

Nillumbik Shire Council

Old Plenty Fire Station Site
Consultation Report

November 2021

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Introduction

The Nillumbik Shire Council conducted an open-access survey-based consultation exploring options in relation to the Old Plenty Fire Station. Additional feedback was provided to Council via submissions from the public and some organisations.

The survey was made available on the *Participate Nillumbik* website, and aimed to explore the following:

- Whether the fire station should be retained or demolished.
- Reasons why participants wanted to retain or demolish the fire station.
- Participant's ideas either for the retained building or the site after demolition.
- How respondents became aware of the proposal.
- The participants' suburb of residence and relationship to Nillumbik Shire.

Metropolis Research was commissioned to compile the raw results from both the survey and the other submissions and to prepare this written report. Metropolis Research was not involved in the design of the consultation, the design of the survey form, or the implementation of the consultation.

Metropolis Research makes no warranty as to the degree to which these results reflect the views of the underlying community from which participants are drawn, as the survey was a self-selection, rather than a random sample survey.

Methodology

This project was conducted as a consultation exercise, comprising an open-access online survey available on the *Participate Nillumbik* website, with paper surveys also made available.

The survey was open online at *Participate Nillumbik* from the 29th of September till the 26th of October 2021.

The survey was advertised to the community via:

- Media releases via e-newsletters.
- A series of posts on Council's social media sites.
- Direct contact with key stakeholder groups contacting key stakeholder groups (community groups within Plenty including Greensborough Hockey Club, Plenty Historical Church & Plenty Hall Committee), and Plenty Tennis Club.
- Signs located around Plenty promoting the Participate Nillumbik survey.
- Contacting people who had previously written to Council concerning the site.

In addition to the online survey, a mail out of 912 hard copy surveys was undertaken to Plenty residents via Australia Postal delivery, and there was an offer to obtain a hard copy of the survey upon request.

It is important to note that the survey was not a random sample survey, rather it was an open-access survey that any individuals could choose to complete.

The survey results, therefore, reflect the views of those in the community who were aware of the project and the consultation, and who were sufficiently engaged to choose to participate by completing the survey.

As a result of this methodology, it cannot be assumed, therefore, that the views expressed in these survey results reflect the views of the entire community living in the surrounding area.

It is also important to note that the results have also not been weighted by suburb population, so that each suburb contributes proportionally to the overall result.

Summary of key findings

The following are the key points and findings from this consultation exercise:

- 53.6% of respondents preferred to demolish, whilst 46.2% preferred to retain the Old Plenty Fire Station building.
- 21 of the 23 written submissions preferred to demolish the building, as did the 314 petitioners.
- The main reasons for wanting to retain the building were for its use as a community space and / or for community groups (35.7%), to avoid cost and waste (22.6%), and for its local heritage and character (21.4%).
- The most common ideas / proposals for the site by respondents who preferred to retain the building were community uses (81%), including *Hayden's Helping Hand* (24.9%), a community centre / hub / neighbourhood house (19.5%), or community education / training / information (10.7%), hospitality, entertainment, or retail uses (40%), or arts and cultural activities (11%).
- The main reasons for wanting to demolish the building were the perceived need for more open space (50.7%), the cost of refurbishment / maintenance (23.1%), and the age and undesirable character of the building (22.1%).
- The vast majority of respondents who preferred to demolish the building wanted the land used for open space of some form. This includes passive recreation (38.3%), playgrounds / play equipment (26.5%), indigenous planting / revegetation (26.6%), park with facilities for social interaction such as BBQ, picnic, seating, toilets (19.4%), and active open space / sporting (14.8%).

Survey results

Retain / demolish the old building

Respondents were asked:

“Should the old Plenty Fire Station building be retained or demolished once the Country Fire Authority (CFA) vacates the site?”

There was a total of 365 survey respondents (including both online and hard-copy surveys), with 364 of these respondents providing a response to this question.

Of these 365 respondents, a little more than half (53.6%) preferred that the fire station be demolished once the Country Fire Authority (CFA) vacates the site, whilst a little less than half (46.2%) preferred that the building be retained.

One respondent selected both retain and demolish the building.

Retain / demolish the old Plenty Fire Station building
Nillumbik Shire Council - 2021 Plenty Fire Station
(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

<i>Response</i>	<i>2021</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Retain	168	46.2%
Demolish	195	53.5%
Retain / demolish	1	0.3%
Not stated	1	
Total	365	100%

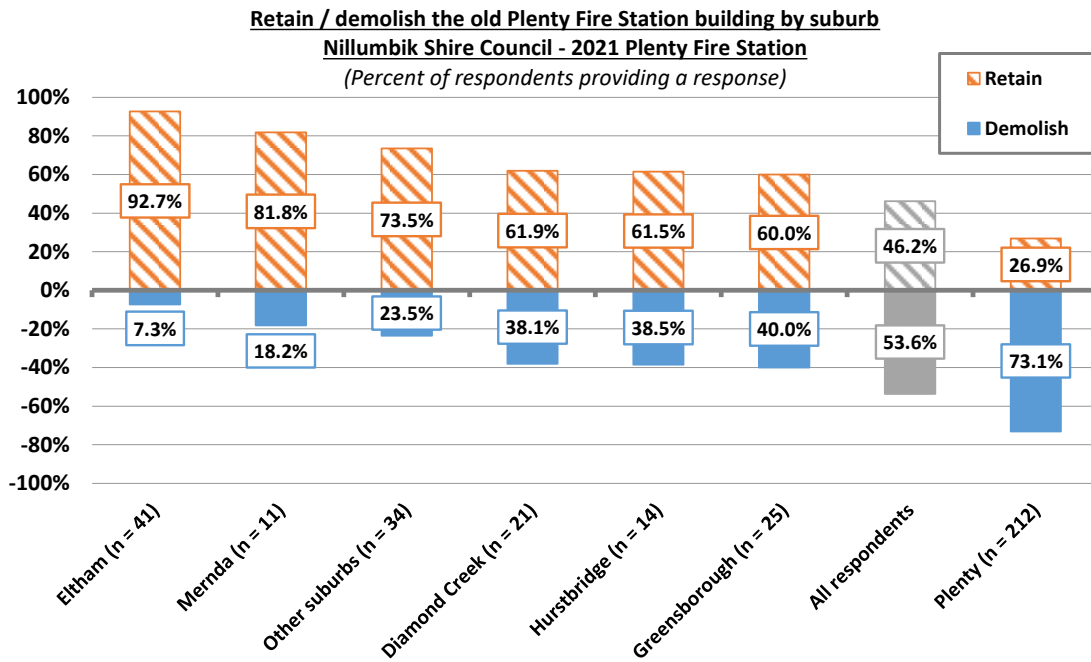
In addition to the survey, a total of 24 written submissions were received by Council in relation to this proposal, as well as one petition (containing 314 signatures).

Of the 23 written submissions, 21 preferred that the building be demolished, whilst two preferred that it be retained.

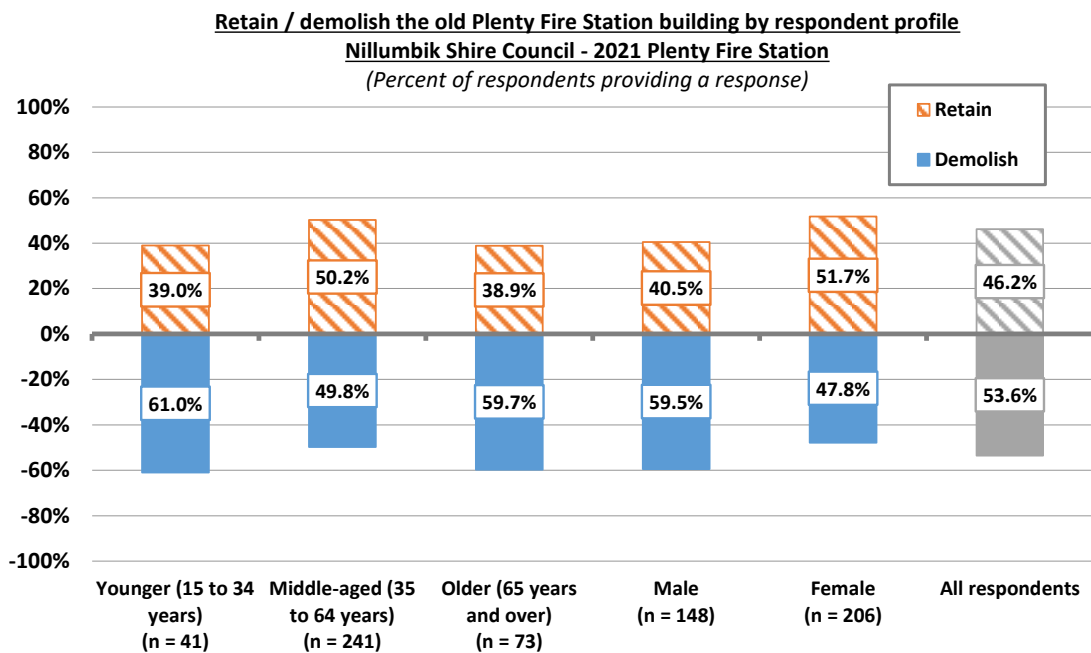
The 314 petitioners were petitioning Council to approve the demolition of the building.

There was some variation in the survey 365 survey results observed by the respondents' suburb of residence, as follows:

- ***Eltham and Mernda*** – the 52 respondents from these two suburbs were notably more likely than average to prefer that the building be retained.
- ***Plenty residents*** – the 212 respondents from Plenty were notably more likely than average to prefer that the building be demolished.

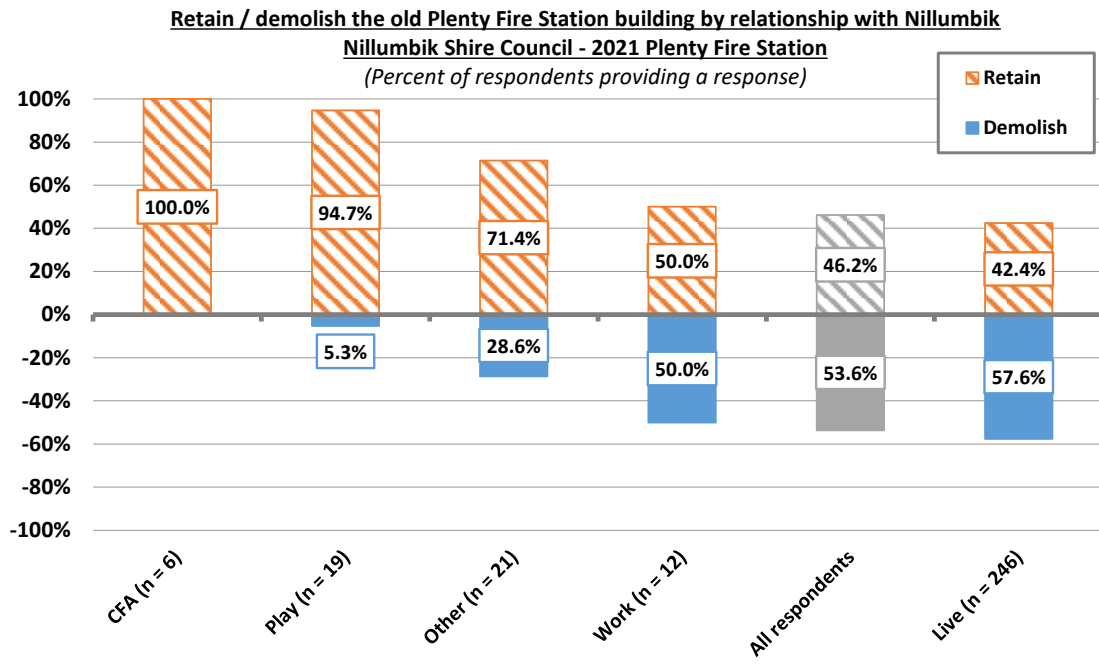


There was some variation in this result observed by respondent profile, with both younger respondents (aged under 35 years) and older respondents (aged 65 years and over) both slightly more likely than middle-aged respondents (aged 35 to 64 years) to prefer that the building be demolished. It is also noted that female respondents were notably more likely than male respondents to prefer that the building be retained.



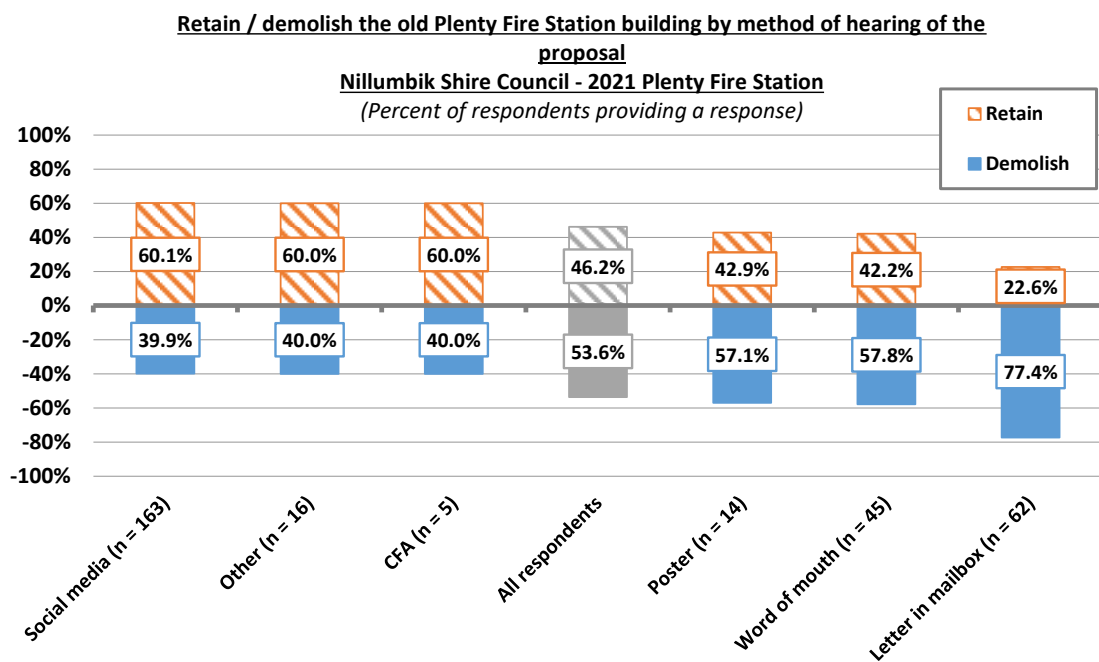
When examined by the respondents' relationship to Nillumbik Shire, it is noted that the small sample of six respondents from the CFA and the 19 whose relationship to Nillumbik was relaxation (play), were both strongly in favour of retaining the building.

The 246 respondents who reported that they live in Nillumbik Shire were more likely to prefer that the building be demolished rather than retained.



It is useful to examine the results for the key question of the survey by the method by which respondents became aware of the proposal. This is particularly important for self-selection consultations such as this, where individuals can choose to participate without being invited to participate, such as in a random sample survey. As these respondents choose themselves to participate it is important to know how they became aware of the consultation.

It is noted that the 62 respondents who heard about the proposal via a letter in the mailbox were substantially more likely than other respondents to prefer that the building be demolished.



Reasons for wanting to retain / demolish the old building

Respondents were asked:

“Please specify your reasons for this.”

The 365 survey respondents were asked to specify their reasons for either wanting to retain or demolish the Old Plenty Fire Station.

Reasons for wanting to retain the building

The 168 survey respondents who wanted to retain the Old Plenty Fire Station provided a total of 182 broad reasons for wanting to retain the building.

These reasons have been broadly categorised, as outlined in the following table.

The verbatim comments underpinning these category results are available on request.

The two most common reasons why respondents wanted to retain the Old Plenty Fire Station were focused on three basic reasons:

- ***Use as a community space and / or for community groups (35.7%)*** – this includes those who specifically mentioned use by local community groups (such as Men’s Shed, rotary clubs, Hayden’s Helping Hand, U3A and similar groups), and those who mentioned use as a community building, hub, or neighbourhood house.
- ***Local heritage / character (21.4%)*** – a little more than one-fifth of respondents who wanted to retain the building sited its heritage, its character, or that it is an icon.
- ***Waste / cost (22.6%)*** – a little more than one-fifth of respondents sited the perceived waste of demolishing a functional building or sited the cost to taxpayers of demolition and rebuilding.

There were a range of other reasons listed by respondents who preferred to retain the building, including its use for other purposes such as hospitality or retail, multiple activities, and other reasons.

Reasons for wanting to retain the old Plenty Fire Station building
Nillumbik Shire Council - 2021 Old Plenty Fire Station
(Number and percent of survey respondents providing a response)

<i>Reason</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
To be used by community groups e.g. men's shed, rotary clubs, U3A	39	23.2%
Part of heritage and character of area / a landmark / icon	36	21.4%
Local community building / hub / neighbourhood house	21	12.5%
Waste to demolish a usable, functional building	17	10.1%
Will save costs / taxpayer money, expensive to rebuild	12	7.1%
Building can be repurposed for multiple activities	10	6.0%
Could be repurposed for restaurant / bar / retail	8	4.8%
To be used by Hayden's Helping Hands	6	3.6%
Sell or lease for commercial / business use	6	3.6%
Other reasons	6	3.6%
Environmental impact	5	3.0%
Adequate green space available / no need for more	4	2.4%
Lack of adequate infrastructure in Plenty	4	2.4%
CFA D14 HQ East Home	3	1.8%
Repurpose forepurposed for art / studio / events / yoga	3	1.8%
Repurpose for indoor sports / activities	2	1.2%
Total reasons	182	
<i>Total respondents wanting to retain the building</i>	<i>168</i>	

In addition to the 168 survey respondents who preferred to retain the building, two of the 23 written submissions also wanted to retain the building.

The reasons for retaining the building cited by these two submitters were that it could be used by Hayden's Helping Hands (1 submission) and that it should be the CFA D14HQ East Home (1 submission).

Reasons for wanting to demolish the building

The 195 survey respondents who preferred to demolish the Old Plenty Fire Station provided a total of 310 reasons for wanting to demolish, which have been broadly categorised in the following table.

The verbatim comments underpinning these results are available on request.

There were three broad reasons cited by respondents who wanted to demolish the Old Plenty Fire Station, as follows:

- **Perceived need for more open space (50.7%)** – this includes both 25.6% of respondents who cited the need to replace green open space and trees lost due to the new CFA building and / or the Yan Yean Road upgrade, and 25.1% who referenced a need for more open space, green space, nature, parks, and / or native plantings.
- **Cost of refurbishment / maintenance (23.1%)** – almost one-quarter of respondents who preferred to demolish the building cited the cost of maintaining or refurbishing the existing building.
- **Age and character of the building (22.1%)** – a little more than one-fifth of the respondents who preferred to demolish the building cited the age of the building, or the believed it was unattractive or an eyesore.

Reasons for wanting to demolish the old Plenty Fire Station building

Nilumbik Shire Council - 2021 Old Plenty Fire Station

(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

<i>Reason</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Need to replace green space / trees lost due to new CFA building / Yan Yean Rd upgrade	50	25.6%
Need more open, green space, nature, park, native plantings	49	25.1%
Cost of refurbishing / maintaining the building is too high	45	23.1%
Building is old /ugly / an eyesore	43	22.1%
No historic / architectural value / does not fit with surroundings	27	13.8%
No purpose / function of building / no sensible proposal	17	8.7%
Need for more playground / children's facilities	14	7.2%
Availability of other buildings in the area, no need for more	13	6.7%
Asbestos building	11	5.6%
Other	10	5.1%
Open space to complement Plenty Hall / Church / Historical Society	9	4.6%
Need for more outdoor / active recreational space	6	3.1%
Firestation bell	3	1.5%
To beautify the area	3	1.5%
CFA to be responsible for demolition and rehabilitation of land	2	1.0%
Need for more parks / open space due to COVID	2	1.0%
Not commercial area / should not be sold off for commercial use	2	1.0%
Open space to complement new café	2	1.0%
Other uses	2	1.0%
Unsuitable to retain due to traffic, parking, noise, vandalism etc.	0	0.0%
Zoned to PPRZ	0	0.0%
Total reasons	310	
<i>Total survey respondents wanting to demolish the building</i>	<i>195</i>	

In addition to the 195 survey respondents, 21 of the 23 written submissions, as well as the 314 petitioners also wanted to demolish the building.

The 21 written submissions that preferred that the building be demolished provided a total of 43 separately categorised reasons for demolishing the building, as follows:

- The need for more open space, green space, nature, parks, native plantings (13 submissions).
- The need for more playground / children's facilities (5 submissions).
- The need for more open space to complement the Plenty Hall, Church, Historical Society (5 submissions).
- The need to replace green space / trees lost due to the new CFA building and / or the Yan Yean Road upgrade (4 submissions).
- That the building has no historic or architectural value or does not fit with its surroundings (4 submissions).
- Use the open space to complement a new café (2 submissions).
- Unsuitable to retain due to traffic, parking, noise, or vandalism (2 submissions).
- Zone to PPRZ (2 submissions).
- The cost of refurbishing or maintaining the building is too high (1 submission).
- The building is old / ugly / an eyesore (1 submission).
- Asbestos in the building (1 submission).
- To beautify the area (1 submission).
- CFA should be responsible for demolition and rehabilitation of land (1 submission).
- Other (1 submission).

Ideas / proposals for the site or use of the building

Respondents were asked:

“What are your ideas / proposals for the site or use of the building?”

The 168 survey respondents who preferred to retain and the 195 respondents who preferred to demolish the Old Plenty Fire station were asked for their ideas or proposals for the site or use of the building.

These responses have been broadly categorised, with the summary results outlined in the following tables.

Retain the building

The 168 respondents who preferred to retain the Old Plenty Fire Station building outlined a total of 253 separately categorised ideas / proposals for use of the building.

The most common suggestions can best be summarised into three broad uses, as follows:

- ***Community uses (81%)*** – this includes Hayden’s Helping Hands (24.9%), a community centre / hub / neighbourhood house (19.5%), community education / training / information / U3A (10.7%), community / men’s or women’s shed (8.9%), space for storage for charities and volunteer groups (5.3%), community youth hall / hub (3.6%), scouts / girl guides / rotary clubs, etc (2.4%), meeting hall (2.4%), food bank (1.8%), and other community uses.
- ***Hospitality, entertainment, or retail uses (40%)*** - includes bar / pub / restaurant / café / entertainment venue (26.0%), Farmer’s market / Sunday market / fresh food (5.3%), lease to local business (4.1%), or retail (4.1%).
- ***Arts and cultural activities (11%)*** – includes arts and craft gallery / studio (10.1%) or music venue / studio (1.2%).

It is noted that 6.5% of respondents who preferred to retain the Old Plenty Fire Station building wanted it retained for CFA activities.

Ideas / proposals for the site or use of the building if wanting to retain the building

Nilumbik Shire Council - 2021 Plenty Fire Station

(Number and percent of total respondents who wanted to retain building)

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>2021</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Bar / pub / restaurant / café / entertainment venue	44	26.0%
Haydens Helping Hands	42	24.9%
Community centre / hub / neighbourhood house	33	19.5%
Community education / training / information / U3A centre	18	10.7%
Art and craft gallery / studio	17	10.1%
Community / men / women's shed	15	8.9%
CFA D14 HQ East Home / CFA activities	11	6.5%
Farmer's market / Sunday market / fresh	9	5.3%
Space for charities / volunteer groups for sorting / storage	9	5.3%
Lease to local business	7	4.1%
Retail	7	4.1%
Community youth hall / hub	6	3.6%
Gym / pilates / yoga / wellness	4	2.4%
Meeting hall / lunch room shelter	4	2.4%
Scouts / girl guide / Lions / Rotary club venue	4	2.4%
Food bank / pantry	3	1.8%
Indoor sports and recreation like darts / table tennis / lawn bowls	3	1.8%
Fire station / history museum	2	1.2%
Medical centre / Allied Health	2	1.2%
Music venue / studio	2	1.2%
Op shops	2	1.2%
Play centre / playground	2	1.2%
Early childhood centre	1	0.6%
Food truck site	1	0.6%
Incorporate with Plenty Hal	1	0.6%
Mountain bike hub	1	0.6%
All other aspects	3	1.8%
Total responses	253	
<i>Respondents identifying at least one aspect</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>(97.0%)</i>

The following table provides a breakdown of the top five uses for the building suggested by respondents who preferred to retain the building by their suburb of residence. Whilst the sample size is quite small for these results, the following variations are still noted:

- **Hayden's Helping Hand** – respondents from Eltham, Greensborough, and “other suburbs” were more likely than average to prefer that the building be used for this purpose.
- **Bar / pub / restaurant / café / entertainment venue** – respondents from Plenty were more likely than average to prefer that the building be use for this purpose.

- **Art Gallery / studio** – the small sample of respondents from Hurstbridge were more likely than average to prefer that the building be used for this purpose.

Ideas / proposals for the site or use of the building if wanting to retain the building

Nilumbik Shire Council - 2021 Plenty Fire Station

(Number and percent of total respondents who supported the proposed site)

Plenty		Eltham	
Bar / pub / restaurant / café / entertain.	49.1%	Haydens Helping Hands	57.9%
Community centre/hub/neighbourhood hse	24.6%	Community education / training / info.	13.2%
Art gallery / studio	17.5%	Bar / pub / restaurant / café / entertai	10.5%
Farmer's market / Sunday market / fresh	12.3%	Community centre/hub/neighbourhood hse	10.5%
Retail	8.8%	Space for charities / volunteer groups	10.5%
All other aspects	59.6%	All other aspects	31.6%
<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	55 (96.5%)	<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	37 (97.4%)

Greensborough		Diamond Creek	
Haydens Helping Hands	46.7%	Bar / pub / restaurant / café / entertai	30.8%
Community centre/hub/neighbourhood hse	26.7%	Community centre/hub/neighbourhood hse	30.8%
Bar / pub / restaurant / café / entertain.	20.0%	Community / men / women's shed	15.4%
Community education / training / info.	20.0%	Haydens Helping Hands	15.4%
Space for charities / volunteer groups	20.0%	Fire station / history museum	15.4%
All other aspects	20.0%	All other aspects	46.2%
<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	15 (100%)	<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	12 (92.3%)

Hurstbridge		Mernda	
Art gallery / studio	37.5%	Community education / training / info.	22.2%
CFA D14 HQ East Home / CFA activities	25.0%	CFA D14 HQ East Home / CFA activities	22.2%
Music venue / studio	12.5%	Bar / pub / restaurant / café / entertain.	11.1%
Community centre/hub/neighbourhood hse	12.5%	Community centre/hub/neighbourhood hse	11.1%
Community / men / women's shed	12.5%	Community / men / women's shed	11.1%
All other aspects	37.5%	All other aspects	22.2%
<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	7 (87.5%)	<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	9 (100%)

Other suburbs		All respondents	
Haydens Helping Hands	42.3%	Bar / pub / restaurant / café / entertain.	26.0%
CFA D14 HQ East Home / CFA activities	23.1%	Haydens Helping Hands	24.9%
Community centre/hub/neighbourhood hse	19.2%	Community centre / hub / neighb'hood hse	19.5%
Community / men / women's shed	11.5%	Community education / training / info.	10.7%
Community education / training / info.	7.7%	Art and craft gallery / studio	10.1%
All other aspects	30.8%	All other aspects	
<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	26 (100%)	<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	164 (97.0%)

Demolish the building

The 195 respondents who preferred to demolish the building provided a total of 324 separately categorised responses in relation to their preferred uses for the site.

Most of the respondents who preferred to demolish the Old Plenty Fire Station building preferred that the site be used for some form of open space, although there was some variation in emphasis by these respondents, as follows:

- **Passive recreation** - a little more than one-third (38.3%) suggested some form of passive recreation, parks, or gardens.
- **Playgrounds / play equipment** - a little more than one-quarter (26.5%) of respondents suggested that playgrounds or play equipment be provided.
- **Indigenous / revegetation** – almost one-quarter (23.5%) focused at least in part on the need for replanting trees and indigenous revegetation of some form, with a further 3.1% preferring that it be used for bushland or wildlife area.
- **Park with facilities** – approximately one-fifth (19.4%) of respondents suggested a park or open space with a range of facilities, including BBQ, picnic, seating, toilet facilities and other facilities that would facilitate social interactions.
- **Active open space** – almost one-sixth (14.8%) of respondents suggested open space that was suitable for more active open space uses (e.g., fitness, walking tracks) as well as some suggestions for more fixed sporting facilities such as basketball courts.

There were a range of other suggestions, including hospitality, entertainment or retail facilities, a community garden, and other suggestions in small numbers.

Ideas / proposals for the site or use of the building if wanting to demolish the building

Nilumbik Shire Council - 2021 Plenty Fire Station

(Number and percent of total respondents who wanted to demolish building)

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>2021</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Passive recreation / park / garden	75	38.3%
Playground and play equipment	52	26.5%
Passive recreation / reserve with replanting trees, indigenous revegetation	46	23.5%
Park with picnic / seating / toilet facilities	38	19.4%
Open space with active recreation facilities e.g. basketball / fitness	29	14.8%
Park / open space with historical, memorial, gazebo, rotunda, sculptures	17	8.7%
Bar / restaurant / café / entertainment	11	5.6%
Complement / incorporate with Plenty Hall	11	5.6%
Preserve the bell / time capsule	9	4.6%
Bushland / wildlife area	6	3.1%
Community garden / with produce store	6	3.1%
Dog park	6	3.1%
Community building / hub with multiple services	5	2.6%
Park with walking tracks	3	1.5%
Community hospital	2	1.0%
Botanical garden	1	0.5%
Community / men's / women's shed	1	0.5%
Sell / pay debt	1	0.5%
Yoga / pilates / exercise studio	1	0.5%
All other aspect	4	2.0%
Total responses	324	
<i>Respondents identifying at least one aspect</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>(96.4%)</i>

The following table provides a breakdown of the top five uses for the site suggested by respondents who preferred to demolish the building by their suburb of residence.

It is important to note that most of the respondents who preferred to demolish the Old Plenty Fire Station building who provided a response to this question (151 of 189), were from the suburb of Plenty, with just 32 located in other suburbs.

Just a handful of these respondents suggested bushland / wildlife area, active open space facilities, and a park with facilities for social interaction.

Ideas / proposals for the site or use of the building if wanting to demolish the building

Nillumbik Shire Council - 2021 Plenty Fire Station

(Number and percent of total respondents who supported the proposed site)

Plenty		Eltham	
Passive recreation / park / garden	39.4%	Bushland / wildlife area	33.3%
Passive recreation/reserve w replant trees	27.7%	Complement / incorporate with Plenty Hall	33.3%
Playground and play equipment	27.1%	Community hospital	33.3%
Park with picnic / seating / toilet facilities	20.6%		
Open space w active recreation facilities	15.5%		
All other aspects	41.9%		
<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	151 (97.4%)	<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	3 (100%)

Greensborough		Diamond Creek	
Passive recreation / park / garden	40.0%	Open space w active recreation facilities	50.0%
Playground and play equipment	30.0%	Playground and play equipment	37.5%
Park with picnic / seating / toilet facilities	20.0%	Passive recreation / park / garden	37.5%
Community garden / with produce store	20.0%	Passive recreation/reserve w replant trees	12.5%
Bushland / wildlife area	10.0%	Community garden / with produce store	12.5%
All other aspects	50.0%		
<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	10 (100%)	<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	6 (75.0%)

Hurstbridge		Mernda	
Park with picnic / seating / toilet facilities	40.0%	Passive recreation / park / garden	50.0%
Passive recreation / park / garden	40.0%	Commun. building/hub w multiple services	50.0%
Playground and play equipment	20.0%		
Bushland / wildlife area	20.0%		
Bar / restaurant / café / entertainment	20.0%		
<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	5 (100%)	<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	2 (100%)

Other suburbs		All respondents	
Passive recreation / park / garden	22.2%	Passive recreation / park / garden	38.3%
Park / open space / with historical	22.2%	Playground and play equipment	26.5%
Park with picnic / seating / toilet facilities	11.1%	Passive recreation/reserve w replant trees	23.5%
Playground and play equipment	11.1%	Park with picnic / seating / toilet facilities	19.4%
Passive recreation/reserve w replant trees	11.1%	Open space w active recreation facilities	14.8%
All other aspects	33.3%	All other aspects	42.9%
<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	8 (88.9%)	<i>Respondents identifying one aspect</i>	189 (96.4%)

Respondent Profile

The respondent profile results presented in the following tables are not referenced against the Census results, as they are not randomly drawn.

Age structure

The survey respondents were mostly aged 35 to 64 years of age.

Age structure
Nilumbik Shire Council - 2021 Plenty Fire Station
(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

Age	2021	
	Number	Percent
Under 15 years	8	2.3%
16 - 24 years	15	4.2%
25 - 34 years	18	5.1%
35 - 49 years	119	33.5%
50 - 64 years	122	34.4%
65 - 79 years	65	18.3%
80 years and over	8	2.3%
Not stated	10	
Total	365	100%

Gender

There were slightly more female than male respondents to the survey.

Gender
Nilumbik Shire Council - 2021 Plenty Fire Station
(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

Gender	2021	
	Number	Percent
Male	148	41.7%
Female	206	58.0%
Prefer to self-describe	1	0.3%
Prefer not to say	10	
Total	365	100%

Suburb of residence

Consistent with the mailout of the survey to residents in the Plenty suburb, this suburb dominates the suburb of residence results.

It is noted that a small number of respondents were located in suburbs outside the Nillumbik Shire.

Suburb of residence
Nillumbik Shire Council - 2021 Plenty Fire Station
(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

<i>Suburb</i>	2021	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Plenty	212	59.2%
Eltham	41	11.5%
Greensborough	25	7.0%
Diamond Creek	21	5.9%
Hurstbridge	14	3.9%
Mernda	11	3.1%
Yarrambat	6	1.7%
Craigieburn	4	1.1%
Montmorency	4	1.1%
South Morang	4	1.1%
Panton Hill	2	0.6%
Wattle Glen	2	0.6%
Whittlesea	2	0.6%
Boronia	1	0.3%
Bundoora	1	0.3%
Burwood East	1	0.3%
Croydon	1	0.3%
Heidelberg	1	0.3%
Ivanhoe	1	0.3%
Kangaroo Ground	1	0.3%
Lower Plenty	1	0.3%
Northcote	1	0.3%
Sunbury	1	0.3%
Not stated	7	
Total	365	100%

Relationship with Nillumbik

Consistent with the suburb of residence results, the overwhelming majority of respondents reported that their relationship to the Nillumbik Shire was that they lived in the Shire.

Relationship with Nillumbik
Nillumbik Shire Council - 2021 Plenty Fire Station
(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

<i>Response</i>	<i>2021</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Live	246	80.9%
Play	19	6.3%
Work	12	3.9%
CFA	6	2.0%
Other	21	6.9%
Not stated	61	
Total	365	100%

Method of hearing of the proposal

It is noted that, despite the mailout to residents in Plenty, the majority of respondents heard about the proposal via social media, with one-fifth receiving the letter in the mailbox.

Method of hearing of the proposal
Nillumbik Shire Council - 2021 Plenty Fire Station
(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

<i>Method</i>	<i>2021</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Social media	163	53.4%
Letter in mailbox	62	20.3%
Word of mouth	45	14.8%
Poster	14	4.6%
CFA	5	1.6%
Other	16	5.2%
Not stated	60	
Total	365	100%