



**NORTH
TYNESIDE
SOLAR
TRAIL**

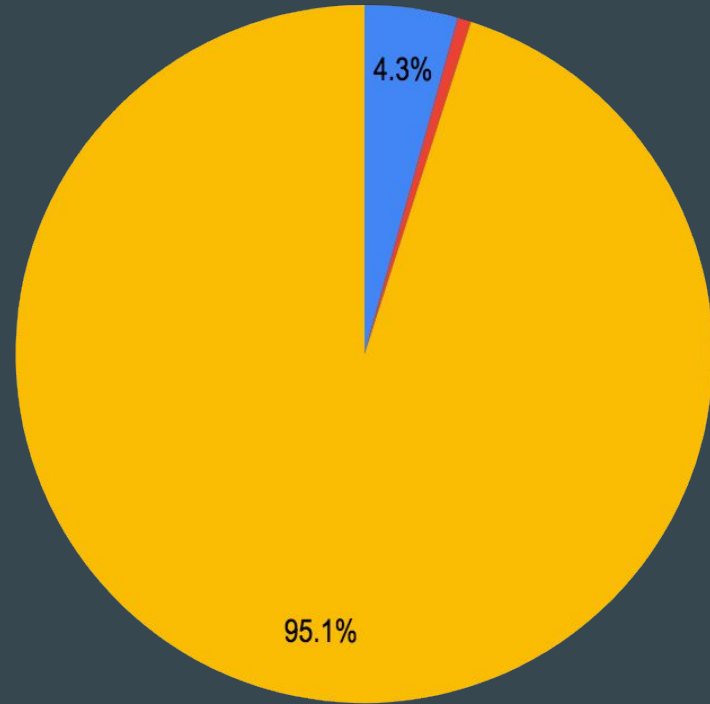
Survey Exercise - March 2024

**162 valid and full responses, 107 provided
specific comments.**

NB: anonymised for distribution

Q1. Did you like the Solar Trail?

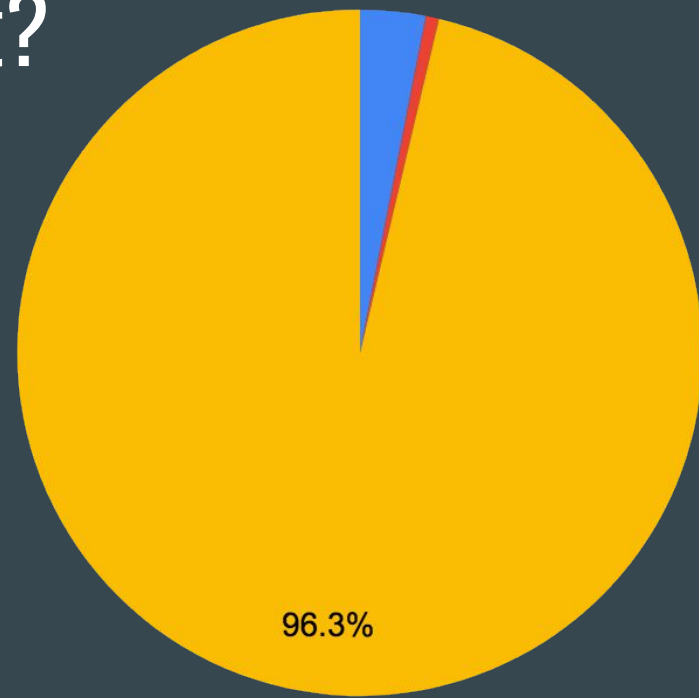
over
95% liked
the Solar Trail



● Maybe - still getting into a stable orbit ● No - it was a vortex ● Yes - I loved it, out of this world.

Q2. Would you like to see this a permanent feature on the North Tyneside Coast?

96% would like to see a permanent Solar Trail installed.

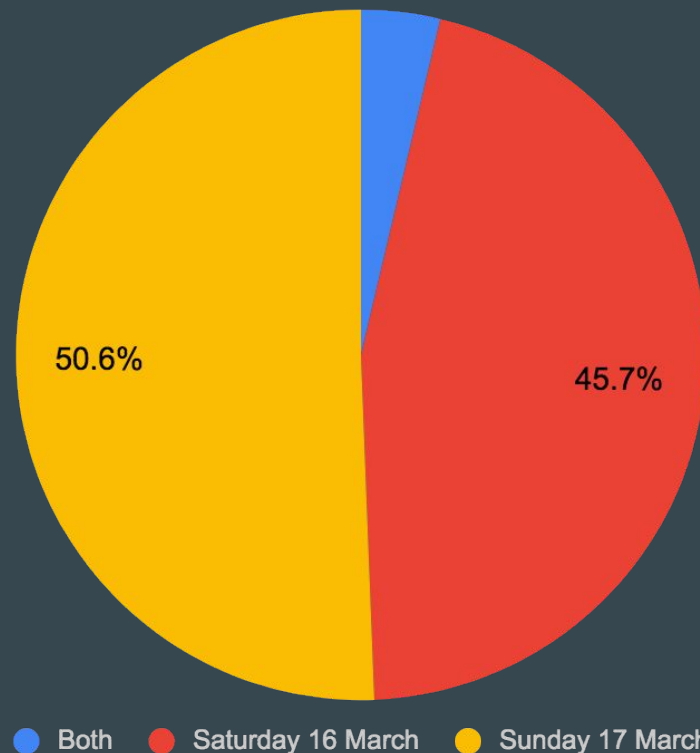


- Maybe - i'm on the fence
- No - nice try, not for me
- Yes - awesome idea, when can we see it?

Q3. Which day did you visit the Solar Trail?

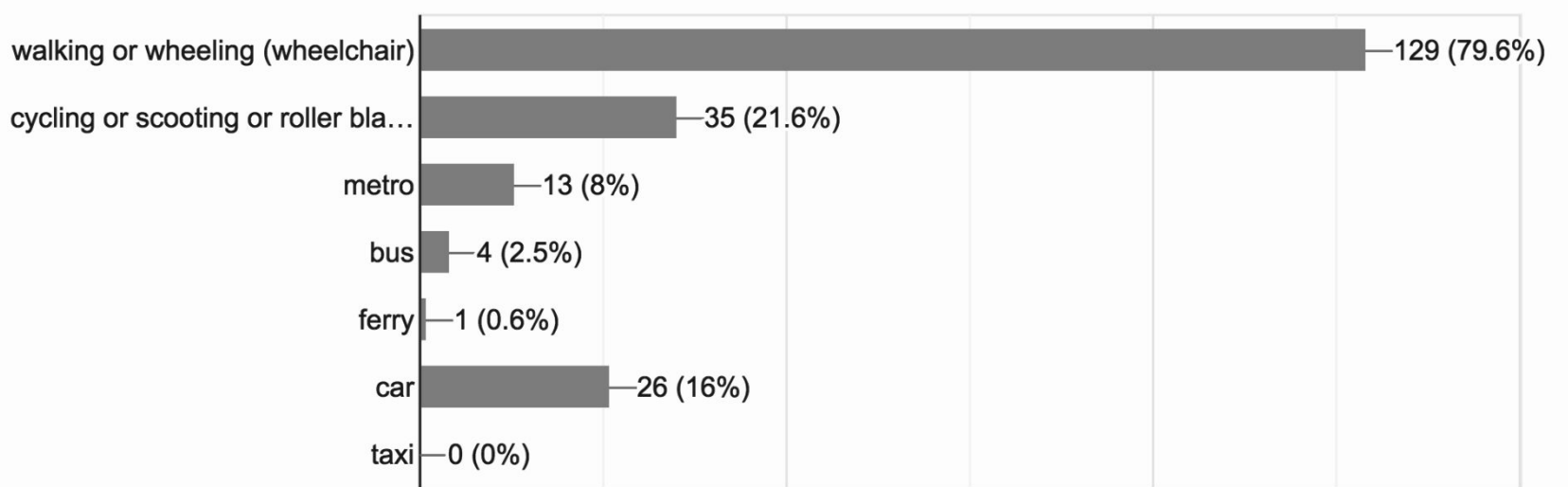
Saturday 16th was a sunny day.
Sunday 17th had early showers,
then sunny periods in the
afternoon.

Both days were equally popular.



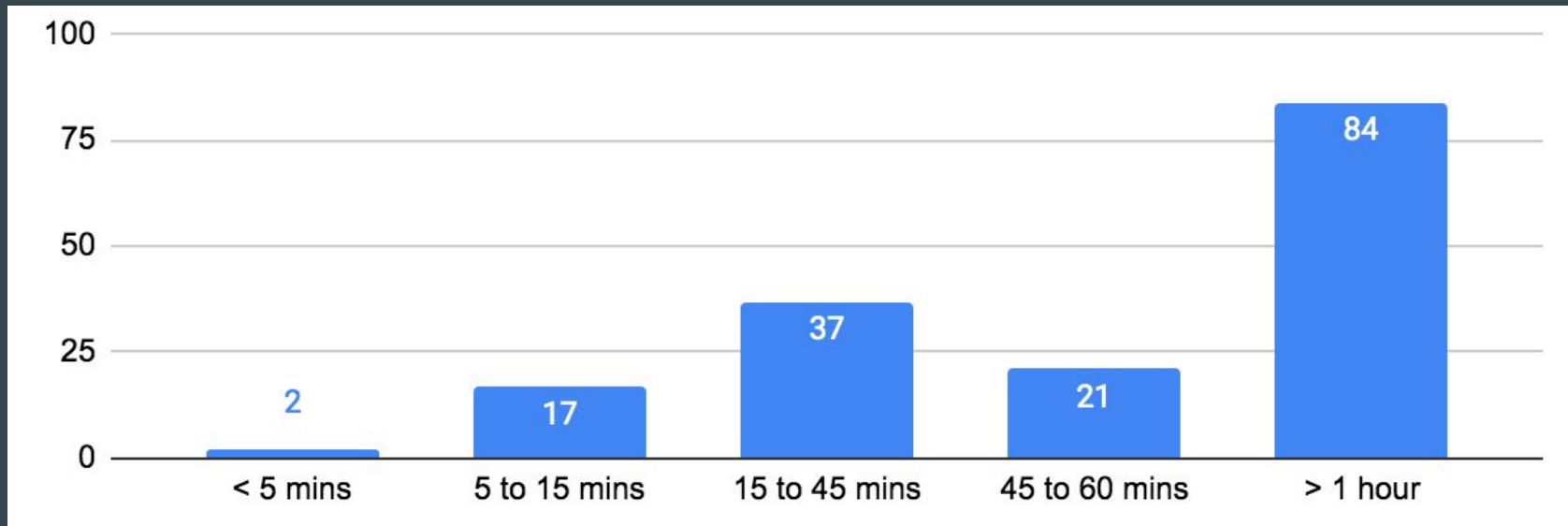
Q4. By what main mode(s) of transport did visit the Solar Trail?

Walking & cycling most popular



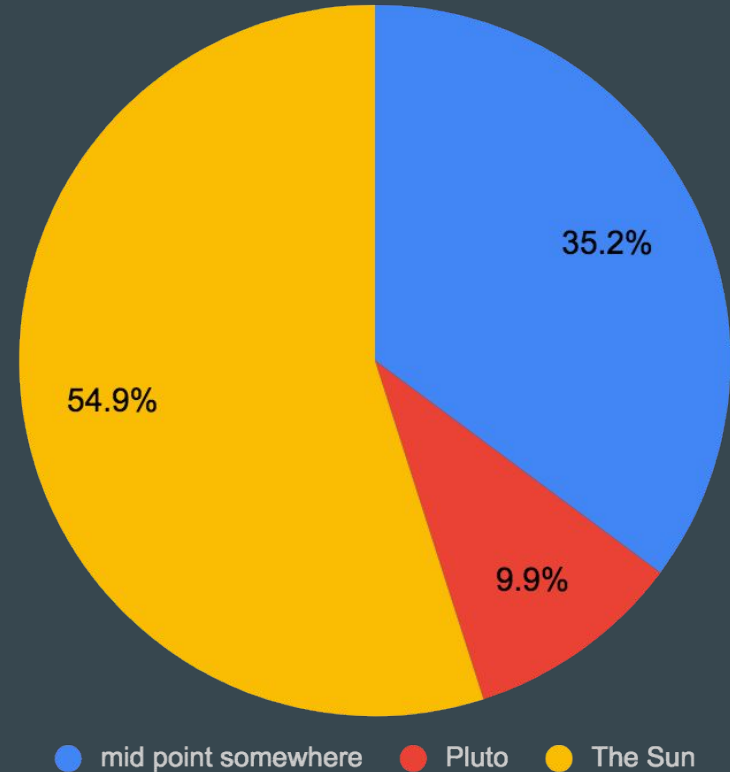
Q5. How long did you spend touring the solar trail?

Most spent **> 1 hour** on the Solar Trail.



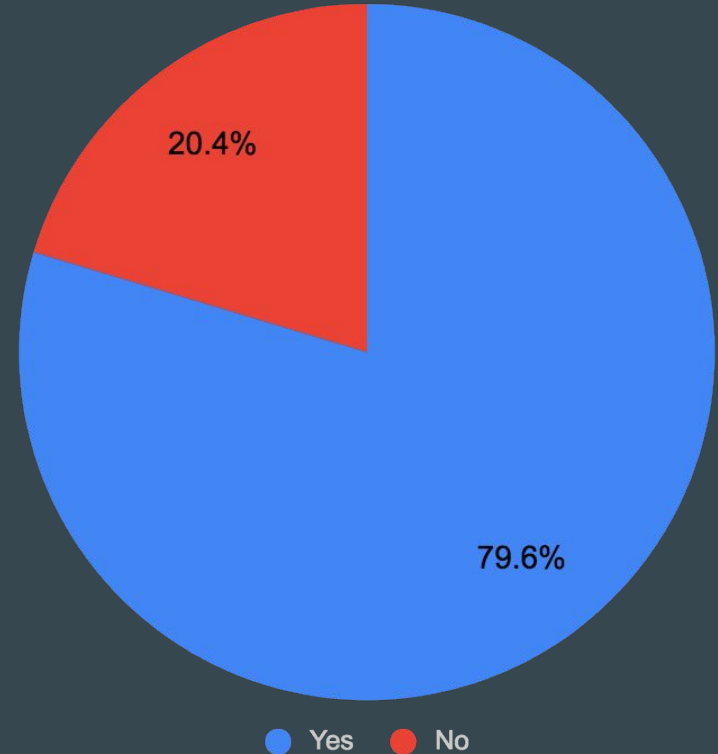
Q6. Did you start at the Sun (Longsands) or Pluto (St Mary's Lighthouse) end?

The Sun was
an ideal starting
point for the Solar
Trail.



Q7. Did you visit and spend at local businesses on your visit to the Solar Trail?

80% of visitors spent money helping the local economy in Tynemouth, Cullercoats and Whitley Bay.



Q8. Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?



“Our family ranging from 75 years through to 7 years ALL loved it !!!

It encouraged everyone to walk the 5 miles of coast and then we caught the bus back ...

The new cycle path made everyone feel relaxed and calm as we were away from traffic. We all said how great it'll be to cycle our Solar System once it's a permanent installation.

My niece who's 11 proudly announced '*..it makes you feel SO brainy, because we've just finished studying space at school so now I'm the expert !*' and she was ... “

Elaine, local resident

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

1	Interesting idea and got people stopping along the route.
2	Great initiative and would be very good for local schools.
3	Sadly I didn't have time to visit all the planets. But this is a great initiative and I would love to see it become permanent. Really good to see it so busy on Saturday morning. Well done to everyone involved.
4	It was a fantastic way to show the kids the solar system. Thank you
5	I would love to see a permanent installation and links to schools and Active Tyneside groups
6	Would need to be done in a way that couldn't be vandalised - lovely way to learn about the planets
7	Amazing!
8	Amazing work
9	Loved it - great way get people walking. I hadn't heard about it before stumbling upon it / not sure where it was advertised!
10	Great way to learn about science

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

11	<p>Bigger boards indicating a more obvious planet when really small on a stick - I heard a few people say they thought it had been stolen! A full day would have allowed better coverage of them all Maybe a planetary road bus (solar powered 🚲) every half hour from the Sun allowing further afield stops achievable for those with walking restrictions/ disabilities.</p> <p>More visual info on the planet at each stage- not everyone has a smart mobile ..</p>
12	<p>Bigger boards indicating a more obvious planet when really small on a stick - I heard a few people say they thought it had been stolen! A full day would have allowed better coverage of them all Maybe a planetary road bus (solar powered 🚲) every half hour from the Sun allowing further afield stops achievable for those with walking restrictions/ disabilities.</p> <p>More visual info on the planet at each stage- not everyone has a smart mobile ..</p>
13	<p>Addition of astronomical photos of the planets on the information boards might have been a nice touch as some of the models are so small you don't get to see the beauty of these celestial bodies.</p>
14	<p>It was a very cheap and tacky installation.</p>
15	<p>I only visited one of the planets, at Cullercoats and the interest from parents, children and people passing by, who hadn't known in advance about the solar trail was amazing. It was fantastic to see how many more people it encouraged to walk and cycle along the coast. Personally, I loved seeing the Sun and the perspective of size from where I was standing in Cullercoats.</p>
16	<p>Make a bigger sign</p>

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

17	Excellent display that adds education interest and added value to our coastline. A display like helps put the scale of our solar system into perspective- and to do that needs almost the full length of the coast line from St Mary's lighthouse to Tynemouth. Ideal 😊
18	This has been absolutely amazing, really loved it, would love to see a permanent display!
19	Loved it, mind blowing facts, would be great to have spin off events to learn more about how planet years differ, why and more!
20	Nice activities for the kids to do
21	Great to seeing an installation bringing together science art and health.
22	Great idea. Educational and encourages exercise and local tourism. We've never had anything like this here before, it'll be great with summer coming up and more visitors in the area. The two guys we spoke to were friendly and knowledgeable, would absolutely love for this to be a permanent fixture!
23	Learnt interesting new facts about the solar system. I think this would work really well as a permanent feature and encourage people to walk the route. Didn't really use the app due the adverts popping up for other unrelated apps.
24	Any permanent display will need to be rugged and vandal proof
25	Might work better as a mobile exhibition rather than fixed?
26	Good luck!
27	Love it!
28	Very educational and good additional info from volunteers

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

29	As a teacher, maybe a larger model, along side the scaled version.
30	Will be great once the works on the road are completed
31	We went as a family and absolutely loved it. It was great to have something to engage the kids with and the solar trail added a new element to a familiar route and encouraged us to get out and gave an active day. We also visited some local businesses that we've never stopped at before. I think this should definitely become a permanent fixture. I think it would be an additional tourism asset for the coast but also feels like the sort of thing that people organise around - I can imagine a "run the universe" fun run or people saying "meet me at Jupiter". Loved it and kudos to all the volunteers, who were brilliant and highly engaged.
32	The volunteers were fascinating with their facts!
33	If it's an occasional temporary thing then perhaps it could swap ends of the coast each time, as there were long distances between planets at the northern end. Time it with tides and sun could be at the lighthouse! If permanent it would have to retain something of the 3D to make it stand out, but not sure how to do that and to make it vandal proof! There could be blue cycle/walk signs giving distance to the next planet.
34	Fantastic work I saw so many people families etc engaged and interested thank you to all involved
35	I like the idea of a solar trail, it just felt a bit random and no context except for the person at one of the exhibits. It would be nice so see some form of information sheet or map leading you somewhere.
36	Make the sun and therefore all the planets bigger

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

37	Great idea!
38	Fantastic idea
39	This is a fantastic adea
40	If this becomes a permanent feature, prepare information of project sheets that can be used by local schools
41	Love it! Please make it permanent!
42	I'm a local primary school teacher and parent and I think this is absolutely brilliant. I can easily imagine taking school trips here during our Space topics and both my girl and boy children loved it. Great idea!
43	Think it would be a great permanent addition to the coast. Combining education, arts and health
44	Amazing idea, thank you!
45	Man on Jupiter was great and really friendly and super knowledgeable hope he enjoys it
46	Just 5 five minutes before discovering the Saturn stand and the trail, we were in a café, discussing the size of the Solar System and how one of our group had seen Saturn through an observatory telescope. We were blown away by the coincidence and by the amazing idea of having a permanent trail - it would be a great influence on young people; we could do with more emphasis on STEM.
47	I didn't have the app and thought we'd missed Jupiter after Mars to the point where we nearly gave up. Would be good if you could see the location of each of the planets from each other in the same way the sun is visible along most of the coast to Saturn

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

48	This needs to be a permanent feature
49	It was great but we missed some of the planets as we were walking quite slowly with prams
50	A detailed write-up of my experience is here: https://www.david-hughes-astronomy.org.uk/the-original-blog.html
51	It was a fabulous event, so many people, of all ages, interested in the planets, the coast, doing something new. So many kids were so excited and so keen to share their knowledge of the planets and the solar system. It was so amazing to see the planets stretched out along the coast and get a sense of the scale of our solar system. All fabulous!
52	If made permanent, could we have a line through Tynemouth highlighting the Moon's orbit?
53	It was great to see so many families out and about, cycling, walking and scooting along the seafront from one planet to the next! A fantastic idea to make the North Tyneside coast an even better place for local residents and destination for visitors. And absolutely love the combination between active travel, science and education.
54	I think a permanent trail would be a valuable addition to our stellar coastline
55	Wait until the cycle path is done, was too busy.
56	Fantastic idea- really reinforces the magnitude of the solar system and helps children (and adults) get to grips with the size and distance of each planet whilst getting out in the fresh air, walking or cycling. This would be a brilliant addition to the coastline for a multitude of reasons- educational, physical activity and local businesses would benefit from the coffee/ice cream pit stops along the route. The staff at each planet stop were so informative, enthusiastic and friendly (even in the pouring rain!) A credit to the community.

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

57	Great fun, let's hope it becomes a permanent feature.
58	Only that it's brilliant and anyone who says otherwise needs to be forced to listen to a seven year old spout space facts until they relent! Educational, sustainable, encouraging outdoor exercise and activity, getting the community talking to each, a tourist attraction - what is not to love?!
59	The great knowledgeable volunteers made it
60	Make it permanent!
	If project goes ahead, would love to see a football size sculpture of each planet, alongside a scale model of actual size. The 3 facts etched into each side of the plinth, and 4th side with braille. Neptune on the Prom not the roadside. Have something that you can download from the website so that kids can collect "brass rubbing" type image or name from each plinth so that they can show they've been there.
61	Can you please run this again in the summer?
62	Fantastic concept, really helps to contextualise our solar system. Hope it can be a permanent feature. Get an artist to help with a design that compliments the surroundings
63	Great idea - if you need a bit of sponsorship to help make it's a permanent fixture contact me at EMAIL ADDRESS REMOVED and I'll see if our company can help
64	Very effective at illustrating how relatively close to each other and the sun the first 4 planets are and also how huge the other distances are. Surprised at the size of Uranus.

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

65	An idea of distance to next planet would help plan walk (and to know we hadn't missed one).
66	Great idea!
67	as well as the to scale size model, it would be good to have a larger sized model that shows more detail.
68	Loved it. Would like a little more information at each point about the planets and where to find the next planet.
69	Make it clearer that the stops are on the road, we detoured onto footpath to Spanish city and long sands beach
70	Brilliant idea.
71	Great ideas absolutely loved this walk with the family, and had a lovely lunch in a cullercoats amazing walk and great weather
72	A permanent trail would be super for tourists, local people and an amazing tool for teaching youngsters about the solar system and our position in the universe
73	Loved this idea, would like to see more facts as they are always fascinating. It's a great walk along the coast which provides plenty of opportunities to stop off and use cafes and enjoy the beach
74	Lovely idea! And the volunteers were so friendly and knowledgeable. Love some more of this
75	No comment.
76	What's the purpose of it? Is there something that I am missing??
77	Great idea and very informative

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

78	Great staff very passionate and knowledgeable
79	Excellent attraction, also love how they have a braille section very thoughtful
	Maybe a little bit more info on the planets, some sort of digital passport where you can scan in at each stop and it tracks your progress.
80	Also maybe incorporate dog facilities like water bowl, bags, treats to encourage dog walkers to stop?
81	Cool idea. Good for kids. Make it look classy
82	Just great
83	It has been absolutely amazing!!! Please make this permanent!!
84	I know it's unfeasible on a permanent exhibition, but I really appreciated the volunteers being around to explain and inspire. I'm sure they will know which bits of information struck home the most to include on an information board. This would be a good school resource when the new pathway is completed, too.
85	Brilliant idea - would love it to be a permanent feature. Also - great to speak to the people at various stations. Super friendly, knowledgeable and enthusiastic. Winning concept all round!!!
	We followed the trail as a family (Two 43yo, 12yo and 8yo). Each of us found the trail enjoyable and informative. It sparked a lot of discussion between the four of us about the solar system and really made the concept more understandable to us. We were very impressed and would be over the moon (pun intended!) if it became a permanent feature along the seafront.
86	Thankyou to all the volunteers we encountered along the way.

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

- | | |
|----|---|
| 87 | Add surface decoration to cycle route all the way, run land train decorated as space rocket, knitted planets challenge, include asteroid belt. |
| 88 | <p>Our family ranging from 75yers through to 7 years ALL Loved it !!!</p> <p>It encouraged everyone to walk the 5miles of Coast and then we caught the Bus back ...</p> <p>The New Cycle Path made Everyone feel relaxed and calm as we were away from traffic . We all said how great it'll be to cycle our Solar System once it's a permanent installation .</p> <p>My niece who's 11 proudly announced "It makes you feel SO Brainy ..because we've just finished studying Space at school so now I'm the expert !!!"</p> <p>And she was ...</p> |
| 89 | A permanent solar trail with bronze cast planets (and sun) on pedastels is what is required. |
| 90 | Well done. Educational with a bit of exercise. Lunch out by Neptune before the final push to Pluto (which had been pinched!) |
| 91 | There were 6 of us from Tynemouth WI doing the trail. We thought it was all very well explained by the friendly and enthusiastic volunteers. Interesting in that it explained consistency of planet mass, distance from each planet that equated from our steps to space miles. Also comparison of earth year to planet miles. We really enjoyed it and would definitely recommend it as a permanent feature on sea front. It would be educational for school children as well as incorporating exercise walking between planets. |
| 92 | Great idea. Would love to see the concept made permanent. Very educational. Bus service to Pluto is good. |
| 93 | As above, it would be even better on a larger scale & with permanent info boards |
| 94 | Please make it permanent |
| 95 | Have it on for longer in the day, as we didn't make it to Pluto in time. But other than that, loved it and would definitely like to see it become a permanent fixture and tourist attraction. |

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

96	<p>The full family loved it (2 adults 2 kids)! Such a great way to show the scale, the kids were really engaged and we chatted about it for the rest of the day.</p> <p>Big thanks to the team on hand on the day, everyone we chatted to was super friend and helpful.</p>
97	<p>Great idea to make a permanent feature - would be great for school trips, rainbows and brownies, general trips to the beach with an extra activity to do whilst there</p>
98	<p>A free, outdoor, family, active travel event centered on science and education? Please make this permanent!</p>
99	<p>Scaling up the size of sun and planets would make it more impressive! But thanks for the fun idea and friendly enthusiasts.</p>
100	<p>Asteroid belt was missing</p>
101	<p>We went with 9year old and 5 year old, they loved looking for the planets, may be good to put additional things between the long stretches to keep little minds involved (ie things about stars, moons, galaxy etc). Shame it closed at 2pm, lots of people I know had set off to look at the planets in the afternoon and missed them.</p>

Do you have any comments, ideas or suggestions that you would like to provide to the project team?

102	If made permanent, some incidental points (space probes, asteroids maybe) in the bigger gaps to indicate you are still on the right track might be good. There's a lot of space of there between some points!
103	It would be nice if Neptune and Pluto had humans to attend to them. The people I met on the other planets were so welcoming.
104	Amazing concept and very educational. Would be a valuable addition to the thriving coastline, especially once the cycleway is open. Would be great to get school parties out and enjoying the coast.
105	Clearer advertising of the exact start location on poster and website..
106	We loved it and it made our walk more exciting and we really enjoyed learning about the scale! Maybe some more facts on the boards would be fun!
107	Ability to have viewers/ participants record their facts for each planet along the way through a voice note, drawing , video etc