



Newcastle Cycling Forum Survey 2013

Where next for the Forum?

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What we asked about

- What should be the Forum's priorities?
- How can we encourage and enable people to attend?
- In what other ways could people participate in the Forum's work?
- Being a member of the Forum
- Taking action



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About the survey

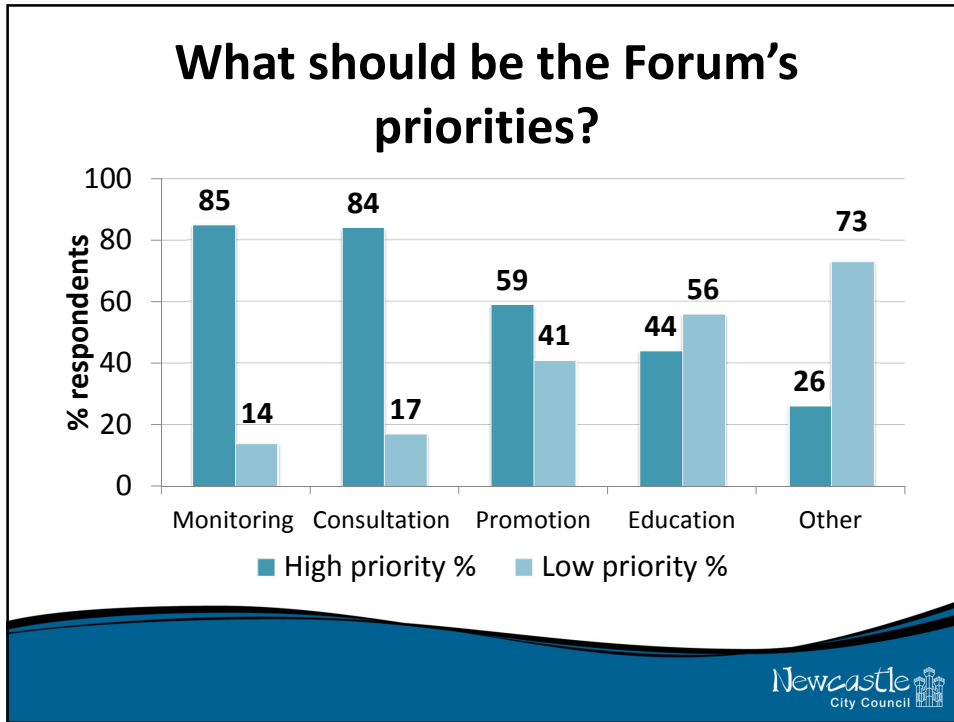


- Introduced at Cycling Forum meeting on **5 September 2013**
- Run via Let's Talk Newcastle online
- **8 October – 22 November 2013**
- People invited to take part via weekly reminders in the Cycling News email
- **122 people** took part.

About people in the survey



- Most people (71%) had been on the Cycling Forum / Cycling News mailing list for **two years** or less.
- 17% of people in the survey **attended** Cycling Forum Meetings. Of this group, most had started doing so in the past **three years**.
- The majority **cycled** at least three times a week, mostly for commuting, leisure or fitness.
- Most lived in the **Newcastle** area (61%).
- 70% saw themselves as a representative or member of a **group**, such as BUG or Sustrans.



What should be on the agenda?

Items that should be on the agenda at Cycling Forum meetings	%
Proposed new cycling infrastructure such as new cycle routes, neighbourhood improvements, new developments and cycling plans	86
Local issues or changes in different areas of the city	53
New cycling initiatives such as Breeze, Skyrides, and so on	43
Cycling events or rides	41
Cycle City Ambition Fund and Stakeholder Liaison Group	33

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How can we encourage and enable people to attend?

How can we encourage and enable people to attend?	%
I am not interested in attending Cycling Forum meetings	27
Something else	25
I am happy with how things are	16
Having meetings at a different time , for example during the day	16
Having meetings at weekends	16

Comments about meetings “Something else”

“Better publicity, including earlier notice of when the meetings are.” Six people

“I did not know there was a Cycling Forum.” Four people

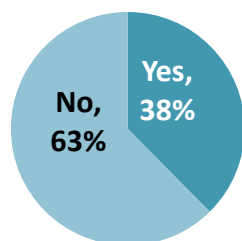
“People who are not experienced cyclists feel nervous about coming to meetings”. Three people

In what other ways could people take part in the Forum's work?

Other ways to take part	%
Online surveys	66
Online discussion forums	44
Meetings to discuss single topics of interest	19
I am happy with how things are	13
More frequent but shorter meetings	9

Being a member of the Forum

Do you consider yourself to be a member of the Newcastle Cycling Forum?



When we asked people who said "no" about why they said this, they replied:

- Because I do not attend meetings – 12 people
- I am really only on the mailing list – 12 people
- Only recently aware of it – 10 people

Benefits of membership

Q8 Benefits of Cycling Forum mailing list	%
Information about proposals to support cycling in the city	68
Information about cycling facilities and events in the city	65
The chance to influence decisions that affect cycling in the city	41
Don't know / not sure	19
The opportunity to represent my group or organisation	12
The chance to meet other cyclists and discuss cycling issues	6

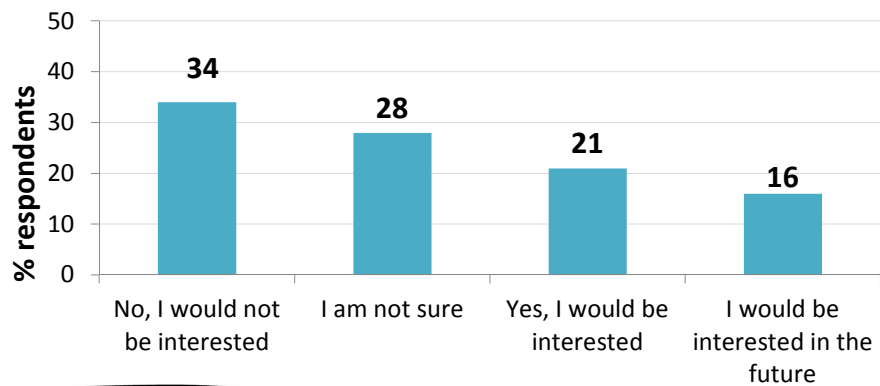
Taking action



- **64%** said they were not sure if issues discussed at Forum meetings became recommendations acted upon by Newcastle City Council and its partners.
- Common themes in people's comments were "I do not feel I know enough to comment about this", "I feel the council prioritises motor vehicles" and "I do not feel the council will listen".

Getting more involved

Would you be interested in giving some of your time to support the work of the Newcastle Cycling Forum?



Some more comments

"More interaction online. I work and have small children, so it's not practical to attend meetings."

"I am a regular cyclist, cycling both to and from work and for leisure. However, I often feel I don't fit the profile of other cyclists."

"I would like to see a regular "how are we doing" report, listing numbers of people cycling, distance travelled, collisions..."

"I think there is too much emphasis on commuter cycling in the urban core, East Newcastle and Gosforth. The benefits of leisure cycling, especially in the more rural north and west of the city, don't seem to receive enough attention."

Conclusions



- Most people who took part wanted the Forum to focus on monitoring and consultation, and discuss infrastructure and local issues.
- People who wanted to see changes in meetings wanted to meet at different times and weekends.
- People who wanted to take part using different methods favoured online surveys and forums.

Conclusions



- Generally speaking, a majority of people tend not to consider themselves members of the Forum, and mainly value the information they receive by being on the mailing list.
- However, around 40% of people in the survey do consider themselves Forum members and would consider getting more involved.

Things to think about



- How could the Cycling Forum focus on monitoring and consultation?
- Should Cycling Forum meetings take place at different times or at weekends?
- Should online methods of taking part be used more?
- How can we encourage and support people in the “interested minority” to participate more in the Forum’s work?