence interval of +/-4% within each community council area. Such attempts were made across the urban and rural parts of the community council areas and specific attempts were made to contact all properties within 4km of the proposed site.
- 1.9 For the purposes of this research, we have assumed the adult population of the Kirknewton community council area to be 1,900 (this taken from Community Development Trust Association information on the DTAS website); the number of households is obviously lower than this. The target was to achieve a confidence interval of +/- 4% for the face-to-face survey.³ This would have equated to 456 completed interviews. In total, 366 interviews were completed over the fieldwork period. The initial target of 456 could not be achieved due to a combination of factors including: limited number of households with, in most cases, only one interview being completed per household; people having already completed the survey online or at the exhibitions (or having claimed to do so); and, a number of homes having notices indicating that callers were not welcome (IBP's interviewers were instructed not to make contact in these circumstances).

The achieved sample of 366 is still a substantial one. A random sample of 366 from an adult population of 1,900 provides a confidence interval of +/- 4.6% on this basis.

- 1.10 The adult population of the West Calder & Harburn community council area is assumed at 3,296 (this figure was sourced from the West Calder & Harburn Community Plan). The target was, again, to achieve a confidence interval of +/- 4%, which required a total of 508 interviews. This target was achieved, with a total of 511 interviews being secured, providing a confidence interval of +/- 3.99%.

³ Based on a 50% estimate and a 95% confidence level

- 1.11 16 valid hard copy responses were submitted at the public exhibition in Kirknewton on Thursday 2nd February and 15 such responses at the public exhibition in West Calder on Friday 3rd February.⁴
- 1.12 53 valid responses were received to the online survey and these responses have been analysed within this report, again broken down into the two community council areas. The online survey remains open and subsequent responses will be accounted for in an updated version of this report.⁵
- 1.13 The remainder of the report is structured as follows:
- The results of the face-to-face survey are detailed in Section 2. Results are provided for the whole sample and are broken down by community council area.
 - The results from the responses at the exhibitions are set out in Section 3, again broken down by community council area.
 - The results of the online survey to date are set out in Section 4, once again broken down by community council area.
 - Section 5 separately identifies interviews and other submissions from residents living within 4km of the site and compares these to the results across the different strands of data gathering from respondents living further afield.

⁴ In two cases at the West Calder & Harburn event, those submitting either did not provide an address or gave an address outwith the community council areas. We have, however, included these responses given the face-to-face nature of the exhibitions.

⁵ Responses without any contact information or which duplicate responses from other strands of the consultation have been excluded from the analysis of the online survey.

- 1.14 A full breakdown of responses for each strand of data gathering by area, gender, age and working status is included as appendices 2 to 4. Where open-ended responses were provided, IBP has coded these into common categories and have commented on the themes that emerge in the main body of the text. A full listing of these comments is included as Appendices 5 to 7, for each separate strand of data gathering.

2.0 FACE-TO-FACE SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 There were 877 valid responses to the face-to-face survey; 366 from Kirknewton and 511 from West Calder & Harburn.

2.2 The age profile of respondents is tabulated below:

Table 2.1: Age Profile

Age	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
16-29	12%	5%	8%
30-39	13%	16%	15%
40-49	21%	19%	20%
50-65	28%	32%	30%
Over 65	26%	28%	27%
Base	356	507	863⁶

The age profile of respondents to the consultation is a relatively mature one, with 57% of respondents overall (54% in Kirknewton and 60% in West Calder & Harburn) aged 50+.

2.3 The profile of respondents by working status was as set out over the page:

⁶ Occasionally, respondents may not have answered all questions so the base numbers quoted may be slightly lower than the total number of respondents.

Table 2.1: Working Status Profile

Age	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Employed full-time	39%	31%	34%
Employed part-time	10%	9%	10%
Self-employed	4%	5%	5%
In education or government training	6%	2%	4%
Unemployed	2%	5%	4%
Long-term sick / disabled	2%	3%	3%
Looking after family / home	6%	9%	8%
Retired	30%	35%	33%
Base	362	511	873

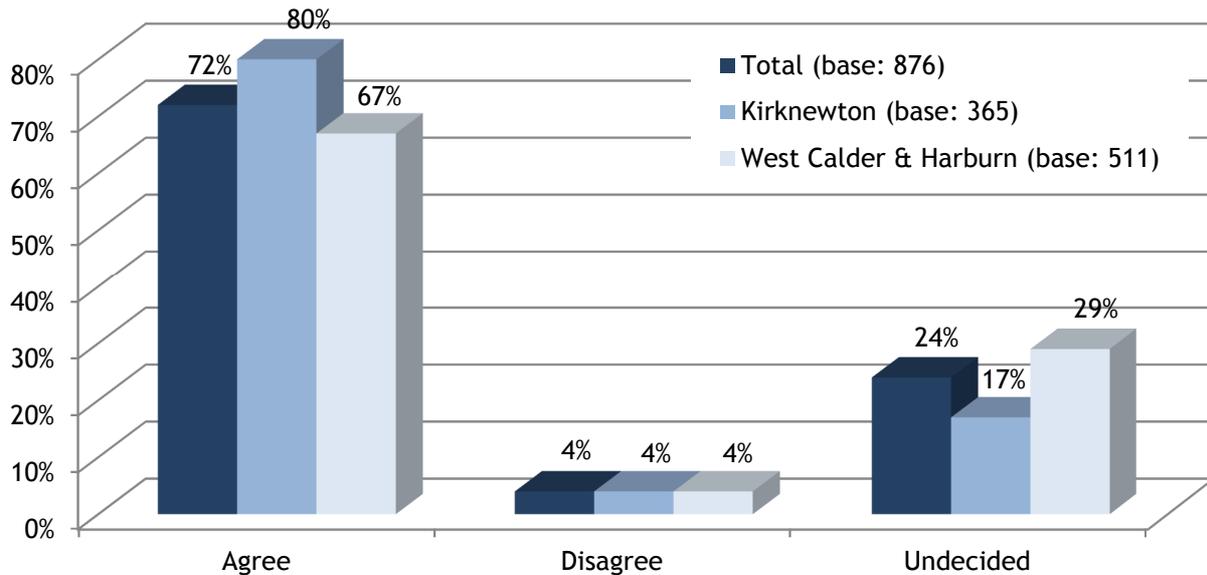
The working status profile was broadly similar in each community council area, with the sample in each area featuring a substantial proportion of employed people and a substantial proportion of retired people. Kirknewton had a slightly higher proportion of the former, and a slightly lower proportion of the latter, than West Calder & Harburn.

- 2.4 The data tables contained in Appendix 2 break down the results for this strand of data gathering by community council area and by each of these demographic criteria.

2.5 Face-to-face survey respondents’ agreement or disagreement with the proposition that society in general needs to move towards generating electricity from renewable forms of energy is summarised in Figure 2.1:

Figure 2.1: Generating Electricity from Renewable Forms of Energy

Would you agree or disagree that, as a society, we need to move towards generating electricity from renewable forms of energy?

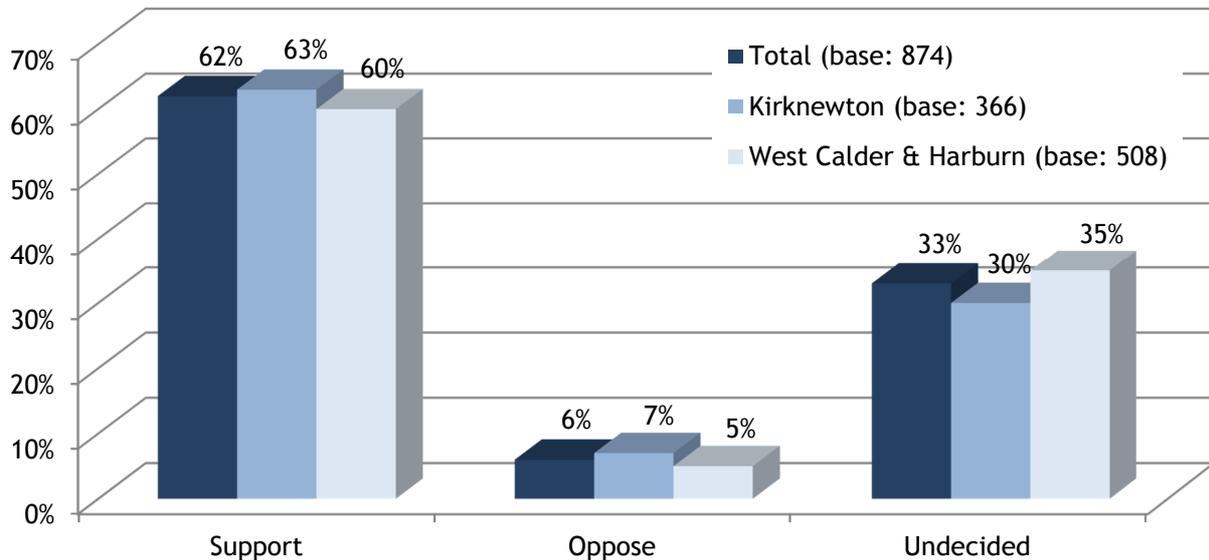


There is substantial majority support with this proposition, with 72% agreeing and 4% disagreeing. The level of agreement was somewhat lower in West Calder & Harburn due to a higher proportion of “undecided” responses.

2.6 Face-to-face survey respondents’ were then asked whether they supported or opposed the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource. The results of this question are set out in Figure 2.2 over the page:

Figure 2.2: Onshore Wind Power as a Renewable Energy Resource

In principle, do you support or oppose the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource?

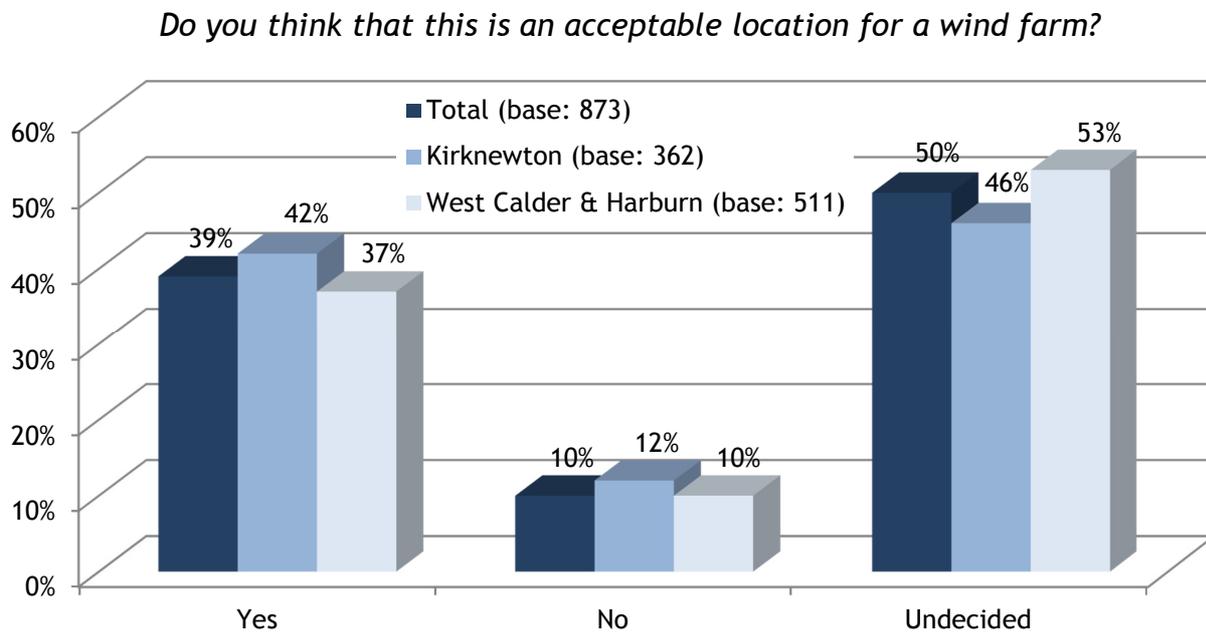


Support for this proposition is slightly lower at 62% overall (63% in Kirknewton and 60% in West Calder & Harburn). Levels of outright opposition to onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource are low (6% overall) but a substantial proportion of 33% overall (30% in Kirknewton and 35% in West Calder & Harburn) indicate that they are undecided about this proposition.

2.7 At this stage of the interview, respondents were advised that the project being put forward by Boralex was at Fauch Hill and were provided with a map to indicate the location where required. It was noted that the new project was reduced in scope from the previous project put forward for this site, which went to Public Inquiry in 2013.

Respondents were then asked whether they considered this to be an acceptable location for a wind farm. The results of this question are summarised in Figure 2.3 over the page:

Figure 2.3: Acceptability of Location as a Wind Farm



Overall, 39% of the sample indicated that they considered this to be an acceptable location for a wind farm compared to 10% that expressly disagreed. The pattern of responses was broadly similar in each of Kirknewton (42% yes, 12% no) and West Calder & Harburn (37% yes, 10% no). As with the previous questions, a slightly higher “undecided” response was apparent in West Calder & Harburn.

2.8 Respondents were then asked to give brief reasons for their answers.⁷ IBP have coded each individual response to common themes and have summarised the frequency with which each theme arose in the comments, breaking this down into each of “Yes”, “No” and “Undecided” answers. It should be noted that each individual response could be coded to more than one theme so the responses can add to greater than 100%.

⁷ It was optional for respondents to do so and interviewers were asked to exclude general “don’t know” or “no opinion” comments.

2.9 Responses are coded firstly for those that considered Fauch Hill to be an acceptable location for a wind farm in Table 2.3:⁸

Table 2.3: Comments on Fauch Hill as Acceptable Location (Yes)

Theme	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Area seen as sufficiently remote / away from built up areas	34%	29%	31%
Perception of other community benefit	5%	22%	15%
General support for renewable energy	8%	20%	15%
Area expected to have good wind resource	16%	9%	12%
Individual not affected / has no problems with proposal	12%	3%	7%
Positive view of employment impact	3%	6%	5%
Positive views on appearance of wind farms	7%	-	3%
Positive views on smaller scale compared to previous proposal	2%	4%	3%
Wind farms already in area	4%	1%	2%
General positive comment (not allocated to other themes)	17%	14%	15%
Base	102	138	240

The most common reasons given amongst those that supported the proposal were: that the proposed location was sufficiently remote and way from built up areas; general support for renewable energy; a perception that there would be a community benefit payback; and, an expectation that this would be an effective location for a wind farm. As shown in Table 2.3, a range of other reasons were also given relating to issues such as: limited impact on the individual; employment impact; positive views on the appearance of wind farms; the smaller scale of this proposal compared to that put forward previously; and, the presence of existing wind farms in the area.

⁸ It should be stressed that the % figures relate to a % of comments rather than a % of respondents

There were also some comments of a generally positive nature that could not be easily categorised within one of the above categories.

- 2.10 IBP’s coding of responses from those that did **not** consider Fauch Hill to be an acceptable location for a wind farm is set out in Table 2.4 below:

Table 2.4: Comments on Fauch Hill as Acceptable Location (No)

Theme	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Negative impact on landscape / views / countryside	50%	64%	58%
Preference for alternative location	9%	9%	9%
Preference for alternative forms of renewable energy	13%	4%	8%
Impact on wildlife	6%	9%	8%
Noise concerns	9%	2%	5%
Specific reference to being in, or close to, regional park	6%	0%	3%
Seen as expensive / having a negative impact on energy costs	2%	1%	3%
Seen as inefficient means of generating energy	3%	0%	1%
Traffic generated	0%	2%	1%
General negative comment (not allocated to other themes)	13%	23%	19%
Base	32	47	79

By some distance, the most common classifiable comments related to a perceived negative impact on landscape / views / countryside - these comments relating specifically to visual impact. Other comments were quite diverse and related to issues such as: a preference for alternative locations⁹; a preference for alternative forms of renewable energy; impact on wildlife; noise concerns; specific comments on proximity to the regional park; perceived cost of energy from wind farms; a view that wind energy was inefficient; and, concerns over traffic generated. This was in addition to negative comments of a general nature that could not be classified to any of these headings.

- 2.11 Responses amongst those that indicated that they were undecided about Fauch Hill as an acceptable location for a wind farm have also been coded to common categories, as set out in Table 2.5 below:

Table 2.5: Comments on Fauch Hill as Acceptable Location (Undecided)

Theme	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Don't know enough about issue	40%	22%	29%
Don't know specific location	12%	11%	11%
Concerns over visual impact	7%	14%	11%
Requirement for additional information in order to make decision	7%	13%	10%
Uncertainty about effectiveness of wind farms as energy source	2%	9%	7%
Concerns over too many wind farms	5%	5%	5%
Concerns over wildlife	2%	2%	2%
General neutral comment (not allocated to other themes)	26%	30%	28%
Base	42	64	106

⁹ Specific locations were not typically given

Two broad themes emerge from this analysis of comments from the “undecided” group. The first relates to individuals that in some fashion do not believe they know enough to form a view (this is articulated in different ways; sometimes as a general lack of information on the issue, sometimes as a lack of knowledge of the specific location and sometimes as an expressed desire for more information about the proposal).

The second broad theme relates to the concerns that people express, regarding issues such as: visual impact and the number of wind farms; the effectiveness of wind energy; and, concerns over wildlife. As this is the “undecided” group, then implicitly they would wish to see such concerns addressed before they were to consider the site as an acceptable one for a wind farm.

Again, a number of comments of a general nature were made, which could not be classified into any of these categories.

- 2.12 Respondents were then asked as to the importance or otherwise of certain elements of Boralex’s proposal: specifically, that the project would contribute to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets and that it would not require government subsidies.
- 2.13 The perceived importance of the proposal contributing to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets is illustrated in Table 2.6:

Table 2.6: Contribution to Green Energy Targets

That the revised Wind Farm proposal will contribute to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets

Response	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Very important	28%	34%	32%
Quite important	50%	39%	44%
Not very important	15%	22%	19%
Not at all important	6%	4%	5%
Base	363	509	872

76% of respondents overall saw the contribution to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets as being of importance (78% in Kirknewton and 73% in West Calder & Harburn).

2.14 The perceived importance of the proposal not receiving government subsidies is illustrated in Table 2.7:

Table 2.7: Not Receiving Government Subsidies

That the revised Wind Farm proposal will not receive government subsidies

Response	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Very important	29%	45%	38%
Quite important	47%	35%	40%
Not very important	17%	16%	17%
Not at all important	7%	4%	5%
Base	359	508	867

78% of respondents overall saw the proposal not receiving government subsidies as being of importance (76% in Kirknewton and 80% in West Calder & Harburn).

2.15 Respondents were then asked as to their views in relation to support or opposition to the revised proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm. The results are summarised in Table 2.8:

Table 2.8: Views on Revised Proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm

Overall, to what extent would you say that you support or oppose the revised proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm

Response	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Strongly Support	18%	12%	15%
Tend to Support	25%	28%	27%
Neither Support nor Oppose	34%	38%	37%
Tend to Oppose	4%	6%	5%
Strongly Oppose	5%	4%	4%
Don't Know	13%	13%	13%
Base	358	511	869

Overall, 42% of respondents either strongly supported or tended to support the proposal, with 15% strongly in support. 9% either strongly or tend to oppose the revised proposal. Support overall is marginally higher in Kirknewton (43% support, including 18% strongly support). Approximately half of respondents overall either express a neutral view or say that they “don’t know”.

- 2.16 Finally, comments were invited on any aspects of the revised proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm. Again, these comments have been coded into common themes by IBP, as set out in Table 2.9:

Table 2.9: Further Comments on Revised Proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm

Theme	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Comments in support of proposal	36%	36%	36%
Comments in support of green / renewable energy	21%	10%	15%
Comments against the proposal	10%	20%	15%
Undecided or need further information	20%	17%	15%
Desire for community benefit	5%	16%	11%
General support subject to conditions	7%	1%	4%
Preference for alternative location	2%	0%	1%
Scepticism as to consultation / whether community will be listened to	2%	0%	1%
Base	61	70	131

The most common additional comments at this stage were general summative comments in support of the proposal, with a number of general comments in support of green / renewable energy also being made. A significant proportion of general comments against the proposal were made with a similar proportion of people indicating that they were undecided or needed further information.

A number of comments related to a desire for the wider community to benefit from the proposal or indicated support subject to their concerns being overcome. Occasional comments also set out a preference for another (though generally unspecified) location or expressed some scepticism as to the genuineness of the consultation.

- 2.17 As noted previously, a full listing of the comments upon which the coding of open-ended responses to the face-to-face survey is based are set out in Appendix 5.

3.0 RESPONSES SUBMITTED AT PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

- 3.1 There were 31 valid responses submitted at the public exhibitions; 16 of these responses were from Kirknewton residents and 15 from West Calder & Harburn residents.
- 3.2 The age profile of respondents is tabulated below. This information is provided for reasons of completeness as the sample size for this specific strand of data gathering is not expected to be statistically representative.

Table 3.1: Age Profile

Age	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
16-29	6%	0%	3%
30-39	6%	7%	6%
40-49	19%	7%	13%
50-65	25%	20%	23%
Over 65	38%	67%	52%
Information not provided	6%	0%	3%
Base	16	15	31

- 3.3 The profile of respondents by working status was as set out in Table 3.2 over the page. Again, this information is provided for reasons of completeness.

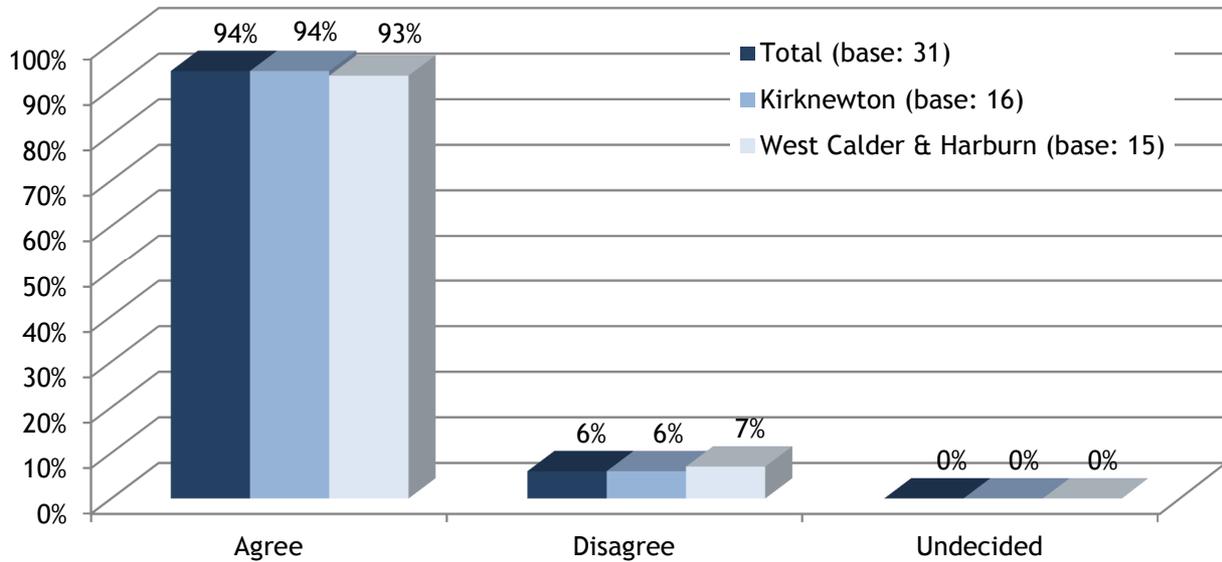
Table 3.2: Working Status Profile

Age	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Employed full-time	25%	20%	23%
Employed part-time	6%	13%	10%
Self-employed	19%	7%	13%
In education or government training	-	-	-
Unemployed	-	-	-
Long-term sick / disabled	-	-	-
Looking after family / home	0%	7%	3%
Retired	38%	53%	45%
Other	6%	0%	3%
Base	16	15	31

- 3.4 The data tables contained in Appendix 3 break down the results for this strand of data gathering by community council area and by each of these demographic criteria. Given the very small base number of responses, these breakdowns are provided only for reasons of completeness.
- 3.5 Agreement or disagreement with the proposition that society in general needs to move towards generating electricity from renewable forms of energy amongst those submitting responses at the public exhibitions is summarised in Figure 3.1 over the page.

Figure 3.1: Generating Electricity from Renewable Forms of Energy

Would you agree or disagree that, as a society, we need to move towards generating electricity from renewable forms of energy?

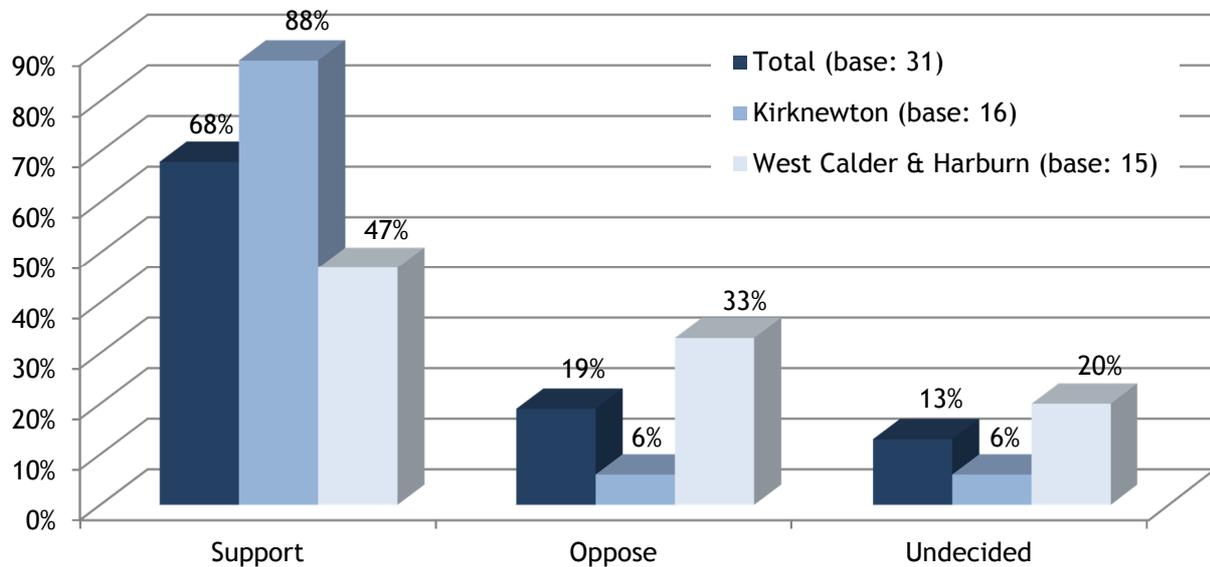


Clearly, a significant majority of those that submitted responses at exhibitions were in agreement with this proposition.

3.6 Responses amongst this group regarding support or opposition to the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource are set out in Figure 3.2 over the page.

Figure 3.2: Onshore Wind Power as a Renewable Energy Resource

In principle, do you support or oppose the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource?



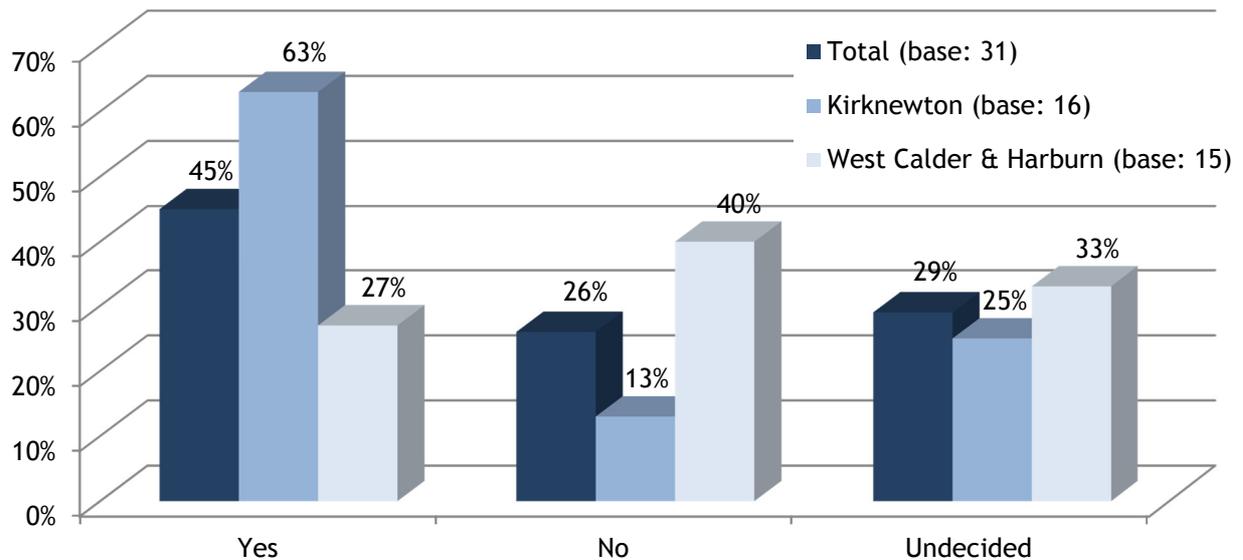
Support for onshore wind power was lower amongst those submitting responses at the exhibitions, though it was still the majority position. In particular, a significant proportion of those attending from West Calder & Harburn were either opposed to this proposition or undecided about it.

3.7 Visitors to the public exhibition were advised that the project being put forward by Boralex was at Fauch Hill and were shown information as to the location. It was noted that the new project was reduced in scope from the previous project put forward for this site, which went to Public Inquiry in 2013.

Views amongst those submitting responses at the public exhibitions as to the acceptability of Fauch Hill as a location for a wind farm are set out in Table 3.3:

Figure 3.3: Acceptability of Location as a Wind Farm

Do you think that this is an acceptable location for a wind farm?



Overall, 45% of those attending the exhibitions felt that Fauch Hill was an acceptable location for a wind farm. This figure was significantly higher amongst those from Kirknewton (63%) and significantly lower amongst those from West Calder & Harburn (27%).

- 3.8 Those submitting responses at the public exhibitions were also asked to give brief reasons for their answers. IBP have coded each individual response to common themes and have summarised the frequency with which each theme arose in the comments. It should be noted that each individual response could be coded to more than one theme so the responses add to greater than 100%.
- 3.9 Responses are coded firstly for those that considered Fauch Hill to be an acceptable location for a wind farm in Table 3.3:¹⁰ The very low base number of responses for this particular strand of the consultation should be noted.

Table 3.3: Comments on Fauch Hill as Acceptable Location (Yes)

Theme	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Area seen as sufficiently remote / away from built up areas	43%	25%	36%
Area expected to have good wind resource	43%	25%	36%
Positive views on appearance of wind farms	0%	25%	9%
Wind farms already in area	14%	0%	9%
Perception of other community benefit	14%	0%	9%
Positive views on smaller scale compared to previous proposal	14%	0%	9%
General positive comment (not allocated to other themes)	0%	25%	9%
Base	7	4	11

The most common responses amongst this small group of respondents related to the area being seen as sufficiently remote / away from built-up areas and the area being expected to have a good wind resource.

¹⁰ The coding framework used was similar to that used for the face-to-face survey. Given the significantly fewer responses from this strand of data gathering, it would reasonably be expected that not all of these categories would have responses allocated to them.

- 3.10 Responses from the exhibition amongst those that did not consider Fauch Hill to be an acceptable location for a wind farm are set out in Table 3.4 below. Again, the very small base number of responses should be noted.¹¹

Table 3.4: Comments on Fauch Hill as Acceptable Location (No)

Theme	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Negative impact on landscape / views / countryside	100%	83%	88%
Impact on house prices	50%	0%	13%
Preference for alternative location			
General negative comment (not allocated to other themes)	50%	33%	38%
Base	2	6	8

As with the face-to-face survey, the most common reasons amongst those considering that Fauch Hill is not an acceptable location for a wind farm related to a perception of negative impact on landscape / views / countryside.

- 3.11 Responses amongst those submitting responses at the exhibitions who indicated that they were undecided about Fauch Hill as an acceptable location for a wind farm are summarised in Table 3.5 over the page. Once again, the very small base number of responses should be noted, with this information being reported on for reasons of completeness.

¹¹ This analysis again used a similar coding framework as the face-to-face survey but with a number of categories not having any of the comments from this strand allocated to them.

Table 3.5: Comments on Fauch Hill as Acceptable Location (Undecided)

Theme	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Don't know specific location	0%	25%	17%
Concerns over visual impact	0%	50%	33%
Concerns over too many wind farms	0%	25%	17%
Requirement for additional information in order to make decision	50%	0%	17%
General neutral comment (not allocated to other themes)	50%	0%	17%
Base	2	4	6

3.12 The perceived importance of the proposal contributing to the Scottish Government's green energy targets, amongst those submitting responses at the public consultations, is illustrated in Table 3.6:

Table 3.6: Contribution to Green Energy Targets

That the revised Wind Farm proposal will contribute to the Scottish Government's green energy targets

Response	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Very important	81%	27%	55%
Quite important	6%	27%	16%
Not very important	6%	20%	13%
Not at all important	6%	27%	16%
Base	16	15	31

Whilst 71% of those submitting responses at the exhibitions ascribed some degree of importance to the proposal contributing to the Scottish Government's green energy targets, there was a sharp divide with 87% of Kirknewton respondents ascribing some level of importance to this but only 54% of respondents from West Calder & Harburn.

3.13 The perceived importance of the proposal not receiving government subsidies amongst this group of respondents is illustrated in Table 3.7:

Table 3.7: Not Receiving Government Subsidies

That the revised Wind Farm proposal will not receive government subsidies

Response	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Very important	29%	27%	28%
Quite important	29%	47%	38%
Not very important	33%	0%	17%
Not at all important	7%	27%	17%
Base	14	15	29

56% of respondents that submitted responses at the exhibitions, and who answered this specific question, considered it important that the proposal would not receive government subsidies; this rose to 74% amongst respondents from West Calder & Harburn.

3.14 Those submitting at the public exhibitions were also asked as to their views in relation to support or opposition to the revised proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm. The results are summarised in Table 3.8:

Table 3.8: Views on Revised Proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm

Overall, to what extent would you say that you support or oppose the revised proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm

Response	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Strongly Support	44%	20%	32%
Tend to Support	19%	7%	13%
Neither Support nor Oppose	19%	27%	23%
Tend to Oppose	0%	7%	3%
Strongly Oppose	13%	40%	26%
Don't Know	6%	05	3%
Base	16	15	31

Amongst those submitting responses at the exhibitions there were quite different views between those from Kirknewton (63% of whom either strongly supported the proposal or tended to do so) and people from West Calder & Harburn, for whom this figure was only 27%, with 47% indicating opposition to the proposal. Overall, 45% of those submitting responses at the exhibition indicated some measure of support for the proposal with 29% indicating some measure of opposition (the balance giving either a neutral or “don’t know” response).

- 3.15 Finally, comments were invited on any aspects of the revised proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm. The small number of comments from those submitting responses at the public exhibitions have also been coded into common themes by IBP, as set out in Table 3.9:

Table 3.9: Further Comments on Revised Proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm

Theme	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Comments against the proposal	17%	57%	38%
Comments in support of proposal	33%	14%	23%
Desire for community benefit	33%	0%	15%
Undecided or need further information	0%	29%	15%
General support subject to conditions	17%	0%	8%
Base	6	7	13

Most commonly, those submitting responses at the exhibitions made final comments of a general nature, whether for or against the proposal.

- 3.16 Again, a full listing of comments from those submitting responses at the exhibitions is set out in Appendix 6.

4.0 ONLINE SURVEY

- 4.1 A total of 53 valid responses to the online survey were identified.
- 4.2 The age profile of respondents to the online survey is tabulated below:¹²

Table 4.1: Age Profile

Age	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
16-29	0%	8%	3%
30-39	10%	17%	12%
40-49	67%	25%	53%
50-65	0%	0%	0%
Over 65	24%	50%	32%
Base	21	12	34¹³

Respondents to the online survey were most commonly aged 40-49.

- 4.3 The profile of online survey respondents by working status was as set out in Table 4.2 over the page:

¹² It should be noted that a significant proportion of online respondents chose not to provide this information.

¹³ Total base does not add up to the total of the two area bases where specific addresses could not be allocated to one area or another.

Table 4.2: Working Status Profile

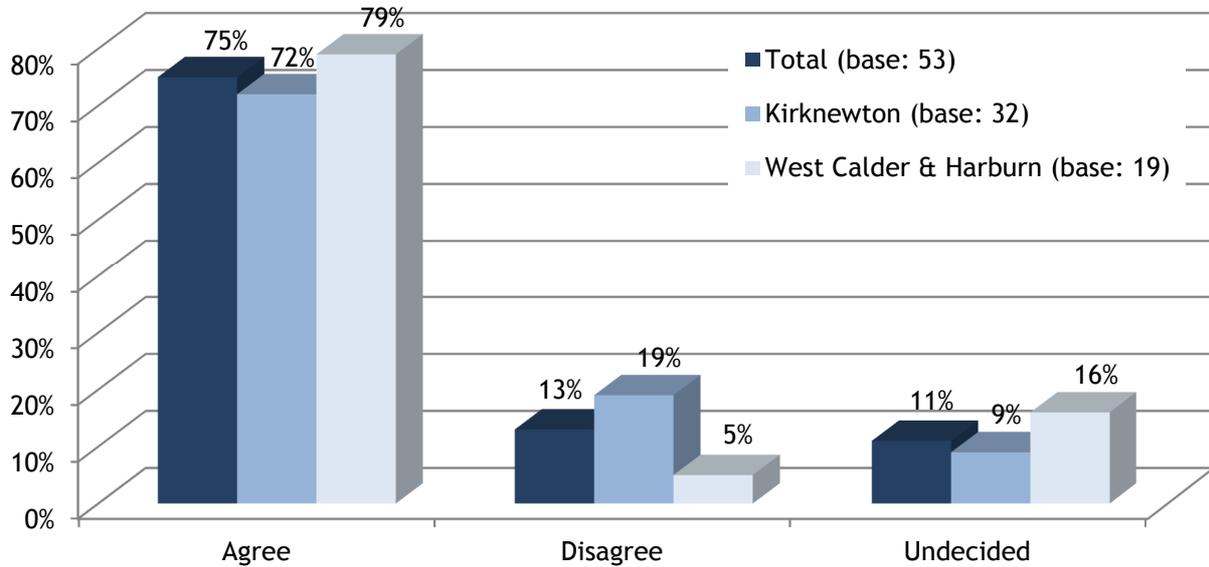
Age	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Employed full-time	48%	22%	41%
Employed part-time	6%	6%	6%
Self-employed	16%	28%	20%
In education or government training	0%	6%	2%
Unemployed	0%	0%	0%
Long-term sick / disabled	0%	0%	0%
Looking after family / home	3%	0%	2%
Retired	19%	28%	22%
Other	6%	11%	8%
Base	31	18	51

Respondents to the online survey were most commonly employed full-time but with a significant proportion being self-employed or retired.

- 4.4 The data tables contained in Appendix 4 break down the results for the online survey by community council area and by each of these demographic criteria.
- 4.5 Online survey respondents' agreement or disagreement with the proposition that society in general needs to move towards generating electricity from renewable forms of energy is summarised in Figure 4.1 over the page.

Figure 4.1: Generating Electricity from Renewable Forms of Energy

Would you agree or disagree that, as a society, we need to move towards generating electricity from renewable forms of energy?

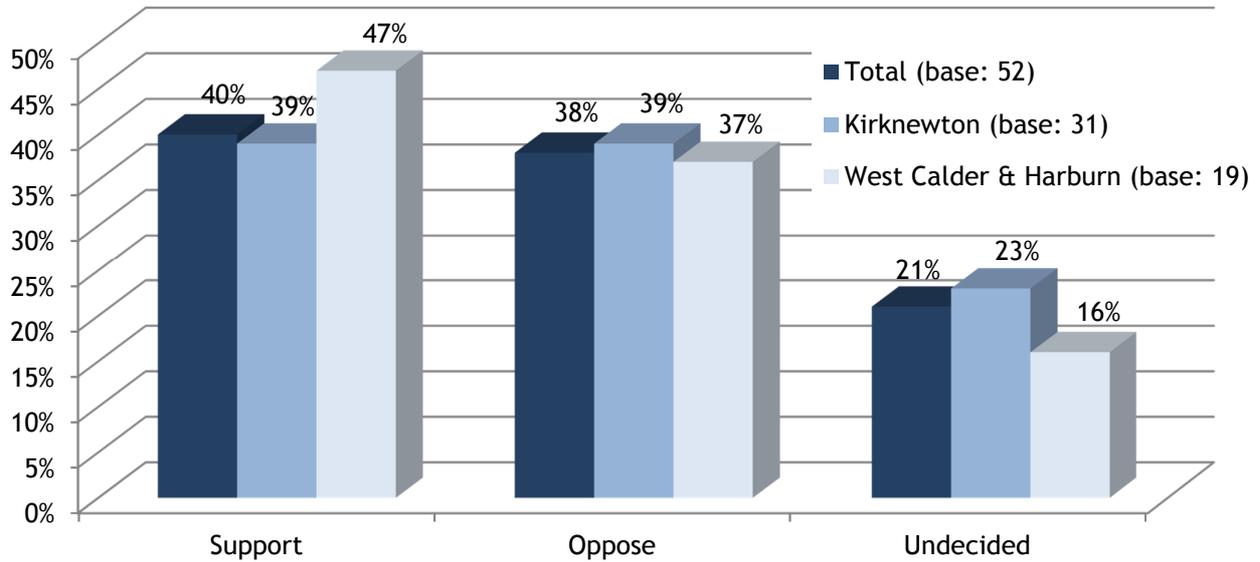


Levels of agreement with this proposition were generally similar to other strands of the research although levels of disagreement were also somewhat higher, with fewer “undecided” responses.

4.6 Online survey respondents’ were then asked whether they supported or opposed the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource. The results of this question are set out in Figure 4.2 over the page.

Figure 4.2: Onshore Wind Power as a Renewable Energy Resource

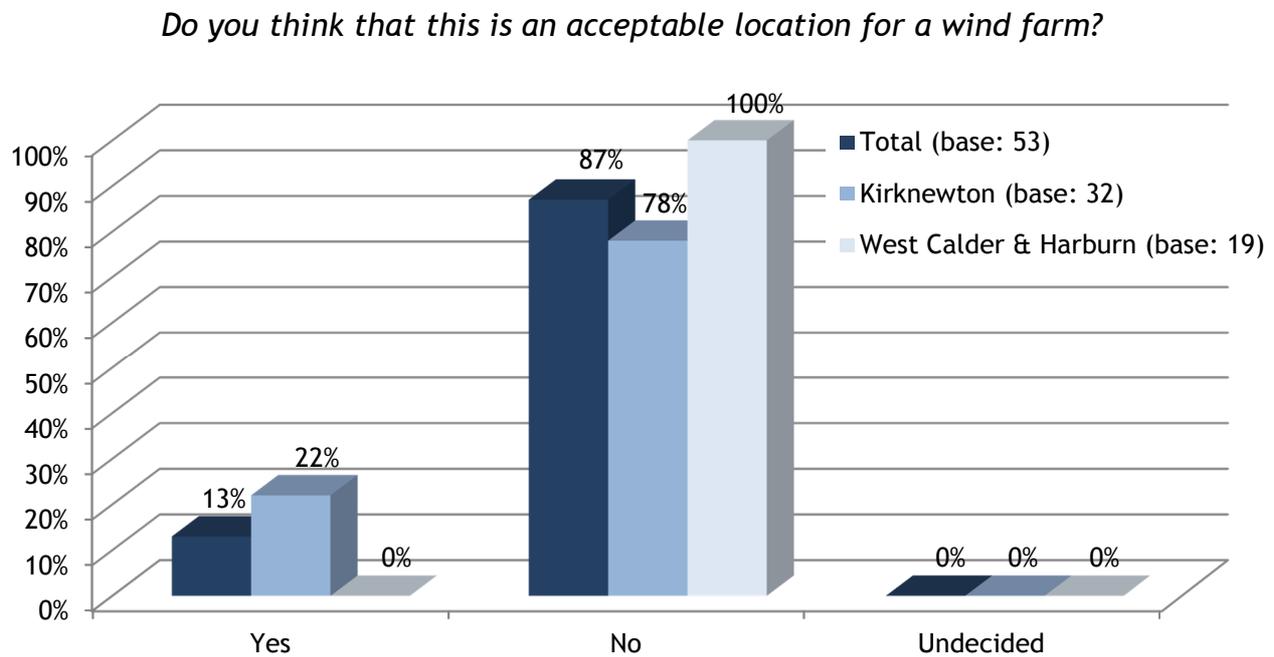
In principle, do you support or oppose the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource?



Levels of agreement and disagreement with this proposition were much more finely balanced than for the other strands of the consultation, with 40% overall supporting the use of onshore wind power and 38% opposing it. Clearly, amongst this specific group of respondents, there is a segment that supports a move to renewable energy generally but not onshore wind power specifically.

4.7 Online survey respondents were then asked whether they considered this to be an acceptable location for a wind farm. The results of this question are summarised in Figure 4.3 over the page.

Figure 4.3: Acceptability of Location as a Wind Farm



Amongst online respondents specifically there is a high level of disagreement that Fauch Hill is an acceptable location for a wind farm. This is particularly so amongst those online survey respondents identified as being from West Calder & Harburn, 100% of whom consider that Fauch Hill is not an acceptable location for a wind farm.

- 4.8 As with the other strands of data gathering, IBP have coded each individual response from the online survey to common themes and have summarised the frequency with which each theme arose in the comments. It should be noted that each individual response could be coded to more than one theme so the responses add to greater than 100%.
- 4.9 Responses are coded firstly for those that considered Fauch Hill to be an acceptable location for a wind farm in Table 4.3 over the page.¹⁴ The very small base number of responses, all of which were from Kirknewton, should be noted.

¹⁴ Again, comments have been coded according to the framework set out for the face-to-face surveys but a number of categories do not feature in the responses from online survey respondents.

Table 4.3: Comments on Fauch Hill as Acceptable Location (Yes)

Theme	Kirknewton
General support for renewable energy	50%
Area seen as sufficiently remote / away from built up areas	17%
Positive views on appearance of wind farms	17%
Individual not affected / has no problems with proposal	17%
Perception of other community benefit	17%
Base	6

4.10 Responses amongst those that did **not** consider Fauch Hill to be an acceptable location for a wind farm are set out in Table 4.4 below:

Table 4.4: Comments on Fauch Hill as Acceptable Location (No)

Theme	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Negative impact on landscape / views / countryside	52%	58%	55%
Specific reference to being in, or close to, regional park	19%	0%	14%
Impact on wildlife	19%	5%	12%
Preference for alternative location	10%	16%	12%
Seen as inefficient means of generating energy	14%	0%	7%
Traffic generated	10%	16%	12%
Impact on house prices	5%	5%	5%
Preference for alternative forms of renewable energy	5%	5%	5%
General negative comment (not allocated to other themes)	19%	42%	31%
Base	21	19	42

Respondents to the online survey that did not consider Fauch Hill to be an acceptable location for a wind farm most commonly cited a negative impact on landscape / views / countryside as was the case with the other parts of the consultation. However, they also cited a range of other concerns including: impact on wildlife; a preference for another (generally unspecified) location; a view that wind farms are an inefficient means of generating energy; the traffic generated by the wind farm; impact on house prices; and, a preference for alternative forms of renewable energy. This in addition to general negative comments that could not be allocated to any of these specific themes.

- 4.11 No further comments were made in the online survey amongst those that described themselves as “undecided”.
- 4.12 The perceived importance of the proposal contributing to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets amongst online survey respondents is illustrated in Table 4.6:

Table 4.6: Contribution to Green Energy Targets

That the revised Wind Farm proposal will contribute to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets

Response	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Very important	19%	5%	13%
Quite important	16%	5%	11%
Not very important	44%	26%	40%
Not at all important	22%	63%	36%
Base	32	19	53

Only a minority of online survey respondents considered it to be important that the project would contribute to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets, this being particularly the case amongst respondents from West Calder & Harburn (where only 10% of the 19 identified online respondents ascribed any importance to this).

4.13 The perceived importance, amongst online survey respondents, of the proposal not receiving government subsidies is illustrated in Table 4.7:

Table 4.7: Not Receiving Government Subsidies

That the revised Wind Farm proposal will not receive government subsidies

Response	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Very important	39%	26%	33%
Quite important	3%	11%	6%
Not very important	23%	5%	17%
Not at all important	35%	58%	44%
Base	31	19	52

Again, only a minority of online survey respondents considered this to be important (39% overall, 42% in Kirknewton, 37% in West Calder & Harburn).

4.14 Online survey respondents were then asked as to their views in relation to support or opposition to the revised proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm. The results are summarised in Table 4.8:

Table 4.8: Views on Revised Proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm

Overall, to what extent would you say that you support or oppose the revised proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm

Response	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Strongly Support	13%	0%	8%
Tend to Support	9%	0%	6%
Neither Support nor Oppose	0%	0%	0%
Tend to Oppose	6%	5%	6%
Strongly Oppose	72%	95%	81%
Don't Know	0%	0%	0%
Base	32	19	53

The results of the online survey are quite distinct from the face-to-face survey in so far as a significant majority oppose the proposal. This is the case both amongst Kirknewton respondents (78% oppose) and West Calder & Harburn (100% oppose, including 95% that strongly oppose).

- 4.15 Finally, comments were invited on any aspects of the revised proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm. Again, these comments have been coded into common themes by IBP, as set out in Table 4.9 below.

Table 4.9: Further Comments on Revised Proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm

Theme	Kirknewton	West Calder & Harburn	Total
Comments against the proposal	63%	58%	63%
Preference for alternative location	11%	33%	19%
Comments in support of proposal	5%	0%	3%
Undecided or need further information	5%	0%	3%
Scepticism as to consultation / whether community will be listened to	26%	8%	19%
Base	19	12	32

A significant proportion of these comments consisted of a restatement of opposition to the proposal, with a number of comments also suggesting that any wind farm should be located elsewhere.

- 4.16 A full listing of the open-ended comments from the online survey is contained in Appendix 7.

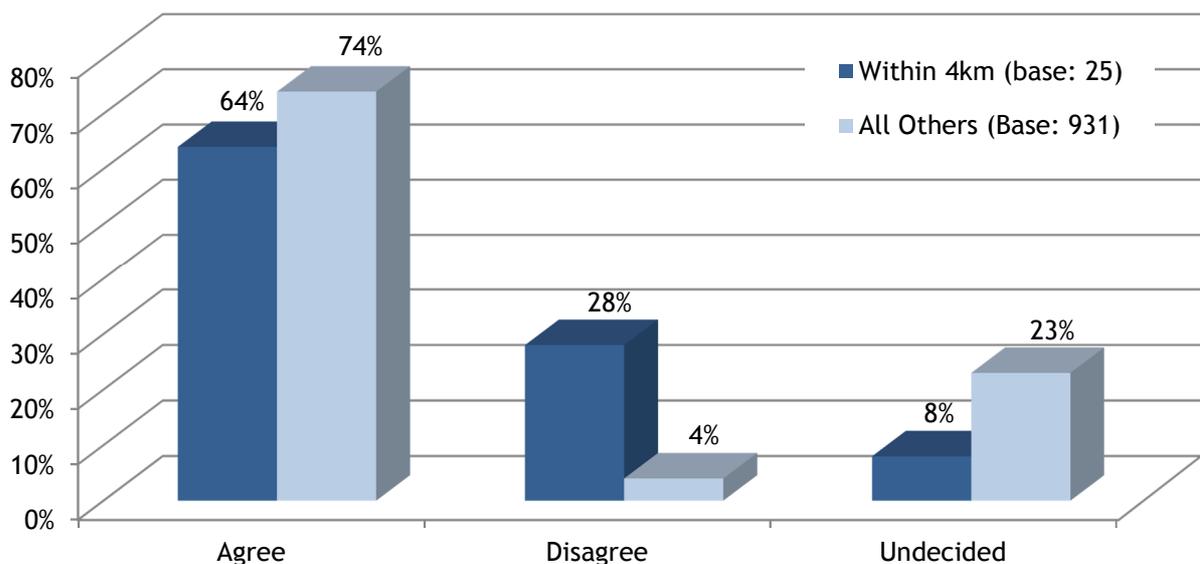
5.0 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PROPERTIES WITHIN 4KM OF SITE

5.1 This final section of the report identifies separately the views of those respondents (across all three strands of data gathering) whose properties we have identified as being within 4km of the proposed site. These responses are then compared to the responses from all others across the three elements. This analysis is set out specifically for the “closed” questions contained in the survey.

5.2 The views of each group with respect to the proposition that society in general needs to move towards generating electricity from renewable forms of energy is summarised in Figure 5.1:

Figure 5.1: Generating Electricity from Renewable Forms of Energy

Would you agree or disagree that, as a society, we need to move towards generating electricity from renewable forms of energy?

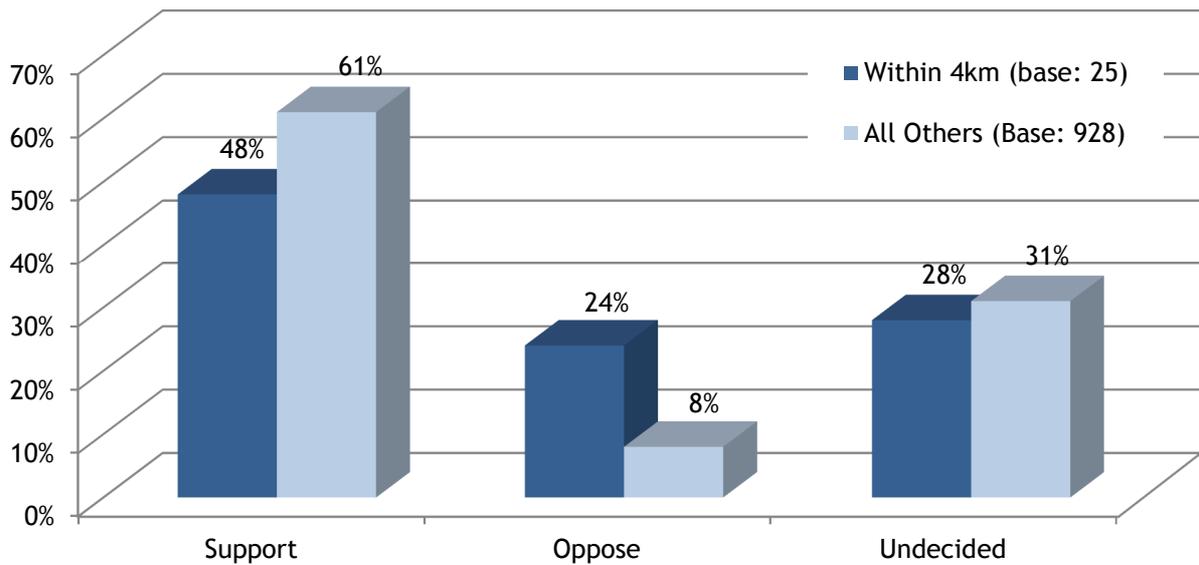


A majority of those living within 4km of the site agree with this proposition albeit the level of disagreement (at 28%) is significantly higher than for others that answered this question.

5.3 The views of each group with regard to whether they supported or opposed the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource are set out in Figure 5.2:

Figure 5.2: Onshore Wind Power as a Renewable Energy Resource

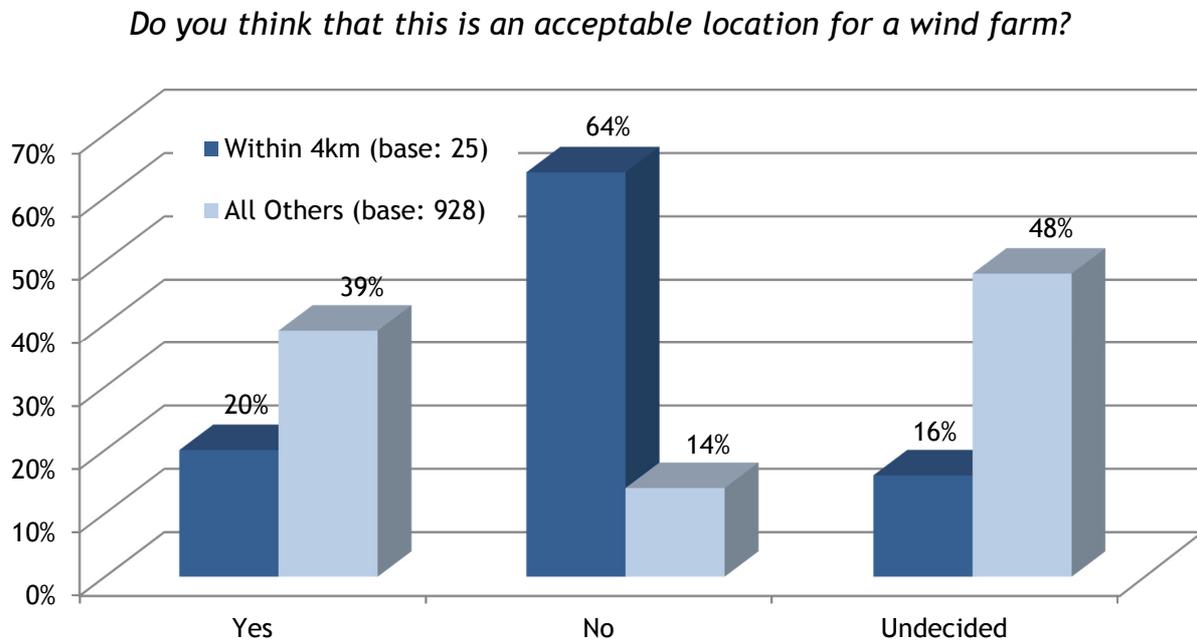
In principle, do you support or oppose the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource?



Those living within 4km of the site are more likely to support rather than oppose the use of onshore wind power as a renewable energy resource (by 48% to 24%). The extent of this support is, however, still somewhat less evident than amongst others that responded.

5.4 The views of each group with respect to Fauch Hill as an acceptable location for a wind farm are summarised in Figure 5.3:

Figure 5.3: Acceptability of Location as a Wind Farm



A significant majority of those living within 4km of the site believe that Fauch Hill is not an acceptable location for a wind farm (64% consider that it is not suitable compared to 20% that consider it to be suitable, with 16% undecided).

- 5.5 The perceived importance of the proposal contributing to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets amongst each group is illustrated in Table 5.1:

Table 5.1: Contribution to Green Energy Targets

That the revised Wind Farm proposal will contribute to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets

Response	Within 4km	All Others
Very important	28%	32%
Quite important	8%	42%
Not very important	32%	20%
Not at all important	32%	6%
Base	25	927

The perceived importance of the proposal contributing to the Scottish Government’s green energy targets is considerably less evident amongst those living within 4km of the proposed site, with 36% of these considering this to be important to some degree compared to 74% of others.

- 5.6 The perceived importance of the proposal not receiving government subsidies amongst each group is illustrated in Table 5.2:

Table 5.2: Not Receiving Government Subsidies

That the revised Wind Farm proposal will not receive government subsidies

Response	Within 4km	All Others
Very important	32%	38%
Quite important	20%	39%
Not very important	12%	17%
Not at all important	36%	7%
Base	25	919

A slight majority of those living within 4km consider the project not receiving government subsidies (52%) although this view is significantly more prevalent amongst others (77%).

5.7 The views of each group in relation to support or opposition to the revised proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm are summarised in Table 5.3:

Table 5.3: Views on Revised Proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm

Overall, to what extent would you say that you support or oppose the revised proposal for Fauch Hill Wind Farm

Response	Within 4km	All Others
Strongly Support	4%	15%
Tend to Support	8%	26%
Neither Support nor Oppose	12%	35%
Tend to Oppose	8%	5%
Strongly Oppose	64%	7%
Don't Know	4%	12%
Base	25	924

Overall, support for the proposal amongst those living within 4km of the site is 12% (4% strongly support and 8% tend to support); this compares to 72% that express opposition of whom 64% “strongly oppose”; the remainder give a neutral response.

This varies significantly from the views of others, where 41% support to some degree and 12% oppose to some degree; the total “neutral” response is significantly higher amongst this group at 47%.