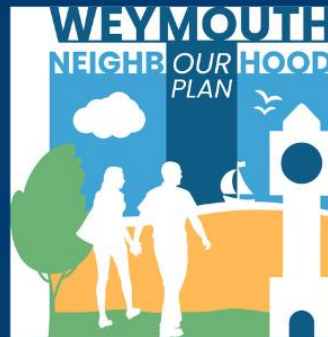


Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan

Community Consultation Feedback Report October 2022



Working with communities to promote, enhance and protect our coast.

Dorset Coast Forum Project

Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Feedback Report

October 2022

Executive Summary

The overwhelming response to the community events and surveys emphasised that the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Mission and the stated aims of the 5 themes of Communities, Homes, Jobs, Landscapes & Green Spaces and Sustainable Environments were well supported.

Community events were well planned with Dorset Coast Forum, the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan theme leads and the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Despite disappointing numbers of attendees to the 3 planned events, awareness raising of the WNP was successful and rewarding at other public events in the town during the consultation period.

Engagement figures both for in person activities and the survey may have been impacted by the number of concurrent surveys and events running in Weymouth at the same time as the consultation period leading to survey fatigue. Consideration should also be given to a public consultation of residents during the summer months.

Communities indicated that they appreciated the efforts made to involve them in the neighbourhood plan and where community leaders and influencers were given additional opportunities to input, they were encouraging of others.

The project team will use the feedback gathered from the surveys to inform the next steps in the consultation and engagement process for Autumn/Winter 2022. Strong and detailed responses were a result of the large number of open questions contained within the surveys and the aim of ensuring all voices were heard and recognised was achieved.

Contents

1. Background & Introduction.....	1
2. Consultation Format.....	3
3. Community Engagement.....	3
3.1. Community Events.....	3
3.2. Additional Community Events.....	5
3.2.1. Littlemoor – an example	6
3.3. Online Survey.....	7
3.3.1. Contribution by Area.....	9
4. Promotion and Social Media.....	9
5. Introduction to the Survey Analysis.....	11
6. Key Findings: Communities.....	12
6.1. Community Events.....	12
6.2. Online Survey.....	13
7. Key Findings: Homes.....	20
7.1. Community Events.....	20
7.2. Online Survey.....	21
8. Key Findings: Jobs.....	29
8.1. Community Events.....	29
8.2. Online Survey.....	30
9. Key Findings: Landscapes & Green Spaces.....	38
9.1. Community Events.....	38
9.2. Places Online Map Online Survey & Online Survey.....	39
9.2.1. Places Online Map.....	39

9.2.2. Online Survey.....	40
10. Key Findings: Sustainable Environments.....	50
10.1. Community Events.....	50
10.2. Online Survey.....	51
11. What has worked well so far.....	60
12. Challenges so far.....	60
13. Feedback relative to the surveys.....	60
14. Recommendations.....	60

<i>Figure 1: A map showing the designated Weymouth Character Areas.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Figures 2 & 3: Park Community Centre Community Event 21 June 2022.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Figure 4: Weymouth Information Shop.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Figure 5: Community Summer Fete Upwey.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Figure 6: A graph showing levels of engagement from the community to the online survey...7</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Figure 7: Visitor views & downloads of the 41% who engaged with supporting information...8</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Figure 8: Percentage of top 3 contributions by theme and area.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Figure 9: Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan Logo.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Figure 10: A graph illustrating impact of DCF social media campaign in July 2022.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Figure 11: A screenshot of the most popular Facebook post reaching 6,170 people.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Figure 12: Graphic used for the campaign targeting dog owners reaching 4,714 people.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Figure 13: Chart showing Communities contribution number and percentage by area.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Figure 14: Chart showing Homes contribution number and percentage by area.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Figure 15: Chart showing Jobs contribution number and percentage by area.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Figure 16 Map showing pinned Favourite Views.....</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Figure 17: Chart showing Landscapes & Green Spaces contribution number and percentage by area.....</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Figure 18: Chart showing Sustainable Environments contribution number and percentage by area.....</i>	<i>51</i>

1. Background & Introduction

Dorset Coast Forum (DCF) was engaged by Weymouth Town Council (WTC) and the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (SG) in Spring 2022 to deliver community consultation and communications as required in relation to Phase 1 of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan. Using a range of methods to reach local communities, share information and gather feedback, DCF worked with WTC Officers, the WNP Steering Group and Planning Consultants ECA Architecture & Planning to deliver engagement activities designed to inform and involve communities within Weymouth based on the 5 themes identified by the WNP Steering Group of Communities, Homes, Jobs, Landscapes & Green Spaces and Sustainable Environments.

Phase 1 outputs were to include the delivery and facilitation of x3 WNP specific community meetings/events:

- Event planning
- Promotion
- Collating stakeholder lists
- Delivery
- Promotional materials

During the months of May-August concurrent online surveys for each of the 5 key themes were promoted and made available to the public alongside supporting information on the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan. Paper surveys were also provided and completed versions uploaded by the DCF team. The surveys were initially to conclude at the end of July but opportunities to raise awareness and engage with the public at community events around the town during the month of August extended the deadline by a month. These additional engagement opportunities were in the majority led by members of the WNP Steering Group with the support of DCF.

Community consultation was used to involve local communities with the creation of a neighbourhood plan that will influence land use, development and protect what is valued about Weymouth. This report sets out the responses from that consultation and to provide recommendations for the next public consultation steps in the process. DCF were asked to produce a user-friendly report collating all feedback, including public comments from events and online surveys and collating, grouping and drawing out key themes.

Character areas for Weymouth were defined as:

- Central Weymouth- Weymouth Town Centre, Melcombe Regis and Harbour
- Urban- Westham, Radipole Spa and Lodmoor
- Coastal Urban- Wyke Regis, Southland and Rodwell
- Late 20th-century Suburban- Southill, Redlands, Overcombe and Littlemoor
- Semi-rural- Upwey, Broadway, Sutton Poyntz, Nottingham, Radipole village and Preston

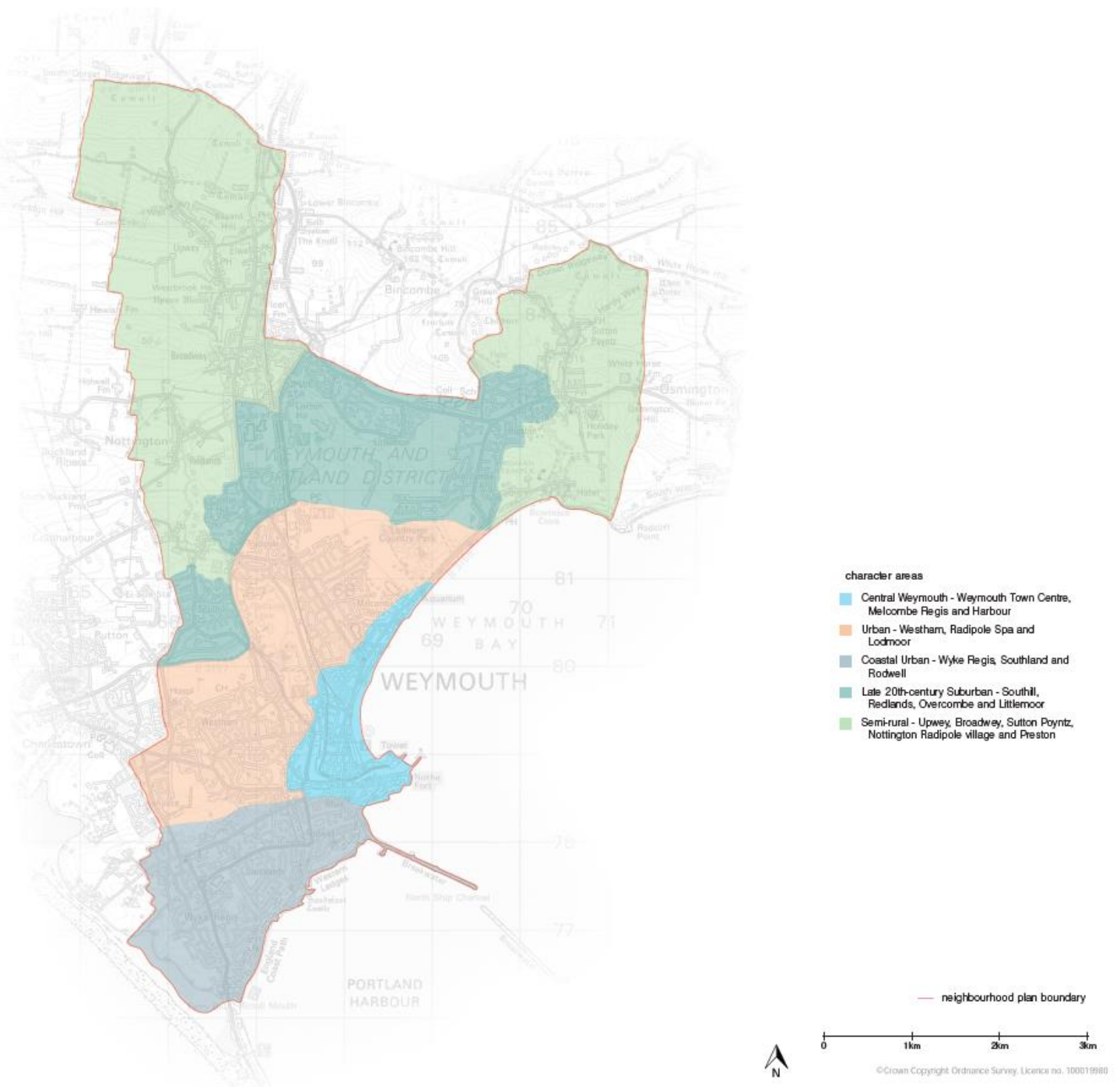


Figure 1: A map showing the designated Weymouth Character Areas

2. Consultation Format

Phase 1 of the community consultation process has been undertaken in 2 main formats - via in person community events and website surveys. Whilst most consultation was online, paper copies were available for those who did not have access to online facilities, to be used for 121 consultations during an event or distributed to key community centres such as the Weymouth Information Shop and local libraries for the public to complete before being collected by DCF for collation either at the venue or from WTC offices.

Community locations and venues for the 3 WNP specific public events were discussed and agreed with the WNP Steering Group.

Each of the 5 WNP themes - Communities, Homes, Jobs, Landscapes & Green Spaces and Sustainable Environments have a designated theme lead who is a member of the WNP Steering Group. To reflect the variance within each theme, each theme lead was given the opportunity to create an individualised survey planned with the DCF Support Officer. This allowed members of the public to be able to choose to complete any or all of the 5 surveys depending on their level of interest. Consequently, this report will detail the findings from each of the 5 theme surveys.

In common with the live events, the 5 themed surveys all included a question at the beginning on the area of Weymouth participants lived in. DCF were not asked to include data capture by age.

3. Community Engagement

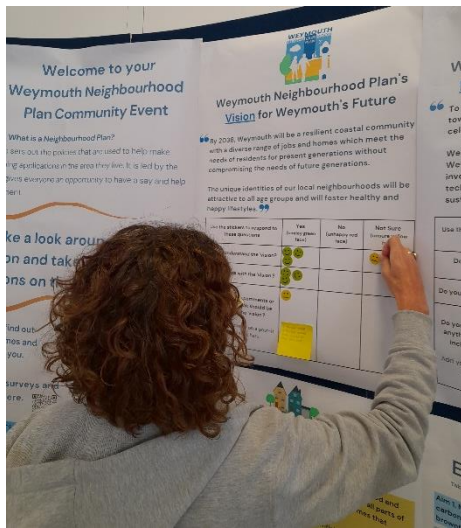
3.1 Community Events

The x3 WNP specific community meetings were designed as open, drop-in engagement events. The public were encouraged to share their views on the WNP Vision and Mission for Weymouth's future with a specific emphasis on their local community, whilst allowing opportunities to comment on Weymouth in relation to the 5 key theme aims.

Members of the public were given the opportunity to provide their opinions in a self-led way or they could be guided through the process by a member of the DCF team or WNP Steering Group member. At each event DCF provided their computer tablet for real-time online survey completion or paper copies of the surveys were made available. Additionally, visitors were provided with a QR code taking them to the online surveys to complete at their leisure.

Display board visuals and graphics included the character area map appropriate to the venue, the WNP Vision and Mission statements and theme aims. Comments were collected and participants asked to say what area of Weymouth they were from

and what made the area where they live special. In addition, contact details were taken from anyone wishing to be added to the DCF WNP mailing list.



Figures 2 & 3: Park Community Centre Community Event 21 June 2022

Events were held at:

Park Community Centre, Melcombe Regis Tue 21 June 4-6.45pm

St Francis Church, Littlemoor Wed 29 June 4-7pm

St Paul's Community Centre, Westham Fri 8 July 4-7pm

Selection of communities was made during the event planning stage in conjunction with the WNP Steering Group and information from ECA. 5 Character Areas had been identified – Central Weymouth, Urban, Semi-rural, Late 20th Century and Coastal Urban. Planning of the drop-in events attempted to offer availability on a range of days and timed to provide best access for the majority. Publicised within the appropriate local community it was also emphasised they were open to anyone regardless of area. Venues were chosen on suitability e.g., disabled access and availability. Refreshments were provided.

Attendance:

Event	Character Area	Total Attendance
Melcombe Regis 21/6/22	Central Weymouth	3
Littlemoor 29/6/22	Late 20 th Century	11
Westham 8/7/22	Urban	20

Vision:

Event	Do you understand the WNP Vision for the future?	Do you agree with the vision?
Melcombe Regis	100% of those who answered	100% of those who answered
Littlemoor	85% of those who answered	80% of those who answered
Westham	100% of those who answered	85% of those who answered

Mission:

Event	Do you understand the WNP Mission for the future?	Do you agree with the mission?
Park	100% of those who answered	100% of those who answered
Littlemoor	100% of those who answered	90% of those who answered
Westham	100% of those who answered	85% of those who answered

Sample of Littlemoor event comments:

"I think 2038 is too far ahead 2030 would be more realistic"

"Lack of cheaper housing for younger people who are residents of Weymouth"

"Concerns about the number of second homes as lack of cheaper housing"

Sample of Westham event comments:

"I think we need to turn the vision and aims into a set of compelling images and/or videos"

"Strong community with rural views"

"It's a realistic vision"

"Community spirit is brilliant"

3.2 Additional Community Events

Opportunities arose both prior to the online surveys going live, and during the consultation period in the busy summer months when various public events were being held around the town, to raise awareness of the WNP. These included WTC organised events such as the Weymouth Expo, Weymouth Get Active (beachfront), 10th Anniversary Olympic Celebration (Nothe) and additionally community summer fetes in Littlemoor and Upwey.

DCF created an initial events rota for the WNP theme leads which listed potential high-volume traffic in terms of public attendance and particular events were agreed upon that suited theme lead availability and interest.

The DCF team provided support through resources and the transportation of equipment, and the public were able to access the surveys either in paper format or by being signposted to the online surveys via QR code on posters, leaflets and WNP banners/flag. Due to their drop-in nature, it is not possible to determine the actual number of people who engaged by viewing the material on display but it is estimated that between 200-250 people were engaged in this way. WNP Steering Group member led, these events proved both excellent promotion and gave them leads direct insight into how the public engaged with the process. It should be noted that as most participants opted to complete paper surveys, this created additional work for DCF as each survey required inputting electronically post event.

3.2.1 Littlemoor – an example of more in-depth community engagement

Following on from the Littlemoor event on the 29 June 2022, the lead DCF Project Officer was invited to address the Littlemoor Residents Association the following week at their regular meeting at a community centre in Littlemoor which was attended by 32 people. Despite some initial scepticism from several of the residents who indicated that they believed their thoughts on the WNP would not be heard and would be irrelevant, with the support of the Residents Association Chair, the DCF Project Officer was able to organise to return the following week to get paper surveys completed.

This proved a valuable session, 12 people attended and each one spent time with the 3 WNP team in attendance completing paper surveys. Significantly, it provided insight into how some members of the public required guidance to understand all points of the survey they were completing and formulate their responses.

Following on from this successful meeting, the WNP team were invited to attend a forthcoming outdoor community family event which further cemented a positive relationship with the local community. Additionally, another WTC organised Littlemoor family event was held at the end of August which was also attended by representatives from the WNP team.

Creating a mutually beneficial working relationship with a community such as Littlemoor has now provided opportunities to be positively welcomed for future community engagement in the next phase of the process if applicable.

The benefits of attending events within a targeted community mitigated the risk of the more generic public summer events in the town where a high number of visitors may be present. Although the WNP team did gain verbal insight into what visitors to Weymouth valued about the town, the themed surveys were designed to capture the ideas and comments of Weymouth residents.

The number of contributions to the surveys from the Littlemoor community was positive and can be attributed to the additional engagements undertaken within that community.



Figure 4: Weymouth Information Shop



Figure 5: Community Summer Fete, Upwey

3.3 Online Survey

The DCF Have Your Say website was utilised for the online surveys. The graphic below summarises community engagement with the online consultation during the period we ran the 5 themed surveys from mid-May to the 31st August 2022. Over 1000 people visited the site, with 724 (66%) people aware visiting a project or tool page, 451 people (41%) informed by looking at supporting information and 216 (24%) completing the surveys. In total **444 surveys** were completed with **2,351 comments** made. Comments were long answers to essay style questions or named responses.



Figure 6: A graph showing levels of engagement from the community to the online survey

There was a significant spike in visitors to the site in July demonstrating the impact of promotion carried out at that time. We also used partner organisations and community Facebook groups to distribute the survey link to encourage participation. As the graph above shows, many people visited the page but did not fill in or submit answers to the surveys.

Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Document	DRAFT Weymouth Character Assessment	26	30
Document	DRAFT Vision Mission and Aims Feb 2022	26	33
Document	Weymouth Housing Needs Analysis Report April 2021	6	8
Key Dates	Key Date	25	28
Faqs	faqs	15	17

Figure 7: Visitor views and downloads of the 41% who engaged with supporting information

As the 5 themed surveys were standalone, participants could choose which survey to complete meaning that some visitors to the site may have contributed by completing multiple surveys, some may have chosen only to complete one. As an additional engagement tool, the Landscape & Greenspaces theme was supported by an interactive map which allowed visitors to place a pin on the map virtually in response to questions and contribute comments. This will be looked at in more depth later. The interactive map received 199 visitors, 34 contributors and 93 contributions.

Ranked by **Visitors** to the surveys, the most visited theme was Communities. In order:

- Communities 240 visitors
- Homes 174 visitors
- Landscape & Green Spaces 135 visitors
- Sustainable Environments 132 visitors
- Jobs 112 visitors

Ranked by **Contributors** to the surveys, the most popular was Communities. In order:

- Communities 119 contributors
- Homes 116 contributors
- Sustainable Environments 86 contributors
- Jobs 77 contributors
- Landscape & Green Spaces 46 contributors

Ranked by **Contributions** to the surveys, the most contributions received was Communities. In order:

- Communities 141 contributions
- Homes 136 contributions
- Sustainable Environments 104 contributions
- Jobs 92 contributions
- Landscape & Green Spaces 61 contributions

3.3.1 Contribution by Area

Each of the 5 themed surveys asked participants to select the area of Weymouth they lived in from the following selection:

- Broadwey ● Littlemoor ● Lodmoor ● Melcombe Regis ● Overcombe ● Preston ● Radipole
- Redlands ● Rodwell ● Southill ● Upwey ● Westham ● Wey Valley ● Wyke Regis
- Other (please specify)

Theme	Area Rank 1	Area Rank 2	Area Rank 3
Communities	Littlemoor 16.3%	Wyke Regis 12.1%	Rodwell 10.6%
Homes	Littlemoor 14%	Westham 13.2%	Other 12.5%
Jobs	Westham 14.1%	Littlemoor/Wyke Regis/Rodwell all 13%	Lodmoor/Other both 7.6%
Landscapes & Green Spaces	Littlemoor 19.7%	Rodwell 14.8%	Westham 13.1%
Sustainable Environments	Westham 16.3%	Littlemoor/Wyke Regis/Rodwell all 12.5%	Melcombe Regis 9.6%

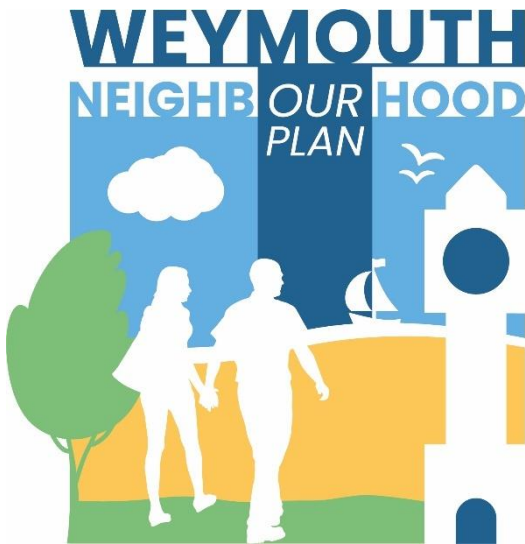
Figure 8: Percentage of top 3 contributions by theme and area

4. Promotion and Social Media

The consultation process and website surveys were promoted on social media channels, conventional media, and relevant newsletters such as the DCF e-newsletter. Partner organisations including Weymouth Town Council shared social media posts and added the website link [Have Your Say on the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan | Dorset Coast Have Your Say](#) to their own social media posts and to the WNP webpages on the WTC website [Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan - Weymouth Town Council | Weymouth Town Council](#)

A press release publicised the start of the public consultation and supporting information on the project. This was additionally shared with community publications such as *Register Magazine* which is distributed in Wyke Regis and Preston. Weymouth Town Council and Dorset Council councillors were emailed details and links to the public consultation. Community based organisations and support groups were contacted with links and graphics to share on their networks with some such as the Friends of Radipole Park & Gardens designating pages on their website to the consultation.

In May, DCF recommended to the WNP Steering Group that a WNP logo be designed for identity and promotion, and this was achieved quickly with help from DCF. Resources including a branded teardrop flag and banner with QR code were purchased and the use of the DCF A Board was provided. DCF printed approximately 300 versions of the paper survey, 150 posters of various sizes and 500 A5 leaflets to compliment the WNP leaflet already in use by the WNP Steering Group. Posters and leaflets were distributed throughout Weymouth with concentration on public spaces such as libraries, shops and GP surgeries particularly in areas coinciding with the x3 community events.



The WNP logo design was created to emphasise the collaborative nature of the plan – ‘our plan’ – a neighbourhood plan for everyone

Figure 9: Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan Logo

The lead for the Dorset Council Digital Champions [Volunteer Digital Champions - Dorset Council](#) was contacted with a request to share details of the online surveys with the Digital Champions so that they could help residents to complete surveys during their regular sessions in Weymouth libraries. A ‘how to’ guide was produced and distributed to libraries and to support staff at the Weymouth Information Shop.

Using Facebook as the main social media channel, 28 Facebook posts were created between 14 April – 7 August 2022 in relation to the surveys and live events, with separate listings on the DCF events schedule supported by promotion on the DCF website events page. In total **42,332** people viewed the posts on Facebook.

In response to low turnout at the x3 community events and perceived slow participation in the online surveys, the DCF lead Project Officer devised a social media campaign for Facebook which ran between 15 July-29 July. The graph below illustrates the impact of the campaign on the Have Your Say survey pageviews and contributions.

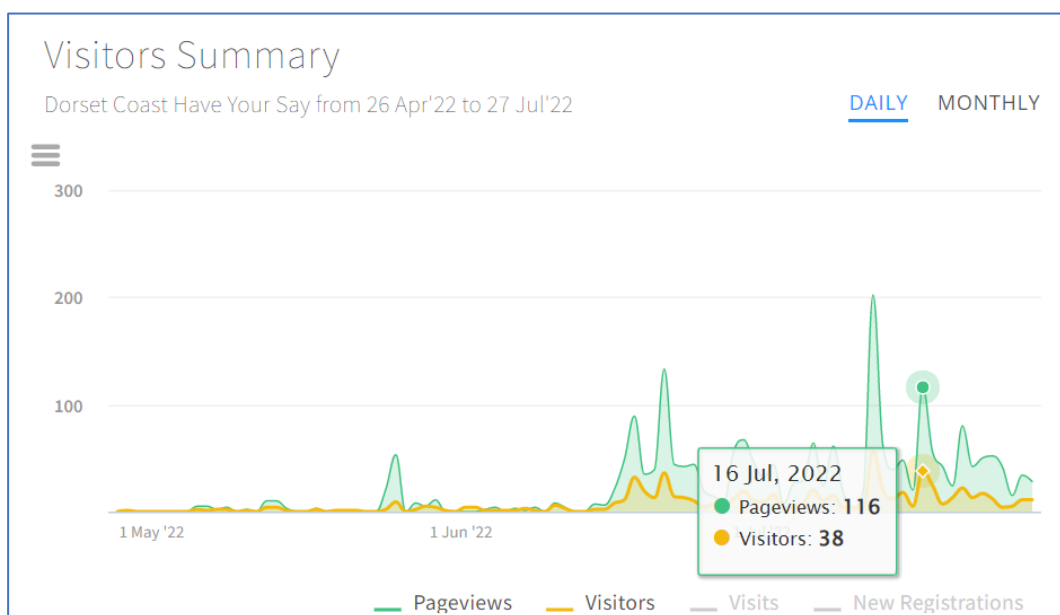


Figure 10: A graph illustrating impact of DCF social media campaign in July 2022

The campaign focussed on a variety of different user groups including the environmentally conscious, nature lovers, gardeners, veterans, road users, commercial users of the harbour and sports groups and a new Facebook post was uploaded most days. Of the 42,332 people who viewed the entire series of posts, **62%** did so via these targeted 9 campaign posts.

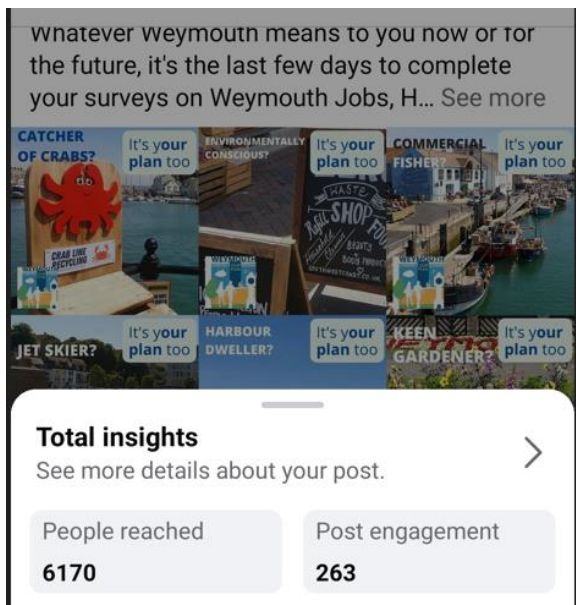


Figure 11: A screenshot of the most popular Facebook post reaching 6,170 people



Figure 12: Graphic used for the campaign targeting dog owners reaching 4,714 people

Utilising Weymouth community groups on Facebook, posts were shared widely, and the reactions were positive and encouraging:

"I've completed everyone because I really do care about where I live, and I want my voice heard"

5. Introduction to the Survey Analysis

5 separate online surveys were created for each of the themes and consequently the surveys differed in length, range and functionality. Theme leads were given the option of choosing a variety of closed or open questions. Open questions allow participants to make comments to create more insight but require individual comment 'tagging' by frequency of subject matter, wording, and sentiment – positive versus negative – grouping common themes. **2,351 comments from 444 separate surveys were individually read and tagged.** This report will now separate the surveys by theme and highlight the key findings from both the community events where participants were asked to comment on the aims of each of the themes, and from the online surveys

6. Key Findings: Communities



6.1 Community Events

Attendees to the x3 WNP specific community events were asked to comment on the **aims** of the Community theme:

Aim 1. Celebrate the unique character and culture of each local neighbourhood and respond to their needs to enable our policies to be applied in a sensitive way, relevant to the locality ensuring resilient sustainable communities for all ages.

Aim 2. Allocate sustainable sites for new homes and jobs which are within walking distance to town or a neighbourhood centre, thereby supporting local facilities, shops and services, promoting recreational activity and well-being.

Aim 3. Protect and enhance the distinctive historic character of the Conservation Areas within Weymouth and its many architecturally significant and listed buildings, streets, squares, open spaces and the wider public realm for their vital importance to the identity and heritage of the individual neighbourhoods and town as a whole.

2 questions were presented on display boards:

Question 1	Melcombe Regis	Littlemoor	Westham
Are these aims relevant to you and your community?	100% agreed	90% agreed	100% agreed

Participants were also asked – **Question 2. Are there any gaps missing that you would like to include in these themes and aims?**

Sample of comments:

“Need allotments in Littlemoor”

“More for young people to do and get involved in”

“No GP surgery in Westham”

“Regeneration of public areas and town centre”

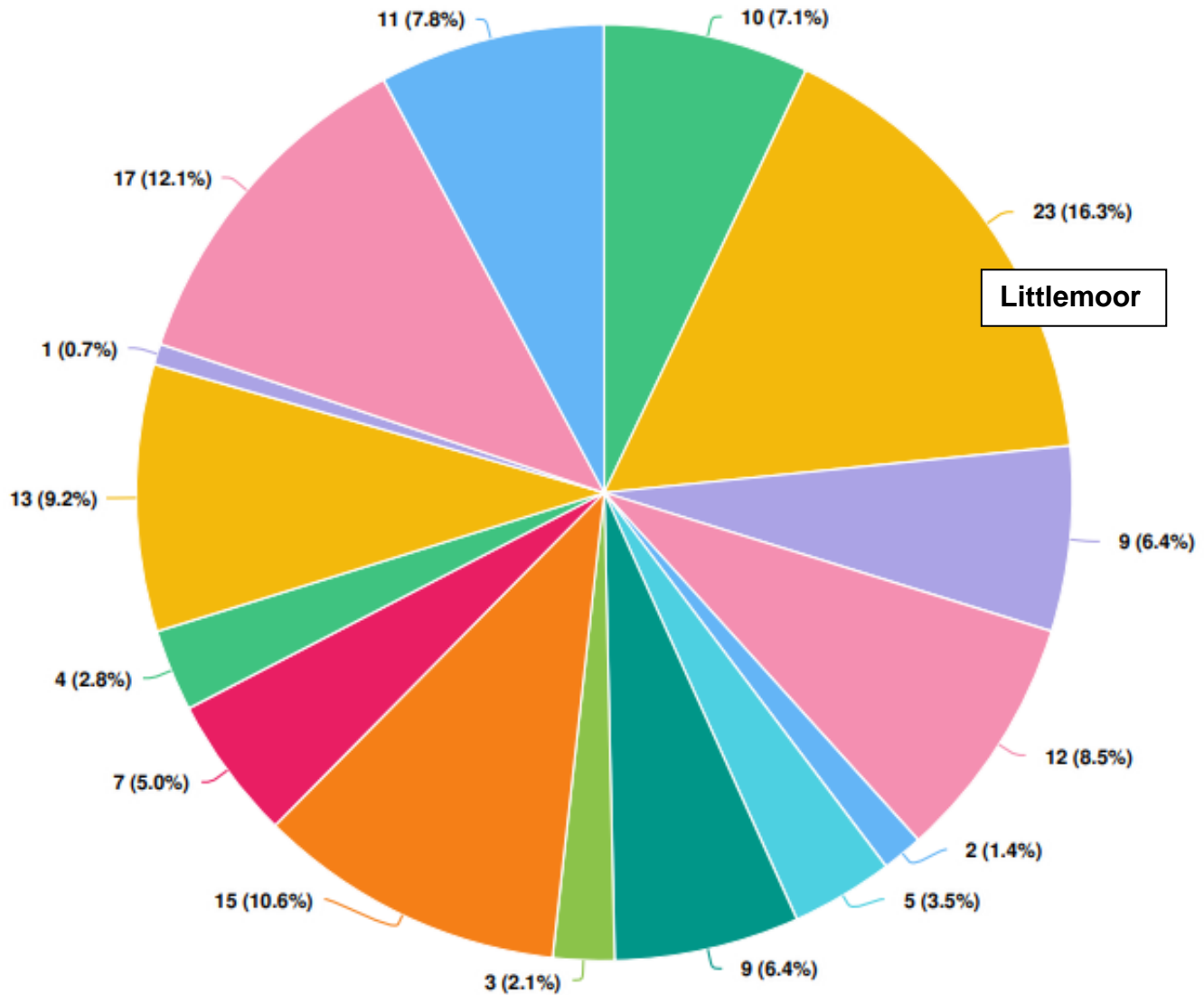
“Services etc within walking distance and obvious walking routes e.g., where people vote better facilities which are walkable”

6.2 Online Survey

Weymouth Communities

Visitors 240	Contributors 119	CONTRIBUTIONS 141
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Please select in which area of Weymouth you live?



Question options

- Broadway ● Littlemoor ● Lodmoor ● Melcombe Regis ● Overcombe ● Preston ● Radipole
- Redlands ● Rodwell ● Southill ● Upwey ● Westham ● Wey Valley ● Wyke Regis
- Other (please specify)

Figure 13: Chart showing Communities contribution number and percentage by area.

Participation in the Communities survey by area indicate that promotion in the communities where the live events were held may not have contributed to high numbers of attendance, but awareness of the WNP was impacted and online engagement created. Contributions from the Wyke Regis area may be due to local promotion on community social media channels by the lead DCF Project Officer who is a resident of Wyke Regis. Utilising social media in this way on a local level would be recommended for any future engagement.

Question 2 What is important to you or unique about where you live in Weymouth?

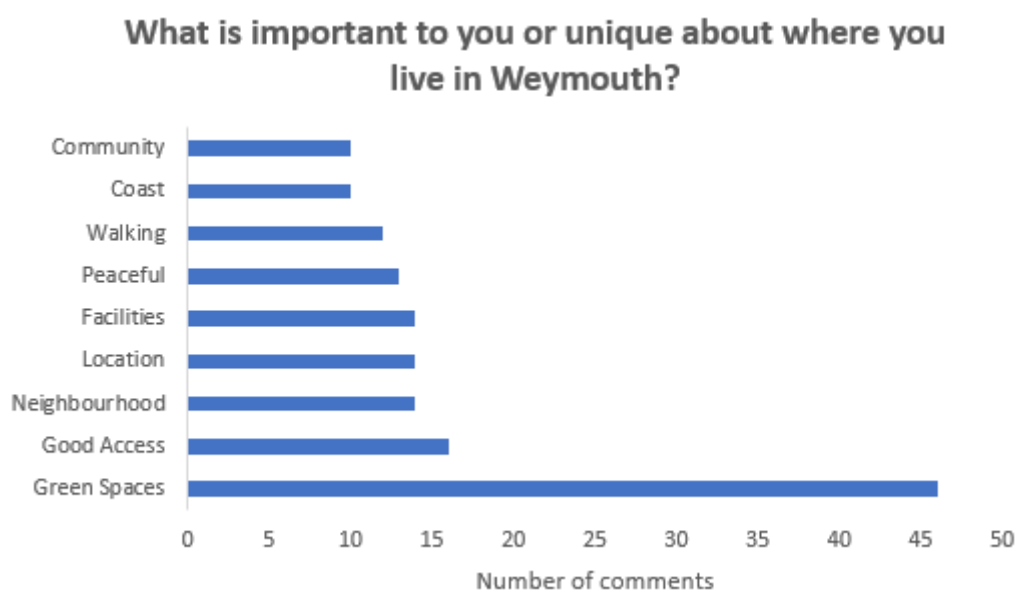
Summary of Key Responses:

This question was asked to gauge what respondents felt defined the character of the area in which they live. The key factor was access to green spaces with equal merit attributed to themes of positive community spirit and well-being. Some respondents highlighted the importance of low crime rates and the lack of anti-social behaviour.

“It is peaceful and quiet, away from main roads, and it also has good transport links into Weymouth town and around Dorset, as well as having its own small shop, pharmacy, pubs, hall, football field and play area. There are lots of beautiful walks on our doorstep. There are community events in both Chickerell and the surrounding area.”

“Littlemoor has great green areas. A sense of community. A good bus service. Great shops. A doctor surgery. Great schools.”

“Quiet, ordered community where neighbours look out for and support each other. Also the open spaces for a sense of well-being.”



Question 3 Is there anything you think should be preserved or protected where you live? For example, a heritage building, sports field, local shops or post office, community hall, play area, pub, arts centre etc?

Summary of Key Responses:

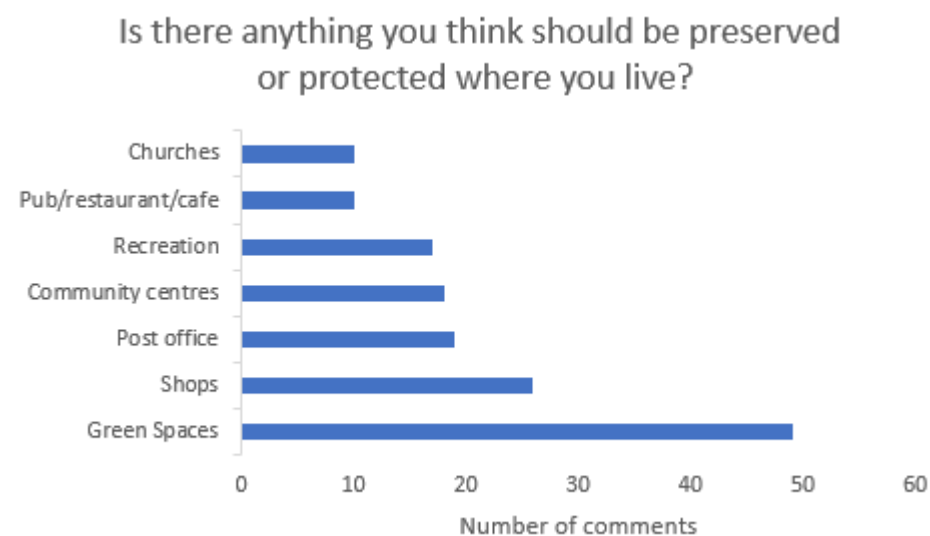
Respondents again indicated the importance of green spaces in their communities with many detailing those spaces most important to them and concerns that green spaces were being lost or under threat from building. Community facilities such as

post offices and community centres were highlighted as essential and required protecting or reinstating.

“Spa pub, Radipole parka no gardens, play park. Sadly already lost a lovely open filed for housing even though it’s a green corridor, so no more houses squeezed in to tiny pockets of green please!”

“Larger than average gardens should not be allowed planning for multiple dwelling as it effects the ethos of the area. Tree lined roads compliment the area.”

“The community facilities at or around the fire station need to be restored as they were a lifeline for local residents who need facilities such as a community cafe, choirs, wellbeing clubs within easy access of their homes.”



Question 4 – 49 responses

If you have or care for children, is it possible for them to get to school or nursery safely and conveniently by walking, scooter, bike or public transport?

Yes 65.3% No 34.7%

Question 5 Local Services/Facilities

This question highlighted the local services and facilities most used and the means of transport to access. Of the 15 options given, 54% of people were able to walk to their chosen local service or facility.

Car use was the next most frequently used mode of transport with some use of bus services or bicycles. More detailed insight into availability and access to cycle routes or public transport would be recommended.

We would like to understand which local services/facilities you use and how you get there. Do you use any of the services/facilities listed below?
 (Contributors were able to name the facility they use as a comment).

Local Service/Facility	% Contributors using these facilities	Walk*	Cycle*	Car*	Bus*	Other*
Arts or Cultural Centre	25.5%	22	7	17	8	1
Children/Family Centres	3.5%	3	0	2	0	1
Community Hall/Centre	48.9%	55	7	19	3	1
Dentist	61.7%	30	9	48	8	3
Doctor/Medical Centre	91.5%	71	10	62	7	3
Faith Buildings	34.8%	29	2	18	4	4
Library	53.9%	52	14	30	7	3
Nursery / Pre-school / school	12.8%	12	2	6	1	3
Post Office / Bank	89.4%	93	12	49	9	4
Pub / Club	45.4%	57	4	11	7	1
Park / Play area / Woods	73.8%	89	8	21	3	5
Recycling Centre	67.4%	6	2	89	2	2
Shops	92.9%	83	14	83	11	5
Sports Facility	35.5%	23	11	32	2	3
Youth Centre	3.5%	4	1	1	0	1

**Primary method of transport highlighted*

Question 6 – 141 responses

Are there any community facilities or services which are missing where you live, or would you like to see more of?

Yes 53.2% No 46.8%

Question 6 What other services or facilities not listed would you like and where?

Summary of Key Responses:

Responses to this question were wide and varied although some common themes did arise such as access to local swimming pools, youth provision, bus services, NHS dentists and sports facilities.

The importance of places where people of all ages and interests could connect be that art, sport or social was evident.

“As a foster carer for teens, I would like to see More things for teens...more initiatives, more youth workers, more activities and places for them to go.”

“Dentists- our private one retired and we are looking for new private.”

“I'd like a swimming pool that was open later in the evenings for general swimming and not clubs. I enjoy swimming but can't get to the free/open swim sessions at times they are on due to work.”

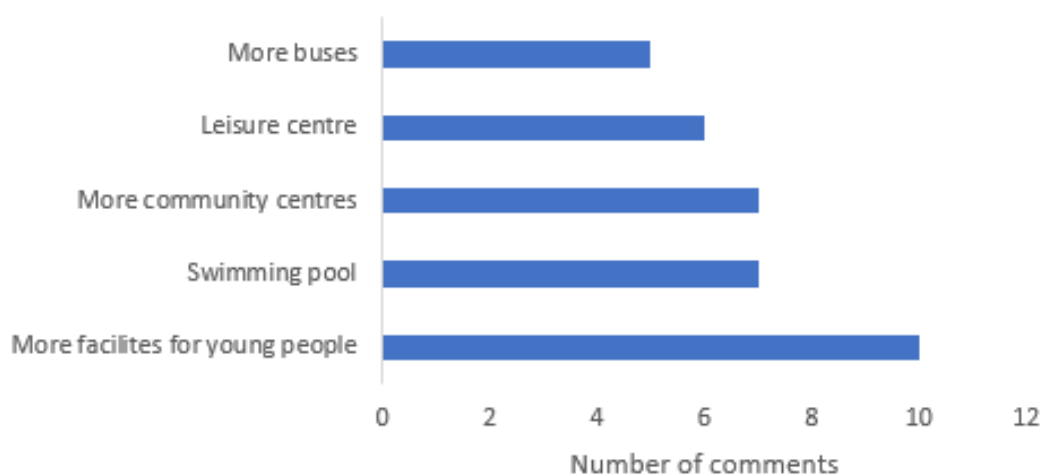
“A bus service!”

“Keep basic lessons for seniors who are tech-phobes & Community Centre discussion groups.”

“More for older children, arts facilities.”

“I would very much like more creative artistic classes and workshops in Weymouth, such as Dorchester Arts puts on.”

What other services or facilities (not listed) would you like and where?



Question 7 – 141 responses

As part of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan, aims for each of the themes are being proposed. Please tick an option to tell us if you agree with the aims for Communities

	Definitely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Definitely disagree
Celebrate the unique character and culture of each local neighbourhood and respond to their needs to enable our policies to be applied in a sensitive way, relevant to the locality ensuring resilient sustainable communities for all ages	60%	18%	17%	3%	2%
Allocate sustainable sites for new homes and jobs which are within walking distance to town or a neighbourhood centre, thereby supporting local facilities, shops and services, promoting recreational activity and well-being.	43%	30%	16%	7%	3%
Protect and enhance the distinctive historic character of the Conservation Areas within Weymouth and its many architecturally significant and listed buildings, streets, squares, open spaces and the wider public realm for their vital importance to the identity and heritage of the individual neighbourhoods and town as a whole.	70%	16%	8%	4%	2%

Question 8 You are welcome to add here any comments, ideas, or suggestions you may have about Communities? E.g., Why communities are important to you and what can be done to make your community services and facilities easier to use.

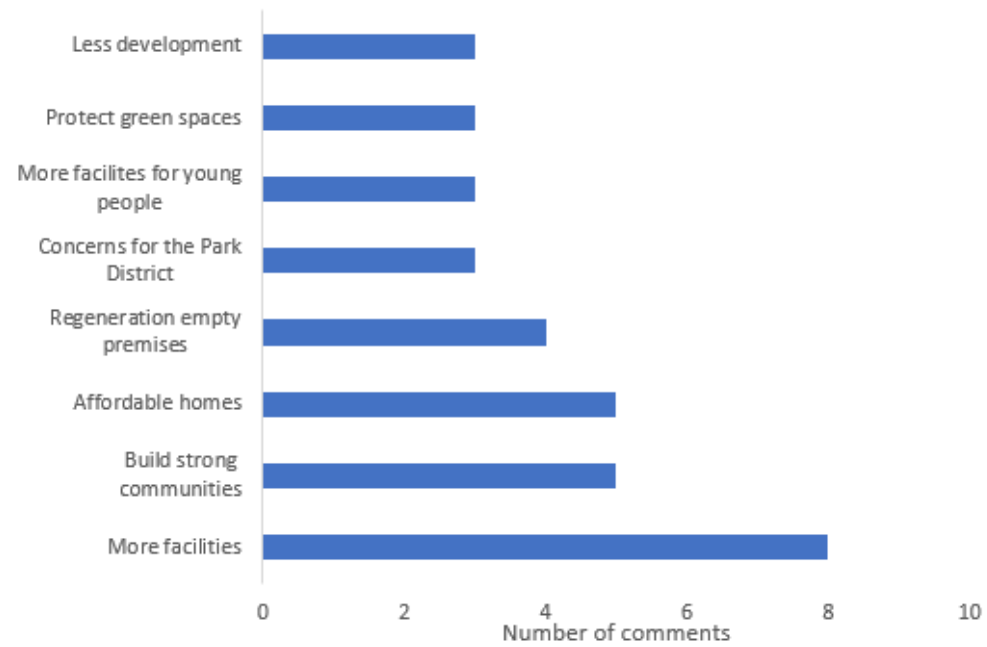
Summary of Key Responses:

Respondents who chose to add a comment were more vocal in highlighting the negative aspects of their community or their concerns, in particular the lack of facilities and affordable homes. Protecting the positive characteristics that make their community unique and valued were important.

“More money and more help to bring the Park District to life and not make it an area of poverty by allowing more H.M.O.s in the area which only then becomes a dumping ground for the council to put all the people with problems in one area and then not give them any support.”

“I don't think the Park District in Melcombe Regis is a Conservation Area. It should be. My home was built in 1886. Most of the houses here are very attractive to look at and live in and consideration should be given to keeping them that way.”

Comments, ideas or suggestions about Communities



12.8% of contributors indicated that they would be interested in being involved with the Communities group of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan. Contact details will be forwarded to the Communities theme lead.

Some participants made specific suggestions where they could participate positively in the future:

“Happy to ‘try out’ pavement areas and buildings with my husband's electric wheelchair in order to improve things for those with disabilities.”

7. Key Findings: Homes



7.1 Community Events

Attendees to the x3 WNP specific community events were asked to comment on the **aims** of the Homes theme:

Aim 1. Provide a broad mix of homes, which align with housing need and give priority to the needs of current and future residents and all parts of the community, with emphasis on social and affordable homes that reflect the character and appearance of the area.

Aim 2. Support and encourage the reuse of brownfield sites as well as community-led, self-build and innovative development schemes and tenancies as ways of achieving sustainable developments that are affordable for local residents.

2 questions were presented on display boards:

Question 1	Melcombe Regis	Littlemoor	Westham
Are these aims relevant to you and your community?	100% agreed	100% agreed	100% agreed

Participants were also asked – **Question 2. Are there any gaps missing that you would like to include in these themes and aims?**

Sample of comments:

“More development such as Lodmoor Sands - Need facilities and infrastructure part of planning approval.”

“Infrastructure: schools, doctors and dedicated cycle paths.”

“Need more affordable and low rent housing. Less second homes. Housing needed for residents’ children. Families.”

“Should put solar panels on all new builds. Should be mandatory.”

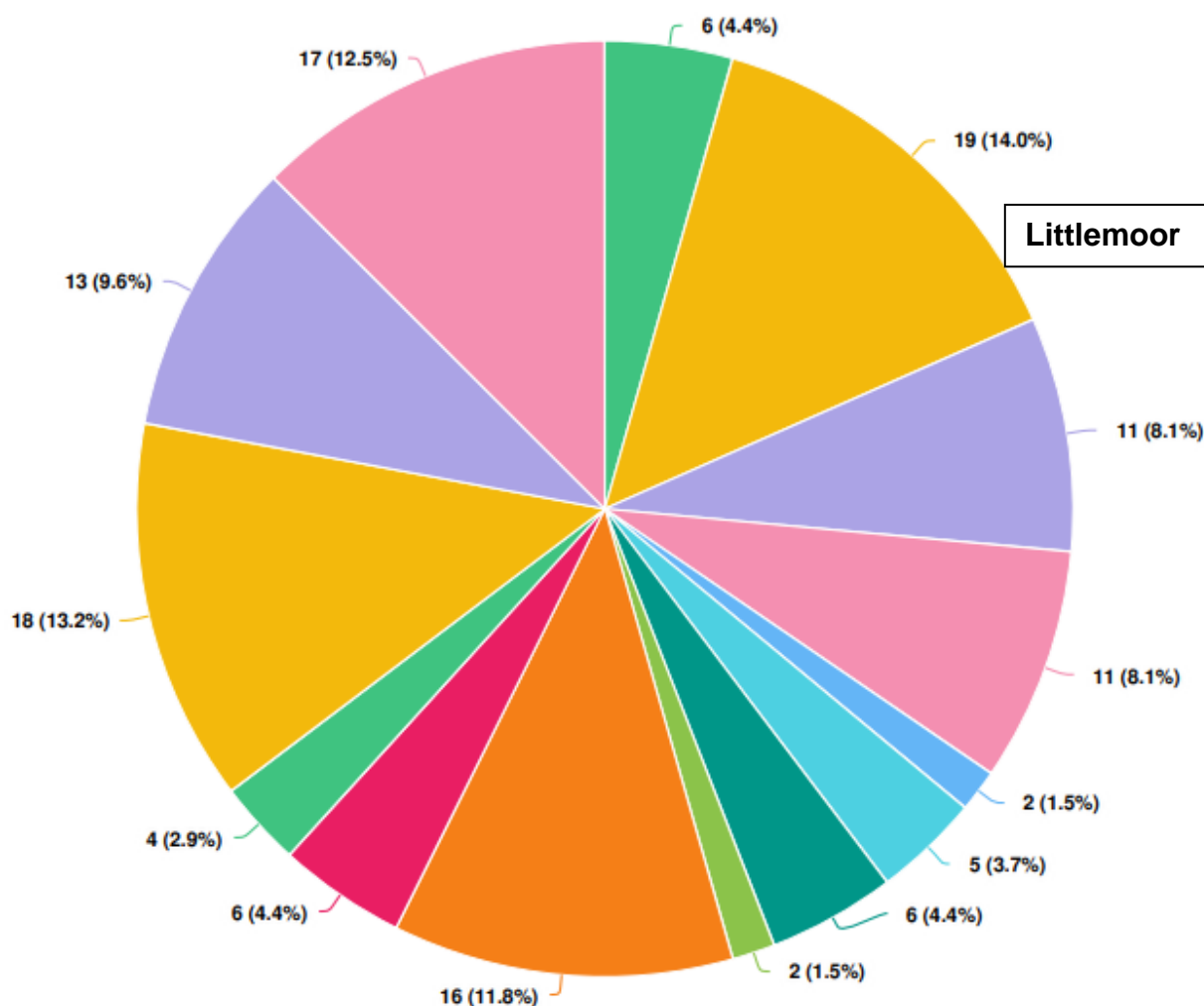
“Need more affordable homes and homes to rent.”

7.2 Online Survey

Weymouth Homes

Visitors 173	Contributors 116	CONTRIBUTIONS 136
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Please select in which area of Weymouth you live?



Question options

- Other (please specify)
- Wyke Regis
- Westham
- Upwey
- Southill
- Rodwell
- Redlands
- Radipole
- Preston
- Overcombe
- Melcombe Regis
- Lodmoor
- Littlemoor
- Broadwey

Figure 14: Chart showing Homes contribution number and percentage by area.

Participation in the Homes survey by area indicate that promotion in the communities where the live events were held may not have contributed to high numbers of attendance, but awareness of the WNP was impacted and online engagement created. Contributions from the Wyke Regis area may be due to local promotion on community social media channels by the lead DCF Project Officer who is a resident of Wyke Regis. Utilising social media in this way on a local level would be recommended for any future engagement.

The survey provided the following introduction to participants:

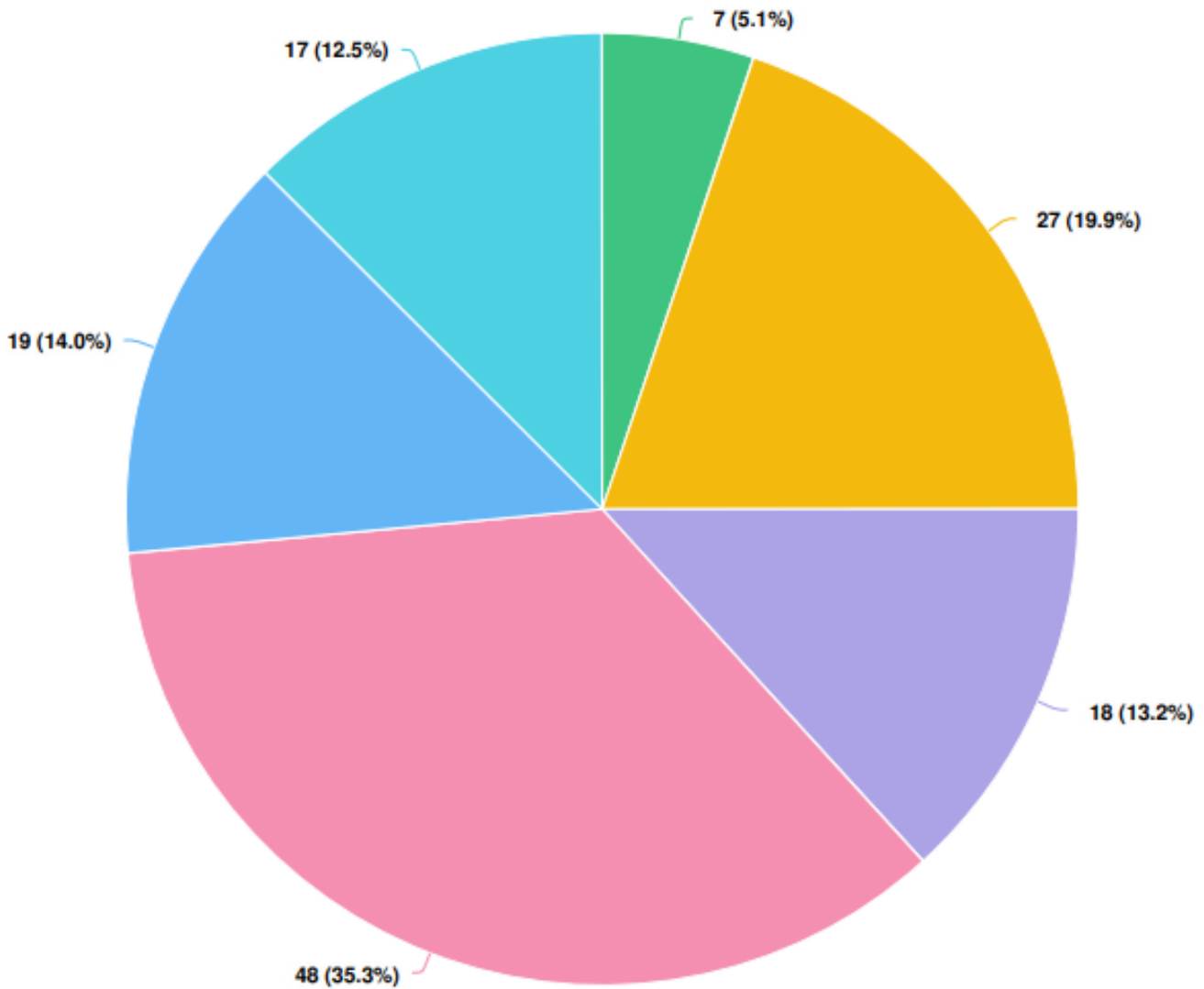
The government want to build 300,000 homes each year. Dorset's target is nearly 2000 and Weymouth's share is 190 each year.

Opportunities for new homes can be through mid-rise developments on Brownfield sites around the town centre or green field sites outside the town centre.

Weymouth's **Housing Needs Analysis** shows buying a house is unaffordable for people on average or below average wages and that we need at least 100 affordable homes each year.

The Homes survey utilised closed question data capture for all but one question. Participants were given the opportunity to provide additional information alongside their pick from the multi-choice answers. The following graphs illustrate the closed question responses.

Question 2 What types of homes do you expect today’s young people will have when they are aged 25?



Question options

- Other (please specify) or add a comment
 ● Co-housing i.e. sharing with others
● Living with relatives
- Rented from a housing association
 ● Rented from a private landlord
● Owner occupied

Sample of comments:

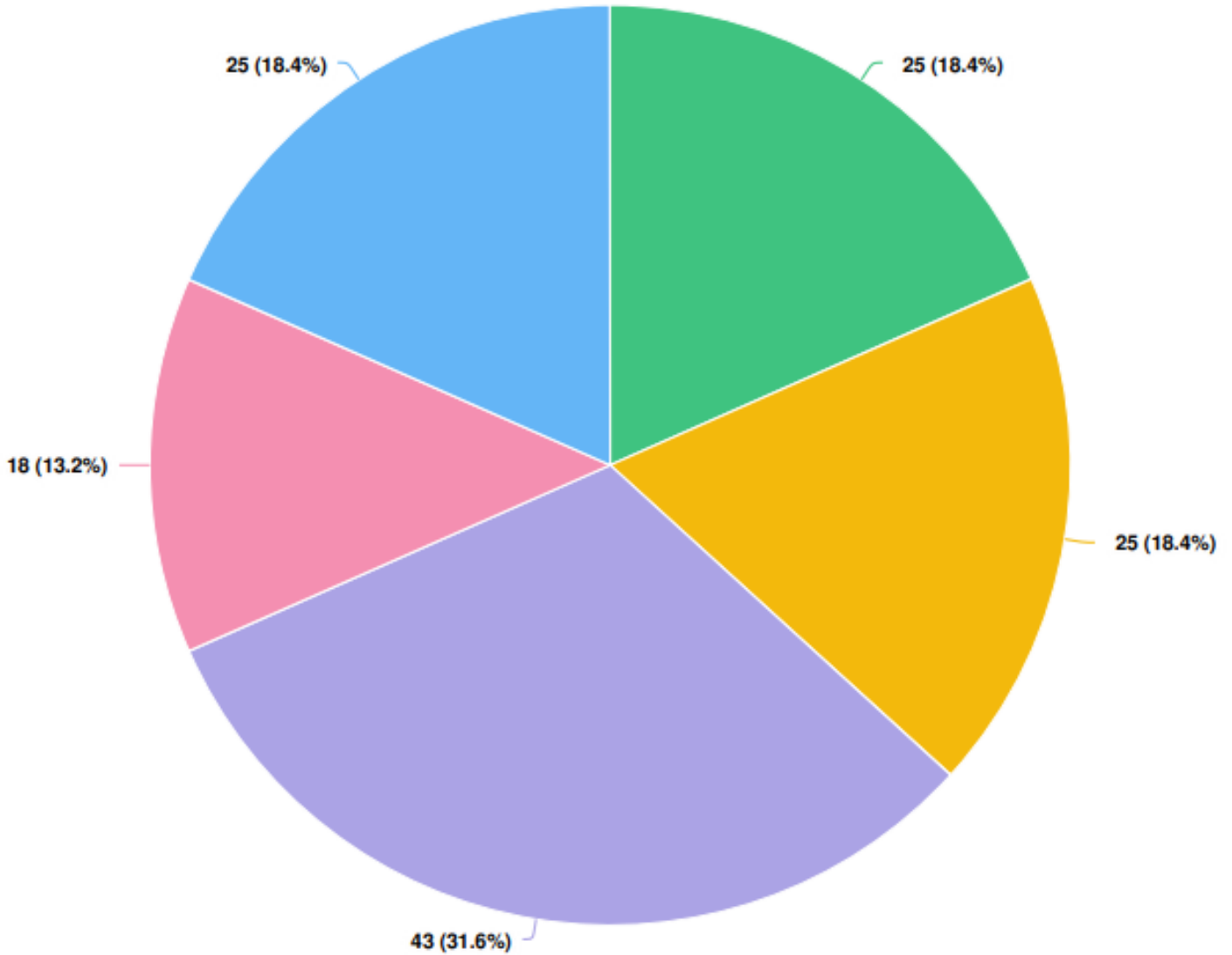
“A mix of all the above.”

“Tied accommodation through employer.”

“A mix of the above depending on work circumstances and availability of accommodation. Most likely co-housing, living with relatives or renting.”

Question 3 Weymouth Town Centre has lost many of its shops and businesses with businesses applying to convert their premises to residential use. Within the town centre 63% of homes are flats and bed-sits.

What types of homes would you prefer to see in the town centre?



Question options

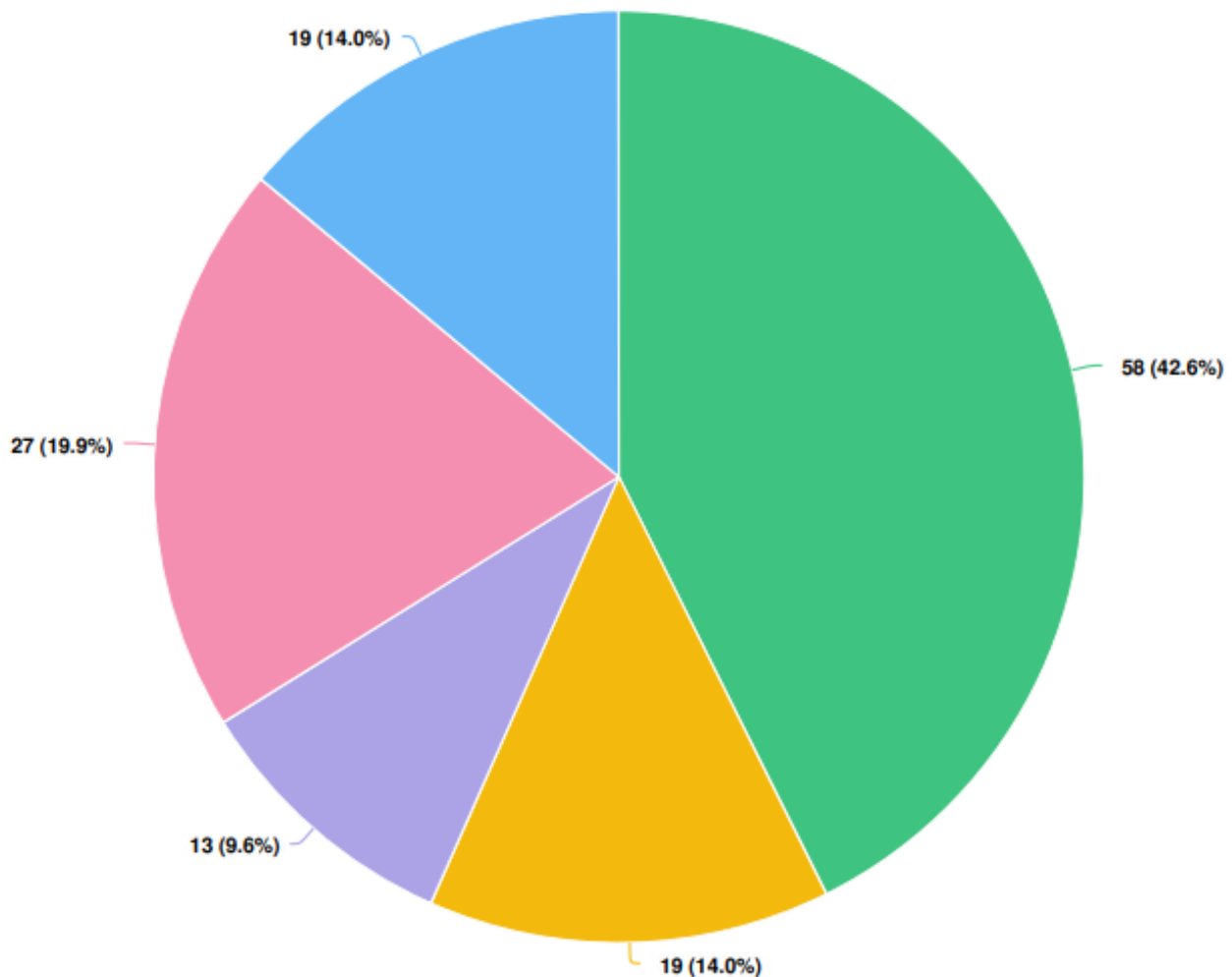
- Other (please specify) or add a comment
- None of these
- Modern apartments
- Family homes
- Flats / bed-sits

Sample of comments:

“What’s the difference between a flat and a modern apartment? Do you mean new purpose-built flats as opposed to houses converted into flats/flats above shops?”

“Mix for all generations and incomes.”

Question 4 There has been a decline in the amount of holiday accommodation. Would you like to see?



Question options

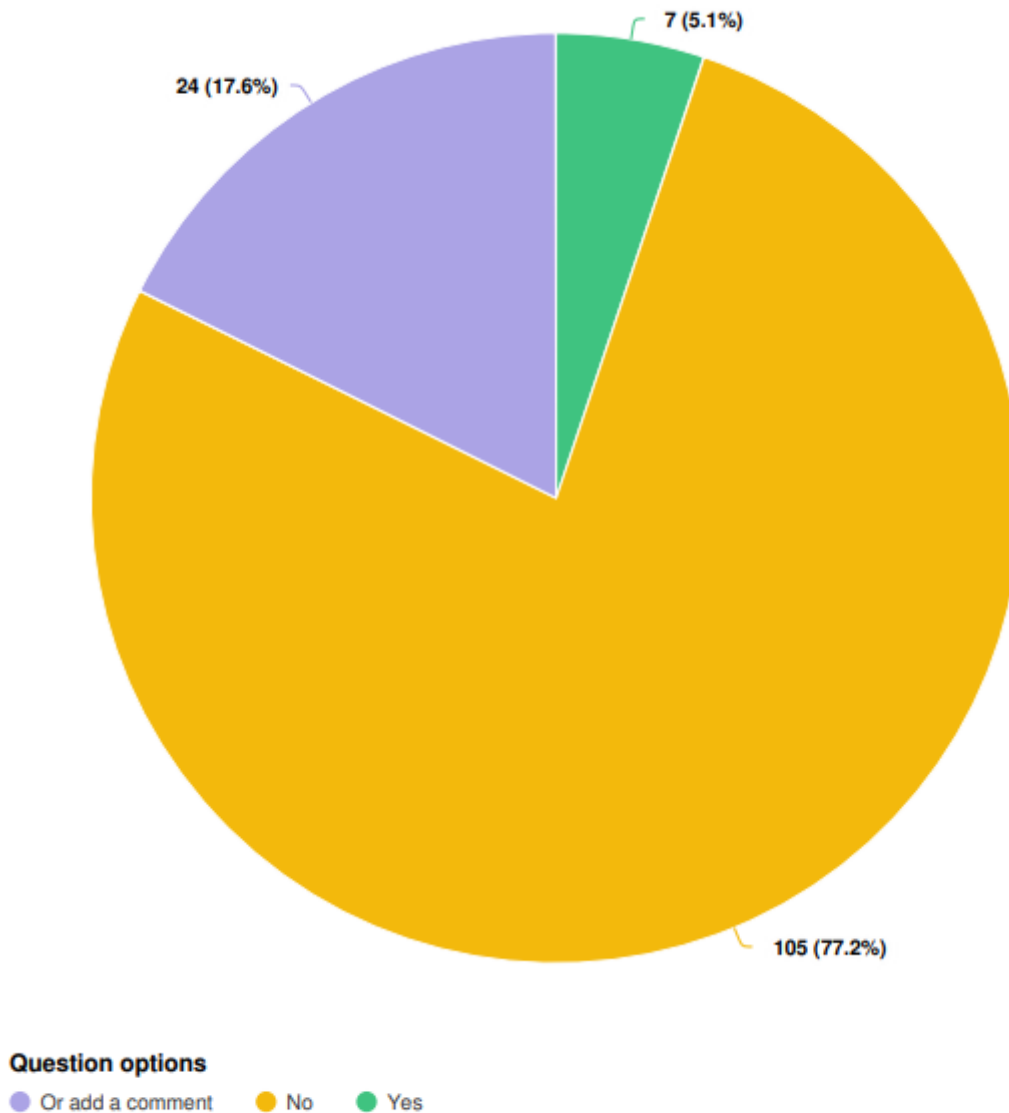
- Other (please specify) or add a comment
- None of these
- More holiday lets or Airbnb
- More large hotels
- More small hotels / bed & breakfasts

Sample of comments:

“I’d like to see a sport orientated accommodation offer open up in Weymouth similar to the Mountbatten water sports and activities centre in Plymouth.”

“There is enough holiday accommodation but if you are going to have more make it much better quality. It’s too much of the same bucket and spade stuff and we need to attract a more diverse crowd. I would like to see new blood in the town who are here to appreciate the natural resources and the hopefully restored amazing Victorian/Georgian buildings. Weymouth needs to become a great place for younger people to live, work and enjoy all year round so they can build a life and regenerate the town. If these people visit on holiday and like what they see they may just keep coming back! Please make the town a viable place for young well-educated people to move to live and work and set up businesses. They can repopulate the town centre and will build businesses to serve themselves which are of more benefit to both the residents and the tourists.”

Question 5 Do you have one or more spare rooms in your home that you would be willing to offer to a person in need of housing, if supported by a local charity or council?



Sample of comments:

“Accommodation not suitable as it is also business with confidential meetings etc.”

“My disability and rental agreement does not permit.”

“I have my adult son living with me because he cannot afford to rent anything suitable on his income.”

“We are foster carers so already doing this.”

“I have a spare room but would worry about safety as I’m usually alone as a woman with a 1-year-old son.”

Question 6 - 136 Responses

To address the local housing need for affordable homes, would you support a major development with mostly affordable housing on a green field site?

Yes 33.1% No 66.9%

Question 7 – 91 Responses from those who answered No to Q6

Would the making of a bigger adjacent area as public open space or nature reserve influence your view?

Yes 50.5% No 49.5%

Summary of Key Responses:

Just over half of those who would not support the development of mostly affordable housing on green field sites indicated that developments that combined the creation of spaces for nature and recreation would potentially influence their viewpoint. This question could be developed to gain further insight.

Question 8 – 136 Responses

As part of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan, aims for each of the themes are being proposed. Please tick an option to tell us if you agree with the aims for Homes:

	Definitely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Definitely disagree
Provide a broad mix of homes, which align with housing need and give priority to the needs of current and future residents and all parts of the community, with emphasis on social and affordable homes that reflect the character and appearance of the area.	53%	26%	10%	8%	3%
Support and encourage the reuse of brownfield sites as well as community-led, self-build and innovative development schemes and tenancies as ways of achieving sustainable developments that are affordable for local residents.	63%	22%	9%	1.5%	4.5%

Question 9 – 83 Responses

You are welcome to add here any comments, ideas or suggestions you may have about homes. E.g., Why homes are important to you and your views on how to provide a broad mix of homes that are affordable to local residents?

Summary of Key Responses:

53% of all contributors to this question chose to comment on a lack of affordable homes and comments were varied and often strongly worded and lengthy. Of all the surveys, answers to this question were detailed and worthy of deeper analysis by the theme lead.

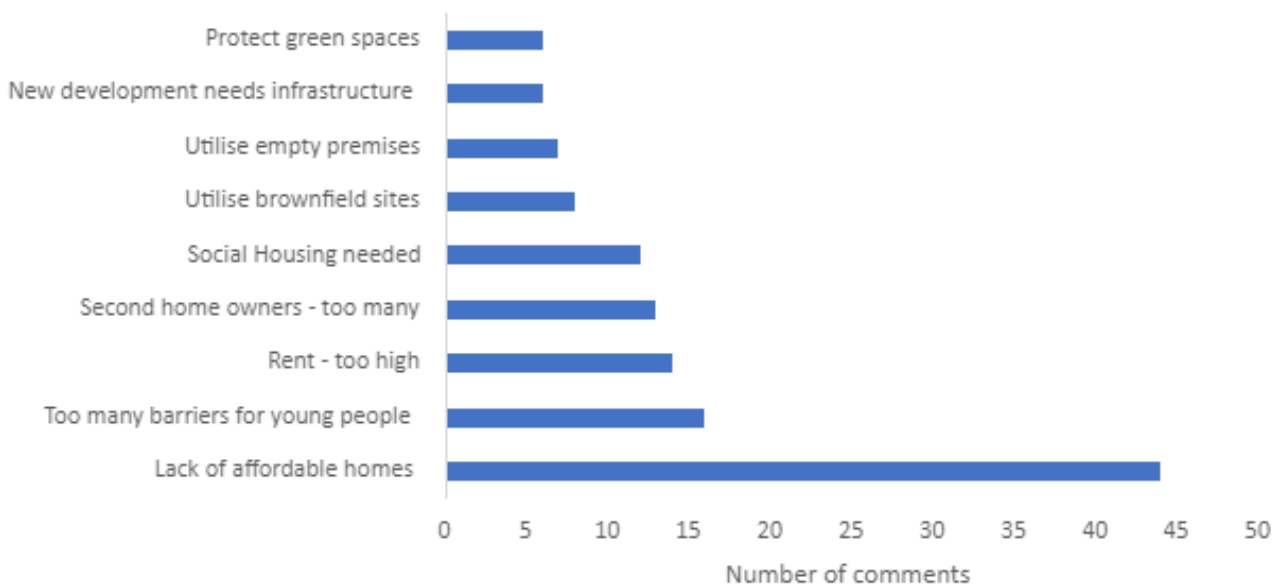
“Weymouth can’t keep approving sites that despite being invariably overdeveloped do nothing to address the local housing need. Newtons Cove and Brewers Quay will become classic examples of this.”

“Any increase in the building of new homes or conversion of commercial into residential properties should have restrictions on them being purchased as second homes. And of course, the local infrastructure needs to increase, i.e. doctors surgeries, schools to match.”

“The many housing developments nearby are all for expensive houses unaffordable to local people. There does not seem to be a mix with some social housing anymore. The so-called affordable houses are not affordable.”

“Stop building on green field sites. Use what brown field sites there are. Why don’t you listen to what we have to say?”

Comments, ideas or suggestions about for Homes



7.4% of contributors indicated that they would be interested in being involved with the Homes group of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan. Contact details will be forwarded to the Homes theme lead.

8. Key Findings: Jobs



8.1 Community Events

Attendees to the x3 WNP specific community events were asked to comment on the **aims** of the Jobs theme:

Aim 1. Make Weymouth a more self-sufficient community and reduce commuting by preserving and enhancing employment provision for a diverse range of jobs, training and skills throughout the year.

Aim 2. Preserve and enhance Weymouth’s unique built and cultural heritage (harbour side and beach front), maritime heritage, leisure and entertainment offering, recognising its needs as a desirable, year round, visitor destination.

Aim 3. Encourage the creation of jobs and training that support independent enterprises and encourage creativity, technology, innovation, and green jobs as well as jobs that build on farming, food production, the coastal and maritime location.

2 questions were presented on display boards:

Question 1	Melcombe Regis	Littlemoor	Westham
Are these aims relevant to you and your community?	90% agreed	88% agreed	80% agreed

Participants were also asked – **Question 2. Are there any gaps missing that you would like to include in these themes and aims?**

Sample of comments:

“More apprentices available.”

“College include ‘Green’ job training.”

“Need more training for people who missed out on education first time round”

“Stop young people having to leave area for good jobs.”

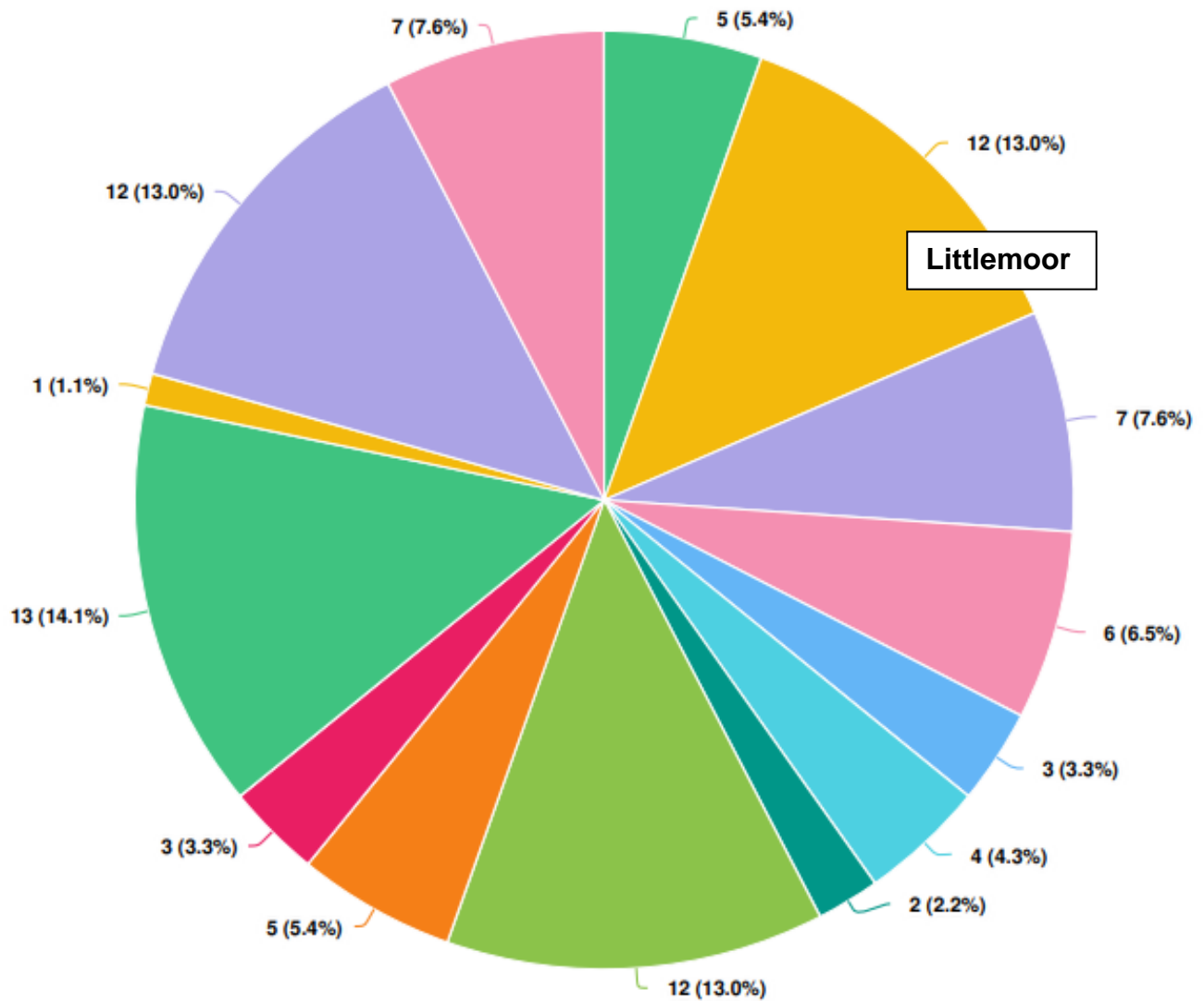
“Provision of facilities for remotes for collaborative working.”

8.2 Online Survey

Weymouth Jobs

Visitors 112	Contributors 77	CONTRIBUTIONS 92
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Please select in which area of Weymouth you live?

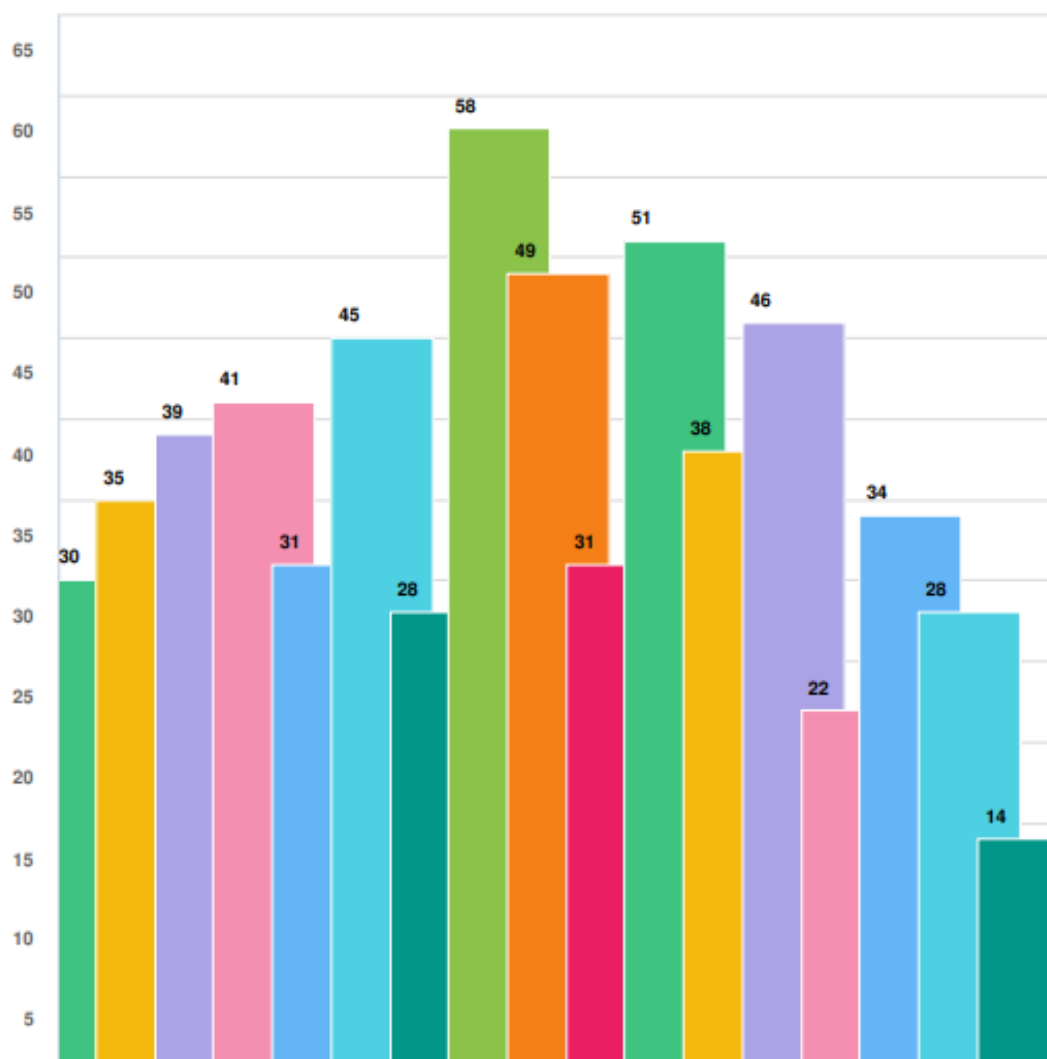


Question options

- Other (please specify)
- Wyke Regis
- Wey Valley
- Westham
- Upwey
- Southill
- Rodwell
- Redlands
- Radipole
- Preston
- Melcombe Regis
- Lodmoor
- Littlemoor
- Broadway

Figure 15: Chart showing Jobs contribution number and percentage by area.

Question 2 What type of new jobs does Weymouth need?



Question options

- Other (please specify) ● Transportation ● Wholesale, retail & repair ● Water, sewerage & waste management
- Manufacturing ● Tourism & entertainment ● Scientific & technical
- Public administration, local government, defence & social security ● Information & communications
- Health, well-being & social work ● Financial, insurance & legal services ● Education ● Construction
- Arts & culture ● Agriculture, forestry & fishing ● Administration & support services ● Accommodation & food services

Summary of Key Responses:

Participants were able to select multiple times from 17 options. The top 5 identified new jobs that people would like to see created were:

Job Type	Number of contributions
Health, well-being & social work	58
Scientific & technical	51
Information & communications	49
Manufacturing	46
Education	45

Sample of comments for 'other':

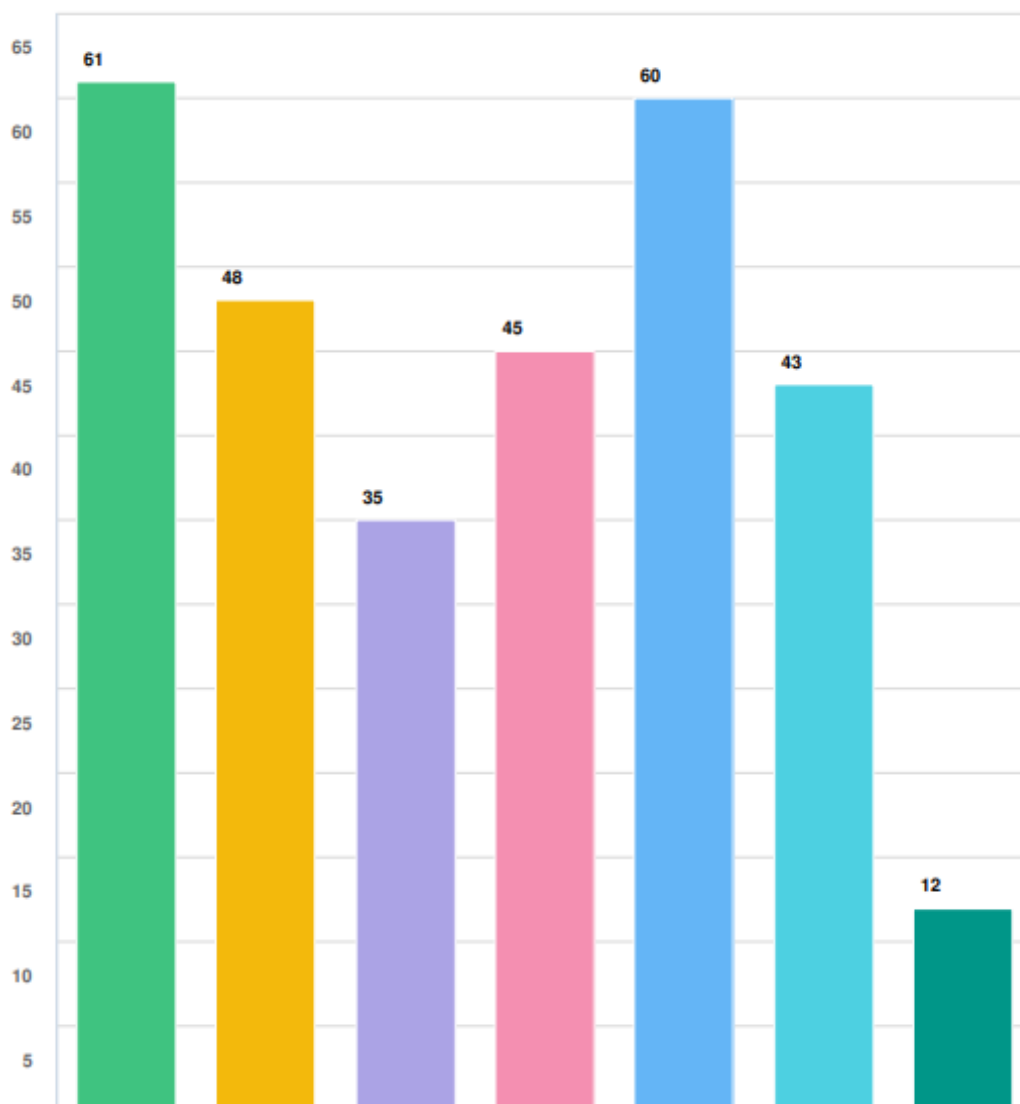
"I believe that Weymouth needs to attract large service providing companies, such as insurance providers, technology companies and other organisations that can provide skilled permanent job opportunities and raise the aspirations of local people, especially young people. Concessions on business rates etc. would need to be offered to attract such companies but Weymouth and the surrounding areas would benefit in many ways and residents would have better work prospects."

"More jobs that are not seasonal."

"An art college/university would be amazing. There is huge scope for what that would provide increasing education ops, a campus would bring a student population who are likely to stay in the area and regenerate it."

"It needs everything and more off it. As a young adult there is no middle ground so I might as well just move to Poole."

Question 3 Where in Weymouth should new jobs be?



Question options

- Other (please specify)
- Working from home
- Town centre (including the seafront & harbour)
- Out of town centre around community hubs
- Out of town retail parks
- Small business sites on new housing developments
- Industrial estates

Summary of Key Responses:

Participants were able to select multiple times from 7 options. The top 5 identified areas where new jobs should be:

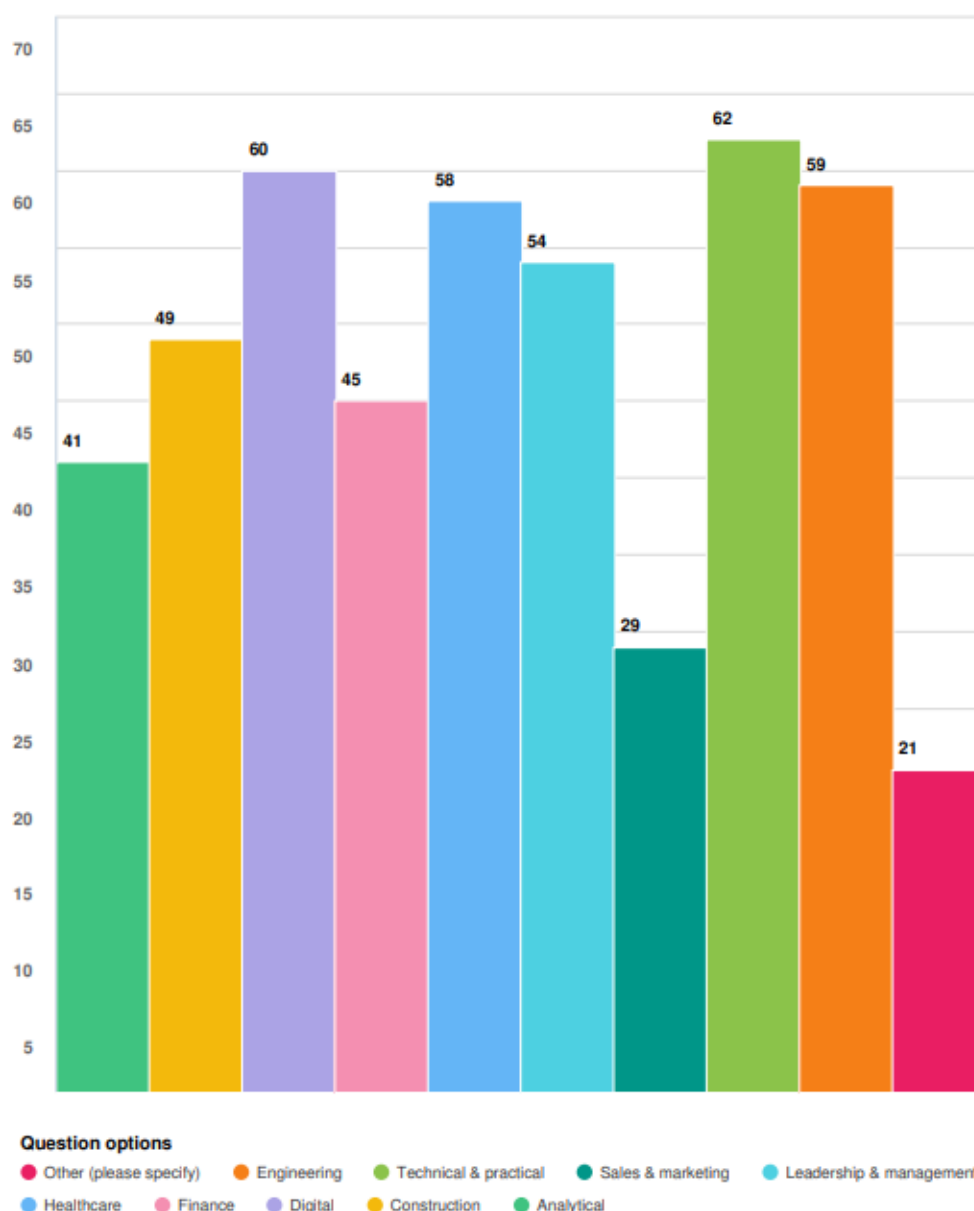
Place	Number of contributions
Industrial estates	61
Town centre (incl seafront & harbour)	60
Small business sites on new housing developments	48
Out of town centre around community hubs	45
Working from home	43

Sample of comments for 'other':

“New jobs should be anywhere that the work provider deems suitable. Obviously, most of the seasonal holiday jobs will be around the seafront/harbour/town centre. Weymouth needs to attract other employers to the area too.”

“Anywhere out of town.”

Question 4: What skills and qualifications are needed to be taught in Weymouth?



Summary of Key Responses:

Participants were able to select multiple times from 10 options. The top 5 skills and qualifications people felt were needed to be taught in Weymouth were:

Skills & Qualifications	Number of contributions
Technical & practical	62
Digital	60
Engineering	59
Healthcare	58
Leadership & Management	54

Sample of comments for 'other':

“Marine engineering / marine electricians / boat repairs / boat building / electrical engineers / skills transferable to renewable energy e.g. wind farm technology.”

“All skills are needed. The work choices locally are limited but young people can move to areas where there are more opportunities or move on to higher education if they choose, providing the standard of education at local schools enables them to do so.”

“Weymouth needs far more opportunities for both higher academic and applied education. Too many people have to leave Weymouth in order to move forward.”

“Mentoring to support new businesses find investment opportunities.”

Question 5 – 92 responses

Should there be higher education courses in Weymouth?

Yes 97.8% No 2.2%

There was majority support for access to higher education in Weymouth and respondents were asked to explain if they were not in support. 2 people responded negatively to the question of higher education. [Their comments were:](#)

“Concerned that young people get into debt by being encouraged to take a university course that might not be appropriate.”

“Higher Education I assume you mean degree level need centres of excellence. Weymouth should focus on other things.”

Question 6 – 92 responses

Do you think all year-round tourism would benefit Weymouth and should be a main focus?

Yes 72.8% No 27.2%

Just over a quarter of respondents disagreed with the suggestion that Weymouth consider all year-round tourism and they were asked to explain why not.

Sample of comments:

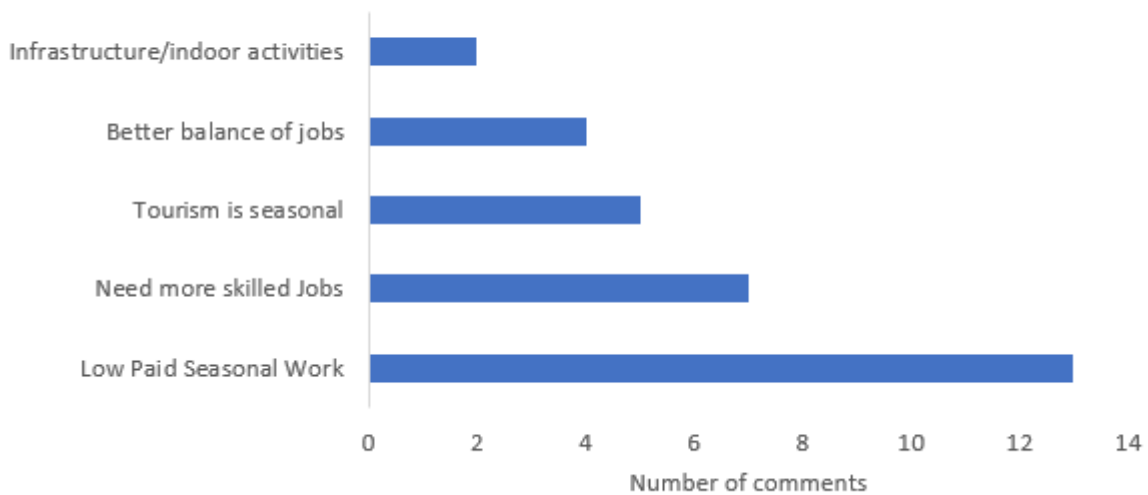
“Year-round tourism would benefit Weymouth. It should not be the main focus. Upskilling people to become experts in marine technology - electronics, engineering, mechanics that lend themselves to coastal careers should be the focus not more hospitality.”

“We need to get things right for those choosing to live here before extending the time that tourists spend here. Once that's done, I would support extending the tourist season to run throughout the year to include outdoor activities and cultural & social events.”

“Usually minimum wage- we should focus on more specialist jobs that require higher education and better pay.”

“There is sufficient emphasis on tourism already. Rather than putting all eggs in tourism basket we need to have a balanced sustainable and resilient economy that can survive through uncertain times.”

Why don't you think all year round tourism would benefit Weymouth and should be a main focus?



Concerned that currently seasonal jobs equated to low-paid jobs, respondents commented that concentrating on extending the tourism market to all year-round might negatively impact on the creation of jobs in other more well-paid industries.

Question 7 – 92 Responses

As part of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan, aims for each of the themes are being proposed. Please tick an option to tell us if you agree with the aims for Jobs:

	Definitely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Definitely disagree
Make Weymouth a more self-sufficient community and reduce commuting by preserving and enhancing employment provision for a diverse range of jobs, training and skills throughout the year.	76%	16%	4%	2.5%	1.5%
Preserve and enhance Weymouth’s unique built and cultural heritage (harbour side and beach front), maritime heritage, leisure and entertainment offering, recognising its needs as a desirable, year-round, visitor destination.	59%	23%	14%	4%	0%
Encourage the creation of jobs and training that support independent enterprises and encourage creativity, technology, innovation, and green jobs as well as jobs that build on farming, food production, the coastal and maritime location.	78%	15%	5%	1%	1%

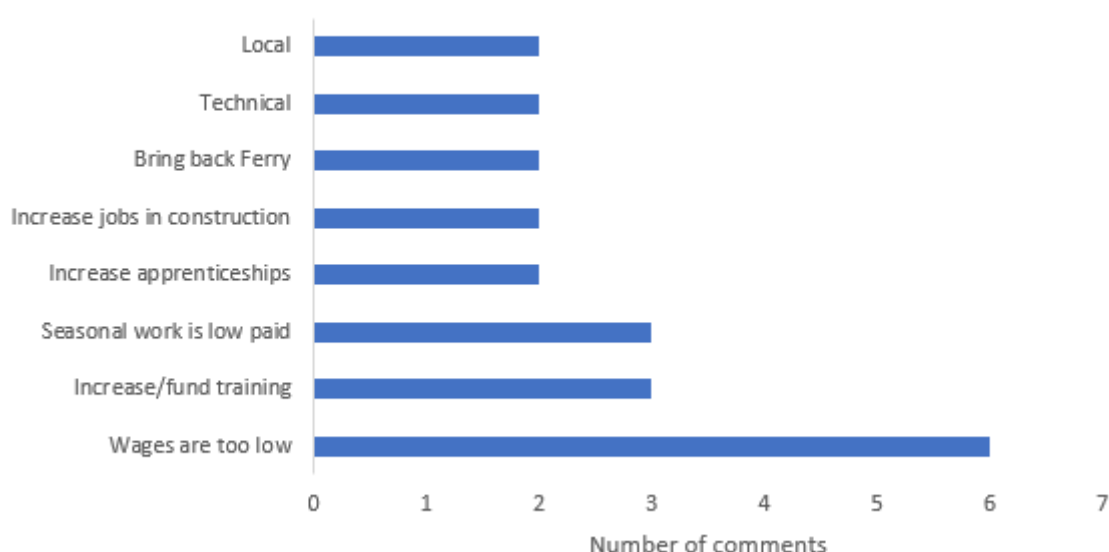
Question 8 – 35 Responses

You are welcome to add here any comments, ideas, or suggestions you may have about Jobs? E.g., Why jobs are important to you and your views on how to enhance employment opportunities in your area?

Summary of Key Responses:

Respondents who chose to add a comment identified low paid seasonal work, industries lost in Weymouth and industries where jobs could be created.

Comments, ideas or suggestions about Jobs



Sample of comments:

“More skilled and professional roles are needed in Weymouth. We have lost the Royal Navy, Dockyard, Govt sites also. We need more highly technical employment and higher skill base. We need better salaries here. Wages are too low.”

“There are too many jobs with low pay, seasonal work, zero hours contracts, often unsociable hours. It is almost like better jobs are not encouraged in case there are not enough people for the first type of job on tap!! Employers would then complain no one wants to do these poor-quality jobs with poor conditions.”

“We need more better paid jobs. There are a lot of seasonal jobs here that are mainly low paid. We have lost some of our large employment firms over the years and these haven't been replaced.”

7.6% of contributors indicated that they would be interested in being involved with the Jobs group of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan. Contact details will be forwarded to the Jobs theme lead.

9. Key Findings: Landscapes & Green Spaces



9.1 Community Events

Attendees to the x3 WNP specific community events were asked to comment on the **aims** of the Landscapes 7 Green Spaces theme:

Aim 1. Preserve and enhance our unique environments and sustain distinctive landscapes, especially our coastal, marine, beaches, cliff tops, inland waterways, rivers, marshes, nature reserves and parks.

Aim 2. Increase the use of Weymouth’s open spaces and community facilities for all ages and abilities by improving existing and creating new recreational amenities.

Aim 3. Reverse biodiversity loss, enhance engagement with nature, encourage biodiversity and habitat conservation and invest in our natural capital and our ecosystems to safeguard sustainable food production, ensuring protection from natural hazards and continued recreational activities.

Aim 4. Create an integrated network of green and blue infrastructure habitats, parks, waterways and nature trails between and through existing and new developments whilst providing safe walking and cycling routes.

2 questions were presented on display boards:

Question 1	Melcombe Regis	Littlemoor	Westham
Are these aims relevant to you and your community?	100% agreed	100% agreed	100% agreed

Participants were also asked – **Question 2. Are there any gaps missing that you would like to include in these themes and aims?**

Sample of comments:

“Trees along the riverside – on north side of Westham.”

“Retain green spaces. Access important – get it right first time e.g., cycle route (covered) on bridge removed.”

“Promote marine environment more e.g. CEFAS as a visitor centre.”

“Encourage schools to offer new GCSE in Natural History exam to inform younger people.”

“Tidy up and green the Peninsula Area.”

9.2 Places Online Map & Online Survey

Weymouth Landscapes and Green Spaces

Visitors 135	Contributors 46	CONTRIBUTIONS 61
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SURVEY

MAP

Landscapes and Green Spaces

Visitors 199	Contributors 34	CONTRIBUTIONS 93
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9.2.1 Places Online Map

The Landscapes & Green Spaces theme survey had the additional functionality of an interactive online map on the DCF Have Your Say website which was accessible throughout the consultation period.

The Landscapes & Green Spaces theme lead worked with the DCF Support Officer to design a map where data collected would complement the insights gained from the online survey.

93 contributions were made as virtual ‘pins’ on the map with participants having the ability to write a comment additionally if they wished to. Users could zoom into a map of Weymouth and choose to drop a pin to correspond with the categories of designated green space, favourite view, wild areas, allotments, walking paths and cycle paths. This data has been added to the analysis of survey closed question answers and contributed comments to follow.

Category distribution of pins - 93 contributions:

- Designated Green Space 15%
- Favourite View 35%
- Wild Areas 19%
- Allotments 6%
- Walking Paths 6%
- Cycle Paths 17%

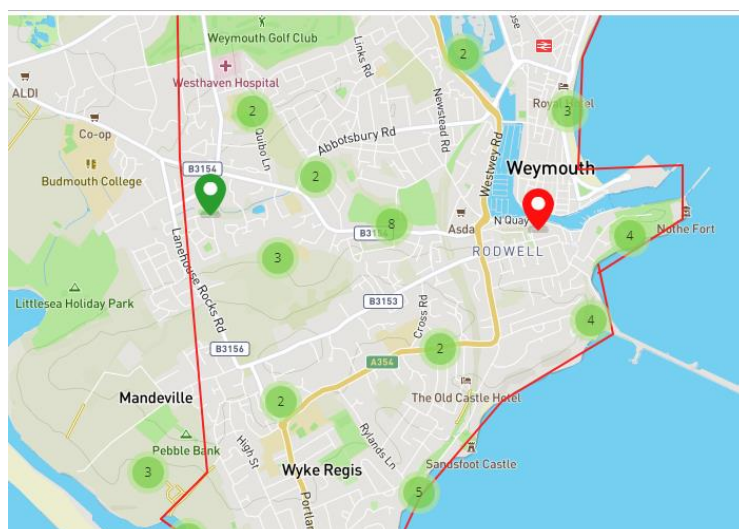


Figure 16 Map showing pinned Favourite Views

The virtual pin drop is extremely accurate meaning that data can be collated specifically to an area of interest – i.e., identified new sites for allotments.

9.2.2 Online Survey

Please select in which area of Weymouth you live?

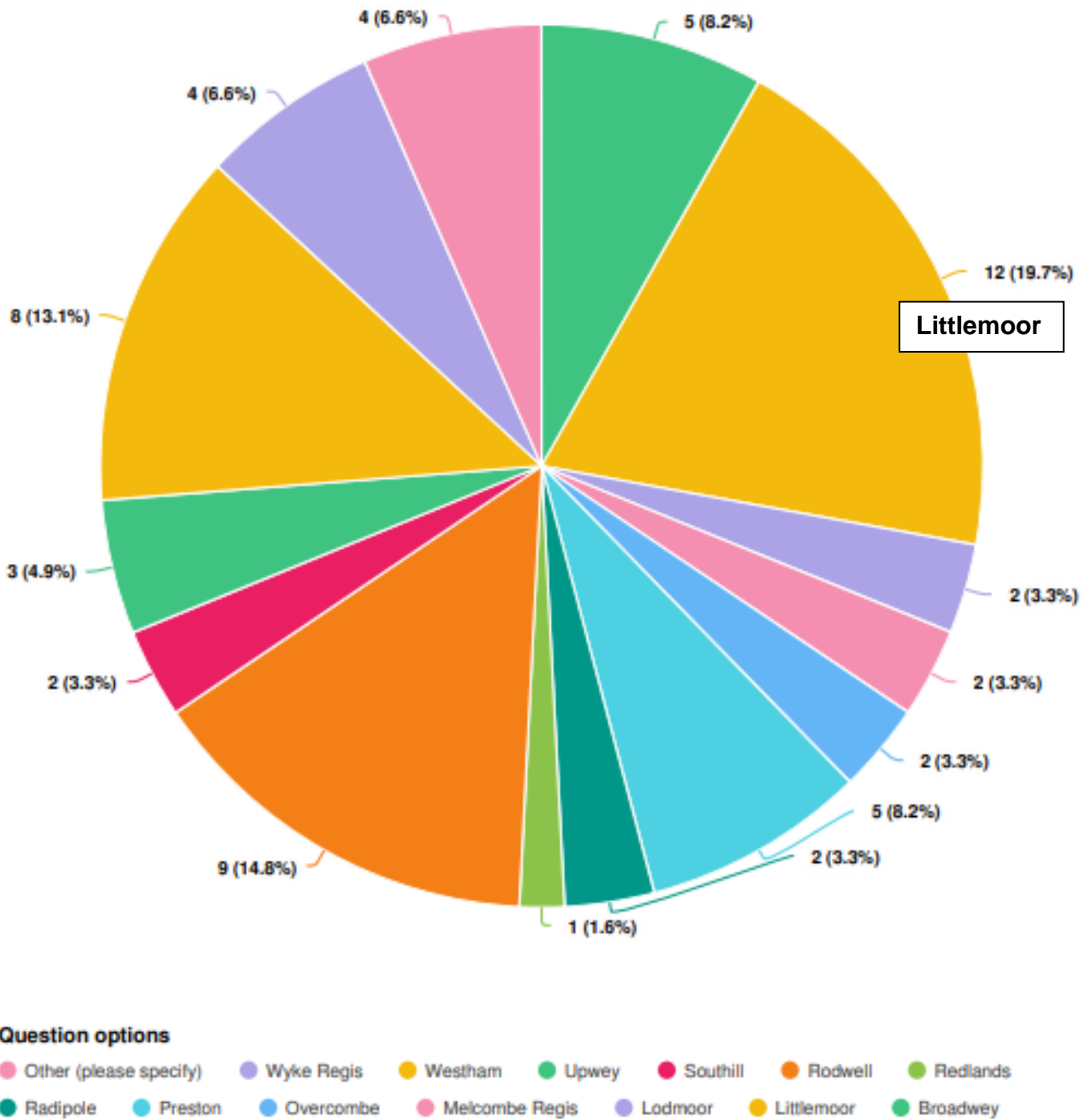


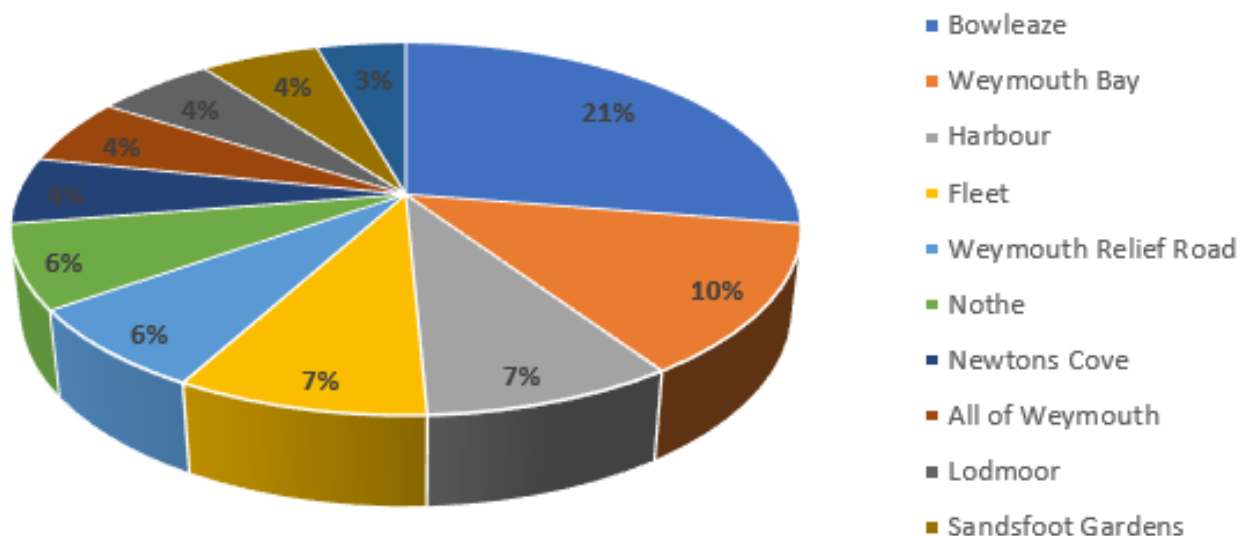
Figure 17: Chart showing Landscapes & Green Spaces contribution number and percentage by area.

Question 2 – What is your favourite view within the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan area and what features make the view so special to you?

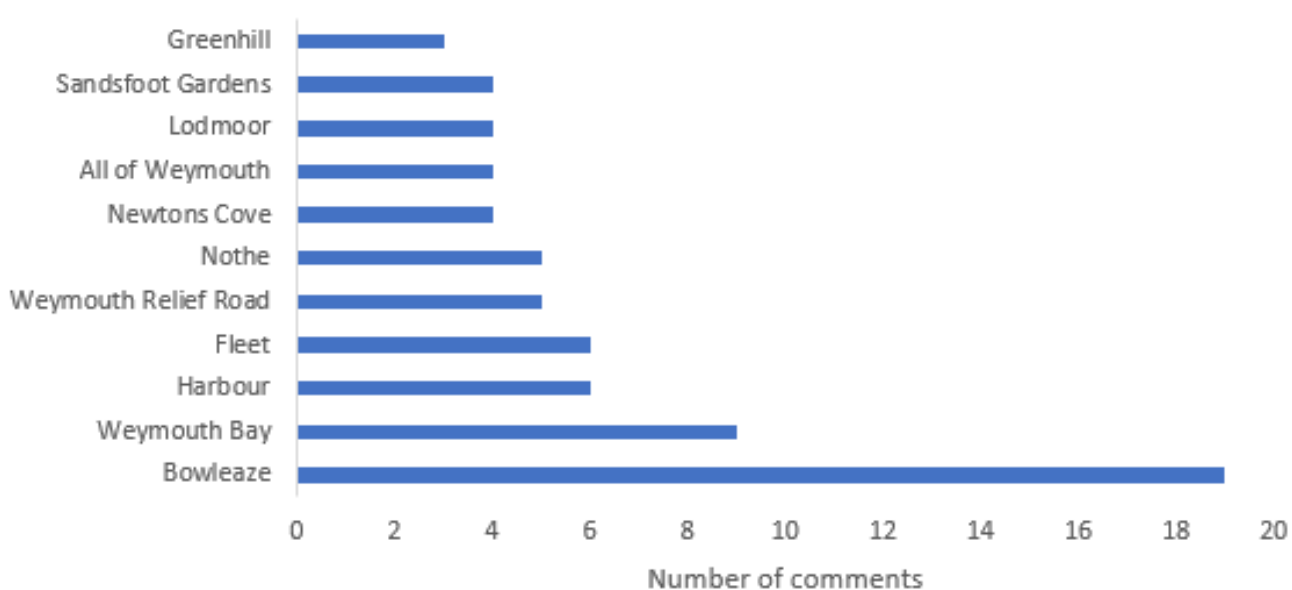
29 markers on the Places map

Total number of comments made 90

What is your favourite view within the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan area?



What is your favourite view within the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan area?



Summary of Key Responses:

Participants named over 30 places that they would describe as their favourite view but the views from and around Bowleaze were named or pinned by 21% of all participants.

Sample of comments:

“The views across Weymouth are stunning. The town has escaped high rise development. Church spires peak above the roof line with rolling hills, chalk cliffs, Osmington Horse, Weymouth Bay and Portland Harbour adding to the beauty and interest.”

“Top of Lodmoor. You can see across area to the sea.”

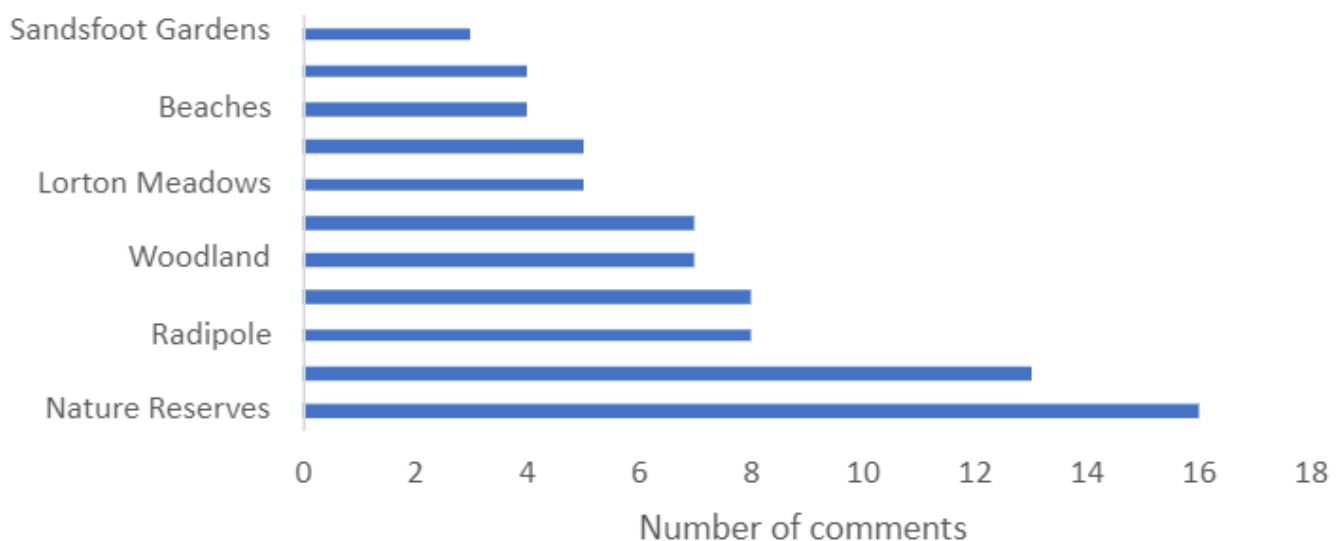
“The view from hill as above as looks like Pearl Harbour! Bowleaze - cafe on hill that gives a stunning view of Weymouth.”

Question 3 – Are there any wild areas for nature you want to protect for future generations to enjoy?

18 markers on the Places map

Total number of comments made 79

Where are the wild areas for nature you want to protect for future generations to enjoy?



Summary of Key Responses:

20% of contributors named Weymouth’s nature reserves as the wild areas of nature they wished to protect most. Specific places were named such as the Fleet, the Nothe and Newton’s Cove, with a well distributed variety.

Sample of comments:

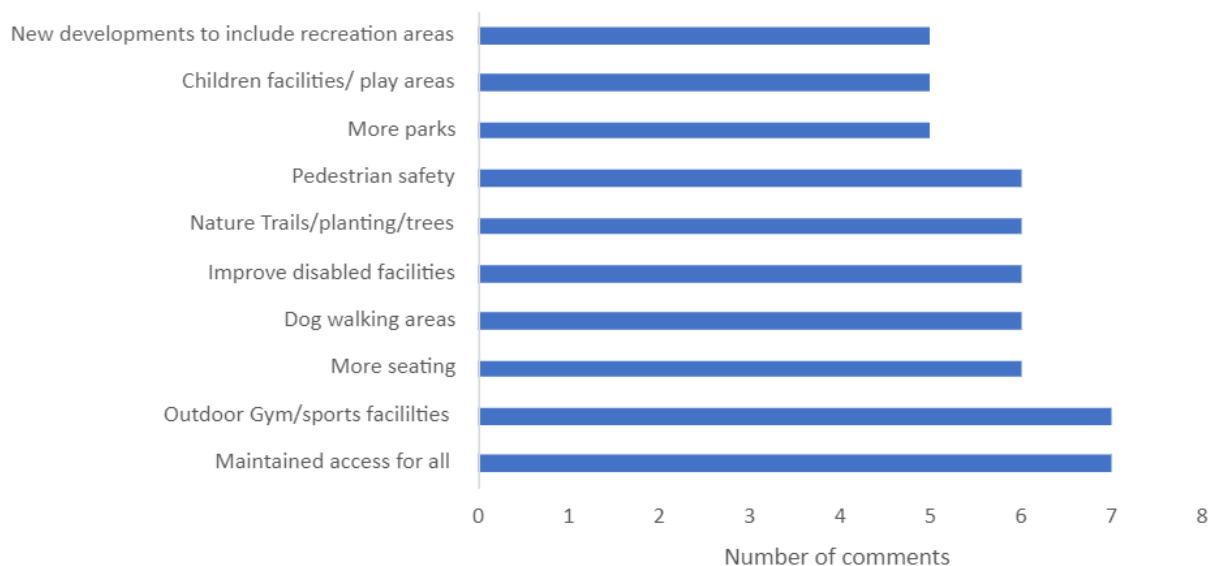
“This little wild area is much overlooked as it is just the corner behind the Sainsburys petrol station, but I've watched deer in it and there's some lovely wildlife there.” Specific area pinned on map

“Locally Bingleaves Green, the Nothe, Sandsfoot Gardens, Rodwell Trail are important open spaces for residents and need to be protected if they are not already. The Rodwell allotments, the undercliff between Bingleaves and Sandsfoot Castle and The Rodwell Trail are providing some space for badgers and foxes to move about without crossing busy roads. These wildlife corridors are essential for wildlife and us to share!”

“Green fields towards the Fleet Lagoon. All on the right side of Chickerell Road from Budmouth School. All of Lorton Meadows. All of the fields at the back of Radipole and Coldharbour. The Woodland Trust at Chickerell. The green fields not built on in Chickerell. The remains fields between Westham and Wyke. Curtis fields should never have been built on. The loss of green fields is devastating.”

Question 4 – What would you do to improve recreational open spaces for all ages and abilities? Think about play areas, sports fields, parks and gardens etc?

What would you do to improve recreational open spaces for all ages and abilities?



Summary of Key Responses:

This question created one of the greatest range of answers of all the surveys with 61 comments and 107 different tagged subjects. Reflected in the illustrated top 10 topics/subjects above, no one topic stood out.

It would be recommended that further engagement could be done to gain further insight into how the public use the recreational open spaces in Weymouth and how to involve residents with creating improvements that best serve the communities.

Sample of comments:

“Perhaps more general landscaping in urban areas especially the town centre. Outdoor spaces where people can go to enjoy the outdoors, nature, activities and socialise are invaluable. Make these destinations and give people a reason to go there - pocket parks are great. The perfect site is the whole area behind the pavilion and the site at the end of newtons cove and link them up. You could create an amazing walking/cycling trail from the sea front along the harbour to the Nothe, Newtons Cove and back.”

“Garden Villages: all new developments should be set out in the style of the garden village with consideration given to green space and well-being from the first not as an add-on.”

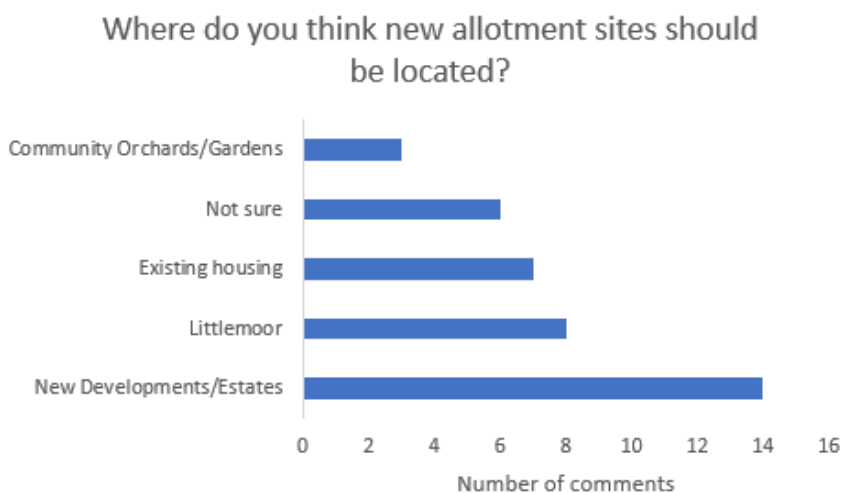
“Sort out the Marsh, Redlands , new and better sports pitches , build a new smart running track area, improve cycle ways, allow bikes on sea front more, new play areas on all new build sites.”

Question 5 – 61 responses

Would you support more allotment sites or plots?

Yes 73.8% No 26.2%

If Yes, where do you think new allotment sites should be located?



Summary of Key Responses:

27% of respondents believed that new allotment sites should be included in new built development/ estates to enhance the facilities offered to residents. The theme lead for Landscapes & Green Spaces attended 4 events at Littlemoor during the consultation period and this may have contributed to Littlemoor being the number one named area.

6 pins relating to allotment sites were included on the interactive map. These were located at/near:

- Hardy Avenue
- Weymouth Relief Road
- Cockles Lane
- Watery Lane, Broadway
- Merredin Close, Littlemoor
- Beverley Road, Littlemoor

Sample of comments:

“All our parks could offer small plots to involve the whole community in being self-sufficient community plots rather than individual will stop empty plots that are applied for then not used.”

“I think allotments should be increased and included in all developments. Food insecurity is an issue now. The pressure on our food resources is going to increase and allotments could play a crucial role in mitigating this risk for the future.”

“Ensure all residential areas are served by an area of allotments within a mile radius.”

Question 6 – 61 Responses

Do you think more walking paths are needed?

Yes 36.1% No 18% Not sure 45.9%

If Yes, where would you like to see more walking paths?



Summary of Key Responses:

This question created responses relating to not only potential new walking paths but current paths that respondents perceived needed better maintenance and this reflects in the high percentage that were unsure if new walking paths were needed. It is also reflected in the topics tagged within the top 6 responses.

4 pins relating to walking paths were included on the interactive map.

Sample of comments:

“On the Rodwell trail a definite marked path for pedestrians, being a shared path with visitors who are expected to know they must keep right has led to many complaints from families disabled and those with hidden disabilities.”

“Alleyways and cut throughs away from busy roads are popular - paths should be considered as a priority with any development. To move away from our dependence on vehicles we need desirable and efficient alternatives.”

“Wyke Regis generally has a good network of paths, but you need to ensure all existing paths are retained and maintained and signposted to encourage more use.”

Question 7 – 61 Responses

Do you think more cycling paths are needed?

Yes 45.9% No 34.4% Not sure 19.7%

If Yes, where would you like to see more cycling paths?



Summary of Key Responses:

16 suggestions were made on the interactive map. The most popular suggestion of more cycle routes was along the Esplanade but responses were very varied and in many cases quite specific. Respondents again used the opportunity of this question to comment on the importance of designating separate walking and cycling paths.

Respondents referred to potential hazards for cyclists and other road users in specific areas.

44 comments were made in this section suggesting that the provision of cycling routes could be an area for further detailed engagement. However, it should be noted that approximately a third of people surveyed felt there was no need to increase the provision of cycle routes in Weymouth.

Sample of comments:

“Along the promenade so there is summer cycling that links up the other new paths with Greenhill for a complete run from Portland to Overcombe.”

“We need to give priority to active transport users. Cars should be kept on the periphery of new development with cycle ways and paths providing the interconnections. With existing road infrastructure cycle lanes may be the only option.”

“Lots more cycle paths have been added since the Olympics; however many routes suddenly end, or feed into busy roads. This could be improved. Places to park bicycles are very limited currently.”

Question 8 – 61 responses As part of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan, aims for each of the themes are being proposed. Please tick an option to tell us if you agree with the aims for Landscapes and Green Spaces:

	Definitely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Definitely disagree
Preserve and enhance our unique environments and sustain distinctive landscapes, especially our coastal, marine, beaches, cliff tops, inland waterways, rivers, marshes, nature reserves and parks.	87%	8%	5%	0%	0%
Increase the use of Weymouth’s open spaces and community facilities for all ages and abilities by improving existing and creating new recreational amenities.	69%	25%	3%	3%	0%
Reverse biodiversity loss, enhance engagement with nature, encourage biodiversity and habitat conservation and invest in our natural capital and our ecosystems to safeguard sustainable food production, ensuring protection from natural hazards and continued recreational activities.	79%	11.5%	7%	2.5%	0%

Create an integrated network of green and blue infrastructure habitats, parks, waterways and nature trails between and through existing and new developments whilst providing safe walking and cycling routes.	72%	19%	7%	2%	0%
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Question 9 – 33 Responses

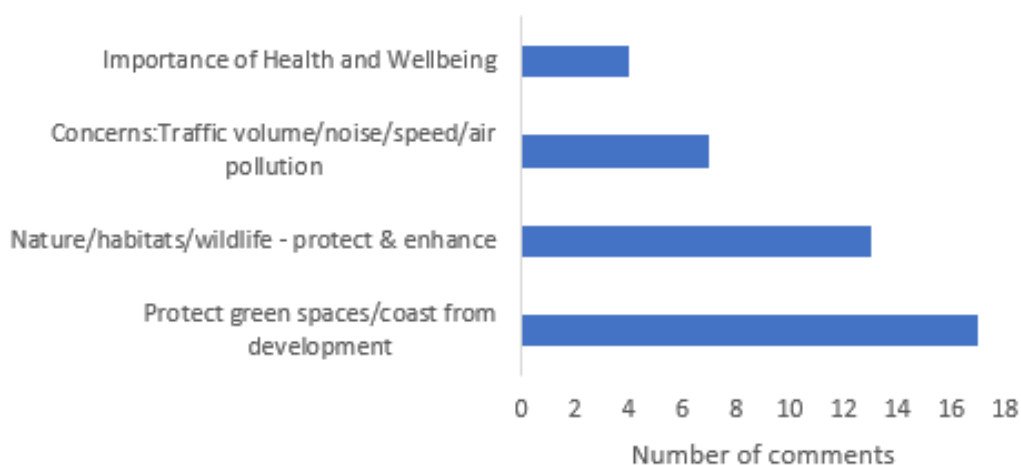
You are welcome to add here any comments, ideas, or suggestions you may have about Landscapes & Green Spaces? E.g., How we can preserve and enhance Weymouth’s unique environments.

Summary of Key Responses:

Whilst positive comments were made about the aims of the Landscapes & Green Spaces theme, there was notable concern on how to balance the need for developing built infrastructure with protecting the environment and was this achievable. This would create an interesting starting point for further public consultation.

52% of respondents were concerned that green field sites were being too readily targeted for development and not being adequately protected.

Comments, ideas or suggestions about Landscapes and Green Spaces.



Sample of comments:

“Need to be more coherent in the approach to protecting our environment and granting new planning applications. Are we a tourist destination focused on our beautiful coastline or a growing industrial centre with need for new jobs. What is our strategy to balance the 2?”

“I agree with the aims of this theme. I am concerned that it will be unable to deliver on its stated aims. How can large numbers of homes be built without impacting on existing habitat and ecology?”

16.4% of contributors indicated that they would be interested in being involved with the Landscapes & Green Spaces group of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan. Contact details will be forwarded to the Landscapes & Green Spaces theme lead.

10. Key Findings: Sustainable Environments



10.1 Community Events

Attendees to the x3 WNP specific community events were asked to comment on the **aims** of the Sustainable Environments theme:

Aim 1. Make step changes to ensure that all development by 2038 is net-zero carbon, making the best use of land, maximising the reuse of buildings and brownfield development.

Aim 2. Achieve the highest design standards for all new development, with a focus on energy conservation and each site generating a portion of on-site energy.

Aim 3. Reduce car movements and encourage sustainable transport modes in Local Neighbourhoods, particularly Weymouth's town centre, harbour and beach by implementing various traffic management measures.

Aim 4. Plan for a greater use of sustainable transport, by providing facilities for bikes, scooters and electric cars and boats such as charging points, cycle racks and comfortable bus stops, supporting projects that help travel in an environmentally friendly way and reviewing car parking standards if appropriate.

2 questions were presented on display boards:

Question 1	Melcombe Regis	Littlemoor	Westham
Are these aims relevant to you and your community?	100% agreed	80% agreed	100% agreed

Participants were also asked – **Question 2. Are there any gaps missing that you would like to include in these themes and aims?**

Sample of comments:

“People walk more. People cycle more. Less cars.”

“Segregate cycles and pedestrians e.g twin lanes on the Rodwell trail.”

“Charging points for electric vehicles – public and new development.”

“We can use park and ride, change to airport style parking let to private enterprise they shuttle to hotels.”

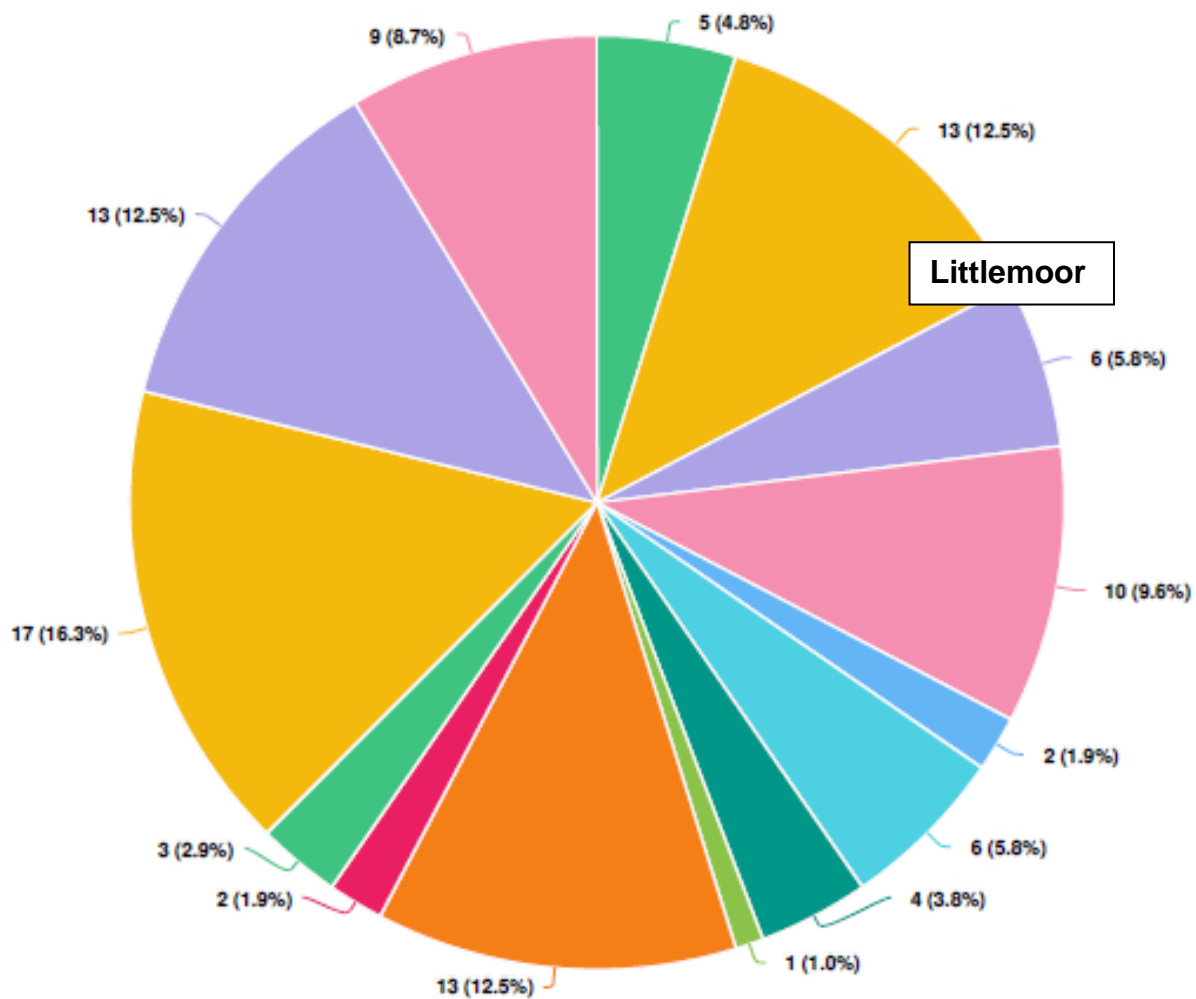
“More community enterprise schemes. Why not land based small scale wind turbines.”

10.2 Online Survey

Weymouth Sustainable Environments

Visitors	132	Contributors	86	CONTRIBUTIONS	104
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Please select in which area of Weymouth you live?

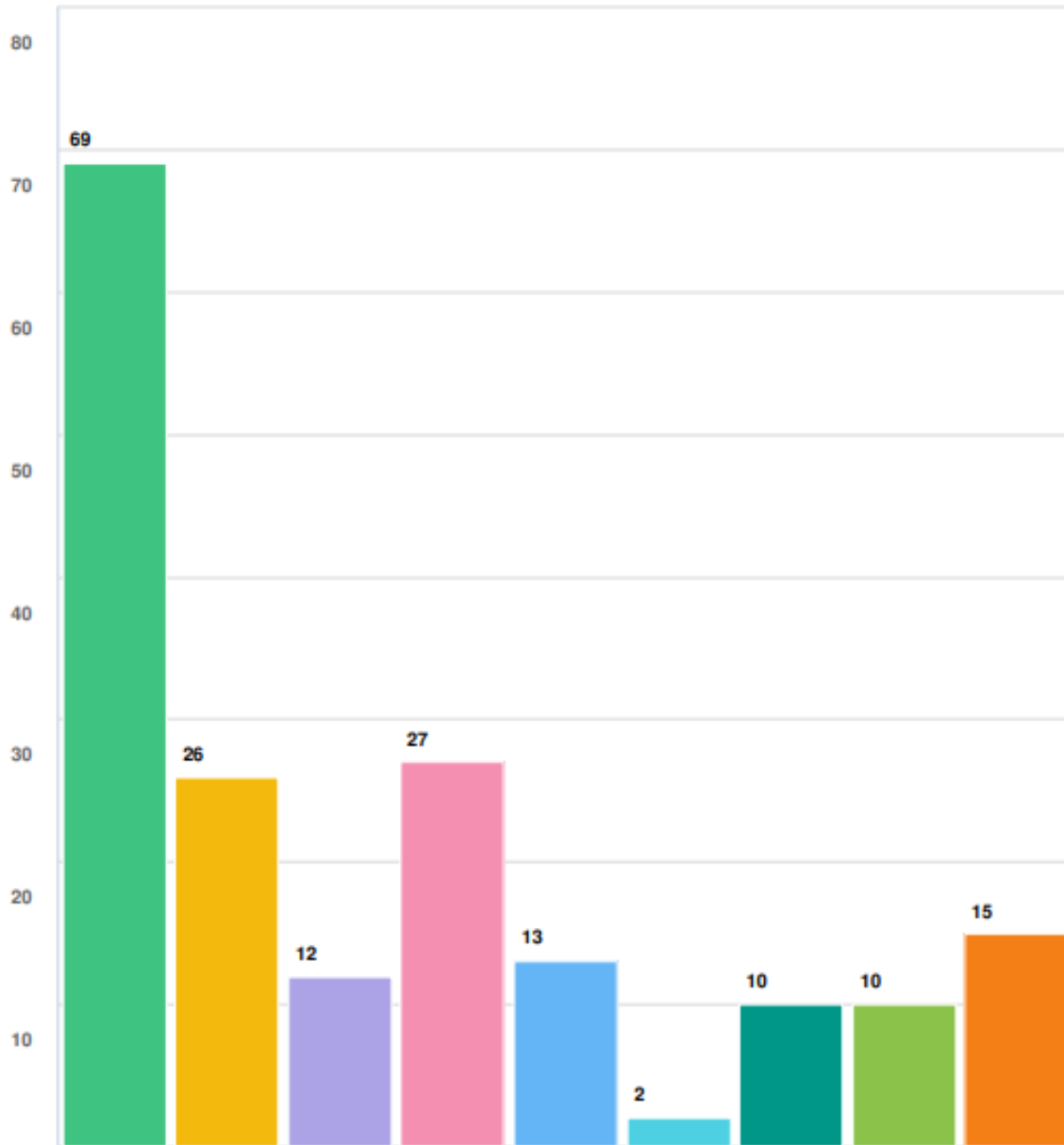


Question options

- Other (please specify)
- Wyke Regis
- Westham
- Upwey
- Southill
- Rodwell
- Redlands
- Radipole
- Preston
- Overcombe
- Melcombe Regis
- Lodmoor
- Littlemoor
- Broadway

Figure 18: Chart showing Sustainable Environments contribution number and percentage by area.

Question 2: What are the barriers for your household or community to access cleaner and cheaper energy sources? By ‘cleaner and cheaper energy’ we mean sustainable/renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro power, and heat sourced from the ground or air.



Question options

- Other (please specify)
 ● Long-term commitment i.e. moving house
● I'm a tenant in someone else's property
- Changing to a green energy supplier
 ● My home/premises not suitable
● Limited reliable consistent information
- Too complicated to arrange
 ● I don't know where to start
● Installation costs

Summary of Key Responses:

66% of respondents cited installation costs as the greatest barrier to them accessing cleaner and cheaper energy sources with approximately half of people limited by knowledge of where to start and/or consistent information.

This highlights an opportunity to consider ways to guide householders to gain a better understanding of access to renewable energy sources.

Sample of comments:

“Too old to benefit. Need to be in your 40s to be worthwhile.”

“Planning restrictions on the installation of solar panels in a conservation area or upon a listed building.”

“Solar panels would assist with the costs of our household bills and what is not used would support the grid but it's too expensive for us to have installed because we have savings and do not claim any benefits. All new builds should automatically have solar panels fitted.”

Question 3 - 104 Responses

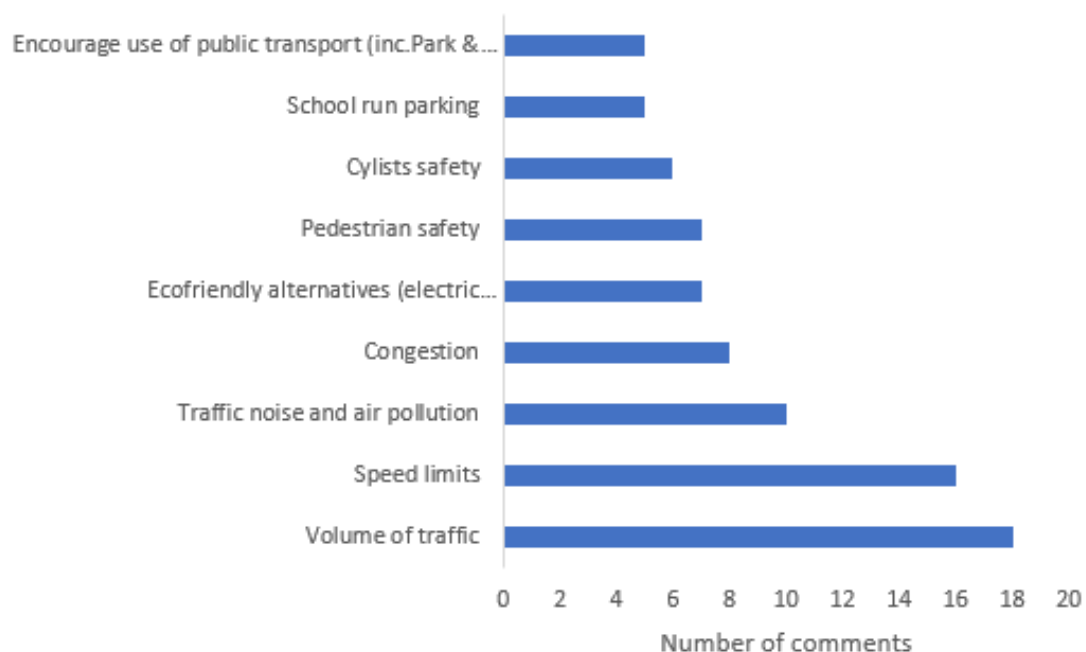
Are You concerned about vehicle traffic in the area that you live causing a physical safety issue or air pollution risks?

Yes 56.7% No 43.3%

If Yes, please tell us about your concerns and any ideas you may have to resolve them

Volume of traffic concerned 37.5% of respondents with speeding traffic a close second. Areas of the town where congestion occurs regularly were specifically noted with concerns of the detrimental affect on health as well as safety.

What are your concerns about vehicle traffic in the area you live?



Sample of comments:

“My 10 year old son cycles to school from Chickerell Road to Holy Trinity. Cars often speed or pass close on Chickerell Road. I would like to see a 20mph limit on all residential roads in Weymouth. It would encourage more people to cycle which is absolutely necessary as increased car use is unsustainable.”

“We believe we have a right to drive our polluting cars everywhere and anywhere. This right is above any belief we might also have about the right to clean air and space for safe walking and cycling. SO...we need disincentives to driving as the first travel mode of choice in our small town (merely 5 miles long by 3 miles wide). We also need lots of very local walking and cycling options & infrastructure to easily and safely join up with main foot and cycle path networks (e.g. public footpaths and the National Cycle Network).”

“Too many cars park illegally because there are not enough allocated parking spaces. When new homes are built they do not have enough spaces to meet the demand of growing families that grow up also have their own vehicles. “

“Increasing traffic on routes through Weymouth to Portland, yet Planning does not seem to recognise the clearly visible problems. How about rush hour ferries from/to Pavilion car park to Portland and eBike/scooter/minibus onward travel on the Isle?”

Comments for this question were often lengthy indicating this topic is extremely important to respondents and worthy of further insight during engagement.

Question 4: How do you travel to the following places? 104 Responses

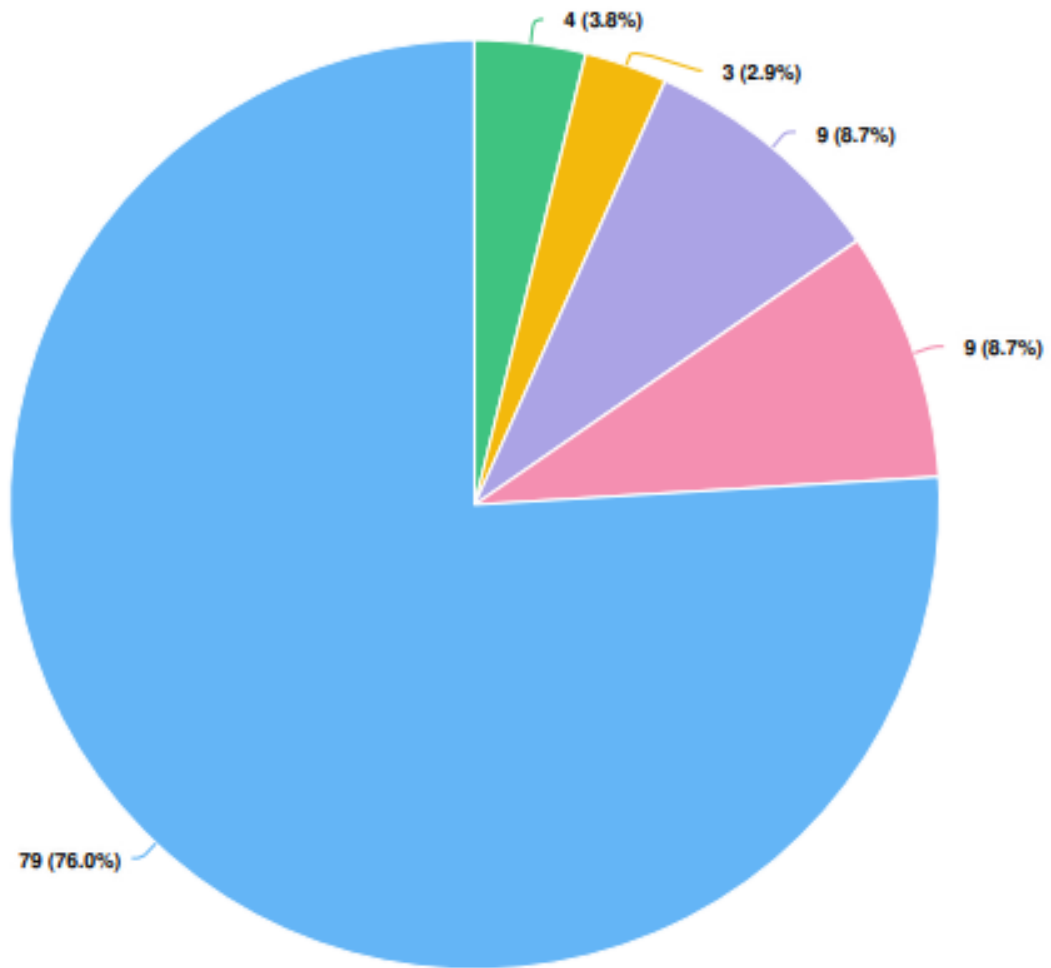
Please select the main method of travel for each place or select 'Not Relevant' if it is not somewhere you travel to:

	Walk	Cycle	Car or van	Bus or train	Not Related
To work	11%	2%	38%	1%	48%
To school or college	6.5%	2.5%	11%	0%	80%
Shopping	19%	6.5%	65%	6.5%	3%
To visit friends	33.5%	8.5%	46%	6.5%	5.5%
Socialising	42%	6.5%	34.5%	11.5%	5.5%
Exercise or health & wellbeing activities	55.5%	18%	17%	3%	6.5%
Volunteering or community support	18%	5%	20%	5%	52%

Question 5: How important do you think it is that new buildings or changes to existing buildings conform to the highest standards of sustainable construction and energy efficiency? 5 is very important and 1 is not important

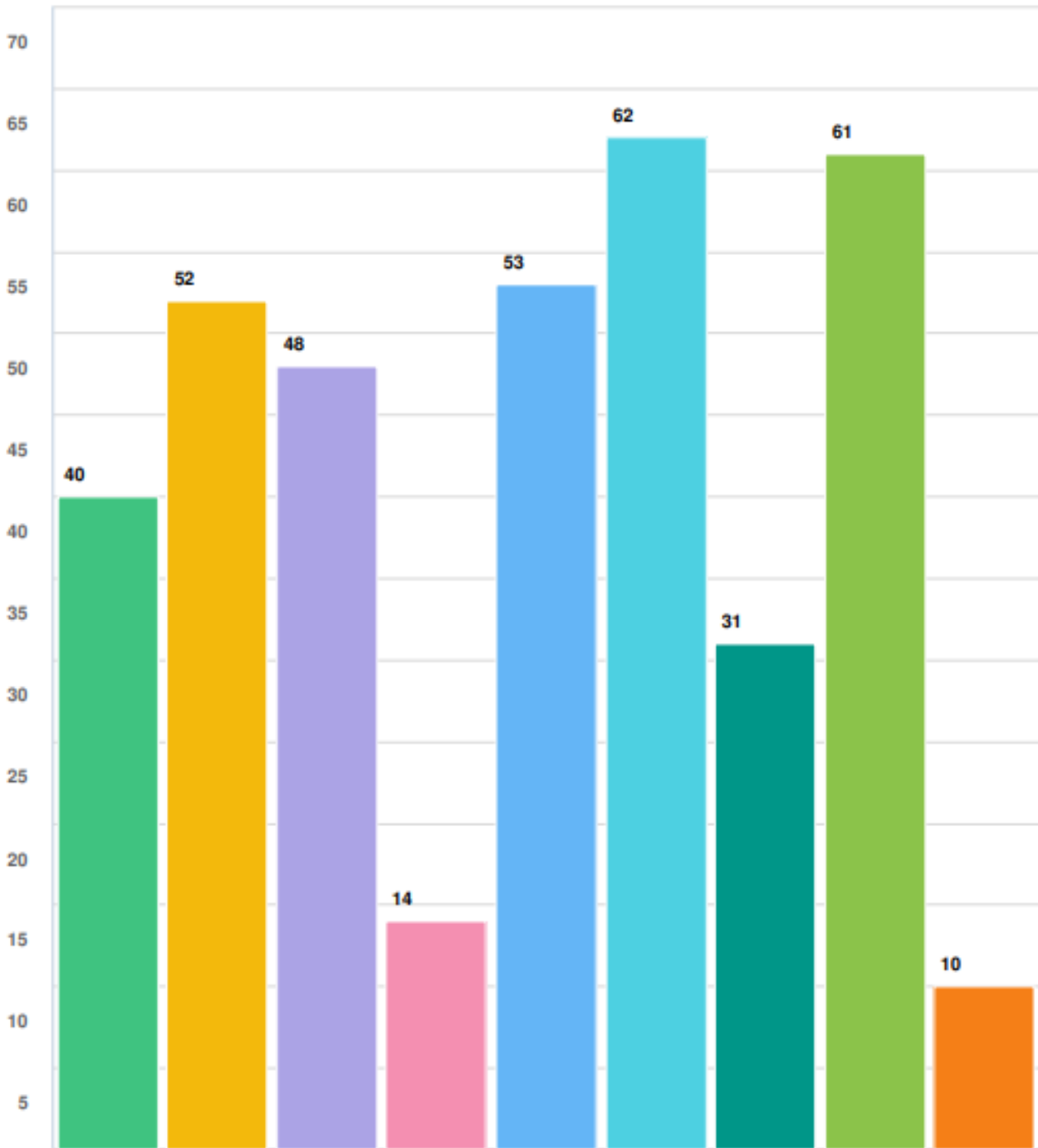
Question options

● 5 ● 4 ● 3 ● 2 ● 1



76% believed it was very important that new buildings or changes to existing buildings conformed to the highest standards of sustainable construction and energy efficiency

Question 6: What do you think are the biggest climate and ecological threats to Weymouth communities?



Question options

- Other
- Loss of wildlife/biodiversity
- Water quality & availability
- Plastics & litter
- Loss of open spaces
- Food availability
- Extreme weather events i.e. storms, wind, heat, drought etc
- Flooding
- Air pollution

Respondents could choose multiple answers to this question.

Question 7 – 104 Responses

As part of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan, aims for each of the themes are being proposed. Please tick an option to tell us if you agree with the aims for Sustainable Environments:

	Definitely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewh at disagree	Definitely disagree
Make step changes to ensure that all development by 2038 is net-zero carbon, making the best use of land, maximising the reuse of buildings and brownfield development.	65%	18%	12.5%	4.5%	0%
Achieve the highest design standards for all new development, with a focus on energy conservation and each site generating a portion of on-site energy.	65%	22%	11%	2%	0%
Reduce car movements and encourage sustainable transport modes in Local Neighbourhoods, particularly Weymouth’s town centre, harbour and beach by implementing various traffic management measures.	55%	26%	8.5%	6.5%	4%
Plan for a greater use of sustainable transport, by providing facilities for bikes, scooters and electric cars and boats such as charging points, cycle racks and comfortable bus stops, supporting projects that help travel in an environmentally friendly way and reviewing car parking standards if appropriate.	64%	19%	11%	4%	2%

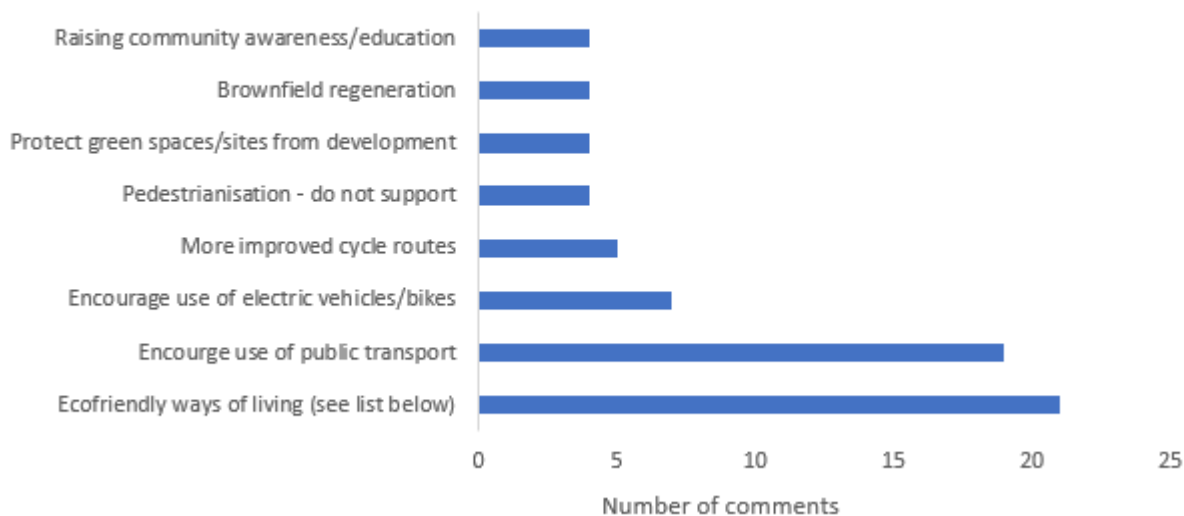
Question 8 - 49 Responses

You are welcome to add here any comments, ideas or suggestions you may have about Sustainable Environments e.g how can your community become more resilient to climate change and protect the environment?

Summary of Key Responses:

This question elicited some excellent, detailed responses with plenty of eco-friendly ideas given that are contained in the list below. They formulated many of the comments made whilst participants used this question to also touch on green field development and brownfield regeneration.

Comments, ideas or suggestions about Sustainable Environments



Ecofriendly ideas (in no particular order)

- Building insulation
- Solar panels on all new builds
- Electric bike storage
- Regeneration
- Green drainage
- Tree planting
- Linked up cycle routes
- Pedestrianisation
- Free/cheap public transport
- Greener public transport
- More recycling bins
- More drinking water points
- Renewable energy
- Pesticide reduction strategies
- Wild gardens on top of bus shelters
- Use local community repair cafe
- Eat less meat and dairy
- Water butts
- More cycle parking
- Reduce traffic speed limits
- Electric charging points in bases of streetlamps
- Car share incentives

Sample of comments:

"We need to put insulation into all buildings now and solar panels on all south facing roofs. People are in fuel crisis. We need government funding to reduce dependency of fossil fuels."

"If you want to reduce the number of cars coming into town the price of public transport must be slashed, even with the high parking prices it is cheaper to park than take the bus. Bus prices must be a lot cheaper than driving and it is not!"

"I agree with the broad aims but they are a bit woolly and need to be bolder - what are "step changes" exactly?"

"I see some places have put 'wild gardens' on top of bus shelters. Think this is a wonderful idea when so much green is disappearing."

"Hireable electric bikes. dry, staffed places to park them. electric charging points in bases of streetlamps."

12.5% of contributors indicated that they would be interested in being involved with the Sustainable Environments group of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan. Contact details will be forwarded to Sustainable Environments theme lead.

11. What has worked well so far

- Input from WNP theme leads and local councillors into events has been excellent
- Good input into the surveys with detailed, highly useful feedback/comments
- Every comment made has been recorded and analysed – every opinion has been heard
- Positive data supporting the WNP Vision and Mission as well as the aims of the 5 themes
- Social media campaign had a wide reach
- WNP brand resources quickly created and worked well in awareness raising

12. Challenges so far

- Drop in event model does not work in terms of footfall and survey sign up
- Some apathy towards engagement
- Some resistance to attending meetings held in faith buildings

13. Feedback relative to the surveys

- Surveys too long and some repetition/confusion
- Surveys contained too many open questions, very time consuming to categorise answers to provide quick feedback
- Age demographics not captured

14. Recommendations

Based on the analysis and feedback received across all engagement platforms on the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan; Dorset Coast Forum's recommendations to the WNP Steering Group for engagement next steps are:

- Drop the 'drop-in' event format
- Theme leads review all collated data with support from the DCF lead Project Officer to understand and plan most relevant next steps for their particular theme
- Links made between themes for common ground topics that can form the basis for future engagement content
- Engaging 'Thank you' social media posts created
- Press release report findings with an emphasis on the key findings that have mattered to respondents – and make it impactful, not dry
- Share the report findings with community leaders prior to and to support preparations for next round of engagement events in their communities

- Consider a wider choice of venues that appeal to specific demographics
- Theme leads are provided with contact points who indicated they would like to get involved, and these individuals asked for their suggestions on next engagement steps
- Review and plan to engage communities that did not engage a great deal with the surveys
- Any additional surveys take 5-10 minutes maximum to complete and contain fewer open questions and include specific multiple-choice questions on topics as required
- Weymouth Town Council Communications Team share, or create and share, a specific WNP communications plan
- Ensure community events have a 'hook' that makes them appealing and relevant to the communities they are targeting
- Age demographics collected
- Consider if the consultation process to date has created any gaps e.g. heritage, the business community