

APPENDIX G: RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

THEME 1: MINIMAL WASTE AND THE CIRCULAR USE OF RESOURCES

Question 9 was an open question and received 148 comments.

PROTECTING GREEN SPACES

Preserving and protecting green space by bringing an end to building on green belt landforms the biggest part of this theme. Respondents commented that too many mass housing developments in the area were responsible for damaging natural habitats and taking away the green, open spaces we need. Several respondents stressed that new housing should only be approved on brownfield sites.

“Protection of land that used to be green belt and is now earmarked for hundreds of buildings!”

“What is missing is that you have voted to build hideous houses on an ancient woodland, and you should be ashamed. Wildlife and woodland matter!”

“Stop building on green belt that’s my priority!!!! It’s unmanageable for local communities”.

Generating more biodiverse areas for wildlife, planting more trees and wildflowers, and creating community spaces for growing food were also suggested.

“Creating and protecting nature - green biodiverse areas for wildlife. Encouraging free food e.g., fruit trees, bushes, herbs.”

“Protecting and increasing biodiversity e.g., not using weedkillers.”

“Using nature-based solutions to develop biodiversity and help mitigate climate change.”

TRANSPORT, ROADS, AND TRAFFIC POLLUTION

There were several suggestions made in relation to roads and transport of ways in which pollution could be reduced. Respondents suggested improved efficiencies in road repairs, a reduction in speeding and people leaving their engines running and putting investment into improving/encouraging public transport and active travel.

“Encourage public transport, walking, cycling use to reduce pollutants from car use.”

“Better greener transport and related infrastructure”

“Ensure that road repair is done quickly so cars are not stopped at dig sites for ages.”

“Reduce the volume of traffic speeding through and polluting residential areas.”

Electric vehicles were also mentioned – council funded charge points and electrification of local buses were both suggested. Concerns were also raised however with the affordability of electric vehicles and the difficulty of installing charge points at certain properties.

IMPROVE RECYCLING

Criticism of the current lack of recycling options available in Kirklees were raised – respondents stated that making it easier for people to recycle from home was important, and that many people were unable to compost at home or visit a bottle bank due to many limiting factors. Kerbside glass and food waste collections were frequently suggested, with soft plastics also being mentioned.

“Kirklees has a terrible approach to recycling - there is not enough options at kerbside, even green waste like garden waste is almost impossible to get a brown bin for.”

“I can't recycle glass as the nearest bank is too far away. (No car!)”

“Glass recycling at home, food waste recycling at home, larger variety of options for recycling at the local recycling centre/tip”

“I live in Flockton, we haven't had a glass collection or a glass recycling centre for 5-6 years, this really isn't acceptable”.

Increasing home composting rates and offering incentives to people/businesses to recycle were also suggested.

“Providing incentive to recycle. Clubs and organisations could profit collecting cans to get money back.”

EDUCATION

Several respondents suggested that the best way to encourage people to change their behaviour was to educate them. This would enable them to make well-informed, environmentally friendly choices, and teach them what the consequences are of certain actions (e.g., fly tipping and littering).

Most respondents who commented on this issue suggested that schools and educators of children should play an important role, teaching topics such as waste reduction, recycling, and

sustainability. Wider communication and education of residents of all ages about key issues was also suggested.

“School should play their important part in raising awareness so that children know and apply in their daily life. That would be a big impact on environment in the years to come.”

“Better communication about what exactly Kirklees can recycle from our green bins so that we don't accidentally contaminate a lorry load.”

“Advertising (and TV) campaigns to positively encourage people to be mindful of the knock-on effects of despoiling the countryside with litter and fly tipping.”

“There is no visible form of education to residents in Kirklees around sustainability.”

“Encouraging schools and educators to include waste reduction, recycling etc on the curriculum and to adopt prominent waste reduction policies in their own institutions.”

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BUSINESS

Several respondents commented that the emphasis should be on local businesses making changes as this would have a greater impact than individual householders.

People suggested that businesses should be encouraged to recycle, reduce waste, commit to sustainability targets, use green energy, and have a circular approach to resources.

“I think you are missing the important fact that first it should be the big corporation, developers, and businesses to step up. We, then, will follow.”

“Resource use and emissions in the UK are primarily driven by businesses and industry. Kirklees should aim to regulate local industry and businesses such that they are compliant with minimal waste and circular resource use.”

“Businesses, industry & organisations should also be able to recycle their waste. They currently do not benefit from Kirklees recycling waste collection as households do.”

“It seems like Kirklees will try to tell us to add insulation and to turn off our lights however the big-ticket items such as industry in this area is overlooked.”

Working with businesses and retailers to reduce waste in terms of excessive packaging and production of single use items was also raised.

“You can't reduce when supermarkets, stores, and places like Amazon supply you with so much in additional rubbish with your purchase in. I compost, recycle, food waste down the food disposal, and I still have too much waste provided by companies. Stop bullying homeowners into making changes when change needs to come from business.”

LITTERING, FLY-TIPPING AND WASTE SITES

Preventing fly-tipping and littering was frequently mentioned – respondents suggesting that there should be increased penalties such as larger fines for offenders.

The current approach of limiting access to household waste sites and how this possibly contributed to fly tipping was also raised. Offering free collection of unwanted items was suggested as this was potentially cheaper than clearing up fly-tipping.

Providing accessible collection points for small electrical items and allowing domestic disposal of rubble and soil were both called for.

“A real effort to prevent and remove fly-tipped waste. Investigate, prosecute, publicise, and punish the offenders.”

“Increasing accessibility for managing all waste. The current approach of limiting access just encourages fly tipping. E.g., No provision any more for hard core at sites. Result, hardcore fly tipped in country lanes with increased cost to the council in recovery and disposal, not to mention the eyesore.”

HOMES AND NEW BUILDS

Considering sustainability and energy efficiency when building and designing new build properties forms the key part of this theme. Respondents suggested that all new builds should be eco-friendly and properly insulated.

Addressing the difficulty of adding suitable insulation to older housing and repurposing old or derelict buildings as affordable accommodation were also mentioned.

“Every new building should have solar panels and no new fossil fuel boilers. Also use the rainwater within the building”

“We really need to get insulation homes both for the environment and energy security.”

REUSE, REPAIR AND RE-PURPOSE

Making it easier to reuse and repurpose household items and good quality clothing, such as providing more repair and upcycle hubs, was raised by several respondents.

“Why not have a scheme in place where people can take other people's waste. So rather than tip everything in skips at the recycling centres, create a slightly different set up which allows people to take things i.e., bits of wood or old furniture for an upcycling project etc.”

“Creating opportunities for communities to share and reuse items to reduce consumption. E.g., a library of 'stuff' where things like power washers, lawnmowers etc can be borrowed by people rather than purchasing new.”

“Support creation of repair businesses to prevent throwaway culture.”

Other similar suggestions included a local reusable nappy scheme, and a program of education to develop skills so that people can learn how to dismantle and repair appliances when they break down.

THEME 2: RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Question 12 was an open question and received 71 comments.

PROTECTING GREEN SPACES

This was by far the biggest theme to emerge from the comments to this question. One of the biggest aspects of this theme was respondents calling for a stop to mass housing developments – especially on green belt or agricultural land. Protecting green space was described as vital in the fight against pollution and preserving the health and wellbeing of Kirklees.

“Stop building on our countryside.”

“Allowing the new buildings and utter devastation at Heybeck and Chidswell will destroy my mental and physical health and of those living in our area.”

“We need to keep are green spaces and not concrete over them. This is vital for the wellbeing of everyone.”

“Reducing pollution and protecting green, natural spaces.”

Making use of existing resources and using brownfield sites instead of building new houses on the greenbelt was suggested – such as renovating empty or derelict buildings.

“Protect the natural environment, reuse brownfield sites not greenbelt.”

“Utilising existing empty buildings for housing, offices etc rather than building housing developments in the green spaces which are so important to physical health and well-being. Working with owners of semi-derelict buildings to bring them back into use”.

“Maintain what exists already and restore the amazing historical buildings decaying under our eyes and change them into good homes rather than destroying our green belts for cheap horrible new builds! Leave the green belt green.”

Another suggestion to protect greenspace was to stop urban sprawl by building more high-rise accommodation; and putting a stop to new home developments in areas already densely populated in order to mitigate the strain placed on schools, roads, health systems and sewage networks.

Protecting agricultural land for food production, existing/ancient trees and flood absorption capacity were also raised.

“Mass house building in and around Lepton and Fenay Bridge is going to have a dreadful impact environmentally due to more flooding, more vehicles, more congestion, and more pollution all will felling ancient woodlands and paving over our green spaces. The Kirklees house building plans are a disaster for the community and the local environment.”

ENERGY PRODUCTION / TACKLING POLLUTION

Comments in this theme centred on accessible affordable renewal energy, community-based approaches such as energy community cooperatives, fracking, reducing light pollution at night, renewable resources and making homes and businesses more energy efficient.

“Providing good quality insulation for all starting with Band A housing, getting to those in most need.”

“Again, seriously insulation is key.”

“Wind and Solar is not the answer - we should really be thinking about allocating sites for the Rolls Royce small modular nuclear reactors which are safe and scalable for clean, sustainable, reliable energy. Kirklees should setup an independent energy company and then can sell excess energy to other towns providing a dividend to those living in Kirklees which could be used to invest in the region.”

“Promoting renewable energy production.”

CRITICISM OF COUNCIL

Some commenters were critical of Kirklees Council decision making.

“Kirklees have a terrible environmental record and need to start doing rather than paying lip service.”

“It is hard to believe that given this survey the council are in the brink of allowing a massive Amazon warehouse to be built in Scholes and a housing industrial park in chidswell. Both of these to be built on green field sites. The council needs to talk to itself because you can't be taken seriously when the two things are going on”.

“Forget your 2038 target. Renewables don't produce enough. Look at your turbines on the civic centre, waste of public money, not your money, our money.”

“Council tax is not linked to sustainability and no opportunity to reduce for greener households No viable incentivisation schemes for residents or industry Household recycling centres are inaccessible by the most financially challenged sectors of our community e.g. those who rely on

public transport This survey feels inadequate in the options available - will this be sent to the industrial partners in the area ?”

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Comments in this theme were around building community networks to provide a sense of belonging, community-based compost schemes, and education.

“Encourage community-based approaches e.g. supporting energy community cooperatives.”

“Encouraging community responsibilities to reduce waste. Such as encouraging the use of apps such as share waste so local composts can benefit from other people in our communities. Also, OLIO”

AFFORDABILITY

Commenters were concerned about the affordability of measures, particularly given the cost-of-living crisis.

“The increasing costs affect all but poorest first and hardest (they are often the most vulnerable).”

“If it costs a lot of people won’t do it.”

“No emphasis on shared benefits from tackling climate change. The poorest and most vulnerable could and should gain real benefits. Emphasising that the less affluent cannot meet the costs can become an excuse for not making changes that are equitable. Feeds into climate change action opponent’s agenda.”

ROADS AND TRAVEL

Comments in this theme were around active travel schemes, zero or reduced traffic zones and public transport improvements.

“Resilient communities could also involve having zero- or reduced-traffic zones - adopting a people-centred not traffic-centred urban infrastructure.”

“You left off public transport why? It needs to improve greatly to get cars off the road. Also, we need to keep green spaces and not concrete over them. This is vital for the wellbeing of everyone.”

“Resilient communities could also involve having zero- or reduced-traffic zones - adopting a people-centred not traffic-centred urban infrastructure.”

THEME 3: IMPROVED BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Question 15 was an open question and received 96 comments.

CONSIDER LAND USE

This was the largest theme amongst respondents to this question. Concerns were raised about building on greenspace.

“Green spaces in Fenay bridge and lepton are being built on! how is this being allowed when there are brown sites?”

“Stop housing being built near woodland and protect our green belt especially when there are lots of brownfield sites to use. Again, it is down to developers and the council making as much money as possible 😡”

There was also opposition to the new Amazon site.

“The proposed amazon warehouse in Scholes goes against ALL of these!”

“Do not destroy green field sites by building massive Amazon warehouses in them.”

PROTECTION AND CREATION OF GREENSPACES

The next most popular theme was around the protection, maintenance, and creation of greenspaces. Commenters thought this could be built into planning regulations.

“I think Kirklees Planners need to up their game in terms of ensuring the existing habitats are not degraded by the plethora of development sites in our borough. Time and time again developers are allowed to build without adequate provision to enhance biodiversity, alleviate flooding and provide active travel infrastructure. It riles me that you undertake surveys like this from one department then do not enforce the robust statements from the Local Plan. I would also iterate that the wealth of green spaces are not well managed in what could be a much more accessible and diverse blue-green infrastructure in Kirklees.”

Some commenters wanted the protection and maintenance of greenspaces in order to boost biodiversity and to have an impact on carbon absorption.

“Stop mowing as much and sow wildflowers to encourage insects and butterflies which are rapidly declining.”

“Protecting and maintaining healthy trees in public spaces and roadsides especially large old ones that absorb a lot of carbon.”

HOLISTIC/PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

The next most common theme was around taking a holistic approach to improving biodiversity and the natural environment.

“This is so hard to compartmentalise as the theme requires a holistic approach to moorlands, water tables/water systems. tree planting, land use management- “

“Work with schools, to develop grounds as biodiverse, teaching children and trusting them to manage. Working with large landowners, sort out planning rules, encourage builders to be sustainable, include biodiversity, suds etc, or go elsewhere!”

Some commenters also made suggestions of taking a partnership approach.

“Support community groups who are happy to maintain green spaces. Enforce rules about littering and polluting green spaces.”

EDUCATION/SKILLS

Commenters in this theme were concerned with education of the community and in schools.

“Education on biodiversity e.g. help residents to garden with biodiversity in mind.”

“Encouraging early healthy habits. School street schemes to reduce pollution around local schools. To protect the health of our future generations. Lots of councils including Calderdale are already signed up to school streets so it’s time we see Kirklees doing this.”

WATER PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

Comments in this theme were around moorland regeneration, reducing tarmac and concerns about sewage.

“Moorland regeneration should include restoration of water absorbing areas to reduce rapid water flow flooding lower valleys due to increased extreme heavy rainfall brought on by warmer climates.”

“Limit the use of tarmac on pavements etc. that can lead to overburden of the drainage systems and localised flooding of homes.”

“These sewage firms being allowed to dump massive loads of human waste into our rivers is unacceptable. Stop it now or the public will act.”

POLLUTION/LITTERING PREVENTION

Commenters had concerns about littering and fly tipping and about pollution.

“More needs to be done to tackle littering. Both in respect of punishing the culprits and in bringing together /supporting community groups to clear spaces that are adversely affected.”

“Overuse of traffic control systems for minor roadworks resulting in traffic holdups with engines idling and uselessly pumping waste into the environment.”

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS

The last theme for this question is around support for farmers including adoption of environmentally friendly land management practices.

“Helping farmers adopt more nature-friendly land management practices.”

THEME 4: A LOW EMISSION, LOW IMPACT DISTRICT

Question 18 was an open question and received 98 comments.

LEADERSHIP/POLICY

The most common theme for this question was around the Council taking a leadership role in creating a low emission, low impact district including policy decisions that prioritise this. There were concerns that the 2038 target for net zero was not soon enough.

“The Net Zero Carbon Target needs to be hit sooner than 2038”.

“Net Zero new homes, no new gas boilers, tons of bike routes, zero car neighbourhoods, net zero as the norm”

“Push for a flight free Kirklees through education about the carbon cost of it. Lead by example - have every member of the council pledge to be flight free. Push for the carbon cost of everything we use and buy to be provided at the point of sale, so people actually know what they're choosing. This ignorance that is treasured by polluting businesses should be tackled. People actually want to know the environmental impact of their choices but it's currently a guess and a stab in the dark.”

“Voluntary scheme where residents can contribute additional amount per month/annum via council tax to create a co-operative scheme generating renewable electricity via solar/hydro/wind for residential/business consumers over a period of time. Residents receive % share of profits & additional income feeds back to support council services. Council then benefits via diverse income & sustainable renewable energy; residents receive additional income & we're contributing towards sustainable future. Additional revenues could be used to support social schemes for solar on council buildings, thereby adding additional revenues & cussing costs & carbon emissions.”

CONSIDER AND USE

As in the previous question, commenters had concerns about how land is used.

“To be mindful of taking away farmable land for industry buildings. Most land can be built on but not all land can be farmed. We need more locally grown produce to cut carbon footprints.”

“Protecting our greenfield sites from development, maintaining green corridors for wildlife, protecting our trees, and planting more. Ensuring the natural environment is protected for everyone to enjoy, benefiting our mental health and wellbeing in a natural, positive way.”

“I repeat chidswell and Amazon Scholes both go against this environmental aim. They will forever change the local and wider environment by removing green spaces and adding pollution, air, noise light. These plans have to be agreed by all sections of the council and not just the planning committee who don't seem to care. This is not a joined-up council and nor is it joined up to other local councils who are also proposing massive housing projects in appropriate areas, i.e. Calderdale and the Clifton project. Which will also impact Scholes by massively increasing the amount of traffic through the village heading to the motorway.”

Concerns were raised around the new Amazon warehouse in this question too.

“Kirklees will not meet net zero emission targets if the Amazon warehouse at chain bar gets built, several thousand vehicles will operate 24 hours a day. Kirklees is granting planning permission in green belt across the whole district, basically everything this survey is trying to promote Kirklees is doing the total opposite. Kirklees is the worst performing council on every level.”

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Some comments were around the need for infrastructure improvements to allow for active travel and electric vehicle charging.

“We need better cycling infrastructure too, otherwise we'll just keep getting more and more cars and more congestion, which is bad in many ways, even if they're EVs. Prioritise active travel over electric vehicles please.”

“EV charging infrastructure required for those without driveways.”

IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACCESS

Commenters in this theme had concerns about the usability of public transport including connectivity and desirability.

“Transport at times is joke particularly the trains - pointless changing transport strategies if they don't work after you have implemented them? Why”

“A hard look needs to be given to public transport. To many oversized and empty buses running on narrow rural roads, belching out diesel fumes. The Lake district pioneered the use of Hopper minibuses with great success years ago. I cannot help but feel that the bleat of more public transport fails to take a hard look at the provision and demand. Look at how cars have improved over the past 20 years, and yet buses are pretty much unchanged over the last 50. Uncomfortable seats, noisy, no entertainment, steamed up windows drafty could and slow. Time for a rethink and an end to feeding subsidies to below standard providers.”

RECYCLE/REUSE/WASTE MANAGEMENT

Concerns were raised about the availability of recycling facilities as well as facilities for people to reuse.

“I think there needs to be an option to have large communal bins near every main road or shop etc. for people to recycle more plastics that cannot be readily recycled through the bins that get collected from households. e.g., like the terrace cycle boxes... so much more would be caught. Also, a stop on large supermarkets using single use plastics in Kirklees. There are cellulose based packaging or paper packaging that could be used.”

“Increased access to circular and zero waste Facilities such as community composting sites for green and food waste, zero waste shopping, Facilities for people to sell, swap and give away unused items that can have a second life such as furniture and clothing. And repair Facilities”

EDUCATION

“I’d do with a reminder about which plastics Kirklees recycles following the addition of extras.”

“Under knowledge and education, include the importance of collective good intent in taking a pride in looking after our environment at every level available to us.”

PROTECTION FOR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

“Protecting our greenfield sites from development, maintaining green corridors for wildlife, protecting our trees, and planting more. Ensuring the natural environment is protected for everyone to enjoy, benefiting our mental health and wellbeing in a natural, positive way.”

LOCALISATION

“That walking, running and cycling will take over as the main form of transport - need to create a better infrastructure - smart district that reduces the need to travel - encourage working close to home.”