Your Views on Tackling Climate Change

North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield

Acknowledgements

Contents

1. Introduction and context

This report presents results from a survey conducted by Climate Action North East Derbyshire between 29 October and 11 December 2021. It is based on responses from 319 survey participants, the vast majority of which were made online.

The survey was timed to overlap with the Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP 26). Its main focus was to gather views on what people in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire thought local councils and Government should be doing to help tackle climate change.

This report from the survey will be discussed by the climate groups with a view to guiding their activities from 2022 onwards. Copies will also be provided to local councillors, the two local MPs, Lee Rowley and Toby Perkins, and survey participants.

Globally, the largest (1.2 million respondents) Peoples' Climate Vote, organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the University of Oxford, was reported on in January 2021. They found almost two-thirds (64%) of people believed climate change is a global emergency and concluded: "*The results of the survey clearly illustrate that urgent climate action has broad support amongst people around the globe, across nationalities, age, gender and education level*" (UNDP(2021)).

There is extensive evidence that concerns with climate change are at least as strong in the UK. A Government survey, based on a representative sample of adults aged 16 or over in the UK, reported that 85% of people said they were concerned about climate change (BEIS(2021)).

Regionally, the Office for National Statistics' Opinions and Lifestyle survey (ONS (2021b)) found that in the East Midlands:

- over half (59%) of adults felt very negative or somewhat negative when thinking about the future of the environment

- almost three-quarters (72%) were very worried or somewhat worried about the impact of climate change

- even more (77%) reported making changes to their lifestyle to help tackle climate change.

Six Select Committees of the House of Commons commissioned the Citizens' Assembly to understand public preferences on how the UK

1. Introduction and context

should tackle climate change because of the impact these decisions will have on people's lives. The report, *The Path to Net Zero*, shows how a representative sample of the population believe the UK should meet its net zero emissions commitment, with detailed recommendations across ten areas. Some key findings were:

- It is imperative that there is strong and clear leadership from government

- Place emphasis on shifting to electric vehicles and improving public transport

- A solution to air travel emissions that allows people to continue to fly

- Support costs and flexibility to choose the best technology for home heating, hot water and electricity provision

- Support local food production, reduce meat and dairy consumption and manage diversity in the landscape

- Make products using less energy and materials, better labelled, with more recyclable

- Use on and offshore wind and solar power for electricity generation

- Remove greenhouse gases with forest and peatland management, use of wood in construction and store carbon in the soil

Also of note is that 90% of assembly members 'strongly agree' or 'agree' that "*assemblies like this should be used more often to inform government and parliament decision making*".

2. Overall results

Our survey asked how important eighteen different actions across transport, buildings, land use, waste, energy and community & communication were for tackling climate change. The majority of people thought all of them were important or extremely important. That emphasises the breadth of the challenges we face but also the wide range of opportunities there are for making a difference.

Amongst these important actions, the chart on the next page shows the percentage of people rating them as 'extremely important'.

The two highest rated issues both relate to new buildings. Standards and planning regulations are substantially influenced by national rules and set the framework within which usually local decisions are taken. This would logically lead to assessing the adequacy of the current rules and seeking to persuade national government to make changes where the rules are judged to be inadequate.

In contrast, the community and communication issues more clearly offer scope for local action. Trusted information, setting and reporting on progress toward targets and working with community organisations were all highly rated.

Eliminating the use of single-use plastics was also extremely important to almost three-quarters (72.5%) of survey participants.

By some margin support to move to a more plant-based diet was the least likely to be rated as extremely important. However, even here just over three in every five (60.1%) participants thought this was important or extremely important.

2. Overall results

Percentage of respondents rating an issue 'extremely important' for local councils and Government to tackle climate change

Issue	Percentage
1.3.c. Ensure new developments avoid flood plains and increasing flood risks	77.9%
1.3.a. Ensure all new buildings are built to the highest environmental standards	76.0%
1.5.b. Eliminate single-use plastic goods and packaging	72.5%
1.6.c. Support renewable energy schemes that provide direct benefits to local communities	71.1%
1.4.b. Encourage the planting of trees and rewilding	71.1%
1.1.b Provide trusted information to help local people & businesses reduce their environmental impact	70.8%
1.1.c. Set best practice environmental targets and report publicly on progress each year	68.9%
1.2.a. Provide more, better quality and cheaper public transport	68.1%
1.1.a Work with all local community organisations to achieve climate change and environmental goals	62.8%
1.2.b. Make walking & cycling safer through dedicated routes and traffic calming	60.6%
1.6.a. Minimise energy consumption in their own buildings and activities	59.8%
1.4.a. Support farmers to encourage biodiversity	59.6%
1.5.c. Support repair, re-use and share initiatives	56.5%
1.5.a. Radically increase local recycling rates	55.8%
1.6.b. Use and promote green energy suppliers	52.8%
1.2.c. Ensure there is an adequate network of electric car charging points	49.1%
1.3.b. Ensure all homes are zero carbon	48.9%
1.4.c. Support local communities to move to a more plant-based diet	32.4%

Base varies = 315-318

Different people, different views?

Statistical tests[1] were used to assess whether there were any significant differences in responses between groups of survey participants across the eighteen statements listed in the first chart.

The most consistent differences were found between men and women. Women consistently rated issues as more important than men. In all but two cases (1.2c Ensure there is an adequate network of electric car charging points and 1.6a Minimise energy consumption in their own buildings and activities) these differences were substantial enough to make them statistically significant.

Perhaps more surprisingly, the differences between participants who were and were not members of environmental groups were less marked. Whilst those who were members tended to rate the issues as more important, this was only statistically significant for eight of the eighteen statements.

Differences by age band and location were far less marked, with only one significant difference found for each.
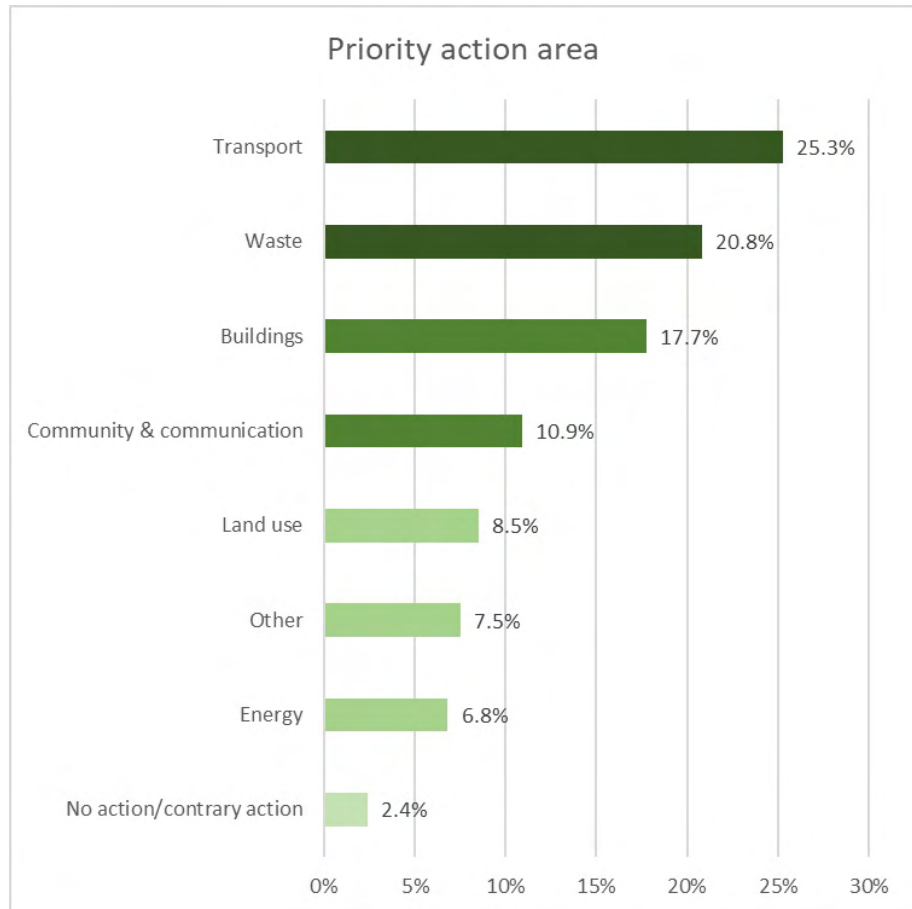
Local council priority

The survey offered participants the opportunity to write in what they considered to be the top priority for action by the local council to help tackle climate change and improve the environment. A total of 284 respondents contributed suggestions, some ranging over several areas. To help understand these, they were organised into the six main topic areas considered earlier, with an 'Other' category added for any that did not readily fit in to one of these areas and one for 'No action / contrary action' to account for those comments judged to be opposed to action to tackle climate change.

As can be seen in the following chart, priorities ranged across all the topic areas. The choice is likely to have been influenced by which topics are considered to be within the remit of the local council. This may help explain why energy achieved a relatively small number of suggestions and why transport was the most commonly cited.

_____

1. A χ2 test was applied and the value judged to be significant if less than 0.05. This is equivalent to the chance of tossing a coin a hundred times and recording heads (or tails) less than five times.
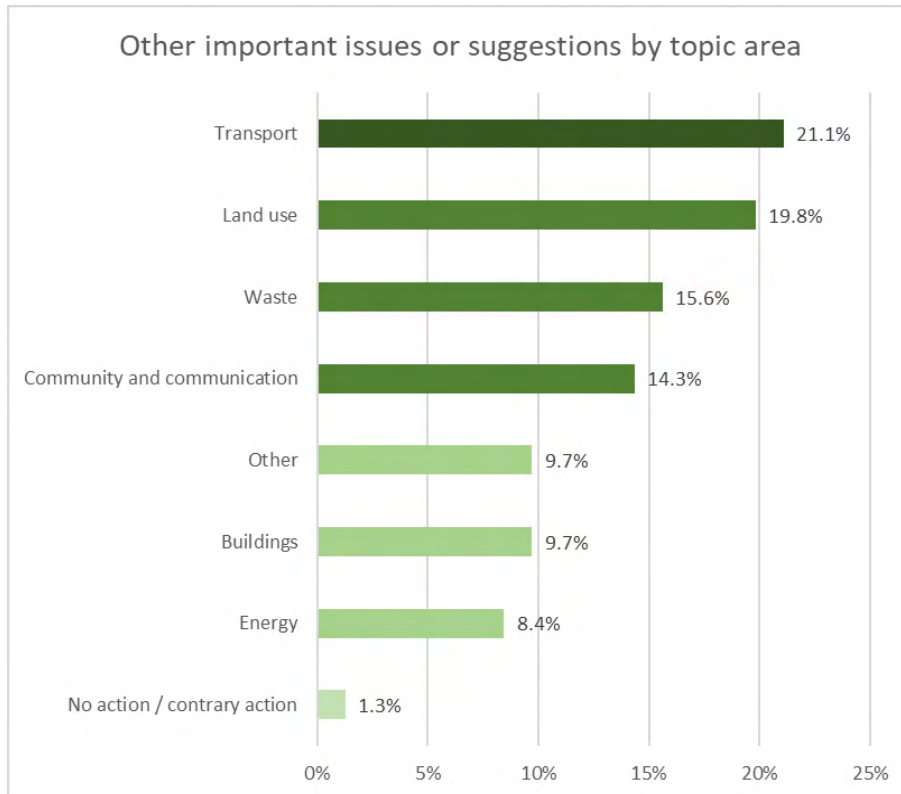
2. Overall results

Priority action area

Priority action area	Percentage
Transport	25.3%
Waste	20.8%
Buildings	17.7%
Community & communication	10.9%
Land use	8.5%
Other	7.5%
Energy	6.8%
No action/contrary action	2.4%

Base = 293 comments from 284 respondents

Other important issues

The survey then offered participants the opportunity to identify any other important issues that had not been covered or make further suggestions to help tackle climate change or improve our local environment.

A total of 237 comments were received, again with transport attracting the highest level of interest.

Other important issues or suggestions by topic area

Topic area	Percentage
Transport	21.1%
Land use	19.8%
Waste	15.6%
Community and communication	14.3%
Other	9.7%
Buildings	9.7%
Energy	8.4%
No action / contrary action	1.3%

Base = 237

In the following sections of the report we look in more detail at the results for each of the topic areas. This includes many of the local council priorities and other important issues recorded by survey participants in their write-in comments.

3. Community and communication

Full results from the survey questions on community and communication issues are shown in full on the following page. They show that over 85% of participants thought all three issues – working with community organisations, providing trusted information and public annual reporting on progress toward environmental targets - were important or extremely important. Only a very small proportion, around 4% or one in twenty-five, thought these issues were not at all important.

The first of two write-in questions asked for one priority action for the local council to take to help tackle climate change and improve our local environment.

A dozen comments related to the provision of better information. Some were general requests for better information and education of the community but others made more detailed suggestions, such as specific advice on how to reduce use of plastics and publicising services in local newspapers or magazines. For example,

"Provide easily understood and reliable information to local people and businesses to help them reduce their environmental impact"
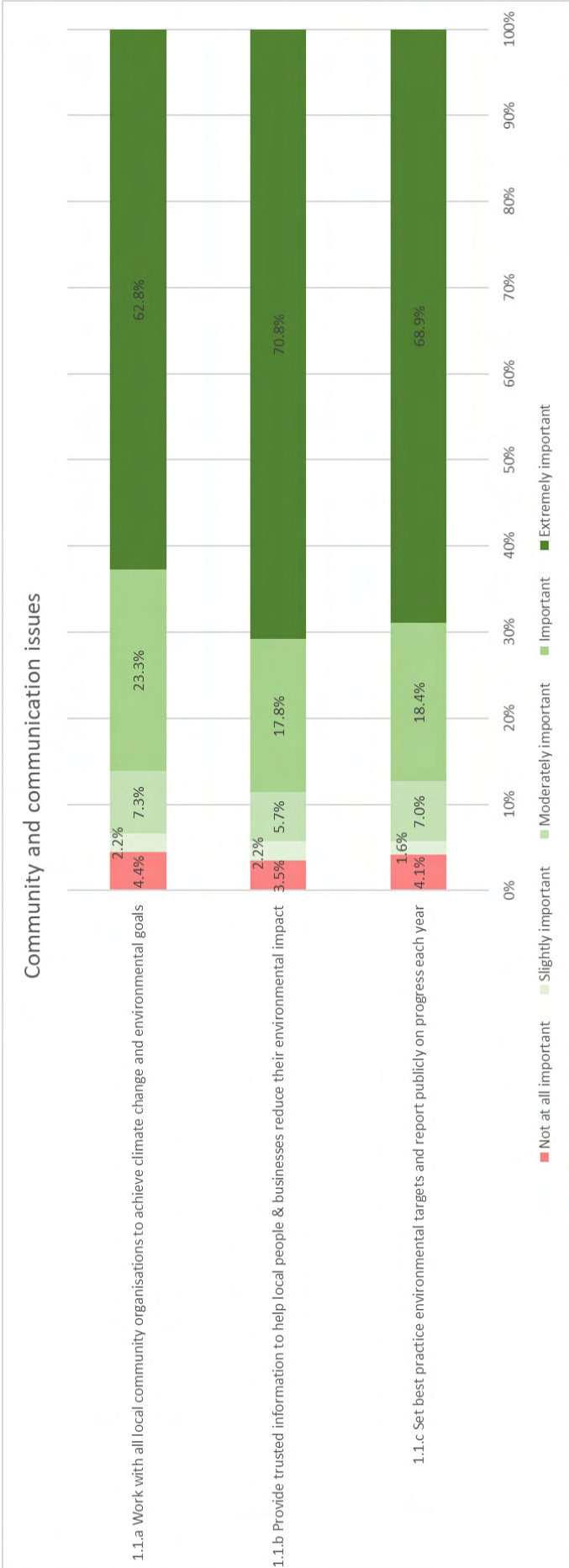
"Start a program of educating people, in schools, and elsewhere"

"Provide better information to households on how people can reduce their energy bills and reduce the amount of plastic they use"

"Provide reliable information and advice to householders and businesses on all aspects of "Reduce, Re-use, Recycle" and publicise this service, perhaps running a regular column on different aspects of the challenge in a local newspaper or magazine. It would be helpful to have a designated officer with good technical knowledge as they do seem very short of staff nowadays. Needs to be someone with commitment and excellent communication skills"

There was also a strong emphasis on working with the community. Again, there were some broad, general comments alongside those asking for Councils to work with local community and environmental organisations. More specific ideas included using social gatherings and organising a Citizens Assembly (as organised nationally and referred to in the Introduction).

Community and communication issues

1.1.a Work with all local community organisations to achieve climate change and environmental goals
- Not at all important: 4.4%
- Slightly important: 2.2%
- Moderately important: 7.3%
- Important: 23.3%
- Extremely important: 62.8%

1.1.b Provide trusted information to help local people & businesses reduce their environmental impact
- Not at all important: 3.5%
- Slightly important: 2.2%
- Moderately important: 5.7%
- Important: 17.8%
- Extremely important: 70.8%

1.1.c Set best practice environmental targets and report publicly on progress each year
- Not at all important: 4.1%
- Slightly important: 1.6%
- Moderately important: 7.0%
- Important: 18.4%
- Extremely important: 68.9%

Legend: Not at all important | Slightly important | Moderately important | Important | Extremely important

Base = 317, 315, 315

3. Community and communication

> *"Organising and empowering local communities to take part in progressive, open discussions about climate change"*
>
> *"Work in partnership with individuals, communities, organisations, schools and businesses to make this real and achievable by less talk and more direct action"*
>
> *"Embrace constructive dialogue with local environmental groups. Their them & us attitude is not helping the cause"*
>
> *"Encourage the local community to tackle the priorities for a greener life style and to work as a community. By creating working parties and social gatherings"*
>
> *"Citizens Assembly to understand community priorities"*

Three participants made the point that the Councils need to "*lead by example*" and, in the same spirit, there were injunctions "*To do something about climate, not just talk*", "*Take action now*", "*Provide clear leadership through the adoption of a quantified, measurable climate crisis action plan*" and "*Better education and action, showing people the council is doing something …*"

Other points made were to "*Keep climate change high on the agenda*", "*Give more feedback on how they recycle domestic waste*" and "*Listen to the public, constituents' ideas and needs, not everyone can afford to be green.*"

A second write-in question provided an opportunity for survey participants to add in any other important issues or suggestions for action to help tackle climate change and improve our local environment. We have included extensive lists of suggestions to give a clearer idea of the nature and breadth of contributions.

A dozen participants argued for more to be done around education, especially in schools and with young people, but also extending more widely.

> *"Education"*
>
> *"Better education for our children!"*
>
> *"Get it put in education for children"*
>
> *"Educate young people and families with school programmes"*
>
> *"Education for the younger generation to encourage them at a young age how important the environment issues in our world will have an effect on their lives as they grow up"*
>
> *"Educate the young on throw away logo culture"*

"Ensure all teachers are climate-accredited, provide carbon literacy training to all councillors, politicians, senior officers and civil servants"

"Get young people involved in schools"

"Educate the young on littering, recycling, climate change. Help youngsters lead the way and have a voice"

"Teach all school children (and try to educate adults too) about the importance of all wildlife and nature and how to care for and protect the planet"

"Encourage innovation in the young by having school competitions to invent energy saving ideas in cooperation with university students/engineers - as advisors/judges/facilitators"

"Involve school children in the local environment to promote change"

Related to education was the need to provide reliable information and advice.

"Educate the public on recycling- what happens with ours"

"More awareness campaigns"

"Keep all organisations very aware"

"Make more information prominent for everyone to see how they can make a difference"

"Providing trusted guidelines for the community is a key communication that is needed to avoid total confusion"

"Inform people of what they can do when they send their local magazine out"

"Just keep repeating the message - if possible in slightly different ways, so that in the end individuals take action"

"Educate and promote a more quality simpler lifestyle regarding consumption. For example, buying one quality item preferably made in UK that will last, in some cases a life time, rather than buying several items due to it wearing out quickly. You may think this may not be 'sold' to the public. But the media with its power can put it across as the best and trendiest thing ever and it will catch on, that's all"

"We need advice, traders and grants from councils/ government"

Several participants appealed to local Councils to listen and be more open and to be more engaged with, and supportive of, local communities and organisations.

3. Community and communication

> *"Get the local community involved"*
>
> *"Engage with local communities on climate issues"*
>
> *"Working together with all stakeholders"*
>
> *"It's really important that local councils consult and listen to the views of local people and community groups on steps needed to tackle climate change"*
>
> *"Make district councils more open, meet more often, and take public questions at much shorter notice than the current 12 clear working days"*
>
> *"Support the local valley project"*
>
> *"Encourage localism in all thing especially food and transport (e.g. greatly improved bus services, electric buses etc.)"*

Others expressed similar points in looking to Councils and Government to demonstrate leadership and accountability.

> *"Set the example"*
>
> *"Don't be a box ticking council. Listen to your public. Practice what you preach"*
>
> *"Local targets for all layers of local government"*
>
> *"Vital that councils set clear targets and publicise their progress towards them"*
>
> *"Get Parliament to genuinely and specifically act on this - not just words"*

Three other comments related to local aspects of business.

> *"Minimise energy consumption in businesses"*
>
> *"Support local businesses that provide sustainably sourced products"*
>
> *"Boycotting large capitalist corporations that contribute to climate change, holding the government to account and working to not delegitimise or stigmatise working class struggles caused by the changing climate"*

4. Transport

Over three-quarters of participants rated the three statements related to transport -   better and cheaper public transport, safer walking and cycling routes, an adequate network of electric charging points - as important or extremely important. This proportion was even higher for the first two of the statements.

Well under one in twenty people (3.2% to 4.7%) regarded the statements as not at all important.

When offered the opportunity to write in the one priority for local council action, just over a third of the transport-related suggestions focussed on improving public transport. Some were general requests for improvements. Others were more specific, such as making public transport free or cheaper, more extensive networks, more frequent services and use of 'green' vehicles.

> *"Make public transport more frequent, reliable and affordable"*
>
> *"Move towards the provision of subsidised green public transport provision in Chesterfield and the surrounding area"*
>
> *"Make all public transport electric, put more electric buses on the road and start running more regular services, including night bus services up into rural villages and isolated locations. Also reduce the price of all public transport tickets and offer local residents something like a discounted Oyster card"*
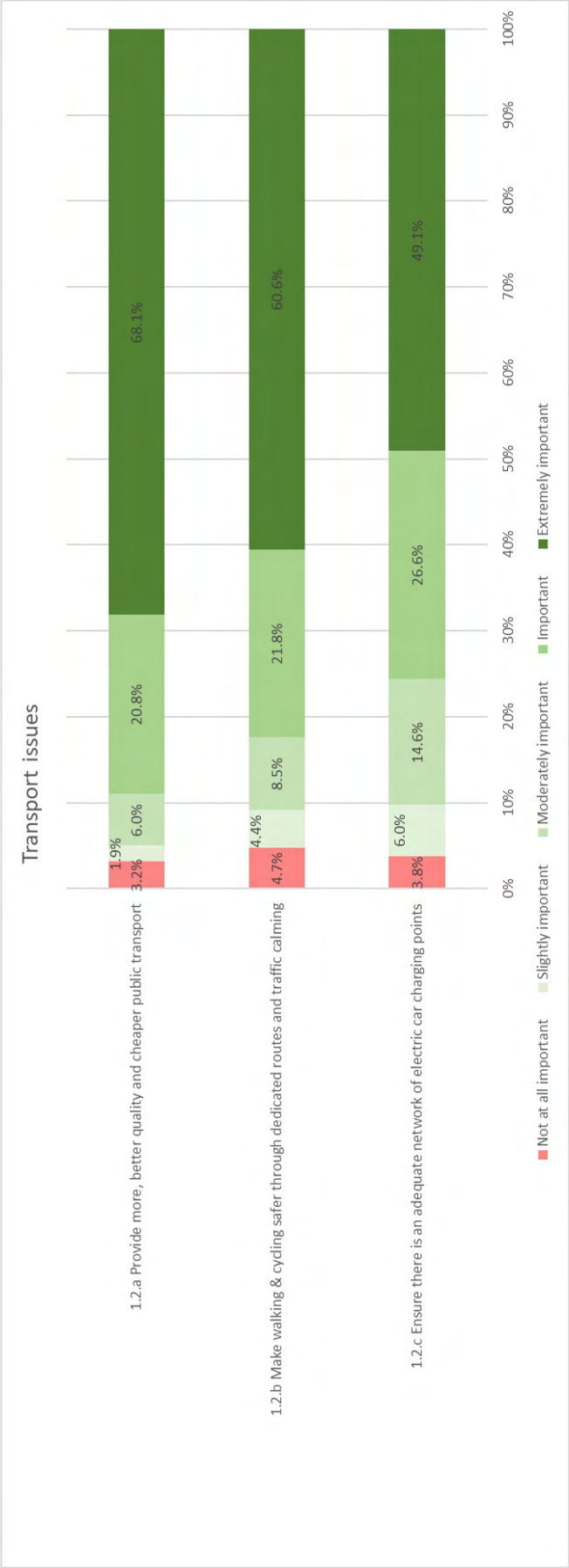
A little under a quarter of the comments related to supporting active travel such as cycling and walking, for example:

> *"Improve cycling and walking facilities to encourage active non-polluting travel"*
>
> *"Encourage walking and cycling by improved, dedicated paths"*

Just over one in eight comments wanted to see steps taken to reduce the use of vehicles with internal combustion engines, including amongst the council's own fleet of vehicles. This was also in part to reduce the levels of pollution. The same number were looking for support for electric vehicles, including action to reduce their cost to those purchasing them and ensuring there was an adequate network of charging points.

4. Transport

Transport issues

1.2.a Provide more, better quality and cheaper public transport: 3.2%, 1.9%, 6.0%, 20.8%, 68.1%

1.2.b Make walking & cycling safer through dedicated routes and traffic calming: 4.7%, 4.4%, 8.5%, 21.8%, 60.6%

1.2.c Ensure there is an adequate network of electric car charging points: 3.8%, 6.0%, 14.6%, 26.6%, 49.1%

Not at all important Slightly important Moderately important Important Extremely important

Base = 317, 317, 316

There were general references to improving transport and making it more sustainable, requests to use traffic calming or exclusions and increase the use of rail freight.

The importance of better quality and more affordable public transport was reiterated when participants wrote in responses to the opportunity to identify other important issues or make further suggestions to help tackle climate change or improve our local environment.

A small number just made general references:

"Transport"

"Improvement in local transport"

"Affordable, reliable green transport"

There were extensive calls to improve public transport in terms of the number and integration of services and the cost of journeys.

"Better, cheaper public transport"

"More emphasis on public transport"

"Decent public transport"

"Start a ride-for-free bus scheme into the town"

"I wouldn't need to drive so much if the bus routes connected up better"

"Develop better public transport"

"Better public transport"

"More buses"

"Improving local transport, cheaper fares"

"Cheaper & better public transport"

"Improve public transport, i.e. frequency of buses and reduce prices"

"Subsidise buses"

"Provide a more substantial bus service for Number 44 Chesterfield/Sheffield"

"Cheap, efficient public transport that can really be an alternative to the car"

"Major investment needed in publicly owned public transport (buses, trams, trains) with fares set at an affordable level to encourage people out of their cars and on to public transport"

"Think about an integrated bus service between all the main towns with a daily pass promote travel and exploration without a car"

4. Transport

"Improve public transport =fewer cars"

"Good reliable, clean, safe, affordable public transport options"

"Drastically improve public transport and cycling lanes"

The latter links into a range of suggestions for encouraging more active means of getting around.

"Improving safety for walking and cycling"

"Walk and cycle to school initiatives, education on benefits of active travel and car free zones around schools"

"More cycle routes"

"More bicycle lanes"

"Improve access to walking and cycling routes"

"If using a cycle for transport you need somewhere secure to leave it"

"Horse riders are being left out of planning for multi user routes. Bridleways are not being maintained. Footpaths wherever possible should be upgraded to bridleways. I am crippled by osteoarthritis and can't enjoy walking, but can still ride. But riding on heavy traffic, risking my life among the selfish and ignorant drivers is not enjoyable."

"Re-surface roads and provide good cycling infrastructure, E bikes (hills no longer an issue) will now take a lot of cars of the roads especially in the warmer/dryer months"

"Make cycle lanes compulsory where provided"

Several references were made to supporting the use of electric vehicles.

"Council electric vehicles"

"Put more electric charging points around"

"Lobby government … not to reduce grants on electric vehicles and home charge points"

"Electric car charge infrastructure and dedicated bike routes - not only would tackle climate change but creates green jobs"

"Bigger subsidies for … electric cars and other greener alternatives"

"Electric fleet vehicles mandatory for local service providers"

"More … eco transport buses"

"Reduce petrol driven vehicles to electric motors"

There were also a wide range of other transport-related suggestions:

"Keep home working and reduce face to face meetings"

"Traffic warden patrols on every school road to prevent indiscriminate/unlawful parking, and to reduce vehicle engines running whist drivers are waiting for children"

"Improve signage about turning engines off when idling as it adds to pollution"

"Stop building roads which encourage more traffic/carbon/pollution"

"Traffic calming"

"Reduce road speed in all residential areas to 20mph"

"Improve traffic flow"

"Promote one car free day a week?"

"Encourage car users to turn off their engines when not actually moving, e.g. when parked up outside shops"

"Start to discourage car use and adoption of alternative (no car days/ incentives for public transport users)"

"Reduce congestion on the cross Pennine route from Glossop to Stockport at Hyde"

"Penalise drivers whose vehicles are emitting unacceptable amounts of exhaust fumes"

5. Buildings

Full results from participants' rating of the three statements related to buldings - highest environmental standards for new buildings, making all homes zero carbon, avoiding development on flood plains - are shown on the next page.

Whilst more than three-quarters (77.5%) of people thought improving the environmental performance of existing housing was important or extremely important, this was markedly lower than for the other two statements. More than nine out of ten expressed this view: 90.5% on standards for new housing and 91.5% for avoiding building on flood plains.

The need to ensure all homes were well insulated and using renewable energy was strongly reflected in the write-in comments on the priority for Council action.

Twenty-two participants were looking for energy-efficiency improvements for existing houses. There were general comments about insulating homes and other buildings (including Council properties) to make them energy-efficient, although one participant recognised this would not be easy. Others argued for improvements to be extended to use of renewable energy sources. For example:

"Ensure every house is insulated as much as possible"

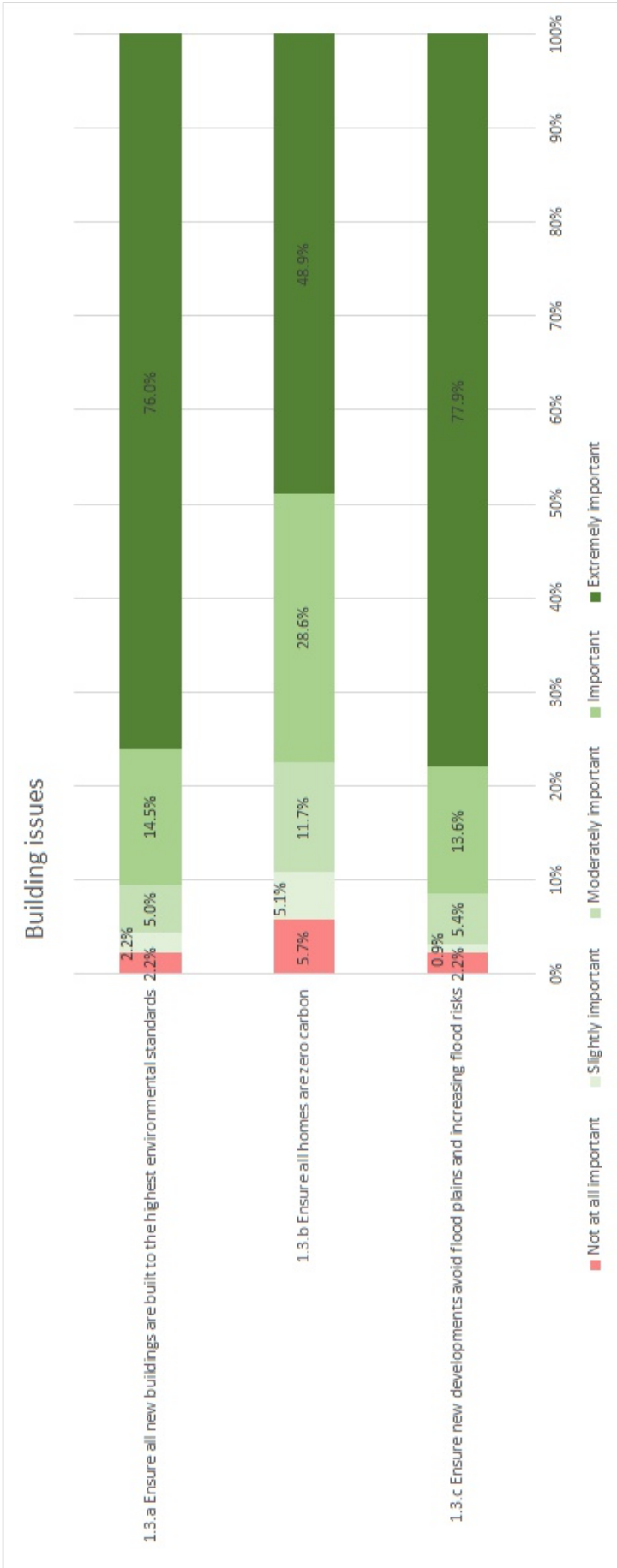*"Reduce energy use in homes - not easy in old housing stock"*

"Insulate homes and encourage people to use a renewable/ green energy supplier"

"Every council home should have solar panels, especially those built in late 50s and60s"

"Support the addition of solar panels to as many residential properties as possible"

"Helping to convert all homes to renewable energy"

Policy actions, particularly financial ones, were proposed to help achieve these goals.

Building issues

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Important	Extremely important
1.3.a Ensure all new buildings are built to the highest environmental standards	2.2%	2.2%	5.0%	14.5%	76.0%
1.3.b Ensure all homes are zero carbon	5.7%	5.1%	—	11.7%	28.6% / 48.9%
1.3.c Ensure new developments avoid flood plains and increasing flood risks	2.2%	0.9%	5.4%	13.6%	77.9%

Base = 317, 315, 317

5. Buildings

> *"Provide grants and support for upgrading the insulation standards of privately owned and privately rented homes"*
>
> *"Lobby government to remove VAT on energy efficiency products and provide grants for private householders"*
>
> *"Provide grants to enable existing homes to achieve maximum environmental-saving standards"*
>
> *"Support residents to insulate homes and fit ground source pumps"*

Exactly the same number wanted to see higher standards implemented for new housing. Many comments were general, arguing for higher standards and/or zero carbon new properties. For example,

> *"Make sure all new buildings are built to the highest environmental standards"*
>
> *"Ensure all new homes are carbon neutral in construction"*
>
> *"Insist on new housing as net zero"*
>
> *"Build new green council houses"*

Others made more specific references to the steps that should be taken to achieve this. Alongside the demand for use of solar and wind power was the active use of planning powers to require this.

> *"New builds from now to have solar panels, heat pumps not from 2025, that is too late "*
>
> *"Houses built with solar panels and electric points and alternative source of heating"*
>
> *"SOLAR PANELS and BETTER, SAFE INSULATION should be insisted upon for all newbuilds plus other factors to help and protect our environment when it comes to building new homes"*
>
> *"Make solar panels necessary on all new building and extensions both domestic and commercial"*
>
> *"Green homes planning"*
>
> *"Stop approving planning permission for endless new high carbon producing housing"*

Nine participants raised points about where building should take place, avoiding both flood plains and green field sites. Another wanted to see a reduction in the number of planning permissions granted.

"Ensure all new houses are built … avoiding any area that is potentially subject to flooding"

"Stop developers from building on green field sites"

"Building regulations to avoid destroying greenbelt, destroying wildlife, increasing flood risk or building on flood aids...NEDDC is doing atrociously here in order to meet central government targets"

"Stop the destruction of habitat and the building of housing and infrastructure which does not take account of the climate emergency"

As already noted, several people wanted the Council to ensure the carbon footprint of its own buildings was reduced.

Broadly similar points were made when participants identified other important issues or made further suggestions to help tackle climate change and improve the local environment.

Nine participants raised general aspirations to improve the environmental impact of building.

"Make homes carbon zero"

"Zero carbon homes. Insulation"

"ALL homes fully insulated"

"Aim for carbon zero in all housing"

"Look at making buildings and homes more energy efficient"

"Allow and support people to become energy efficient in existing and new builds"

"Promote carbon zero construction"

"Ensure that all commercial buildings (as well as homes) are built or retrofitted to zero carbon standards"

"Ensure cost effective energy saving schemes are available to all residents' homes"

Specific ways for achieving this, through the installation of insulation, solar panels or heat pumps, were also mentioned.

"It would be so good if all new housing had solar panels and air source heat pumps"

"All new builds to have solar panels on"

"Insulate as many homes as possible and start a mass programme of replacing gas central heating with electric pumps"

"Improve insulation in council properties"

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5. Buildings

Others pointed to the need to raise the standards set for buildings to help deliver this.

"New homes to highest environmental standards"

"Update planning laws for new developments to ensure adequate insulation standards"

"All new homes must be built to Class A EPC or better. Why does government persist in permitting poorer insulation etc standards? This is No 1 priority for national and local governments"

"Strict environmental guidelines for all new building in the local area. Housing built to passivehaus standards, extensive installation of appropriate solar panel and heat exchange technology on all appropriate developments. Extensive and rapid retrofitting of above and insulation in all domestic and commercial properties"

There was also recognition that progress would require support, including financial help.

"Help home owners and landlords to insulate homes to a high standard, both with information and funding"

"Assist homeowners to insulate homes"

"Lobby government to make grants available for solar energy"

"Bigger subsidies for heat pumps"

"Council tax reduction for carbon friendly buildings"

"Incentivise moving away from gas central heating and to renewable sources instead like air source heat pumps, make it affordable for all"

"Help businesses become zero carbon and make more accessible and reliable green transport"

6. Land use

Moving to a plant-based diet elicited the least positive response of all the statements in the survey. Even so, only just over one in ten (10.4%) thought this was not at all important for local councils and the Government, whilst more than six in ten (60.1%) rated it as important or extremely important.

In comparison, these positive ratings were far higher for supporting farmers to encourage biodiversity (85.5%) and planting trees and rewilding (89.3%). Full results are shown inthe chart on the next page.

Tree planting and rewilding was the most common priority for councils from the write-in question.
Fourteen participants referred to planting more trees, or protecting those that were already in place. This extended to other types of planting, rewilding and other forms of environmental protection. There was also support for engaging a wide range of people and organisations in these activities.

"Plant more trees and protect woodlands"

"Plant trees and rewilding"

"Stop chopping down trees and plant more"

"Plant a serious amount off trees. One for every person living in the area, and applying to local authority to cut a tree down even on your own property"

"Planting trees and wildflowers. There are huge opportunities to make our housing estates green and leafy places to live. Plant a tree on every grass verge"

"Rewilding - plant more trees, mow less, plant wildflowers and encourage/help the community to do the same in their gardens"
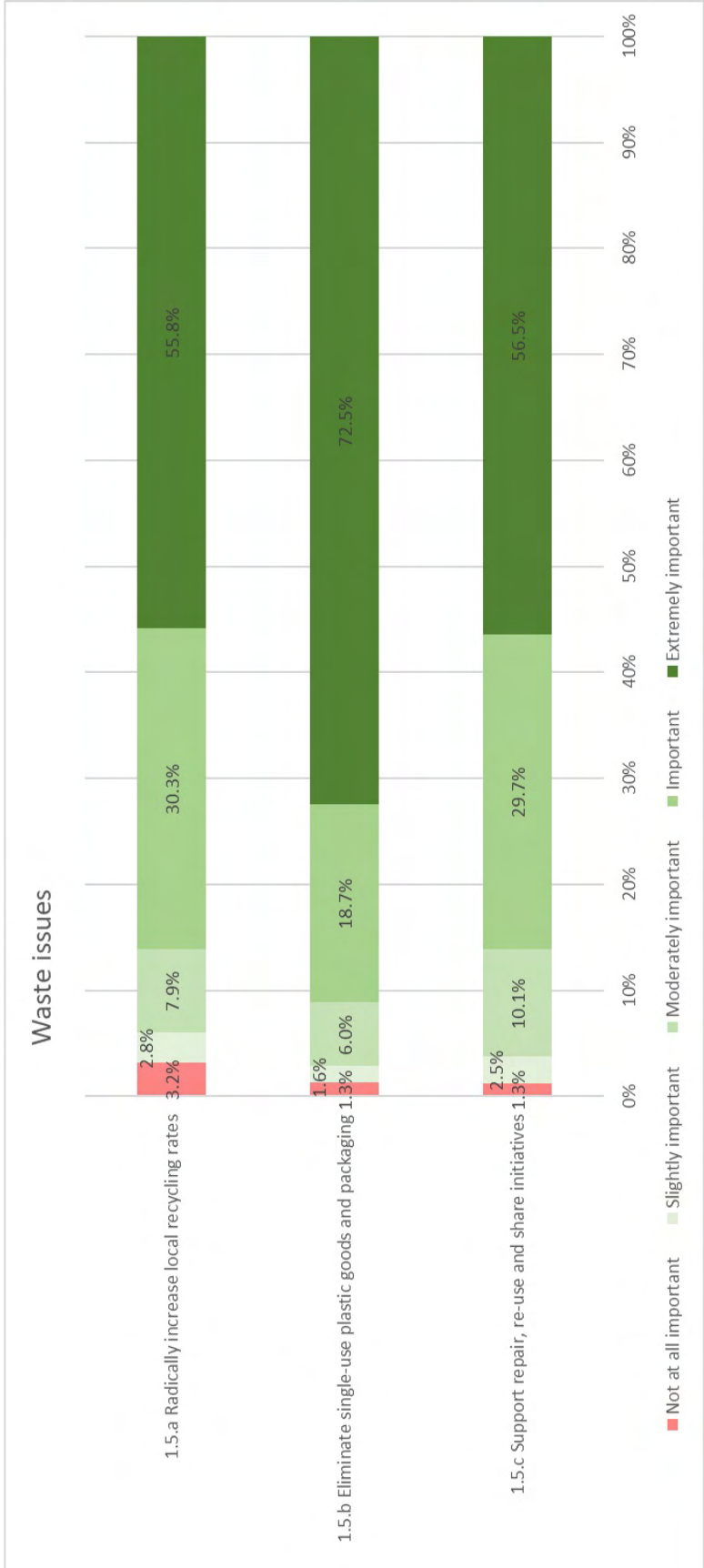
"Stop people concreting over their gardens/installing plastic grass"

"Make sure that no property magnate can never use green fields and that more trees are planted in our villages to improve the wildlife around us"

"Replanting trees and ensuring there are wild flower areas. Encourage the parish to take part..."

"Mass community tree planting scheme, involving residents, community groups, volunteering organisations etc."

6. Land use

Waste issues

1.5.a Radically increase local recycling rates
3.2% · 2.8% · 7.9% · 30.3% · 55.8%

1.5.b Eliminate single-use plastic goods and packaging
1.3% · 1.6% · 6.0% · 18.7% · 72.5%

1.5.c Support repair, re-use and share initiatives
1.3% · 2.5% · 10.1% · 29.7% · 56.5%

Legend:
- Not at all important
- Slightly important
- Moderately important
- Important
- Extremely important

Base = 317, 318, 318

Half a dozen people made reference to improving biodiversity in different settings and working with others, such as farmers, to achieve this.

"Reach out to local farmers to encourage biodiversity"

"Encourage biodiversity to help the environment which includes humans"

"Biodiversity targets relating to all community land and training for groundsmen"

"Improve biodiversity and look after our countryside / green spaces / ancient woodlands"

"Stop building on land which can be used for biodiversity"

"More Nature-Based Solutions - improving biodiversity and in doing so delivering other natural capital benefits (flood management, carbon sequestration etc.)"

There were also other references to protecting the Green Belt and valuable habitats, conserving our existing wildlife and moving to a more plant-based diet (including in public buildings such as schools and hospitals).

The emphasis on tree planting and rewilding was repeated when participants were asked to write in any other important actions or further suggestions. More than two dozen participants mentioned these activities and the wider care of habitats extended to those such as the peatlands on the western edges of our area. There were also some varied and detailed suggestions made.

"We have lots of green space in Chesterfield, we need to plant more trees"

"Plant trees on new estates"

"The planting of hundreds more trees"

"Community orchards free to use"

"Encourage and develop community gardens and orchards so the whole community can learn about sustainability. These are activities that can include children from a young age so that sustainability becomes second nature"

"Protect trees and natural habitats"

"More trees.. you keep chopping them down!"

"Plant more trees and increase rewilding"

"Plant wildflowers/trees where possible"

6. Land use

"Plant more broad leaf trees, which help remove carbon dioxide from our air, as a natural process. On as large a scale as possible. Trees also take up water and are useful to prevent flooding"

"Identify areas that can be planted with trees & hedging & encourage local groups to plant"

"Tree canopies, trees, shrubs and wildflowers to provide shade, attract pollinators, reduce flooding and absorb roadside pollution. Encourage residents to plant community orchards and vegetables"

"Encourage people to plant trees; saplings could be given free. End destruction of woodland (Moss Valley)"

"Plant loads of indigenous trees; plant wild flower meadows; link up with local farms and find out if we can support them to create/improve bio diversity; provide a hot vegan meal in town once a week to demonstrate how easy and substantial vegan food can be"

"Work with nature. Replant as many trees and re wild areas to encourage wildlife" "Rewilding, green corridor, inappropriate land use, plant trees, stop cutting grass unnecessarily, keep waterways clean"

"Hold more volunteer working groups, especially on weekends, to rewild and carry out conservation projects in local communities. Most I have seen are done in the week and stops a lot of potential people joining in"

"Re-wild land - this should not necessarily mean "tree planting" but letting land revert to its natural state; this will initially be scrub land... https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/"

"Stop cutting the grass verges so often, once a year is enough"

"We in our area are creating a community garden where we can grow vegetables, herbs and flowers We will have wild areas and a pond for wild life and an area for children to grow plants. There is an orchard too"

"Plant flower gardens in all open spaces for the bees"

"I also think that pride in our peatlands is vitally important and that local communities should be brought into conservation projects and really realise what an amazing carbon sink we have on our doorsteps"

A further dozen people raised concerns about building and wanted to see brownfield sites developed and Green Belt, and green spaces generally, protected.

"Only build on brownfield sites"

"Referencing especially disused brownfield sites"

"Reduce construction on green belts and enforce a brown belt usage first policy"

"Build on brownfield sites"

"Use brownfield sites and not destroy green fields"

"Only build new houses on brown field sites, NOT green field sites"

"Stop building on open countryside and ensure all development is done in such a way that helps mitigate climate impact"

"Continue to stand up to owners of green belt area who wish to sell their land for new homes to be built"

"More green spaces and reduce the housing developments on green land"

"Keep our Green Belts & plant trees"

"No building on greenbelt or floodplain"

"Stop concreting over gardens"

Several suggestions were made about sustainable farming, food and a plant-based diet.

"Support farmers to use sustainable farming methods and ethical animal husbandry"

"Subsidise organic meat, veg and dairy and incentivise farmers to farm sustainably"

"Food use and plant-based education and support"

"Support any initiative which encourages a plant-based diet"

Finally, there were three comments made about flooding, waterways and water pollution and a couple of more general suggestions.

"Flooding"

"There should an active policy of reinstating natural river banks and pulling back from all rivers, however small, and providing public routes and open areas along them"

"Stopping pollution of air and water"

"Become more green, make room for wildlife"

"Use the Derbyshire countryside for proper recreational activities not designer outlets and shopping centres"

7. Waste

More than five in six participants rated a radical increase in recycling rates (86.1%) and supporting repair, reuse and share initiatives (86.2%) as important or extemely important for local councils and the Government.

But even more, over nine in every ten (91.2%), gave this rating to the elimination of single-use plastics and packaging.

Two issues dominated the comments relating to waste when participants were asked to identify their one priority for council action. The first was the need to improve recycling, mentioned in thirty-two suggestions. General comments included

"Better recycling"

"Improve recycling"

"Radically increase recycling rates/options"

Rather more people wanted to see improvements to the existing recycling process and an extension to recycling facilities.

"Improve waste collection"

"They should be recycling what goes into a red bin but, evidently, the majority is going to landfill!"
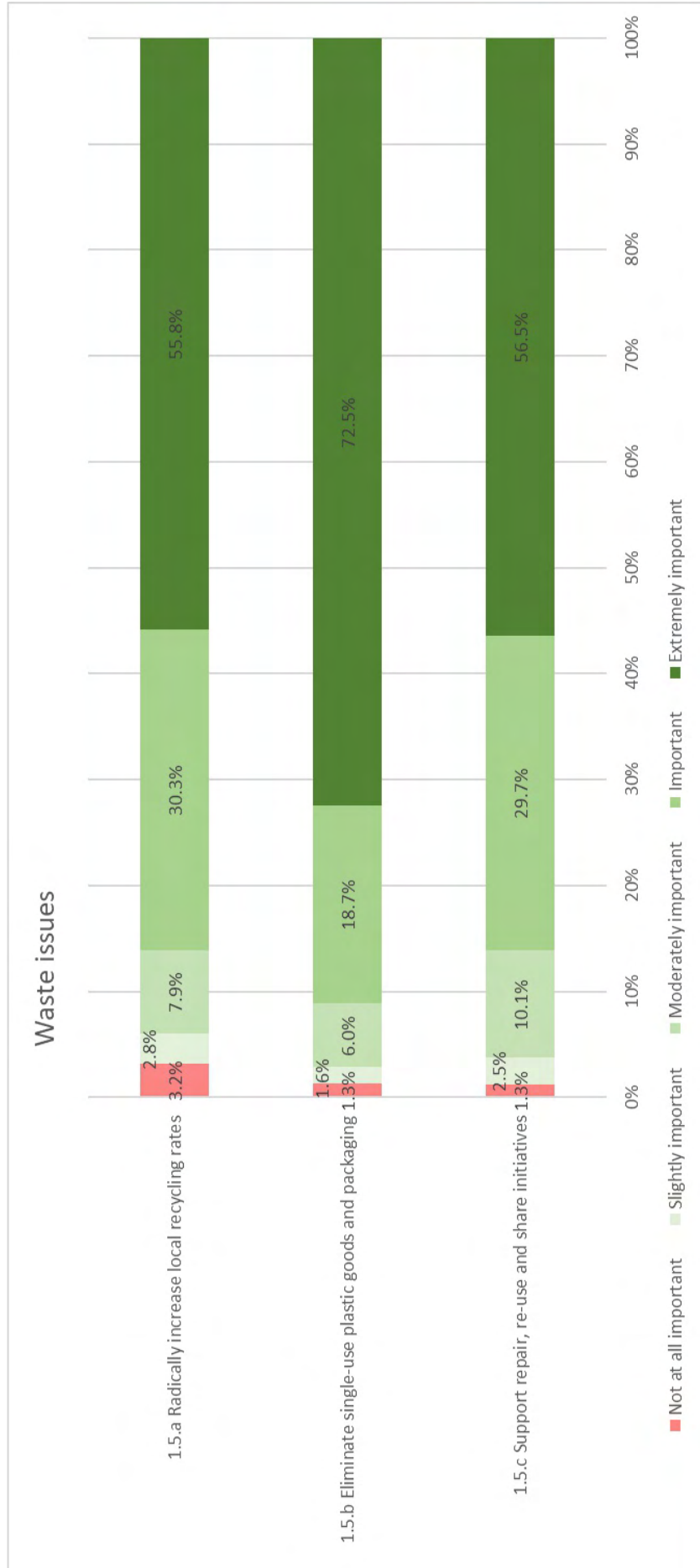
"Make sure our effort of separating our waste is upheld. At the moment everything is emptied in the one cart and not separated. WHY?"

"Increase recycling infrastructure"

"Better recycling - local council no longer collect batteries and electrical goods for recycling"

"More recycling bins"

"Offer better recycling facilities that accept all waste from homeowners, then have it correctly recycled. This will stop fly tipping and correctly recycle products. Allow the reselling of good quality items that have been discarded at a whim when fashions change"

Waste issues

1.5.a Radically increase local recycling rates — 3.2%, 2.8%, 7.9%, 30.3%, 55.8%

1.5.b Eliminate single-use plastic goods and packaging — 1.3%, 1.6%, 6.0%, 18.7%, 72.5%

1.5.c Support repair, re-use and share initiatives — 1.3%, 2.5%, 10.1%, 29.7%, 56.5%

Legend: Not at all important · Slightly important · Moderately important · Important · Extremely important

Base = 317, 316, 317

7. Waste

> *"Increase easy local access for recycling of all materials especially food waste over the winter months, electrical goods and plastic wrappings. Easy access to fabric/rag recycling. For example, continue green bins over the winter and electrical recycling other than at the main tip"*

> *"Extend the items that can be recycled kerbside, e.g. drink cartons, flexible plastics etc. Think this would encourage more recycling, rather than have to take them to recycling centres"*

There was also seen to be a need to improve the information provided to local residents.

> *"Recycle more and give more information about it"*

> *"Clear action to citizens regarding recycling - still too confusing and this should be doable"*

> *"Give more feedback on how they recycle domestic waste"*

Other comments suggested stopping the burying or burning of waste and dealing specifically with a plastic problem: "*Supply recycling facilities locally for tetracycle, e.g. bread bags, crisp packets, plastic sacks, plastic pouches etc.*"

The need to move away from use of plastics was the second most commonly raised issue and was highlighted by twenty-four people. Some comments were expressed in general terms:

> *"Reduce plastics"*

> *"Eliminate plastic usage"*

> *"Reduce plastic use"*

> *"Ban plastic use totally"*

Single-use plastics were identified as a particular problem.

> *"Eliminate single use plastic"*

> *"Ban single use plastic"*

> *"Eliminate single use plastic from our environment"*

> *"Eliminate single use plastic and reduce unnecessary packaging"*

Specific suggestions for achieving this and working with businesses included

"Rid stores of plastics around foods that are fresh. Plastic tubs. Organics should be plastic free. Return to paper products. Go back to fresh produce where possible"

"Encourage, where possible, local businesses to use as little plastic as possible, and change to non-plastic products"

"Enhance market and encourage plastic free traders"

Recycling, waste collection and waste treatment were the most commonly cited challenges when participants were offered the opportunity to identify other issues or suggestions for further action.

"More efficient recycling"

"Actually recycle waste"

"Make recycling easier"

"More outlets for recycling and disposing of it in THIS COUNTRY"

"Improve recycling facilities & household waste collections"

"Recycling facilities"

"Recycling clarity as to what we can recycle locally"

"More recycling of plastics which are not currently offered"

"Proper recycling options in all council buildings"

"Make recycling count more. We need to know it is being recycled and to be shown what happens if incorrect things are included in blue bins. Some people believe blue bins are just dumped with household waste"

"Food waste, recycling, ..."

"Use of recyclables"

"Reduction of landfill"

"Stop residents from leaving their rubbish out for unlicenced waste collectors to sift through & subsequently fly tip what is no use to them. People in general need to take responsibility for themselves & behave in a conscientious manner regarding climate change instead of just doing what happens to suit them"

A dozen people again focussed on use of plastics.

7. Waste

"Reducing plastic use"

"Reduction of single use plastics"

"Reduce single plastic use"

"Eliminate single-use plastic goods and packaging"

"Get rid of all plastics in food production. Take own containers to shops"

"Lobby government to eliminate single use plastics completely in all packaging"

"Supermarkets reduce plastic"

"Ban the use of plastic packaging"

"Behaviour change towards use of single use products plastic, in work and our local communities"

"Stop selling plastic"

"Get rid of plastic bottles and replace with glass"

"No milk to be sold in plastic bottle. Ban all plastic bags like Ruanda where it is an offence to buy, carry or manufacture them"

Supermarkets were identified above and businesses more generally were challenged to do more.

"Make manufacturers responsible – i.e. glass bottles recollected for milk/drinks"

"Encourage local shops/retail parks to switch off unnecessary lights at night"

"Encourage local businesses to cut the amount of lights they leave burning all night"

"Hold businesses to account over packaging and carbon footprint"

Issues related to litter and combatting it were also raised by four participants.

"Improve litter collection"

"Cut down on waste/litter in the streets"

"Encourage litter picking"

"What about a high profile litter pick involving local voluntary groups, scouts, churches etc.?

Perhaps there could be a launch day with Derbyshire Times coverage, followed up by different groups adopting a home patch to keep up the work in the longer term. If the "Friends" did the organising, it would raise the profile of the local group too"

There were then a number of other comments.

"Get the biggest users of coal to cut down their usage"

"Divest pensions from polluting companies"

"Repair shops given free market stalls"

"Talk to people who used to 'make do and mend' to gain ideas, making it a modern trend so it will be embraced and implemented to reduce consumption and one use only items. Such as more Repair shops and recycled item shops. .. Look at manufacturing clothes again in UK. David Neiper is a good example, talk to him... Using grants for all of the milk men to drive electric vans.

Hold regular meetings with supermarket staff (at all levels- sometimes they have the best ideas) to eradicate all single use plastics and implementing trial ideas.... Ban any sort of shopping bag even paper ones that won't last more than 5 years as they all need to be made using fuel"

8. Energy

More than four in five people thought all three statements - minimising their own energy consumption (86.7%), promoting green energy suppliers (82.9%), supporting renewable energy schemes providing local benefits (86.8%) - were important or extremely important for action by local councils and Government.

When considering the single most important priority for the local council, a dozen participants wanted to see greater use of renewable sources of energy and another wanted to *"Eliminate fossil fuel use."*

"Promotion of green energy"

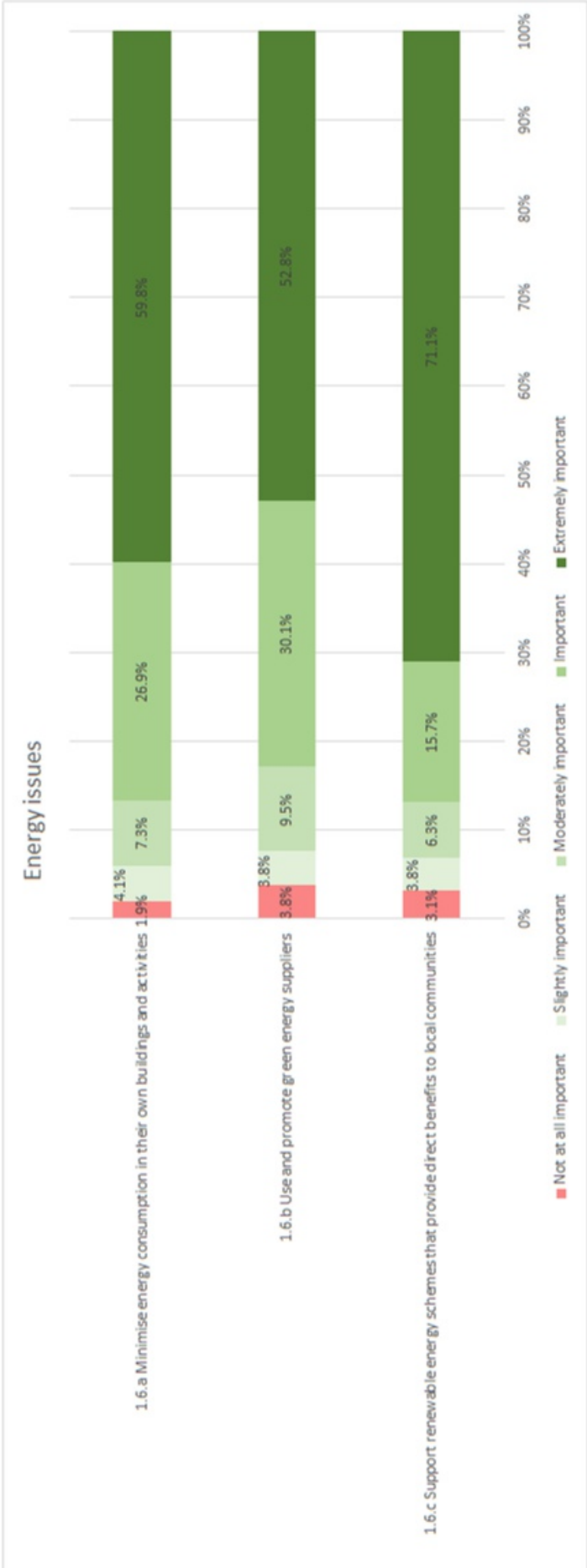*"Switch to renewable energy"*

"Support renewable energy schemes"

Two others made specific reference to the need for renewable energy schemes to deliver benefits to local communities: *"Support renewable energy schemes that provide direct benefits to local communities", "They must act now on developing and supplying green energy for the communities."*

It was argued this would require *"Increasing the energy infrastructure to 100% renewable energy across the UK"* and *"Development of renewal energy sources on both large and small scale."* Actions at a more individual level could include encouraging *"people to use a renewable/ green energy supplier"* and supporting *"residents to ... fit ground source pumps."*

Broadly similar opinions were expressed when participants took the opportunity to identify other issues or make further suggestions.

Seven participants argued for a move away from fossil fuels.

Energy issues

1.6.a Minimise energy consumption in their own buildings and activities
- 1.9%
- 4.1%
- 7.3%
- 26.9%
- 59.8%

1.6.b Use and promote green energy suppliers
- 3.8%
- 3.8%
- 9.5%
- 30.1%
- 52.8%

1.6.c Support renewable energy schemes that provide direct benefits to local communities
- 3.1%
- 3.8%
- 6.3%
- 15.7%
- 71.1%

Legend:
- Not at all important
- Slightly important
- Moderately important
- Important
- Extremely important

Base = 316, 316, 318

8. Energy

"No, absolutely no, removal fossil fuels from the planet"

"Stop subsidising and approving fossil fuel developments"

"Do away with carbon fuels"

"Global stop to ... fossil fuels"

"Ban fracking"

"Ban all fracking and exploration for fossil fuels within Derbyshire"

"Ban any fracking or other fossil fuels start-ups"

The same number of people focussed on promoting renewable, sustainable and greener forms of energy.

"Also, provide a publicly owned source of renewable energy (see the Preston model of community wealth building for how this can be done by local government)"

"I think that local energy production is important like what they have in New Mills - e.g. a local water mill or similar that people can feel ownership of and feel more inclined to save energy because they can see where it is made"

"Coordinate and sponsor local renewable energy schemes"

"Support renewable energy schemes"

"Finance an anaerobic digester to deal with food animal and human waste and produce energy"

"Be prepared to promote and support small hydro and solar projects which can supply public buildings with renewable energy"

"Possible use of incineration to provide heat to local buildings"

There was also recognition that financial support and investment would be needed to further the development and take up of green energy options.

"More affordable green energy options"

"Making renewable choices easier and cheaper for all"

"Invest in a green energy supplier"

Other suggestions were "*Reducing energy use*" and when "*… dealing with fuels companies … it needs to be easier to understand the options available*".

9. Other actions

There were some further suggestions made when participants identified one priority action for the local council.

General references were made to pursuing all these issues because "*there is no single action - they need to do all of them*" and "*all are very important - impossible to choose just one.*" Effort should be directed at "*Reducing carbon footprint*" and, more specifically, "*Find out who/what are the biggest carbon footprint makers in the local area and work with them to significantly reduce, e.g. if it's transport then support transition away from fossil fuels.*"

Other comments included "*Improve local options for sustainable living*" and pursuing "*whatever works best in re-balancing priorities from people to nature.*"

The Council were urged to "*set an example*", "*stop passing the buck*" and "*make it a cross-cutting priority*".

It was recognised that this was a "*Difficult question due to local government financial constraints.*" Suggestions for dealing with this included "*Stop wasting resources and money on pointless projects*" and amalgamating the District and County Councils.

A couple of participants mentioned working with local businesses to ensure they are "*working towards the lowest possible carbon footprint*" and "*to reduce carbon emissions and toxic and non-recyclable waste.*"

As noted elsewhere in this report, a small number of participants were clearly not yet persuaded that climate change was a problem and took the opportunity to reflect this in their write-in suggestion for the council priority. Human responsibility for this was questioned: "*climate change is a natural phenomena*", "*It's the sun stupid.*"

Others made suggestions consistent with this viewpoint: "*Do nothing*", "*Keep using plastic*", "*Open coal mines*" and focus Council action on other areas such as "*Potholes, street lights, efficient administration of Council Tax.*"

Further suggestions and other issues were raised in the second write-in question.

9. Other actions

A couple of participants made a more general point about the need to reduce consumption.

"Reduce all consumption!! Ask if it is really needed or of use"

"Encourage less unnecessary consumption, stop fixating on economic growth"

More local shopping was also thought to be helpful.

"Incentivise local shopping through reduced business rates, easier planning and local parking"

"Encourage use of local shops - reduce business rates to assist growth. Discourage opening of more supermarkets"

There was also a need to take account of inequality in promoting sustainability.

"Equity. Give the greatest help to those with the most limited resources"

*"Help poorer families economically and to help the climate"*

10. Who contributed?

Our survey is intended to aid discussions on what we should be doing to respond to the climate crisis. It does not claim to be representative of the whole population of Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire. The results in this section provide an indication of the extent to which survey participants are similar to the wider population, based on the results of the last Census.

The population of Chesterfield was slightly higher than that in the district of North East Derbyshire (NED). However, our survey had about half as many responses again from people in NED compared to Chesterfield, so the latter Borough is under-represented in these results.
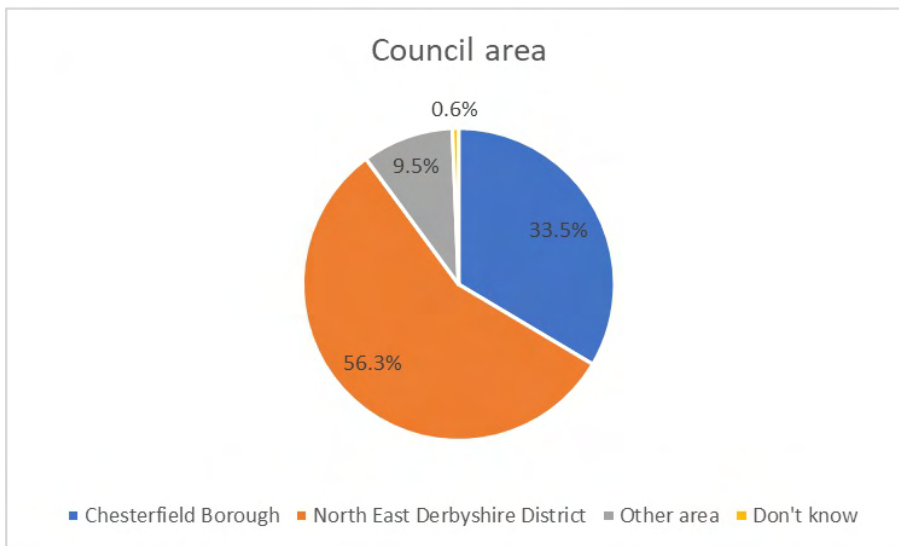
Base = 316

There were also substantially more responses from females than males. In the 2011 Census, 51% of the population across the two areas and aged 16 and over were female.
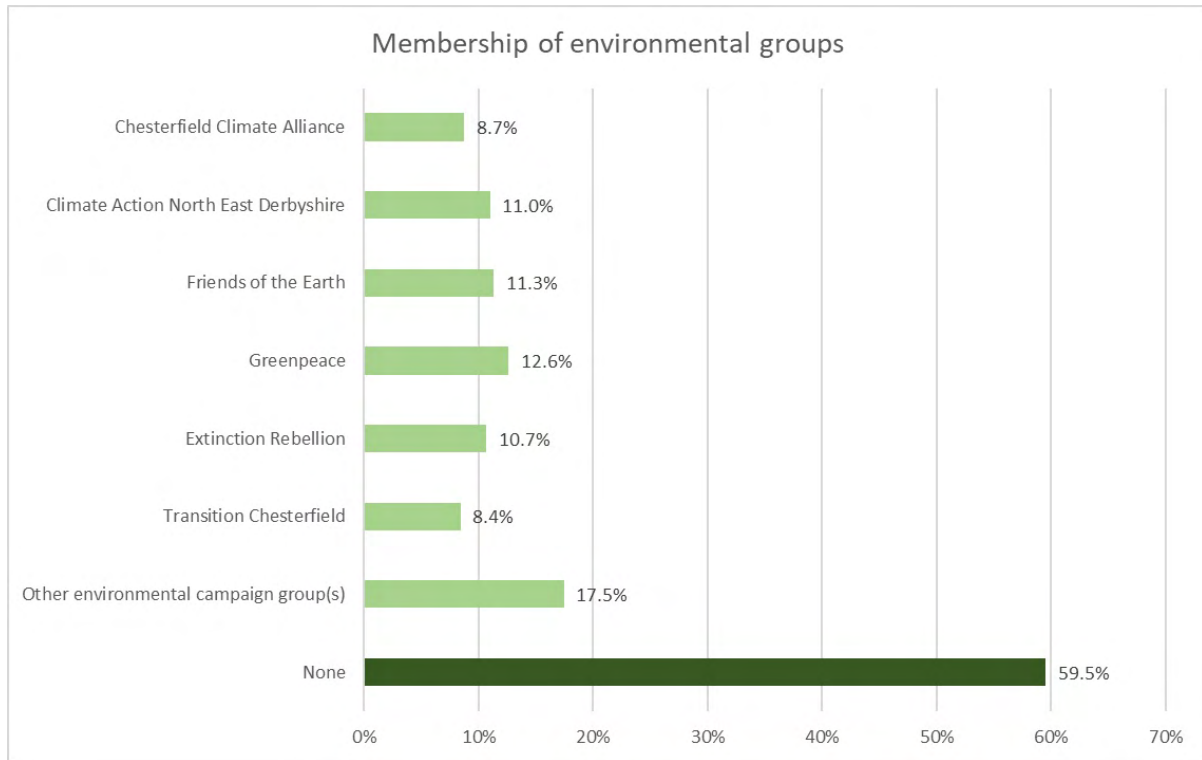
10. Who contributed?

Sex
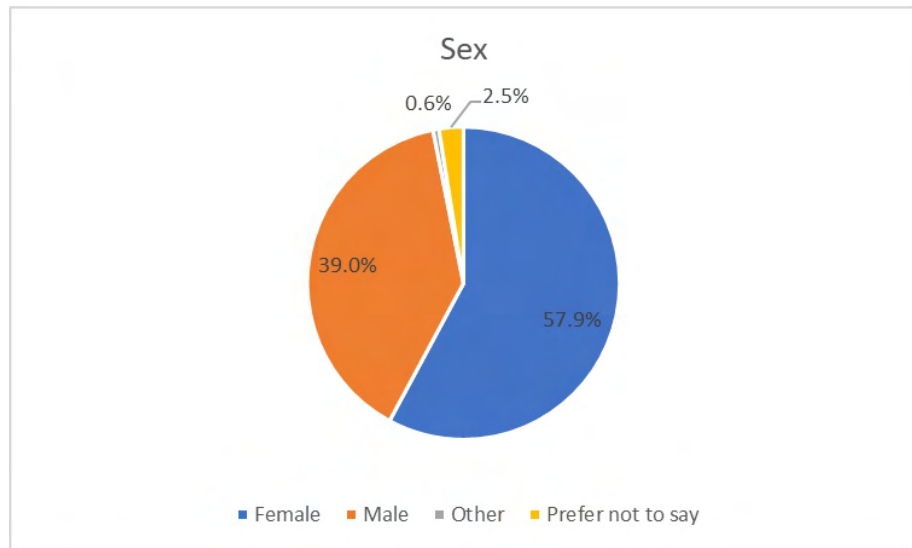
Base = 318

It is more difficult to assess differences by age group as the categories adopted in the survey do not quite align with those used in the Census. The biggest differences were in the substantially lower percentage of people in their late twenties to early forties and an over-representation of those in their mid-sixties to mid-seventies.

Survey			Census	
Age group	*%*		*Age group*	*%*
Under 18	1.3		16 - 17	1.6
18 - 25	2.6		18 - 24	10.0
26 - 45	13.7		25 - 44	31.8
46 - 65	42.0		45 - 64	37.3
66 - 75	33.6		65 - 74	7.5
Over 75	6.8		75 and over	11.9

Base = 307

Perhaps the most important issue of representativeness is whether the survey was completed by people who were members of environmental groups. Well over half the people participating in the survey said they were not members.

Membership of environmental groups

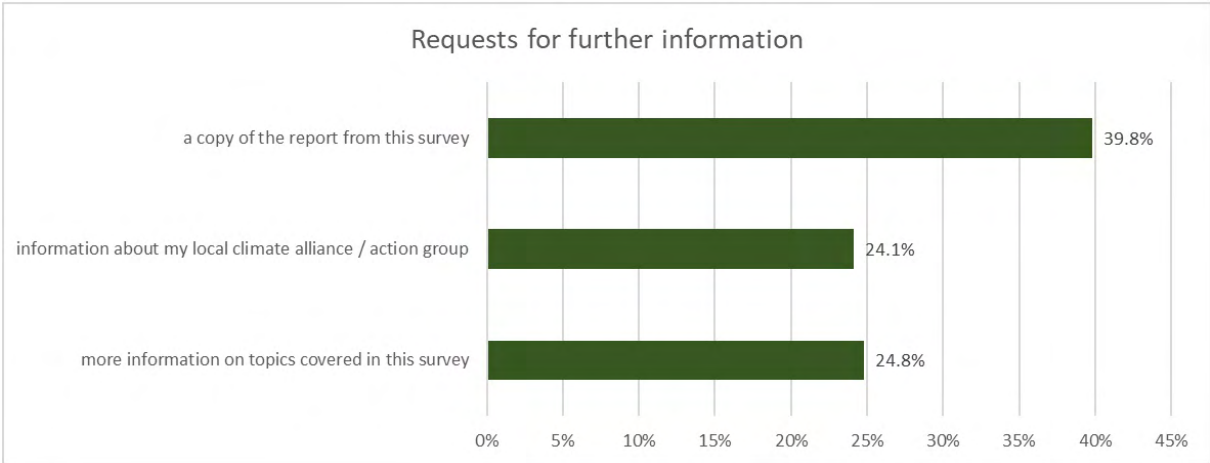| Group	Percentage
Chesterfield Climate Alliance	8.7%
Climate Action North East Derbyshire	11.0%
Friends of the Earth	11.3%
Greenpeace	12.6%
Extinction Rebellion	10.7%
Transition Chesterfield	8.4%
Other environmental campaign group(s)	17.5%
None	59.5%

Base = 309

Those saying they were members of other environmental groups were asked to say which groups these were. A total of thirty-five different groups were noted. These ranged from national wildlife and environmental groups (e.g. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Worldwide Fund for Nature, Woodland Trust, Surfers Against Sewage), similar but more local groups (e.g. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Don Catchment River Trust, Trees for Chesterfield), religious community groups (e.g. A Rocha, Dronfield Baptist Church Eco Church Group, Christian Climate Action) and those concerned with campaigning on particular issues (e.g. Eckington Against Fracking, Plastic Free Chesterfield, Chesterfield Cycle Campaign).

Those contributing to the survey were asked whether they would like to receive further information and the results are shown in the following chart.

10. Who contributed?

Requests for further information

a copy of the report from this survey	39.8%
information about my local climate alliance / action group	24.1%
more information on topics covered in this survey	24.8%

Base = 319

11. What next?

In this section we provided a brief summary of what we've learned from the survey and the next steps that can be taken to tackle climate change and improve our environment.

Let us know what you think. Even better, get involved to make it happen!

What we learned

Major, official national surveys have consistently found that a large majority of people are concerned about climate change and the state of our environment. This is strongly reflected in our survey. So, whilst there remains a need to provide reliable evidence about climate change, its causes and its impact, the main focus needs to be on identifying what can be done to slow, stop and eventually reverse human influenced climate change. Almost a quarter of participants wanted more information on the topics covered in our survey.

Concerns about climate change are very wide ranging. It is important for the authorities to take action in relation to our use of the land, the buildings we place upon it, how we travel across it and our supplies and use of energy. The COP26 event also highlighted the importance of securing international agreements and action.

It was also important for local authorities to provide trusted information, work with community organisations and set environmental targets and report annually on progress. Between 62.8% and 70.8% of survey repsondents rated these activities as 'extremely important'.

What we should do

Find and share reliable information on climate change and the best ways of tackling it.

Support national and international campaigns and initiatives on aspects of climate change.

Press the Council to implement best practice recommendations from organisations such as the Town and Country Planning Association and report annually on its progress toward its commitment to be carbon net zero by 2030.

11. What next?

The diverse range of issues is a challenge but it is also an opportunity. The minority of survey participants who were members of environmental groups cited almost forty other such organisations.

As so often, the devil will be in the detail. The contributions to the survey provided a vast array of suggestions for practical action to help meet the climate challenge. Which of these should be prioritised? What's the best way of getting local organisations and communities engaged in making these decisions and putting them in to practice?

If you'd like to help answer these questions, please get in touch.

Climate Action North East Derbyshire meet on the third Wednesday of the month. In early 2022 we are alternating between online Zoom meetings and face to face meetings.

For more information contact Nigel Hudson on

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07989 251 333

You can also follow us on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/832995943940108

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