

OPINION SURVEY

The Council agrees that Ashton Gardens needs restoring to bring it up to scratch. They also know it will be an expensive job, even though three quarters of the cost will be given to them as a grant.

In some ways, this is quite like a homeowner who needs an expensive repair of their property - perhaps something like a new roof - where the insurance company will pay 75% of the cost, but you have to find the other 25%.

We want your views on how it should be done. To give an idea of the scale of the money involved, we have suggested some household comparisons in italics.

Like the householder example, the Council can find its 25% in different ways. If you were the Council choosing how to get the money, what would you be most (and least) likely to do? **Please tick one box in each column**

Would you:	Most likely to	Least likely to
Use money you were going to spend on something else <i>(Like an expensive holiday or buying a new car)</i>	28%	15%
Borrow the money and spread the cost over several years <i>(Like extending your mortgage)</i>	34%	9%
Take the money out of your reserves <i>(Like cashing-in rainy-day savings or investments)</i>	34%	15%
Selling an asset or other property of value to pay for it <i>(Like selling part of your garden for building to a neighbour)</i>	4%	62%

Please add any other comments you would like to make about how the work should be paid for

The Council has said that it wants to sell a small part of Ashton Gardens to find the 25% it needs to pay.

SOAG has listened to the views of heritage experts, and has always opposed selling any of the Gardens, even a small part of them.

Do you think any of the Gardens should be sold, even if it is a small part?

Yes: **6%** No: **94%**

How strongly do you feel about part of the Gardens being sold?

Please tick one box

I really don't mind how much of them are sold	0%
I wouldn't mind selling some of them	0%
I would agree if I thought there was no other way to find the money for the lottery bid	18%
I would rather the Gardens remained intact, even if they didn't get the lottery money this time around	31%
I would not agree under any circumstances	51%

If you don't think parts of the Gardens should be sold, what should SOAG do to try and stop this from happening?