

Peterborough Climate Debate

In July 2019, Peterborough City Council declared a climate emergency and made two commitments; to make the council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030 and to support Peterborough in becoming a net-zero carbon city.

Every resident, business, organisation and community group has a role to play in supporting Peterborough to become a net-zero carbon city. City wide decarbonisation is an ambitious challenge requiring significant change. To have the highest chance of meeting this ambition, we need to develop plans to decarbonise which are supported by Peterborough's residents, organisations, businesses and communities. Peterborough City Council ran a series of climate change debates, inviting the public and schools to share their views on how the city should decarbonise to find out which pathways might be best supported from our community. The feedback we receive from the Peterborough Climate Debate will help direct the development of the climate change action plan.



Net zero is the state of a country, a city, an organisation or an individual where they are capturing as much carbon emissions as they are emitting.

Debate format

The debates were delivered in two-hour workshops, both in person and online. Presentation materials were also available online for those wishing to view the presentation in their own time or run a debate with their organisation or community group. The format consisted of the following:



Learning – Information including data on carbon emissions and options for decarbonisation was shared with opportunities to ask questions.



Discussion - participants discussed their opinions on how best to decarbonise.



Feedback – respondents shared their views via a questionnaire.

This format was adapted for use by schools to make sure the voices of our young people are heard. Four short lesson plans were prepared for teachers to share with their students. Pupils provided their feedback through an in-class survey with results shared with the council.

The results of the questionnaires from the public and schools are summarised in the following feedback. This will be used to inform the development of the emerging Peterborough Climate Action Plan.

85 people responded to the general version of the questionnaire. At least 989 pupils responded to the young people's version.

The council would like to thank Anglia Ruskin University Peterborough and the Youth Council for running Peterborough Climate Debate events.

The debate opened in November 2022 and closed in March 2023.

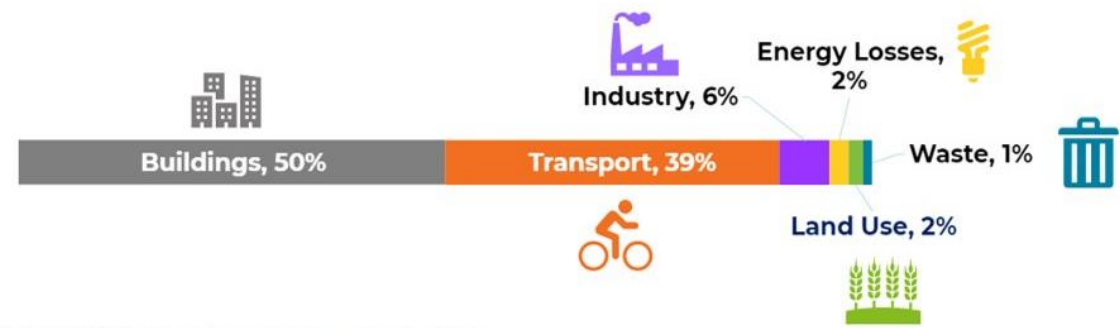
Peterborough emissions


The Debate sessions ran in 2022/23. The latest available data was used to inform participants of current emissions.

47

In 2020 Peterborough emitted 1.154 million tonnes CO₂e. This is 5.7 tonnes CO₂e per person.

50% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings; with 39% from transport.



 In addition, Peterborough is also responsible for the goods and services used in the city, but produced elsewhere.

Buildings

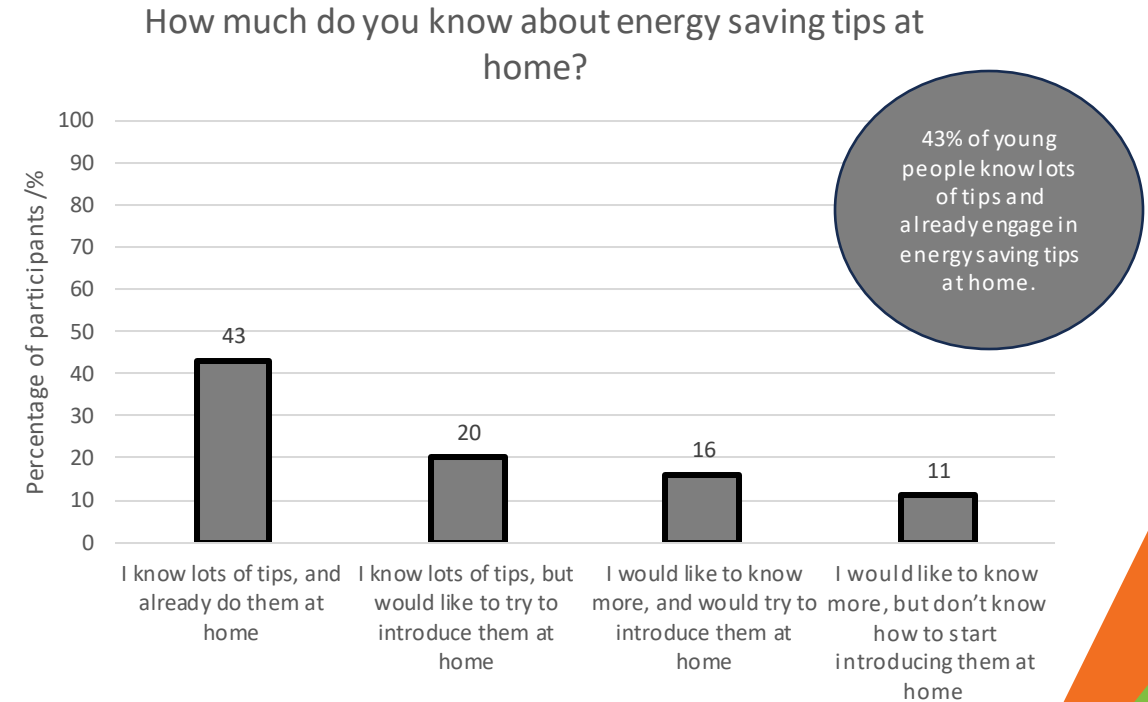
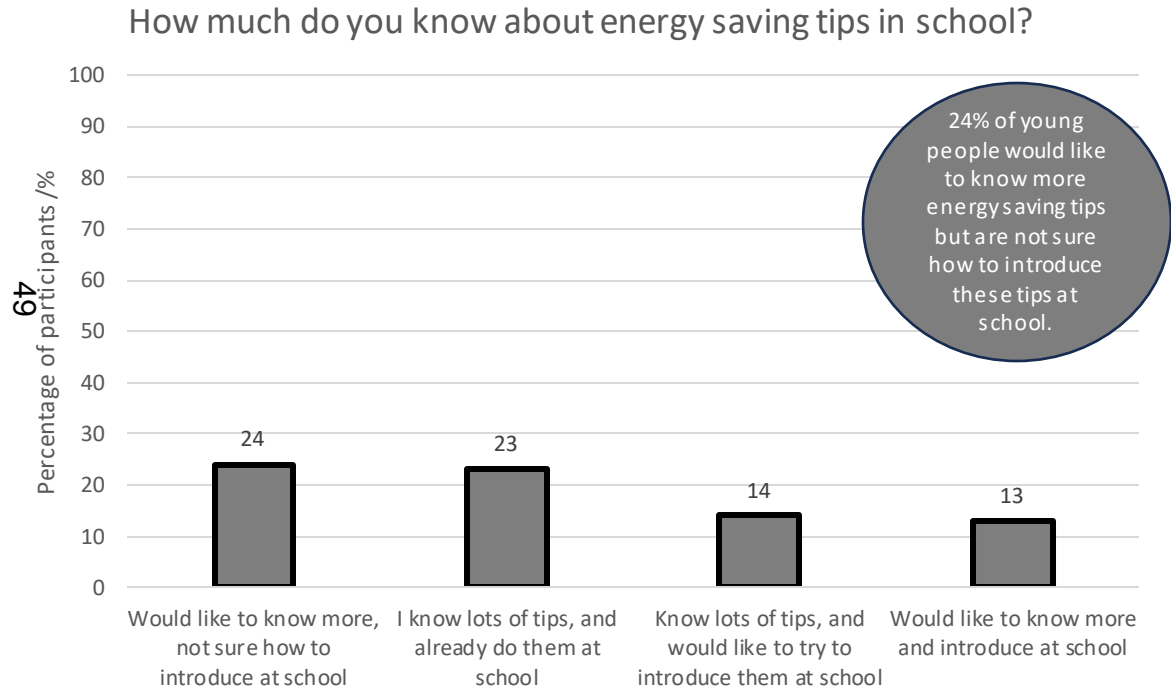


640,704
tonnes
CO₂e

Buildings are Peterborough's largest emitter. Buildings account for 50% of Peterborough's emissions.

To reduce buildings emissions, we need to reduce our heating and electricity use and/or switch to low carbon renewable sources of heating and electricity.

Young people's knowledge of energy savings

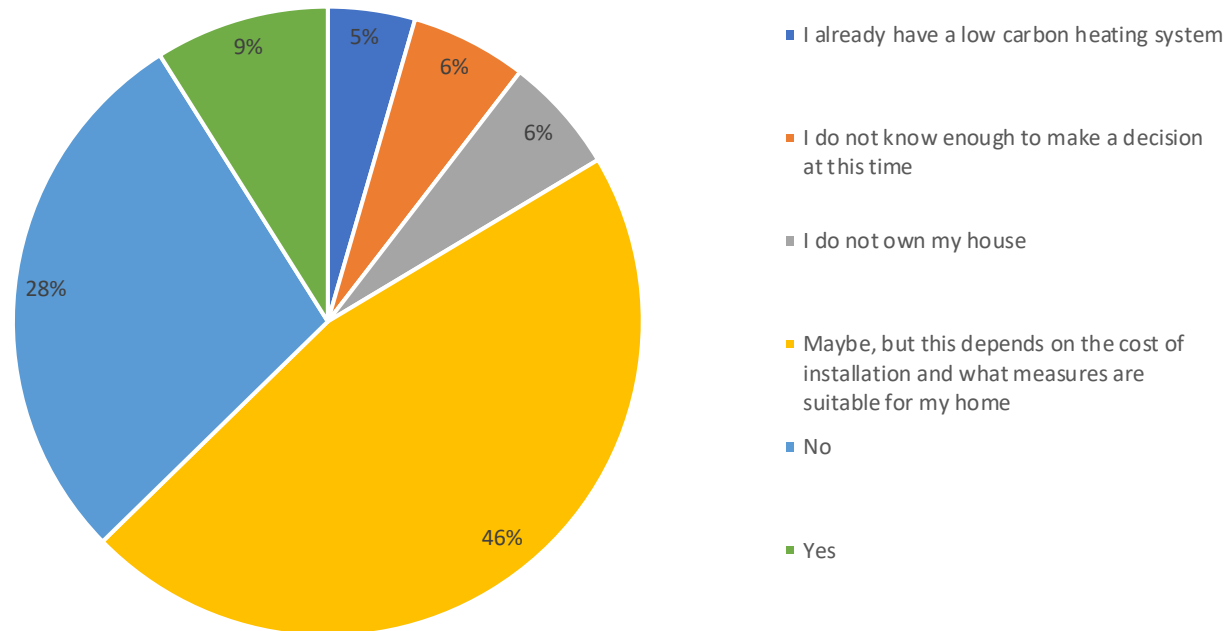


920 young people responded to these questions, 89 from primary schools, 831 from secondary schools.



Installing low carbon heating

If you or your family own your own home, do you intend to install a new low carbon heating system in the next 5 years?



9% of respondents who own their home, intend to install a new low carbon heating system in the next 5 years.

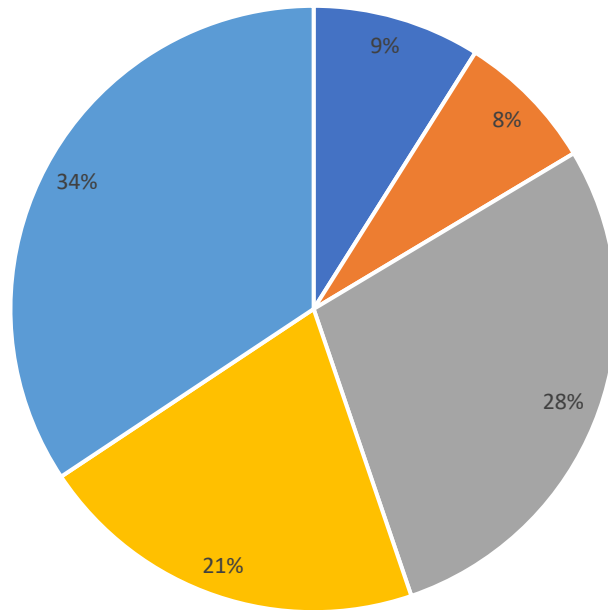
46% of respondents who own their own home would consider installing a new low carbon heating system, dependent on costs and suitable measures.

67 respondents



Joining a low carbon heating network

If you own your home, would you consider joining a local low carbon heating network?



- I do not know enough to make a decision at this time
- I do not own my house
- Maybe, but this depends on the cost of installation and what network is available for my home
- No
- Yes

34% of respondents who own their home would consider joining a local low carbon heating network.

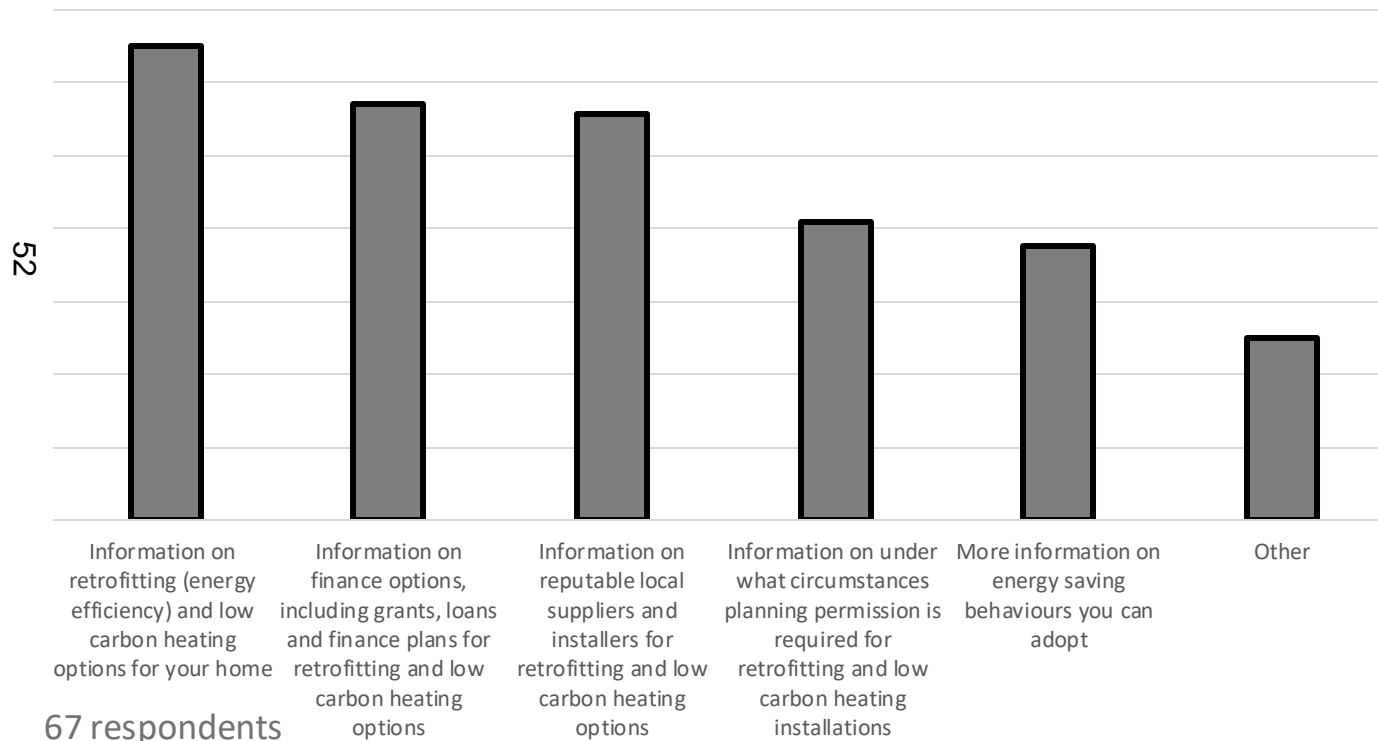
28% of respondents who own their own home would consider joining a local low carbon heating network, dependent on costs and the type of network available.

67 respondents



Reducing heating emissions

If you own your home, what support would help you to lower your heating emissions? Please rank in order of importance.



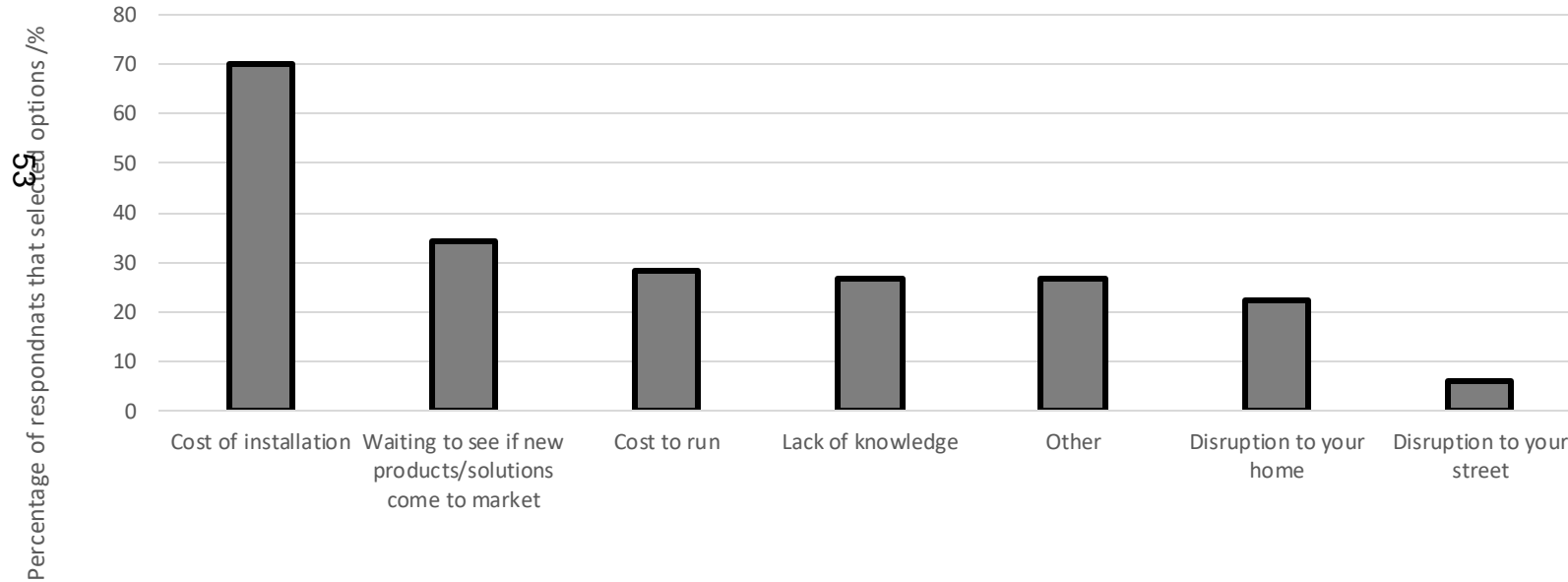
Respondents would find information on retrofitting and low carbon heating options to be useful in supporting them to reduce their heating emissions.

Other ideas for further support to lower heating emissions included; access to impartial advice on low carbon heating options and access to alternative heating options (e.g., hydrogen fuel cells in the local area).



Barriers to low carbon heating

What are the barriers holding you back from installing a low carbon heating system?
Please tick all that apply.



70% of respondents highlighted that the cost of installation is a barrier to installing low carbon heating.

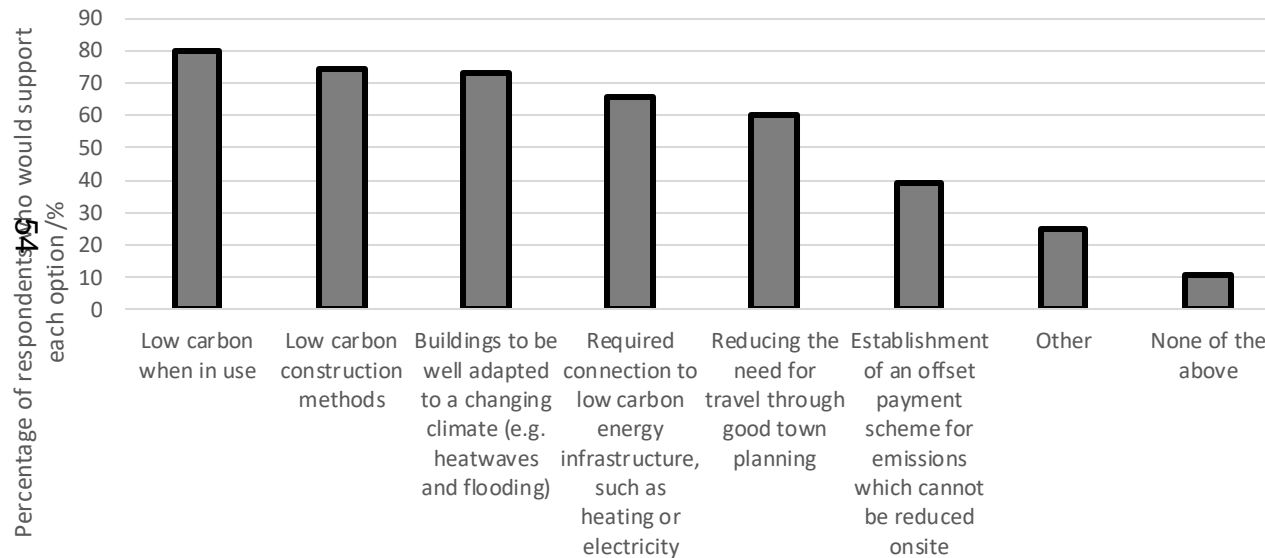
Other barriers to installing low carbon heating included; understanding how low carbon technologies would perform in their home (considering construction and insulation type), knowledge of a reputable local supplier, cohesion with current radiators/heating distribution system, size and aesthetics of the low carbon heating solution, concerns over capabilities of the low carbon technology (unable to provide as much heat or requiring a hot water tank) and the recent purchase of a boiler.

85 respondents



New build planning policies

What should be included in planning policies for new builds? Please tick all that apply.



80% of respondents believed there should be a requirement for new builds to be low carbon when in use.

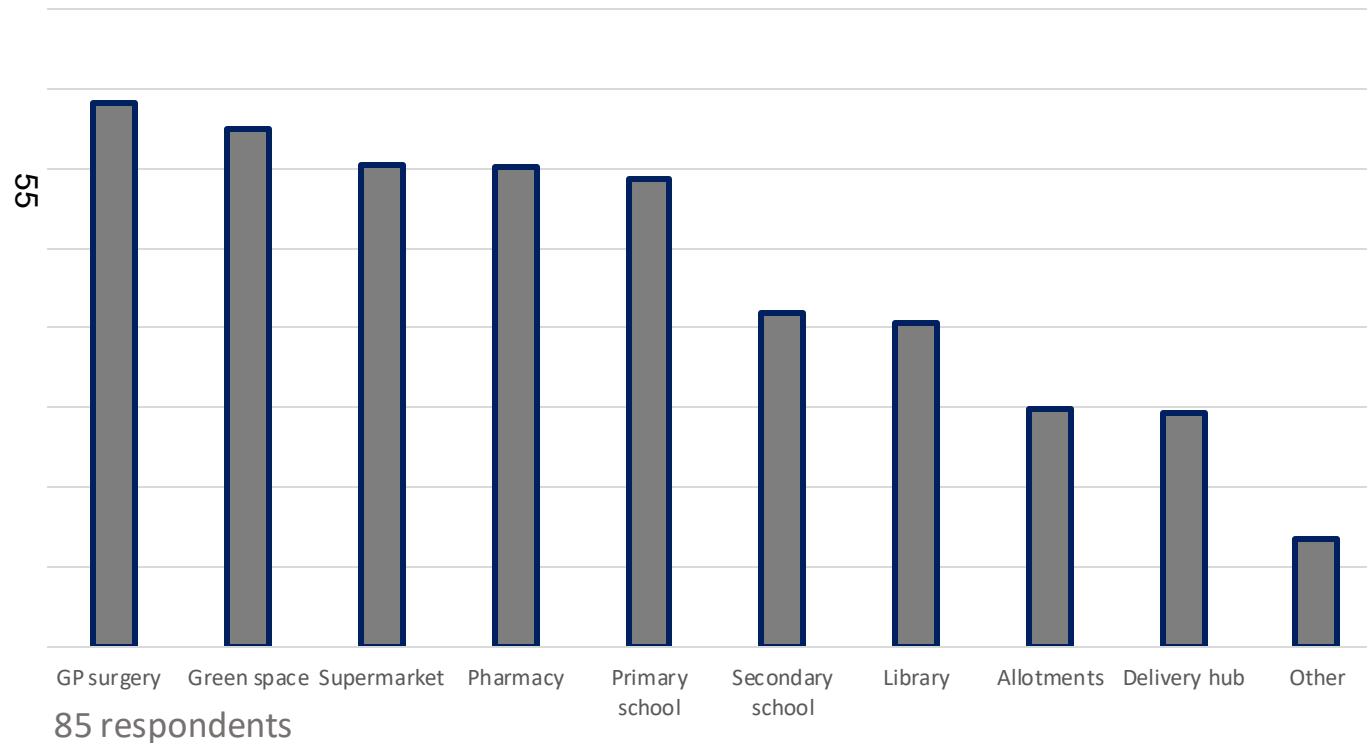
Other suggestions of what should be included in planning policies for new builds included; buildings to be required to be built to Passivhaus standard, enhanced controls to enforce planning policies, consideration of building lifespan, increased greenspaces to allow residents to grow food in their gardens, protection of biodiversity, provision of high quality public transport and technologies that reduce water use (e.g., rainwater catchment).

85 respondents



Facilities in walking/cycling distance

In a new housing development, what facilities should be within walking/cycling distance. Please rank in order of importance.



A GP surgery, green space, and a supermarket were the top 3 supported elements to be within walking or cycling distance in a new housing development.

Other suggestions included; community spaces (e.g., a community hall/centre which could incorporate a library, pharmacy and green space), local shops and small businesses (e.g., greengrocer, baker, corner shop), sports and entertainment facilities which are appropriate for a range of ages, hospitality services, a transport hub, water features, dog bins, footpaths with biodiversity and a wooded area.

Transport



501,624
tonnes
CO₂e

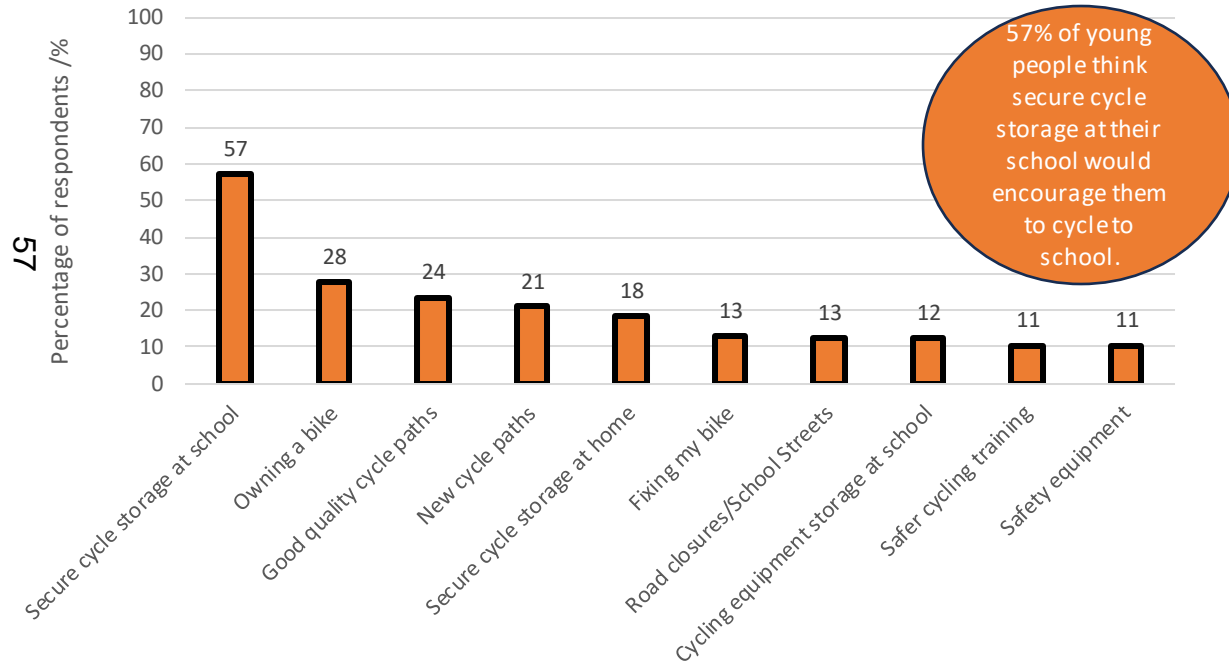
Transport is Peterborough's second largest emitter. Transport accounts for 39% of Peterborough's emissions.

To reduce transport emissions, we need to reduce travel by car, lorry and plane; increase travel by public transport, walking and cycling; and switch to a low carbon fuel when a vehicle is used.

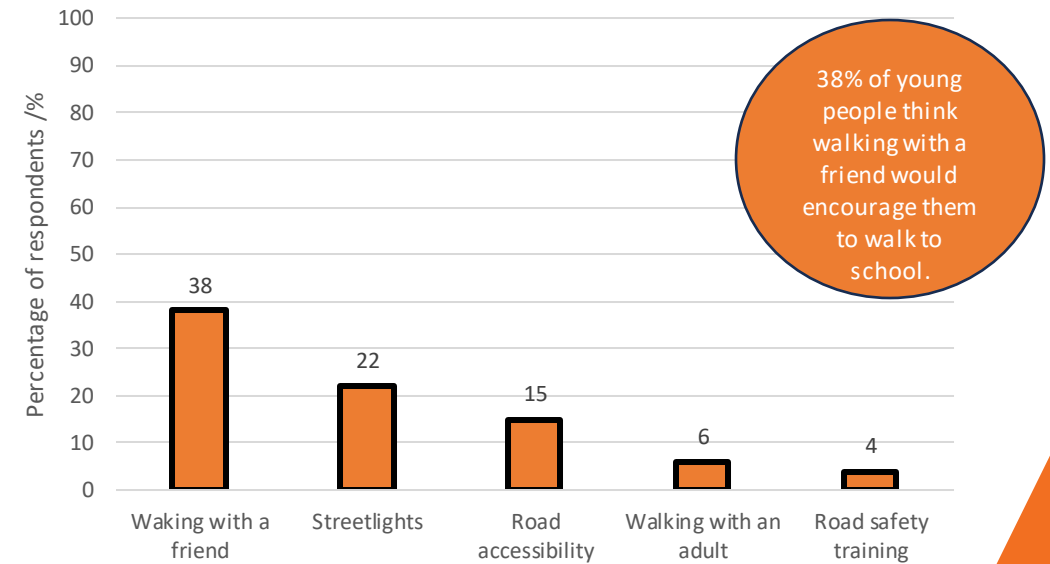
Walking and cycling to school



What would encourage you to cycle short journeys (such as home to school)?



What might make you walk to school more often?

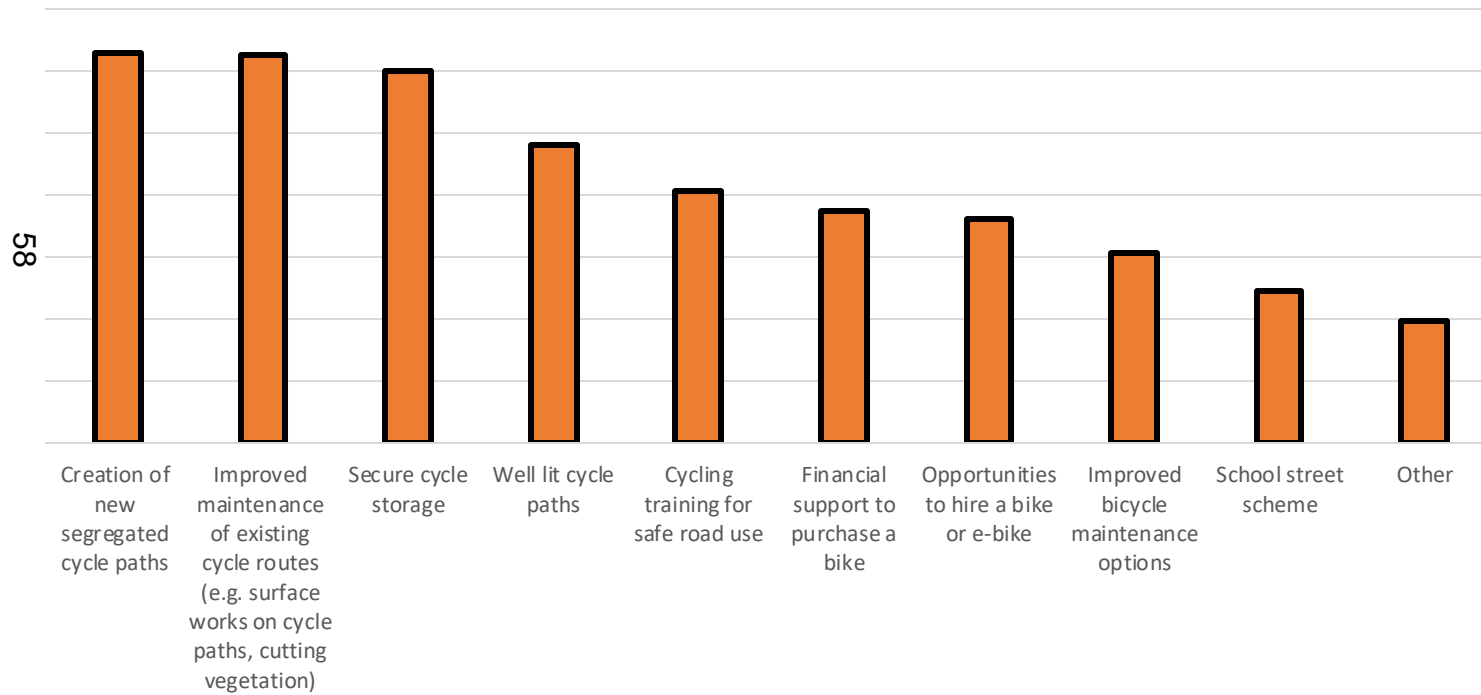


952 young people responded to these questions, 145 from primary schools, 807 from secondary schools.

Cycling



What improvements would support you to cycle short journeys? Place rank in order of importance.



77 respondents

Respondents supported new segregated cycle paths, improved maintenance of existing cycle routes, and secure cycle storage.

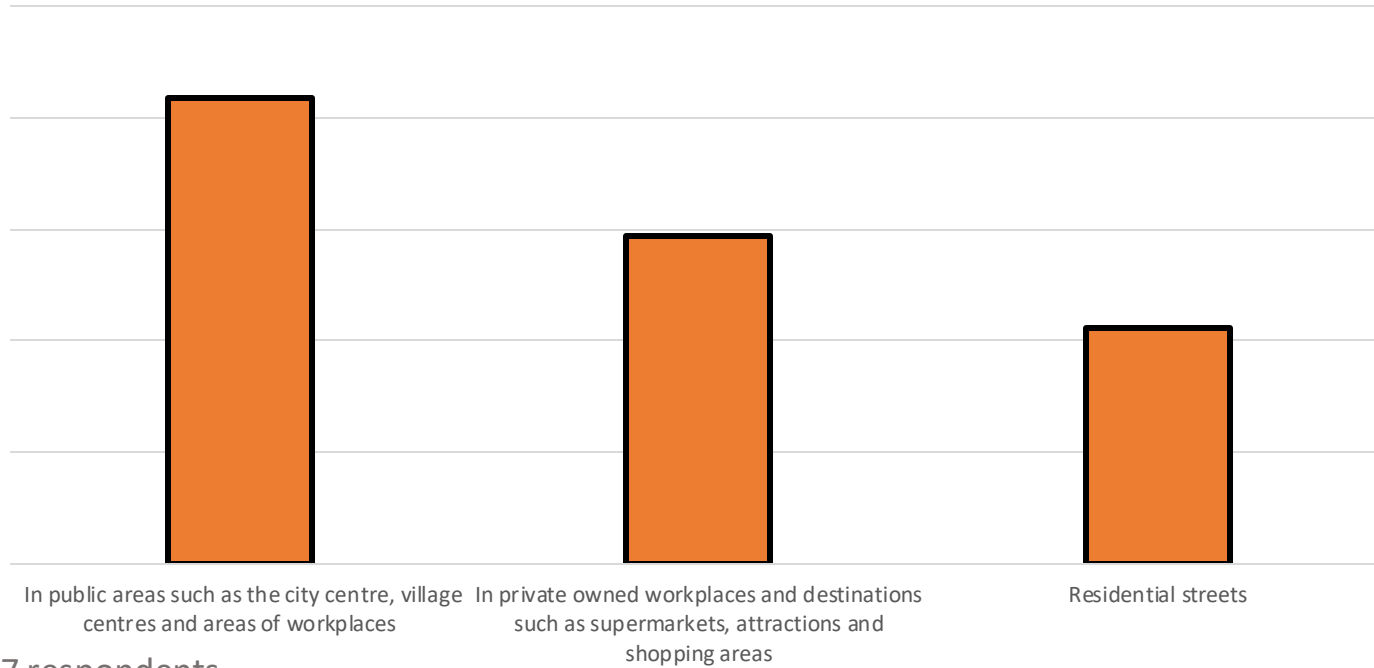
Other ideas included; publicity of cycling co-benefits (e.g. cheaper, quicker than walking, often quicker on shorter journeys, no parking problems, improved health, reduced pollution), educating car drivers (e.g. through road safety training) on the importance of prioritising cyclists, litter-free roads, re-allocation of road space to create faster routes for cyclists, improved connectivity of cycle routes (e.g. at junctions) to allow for direct, safer, and convenient active travel, buses having adequate cycle storage to encourage multi modal journeys, and improved enforcement of poor road use by drivers.

Cycle storage



Where should secure cycle storage be prioritised. Please rank in order of importance.

59



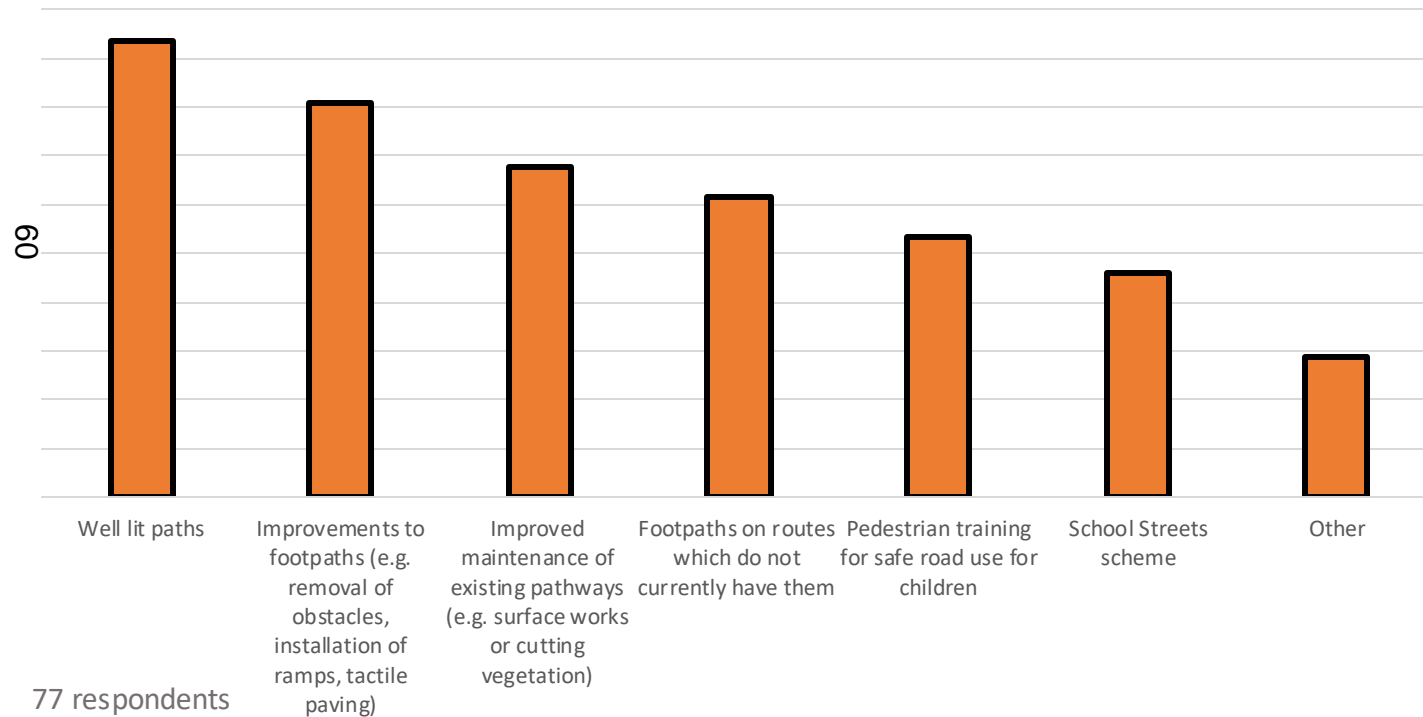
77 respondents

More respondents wanted more cycle storage in public areas, such as the city centre, village centres and areas of workplaces.

Walking



What improvements would support you to walk short journeys? Please rank in order of importance.



Respondents favoured well-lit paths, improvements to footpaths, and improved maintenance of existing pathways.

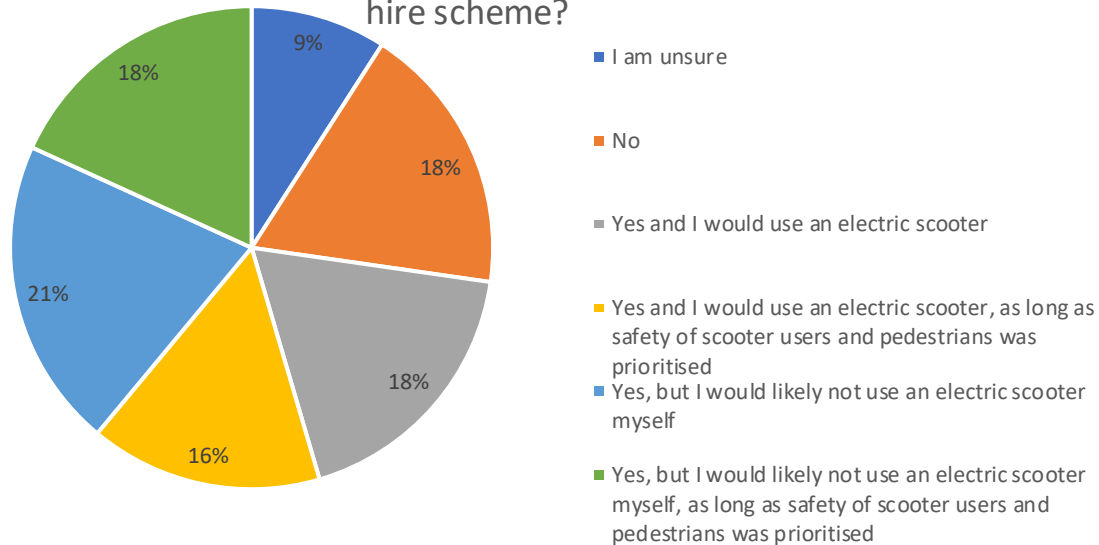
Other improvements that would support participants to walk short journeys included; additional tree planting to increase the aesthetic of walking routes, maintenance of underpasses, installation of benches at intervals to support inclusive mobility, improving the safety of roads, public spaces and walkways (e.g., through surveillance, increasing pedestrian crossings and decreasing anti-social behaviour), reducing pedestrian wait times at junctions and crossing points, reduced pavement parking and reducing exposure to exhaust fumes.

Electric scooters



It is not currently legal to use an electric scooter on public roads, pavements or cycle lanes, unless there is an electric scooter trial in progress. There is no trial in Peterborough currently.

If the law changed, would you be supportive of an electric scooter hire scheme?



77 respondents

73% of respondents were supportive of an electric scooter hire scheme.

21% of respondents were supportive of an electric scooter hire scheme but would not use an electric scooter themselves;

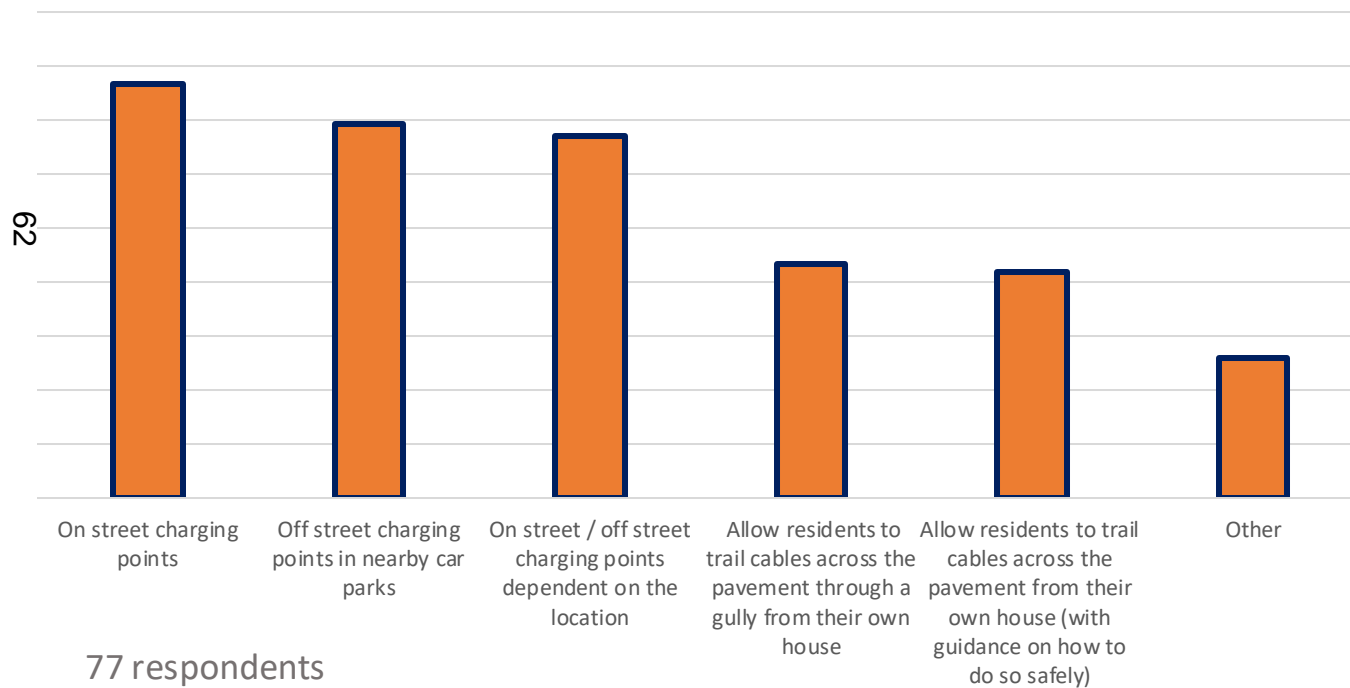
18% of respondents were supportive of an electric scooter hire scheme and would use the scheme, an additional 16% of respondents would use the scheme if safety was prioritised.

Reasons participants were not supportive of an electric scooter hire scheme included; a concern regarding the safety of users, pedestrians and cyclists (e.g. the speed of electric scooters and frequent electric scooter defects), and the environmental concern of electric scooters (e.g. batteries and charging).



Residential EV charging points

In the roll-out of electric vehicle charging points, what solution would you prefer for residential areas? Please rank in order of preference.



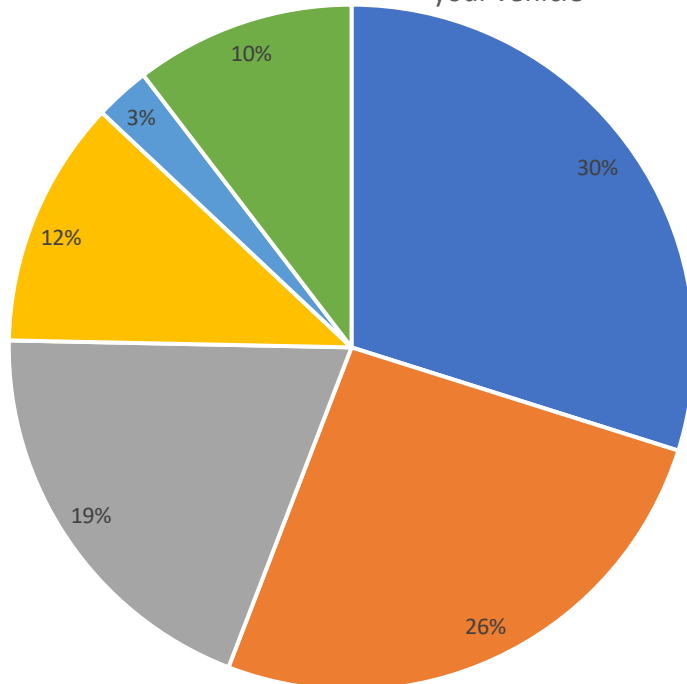
Respondents would prefer on street charging points, off street charging points in nearby car parks, or on street/off street charging points dependent on the location.

Other solutions that participants preferred for residential areas included; EV charging points in streetlights and EV battery swap stations.

Public EV charging points



If charging your car using a public charging point, how far away from your home would you be prepared to charge your vehicle? Please choose the maximum distance away you would be prepared to charge your vehicle



- I would predominantly charge using non-public charging points
- Up to 160 m / a tenth of a mile (2 minute walk)
- Up to 400 m / a quarter of a mile (5 minute walk)
- Up to 800 m / half a mile (10 minute walk)
- Up to 1.2 km / three-quarters of a mile (15 minute walk)
- Up to 1.6 km / one mile (20 minute walk)

25% of respondents would park their electric vehicle a 10 minute walk away to charge.

44% of respondents would park their electric vehicle a 5 minute walk away to charge.

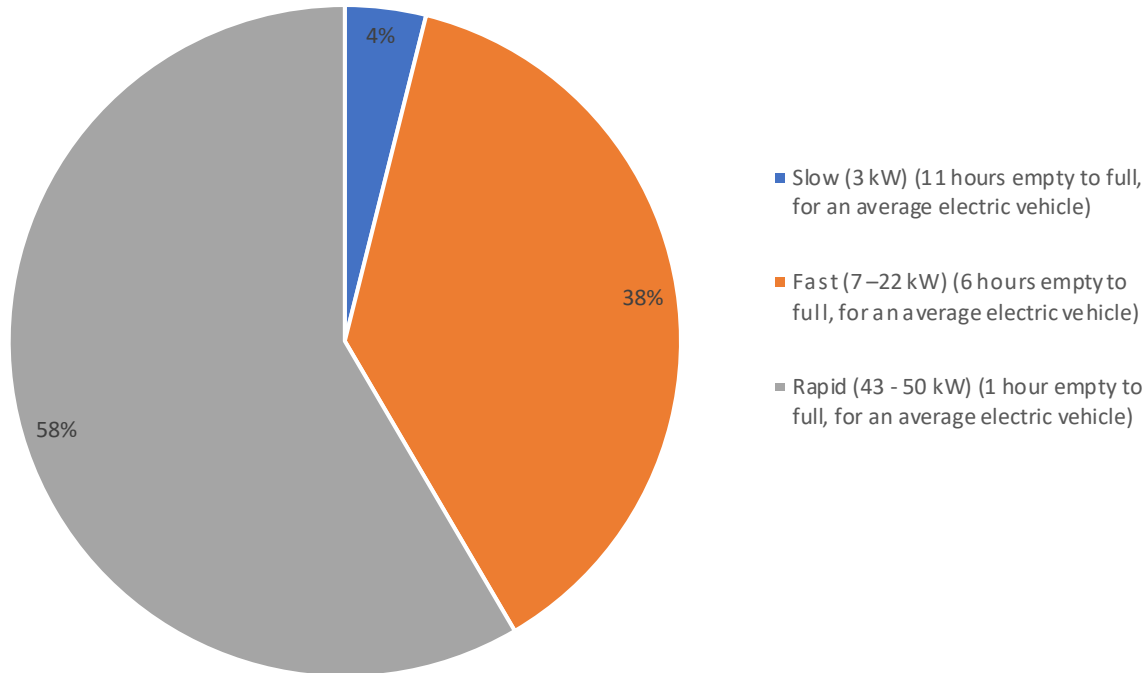
63

77 respondents

Public EV charging points



For publicly accessible charging points within residential areas, what kind would you prefer?



58% of respondents would prefer rapid charging points.

38% of respondent would prefer fast charging points.

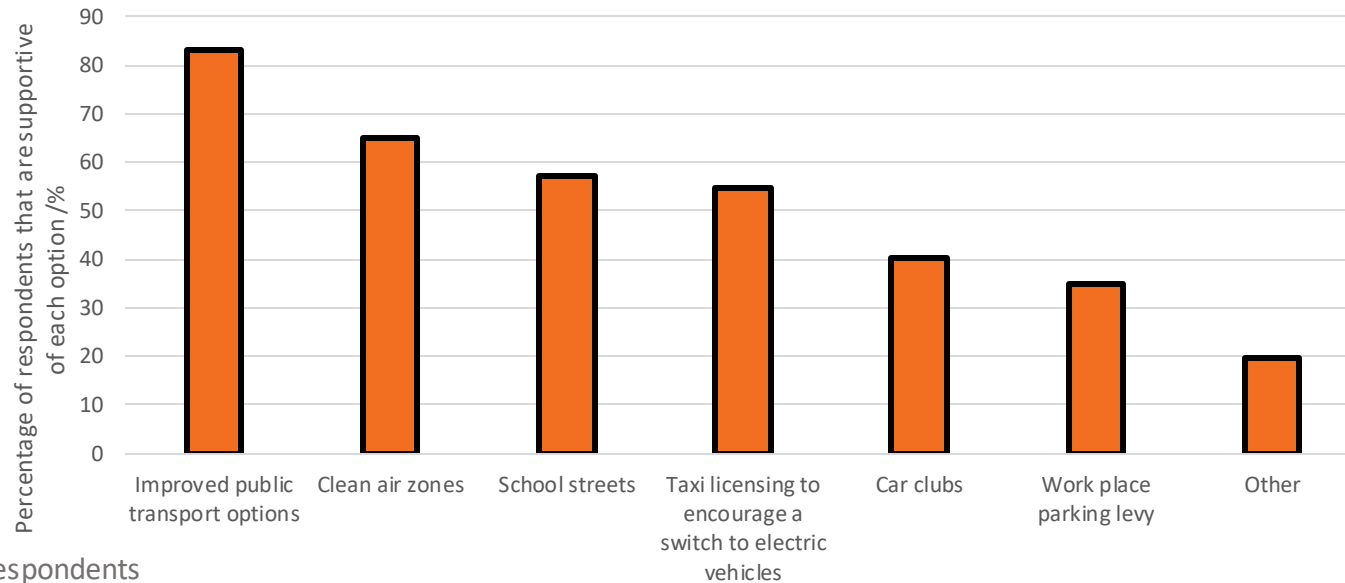
64

77 respondents

Transport schemes



What schemes are you supportive of? Please tick all that apply.



65

77 respondents

School streets: Where a school signs up to this scheme, the street by a school is closed at the start and end of the school day. This makes the area safer to walk and cycle and also improves air quality.

Workplace parking levy: In a scheme of this type, workplaces would pay an annual fee per parking space. Funds could go towards improving public transport.

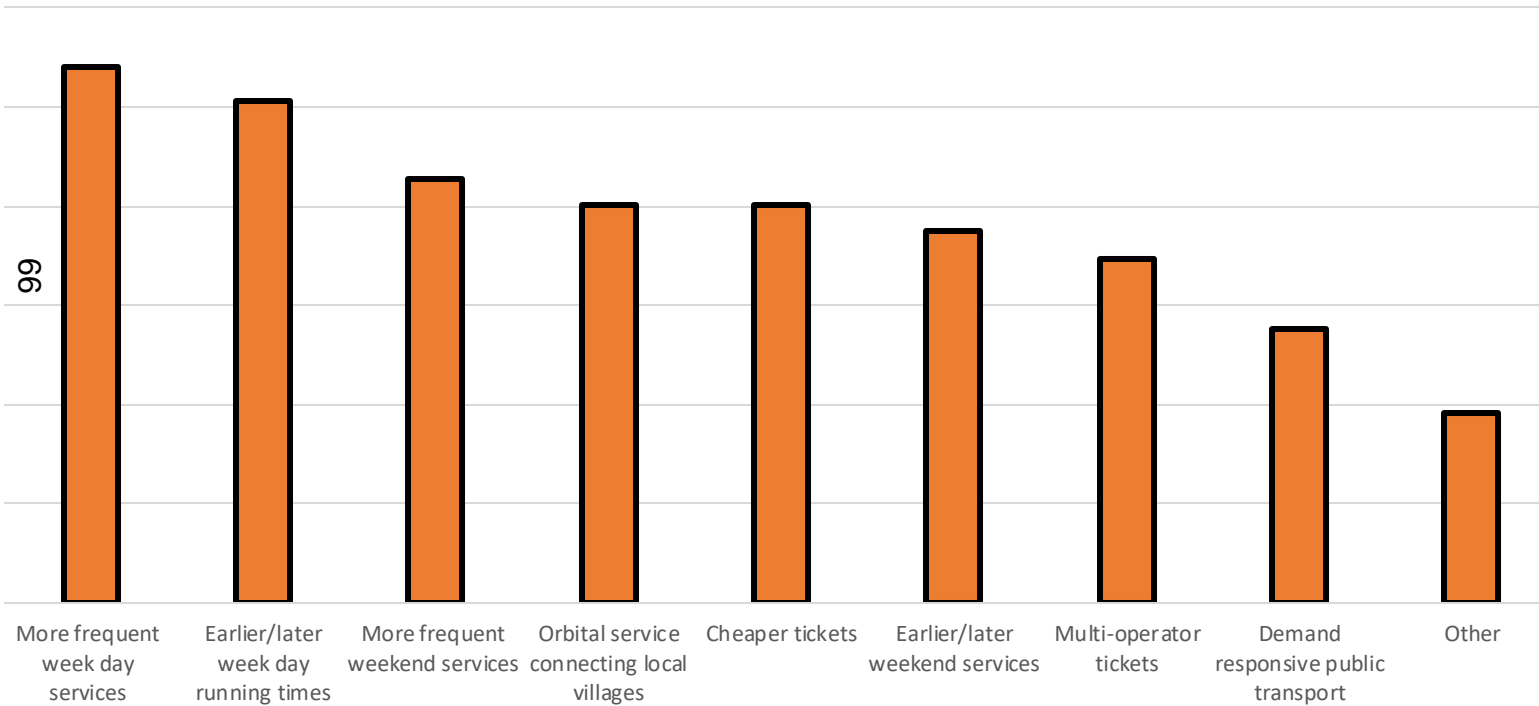
Respondents were most supportive of improved public transport options, clean air zones, School Street schemes, and taxi licensing to encourage a switch to electric vehicles.

Other schemes respondents were supportive of included; reallocation of road space to cyclists and e-scooters, low traffic neighbourhoods, council tax reduction for car free households, park and ride, disposal of city centre car parks to improve access to greenspace, a tram system, and a light rail system.

Buses



What improvements would you wish to see on the bus network? Please rank in order of importance.



77 respondents

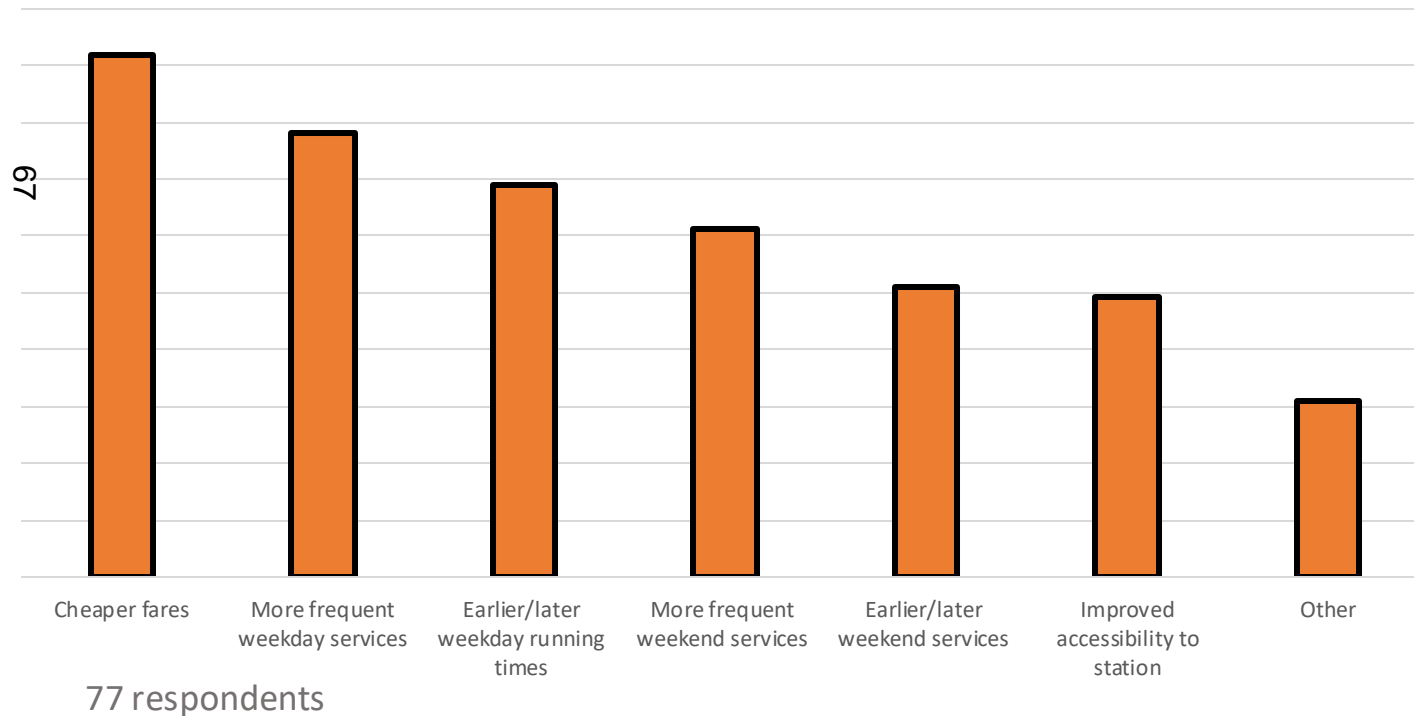
Respondents wanted more frequent weekday services, earlier/later weekday running times, and more frequent weekend services.

Other suggested improvements on the bus network included; peak hour routes between townships and employment areas, utilising the parkway and splitting routes to make journeys from the edge of the city into the city centre quicker, improving bus services in villages, a park and ride scheme, free bus services, increased reliability, improved live updates of bus arrival times, options for disabled/elderly users, road priority being given to buses over cars and lorries, reduced use of double decker buses when bus routes are consistently quiet, and family bus passes.

Trains



What improvements would you wish to see on the train? Please rank in order of importance.



Respondents wanted cheaper fares, more frequent weekday services, and earlier/later weekday running times.

Other improvements on the rail network included; better integration of bus and rail services to target onwards travel, multi-operator tickets, improved reliability and punctuality of services, improved rail interiors (e.g., clean and modern compartments), improved availability of seating, standardised ticket pricing, and rebuilding sections of the rail network (e.g., feeder lines).

Purchases



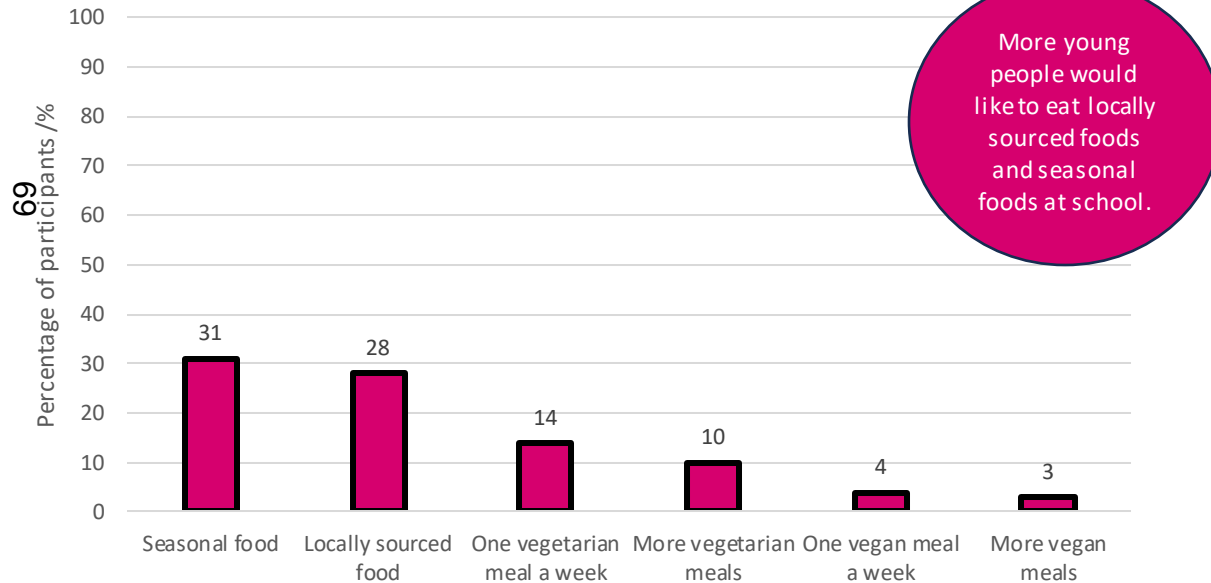
Peterborough is responsible for the goods and services used in the city, but produced elsewhere.

To reduce emissions from purchases, we need to reduce what we purchase and choose less carbon intensive purchases.

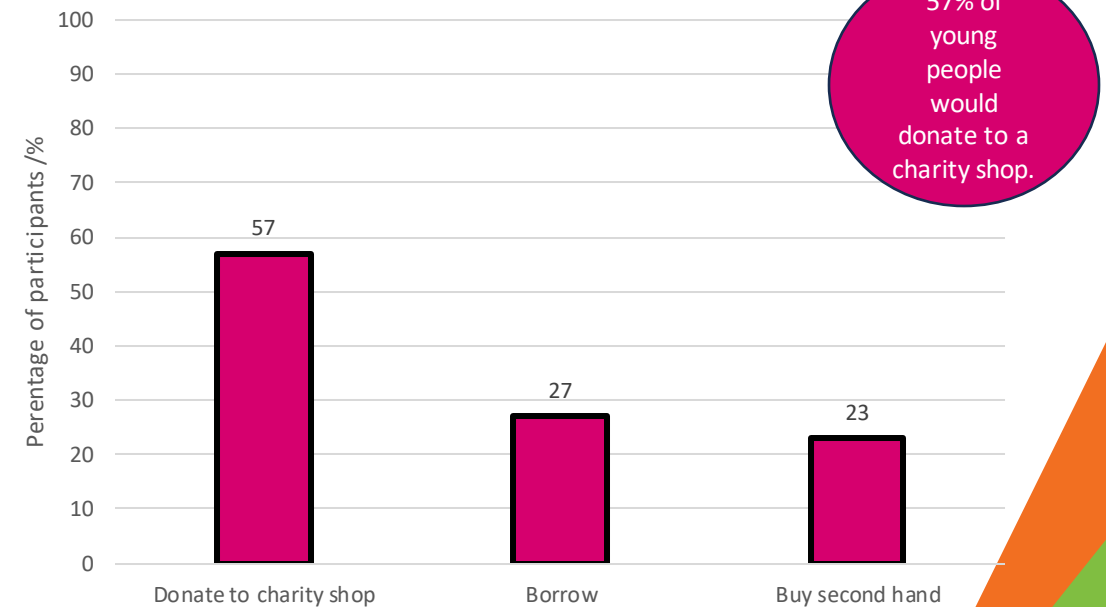
Young people's food and sharing preferences



What changes would you like to make to lower your food emissions at school?



What sharing activities would you do?

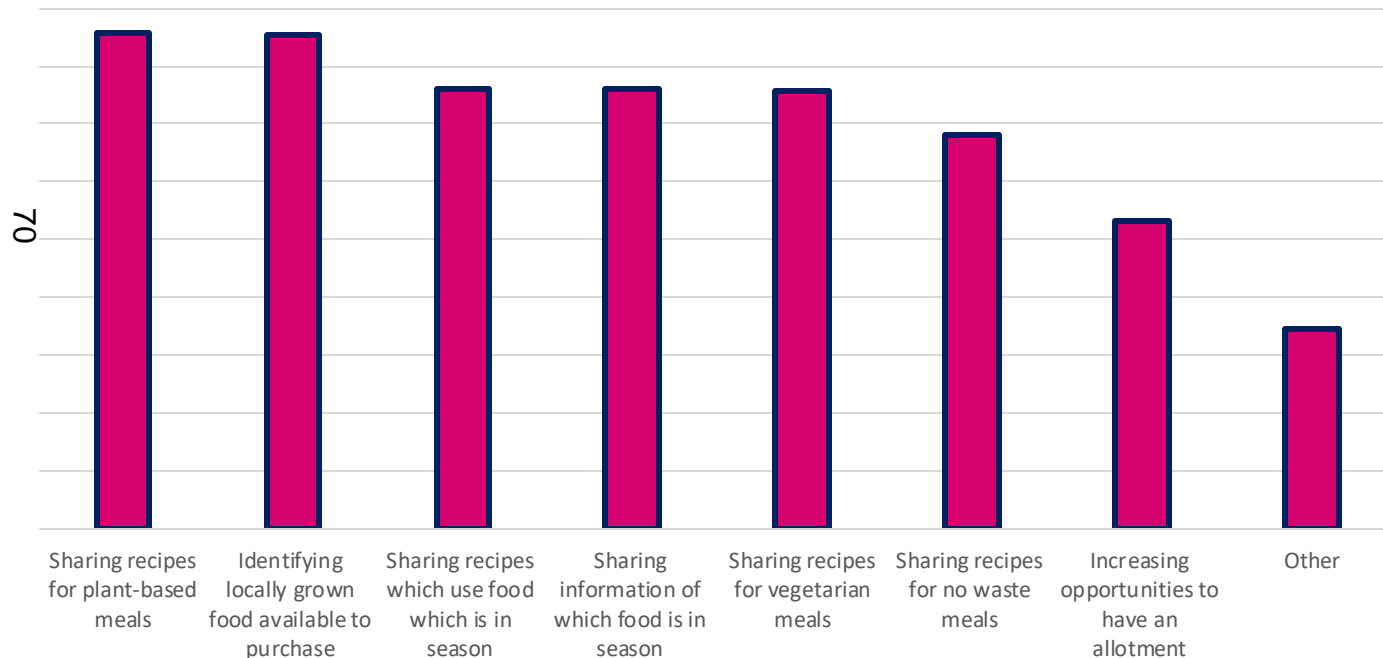


671 young people responded to these questions, 60 from primary schools, 611 from secondary schools.

Food



What would help you to eat less carbon intensive foods? Please rank in order of preference.



77 respondents

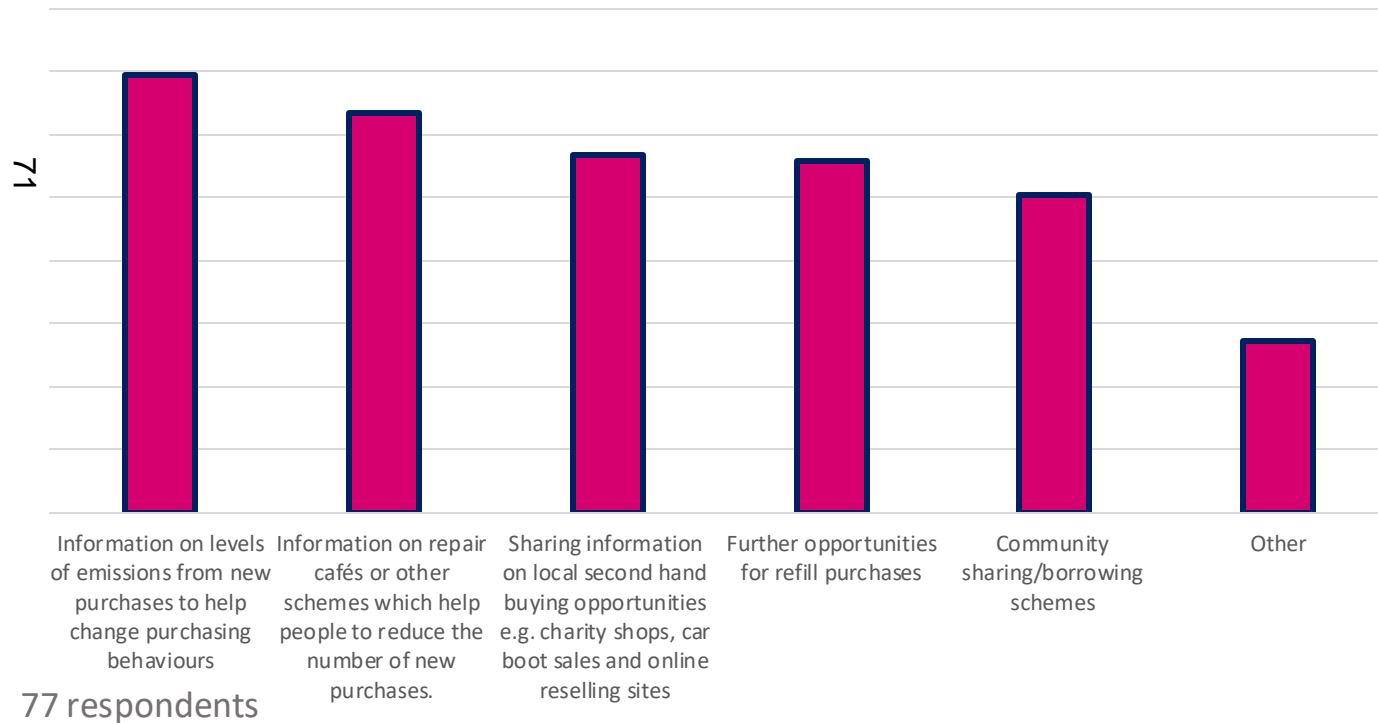
Respondents would like to share recipes for plant-based meals and recipes using food which is grown in season and would like support in identifying locally grown foods to buy.

Other options that participants suggested would help them to eat less carbon intensive foods included; an enforced planning law to restrict street advertisement of carbon intensive foods, education on the benefits of plant-based foods, publicity and funding support for local schemes, plant-based cooking courses, increased garden space for growing opportunities, food carbon labels to show the carbon emissions of a product, and cheaper low carbon food options.

Purchases



What would help you to reduce your emissions from what you purchase? Please rank in order of preference.



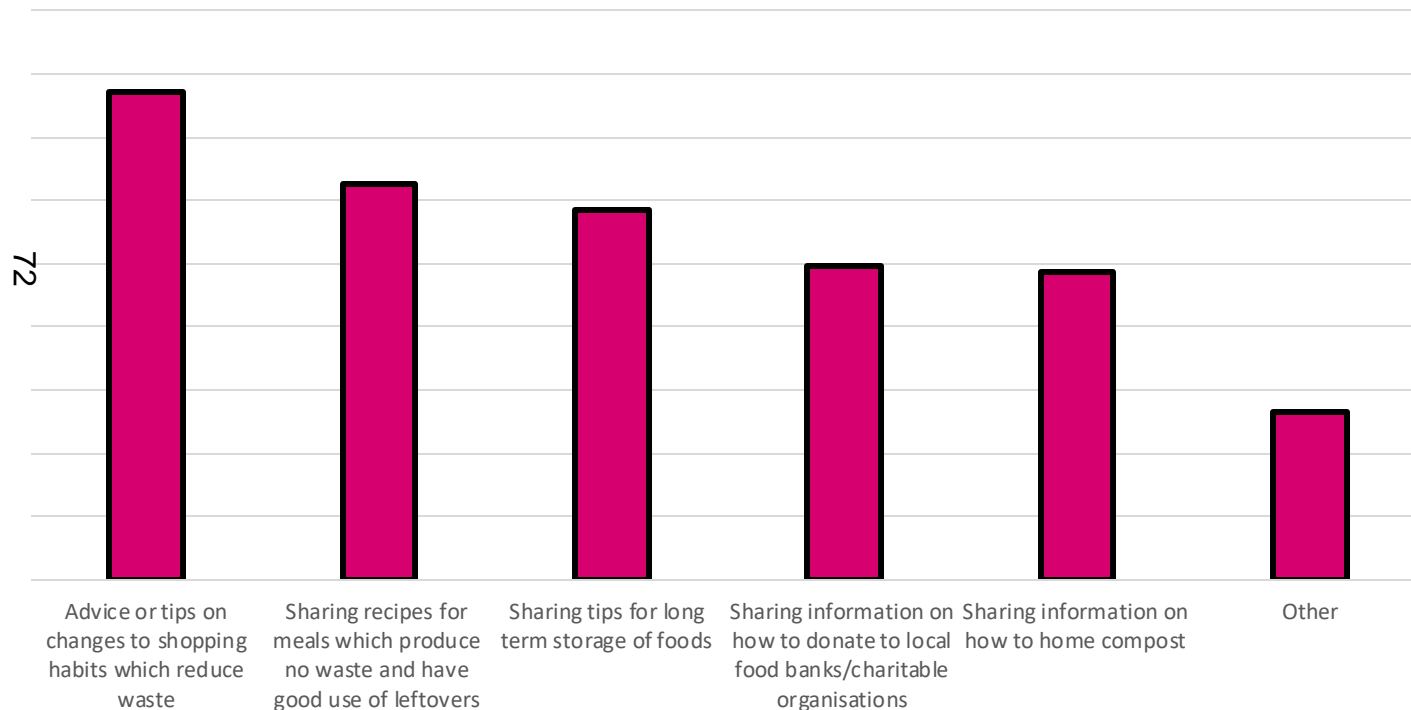
Respondents would find information on the greenhouse gas emissions of new purchases, details of repair cafes and information on opportunities for second hand purchases to be useful to support them to reduce their emissions.

Other options that would help participants to reduce their purchase emissions included; promotion of free selling/borrowing sites, a Government ban on single use plastics, Government legislation which targets sustainable packaging, increasing the variety Fairtrade products in shops, and carbon pricing.

Food waste



What would support you to reduce your food waste? Please rank in order of importance.



Respondents would like to see advice or tips on changing shopping habits to help support waste reduction, tips shared for the long-term storage of food and information on how to donate to local food banks and charitable organisations.

Other options that would support respondents to reduce their food waste included; education on food miles, greater availability of loose produce, support for reduced food waste from supermarkets, supermarkets removing 'best before' and 'use before' date labels from non-perishable foods.

77 respondents

Waste



13,976
tonnes
CO₂e

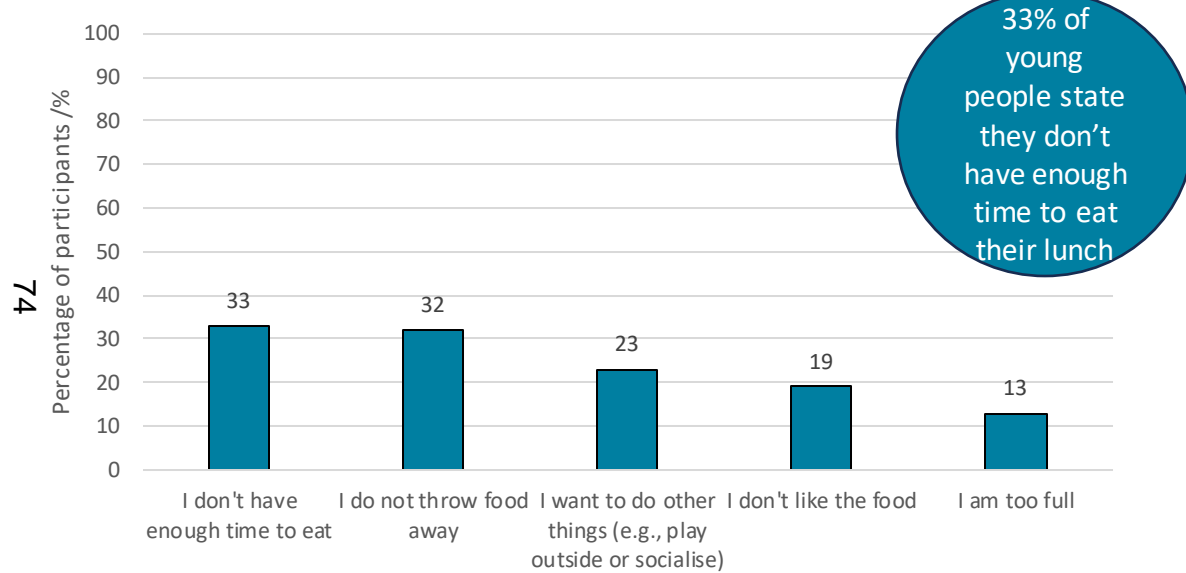
Waste accounts for 1% of Peterborough's emissions.

To reduce waste emissions we need to reduce what we throw away, so products do not need to be remade and so greenhouse gases are not emitted when products breakdown.

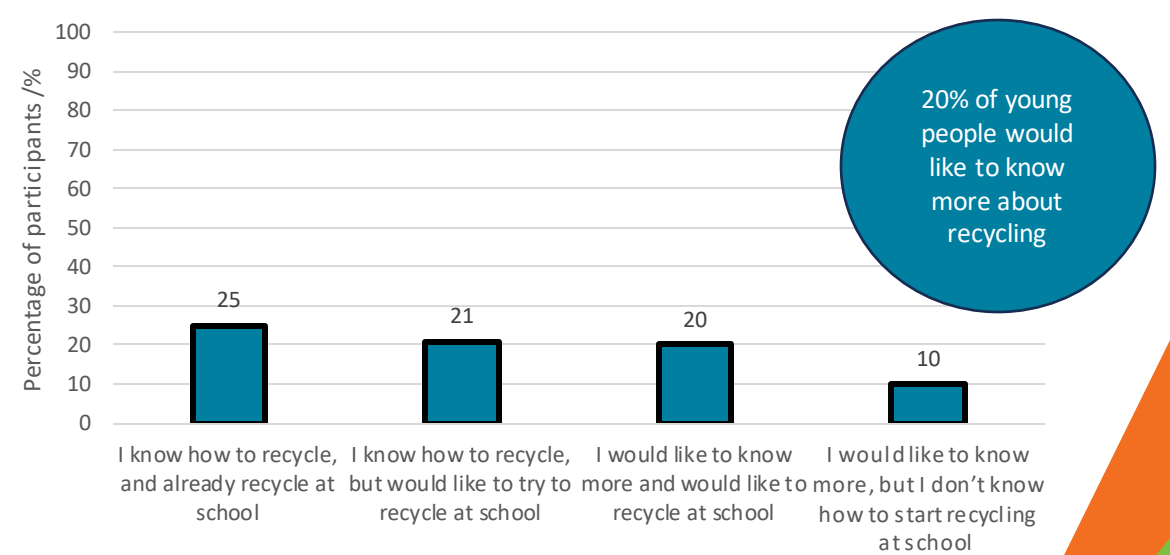


Waste at schools

Why do you throw food from your school lunch away?



How much do you know about how to recycle at school?

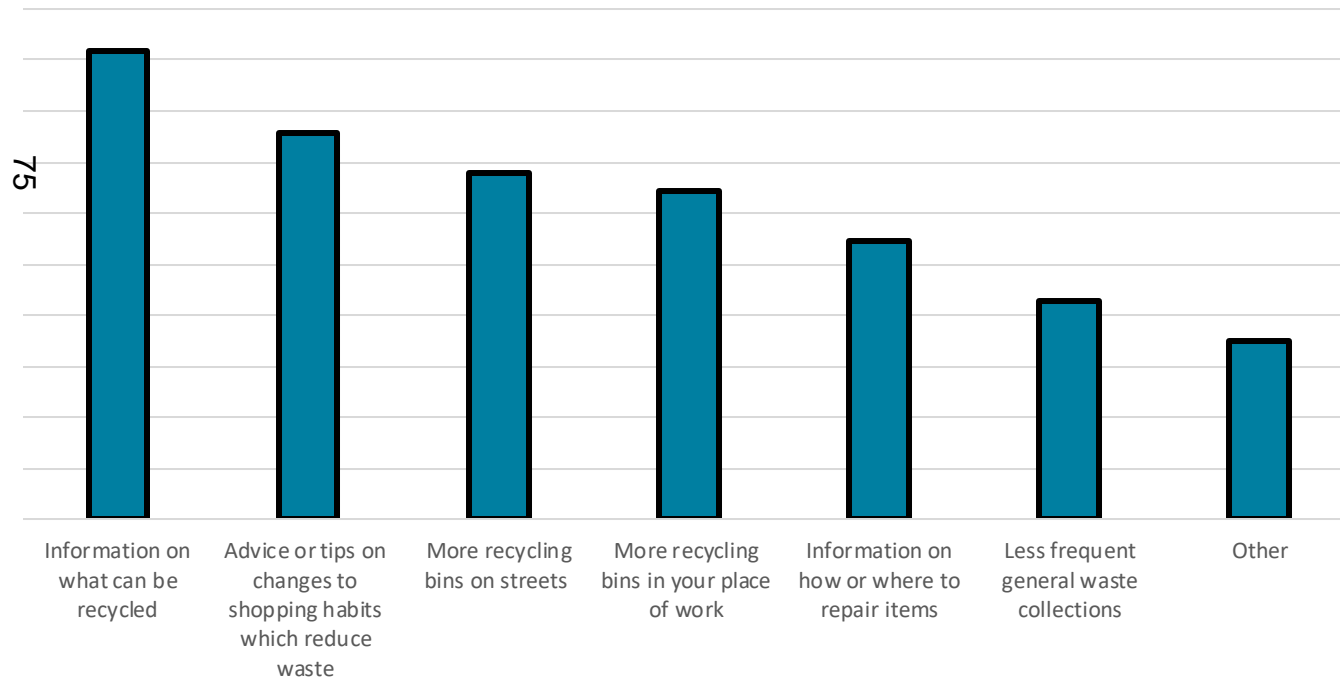


671 young people responded to these questions, 60 from primary schools, 611 from secondary schools.



Waste reduction

What would support you to decrease your waste? Please rank in order of importance.



77 respondents

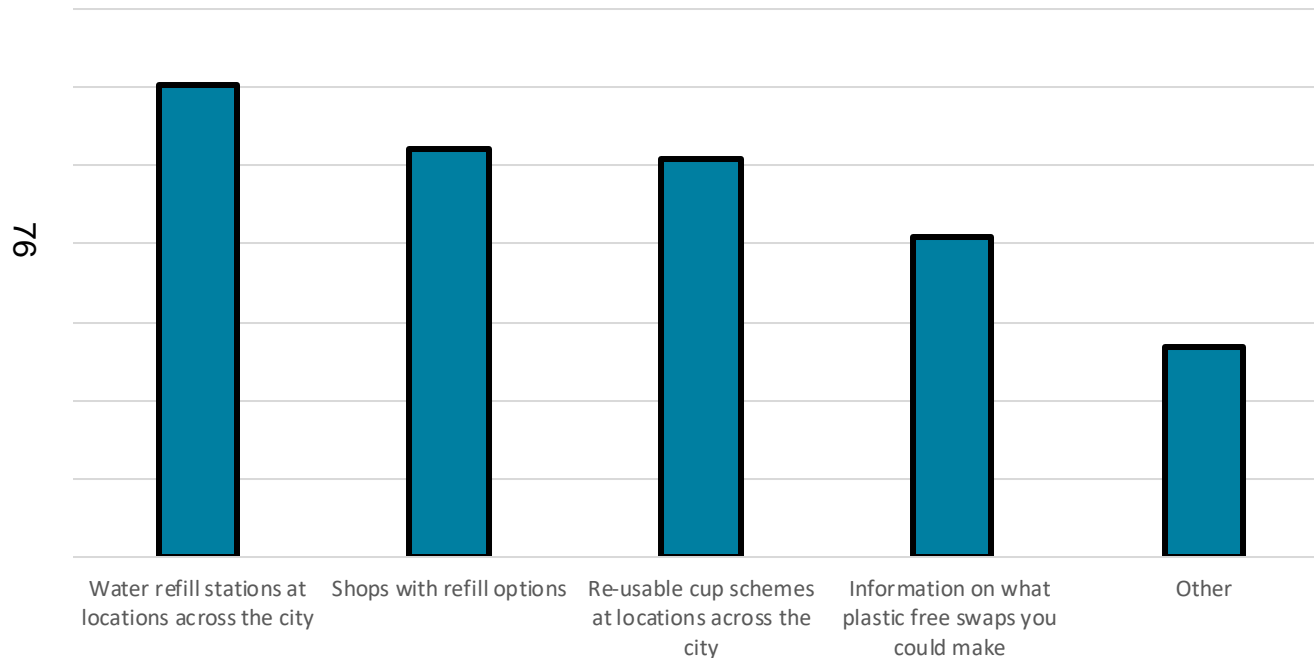
Respondents would find information on what can be recycled, advice or tips to alter shopping habits, and more recycling bins on streets to be useful in supporting them to reduce their waste.

Other options that would support participants to decrease their waste included; ensuring schools have the facilities to recycle, increased frequency of recycling collections, increased frequency of bulky waste collections, improved waste disposal options, further opportunities for refill purchases, further opportunities for repair/repurpose cafes, recycling rebates, communal waste disposal systems, Government legislation to support sustainable packaging, and online sales taxes.



Single-use plastics

What would support you to decrease your use of single use plastics?
Please rank in order of importance.



77 respondents

Respondents would find water refill stations, shops with refill options, and re-usable cup schemes useful to decrease their use of single use plastics.

Other options that would support participants to decrease their use of single plastics included; greater availability of loose produce, refill discounts, a plastic tax, full life cycle responsibility for producers, and legislation which ensures no single-use plastics is used on supermarket products.

Land use



21,625
tonnes
CO₂e

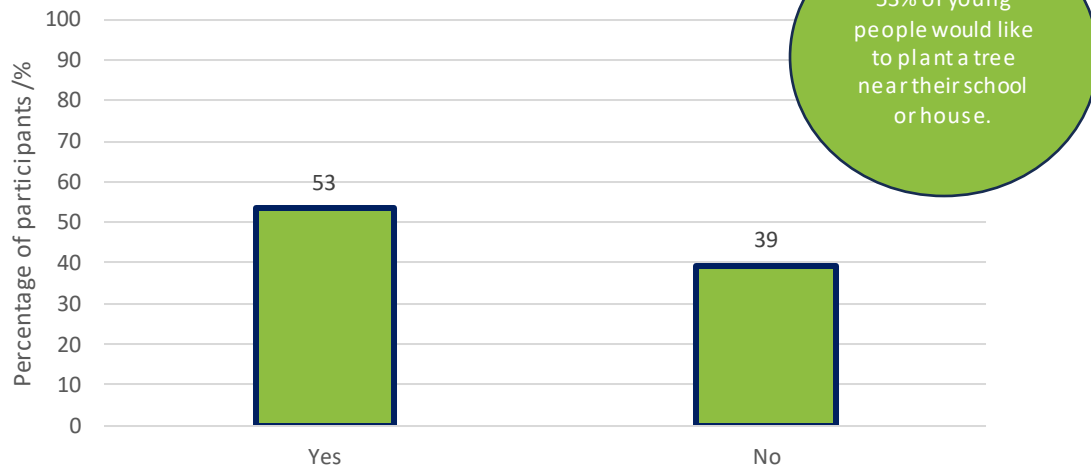
Land use accounts for 2% of Peterborough's emissions.

To reduce emissions from land use, we need to capture more carbon and adopt less carbon intensive land practices.

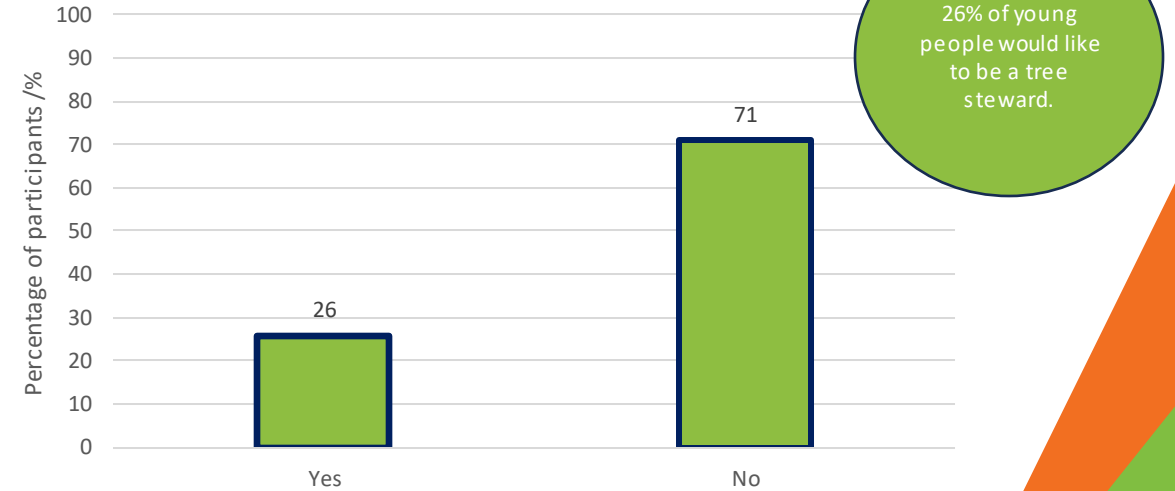
Tree planting with young people



Would you like to plant a tree near your school/house?



Would you sign up to be a tree steward? This could involve watering and looking after a tree



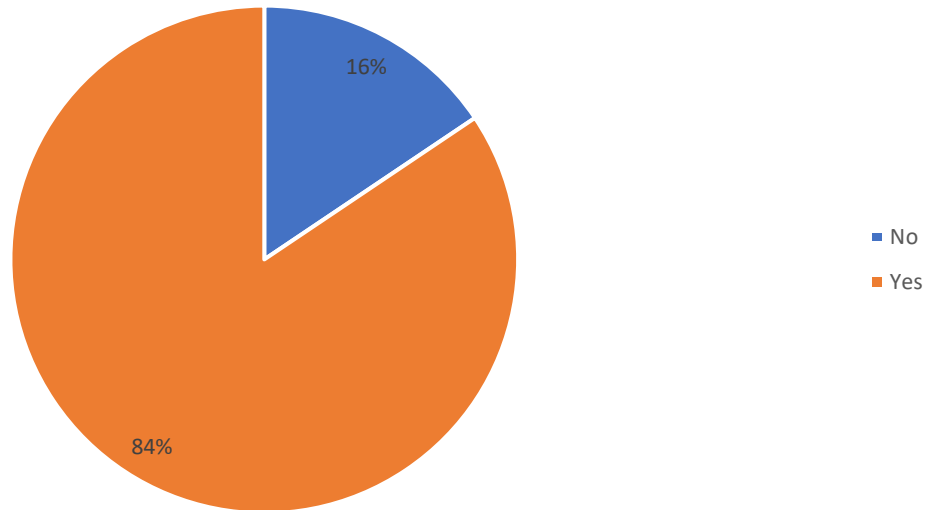
989 young people responded to these questions, 227 from primary schools, 762 from secondary schools.

Tree planting in neighbourhoods



Would you like to be involved in tree planting schemes in your neighbourhood?

84% of respondents would like to be involved in tree planting schemes in their neighbourhood.



79

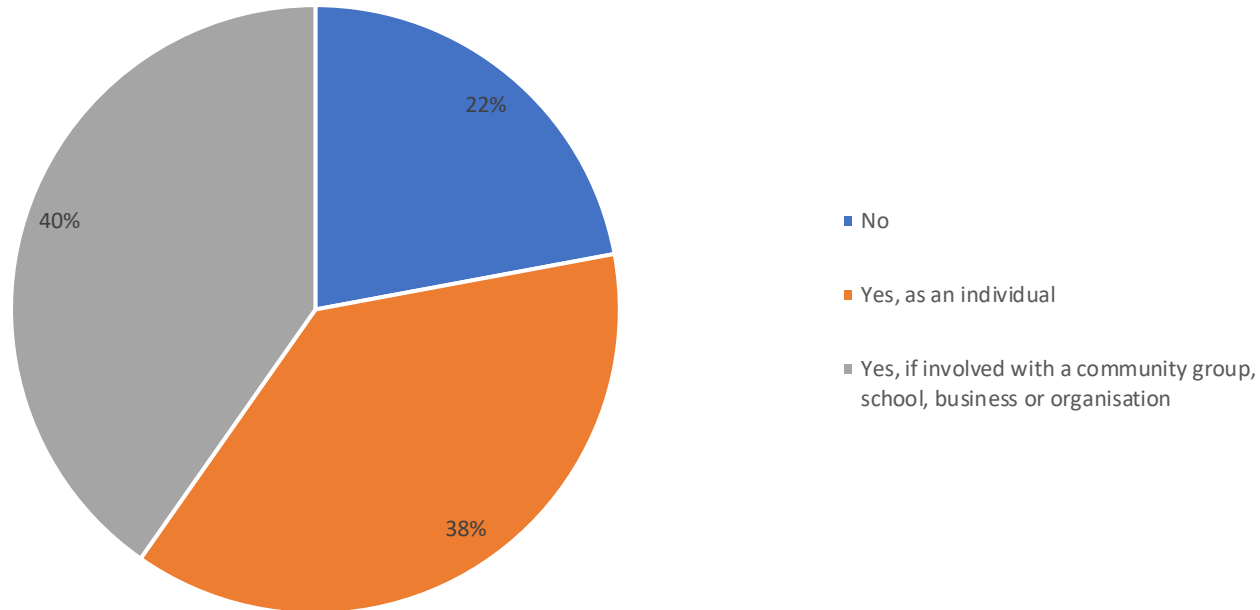
77 respondents

Tree warden



Would you become a tree warden in your local area and help to establish trees once planted? E.g. helping with watering and weed control

78% of respondents would become a tree warden.



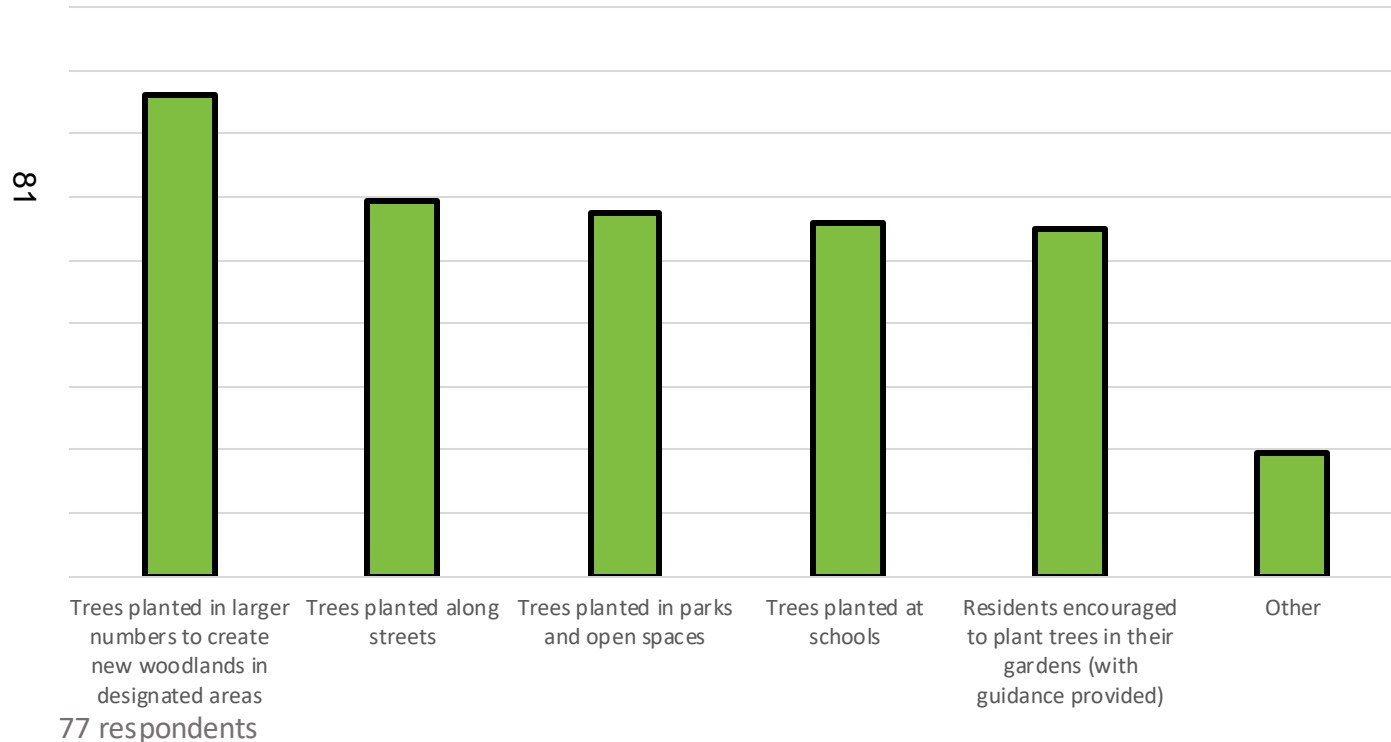
80

77 respondents

Tree cover



How would you like to see tree cover increased across Peterborough?
Please rank in order of preference.



Respondents wanted trees planted in new woodland areas, trees planted along streets and trees planted in parks and open spaces.

Other options for increased tree coverage included; private woodland protection policies, a 2:1 replacement policy for any council owned non-woodland tree that is removed, and planting trees that have a useful purpose (e.g., fruit/berry trees).



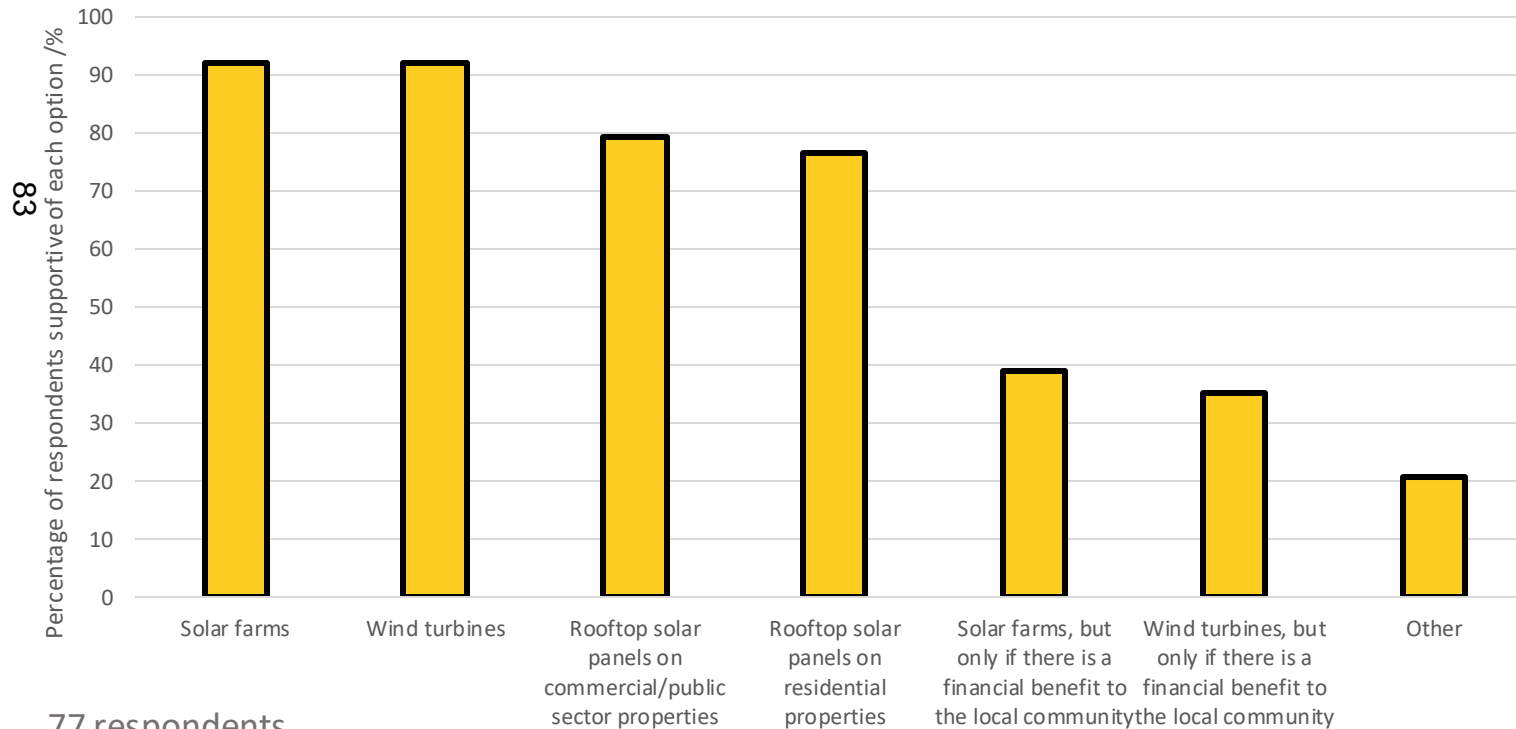
Emissions from energy generation are calculated and reported in the area in which they are used, i.e. a fossil fuel generator creating electricity used in a property is reported within building emissions.

Therefore activities to lower energy emissions, such as installing renewable electricity generation, results in lower emissions in buildings.

Renewable electricity



What form(s) of local renewable electricity generation would you be supportive of? Please tick all that apply.



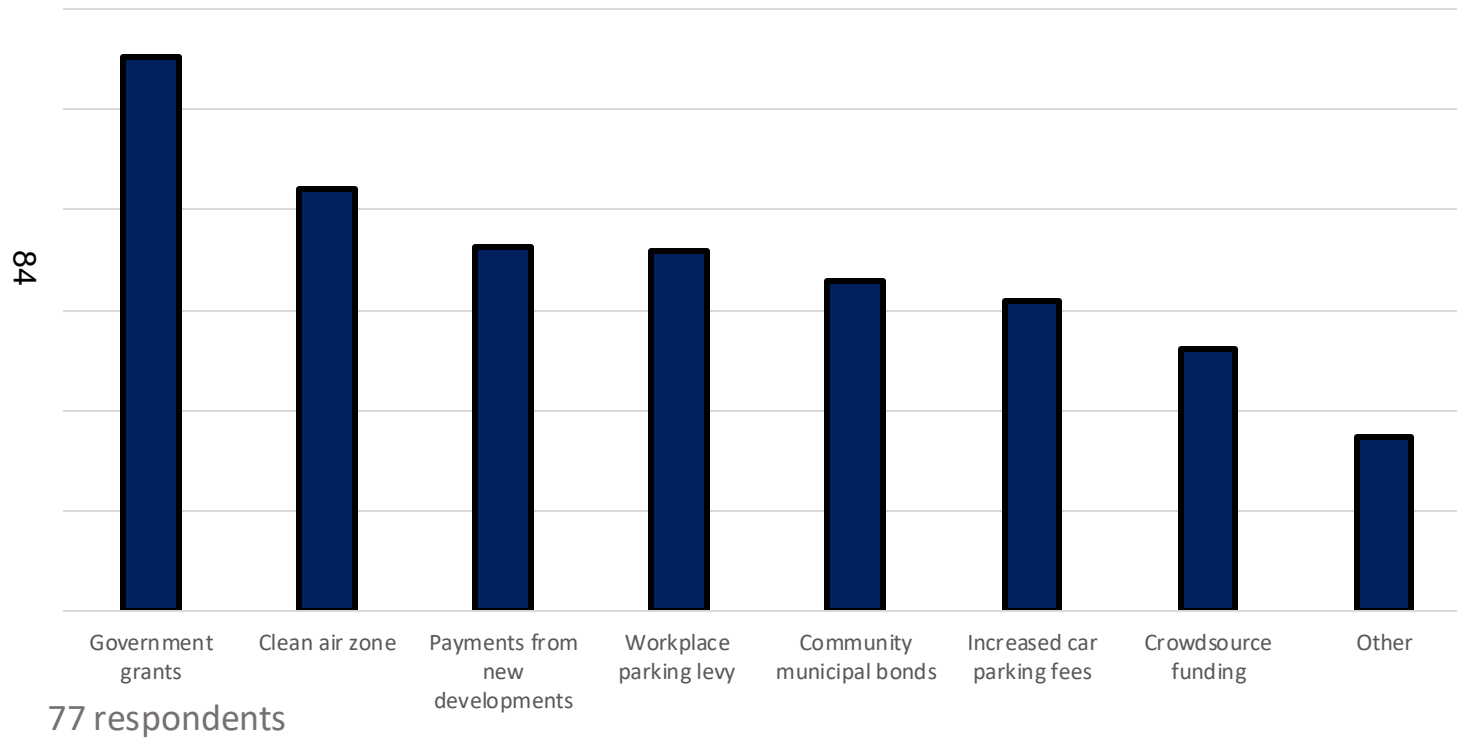
77 respondents

Respondents are supportive of solar farms, wind turbines, and rooftop solar panels on commercial and residential properties.

Other forms of local renewable electricity generation participants would be supportive of included; garden wind turbines, further solar options (e.g., solar canopies in car parks and solar roadways), hydropower (e.g., at suitable places on the Nene), large scale battery storage, and landfill methane capture to heat local public areas (e.g., swimming pools and schools).

Finance

How would you like to see low carbon schemes funded? Please rank in order of preference.



Respondents would like to see government grants, a clean air zone, and payments from new developments fund low carbon schemes.

Further ways participants would like to see low carbon schemes funded included; a windfall tax, a carbon tax and a polluter pays principle.

Appendix – Demographics of respondents

Peterborough City Council would like to thank school pupils for their participation in the Peterborough Climate Debate. At least 989 individual school pupils participated in the debate, with some pupils opting to attend more than one lesson to provide feedback on multiple themes equating to 3,532 responses in total.

85

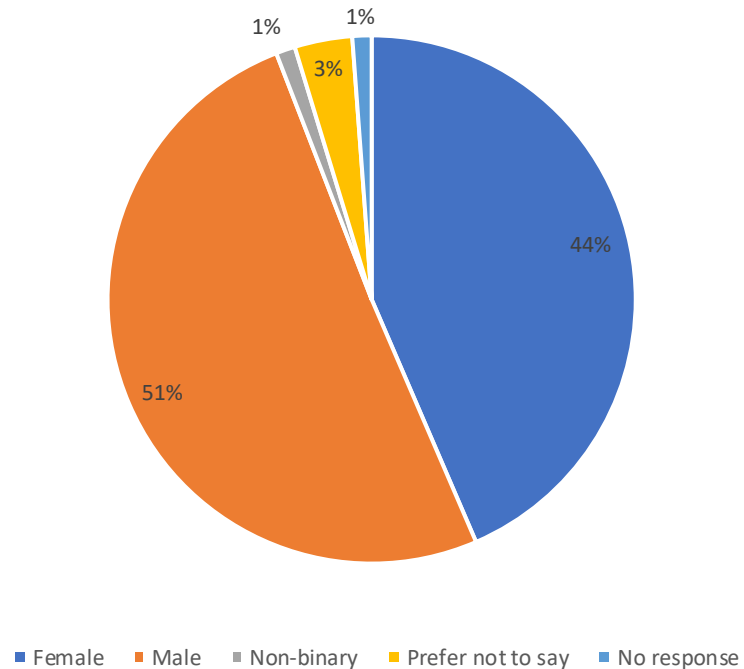
85 people completed feedback following the general public Debate sessions. The following information provides details on the demographics of the respondents to the public version of the Peterborough Climate Debate.

Participating schools

Gladstone Primary Academy
Gunthorpe Primary School
Manor Drive Secondary Academy
Nene Park Academy
Newark Hill Academy
Norwood Primary School
Old Fletton Primary School
Ormiston Bushfield Academy
Queen Katharine Academy
The Kings (The Cathedral) School
Thomas Deacon Academy

Demographics – gender

How do you describe your gender identity? Select the category that you most identify with:

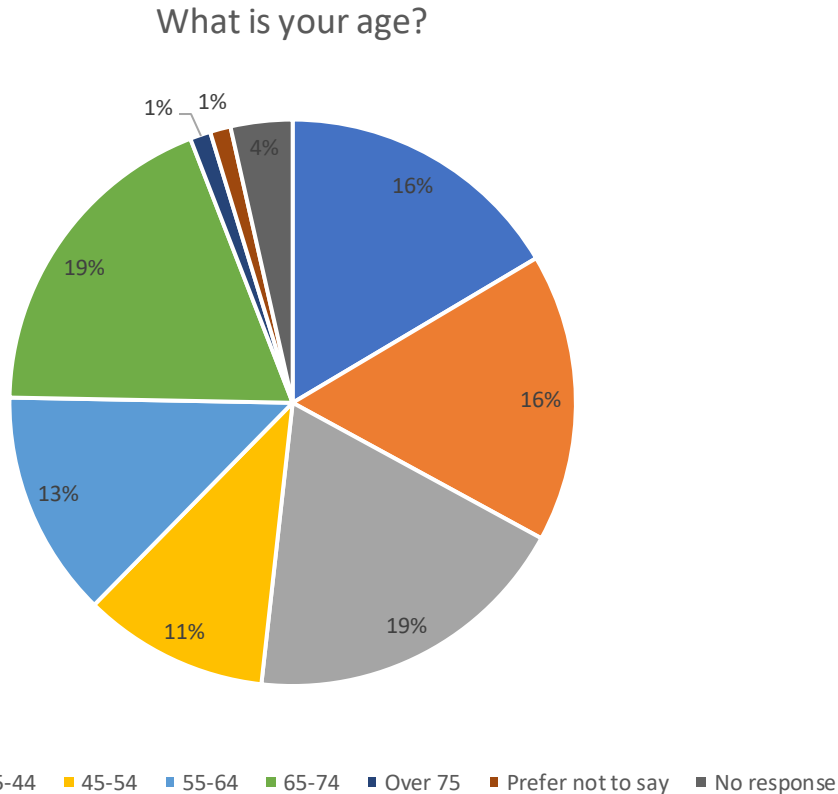


51% of respondents identified as male;

44% of respondents identified as female; and

1% identified as non-binary.

Demographics – age



16% of respondents were 18-34;

19% of respondents were 35-44;

11% of respondents were 45-54;

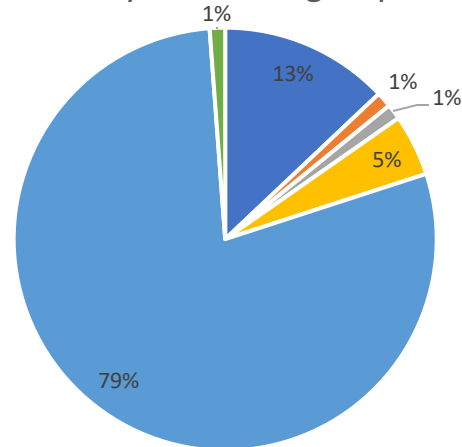
13% of respondents were 55-64;

19% of respondents were 65-74;

1% of respondents were over 75.

Demographics – ethnic group

What is your ethnic group?



79% of respondents identified as white;

13% of respondents identified as Asian or Asian British;

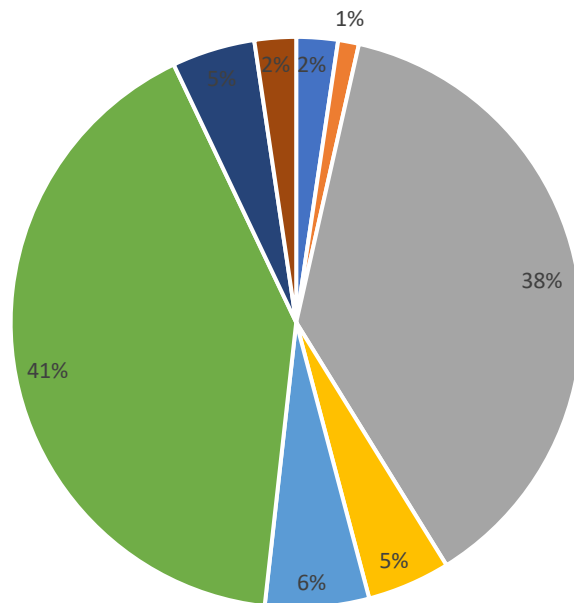
1% of respondents identified as Black, British Caribbean or African; and

1% of respondents identified as being of multiple ethnic groups.

- Asian or Asian British (includes Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese or any other Asian background)
- Black, Black British Caribbean or African (includes Black British, Caribbean, African or any other Black background)
- Multiple ethnic groups (includes White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian or any other Mixed or Multiple background)
- Prefer not to say
- White (includes British, Northern Irish, Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma or any other White background)
- No response

Demographics – religion

What is your religion?



■ Any other religion ■ Buddhist ■ Christian ■ Hindu ■ Muslim ■ No religion ■ Prefer not to say ■ No response

41% of respondents identified as having no religion;

38% identified as Christian;

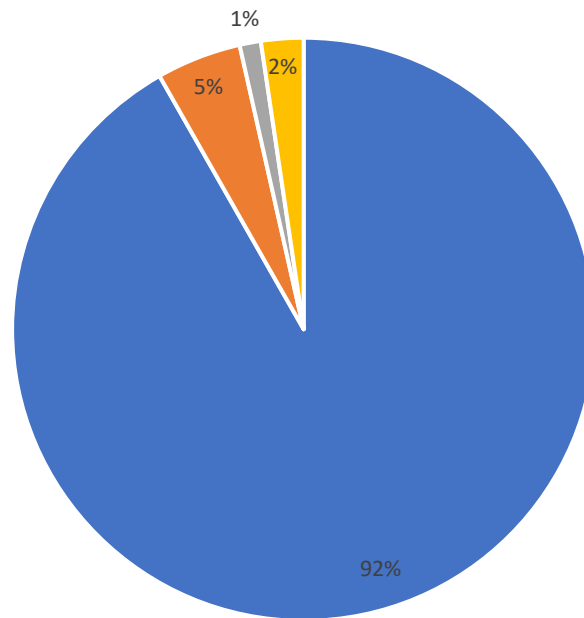
6% identified as Muslim;

5% identified as Hindu;

2% identified as having another religion

Demographics – language

What is your main language?

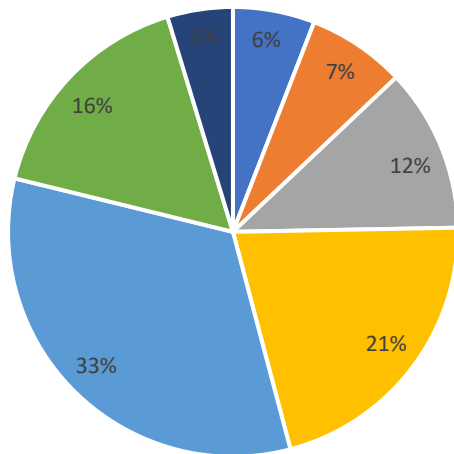


92% of respondents spoke English as their main language.

■ English ■ Other (including British Sign Language) ■ Prefer not to say ■ No response

Demographics – financial circumstance

What financial circumstance do you most relate to?



- I am in financial difficulties
- I have no savings, but live within my financial means
- I have savings over £10,000
- No response
- I am just about getting by financially
- I have savings between £2,000 and £10,000
- Prefer not to say

33% of respondents had savings over £10,000;

21% of respondents had savings between £2,000 and £10,000;

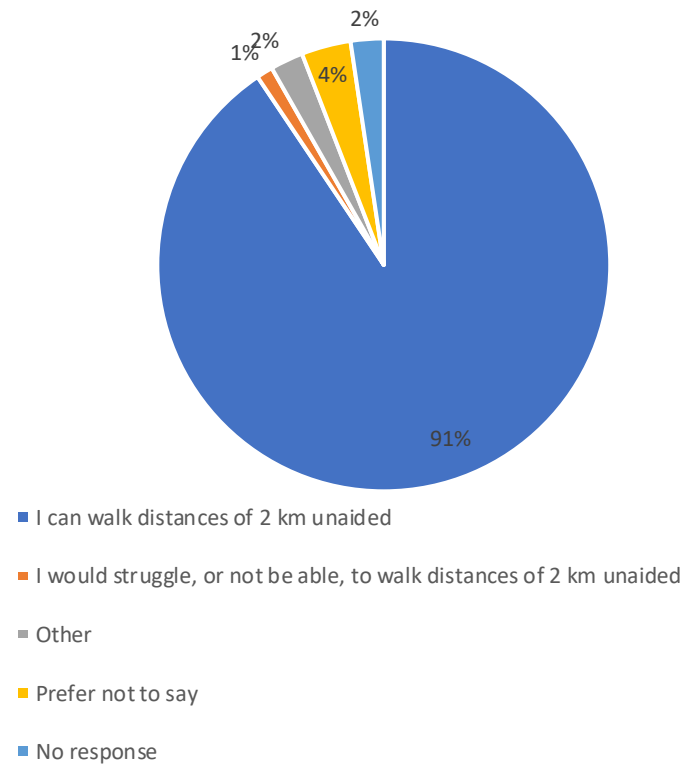
12% of respondents had no savings but live within their financial means;

7% of respondents were just about getting by financially;

6% of respondents were in financial difficulties.

Demographics – mobility

What statement best describes your mobility?

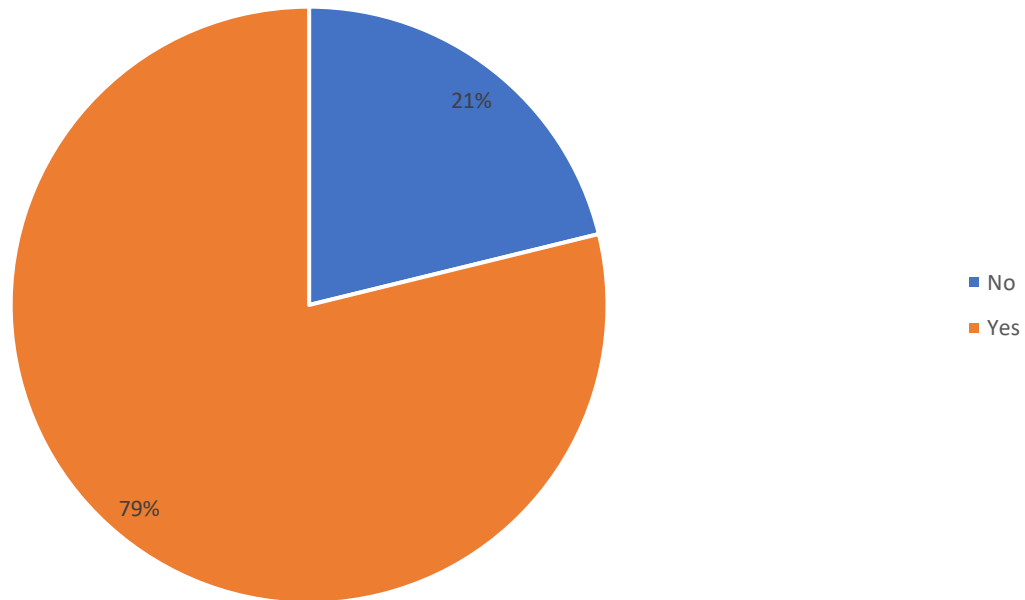


91% of respondents could walk distances of 2km unaided;

1% of respondents could struggle, or not be able, to walk distances of 2km unaided;

Home ownership

Do you (or a family member) own your home?



79% of respondents (or a family member) owned their home;

21% of respondents (or a family member) did not own their home.

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