

North Hertfordshire Partnership **Sustainable Community Strategy**

Consultation Report Part C

Part A was the report from the community conference on 20th September 2007.
Part B was the report of the area based consultation events.

Contents of Part C

Executive Summary. Page 2

Results from Combination of Surveys. Page 3

Profile of Participants. Page 7

A longer version of this report is available. That extracts results from the general survey only, the citizen's panel survey only and from young people.

General Notes. Page 9

1. Executive Summary

- 727 people participated in the general and citizens panel surveys. They had a choice of on-line or on paper participation in the general survey. Panel members responded electronically.
- This paper reports the combined response from all participants, the results from the general survey only, the results from the citizens panel only, and the response from the 219 young people aged under 20 who took part in the general survey.
- The surveys tested the issues identified at the community conference on 20th September 2007.
- The survey results don't necessarily tell us what people are for or against but they do help us to identify priorities.
- When asked what people most value about North Hertfordshire as it is now 32.7% said it was close to London and Cambridge and 32.3% said the green belt. So many appreciate being in or near rural areas but also want to be within easy reach of large conurbations.
- 28.5% (3rd) said they valued the green spaces within our towns. Good schools, a good environment for families and low crime rate all tied on 26.8% (4th, 5th and 6th). Others scoring above 15% were town centres (19.3%) and train services (16.9%).
- Affordable housing led the list when people were asked about changes or improvements. It scored 33.7%. It was followed by poor road surfaces (31.5%) which reflects current concerns about maintenance. Some way behind but still scoring highly were better shops (23.8%) and more recycling (21.3). Others scoring 14% or more were fear of crime (18.2%); youth activities (16.8%); public transport (14.4%); access to GPs and dentists (14.3%) and local employment (14.0%).
- Participants were then asked what were the three features that North Hertfordshire must have in 2021. A healthy population was identified by more than half (51.0%). Next was an educated population (46.2%) followed by a tie (on 33%) for no poverty and reduced carbon footprint.
- Then the long term challenges were raised. What are the five big issues between now and 2021? Climate change was way ahead as first choice (28.2%) compared with health on 14.3% and housing on 13.8%. Education was fourth with 12.4%.
- This was checked by adding in second and third choices. Climate change scored 42.5% followed by health (41.1%), education (38.1%) and housing (33.6%). Transport moved up to fifth (29.0%) on this analysis with community safety sixth on 25.7%.

Postal and Electronic Questionnaires

A total of 727 responses were received. The survey was conducted in two ways (i) to all interested via the LSP website and on paper copies, and (ii) through the citizens panel electronically.

2. Results from combining all surveys

(A) **Value**. Question: What three things do you most value about North Hertfordshire as it is now?

Issue	General	Cit. Panel	Total	Percentage
Close to London and Cambridge	144	94	238	32.7%
Green belt	111	124	235	32.3%
Green spaces	99	108	207	28.5%
Good environment for families	95	100	195	26.8%
Good schools	105	90	195	26.8%
Low crime rate	93	102	195	26.8%
Town centres	98	42	140	19.3%
Train services	76	47	123	16.9%
Access to facilities	57	47	104	14.3%
Hospitals	57	*	*	14.0%
Good mix of urban and rural	53	44	97	13.3%
Historic buildings	24	45	69	9.5%
Good sport facilities	56	13	69	9.5%
Community spirit	46	22	68	9.4%
Prosperous economy	18	27	54	6.2%
Diversity of people	24	17	41	5.6%
Voluntary organisations	23	16	39	5.4%
Culture and arts	23	8	31	4.3%
Other	10	2	12	1.7%

This helps us to identify what needs to be kept. The total is more than 100% as people could indicate up to three choices. * Hospitals were missed from the citizens' panel survey. They scored 14% in the general survey.

(B). **Change**. Question: What three things most need to be changed or improved? This prompted responses about the short and medium term.

Issue	General	Cit. Panel	Total	Percentage
Affordable housing	138	107	245	33.7%
Poor road surfaces	110	119	229	31.5%
Better shops	101	72	173	23.8%
More recycling	114	41	155	21.3%
Fear of crime	52	80	132	18.2%
Youth activities	80	42	122	16.8%
Public transport	48	57	105	14.4%
Access to GPs and dentists	45	59	104	14.3%
Local employment	51	51	102	14.0%
Public involvement	45	47	92	12.7%
Town centres	53	37	90	12.4%
Reduce car dependency	42	36	78	10.7%
Carbon dioxide emissions	61	16	77	10.6%
Tolerance between generations	32	43	75	10.3%
Walking and cycling	44	24	68	9.4%
Health – obesity	45	14	59	8.1%
Eco-friendly buildings	39	16	55	7.6%
Sport	37	12	49	6.7%
Affordable leisure	16	32	48	6.6%
Play opportunities	16	16	32	4.4%
Other	22	10	32	4.4%
Biodiversity decline	21	10	31	4.3%

Literacy and numeracy - adults	6	6	12	1.7%
--------------------------------	---	---	----	------

In the combined reports all percentages for questions seeking views are calculated as percentages of the total of 727.

(C) **Highlights.** Question: Which three things highlight how you would like North Hertfordshire to be in 2021?

Issue	General	Cit. Panel	Total	Percentage
Healthy population	203	168	371	51.0%
Educated population	174	162	336	46.2%
No poverty	145	95	240	33.0%
Reduced carbon footprint	171	69	240	33.0%
Sustainable energy	120	83	203	27.9%
Engaged communities	94	78	172	23.7%
Vibrant villages	87	80	167	23.0%
Shared prosperity	51	79	130	17.9%
Less "out commuting"	42	45	87	12.0%
More volunteering	52	26	78	10.7%
Other	28	8	36	5.0%

(D) **Big Issues.** Question: What do you think are the five big issues facing North Hertfordshire between now and 2021? Participants were asked to choose five from a list and rank them in order of importance. This helps to identify the long term issues.

Issue	1 st Number	1 st Percentage	1 st and 2 nd Number	1 st and 2 nd Percentage	1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Percentage	1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Percentage
Climate change/ environment	205	28.2%	260	35.8%	309	42.5%
Health	104	14.3%	215	29.6%	299	41.1%
Housing	100	13.8%	171	23.5%	244	33.6%
Education	90	12.4%	190	26.1%	277	38.1%
Community safety	73	10.0%	131	18.0%	187	25.7%
Transport	64	8.8%	147	20.2%	211	29.0%
Local businesses / local jobs	43	5.9%	89	12.2%	136	18.7%
Community cohesion / S. Inclusion	34	4.7%	71	9.8%	118	16.2%
Sustainable communities	31	4.3%	75	10.3%	120	16.5%
Settlement pattern	29	4.0%	60	8.3%	89	12.2%
Access to the countryside	27	3.7%	54	7.4%	87	12.0%
Other	17	2.3%	20	2.8%	21	2.9%
Leisure and culture	13	1.8%	31	4.3%	63	8.7%

The analysis can be taken to fifth choices but space does not permit that here.

3. Profile

Participants were asked to describe themselves

(i) Gender

199 in the general survey were male and 192 female. Fifteen of the 406 did not answer the gender question. 162 in the citizens' panel survey were male and 155 female. Four of the 321 did not answer.

Total 361 men (50.99%) and 347 women (49.01%). The percentages are of the 708 who answered the question. Nineteen of the 727 did not answer.

In North Hertfordshire 48.64% (59,100) of the population are male and 51.36% (62,400) female. The total population is 121,500 (mid-term estimates for 2006).

(ii) Age

General Survey			Citizens' Panel Survey		
Age Range	Number	Percent	Age Range	Number	Percent
Under 16	175	45.1%	N/A		
16 – 17	44	11.3%	N/A		
18 – 20	10	2.6%	Under 20	1	0.3%
21 – 24	1	0.3%	N/A		
25 – 34	9	2.3%	20 – 34	30	9.5%
35 – 44	28	7.2%	N/A		
45 – 54	25	6.4%	35 – 49	99	31.2%
55 – 64	43	11.1%	50 – 64	89	28.1%
65 – 74	38	9.8%	65 plus	98	30.9%
75 plus	15	3.9%	N/A		
Total	388	100%	Total	317	100.0%

Unfortunately the citizens' panel used different, much broader, age ranges to the general survey.

However we can say that a total of 230 people aged under 20 were involved (32.6%); a total of 40 people aged between 21 and 34 were involved (5.7%); and that a total of 151 people aged 65 or over were involved (21.4%). Therefore 284 (40.3%) were in the broad age range of 35 to 64 years.

Age Range	Combined Surveys	Population
0 – 34	38.3%	41.8%
35 – 64	40.3%	42.1%
65 and over	21.4%	16.1%

While the broad ranges are not far off they disguise the very low participation of under 20s participating in the citizens' panel survey and the low participation by people in their 20s in either survey.

(iii) Ethnicity

People were asked to describe themselves. A total of 703 answered this question.

Description	General	Panel	Total	Percentage	Pop 2001	Pop 05
White British	334	285	619	88.05%	89.35%	87.15%
White Irish	3	7	10	1.42%	1.29%	1.24%
Other White European	5	11	16	2.28%	2.57%	3.40%
Other White	3	0	3	0.43%		
Indian	14	3	17	2.42%	2.67%	2.57%
Pakistani	1	0	1	0.14%	0.22%	0.41%
Bangladeshi	3	1	4	0.57%	0.29%	0.41%
Other Asian	2	0	2	0.28%	0.32%	0.41%
Caribbean (Black)	1	1	2	0.28%	1.01%	1.08%
African (Black)	4	0	4	0.57%	0.18%	0.58%
Other Black	0	0	0	0%	0.11%	0.17%
Chinese	4	0	4	0.57%	0.35%	0.50%
Mixed ethnicity	11	4	15	2.13%	1.45%	1.74%
Other ethnic group	2	2	4	0.57%	0.19%	0.33%
Japanese	1	0	1	0.14%		
Egyptian	0	1	1	0.14%		
Totals	388	315	703	99.99%	100.00%	99.99%

The percentages in the “pop 2001” column are from the April 2001 Census (total population = 116,908). Those in the “pop 05” column are from the mid 2005 estimates (total population = 120,600) published in October 2007.

Note that in mid 2005 an estimated 12.85 of the population of North Hertfordshire did not describe themselves as white British. That compares with the 11.95% in the combined surveys.

(iv) Disability

A total of 700 people answered this question.

80 (11.4%) said they had a disability. 620 (88.6%) said they had not.

At the April 2001 14.72% of the population said they had a limiting long term illness.

4 General Notes

The issues in the list were those identified at the Broadway Hotel event. "Jobs" was included with local businesses in the hard copy questionnaire.

Many thanks to Fearnhill School who provided nearly all the responses from young people.

This report identifies some differences from the different surveys and from younger people. It is possible to do some analysis by area and by different sections of the community though in many cases the sample sizes will be small.

For more information please contact Jim Brown, NHDC Policy Manager on 01462 474835 or via jim.brown@north-herts.gov.uk

This version 5th February 2008 (1600, Jim Brown).