

# Stakeholder Engagement

## Programme of Activities

### What has been done:

1. Public survey. Hard copies made available in the City Library. 274 surveys received.
2. Letters issued to landowners within the area covered by the Masterplan notifying them of the plan making process and giving them the contact details of a senior team member (email and mobile).
3. Meeting held by project team with Kilkenny Abbey Quarter Development.
4. Meeting held with Housing Dept. Kilkenny County Council.
5. Meeting held with Transport Dept. Kilkenny County Council.
6. Consultation with heritage services of Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
7. Public presentation of survey results.

### What is yet to be done:

1. Brewery Yard employee mobility survey. Expected completion: February 2023.
2. Meeting with heritage services of Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Expected completion: March/April 2023.
3. Written submissions will be invited for a four week period once the draft masterplan is published. This opportunity will be advertised online. Hard copies will be made available in the City Library. Expected completion: March 2023.
4. Landowners will be notified about the draft masterplan and invited to make a submission. They will also be provided the contact details of a senior team member (email and mobile). Expected completion: March 2023.
5. We will undertake a total of six meetings / workshops with stakeholders in March. Four will be virtual and two in person. Three will be specifically for the public. Two will be face to face, one online. Other online workshops will take place with County Councillors, Kilkenny County Council and the Joint Venture. Expected completion: March 2023.

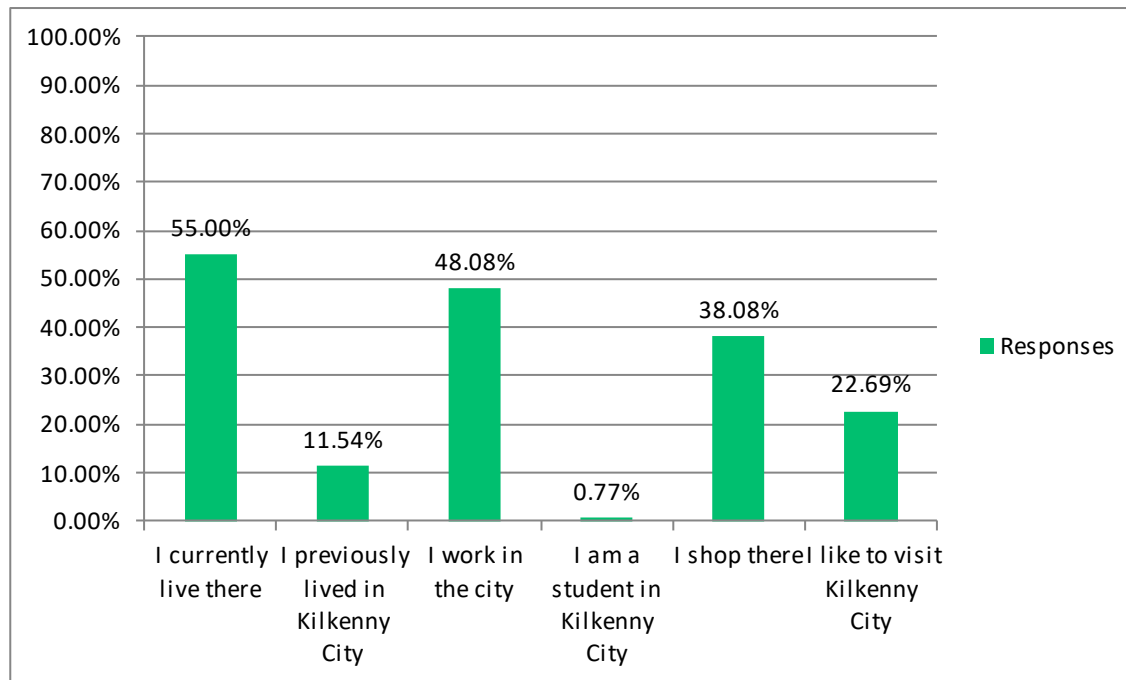
# Public Survey Results

- Survey was live for period of 4 weeks from 21<sup>st</sup> November – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- 274 survey responses (268 online, 6 paper)
- Summary results set out below

## Q1. What is your connection to Kilkenny City Centre? (please tick all that apply)

Answered: 260

Skipped: 14

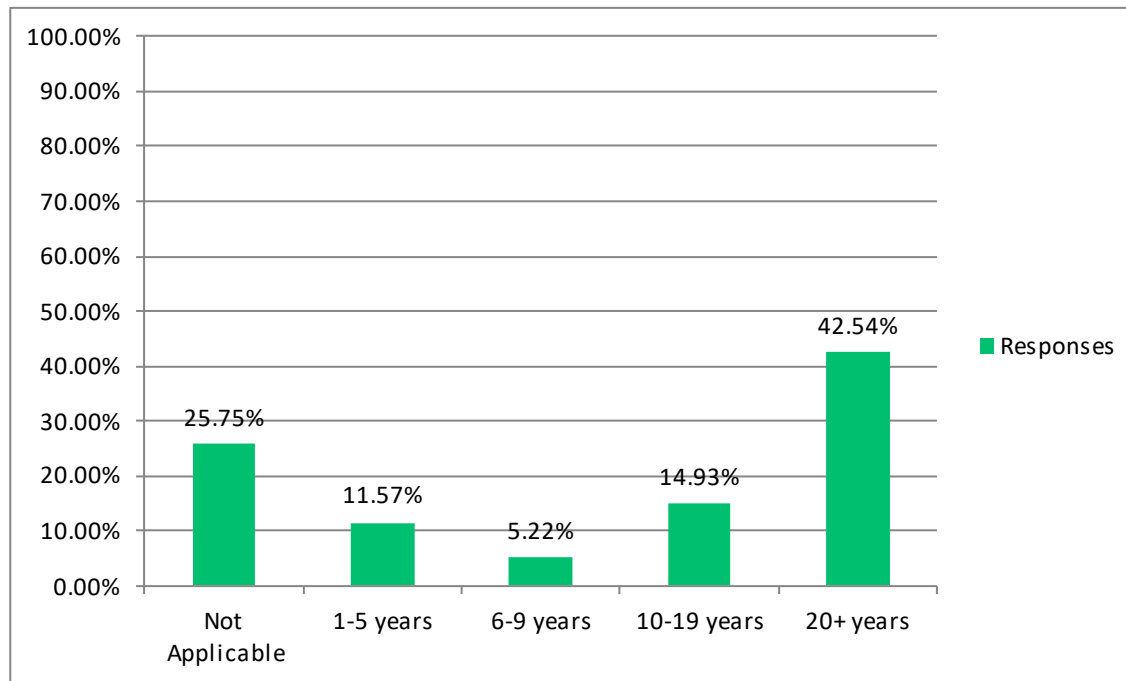


# Public Survey Results

**Q2. If you currently live or previously lived in the City, please indicate for how many years.**

Answered: 268

Skipped: 6

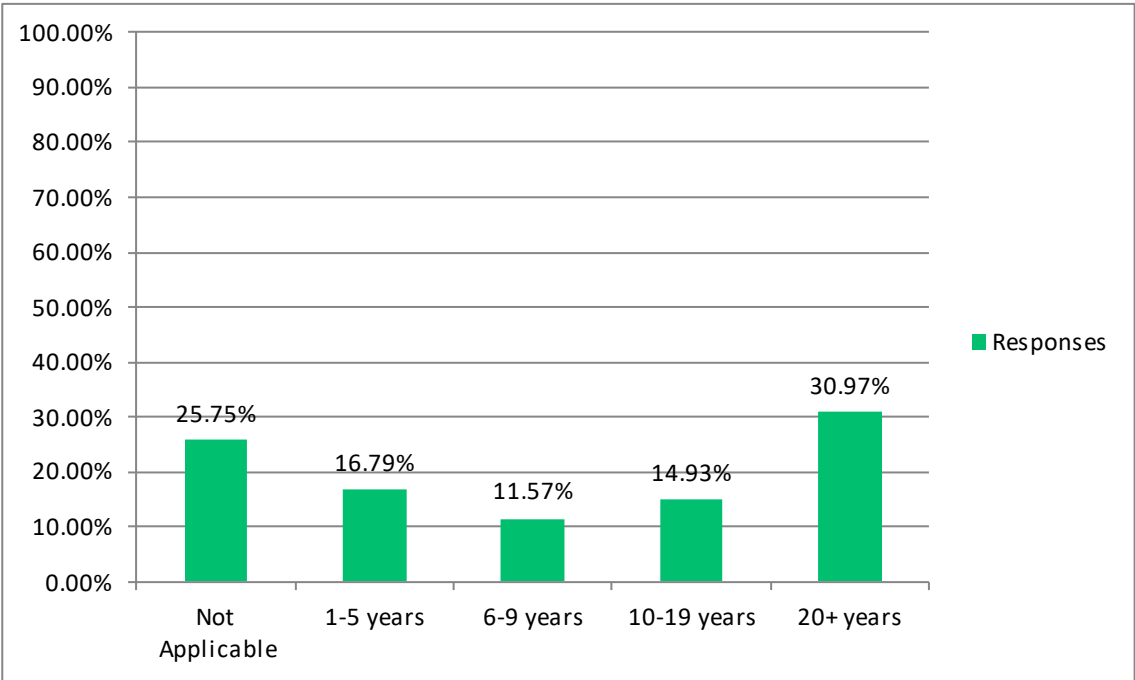


# Public Survey: Results

**Q3. If you work in the City, please indicate for how many years you have done so.**

Answered: 268

Skipped: 6

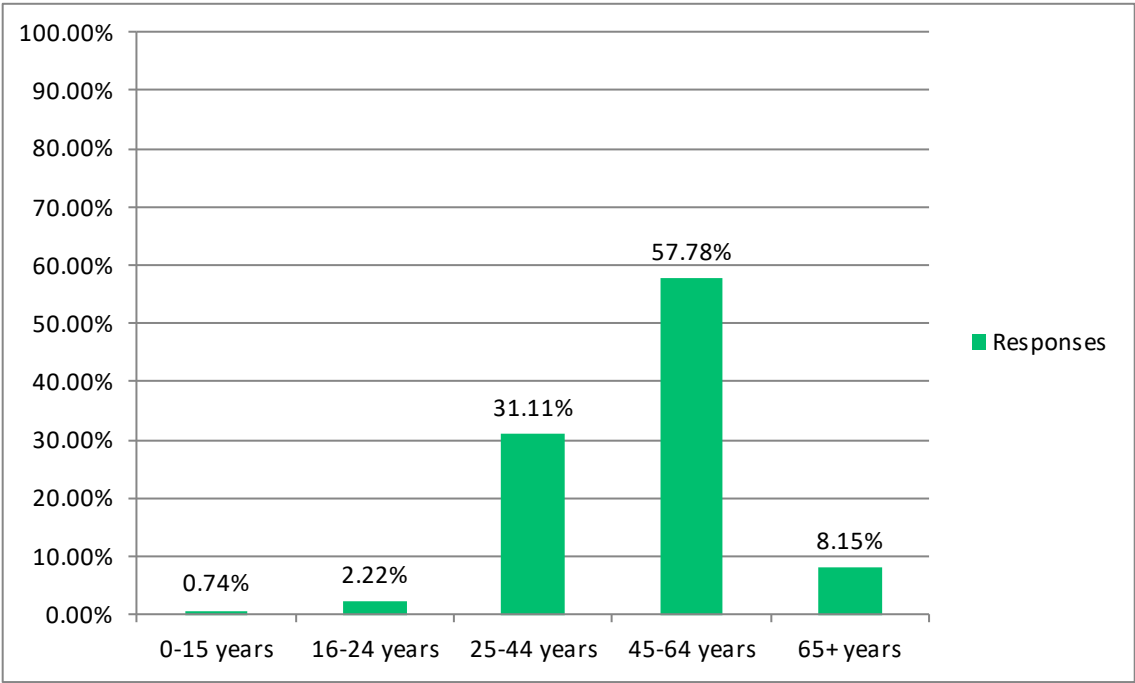


# Public Survey: Results

## Q4. Which age bracket do you fall into?

Answered: 270

Skipped: 4

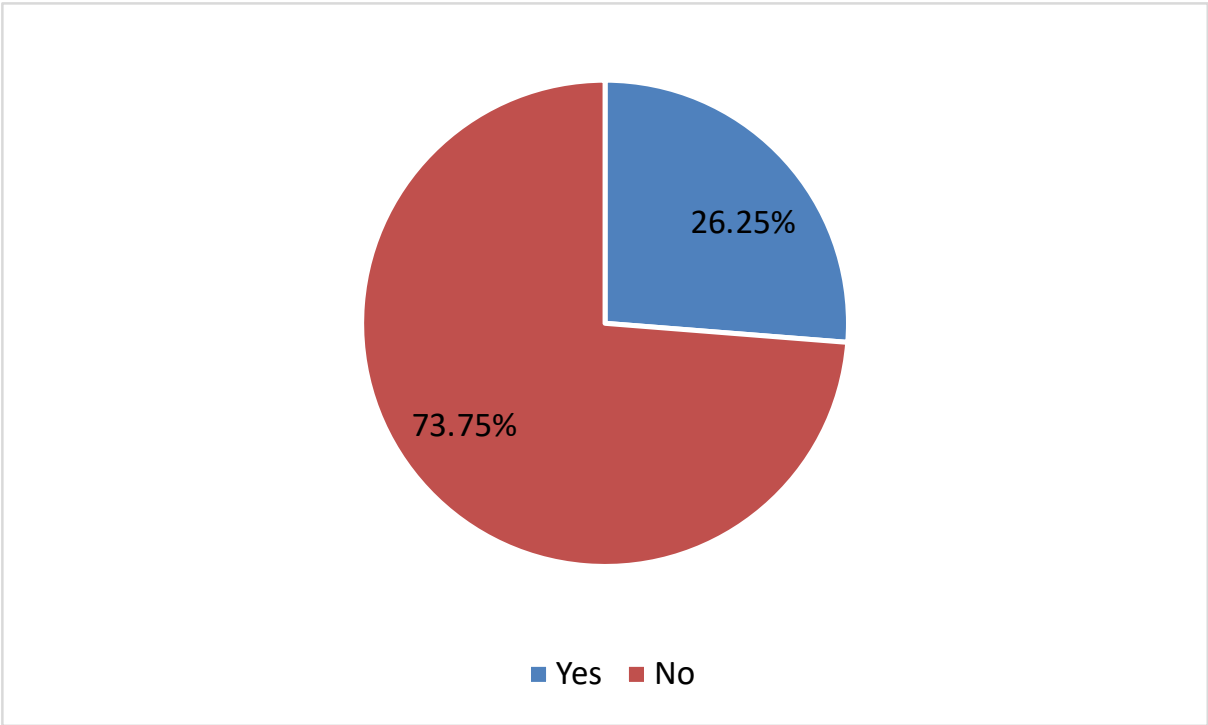


# Public Survey Results

**Q5. Did you engage in the public consultation programme for the 2015 Masterplan for the Abbey Quarter?**

Answered: 240

Skipped: 34

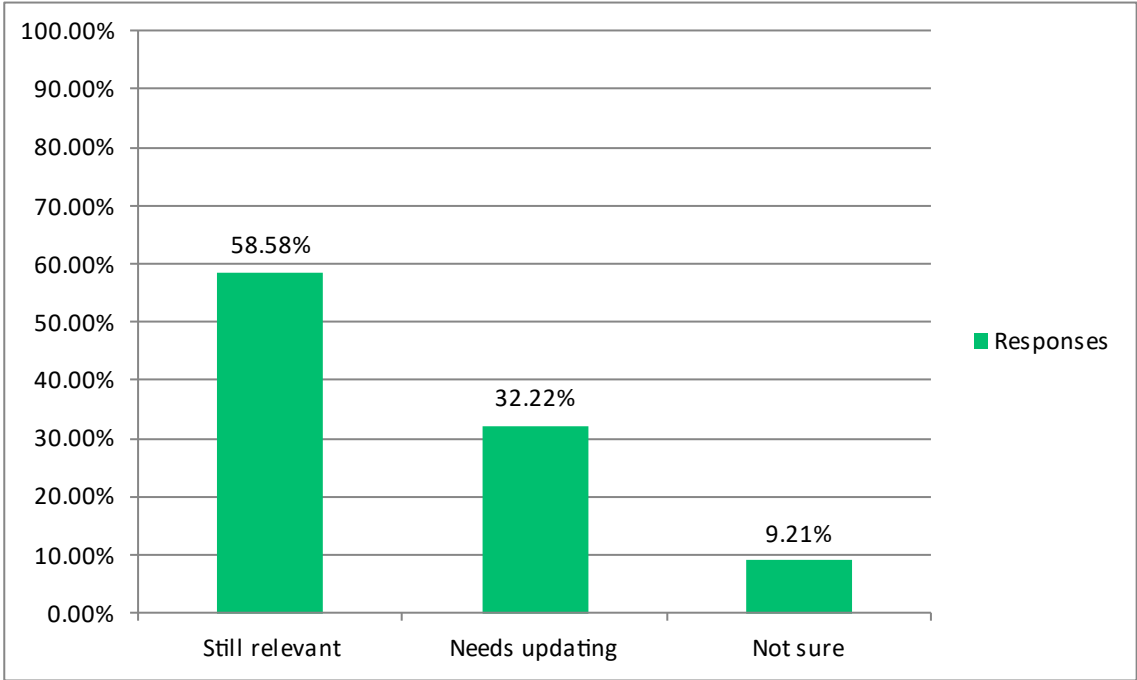


# Public Survey Results

**Q6. The proposed vision from the 2015 Abbey Quarter Masterplan is included below...Do you feel that this vision is still relevant, or should the vision for the Abbey Quarter be updated?**

Answered: 239

Skipped: 35

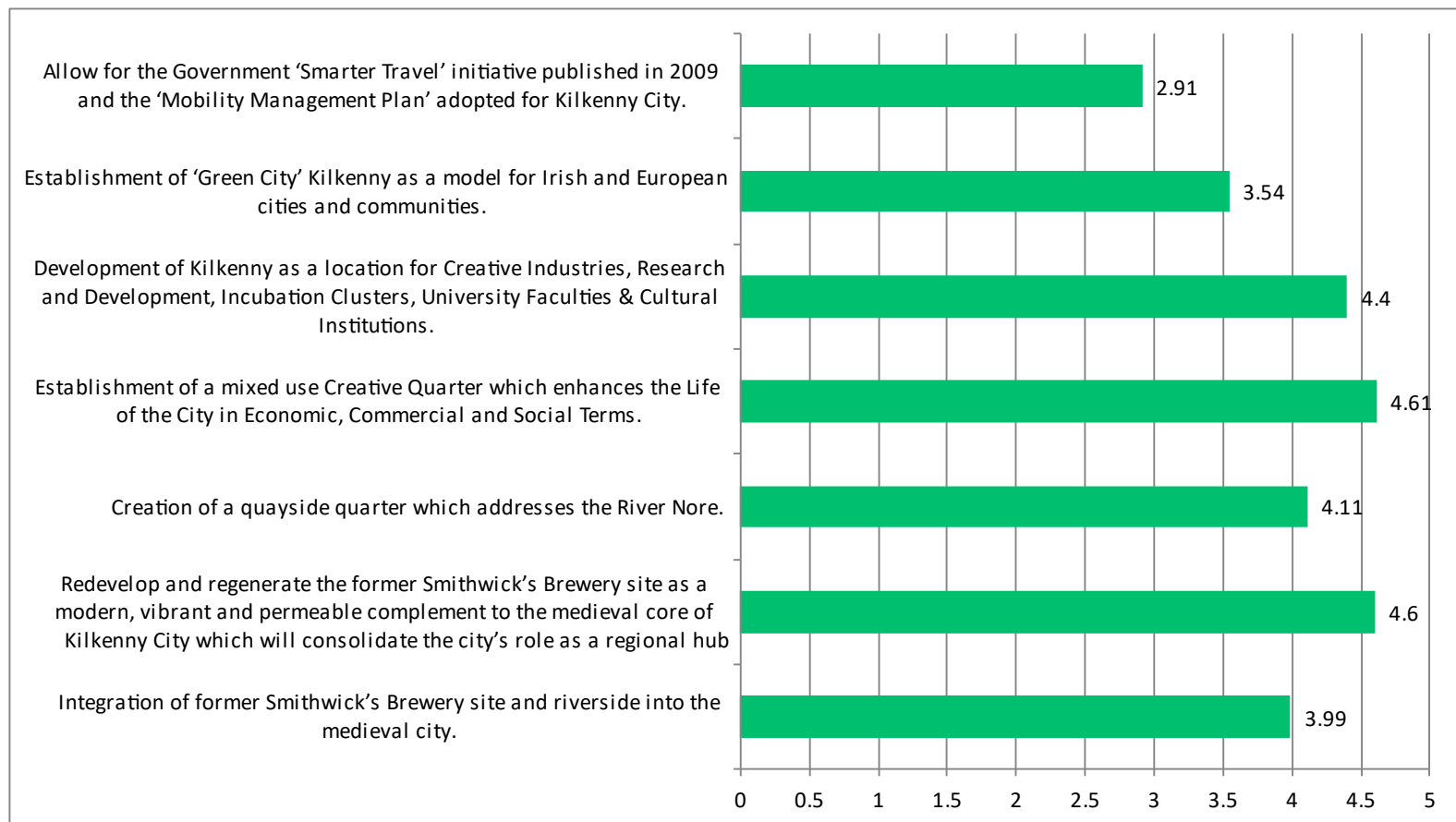


# Public Survey Results

**Q7. The following objectives/principles were central to the existing 2015 Masterplan. Please rank from 1 - 7 how important you think these objectives/principles are for the Abbey Quarter (1 being the most important, 7 being the least important).**

Answered: 235

Skipped: 39





# Public Survey Results

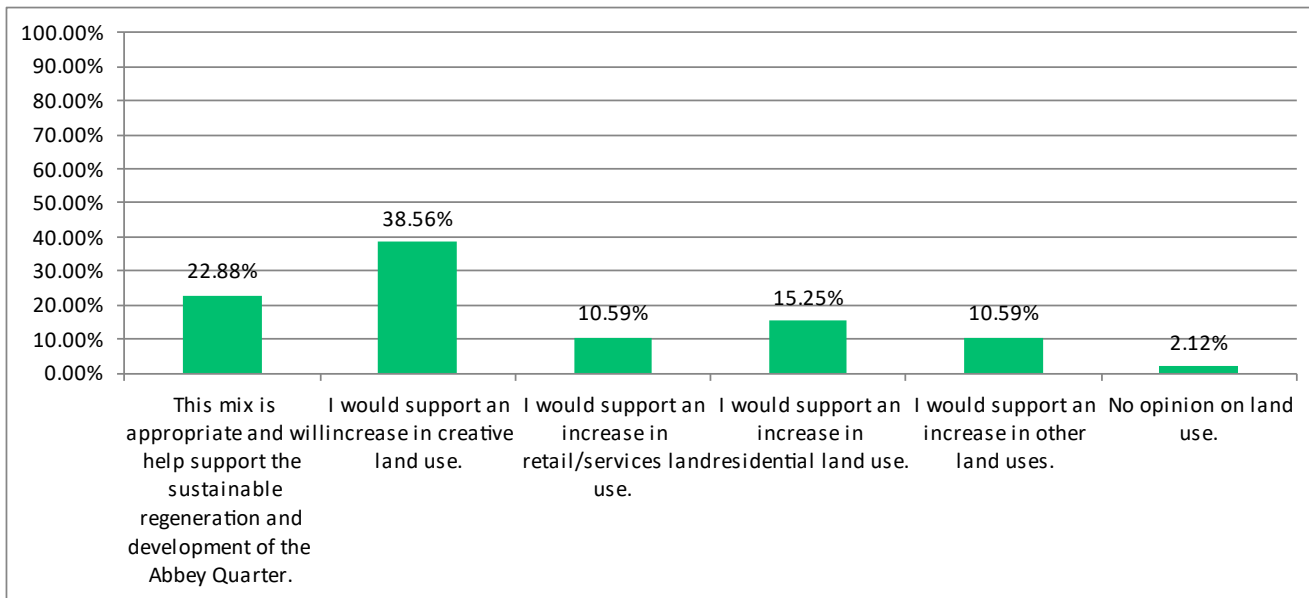
**Q8. The Abbey Quarter Urban Design Code (2018) was written to complement the Masterplan. It provides for the following mix of land uses at the Abbey Quarter:**

- **Creative e.g. studio space, galleries (at least 10%)**
- **Retail and commercial services e.g. shops, restaurants (15%-20%)**
- **Residential (30%-35%)**
- **Other e.g. education, health, social facilities.**

**Which of the below statements would you most agree with? Please tick the appropriate box.**

Answered: 236

Skipped: 38

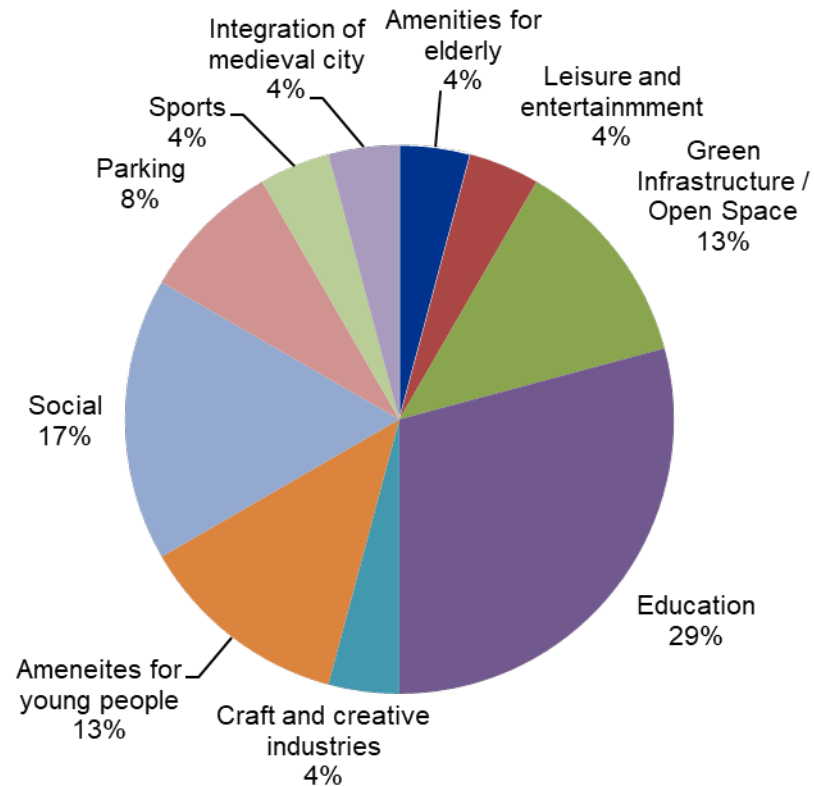


# Public Survey Results

**Q9. (If selected 'other' for Q8.) Please state the other uses you would like to see increased in the Abbey Quarter.**

Answered: 25

Skipped: 249

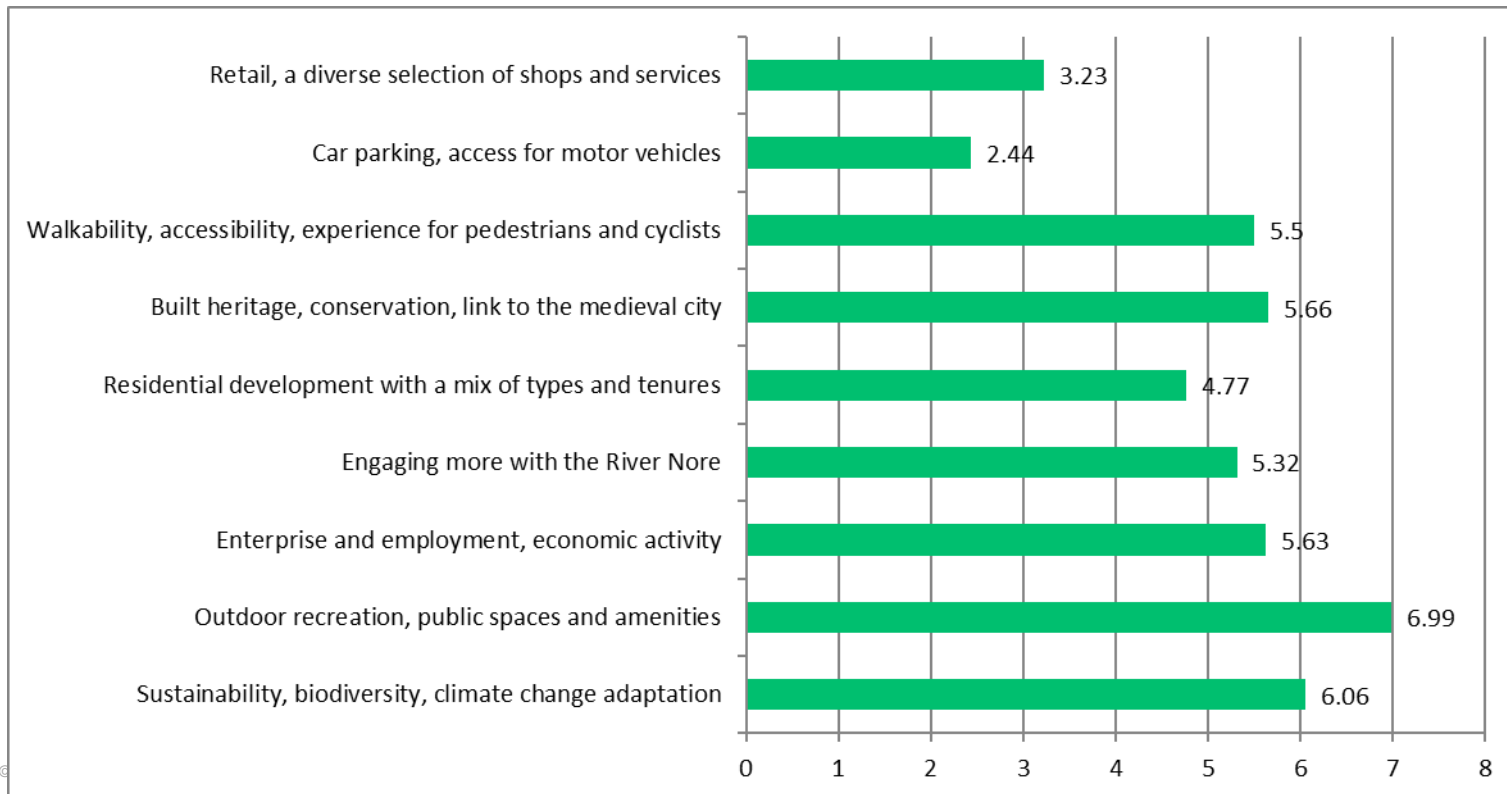


# Public Survey Results

**Q.10 Below are various themes that could influence the new Kilkenny Abbey Quarter Masterplan. Please rank from 1 - 9 the themes you think are most important for the new Abbey Quarter Masterplan (1 being the most important, 9 being the least important).**

Answered: 232

Skipped: 42



# Public Survey: Results

**Q.11 Please state any further ideas you have for the future of the Abbey Quarter (please keep your answer concise and within 75-words).**

Answered: 144

Skipped: 130

## Spaces for Artists e.g. studies, galleries, exhibition spaces (17 call outs)

- “I would like to see the **communal art open studio spaces** like many other models in Ireland’s city’s like - spacecraft in Limerick, Complex and Temple Bar gallery and studios etc.”
- “The name of the area was the Creative Quarter but was dropped some time before the Masterplan... Reverting to this focus would create huge potential for Kilkenny - **artists' spaces to increase production of visual arts.**
- “Kilkenny needs **artist studios**. And creative workspace. Abbey quarter would be the perfect place.
- “The availability of workspace for Kilkenny’s professional arts community is severely limited. The extensive development of a new Abbey Quarter provides a unique once in a generation opportunity to include **artistic workspace provision** in the plans of a major urban renewal project.”

## Outdoor Performance Space (4 call outs)

- “I believe we should open up to the river and have a **permanent accessible to all performance space**. I think the idea of putting corporate offices and retail in the space is short sighted and not the best use of the space.”

## Creative Industries (2 call outs)

- “Huge opportunity to bring industry and energy to the centre of Kilkenny, out of the industrial estates and into the centre of town. Kilkenny's range of festivals, and the presence of Cartoon Saloon can act as a spark for **more creative industries.**”
- “The creation of an ambitious **multipurpose arts production space** would add vibrancy and enhance quality of life, sustainable cultural tourism and urban regeneration for artists, citizens and visitors alike”

# Public Survey Results

## Q11. Continued

### Residential (11 call outs)

- “Further office space will leave the area dead at night. **Residential space is essential** along with public open space and engagement with the river.”
- “Residential is essential to make City Core a **'living' City again**”
- “I feel the focus has shifted from residential to commercial. This is disappointing as there is certainly a need for some **quality homes (apartments, houses)** in the city. “
- “**A vibrant quarter needs residence.** It should be a village inside the city.”

### Residential for the Elderly (2 call outs)

- “Kilkenny city would benefit from four additions to its facilities: **a multi-storey residential nursing home with lift**; a city and county archive; more trees and green space; physical access to the bank of the River Nore.”
- “I would like to see that the development is residential with parklands for families; also **accessible retirement residences** need to be considered along with single persons accommodation”

# Public Survey Results

## Q11. Continued

### Active Travel (12 call outs)

- “Car parking shouldn't be a major focus, if the aim is for a walkable historic urban core space. I think car parking, other than some accessible spaces, should be kept over at Dunnes, with **covered, secure and free bicycle parking spaces and roomy bike paths** through the area.”
- “A sustainable, **walkable, cyclable mix** of housing and education with the Nore and brewery at its core”
- “No cars! **Prioritise cycling and walking**. Perhaps bus route”
- “Put a narrow cobbled street from the new bridge to Bateman Quay to ease traffic congestion. Open pedestrian and cycle access from the new bridge.”

### Public Transport (1 call out)

- “Car-parking, residential, commercial developments are not really suitable for the Abbey Quarter in my opinion as investment is needed for public transport. **The City Environment must exclude cars and the real solution to this is to provide a Public Transport alternative for people coming from rural areas** and other towns e.g. Carlow, Clonmel, Thurles, etc., coming to the City for work, shopping and recreational purposes.”

### Dunnes Car Park (3 call outs)

- “**Free up more space by removing some surface parking from market yard car park** with new underground car park. In Spain they put car parks underground and public spaces above ground. It makes amazing community spaces.”
- I think the carpark at Dunnes is an eyesore in another otherwise beautiful part of Kilkenny. **Hedging/planting to hide the carpark would help a lot I think.**”

# Public Survey Results

## Q11. Continued

### Retail (4 call outs)

- “I think it would be beneficial for Kilkenny to attract more **higher quality retailers** so it becomes a destination for people from other counties”
- “...the town needs **more small business premises**, that can inject some life to the heart of the town certainly in the craft area, and small craft businesses.”
- The Abbey Quarter needs to link with the City providing **more commercial, economic and retail services including restaurants** and creating a space for the public to use and utilise and congregate socially and for more car parking in the vicinity.

### Cafes / Restaurants (2 call out)

- “**Some cafes and restaurants facing river.** Low cost rental for new cafes/restaurants.
- **Cafes in river walk** with protected seating and a continued boardwalk

### Gaelteacht (2 call outs)

- “I would like to see the local authority develop **an Irish language quarter**, considering that the development is located in the Irish Town area of the city and perhaps a tourist office.”
- Residential areas = chance to promote **Gaeilge/mini-Gaeltacht**. Reserve 10-20% for Irish speakers of varying competencies with the understanding they'll actively use and promote the language and all that goes with it.”

# Public Survey Results

## Q11. Continued

### Public Open Space (8 call outs)

- “**Open public space for use by all**”
- “**Prioritize public open space**, walking / cycling infrastructure to accompany residential / commercial development and ensure space is not lost for the provision of car parking.”
- “**A public area which is equivalent to the castle park** whereby the locals are very proud to say this is are city and national and international tourists have it on their must do list.”
- We have to make sure we have **green areas for recreational activities, seated areas for people especially our elderly**, user friendly cafes, outdoor dining...”

### Playground (3 call outs)

- “**This area of the city NEEDS a playground.**”
- “**Playground for kids**, wild flowers for easier upkeep and maintenance, continuous projects with universities and school to help improve the area so it evolves continuously. Great space and survey. Thanks!”

### Universal Design (4 call outs)

- “The redevelopment of the Abbey Quarter provides creative opportunities to develop both the urban landscape and the buildings as **inclusive places to live, work and visit. For example the implementation of the Braille Trail and other universal design solutions** provides a starting point for the continued development of accessibility throughout the area and the broader city.
- “Due to being a medieval city **Kilkenny is not very accessible for wheelchair users and prams** (narrow footpaths, uneven surfaces, steps etc.)...”
- “Make it a **safe walking and cycling area for women** – well list, no hiding corners...”

### Community space (3 call outs)

- “**A community engagement space**”
- “**Dedicated community hub**”
- “Education, **Community space**, outdoor performance area, community gardens”



# Public Survey Results

## Q11. Continued

### River Nore (8 call outs)

- “**Make more use of the River** - no connection with the river at the moment, not much happening on the river where there could be. **Kayaking, boating, stand-up paddle boarding**”
- “Make the River Nore play a centre part to the development by **introducing water activities.**”
- “The river should play a major role in **encouraging water activities with a quay, boat/canoe launch, changing rooms and toilets etc.**”
- “Connecting up the walk at Riverside drive to under greens bridge to the Skate park and putting in a **kayak area at the skate park to.**”

### University (9 call outs)

- “I believe the focus should be on economic activity and also a **third level institution which Kilkenny badly needs**”
- “**Development of 3rd and 4th Level education facilities**”
- “**Base for SETU**”
- “Approaches should be made to the National College of Art & Design (NCAD), which is scattered across a number of sites in Dublin, to come to a **purpose-built campus in the Abbey Quarter** as their main campus.”

# Public Survey Results

## Q11. Continued

### Conservation (4 call outs)

- “**Tasteful and complementary preservation of historic buildings** throughout the quarter regardless of era ( Hummer garage to Evan's tower), provision of public information on same. Use of indigenous materials...”
- “The most important thing is to create an area that **embraces the existing rich heritage of the city and exploit this to the full**. This could be achieved by using an imaginative approach combining the historical and contemporary.”
- “We need to **keep our medieval identity** and not end up like any other European city. Its important we build on the things that attract people and business to Kilkenny.”
- “The development of the Abbey Quarter should **respect and enhance the heritage of our town centre.**”

### Other Proposed Uses

- “I would like to see an **indoor amenity** such as a science museum for Children”
- “A **museum for Kilkenny’s rich craft heritage** with craft workshops, space for exhibitions and activities.”
- “**Move Savour KK to abbey quarter**. More space to better accommodate vendors and patrons. Current location is too limited given success of festival. Which is incredible for KK.”
- “Kilkenny needs a **city and county Archive centre** , possibly under the governance of the library service, digitised and available to people for educational, historical or just entertainment reasons. We owe it to future generations.”