

# Community survey results and potential site discussion

Totnes Community  
Composting Group



# Who we are

The **Totnes Community Composting Group** (TCCG) is an offshoot from Sustainable South Hams (SusSH), a Community Interest Company whose profits go back in to supporting and inspiring sustainability projects in the Devon South Hams.

**Councillor Jacqi Hodgson** is one of the founders of the Company and creator of TCCG.

# What is community composting?



Community composting involves residents bringing **garden cuttings to a local drop off site.**

Residents may also **take home the resulting compost** to use in their own gardens.

The benefits are:

- Builds local soil health
- Reduces transportation emissions
- Protects Natural Resources



▶  
**This is a model  
already proven in  
many nearby  
communities**



**Ash Meadow @ Ashprington:** bays and sifter

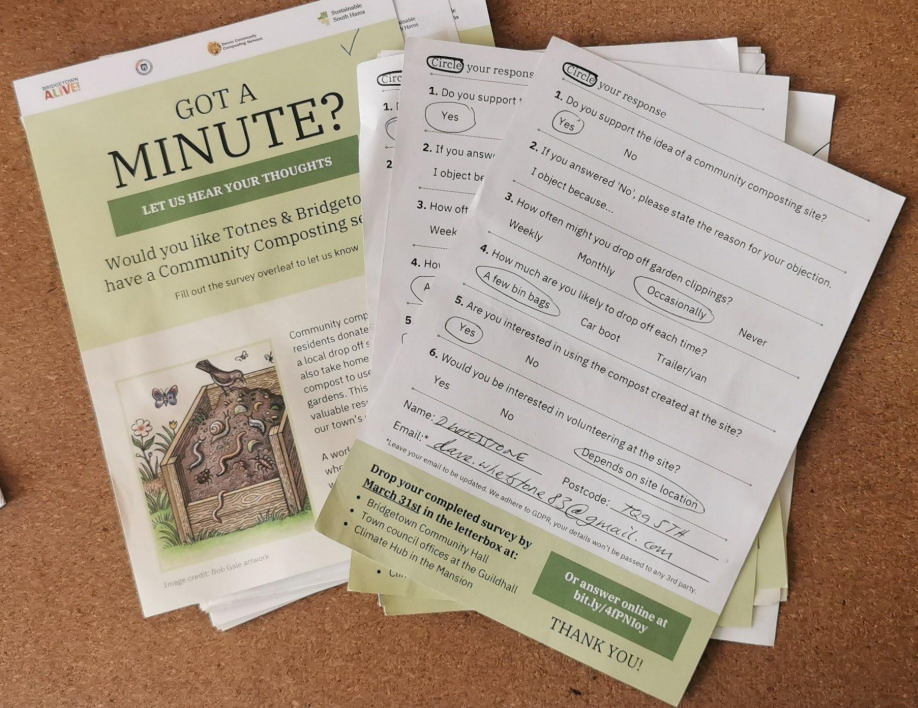


**Marldon:** maturing bays



**The Marsh @ South Brent:** Solar powered sifting

# We asked residents their thoughts on the idea, collecting responses both online & via paper surveys



Would you like Totnes & Bridgetown to have a Community Composting service?

Community composting involves residents bringing garden cuttings to a local drop off site. Residents may also take home the resulting compost to use in their own gardens. This means we keep this valuable resource local and reduce our town's carbon footprint.

A working group is looking into whether community composting is wanted in Totnes and Bridgetown. We need your views to determine if this service should be developed.

Please complete by Monday 31st March 11:59PM

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. [Learn more](#)

\* Indicates required question

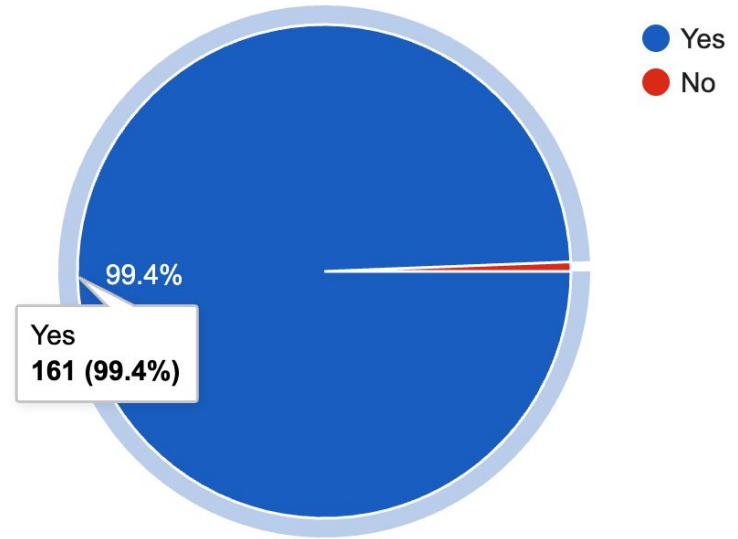
Email \*

Your email address

Do you support the idea of a community compost in the Totnes area as described above? \*

# Residents responded with overwhelming **positive support** for the idea

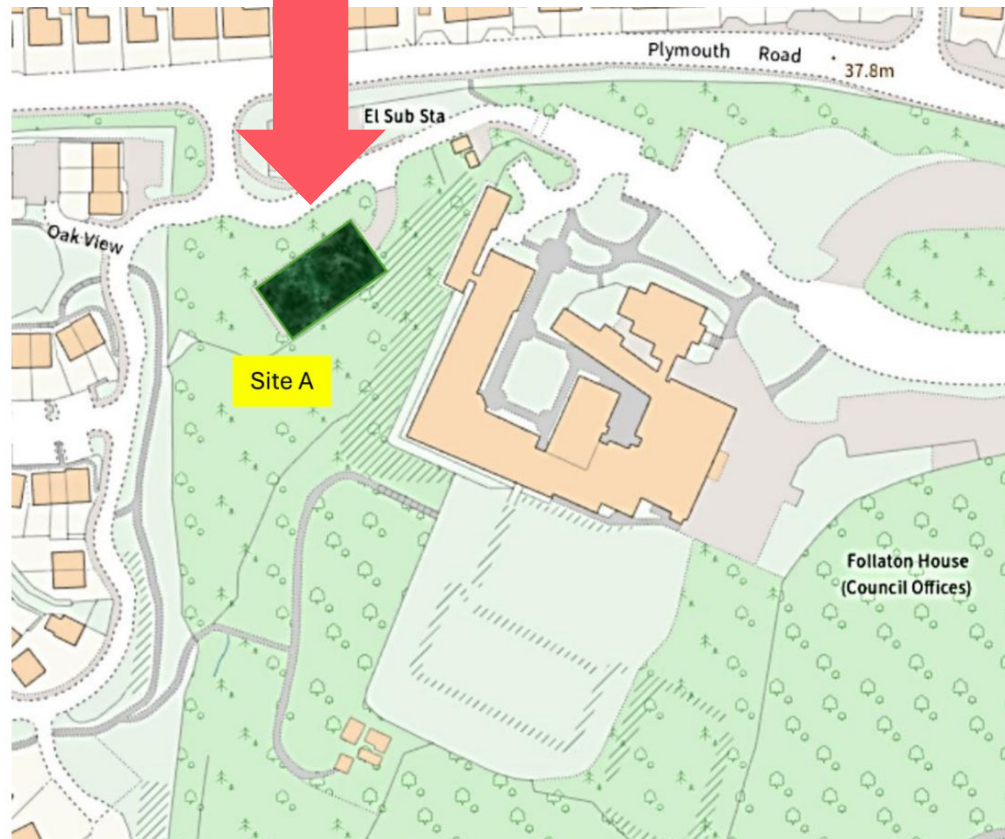
\* See the appendix for full results



161 voted yes  
1 voted no



We've  
identified a  
great site for  
community  
composting at  
**Follaton House**






**The site has  
been confirmed  
as worthy of  
consideration**

**An onsite meeting** with SHDC estate officers (Guy Pedrick and Gavin Priest) and the TCCG including Cllr Hodgson, was held on **Monday 24th March and the officers confirmed that this site is worthy of consideration** for use as a community composting location.

Further discussions are needed to ensure we are considering and **addressing the objections raised around the repurposing of the space** as it is currently used as storage by the council.

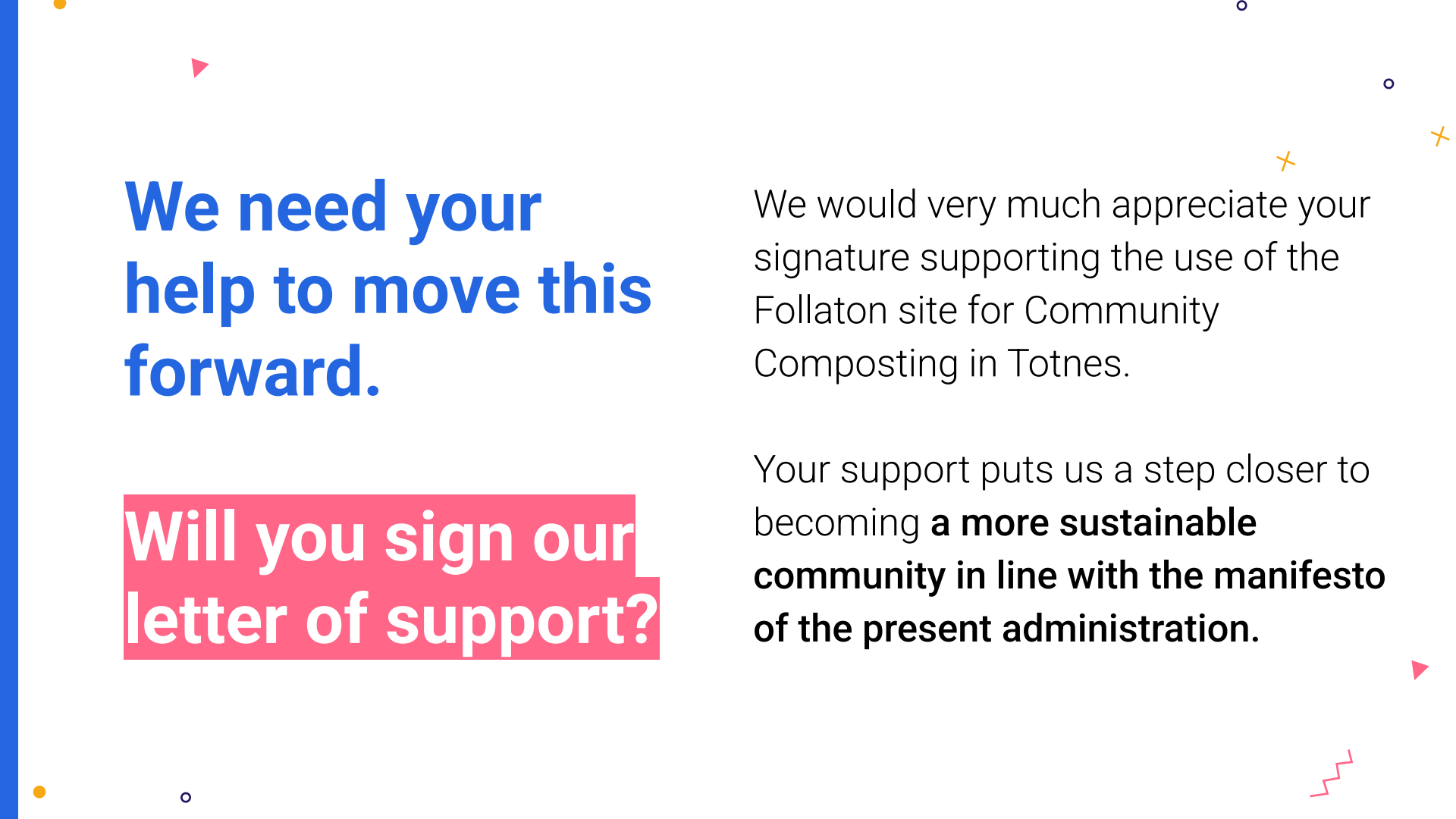




**It's situated at the west entrance of Follaton House and would give the best all round position**

Three possible sites within Follaton were recently discussed, however TCCG believe Site A has the greatest potential as it is:

- on the edge of the property
- well screened from the rest of the site
- requires minimal work to make operational (ie. existing fencing, hard standing and inbuilt traffic flow management)




**We need your  
help to move this  
forward.**

**Will you sign our  
letter of support?**

We would very much appreciate your signature supporting the use of the Follaton site for Community Composting in Totnes.

Your support puts us a step closer to becoming **a more sustainable community in line with the manifesto of the present administration.**



# Appendix

The background is a solid blue color. In the corners, there are various small, light-colored geometric shapes: a yellow dot, a red triangle, a white plus sign, a white circle, a yellow plus sign, a red zigzag line, a white plus sign, a white diamond, a yellow dot, and a white circle.

Alongside seeking a site to house the community composting service **we also ran a survey**. The results indicate strong support for drop off and usage of compost.



# The reach of our survey within the community was extensive

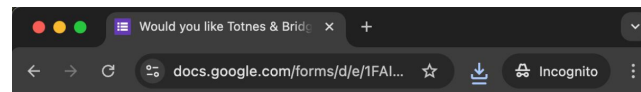
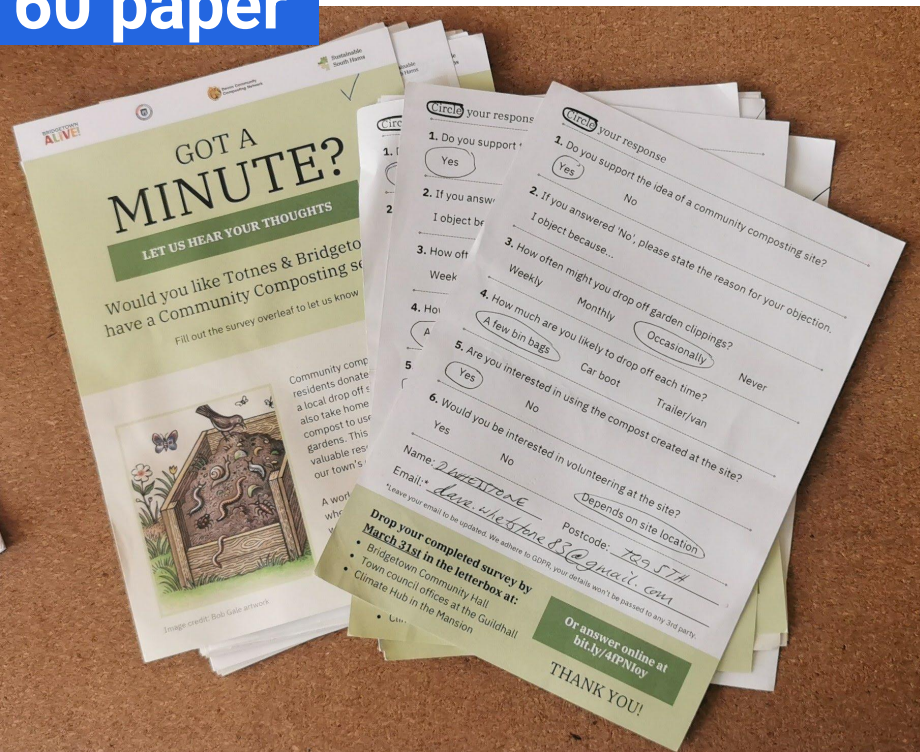
Survey flyers were included in the April Totnes Directory and reached 4,200 homes

Advertisements directing people to an online version of the survey that was advertised through local news channels, shop windows and at meeting places extended the audience reach further still.

# Resulting in 162 responses...

## 102 online

## 60 paper



## Would you like Totnes & Bridgetown to have a Community Composting service?

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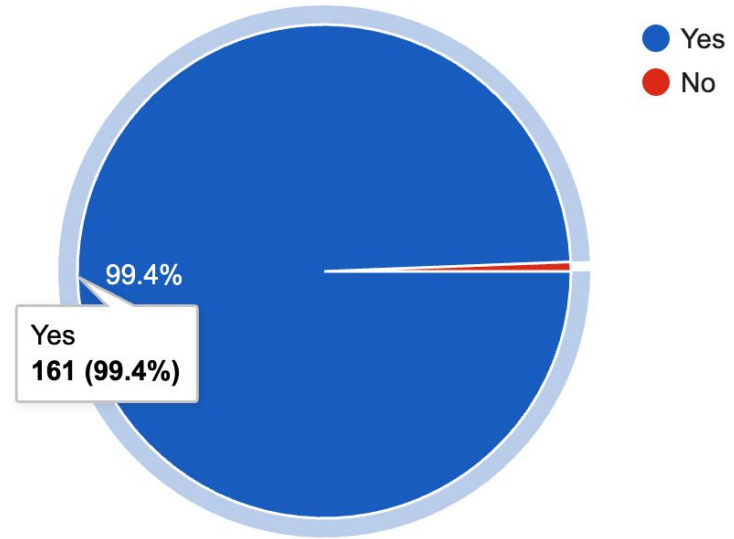
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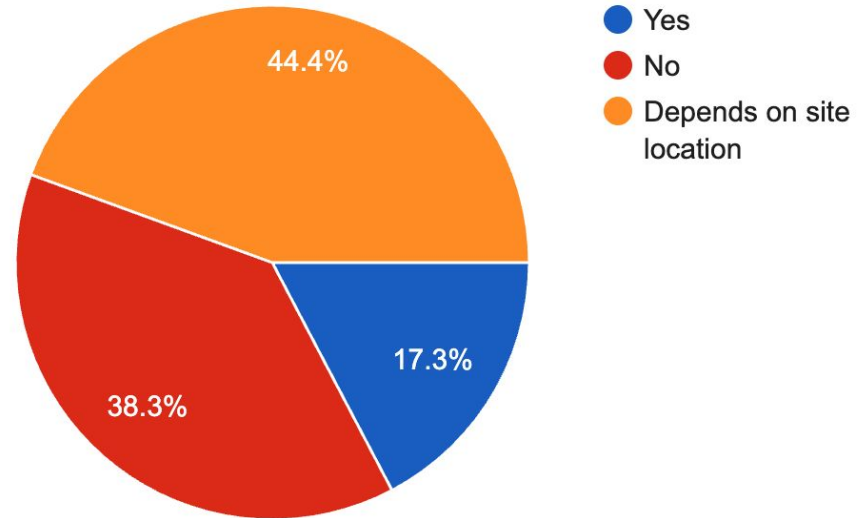
# Respondents showed **overwhelming support** for a community composting site

161 voted yes  
1 voted no



## Interest in volunteering at the site is also strong

Very strong interest in site volunteering was recorded, however a more accurate view of this will be gained once a site has been secured. Almost half of potential volunteers will be influenced by the location of the site.





# A handful of objections and queries were raised by respondents

These focused on site location, motivations of those involved and a desire to see more information presented about the project.

This is useful feedback that can be used to inform future communications.

If you answered 'No' in the previous question, please state the reason for your objection

4 responses

because

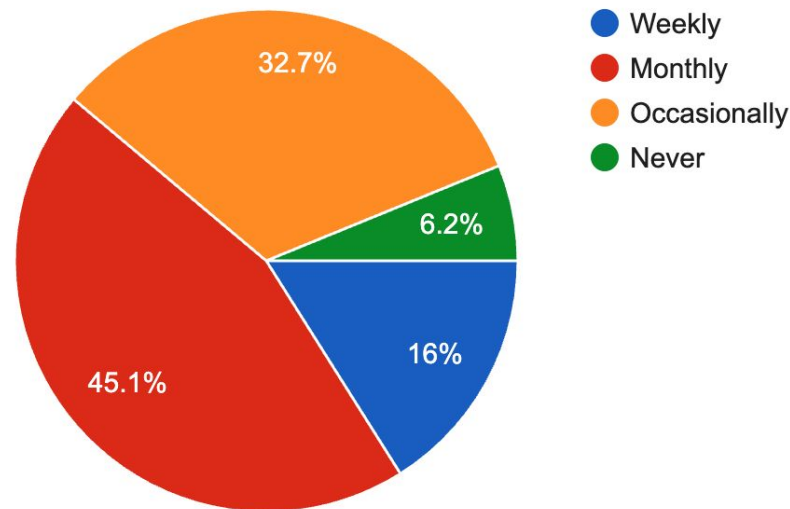
However is it being done to line councillors pockets / or the organisers pockets as these schemes usually do

I have seen no explanation as to the advantages over the current brown bin and food waste collections - in the absence of this it sounds like greenwash

Concerned about location - needs a large area on the edge of town. Opposed to taking existing car parking spaces and locations where traffic queues may block roads.

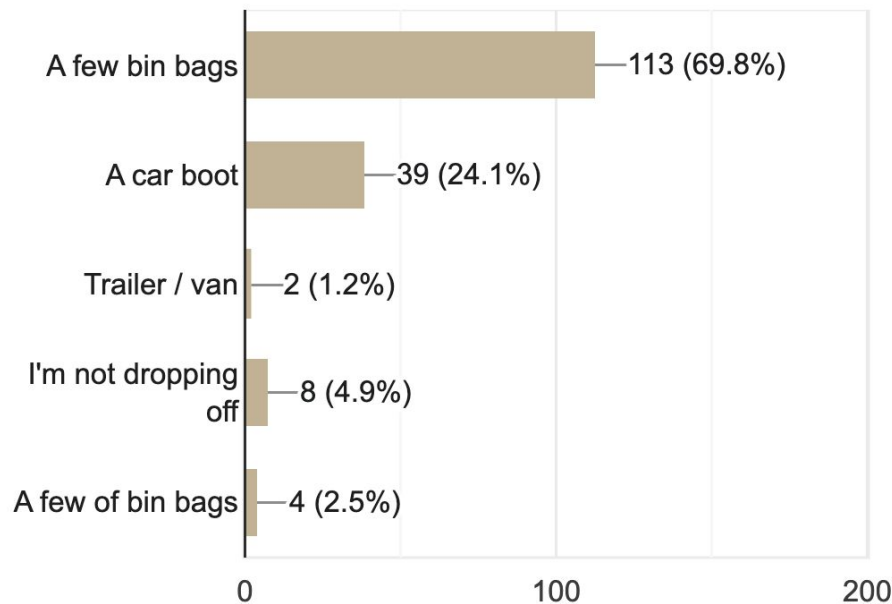
## A regular drop off frequency of garden materials was indicated

Whilst evidence from other composting sites indicates the quantity of material a resident needs to drop will vary across the seasons, the majority of respondents indicated a regular drop of cadence of weekly to monthly.



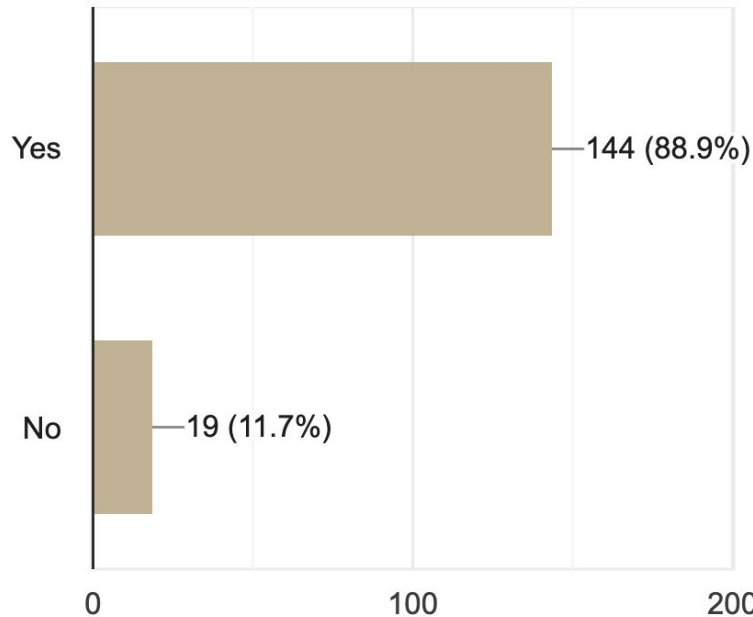
# Residents will drop off a moderate amount of garden clippings each time

Most respondents will bring a few bin bags. A full car boot is the next most popular option. This moderate amount of material, should be easy to handle and likely mean a quick turn around during drop off.



# **‘Yes please! We’d like to take home compost created at the site’ they told us**

The majority (88.9%) of respondents wish to take home compost created at the site indicating a strong demand for the product and an ability to keep the material moving through the system.







# Thank you

## **TCCG contacts**

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