

# Community Standards Bylaw

## Engagement Results

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Communications  
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# Introduction and Methodology

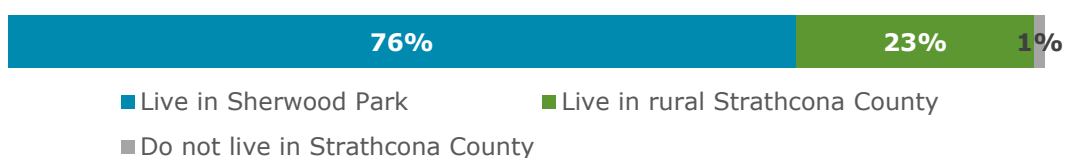
In June of 2022 Strathcona County shared a proposed draft of a Community Standards Bylaw. This bylaw, covering 13 distinct topics, aims to represent the County's overall approach to establish clear standards of presentation and accountability in our community. We asked County residents to review this proposed bylaw and then fill out a survey. The County will also solicit feedback through a public hearing in the Fall of 2022 (specific date to be announced, once confirmed). Following this hearing, Council will decide whether to proceed with the Community Standards Bylaw or invite more opportunities for public engagement. Public feedback and input into the draft Community Standards Bylaw is a key step to ensuring the final Community Standards Bylaw meets the community's needs.

The survey was made available via two platforms – SCOOP (the County's opt-in online opinion panel) and Alchemer (the online platform used to obtain responses from residents of Strathcona County who are not members of SCOOP). The Alchemer version was promoted via a webpage on the County website, social media, the County Living eNews, posters at County facilities, digital signs and newspaper ads. Given the non-random methods used to implement and recruit respondents for the survey, readers should be careful when applying the results to the broader population of Strathcona County. Analysis of open-ended response was conducted using NVivo software and coded by a single analyst to maintain consistency. The survey ran from June 6 to June 30, 2022. A full list of survey questions can be found in Appendix A.

## Respondent Profile

We heard from 1,587 respondents. Only respondents who currently reside in the County, or own property or operate a business in the County were eligible for the survey. Please note that with rounding percentages may not exactly total 100%.

### Location



## What we heard

The proposed Community Standards Bylaw will cover 13 distinct topics, which we organized into three themes. Please refer to the [full text of the bylaw](#) for full details. Respondents were given the choice to provide feedback on the themes that were the most interesting to them. As all questions are voluntary, the base of respondents changes from question to question.

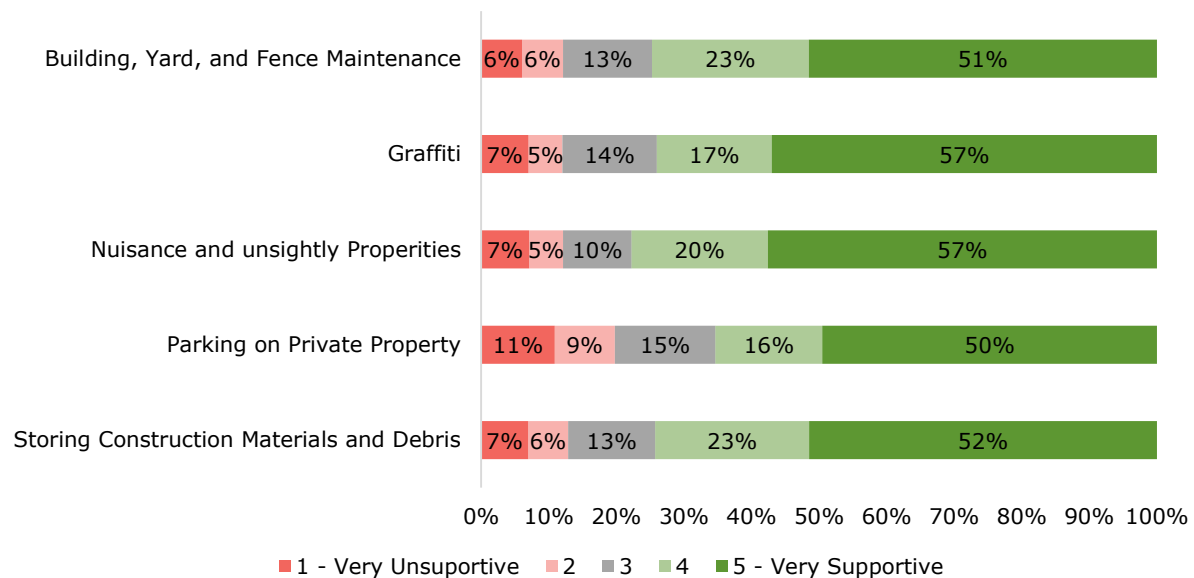
Within each theme were 4-5 topics. For each topic we asked respondents to rate their level of support for the proposed bylaw on a scale of 1-5, where 1 was very unsupportive and 5 was very supportive. We also asked respondents to judge whether an appropriate balance was being struck between maintaining standards and limiting restrictions on residents. Lastly, we invited respondents to share any other thoughts in an open-ended response for each topic. The following are summaries of the results for each topic by theme.

THEME 1: PROPERTY STANDARDS	THEME 2: PUBLIC SPACES	THEME 3: COMMUNITY SAFETY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building, Yard, Fence Maintenance</li><li>• Graffiti</li><li>• Nuisance and Unsightly Properties</li><li>• Parking on Private Property</li><li>• Storing Construction Materials and Debris</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Idling</li><li>• Littering</li><li>• Noise</li><li>• Wood Burning Appliances and Nuisance Smoke</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Charity Bins and Collection Sites</li><li>• Clearing Disabled Persons' Parking Stalls</li><li>• Sidewalk Clearing</li><li>• Symbols of Hate</li></ul>

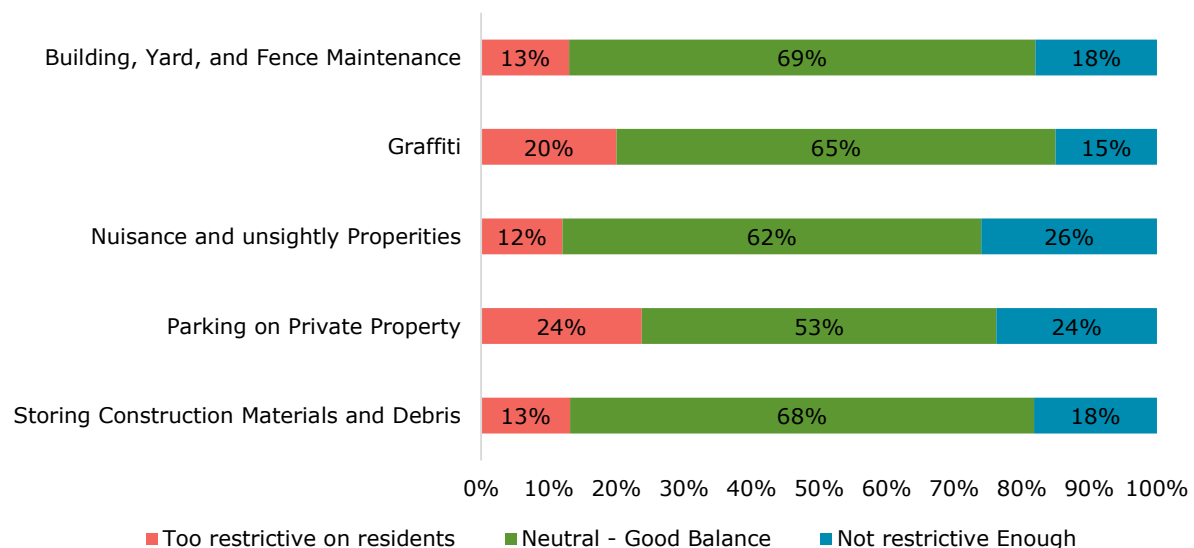
## Theme #1: Property Standards

1,258 respondents or 79% respondents chose to provide feedback on theme #1. The following charts are summaries of feedback received for topics in theme #1. Excludes don't know and prefer not to answer responses.

### Theme #1: Level of Support Summary



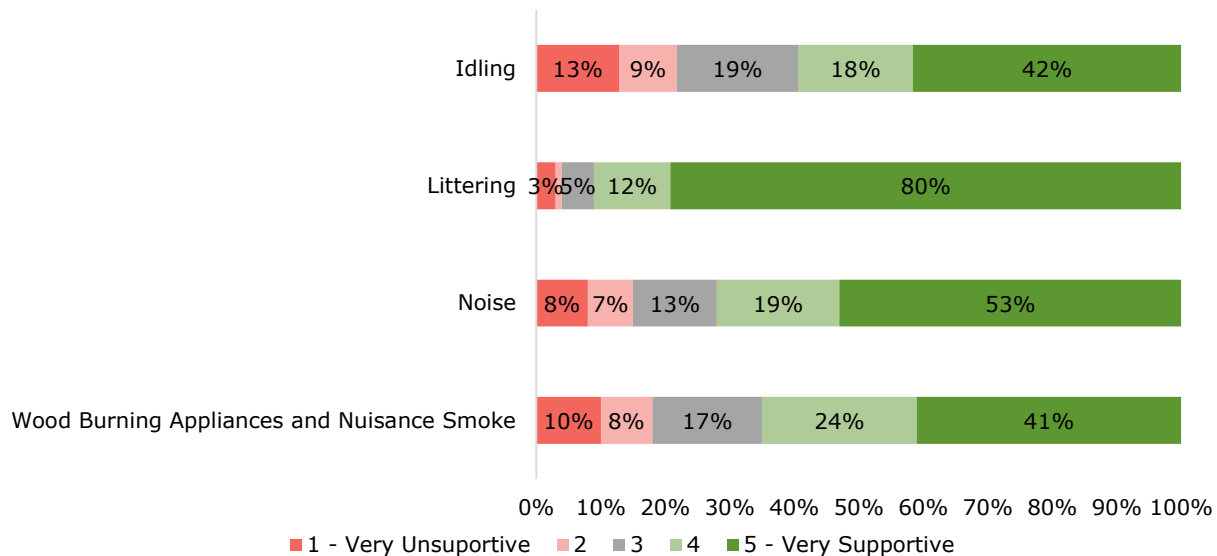
### Theme #1: Balance of Bylaw Summary



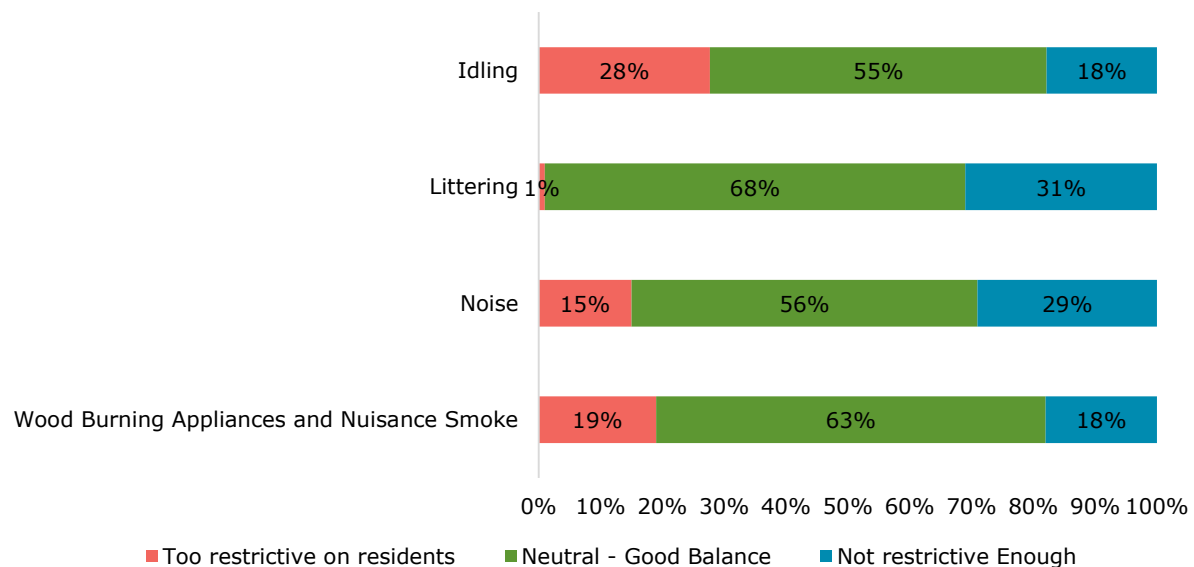
## Theme #2: Public Spaces

1,048 or 66% of respondents chose to provide feedback on theme #2. The following charts are summaries of feedback received for topics in theme #2. Excludes don't know and prefer not to answer responses.

### Theme #2: Level of Support Summary



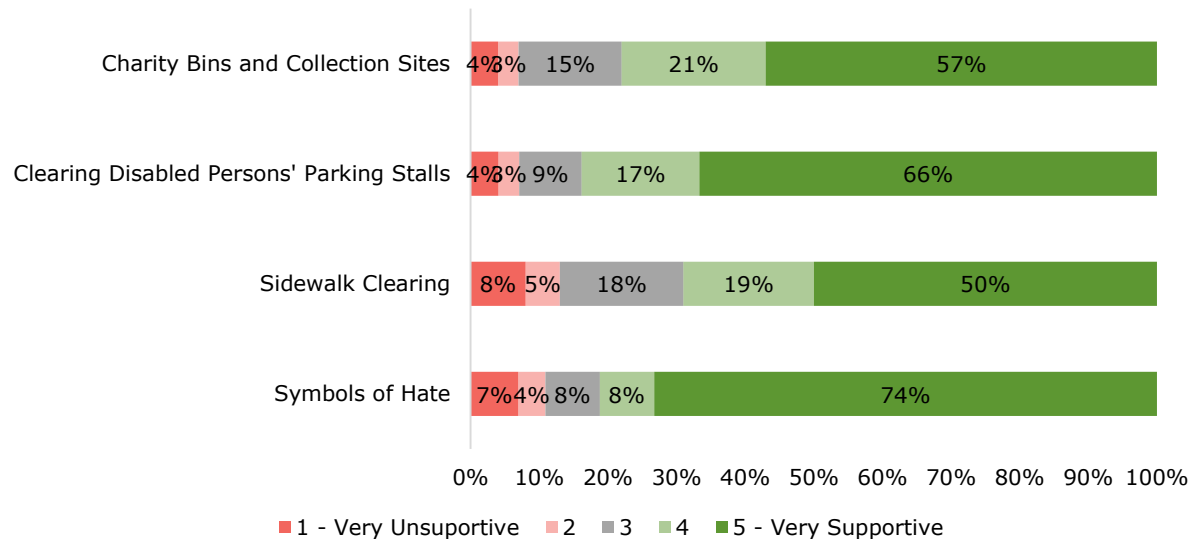
### Theme #2: Balance of Bylaw Summary



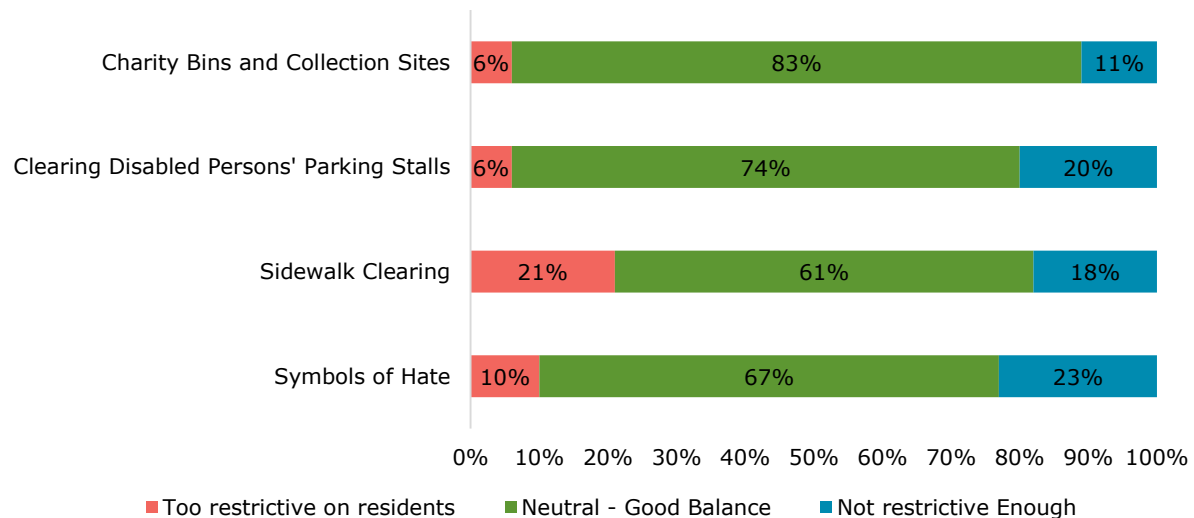
## Theme #3: Community Safety

979 respondents, representing 62% of respondents chose to provide feedback on theme #3. The following charts are summaries of feedback received for topics in theme #3. Excludes don't know and prefer not to answer responses.

### Theme #3: Level of Support Summary

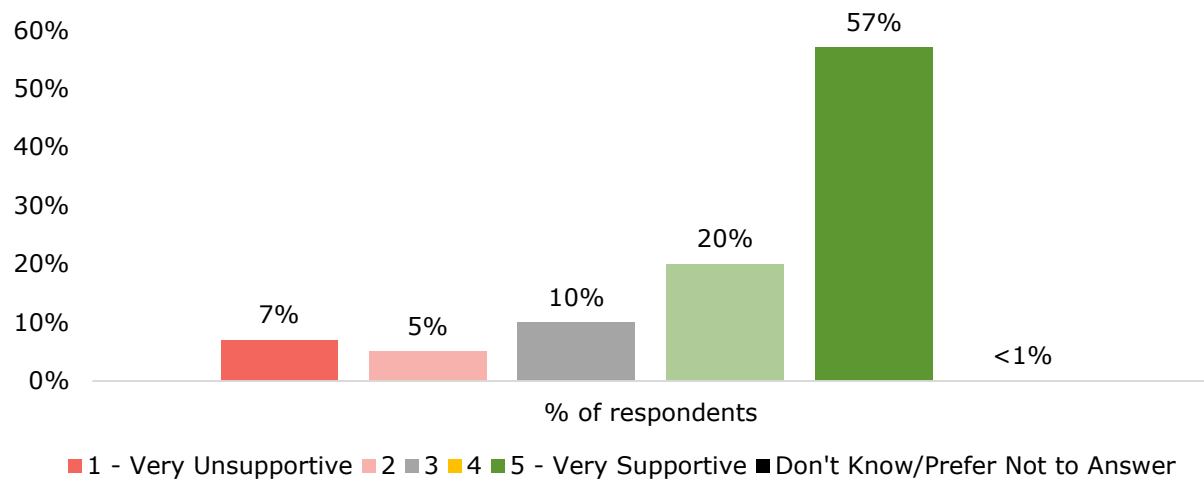


### Theme #3: Balance of Bylaw Summary



## Nuisance and Unsightly Properties

The Nuisance and Unsightly Properties section of the proposed bylaw is an existing bylaw that will be transferred to the Community Standards Bylaw. The vast majority of respondents were supportive of this section.



Base: 1022 respondents

Most respondents felt the Nuisance and Unsightly Properties section of the proposed bylaw struck a good balance – but one quarter of respondents felt the bylaw was not restrictive enough.



Base: 1,058 respondents. Don't know = <1%

What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Nuisance and Unsightly Properties** section of the proposed bylaw?

We received 377 responses from respondents. Generally, comments fell into two categories: residents should be held to certain standards and standards are too restrictive.

### Residents should be held to a standard

Approximately two-thirds of comments were from residents who agreed with the overall approach of the nuisance and unsightly properties section of the bylaw. We heard that unsightly properties are hazardous or simply unattractive, and that a community standard is an acceptable restriction on residents.

*I would like to think that we all are responsible and mature members of our collective community, unfortunately, that is not true, there are a few who need to nudged in the right direction. I support the tone and purpose of this initiative.*

Some respondents believed this section does not go far enough, and should establish more standards on acceptable property appearances. Suggestions for additional standards were restrictions on weeds, certain types of plants (trees with creeping roots, hedges that block sightlines etc.), and animal waste. Some respondents also wanted to see the bylaw applied to homeowners running inappropriate businesses from their residences.

*Business run out of subdivision property must be watched closer. Neighbor near us has heavy equipment and garbage, junk everywhere...*

Many of the comments were concerned about insufficient amounts of enforcement, with some relating stories of unsightly properties which haven't been addressed by bylaw officers. Some respondents believed more proactive enforcement by the County is necessary to address problem properties and that the expectation for residents to complain about their neighbours will create inter-personal problems between neighbours.

*I like this but I wonder how it will be enforced. There is a nuisance property on my street. We have complained many times, but nothing EVER happens.*

Lastly, we had a smaller number of respondents that wanted to see modifications or variations to the proposed bylaw section. Some commenters wanted to see variances for low-income homeowners or those with mobility challenges, who may not be able to maintain their properties to the bylaw's standards. Others wanted to see language in the bylaw that would allow non-standard vegetation or more naturalization – which might be considered unsightly by some.



*Some people's nuisance property is someone else's garden. I agree that people who have tall grass and weeds should cut them but I also think that people should not be obliged to have traditional front yards (i.e. lawns).*

### Standards are too restrictive

One third of the 377 total responses were concerned about the nuisance and unsightly properties section of the proposed bylaw. The majority of these concerns were worried that what would be judged unsightly would be applied too broadly and subjectively. We heard that everyone has different ideas of unsightly and that the standard should not be established on the personal judgement of bylaw officers or the County. These respondents were looking for more clarity and specifics on what constitutes an unsightly property.

*Who decides what is unsightly? Tolerance levels would vary greatly.*

A smaller number of respondents were more concerned about the ability of the County or other residents dictating what a homeowner can do with or on their own property. These respondents believe that unless something on a property is adversely impacting a neighbour or public property, the County has no right to regulate private property.

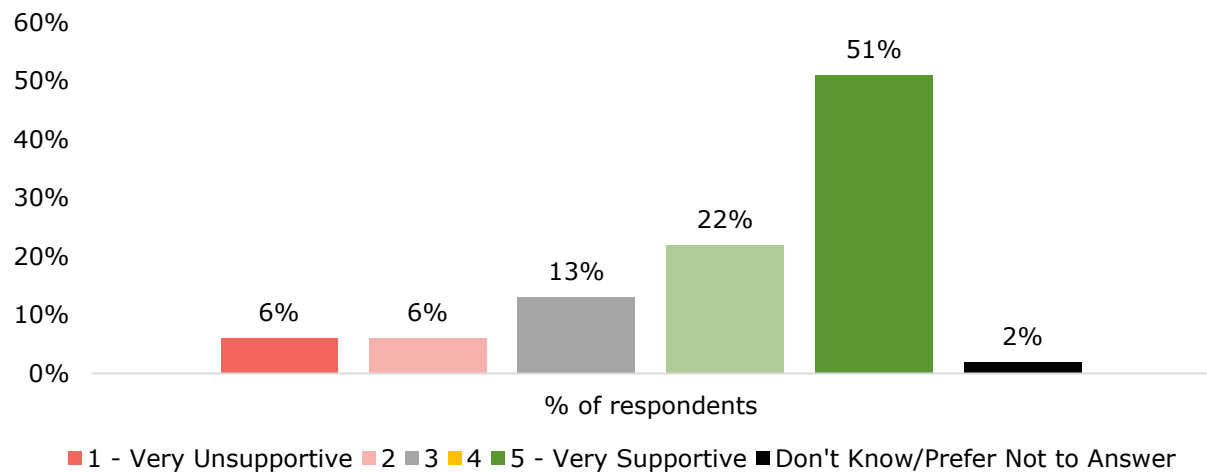
*Unless something is unsafe to the public or to people who may enter the property legally, (such as delivery people, or members of public service) then should be NO restriction to what someone can do with the property they own.*

Lastly, we heard that because this section of the proposed bylaw is so subjective and up to interpretation enforcement may create interpersonal conflicts within the community. Some were particularly worried that this bylaw might create a climate of neighbours calling bylaw on each other to carry out personal grudges or impose personal preferences.

*With how this is written, I'd worry that some more particular residents would be calling in a children's birthday party in the backyard as there would be noise and they may not like the decorations.*

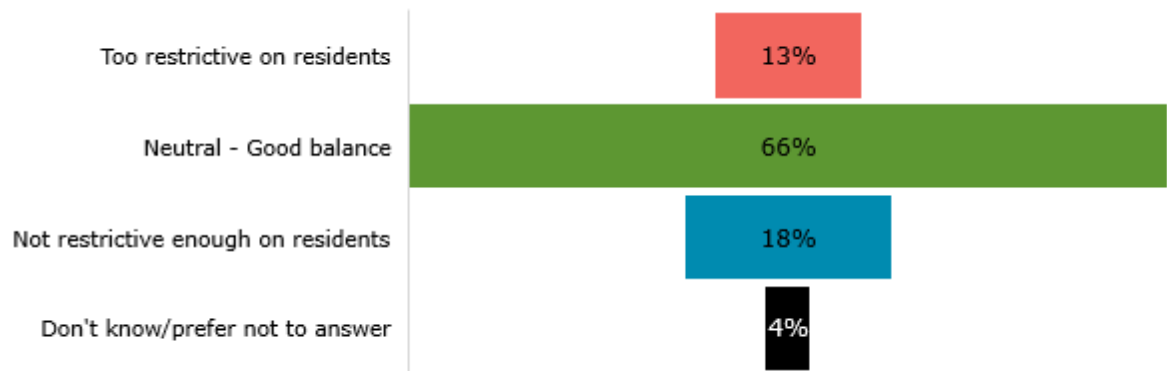
## Storage of Construction Materials and Debris

As with all topics in theme #1, a majority of respondents were in support of this section of the bylaw. This topic also had few detractors, with only 12% of respondents choosing a 1 or 2 ranking.



Base: 976 respondents

Two-thirds of respondents felt this section struck a good balance, with slightly more respondents believing the section was not restrictive enough than too restrictive.



Base: 1,023 respondents

What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Storage of Construction Materials and Debris** section of the proposed bylaw?

We received 204 responses from respondents. Generally, comments fell into two categories: residents should be held to certain standards and standards are too restrictive.

### Residents should be held to a standard

Half of respondents were generally in agreement with the standards outlined in the storage of construction materials and debris section of the proposed bylaw. Respondents noted that improperly stored construction materials were unsightly and occasionally dangerous. Others noted that construction materials often blow around and spill over to other properties or onto the street. We also heard about properties that had construction materials and debris for extended periods of time.

*The most important part is that it is kept so that it will not blow onto other properties and create more issues.*

As with other sections of the proposed bylaw, effective and timely enforcement was a key priority for some respondents. Some respondents had personal stories of lax or ineffective enforcement, while others were frustrated that the County was not proactively enforcing those with unsightly construction debris.

*I don't see much proactive enforcement of the existing Bylaw regarding this. It should not be my job to phone it in.*

Lastly, we had a number of comments that generally approved of the overall direction and impetus of the bylaw – but believed that the timelines for residents to clear construction materials and debris should be increased. We heard that construction projects are inherently unpredictable and often go longer than scheduled, which may require materials to be stored for longer periods of time. We also heard that weather and winter may interrupt projects, again requiring storage of materials on the property. We also heard that some provisions should be made to differentiate materials between those needed for construction projects versus those needed by hobbyists (such as woodworkers or blacksmiths.)

*As project completion times lengthen due to material shortages or worker shortages it is not feasible to have a 30 day timeframe. Better to have 60 to 90 days.*

### Standards are too restrictive

The other half of comments left by respondents were more concerned that the restrictions were too much of a burden on residents. Some respondents believe that as long as the stored materials are not impacting other properties, the County

should not be concerned. Others were concerned that this would force them to dispose of otherwise valuable and needed supplies.

*Construction materials can be very expensive and to just throw out extras after construction could be a big ask.*

We heard a number of comments about how as long as materials are securely and nearly stored, no time restrictions are necessary. Some respondents elaborated those stored materials should also be out of sight, either in a side or back yard.

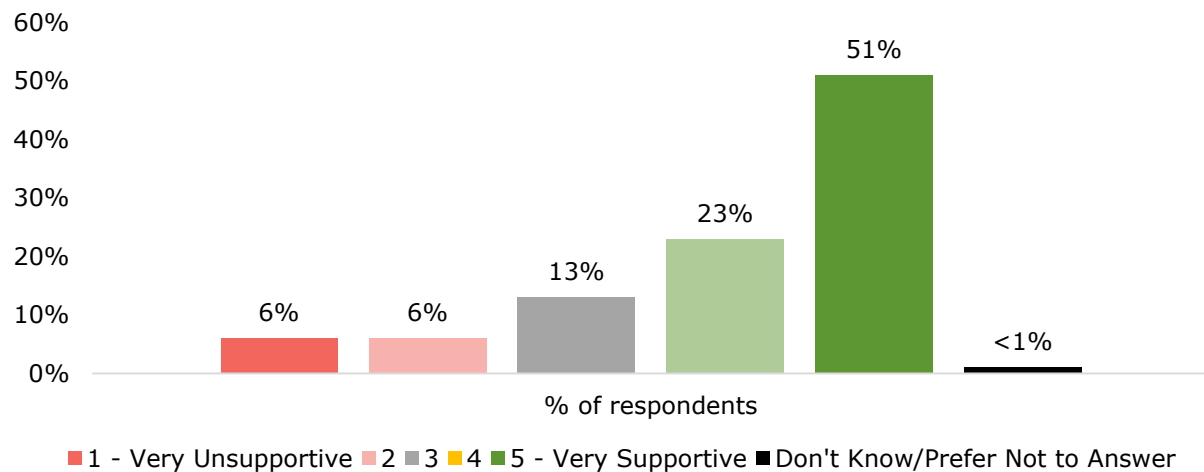
*As long as material and debris is stored safe that should be the end.*

As with other provisions of the proposed bylaw, some respondents were also concerned about the vagueness and subjectivity of the current bylaw text. We heard concerns that the terms such as “during construction” and “neatly stacked” are too broad of terms, that doesn’t account for unpredictable timelines in construction or different types of construction materials.

*'During construction' can be subjective and not always seen, some construction projects can go on for years.*

## Building, Yard, Fence Maintenance

A very narrow majority of respondents were very supportive of this section of the bylaw. This topic, as with the previous topic, had the fewest percentage of respondent as detractors (1-2 rankings) of all topics in theme #1.



Base: 973 respondents

Over two-thirds of respondents felt this section of the bylaw struck a good balance, with 18% feeling the bylaw was not restrictive enough and 13% believing the bylaw was too restrictive.



Base: 1,003 respondents

What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Building, Yard, Fence Maintenance** section of the proposed bylaw?

We received 258 responses from respondents. Generally, comments fell into two categories: residents should be held to certain standards and standards are too restrictive. We also heard a number of comments about how County maintained buildings, yards and fences should also be maintained to a similar standard.

### Residents should be held to a standard

Approximately 60% of comments were supportive of the overall direction regarding building, yard, fence maintenance section of the proposed bylaw. We heard that well-maintained yards and fences are important to the safety and aesthetics of the community.

*Home maintenance is a drag and must be done. Cough up the cash to maintain your fence and property.*

As with all sections of the proposed bylaw, many respondents want to see improved enforcement of the proposed bylaw.

*More bylaw enforcing. Yards around Sherwood Park look like junk yards*

In regard to fences in particular, we heard a number of comments and concerns. Respondents with fences that back out onto an arterial road or pathway are concerned that they are left to deal with 100% of the responsibility of maintaining the fence. These respondents are interested in having the County maintain their share of maintenance in these instances. We also heard that most fences are shared between neighbours and coordinating maintenance is difficult.

*Where a property owner's fence borders County property, the County must contribute to the maintenance of the fence.*

While most commenters were comfortable with standards for fence, yard and building maintenance – there were some consideration of the cost of performing such maintenance. Some respondents wanted to see allowances and variances for those struggling financially, for seniors or for those with mobility challenges. We also heard suggestions for financial incentives or assistance from the County to help disadvantaged residents maintain their properties to the bylaw's standards.

*Building and fence maintenance may be difficult for low-income, single-parent, or disabled individuals to comply with. When a person can barely feed their family, keeping decorative elements in a reasonable state of repair is not a priority. Compassion and grace have a place here.*

### Standards are too restrictive

The remaining 40% of comments received under this section were concerned the standards were too restrictive. One of the key messages we heard from these respondents were that while restrictions to ensure safety on private property were generally appropriate, standards to establish aesthetic standards were inappropriate. Generally, these comments want to have full control of their property and believe the County should not govern private property.

*Safe is the key word, not beautiful.*

We also heard that the provisions of this section of the proposed bylaw were too subjective and subject to the discretion of County officials. Several mentions highlighted the term “substantially depreciate” as problematic, as it is unclear how and to what degree one property owner’s decisions can depreciate another property’s value. Similar concerns were voiced about “reasonable state of repair” and how that would be defined.

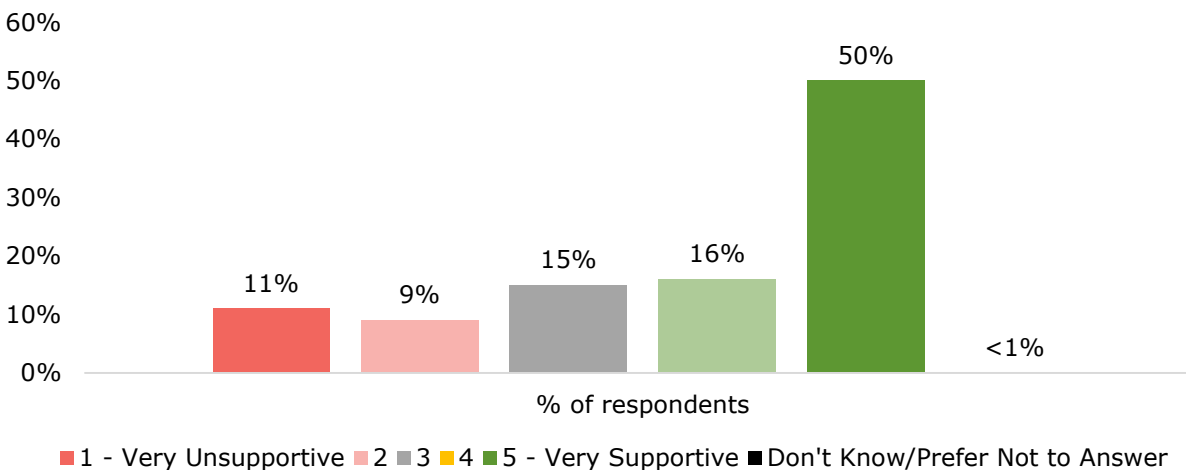
*Who decided what is a "reasonable state of repair"?*

Some respondents were also concerned that establishing a community standard for yards and fences could limit resident self-expression and enforce a blander aesthetic.

*We don't need a creepy cookie cutter town. Let Sherwood Park be vibrant and weird.*

## Parking on Private Property

Parking on private property was supported by a majority of respondents, but 20% of respondents were unsupportive of the bylaw. This was the highest percentage of detractors and neutrals of all theme #1 topics – with 35% either unsupportive or neutral.



Base: 951 respondents

Just over half of respondents felt this section of the bylaw struck a good balance. The other half of respondents were divided – with 23% believing the bylaw to be too restrictive while 23% rated the bylaw as not restrictive enough. The more divided opinion on this topic is likely a reflection of ongoing community conversations about the availability of parking in residential areas of Strathcona County.



Base: 976 respondents



## What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Parking on Private Property** section of the proposed bylaw?

We received 338 comments from respondents. A quarter of the commenters chose to use this opportunity to leave feedback about RV and commercial vehicle street parking in residential neighbourhoods. While an important topic in the community – this section of the bylaw deals specifically with parking on private property, not on streets or road-ways. We also heard concerns about this provision applying to rural properties, however parking is not restricted by the land-use bylaw for rural properties. Respondents also noted that s.45 is written unclearly and was difficult to understand.

### Residents should be held to a standard

Some respondents noted that many homes in their neighbourhoods currently have many RVs and other vehicles in violation of the proposed bylaw, which makes the community look like an RV storage lot. We also heard from respondents that overhanging RVs and other vehicles often block driveways and sidewalks. Parking on side lots was also identified as a problem, as parked vehicles block sightlines from neighbouring homes.

*In our neighborhood I wonder if vehicles are the new lawn ornaments.*

We also heard a desire from a number of respondents to permit more expansive RV storage on private property during summer months, while prohibiting parking during the winter. Others suggested allowing parking in non-parking designated areas for a maximum of 24 hours to facilitate loading and unloading, or for family gatherings. We also heard that only functioning vehicles should be allowed to be stored on private property and not broken down vehicles.

*Parking of short duration on landscaping or grass should be tolerated.*

As with other provisions, a greater emphasis on enforcement is also desired. Many respondents noted that more education and communication will be required for this provision, as many homeowners rely on non-designated parking areas on their property in older neighbourhoods.

*In my area you mostly have to walk on the street due to vehicles covering the sidewalk and vehicles are parked on lawns.*

### Standards are too restrictive

We heard from a number of respondents who were concerned this section of the bylaw as too restrictive. Some commenters noted that they should be free to park any vehicle on their property, as long as it doesn't negatively impact other properties.

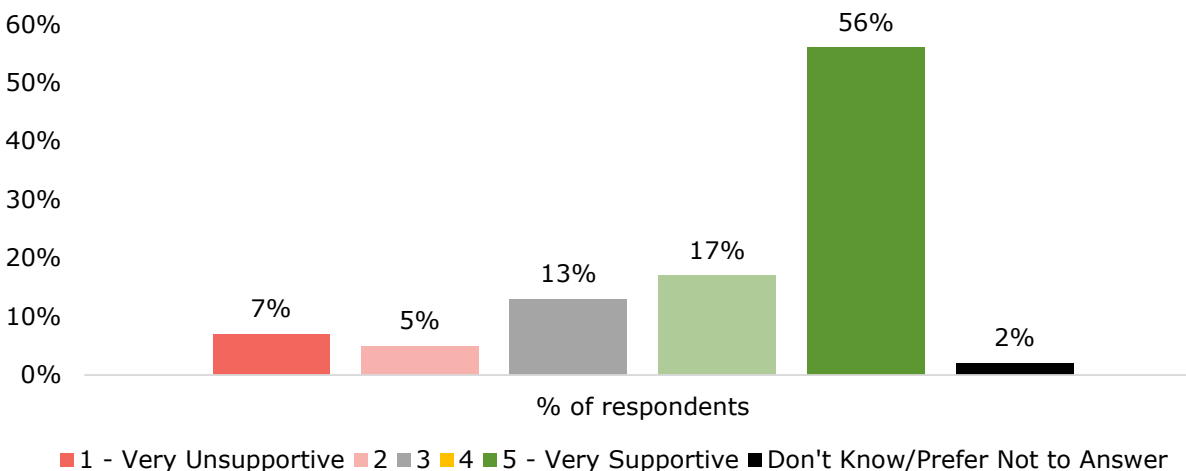
*What's the problem? It's my grass I'm stomping on, not yours.*

We also heard concerns that some properties have too small of driveways and 'official' parking available, necessitating parking on grass. Some also mentioned having special areas on their properties that effectively store an RV without any negative impacts (one example was a space next to their garage up to the property line.) Some respondents were also worried that if they chose to expand their parking on their property via gravel or rocks they might not be in compliance with the bylaw.

*I don't think it should be an issue park on any portion of my grass as long as I have used my driveway to access.*

## Graffiti

The majority of respondents supported the graffiti section of the proposed bylaw.



Base: 951 respondents

61% of respondents believed the bylaw was a good balance. Nearly a fifth of respondents believed the bylaw was too restrictive. Notably 5% of respondents selected don't know/prefer not to answer.



Base: 964 respondents

What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Graffiti** section of the proposed bylaw?

We received comments from 281 respondents. The vast majority of respondents were in agreement that graffiti removal is a priority, however there was significant discussion in the comments about who should clear graffiti.

Most respondents argued that graffiti is a crime and the property owner is the victim. To these respondents, it was unfair to force or compel property owners to clean up graffiti. The majority of these respondents want to see financial assistance from the County to help property owners clean graffiti. Others wanted to see a program where the offender cleans up graffiti.

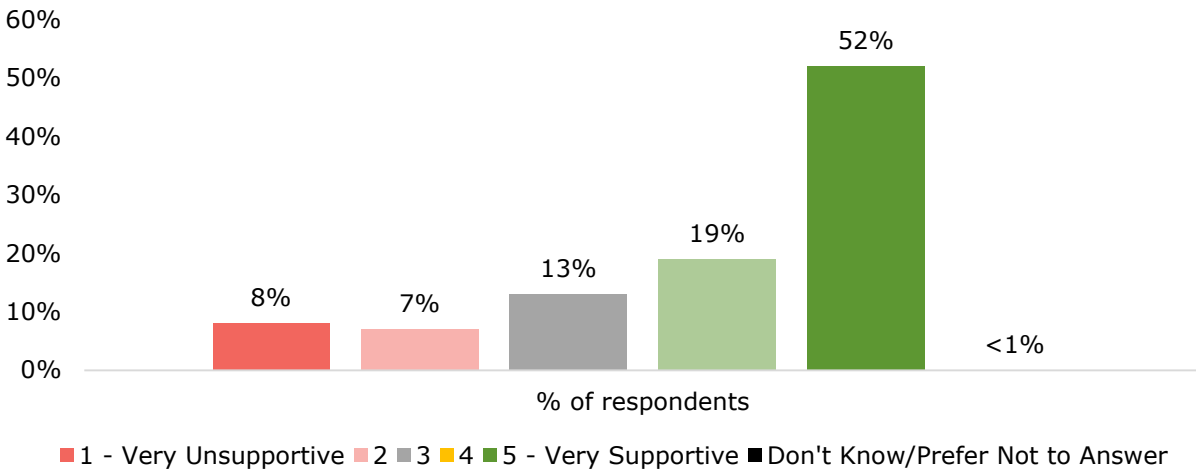
*Can be difficult for some residents to remove graffiti from their property, would be helpful to have county support to do so.*

Other respondents were concerned that this bylaw could be used to prohibit property owners from painting their own murals or other art installations on their own property. Some respondents also noted that not all street art should be considered vandalism. We also heard that while graffiti is undesirable it poses no real danger, and that it should be at the homeowner's convenience to clear the graffiti.

*I would love to see an area designated for graffiti in the County. There are a lot of creative people and this could provide an artistic outlet. It could become a feature if we choose to provide a space for it.*

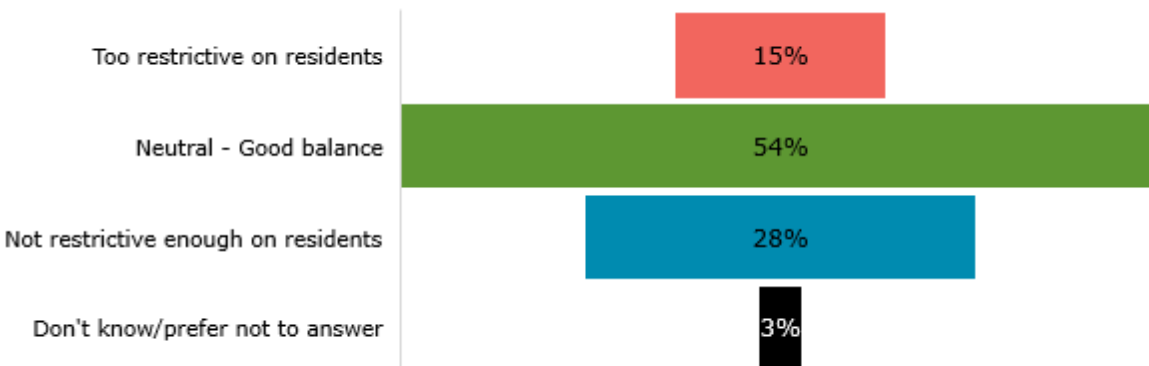
## Noise

The Noise section of the proposed bylaw is an existing bylaw that will be transferred to the Community Standards Bylaw. The noise section of the proposed bylaw enjoyed support from the majority of respondents.



Base: 793 respondents

While the majority of respondents believed this section of the bylaw was balanced, 28% believed it was not restrictive enough on residents.



Base: 812 respondents

What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Noise** section of the proposed bylaw?

We heard comments from 325 respondents. Three quarters of respondents were supportive of the existing bylaw on noise, while the remaining quarter believed the restriction is either prohibitive or unworkable.

#### Residents should be held to a standard

Most respondents were concerned about excessive noise in their community. Noises associated with cars and motorcycles were the top concern of these respondents, followed by noise from dogs and music.

*Incessant dog barking is a massive problem.*

We also heard a support for noise restrictions based on the time of day, as some residents were more tolerant of loud noises during the day but not in the late evening or early morning.

*Time allowable should be 7am-7pm daily, and no noise on Sundays, or perhaps noon-3pm on Sunday. One day with no noise would be a nice option.*

Enforcement was also a priority for some respondents, many of which shared instances of a noise complaint not being follow up on. We also heard concerns that enforcement will be difficult without instruments to measure for excessive sound.

*Noise problems need to be tackled and solved sooner after the complaint.*

#### Standards are too restrictive

The main concern with the bylaw on excessive noise was the challenging nature of judging what is excessive noise. Many respondents noted that urban living is naturally very noisy and that attempts to police noise will be too challenging.

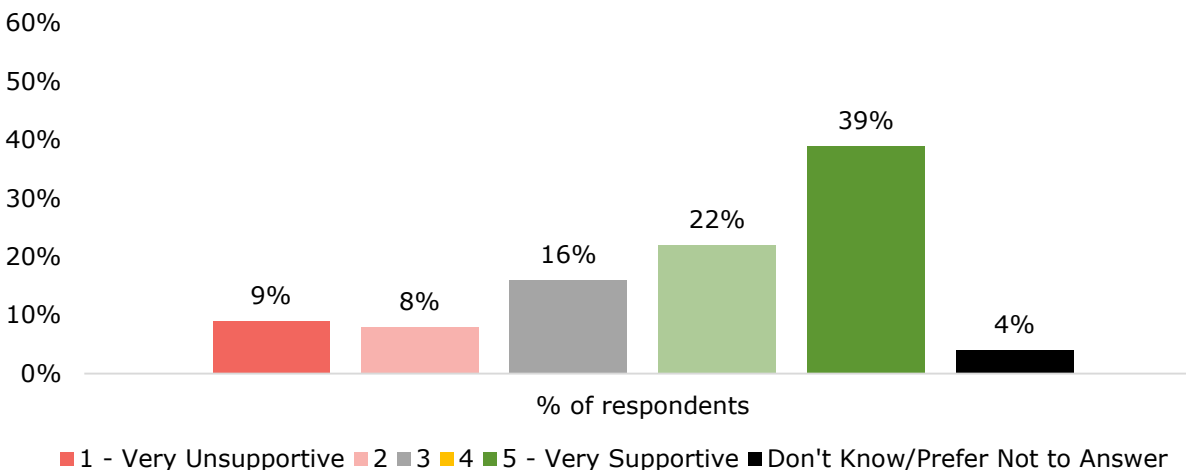
*Noise happens! The bylaw is currently written so that no one can cause any noises whatsoever.*

We also heard a desire from some respondents for clearer definitions of excessive noise, preferably with decibel levels. There was a particular fear that no noise was technically allowed under the current language of the bylaw. Respondents were also concerned that under the current subjective definition, neighbours would likely clash over what is considered excessive noise under the bylaw.

*This is a very subjective topic and is open to abuse by neighbors or people who do not like you.*

## Wood burning appliances and nuisance smoke

This section of the proposed bylaw was supported by similar proportions of respondents as other topics, but with far fewer selecting very supportive.



Base: 782 respondents

A majority of respondents thought this section had a good balance, while 17% selected too restrictive and not restrictive enough respectively. We also heard a higher than average percentage of don't know/prefer not to answer responses.



Base: 804 respondents

What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Wood burning appliances and nuisance smoke** section of the proposed bylaw?

We heard comments from 235 respondents. Which can generally be split into those who believe a standard should be established and those that believed it was too restrictive.

### Residents should be held to a standard

A minority of respondents left comments that were generally supportive of the proposed bylaw section on wood burning appliances and nuisance smoke. We heard that smoke from fire pits has a negative impact on surrounding properties and causes problems for those suffering from asthma. These respondents were especially concerned for their health and air quality during summer months, with some respondents sharing stories of neighbours using fire pits every day. Some respondents suggested completely banning fires in residential areas, which, while out of scope for this bylaw, demonstrates those respondents strong feelings towards nuisance smoke.

*Every persons opinion of what is too much smoke will vary so greatly that outdoor fires should be banned completely. We can rarely tell where outdoor smoke is coming from, yet we have to close all windows in our house and cannot sit in our yard due to what we consider to be too much smoke. If people want campfires, they should go camping.*

Other respondents were more flexible, sharing comments that were supportive of greater restrictions on wood burning. Respondents shared suggestions for time frames where outdoor fire pit burning would be permitted and stronger penalties for property owners who burn chemically treated wood or coal. We also heard some respondents express a desire for things like meat smokers to be exempted from the bylaw. Some respondents also expressed a desire to see the bylaw extend to smoke from cigarette or cannabis use.

*Nuisance Smoke should cover more than just wood burning appliances. It should cover any person responsible for creating smoke that encroaches on another's peaceful enjoyment of their home.*

### Standards are too restrictive

The majority of comments we heard regarding this section of the bylaw were concerned this restriction was too harsh on residents. Key to this concern was that fires and smoke are a natural part of neighbourhoods – particularly in the summer – and that restrictions to their ability to have fires was inappropriate.

*If safety and the welfare of others are not at risk then as tax payers, home owners have the right to make their own decisions.*



A common concern we heard was that smoke is too difficult to control, as shifting winds will bring smoke outside of one's property. These respondents were concerned that this section of the proposed bylaw could be used to effectively ban fire pits within the County.

*This bylaw is seriously attempting to regulate smoke? Good luck with that.*

Another key concern is that the terms excessive smoke are too subjective and could create disputes between neighbours, or between property owners and the County. Suggestions included using definitions that are measurable and quantifiable.

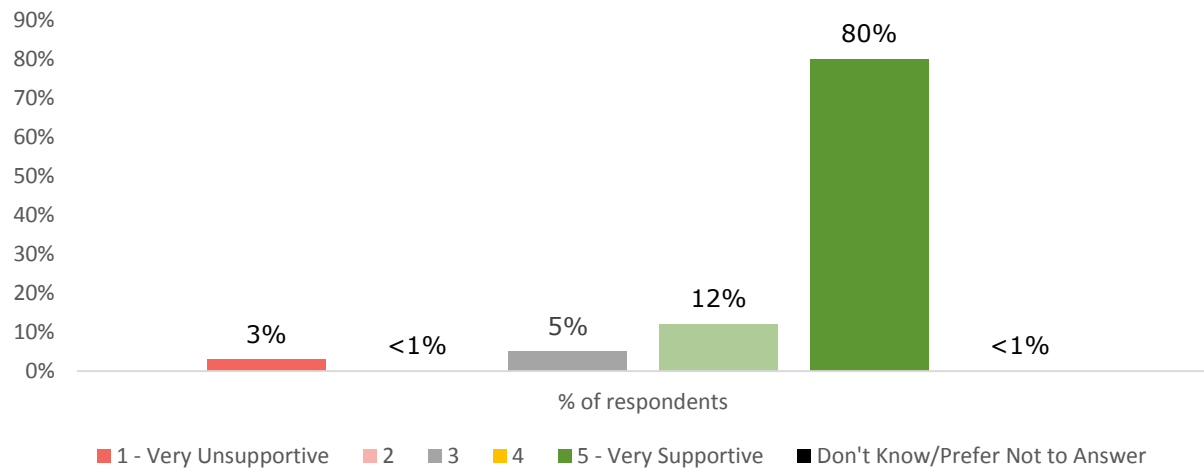
*Seems too vague. What is too much smoke? Obviously hard to quantify.*

We also heard that wood burning appliances in-doors often have excellent smoke removal that rarely impacts other properties.

*Keep in mind that wood burning appliances are used during winter months when most people are in their homes. How much of an inconvenience is a little bit of smoke?*

## Littering

The vast majority of respondents were in favour of the littering section of the Community Standards Bylaw. With 80% indicating very supportive, this section of the bylaw enjoys the highest level of support of all topics covered by the proposed bylaw.



Base: 781 respondents

With such a high level of support, unsurprisingly two-thirds of respondents believed the bylaw struck a good balance. However, 31% believed the bylaw was not restrictive enough.



Base: 800 respondents. Too restrictive on residents <1%. Don't know/prefer not to answer 2%.

### What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Littering

We received additional comments from 165 respondents on littering.

Most respondents were highly concerned with the amount of littering in the community and approved of the bylaw's focus on addressing litter. Respondents were particularly frustrated with litter in ditches, dog waste, discarded cigarette butts and trash left in County ditches.

*You see littering everywhere including parks, high ways, streets and school grounds.*

Some respondents were also concerned that the bylaw only applies to public spaces and highways, and should also be applied to private property.

*Fast food restaurants and convenience stores should have a responsibility here as well.*

While virtually all respondents were in agreement about the need to limit littering, some were pessimistic about the ability to impact the amount of littering through this bylaw. We also heard suggestions to increase enforcement around problem areas such as convenience stores, school parking lots and parks.

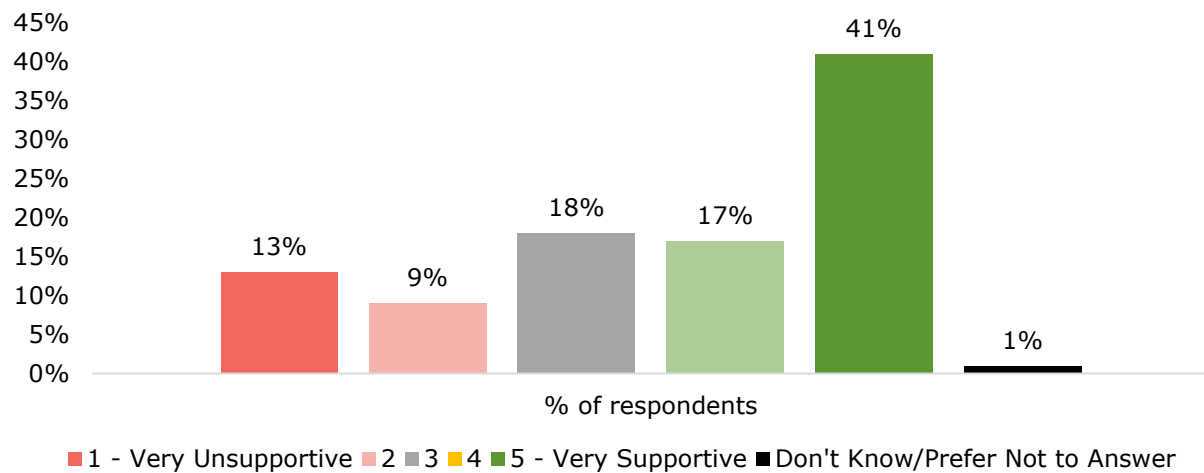
*Fully supportive but really question how much enforcement there is being done. When I see it I call it out as a motorist and pedestrian right away. How might citizens help with enforcement and penalties being ensured?*

We also received a number of comments suggesting improvements to County waste removal and recommendations for additional garbage cans as a means to reduce littering.

*More resources MUST be allocated to more public trash disposals, as well as more for staff to maintain - too many public garbages are overflowing, so of course people will litter.*

## Idling

The results for Idling were generally more mixed as compared to other topics. 22% of respondents were unsupportive and 18% were neutral. As indicated in the analysis of open-ended comments – these respondents were likely worried about how the bylaw would be applied in the winter.



Base: 778 respondents

In terms of balance, while over half of respondents felt a good balance was achieved just over a quarter of respondents indicated the bylaw was too restrictive.



Base: 800 respondents. Don't know/prefer not to answer 1%.

What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Idling** section of the proposed bylaw?

We heard comments from 270 respondents.

The vast majority of comments regarding idling were related to how the bylaw would be applied in winter. As many residents commented, in cold weather many vehicles need to idle for more than five minutes to be safely and comfortably operated. The exemption stated in s. 63 (a) for cold weather will likely assuage some of these fears – but more clarity on idling in the winter is likely needed.

*Only concern is heating a vehicle in the dead of winter takes more than 5 minutes.*

We heard equal numbers of comments that supported restrictions on idling as we did from those who oppose restrictions. Supporters argued that idling beyond five minutes is unnecessary at most temperatures and most supporters shared stories of being irritated by a neighbour's vehicle being idled between 15-30 minutes.

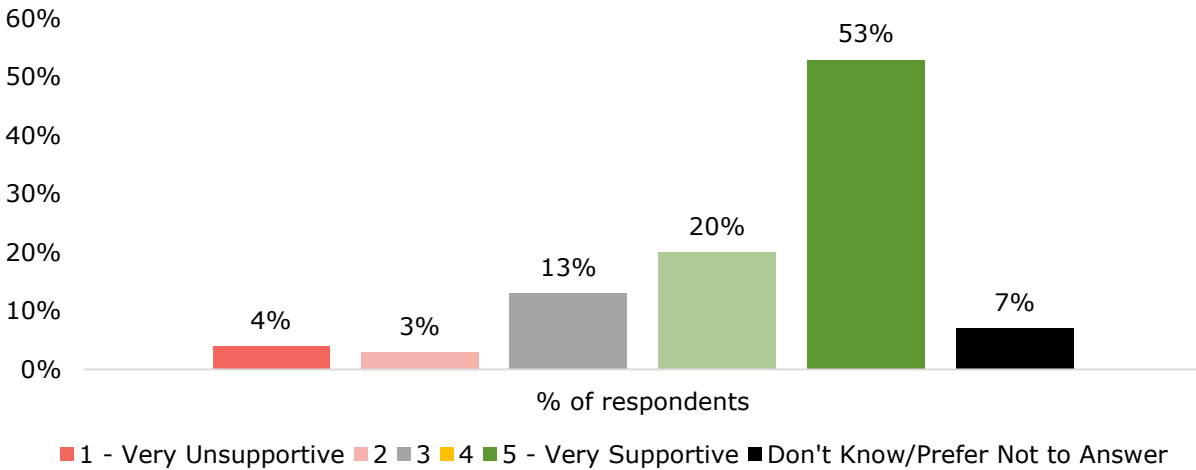
*Neighbour has a diesel and lets it idle for 15-30 minutes in the winter. Stinks up the whole neighbourhood.*

Those who opposed restrictions believed that a restriction is over-reach and the decision to idle a vehicle should be a personal choice. Others elaborated that extended idling may be necessary for the comfort of children and pets that might be in the vehicle. We also heard that enforcement will be a challenge, as violators will likely move on before a bylaw officer arrives.

*While I can support no idling areas (perhaps like in front of a school), a blanket idling bylaw is not realistic to enforce.*

## Charity Bins and Collection Sites

This section of the proposed bylaw received generally high levels of support, but with a relatively larger number of neutral and don't know/prefer not to answer responses.



Base: 721 respondents

Three quarters of respondents felt this section of the bylaw was a balanced approach. This topic had a relatively high number of don't know/prefer not to answer responses indicating this topic might not be particularly relevant or understood by the respondent base.



Base: 733 respondents

What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Charity Bins and Collection Sites** section of the proposed bylaw?

We heard 109 additional comments. Respondents that left comments on this topic were divided between those who wished to see charity bins and collection sites be more regulated and tidier, and those who felt a permitting process is overly burdensome on charities.

*Can be very unsightly and garbage like if not dealt with regularly.*

Those who left comments approving the general approach of the bylaw stressed how charity bins were often unkept and rarely cleared. We also heard comments about how the sites attracted anti-social behavior and posed a safety risk to the surrounding community.

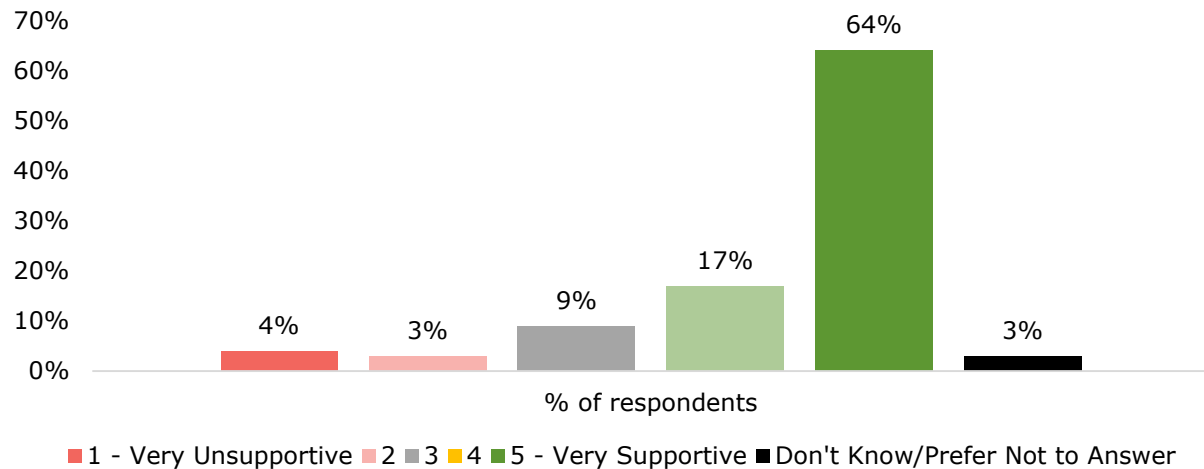
*While Charity Bins are a necessity and a convenience for residents, they need to be cleared frequently and residents need to stop using them as a dumping site.*

Other commenters were concerned that the bylaw will create unnecessary red-tape for charities. We also heard that charities on the whole managed bins relatively well in the County and do not need a bylaw to compel them to manage their own assets.

*We want to encourage charity bins not make it harder to collect donations*

## Clearing Disabled Persons' Parking Stalls

Clearing Disabled Persons' Parking Stalls was supported by 81% of respondents.



Base: 720 respondents

While good balance was selected by 69% of respondents, a large minority felt this section was not restrictive enough with very few believing the bylaw was too restrictive.



Base: 731 respondents

What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Clearing Disabled Persons' Parking Stalls** section of the proposed bylaw?

We received 139 additional comments on this topic. The vast majority of comments were highly supportive of a bylaw to ensure disabled persons' parking stalls are



cleared quickly. Many noted that stalls across the County were often not cleared quickly enough.

*As a person with mobility issues, I find most shopping areas do not maintain disabled parking stalls.*

Many wished to see the timeline for stalls to be cleared moved from 48 hours to 24 hours as 48 hours was deemed to be too long to wait for someone with mobility challenges.

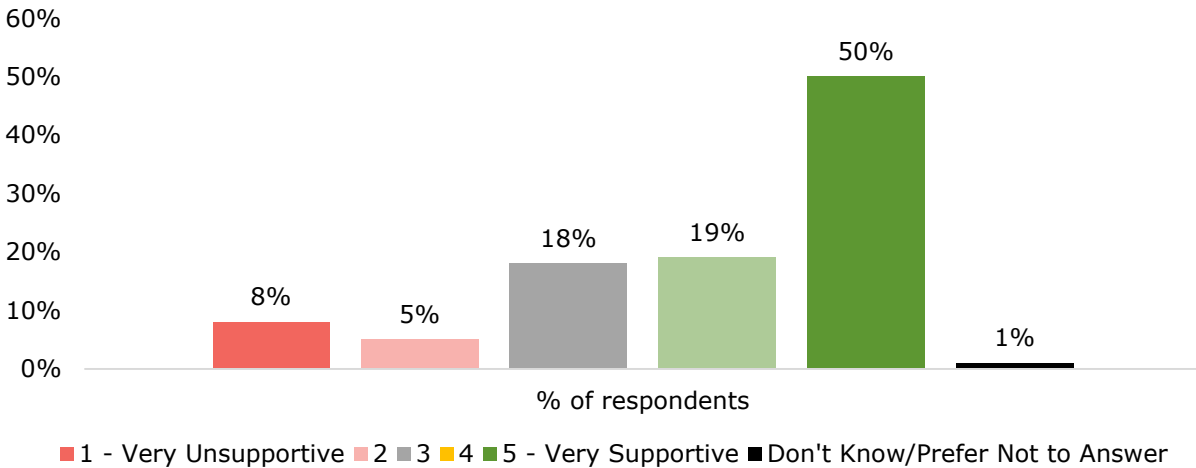
*48 hours seems like an awfully long time for a disabled resident to not access their vehicle.*

A smaller number of respondents questioned the need for this bylaw, as they believed the liability for someone getting injured in an uncleared parking stall to be sufficient motivation to clear parking stalls quickly. Others stated that clearing disabled persons' parking stalls should be the County's responsibility. Lastly, we heard from some respondents that 48 hours may not be doable at a reasonable cost after particularly large snowfalls.

*Nice idea, but let's let property owners take responsibility for their own property without it being legislated.*

## Sidewalk Clearing

This is an existing bylaw that is being transferred over to the Community Standards Bylaw. Half of respondents were very supportive of this section of the bylaw. Just under a fifth of respondents were neither supportive nor unsupportive, which is a larger proportion for that category compared to other topics.



Base: 717 respondents

As with other topics, a majority of respondents felt this bylaw struck a good balance. However, sizable proportions believed it was too restrictive or not restrictive enough – reflecting some debate we heard in the open-ended comments over whether 48 hours was an appropriate amount of time to clear sidewalks.



Base: 731 respondents

What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Sidewalk Clearing** section of the proposed bylaw?

We heard additional comments from 272 comments. As indicated by the two above charts, there was a diversity of views on this topic. While most agreed with the overall premise of the bylaw and timely sidewalk clearing, there was disagreement about the appropriate timeline and enforcement. As with other topics feedback fell into two main camps: standard is too restrictive and standards is appropriate.

### Residents should be held to a standard

Most respondents were generally in favour of the 48 hour standard, but wanted to see a higher standard of enforcement. Many shared stories of neighbours or properties that had dangerous uncleared sidewalks.

*Having fallen on ice, sidewalk clearing is very important to avoid injury and costs to people falling.*

Only a small minority of comments sought a faster standard than 48 hours, with some stating the standards should be immediately or sometime between 24-48 hours.

*36 hours would be more appropriate, to align with other municipalities.*

### Standards are too restrictive

Most of the respondents who felt the standard was too restrictive believed that 48 hours to clear sidewalks was too difficult for residents. We also heard that irregular freeze/thaw cycles could also make 48 hours too difficult to maintain. Of particular concern was that 48 hours was too difficult for seniors, low-income households and those with mobility challenges. We also heard some comments about how the 48 hour standard was reached without sufficient resident consultation.

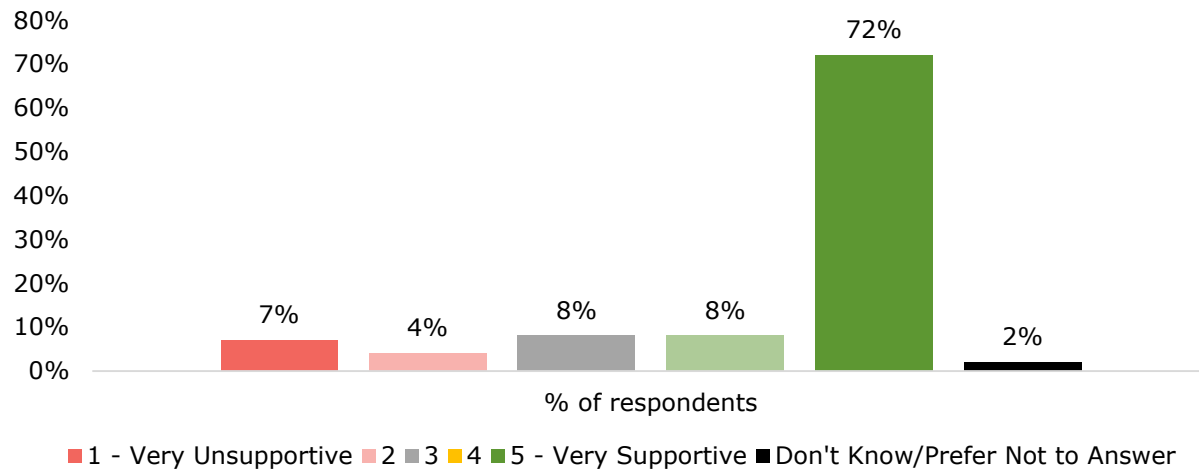
*As a senior it can sometimes be difficult to get everything cleaned, especially after a long, continuous snowfall.*

We also heard a number of comments that were frustrated with snow clearing on County trails and sidewalks. A common sentiment was that the County should be held to a similar standard of sidewalk clearing before mandating residents should clear sidewalks in 48 hours. A less common theme was a belief that there should be no sidewalk clearing bylaw or that the County should be responsible for all sidewalk clearing.

*The county couldn't even keep up with icy sidewalks last winter, if you are going to talk the talk, you've gotta practice what you preach!*

## Symbols of Hate

80% of respondents were supportive of this section of the proposed bylaw.



Base: 712 respondents

Most respondents indicated that the County had struck a good balance with this section. However, a sizable 21% of respondents felt this section was not restrictive enough, and 9% opted to select don't know/prefer not to answer.



Base: 721 respondents

What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to **Symbols of Hate** section of the proposed bylaw?

226 respondents left additional comments on this topic. While there was general rejection of symbols of hate in the community, most comments were concerned about how this bylaw would be interpreted and applied.

The largest group of respondents was concerned with how a symbol of hate would be determined. We heard that what could be considered a symbol of hate is highly subjective and could be abused to advance different political ideologies. These respondents wanted to see more definitive or objective definitions of symbols of hate.

*Biggest issue is just how "symbols of hate" definition is vague and could be interpreted differently depending on who is in charge.*

The second largest group of respondents was supportive of the bylaw, believing that it was necessary to combat hate and divisiveness in the community.

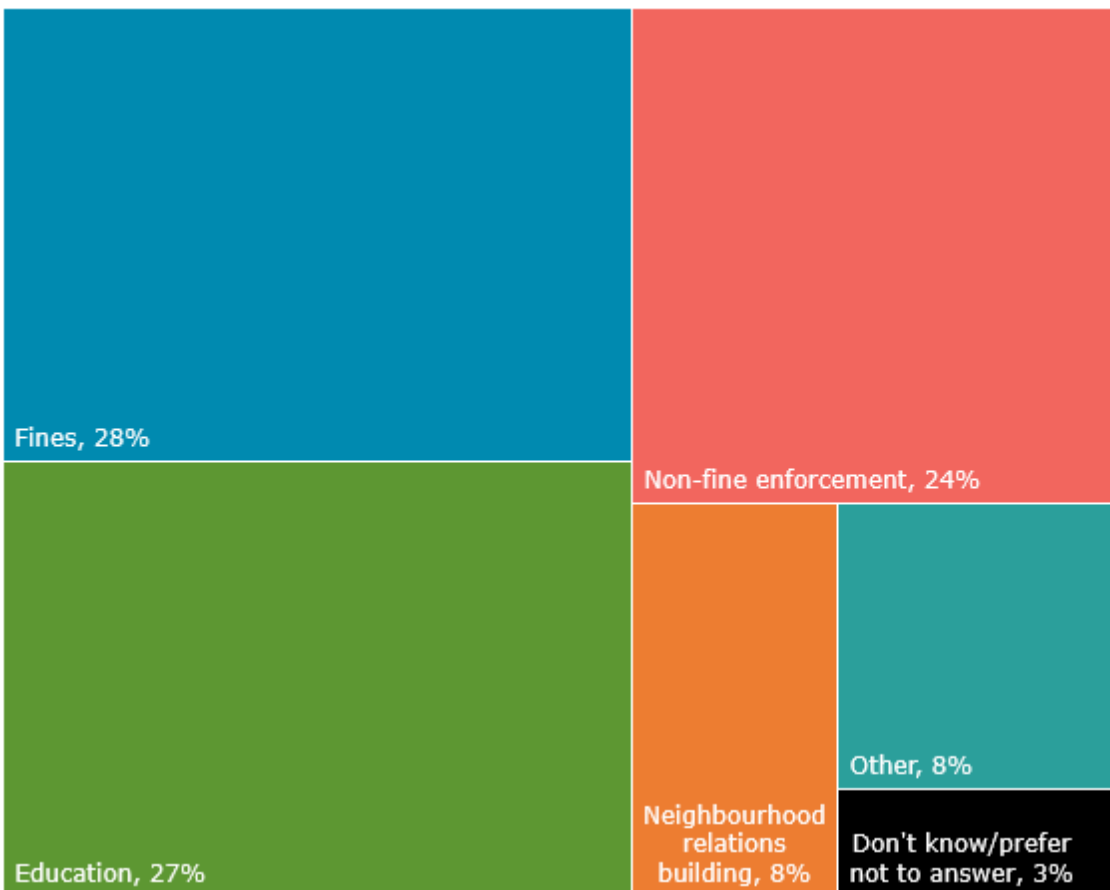
*Hate has no home here. Any symbols of hate must continue to be made illegal within our county. Especially if we wish to maintain any diversity, or encourage it's growth within our community.*

A smaller group of respondents were more concerned that this section of the bylaw infringes upon freedom of expression, or that this topic was inappropriate to deal with in a bylaw.

*This violates the right to freedom of speech, because it gives the county the power to say what is and what isn't a "symbol of hate". This essentially only allows symbols and signs that are approved by the government, with no regard to free speech.*

## Enforcement

The County has a number of tools to encourage residents to comply with provisions of the Community Standards Bylaw. We were interested in learning which of the following methods respondents would like to see the County prioritize in achieving the goal of establishing a community standard through this bylaw.



Fines and Education were the most popular options chosen by respondents, followed closely by Non-fine Enforcement. Neighbourhood Relations Building was less popular, chosen by only 8% of respondents. 8% of respondents chose 'Other' as a response which included mentions of alternate enforcement strategies. Such strategies typically included combinations of the above techniques or comments about the difficulty of enforcing certain provisions of the proposed bylaw.

## Final Comments

To conclude the survey, we asked respondents to share any additional thoughts or comments on the Community Standards Bylaw. 287 respondents left additional comments.

Many of the respondents to this question were focused on enforcement and implementation of the proposed bylaw. We heard two competing ideas for enforcement with similar numbers of supports, the first idea was for a progressive enforcement system that starts with education and awareness that progresses to fines for repeat offenders. The second vision was more punitive, focused on fines for offences.

*I believe education and awareness is important, but bylaw needs to move into fines after a certain period of education otherwise residents will take advantage.*

We also heard some comments desiring more proactive enforcement on behalf of the County and less of a complaint driven enforcement system. Some comments believed this would be a fairer system that would better achieve the bylaws objectives, while others were worried that a complaint driven system would pit neighbours against one another.

*County needs to start enforcing their bylaws instead of neighbor ratting on neighbor. Numerous infractions that have been going on for years and with no enforcement leads to more and more people are breaking the bylaws.*

Some respondents used this opportunity to weigh in on the bylaw more generally. Some were concerned that these bylaws were unnecessary for Strathcona County and that the community generally maintains shared standards without County rules. Others were worried that this represents a restriction on individual liberties and an infringement on private property. We also heard that the amount of subjective definitions and terms throughout the bylaw is a problem, as it leaves too much to the discretion of bylaw officers.

*The bylaws need to be clearer in defining specific restrictions and stop leaving things to the opinion of officers. It opens up the bylaw to unjust and unequal application of the bylaws.*

We also heard some suggestions on topics or issues not covered by the proposed bylaw. Specifically we heard mentions for inclusion of cat permitting, standards for tree aesthetics, wetlands, fireworks, parking, speeding and cycling.

*What about cats? How do we still not have a way to control cats running free? When we have bylaws and licensing in place for dogs and even proposed for chickens!*

Lastly, we also heard some concerns that not all sections of the Community Standards Bylaw were relevant or applicable to rural residents of Strathcona County.

*I think it is not reasonable to apply the same standards for in town residents and rural residents. The needs and uses of the property are not the same.*

## What's Next?

In fall 2022, Administration will present a report to Council outlining the public engagement results. The County will also solicit feedback through a public hearing in the Fall of 2022 (specific date to be announced, once confirmed). Following this hearing, Council will decide whether to proceed with the Community Standards Bylaw or invite more opportunities for public engagement.

Public feedback and input into the draft Community Standards Bylaw is a key step to ensuring the final Community Standards Bylaw meets the community's needs.

## More Information

**Website:** <https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/public-engagement/community-standards-bylaw/>



# Appendix A: Survey Tool

## Introduction

Strathcona County is inviting you to provide feedback on its draft Community Standards Bylaw. This bylaw aims to represent the County's overall approach to establishing clear standards of presentation and accountability in our community.

Public feedback and input into the draft Community Bylaw is a key step to ensuring the final Community Standards Bylaw meets the community's needs.

The complete text of the proposed bylaw can be found here. The link will open in a new window. We recommend that you review the full text of the bylaw and keep it open in a separate window while you complete this survey.

The County will also solicit feedback through a public hearing in the Fall of 2022 (specific date to be announced, once confirmed). Following this hearing, Council will decide whether to proceed with the Community Standards Bylaw or invite more opportunities for public engagement.

**This survey will take approximately 10-20 minutes to complete, depending on how many categories you wish to provide input on.**

Personal information is collected in accordance with section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. When providing any written answers, please do not include any personally identifying information. Please note that we are not able to respond to requests for follow-up in survey comments due to FOIP concerns. If you have any questions or concerns about this survey or are having difficulty accessing the survey please contact Public Engagement Analyst, Cameron Dykstra [Cameron.dykstra@strathcona.ca](mailto:Cameron.dykstra@strathcona.ca)

## Resident Screener

Please select the option that best describes you.

- a. I live in Sherwood Park
- b. I live in a subdivision in rural Strathcona County
- c. I live in rural Strathcona County, not in a subdivision

- d. I live in a rural hamlet in Strathcona County (Antler Lake, Ardrossan, Collingwood Cove, Half Moon Lake, Hastings Lake, Josephburg, North Cooking Lake and South Cooking Lake)
- e. I do not live in Strathcona County

## Section 1 – Bylaw Topics and Themes

The proposed Community Standards Bylaw will cover 13 distinct topics, which we have organized into three themes. The next three pages contain summary descriptions of these topics and expectations for the standards noted in the bylaw. **Please refer to the full text of the bylaw for full details. We recommend keeping the draft bylaw open in a separate window while completing the survey.**

### Theme #1: Property Standards

- **Nuisance and Unsightly Properties** (Section 15)
  - Property owners need to make sure their properties don't disturb the use of other properties (by having anything from the property go onto another property), to look excessively unsightly, or to be unsafe.
  - I
  - Please note this is an existing bylaw that will be transferred to the Community Standards Bylaw
- **Storing Construction Materials and Debris** (Section 30) (Residential Property Only)
  - Property owners must ensure construction materials are stored neatly, and only during construction.
- **Building, Yard, and Fence Maintenance** (Section 34) (Residential Property Only)
  - Property owners need to make sure that building, yards, and fences are maintained so that they are safe for other people on or near the property.
- **Parking on Private Property** (Section 44) (Residential Property Only)
  - Vehicles can only be parked on driveways (without overhang from the private driveway), and not on landscaping or grass.
- **Graffiti** (Section 20)
  - Nobody is allowed to deface anything with graffiti and property owners are responsible for removing graffiti.

### Theme #2: Public Spaces

- **Noise** (Section 6)

- Nobody is allowed to make noises that are loud enough to disturb other people, whether that noise is made by sound equipment or vehicles, or in some other way (refer to bylaw for exceptions).
- Please note this is an existing bylaw that will be transferred to the Community Standards Bylaw
- **Wood Burning Appliances and Nuisance Smoke** (Section 24)
  - Anyone who heats their house with a wood-burning appliance needs to operate and maintain it in accordance with manufacturer instructions, and make sure that excessive smoke is not released when using it. In addition, anyone who has an outdoor fire needs to make sure there is not too much smoke.
- **Littering** (Section 58)
  - Littering is not allowed. This includes throwing litter on public property and dumping in rural ditches.
- **Idling** (Section 60)
  - Vehicles are not allowed to idle for more than 5 minutes in a 30-minute period. Also, idling is not permitted in areas with a sign that says idling is not allowed. Please refer to bylaw for exceptions.

### Theme #3: Community Safety

- **Charity Bins and Collection Sites** (Section 66)
  - Charity donation bins can only be operated by permit. The owner of the bin is responsible to make sure the bin and the surrounding area is kept tidy.
- **Clearing Disabled Persons' parking Stalls** (Section 77)
  - If a parking lot has disabled-parking stalls, the stalls and a path to the sidewalk need to be cleared within 48 hours of a snowfall.
- **Sidewalk Clearing** (Section 48) (Residential Property Only)
  - Property owners need to clear sidewalks, or add non-slip materials, in front of and beside their homes within 48 hours of a snowfall.
  - Please note this is an existing bylaw that will be transferred to the Community Standards Bylaw.
- **Symbols of Hate** (Section 82)
  - Displaying symbols of hate, that promote violence, hate, or hostility against a person or group, is not allowed.

Please select the themes you are most interested in providing feedback on below – you may select as many or as few themes as you would like.

- a. Property standards
  - Nuisance and Unsightly Properties
  - Storing Construction Materials and Debris
  - Building, Yard, Fence Maintenance
  - Parking on Private Property
  - Graffiti
- b. Public Spaces (Environmental concerns)
  - Noise
  - Wood burning appliances
  - Littering
  - Idling
- c. Community Safety
  - Charity Bins and Collection Sites
  - Clearing Disabled Persons' Parking Stalls
  - Sidewalk Clearing
  - Symbols of Hate
- d. None of the above

## Theme 1 – Property Standards

### Nuisance and Unsightly Properties

Property owners need to make sure their properties don't disturb the use of other properties (by having anything from the property go onto another property), to look excessively unsightly, or to be unsafe.

Please note this is an existing bylaw that will be transferred to the Community Standards Bylaw.

**Please refer to** (Section 15) of the draft document for full details

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Nuisance and Unsightly Properties, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

- 1. **Very unsupportive**
- 2. ...
- 3. ...
- 4. ...
- 5. **Very supportive**
- 6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to Nuisance and Unsightly Properties? [single select]

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good balance**
3. **Not restrictive enough on residents**

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Nuisance and Unsightly Properties section of the proposed bylaw?

### **Storing Construction Materials and Debris**

Property owners must ensure construction materials are stored neatly, and only during construction.

**Please refer to** (Section 30) of the draft document for full details

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Storing Construction Materials and Debris, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive. [single select]

1. **Very unsupportive**
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. **Very supportive**
6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to Storing Construction Materials and Debris?

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good balance**
3. **Not restrictive enough on residents**

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Storing Construction Materials and Debris section of the proposed bylaw?

### **Building, Yard, Fence Maintenance**

Property owners need to make sure that building, yards, and fences are maintained so that they are safe for other people on or near the property.

**Please refer to** (Section 34) of the draft document for full details.

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Building, Yard, Fence Maintenance, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

1. **Very unsupportive**
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. **Very supportive**
6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to Building, Yard, Fence Maintenance?

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good balance**
3. **Not restrictive enough on residents**

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Building, Yard, Fence Maintenance section of the proposed bylaw?

#### **Parking on Private Property**

Vehicles can only be parked on driveways, (without overhang from the private driveway), and not on landscaping or grass.

**Please refer to** (Section 44) of the draft document for full details

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Parking on Private Property, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

1. **Very unsupportive**
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. **Very supportive**
6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to Parking on Private Property?

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good balance**

### 3. Not restrictive enough on residents

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Parking on Private Property section of the proposed bylaw?

#### **Graffiti**

Nobody is allowed to deface anything with graffiti and property owners are responsible for removing graffiti. **Please refer to** (Section 20) of the draft document for full details.

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Graffiti, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

1. **Very unsupportive**
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. **Very supportive**
6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to graffiti?

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good Balance**
3. **Not restrictive enough on residents**

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to graffiti section of the proposed bylaw?

## **Theme 2 – Public Spaces**

#### **Noise**

Nobody is allowed to make noises that are loud enough to disturb other people, whether that noise is made by sound equipment or vehicles, or in some other way (refer to the bylaw for exceptions).

Please note this is an existing bylaw that will be transferred to the Community Standards Bylaw **Please refer to** (Section 6) of the draft document for full details

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to noise, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

1. **Very unsupportive**
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. **Very supportive**
6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to noise?

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good balance**
3. **Not restrictive enough on residents**

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to noise section of the proposed bylaw?

#### **Wood Burning Appliances and Nuisance Smoke**

Anyone who heats their house with a wood-burning appliance needs to operate and maintain it in accordance with manufacturer instructions, and make sure that excessive smoke is not released when using it.

In addition, anyone who has an outdoor fire needs to make sure there is not too much smoke.

**Please refer to** (Section 24) of the draft document for full details

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Wood Burning Appliances, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

1. **Very unsupportive**
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. **Very supportive**
6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to Wood Burning Appliances? [single select]

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good balance**
3. **Not restrictive enough on residents**



**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Wood Burning Appliances section of the proposed bylaw?

### **Littering**

Littering is not allowed. This includes throwing litter on public property and dumping in rural ditches.

**Please refer to** (Section 58) of the draft document for full details

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Littering, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

- 1. Very unsupportive**
- 2. ...**
- 3. ...**
- 4. ...**
- 5. Very supportive**
- 6. Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to Littering?

- 1. Too restrictive on residents**
- 2. Neutral – Good Balance**
- 3. Not restrictive enough on residents**

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Littering section of the proposed bylaw?

### **Idling**

Vehicles are not allowed to idle for more than 5 minutes in a 30-minute period. Also, idling is not permitted in areas with a sign that says idling is not allowed. Please refer to bylaw for exceptions.

**Please refer to** (Section 60) of the draft document for full details.

**Question 1:** A good bylaw needs to be drafted for certainty, predictability, democratic transparency, accountability, and accomplishes the council's desired goal. What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Idling, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

- 1. Very unsupportive**

2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. **Very supportive**
6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to Idling? [single select]

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good Balance**
3. **Not restrictive enough on residents**

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Idling section of the proposed bylaw?

## **Theme 3 – Community Safety**

### **Charity Bins and Collection Sites**

Charity donation bins can only be operated by permit. The owner of the bin is responsible to make sure the bin and the surrounding area is kept tidy

**Please refer to** (Section 66) of the draft document for full details.

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Charity Bins and Collection Sites, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

1. **Very unsupportive**
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. **Very supportive**
6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to Charity Bins and Collection Sites?

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good Balance**
3. **Not restrictive enough on residents**

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Charity Bins and Collection Sites section of the proposed bylaw?

### **Clearing Disabled Persons' Parking Stalls**

If a parking lot has disabled-parking stalls, the stalls and a path to the sidewalk need to be cleared within 48 hours of a snowfall.

**Please refer to** (Section 77) of the draft document for full details.

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Clearing Disabled Persons' Stalls, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

1. **Very unsupportive**
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. **Very supportive**
6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to Clearing Disabled Persons' Stalls?

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good Balance**
3. **Not restrictive enough on residents**

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Clearing Disabled Persons' Stalls section of the proposed bylaw?

### **Sidewalk Clearing**

Property owners need to clear sidewalks, or add non-slip materials, in front of and beside their homes within 48 hours of a snowfall.

Please note this is an existing bylaw that will be transferred to the Community Standards Bylaw.

**Please refer to** (Section 48) of the draft document for full details.

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Sidewalk Clearing, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

1. **Very unsupportive**
2. ...

3. ...
4. ...
5. **Very supportive**
6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to Sidewalk Clearing?

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good balance**
3. **Not restrictive enough on residents**

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Sidewalk Clearing section of the proposed bylaw?

### **Symbols of Hate**

Displaying symbols of hate, that promote violence, hate, or hostility against a person or group, is not allowed.

**Please refer to** (Section 82) of the draft document for full details

**Question 1:** What is your level of support with the proposed bylaw as it relates to Symbols of Hate, where 1 is very unsupportive and 5 is very supportive.

1. **Very unsupportive**
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. **Very supportive**
6. **Prefer not to answer/don't know**

**Question 2:** Strathcona County strives to maintain a balance between establishing and maintaining community standards, while limiting restrictions on residents. How would you rate the **balance** of the proposed bylaw as it relates to Symbols of Hate?

1. **Too restrictive on residents**
2. **Neutral – Good Balance**
3. **Not restrictive enough on residents**

**Question 3:** What additional comments would you like to provide with regards to Symbols of Hate section of the proposed bylaw?

## **Final Section – Enforcement and Fines**

The County has a number of tools to encourage residents to comply with provisions of the Community Standards Bylaw. Which of the following methods would you like to see the County prioritize in achieving the goal of establishing a community standard through this bylaw?

### **Education and awareness**

- a. Neighbourhood relationship building (block parties, etc.)**
- b. Non-fine enforcement (warnings)**
- c. Fines**
- d. Other (please specify)**

Do you have any other comments or concerns about the Community Standards Bylaw? Please do not include any personally identifying information.

## **End of Survey**

Thank you for your feedback. For more information on the proposed Community Standards Bylaw visit the project webpage. The County will also solicit feedback through a public hearing in the Fall of 2022 (specific date to be announced, once confirmed). Following this hearing, Council will decide whether to proceed with the Community Standards Bylaw or invite more opportunities for public engagement.