



SANDBANKS SAND DUNES CONSULTATION

16 February to 29 March 2026

Report May 2026

Research and Consultation Team

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1 Executive Summary

Across the consultation, there was strong overall support for the proposals. Most were supported by at least two-thirds of respondents, indicating broad approval of a more structured and proactive approach to dune management at Sandbanks.

Support was, however, frequently conditional with respondents emphasising the importance of:

- proportional and evidence-based intervention
- clear responsibilities and funding arrangements
- protecting access, safety and amenity
- avoiding over-management or unintended consequences.

Opposition was focused on specific proposals or locations, particularly where respondents felt that access, safety, fairness or impacts on nearby properties were affected.

Summary of Proposal Outcomes

- **Very high support** for clearing access paths, managing invasive species, signage and fencing, reinstating lost dune areas, and maintaining groynes and beach nourishment.
- **Strong but conditional support** for extending dunes, defining dune height profiles, managing sand build-up near properties, and encouraging homeowner involvement.
- **More divided views** where proposals directly affect private access, views, security, or impose ongoing responsibilities on residents.

Across all proposals, confidence is higher where it is clear when intervention would happen and when it would not, supported by safeguards and clear governance.

BCP Residents living in Sandbanks vs BCP Residents not living in Sandbanks

BCP residents living in Sandbanks tended to support sand dune management in principle but were more likely to oppose proposals, or to support them only with strong conditions where they affected access, security, privacy, dune height, proximity to property boundaries, and ongoing maintenance responsibilities.

BCP residents **not** living in Sandbanks showed more consistent support across the proposals overall, particularly for environmental protection, climate resilience, enforcement and borough-wide benefit, and were more likely to oppose the use of public funds to mitigate impacts on private properties.

Sand Lizards/ Protected Species

While respondents most frequently focused on issues such as access, safety, sand management and impacts on nearby properties, many also referenced the importance of protecting dune habitats and associated biodiversity. This included specific mentions of protected species such as sand lizards, which, although not a dominant theme in the

consultation responses, are recognised by respondents as an important consideration in the future management of the Sandbanks dunes.

Overall Conclusion

Respondents broadly support a more coordinated, proactive and environmentally focused approach to managing the Sandbanks sand dunes. They recognise the dunes as a vital natural asset that must be protected to support biodiversity, coastal resilience and public enjoyment.

At the same time, the feedback highlights the need for a carefully balanced and transparent approach, ensuring that:

- interventions are proportionate and evidence-led
- environmental gains are not achieved at the expense of access, safety or fairness
- roles and responsibilities are clearly defined
- community engagement is meaningful and well supported.

Taken together, the consultation responses indicate that the proposals respond well to the key issues identified for the future management of the Sandbanks dunes, including environmental protection, access, safety and long-term resilience. Public confidence is strongest where implementation is sensitive, well-communicated and consistently delivered.

2 Introduction

The Sandbanks Sand Dunes Consultation was undertaken to inform the development of a revised, long-term approach to managing the sand dunes at Sandbanks. The dunes play a critical role in coastal protection, biodiversity conservation, and public access to the beach, while also giving rise to challenges such as wind-blown sand, erosion, impacts on adjacent properties, and visitor pressure.

The consultation ran from **16 February to 29 March 2026** and received 149 responses (140 online and 9 paper). Respondents included residents from across the BCP area, Sandbanks residents, visitors, businesses and stakeholders.

The purpose of the consultation was to capture public views on proposals for the future management of the Sandbanks sand dunes, aimed at balancing environmental protection, climate resilience, accessibility, and the needs of residents and visitors.

3 Methodology

The survey was available online at haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/sand-dunes-consultation. The homepage can be seen below. Paper copies were also made available in all BCP Council libraries and available on request, along with alternative formats.

Emails were sent out to key stakeholders and posters were displayed in libraries, in the local community and close to the sand dunes.



Sandbanks Sand Dunes Consultation

We would like to hear your views on the proposed management approach for the sand dunes at Sandbanks.

Sandbanks is host to a system of sand dunes which provide a natural form of protection against coastal erosion. Dunes are part of the area's character and play an important role creating habitat for rare and protected species. Prior engagement with key stakeholders and the general public has identified the main challenges currently being faced on the sand dunes and has helped us to develop proposals for the effective management of these going forward.

The map below shows a summary of the proposals and which areas could be affected. Full details of the proposals can be found in the information document below.



SOUTH WEST
Flood & Coastal
Start: 16 February 2025
Finish: 29 March 2025



[Take the survey](#)

After reading the information document, please give us your feedback by completing our online survey, with paper copies available at your local library or for download on this page.

Please note that no decisions have been made at this stage and will only be considered once your feedback has been carefully assessed.

This consultation will close at **23:59pm on 29 March 2025**.

If you have any questions or need the survey in a different format, please email consult@bcpcouncil.gov.uk. You can also find Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at the end of the information document.

Sandbanks Sand Dunes Consultation - Information Document.pdf	11 MB
Sandbanks Sand Dunes Consultation - Proposal Map.pdf	1670 KB
Sandbanks Sand Dunes Consultation Survey.pdf	171.6 KB
Sandbanks Sand Dunes Consultation - Supplementary Document.pdf	11 MB
Consultation Poster A5.pdf	2.4 MB

4 The Proposals

The proposals took into consideration the key challenges faced by the sand dunes including:

- Sand Lizards / Protected Species
- Storms
- Visitor Trampling
- Beach Accessibility
- Sand Encroachment
- Reduction of Sea Views and Privacy.

While simultaneously ensuring there is sustainable management of the sand dunes as a coast protection feature.

The proposals were to:

- Regularly clear public pathways to the beach to maintain access
- Develop a process for removing non-native invasive species within the dune vegetation

- Establish a new community Sand Dune Management Group
- Actively manage the dune plant nursery
- Regularly remove sand which builds up against boundary walls
- Make native plants grown in the dune nursery available to local homeowners to improve the local environment
- Upgrade / install additional rock groynes along the Sandbanks frontage
- Extend the dunes along the coastline in the widened beach areas
- Periodically remove wind-blown sand that has built up on private properties
- Define a maximum height / profile for the sand dunes and agree a process for recycling sand
- Maintain and improve signage and rope-and-post fencing around the dunes to raise awareness and discourage trampling
- Reinstate the once vegetated dune area north of existing Phase I dunes
- Maintaining existing groynes and continue periodic beach nourishment.

Full details of the proposals can be found in the [Information Document](#).

5 Communications Report

Purpose of the Communication Activity

The communication campaign was designed to raise awareness of the Sandbanks Sand Dunes consultation to encourage public participation and ensure residents, visitors and stakeholders were informed about opportunities to provide feedback on the future management of the dunes.

Activity focused primarily on BCP Council social media channels, using targeted posts to promote the consultation and remind audiences to take part.

Reach and Visibility

Reach is the number of **unique people** who saw a post at least once.

The communication activity achieved strong overall reach, particularly on Facebook:

- Total reach: approximately 33,600 people
- Platform reach breakdown:
 - Facebook: ~32,000
 - Instagram: ~1,700
 - X (formerly Twitter): ~500

This indicates that the messaging successfully reached a large local and regional audience, with Facebook being the most effective channel for visibility.

Views

Views or impressions measure the **total number of times a post was displayed** on screens.

The campaign generated high levels of interaction relative to the small number of posts:

- Total content views/impressions: approximately 54,000
- Total engagement: 2,687 interactions, including:
 - Likes and reactions
 - Comments
 - Shares
 - Link and content clicks.

Engagement

Engagement covers **all the actions people take** with a post.

The majority of engagement occurred on Facebook, accounting for:

- ~2,600 interactions
- 169 comments
- 129 link clicks
- 13 shares.

Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) contributed modest but positive additional engagement.

Overall Effectiveness

Despite a small number of posts, the communication activity delivered:

- High reach relative to output
- Strong engagement, particularly in comments and clicks
- Clear evidence of public interest and awareness.

The Facebook channel performed especially strongly and was the key driver of consultation visibility.

6 Findings

Analysis approach and quality assurance

The key findings from the Sandbanks Sand Dunes Consultation are outlined below. Analysis of responses to open-ended questions was supported by built-in analytical tools on the GoVocal platform and Microsoft Copilot, with all findings reviewed and verified manually by the Research and Consultation Team.

6.1 About You

Almost two-thirds of respondents said they were responding as a 'BCP resident not living in Sandbanks' (65.1%), while over a fifth of respondents said they were responding as a 'BCP resident living in Sandbanks' (22.8%). Less than a tenth of respondents said they were responding as a 'visitor to Sandbanks' (4%), in an 'other' capacity (2.7%), a 'business/organisation in Sandbanks' (2%), a 'business/organisation **not** in Sandbanks' (1.3%), a 'BCP beach hut tenant' (1.3%), and a 'BCP Councillor' (0.7%).

How are you responding to this survey? (please select one option only)

149/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - required



Please tell us which business, organisation or group you are responding on behalf of or if you belong to a different respondent category that is not listed.

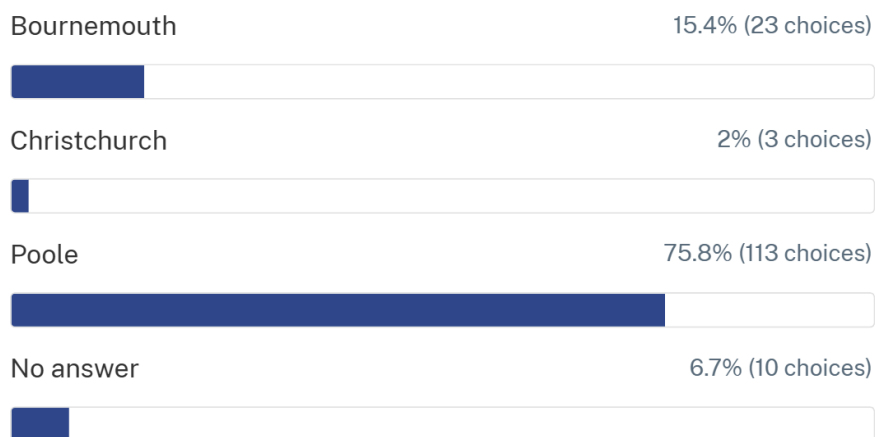
12/149 - Short answer - optional

The respondents who said they were responding in an 'other' capacity, said they were BCP Council employees (n=2), a 'holiday flat owner (n=1), and an organisation not based in BCP (n=1).

Over seven-tenths of respondents said they were a BCP Resident from Poole (75.8%), while over a tenth of respondents said they were a BCP Resident from Bournemouth (15.4%), and less than a tenth of respondents said they were a BCP Resident from Christchurch (2%).

As you've said you are a BCP Resident, please tell us whether you live in Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole.

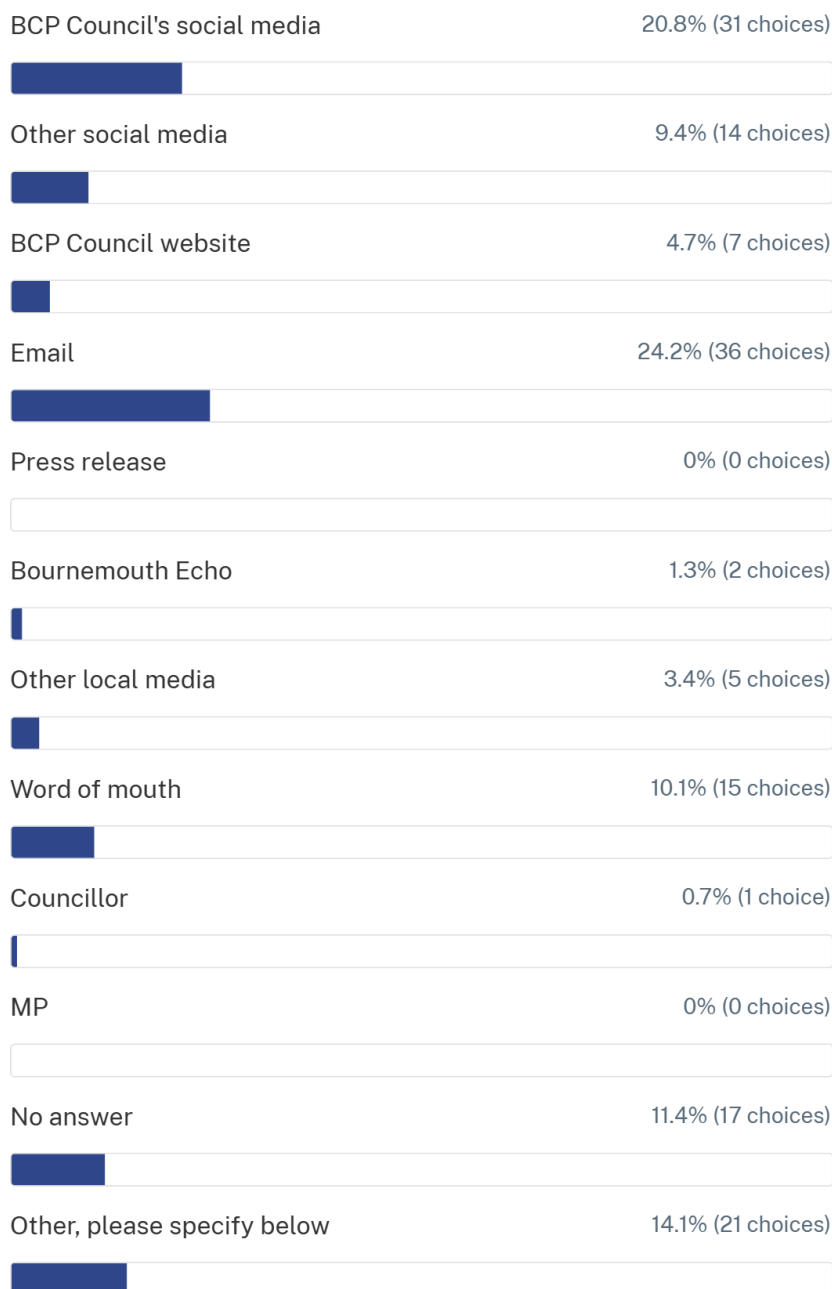
139/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Over a fifth of respondents said they found out about the consultation by 'email' (24.2%), while a fifth of respondents said they found out about the consultation through 'BCP Council's social media' (20.8%). A tenth said the of respondents said they found out about the consultation through 'word of mouth' (10.1%), while less than a tenth of respondents said they found out about the consultation through 'other social media' (9.4%), the 'BCP Council website' (4.7%), 'other local media' (3.4%), the Bournemouth Echo (1.3%), and a Councillor (0.7%). Over a tenth said they found out about the consultation through another method (14.1%).

How did you find out about this consultation? (please select all that apply)

132/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



These 'other' methods included through local community networks, most notably the Sandbanks Community Group and other resident or association-based groups. Notices displayed on the beach, within the sand dune area, and at local facilities such as libraries were also mentioned regularly. A smaller number of respondents reported finding out through direct contact following previous correspondence, invitations to forums or webinars, sector-specific organisations such as beach hut owner associations, specialist coastal websites, or through word of mouth.

6.2 Proposals for the future management of the sand dunes

6.2.1 Proposal 1 – Regularly clearing public pathways to the beach to maintain access

Issue: Stormy winters can blow sand onto the promenade and beach pathways, causing it to build up.

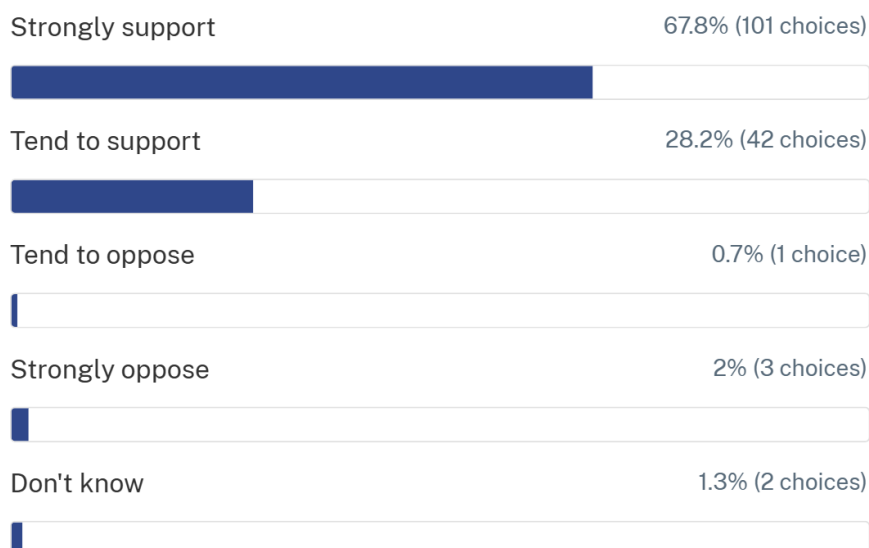
Proposed solution: We propose that BCP Seafront regularly clear the public pathways to the beach to keep access open. If clearing is not possible, we would use temporary matting to support access for disabled visitors.

Over nine-tenths of respondents (96%) said they support the proposal for to regularly clear public pathways to the beach to maintain access. Less than a tenth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (2.7%), or that they don't know whether they support or oppose the proposal (1.3%).

A similar proportion of BCP residents living in Sandbanks (97%) and **not** living in Sandbanks (96%) support the proposal.

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

149/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

77/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

77 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 77. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

63 out of 77 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 9 respondents made comments opposing the proposal, and 5 respondents made comments that were neutral / mixed.

Level of support

Feedback demonstrates **very strong overall support** for regularly clearing public pathways to maintain access. This proposal attracted consistent endorsement across a wide range of respondents, with accessibility, safety and environmental protection frequently cited as key reasons for support.

Key themes from responses

1. Accessibility and inclusion (50 comments)

Accessibility is the strongest and most consistently expressed theme. Respondents emphasise that clear, usable pathways are essential for inclusive access, particularly for people with disabilities, wheelchair users, those using mobility scooters, parents with buggies, cyclists, and older visitors. Respondents viewed access, not only as a practical consideration, but also as a matter of equality, independence and social inclusion

Representative comments:

“Paths do need to be clear for those with limited mobility, including wheelchairs. Access for all beach users.”

“My father uses a scooter and when sand [is] on the prom, [it] makes it harder for him to come on walks with us. Also hard for prams.”

“Maintaining access for residents, locals and visitors is imperative, particularly for those with mobility issues.”

2. Safety, health and operational need (38 comments)

Respondents strongly associate regular sand clearance with safety and operational necessity. Wind-blown sand is seen as creating trip and slip hazards, blocking drainage, increasing flood risk, restricting emergency access and causing conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists. Many respondents consider inaction to be unsafe and unacceptable in a high-use public space.

Representative comments:

“Good to keep public pathways clear and safe, otherwise there is a ‘trip and slip’ Health & Safety issue.”

“Because we have a beach hut... we almost got flooded because sand blocked the drain. Keep the drains free of sand build-up.”

“Support proposal purely for safety reasons.”

3. Environmental protection and conservation (32 comments)

Support for the proposal is frequently linked to environmental protection. Respondents highlight the importance of protecting dune systems, habitats and wildlife, including rare species such as sand lizards. Managed access is viewed by respondents as a way of reducing trampling, the creation of informal paths across the dunes, disturbance from dogs and erosion, helping to protect sensitive dune environments.

Representative comments:

“I’m a strong believer in maintaining a natural environment. The proposals seem to be a sensible approach.”

“Caring for the rare sand lizards and dunes is of higher importance to me.”

“If the paths are not cleared people trample over the dunes.”

4. Balancing natural character with active management (26 comments)

Many respondents acknowledge that sand movement is a natural coastal process but nevertheless expect practical intervention where essential infrastructure is affected. There is broad support for a balanced approach that allows natural coastal processes to continue while ensuring that key access routes remain usable. A small minority caution against excessive intervention that could diminish the area’s natural character.

Representative comments:

“Nature is nature and you can’t stop it doing its thing, but as there are already concrete paths it would be good to keep these clear.”

“The beach loses its charm when continually tidied!”

“A balanced approach to the problem with strong emphasis on environment, while appreciating the importance for recreation.”

5. Cost, sustainability and deliverability (22 comments)

While support remains strong, respondents raise concerns about long-term costs, the frequency of clearance and confidence in sustained delivery, particularly during autumn and winter storms. Some question whether commitments will be maintained over time and suggest complementary or preventative measures such as planting to reduce sand movement.

Representative comments:

“This may be very costly as autumn and winter storms roll in more frequently.”

“Historically... I doubt it will be done. I hope BCP prove me wrong.”

“Need to keep operational costs down: stop the sand blowing in the first place through grasses and planting?”

6. Visual quality, tourism and local character (20 comments)

Respondents place importance on Sandbanks’ visual quality and perceived ‘premium’ character. Clear, well-designed pathways are seen as supporting tourism, local businesses

and civic pride. There is an expectation that any materials used, including matting, should be high quality, understated and appropriate to the setting.

Representative comments:

“Matting should be aesthetically pleasing and in keeping with the premium reputation of the area.”

“It would keep the beach and facilities smart and presentable, encouraging visitors.”

“Good for locals and tourists.”

7. Opposition to specific elements or locations (9 comments)

A small minority of respondents expressed opposition, largely focused on specific locations, design choices or materials rather than the principle of maintaining access. Concerns include impacts on views, antisocial behaviour on dunes and potential environmental impacts from degrading materials.

Representative comments:

“I do not support the sand dune in front of Beachview... It ruined our view.”

“Do not support matting as this can degrade and enter the sea water.”

“It’s a beach, I don’t care if it’s sandy.”

6.3 Proposal 2 – Develop a process for removing non-native invasive species within the dune vegetation

Issue: Invasive species can dominate native dune plants, reduce biodiversity, and prevent the sand movement needed for healthy dune ecosystems.

Proposed solution:

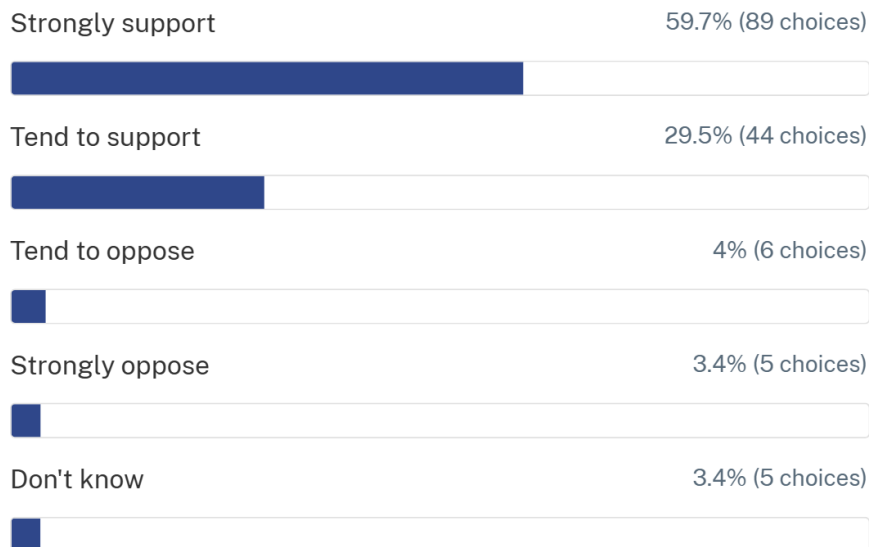
- Develop a process for removing invasive species within the dunes as well as plants which are not typical of sand dune habitats (i.e. brambles in existing dunes are native but need to be managed/reduced).
- Educating homeowners on what not to plant in gardens using the ‘Householder Guide’.

Almost nine-tenths of respondents (89.2%) said they support the proposal to develop a process for removing non-native invasive species within the dune vegetation. Less than a tenth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (7.4%), or that they don’t know whether they support or oppose the proposal (3.4%).

A similar proportion of BCP residents living in Sandbanks (91%) and **not** living in Sandbanks (90%) support the proposal.

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

149/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

66/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

66 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 66. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

53 out of 66 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 8 respondents made comments opposing the proposal, and 5 respondents made comments that were neutral / mixed.

Level of support

Responses show **strong support** for managing invasive species, particularly where intervention is selective, informed and proportionate, with some respondents favouring minimal or periodic management once harmful species are removed.

Key themes from responses

1. Protection of native biodiversity and dune ecology (41 comments)

The most prominent theme relates to the protection of native species and the ecological integrity of sand dune systems. Respondents widely recognise sand dunes as delicate and finely balanced habitats that can be degraded by invasive or inappropriate planting. Active vegetation management is viewed as essential to biodiversity, dune stability and long-term resilience.

Representative comments:

“Important to ensure native coastal vegetation is maintained which is suited to the environment and will enable the dunes to flourish and stabilise.”

“Invasive species can completely take over an environment.”

“To meet statutory duty to biodiversity and for good habitat management purposes.”

2. Support for managing or removing invasive and non-native species (38 comments)

Respondents strongly support the active management or removal of invasive and non-native species, which are widely perceived as harmful to ecological balance. Many note that invasive plants can out-compete native species, reduce habitat quality and undermine natural dune processes.

Representative comments:

“Non-native species upset the eco balance.”

“Invasive species can adversely affect the natural habitat.”

“By removing invasive species, ecological balance will be able to reach a dynamic equilibrium.”

3. Education, awareness and responsibility of homeowners (30 comments)

Education and engagement of local homeowners emerge as a key success factor. Respondents highlight the role of gardens adjoining dunes and the need for clearer guidance on appropriate planting. Suggestions include improved information and encouraging local community involvement.

Representative comments:

“I think education of residents is a priority and voluntary group support to help maintain the sand dunes.”

“Local owners need awareness and responsibility to prevent non-native and invasive species.”

“It would be an advantage to have local homeowners monitor any appearance of invasive species.”

4. Preference for natural processes and limited intervention (21 comments)

Some respondents favour minimal intervention once inappropriate species have been removed. These views emphasise allowing dunes to stabilise through natural processes, with light-touch or periodic management rather than ongoing intensive intervention.

Representative comments:

“Nature should be allowed to manage itself.”

“The cheapest and most effective way to manage dunes is to allow them to stabilise by natural processes.”

“Nature knows best – what suits dune succession.”

5. Caution about over-management, cost and practicality (17 comments)

Some respondents raised concerns about affordability, long-term funding and the practicality of sustained vegetation management. Some respondents question whether a high level of intervention is realistic or sustainable, particularly given the ongoing spread of seeds by wind.

Representative comments:

“I can’t see the funding being available to maintain this level of maintenance.”

“Over-management for unnecessary cost. Maybe periodically.”

“It could be a lengthy and constant process of removing them.”

6. Importance of retaining certain non-invasive species, e.g. brambles (14 comments)

Several respondents stress that not all non-grass species should be removed. Brambles are frequently cited for their role in stabilising sand, supporting wildlife and discouraging antisocial behaviour. There is support for selective, informed management rather than blanket removal.

Representative comments:

“Brambles support birds – sparrows and robins. Their habitat must not be affected.”

“This proposal is supported, provided that brambles are respected for stabilising sand and providing wildlife cover.”

“Other species such as brambles should be allowed to grow as they support a diverse range of insects.”

7. Concerns about implementation and potential harm (10 comments)

A small number of respondents expressed concern about how management activities may be carried out. Examples are cited where machinery, footfall or disturbance during works caused damage, with some suggesting that poor implementation could pose greater risk than the vegetation itself.

Representative comments:

“I witnessed far more damage being done by management activity than if nothing had been done.”

“Dogs which run free on the dunes will now do more damage to that area.”

“I don’t think the plants are the problem.”

Overall conclusion

Respondents show strong support for managing non-native invasive species to protect dune habitats and native biodiversity, and widely recognise the sand dunes as fragile environments requiring informed and sensitive management. Education and engagement of local homeowners is repeatedly highlighted as critical, alongside the encouragement of native planting and selective removal of harmful species. While support is high, respondents emphasise the need for proportionate, well-resourced and carefully implemented action, with concerns about cost, over-management and unintended damage underscoring the importance of a targeted, science-led approach. Overall, respondents agree that the

proposal provides an effective and proportionate approach to supporting biodiversity, improving understanding and ensuring careful delivery..

6.4 Proposal 3 – Establish a new community Sand Dune Management Group

Issue: Management of the sand dunes will require ongoing support to ensure they continue to provide a form of natural coastal protection against erosion and continue to provide habitat for rare species.

Proposed solution:

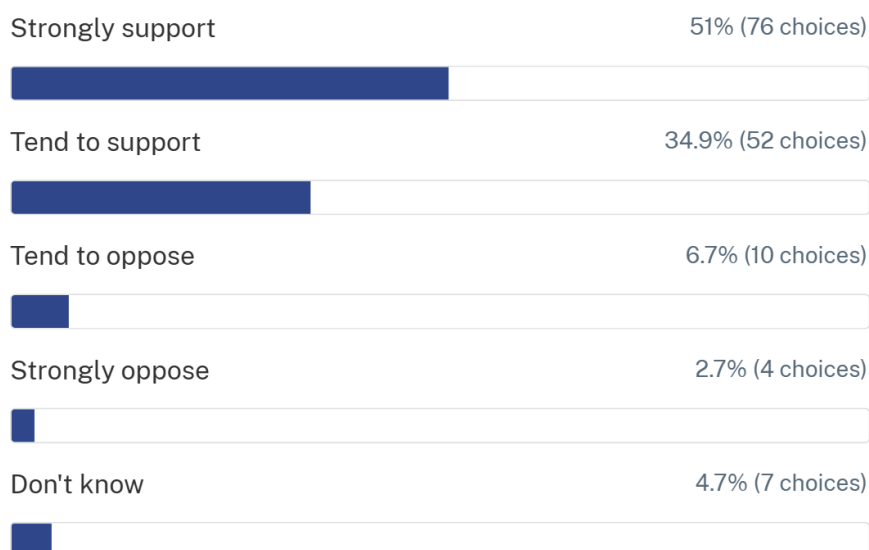
- Create clear aims and terms of reference for the Group, including an explanation of how it works with BCP services and teams.
- Involve community Sand Dune Management Group volunteers in activities such as managing the dune plant nursery (Proposal 4), carrying out habitat surveys, removing invasive species (Proposal 6), supporting post-storm recovery, and repairing fencing (Proposal 11).
- The production of a 'Householder Guide' to provide information on garden management (Proposals 2 & 6).

Almost nine-tenths of respondents (85.9%) said they support the proposal to establish a new community Sand Dune Management Group. Less than a tenth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (9.4%), or that they don't know whether they support or oppose the proposal (4.7%).

A larger proportion of BCP residents **not** living in Sandbanks (91%) support the proposal, compared to those living in Sandbanks (76%).

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

149/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

67/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

67 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 67. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

51 out of 67 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 10 respondents made comments opposing the proposal, and 6 respondents made comments that were mixed / conditional / unclear.

Level of support

Responses show **strong support for community involvement** in dune protection and management, but with **more mixed views on the creation of a formal Sand Dune Management Group**, particularly where concerns exist about cost, sustainability and over-management.

Key themes from responses

1. Community involvement, ownership and buy-in (40 comments)

The strongest theme reflects enthusiasm for community involvement as a way of fostering pride, understanding and long-term commitment to sand dune protection. Respondents feel that engaging local people strengthens connection to the landscape and increases the likelihood of sustainable management outcomes.

Representative comments:

“Getting the community invested in the natural environment creates social cohesion and public pride.”

“Community ‘buy-in’ and ‘ownership’ of the scheme is essential to its success.”

“Any community involvement in sand dune management would be an advantage – the more people involved the better.”

2. Volunteering as a positive but uncertain resource (32 comments)

Volunteering is widely supported as a means of supplementing council activity, saving resources and providing meaningful community involvement. However, many respondents expressed uncertainty about recruitment, reliability and long-term sustainability, particularly given the number of second homes and residents who are not present all year-round.

Representative comments:

“Saves council money, gives people hobbies, win, win.”

“Seems like a good idea but getting local volunteers would be crucial for its viability.”

“I don’t think this is sustainable – I think you’ll struggle to find volunteers.”

3. Cost, funding and use of public money (28 comments)

Respondents frequently raised concerns about cost implications, funding sources and potential impacts on council tax. They sought clarity on whether a management group would require additional funding or whether existing council resources could be used more effectively.

Representative comments:

“Has BCP costed this set-up and how will it be funded without increasing rates?”

“This sounds like an expensive venture presumably funded by taxpayers.”

“As long as the cost is already factored into existing budgets and locals won’t pay extra.”

4. Role of the council vs role of the community (25 comments)

Many respondents emphasise that, while community involvement is valuable, ultimate responsibility for sand dune management must remain with the Council. There is concern that volunteer groups could be relied upon to replace professional or statutory responsibilities.

Representative comments:

“The council should not expect volunteer groups to do too much of this work.”

“Ultimate responsibility for the scheme must remain with the Council.”

“BCP should employ a core team to maintain the dunes.”

5. Governance and enforcement (18 comments)

Some respondents argue that community involvement alone is insufficient without effective governance and enforcement. Persistent issues such as dog fouling, trampling, littering and antisocial behaviour are seen as requiring formal authority rather than voluntary oversight alone.

Representative comments:

“There needs to be teeth – fines exist but aren’t policed, so nobody cares.”

“If trampling is spotted and nothing is done, it won’t stop.”

“Manage rubbish clearance in the dunes.”

6. Inclusivity and representation (15 comments)

Respondents highlight the importance of ensuring that any community group represents a broad range of interests. There is concern that a narrow or overly-localised membership could dominate decision-making and exclude wider voices.

Representative comments:

“It is essential such a group does not comprise just Sandbanks residents.”

“Need to guard against a small number having too great an influence.”

“Not a Sandbanks resident, but this still matters.”

7. Education and awareness-raising (14 comments)

Community groups are seen as a valuable mechanism for improving understanding of dune ecology, biodiversity and appropriate behaviour. Respondents suggest links with schools, children’s activities and ranger-led engagement to build long-term awareness.

Representative comments:

“Involving the local community helps raise the importance of this natural habitat.”

“People need to understand complex biodiversity and ecosystems.”

“Maybe schools could join in to educate the younger generation.”

8. Opposition to over-management or formal structures (12 comments)

A small number of respondents oppose the creation of a formal Sand Dune Management Group, expressing concerns about over-management, bureaucracy and unnecessary interference. Some prefer minimal intervention or informal, volunteer-only approaches.

Representative comments:

“Again, over-management and complication. Too many different viewpoints.”

“Don’t get BCP involved – volunteers only, let nature take its course.”

“The dunes have been absolutely fine without a steering group for decades.”

Overall conclusion

There was broad support for the proposal to establish a community Sand Dune Management Group, particularly where it helps build awareness, shared ownership and education around sand dune protection. While volunteering and local engagement are welcomed, respondents consistently stress that community involvement should complement rather than replace Council leadership and statutory responsibility. Concerns about cost, sustainability, governance and enforcement highlight the importance of clear roles, inclusive representation and funding transparency. Overall, respondents feel the proposal is effective where it combines meaningful community involvement with clear Council oversight, accountability and effective coordination.

6.5 Proposal 4 – Actively manage the dune plant nursery

Issue: There is currently no managed local source of native dune vegetation, leaving the sand dunes more vulnerable to erosion and making recovery slower after storm damage.

Proposed solution:

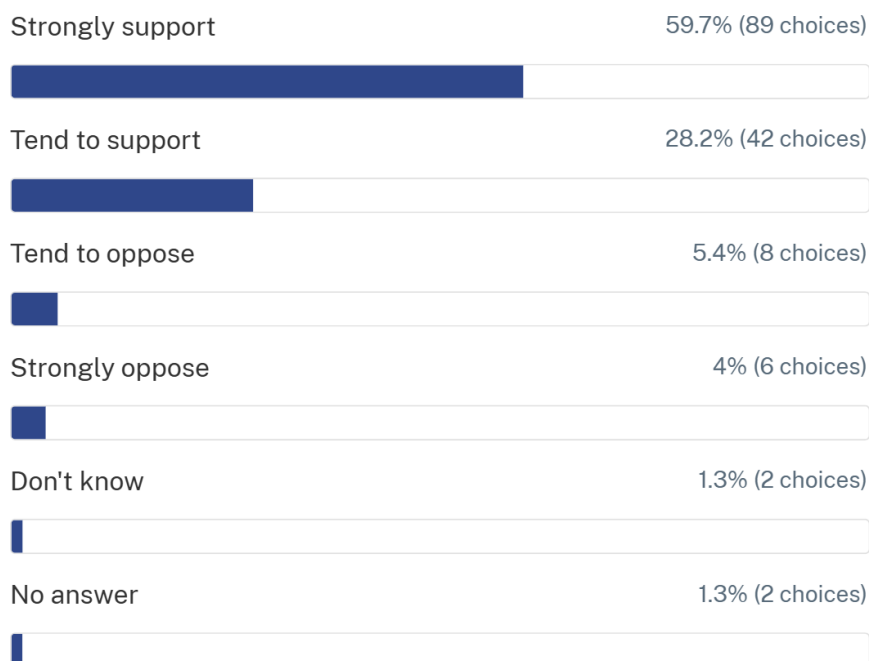
- Providing a store of vegetation to be used to extend sand dune areas and aid dune recovery following storms.
- Collecting seeds from Studland/elsewhere to develop in the nursery. This could help to increase biodiversity if it's needed in the future.

Over eight-tenths of respondents (87.9%) said they support the proposal to actively manage the dune plant nursery. Less than a tenth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (9.4%), or that they don't know whether they support or oppose the proposal (1.3%).

A larger proportion of BCP residents **not** living in Sandbanks (92%) support the proposal, compared to those living in Sandbanks (76%).

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

147/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

53/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

53 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 53. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

39 out of 53 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 9 respondents made comments that opposed or were strongly sceptical of the proposal, and 5 respondents made comments that were mixed / conditional / unclear.

Level of support

Responses show **clear overall support** for establishing a local plant nursery or seed-collection approach to support dune recovery and management. Respondents largely view the proposal as environmentally beneficial, particularly where it strengthens dune resilience, supports native biodiversity and enables timely restoration following damage.

Key themes from responses

1. Supporting dune recovery, integrity and ecosystem health (30 comments)

The most common theme relates to strengthening dune integrity, resilience and ecosystem health. Respondents see locally sourced planting as a means of reinforcing dunes, enhancing biodiversity and supporting long-term recovery, particularly in areas affected by erosion or visitor pressure.

Representative comments:

“An excellent concept that has a number of obvious benefits to keep the dunes robust.”

“Key to maintain dune integrity and enhance the ecosystem.”

“Vital to the health of dunes moving forward.”

2. Use of locally sourced seed and plants (27 comments)

Respondents strongly support harvesting local seed or plants, such as marram and lyme grass, to ensure vegetation is well adapted to local conditions. Locally sourced material is seen as more resilient, environmentally appropriate and beneficial for preserving local biodiversity, while also reducing reliance on external supply.

Representative comments:

“Harvesting local plants and growing them [in the nursery] makes perfect sense.”

“Good to use local material.”

“It would seem logical to have a reserve store of vegetation so any loss could be replaced quickly.”

3. Awareness-raising, education and community interest (18 comments)

Respondents highlight the potential role of a nursery in raising awareness and interest in dune ecology. Many believe the proposal would help residents and visitors better understand how sand dunes function and why appropriate planting choices are important.

Representative comments:

“It helps raise awareness of how these plants develop.”

“Helps [the] project gain local interest and support.”

“Helping one helps all.”

4. Need for professional expertise and biosecurity (17 comments)

A strong theme concerns the need for professional oversight. Respondents emphasise that seed collection and plant growing must be carefully managed to avoid risks such as disease transfer, poor species selection or ineffective planting.

Representative comments:

“Needs someone who knows plants.”

“With seed collection, this needs to be professionally managed as disease can be spread.”

“Depends if you get specialists in to advise.”

5. Cost, funding and value for money (20 comments)

Cost is a significant consideration for respondents. While some view the nursery as preventative and potentially cost-effective, others question affordability given wider funding pressures and seek reassurance that it will not increase council tax or divert resources from other priorities.

Representative comments:

“Sounds like a good idea but again factor the costs in already without charging us more.”

“Again money could be better spent elsewhere.”

“Seems excessive when funds are short, but welcome if money is ample.”

6. Natural regeneration versus active management (15 comments)

A tension exists between respondents who believe sand dunes should largely be allowed to regenerate naturally and those who argue that active management is necessary. Supporters of intervention point to the impacts of development, beach replenishment and high visitor use.

Representative comments:

“Just let nature be.”

“The dunes are hardy – observation shows they regenerate themselves.”

“These dunes must be actively managed to survive given the constraints of the area.”

7. Concerns about dune size, safety and wider impacts (11 comments)

Some respondents link the proposal to broader concerns about dune height, safety and beach usability, questioning whether encouraging further growth is desirable. Others argue that planting is necessary to counter erosion and damage caused by high visitor numbers.

Representative comments:

“The dunes are far too big and becoming dangerous.”

“When winter storms arrive they become dangerous cliff faces.”

“Every effort must be made to counter visitor damage through constant management.”

8. Feasibility and sustainability of volunteer-led nurseries (9 comments)

A small number of respondents question whether a volunteer-led nursery is feasible or sustainable, given the level of commitment and specialist knowledge required. Others highlight the personal wellbeing and community benefits associated with volunteering.

Representative comments:

“Requires commitment and a high interest in the subject.”

“I think a volunteer-led plant nursery is not feasible nor sustainable.”

“Wellbeing benefits for those who volunteer to do this.”

Overall conclusion

Responses indicate clear support for a local plant nursery or seed-collection approach, particularly where it strengthens dune resilience, supports native biodiversity and enables rapid recovery after damage. While locally sourced planting is widely seen as logical and environmentally sensitive, support is often conditional on professional oversight, effective biosecurity and clear, cost-effective funding arrangements. Differing views on natural regeneration versus active management reflect broader concerns about the current pressures on Sandbanks’ sand dunes. Overall, respondents feel that the proposal works best when meaningful community involvement is supported by clear Council oversight, accountability and effective coordination.

6.6 Proposal 5 – Regularly removing sand which builds up against boundary walls

Issue: Wind-blown sand can build up against buildings and walls that are not designed to support its weight.

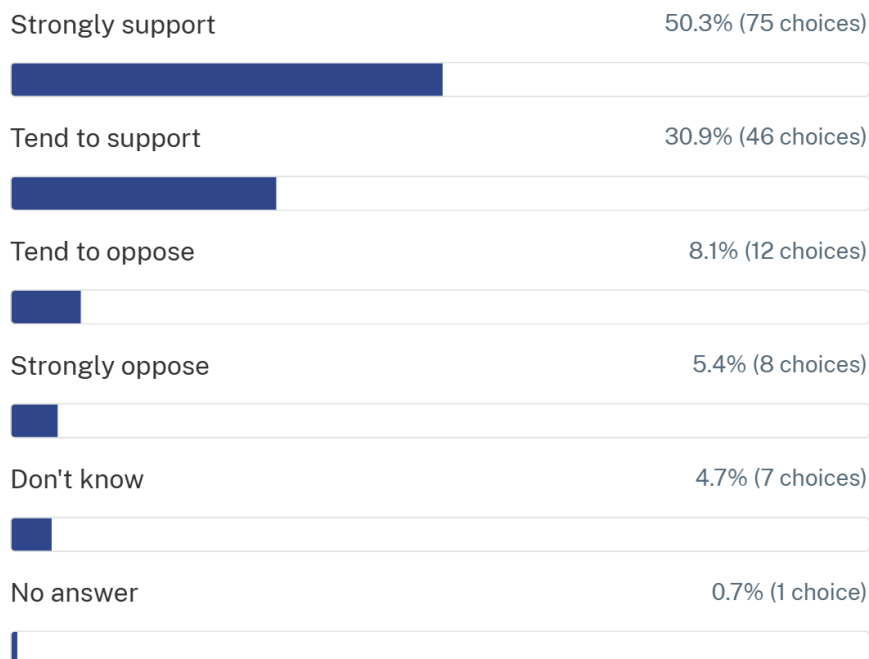
Proposed solution: We propose regularly removing sand that builds up against boundary walls to reduce pressure on these structures and to keep the access path behind the Phase II dunes clear for residents. The timeframe and methods for sand removal will be confirmed later and will follow best-practice guidance.

Over eight-tenths of respondents (81.2%) said they support the proposal to regularly remove sand which builds up against boundary walls. Over a tenth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (13.5%), or that they don’t know whether they support or oppose the proposal (4.7%).

A similar proportion of BCP residents living in Sandbanks (82%) and **not** living in Sandbanks (81%) support the proposal.

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

148/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

64/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

64 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 64. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

42 out of 64 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 16 respondents made comments that opposed or were strongly sceptical of the proposal, and 6 respondents made comments that were mixed / conditional / unclear.

Level of support

Responses show a **majority level of support** for removing sand build-up where there are genuine risks to safety, access or structural integrity. However, **views are polarised**, with a vocal minority opposing the use of public resources to address impacts on private property. Support is often dependent on proposals being proportionate, environmentally sensitive, clear about who is responsible, and transparent about how costs are shared.

Key themes from responses

1. Property protection, structural integrity and safety (29 comments)

Many respondents, particularly residents living adjacent to the dunes, describe sand build-up as a serious safety and structural issue. Concerns include pressure on retaining walls and

glass barriers, blocked drainage, water ingress, elevated sand banks creating fall risks, and restricted emergency or beach access.

Representative comments:

“Sand has piled up against our wall... people walk along that high bank and I’ve seen people fall.”

“If left, the build-up of sand would cause irreparable damage.”

“Structural integrity of the retaining walls and public safety should not be compromised.”

2. Responsibility and who should pay (26 comments)

A major point of debate concerns responsibility for costs. Some respondents argue that issues affecting private property should be funded by homeowners, not public resources. Others contend that historic dune planting, constrained coastal conditions and limited maintenance mean residents should not be expected to bear the full burden alone.

Representative comments:

“Property owners should pay for this.”

“It is not the public responsibility for private property.”

“Residents should not be forced to pay for clearing unwanted build-up which compromises structural integrity.”

3. Access, pathways and usability (22 comments)

Respondents frequently link sand accumulation against boundary walls to reduced access, both along public routes and between properties and the beach. Clearing sand is viewed as necessary to keep paths usable and to discourage informal walking over dunes.

Representative comments:

“Yes – keep access clear and avoid damage to properties.”

“This is important as we can sometimes not get onto the beach.”

“Again keeps people using paths – reduces problems with walls.”

4. Respecting natural processes and avoiding over-intervention (20 comments)

Some respondents stress that sand movement is a natural coastal process and argue that intervention should be limited to situations where there is a genuine safety risk. Regular or excessive clearance is viewed by some as unsustainable or potentially harmful to sand dune development.

Representative comments:

“Sand is part of beach life – reinforce the walls if necessary and leave it.”

“Removal of sand should be a last resort when there is danger to life.”

“Try not to be too tidy – let dunes develop where they wish to go.”

5. Environmental protection and minimising harm (18 comments)

Respondents emphasise that any removal of sand should be undertaken in an environmentally sensitive way. There is greater acceptance where sand is returned to the beach and where activities minimise disturbance to dune ecology and wildlife.

Representative comments:

“This needs to be done in a way that causes minimal harm to wildlife.”

“Sand should be collected and put back on the beach.”

“Removing sand disturbs biodiversity.”

6. Cost, resources and proportionality (17 comments)

While some respondents see sand removal as essential, others question value for money if works become frequent due to storms or beach replenishment. Respondents sought clarity about how often action would be taken, what would trigger it, and how intervention would be kept proportionate.

Representative comments:

“This could be a never-ending task.”

“A health and safety analysis would confirm if this is the best use of funds.”

“Sensible balance regarding frequency and levels is important.”

7. Fairness, equity and wider community interests (15 comments)

Some respondents express concern about public resources being used to mitigate impacts on a limited number of high-value beachfront properties. These views question whether such expenditure reflects wider community priorities across Poole and the broader BCP area.

Representative comments:

“Stop pandering to the wealthy.”

“Public funds should not be used to enhance private property.”

“Resources could be better spent elsewhere.”

8. Need for clear policy and consistent management (14 comments)

Respondents emphasise the need for a transparent and consistent policy governing when and how sand is removed. Suggestions include setting thresholds, providing clarity on where removed sand is placed, cost-sharing arrangements and safeguards against unintended consequences.

Representative comments:

“There needs to be a sensible policy for keeping clear.”

“Where will the removed sand go?”

“Applied proportionally and only when needed.”

Overall conclusion

Responses indicate strong but sometimes polarised views on removing sand build-up against boundary walls, with a clear majority supporting intervention where there are genuine risks to safety, access or structural integrity. While many respondents emphasise fairness concerns and question the use of public funds for impacts affecting private property, others argue that historic planting, constrained coastal conditions and maintenance gaps justify shared responsibility. Across responses, there is broad agreement that any intervention should be proportionate, environmentally sensitive and guided by a clear, transparent policy. Overall, respondents support the proposal the most where sand removal is clearly targeted, well-justified, returns sand to the beach, and balances safety, fairness and long-term sustainability..

6.7 Proposal 6 – Make native plants grown in the dune nursery available to local homeowners to improve the local environment

Issue: There is currently no managed local source of native dune vegetation for homeowners. This increases the risk of non-native species being planted in gardens and spreading into the dune system.

Proposed solution:

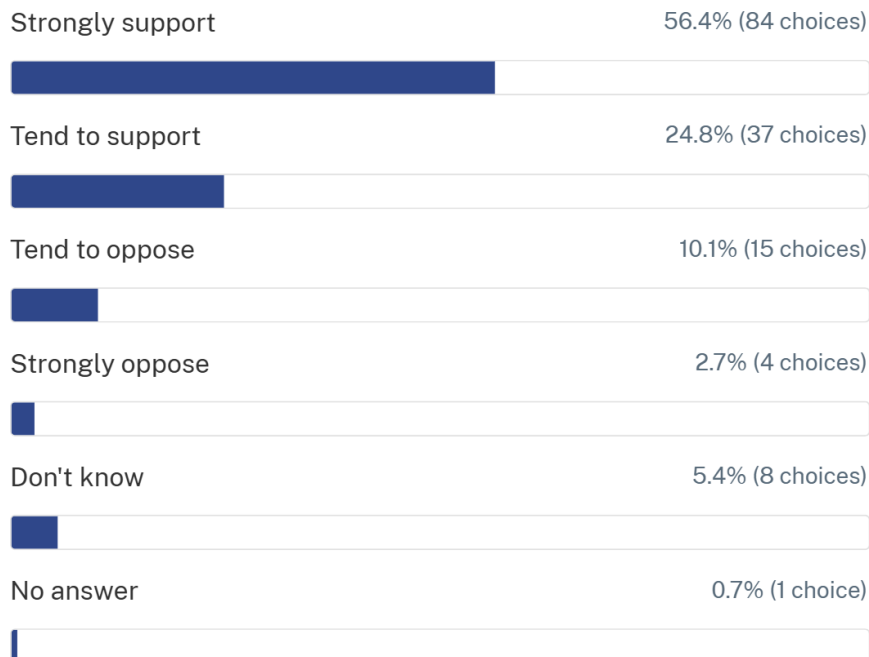
- Developing simple guidance on where exactly the vegetation can be planted, and
- Including this guidance in the ‘Householder Guide’ suggested in Proposal 3 above.

Over eight-tenths of respondents (81.2%) said they support the proposal to make native plants grown in the dune nursery available to local homeowners to improve the local environment. Over a tenth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (12.8%), or that they don't know whether they support or oppose the proposal (5.4%).

A larger proportion of BCP residents **not** living in Sandbanks (86%) support the proposal, compared to those living in Sandbanks (71%).

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

148/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

60/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

60 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 60. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

43 out of 60 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 11 respondents made comments that opposed or were strongly sceptical of the proposal, and 6 respondents made comments that were mixed / conditional / unclear.

Level of support

Responses indicate a **clear majority level of support** for making native plants available to local homeowners, particularly where the proposal is presented as voluntary, educational and supportive. Respondents commonly recognised the role private gardens can play in reinforcing the wider dune environment.

Key themes from responses

1. Education, awareness and good practice (30 comments)

The most prominent theme is strong support for the proposal as a means of education and awareness-raising. Respondents value helping residents understand which plants are appropriate for dune environments and how private gardens can support the wider coastal landscape.

Representative comments:

“Will be a great educational tool for people.”

“It makes perfect sense to any gardener.”

“Education is never wasted.”

2. Voluntary participation, not prescription (28 comments)

A strong and consistent message is that participation must remain voluntary. Respondents express discomfort with any approach that could be perceived as the council directing what residents may plant in their own gardens. A recommendation-based, opt-in approach is viewed as essential to building trust and securing buy-in.

Representative comments:

“Don’t force them if they want to plant other plants in their own garden.”

“The approach should be a recommendation rather than dictate.”

“I want to grow plants of my own choice in my own garden.”

3. Supporting the natural environment and habitat expansion (24 comments)

Many respondents support the proposal because it could help extend and reinforce native habitats beyond designated dune areas. Preventing the spread of non-native plants from nearby gardens and enabling quicker restoration of vegetation following damage are cited as a key benefit.

Representative comments:

“It will allow quick restoration of habitat.”

“Garden escapees can soon overrun the native species.”

“Keeping the integrity of the natural environment.”

4. Community engagement, ownership and local identity (22 comments)

The proposal is viewed positively as a way to strengthen community involvement, pride and a shared sense of responsibility for the local environment. Some respondents link native planting to reinforcing Sandbanks’ coastal character and identity.

Representative comments:

“Enhances the identity of the area.”

“This will increase community input and buy-in to the cause.”

“Residents should be protecting and helping the natural environment.”

5. Cost, funding and fairness (20 comments)

Cost considerations feature prominently. Respondents are generally supportive only if the initiative does not place additional financial burden on the wider taxpayer. Several suggest that homeowners, particularly those in high-value properties, should cover the cost of plants themselves.

Representative comments:

“So long as there is no cost placed on the rate payer.”

“Residents of multi-million homes can pay for these.”

“Unsure if producing a homeowner guide is a good use of limited funds.”

6. Practicality, feasibility and uptake (17 comments)

Some respondents question whether the proposal would be effective in practice. Concerns include uncertain levels of homeowner participation, limited garden space at some properties, and whether dune plants are suitable for typical garden conditions.

Representative comments:

“I’m sceptical – it will be interesting to see the uptake.”

“The homes you list tend not to have gardens and are mainly paved.”

“I doubt people would bother.”

7. Plant choice, suitability and expertise (16 comments)

Respondents highlight the importance of clear guidance on plant suitability. There is recognition that some dune species may not thrive in gardens, and that advice on appropriate species and planting locations is essential to avoid failure or unintended impacts.

Representative comments:

“Dune species like marram may not thrive long term in gardens.”

“It’s simple - plant rows of marram and lyme grass about 12 inches apart.”

“Needs clear guidance on the ‘where’.”

8. Opposition to over-interference or distraction from priorities (13 comments)

A minority of respondents oppose the proposal outright, viewing it as unnecessary interference or a distraction from more pressing management priorities such as pathways, safety and core dune maintenance.

Representative comments:

“Again, in my view a waste of time and resource.”

“There are more important things to spend the money on.”

“Let nature take its course.”

Overall conclusion

Responses show clear majority support for making native plants and guidance available to local homeowners, particularly as a voluntary, education-focused initiative that encourages good practice and community engagement. Support is consistently conditional on participation remaining optional, private property rights being respected, and costs not falling on the wider taxpayer. Concerns about uptake, practicality and plant suitability underline the need for clear guidance and realistic expectations. Overall, respondents feel that the proposal works best as a supportive, opt-in scheme that complements wider dune management objectives rather than imposing controls.

6.8 Proposal 7 – Upgrade / install additional rock groynes along the Sandbanks frontage

Issue: Opportunities to grow the sand dunes further along the coastline - providing extra coastal protection and more habitat - are limited by the narrow width of the beach caused by the current rock groyne layout.

Proposed solution:

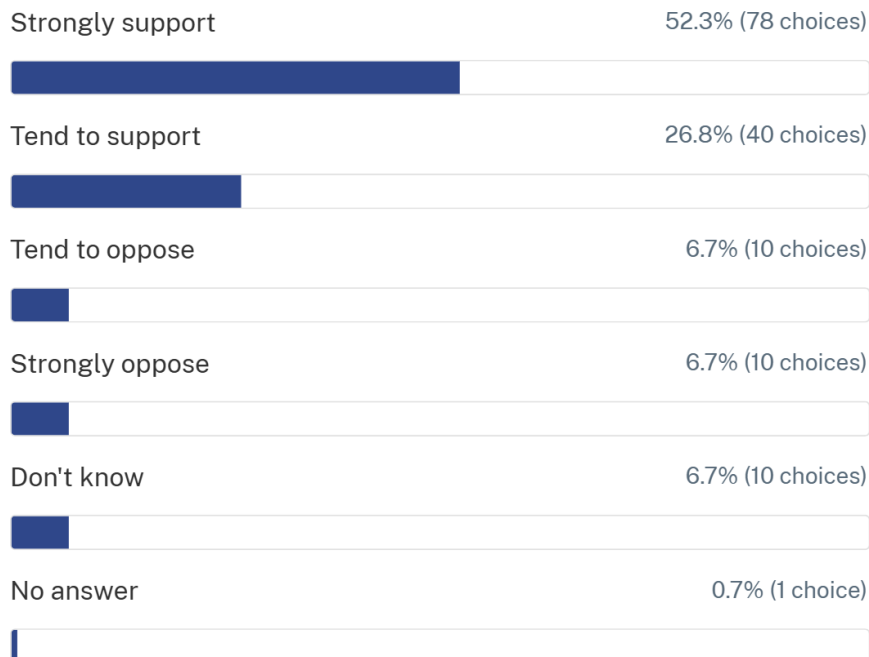
- As part of the Poole Bay, Poole Harbour & Wareham Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy Review, which is currently in development, we propose looking into whether it is technically possible and good value for money to upgrade or add new rock groynes along the Sandbanks coastline, to widen narrow sections of beach and allow dune vegetation to establish more easily. This will include exploring options to undertake:
- Improvement to the existing end groyne north-east of the existing Phase II dunes, as well as the installation of two or three additional groynes (Figure 3), and
- Modification to the groyne at Midway Path just south of the existing Phase I dunes.

Almost eight-tenths of respondents (79.1%) said they support the proposal to upgrade / install additional rock groynes along the Sandbanks frontage. Over a tenth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (13.4%), or that they don't know whether they support or oppose the proposal (6.7%).

A larger proportion of BCP residents **not** living in Sandbanks (81%) support the proposal, compared to those living in Sandbanks (71%).

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

148/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

58/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

58 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 58. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

36 out of 58 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 15 respondents made comments that opposed or were strongly sceptical of the proposal, and 7 respondents made comments that were mixed / conditional / unclear.

Level of support

Responses indicate **moderate but highly conditional support** for upgrading or installing additional rock groynes. While many respondents recognise the potential role of groynes in addressing erosion and climate change, there is scepticism regarding their effectiveness, visual impact and potential unintended consequences, with strong emphasis on the need for robust modelling, professional advice and clear cost justification.

Key themes from responses

1. Coastal protection, erosion control and climate change (30 comments)

The most common theme reflects concern about ongoing erosion and future climate impacts. Many respondents see groynes as a potential measure to retain sand, protect the

coastline and help future-proof the beach against more extreme weather and rising sea levels.

Representative comments:

“With extreme weather conditions occurring this seems essential.”

“Needs to control erosion to protect the coastline.”

“Anything that can be done to improve the coastline structure from climate change.”

2. Conditional support based on technical evidence (27 comments)

Support for groynes is frequently expressed as conditional. Respondents consistently call for reassurance that proposals are supported by professional advice, coastal modelling and evidence demonstrating effectiveness, without causing adverse impacts elsewhere along the coast.

Representative comments:

“Only after professional advice from several sources.”

“If models can guarantee that groynes will increase the depth of the beach.”

“Providing advice is taken from people who know the coast.”

3. Cost, value for money and public spending (24 comments)

Cost is a major influence on respondent views. Many question whether groynes represent good value for money relative to their benefits, and express concern about public funds being committed without clear evidence of long-term effectiveness.

Representative comments:

“A huge expense for little gain.”

“Need some clarification how this will be cost effective.”

“If it’s economically sensible, it makes sense.”

4. Impacts on beach width, enjoyment and character (22 comments)

Views are divided regarding the impact of groynes on beach usability and character. Some respondents believe groynes help create wider, more usable beaches, while others feel existing structures have narrowed beaches or detracted from the natural character of Sandbanks.

Representative comments:

“The more beach the better.”

“The beaches are smaller now than they have ever been.”

“Groynes can limit the enjoyment of the beach for residents and visitors.”

5. Environmental and ecological considerations (21 comments)

Respondents recognise that groynes can support dune formation and habitats but also raise concerns about disrupting natural processes, including longshore drift and sediment movement. Careful design is seen as essential to avoid unintended ecological consequences.

Representative comments:

“Creates a habitat for other creatures.”

“As long as there is no harm to any other part of the bay.”

“Would need careful consideration of impacts up-drift.”

6. Aesthetics, visual impact and safety (19 comments)

Rock groynes are often described as visually intrusive. Some respondents also raise safety concerns, particularly where rocks become partially buried by sand, creating uneven surfaces or trip hazards.

Representative comments:

“Visually unattractive and not aesthetically pleasing.”

“Rock groynes when partially covered by sand can become a trip hazard.”

“They have destroyed the beach’s natural beauty.”

7. Access, infrastructure and practical benefits (16 comments)

Some respondents highlight practical benefits, including protecting access routes, keeping pathways clear and safeguarding nearby infrastructure such as wheelchair access points and adjacent properties.

Representative comments:

“It would reduce the amount of sand going onto the pathway.”

“Keep the walkways clear for wheelchair users.”

“Protects the sandy beach and adjacent properties.”

8. Preference for natural or alternative solutions (14 comments)

A minority of respondents express a strong preference for natural or softer alternatives, viewing groynes as unnecessary hard engineering. These respondents favour allowing natural processes to operate or pursuing greener, less visually intrusive approaches.

Representative comments:

“Leave the beach alone and let nature take its course.”

“Not needed when a cheaper, greener solution is available.”

“We have enough greyness.”

Overall conclusion

Responses show moderate but conditional support for upgrading or installing additional rock groynes, with many respondents acknowledging the increasing challenge of erosion and climate change. Support is strongly dependent on robust technical evidence, clear modelling of coastal impacts and reassurance on cost-effectiveness. Significant concerns remain regarding visual impact, safety, environmental effects and the character of the beach, alongside preferences for more natural or alternative solutions. Overall, respondents feel that the proposal works best when evidence is clearly explained, the design is carefully thought through, and the long-term benefits clearly outweigh the costs and impacts..

6.9 Proposal 8 – Extend the dunes along the coastline in the widened beach areas

Issue: We are limited in our ability to expand the sand dunes along the coastline because the beach is too narrow due to the current rock groyne layout. This restricts opportunities to create more habitat and strengthen coastal protection against sea-level rise and climate change.

Proposed solution: We propose extending the dunes along the coastline, supported by new or modified groynes, to create wider beach areas in:

- the area north of the existing Phase II dunes, and
- the area south of the existing Phase I dunes (subject to Proposal 7).

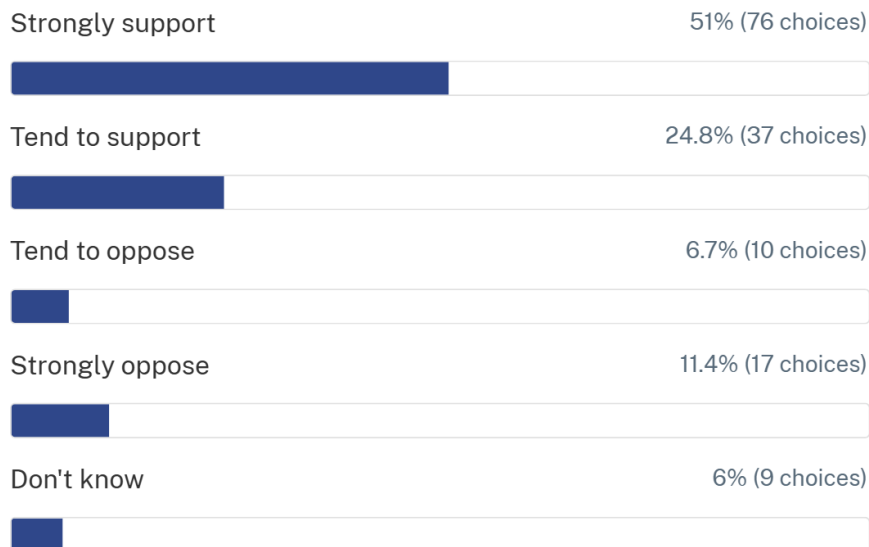
These extended dunes would be fenced to prevent trampling. To the north-east of the existing Phase II dunes (see Figure 3), this work would also help protect privately owned seawalls, which become exposed to wave erosion when storms lower beach levels.

Over seven-tenths of respondents (75.8%) said they support the proposal to extend the dunes along the coastline in the widened beach areas. Over a tenth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (18.1%), or that they don't know whether they support or oppose the proposal (6%).

A larger proportion of BCP residents **not** living in Sandbanks (80%) support the proposal, compared to those living in Sandbanks (56%).

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

149/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

58/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

58 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 58. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

33 out of 58 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 18 respondents made comments that opposed or were strongly sceptical of the proposal, and 7 respondents made comments that were mixed / conditional / unclear.

Level of support

Responses show **mixed but slightly positive support** for extending dunes along widened beach areas. While many respondents recognise the environmental and coastal protection benefits, there is opposition among residents living adjacent to the proposed extension areas. These respondents raise concerns about loss of access, security, privacy, sand encroachment and potential impacts on boundary structures, highlighting the need for careful siting, limits on scale and robust management controls.

Key themes from responses

1. Natural coastal defence, erosion and climate change (31 comments)

Many respondents support dune extension as a natural or “soft engineering” approach to coastal protection. Dunes are widely recognised as effective sediment traps that work with natural processes while helping to protect infrastructure, properties and habitats from erosion and climate impacts.

Representative comments:

“These dunes are a great soft engineering method to aid coastal protection.”

“Natural sea defences - great, let’s have more.”

“These measures will be needed to deal with the negative effects of climate change.”

2. Biodiversity, habitat value and environmental benefits (27 comments)

Respondents frequently associate dune extension with biodiversity gains, including improved habitat for sand lizards, insects and native coastal vegetation. Fencing and interpretation are viewed as important to allow vegetation to establish successfully.

Representative comments:

“More dunes enhances the habitat.”

“Increased habitat is important for retention of sand lizard populations.”

“Really important to fence off areas of dunes so vegetation can establish.”

3. Access, security and impacts on adjacent properties (26 comments)

This theme represents the strongest source of opposition. Respondents living adjacent to proposed dune extension areas raise concerns about loss of direct beach access, increased trespass or antisocial behaviour, reduced privacy, and sand pressure or accumulation against boundary walls.

Representative comments:

“Extending the dunes would stop our access to the beach which I strongly oppose.”

“People could climb the dunes to access private property.”

“The weight of the dunes would damage our boundary wall.”

4. Cost, funding responsibility and fairness (22 comments)

Cost is a significant concern for many respondents. There is frequent questioning of whether public funds should be used, particularly where benefits may accrue to private properties. Some suggest responsibility should lie with private owners or central government rather than local ratepayers.

Representative comments:

“Again there will be cost involved and this should not be by the rate payer.”

“Why are owners of private sea walls not expected to maintain their own property?”

“Nature should take its course without exorbitant public cost.”

5. Scale, location and proportion (18 comments)

Respondents stress the importance of carefully controlling the scale and location of dune extension. Suggestions include limiting dune height, focusing on selective locations, tapering dune profiles and avoiding areas where beach access or width would be negatively affected.

Representative comments:

“Keep it narrow so it doesn’t become a magnet for holiday makers.”

“Balance is important in terms of extent.”

“The dunes should be no higher than four feet.”

6. Preference for natural evolution versus active intervention (17 comments)

Views are divided between respondents who believe dunes should be allowed to evolve naturally and those who argue that the existing dune system is fragmented and vulnerable, requiring active management to survive in a heavily developed and intensively used coastal setting.

Representative comments:

“Nature should be allowed to thrive.”

“You can’t permanently fight nature without exorbitant cost.”

“This relic dune system can only be conserved by active intervention.”

7. Visual impact and beach character (14 comments)

Some respondents express concern that extending dunes could reduce sea views, narrow the usable beach, or alter Sandbanks’ character as a recreational space. Others consider dunes to enhance the natural appearance of the beach.

Representative comments:

“Not necessary or desirable for a family recreational beach.”

“Gives a more natural appearance.”

“The beach is not big enough to have further dunes.”

8. Conditional support subject to management and controls (13 comments)

Several respondents support dune extension only where it is accompanied by strong management measures, including fencing, dog control, sand-level management and a long-term sand management plan.

Representative comments:

“Robust fencing is a must.”

“Restrictions must be put in place to prevent dogs roaming.”

“Only appropriate if a sand management plan is continued.”

Overall conclusion

Responses show mixed but leaning-positive views on extending dunes as a natural coastal defence, with many recognising their value for erosion control, biodiversity and climate change adaptation. However, opposition is strong among residents directly adjacent to proposed dune areas, driven by concerns over access, security, structural impacts and sand encroachment, alongside wider questions of cost and fairness. Overall, support is most evident where dune extension is carefully targeted, proportionate and well managed, with clear limits on scale and location, strong controls and enforcement, protection of private access, and transparent funding arrangements. Where these conditions are met, many respondents see dune extension as a valuable component of a balanced, long-term coastal management strategy.

6.10 Proposal 9 – Periodically remove wind-blown sand that has built up on private properties

Issue: Stormy winters can blow sand into private properties behind the dunes, causing it to build up.

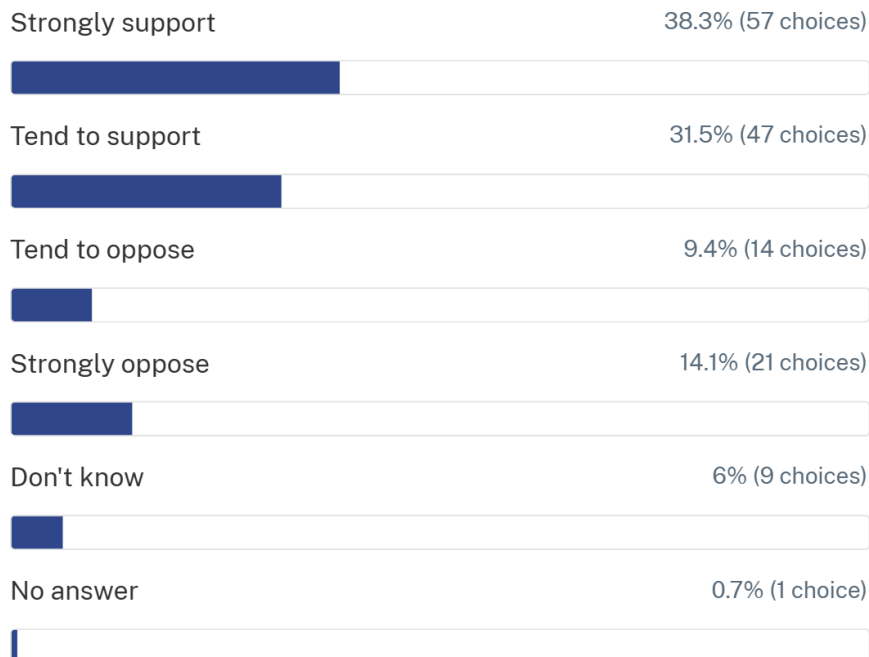
Proposed solution: We propose that property owners periodically remove wind-blown sand that builds up within their property boundaries behind the dunes. The timeframe and methods for sand removal will be confirmed later and will follow best-practice guidance.

Over two-thirds of respondents (69.8%) said they support the proposal for property owners to periodically remove wind-blown sand that has built up on private properties. Over a fifth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (23.5%), or that they don't know whether they support or oppose the proposal (6%).

A larger proportion of BCP residents living in Sandbanks (44%) support the proposal, compared to those living **not** in Sandbanks (32%).

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

148/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

71/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

71 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 71. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

46 out of 71 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 18 respondents made comments that opposed or were strongly sceptical of the proposal, and 7 respondents made comments that were mixed / conditional / unclear.

Level of support

Responses show **broad acceptance** that responsibility for removing wind-blown sand from private properties should primarily rest with property owners. Support is weakest where residents feel that council-managed dune height or shape increases the amount of sand blowing into private properties, making it difficult, unsafe or unreasonable for homeowners to manage on their own.

Key themes from responses

1. Expectation that property owners are responsible (44 comments)

The dominant view is that clearing sand from private land is a normal and expected part of owning property adjacent to beaches and dunes. Many respondents frame this responsibility as an inevitable consequence of choosing to live in a dynamic coastal environment.

Representative comments:

“If you choose to live at the beach, you take responsibility for dealing with the downsides.”

“That is not council work - taxpayers should not pay.”

“Not the public duty to remove it. I don’t expect the council to remove leaves from my garden.”

2. Conditional support linked to dune height and profile (32 comments)

Support is strongly linked to the condition that dune height and profile remain below boundary wall level. Respondents argue that excessive dune heights make sand clearance impractical, unsafe or impossible for homeowners.

Representative comments:

“This will work only if the dune height is below the level of the boundary walls.”

“If dunes are above wall height, sand removal becomes an impossible task.”

“The profile needs to be lower, not level with existing walls.”

3. Fairness, cost and use of public funds (31 comments)

Many respondents stress that public funds should not be used to address private property impacts, particularly where the primary benefit is to individual households. Others note that where council-led dune interventions exacerbate sand movement, some degree of shared responsibility may be appropriate.

Representative comments:

“Property owners must do this at their own expense.”

“If you cause the problem, you should pay to rectify it.”

“Why should council taxpayers fund damage caused by dunes?”

4. Practicality, enforcement and participation challenges (24 comments)

Respondents raise questions about how the proposal could be implemented in practice, particularly for absentee owners, holiday lets or residents unable or unwilling to undertake regular sand clearance. Enforcement is seen as challenging.

Representative comments:

“I can’t see how this would be managed.”

“Unlikely that homeowners will be willing to participate.”

“It would be difficult to force people to do this.”

5. Role for council oversight or targeted assistance (21 comments)

While favouring homeowner responsibility, some respondents support a continued council role in oversight, guidance or coordination. Targeted assistance is seen as appropriate where sand accumulation exceeds what can reasonably be managed by residents alone.

Representative comments:

“It makes sense for the council to oversee this activity.”

“Some properties may need assistance to achieve clearance.”

“Machinery may be required where sand piles against houses.”

6. Concern that dunes could worsen sand encroachment (23 comments)

A notable group warn that increased dune height or extent could exacerbate sand problems, increasing pressure on boundary walls, blocking drainage and causing flooding, thereby placing an unfair burden on adjacent residents.

Representative comments:

“Sand dunes will only exacerbate the situation.”

“The wind would distribute huge amounts of sand into our garden.”

“Blocked outlets and flooding are already an issue.”

7. Need for greater clarity and definition (19 comments)

Respondents frequently describe the proposal as insufficiently defined, calling for clearer responsibility boundaries, intervention thresholds and guidance on acceptable sand-management practices, including where removed sand should be placed.

Representative comments:

“At present this proposal appears vague.”

“Clear boundaries and responsibilities need to be set.”

“Owners need advice on where the sand should go.”

8. Support where sand removal aids wider dune management (17 comments)

Some respondents support the proposal where homeowner involvement contributes to wider dune stability and environmental outcomes. Clearing sand from private areas is viewed by some as part of shared stewardship of the coastal environment.

Representative comments:

“If this helps the establishment of the dunes, then I support it.”

“Use sand dune netting to trap the sand before it leaves the beach.”

“Locals engaging in supporting nature is positive.”

Overall conclusion

Responses indicate broad acceptance that responsibility for removing wind-blown sand from private properties should largely rest with property owners, reflecting perceptions of fairness and the realities of living adjacent to an active coastal environment. However, support is strongly conditional on careful management of dune height and profile to avoid creating unreasonable or unmanageable burdens on residents. Respondents also recognise that council-led dune interventions can materially influence sand movement, suggesting an ongoing role for oversight, guidance and targeted assistance in specific circumstances. Overall, respondents feel that the proposal is most effective when responsibilities are clearly defined, it is clear when action would happen, and guidance is practical and fair.

6.11 Proposal 10 – Define a maximum height / profile for the sand dunes and agree a process for recycling sand

Issue: In some areas, the height and spread of the dunes cause problems such as wind-blown sand entering properties, putting pressure on structures, blocking views and access paths, and creating security issues for the land and properties behind the dunes.

Proposed solution:

We propose setting a maximum height and shape for the dunes, along with an agreed process for recycling sand when this height is exceeded. This could include removing sand from the top of the dunes and placing it at the base or in other agreed areas.

At the south-western end of the existing Phase II dunes, large dunes can cause problems such as wind-blown sand entering properties, security issues, and restricted access. To manage this:

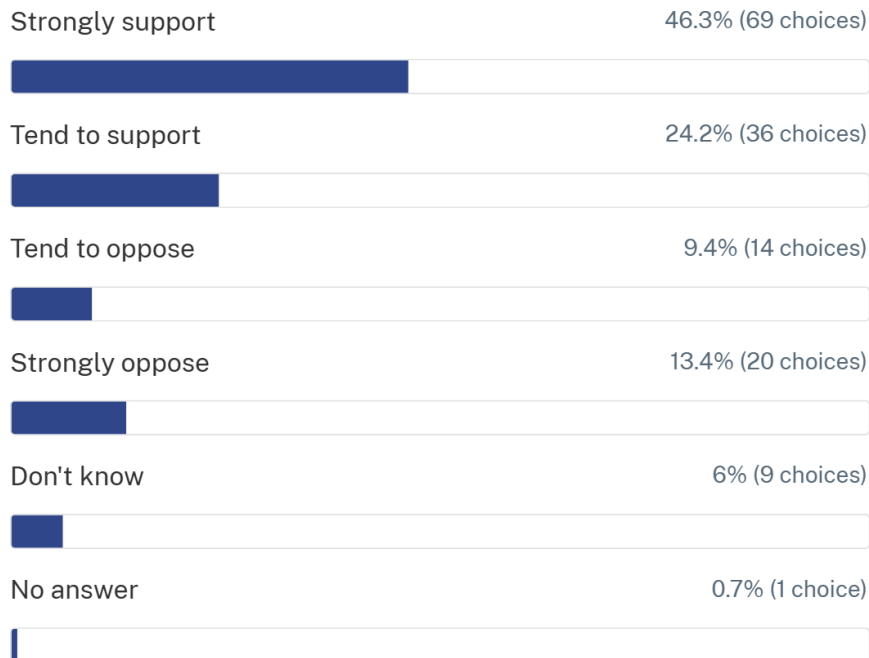
- A design dune profile has been created (see Figure 4).
- If surveys show the dunes have grown above this profile, we may trim the dune tops so they do not rise above the glass boundary wall behind the properties.
- We will also remove sand from the base of the glass wall to reduce pressure on the structure and to maintain access for residents. Any sand taken from the dune tops would be placed:
 - at the toe (base) of the dune,
 - in the re-instated area north of the existing Phase I dunes, or north of the existing Phase II dunes (see Figure 5), to help gradually build up the dune system along the coastline until new groynes can be installed to widen the beach (see Proposals 7 and 8).

Seven-tenths of respondents (70.5%) said they support the proposal for property owners to define a maximum height / profile for the sand dunes and agree a process for recycling sand. Over a fifth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (22.8%), or that they don't know whether they support or oppose the proposal (6%).

A larger proportion of BCP residents **not** living in Sandbanks (74%) support the proposal, compared to those living in Sandbanks (62%).

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

148/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

67/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

67 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 67. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

41 out of 67 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 18 respondents made comments that opposed or were strongly sceptical of the proposal, and 8 respondents made comments that were mixed / conditional / unclear.

Level of support

Responses show a **majority but highly conditional support** for defining a maximum dune height or profile. While many respondents accept that unmanaged dune growth can create safety, access and property risks, this proposal is one of the most contested, with strong opposition from those who believe dunes should be allowed to self-regulate and scepticism from others about long-term effectiveness, cost and governance. Support is often given carefully and with reservations, rather than with enthusiasm.

Key themes from responses

1. Conditional support for managing dune height (38 comments)

Many respondents accept that excessive dune height can cause practical issues, including increased sand blow, access constraints and safety risks. As a result, there is support in principle for dune height management where it is carefully targeted, proportionate and clearly justified.

Representative comments:

“I can see that dunes growing too high can have a downside, so it makes sense to manage the height.”

“This will work so long as the height of the dunes is reduced in some areas.”

“This proposal would make some of the earlier proposals easier to manage.”

2. Dune height, blown sand and property impacts (34 comments)

A strong and recurring concern is that dunes exceeding boundary wall height significantly increase wind-blown sand entering private properties. Respondents highlight structural pressure on walls, blocked drains, repeated clearance requirements and increased costs for residents.

Representative comments:

“If the height is above boundary walls it becomes an impossible task to remove the sand.”

“The current height causes significant overlooking, security and sand pressure issues.”

“This will cause less sand build-up against property walls.”

3. Access, safety and security risks (30 comments)

Respondents, particularly those living adjacent to dunes, raise concerns that higher dunes can block access routes, create trip and fall hazards, and enable trespass or antisocial behaviour by providing elevated access points.

Representative comments:

“The dunes are dangerous with steep edges — children and older people are at risk.”

“People can climb the dunes to access private property.”

“Dunes should not be allowed to block access and create security issues.”

4. Objections based on interfering with natural processes (26 comments)

A significant minority oppose dune height management outright, arguing that dunes are naturally self-regulating systems. These respondents view intervention as artificial, costly and ultimately ineffective, believing dunes should be allowed to reach a natural equilibrium.

Representative comments:

“Nature knows best and designs the best sand dune profiles.”

“Trying to manage dune height defeats the object.”

“Don’t manage nature in this way.”

5. Views, privacy and visual impacts (23 comments)

Views and privacy are frequently cited, sometimes contentiously. Some respondents support height limits to prevent overlooking and loss of residential amenity, while others criticise the proposal as prioritising the views of wealthy homeowners.

Representative comments:

“Dunes can’t be allowed to block views and privacy.”

“Fair and equitable to limit dune height and allow residents to enjoy views.”

“Millionaires lose their view and you want to spend public money?”

6. Need for clear parameters, evidence and governance (22 comments)

Respondents frequently question how an agreed maximum dune height or profile would be determined, justified and enforced. There is concern about arbitrary thresholds and limited confidence in long-term management consistency without clear rules and governance.

Representative comments:

“How do you define a given height of a natural sand dune?”

“I don’t have confidence in the dunes being managed.”

“There must be agreed procedures, rules and regulations.”

7. Biodiversity and environmental safeguards (20 comments)

Many respondents emphasise that any dune height management must protect biodiversity, including sand lizards and dune vegetation. Works should minimise disturbance and, where possible, be timed to avoid sensitive ecological periods.

Representative comments:

“I like that it’s planned to minimise disturbance to sand lizards.”

“Any work must protect the biodiversity 100%.”

“Wildlife should not be sacrificed for views.”

8. Balance, compromise and pragmatism (19 comments)

Some respondents explicitly describe dune height management as an imperfect but necessary compromise. These views frame intervention as a pragmatic means of balancing safety, access, environmental protection and coexistence between the dunes and neighbouring communities.

Representative comments:

“Reluctantly I support — compromise is needed.”

“Sounds like a sensible balance.”

“This is probably necessary and a good compromise.”

Overall conclusion

Responses show that managing dune height is one of the more sensitive and contested proposals, with majority support in principle but strong conditions attached. Many respondents see height management as necessary to reduce sand blow, safety risks, access problems and impacts on adjacent properties, while opposition centres on concerns about interfering with natural processes, fairness and long-term practicality. Across all views, there is consistent demand for clear parameters, evidence-based decision-making, strong governance and robust biodiversity safeguards. Overall, respondents feel that the proposal works best when it takes a targeted, minimal approach focused on safety, access and environmental protection, and is closely linked to wider sand and dune management.

6.12 Proposal 11 – Maintain and improve signage and rope-and-post fencing around the dunes to raise awareness and discourage trampling

Issue: Excessive or repeated trampling of sand-dune habitats can reduce or destroy vegetation height and cover.

Proposed solution:

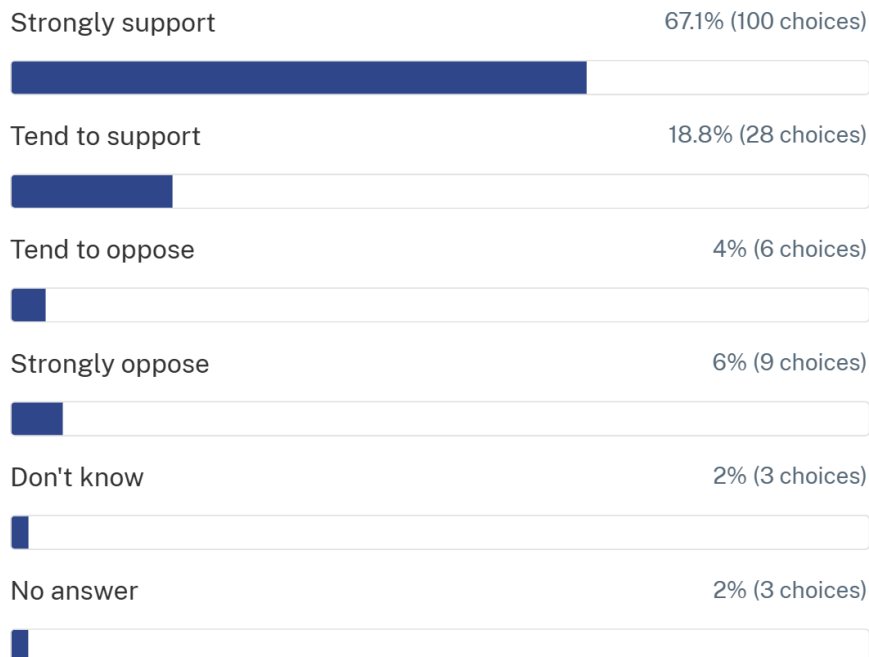
- Maintain and improve signs and rope-and-post fencing around the dunes to raise awareness and discourage trampling. Signs to include information on dune history, protected species, QR codes, and warnings against using BBQs near the dunes
- Using interpretation panels at entrance points to the beach.
- Undertaking periodic beach ranger patrols to deter antisocial behaviour.

Over eight-tenths of respondents (85.9%) said they support the proposal to maintain and improve signage and rope-and-post fencing around the dunes to raise awareness and discourage trampling. A tenth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (10%), or that they don't know whether they support or oppose the proposal (2%).

A larger proportion of BCP residents **not** living in Sandbanks (91%) support the proposal, compared to those living in Sandbanks (71%).

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

146/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

68/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

68 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 68. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

49 out of 68 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 11 respondents made comments that opposed or were strongly sceptical of the proposal, and 8 respondents made comments that were mixed / conditional / unclear.

Level of support

Responses show **strong overall support** for improving signage and rope-and-post fencing around the dunes. Respondents widely agree that current measures are insufficient and that stronger protection, alongside education and enforcement, is needed to reduce trampling, antisocial behaviour and erosion.

Key themes from responses

1. Strong support for better protection of dunes (41 comments)

Most respondents believe the dunes are currently under-protected and vulnerable to damage. Trampling, antisocial behaviour and erosion are viewed as persistent and serious problems, leading to calls for clearer and more effective protective measures.

Representative comments:

“Absolutely vital - the behaviour on the dunes is appalling.”

“This definitely needs enhancement.”

“Protect the dunes to prevent human negligent impact.”

2. Education and behaviour change are critical (37 comments)

A dominant theme is that education is as important as physical barriers. Respondents emphasise the need for signage and interpretation that explains why dunes are protected, using positive and informative messaging to encourage voluntary compliance and respect.

Representative comments:

“Education of the management plan by interpretation boards is essential.”

“Signs need to explain why restrictions exist, not just say ‘don’t’.”

“People will respect dunes if they understand their value.”

3. Signage must be clear, limited and well-designed (34 comments)

Respondents express mixed views on the quantity of signage but agree strongly on quality. Signage should be clear, concise and positively framed. Excessive or poorly designed signs are viewed as visually intrusive and likely to be ignored.

Representative comments:

“Signage has to be clear, brief and simple.”

“Only if signs are informative and not too many.”

“Too many signs are an eyesore — this isn’t a highway.”

4. Fencing and physical barriers – effectiveness versus intrusion (31 comments)

There is broad support for fencing and roped-off areas, although many respondents criticise existing installations as ineffective or poorly maintained. Suggestions include more robust barriers, while also cautioning against fencing that detracts from the natural character of the beach.

Representative comments:

“Existing ropes and posts are widely ignored.”

“More robust fencing is required to discourage entry.”

“Nothing too intrusive to ruin the natural appearance.”

5. Enforcement, rangers and penalties (29 comments)

A frequent criticism is that signage and fencing alone are insufficient without enforcement. Respondents call for empowered beach rangers, visible patrols and meaningful penalties to address issues such as BBQs, dog fouling and repeated non-compliance.

Representative comments:

“Active policing is essential, not just passive measures.”

“Rangers need to be able to challenge and stop people.”

“Warnings alone don’t work — penalties are needed.”

6. Antisocial behaviour, BBQs and dogs (27 comments)

Respondents repeatedly identify antisocial behaviour as a major driver of dune damage. BBQs, littering, dogs running free, toileting and parties are cited as common problems requiring stronger controls and enforcement.

Representative comments:

“BBQs on the dunes are a complete no-no.”

“Dog owners ignore signs and let dogs run freely.”

“Antisocial behaviour is increasing and needs control.”

7. Access for residents and avoiding over-restriction (21 comments)

Some respondents, particularly local residents, stress the importance of maintaining existing access routes to the beach. There is concern that fencing and ropes can inadvertently block access and make routine beach use more difficult.

Representative comments:

“Please ensure existing access paths are not roped off.”

“Residents need to access the beach from their properties.”

“I object to struggling under ropes with equipment.”

8. Opposition to over-regulation or visual clutter (15 comments)

A minority oppose expanded signage and fencing altogether, viewing it as over-management, unnecessary expense or damaging to the relaxed, family-friendly character of the beach.

Representative comments:

“Stop wasting money.”

“Don’t turn it into a prison.”

“Studland doesn’t have barriers - why should we?”

Overall conclusion

Responses show strong support for improving signage, fencing, education and enforcement to protect the dunes, with widespread agreement that current measures are inadequate. Support is conditional on signage being clear and minimal, education explaining why dunes are protected, fencing being effective but not intrusive, visible enforcement through rangers and penalties, and the preservation of existing resident access routes. Opposition tends to focus on concerns about over-regulation, visual clutter and ineffective implementation rather than the principle of dune protection itself. Overall, respondents feel that the proposal works best when it brings together education, clear design and active enforcement, rather than relying on signage and ropes alone.

6.13 Proposal 12 – Reinstate once vegetated dune area north of existing Phase I dunes

Issue: The sand-dune area north-east of the Phase I dunes, which was once vegetated, is now bare because of trampling and clearance for tractor access. This has reduced the habitat quality and weakened the dunes' coastal protection role.

Proposed solution:

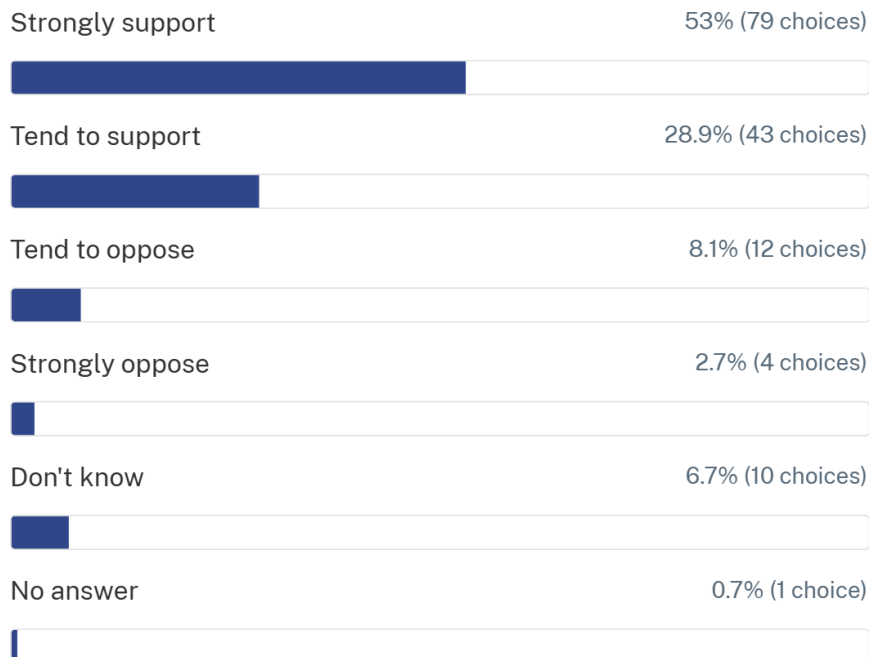
- Reinstating the once vegetated sand dune area just north of the existing Phase I dunes to be within the existing roped-off area (Figure 7), maintaining the fencing and signage to protect the growing vegetation. Vegetation and material used to reinstate this area of dune would be taken from the sand dune nursery (see Proposal 4 above) and/or following dune topping operations carried out as part of Proposal 10 above.
- Keeping access routes from the car park, around the back of this dune area, for people and machinery. Page 14 of 19 Sandbanks Sand Dune Management Study | Proposed New Management Approach
- Moving the dog bin away from the existing Phase I sand dunes to the car park to reduce footfall close to these dunes.
- Monitoring dune growth through surveys.
- Potentially installing a CoastSnap point.

Over eight-tenths of respondents (81.9%) said they support the proposal to reinstate the once vegetated dune area north of existing Phase I dunes. A tenth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (10.8%), or that they don't know whether they support or oppose the proposal (6.7%).

A larger proportion of BCP residents **not** living in Sandbanks (85%) support the proposal, compared to those living in Sandbanks (76%).

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

148/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

40/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

40 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 40. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

27 out of 40 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 8 respondents made comments that opposed or were strongly sceptical of the proposal, and 5 respondents made comments that were mixed / conditional / unclear.

Level of support

Responses show **clear majority support** for reinstating the previously vegetated dune area, driven primarily by environmental, biodiversity and coastal-defence benefits. Support is strongly conditional on effective protection, careful design and maintained access.

Key themes from responses

1. Environmental protection, habitat creation and coastal defence (24 comments)

The most common reason for support relates to environmental and coastal-protection benefits. Respondents emphasise biodiversity gains, including habitat for sand lizards, and recognise dunes as natural defences against flooding and erosion, particularly in the context of climate change.

Representative comments:

“More habitat the better for the lizards.”

“We need nature-based, economical ways of preventing damage due to climate change.”

“Creation of additional habitat for sand lizards and other species.”

2. Support conditional on effective protection and management (22 comments)

A dominant theme is that reinstatement would only be worthwhile if the area is properly protected and actively managed. Respondents frequently warn that without fencing, supervision and enforcement, the dune would quickly be damaged again by trampling, dogs and antisocial behaviour.

Representative comments:

“I could only support reinstatement if protected from public abuse daily.”

“Strict control of access will promote dune and vegetation recovery.”

“Simply fencing it off hasn’t helped — it needs an artificial head start.”

3. Access, inclusion and practical usability (18 comments)

Maintaining access is a key concern, particularly access to the groyne and for wheelchair users. Respondents support reinstatement only where existing access routes are preserved and safely usable for all.

Representative comments:

“The access to the groyne must be kept clear at all times for wheelchair users.”

“Still maintains access.”

“Should be accessible to all.”

4. Location, connectivity and design of the dune area (15 comments)

Some respondents focus on the siting and layout of the reinstated dune. Suggestions include linking it to the existing dune system rather than leaving gaps, with concern that isolated dune sections may encourage trampling via informal desire lines.

Representative comments:

“It would make more sense to extend the current dunes eastward.”

“The proposed gap should not be retained — it should link to the rest of the dunes.”

“This location is likely to be trampled if not carefully designed.”

5. Education, interpretation and public understanding (14 comments)

Respondents identify the reinstated dune as an opportunity for education and awareness-raising. Visible restoration work and interpretation are seen as ways to help visitors understand dune systems, biodiversity and coastal processes.

Representative comments:

“It could become a useful part of the education process.”

“If the public could see the work being done, they might appreciate the dunes.”

“Important first impression of the beach.”

6. Cost, value for money and responsibility (12 comments)

Some respondents question whether the reinstatement represents good value for money, expressing concern about taxpayer costs and proportional benefit. Others see it as a necessary investment in long-term environmental protection.

Representative comments:

“This is totally unnecessary.”

“More unnecessary expense.”

“The cost should not fall on council taxpayers.”

7. Practical supporting measures (bins, dogs and trampling) (11 comments)

Several respondents highlight the need for supporting measures to ensure success, including adequate dog waste bins, dog control, and discouragement of desire lines. Removal of bins alone is not considered effective.

Representative comments:

“Ensure there are sufficient dog waste bins.”

“Move dog bin and enforce controls on dog owners.”

“Dog walkers will still take desire lines if bins are removed.”

8. Opposition or preference to leave the area unchanged (10 comments)

A minority oppose reinstatement entirely, arguing the area should remain unchanged or that the dune is too small to justify intervention. Some question its broader landscape or heritage value.

Representative comments:

“Leave area as is.”

“Don’t think it’s worth it.”

“Is that tiny dune really crucial to the landscape?”

Overall conclusion

Responses show clear majority support for reinstating the once-vegetated dune area, driven by environmental, biodiversity and coastal-defence benefits. However, support is strongly conditional on effective protection from trampling, clear management arrangements, maintained access (particularly for wheelchair users), and careful integration with the existing dune system. Concerns about cost and practicality tend to reflect scepticism about delivery rather than opposition to dune restoration in principle. Overall, respondents feel that the proposal works best when it is well designed, properly protected and clearly explained, with access, enforcement and long-term management built in from the start.

6.14 Proposal 13 – Maintaining existing groynes and continue periodic beach nourishment

Issue: Without groynes to maintain a wide beach, sand dunes would not be able to form and would be more easily eroded during storms. If the dunes were lost, the seawalls behind them would be exposed and could fail, allowing water to flood nearby properties.

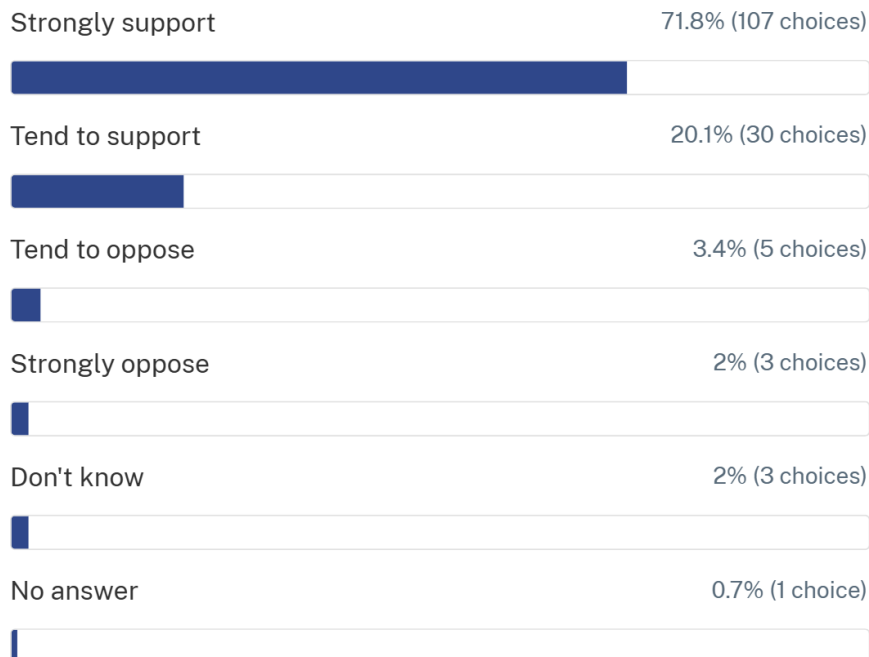
Proposed solution: We propose maintaining the existing groynes and continuing periodic beach nourishment to preserve beach width, supporting the retention and growth of the dunes.

Over nine-tenths of respondents (91.9%) said they support the proposal to maintain existing groynes and continue periodic beach nourishment. Less than a tenth of respondents said they oppose the proposal (5.4%), or that they don't know whether they support or oppose the proposal (2%).

A larger proportion of BCP residents **not** living in Sandbanks (94%) support the proposal, compared to those living in Sandbanks (85%).

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal? (please select one option only)

148/149 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Please tell us why you support or oppose this proposal?

40/149 - Long answer - optional

Summary

40 respondents explained their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal.

Please note that respondents often raised more than one issue, so totals across themes exceed 40. This reflects genuine overlap rather than double-counting.

28 out of 40 respondents made comments supportive of the proposal fully or in principle, while 8 respondents made comments that opposed or were strongly sceptical of the proposal, and 4 respondents made comments that were mixed / conditional / unclear.

Level of support

Responses show **very strong overall support** for maintaining existing groynes and continuing periodic beach nourishment. Support is high across all respondent groups, although views on beach nourishment in particular are more conditional and forward-looking.

Key themes from responses

1. Protecting the beach from erosion and climate change (26 comments)

The dominant theme is recognition that active coastal management is necessary to protect the beach from erosion, storm damage and climate change. Respondents describe the beach as a critical environmental, social and economic asset that requires intervention to preserve its width and function.

Representative comments:

“Essential - we don’t want to lose the beach.”

“With climate change the storms will only become more frequent and more violent.”

“This is a vital section of the beach that has been lost and is now very narrow.”

2. Support for maintaining existing groynes (23 comments)

Most respondents support the continued maintenance of existing groynes, viewing them as proven coastal infrastructure that helps retain sand, protect dunes and support habitats. Maintenance is often framed as routine asset management rather than new intervention.

Representative comments:

“Maintaining existing groynes seems a good option.”

“Groynes provide protection to the dunes.”

“Maintaining groynes is part of asset maintenance and should not be neglected.”

3. Conditional views on beach nourishment (19 comments)

Support for beach nourishment is more mixed and conditional. While many respondents see it as necessary to maintain beach width and amenity, others express concern about artificial intervention, repeated dredging and unintended consequences for sand movement.

Representative comments:

“So much sand has been lost this winter that replenishment is vital.”

“If beach nourishment means dredgers spraying pebbles over sand, then no.”

“It seems ironic to worry about too much sand but still need replenishment.”

4. Cost, value for money and funding responsibility (17 comments)

Cost is a recurring concern. Respondents question long-term affordability, funding responsibility and whether continued investment is sustainable as climate impacts intensify.

Representative comments:

“It’s going to get more difficult and expensive.”

“Only agree if this is paid for by central government.”

“The buried groynes have been there for decades - not sure this is a good use of taxpayer money.”

5. Environmental impacts of dredging and nourishment (15 comments)

Several respondents emphasise the need to avoid environmental harm, particularly to marine habitats such as sea grass beds, oyster reefs and nearshore ecosystems. Environmental safeguards are viewed as essential if nourishment continues.

Representative comments:

“Support so long as sea grass and oyster reefs aren’t harmed.”

“Care must be taken to prevent any impacts.”

“Protecting the dunes and ecology must come first.”

6. Beach amenity, tourism and the local economy (14 comments)

Respondents highlight the importance of maintaining a wide, usable beach for residents, visitors and the local economy. Loss of beach width is seen as a potential risk to tourism and year-round enjoyment.

Representative comments:

“A wider beach is good for tourism, ecology and residents.”

“Tourists do visit all year and the beach should be maintained all year.”

“There will be a big loss of beach-goers if the beach is not replenished.”

7. Skepticism about long-term effectiveness (12 comments)

Some respondents question whether continual intervention creates additional maintenance challenges, such as sand accumulation around structures, and whether long-term retreat may eventually be unavoidable.

Representative comments:

“We cause more maintenance problems by constantly raising beach levels.”

“These are short-term measures - long-term the area may be lost.”

“I haven’t seen a convincing case based on sea-level data.”

8. Preference for natural or complementary measures (11 comments)

A minority advocate for working more closely with natural processes, such as facilitating longshore drift or using dune netting and vegetation, rather than relying primarily on hard engineering or repeated nourishment.

Representative comments:

“What if the original longshore drift was facilitated so the beach replenished itself?”

“Use sand dune netting to slow the wind so sand is dropped earlier.”

“These coastal defences should be maintained only until they are no longer sustainable.”

Overall conclusion

Responses demonstrate very strong support for maintaining existing groynes and continuing periodic beach nourishment to address erosion, storm damage and climate change pressures. While maintenance of existing groynes is widely viewed as essential and uncontroversial, support for beach nourishment is more conditional, reflecting concerns about cost, environmental impacts and long-term sustainability. Respondents broadly accept nourishment as necessary in the short to medium term but express scepticism about its indefinite continuation. Overall, respondents feel that the proposal is essential for protecting beach width, dunes and nearby infrastructure, provided actions are reasonable, environmentally responsible, cost-effective and able to adapt as coastal conditions change.