

Appendix 3: Summary of Responses to Public Consultation

Location Specific Feedback

A public consultation regarding the proposed Active Travel Hierarchy was undertaken over a ten-week period from 22 July to 30 September 2024.

Objectives

The aims of the consultation were:

- To better understand our stakeholders' perspectives on the proposed introduction of the Active Travel Hierarchy for the prioritisation of maintenance standards.
- To recognise the criteria that respondents consider important when prioritising maintenance standards.
- To obtain location-specific data relating to the perception of our stakeholders on the draft Walking and Wheeling Hierarchy and Cycling Hierarchy, and on the importance of specific Public Rights of Way (PROW).

The above objectives were intended to help build an evidence-base of community- and stakeholder-led feedback. This will enable the draft Active Travel Hierarchy to be refined and updated prior to adoption by the Council. For example, if respondent feedback suggests that a particular route, or type of route, should be ranked higher in the Hierarchy, it may be appropriate to alter the Hierarchy to reflect this. Similarly, if our stakeholders advise that they value a particular approach towards reactive maintenance, the Highways Maintenance service can consider whether certain activities can be prioritised once the Hierarchy is adopted.

The consultation was structured to enable respondents to give feedback in two ways:

1. By providing feedback on the principles of an Active Travel Hierarchy through commenting on preferred approaches to prioritised maintenance
2. By providing location-specific feedback on how routes had been ranked within the draft Walking and Wheeling Hierarchy and draft Cycling Hierarchy, and asking which PROW were most valued by users.

Assessment of feedback

Across these feedback options, **1,147 responses** were provided. Numerous forms referenced more than a single active travel route.

The feedback we received was nuanced and varied. Stakeholder responses were rich with additional written information which has been considered before being integrated into the Active Travel Hierarchy.

Thematic analysis – responses relating to specific questions and key considerations have been grouped into themes in order to identify the main issues that stakeholders wished to tell us about. This will assist us in identifying which priorities our communities wish us to focus on. Assessment of respondent feedback to the ‘general principles’ form has also considered the demographic breakdown of responses, with key figures from this highlighted below.

Spatial analysis – the vast majority of the location-specific feedback can be matched to geographic records in our highway maintenance systems. This enables us to pinpoint the precise routes that stakeholders were providing comments on. We have used this evidence to assess the relevance of respondents’ feedback to our overall highway network, and to consider whether that feedback should result in a change to the ranking of specific routes.

The feedback received to the questionnaires requesting location-specific comments about the ranking of routes in the Active Travel Hierarchy is summarised on the pages below.

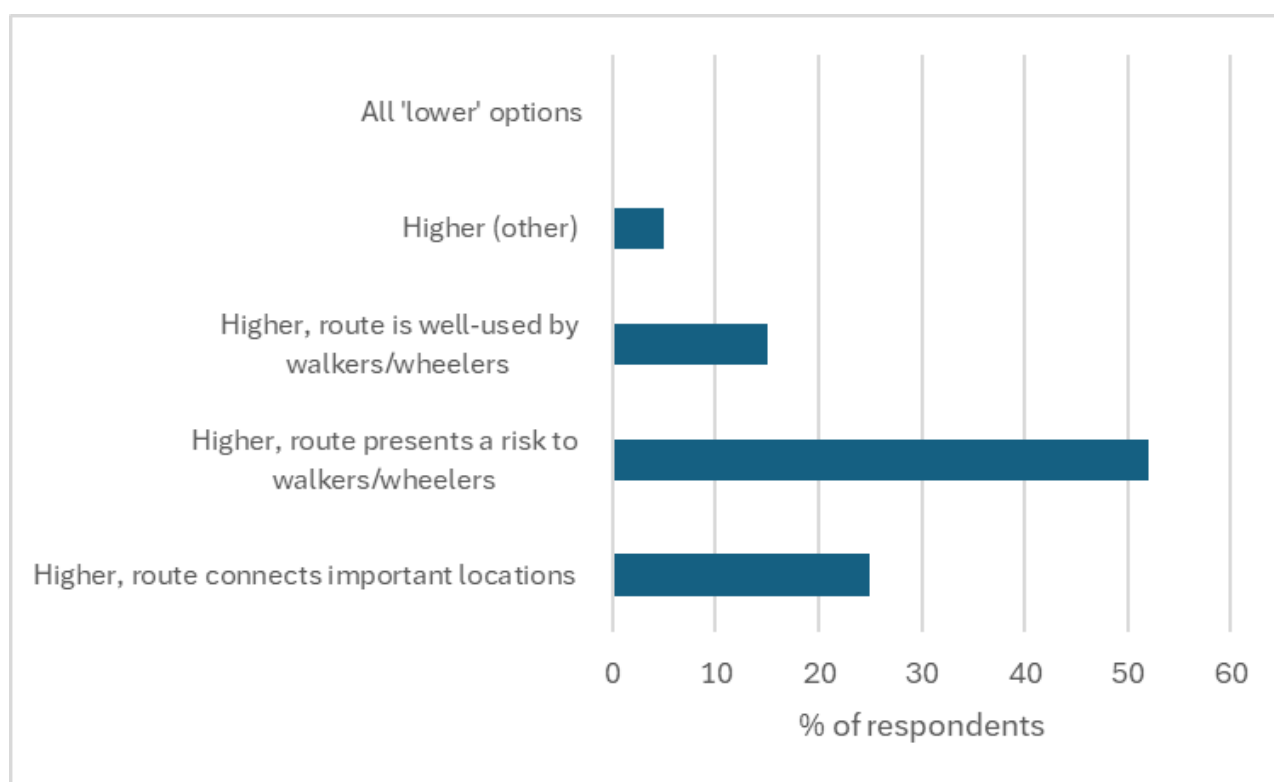
1. Walking and Wheeling Hierarchy: Summary of location-specific feedback

Question:

Do you think this highway should have a higher or lower categorisation within the hierarchy?
(Multiple Choice)

Response Table 1.1:

Option	Number of Responses	Percentage of total
Higher – route connects important locations	33	25%
Higher – route presents a risk to walkers/wheelers	68	52%
Higher – route is well-used by walkers/wheelers	20	15%
Higher (other)	7	5%
Lower – route does not connect important locations	1	<1%
Lower – route does not present a risk to walkers/wheelers	1	<1%
Lower – route is not well-used by walkers/wheelers	1	<1%
Lower - other	0	0%

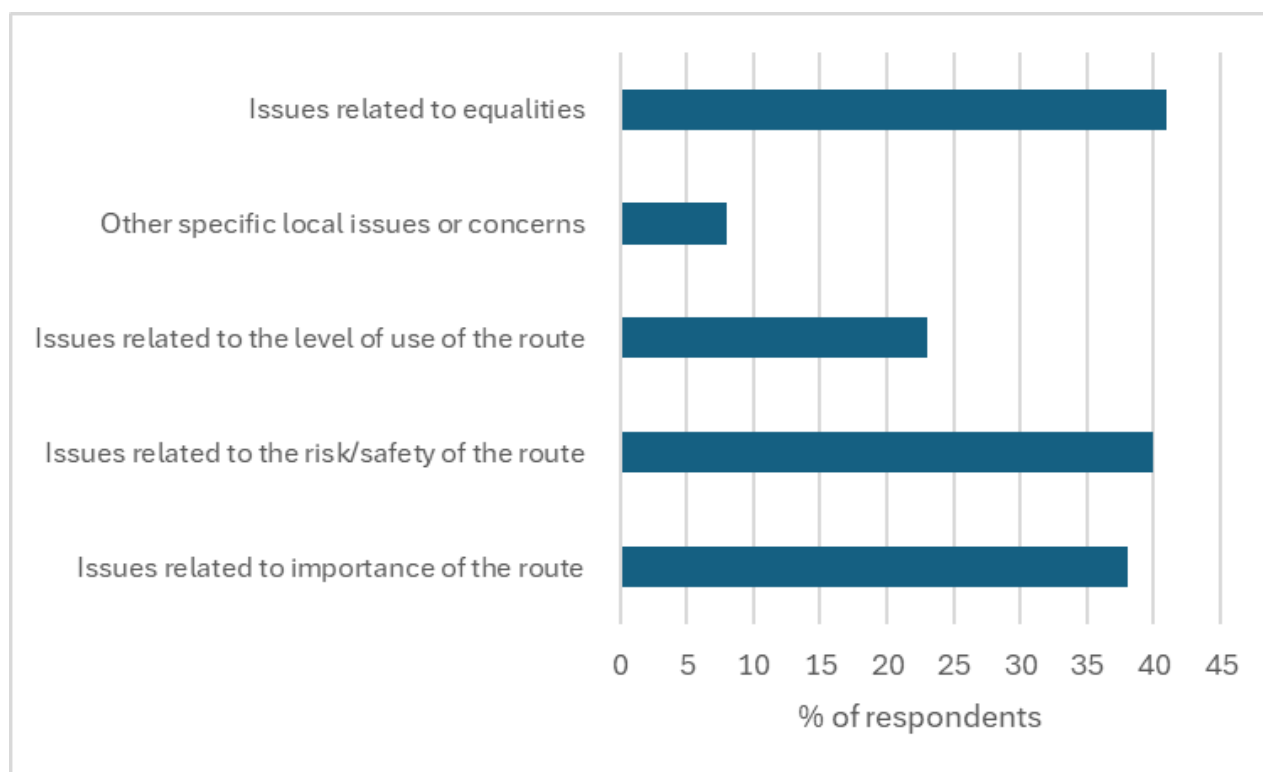


Question:

Please provide any additional feedback about this highway. (Free text)

Response Table 1.2

Response category	Number of mentions	Percentage
Issues related to importance of the route	50	38%
Issues related to the risk/safety of the route	52	40%
Issues related to the level of use of the route	30	23%
Other specific local issues or concerns	11	8%
Issues related to equalities	54	41%
*Note: the percentage column may exceed a total of 100% as respondents were able to mention multiple issues in their written feedback.		

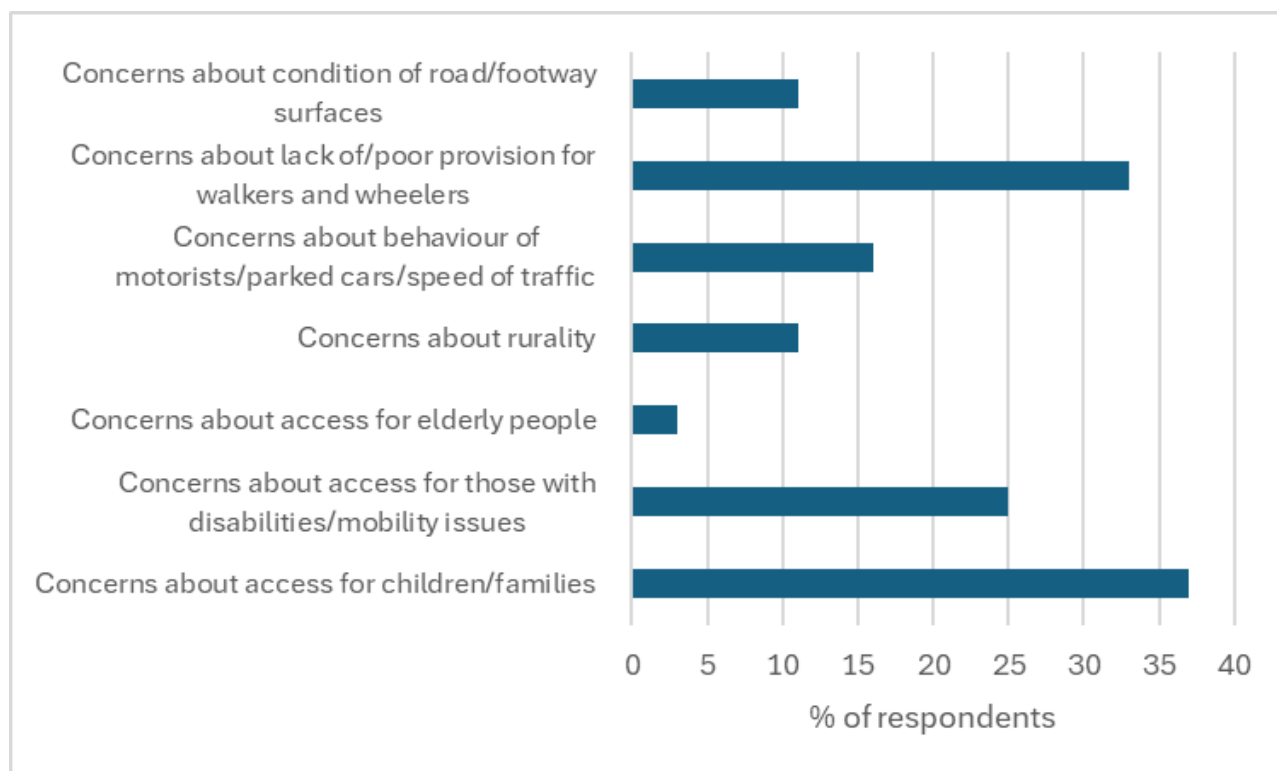


Most frequently mentioned issues

Assessment of the written responses was undertaken to identify which concerns, additional to those above, were most frequently mentioned by respondents in their location-specific feedback.

Table 1.3

Themes identified	Number of mentions	Percentage
Concerns about access for children/families	48	37%
Concerns about access for those with disabilities/mobility issues	33	25%
Concerns about access for elderly people	4	3%
Concerns about rurality	14	11%
Concerns about behaviour of motorists/parked cars/speed of traffic	21	16%
Concerns about lack of/poor provision for walkers and wheelers	43	33%
Concerns about condition of road/footway surfaces	15	11%
*Note: the percentage column may exceed a total of 100% as respondents were able to mention multiple issues in their written feedback.		



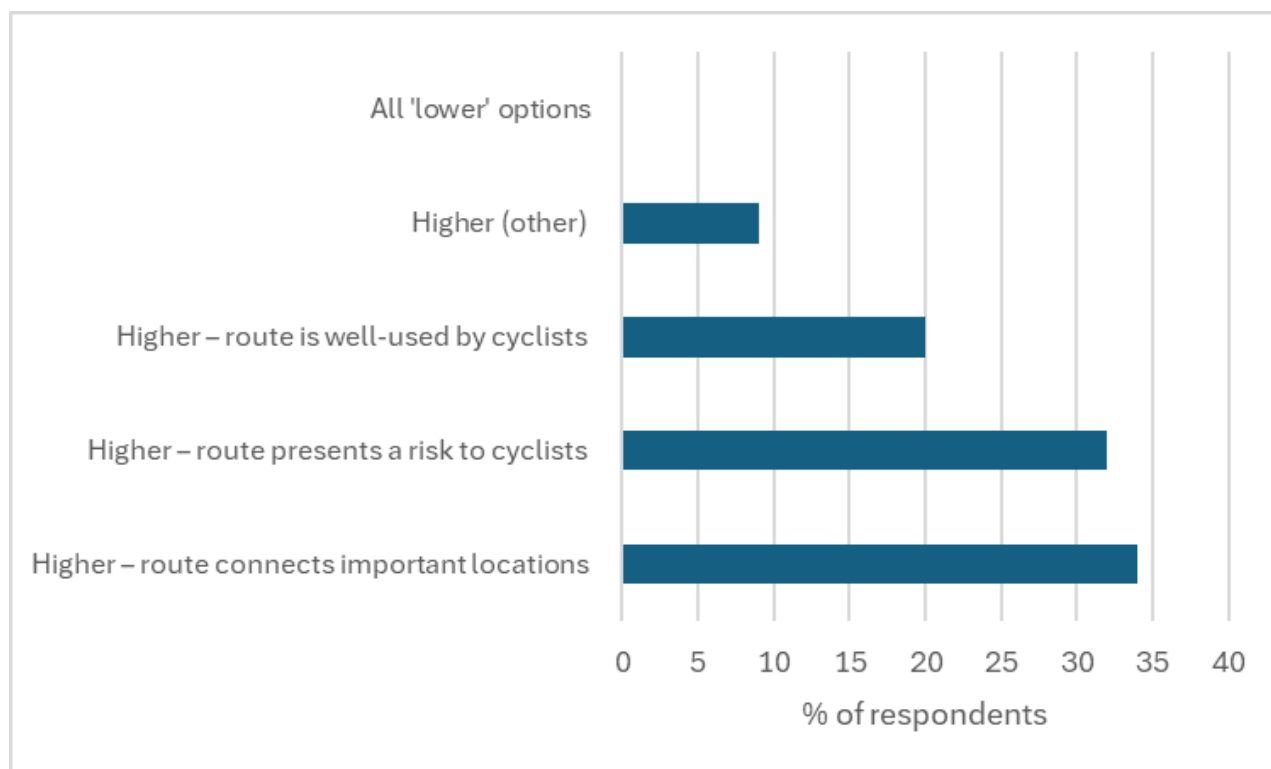
2. Cycling Hierarchy: Summary of location-specific feedback

Question:

Do you think this highway should have a higher or lower categorisation within the hierarchy?
(Multiple Choice)

Response Table 2.1:

Option	Number of Responses	Percentage of total
Higher – route connects important locations	132	34%
Higher – route presents a risk to cyclists	125	32%
Higher – route is well-used by cyclists	78	20%
Higher (other)	35	9%
Lower – route does not connect important locations	3	<1%
Lower – route does not present a risk to cyclists	2	<1%
Lower – route is not well-used by cyclists	10	3%
Lower - other	0	0%

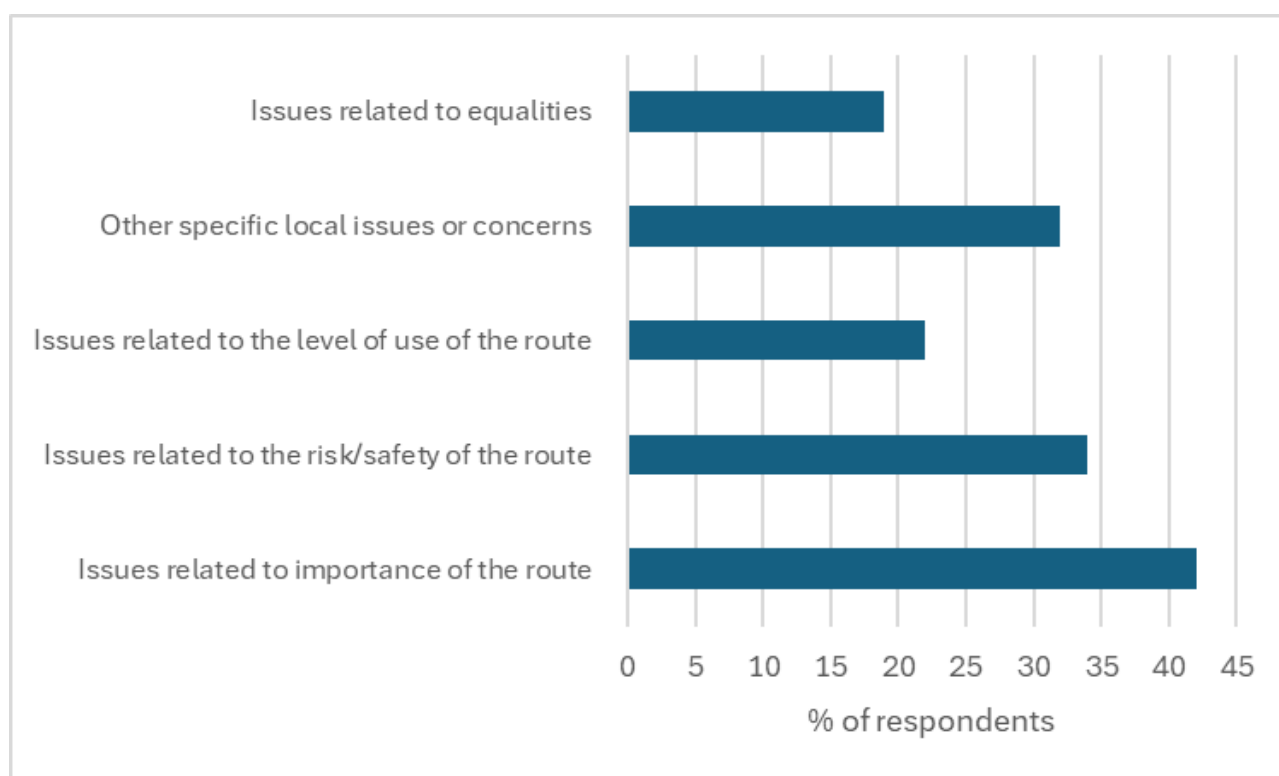


Question:

Please provide any additional feedback about this highway. (Free text)

Response Table 2.2

Response category	Number of mentions	Percentage
Issues related to importance of the route	162	42%
Issues related to the risk/safety of the route	133	34%
Issues related to the level of use of the route	83	22%
Other specific local issues or concerns	124	32%
Issues related to equalities	74	19%
*Note: the percentage column may exceed a total of 100% as respondents were able to mention multiple issues in their written feedback.		



Most frequently mentioned issues

Assessment of the written responses was undertaken to identify which concerns, additional to those above, were most frequently mentioned by respondents in their location-specific feedback.

Table 2.3

Themes identified	Number of mentions	Percentage
Concerns about access for children/families	58	15%
Concerns about access for those with disabilities/mobility issues	10	3%
Concerns about access for elderly people	1	<1%
Concerns about rurality	20	5%
Concerns about behaviour of motorists/parked cars/speed of traffic	66	17%
Concerns that roads are too narrow	23	6%
Concerns that cycle paths are too narrow	24	6%
Concerns about condition of road/cycle path surfaces	40	10%
*Note: the percentage column may exceed a total of 100% as respondents were able to mention multiple issues in their written feedback.		

