

Pottery Room, Amersham Community Centre, 3rd Monday in month, 1000am -12 00 noon

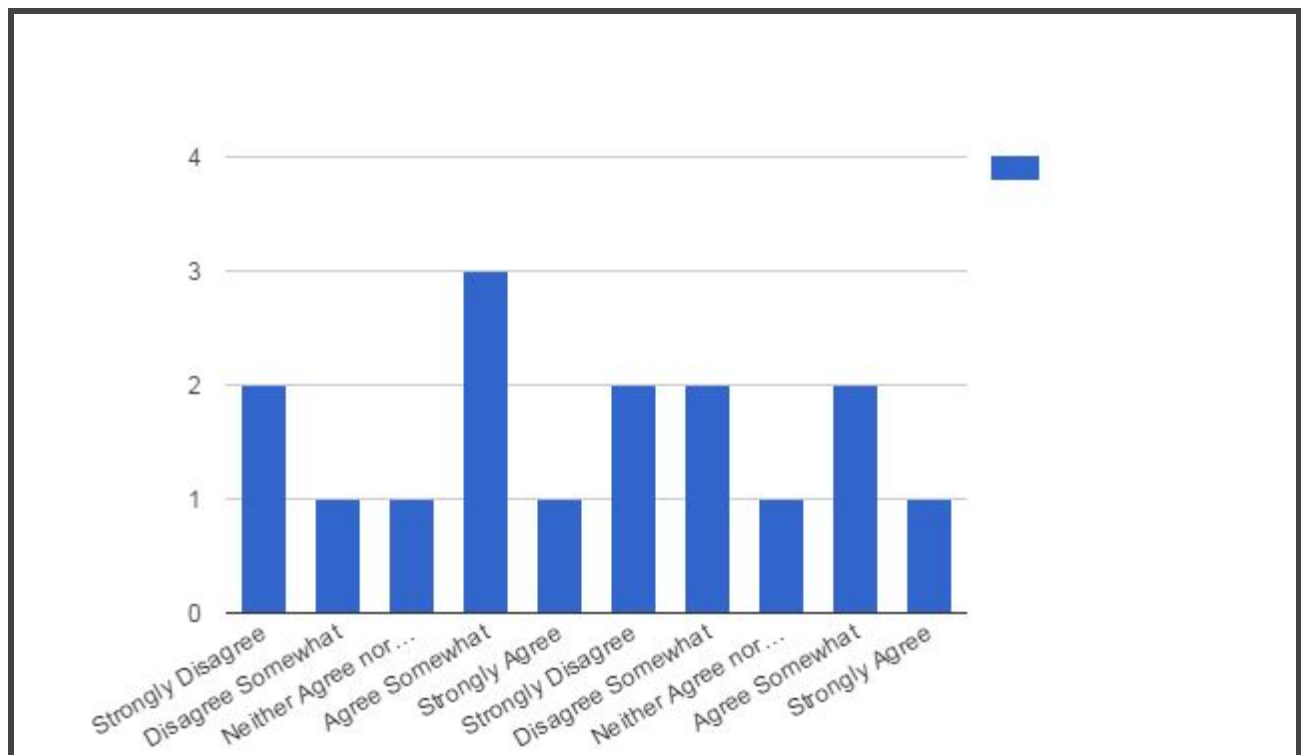
Political Thinking

Meeting No1

Topic Britain is currently a democracy.

Participants opinions	Before debate	50%	agreement,
	After debate	44%	agreement.

Chart of opinions Before and AFTER the debate



Opinions were evenly divided from strong disagreement to strong agreement, and changed by 5% points towards disagreement as a result of the debate.

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Principal points made during the debate

By those tending to **agree** that **“Britain is currently a democracy.”**

- Britain has freedom of expression in Press and Social Media
- Britain has free and fair elections.
- Britain has an open culture, with strong values of tolerance, pragmatism and good citizenship.
- The Europe referendum result is an an example of effective democracy.
- The quality of politicians in their personal behaviour and conduct is very poor.
- The performance of politicians in their political duties is very poor, for example the Labour Party in Opposition today.
- The performance of politicians in communicating to the electorate about major political issues such as Europe and Proportional Representation has been very poor.

By those tending to **disagree** that **“Britain is currently a democracy.”**

- The absence of a strong Opposition in Parliament is a denial of democracy
- Membership of major political institutions is unrepresentative of the electorate; only 25% of electorate voted for current MPs and the Lords is unelected and unrepresentative.
- Communication between politicians and their electors is ineffective.
- Inequality in Britain, particularly economic but also social, is increasing.
- Fixed term Parliaments are in effect a 5 year dictatorship.
- Without Proportional Representation in some form Britain cannot be a democracy.

By those concerned to achieve an effective political system.

- Britain has a flawed democracy with many good points fundamentally and some significant and important shortcomings which need to be corrected.