

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.

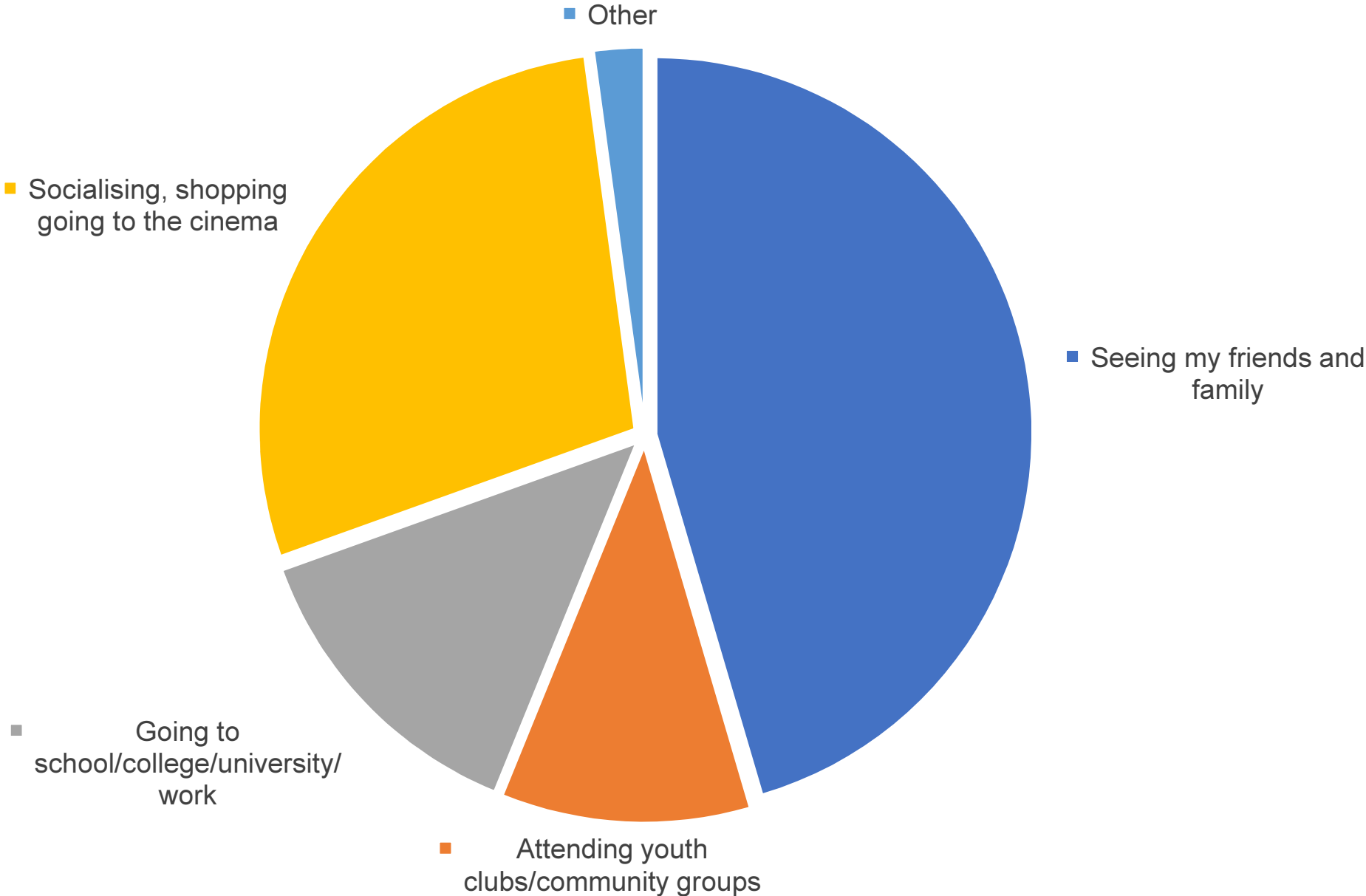
The survey was in two parts. The first part asked question about where you live and how you feel about it. The second part asked for creative ideas on how places should be designed and where they should be located,

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.

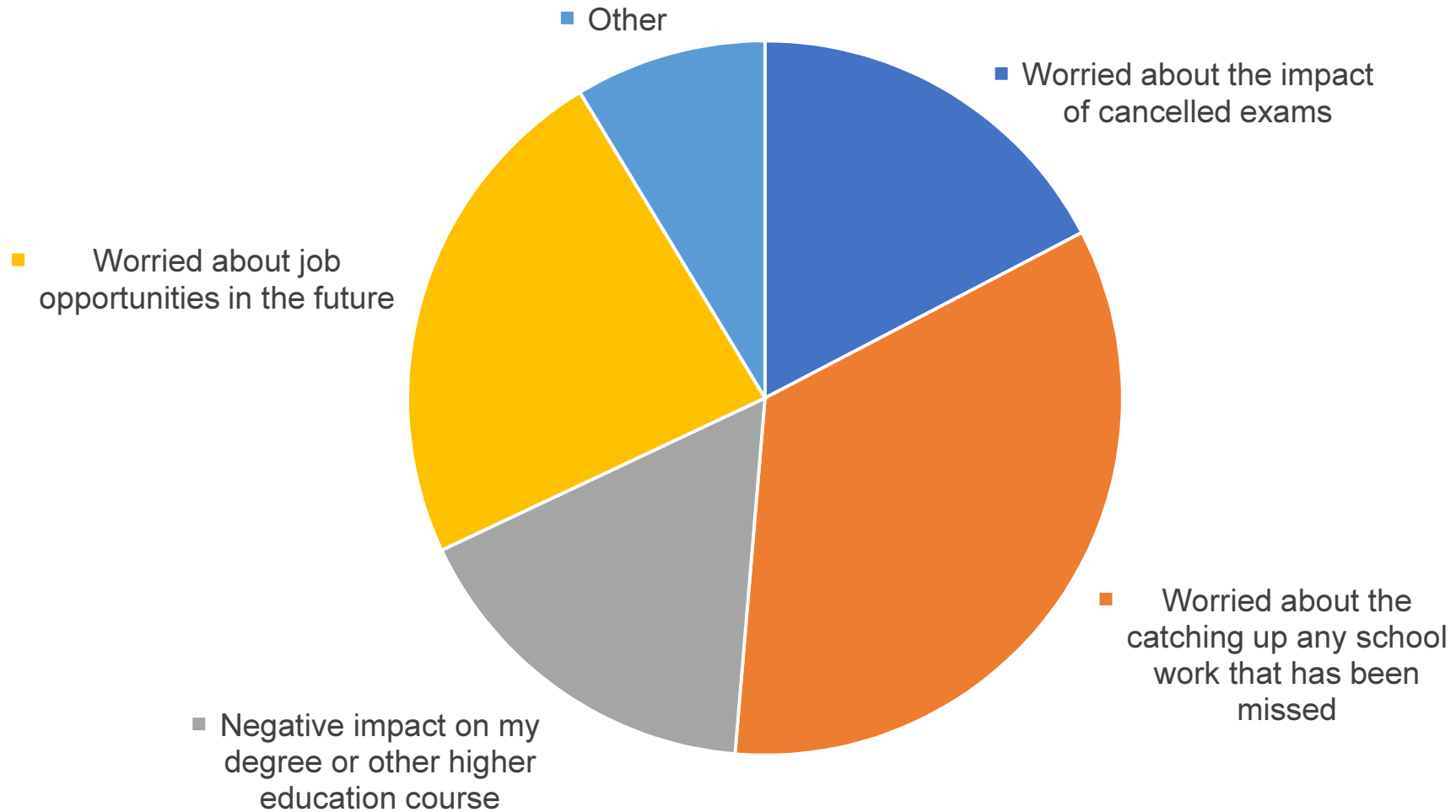
97 people took part in part 1 and 17 people took part in part 2. Responses were received from all year groups, living across the district and including someone at University.

The following shows the responses to the questions in Part 1

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



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)



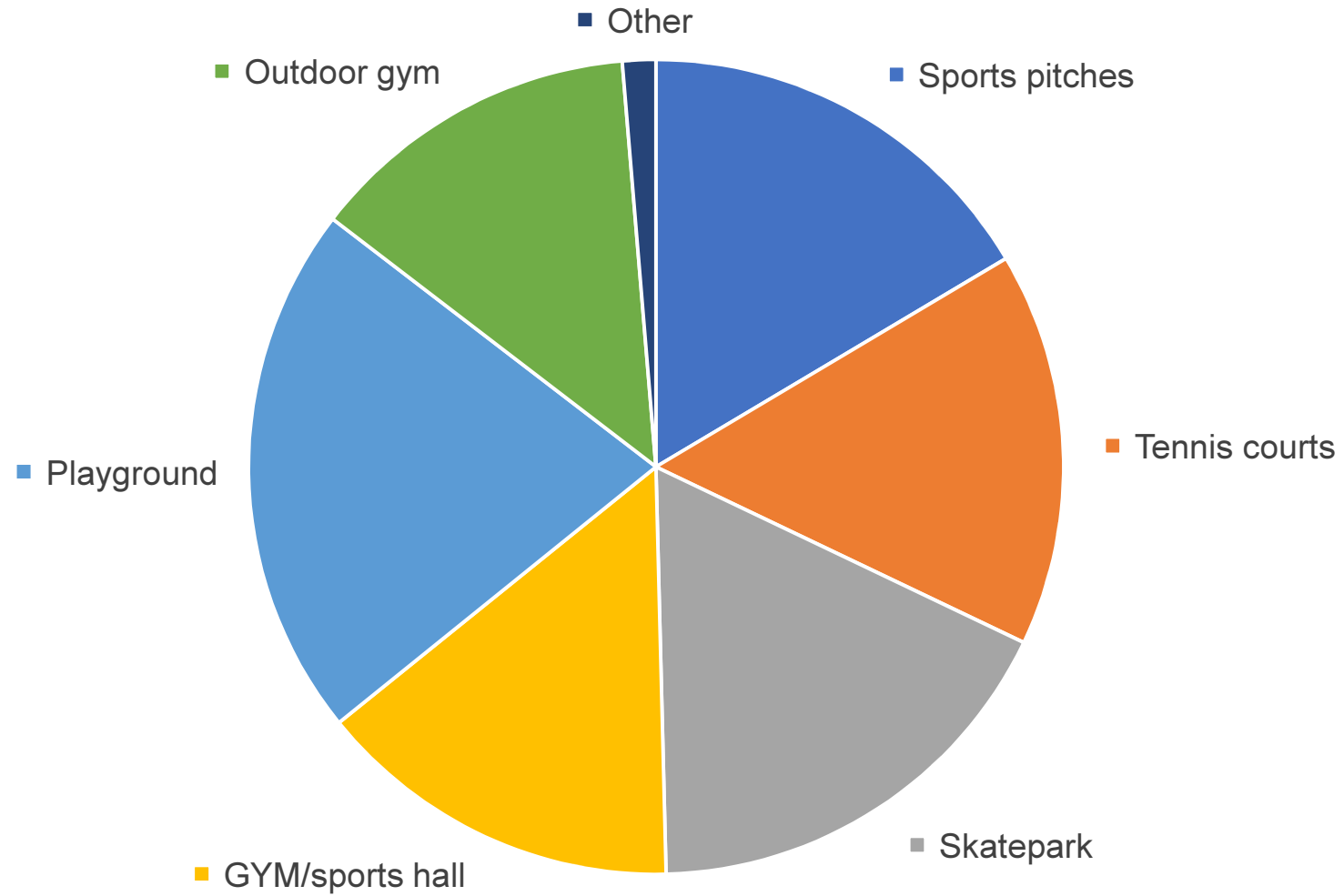
What are the things you are most looking forward to doing once lockdown is over?



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?

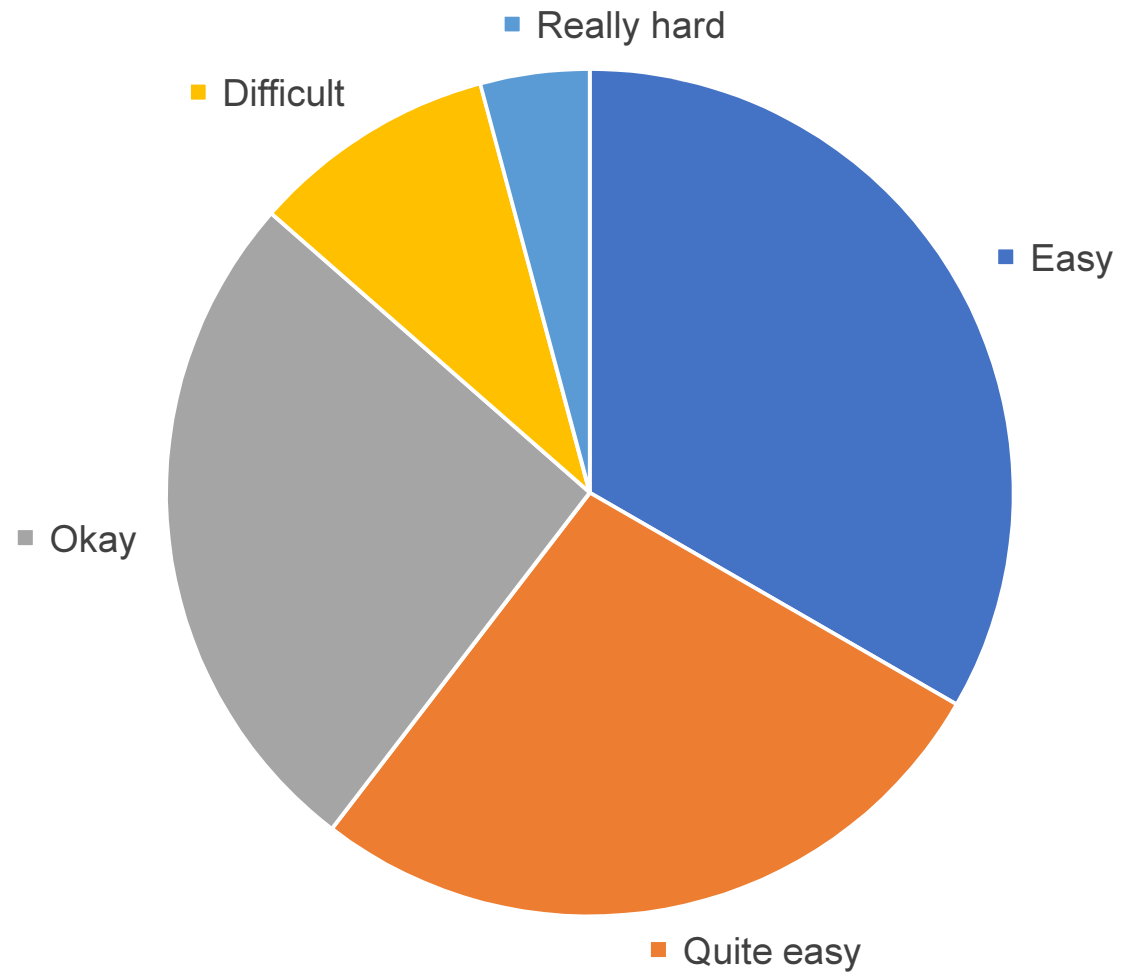


Thinking about the previous question, tell us if they could be improved in anyway.

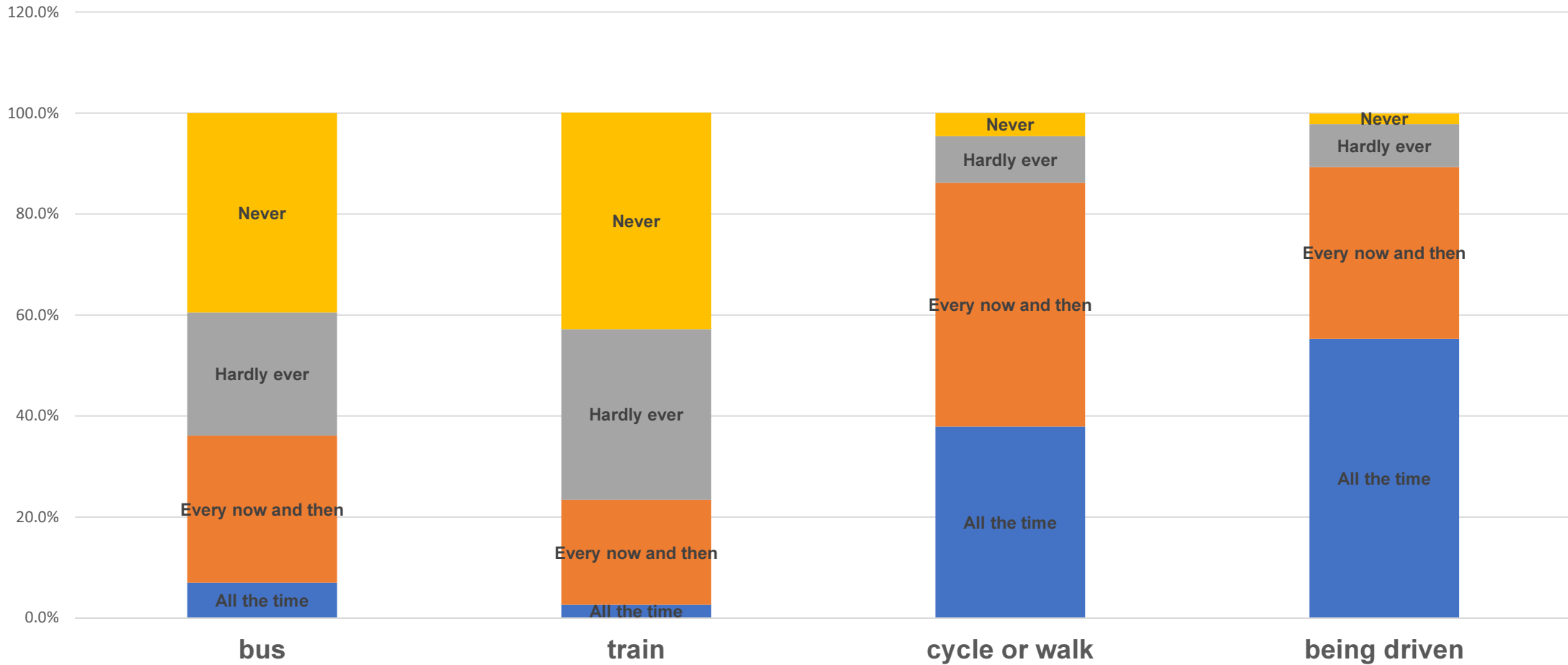
A word cloud on an orange background containing various suggestions for improving outdoor gyms. The most prominent word is 'Outdoor-Gyms' in a large, purple, serif font. Other words are in smaller, grey, sans-serif fonts and are arranged in a circular pattern around the central text. Some words are highlighted in purple, including 'More-Local-Sports-Facilities', 'Expand-Skate-Park', 'Accessible-Tennis-Courts', 'New-Facilities', and 'More-Accessible'.

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-Graffiti-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
Basketball-Courts Public-Accessible-Services More-Skate-Parks Improved-Skatepark
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)

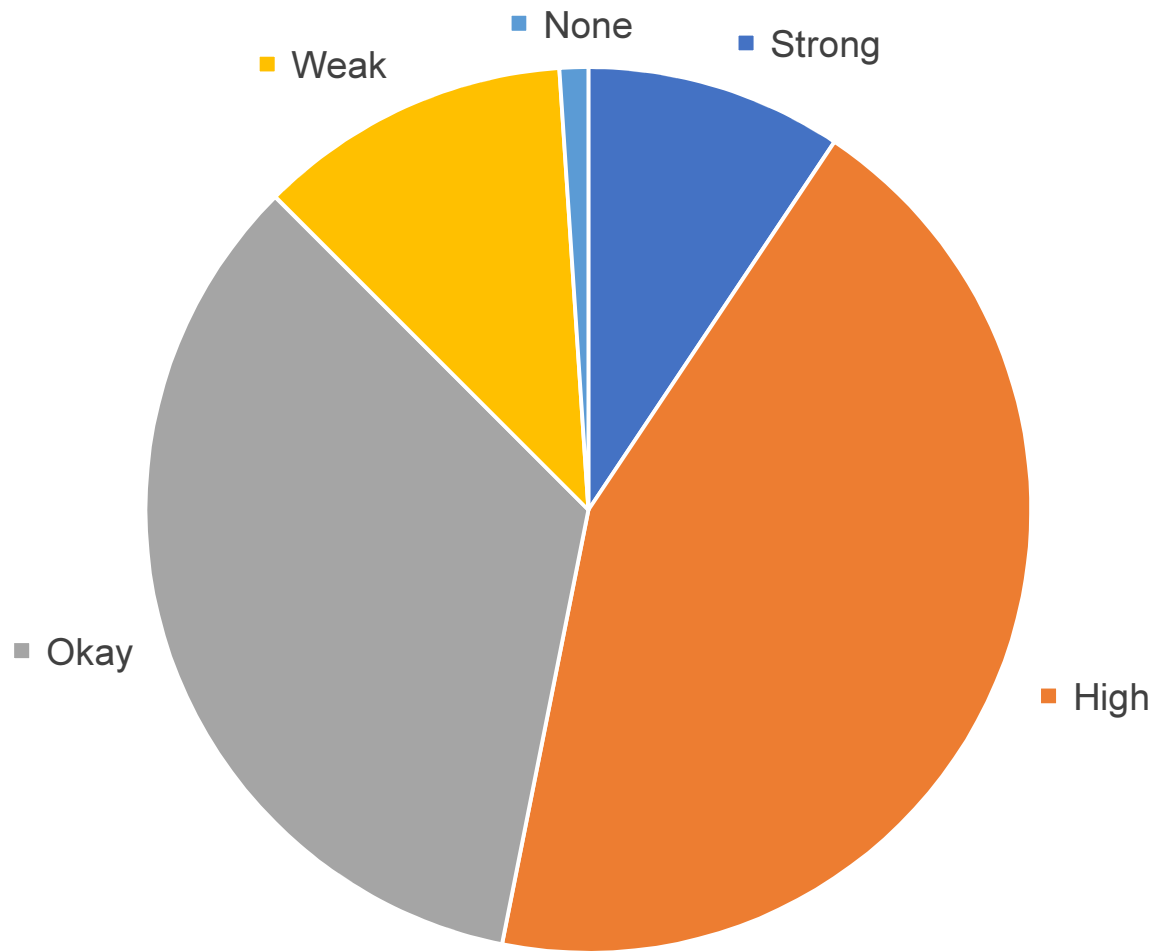


What do you like about where you live?

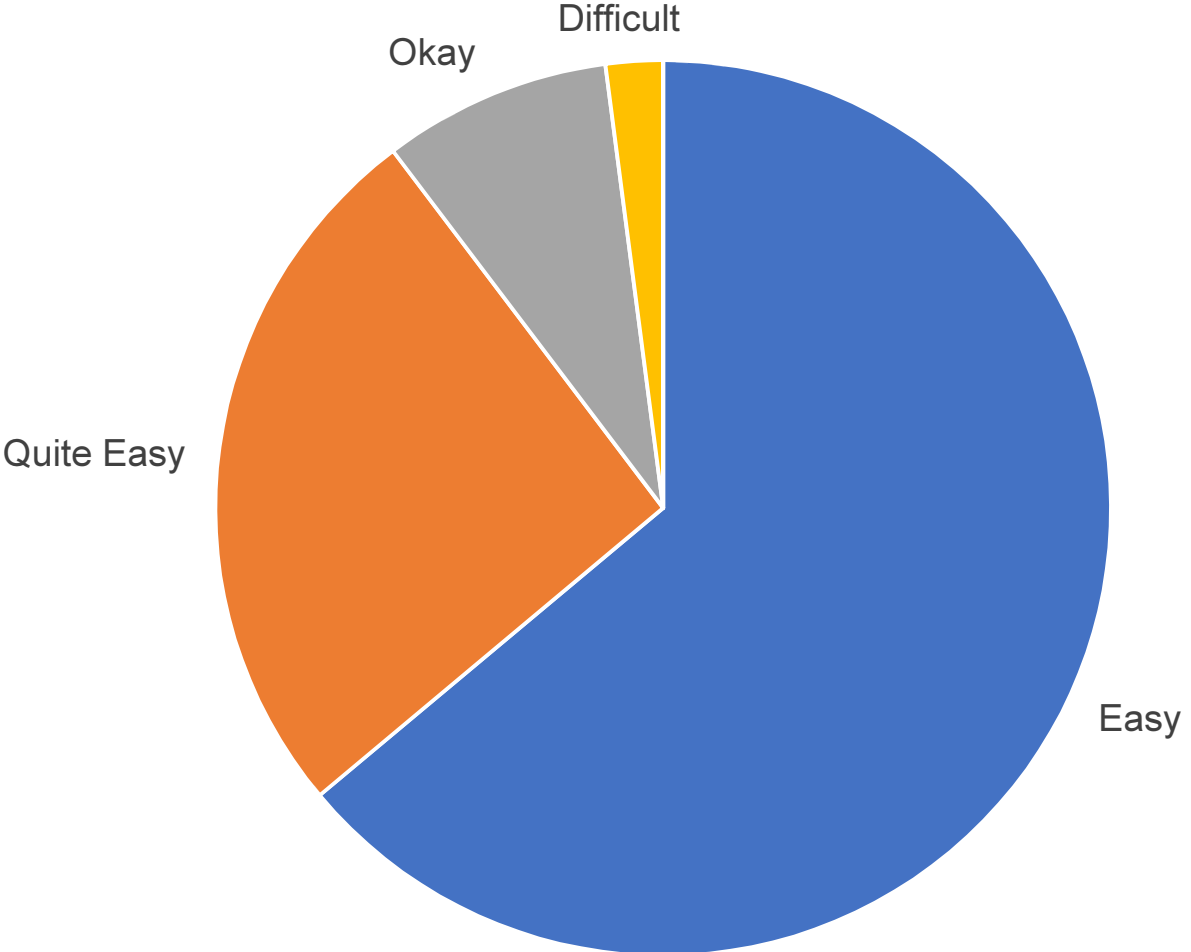
Nice-Countryside School-Friends Countryside-Views Environment
Green-Spaces Friendly-Village Cycling-Between-Villages Easy-Access-to-Shops
Close-to-Town-and-Friends Good-Community Central-to-Town
Quiet-and-Safe Great-Opportunities Close-Supportive-Community Range-of-Clubs-and-Sports-Teams
Fields Proximity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

Communities are made of up people of difference ages, household types and ethnic diversity.

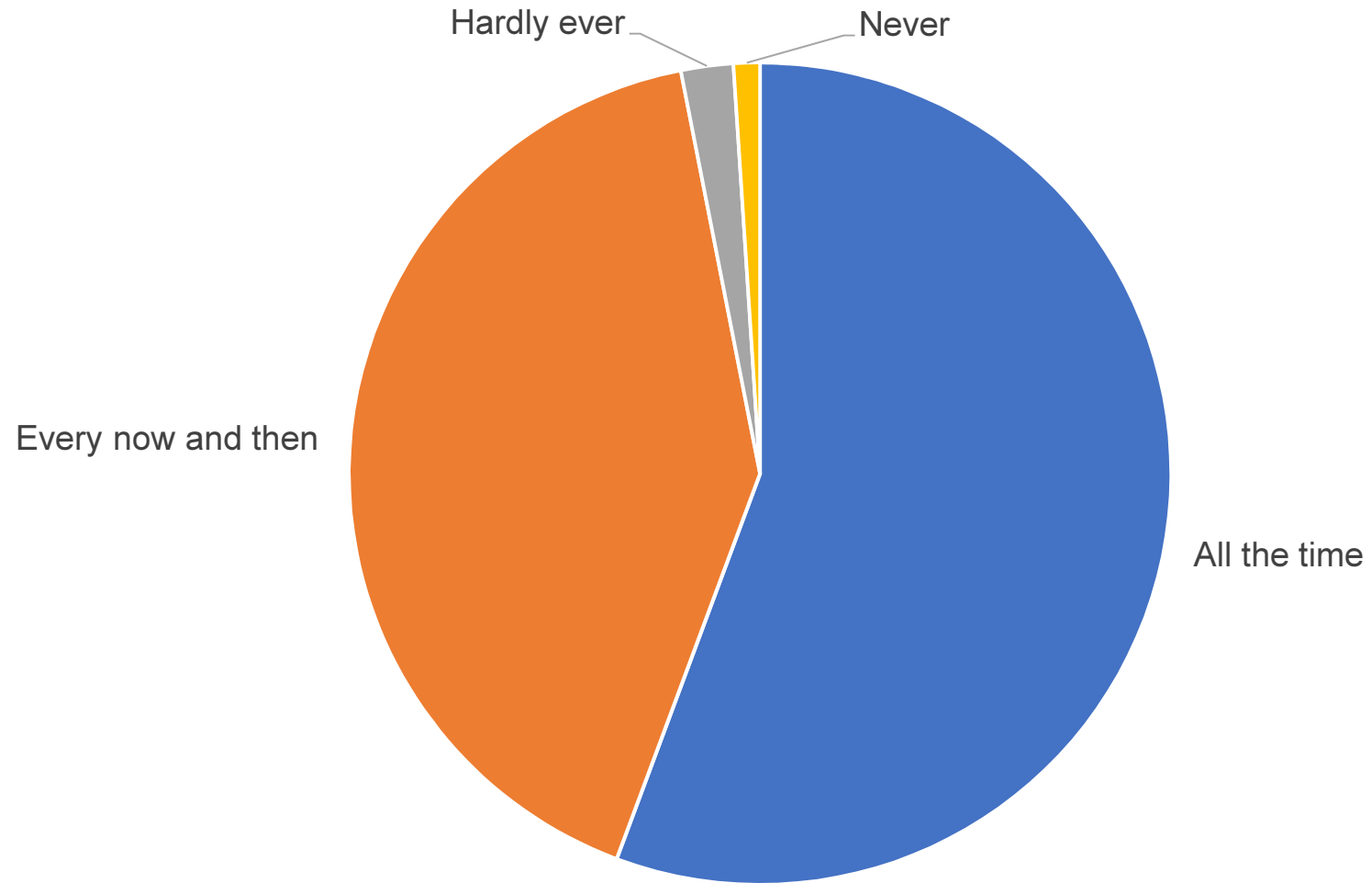
What do you think the sense of community spirit where you live is?



How easy is it for you to access nature?



How often do you access nature?



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

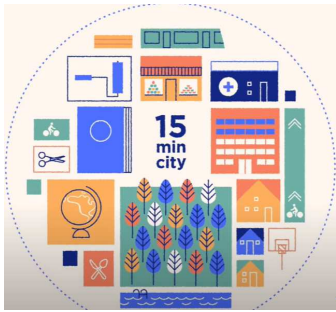


Do you think that where you live is a good place to grow up? Please give reasons for your answer



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.

Many of the participants supported the idea of the 15-minute city and VeloCity. They liked the idea of being able to reach places you wanted to go in a short walk or cycle ride, and they liked the idea of less cars on the roads. There was strong support for new cycle paths and places for recreation and sport outside. The affordability of housing was an issue identified in many of the responses, and there was the need to have places where the community can come together.

“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 there are no other bridleways or cycle paths. To better connect areas together cycle paths need to be 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.

“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.”

“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.”

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 be 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.

Some were circumspect as to how far the principles of the 15 minute city and VeloCity could be implemented locally, and 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.”