

The background of the slide is a photograph of a fountain at night. The fountain is illuminated from below, creating a bright, golden glow. The water jets are captured in motion, creating a spray of water droplets. The fountain is set against a dark, textured wall, possibly made of stone or brick. The overall scene is dramatic and visually appealing.

# Holcroft House Consultation

## Full results summary

Data, Intelligence & Insight Team – August 2023



# Introduction and Methodology



Southampton City Council undertook public consultation on the Holcroft House Consultation.

- The consultation took place between **01/06/2023 – 23/08/2023**.
- The aim of this consultation was to:
  - Communicate clearly to residents and stakeholders the proposals for Holcroft House.
  - Ensure any resident, business or stakeholder who wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to raise any impacts the proposals may have.
  - Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objective in a different way.
- This report summarises the aims, principles, methodology and results of the public consultation. It provides a summary of the consultation responses both for the consideration of decision makers and any interested individuals and stakeholders.
- It is important to be mindful that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal. This report outlines in detail the representations made during the consultation period so that decision makers can consider what has been said alongside other information.



Southampton City Council is committed to consultations of the highest standard, which are meaningful and comply with *The Gunning Principles (considered to be the legal standard for consultations)*:

1. Proposals are still at a formative stage (a final decision has not yet been made)
2. There is sufficient information put forward in the proposals to allow 'intelligent consideration'
3. There is adequate time for consideration and response
4. Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made



New Conversations 2.0  
LGA guide to engagement



## Rules: The Gunning Principles

They were coined by Stephen Sedley QC in a court case in 1985 relating to a school closure consultation (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). Prior to this, very little consideration had been given to the laws of consultation. Sedley defined that a consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

- 1. proposals are still at a formative stage**  
A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers
- 2. there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'**  
The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response
- 3. there is adequate time for consideration and response**  
There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation,<sup>1</sup> despite the widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation
- 4. 'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made**  
Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account

These principles were reinforced in 2001 in the 'Coughlan Case (R v North and East Devon Health Authority ex parte Coughlan<sup>2</sup>), which involved a health authority closure and confirmed that they applied to all consultations, and then in a Supreme Court case in 2014 (R ex parte Moseley v LB Haringey<sup>3</sup>), which endorsed the legal standing of the four principles. Since then, the Gunning Principles have formed a strong legal foundation from which the legitimacy of public consultations is assessed, and are frequently referred to as a legal basis for judicial review decisions.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In some local authorities, their local voluntary Compact agreement with the third sector may specify the length of time they are required to consult for. However, in many cases, the Compact is either inactive or has been cancelled so the consultation timeframe is open to debate

<sup>2</sup> BAILII, [England and Wales Court of Appeal \(Civil Decision\) Decisions](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016.

<sup>3</sup> BAILII, [United Kingdom Supreme Court](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016

<sup>4</sup> The information used to produce this document has been taken from the Law of Consultation training course provided by The Consultation Institute



- The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire as the main route for feedback. Questionnaires enable an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured questionnaire, helping to ensure respondents are aware of the background and detail of the proposals.
- Respondents could also write letters or emails to provide feedback on the proposals. Emails or letters from stakeholders that contained consultation feedback were collated and analysed as a part of the overall consultation.
- The consultation was promoted in the following ways by:
  - Meetings with residents, guardians and staff of Holcroft House
  - Southampton City Council website
  - Social media posts
  - Southampton City Council e-bulletins (including City News and Your City Your Say)
  - The consultation also got coverage on news sources including the Daily Echo and ITV Meridian
- All questionnaire results have been analysed and presented in graphs within this report. Respondents were given opportunities throughout the questionnaire to provide written feedback on the proposals. In addition anyone could provide feedback in letters and emails. All written responses and questionnaire comments have been read and then assigned to categories based upon similar sentiment or theme.



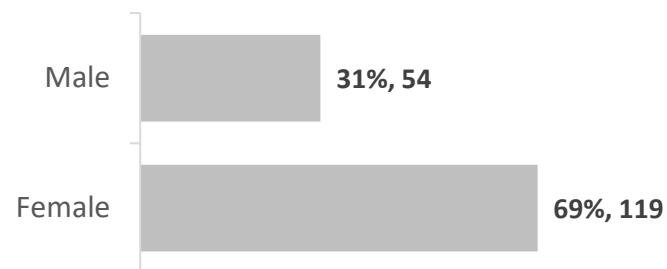


# Who were the respondents?

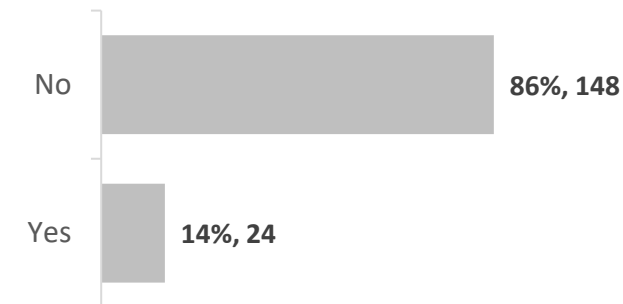
**Total respondents:** **218**

	Total number of responses
Questionnaire	215
Emails / letters	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>

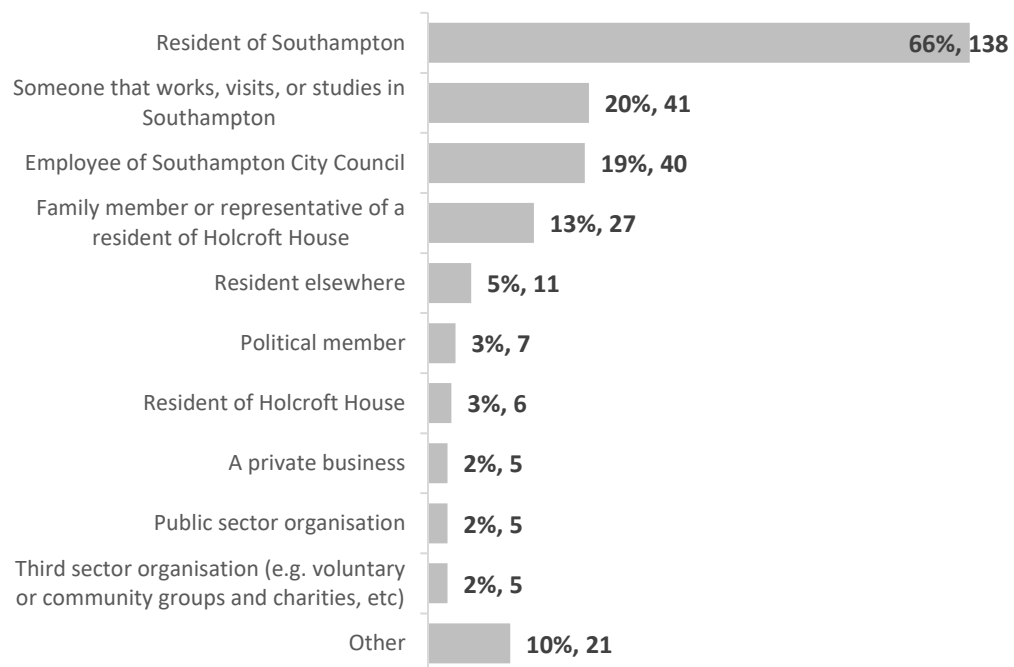
## Sex:



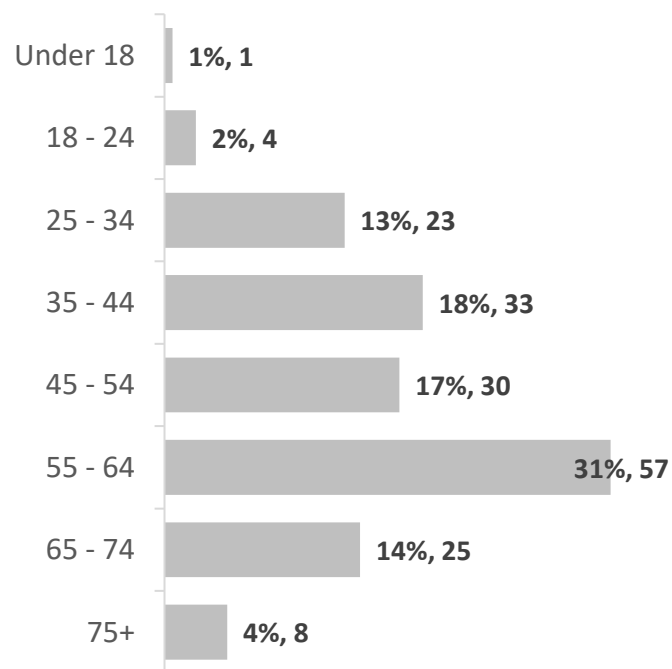
## Disability:



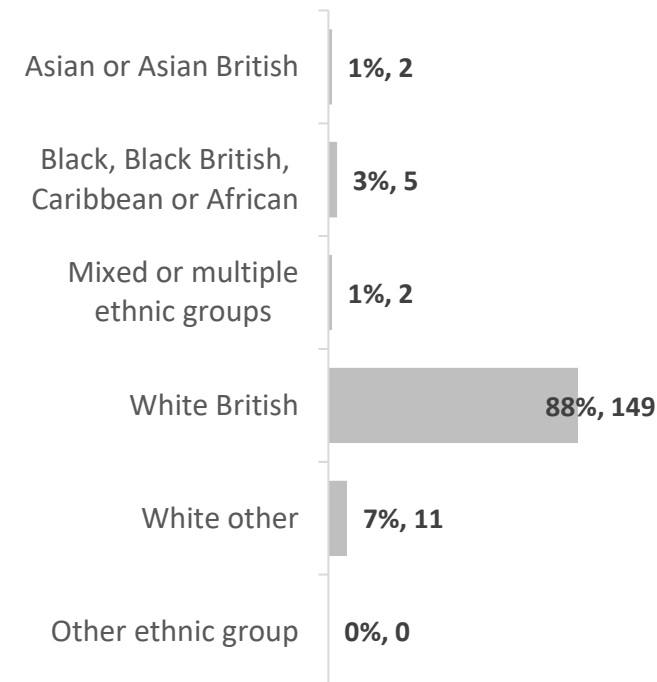
## Interest in the consultation:



## Age:



## Ethnicity:





## Key findings



In total, the consultation on the Holcroft House proposals had 218 responses, and we heard from residents of Holcroft House, family members or representatives of residents at Holcroft House, employees of Southampton City Council as well as wider city residents and businesses. The consultation aims were to communicate clearly the proposals for Holcroft House, and that any one who wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so and raise any impacts the proposals may have. They were also able to propose alternative suggestions for consideration.

## **Future proposal for Holcroft House:**

Over a fifth of respondents (22%) agreed with the future proposal for Holcroft House. Just over 3 quarters of respondents disagreed with the future proposal for Holcroft House (76%).

12% of respondents selected that the future proposal for Holcroft House may have a positive impact on them. 80% of respondents selected that the future proposal for Holcroft House may have a negative impact on them.

The most commented upon themes within the consultation were *“Concern around no SCC owned care homes aside from Holcroft / replace SCC owned homes”* (59 comments) and *“Holcroft should remain open [generally] / general positive comments about Holcroft”* (54 comments).





# Proposed changes



## The questionnaire outlined the following background information:

### Background:

Holcroft House is a 34-bedroom residential home providing short and long term care for adults living with dementia. There are currently 14 long stay residents and four that have been placed there temporarily.

A Fire Safety Assessment (FSA) has identified a number of issues that will need addressing at Holcroft House whereby residents will need to relocate for the duration of works (18 months).

The Fire Service have agreed the building is safe in the short term but these works are required in order for the building to remain open long term.

There are currently a number of homes that are CQC registered with dementia care within the city. There are several alternatives available to support individuals across the city.

### Proposals:

Due to the level of work required to rectify issues highlighted within the fire safety assessment we would need to relocate residents from Holcroft House to ensure their safety and well-being throughout the proposed works. This may mean that some individuals would be moved multiple times throughout the proposed 18 months of works. This in turn may present as a significant challenge for many residents due to their dementia and associated needs.

The proposal is therefore, to close Holcroft House and support residents in relocating to long term alternative accommodation.

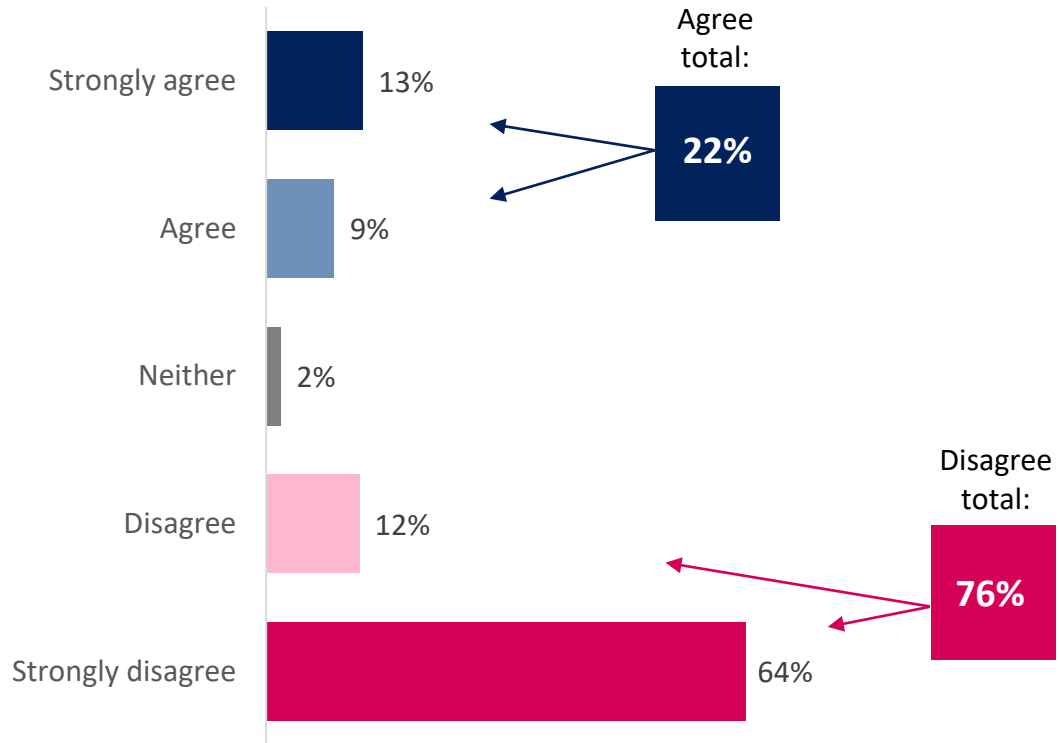
The process would ensure consultation with families, residents, advocates and stakeholders where necessary. The review process would identify suitable placements to meet the needs of the resident. We would also ensure friendship groups are maintained as far as possible. Planning for the home closure would take into account the assessed needs of every individual resident of the home and how these can best be met in the future. Each individuals' rights under relevant legislation would be ensured.



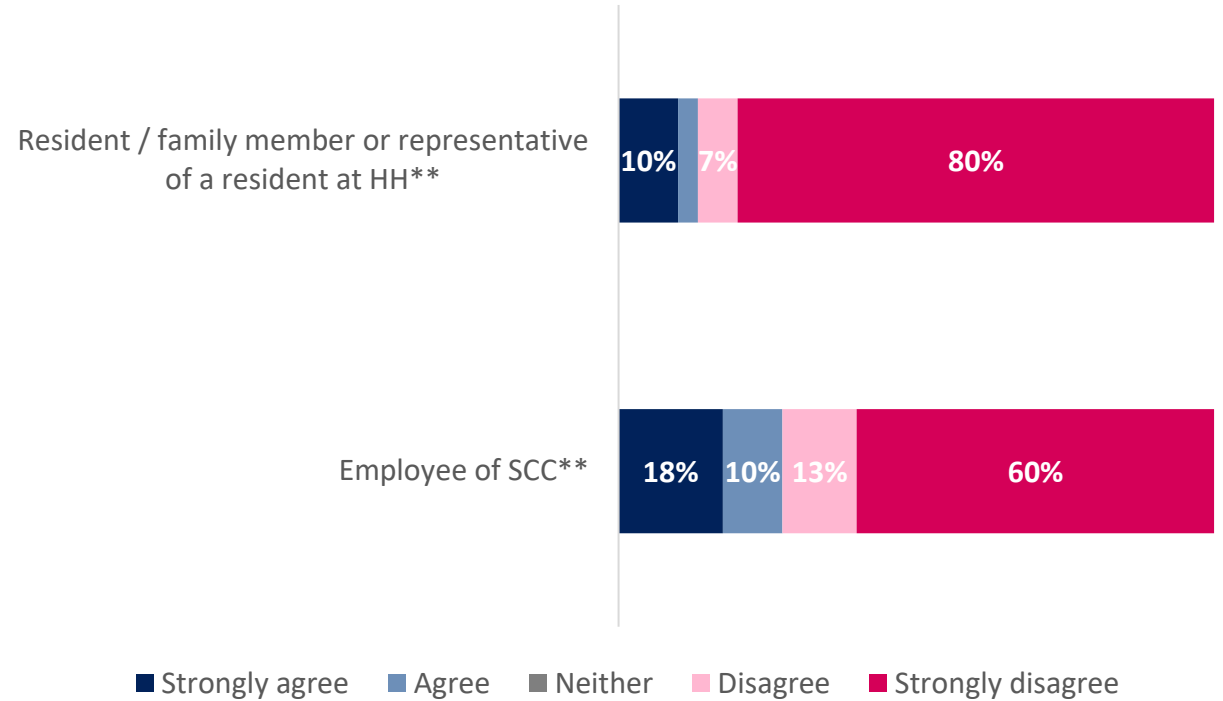
# Future proposal for Holcroft House

## Agreement levels:

### Overall:



### Key breakdowns:



\*\*Small sample size – less than 50

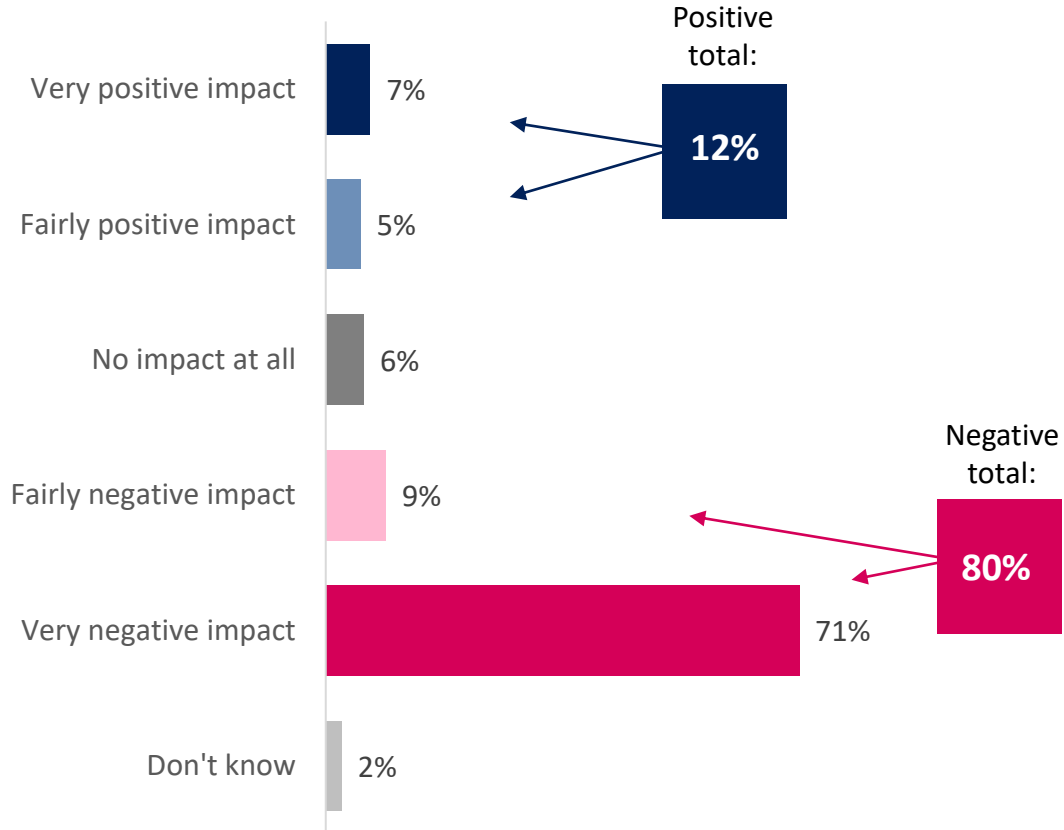
Base respondents: 210



# Future proposal for Holcroft House

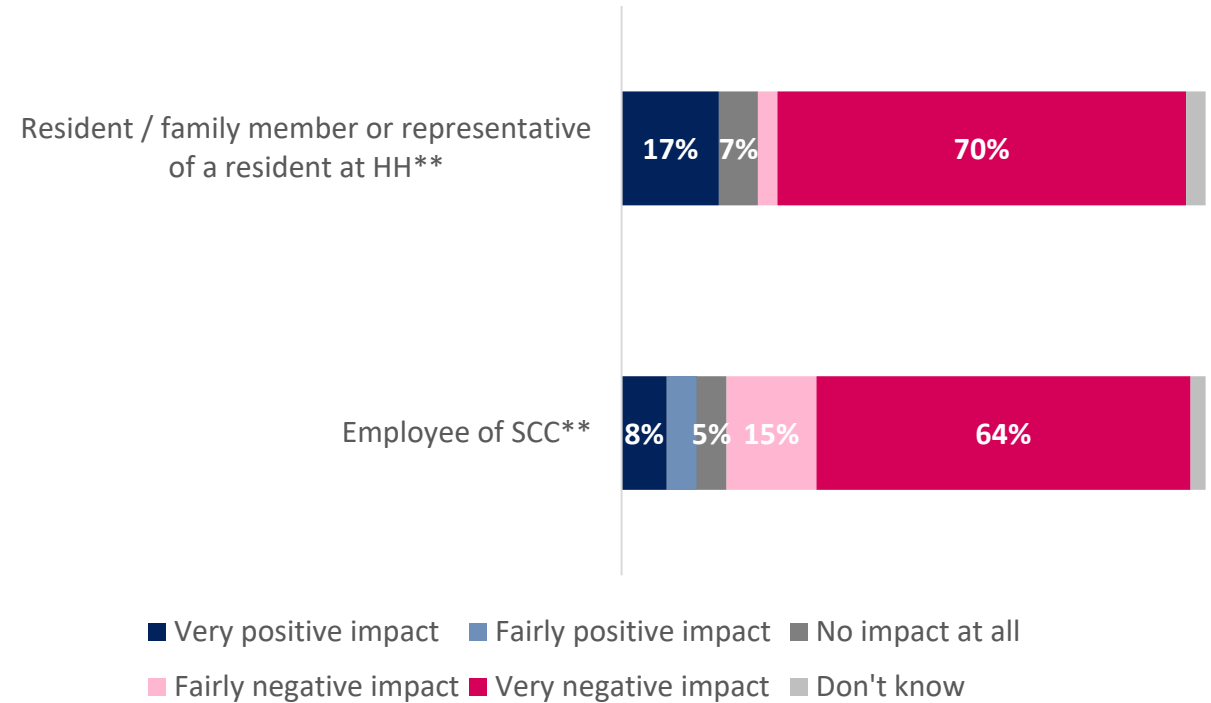
## Impact levels that this may have:

### Overall:



Base respondents: 210

### Key breakdowns:



\*\*Small sample size – less than 50



Within the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own free text comments.

A total of **143** respondents provided a comment or email. This includes any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives. The following graphs show the total number of respondents by each theme of comment.

*These graphs are in respondent count, rather than percentage.*

### Suggestions / concerns



### Positive comments

