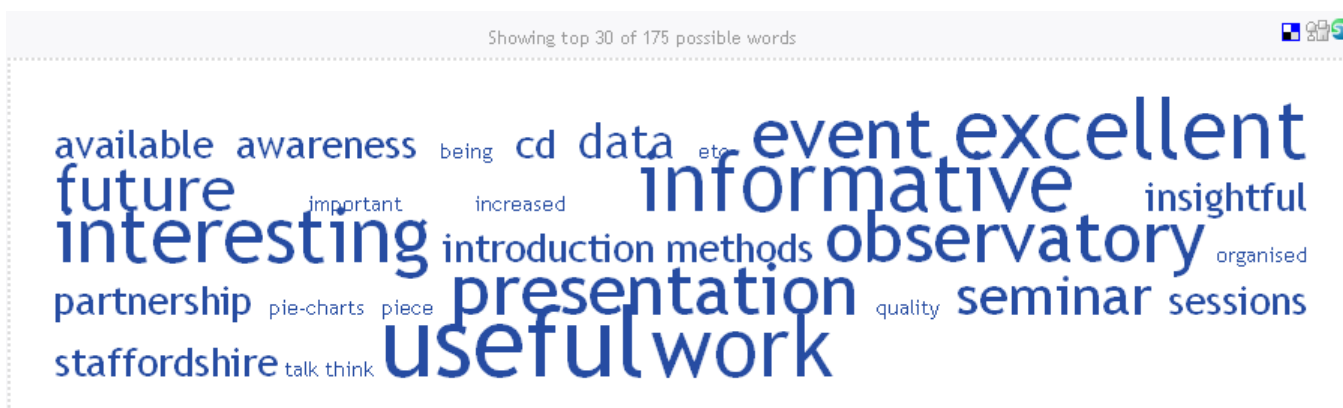


Around 90 people attended the Staffordshire Observatory Seminar held on the 21st May 2008. The half-day event included an introduction to what Staffordshire Observatory does and two presentations showcasing research projects carried out over the last nine months on community cohesion and distraction burglary. There were also presentations looking forward to the future work by the regional ONS statisticians and working towards an economic assessment for Staffordshire, plus some ideas about improving how information is presented and two Q&A sessions involving delegates and speakers.

Of those who attended around half (44 people) submitted a feedback form. A number of delegates asked for copies of the distraction burglary report (3), community cohesion report (5) and Indices of Deprivation 2007 reports: county (11), districts (40) and summary cards (54).

The feedback form included three questions regarding the seminar, further research and future events. Tag clouds¹ have been created showing the responses to these questions as follows:

“If I had one comment to make about the Seminar it would be...”



The overall feedback from those delegates who submitted a form was very positive and the event has been successful in giving a general overview of the work of the Observatory and to stimulate some discussion and ideas about future work.

“The research question it would be most useful to answer is...”



There were several questions raised about partnership working, sharing data/analysis at an appropriate geography and the role of Staffordshire Observatory. Demographic information, crime and data about businesses were all questioned. Some delegates raised specific questions which the Observatory will respond to in due course.

¹ Tag clouds are a method of analysing free text. Tag clouds show the size of words proportionally according to the number of times they appear in the text. In this case the larger words appeared more frequently in feedback from all delegates at this event. These tag clouds were created using the on-line tool: <http://www.tagcrowd.com/>

“Are there any particular topics you would like to see covered in future Staffordshire Observatory events?”



Delegates were in favour of future events such as this being held by Staffordshire Observatory. There was also strong support for shorter events focused on specific issues. ‘Safer and stronger communities’ and an economic assessment for Staffordshire were two areas put forward and the request has been fed back to the respective steering groups for those areas of work. There were also requests for further information on research/analytical techniques.

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