

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

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Communities

What activities were undertaken and why?

Officers attended Derbyshire's BME Forums to talk to people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds about what makes a good quality of life. Members of the forum also worked with their individual communities to complete additional questionnaires.

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?

Over 90 people were involved and the following feedback forms outline their views.

Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2014 Consultation Feedback



We asked people 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.

BME Forums

Top Priorities:

- Improve health and wellbeing
- Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime
- Strengthening a sense of community
- Improve qualifications, skills and job prospects
- Activities for children and young people

Bottom Priorities

- Tourism
- Reduce, re-use, recycle
- Reduce road traffic collisions
- Improve fire safety
- Tackling climate change

Comments:

Asian residents

Many comments related to community activities, having activities that were culturally appropriate whilst including a mix of people and celebrating different cultures. Many thought that this would go a long way towards improving community cohesion. Much of the Asian community are concerned about house prices and state this as a reason why many from this community live in Derby, Nottingham or Sheffield. They state that poor wage levels are also to blame for young Asians moving away. Crime was stated as a main concern however some comments stated that much crime is underreported as people do not trust the police to do anything. Job prospects were stated as the main reason for choosing where to live, if those prospects declined then people felt they would move elsewhere. People also recognised the benefits that working and living locally has to the economy. There were also concerns that people were being discriminated against in the local job market. Many praised local health services, and liked the fact that they are available locally. However, some felt that more needs to be done to address specific health needs of the Asian population.

'Health and wellbeing are very important to me. I'm trying to get my family to be more active and access to good levels of sport and leisure facilities is incredibly important to me'.

'Having a job is a matter of great pride in my community. If job prospects are poor then members would consider leaving Chesterfield'.

Chinese residents

Many felt that there should be more community activities with different cultures to help bring them together and understand each other. They also felt that race relations were important as it promotes a more understanding and tolerant society. People wanted to live in safe, friendly areas with low levels of crime.

	<p>Keeping health services local was also important and people recognised that good health is essential for a happy life. They would also like to see more sport and leisure facilities for older people. Regarding activities for children and young people many felt that there should be more for young people to do to discourage anti-social behaviour and to better educate children around cultural differences. People were not happy about the level of traffic congestion and felt that good public transport links were essential.</p> <p><i>'Access to good health services will promote healthier area and stronger workforce'.</i></p> <p><i>'It is important the community has a lot of activities and facilities for our members. It can bring people together'.</i></p> <p>Black, Mixed and Other residents This group felt that having health services available locally was important. They also recognised the link between lifestyle and health. Job prospects were seen as important to a good quality of life especially because it brings financial stability. Activities for children were seen as important as a diversionary activity and the group felt that there should be more activities available for young people. The high level of traffic congestion was important to this group who also felt that there should be more cheap and reliable public transport. They also felt the police did not respond to some incidents as they were not seen as important even though they affected people's public safety. Some stated that they don't feel as safe as they'd like.</p> <p><i>'The children need something to do to keep them off the streets'.</i></p> <p><i>'When police were told about young people misbehaving we have been told that they are too busy'.</i></p>
<p>Top 5 County Priorities:</p>	<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
<p>Bottom 5 County Priorities:</p>	<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