



## Listening to Berry Brow 25th to 31st March 2019

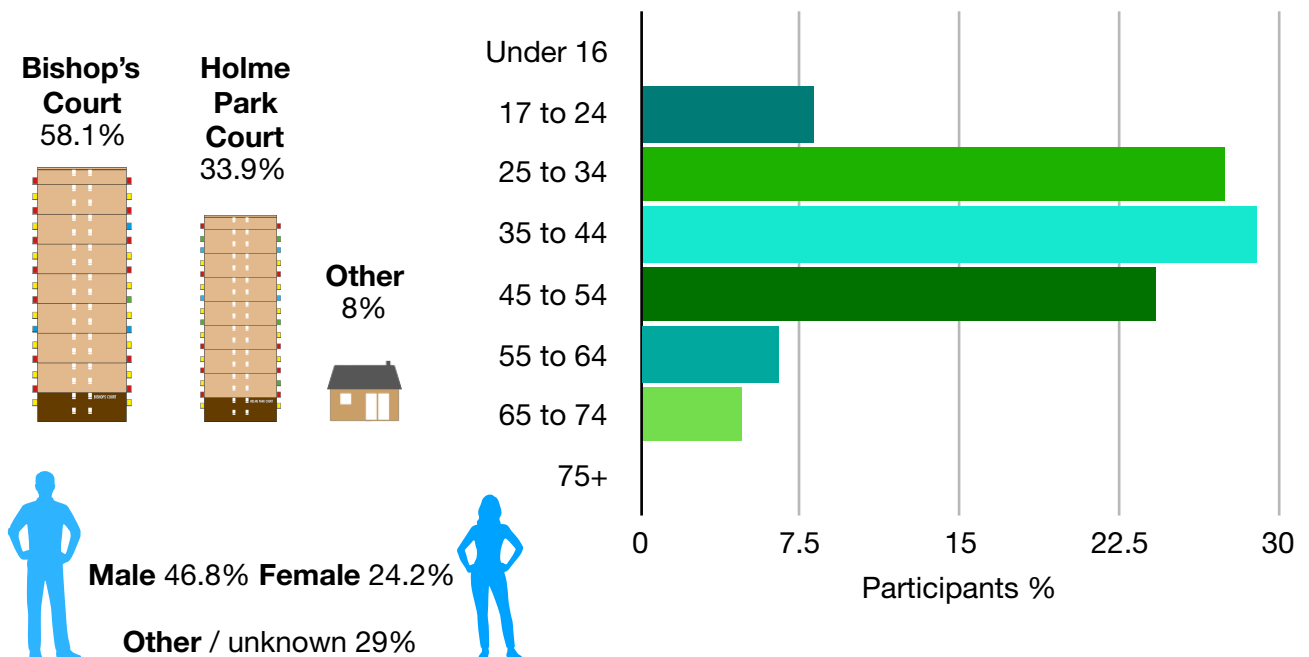
### What we did

KNH (Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing) worked in partnership with Kirklees Council to talk to people in and around Bishop's Court and Holme Park Court in Berry Brow, using a tool called the "Place Standard". This is a way of helping to get conversations going about any place (it could be your street, neighbourhood or town), by using some simple questions. Our aim was to understand what people feel are the priorities for their homes, to help with planning investments for the future.

### Who participated?

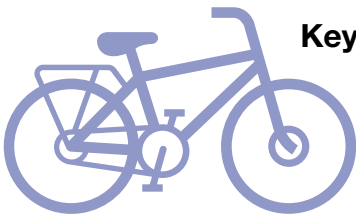
Staff from KNH and Kirklees Council talked to residents in their homes and people in the wider area around Bishop's Court and Holme Park Court. We also held 3 drop-in events.

**62** citizens took part and completed Place Standard assessments



# What participants said

## Moving around



### Key issues:

The main road (Woodhead Road) is busy at peak times, making it difficult for car users to pull out. People store their bikes on the balconies rather than using the bike bins supplied. Older people struggle with the steps up to Woodhead Road.

It's a long way to walk to town, if you can't access public transport.

**Suggestions:** Bike shed information should be included in the sign up pack.



## Public transport



### Key issues:

The majority of participants said that the area is well served by buses and trains, however some feel that the cost of travel is too high.



## Traffic and parking



### Key issues:

Participants said that the volume traffic on Woodhead Road is a problem. Residents would like to see more motorbike sheds (there are currently 4). Some residents said that there is

ample parking, whereas others think it is limited. Participants said that mini motorbikes are an issue in the area.



## Streets and spaces

### Key issues:



Participants said that the area around the flats is unattractive - most shops are boarded up and they feel that the flats themselves are unattractive and in need of investment. There are issues with dog waste on the grassed areas surrounding the flats and near the entrances. Rubbish is sometimes thrown from balconies.

Alcohol and drug use is also a problem.



**Suggestions:** Increase street cleaning.

*"It's hard to make a block of flats attractive."*

*"The planted areas are neat. Rubbish is quickly picked up. Residents use the football court."*

*"Everything is uphill."*

## Natural space



### Key issues:

Lots of accessible natural space in which people enjoy walking. Participants mentioned that rubbish along the river bank is an issue, with some people saying that they didn't feel safe walking along the riverbank. The village has access to some excellent natural spaces but some of the paths need improving and can suffer from dog poo deposits.



## Play and recreation



### Key issues:

The park on the road to Newsome (Berry Brow Recreation Ground) is used and there are other parks locally, for example Netherton and Beaumont Park. Participants feel that there aren't enough facilities for older children. There are mixed views on the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) - some say it is well used others say it is not. The raised beds are well used for growing plants and vegetables.



## Facilities and amenities



### Key issues:

There are a limited number of local shops and the mini market is expensive. The cash machine in the local shop charges for use. Some participants said they struggle to access a GP, chemist and dental services. Participants said they would like to see more washing machines and dryers in the laundry.

The majority of participants travel to supermarkets in Huddersfield town centre for their weekly shop.



**Suggestions:** Wi-fi in the flats and a café and gym in the complex. One participant said that the flats should have assistive technology.

## Work and local economy



### Key issues:

Participants said that there are few job opportunities locally and a lack of jobs in Huddersfield. Participants feel that a reason for unemployment is that lots of people have drug and alcohol problems.



**Suggestions:** Increasing computer access, adult learning and support for substance issues could help.

*"People feel isolated here. People get forgotten."*

*"There's no post office, its not like a village anymore. Lost community and village feel. There used to be a co-op, fish shop, sandwich shop - a lot got knocked down. Lost a nice village for somewhere you pass through. I don't hear about Berry Brow Carnival until the day, and miss out on local info."*

## Housing and community



### Key issues:

Responses to this question were very mixed, with some people feeling that the accommodation meets their needs others feeling that investment is needed. Some participants said they feel imprisoned and are looking to move. One participant said the flats are too big (they need to be 3 or 4 storeys high) and are not meeting basic needs such as heating, showers, space and water.



**Suggestions:** Demolish the blocks of flats – provide a better standard of housing.

## Social contact



### Key issues:

There are opportunities for social contact, for example the pub, club, restaurants and the TRA coffee morning. The spaces outside the flats attract anti-social behaviour - alcohol, drugs and dogs.



## Identity and belonging



### Key issues:

Participants said that there are problems associated with the blocks of flats, including car crime and theft. Some participants said the perception of the flats is unjustified: it is not perfect and people judge it wrong. Participants said that people view residents of the blocks of flats negatively. A number of people said that they see the flats as a stop gap and want to move on.



**Suggestions:** More community events. Re-educate people on the history of the area.

## Feeling safe



### Key issues:

A number of participants mentioned that they feel safe because of the CCTV but are unsure of the role of on-site security. Issues listed included drug use and drug dealing, motorbikes on the surrounding field, people banging on doors and night time noise.



**Suggestions:** Improvements to street lighting on the steps up to the main road.

## Care and maintenance



### Key issues:

Tenants should take more responsibility for their waste and dispose of it correctly. Participants had mixed views on communal cleaning services, with some saying it is good whilst others said it's of a poor standard. Participants living in the blocks said that the repairs service is good.



## Influence and sense of control

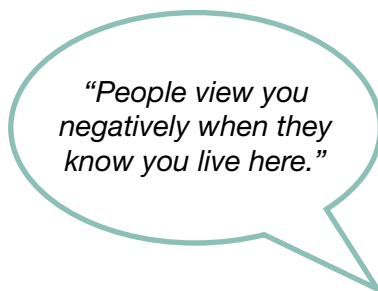
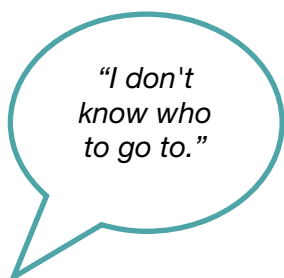
### Key issues:



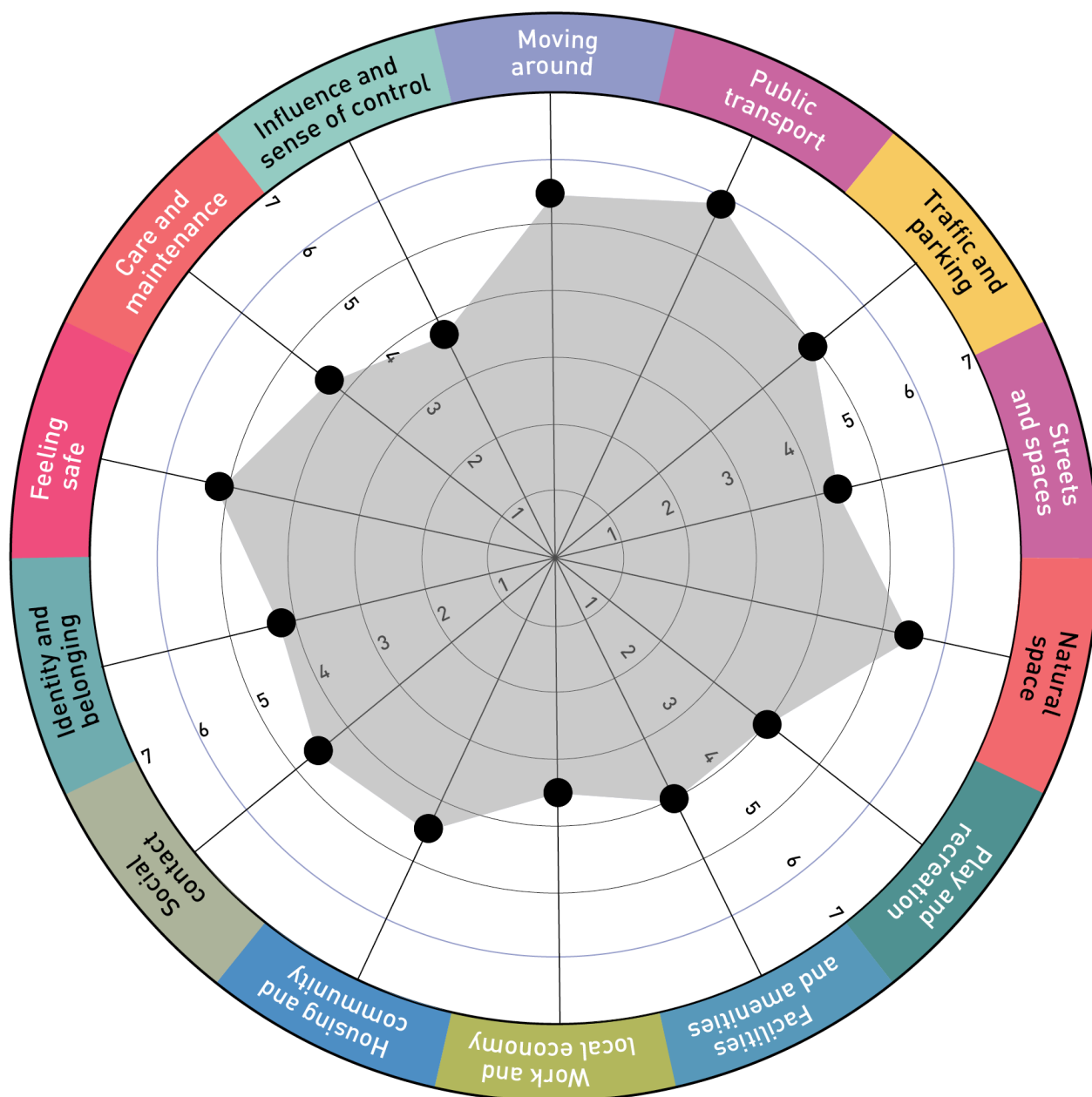
Some participants mentioned that they don't know who their ward councillors are. The majority of participants described either an issue with the person being able to resolve issues, or not knowing who to contact (for example, a housing officer).



**Suggestions:** Pictures and contact details for housing officers should be displayed at Bishop's Court and Holme Park Court.



## Overall scores for Listening to Berry Brow



Public transport	5.9
Moving around	5.5
Natural space	5.4
Feeling safe	5.1
Traffic and parking	5
Social contact	4.6
Housing and community	4.4

Streets and spaces	4.3
Care and maintenance	4.3
Identity and belonging	4.2
Play and recreation	4
Facilities and amenities	4
Influence and sense of control	3.8
Work and local economy	3.5