

The Future Rutland Conversation

Narrative summary report:
Getting Around

June 2021

A summary report outlining the key findings and themes identified as part of
the Future Rutland Conversation around transport and travel

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*We asked and this is what you told us.
Is there anything we've missed?*

1. Introduction

The Future Rutland Conversation is just that: a conversation with everyone who lives and works in Rutland, to find out what's most important to local people – both now and in the future.

Using a series of specially designed surveys, open forums and live discussion events held over a period of two months in the spring of 2021, people of all ages and backgrounds from across Rutland were invited to share their views on wide range of important issues. They were:

- Your Life in Rutland
- Climate change and the environment
- Getting around
- Leisure and recreation
- Health and well-being
- Living in the county
- Learning, skills and employment
- Local services and public spending

There were dedicated surveys and discussions for young people, businesses and visitors to the county. Local stakeholders, schools and new digital channels, like Instagram, helped to reach the widest possible audience. People without internet access were also supported to take part in Future Rutland Conversation by phone, making sure that everyone had an opportunity to share their views.

In total, 2022 people took part in the Future Rutland Conversation. This comprised 1,557 adults who registered online, plus 465 children and young people who were not required to register their details. Together, these participants provided more than 4,500 responses across multiple themed surveys. Alongside these surveys, more than 1,000 contributions were made across nine online forums and some 250 people took part in live discussion events.

The aim of all this is to develop a new shared vision of Rutland – a set of common goals and aspirations based on the things that matter to local people, and which can help to shape a bright and prosperous future for our county.

The following report summarises the comments and feedback received as part of Future Rutland's 'Getting Around' conversation.



2. Method statement

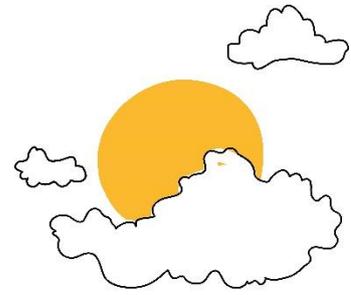
The Future Rutland Conversation ran for a period of eight weeks, from April to June 2021. During this time, 15 online surveys were launched, asking participants more than 100 questions. This was supported by eight two-hour engagement events led by independent facilitator Michael Maynard, plus a further seven two-hour face-to-face video calls with the Leader and Chief Executive of Rutland County Council. Feedback was also gathered in the form of submissions from Rutland County Councillors and Parish Councils, who provided responses from local meetings and other forms of engagement. A significant awareness-raising campaign took place online and through traditional local media outlets, such as newspapers and radio stations. This helped to support engagement with children and young people, visitors to the county and local businesses, as well as those who live, work and were educated here in Rutland.

The many thousands of pieces of raw data and information resulting from the eight-week conversation were sent for analysis by Rutland Community Ventures (RCV), a community-based company in Oakham and operating independently of Rutland County Council. RCV's analysis involved watching and transcribing verbatim comments from hours of video-recorded Zoom conversations; listening to audio files; analysing and summarising survey data; reading and annotating event notes and reports; and reviewing the highly detailed statistics derived from the online surveys. This intensive independent analysis was undertaken over a three-week period without influence from Rutland County Council. The results of the analysis were then submitted by RCV to the Council, who have published this material in a series of theme-based reports. These reports summarise while fully representing participants' original uninterpreted views, opinions and experiences.

If you would like to view all of the original data and information behind these summary reports, this can be read in full online at:

future.rutland.gov.uk/getting-around

3. Who took part?



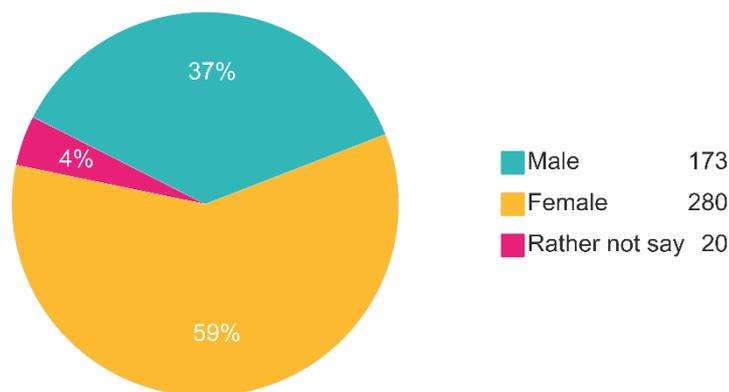
473 responses

A total of 473 people provided responses to Future Rutland’s ‘Getting Around’ survey. This was in addition to online forum comments and two live discussion events chaired by independent facilitator Michael Maynard.

Gender profile

Just over half of respondents to the ‘Getting Around’ survey were female (59%), while 37% were male. A small proportion of respondents (4%) chose not to share this information.

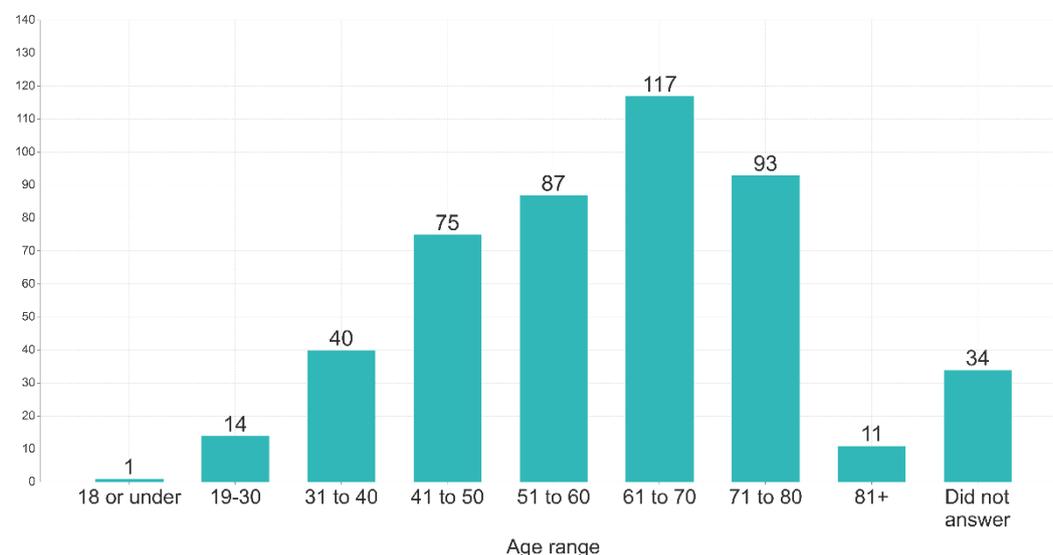
Figure 1 – Gender profile of ‘Getting Around’ respondents



Age range

The largest number of responses to the ‘Getting Around’ survey came from the 61-70 age group. Almost two thirds (65%) were aged 51 and over. There was a single respondent in the 18 or under age category. However, Future Rutland’s dedicated survey for children and young people asked specific questions about transport issues and received 465 responses. The results from this survey are detailed in a further report.

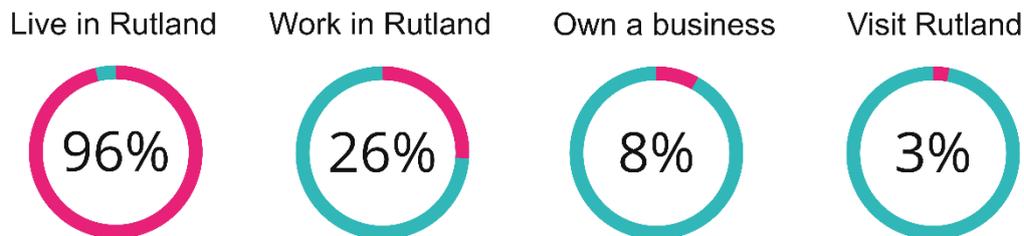
Figure 2 – Age range



Connection to Rutland

Almost all respondents to the 'Getting around' survey (96%) lived in Rutland, while 26% worked in the county. Business owners accounted for 8% of respondents. A very small percentage of respondents (3%) were visitors to the county. The results from a dedicated 'Visitors' survey carried out as part of the Future Rutland Conversation have been captured in a further report.

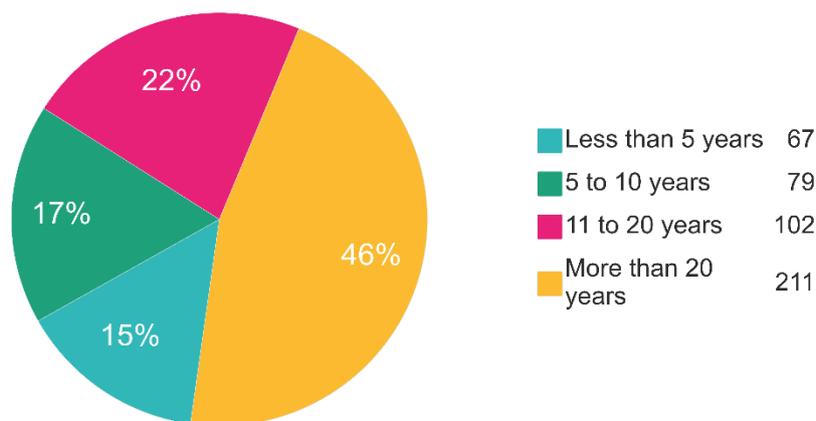
Figure 3 – Connection to Rutland



Length of residency

Of the respondents who took part in the 'Getting Around' survey and identified themselves as local residents, 43% have lived in the county for more than 20 years. Just 17% of respondents have lived in the county for less than five years.

Figure 4 – Length of residency



In terms of geographical location, the areas of Rutland that contributed the largest number of responses were:

- Oakham (31%)
- Uppingham (8.5%)
- Barleythorpe (6%)
- Lyddington (6%)
- Greetham (4.5%)
- Ketton (4%)
- Whissendine (4%)
- Cottesmore (3.5%)
- Empingham (3%)
- Langham (3%)

4. Thoughts and feelings about key issues

People who engaged with Future Rutland's 'Getting Around' conversation were invited to talk openly about their experiences of travelling around the county, why they travel in the way they do and what, if anything, prevents them from using different forms of transport.

Following analysis of two live discussion events focussing on this subject and hundreds of responses to open text survey questions, respondents' thoughts and feelings about transport and travel have been separated into two areas:

- Bus and train travel
- Cycling and walking
- Parking

In this section of the report, people's thoughts and feelings have been summarised as short statements, which are accompanied by direct quotes from individuals who took part.

Bus and train travel

Summary statement

You told us that you want to see improved, well-scheduled and more conveniently timed bus services. Just over three-quarters of you said that you don't use local public transport, mainly because services don't run at the right times or stop at the destinations you need to visit. A number of you told us that you are put off using public transport because of the time it can take to travel relatively short distances, and because services stop too soon in the day – meaning you can't complete a round trip at the times you want or need to. A number of you want more services in the evenings and at weekends, as well as clearer travel information to help you plan your journey. A lack of accessible transport for residents with disabilities was also mentioned. For example, the apparent lack of wheelchair-friendly taxis in Rutland. Those of you who do travel on public transport told us that you use it largely for shopping and social activities.

-  *"Cheaper bus fares & more cycle routes suitable for children."*
-  *"Improved public transport links (more frequent, accessing different areas)."*
-  *"More efficient public transport. Would rather not drive on the shorter distances but have no other options for those journey's a bit too far to do a round trip walking."*
-  *"Better regular and convenient bus services to the local towns to be able to access train services."*
-  *"Reliable bus services that run to a timetable that matches the local needs."*
-  *"Better / more frequent bus links. Particularly for getting to Rutland Water and some of the smaller villages. With a lot better Bus Service more people may be encouraged to leave their cars at home."*

-  *"More options around public transport or free bikes like Peterborough do that are left around the county for people to use."*
-  *"I would like to be able use wheelchair taxis to independently travel but don't seem to be able to find any."*
-  *"You can't get from South Luffenham to Oakham easily as the bus to Uppingham arrives after the Oakham bus has left! An evening service to/from Stamford would be good too. Stops too early to be used for going into Stamford for an evening."*
-  *"More regular bus service - or a later service. I do walk whenever I can, but it is two miles to Oakham from Langham."*
-  *"Clearer information on bus timetables; greater certainty that buses will run to the timetable and so facilitate changes to another route."*
-  *"More frequent availability of public transport that goes everywhere, but doesn't take you an hour to travel five minutes down the road. Buses need to be available in the evening too to allow you to travel from a village pub to home. Local taxi services would also help."*
-  *"More information, transport subsidies, lower costs, better facilities."*
-  *"Trains stop so early in the evening it's not possible to rely on them to get back after an evening."*
-  *"Maybe a dial-a-ride option for bus/minibus to make one way journeys possible."*
-  *"More buses to be available on Saturday or weekdays."*
-  *"The local hopper bus used to go down my road but with cuts this service was revised. Now, if I wish to take the bus in to Oakham, I need to walk half way into Oakham before I can access one."*
-  *"Greater frequency of train services is needed, services later at night and on Sunday mornings."*
-  *"From our side of the water at Edith Weston there isn't public transport to Oakham unless we go via Uppingham or Stamford."*
-  *"Restoring the time and route of no.9 bus, use to go straight to Peterborough bus station after Stamford bus station. The last bus now leaves from Stamford at 2.30pm."*

Cycling and walking

Summary statement

Virtually everyone who responded to the 'Getting Around' conversation said that they walk for exercise and leisure, with around two-thirds of you saying you do this every day or at least two-to-three times each week. Around a third of respondents said that they cycle. Almost three-quarters of these people take to their bike at least two-to-three times each week. Consequently, there is a strong demand for more cycle lanes of good quality. A number of you told us that safety is a factor and that you have concerns about cycling on county roads. While some feel that car travel remains by the most convenient mode of transport in rural areas like Rutland, a large majority of you told us you would like to see better bus services and improved cycling provision, as well as investment in the county's network of footpaths to encourage more people to walk places.

-  *"More cycle lanes on busy roads and more footpaths."*
-  *"Given the rural nature of the county I think car will always be the most convenient and preferable means of transport however additional cycle tracks would be good for both locals and visitors."*
-  *"The roads are very busy and need proper cycle tracks."*
-  *"Cycleways that are physically separated from traffic and are 'joined up' to make it possible to reach almost anywhere in the county safely. Mixing cycles and 40 to 60mph cars on a road is an absurd concept."*
-  *"Cycle paths would encourage more people to cycle without having to worry about dangerous country roads."*
-  *"To have a joined up network of cycle paths with cycle racks at key points of interest e.g. shopping, leisure centres. My son has cycled from Ketton to visit Grandma in Oakham, using the reservoir like a roundabout, although there are still some key areas of dangerous roads."*
-  *"From where I live, bus is the only realistic alternative - a more frequent service would be required to make this a practical proposition. More footpaths and safer footpaths for walking/cycling between villages."*
-  *"Better paths, wider paths that are kept clear of encroaching overgrowth. Lands End Way does not have adequate footpaths for the amount of people who walk along it, causing older people to walk in the road to avoid buggies, electric wheelchairs, kids on bikes etc. There are supermarkets at both ends of Lands End Way and yet only narrow footpaths on one side of the road. This causes people to use cars more than they would like to."*

Parking

Summary statement

Parking is a hot topic. Many of you are keen to see changes to local parking provision to help with town centre life and retail. You said that you value the current offer of free 30 minutes parking in our towns but many think this should be extended further, for longer. Multiple respondents spoke about the importance of convenient on street parking for quick visits into town. Some would like less parking to make towns safer for pedestrians. A number of you suggested that parking should be made free for Rutland residents – for all or part of the day. Others stress the need for more charging points for people who drive electric vehicles. Further suggestions include the introduction of a 'Park & Ride' system, more disabled parking bays and flexible use of permit holder bays. Outside of our towns, people are concerned about the impact that Rutland Water visitors can for residents in nearby villages.

-  *"Too stingy with parking times. I would visit the town more if I could park for longer for free."*
-  *"I rarely pay for parking as I always walk into Oakham and if I drive, I will park at Tesco or Aldi which is free."*
-  *"Free short-term parking on road encourages me to visit Oakham for shopping."*
-  *"We should be able to park for a limited time in the permit spaces during the working day."*
-  *"Relocate parking from Uppingham Market Place to make it the heart of the town and used for outdoor dining pop up stalls etc."*
-  *"There are insufficient car park spaces to support local business and retail on peak working and trading days."*
-  *"I think the amount of parking is actually sufficient. Too many people are using the car without taking a moment to consider walking into town. For the majority of people, their first instinct is to reach for the car keys when they want to go to the shops. Their mind-set needs to change! The people who need the car parking spaces are disabled and elderly and I think there is sufficient for them."*
-  *"More free parking would encourage the using of local shops. I do not like to pay to park but I am happy to walk a little way to avoid charges."*
-  *"Parking time in Oakham should be increased to two hours to facilitate greater use of local businesses."*
-  *"It is difficult at the weekend. The limit to two hours is a nuisance. Streets further away from the centre could offer longer stays. Two hours isn't very long go shopping and stay for lunch."*
-  *"The free 30 minutes in Oakham car parks is really appreciated."*
-  *"I really like the Ringo App to pay for parking. So easy to use."*

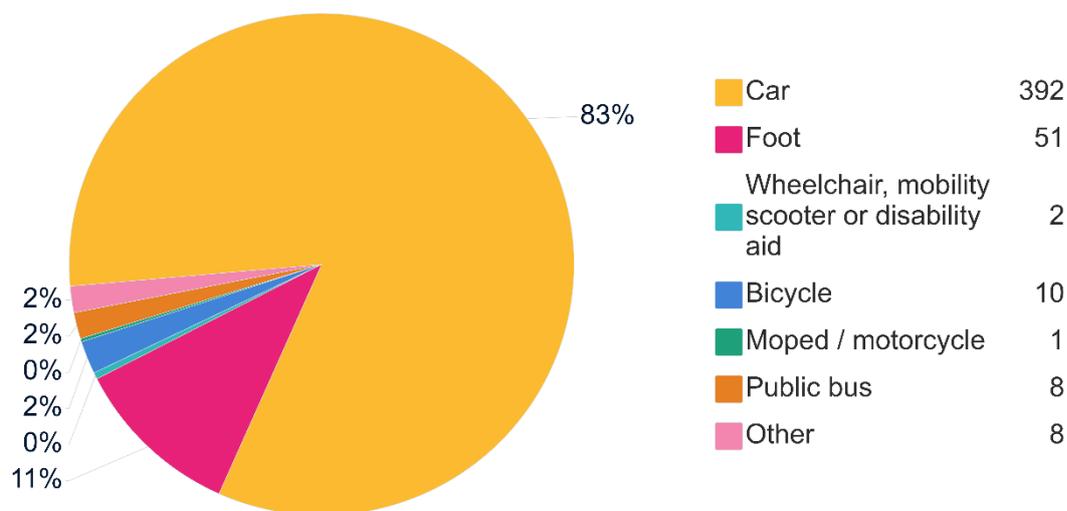
-  *"To encourage electric cars more charging points need to be provided."*
-  *"If you want a thriving town retail scene then you must stop using car users as a milk cow. Punishing people for coming to town is totally counterproductive."*
-  *"Car parking is normally ok but there is little or nothing in the way of secure bicycle parking in any of our towns, so I don't use my bike for light shopping or visits to the dentist or pharmacy etc."*
-  *"There is a greater need for disabled parking spaces."*
-  *"So much is taken up for business in Oakham. Park and Ride for business will free up local space to shop. First hour should also be free or redeemed in the shops to support local business. They did this in Huntingdon."*
-  *"Parking provision is adequate. Nice to have free on street spaces for quick visits."*
-  *"Too many spaces used by permit holders for long periods in car parks near the shops."*
-  *"There isn't enough electric charging in Rutland to allow electric car ownership to be feasible."*
-  *"I think parking on the High St should be restricted more. There is usually a large van/lorry always parked there, and often people trying to park cause hold ups. It also forces people to cross the road between parked cars which is dangerous."*
-  *"Cost of parking is off putting when visiting Oakham / Uppingham. Better to go to Stamford where two hours free parking is widely available."*
-  *"It would be useful if you could get an agreement with Anglian water to reduce the cost of parking at the Water, just for residents of Rutland."*
-  *"There is not enough free parking for one hour during the day but loads of residential parking areas empty of cars during the day. Can Residential Parking be made available for shoppers for few hours per day?"*
-  *"Parking in Uppingham is too limited. It would be good to extend the free parking time in the Coop car park to encourage people to shop locally."*
-  *"Should be free, encourage people to enter towns. France has it right. Heavily congested areas charged, smaller towns free, encourages trade."*
-  *"Please do not ruin our town high streets by charging for on street parking. Free parking for limited periods enables quick visits to banks, pharmacies, dry cleaners etc."*
-  *"Move to the Derbyshire Dales model of free parking for locals in the morning then paid parking later. Help support business."*
-  *"RCC need to provide RELIABLE 7kW AC charging in 5% of all parking spaces in Oakham and Uppingham by the end of 2022. The charger in Church Street car park is a good example of how NOT to do it, so learn from this."*
-  *"I have first-hand experience of resident struggling with visitors parking in inappropriate places like verges, blocking driveways and making already narrow lanes impassable to fire appliances or ambulances etc. and on busy roads blocking pavements to avoid paying for parking whilst visiting Rutland Water."*

5. How you travel

Future Rutland's 'Getting Around' survey asked some specific questions about how people choose to travel and why they need to undertake most of their journeys.

We started by asking respondents to tell us their usual mode of transport when traveling around Rutland. The vast majority (83%) said that they travel by car. The next most popular method of transport was walking, which was selected by just over 10% of respondents.

Figure 5 - What is your usual mode of transport for travelling within the county?



Just over 40% of respondents said that they would like to change their way of getting around the county. When asked what would help them change, the top replies were:

- Better cycle and footpaths
- Better management of speeding traffic
- Improved public transport links and later journey/travel times
- Accessible taxi services for people with disabilities

There was major agreement among respondents about these issues, which are repeated again and again as part of Future Rutland's 'Getting Around' conversation.

Most respondents (49%) said they do not use a different mode of transport when travelling outside of the county. Of those who do the preferred alternatives are train and car.

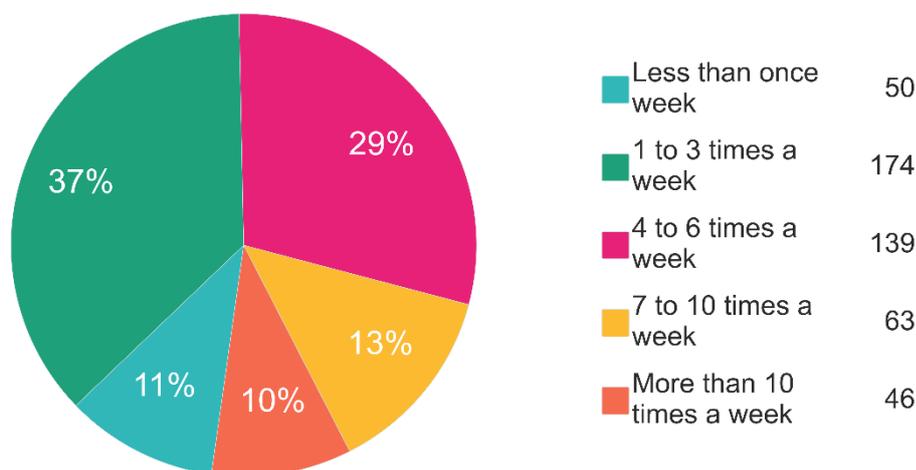
6. How often you travel

People who took part in Future Rutland’s ‘Getting Around’ survey were asked how often they travel around the county for work, leisure or personal reasons each week. The top answers to this question (in rank order) were:

1. 1-3 times per week
2. 4-6 times per week
3. 7-10 times per week

A small proportion (10%) said that they travel less than once a week. Roughly the same number of respondents travel more than 10 times per week.

Figure 6 – On average, how often do you travel around the county for work, leisure or personal reasons (including shopping, medical and household related) per week?



When the question was altered and people were asked how often they leave Rutland for work, leisure or personal reasons each week, the top answers (in rank order) were:

1. 1-3 times
2. Less than once
3. 4-6 times

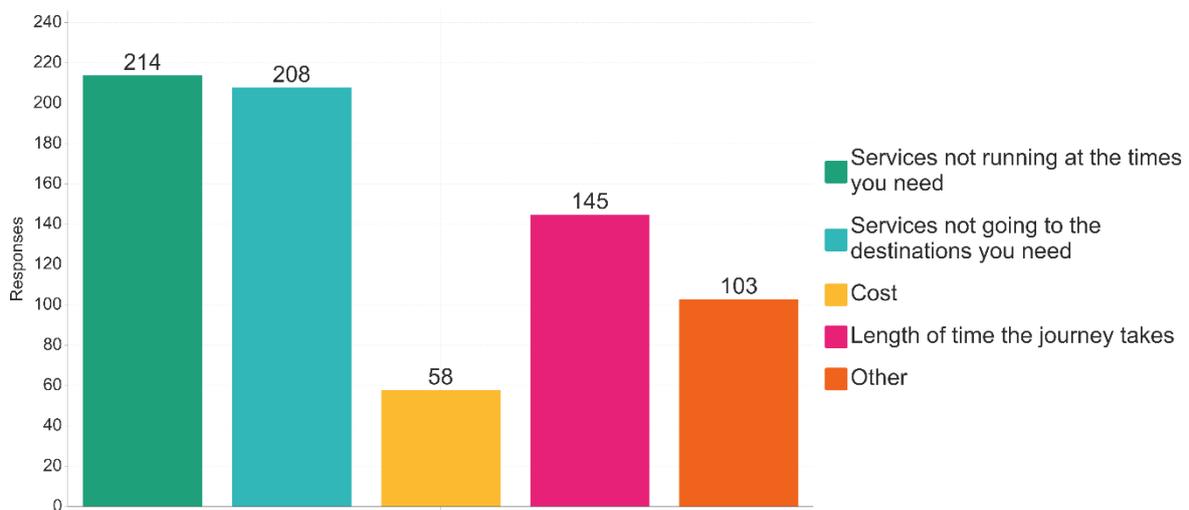
Just over a third of respondents (35%) indicated that they leave the county less than once a week. A small proportion (4%) said that they do not leave the county at all.

7. Public transport

As part of the 'Getting Around' survey, respondents were asked a number of direct questions about public transport in Rutland.

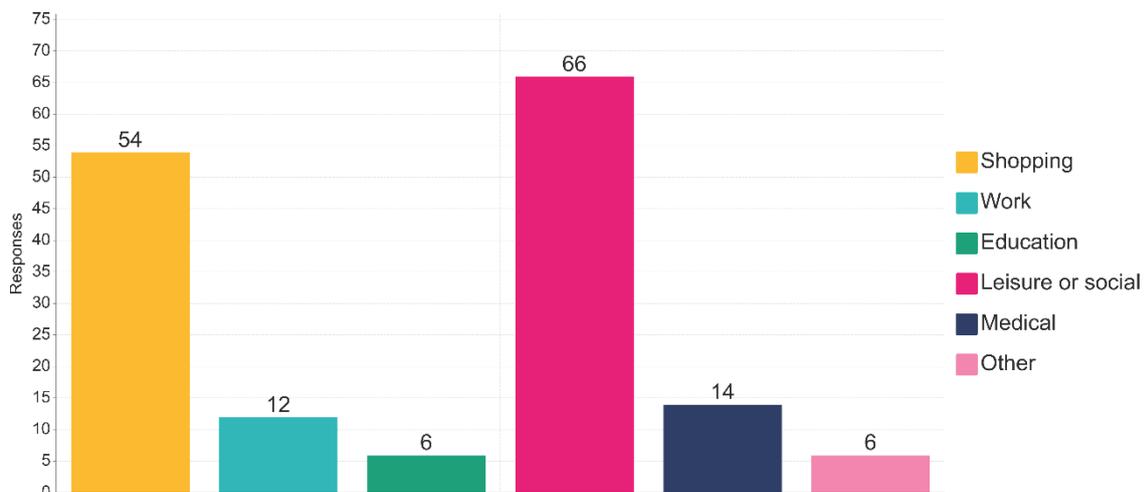
More than three quarters of those who took the survey (78%) said that they do not use public transport. When asked why not, the majority of respondents said that services do not run at the times they need, or do not go to the destinations they need. Length of journey time was also significant factor.

Figure 7 – Please tell us why you do not use public transport in Rutland (Select all that apply)



Of those who said yes, they do use public transport (22%), the majority use it for shopping or leisure/social activities.

Figure 8 – For what purpose do you use public transport? (Please tick all that apply)



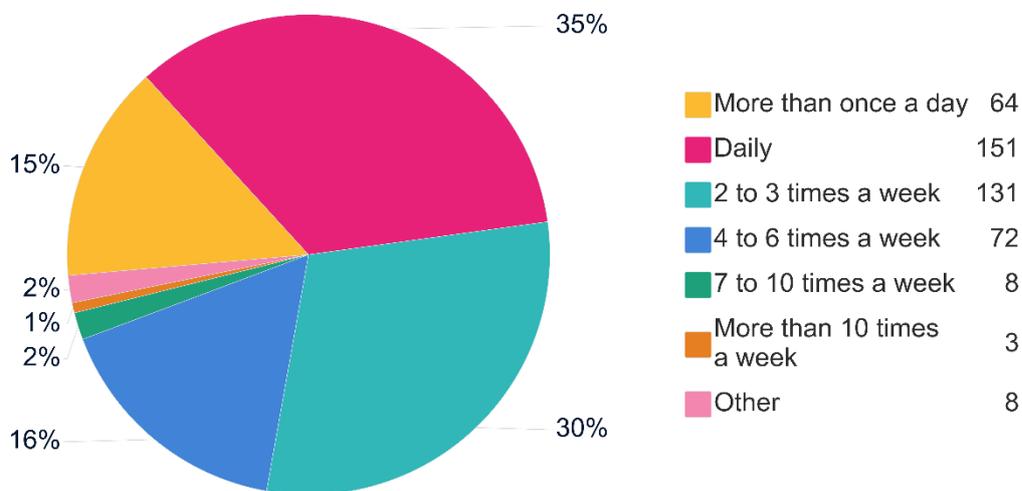
8. Walking

Almost everyone (93.6%) who completed the 'Getting Around' survey told us that they walk for exercise and/or leisure. A small proportion of respondents (1.5%) indicated that they use a wheelchair, mobility scooter or disability aid.

When asked how often they walk for exercise/leisure, the top answers (in rank order) were:

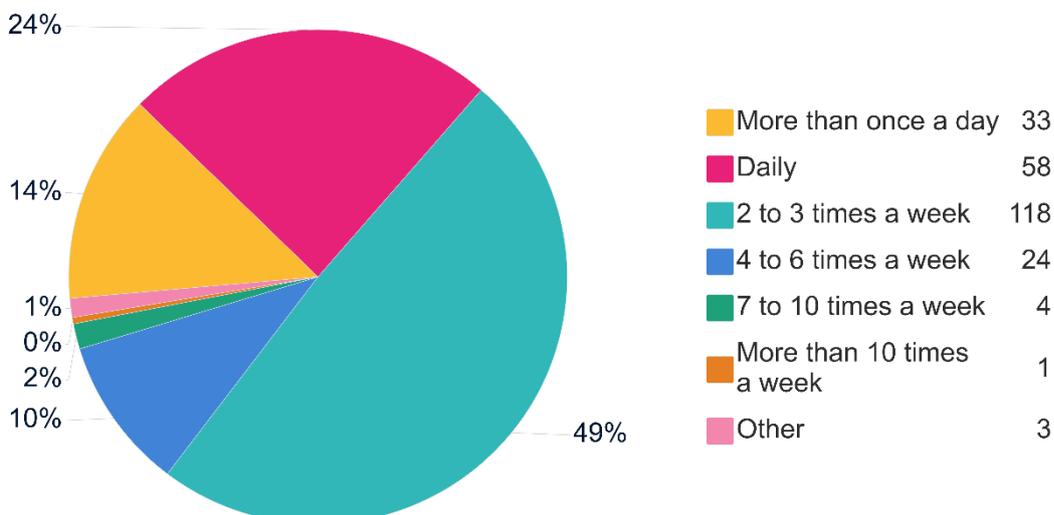
1. Daily
2. 2 to 3 times a week
3. 4 to 6 times a week
4. More than once a day

Figure 9 – How often do you walk for exercise and/or leisure?



The proportion of respondents who walk to get from 'a' to 'b' (for example, to get work or to visit the shops) was almost evenly split. 52% said yes, they do walk for this reason. 47% said they do not. Of those who said yes, they do walk for a practical purpose, half said they do it 2 to 3 times a week. Roughly a quarter said they complete a journey on foot every day.

Figure 10 – How often do you walk to get from 'a' to 'b'?

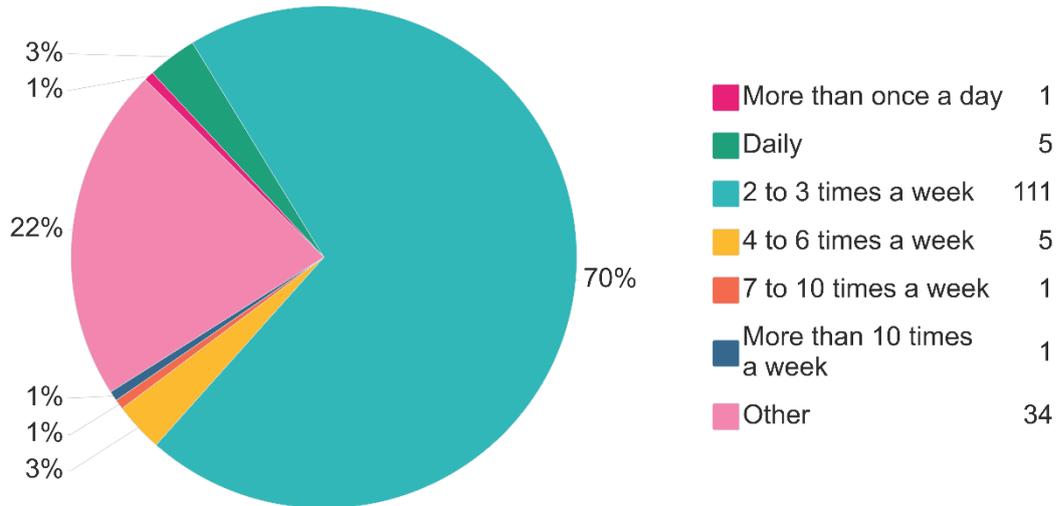


9. Cycling

Just over a third of respondents to the 'Getting Around' survey (36.7%) told us that they cycle for leisure and/or exercise.

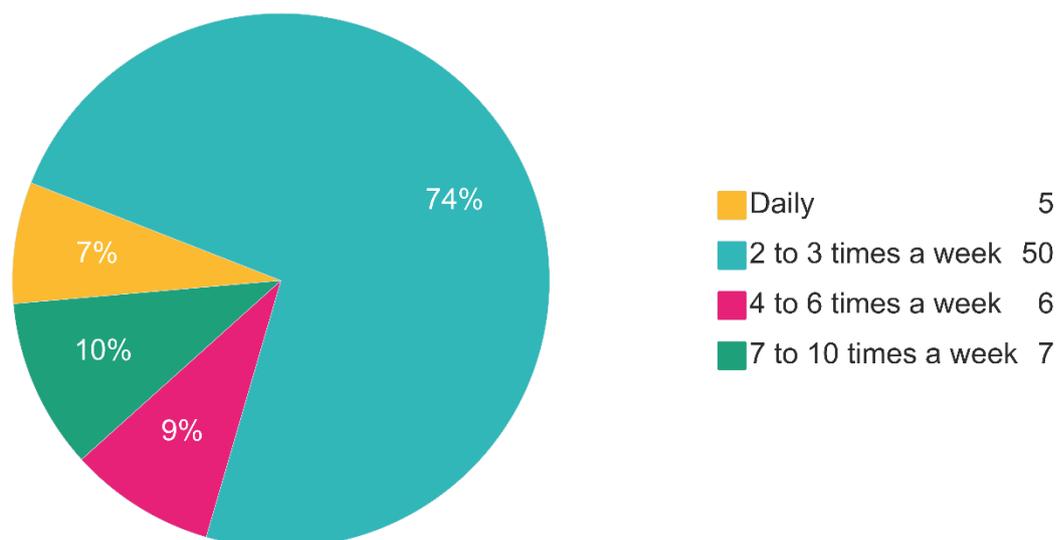
Of those who do cycle for exercise or leisure, almost three quarters (70%) said that they do this 2-3 times each week.

Figure 11 – How often do you cycle for exercise and / or leisure?



Of the cyclists who completed our 'Getting Around' survey, a small proportion (16.4%) said that they cycle to get from 'a' to 'b' (for example, to get to work or visit the shops). Again, the majority of respondents said they do this 2 to 3 times each week. Just 7.4% said they cycle for a practical reason every day.

Figure 12 – How often do you cycle to get from 'a' to 'b'?



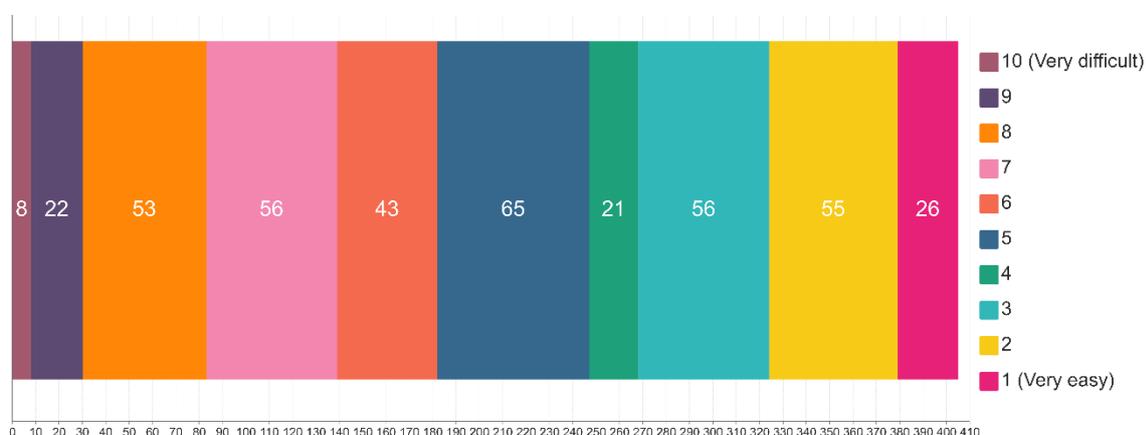
10. Parking

A large proportion of people who completed the 'Getting Around' survey (87%) told us that they drive to visit Rutland's towns or residential areas.

Respondents were asked how easy it is to find a parking space when they visit a destination in the county. This was presented as a sliding scale question with the option to give a score from 1 to 10 (1 being 'very easy' and 10 being 'very difficult').

Out of the 405 people who provided an answer to this question, 158 (39%) said it was easy to find parking. 139 people (34%) said it was difficult. The remaining 27% gave an indifferent score of 5 or 6.

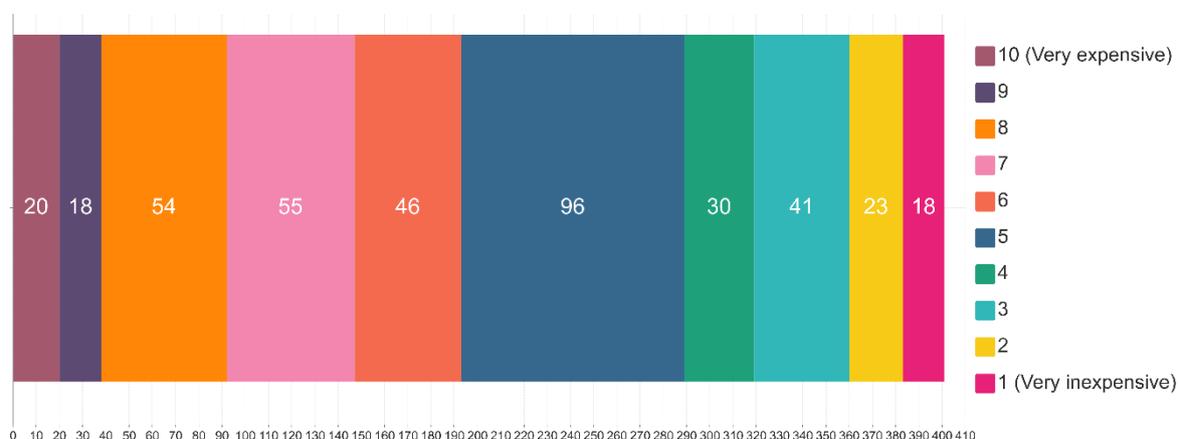
Figure 13 - On a scale of 1 to 10, how easy it (typically) to find a parking space?



Respondents were also asked for their views on the cost of parking. Again, this was presented as a sliding scale question with the option to give a score from 1 to 10 (1 being 'very inexpensive' and 10 being 'very expensive').

Out of the 401 people who provided an answer to this question, 112 (28%) said parking was inexpensive. 147 people (37%) said it was expensive. The remaining 35% gave an indifferent score of 5 or 6.

Figure 14 - On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the cost of parking?



11. Sharing further feedback

This report summarises the comments, feedback and survey responses collected throughout Future Rutland's 'Getting Around' conversation. The purpose of gathering this feedback is to develop a new shared vision for Rutland – one that's based on things that really matter to local people and helps organisations like Rutland County Council plan for the future.

Please remember that you can read all of the original data and information behind this summary report by visiting: future.rutland.gov.uk/getting-around.

Getting your views and feedback was just the first step of the Future Rutland Conversation. Now, we need to know if we heard you correctly. To tell us what you think about this report and whether you feel it's an accurate representation of what matters to people in Rutland, please go to: future.rutland.gov.uk or email: rutlandconversation@rutland.gov.uk. If you don't have access to the internet, you can call us on 01572 722 577.

Once we're sure that there's nothing we've missed, we'll use all this information to develop a draft vision for the county, which we hope to publish before the end of summer 2021 to invite even more discussion and feedback.

[Comment on this summary report](#)



#future Rutland conversation