

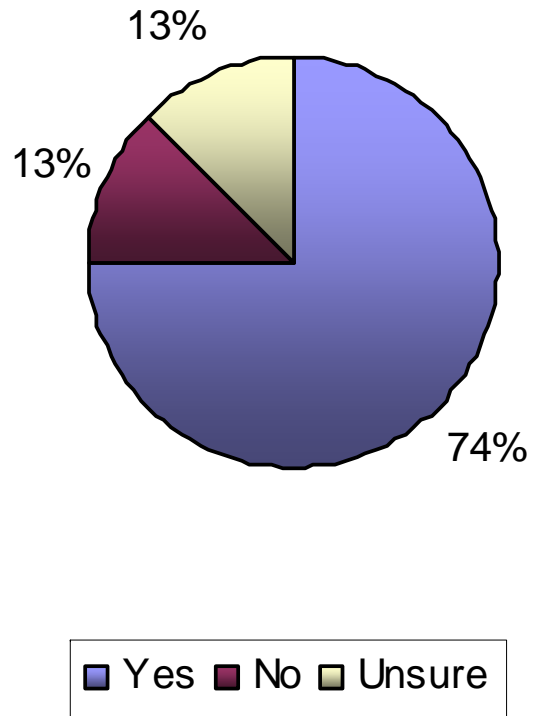
**Plymouth Local Access Forum  
Consultation Questionnaire**

**IS IT TIME FOR THE PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM TO EVOLVE?**

A summary of the responses we received to the recent consultation questionnaire may be found enclosed.

Plymouth city council would like to thank those members who responded and whose feedback will be taken into account when we plan how to best support the continued running of the PLAF.

**Q1. Do you feel that these are reasonable measures we can take which will assist the Chair and Vice Chair in the undertaking of their role?**



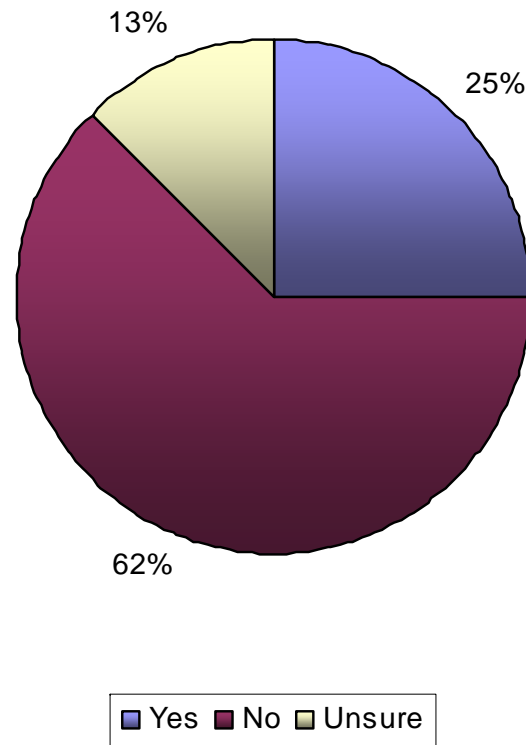
**Additional Comments:**

- LAF is supposed to be an independent body;
- Is the Chairman to be brainwashed?
- Contentious issues must be discussed not hidden.
- The briefing note should offer guidance and not seek to dictate or direct LAF discussions. It is open to the LAF itself to set its own priorities

**Q2. Do you have any suggestions about what further measures could be implemented to assist the Chair and Vice Chair in the undertaking of their role?**

- Chair and Vice-Chair from different user groups;
- Rights of Way Officer to always be available to assist Chair and Vice-Chair to provide guidance;
- The Chair to be completely independent from the Council so that they can be more involved with LAF members
- Provide a role description advising what is expected from the Chair of the LAF;
- By appointing an independent and experienced secretary with knowledge of public rights of way would assist the Chair

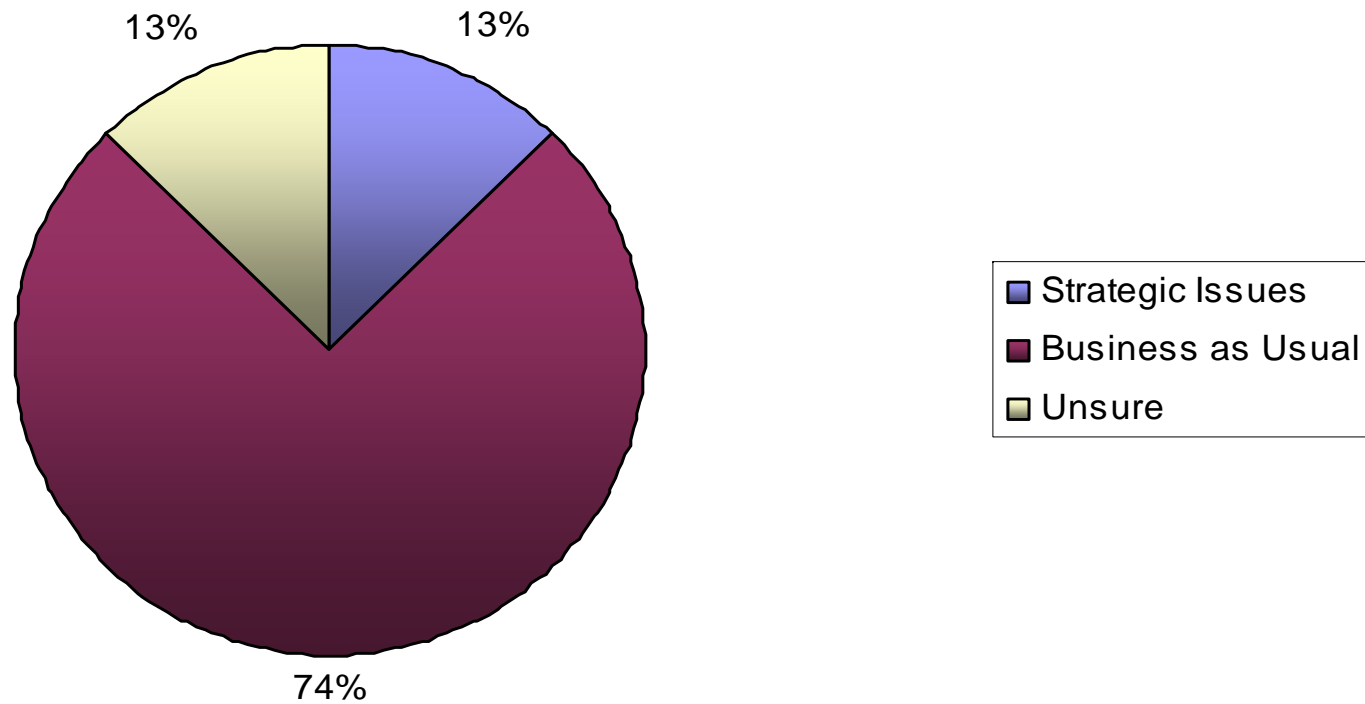
**Q3. Would the mandatory rotation of the Chair, on a two yearly basis, between different user groups enable the Forum to be better represented?**



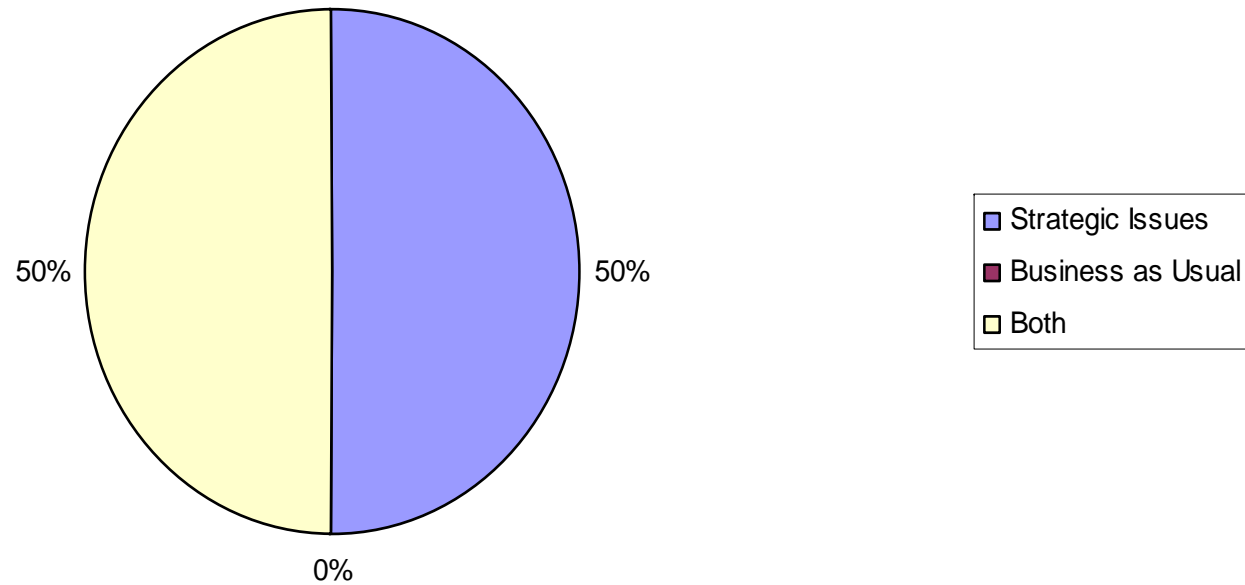
**Additional Comments:**

- If chair rotation occurred it needs to be bared in mind that some members time and availability vary;
- There needs to be chair continuity and there are not enough members from other groups to have a rotation of the chair;
- The Chair is already elected annually so can potentially be rotated;
- The Chair and Vice-Chair should be represented from different user groups;
- There needs to be more Forum members particularly from Other Interest and Landowner groups.
- Landowner representation has always been minimal or non-existent. Election of the Chair and vice Chair is a matter solely for the Members to decide and should not be constrained by any requirement for rotation of the Chair between the different interest groups.

**Q4. Thinking back over the past 12 months do you feel that the Plymouth LAF has spent most of its time on business as usual or on strategic issues?**



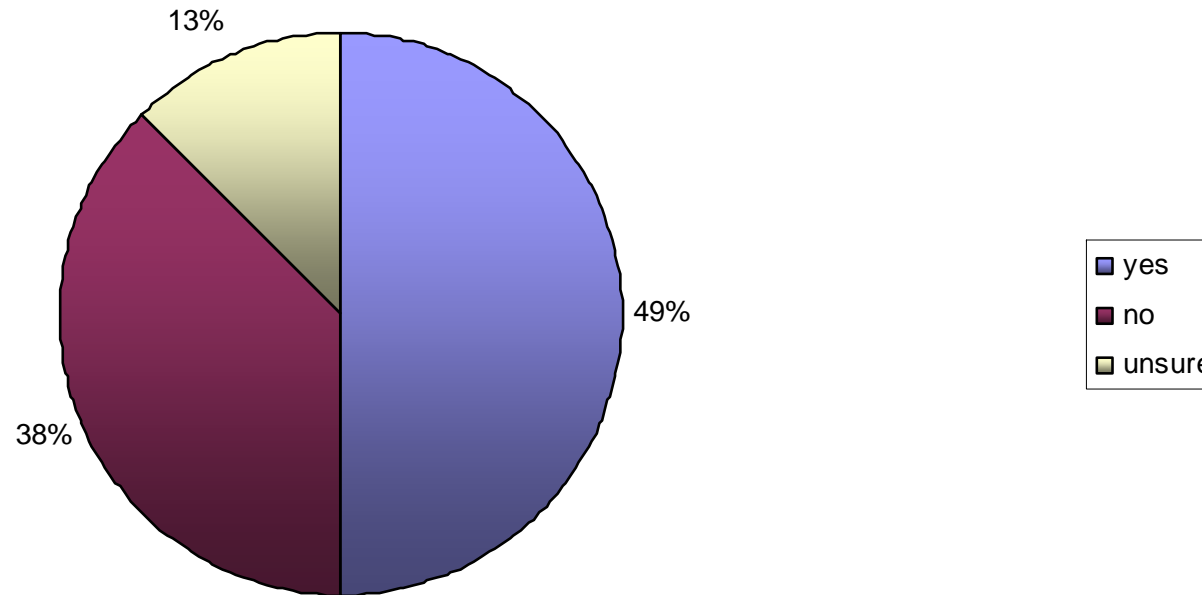
**Q5. Do you feel that over the next 12 months the Plymouth LAF should spend most of its time on business as usual or on strategic issues?**



**Additional Comments:**

- Strategic issues but not to the exclusion of important short term issues

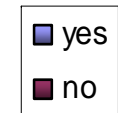
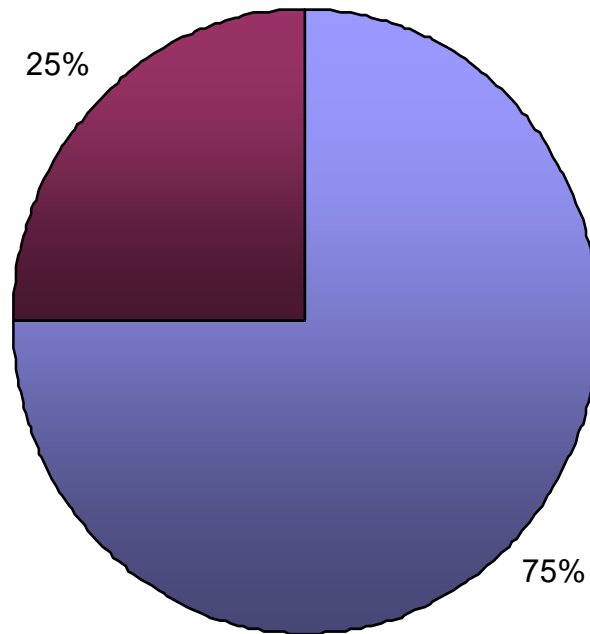
**Q6. Do you believe that having 4 meetings rather than 6 meetings per year could assist the Plymouth LAF to become a more strategic body?**



**Additional Comments:**

- Business happens very quickly often with little notice in an Urban LAF meaning 6 meetings a year is required;
- Sub Committee's should be used instead;
- If there was agenda planning in advance reducing the number of meetings could work;
- 6 meetings are required so that group get to meet up regularly;

**Q7 Do you think it would help focus the LAF if we provided a draft procedure note which set out how to set up a working group, define its boundaries and reporting procedures and make advance arrangements for its dissolution?**

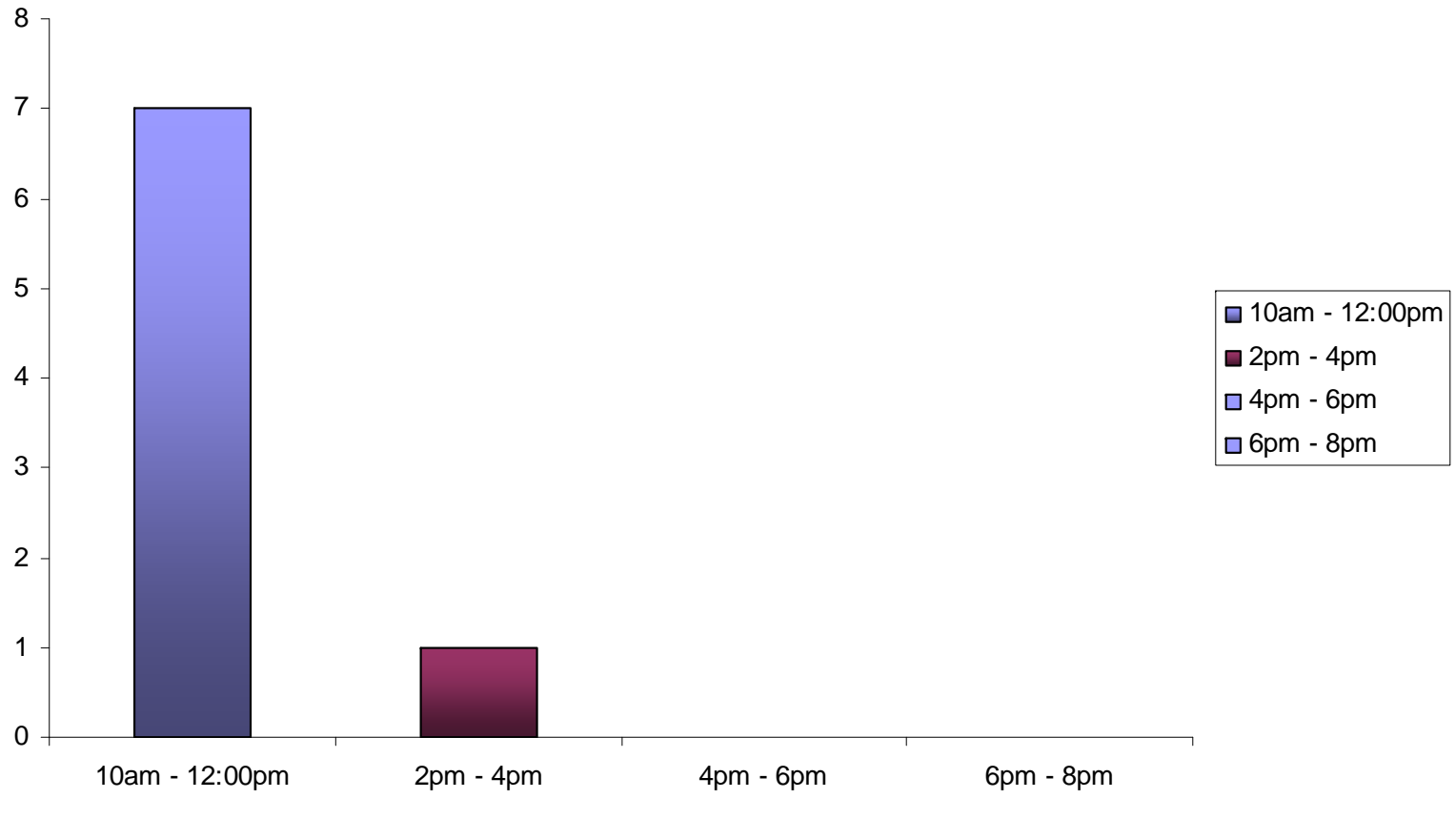


**Additional Comments:**

- Most Members of any working group will know what the particular task involves and will know how to tackle it.



### Q8. Meeting time Preference



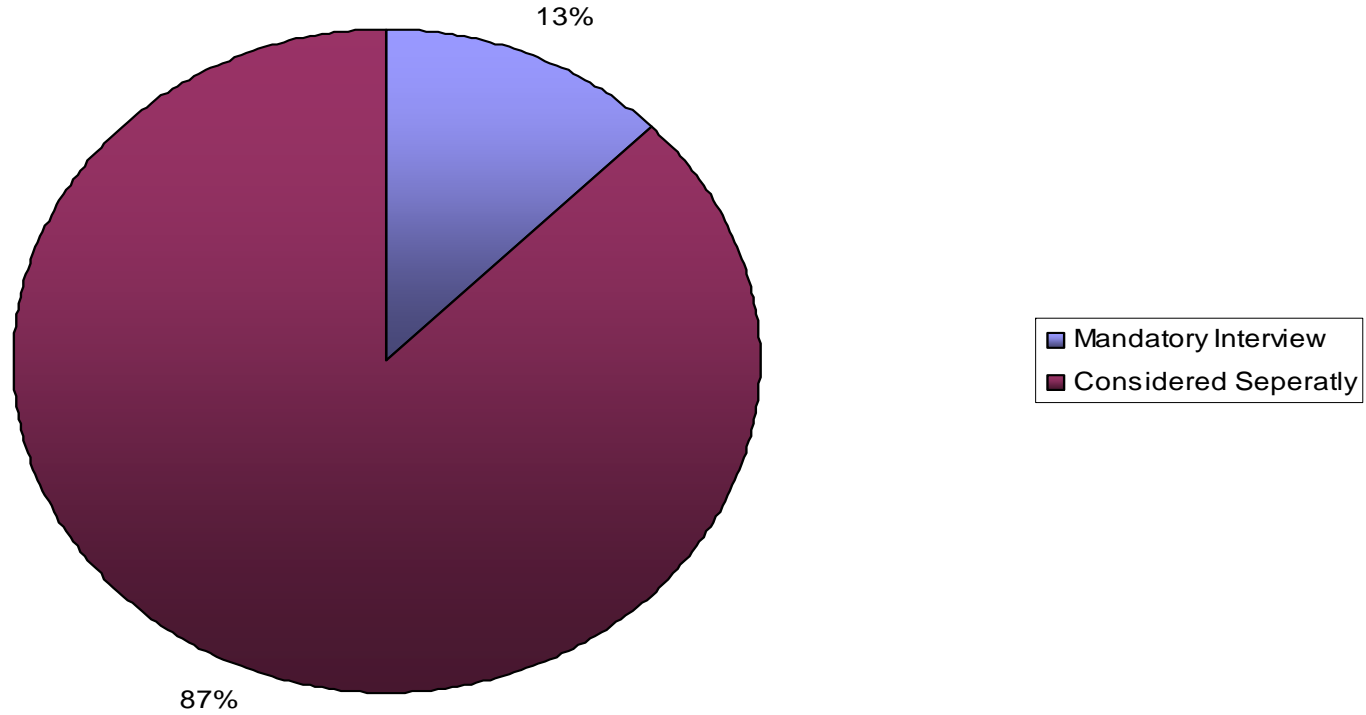
#### Additional Comments:

- I have no opinion on meeting times
- Meeting times should be decided at the beginning of each year
- Meetings should start at 10:30 as retired members cannot use bus passes before 09:30;
- If meeting times varied between locations and times members without cars may not be able to attend

**Q9. Do you have any other comments or suggestions to make about the role of the meeting?**

- Meetings should be held in a smaller committee room than the Warspite room as members with hearing difficulties struggle to follow what is being said;
- Although many members have pressing matters to them when dealing with an item we need to be guided to keep on track;
- Strategic issues have to be at the forefront of the meeting and specific sub committee's/working groups may help this;
- Business as Usual items still need to exist – they are important to members;
- Meetings are often long winded due to their focus on short term individual issues rather than longer term strategic objectives.
- Firmer Chairmanship with discussion better confined to the agenda and less digression into irrelevant matters

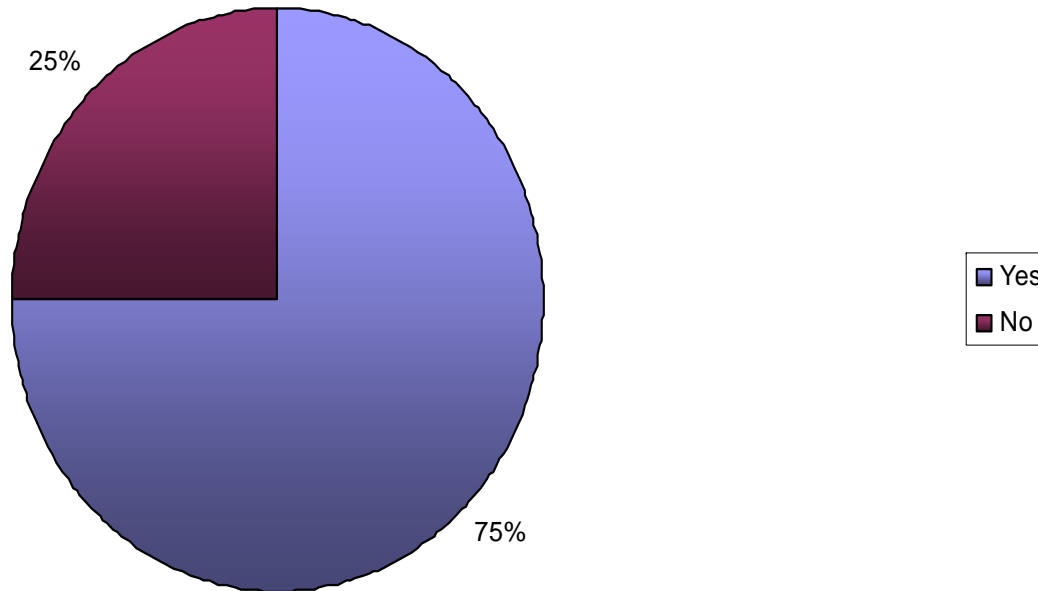
**Q10. Should reappointments be dealt with by mandatory interview or should the Council decide independently?**



**Additional Comments:**

- It should not be necessary to interview existing members as their abilities should be known but their application should be considered equally with and NOT in priority to applications from new members.

**Q11. Should the Chair of the LAF be on any interview panel concerned with appointment of existing or new Members?**

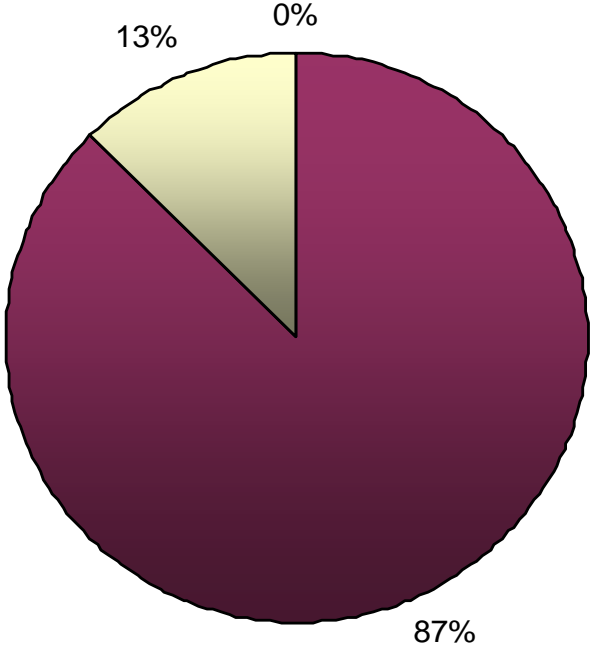


▪ **Additional Comments:**

- To assess suitability of new members;
- New members need to fit in with the group, particularly if meeting are reduced and working groups increased;
- Are there sufficient applicants to interview against new members;
- The Chair should be impartial the most important post at interview panel's and meetings is the Rights of Way Officer;
- The Chair is aware of the shortcomings of the Forum and can appoint new members who will benefit the Forum;
- To assess the ability and knowledge of LAF members.
- The Chair should not take an active part in the appointment process since it's the city Council who is the appointing authority.
- The chairman should be independent of the appointment process however there is some merit in the Chairman (or a LAF Member) being present at the appointment process but purely as an observer.

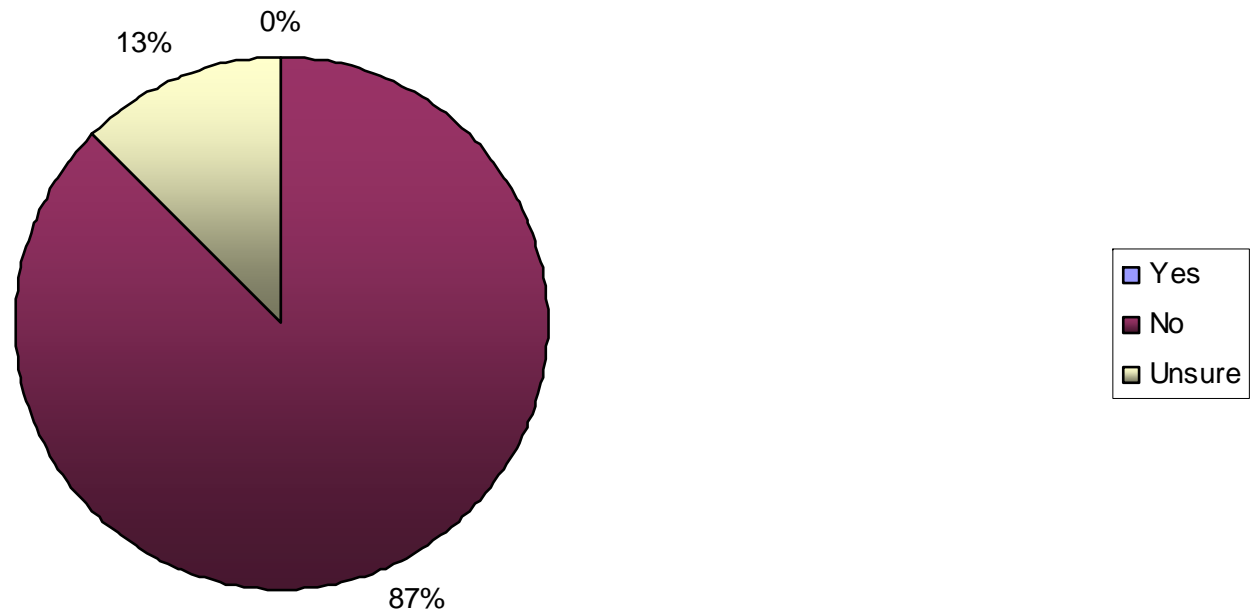
- **Q12. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about recruitment to the LAF?**
- Try and recruit younger members, the age range and abilities of members should be more diverse;
- It is the responsibility of the appointing authority to maintain membership of the Forum at an optimum level;
- A more representative Forum is required;
- More publicity is required through local media;
- Approach local youth groups and other clubs to appoint younger members.

**Q13. Does enough work go into promoting the role of the LAF?**



- Yes
- No
- Unsure

**Q14. Is the Plymouth LAF website relevant and up to date?**



**Additional Comments:**

- Website needs to be kept more up to date;
- Publish the recent annual report;
- Membership is not up to date on the website;
- The webpage needs revitalising;

**Q15. Should the LAF take responsibility for its own communication strategy or should promotion responsibility lie with the Council? If you feel the LAF has a role to play how can we support you in taking ownership for self promotion?**

- Produce flyers and booklets on walks and routes in Plymouth;
- The promotion of the LAF lies with the Council;
- This matter should be discussed in the Forum;
- A programme of walks and talks in schools and libraries should be produced;
- If the LAF members have the skills to do this then it would help in keeping the Forum outside of the realms of the local authority;
- It should be a shared responsibility;
- The LAF should take responsibility for promoting itself
- The Council is the appointing authority and the onus should be on the Council to promote the Forum, its functions and its relevance and importance

**Q16. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about advertising the LAF?**

- Posters placed throughout Plymouth and more advertising in the local newspaper;
- Promote the LAF more widely to increase awareness of the public and celebrate successes of the Forum;
- Put Public Rights of Way on a website;
- LAF meetings should be better advertised and press releases on the work of the Forum would help to stimulate interest in the local community;