

# Community Survey Overview of Results

Duration: February 2022 – April 2022

Achieved: 570 completed surveys

## **Q2. How do you know about Dalbeattie?**

From the results 86% of the participants reside in the area, and 14% answered they holiday here and/or visit family and friends who live in the area.

## **Q3. Are you involved in/or represent any local groups?**

From the results 36% are actively involved in local groups. This was a general question, so we don't know what type of groups people are involved in – sporting/non-sporting. However regardless of the type of group RAW will hopefully be able to support any type of group.

## **Q4. Do you or a family member take part in any of the following? You can select more than one option.**

Top 5 popular activities are:

Walking – 86%

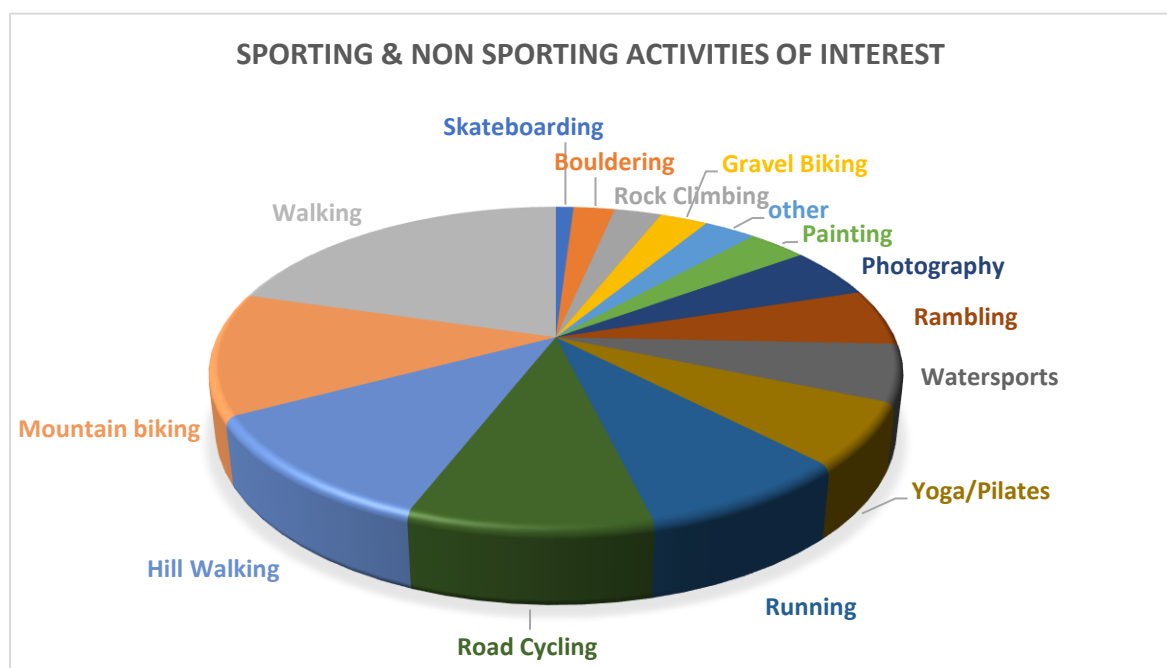
Mountain Biking – 52%

Hill Walking – 47%

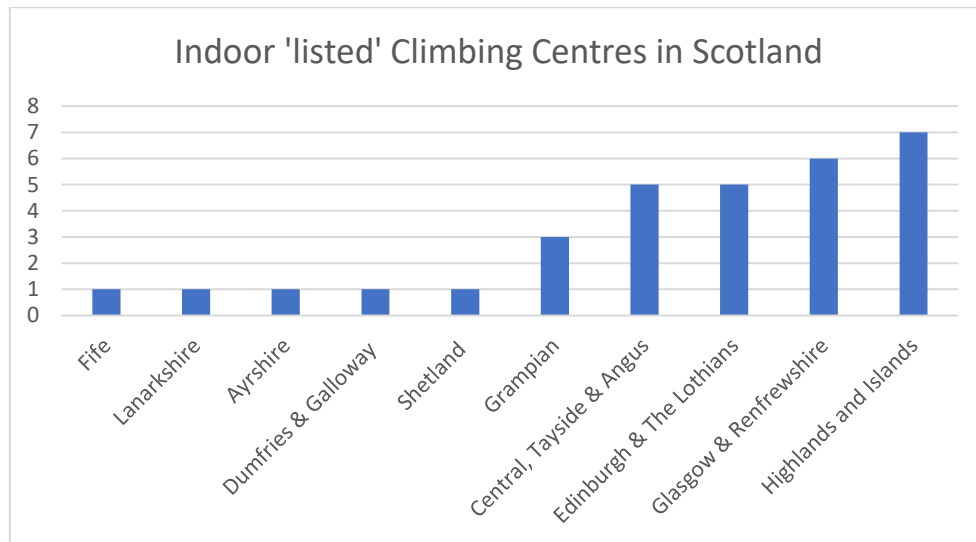
Road Biking – 41%

Running – 35%

All the results from the listed activities are presented in the pie chart. The survey was an exercise to see what people like to do in the area.



Although bouldering or rock climbing did not reach the top 5 this could be due to 'known' opportunities in the area. In Scotland there are more than 30 indoor climbing centres which are open to the public on the Climb Scotland website, offering a wide range of climbing and bouldering activities. The Bar Chart below shows the number of centres across Scotland.



When looking geographically to the regions next to D&G, the Scottish Borders don't have any listed centres, there is 1 in Lanarkshire which is the 3rd largest in Scotland and 1 in Ayrshire. These centres all opened between 2021 and 2022 so they are relatively new. The largest climbing wall in Scotland is in Edinburgh.

Where do climbers progress too? After researching outdoor climbing in Dumfries and Galloway there is a site which was very informative giving guidance on difficulty levels, what to expect when climbing the specific areas, seasonal expectations (winter/summer climbing) and coaching/guide options there are many places to climb in the region.

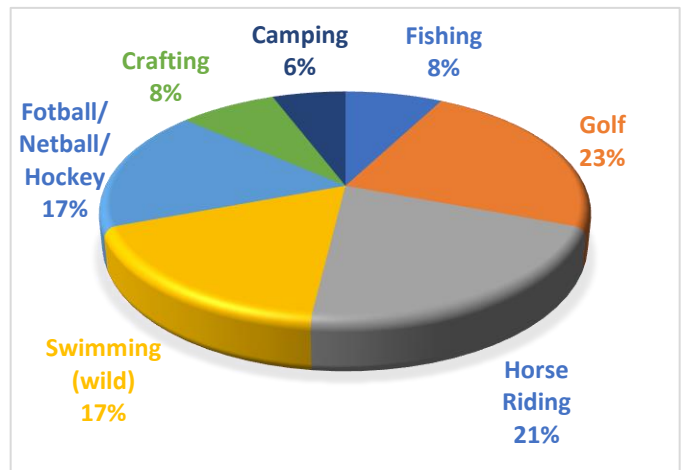
Hiking and hill walking was very popular on the survey and is listed in the top 5 activities. In Dumfries and Galloway there are 13 popular peaks to choose from, Criffel, Merrick, Screel Hill, White Coomb, Moyle Hill, Cairnsmore of Fleet and Hart Fell to name some of them, and the walking routes, so depending on whether it's for the view or for the challenge it's a great way to experience and explore the area.

When the 'other' activities were broken down into more detail the following results were identified.

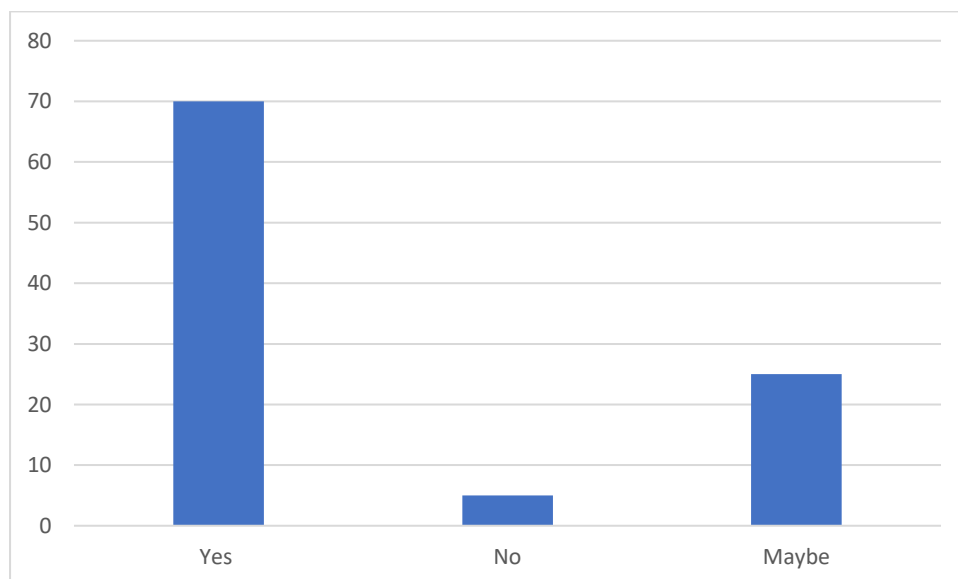
Other activities ranged from roller-skating, bee keeping, pottery, orienteering, bike polo, tennis, dance, meditation/tai chi.

The pie chart shows the most popular suggestions and interestingly apart from golf, horse-riding was very popular which explains why they were keen to have a stable or something similar for their horses

while they enjoyed a coffee. The Steering Group will research this in more detail



**Q5. Would you be interested in enhancing or learning new techniques/skills within a safe area to practice, whether it is a sport listed which you already do or a new activity?**



**Q6. Is there anything missing from the list that you would like the activity centre to offer?**

Out of the 570 participants 81% were happy with what the project had to offer. However, 19% offered additional suggestions which included:

Male hobby groups

Dog showers- nothing fancy just a hose/sprayer

Bike exchange scheme where you can exchange an outgrown bike for a preowned to suit – budget friendly.

Youth evening each week where young people can get together, chat, dance, play, table tennis, food and drink.

Rivers suitable for canoeing – training – equipment hire

Has a café been considered!

Look at Haldon Forest, Exeter & Bike Park for Wales for inspiration. (links below)

Incorporate something/somewhere for older people to go so they are around younger people – the older generations have much experience and knowledge to share.

Education on various activities on offer – bike maintenance, cycle safety.

Outdoor ropes adventure course, permanent orienteering course – teach navigation.

Gallery selling artworks – initiative – displayed on the walls of the café to purchase.

Water sports – SUP (paddle boards)/canoeing to use the centre as a base

Community learning/ advice area

Accessible toilet changing facilities for disabled too. Access to showers after getting caught in rain or just muddy from mountain biking.

Music room - band space, musicians to share experiences – new talent night

Gym/fitness studio – signpost them to The Bridge Wellbeing Centre

Team building based activities/packages

Wild Swim led sessions – equipment hire

Section of the café as a boardgame café

Steam room/sauna

Form a link to develop outside bouldering on Dalbeattie Granite

Instructed Ebike tours

Indoor rock-climbing wall

Horse riders need a good area to park and come for a cuppa .

Soft play area so families with children of various ages all have something to do.

Occasional local craft fair venue

Trail guides to showcase the best mountain bike trails in Dalbeattie

Information on things to do outdoors in the surrounding area – signage boards with maps, dog friendly zones

Small relevant library with maps available

Skatepark – separate to pump track.  
(A popular frequent suggestion)

Balance bike club for under 4yrs

Bike hire

Secure storage for bikes

Room hire should be explained more

A cafe offering plant-based and plant-based keto food

MB Skills track/course

A landscaped area for people to go for picnics – something 'Instagramable' to draw attention – art piece etc

A shop to buy merchandise, chalk bags, ropes/clips, hire of climbing shoes. Courses for climbing

Rooms for support charities are **free** to use and benefits local people without having to travel to DMFS – alcohol support, CAHMS etc

Teacher from DMFS would be keen to bring students if there was a classroom space for 30 with access to a smart board – lots of potential for outside learning – some schools teach higher orienteering for example

## CONCERNS:

How will it affect the other businesses in town – take away from existing cafes and pubs which are often used for meetings.

Parking is a nightmare in Southwick Rd

What is the groups thoughts on displacement? Will it offer proper contracted employment or will it be in house staff/retired and volunteers.

Ensure there will be enough green areas for wildlife?

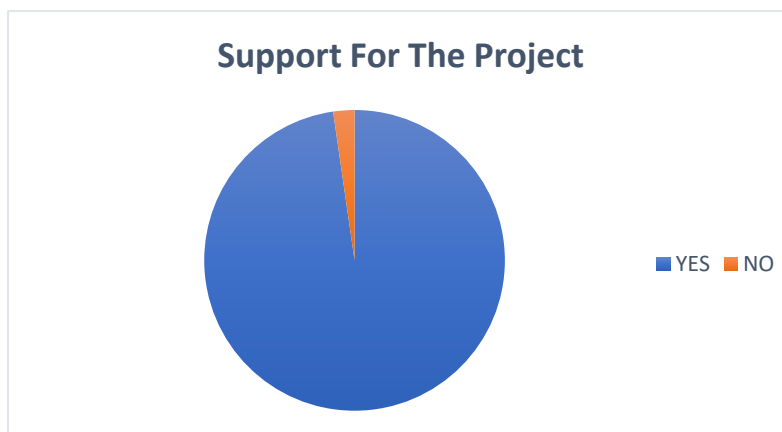
Just unhappy with the general bikes and boulders focus – minority/irrelevant for many people.

**Verbal feedback**, many did not complete the survey because they had no interest in sport and RAW had nothing to offer them.

New developments in D&G and what they will have to offer.

Town planning will identify what Dalbeattie and the surrounding area has to offer from businesses, groups, accommodation types, public services, transport network etc

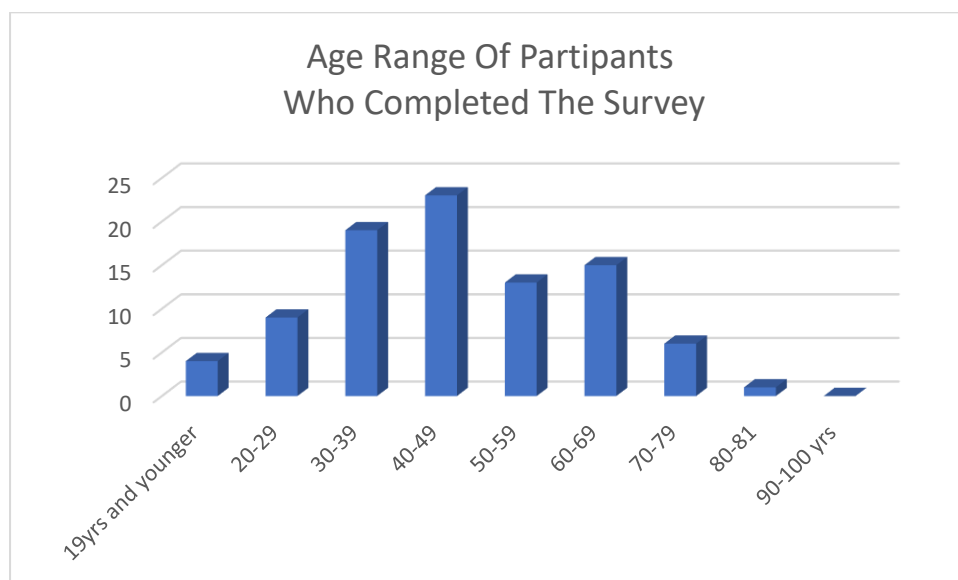
### Q7. Do you support the development of the project?



#### Points to consider:

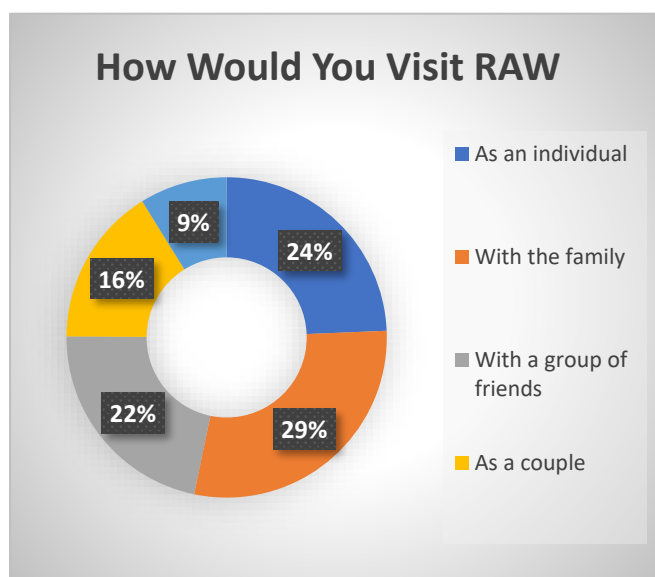
- Although 98% support the development, people who are **not** interested in the RAW project did not complete the survey.
- Need to show that RAW will mean something for the whole community even for those who are not interested in sport.

**Q8. We are keen to make sure we are reaching all age groups.**



The completed surveys cover all age groups with the 40-49 year olds being the most popular.

**Q9. How would you visit/use the activity centre?**



**For this question you could select more than one choice.**

The figures below have been calculated to take this into consideration which is why they are slightly different.

As an individual - 52.8%

With the family - 63.1%

With a group of friends - 47.2%

As a couple - 34.9%

An organised event via a club or school - 18.8%

**Q10. Out of the 570 participants who completed the survey 226 subscribed to the mailing list.**