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Your Ref.

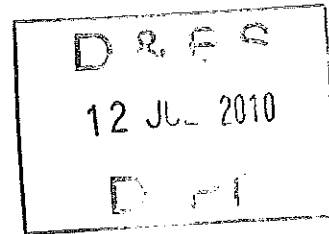
Our Ref.

Date:

SB/JF

9th July 2010

Mr P Raine
Regeneration Director
Swale Borough Council
Swale House, East Street
SITTINGBOURNE
Kent ME10 3HT



Dear Mr Raine

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RESOLUTION – TOWN CENTRE CLOSURE

As you are aware, at the Annual Town Meeting of Faversham held on 20th May 2010 the enclosed Motion was put to the Meeting and resolved after a vote of 11 for the Motion and 1 abstention.

Although the Town Council received a very non committal reply from Kent County Council in this matter, following our letter to Mr D Cockburn the Interim Chief Executive, the matter was discussed by Councillors at their meeting held this week and it was duly resolved as follows:-

‘That Swale Borough Council be asked for the resolution, that was passed at the Annual Town Meeting held on 20th May 2010 seeking closure of the town centre between 10am and 4pm Monday to Saturday, to be re-discussed at the Joint Transportation Board and that Members of Faversham Town Council should also attend that meeting to support the proposal now put forward by Faversham Town Council’.

It is understood that this matter was discussed by the Transportation Board some 3 or 4 years ago, but the Town Council have always been in full support of the closure and would now ask that serious consideration be given to the proposal as submitted at the Town Meeting and enclosed herewith. It is further pointed out that this closure could be established without any further surveys as surveys in the past have been carried out and the gate at the Court Street junction with Crescent Road is already in place.

Faversham Town Council therefore urges the Swale Transportation Board to support the proposal and to arrange, as a matter of some urgency, for the closure of the town centre between 10am and 4pm each weekday, in addition to the Saturday closure.

FAVERSHAM TOWN MEETING

Assembled under the provisions of Article 14-(1) of part III of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 on Thursday 20th May 2010

I propose that a letter be sent from this local Town Meeting assembled under the provisions of Article 14-(1) of part III of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 on Thursday 20th May 2010 to the Chief Executive of Kent County Council with a copy to the Chief Executive of Swale Borough Council pointing out that a survey undertaken by Swale Borough Council in December 2004 found that of the 492 persons who responded 70% were in favour of the Faversham town centre being closed to traffic between 10.00am and 4.00 pm and that nothing has been done in the intervening five and a half years to implement the wishes of the people of this town.

It is requested that Kent County Council, as the highway authority, take steps to prepare a traffic management scheme for the closure of Faversham town centre between 10.00am and 4.00 pm Monday to Saturday.

It is understood that the Town Council are also in favour of closing the town centre streets in the middle of the day, but the highway authority was persuaded by a few, but determined, tradespeople not to carry out the scheme. It seems to the local government electors present that the wishes of the majority have been overridden by a few unimaginative and selfish people who are not prepared to make any effort to make Faversham town centre attractive to shoppers and visitors. The present system does not work, the town centre is unattractive, and shoppers and visitors go elsewhere.

The present proposals to re-route traffic through the town may or may not produce some improvement, but there will always be a conflict between pedestrians and motor vehicles. Many variations have been tried before and the selfish lazy drivers have always found a way through. We consider that a closed gate is the only answer.

The meeting understands the concerns of the shopkeepers, but if loading and unloading bays were provided on the periphery of the closed area, such as already exists at the Preston-Stone Street junction, it would be quite possible, with trolleys if necessary, to service the town centre during the hours when it was closed to vehicular traffic. This is done in other towns.

In the same way disabled parking spaces could be provided, which in most cases, would be only a few yards from shops and often closer than the areas now used by disabled drivers.

The meeting considers that it is worth remembering that, before the present scheme was introduced, there was restricted parking throughout the whole of the town centre and nobody could park there. Now those selfish unsocial drivers who are prepared to ignore the rules are able to find room to park because the rest of us obey the rules park in the car parks and walk a short distance to the shops.

It is clear that the retail trade, along with many others businesses, is having a hard time and it is unfortunate but, probably inevitable, that more shops will become empty in all towns in the months to come.

What is important is that in the upturn Faversham is in a position to provide a shopping centre that is safe, pleasant, and environmentally friendly, that will attract the type of small specialist shops that can survive alongside the supermarkets and create a vibrant and economically viable town centre.

28 fct2010

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

19th July 2010.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

The Chairman
Swale Bough Council

Dear sir,

It is with regret I enclose a copy of my letter to the Faversham News.

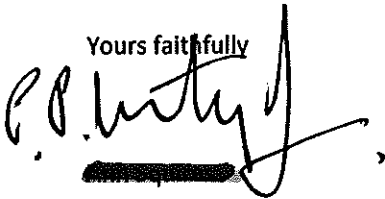
This threat to try to reverse the original proposal is debilitating.

Suggestions from councillors, and Mr Osbourne, inter alia, such as "why not use a barrow" are unhelpful .

Does the town want traders or not? Does it prefer to have a desert without shops?

I am sure you have better things to worry about at present, but I have to decide whether I want to continue, with the continuing sniping by council members, past and present. I thought that Conservative philosophy leant to embracing trading possibilities. Possibly the sniping comes from other parties.

Yours faithfully


[Redacted]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

I am grateful to Catherine Rogers for her letter of support for the Town traders. I too have traded in Jacob Yard for 26 years, and supported the efforts of Faversham Town Centre Traders organisation to bring to the attention of Swale Council the need to be able to trade normally.

What the proponents of the closure plan overlook is that we followed the democratic route, and the proposal was put to a full meeting of the borough council who voted, with one member against, to reject the proposal and to alter the traffic flow to keep the market free of the majority of traffic. Are we, like Ireland, to be forced to fight the battle over and over until the result desired by the closure people is achieved?

The health and safety ruse was applied, possibly to delay matters until the minority could regroup. The fact is that when I opened my shop, traffic in Preston St was two way! There were no difficulties.

As for the puppy walker's complaint, there are pavements available.

I was told by an expert recently that the move, throughout the world, is towards mutual sharing. Look at Oxford circus.

[REDACTED] *W* 19/7/10
[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

D.R.E.S
28 JUL 2010
DEPT

Mr. M Whiting
Chairman of the Joint Transportation Board
Democratic Services
Swale Borough Council
East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 8NY

27th July 2010

Dear Mr. Whiting,

It is understood that the Joint Transport Committee will be meeting on the 6th September to consider the proposal that has been put forward by Faversham Town Council regarding the request to close Faversham Town centre to traffic.

At this early stage of deliberation, it is critical that I raise my objection as a resident of the town with a garage to the closure of the street outside my home. I am therefore writing to the Joint Transport Board to ask that as a pre-condition of any traffic closure we are permitted continued, unrestricted vehicular access to our home.

Our family house is in Court Street, which I understand is currently in the proposed area for closure to traffic. We have a young family, and we both work; with those commitments go the normal requirements of any family for unrestricted vehicular access to our garage, which is attached to our house. Vehicular access to our home is located along Middle Row, which runs parallel to Court Street, we have no requirement to drive through the market square and therefore interrupt the 'café culture' that seems to be emerging during the summer months. Instead we can drive along Middle Row and exit along East Street or Preston Street, regardless of the final decision on the ongoing traffic flow proposals for the town centre.

The precedent for allowing access to our home has already been proven. The 1989 traffic order imposed on Court Street provided unrestricted access to our property from Monday – Friday and on a Sunday. In essence, this order closes the town to traffic, (except permit holders, disabled badge holders, loading & unloading) from 0600hrs to 1830hrs. A similar 'unsigned exemption' is therefore requested should this new proposal be implemented.

Failure to allow such continual access would impact considerably on our lives.

At this stage I am making a representation to the Joint Transportation board, and would ask that the Board supports our request; thereby allowing for an amicable solution that allows for the continued unrestricted legal right of access to our home.

Best,

[Handwritten signature]
[Redacted]

The RoYaL! Cinema

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

D R E S
30 JUL 2010
DEPT

Thursday 29th July 2010

RE: Faversham Town Centre Closure to Traffic.

Dear Mrs Brockman,

As selfish and unimaginative traders- we have only devoted almost seventeen years of our lives to provide a cinema for Faversham- we find ourselves again objecting to the closure of the town centre to traffic at a time when most deliveries take place.

We are fortunate in having some parking space next to the cinema, which we rarely use due to the amount of "unwelcome" traffic in the town centre, but it is useful when trades people come to carry out work. Sometimes heavy equipment is brought in. Even seats are heavy when we have to carry them from Crescent Road as we did recently as they could only be delivered on a Saturday.

We, as permanent traders are sick of playing second fiddle to the market.

If the road closure goes ahead, we will be very unhappy, if we are still here, on the bleakest days of the winter, and there were months of those last winter, when the market does not bother to turn up and we are here waiting for telepathy to tell us that a driver is at a trolley park somewhere. Drivers find it difficult enough to find the cinema, let alone a trolley park covered in snow in the dark.

We cannot stress strongly enough how difficult the road closure would make trading.

In the end, no films, no cinema.

Please convey to those who advocate the road closure scheme that every time this rears its ugly head, we have to work with uncertainty, stress and in the knowledge that the future of our business is under great threat.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Directors

[Redacted Signature]

Copy to Mr M. Whiting

FIGT SECOND ATTEMPT

[REDACTED]

D. & E =
17 AUG 2010
DEPT

The Chair
JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD.SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Dear Sir,

I write as the former secretary (and pro tem chair)of the Town Centre Traders. It is clear the proposer of the motion to close off the town centre to traffic has no idea of the stress this would cause not only to the traders, who will lose a major part of their income from 'out of towners,' but delivery drivers who, in the unlikely event, if they agree to deliver after 4PM, will face the stress of having to queue to gain entry to the town. Do not overlook the fact that the market traffic arrives at 4PM and will attempt to mingle with delivery vehicles, blue badge holders, and the high number of school children who descend on the town. The safety factor is a very serious one.

The only sensible solution is the one adopted after the last airing of this proposal, that the flow of traffic be reversed, so that the majority leave via the traffic lights and do not impinge on the market.

The failure to do this already, raises the concern that 'health and safety' reasons were to bide time. The funds , I thought, were there from Tesco.

Yours faithfully


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

30th July 2010

Mrs Brockmann

Town Clerk

Faversham Town Council

Madam,

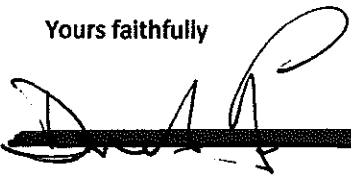
As the former secretary to **THE FAVERSHAM TOWN CENTRE TRADERS**, I wish the following to be brought to the attention of the meeting on the 6th of September next.

The Proposer and or the Seconder use intemperate language in describing those traders (and residents) who objected to the closure of roads in the town centre. Indeed the description of ' the few unimaginative and selfish people' seems intentionally offensive. I would remind the proposer that, at the time, over twenty businesses were objecting. This represents nearly 100% of those affected. This is not a few, but a healthy majority, to say nothing of the disabled and those who have parking facilities in the affected area.

I hope that there will be an early apology to all those belittled in such a rude manner.

Hopefully the proposer will take the trouble to see the correspondence in the files of Swale Borough Council, which went some way to persuading the full council to vote against this outdated scheme , and for the proposition to reverse the traffic flow, delayed by lack of funds. Do not overlook the fact that twenty five years ago two way traffic was the norm in this town! Everyone co-existed then. Why not now?

Yours faithfully


[REDACTED]

Faversham.Town Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 July 2010 08:49
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Town Centre Traffic Management

Sent to Members
* 9/7/10

Dear Sue,

I read in the local papers that the Mayor is endeavouring to completely ruin the essential access that traders need to survive in business.

I attach a copy of the only existing comprehensive survey of traders in the Town, it may now be 4 years old, but I suspect views have not changed much in that period. As a former President of the Faversham Chamber of Commerce I presented this survey to a Swale Planning Committee Meeting at which proposals similar to those made by the Mayor were discussed, the outcome was a plan to alter the traffic flows so that it would no longer be possible to drive in from Court Street and out into Preston Street at the Stone Street Junction. For reasons I have never grasped the planning officers insist that this should be done by reversing the traffic flow in Preston Street, with a common exit from either direction into East Street at the traffic lights. This requires significant expenditure on the road at the Stone St/Preston St junction. However it has always seemed to me that if the traffic lights were to become the only access point, with traffic flowing either up Preston St to the left or through the Market Square to the right, exiting into Court Street, this could be achieved purely by minimal expenditure on signage.

It is interesting that the Harbour Street area of Whitstable, where the streets and pavements are narrow, pedestrians sensibly keep to the pavement and it is no great accident black spot.

We see more and more shops becoming vacant in the Town without replacement, people who have never taken on the responsibility of a commercial lease, the need to receive and despatch goods understandably have absolutely no idea of what is involved.

I would ask you to re-present this survey and its findings to all members of the Town Council at the next meeting. It is interesting how readily our local politicians can conveniently forget the results of this survey.

[REDACTED]

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09/07/2010

Faversham Chamber of Commerce

13th December 2006 *

A survey of the town centre business response to the proposal to close the Town Centre to traffic between 10am and 4 pm on Tuesday and Friday (week day market days)

1 Background

For some time there has been a desire on the part of some councillors to close the Town Centre to traffic, some clearly wish it to be a permanent closure.

Swale Borough Council and KCC Highways have now been asked to implement an experimental 6 month closure to traffic on market days between 10am and 4pm.

The underlying reason for this desire is not abundantly or immediately clear, press reports of the proposed experimental closure during market days from 10am till 4pm do not clarify the motivation for the closure. Some mention was made of assisting the so-called "Café Culture". The presence, in the town centre, of delivery vehicular traffic is seen as an irritation to some pedestrians. *No argument or indicators have been presented to demonstrate in any way how the local retail economy, or Faversham would benefit from the closure.*

There is no significant history of accidents or incidents being caused by the passage of traffic through the town centre. Two incidents have occurred in the last twenty years, the first, a fatality caused by a collision between a bicycle and a pedestrian, the second involving an elderly driver who lost control of his car.

There is an increased potential hazard for pedestrians on market days during the week (Tuesday and Friday) particularly in the area between the guildhall and Wards at this point pedestrians have to stand in the main roadway to view the stalls, the stall holders regularly aggravate the hazard by extending outside the permitted market area further reducing the thoroughfare. See picture below.



Faversham Chamber of Commerce

Alternatives to road closure

There are a number of changes that could be implemented to reduce the potential hazard at this point, none of which require closure of the road. The market stalls along Court Street trade towards the pavement – not the road, it is only from the end of the pavement, past the pump across to the guildhall and beneath the guildhall that this orientation changes, forcing potential customers to stand in and reduce the effective width of the busiest part of the thoroughfare for both pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

1. Constrain the Market stalls to the correct area.
2. Re-orient the market stalls either to continue to face the western pavement or to face sideways to the main thoroughfare allowing market shoppers to walk between them, standing under the guildhall, not in the main thoroughfare.
3. Relocate some of the market stalls to West Street, which is not a thoroughfare for vehicular traffic.
4. Enforce the existing regulations in respect of vehicular access to the town centre.
5. Control vehicular access to the town centre on market days by manning the entrance with a controlled barrier.
6. Alteration of the traffic flow within the town centre, perhaps reversing the flow in Preston Street. All town centre traffic would leave via the Newton Rd. junction traffic lights – removing the opportunity for so-called boy racers using the town centre as a shortcut to bypass the traffic lights.

These are all measures that could be taken to enhance comfort and safety for market shoppers without taking the drastic and potentially disastrous step of physically closing the road to traffic.

2. Survey

Uniquely those who have made the investment of personal resources, money, time and family in renting and stocking trading premises in this part of the town will be those who will be most affected by this proposed "experiment". A significant number of traders have no other means of access to their business all deliveries in and out have to come via the roads that the proposal seeks to close.

For many their personal wealth and their living are dependant upon the survival and success of their businesses. This group includes people who have recently taken premises in the town; one has opened as a florist and will need to deliver flowers for funerals, weddings and other functions throughout the week; a long standing trader, who won a national BBC award in 1997 and whose lease is due for renewal – they will not renew if this "experiment" proceeds, their business, with a national reputation, will be lost to Faversham. The Faversham Society, manned by volunteer staff is only open between the hours of 10am and 4pm, they operate from three shops in Preston Street and house the Faversham Museum. A Bridal shop has a supplier who will only deliver mens clothing on Tuesday and Friday.

Faversham Chamber of Commerce

In the absence of any real attempt at consultation with the traders as a group by either FTC, SBC members or officers, the Faversham Chamber of Commerce has sought the views of these businesses trading within the town centre area from the junction of Court St. with Crescent Rd. to the junction of West St. with North Lane/South Rd.; the traffic lights at the junction of Market St with Newton Rd.; the junction of Preston St. with Stone St. In all 58 businesses completed or partially completed the questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire and a graphical representation of the results are attached.

3 Results

The results show that those who actually trade in the area affected and have experience of running businesses in the town are very strongly against the proposed closure - 82% of the 58 businesses surveyed.

This result and the other results speak for themselves and require no further explanatory narrative.

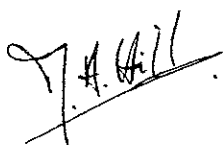
Apart from the very apparent fear that existing businesses would become no longer viable and forced to close by the proposed closure to traffic – a number of other specific problems have been identified by traders as probable consequences if the road closure were to proceed:

At 4pm, when the town is full of school pupils making their way home, the town would become open to a high concentration of vehicles – market traders packing up their stalls, deliveries from suppliers to traders, disabled wishing to make purchases or access their bank accounts. Creating a particularly hazardous situation for all concerned.

4 Recommendation

The Faversham Chamber of Commerce implores members to take the time to explore all other avenues before agreeing to this proposal to close the town centre to traffic on market days. A good and reasonable starting point would be a clear statement of the specific issues and problems that the closure will solve.

It is abundantly clear that the closure carries with it the clear risk that local traders will be forced to close or move elsewhere, affecting the **sustainability** and viability of the town centre as a local shopping centre.

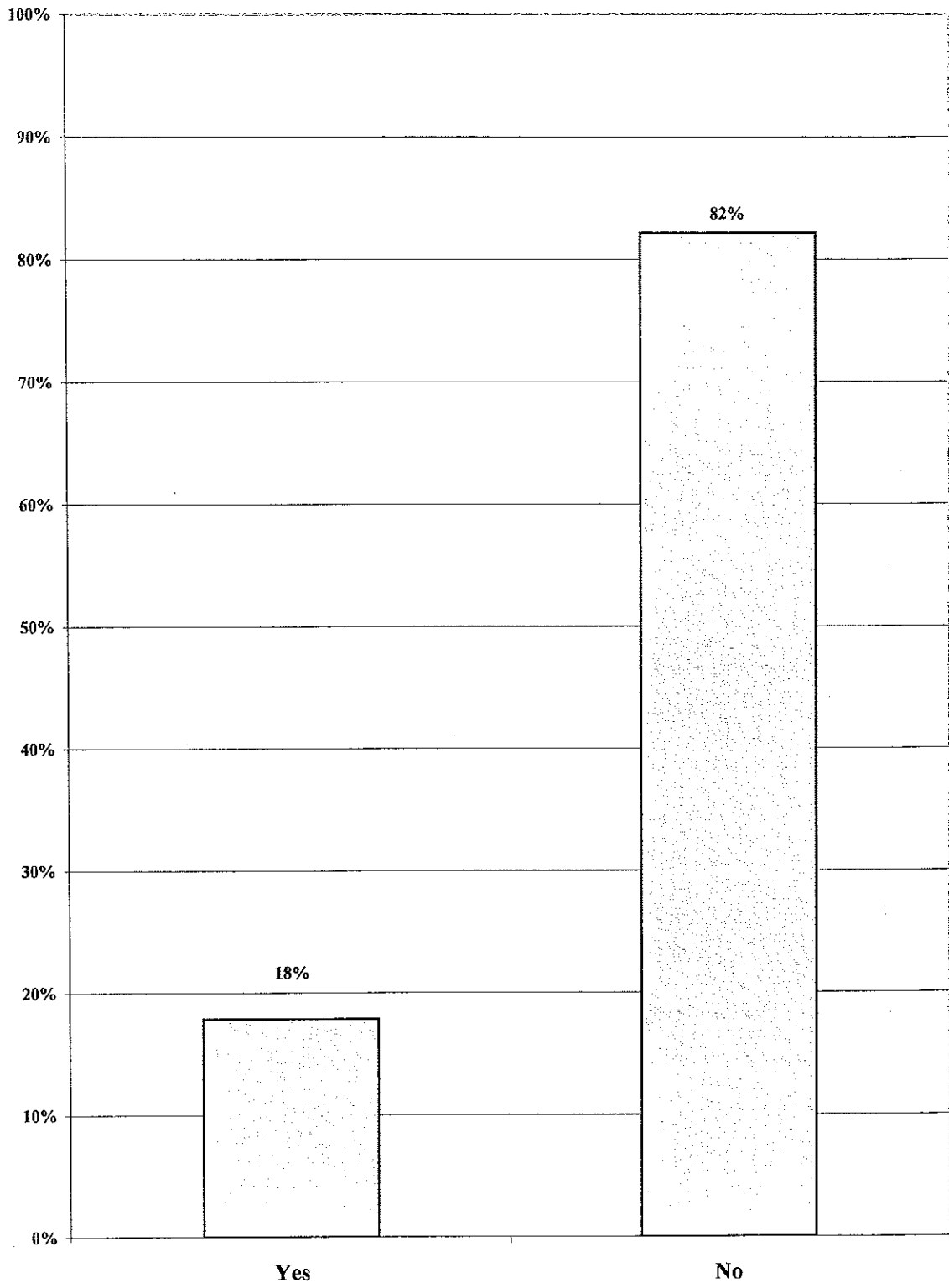


Mike Hill
President
Faversham Chamber of Commerce

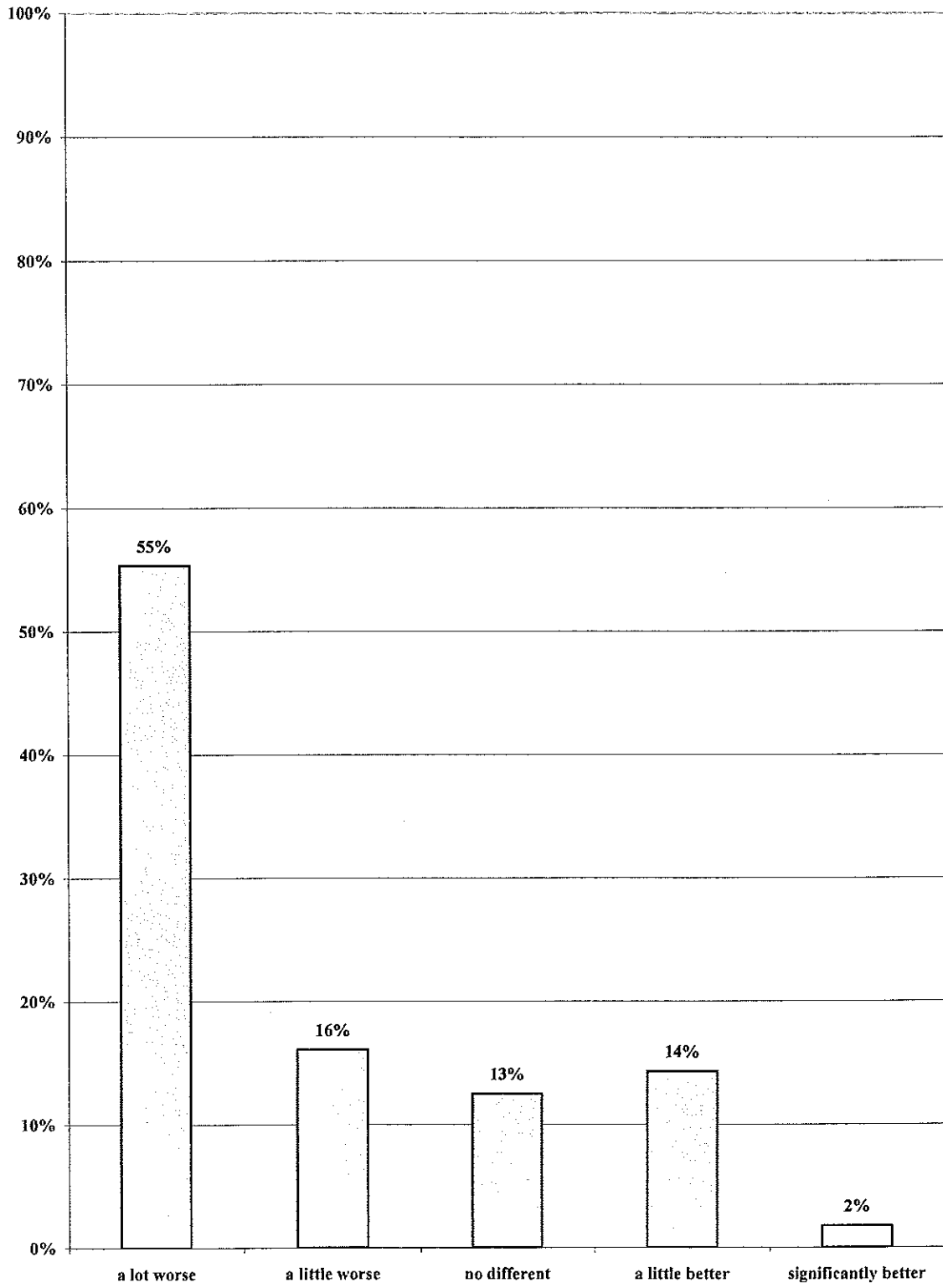
0870 777 7866
statshopsales@aol.com

A full set of copies of the completed survey sheets will be made available to SBC

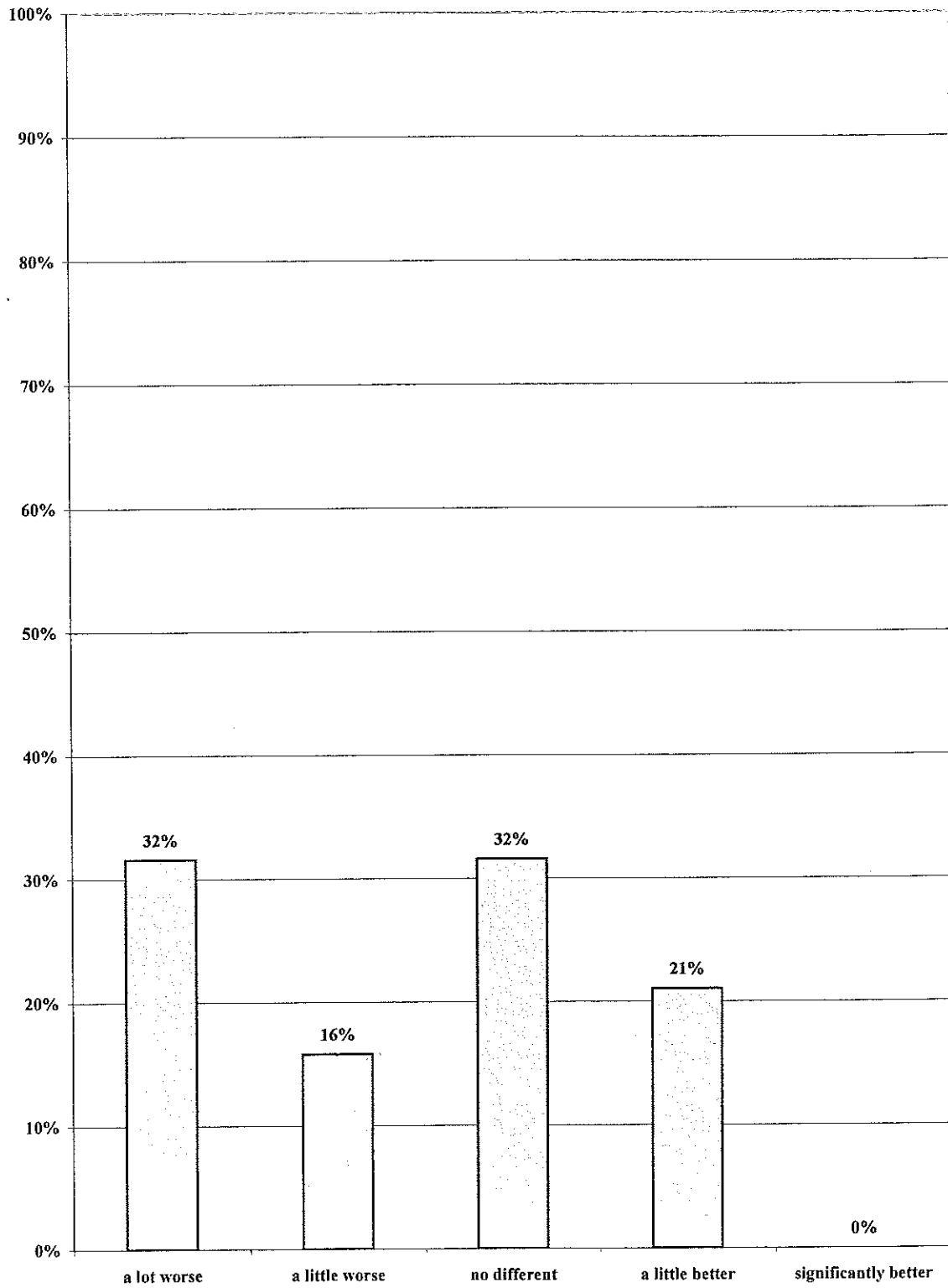
Do you support the proposal of the Council?



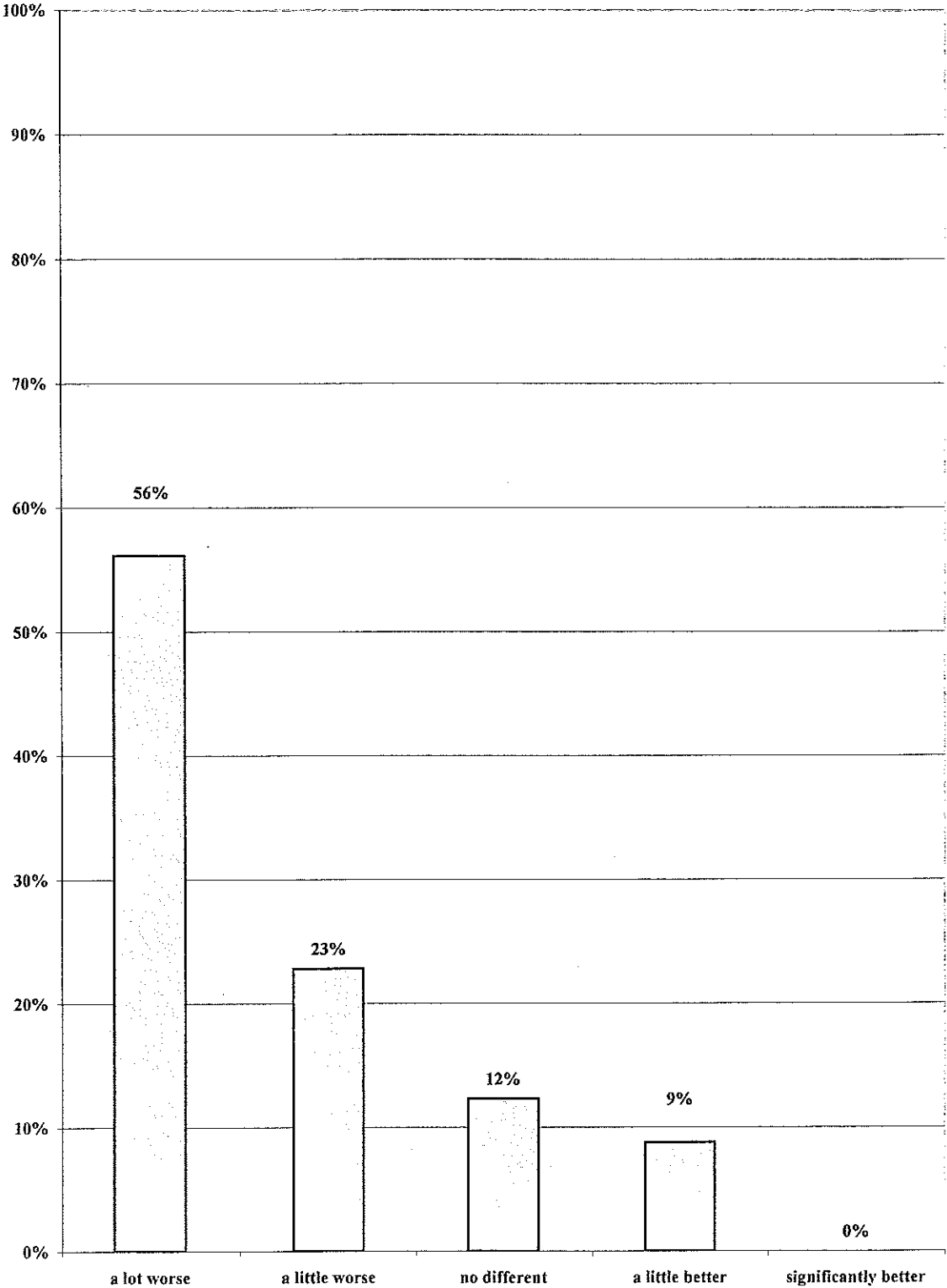
Do you believe it will improve the business for the town overall?



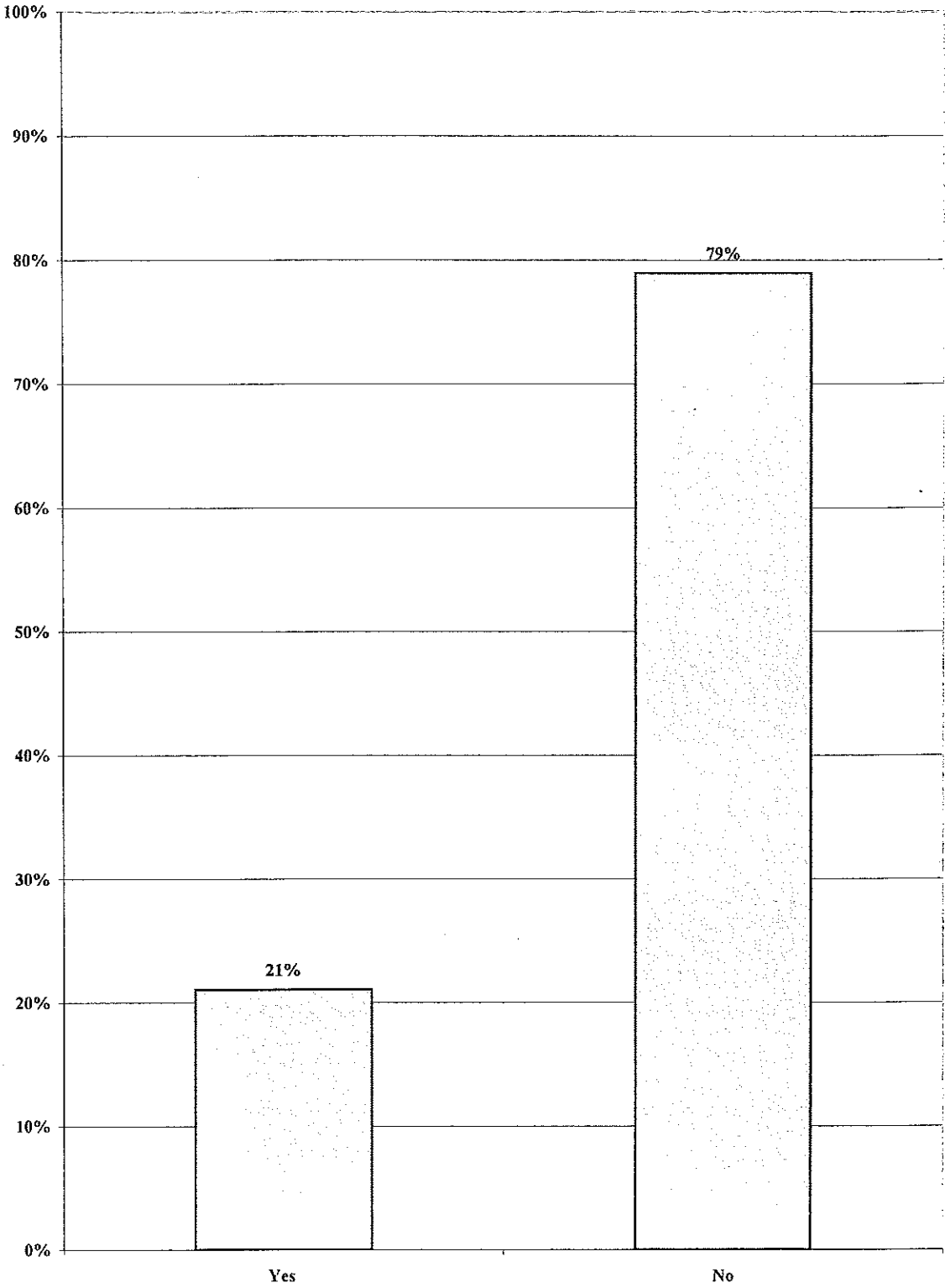
Do you believe it will attract more people to Faversham town centre?



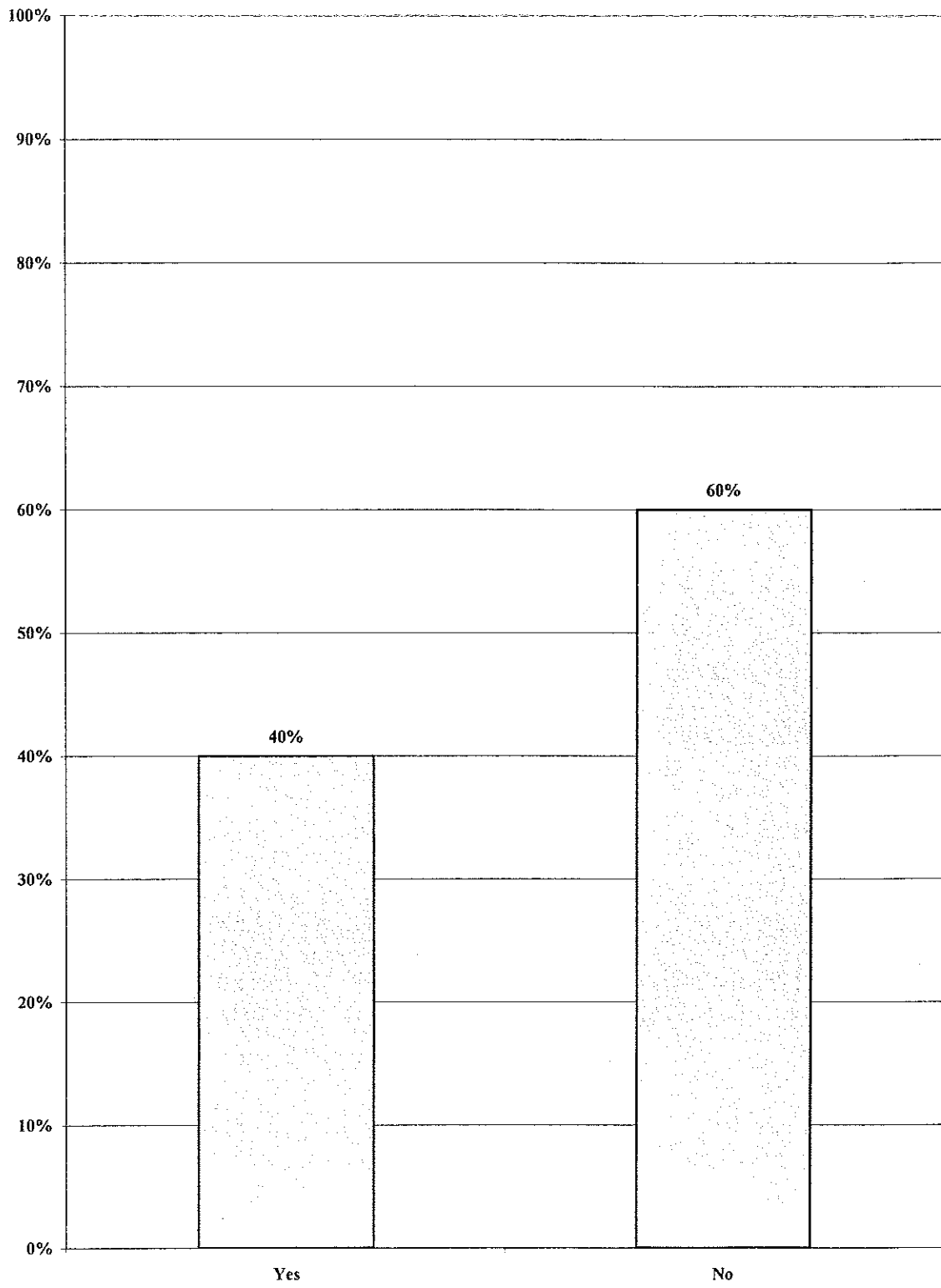
Do you believe it will increase the amount of business you do?



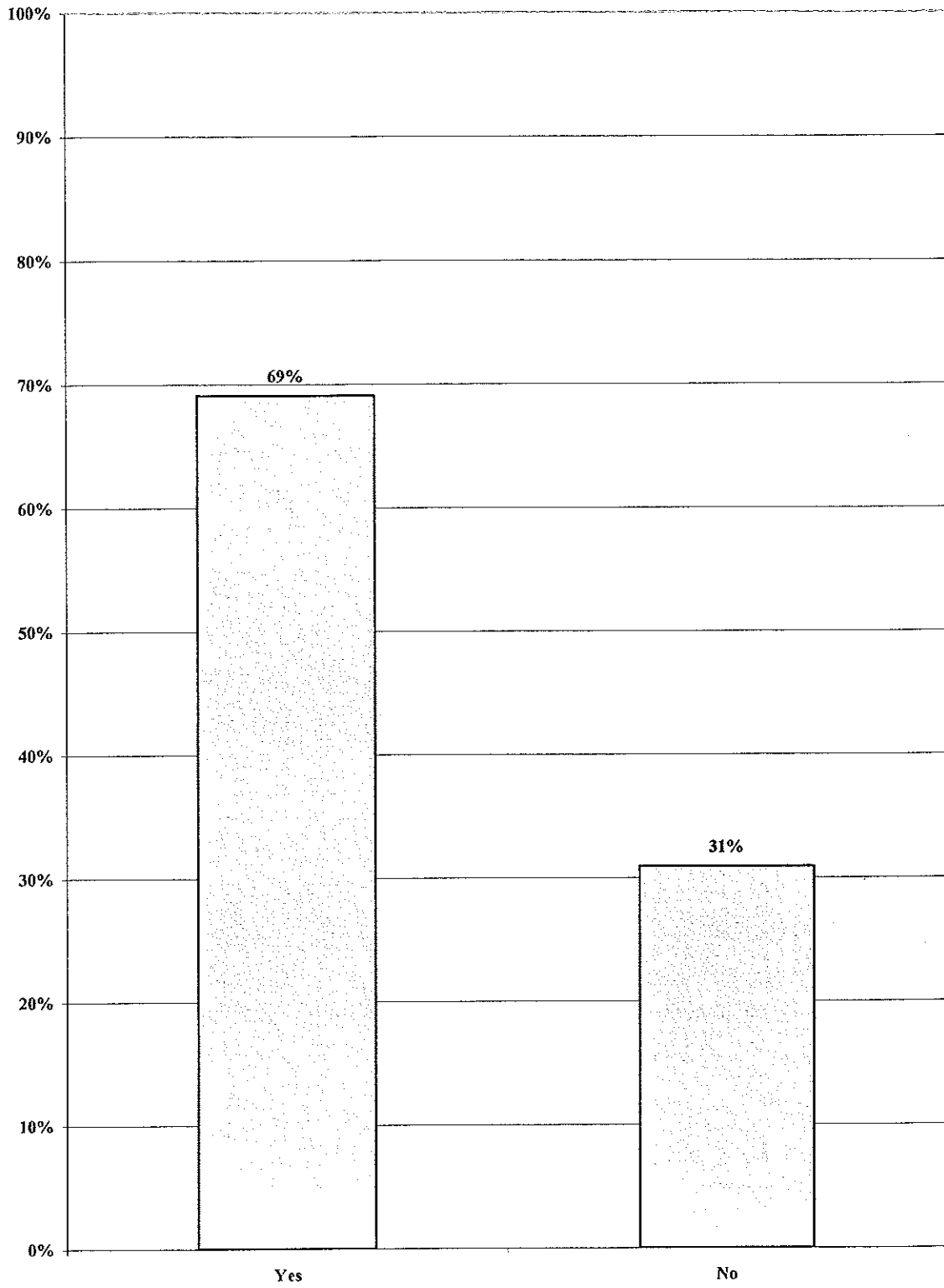
Do you receive deliveries of stock at times that you can influence in anyway?



Do you deliver goods to customers?



Do customers currently use vehicles to collect goods from your business?



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

7th August, 2010.

Dear Mr. Planner,

FAVERSHAM TOWN CENTRE.

As an elderly severely disabled BLUE BADGE holder I am deeply concerned regarding this proposal to declare Central Faversham a completely pedestrianised area.

If this proposal goes through it will mean that people like myself will be unable to visit our BANK, BOOTS, the POST OFFICE and various shops including the CLEANER, STATIONERS, our HAIR DRESSER and others.

The BLUE BADGE vehicles are not numerous, are invariably slow and considerate to pedestrians. We present no problem to congestion.

It would be a great relief and very reassuring to know that BLUE BADGE Holders will not be affected by any new restrictions.

Yours deeply concerned,
[REDACTED]

Brian Planner,
Swale House,
East Street,
Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT.

c.c. Cllr. Spillet,tt,

T. Gates.

Faversham News.

Cllr. B. Malhern.

