



# Maytree and Mount Pleasant footpaths and park Public Spaces Protection Orders Consultation report

**southampton**  
**dataobservatory**



Data, Intelligence & Insight Team | *February 2024*

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Southampton City Council undertook a public consultation on proposals to implement two Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) at two locations in and around Newtown, Northam and Bevois as a means to combat crime and antisocial behaviour in the area. These locations were:

- The footpath between Mount Pleasant and Imperial Road, and;
- The footpath and park by Maytree School on Northumberland Road.

This consultation took place between **11/12/2023** – **21/01/2024** and received **300** responses.

The aim of this consultation was to:

- Communicate clearly to residents and stakeholders the proposals for the two PSPOs;
- Ensure any resident, business or stakeholder in Southampton that wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to raise any impacts the proposals may have, and;
- Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objectives of the strategy in a different way.

The primary method of gathering feedback for this consultation was via online questionnaire. Physical paper versions of the questionnaire were also made available, and respondents could also email [yourcity.yoursay@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:yourcity.yoursay@southampton.gov.uk) with their feedback, as well as respond by post.

This report summarises the aims, principles, methodology and results of the public consultation. It provides a summary of the consultation responses both for the consideration of decision makers and any interested individuals and stakeholders.

It is important to be mindful that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal. This report outlines in detail the representations made during the consultation period so that decision makers can consider what has been said alongside other information.

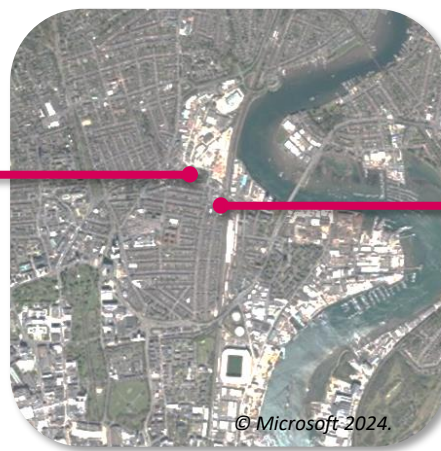


“The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 gives the Council the power to make Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to control activities which have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those living and working in a locality.

The footpath alongside Mount Pleasant School, connecting Mount Pleasant and Imperial Road, and the footpath and park alongside Maytree School on Northumberland Road, have a long-standing history of anti-social and criminal activities, including littering, fly-tipping, drug dealing, theft, and violent assaults.

As a result, Southampton City Council are proposing that two PSPOs are put in place close these footpaths and the park.”

*Proposed PSPO to close the footpath alongside Mount Pleasant School, connecting Mount Pleasant and Imperial Road*



*Proposed PSPO to close the footpath and park alongside Maytree School on Northumberland Road*





Southampton City Council is committed to consultations of the highest standard and which are meaningful and comply with the *Gunning Principles*, considered to be the legal standard for consultations:

1. Proposals are still at a formative stage (a final decision has not yet been made);
2. There is sufficient information put forward in the proposals to allow 'intelligent consideration';
3. There is adequate time for consideration and response, and;
4. Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made.



New Conversations 2.0  
LGA guide to engagement



## Rules: The Gunning Principles

They were coined by Stephen Sedley QC in a court case in 1985 relating to a school closure consultation (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). Prior to this, very little consideration had been given to the laws of consultation. Sedley defined that a consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

1. **proposals are still at a formative stage**  
A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers
2. **there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'**  
The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response
3. **there is adequate time for consideration and response**  
There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation,<sup>1</sup> despite the widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation
4. **'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made**  
Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account

These principles were reinforced in 2001 in the 'Coughlan Case (R v North and East Devon Health Authority ex parte Coughlan<sup>2</sup>), which involved a health authority closure and confirmed that they applied to all consultations, and then in a Supreme Court case in 2014 (R ex parte Moseley v LB Haringey<sup>3</sup>), which endorsed the legal standing of the four principles. Since then, the Gunning Principles have formed a strong legal foundation from which the legitimacy of public consultations is assessed, and are frequently referred to as a legal basis for judicial review decisions.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In some local authorities, their local voluntary Compact agreement with the third sector may specify the length of time they are required to consult for. However, in many cases, the Compact is either inactive or has been cancelled so the consultation timeframe is open to debate

<sup>2</sup> BAILII, England and Wales Court of Appeal (Civil Decision) Decisions, Accessed: 13 December 2016.

<sup>3</sup> BAILII, United Kingdom Supreme Court, Accessed: 13 December 2016

<sup>4</sup> The information used to produce this document has been taken from the Law of Consultation training course provided by The Consultation Institute



- The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire as the main route for feedback; questionnaires enable an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured way, helping to ensure respondents are aware of the background and detail of the proposals.
- Respondents could also write letters or emails to provide feedback on the proposals: emails or letters from stakeholders that contained consultation feedback were collated and analysed as a part of the overall consultation.
- The consultation was promoted in the following ways:
  - Council e-bulletins;
  - Primary and secondary school bulletins;
  - Social media (including NextDoor, Instagram and Facebook)
  - Southampton City Council website;
  - Posters on lampposts within the area;
  - Shared with partners and people of interest (including the local policing body, Southampton Ramblers, the Byways and Bridleways Trust, Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society, Open Space Society and Pedestrian Association);
  - Shared with local businesses and schools within the area.
- All questionnaire results have been analysed and presented in graphs within this report. Respondents were also given opportunities throughout the questionnaire to provide written feedback on the proposals. All written responses and questionnaire comments have been read and then assigned to categories based upon sentiment or theme.

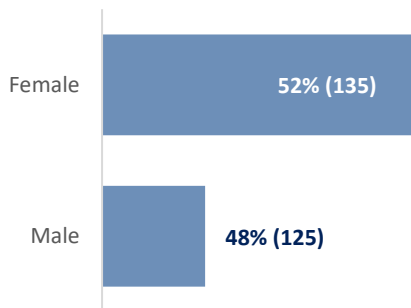


# Who are the respondents?

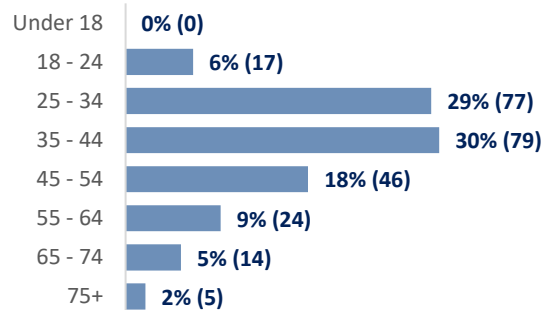
**Total responses**  
293 survey responses  
7 letter/email responses  
300 total

Graphs on this page are labelled as percentage (count).

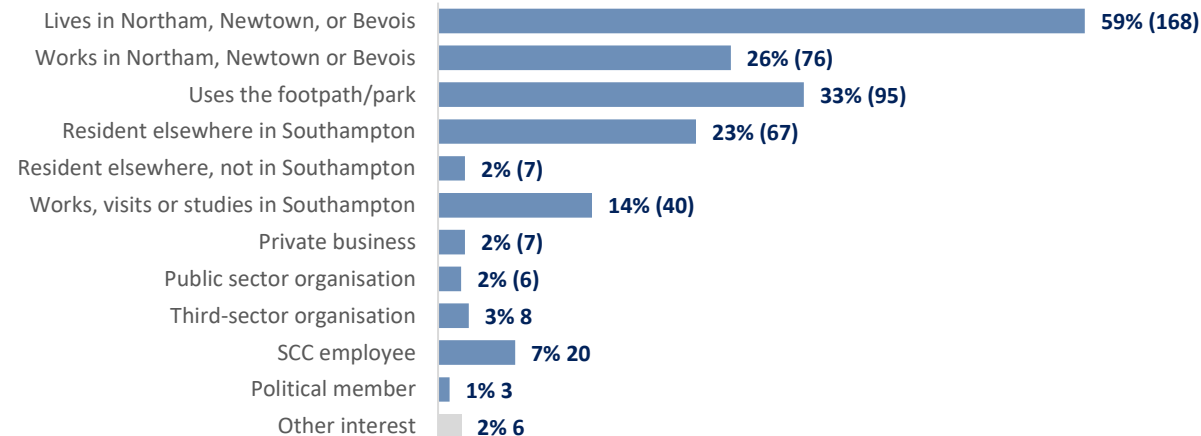
## Sex



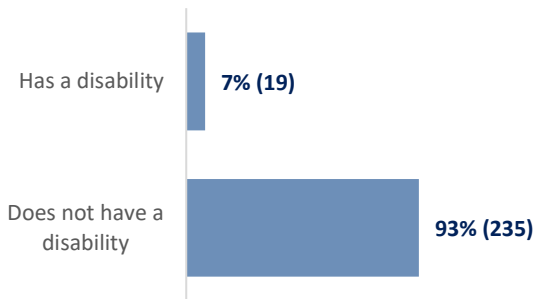
## Age



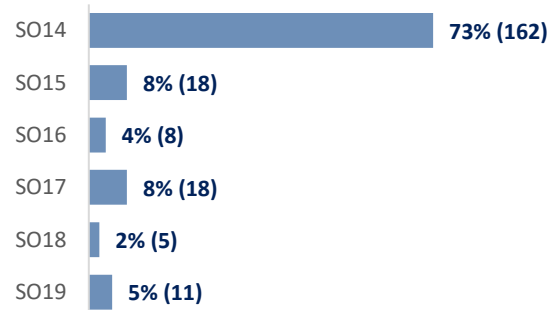
## Interest in the consultation



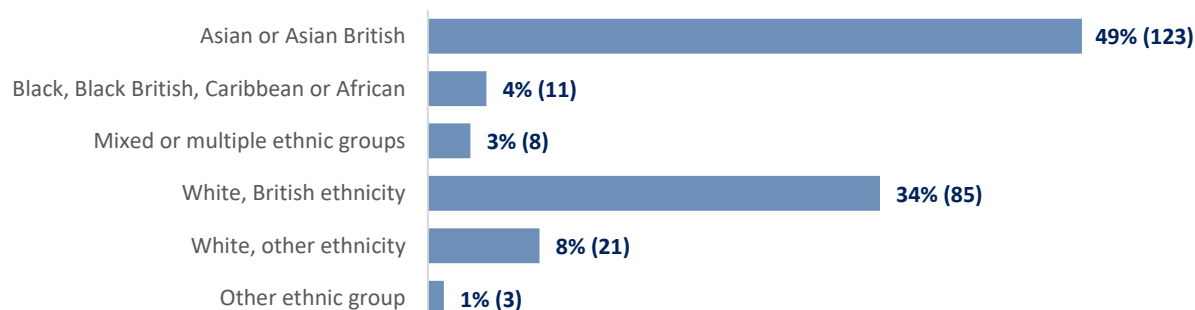
## Disability

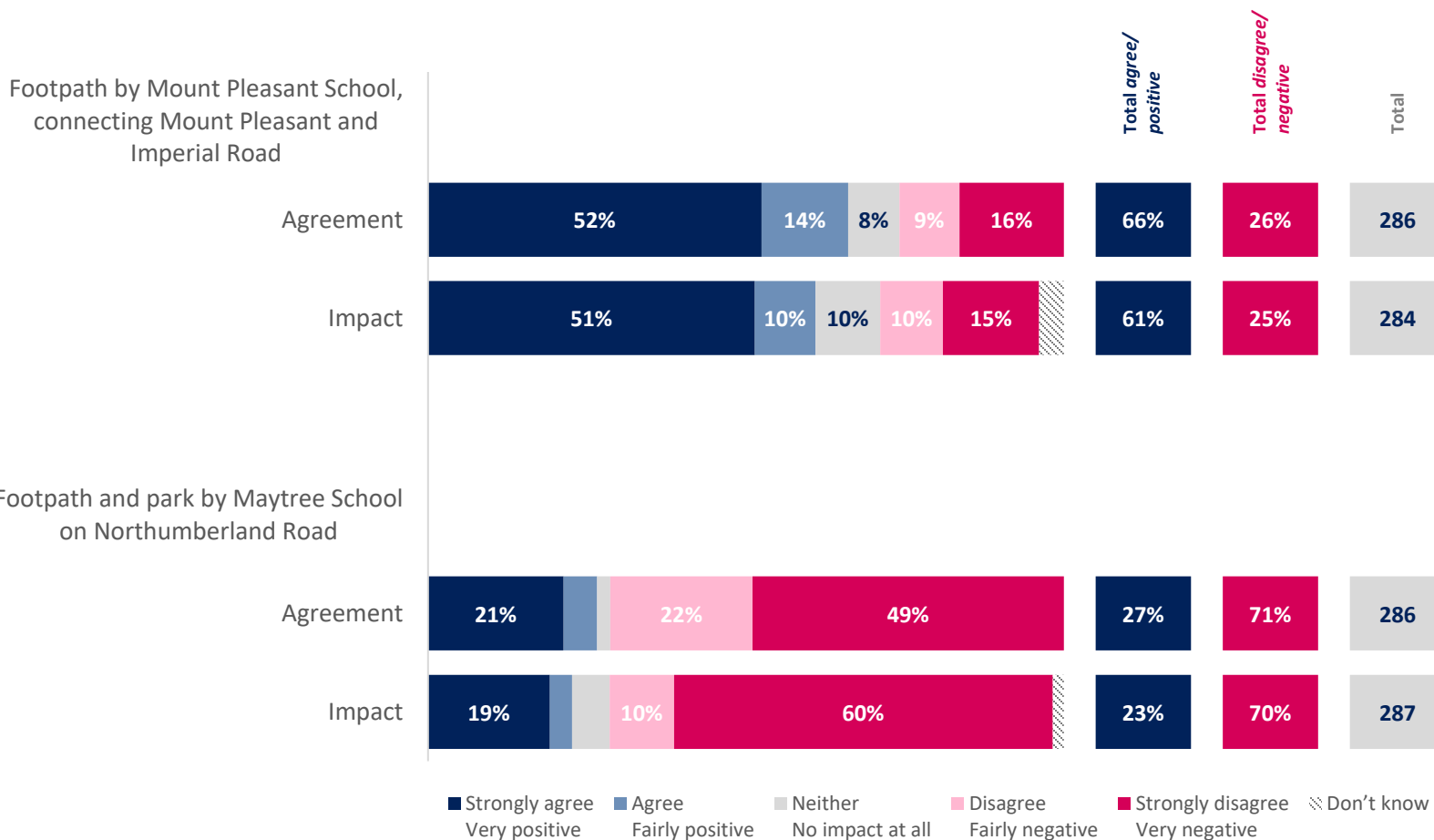


## Postcode



## Ethnicity





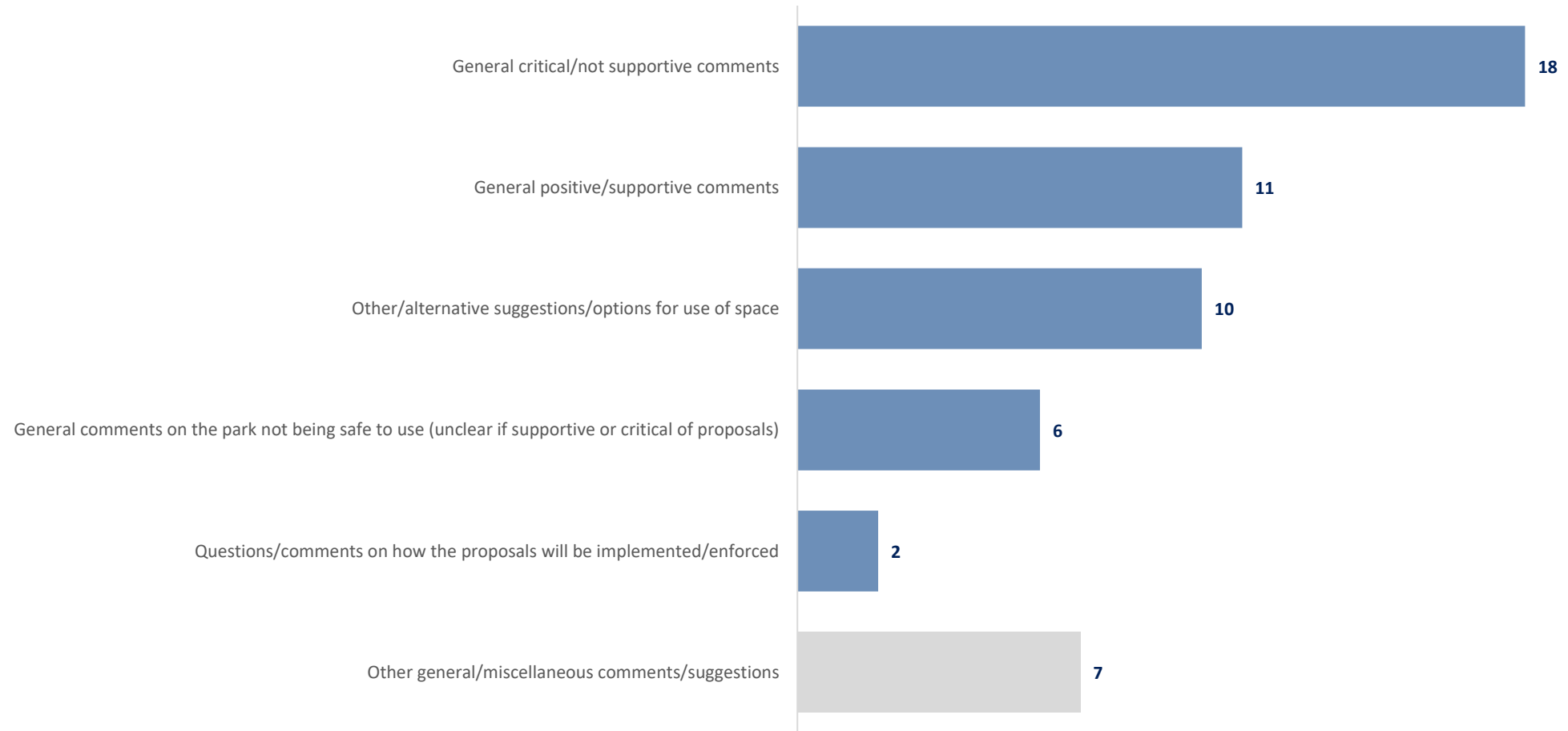
## Key findings

- Respondents were supportive of the proposals regarding the Mount Pleasant/Imperial Road footpath, with 66% saying they agreed with the proposal, and 61% saying that it may have a positive impact, including 51% that said it may have a very positive impact
- Respondents were not support of the proposals regarding the path and park by Maytree School on Northumberland Road – with 71% saying they disagreed with this proposal, and 70% saying it may have a negative impact, including 60% that said the impact may be very negative





\*No. comments per comment theme. Comments from question three, If you disagree, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details, where proposal being referred to in response was not clear, or response was referring to both proposals.



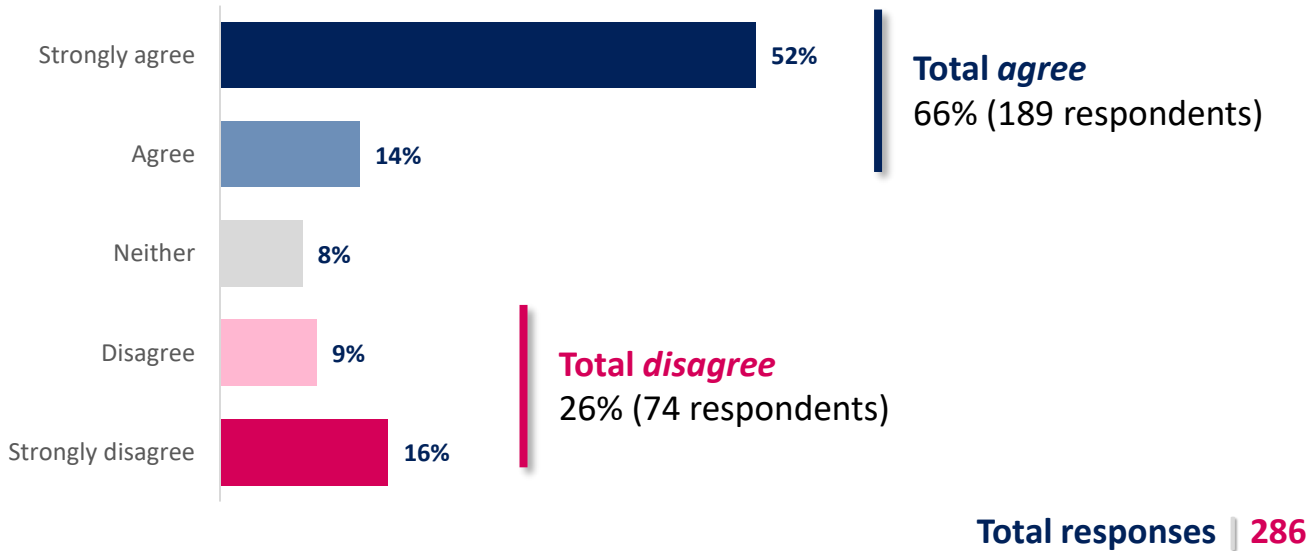


## Footpath by Mount Pleasant School, connecting Mount Pleasant and Imperial Road





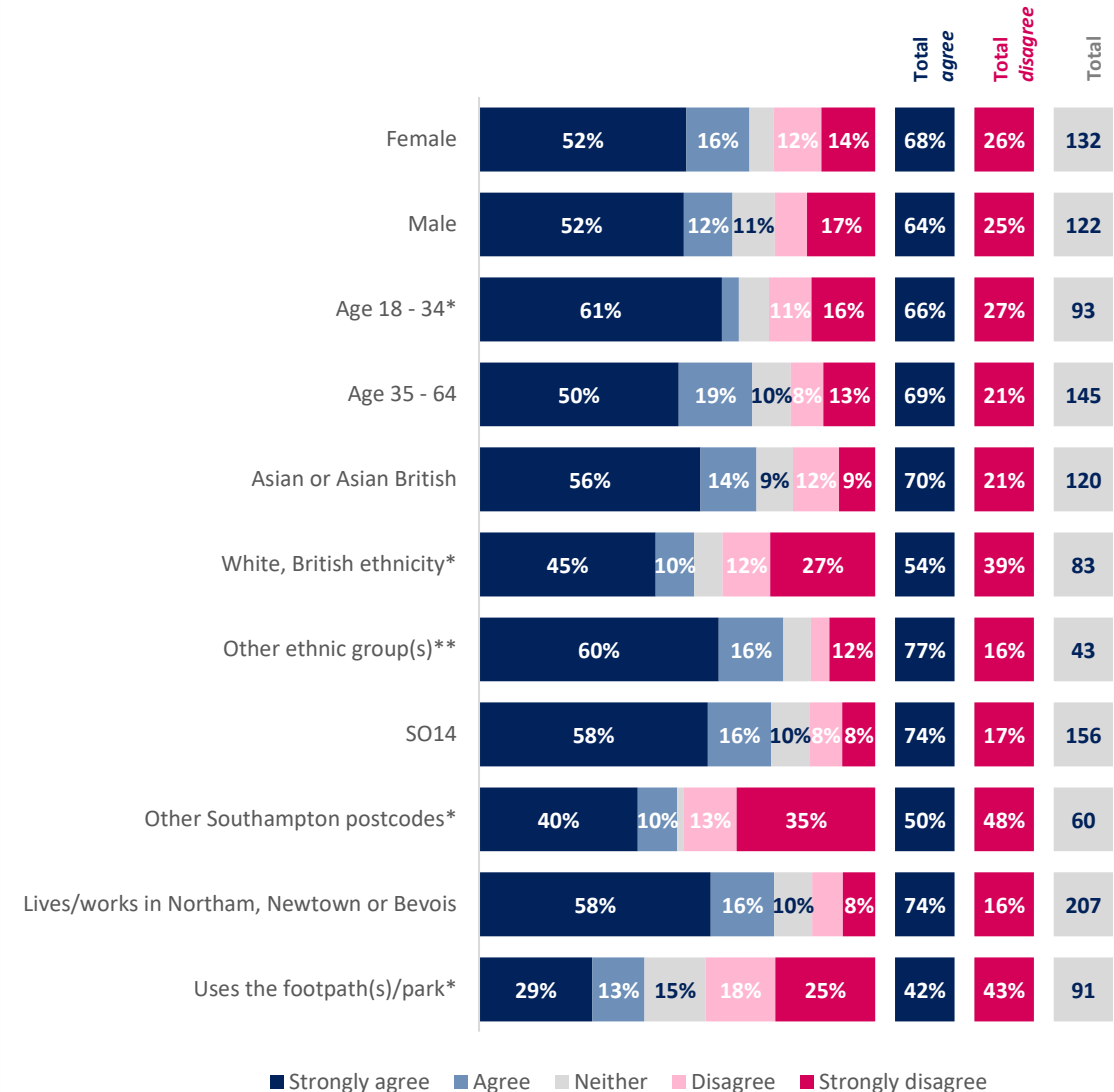
**Question 1a** | To what extent do you agree or disagree with proposals to introduce PSPOs... to close the footpath alongside Mount Pleasant School, connecting Mount Pleasant and Imperial Road



## Key findings

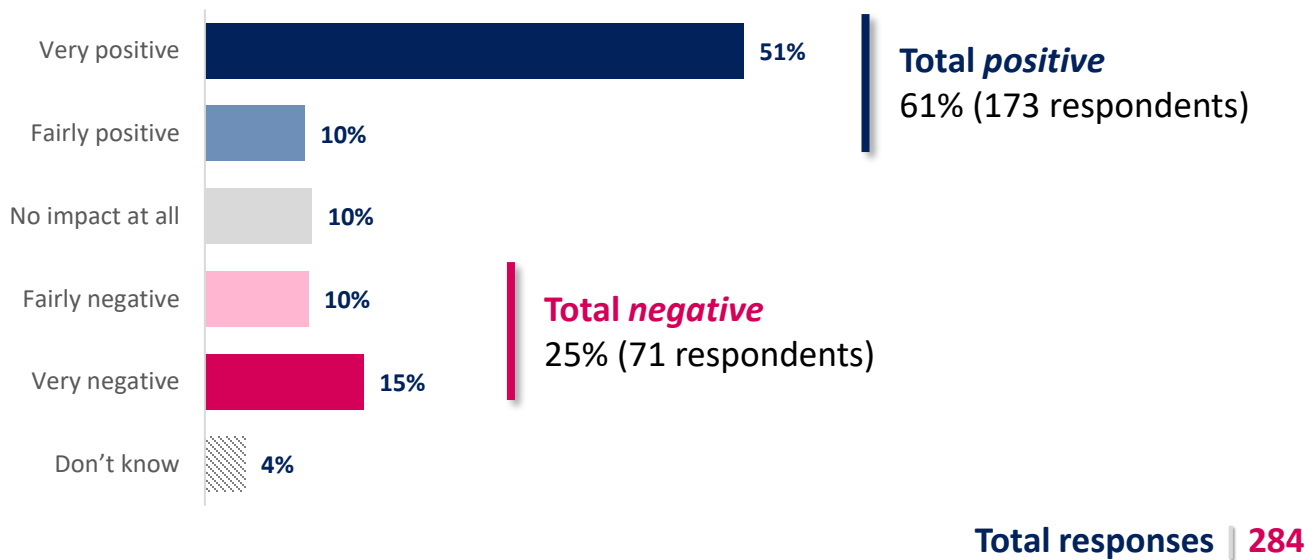
- 66% of respondents overall *agreed* with the proposal to use a PSPO to close the connecting footpath between Mount Pleasant and Imperial Road, including 52% that said they strongly agreed
- Respondents of a White British ethnicity responded *agree* 16% points less than those of an Asian or Asian British ethnicity (70%) or other ethnic group (77%), although all ethnicity breakdowns still responded *agree* by 50% or more
- Residents of the SO14 postcode responded *agree* 24% points more than residents of other Southampton postcodes, 74% to 50%
- Respondents that said they use the path were split between *agree* and *disagree* responses at 42 and 43% respectively, compared to the 74% of those that live or work in the area (Northam, Newtown and Bevois) that said they *agree* with the proposal

## Breakdowns





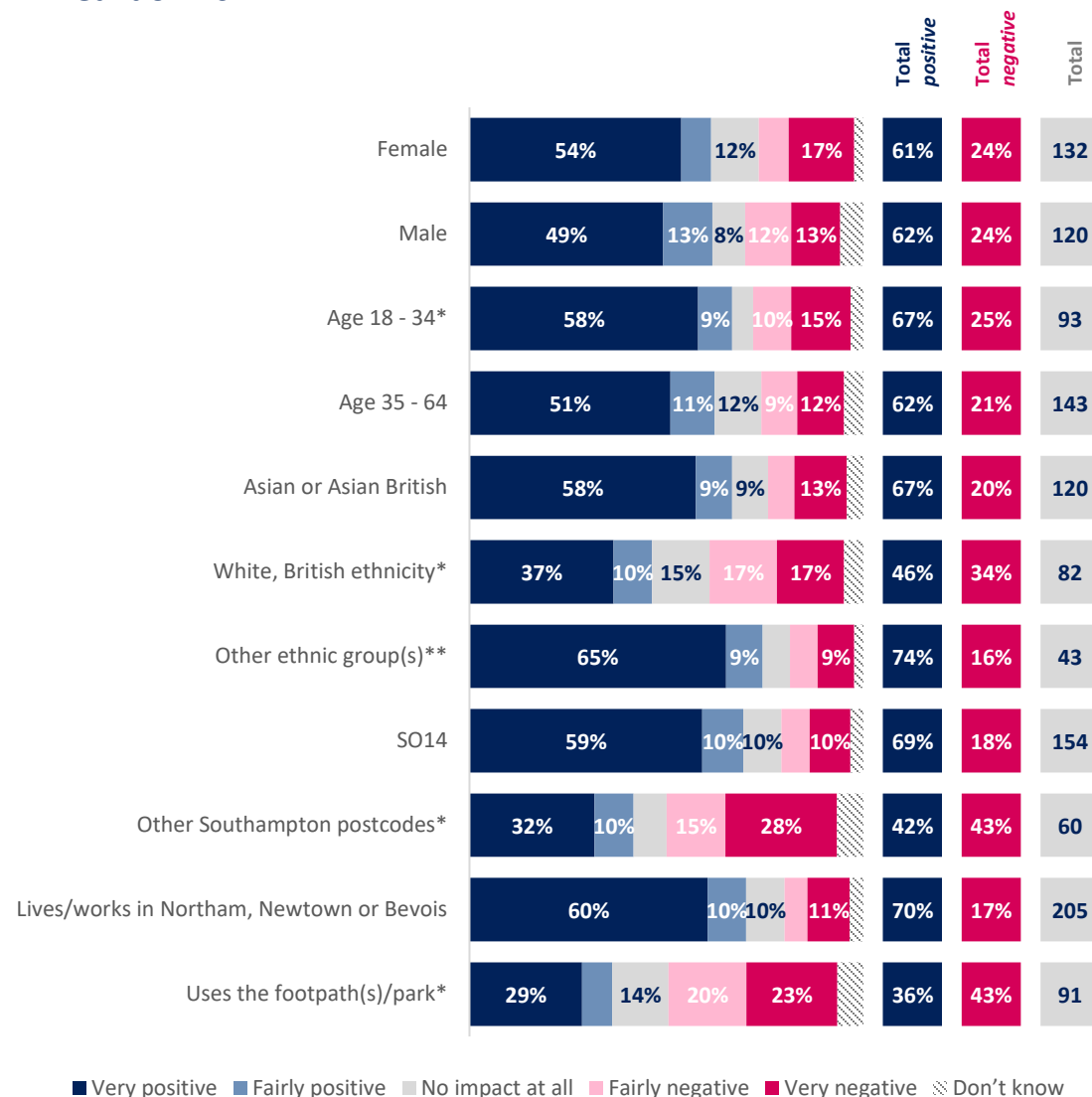
## Question 2a | What impact do you feel the PSPO proposals may have on you, your business or the wider community... to close the footpath alongside Mount Pleasant School, connecting Mount Pleasant and Imperial Road



### Key findings

- 61% of respondents said that the proposal may have a *positive* impact overall, including 51% that said it would have a very positive impact
- Asian or Asian British respondents said the proposal may have a *positive* impact 20% points more than White British respondents, 67% to 46%, with other ethnic groups responding 74% *positive* – of breakdowns by ethnicity, White British was the only one with less than 50% of responses for both overall *positive* sentiment and very positive responses
- Respondents that said they lived or worked in Northam, Newtown or Bevois responded overall *positive* impact at 70%, compared to respondents that confirmed they use the footpath, who responded 36% *positive* and 43% *negative*

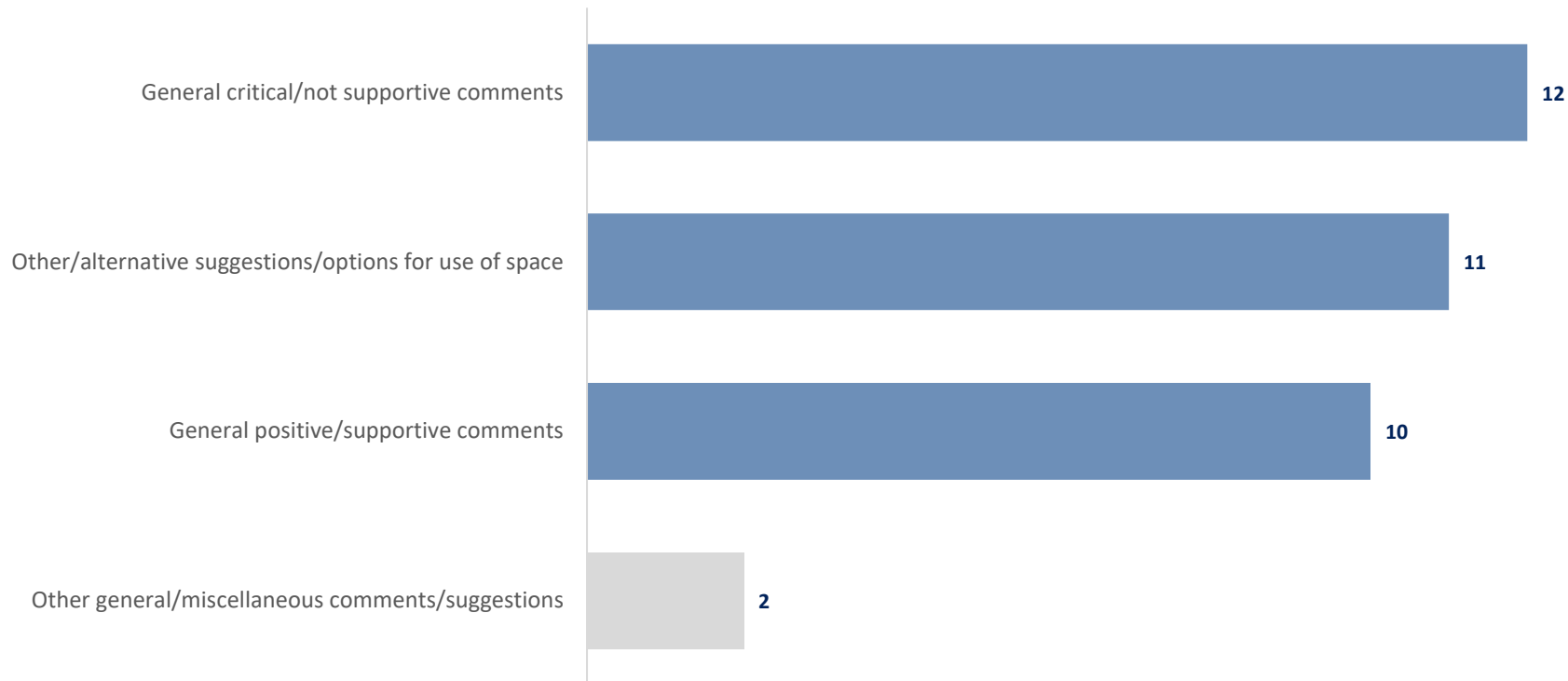
### Breakdowns





# Free-text comments\* on the footpath by Mount Pleasant School, connecting Mount Pleasant and Imperial Road

\*No. comments per comment theme. Comments from question three, If you disagree, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details.



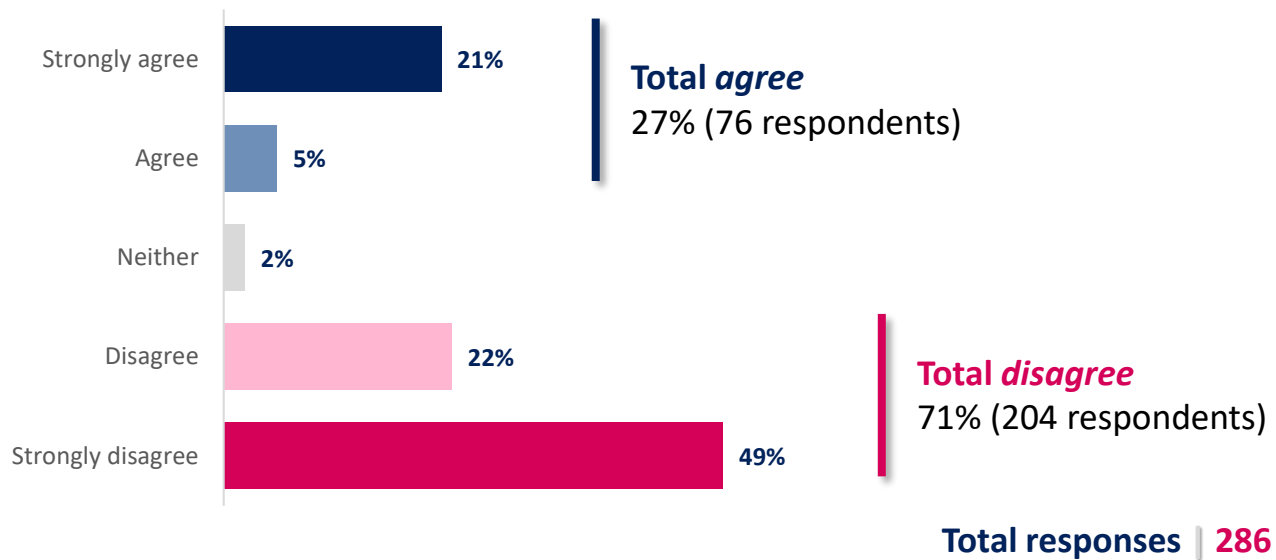


## Footpath & park by Maytree School, Northumberland Road





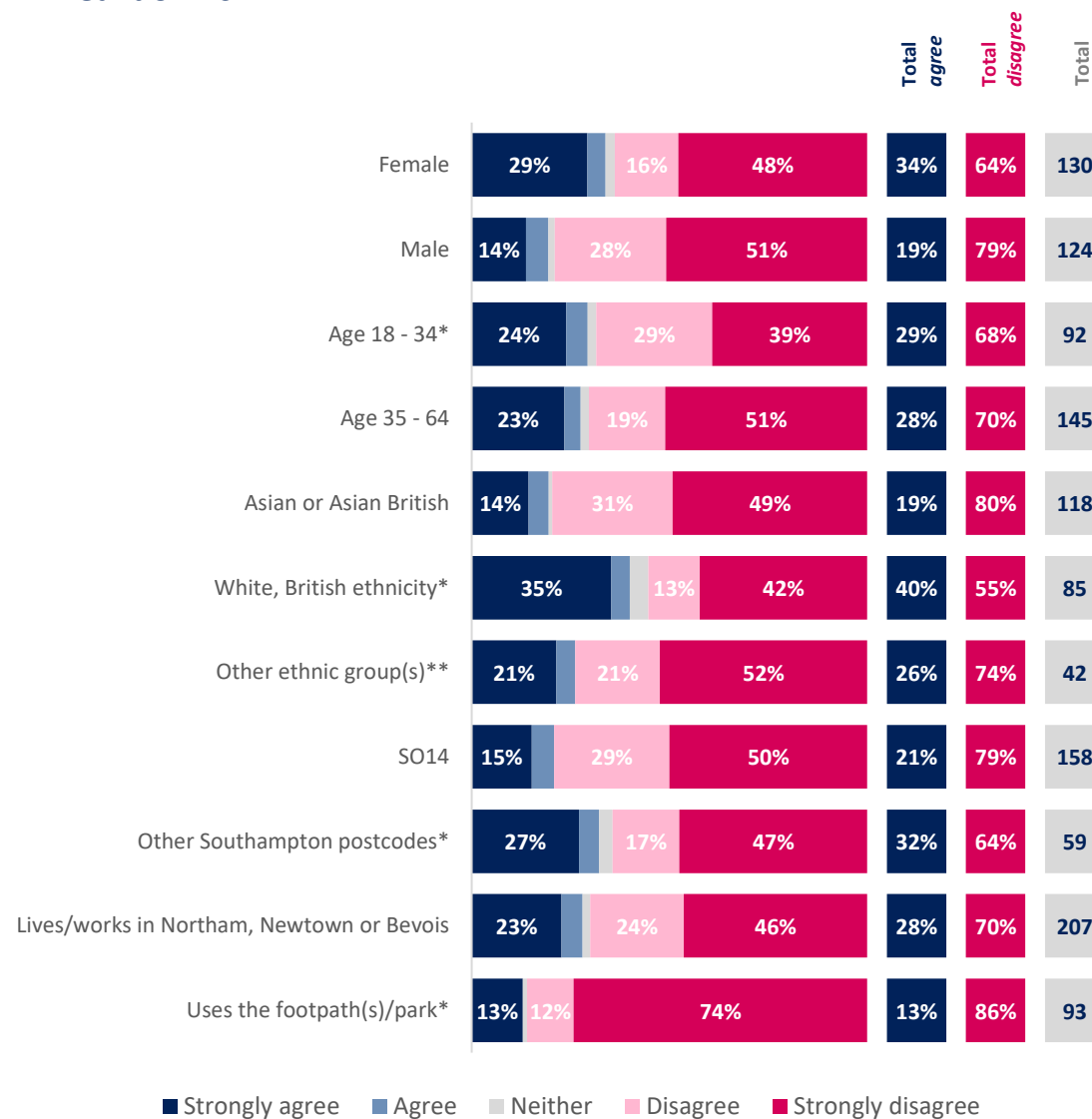
**Question 1b** | To what extent do you agree or disagree with proposals to introduce PSPOs... to close the footpath and park alongside Maytree School on Northumberland Road



## Key findings

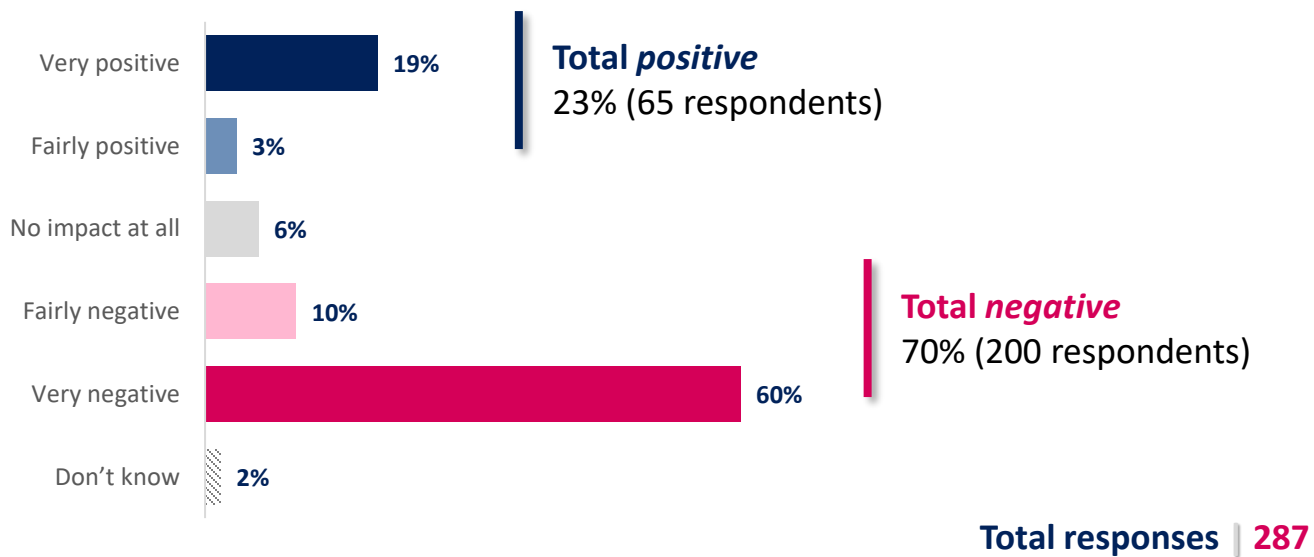
- 71% of respondents said that they *disagreed* with the proposal on using a PSPO in this area, with 49% saying they strongly disagreed
- Men said they *disagreed* with the proposal 15% points more than women, 79% to 64%
- Similarly, Asian or Asian British respondents *disagreed* 24% points more than respondents that said they were White British, with the latter responding 35% strongly agree to the former's 14%
- 74% of respondents that said they use the footpath/park said they strongly disagreed with the proposal

## Breakdowns





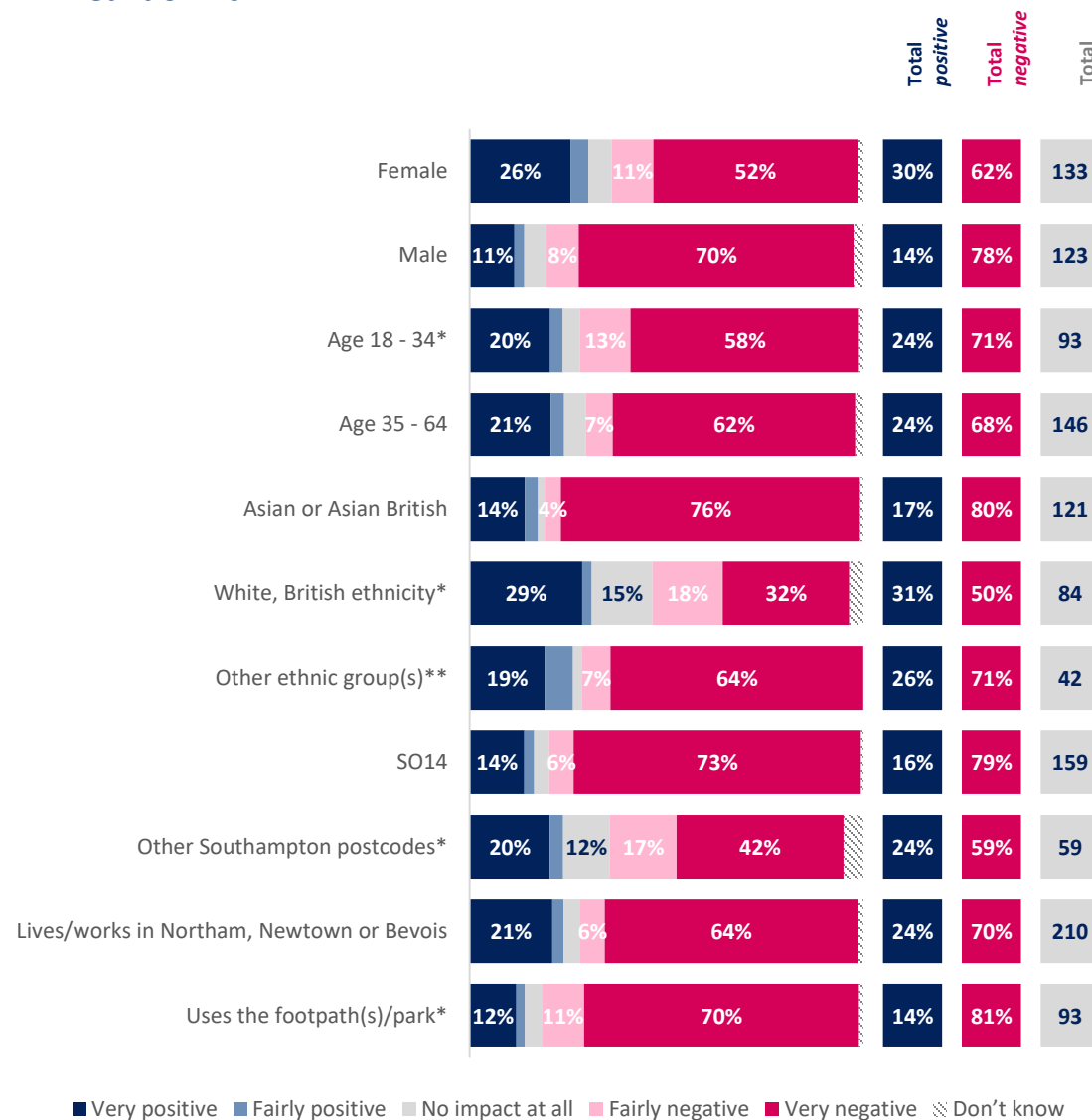
**Question 2b** | What impact do you feel the PSPO proposals may have on you, your business or the wider community... to close the footpath and park alongside Maytree School on Northumberland Road



## Key findings

- 70% of respondents said that this proposal may have a *negative* impact, including 60% that said it would have a very negative impact
- Male respondents said the proposal may have a *negative* impact 16% points more than female, 78% to 62%, with men also responding 70% very negative, 18% points more than women (52%)
- 80% of Asian or Asian British respondents said the proposal would have a *negative* impact, including 76% that said the impact would be very negative – White British respondents responded 50% *negative* overall
- Both respondents that live or work in the area and those that use the footpath(s)/park responded overall *disagree* by 70% or more

## Breakdowns







\*No. comments per comment theme. Comments from question three, If you disagree, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details.

