



Castle Meadows

Active Travel Public Consultation Results



Consultation

Abergavenny is one of the key strategic sites not only in Monmouthshire but for the County's bordering towns. It acts as the main retail, educational, and the cultural centre for an extensive rural area, extending into the old Greater Gwent authority areas and Herefordshire.

The A4143 Merthyr Road connects the two communities of Abergavenny and Llanfoist via the existing Llanfoist Bridge crossing over the River Usk. Castle Meadows and Ysbytty Fields are important leisure areas for the community and are crossed by Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and National Cycle Network routes 42 and 46.

The proposals look to install a new dedicated pedestrian and cycle bridge across the River Usk, which has already received planning permission, and upgrade linking paths through Castle Meadows and Ysbytty fields to active travel standards. The scheme looks to improve access for all users to Castle Meadows through upgraded entry/exit points.

Results ...



Overall ...



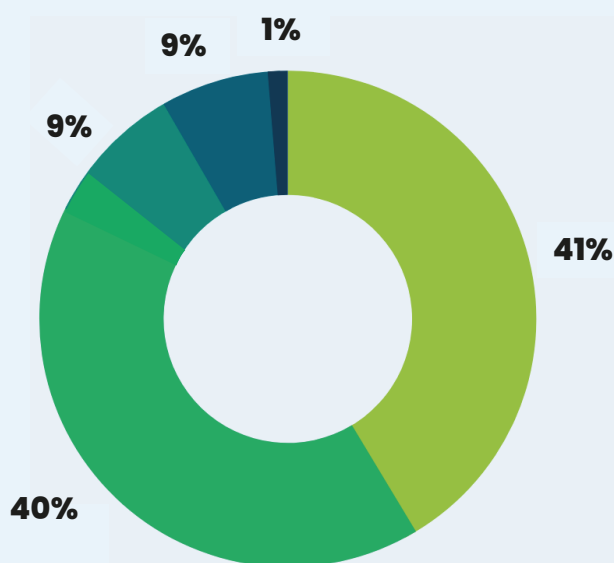
566
responses
Received



19:33
Average time
to complete

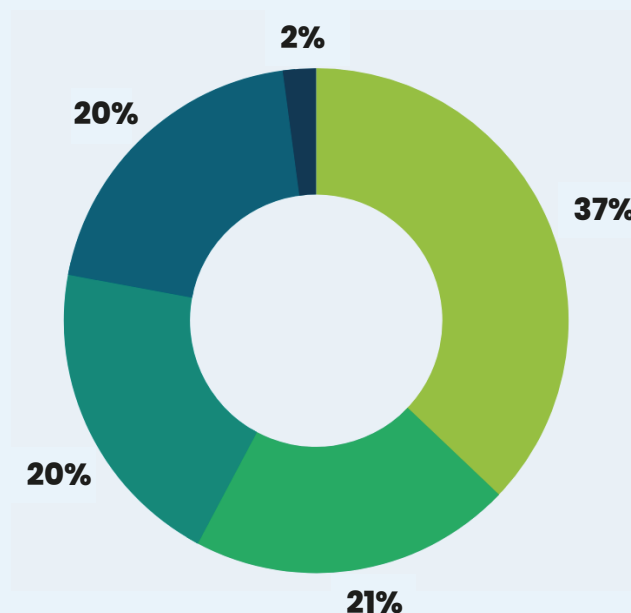
Q1. What is your main purpose for using Castle Meadows and Ysbytty Fields?

-  To access Abergavenny / Llanfoist for Work/ Education
-  To access Abergavenny / Llanfoist for Shopping/ Leisure
-  Castle Meadows/ Ysbytty Fields is my destination
-  I do not use Castle Meadows/ Ysbytty Fields
-  Other

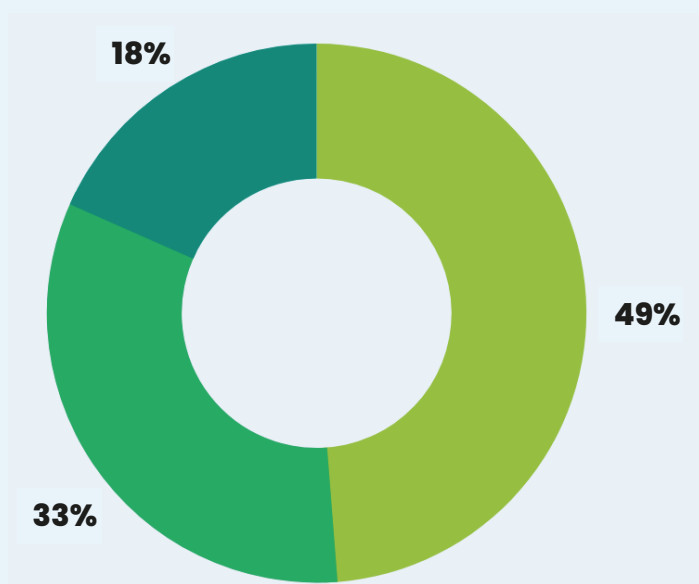





Q2. How often do you use Castle Meadows and Ysbytty Fields?

-  5 to 7 days a week on average
-  3 to 4 days a week on average
-  1 to 2 days a week on average
-  Monthly or less
-  Never

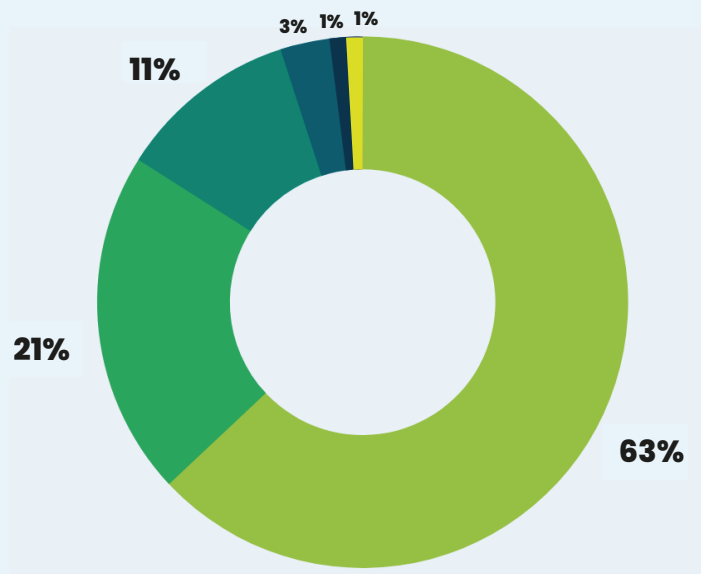
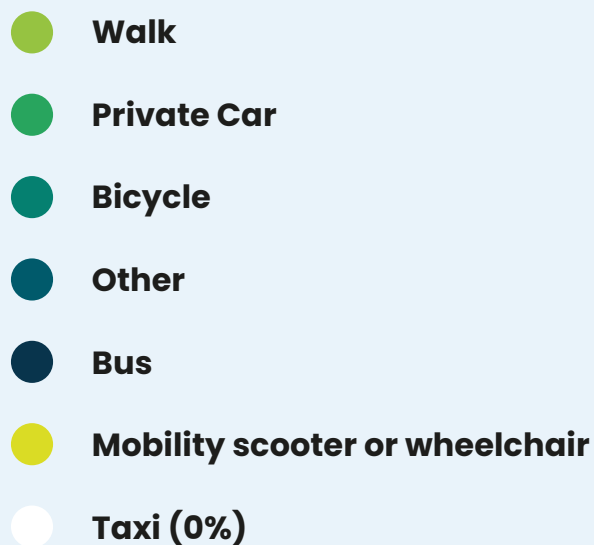


Q3. How far is it from the place you usually travel from / to Castle Meadows and Ysbytty Fields?

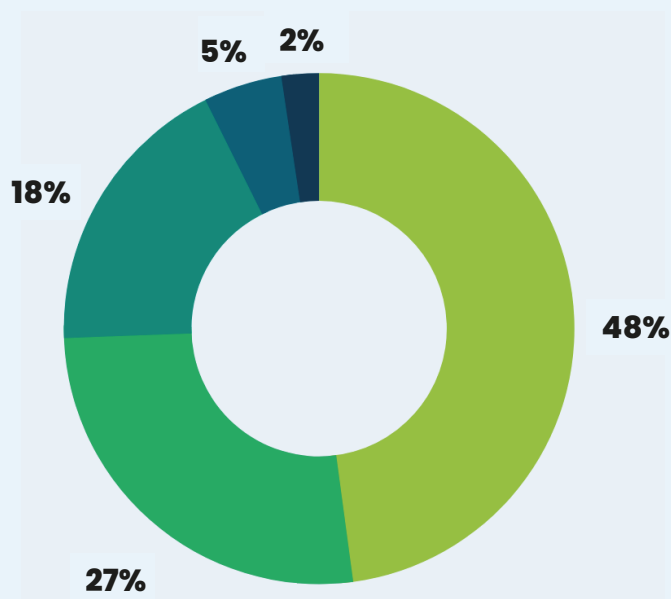


- Less than a mile 
- Between 1 and 2 miles 
- Over 2 miles 

Q4. How do you normally travel to Castle Meadows and Ysbytty Fields?



Q5. If you do not walk or cycle, please tell us why?



Q6. Are there any places or points on the way that you feel are difficult to walk, cycle or use a mobility scooter / wheelchair / pushchair on?



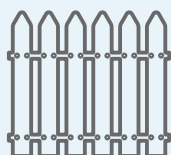
566

respondents
responded



38%

answered
bridge



9%

answered
gates

Llanfoist bridge was identified as a number one priority when accessing Castle Meadows / Ysbytty Fields:

Some of the broad selection of comments received:



"There are quite a few parts of the path that are difficult on a mobility scooter, as the riverside path is muddy and Llanfoist Bridge itself is hazardous when trying to walk dogs or take children on bikes, especially when you reach pedestrians/dogs walking toward you."



"The concrete paving sets of the main path are not pleasant to ride on and the path is too narrow, you have to cycle on the grass to allow pedestrians to pass. The wooden access/kissing gates are difficult too, you have to dismount, push the bike into the fences, recess and then pull it back out, often it is really awkward."



"I am a wheelchair users and the current gates don't work for me. It is so difficult to get in and out. I like the idea of being able to go to the meadows and access all parts, like we should all be able to."



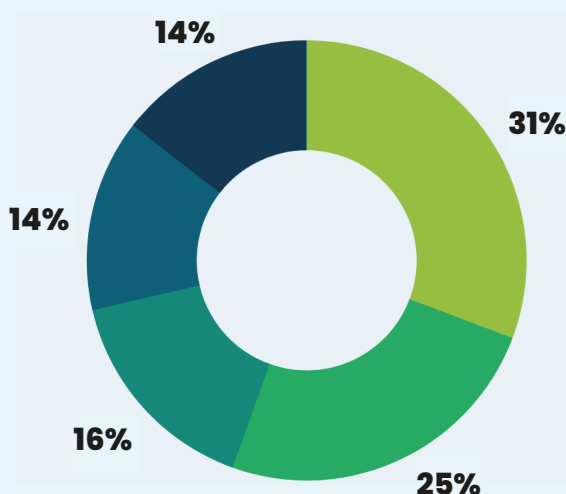
"I have a dog that I like to walk on the fields. It is dangerous walking across the bridge and uncomfortable. I would very much like to cycle but I do not unless there is minimal traffic as it is dangerous."



"Yes, walking over the main river bridge and trying to cross the road at either roundabout is challenging, particularly with the dog."

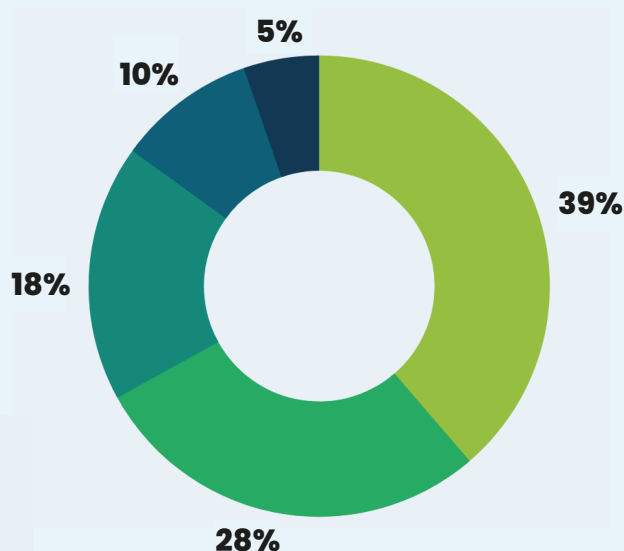
Q7. In respect of the existing Llanfoist Bridge and Castle Meadows/ Ysbytty Study area, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

 Strongly Disagree
  Disagree
  Neutral
  Agree
  Strongly Agree

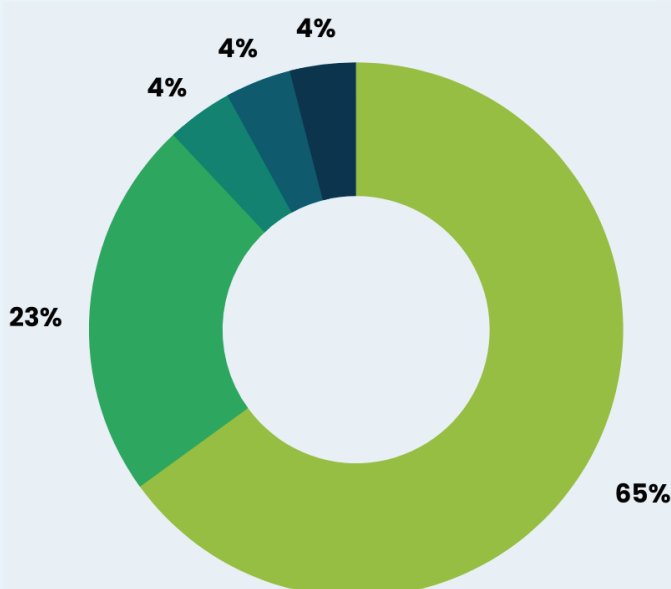


The routes through Castle Meadows and Ysbytty Fields need improving, as they do not cater for all.

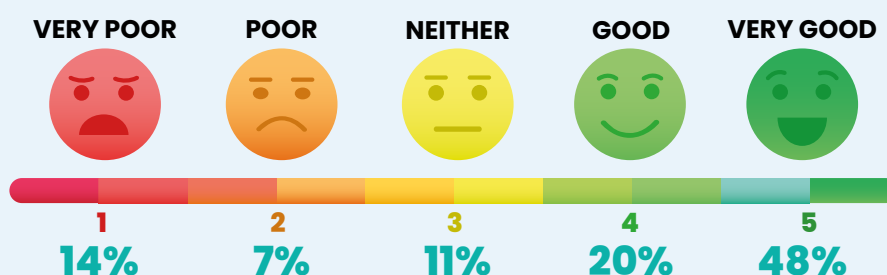
Vehicles currently travel too fast on Merthyr Road and over Llanfoist Bridge.



The number of vehicles and narrow footways on Llanfoist Bridge make it unsafe for the pedestrians.



Q8. Please give us your opinion on the Llanfoist Active Travel Bridge Proposals by using the 5 point rating system.



566
respondents
responded



3.81
Average
Score

Q9. Is there anything further that you consider needs improving in relation to the Llanfoist Active Travel Bridge Scheme proposals & associated connections?



484
respondents
responded

Some of the broad selection of comments received:



"It should also consider a safe and easy walkway / cycle path from Llanfoist to join with the (disused) railway path (llanfoist to brynmawr cycle path)."

MORE RESPONSES





"Most important is how cyclists and pedestrians are to cross the Merthyr Road on the Llanfoist side of the river Usk. The pinch point between the Bridge Inn and the house opposite. I know this is not part of the scheme under consideration here, but without a good solution to this problem, there is little point in having the new bridge possibly a zebra or pelican crossing at the roundabout by Waitrose across the Usk. So far nothing sensible has been suggested."



"It should also consider a safe and easy walkway / cycle path from Llanfoist to join with the (disused) railway path (Llanfoist to Brynmawr cycle path)."



"Many years ago the needs to pedestrians and cyclists crossing the Usk at Llanfoist Bridge was to be catered for by recreating a bridge on the alignment of the former railway track that crossed the river on the upstream side of the old bridge. I am not clear why this idea has not been carried forward as it would be visually less intrusive than the current proposals which will create a major change to the character and appearance of this end of castle Meadows."



"The Waitrose roundabout, slip road off the heads of the valleys, crossing Merthyr Road. Without work to this the rest is pointless."



"It is almost impossible to cross Merthyr Road between Llanfoist Bridge and roundabout during peak traffic and hence improvements to crossing facilities to allow onward access to National Cycle route 46 is also required as part of any holistic scheme."



"I am confined to a wheelchair due to advanced Parkinson's and arthritis in my knees. I live on xxxxxx and am able to travel independently around the pedestrianised core of the town. I would love to be able to go to Castle Meadows to enjoy the views and the fresh air and the river. At the moment the kissing gates prevent me from doing so, and the path beside the river is too bumpy for my wheels. I d like to be able to continue my journeys over the river to Llanfoist but cannot do so due to the narrowness of the footway across the bridge and the kissing gates leading to the footway across the bridge. I cannot travel down Merthyr Road because the footway is narrow or blocked by parked cars."



"The choice of materials needs improving: timber is often damaged by fire set by vandals which would immediately render the bridge unsafe; stainless steel is mentioned which is expensive - why not adopt a design using Corten as on A465."

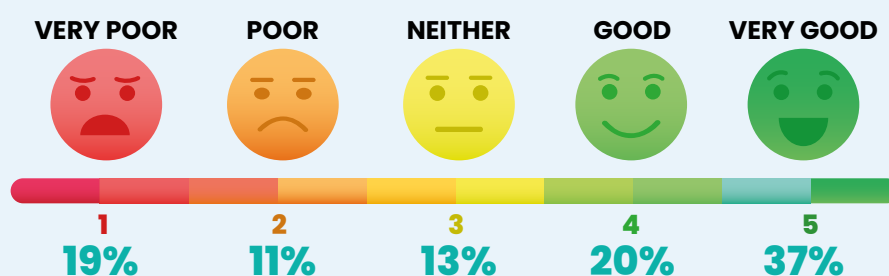


"This new bridge is located much too far from the road bridge. Not only will it appear as a blot on the landscape across the meadows, but also being too far away, will be of no use to pedestrians reaching the bridge roundabout from the Brecon Rd. So very many walkers need to get to the town cemetery, the allotments, the garden nursery brake walks past these places for riverside, canal, Bloreng, tram road walk paths. The big problem is having to cross the main road with constant traffic in both directions."



"A shared path for cyclists and walkers is problematic unless the path is clearly demarcated."

Q10. Please give us your opinion on the Castle Meadows Scheme proposals plan by using the 5 point rating system.



566
respondents
responded



3.45
Average
Score

Q11. Is there anything further that you consider needs improving in relation to the Castle Meadows Scheme proposals?



460
respondents
responded










Some of the broad selection of comments received:



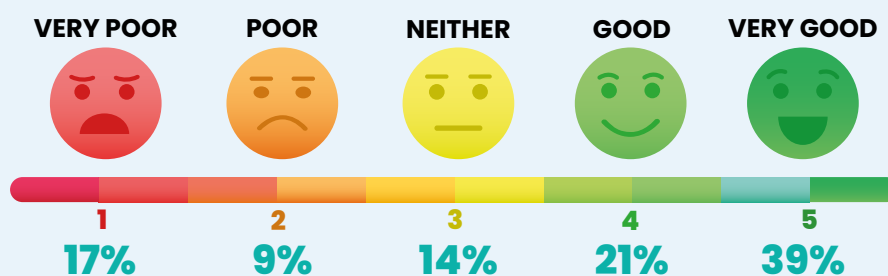
"As a water meadow, whatever path is laid will need to be sympathetic in colour, such as a soft mud brown, in order to not visually scar the appearance of Meadows. Cattle grids will need to be safe for cyclists, so more like those on the Brynmawr to Abergavenny Cycle route."

MORE RESPONSES



-  *"Please do not allow motorbikes to access the active travel bridge."*
-  *"Please ensure that wheelchair and mobility scooter users are able to use the paths."*
-  *"I strongly disagree with the proposal to include a 3m wide pathway across Castle Meadows. This is too wide. I also fear that it will favour cyclists over walkers."*
-  *"I am also unhappy about the proposal to light the path, which will disadvantage wild life on the river."*
-  *"It's a start - so PLEASE don't be deterred by the naysayers - NRA we're bad enough but it's unbelievable that some of our local residents are against this affordable no-brainer."*
-  *"Minimum impact on natural state of the meadows flora and fauna. Think it is great plan having come from Bristol where 3 m wide pathways for cyclists and pedestrians through green corridors are enjoyed and well used."*
-  *"It is beautiful so please be sympathetic to this."*
-  *"It would be great to have a circular pushchair friendly route around the meadows. The path from the meadows up to the Castle is uneven and dangerous and very difficult to cycle or push a pushchair up."*
-  *"The gates out of the meadows are difficult to negotiate with a cargo bike and children on board. The gravel surface also makes this more of a challenge."*

Q12. Please give us your opinion on the Ysbytty Fields Scheme proposals plan by using the 5 point rating system.



566
respondents
responded



3.57
Average
Score

Q13. Is there anything further that you consider needs improving in relation to the Ysbytty Fields Scheme proposals?



431
respondents
responded

Some of the broad selection of comments received:



"Absolutely brilliant I spent years commuting by bike and rarely went through castle meadows this would make a huge difference and make it so much easier to walk and cycle to the train station."

MORE RESPONSES





"Don't make it too constricted for those of us with dogs. They need exercising off lead, as they have done for hundreds of year's previously in that area."



"What has been proposed here I believe is fabulous and would be a major improvement."



"Good design of the proposed features, particularly the ramp, is paramount. It would be a grave mistake for these to be an eyesore."



"It would be great for the Ysbyty Fields end to be used more by pedestrians. The field could be used more by encouraging people to visit - a wildlife reserve, bee friendly flowers, a bench would all encourage walkers to make full use to the path right from the meadow through to the Ysbyty Fields estate."



"Protect pedestrians from cyclists. I use the meadows every day but find the existing number of cyclists dangerous. Once you have made it into a super highway for cyclists I will be too frightened to use it. Are you aware cyclists zoom up from behind without warning and cycle extremely close. Even with dogs on leads they are a danger to them. Most people I speak to express these views but know it's a waste of time expressing them."



"Traffic lights or zebra crossing on A40/station rd."

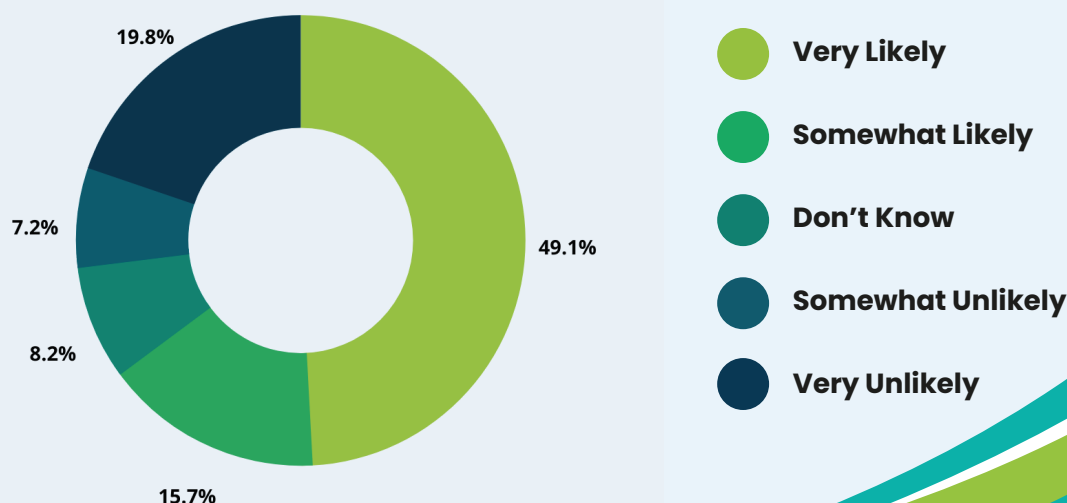


"Some seating areas and a spruce up that end would be good and can you please plant some more trees along the route?"



"Connecting to the train station is an excellent idea. I hope this leads to a better train station!"

Q14. Once implemented, do you consider that you will use the paths more via walking, cycling or wheelchair in the future as a result of the proposed improvements?



Q15. Please provide the first 5 digits of your home postcode ...



92%
answered
NP7

**Thank you for being part of the
consultation, the data provided
will help inform the next steps
in this process!**

