



24th March 2021

Dear AMP members

Townscape Heritage Scheme

An analysis of the responses to the first consultation on the public realm themes for the site a Townfoot.

In the first stage of consultation on the re-development of the site at Townfoot, as the Public Realm part of the THS, people were asked to 'score' five themes. These were deliberately kept quite broad, and no suggestions were made about any physical designs or developments on the site.

The themes were;

- A. Why is Alston here?
- B. Making a living in and around Alston.
- C. Water is a crucial part of the story of Alston.
- D. Alston's unique location make it well-connected.
- E. Alston is a resourceful creative community with independent spirit.

and people were asked to score each between 0 (I don't like this idea at all) and 3 (I really like this)

It's important to note that this is a consultation, not a vote. The highest-scoring option isn't necessarily the only one to be taken forward. The scores, and the comments attached will be used by our landscape architects, and what they produce could reflect several of the themes in proportion to their popularity.

We made some important choices in designing the consultation;

1. We allowed the options to be scored, rather than a simple yes/no to each.
2. We allowed anonymous responses. Some people have strong feelings, which should be taken into account, but they may be concerned about identifying themselves.
3. In the on-line consultation we allowed multiple responses from the same IP address, as it's possible that several people in a household could have very different views. We have to accept the possibility that some people may have made multiple responses in support of their particular point of view. No responses have been excluded.
4. We didn't include a 'do nothing' option. The idea of doing something in the Public Realm, and the budget for it, was included as an integral part of the Townscape Heritage Scheme from the earliest stages of the funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. If we

do nothing, the public realm portion of the total grants will have to be returned to the funders.

5. We didn't publish the budget for the public realm work as we didn't want to constrain people's imaginations.

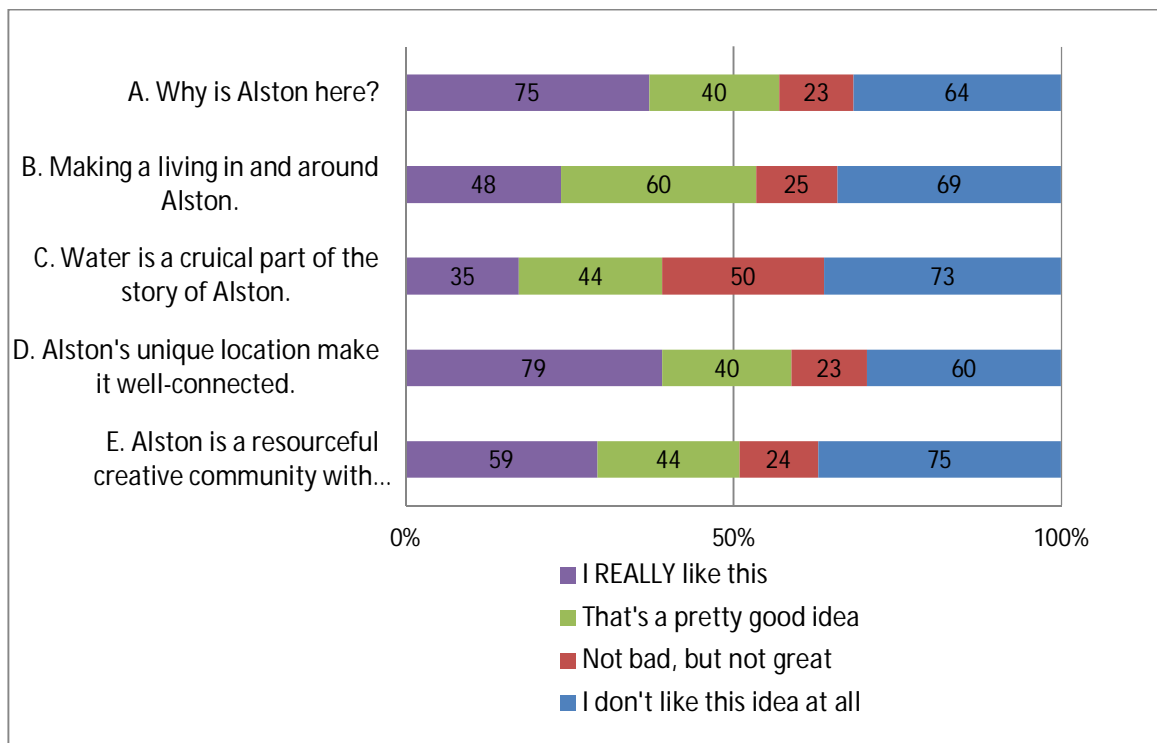
Analysis of results.

202 responses (167 online, 35 paper) were received by the deadline on 8th March 2021.

Adding up the 'raw' scores

		Total
A.	Why is Alston here?	328
B.	Making a living in and around Alston.	289
C.	Water is a crucial part of the story of Alston.	243
D.	Alston's unique location make it well-connected.	340
E.	Alston is a resourceful creative community with independent spirit.	289

Proportion of responses for each theme;



Of the 202 responses;

53 (26%) either scored all the themes as '0', or gave no scores at all.

130 (64%) gave a score of 3 to at least one choice.

62 responses either opposed to the scheme in their written responses, or by not giving any of the options a score. Of these 8 suggested making the area into a car park, (which the County Highways Dept won't allow) or spending the money elsewhere, such as on the 'cobblestones' or on traffic calming, which can't be done with HLF money.

If a 'do nothing' option had been provided, and all the responses opposed to the scheme scored it as '3', their total score would be 186.

9 written responses asked for simple improvements to the current area such as more trees and plants, better maintenance etc.

A small number of responses expressed concern about the state of some of the privately owned buildings in the area, which aren't in the area covered by our Townscape Heritage Scheme.

175 responses said " I live in or near Alston"

14 said " I live elsewhere but have an interest in Alston"

13 (all paper responses) didn't answer this question.

83 responders gave their name.