

Developing a Healthy Neighbourhood Survey: Initial Findings

Method

An invitation to undertake the online survey was issued to all 6,000 (approx.) households in the Deepings area via the local Deepings Advertiser weekly flyer. Paper copies were also available in 3 locations. The invitation was included within 2 February editions and a reminder for a 15th March deadline directing readers to a link on the Deepings First website to complete one or more of the four separate surveys. This summary relates to the survey asking for responses to 'Developing a Healthy Neighbourhood.

Results

In total there have been 505 responses - with half in the 18-49 age range and half in the 50 to 75+ age range. Respondents are from all parts of the Deepings (60% response from Market Deeping) and have lived here for varying lengths of time (59% for 20 years or over). The results of this survey are thereby considered to provide a valid outcome representing a good cross-section of the views of Deepings residents and can be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan with confidence.

All responses have been collated in the attached (draft) document for reference.

Conclusions

- The three top main reasons for choosing to live or remain the Deepings are:
 - A friendly neighbourhood, a safe area with a low crime rate, a green and healthy area
- The six top secondary reasons are:
 - Housing is affordable, good access to shops, good links to other areas, a good range of social activities, good access to health care, a fine Georgian town.
- Three areas are of less relevance are:
 - Good access to employment, family live in the Deepings, good schools.
- The majority (two thirds of respondents) live in a household with two adults. Only 4% of households accommodate four or more adults. This information to be considered in relation to housing shortages and housing types needed in the area.
- Half the population walk at least a mile each day and 85% at least a mile every week. All other types of activity are undertaken monthly, weekly or occasionally by 40% or fewer. Walking is therefore the predominant form of physical activity across the Deepings.
- 96% of respondents are registered at the local Deepings Health Practice. Less than half of respondents use Deepings dentist and opticians. Fewer than 20% access other local health and well-being services.

- There is a strong perception of a current shortage in local NHS services and Dental services. There is virtually no perception of 'too much' health and well-being provision of any kind.
- The main perceived shortage for types of home in order of need are: (1) bungalows, (2) supported living, (3) small family homes and (4) flats/apartments. There is considered (by 76%) to be sufficient or too many large family homes.
- The Deepings has very high walking accessibility with 65 -85% of respondents reporting that they can easily access all key amenities by walking. Easy walking access to sports is not quite so high at 55%.
- All the proposed environmental improvements listed in the survey are considered to be 'very beneficial' or 'of some benefit' by 75% or more of the population, notably with over 90% approval for: improved footpaths, improved pavements, more usable green spaces, and more dog poo bins.
- The 5 most favoured potential new provisions are: a cinema, a theatre, more pubs/ restaurants/cafés, an online activities directory, and an easy to use map of the area.

There are many helpful individual comments and suggestions which need further analysis arising from the final question on the survey. There are also some common themes that help to illustrate responses given in the previous questions.

There is also much more information that can be gained from further study of the survey results – raw data and graphs.

Recommendation

That the findings from this survey are reviewed and analysed further by the Steering Group/Project Group and then developed to be justifiably incorporated into the development of our Neighbourhood Plan Policies and Projects.

