



Convent Road User Sentiment Survey May 2022



Independent survey for Meath County Council by Interactions Research

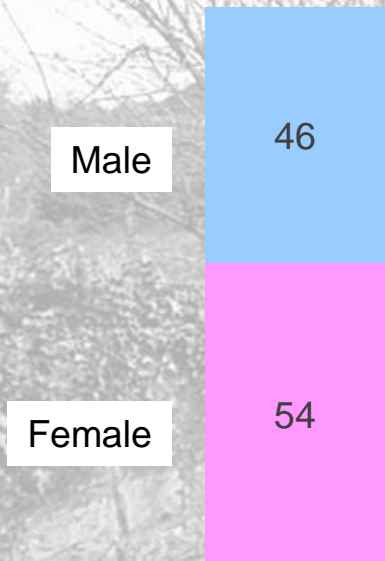
Research Background, Objectives & Methodology

- **A filtered permeability scheme has been trialled on Convent Road in Navan over a 12 month period and a planning permission application is being prepared by Meath Co Co to maintain this scheme as a permanent fixture.**
- **Research was commissioned by Meath Co Co to measure sentiment around the proposed Filtered Permeability Scheme amongst passers-by, and students at the nearby school.**
 - **Awareness & attitudes towards Convent Road Filtered Permeability Trial Scheme.**
 - **Perceived benefits of scheme.**
 - **Favourability towards sustainable transport/active transport measures.**
 - **Favourability towards permanent Filtered Permeability on Convent Road.**
- **Intercept interviews were conducted between 10am and 4pm on 26th and 31st May while students were canvassed via Google Classroom link on 24th May.**
- **In total, 80 interviews were achieved amongst users of Convent Road (19 through the school survey, and 61 through face-to-face interviews with road users on site).**

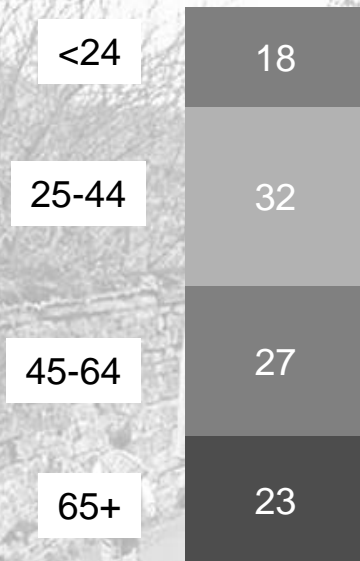
Sample Profile



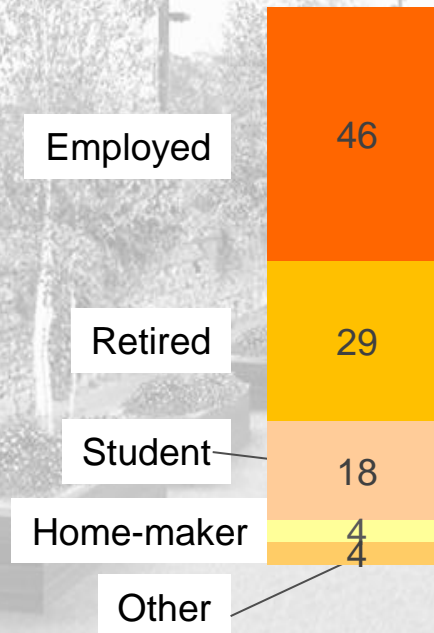
GENDER
%



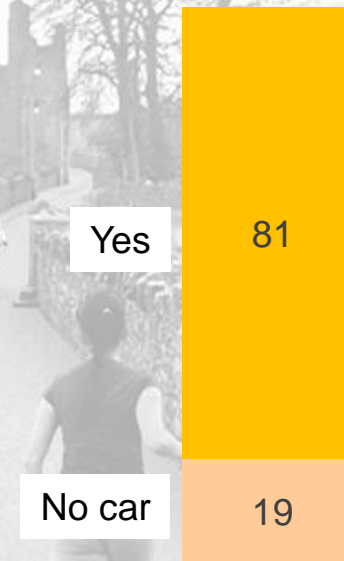
AGE
%



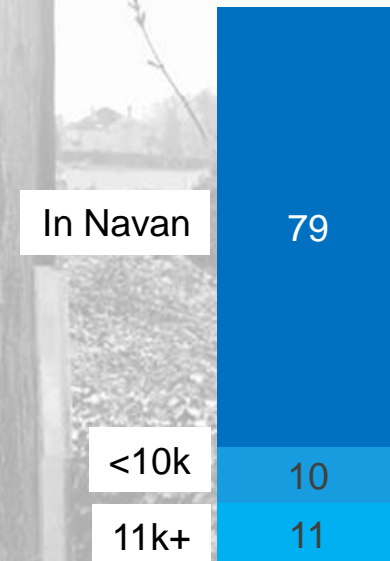
OCCUPATION
%



CAR IN HOUSEHOLD
%

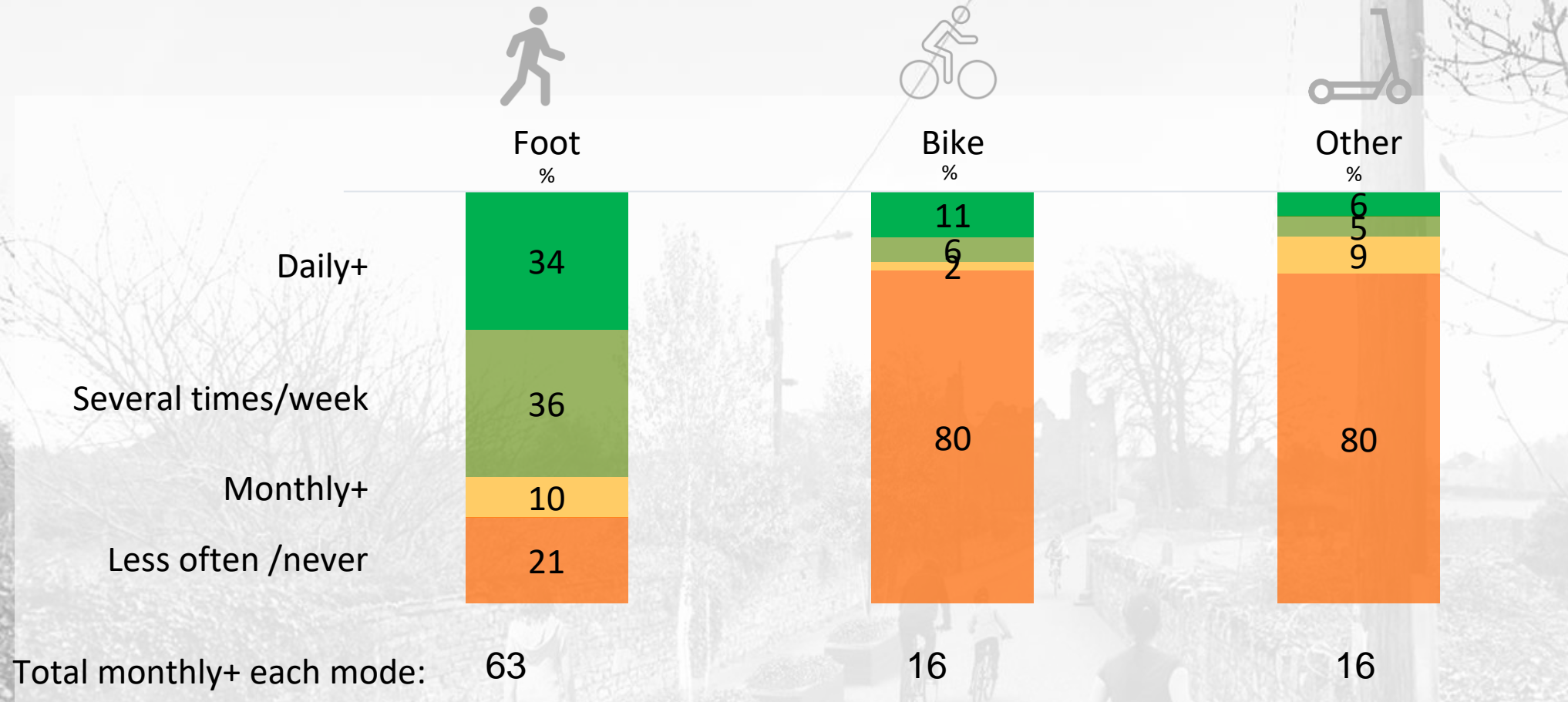


RESIDENCE AREA
%



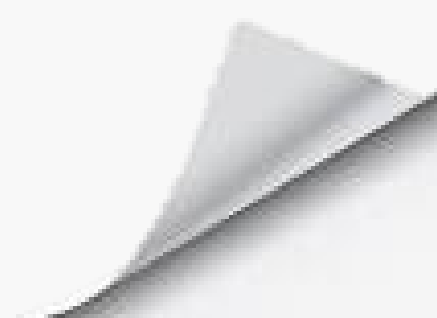
Base: n=80; all who answered each question

Sample Profile: Frequency of Travel on Convent Road

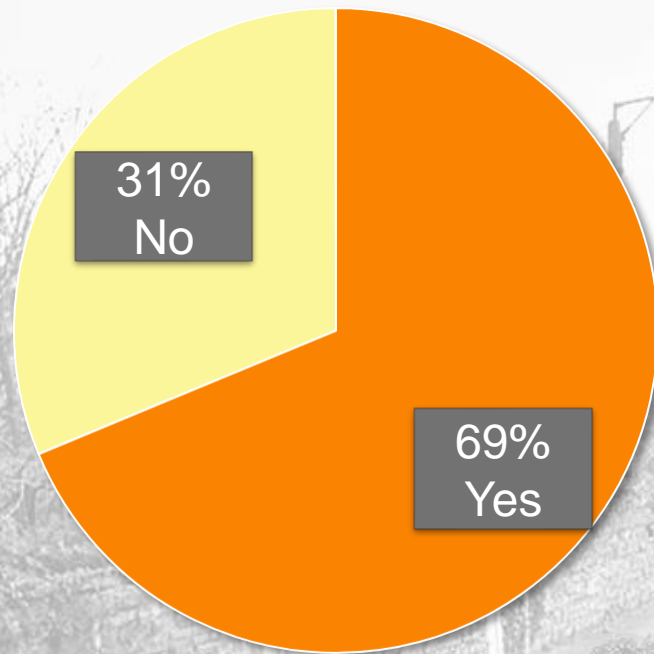


The large majority of respondents travel mainly on Convent Road by foot.
1 in 5 said they cycle and/or scoot on the route at least monthly.

Main Findings

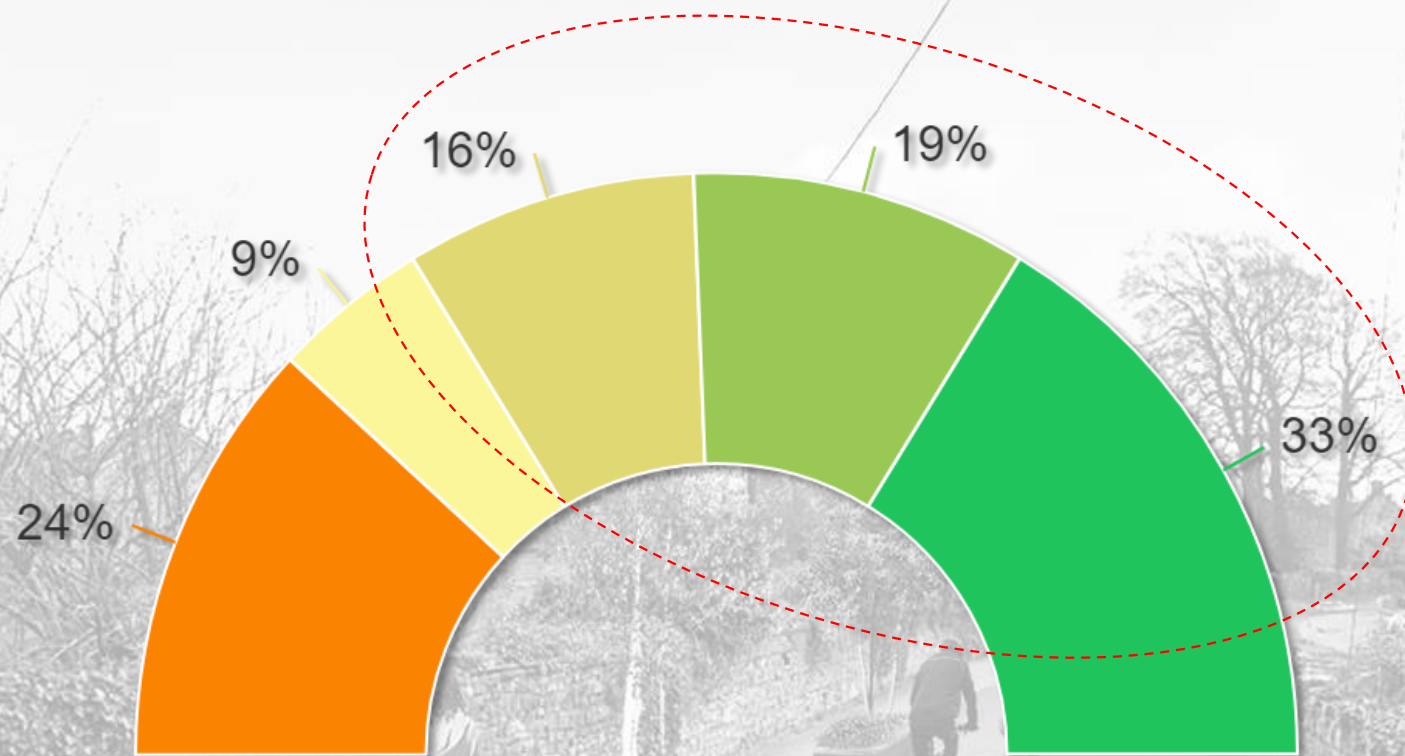


Awareness of Convent Road Filtered Permeability Trial Scheme



All, bar a niche minority of tourist visitors (n=3), were aware that the route had been pedestrianised recently but circa 1 in 3 did not recognise the scheme's formal name.

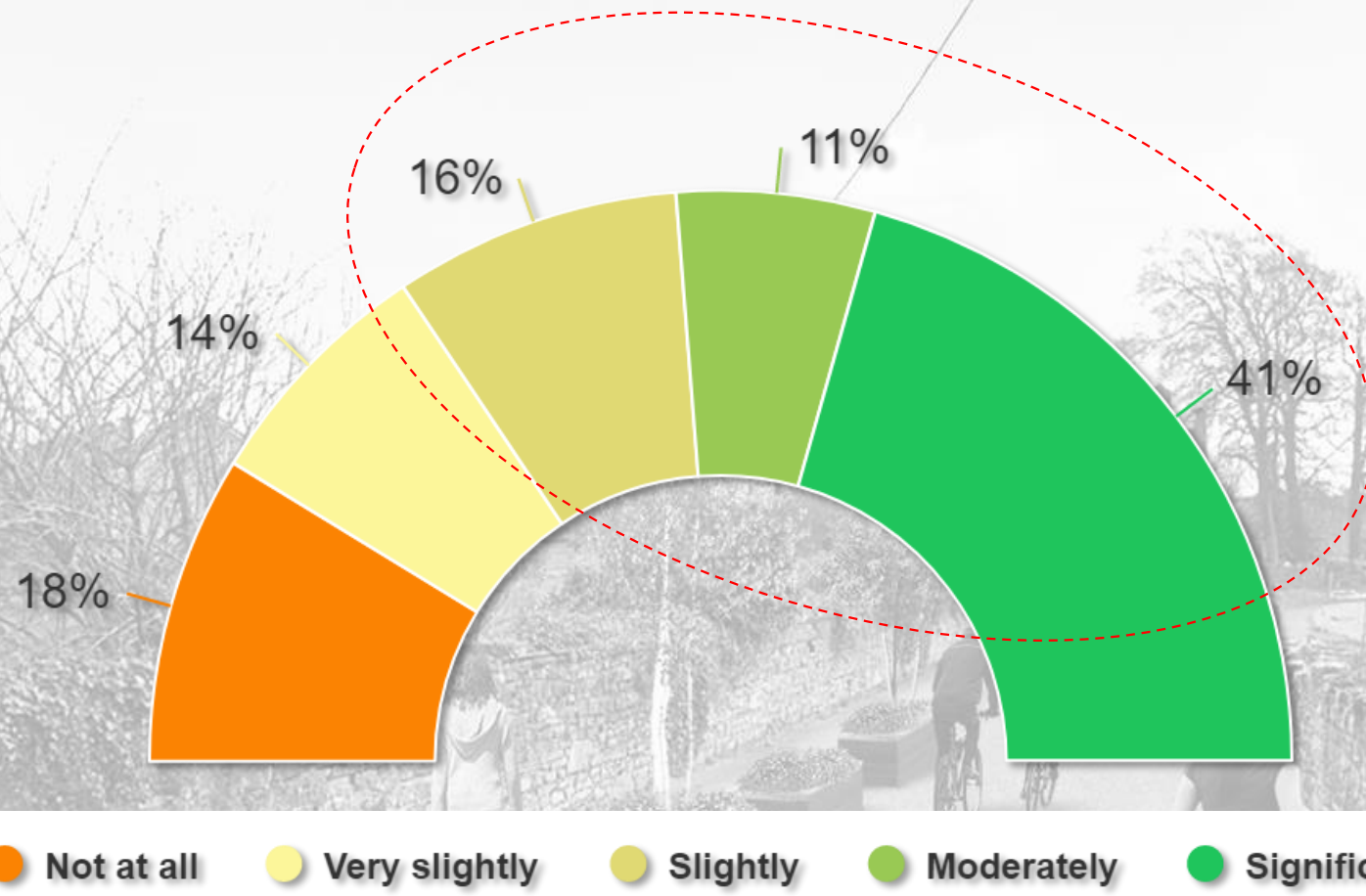
Agreement that the scheme encourages Active Travel (walking, cycling):



Just over 2 in 3 (68%) of those surveyed agreed that the Convent Road Filtered Permeability Trial Scheme encourages active travel (such as walking and cycling).

● Not at all ● Very slightly ● Slightly ● Moderately ● Significantly

Intention to increase use of Active Travel if more such schemes are implemented in Navan:

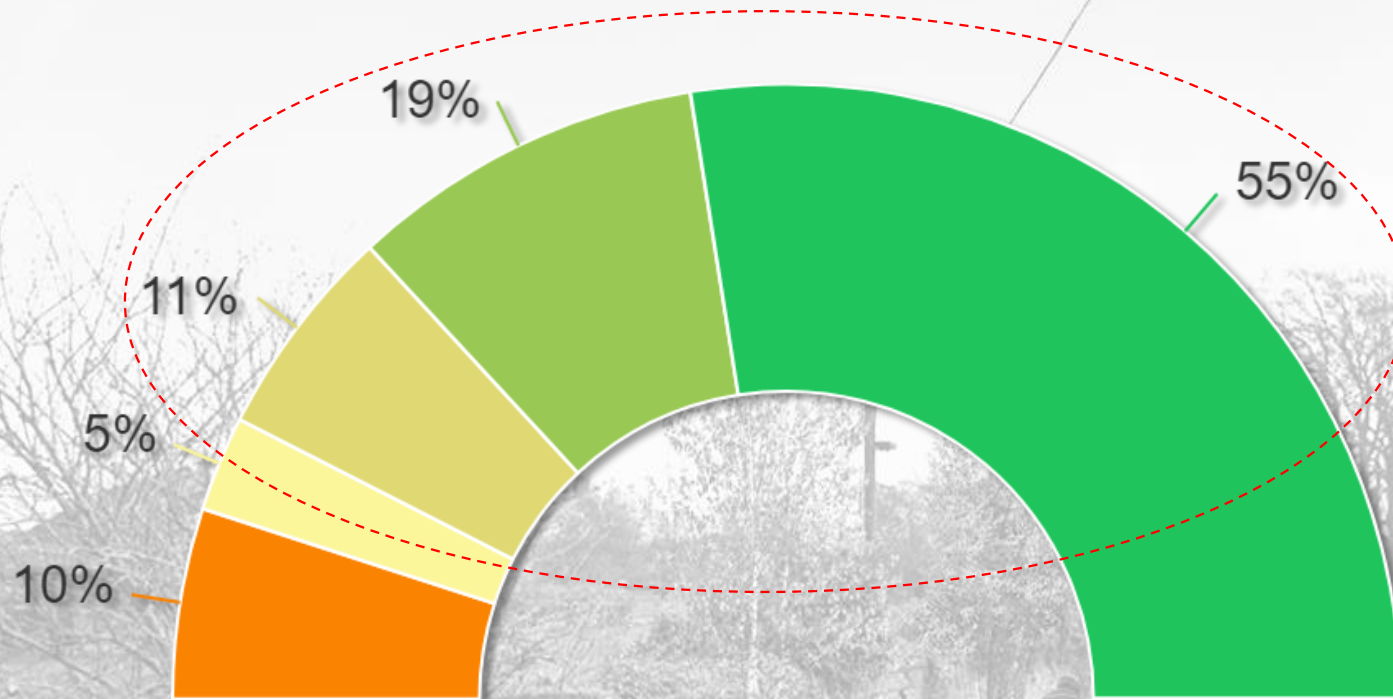


2 in 3 (68%) also claim they would be more likely to use active travel modes such as walking and cycling if more such schemes were implemented in Navan.

● Not at all ● Very slightly ● Slightly ● Moderately ● Significantly

Base: n=80; all who answered each question

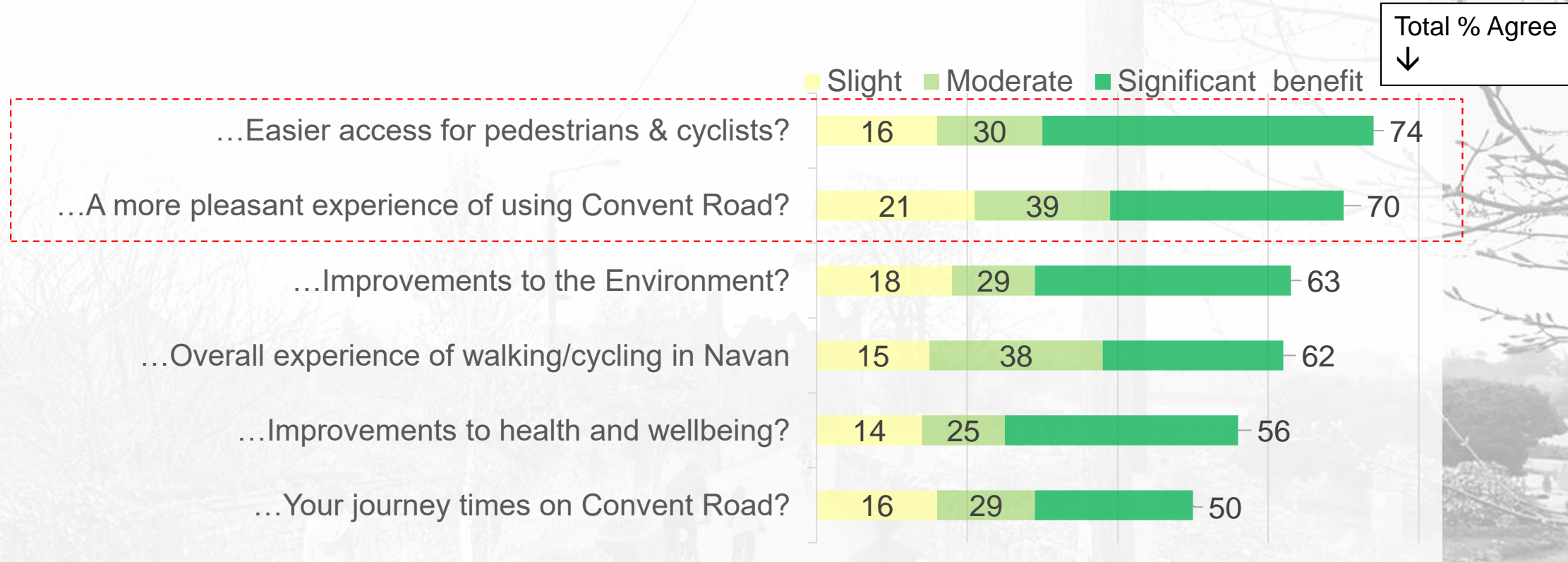
Favourability to Active Travel Schemes as a means of improving transport modes in the urban environment:



85% of those surveyed claimed to hold favourable attitudes towards Active Travel schemes as a means of improving transport modes in the urban environment.

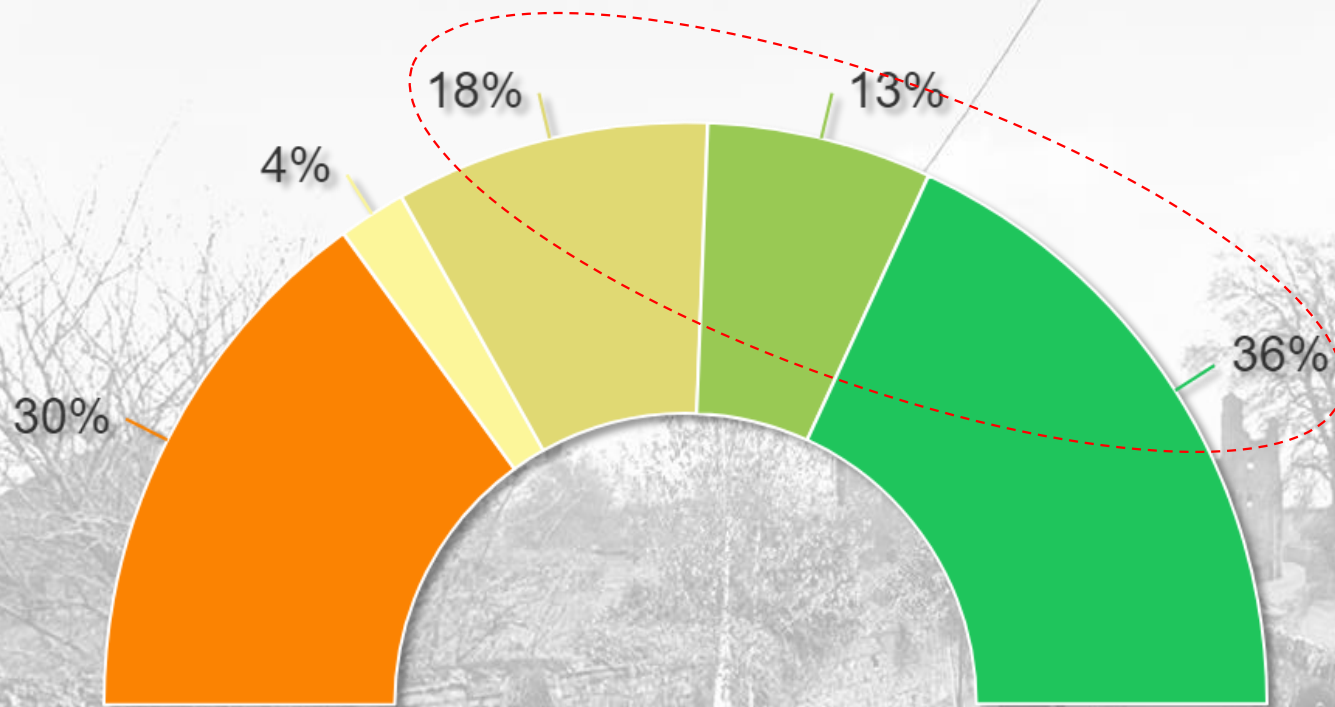
● Not at all ● Very slightly ● Slightly ● Moderately ● Significantly

Perceived Benefits of Convent Road Filtered Permeability Trial Scheme



Three quarters (74%) agreed that the scheme provides easier access for pedestrians and cyclists, and 7 in 10 (70%) noted a more pleasant experience of using Convent Road due to the scheme.

Overall Favourability towards Permanent Filtered Permeability of Convent Road:



Somewhat polarised attitudes:

Two thirds those surveyed (67%) expressed favourable attitudes (slightly, moderately, or significantly in favour) towards a permanent Filtered Permeability of Convent Road.

However 3 in 10 said they were not at all in favour of making the Filtered Permeability permanent.

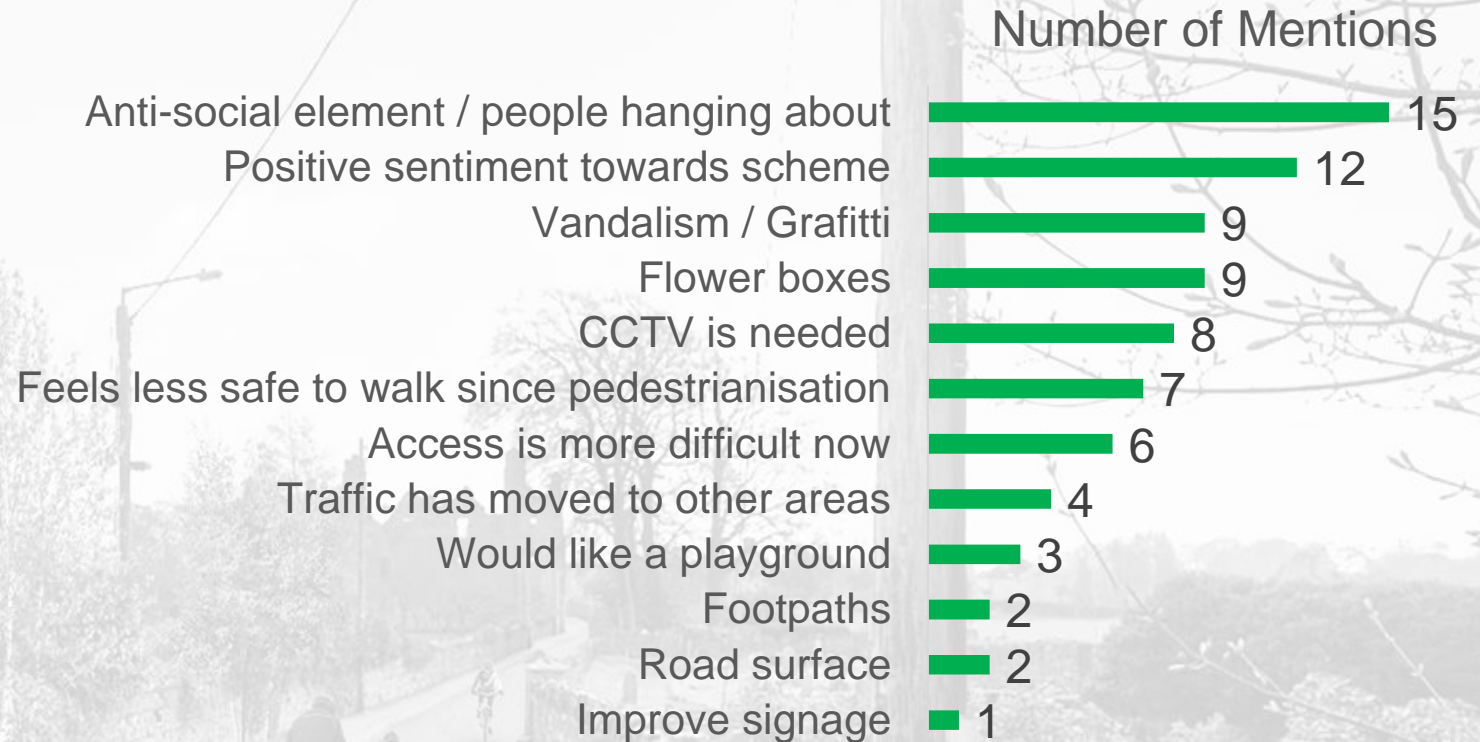
● Not at all ● Very slightly ● Slightly ● Moderately ● Significantly

Coded Verbatim Comments

Base: n=41 comments in total received

A significant proportion of comments referred to a perceived increase in loitering, with associated vandalism and graffiti, especially around planter boxes. Broadscale desire for CCTV to deter anti-social behaviour.

Nb. While a rise in anti-social behaviour was cited as a reason for being opposed to the scheme, concerns about anti-social behaviour and desire for CCTV were expressed by both those registering in favour and not in favour of the scheme.









"They have done a really good job with the ramparts and cycleway as far as Drogheda. I am not in favour of the permanent pedestrianisation due to the anti-social element that has emerged. Also graffiti, beer bottles and cans are littered. There was always litter but there is much more now. My wife used to walk home from work this way but no longer does as there is an anti-social element in the evenings, a regular gang. We actually use it much less and thought it was safe before. It is a pity as it was a nice idea but it needed regular community policing."

"It is an excellent scheme but it has not been fully implemented. We were promised cameras. There is no deterrent for anti-social behaviour currently. After 4pm school kids congregate and leave their mess behind. Then at night older crowds gather and leave beer bottles behind. Cars pass the planters to still drive through - there used to be little bollards which stopped them in the past but they have been removed. This summer will tell a lot."

Additional Verbatim Comments

Anti-social elements /loitering	I don't walk home here in the evening because there's always people messing and drinking. After 4pm school kids congregate and leave their mess behind.
Vandalism / grafitti	Lots of graffiti and mess from plants being ripped up. Litter in the area very bad. Beautiful area. Shame about the grafitti.
CCTV is needed	We were promised cameras. Graffiti is disappointing- maybe cctv. Security cameras not fully installed and that's problem.
Flower boxes	Kids in the area seem to be at what with the council and there is a constant mess with planters. Teenagers using as a party area is causing more trouble than good. The plant boxes are being turned over. Love the flower beds if the thugs would leave them alone.
Feels less safe to walk since pedestrianisation	Anti social behaviour and not enough policing in beautiful walking areas like this which deters women like me. Planters ripped up not comfortable to walk in evenings.
Access is more difficult now	Hard for old people to access cemetery. I feel that the path between Athlumney Abbey and Athlumney Castle needs to be widened and made suitable for people of bikes so as to avoid conflict with pedestrians. Also, improvements to the junction with the Kentstown Road would be very welcomed. At the moment the shared path (which is against best practice) runs behind the stop line on Convent Road. It's very hard to know how to proceed on a bike from these shared spaces when rejoining the main carriageway. The same applies for all shared spaces in Navan.
Traffic has moved to other areas	Congestion of car traffic in other areas is noticeable now. Traffic on other areas intolerable gridlock.
More enjoyable now	I am a nervous cyclist but I can go by bike here with no trouble or worry. I used to take the long way to work but since the pedestrianisation I walk this way. I like it a lot.

Research Summary & Conclusions

-  80 interviews were conducted on Convent Road amongst pedestrians, cyclists, and scooter travellers, with walkers making the majority of the sample.
-  85% recorded favourable attitudes towards Active Travel schemes generally, while just over 2 in 3 (68%) agreed that the Convent Road Filtered Permeability Trial Scheme encourages active travel and the same proportion (68%) agreed that they would be more likely to walk and cycle if more such schemes were implemented in Navan.
-  Three quarters (74%) agreed that the scheme provides easier access for pedestrians and cyclists, and 7 in 10 (70%) noted a more pleasant experience of using Convent Road due to the scheme.
-  Two thirds those surveyed (67%) expressed favourable attitudes (slightly, moderately, or significantly) in favour of a permanent pedestrianisation of Convent Road. However 3 in 10 recorded as being not at all in favour of the pedestrianisation.
-  A significant proportion of verbatim comments received referred to a perceived increase in loitering, with associated vandalism and graffiti, especially around planter boxes. There is broadscale desire expressed for CCTV to be installed in order to deter anti-social behaviour. While many of those opposed to permanent pedestrianisation cited this as their rationale, these concerns were expressed across the board (amongst those in favour and opposed to the scheme).
-  A strong and consistent appetite for greater CCTV and community policing was evident and such measures should be incorporated into any further plans around Convent Road Filtered Permeability Trial Scheme.