

Milton Common Coastal Defence Scheme

Pre-Construction Exhibition Event - Report



SUMMARY

A public exhibition event was held at Moorings Way Infant School on 18th February 2016, to give local residents, and those with an interest, the opportunity to find out more about the progress of the coastal defence improvement work taking place along Milton Common and at Great Salterns Quay.

Information was displayed on a series of posters with scheme information, detailing:

- The work carried out so far – site and environmental surveys and investigations, funding secured, detailed design of the scheme, acquired the relevant licenses and consents and ongoing consultation with the public and stakeholders
- The construction site and its operation – programme of works, working hours, its location, the access routes, footpath diversions, haul routes, site compounds, machinery and noise/dust/vibration considerations
- Earth bunds and rock revetment – their design, materials, construction methods and landscaping on completion
- The Environment – surveys undertaken, consultation with Statutory Bodies, the designated sites present and mitigation to protect them
- Great Salterns Quay – its poor condition and habitat creation to mitigate losses from the scheme is demonstrated
- Landscaping – the planned post-construction replanting and some example species

In addition, a summary booklet was produced which detailed the key information. Each visitor was given a copy on arrival. A presentation running on a screen with information on the role of the Partnership and how we work, the journey of the wider North Portsea Island Scheme and information on the potential upcoming works at Southsea.

THE EXHIBITION EVENT

The drop-in event was held from 12:30pm – 7:30pm, to give as many people as possible the opportunity to attend. It was widely advertised to the local residents with 5000 flyers and letters being delivered around the local area before the event (**Figure 1**). Posters were put up on Milton Common and by Great Salterns Quay to inform the users of the Common of the event. It was also advertised on the ESCP website and social media, which was then shared by interested parties. There was also a press release, so the event was published in local newspapers, along with information posters up in various local shops.

Over 300 attended the exhibition, and a total of 168 questionnaires were completed. On arrival each visitor was given an information leaflet and a feedback form to fill in. They also marked on a map where they had come from. The spread of visitors is shown in **Figures 2 and 3** below. As well as those from the Milton Common area, there were a number of visitors from elsewhere in Portsmouth, including Cosham, North End and Southsea. Free refreshments were provided and the project team were on hand to answer any queries. The national award was also displayed for people to see, with an information page explaining what the award is for and why the project won it.

The project team received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the public, with several comments on how useful the exhibition was and how helpful and knowledgeable the staff had been when answering questions. There was a lot of support for the scheme’s consideration of the habitats and wildlife present on the Common. A sample of the comments received on the feedback forms is shown in **Table 1**. The detailed results are shown in the next section below. 99% of respondents said that they understand why the work is being done – 98% of responses said they agree that the exhibition has helped to improve their understanding of the scheme. 93% said that they support the scheme, with 77% showing strong support.

Figure 1: The area within which properties received flyers before the event



Table 1: A sample of comments received from the public

I feel we are very lucky to have this investment in sea defences at this time of austerity. Well done guys
Very impressed at the informative exhibition and access to experts to ask questions.
Very well informed and helpful staff.
The plans look great and very sustainable and efficient. Obviously a lot of planning has gone into such a vital service.
Very clear and comprehensive and helpful people on hand to chat to.
Great to see concern and love over the wildlife and habitats along with re planting.
Excellent exhibition & project. Makes absolute sense and I hope it succeeds. Very helpful team at the exhibition - thank you.
Very good presentations and helpful interactions.
Thank you for the very clear presentation and the information given by your experts. Also for the postal drop informing us of today's event.
This work is essential to the future of the city - keep it up!
The sea defence work has to be carried out far into the future protection of the residents of Portsmouth. Go for it!
Looks better already. It will look even better when finished.
Very relieved and pleased the local wildlife habitats have been fully considered and protected where possible. I hope this consideration continues. Extremely impressed that native species will be planted afterwards to improve the natural habitats so they continue to flourish. Thankful that my children can enjoy growing up with nature on their doorstep.

Figure 2: Map of locations where visitors came from in Portsmouth

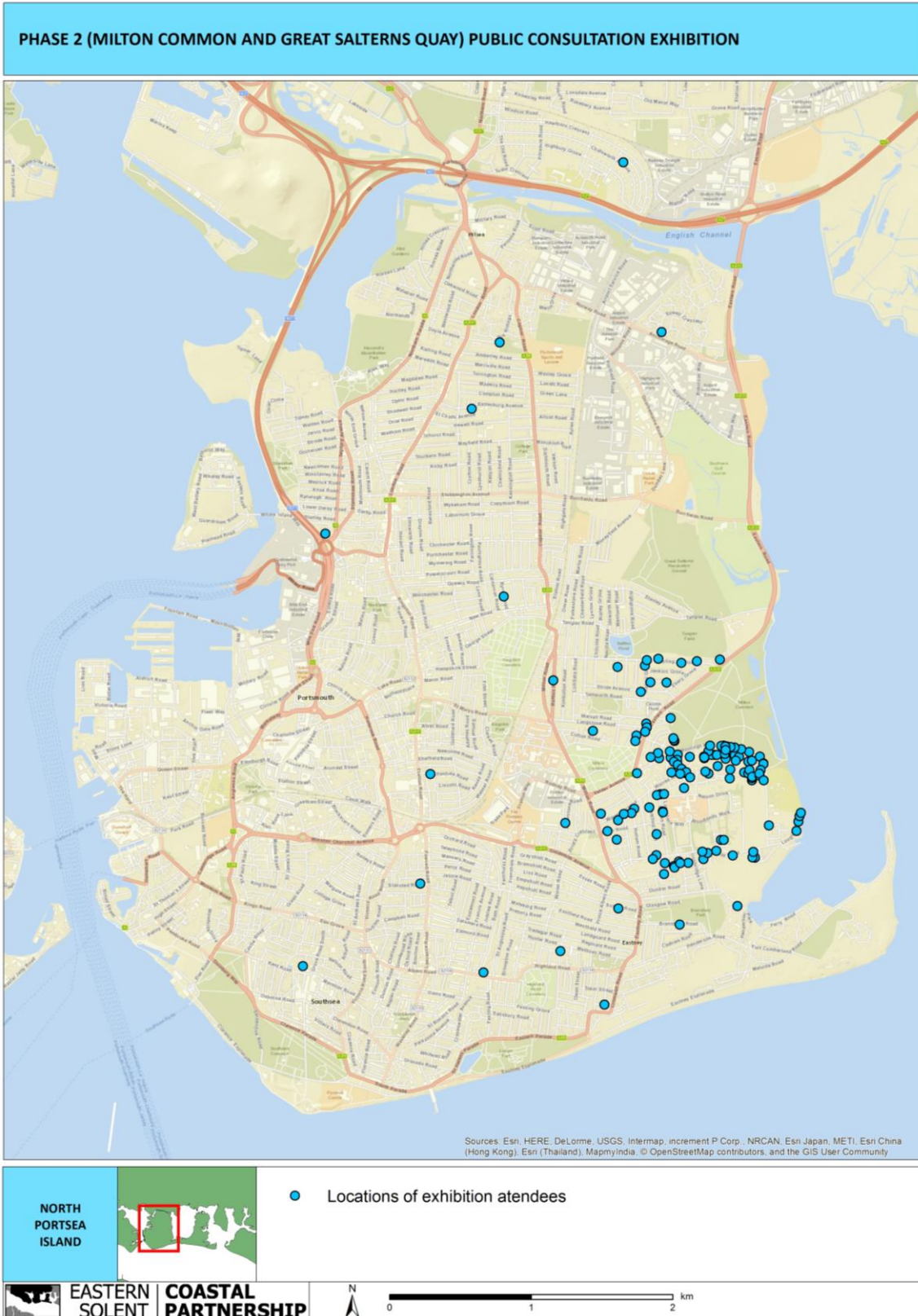
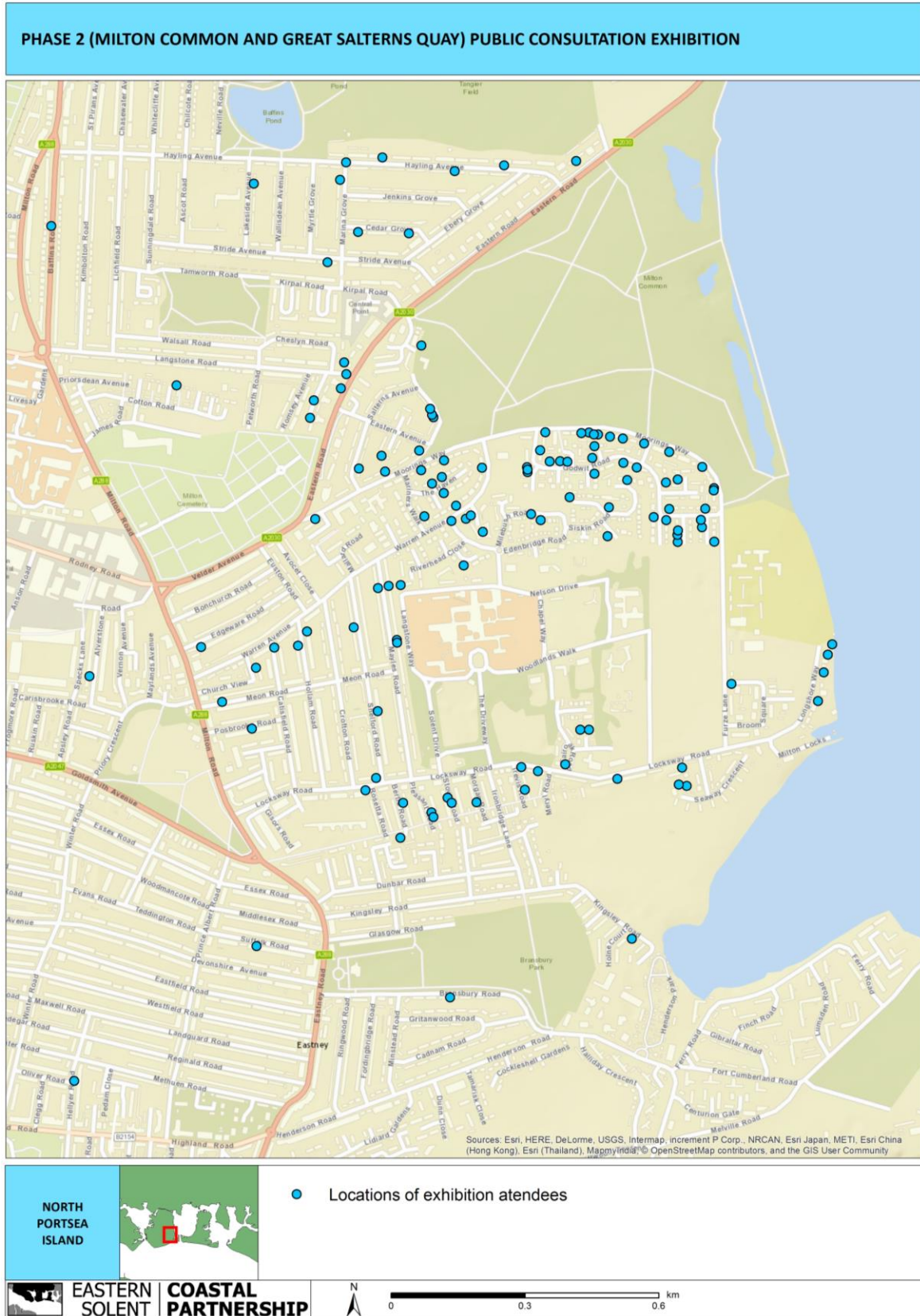
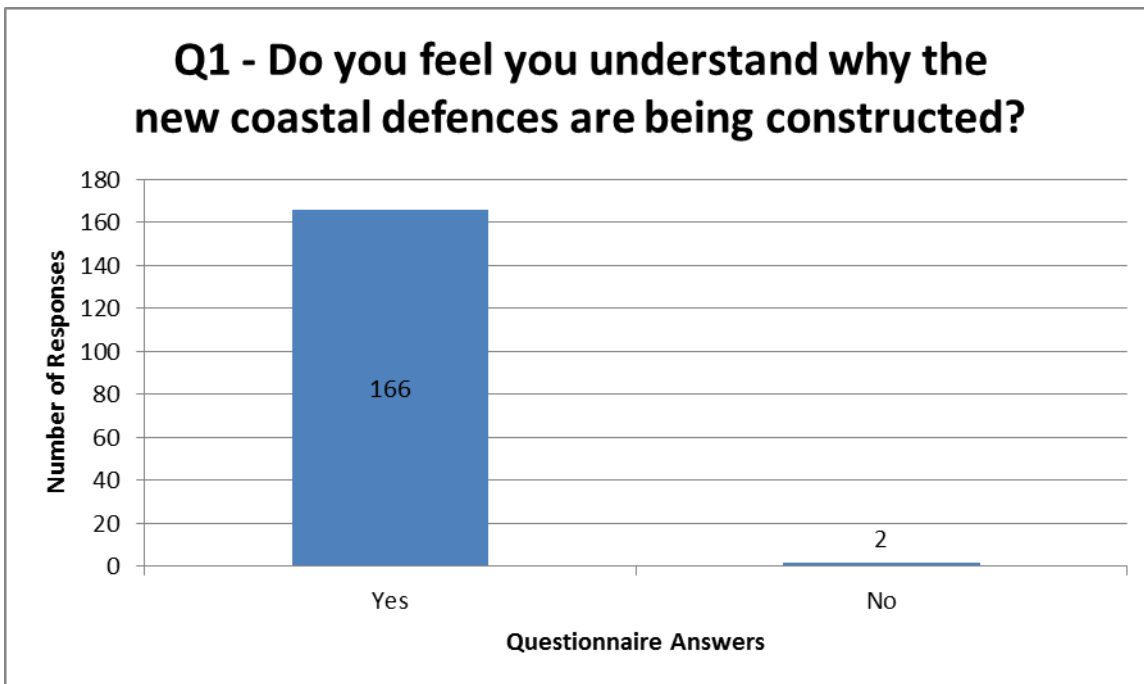


Figure 3: Map of locations where visitors came from in the Milton Common area

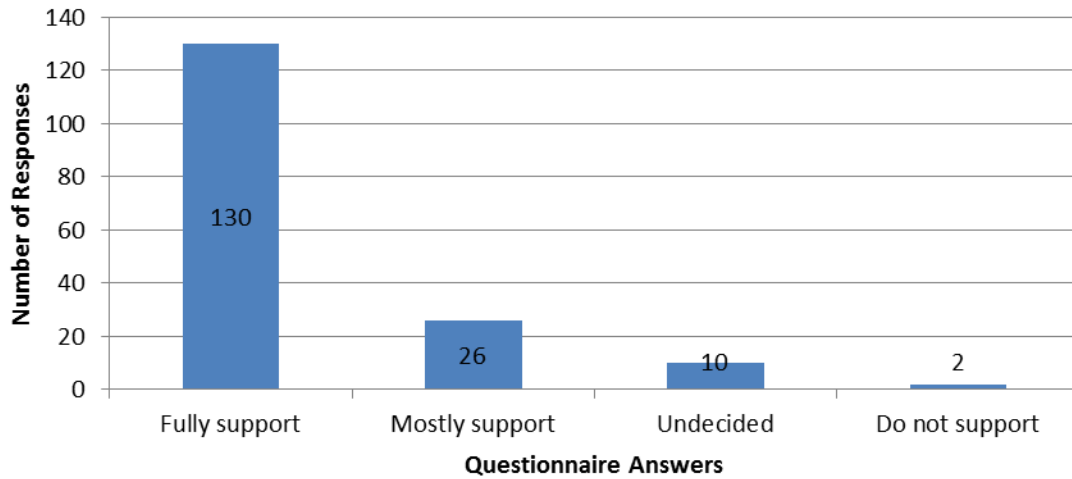


FEEDBACK FROM RESULTS

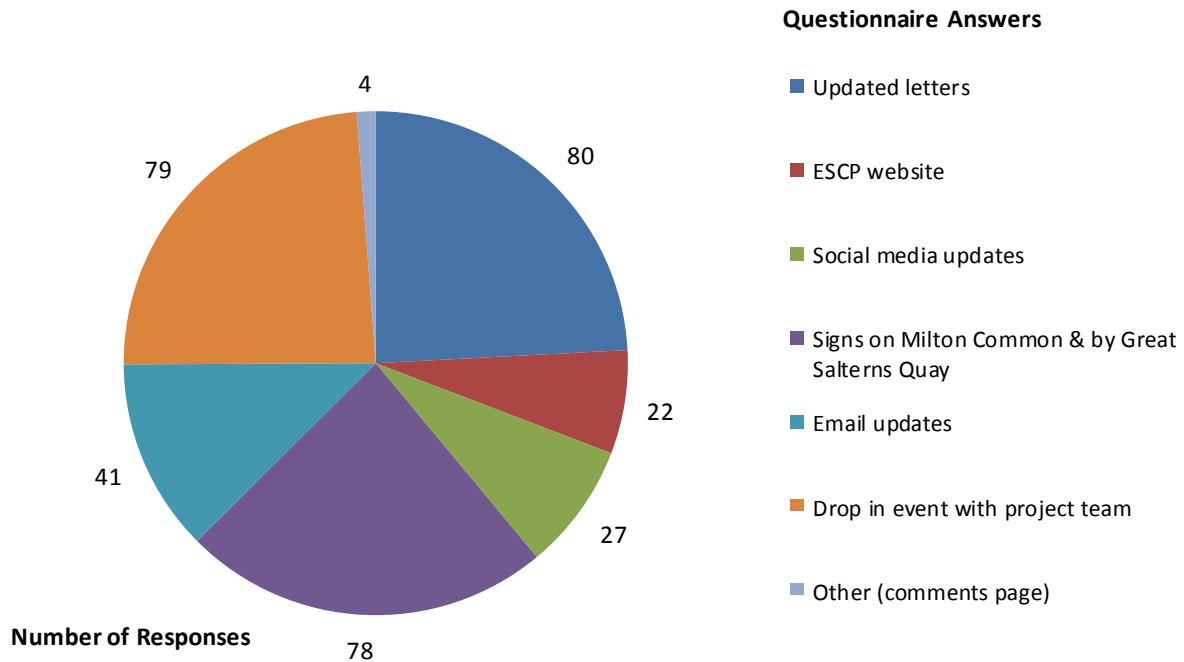
The results from the questionnaires are displayed in this section. Overall, the results and feedback gained from the public at the exhibition have been extremely positive. With an understanding of how people were informed of the event and how they would like to be informed in the future, we are able to better target our marketing and advertising. For questions where the totals exceed 168, this is because more than one answer was given for the question, for example multiple choice Question 3.



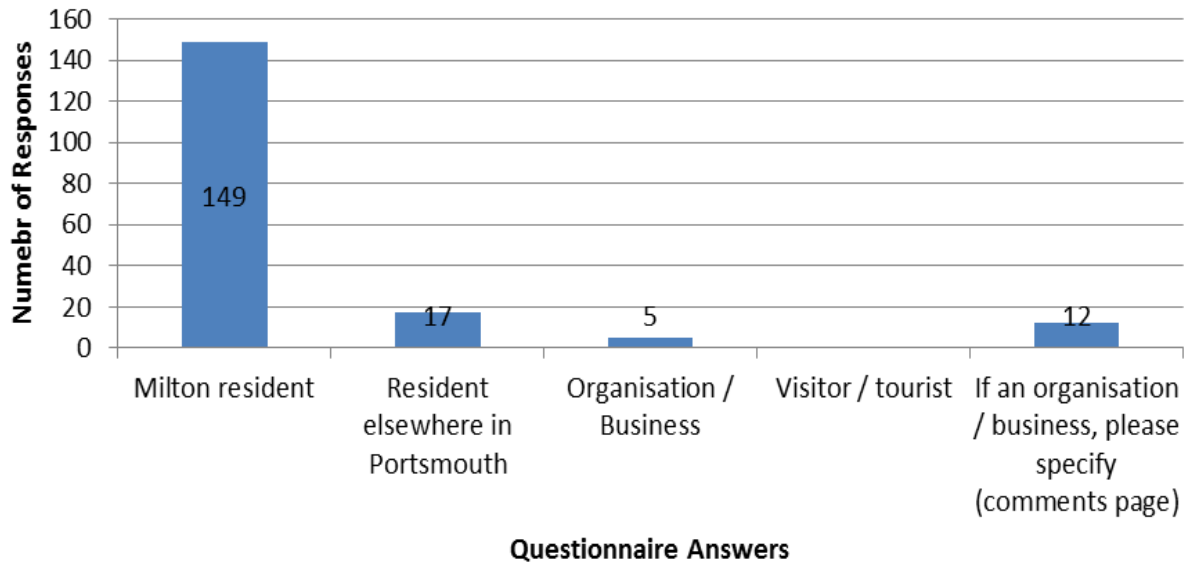
Q2 - Please indicate your level of support for the new coastal defence scheme



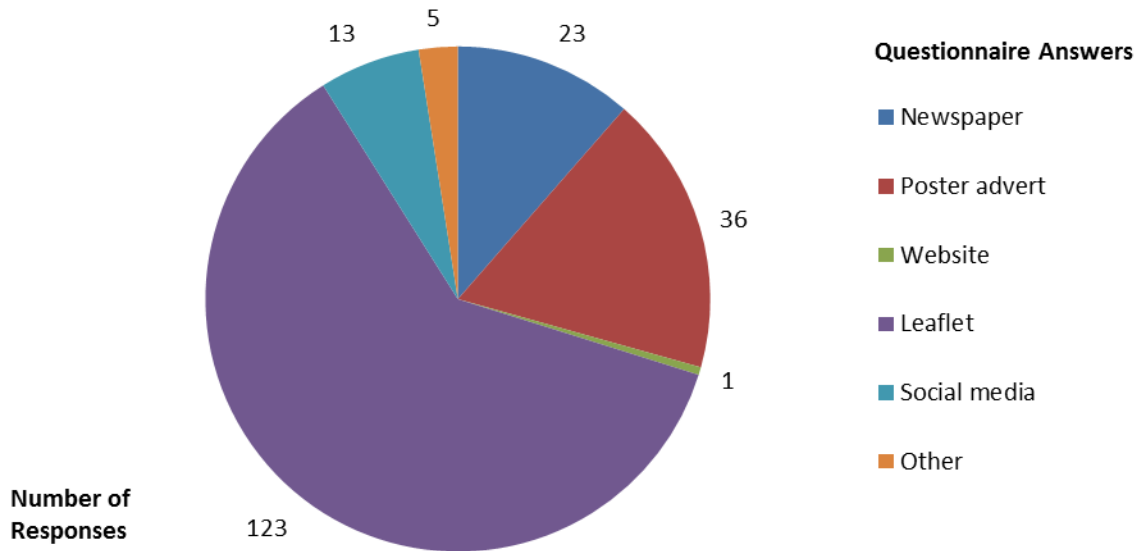
Q3 - How would you best like to be kept informed about the progress of the scheme during construction?



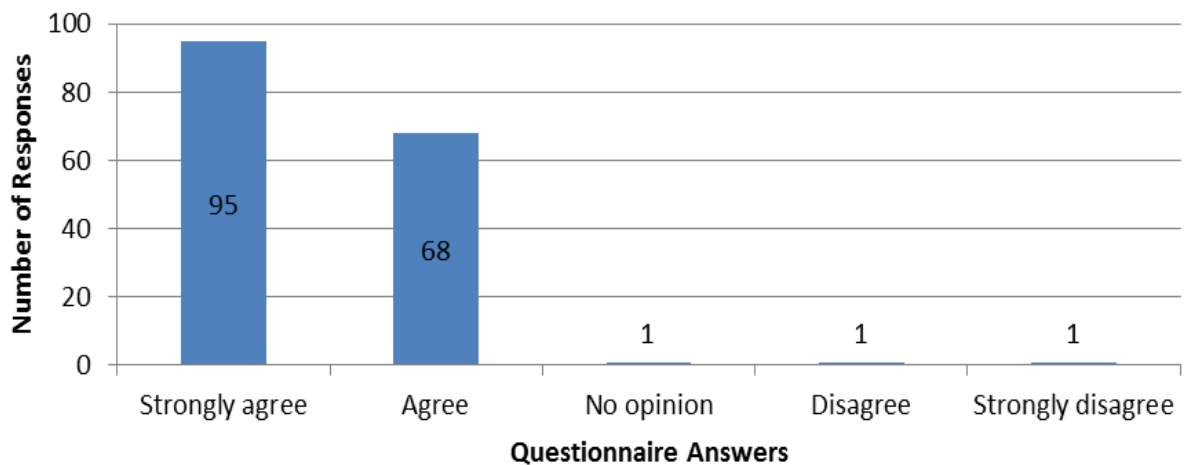
Q4 - What is your interest in the new coastal defences?



Q5 - How did you hear about this exhibition event?



Q6 - The information presented today has helped my understanding of the new coastal defences being built along Milton Common



PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EXHIBITION



Photo 1: Advertising outside the exhibition venue



Photo 2: An example of the information posters used



Photo 3: Visitors filling out the feedback form



Photo 4: Visitors at the exhibition