

# **Consultation report**

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## **Major Highway improvement works across Basingstoke Public Consultation**

**Date: December 2015**

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## 1.0 Introduction

Hampshire County Council is embarking on eight major highway improvement schemes in Basingstoke, representing a £32 million investment in the area and being delivered from 2015 to 2018. The schemes have been designed to improve access, increase safety and reduce congestion in and around the town.

In July three public exhibitions were held detailing all eight schemes and were attended by Hampshire County Council officers. At the exhibition, residents and affected businesses had the opportunity to view plans and details of the proposed improvements, raise any concerns, gauge the level of support for the schemes and identify areas for further consideration with the officers who attended.

A public consultation was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> July to 13 August 2015 with a feedback form which could be returned at the event or via a freepost envelope. The questionnaire was also made available online along with the exhibition plans and information, which is still available to view on the scheme website (as of July 2015). Plans and questionnaires were also made available at Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

This report has been written with the aim of presenting the results of this questionnaire and categorising the qualitative data (written responses) into categories to present common themes in the concerns raised within the questionnaires.

Overall, there were:

- 112 questionnaires in total were received by Hampshire County Council's Strategic Transport team
- 21 of these responses were completed through the online questionnaire via the schemes website
- 62 of these responses were completed by residents having attended the exhibition
- 29 of these responses arising from an unofficial event (not organised by Hampshire County Council).

## 2.0 Summary of Results

From the responses to the questionnaires received, there appears to be a considerable level of support for the schemes and their objectives. The majority of the responses received that either didn't support the scheme or didn't support certain objectives were submitted online. These respondents may not have been attendance at the exhibitions, therefore perhaps did not have the chance to discuss their concerns with the Hampshire County Council representatives.

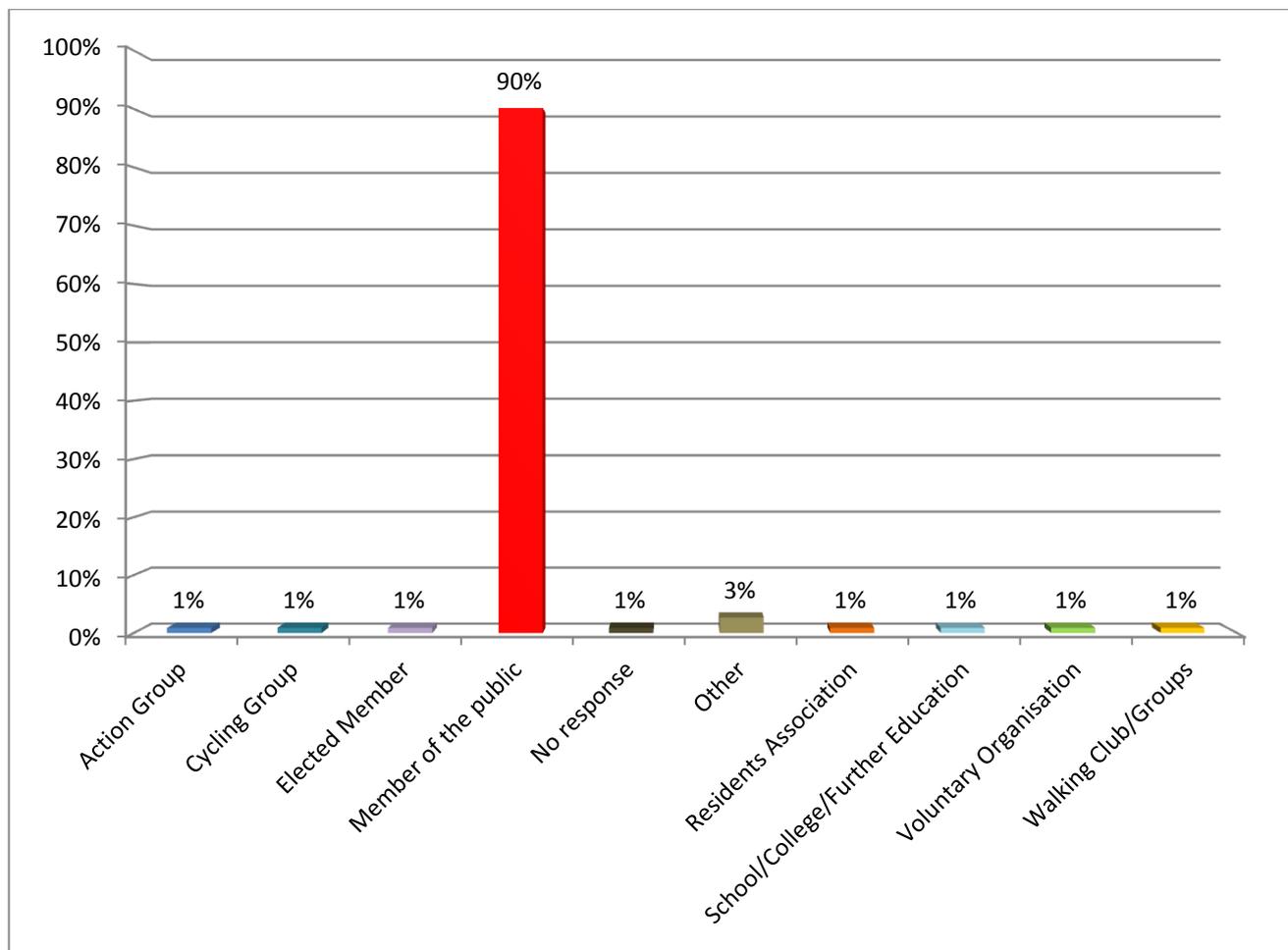
It should be noted that while all of the quantitative questions were answered, not all respondents gave qualitative (written) responses. Of the respondents that did provide qualitative responses, they may have made more than one point. Comments that were made once by a single respondent may not be able to be grouped into a common theme, but all were recorded.

Any comments sent via letter or email have not been combined with the questionnaire responses which were analysed as part of the process of putting together this report. This is because they may have been made by the same individual and/or could be difficult to categorise. However, all postal, email and telephone queries and comments are recorded.

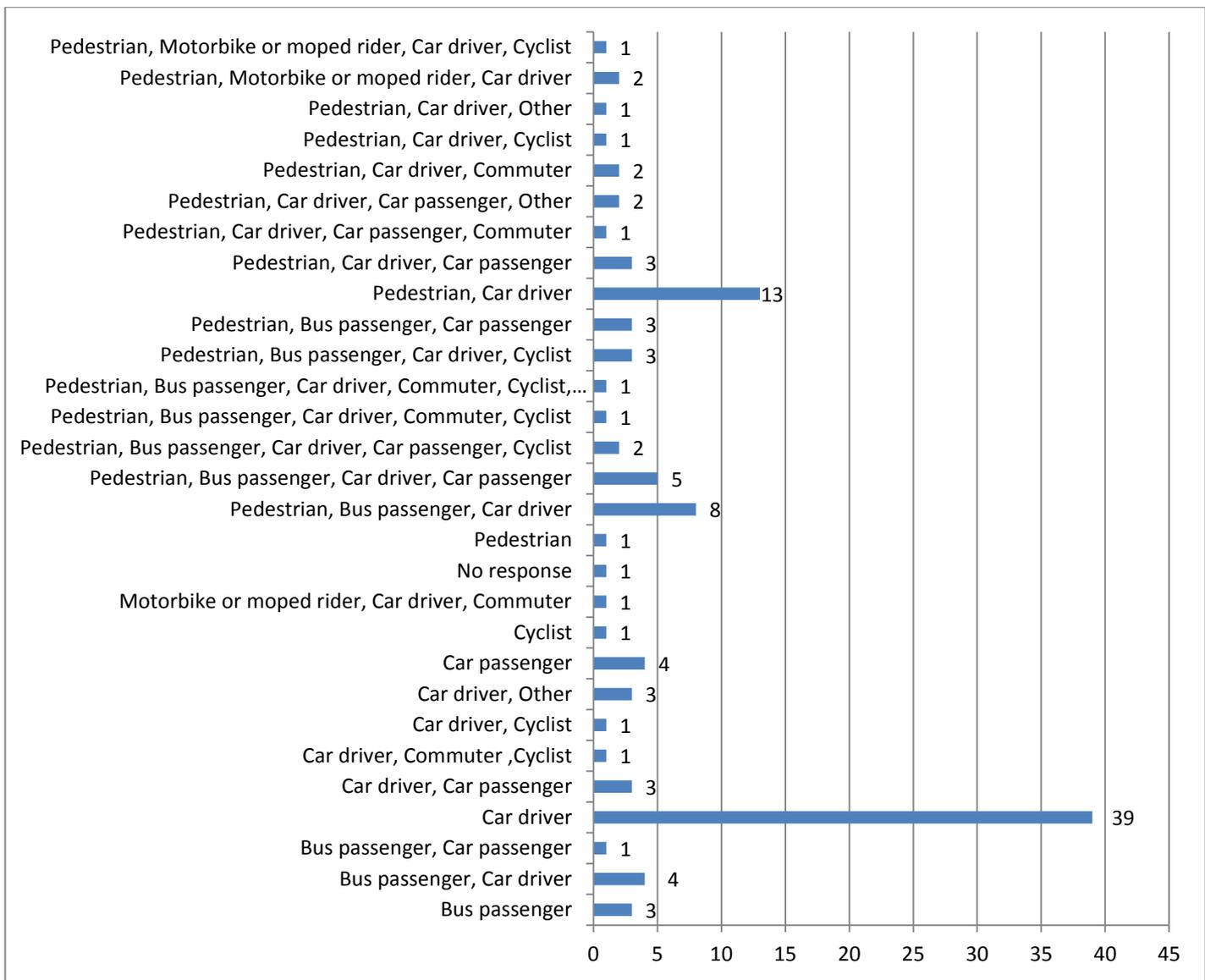
### 3.0 Analysis of Questionnaire Responses

Those who attended the public consultation were asked to complete a questionnaire which contained a series of open and multiple choice questions to gauge the level of support for the schemes, to provide an opportunity for the public and other stakeholders to raise any concerns and to identify areas for further consideration. Information regarding the schemes and the questionnaires was made available online, providing an opportunity for those who couldn't attend the public consultations to make comment.

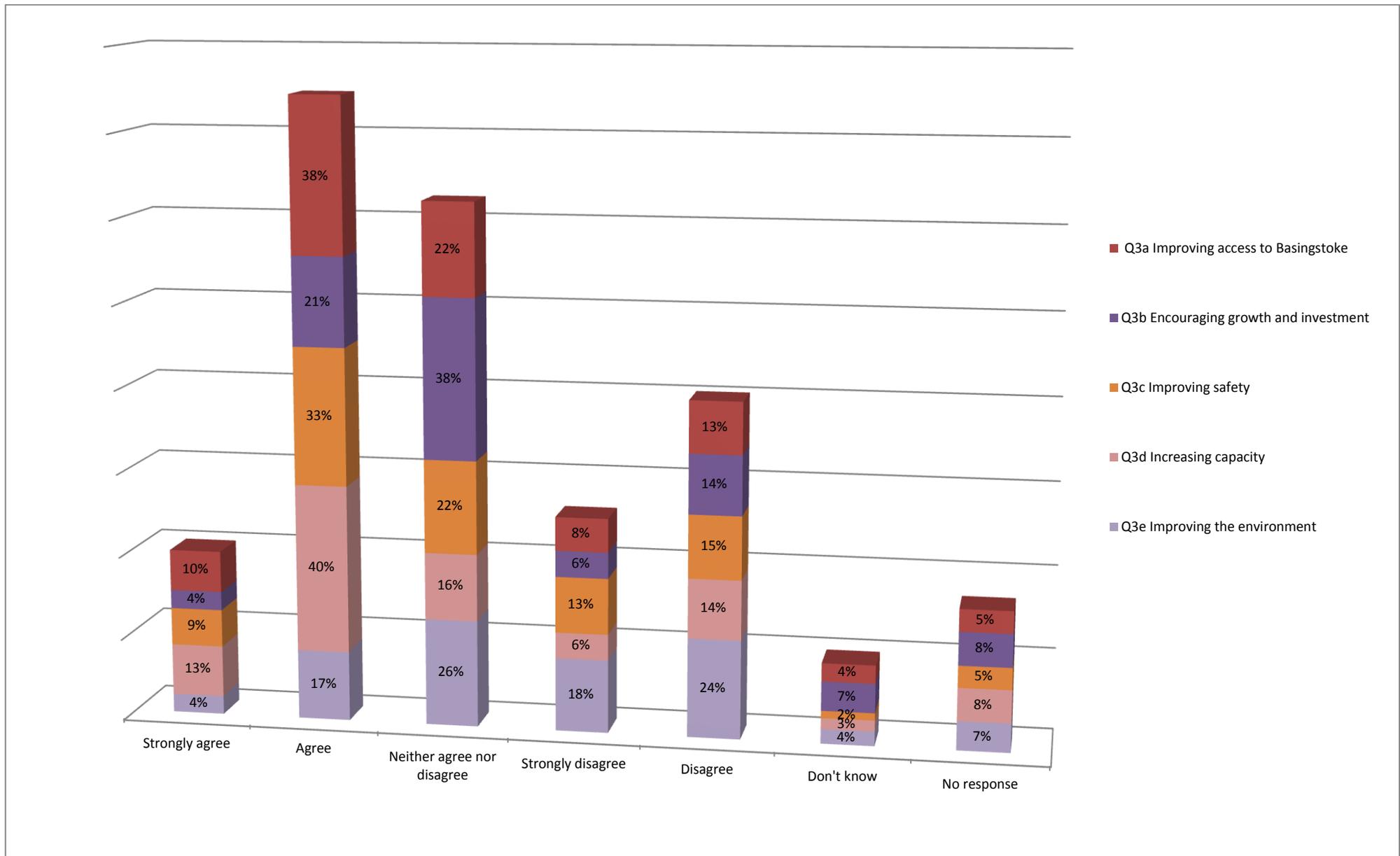
#### Q1 In what capacity are you answering this questionnaire?



**Q2: How do you use these routes?**

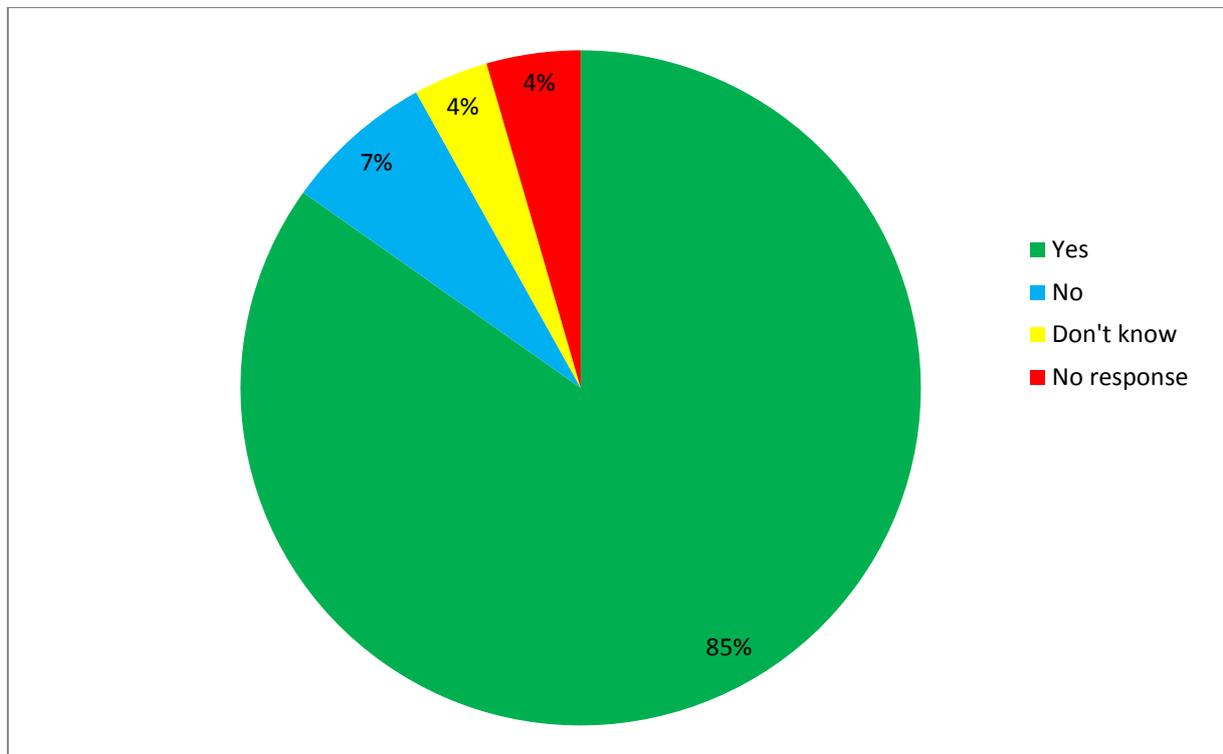


**Q3: Please tell us to what extent you think these schemes will deliver their objectives for each of the following:**



**Q4: Do you understand the likely impact the construction works will have on your journey?**

Following on from the consultation 85% felt they understood the likely impacts of construction works on their journeys.



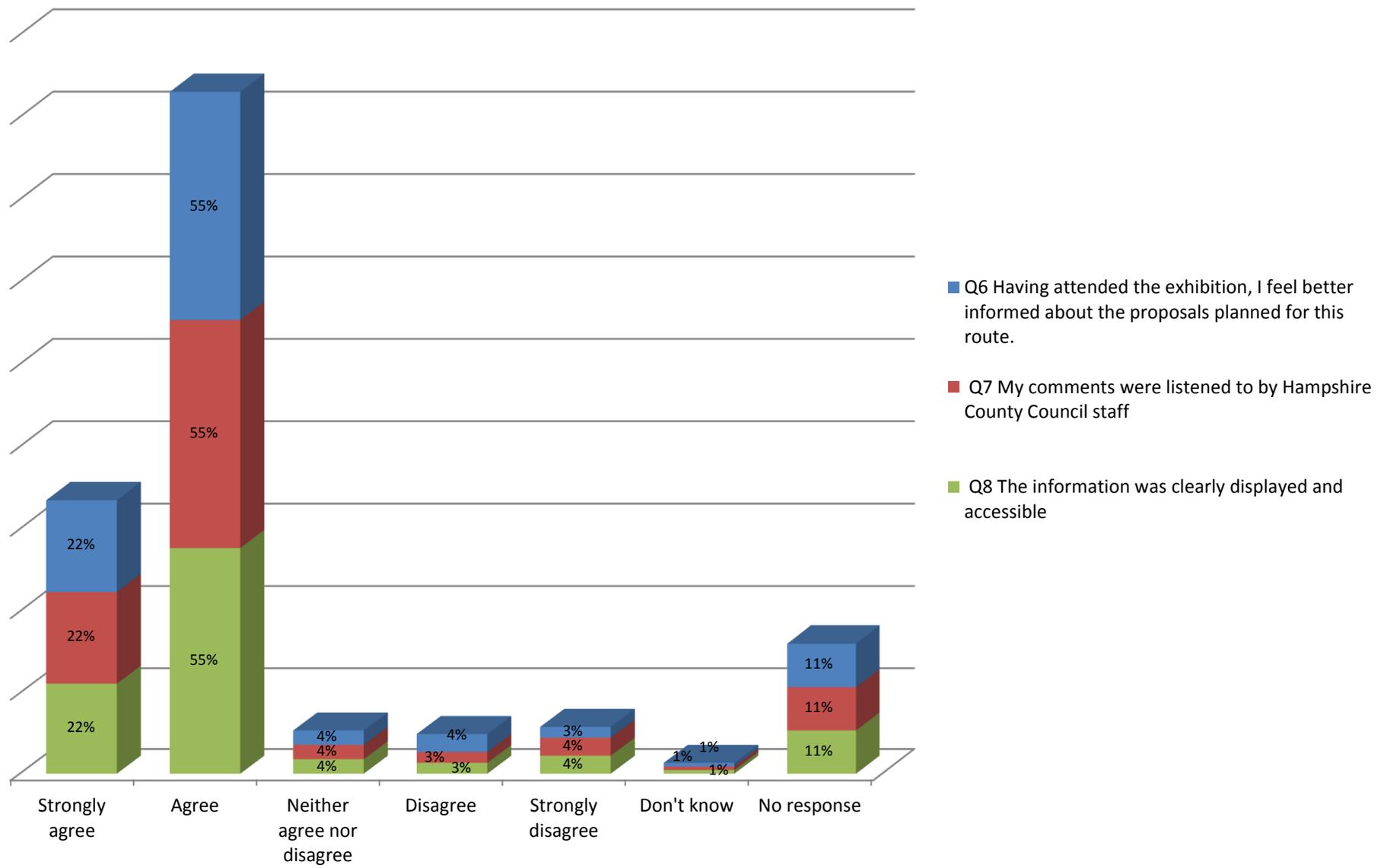
**Q5 Please tell us what other improvements you would like see in the future?**

- Overall 70% of those consulted believed that the proposed schemes would improve access to Basingstoke or had a neutral opinion of the schemes. Furthermore, 75% of respondents believed that the proposed schemes would increase junction capacity or had a neutral opinion of the effects on junction capacity.
- Those consulted were asked what transport improvements they would like to see in the future in Basingstoke, the responses are summarised below in Table 1.

**Table 1 Summary of Respondents Preferred Future Improvements**

| Type of Improvement   | Percentage of Responses |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Bus Transport         | 15%                     |
| Cycling Facilities    | 16%                     |
| Rail Transport        | 11%                     |
| Traffic Improvements  | 14%                     |
| Environmental         | 13%                     |
| Mobility Provision    | 6%                      |
| Pedestrian Facilities | 16%                     |
| Other                 | 10%                     |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>100%</b>             |

**Q6-Q8: If you attended the exhibition, please tell us about your experience?**



**Q9: Please provide any additional comments you would like to take into consideration**

An open question was asked to provide respondents with an opportunity to provide feedback and raise any issues regarding the Basingstoke Schemes. In total 88 out of 112 respondents used this section to express their opinions. The percentage of responses against each scheme are provided in the below Table 2.

**Table 2 Percentage of the comments received regarding the Basingstoke Schemes and Consultation**

| <b>Scheme / Topic</b>                                  | <b>Percentage of Responses</b> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| A340 Aldermaston                                       | 1.9%                           |
| A33 Ringway  | 0.9%                           |
| A33 Popley   | 6.5%                           |
| A33 Crockford  | 1.9%                           |
| A33 Binfield   | 4.7%                           |
| A340 Thornycroft                                       | 6.5%                           |
| A30 Winchester   | 32.7%                          |
| A33 Thornhill  | 1.9%                           |
| General comments not attributed to one specific scheme | 28 %                           |
| Feedback regarding the public consultation event       | 15%                            |
| Total  | 100%                           |

It can be seen from Table 2 above that the A30 Winchester Road Roundabout scheme received the most feedback, followed by general comments. Common themes and issues raised have been summarised below:

- With regards to the A30 Winchester Road Roundabout, the most frequently raised concern related to Winchester Road (East) remaining un-signalised whilst the other arms will be traffic light controlled. Thus, concern was raised over the ability for users to enter the roundabout from Winchester Road (E) in the gaps between signals changing on other arms. It was widely suggested that the Winchester Road (E) arm should also be signalised. A number of respondents suggested that a fly-over would be an alternative to signalisation. The need for drainage improvements in the sub-ways was highlighted, as was the occurrence of 'rat-running' on nearby residential roads. Another frequently raised topic was the need for reduced speed limits in the vicinity of the roundabout to improve safety. Other comments also included the consideration of part-time signals and 'keep clear' markings or hatching across residential driveways. A number of positive comments relating to the scheme and increased capacity at the junction were also received.
- There was one common theme which related to the A33 Popley Way Scheme. This is that the left-turn lane from Popley Way onto the A33 is considered to be too short, as a result it is believed that vehicles queuing in the right turn lane will block traffic from entering the left-turn lane, thereby reducing the junction's efficiency.
- 5% of comments related to the A33 Binfield scheme. A common theme from respondents related to the partial signalisation of the roundabout. A number of residents raised concerns that vehicles may struggle to enter the roundabout during peak times from Old Reading Road (Chineham Village) and Chineham Shopping Centre as these arms will not be signalised, resulting in vehicles having to emerge during gaps between signals changing on other arms.

- Comments from respondents regarding the A340 Thornycroft scheme focused on the themes of pedestrian crossing facilities, the potential for 'rat running' during construction, and the construction of a fly-over as an alternative to the signalised roundabout. A number of positive comments relating to the scheme and increased capacity at the junction were also received.
- A number of comments which were general in nature and not specific to individual schemes were also raised. Some of the commonly raised points include: the amount and timing of road works in Basingstoke in the near future, a preference for fly-overs rather than roundabout signalisation, the need to ensure that staging of traffic lights allows vehicles to clear a roundabout, environmental impacts, safety concerns regarding lane discipline on roundabouts, and a wide range of highway improvement suggestions for other sites in Basingstoke.

## **4.0 Conclusion**

The public consultation proved to be an informative and insightful experience for members of the public and stakeholders who gained a better understanding of the proposed schemes. In addition, Hampshire County Council was able to gauge local opinions and gain valuable feedback which will be taken into consideration as the design of the schemes progress.