

ARDISHAIG NORTH PUBLIC REALM

Online Consultation

8-28th June 2020

Feedback and Findings





ARDRISHAIG PUBLIC REALM & WATERFRONT

Ardishaig is seeing welcome investment: the Egg Shed has been given a new lease of life, and the public halls are being upgraded. What next?

This website is about proposed improvements in the centre of Ardishaig: to the John Smith Memorial Garden, the north car park between Chalmers Street and the loch, easier crossing of the main road, and (as a second phase) a better link to the Harbour and Egg Shed.

The aims are to make the area more attractive, safer for walking and cycling, and better for business. The proposals have been awarded funding from the Council's Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund, Transport Scotland and Sustrans Scotland.

[Please click here for more information about the aims of the project and where the funding is coming from.](#)

Coronavirus means that face-to-face public consultation events are not possible for the foreseeable future, so we have developed this website to keep you informed and get your input on the design proposals.

Please click on the buttons below to find out more about what is proposed and how you can get involved.

Ardishaig North
Click here for more information

Harbour path link
Consultation starting
Autumn 2020

The website offered people a number of ways of commenting on the proposals:

- Comment on an interactive plan and visualisation of the proposed design
- Respond to a short survey about the proposed design
- Phone or email a named contact (one email was received, asking a question about the Council's responsibility for shops on Chalmers Street; no telephone calls were received.)

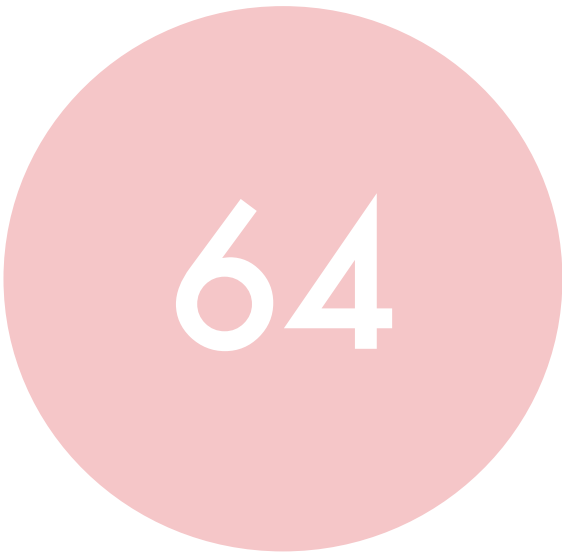
See below for further information on responses received.



HEADLINE FIGURES



individual users visited the site during the three week consultation period between 8th June and 28th June 2020



pins and comments left on the drawings



responses received to the online survey

COMMENTS:

The following pages distil the comments received on the plan and visualisation. They have been broadly grouped into:

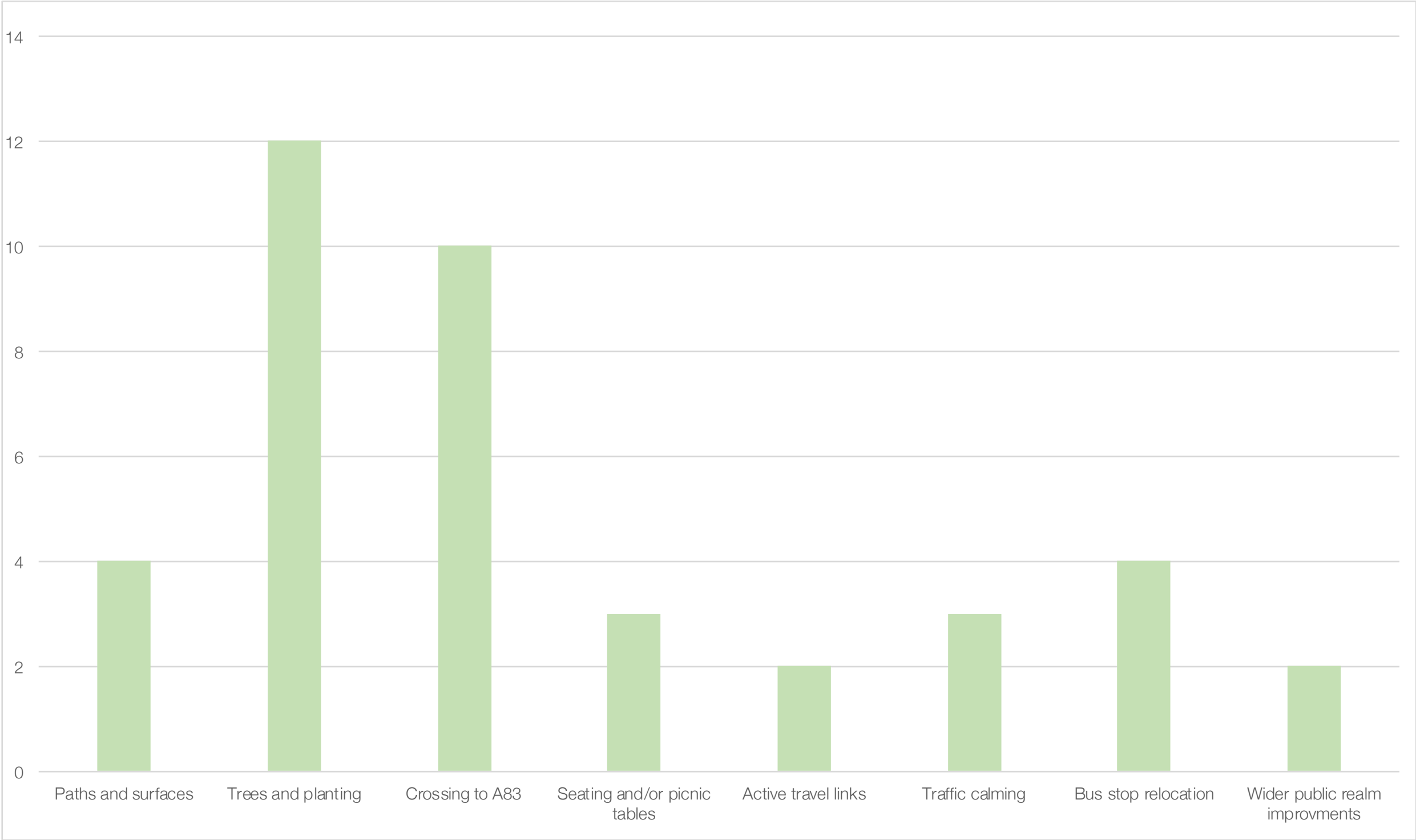
- Positive comments relating to specific elements
- Concerns relating to specific elements
- Suggestions for items or elements that respondents feel are missing.

The vast majority are positive about the proposal and offer additional ideas and insights. Key points:

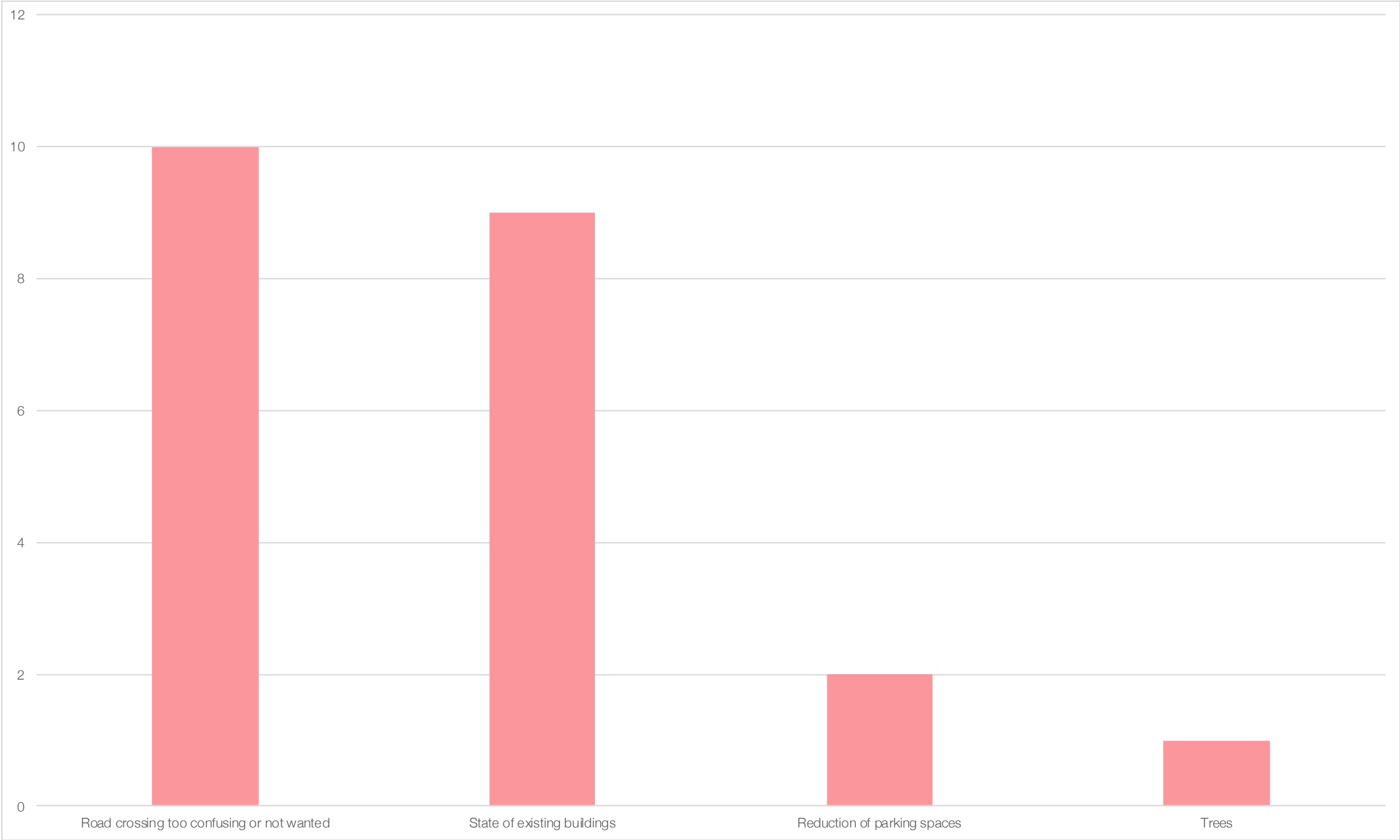
- The improved cycling facilities and increase in trees/greenery were each supported by a number of people. Other suggestions include screening/undergrounding of the recycling bins, play equipment, artwork and gazebo-style shelters for picnics.
- The proposed pedestrian crossing and traffic calming gave rise to a range of comments. Most who commented on the crossing were in favour of it in principle, with one exception who thought it unnecessary. Others thought it poorly located and confusingly designed. A number of people supported traffic calming to reduce vehicle speeds.
- There were a range of comments in relation to the car park, including suggestions of electric vehicle and bicycle charging points, fewer spaces, and comments for and against spaces for camper vans and caravans.
- A number of people referred to the need to also make improvements to the appearance of buildings and shop fronts along Chalmers Street (which is beyond the scope of the funding for this project).
- This short summary necessarily omits much of the rich detail in the verbatim comments that are valuable to the design team

Note; only comments with 2 or more respondents have been included. See appendix for all comments in their entirety

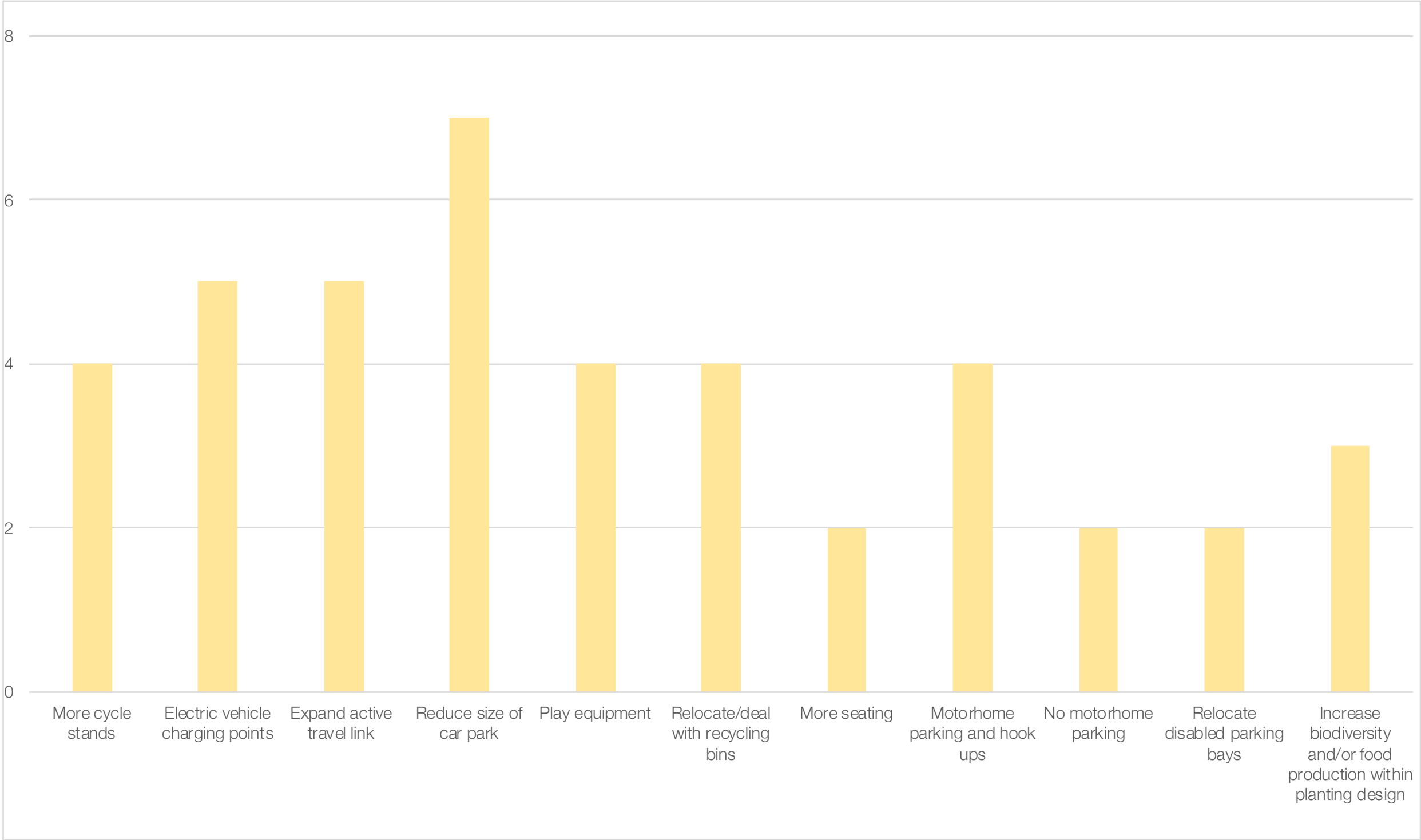
COMMENTS: POSITIVE COMMENTS



COMMENTS: KEY CONCERNS



COMMENTS: MISSING ELEMENTS



SURVEY RESPONSES: Will the proposals be good for the community?

In addition to comments on the interactive plan and visualisation, visitors to the website were also invited to complete a short survey of two questions. 43 people responded to the survey but not all answered all questions:

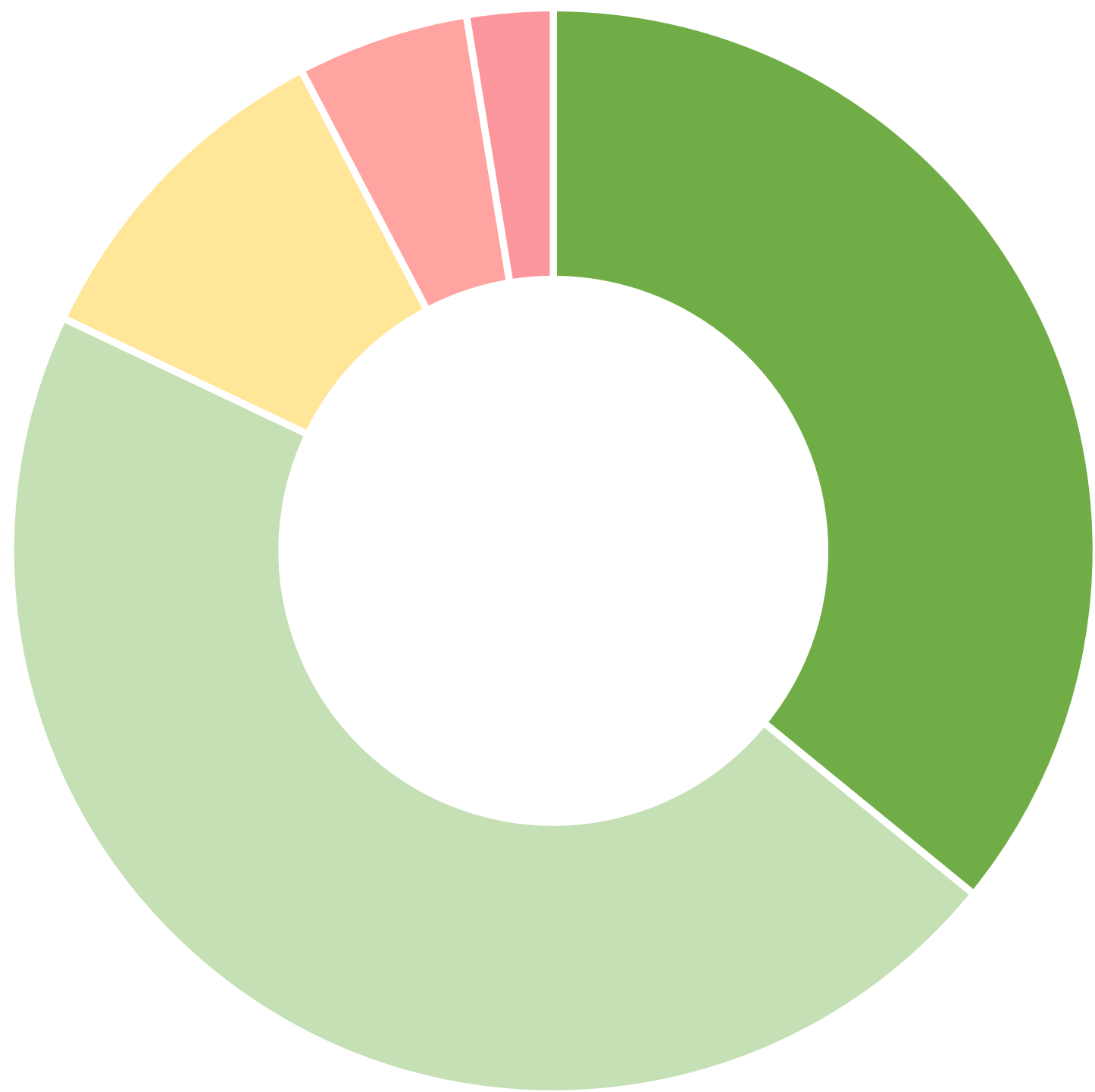
- Ages ranged between 35 and 75, with an average age of 54.
- 1 respondent identified as disabled, 36 as not disabled, and 6 did not answer.
- 10 respondents identified as female, 6 as male, and 27 did not answer.

39 people responded to question 1; will the proposals be good for the community. Of those 39, 32 respondents (82%) agreed or strongly agreed that the proposals will be good for the community. Eight of those people also left a comment, transcribed below:

I hope more people will be tempted to stop, walk round and access the Egg Shed, Restaurants and Canal facilities.

- Any improvement has to be good, agree with other comments regarding trying to get people to stop and use facilities but unsure how cafe would be acceptable. Finally keep car park free of charge.
- Glad to see proposed development, really anything would be an upgrade!
- Keep up the good work you are doing any improvements are a bonus.
- Look forward to seeing it coming to fruition.
- Are the public toilets going to get a wee spruce up?
- Are you encouraging more cyclists?
- Does need more toilets.

These responses are valuable to help finalise the proposals and to consider what additional actions are required, for example in relation to the public toilets.



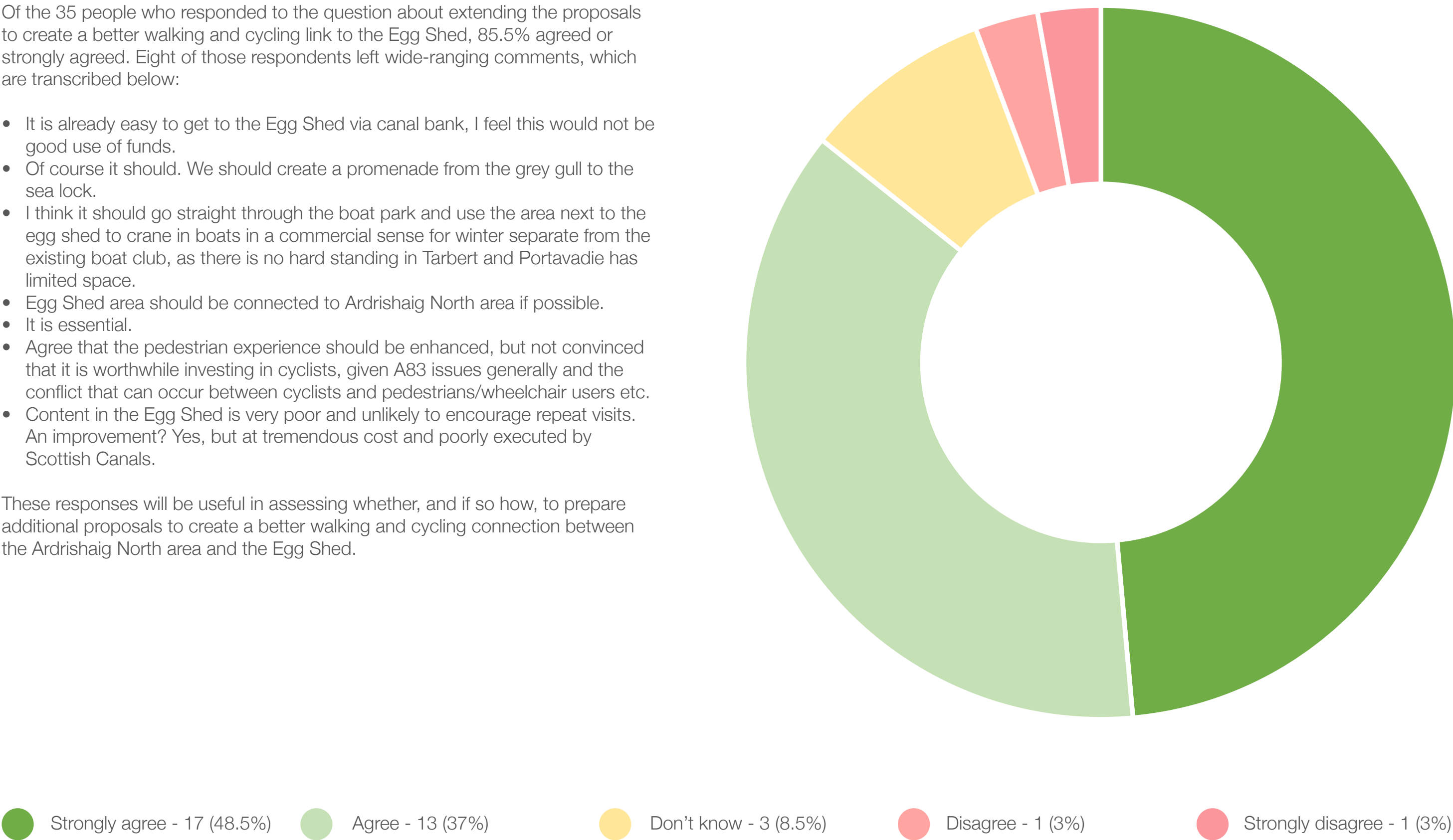
● Strongly agree - 14 (36%) ● Agree - 18 (46%) ● Don't know - 4 (10%) ● Disagree - 2 (5%) ● Strongly disagree - 1 (3%)

SURVEY RESPONSES: Should the proposals be extended to create a better walking and cycling link to the Egg Shed?

Of the 35 people who responded to the question about extending the proposals to create a better walking and cycling link to the Egg Shed, 85.5% agreed or strongly agreed. Eight of those respondents left wide-ranging comments, which are transcribed below:

- It is already easy to get to the Egg Shed via canal bank, I feel this would not be good use of funds.
- Of course it should. We should create a promenade from the grey gull to the sea lock.
- I think it should go straight through the boat park and use the area next to the egg shed to crane in boats in a commercial sense for winter separate from the existing boat club, as there is no hard standing in Tarbert and Portavadie has limited space.
- Egg Shed area should be connected to Ardrishaig North area if possible.
- It is essential.
- Agree that the pedestrian experience should be enhanced, but not convinced that it is worthwhile investing in cyclists, given A83 issues generally and the conflict that can occur between cyclists and pedestrians/wheelchair users etc.
- Content in the Egg Shed is very poor and unlikely to encourage repeat visits. An improvement? Yes, but at tremendous cost and poorly executed by Scottish Canals.

These responses will be useful in assessing whether, and if so how, to prepare additional proposals to create a better walking and cycling connection between the Ardrishaig North area and the Egg Shed.



PINS AND COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED PLAN

All pins and comments are transcribed below.

The full list of pins and comments relating to the plan:

1. Smoother paths would be good.
2. Road surface too confused. Stop/start cars unpredictable and lorries will block one crossing when stopped at the next. Prefer larger fewer pedestrian priority areas.
3. Visual screening to car park (hedge?) and some trees for shade would be nicer.
4. Would be good if path is also for bikes.
5. Any bike parking?
6. Row of fastigiata trees to create height and shade. Electrical supply to accommodate festive tree lighting / or uplighters. Ensure edge of soft / hard landscaping is clearly defined.
7. Opportunity to encourage green transport solutions by introducing electric recharge points.
8. Where is the 'link' taking you?
9. I like the new plans. The crossing is a good idea. I think hedges are good for wildlife. So many little birds thrive in them. Need to choose plants and trees with local birds in mind, not just humans. Wildlife makes a small rural place desirable. Any improvements to outdoor green space is good.
10. It would be great to formalise and signpost the path behind the toilets to the playpark so that visitors know that this is the correct and safe route to use.
11. The parking bays beside the disabled bays should be electric vehicle charging points.
12. It would be good to see a share bicycle/pedestrian path (marked on the ground) linking the East Bank road with the cycle/active travel path on the sea front.
13. Bicycle path marked on the ground linking East Bank road with sea front.
14. We agree with suggestion of having/keeping the hedge and add more trees.
15. What about an outdoor gym?

16. Would like this area to be restricted parking only for resident / shop owners. Casual parking makes this dangerous for active travel participants.
17. Increase public social space and reduce car parking. More room for people to meet while socially distancing.
18. Planting fruit trees, food!
19. Some children's play equipment.
20. E-bike charge points.
21. Below ground containers for recycling to reduce visual impact or consider a different location.
22. I can't see a pedestrian crossing. I have seen the comments about commercial vehicles etc but don't understand why people can't use the car park and cross the road using a pedestrian crossing. It puts me off parking in the car park when I'm likely to be run over trying to cross to the shops.
23. If you're looking for people to stop when driving through the street they need a reason to stop. Increase places to sit, encourage picnics, the Trust should own a van that makes coffee and sandwiches, make the children's area world class, have parking bays for motor homes with electrical hook up and water available (if they stay overnight they'll use the shops and the pub), extend the jetty to accommodate a few boats, buy a few pontoons, disabled parking should be closest to the shops. Better upkeep of green areas, pay a contractor not the council. Build a bandstand for regular events.
24. People disembarking from public transport are not going to walk back and cross a car park entrance to use the A83 crossing, they will cross the road where the bus stop is. More research is needed for this.
25. Great to see work progressing. Sadly, the poor visual quality of the colonnade may detract from the overall impact.
26. Yes, I like new plans.
27. How do vehicles access the boat park? Is there still access for the crane to lift boats in and out?



PINS AND COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED PLAN

28. I have always thought that the redevelopment of Ardrishaig in the 60s/70s (?) was a visual disaster. Anything that softens the dominant feel of concrete, tarmac and traffic would be an improvement, i.e. trees, pedestrian facilities, links to the interesting redevelopments around the sea locks, links to the canal, etc.
29. Parking spaces should be widened to accommodate SUVs.
30. These plans look like a great refresh for the area. The extra focus on active travel is most welcome.
31. I believe that the 3 main areas of focus should be accessibility, sustainability and nature. I would love to see the use of recycled materials in this development. In the town of Dingwall, in the Scottish Highlands, the local recycling centre is using various colours of crushed up glass to make beautiful walkways etc. Ardrishaig could have some unique features along these lines with a little inspiration. Trees and plants should be chosen with the specific purpose of attracting a wide range of birds, butterflies etc.
32. Looks good.
33. I hope these proposals haven't cost too much as there is little change in layout. Even some of the Community Council could have done better with a pencil?
34. The designs look nice, but the main eyesores in Ardrishaig are the buildings along the main road that were built in concrete (maybe in 1960/70's). Presumably cheap re-development - not so cheap in retrospect - architecture matters, and affects economics big-time!!
35. These plans are an excellent example as to how Ardrishaig can be improved. It has a great strength in its location through proximity to Loch Gilp, its extended seafront and existing parking space. Much attention has been paid to crossing the A83. This is of little relevance given the very low volume of traffic, the low speeds and the wide visibility. Resources should be committed to the shoreside rather than the road.
36. This is an excellent example of investment in our community. It opens up and upgrades one of our principal assets - access to Loch Gilp. Resources should be focussed on the shoreside development. Attention on road crossing ignores the very small numbers of people involved, the low traffic volumes and the good visibility along Chalmers St. Upgrading the shoreside will deliver the social and economic impacts.
37. To encourage visitors create special motorhome spaces to park and overnight stopover with access to water and toilet dump. Hawick in the Scottish Borders has been operating this for several years in the town car park for free.
38. The increase in green areas with the trees is good, the bland grey concrete current look is unappealing and does not encourage tourists to stop. I agree that people need to cease parking on the road to go into the shops, it is just laziness, the road is not that busy that it is difficult to cross, however a crossing that aids visually impaired and disabled would be beneficial.
39. I do not agree that caravan bays should be included, I do not want to see this in my view of the front, I would propose putting caravan bays further along towards Egg Shed end of town.
40. Think there needs to be focus on updating the flats and shop fronts and fast tracking the tidying up of derelict building
41. Pleased that there is investment, please can you consider starting any traffic calming on Tarbert Road as although 30 miles an hour traffic rarely travels at that speed. Regardless of what the town looks like, if traffic passes through at speed the improved areas will never feel relaxing and safe for a picnic with children.
42. Why no electric car charging points?
43. This is great opportunity to promote active travel in Ardrishaig. The inclusion of covered/secure bike storage would be a real boon to allow people to leave bikes before they hop on the bus to Glasgow. Clear shared pedestrian/cycle paths that connect different parts of the existing infrastructure. Reduce parking increase planting of fruit trees. Develop an orchard.
44. Very good to see the investment proposed in Ardrishaig. I am, however, concerned that the cost of relocating the bus pull in will be very high given the marginal improvement which will result. The work will require to be done to Trunk Roads specification and is likely to take a large chunk of the available budget. The money would be better spent incorporating some of the work from the later phase of the development given the work already completed by Scottish Canals and the Maritime Hub. I'm not sure what the 'public realm' improvements between the public hall and McColl's are, other than some screening for the air-conditioning units. There doesn't seem to be anything which improves access to the canal, which I had thought was a required outcome from this phase of the work? Improvements in the area of the jetty, development of the kayaking trail, traffic calming and active travel improvements are all to be welcomed.

PINS AND COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED VISUALISATION



The full list of pin and comments relating to the visualisation:

1. The existing entrance to the car park [not clear what this means]
2. Can we have a proper pedestrian controlled crossing and something to stop trucks, vans and cars from parking at MacColls and blocking the pavement.
3. I think it'll be great for the area. I stop here regularly when going up and down the road. It's a pretty place.
4. As an occasional user of this space, rather than a resident or business owner, I welcome the objectives of improving the experience for the pedestrian (visitor and local), increasing potential trade for the retail units and increasing the amount of public realm.
5. As an occasional visitor to the area I welcome the general objectives of this enhancement scheme and in particular attempts to enhance the pedestrian experience and stop over time. It would be helpful to have more information about the long term maintenance and space management arrangements which so often let down public realm investments, prior to a final contract being let..
6. Improvements to pedestrian area and walking/cycle paths greatly needed. More safe crossings will help, and the whole area will look much more appealing. Reversing the in/out of the second car park makes much more sense too
7. A couple of really nice trees would be a fantastic addition.
8. The car park entrance/exit is better at the disabled space for exiting as you can see much better. The existing exit is hard to get out of if you are going north.
9. The walkway would be better 4 meters wide to allow people to pass with plenty of space.
10. Get rid of the recycling bins, they are an eyesore and there's glass all over the ground, if you're walking with children or pets this area must be avoided.
11. The bus stop getting moved is a great idea. I hope

the one going north goes as well, as at 8 o'clock in the morning there's up to 2 buses sitting there and if driving or entering or exiting the carpark is an accident waiting to happen. People are coming to get on the buses to go to Glasgow, are leaving their vehicles all day or days in the carpark and are not helping anyone trying to get a space.

12. The improvement of this area is needed, however it will be wasted if there isn't an improvement to the shopping area and the shop frontage. It would be best to remove these buildings and start again, if you want to improve Ardrishaig frontage.
13. There does not seem to be much change here from existing? Apart from road crossings which should enable traffic managers to force cars/lorries to stop parking in roadway outside "Coop"/MacColls?
14. Designated motorhome stopover with water and toilet dump - could limit or certain restrictions.
15. Nice to see any investment into the town. However I think there needs to be consideration with investing in refreshing the shop façades, derelict buildings and ageing flat frontages.
16. Less car parking and more toilets maybe an idea worth considering!
17. Under ambitious.
18. Please improve shop fronts and try to stimulate trade in the village.
19. Looks expensive for not really much change doubt if it will improve footfall or duration of stay in the village. As others have said it is the buildings which let the village down, it lost its "soul" when the shore side shops and bank were knocked down.
20. Good to see some ideas for improvement. I would like to see the recycling bins screened from public view. More bushes and trees along the waterside. One or two solid gazebo style shelters for people to sit and picnic under cover. I agree with the proposal for motor home parking and hook up etc being provided. More signage and an area for outdoor art work e.g. sculpture etc.



Toilets

