

GREAT HOLLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Consultation Feedback - February 2009



INTRODUCTION

A public consultation was held on the 5th February 2009 at the Talk shop in Great Hollands Square. Proposals for the 4 options were displayed for everyone to look at and facilitators from URBED were on hand to answer any questions about the plans.

The consultation was held between 4-8pm and allowing people with different working schedules to pop in at a time that suited them. The final hour of the session overlapped with the local youth group which allowed young people from the area to have their say on the plans and ideas for Great Hollands.

The event attracted over 40 people and everyone was encouraged to complete a questionnaire displaying their views on the different options.

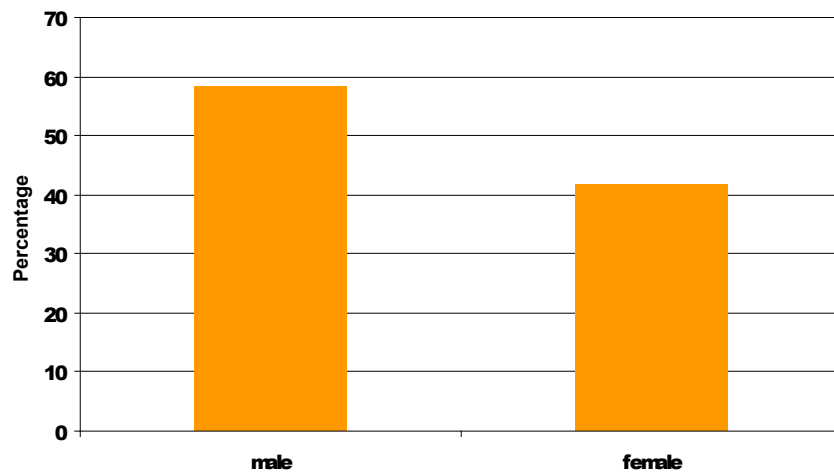
The results are outlined in this report and give a guidance into what the people who live and work in Great Hollands would like to see happen in their area.



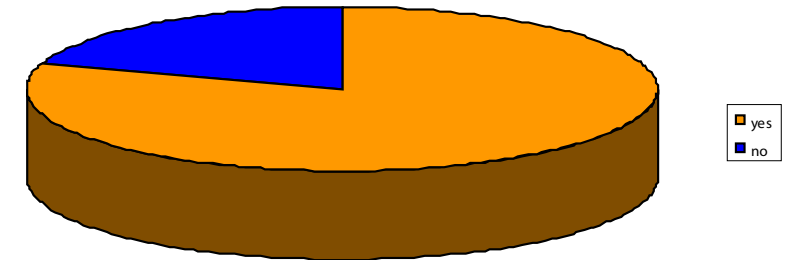
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Respondents were first asked a number of questions regarding their gender, age and whether they have a business or are a resident in the area in order to determine the overall profile of the respondent population. This information is outlined below.

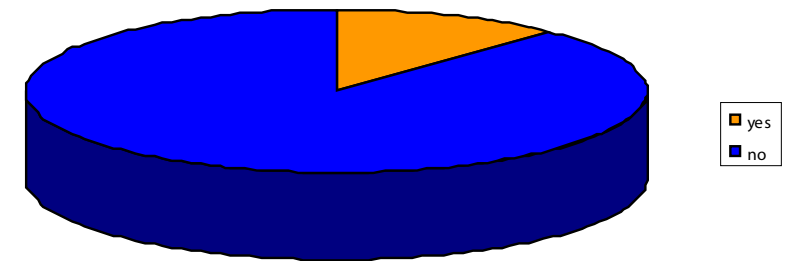
Gender profile



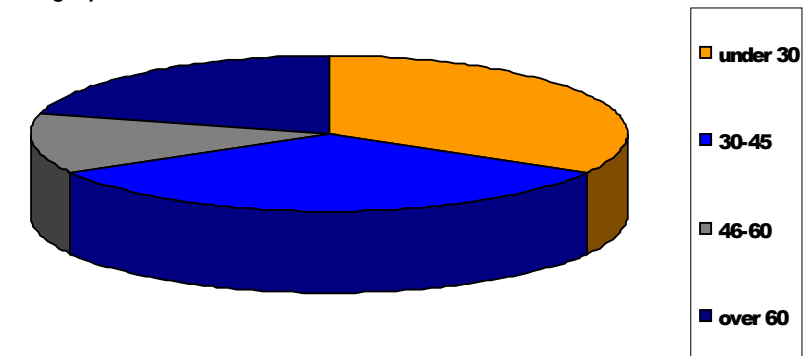
Do you live in Great Hollands?



Do you run a business in Great Hollands?



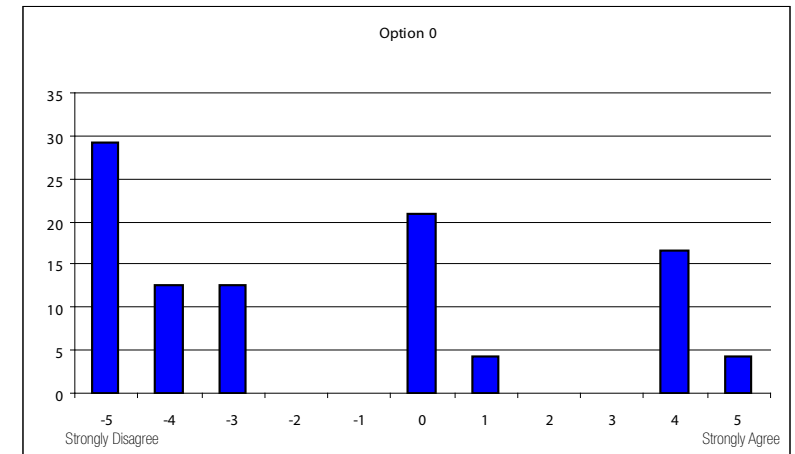
Age profile



OPTION 0



Views on option 0



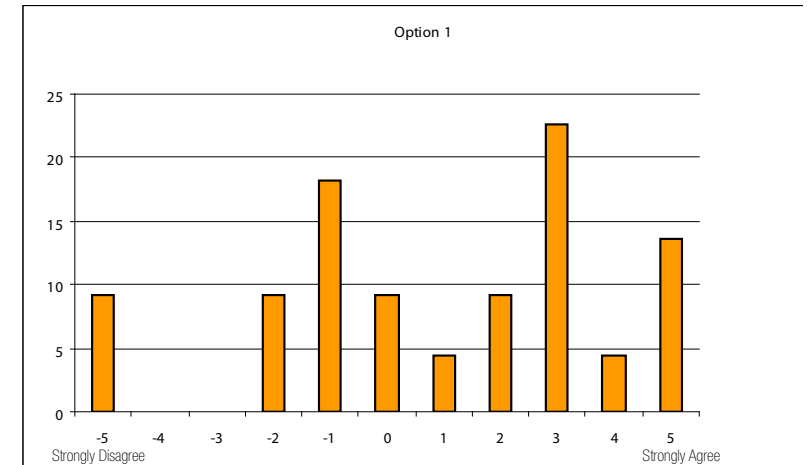
Key issues raised

- I've lived here for 15 years and it provides jobs for all the local people, also it is a good community that doesn't need change.
- Maybe some small cosmetic improvements would be sufficient if money is not available for radical changes.
- Something needs to be done to improve Great Hollands shopping centre.
- I have lived here happily for 40 years+ and am happy with it, but now new life is needed.

OPTION 1



Views on option 1

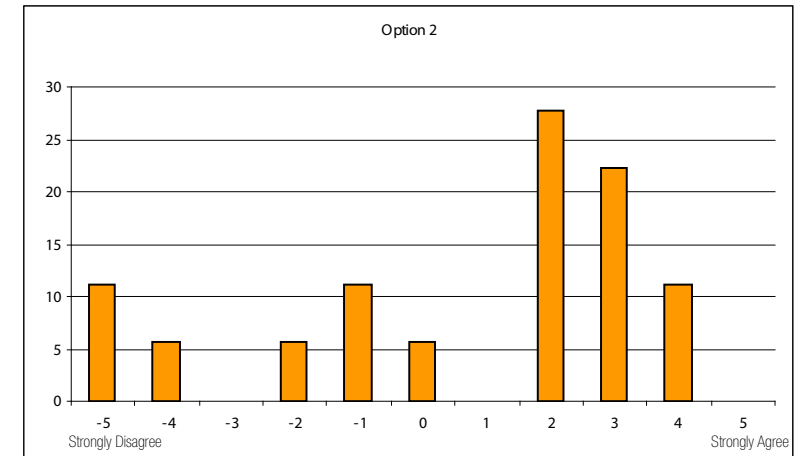


Key issues raised

- The through road is an improvement bringing the industrial area and shops together.
- New lighting is needed and the library extension would be very desirable.
- Not very happy about the bus stops on Great Hollands Road.
- Like the library extension however not sure about losing mound and new play area.
- Not sure about the straight road through Wordsworth.

OPTION 2

Views on option 2



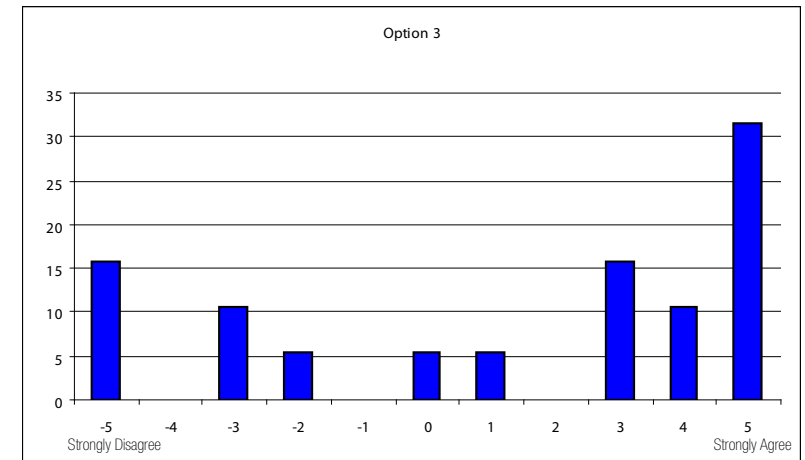
Key issues raised

- Larger/ new community premises would be an asset that pays for itself in diverting people to useful use of their leisure time.
- The social /drinking club area should be returned to community use.
- Not enough parking, too many roads to cross.
- Residential property is too close to the industrial units.
- Drop-off for school unnecessary as 95% of children walk to school- too many roads.

OPTION 3



Views on option 3



Key issues raised

- I like many of the suggestions here, especially the two storey community centre.
- Not enough parking and too many residential properties by the industrial units.
- Like the retail and community spread along the high street.
- Dislike the link of Appledoor and Ashbourne to the centre.
- No houses on existing playground and field please at North-end.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Update/ modernise centre
- Prominent community centre, school and library area
- Better youth facilities
- More facilities
- Create a safe, lighted and attractive gathering place
- Linking the industrial area and shopping area.
- Safer roads and crossings
- Provide more one bed places for single adults (ie divorcees etc)- so they can stay in Great Hollands
- Improved shops and improved lighting and evening ambience
- More CCTVs to make it safer any time night or day
- Any new residential should include social housing



CONCLUSIONS

The responses to the options were relatively mixed with several strong opinions at either end of the development spectrum. There were several people who are against any change in the area and feel that it is working OK as it is. These people disagreed with option 1-3. However more people were in favour of some sort of development occurring. In total 54.2% of people disagreed with option 0 in some form, while only 25.1% agreed with the no development option.

In contrast to this 36.4%, 33.4% and 31.6% of the respondents disagreed with option 1 2 and 3 respectively. Whilst 54.5%, 61.1% and 63.2% of the respondents agreed with option 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

The highest percentage of people were in favour of the greatest level of development, indicating that people are in favour of change for the area.

Despite the high percentage of those in favour of change in the area there are still several key issues that were raised about the proposed option 3.

Many people felt that there was slightly too much residential development and that the location of some of this residential by the industrial units was inappropriate.

People were worried about the lack of car parking and felt that on street provision across the area instead of dedicated car parks would be insufficient in ensuring that people chose Great Hollands to shop in.

The improvements to the community facilities was an aspect that everyone was in favour of and it was pointed out several times that more needed to be done to improve the relationship with the young people to ensure that any new developments are not vandalised and undervalued by any section of the community.

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