



Oversight and Governance

Chief Executive's Department
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

Please ask for Ross Jago

T 01752 305155

E democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk

www.plymouth.gov.uk

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GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PRESENTATION

Monday 22 January 2024

2.00 pm

Council Chamber, Council House

Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 4. Better Places Programme: Armada Way - Presentation: (Pages 1 - 20)**



Plymouth City Council

Armada Way Consultation Main Findings

Scrutiny Meeting Update

January 2024



Consultation

17 October 2023 – 28 November 2023

Who took part?

Engagement

- **1503** survey respondents
- **5** completed EasyRead surveys
- **9** stakeholder interviews
- **16** written responses from organisations and groups
- **50** respondents gave feedback via email/phone
- **4** workshops conducted with older persons, younger persons and people with disabilities

Participants – Survey demographics

- Most respondents were from PL postcodes (96.4%); and 3.5% were represented by various postcodes
- Nearly half of respondents were people aged between 55-74 (40%); and 12% were aged 25 to 34
- Most respondents were female (53%)
- The majority of respondents had the same gender identity as the sex they were assigned at birth (96.5%)
- Most respondents didn't have a health problem or disability that affected their day-to-day activities (71%)
- Most respondents identified as White (87.6%); a small proportion of respondents identified as mixed or multiple ethnic groups, Asian or Black (2.6%)

The Approach

Survey

- Designed to gather a range of quantitative and qualitative feedback
- Survey questions asked for feedback on the design elements of the proposed scheme and overall ideas/concerns from respondents
- Open text questions allowed for respondents to provide additional feedback; this information was coded for themes
- Online survey on project website
- Printed version available at Central Library and provided on request
- EasyRead and translated versions available on request

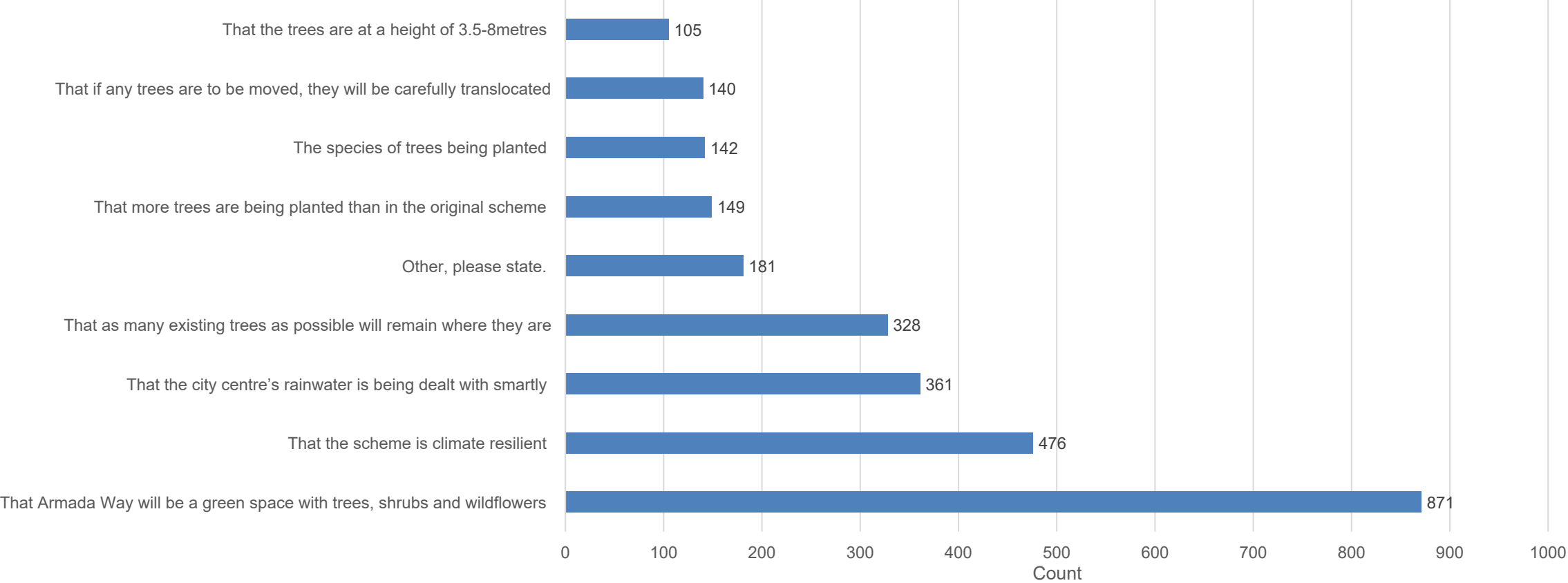
Workshops, interviews and formal responses

- 4 workshops conducted with older persons, younger people and people with disabilities. Target groups identified through pre-consultation engagement and stakeholder mapping.
- ECF staff engaged with family groups and schools to encourage survey completion by parents
- 1-2-1 interviews held with representatives of high-stake organisations and groups
- Interview guide was followed, and representatives were asked to provide feedback on the 5 main themes of the proposals
- Interviews took place on Microsoft Teams; transcription of the conversation or notes taken were incorporated into the report findings
- Written responses were submitted by groups/organisations providing additional qualitative feedback
- Feedback received through project email address and phone line was recorded and analysed

Main Findings

Nature and Greenery

What is important when making Armada Way a greener and more sustainable urban environment?



Translocation (Thematic findings so can't be quantified)

Balanced between those who preferred to keep all existing trees and were worried about the success rate of survival, with those who were happy for the trees to be removed if necessary for the work to go ahead and there were some who felt it was unnecessary as it would be a 'waste of money'.

- Respondents also stated that if trees had to be moved, it needed to be done carefully in conjunction with experts and a maintenance plan to ensure their survival. Some suggested that if the trees did not survive translocation, then other mature trees should be planted in their place.
- Written responses from some groups felt that the translocation was not necessary as the cycle path could be routed around the trees and there wasn't sufficient evidence presented that the trees needed to move to enable the SuDS. Requests were made that a full technical plan for the SuDS should be published to justify the removal of the trees.
- It was also stated that a previous pledge to keep all trees as translocation was not viable, was being reneged.

Other Nature and Greenery

- SuDS essential to manage the city's rainwater and deal with potential flooding incidents
- Tree canopy needed in urban environment
- Include plants for pollinators and edible plants for wildlife
- Some species unsuitable and others suggested
- Reduce amount of hard/grey space
- Underplanting to increase biodiversity, look at irrigation plans and soil specifications
- Greater clarity on BNG calculations
- Requests for detail regarding long-term maintenance plan and funding

Play Village

- Those that are *not* interested in it are mainly older people and/or don't have young children
- Parents of young children, grandparents and the business community are supportive
- Those that support it felt it would encourage them to use the city centre more, give them a place to rest with their children and would increase dwell time
- Most important aspects are: seating near to equipment, cater for a diverse range of abilities, use natural materials and have clear visibility so parents can see their children play
- Suggested Council speaks to 'Make Space for Girls'
- Consider physical and mental disabilities in the design
- Concerns around it being too large (difficult to maintain or intrusive for those who wouldn't use it)
- Consider deterring antisocial behaviour especially in sheltered spaces
- What provision will there be for teenagers?

Pop-up spaces

- Desire for live music, creative performances, pop-up stalls and food outlets, extension to Flavour Fest
- Encourage high quality traders, but make provision for regular local favourites
- Work with creative sector on logistical aspects: lighting, power, ability to erect temporary structures quickly (consider an implementation group to make that happen)
- Street art installations and heritage aspect suggested
- Consider impact on walls, seating etc from skateboarding and parkour.

Solar Canopies, Flexible Spaces and Seating

- Supportive of solar canopies, could be used for sheltered seating, bike racks and pop-up stalls
- Would use flexible spaces to sit, eat and relax and would like to see more lawn
- Requests for regular seating through the scheme:
 - sheltered seating
 - seating with tables
 - disability access
 - seating in the play area
 - high backs and armrests
 - more bench space/informal/natural seating (e.g. benching near Guildhall, like the promenade in Penzance, and The Strand in London)
- Keep 'flag blocks' as seats on the Sundial

Cycle Path and Mobility Hub

- Most walk so would welcome path for cyclists
- Those that are cyclists or represent them were concerned about the path due to a number of factors:
 - its width as it was felt that there would be insufficient passing space;
 - safety factors where it crosses the pedestrian paths;
 - the need for clear waymarking and education of its use;
 - being misused by e-bike riders and especially delivery riders that cycle at speed;
 - unclear sightlines around planting;
 - the shape of bends as they may not be suitable for other bike types such as recumbents;
 - and unclear rights of way or how to merge at points where it intersects with other streets.
- Desire for bike storage throughout made from durable materials

Lighting and CCTV

- Consider light pollution for residents and wildlife
- Supportive of more lighting and should meet Security by Design Code
- Maintenance will be essential
- CCTV will help address antisocial behaviour
- Hope it will improve the nighttime economy and make people feel less vulnerable
- Will be crucial to adequately monitor sheltered spaces to deter loitering and vagrants.

Disabilities

- Suggestions made included:
 - appropriate surfacing for people in wheelchairs, with mobility and/or vision issues;
 - the inclusion of appropriate lighting for people who are sensitive to hard lights;
 - disability toilets and change facilities for children/adults with disabilities;
 - separating the cycle path and pedestrian walkway to improve safety for people with disabilities;
 - and the inclusion of seating and tables that cater for people in wheelchairs.

Maintenance, Construction and Other

- When given a list of statements to agree with regarding the scheme, the most popular were: it will make the city centre more welcoming; it will be a greener space; it will help businesses attract more customers.
- Long-term maintenance plan needed and ring-fenced budget
- Concerns around vandalism, litter and other antisocial behaviour and how they will be managed
- Concerns around construction timelines and phasing
- Liaising with the business community will be essential as potential for loss of earnings and difficulties getting deliveries
- Requests made for an Arboricultural Method Statement and a detailed tree plan
- Work with groups through the implementation and reach out to landlords.

London office

ECF, 418 Print Rooms, 164-180 Union Street,
London, SE1 0LH

T: 0204 541 2375

E: info@engagecf.co.uk

W: www.engagecf.co.uk

e.c.f.

