



Consultation Statement
December 2022

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Introduction

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 set out a legal requirement at Regulation 15 that a designated Neighbourhood Forum submitting a Neighbourhood Development Plan proposal to the local planning authority must include certain documents, including a 'consultation statement'. In this regulation, 'consultation statement' means a document which:

- (a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- (b) explains how they were consulted;
- (c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
- (d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan.

This document is intended to fulfil the above legal requirement.

Compliance

In line with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Arches 'Chatham' Neighbourhood Forum (ACNF) applied to Medway Council to start the process of preparing a neighbourhood plan in early 2019. On 6 August 2019, Medway Council's Cabinet approved the designation of the Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area simultaneously. Since the designation of the Neighbourhood Forum, we have been working with residents, local businesses and Medway Council to progress the plan.

Background

The neighbourhood planning process was initiated by a community-led organisation called Arches Local. Arches Local is part of the Big Local programme administered by Local Trust and was awarded £1.1 million to deliver lasting positive changes within its designated area, encompassing part of the Brook and Luton areas of Chatham. Arches Local led the neighbourhood planning process with the support of the community and Medway Council (LPA) until designation and the inaugural meeting of the Forum. Through extensive conversations with the LPA, Arches Local settled on a boundary that would be an extended version of their Big Local boundary.

In 2017, the concept to create a Neighbourhood Plan for this part of Chatham was first aired during a Christmas event run by Arches Local at Town Hall Gardens. On 26 and 28 November 2018, Arches Local led two consultation events to express their support for developing a Neighbourhood Plan and to begin to understand the community's hopes and aspirations. A consultation report of these events can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3ERFgnz>

Membership

Residents, workers, business owners and elected officials within the designated boundary are able to become members of ACNF. Those interested parties who attended our pre-designation consultation activities were asked to complete an expression of interest as the Forum was yet to be established. Until May 2020, physical membership forms were available at Arches Local's community space(s) at 2E Luton Road and 71A Pentagon Shopping Centre. From March 2020 application forms were made digital and are available at: <https://bit.ly/3u98FVv>. This form is also found on our website and accessed through QR codes on promotional material.

Website

ACNF's website was established in November 2019. This website has continued to evolve along the neighbourhood planning journey; at first the website resembled a traditional blog post. Today the website allows users to discover the background to the plan, view active planning applications within the designated area and access our online Forum membership form. The website can be found at: archesnp.org.uk



Social Media

In November 2019, ACNF established two social media accounts. Communication on these platforms has been frequent ever since. [@ArchesGroup](#) on Twitter has tweeted 514 times with 253 followers, while [@ArchesGroup](#) on Facebook has published 500+ posts with 567 followers, reaching 77,654 individuals. Social media has played a vital role in reaching members of our community, notably our Heritage Highlights feature which documented unsung local heritage assets attracting over 10,000 engagements and hundreds of comments on Facebook.

Pre-Regulation 14

Pre-Covid-19 consultation

On 6 August 2019, Medway Council's Cabinet approved the designation of the Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area simultaneously. We hosted three events at three different locations (Pentagon Shopping Centre, 2E Luton Road and mhs homes' Endeavour Foyer) on varying times and days of the week to raise awareness of the Neighbourhood Forum's designation, prior to formalising the vision and objectives. These events were promoted through social media, through the distribution of several hundred leaflets to households in the immediate vicinity of the drop-in locations, in addition to public facing posters at the host locations. A report summarising the outcome of these three events can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3FceWps>

On 25 September 2019, Stuart Woodin and Lucy Wildsmith of AECOM facilitated a workshop for local residents living within the Neighbourhood Area at 2E Luton Road. After a short presentation about the power and scope of neighbourhood planning, participants identified key issues and opportunities, particularly those with a spatial dimension. These were then grouped into themes for a whole group discussion. The workshop also identified a corridor for subsequent master planning. This workshop was promoted through social media and the distribution of several hundred leaflets to households in the immediate vicinity of the host location, in addition to public facing posters. A report summarising the outcome of this workshop can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3ENpWbE>

On 21 October 2019, we held our inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM), which formed the foundation of the Neighbourhood Forum. A constitution was agreed and a management committee consisting of a secretary, communications officer, treasurer, co-chairs and chair was elected to oversee the strategic direction of the Neighbourhood Plan.

On 23 January 2020, Lorraine Hart MRTPI facilitated a workshop that introduced local residents to the technicalities of a Neighbourhood Plan's scope, effective case studies and the process of policy writing.

On 22 February 2020, Jim Boot held a public workshop to aid the Neighbourhood Forum in the creation of an initial vision and objectives statement. Attendees were presented with the results of preexisting consultation efforts and asked to nominate their individual priority for the Neighbourhood Area, which formed a draft vision for the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and a series of themed objectives. This was then formalised into the following mission statement:

"ACNF's vision is to produce a neighbourhood plan to develop and encourage Chatham's growth into an affordable, environmentally-conscious and human-centric place. The plan will identify the unique landscape of our inner urban neighbourhood and lay out our long-term aspirations for the area as it changes. Via a sequence of planning policies, design guidance and masterplanning, the plan aims to act as a framework for all stakeholders, illustrating the desires and aspirations from the local community over the next fifteen years. These include encouraging development which:

- Contributes towards a modal shift, a more walkable, liveable and green public realm.
- Maintains our commercial presence in Luton Road and the surrounding areas to encourage diverse and new independent businesses.

- Supports the reintroduction of housing where people choose to stay, bring up their families or grow older.
- Incorporates and prioritises the environment as part of the formal planning process.
- Seeks to avoid negative impacts on the surrounding community and/or does not exacerbate pre-existing neighbourhood problems.

Public Realm

- Encouraging sustainable transport and reducing vehicular through traffic through the neighbourhood.
- Supporting key public realm improvements which contribute to the walkability and sense of place.

Environment

- Creating much needed open space and green infrastructure.
- Reducing and mitigating air pollution, noise pollution, and other negative environmental effects.
- Ensuring developments are built to the highest levels of efficiency to protect the living standards of ordinary families and safeguard children's life chances.

Local Economy

- Supporting a mix of retail including encouraging enterprise and start-up businesses.
- Resisting further loss of commercial or office space.

Housing

- Responding to the demand for affordable housing (for sale and rental).
- Counteracting the downward local trend towards smaller, poorer quality and converted dwellings.
- Encouraging innovation in form and design in non-architecturally dominant areas.
- Protecting those in the private rented sector from possible exploitation."

The vision and objectives remained dynamic and subject to further changes as preparation towards the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan progressed.

On 3 March 2020, residents and business owners were invited to participate in a boundary-wide walkabout of the Neighbourhood Area from the Shipwrights through Luton to the Brook area with Stuart Woodin and Donata Satkauskaitė of AECOM and Raymonda Olivia Lawson of Medway Council. The walkabout encouraged participants to use their senses to record observations about the Neighbourhood Area's social, physical, economic and environmental sustainability. A report summarising the observations from the walkabout can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3VgzJOz>

Area Study & map

The findings from the walkabout on the 3 March inspired the creation of an Area Study by the Forum. This explored the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of different aspects of the Neighbourhood Area, which was divided into four distinct areas: Shipwrights, Luton, New Road and The Brook. The Area Study evolved over the years through to 2021 to reflect the changing environment of the area and also took into consideration the early consultation feedback from 2017 onwards. An interactive map was also

created using Google My Maps with photos collated by the Forum to document location-specific issues. The interactive area map can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3XR2ymi>

Consultants

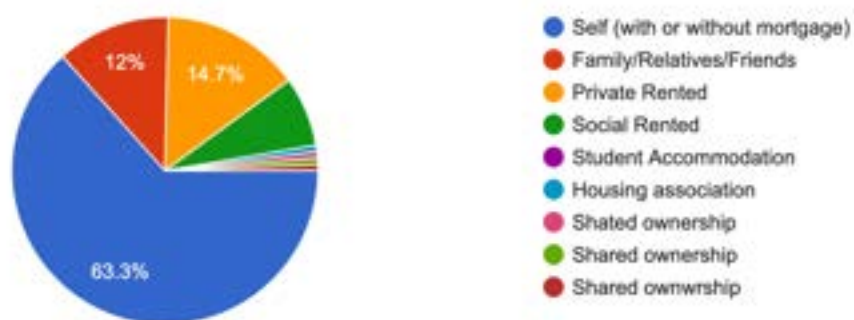
In June 2020, the Forum appointed social enterprise Create Streets to advise on and provide technical support towards the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan. A consultant brief with the aim of hiring a consultant(s) to aid with "...technical activities that we cannot undertake ourselves, accessed via technical support packages, or where we're under-qualified and under-resourced and so on." This was devised by the Forum as part of the recruitment process. Until this point, the Forum had employed the services of Lorraine Hart MRTPI and Jim Boot (freelance community planner) for specific activities. The Forum approached several consultancy firms and social enterprises whose experience matched the brief and invited them to express an interest.

Covid-19 pandemic consultation

In March 2020, a national lockdown was introduced in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Neighbourhood Forum followed the restrictions and guidance at the time, which forced physical, face-to-face activities to be postponed until further notice. Work towards the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan shifted to the online realm for the foreseeable future at this stage.

Building on the six consultation events and activities undertaken prior to Covid-19, in June 2020 the Forum set about launching its first online survey using Google Forms, which was a generalised neighbourhood planning survey. A total of 150 stakeholders completed the survey. As with all of our online surveys, physical copies were available upon request. The findings from the survey are as follows:

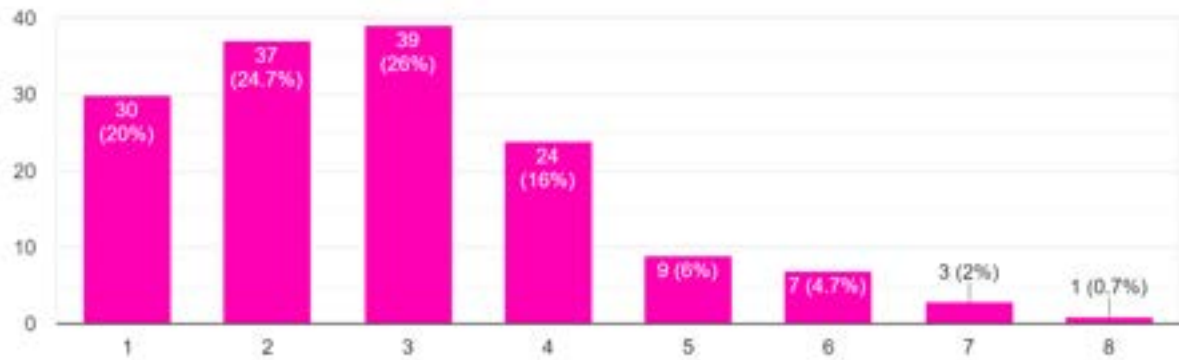
Who owns the house you live in now?
150 responses



Summary: The majority of respondents were homeowners which is increasingly uncommon. Future consultations should attempt to target more of the local residents living in privately rented housing.

How many people live in your property?

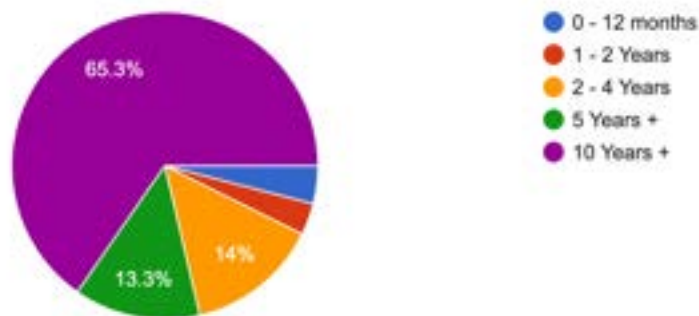
150 responses



Summary: The majority of respondents stated that they lived in households with 3 or less people.

How long have you lived in the area?

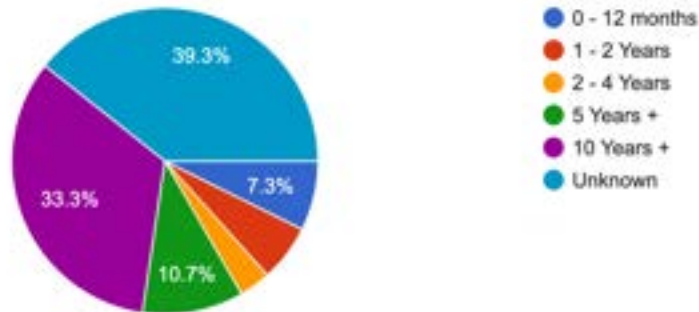
150 responses



Summary: The survey was effective in reaching long-term and medium-term residents of the area. However, it did not reach as many short-term residents, which may be due to the Neighbourhood Area increasingly transient population.

How long are you planning to be in the area?

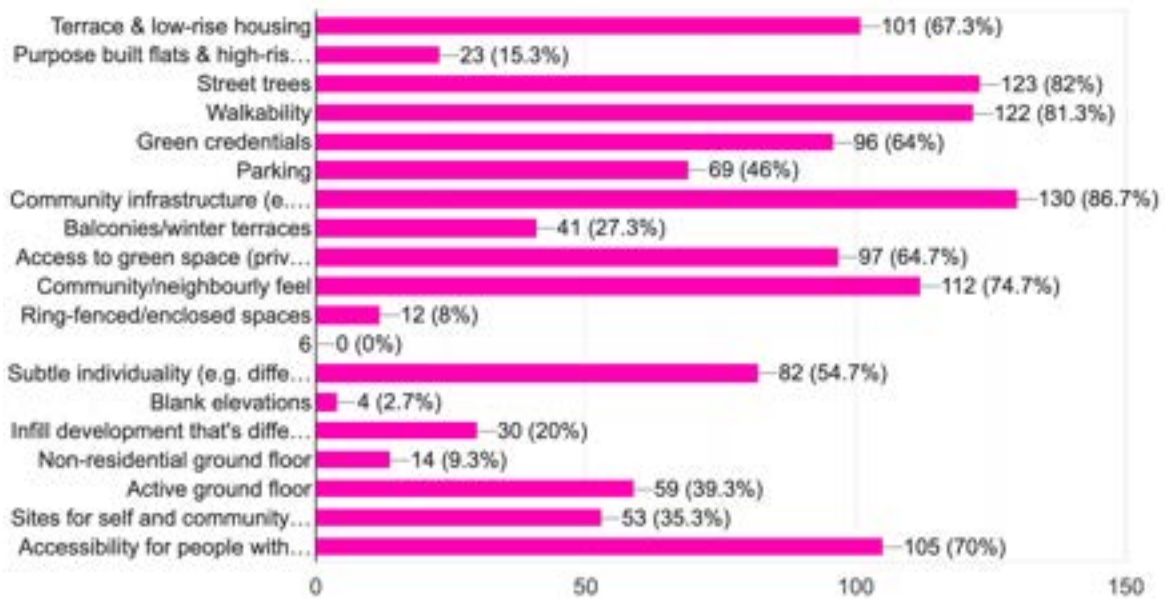
150 responses



Summary: Although the majority of respondents were long-term residents, there was uncertainty about their future prospects of living in the area. The reasoning behind this (e.g. employment availability, change in living circumstances) was not known.

When Chatham changes, what do you want to see in new developments? (tick all that apply)

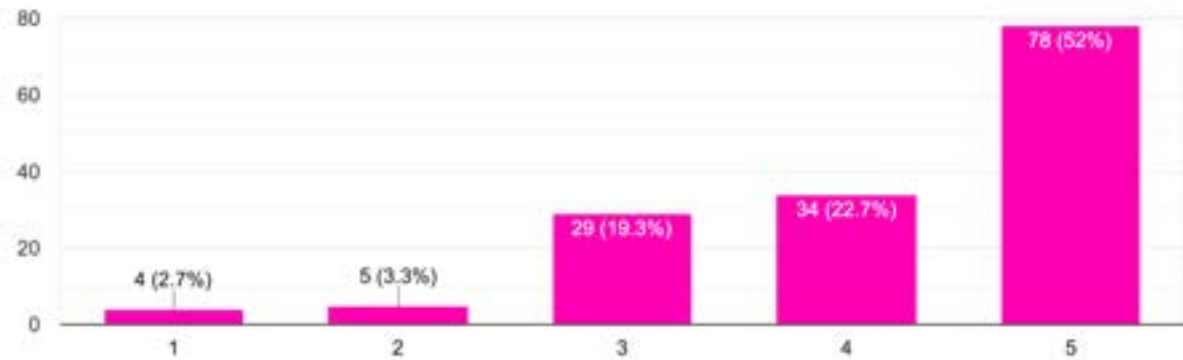
150 responses



Summary: The key priorities of the respondents were low-rise housing, street trees, walkability, community infrastructure, neighbourly feel and accessibility.

Medway, as a community, should be doing more to address climate change.

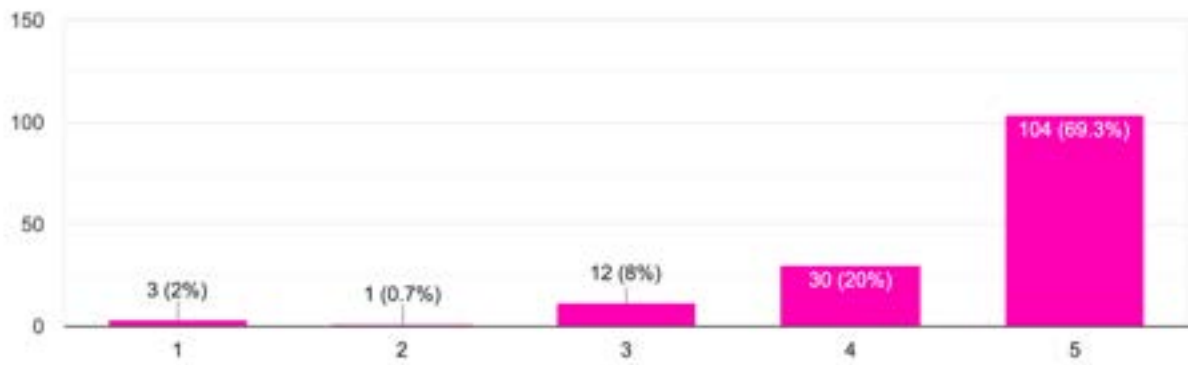
150 responses



Summary: The majority of respondents believed that Medway should be doing more to address climate change, with 5 being 'strongly agree' and 1 being 'strongly disagree'.

New developments should have renewable energy built in.

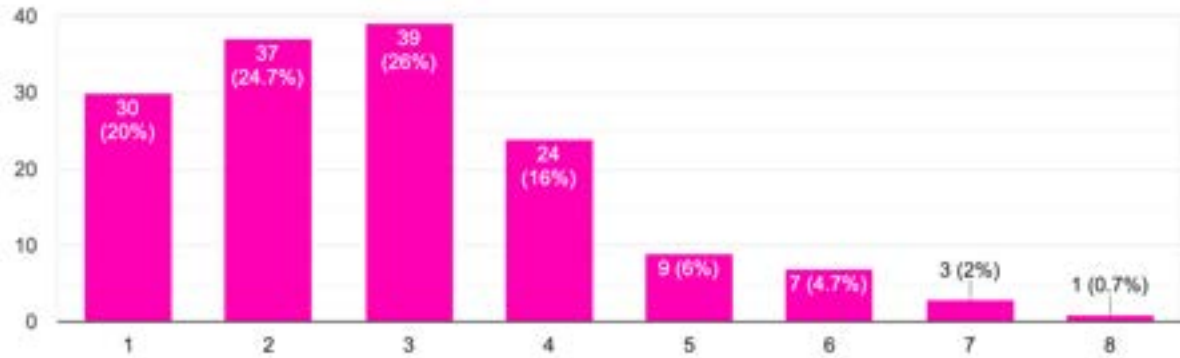
150 responses



Summary: The majority of respondents expressed their support for new developments to incorporate renewable energy, with 5 being 'strongly agree' and 1 being 'strongly disagree'.

How many people live in your property?

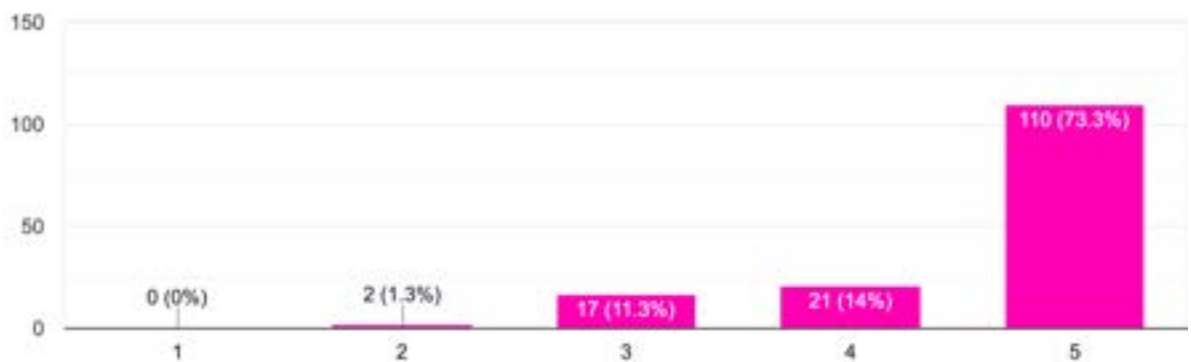
150 responses



Summary: The majority of respondents live with 3 or less people in their household.

New buildings should be designed to be highly energy efficient/carbon neutral.

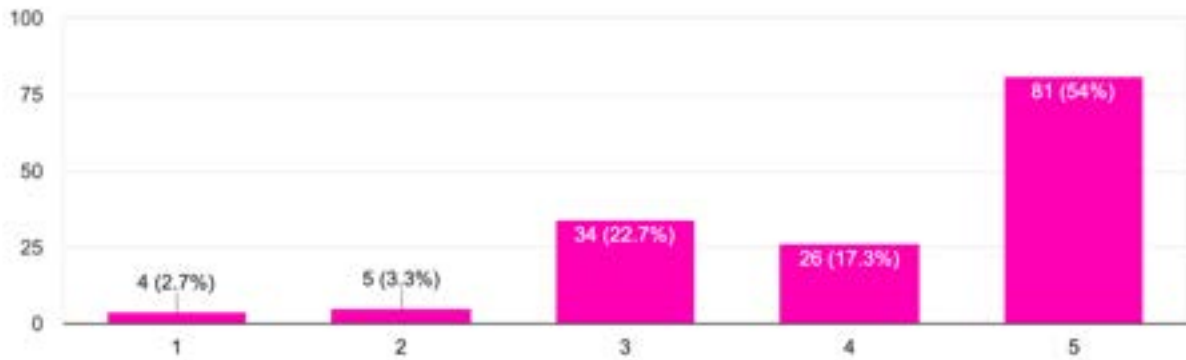
150 responses



Summary: The majority of respondents believed that new buildings should be designed with energy efficiency and carbon neutrality in mind, with 5 being 'strongly agree' and 1 being 'strongly disagree'.

New developments should have charging infrastructure for electric cars.

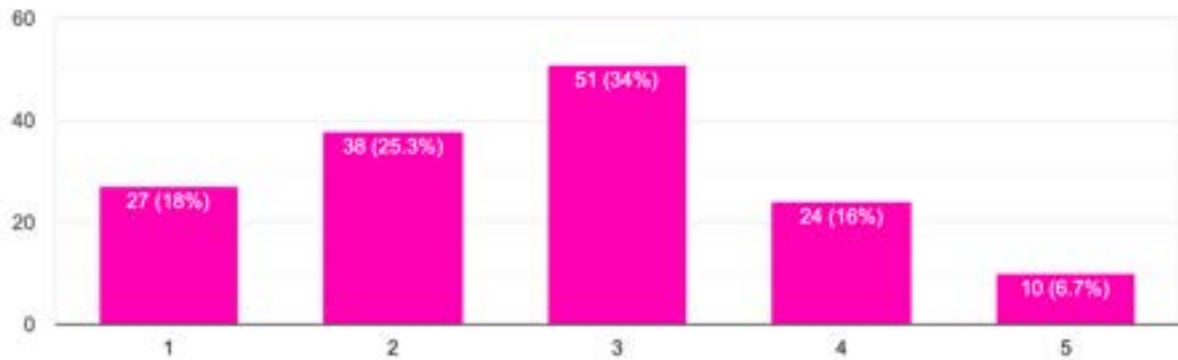
150 responses



Summary: The majority of respondents believed that new developments should incorporate charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, with 5 being 'strongly agree' and 1 being 'strongly disagree'.

How do you rate the amount of green space in our area (e.g. recreation, wildlife, biodiversity, etc)?

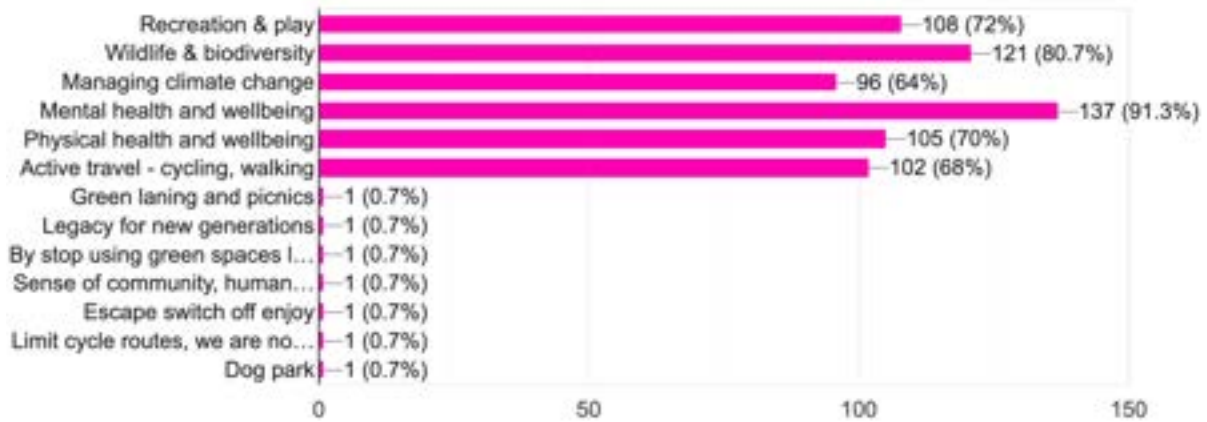
150 responses



Summary: The majority of respondents did not feel that the provision of green space in the area was sufficient enough, with 5 being 'excellent' and 1 being 'poor'.

Why is green space important to you (tick all that apply)?

150 responses



Summary: There was broad consensus among the respondents that green spaces were important to them for recreation and play, wildlife and biodiversity, managing climate change, mental and physical health, and active travel.

Where do you work?

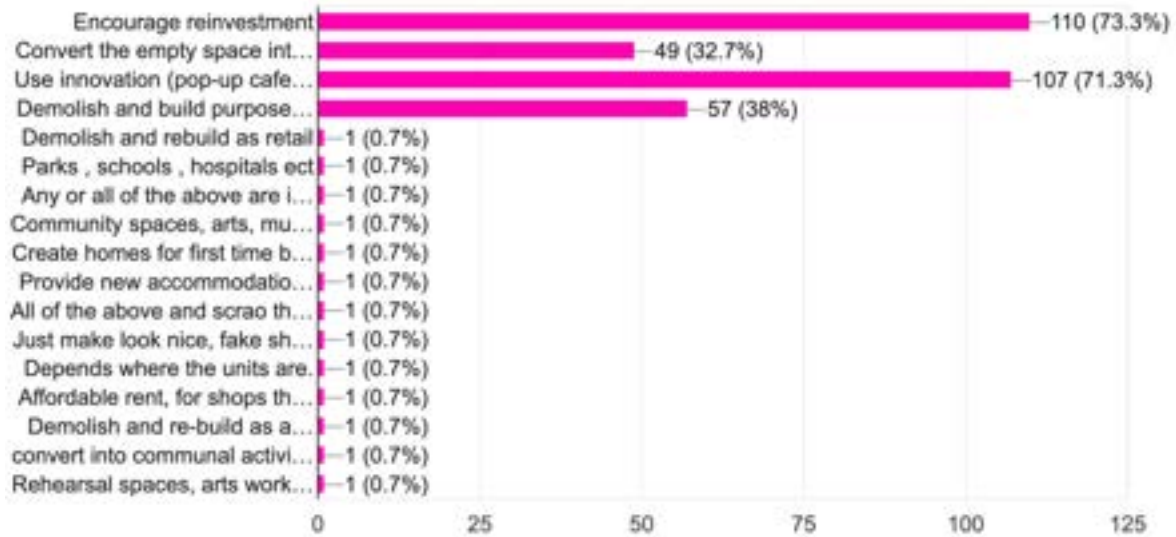
150 responses



Summary: The survey was effective in reaching respondents with a variety of employment backgrounds.

What should be done about empty retail units?

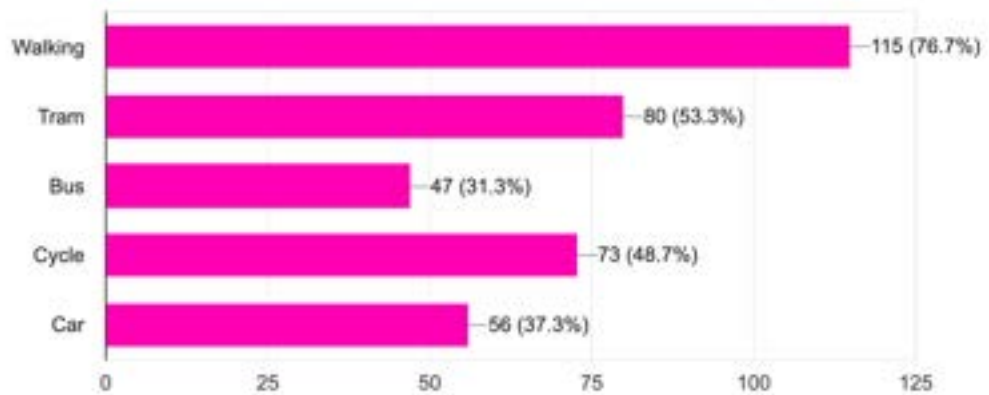
150 responses



Summary: There was strong consensus for encouraging investment and innovatively reusing vacant retail units, while retail-to-residential conversion and demolition was less favourable.

In 2030, how do you want to travel around Chatham?

150 responses



Summary: There was overwhelming support towards active travel and public transport.

<p>Has Covid-19 changed your attitude to green space, housing or the local economy? If so, how?</p>
<p>Appreciate green spaces and need to protect them</p>
<p>Appreciating the parks around the area and walking to these places. Although litter has become a big issue</p>
<p>COVID 19 has taught me that businesses should help contribute towards the climate change by downsizing big offices and allowing more workers to work from home since COVID has proved this can be done. This reduces traffic, noise and air pollution.</p>
<p>Definitely during this time we can see the importance of green spaces and not just for leisure, but for mental health and generally making people go out to walk in green places rather than malls and shopping centres</p>
<p>Green spaces are so important. I love being on Sun Pier and admire the greenery towards Brompton and The Lines Heritage Park. I feel that the new developments will encroach on the green spaces and make it feel claustrophobic and during covid this would have negativity impacted my wellbeing.</p>
<p>Green spaces that are within walking distance are essential to a community's mental & physical well-being.</p>
<p>I discovered the delights of the Conney Banks going into Horsted Valley from the Luton Millennium Park. Realised also how much we need good facilities in walking distance.... butchers, bakers, post office, doctors, dentist, general shops. Open Green space and gardens are VERY important on a very local and accessible level</p>
<p>I feel gardens are essential, it would have been much tougher being on lockdown without a garden</p>
<p>I find that spending more.</p>
<p>I have felt very isolated and alone and envious of those that have gardens or balconies.</p>
<p>I have found more joy in local green spaces and realised I live near some really beautiful large green spaces.</p>
<p>I love all the green spaces in Medway.</p>
<p>I think it's shown how fragile the local economy is but that our local businesses have the means to be creative to keep themselves going during this period. I also think that it's made our green spaces more popular.</p>
<p>I've learnt to appreciate my local green space by going out and exploring. Ie finding Fort Amhurst via the Great Lines.</p>
<p>It has definitely made me appreciate Medway more, and consider the importance of local businesses. I have loved supporting innovative ideas by local businesses during lockdown.</p>
<p>It has not changed my attitude</p>
<p>It has re-emphasised the need for green space for people who live in small spaces - multiple occupancy housing, which needs to be regulated.</p>
<p>It is very important everyone can access green spaces even if it is their private garden, or balconies atleast. Housing should be designed well to have open plan living with some private bedrooms do if</p>

one has to stay home it has the feel of being comfortable and spacious.The local economy should be supported more to encourage locals to buy from small shops.
It makes you realise that all of the green space is very much needed
It's crystallised preconceived thoughts
It's made me conscious of how small my house/area is when needing space to breathe for my mental health. I'm worried people will be at the few local green spaces there are and I'm trying my best to distance.
It's made me realise how lacking in green space we are in my area
Made me realise there is a distinct lack of green space per person. We have parks, but not in proportion to the number of people hence why they are overrun all the time. Also there is a lack of nature and rewilding projects in place. Also looking around on the many walks I have taken during this restricted travel times, you see so much land/space earmarked for property development and office space. Yet you see plenty of offices with to let or being knocked down. And no real improvement in local infrastructure including building schools and increasing medway maritime capacity
More aware than ever that some green space and streets need cleaning very badly - rubbish, fly tipping, dog fouling.
More need to keep it local
More of it and better access especially those with out there own gardens
More outside exercise, walking in the local area, has highlighted how shabby and dirty it is in places around here. People had dumped large bulk rubbish items outside of their houses on the footpaths, this is extremely dangerous, especially for partially sighted or people in wheelchairs, mobility scooters etc. It also looks disgusting! There are very few places to cycle safely or to walk around this area.
More people use it which is good but they abuse it
More regeneration for local jobs
Most definitely! I normally work in London and speak regularly about our long walks in the wonderful fields and open spaces. I now truly appreciate how lucky we are in comparison to my colleagues
Need more green space, community space, need up to date housing that allows families to flourish and put down roots.
need more green space.
No change as I have always enjoyed green space and walking. But still need a car for heavy shopping etc. As for housing, would not trust local council as all they do is build ugly and unaffordable homes, let construction companies get out of contributing to community projects and still wonder if their partnership with private building company is actually legal in regard to favouritism and transparency in planning applications. Local economy..still struggling as no long term plan and crap jobs (low pay). Even now they are considering evicting companies in Dockside (who are high skilled and good salaries) to build yet more houses that are not for low paid workers of these towns.
No just re enforced it
No not at all, I like where I live.

No. I've always maintained we should have more green spaces around. Tidy up our streets by stopping people dumping their rubbish outside their house so people can walk on the paths safely, especially if you have reduced sight. There is a really bad place where they fly tip and that is at the back of me by the garages.
Not changed but consolidated thoughts I already had that local working is the way forward.
Not really I'm lucky enough to live in an area that has alot of outdoor space
Not really, never liked flats to begin with and if anything i like them less now.
Not really. I've always believed there should be more green space and loads more affordable social housing because private housing is much too expensive in Medway. We also need more arts and culture of all persuasions in a densely populated area that reflects the diversity of the area and helps to improve the health and wellbeing of all Medway's citizens. We want Medway to be a place where people want to live, work and play.
Not so much as change but reinforced the belief we need a community with space for exercise fresh air and opportunities to manage our wellbeing
People are not social distancing so travel by car and shop online.
Realised it isn't such a big issue after all
See the importance of it more as need spaces to exercise. But also see how badly local areas are treated as just dumps for rubbish.
Since I have been walking around Chatham more in the last few weeks than normal, the absence of green space in the street layout is striking. Especially when compared to places like St Mary's Island, where there are green and open spaces
Sort of its made me understand my life and environment isnt good for anyone
The need to get around without public transport
The value of green spaces which are a walkable distance to residential areas is even more vital than before.
There needs to be better and affordable transport links Into London for greater job opportunities. Or create jobs hear in Medway and pay a decent wage to people.
To value and reinvest in our environment
Want more green space.
We need more green space, housing has been popping here there and everywhere in Medway, now time to build elsewhere before we lose our beloved green spaces, which during covid these spaces have been essential so people can go outdoors without losing their sanity
We walk regularly and have come to realise that there are many more green areas than we knew about.
Yes
Yes - it is vital that we keep green spaces useable and encourage local businesses
Yes - we value our local parks (Victoria Park and Jacksons Fields) far far more now and I am aware that this provision is pretty good compared to many other areas.
Yes . The area had been neglected for so long that I no longer want to live here . I have been a resident

for 30 + years . It has deteriorated so much .
Yes I value my garden...but would like to see better connected green spaces in the area.
Yes, absolutely. I am much more grateful that I have my own private garden to spend time in during the lockdown, as well as being able to access Luton Millennium Green and Town Hall Gardens for walks. Although, I certainly feel our existing green spaces require much more maintenance and investment to appeal to the local community. We also need more smaller 'pockets' of green infrastructure; even street trees and corners of grassy verges with some seating is enough to bring people out on the streets and actively use our public realm. Thus, improving mental and physical well-being. Hopefully we can see more of that in a post-Covid world. I also value the need for more local shopping, rather than having to travel by car to access supermarkets, etc. for essentials. Unfortunately, we have left the planning system to dictate our car-centric lives for decades, but this does need to change. More compact, '20-minute' neighbourhoods are ideal for citizens to be able to access amenities, services, products, etc. on demand.
Yes, appreciate where I live more
Yes, I now feel less is done by developers to ensure their builds fit in and do not over populate than ever
Yes, it's made me realise we're getting it all wrong...communities need to be built in, they don't magic out of nowhere. We need more green, more families, more local ownership and the community will come
Yes, more green spaces needed, less housing, it is already too over crowded
Yes, the fact we need more for mental health & well being but also to make the area more welcoming and to attract biodiversity
Yes, we need to protect every open space and habitat for the future.
Yes. Hate flats and will actively seek out a house with green space for future living.
Yes. Local economy needs more investment.

Summary: The key themes and priorities that emerged from the respondents were the importance of public green spaces, access to private amenity space, local employment opportunities and the negative impact of the hostile pedestrian and cycle environment in the area.

Design Code Survey

After the successful generalised survey, in October 2020 the forum developed and released a design focused survey. The forum became increasingly focused on the role of design codes in the neighbourhood planning process and hoped that this survey would support a forthcoming design code. A total of 123 stakeholders completed the survey. As with all of our online surveys, physical copies were available upon request.

How many storeys do you prefer on a building in your neighbourhood?

123 responses



Summary: Overwhelming support for buildings of 4 storeys or fewer.

What type of roof design do you prefer? (Example photos below)

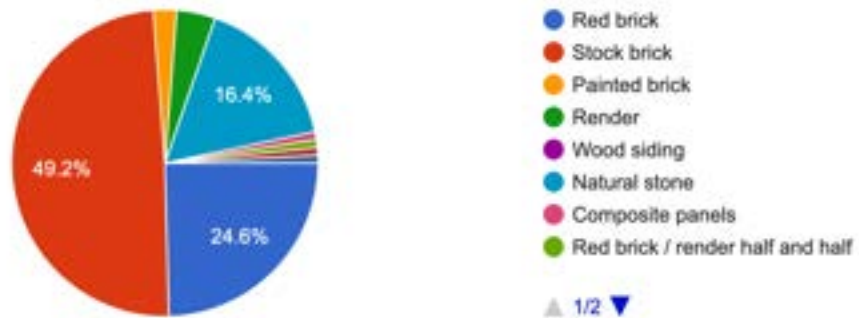
121 responses



Summary: Overwhelming support for gable roofs both front to back and left to right.

What is your favourite building material? (Example photos below)

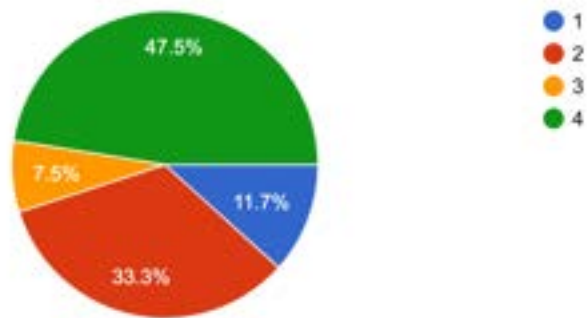
122 responses



Summary: Overwhelming support for buildings made of brick and natural stone.

Which of the following house designs do you prefer? (Example photos below)

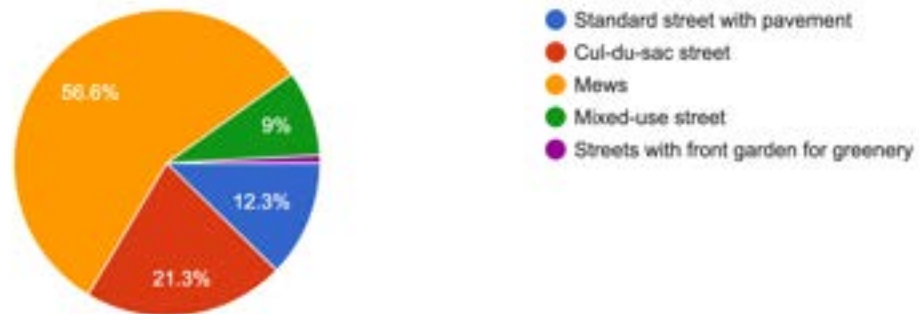
120 responses



Summary: Clear support for buildings classically designed and fenestrated, with the inclusion of sash windows, stone cills and cut brick lintels.

What kind of street would you like to live on? (Example photos below)

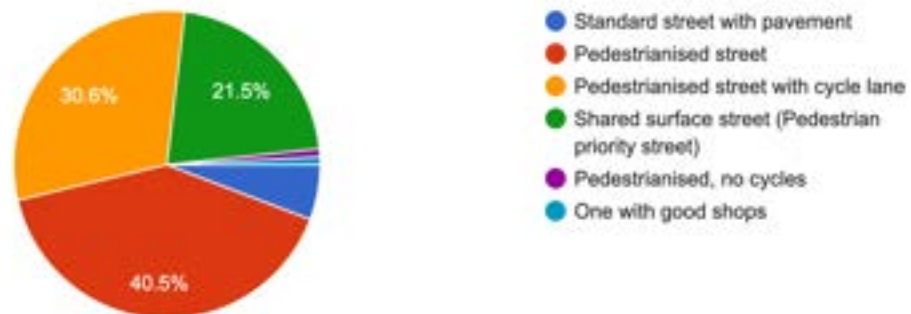
122 responses



Summary: Overwhelming support for non car-dominated streets.

What kind of street would you like to shop in? (Example photos below)

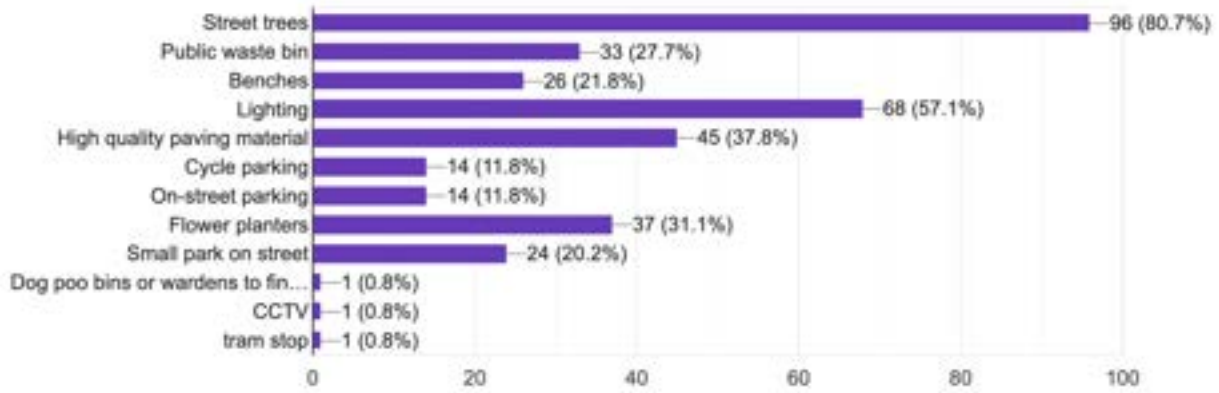
121 responses



Summary: Overwhelming support for non car-dominated shopping environments.

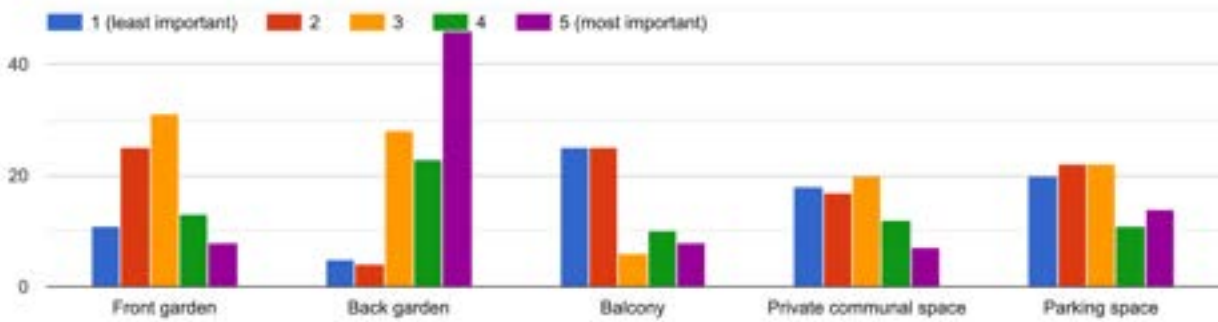
If you could pick only three streetscape elements for your street, what would you choose?

119 responses



Summary: Overwhelming support for well-lit streets lined with trees.

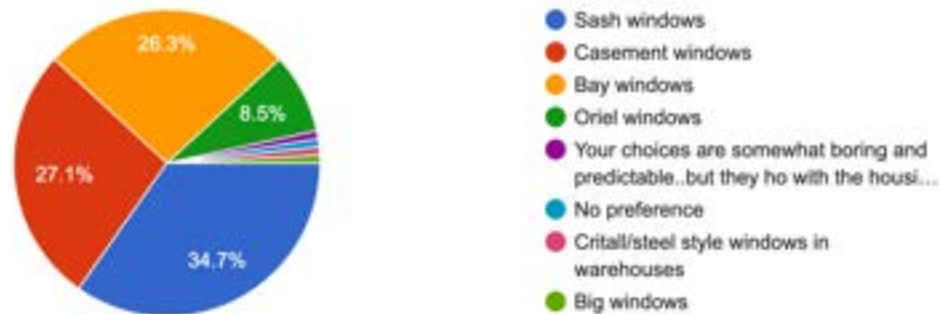
Which of the following outdoor spaces are the most important for you? (please only select 2) (Example photos below)



Summary: Strong support for the provision of private amenity space when compared with balconies and car parking spaces.

For new buildings, what type of windows do you like? (Example photos below)

118 responses



Summary: Strong support for traditional windows (i.e bay and sash windows), while casement windows were provably popular, too.

How would you describe the character of The Arches neighbourhood? What features do you think are important to this character?
Humble. It's subtle architectural nuances, modest height and high density.
Many varied historic styles that have been built over time which a large number have been neglected. Modern additions have not enhanced the area.
Historic. Lots of Victorian and Edwardian character.
whole area needs clean up, tidy up, landlords/owners should be fined if frontages are in disarray as ruining efforts others are making
I would describe the character of The Arches Neighborhood as being close knit community where people in part are dependent on each other which can be a positive and a negative. Visually it can look chaotic because of all the different architecture styles Its look in parts is shabby and not cared for which is it is not always reflective of the vibrant and diverse community that live here. The features that are important to this is to create more community spaces and infrastructure where the community can meet and do stuff together and new buildings that are designed well and compliment existing good examples of architecture locally i.e Victorian period housing.
The area has a high concentration of Victorian era architecture; it's a shame that this hasn't been well preserved in many cases. Small detailing features are very important towards creating a distinct place identity and contributes to the concept of 'variety' in the street scene.
Changing and transient. People drive through it without giving it thought. People stay for a while then move on. The main roads in and out of Chatham bisect it..its not a destination for anything.
To retain its old features but with cleaner streets. Fed up with people leaving their rubbish on the street, where it encourages rats etc.
Although recent improvements have been made there is still alot of work to be done as it feels a bit cold, and

too much rubbish everywhere especially by luton Arches dentist. I feel there is alot of potential for further improvements. Many new blocks have recently been built and it is improving the look of the catchment area. If more trees were planted and small parks with playgrounds were available within walking distance, that people could walk to, this would give families more accessible outdoor spaces where the children could play. To be honest especially during the difficult time with the pandemic it's probably quite important to create social spaces for peoples mental health as not everyone has a family or support network of good friends etc, so pop up social occasions such as afternoon tea, some kind of sports for adults such as table tennis, or even days out to the beach, picnic, walking in nature reserves, outdoor landscape painting or cycling would be good suggestions.

Diverse community. Historic terraced streets.

At present very run down and uncared for. More should be made to return the character of the older properties and an increase in communal pubic spaces with tree, flowers and seating.

Dirty and dingy

Messed up

Messy, dangerous and needs a complete rebrand.

The Arches themselves are not highlighted as a positive feature, more needs to be done to clean the pigeon waste and maybe some artistic lighting or fresh paintwork. There is a lack of a community feel because there isn't a space where the people can safely congregate or celebrate. The housing is mainly owned by private landlords who have set up HMO's, there doesn't seem to be any motivation to pressure them into taking responsibility for their investments and maintain the condition of their property fronts/ or back gardens/alleys for that matter. Until there is a new covenant established insisting on maintaining properties to a decent standard, the issue of perception of crime/depravity will continue in this area of Chatham. The community needs to be encouraged to come together and support each other collectively to clear waste, neighbourhood watch, reduce crime and invest in their properties.

At the moment? Very worn and distressed bordering on shanty chic, sadly I was born in Chatham and the place has been in constant demise since..

Very run down

Rough, run-down, unloved on the whole but some nice touches with the flower planters along luton.

Run down, rough, unsafe

The flowers are nice. The shops and front of houses look too messy and run down

Beautiful Victorian villas and shops that have ended up looking like something from the 3rd world, disgusting mess and no pride

Slum area with tons of rubbish. A mishmash of different types of housing. Unkempt and a place to avoid.

Historical area, the brickwork could be better highlighted, roads leading to it could be more attractive, railings painted and better maintenance, old historical buildings maintained or demolished completely and go over to more modern look, but let down by advertising hoardings, lack of cleaning, broken fencing and rubbish pedestrianised from the arches through to junction and have a small garden area, walk through, with very good lighting to discourage drinkers and homeless, all walls and fencing maintained down Chatham hill leading to the arches, the whole area needs a makeover, as does Luton road.

Water fountain, statue, plants, trees, benches, art
The colour
a dumping ground
Meh
Needs more housing
I Live in a tropical country. The style of everything should be different.
Varied in terms of housing and shops. Currently too much traffic on Luton High Street and doesn't appear loved. Would be good if this could change!

Summary: The key themes and priorities that emerged from the respondents were the appreciation in historic architecture despite its condition and the high rate of litter/fly-tipping found in public spaces.

Establishment of community policy leads

In October 2020, the Forum carried out a skill-sharing/mapping exercise to better understand the skills and attributes of our membership. During this process, members were asked to express interest in a potential neighbourhood planning policy area, e.g. green infrastructure, housing, etc. These results were analysed and led to the creation of our community based policy leads. These policy leads would be responsible for the growth of a potential policy area and would be the point of contact for our consultants, Create Streets, on this subject. Members were responsible for ensuring that policy proposals and rationales reflected community aspirations, quantitative and qualitative data available. In total there would be 10 policy leads.

These policy leads would support the emerging draft Neighbourhood Plan until its first major regulatory stage, Regulation 14.

Bulletins

In November 2020, the forum launched its monthly bulletin. This bulletin would act as a monthly public-facing update on the forum's progress, featuring calls to action (e.g. surveys, requests for feedback), inspirational case studies and an invitation to join the forum via the online membership form. This bulletin was distributed to forum members and to the wider public via social media. An example of these bulletins can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3FoMBfQ>

Regulation 14 2021

On 26 February 2021, we commenced Regulation 14 in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. During this difficult time, ACNF was mindful that people had competing priorities and were facing unique challenges. Our forum found itself in uncharted seas being only one of a handful of neighbourhood forums nationally undertaking a statutory consultation during a global pandemic. We therefore opted for an extended period of 10 weeks up until 7 May as opposed to the standard period of six weeks provided.

As a result of the Covid-19 restrictions, a digital-led approach had to be taken to consult the community for the duration of Regulation 14. The following consultation methods were employed:

- Consulted any statutory consultation body (referred to in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012) whose interests may be affected by the proposals within the draft neighbourhood development plan. Following Medway Council's guidance, we contacted all organisations listed on their statutory and non statutory consultee lists found here: <https://bit.ly/3Vi3le5>
- Print leaflets were distributed to every household within the Neighbourhood Area, containing information about how to access the draft Neighbourhood Plan and ways to make representations.
- Medway Council provided several hard copies of the draft Neighbourhood Plan that were made available at local libraries and upon request to members of the community without access to the internet.
- Three 2m x 1m mesh banners were positioned on the perimeter fencing of Luton Primary School and All Saints C of E Primary School containing information about how to access the draft Neighbourhood Plan and ways to make representations.
- Three internal roller banners were installed at the reception of Luton Primary School and on the ground floor of Pentagon Court inside the Pentagon Shopping Centre. These contained information about how to access the draft Neighbourhood Plan and ways to make representations.
- A bespoke landing page on the ACNF website was created to house information regarding the Regulation 14 period and links to the relevant documents, including the draft Neighbourhood Plan itself.
- An online Regulation 14 consultation form was created to allow stakeholders to directly share their thoughts and comments on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Physical copies available upon request to members of the community without access to the internet.

Taking into consideration the difficult circumstances that Regulation 14 was undertaken in, a conscious effort was made to ensure that the consultation period was convenient and digestible for stakeholders to take part in, particularly seldom heard members of the community. We therefore used the following methods of consultation to engage the community:

- Weekly themed webinars held by the Forum via Facebook were held for the duration of the consultation period that were viewed over 2,000 times. During these sessions, attendees were invited to ask questions and put forward any comments they may have on the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

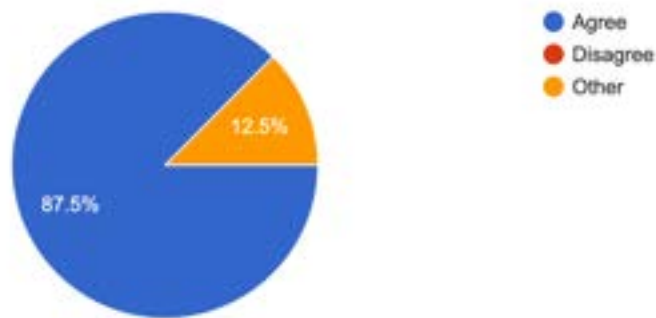
- Weekly bite sized online surveys where stakeholders were asked to respond to a series of statements and conclusions made within the Plan and associated documents. Physical copies available upon request to members of the community without access to the internet.
- Regulation 14 was covered, in print and online, by various media outlets (e.g. Future Chatham, Kent Online, Medway Messenger and Planning Resource).
- 20 Regulation 14 themed t-shirts were distributed to young people in the Neighbourhood Area who engaged with the process.
- 50 Regulation 14 themed window stickers were included with the area-wider flyers.

Regulation 14 Survey Data

Week 2: Design Code Feedback

We should embrace, enhance and restore Chatham's period architecture? (Pages 12-14, Design Code)

16 responses

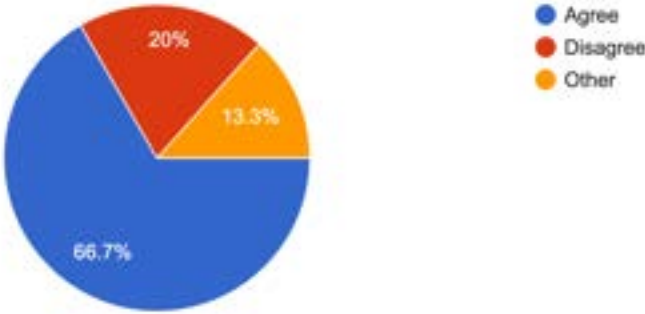


Additional comments
It gives the area character and identity.
There are some lovely buildings around that deserve to be looked after, and even the 'ordinary' speaks of the history of the area
Chatham was a very important Tudor, Stuart, Hanoverian & Victorian Town. We should make the most of our maritime & industrial heritage.
Because it looks nice and isn't just an endless series of concrete monstrosities.
Some of these features are unique to our area. All of them tell the story of our past and give character to our place.

Because Chatham has a lot of historical places and architecture and it should be kept.
Although it is important to preserve period Architecture, it is also to help the people living in Chatham to develop their areas in a contemporary way to improve their lifestyle. You see there is no point preserving the local Architecture if you live in areas which are not cared for with rubbish everywhere.
So much of Chatham and the surrounding area has been ravaged by town planners since the 1960's. It's about time we put a stop to the destruction of Chatham's local history - people need to be held accountable. Chatham's varying architectural heritage desperately needs the attention of historic building restoration specialists; an area is nothing without its heritage and in the case of Chatham, the two couldn't be more delicately intertwined. I'm of the opinion that all pre-war buildings should be listed and protected by historic building classifications. Above all else, these buildings should stand as testament to our ancestors, the people who designed and constructed the architectural landscape of this great town, now helpless to thwart its ruination.
Renovating and repurposing existing buildings with special architectural interest in the area can help uplift the character, vitality and perceptions of the area, as well as to foster greater levels of civic pride in the local community.
Many of the period architecture buildings within the NP boundary area also act as wayfinding landmarks, so enhancing their appearance and settings is an important aspect to consider.
We should but only the parts that everyone wants to keep - we should also embrace the future
Chatham has a great history and heritage which doesn't have to be sacrificed for the sake of building out of character, unsightly and shoddily built housing developments
There is so much history in the area and I think it is important to retain what is left; for me this adds character and enjoyment to the area.

Where possible, we shouldn't build over 6 storeys? (Page 29, Design Code)

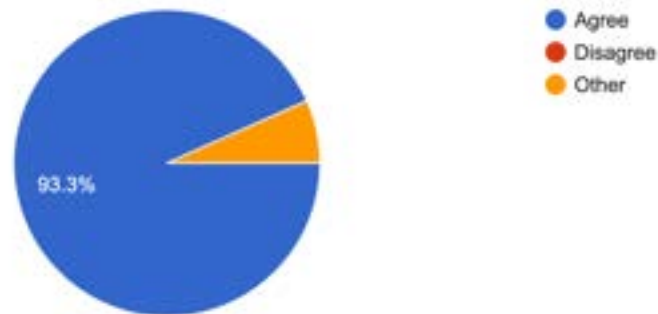
15 responses



Additional comments
Depends where/how.
Because tall, new buildings detract from and overshadow their surroundings. I think they also remove their occupants from nature and the outdoors
Difficult to justify with so many other hi-rise buildings in Chatham area.
Because anything like the tower blocks in the photo are simply a blot on the landscape. It doesn't need to be that way, there is plenty of space in former brownfield sites around here to build all the housing we need without turning it into an ugly urban wasteland.
I like to see the sky. Luton architecture is mostly vernacular to reflect human sizes and the relative smallness of the town.
They're an eyesore, they're a typical 60's build.
Very tall buildings cast shade, more windy areas and create a sense of people being stacked on top of each other with less privacy, usually with dirty lifts and fire staircases which are not inspiring for young people or give hope to the older generation for a sense of what a home should be.
Under no circumstances should buildings exceed the height of pre-existing structures. The excrescence of these buildings is far more damaging than one can imagine, forever scarring the architectural landscape of village, town or city.
A plethora of research strongly supports the notion that high-rise buildings do not positively contribute to the health, happiness and socioeconomic prosperity of communities. Buildings should instead follow a model of gentle density, which is more efficient, to create sustainable communities both in the social and economic senses. Any further high-rise buildings above 6 stories may also have a detrimental effect on the character of the NP area and further deteriorate the sense of community.
6 stories is too high in my opinion but I'm off Slicketts Hill with a proposed development Infront of me with 7 floors. My 4 floor building is tall enough at the top of a hill to not block the skyline of the lines. Further along Luton, surrounding views from Upper Luton down shouldn't block views of Darland or Capstone.
I think that six stories may well be too high and we should be looking at 4 or 5
Families need low rise social housing and if history has taught us anything about high rise, it is well known to be isolating and restricts people if lifts breakdown.
I don't tend to enjoy how these buildings appear and they affect the sky line. I also associate them with being low quality for occupants who often lack private entrances and outdoor spaces.

Architectural detailing is important? (Page 30, Design Code)

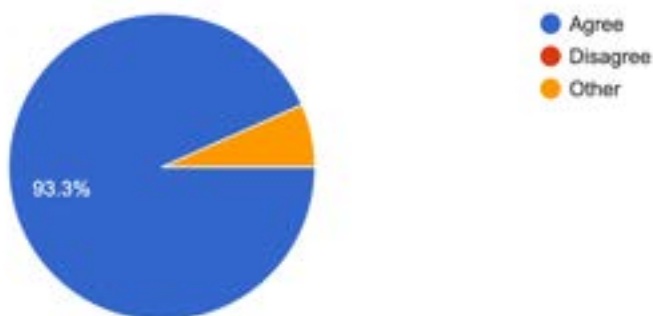
15 responses



Additional comments
Lack of detail = cheap.
It looks nice - and that makes me happy!!
Rochester & Chatham have numerous examples of Arts & Crafts building techniques.
Because it looks nice. Worth every penny to preserve or restore stuff like this.
Again - adds unique identity to location and tells our joint story.
It's beautiful
Yes and no. Important to preserve heritage. No because a homeless person would prefer somewhere to live than look at Architecture, so there needs to be a balance of where investments are made.
These small details tell the story of a building. Without them, it's like reading a book where some of the pages are missing; you get the gist of it, but you don't have the full picture. These minutiae are, in my mind, as important as the structure itself.
Architectural detailing is so important to the NP area as it positively contributes to the unique character, legibility and sense of place identity of the neighbourhood. It essentially leaves an identifiable imprint on the face of the community and can really foster all that makes the NP area the community that it is.
Valuable period character that makes properties more unique. These features should be celebrated and preserved.
It provides character and context and reflects our history
The idea of listing buildings is so that important historical relief or the buildings themselves can be preserved for the community for posterity.
enhances appearance of local area.

Every home should have some outdoor space (balony, garden, allotment, etc)? (Page 31, Design Code)

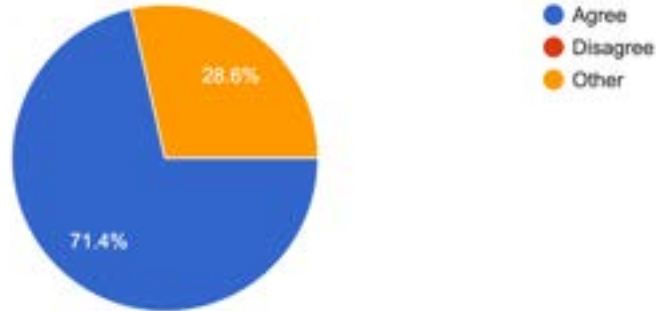
15 responses



Additional comments
Everyone needs outdoor time.
Because of the benefits to mental health and the environment - wildlife etc.
If you're close to nature you'll appreciate it more.
Why would a home need balony? I don't understand the question. Okay, I'm being mischievous with your typo, but everyone needs the opportunity to get some fresh air and/or grow some plants/vegetables etc.
In case of more pandemic home confinement, access to green space nearby is vital.
When your older it's nice to have your own space to grow flowers or vegetables.
Absolutely, even a small balcony is better than nothing as clothes can be dried, (discretely), a husband and wife can have a space to escape from each other especially during lockdown to preserve their marriage for example, lol, or maybe someone can have a cigarette not that I for that.
The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the chronic shortage of good-quality, accessible private and semi-private spaces for local residents. It is essential for both the physical and mental wellbeing of citizens, and can especially foster greater social bonds within the community, in the case of allotments or shared gardens. Outdoor spaces can also animate the street scene and improve natural surveillance over the public realm; some areas of the NP area suffer from poor actual and perceptions of safety as a result of namely this.
Important for quality of life, fresh air and natural light. Balconies of suitable size with enough opening to not be too blocked off. Access to gardens even shared is essential to promote sense of community space, neighbours etc.
For the environment, for biodiversity, for our mental and physical health and wellbeing
The pandemic of 2020 and 2021 has shown how important it is for people to have access to open spaces and fresh air for mental health and well-being.
this is good for us, good for mental health.

Unused or neglected spaces are an opportunity to create high quality affordable homes? (Page 24, Design Code)

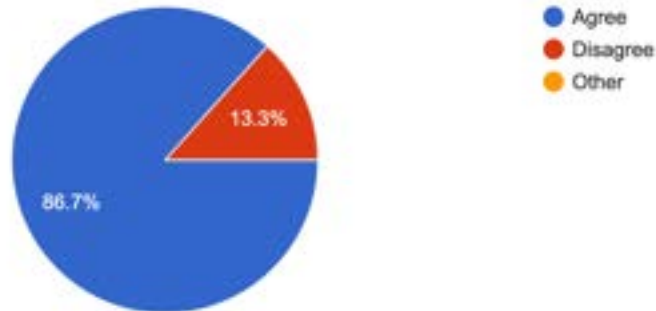
14 responses



Additional comments
Yes if no use otherwise.
Better to build in these areas than on green-field sites. IPORTANT: what is built does need to be both HIGH QUALITY & AFFORDABLE - I think largely social housing, as we don't have nearly enough security of tenure for unwaged/low-income families
Neglected spaces create negative social attitudes.
Surely it's a no-brainer to re-use neglected urban areas than to turn farmland or other green belt areas into housing?
If designed and built well - help affordable housing crisis and stop flytipping on unused land.
Depending where it is, ie having enough space
Very good idea, when you have high quality affordable home in Chatham, why leave the space wasted for rubbish to pile up or meeting points for unsavoury characters!
Underused spaces that make an inefficient use of land should be repurposed or redeveloped for more beneficial uses to the community, delivered in a high-quality manner. Particular focus should be drawn towards derelict garage blocks that do more harm than good currently. Infill development can also provide much-needed affordable housing supply.
These spaces should be explored for alternative opportunities the same way brownfield sites would. Create streets show so many examples of innovative use of space to repurpose it.
Possibly - these spaces are of value for open space - see above - and also they may simply not be practical for new homes. They should be assessed on a case by case basis.
It will improve the area and provide families with genuinely affordable and social housing in smaller developments
I would generally agree with this if quality really is high but we shouldn't put homes in every space we should consider other needed amenities and green spaces too.

New developments must make provisions for people with disabilities to ensure that they can easily access facilities and services? (Page 11, Design Code)

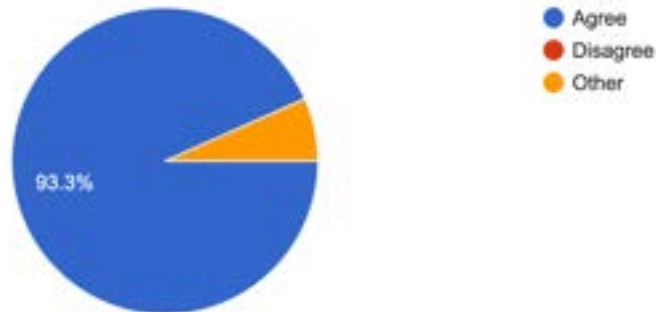
15 responses



Additional comments
Of course they should.
Because people with disabilities deserve the same opportunities as the rest of us, and it must be easier (and more successful) to build with this in mind, rather than try to modify at a later date.
I am disabled myself and have assisted Chatham Maritime Trust & Medway Council in making St.Mary's Island more "disability friendly" not only for residents but visitors/tourists also. Plus of course there's a legal duty to do so. Pavement parking abuse, parking across designated crossings/dropped kerbs are a good place to start. 20mph speed limit zone helps too!
Why can't we just accept that disabled people can't access some homes? Very few people actually need disabled access for themselves or visitors. It's added cost for very little benefit. If people need disabled access, they can move to somewhere that has it can't they? Clearly it's a good thing when needed, but it isn't needed everywhere. Balance in all things please.
Because new builds must practice true equality of access as modern society strives to value all equally.
As we have a lot of wheelchair users.
Disabilities are obviously hard enough for people who have to spend their life adjusting, so anything that makes life easier that is taken for granted for most should be an important priority for all.
Very essential component. Needed to ensure the needs and desires of all members of the community are met.
We are an inclusive and caring community - everyone's needs must be included
As the parent of a disabled daughter and previous chair of a parent/ carer group of children and young people with disabilities, it is very important that developers work with local disability groups to find out their needs and requirements. Co-production is the key.
this is essential for equality. It is also good forward planning as many in older age require access so by designing this in we stop people being forced to move or being isolated in their property.
I would generally agree with this if quality really is high but we shouldn't put homes in every space we should consider other needed amenities and green spaces too.

Traditional shop fronts should be restored or reinstated where possible? (Page 15, Design Code)

15 responses

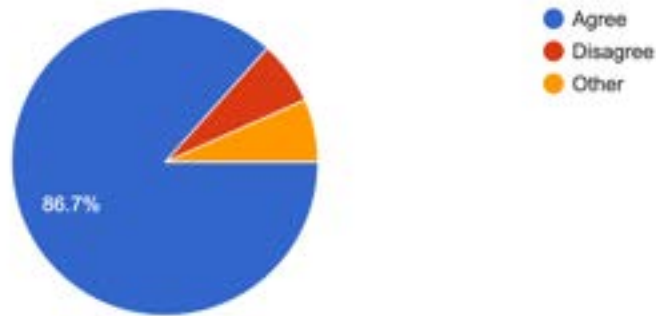


Additional comments
Character and personality.
It feels nicer, and is more sympathetic to the original architecture.
Pleasing to the eye and uplifting for the public mood. Positivity creates public pride in local area.
Anything that improves the general appearance of a shopping parade is good. People behave better when they have nice surroundings.
To encourage small retail opportunities and to preserve uniqueness of England 'a nation of shopkeepers'. Retail businesses don't have to be traditional ones, but traditional shopfronts enhance accessibility.
Because it's all part of Chatham's history
If it is a good for local trading then that's great, but shops can do this themselves because they are businesses that can get funding through other means, so in my view local people and homes, streets, green projects to uplift people is a better investment. Having said that if local shops look attractive this does help trade in the local area and adds value to the housing of the community, the local shops make all the difference.
Absolutely. Please refer to my previous answers.
Improves the character, vitality and prosperity of the place. Provides opportunity for further inward investment in the area and to encourage the opening of new small, local businesses.
Consistency is so important, creates a more uniform look, respects the building frame and doesn't look over crowded. Also allows businesses a good blue print to work towards to create professional look, like shopping centres in Oxford which fully respects the local area, facades are consistent. This can be achieved with varying but complementary colour pallets.
We need to create a local business community that becomes the envy of Medway!
It retains the character and heritage of the area. Also it makes the area attractive to shoppers and attracts investment and individuals who might want to create a bigger diversity of individual shops
It looks better, shows history and character of area.

Week 3: Housing Feedback

Affordable housing should be linked to local income to ensure it's actually affordable? (Pages 21-23, The Plan)

15 responses



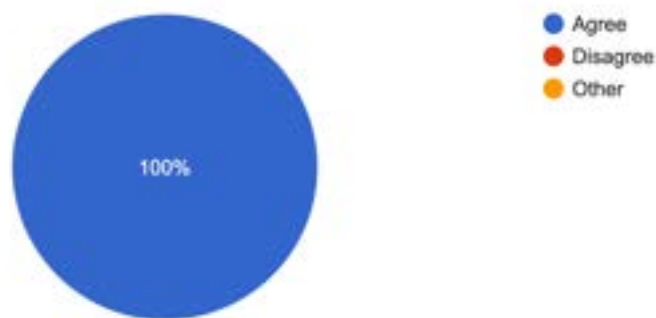
Additional comments
Lots of families move down from London whilst still working there and commuters move to the area who have higher incomes than those who work locally
To move an area out of deprivation you need to attract different buyers, otherwise only lower income buyers will be present. I feel there should be a range from local income linked to slightly higher levels.
if its not affordable, don't say it is - this is more than a tick-box exercise: it's peoples lives!
Having a house shouldn't be so easy that the people who actually worked for it that everyone can have one easily, as the value will go down. It's a bit like countries that publish to much of their own currency, the value will go down. However it is good to have some schemes to support hardworking people on low salaries yo get on the property ladder and somewhere that us exclusively theirs to call home.
There are a lot of single and families living on low income and some of the Dominate landlords rents are high and not value for money
Because jobs need to ensure a living wage and post covid Luton needs to ensure its population can live and work comfortably without needing to travel out of the area.
It is essential that we support our community and making housing affordable is a key part of this support.
In an area of deprivation like ours many people are on low or minimum wages. It would be almost impossible for them to get a mortgage as more people move to the area from more affluent areas this affecting prices which become even less affordable to local people.
so that local people can stay in the area if they wish, and so that we end the lip service to 'affordable' homes that are so often out of the reach of those who need them most.
Locally the ordinary person cannot afford to purchase or rent proper healthy accommodation. The rate

set at 20% of market value is fatally flawed and needs to be set at 40% of local prices, at least.

It would be nice to see developers go beyond the minimum threshold, with flats being the common default choice. Not many family homes are built anymore with gardens. It should be representative of the local area to make it achievable for people to aspire to afford such homes. If we continue to see developments which include more premium priced units like lots of sites across Medway, then the fear is gentrification which will see urban areas changed in favour of more wealth. I am all for refining places and defining our areas but always with the people and economy in mind. HMO licenses need to be reviewed and work with licensees to developer better landlord standards too as HMO's do offer housing to many people so need to ensure the standards are suitable.

New developments should positively contribute towards the wider community? (Page 21-23, The Plan)

15 responses



Additional comments
Many local people show little respect or care for their surroundings and public spaces. If you could get the local community involved then this may change
Local areas need to build on and improve living standards. Dilapidated areas need to be regenerated.
many decisions and developments have under-mined and devalued our community in the past. we need to redress the balance, and give our community back its sense of pride. we know that this is a good place to be, with lots to offer - let us prove it to those who constantly want to knock our community and our home.
The community lives I'm the area so should benefit in some way as more people are impacted in a positive way. For example a theme park in Chatham would attract tourism to the area and the local children would enjoy and be proud of their area.
Looking at some local current developments waiting for approval it would appear what was once a multi generational community is being turned into a youth only concept
To ensure all residents feel emotionally invested in their home area - prevents littering and fly tipping and engenders pride in home location, leading to creative thinking about improvements.
We need to make our community a place to live, work and play - a place where the current and the next

generation are at home.

Developers have the chance to build and improve community by investing in that community.

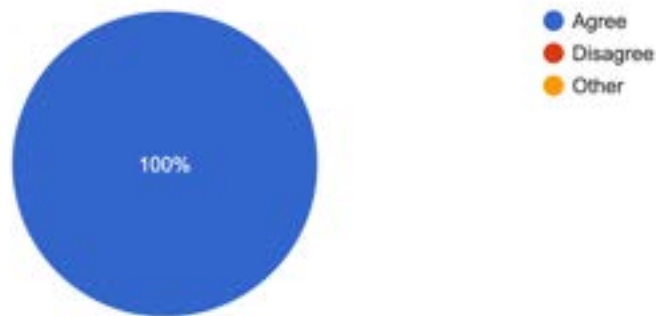
this encourages community and ensures investment in the area.

New developments should be designed properly, to provide community, to provide a healthy environment for everyone. The current and future developments fulfill none of these and only further the aims of \$greedy\$ and incompetent developers.

Green and community spaces should be at the heart of developments, not just contribute. The unfortunate current state sees infrastructure is not primarily considered when meeting housing targets for essentials like travel, education and health, then why would developers consider a community space. Take the Cross Street Development where I live, the people are the community but the space hasn't been created or harnessed. Local kids now play in car parks because the family homes built in Eldon Street have such small gardens, the local town hall park is sub standard and there is unwanted ASB. However, if a central open space had been developed when these developments were being planned, it could have supported so many homes. 4 blocks on Cross Street (soon to be another 1) plus 8 homes and another block on Eldon Street plus more to come on Queen Street... all without any community space which is deeply disappointing.

It's important to have a blend of housing types and tenures in urban areas (flats, family homes, starter homes, etc) (Page 21-23, The Plan)

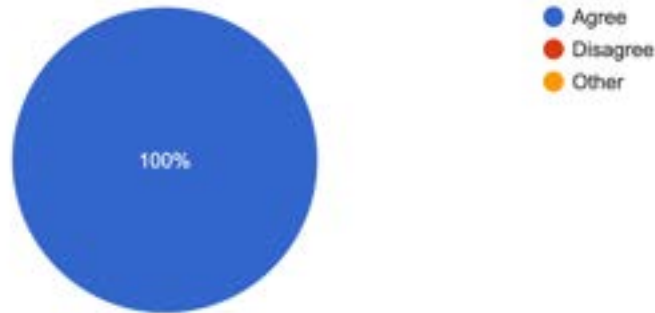
15 responses



Additional comments
This will bring all types of residence to the area
Different people/families have different needs. The more options that can be accommodated, the more diverse the community.
there needs to be housing appropriate to all times and situations of life - young single, couples, families, elderly..... we also desperately need good quality social housing, that offers security of tenure and the possibility of housing security.
People have different needs, some may be single, some have young families or older people with kids moved out, so their should be different types of a accomodation and homes to cater for their needs.
The area has been aloud to dominated by why landlord who only design properties that suite them not the community they are within. Medway Council should encourage other major social & private landlords to the area there by creating a nice mix and competitive rents
To avoid ghetto mentality. A cohesive community consists of combining all units for people at all stages of life.
This creates the community for all generations that we are looking for and means that the streets have character and personality.
Absolutely a mixed community is better and more natural for everyone. It also improves the feeling of belonging in a community.
for diverse communities.
Housing types should be available to suit all families needs. Housing should be affordable to the means of the family.
I agree but I think the design needs to be right to create an inclusive environment to support community cohesion.

Specialised housing (supported lodgings, houses in multiple occupation, exempt accommodation, etc) must be positively integrated and not over concentrated. (Page 21-23, The Plan)

15 responses

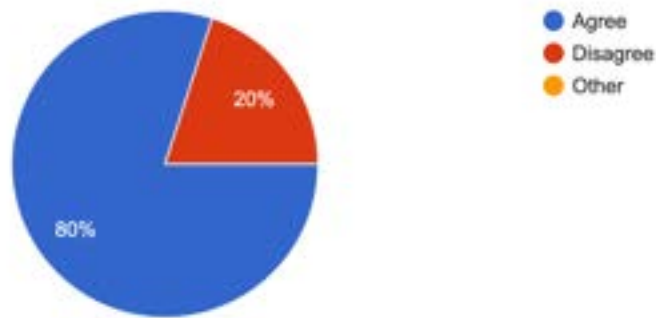


Additional comments
Definitely, there is a large requirement for supported housing in this area, a concentration of supported housing will not help the area to improve and could put off residents who do not need supported housing.
Saturation of specific accommodation types reduces diversity.
segregation does not encourage community cohesion - when we live side-by-side with others who are different from ourselves (by age, circumstance, heritage etc) we get to know each other as people, and break down barriers and pre-conceived stereo-types.
No one likes to live in be in overcrowded places.
The area is already over populated with half-way housing HMO's and bedsits, this is fueling the bad reputation of the area and contribute heavily to the anti social behavior and crime
As above - to avoid ghetto creation and to aid mental well being of all - to decrease isolation of single living ' bedsitland' transitory occupants.
Ours is a community for all - inclusive and caring
In the 22 years I have lived in the area I have seen many family homes split into flats that have a high turnover of transient people. We actually seem to have a much higher concentration in our area of this type of housing. Landlords put profit before families instead of developing flats in a more family friendly style.
There will always be needs for specialised housing and they should be of comparable standards to non specialised housing. Speacilised housing should not be overly concentrated in an area like it is within the NeighbourHood Planning area.

Week 4: Masterplan

Build outs and central reservations create an opportunity to add much needed greenery into our streets. (Masterplan, page 31)

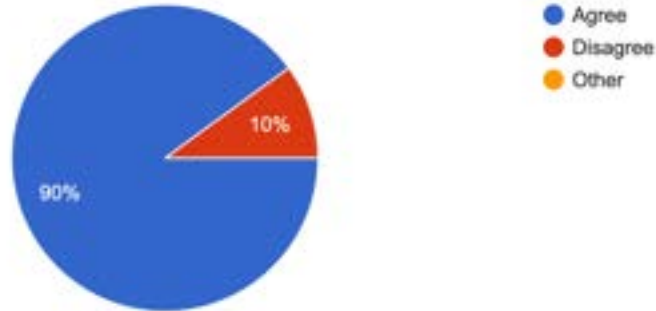
10 responses



Additional comments
Makes roads less wide and adds to traffic problems, roads in the area are not wide enough as it is
Congestion will overwhelm the area, the pollution from which outweighs the benefit.
It's an attractive low cost version of traffic calming. Helps us be flexible and promote more sustainable methods of travel like walking and cycling.
Greenery creates better air quality, a pleasant environment, giving people a sense of pride in their area and adds value to properties.
Improve the environment, look nice - but they need looking after!
Looks so much better - and beneficial to wildlife as well. Win, win!
Greenery breaks up the unremitting 'urban' feel of our area - and yet we are not actually an urban centre. There are green fields all around.
Greener areas are more inviting. They help to show how the community has an interest in its area. Planting out certain types of plants can also absorb exhaust particulates which, with the excessive transport in our area, would help to reduce exhaust emissions.
looks better and is good for the environment and cutting pollution, good for mental health

Street art can spark positive conversations, build community relations and contribute to placemaking (Masterplan, page 40).

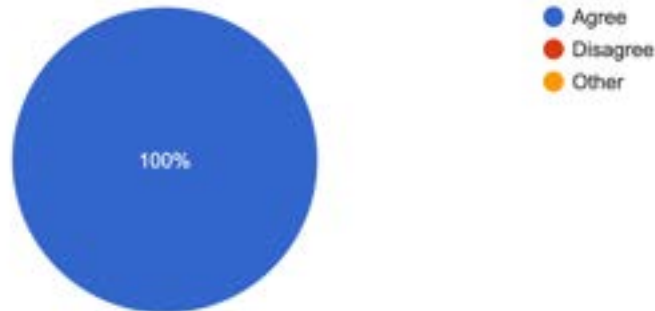
10 responses



Additional comments
Current street art reflects other areas so deflects from the area it is meant to represent
It make a happier brighter scene
If done with the community and providing suitable sites and commission pieces then this could work.
If it has been done well it can create interest in what is just a bridge as in above photo, changing it to visually connecting medway to its historical context.
I am very strongly in favour of this for all sorts of reasons!
things like this make a bland brick wall unique to an area
If well done, can add interest for passing visitors and create a sense of 'ownership' from residents.
Street art, not graffiti, can help to improve an area, the Luton Arches mural is a case in point. In areas of London it has appeared on plain walls and buildings and enhanced those areas, particularly the East End of London. It can also be a spark for the community, giving residents access to beautiful and interesting art and providing talking points and interest, look at the public artworks of Banksy. As an area improves so does the outlook for that area.
there's so much creativity in medway we should celebrate it. adds character to the area and encourages people to visit shops.

Streets should be designed in a way that makes walking enjoyable and safe. (Masterplan, pages 28, 33)

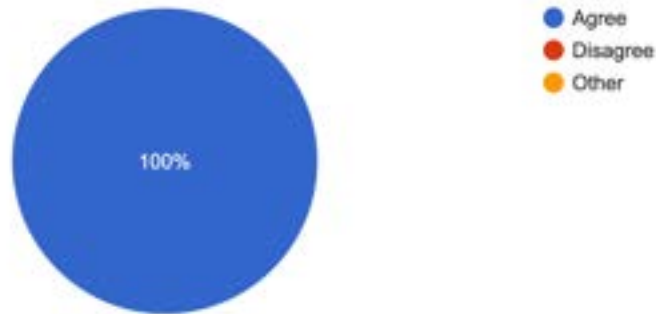
10 responses



Additional comments
Street planning is currently force as much in and to hell with aesthetic look
We should always look from the user experience of the pedestrian, too often the car is favoured. Especially in built up areas, where air quality is poor and loud/unsafe.
If streets are pleasant and safe, this encourages people to walk more and this will be beneficial for health and the environment.
Walking should be the preferred option of travel - for health and safety reasons and for the environment.
more walked journeys will be good for the environment and good for the individual. Walking also allows the opportunity for conversations with others, and helps build community
Walking should be encouraged for health and well being and reduction of pollution. If streets are inviting, easier to get people to step outside front doors to enjoy space and air. If uninviting, walking on streets seen as 'you can't afford a car' rather than a choice.
In our area, the paths could be wider to allow for better social distancing and better lit so that peoplke feel safe at night. LCD lighting would save Medway Council money and provide better brighter lighting along Luton Road and surrounding areas. Also the ingtroduction of trees would also help to reduce emissions but make the area more green, which is good for peoples emotional health and wellbeing. There has been a start with a number of trees planted in Luton Road, Castle Road and others, a welcome addition to our surroundings.
walking is a great form of exercise and medway can't cope with current traffic levels

We should be creative and experimental with our public spaces, e.g. pop up markets, festivals, gardens, etc. (Masterplan, page 38)

10 responses

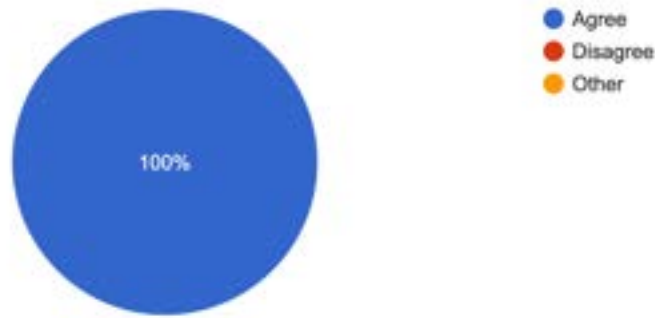


Additional comments
Communities need to be encouraged but have been discouraged for decades
Worth a go
Promote sense of community, supports shopping local and independent.
Public spaces should always engage in activities that lead to social spaces, for interaction and well being of local community and visitors.
Our community needs to be a place where we work and play and have our homes.
Because no one says we have to get it right at the first try. There is learning in things that don't work and are less successful. Also, variety creates interest and gives a reason to walk around or visit.
Communities that get involved in organising local events increase their sense of community within that area. Look how the pandemic has made people become much more involved in their local area. Medway has a history of community festivals but it can be even better spreading that down to more local events perhaps a Continental Market event or local music festival on Millenium Green. Pop up events are very popular and we have a number of areas that could be used around the All Saints Area.
good for local economy and residents

Week 5: Local Economy

Businesses need well maintained premises with adequate services, affordable rents and rates in order to thrive? (Pages 19-20, the Plan)

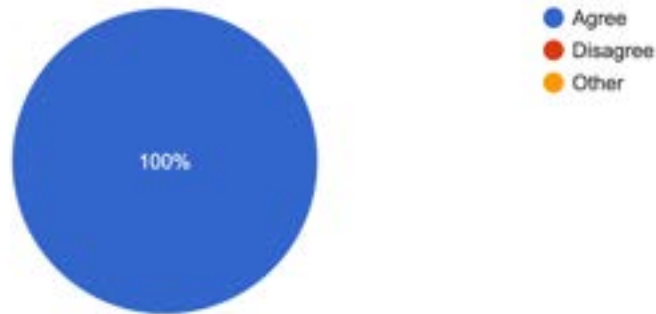
10 responses



Additional comments
No one walks through luton, this needs too change
Buckets on the floor when is raining should not be accepted!!! It's even in Pentagon like that Doors didn't work for 1 year! Very bad impression
Business rates and rents need to reflect the current situation - eg: post pandemic, lower rates and well maintained services and landlord premises will encourage different businesses to start up in situ and replace those which have folded due to pandemic closures.
We could have a better diversity of shops in our area if there were good services and more affordable rents. We have seen many shops disappear since we moved here in the late 1990's and we need planning at the council to be more creative and attentive to the needs of local people, when they receive applications to open shops.
this will encourage local independent shops and is good for medway. the high street is dead and we need independents!
A large amount of business premises has been deliberately poorly maintained to haste its demise in a rush to convert to shite single flats under Permitted Development Rights. This onslaught of modern slums has gone on in this area unchecked even though there is legislation to accomplish this. Ancient office block that should been pulled down years ago are being turn into living boxes with tenants being "socially cleansed" out of "affluent" areas. Again there is no oversight of this issue leaving those tenants vulnerable and without their social networks.

A healthy high street provides a mix of businesses that address the local need within walking distance? (Page 19-20, the Plan)

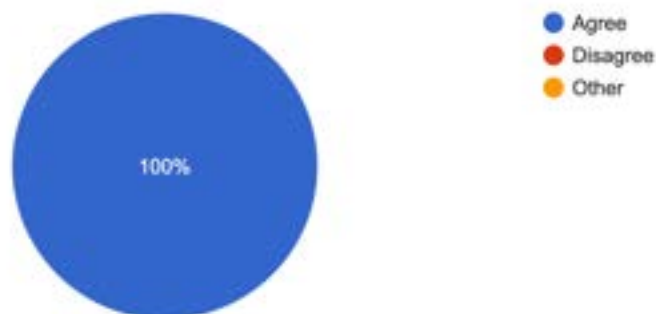
10 responses



Additional comments
Shops need to be different to encourage people to walk through the high street
The uniqueness of different areas is what makes it familiar to residents and worth visiting from those outside.
A local community is better served by small independent shops, such as bakers, butchers, greengrocers etc which enables the shopper to buy locally and put that money into the local economy. In our area there is a proliferation of off licences, pound shops, takeaways and fast food outlets. We haven't even got a hardware store or fishmonger. In an area of such deprivation there is a propensity of takeaways, fast food outlets and off licences, not a good selection of shops when we are trying to improve the situation in regard to health inequalities. Our nearest hardware shop being B & Q which isn't walkable. Medway Council could look at Whitstable which complements larger retailers with a huge variety of independent shops, so the high street is an interesting place to visit.
keeps money in the local area, encourages walking over driving, becomes an enjoyable experience.
A business area has to have a mix of businesses to meet the varied needs of the citizens and should be pleasant looking and within 15 to 20 minutes of home. There should not be an over concentration of detrimental businesses in one area that are breaking their trading rules.

An attractive, safe and accessible environment encourages people to shop locally? (Page 19-20, the Plan)

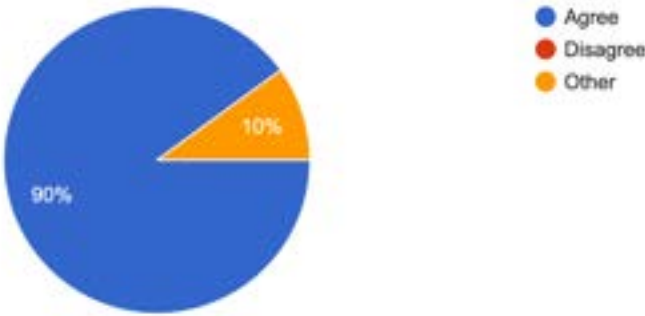
10 responses



Additional comments
Feel safe!!! In Chatham high street it's difficult. I fell unsafe walking near drunks and beggars
I once got lost in a far north city in a very run down area. I was driving and was not alone in the car, but even though we were hungry, there was no way we were going to add to the local economy by stopping and getting out of the car even for a moment. For residents, attractive places generate pride. Run down uncared for places generate despair and lack of care over what is there, creating a transitory population.
More variety and attractive shops and perhaps a pop up art gallery or exhibition would improve footfall. Smaller shops would not leave a large hole in the area if they were to close and Whitstable proves that you don't need large chain stores to thrive. A regular market would encourage more people to visit the town, especially as many of our diverse communities shop in markets. The old Tesco/Go Outdoors would provide a good base for an all year round indoor market with a bus service that stops right outside but easily walkable from the All Saints area.
Pleasant looking and accessible shops will encourage you to visit more often and improve the overall appearance of the area.

We should actively support businesses that contribute to the health and wellbeing of our area?
 (Page 19-20, the Plan)

10 responses



Additional comments
Something needs to be done about this Luton to me is full of bedsits and house shares and the houses look awful and the shops look rough
We should support every business
So long as they are not all selling cute art gifts or are substantially dearer than the supermarket rivals. Buying everything in my local area aids my personal health - walking and carrying rather than driving - and cuts pollution from vehicles for short journeys.
In an area of such deprivation there is a propensity of takeaways, fast food outlets and off licences, not

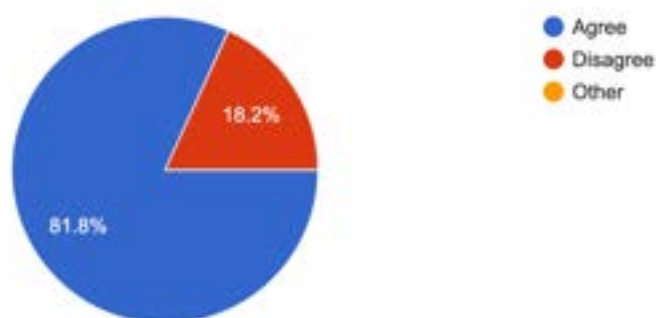
a good selection of shops when we are trying to improve the situation in regard to health inequalities. Medway Council's planning department should be more adventurous and bear consideration of the needs of the local community before granting planning applications for businesses.

Businesses that are beneficial to its citizens should be encourage and those that are detrimental to the area removed.

Week 6: Sustainable Transport

To aid active travel (walking and cycling), we should increase our pedestrian routes throughout the area? (the Plan, pages 27 - 28)

11 responses

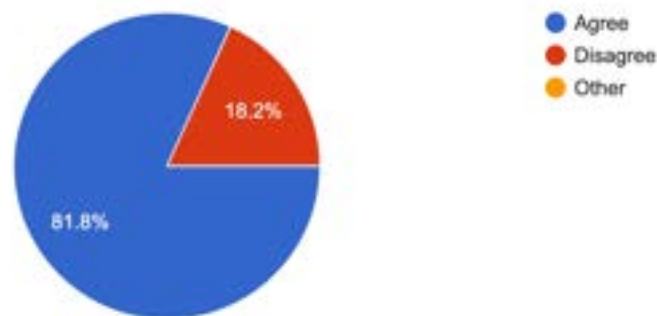


Additional comments
pavements locally are often blocked by vehicle parking - including on main roads sometimes - I have seen parking that has not left enough room on the pavement for a pram or wheelchair to get past without going on the road. this puts people off walking. more pedestrian routes would hopefully redress the balance
To make it safer and more attractive to cycle and to provide safe bike parks to encourage take up of same
We have lots of pedestrian cut-through alleys and stairs already, but they are not the most inviting/usually full of rubbish/overgrown. Would be used more just be curious people if more attractive and well kept. I walk around and explore but anyone else I pass appears to be in transit solely to get from A to B.
Our aim should be to make walking a preferred way of travelling around the area.
it just gives more places for drug dealers to serve up and less car parking spaces
We need to make use of a variety of options for sustainability for the future. Although there will be a need for some cars, we have already reached saturation point for parking in Luton Road and surrounding areas. We have good bus services although they are expensive and are are within easy walking distance of Chatham town centre. We need to make using the car the last choice of everyone.To do this cycle routes and footpaths need to be well maintained and brightly lit.

Increased permeability can help support healthy, active lifestyles and sustainable modes of transport.
Because you will close up roads to do that and which will increase traffic on bus routes
there are areas of medway with no pedestrian access. this is dangerous and discourages walking/visiting certain businesses and attractions.
The pedestrian routes that there are, through the area, need to be improved and maintained and some useful repurposing achieved. These routes would be healthier and cut travel times around the area.

To mitigate the effects of heavy traffic, we should use innovative ideas to help reduce traffic congestion impact on public transport and pedestrians? (the Plan, pages 27 - 28)

11 responses



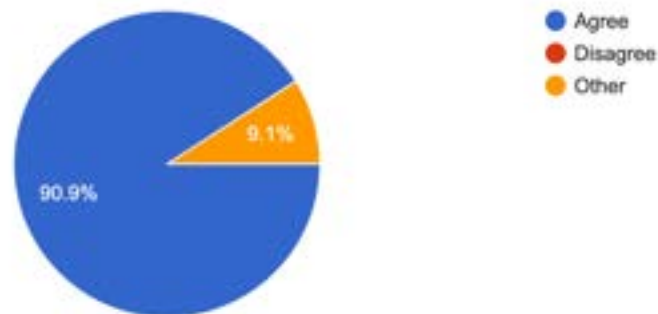
Additional comments
traffic congestion increases pollution, which is both unpleasant and dangerous for pedestrians.
Traffic fumes are a major contributor to ill health, cheap, clean and eco friendly alternative transport is the answer to get desired uptake
People are inclined to see only the problems with innovation rather than the benefits. ('I likes what I knows'). Sometimes the only way for them to see the benefits is to demonstrate it actively. Also, sometimes once there and (if hugely criticised) taken away again, people will then start to recall what worked so well and call for it to come back. Innovation essential to create the best possible future.
Overt he coming years the use of cars will decline but we need to take action now to reduce the high levels of air pollution affecting us right now.
you will make it hard for those that grew up here and don't work in the area and travel for work because that traffic, parked cars has to go somewhere you are encouraging bikes great but it's not practical you are making medway great for those who don't work and drive but a nightmare if you do
With the Luton Arches being repaired and road restrictions being in place, drivers have found alternative routes of getting to Chatham. This will have improved the air quality for residents and we need to look at diverting drivers in different directions, thus sharing the burden of polluted air more equally. More greenery would also help absorb pollution. A better and more affordable system of bus fares, such as a maximum journey cost, would encourage more people onto public transport.

That photo is from lockdown luton and chatham hill will always be busy due to traffic travelling through and the more roads you shut or close off creates even more traffic people still need to commute

Bringing back tree lined roads, introducing a 20mph speed limit throughout the area, redesigning the road layouts for the benefit of the majority of the areas citizens would bring about major health benefits to the citizens of the area.

New developments should be future-proofed (electric charging, cycle storage, etc)? (the Plan, pages 27 - 28)

11 responses



Additional comments

good quality developments should be around for years to come - it is important that they are still attractive and fit for purpose well into the future. thinking about this at point of build has to make sense economically, as retro-fitting is usually more difficult and more costly.

If you make transport relatively cheap (less than the price to park) then the shift to its use will happen. Look at the tram system in Croydon as an example

Because this is the only way future change enters the present. I hear lots of neighbours saying 'Why would we need lots of electric charging points - no one will use them!' But 'if you build it, they (electric cars) will come'!!!!

We need to plan for the next fifty years not just the next ten. By 2050 all cars/buses should be EV, bikes and walking will be the preferred way of travelling

although if you are going to take car parking spaces away to do it then I would disagree

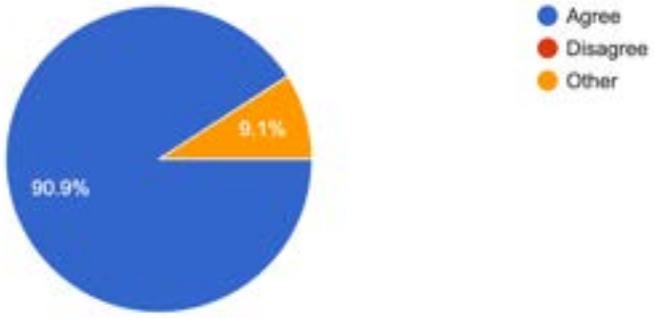
There will always be a need for cars, emergency service workers, care workers and district nurses for example but to encourage the use of less polluting vehicles, there needs to be electric charging points included especially on new developments. Any new developments in the town centre should not have any parking bays because they are in the town where all the shops are. Medway council should encourage car share schemes eg use of bus lanes for cars with multiple occupation, ANPR cameras could pick up any offenders. Perhaps even pick up and drop off car schemes. Electric scooters, which I tried in Poland, enable you to travel along wide paths which you share with pedestrians and bicycles. You can pick up and drop off the scooters using an app which in built up areas even slow the speed

automatically, so you cannot go faster than the set speed.

The answer to too many cars is not replacing them all with electric battery cars. There needs to be a credible and affordable alternative to getting into a car and doing a big shop. Electric battery cars need to have a charging point and that will require digging up all of the areas roads and pavements. The idea of using trams, again, would require major infrastructure costs and changes and most of the area is hills. There is very little attention given to hydrogen fuel cells which could use the existing petroleum infrastructure. Fuel cell buses that not expensive to for the citizen to use is the way forward for the area and Medway. Installation of electric trams in Medway would make the Edinborough experience look like a picnic.

In urban environments, we should aim to have access to our basic day-to-day needs within a 15-minute walk of our home? (the Plan, pages 27 - 28)

11 responses



Additional comments
if it's possible to remain local, this will build the community and the neighbourhood. people will be less reliant on vehicles, as they will be able to walk to most amenities.
Our growing elderly population need a strong, convenient infrastructure to support their needs
Because commuting miles to designated 'work centres' is old fashioned. Modern society has more appreciation of the work, life balance - and of the economic and creative possibilities of EVERY area - (not just cities like London). Only by truly investing in our immediate area can we maximise the potential of our home area. Home means something different now to what it used to - work is not an escape, but should be building uniqueness around us. Improving every sector of our lives locally, means no area is an abandoned crumbling wreck consisting of one room bedrooms for sleeping only.
Very strongly agree - our health and wellbeing depends on this approach and especially the health and wellbeing of the next generation!!
we do the high street is already within that distance
Medway Council's planning department need to use this as a yardstick when allowing developments and by the restriction of parking bays can encourage people to shop locally providing they also get key shops in the area.

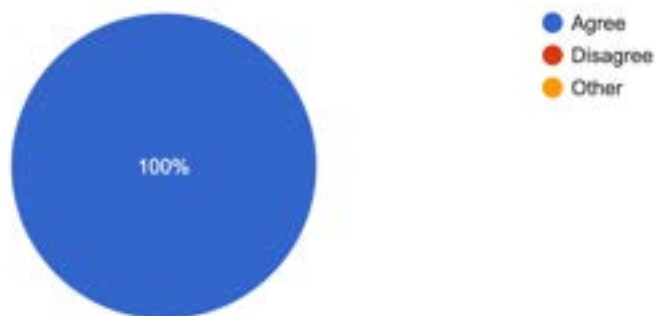
There is no where in the target area more than 15 minutes from a shop

Most of your daily shopping and personal requirements should be able to be achieved within a 15 to 20 minute walk. With better designed walking routes, safer pavements, more affordable quality shop units providing beneficial businesses with a market, this area can be returned to a thriving place once more.

Week 7: Community Spaces

We need child-friendly and family-oriented spaces if we're wanting our neighbourhood to be one in which people choose to raise families? (the Plan, pages 29 - 30)

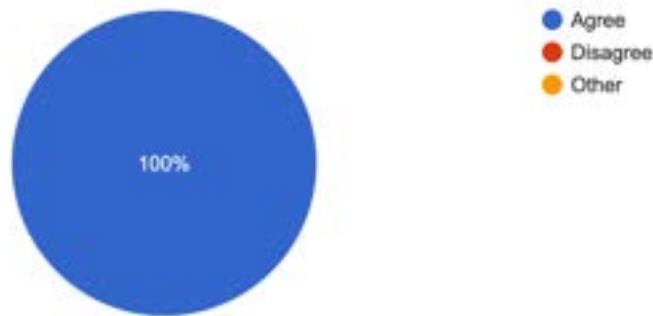
11 responses



Additional comments
This plan is not just for now but the next generation and the one after that!
Although there's are greens no ball games or any games allowed
Communities and children need to have friendly accessible space it's where the whole community can enjoy.
The area is currently over used for hostels, temporary accommodation and what green space there is unfortunately not maintained regularly
Luton needs to be greener and cleaner
if youre lucky enough to be able to genuinely choose where you live, and you have family, you are likely to look for somewhere with facilities for your children. I we want this to be an attractive area, then we need to make sure we've got those spaces. And, then they're there for the people who have no choice, too
For too long family houses in Luton Road have been bought up by absenteeism landlords, converted into flats and leased in short term let's. This doesn't allow for families to stay in the area and so tenants are transient by nature. This doesn't help a community stabilise and grow and makes it much more fragile.
Families and outdoor space need to be designed with wellbeing in mind. Luton with so many HMOs doesn't always have the best living conditions or air quality so ensuring that such spaces exist is imperative.
We want areas for families to play and grow without being run down by vehicles.

New developments should include inclusive community spaces for residents and the wider community? (the Plan, pages 29 - 30)

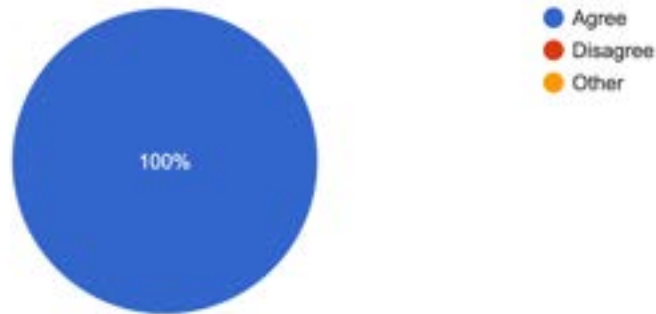
11 responses



Additional comments
We want to make the community whole and not divide it into areas of deprivation and affluence, or different ethnic groups. We also want to make the area a place people call home for work, education, recreation and neighbourhood.
Yes all these flats with no where to meet people makes people miserable
So that there is a proper community feel people begin to feel part of a community and proud of where they live
The area is blighted by one landlord who's intent on segregating the community
Help to build a stronger a stronger local sprite
in order for the residents in a new development to become a community, they need to be able to meet together - so it would make sense for there to be spaces for this to happen. (Loved the idea of a common house that Jackson talked about in the video).
I've been to the Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre and it's a model that could work equally well giving affordable office space to small local charity and community organisations
if we can stay local for the things we need this helps us to value the area, discourages antisocial behaviour and boosts local economy.
Too often such token spaces are outlined from s.106 contributions but without much thought about how it could benefit the wider community. It needs to be inclusive to all needs. There needs to be better play facilities and activities for youth, outdoor gym equipment. Friendly gardens which encourages community get together, like a village Hall or something where people can get together more. Millennium green is great but that also has potential for more, outdoor performances etc, harness art and culture. Food events to celebrate multi cultural cuisine.
New developments should contain spaces for community and businesses to thrive.

Our community is lacking in sports and play facilities that are accessible to the whole community?
 (The Plan, pages 29 - 30)

11 responses

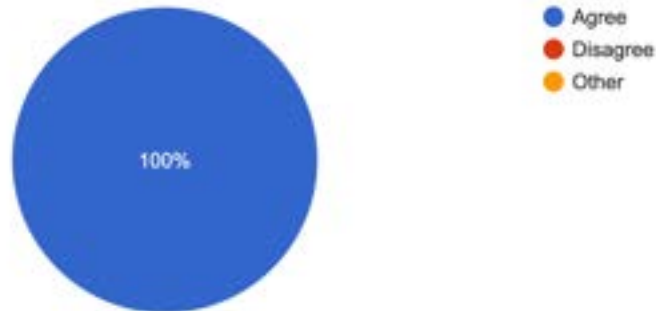


Additional comments
Lack of suitable space and investment.
Many children are differently abled in our community.
The area has been allowed to be over developed leaving no real space for sports
To give local kids exercise.
Lots of green areas are being developed for housing and during the lockdown of 2020 the importance of play areas and sports areas were shown to be important in people's mental and physical health. They need to be local if we want to help combat obesity and associated health issues.
Absolutely. There are no facilities. Maybe something like rock climbing walls or outdoor gym facilities, or multi purpose grounds. Indoor facilities too if there were a big enough community space.
We want open green spaces and play facilities for the whole community to use.

Week 8: Public Realm

New developments should provide an opportunity to improve pedestrian routes with high quality paving and raised crossing points? (Pages 24-26, the Plan)

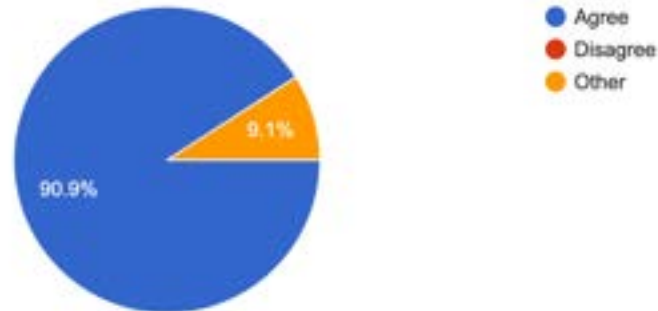
11 responses



Additional comments
We ned to make walking the preferred way of travelling around the area for health and environmental reasons
To encourage people to walk.
New developments should try to be as safe as possible
Reduce reliance on cars
walking is good for people - but people need to feel safe walking. it is time for pedestrians to take priority, rather than traffic. this will make things safer - possibly particularly for children??
As a community everyone should have accessibility to well maintained and high quality pedestrian routes. And after years of neglect in our area the local authority has a chance to improve the surroundings and ease of access.
New and existing pedestrian routes need to be maintained for the citizen to traverse the area safely, without the need for a vehicle and therefore should be constructed of materials that facilitate this maintenance.

Lost and poorly designed spaces can create an opportunity for anti-social behavior? (Pages 24-26, the Plan)

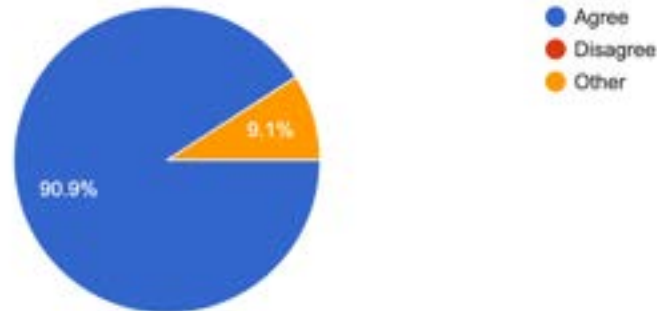
11 responses



Additional comments
This question is about how our residents perceive where they live. Is it a place we love, or a place we don't care about. There should be no lost and poorly designed spaces.
They become less desirable and cheaper so naturally the average demographic follows and the proportion of decent residents drops. Everywhere has good and bad of course but you get more bad in lesser areas for obvious reasons.
anti social behaviour usually happens in places where groups can form like parks, towns that are nice and enjoyable for youths to hang out, fly tipping happens everywhere regardless of the type of space drug dealing happens everywhere there's there's different escape routes it doesn't matter how nice somewhere is antisocial behaviour occurs
The land of the bed sit.
we constantly see these 'wasted' areas filled with rubbish in this way. an attractive, useful area would be appreciated by residents, rather than seen as a place to dump things.
With the small areas like the one above there is a constant supply of rubbish, whereas a little forethought by placing a planter on that area would make it much more pleasant and the litter would disappear. Even something like a rubbish compound with planted flower troughs on top and around would be more sightly than loads of black rubbish bags which get split and cause unsightly messes. Or even supply dustbins so people could have them on the edge of their property and place their rubbish inside until collection day. This would stop the bags being torn open by vermin and keep the smell and flies contained.
Poorly designed spaces should not be left to rot. They should be designed out from the start and existing spaces be remodelled for a useful purpose like a tree, not the current alternative of a flytip spot or a car space.

Street trees are good for residents, they create places which people find more pleasant and prefer to travel along? (Pages 24-26, the Plan)

11 responses



Additional comments
On so many levels trees are fundamentally important to our neighbourhood. For shelter and shade, for biodiversity, for clean air, for their visual beauty and for our mental wellbeing.
Many reasons. Makes everything more pleasing on the eye.
it depends they also block light from your windows and dark homes are depressing, they cause mess and slip hazards for people and bike riders they take away vital car parking spaces just to look pretty? Flower beds are prettier, less mess and do not block natural light when placed outside someone's home and the cost of cutting them back every year is expensive, if you must plant trees they should be fruit trees so children can have free fruit on their walks
Environmental, attracting wildlife.
being in nature has proven mental health benefits. having greenery around in the form of street trees would be good for mental and physical well-being, as trees also help 'soak-up' pollution. I would love to see street trees around, also flowers on lamp-posts etc.
A greener, more pleasant environment is much better for peoples mental health and makes people feel much happier in their surroundings than wall to wall concrete and tarmac. You only need to look at tree lined avenues to see how much more the area is improved.
The right tree in the right space is good for everyone, not the current offer which is trees in the wrong space them deliberately killed by incompetence.

Issues, priorities and concerns raised and how they have been considered:

<p>9 representations were received from statutory and non-statutory consultation bodies within the consultation period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Medway Council ● Natural England ● Kent County Council Heritage Conservation ● Historic England ● Chatham Maritime Trust ● Highways England ● Southern Water ● Sport England ● Environment Agency 	<p>125 representations were received from the general public within the consultation period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 24 Regulation 14 online form (Google Form) responses. ● 101 themed survey responses. ● 0 paper responses.
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How have concerns raised by local stakeholders been considered?

Overall, the comments on the pre-submission draft Neighbourhood Plan from local stakeholders were positive and supportive of the Neighbourhood Forum's aims to bring about positive change in the Neighbourhood Area. Amongst the comments received, three points were raised multiple times for consideration. The table below lists these concerns and the resulting action that was taken in 2021. Subsequent amendments were made to the policies following the second round of Regulation 14 in 2022.

Theme/topic	Concerns/comments raised by local stakeholders	Action taken
Built and Natural Environment		
Street trees	Tree build outs along Luton Road leading to a reduction in the number of parking spaces.	Policy <i>BNE4 - Street Trees</i> expanded to include details on street tree strategies for narrow roads, aided by the Design Code. The need for street trees responds to the urgent climate change and air quality crisis, as well as to the feedback received from local residents.
Site Allocations		
Site Allocation	Site allocation: Garages on Lawn Close	Due to a lack of support for the allocation of the garages on Lawn Close and the complex land ownership structure of the site, this site allocation was removed from the Neighbourhood Plan.
Site Allocation	Site allocation: Luton Invicta Club Car Park	Due to a lack of support for the allocation of the Luton Invicta Club Car Park and the site's contribution to the functioning of the community space, this site allocation was removed from the Neighbourhood Plan.

How have concerns raised by statutory and non-statutory consultation bodies been considered?

Theme/topic	Comments/suggestions from consultation body	Action taken
Built and Natural Environment		
Climate Resilience	Recommendation to include the importance of building climate resilience.	Reference to climate resilience added to the introduction of the Built and Natural Environment Chapter.
Biodiversity	Strengthening policies around biodiversity and greenery.	Further reference to biodiversity net gain mutual benefits added to the Built and Natural Environment chapter introduction.
Biodiversity	Tightening language around tree planting to ensure native biodiversity.	Policy <i>BNE4 - Street Trees</i> was updated to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan recommends native biodiverse planting and street trees where possible.
Street Trees	Expanding the Tree Strategy to address the practical issue of tree planting in a variety of settings, including on narrow roads.	Policy <i>BNE4 - Street Trees</i> expanded to include details on street tree strategies for narrow roads.
Street Trees	Providing recommendations for the funding of tree planting in the Neighbourhood Area.	Policy <i>BNE4 - Street Trees</i> expanded to include details on funding options for tree planting.
Street Trees	Providing details of the future maintenance of street trees in the Neighbourhood Area.	Policy <i>BNE4 - Street Trees</i> expanded to include details on future maintenance.
Open Spaces	Allowing the reduction of green space provision for essential improvements and works to water and wastewater infrastructure for any sites allocated for development where there is no other feasible alternative.	Caveat added to <i>Policy BNE3 - Open Space</i> to allow for reduction in green space for the purposes of essential utilities infrastructure where there is not feasible alternative.
Non-designated Heritage Assets	The neighbourhood plan could go further to highlight the importance of local heritage assets in the context of local development by nominating buildings and sites within the Neighbourhood Area for	A new policy, <i>BNE5 - Non-designated Heritage Assets</i> , was added.

	consideration for non-designated heritage asset status.	
Housing		
HMOs	Clarifying language around what is meant by a HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) in the context of the Neighbourhood Area.	Policy <i>HO5 - HMOs</i> was updated in line with Medway Council's definition of HMOs.
Family Housing	Clarifying language around what is meant by Family Housing in the context of the Neighbourhood Area.	A clear definition of 'family housing' was added to Policy <i>HO3</i> .
Outdoor Space	Recommendation to update policies concerning the provision of outdoor space as part of any new development in line with Medway Council's standards.	Policy <i>HO6 - Outdoor Space</i> has been updated and brought into line with Medway Council's standards on open space.
Affordable Housing	The Neighbourhood Plan referenced the Lifetime Homes standard, which is no longer up to date.	Policy <i>HO1</i> has been updated and references to defunct policies removed.
Protecting Heritage Assets	Recommendation to improve consideration of local heritage assets in the context of new housing developments.	A new policy, <i>HO7 - Historic Environment</i> , was added to ensure that new development does not harm heritage assets. This is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 185) which states that "great weight" should be given to the need to conserve designated heritage assets against the threat imposed by new developments.
Essential Utilities Access	Recommendation to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan allows for essential utilities access as part of any new development.	A new policy, <i>HO8 - New and Improved Utility Infrastructure</i> , was added in alignment with the National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 28) which states that communities should set out detailed policies for 'the provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level'.
Community Space		
Play Space	Recommend providing criteria for good play space to set a	Policy <i>CS1</i> was expanded to include criteria that play spaces should meet

	standard for the Neighbourhood Area.	to be considered high quality, in line with Play England's guidance <i>Design for Play</i> .
Existing green spaces	Recommend strengthening the Neighbourhood Plan's coverage of existing green spaces and other sources of natural capital besides tree planting.	A new policy, <i>CS4 - Enhancing existing green spaces</i> , was added covering the maintenance and enhancement of existing green spaces for increased biodiversity.
Listing community assets	Recommend changing the wording of 'assets of community value' as the listing process for assets of community value is separate to the Neighbourhood Planning process.	Policy <i>CS1</i> was updated from 'assets of community value' to 'safeguarding existing social infrastructure'. The updated policy better protects the community use of the building in this context.
Local Economy		
Affordable rents and business rates	Strengthening policies to ensure affordable rent and business rates as part of new developments.	Policy <i>E1</i> has been reworded and expanded to include quantifiable planning obligations for the provision of affordable workspace for certain organisations as part of any redevelopment. This included adding in definitions of the types of organisations that qualify, and the threshold at which a development is considered to be enough to be obliged to provide such provisions.
Sustainable Transport		
Car-lite development	The Neighbourhood Plan should define what is meant by the aim to promote 'car-lite' in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan.	Policy <i>ST4</i> parking standards have been updated in line with Medway Guidance to provide measurable standards for 'car-lite' developments.
Traffic calming	The Neighbourhood Plan should go further to include examples of traffic calming interventions.	Policy <i>ST3 - Humanising Luton Road</i> has been expanded to include examples of traffic calming interventions.
Community Action Plan		

Funding and delivery	The Neighbourhood Plan could detail potential funding and delivery options for the Community Action Plan projects.	Details on funding options for community projects added to the Community Action Plan.
Site Allocations		
Essential Infrastructure	Site allocations should include an awareness of the potential need for reinforcement of local water and wastewater infrastructure.	Key considerations for all sites allocated expanded to include consideration of the potential need for reinforcement of local water and wastewater infrastructure. This is in alignment with the National Planning Practice Guidance that states 'adequate water and wastewater infrastructure is needed to support sustainable development'.
Impact to heritage assets	Site allocations should include consideration of the impact to designated and non-designated heritage assets.	Key considerations for all sites allocated expanded to include consideration of the potential impact to designated and non-designated heritage assets.
Heritage		
Heritage policies	Improving consideration of the local built heritage in the Neighbourhood Plan policies.	In the Vision and Aims Chapter, a new policy area and objective was added covering 'Historic Character'; protecting and enhancing the area's heritage assets and historic environment to enhance the local sense of character.
Heritage context	Better reflecting the local history throughout the Neighbourhood Plan to guide decisions and put broader strategic heritage policies from the local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale.	A page on Local Heritage was added to the Introduction chapter, covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A list of designated heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Area. ● A list of Conservation Areas within the Neighbourhood Area.

Regulation 15 (May 2021)

During the eighth week of our 10-week Regulation 14 consultation period, Medway Council notified us that a screening report concluded that further assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan under Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was required if the Plan was to progress. This dramatically altered the sequence of events that would follow.

We engaged with Locality to better understand the implications and options of these environmental reports. The forum was made aware that it was possible for these reports to be commissioned through our neighbourhood planning technical support package delivered by AECOM. A decision had to be made by the forum whether or not to commission the creation of these reports, and what impact this may have on the regulatory stages that were to follow for the Neighbourhood Plan. Two main options were considered:

1. Commission the SEA and HRA reports during Regulation 15 with these being publicised to statutory consultees in Regulation 16 as advised by Medway Council, or;
2. Commission the reports as soon as possible and to rerun Regulation 14 to provide statutory consultees an opportunity to make representations in light of the findings of the documents as advised by Locality. It was also advised that a Health Check Review should be undertaken to assess whether the draft plan meets the basic conditions and to provide advice on any potential amendments required to ensure the conditions are met, prior to submission of the plan to Medway Council.

The forum received the completed SEA and HRA reports by early 2022. During an Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 28 March 2022, the forum unanimously decided to rerun Regulation 14 for 6-8 weeks as soon as possible, in order to realign the regulatory pathway of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The forum was advised that the Regulation 14 rerun did not have to be as extensive as the first Regulation 14 carried out in 2021, as it was primarily targeted towards statutory consultees. The forum also agreed to commission a Health Check Review.

June 2021 - Neighbourhood Development Order

While the forum awaited the findings from the HRA and the SEA, an opportunity was presented to explore the future of a site in Chatham town centre within our Neighbourhood Area, resulting from the closure of the Go Outdoors superstore. The forum was successful in receiving £50,000 from the then Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to devise a community-led vision and masterplan setting out possible ideas for the site, which could potentially evolve into a Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO). This is what we call Heart of Chatham.

The NDO offered an opportunity to restart physical community engagement following the challenges and restrictions throughout the pandemic period. A large-scale engagement programme was undertaken by the forum, which identified people's priorities and ideas for the site and the wider Neighbourhood Area from August until November 2021. The engagement programme encompassed:

- Two master planning charrettes with Create Streets
- Planning over pizza workshop

- Two drop-in events held at Luton Primary School and the Pentagon Shopping Centre
- Young planners workshop
- Visual preference surveys
- Online Google Forms survey

As a result of the engagement programme, over 1,200 people fed into the process, which shaped the evolving vision and masterplan. While it did not form a formal part of the neighbourhood planning process, the programme exposed our work towards creating a Neighbourhood Plan to many people that may not have participated in the Regulation 14 consultation due to the pandemic. The findings from this engagement programme provided an opportunity for the forum to compare statements and conclusions between this site-specific exercise and resonating with the wider Neighbourhood Area. The NDO feasibility programme further strengthened the evidence base of the draft Neighbourhood Plan through the production of a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) and ongoing viability assessments by Bailey Venning Associates and Civic Engineers.

The data from our survey of 649 responses can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3irXyEh>.

A summary of the consultation feedback can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3OWKQtn>

The Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3Epsail>

Regulation 14 2022

The Forum agreed to rerun Regulation 14 on 3 May for a period for 8 weeks until 28 June with the aim of primarily targeting statutory consultees while accepting additional public feedback.

Issues, priorities and concerns raised and how they have been considered:

<p>8 representations were received from statutory and non-statutory consultation bodies within the consultation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Medway Council ● Historic England ● Sport England ● Network Rail ● Environment Agency ● Natural England ● Southern Water ● Savills on behalf of Donard Living (developer of Buzz Bingo Chatham site) 	<p>0 representations were received from the general public within the consultation period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 Regulation 14 online form responses. ● 0 paper responses.
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How have concerns raised by statutory and non-statutory consultation bodies been considered?

Theme/topic	Comments/suggestions from consultation body	Action taken
Built and Natural Environment		
Non-designated Heritage Assets (NDHA)	Specific advice provided to further strengthen the rationale for the nominated buildings/site, in addition to general advice regarding the identification of NDHA nominations.	Neighbourhood Plan wording and Appendix B amended.
Public Open Spaces	Policy <i>BNE3 - Public Open Spaces</i> could include a requirement for retained open space.	Policy wording amended.
Priority habitat deciduous woodlands	The Neighbourhood Plan should promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitat deciduous woodlands located within the Neighbourhood Area.	Incorporated additional wording about priority habitat deciduous woodland into Policy BNE5 - Protection of Designated Sites.
Public Realm Enhancement	Policy <i>BNE1 - Public Realm Enhancement</i> should be amended to mention other Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS) designs.	Policy wording amended.

Housing		
Historic Environment	Wording for Policy <i>HO7 - Historic Environment</i> should be amended to better reflect the policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework to conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.	Policy wording amended.
Site Allocations	Policy <i>HO4 - Site Allocations</i> should require contributions to the Thames, Medway and Swale Estuaries Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy. The policy should also incorporate wording about the harm to designated heritage assets.	Policy wording and rationale amended.
Site Allocations		
Site allocation - Union Place	Concerns were raised by a potential developer regarding the prematurity of the Neighbourhood Plan in light of the emerging Medway Local Plan, the conformity to the Chatham Town Centre Masterplan 2019, and the indicative land use, site capacity and indicative building heights put forward by the allocation.	We have granted greater flexibility by replacing site-specific housing numbers with indicative density ranges. The indicative land use of the site allocation was also amended to 'residential-led mixed use' and the indicative building heights were updated in line with the ACNP Design Code (Appendix A). No action needed regarding prematurity concern, as the progression of the Neighbourhood Plan is influenced by the LPA. The site is also not included within the Chatham Town Centre Masterplan 2019 and falls outside the town centre boundary.

The Forum received Medway Council's (LPA) consolidated Regulation 14 comments in September 2022. A link to their comments and the Forum's initial response and actions (where appropriate) can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3gWUJe8>. The Forum has had ongoing conversations and meetings with the LPA throughout Regulation 15 where further advice has been given on policy and rationale wording.

Conclusion of Regulation 14 2021 & 2022

The publicity, engagement and consultation undertaken to support the preparation of the Arches (Chatham) Neighbourhood Plan has been open and transparent, with many varied opportunities provided for those that live, work, and do business within the Neighbourhood Area to contribute to the process, make comment, and to raise issues, priorities, and concerns.

All statutory requirements have been met and a significant level of additional consultation, engagement, and research has been completed. This Consultation Statement has been produced to document the consultation and engagement process undertaken and is considered to comply with Part 5, Section 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Regulation 15 2022

From July to December 2022, the Forum began making alterations to the plan in light of the SEA, HRA, Health Check Review and representations made from statutory and non-statutory bodies during the Regulation 14 rerun. The feedback from the Health Check Review encompassed a detailed analysis of the Plan and its supporting documents totalling over 10,000 words, which would be too exhaustive to document all the amendments made following the review findings.