

Port Royal Consultation

July 2017

How we did it

The consultation information and questionnaire was placed online on a webpage. It was advertised in a press release sent out to all media contacts and was also placed on social media pages. Paper copies of the consultation were available on request.

The consultation information and paper copies of the questionnaires were available at face to face drop in events held in Sidmouth about the proposals.

We received 248 responses to the Port Royal consultation. This is three letters / emails and 245 completed questionnaires with a wide variety of views. 86 of the completed questionnaires were on paper, and the rest were submitted online. The results below are only for the responses to the formal questionnaire.

Summary of results

***Where the percentages of people that agree and disagree don't add up to 100%, this is because some people stated that they 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.**

- 83% of respondents were residents of Sidmouth, 7% were visitors, 4% local business owners, 3% representatives of organisations and 3% other types of respondents. The majority of respondents were from EX10 8 postcodes (36%) and EX10 9 postcodes (46%). 81% of respondents were aged 50 and over, only 5% were aged under 29.
- The majority of respondents use the Port Royal area regularly, this is what we would expect from respondents taking part in this consultation. The majority used it for walking through, using the Ham open green space or play area and / or using the car parks there.
- 77% disagreed with the development being up to 5 storeys high to allow for improvements to facilities to happen, 19% agreed.
- 56% would like to see new food and drink outlets on the Port Royal site, 44% would not. Of those that would the most common requests were for a decent and quality restaurant, a café, a fish / seafood restaurant, a bar / wine bar and a restaurant. Some also commented that they should have views of the sea and should have an outdoor element like a patio or terrace.
- 61% agreed that new and improved facilities for Sidmouth Lifeboat should happen on the Port Royal allocated site, 24% disagreed. Some comments throughout the results stated that the Lifeboat should be located up the other end of the Esplanade where launching it would be easier.
- 63% agreed with a new multi-function facility being provided on the new Port Royal allocated site, 28% disagreed. The most common comments:
 - From those that agreed were that the clubs and activities are an important part of Sidmouth's community, it would revitalise the area / improve current run down facilities, it's a good place next to the sea and the watersports clubs should be encouraged and kept.

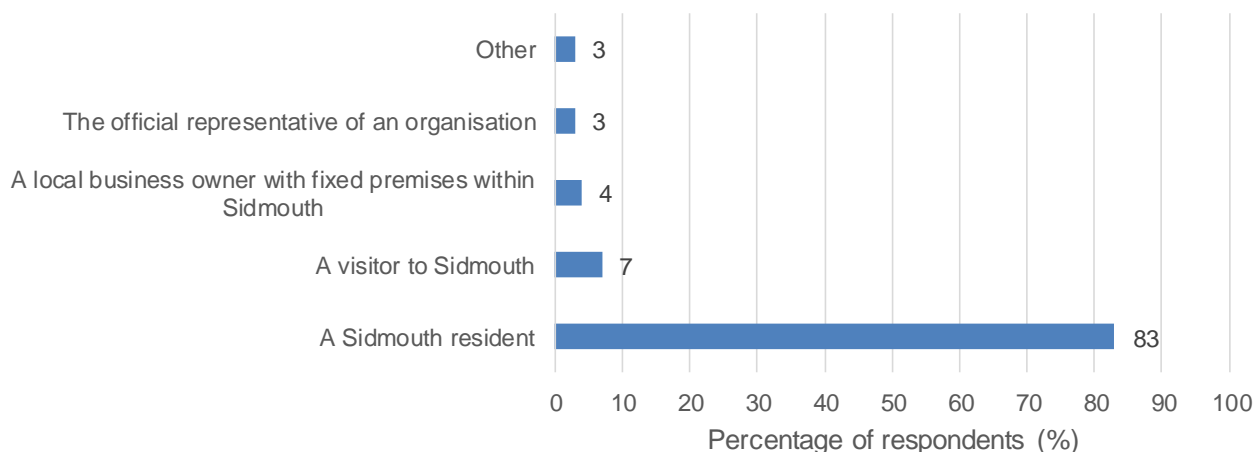
- From those that disagreed were that there is no need for new facilities, keep / refurbish current facilities and one huge building isn't appropriate for Sidmouth.
- When asked if a new multi-function facility would mean they'd use the area more, 54% said that it would.
- 44% disagreed with the new development including some of the area shown as E on Board 3 and a new access route being provided from Ham lane, 38% agreed. The most common comments:
 - From those that agreed were that it would improve / better organise / open up the area, so that the Esplanade area can be pedestrianised and as the current turning circle causes issues / there's no point to it.
 - From those that disagreed were that it would reduce the Ham green area (some referred to a covenant protecting the land), it wouldn't help ;/ isn't necessary / isn't wanted and there would be a loss of car parking spaces.
- 58% agreed with the pedestrianisation from the junction with Ham Lane through to the existing turning circle to the east of the toilet block, 31% disagreed. The most common comments:
 - From those that agreed were that pedestrianisation is desirable / people would enjoy the area more, the turning circle area isn't necessary and causes issues and it would be safer for pedestrians and people launching watercraft.
 - From those that agreed were that the turning circle is needed (for coaches, lorries, tourists), it's an unnecessary project / not wanted / there's enough pedestrian access already and it will cause traffic bottlenecks and bad traffic flow (several mentioned Ham Lane and York Street).
- 63% disagreed with possibly losing some or all of certain public car parking spaces to allow the Port Royal development to happen, 29% agreed.
- When asked for any other comments, the most common were:
 - 5 storeys is too high for the building.
 - More car parking is needed.
 - Keep Sidmouth like it is, don't spoil it.
 - More affordable housing is needed, this won't be affordable.
 - You shouldn't build on a flood zone.

Results

A – Your use of the Port Royal site

1. Which of the following best describes the capacity in which you are completing this questionnaire?

There were 244 responses to this question.



If other, please tell us in what other capacity you are completing the questionnaire:

8 respondents commented:

- District Councillor
- Sailing club member, live in Newton Poppleford.
- Lifeboat volunteer, don't live in Sidmouth.
- Tourism councillor for East Devon.
- Historian of military buildings; author of a survey of Britain's drill halls
- Part of the Sidmouth Lifeboat support team
- East Devon resident
- Sid Vale Association

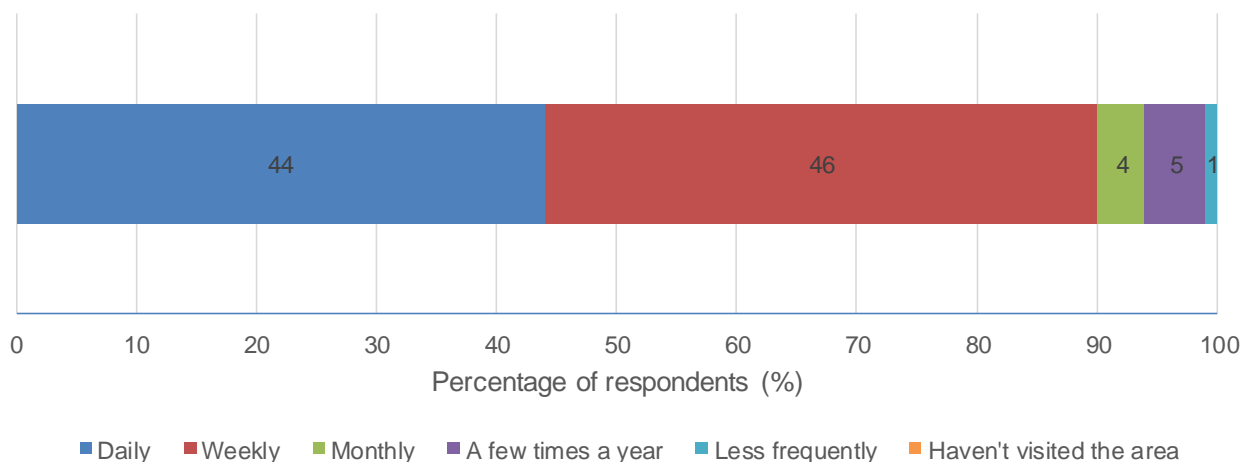
If you're completing the questionnaire as an official representative of an organisation, please tell us the name of your organisation:

6 respondents commented:

- Sidmouth Gig Club
- Sidmouth Folkweek Festival
- Devon Buildings Group
- Sidmouth Lifeboat
- Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub CIC
- Sid Vale Association

2. On average over the last 12 months, how often have you visited or used the Port Royal area in Sidmouth?

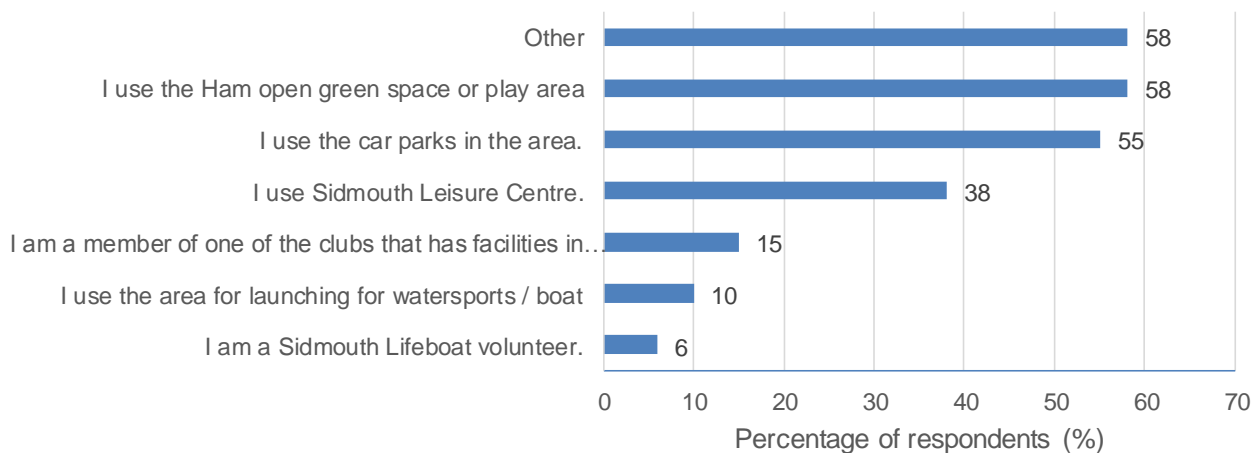
There were 241 respondents to this question.



This high usage is what we would expect from respondents taking part in this consultation, as people will only usually have put the effort into taking part if it would affect them.

3. What do you currently use the Port Royal area for?

243 respondents gave 582 responses as they could select as many as applied.



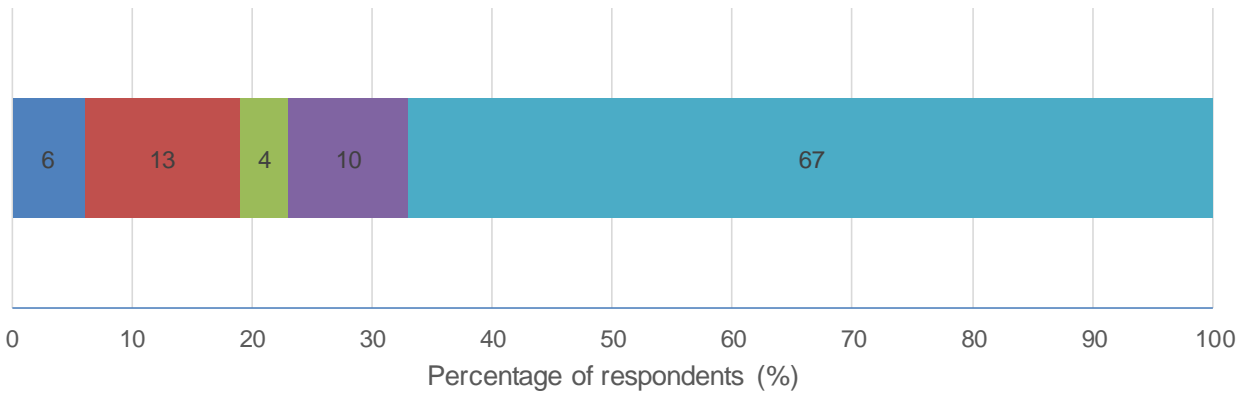
Of the 58% who said 'other' these were the most common comments:

Most common comments (said by three or more people)	Number of respondents
Regular walking / dog walking route to it or through it.	141
To visit the west fish shop.	19
Look at the scenery, sea and / or cliffs	17
To use the public toilets.	14
General recreation and relaxation.	11
To cycle through it or to it.	9
To look at cliff falls.	7
Access to the beach / town.	6
To visit the Lifeboat.	5
To visit the Tourist Information Centre.	3

B – What do you think of the proposals for the Port Royal site?

4. Do you agree or disagree with the development being up to 5 storeys high to allow the improvements to facilities to happen?

241 respondents answered this question.



■ Strongly agree ■ Tend to agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Strongly disagree

77% of respondents disagree, 19% agree.

5. Would you like to see new food and drink outlets on the Port Royal site?

198 respondents answered this question, 56% said they would and 44% said they would not.

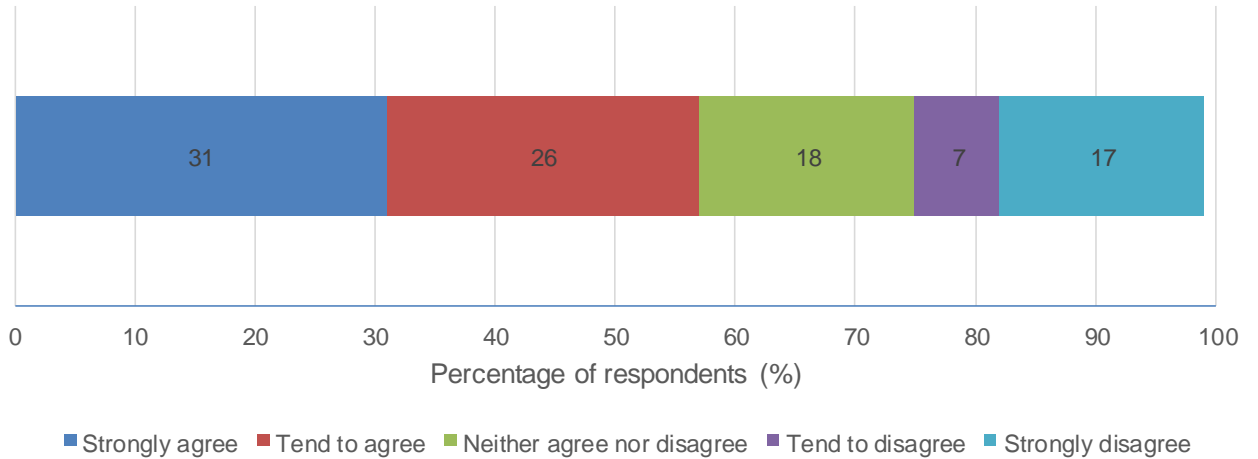
If yes, please tell us what type of food and drink outlets you would like to see:

106 respondents commented.

Most common comments (said by four or more people)	Number of respondents
Decent / quality restaurant	25
A cafe	24
Fish / seafood restaurant	21
Bar / wine bar	21
A restaurant	18
Should have views of the sea	14
Should have an outdoor element like a patio or terrace	14
Independent eatery, no chains	11
Must use local produce	11
No coffee shops / cafes	10
Something for the younger population / families	8
A coffee shop	6
Upmarket, signature restaurant	6
Rockfish	6
A quality restaurant chain (such as Nandos, Prezzo)	5
No fast food	5
Entertainment venue (music licence, late night venue)	4
A bistro	4
A café or bar for the sports clubs / water users	4

6. How much do you agree or disagree with the new and improved facilities for Sidmouth Lifeboat happening on the Port Royal allocated site?

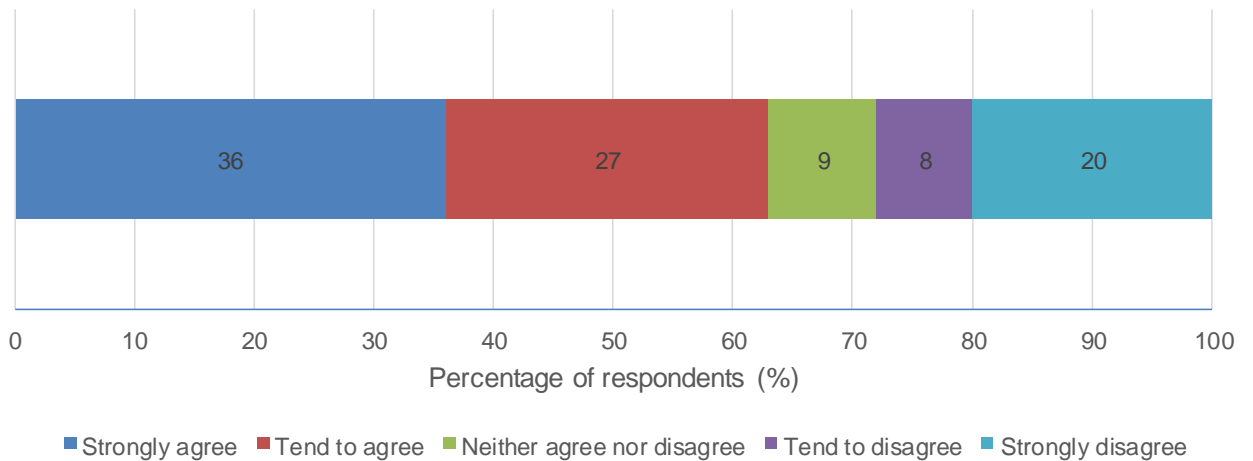
224 respondents answered this question.



61% agreed and 24% disagreed.

7. How much do you agree or disagree with a new multi-function facility being provided on the new Port Royal allocated site?

There were 234 respondents to this question.



63% agreed, 28% disagreed.

Please tell us the reasons for your answer to question 7:

Most common comments (said by four or more people) from those who AGREED	Number of respondents
134 respondents commented.	
The clubs and sea based activities are an important part of Sidmouth's community.	21
Would revitalise the area / improve currently run down facilities.	19
It's a good place for it, next to the sea.	14
The watersports clubs should be encouraged and kept.	13
Limit the number of storeys, 5 is too high.	11
Will increase tourism.	10
The clubs encourage all ages to use the sea.	8
Should include a hireable community space.	8
Would be good to have joint club facilities in one place.	7
It will allow the clubs to improve / develop.	6
Should include launching facilities / jetty for boats.	6
They will get young people more active and provide something for them to do.	6
Lifeboat should be at the other end of the Esplanade.	4
Would prefer improvement of the buildings already there.	4

Most common comments (said by four or more people) from those who DISAGREED	Number of respondents
59 respondents commented.	
There is no need for new multi-function facilities, keep current / refurbish current.	28
One huge building isn't appropriate for Sidmouth (will spoil the views)	17
Don't want a 5 storey building.	7
Renovate the Drill Hall.	5
The new rents would be too high.	4
Visitors don't want change.	4
Not enough information is given.	4
The owners of the flats would complain, it isn't practical.	4
Protect Sidmouth's heritage.	4

There were also lesser numbers of comments from those who neither agreed nor disagreed. These are in the list of full comments seen by the partnership involved in the consultation.

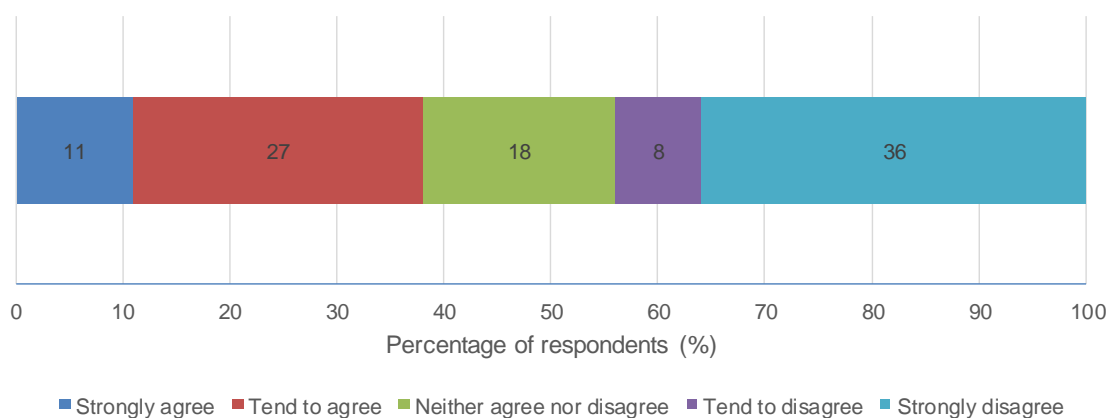
8. If there was a new multi-function facility on the Port Royal allocated site, do you think you'd use the area more?

There were 188 responses to this question.

54% said they would use the area more if there was a multi-function facility. 46% said they would not.

9. How much do you agree or disagree with the new development including some of the area shown as E on Board 3 and a new access route being provided from Ham Lane?

There were 230 respondents to this question.



38% agreed, 44% disagreed.

Please tell us the reasons for your answer to question 9:

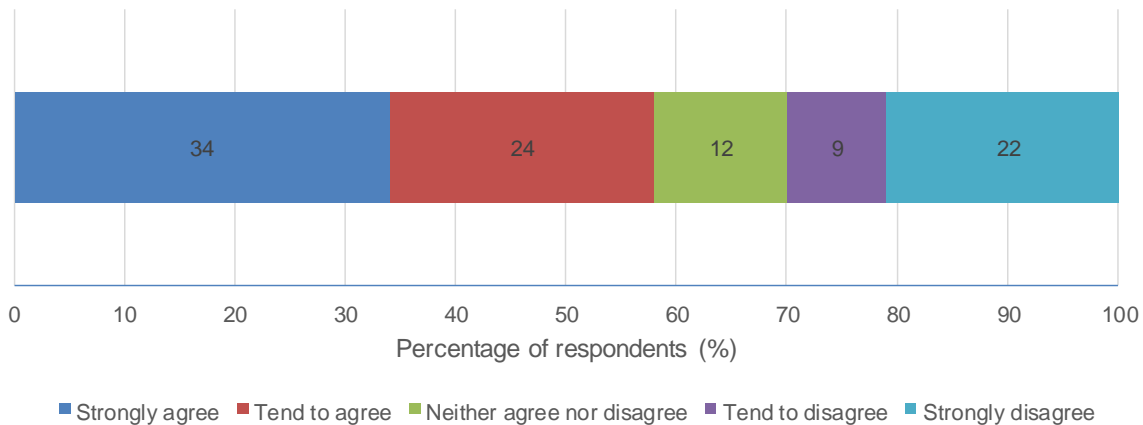
Most common comments (said by four or more people) from those who AGREED	Number of respondents
64 respondents commented.	
Would improve / better organise / open up the area.	18
So the Esplanade area can be pedestrianised.	9
Current turning circle causes issues / no point in it.	7
Would provide better access.	6
Good access being provided would be essential.	6
Need to keep all car parking.	5
Don't lose any of the Ham.	4

Most common comments (said by four or more people) from those who DISAGREED	Number of respondents
89 respondents commented.	
It would reduce the Ham green area. Some referred to a covenant for protection of the land.	30
It wouldn't help / isn't necessary / isn't wanted.	21
Don't want the loss of any car parking.	17
Traffic shouldn't go through the Ham, would be dangerous.	11
The wet fish shop should stay open.	8
Fishing / maritime heritage / boat storage should stay where it is.	8
People would have to use narrow roads in the area causing congestion.	7
The turning circle is needed.	6
5 storeys is too high.	6
The space is all needed for Folk Week.	5
This doesn't benefit residents.	4

There were also lesser numbers of comments from those who neither agreed nor disagreed. These are in the list of full comments seen by the partnership involved in the consultation.

10. Board 3 shows the pedestrianisation of the Esplanade, shown as B, from the junction with Ham Lane through to the existing turning circle to the east of the toilet block. How much do you agree or disagree with this pedestrianisation?

There were 237 respondents.



58% agreed, 31% disagreed.

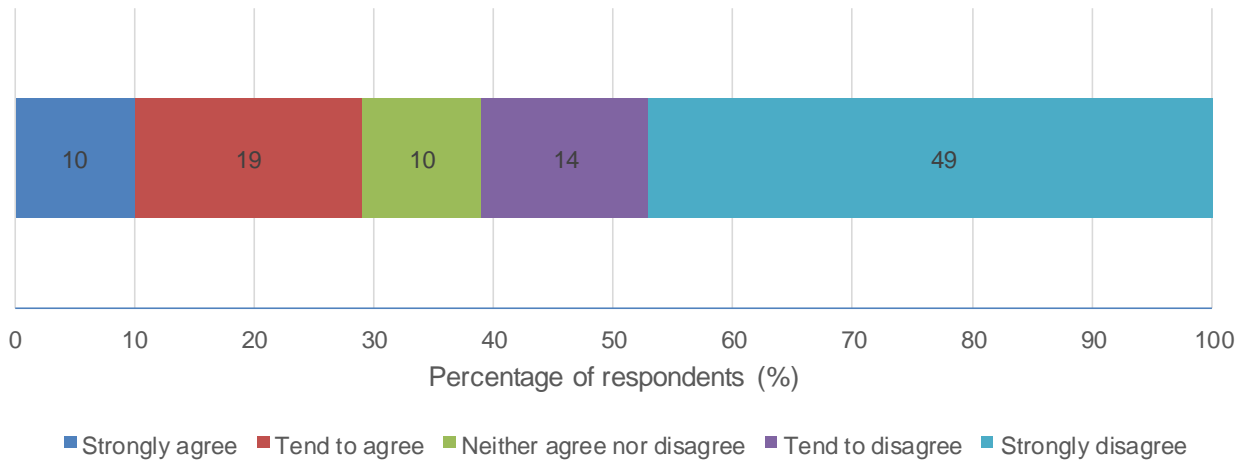
Please tell us the reasons for your answer to question 10:

Most common comments (said by four or more people) from those who AGREED	Number of respondents
104 respondents commented.	
Pedestrianisation is desirable / people would enjoy the area more.	36
The turning circle area isn't necessary and causes issues.	19
It would be safer for pedestrians / people launching watercraft.	16
To allow more outdoor dining on the seafront.	11
Boat owners / lifeboat still need safe access to launch.	9
Some traffic will still need access to and through the area.	7
There should still be somewhere for vehicles to turn.	5
To have a more attractive, usable and flexible open space.	4

Most common comments (said by four or more people) from those who DISAGREED	Number of respondents
58 respondents commented.	
The turning circle is needed (for coaches, lorries, tourists)	18
It's unnecessary / not wanted / there's enough pedestrian access.	18
It will cause traffic bottlenecks / bad traffic flow. Some mentioned York Street in particular.	9
Visitors and locals need to be able to drive along the seafront and turn round and go back the other way.	6
It's important access for people dropping off watercraft.	5
It's important current access for vehicles.	5
The current access is better.	4
It would encroach on the Ham.	4

There were also lesser numbers of comments from those who neither agreed nor disagreed. These are in the list of full comments seen by the partnership involved in the consultation.

11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with possibly losing some or all of these public car parking spaces to allow the Port Royal development to happen?
There were 237 respondents.



29% agreed, 63% disagreed.

C – Any other comments

12. Any other comments on the Port Royal development opportunities:

Most common comments (said by four or more people) 204 respondents commented.	Number of respondents
5 storeys is too high for the building.	69
More car parking is needed.	43
Keep Sidmouth like Sidmouth, it's unique, don't spoil it.	27
More affordable housing is needed, this won't be affordable.	23
You shouldn't build on a flood zone.	22
The new homes shouldn't be for second home owners.	17
Maintain Sidmouth's maritime legacy.	17
Don't do it.	15
Don't develop anything other than the Drill Hall.	15
Move the lifeboat station to where it deploys (West Esplanade).	14
It must be for the use of all the community.	13
Need more information / evidence for your claims.	12
Go for it.	9
Refurbish what is already there.	8
Too many flats are proposed.	8
Another level of car parking is needed (some mentioned multi storey).	8
Demolish the Drill Hall.	7
Don't lose the Ham.	7
Have a harbour / marina.	6
Have a jetty / ramp.	6
No more homes.	6
More space is needed for restaurants / bars.	6
Don't lose the wet fish shop.	5
Concerned about how this will impact Folk Week.	5
Must have facilities for young people.	5
More space is needed for shops.	5
More space is needed for clubs.	5
Get grants to do more at Port Royal.	5
You will overdevelop the area.	4
Address traffic management issues first.	4
Build houses inland not on seafront.	4
Pedestrianise the area.	4
Listen to us this time.	4
It will be too noisy.	4

D – About you

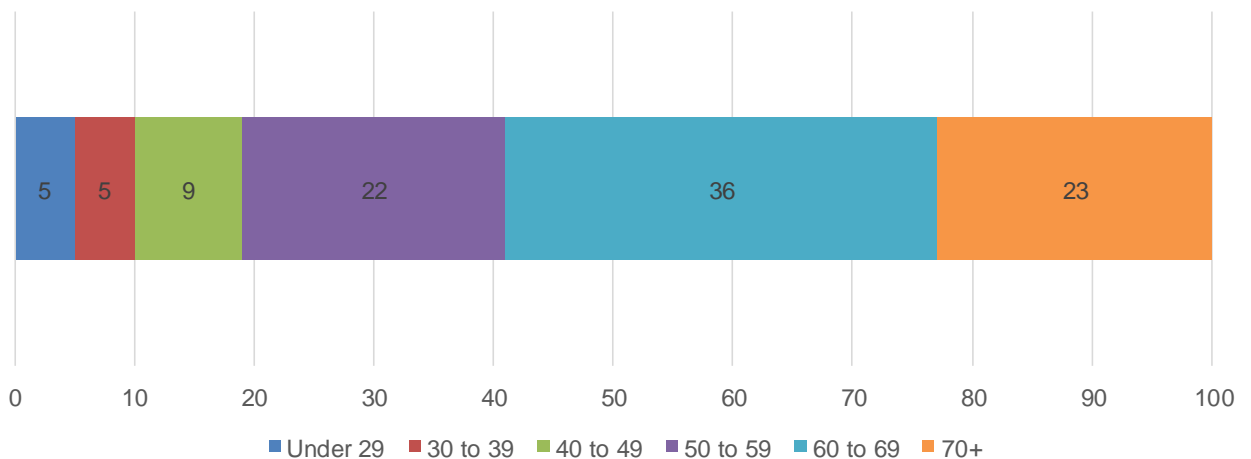
13. Please tell us your postcode:

233 respondents gave their postcode in full or in part:

- 36% were from EX10 8 postcodes.
- 46% were from EX10 9 postcodes.
- 6% were from EX10 0 postcodes.
- 9% were from other postcodes not mentioned above.

14. Which age group do you fall into?

There were 232 respondents to this question.



The majority of respondents were aged 50 and over (81%)

15. Respondents were then given the opportunity to leave their email address to receive copies of the results and information on what we are doing with the results.