

Consultation
Three Rivers District Council

Environmental Forum Terms of Reference Consultation

SUMMARY REPORT

August 2020

Background and objectives

The Environmental Forum works to improve the quality of the environment and support the climate change agenda for the people of Three Rivers, by working in partnership to create a better place to live, work and visit.

Reviewing the Terms of Reference

Three Rivers District Council Officers have reviewed the Council's Environmental Forum Terms of Reference, in light of the Climate Change Emergency declared by the Council in 2019 and the agreed framework for the development of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Consulting

The Council wishes to ensure that the general public, voluntary and business stakeholders have a say in the content of the Environmental Forum Terms of Reference.

Methodology

An on-line 'Survey Monkey' survey was promoted – via social media, on the TRDC website, Neighbourhood Watch email, Councillors' resident contacts and schools.

Between **17 and 31 July 2020**, the following survey responses were completed:

Adults: 726 responses

Children: 36 responses

For a full **profile breakdown**, please see the end of the report. These breakdowns reflect the **adult survey results** only, as the children's survey response was not high enough for a profile breakdown to be robust.

The charts displayed in the **main body of this report** are from the **adult survey**. The **children's survey results** are attached as a document at the end of this report, but will be referred to throughout the main document.

Executive Summary

- The **vast majority of all respondents** (children and adults) **agreed with the strategies** laid out in the terms of reference, including a production of a cycling and walking plan and maintaining top place for recycling in the County.
- The **vast majority** (children and adults) **agreed with the objectives** set out to achieve the strategies, including: **inclusivity, partnership work, acting as a voice of Three Rivers' communities and consulting with the community and local businesses.**
- The **vast majority** (children and adults) agreed with these further objectives set out to achieve the strategies, including: **considering government guidance, support partner organisations, promotes sustainability, raise awareness and advise regarding the potential impact of climate change, identify and increase biodiversity, together with championing a better and more resilient natural environment in Three Rivers**
- The vast majority (children and adults) agreed with the following **considerations for the meetings:**
 - Open and honest
 - Meet at least 3 times a year
 - Held virtually, to reduce carbon, through less travel, plus more accessible
 - Face to face meetings just for workshops or to demonstrate something (e.g. a new cycle track)
 - Open to the public, advertised and broadcast
 - All members will have equal rights and representation
 - The meetings' dates will be agreed in advance

Comments

The main free comments raised surrounded the following points:

- Ensuring **Green Belt and AONB are protected** from developers (22 mentions)
- Tackling the **raw sewage**, from Thames Water, in the River Chess (5 mentions)
- Ensuring **recycling is deposited effectively**, to recycling plants that adhere to the Council's environmental policies (4 mentions)
- Lobby **for more products to be able to be recycled** (e.g. soft plastic)
- Lobby for **manufacturers to use less soft plastic and more recyclable and/or compostable packaging**
- Ensure new builds are **carbon neutral**
- **Access to meetings**: ensure that those **without internet** access can attend/put forward their thoughts to the forum (4 mentions)

"Preserve Green Belt at every opportunity."

*"Insist that all **new-builds** should incorporate some form of **renewable energy** generation, whether that be solar panels (for electricity generation or water heating), ground-source heat pumps or wind turbines, plus the installation of bird and bat boxes and other features to support biodiversity"*

*"Please get involved with the issue of **raw sewage** being pumped into the River Chess"*

*"Would like to see **the revival of soft plastic recycling**. This is what makes up the majority of my landfill. And put pressure on companies to use **100% recyclable or compostable packaging**"*

*"It must obtain & publish '**carbon foot-prints**' for both **Private & Council projects** including the C.F.Ps for all parts, materials & sub-contracted work."*

*"There should be a **waste to energy policy** e.g. waste plastic and shredded tyres converted to hydrogen fuel greatly reducing the landfill and toxicity"*

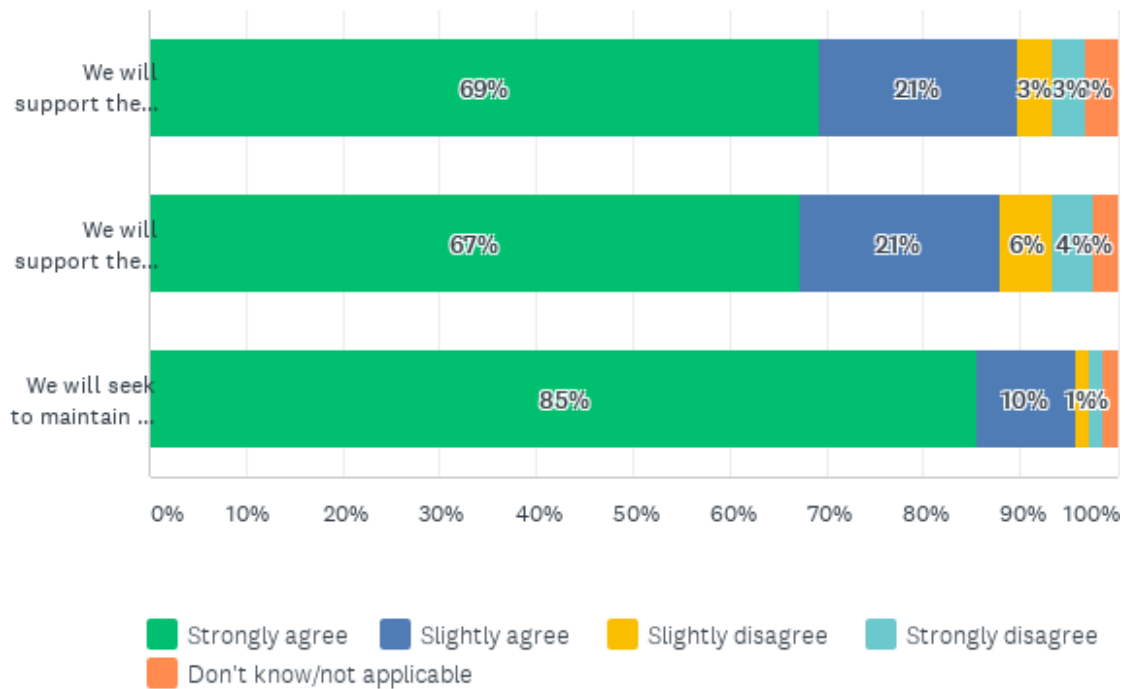
*"Need access to the forum for those **with no internet ability**. Maybe a buddy system or use of a library/ council PC?"*

Results

The strategies

The vast majority of all respondents (children and adults) agreed with the strategies laid out in the terms of reference, including a production of a cycling and walking plan and maintaining top place for recycling in the County.

Q1: The Terms of Reference for the Environmental Forum are designed to fulfil the following strategies (below). Please state how strongly you agree or disagree with these linked strategies, as the focus for the Environmental Forum

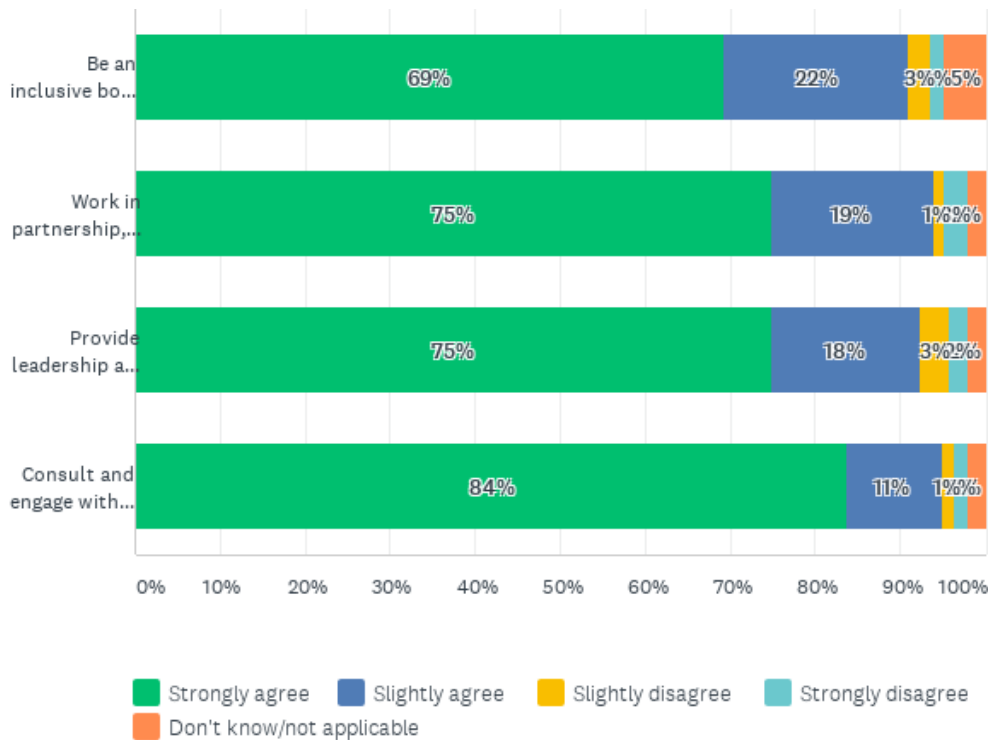


	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
We will support the production and delivery of a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan	69% 497	21% 148	3% 25	3% 25	3% 23	718	1.39
We will support the production and delivery of a Cycling and Walking Strategy	67% 483	21% 148	6% 40	4% 29	3% 18	718	1.45
We will seek to maintain our position as the highest recycling authority in Hertfordshire	85% 613	10% 74	1% 10	1% 10	1% 10	717	1.18

The objectives

The vast majority (children and adults) agreed with the objectives set out to achieve the strategies, including: inclusivity, partnership work, acting as a voice of Three Rivers' communities and consulting with the community and local businesses.

Q2: In order to achieve its strategies (above), the Environmental Forum has the following objectives (below). Please state how strongly you agree or disagree with these objectives for the Environmental Forum

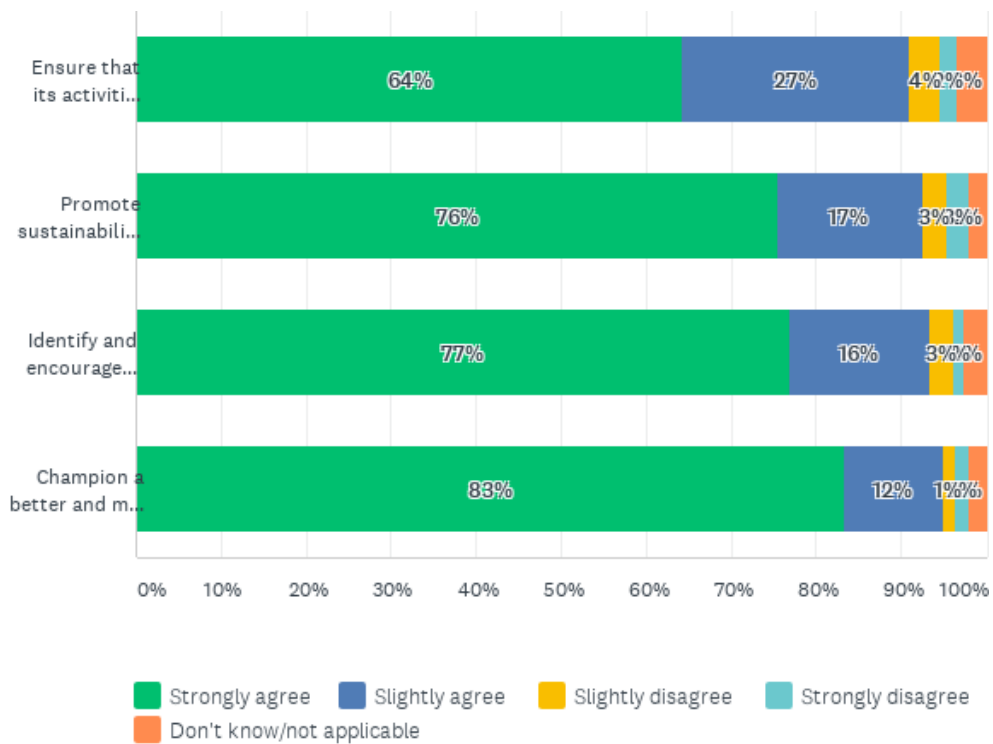


	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Be an inclusive body of organisations/groups, representative of different sectors and areas in Three Rivers	69% 495	22% 154	3% 19	2% 11	5% 35	714	1.33
Work in partnership, where possible, to improve the environment and tackle climate change	75% 538	19% 137	1% 8	3% 20	2% 15	718	1.30
Provide leadership and act as a voice for the people and communities of Three Rivers	75% 537	18% 126	3% 24	2% 16	2% 14	717	1.32
Consult and engage with citizens, residents, community representatives and local businesses in a meaningful and inclusive manner, ensuring that choice, access and equality are available to all	84% 601	11% 80	1% 10	2% 12	2% 14	717	1.19

Further objectives

The vast majority (children and adults) agreed with these further objectives set out to achieve the strategies, including: considering government guidance, support partner organisations, promotes sustainability, raise awareness and advise regarding the potential impact of climate change, identify and increase biodiversity, together with championing a better and more resilient natural environment in Three Rivers.

Q3: Further objectives for the Environmental Forum strategies are listed below. Please state how strongly you agree or disagree with these objectives for the Environmental Forum



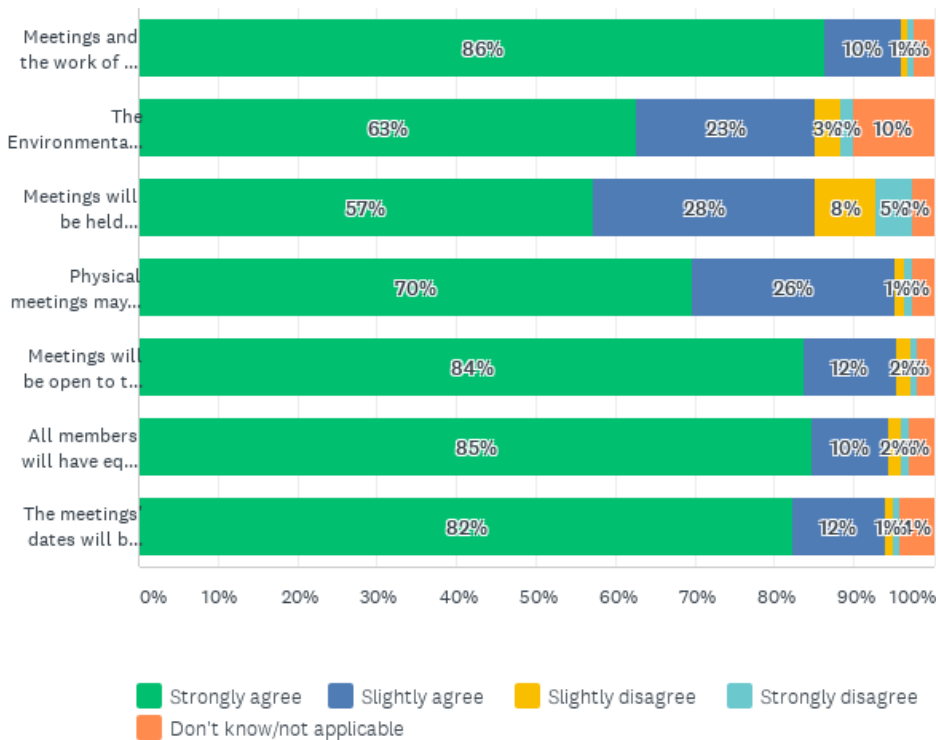
	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Ensure that its activities are in line with government guidance and complement the work of countywide partnerships, including the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Forum	64% 460	27% 191	4% 26	2% 14	3% 25	716	1.41
Promote sustainability, provide advice and expertise and raise awareness and understanding of the potential impacts of climate change in Three Rivers	76% 539	17% 121	3% 20	3% 18	2% 15	713	1.31
Identify and encourage measures to retain and increase biodiversity across Three Rivers by providing advice, sharing expertise and raising awareness and understanding	77% 550	16% 118	3% 20	1% 9	3% 19	716	1.27
Champion a better and more resilient natural environment in Three Rivers	83% 596	12% 84	1% 10	2% 12	2% 14	716	1.20

The meetings

The vast majority (children and adults) agreed with the following considerations for the meetings:

- Open and honest
- Meet at least 3 times a year
- Held virtually, to reduce carbon, through less travel, plus more accessible
- Face to face meetings just for workshops or to demonstrate something (e.g. a new cycle track)
- Open to the public, advertised and broadcast
- All members will have equal rights and representation
- The meetings' dates will be agreed in advance

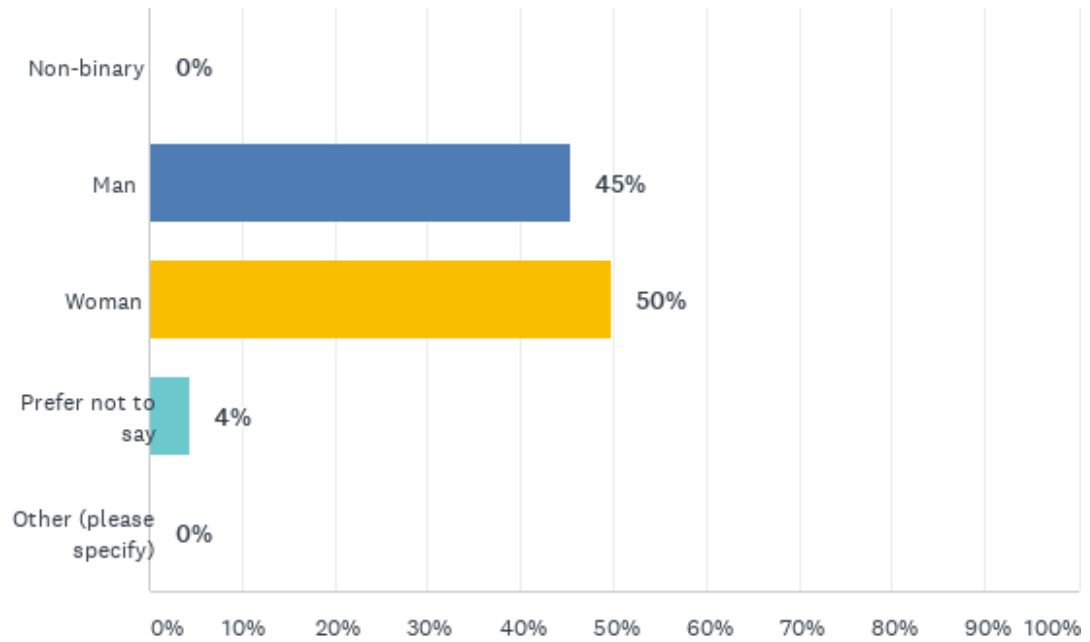
Q4: Please state how strongly you agree or disagree with the structure and considerations for the meetings of the Environmental Forum



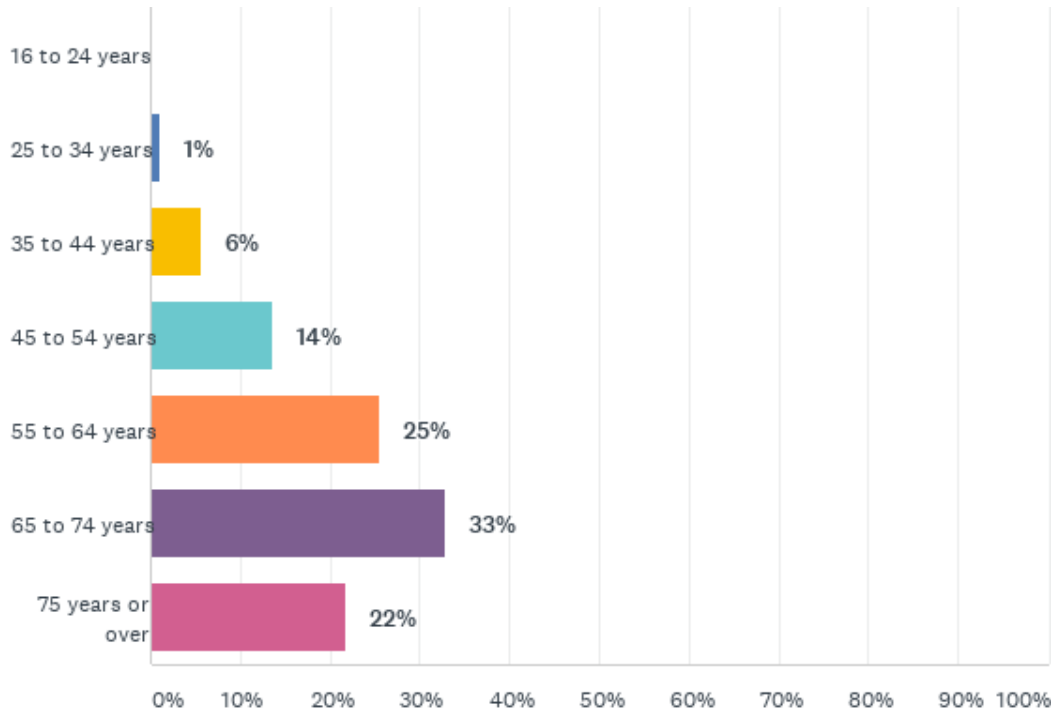
	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Meetings and the work of the Environment Forum will be open and transparent	86% 619	10% 69	1% 6	1% 6	2% 17	717	1.14
The Environmental Forum will meet at least three times a year	63% 448	23% 161	3% 23	2% 11	10% 72	715	1.37
Meetings will be held virtually, as this reduces carbon through less travel, and is more accessible	57% 410	28% 200	8% 55	5% 33	3% 19	717	1.59
Physical meetings may be held if the forum need to undertake workshops or where there is a considered purpose in the community, e.g. to test out a cycle track	70% 499	26% 183	1% 9	1% 7	3% 19	717	1.32
Meetings will be open to the public, advertised and broadcast so that as wide a possible audience can engage in the work of the Forum	84% 600	12% 84	2% 13	1% 5	2% 15	717	1.18
All members will have equal rights and representation	85% 603	10% 69	2% 11	1% 8	3% 21	712	1.17
The meetings' dates will be agreed in advance and will be arranged and supported by Three Rivers District Council	82% 590	12% 83	1% 7	1% 6	4% 30	716	1.17

Profile – of adult respondents

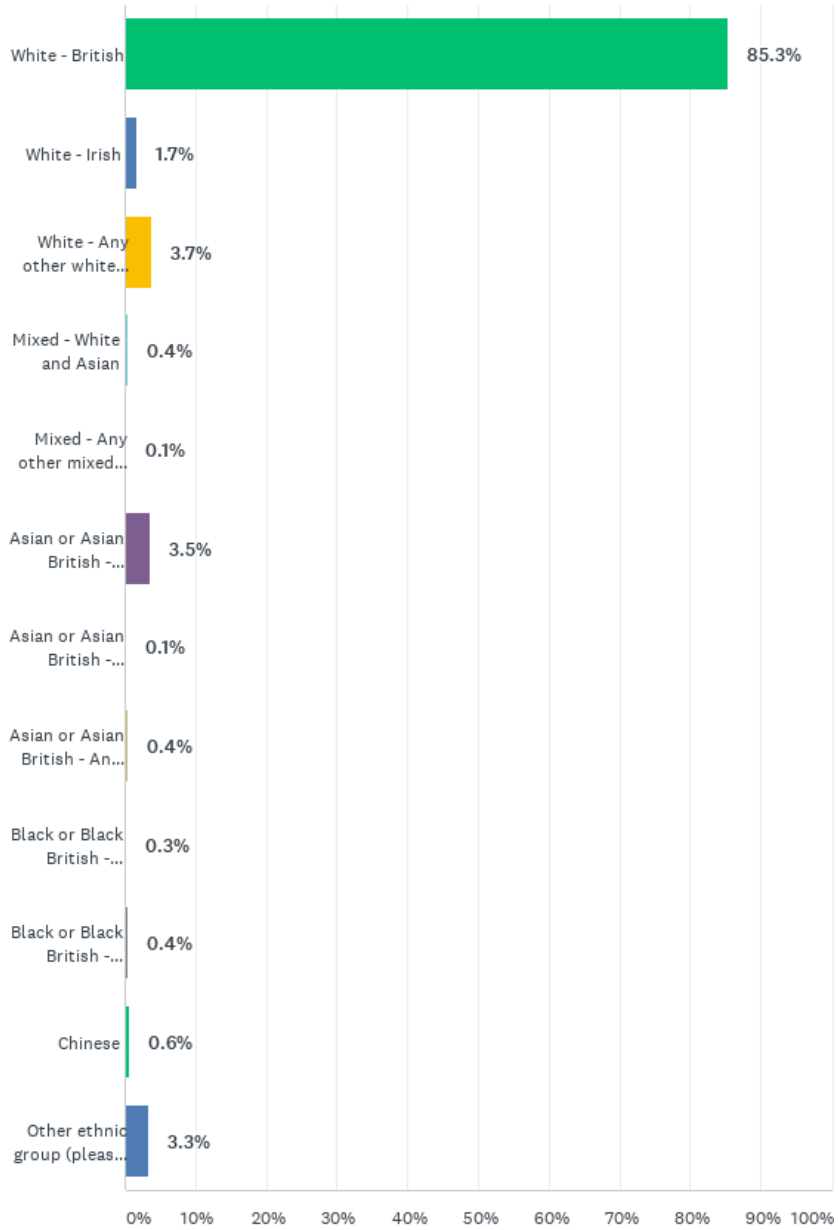
Q6: What is your gender?



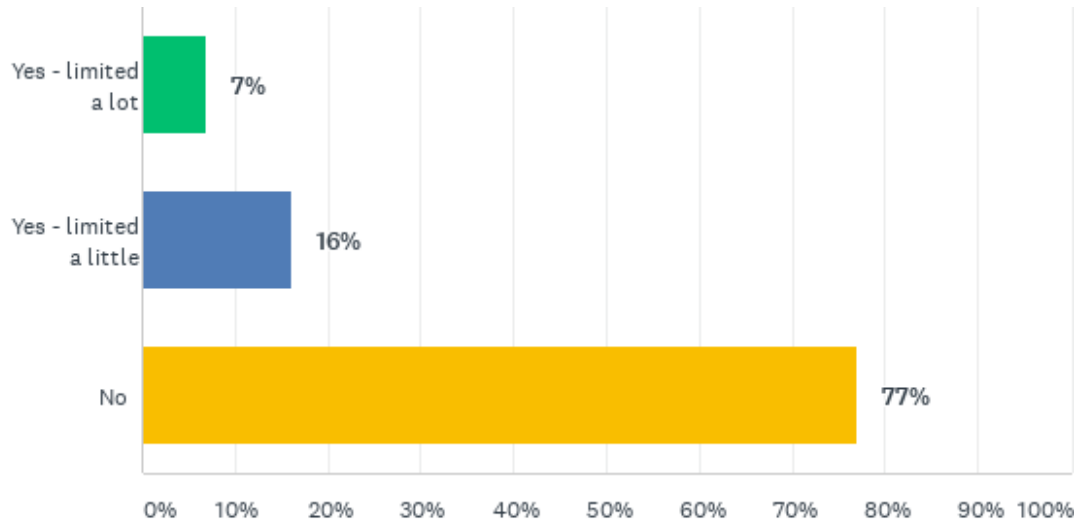
Q7: How old are you?



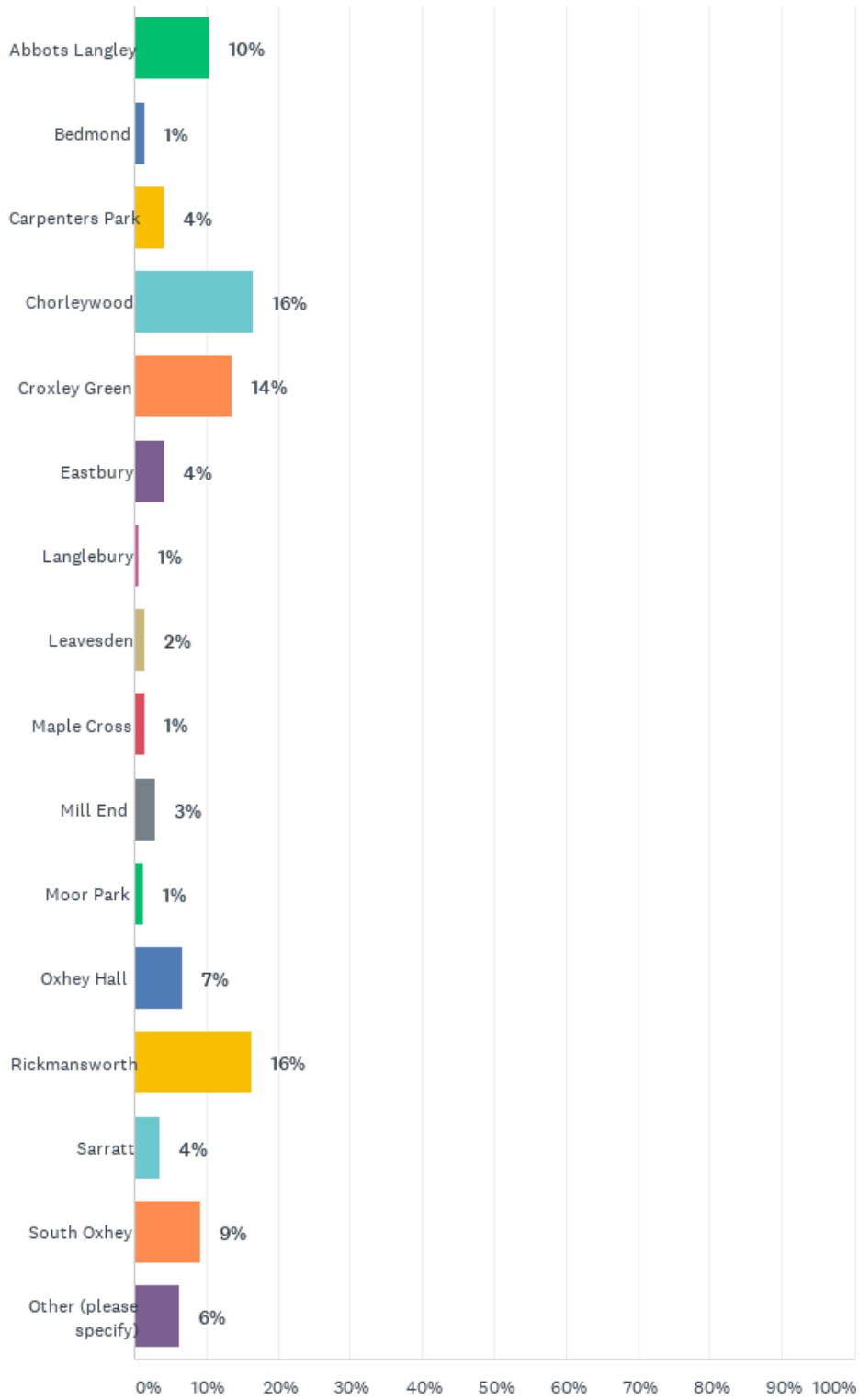
Q8: What is your ethnic group?



Q9: Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

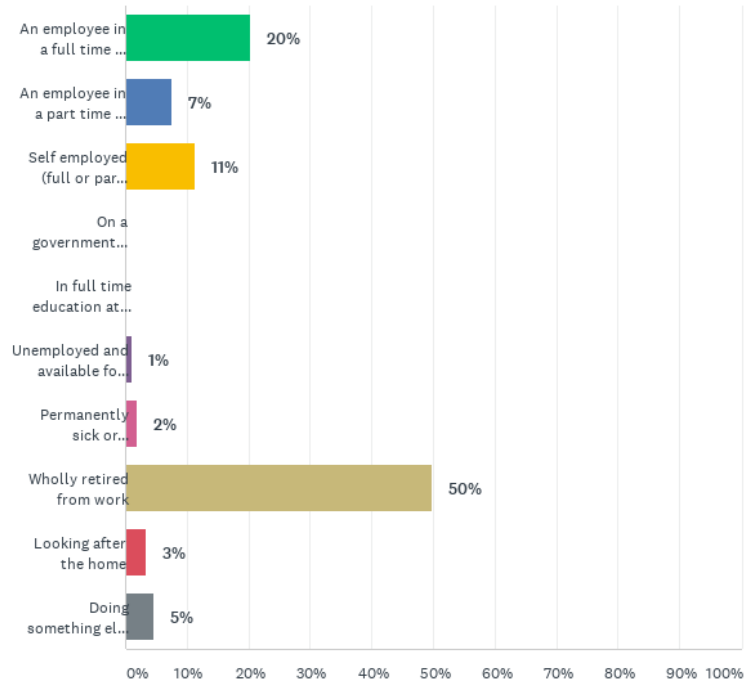


Q10: Where do you live?



Q11: Are you currently employed, self employed, retired or otherwise not in paid work?

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Appendix – Children's Survey results



Environmental Forum
Terms of Reference S