

Wallingford Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation report

February 2026

Executive Summary

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) in collaboration with key stakeholders have developed a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Wallingford Area, which includes connections to surrounding areas. The LCWIP is long-term plan for improving the cycling and walking infrastructure in the Wallingford Area so that it is safer, more convenient, and more accessible to walk, wheel and cycle in Wallingford and the surrounding areas for all residents. The draft LCWIP has been consulted on via Oxfordshire's Let's Talk platform and direct engagement with stakeholders. Over seven weeks, a total of 64 responses were received via Let's Talk Oxfordshire. Respondents to the Let's Talk consultation were largely representative of the demographic of the Wallingford areas population. A further seven written responses were received via email including from a parish council and Oxfordshire Cycling Network

Overall, the consultation, which asked for views on the cycling network and improvements and walking network and improvements, received a broadly positive response. More crossing provision and wider footpaths were strongly supported. Common themes throughout the consultation for both cycling and walking were concern regarding potential conflict in shared spaces and the need to deal with drainage issues along certain routes. The importance of delivering route improvements rather than piecemeal improvements was also highlighted. In addition, the importance of linking the towns within and outside of the scope and ensuring funding is actively pursued to deliver improvements was emphasised. Some concerns were raised regarding limited space for some proposals, footway parking causing an obstruction for people walking, and the importance of maintaining accessibility for people with disabilities.

The consultation feedback will help to inform the modification of the draft Wallingford Area LCWIP.

1. Introduction

The Wallingford Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is a plan for improving the walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure in Wallingford and connections to surrounding areas so that it is safer, more convenient, and more accessible to walk (including wheeled users) and cycle (by all bike types). The aim is to ultimately increase the number of people walking, wheeling and cycling for short local trips or as part of longer trips and achieve the LCWIP vision of creating a: *‘thriving town with good air quality, where walking for local trips is the norm for everyone. This is supported by safe, accessible and connected walking and cycling routes between residential areas, the historic town centre, schools, natural environments and local services and facilities’*. LCWIP development is a key policy in Oxfordshire’s Local Transport and Connectivity Plan and helps to achieve local and national health and environmental targets.

The plan has been developed by following Department for Transport guidance, which sets out six stages to developing an LCWIP:

1. Determining scope
2. Gathering information
3. Network planning for cycling
4. Network planning for walking
5. Prioritising improvements
6. Integration and application

Whilst LCWIPs do not come with fully funded schemes, they are a tool for attracting and guiding funding when it becomes available.

To ensure that an LCWIP is reflective of community concerns and aspirations, engagement with local stakeholders and the community is key. Local stakeholders have been engaged in the drafting of the LCWIP (namely Wallingford Town Council, representatives from each neighbouring village and local walking and cycling groups), and the public have been engaged in reviewing the finalised draft and the key areas of network plans and improvements for cycling and walking. This report sets out the findings from this consultation.

2. Methodology

The consultation consisted of an online survey hosted on Let's Talk Oxfordshire, which ran from 19th November 2025 to 7th January 2026. A copy of the Wallingford Area LCWIP was also available at local libraries. Participants were provided with the draft LCWIP, background report, and cycling and walking audit reports. Participants were asked for their 'views of the 'Wallingford Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan', including the network plans for walking and cycling and proposed improvements. Stakeholders were also able to submit comments via email.

Respondents were made aware of the consultation in several ways including:

- Direct emails from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) officers were sent to key stakeholders
- Press release shared with local media and government press, Your Oxfordshire newsletter

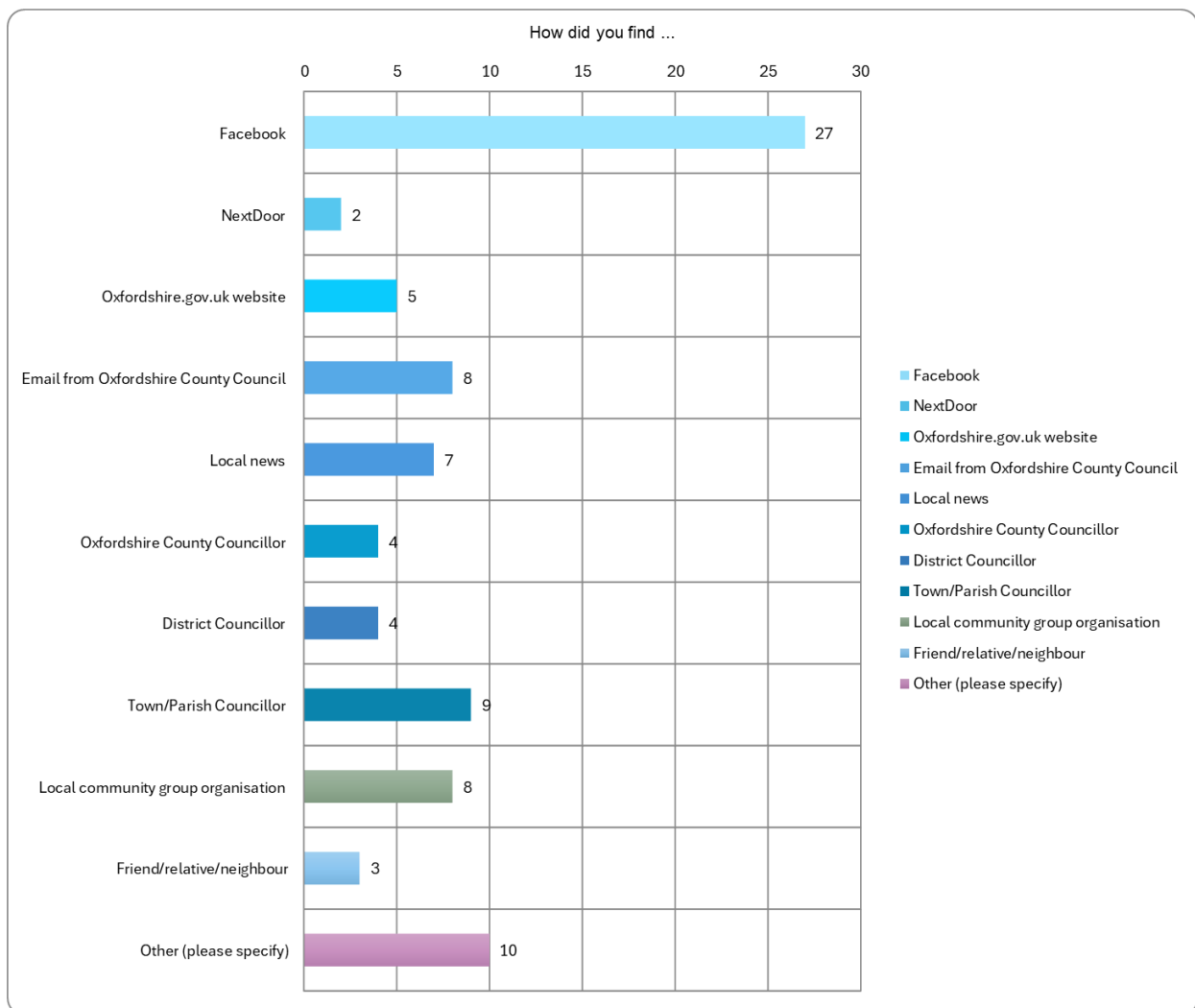


Figure 1 How respondents found out about the consultation

In response to the question 'How did you find out about the consultation?' (of those who answered the question)

- 27 respondents selected Facebook
- 2 respondents selected Next Door
- 5 respondents selected Oxfordshire.gov.uk website
- 8 respondents selected email from Oxfordshire County Council
- 7 respondent selected Local News
- 17 respondents selected Oxfordshire County Councillor, District Councillor or Town/Parish Councillor
- 8 respondents selected Loal community Group Organisation
- 3 respondents selected Friend/Relative/Neighbour
- 10 respondents selected Other

3. Response Rate and Demographics

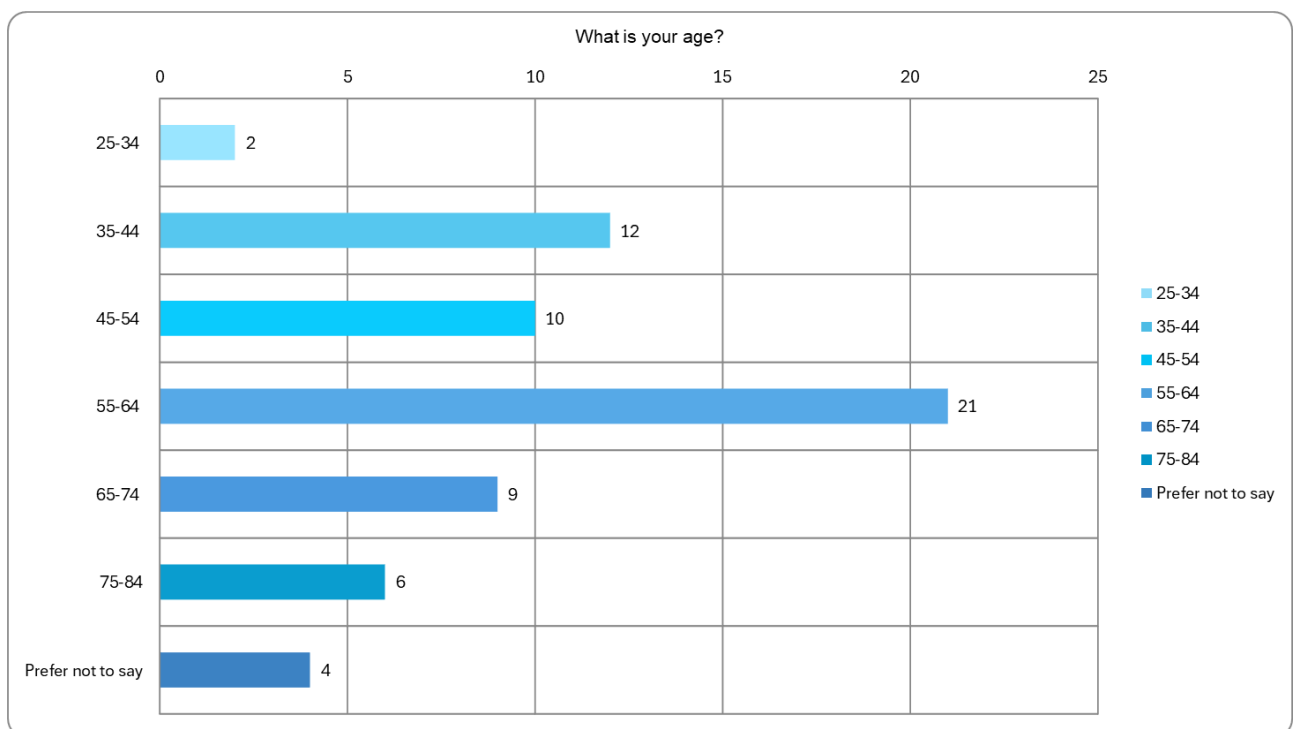


Figure 2 Respondents' Age

In response to the question 'what is your age' (of those who answered the question)

- 0 respondents were aged under 25
- 2 respondents were in the age category 25-34
- 12 respondents were in the age category 35-44
- 10 respondents were in the age category 45-54
- 21 respondents were in the age category 55-64
- 9 respondents were in the age category 65-74

- 6 respondents were in the age category 75 or more
- 4 respondents preferred not to say what their age was

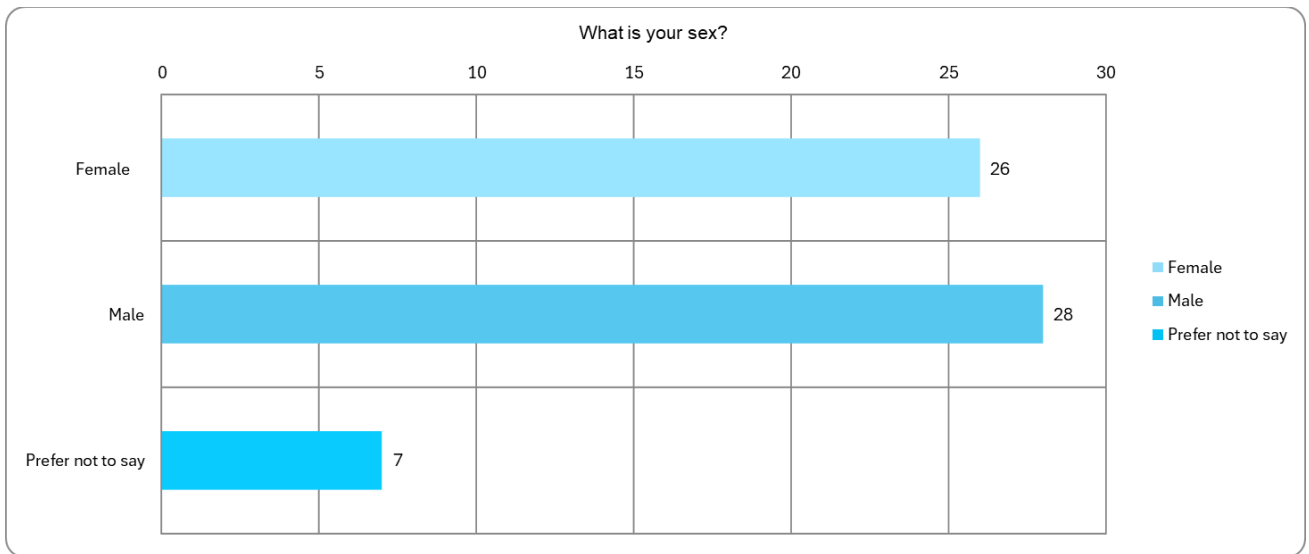


Figure 3 Respondents' Sex

In response to the question 'what is your sex' (of those who answered the question)

- 26 respondents said they were Female
- 28 respondents said they were Male
- 7 respondents selected 'Prefer not to Say'

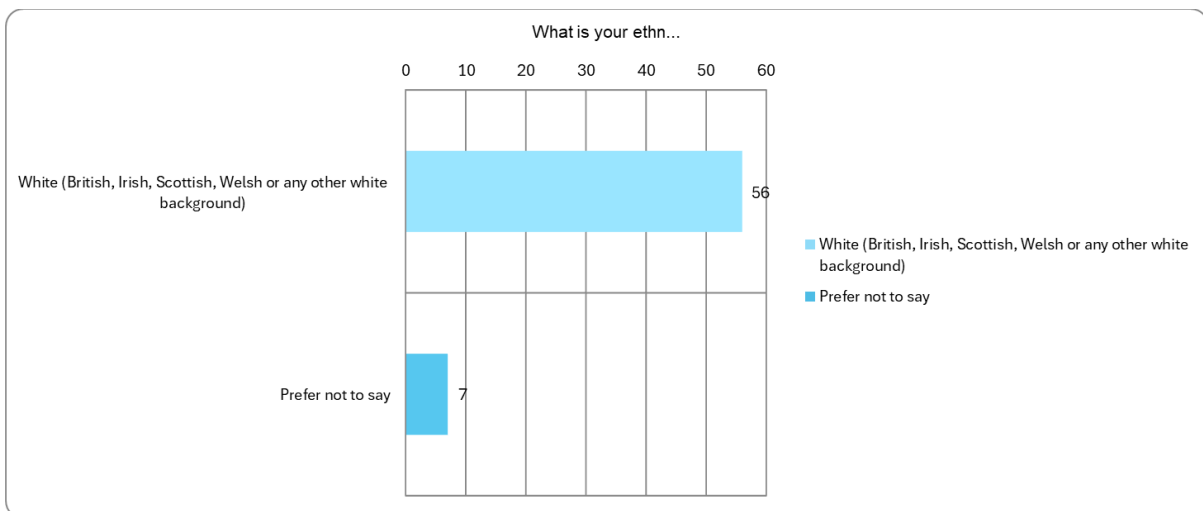


Figure 4 Respondents' Ethnic Background

In response to the question 'what is your ethnic background' (of those who answered the question)

- 56 respondents selected 'White (British, Irish, Scottish, Welsh or any other white background)'
- 7 respondents selected 'Prefer not to Say'

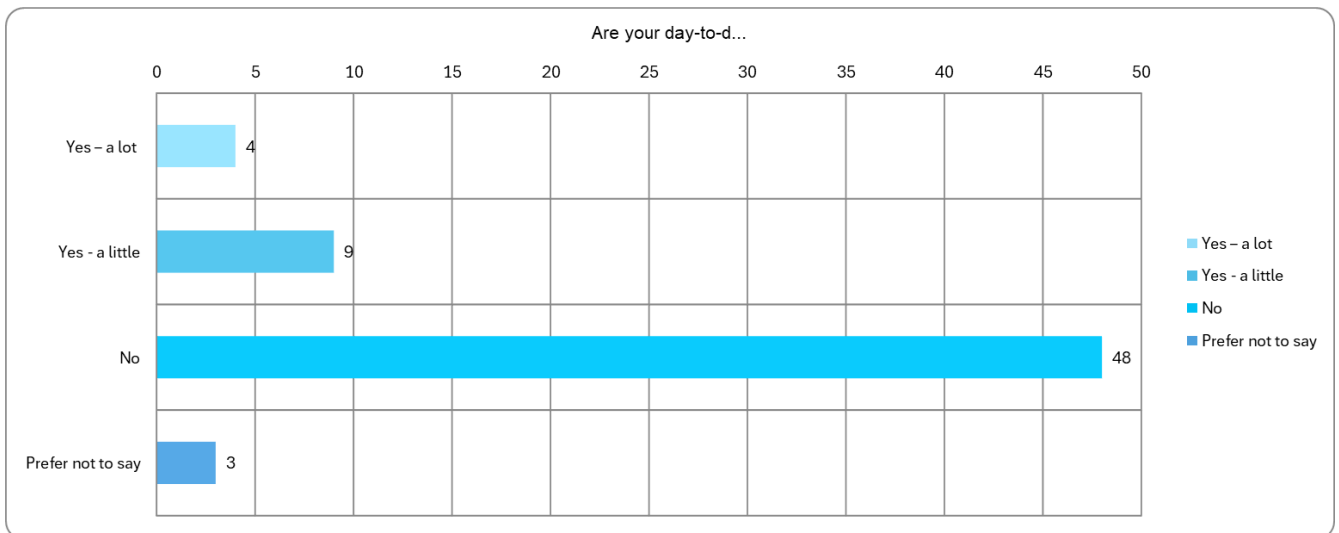


Figure 5 Whether respondents are impacted by long - term illness, health problem or disability

In response to the question 'are your day activities impacted because of long – term illness, health problem or disability that has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?' (of those who answered the question)

- 4 respondents answered Yes – a lot
- 9 respondents answered Yes – a little
- 48 respondents answered No
- 3 respondents selected Prefer to Say

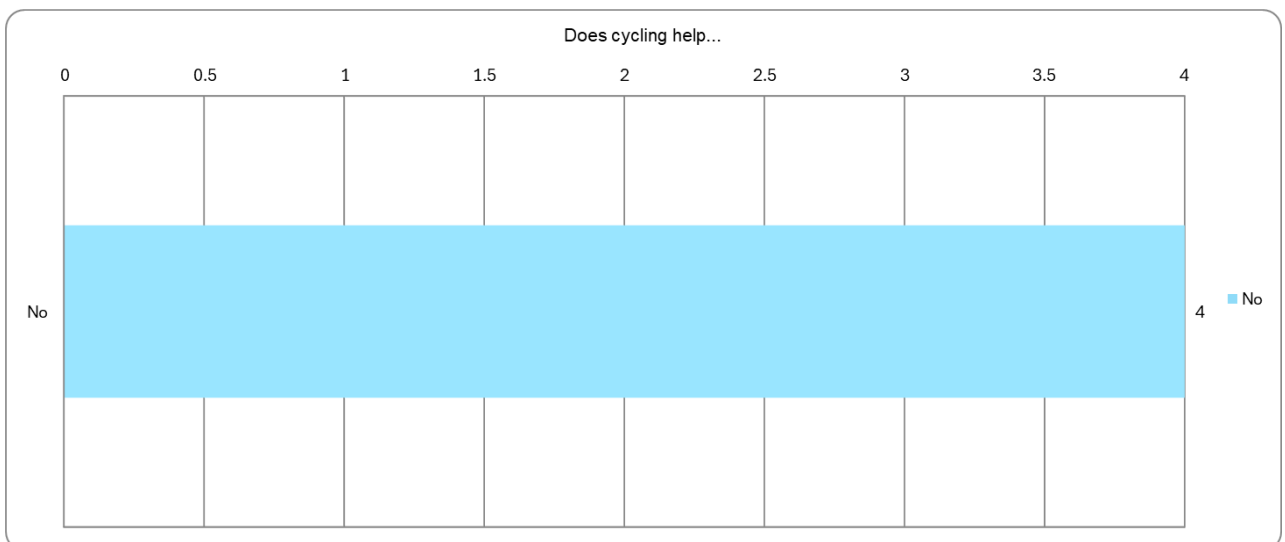


Figure 6 Whether cycling helps respondents with a long-term illness, health problem or disability to get around

In response to the question 'if you answered yes (to the question 'are your day-to-day activities impacted because of long-term illness, health problem or disability that has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months'), does cycling help you get around?' (of those who answered the question)

- 4 respondents selected No

Overall, most respondents to the Let's Talk Oxfordshire consultation were not impacted by long term illness, health problem or disability that has last, or is expected to last, at least 12 months.

4. Findings

The consultation sought feedback on five key areas:

1. Cycling network
2. Cycling improvements
3. Walking network
4. Walking improvements
5. Prioritisation of improvements

Cycling Network

Overall, what do you think of the proposed network for cycling in the Wallingford area, as audited in Appendix B?

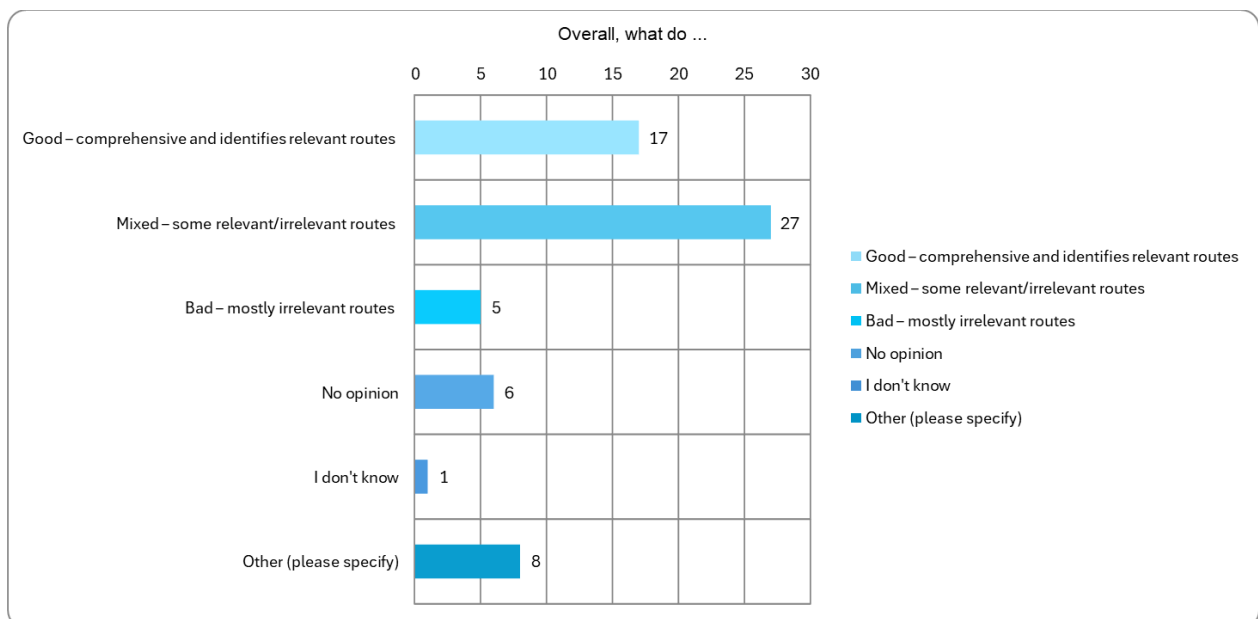


Figure 7 Views on the Cycling Network

A variety of views were received to the question about the proposed cycling network. Of those who answered the question:

- 17 respondents answered Good – comprehensive and identifies relevant routes
- 27 respondents answered Mixed – some relevant/irrelevant routes
- 5 respondents answered Bad – mostly irrelevant routes
- 6 respondents answered No Opinion
- 1 respondent answered I don't know

- 8 respondents answered Other (please specify)

This split of views indicates some changes need to be made to the cycling network, despite the majority in support or showing mixed views. Of all the responses, 36 of them came with detailed comments and recommendations for amendments to the network, naming specific routes and identified improvements in their response.

What changes, if any, would you make to the suggested cycling network? (free text question)

Key points arising from this question where:

- Safe travel between Wallingford Town Centre and Cholsey Station via Reading Road/Winterbrook/Wallingford Road
- Increasing commuter cycle parking e.g. covered cycle parking near bus stops
- Concerns over safety and width of shared use footways including on Station Road / Wantage Road Such routes were deemed dangerous and disregarded vulnerable users including older people
- Increase in segregation on busy roads for cyclists
- Concerns over the safety and speed of drivers and cyclists
- Quality and number of routes in Benson
- Increase lighting along certain parts of the networks including the current shared used foot and cycle way on Reading Road

Cycling Improvements

Overall, what do you think of the suggested improvements for cycling along the routes shown in Table 4?

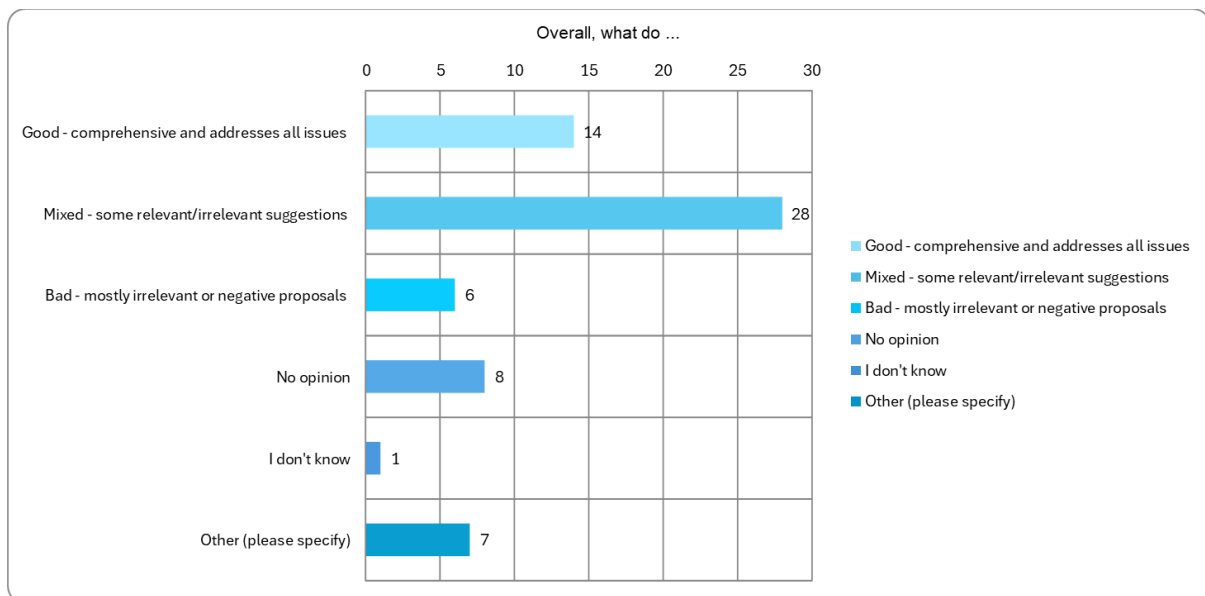


Figure 8 Views on the Cycle Network Improvements

A variety of views were received to the question about the proposed cycle network improvements. Of those who answered the question:

- 14 respondents said the proposed cycle network improvements were ‘good – ambitious and address all issues’
- 28 respondents said the proposed cycle network improvements were ‘mixed – some appropriate and some inappropriate or negative suggestions’
- 6 respondents said the proposed cycle network improvements were ‘bad – mostly inadequate or negative proposals’
- 8 respondents selected ‘No opinion’
- 1 respondent selected ‘I don’t know’
- 7 respondents selected ‘Other’

What changes, if any, would you make to the suggested cycling improvements? (free text question)

Respondents provided a variety of comments when asked to consider changes to proposed cycling improvements. Support for improving the cycling network was expressed, but making improvements in a timely manner was emphasised as key to bringing about change.

The need to improve cycling options across and around Wallingford bridge were mentioned.

Much like the comments regarding the cycling network, improvements that resulted in shared spaces for people walking and cycling, were not supported by some. Comments additionally mentioned the need for signage and lighting on shared use pathways.

Walking Network

Overall, what do you think of the proposed network for walking and wheeling in the Wallingford area, as audited in Appendix B?

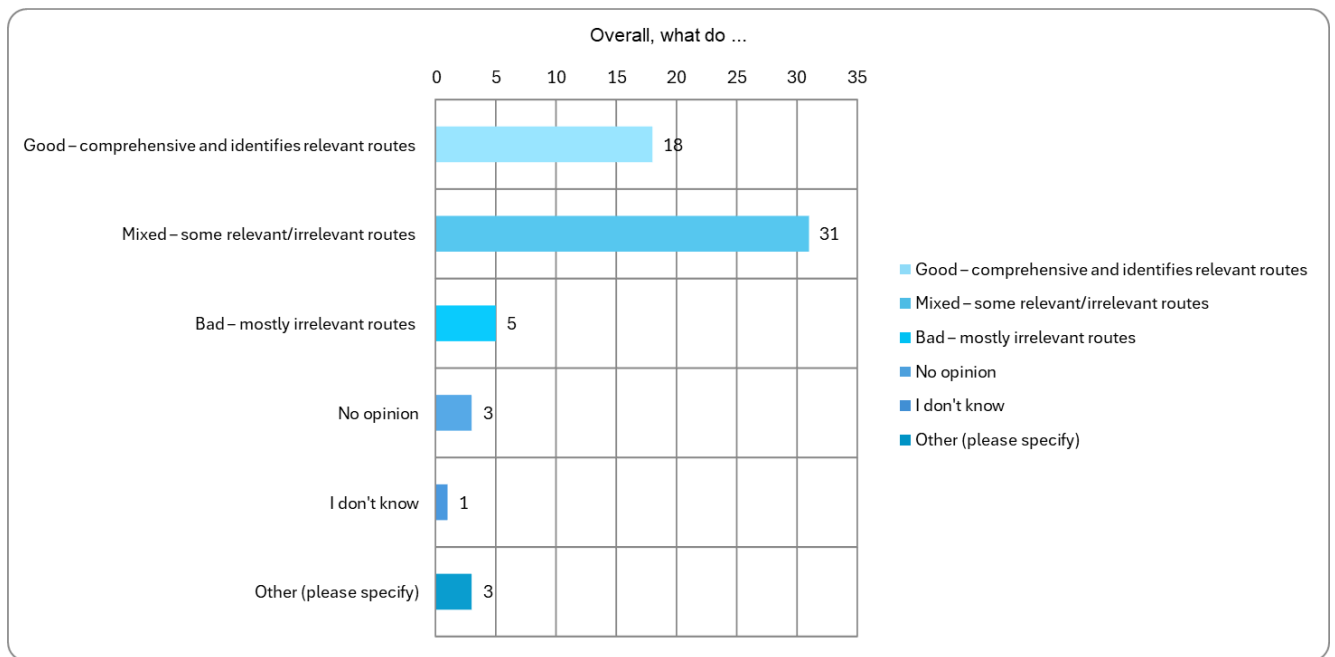


Figure 9 Views on the Walking Network

A variety of views were received to the question about the proposed walking network. Of those who answered the question:

- 18 respondents said that the walking network was ‘Good –comprehensive and identifies relevant routes’
- 31 respondents said that the walking network was ‘Mixed – some relevant/irrelevant routes’
- 5 respondents said that the walking network was ‘Bad – mostly irrelevant routes’
- 3 respondents selected ‘No Opinion’
- 1 respondent selected ‘I don’t know’
- 3 respondents selected ‘Other’

***What changes, if any, would you make to the suggested walking network?
(free text question)***

Again, shared used paths was a common theme in the response to the above question. With some comments stating that shared paths need to be of sufficient width to allow cyclists and pedestrians to pass safely and other comments suggesting an increase in shared use spaces.

The safety of walking routes to and from the local schools was mentioned alongside the need to widen these routes and deal with drainage issues especially around Station Road and Cholsey station.

Walking improvements

Overall, what do you think of the suggested improvements for walking and wheeling along the routes shown in Table 4?

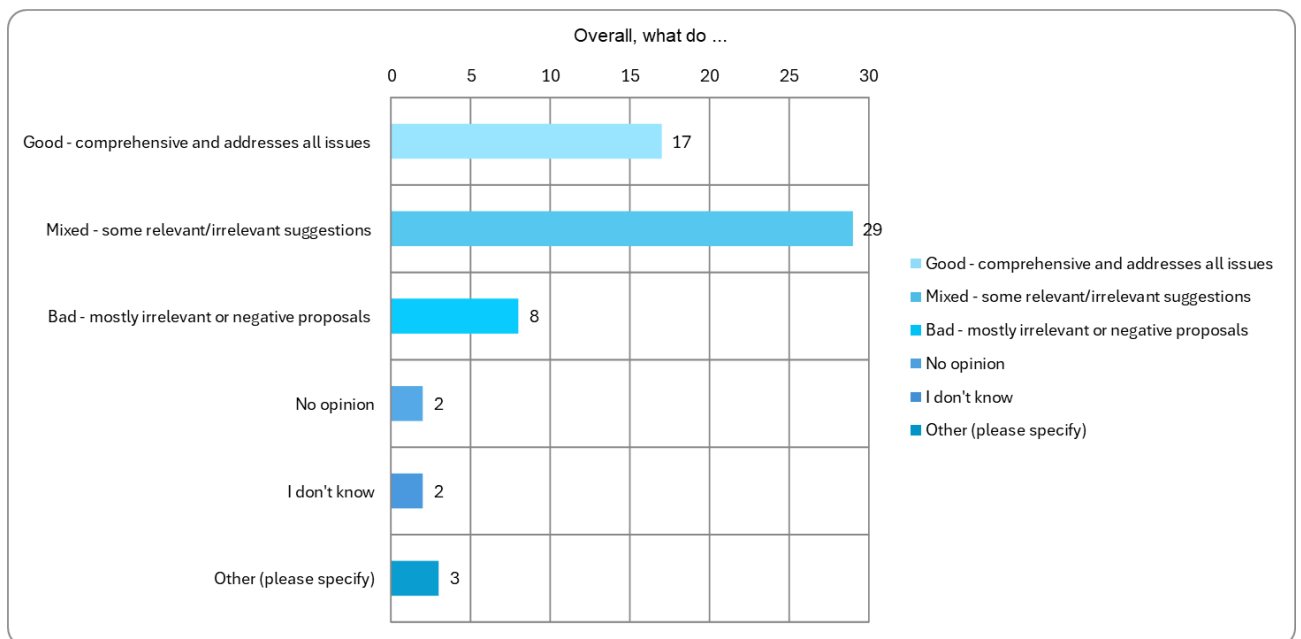


Figure 10 Views on the Walking Network Improvements

A variety of views were received to the question about the proposed walking network improvements. Of those who answered the question :

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- 17 respondents said that the walking network was ‘Good –comprehensive and identifies relevant routes’
- 29 respondents said that the walking network was ‘Mixed – some relevant/irrelevant routes’
- 8 respondents said that the walking network was ‘Bad – mostly irrelevant routes’
- 2 respondents selected ‘No Opinion’
- 2 respondents selected ‘I don’t know’
- 3 respondents selected ‘Other’

What changes, if any, would you make to the suggested walking and wheeling improvements? (free text question)

Comments for this question were understandably similar to the previous. Lighting was mentioned alongside consideration for improving public footpaths in the area for walking. Upgraded paths through parks and woodlands in the Wallingford area was mentioned for consideration to increase their usage during the winter.

Route Prioritisation

Overall, what do you think of the prioritisation rankings for all the suggested improvements?

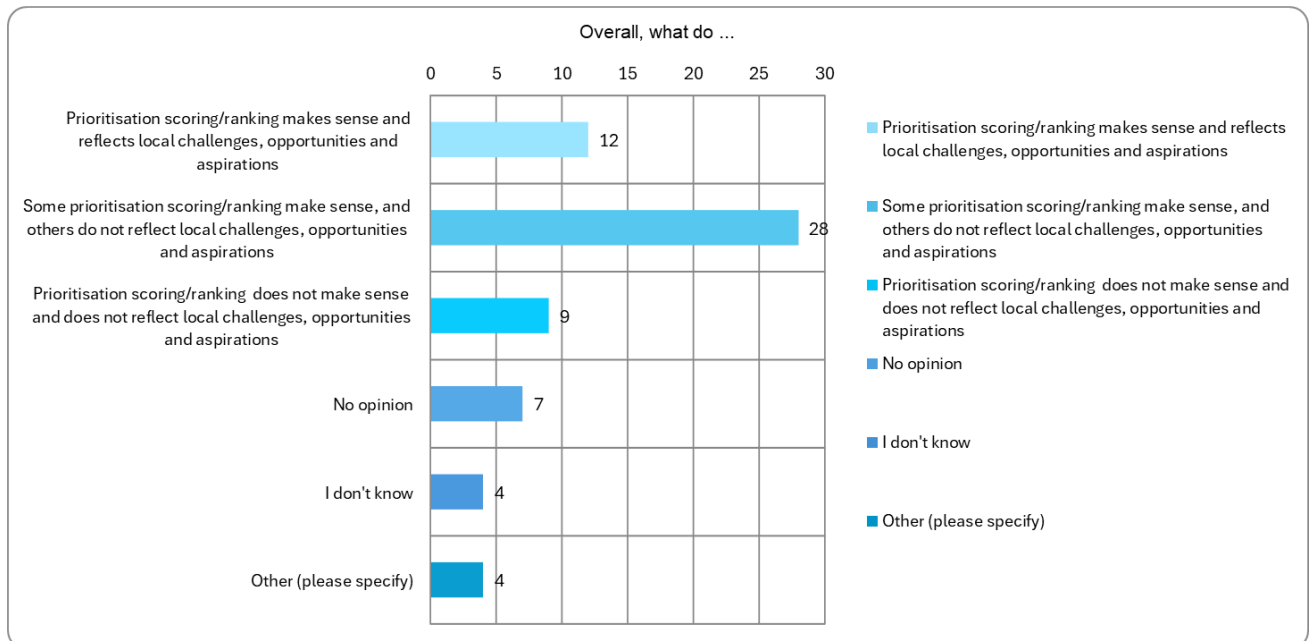


Figure 11 Views on Prioritised Routes

Of those who answered the question 'Overall, what do you think of the prioritisation rankings for all the suggested improvements?':

- 12 respondents said 'Prioritisation scoring/ranking makes sense and reflects local challenges, opportunities and aspirations'
- 28 respondents said 'Some prior scoring/ranking makes sense, and others do not reflect local challenges, opportunities and aspirations'
- 9 respondents said 'Prioritisation scoring/ ranking does not make sense and does not reflect local challenges, opportunities and aspirations'
- 7 respondents selected 'No Opinion'
- 4 respondents selected 'I don't know'
- 4 respondents selected 'Other'

What changes, if any, would you make to the list of prioritised design recommendation for improvement? (free text question)

There was a low response rate to the question asking for suggested changes to the prioritised list of route improvements. Whilst some respondents did not support the aspiration to improve walking and cycling provision in the Wallingford Area, others did not think the LCWIP went far enough commenting that the prioritised routes should be implemented faster. Again, comments reiterated concerns over shared use path/cycle ways especially in the vicinity of schools.

5. Conclusion

Overall, there has been a broadly positive response to the draft Wallingford Area LCWIP. Most respondents support the walking network and improvements suggested or have mixed views. Additional network connections and improvements for walking have been proposed through the consultation, including links to school and the surrounding community.

The proposed cycle network and improvements also received broadly positive responses. There were some mixed views/ concerns/ suggested changes, which will be addressed in the LCWIP where possible and is outlined in further detail elsewhere in the report.