

STROUD CANALS VISION & STRATEGY:

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC ONLINE SURVEY



for:



INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

The work to prepare the Stroud Canals Vision & Strategy was undertaken between May 2021 - Jan 2022 and will be followed by a consultation period before the Strategy is adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document as part of the Stroud District Local Plan.

Public engagement has formed an important part of the development of the strategy and has been incorporated in a variety of ways throughout the process:

- Evidence Base gathering clinics included engagement with parish councils who expressed an interest in being involved;
- A workshop for parishes (public representatives) in preparation for the online-survey;
- An online survey for direct public engagement;
- Formal public consultation on the preadoption version of the strategy.

The preparation of the strategy has coincided with a period of time over which restrictions on in-person meetings and groups gathering have been in place to some extent due to Covid19. Further to this, assessment of risk at an individual parish level and among the public has varied regardless of legal restrictions being in place or being lifted.

Stroud District Council and it's partners have a variety of responsibilities alongside their strategic planning function. Covid 19 recovery has required attending to the immediate needs of communities as they emerge from the pandemic. The result has been the need for sensitivity about how to engage the public in the preparation of a Canals Strategy which, while necessary for the long term planning in the District, should not take priority over short term community concerns.

It was necessary to conduct public engagement as well as other forms of engagement and communication, virtually. Clinics and Group activities were help online using Zoom and breakout groups to discuss a variety of issues and gather views. Direct public engagement was conducted using an online survey.

The Canal remains an important asset to the District. It serves a role in securing the health of the district, environmentally, economically and socially. For this reason, the Canals Strategy, while in part concerned with long term planning, is of value contributing to Covid 19 recovery.

The online survey was designed to provide an accessible and quick way for the public to indicate where and how they use the canal and what they perceive the obstacles are to the canal reaching its full potential in the District.

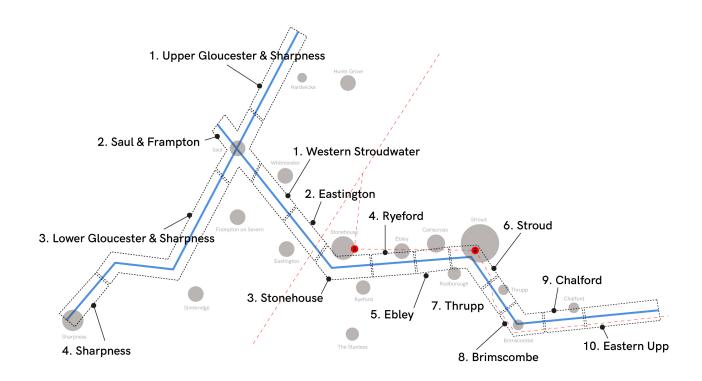
The timing of the various public engagement activities were planned to coincide with different stages of the preparation of the strategy so that feedback could contribute in the most meaningful way.

A record of clinics and group discussions is provided in the Evidence Base Summary report -a stand alone reporting of research and analysis which underpins the Canals Strategy.

This document provides a summary of the online survey which was available for the public to access throughout December 2021.

The structure and content of the survey was designed to allow the public to answer questions relevant to how they use and perceive the canal. Results have been aggregated according to the Drivers identified in the strategy (Continuity, Crossings, Clustering). The public feedback, via the online survey, has contributed to how each of the themes is represented in the contrasting areas and locations along the canal.

STRUCTURE AND FORMAT



Initially the structure of the survey required respondents to select the location along the canal which they use or visit. They were asked to choose from 14 distinct canal areas (defined in the Strategy), or to indicate that they did not use the canals:

Upper Gloucester and Sharpness

Saul and Frampton

Lower Gloucester and Sharpness

Sharpness

Western Stroudwater

Eastington

Stonehouse

Ryeford

Ebley

Stroud

Thrupp

Brimscombe

Chalford

Eastern Upper Valley

General survey for non-canal users.

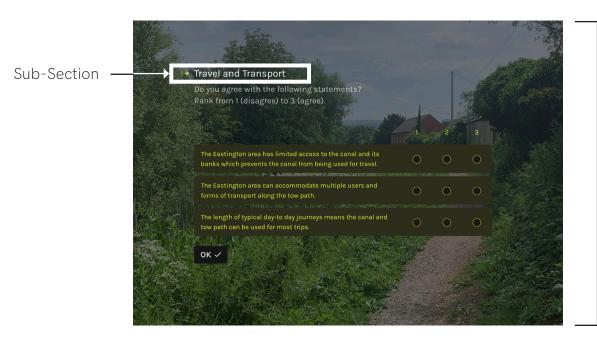
Respondents were asked a variety of questions relating to their experiences and perceptions of the canal along their chosen section.

The questions were formatted according to 9 broad sections:

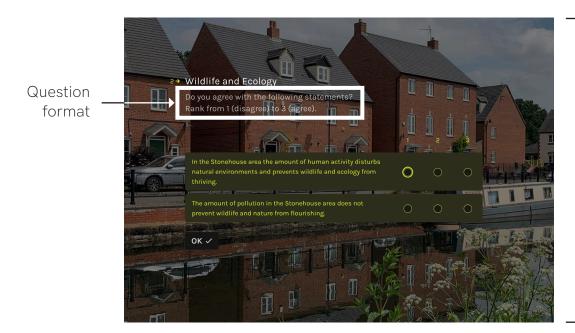
- 1. Travel and Transport
- 2. Wildlife and Ecology
- 3. Exercising and Socialising
- 4. Getting to the Canal
- 5. Getting Across the Canal
- 6. Clusters of Activity
- 7. Buildings and Spaces
- 8. Local Identity
- 9. Other Comments and Suggestions

Respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with a range of statements.

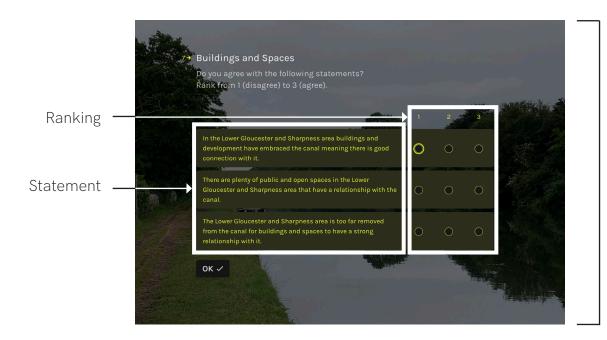
At the end of the questions repsondents were offered the option to return to the beginning of the survey and select another canal area.



Eastington Example



Stonehouse Example



Lower Gloucester and Sharpness Example

THE WHOLE STRATEGY



KEY FINDINGS

TOP 3 CHALLENGES:

TOP 3 STRENGTHS:

42% of all survey respondents feel that their communities are not self sufficient and rely on connections to other communities to function.

57% of all survey respondents feel that it is easy to travel from one side of the canal to the other and that most journeys are within easy access to crossings.

respondents disagree that the length of typical day-to day journeys means the canal and tow path can be used for most trips.

39% of all survey

50% of all survey respondents visit the canal because it's the place where they work or take part in leisure activities.

respondents disagree that there are plenty of public and open spaces that have a relationship with the canal.

39% of all survey

50% of all survey respondents feel that the amount of human activity along the canal does not disturb the natural environments or prevent wildlife and ecology from thriving.

THE WHOLE STRATEGY

RELATING SURVEY FINDINGS TO THE THREE DRIVERS

ACHIEVING CONTINUITY

TOP CHALLENGE:

32% of all survey respondents disagree that the canal can accommodate multiple users and forms of transport along the tow path.

TOP STRENGTH:

50% of all survey respondents feel that the amount of human activity along the canal does not disturb the natural environments or prevent wildlife and ecology from thriving.

ACHIEVING CLUSTERING

TOP CHALLENGE:

35% of all survey respondents feel that there are a lack of public and open spaces that have a relationship with the canal.

TOP STRENGTH:

50% of all survey respondents agree that people visit the canal because it's the place where they work or take part in leisure activities.

ACHIEVING CROSSING

TOP CHALLENGE:

42% of all survey respondents feel that their communities are not self sufficient and rely on connections to other communities to function.

TOP STRENGTH:

57% of all survey respondents feel that it is easy to travel from one side of the canal to the other and that most journeys are within short distances to access crossings.





TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

63% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The quality of transport connections in the Upper Gloucester and Sharpness area mean the canal is easily accessible to everyone.



CHALLENGE 2:

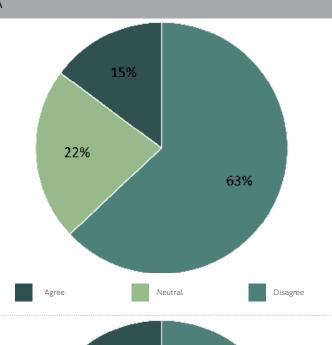
48% of respondents agree that the Upper Gloucester and Sharpness area doesn't have a clear heart and instead is made up of small collections of buildings.

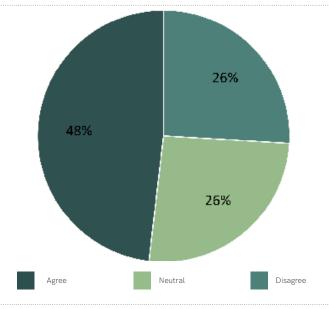


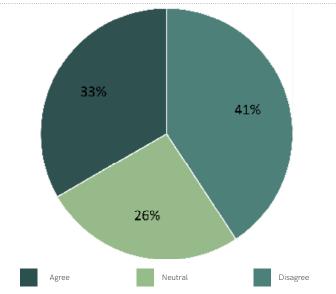
CHALLENGE 3:

41% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Upper Gloucester and Sharpness area buildings and development have embraced the canal meaning there is good connection with it.







STRENGTH 1:

59% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

To travel from one side of the canal to the other most journeys rely on crossings outside of the Upper Gloucester and Sharpness area.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

STRENGTH 2:

57% of respondents agree that in the Upper Gloucester and Sharpness area people visit the canal because it's the place where they work or take part in leisure activities.

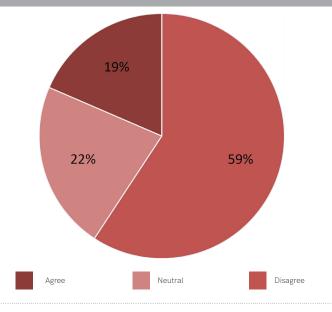
RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

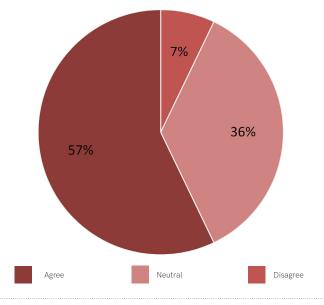
STRENGTH 3:

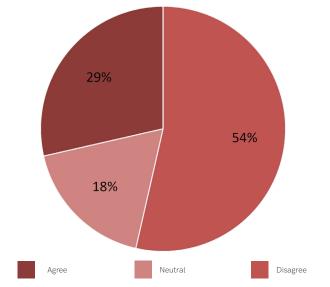
54% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

Physical barriers in the Upper Gloucester and Sharpness area prevent easy access to the canal.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing







2. SAUL & FRAMPTON



TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

50% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The quality of transport connections in the Saul and Frampton area mean the canal is easily accessible to everyone.



CHALLENGE 2:

35% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

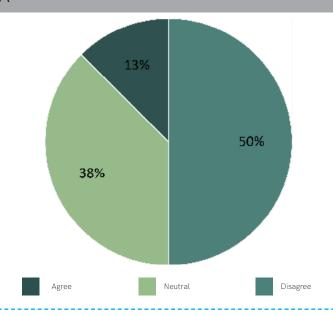
In the Saul and Frampton area our community is very self sufficient and doesn't rely on connections to other communities.

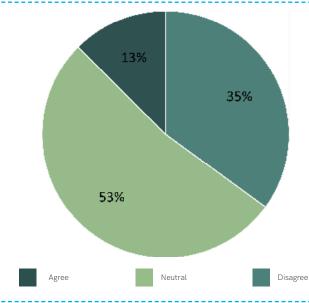
RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

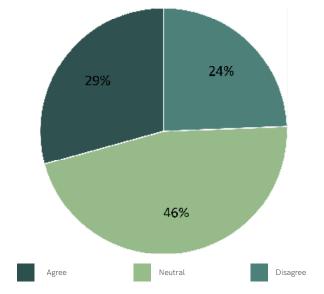
CHALLENGE 3:

29% of respondents agree that in the Saul and Frampton area there are places for activity, such as socialising and exercising, that are preferable to those connected to the canal.









STRENGTH 1:

71% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

To travel from one side of the canal to the other most journeys rely on crossings outside of the Saul and Frampton area.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

STRENGTH 2:

63% of respondents agree that in the Saul and Frampton area people visit the canal because it's the place where they work or take part in leisure activities.

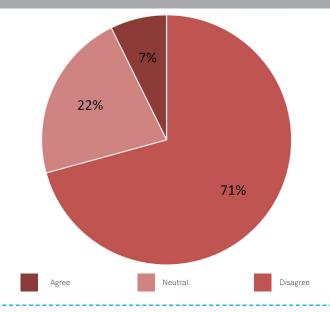
RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

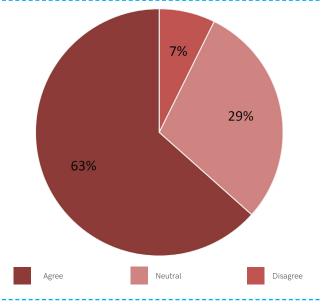
STRENGTH 3:

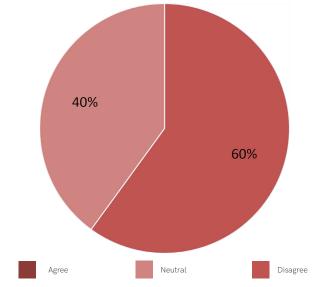
60% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

Communities in the Saul and Frampton area are quite distant from the canal and/or are isolated from one another which does not encourage connections to or across the canal.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing











TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

73% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The quality of transport connections in the Lower Gloucester and Sharpness area mean the canal is easily accessible to everyone.



CHALLENGE 2:

48% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

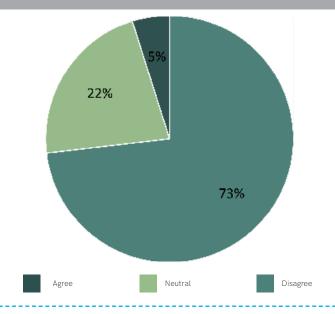
The Lower Gloucester and Sharpness area can accommodate multiple users and forms of transport along the tow path.

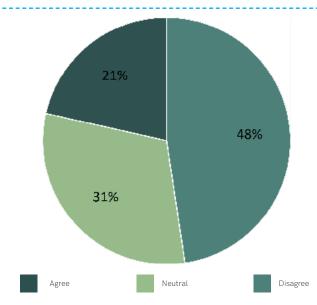
RELEVANT DRIVER: Continuity

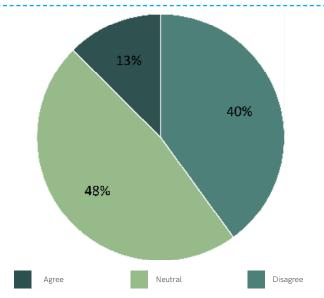
CHALLENGE 3:

40% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Lower Gloucester and Sharpness area buildings and development have embraced the canal meaning there is good connection with it.

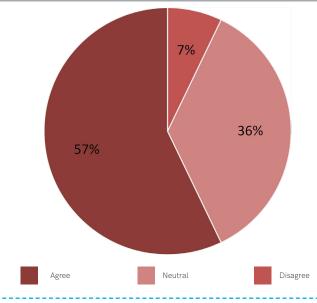






STRENGTH 1:

57% of respondents agree that in the Lower Gloucester and Sharpness area people visit the canal because it's the place where they work or take part in leisure activities.

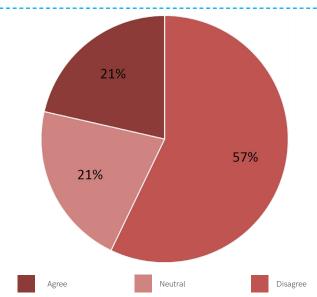


RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

STRENGTH 2:

57% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

To travel from one side of the canal to the other most journeys rely on crossings outside of the Lower Gloucester and Sharpness area.

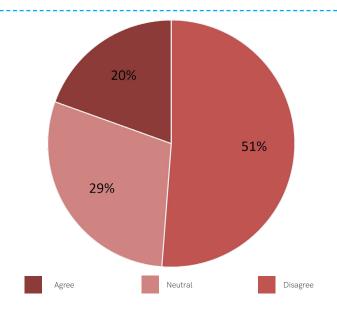


RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

STRENGTH 3:

51% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Lower Gloucester and Sharpness area the amount of human activity disturbs natural environments and prevents wildlife and ecology from thriving.



RELEVANT DRIVER: Continuity

4. SHARPNESS



TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

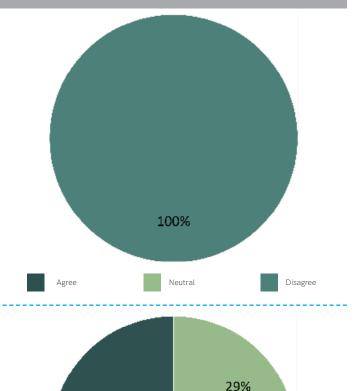
100% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The quality of transport connections in the Sharpness area mean the canal is easily accessible to everyone.

RELEVANT DRIVER : Crossing

CHALLENGE 2:

71% of respondents agree that the Sharpness area has limited access to the canal and its banks which prevents the canal from being used for travel.



Neutral

Disagree

71%

RELEVANT DRIVER : Continuity

CHALLENGE 3:

"Anyone who has difficulty walking on anything other than a smooth flat surface will struggle to enjoy the canal."

"Very dangerous for anyone on their own using a walking stick or mobility scooter."

"There needs to be more focus on accessibility for people with disabilities. Its a lovely flat route, which is rare, but the quality of the path, or getting to the canal is often not."

RELEVANT DRIVER: Continuity

STRENGTH 1:

86% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

To travel from one side of the canal to the other most journeys rely on crossings outside of the Sharpness area.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

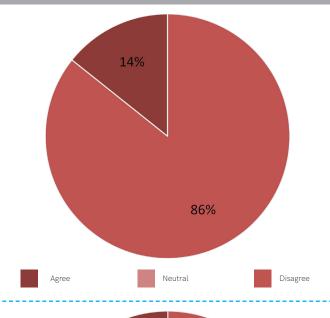
STRENGTH 2:

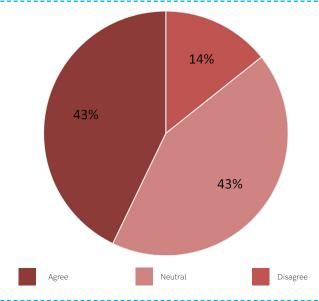
43% of respondents agree that the Sharpness area has a clear identity or character that is unique from other places.

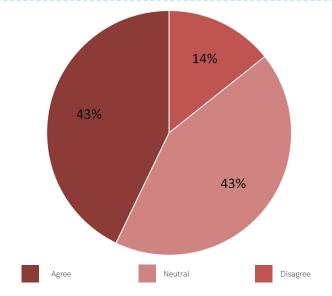
RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

STRENGTH 3:

43% of respondents agree that in the Sharpness area people visit the canal because it's the place where they work or take part in leisure activities.











TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

57% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The Western Stroudwater area has a clear identity or character that is unique from other places.



CHALLENGE 2:

50% of respondents agree that the Western Stroudwater area doesn't have a clear heart and instead is made up of small collections of buildings.

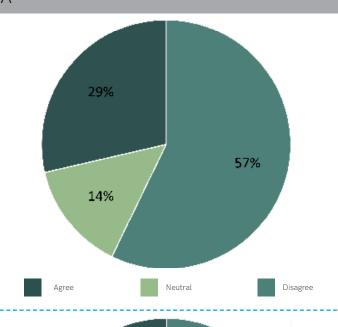
RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

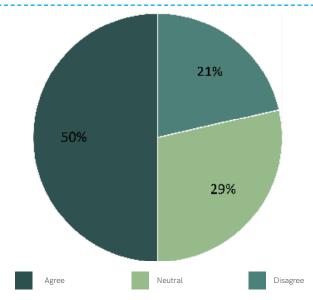
CHALLENGE 3:

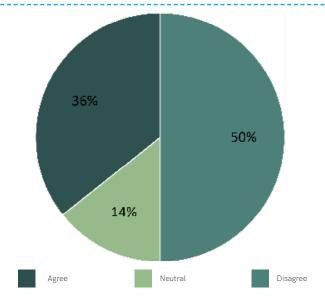
50% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The length of typical day-to day journeys means the canal and tow path can be used for most trips.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Continuity







STRENGTH 1:

71% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Western Stroudwater area the amount of human activity disturbs natural environments and prevents wildlife and ecology from thriving.

RELEVANT DRIVER : Continuity



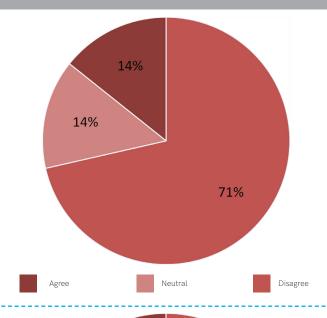
64% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

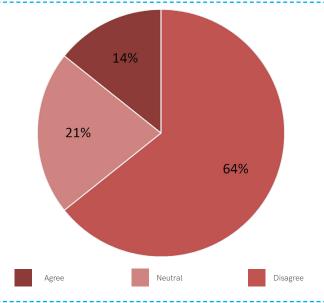
In the Western Stroudwater area there are places for activity, such as socialising and exercising, that are preferable to those connected to the canal.

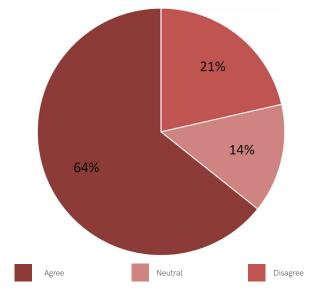
RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

STRENGTH 3:

64% of respondents agree that the Western Stroudwater area is a vibrant neighbourhood with a good mix of places to live, work and enjoy a range of activities.







2. EASTINGTON



TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

62% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

There are plenty of public and open spaces in the Eastington area that have a relationship with the canal.



CHALLENGE 2:

55% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Eastington area buildings and development have embraced the canal meaning there is good connection with it.

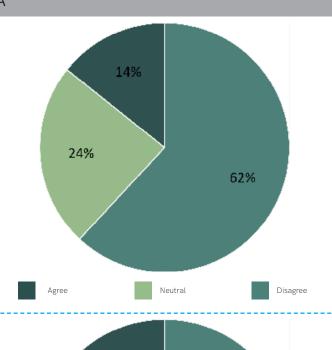
RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

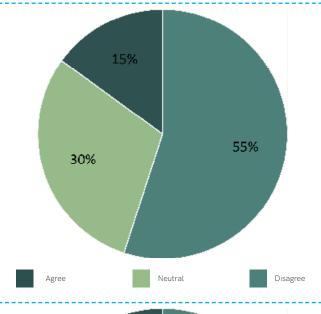
CHALLENGE 3:

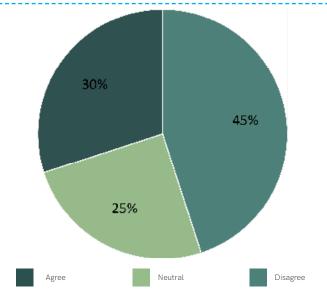
45% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The Eastington area can accommodate multiple users and forms of transport along the tow path.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Continuity







STRENGTH 1:

62% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Eastington area the amount of human activity disturbs natural environments and prevents wildlife and ecology from thriving.

RELEVANT DRIVER : Continuity

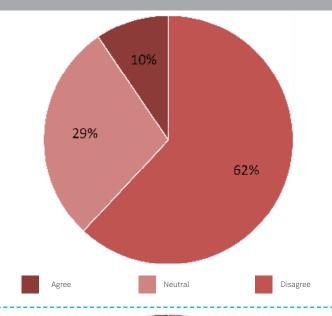
STRENGTH 2:

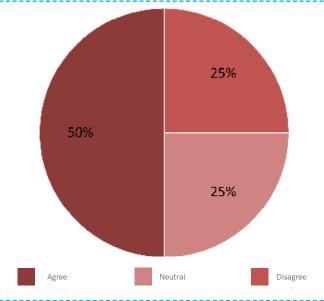
50% of respondents agree that the amount of pollution in the Eastington area does not prevent wildlife and nature from flourishing.

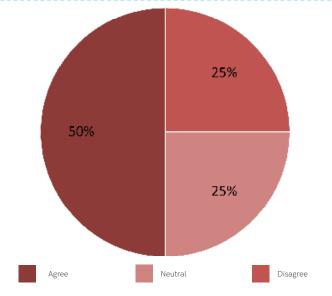
RELEVANT DRIVER: Continuity

STRENGTH 3:

50% of respondents agree that the canal in the Eastington area provides public space for a range of users and their specific needs.







3. STONEHOUSE



TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

47% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

There are plenty of public and open spaces in the Stonehouse area that have a relationship with the canal.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

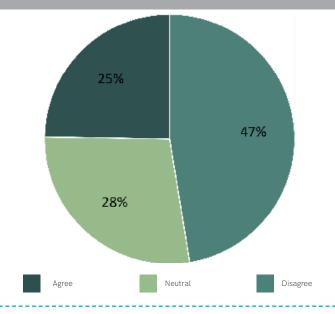
CHALLENGE 2:

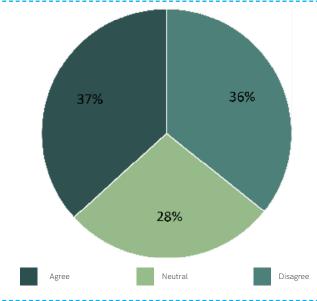
37% of respondents agree that in the Stonehouse area cars and roads create barriers to the use of the canal.

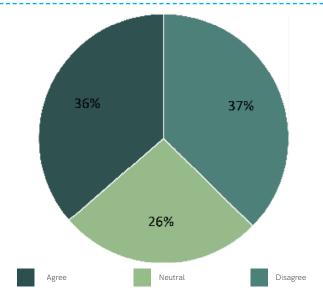
RELEVANT DRIVER : Crossing

CHALLENGE 3:

37% of respondents agree that development has sprawled out from the centre of the Stonehouse area meaning there is no obvious sense of arrival and departure from the area.







STRENGTH 1:

68% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

To travel from one side of the canal to the other most journeys rely on crossings outside of the Stonehouse area.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

STRENGTH 2:

61% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

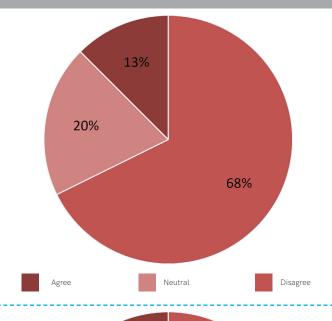
In the Stonehouse area the amount of human activity disturbs natural environments and prevents wildlife and ecology from thriving.

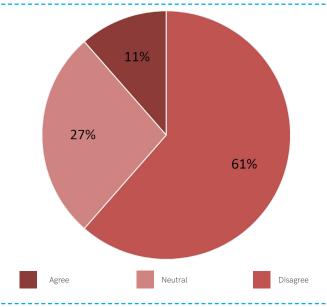
RELEVANT DRIVER: Continuity

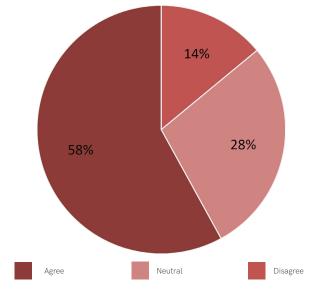
STRENGTH 3:

58% of respondents agree that in the Stonehouse area people visit the canal because it's the place where they work or take part in leisure activities.









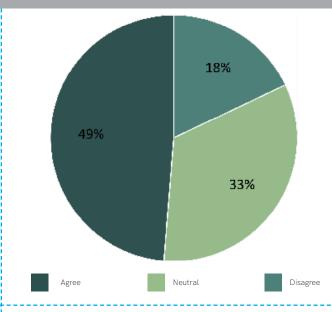
4. RYEFORD



TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

49% of respondents agree that the Ryeford area doesn't have a clear heart and instead is made up of small collections of buildings.

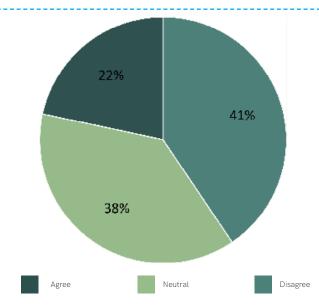


RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

CHALLENGE 2:

41% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

There are plenty of public and open spaces in the Ryeford area that have a relationship with the canal.

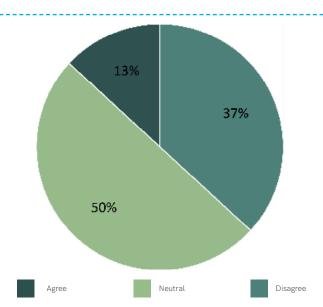


RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

CHALLENGE 3:

37% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Ryeford area our community is very self sufficient and doesn't rely on connections to other communities.



RELEVANT DRIVER : Crossing

STRENGTH 1:

74% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

Physical barriers in the Ryeford area prevent easy access to the canal.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

STRENGTH 2:

67% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

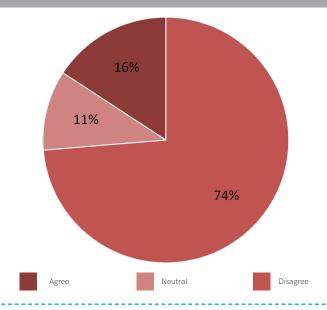
The Ryeford area is too far removed from the canal for buildings and spaces to have a strong relationship with it.

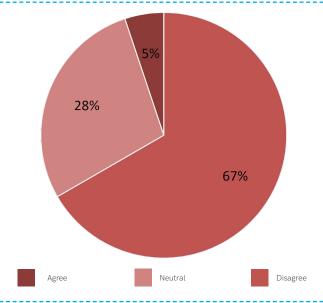
RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

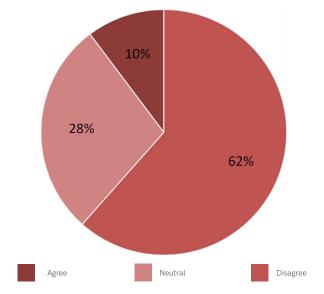
STRENGTH 3:

62% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Ryeford area there are places for activity, such as socialising and exercising, that are preferable to those connected to the canal.







5. EBLEY



TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

41% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Ebley area our community is very self sufficient and doesn't rely on connections to other communities.

RELEVANT DRIVER : Crossing

CHALLENGE 2:

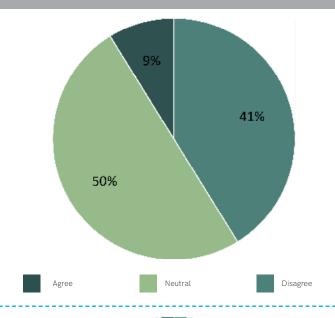
39% of respondents agree that Development has sprawled out from the centre of the Ebley area meaning there is no obvious sense of arrival and departure from the area.

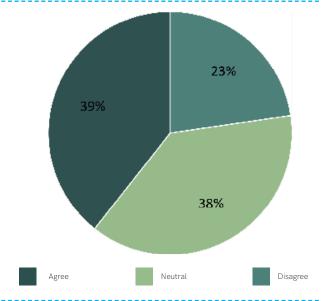
RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

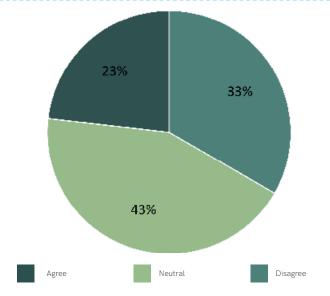
CHALLENGE 3:

33% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The Ebley area has a clear identity or character that is unique from other places.







STRENGTH 1:

74% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The Ebley area is too far removed from the canal for buildings and spaces to have a strong relationship with it.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

STRENGTH 2:

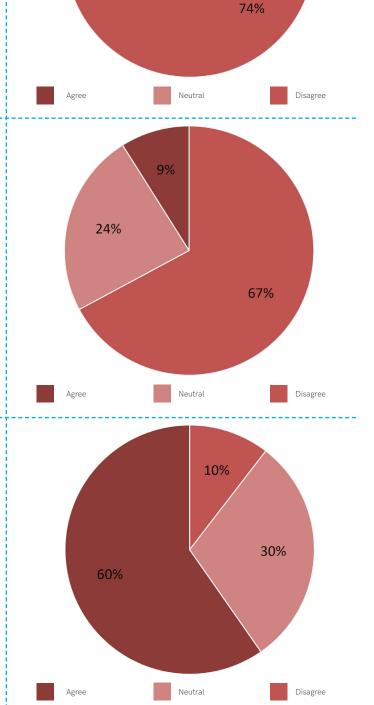
67% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

To travel from one side of the canal to the other most journeys rely on crossings outside of the Ebley area.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

STRENGTH 3:

60% of respondents agree that the canal in the Ebley area provides public space for a range of users and their specific needs.



6%

21%

6. STROUD



TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

48% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

There are plenty of public and open spaces in the Stroud town area that have a relationship with the canal.



CHALLENGE 2:

48% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

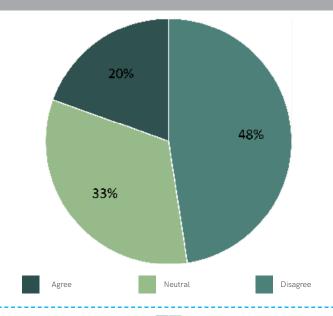
In the Stroud town area our community is very self sufficient and doesn't rely on connections to other communities.

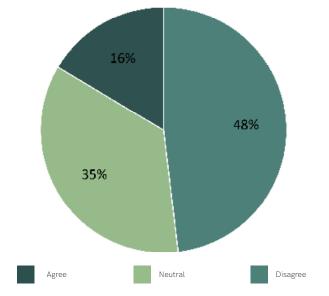
RELEVANT DRIVER : Crossing

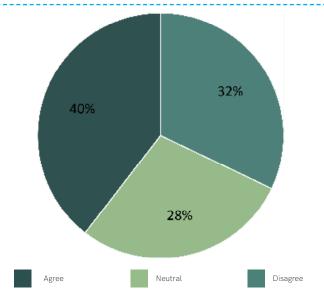
CHALLENGE 3:

40% of respondents agree that In the Stroud town area cars and roads create barriers to the use of the canal.



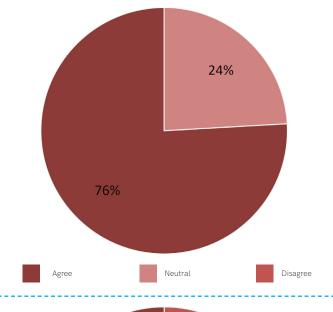






STRENGTH 1:

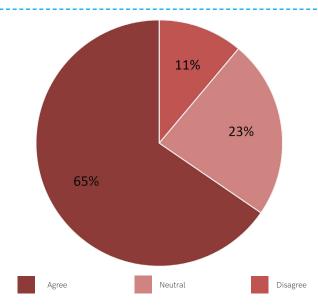
76% of respondents agree that the Stroud town area is a vibrant neighbourhood with a good mix of places to live, work and enjoy a range of activities.



RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

STRENGTH 2:

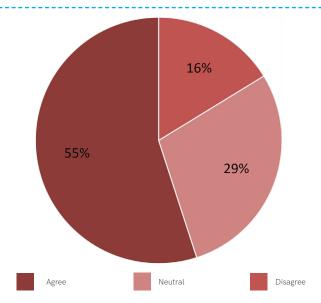
65% of respondents agree that the Stroud town area has a clear identity or character that is unique from other places



RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

STRENGTH 3:

55% of respondents agree that the canal in the Stroud town area provides public space for a range of users and their specific needs.



7. THRUPP



TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

64% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Thrupp area our community is very self sufficient and doesn't rely on connections to other communities.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

CHALLENGE 2:

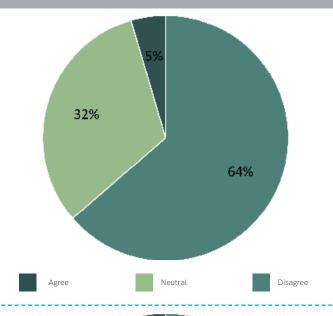
45% of respondents agree that development has sprawled out from the centre of the Thrupp area meaning there is no obvious sense of arrival and departure from the area.

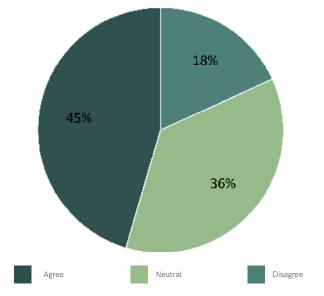
RELEVANT DRIVER : Clustering

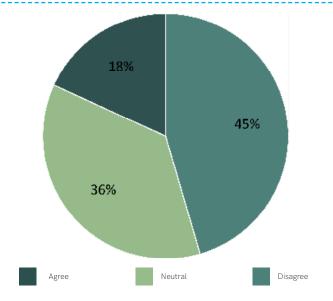
CHALLENGE 3:

45% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The Thrupp area has a clear identity or character that is unique from other places.







STRENGTH 1:

70% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Thrupp area the amount of human activity disturbs natural environments and prevents wildlife and ecology from thriving.

RELEVANT DRIVER : Continuity

STRENGTH 2:

64% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

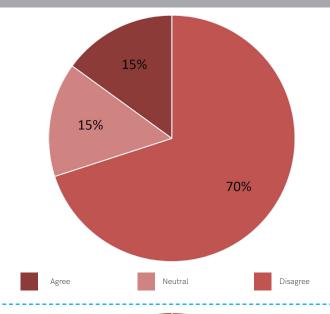
Communities in the Thrupp area are quite distant from the canal and/or are isolated from one another which does not encourage connections to or across the canal.

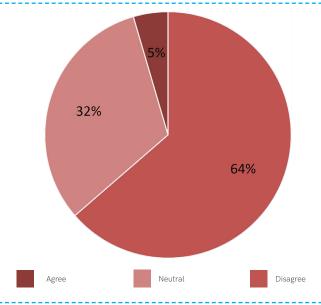
RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

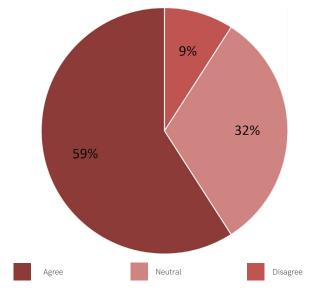
STRENGTH 3:

59% of respondents agree that the amount of pollution in the Thrupp area does not prevent wildlife and nature from flourishing.

RELEVANT DRIVER : Continuity







8. BRIMSCOMBE



TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

62% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

Our community is very self sufficient and doesn't rely on connections to other communities.



CHALLENGE 2:

55% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

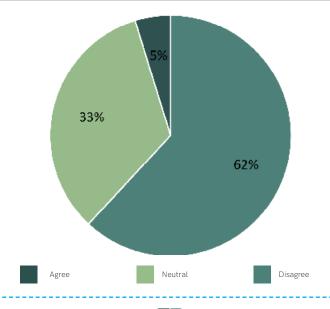
The Brimscombe area can accommodate multiple users and forms of transport along the tow path.

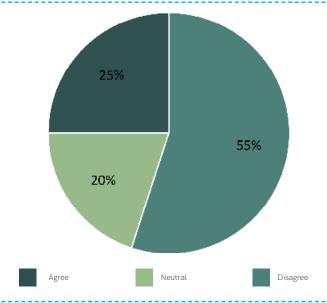
RELEVANT DRIVER: Continuity

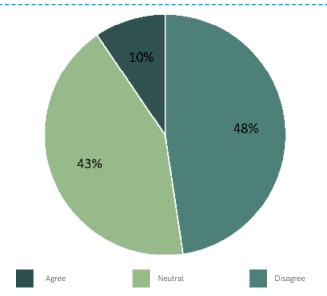
CHALLENGE 3:

48% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

There are plenty of public and open spaces in the Brimscombe area that have a relationship with the canal.







STRENGTH 1:

62% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The Brimscombe area is too far removed from the canal for buildings and spaces to have a strong relationship with it.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

STRENGTH 2:

48% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

Communities in the Brimscombe area are quite distant from the canal and/or are isolated from one another which does not encourage connections to or across the canal.

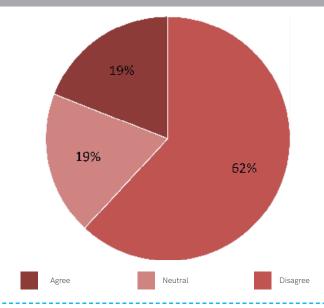
RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

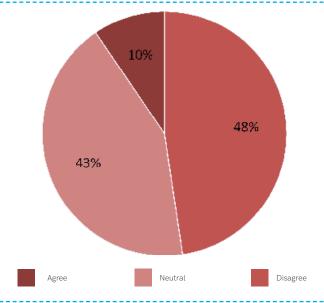
STRENGTH 3:

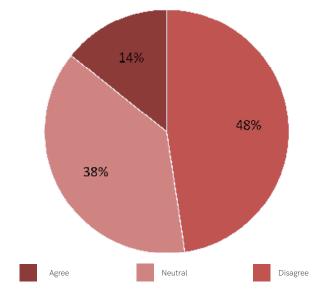
48% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Brimscombe area the amount of human activity disturbs natural environments and prevents wildlife and ecology from thriving.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Continuity







9. CHALFORD



TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

59% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The quality of transport connections in the Chalford area mean the canal is easily accessible to everyone.

RELEVANT DRIVER : Crossing

CHALLENGE 2:

53% of survey respondents agree that physical barriers in the Chalford area prevent easy access to the canal.

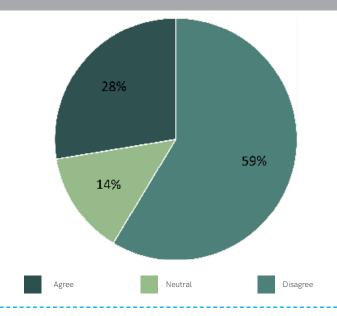


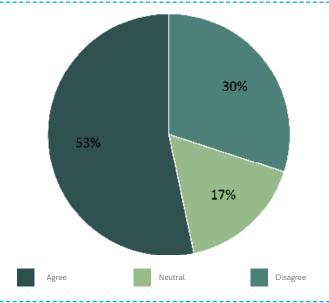
CHALLENGE 3:

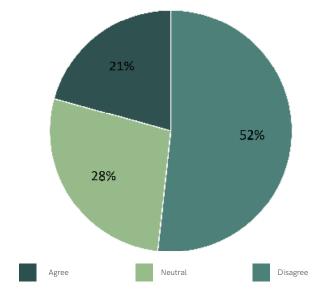
52% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

In the Chalford area our community is very self sufficient and doesn't rely on connections to other communities.

RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

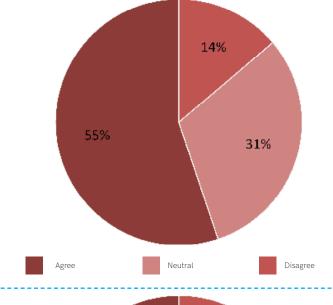






STRENGTH 1:

55% of respondents agree that the Chalford area has a clear identity or character that is unique from other places.

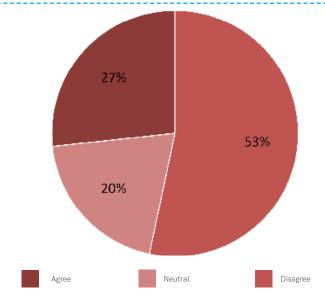


RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

STRENGTH 2:

53% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The Chalford area doesn't have a clear heart and instead is made up of small collections of buildings.

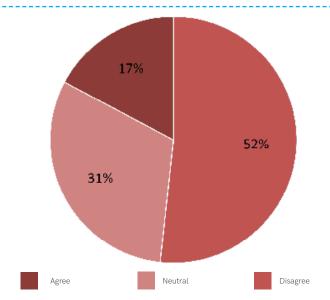


RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

STRENGTH 3:

52% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

The Chalford area is too far removed from the canal for buildings and spaces to have a strong relationship with it.



RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing



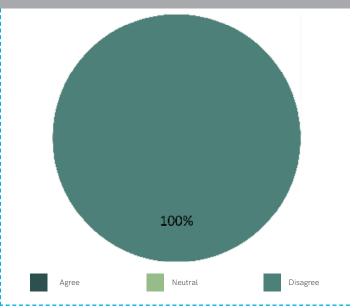


TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

100% of respondents disagreed with the following statement:

"The quality of transport connections in the Eastern Upper Valley area mean the canal is easily accessible to everyone."



RELEVANT DRIVER: Crossing

CHALLENGE 2:

"Protecting the previous wildlife and ecosystem of this stretch and maintaining its identity as a quiet place."

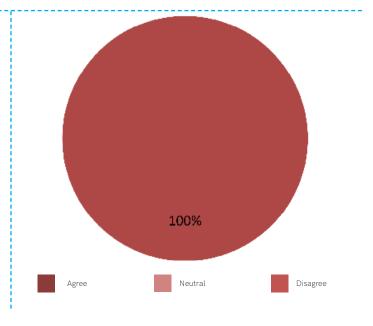
"This area is **rich in biodiversity** including rare species of bats, birds, plants and butterflies."

"Allowing the canal to improve and grow with **improvements to accessibility** but **without affecting the rural and secluded nature** of the valley which is its main asset."

RELEVANT DRIVER: Continuity and Clustering

STRENGTH 1:

100% of survey respondents agreed that the Eastern Upper Valley area has a clear identity or character that is unique from other places.



NON CANAL USERS

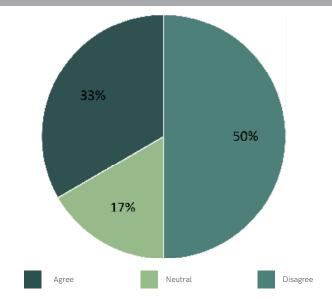


TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR THE AREA

CHALLENGE 1:

50% of respondents disagree with the following statement:

Our community is very self sufficient and doesn't rely on connections to other communities.

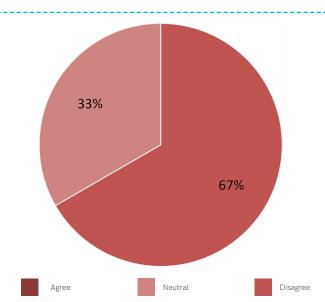


RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

STRENGTH 1:

67% of respondents disagreed with the following statement:

Communities along the canal don't have a clear heart and instead are made up of small collections of buildings.



RELEVANT DRIVER: Clustering

STRENGTH 2:

67% of respondents disagreed with the following statement:

Communities are quite distant from the canal and/or are isolated from one another which does not encourage connections to or across the canal.

