

Anzac Dirt Bike Track Feasibility

What We Heard Report

September 21, 2026



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

We humbly acknowledge that the land on which we live, learn, work and play is Treaty 8 Territory, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dene, and the unceded territory of the Métis.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public engagement was conducted to understand resident perspectives on the proposed Anzac dirt bike track and help inform the feasibility study.

The engagement included an online survey with 376 contributions and an in-person Community Open House in Anzac attended by 65 residents.

Online participation included residents from Anzac and other communities across the region.

Feedback collected through the engagement will be considered alongside other components of the feasibility study and will help inform Administration's recommendation to Council.



PARTICIPANTS

Who did we talk to?

Residents from:

- Anzac
- Conklin
- Draper
- Fort McMurray
- Gregoire Lake Estates
- Janvier
- Saprae Creek Estates



ENGAGEMENT IN NUMBERS

aware

ways people saw communications and advertisements.

Mailout to all Anzac and Gregoire Lake Estates Residents

Rural Newsletter

Community Portable Sign

Community Open House Topic

RRC screen in Anzac

Participate Newsletter

Social Media

Meta and Google Ads



ENGAGEMENT IN NUMBERS

engaged

Times people took action to provide feedback

- 376 Surveys (paper and online)
- 42 Dotmocracy dots
- 65 Community Open House attendees



OVERALL KEY FINDINGS/THEMES



1. Support is strong, but location matters

- Overall survey results showed strong support for a dirt bike track, with an average support rating of 79.6 out of 100. When considering potential noise, 68% supported a track within the hamlet of Anzac, and 73% supported a location approximately one kilometre outside Anzac.
- At the September 16 Community Open House, 65 Anzac and Gregoire Lake Estates participants were divided on a track within the hamlet, while 62.5% supported a location approximately one kilometre outside the hamlet. Together with the written feedback, the results show that where the track is located, particularly its proximity to homes, is an important consideration.



OVERALL KEY FINDINGS/THEMES



2. Different views on where to invest

- Different views on where to invest were identified in 78 written responses, with participants frequently referencing the existing McMurray Dirt Riders Association (MDRA) motocross facility on Highway 63.
- Some respondents preferred improving or expanding the existing facility rather than developing a second track, while others supported an additional track in or near Anzac to provide more riding options and better local access.
- This was particularly relevant given that 66% of online survey respondents were not Anzac residents, and 226 of the 247 non-Anzac respondents were from Fort McMurray, highlighting different regional and local perspectives on where investment should occur.
- Of the 125 survey respondents who indicated they live in Anzac, 108 provided feedback on the proposed location, with 70% indicating 100% support for a dirt bike track within the hamlet.



OVERALL KEY FINDINGS/THEMES



3. Youth recreation and a safe place to ride

- Youth recreation, skill development and providing a dedicated place to ride were identified in 18 written responses, making it the fourth most frequently identified theme.
- Survey results further support this finding: 44% of identified potential users were under 18, with 11–17-year-olds representing the largest age group at 32%, and potential users ranged from beginner to advanced riders.



4. Road safety and enforcement in Anzac

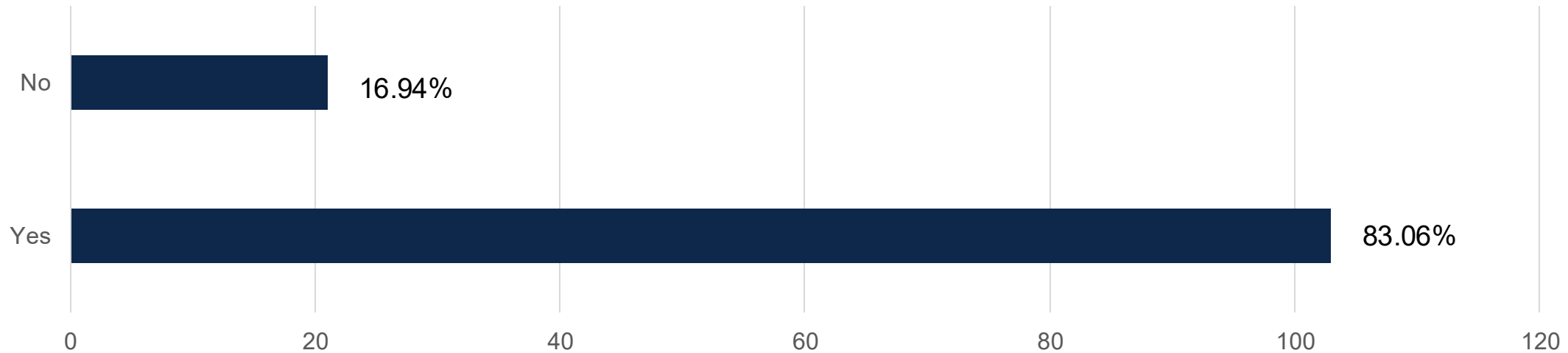
- Through both the survey and in-person conversations at the Community Open House, residents conveyed concerns about rider safety and the misuse of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) within the community, including speeding, wheelies, underage riding and the use of public roads.
- In the written feedback, 13 responses discussed road safety, rider behaviour and getting riders off community streets, while 12 discussed enforcement, education and responsible riding.
- Residents also expressed a perception that current enforcement is lacking or inconsistent. Some saw a dedicated track, combined with education and enforcement, as an opportunity to encourage safer and more responsible riding.



SURVEY QUESTION

Q5 – Would you support a dirt bike track being located outside the hamlet of Anzac, within approximately one kilometre?

Anzac residents only: Results reflect survey respondents who identified Anzac as their community of residence. (124 participants)



NEXT STEPS

This project is currently in the feasibility stage. Feedback received from communities across the region will be considered alongside other factors, including environmental considerations, land availability, fiscal management and technical requirements.

Together, this information will help inform Administration's recommendation to Council.

The completed feasibility study will be presented to Council in the coming months for consideration.



Thank You

For more information on this report email participate@rmwb.ca.



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Appendix A

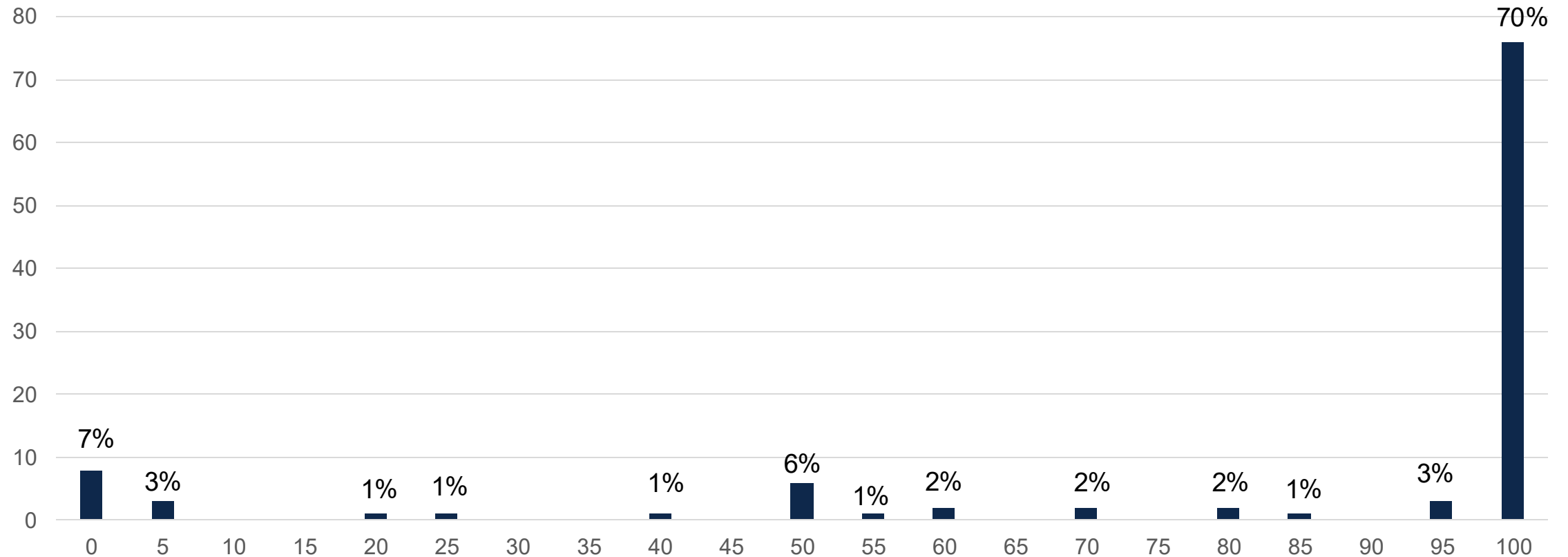
Survey – Anzac Residents

(Capturing the 125 participants that indicated they live in Anzac)

SURVEY

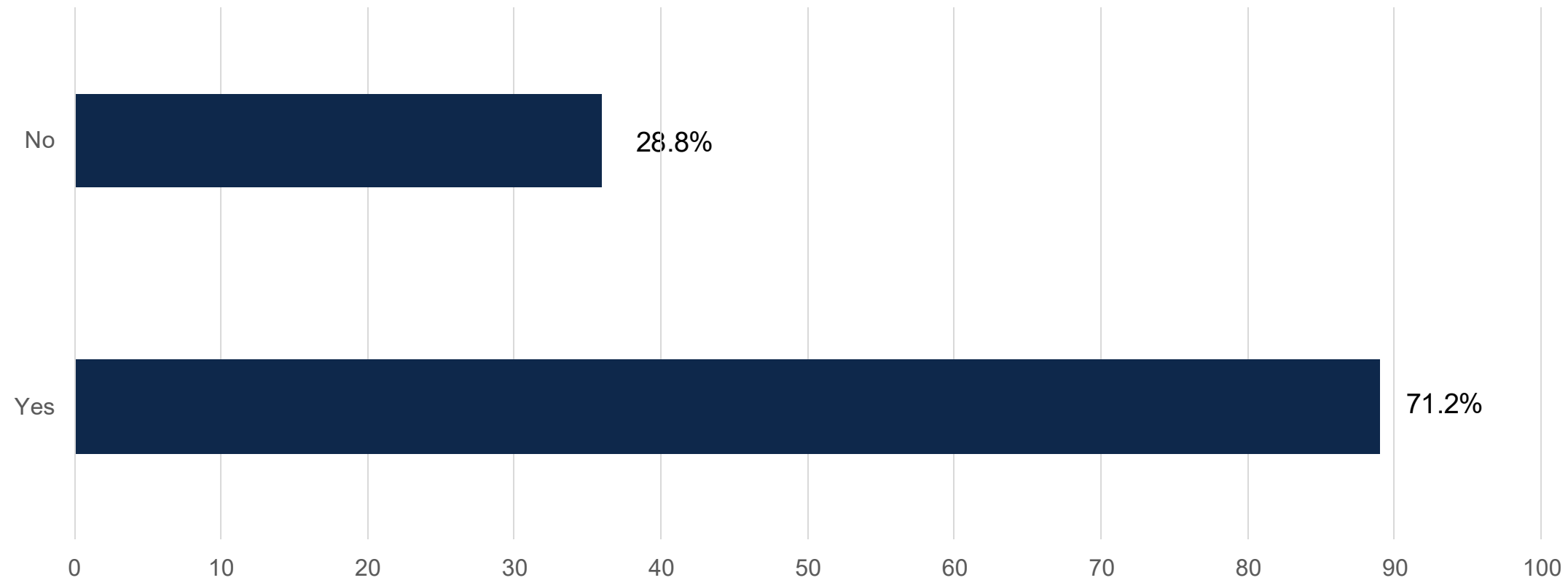
Q3 – How likely would you be to support a dirt bike track being located within the hamlet of Anzac?

(108 participants)



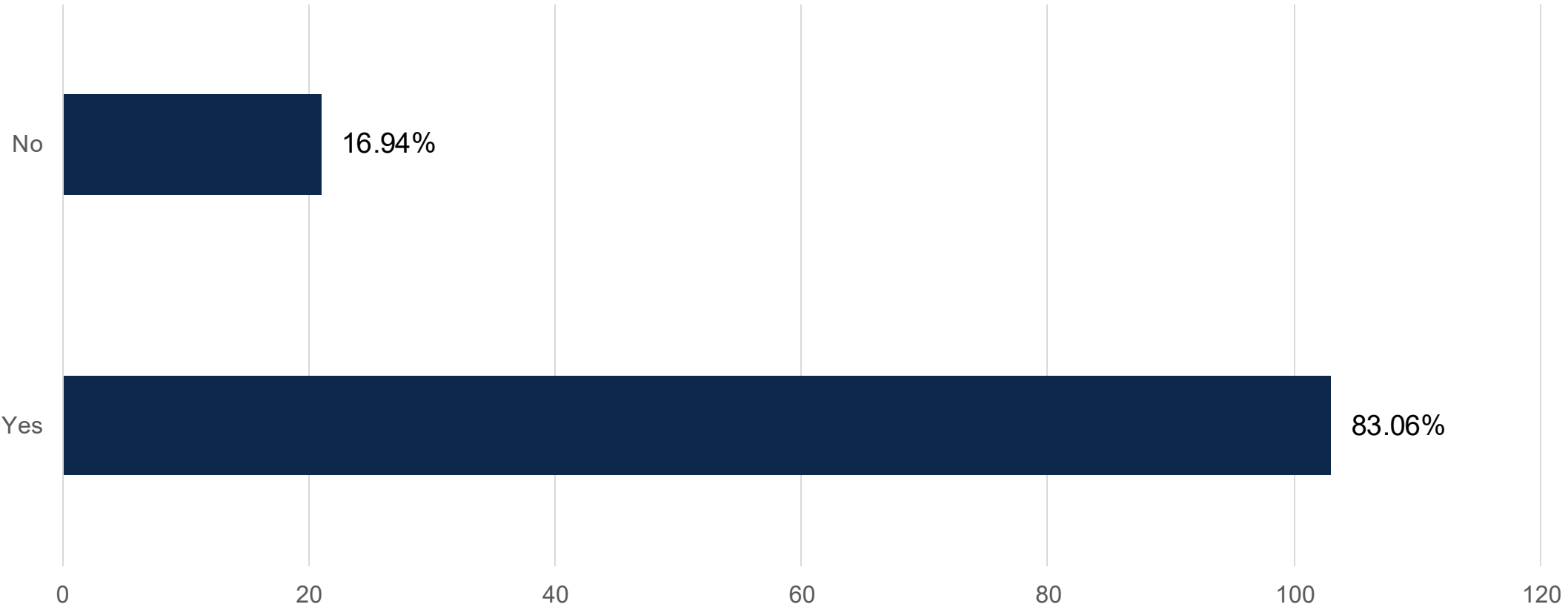
Q4 – Knowing a dirt bike track may generate noise, would you still support it being located within the hamlet of Anzac?

(125 participants)



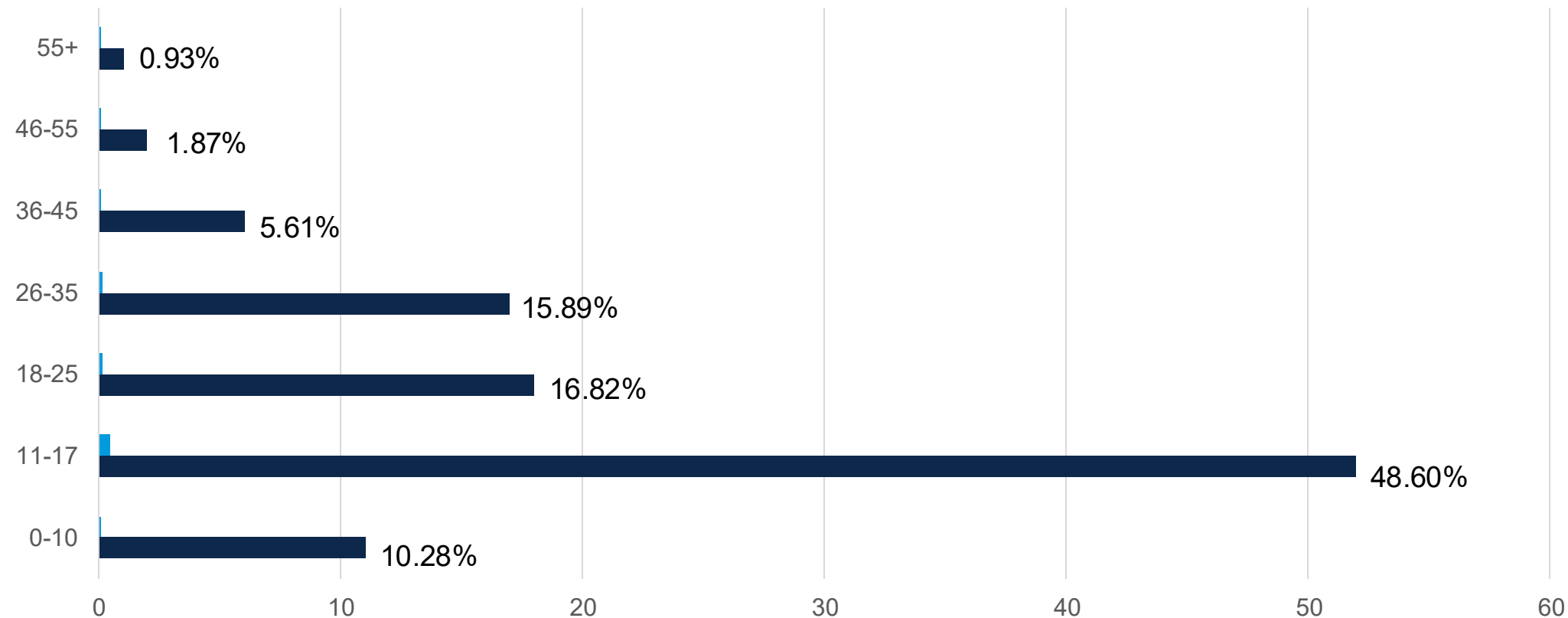
Q5 – Would you support a dirt bike track being located outside the hamlet of Anzac, within approximately one kilometre?

(124 participants)

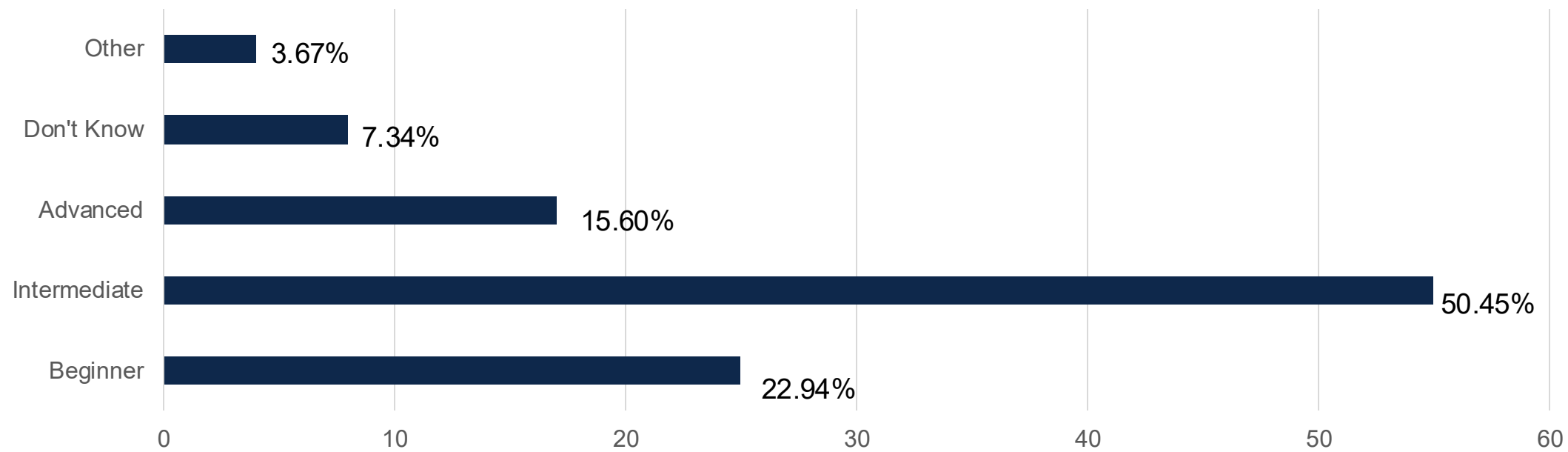


Q6 – If you or someone you know would use the dirt bike track, what is your/their age?

(107 participants)



Q7 – What is the riding ability of you/the person who would use the track? (109 participants)



Other comments: “No riders.” “We don’t ride bikes.” “Myself and my son would both use it. Intermediate and advanced riders.” “Anyone that is able to ride, most good riders are respectful of beginners.”



Q8 – If you would like to provide any other feedback, please do so here:

(58 participants) **Top themes from long answer responses:**

Location and Proximity to Anzac (11 responses)

Location was one of the most consistent considerations raised. Participants frequently connected their level of support for a dirt bike track to where it would be located. Many preferred a location outside the hamlet or away from residential properties, with suggestions including approximately one kilometre away, five kilometres from inhabited areas, the sand pit, across the highway and the Checker Lake lease. At the same time, some participants emphasized that the track should remain close enough to Anzac to be accessible to youth and allow timely emergency response.

Participants quotes:

"Location is the biggest concern, something away from residential properties but still accessible."

"I prefer the area for the dirt bike track to be at least 1 km away from Anzac."

"I think a dirt bike track outside of Anzac would be better. The sand pit would be a great spot. Or checker lake lease. The rec board has the lease and has never used it. That would be a perfect spot. No noise in Anzac and close proximity for emergency response if needed."



Noise and Impacts on Residents (12 responses)

Noise was a recurring concern, particularly for residents living along Stony Mountain Road or near areas currently used by riders. Participants described existing dirt bike and ATV activity affecting their ability to enjoy their homes, properties and the quieter character of rural living. Several participants indicated they could support a track if it were located far enough from homes to limit noise.

Other participants felt existing OHV activity already creates noise and suggested a designated track could potentially reduce noise within the hamlet by drawing riders away from residential streets.

Participants quotes:

"I would support this dirt bike track depending on where it is located. Currently I live on the main road in Anzac and cannot enjoy sitting outside due to the constant back and forth on Stony Mountain Road. There is no respect for any residents that live along this road from the dirt bikers and quads. It's constant all day long."

"The goal of a dirt bike track should be to move people off the main roads in town and generate less noise at late hours. As long as it is away from residential area."

"Hi I'm a resident of Anzac for over 40 years . The noise would be extremely bad. That's way too close to Anzac. Not to mention that's a recreation area for family's to enjoy riding."



Enforcement, Education and Responsible Riding (12 responses)

Participants emphasized that creating a track would not, on its own, address existing concerns about rider behaviour. Feedback called for consistent enforcement of road and OHV rules, including concerns related to underage riders, helmet use, stunting, speeding and use of public streets.

Some participants described current enforcement as insufficient, particularly during evenings, and questioned whether Bylaw or RCMP would have the capacity to address increased activity. Rider education was also suggested. Participants proposed education or training for youth and ATV riders covering rules of the road, hand signals, safe riding and courtesy when sharing roads with motor vehicles.

Participants quotes:

“There needs to be a drivers ED program for youth within all of Wood Buffalo that teaches rules of the road, hand signals and common courtesy when sharing the roadways with motor vehicles.”

“Already to many quads and bikes used improperly”

“I think it's important to monitor traffic within the hamlet that is utilizing the roads and green spaces to already drive around and to get to the track. A lot of people display extremely dangerous driving habits within the hamlet on AtVs. There needs to be some sort of course for atv drivers to teach rules of the road, hand signals and common courtesy.”



Youth Recreation, Skill Development and a Safe Place to Ride (12 responses)

Participants who supported the concept frequently identified the potential benefit for youth. Feedback described limited recreational opportunities for young people in Anzac and expressed interest in providing youth with a dedicated place to ride, learn and spend time.

Participants also identified opportunities for beginner and experienced riders to develop skills, learn safe riding practices and participate in organized programs or events. Some comments connected the facility to broader benefits such as family activity, team building, responsibility and giving youth a sense of purpose.

Participants quotes:

“This would be an amazing opportunity for the community, as there is really nothing for kids to do out here in Anzac”

“A track would give kids, families, and riders a safe and dedicated place to ride, learn, practice, instead of having bikes in areas that aren’t designed for it.”

“I am one of the many teens that ride out in Anzac every day I can. We have a small sandpit but it is not a lot and the gravel pit is closed off due to construction. My group especially would love a dirtbike/sport atv track out in Anzac as there isn’t many places for us to enjoy because they have either been outgrown by the wilderness, closed off due to construction, or too far out of the hamlet. This would also help keep kids from being on the roads, as they would have a entertaining place to go ride safely.”



Road Safety, Rider Behaviour and Getting Riders Off Community Streets (10 responses)

A major theme was the existing use of roads, ditches, trails and other community spaces by dirt bikes, quads, side-by-sides and other off-road vehicles. Participants described speeding, wheelies, stunting, underage riding and riders not following road rules. Some viewed a designated track as an opportunity to move riders away from streets and walking areas and provide a safer place to ride. Others questioned whether a track would actually reduce street riding and were concerned it could attract more riders and increase OHV traffic within Anzac.

Participants quotes:

“Kids are on the street way too much with their dirt bikes. This causes risk for both them and traffic on the road. Providing them a track of their own could minimize this risk. But they would also need to be monitored as some of these kids may still use the road. Tickets could be issued to those on the road maybe?”

“Help get all the electric bikes off the streets and give these kids somewhere nice and safe to ride and be kids.”

“There’s tons of trails here people could use and choose not to, what we need is consistent enforcement to keep reckless riders off of the main roads”



Additional themes from long answers:

- **Enforcement, Education and Responsible Riding (12 responses)**

Participants emphasized the need for consistent enforcement of road and OHV rules, particularly related to unsafe riding, underage riders and use of public streets. Rider education and training were also suggested to promote safer, more responsible riding and greater awareness of road rules.

- **Existing Riding Areas, Alternatives and Need for a New Track**

Participants had differing views on the need for a new track, with some suggesting existing tracks, trails or the sand pit could be used or improved instead. Others, particularly riders and youth, felt current riding opportunities are limited, inaccessible or too far from Anzac.

- **Facility Operations, Access, Maintenance and Cost**

Participants raised considerations around how the track would operate, including public access, fees, maintenance and overall cost. Feedback also identified potential requirements such as fencing, supervision, security, insurance and defined operating hours.

- **Broader Community Impacts, Benefits and Consultation**

Participants identified potential community benefits, including recreation, family connections, tourism, economic activity and opportunities for residents beyond Anzac. Others raised concerns about impacts to property owners, traffic, noise, trails, the environment and taxpayer costs, while also emphasizing the importance of inclusive consultation that provides opportunities for all residents to participate.



Appendix B

Survey – All respondents

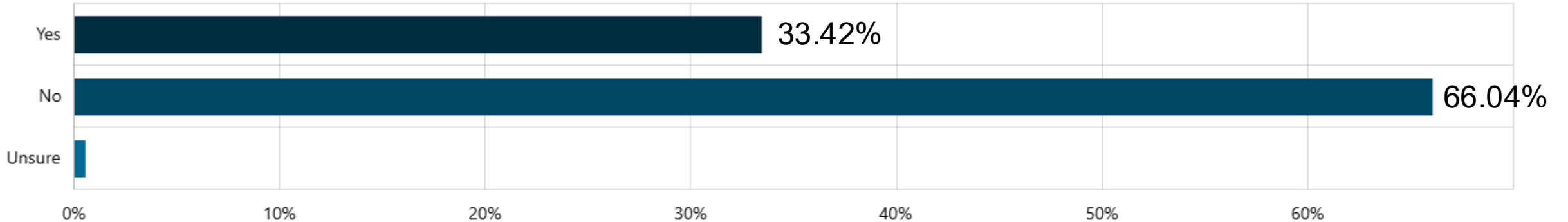
(376 responses)



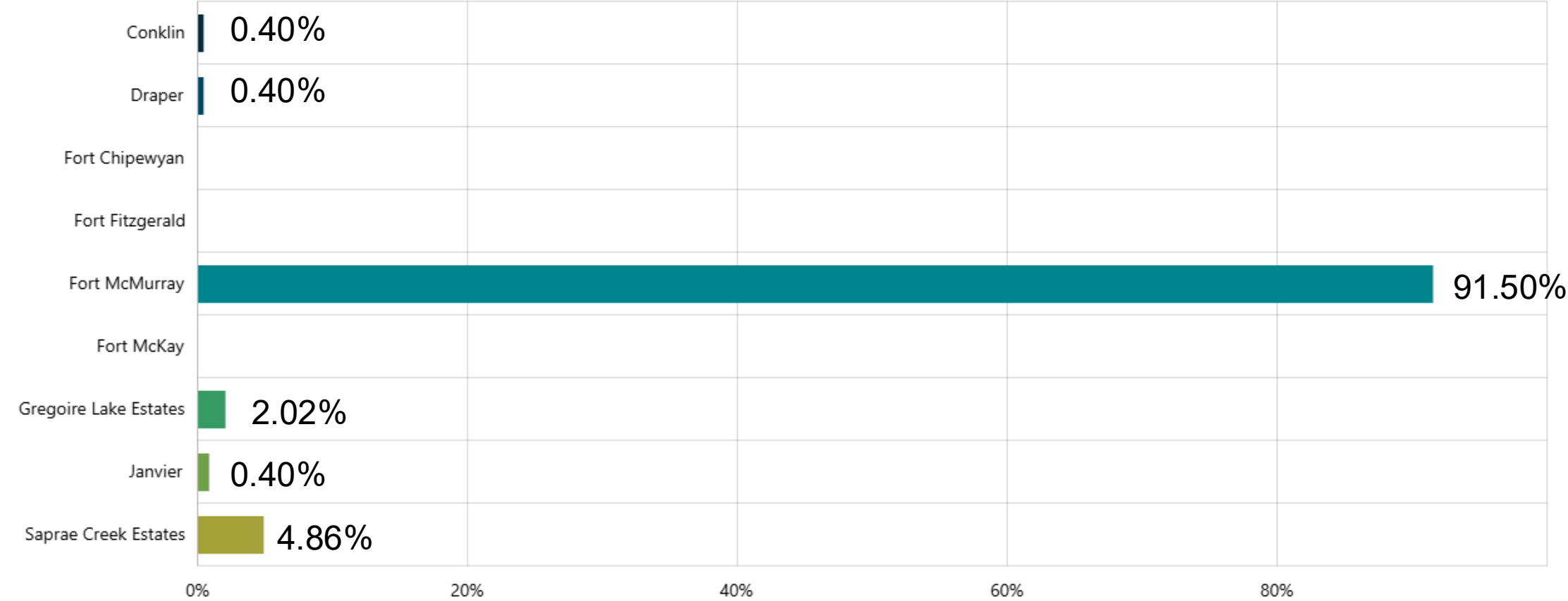
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SURVEY

Q1 – Are you an Anzac resident?
(374 participants)

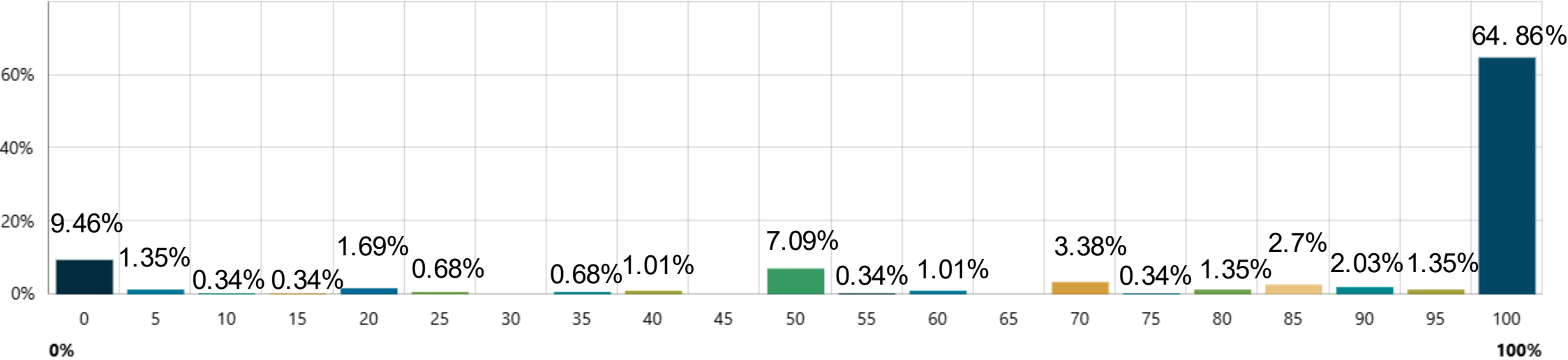


Q2 – Please select the community you are a resident of: (247 participants)



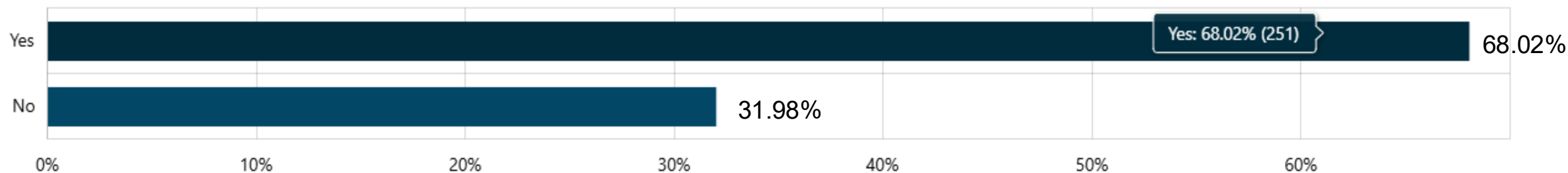
Q3 – How likely would you be to support a dirt bike track being located within the hamlet of Anzac?

(296 participants)



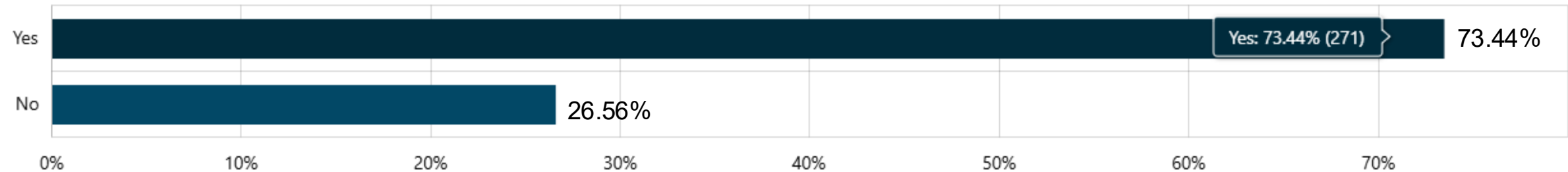
Q4 – Knowing a dirt bike track may generate noise, would you still support it being located within the hamlet of Anzac?

(369 participants)



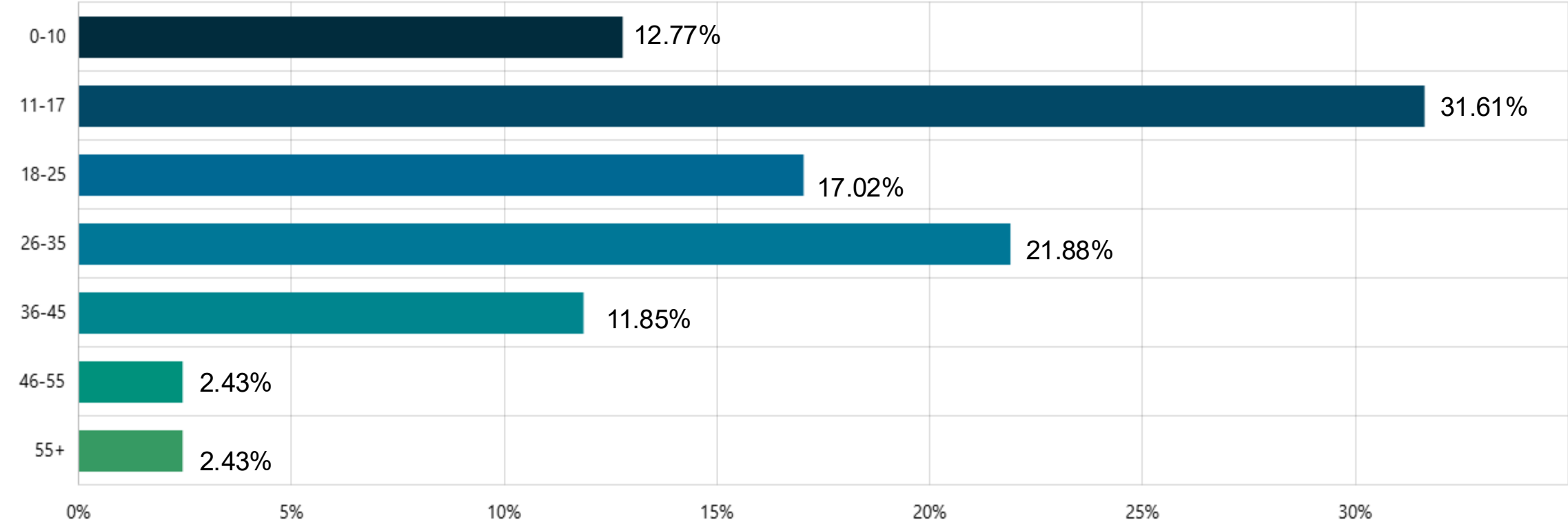
Q5 – Would you support a dirt bike track being located outside the hamlet of Anzac, within approximately one kilometre?

(369 participants)

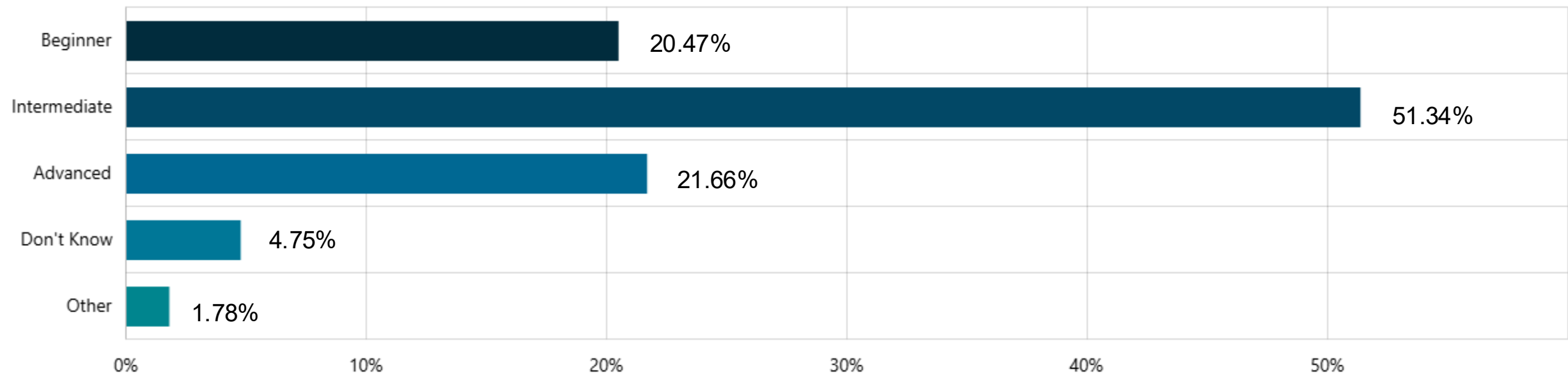


Q6 – If you or someone you know would use the dirt bike track, what is your/their age?

(329 participants)



Q7 – What is the riding ability of you/the person who would use the track? (337 participants)



Other comments: “This is too far we would seldom use” “We don’t ride bikes.” “Myself and my son would both use it. Intermediate and advanced riders.” Anyone that is able to ride, most good riders are respectful of beginners.”



Q8 – If you would like to provide any other feedback, please do so here:

(195 participants) **Top themes from long answer responses:**

Existing Riding Areas, Alternatives and Need for a New Track (78 responses)

Participants had differing views on whether a new track is needed. A significant amount of feedback pointed to the existing Highway 63/MDRA track and suggested municipal funding, expansion, maintenance and additional land could improve that facility rather than building a second track. Participants also suggested alternatives such as the sand pit, existing trails, XC trails, BMX/MTB facilities and a broader multi-use off-road facility. Others felt existing options are limited, inaccessible, too far away or unable to meet the needs of riders, particularly youth in Anzac, and supported creating additional riding opportunities.

Participant feedback: *“We have a track already that needs the support of the RMWB. Why would we put the money and resources into a brand new when an existing track could be upgraded to fit the needs of all riders within the area. No need to start from scratch.”*

“I think another dirt bike track in the region gives people options. No two tracks are the same. So one can be built for a dirt skill set. Offer different types of terrain etc. The more places that are developed for people to ride is more will more then likely help keep dirt bikes off of where they shouldn’t be. Like anything though it has to be properly maintained or it’ll never draw the attention it should”

“I think expanding the track we have would be a much better option.”



Broader Community Impacts, Benefits and Consultation (31 responses)

Participants expressed broader support for the project, describing it as a positive opportunity for Anzac and the region. Potential benefits included recreation, stronger family and community connections, tourism, regional events, volunteerism and economic activity for local businesses.

Other participants questioned whether the project would benefit enough residents to justify the public investment and raised concerns about broader impacts on residents and the community.

A small number of participants also emphasized the importance of ensuring Anzac residents have a strong voice in decisions affecting their community.

Participant feedback: *“This is great opportunity and a step forward for Anzac to curb kids from ridding on the streets and promotes rider safety and team building and stronger family ties.”*

“Great use of some land! Good for kids of all ages; appreciate this being looked in to”

“It might be bothersome for the residents of Anzac and that is who should dominate the proposed site survey”

“Our community would benefit from a track. It would give some of our children a purpose!”



Additional themes from long answers:

- **Youth Recreation, Skill Development and a Safe Place to Ride (18 responses)**

Participants saw a dirt bike track as a safe, dedicated place for youth and families to ride and develop skills. It could also support mentorship, responsible riding and positive outdoor recreation.

- **Location and Proximity to Anzac (17 responses)**

Participants identified location as an important consideration, particularly the distance from homes and residential areas. Feedback also considered accessibility for Anzac residents, youth and emergency services.

- **Road Safety, Rider Behaviour and Getting Riders off Community Streets (13 responses)**

Participants raised concerns about dirt bikes and OHVs being ridden on community streets, including speeding, wheelies and unsafe riding. Many discussed the potential for a dedicated track to help move riders away from roads and other inappropriate areas.

- **Noise and Impacts on Residents (12 responses)**

Participants raised concerns about noise from dirt bikes and the potential impact on nearby homes and residents. Many felt location and distance from residential properties would be important in reducing these impacts.

- **Enforcement, Education and Responsible Riding (12 responses)**

Participants discussed the need for consistent enforcement of existing road and OHV rules, including concerns about unsafe and underage riding. Rider education and training were also suggested as ways to encourage safer and more responsible riding.

- **Facility Operations, Access, Maintenance and Cost (12 responses)**

Participants raised considerations about how a track would operate, including access, fees, maintenance and overall cost. Feedback also included considerations such as operating hours, supervision, security, insurance and ongoing upkeep.



Appendix B

Community Open House

(65 attendees)



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IN-PERSON EVENT

Where: Anzac Recreation Centre

When: Sept. 16

Participation: 65 residents (Gregoire Lake Estates and Anzac residents)

How we engaged

The community engagement was held in an open-house format, beginning with a welcome/blessing from an Elder followed by a community meal. Residents could move between several topics to learn more, ask questions, speak directly with staff and provide feedback.

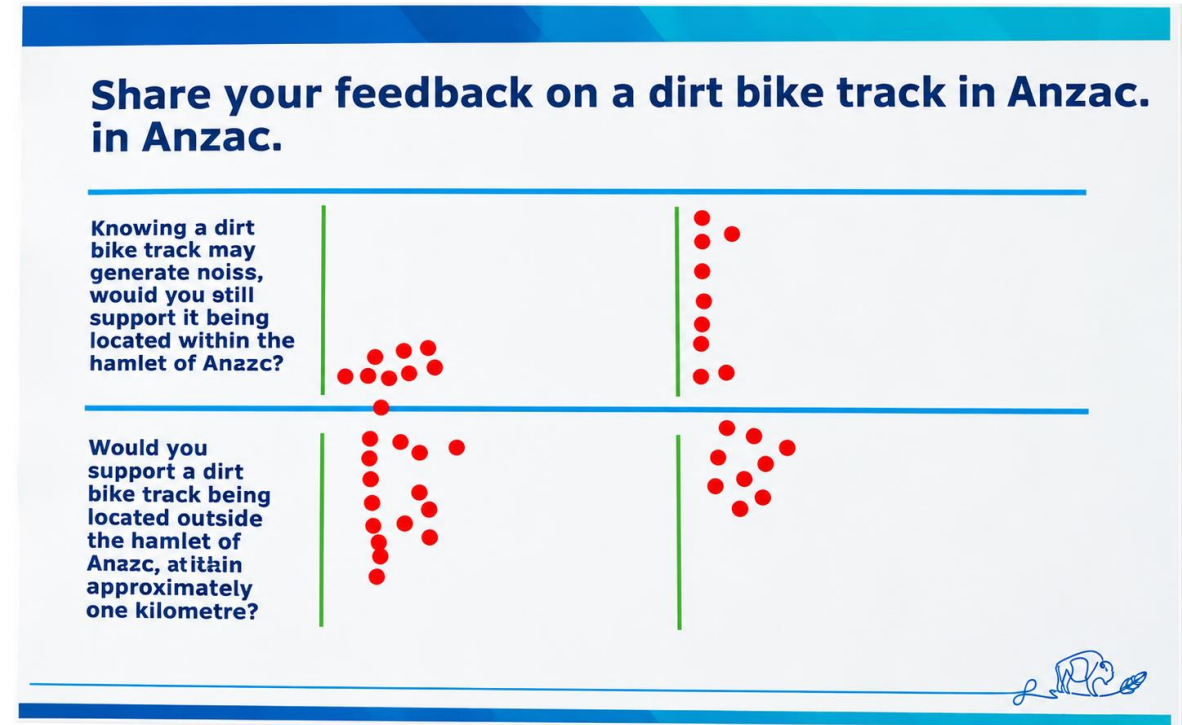
Summary of Conversations

- An Elder shared that she feels fearful of OHVs while collecting medicine in the forest.
- Concern that OHVs are creating new paths and damaging berry-producing areas, where berries will not grow back.
- More enforcement is needed, particularly for youth riding OHVs without helmets.
- Perception that RCMP do not regularly patrol or enforce OHV rules.
- Existing OHV noise is already a concern, with worries that a track could increase noise.
- The track should be used for its intended purpose.



Summary of Conversations Continued

- Keep OHVs off public roads.
- Consider operating hours, including no riding after 9 p.m.
- The track should accommodate both dirt bikes and quads so youth can ride with their friends, regardless of the type of OHV they use (multi-use). Concerns expressed that it will not be used otherwise.
- Two residents expressed interest in starting an association to help operate the track.
- Build it near the sand dunes/ existing track and trails
- At least five individuals expressed a preference for resources to develop a more robust trail connecting Anzac to Gregoire Lake Estates.
- Concerns shared about uneducated youth regarding bylaws and safe OHV practice.
- Anzac residents shared the preferred OHV of choice for families and adults is a side by sides over dirt bikes.



Appendix C

Dot-mocracy Board (65 attendees)

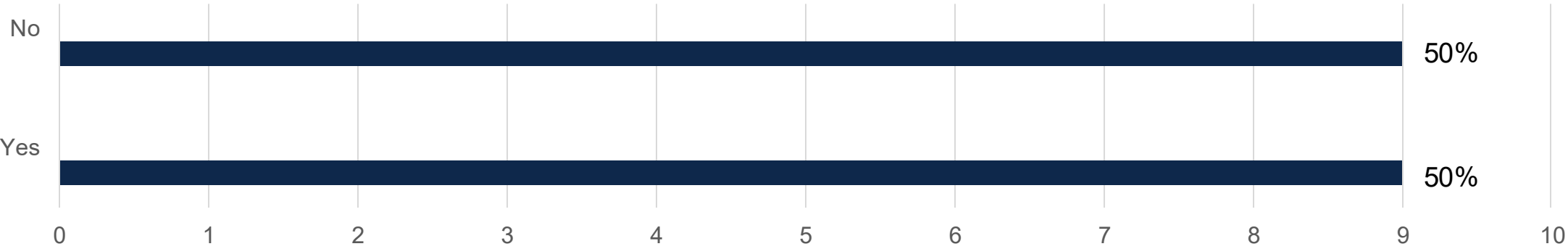


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DOT-MOCRACY BOARD

Dotmocracy results reflect feedback collected only at the Community Open House on September 16 at the Anzac Recreation Centre. Residents from Anzac and Gregoire Lake Estates participated by placing dots on the boards to indicate their preferences.

Knowing a dirt bike track may generate noise, would you still support it being located within the hamlet of Anzac?



Would you support a dirt bike track being located outside the hamlet of Anzac, within approximately one kilometre?

