

What makes a good quality of life in Derbyshire? Consultation with local people on their priorities for Derbyshire

Older People

What activities were undertaken and why?

Officers attended 50+ Forum meetings in Glossop, Belper and Bolsover to talk to older people about what makes a good quality of life.

Surveys and questionnaires reveal what is important to local people but a variety of reasons may influence their choices. The idea of this consultation was to peel back the layers and get people talking openly and honestly to develop a better understanding of local priorities and use the feedback to help shape future plans, strategies and projects (e.g. the Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy and partners' own corporate plans). People were specifically asked what is important to their quality of life to open the discussion and then chose their top priorities.

The sessions focused on the following 19 topics:

- Strengthening a sense of community
- Climate change
- Highways, roads and transport
- Access to services
- Parks and open spaces
- Support people to live independently
- Affordable decent housing
- Fire safety
- Road traffic collisions
- Educational attainment
- Crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime
- Qualifications, skills and job prospects
- Vibrant towns and village centres
- Health and well-being
- Reduce, re-use, recycle
- Clean streets
- Activities for adults
- Activities for children and young people
- Tourism

When did the consultation take place?

Discussions took place between September 2008 and January 2009.

How many people were involved?

Around 155 people were involved and the following feedback forms outline their views.

Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2014 Consultation Feedback



derbyshire partnership forum

At the last round of 50+ Forums we asked some groups what their priorities for their local area were, and what made a good quality of life for them. Below is an overview of what you told us and how this compares to feedback from the rest of Derbyshire.

50+ Forums

Belper

Top Priorities:

- Access to services
- Highways, roads and transport
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime
- Support people to live independently

Comments:

The majority of comments were around people being able to get to places on the bus. This came out in four of the above priorities. Many of the older people we spoke to felt hindered in accessing services due to the lack of public transport. They felt the bus passes were good but that more consideration should be given to bus routes and the location of bus stops so that they are close to services and shopping centres.

People felt that the bus service could be improved and that the timing was not linked up to services. One older person commented on the lack of wheelchair accessible buses and told of waiting over two hours for an accessible bus. It was suggested that to resolve this, that accessible buses should be highlighted on the timetables.

People commented on the new doctors surgery and how due to the lack of bus service it was difficult to get there. In addition people were concerned about its location on a busy road and would like to see a zebra crossing put in place.

Living independently was seen as a priority and staying in your own home for as long as possible was viewed as preferable to going into a home or sheltered accommodation. Although independence was seen as very important many were also concerned about isolation as many older people live on their own and thought that getting help would be difficult and expensive.

The group also commented that inter-generational activities are good for building relationships i.e. 50+ and young mums are often on own at home in the day, could they meet at a shared activity.

'Put more services into the new surgery, i.e. chiropody and blood testing so people don't have to travel to Babbington Hospital'.

	<p><i>'Being able to see a GP when needed is important; you have to wait too long'.</i></p> <p><i>'We need to make sure that public transport is available, the new Doctors surgery in Belper isn't easy to get to as bus routes are not great and it is too far to walk'.</i></p>
Top priorities for all 50+ Forums consulted based on comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways, roads and transport • Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime • Improve health and wellbeing • Supporting people to live independently • Activities for children and young people
Bottom priorities for all 50+ Forums consulted based on comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational attainment • Tackling climate change • Improve fire safety • Strengthening a sense of community • Parks and open spaces
Top 5 County Priorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve health and wellbeing 2. Highways, roads and transport 3. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime 4. Affordable decent housing 5. Activities for children and young people
Bottom 5 County Priorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activities for adults 2. Improving fire safety 3. Reduce road traffic collisions 4. Tackling climate change 5. Tourism

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50+ Forums	Bolsover
<p>Top Priorities:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime • Activities for adults • Highways, roads and transport • Reduce, re-use, recycle • Support people to live independently • Clean streets
<p>Comments:</p>	<p>People were afraid of crime and specifically would like to see more Police on patrol although there was wide support for PCSOs. People mentioned being scared to go out at night and being afraid of young people congregating together. Conversely though there were some who felt that crime was no a priority for this area as there were much worse areas in the county and in the country.</p> <p>There were quite a few comments around activities for adults, some would like to see more exercise classes for the elderly and more provision locally for leisure. This was closely linked with access to services as people struggled to get to activities further a field. Older people in this area would like to see more public transport, making getting out and about easier.</p> <p>Recycling was very important to the older people in the Bolsover area. Residents would like to see an enhanced kerbside collection with plastic and cardboard being included. Some also found the blue box hard to carry when full and would prefer something on wheels.</p> <p>Being able to live independently was also a priority for this group with being able to stay in your own home important for independence. People would like more advice on how to access home helps and being able to get help with things like gardening, hedge cutting and improving insulation.</p> <p>Finally, clean streets were also important with many complaining about dog mess in the streets and in parks.</p> <p><i>'Would like to see more police, we never see any police on the street'.</i></p> <p><i>'Activities for adults are important to help people stay active and healthy. Activities and the means to get to venues should be more widely promoted'.</i></p>

	<i>'Fly tipping is worse since the closure of the facility at South Normanton; we cannot go to Huthwaite as told they are not residents of Nottinghamshire'.</i>
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50+ Forums	Glossop
<p>Top Priorities:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways, roads and transport • Access to services • Affordable decent housing • Vibrant town and village centres • Activities for children and young people
<p>Comments:</p>	<p>People were generally not happy with the traffic and road network around Glossop with too many wagons and trucks than the single lanes can take. People recognised that building new roads is difficult in an area like Glossop due to the hills.</p> <p>They were also unhappy with the public transport from Glossop to Manchester and to outlying villages which a lot of the older people relied on. People commented that the Sunday service was very poor if any and that generally the last buses finished very early some as early as 5.30pm to outlying villages. Travel to Tameside, which provides some health services and to Manchester is also difficult due to the poor public transport.</p> <p>This group would like to see more affordable housing and suggested building older peoples accommodation in the old mills as this would solve many of the public transport and access issues. People also complained that much of the housing being produced is not affordable but luxury accommodation for commuters.</p> <p>People felt that making Glossop more accessible with more bus services, affordable housing and more local services would add to a feeling of a vibrant town. They felt that investment should be for these things instead of luxury flats and wine bars.</p> <p>The older people of Glossop also felt that there needs to be more activities and clubs for young people to go to. They said that the activities provided were not always what is wanted and that the young people should be asked what they would like to see put on.</p> <p><i>'The road network in and around Glossop is bad, when one road is shut it causes a lot of congestion. More</i></p>

	<p><i>housing will exacerbate this’.</i></p> <p><i>‘There are too many bars and takeaways already without building more’.</i></p> <p><i>‘I’m concerned for teenagers; there is just not enough for them to do’</i></p>
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