

Opinions and views questionnaire – summary of results

Most questions showed similar opinions being voiced by conference delegates who were church representatives, bat volunteers and ecologists, and heritage representatives, although there were nuances in how strongly the different groups expressed opinions on different questions.

1. Your opinions about bats in churches

1a. 'There are enough professionals and or volunteers with the right knowledge to help manage the impact of bats in churches'

85% disagree or strongly disagree. Church representatives disagree more strongly, heritage representatives less strongly.

1b. 'Where large numbers of bats are present in churches, the contents and fabric of these buildings are being damaged'

93% agree or strongly agree. Church representatives agreed more strongly (86% strongly agreed), bat representatives much less so at 36%.

1c. 'Where large numbers of bats are present, this disrupts the use of churches for worship and other community activities'

86% agree or strongly agree. Church reps agree more strongly (59%) and bat reps less so (18% strongly agree)

1d. 'Working with volunteers, partners and other interest groups is the best way to solve the problems presented by bats in churches'

89% agree or strongly agree. Bat representatives agree most strongly (69%) and church representatives least (48%).

1e. 'With the right help support and knowledge, I believe it is possible for large bat populations to roost in churches without significant impacts'

Mixed response with about 1/3 strongly agreeing, 1/3 agreeing and 1/4 not sure and 11% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. Bat representatives strongly agree, church representatives much more unsure.

1f. 'Bats can be an important reason why a church is special'

69% agree or strongly agree. Bat representatives agree much more strongly than church or heritage representatives.

2. Your views about the Bats in Churches national workshop, 13th May.

2a. 'I have gained a better understanding of other people's ideas and opinions'

94% agree or strongly agree. Church representatives agree somewhat more strongly, heritage representatives less so.

2b. 'I learned things at the workshop that made me change my mind'

Mixed response with approx. 1/3 agreeing, 1/3 not sure and 1/3 disagreeing. More heritage representatives agree.

2c. 'I feel motivated to share learning and messages from the workshop with others'

93% agree or strongly agree. Bat representatives agree most strongly, church representatives somewhat less so.

2d. I feel motivated to work in partnership with different communities to solve issues with bats in churches

87% agree or strongly agree. Bat representatives agree very strongly, church representatives lukewarm.

2e. how satisfied were you with the venue?

96% satisfied or very satisfied, no-one dissatisfied.