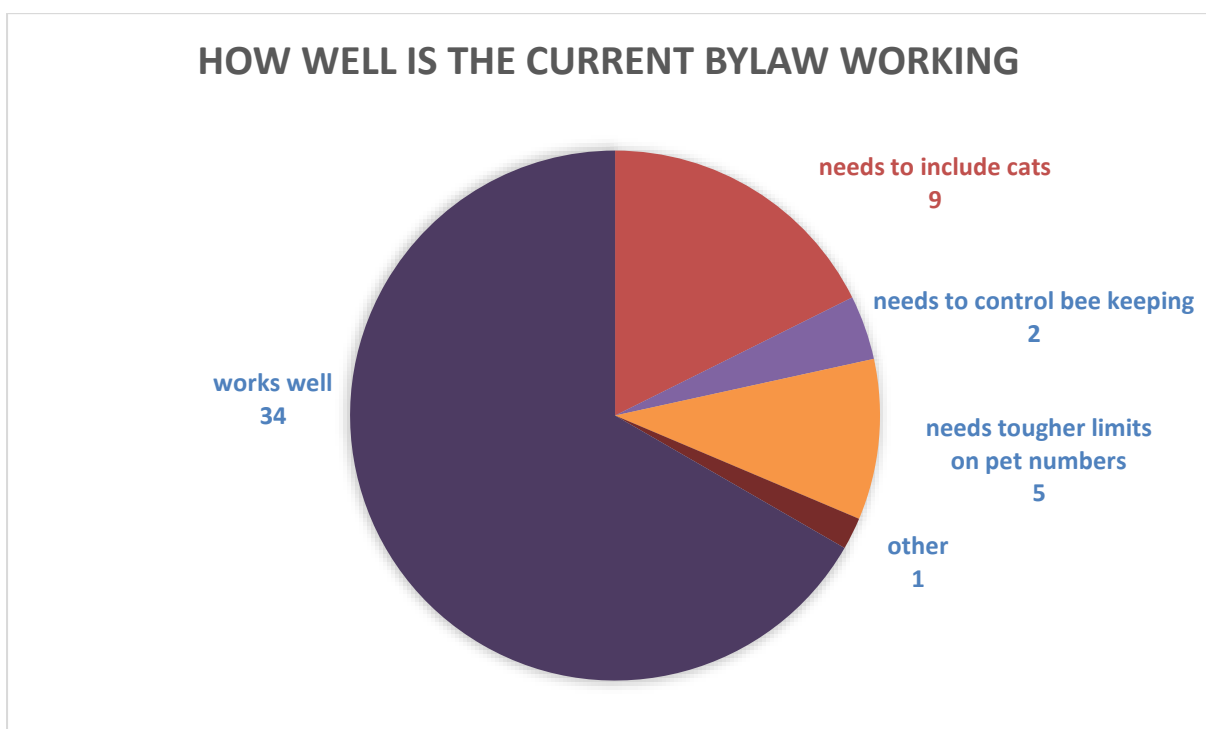


Results of Bylaws Pre-Consultation on the Animal Bylaw

Council consulted informally about specific topics within the Animal Bylaw from 28 September to 16 October 2020. The pre-consultation findings helped to inform the drafting of the Animal Bylaw 2021. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate the results of pre-consultation. The title of each graph is the question that was asked, and the numbers next to each piece of the pie relate to the number of submissions received that expressed that view.

Figure 1

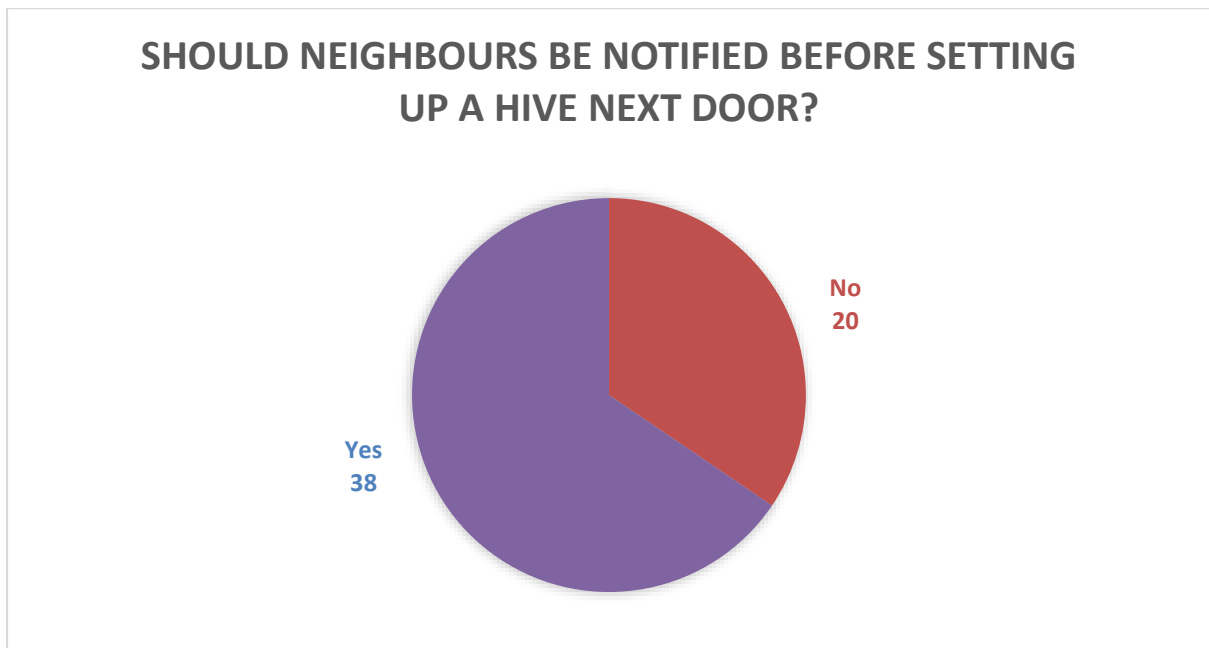


As illustrated in Figure 1 above, there was general satisfaction from the community with how well the operative bylaw works. Some respondents suggested that the management of cats be included in the bylaw. This feedback has been taken on board and cats are no longer excluded from the bylaw.

There has been an uptick in residential beekeeping across the district, and a request that the bylaw provide better targeted guidance to beekeepers. Apiculture New Zealand is the national body for both domestic and commercial beekeeping in New Zealand. While Apiculture NZ has a voluntary code of conduct that members are asked to comply with, there are no legal requirements around conduct that

beekeepers must meet, and no site inspections are undertaken. Bee related complaints are therefore referred to Councils in the first instance. It is therefore fair and reasonable that the keeping of bees is managed by Council under the Animal Bylaw. This feedback has been reflected in the draft bylaw and it now includes guidance on beekeeping in residential parts of the district.

Figure 2



Along with an uptick in residential beekeeping, there has been rise in bee related complaints made to Council. There are concerns around bee fouling, as well as severe and/or potentially deadly allergic reactions to bee stings from living in continued close proximity to beehives. While there is widespread agreement on the benefits of bees and their importance to the environment, there is also a concern about hives being established next door without advance notice being given to neighbours.

Over half of all respondents (66%) were in support of giving advance notice to neighbouring properties before establishing a hive in a residential area.