Local Plan Youth Survey 2021

The Communities Team and Planning Team collaborated to undertake a youth survey on the impact of Covid-19 and the Lockdown, and to gain an understanding about how Young People felt about their environment, based on the Local Plan First Consultation Themes.
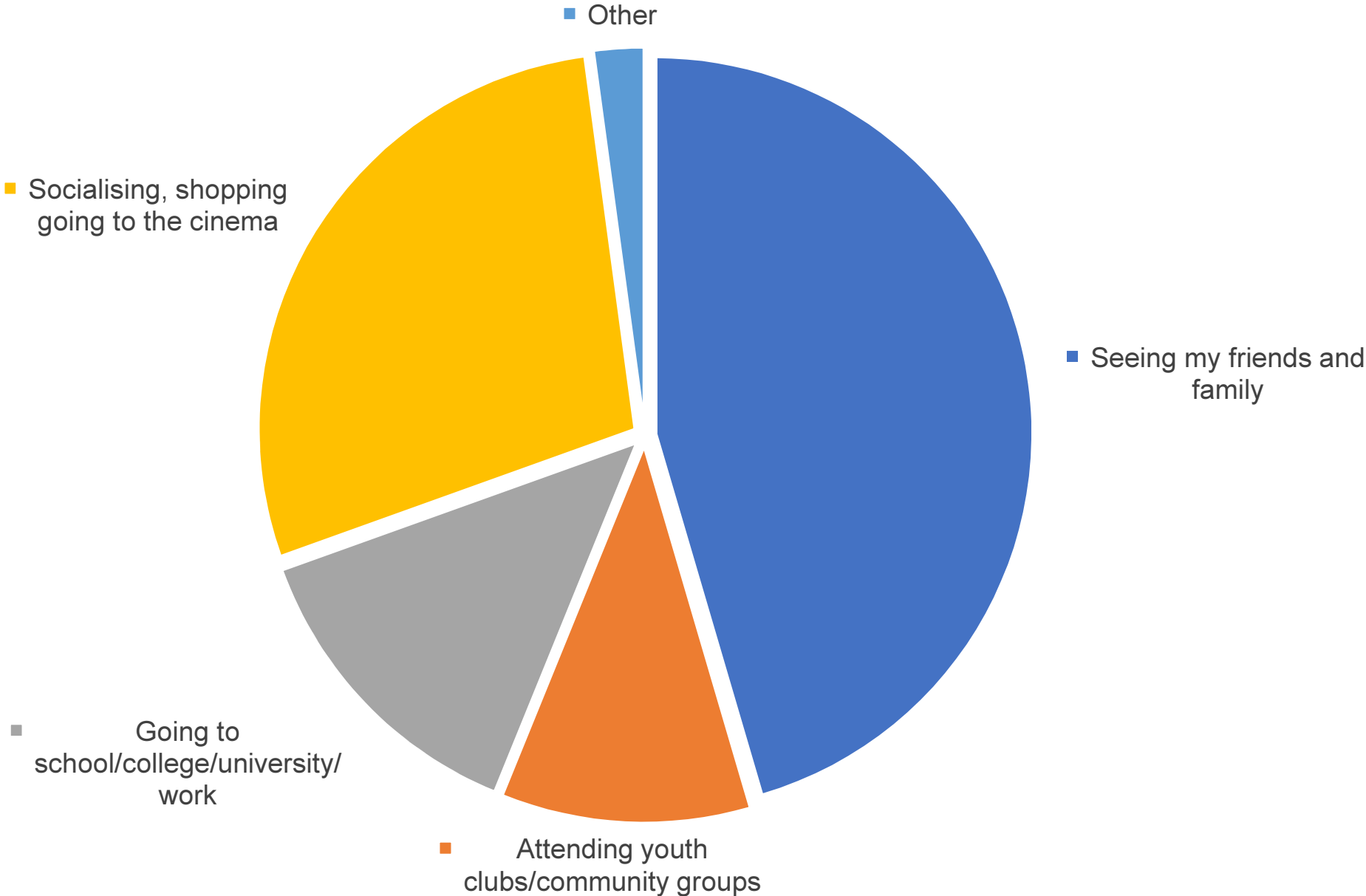
The survey was in in two parts. The first part asked question about where you live and how you feel about it. The second part asked for creative ideas on how places should be designed and where they should be located,

The survey was sent to secondary schools, Essex Boys and Girls Clubs, Saffron Walden Football Club, CSVU, Boys Brigade, Scout/Explorer groups and Guide/Ranger Groups, as well as being published on social media.
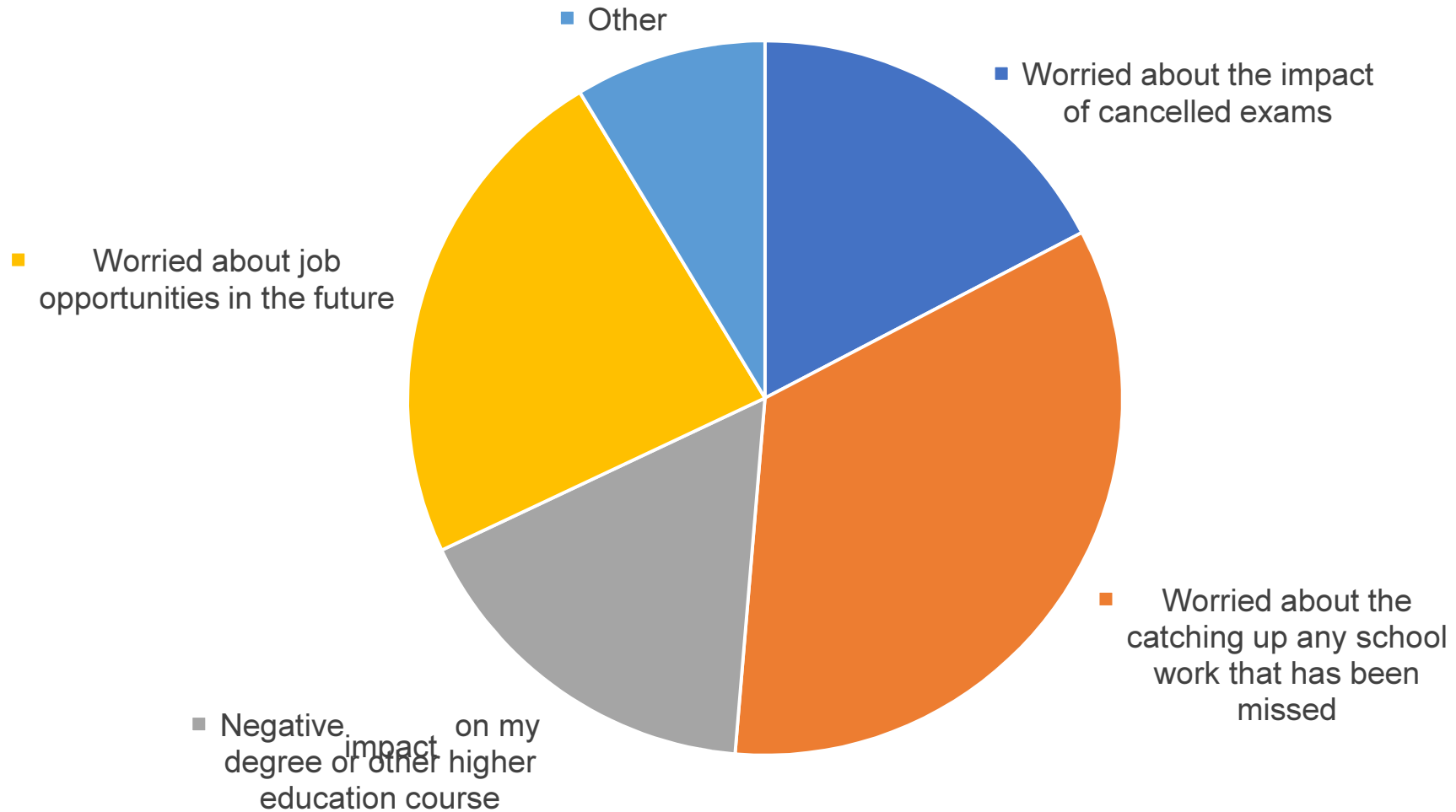
97 people took part in part 1 and 17 people took part in part 2. Responses were received from all year groups, living across the district and including someone at University.

The following shows the responses to the questions in Part 1

What have you missed most during Covid 19 lock down period?

- Other
- Socialising, shopping going to the cinema
- Seeing my friends and family
- Going to school/college/university/work
- Attending youth clubs/community groups

What are your main concerns or worries relating to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic (please select any answers which most suit your situation)



- Other
- Worried about the impact of cancelled exams
- Worried about job opportunities in the future
- Worried about the catching up any school work that has been missed
- Negative impact on my degree or other higher education course

What are the things you are most looking forward to doing once lockdown is over?

Are there any support services or activities that you would like to see developed or introduced in your local area that would improve the mental or physical health of young people?

TALK-CENTRES   YOUTH-MUSIC-PROJECT   FITNESS-CLUB
MENTAL-HEALTH-SUPPORT COMMUNITY-SPORTS-CENTRES
SPORT-INCENTIVE-PROGRAMME
STUDENT-GUIDANCE   COMMUNITY-EXERCISE-CLASSES
YOUTH-COMMUNITY-CENTRE   OUTDOOR-CINEMA
SCHOOL-SPORTS-CLUBS   CYCLE-PATHS   SPORTS-ACTIVITIES
INTER-SCHOOL-SPORTS-DAY   AFTER-SCHOOL-SPORTS
BETTER-PUBLIC-TRANSPORT   BOYS   FREE-ACCESS
EXTRA-TUTORING   STUDENT-MENTAL-HEALTH-SUPPORT
YOUTH-MENTALHEALTH-SUPPORT   CYCLE-LANES   SPORTS-CLUBS
YOUTH-MENTAL-HEALTH-SUPPORT
MORE-LOCAL-HOMES   YOUTH-CAFES   OUTDOOR-SPORTS-FACILITIES
YOUTH-CLUBS   COMMUNITY-EVENTS   ALL-GIRLS-GYM
SUPPORTLINE   COMMUNITY-TEENAGER-GROUPS
YOUTH-SUPPORT   YOUTH   OUTDOOR-SPORTS-PARK
MORE-SPORTS-CLUBS   LOCAL-YOUTH-SUPPORT-CLUBS
YOUTH-SUPPORT-GROUP ACCESSIBLE-COUNSELLING
TEENAGE-MENTAL-HEALTH-SUPPORT
INWARD-INVESTMENT   MORE-LOCAL-HOSPITALS
BETTER-MENTAL-HEALTH-SERVICES
PHONE   YOUTH-CLUB
PROPER-FOOTBALL-GOALS

# What are the sports and recreation facilities in your local area?

- Other
- Outdoor gym
- Sports pitches
- Playground
- Tennis courts
- Skatepark
- GYM/sports hall
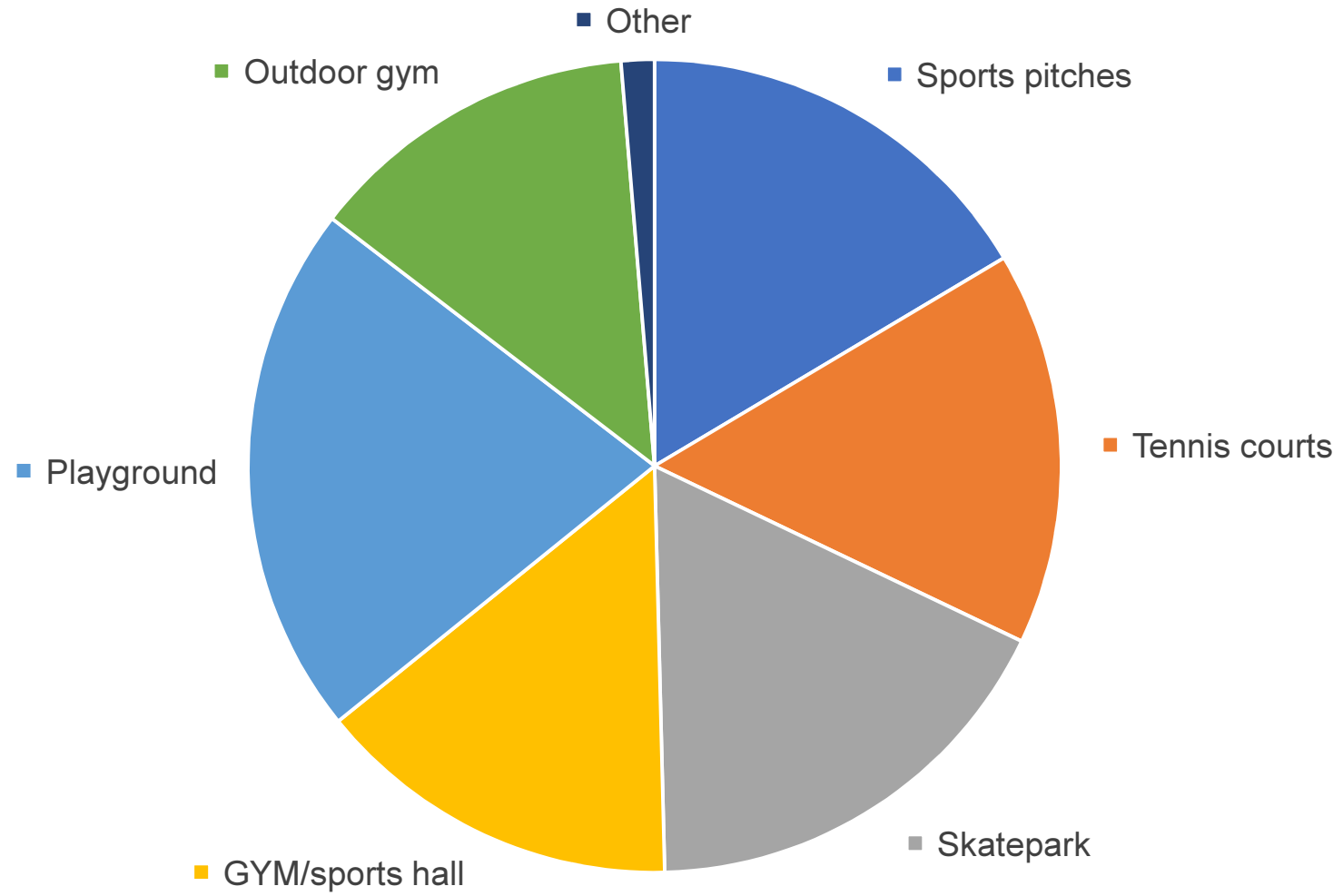
Thinking about the previous question, tell us if they could be improved in anyway.

More-Teenager-Playgrounds More-Teenager-Facilities Public-Sports-and-Fields

More-Local-Sports-Facilities All-Weather-3G-Pitches

All-Girls-Gym Improved-Footpaths Public-Sports-Pitches

More-Outdoor-Sports-Facilities Bigger-Gym

Improved-maintenance-of-public-equipment Accessible-Tennis-Courts

Netball-Courts More-Wildlife-Areas Outdoor-BasketBall-Courts

Map-of-Running-Routes Expand-Skate-Park Membership-free-Facilities Local-Play-Grounds

More-Teenager-Activities Affordable-Gym-Services Outdoor-Gym More-Activities

Less-Graffitti-on-Skatepark Mountain-Bike-Park Larger-Skateparks

Dog-Walks Skate-Park

Outdoor-Gyms Artificial-Pitches

Promote-Cricket Bus-Service Boxing-Gym

Teen-Park Interconnecting-Cycle-Paths Improved-Walking-and-Cycling

More-Green-Space-Between-Developments

Public-Accessible-Services More-Skate-Parks Improved-Skatepark

Basketball-Courts New-Facilities Larger-Playgrounds More-Spaces-for-Teenagers

More-Gym-Facilities More-Linked-Paths-and-Cycle-ways

Improved-Drainage-for-Pitches More-Accessible Outdoor-Gym-Equipment

More-Variety Playgrounds-for-Teenagers

Better-Playgrounds Basketball-Hoops-and-Sports-Equipment

Proper-Football-Goals More-Social-Distancing Improvements-to-Existing-Playgrounds

How easy is it for you to get to the places you need to access such as schools and shops?
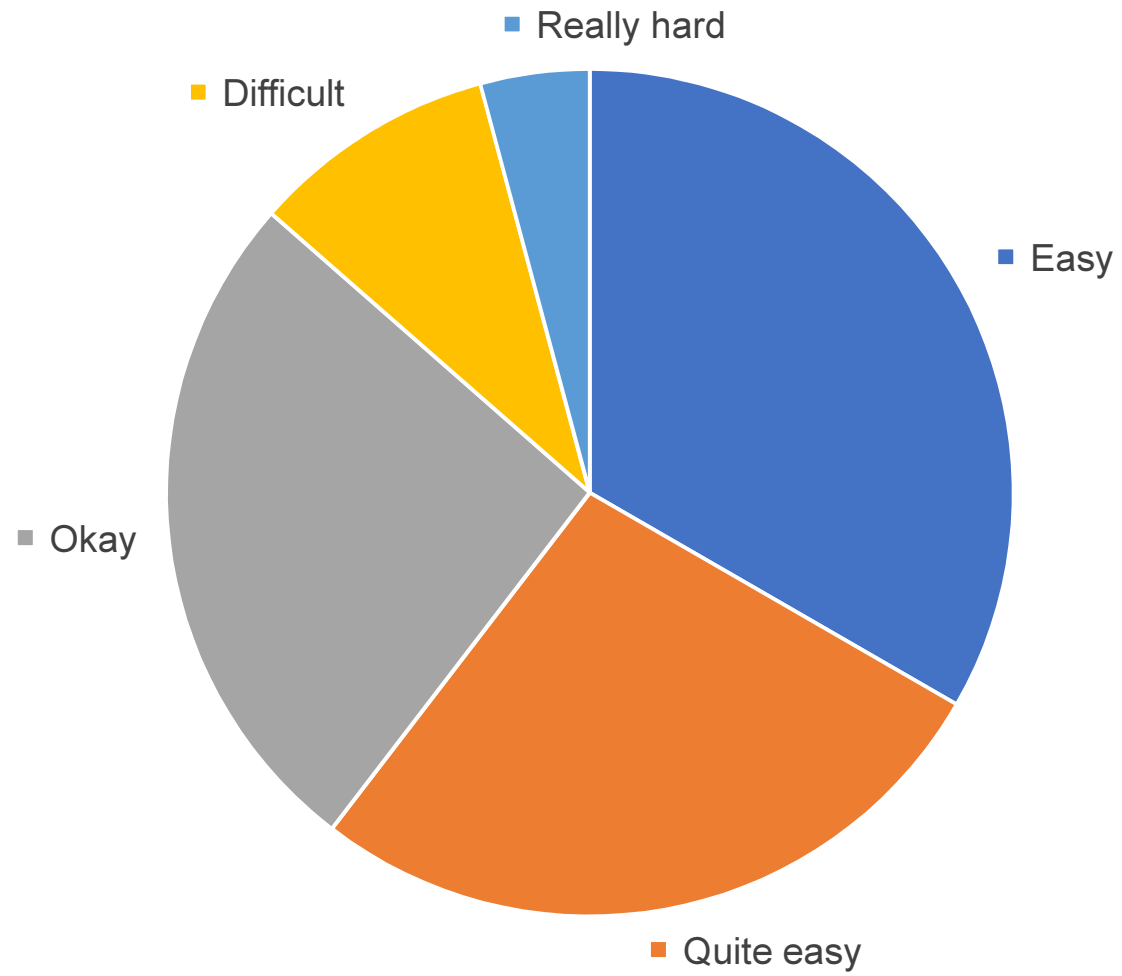
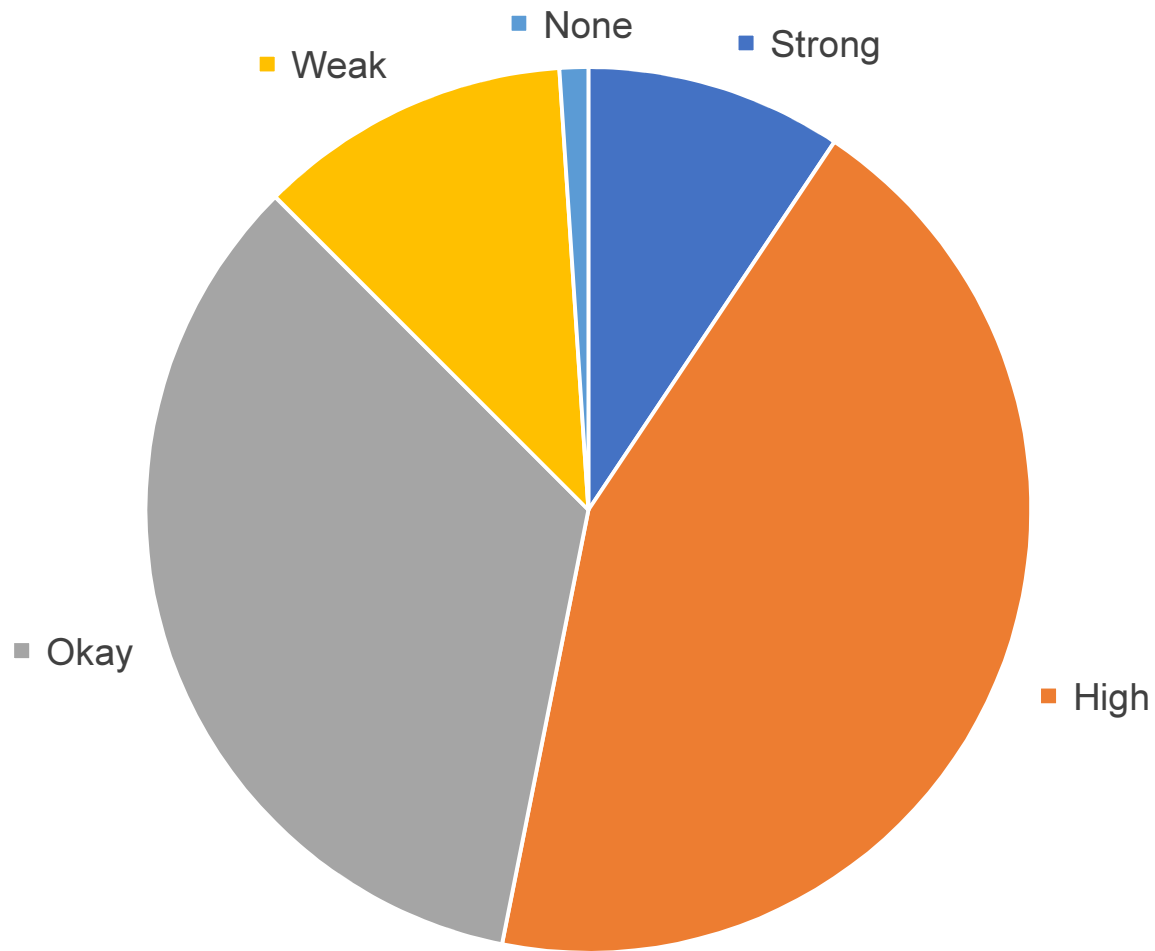# How do you get about (tick all that apply)
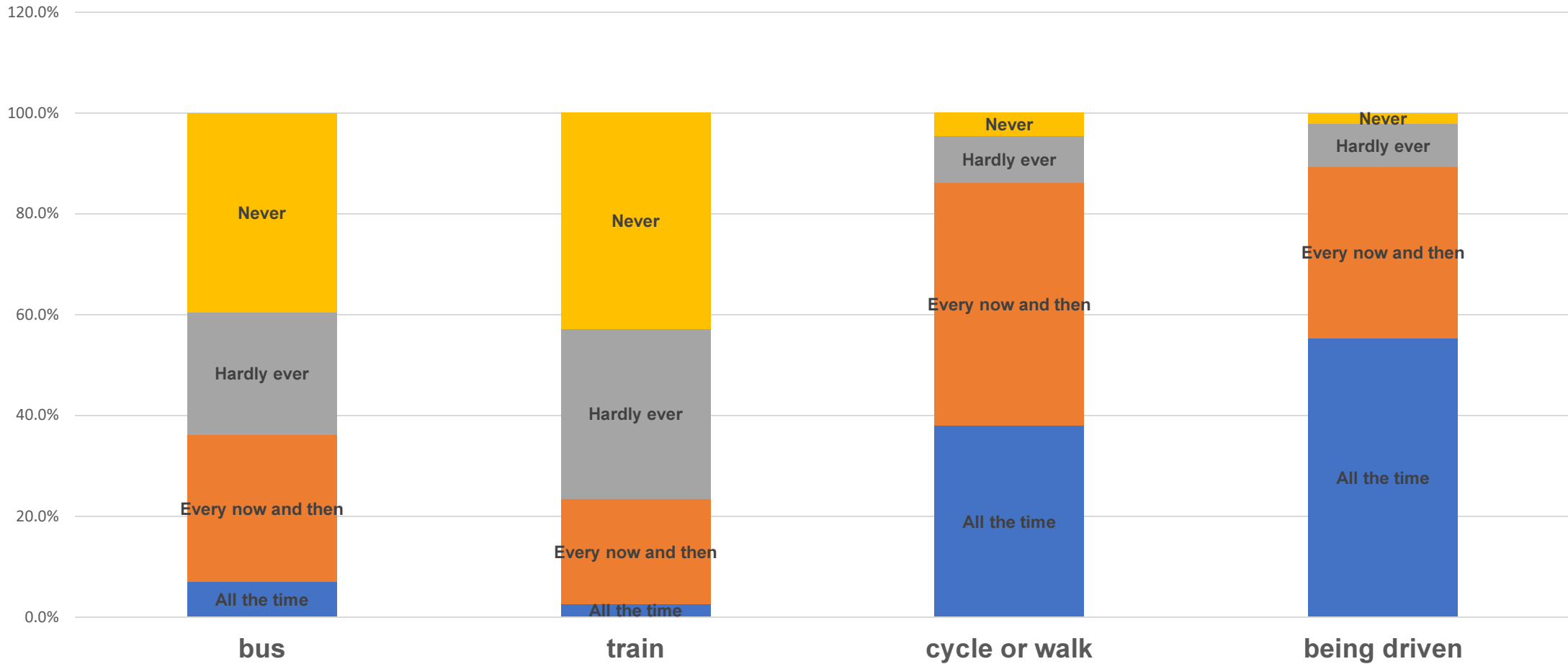
What do you like about where you live?

Nice-Countryside School-Friends Countryside-Views Environment
Green-Spaces Friendly-Village Cycling-Between-Villages Easy-Access-to-Shops
Close-to-Town-and-Friends Good-Community Central-to-Town
Quiet-and-Safe Great-Opportunities Close-Supportive-Community Range-of-Clubs-and-Sports-Teams
Fields Proximity
Safe-United-Community Pretty Scenery-and-Nature Dog-Socialising
Community Country-Walks Rural-Countryside Close-to-Shops
Restaurants Walks-Nearby Travelling-by-Train Easily-Visit-Friends Youth-Club
Lovely-Scenery Low-Traffic-and-Noise-Pollution Nice-People Friends
Beautiful-Town
Close-to-Schools Space-to-Exercise Town Quiet-Pretty-Countryside
Dog-Walks Pretty-Town Safe Community-Spirit Easy-Links-to-Cities
Market Common Field-Views Walkable
Not-too-Much-Crime Recreation-Park Country-Dog-Walks
Relax-in-the-Wildlife Quietness Nice-Community
Close-Proximity The-Park Pretty-Area Easy-Access-to-Nature Easily-Walkable
Easy-Access Rural Places-to-run-around Skatepark Good-Walking-Routes Near-Station
Quiet-Environment Near-Shops-and-ammenities Clean
Easy-Travel-to-London/Cambridge Everything-Within-Walking-Distance Walks
Location Not-too-Busy
Being-Around-Animals Peaceful Park
Near-to-Tesco-and-School Open-Space Hearing-Wildlife
Supportive-Community Easy-Accessibility Animals-and-Wildlife Small-Safe-Town

Communities are made of up people of difference ages, household types and ethnic diversity.
What do you think the sense of community spirit where you live is?

Thinking about the previous question (regarding community spirit), Please provide and example of why you think this is.

Community-Support Exclude-Young-People

Helping-Neighbours Friendly

Active-Community Street-WhatsApp-Group

Inclusive-Neighbourhood Not-Enough-Community-Activities

Friendly-Supportive-Neighbours Good-Friends Local-Pub-Not-Accepting

Ethnically-Diverse Thursday-NHS-Support Sporting-Events Need-More-Inclusive-Events

Help-Each-Other Few-Neighbours Diverse-and-Caring Dog-Walking-Neighbours

Community-Inclusive Inclusiveness More-Ethnic-Diversity

Communication Spirit Not-Teenager-Inclusive Not-Widely-Accepting

Facebook-Page Friendly-Community Village-Fete

Community-Spirit

Not-Enough-Groups No-Community-Activities

Strong-Inclusive-Community Diverse No-Ethnic-Support Everyone-Treated-Equally

WhatsApp-Group Community-Engagement Community-Lockdown-Support

Fun-Activities Support Good-Community-Spirit Support-Thursday-NHS

Socialise-With-Neighbours Safe-Community School Community-Halls

Older-People-not-Sociable Community Kindness Strong-Community-Spirit

High-Community-Area Village-Events Not-Many-Activities

Drug-Use Close-to-a-Friendly-Village

Village-Inclusive-Events Wide-Ranging-Activities Diversity

Not-Enough-Community-Events Street-Parties

Accepting Village-Facebook-Group

How easy is it for you to access nature?
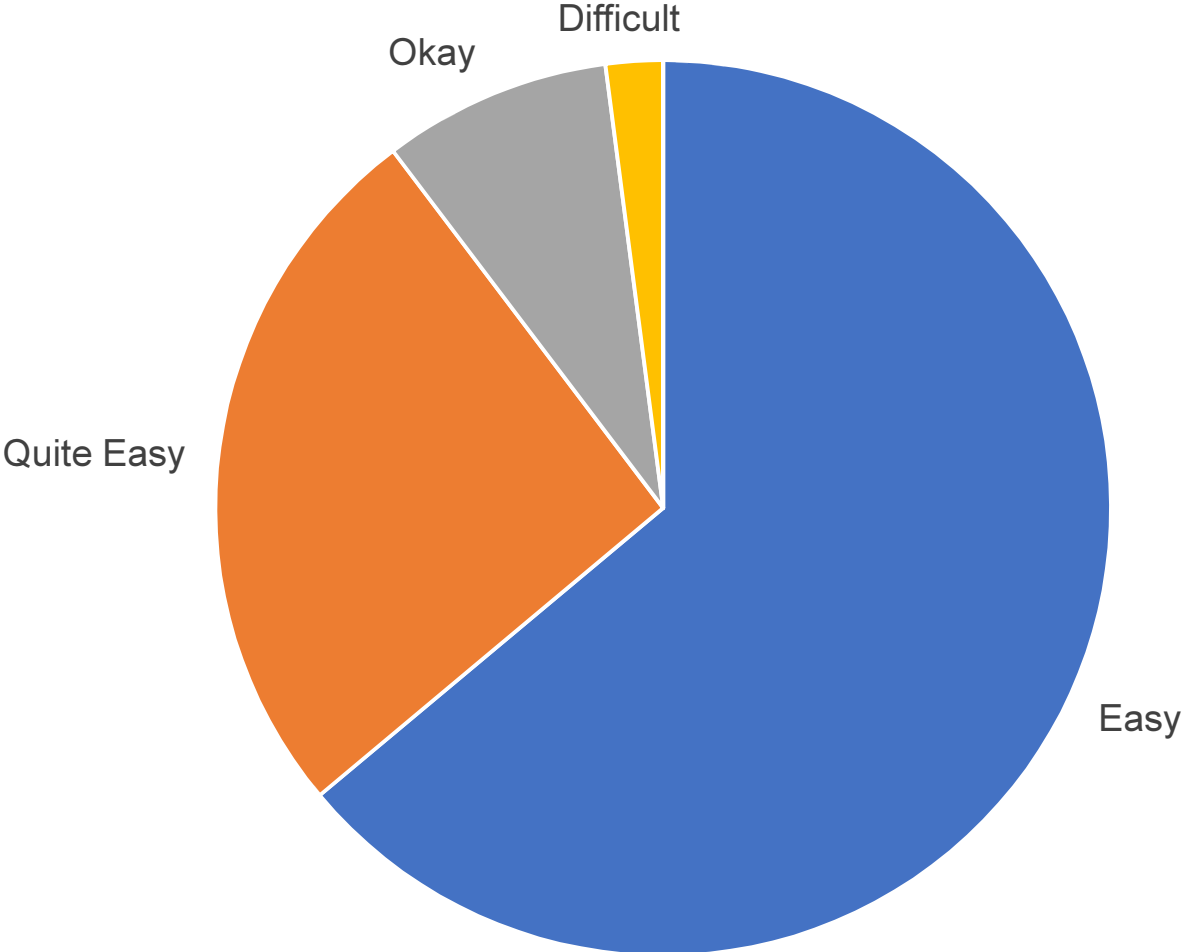
How often do you access nature?

- All the time
- Every now and then
- Hardly ever
- Never
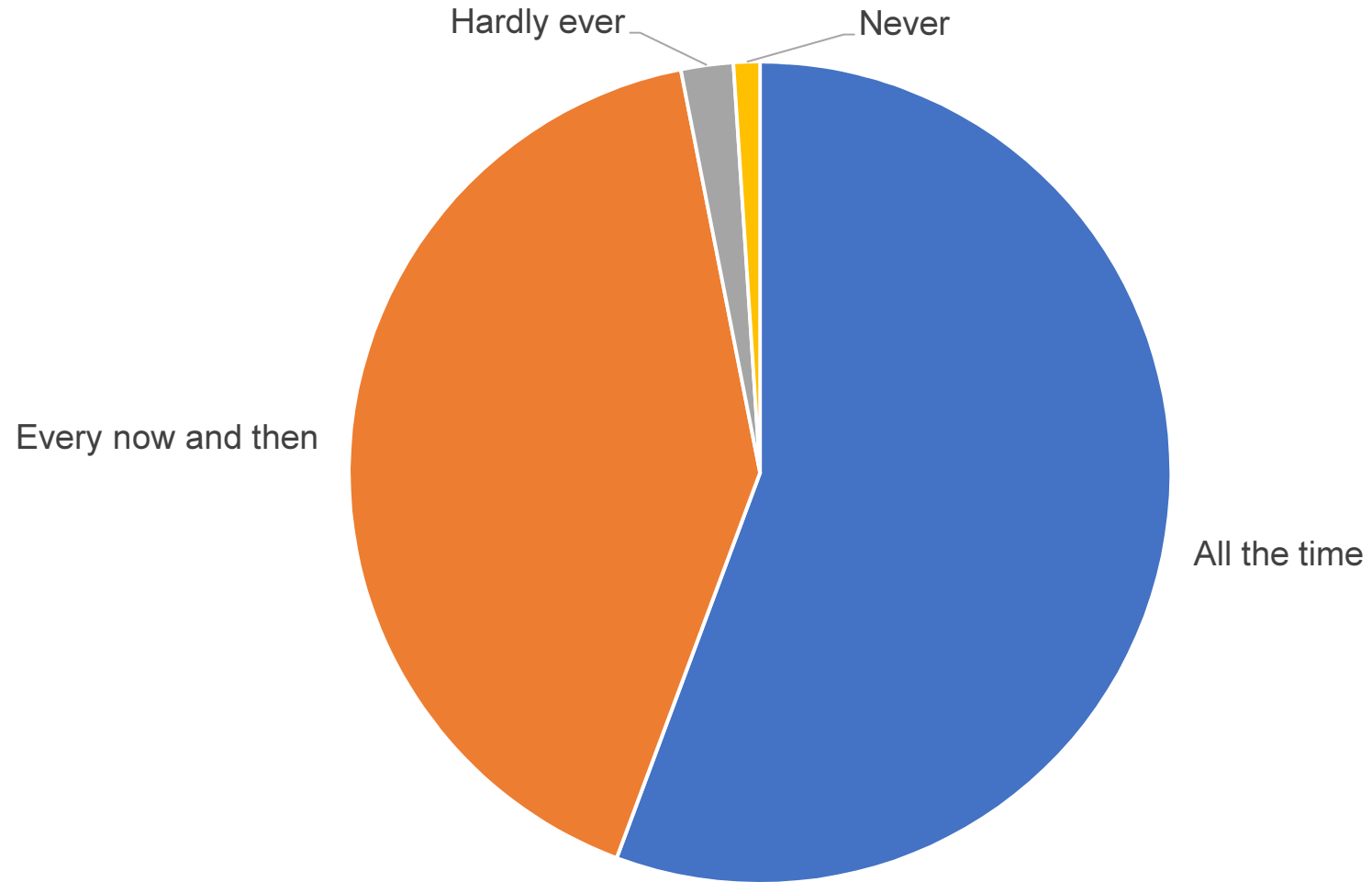
We know that being active is good for us. Please give an example of the sorts of things that you do to be active in your area

Running

Basketball Hockey
Home-Workouts Online-Workouts
Skating PE-Class
School-Sports
Walks PE-Lessons Jogging
Dancing Playground
Zoom-Fitness-Groups
Badminton Kayaking Bounce-Class
Tennis
PE Treadmill

Walking

Netball Yoga Dog Gym
Dog-Walks Clubs Dance-Classes Bike
Football Cricket Karate Cycling
Swimming
Climbing Sports-on-Courts Judo
Walk Rugby Outdoor-Gym
Woodland-Walks Bike-Rides
Taekwondo-club Dog-Walking
Sports

Do you think that where you live is a good place to grow up? Please give reasons for your answer

Social-Gardening
More-Teen-Activities
Welcoming
Lovely-Area
Lots-of-Children
More-Activities-for-Teens
Learnt-Life-Skills
Green-Areas
Pools
Need-a-Village-Shop
Semi-Rural
Need-More-Recreational-Facilities
Close-to-School
Close-Community
Array-of-Things-todo
Close-to-Countryside
Nice-Community
Ethnically-Diverse
Train-Station
Education
Friendly-Town
Clean
Friendly
Open-Space
Town-Center
Neighbourly-Spirit
Nice
Shops
Need-Better-Transport
Facilities
Quiet-and-Peaceful
Sense-of-Community
Tranquil
Quiet
Youth-Club
Families
Community
Open-Spaces
Safe
Great-Community
Not-Much-Todo
Schools
Freedom
Nice-Area
Litter-Issues
Green
Scouts
Friends
Opportunities
Full-of-Nature
Green-Spaces
Lots-Todo
Parks
Need-more-todo
Space-Greenery
Great-Schools
Great-Facilities
Close-to-Town
Everything-Close-By
Social-Activities
Close-to-Lots-of-Places
Gorgeous-Town
Easy-to-Get-Around
Strong-Community
Make-Your-Own-Fun
Good-Air-Quality
Easy-to-get-to-Cities
Close-to-Towns
Nature-Easily-Accessible
Need-More-Cycle-Paths
Many-Local-Amenities
Increase-Facilities
Good-Place-to-Grow-Up
Lots-of-Local-History
Outside-Freedom

Part 2

Participants in the survey were invited to watch two short videos which highlight some ideas for how places should be designed and where they should be located.

[What is a '15-minute city'?](#) (YouTube)

[VeloCity](#) (Vimeo)

They were asked what they thought of these ideas, could they be applied to new and existing places near where they live or could they think of another way things could be done.

Seventeen responses were received, of which nine creatively engaged with the task. Below is a summary of the themes from the responses, including some quotes.

any of the participants supported e idea of the 15-minute city and eloCity. They liked the idea of being le to reach places you wanted to in a short walk or cycle ride, and ey liked the idea of less cars on the ads. There was strong support for w cycle paths and places for creation and sport outside. The ordability of housing was an issue entified in many of the responses, was the need to have places here the community can come gether.

"Along with this there should also be lots of trees and plants to help with the oxygen and to make it not look as boring and make it look colourful instead because nobody wants to live in a place that looks boring and dull."

"Apart from the Flitch way the are no other bridleways or cy paths. To better connect area together cycle paths need to built and also better public transport should be put in place."

There was also support for planning more trees, providing wider pavements, new cycle lanes and public transport options and increasing the price of parking so as to discourage driving while providing alternatives.

Pollution, the environment and the need for clean air came up in a number of the responses. This was linked to reducing car journeys and making it easier to access school, shops and other places. Responses also mentioned the increase in home working during the pandemic, and that this was another way of reducing car journeys.

"Reducing the emissions and pollution in our atmosphere by finding healthier ways to get to school is a simple way leading us to a much healthier place to live for future generations and for the generation living today."

"If more houses are built … they should be (at least semi) eco-homes, so that we are protecting the environment, therefore having solar panels to generate solar electricity etc. Also existing ecosystems, for example ponds and shrubs, shouldn't be destroyed in the process but rather homes should be built around them so we don't destroy the wildlife."

One response made a strong argument that new housing should be designed so as to have less energy requirements and less of an impact on nature.

"…increased populations in villages should not been encouraged unless they are to become towns or "15 minute cities". Sustainable living is the goal, which villages prevent."

There was also a preference expressed to avoid building on fields and to go for brownfield land in the first instance. It was also thought that towns should be self-contained., and that development should be concentrated in towns.

ome were circumspect as to how far the principles of the 5 minute city and VeloCity could be implemented locally, nd improvements to public transport were promoted.

"Where I live … there isn't much public transport infrastructure so banning cars would be impossible. The bus service near where I live could be improved - with more frequent buses and lowered fares."