

# National Planning Framework NPF4 Fife Community Survey

A huge thank-you to everyone who  
participated.

# NPF4 Fife Community Survey

## Why did we create this survey?

- To replace a planned Fife Community event that was cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown. To make it easy for many people to contribute whilst also encouraging people to respond directly.

## Who created the survey?

- A small non-political group of local west-Fife activists keen to involve as many of our community as possible in feedback to the NPF4 engagement process.

## How did we create the survey?

- We pooled our own ideas about what we think is important in setting out the new National Planning Framework. We structured this into simple bullet points that the community could agree or disagree with using a Likert scale. The bullets were grouped by the five NPF4 questions, plus one on over-arching principles. There was a free-text option for additional comments/ideas (see note page 5).

## How did we share the survey?

- We shared the survey through our social media and mailing lists we had access to. The survey was open to the people of Mid-Scotland and Fife from 9<sup>th</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> April.

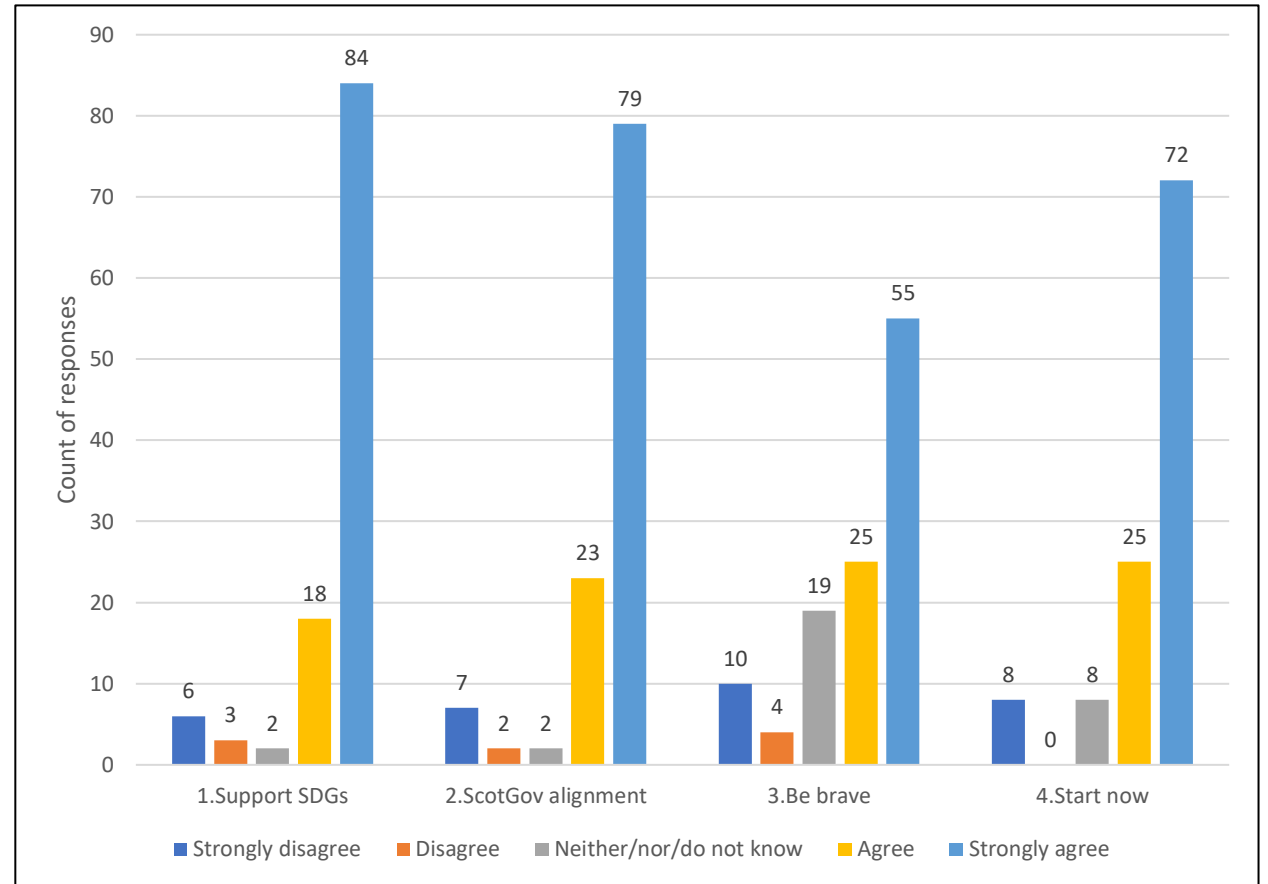
## Charts

- The following charts show the count of responses of each type, and then the percentage split sorted by descending levels of agreement.

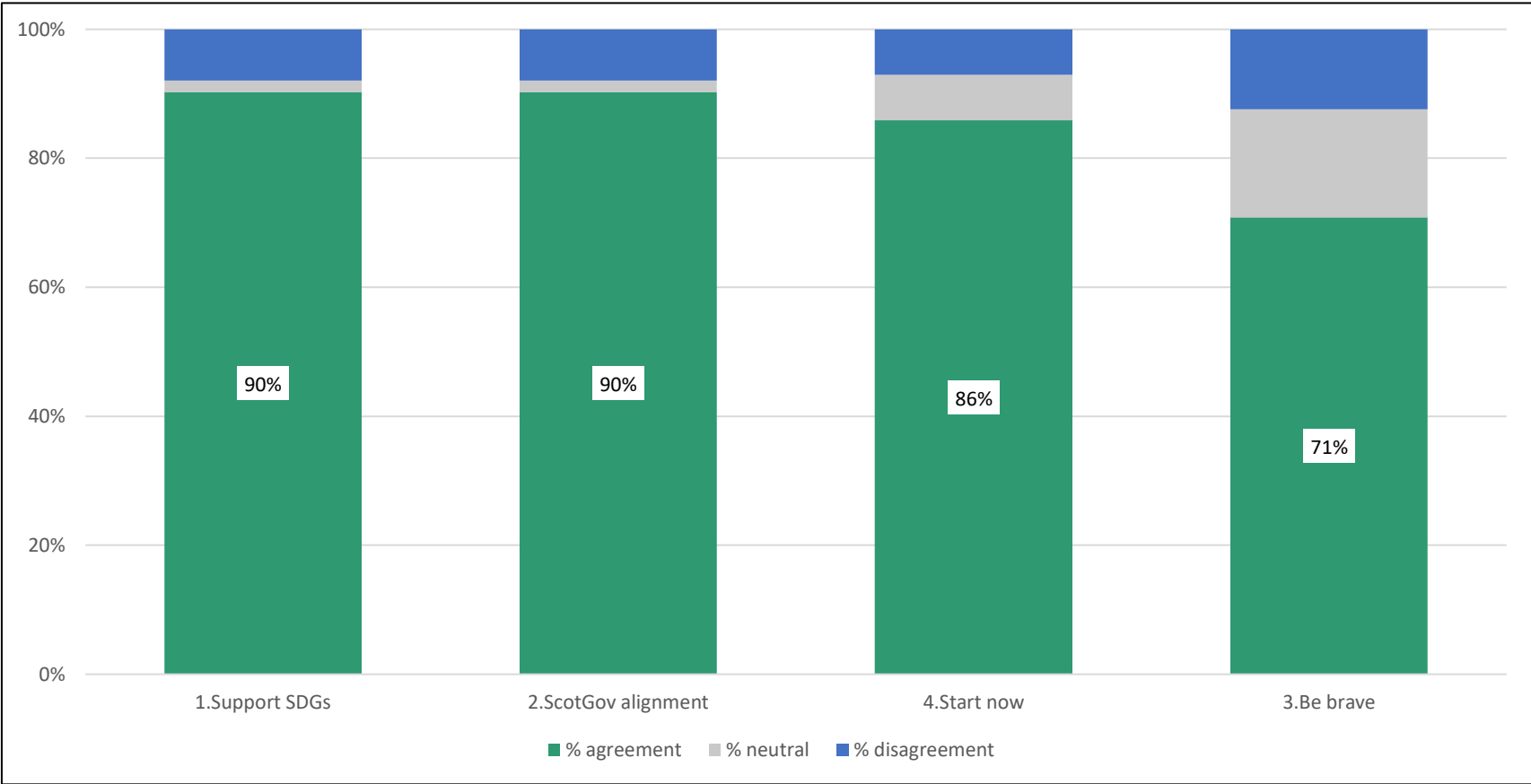
**We received 113 survey responses.**

## Over-arching principles (count of responses)

1. NPF4 must unequivocally support the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) to end poverty, reduce inequality, improve health and education, deliver a sustainable economy and tackle climate change.
2. NPF4 and other ScotGov policies must all align to this common purpose.
3. Our Covid-19 response is a precedent for brave planning actions.
4. Transition to the ideas below must start NOW.



# Over-arching principles (% splits by agreement, neutral, disagreement)



## Over-arching principles (additional comments/ideas\*)

1. #JustRecovery to complement #JustTransition
2. Develop a proper balance between society, environment and economy. Many of these ideas have little environmental benefit but have a big economic disbenefit and a better balance is needed. You assume that you can tell people what they want rather than listen to what they want.
3. Doughnut economics by Kate Raworth give a visual and conceptual framework for all this. Amsterdam are adopting it now for post covid19. (Consideration of Doughnut economics was suggested twice).

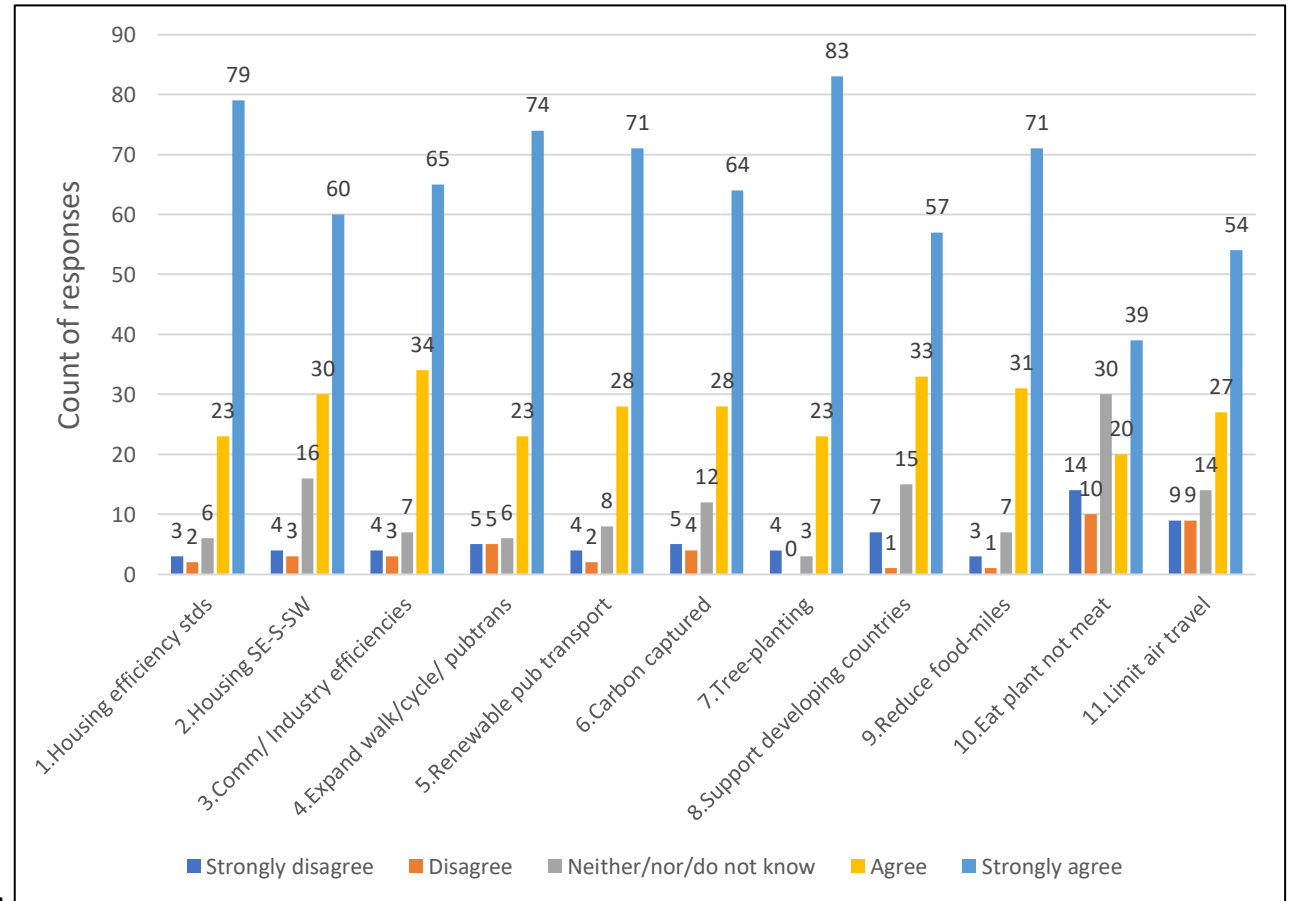
**\* We have faithfully reproduced comments/ideas made in our survey without edit. There are many great ideas but inclusion of a comment in this report does not constitute an endorsement by the core team.**

***This applies to all pages of comments.***

***Comments have been reported in the closest category – many could have gone in several.***

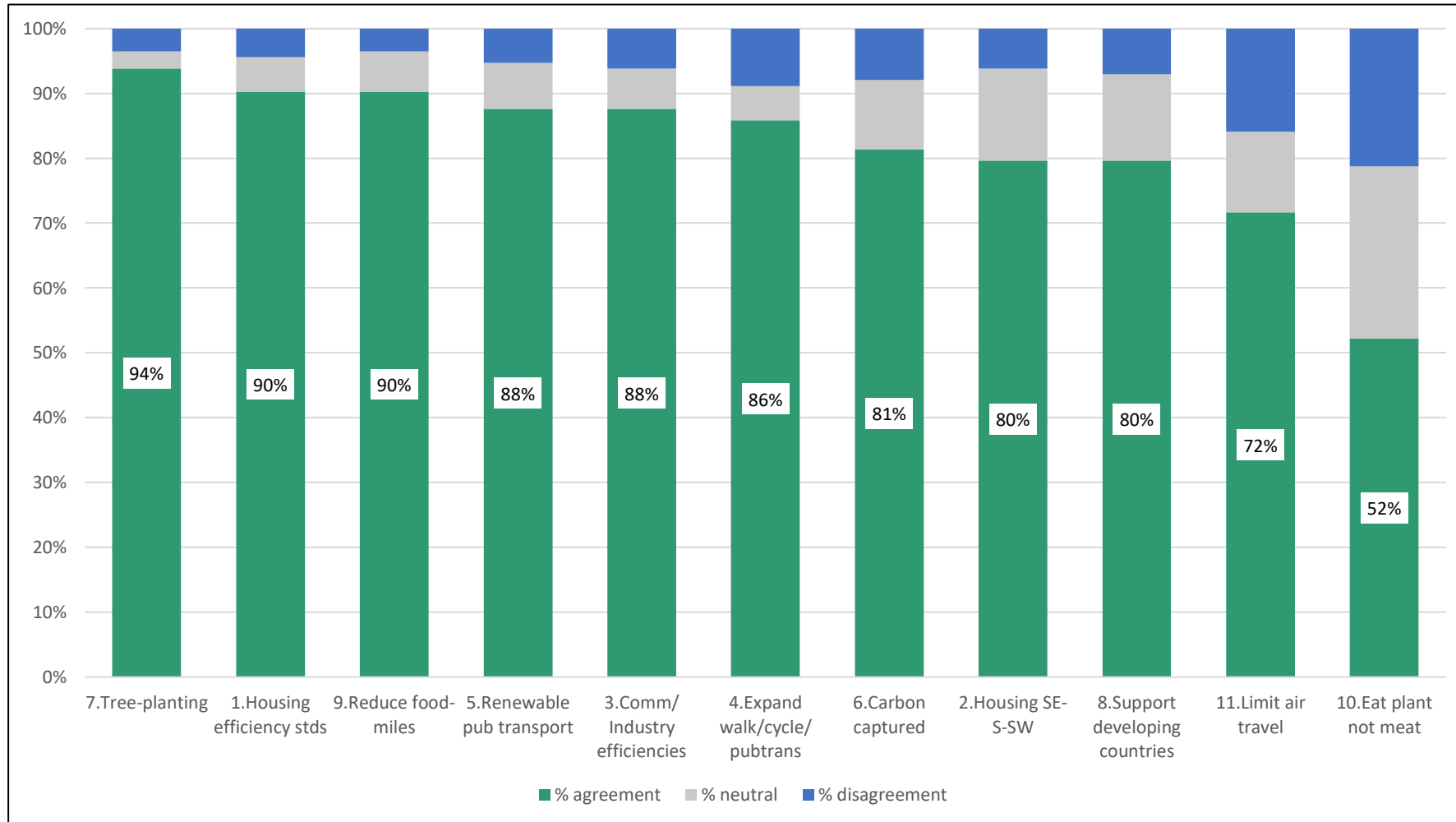
# 1 What development will we need to address climate change? (count of responses)

1. **All housing to be energy-efficient:** existing homes retrofitted and new by mandatory design. Highest building standards for insulation, best renewable heat/energy sources.
2. **Housing:** all new houses to have SE-S-SW facing roof areas, suitable for mounting solar panels for hot water and electricity generation.
3. **All commerce/industry to be energy efficient:** as above for commerce/industry
4. **Walking/cycling/public transport:** be expanded, connected and free to use for all. On-demand in rural areas.
5. **Public transport:** be fuelled by renewables (railway-line overhead electrification, battery-power trains and buses)
6. **Carbon-capture:** utilise best options for safe carbon capture to mitigate CO2 production.
7. **Carbon capture:** tree-planting, increased indigenous biodiversity.
8. **Support for developing countries:** we must support developing countries to skip straight to renewables and avoid fossil fuels.
9. **Food supply-chain:** develop creative local climate-friendly farms (e.g. vertical) to reduce food-miles and help Scotland be more self-sustaining.



10. **Food supply-chain:** significant reductions in meat-farming, and conversion to plant-based food.
11. **Air travel:** must be limited to essentials. This can be done through reducing food miles and rationing air travel for leisure and/or taxing it punitively.

# 1 What development will we need to address climate change? (% splits by agreement, neutral, disagreement)



# 1 What development will we need to address climate change? (additional comments/ideas)

1. Roll out more flexible centrally-subsidized schemes for home insulation and home renewables installation, so that this need not be solely through contract to for-profit companies but instead can be carried out more cheaply, by DIY-competent householders, or cooperatively by residents' associations or neighbourhoods (bulk buys of insulation at reduced per-unit cost).(My attic for example would be practical for me to insulate in stages, by shifting stored items from area to area, but impractical to clear totally for a company to insulate in one stage.) Appoint local trainers/inspectors to upskill communities in this and ensure results are fit for purpose, with shared learning of best practice a goal.
2. Research and deploy mechanical/thermal/safe-chemical energy storage as well as the electrical energy (battery) storage mentioned - e.g. regenerative vehicle braking (compressed air or flywheels); e.g. gravitational (weights in disused mineshafts, winched up using off-peak power and lowered to assist in meeting peak demand); e.g. area heating, using heat generated from industrial processes or landfill, landfill methane, ground-source heat pumps, air-source heat pumps, geothermal, and other ways of harnessing natural temperature-differences.
3. Research and deploy technologies to reduce energy use or need for air conditioning-e.g. smart coatings, for controllable absorptive/reflective coatings for windows/wall/roofs; e.g. louvres/shutters, and skylights with mirrored light-pipes, to regulate lighting and airflow.
4. Build-in green roofs and green walls - for appearance, well-being, air quality, even food!
5. Plan-in sufficient garden and allotment spaces and encourage this widely.“

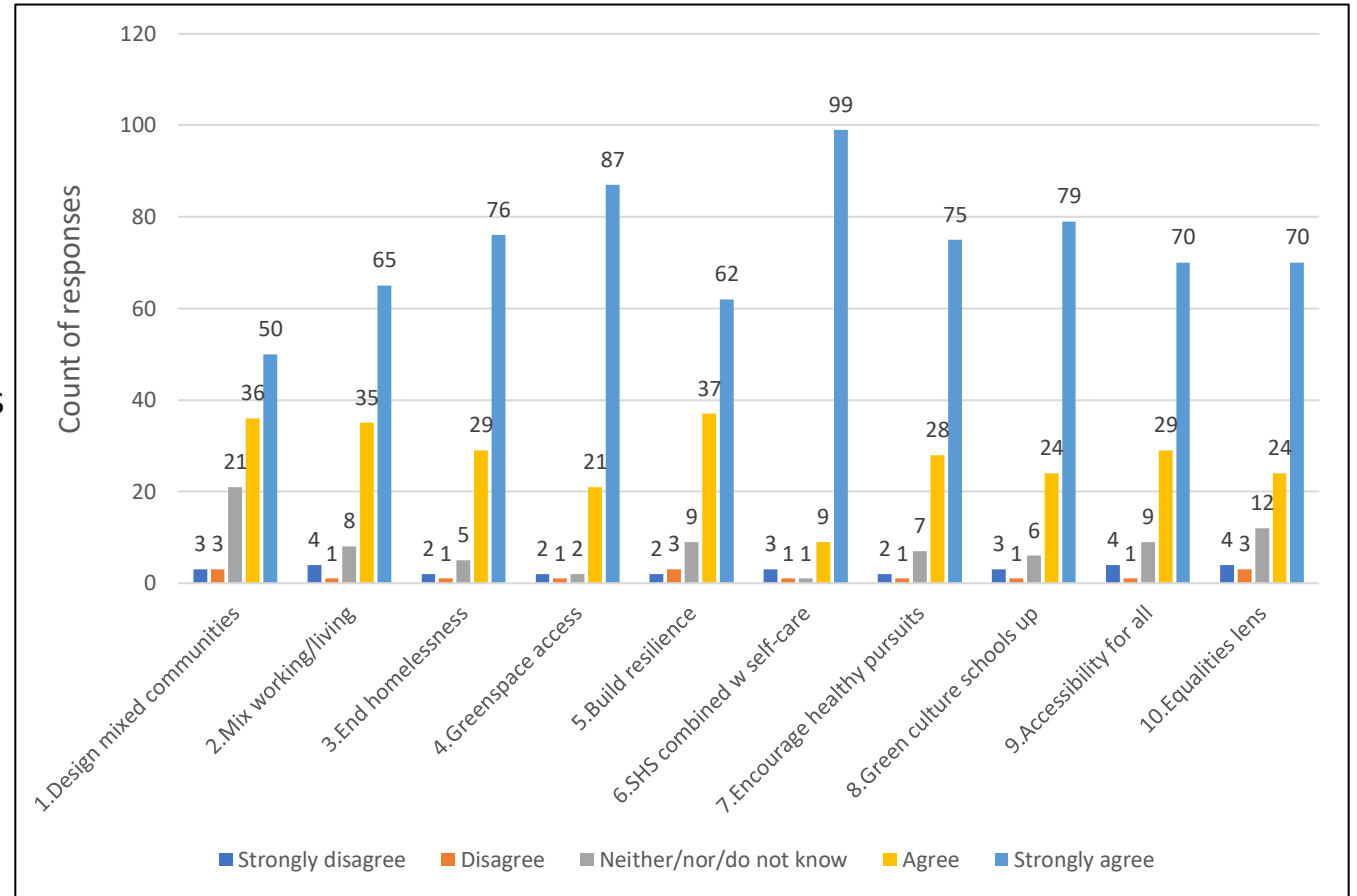


# 1 What development will we need to address climate change? (additional comments/ideas)

6. I think that we need to think hard about housing density - how we could have denser housing that provides the new and replacement housing that is required at minimal impact on the amount of open land. Building hundreds of detached homes each with a front and back garden is a terrible waste of space, and automatically generates the need for two-car ownership households. Think how successful Georgian and Victorian Edinburgh was in creating quality dense housing in and immediately around the working city centre. Plan to regenerate our towns by building very desirable high density housing in and around the town centre, together with flexible, rentable work-space.
7. Also ensuring conglomerates i.e. Shell Exxon Mobile get decommissioned they are a travesty and are polluting our villages in Fife.
8. Incentives to shop locally. Develop high streets (as Burntisland). Move away from dependence on supermarkets and chains. Covid must make people reassess consumerism and travel choices.
9. Investment in community resources for younger people, youth clubs, dances, sports, technology. Old fashioned idea perhaps, but giving teens something social to do keeps them out of trouble and away from drugs.
10. Planning must enable larger land areas around each house to enable food planting by every household. This would reduce dependability on overseas sourcing and reduce pollution.
11. support a frequent flyers tax
12. We must find an answer to use of individual transport. Need for much better and reliable means than is now being suggested. There will always be a need for cars so we must make them environmentally friendly.
13. Solar-powered street lighting . Greater use of plastics to repair roads, potholes, etc.

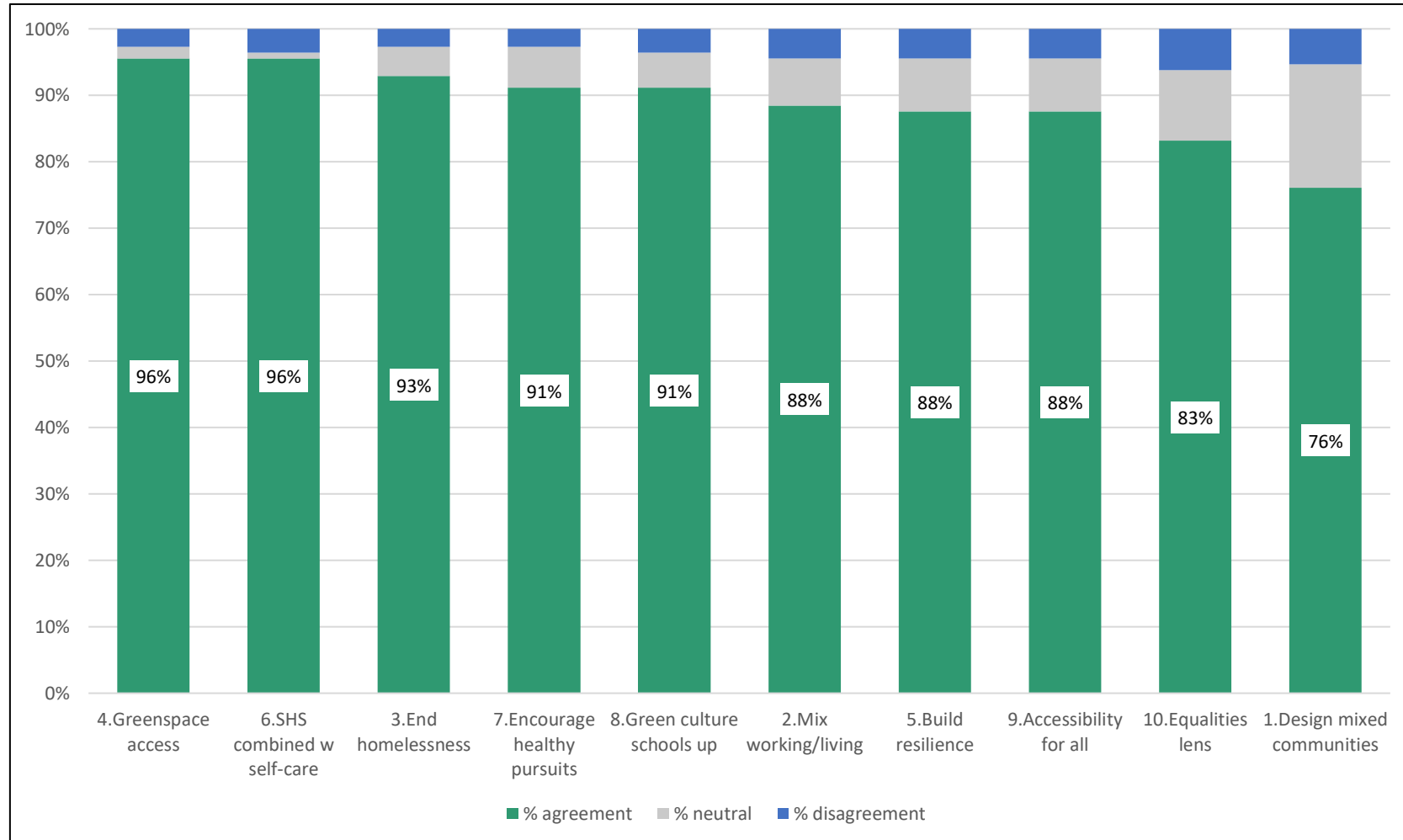
## 2 How can planning best support our quality of life, health and wellbeing in the future? (count of responses)

1. **Housing:** housing designed to create / support community living that bridges current divides in society. Mixed by generation, wealth, ownership-type.
2. **Housing/transport:** Mix working places with living spaces. Design in walking, cycling and public transport connections.
3. **Housing:** a home for every person - end to homelessness
4. **Housing:** design in local community access to green spaces - these support mental health.
5. **Help people help themselves:** invest to help people build the resilience and self-support skills we need to flourish. Remove the current often-siloed approach that does help “to” people.
6. **Scottish Health Service:** must be preserved to ensure always free to use for all, whilst in parallel we must support people to better take care of themselves and each other.
7. **Work-life balance:** public-spaces developed to permit/encourage healthy pursuits.
8. **Schools:** regular participation in green space activities and education in wellbeing and circular economies is vital to building a better future culture.



9. **Accessibility:** relentless focus on providing services, homes and workplaces that meet the needs of the less able.
10. **Equalities:** apply lens of equalities to all decisions to prevent unintentionally increasing inequality

## 2 How can planning best support our quality of life, health and wellbeing in the future? (% splits by agreement, neutral, disagreement)

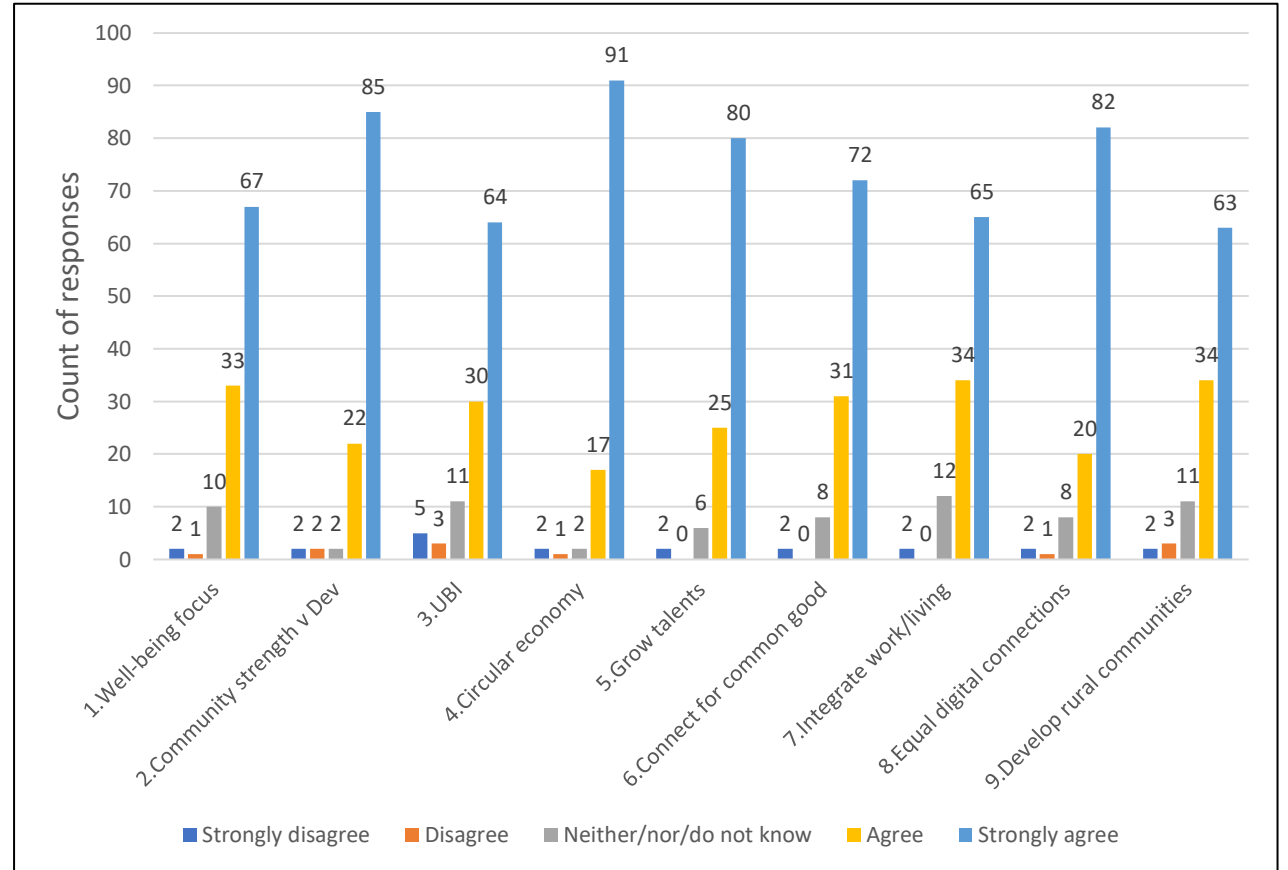


## 2 How can planning best support our quality of life, health and wellbeing in the future? (additional comments/ideas)

1. Community use schools should have a greater range of classes to encourage repair, recycle, growing skills e.g. community vegetable gardens with skilled tutors, electrical repair workshops etc etc
2. "Provide opportunities for children with Special Needs to be involved in meaningful employment or activities within their community setting , by setting up hubs of able bodied young people and disabled people to work together on projects such as farm work or horse riding or growing vegetables or working in Cafes or Soft play Centres . Providing integration and equality if opportunity for all children .Also provision in Schools of more Support for learning Assistants to help children with Special Needs or Dyslexia to achieve qualifications that enable them to play a full part in community activities .Also Accessibility to all building for people of all ages who have mobility issues . Provision and funding for all children to have access to adventure camps in the countryside to encourage independence and confidence and self fulfilment . .“
3. "RE: Work/life balance - there should be no way of employers getting round working time constraints by pressurising people to sign contracts that give away their rights.Re:Inequality - Land tax is needed to ensure that a tiny number of land owners does not own vast tracts of landRe: Inequality - Private Schools should be taxed as businesses.Re: Inequality - Businesses should be taxed on revenues to ensure that ""profits"" are not manipulated to show in low tax jurisdictions.Re: Inequality - tax code should be amended, strengthened and simplified so that large businesses cannot privatise their profits but socialise their losses.Re: Inequality - Zero hours contracts should be outlawed"

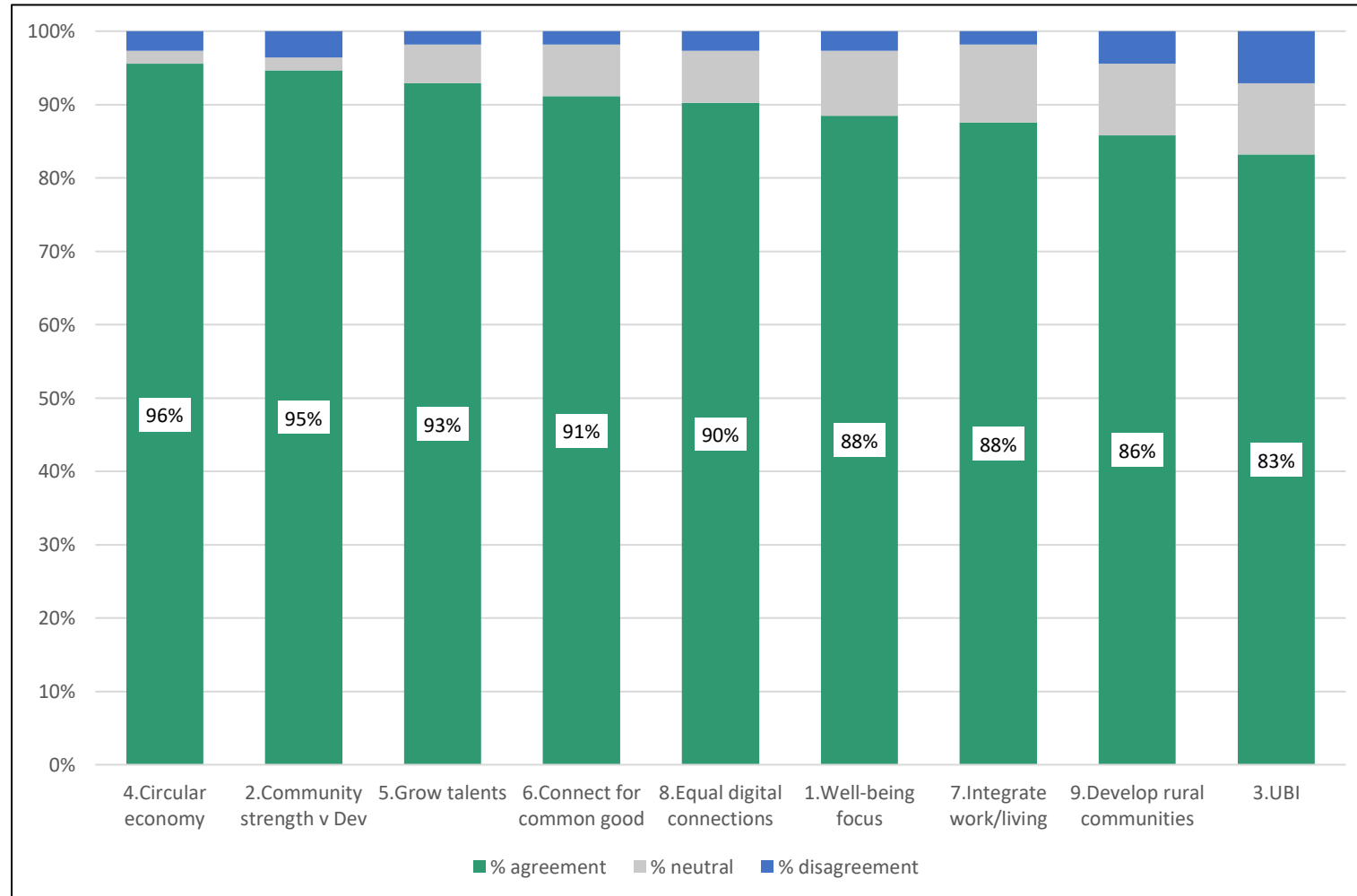
### 3 What does planning need to do to enable development and investment in our economy so that it benefits everyone? (count of responses)

1. **Wellbeing economy:** ensure that the focus of national and local planning and economic decisions is whether they contribute to wellbeing of the people impacted.
2. **Communities v Developers:** ensure that communities have equality in decision-making. For example: remove the tactics developers can use to by-pass community wishes, replace unelected Reporter system with something democratic.
3. **Universal basic income:** we need a better way of distributing income equitably.
4. **Circular economy:** we need to reduce, re-use, re-cycle at every level and in all sectors.
5. **Grow talent:** understand our future needs and develop skills toward providing them.
6. **Connecting people:** build a network and culture that supports innovators to collaborate for the common good.
7. **Integrated work and living:** facilitate homes and workplaces to be much closer to reduce transport needs by home-working, supporting local commerce/industry and preventing dormitory towns.
8. **Integrated work and living:** rural digital connections as fast/reliable as in towns/cities.



9. **Rural living:** facilitate development of new rural communities, inclusive and diverse with local commerce/industry mixed with home-working.

### 3 What does planning need to do to enable development and investment in our economy so that it benefits everyone? (% splits by agreement, neutral, disagreement)

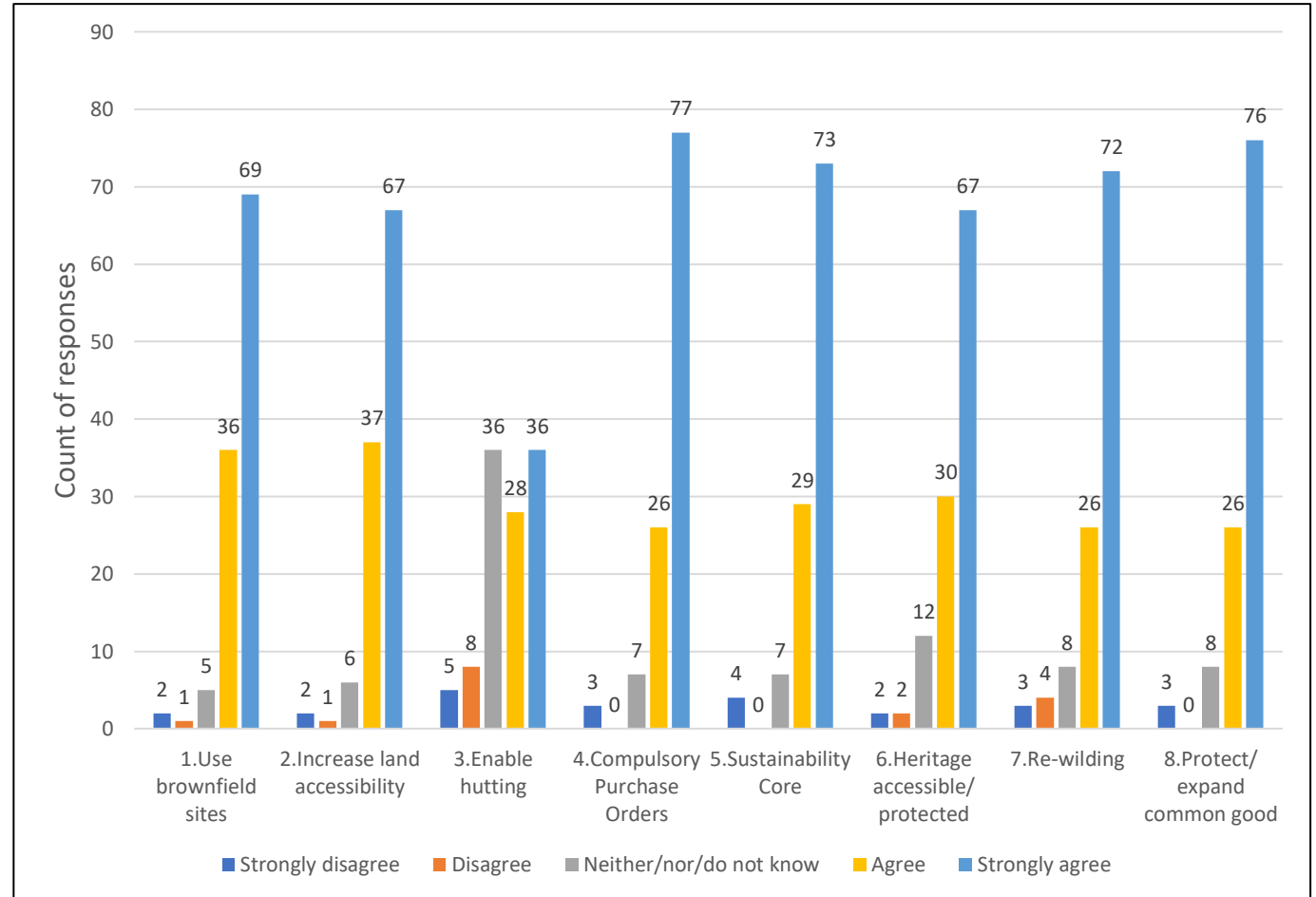


### 3 What does planning need to do to enable development and investment in our economy so that it benefits everyone? (additional comments/ideas)

1. Demolition of existing buildings should be only done as a matter of last resort. They are valuable assets and retention and re-use minimises the extent to which their resources are lost, as well as avoiding much of the impact of new building which involves high energy in production and carbon being released to the skies.
2. "I believe that the Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) policy of full employment, where every single person has access to a role where they are paid for their contribution to our society, be it as a student, a carer, CEO, street sweeper, full time parent, is a more rewarding, productive and fair model than universal basic income. - see link below.  
<http://bilbo.economicoutlook.net/blog/?p=22154>"
3. The reporter system worked very well for Coul Links planning application and without it the triple protected area would have been dug up for a golf course. A very vocal third of the local population wanted it to go ahead and used bullying tactics to try to stop people expressing their view. Therefore I do not think that giving local communities a say in planning is a very good idea.
4. There needs to be an overhaul of the planning system so that the whole of Scotland is considered in a holistic way. Planning applications should not be made in an ad hoc way determined by private developers. A strategy considering optimal use of every piece of land should be produced and planning consents only granted where it fits with designated use. Community buyouts of land should be given priority. Congestion charging in cities.

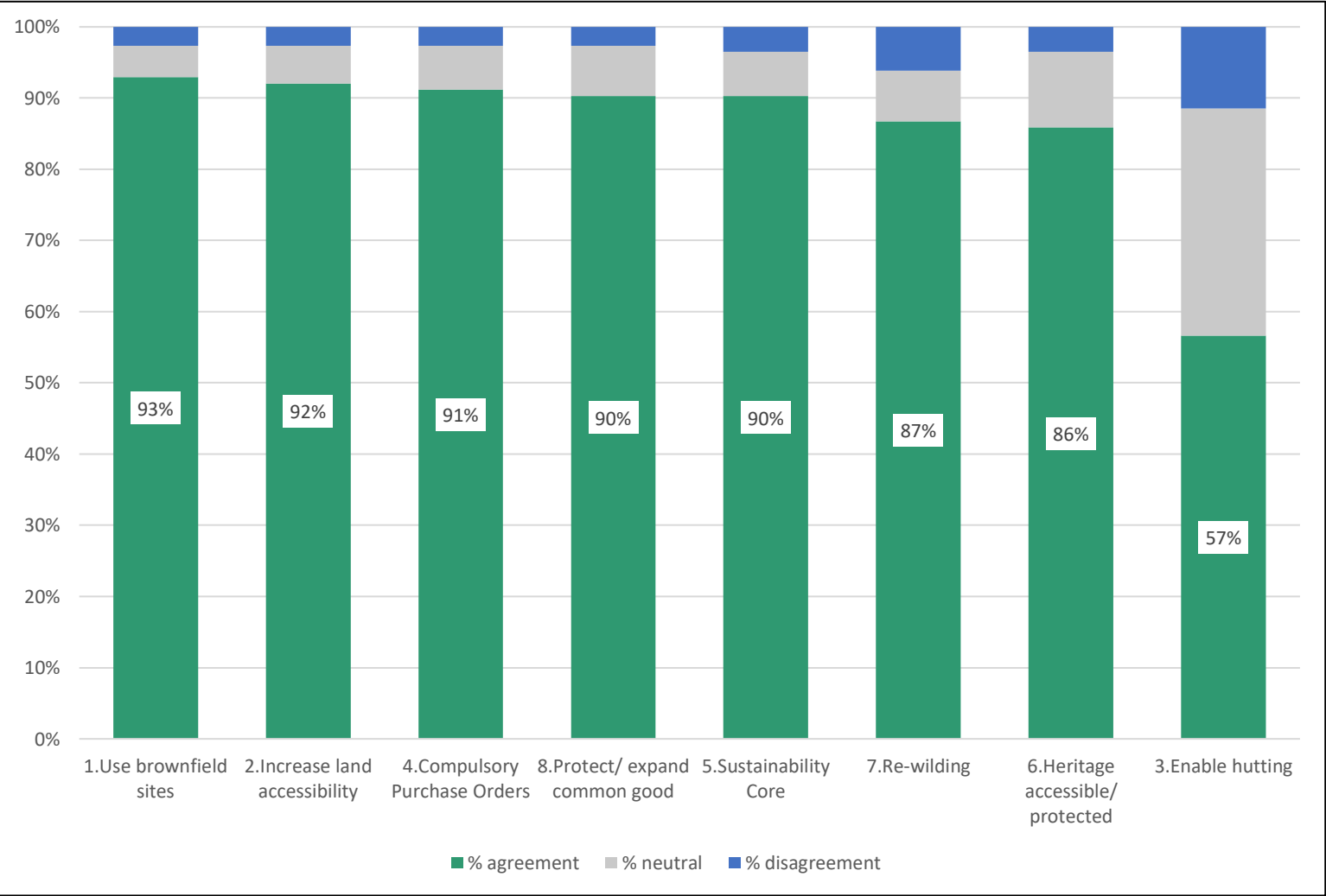
## 4 What policies are needed to improve, protect and strengthen the special character of our places? (count of responses)

1. **Brownfield sites:** invest in clean-up and re-use of brownfield old industrial sites to make brownfield sites more suitable for housing, recreation, leisure and new industry.
2. **Land accessibility:** protect and increase access to land for healthy pursuits.
3. **Hutting:** enable use of simple huts in natural areas for all who wish.
4. **Compulsory purchase:** of long-empty vacant and derelict land for benefit of communities.
5. **Sustainability:** all land use must have sustainability at its core.
6. **Heritage protection:** continue existing strong protections and increase accessibility.
7. **Re-wilding:** identify all sites where indigenous planting and rewilding can occur and make it happen.
8. **Common Good:** expand the concept of common good land used for the benefit of all and protect it from vested interests.





# 4 What policies are needed to improve, protect and strengthen the special character of our places? (% splits by agreement, neutral, disagreement)



## 4 What policies are needed to improve, protect and strengthen the special character of our places? (additional comments/ideas)

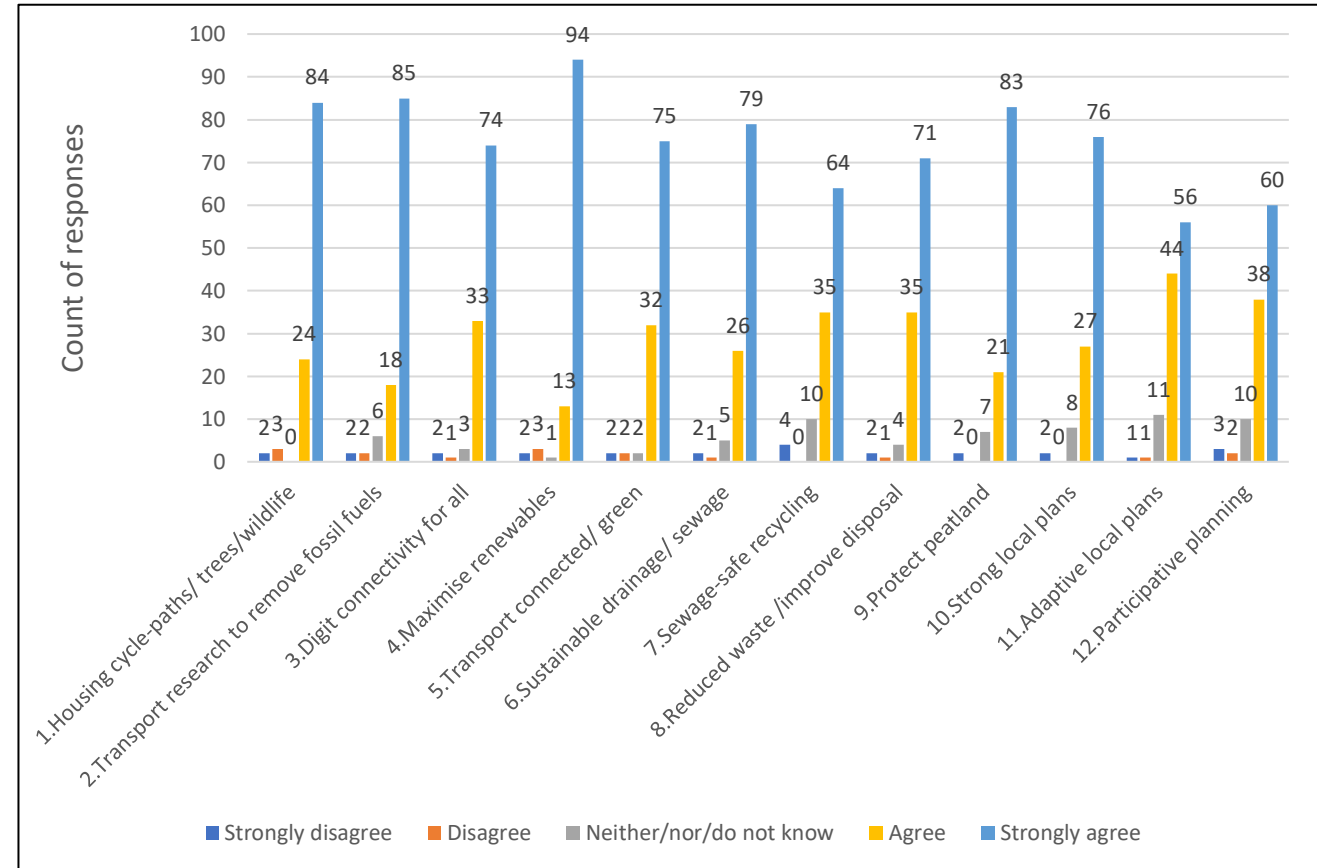
1. 4: heritage protection, q based on false premise - that we have architectural heritage is largely down to our forebears building it properly, not from present day 'protections'. Often owners have no realistic option but to let a building decline until it has to be demolished. Deep pockets and determination required to preserve/convert old buildings rather than build new. Current rules mitigate against preservation of built heritage, and dont understand historic construction and restoration methods. Might be useful to have the Scottish Lime Centre comment on this?
2. Changing lives through sport and how green spaces and community social enterprises can shape the youth. Look at showcase the street in Dundee.
3. Common good should have precedent or a stronger weighting when looking at planning decisions with common good also covering the broader health and wellbeing of local people based on community needs. Ie the option to reject applications for fast food premises in an area know for poor health. Also with the repurposing of our town centres we should be encouraging innovation and mixed use with planning incentives
4. "I think as regards hutting etc. clauses should perhaps be included to prevent loss of biodiversity as a result - people need to be closer to nature but wild spaces are currently so scarce that clear provisions need to be made so that natural habitat is not lost in favour of cresting more spaces for humans, Re: education perhaps the term 'outdoor learning' can be used specifically as I think it should be supported and this is a term already familiar to the Scottish govt."

## 4 What policies are needed to improve, protect and strengthen the special character of our places? (additional comments/ideas)

5. I would like to know more about developing rural communities. I feel very strongly about the need to influence change in our planning processes to protect community needs and to mitigate against the very strong influence which developers and business interests have. I think that this, the huge need to cut pollution, to protect communal greenspace and to provide affordable housing for all are priorities which need immediate attention.
6. "In Scotland particularly, we have thousands of square miles of completely wild land. Much of that in areas such as The Highlands, the Islands, The Borders, and closer to home Fife and much of the northern part of the Central Belt. That could be kept wild as far as possible. One thing that could be looked at is a calculation of the size of the smallest community that could sustain a village shop, and a primary school. Once that is established, communities could be created, with housing at an agreed density, maybe no more than two or three houses to an acre, with no further development, and no new communities within two miles, to continue the wild areas. Street lighting could be operated by heat sensors in the ground, to save electricity, and communal heating installed ."
7. More Scottishness and less Britishness! We need to accentuate our scottish culture, history, and music. Both to instil national identity to all, also benefitting not least the huge tourist economy. Ideas- piping in schools, more scottish music on 'scottish' media channels.
8. The questionnaire really covers it all. I do think though, that historical battlefields should be preserved and not built on i.e. Culloden. It is disgraceful that the Scottish Government allowed this.

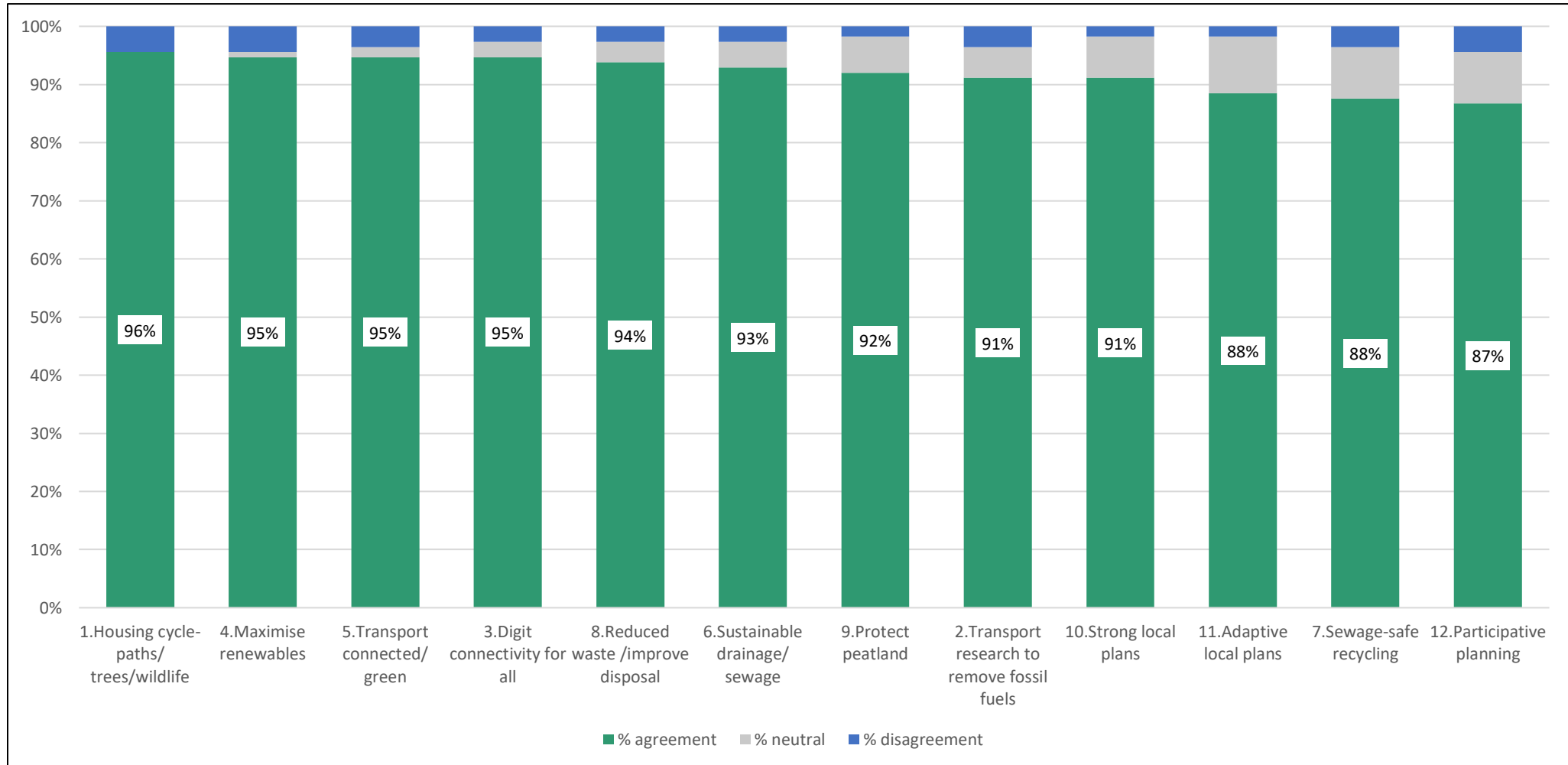
## 5 What infrastructure do we need to build to realise our long term aspirations? (count of responses)

1. **Housing:** all housing development must include environmental infrastructure e.g. cycle paths, tree planting and wildlife landscaping.
2. **Transport:** There needs to be a huge input to research and development to find environmentally friendly means of transport to replace anything driven by fossil fuels on land, air and sea.
3. **Digital connectivity:** robust and available-to-all connectivity required to enable more remote or home working and reduce the strain on the transport network.
4. **Renewables:** we need to maximise our use of renewables from land and sea, PV, wind, wave, tidal, hydro. We need a massive R & D into electrical storage systems.
5. **Connected communities:** transport networks that drive more walking and cycling through green spaces, connected with frequent and well-timed public transport in towns and with rural transport on demand.
6. **Sustainable urban drainage/sewage:** build on current best practice and retrofit to avoid pollution of our waterways and oceans and then our food-chain.
7. **Sewage:** How can we safely recycle human sewage rather than discharge it? Can it be used to produce energy? Fertiliser?
8. **Waste disposal:** we need to fundamentally reduce waste and deal with the waste we do produce responsibly. Can it be used to produce energy if it cannot be recycled?
9. **Peatlands:** ensure that our peatland is protected as a source of carbon capture and does not become one of carbon release. E.g. re-wilding



10. **Strong local plans:** Strong local plans that must be adhered to. A combination of the National Planning Framework and local community needs/wishes.
11. **Adaptive local plans:** processes to adapt plans in response to changing technologies or needs through timely participative planning decisions.
12. **Participative Planning:** participative and inclusive mechanisms to involve communities in planning and to develop community skills. E.g. citizens assemblies.

## 5 What infrastructure do we need to build to realise our long term aspirations? (splits by agreement, neutral, disagreement)



## 5 What infrastructure do we need to build to realise our long term aspirations? (additional comments/ideas)

1. A drive to inhibit/cutdown farm use of fertilizers/pesticides and weed-killers. Which cause so many problems in our waterways. This may help solve the human waste problems.
2. Address the almost feudal current system of land ownership by the few and return Scotland's land to its people.
3. I'd go further with planning for rural transport being free at the point of use. I'd prefer to see a plan to have within a reasonable time, say 5 years for buses and ferries, and ten years (max) for trains, to be free at the point of use for EVERYONE. There are economic as well as environmental benefits in this.
4. Make farm payments simpler, just pay direct for the planting of trees so we don't have to faff with annual forms which get mucked up when the government systems change. Give disabled people grants for solar panels and windmills, and make it easier to find someone to install the things, I have been trying for 4 years and can't even get a quote.
5. "More opportunities for community involvement in planning applications especially better notification systems /etc and graphic displays or 3D visuals before anything signed and stamped, greater support for local planning committees to interact with communities, to constantly recognise concerns and locate new ideas. Greater protection for native wildlife and biodiversity, structure the green space before for eg houses , industry."
6. Nationalise the drug industry and put all the savings into making the hospitals as energy efficient as possible and much more self sufficient. Give all seasoned taxi drivers at cost electric cars with free charging

## 5 What infrastructure do we need to build to realise our long term aspirations? (additional comments/ideas)

7. protect our wildlife and our wildlife sites.
8. Reform local government to return to smaller local councils with joint boards for such as education, community health and policing
9. Strong measures to reduce car usage particularly in residential areas - this needs to go along with measures to improve public transport and cycling infrastructure
10. Use evidence based approach: Consult with climate scientists to ensure decisions made will have positive climate change impact. Perhaps make these meetings open to anyone to view (eg zoom), in order to better inform people and build trust in climate science which has been undermined by media, oil & gas propoganda etc.
11. We need to look at tackling the issue of litter, which will improve the country and the food chain on land and sea"PLASTICS" ashamed
12. we should be investigating hydrogen as a power cource, especially for transport
13. We would need to monitor all land or any transactions that gives someone a over priced profits. We would have to make sure all decisions made for Scotland are made in Scotland

Thanks again to everyone  
who participated.