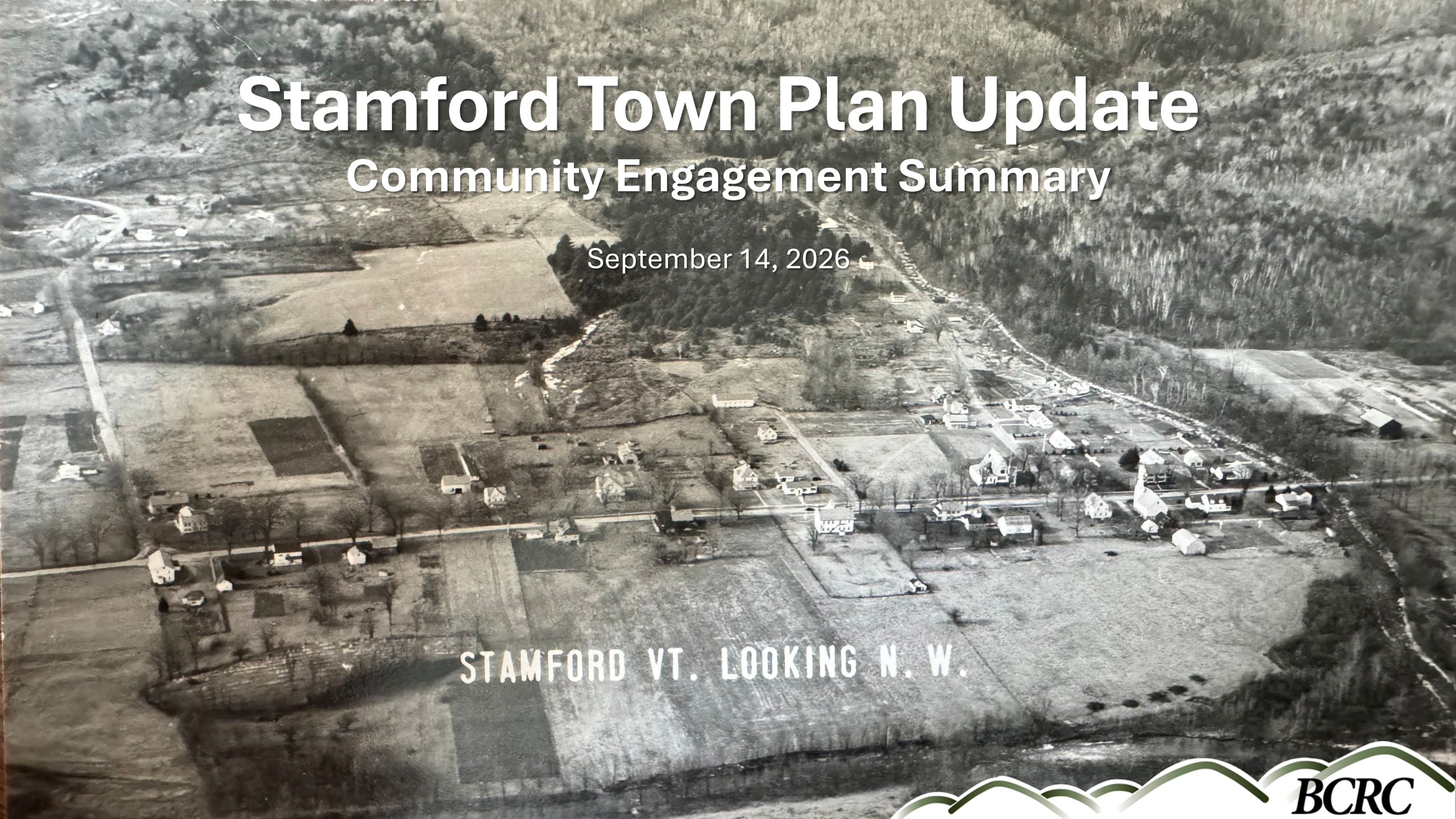
Stamford Town Plan Update

Community Engagement Summary

September 14, 2026



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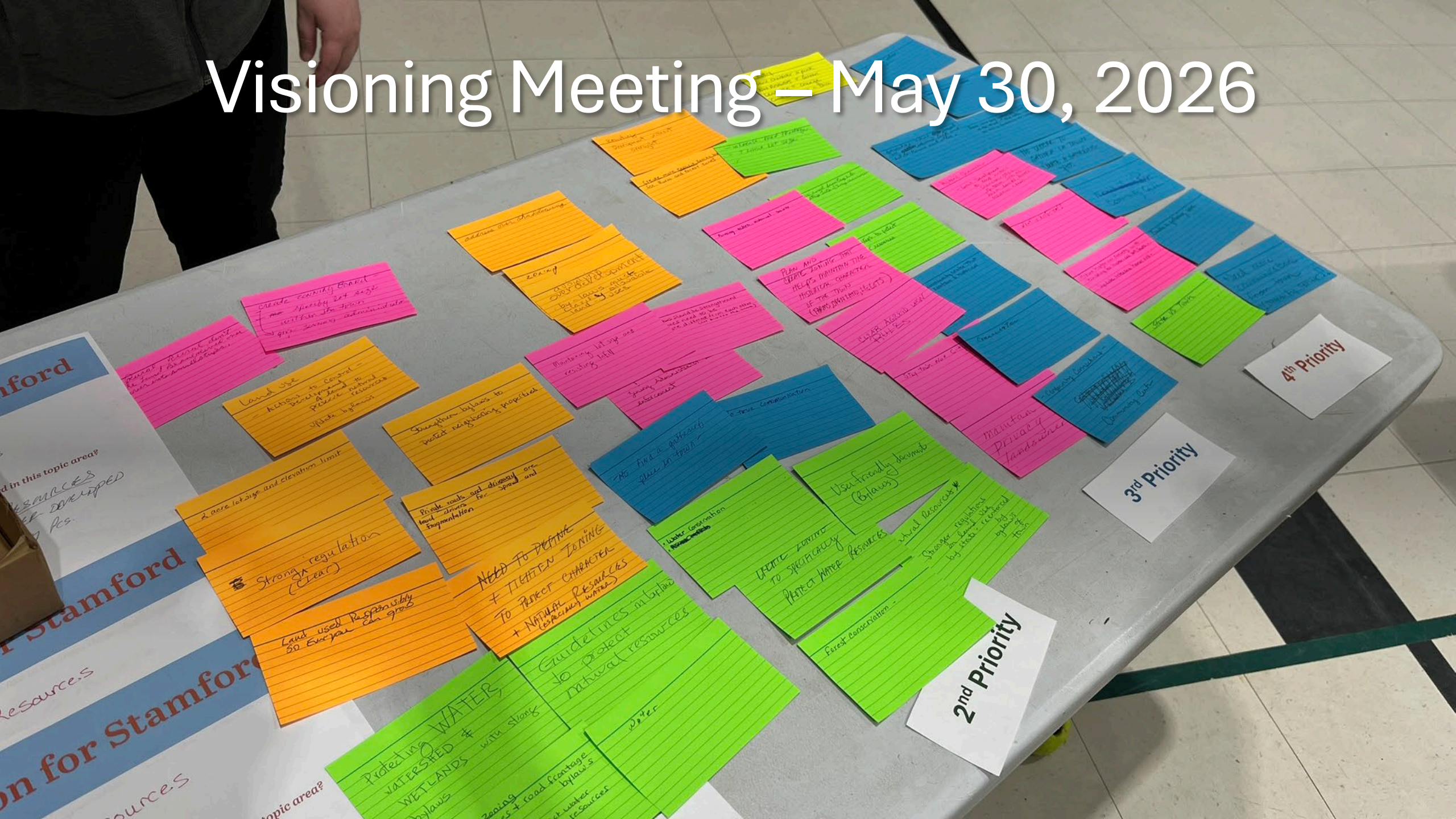
Village Center Walking Tour – May 30, 2026

Visioning Meeting – May 30, 2026



Visioning Meeting Priorities

1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority	4th Priority
Actions to control development of land to preserve natural resources - update bylaws	Avoiding overdevelopment - bylaws must clarify allowable land uses	Create more explicit zoning bylaws for rural and forest zones	State vs. town
Strong, clear regulation	Zoning	Resisting development without oversight	Active historical society with building for historical artifacts - update veteran's honor roll
2 acre lot size and elevation limit	Address overshaddowing	Take steps to protect water resources	What is historical?
Strengthen bylaws to protect neighboring properties	Water conservation	Increase rural frontage to prevent strip lots (tiny narrow lo	Limit development to keep historic characteristics of town such as farm lands, rivers, mountain
Need to define + tighten zoning to protect character + natural resources (especially water)	Create zoning specifically to protect water resources	Increase road frontage, limit lot size	There isn't any gathering spot in the town. The town needs to allows someone to create one.
Private roads and driveways are lead drivers for sprawl and fragmentation	Forest conservation	Plan and create zoning that helps maintain the historic character of the town (farms, open land, large lots)	No where to gather in town, create a gathering spot
Land used responsibly so everyone can grow	User-friendly documents (bylaws)	Forming active historical society	Community center
Water	Stronger regulations on land use by state, reinforced by bylaws of town	Maintain privacy of landowners	Need more communication from the town. Community center!!
Guidelines in bylaws to protect natural resources	Maintaining lot size and resisting infill	Clear agreed upon rules	Lack of community center
Change zoning - increase lot sizes + road frontage bylaws	Zoning bylaws should be strengthened and zones need to be more different from each other (not almost the same)	Stay town, not city	Somewhere people can sit and talk and get to know each other
Create zoning to protect water resources	Strengthen position of zoning administrator for enforcement	Community center	Create a gathering spot
Protect water, watershed, and wetlands with strong bylaws	Find a gathering place in town	Lack of community center that can also contain a historical society	Community center
Keep rural, rural. Don't let the land be subdivided over and over into small strips	No true communication		
Create zoning board, give zoning administrator			
Specific lot size within the town			

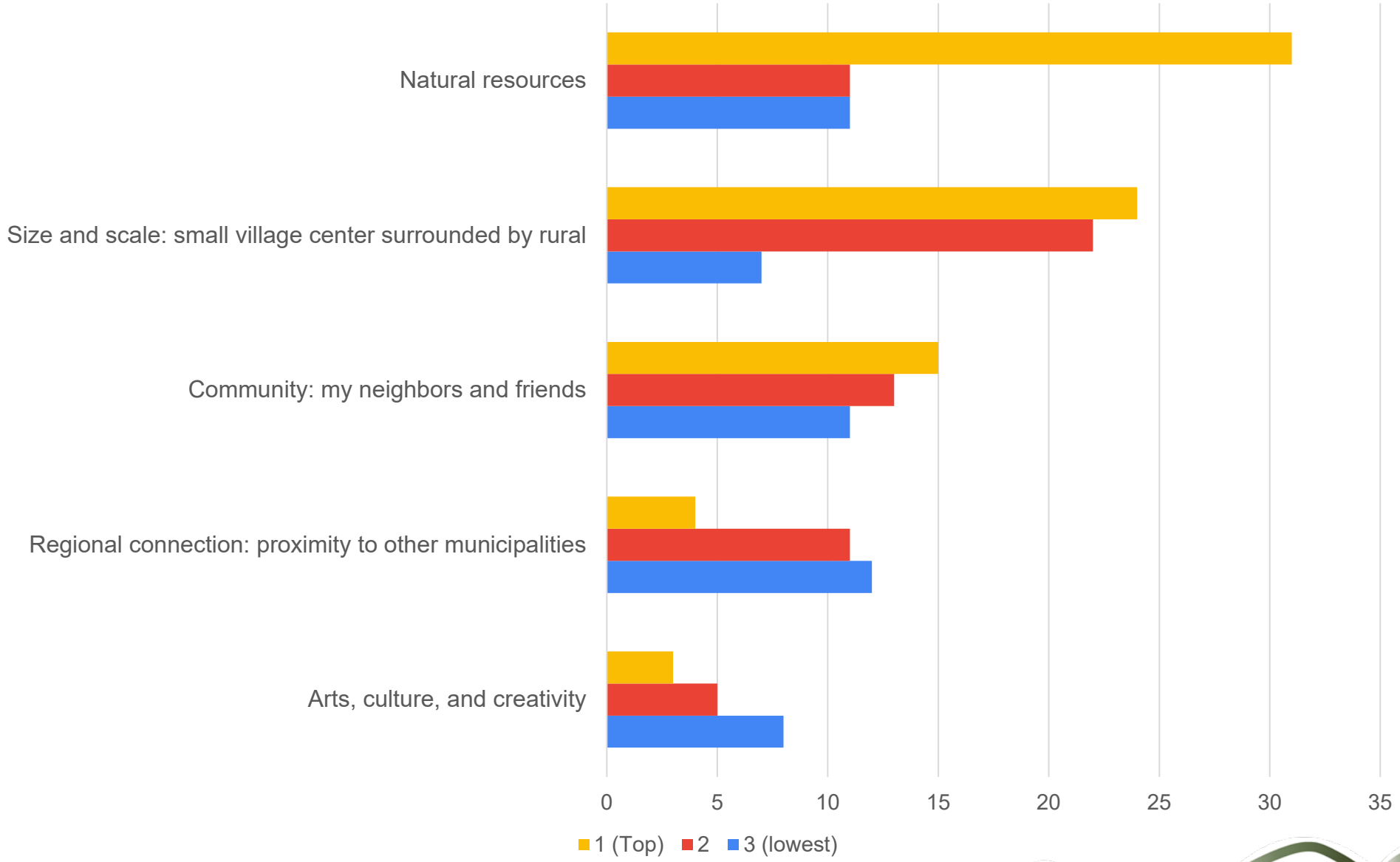
Land Use
Natural Resources
Historic character
Community Connections

Survey Results

60 responses

Open mid-May – July 10, 2026

What do you like most about Stamford? (Rank your top 3)



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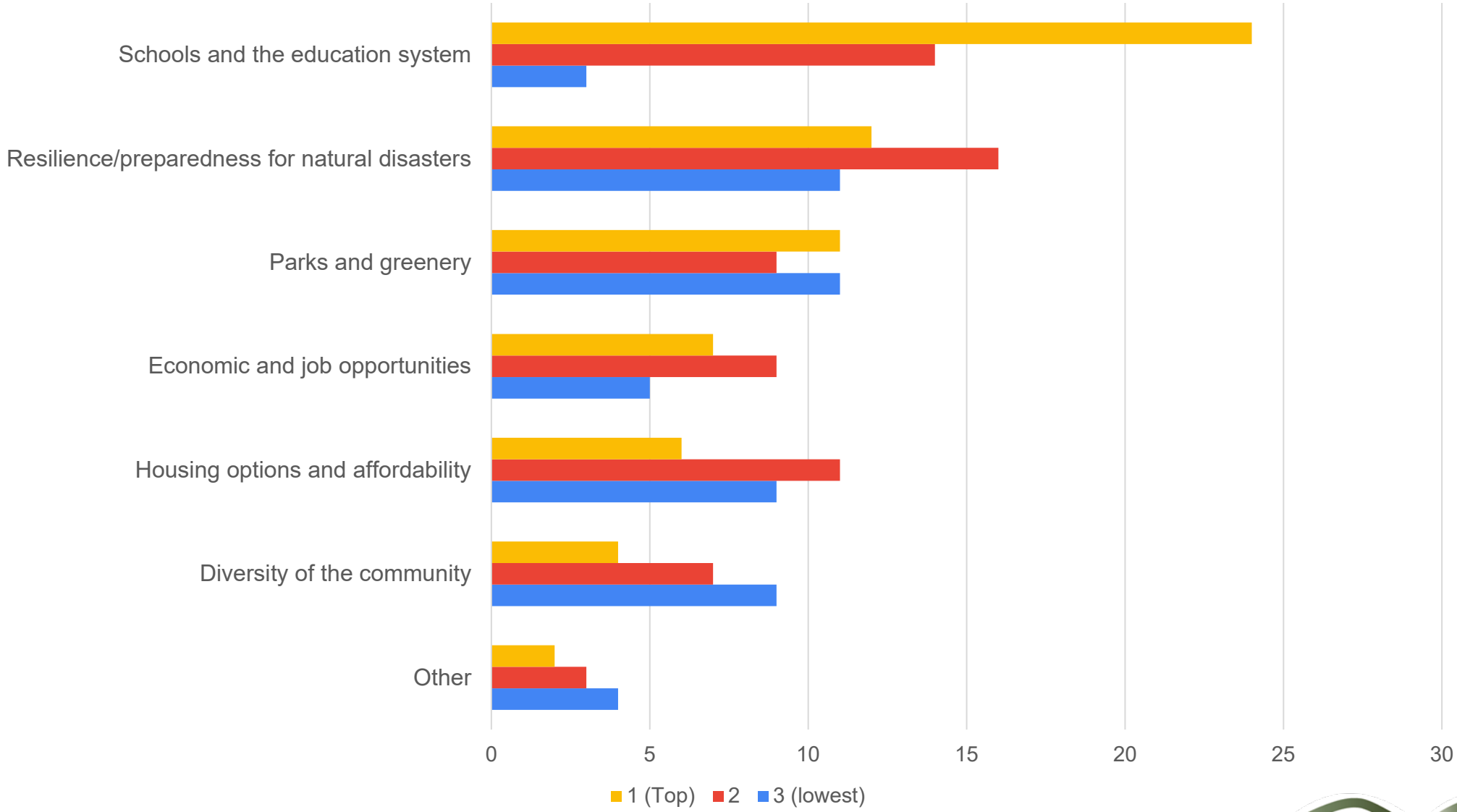
What would you most like to see improved in Stamford? (Rank your top 3)



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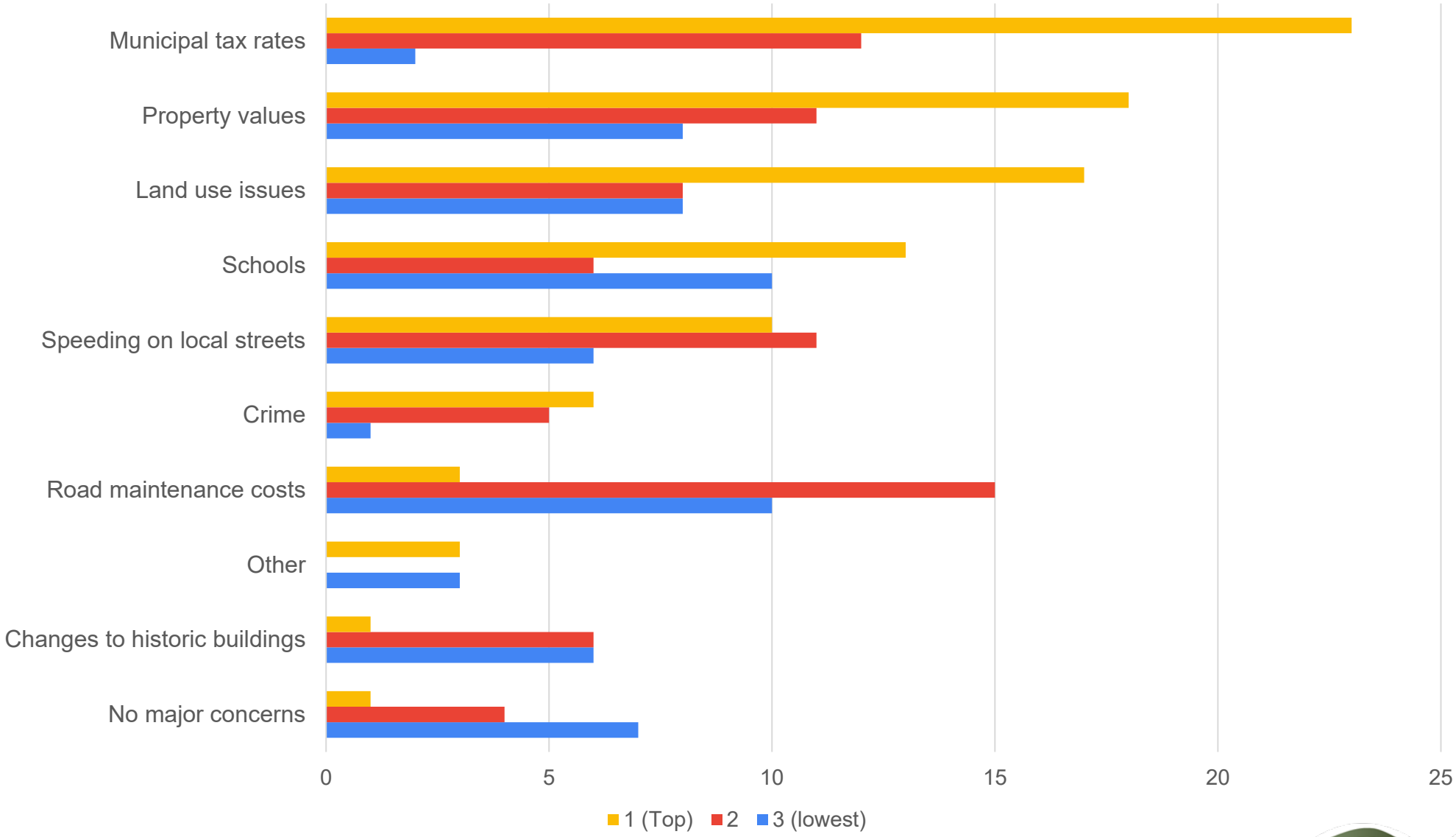
What is your top concern for Stamford? (Rank your top 3)



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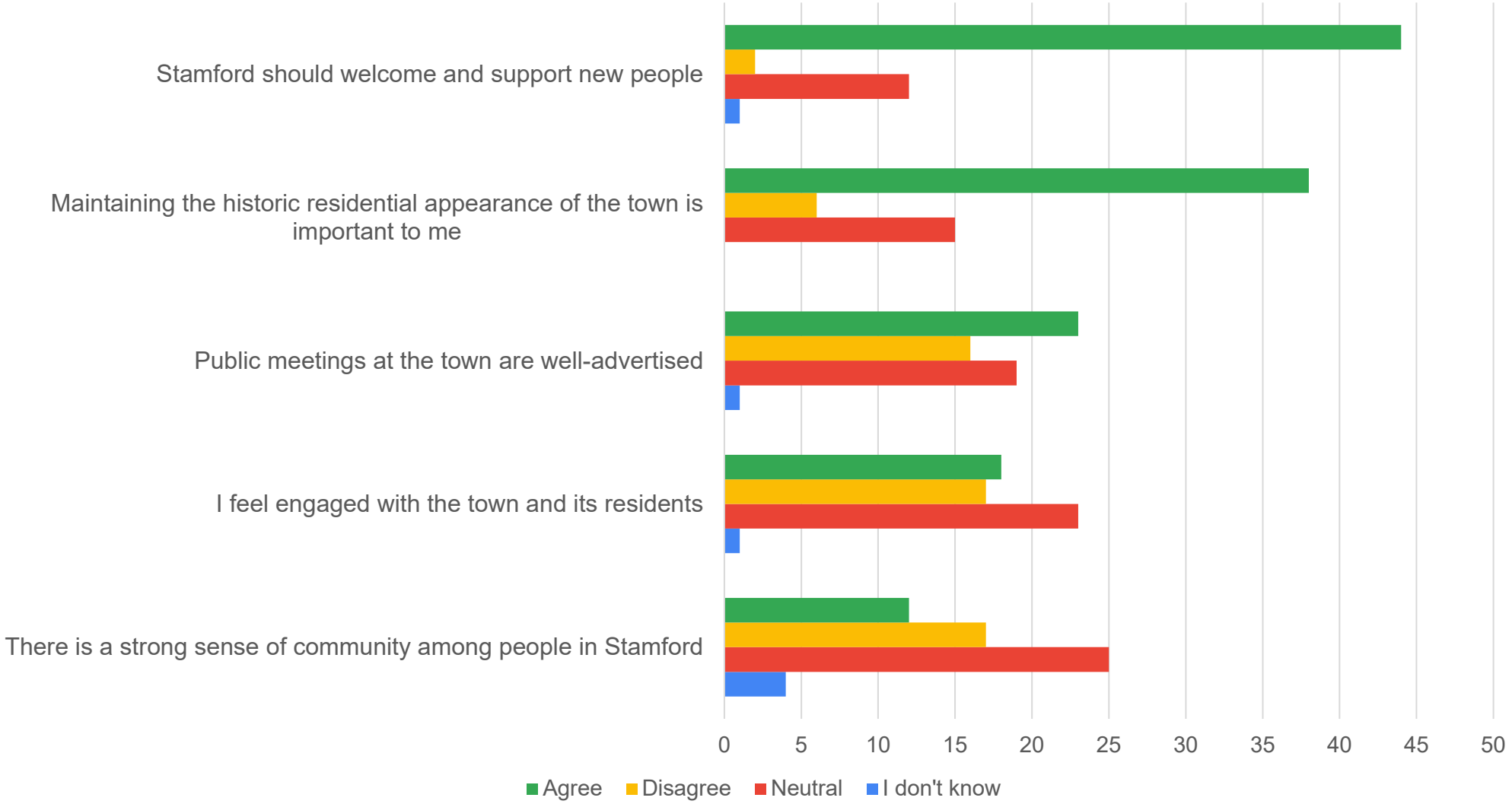
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



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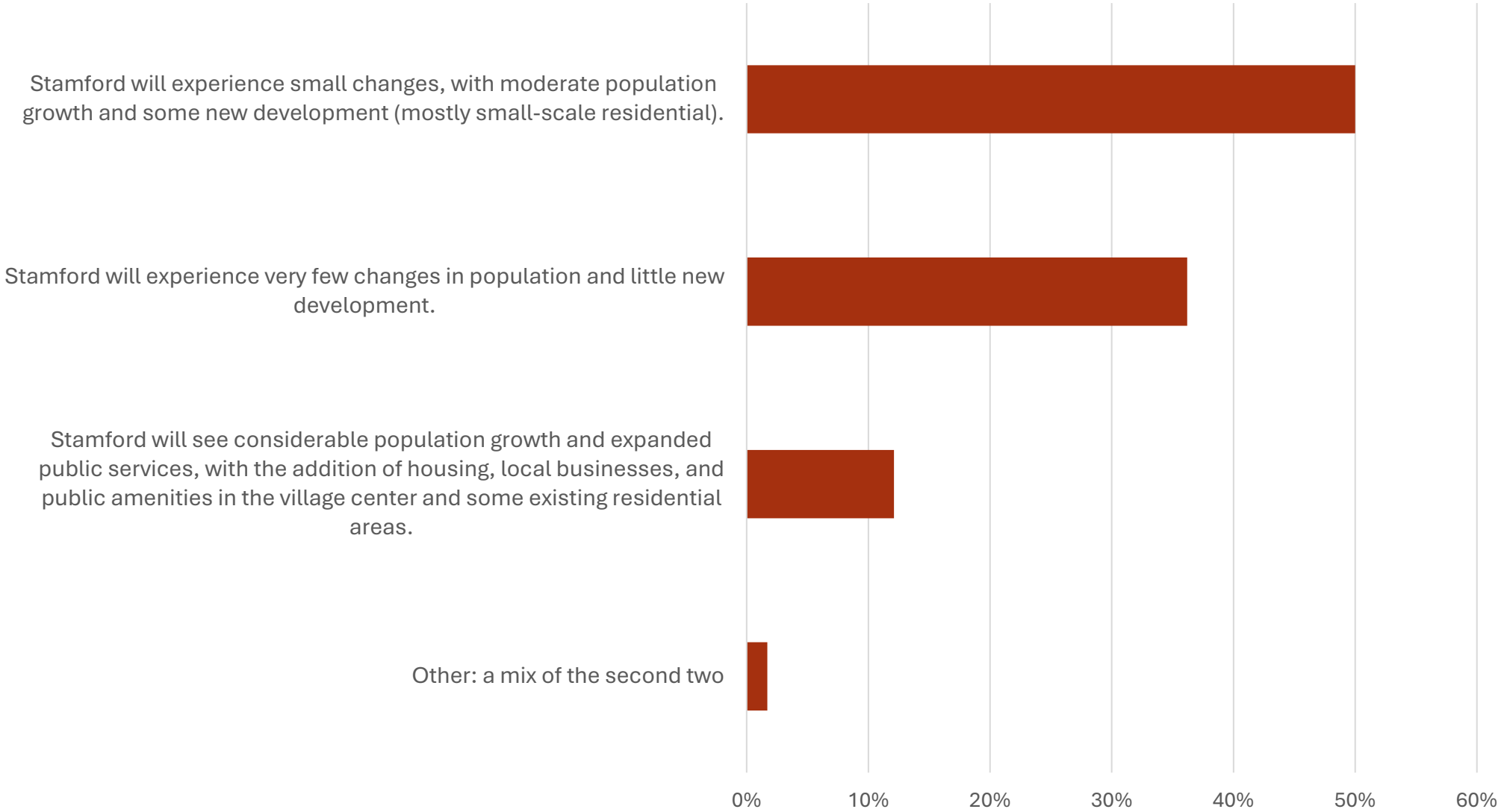
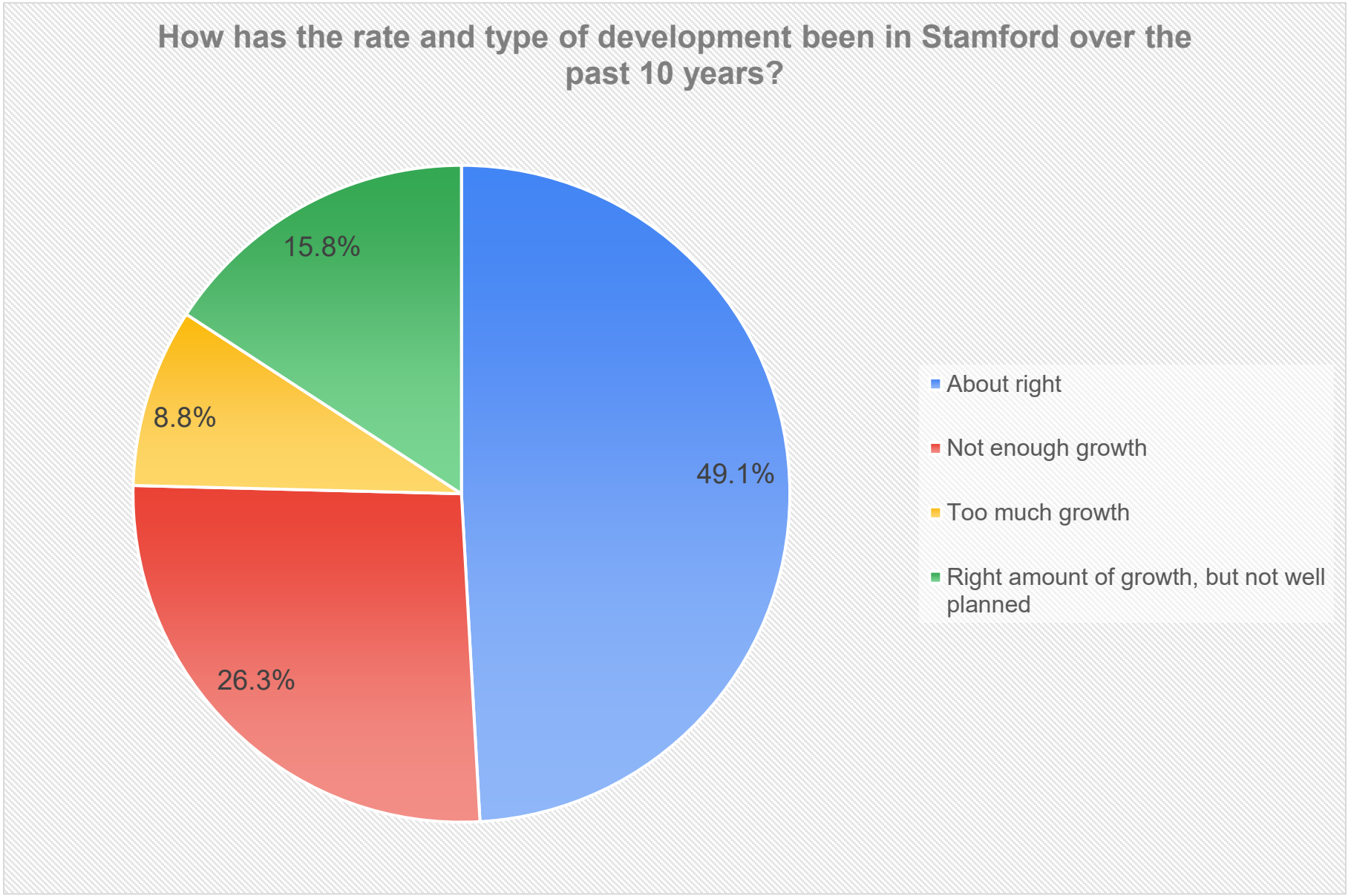
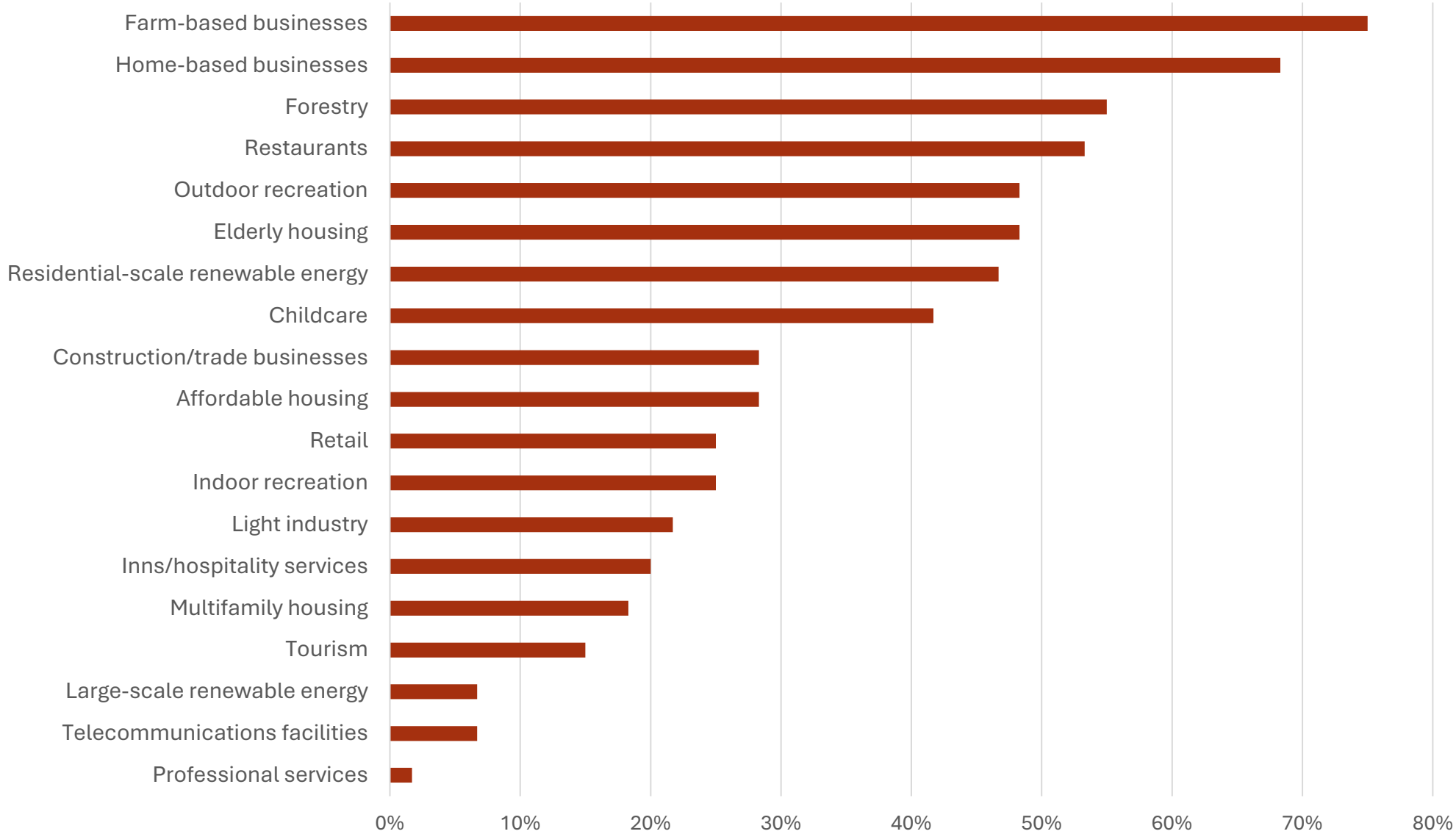
What statement most accurately describes your vision of Stamford's future?




How has the rate and type of development been in Stamford over the past 10 years?
15.8%
8.8%
49.1%
26.3%
About right
Not enough growth
Too much growth
Right amount of growth, but not well planned

BCRC

Which of these development types do you support in Stamford?

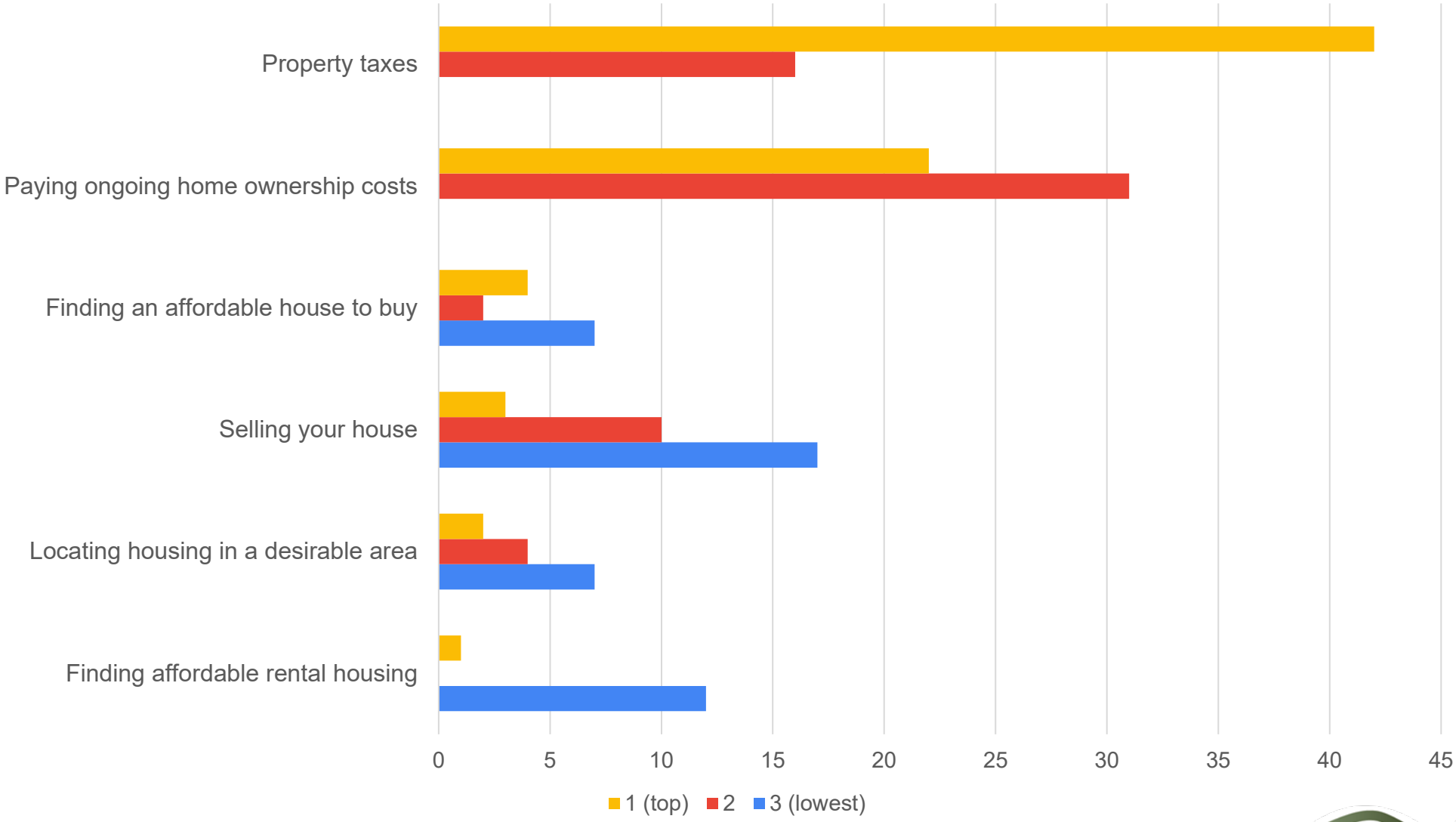


BCRC

Additional Comments on Land Use

- I feel land use should be carefully monitored to keep the character of our town.
- Stamford needs more expensive homes on large lots in order to increase tax base while maintaining rural characteristics.
- Town own land should be logged to help pay taxes
- No data centers
- If the state is concerning with a housing shortage, they should sell some of Green Mountain Forest and they can put in a water system.
- We need to keep any land use to a minimal. I moved to a small town not to be cramped with neighbors.
- Hopefully not adopting Act 181
- Clean up some of the properties on the Main Road

What is your principal concern related to your personal housing situation? (Rank your top 3)



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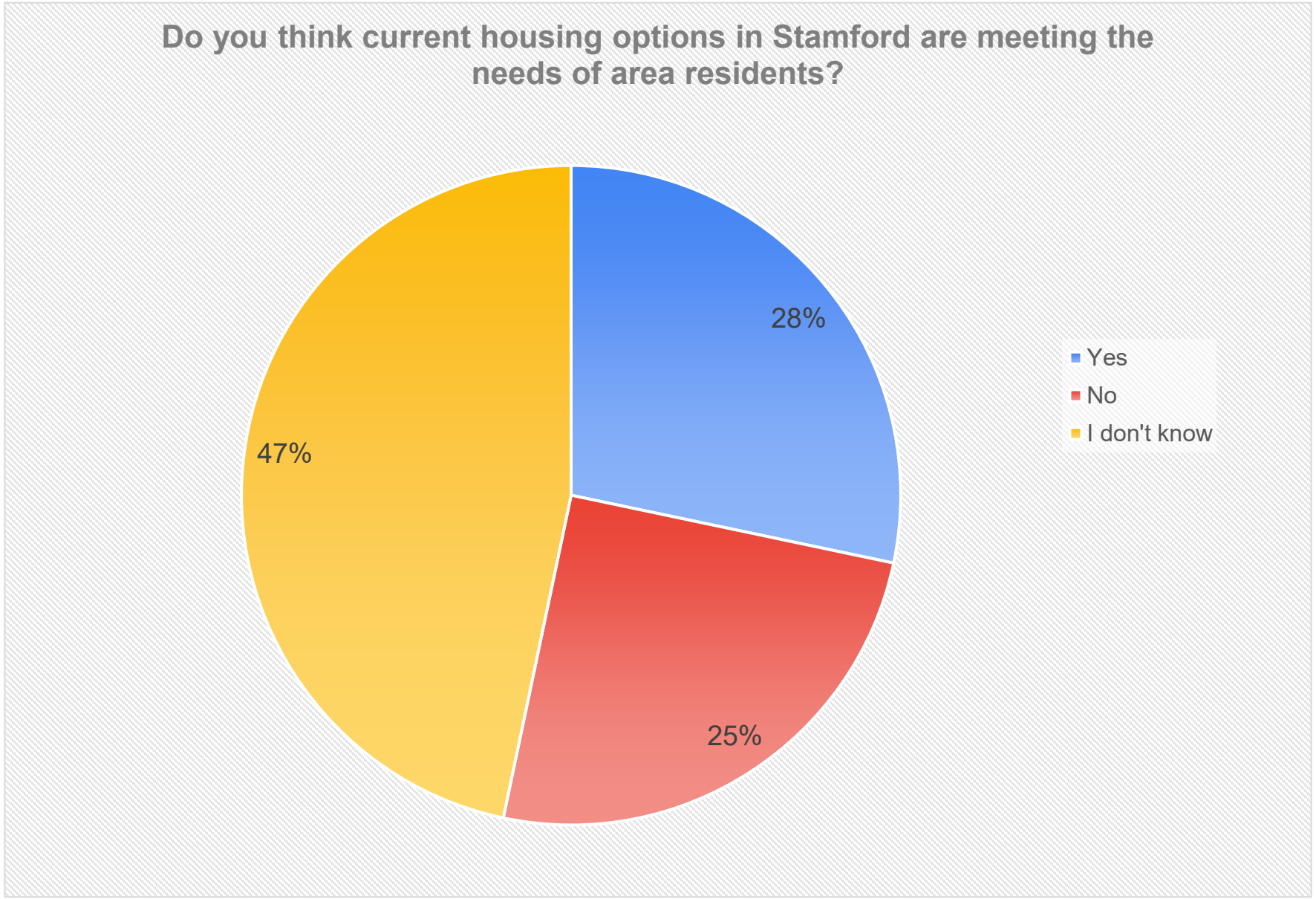
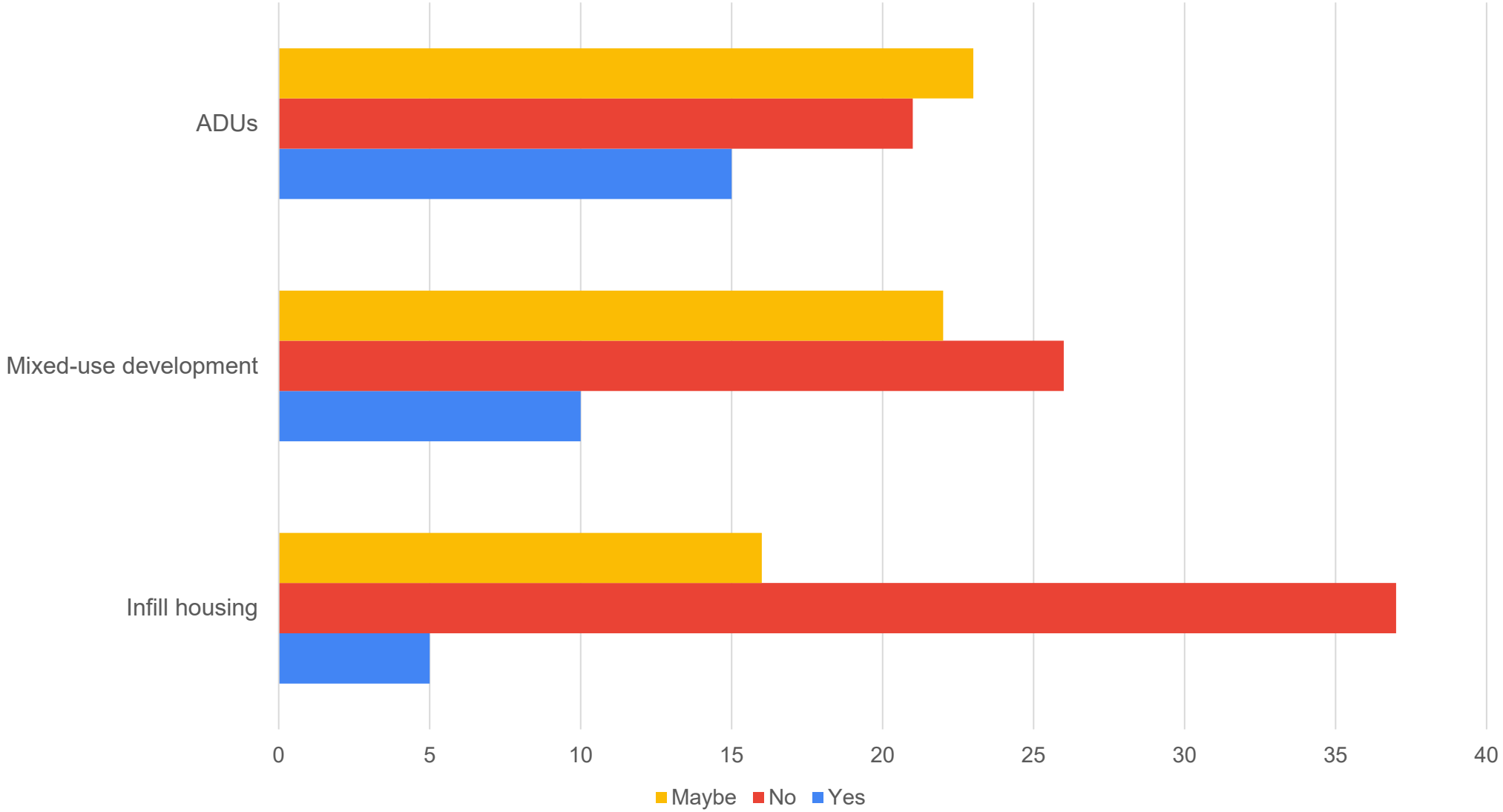

Do you think current housing options in Stamford are meeting the needs of area residents?
28%
25%
47%
Yes
No
I don't know

Would you be interested in having more of these types of housing in Stamford?



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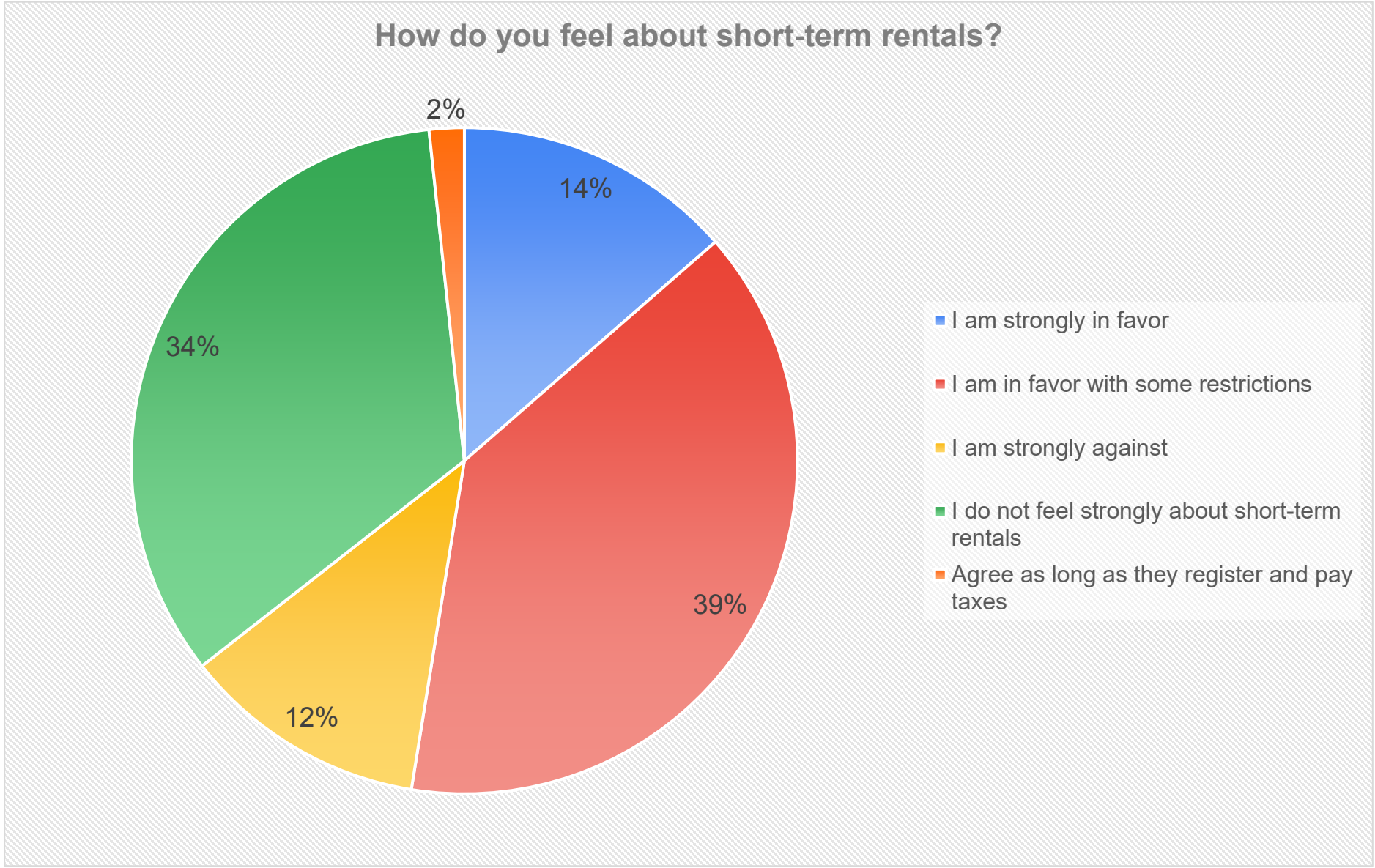
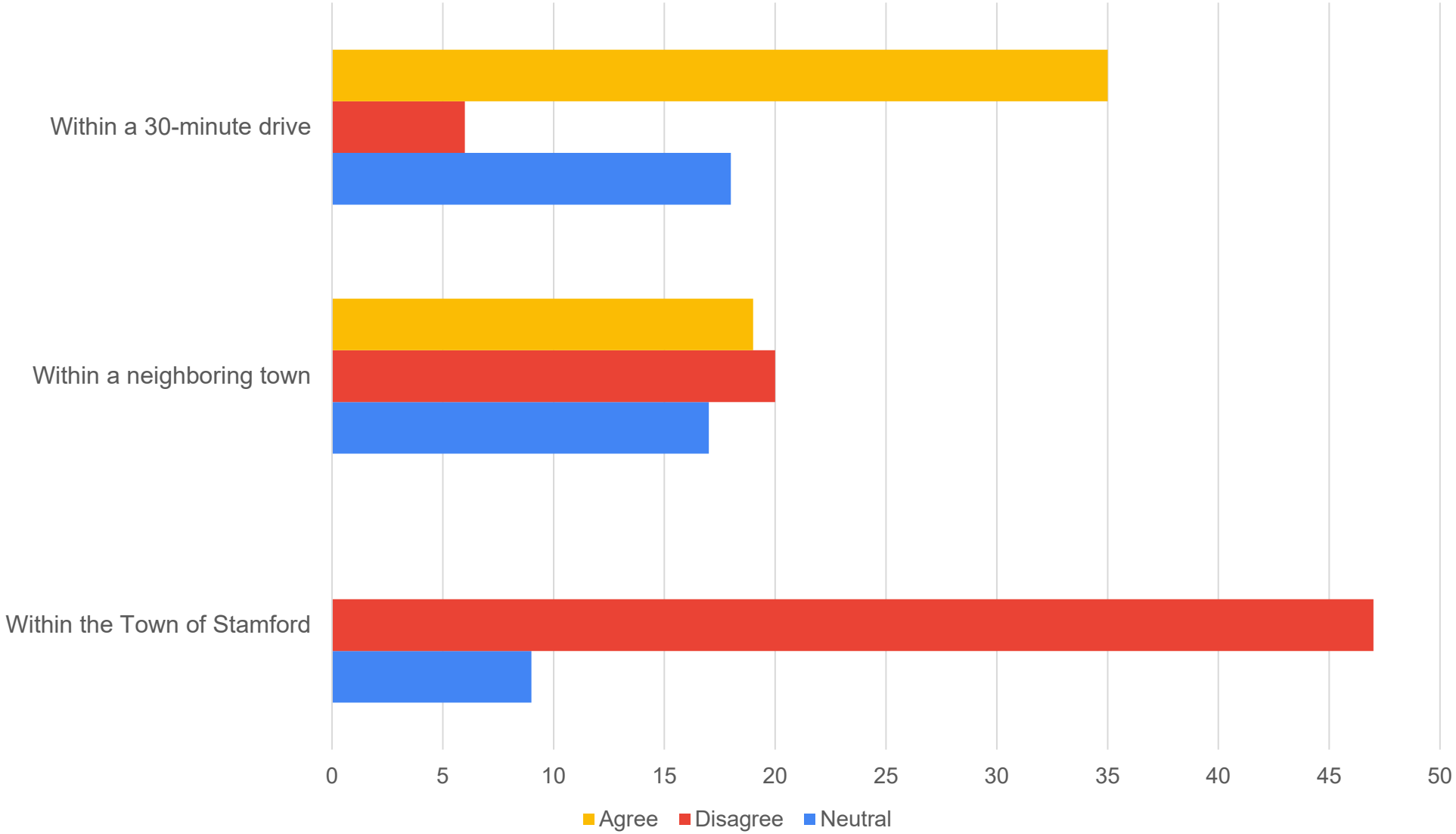

How do you feel about short-term rentals?
2%
14%
34%
39%
12%
I am strongly in favor
I am in favor with some restrictions
I am strongly against
I do not feel strongly about short-term rentals
Agree as long as they register and pay taxes

BCRC

Do you agree that there are enough opportunities to find a job . . .



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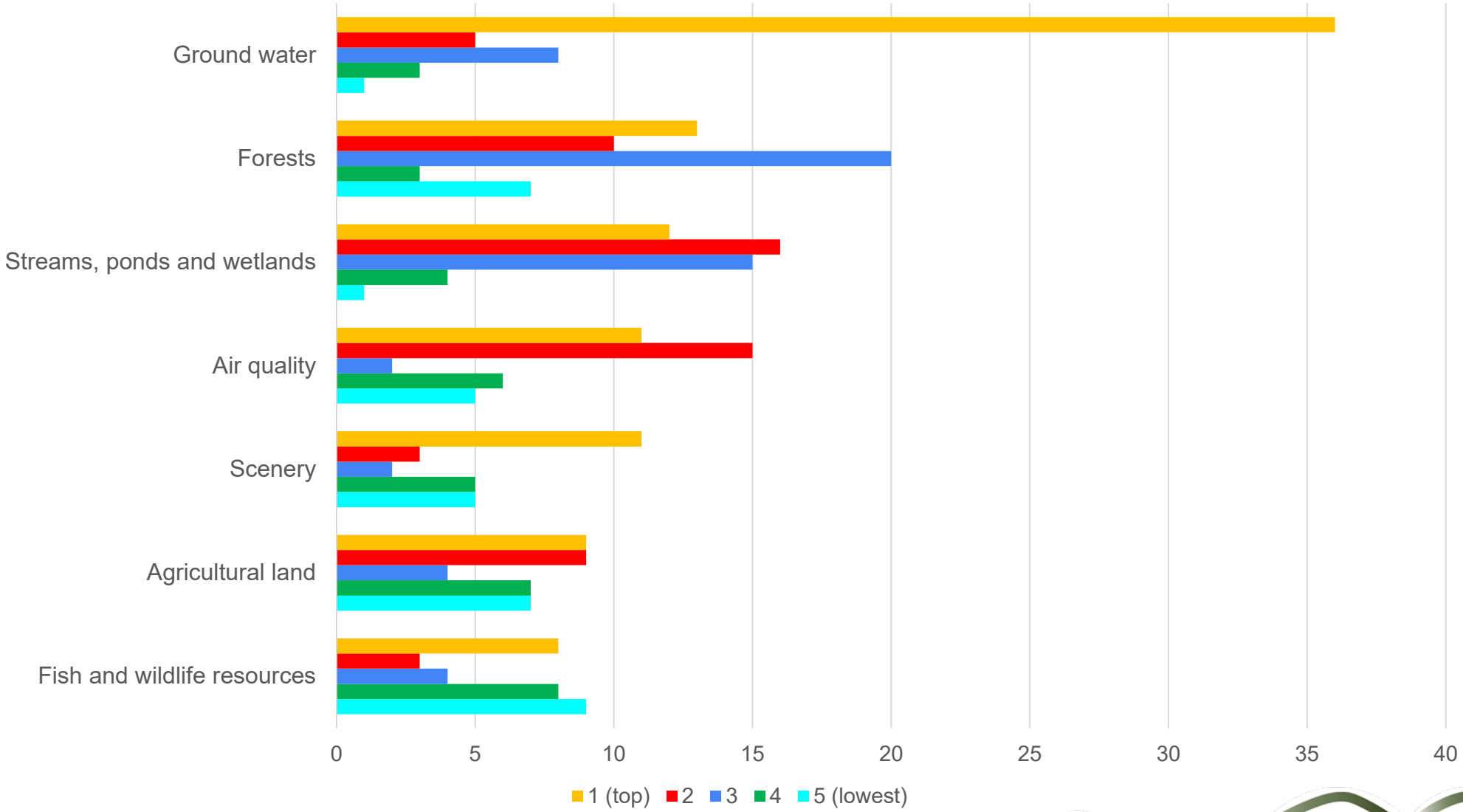
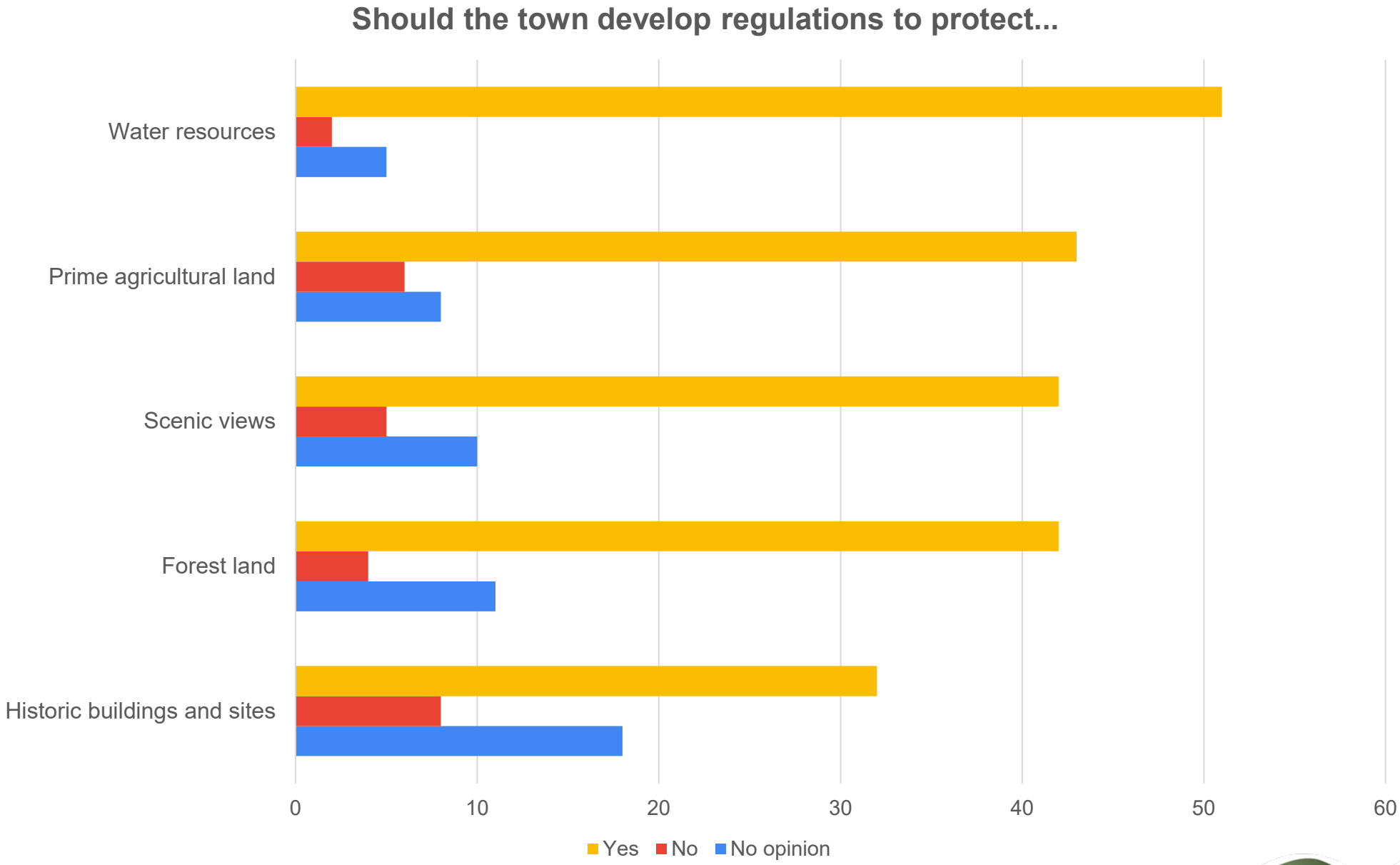
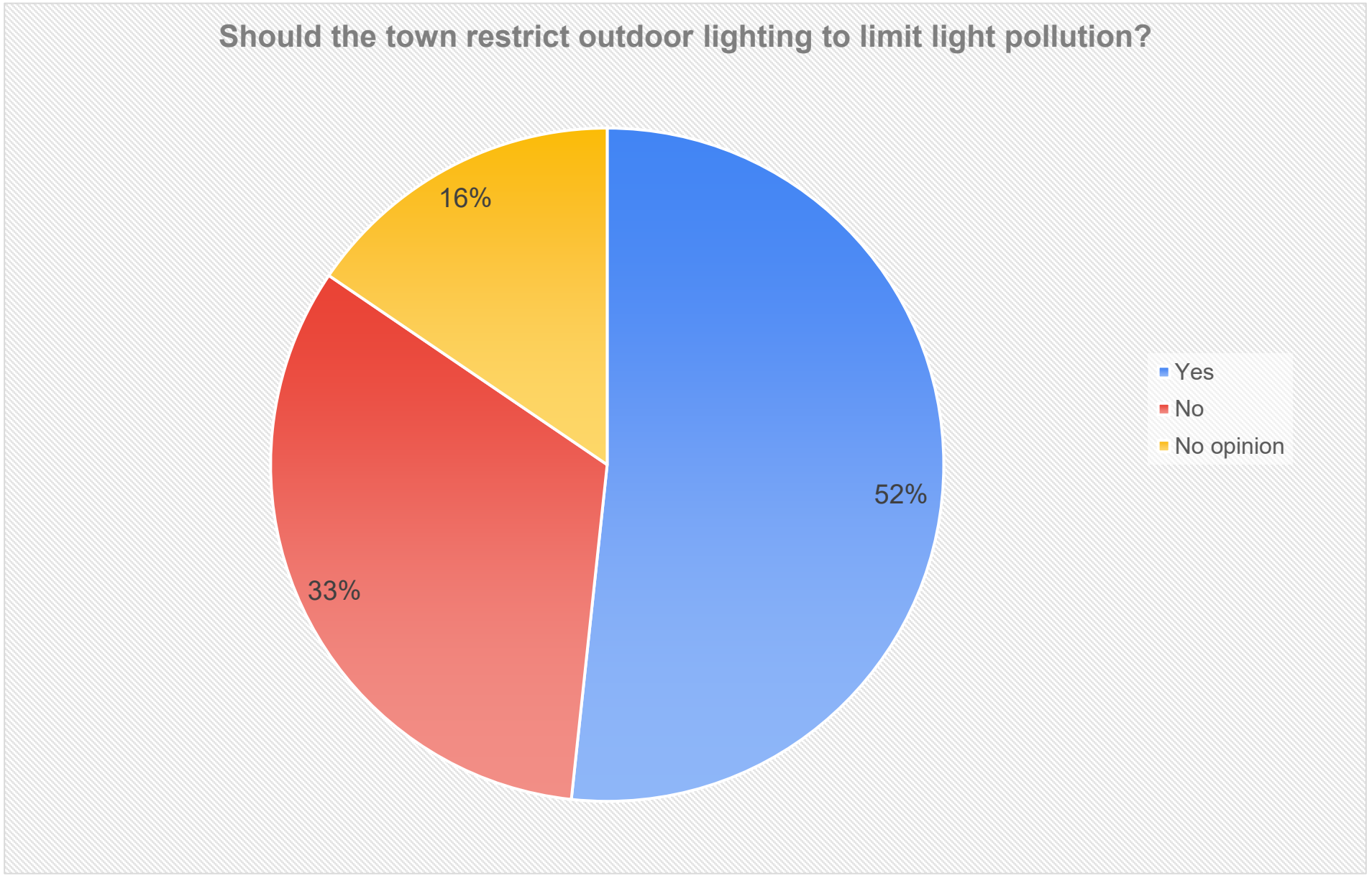
How important do you consider each of these natural resources? (Rank your top 5)




Should the town develop regulations to protect...
Water resources
Prime agricultural land
Scenic views
Forest land
Historic buildings and sites
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
Yes
No
No opinion


Should the town restrict outdoor lighting to limit light pollution?
16%
52%
33%
Yes
No
No opinion

BCRC

What do you consider to be the town's most important natural resource?

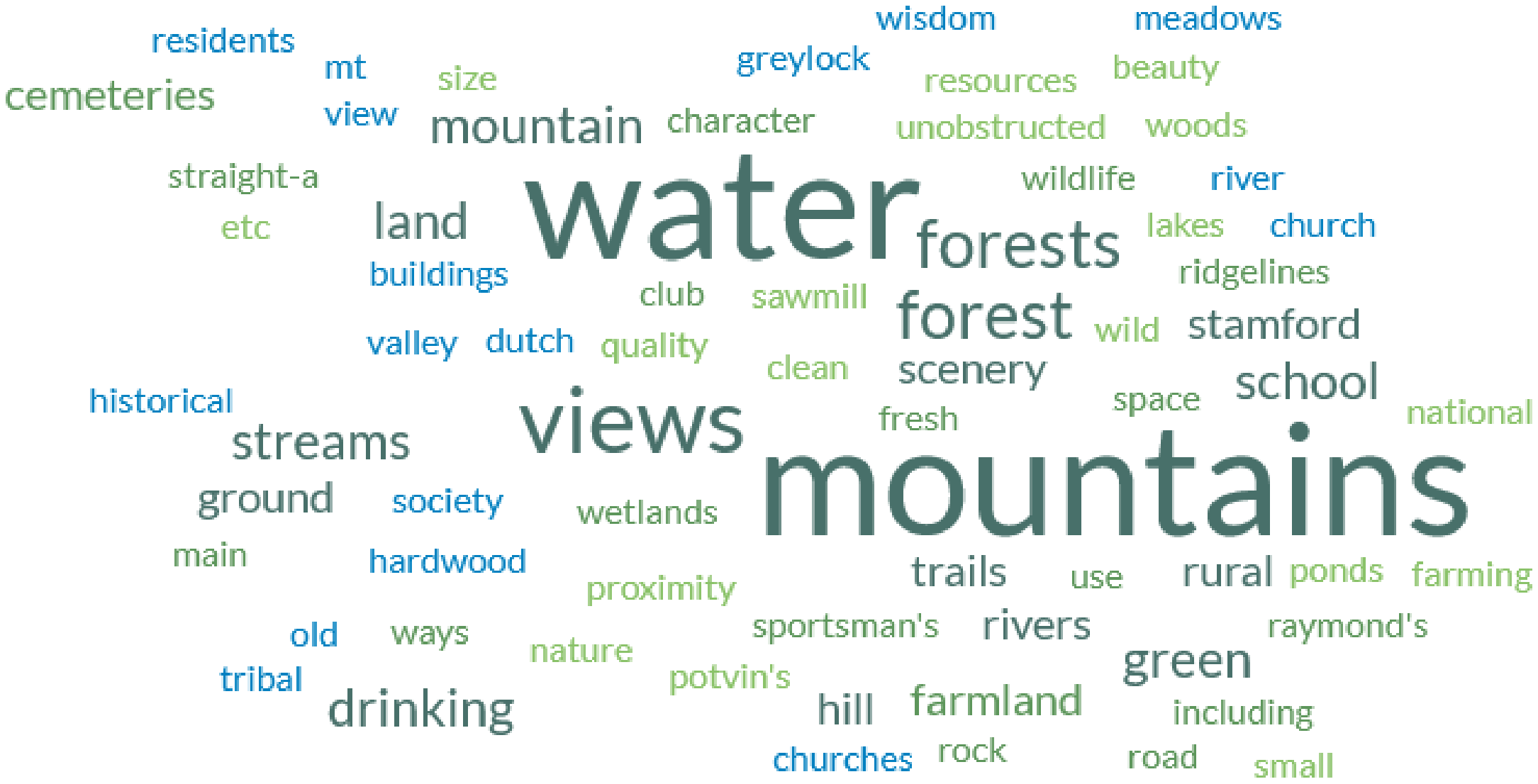
Water/water resources (18)
Forests (6)
Mountains (3)
Scenery (3)
Land/farmland (3)
Small size
Rural character
Space

What do you consider to be the town's most important historic resource?

Unsure/not aware of any (8)
Stamford School (3)
Churches and cemeteries (2)
Raymond's Rock
Sportsman's club
Potvin's Sawmill
Historical society
Wisdom of residents
Rural nature

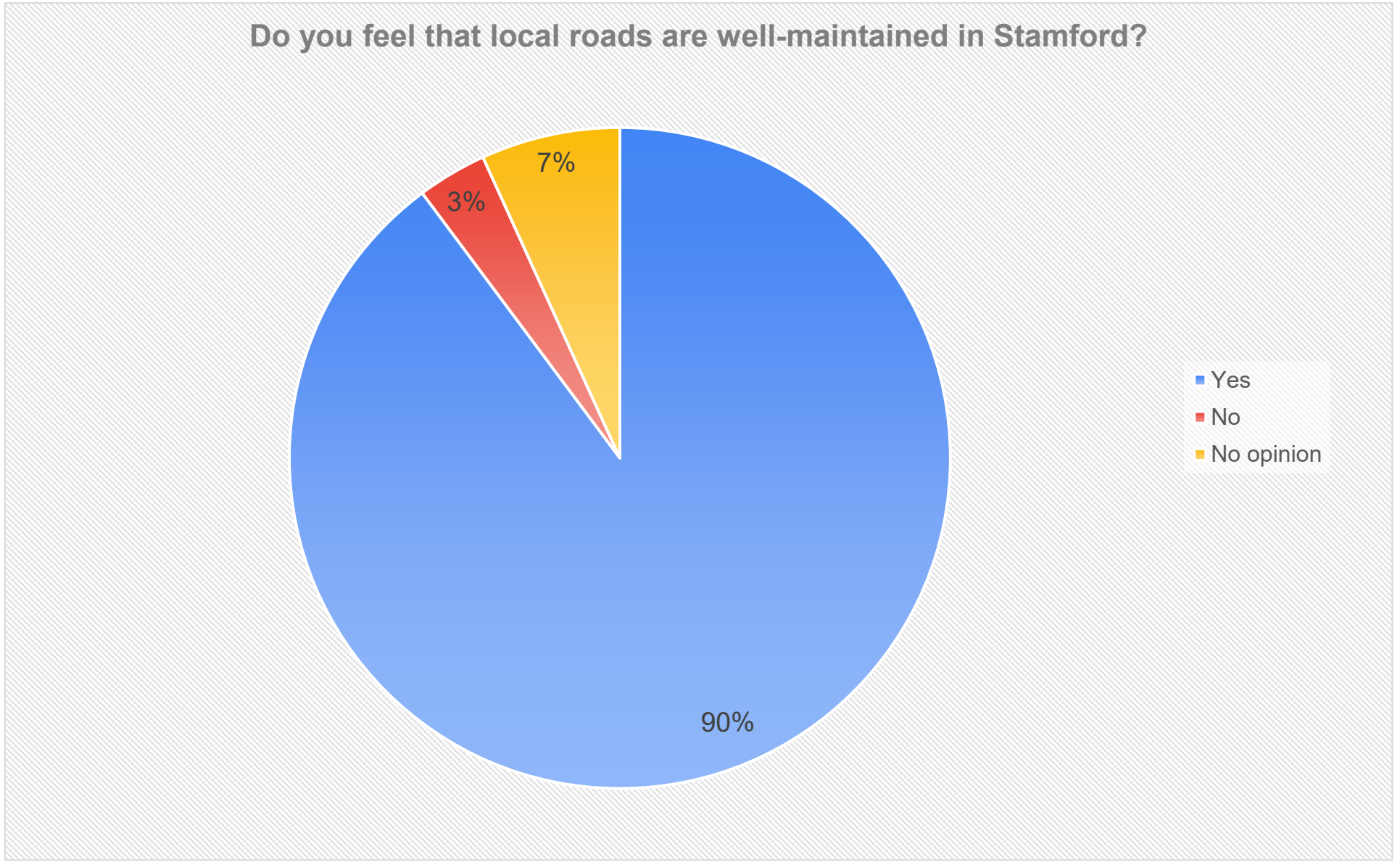
What do you consider to be the town's most important scenic resource?

Mountain views (17)
Forests (5)
Lakes and streams
Meadows
Wildlife
Wildland
Unobstructed Beauty
View of Mt. Greylock
Dutch Hill


wisdom
meadows
residents
greylock
mt
size
resources
beauty
cemeteries
view
mountain
character
unobstructed
woods
straight-a
water
wildlife
river
land
forests
lakes
church
etc
buildings
ridgelines
club
sawmill
forest
wild
stamford
valley
dutch
quality
clean
scenery
school
historical
views
space
national
fresh
streams
mountains
ground
society
wetlands
main
hardwood
trails
use
rural
ponds
farming
proximity
sportsman's
rivers
raymond's
old
ways
nature
green
tribal
potvin's
drinking
hill
farmland
including
churches
rock
road
small

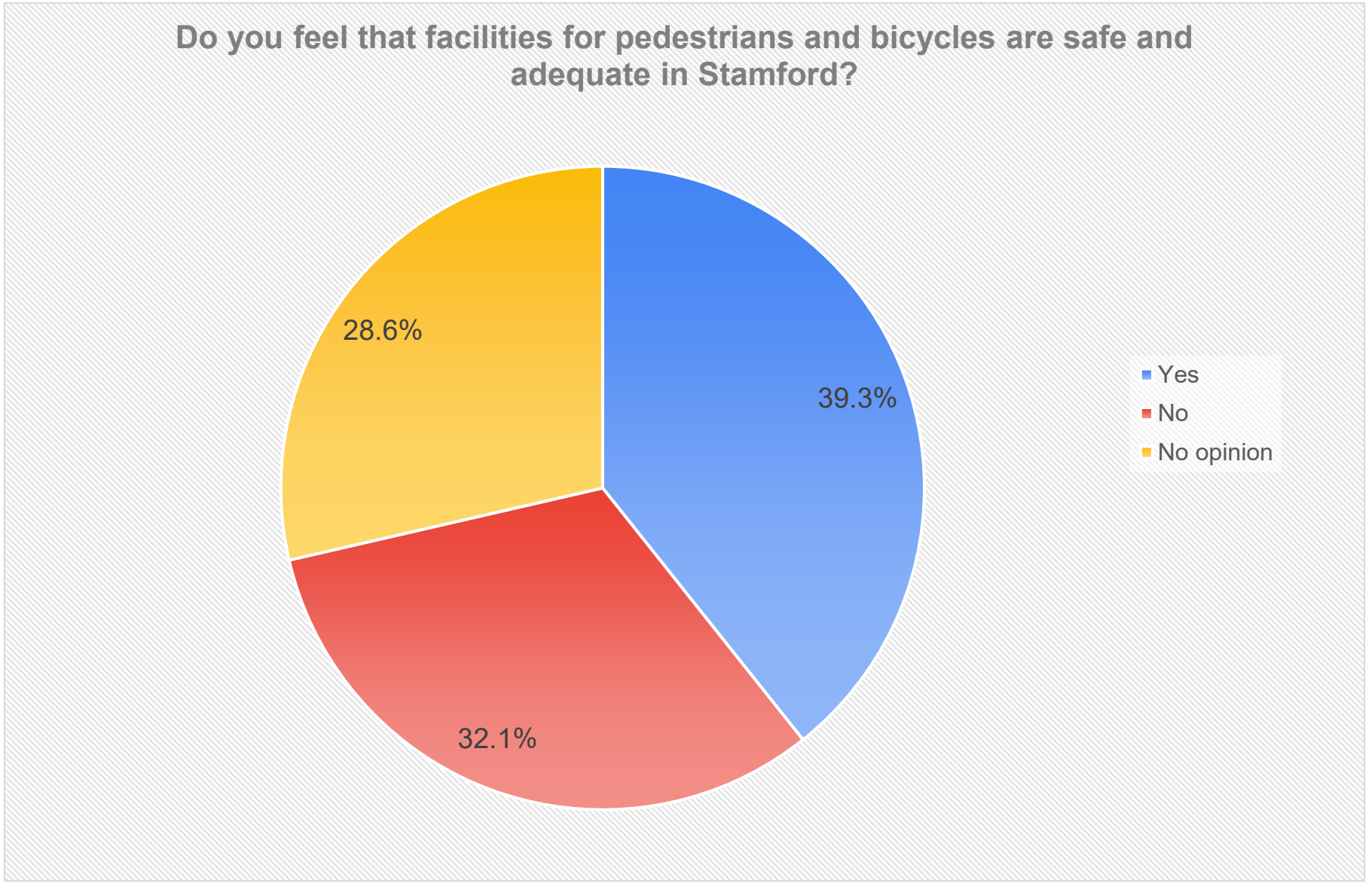
Additional comments about natural, scenic, and historic resources

- Protect our rivers from gravel pits pushing their messes into our rivers.
- The town's rural character and presence is what makes it special. It is what I and I think most residents moved here for and want to maintain.
- Residential areas should not be inundated with light or noise pollution, yet should have normal amenities like street lights for safety. I would not mind seeing an ordinance regarding limitations on noise. It would also be nice to have some law enforcement patrolling somewhat regularly.


Do you feel that local roads are well-maintained in Stamford?
7%
3%
90%
Yes
No
No opinion

Recommendations for road improvements

- We could stand to have Mill Road paved.
- Culvert on Clough Road
- Not in our town but in the towns adjoining Stamford. Very poor road condition in Clarksburg go to Klondike.
- Main and County rd can be a little better, but understandable that is it hard to maintain due to seasonal weather conditions.
- Don’t pave dirt roads

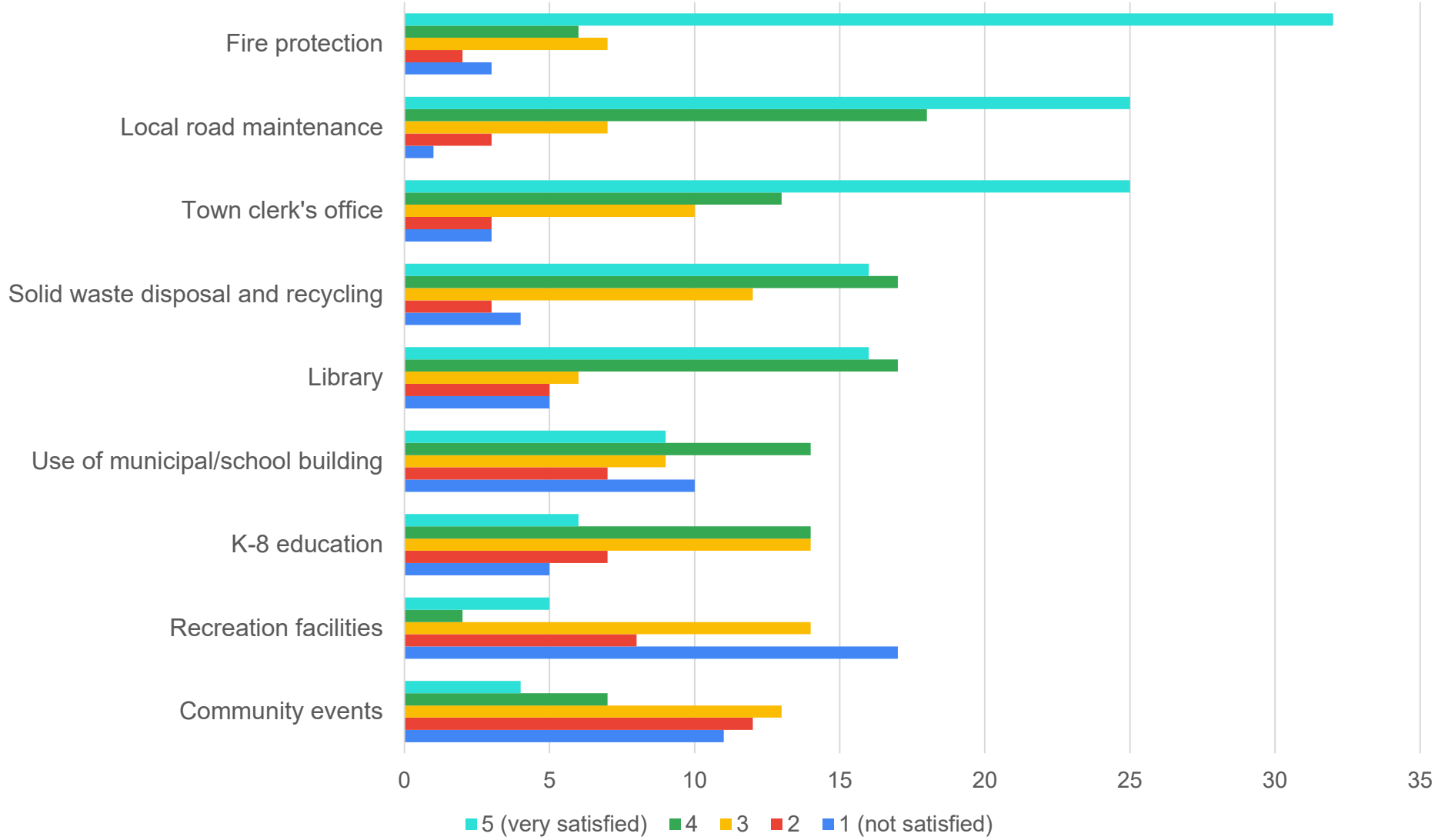

Do you feel that facilities for pedestrians and bicycles are safe and adequate in Stamford?
28.6%
39.3%
32.1%
Yes
No
No opinion

BCRC

Recommendations for biking/pedestrian improvements

- More sidewalks/bike lanes in the Village Center (8)
- Widen road shoulder for pedestrians and cyclists
- Need sidewalk/bike path from Clough Road to Billmonts (2)
- Stop sign on Rte. 100 and the Lane
- Not needed
- Speeding concerns (2)

How satisfied are you with the following public services in Stamford?



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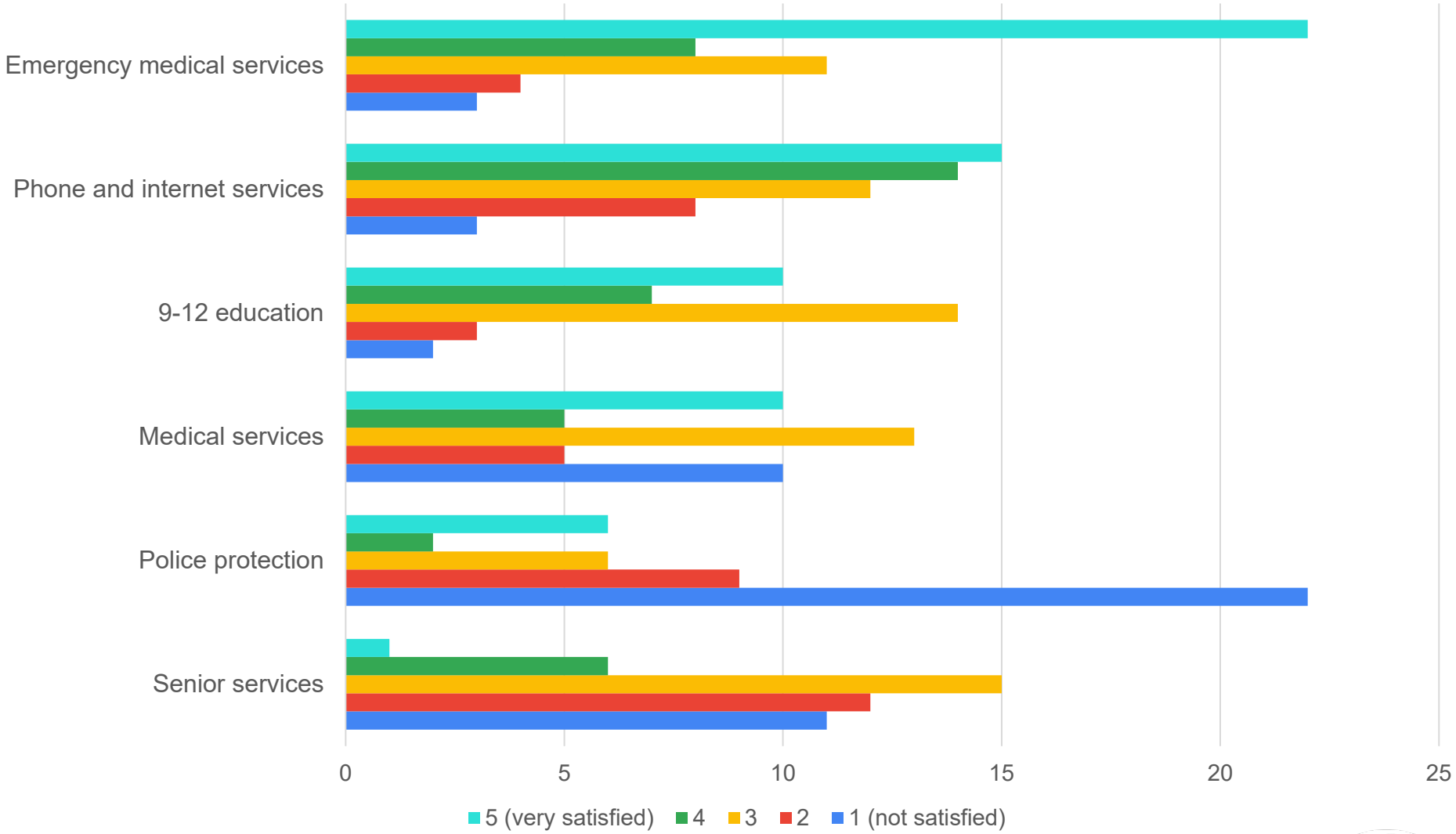
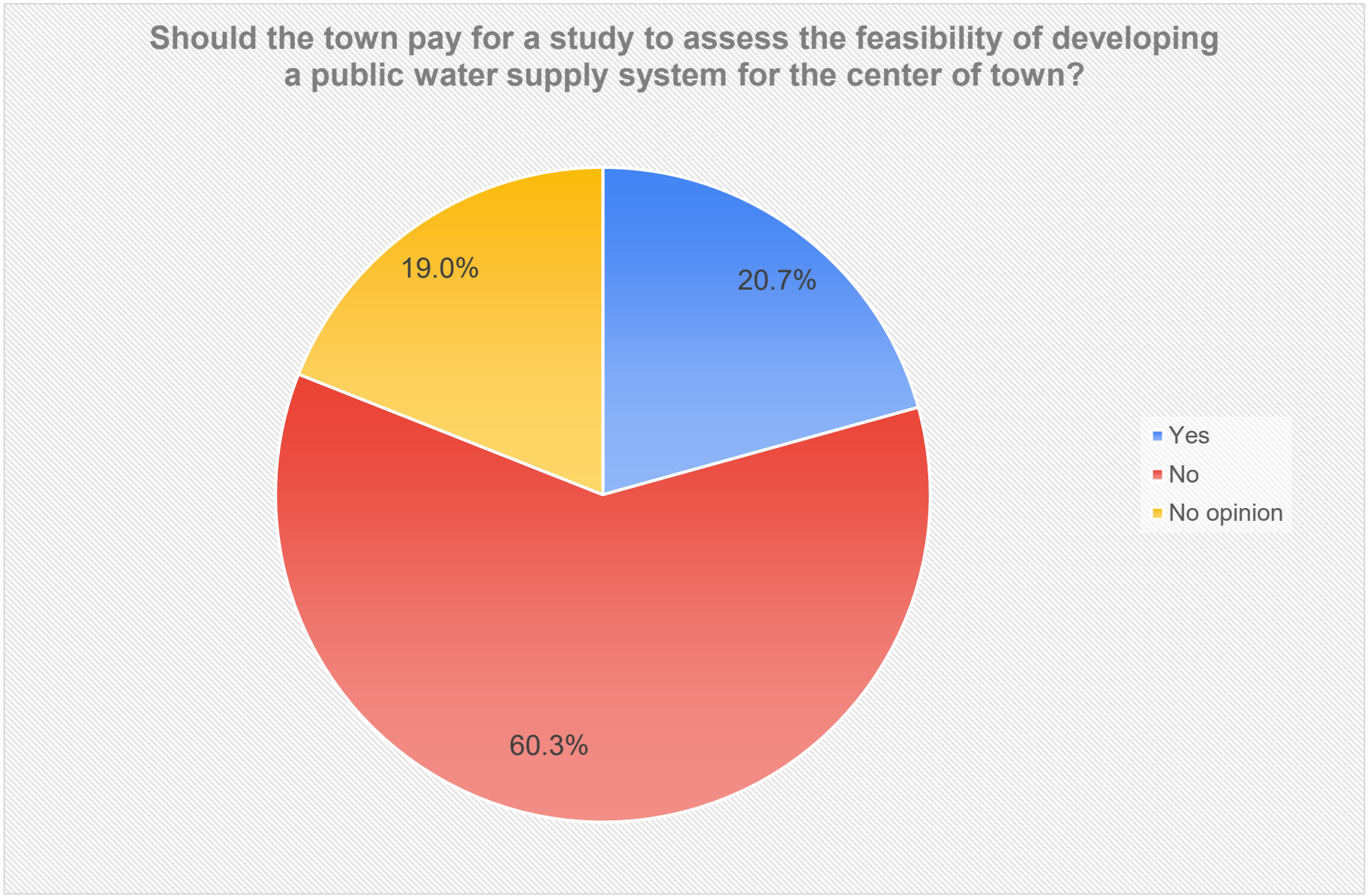
How satisfied are you with your access to the following public services in Stamford?



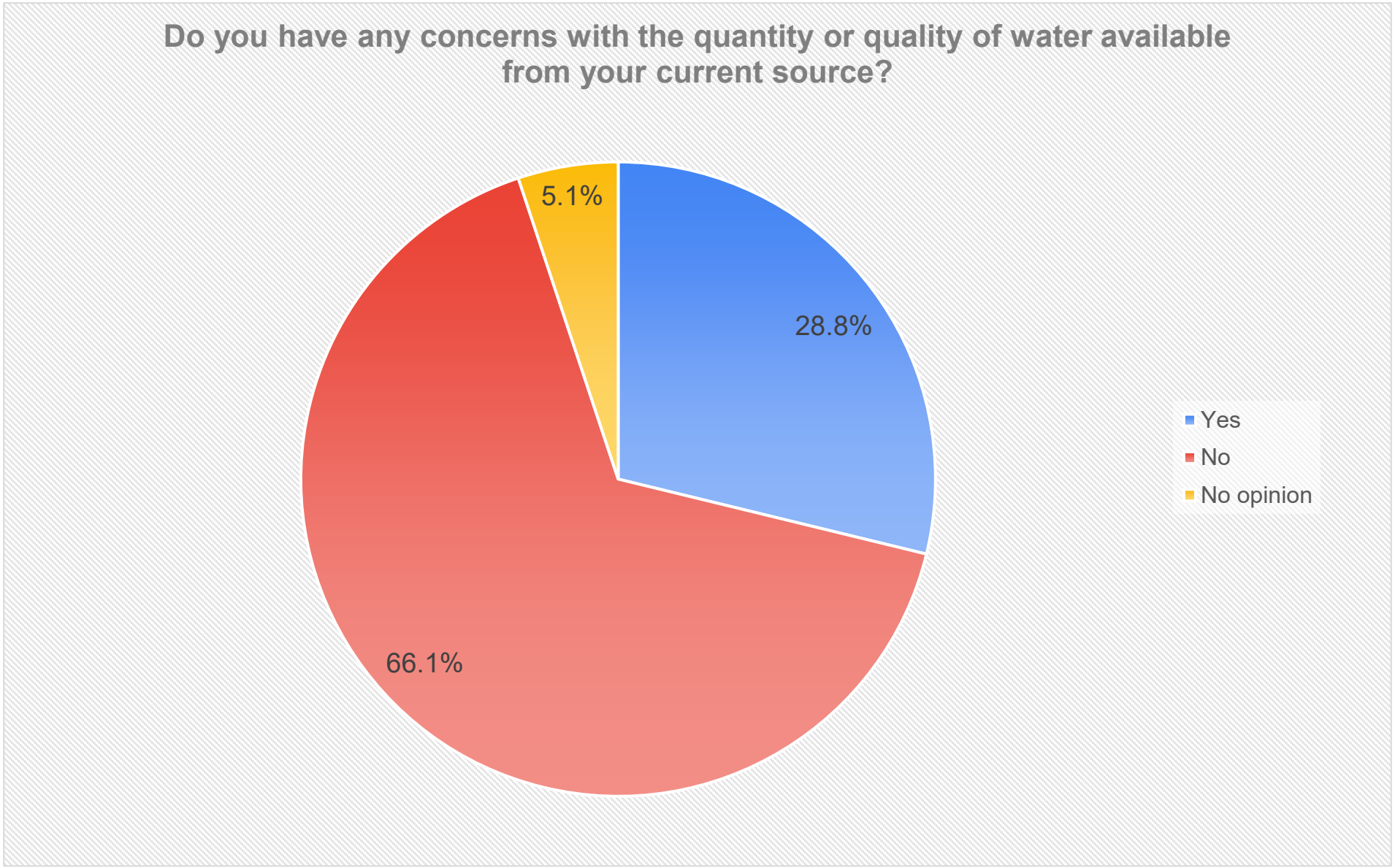
BCRC

How do you feel existing community facilities and services could be improved and what, if any, new facilities/services are needed?

- Community center (4)
- Recreational facilities (3)
- Senior services (3)
- Greater use of library/school building for community events (3)
- More police coverage (3)
- None (2)
- Market/general store
- Historical society building
- Dog park
- Public transportation
- Public water + sewer


Should the town pay for a study to assess the feasibility of developing a public water supply system for the center of town?
19.0%
20.7%
60.3%
Yes
No
No opinion

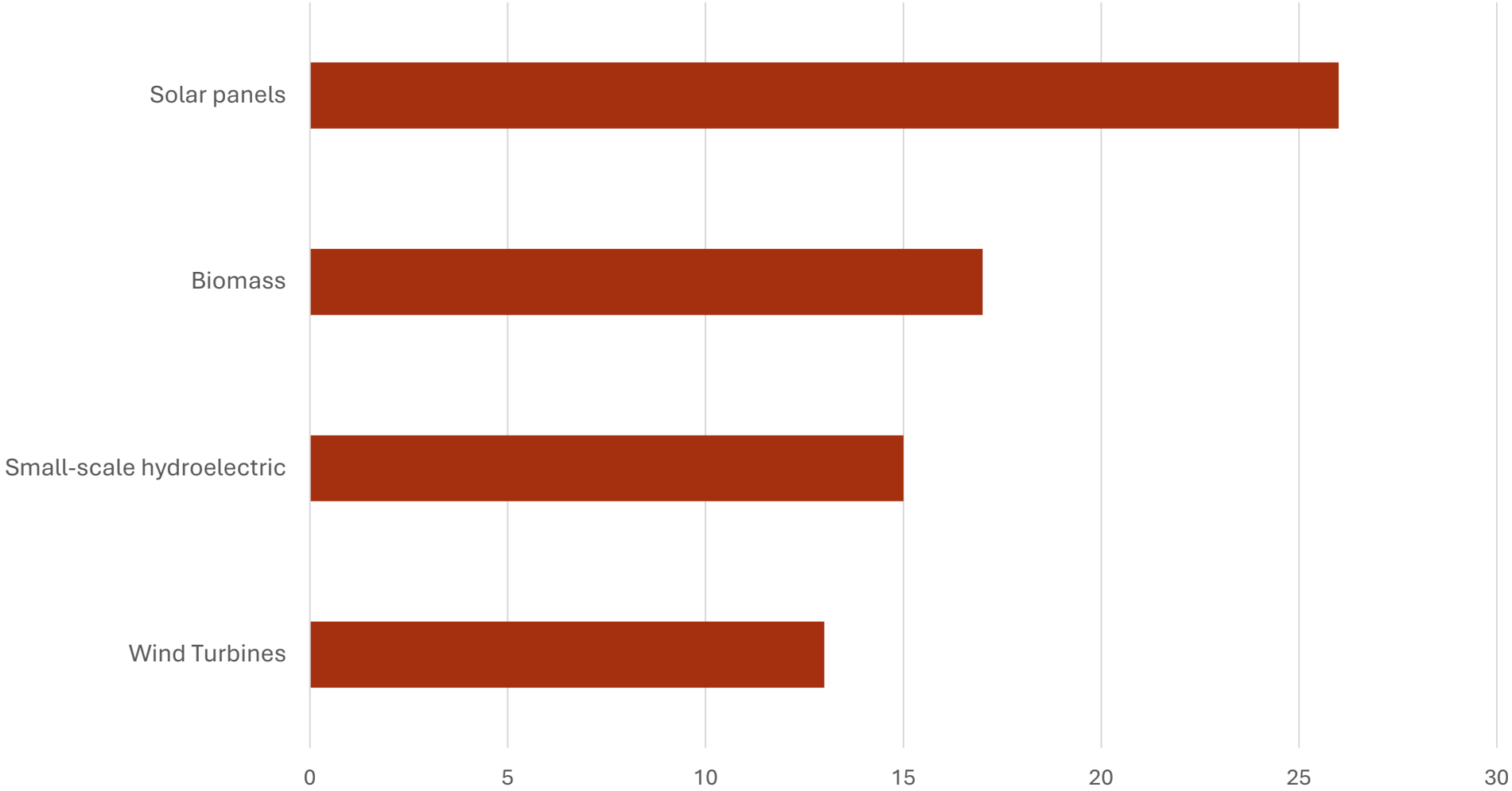
BCRC


Do you have any concerns with the quantity or quality of water available from your current source?
5.1%
28.8%
66.1%
Yes
No
No opinion

If yes, please describe your water concerns

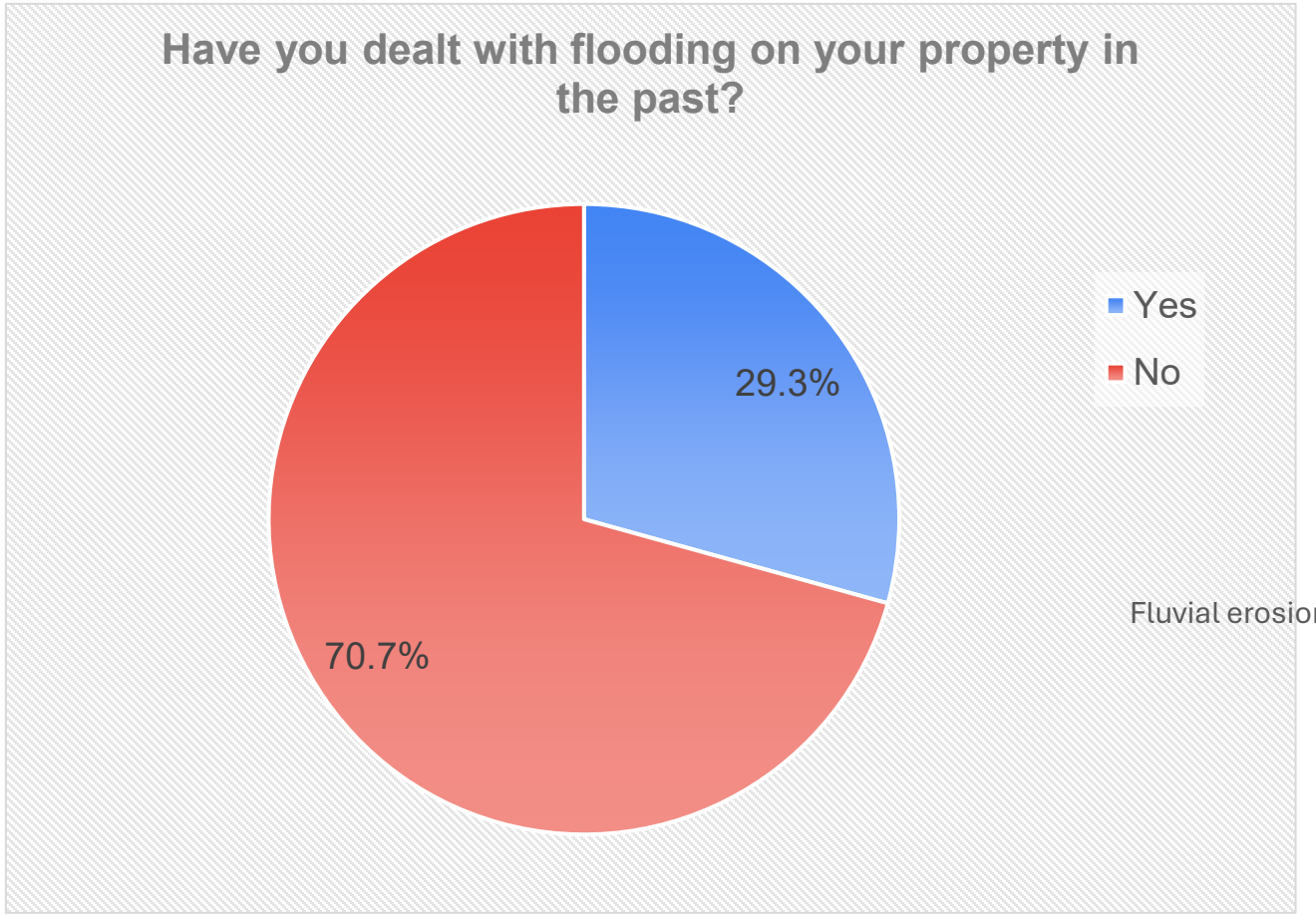
- Well running out of water during droughts (6)
- Contamination (3)
- Development pressure affecting water availability/quality (2)

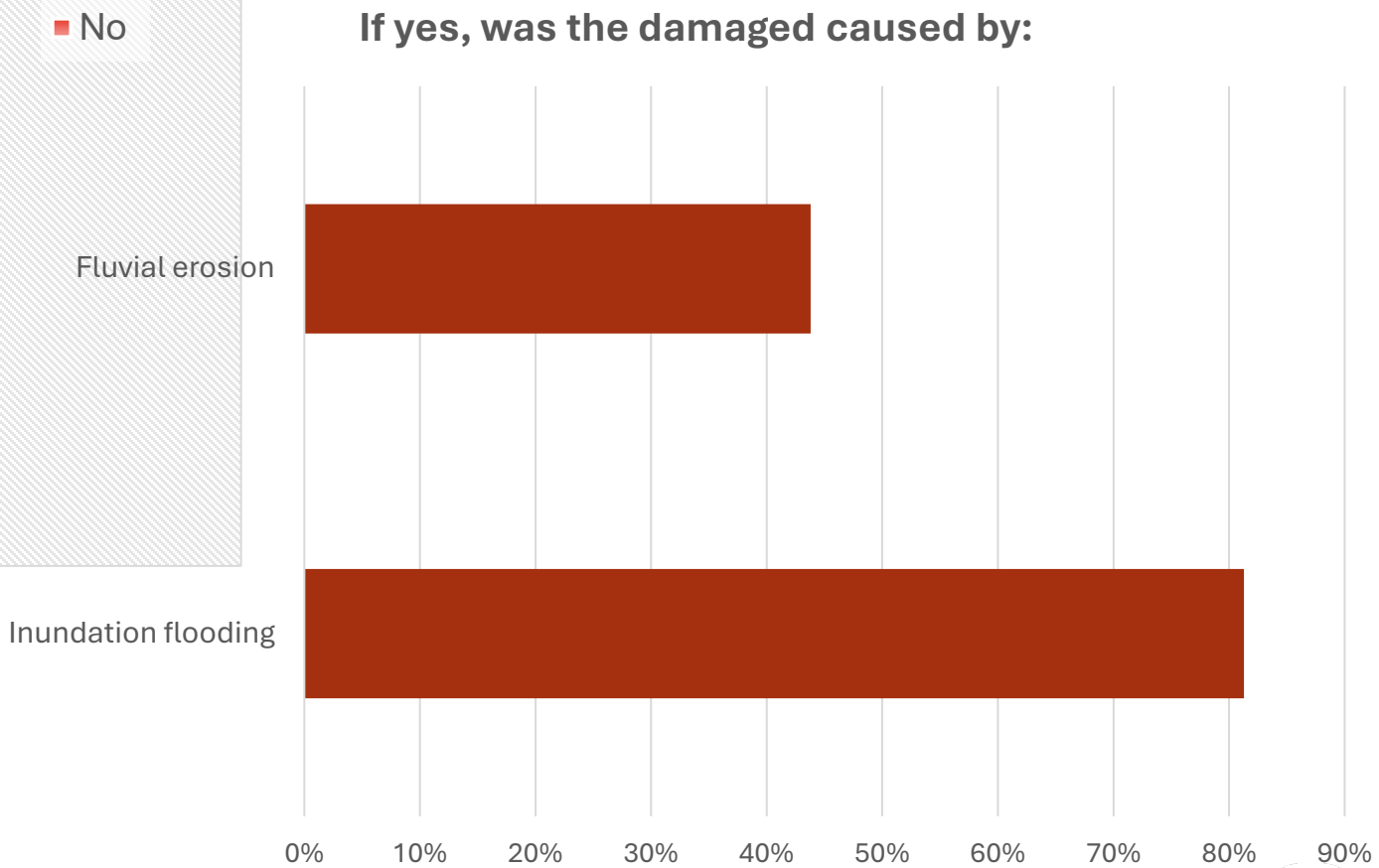
Which if any of these commercial-scale renewable energy facilities do you support in Stamford?

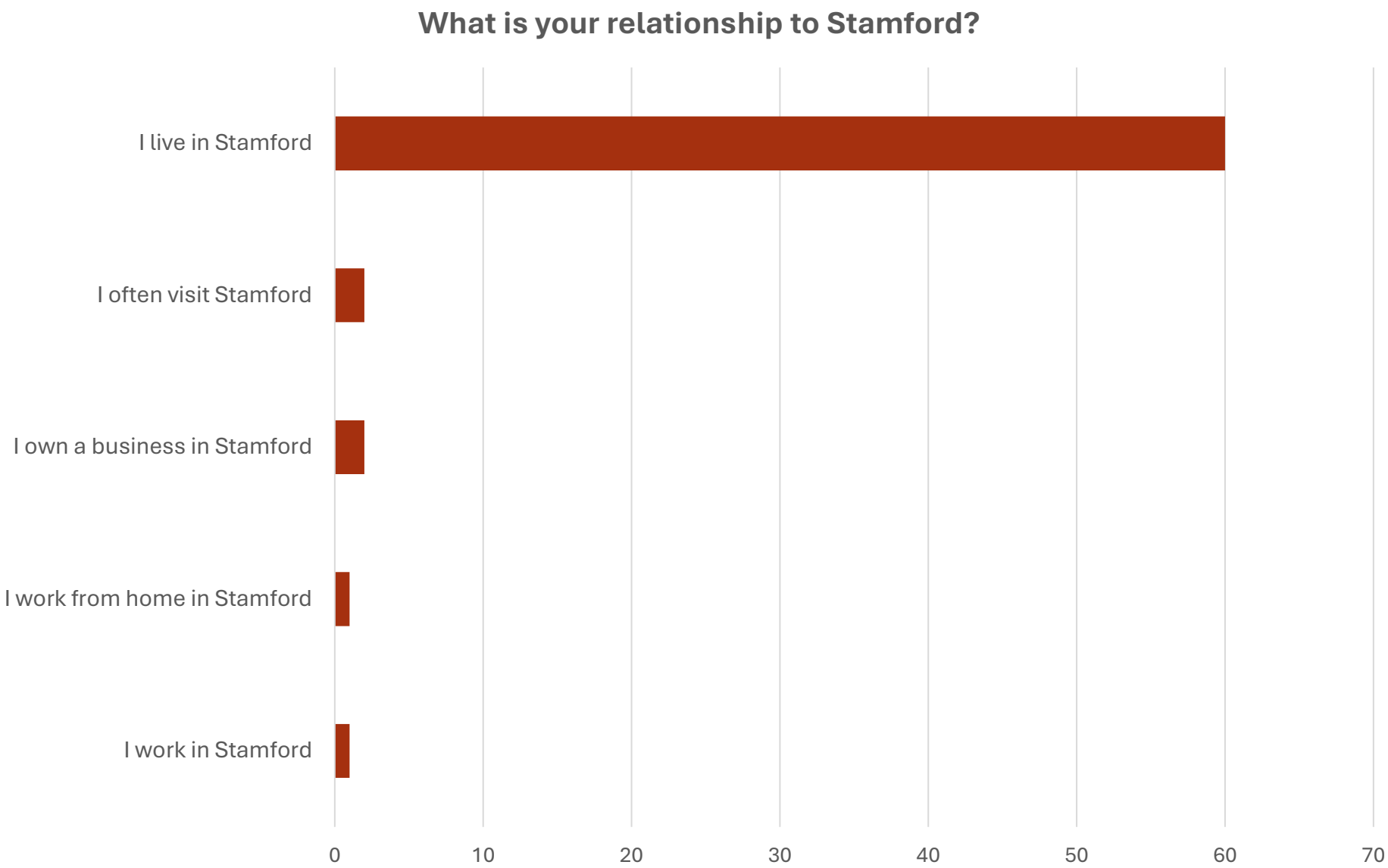


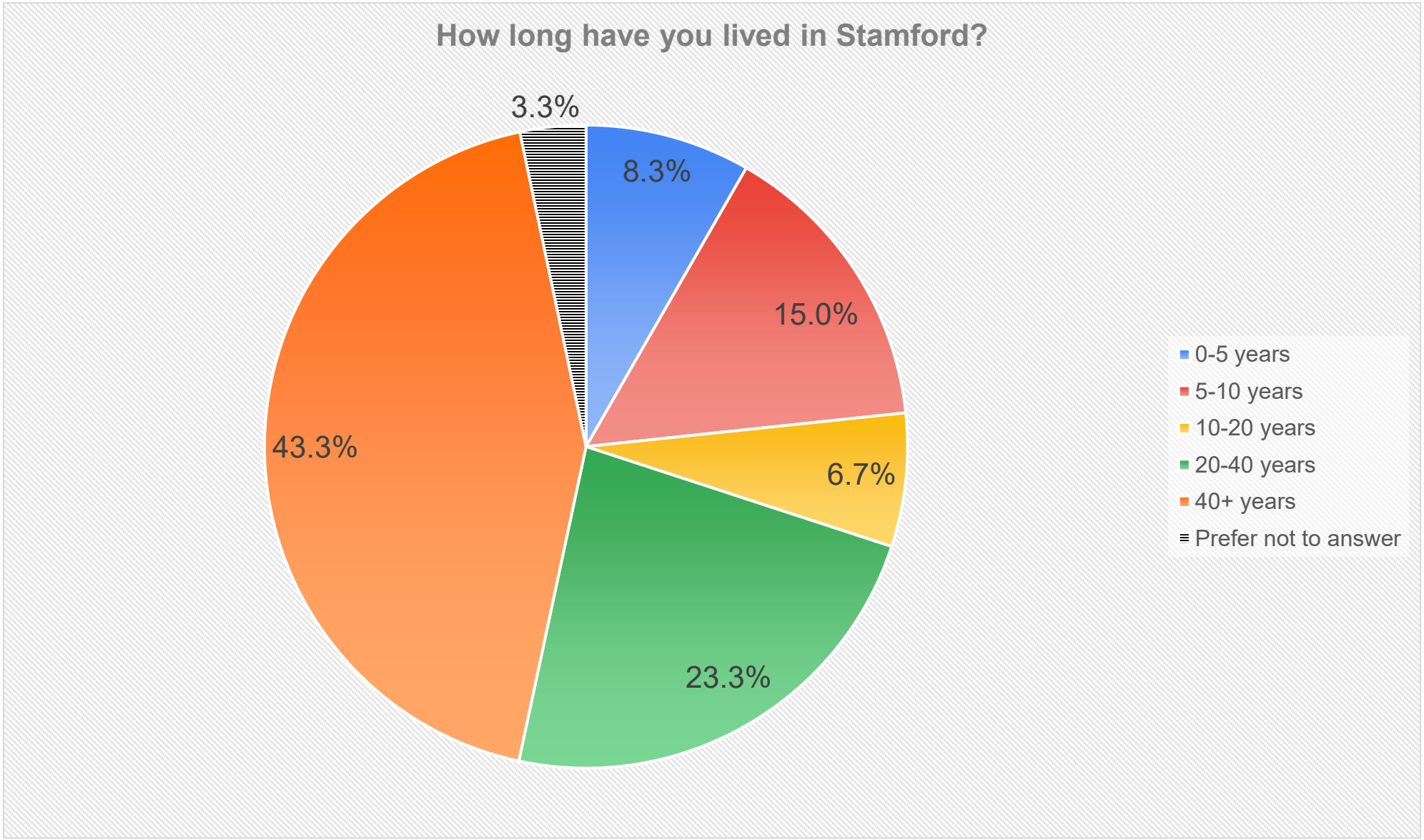
If you checked any of the above, where do you think they would be appropriate?

- Private homes/land (4)
- Rooftops (2)
- Rooftop solar on municipal buildings (2)
- Small hydro on Roaring Brook (2)
- Areas that don’t disrupt housing/environment (2)
- Solar field behind the school
- Wind turbines up County Rd near High Tension electric lines

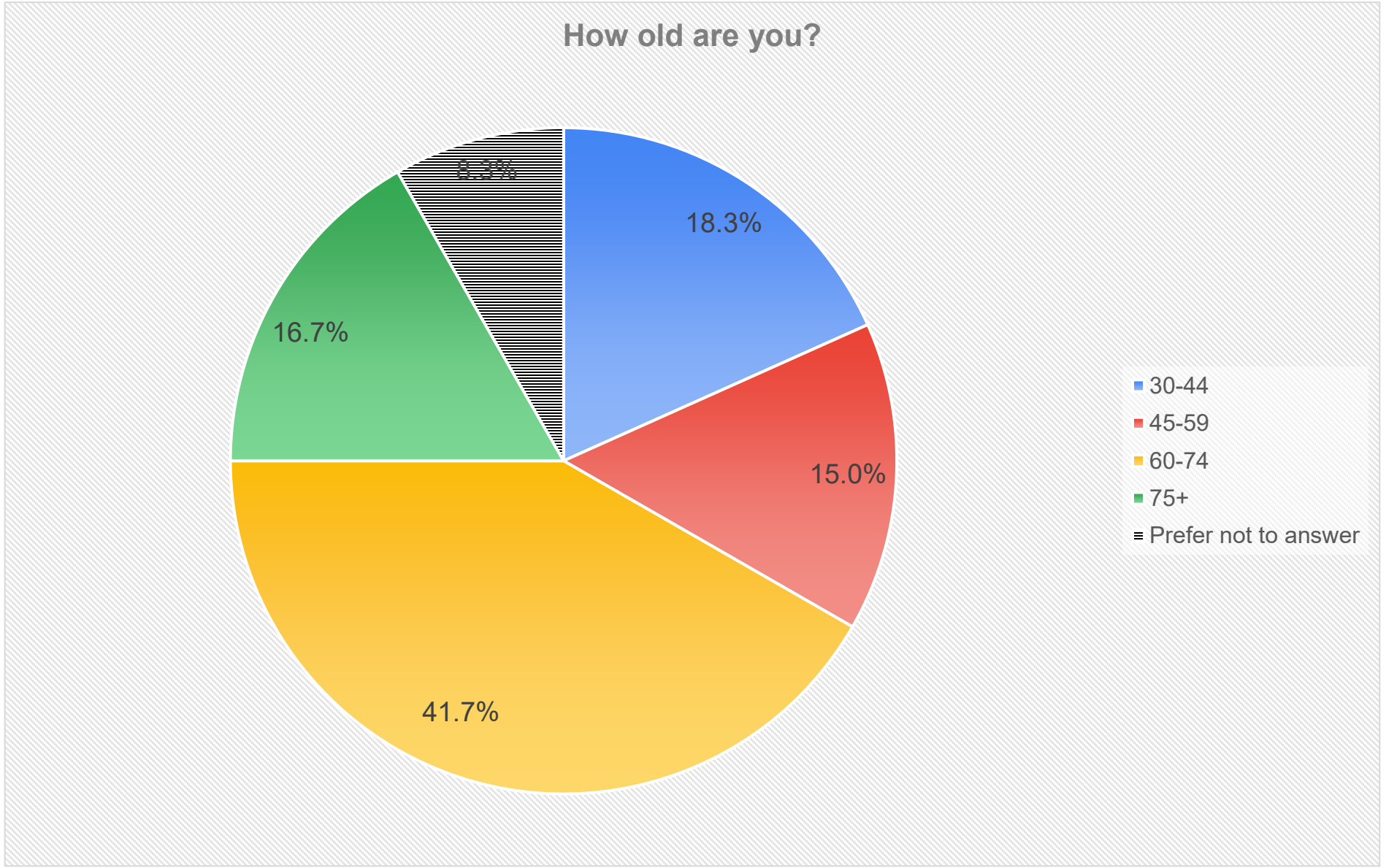

Have you dealt with flooding on your property in the past?
29.3%
70.7%
Yes
No

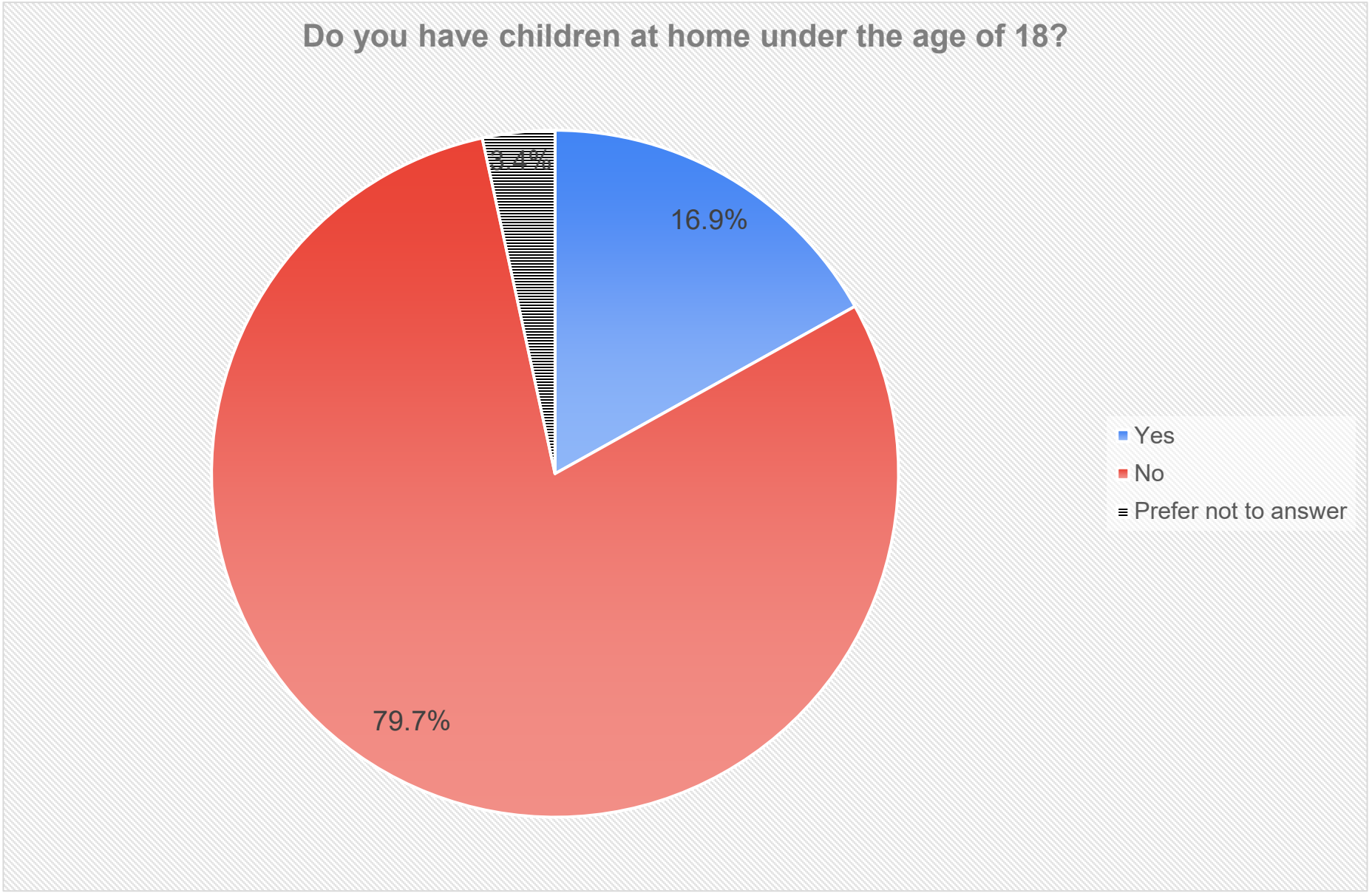

If yes, was the damaged caused by:
Fluvial erosion
Inundation flooding
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%

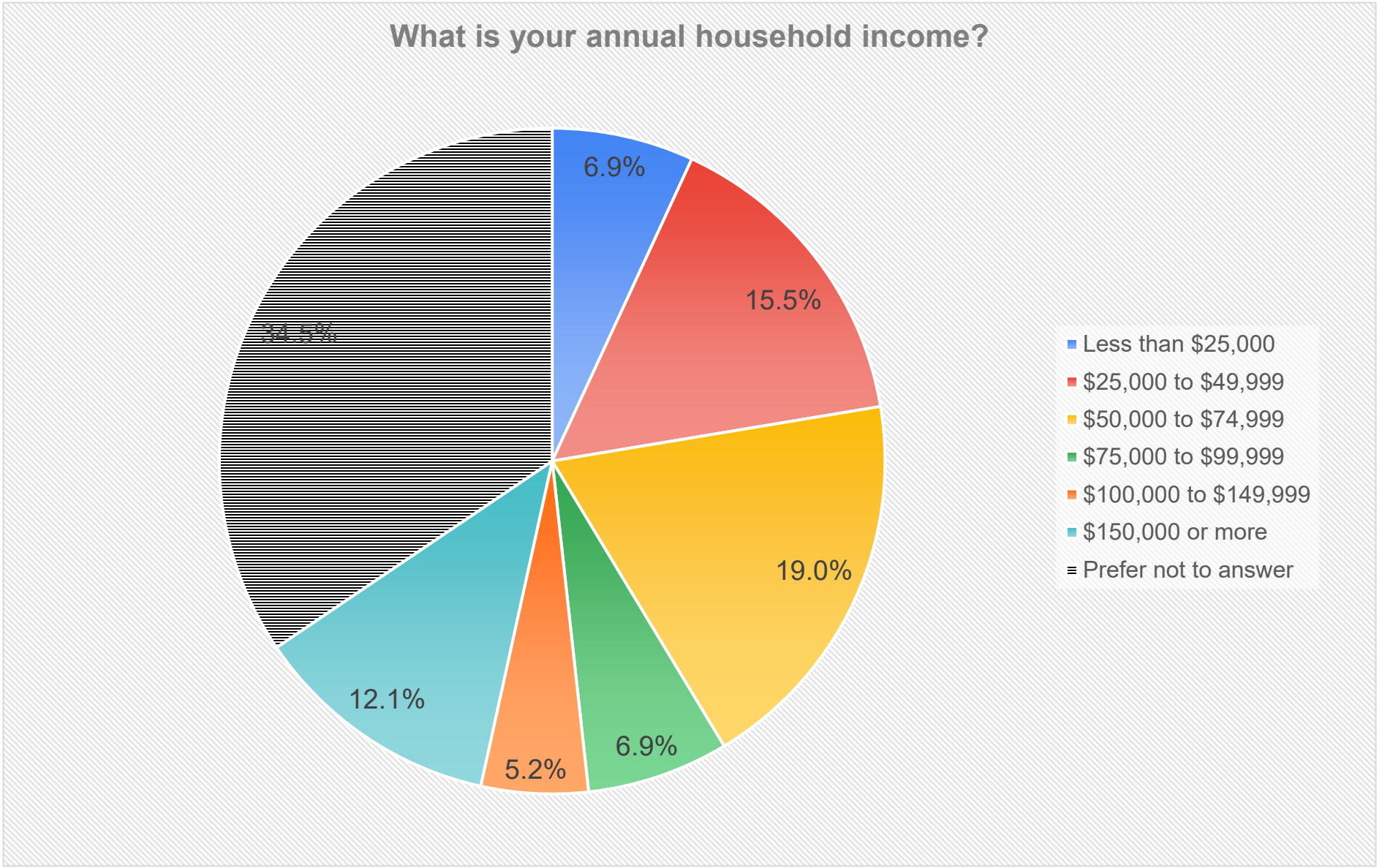

What is your relationship to Stamford?
I live in Stamford
I often visit Stamford
I own a business in Stamford
I work from home in Stamford
I work in Stamford
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70


How long have you lived in Stamford?
3.3%
8.3%
15.0%
6.7%
43.3%
23.3%
0-5 years
5-10 years
10-20 years
20-40 years
40+ years
Prefer not to answer

BCRC


How old are you?
18.3%
15.0%
41.7%
16.7%
8.3%
30-44
45-59
60-74
75+
Prefer not to answer


Do you have children at home under the age of 18?
3.4%
16.9%
79.7%
Yes
No
Prefer not to answer


What is your annual household income?
6.9%
15.5%
19.0%
6.9%
5.2%
12.1%
34.5%
Less than $25,000
$25,000 to $49,999
$50,000 to $74,999
$75,000 to $99,999
$100,000 to $149,999
$150,000 or more
Prefer not to answer

BCRC

Key themes

- Maintaining rural character
- Protecting natural resources (water resources, forests, ag lands, scenic views)
- Interest in improving community connection and recreational facilities / opportunities
- Addressing high housing costs
- Anything else?

Community Visions for Stamford

- A town that proudly maintains its rural character
- Natural resources (water resources, forests, ag lands, scenic views) that are protected through strong, clear, and user-friendly land use regulations
- A community center that fosters connection in town
- Anything else?

Project Timeline

Task 1. Data Collection	**February – April 2026**
Task 2. Devise Engagement Program	February – April 2026
Task 3. Kick-off Meeting	April 2026
Task 4. Survey	May – July 2026
Task 5. Community Visioning Meeting	June – July 2026
Task 6. Public Walking Tour	May – June 2026
~~Task 7. Student Engagement Activity~~	May 2026
Task 8. Preparation of Findings	July – August 2026
Task 9. Presentation of Findings	September 2026
Task 10. Draft Plan	September – December 2026
Task 11. Present Draft Plan	January 2027
Task 12. Finalize Plan	February – March 2027

BCRC

Questions for the Planning Commission

How would you like to structure the plan to make it most relevant to the town?

How would you like to approach the drafting process? (i.e. responsibilities of the PC vs. BCRC)

Additional maps needed? Photos/graphics?

BCRC

Thank you!