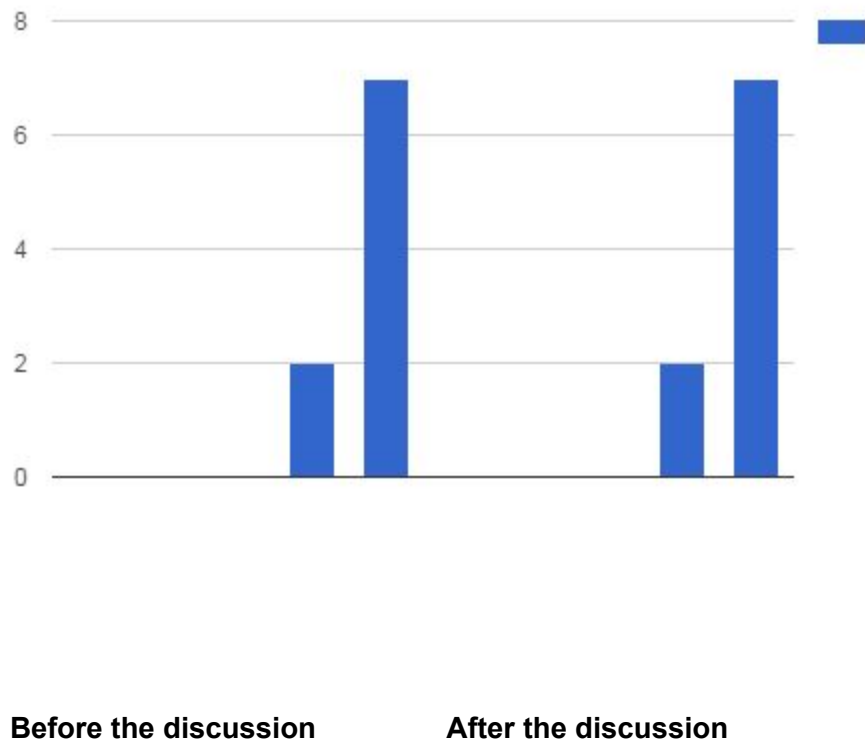


Political Thinking

Meeting No 7.0

Topic.” Current policies with respect to Housing are not working and need a major re-think.”

Participants opinions	Before discussion	95%	agreement,
	After discussion	95%	agreement



Before the discussion views there was near unanimity that current policies with respect to Housing were not working and needed a major re-think, and no disagreement.

As a result of the discussion; the group opinions were unchanged.

Principal points made during the debate

By those tending to agree that **“Current policies with respect to Housing are not working and need a major rethink”**

- There are too many people in the UK for the available housing.
- The principal causes of the housing shortage are overseas buyers and second home owners who leave property unoccupied; this type of ownership should be curtailed.
- There is a political view that adequate housing is a basic human right; if so the consequences have yet to be fully accepted by successive governments.
- Government policies are always short-term; housing is inevitably a long-term problem
- Encouraging stability through property ownership is a valid political objective and is achieved through the sale of council houses.
- Council houses should have been replaced when sold; the consequent reduction in availability of social housing was a damaging consequence of this policy.
- Council house sales achieved a beneficial redistribution of income from rich to relatively poor.
- The Green Belt is too restrictive and curtails natural and normal growth of towns and villages.

By those tending to **disagree** that **“Current policies with respect to Housing are not working and need a major rethink”**

- There were no points made in support of the status quo in Housing.

Subsidiary topic

There was an animated discussion around the topic of a second referendum on independence for Scotland.

Main points

- Scotland should go its own way.
- Representative democracy as a system is incompatible with popular referenda.
- It is inconsistent for Scotland to seek to achieve sovereign powers by independence from the UK only to surrender them to Brussels by re-joining the EU.
- Nationalism is a form of tribalism.
- Scotland has a distinct culture and history, diverse from that of the UK; some systems differ eg law, education; this is an era of decentralisation.