

Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Sandymount Village Traffic Free Report on Non-Statutory Consultation December 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 1

 Submissions..... 1

Sandymount village Consultation results 2

 Feedback on Experience of traffic free street..... 2

 Residents of Sandymount green 4

 Resident of a Side street to Sandymount Green 4

 Resident of Sandymount..... 5

 Business of Sandymount green..... 5

 Business on a side street to Sandymount green..... 6

 Business of Sandymount..... 6

 Public..... 6

 Other 7

 Dcc response to benefits..... 7

 DCC response to concerns 8

 Feedback on whether the traffic free arrangement impacted visits to the street..... 8

 Feedback on which options should be further developed 9

 Options presented 9

 Feedback on Traffic Free times..... 12

Future Options to be Developed 13

INTRODUCTION

Following an initial public consultation in May 2021 Dublin City Council made the east side of Sandymount village traffic-free from 3rd July to 31st August 2021.

This was part of Dublin City Council's Office of City Recovery to support business in the City and facilitate outdoor dining and was planned and implemented by the Traffic Department in DCC.

A non statutory consultation was held on between the 23rd September – 14th October looking to seek people's views on:

- Their experience of the traffic-free street
- What options should be explored for Sandymount village for the future

SUBMISSIONS

643 submissions were received from the following respondents:

Respondent	Total
Resident of Sandymount	438
Resident of Sandymount Green	19
Resident on a side street to Sandymount Green	70
Business in Sandymount	13
Business on Sandymount Green	18
Business on side street to Sandymount Green	4
Member of the public	70
Other	11
Total	643

SANDYMOUNT VILLAGE CONSULTATION RESULTS

FEEDBACK ON EXPERIENCE OF TRAFFIC FREE STREET

People were asked “How did these streets being traffic-free affect your experience of the streets?”

Overall, there was a very positive response with 78% of respondents deeming that the traffic free street improved their experience:

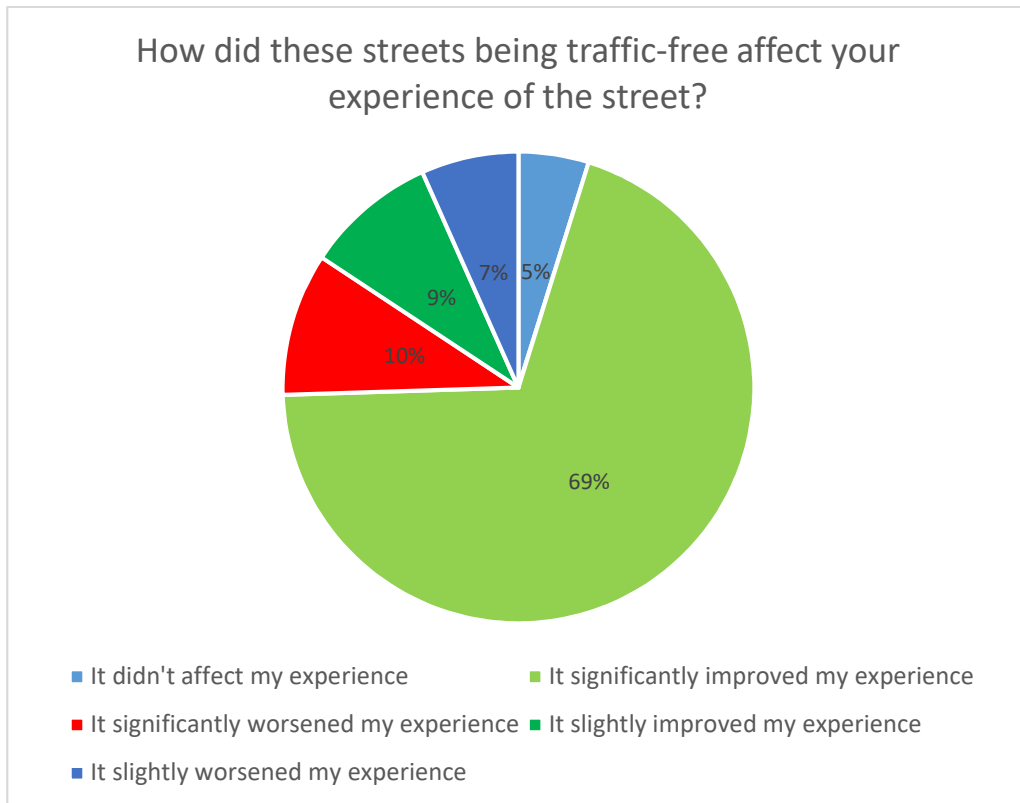
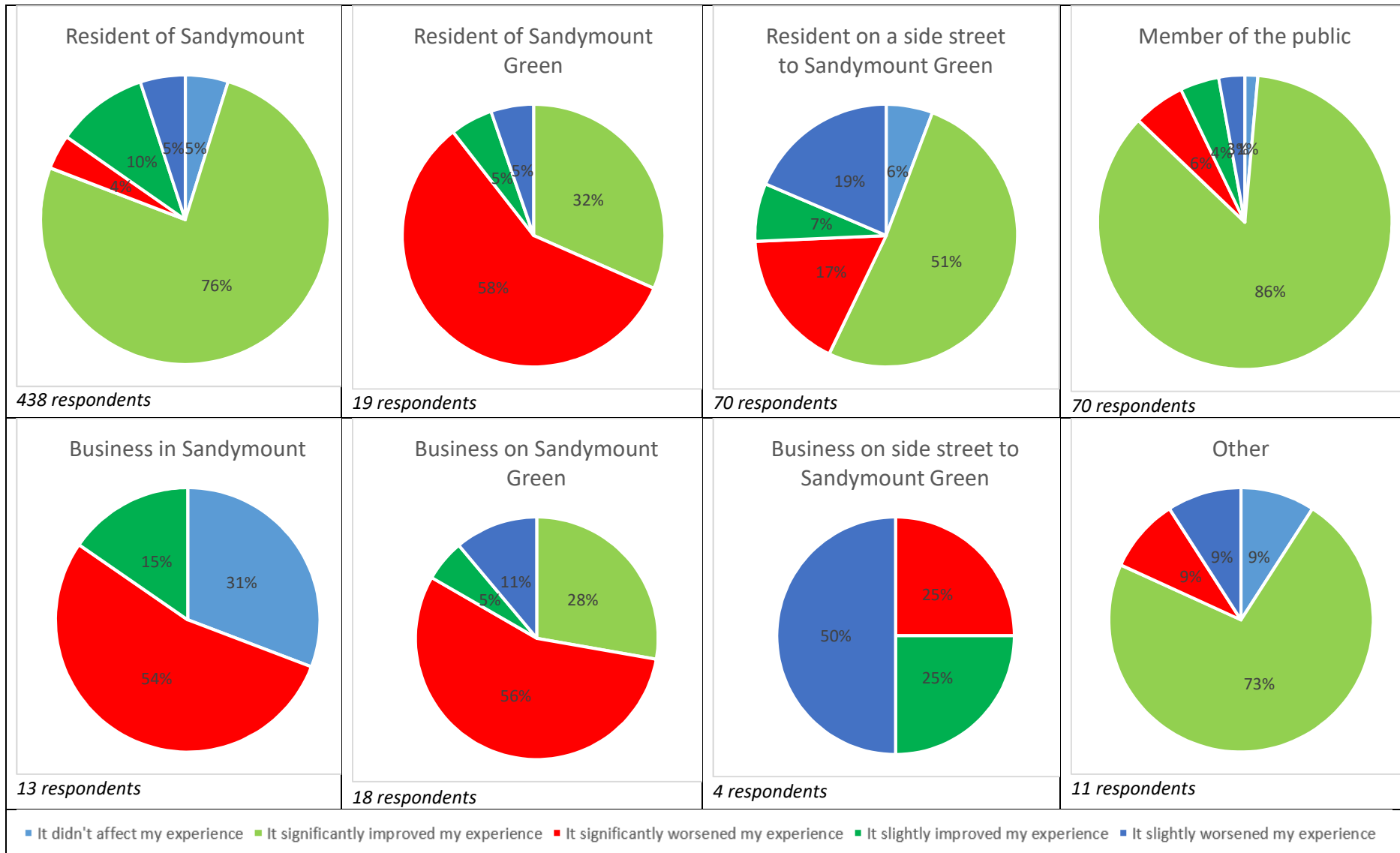


Figure 1 Overall results - experience

Examining the responses by respondent type:



RESIDENTS OF SANDYMOUNT GREEN

There were 19 online responses from residents of Sandymount Green.

From the online submissions, the majority of residents on Sandymount Green felt the traffic free worsened their experience. The main issues commented by residents were:

- Loss of parking
- Anti-social behaviour
- Litter

Those who felt it improved their experience felt it did so because:

- Safer
- Reduced traffic
- More sociable space.

RESIDENT OF A SIDE STREET TO SANDYMOUNT GREEN

There were 70 online responses from residents of a side street to Sandymount Green, 58% believing it improved their experience.

The main benefits commented by residents on a side street were:

- Better atmosphere and sense of community
- Safer
- More pleasant to visit
- Reduced noise
- More space for outdoor dining

Residents of a side street to Sandymount Green felt it slightly or significantly worsened their experience mentioning the following issues:

- Loss of parking
- Traffic
- Litter

RESIDENT OF SANDYMOUNT

There were 438 online responses from residents of Sandymount, 86% believing it improved their experience.

The main benefits commented by residents were:

- Better atmosphere and sense of community
- More accessible
- Safer
- Calmer
- More relaxed
- Reduced noise
- More space for outdoor dining

Residents of Sandymount who felt it slightly or significantly worsened their experience mentioning the following issues:

- Loss of parking
- Traffic
- Litter
- Outdoor dining space not used all the time

BUSINESS OF SANDYMOUNT GREEN

There were 18 online responses from businesses of Sandymount Green.

From the online submissions, the majority of businesses on Sandymount Green felt the traffic free worsened their experience. The main issues commented by businesses were:

- Loss of parking
- Deliveries
- Litter
- Anti-social behaviour

The main benefits commented by businesses on Sandymount Green were:

- Better community feel
- Safer

BUSINESS ON A SIDE STREET TO SANDYMOUNT GREEN

The main issues commented by businesses on a side street to Sandymount Green were:

- Traffic
- Negative effect on non-dining businesses

There were 4 online responses from businesses on a side street of Sandymount Green.

The main benefits commented by businesses on a side street on Sandymount Green were:

- Safer

BUSINESS OF SANDYMOUNT

There were 13 online responses from businesses of Sandymount, 54% saying it worsened their experience.

The main issues commented by businesses of Sandymount were:

- Parking
- Deliveries

The main benefits commented by businesses on Sandymount Green were:

- Better atmosphere

Businesses on Sandymount also carried out their own survey and got 23 responses out of approximately 59 emails (39% response rate).

- 20 of the responses were for Option A (I am against permanent pedestrianisation / traffic-free on the East side of Sandymount Green (86%)
- 3 of the responses were in favour of Option B (I am in favour of permanent pedestrianisation / traffic-free on the East side of Sandymount Green) (13%)
- There was no option as to whether businesses would be in favour of a part time traffic free event (such as at weekends).

PUBLIC

There were 70 online responses from the public.

The online response from the public showed that 90% felt that the traffic free evenings significantly or slightly improved their experience

The main benefits commented by members of the public were:

- Cleaner air
- Less noise
- Better atmosphere, more vibrant
- Safer
- Better sense of community
- Better access to Sandymount Green
- More space for outdoor dining

Members of the public who felt it slightly or significantly worsened their experience mentioned the following issues:

- Traffic congestion
- Loss of parking
- Less usable disabled spaces

OTHER

There were 11 online responses from “Other” who represented Local Community Garda, parents of children attending school in the area, residents of other nearby areas. 73% believing it improved their experience.

The main benefits commented by “Other” were similar to the Public responses:

- Better atmosphere
- Safer
- More outdoor dining

“Other” who felt it slightly or significantly worsened their experience mentioned the following issues:

- Parking

DCC RESPONSE TO BENEFITS

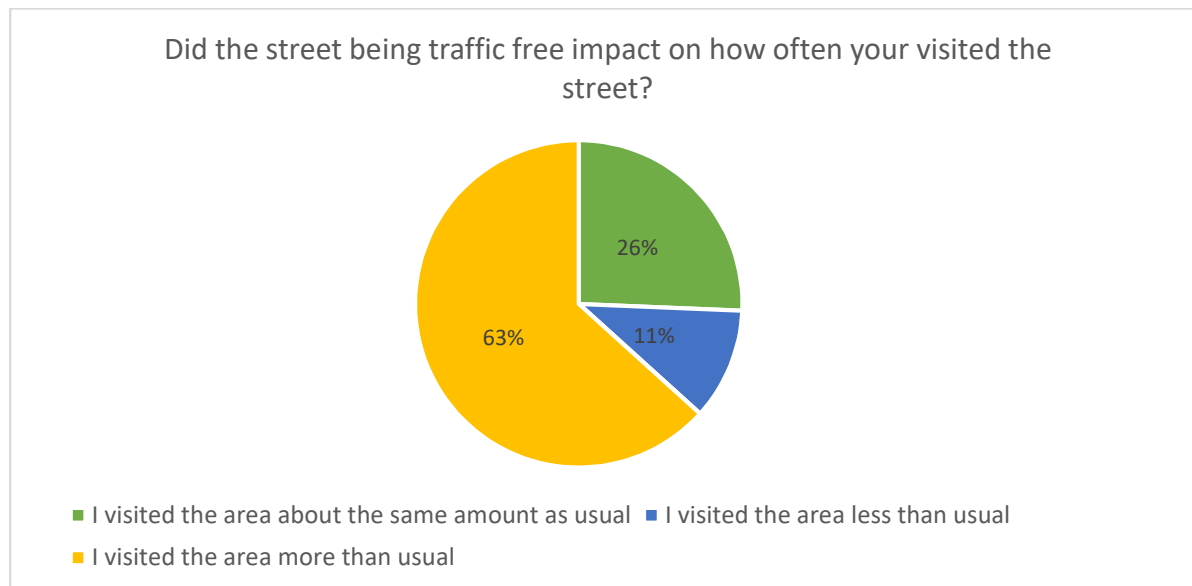
It is clear that there was a much calmer, quieter, safer atmosphere was created during the traffic free events. The space was observed to be best used at evening and weekends. A number of meetings were held with local stakeholders throughout the traffic free event.

DCC RESPONSE TO CONCERNS

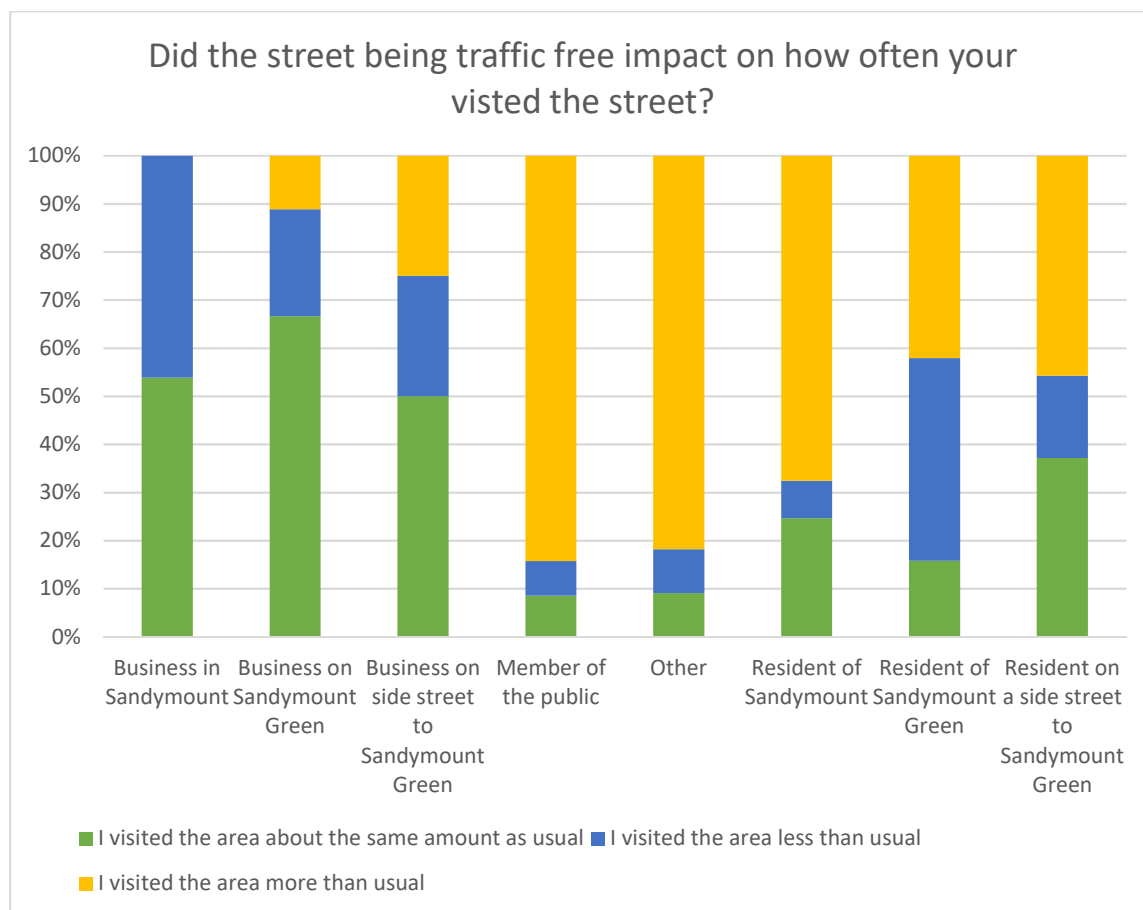
It is suggested in the report that anti-social behaviour and litter increased during the time of the trial. A number of meetings were held with local stakeholders during the trial. There was no anti-social behaviour of any note reported nor did we receive any litter complaints as we had Waste Management staff on the ground every Saturday and Sunday during the traffic free event. The issue of the loss of parking was also raised during both the consultation and directly to DCC during the summer. Six spaces were removed directly in the area (two converted to a loading bay) and the existing two disabled bays were relocated to the closest available area on Seafort avenue were two further spaces were temporarily suspended to accommodate these. Twenty temporary bike parking spaces were installed which were well used throughout. As the end date approached some businesses in the area requested space for outdoor dining. These were assessed as per all applications and were granted. In total 5 spaces have been removed throughout the entire Sandymount area for outdoor dining and as with all outdoor dining measures these will be reviewed in 2022.

FEEDBACK ON WHETHER THE TRAFFIC FREE ARRANGEMENT IMPACTED VISITS TO THE STREET

Respondents were asked whether the street being traffic free impact on how often they visited the street with the majority saying they visited it more:



In particular it significantly increased visits to the area by residents of Sandymount and members of the public:



FEEDBACK ON WHICH OPTIONS SHOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED

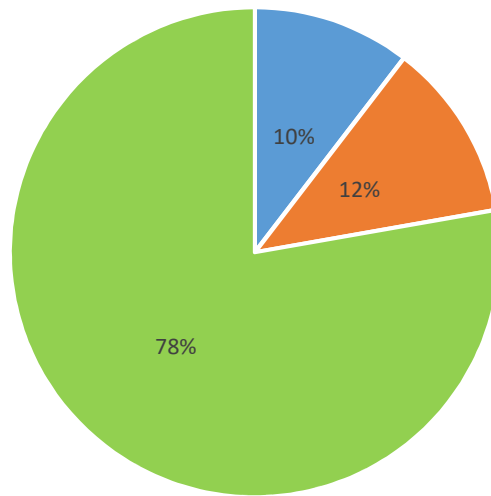
The following options were presented and opinions sought on what merits a more detailed development:

OPTIONS PRESENTED

- Option 1** – Maintain the current arrangement (open to vehicles, some parking pays used for outdoor dining)
- Option 2** – Return to the previous arrangement (open to vehicles, all parking bays for vehicles)
- Option 3** – Traffic Free on the East side of Sandymount Green

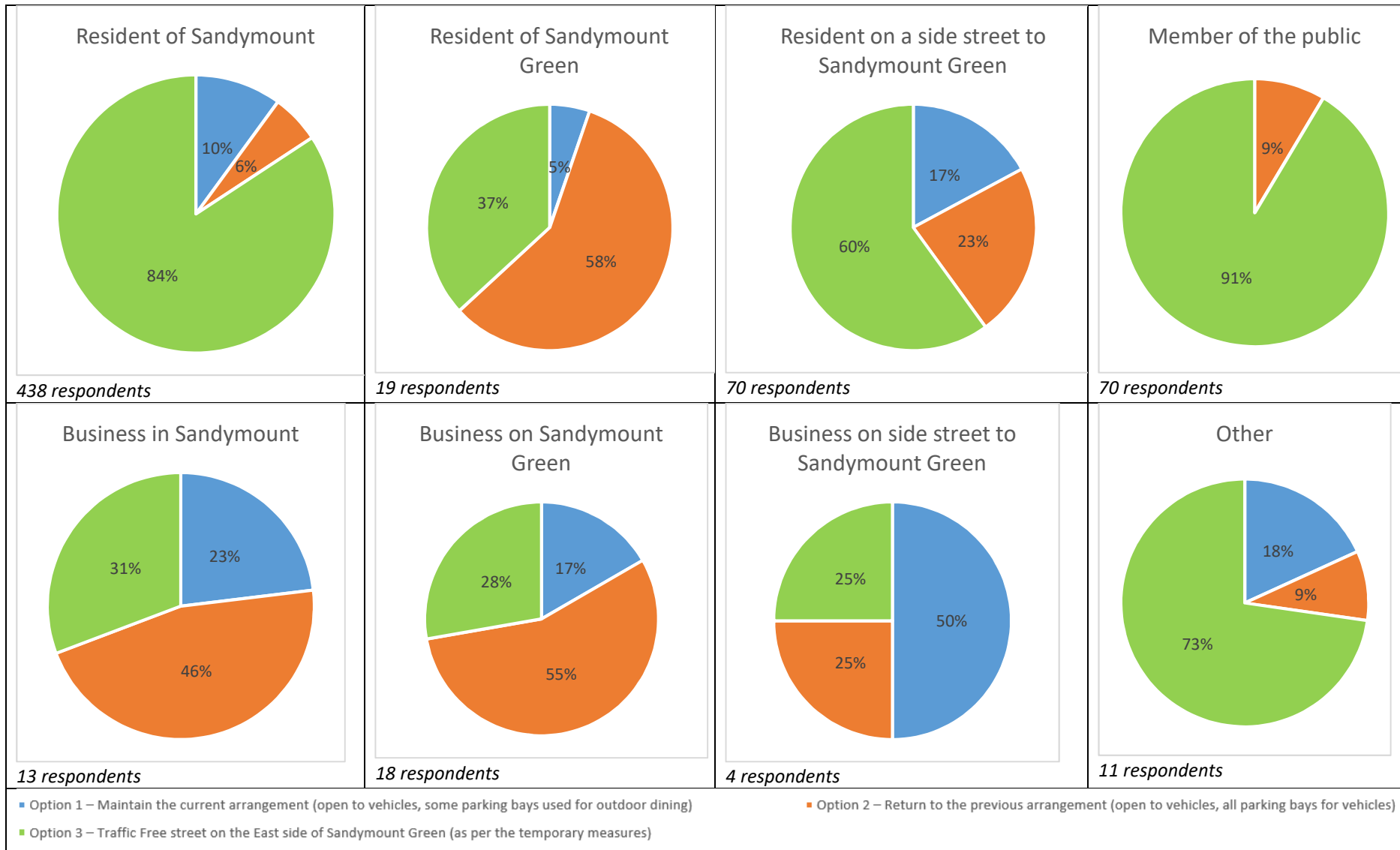
The majority of respondents (78%) responded that they would like to see some form of traffic free arrangement for Sandymount Green further developed.

Which of the following options would you prefer to see?



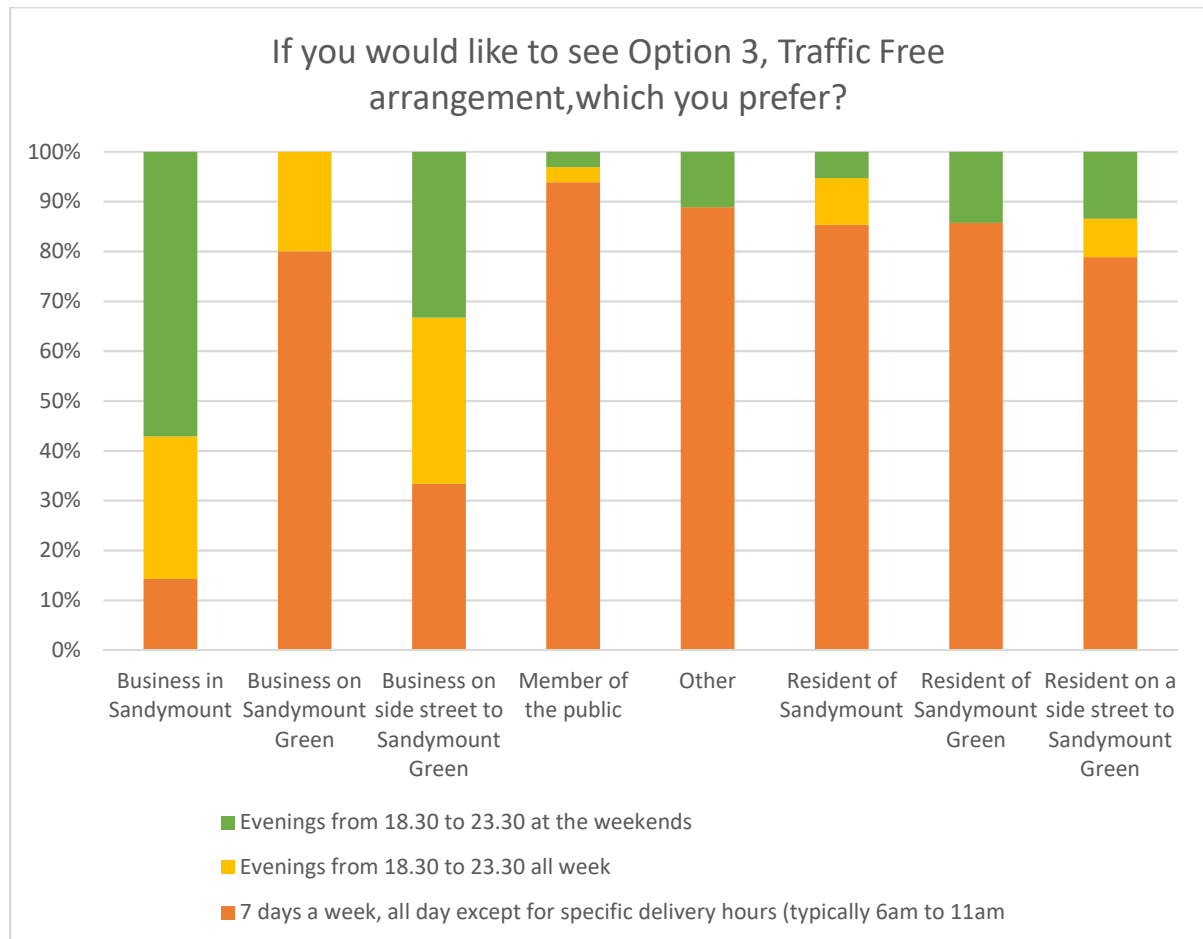
- Option 1 – Maintain the current arrangement (open to vehicles, some parking bays used for outdoor dining)
- Option 2 – Return to the previous arrangement (open to vehicles, all parking bays for vehicles)
- Option 3 – Traffic Free street on the East side of Sandymount Green (as per the temporary measures)

Examining the responses by respondent type:



FEEDBACK ON TRAFFIC FREE TIMES

Respondents were also asked “If you would like to see Option 3 Full Traffic-free Street, which would you prefer?” to gauge if there was a preference for full traffic streets or evenings only. The public and residents were strongly in favour of seeing a full 7 day a week traffic free arrangements allowing for deliveries, whilst businesses were more split with some preferring to just have the arrangement in place at evenings.



FUTURE OPTIONS TO BE DEVELOPED

The results of the consultation show that the traffic free arrangement was enjoyed by many during the summer with a better, calmer and safer atmosphere being the most frequently mentioned comment. It is noted however that some businesses and residents on Sandymount Green were not in favour of the arrangement citing loss of parking and issues with delivery. A new loading bay was provided for the duration of the summer and the loss of parking was minor. There were also some issues raised about litter and anti-social behaviour.

There is a strong preference to see the arrangement again either on a permanent, seasonal or part time basis. It should be noted that there is one premises within the area that has a vehicular entrance where access needs to be continuously maintained which limits the options available. It has been seen throughout the city that signage alone prohibiting entrance except in limited circumstances (such as for access) does not always keep vehicles out of an area and some form of bollard/barrier is typically required.

Options for future Traffic Free arrangements on Sandymount Green may include:

- Traffic Free on evenings and/or weekends under traffic management. This allows for flexibility in access for the business and emergency services and can be set up and taken down for specific hours. However this would either require DCC staff to be in place to install, manage and remove the set-up, a 3rd party to be engaged to manage the space (such as a traffic management company) to set up, ensure there's no parked cars and to facilitate any access or see if there is some sort of self-enforcing mechanism that could be used, all of which would incur a cost.
- Traffic Free 24/7 as per the summer scheme. This can be done a permanent or seasonal basis. Arrangements for access would need to be worked out for the one premises but this set up is less expensive as it only requires initial set up.

The Traffic Department can support and provide further assessment on these or any other options proposed by Councillors.