

Consultation  
Three Rivers District Council

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# **Three Rivers Climate Change Strategy**

## Consultation

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### SUMMARY REPORT

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December 2020

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## Background and Objectives

In 2019 Three Rivers District Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 for its own emissions and it will assist the District to achieve net-zero carbon in line with the Government target by 2050.

### Consulting

The Council wished to ensure that the general public, voluntary and business stakeholders had a say in the content of this Three Rivers Climate Change Strategy. These results will be reported back, for final recommendation for adoption, to the Policy and Resources Committee.

## Methodology

A '**Survey Monkey**' on-line survey was launched on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October** and closed at midday on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.

The on-line survey was **marketed** via:

- **Three Rivers District Council website and social media**
- **Partner agency emails**
- **Local Councillors**
- **Schools**

In total, **356 survey entries were completed**.

For a full profile break down, please refer to the end of the report.

## **The Aims of the Climate Change Strategy**

- The **vast majority** of respondents **agreed** with the **aims of the Climate Change Strategy**
- Some respondents were **unclear what ‘decentralised energy sources’** were and suggested further clarity in the Strategy

### **Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):**

Endorsement of strategy	15
Necessity/urgency of action	12
Sustainable transport - <i>more cycling and research on climate friendly cars</i>	11
Renewable energy - <i>suggestions: micro hydro power, solar panels, and concerns over wind turbines</i>	10
Energy efficiency - <i>suggestions: heat pumps, external insulation</i>	9
Sustainable design and construction - <i>zero emission builds, with sustainable energy</i>	9
Individual behavioural change – <i>good education schemes</i>	9
Flooding – <i>adapt and upgrade infrastructure</i>	8
Accessibility of language - <i>decentralised energy requires clarifying</i>	8
Water conservation - <i>grey water garden drainage; more reservoirs and leak repairs</i>	6
Concern over cost of implementation, affordability to residents	7
Tighten regulations and penalties	4
Biodiversity - <i>building considerations (not on flood plains or aquifers)</i>	4
Water Pollution – <i>prevent contamination</i>	3
Climate change denial	2

## **The Objectives of the Aims**

- The **vast majority** of respondents **agreed** with **ALL the objectives** to meet **EACH** of the aims

**Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):**

### **Enabling and Engaging the Community**

Community Involvement – <i>residents an groups attend meetings</i>	7
Public education and engagement – <i>skill building, incentive schemes</i>	7
Concern over affordability / small businesses disadvantaged	5
Endorsement of strategy proposal	4
Accessibility of language	4

### **Alternative Sources of Energy**

Accessibility of language – <i>explain terms for non-specialists</i>	9
Renewable energy- <i>allow solar panels in conservation areas, pro decentralised renewable energy</i>	8
Endorsement of strategy proposal	7
Community Involvement	4

### **Sustainable Design and Construction**

Endorsement of strategy proposal	23
Tightening regulations and penalties	11

### **Reduce Emissions from Existing Buildings**

Not ambitious enough	6
Endorsement of strategy proposal	5

### **Enhance and Protect Biodiversity**

Rewilding and habitat improvement - <i>link with planning, farmland, tree planting and preservation</i>	11
Endorsement of strategy	11
Biodiversity - <i>partner with large area landowners and developers</i>	9
Reforestation - <i>right tree, right place, ensure tree health: watering/stability tie removal upkeep</i>	9
Preservation of existing ecologies - <i>audit sites, concern over housing estate builds</i>	7
Community involvement - <i>community gardens, home garden education, encourage volunteering</i>	4

## **Reduce waste and promote a circular economy**

Waste minimisation – <i>offset fly tipping fees by reducing recycling centre fees, more bins, more education</i>	18
Public engagement and education	7
Data collection and monitoring is crucial	5
Green economy – <i>boost local supporters</i>	3

## **Reducing water consumption and contamination of rivers**

Water conservation - <i>survey water tables, trees, collect water inc. grey</i>	15
Water pollution - <i>Chess and Harefield Road sewage issue</i>	11
Tightening regulation and penalties	9
Littering issue	6

## **Flood risk mitigation**

Flooding - <i>no builds on floodplain, better knowledge of sites, more hedgerows, survey drainage systems</i>	17
Improve drainage systems - <i>in right locations, clean effectively, consider downstream impact, sustainable drainage – natural flood management</i>	10
Sustainable design and construction - <i>reduce hard coverings in gardens/public areas</i>	7

## **Increasing sustainable travel and improve air quality**

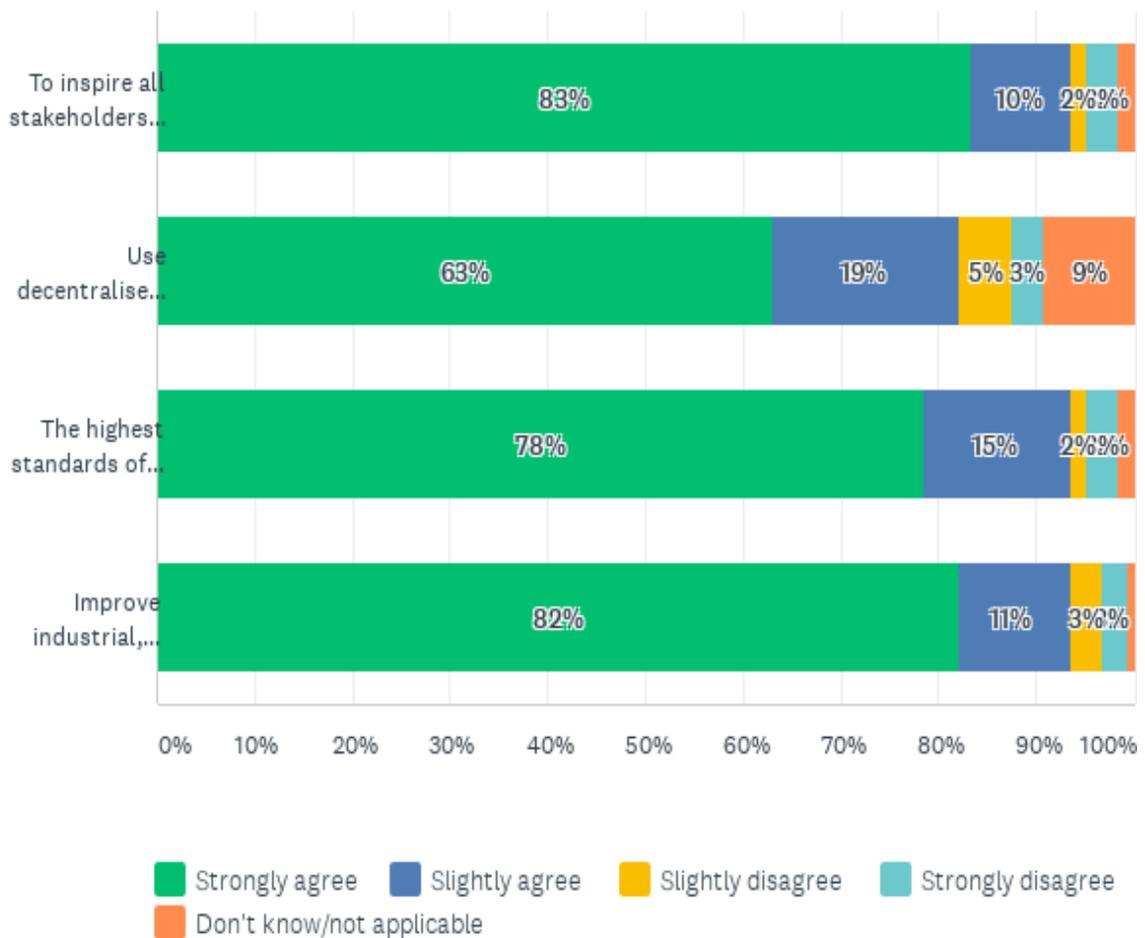
Sustainable and affordable public transport – <i>better connected public transport structure, more home working, reduce rail and bus fees</i>	46
Ease, efficiency and safety of transport - <i>safer/connected cycle routes, cycling proficiency courses</i>	24
Air pollution - <i>air quality monitoring devices, reduce bus emissions, HGVs to use HGV sat nav</i>	8

## The Aims of the Climate Change Strategy

- The **vast majority** of respondents **agreed** with the **aims of the Climate Change Strategy**
- Some respondents were **unclear what ‘decentralised energy sources’** were and suggested further clarity in the Strategy

### Q1: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following AIMS of the Climate Change Strategy?

Answered: 187 Skipped: 0



## Q1: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following AIMS of the Climate Change Strategy?

Answered: 187 Skipped: 0

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
To inspire all stakeholders and residents of Three Rivers to work together to achieve carbon neutrality and adopt sustainable choices and lifestyles	83% 156	10% 19	2% 3	3% 6	2% 3	187	1.23
Use decentralised energy sources to reduce carbon emissions in the District.	63% 116	19% 35	5% 10	3% 6	9% 17	184	1.44
The highest standards of sustainable design and construction should be achieved to create adaptable buildings which are resilient to the effects of climate change, which minimise the use of natural resources over the intended lifetime of a development.	78% 146	15% 28	2% 3	3% 6	2% 3	186	1.28
Improve industrial, commercial and domestic energy efficiency in the District in existing buildings	82% 152	11% 21	3% 6	3% 5	1% 1	185	1.26

## Comments

Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):

Necessity/urgency of action	12
Renewable energy - suggestions: micro hydro power, solar panels, and concerns over wind turbines)	10
Energy efficiency - suggestions: heat pumps, external insulation	9
Sustainable design and construction - zero emission builds, with sustainable energy	9
Endorsement of strategy	5
Accessibility of language - decentralised energy requires clarifying	5
Concern over cost of implementation	4
Tighten regulations and penalties	4
Climate change denial	2

### Necessity/urgency of action

*Energy efficiency and autonomy is critical (as are water and food self-sufficiency).*

*All the above represent fundamental shifts in approach which is needed to make a significant difference to emissions.*

### Renewable energy - suggestions: micro hydro power, solar panels, and concerns over wind turbines)

*Test out **micro hydro power** plants (been used in Peru, Nepal) in river systems e.g. the waterfalls in Cassiobury Park and how well it works. Can it provide electricity for the park like the cafes? As a back-up generator?*

*More buildings would benefit from **solar panels**, particularly public buildings like flat roof primary schools.*

*Please **do not promote the use of wind turbines** as a "decentralised energy source". They are an eyesore, don't produce scalable energy, and have been known to negatively affect nature. Please rather promote detailed research into geothermal energy.*

***Solar panels** could be introduced and made mandatory for all new buildings*

### Energy efficiency - suggestions: heat pumps, external insulation

*Ground and air source heat pumps are the way forward for all new developments and replace existing fossil gas boilers with these units.*

*External insulation is vital for most existing houses. Contracts for identified areas should be arranged for home owners to participate in.*

## **Sustainable design and construction** - Zero emission builds, with sustainable energy

*Sustainable design should also mean that they are zero emission builds not just resilient to climate change.*

*It is critical that new buildings must be carbon neutral and use sustainable energy. Not that gas boilers are to be phased out in foreseeable future and replaced by heat pumps. This must be started NOW for all domestic and commercial building. How much can be done in existing buildings bearing in mind the cost of conversion is another matter.*

## **Endorsement of strategy**

*In light of the all scientific evidence laid out in IPCC's reports, Review commissioned by HM Treasury in 2019; the final report of Climate Assembly UK, incidents of widely reported global extreme weather events; and accelerating ice loss at the Poles, I agree with all proposals that proactively help citizens participate in and deliberate on in order to understand the issues that climate change and biodiversity loss entail & how their lives, and the lives of future generations will be adversely impacted if the issues are not addressed head-on at a local, national and international level.*

## **Accessibility of language** - decentralised energy requires clarifying

*What does 'use decentralised energy sources to reduce carbon emissions in the District.' mean in practical and real terms?*

*2nd aim - if this Strategy is to be a public facing document it needs to be much clearer about what is meant. I'm sure lots of local residents will support reducing carbon emissions but many will not know what 'decentralized energy sources' are.*

## **Concern over cost of implementation**

*The "highest standards" may be very nice, but will likely increase the cost exponentially.*

## **Tighten regulations and penalties**

*Current planning regulations allow developers to meet a minimum standards which are not necessarily in the best interests of carbon neutrality. Stronger planning regulations are required.*

## **Climate change denial**

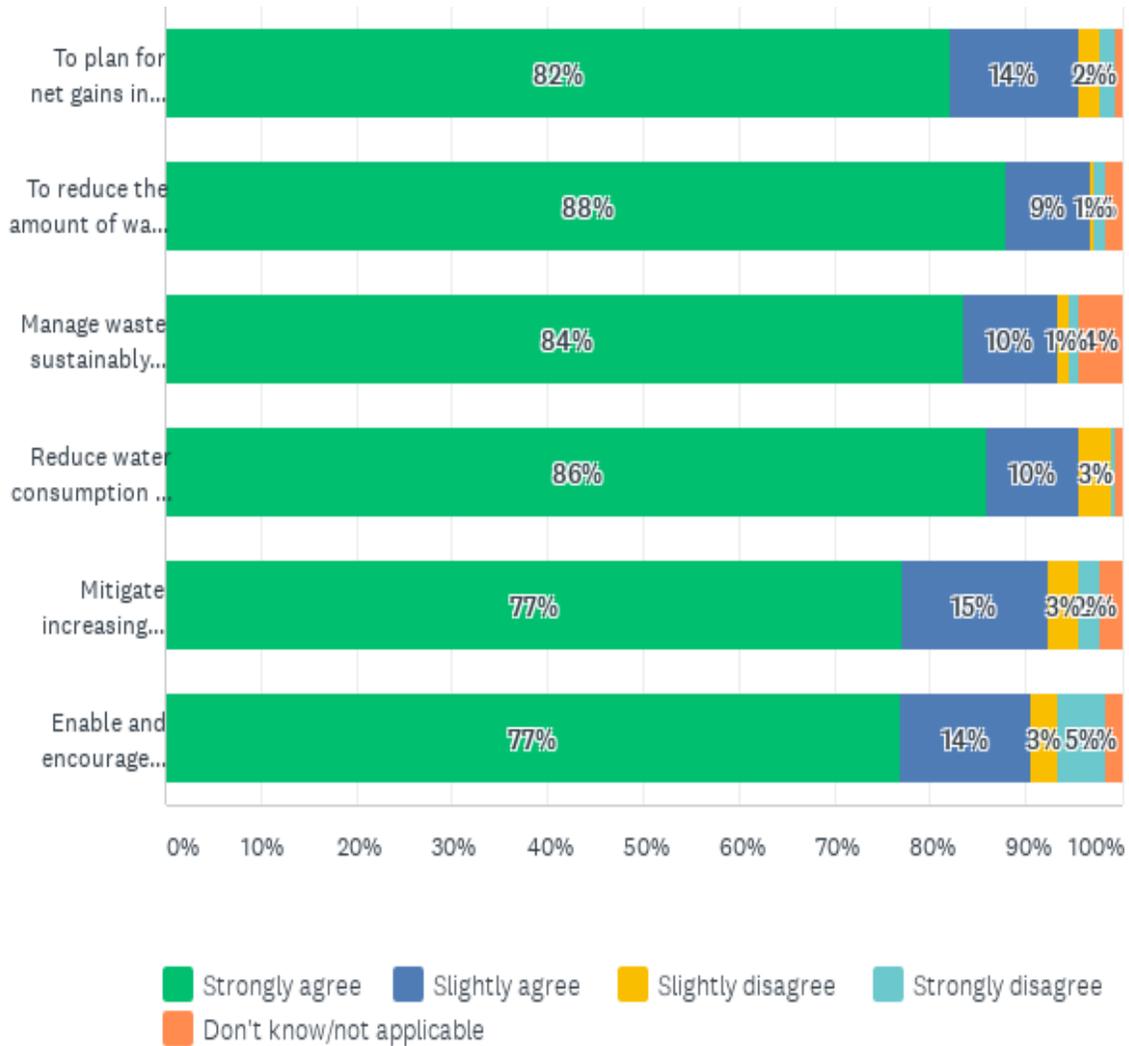
*Don't believe that it has been proved that carbon is the cause of any perceivable climate alteration.*

## Further Aims of the Climate Strategy

- The vast majority of respondents agreed with these further aims of the Climate Change Strategy

### Q2: And how strongly do you agree or disagree with these further AIMS of the Climate Change Strategy?

Answered: 185 Skipped: 2



## Q2: And how strongly do you agree or disagree with these further AIMS of the Climate Change Strategy?

Answered: 185 Skipped: 2

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
To plan for net gains in biodiversity to offset greenhouse gas emissions, build climate resilience, and protect and enhance precious habitats	82% 152	14% 25	2% 4	2% 3	1% 1	185	1.23
To reduce the amount of waste produced	88% 162	9% 16	1% 1	1% 2	2% 3	184	1.13
Manage waste sustainably through promoting a more circular economy	84% 152	10% 18	1% 2	1% 2	4% 8	182	1.16
Reduce water consumption and prevent contamination of our river network	86% 158	10% 18	3% 6	1% 1	1% 1	184	1.18
Mitigate increasing flood risk	77% 141	15% 28	3% 6	2% 4	2% 4	183	1.29
Enable and encourage journeys made by Sustainable Transport modes to reduce carbon fuel reliance, improve local Air Quality and build Economic and Social Sustainability	77% 140	14% 25	3% 5	5% 9	2% 3	182	1.35

## Comments

Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):

Endorsement of strategy proposal	11
Sustainable transport - <i>more cycling and research on climate friendly cars</i>	11
Individual behavioural change – <i>good education schemes</i>	9
Flooding – <i>adapt and upgrade infrastructure</i>	8
Water conservation - <i>grey water garden drainage; more reservoirs and leak repairs</i>	6
Biodiversity - <i>building considerations (not on flood plains or aquifers)</i>	4
Accessibility of language	3
Concern over affordability / personal negative impact	3
Water Pollution – <i>prevent contamination</i>	3

### Endorsement of strategy proposal

*I think promoting a more circular economy is a very important aim to have especially due to current consumer habits in the local area.*

### Sustainable transport – more cycling and research on climate friendly cars

*Encourage people to cycle more*

*Keep existing vehicle production until 2040 to allow more investigation time to allow climate friendly vehicles on our roads.*

### Individual behavioural change – including landowners, together with good education schemes for residents

*This also requires support from landowners to help deliver its aims where possible*

*Please introduce creative, well-publicised schemes to educate residents and motivate them to reduce individual carbon footprints e.g. reduce water use, increase sustainable transport (encourage cycling by advertising and signing cycle routes) and change diet by reducing meat and dairy.*

### Flooding – adapt and upgrade infrastructure

*We need to adapt and upgrade infrastructure to stop any further flooding of sewage in our area*

**Water conservation** – system for grey water to drain onto gardens; more reservoirs and leak repairs

*Water: Desperate need for a system/equipment for grey water (e.g. bath water) to be drained on to gardens and grass areas instead of going down the drain. I created a home system but it is far from slick and needs two people to work it (one in the bathroom and one in the garden).*

*Put pressure on Government to ensure a) more reservoirs are built to cope with current and future consumption & b) that leaks in the water supply network are identified and repaired*

**Biodiversity** – building considerations (not on flood plains or aquifers)

*Any change to land usage ie green belt to housing/industrial use should take all of this into consideration first ie do not build on flood plains or on top of aquifers. Identify the most important places for biodiversity and protect them.*

**Concern over affordability / personal negative impact**

*Sustainable transport modes? Is that electric cars? Prices need to come down for average households to be able to afford them.*

**Water Pollution** – prevent contamination

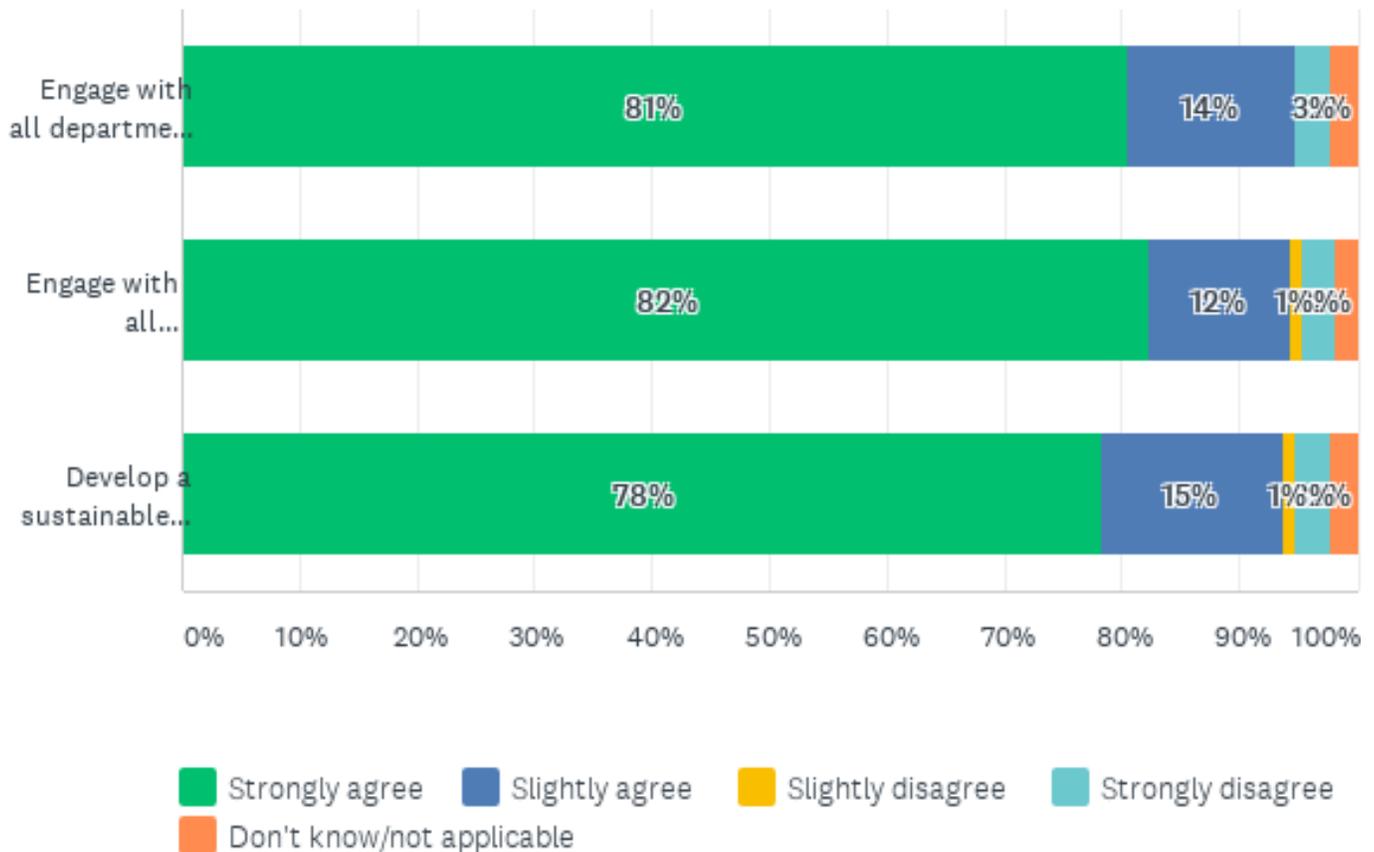
*Please prioritise preventing contamination - it is completely unacceptable that we keep seeing notifications that there has been yet another occurrence of river contamination with raw sewage.*

## Enabling and Engaging the Community

- The vast majority of respondents agreed with the objectives to meet the aim: enabling and engaging the community

Q3: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: To inspire all stakeholders and residents of Three Rivers to work together to achieve carbon neutrality and adopt sustainable choices and lifestyles?

Answered: 175 Skipped: 12



**Q3: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: To inspire all stakeholders and residents of Three Rivers to work together to achieve carbon neutrality and adopt sustainable choices and lifestyles?**

Answered: 175 Skipped: 12

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Engage with all departments across the Council to ensure a cohesive determination to produce and implement plans that lead to sustainable changes.	81% 141	14% 25	0% 0	3% 5	2% 4	175	1.23
Engage with all stakeholders, from schools to business, to produce climate change and sustainability action plans that they can feel part of, and inspired to implement.	82% 144	12% 21	1% 2	3% 5	2% 3	175	1.23
Develop a sustainable procurement strategy for Three Rivers which is used across all council departments.	78% 137	15% 27	1% 2	3% 5	2% 4	175	1.27

## Comments

Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):

Community Involvement – <i>residents an groups attend meetings</i>	7
Public education and engagement – <i>skill building, incentive schemes</i>	7
Concern over affordability / small businesses disadvantaged	5
Endorsement of strategy proposal	4
Accessibility of language	4

### **Community Involvement** - residents and groups attend meetings

*Simply to add how important this is for different parts of the community to be working together. Would like to see faith groups closely involved as well.*

*Invite residents to attend meetings and to become involved in decisions. Form small groups at larger meetings for everyone to have a chance to debate and feedback.*

### **Public education and engagement** – skill building, incentive schemes

*Build local residents skills in terms of fixing/building things and gardening/cooking which will help towards and local resilience, reuse, and a sustainable local economy. Newsletters/paper inserts for local resident newspapers.*

*Interactive activity such as collecting sustainability points by identifying different sustainable projects in the District – e.g. Refill scheme, visit a plastic waste shop. (Perhaps this could earn contributions towards a sustainable project at home or school). To influence more children – have a climate change consultation with the whole class. It was recommended to have a fairly “shocking” assembly so pupils are made aware of how the crisis will affect them. A school reward scheme for undertaking sustainable behaviours. For communicating messages there were various ideas – influence parents, Instagram, a vote on Instagram, use a local celebrity. Make sure photography is used to highlight issues. Different messages should be designed for different aged children. A dragons den style competition for sustainable business ideas.*

### **Concern over affordability/small businesses disadvantaged**

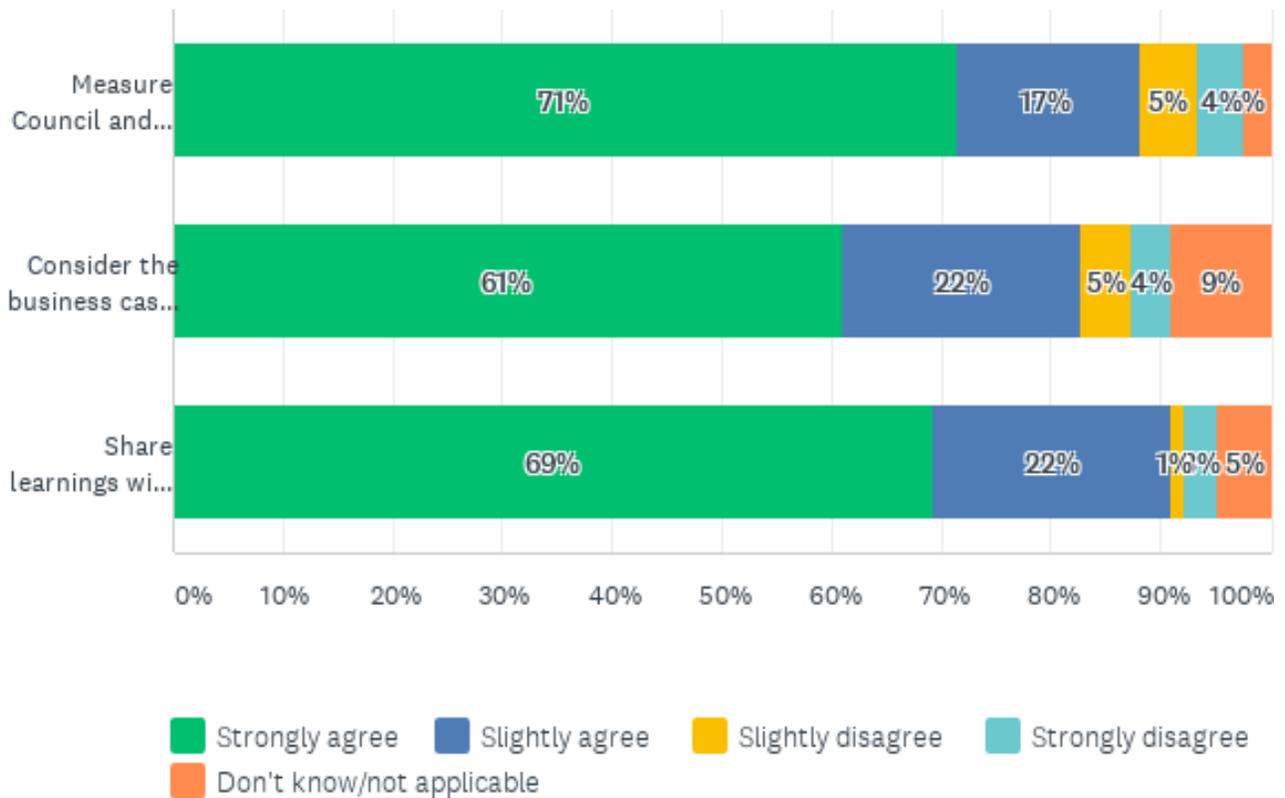
*If 'sustainable procurement strategy' means that a small number of chosen suppliers must be used - I am not convinced that that will be right for us. To make sure a handful of business don't have near-monopoly and new businesses cannot enter or compete in the arena I think procurement strategy must be very carefully designed.*

## Alternative Sources of Energy

- The vast majority of respondents agreed with objectives to meet the aims for alternative sources of energy

**Q4: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: Use decentralised energy sources to reduce carbon emissions in the District?**

Answered: 168 Skipped: 19



**Q4: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: Use decentralised energy sources to reduce carbon emissions in the District?**

Answered: 168 Skipped: 19

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Measure Council and District carbon emissions to identify reduction targets and the mitigation required to meet neutrality by 2050. Review bi-annually.	71% 120	17% 28	5% 9	4% 7	2% 4	168	1.41
Consider the business case for investment in a decentralised energy project. Working either independently or in partnership with others in Hertfordshire.	61% 102	22% 36	5% 8	4% 6	9% 15	167	1.46
Share learnings with stakeholders and businesses in the District to inspire others to start their own decentralised energy projects.	69% 115	22% 36	1% 2	3% 5	5% 8	166	1.35

## Comments

Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):

Accessibility of language – <i>explain terms for non-specialists</i>	9
Renewable energy- <i>allow solar panels in conservation areas, pro decentralised renewable energy</i>	8
Endorsement of strategy proposal	7
Community Involvement	4
Critical of strategy proposal	3

### **Accessibility of language** - explain terms for lay people

*What is a decentralised energy project?*

*It would be easier to answer these questions if it was clearer what 'decentralised energy projects' might mean in Three Rivers - are we talking waste incinerators, solar panels or wind turbines?*

### **Renewable energy** - allow solar panels in conservation areas, pro decentralised renewable energy

*One resident stated they lived in a conservation area so is not allowed to put solar panels on, despite having a south facing, black tiled roof. She said it is only the people in the house opposite who would see them – can special exceptions be made?*

*I am particularly keen on the idea of pushing decentralised renewable energy projects. Other authorities have gone the route gaining cheap finance through companies like Abundance for a specific set of renewable energy projects, for example rooftop solar across several council offices and schools. These investments pay for themselves through the savings made and project a positive image of the council to drive forward other elements of the strategy. Many also give local residents the opportunity to invest directly in the projects, so they have direct buy in in positive outcomes for their community.*

### **Endorsement of strategy proposal**

*Please make sure you go ahead with whatever measures are necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. 2050 is too late!*

### **Community Involvement**

*At every level and at every stage, full stakeholder involvement is essential.*

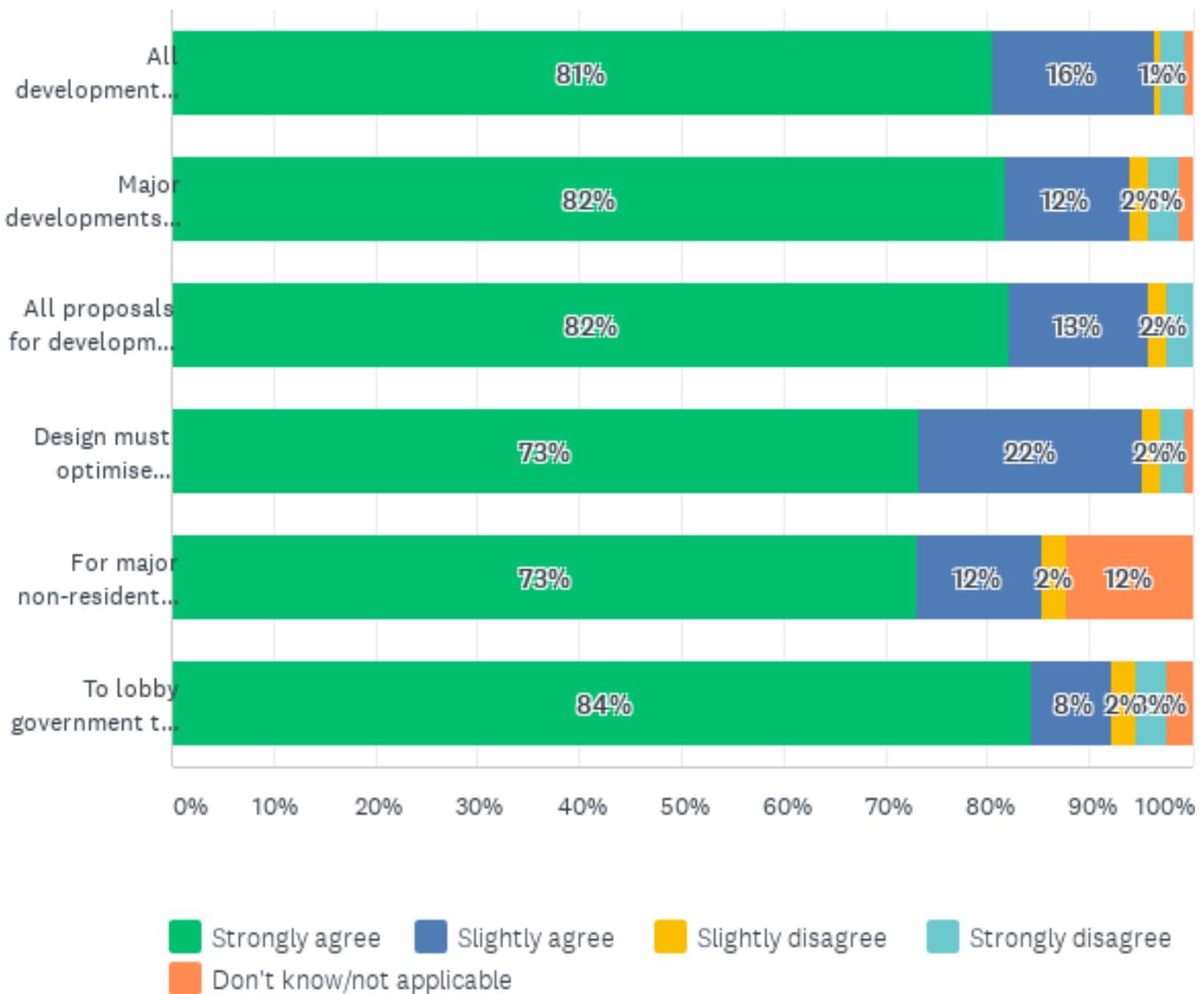
*Community-owned energy should be explored.*

## Sustainable Design and Construction

- The vast majority of respondents agreed with these objectives to meet the aims for sustainable design and construction

**Q5: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: The highest standards of sustainable design and construction should be achieved to create adaptable buildings which are resilient to the effects of climate change, which minimise the use of natural resources over the intended lifetime of a development?**

Answered: 165 Skipped: 22



**Q5: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: The highest standards of sustainable design and construction should be achieved to create adaptable buildings which are resilient to the effects of climate change, which minimise the use of natural resources over the intended lifetime of a development?**

Answered: 165 Skipped: 22

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
All development must take into account opportunities to mitigate the effects of climate change and use resources efficiently.	81% 133	16% 26	1% 1	2% 4	1% 1	165	1.24
Major developments will be required to submit a Sustainability Statement to demonstrate how the development will mitigate and adapt to climate change over its lifetime	82% 135	12% 20	2% 3	3% 5	1% 2	165	1.25
All proposals for development will be designed sensitively to build in resilience to extreme weather events by managing flood risk, enhancing the Green Infrastructure Network and protecting and enhancing the natural environment.	82% 134	13% 22	2% 3	2% 4	0% 0	163	1.25
Design must optimise passive solar gain, whilst reducing the risk of overheating	73% 121	22% 36	2% 3	2% 4	1% 1	165	1.33
For major non-residential developments, proposals should aim to achieve BREEAM 'Excellent' or 'Very Good' Standard	73% 120	12% 20	2% 4	0% 0	12% 20	164	1.19
To lobby government to ensure Building Regulations do adopt the Future Homes Standard by 2025 to ensure new build homes are future proofed with low carbon heating and exceptional levels of energy efficiency	84% 139	8% 13	2% 4	3% 5	2% 4	165	1.22

## Comments

Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):

Endorsement of strategy proposal	23
Tightening regulations and penalties	11

### Endorsement of strategy proposal

*Yes I strongly agree and we should be encouraging and supporting those who are trying to upgrade their homes to support the objectives*

*I support the above objectives and those proposals in Government's White Paper 'Planning for the Future' consultation White Paper (6 August - 29 October) that support greater opportunities for independent builders to compete in the housing & infrastructure business while ensuring that renewable energy and truly sustainable resource management underpin future developments. I advocate that local communities are consulted all along using more deliberative and meaningful methods & according to TRDC's own Constitution on public participation in decision making.*

### Tightening regulations and penalties

*Excellent - and using BREEAM's standards will really help.*

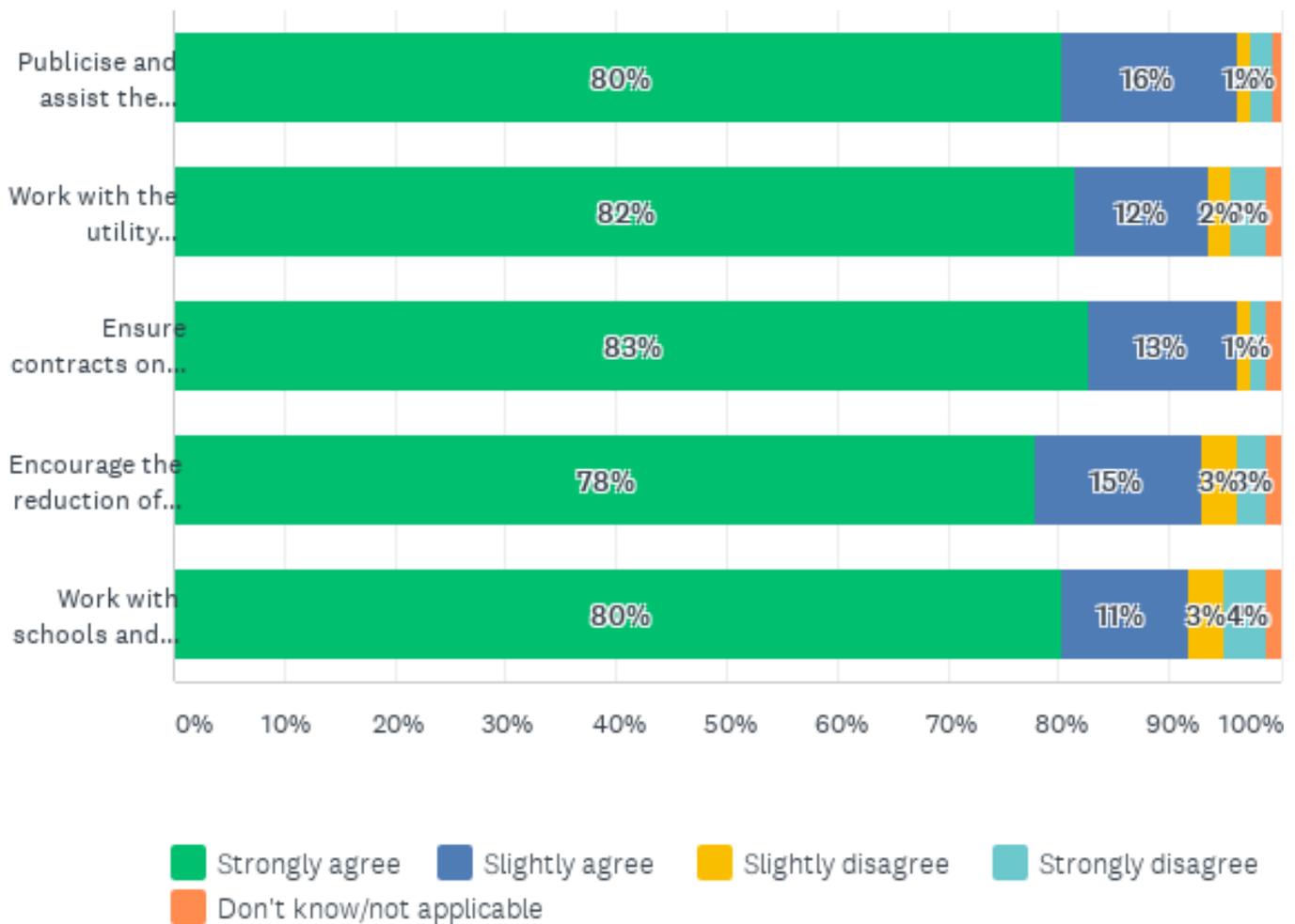
*Surely extensions and redesign of existing or demolished residential property should also adhere to all of the above too.*

## Reduce Emissions from Existing Buildings

- The vast majority of respondents agreed with the objectives to meet the aims to reduce emissions from existing buildings

**Q6: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: Improve industrial, commercial and domestic energy efficiency in the District in existing buildings?**

Answered: 158 Skipped: 29



**Q6: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: Improve industrial, commercial and domestic energy efficiency in the District in existing buildings?**

Answered: 158 Skipped: 29

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Publicise and assist the accessibility of any grants or incentive schemes which help reduce the carbon emissions of existing buildings including the councils own	80% 126	16% 25	1% 2	2% 3	1% 1	157	1.24
Work with the utility companies to improve energy efficiency in homes	82% 128	12% 19	2% 3	3% 5	1% 2	157	1.26
Ensure contracts on council owned buildings have mechanisms such as energy performance contracts to minimise emissions	83% 130	13% 21	1% 2	1% 2	1% 2	157	1.20
Encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from existing properties in the District in line with our Home Energy Conservation Act priorities	78% 123	15% 24	3% 5	3% 4	1% 2	158	1.29
Work with schools and housing associations to ensure action plans are in place to achieve net zero by 2050	80% 126	11% 18	3% 5	4% 6	1% 2	157	1.30

## Comments

Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):

Not ambitious enough	6
Endorsement of strategy proposal	5

### Not ambitious enough

*Aims are extremely woolly. Targets should be set and followed through. 2050 is too late. These changes need to be MET by 2030 if we are to have any hope of slowing climate change.*

*I have been attempting to take advantage of the Green grant currently available to all residents, with little success. It's hard to find answers to questions and very hard to find businesses who have been given accreditation to do the work. It's a great idea to encourage residents to improve the insulation of their homes, but it's not great if hardly anyone knows about these grants or can work through the complex process. Grants of this sort need to be heavily publicised, with support given easily to those who need it. Otherwise take-up will be far too small.*

### Endorsement of strategy proposal

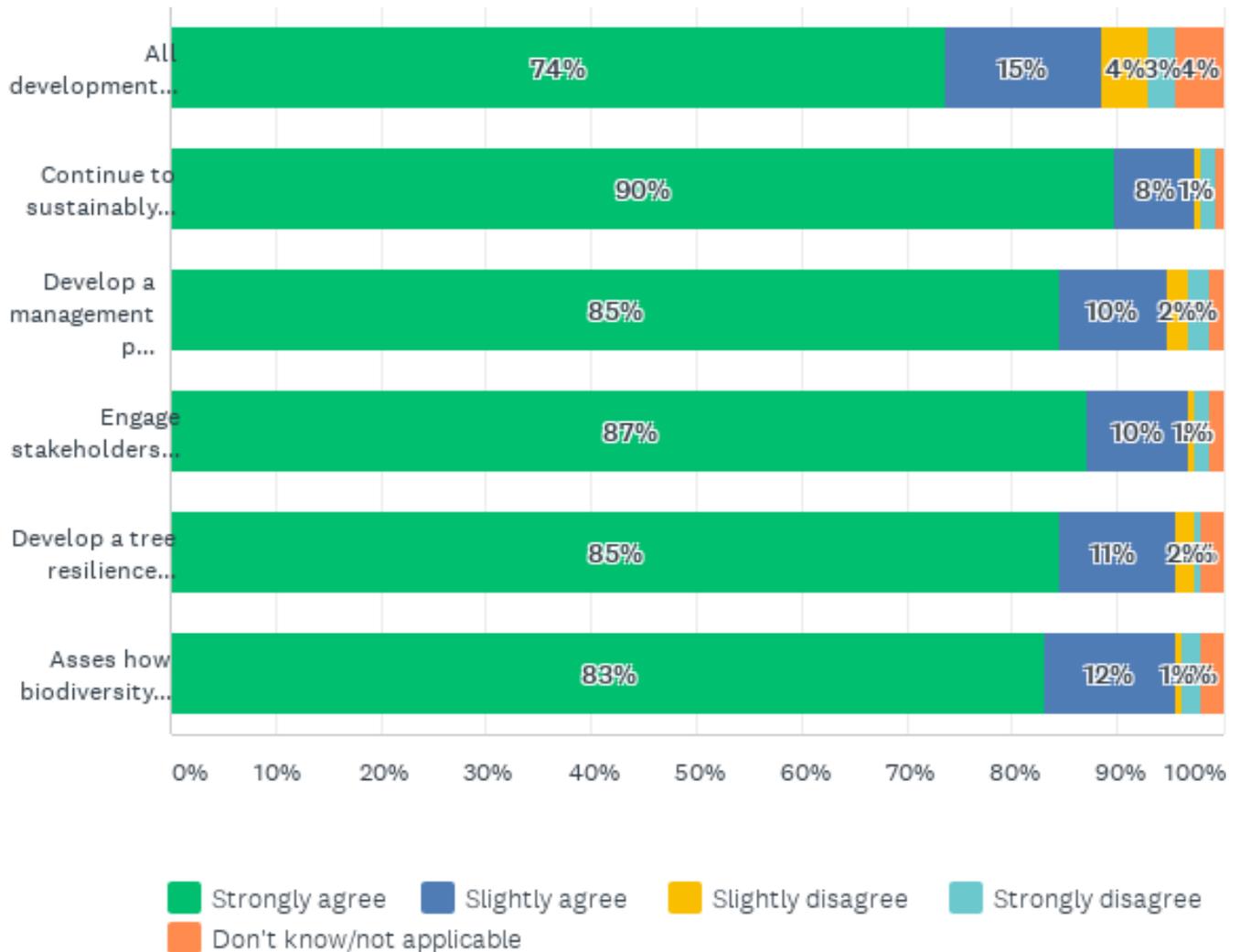
*Improving building and insulation quality not only reduces emissions but mitigates the effects of poverty and fuel poverty*

## Enhance and Protect Biodiversity

- The vast majority of respondents agreed with objectives to meet the aims to enhance and protect biodiversity

**Q7: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: To plan for net gains in biodiversity to offset greenhouse gas emissions, build climate resilience, and protect and enhance precious habitats?**

Answered: 156 Skipped: 31



**Q7: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: To plan for net gains in biodiversity to offset greenhouse gas emissions, build climate resilience, and protect and enhance precious habitats?**

Answered: 156 Skipped: 31

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
All development will result in a net gain for biodiversity.	74% 115	15% 23	4% 7	3% 4	4% 7	156	1.33
Continue to sustainably manage Three Rivers District Council woodlands and parkland through co-ordinated management plans	90% 140	8% 12	1% 1	1% 2	1% 1	156	1.13
Develop a management plan for playing fields and grassland to explore options for rewilding grasslands and tree planting where appropriate	85% 132	10% 16	2% 3	2% 3	1% 2	156	1.20
Engage stakeholders to improve biodiversity through rewilding, tree planting and enhancing wildlife corridors	87% 136	10% 15	1% 1	1% 2	1% 2	156	1.15
Develop a tree resilience strategy for Three Rivers District Council which includes trees outside of managed woodlands	85% 131	11% 17	2% 3	1% 1	2% 3	155	1.17
Asses how biodiversity can be further enhanced in the district as a mitigation policy against carbon emissions and provide resilience to the effects of climate change	83% 129	12% 19	1% 1	2% 3	2% 3	155	1.20

## Comments

Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):

Rewilding and habitat improvement - <i>link with planning, farmland, tree planting and preservation</i>	11
Endorsement of strategy	11
Biodiversity - <i>partner with large area landowners and developers</i>	9
Reforestation - <i>right tree, right place, ensure tree health: watering/stability tie removal upkeep</i>	9
Preservation of existing ecologies - <i>audit sites, concern over housing estate builds</i>	7
Community involvement - <i>community gardens, home garden education, encourage volunteering</i>	4

### **Rewilding and habitat improvement** – *link with planning, farmland, tree planting and preservation*

*The introduction notes that unimproved grasslands and wetlands are in retreat but there is nothing here about preventing this retreat through protecting the land and the use of planning powers/ the Local Plan. A restoration plan plus highlighting what, not just stakeholders but what the council can do, on wildlife corridors (i.e. verges), and a tree planting target (to increase coverage) would add to the positive impact.*

*Rewilding is a great idea. Can it be extended to managed land and farm land? Planting more trees can help with reduction of flooding.*

*Protect all trees. They are vital and irreplaceable. Why are all trees not protected? Why are increasingly rare precious habitats like meadows allowed to be put forward for the Local Plan and placed under threat of development? Why are these not sifted out/disqualified at the beginning? The Climate Change team need to work with the Planning office and monitor/comment on planning applications. Look at replanting hedgerows for wildlife*

### **Endorsement of strategy**

*All vital for improving our environment, preventing unwanted flooding and creating amenity in the face of poverty and public health crises*

### **Biodiversity** - *partner with large area landowners and developers*

*Should partner with large area land owners such as golf courses to map out the strategy for increasing biodiversity in these type of areas. Biodiversity strategy should be a key part of any new development both residential and commercial (green roofs etc).*

### **Reforestation** - *right tree, right place, ensure tree health: watering/stability tie removal upkeep*

*The following text should be added to objective 3 relating to tree planting: 'The Council will follow best practice of 'the right tree in the right place' to ensure existing grassland & wetland habitats and viable agricultural land is retained'*

*Loads of quick wins such as watering the trees which are planted and removing the stability ties before they strangle the tree - don't lose sight of these things by becoming distracted with big strategic plans*

**Preservation of existing ecologies** – *audit sites, concern over housing estate builds*

*An audit of all sites in the district should be made to see if further designations can be made - eg. Greenbroom Spring - should be a nature reserve.*

*Then if you follow this policy why are you considering building a large housing estate of 1750 units on the land next to Oxhey Lane which will increase the carbon emission greatly and reduce the trees and grass which help the climate?*

**Community involvement** - *community gardens, home garden education, encourage volunteering*

*More community gardens. Give advice for residents of improving biodiversity in their gardens. Implement new land-use policy with built in green spaces and community gardens*

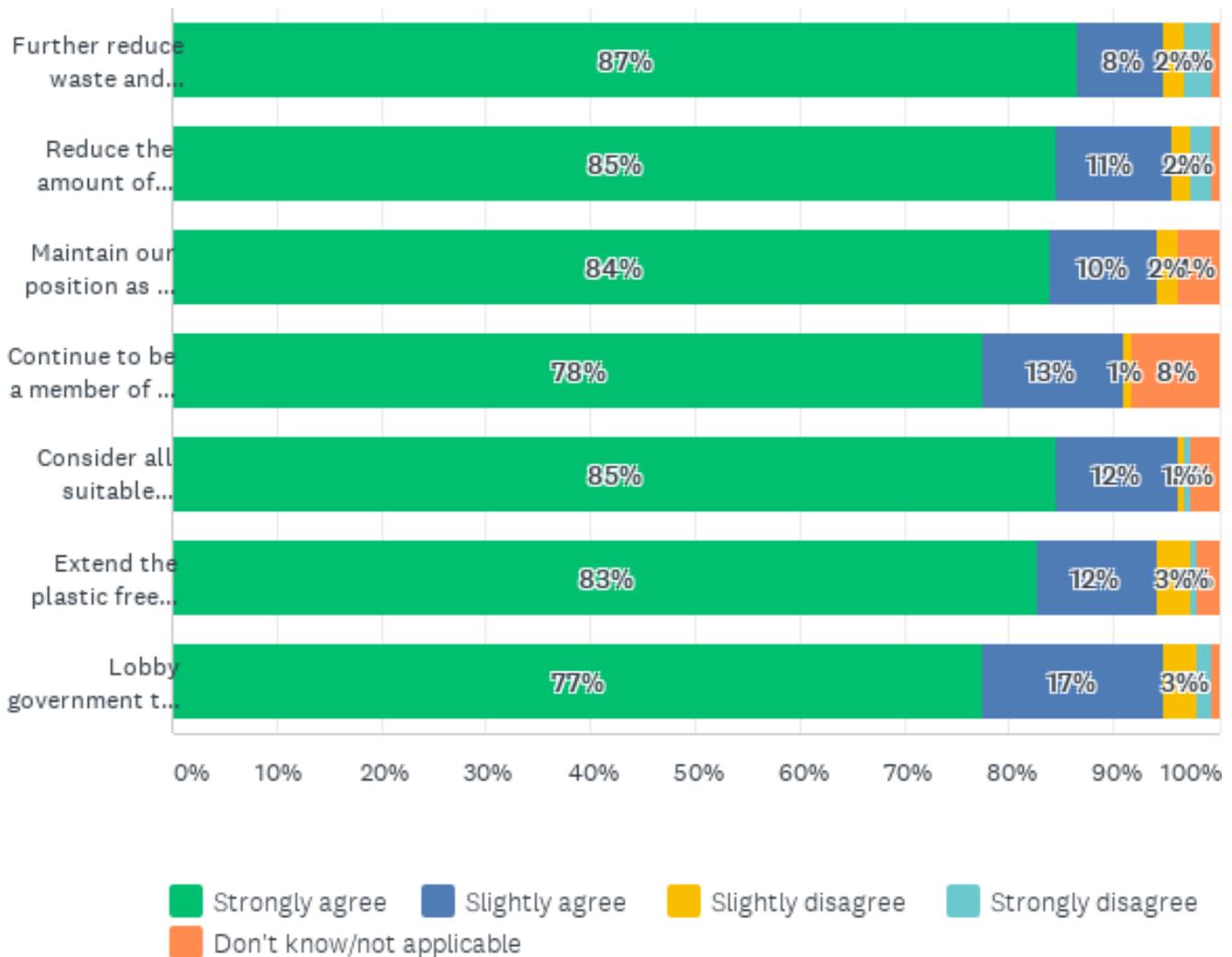
*Is there somewhere that individuals can volunteer with a tree planting program?*

## Reduce waste and promote a circular economy

- The vast majority of respondents **agreed** with the objectives to **meet the aims to reduce waste and promote a circular economy**

**Q8: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: To reduce the amount of waste produced and manage it sustainably through promoting a more circular economy?**

Answered: 156 Skipped: 31



**Q8: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: To reduce the amount of waste produced and manage it sustainably through promoting a more circular economy?**

Answered: 156 Skipped: 31

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Further reduce waste and increase recycling and reuse within Council operations	87% 135	8% 13	2% 3	3% 4	1% 1	156	1.20
Reduce the amount of household and commercial waste produced, and minimise waste entering landfill through maximisation of reuse and recycling	85% 132	11% 17	2% 3	2% 3	1% 1	156	1.21
Maintain our position as the highest recycling authority in Hertfordshire	84% 131	10% 16	2% 3	0% 0	4% 6	156	1.15
Continue to be a member of the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership	78% 121	13% 21	1% 1	0% 0	8% 13	156	1.16
Consider all suitable technology when replacing fleet vehicles to reduce their carbon footprint, and continue to use them for promotion of reuse and recycling.	85% 132	12% 18	1% 1	1% 1	3% 4	156	1.15
Extend the plastic free policy of the council by encouraging the local communities to adopt "plastic free"	83% 129	12% 18	3% 5	1% 1	2% 3	156	1.20
Lobby government to re-introduce cookery and vegetable growing combined with a sustainable approach, into the school curriculum	77% 120	17% 27	3% 5	1% 2	1% 1	155	1.28

## Comments

Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):

Waste minimisation – <i>offset fly tipping fees by reducing recycling centre fees, more bins, more education</i>	18
Public engagement and education	7
Data collection and monitoring is crucial	5
Green economy – <i>boost local supporters</i>	3

### **Waste minimisation** - *offset fly tipping fees by reducing recycling centre fees, more bins, more education*

*In order to assist with household/domestic waste, etc to stop charging sites for disposal which would then lower the cost of waste dumping in the area being cleared.*

*Install public recycling bins and more poo bins. Increase littering fines. Ban single use masks. More education on recycling. Encourage more people to remember reusable containers for water/food/takeaway. Encourage more Refill shops like the one in Croxley to reduce plastic. Pen and crisp packet collection points at schools to recycle them. E.g. TerraCycle*

*Fly-tipping – removal prices are high, particularly for white goods. Does this increase fly-tipping? What can be done to address the issues?*

### **Public engagement and education**

*Educating young people about the importance of environmental sustainability is essential.*

*The National Curriculum, City and Guilds, NVQs, B-Tec and university courses need to be overhauled by 2025 at the latest, to ensure the future of sustainable education. Without education to support moving away from intensive animal agriculture and supporting permaculture, nothing will change.*

*Food and nutrition courses also need to become more focused on growing and eating our own produce. They currently teach small children to make biscuits and college students the knife skills for preparing meat. Our schools, colleges and hospitals do not have kitchen gardens*

*Please work with all local schools on vegetable growing, waste reduction etc. Please run extensive community education programmes to increase awareness of waste and plastic reduction.*

### **Data collection and monitoring**

*All objectives must be written and monitored so as to produce rapid and concrete results*

### **Green economy**

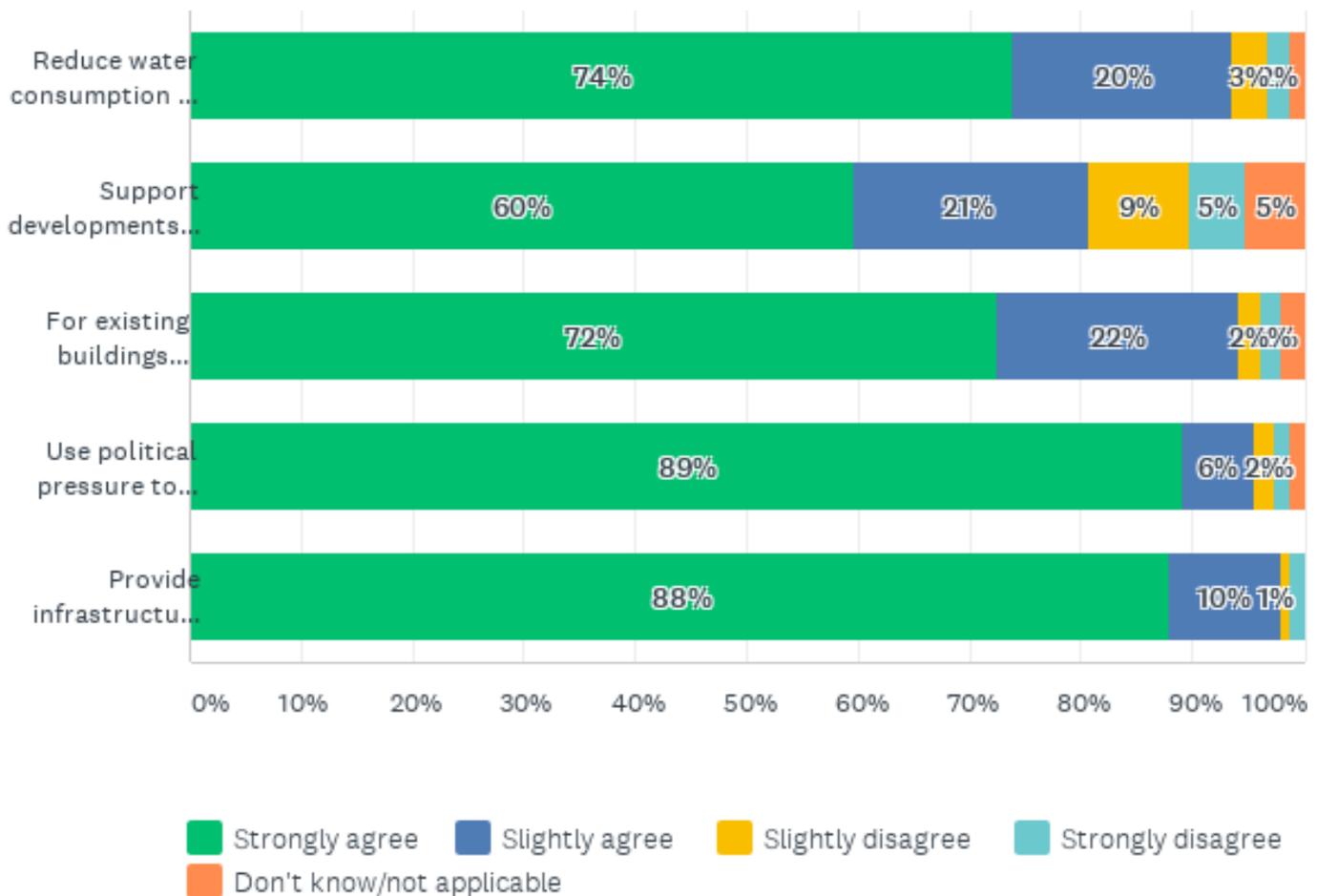
*The Green store in Croxley green is a great example of a plastic free business 🍷*

## Reducing water consumption and contamination of rivers

The vast majority of respondents agreed with the objectives for the aims to reduce water consumption and contamination of rivers

**Q9: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: Reduce water consumption and prevent contamination of our river network?**

Answered: 157 Skipped: 30



**Q9: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: Reduce water consumption and prevent contamination of our river network?**

Answered: 157 Skipped: 30

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Reduce water consumption by working with the water companies to identify priorities and setting action plans	74% 116	20% 31	3% 5	2% 3	1% 2	157	1.32
Support developments which adopt the tougher water efficiency target of 110 litres per household per day and for non-residential development should achieve a rating of BREEAM excellent for water efficiency	60% 93	21% 33	9% 14	5% 8	5% 8	156	1.57
For existing buildings support opportunities to improve water efficiency measures when refurbishment or change of use of existing buildings is taking place	72% 113	22% 34	2% 3	2% 3	2% 3	156	1.32
Use political pressure to challenge Thames Water to accelerate plans to improve infrastructure to prevent sewage discharge into the Chess	89% 140	6% 10	2% 3	1% 2	1% 2	157	1.14
Provide infrastructure and support education to prevent littering which can end up polluting rivers	88% 138	10% 16	1% 1	1% 2	0% 0	157	1.15

## Comments

**Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):**

Water conservation - survey water tables, trees, collect water inc. grey	15
Water pollution - Chess and Harefield Road sewage issue	11
Tightening regulation and penalties	9
Littering issue	6

### **Water conservation** - survey water tables, trees, collect water inc. grey

*Survey our Water table. Look at the impact of extreme weather on our trees (drought/excessive rainfall). Find ways of collecting rainwater. Find ways of recycling washing up and bath water. Sort the drainage system out*

*Missing Objective: reuse of grey water (as described previously)*

*Already proposed a water forum to better manage water use and recycling.*

*Residents need to be educated on the different routes for rain water run-off and grey water processing. Currently many residents are not aware of the difference and the issues that arise if rain water ends up in the grey water sewage systems. This is going to become increasingly important as weather events become more extreme.*

### **Water pollution** – Chess and Harefield Road sewage issue

*The fact that sewage is still discharged into the river Chess is a disgrace !*

*I would like to see the objective that mentions putting political pressure on Thames water to improve infrastructure to prevent sewage discharge, to be widened to include sewage discharge on Harefield Road as well. Twice in 2020 residents have been flooded so they can't leave their homes because of discharge of sewage from a burst sewage pipe at the corner of Stockers Farm Road.*

*Thames Water are not only responsible for polluting the River Chess. Sewage discharge in the Harefield Road area is responded to slowly. And TRDC should consider using its environmental protection powers to require Thames Water to actually clear up sewage sludge from pavements and verges rather than leave it there for the public (including school children) to walk through.*

### **Tightening regulation and penalties**

*Sewerage should not be put into the chess. It should be a criminal offence.*

*Thames water should be censured for allowing waste to be discharged into a river. All local residents affected should receive compensation and those responsible for the discharge should be personally fined.*

### **Littering**

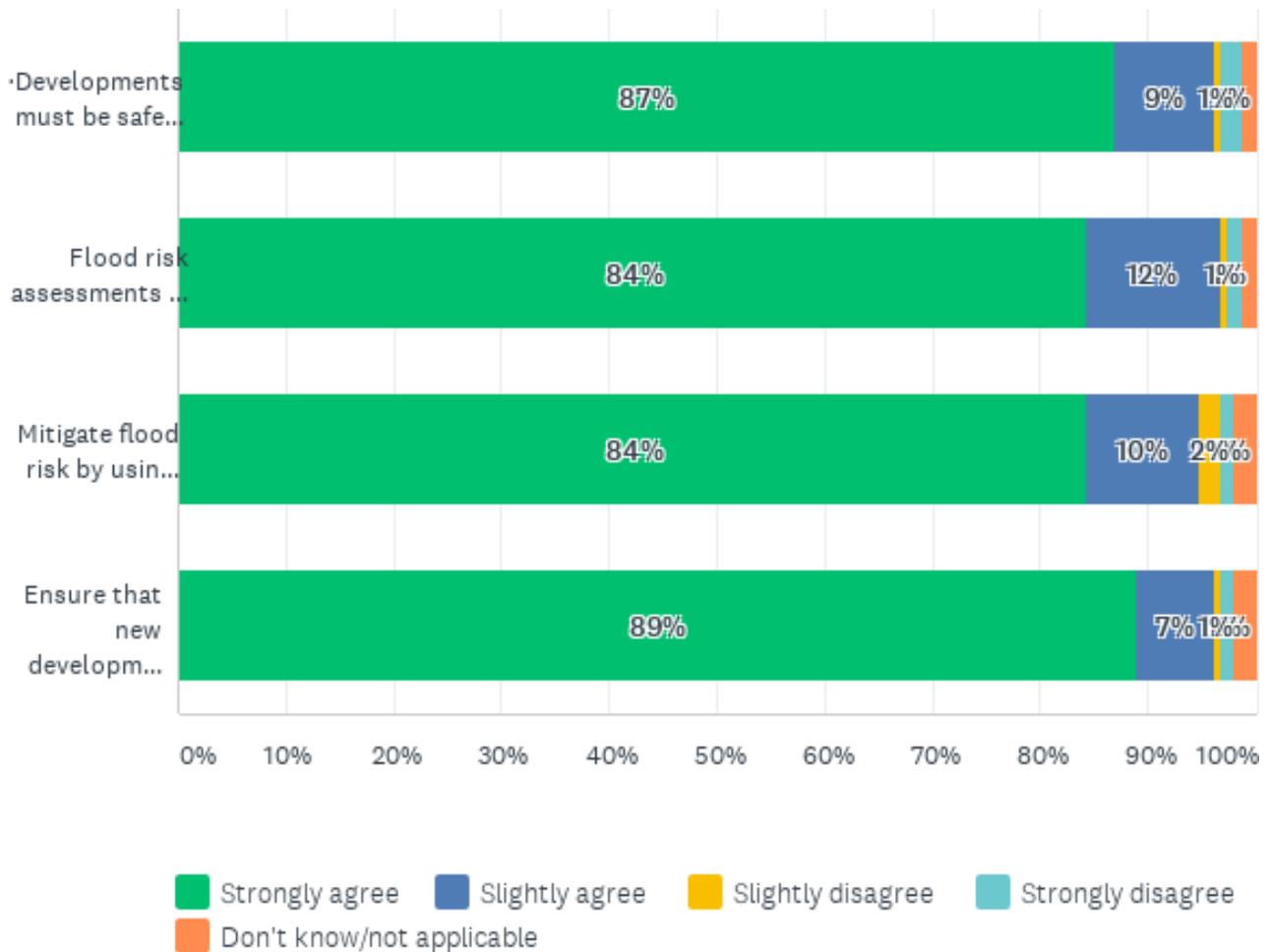
*Education on preventing littering should be a national (if not global) endeavour! Please seek to work together with other councils, districts, organisations (schools? / businesses?) and government itself to make this a priority!*

## Flood risk mitigation

- The vast majority of respondents agreed with the objectives to meet aims for flood risk mitigation

**Q10: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: Mitigate increasing flood risk?**

Answered: 154 Skipped: 33



**Q10: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: Mitigate increasing flood risk?**

Answered: 154 Skipped: 33

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
-Developments must be safe and resilient to flooding.	87% 134	9% 14	1% 1	2% 3	1% 2	154	1.16
Flood risk assessments for developments depending on their level of risk and size will be required	84% 130	12% 19	1% 1	1% 2	1% 2	154	1.18
Mitigate flood risk by using sustainable drainage systems	84% 130	10% 16	2% 3	1% 2	2% 3	154	1.19
Ensure that new development is not subject to unacceptable risk of flooding, does not unacceptably exacerbate flooding elsewhere and where practicable reduces existing flood risk	89% 137	7% 11	1% 1	1% 2	2% 3	154	1.13

## Comments

**Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):**

Flooding - *no builds on floodplain, better knowledge of sites, more hedgerows, survey drainage systems* 17

Improve drainage systems - *in right locations, clean effectively, consider downstream impact, sustainable drainage – natural flood management* 10

Sustainable design and construction - *reduce hard coverings in gardens/public areas* 7

**Flooding** – *no builds on floodplain, better knowledge of sites needed, more hedgerows, survey drainage systems*

*We should not build at all on areas of floodplain or high risk of flooding.*

*Flood risk measurements are not accurate - need to actually look at a site and know it. Ask locals. Sort out the drainage system. Put back hedgerows and natural forms of drainage to help prevent flooding and benefit wildlife*

*This is particularly important in low-lying areas such as Batchworth where a great deal of the area is either lake, river, canal or uncultivated land that is regularly subjected to flooding.*

*Existing drainage systems should be surveyed and improved to reduce surface water flooding and increase discharge of surface waters into the underlying aquifers. Particularly road drainage systems.*

**Improve drainage systems** – *in right locations, clean effectively, consider downstream impact, sustainable drainage – natural flood management*

*These elements need to be checked after completion of the build, to ensure that they are not just empty promises made to get approval. Eg check, after a hotel has been built, that the road drains are located in the places where excess water collects ...*

*Question how the drains are cleaned as certain areas flood again and again. These are roads where drains are present*

*- Drainage systems should take the downstream impact into account*

*Sustainable drainage using Natural Flood Management solutions e.g. Woody and leaky dames to slow the flow of water. Flood pinch points of the District should be explored and then determine which methods could slow water flow in these areas.*

**Sustainable design and construction** – *reduce hard coverings in gardens/public areas*

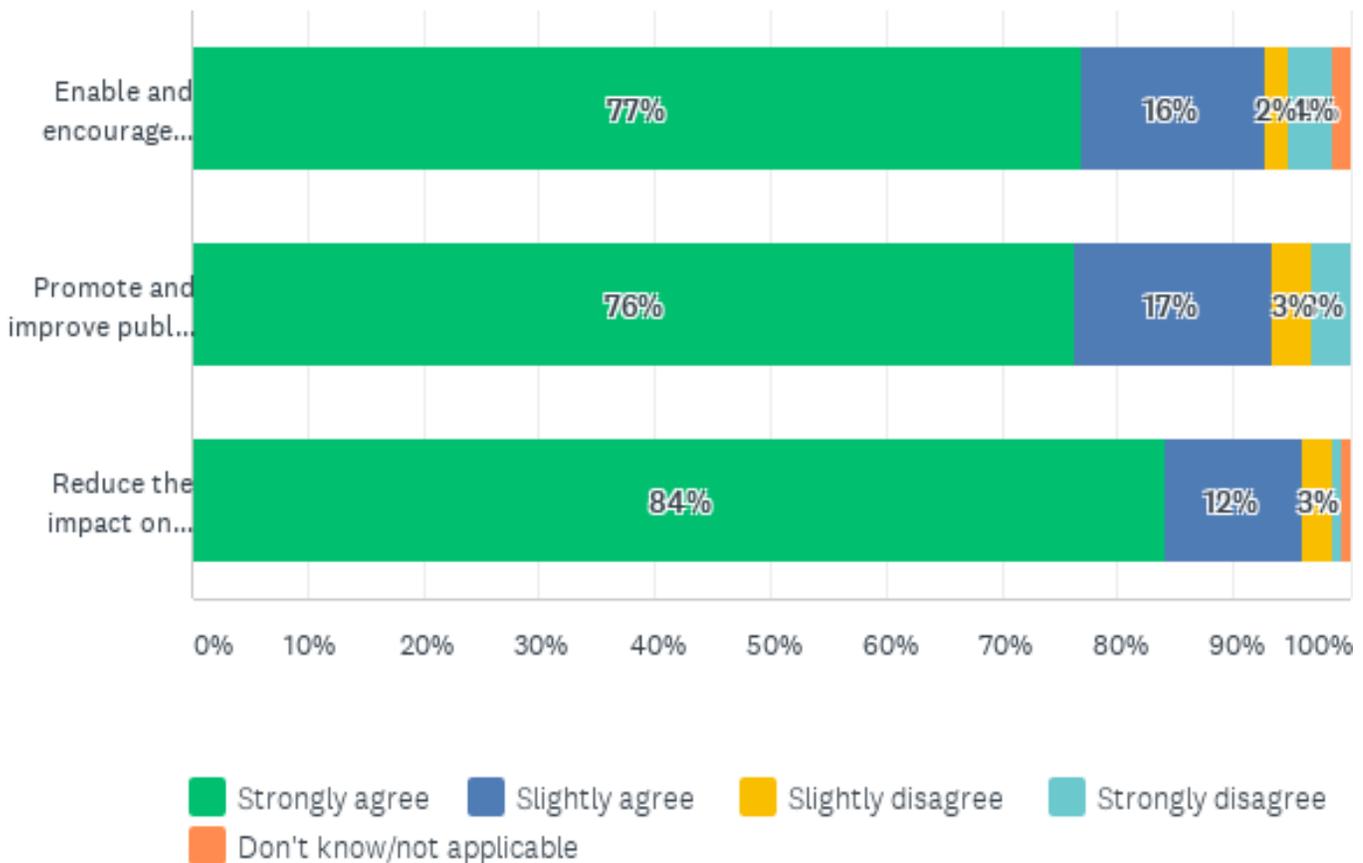
*We should not build at all on areas of floodplain or high risk of flooding. Also we should be encouraged to reduce hard coverings in gardens and public areas to allow better drainage.*

## Increasing sustainable travel and improve air quality

- The vast majority of respondents agreed with these further aims of the Climate Change Strategy

**Q11: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: Enable and encourage journeys made by Sustainable Transport modes to reduce carbon fuel reliance, improve local Air Quality and build Economic and Social Sustainability?**

Answered: 152 Skipped: 35



**Q11: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following OBJECTIVES meet the AIM: Enable and encourage journeys made by Sustainable Transport modes to reduce carbon fuel reliance, improve local Air Quality and build Economic and Social Sustainability?**

Answered: 152 Skipped: 35

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Enable and encourage cycling and walking trips to replace carbon fuelled trips, through the latest Walking & Cycling Strategy	77% 116	16% 24	2% 3	4% 6	1% 2	151	1.32
Promote and improve public experience and perception of passenger transport (bus and rail) services	76% 116	17% 26	3% 5	3% 5	0% 0	152	1.34
Reduce the impact on carbon emissions and local air quality of travel associated with Council operations	84% 128	12% 18	3% 4	1% 1	1% 1	152	1.19

## Comments

Key topics raised in the comments were the following (number = mentions in the survey question):

Sustainable and affordable public transport – <i>better connected public transport structure, more home working, reduce rail and bus fees</i>	46
Ease, efficiency and safety of transport - <i>safer/connected cycle routes, cycling proficiency courses</i>	24
Air pollution - <i>air quality monitoring devices, reduce bus emissions, HGVs to use HGV sat nav</i>	8
Concerns over safety	8

### **Sustainable transport** – *better connected public transport infrastructure, more home working, reduce rail and bus fees*

*Create better public transport infrastructure to connect places e.g to connect villages like Bedmond to rail stations and towns such as Kings Langley station and St Albans. What about smaller minibus style transport running on circular routes? Work with the bus companies to ensure a reliable and affordable service. Maintain the Footpaths. Ensure cycle routes are safe and joined up. Encourage more home working/use of video conference technology to reduce commuting and travelling to meetings etc*

*I have a big problem with the cost of the rail network, it's extortionate compared to other countries and the service doesn't justify it either*

*More cycle lanes required*

*Passenger transport needs to be more joined up for connections and more frequency. Also to make public transport more cost effective and cheaper to use. Too expensive in both time and cost to get bus into Watford*

*Investigate ways to provide a local public transport service that people actually want to use. This should include providing new bus routes within 3 Rivers district that aren't all based around Watford, going ahead with the Croxley Rail Link and making the Met Line more accessible by installing lifts at stations. We have 4 tube stations in this area, why aren't residents in places with a tube station given free TfL travel when they reach 60 like residents of London boroughs do? Make buses easier to use when you have a lot of shopping to carry.*

*Greater attention to cycle paths - Cycle paths need to be joined up - they stop abruptly leaving cyclists with nowhere to go other than the main road*

**Ease, efficiency and safety of transport** - safer/connected cycle routes, cycling proficiency courses

*Safe cycling provision in the district is fairly poor. Lanes in the Rickmansworth area are poorly designed and on street infrastructure (e.g. cycling racks) are poorly designed or situated without regard to the possibility of theft.*

*More safe cycle ways should be built across. The district linking important hubs to each other ie Rickmansworth to Chorleywood and Croxley Green and Maple Cross*

*Therefore cycle plans for each school would help with students Involved with the planning. Advanced cycling proficiency course in the vicinity of the secondary school – ideally which utilised the school cycle plan. Parent and child bike maintenance workshops – seminars*

*I believe strongly that more cycling lanes and safer roads are required locally. This will encourage more cycling and walking as an alternative to the large number of local journeys. Cycling is very dangerous in the area as there are a number of dual carriageways where cars speed.*

*Cycle routes are desperately needed. There are some but not enough. They seem to just disappear at major junctions which is where they are most needed for cyclist safety*

**Air pollution** – air quality monitoring devices, reduce bus emissions, HGVs to use HGV sat nav

*Air quality monitoring devices should be put up throughout the district to measure whether improvements are being made.*

*Buses belch out fumes, and frequently leave engines idling. Could TRDC work with the bus companies to resolve this issue*

*HGV traffic causes congestion, and therefore raise car emissions and air/noise pollution. This is thought to be a result of HGVs using car sat-navs not HGV sat-navs. Could we have more restrictions on our roads?*

## Further comments

### Key comments were the following:

*Great to see the Strategy taking shape and thank you for allowing comments at this draft stage.*

*A few overall thoughts:*

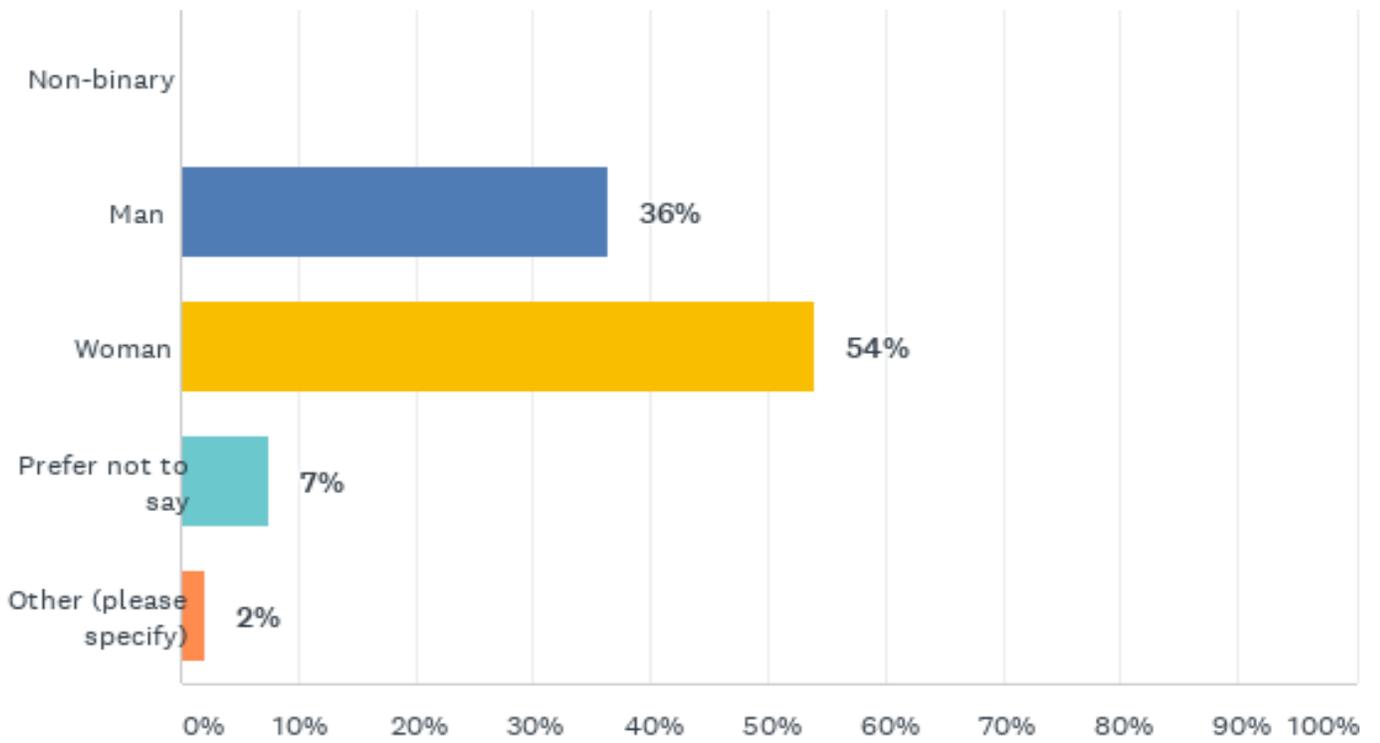
*Climate change as a topic can create confusion and as such it would be helpful if the strategy set out clearly what it means by Net Zero, carbon neutrality and zero carbon (as the definitions of these can differ) - this would make the document clear to residents. Have you seen <https://ashden.org/sustainable-towns-cities/> - this has loads of strong resources and information/ data you may find useful. We look forward to seeing the Action Plan that goes with the strategy and the councils SMART targets to achieve its goal and would be delighted to support the council in its endeavours. I would also suggest to set-up a social/mental support initiative, where people can actively act positively - e.g. contribute to local food growing, helping others with energy / water saving installation, or just help others overcome their anxiety as things are changing...*

*People are worried, many have lost jobs already, mental health is very bad, financially a lot of people are struggling, giving people the ability to contribute positively to the community will be a key differentiator in how we will fight Climate Change.*

*Please work with other TRDC Teams, Herts CC, businesses, residents association, local organizations and residents. Co-production is a great model for meaningful engagement. This survey should have been co-produced with residents and other groups.*

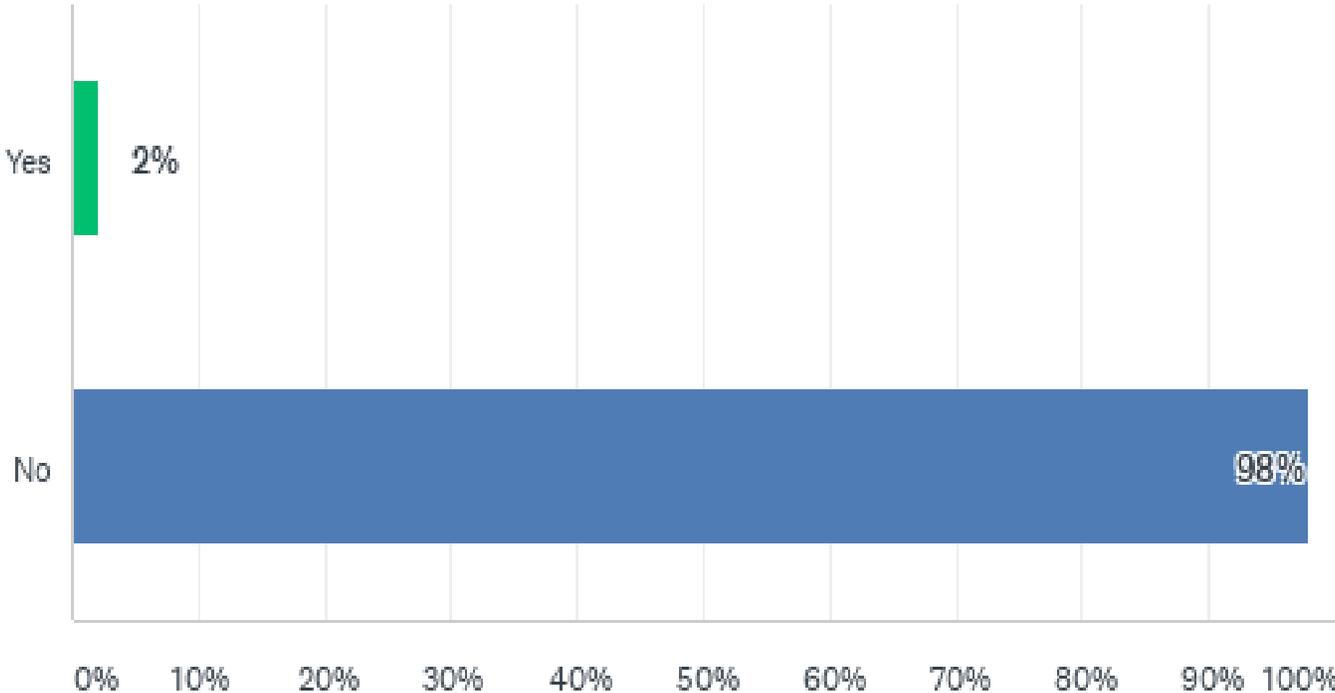
### Q13: What is your gender?

Answered: 148 Skipped: 39



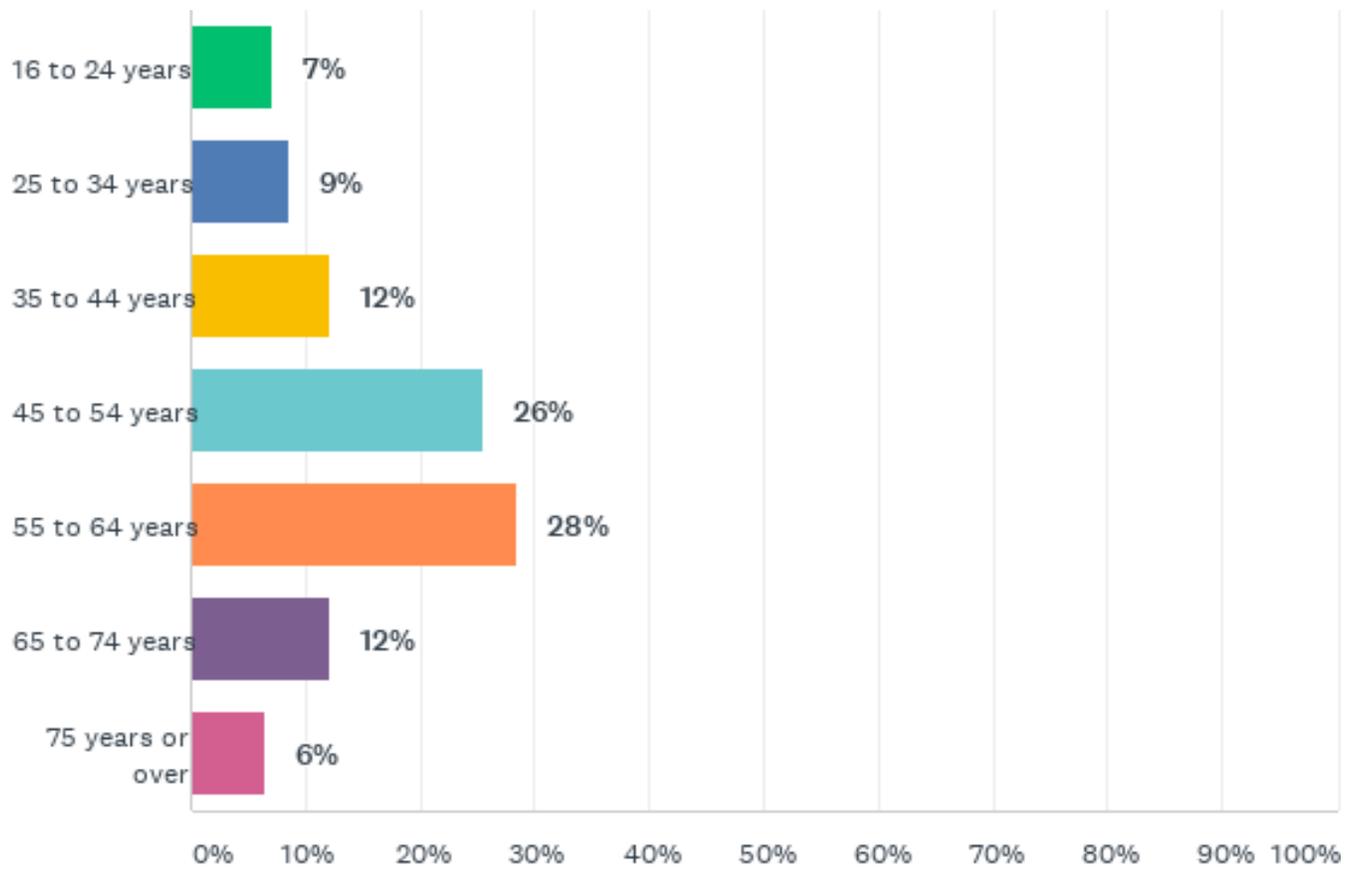
**Q14: Are you a student at secondary school?**

Answered: 47 Skipped: 140



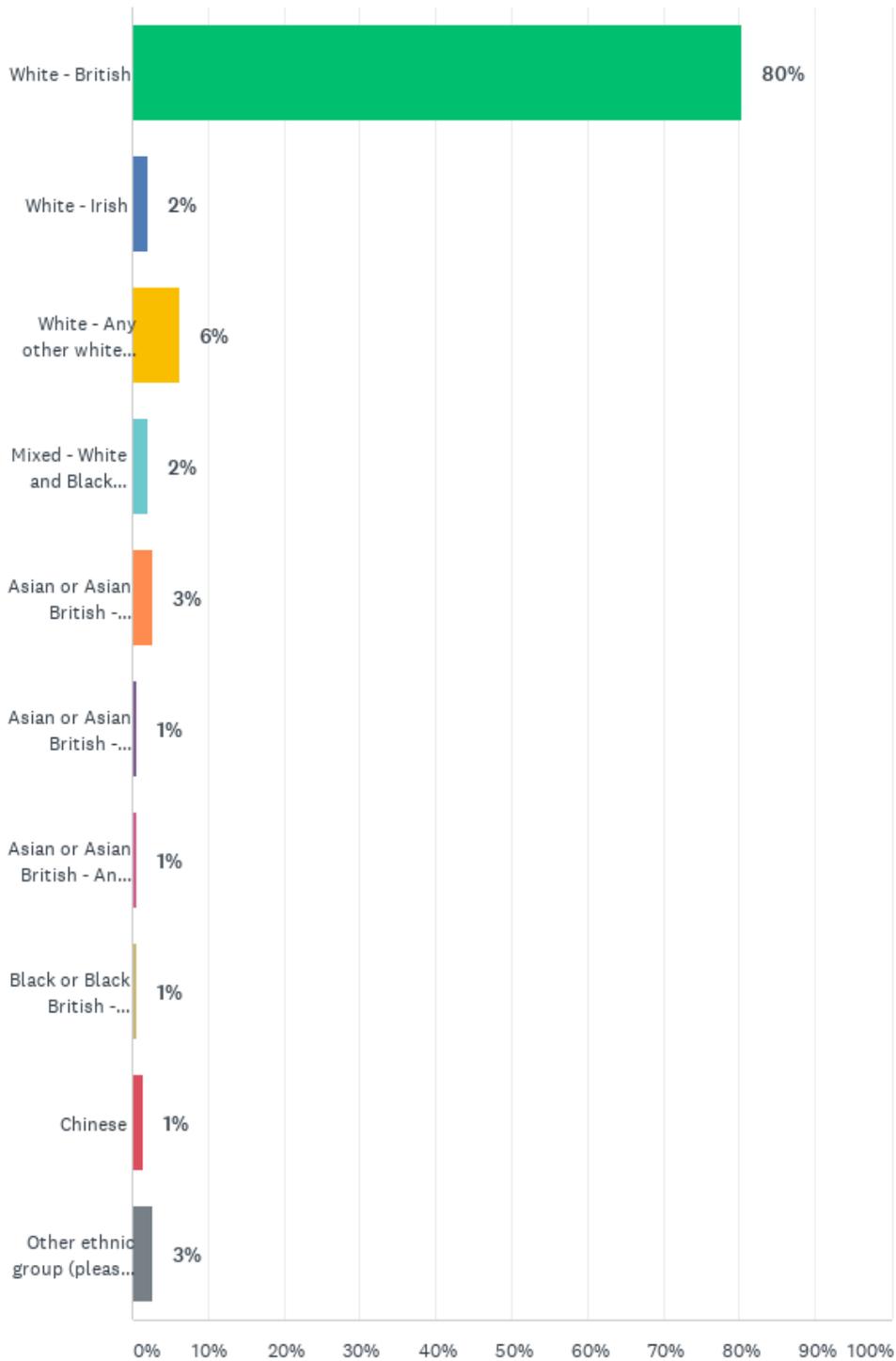
### Q15: How old are you (if not in secondary education)?

Answered: 141 Skipped: 46



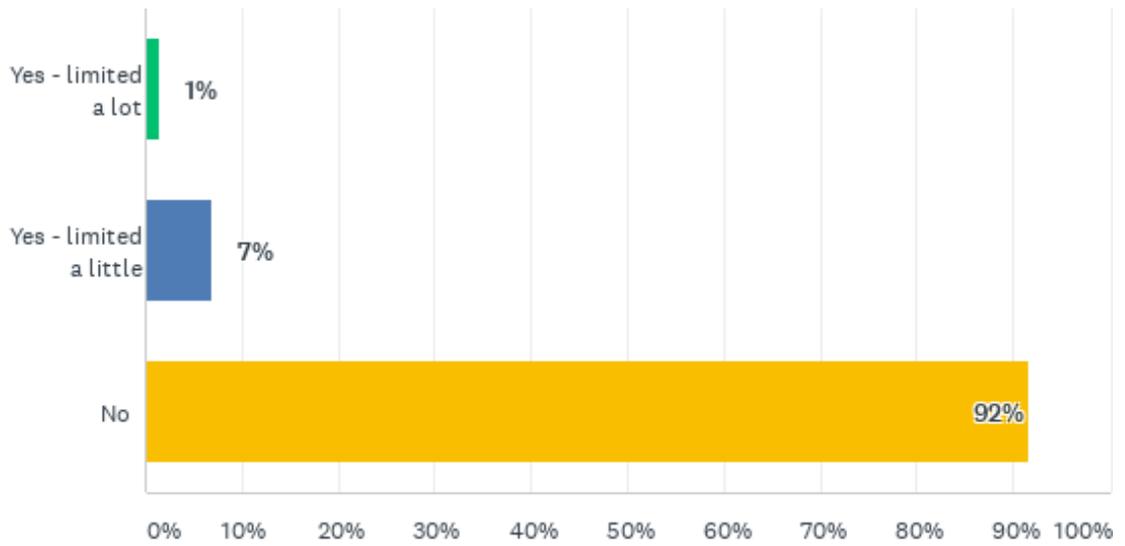
## Q16: What is your ethnic group?

Answered: 143 Skipped: 44



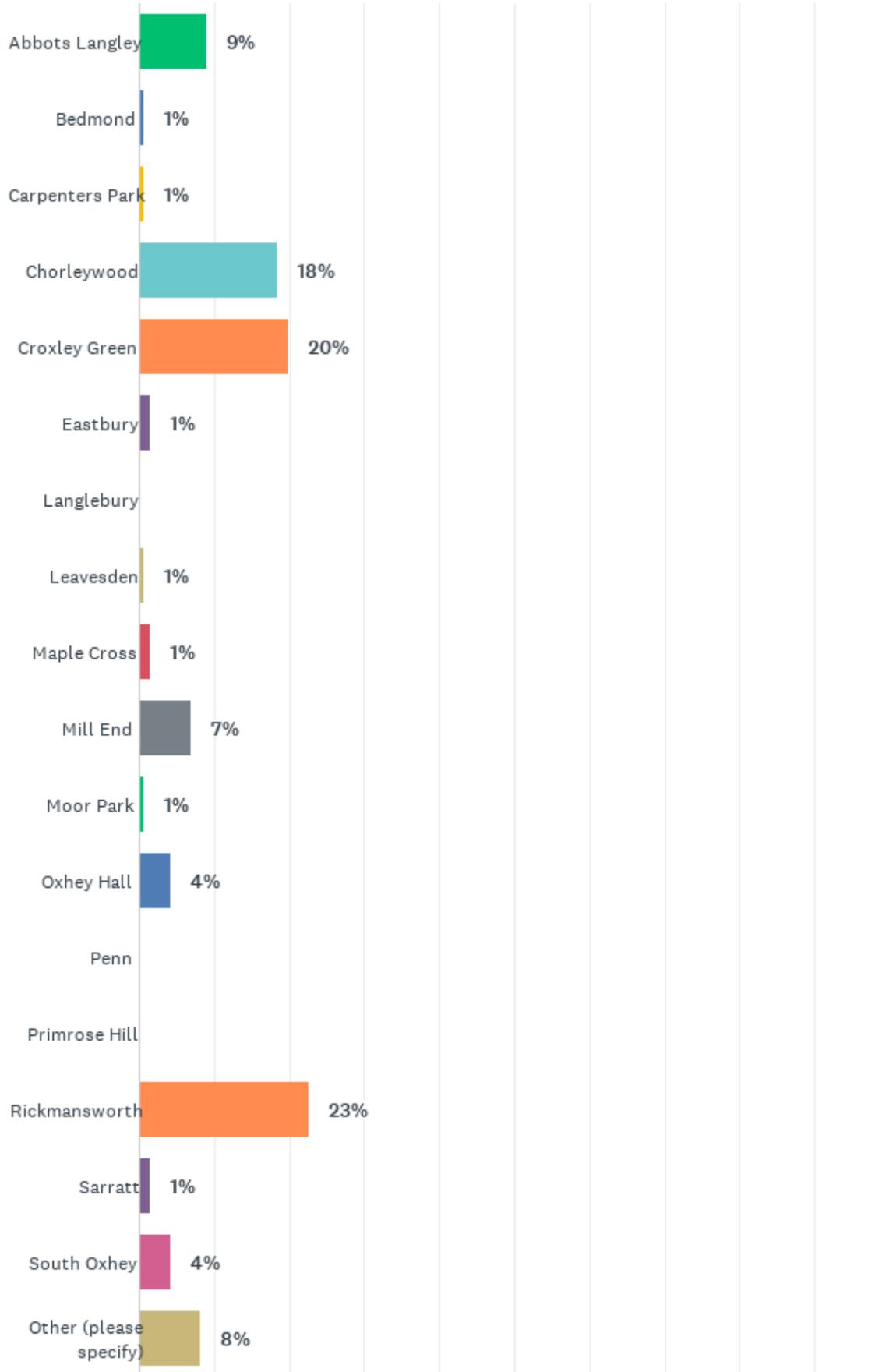
**Q17: Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?**

Answered: 143 Skipped: 44



### Q18: Where do you live?

Answered: 146 Skipped: 41



**Q19: Are you currently employed, self-employed, retired or otherwise not in paid work?**

Answered: 143 Skipped: 44

