

BREWSTER'S NEXT STEPS SURVEY RESULTS

In 2018, Brewster's Vision Plan was approved as the expression of community preferences for the Town's social, physical, and economic evolution. The Plan provides a vision for the future and includes goals and actions to guide decision making of Town government, community organizations, and citizens. Based on this Plan, the Town is now developing a Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) following the guidelines of the Cape Cod Commission. The LCP will further detail actions to achieve those goals. Particularly related to Brewster's physical development, the LCP will provide guidance for regulatory change and housing and open space development.

The Vision Planning Committee (VPC) was appointed by the Select Board in late 2019 to foster public outreach and communication around the development of the LCP. A major effort undertaken by the VPC was the recent *Brewster's Next Steps Survey*. The survey gathered opinions and comments from over 2300 Brewster residents or 25% of the age 18+ population. The following graphs display the results of the survey, starting with the demographic characteristics of those completing the survey. The next graphs are organized around the 8 Building Blocks of the 2018 Vision Plan. The graphs display the degree to which responders agree with an action or consider it important as well as willingness to carry out an action.

Highlights of the findings are as follows:

- WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY
 - For the most part, characteristics of residents completing the survey are representative of all Brewster residents.
- TOWN CHARACTER – TOWN CENTER OR CENTERS:
 - Opinions about location of a Town Center or Centers were varied, but 44% think of the area around Foster Square as a Center of activity.
 - Sidewalks and bike lanes/paths are desired to make this area more accessible.
 - While small scale commercial buildings are very acceptable, there was less agreement about features or uses in a Town Center(s).
 - Various development controls are important.

- WATER RESOURCES:
 - Actions to protect Brewster’s drinking water supply are very important.
 - Residents are willing to use less fertilizer or environmentally friendly fertilizer and to pump their septic systems at least every 3 years.
 - There was less agreement to use other methods such as adding a rain barrel or rain garden or installing an alternative septic system.
- OPEN SPACE:
 - Acquiring land and zoning regulations to protect our drinking water supply and natural resources is important.
 - When buying open space, the Town should consider maintaining forested land as well as recreation uses.
- HOUSING
 - Opinions about increasing housing opportunities for Brewster’s workforce were varied.
 - Development of apartments and multi-unit housing received moderate support.
- COASTAL MANAGEMENT
 - Protecting the character of Brewster’s coastline and regulating development in coastal hazard areas are very important.
- LOCAL ECONOMY
 - Brewster’s economy should be built around the Town’s rural character and natural resources.
 - There was mixed support for ways to enhance the local economy such as changing zoning, simplifying permitting for small businesses, or allowing in-home businesses.
- COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
 - Increasing Brewster’s walkability and biking by adding or expanding sidewalks and bike lanes received support.
 - Residents want a multi-generational community center, but opinions about location (at the former Sea Camps property or elsewhere) were varied.
- CLIMATE MITIGATION
 - There was recognition and strong support for dealing with climate change but varying opinions about how to do that.
 - There was strong support for encouraging use of solar energy without clear cutting of forested land for solar farms, protecting wooded land to promote capture of carbon dioxide, and promoting energy efficiency in Town buildings.

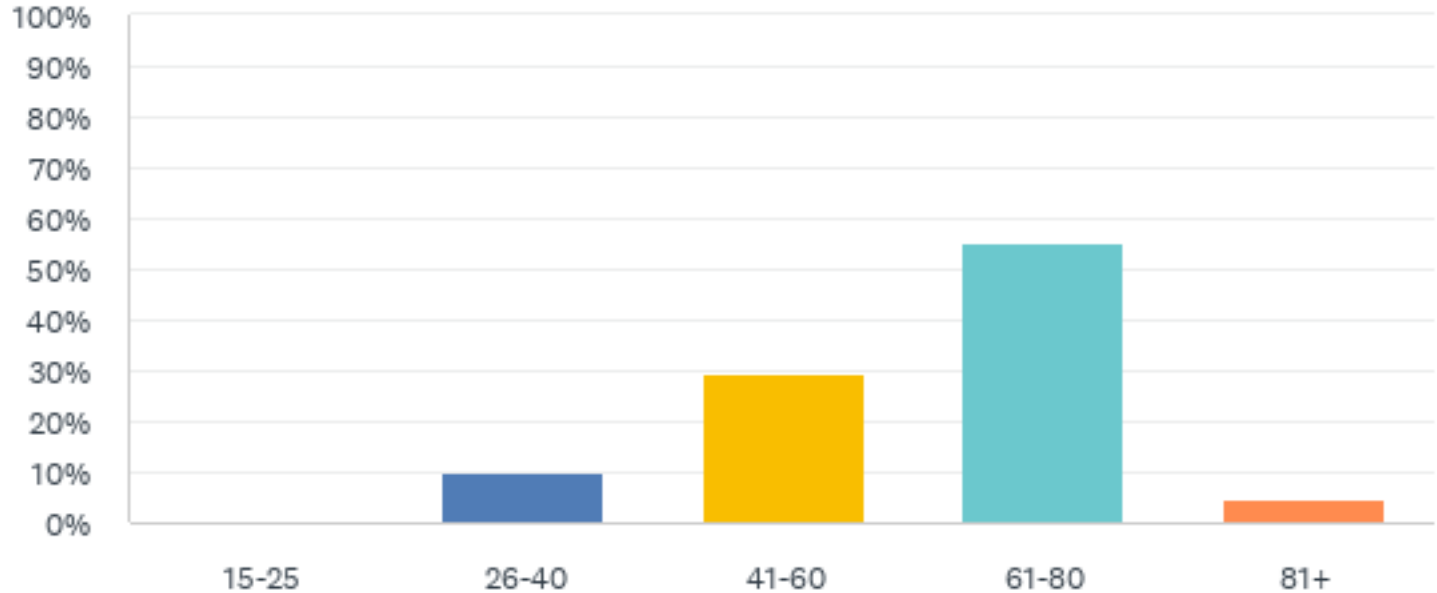
Residents provided numerous comments for each of the Building Blocks. Themes throughout these comments include the following:

- The importance of maintaining Brewster’s character in all that is done;
- Concern with the potential for increased traffic resulting from any development on Route 6A or other major routes; and
- Concern with Town spending on any of these actions that would result in tax increases.

Results are displayed in the following graphs.

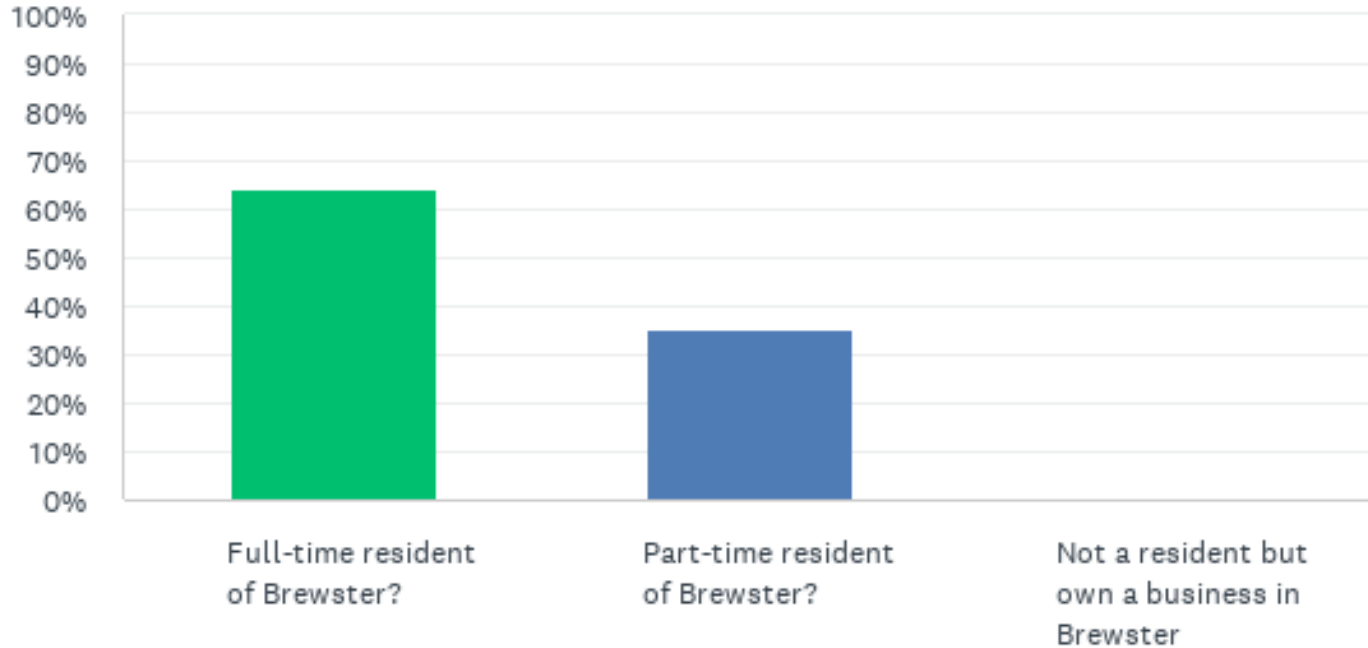
What is your age?

Answered: 2,301 Skipped: 11



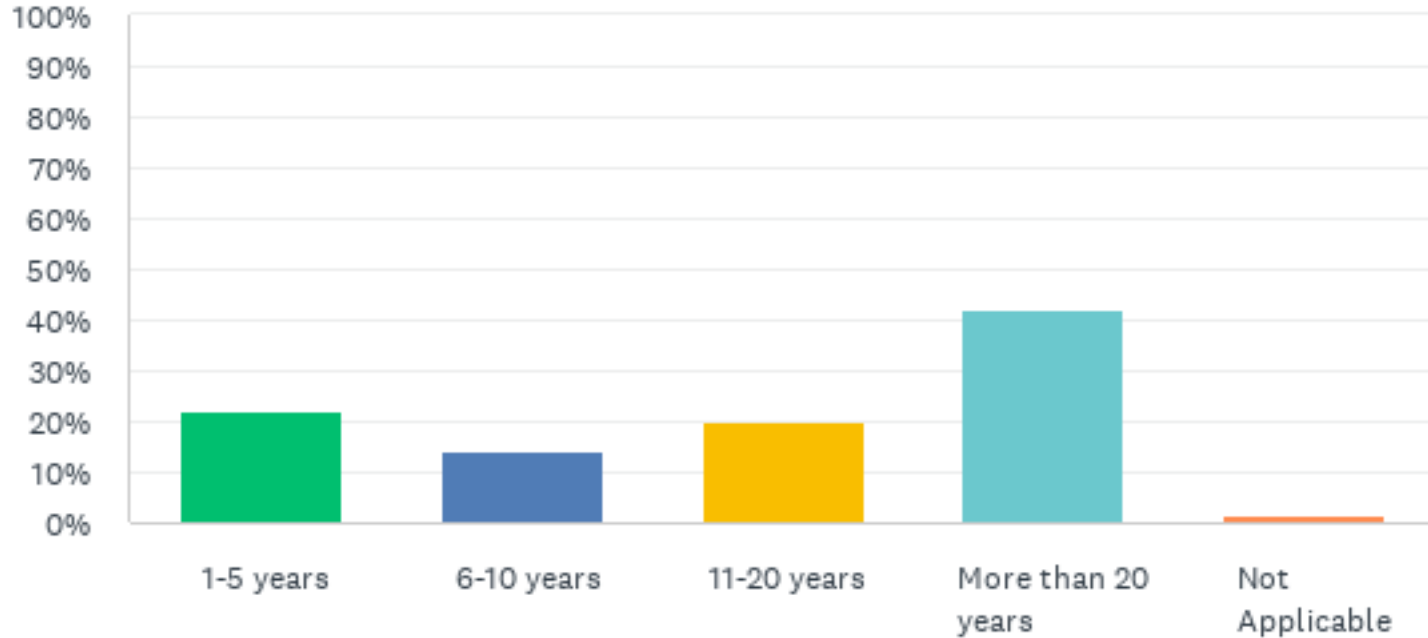
Are you a

Answered: 2,293 Skipped: 19



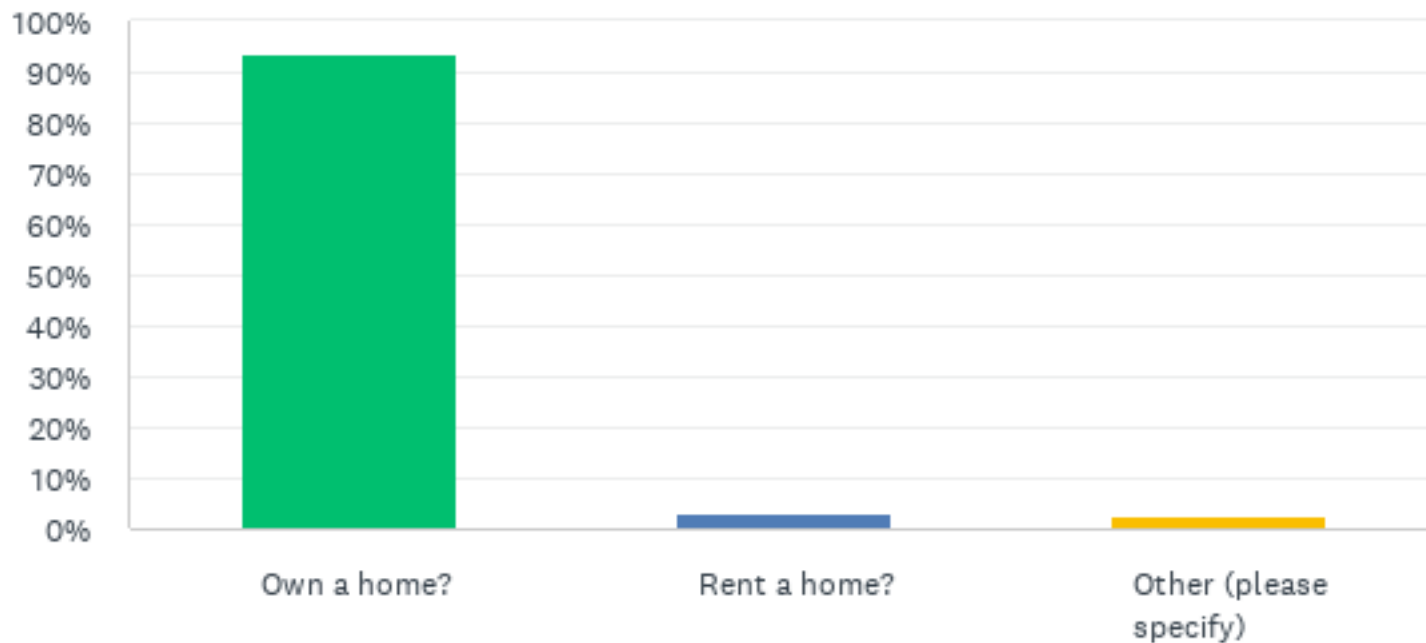
How long have you lived in Brewster?

Answered: 2,299 Skipped: 13



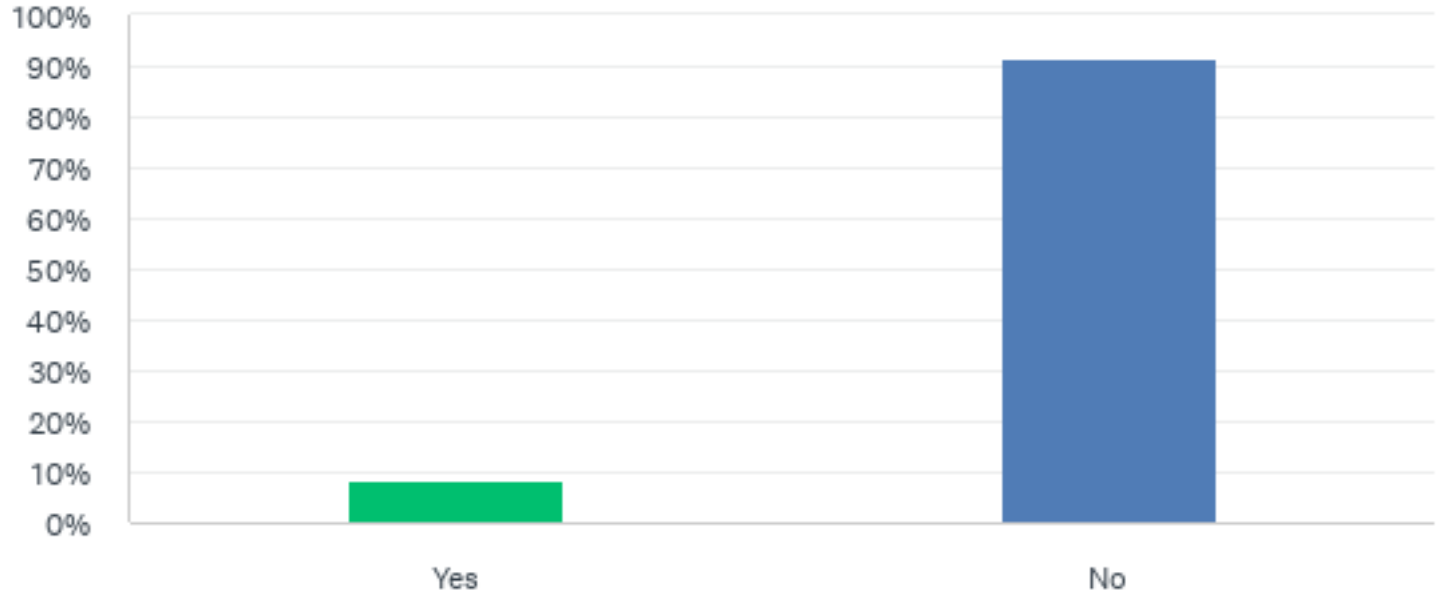
Do you....

Answered: 2,296 Skipped: 16



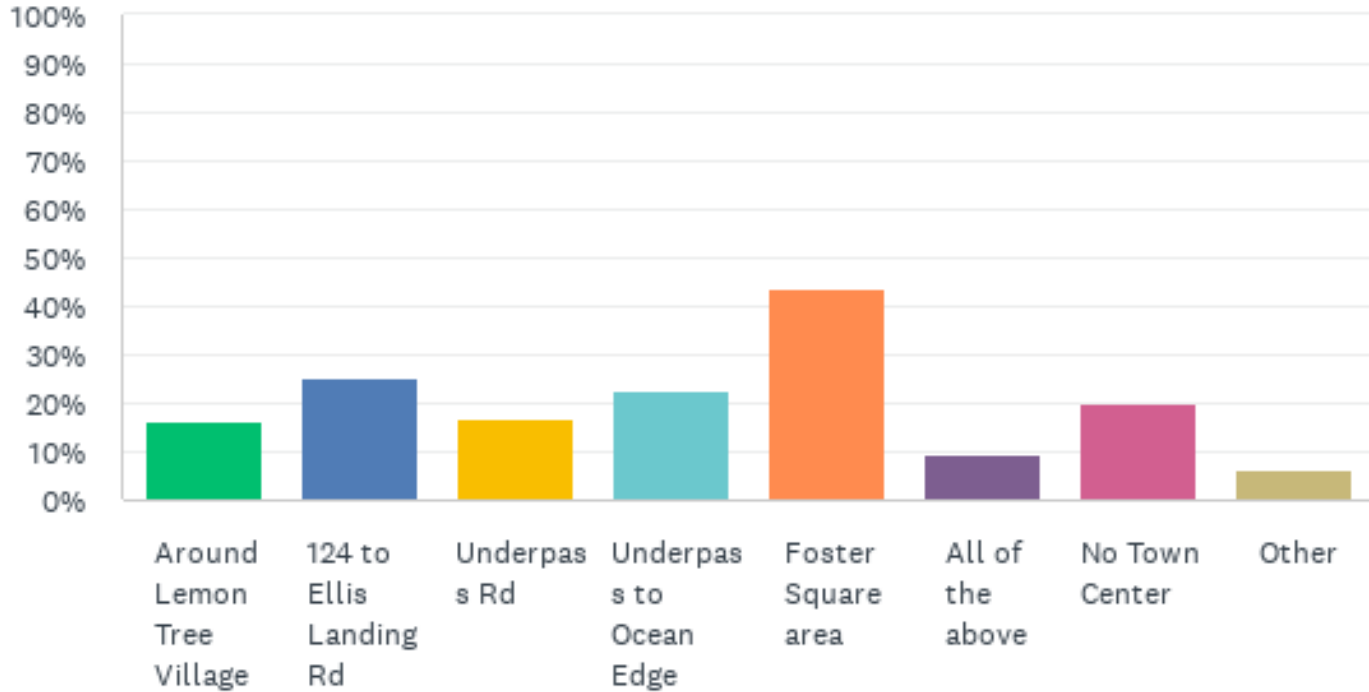
Are you a Brewster business owner or operator?

Answered: 2,291 Skipped: 21



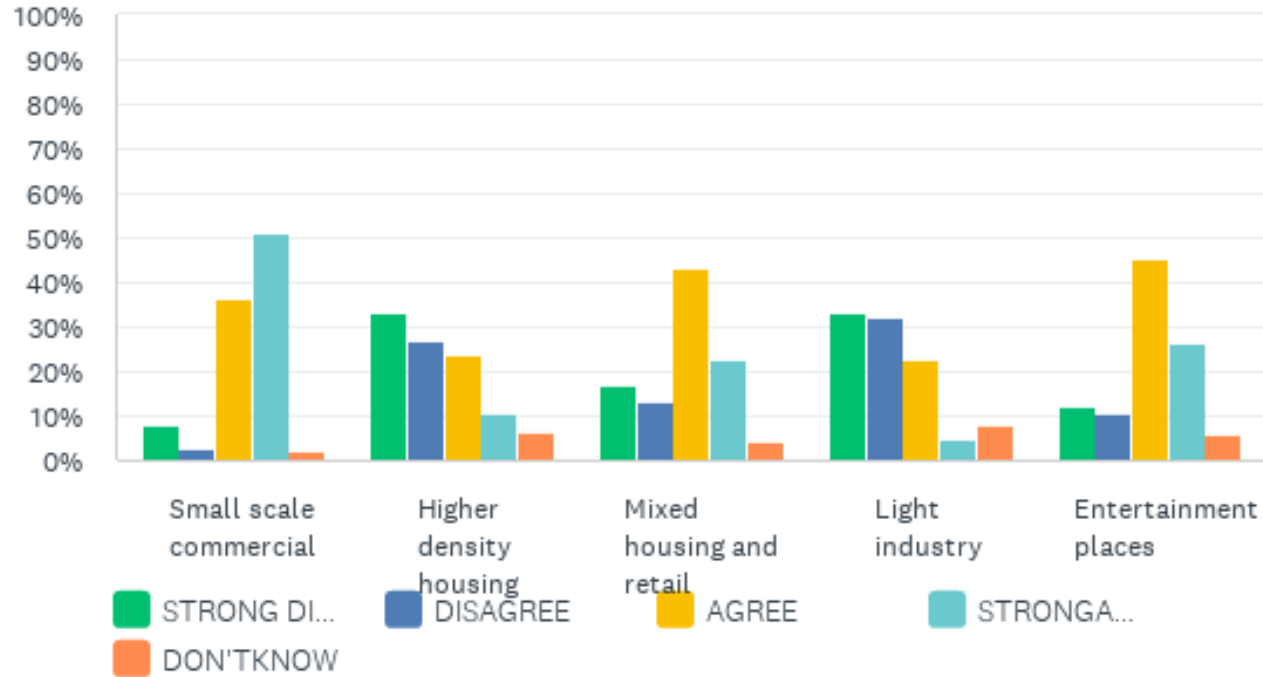
What areas do you think should be part of a Town Center or Centers?

Answered: 2,048 Skipped: 264



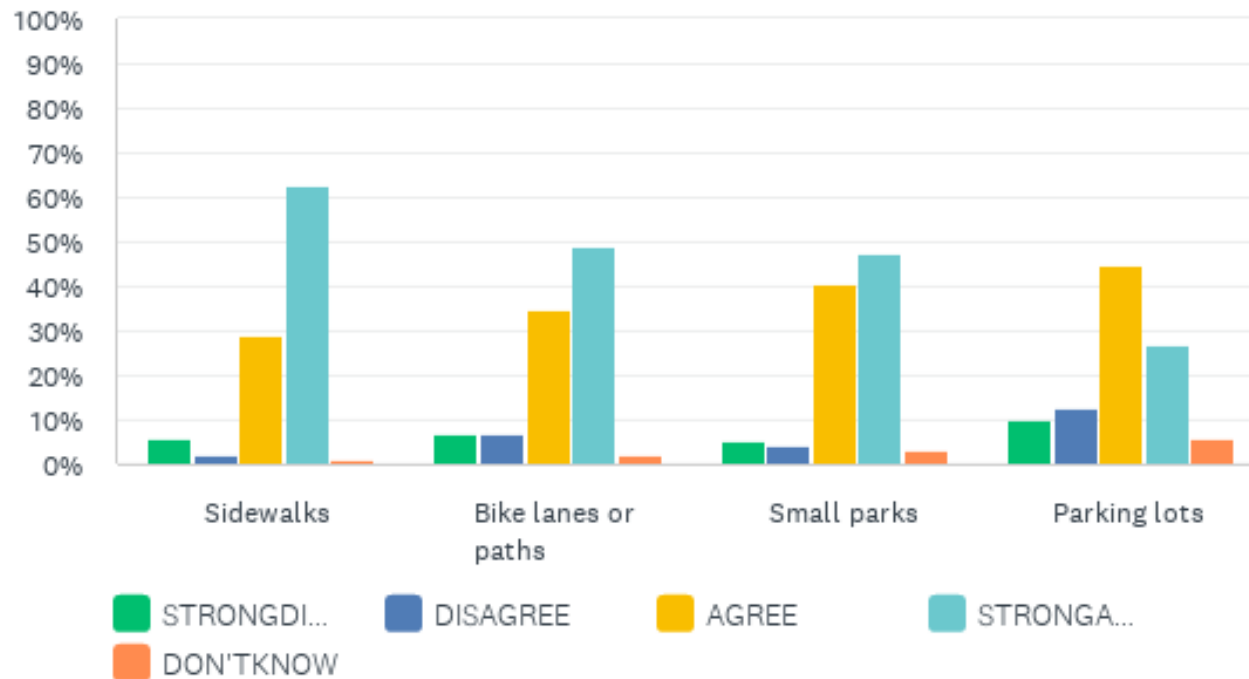
How much do you agree with including each of the following features or uses in a Town Center(s)?

Answered: 2,020 Skipped: 292



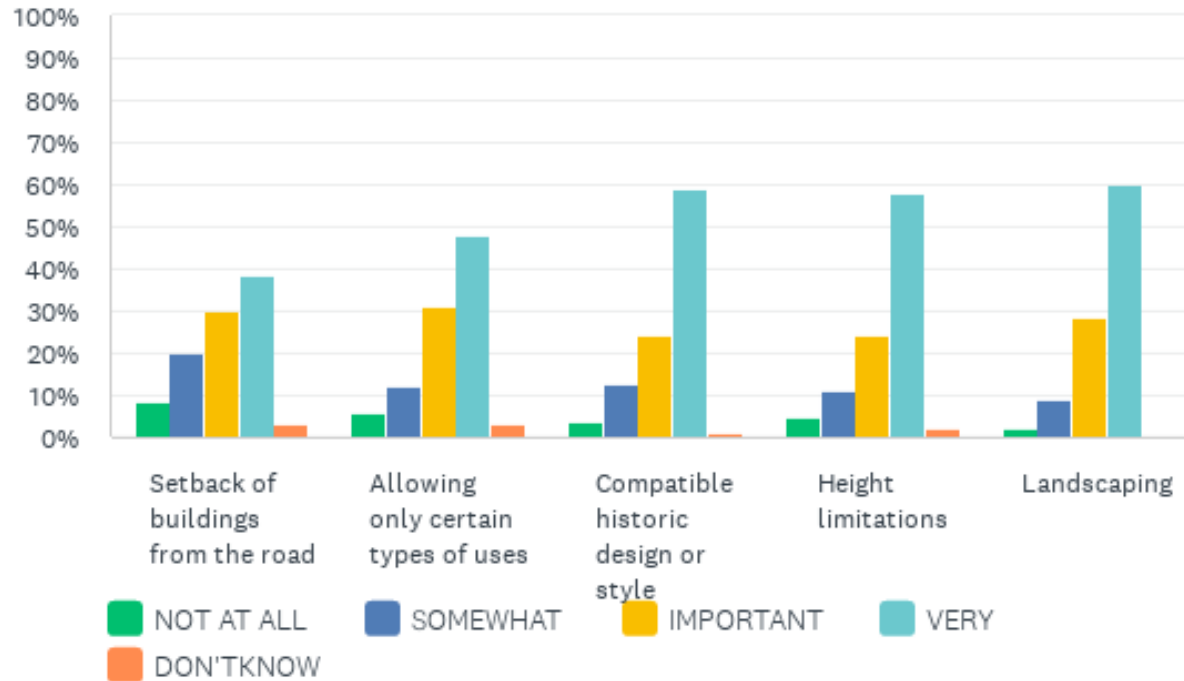
How much do you agree with including each of the following in a Town Center(s)?

Answered: 2,020 Skipped: 292



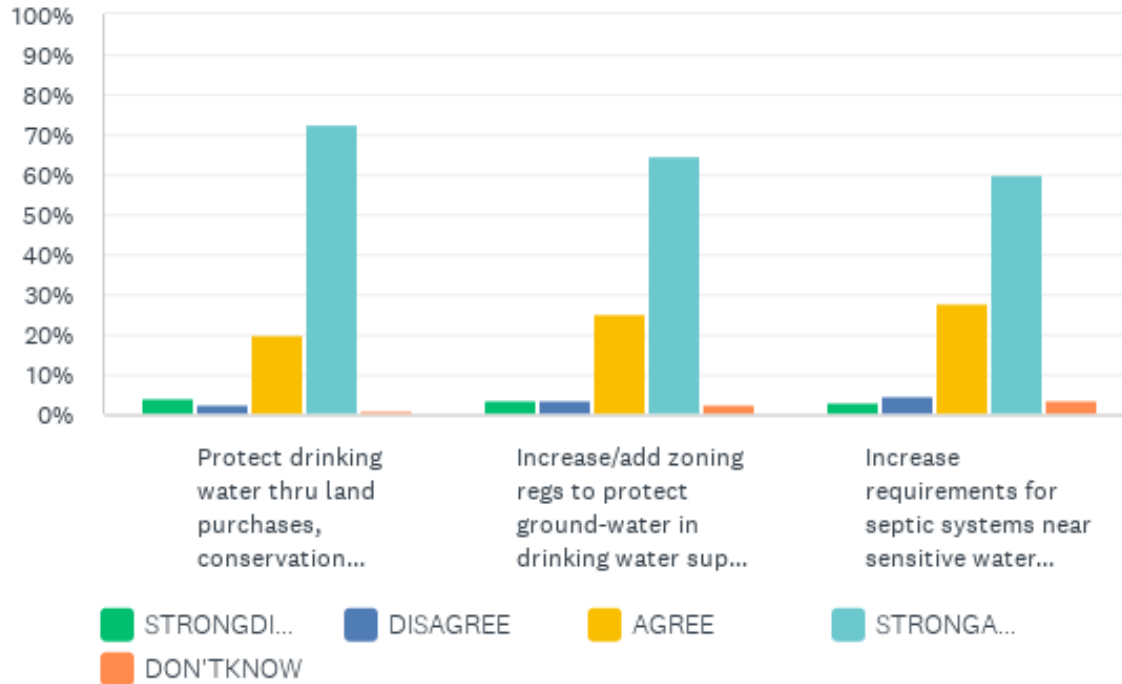
In developing a Town Center(s), how important are each of the following controls for preserving the character of Rt 6A?

Answered: 2,011 Skipped: 301



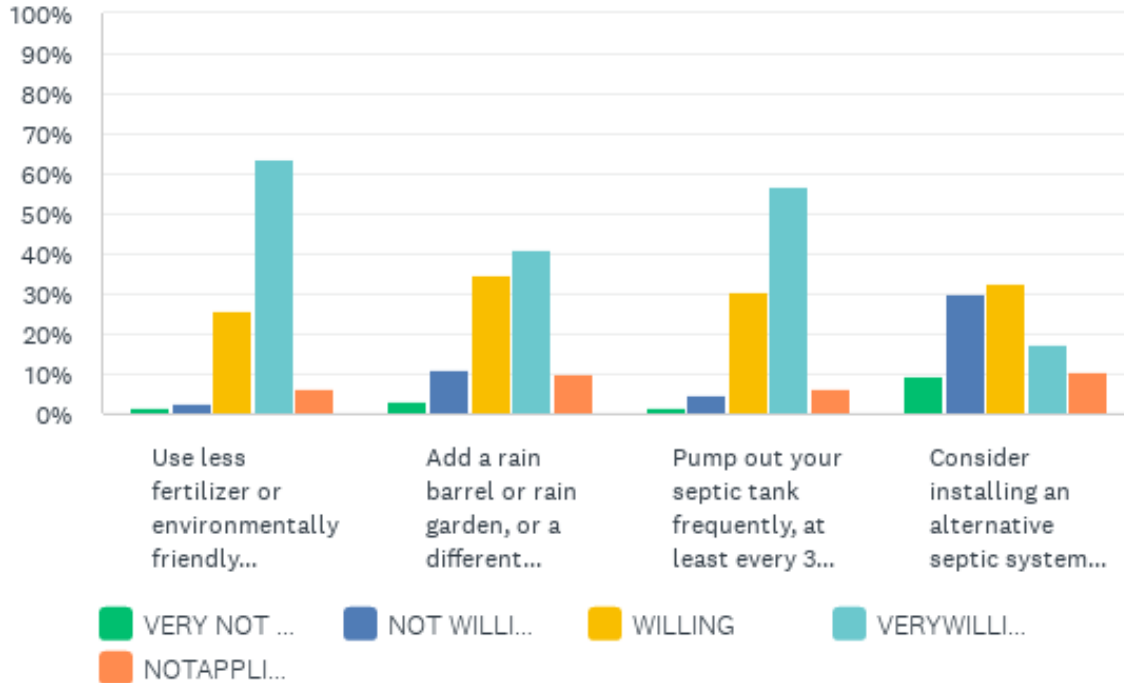
Please tell us how much you agree with each of the following actions to achieve the Water Resources Goal.

Answered: 2,041 Skipped: 271



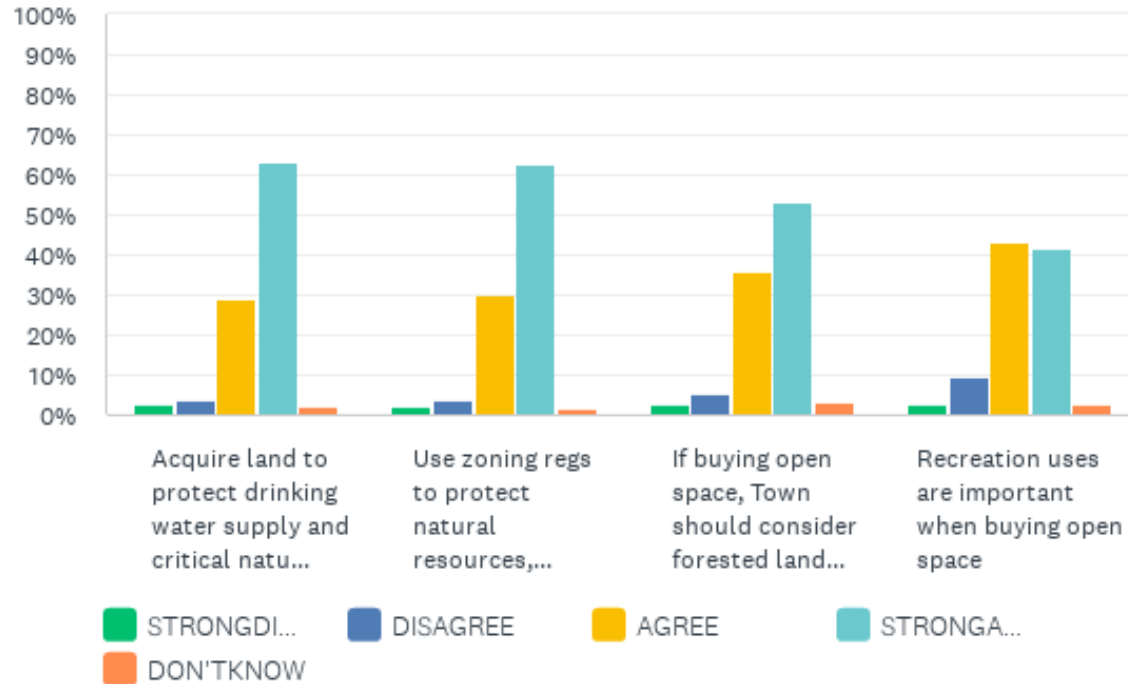
How willing are you to do the following to help protect water quality?

Answered: 2,038 Skipped: 274



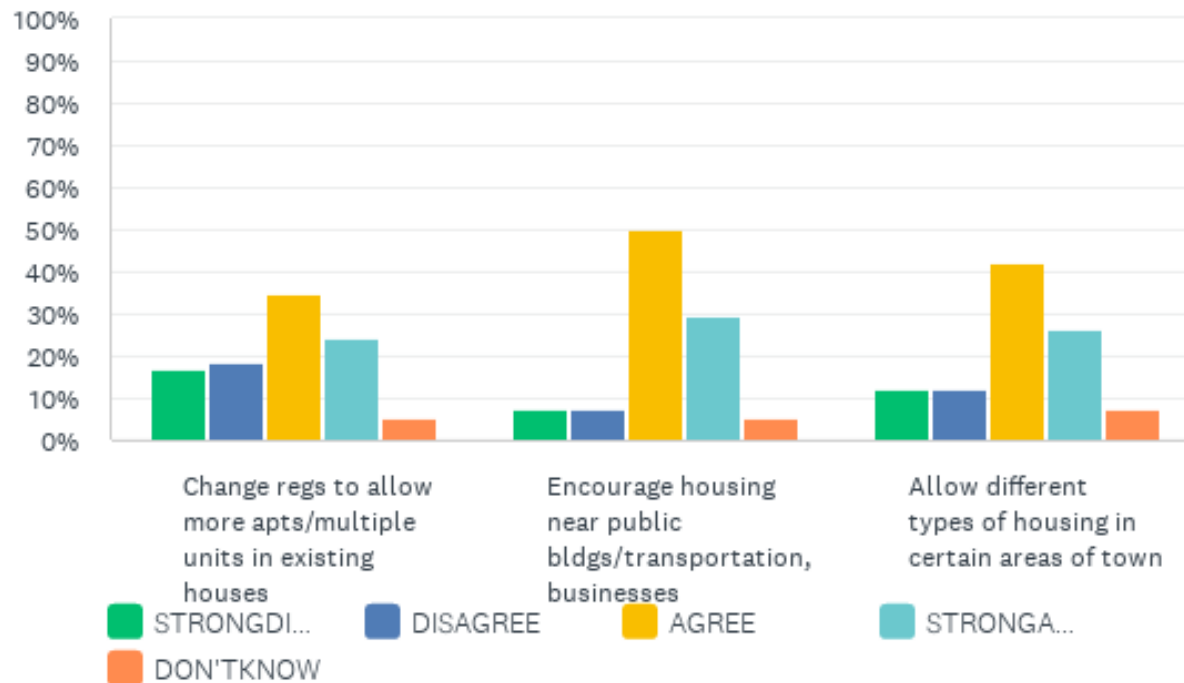
Please tell us how much you agree with each of the following actions to achieve the Open Space Goal.

Answered: 2,025 Skipped: 287



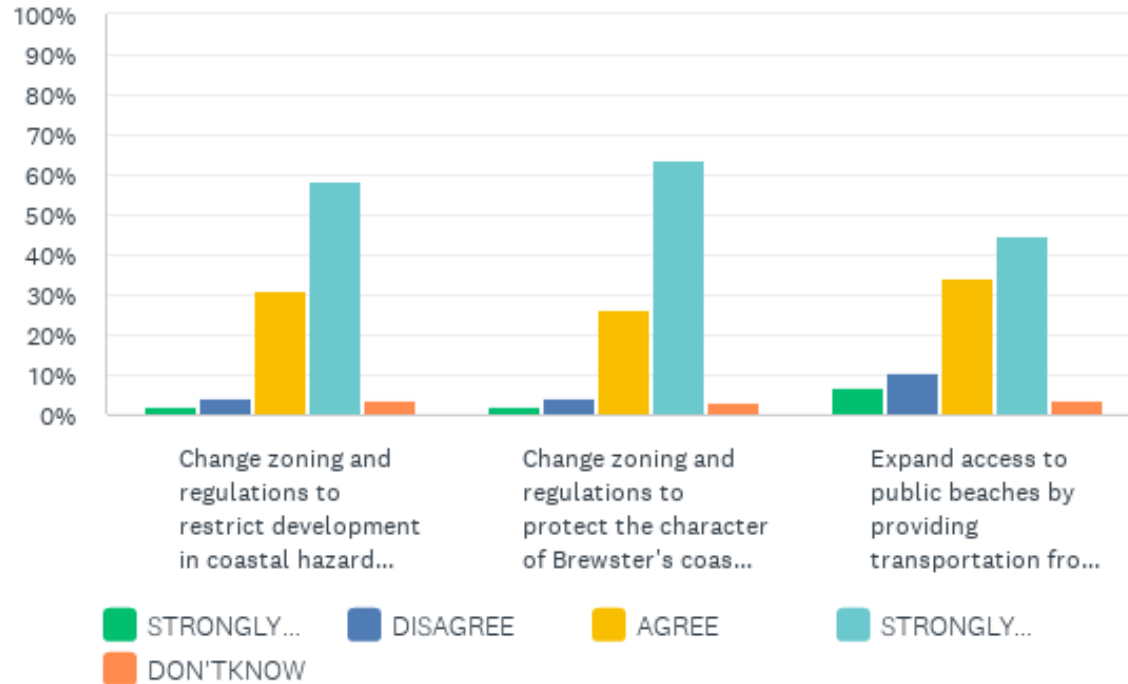
Please tell us how much you agree with each of the following actions or zoning changes to achieve the Housing Goal.

Answered: 2,010 Skipped: 302



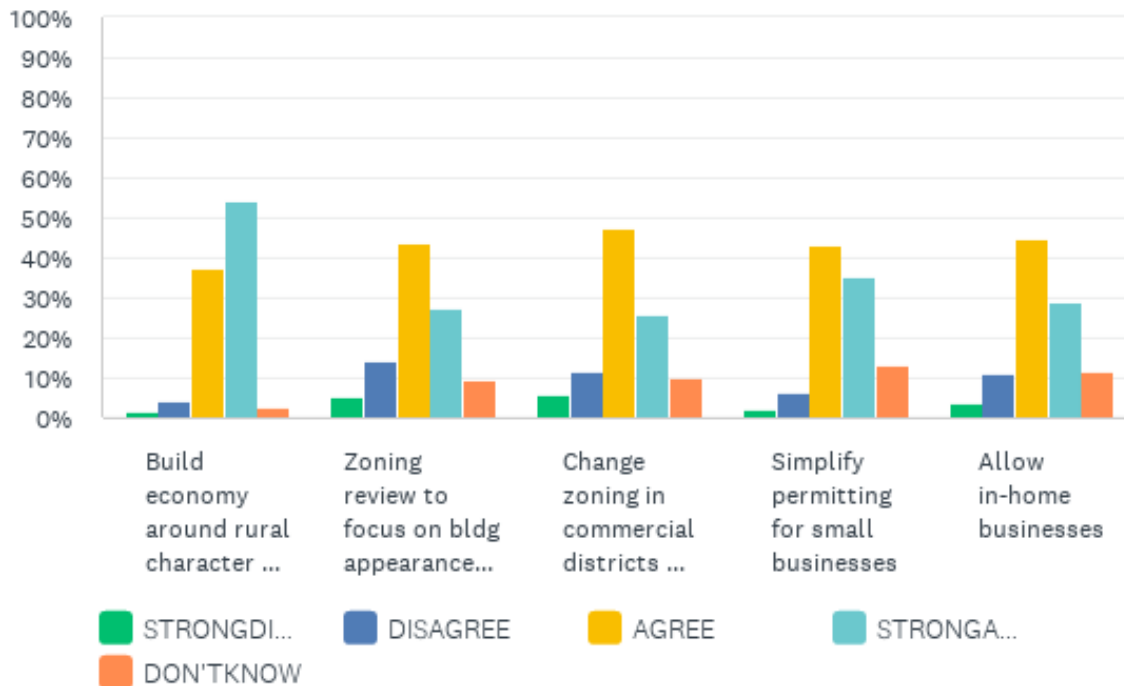
Please tell us how much you agree with each of the following actions to achieve the Coastal Management Goal.

Answered: 2,001 Skipped: 311



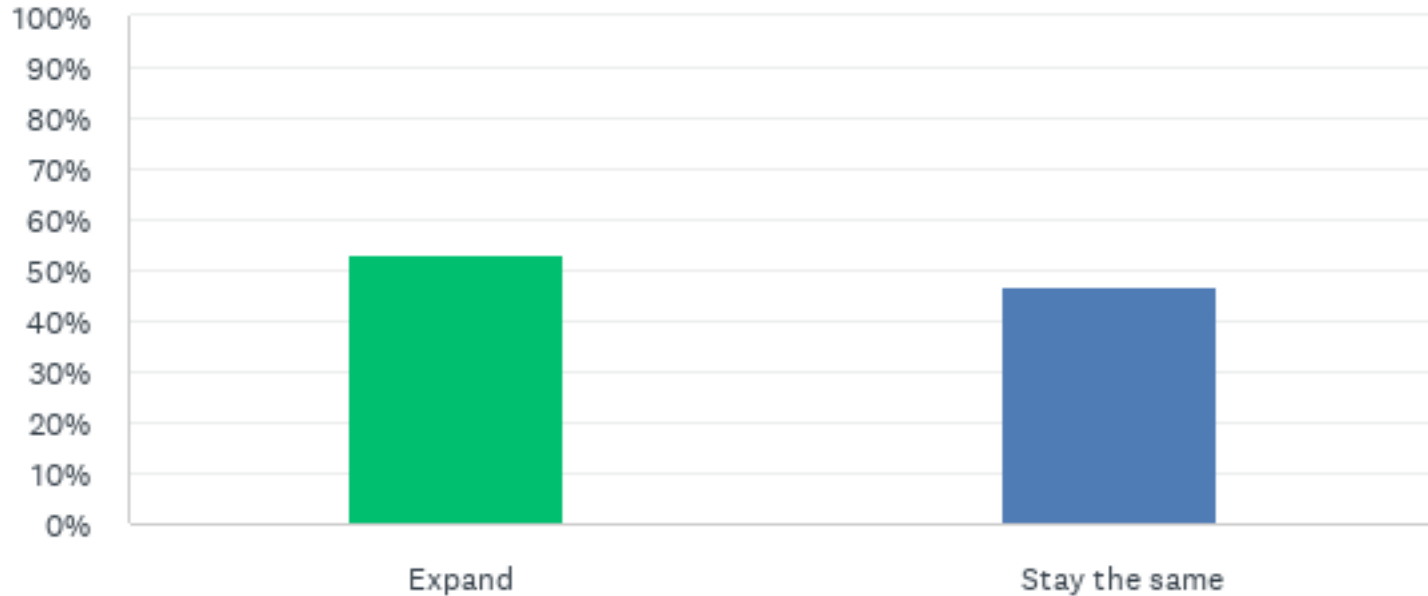
Please tell us how much you agree with each of the following actions to achieve the Local Economy Goal.

Answered: 1,987 Skipped: 325



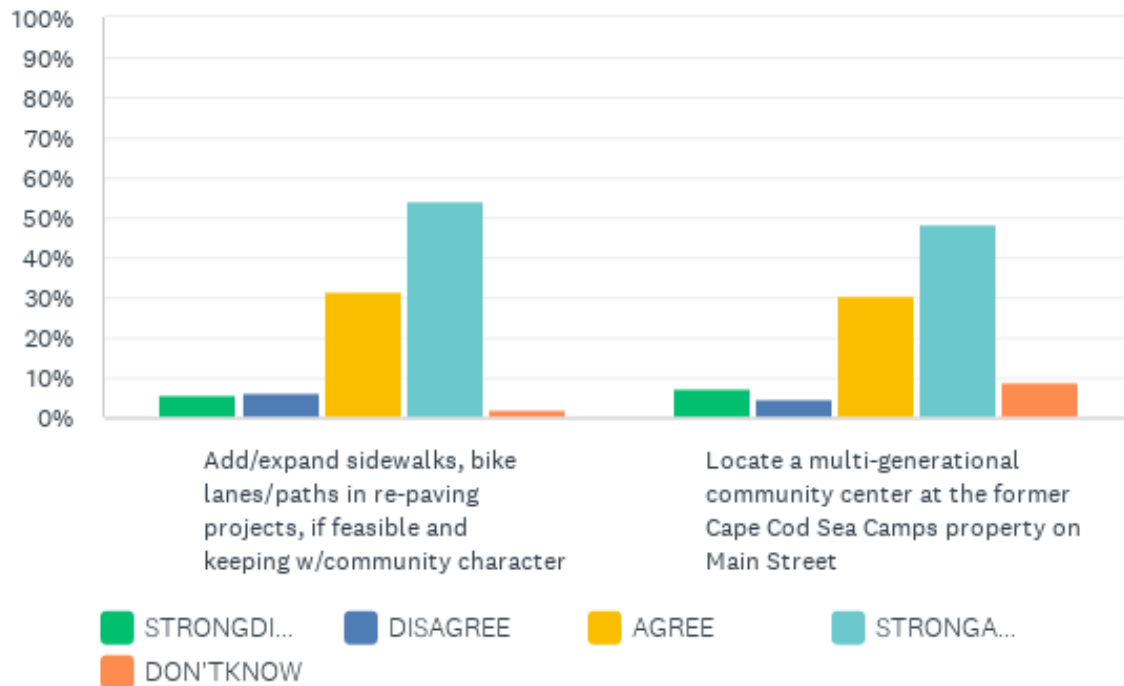
Would you like to see the business areas along Rt 6A at the Orleans town line expand or stay the same?

Answered: 1,877 Skipped: 435



Please tell us how much you agree with each of the following actions to achieve the Community Infrastructure Goal.

Answered: 1,986 Skipped: 326



Please tell us how much you agree with each of the following to achieve the Climate Mitigation Goal.

Answered: 1,975 Skipped: 337

