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DORCHESTER MARKETS INFORMAL JOINT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Cllrs Laura Beddow, Simon Gibson, Janet Hewitt, Susie Hosford, Nick Ireland, Stella Jones, Fiona Kent-Ledger, Mary Penfold, Molly Rennie, Kate Reid and Roland Tarr

Apologies: Cllrs Dave Bolwell and Simon Christopher

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Kevin Evans (Senior Accountant (Place)), Graham Duggan (Head of Community & Public Protection), Steve Newman (Town Clerk), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Hannah Massey (Lawyer - Regulatory) and Christopher Peck (Principal Transport Planner)

1. **Election of Chairman**

Proposed by Cllr Hosford, seconded by Cllr Beddow.

Decision

That Cllr Rennie be appointed as Chairman for the remainder of the Year 2023/24.

2. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Gibson.

Decision

That Cllr Beddow be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the Year 2023/24.

3. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bolwell and Cllr Christopher.

4. **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2023 be confirmed and signed.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Penfold declared that her son occasionally had a stall at South Street and Dorchester Market. She did not take part in any decisions relating to the markets where her son had a stall.

6. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

7. **Financial Outturn Report 2022/23**

The Senior Accountant introduced the Financial Outturn report. He outlined the budget that was set and the actual outturn. There was a minor overspend £781.

A member asked a question around dereliction and graffiti on the Fairfield market site. He was assured that there was a budget for repairs and maintenance.

Proposed by Cllr Beddow, seconded by Cllr Hewitt.

Decision

That the income and expenditure statement for 2022/23 be approved.

8. **Market Operator Report**

Panel members received a verbal report from Grant Jones of Cornhill Market. The report included creating a website for the Cornhill market.

In response to questions from members, Mr Jones confirmed that the cost for charity stalls would be free and that up to 17 stalls could be located at the Cornhill market.

Members discussed the use of the area outside Barclays Bank on South Street for charities and collections.

The Head of Community and Public Protection gave a verbal report on Fairfield Market on behalf of Ensors Ltd. The report included financial details, the cost of market stalls for traders, trading numbers, and footfall.

The Panel discussed the report; the following areas were discussed:

- The fees for market pitches in covered and outdoor areas.
- A need to be aware of a decrease in people visiting the market.
- Health and safety issues at the indoor market area.
- Repairs needed to the indoor market building.
- Insurance at the Fairfield market site and the lease to Ensors Ltd.

- People visiting by coach were not walking through town if they were dropped off at the market.

9. **Sunday Market Proposal**

The Panel received information from Jules Bradburn of The Sherborne Market Ltd about proposals for a market in Dorchester. The proposed market would take place on a Sunday, and it would consist of local traders who sell unique or handmade items, as well as 'suitcase stalls.' Similar markets in Sherborne and Shaftesbury have grown to have 200 traders and has created increased footfall in the towns.

Members asked questions and discussed the proposals. The following points were raised:

- The area the market would cover would move people through different areas of the town.
- The market could be placed on land managed by Dorchester Town Council.
- Sherborne Market Ltd would provide pitches, marketing, social media, and security.
- There would be a strict policy on traders leaving litter.
- Local charities would be present at the market.
- Possibilities for opening the County Hall car park at weekends.
- Each town council gets a set number of days per year for free parking.

Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Beddow

Decision:

1. That the proposal for a Sunday market be recommended to the Dorchester Town Council Management Committee
2. That the charitable element of funding be allocated to the Car Boot Fund.

10. **Fairfield Road Works Update**

The Principal Transport Planner gave a presentation on works at Fairfield Road. The presentation, which is attached to these minutes, included responses from a recent public consultation and proposed timescales for the works at Fairfield Road.

Cllr Jones and Cllr Penfold did not take part in this item because they were members of the Northern Area Planning Committee.

In response to a question about archaeological work around Fairfield Road, officers confirmed that this was in connection with a lighting scheme.

Decision:

That authority be delegated to the Town Clerk and the Head of Community and Public Protection, in consultation with the Chair of the Panel, to make amendments to the lease in connection with this work.

11. **Update on the Linneys Development Proposal**

The Panel received an update from Toby Frere on a development proposal for the Linneys. A report was written by Southampton University which concluded that the Linneys would be able to provide areas that could be used as a start-up space. The ideas for development of the Linneys were outlined, including changing the internal size of the Linneys, creating a vibrant space, and ensuring that local residents would not be affected.

Members commented on the proposal. Comments included suggestions for types of businesses that could use the Linneys and that the proposal would be good for regeneration.

Members supported the principle of the proposal.

At this point in the meeting members agreed to extend the meeting beyond 2 hours.

12. **Appointments To The Car Boot Grants Panel**

The Panel considered appointments to the Car Boot Grants Panel.

Proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Kent-Ledger.

Decision

That Cllrs Rennie, Beddow, Hosford, and Worth be appointed to the Car Boot Grants Panel for the Year 2023/24.

13. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

14. **Exempt Business**

Decision

That in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and the public be excluded for the following item(s) in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Reason for taking the item in private:

Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

15. **Future Operation of the Market**

The Town Clerk introduced the report on the future operation of the market.

Members asked questions on the contents of the report.

Proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Jones.

Decision

That further work be undertaken in regard to the issues set out in the report.

Duration of meeting: 5.30 - 7.47 pm

Chairman

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Fairfield Road Active Travel improvement

**Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel
27 September 2023**

**Chris Peck
Principal Transport Planner**

**Kerry Hall
Assistant Project Manager**

Summary

- Public engagement
- Summary of consultation report
- Detailed design – highway scheme
- Draft sketch – public realm element
- Issues arising
- Timescales

Public engagement on Fairfield Road

- 9/1/2023 – Dorchester Town Council Planning & Environment Committee
- 25/1/2023 – Dorchester Informal Markets Joint Panel
 - Feedback:
 - » move footway to northern side of the road
 - » make sure access onto Maumbury Road is improved
 - » look at Upper Fairfield Road safety
- Online consultation ran from 16/2/23 – 17/3/23
- 14/3/23 - Meeting with Dorchester Access Group
- May 2023 – Consultation Report published
- June 2023 – Further update provided to Dorchester Town Council
- September 2023 – Planning Application underway

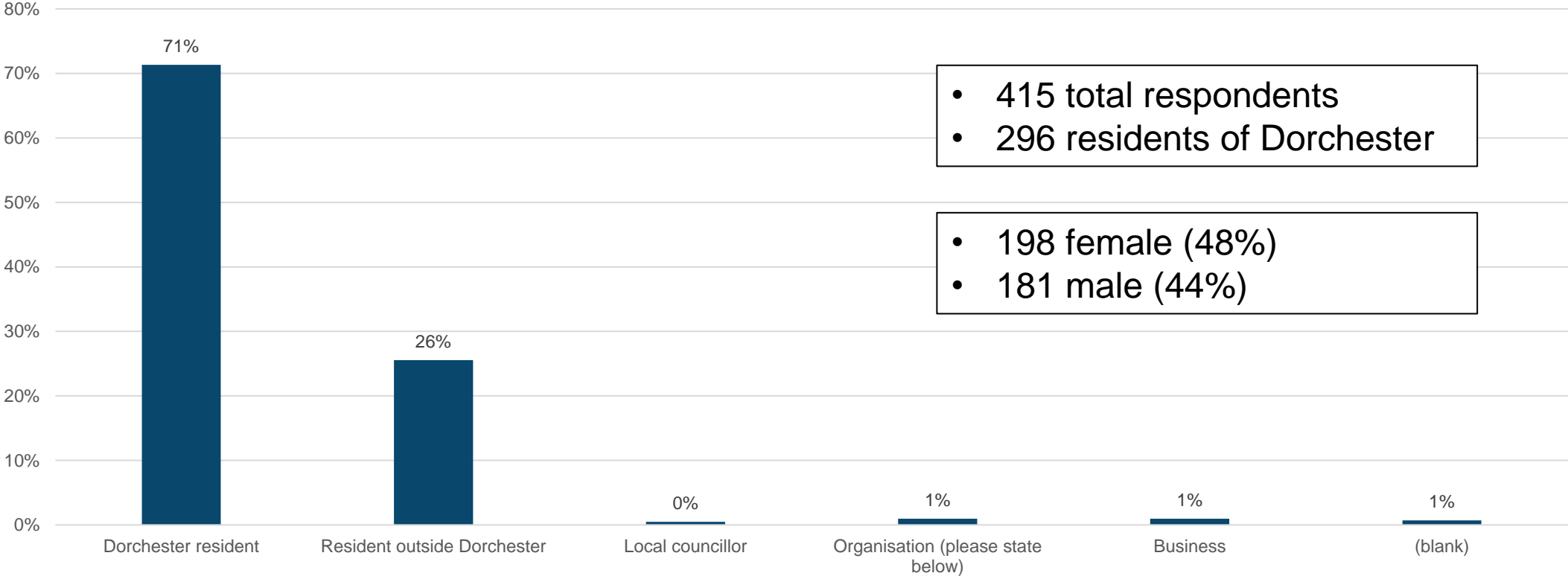
Public consultation questions

Respondents asked to what they agreed with the following elements:

- A dedicated footway along Fairfield Road
- A way to access the car park directly from the railway station (Copper Street)
- Safer crossing points across Fairfield Road at junctions
- Restricting vehicle access to Fairfield Road (Weymouth Avenue)
- Benches, planters and habitat improvements on Fairfield Road
- Better street lighting on Fairfield Road

Who responded

Tell us who you are

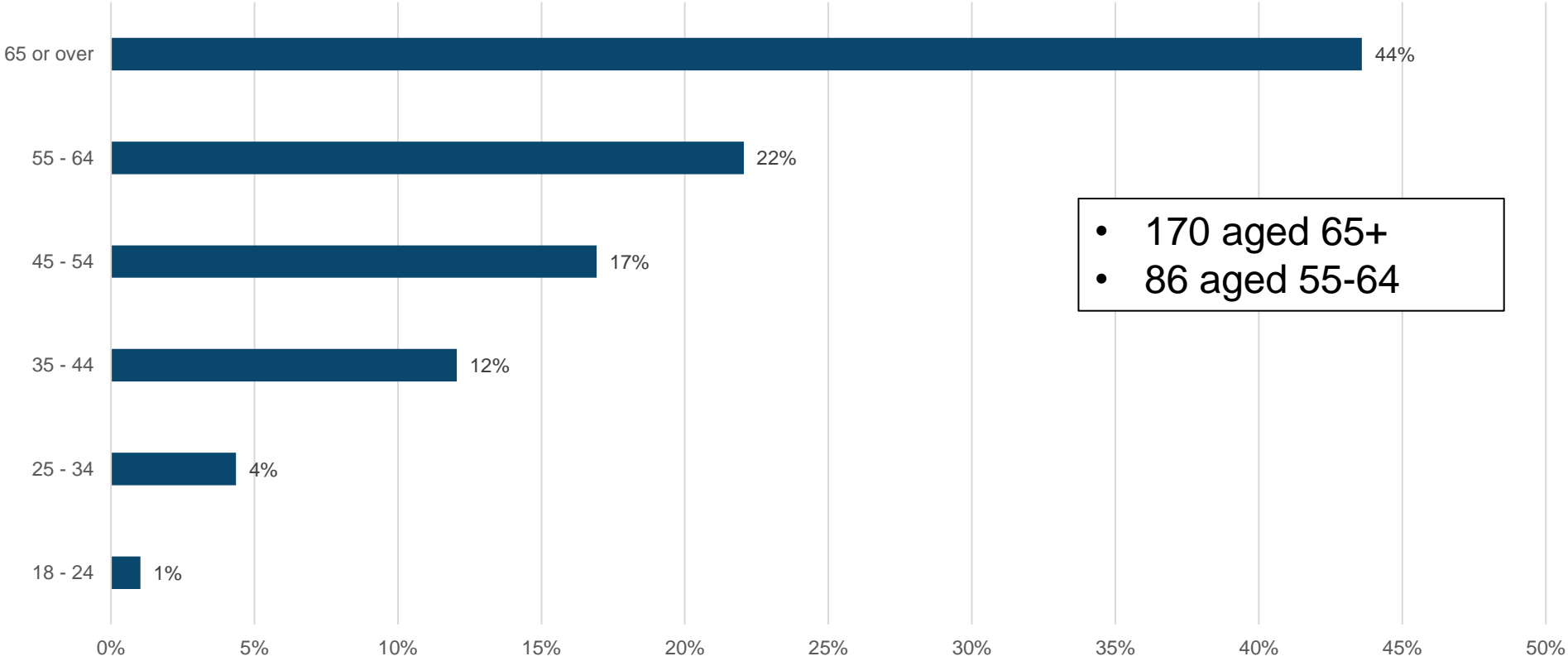


- 415 total respondents
- 296 residents of Dorchester

- 198 female (48%)
- 181 male (44%)

Who responded: age

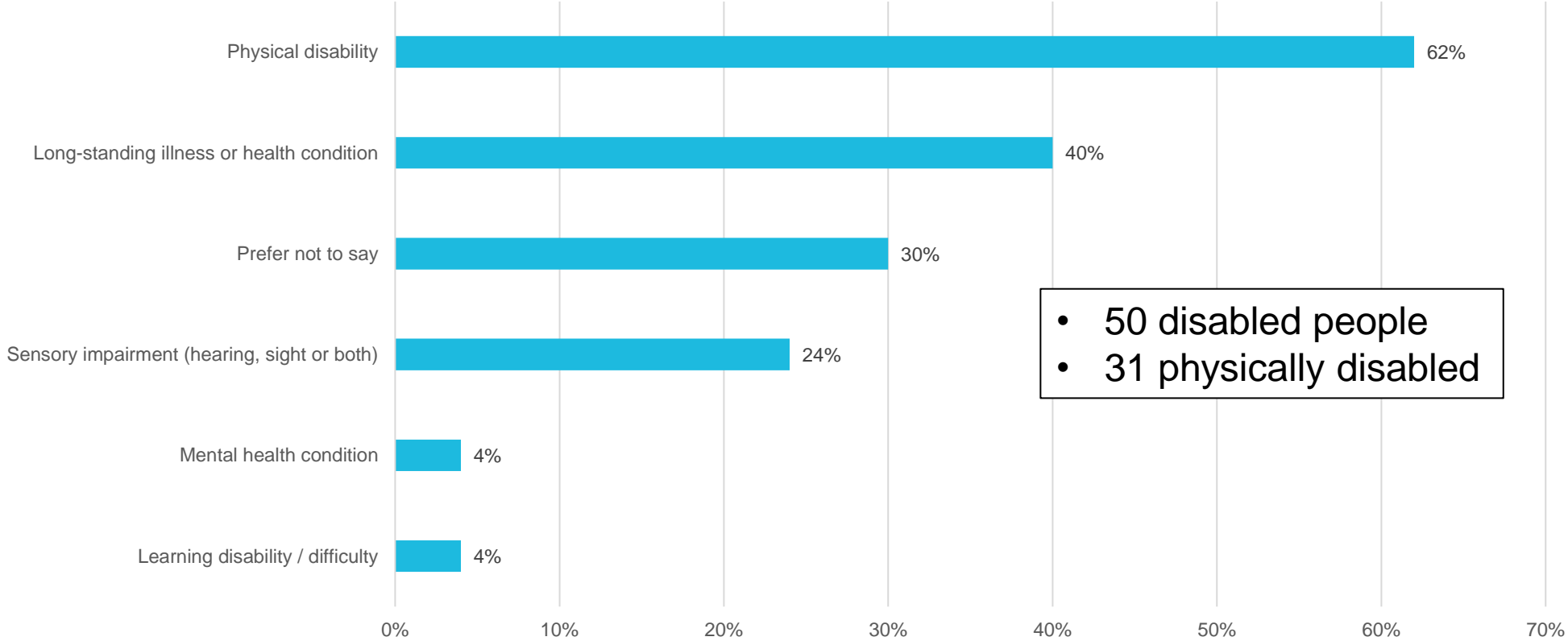
Which age group do you belong to?



- 170 aged 65+
- 86 aged 55-64

Who responded: disabled people

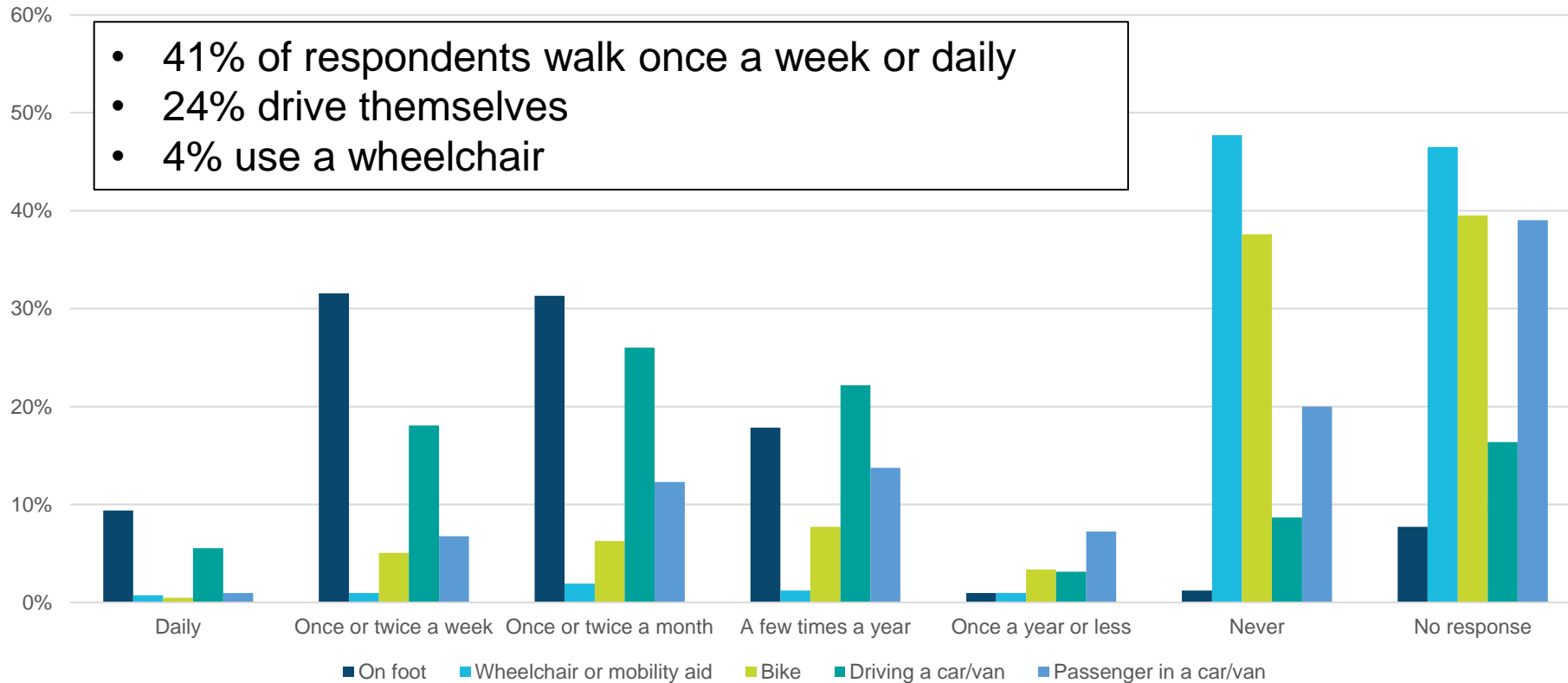
Type of impairment



- 50 disabled people
- 31 physically disabled

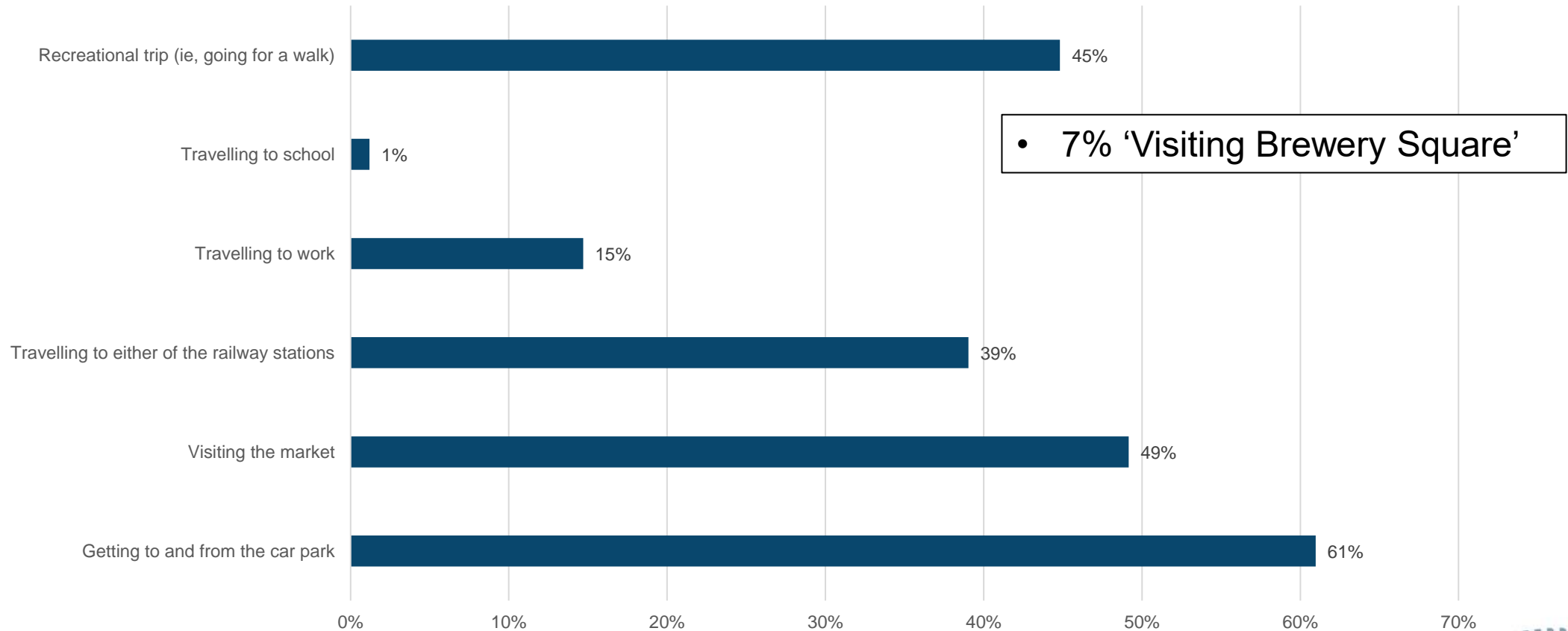
How people use Fairfield Road now

How do you travel on Fairfield Road at the moment?



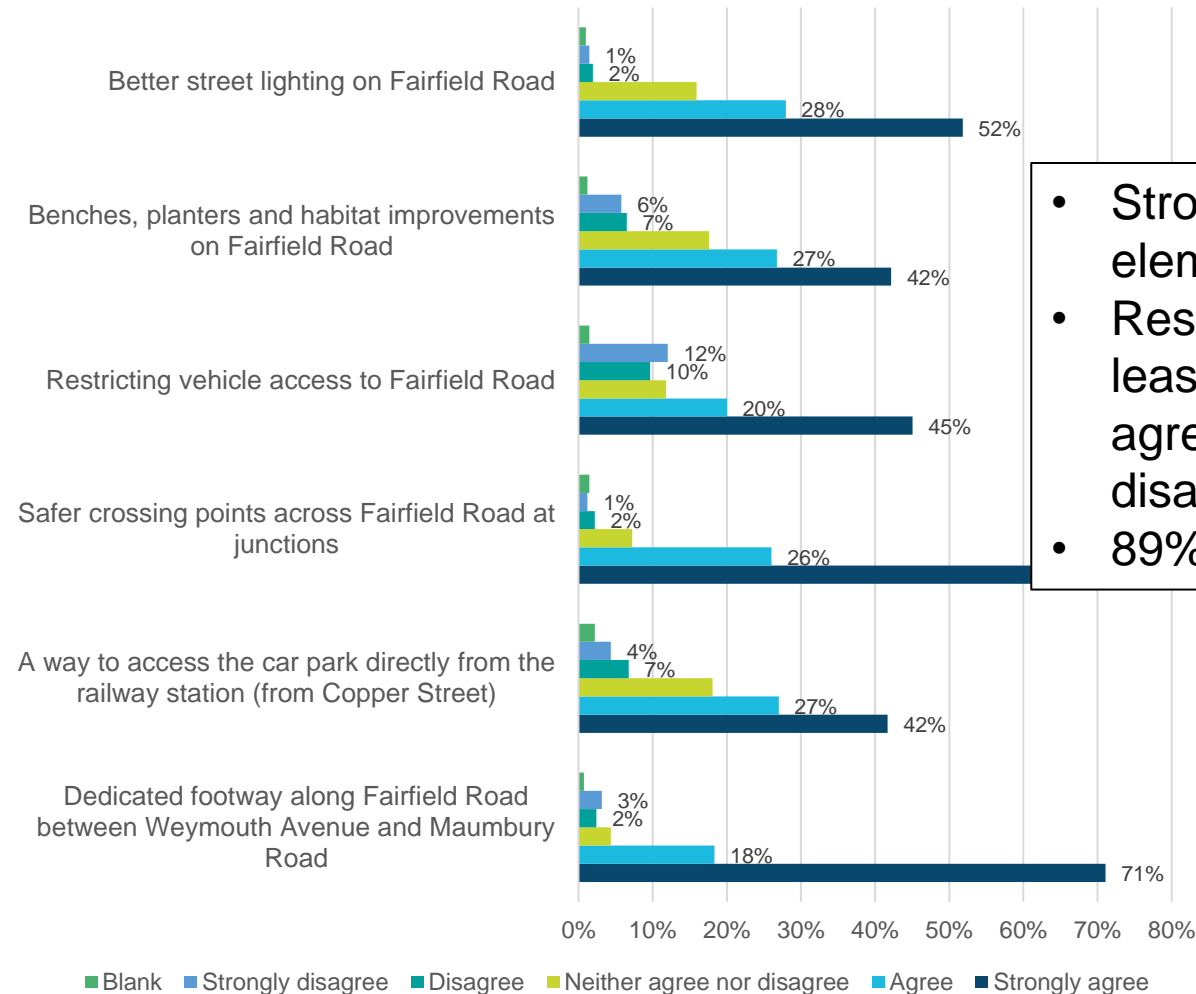
How people use Fairfield Road now

When you use Fairfield Road, what are you doing?



Agreement with scheme elements

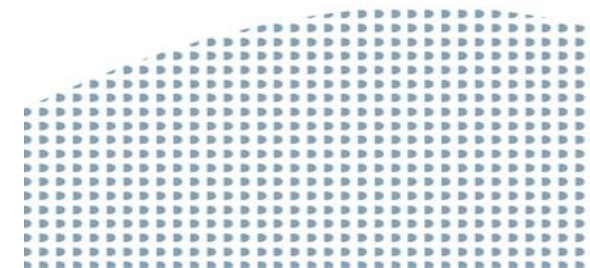
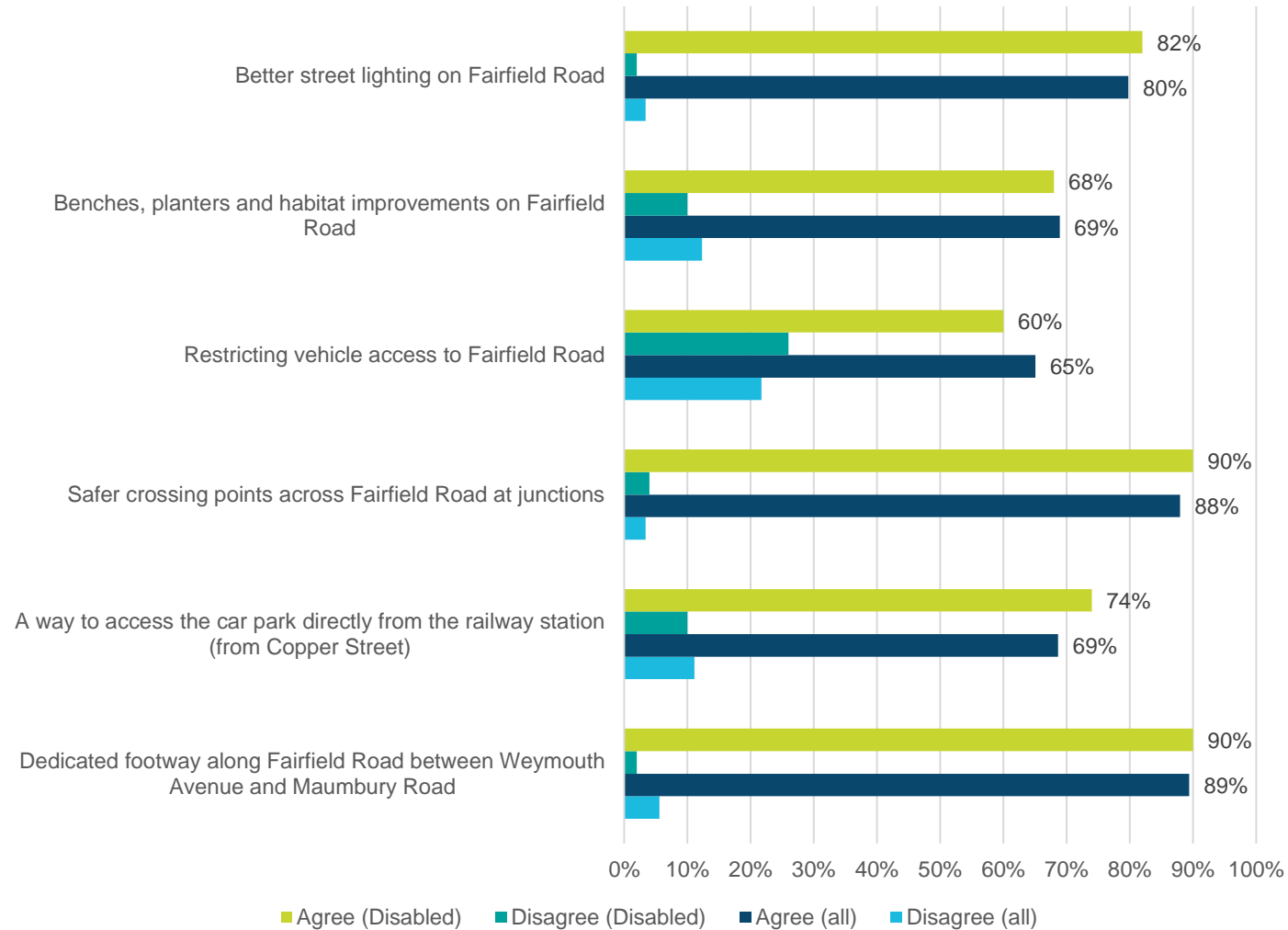
How do you feel about the individual aspects of the proposal?

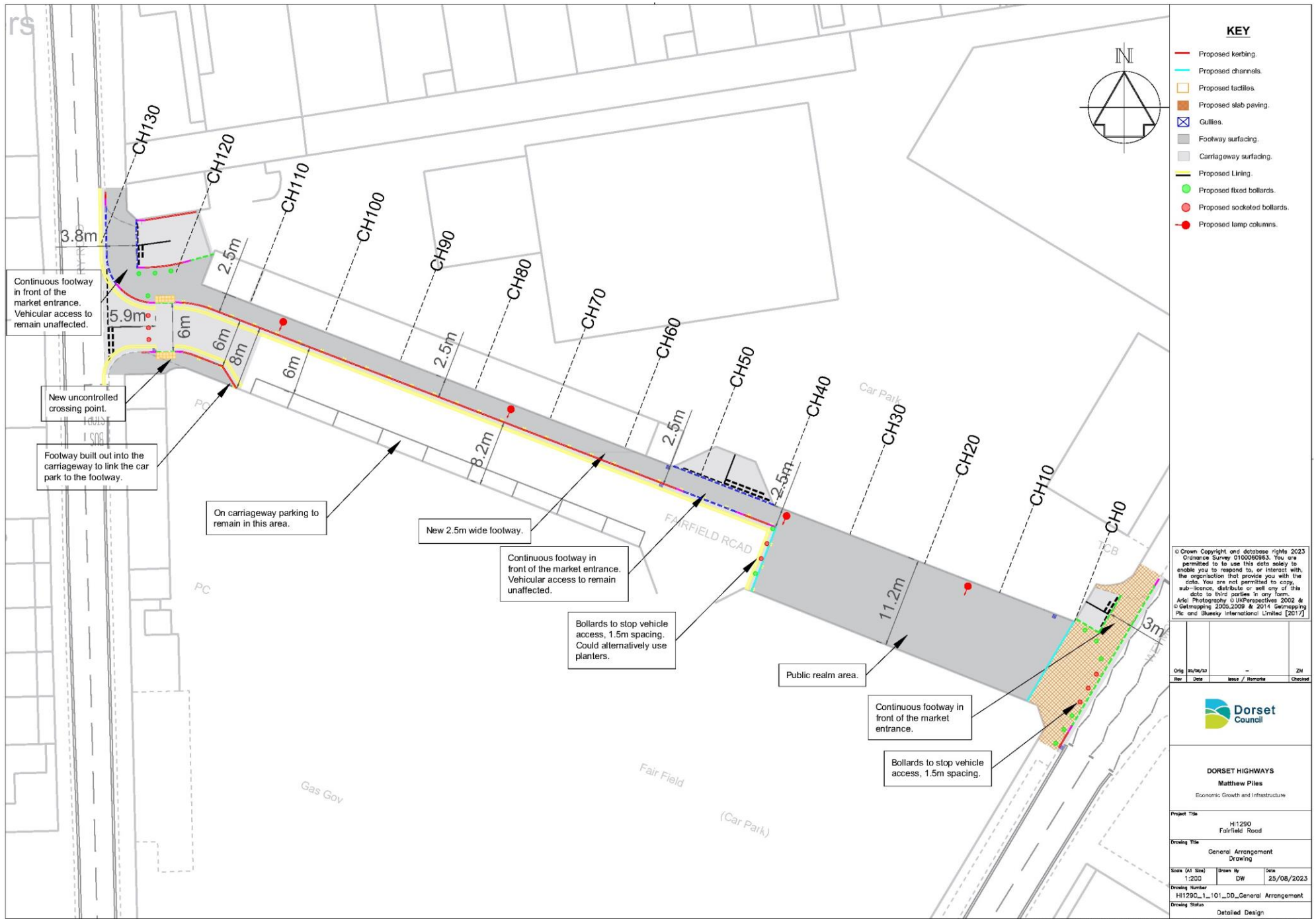


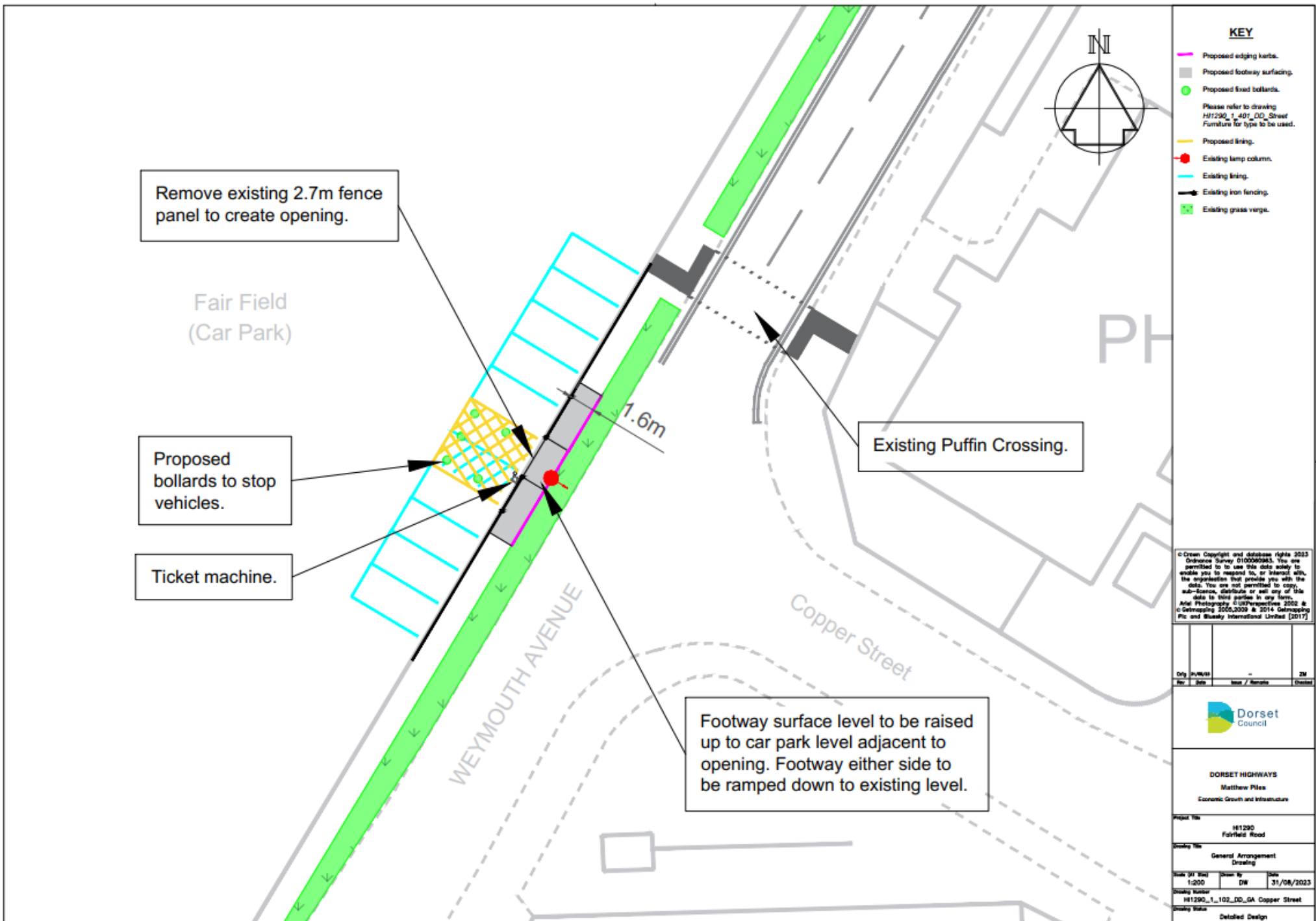
- Strong support for all elements.
- Restricting vehicle access least supported, but still 65% agreements to 22% disagreement
- 89% agreement with footway

Agreement with scheme elements – disabled people

How do you feel about the individual aspects of the proposal? - all (415) vs disabled people (50)







Issues

- Scheme will require full planning permission.
- This will entail evidence of net biodiversity benefit and support preservation of the conservation area.
- Any substantial underground works will require archaeological supervision.
- All of these will entail additional costs.
- Current budget insufficient to cover full public realm scheme: a cheaper option is also under consideration using simpler materials.

Timescales

- Planning application – Oct / November / December 2023
- Footway / carriageway works – January / February / March 2024
- Further public engagement and design for the public realm scheme – 2024?

Questions

