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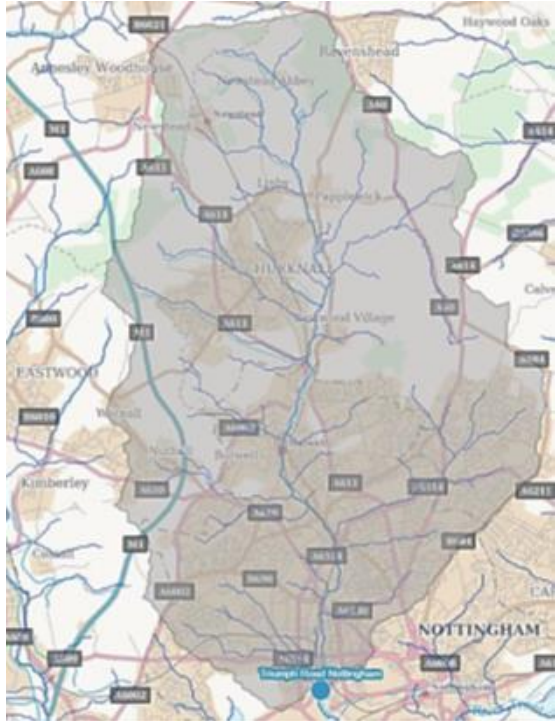
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River Leen community engagement survey: key findings

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Case study area: River Leen Catchment



- 15-mile (24 km) long tributary of the River Trent (joined by Daybrook in Basford)
- Falls within Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council administrative areas (and Environment Agency)
- Heavily urbanised catchment in the city
- Current flood risk management assets protect critical infrastructure



Case study area: River Leen Catchment



River Leen at Basford tram station (Nottingham LFRMS, 2015)

- $\sim 40 \text{ km}^2$ (54% of the total) of Nottingham (and another $\sim 80 \text{ km}^2$ of rural/urban catchments north of Nottingham) drain to the River Leen drainage system
- Fast responding catchment leading to vulnerability to flooding from intense rainfall events (Nottingham City Council, 2011: PFRA)
- 696 residential and commercial properties are at flood risk during a 1:100 year event, as are 99 non-postal properties, e.g. tram stops, electricity substations
- Interaction between Leen and sewers (numerous outfalls from Severn Trent sewer system into Leen plus highway drainage and private outfalls)
- Grey FRM options are unaffordable and not suitable when climate change is included (plus lack environmental and social benefits)
- Option to slow down flow of the water before it gets to the Leen (attenuation), increase floodplain of the Leen (storage potential), flood resilient development
- Flood risk is a disincentive to investment and a significant constraint on development (River Leen SFRA Partnership, 2008)



Aim: to co-develop a long-term, collaborative investment plan for reducing flood risk in the River Leen Catchment and delivering multiple co-benefits through Blue-Green and Grey infrastructure



- A. Learning and Action Alliance (*Blue-Green Nottingham group*)
- B. Developer/city stakeholder perceptions/barriers/overcoming barriers
- C. Community engagement and perceptions
 - 301 responses to 18 questions + demographics
- D. Evaluating Blue-Green and Grey solutions
 - Best practice urban river restoration techniques to explore suitability in Leen catchment
- E. Insight into River Leen water quality

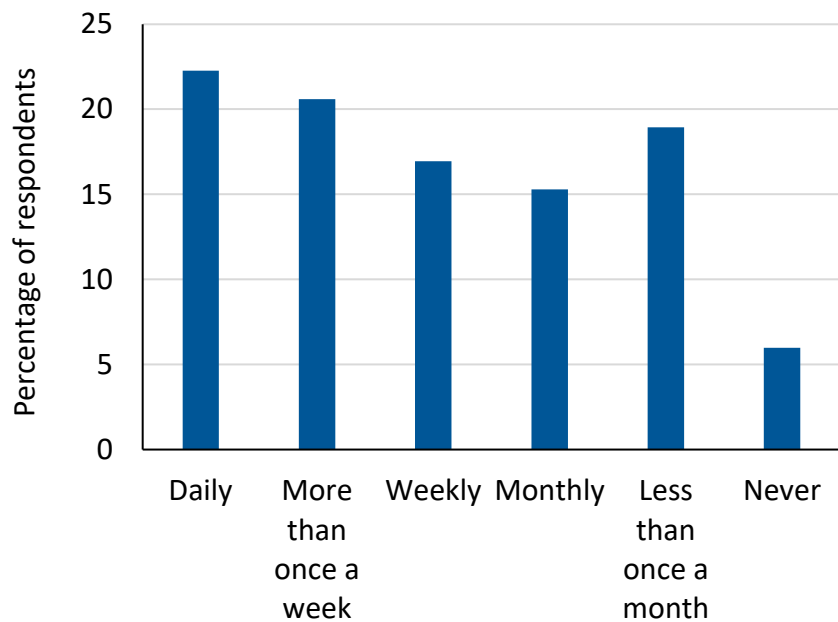
Local residents along the River Leen corridor were asked to complete a survey to identify their current practices along the Leen, future desired practices, role of Leen corridor during COVID-19 lockdown and how this could be improved.

- Online survey (Qualtrics)
- Distributed several ways:
 - Mailshot (postcard x2) to residents in close proximity to the Leen (x 2557, 150 m buffer around Leen from Vernon Park to Wollaton Road A609 (just north of Jubilee Campus))
 - Advertise on social media, through BG Nottingham group and other networks
 - Aiming to capture views of both residents local to the Leen and those who have experienced the Leen but live further away
- N = 301

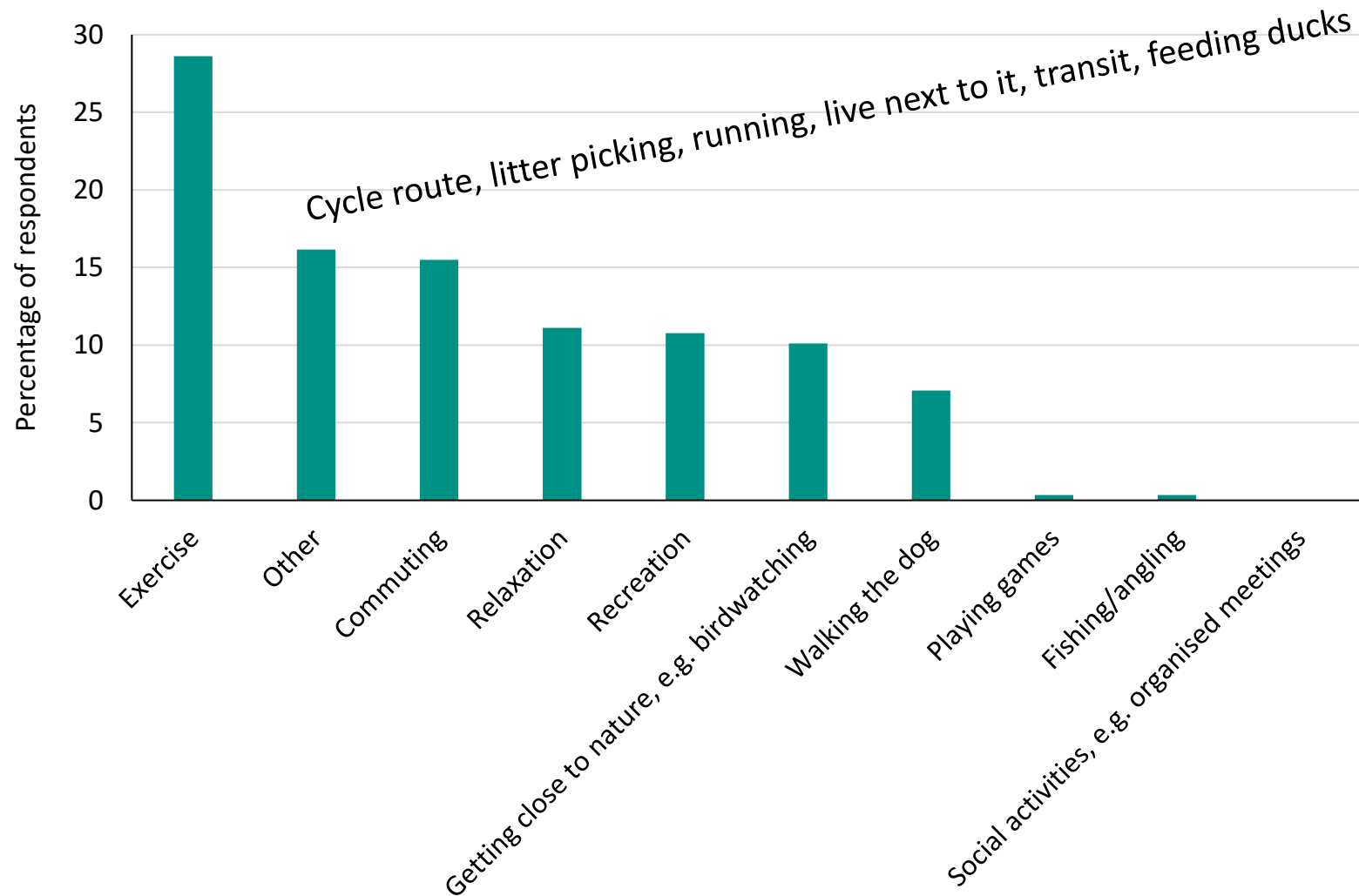


Visiting and access (Q3, Q4)

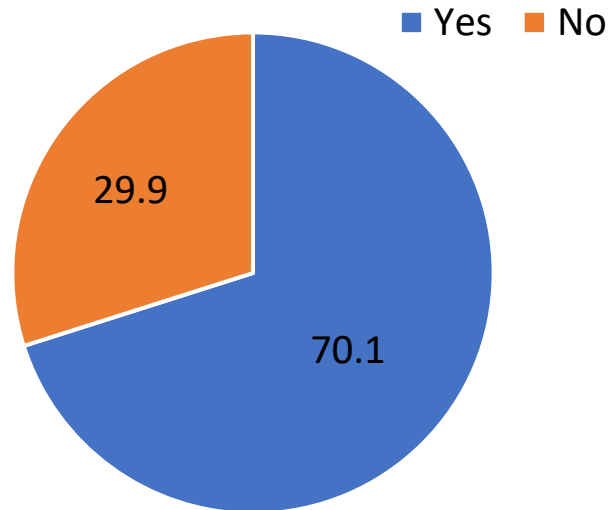
Frequency of visit



Main reason for visit

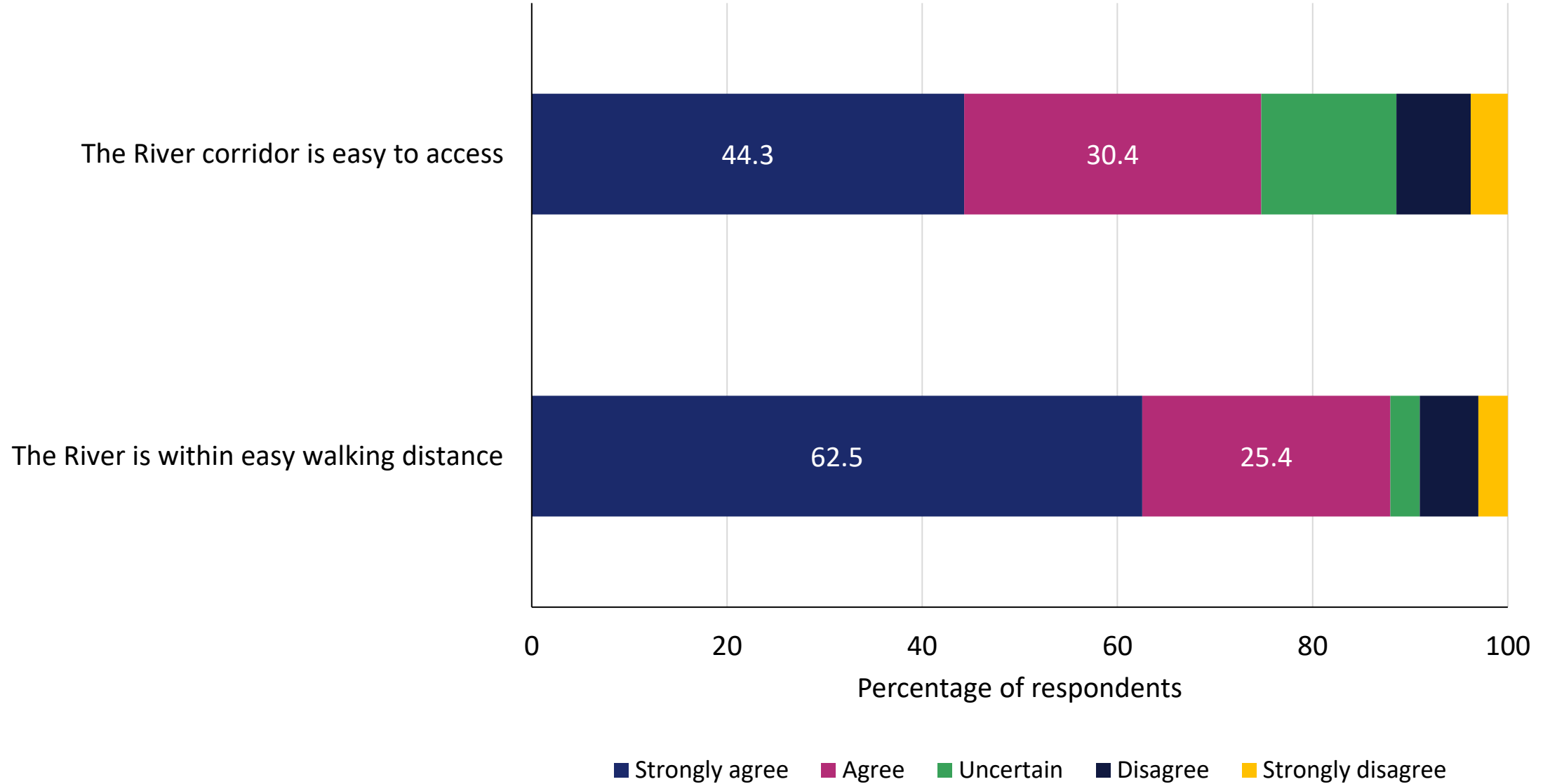


Would you like to visit more often?

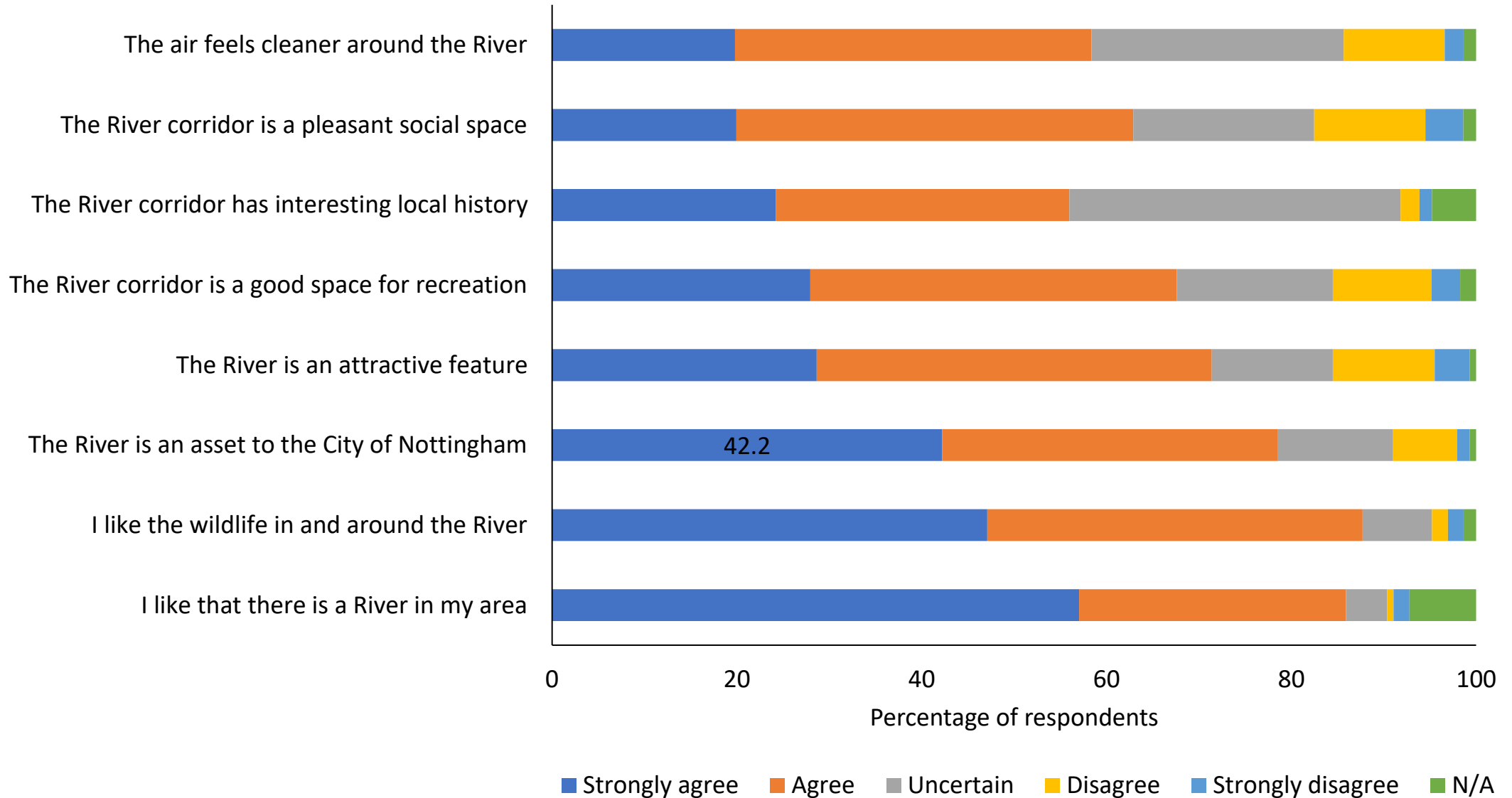


If yes, what prevents you from doing so?	If no, why not?
Time / work / too busy	Visit frequently already / see from house
Paths along river not continuous	There are more interesting places
Rubbish. Mess. Drunks in Bulwell	There are rats there, which also come into our gardens and driveway
It's not a very long stretch and the walking/ running path is not well developed	Because there is lots of litter
When it's dark or getting dark it feels unsafe	It's ugly and not a very nice place to be
Competing with other green spaces with better facilities such as public toilets	We enjoy longer walks at the Victoria Embankment. The river stretch is quite short where we are
Its always full of dog mess and litter. And lots of rats and there's no where to sit	It's short sections, it would be more helpful to the running community if it was opened up
It is a bit boring, not much to do there apart from watch the river	Not a very pretty surrounding landscape

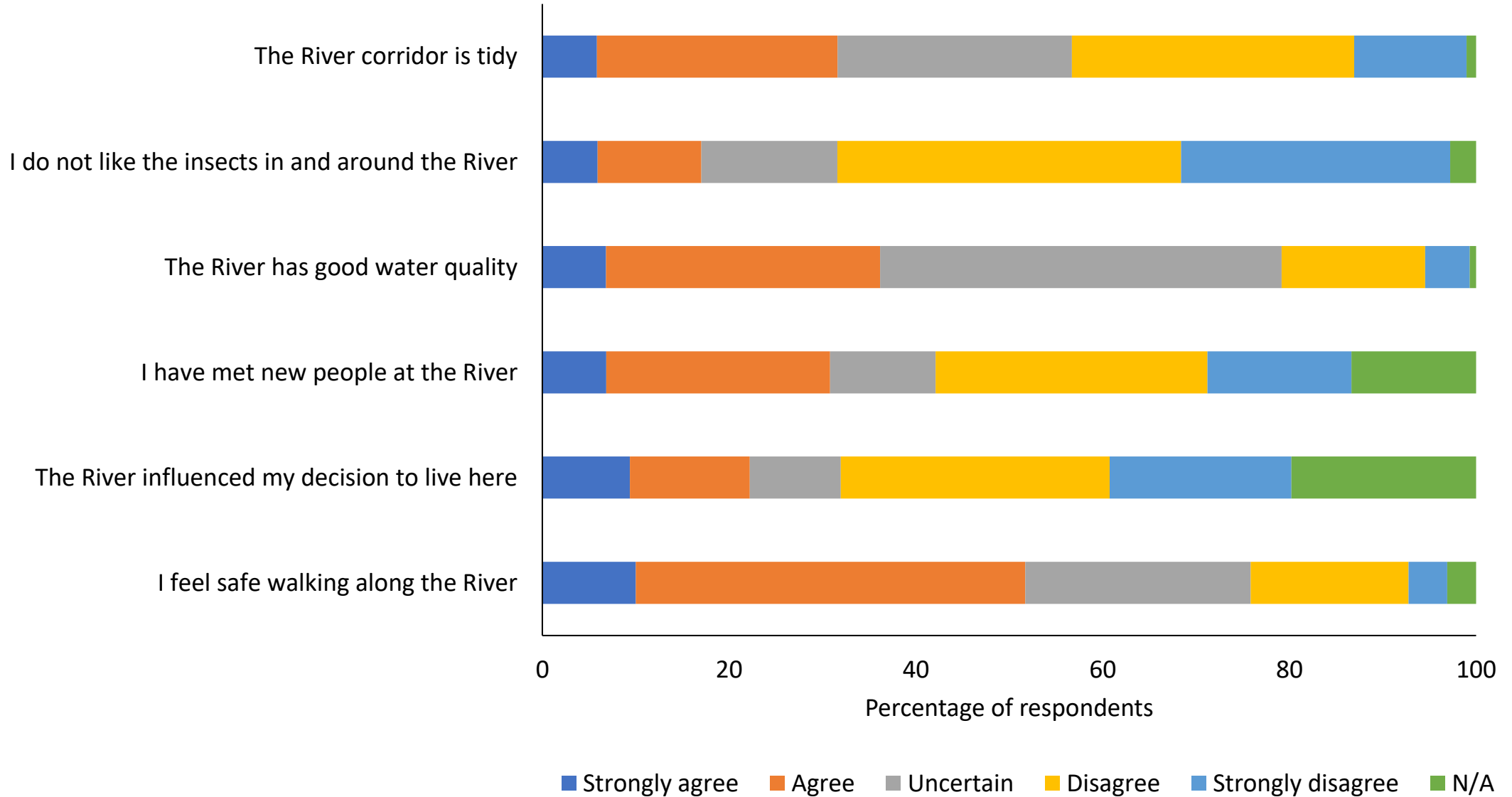
Visiting and access (Q6)



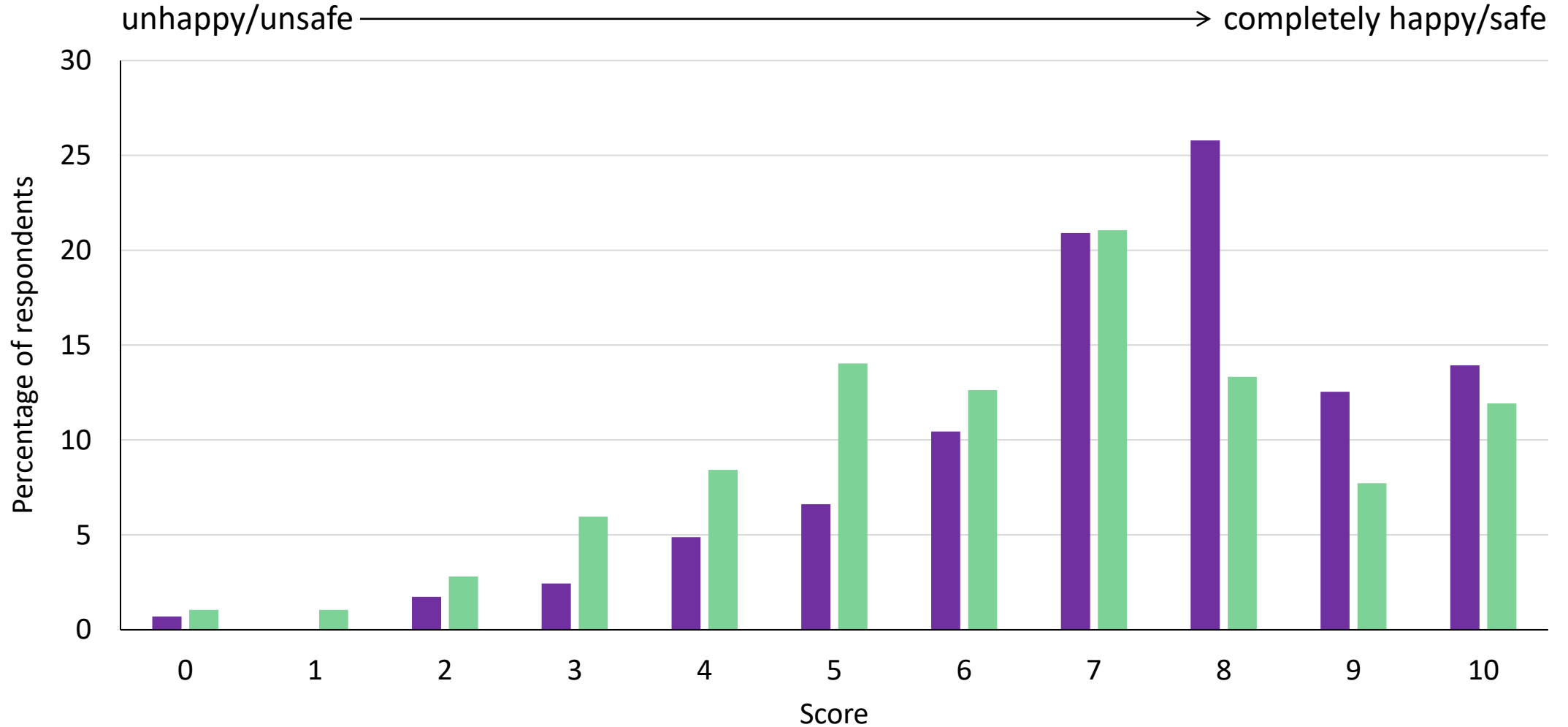
Opinions on the Leen (positive) (Q7)



Opinions on the Leen (negative) (Q7)



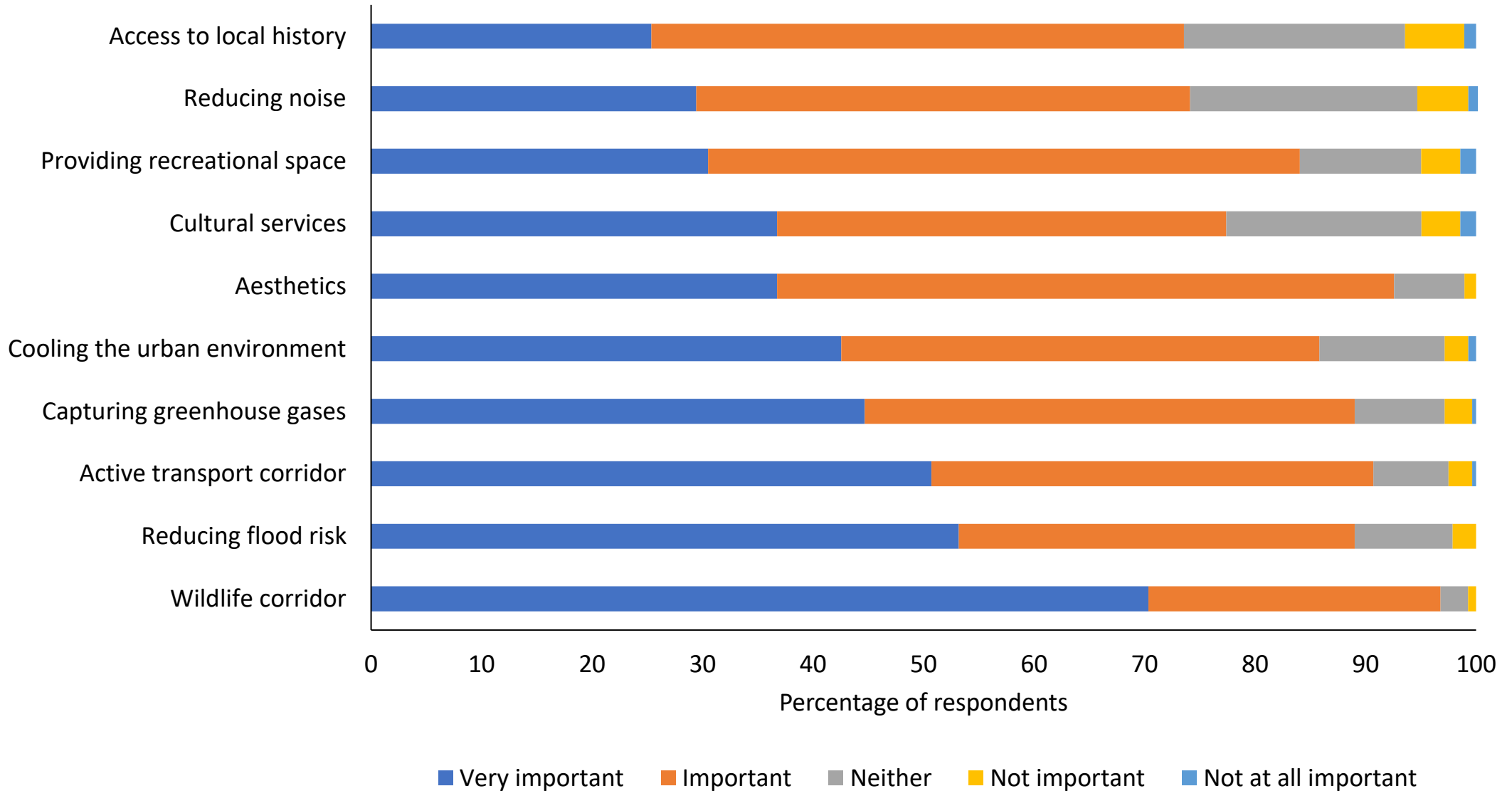
Rating happiness and safety when alongside River (Q8)



Mean happiness = 7
Mean safety = 6

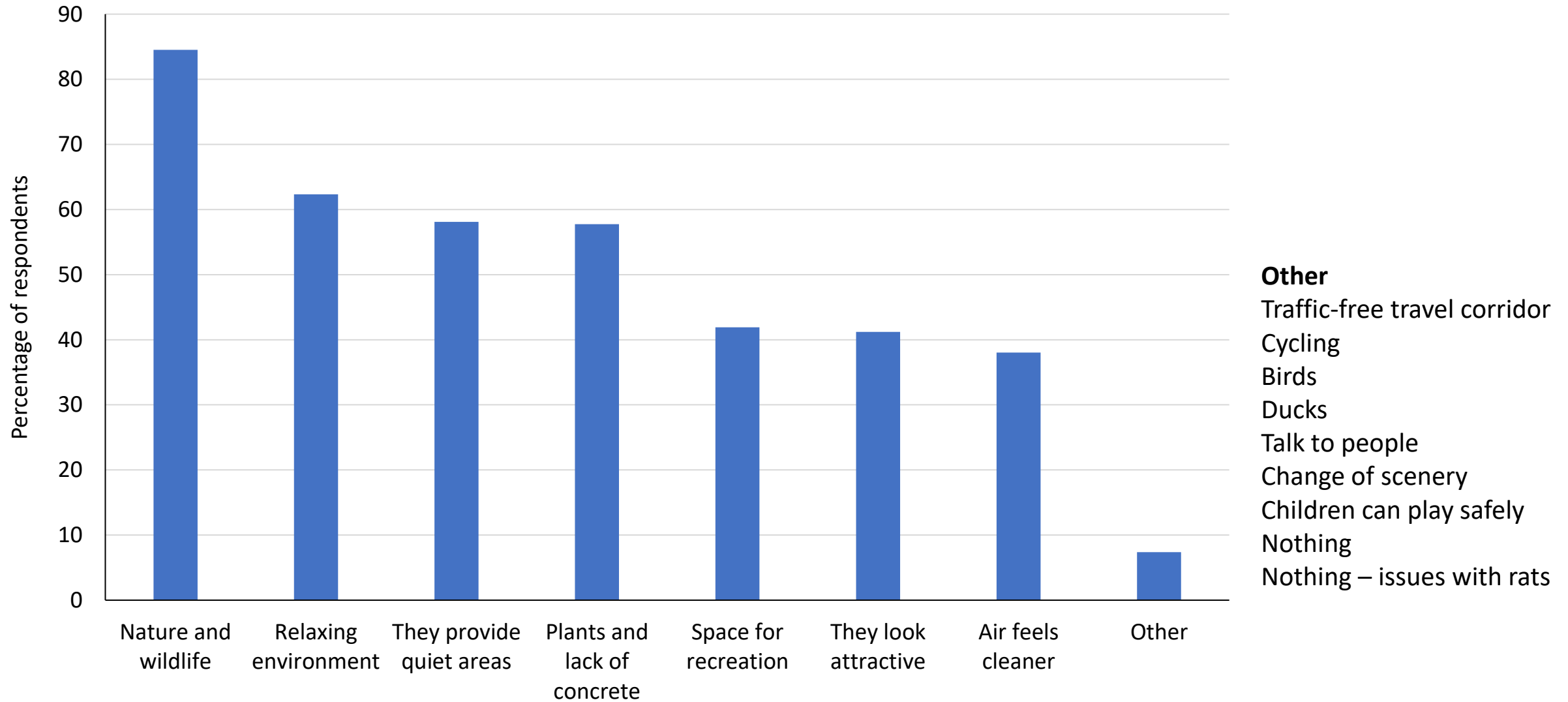
■ Rated happiness ■ Rated safety

Rating services (benefits) (Q9)



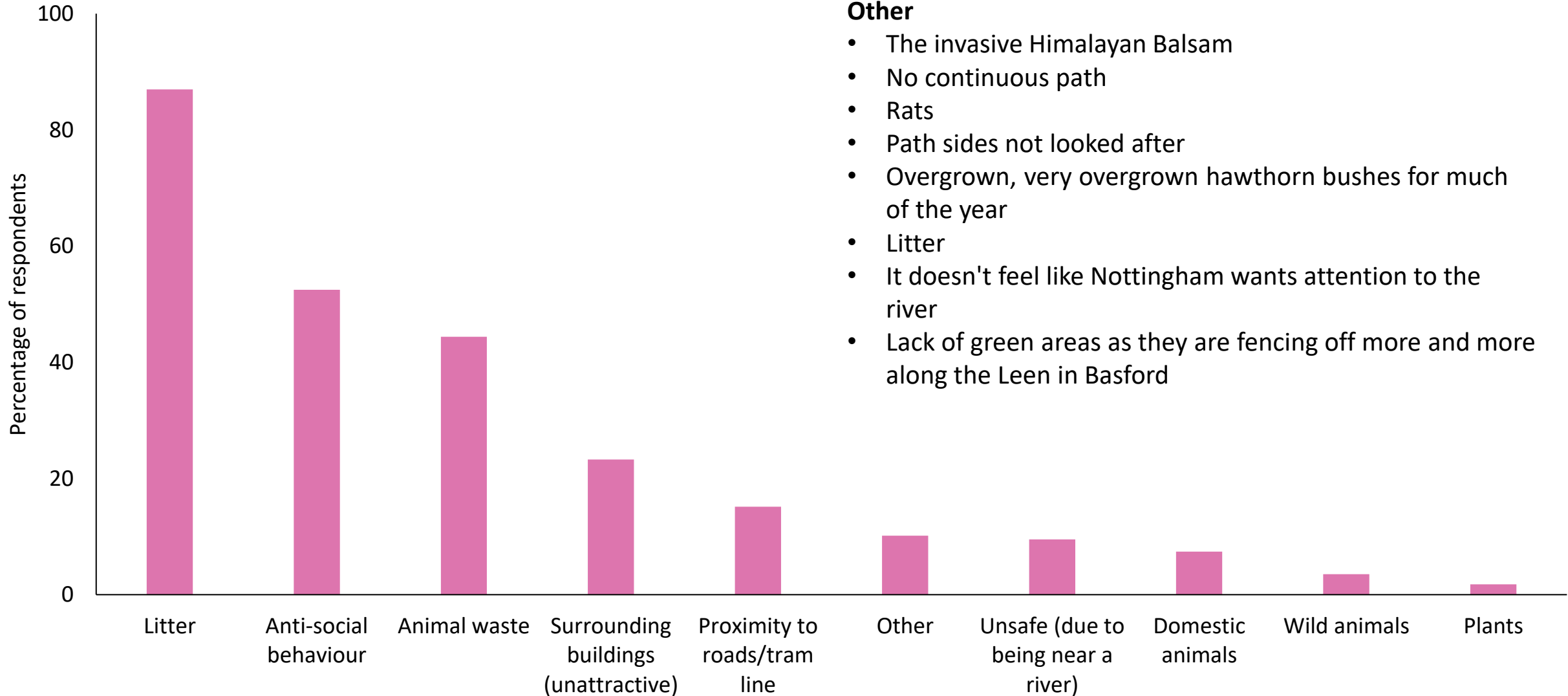
What do you like about the green areas that run alongside and near the River Leen? (Q10)

Respondents could select multiple options



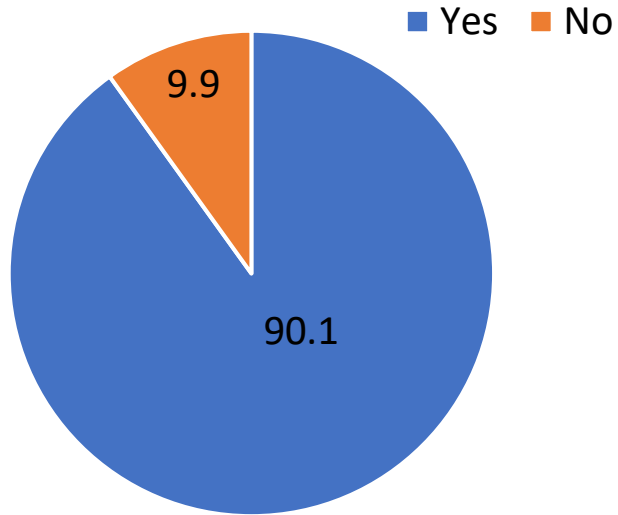
What do you **not** like about the green areas that run alongside and near the River Leen? (Q11)

Respondents could select multiple options

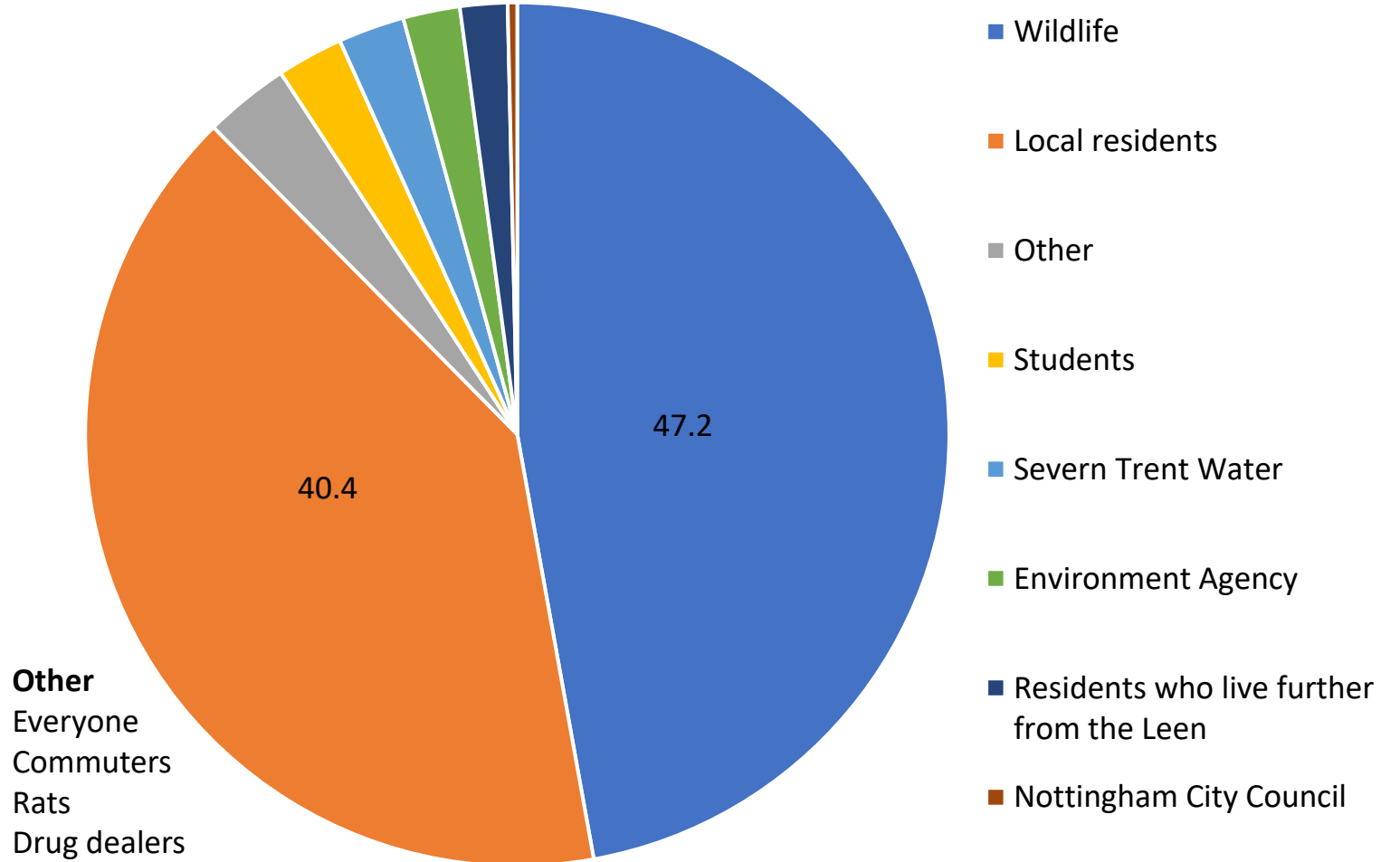


Benefits and beneficiaries (Q12, Q13)

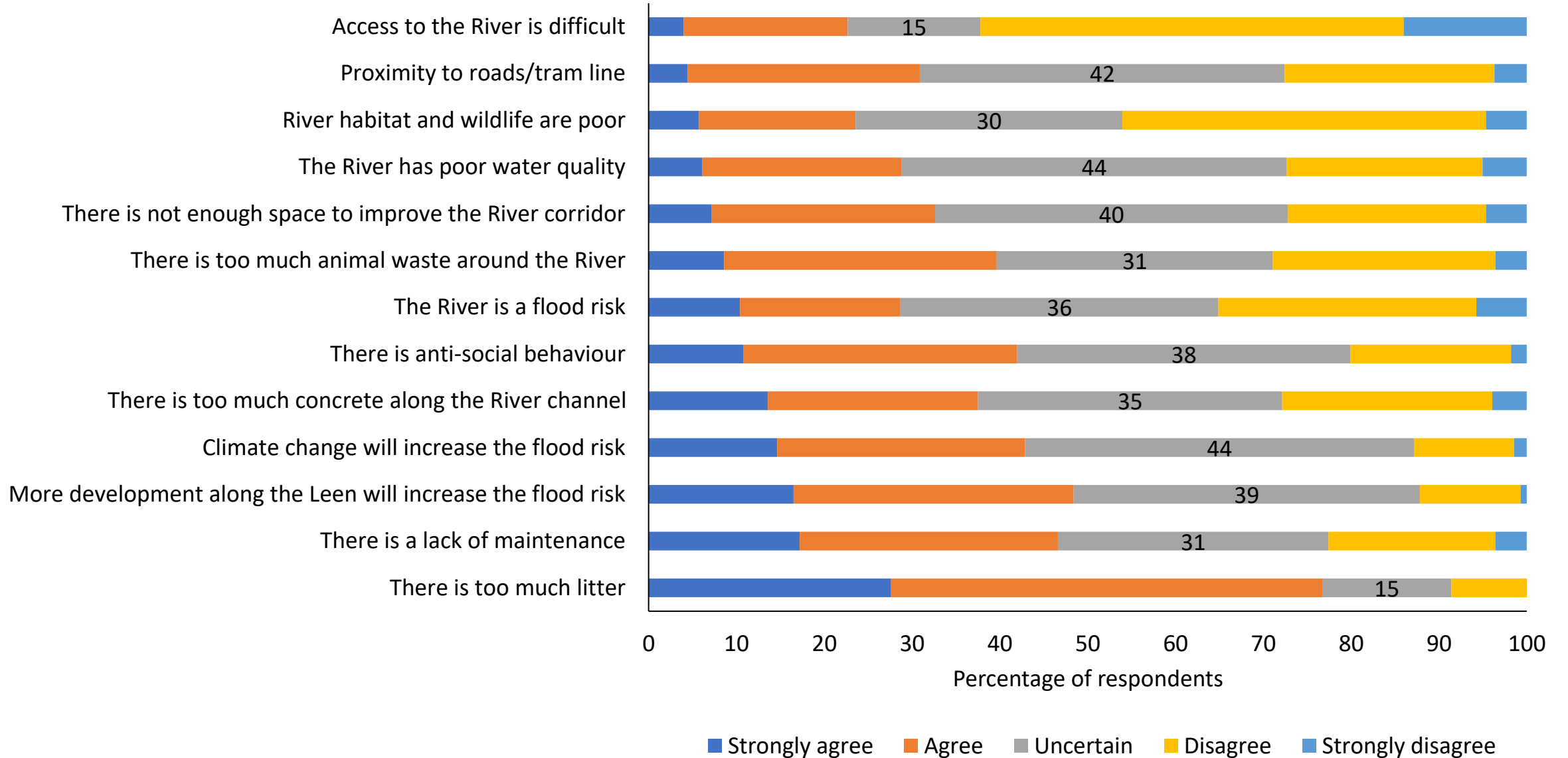
I believe that using the River corridor improves my health and wellbeing



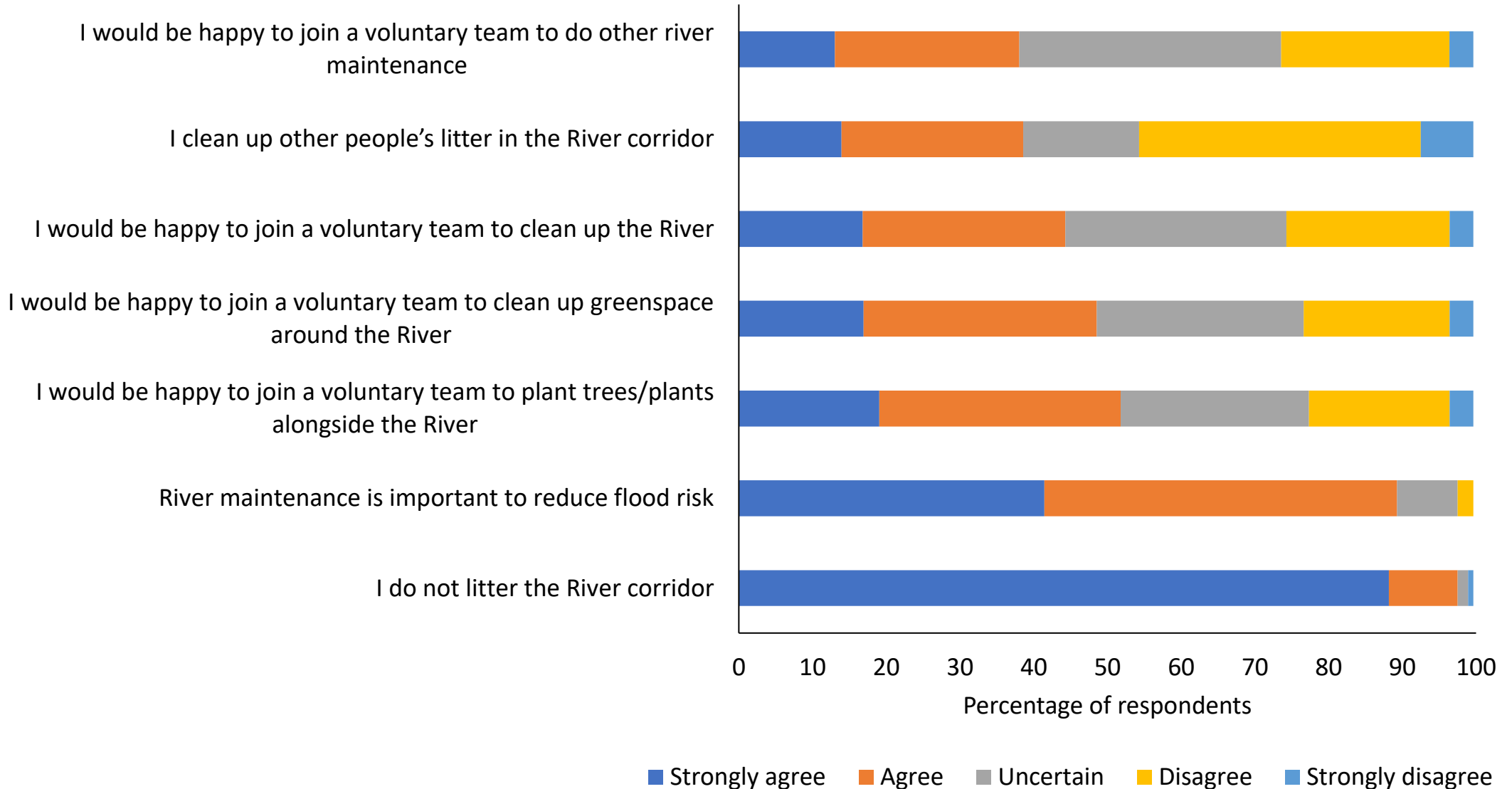
Main beneficiaries from the River



Biggest challenges, issues and risks (Q14)

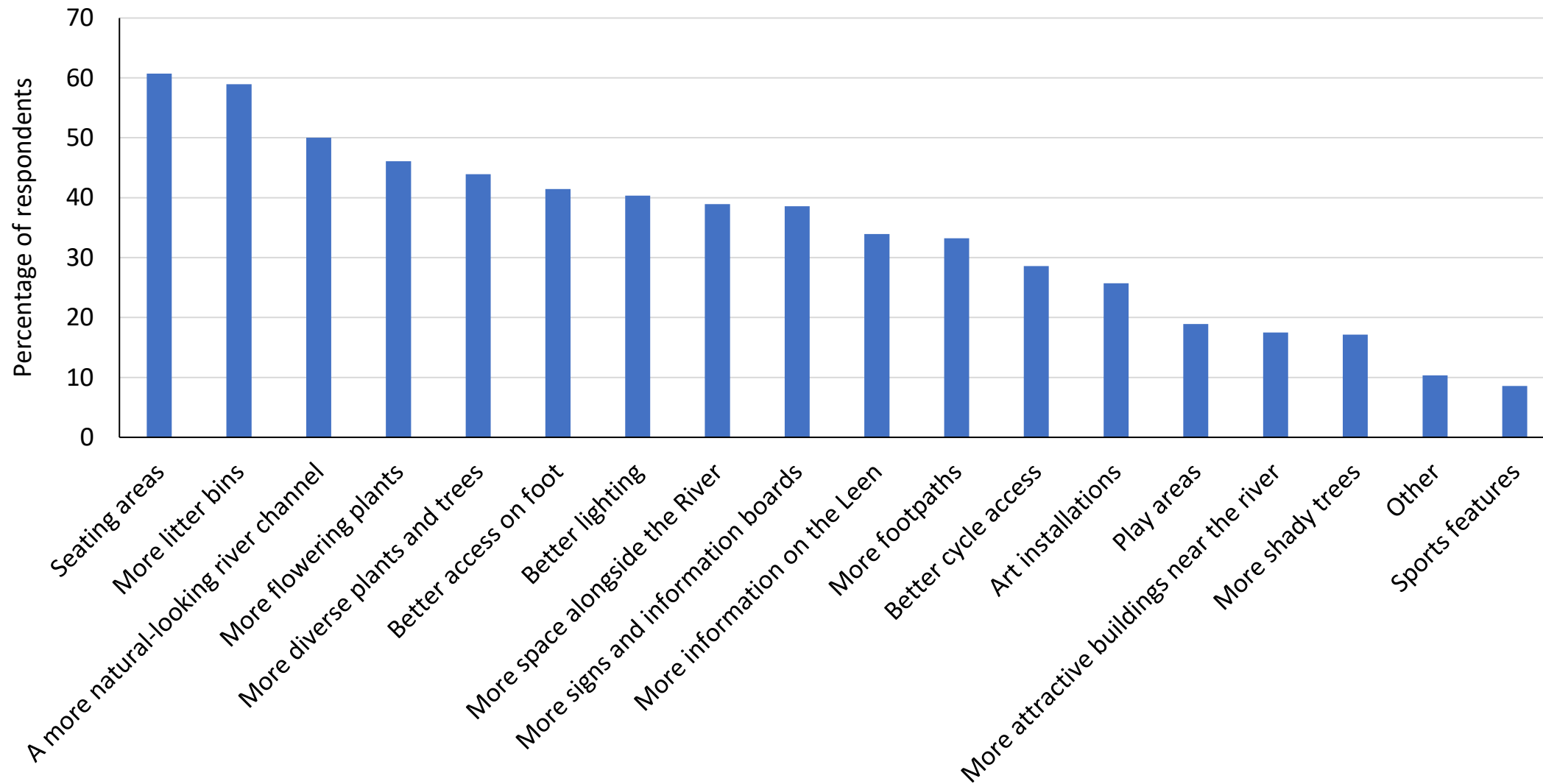


Looking after the river (Q15)





What would help improve the river? (Q16)



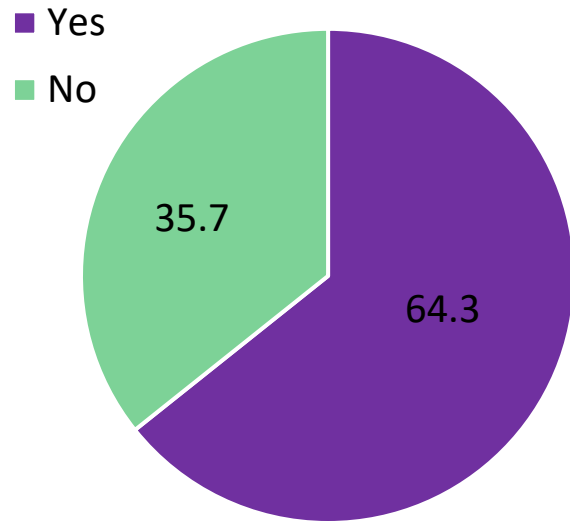


What would help improve the river? (Q16)

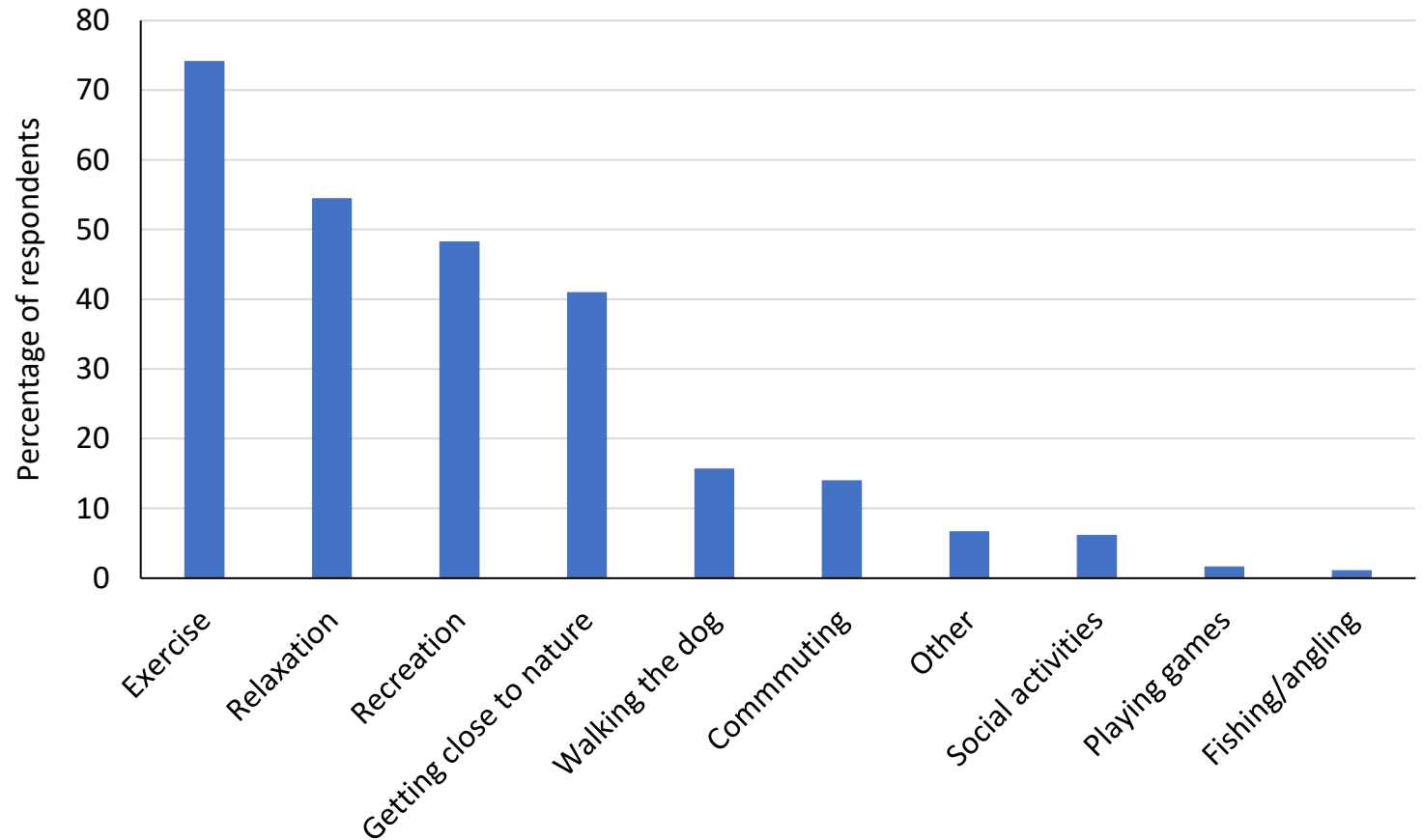
- A more complete route / improved connectivity / better access
- A proper cycle route from central Nottingham - big gap from Basford Church to David Lane
- An accessible area similar to Bulwell Bogs further down stream
- At certain points have deeper water to use the area better
- Better lighting
- Community orchards / edible spaces and public murals
- Fewer potholes
- Litter removal
- More focus on wildlife and biodiversity
- More info on whether you should or shouldn't feed the wildlife in the area
- More trees in general
- More visibility of police/CPSO
- Plants being maintained and cut back and clearing the foot path
- Reduce the number of rats
- Reducing motorbikes using it especially in evening
- Replacing the 45 year old metal railings along Maun Ave/Poulter Close
- Toilets

Covid-19 lockdowns (Q17)

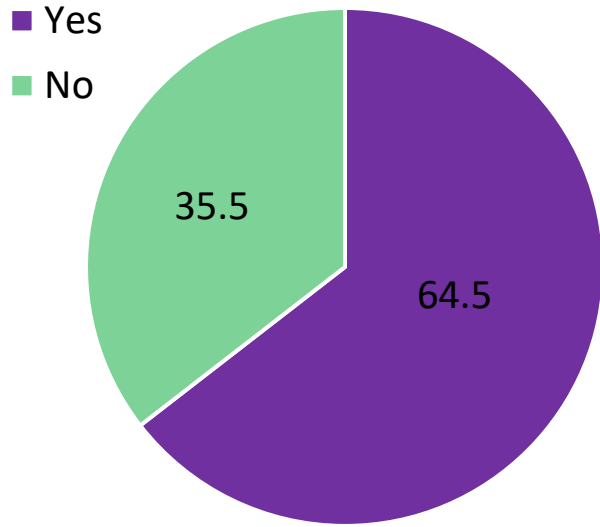
Did you and/or your household members visit the River Leen more frequently during the Covid-19 lockdowns?



If yes, how did you and/or your household members use the Leen corridor?



Do you value the River Leen more highly post-Covid?(Q18)



If yes, why?	If no, why?
Pressures of lockdown and importance of green access	I valued it before Covid / always valued it / always used it
Exercise	Not considered it as a recreation option
Had more time due to working at home	Didn't use it
I didn't know it existed before Covid	Not as attractive as other Nottingham places
Didn't really use it for walks before	I have a garden in my house. I spent most time there
Near to home when unable to travel further a field	Irrelevant to lifestyle
We all appreciate our green spaces more!	It is not a nice place to go
We don't often appreciate the nature we have around us till we're unable to do the norm	We could still observe it from our neighbourhood but it is too hidden. We know we live next to river Leen, we feel it, but we don't enjoy much of it.

- 68% homeowner, 24% private tenant, 8% social housing tenant
- Average number of years lived in property = 14 years (min: <1 year, max: 68 years)
- 2 adults on average live in each household (range 1-9)
- 1 child on average per household (range 0-7)
- 61% female, 37.5% male (2.2% rather not say)
- 79% white, 14% Asian/Asian British
- 52% employed full-time, 22% employed part-time, 13% unemployed (inc. students)

Ages

