Consultation and Engagement



Resilient River Frome Enhancement Consultation 2025- Riverside Park

Consultation Report

August 2025

Contents

1 Introduction 4
1.1 Overview 4
1.2 Scope of this report 5
2 Methodology 6
2.1 Survey 6
2.1.1 Online survey 6
2.1.2 Alternative formats 6
2.2 Publicity and briefings 7
2.2.1 Objective and background 7
2.2.2 Paper copies 7
2.2.3 Bristol City Council owned channels 7
2.2.4 Engagement and events 7
3 Survey response rate and respondent characteristics 9
3.1 Response rate to the survey 9
3.2 Geographic distribution of survey responses 9
3.3 Response rate from areas of high and low deprivation 11
3.4 Characteristics of survey respondents 13
3.4.1 Overview 13
3.4.2 Age 14
3.4.3 Disability 15
3.4.4 Ethnicity 15
3.4.5 Religion/Faith 16
3.4.6 Sex 18
3.4.7 Gender reassignment 19
3.4.8 Sexual orientation 20
3.4.9 Pregnancy and maternity, carer status and and refugee/asylum status 20
3.4.10 Other respondent characteristics 22
4 Survey results: Proposed improvements to the river and park 23
4.1 Proposed improvements – all respondents 23
4.1.1 Respondents' views on the proposed improvements 23
4.1.2 Proposals for the terraced seating 26
4.2 Views on removal of trees for terraced seating 28
4.2.1 Overview 28
5 Views on whether the proposals will meet project aims 29

6 Other comments or suggestions about the proposals for River Frome and Riverside Park 31
6.1 Overview 31
6.1.1 Feedback on the overall proposals 33
6.1.2 Access to travel 34
6.1.3 Comments about terraced seating 35
6.1.4 Comments about maintenance and safety 36
6.1.5 Comments about the replacement of the wall 37
6.1.6 Comments about enjoyment and use of the park 39
6.1.7 Comments about nature 40
6.1.8 Other comments and suggestions about the proposals 41
7 Impact of the proposals because of protected characteristics 42
7.1 Scale of effects 42
7.2 Reasons why the proposals would affect people because of protected characteristics 42
8 How will this report be used? 43

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

In 2021 Bristol City Council was successful in obtaining funding from the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as part of their Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP). The funding is being used to deliver a programme of works called Resilient Frome. Resilient Frome is focusing on innovative ways to manage flood risk across the whole of the River Frome catchment, from the source in Sough Gloucestershire through to central Bristol. The programme of works is being delivered by six workstreams, this public consultation report is in relation to one of those workstreams, River Enhancement located in Riverside Park, Bristol.

Initial engagement with local communities in 2019 and 2023 as part of Frome Gateway, Spatial Regeneration Framework indicated a want to clean up litter in the river, open up the riverbank and improve people's access to walk along and sit next to the river. From this, concept designs were developed to form part of the public consultation. The public consultation was completed to capture views of the local communities and to be able to communicate key findings from the feedback. These findings will then seek to inform the final designs for the river enhancement works within Riverside Park.

1.2 Scope of this report

The consultation report describes the consultation methodology, and the feedback received, which will be considered by council officers before a decision on the proposed plans are made by October 2025

- **Chapter 1** introduces the consultation
- **Chapter 2** of this report describes the consultation methodology
- **Chapter 3** presents the consultation survey response rate and respondent characteristics
- **Chapter 4** summarises respondents' comments and suggestions on the proposed plans
- **Chapter 5** sets out the effects that respondents said the proposals would have on them because of their protected characteristics
- **Chapter 6** describes how this report will be used and how to keep updated on the decision-making process.

2 Methodology

2.1 Survey

2.1.1 Online survey

The Resilient River Frome Consultation survey was available on the council's Consultation and Engagement Hub (Ask Bristol) between 2 June 2025 and 14 July 2025. An Easy Read version was also available on the Consultation and Engagement Hub.

Survey information

The survey contained the following information as context for the survey questions.

- Details of the proposed plans for the river and park area. This included information on the terraced seating and the proposal to remove trees to facilitate the seating.

Survey questions

The survey questions sought respondents' views on the following:

- Whether the respondent agrees or disagrees with the proposed improvements
- Whether the respondent agrees or disagrees with the proposed terraced seating
- Whether respondents agree or disagree with the proposal to remove some trees to facilitate the terraced seating
- Respondents' comments and feedback on the overall proposals

The 'About you' section requested information which helps the council to check if the responses are representative of people across the city who may have different needs.

- Respondents' postcode – this identifies if any parts of the city are under-represented in responding to the consultation and it can show if people from more deprived areas of the city have different views compared to people living in less deprived areas
- Equalities monitoring information – this enables the council to check if people with specific protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are under-represented in the responses
- Other information about respondents; for example, whether they are a councillor, a council employee, or represent a local organisation.
- How respondents found out about the consultation – to help the council publicise future consultations effectively.

Respondents could choose to answer some or all questions in any order and save and return to the survey later.

2.1.2 Alternative formats

An Easy Read version of the consultation was available on the Consultation and Engagement Hub and could be completed online or printed and returned by post.

Paper copies were distributed with Freepost return envelopes to organisations and societies in Bristol and were available on request.

Other formats (braille, large print, other alternative formats, and translation to other languages) were available on request.

2.2 Publicity and briefings

2.2.1 Objective and background

The following programme of activity was carried out to publicise and explain the Resilient River Frome Enhancement consultation.

The consultation was open from 2 June 2025 and 14 July 2025. We received 259 responses in total.

2.2.2 Paper copies

Paper copies were distributed to the following locations:

- Trinity Community Arts
- Junction 3 Library
- St Paul's Sports Academy
- St Paul's Learning Centre
- Trojan Free Fighters
- Bristol City Council led Engagement Events

2.2.3 Bristol City Council owned channels

The consultation was also shared and promoted via the council's social media channels: X, Facebook and Next Door (two ward areas, Lawrence Hill and Ashley).

These organic posts had a potential reach of over 5,000 people resulting in 101 survey link clicks.

There were also targeted paid-for Meta advertising (Facebook and Instagram) for over a month with a budget of £125. This was limited to a mile radius around Riverside Park in line with the postcard drop. This resulted in a reach of 25,824 with 1,249 link clicks through to the survey page.

2.2.4 Engagement and events

Officers attended the following meetings and events to promote the consultation and encourage attendees to take part on share through their networks.

- Festival of Nature, Riverside Park Pop-up (8 June)
- Resilient River Frome Enhancement Online Webinar (12 June)
- Public Consultation Exhibition (18 June)
- Riverside Walking Tour (2 July)

- Somali Women's Group Engagement Event (4 July)
- Community Champions, Bristol Horn Youth Concern (8-10 July)
- Albaseera Bristol Centre (11 July)

3 Survey response rate and respondent characteristics

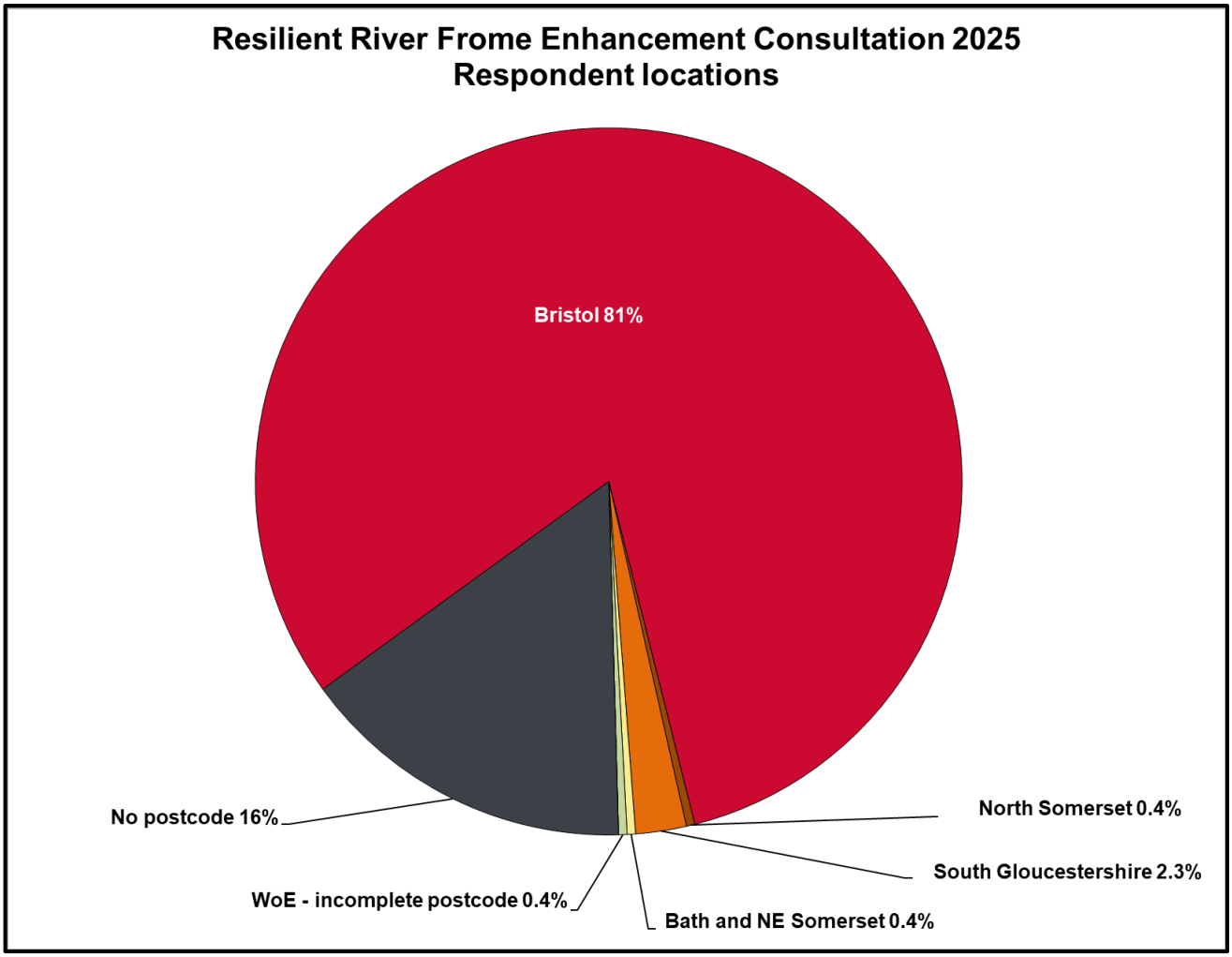
3.1 Response rate to the survey

The Resilient River Frome consultation survey received 259 responses, of which 229 were responses to the main online survey, 4 were through email and 29 were paper surveys.

3.2 Geographic distribution of survey responses

210 respondents (81%) provided postcodes from within the Bristol City Council area, 0.4% of responses were from North Somerset, 2% were from South Gloucestershire, 0.4% were from Bath & Northeast Somerset (B&NES), and 40 did not provide a postcode.

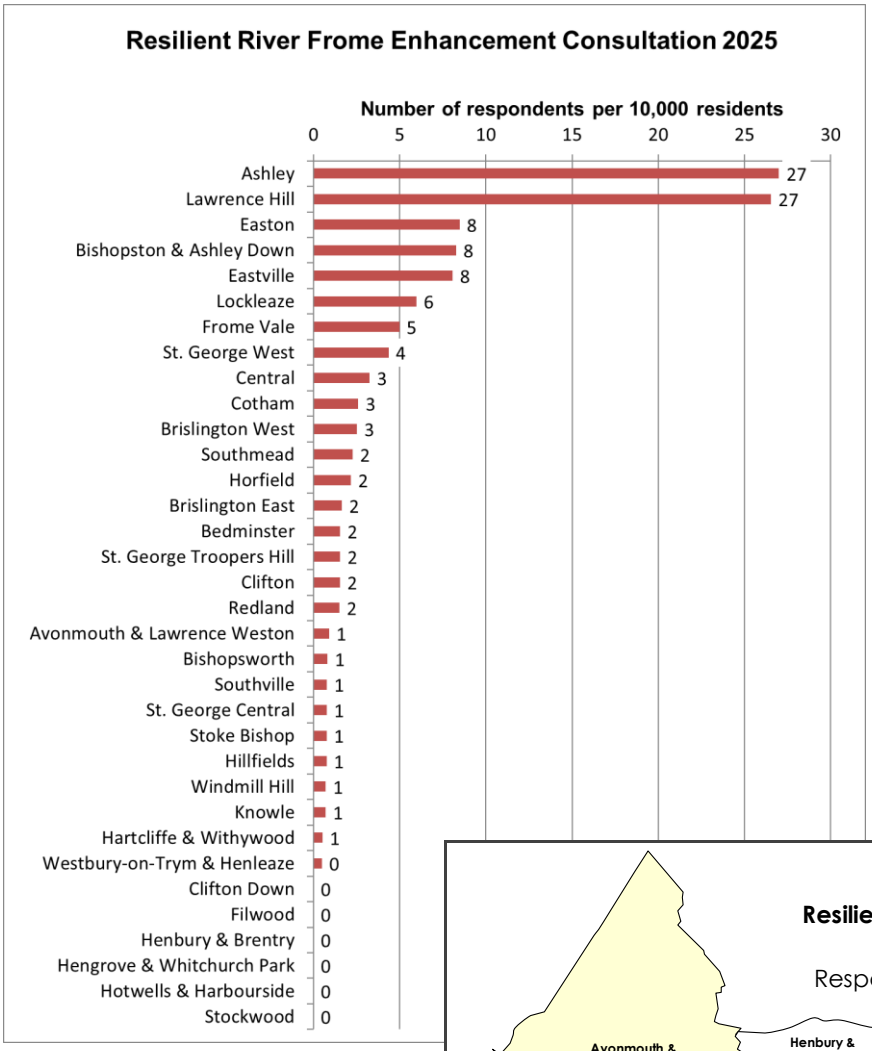
Figure 1: Geographic distribution of responses

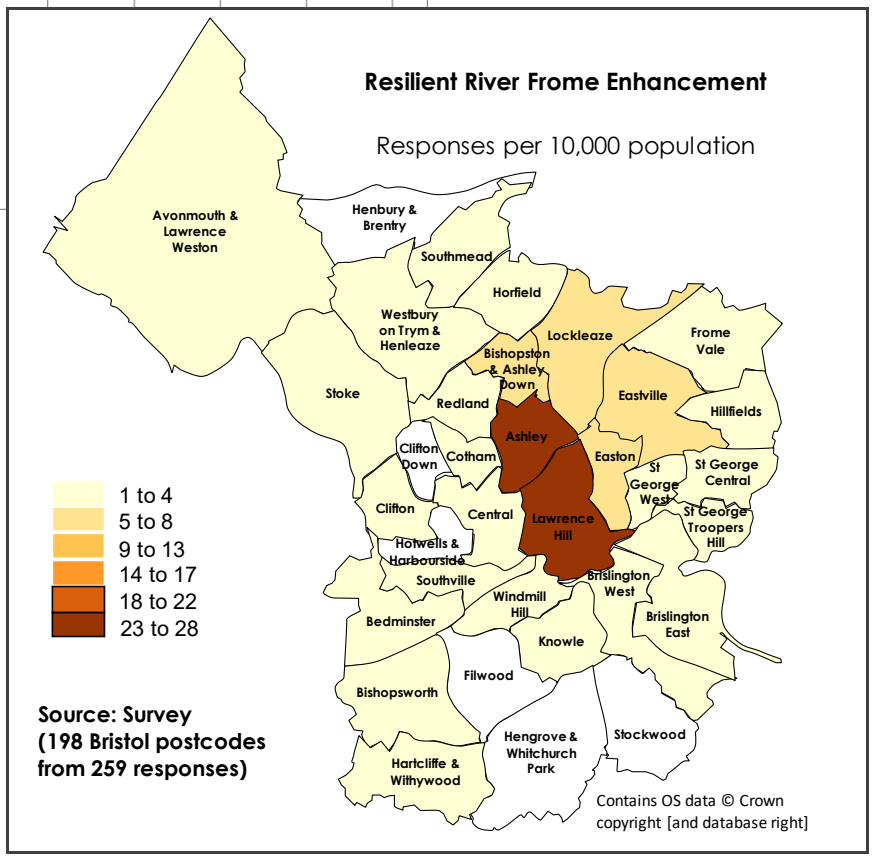


Of the 210 responses from within the Bristol City Council area, 198 provided full or partial postcodes from which the ward of origin could be identified[1] (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Geographic distribution of responses in Bristol

[1] The other 12 responses included incomplete postcodes which are within Bristol but do not include enough information to identify a specific ward.


Resilient River Frome Enhancement Consultation 2025
Number of respondents per 10,000 residents
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
Ashley 27
Lawrence Hill 27
Easton 8
Bishopston & Ashley Down 8
Eastville 8
Lockleaze 6
Frome Vale 5
St. George West 4
Central 3
Cotham 3
Brislington West 3
Southmead 2
Horfield 2
Brislington East 2
Bedminster 2
St. George Troopers Hill 2
Clifton 2
Redland 2
Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston 1
Bishopsworth 1
Southville 1
St. George Central 1
Stoke Bishop 1
Hillfields 1
Windmill Hill 1
Knowle 1
Hartcliffe & Withywood 1
Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze 0
Clifton Down 0
Filwood 0
Henbury & Brentry 0
Hengrove & Whitchurch Park 0
Hotwells & Harbourside 0
Stockwood 0


Resilient River Frome Enhancement
Responses per 10,000 population
1 to 4
5 to 8
9 to 13
14 to 17
18 to 22
23 to 28
Source: Survey
(198 Bristol postcodes
from 259 responses)
Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston
Henbury & Brentry
Southmead
Horfield
Westbury on Trym & Henleaze
Lockleaze
Frome Vale
Bishopston & Ashley Down
Stoke
Redland
Eastville
Hillfields
Ashley
Clifton Down
Cotham
Easton
St George West
St George Central
Clifton
Central
Lawrence Hill
St George Troopers Hill
Hotwells & Harbourside
Southville
Brislington West
Windmill Hill
Bedminster
Brislington East
Knowle
Filwood
Bishopsworth
Hengrove & Whitchurch Park
Stockwood
Hartcliffe & Withywood
Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right]

3.3 Response rate from areas of high and low deprivation

The home location of respondents in Bristol was compared with nationally published information on levels of deprivation across the city[2] to review if the responses received include a cross-section of people living in more deprived and less deprived areas. This helps the council to know if the views of citizens in more deprived areas differ from people living in less deprived areas.

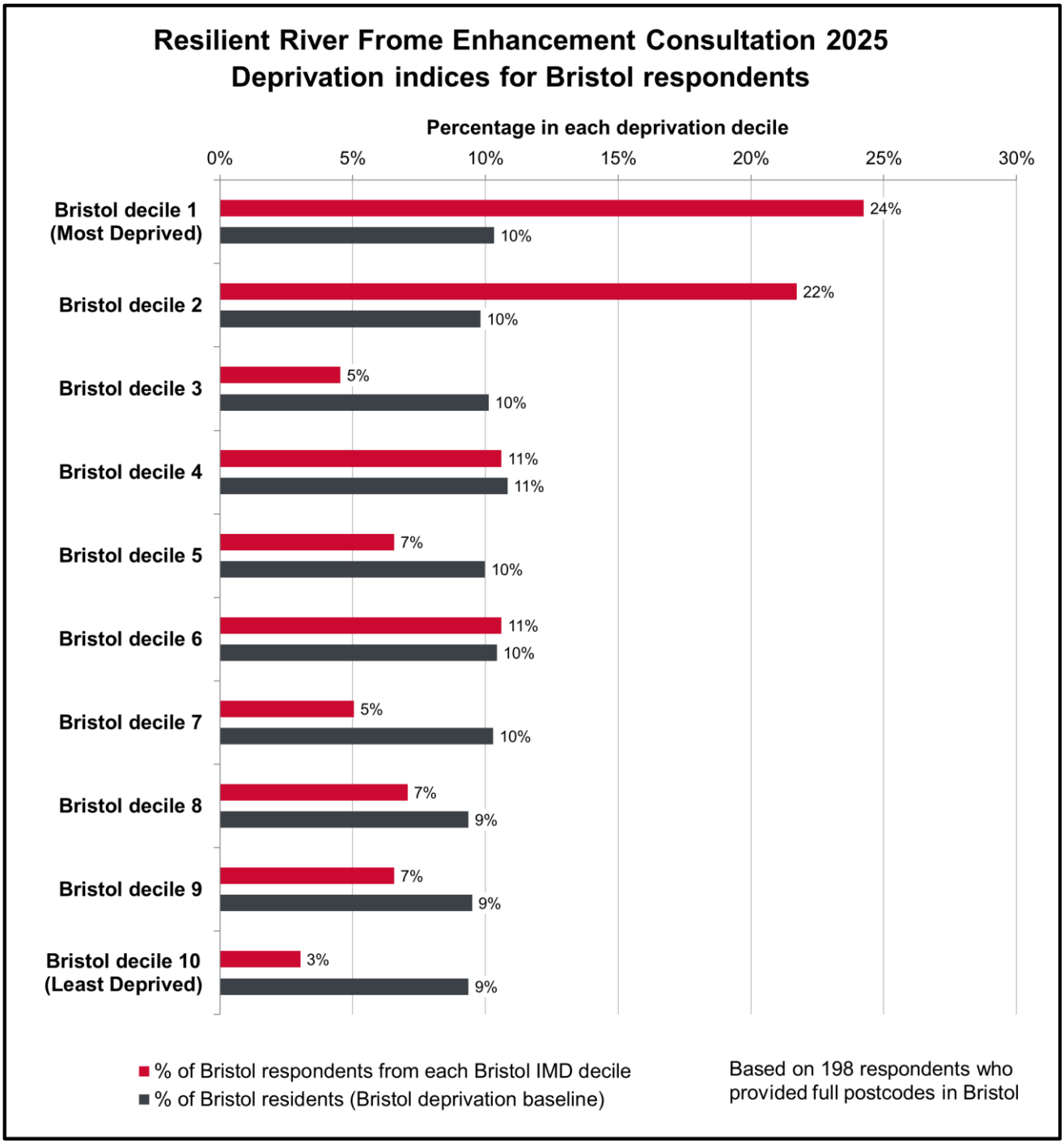
The comparison looked at levels of deprivation in 10 bands (known as 'deciles') from decile 1 (most deprived) to decile 10 (least deprived). Figure 3 compares the percentage of Bristol respondents[3] living in each of the deprivation deciles (red bars) to the percentage of all Bristol citizens who live in each decile (grey bars).

Figure 3 shows there was over-representation of responses from deciles 1 and 2. There was an under- representation from decile 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Responses from deciles 4 and 6 closely reflect the proportion of Bristol citizens living in these deciles.

[2] The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes information about deprivation for small areas throughout England - known as 'Lower Super Output Areas' (LSOAs). For each LSOA, a measure of deprivation is published called 'Indices of Multiple Deprivation' (IMD), which takes account of 37 indicators that cover income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment. The latest IMD data are from 2019 and define IMD for each of the 32,844 LSOAs in England used in the 2011 Census, of which 263 LSOAs are in the Bristol City Council area. Postcodes provided by respondents can each be matched to one of the 263 LSOAs in Bristol and thus to one of the deprivation deciles. Note: postcodes provide approximate locations; they are not used to identify individuals or specific addresses.

[3] Based on 198 respondents who provided full postcodes in the Bristol administrative area from which deprivation decile can be identified.

Figure 3: Comparison of response rate from areas of high and low deprivation



Percentages in Figure 3 are shown to the nearest whole number. The length of each bar reflects unrounded percentages; hence bars shown with the same percentage (e.g. decile 4) may be slightly different in length.

3.4 Characteristics of survey respondents

3.4.1 Overview

210 respondents answered one or more of the equalities monitoring questions. Respondent characteristics are summarised below. The charts compare:

- characteristics for all respondents who answered the equalities questions (shown by bars with a red outline)
- characteristics of 'Bristol respondents' who answered equalities questions and provided a Bristol postcode (shown by solid red bars)
- characteristics of all Bristol's citizens based on the 2021 Census (shown by solid grey bars). Census 2021 data are available for seven protected characteristics (age, disability, ethnicity, religion/faith, sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation)

Note that many of the respondents who did not provide postcodes may also live in the Bristol City Council administrative area but are not included in figures for 'Bristol respondents'.

In summary, groups that were under-represented in the responses were:

- Children and young people aged 24 years and younger, and people aged 85 and older
- People of Asian or Asian British backgrounds; and people of other ethnic background
- Christians and other religions
- Females
- Heterosexual citizens

The following groups responded in higher numbers than their proportion in the population:

- People aged 25 to 74 years
- Disabled people
- White British people and people of Black, Black British, Caribbean or African backgrounds
- People with no religion, Muslims, Hindu, Buddhists andJews
- Males
- Bi, gay/lesbian, and people who use another term to describe their sexual orientation

Chapter 5 describes the effects that respondents said the proposals would have on them because of their protected characteristics.

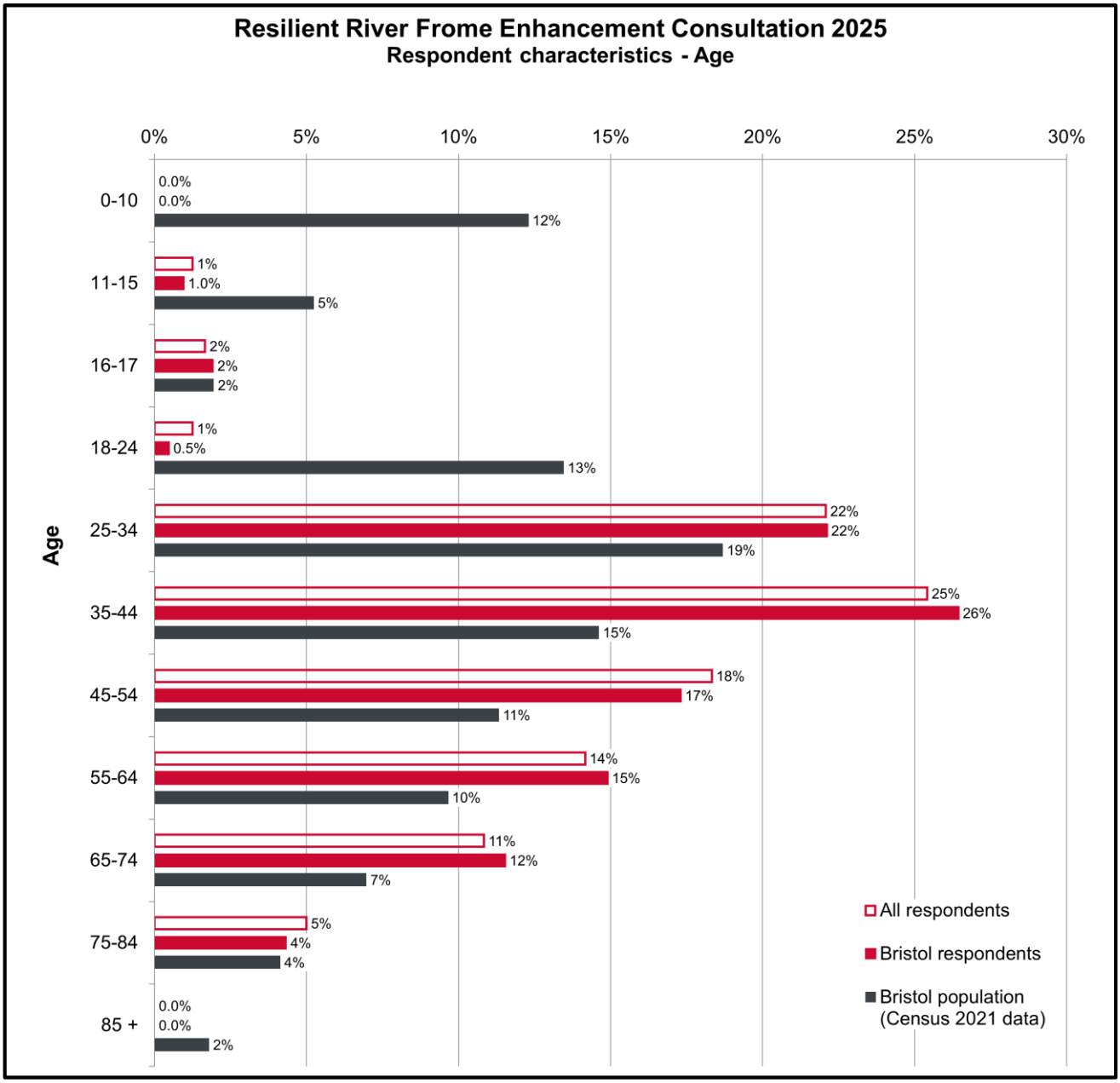
3.4.2 Age

The highest number of responses were from respondents aged 35-44 years (26%), followed by 25-34 (22%).

All age groups between 25 and 74 responded in higher proportions than these ages in the population. Response rates from people aged 75-84 closely match the proportion of these age groups in Bristol's population. Survey responses from children (under 18), young people aged 18-24 and people aged 85 and older were under-represented. These percentages exclude the 1% of respondents who answered 'prefer not to say'.

In each age category, the proportions of 'all respondents' and 'Bristol respondents' were very similar.

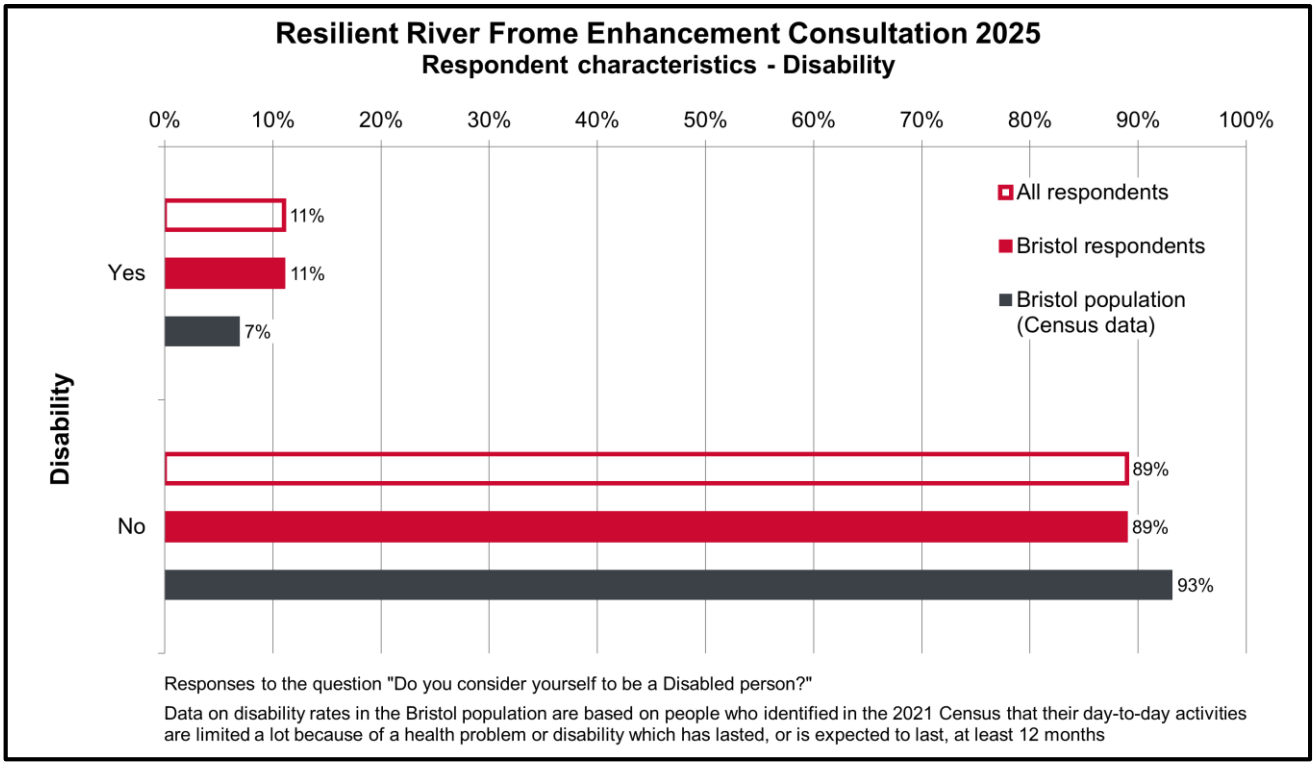
Figure 4: Age of respondents



3.4.3 Disability

The proportion of disabled respondents (11% of all respondents; 11% of Bristol respondents) is greater than the proportion of disabled people living in Bristol. These percentages exclude the respondents who answered ‘prefer not to say’

Figure 5: Disability



3.4.4 Ethnicity

The response rate from White British respondents (74% of Bristol respondents) is higher than the proportion of these citizens in the Bristol population. The response rate from all respondents (72%) matches the citizens in the Bristol population.

The response rate from Black, Black British, Caribbean or African (12% all respondents; 10% Bristol respondents) were higher than the proportion of these citizens in the Bristol population.

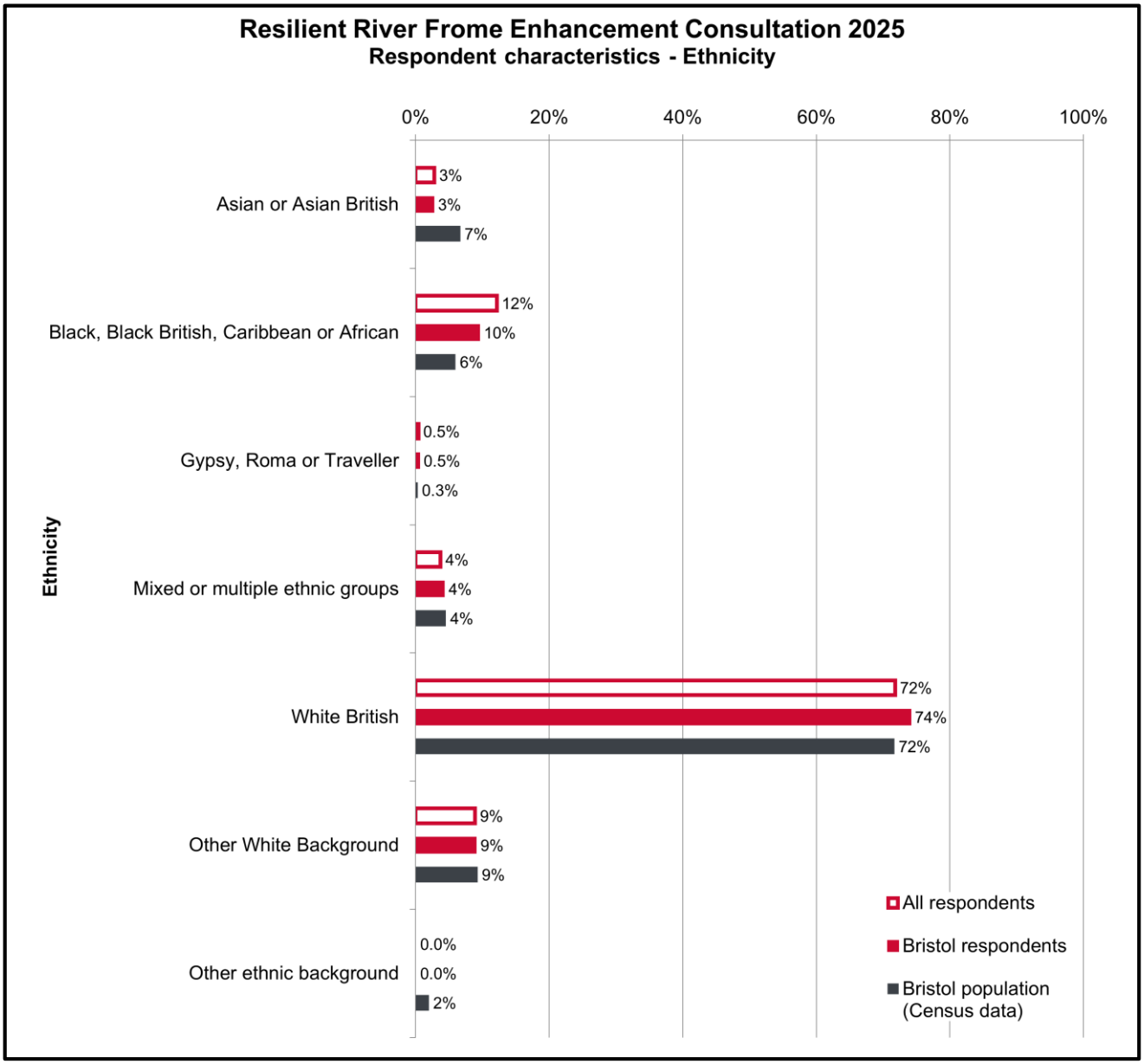
The proportion of Gypsy, Roma or Traveller (0.5%), Other White Background (9%) and mixed or multiple ethnic groups (4% of all respondents; 4% Bristol respondents) is similar to the proportion of these citizens in the Bristol population.

The following ethnic groups were under-represented in the response rates compared to the proportion of people in each of these ethnic groups living in Bristol:

- Asian or Asian British (3% of all respondents; 3% of Bristol respondents)
- Other ethnic background (No respondents)

These percentages exclude respondents who answered ‘prefer not to say’.

Figure 6: Ethnicity of respondents



3.4.5 Religion/Faith

People with no religion (67% of all respondents; 71% of Bristol respondents) and Muslims (12% of all respondents; 10% Bristol respondents) responded in higher proportion than people of no religion in Bristol's population (55%).

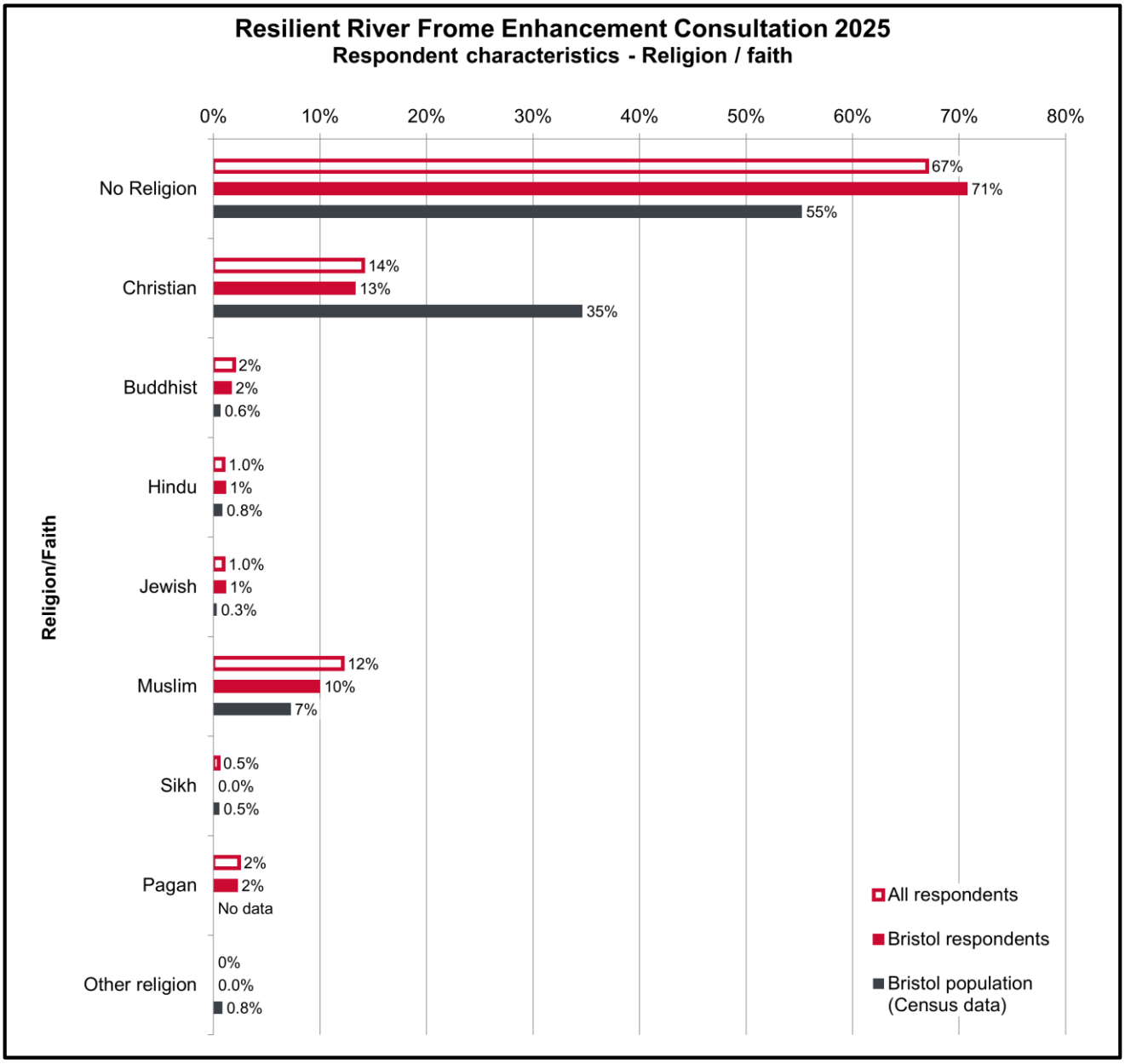
Buddhists (2% of all respondents; 2% of Bristol respondents), Jews (1% of all respondents; 1% of Bristol respondents) and Hindus (1% of all respondents; 1% of Bristol respondents) also responded in slightly greater numbers than the proportions of these faiths in Bristol.

Sikh (0.5% of Bristol respondents) matched the proportion of those living in Bristol.

Christians (14% of all respondents; 13% of Bristol respondents) were under-represented compared to the proportions of these faiths living in Bristol.

These percentages exclude the respondents who answered 'prefer not to say'.

Figure 7: Religion/faith of respondents


Resilient River Frome Enhancement Consultation 2025
Respondent characteristics - Religion / faith
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
Religion/Faith
No Religion
67%
71%
55%
Christian
14%
13%
35%
Buddhist
2%
2%
0.6%
Hindu
1.0%
1%
0.8%
Jewish
1.0%
1%
0.3%
Muslim
12%
10%
7%
Sikh
0.5%
0.0%
0.5%
Pagan
2%
2%
No data
Other religion
0%
0.0%
0.8%
All respondents
Bristol respondents
Bristol population (Census data)

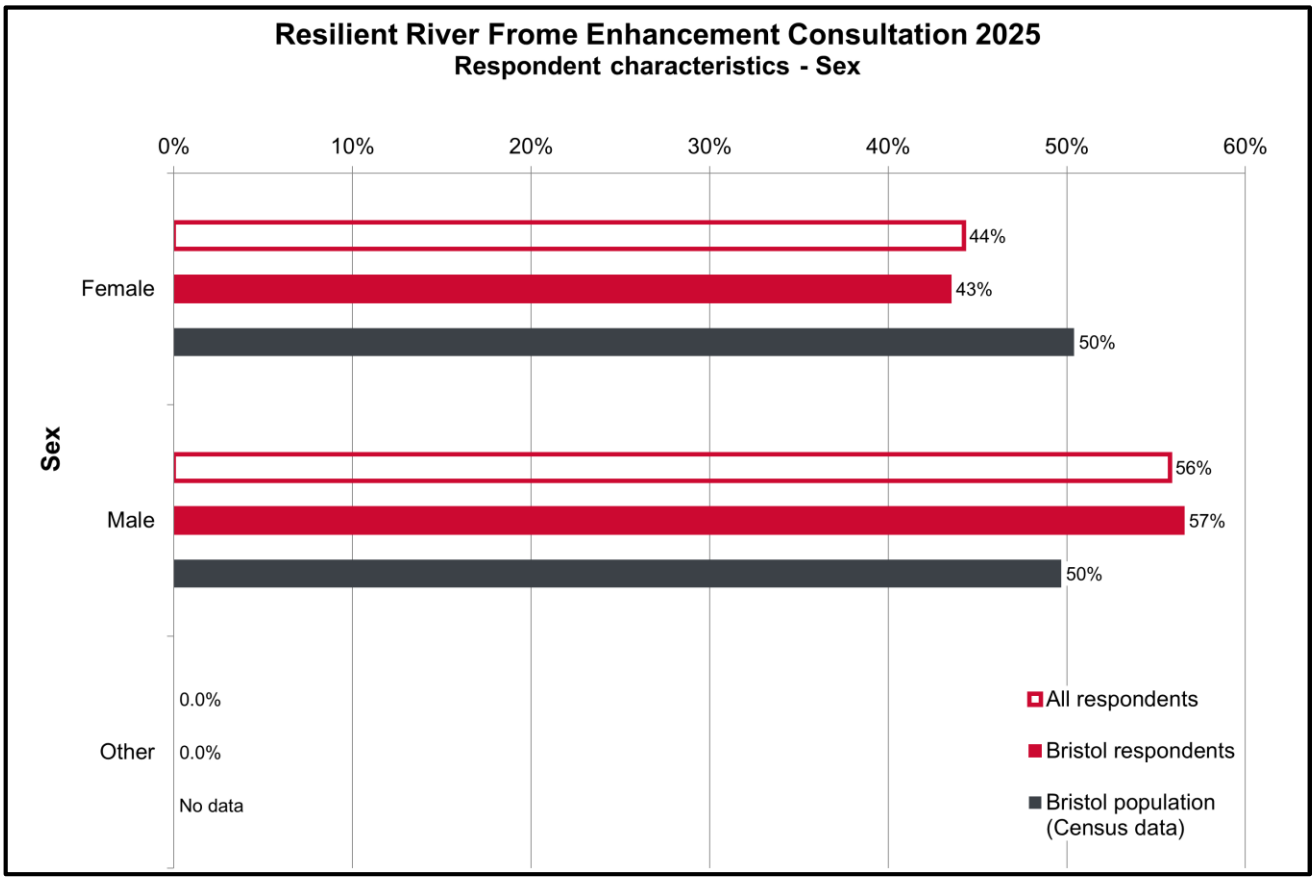
3.4.6 Sex

43% of all survey responses were from women and 57% were from men. This compares to 50% of each sex in the Bristol population.

The proportion of male respondents were higher than the population living in Bristol and females were under- represented compared to the population living in Bristol.

These percentages exclude respondents who answered ‘prefer not to say’.

Figure 8: Sex of respondents

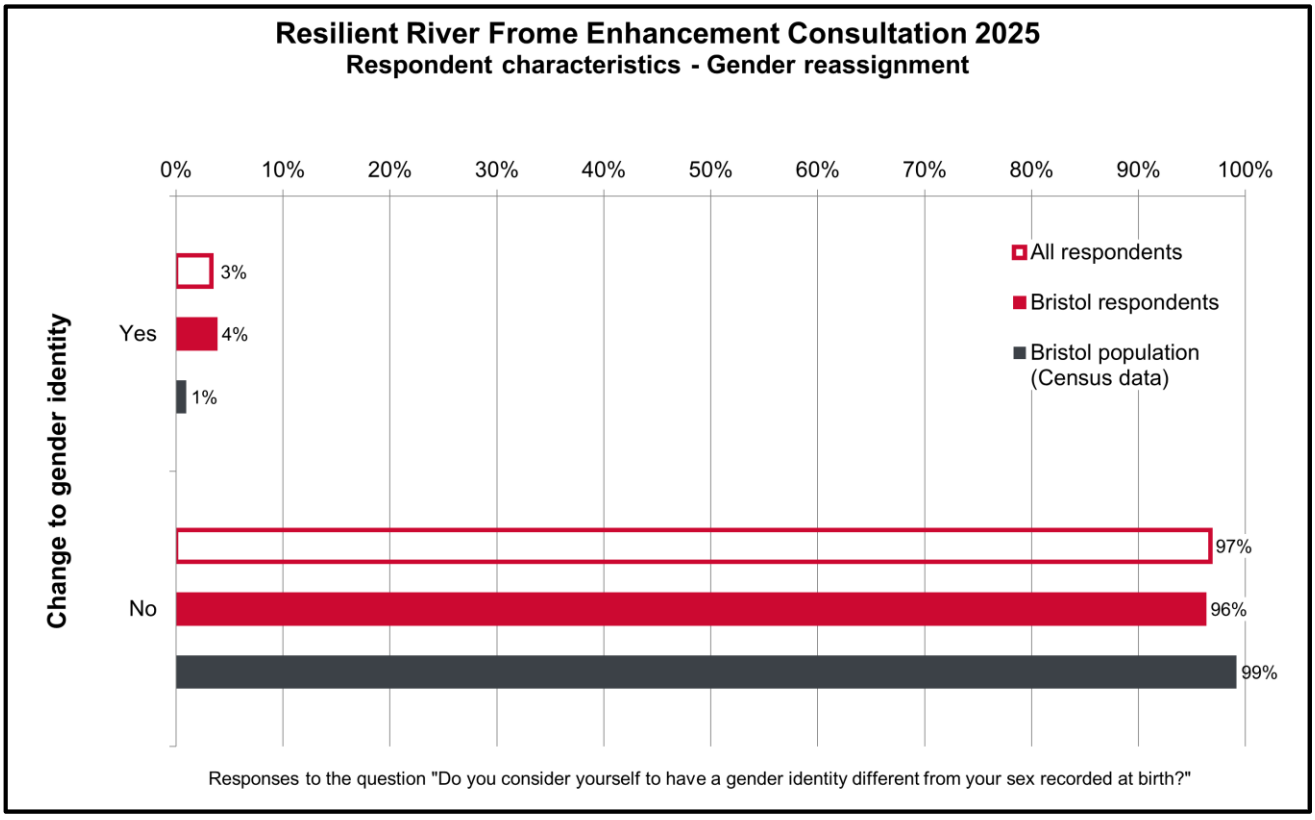


3.4.7 Gender reassignment

3% of all respondents and 4% of Bristol respondents stated they have a gender identity different to their sex recorded at birth. This is slightly higher than the 1% of the Bristol population who stated in the 2021 Census that their gender identity is different to their sex recorded at birth.

These percentages exclude the respondents who answered ‘prefer not to say’.

Figure 9: Gender reassignment



3.4.8 Sexual orientation

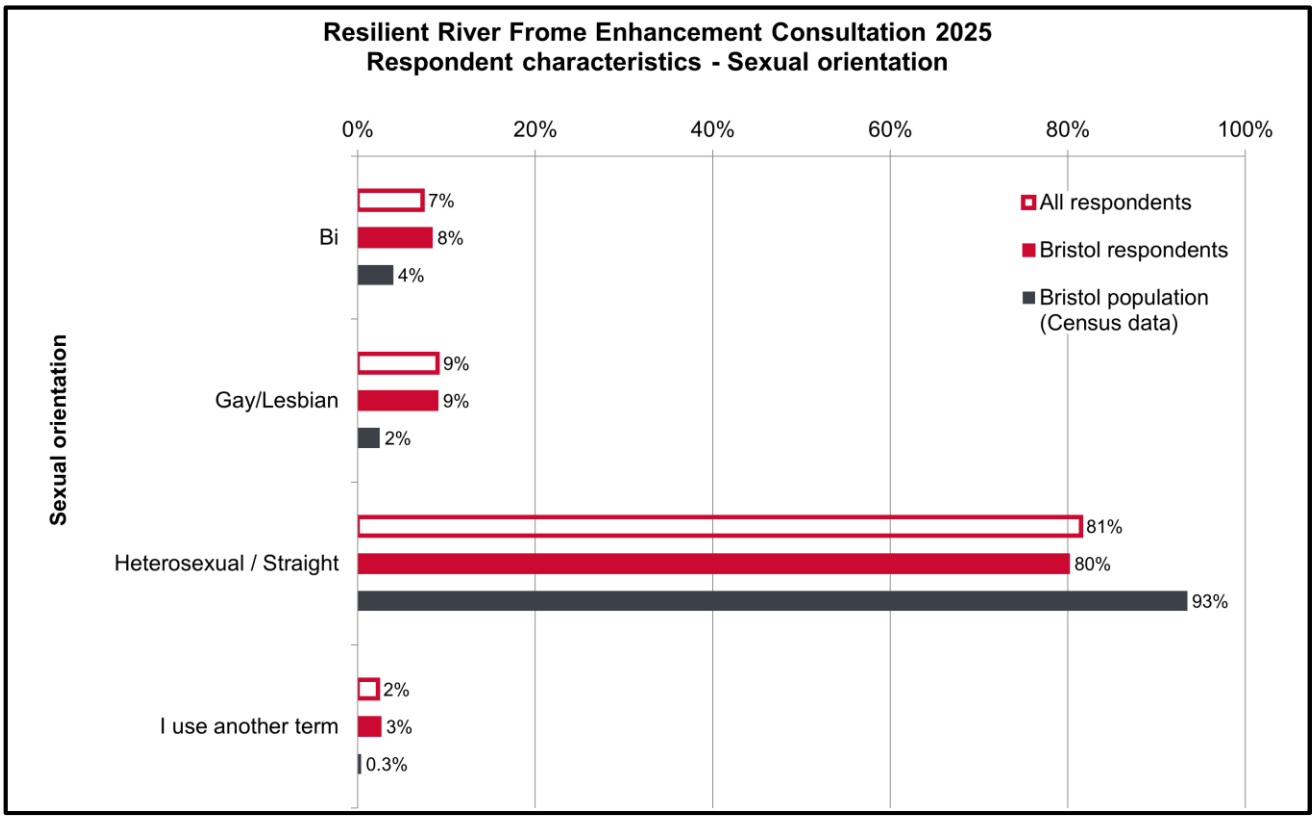
People who are bi (7% of all respondents; 8% of Bristol respondents), gay/lesbian (9%), or who use another term for their sexual orientation (2% of all respondents; 3% of Bristol respondents) responded in higher numbers than the proportions of these groups in Bristol's population. In the 2021 Census, the proportions of each group in Bristol was 4% bi, 2% gay/lesbian, and 0.3% use another term.

Heterosexual respondents (81% of all respondents; 80% of Bristol respondents), were under-represented compared to the proportions of heterosexual people living in Bristol (93%).

The proportions of each group for all respondents match the proportions for Bristol respondents.

These percentages exclude the respondents who answered 'prefer not to say'.

Figure 10: Sexual orientation



3.4.9 Pregnancy and maternity, carer status and and refugee/asylum status

The survey also asked respondents about their pregnancy and recent maternity status, if they are a carer, and if they are a refugee or asylum seeker.

Census data are not available for the proportion of people with these characteristics living in Bristol. Figures 11, 12, and 13 show the proportions of all respondents and Bristol respondents for each of these characteristics. The proportion of each characteristic for all respondents matches the proportion for Bristol respondents.

Figure 11: Pregnancy and recent maternity

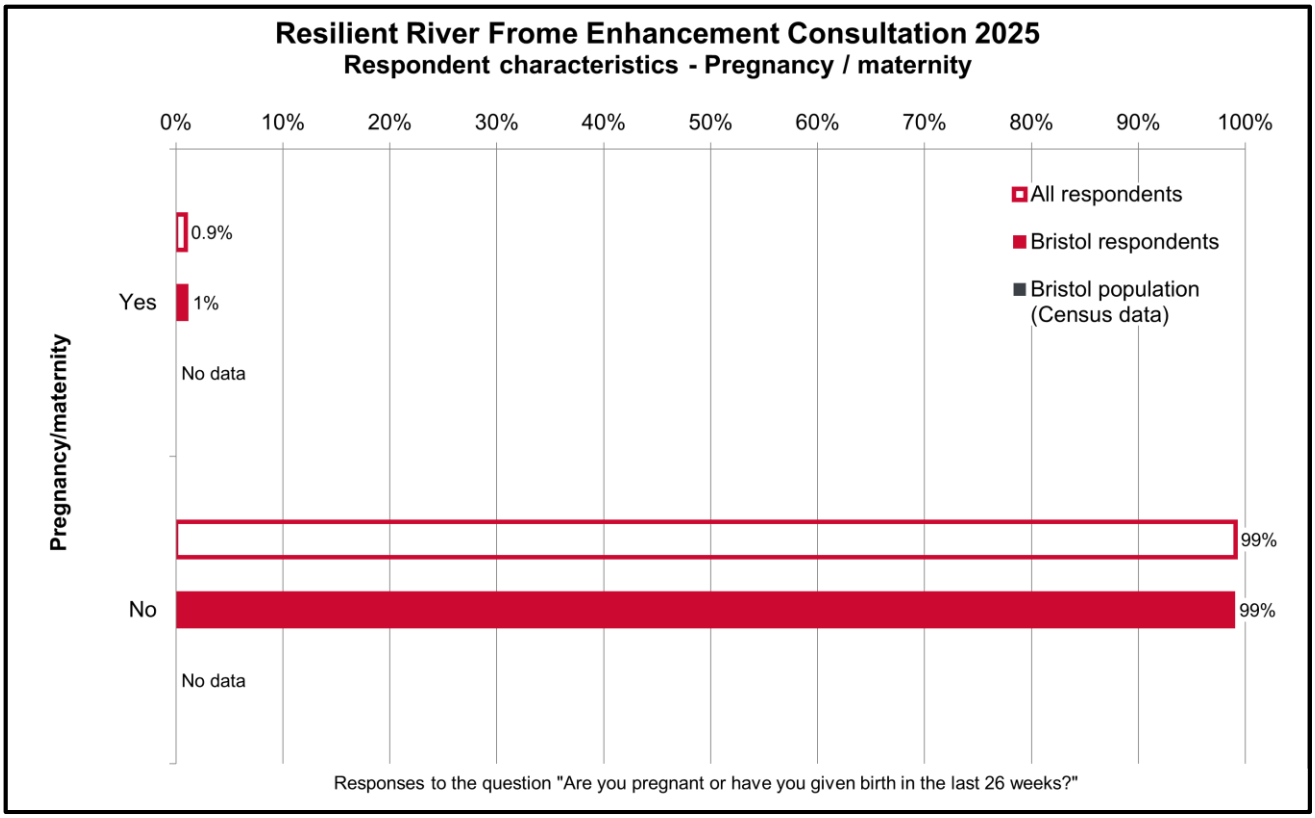


Figure 12: Carer status

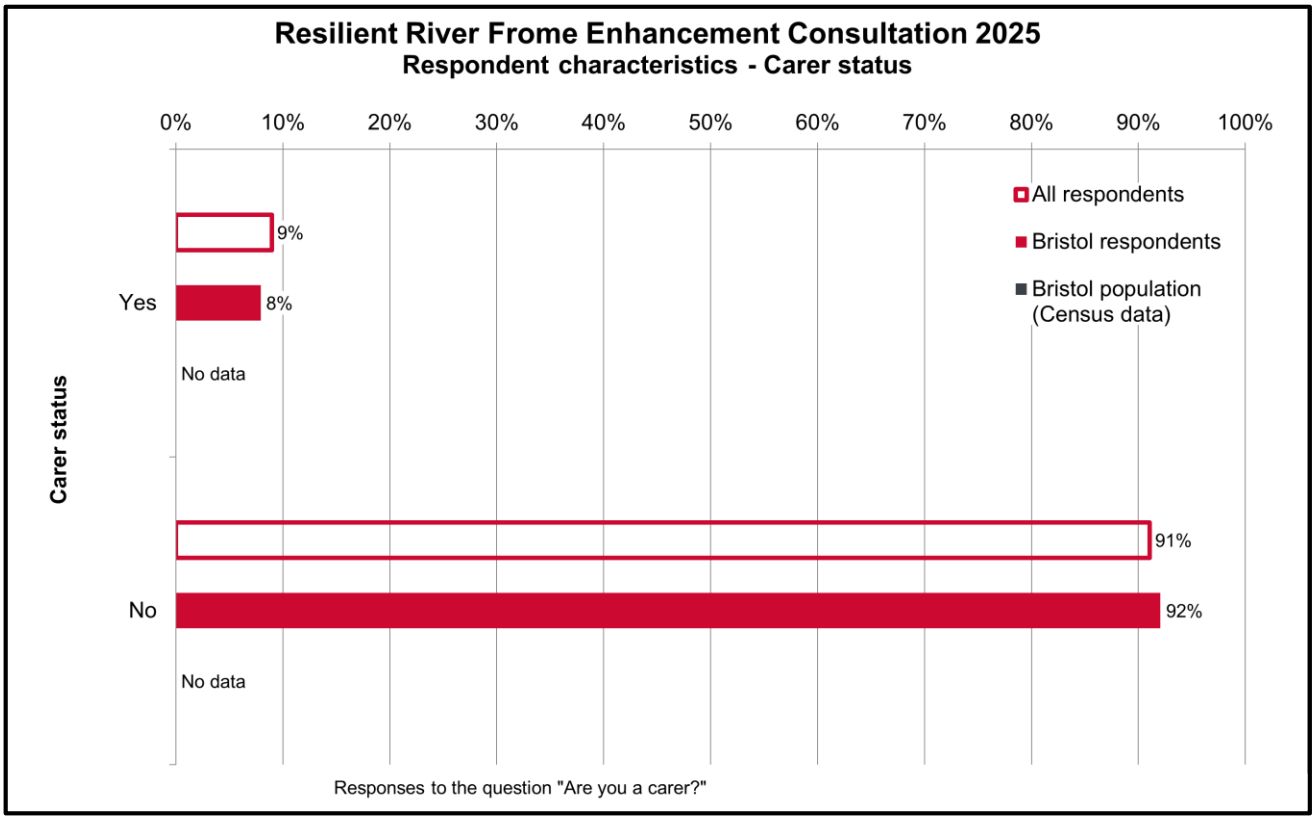
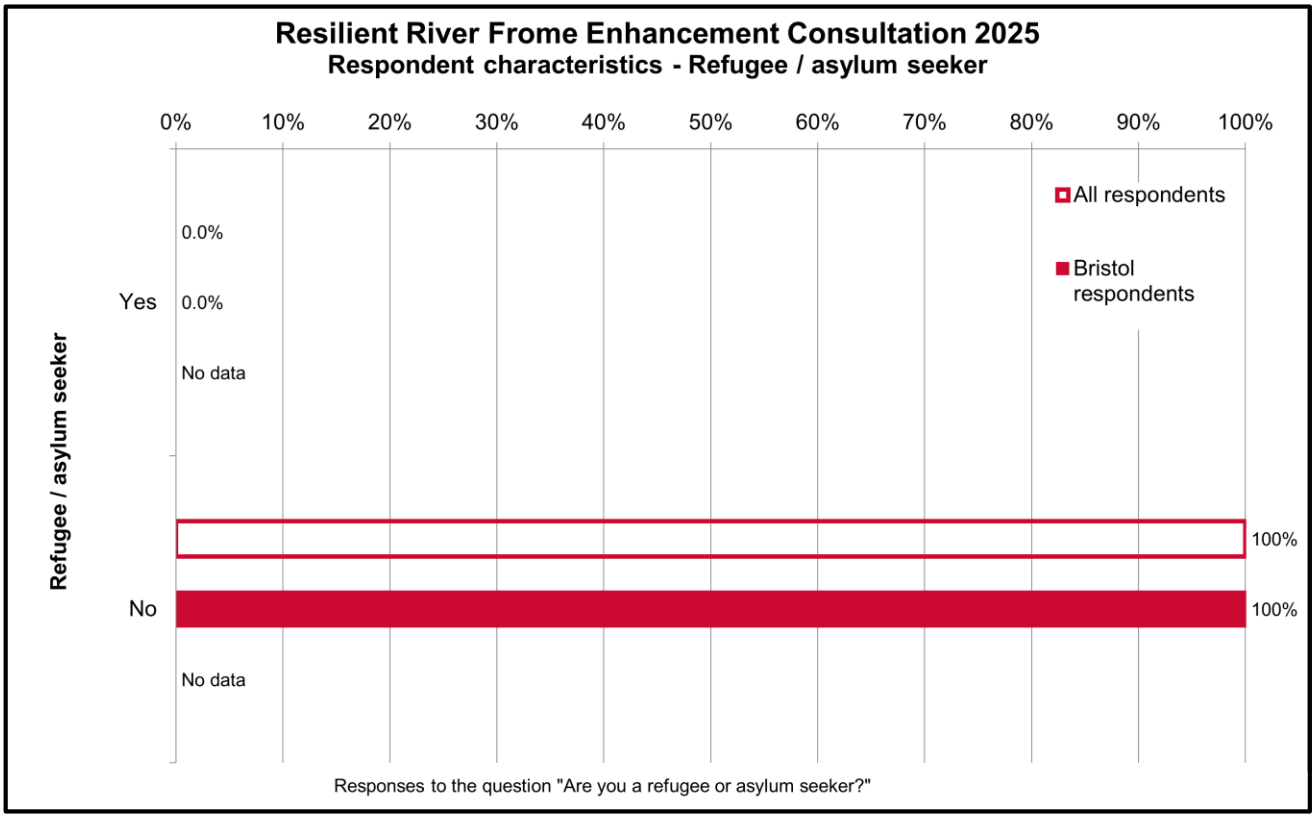


Figure 13: Refugee or asylum seeker status



3.4.10 Other respondent characteristics

Respondents were asked “Which of the following best describes you?” selecting from a list of 10 options. 244 (95%) respondents answered this question (Figure 14). Because respondents could select more than one option, the percentages below exceed 100%.

- 232 (95% of the 244 respondents who answered the question) said they are responding as ‘an individual’
- 4 (2%) are Bristol City Council employees
- 5 (2%) responded on behalf of a community group or organisation
- 1 (0.41%) are a ward councillor
- 1 (0%) represent and/or own a local business
- 2 (1%) selected ‘other’

No respondents were local businesses, landowners, land agent, developer or MP.

Of the 2 respondents who selected ‘other’ to describe their situation:

- 1 was a former Bristol resident
- 1 is a long-term resident involved in community development

4 Survey results: Proposed improvements to the river and park

4.1 Proposed improvements – all respondents

4.1.1 Respondents' views on the proposed improvements

Respondents were asked to state whether they agree or disagree with the proposed improvements:

- Replace the riverside wall with railings between Wade Street and Junction 3 of the M32. This would make it easier to see the river and reduce the risk of channel blockages
- Improve lighting along the riverside path between Junction 3 of the M32 and Wellington Road (The lighting would be bat friendly)
- Create new seating areas along the riverside path
- Prune trees on the riverbanks and remove invasive species so more light reaches the river
- Create new, diverse areas of planting along the river edge and plant a wider range of trees within the park to support wildlife
- Install an eel pass on the Boiling Wells stream culvert to let eels swim through
- Make improvements to water quality and overall health and condition of the river by improving access to the river to clear litter and invasive non-native plants
- Install oil interceptors onto highway drains that drain into the River Frome

Respondents stated whether they agree or disagree with the proposed improvements (Figure 15).

Replace the riverside wall with railings:

- 50% of respondents 'strongly agree'
- 29% said they 'agree'
- 8% of respondents' 'neither agree nor disagree'
- 7% said they 'disagreed'
- 5% of respondents 'strongly disagreed'

Improve lighting along riverside path:

- 69% of respondents 'strongly agree'
- 23% said they 'agree'
- 6% of respondents' 'neither agree nor disagree'
- 1% of respondents 'disagree'
- 2% said they 'strongly disagree'

Create new seating areas along the riverside path:

- 56% of respondents said they ‘strongly agree’
- 29% said they ‘agree’
- 8% of respondents ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 4% said they ‘disagree’
- 3% of respondents said they ‘strongly disagree’

Prune trees on riverbank and remove invasive species:

- 65% said they ‘strongly agree’
- 27% of respondents said they ‘agree’
- 5% of respondents’ ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 1% said they ‘disagree’
- 2% said they ‘strongly disagree’

Diverse planting along river edge and a wide range of trees within the park:

- 71% said they ‘strongly agree’
- 23% of respondents said they ‘agree’
- 4% said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- No respondents disagree
- 2% said they ‘strongly disagree’

Install an eel pass on Boiling Wells stream culvert to let eels swim through:

- 69% of respondents said they ‘strongly agree’
- 22% said they ‘agree’
- 7% said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- No respondents said they ‘disagree’
- 2% said they ‘strongly disagree’

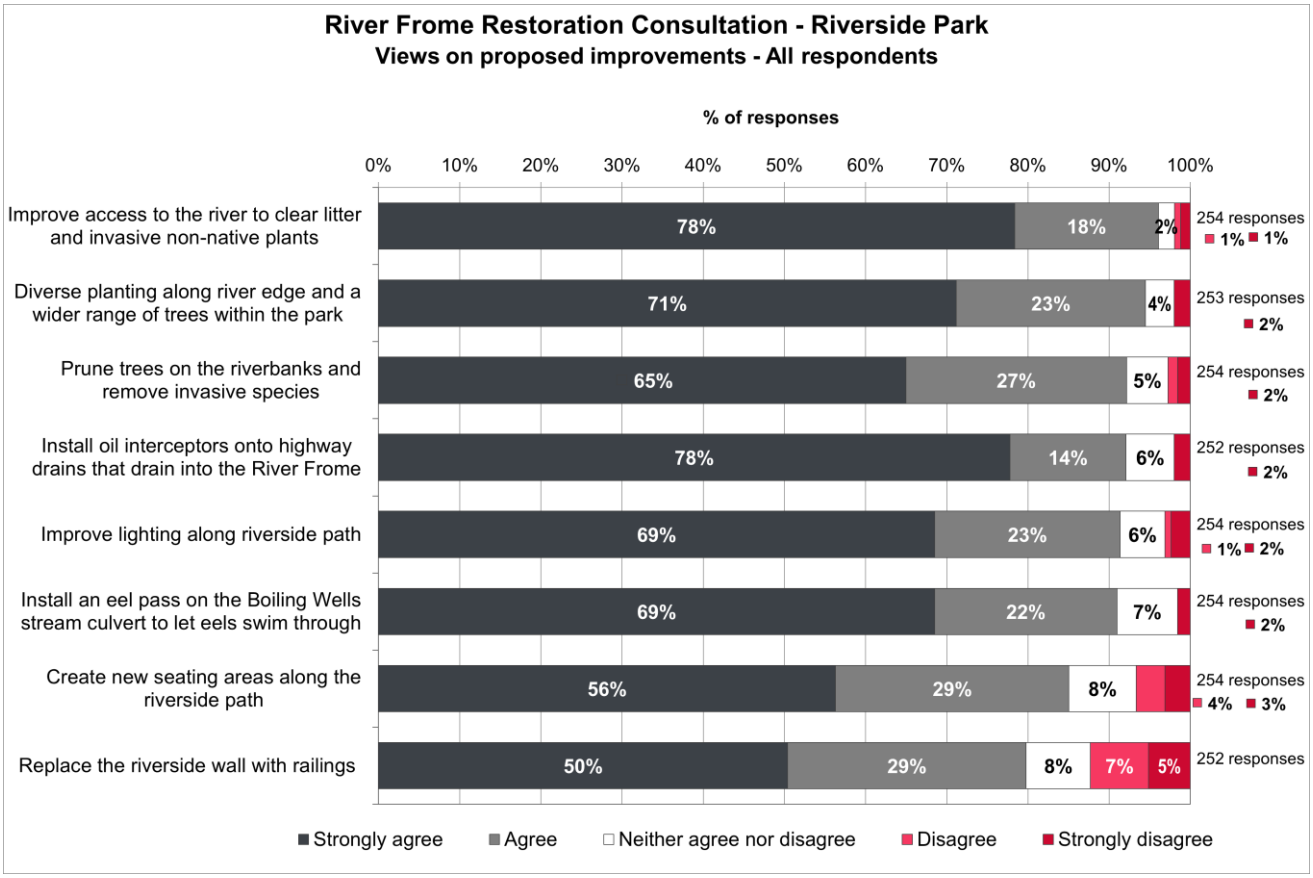
Make improvements to water quality and overall health by improving access to villa:

- 78% said they ‘strongly agree’
- 18% of respondents said they ‘agree’
- 2% said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 1% of respondents said they ‘disagree’
- 1% said they ‘strongly disagree’

Install oil interceptors onto highways to drain into River Frome:

- 78% of respondents said they ‘strongly agree’
- 14% said they ‘agree’
- 6% of respondents said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- No respondents said they ‘disagree’
- 2% said they ‘strongly disagree’

Figure 14: Views on proposed improvements for the river and park



4.1.2 Proposals for the terraced seating

Respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the proposals for terraced seating:

- Create new accessible terraced seating. This is to allow people to sit and enjoy the view close to the water. This would require us to reposition the foot/cycle path
- Plant a variety of new pollinator shrubs and greenery between the terraced seating
- Replace the riverside wall with railings at the seating area. This would improve the views of the river

Create new accessible terraced seating:

- 51% said they ‘strongly agree’
- 32% of respondents said they ‘agree’
- 8% said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 6% of respondents said they ‘disagree’
- 4% said they ‘strongly disagree’

Plant a variety of new pollinator shrubs and greenery between the terraced seating:

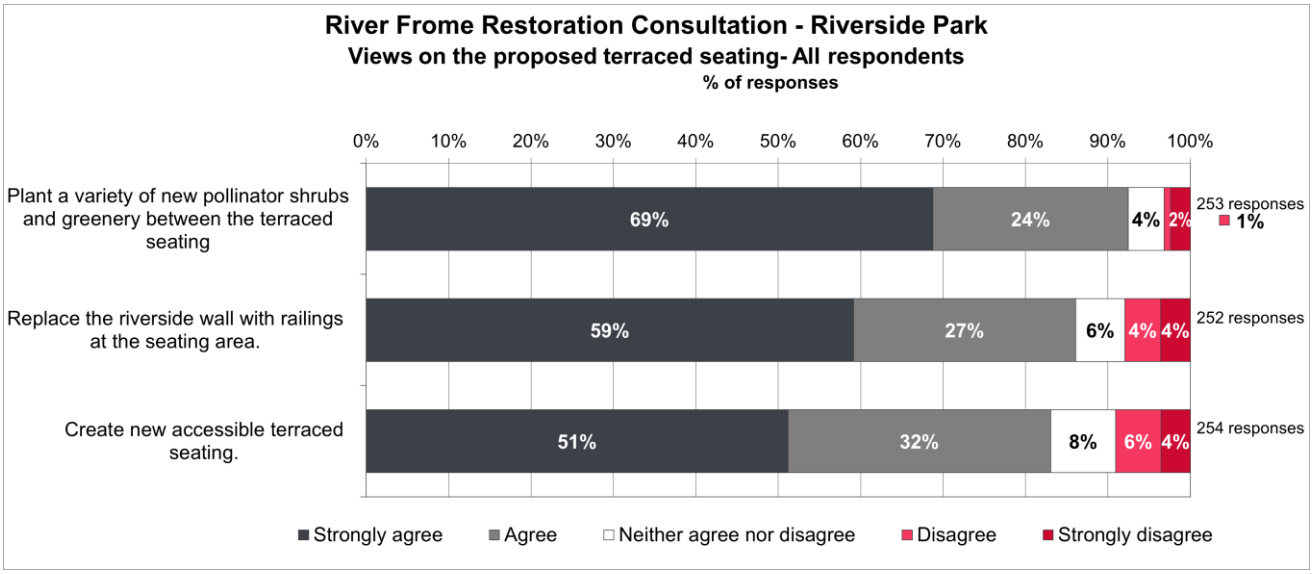
- 69% of respondents said they ‘strongly agree’
- 24% said they ‘agree’
- 4% said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 1% said they ‘disagree’
- 2% of respondents said they ‘strongly disagree’

Replace the riverside wall with railings at the seating area:

- 59% of respondents said they ‘strongly agree’
- 27% said they ‘agree’
- 6% of respondents said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 4% said they ‘disagree’
- 4% of respondents said they ‘strongly disagree’

254 respondents (98% of the 259 people who responded to the consultation survey), said whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposals for the terraced seating (Figure 16).

Figure 15: Views on the proposed terraced seating

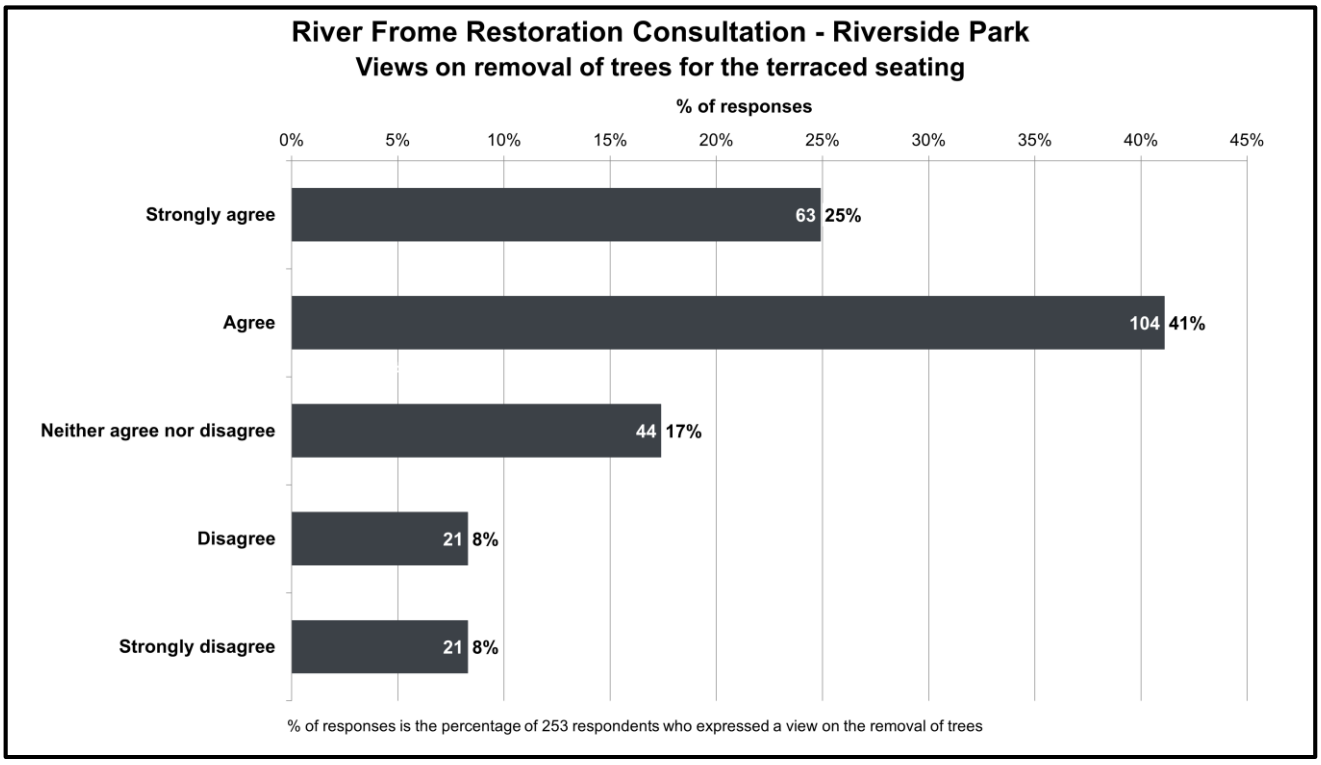


4.2 Views on removal of trees for terraced seating

4.2.1 Overview

Of the 259 respondents' 253 (98%) said whether they agree or disagree with the removal of trees for the purpose of terraced seating (Figure 16)

Figure 16: Views on removal of trees for the terraced seating



- 63 (25%) said they 'strongly agree'
- 104 (41%) respondents said they 'agree'
- 44 (17%) said they 'neither agree nor disagree'
- 21 (8%) respondents said they 'disagree'
- 21 (8%) said they 'strongly disagree'

5 Views on whether the proposals will meet project aims

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree that the proposals would meet the project aims:

- The proposals will improve resilience to flooding and climate change
- The proposals will make the park and the riverside area more attractive
- The proposals will make the river more visible and accessible
- The proposals will make the park feel welcoming and safe
- The proposals will make the park inclusive and accessible
- The proposals will help to restore the health of the River Frome by improving water quality and removing litter
- The proposals will improve biodiversity and opportunities for wildlife

249 respondents of the 259 people who responded to the consultation survey, stated whether they agree or disagree with the proposed improvements (Figure 17).

The proposals will improve resilience to flooding and climate change:

- 27% said they ‘strongly agree’
- 39% said they ‘agree’
- 29% of respondents said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 3% said they ‘disagree’
- 2% of respondents said they ‘strongly disagree’

The proposals will make the park and the riverside area more attractive:

- 48% said they ‘strongly agree’
- 38% of respondents said they ‘agree’
- 9% said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 2% of respondents said they ‘disagree’
- 2% said they ‘strongly disagree’

The proposals will make the river more visible and accessible:

- 53% said they ‘strongly agree’
- 34% of respondents said they ‘agree’
- 11% said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 1% of respondents said they ‘disagree’
- 2% said they ‘strongly disagree’

The proposals will make the park feel welcoming and safe:

- 38% said they ‘strongly agree’
- 30% of respondents said they ‘agree’
- 23% said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 6% said they ‘disagree’
- 2% of respondents said they ‘strongly disagree’

The proposals will make the park inclusive and accessible:

- 34% said they ‘strongly agree’
- 36% of respondents said they ‘agree’
- 23% said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 5% said they ‘disagree’
- 2% of respondents said they ‘strongly disagree’

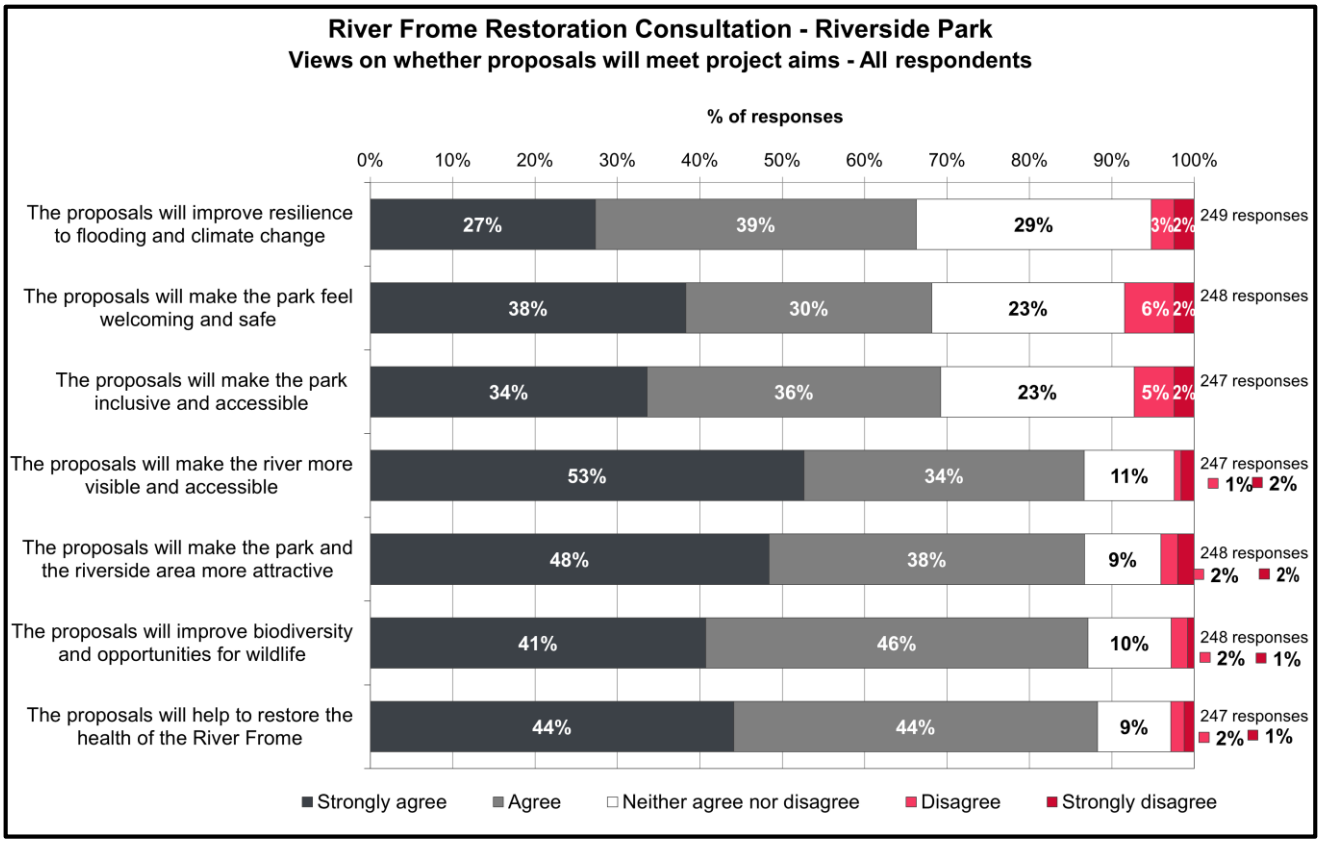
The proposals will help to restore the health of the River Frome by improving water quality and removing litter:

- 44% of respondents said they ‘strongly agree’
- 44% said they ‘agree’
- 9% said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 2% of respondents said they ‘disagree’
- 1% said they ‘strongly disagree’

The proposals will improve biodiversity and opportunities for wildlife:

- 41% of respondents said they ‘strongly agree’
- 46% said they ‘agree’
- 10% of respondents said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’
- 2% said they ‘disagree’
- 1% of respondents said they ‘strongly disagree’

Figure 17: Views on whether proposals meet project aims

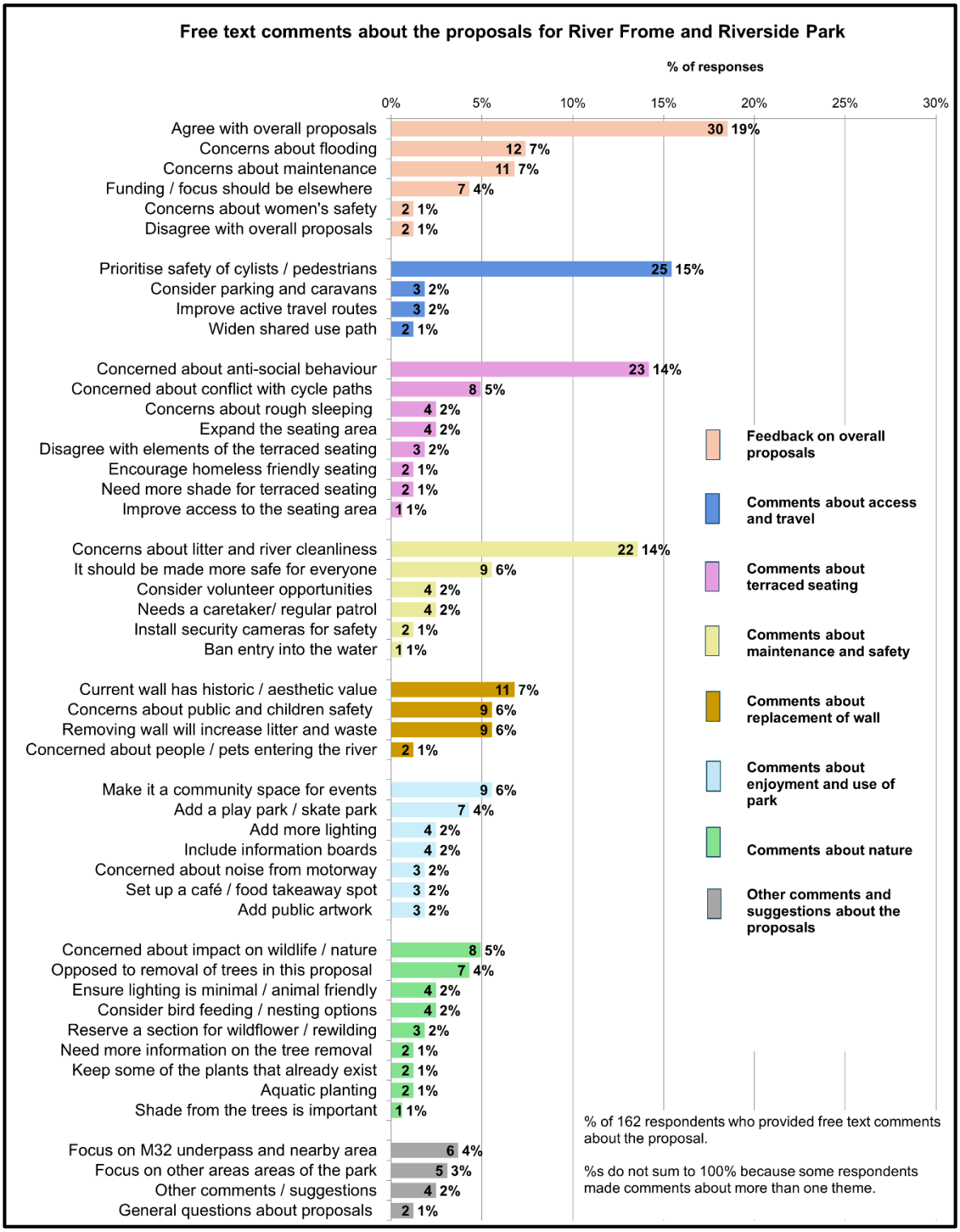


6 Other comments or suggestions about the proposals for River Frome and Riverside Park

6.1 Overview

Of the 259 respondents, 161 provided free text responses with other comments or suggestions about the proposals. Figure 18 shows a summary of the themes to this question

Figure 18: Other comments or suggestions about the proposals for River Frome and Riverside Park



The main themes from the free text were:

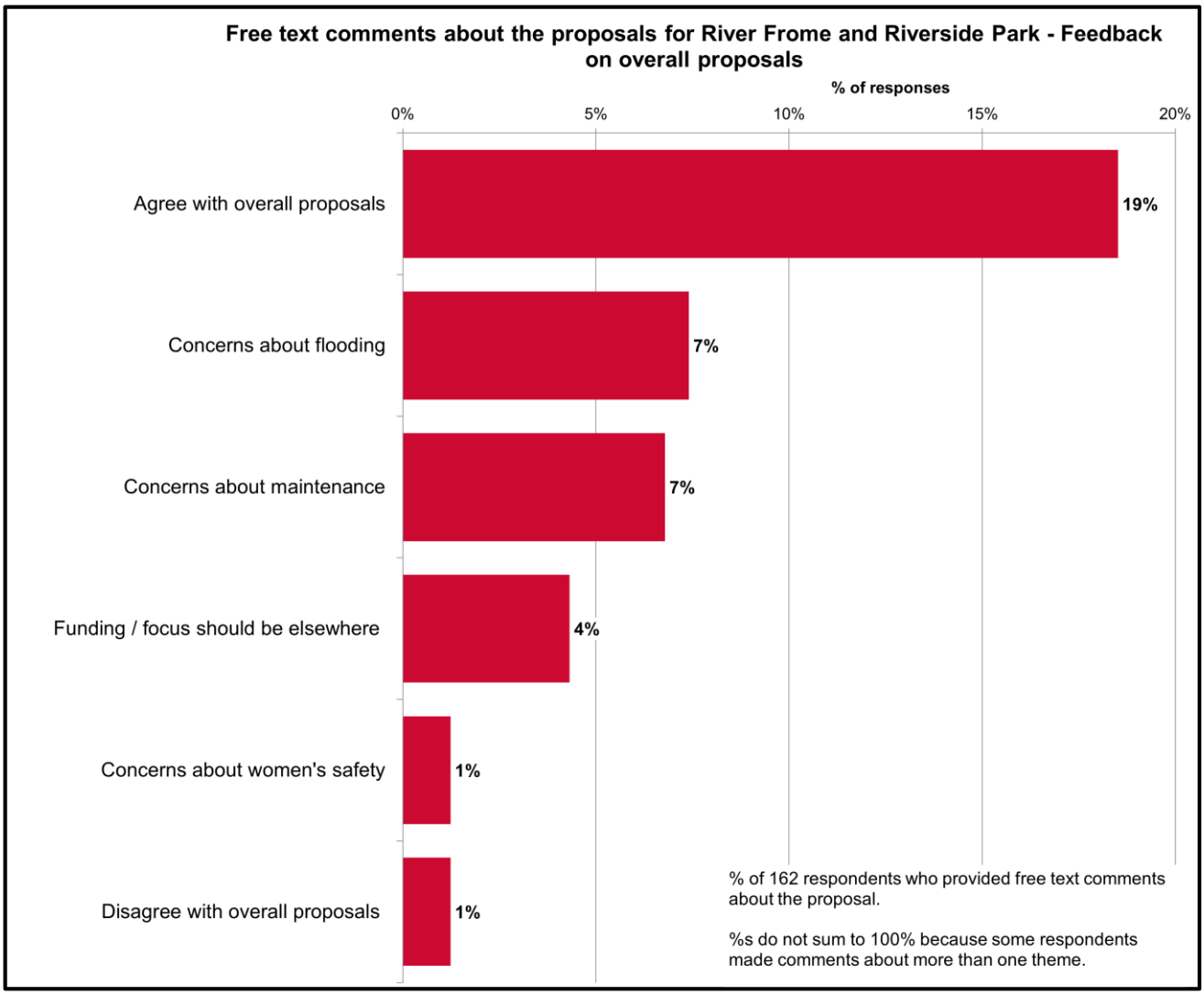
- **Feedback on the overall proposals.** This included whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposed improvements
- **Comments about access and travel.** The main theme was the need for a segregated cycle path
- **Comments about the terraced seating.** There were concerns about the increase of anti-social behaviour if seating is installed
- **Comments about maintenance and safety**

- **Comments about the replacement of the wall.** There were concerns replacing the wall would remove its heritage and historic value
- **Comments about the use of the park for enjoyment.** This included the suggestion to utilise the community space and build a children's play area
- **Comments about nature.** The main theme was concerns for how these proposals will impact wildlife and/ or nature in the area
- **Other comments or suggestions about the proposals.** The main suggestions were about the M32 underpass and surrounding area

6.1.1 Feedback on the overall proposals

Figure 19 shows a breakdown of feedback from the 64 respondents who gave a free text response on the overall proposals.

Figure 19: Feedback on the overall proposals



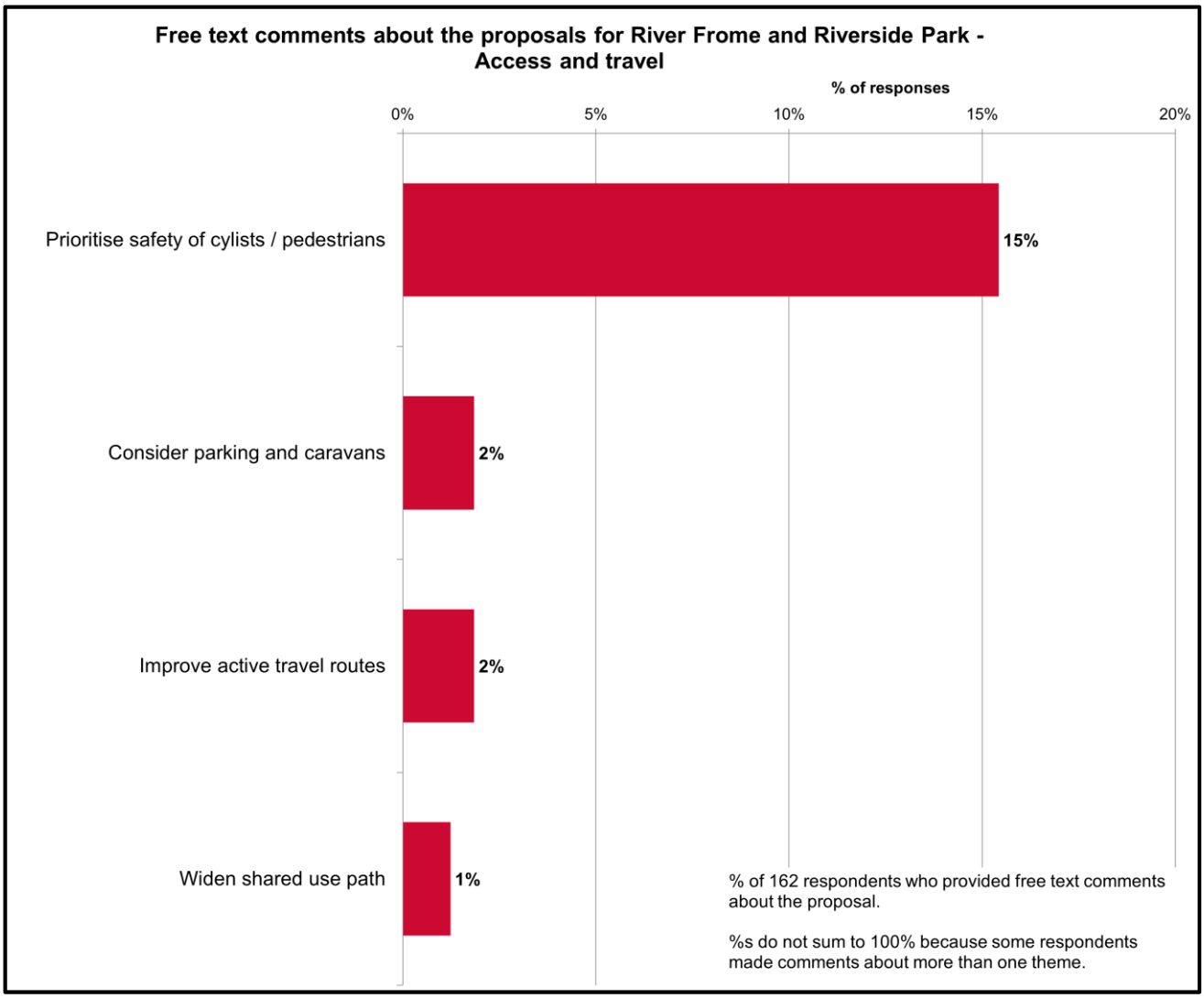
- 30 (19%) respondents agreed with the overall proposals. This included comments about how it currently feels unsafe and needs some improvement.
- 12 (7%) respondents had concerns about the proposals plans to address flooding. One comment had concerns about how flooding from the river would impact that route.

- 11 (7%) respondents had concerns about the maintenance of the work once it's been completed. This included comments and questions about how the council intend to look after it in the future.
- 7 (4%) respondents made comments about funding and resources should be used somewhere else.
- 2 (1%) respondents had concerns specifically about women's safety. Some of these comments talked about previous experiences in the area.
- 2 (1%) respondents made broad comments that disagreed with the overall proposals.

6.1.2 Access to travel

Figure 20 shows a breakdown of feedback from the 33 respondents who gave a free text response on access and travel.

Figure 20: Access and travel



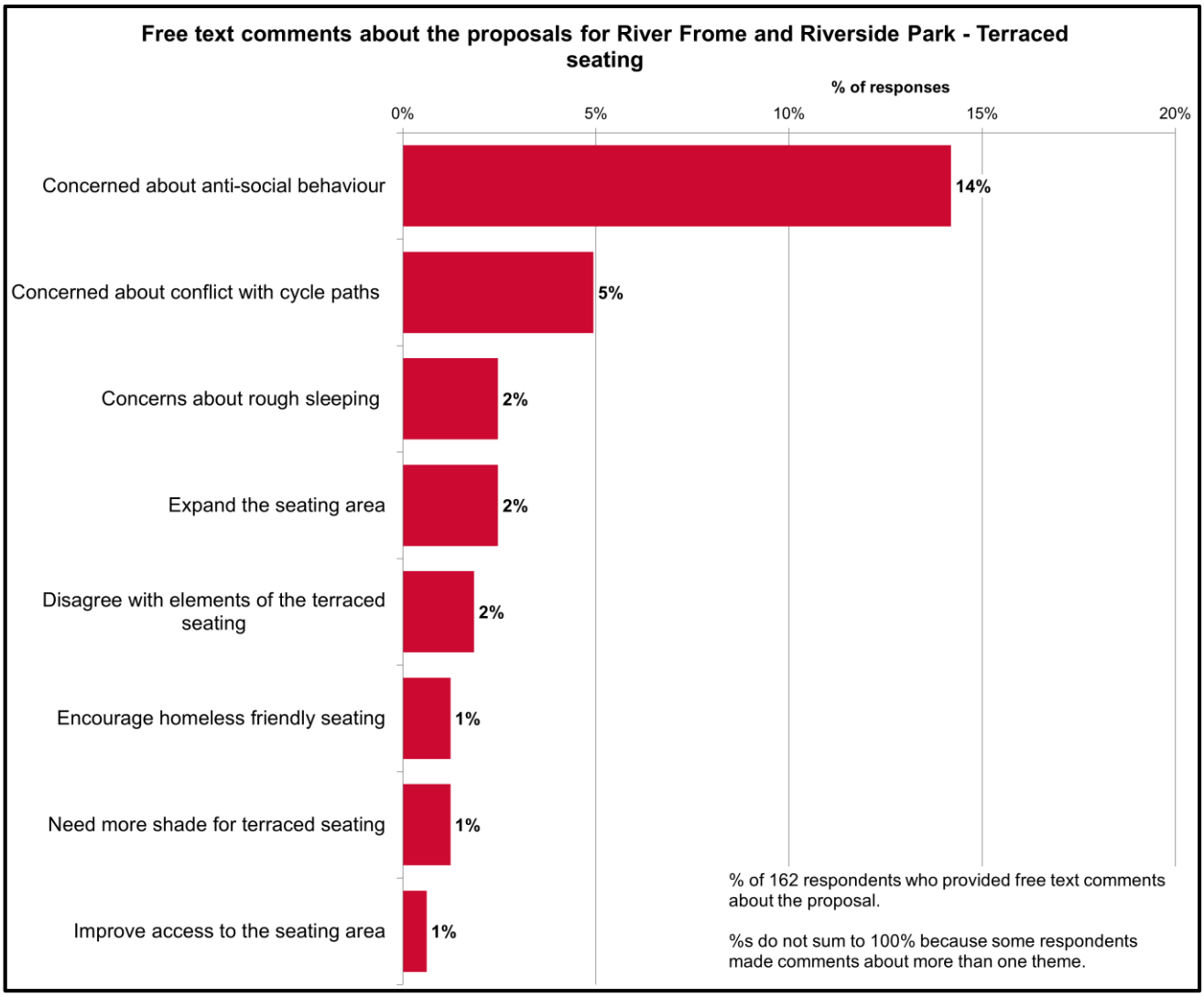
- 25 respondents (15%) made comments about needing a segregated cycle and footpath to prioritise safety of both pedestrians and cyclists. Comments suggested that this is a busy travel route, and segregation would help improve safety.

- 3 respondents (2%) said that there needs to be focus on parking and caravan parking in the area.
- 3 respondents (2%) made comments about needing to improve current active travel routes.
- 2 respondents (1%) said that the shared path needs to be widened.

6.1.3 Comments about terraced seating

Figure 21 shows a breakdown of the comments by 47 respondents who made comments about the proposed terraced seating.

Figure 21: Terraced Seating



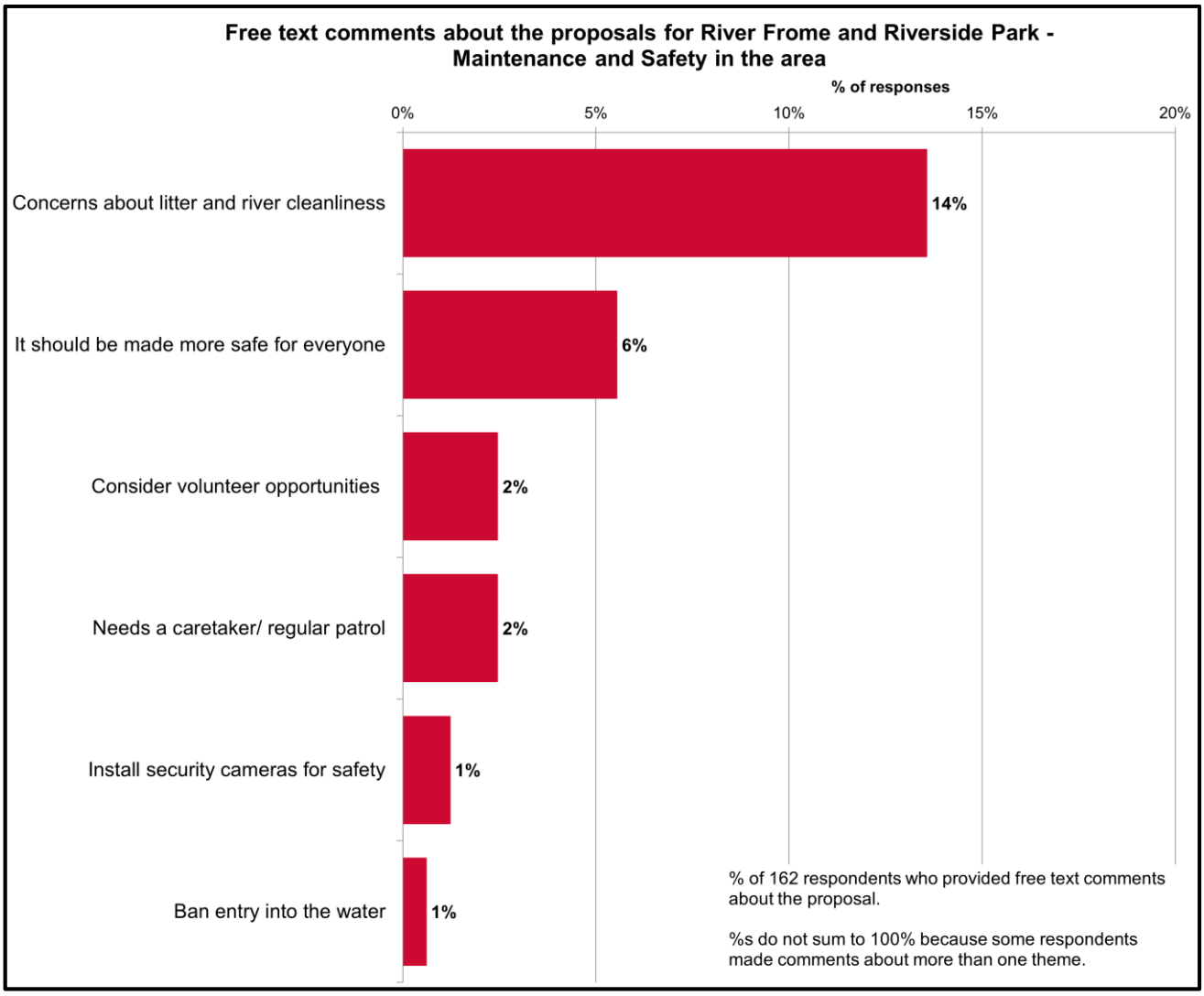
- 23 (14%) respondents had concerns about antisocial behaviour within the area if terraced seating is provided. Comments included how there is already a high prevalence of drug use and disruptive behaviour and providing seating could increase this.
- 8 (5%) respondents were concerned that the seating will conflict with the cycle path.
- 4 (2%) said they are concerned there will be an increase of rough sleeping in the area.

- 4 (2%) respondents said that the seating area should be expanded.
- 3 (2%) disagreed with elements of the seating area. This included the location of the seating.
- 2 (1%) suggested that seating should not deter those who are homeless and that the seating should be appropriate for those who may be rough sleeping.
- 2 (1%) said that shade for the terraced seating needs to be considered. One comment suggested the trees are important for this.
- 1 (1%) suggested that access to the terraced seating should be improved in the proposals.

6.1.4 Comments about maintenance and safety

Figure 22 shows a breakdown of comments by the 42 respondents who made comments about maintenance and safety in the area.

Figure 22: Comments about maintenance and safety



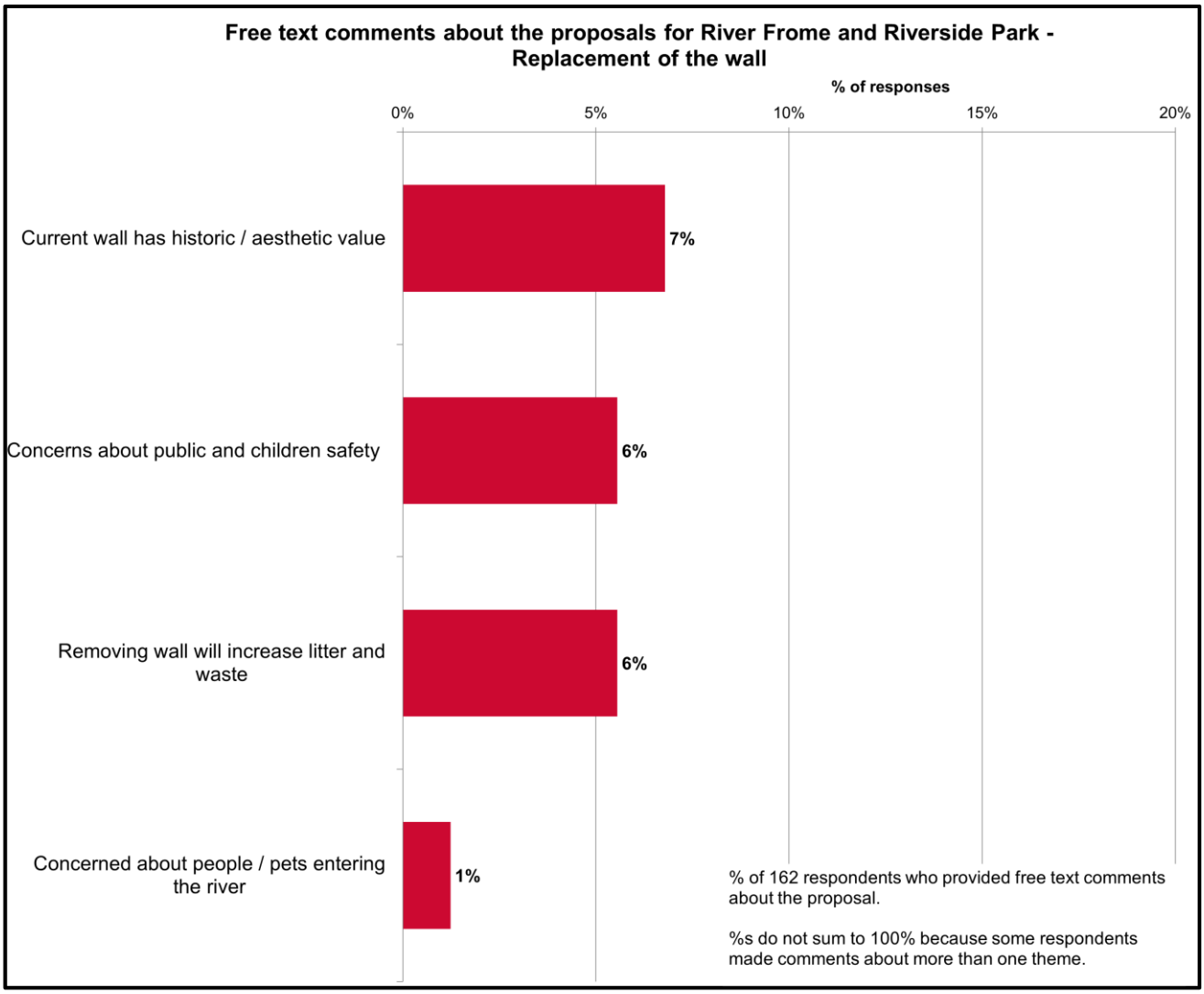
- 22 (14%) respondents had concerns about litter and river cleanliness. Comments included needing more bins in the area and regular litter picking to ensure the river and park are maintained and kept tidy.

- 9 (6%) made comments about the safety of the river and park area. Some comments suggested it needed to be safe for children and families.
- 4 (2%) suggested that is would be beneficial to offer volunteering opportunities. Respondents suggested that volunteers could contribute to the tidy up and ensuring the area remains clean.
- 4 (2%) respondents said that there should be regular patrols in the area to help with the maintenance and safety.
- 2 (1%) suggested cameras could be installed to increase safety.
- 1 (1%) said action needs to be taken to ensure people do not enter the water.

6.1.5 Comments about the replacement of the wall

Figure 23 shows a breakdown of the 31 respondents who made comments about the replacement of the wall.

Figure 23: Comments about the replacement of the wall



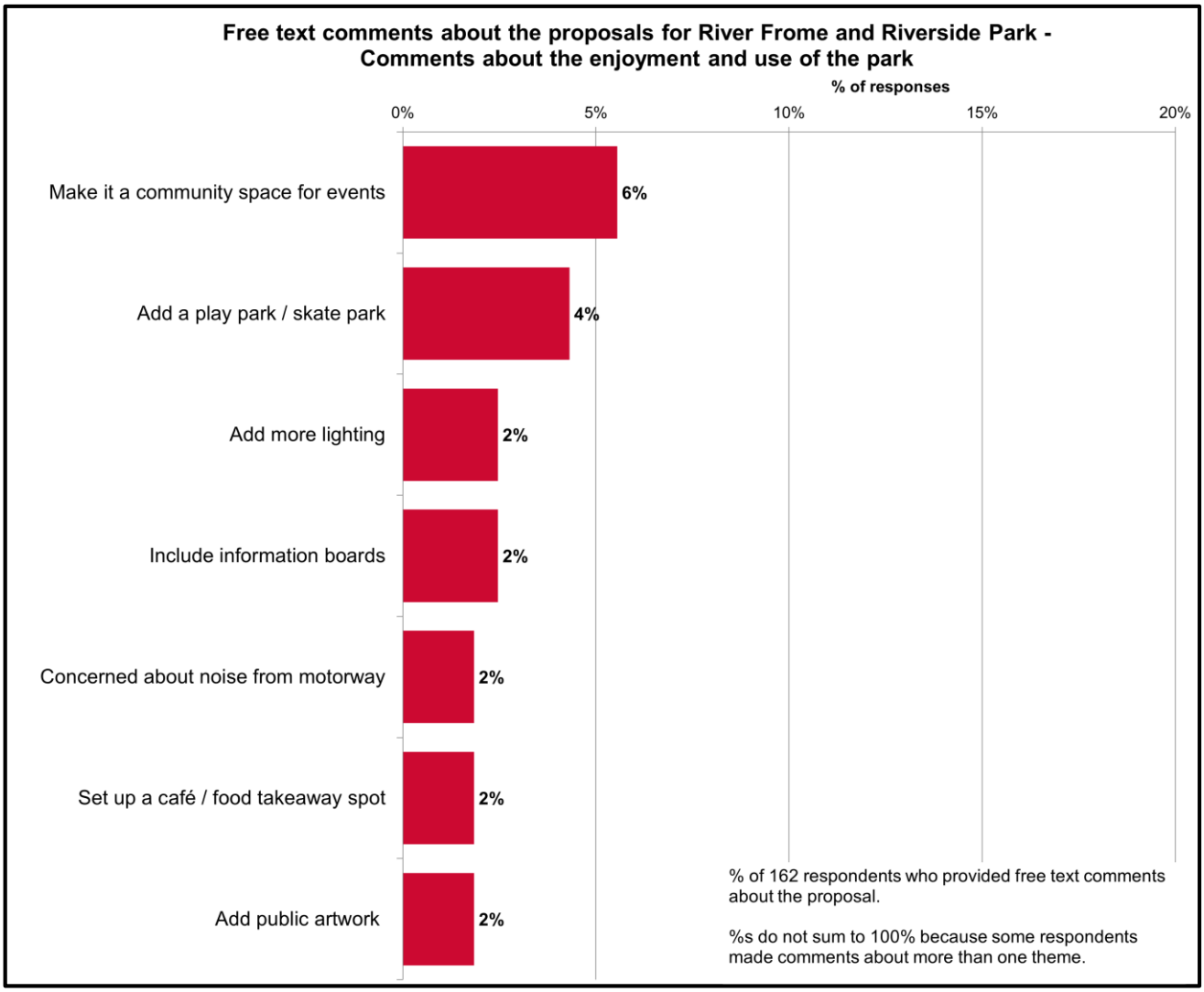
- 11 (7%) respondents made comments about the walls heritage and are concerned that replacing the wall will get rid of the historic element. Some respondents also suggested a wall is nicer to look at than railings.

- 9 (6%) had concerns about public safety. This included comments about the potential fall risk imposed by railings.
- 9 (6%) respondents said that removing the wall will increase litter and waste thrown into the river.
- 2 (1%) had concerns that railings would encourage people and/ or pets to enter into the river.

6.1.6 Comments about enjoyment and use of the park

Figure 24 shows a breakdown of the 33 respondents who made comments about the enjoyment and use of the park.

Figure 24: Comments about enjoyment and use of the park

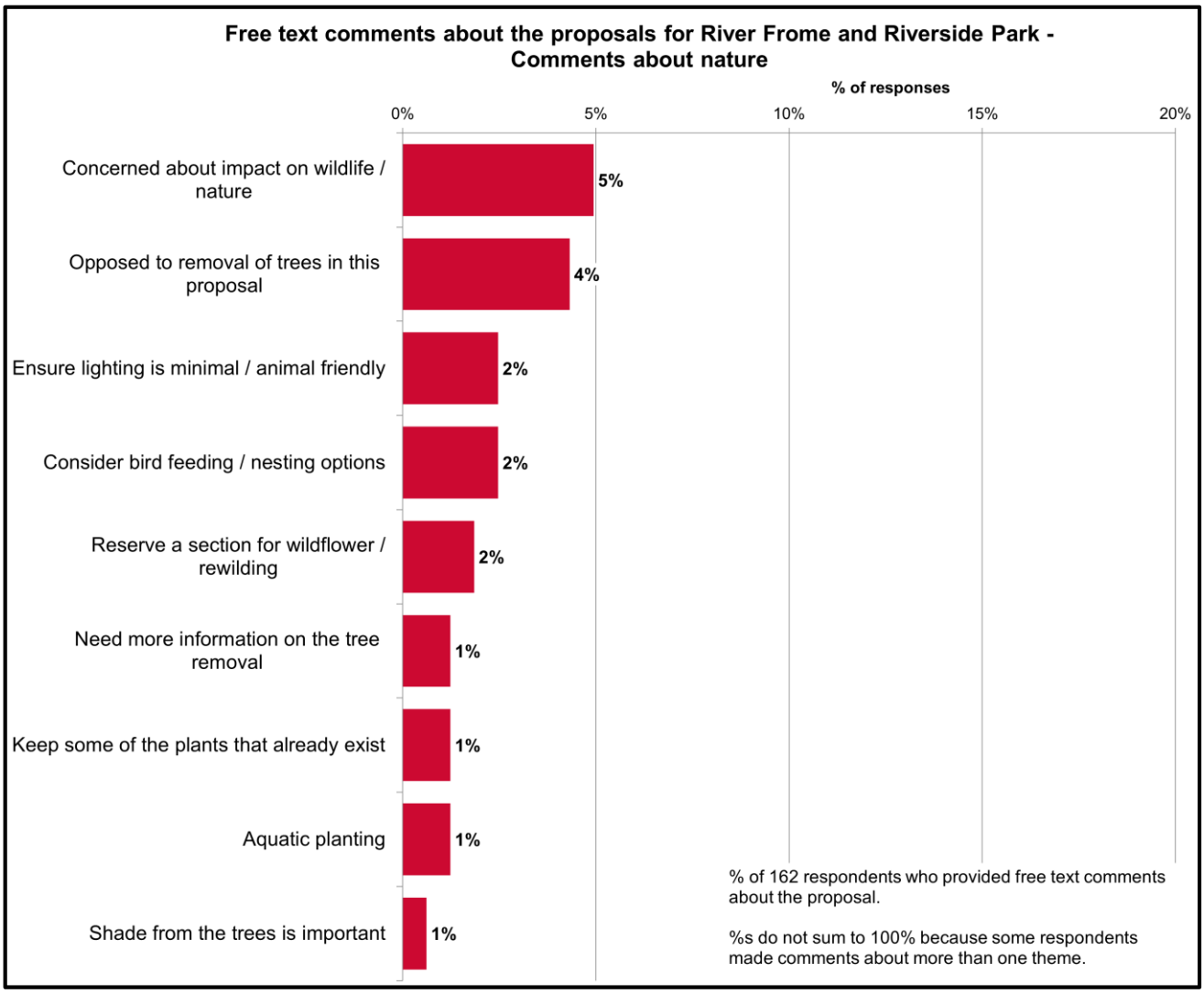


- 9 (6%) suggested making it a community space for events. Some respondents said that it would make it a more welcoming area.
- 7 (4%) mentioned the idea of building a children's play area.
- 4 (2%) suggested the area needs more lighting.
- 4 (2%) respondents said it would be beneficial to provide information boards for visitors. Some respondents said this would help educate people on the heritage and history of the river and park.
- 3 (2%) said that there are concerns the park could be affected by motorway noise.
- 3 (2%) highlighted that the space could open a café and/ or takeaway food premises.
- 3 (2%) said they would like to see public artwork used in the area.

6.1.7 Comments about nature

Figure 25 shows a breakdown of the 33 respondents who made comments about nature.

Figure 25: Comments about nature

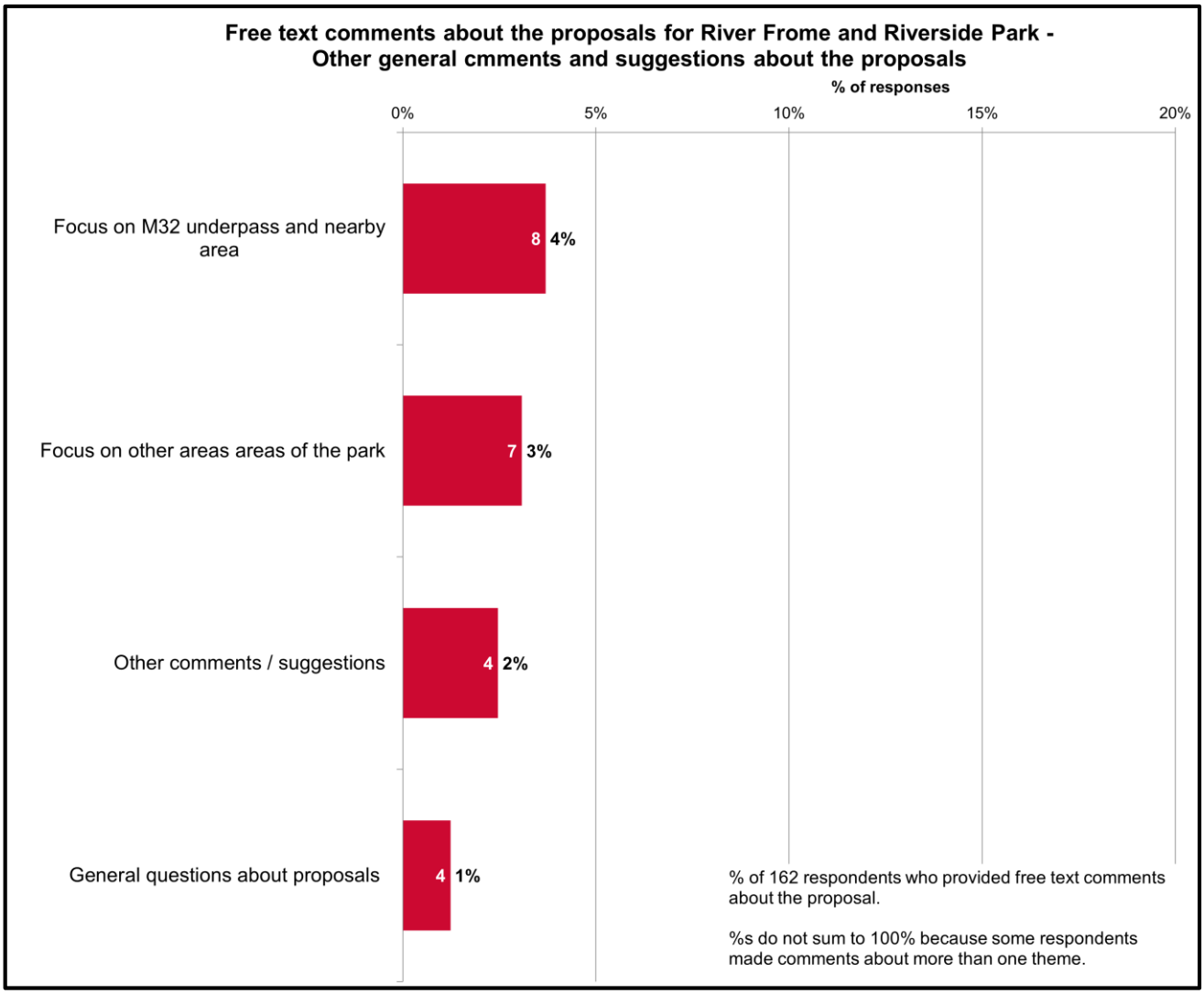


- 8 (5%) respondents highlighted concern for wildlife and/ or nature in the area. This includes concerns that if the wall is replaced by railings, wildlife may negatively be impacted by people.
- 7 (4%) are opposed to the removal of trees.
- 4 (2%) highlighted that the new lighting will need to be animal friendly.
- 4 (2%) suggested that it would be beneficial to consider bird feeding/ nesting in the area.
- 3 (2%) respondents suggested reserving a section of the park for wildflower/ rewilding.
- 2 (1%) said that more information was needed to decide about the removal of the trees.
- 2 (1%) said that some plants that already exist should be left.
- 2 (1%) made comments about aquatic planting.
- 1 (1%) highlighted the importance of the shade offered by current trees.

6.1.8 Other comments and suggestions about the proposals

Figure 26 shows a breakdown of the 17 respondents who made other comments and suggestions about the proposals.

Figure 26: Other comments and suggestions about the proposals



- 6 (4%) suggested there needs to be focus on the M32 underpass and nearby areas.
- 5 (3%) felt that other areas of the park should also be looked at.
- 4 (2%) had other comments and suggestions that did not relate to the broad themes.
- 2 (1%) had general questions about the proposal and did not fit into the broad themes.

7 Impact of the proposals because of protected characteristics

7.1 Scale of effects

Respondents were asked what effect, if any, the proposals would have on them because of their protected characteristics[4]. Of the 259 respondents to the survey, 219 (85%) answered the question. Of these:

- 3 (1%) said the proposals would have a very negative effect
- 9 (4%) said the proposals would have a slightly negative effect
- 154 (70%) said the proposals would have no effect
- 22 (10%) said the proposals would have a slightly positive effect
- 31 (14%) said the proposals would have a very positive effect.

7.2 Reasons why the proposals would affect people because of protected characteristics

Respondents were also asked to explain how they believe the proposals would have an impact on themselves or others. The 27 respondents who provided a free text response, highlighted the following impacts.

- Gender- Most respondents highlighted that women would feel safer in the park if these proposals are implemented.
- Disability – Respondents highlighted the impact the proposal could have on disabled individuals due to accessibility and parking in the area

[4] The protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; race including colour; nationality, ethnic or national origin; religion or belief; sex; gender reassignment; sexual orientation; being married or in a civil partnership; being pregnant or on maternity leave.

8 How will this report be used?

The findings of this report will be used to feed into the detail design process

How can I keep track?

You can find the latest consultation and engagement surveys online on the council's Consultation and Engagement Hub (https://www.bristol.gov.uk/ask). You can also email resilientfrome@bristol.gov.uk If you would like to sign up to receive automated email notifications about consultations and engagement, you can do this at www.bristol.gov.uk/askbristolnewsletter