

A photograph of the Southbury Town Hall, a three-story red brick building with a white cupola on the roof. The building has multiple windows with white frames and a central entrance with a small portico supported by white columns. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The text "Southbury" is overlaid in large white font, and "Plan of Conservation and Development" is overlaid in smaller white font below it.

# Southbury

## Plan of Conservation and Development

Survey Results

2021

Southb

# THE SURVEY

- Survey ran from September 20<sup>th</sup> – October 27<sup>th</sup>
- **1,563 responses**
  - **Unique IP addresses**
  - **42 paper responses**
- 296 signed up for email alerts

## Southbury Plan of Conservation & Development Community Questionnaire

### Introduction

The Southbury Planning Commission seeks input from residents to contribute to the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) update. The POCD was last updated in 2012. The following questions address quality of life, recreation, land use, economic development and other topics.

The State requires that municipalities update their POCDs every ten years to establish a vision and objectives that address housing, business and infrastructure development as well as parks, open space, historic and natural resources protection and sustainability, among other things.

Your responses will help establish shared values and priorities for the Town's future, and will guide the planning process. All answers are confidential.

Thank you for participating!

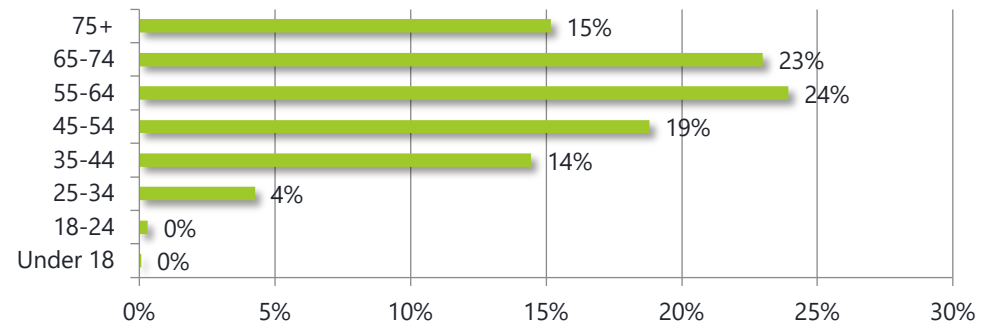
Richard Teardo  
Chairman



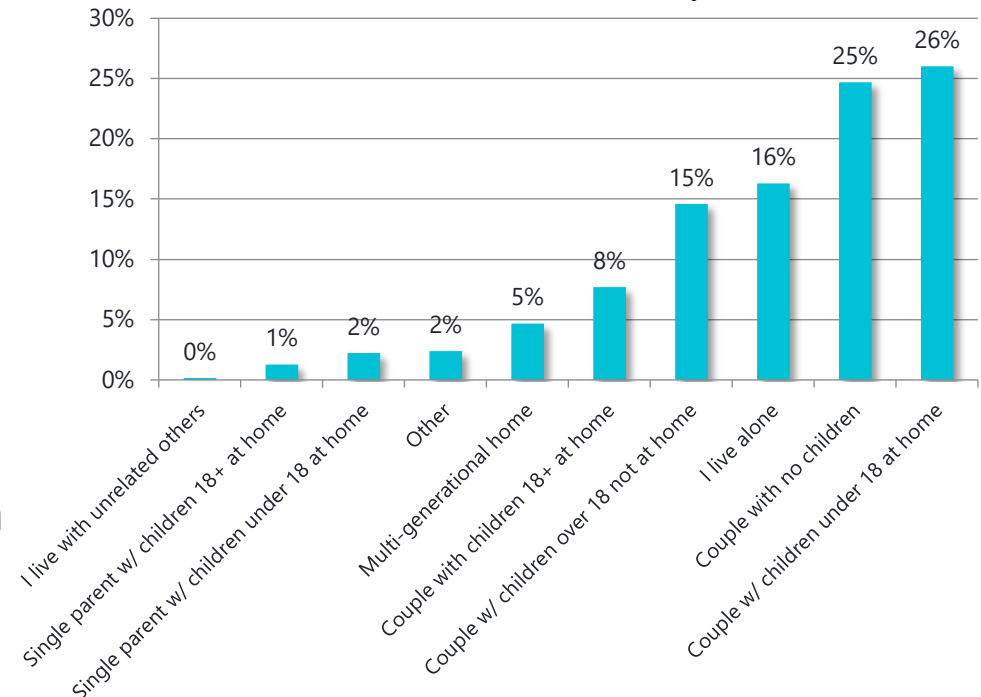
# ABOUT RESPONDENTS

- 99% are residents
- 20% have lived in town for 5 years or less
- 41% have lived in town for 20+ years
- 38% are 65+
- 30% live in SE Southbury
- 21% live in Heritage Village area
- 95% own their home
- 26% live in a coupled household with children under 18
- 40% live in a coupled household without children

Q24: What is your age?



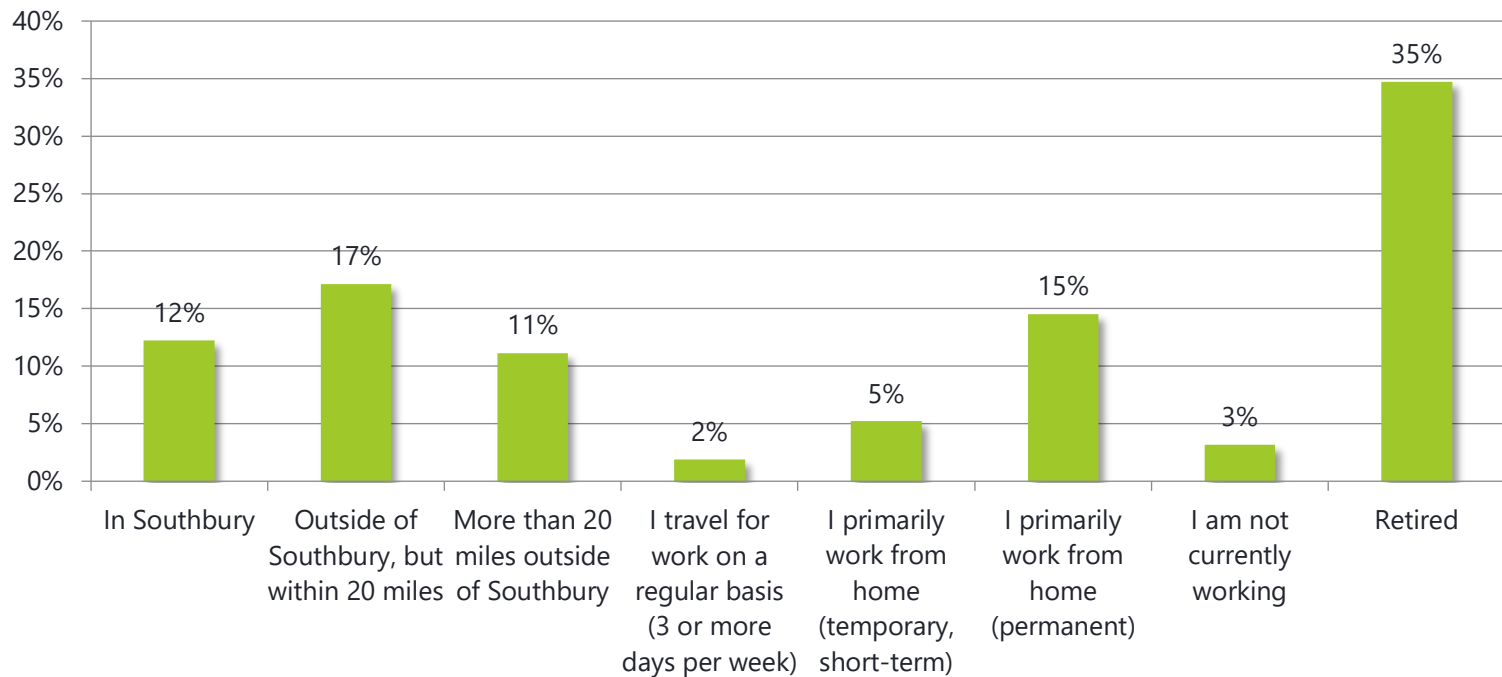
Q29: Please describe who lives in your household.



# ABOUT RESPONDENTS

- 35% retired
- 29% work within 20 miles of Southbury
- 15% work from home
- 19% serve on Town boards/ commissions or volunteer in town

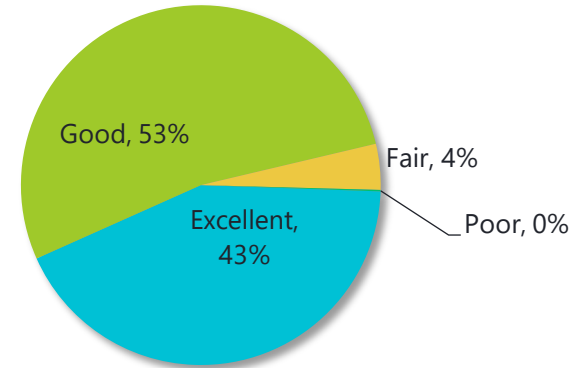
## Q25: Where do you work?



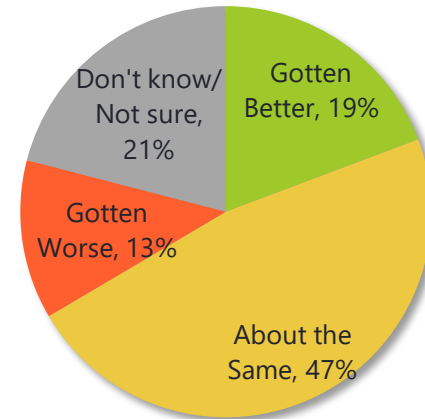
# QUALITY OF LIFE

- Nearly all respondents rate the quality of life in Southbury as Excellent (43%) or Good (53%)
  - In 2012, it was 95%
- 47% of respondents said that the quality of life has remained the same since 2012
  - 64% in the 2012 survey
- Slightly more respondents said the quality of life has gotten better than those who said it has gotten worse
  - Very similar to 2012

Q1: How would you rate the overall quality of life in Southbury?



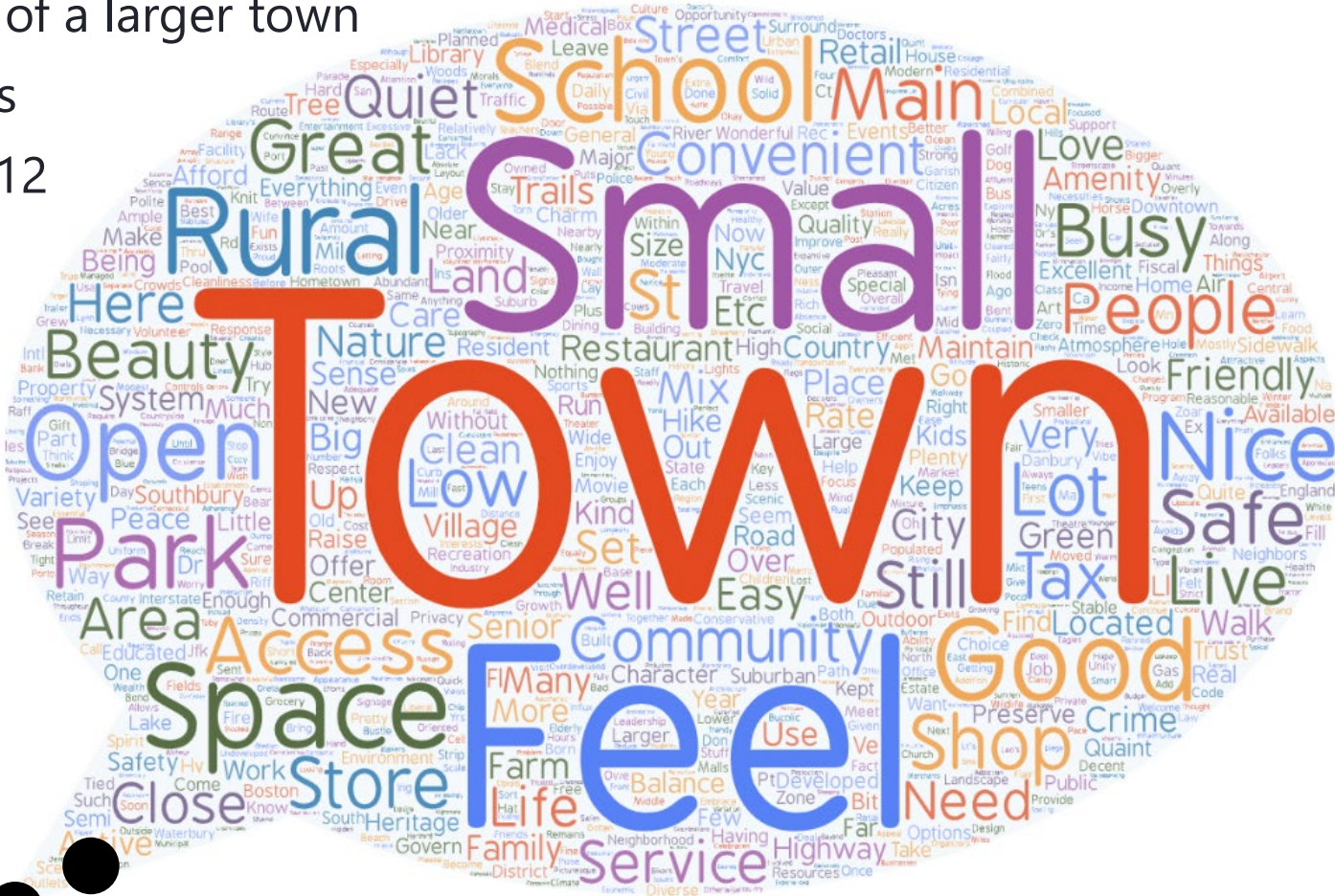
Q2: How has the quality of life in Southbury changed since 2012?





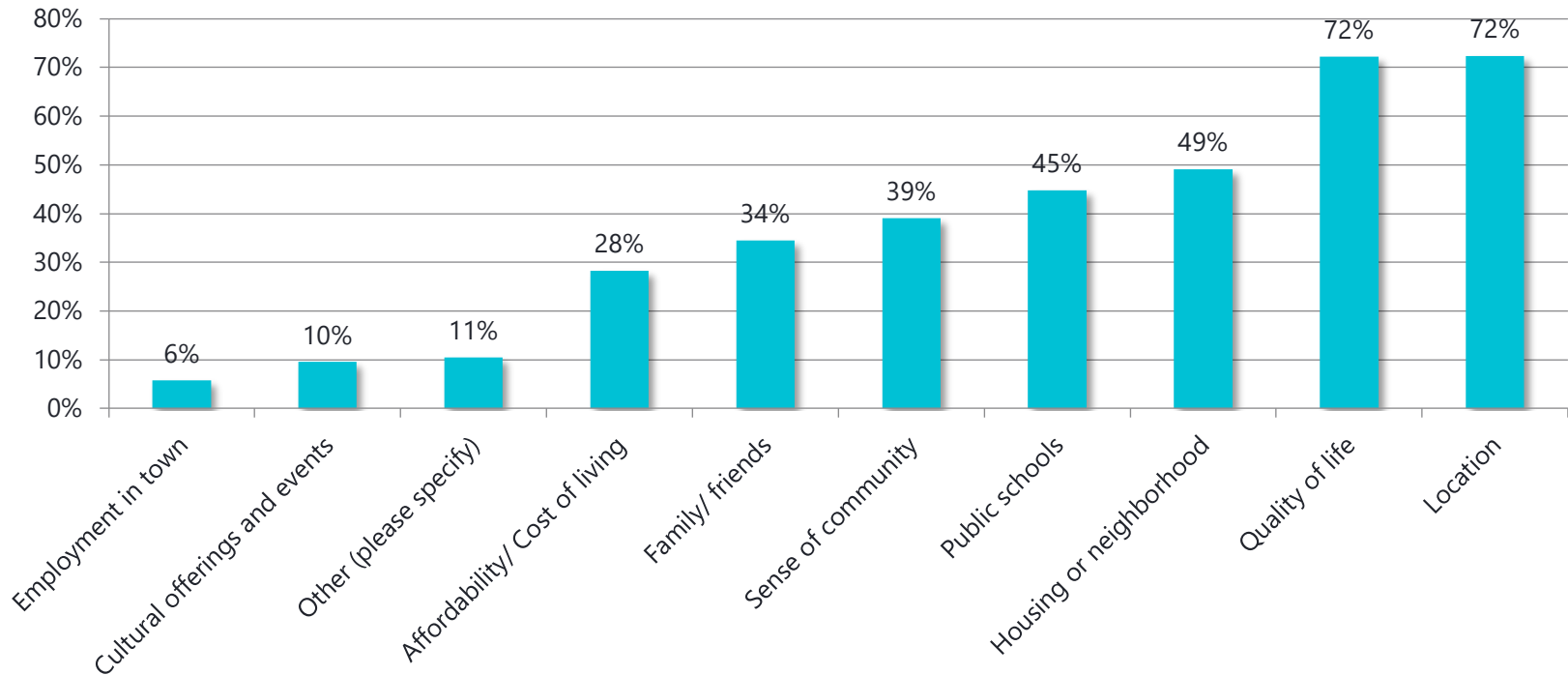
### Q3: WHAT MAKES LIVING IN SOUTHBURY SPECIAL?

- Respondents cited “Small-town-feel,” rural nature, and open space in Southbury
- Convivences of a larger town
- Good schools
- Similar to 2012



# QUALITY OF LIFE

Q30: Why do you choose to live in Southbury? Check all that apply.



- 72% of respondents choose to live in Southbury for its location and quality of life
- Only 6% said it was because of employment in town

**Q4: WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN TOWN FOR THE NEXT DECADE?**

Respondents think the most important issues in Southbury will be:

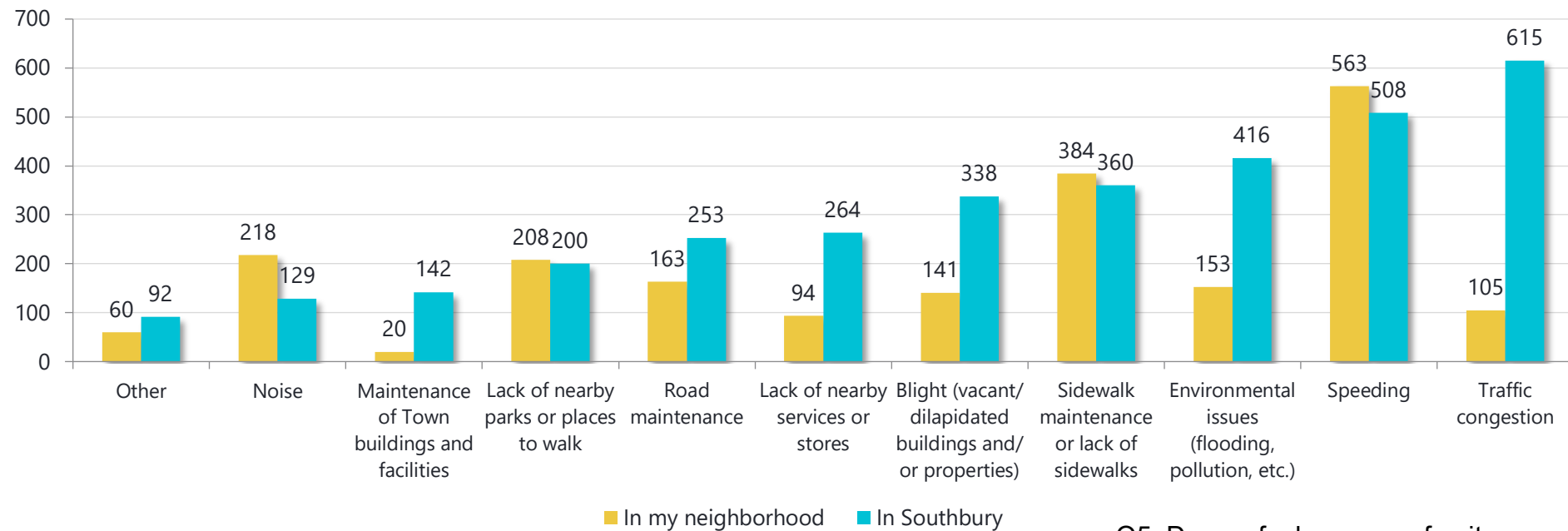
- The tension between land preservation and development
- Housing affordability





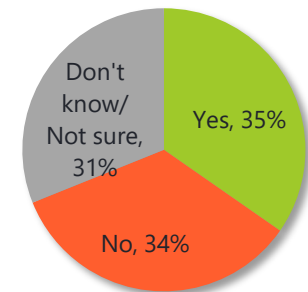
# QUALITY OF LIFE

Q6: Please indicate whether you have any concerns with the following issues in the area where you live or throughout Southbury.



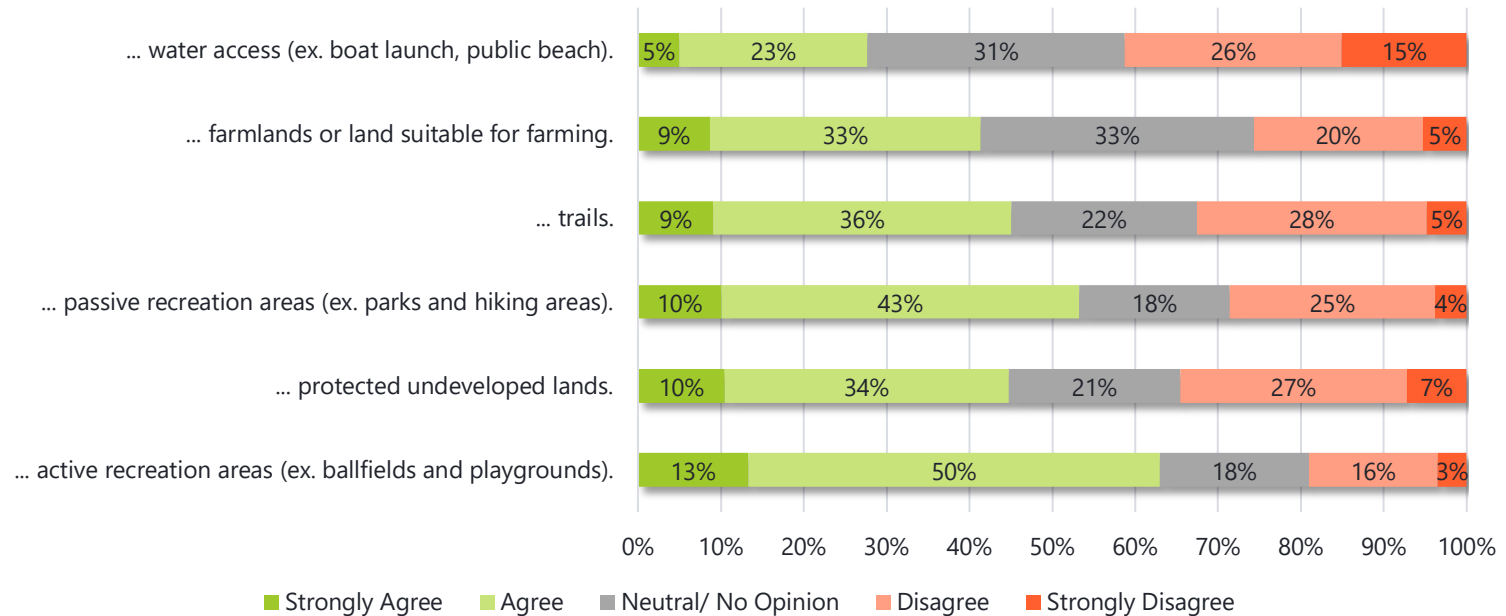
- Respondents felt traffic congestion and speeding are issues in Southbury
- Respondents are evenly split on a sense of unity between Heritage Village and the rest of Southbury

Q5: Do you feel a sense of unity between Heritage Village and Southbury?



# OPEN SPACE

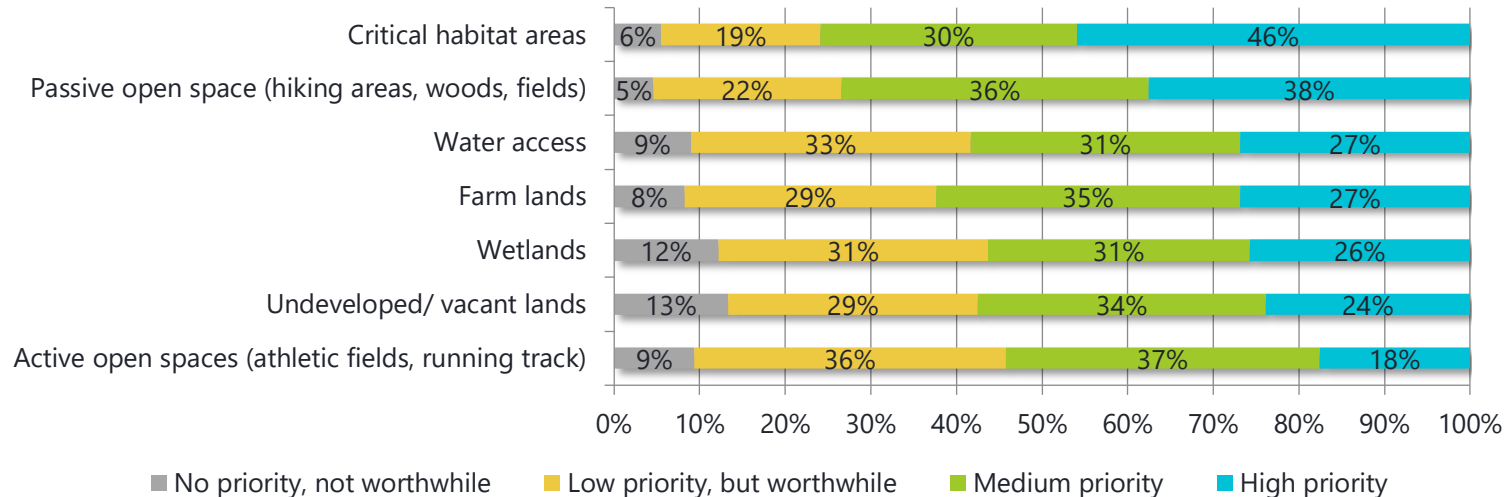
Q7: The Town has enough...



- The majority of respondents agree the town has enough active and passive recreation areas
- 41% think there is not enough water access

# OPEN SPACE

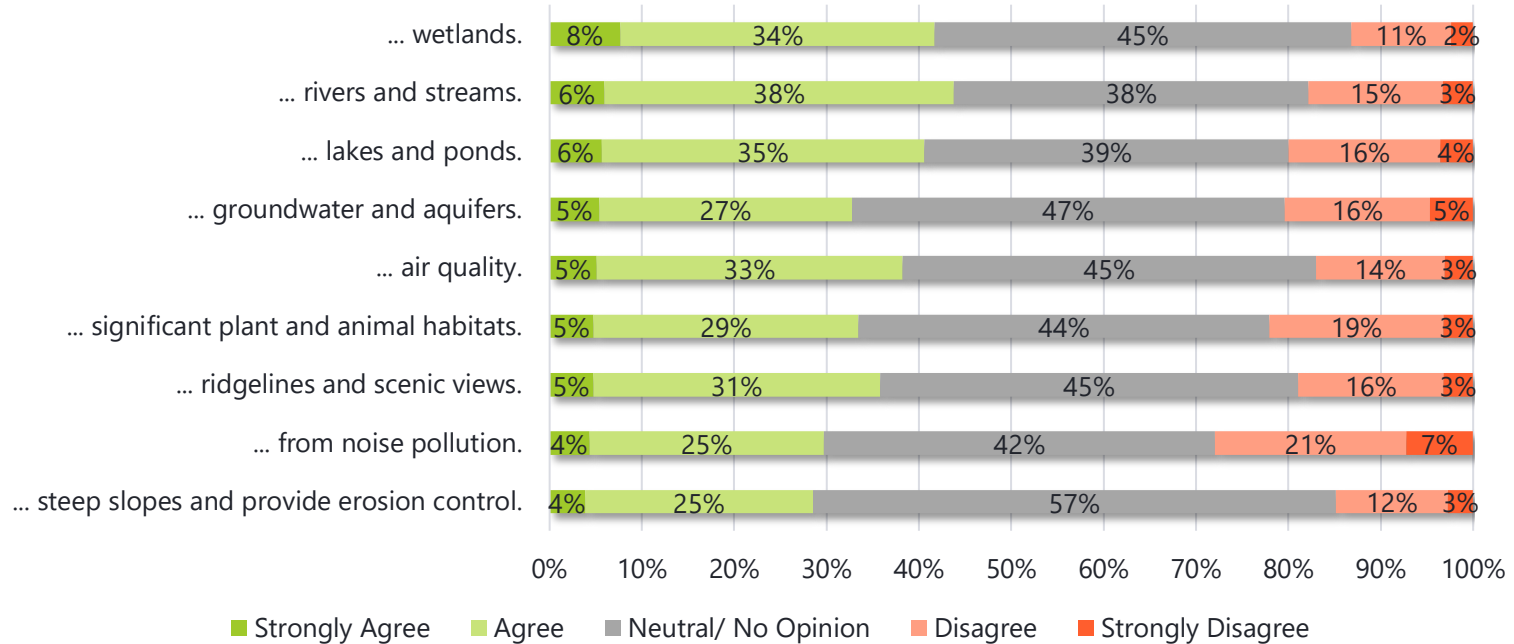
Q8: What kinds of open space should the Town of Southbury prioritize over the next 10 years?



- 46% of respondents think critical habitat areas should be a high priority over the next decade
- 38% of respondents think passive open space should be a high priority over the next decade
- Nearly all respondents view land preservation positively

# OPEN SPACE

Q9: The Town is doing enough to protect...

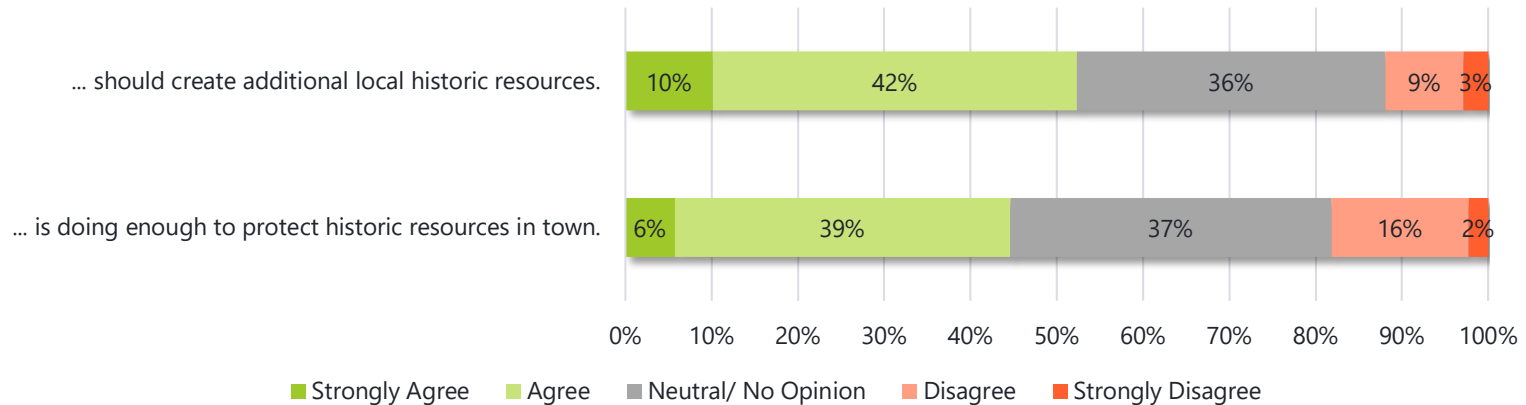


- Respondents are largely neutral on whether the town is doing enough to protect various aspects of its natural environment
- 44% agree the Town is doing enough to protect rivers and streams, 42% agree for wetlands, 41% lakes and ponds
- In 2012, the majority agreed that the town is doing enough to protect these aspects – far less were neutral



# HISTORIC RESOURCES

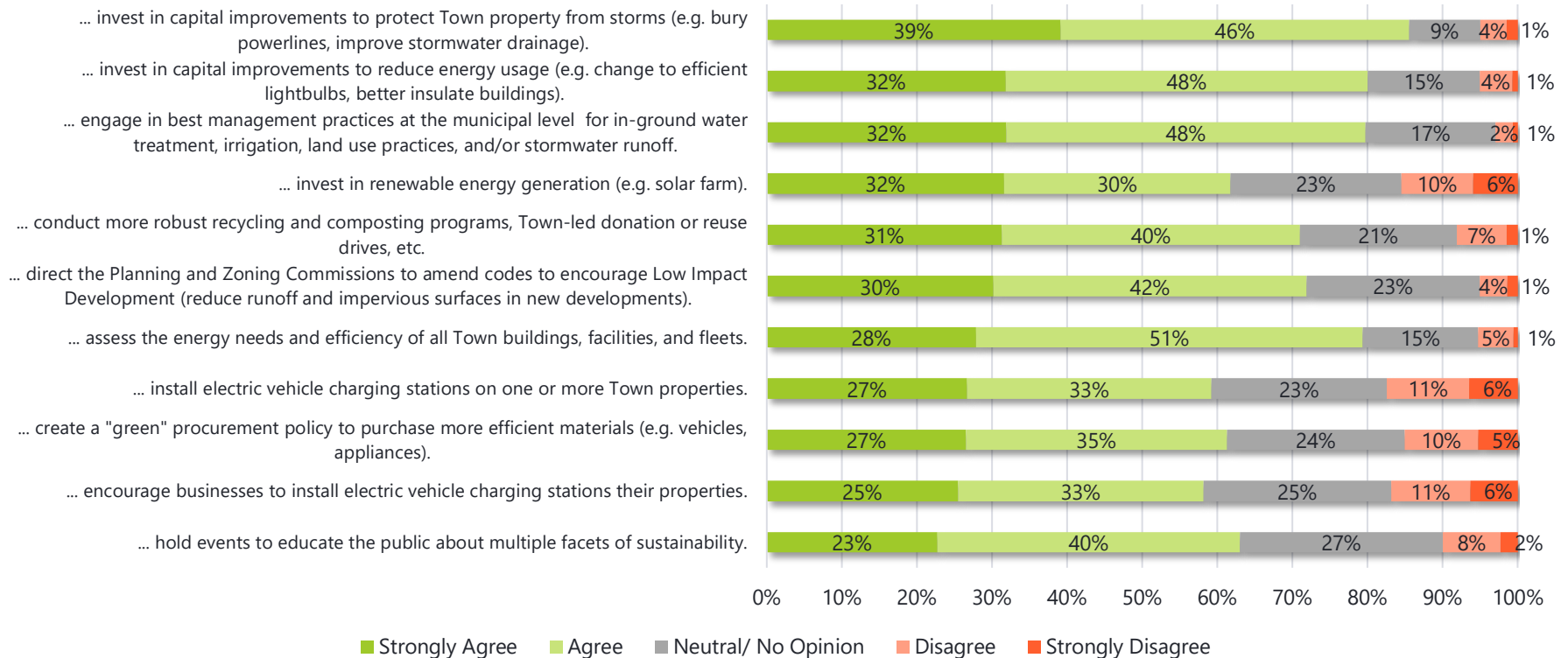
Q10: Historic resources range from buildings, to stonewalls, to even significant trees. The Town...



- 52% of respondents agree that the Town should designate additional historic resources
- 45% think the Town is doing enough to protect its historic resources
  - Respondents were more pleased with protection of historic resources (76% agreed that the Town is doing enough in 2012 compared to 63% in 2001)

# RESILIENCY & SUSTAINABILITY

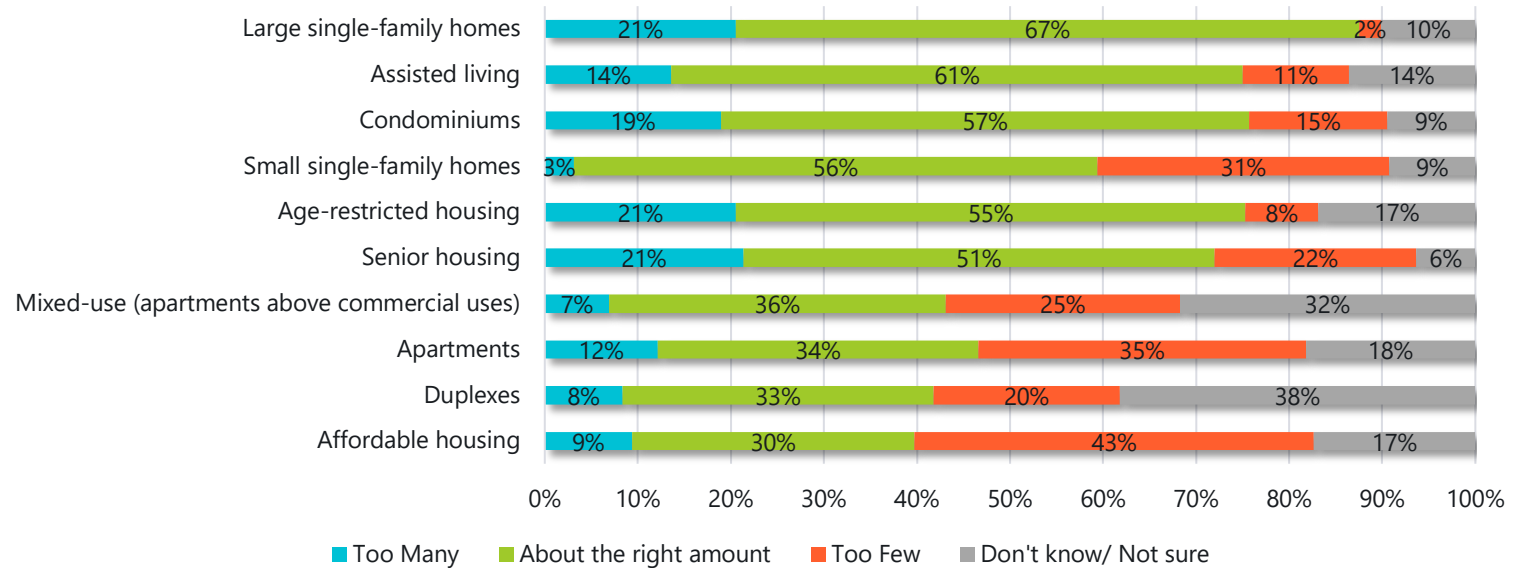
Q11: To encourage resiliency and sustainability, the Town of Southbury should...



- All resiliency and sustainability measures were supported by the majority of respondents
- Most popular were to protect town property from storms, reduce energy use, BMPs for water, and a Town energy audit

# HOUSING

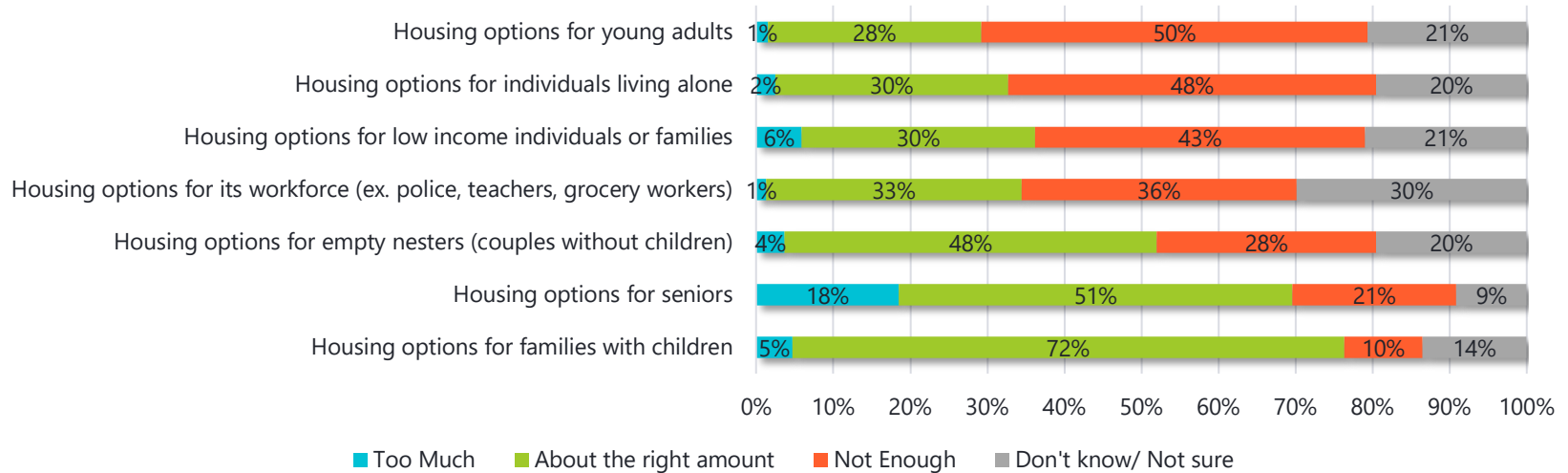
Q12: Indicate how much of the following Southbury has



- The majority of respondents think Southbury has the right amount of single family homes, assisted living, condominiums, age-restricted housing, and senior housing
- 43% of respondents do not think there is enough affordable housing
- 35% do not think there are enough apartments

# HOUSING

Q13: Indicate how much of the following Southbury has



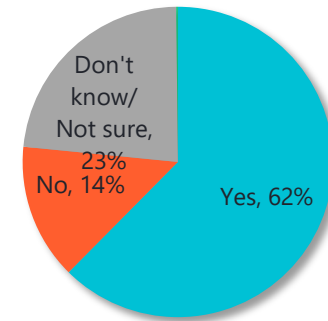
- Half of respondents do not think there are enough housing options for young adults in Southbury
- Nearly half do not think there are enough options for people living alone and low income households
- The majority of people think there is the right amount of options for families with children, seniors, and empty nesters
- In 2012, 40% said there was too few options for empty nesters – indicates a possible demographic shift



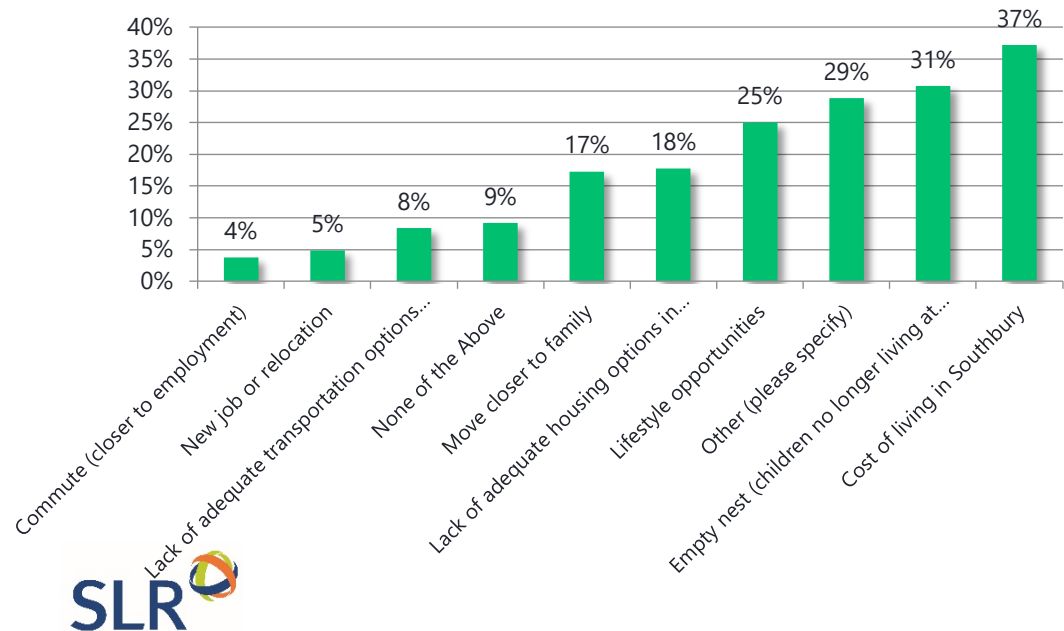
# HOUSING

- 62% of respondents see themselves living in Southbury in the next 10 years
  - 71% of those respondents anticipate living in their current home
- 14% do not see themselves in Southbury
  - 37% cited cost of living and 31% cited smaller household size
  - Common answers in the "other" category included that that would be in Southbury or that they may no longer be alive

Q31: Do you see yourself living in Southbury 10 years from now?

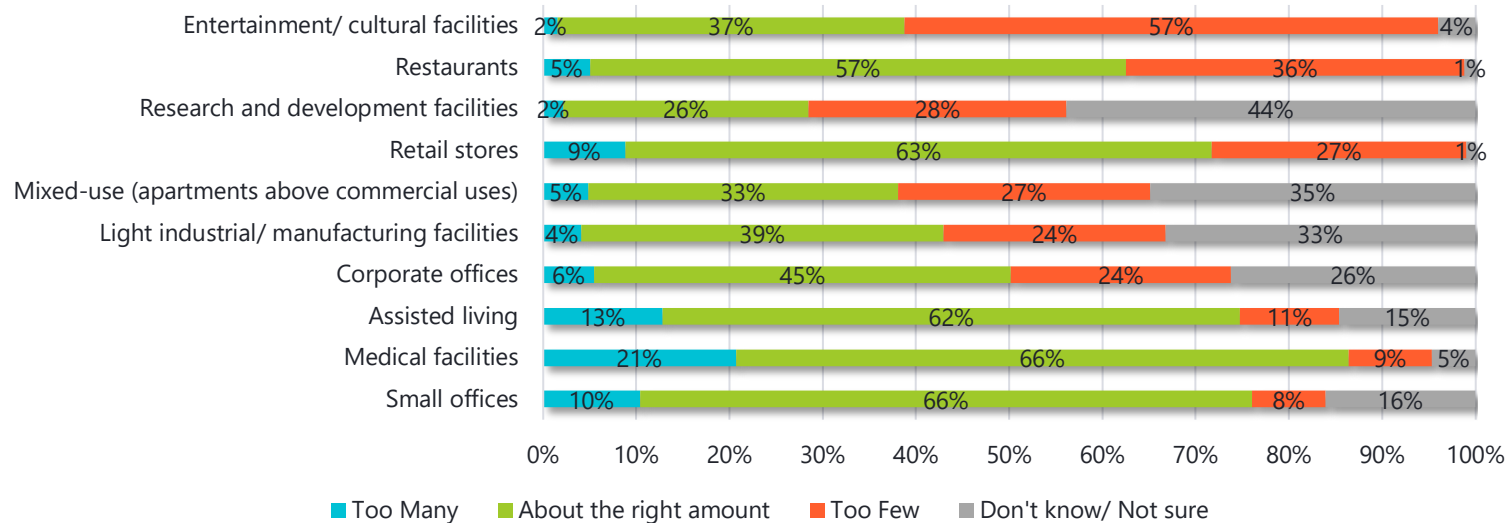


Q33: If you answered "No" to the previous question, why don't you see yourself living in Southbury in the future? Check all that apply.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

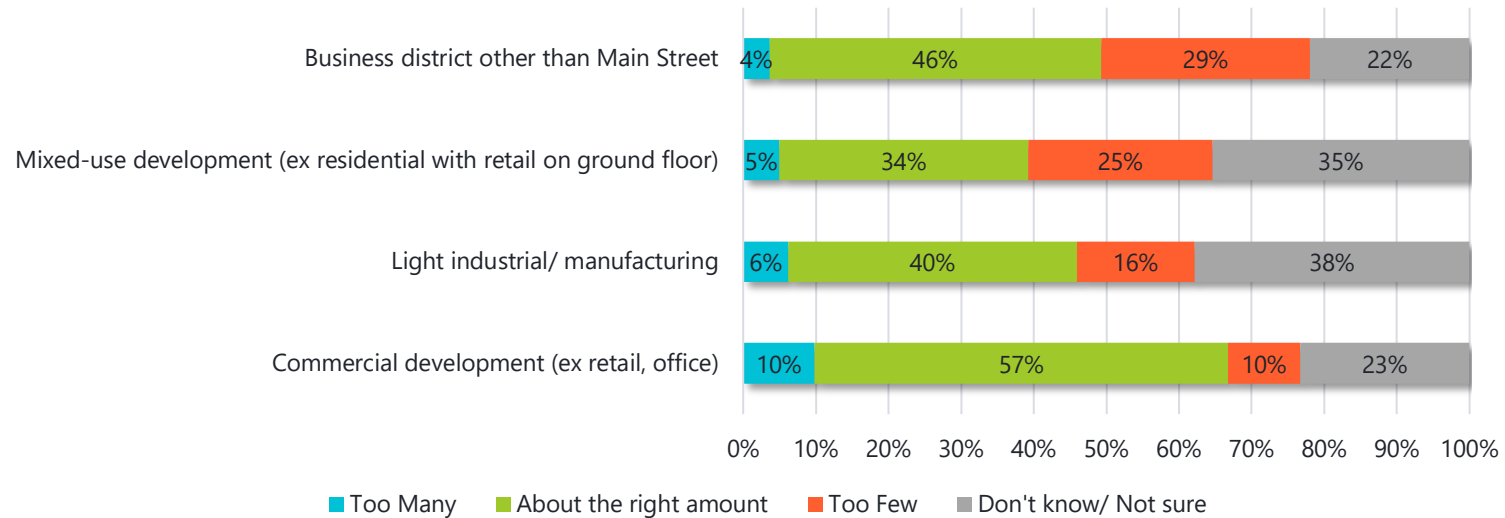
Q14: Indicate how much of the following Southbury has



- 57% of respondents do not think there are enough entertainment or cultural facilities in Southbury
  - 75% in 2012
- Over two-thirds of respondents think there is about the right amount of medical facilities, retail, small offices, and assisted living businesses
  - In 2012, the majority felt there was the right amount of retail, small business offices, and medical facilities
- Respondents were split about the amount of R&D, industrial and manufacturing, and mixed use

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

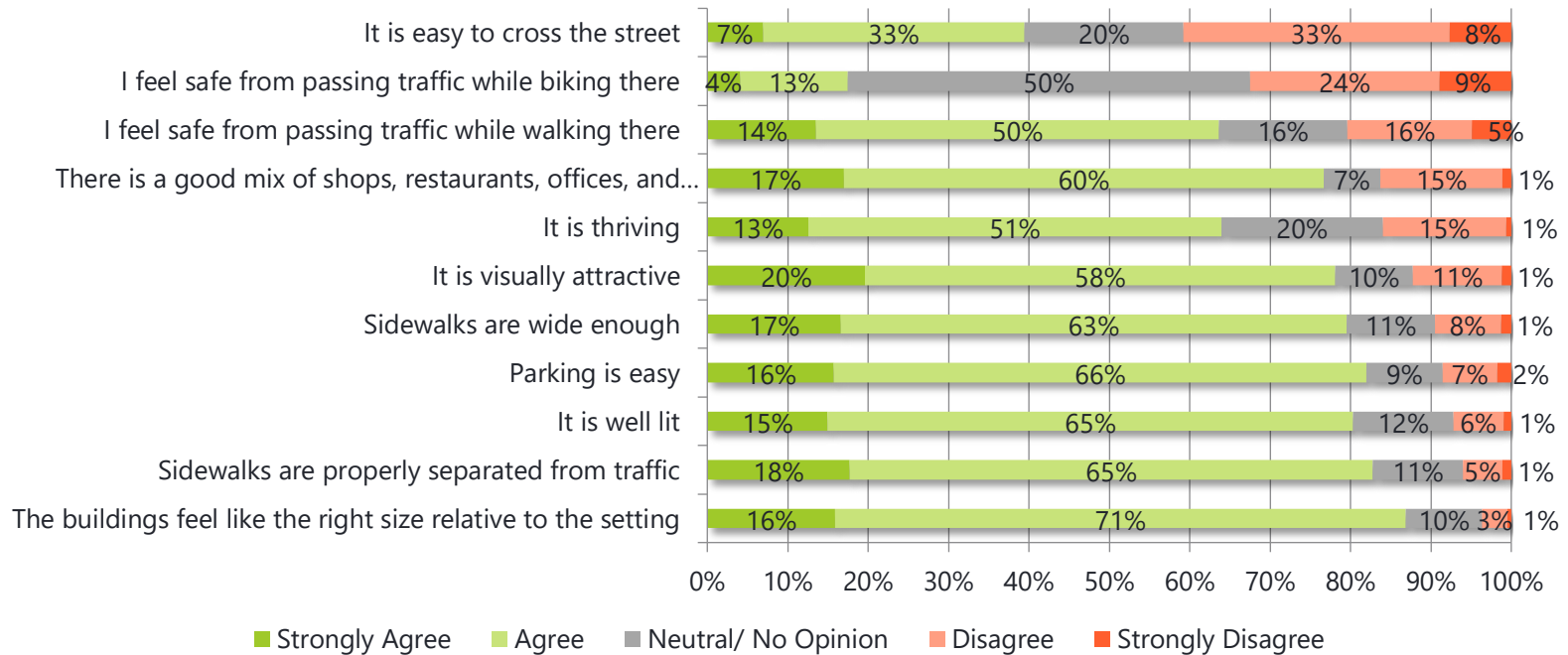
Q15: Indicate how much land for the following uses Southbury has



- Large portions of the respondents did not know how much land Southbury had for the uses listed
- The majority of respondents think Southbury has the right amount of land for commercial development
- This question needs more exploration

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Q16: Would you agree with the following statements about Main Street South?

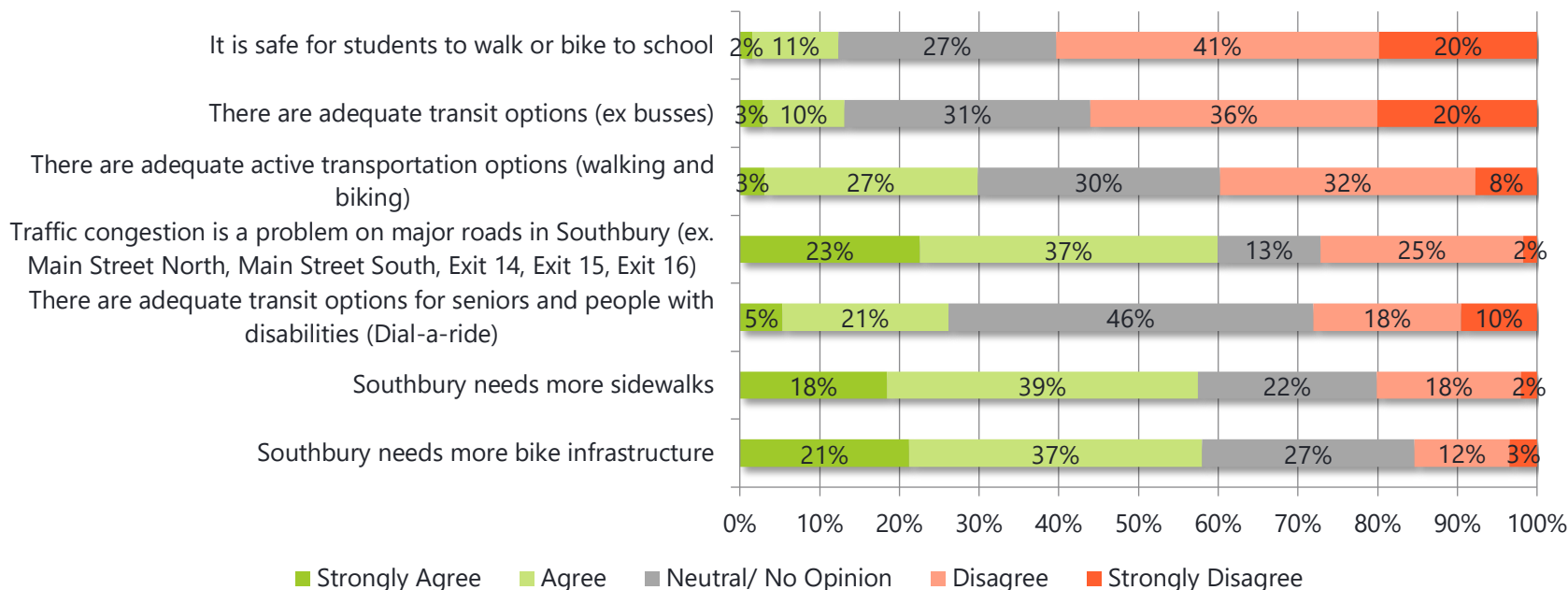


- Respondents were split on the ease of crossing the street
  - Younger respondents were only slightly more likely to think it's easy to cross
- 50% of respondents were neutral on biking conditions
- The majority of respondents felt positively about conditions on Main Street South



# TRANSPORTATION

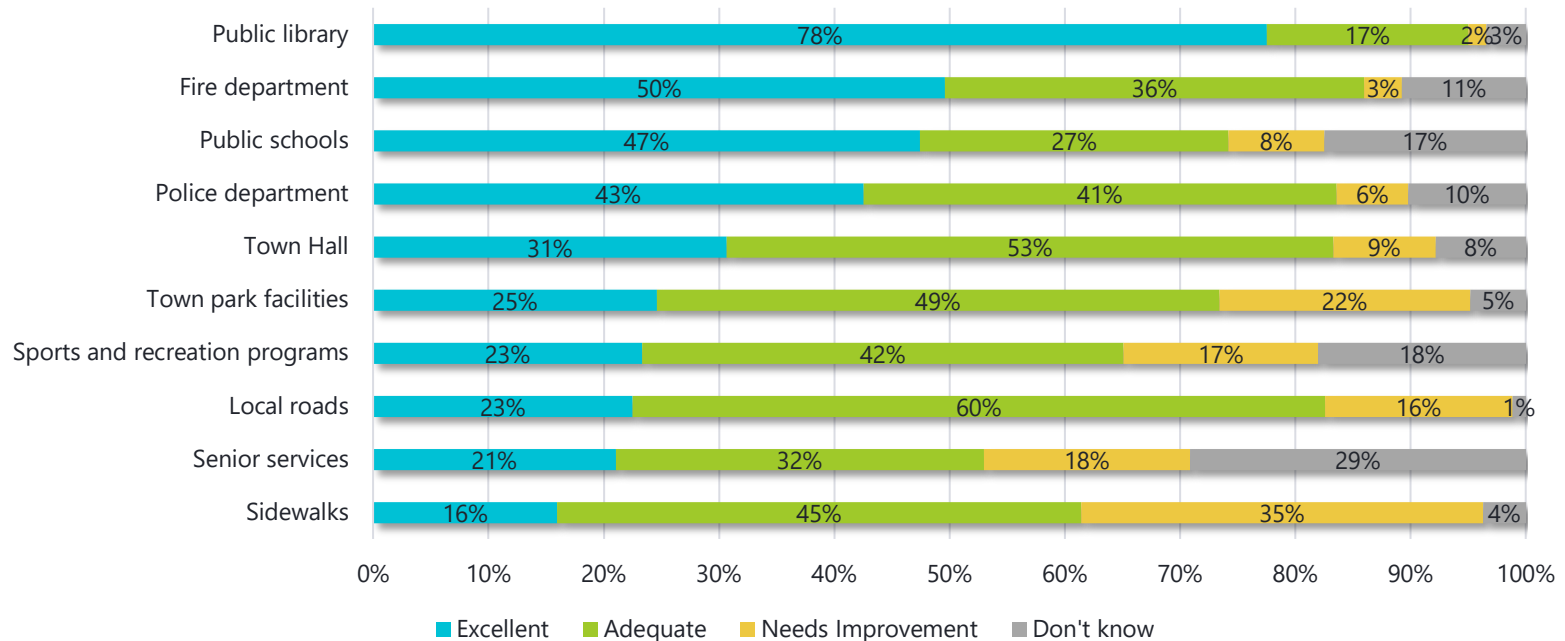
Q17: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Southbury's transportation system?



- The majority of respondents agree that Southbury has a problem with traffic congestion on major roads and there is a need more biking and walking infrastructure
  - In 2012, 54% agree traffic congestion is a problem
- The majority of respondents do not think it is safe for students to walk or bike to school and that there are not adequate transit options

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

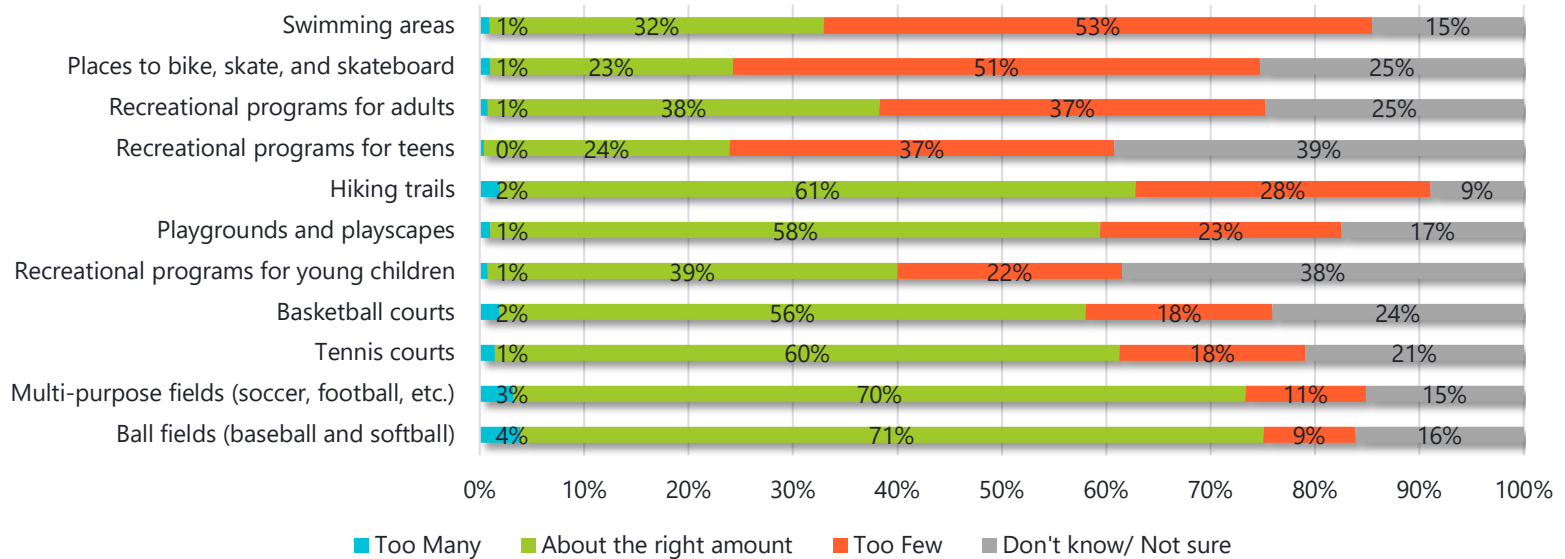
Q18: Rate the quality of the following Town facilities



- All community facilities are highly rated
- In 2012, the majority of respondents were pleased with recreation facilities, senior services and the library -- with strongest agreement for the library
  - Greater in 2012 than it was in 2001
  - Showing continued improvement over time

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Q19: Indicate how much of the following public facilities Southbury has



- Over 50% of respondents do not think there are enough areas to swim, bike, skate, or skateboard
- The majority of respondents think there are enough ball fields, multi-purpose field, hiking trails, playgrounds/scapes, and basketball and tennis courts

**Q20: ARE THERE ANY COMMUNITY AMENITIES, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, PROGRAMS, OR SERVICES THAT SOUTHBURY IS LACKING?**

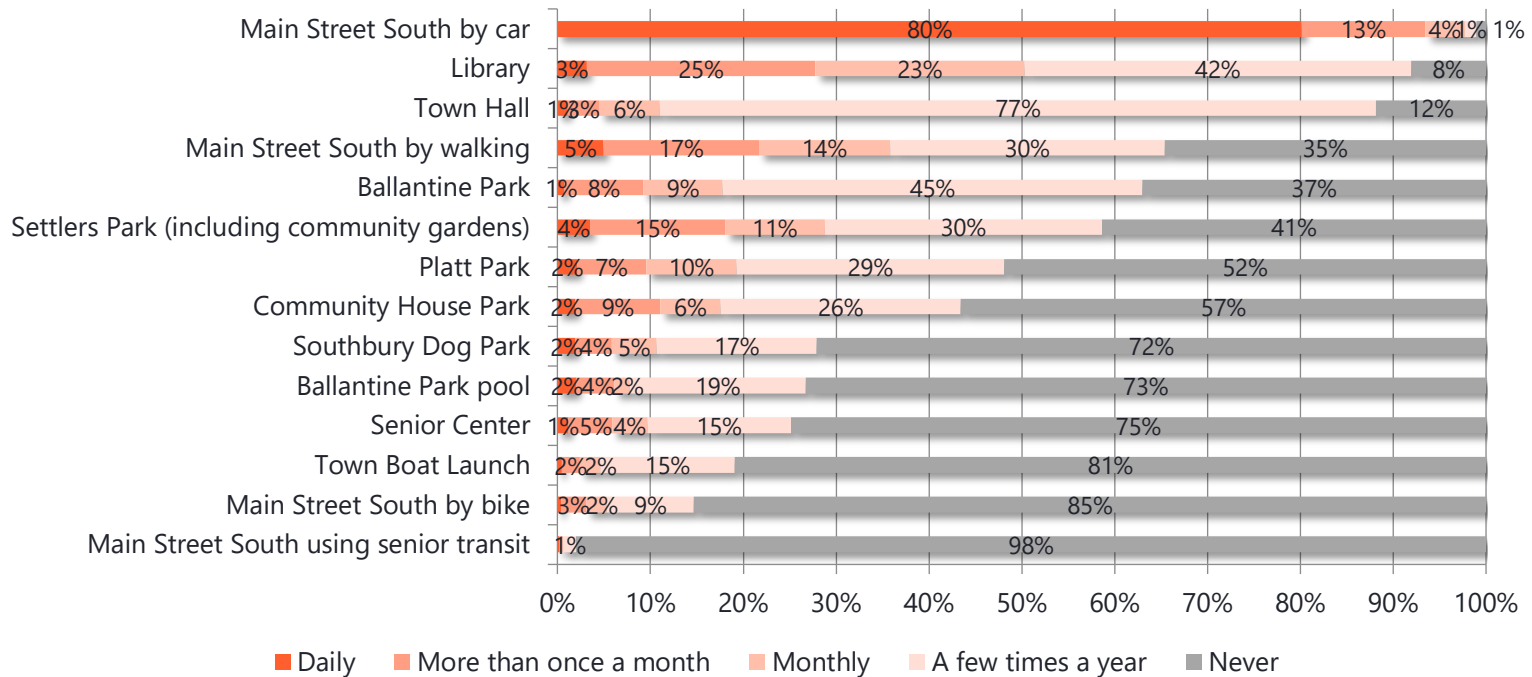
- Respondents most commonly said Southbury needs a pool and community/ art center
- 704 responses





# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Q21: How often do you or a member of your household visit the following places?

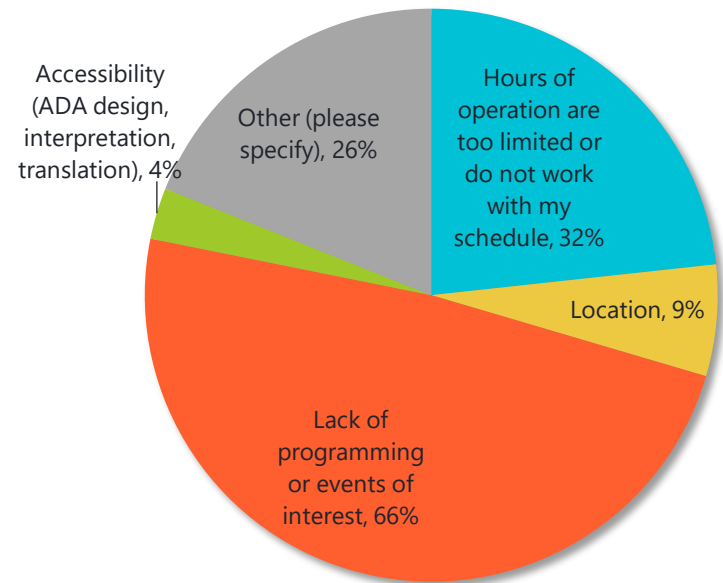


- 80% of respondents go to Main Street South by car every day while only 5% walk, nearly almost none of the respondents go to Main Street South by bike
- The majority of respondents visit the library, town hall, Ballentine Park, and Settlers Park at least once a year

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

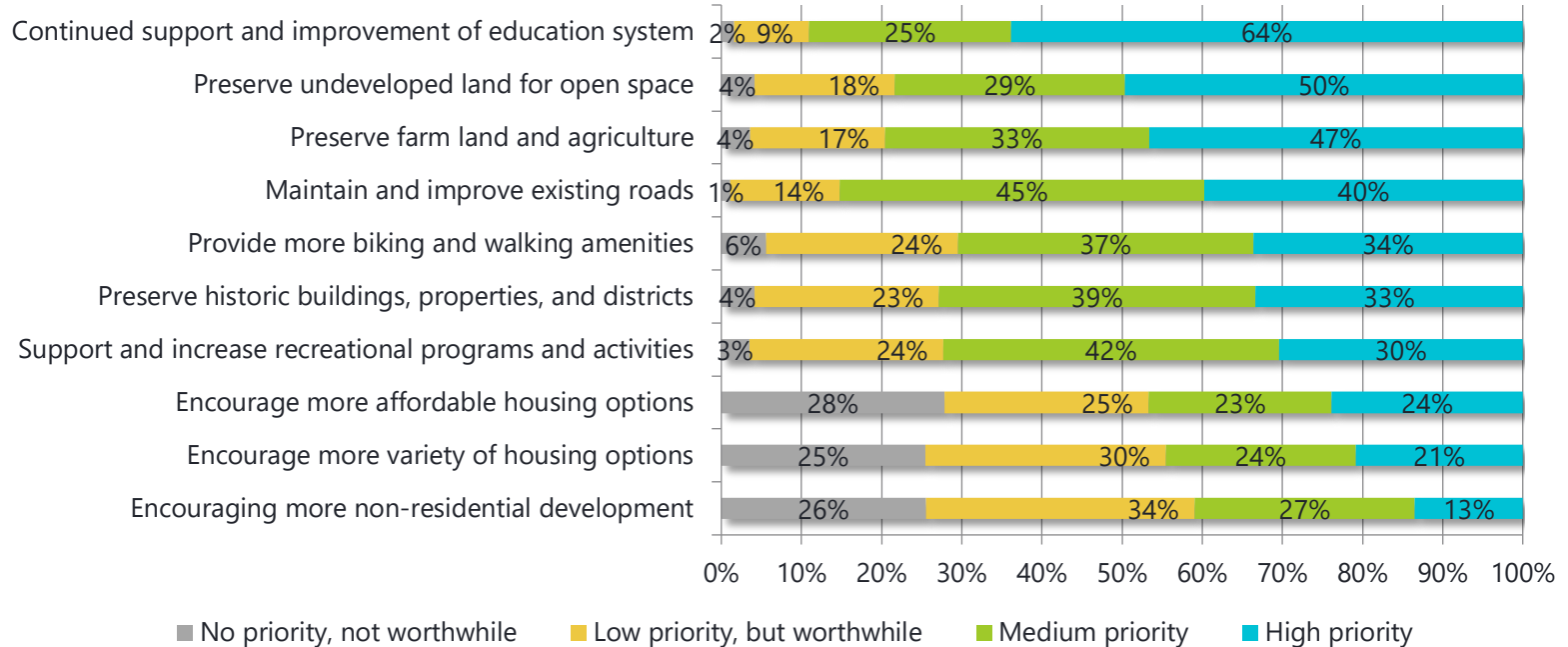
Q22: Are there barriers keeping you from using community facilities? Check all that apply.

- 764 answered
- 66% of responses said the lack of programming/ events of interest was a barrier to using community facilities
- 32% of responses involved scheduling
- "Other" responses included those that did not have any barriers or did not want to use the facilities



# VISIONING

Q23: Please rate the following in terms of priority focus areas for Southbury over the next 10 years.



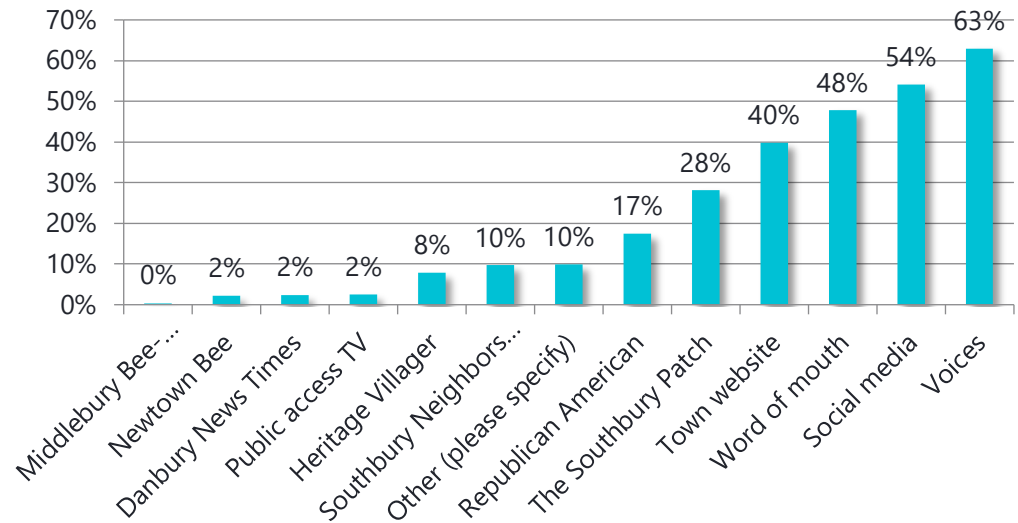
- Education is a high priority for 64% of respondents
- Large portions of respondents have the preservation of undeveloped and agricultural land as high priorities
- Generally, development priorities ranked lower for respondents

# FUTURE OUTREACH

It is important to know where community members are getting their news and the events they attend to conduct future outreach

- 63% read Voices and 54% look at social media to find out about community events
- 71% of respondents attend the farmers market, 50% attend Southbury Celebration

Q34: How do you find out about community events?



Q35: What community events do you attend?

