

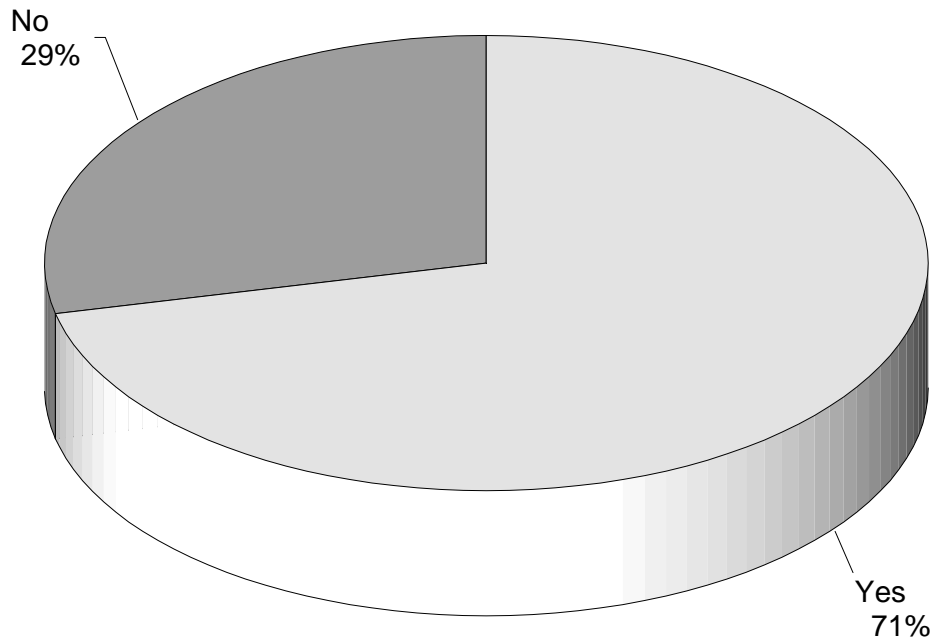
BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

CAR PARKING SURVEY RELATING TO HADLEIGH CAR PARKS

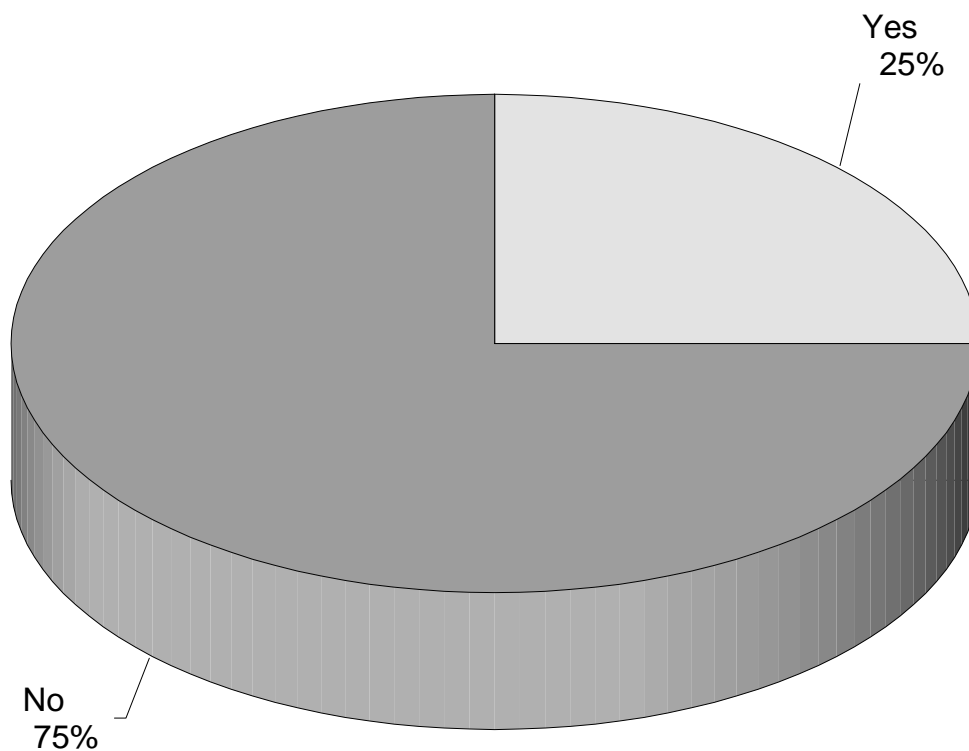
As at the end of 17 December 2001 we had received 28 responses relating to Hadleigh Car Parks.

Listed below are the findings:-

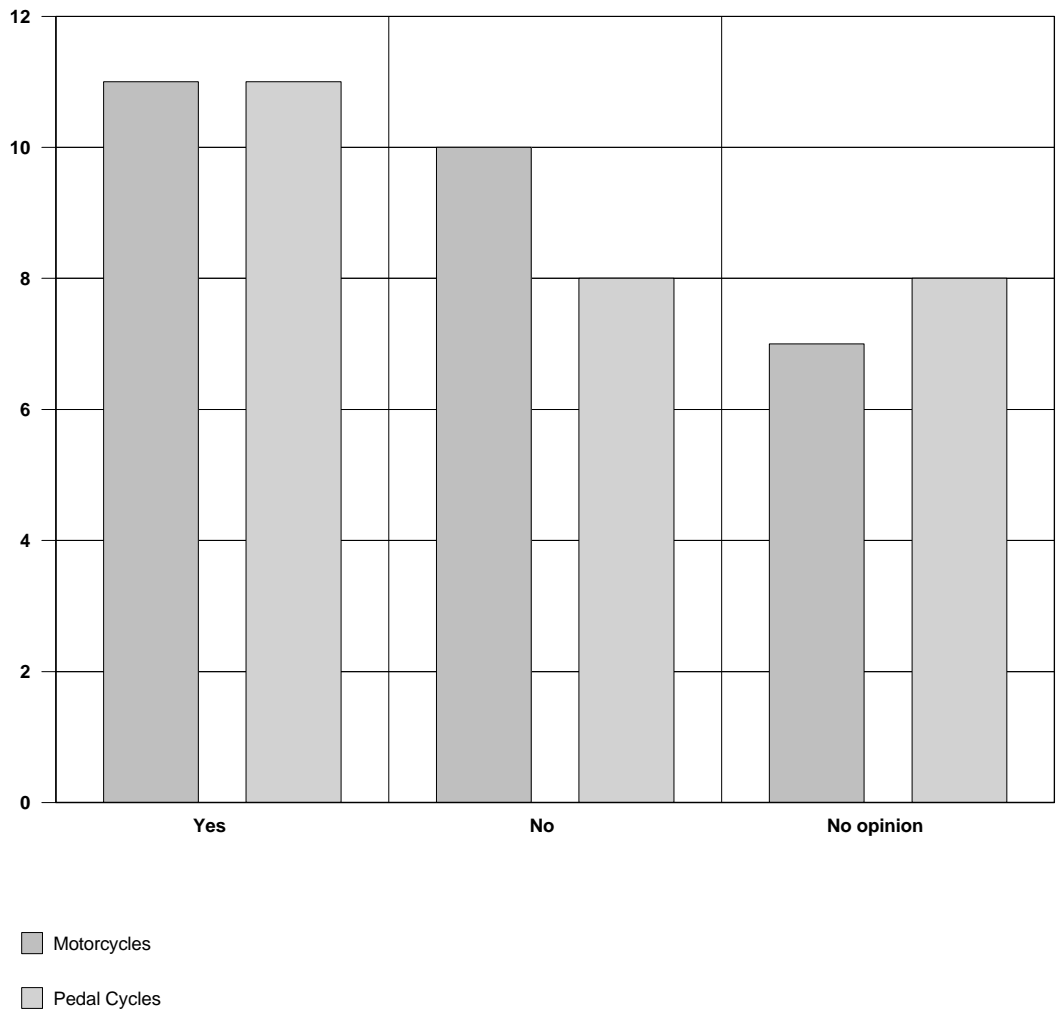
1. Do you think there are enough short stay (less than 4 hours) spaces in Hadleigh:



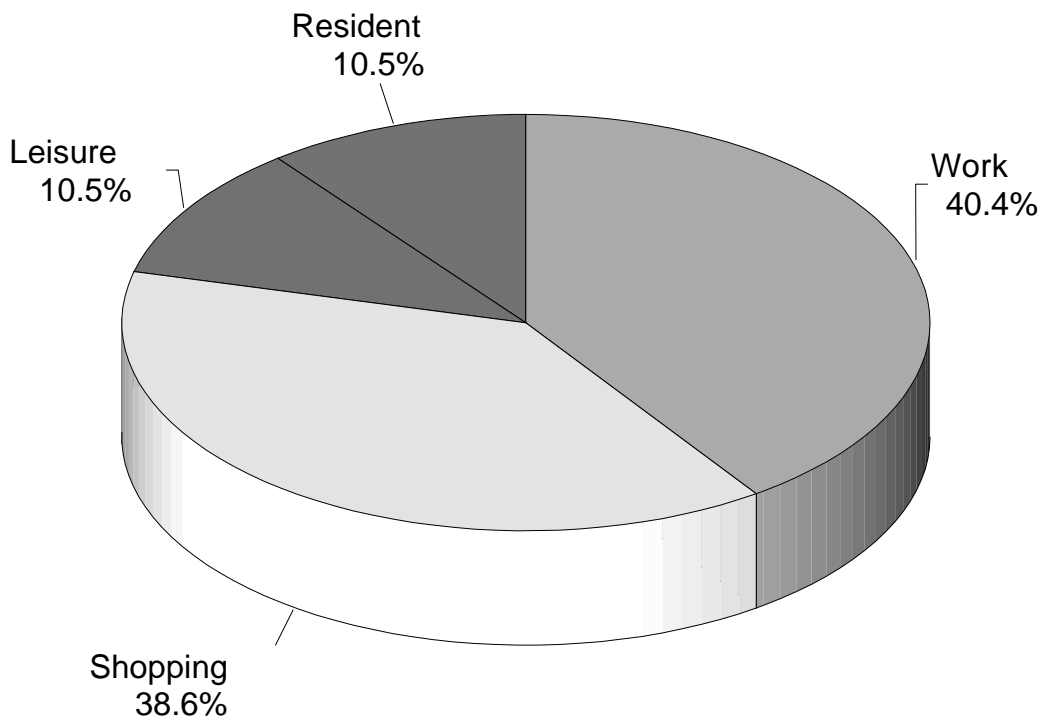
2. Do you think there are enough long stay (no restriction by time) spaces in Hadleigh:



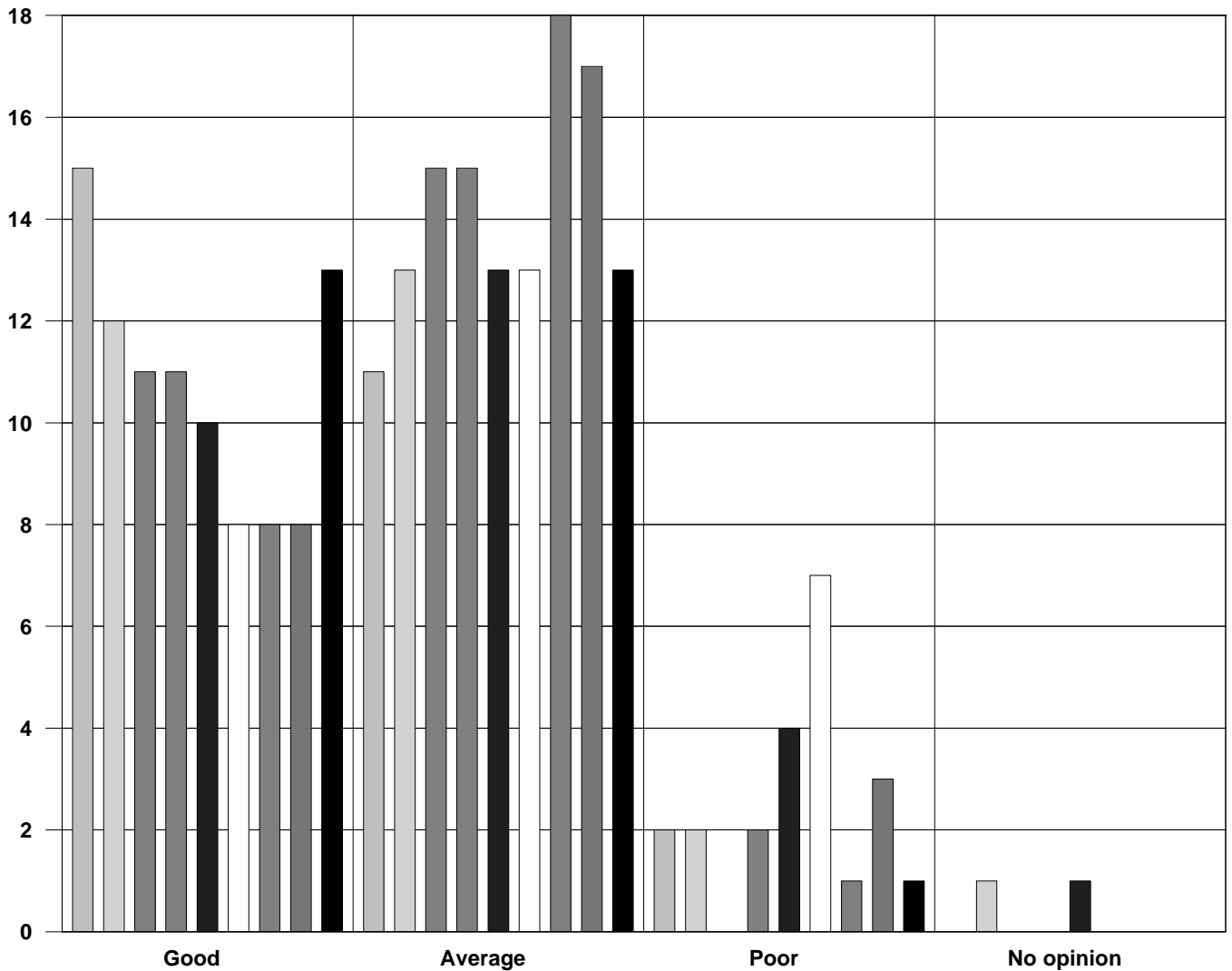
3. Would you like to see dedicated parking spaces for:



4. Do you have a view on the main reason for public's use of the off-street car parks in Hadleigh?

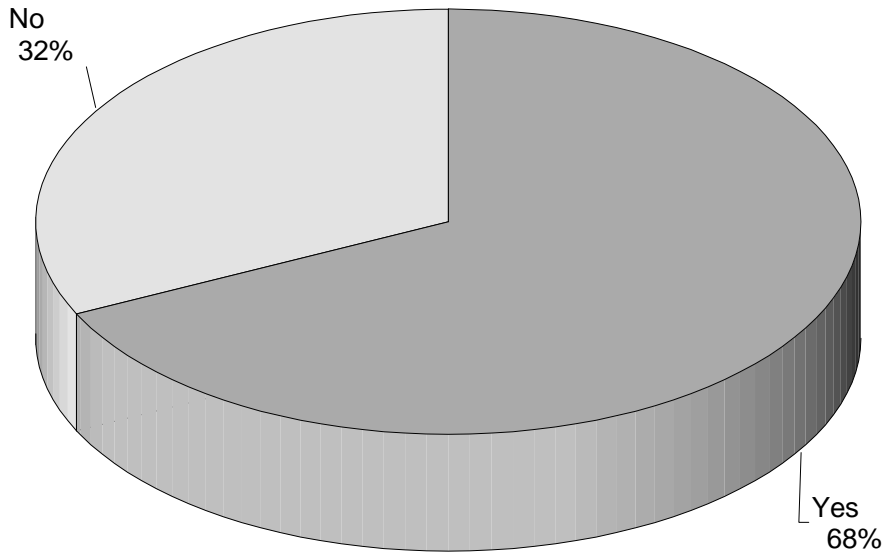


5. Please indicate how you rate the following in relation to the Council's car parks in Hadleigh.



- Cleanliness
- Landscaping
- Surfacing
- Lighting
- Directional signs leading to car parks
- Information signs within car parks
- Entry/exit arrangements
- Traffic circulation
- Town centre locations

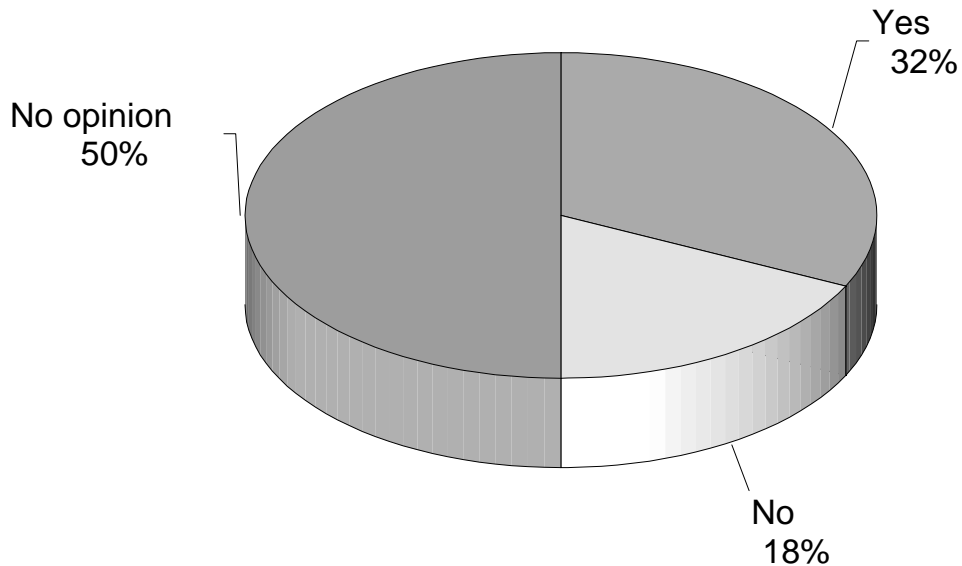
6. Would you like to see other information displayed in our car parks eg. town maps?



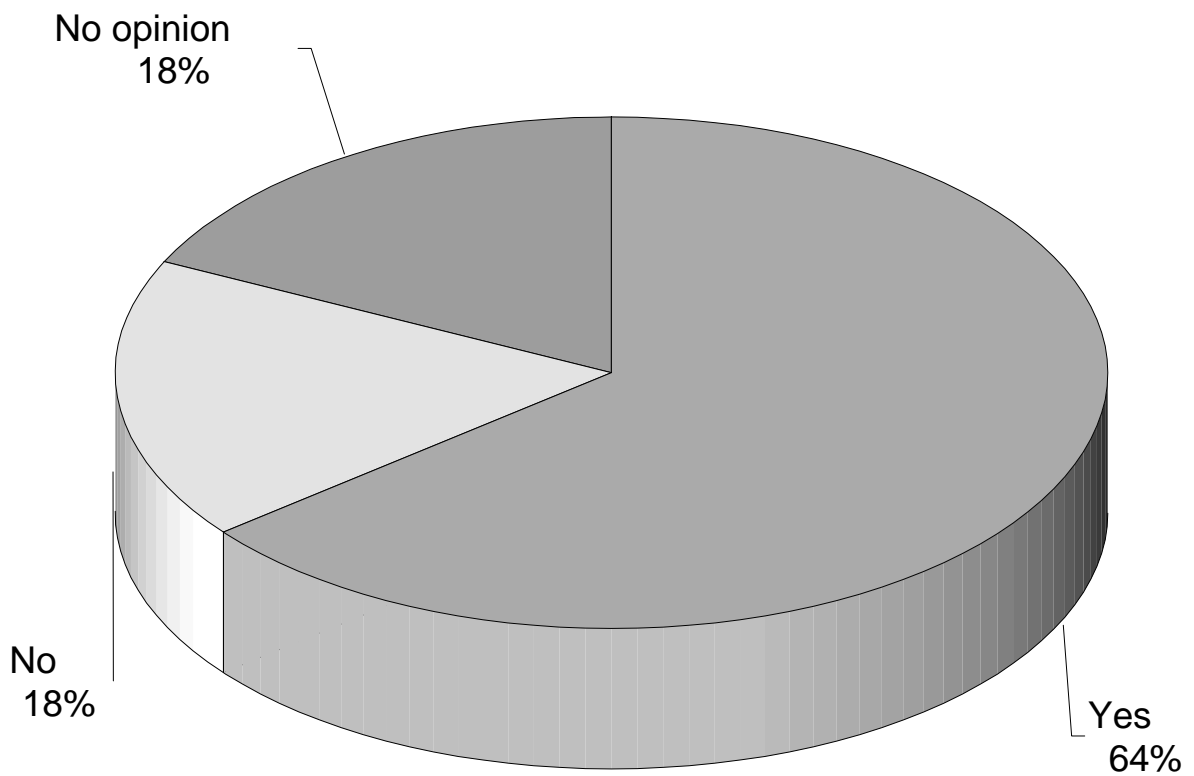
7. If yes, please indicate what information you feel would be helpful.

- Town maps
- Town maps
- Map TIC Leisure Amenities
- Town map
- Town maps, signs etc.
- Town maps
- Tourist information
- Directions and information
- Map showing businesses
- Local Traders
- Major properties
- Tourist information
- Town maps
- Tourist info.
- General Info.

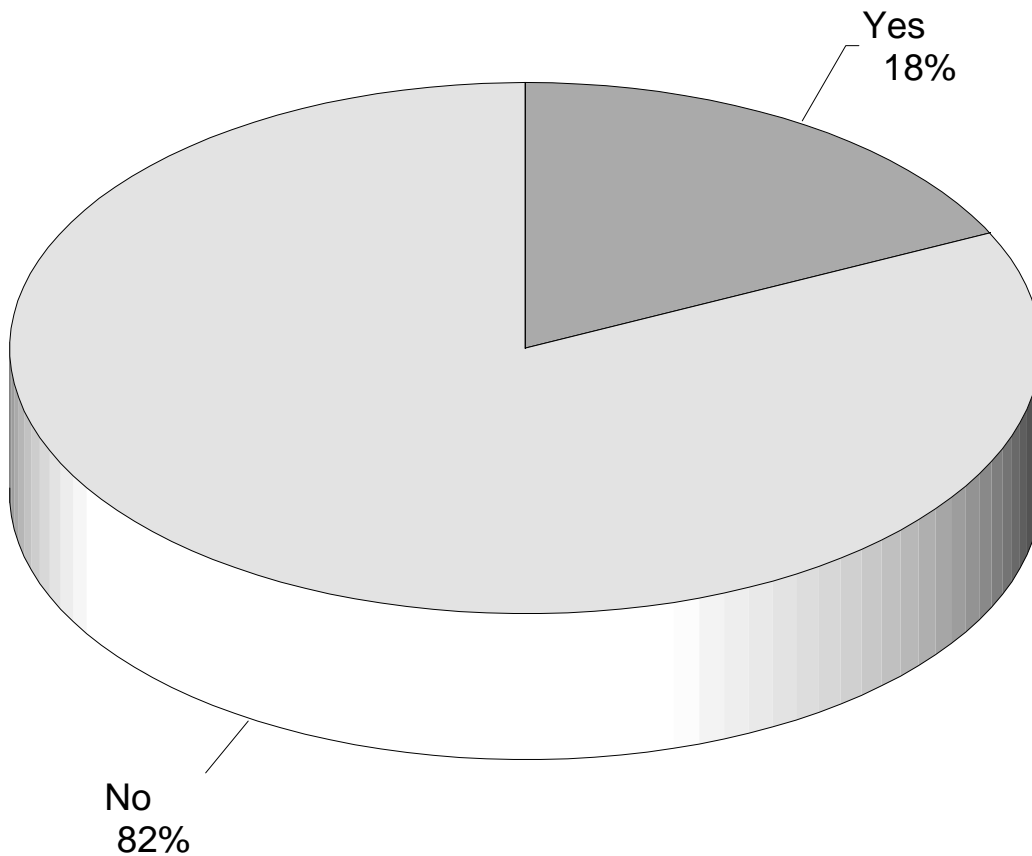
8. Would you like to see emergency contact points in our town centre car parks?



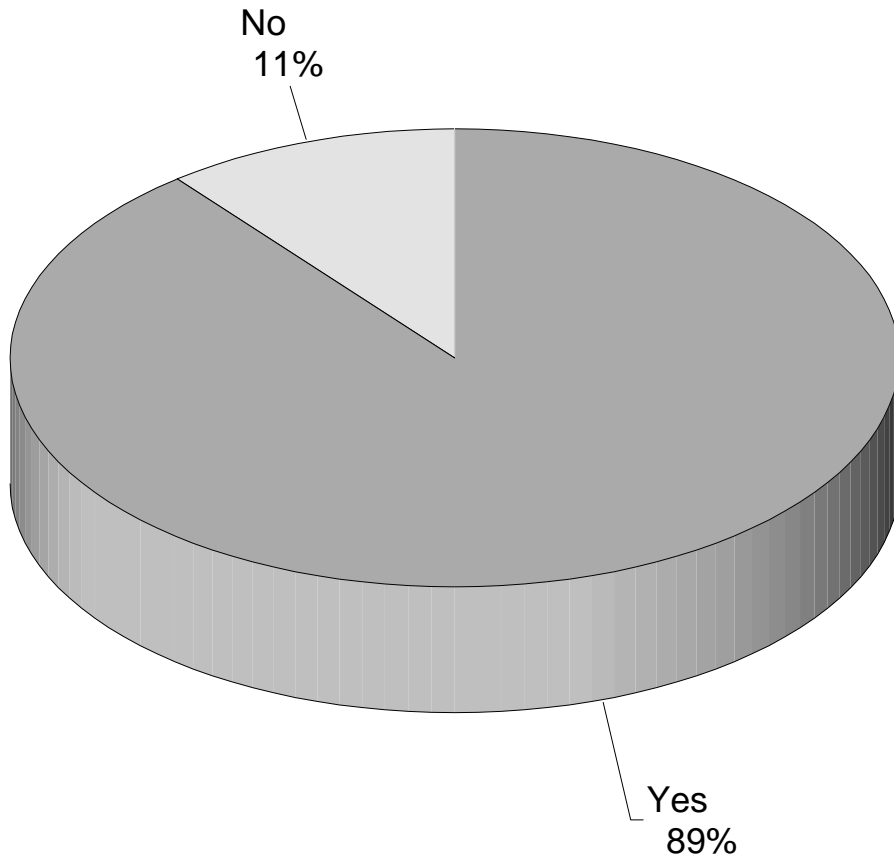
9. Is there enough parking provision for the disabled in our car parks?



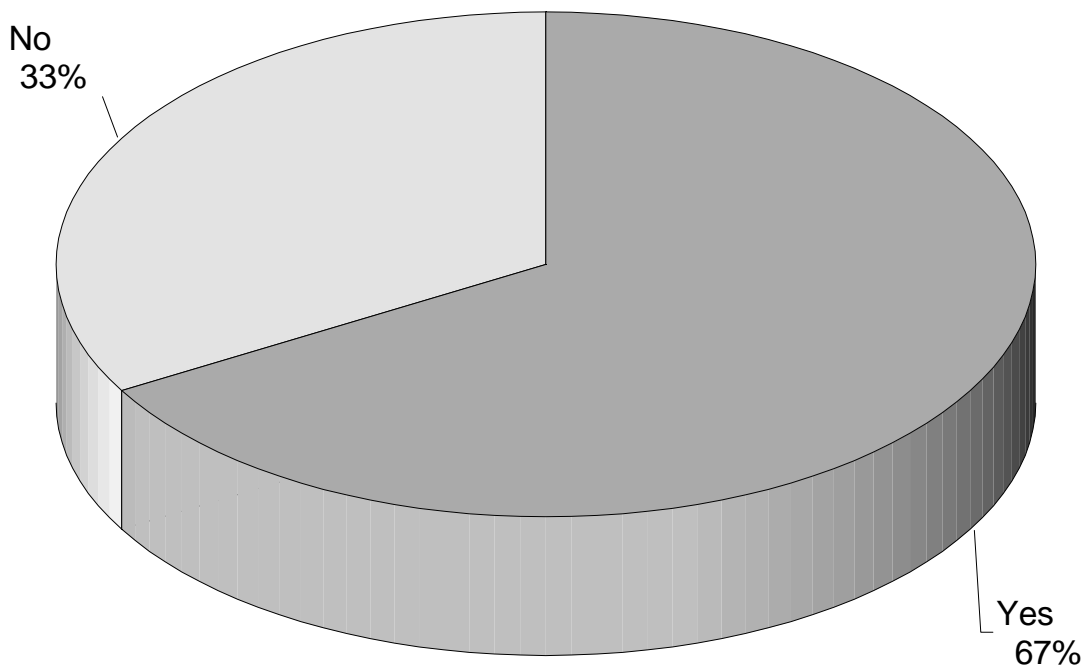
10. Were you aware of the level of spending on the Council's car parks, as set out in the accompanying letter?



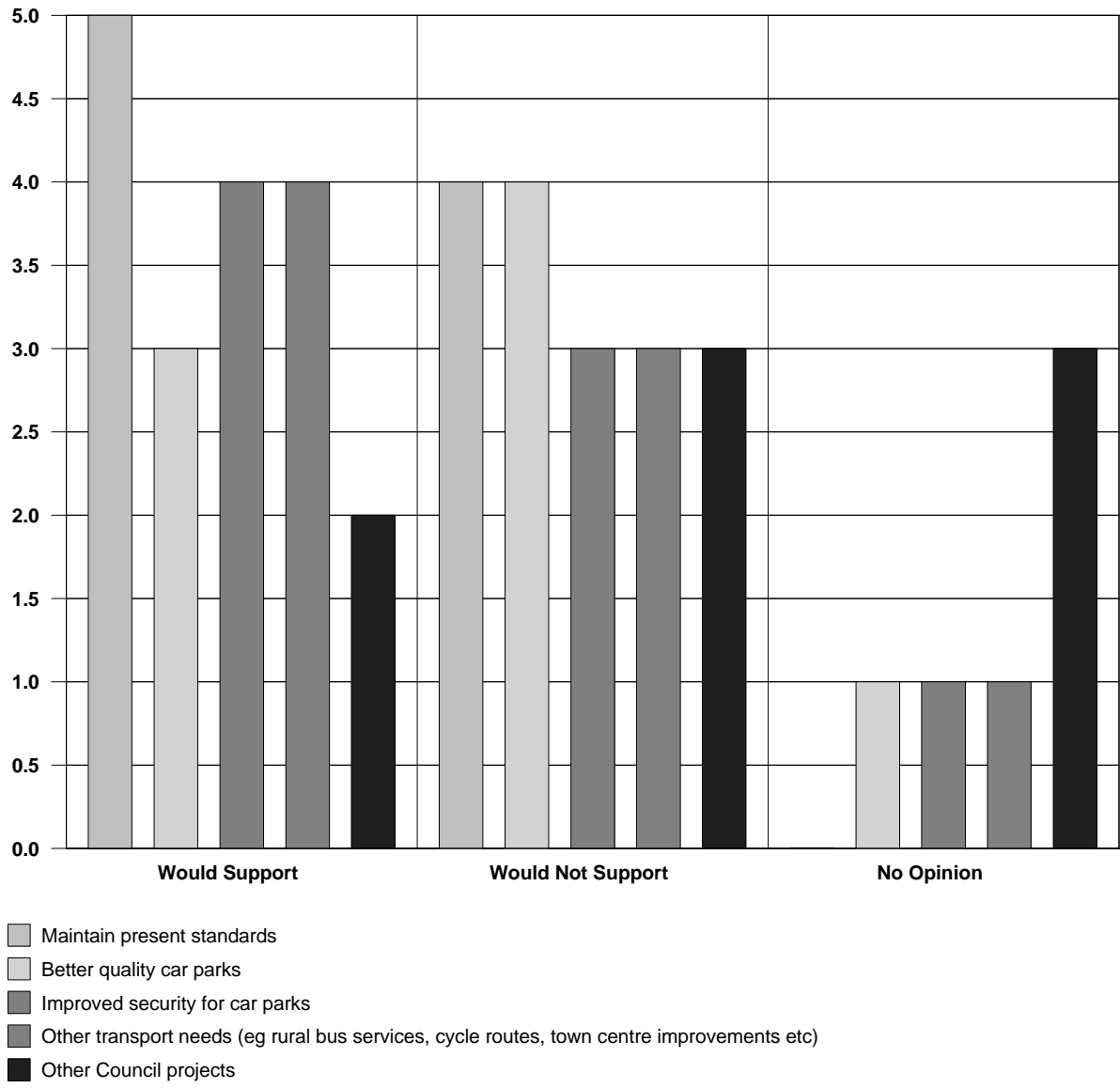
11. Are you happy for these costs to continue to be met by Council Tax payers?



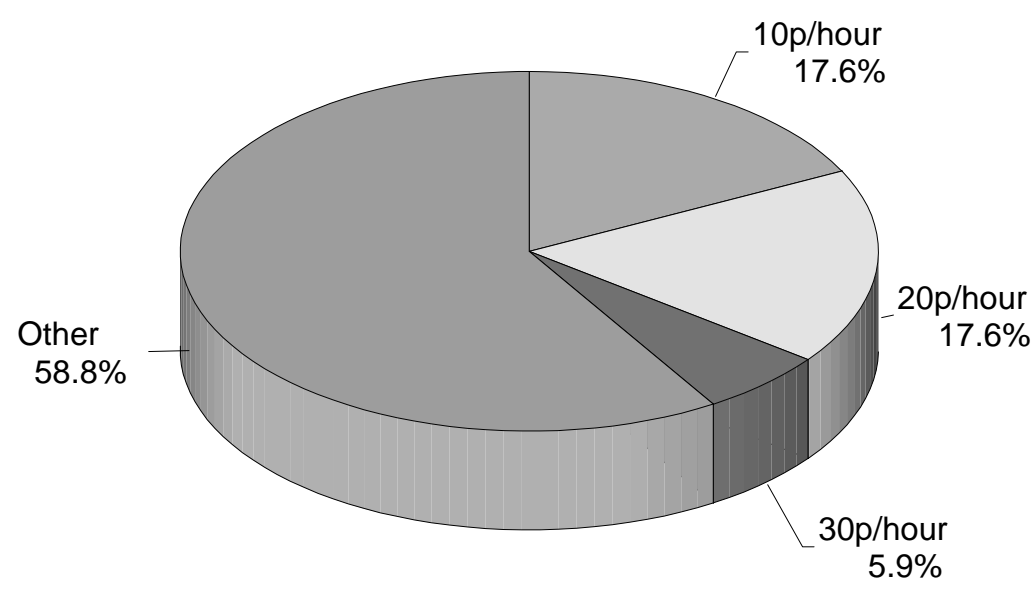
12. If no to question 11, would you support meeting these costs through car parking charges?



13. Please indicate whether you would support the following issues through raising income from parking charges.



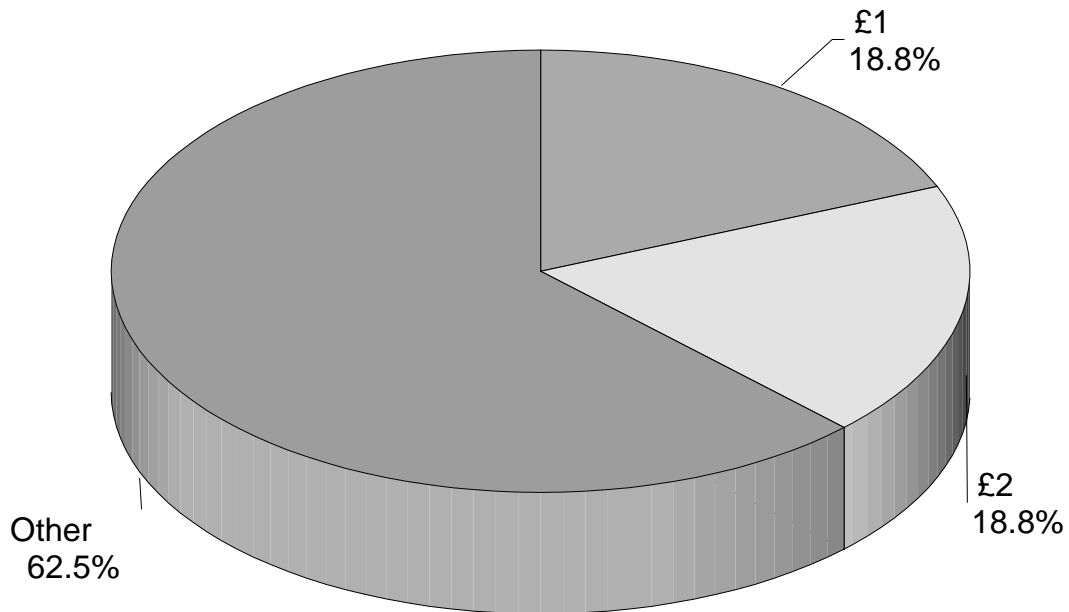
14. What would you consider to be a reasonable charge for short stay parking?



Other, please specify:

- No charges
- Nil
- Free
- 50p
- Free
- No Charge
- None
- None
- None

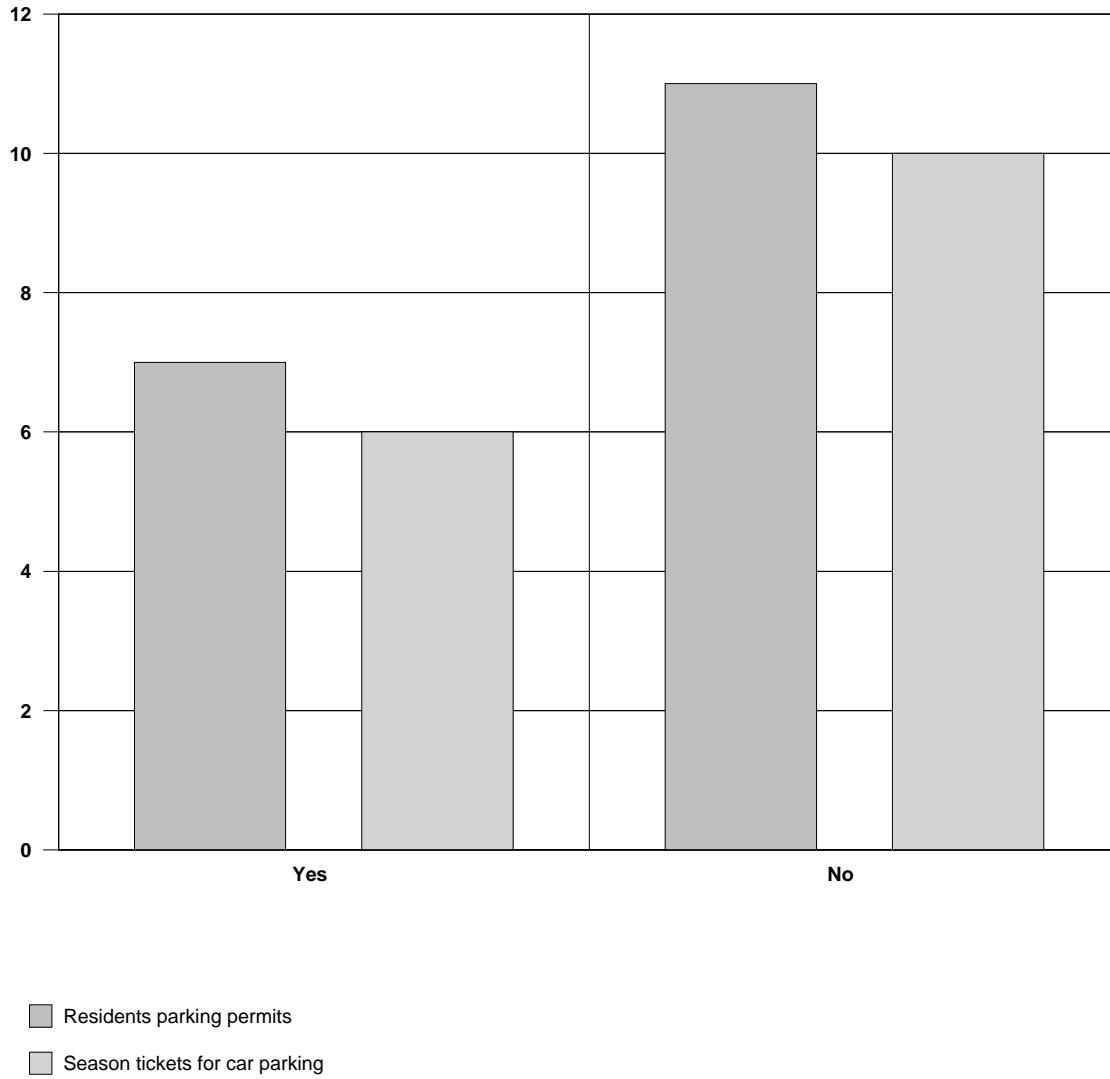
15. What would you consider to be a reasonable charge for long stay (over 4 hours) parking? (Per day)



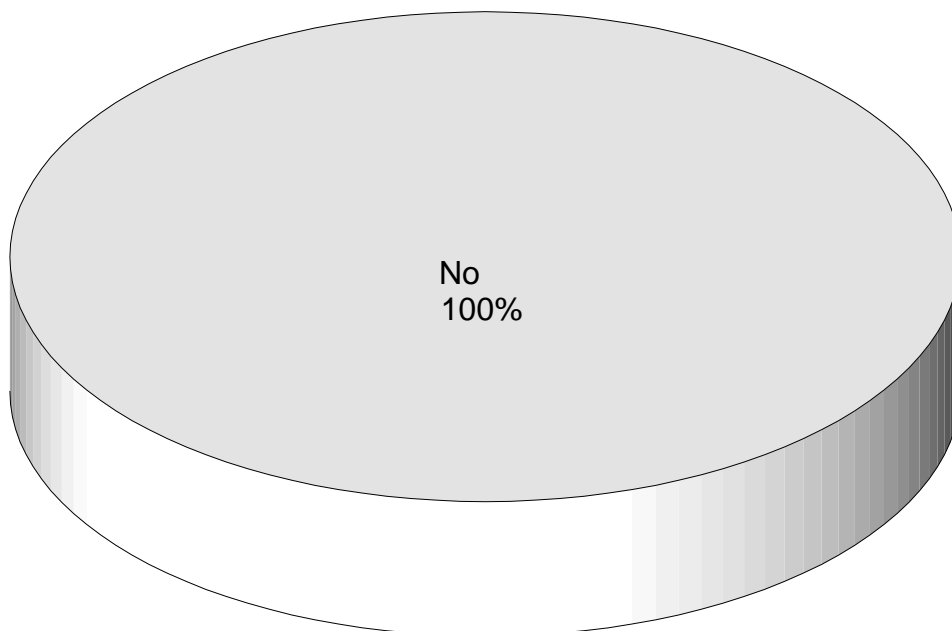
Other, please specify:

- None
- No charges
- Nil
- Free
- Free
- No Charge
- None
- None
- None

16. Do you think the following should be considered for the Hadleigh Town Centre car parks or on-street parking?



17. Do you think there should be parking charges on Sundays and Bank Holidays?



18. Are there any other comments you would like to make about our off street car parking service?

- In all area of Council expenditure there are those Council Tax payers who do not use all services, ie. schools, buses, etc. Charging for the car parks will lose shoppers and visitors to Babergh thereby affecting local businesses.
- We must support shopping in our small towns and as most of the people using the car parks will be local Council Tax payers, so we will only be creating extra costs collecting many off ourselves. Our small town also needs to attract visitors also to keep our shops viable. The present car parks should be looked at to see if extra places could be provided, for example the High St car park, although attractively revamped a small number of parking places were lost. Magdalen Rd car park, does the exit need to be so wide and also possibly could be moved the width of a car park space towards George St. Better use of parking in the redundant piece of road next to the drill fall (formerly part of Guthrum Rd). this could be made one way read from Guthrum Rd to George St, with car park spaces on one side, at an angle to make better use of space. A great chance has been missed by Tesco's application being turned down as this would have created a large number of free car park spaces in the tow
- Prior to the introduction of ticket machines there was seldom a problem with parking. Since the introduction of machines there has just been confusion - especially amongst visitors who could not (understandably) understand the instructions. The Chamber of Commerce has received letters from people who did not understand the system and therefore were fined for not having a ticket. Their final comment being "I will not shop in Hadleigh again." There is also difficulty for early parkers who cannot obtain a ticket and then get fined for it. The day the machines should not start before 11am. Please do not introduce parking charges. Hadleigh is a very special town and free parking is one of the things that makes it special.
- There should be places available for business owners in the High St. One per business, through a permit. I rent a garage for my car but find it very difficult to find a long stay place for my van. Also, church St and Queen St are no longer restricted to 1 hour parking. These places in each street are taken up by 8 am by Post Office and other workers, therefore making it very difficult for parking for not only myself but for potential customers. In conclusion charging for parking in the car parks will damage High St trade.
- I feel very strongly that parking should remain free in small towns as this is a big draw for the general public to come to a town which may not have as bigger selection of goods and services as large towns that charge for parking. Although some taxpayers may not use free parking facilities they may well benefit indirectly because of the trade it brings into the town. For traders the cost of parking incurred could render a viable business not profitable. In addition a payment parking system requires more monitoring and policing to ensure parking fees are being paid and some one would have to be paid to collect money from the parking meters therefore rendering to new system inefficient. Traders to have a sticker of some sort to be exempt from parking charges.
- As a business which operates on evening trade, it is important that allowances are taken into consideration for our parking needs. As such the practicality of having parking available (as current) near the business allows us to monitor our vehicles therefore avoiding unnecessary vandalism or indeed theft. Additionally personal safety is perfected as the vehicles are easily accessible and safety is not compromised.
- I find it very difficult to park anywhere near my shop. I work there for over 3 hours and therefore have to park and walk from the river. I have had my car vandalised there. Also when I leave the shop in the winter it is dark and I do not feel particularly happy walking back to my car. Often I need to deliver stationery or collect heavy items which I either have to carry or move my car to the shop to do this which is sometimes very difficult as I cannot find a space in Market Place. A parking space nearer to my business would be excellent.
- There should be more long stay spaces provided for those who work in the town but, who, nature of their business have to use their cars during the day. At the moment if one arrives before 9.00

a.m. anyone can get a space but if you then go out and come back no spaces are available and you have to park on street which causes annoyance to residents.

- The off street parking service in Hadleigh works well - 3 hours is plenty of time for short stay parking - e.g. to shop. We feel quite strongly that there are not enough long stay spaces provided. Most businesses and shops have employees who work from 9 am to 5.30 hrs obviously needing longer parking but by 9 am all long stay spaces are full. We are aware the swimming pool car park is available but at 9.00 this is full of parents taking children to school and is also quite a way out of the town. We do not want to see charges to use the car parks.
- There is a need for more parking long term for people who work in Hadleigh. Part of the attraction of working in Hadleigh compared to Ipswich was the ease for both employees and visitors to park. With the new short term restrictions there is a constant concern as to whether the 3 hour period will be over run. We need our cars during the day to visit sites, meet clients and go to the Council, parking has to be readily accessible and available.
- Hadleigh should remain a free parking town and the present system to be discontinued as it is farcical and detrimental to the retailers of the town.
- Charging for short term parking will in my opinion be very detrimental to the shops and services in the town centre. It will discourage use of local facilities and encourage out of town shopping. Charging for long term parking (used principally by people employed in the town centre) would only be acceptable if extended to all car parks including the park in Bridge Street used by Council employees.
- See attached letter
- As a business in the High Street, my staff are constantly coming and going in the car park to carry out their work. We provide home care for elderly people in their own home on a daily basis, which includes shopping and bringing people into Hadleigh from their houses outside the town. This would impose extra costs for us if charges were implemented. Also my office staff often do not arrive until after 9am so cannot find a long term space (this is due to early morning calls from 7am) therefore we can only use the short term and then have to remember to move our cars which we sometimes forget due to pressure of work. I know we have the use of the swimming pool car park but its not always convenient when we are in a hurry to go to our elderly clients. I feel a season ticket to use in any of the car parks to park anywhere would assist businesses.
- Parking in Benton Street!! Further controls on lorries of over 7.5 tonnes in town centre. Plus when Hadleigh Building Supplies moved no lorries allowed down the street at all. Double yellow lines in Benton Street from Hook Lane to High Street on west side. Ban on street parking in Duke Street, double yellow lines. Narrow path way in Angel Street to allow better parking off highway. Double yellow outside 3 - 9 High Street due to proximity to Station Road, High Street junction. Little notice is taken of 8 am no parking restriction.
- I work in the High Street every day. I am a furniture restorer and therefore have quite often valuable furniture in my van. Where do I park? If I arrive after 8.30 am and cannot always park in unrestricted areas which forces me to stay in the High Street. I have a busy shop and cannot always move the van to comply with the 1 hour rule, consequently I have just got the second parking ticket in the past few months. How can I support Hadleigh by being a vibrant part of the street when I spend all my time watching out for the warden?? Please give storekeepers a parking permit so we can get on with providing a service to everybody.
- The presence of the recycling bins in the Magdalen Road car park in no way contribute to the Conservation Area. Frequently surrounded by boxes of rubbish and clambered over by youngsters they are a blot on the town and not the sort of image that we would like visitors to Hadleigh to face them on their arrival.
- Hadleigh needs to keep free car parks which I think encourages shoppers and tourists. If charges are brought in we shall drive them away. A small market town needs this life blood of shoppers, tourists and workers able to use free town centre car parks. I also doubt that my rates would go down if you started charging for car parking.
- See attached letter

- There are few enough advantages in trying to run a small business from a small market town like Hadleigh, both in terms of recruiting staff and attracting customers. The advantage to our business on both counts in having good free car parking is one of the most important ways in which the Council can support local businesses. The removal of free parking would substantially affect the businesses in the town with a knock on effect on the Council's ability to collect business rates. I believe that the investment which the local authority makes in providing free car parking is not only a vital support for the viability of the businesses in the town but also makes financial sense from the local authority's point of view in that it supports the flow of business rates.
- If in the wisdom of the Council had not changed the car parking the cost would have been lower i.e. no machines, no alteration cost, no wages of a very silly attendant going to check tickets and all the costs involved in sending out these forms. Do not drive our customers away. We have invested large amounts of our own money to set up our businesses, we pay heavy taxes to the Council in all forms. Do not go down this road of charging, you will have fees businesses will leave and we will have a ghost town.