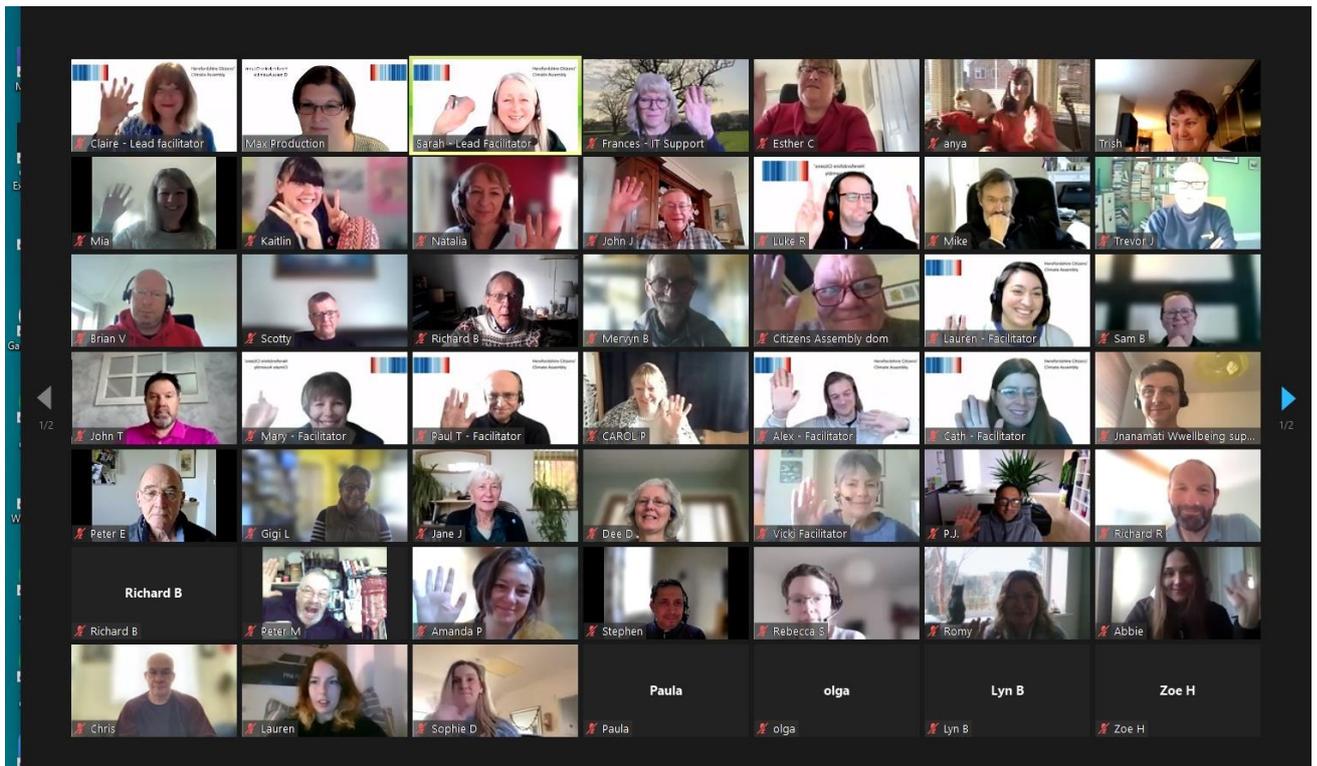


Herefordshire Citizens' Climate Assembly

Summary and Recommendation Report

February 2022



Members of the Citizens' Climate Assembly

Introduction and Overview

In January 2022 Herefordshire Council held a Citizens' Climate Assembly to address the question:

'How should Herefordshire meet the challenges of Climate Change?'

The purpose of the Herefordshire Citizens' Climate Assembly (HCCA) was to:

- Engage more residents in the democratic process and have open and honest dialogue.
- Open up the discussion on the Climate Emergency and achieve buy-in and a degree of consensus for actions needed in the county.

Citizens' Assemblies incorporate a number of key principles: the provision of information from a range of experts, learning amongst participants, consideration of varied and diverse viewpoints, discussion, weighing up evidence, and making recommendations (followed by a voting process). Another important element of Citizens' Assemblies is that members have an equal opportunity to speak and be heard during the meetings (one of the key principles of deliberative democracy) with trained facilitators supporting this process.

Another important principle is the use of randomisation of sampling in recruiting members based on age, gender, ethnicity, urban/rural, socio-economic background, attitude to climate change and disability. The Sortition Foundation conducted the selection for the council first randomly selecting 14,400 addresses across Herefordshire - based on 300 addresses for every one of the needed assembly members. From this invite 520 people signed up as potential assembly members who were then asked to share information to ensure representation from which an algorithm was used to reach the final 48 participants. In total 41 attended the assembly meetings.

Sortition targeted more households from postcodes within areas of deprivation to ensure that people from lower socio-economic groups were recruited (as typically fewer people from these groups volunteer to be part of an assembly). Careful consideration was also given to the age of people recruited. As Herefordshire has an older population there was a need to ensure that sufficient numbers of young people were represented in the Assembly. A detailed report of the recruitment process can be found at Sortition Foundation [webpage](#).

Based on support from an independent Advisory Group three key themes were established of buildings; transport; and food, farming and land-use with a focus on how emissions should be reduced in each of these areas. A list of advisory group members and speakers can be found on the Citizens' Climate Assembly Website: [Citizens' Assembly – Herefordshire Council](#).

The Assembly met virtually for 10 sessions across two weekends and two evenings in January 2022. By the end of sessions the assembly had developed 35 recommendations and were subsequently given 48 hours to vote on each recommendation. This allowed each assembly member to rate each recommendation on a scale of 'Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree', with an option to abstain.

The below text fully lists the recommendations in preference order (and relabelled alphabetically based on that preference). It includes detail of scoring and which theme the recommendation relates to. Please note that not all percentages sum to 100% due to rounding. The tables at the end of the document are a visualisation of the recommendations by theme and by scoring preference.

Recommendations

Priority A

Title: encourage people to purchase local sustainable food.

Description: We want to encourage people to purchase local sustainable food because it will reduce the carbon footprint, help the local economy and promote more local employment opportunities.

- Develop local food hubs where local farmers, small producers and allotment holders can sell their produce, with dedicated (preferably low cost/rent free/ subsidised) sustainable premises for the hubs.
- Encourage local public bodies, (schools, hospitals), to review their existing procurement rules to include greater weighting towards emission reducing factors for using local growers and suppliers.

Recommendation no: 31

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

Strongly agree: 74% **Agree:** 26% **Don't mind:** 0%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority B

Title: Better bus services for school catchment areas

Description: Identify and introduce opportunities and provide better bus services for school catchment areas and improve ease of access. How does this happen:

- More walking buses would be a good idea for primary schools mainly within Hereford and the market towns after consultation and identifying need
- Confirm that the responsibility for children's safety in walking buses lies with schools. Surrey County Council shows best practice
- Secondary schools generally well organised
- Schools are a major cause of congestion at school start and end times – identify and establish better bus services where they could improve matters and ease of access
- After school activities need to be considered
- As in all areas, fossil fuels should be replaced by alternatives in school transport

Recommendation no: 23

Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 61% **Agree:** 37% **Don't mind:** 3%*

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%*

*Figures rounded up

Priority C

Title: schools to engage with food, farming and sustainability.

Description: Encourage Herefordshire schools to engage with food, farming and sustainability in their curriculum to support Herefordshire's climate action plan.

- Running in-school awareness sessions on where food comes from; its value, how to cook and how to avoid food waste. Use of visual and hands on education.
- Develop school and college partnerships with local farms using sustainable methods.

Recommendation no: 33

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

Strongly agree: 68% **Agree:** 29% **Don't mind:** 3%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority D

Title: Free expert consultation for farmers.

Description: Train experts and fund free expert consultations for farmers to explore more sustainable methods/ reduce emissions and create a pool of in-county experts funded to work with existing partnerships like NFU, Rural Hub and Herefordshire Council to ensure that Herefordshire farmers get the best from new government subsidies to achieve zero carbon targets.

Recommendation no: 24

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

Strongly agree: 61% **Agree:** 34% **Don't mind:** 5%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority E

Title: Access to expertise and information for rewilding and tree planting.

Description: Enable access to expertise and information for rewilding and tree planting so that communities are empowered to take action and link this to the countywide publicity and awareness campaign of Climate Change Partnership Board.

Recommendation no: 30

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

Strongly agree: 50% **Agree:** 45% **Don't mind:** 5%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority F

Title: Cycling and walking.

Description: Make cycling and walking much safer by maintaining and improving all cycling and walking surfaces. How does this happen:

- Encourage increase in walking and cycling by incentivising such activity and usage
- Reducing exposure to road traffic danger by separating roads, cycling and walking routes
- Make cycling and walking safer by better route surfaces
- Prioritise and separate pedestrians – encourage good manners!
- Include bikes in all integrated solutions
- It is absolutely essential that buses and trains take bicycles to suit demand without inconveniencing other passengers
- Establish monitoring and accountability of cycling and walking facilities
- Ensure monitoring and accountability of travel plans, underpinned by best practice and interventions checked with expert independent organisations such as Sustrans and Living Streets

Recommendation no: 18

Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 74% **Agree:** 21% **Don't mind:** 5%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority G

Title: Trusted advice and information on sustainable materials and practices readily available to everyone.

Description: Provide public information to people in a stratified ladder approach so people can take easy steps and gradually increase their commitment to renovating their homes, learn from existing case studies and celebrate local successes. This should be shared through leaflets with council tax bill, newspapers, local radio, in libraries and social media.

Recommendation no: 4

Theme: Buildings

Strongly agree: 58% **Agree:** 37% **Don't mind:** 5%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority H

Title: Consultation with possible company transport schemes.

Description: Employer/charities consultation with employees about possible company transport schemes and incentives for employees to use them. How does this happen:

- Charity and business involvement with transport providers will bring in revenue through grants, sponsorship and more usage income
- Partnership work with employers to promote flexible working opportunities where practicable
- Employer consultation with employees to establish appropriate transport schemes and to incentivise employees to use them
- Copy best practice elsewhere where appropriate
- Involve university and colleges in research and design of transport solutions

Recommendation no: 21

Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 42% **Agree:** 50% **Don't mind:** 5%*

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 3%

*Figures rounded up

Priority I

Title: Design should prioritise sustainability.

Description: For larger developments, infrastructure design should prioritise sustainability overall (eg transport impact):

- e.g. transport hubs
- Cost benefit analysis on all key decision

Recommendation no: 8

Theme: Buildings

Strongly agree: 74% **Agree:** 18% **Don't mind:** 5%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 3%

Priority J

Title: Improve school transport.

Description: Identify innovative transport solutions for schools (such as primary school walking buses) and action best practice travel plans for school transport. How does this happen:

- More walking buses would be a good idea for primary schools mainly within Hereford and the market towns after consultation and identifying need
- Confirm that the responsibility for children's safety in walking buses lies with schools. Surrey County Council shows best practice
- Secondary schools generally well organised
- Schools are a major cause of congestion at school start and end times – identify and establish better bus services where they could improve matters and ease of access
- After school activities need to be considered
- As in all areas, fossil fuels should be replaced by alternatives in school transport

Recommendation no: 22

Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 58% **Agree:** 34% **Don't mind:** 5%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 3%

Priority K

Title: Cycling and walking paths.

Description: Increase cycling and walking paths, establishing seamless networks and publish accurate maps of the networks. How does this happen:

- Encourage increase in walking and cycling by incentivising such activity and usage
- Reducing exposure to road traffic danger by separating roads, cycling and walking routes
- Make cycling and walking safer by better route surfaces
- Prioritise and separate pedestrians – encourage good manners!
- Include bikes in all integrated solutions
- It is absolutely essential that buses and trains take bicycles to suit demand without inconveniencing other passengers
- Establish monitoring and accountability of cycling and walking facilities
- Ensure monitoring and accountability of travel plans, underpinned by best practice and interventions checked with expert independent organisations such as Sustrans and Living Streets

Recommendation no: 19

Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 71% **Agree:** 18% **Don't mind:** 11%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority L

Title: Toolkits on increasing biodiversity and rewilding in local areas.

Description: Herefordshire Council working in partnership with parish councils and others to develop guidelines/toolkits on increasing biodiversity and rewilding in their local areas, including addressing brownfield sites, housing developments and vacant land and car parks, public parks, roadsides.

Recommendation no: 25

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

Strongly agree: 53% **Agree:** 37% **Don't mind:** 8%*

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 3%*

*Figures rounded up

Priority M

Title: Public, commercial and other buildings.

Description: Tailored support for retrofitting existing public buildings

- Feasibility study (including EPC) done on all public buildings, action plan created and implemented, including time frames.
- Create a central database of public building environmental improvements/performance

Recommendation no: 11

Theme: Buildings

Strongly agree: 50% **Agree:** 39% **Don't mind:** 11%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority N

Title: Marketing and communications.

Description: We want to see a dedicated marketing and communication campaign for local residents to motivate and encourage environmentally aware behaviour change, including food waste.

- Review current use of digital/social media and online sources in order to develop an app for all climate change initiatives in Herefordshire. Including, but not restricted to grant schemes, local projects and employment opportunities.

- Provide mobile pop ups to tour the county to engage with local communities. Delivering practical, hands on emission reducing initiatives, such as cooking, reducing food waste and using local produce.

Recommendation no: 32

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

Strongly agree: 61% **Agree:** 26% **Don't mind:** 11%*

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 3%*

*Figures rounded up

Priority O

Title: Provide advice on environmental impacts

Description: Open up the role of planners to adopt a more collaborative approach in providing proactive advice regarding environmental impacts.

- Provide training to support this.

Recommendation no: 9

Theme: Buildings

Strongly agree: 45% **Agree:** 42% **Don't mind:** 13%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority P

Title: Incentives to rewild and increase biodiversity.

Description: Develop financial incentives/ award schemes/ grants to encourage any group or organisation to rewild and increase biodiversity, ensuring that these are results driven and contribute to reduction in carbon emissions.

Recommendation no: 27

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

Strongly agree: 45% **Agree:** 42% **Don't mind:** 8%

Disagree: 5% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority Q

Title: Introduce and change building and planning regulation

Description: Give immediate attention to mandatory standards for ALL new developments - specifically Passivhaus + (or equivalent) including sustainable building materials. With follow up checks during build and upon completion and fit for purpose.

- Futureproofing to include emerging materials and technology
- Increase scope of building inspectors to include all these new criteria - and provide training for this

Recommendation no: 6

Theme: Buildings

Strongly agree: 53% **Agree:** 34% **Don't mind:** 8%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 5%

Priority R

Title: People-powered partnerships for retrofit - involving communities with developers and tradespeople to find answers together.

Description: Form a partnership group to bring together key stakeholders. This should include citizens' assembly members, suppliers, health and safety assessors, traders, business groups, funding bodies, financial lenders and experts in environmental retrofitting. This partnership will influence their strategic objectives and align them around shared priorities for retrofitting.

- The partnership group should provide a service that helps advise and make the process for retrofitting clearer and more easily accessible for homeowners and tenants. They could perform analysis of peoples' property alongside existing services such as Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings.
- Providing cost-benefit analysis for individuals based around their individual needs and circumstances would enable people to make more informed decisions and more educated choices. This should learn from existing practices elsewhere, for example in Manchester, but also draw on local expertise.

Recommendation no: 1

Theme: Buildings

Strongly agree: 47% **Agree:** 39% **Don't mind:** 13%*

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

*Figures rounded up

Priority S

Title: Planning powers to address biodiversity.

Description: Herefordshire Council investigate their statutory powers to develop strategic planning powers to address biodiversity;

- planning process to encourage and influence landowners and developers to address biodiversity.

Recommendation no: 26

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

Strongly agree: 42% **Agree:** 42% **Don't mind:** 16%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority T

Title: Training on use of sustainable materials.

Description: Provide training for people on how to use sustainable materials through apprenticeships and subsidised continued professional development (CPD) training courses for existing tradespeople.

- Create a locally-approved list of sustainable tradespeople who have done this training and have been certified.
- Promote this certification in the media to raise the profile of this accreditation. Work with national partners, educational and training partners and the new university (NMITE) on adapting the nationally-approved occupational standards and syllabuses for Herefordshire's needs.

Recommendation no: 3

Theme: Buildings

Strongly agree: 50% **Agree:** 34% **Don't mind:** 11%

Disagree: 3% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 3%*

*Figures rounded up

Priority U

Title: Safe last miles travel options.

Description: Prioritise connecting rural villages and town centres to key locations with innovative and safe "last mile" travel options by 2025.

- These connections make it easier for people to travel by their preferred non-fossil fuel dependent method.
- Reinforcing the use of a hub-and-spoke model, and is linked with an integrated transport service.

Recommendation no: 13

Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 50% **Agree:** 34% **Don't mind:** 5%

Disagree: 8% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 3%

Priority V

Title: Increasing the supply and use of sustainable building materials and practices.

Description: Incentivise use of local sustainable materials such as timber, hemp, straw and wool in construction and insulation, working with developers and architects.

- Seek to provide financial incentives for using local, and disincentives for long-distance sourced materials.
- Encourage local farmers to diversify to meet this need, and major manufacturers to transition towards sustainable materials, particularly in new Council developments.

Recommendation no: 2

Theme: Buildings

Strongly agree: 39% **Agree:** 45% **Don't mind:** 13%

Disagree: 3% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority W

Title: Support people for retrofit.

Description: For retrofit, one size does not fit all. Need comprehensive expert and financial support for all different building types and levels of retrofit.

- Provide tailored advice (for each situation and size of project) also consider complementary measures to maximise returns.
- Strongly encourage HCC to seek to learn from existing successful models (such as Manchester's People Powered Retrofit) and develop an enhanced county-wide model, including website.
- Conservation buildings should be allowed to be improved environmentally as a priority and officers should mandate this, being sensitive to the integrity of the building.
- Financial support should be fair, to make improvements accessible to all, based on cost benefit analysis and full transparency. Sources of funding should not rely only on central government but should also be actively sought from diverse sources including local entities.
- Have a register of approved contractors

Recommendation no: 10

Theme: Buildings

Strongly agree: 63% **Agree:** 21% **Don't mind:** 13%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 3% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority X

Title: Seamless integrated transport service

Description: Herefordshire has a seamless integrated transport service enabling all alternatives to car use by 2025.

- This includes integrated public transport timetables that are widely available and match reality; an affordable to all one-ticket system; a well-publicised information portal and clear branding; tracked and published targets and milestones to meet outcomes.

Recommendation no: 12

Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 58% **Agree:** 26% **Don't mind:** 11%*

Disagree: 3% **Strongly disagree:** 3% **Abstain:** 0%*

*Figures rounded up

Priority Y

Title: Jubilee Forest with appropriate management of wildlife.

Description: Create a Jubilee Forest across Herefordshire, within 10 years with appropriate management of wildlife by communities and partners, with access available to communities.

Recommendation no: 29

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

Strongly agree: 66% **Agree:** 16% **Don't mind:** 13%*

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 3% **Abstain:** 3%*

*Figures rounded up

Priority Z

Title: Greater involvement of young people in decision making.

Description: Greater involvement (with support) of younger people at decision making stages e.g. student panel members, consultations etc.

Recommendation no: 35

Theme: Cross Cutting Theme

Strongly agree: 55% **Agree:** 26% **Don't mind:** 13%*

Disagree: 5% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%*

*Figures rounded up

Priority AA

Title: Lobby Government.

Description: Lobby Government on the following:

- Lobby Dept of Education on including relevant aspects of climate action in the national curriculum following COP26
- Lobby Government to include environmental impact as a significant part of procurement rules for public body catering for example schools/colleges/hospitals
- Lobbying government for farm subsidies for re-wilding and planting trees alongside the riverbanks.

Recommendation no: 34

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

Strongly agree: 53% **Agree:** 29% **Don't mind:** 8%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 5% **Abstain:** 5%

Priority BB

Title: Community heating/cooling solutions.

Description: For any larger development, community heating/cooling solutions (district heating) must be considered.

- Feasibility study on district heating suitability and prove not viable to avoid using.
- Any heating/cooling should be a renewable solution with a mandatory emphasis on district solutions (unless proven to be unviable)
- Include ground source heat pumps also as a consideration.

Recommendation no: 7

Theme: Buildings

Strongly agree: 55% **Agree:** 24% **Don't mind:** 8%

Disagree: 5% **Strongly disagree:** 5% **Abstain:** 3%

Priority CC

Title: Interventions that reduce road congestion.

Description: Best practice interventions that reduce road congestion in the city, towns and large villages are introduced.

For example this includes low emission zones; preferential areas for non-car passengers with full accessibility options; 20mph zones; hubs on outskirts with free or affordable shuttle bus/travel options into centres.

Recommendation no: 17

Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 39% **Agree:** 39% **Don't mind:** 11%

Disagree: 8% **Strongly disagree:** 3% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority DD

Title: Expos and county road shows in local areas.

Description: Organise in-person expos and county road shows in local areas to benefit local businesses, showcase new materials and approaches to environmentally-friendly building. These events should be impartial and financially independent, rather than promoting any one business' approach.

Recommendation no: 5

Theme: Buildings

Strongly agree: 47% **Agree:** 26% **Don't mind:** 21%

Disagree: 3% **Strongly disagree:** 3% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority EE

Title: Strategy to support bio-fuels for vehicles.

Description: Herefordshire Council undertake a feasibility study to develop a combined strategy covering food, farming and other waste for anaerobic digesters with, a view to produce bio-fuels for vehicles.

Recommendation no: 28

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

Strongly agree: 45% **Agree:** 29% **Don't mind:** 21%

Disagree: 5% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority FF

Title: Public transport, taxi services and publicly owned transport is not fossil fuel dependent.

Description: By 2024 all public transport, taxi services and publicly owned transport is not fossil fuel dependent.

- Decision makers and providers lead by example and successfully implement this transition by an enforceable end date.

Recommendation no: 15

Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 37% **Agree:** 37% **Don't mind:** 8%*

Disagree: 5% **Strongly disagree:** 11% **Abstain:** 3%*

*Figures rounded up

Priority GG

Title: Planning mandate to avoid care dependency.

Description: There is a planning mandate to insist all new industrial and residential developments avoid car dependency with immediate effect.

Recommendation no: 14

Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 53% **Agree:** 21% **Don't mind:** 8%

Disagree: 8% **Strongly disagree:** 5% **Abstain:** 5%

Priority HH

Title: Involve businesses and employees.

Description: Encourage revenue generation through company sponsorship of schemes through partnership working with employers, charities, the council and other interested parties. How does this happen:

- Charity and business involvement with transport providers will bring in revenue through grants, sponsorship and more usage income
- Partnership work with employers to promote flexible working opportunities where practicable
- Employer consultation with employees to establish appropriate transport schemes and to incentivise employees to use them
- Copy best practice elsewhere where appropriate
- Involve university and colleges in research and design of transport solutions

Recommendation no: 20

Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 34% **Agree:** 37% **Don't mind:** 29%

Disagree: 0% **Strongly disagree:** 0% **Abstain:** 0%

Priority II

Title: Help residents access electric travel options.

Description: A suite of interventions are introduced to help residents access electric travel options in affordable ways, learning from other places, adopting and adapting as technologies change.

- This will include reducing non electric vehicle parking in city/town centres; electric vehicle car pools; incentives for businesses to add E/V charging points; increased number of public charging points; promotion of training & employment in the sector locally; grants for residents to add charging points at home.
- This is reviewed after two years, and on an ongoing basis.

Recommendation no: 16

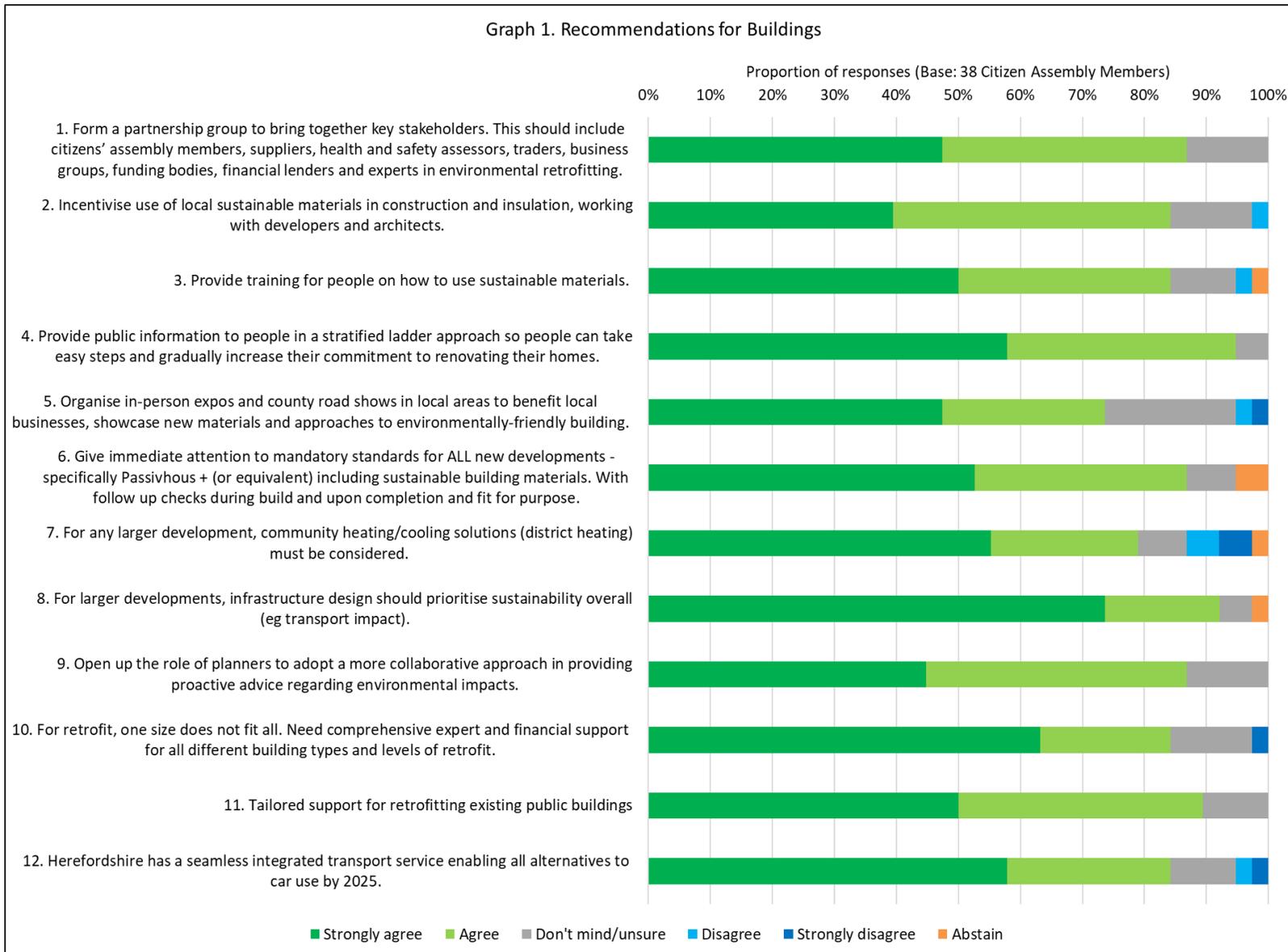
Theme: Transport

Strongly agree: 37% **Agree:** 32% **Don't mind:** 11%*

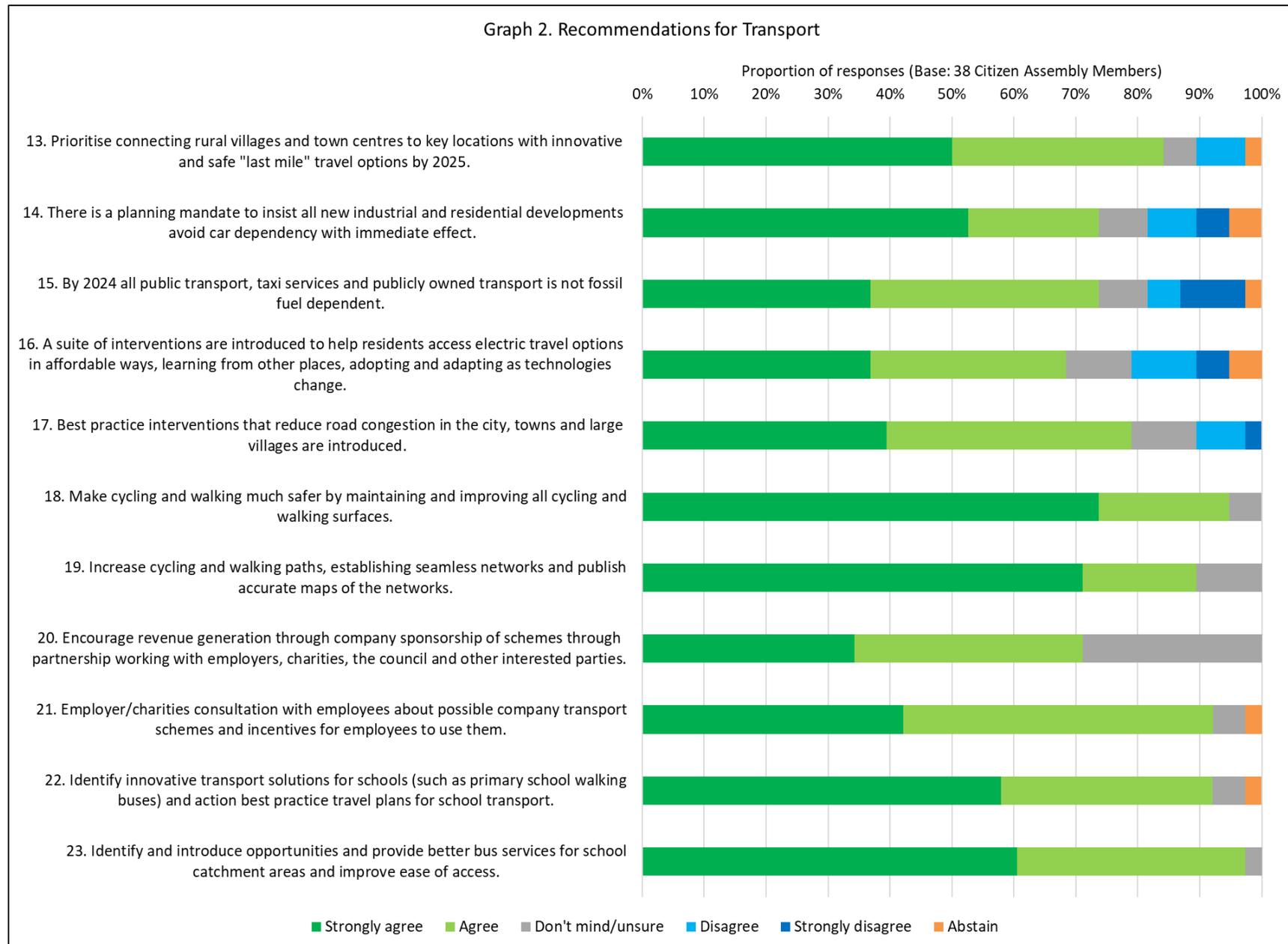
Disagree: 11% **Strongly disagree:** 5% **Abstain:** 5%*

*Figures rounded up

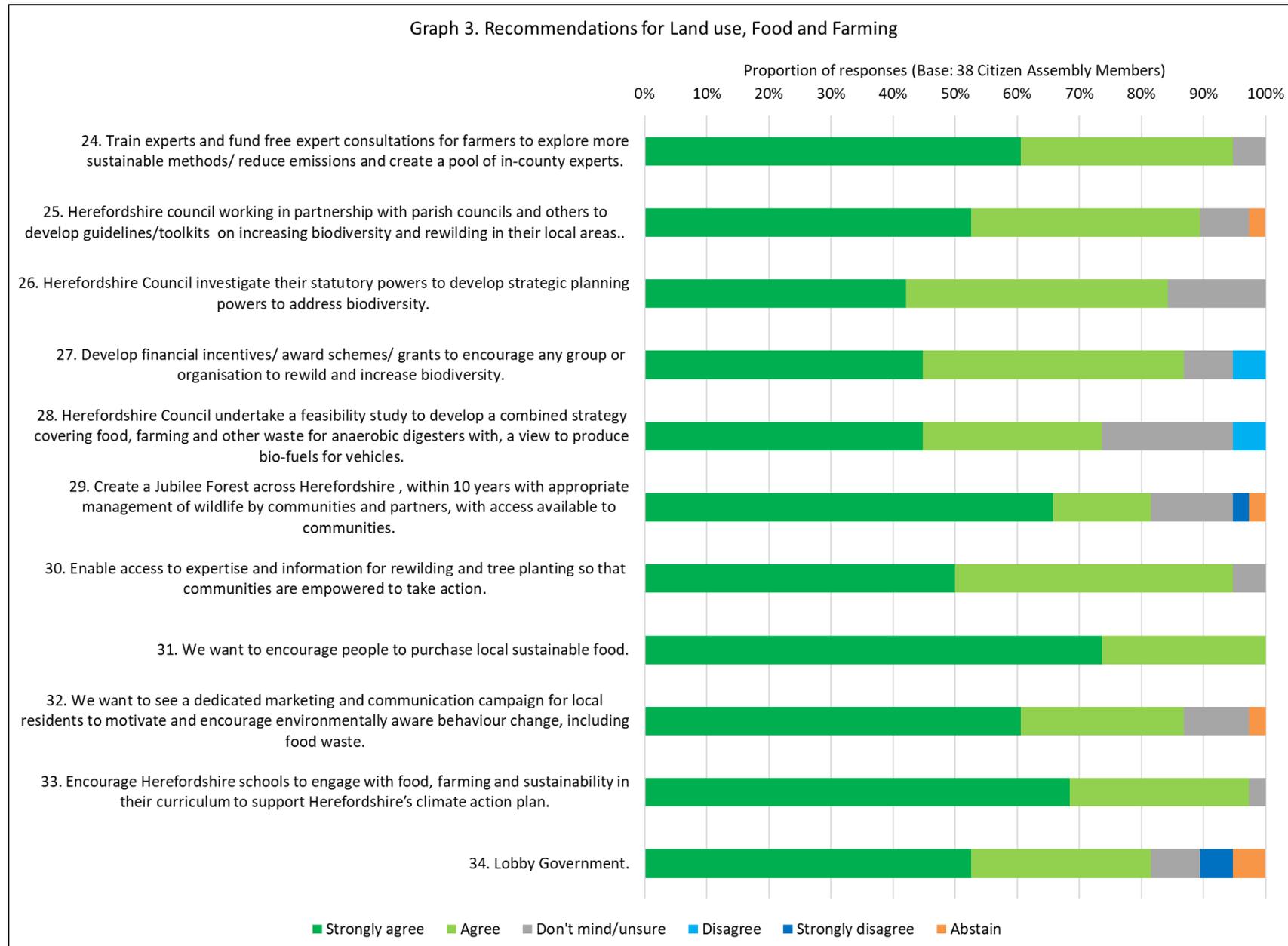
Graph 1. Recommendations for Buildings



Graph 2. Recommendations for Transport



Graph 3. Recommendations for Land Use, Food and Farming



Graph 4. Cross cutting recommendation

