

Citizens Panel Feedback
July 2014

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Result of Citizens Panel Survey 11

Development Planning

We asked if you had heard anything about, or been actively involved in, the Local Development Plan which the Council has been preparing.

You said: Nearly a third of respondents (31%) had heard of the Local Development Plan, but only 3% actually took part in the consultations. For those who knew about the plan, the reasons most commonly given for not getting involved were that people thought their involvement wouldn't make a difference to the decisions, or that they trusted the Council to make the best decisions.

We also asked whether people would be interested in being involved in the Local Development Plan in the future, which topics they would be interested in, and how they would like to find out about the plan.

You said: Most people (83%) said they would like to be involved in discussions on future Local Development Plans. Topics that interested people most were parks and greenspace, housing, town centre developments, energy related development and green belt. The most popular way of finding out about the plan was through postal or e-mail updates. 529 respondents supplied their details in order to be kept informed.

We did: The results show there is interest in Local Development Plans, but many people are not aware of them, and even fewer people actually get involved. In drawing up our plans for consultation on the next Local Development Plan, we will place greater emphasis on the consultation techniques that you prefer, and the topics you were most interested in. In the meantime, all the respondents who wished to be added to our mailing list will receive a newsletter once or twice a year.

Management of Cemeteries and Crematorium

We asked for your views on our Cemeteries Rules and Regulations as these were being reviewed.

You said: The responses from the Panel indicated that three quarters (77%) of panel members responding did not know about the Cemetery Rules and Regulations and/or were not aware of what they said. Two thirds (64%) of respondents thought areas for memorial trees and benches should be provided within our burial grounds and 63% of respondents thought that taller headstones should not be permitted because of safety considerations. Around 150 respondents volunteered to come along to a discussion group to talk about some of the issues in more detail.

We did: Bereavement Services organised three discussion groups, and invited all those who had expressed an interest. We will use the information and ideas gained from these sessions along with the citizens panel responses to assist in developing revised Cemetery Rules & Regulations. We will also ensure that the revised Rules are better publicised in future.