

**Q4. Do you think Neighbourhood Forums provide value for money?**

1. Neighbourhood Forums provide good value-for-money, because the small amount of money benefits lots of local residents.
2. Very small budget for the council, but makes a difference in the community.
3. Not sure if it's value for money. Could we have a breakdown of costs to administer this task?
4. They're too expensive to run for the number of residents who turn up.
5. They provide value for money in that they fund activity that would otherwise not be funded. There is assessment as to appropriateness.
6. Yes, as long as the relatively small amounts of council-taxpayers money are justified by the councillors.
7. Most effective way of grouping people.
8. The funding would not be agreed, if it wasn't.
9. It's a small amount that goes to the ward but it encourages community activities.
10. It may be old fashioned but being publicly accountable is an important aspect of democracy. The balance of funds has enabled Nascot councillors to support a number of local initiatives.
11. The money which is spent on printing, delivery and hire of venue means that locality funds are not being used to support local charities/sports' associations/one-off projects which will provide much greater benefit to residents than having a meeting.
12. Enable groups to function more effectively. But there is a tendency to help county out with projects they should be funding e.g. roadside fencing!
13. See my answer to 3.
14. Relatively small sums spent aid community engagement, and goodwill.

15. They encourage the community to get involved in projects such as clean ups. They also reduce ASB through engagement and giving residents a sense of ownership of their areas.
16. It's difficult to determine if they provide value for money because it is left to the community groups to determine the need and how they acquire it. It appears that the local councillors are the providers of the funding only with little or no input into the requirements.
17. They provide a rare opportunity to engage the entire community.
18. Though in Park we have limited requests and so we use it for replacement trees and similar where we spot issues.
19. They can do if used correctly. I don't see value for money if the funding is given to 1 or 2 people - music lessons. It should be addressing a larger section of the local community.
20. Keeps councillors focused, and the small grant proves effective.
21. I think they are too much hassle for councillors and officers and the rules are too strict.