



Supported by Sleaford Town Council

Sleaford Neighbourhood Development Plan

Community engagement report



**Produced by Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
September 2022**

www.sleafordneighbourhoodplan.co.uk

Sleaford Neighbourhood Development Plan – Engagement Report

Contents

Acknowledgements

Map of the Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan area

- 1 About the Neighbourhood Plan
- 2 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan
- 3 Impact of the Covid19 pandemic
- 4 Community engagement and results
- 5 Vision and Objectives
- 6 Issues outside of the Plan
- 7 Regulation 14 consultation on the draft Plan
- 8 Submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to North Kesteven District Council

Annexes

- A. Members of the People's Panel

Sleaford Neighbourhood Development Plan – Engagement Report

Acknowledgements

This report could not have been produced without the input of many people who at the same time had their own lives, jobs and Covid 19 issues to cope with.

Those people include the members of the Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – town councillors Paul Edward-Shea, David Suiter and Ken Fernandes, plus community representatives Keith Maltby, Clare Edwards, Nick Law, David Marriage and Harriet Wells and former member Kathy Blythe.

We thank Sleaford Town Council for being the ‘Sponsoring body’ for the Neighbourhood Plan and for their financial and other support to the work. Special thanks go to our consultants, Janet Clerk of YMCA Lincolnshire (www.lincsymca.co.uk) and Steve Kemp of OpenPlan (www.thinkopenplan.com)

A similar debt is owed to all the members of the People’s Panel (annexe A) for their input and advice on draft documents as the Neighbourhood Plan progressed, including Simon Pawley, Sleaford’s foremost historian. The input from the Greylees Engagement Network was also most valuable.

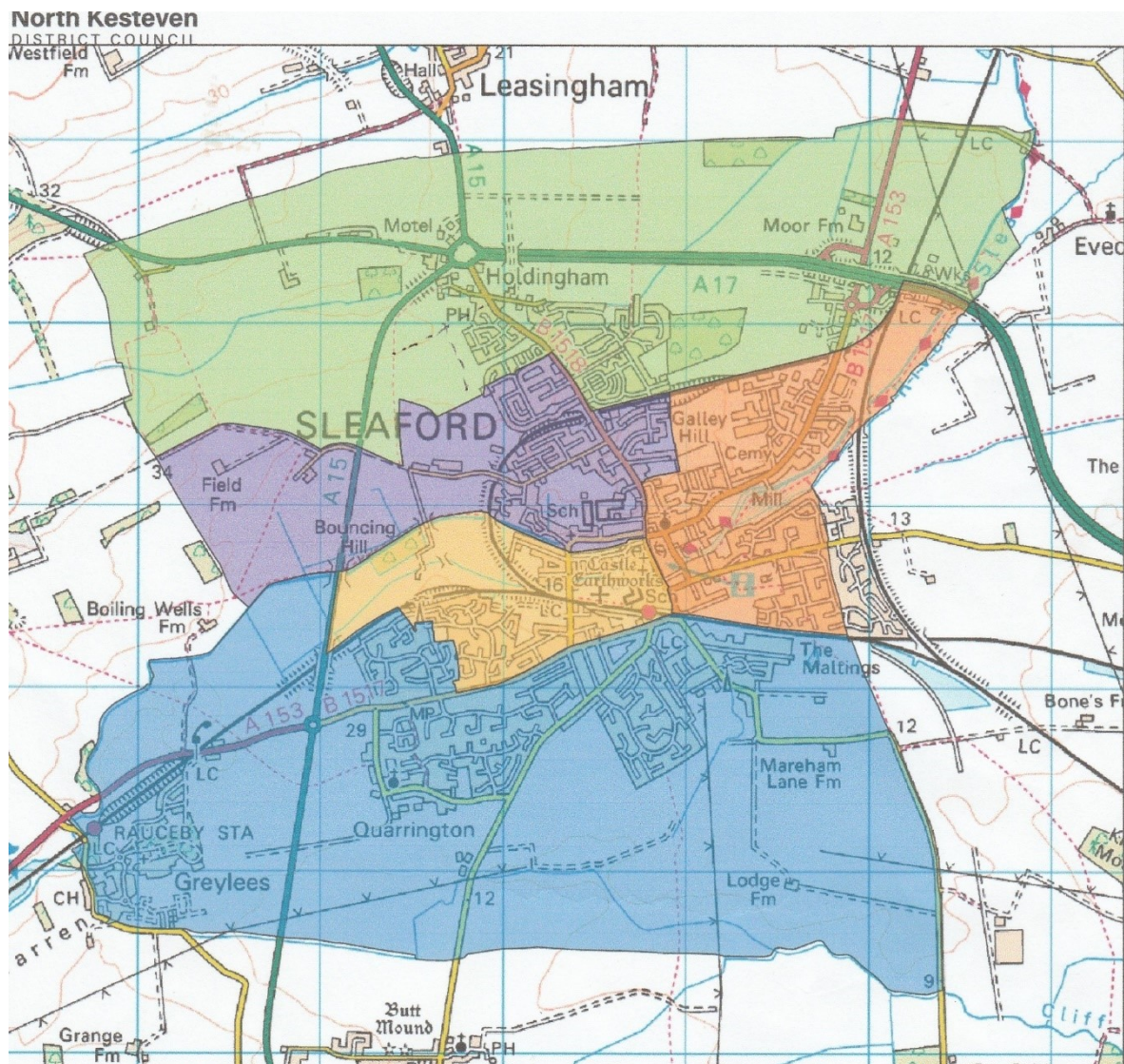
This report could not have been produced without the input from all the residents, visitors, businesses, organisations, young people and others who gave us their views through all of the stages of our community engagement work.

Last but not least, huge thanks go to Nicola Marshall, the former Deputy Town Clerk at Sleaford Town Council, who was an exceptional secretary and support to the Working Group in so many ways, including making our successful bids for government funding for the Neighbourhood Plan work.



Councillor Robert Oates
Chairman, Sleaford neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Map of the Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan area



1 About the Neighbourhood Plan

1.1 The Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan (NP) will give the local community a greater say in how the town develops up to 2040, which is the timescale for the revised Central Lincolnshire joint Local Plan (see section 2). The local community includes residents, visitors, young people, businesses, organisations and others. The aim is to keep the best of how our traditional market town looks while ensuring that new developments add to its attractiveness as a place to live, work, shop, do business and enjoy leisure activities. The Neighbourhood Plan will help to achieve a town that is thriving, prosperous and a pleasure to live in.

1.2 Having a Neighbourhood Plan will also raise the Town Council's share of the Community Infrastructure Levy on all new developments from 15% to 25%. This will give the Town Council more money to spend on infrastructure such as recreation areas, the cemetery, allotments, the Eastgate car park and town centre public toilets.

1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan is being produced by Sleaford Town Council through a Working Group of Councillors and community representatives (see www.sleafordneighbourhoodplan.co.uk). The Working Group also has a 'People's Panel' of members of the public to advise us. The job of the Working Group is to make sure that the proper process for producing a Neighbourhood Plan is followed. A major part in that process is engaging with the community to find out how they want Sleaford to look and feel as a place to live, work and enjoy up to 2040. This Engagement Report sets out how we have done and what the community told us, resulting in the production of the 'Vision and Objectives' which will form a basis for the Neighbourhood Plan. .

1.4 We have been greatly helped in our work by the consultants, OpenPlan and Community Lincs/YMCA Lincolnshire. Community Lincs/YMCA Lincolnshire have assisted in many ways with our community engagement work including the design, circulation and analysis of questionnaires and the holding of workshops. OpenPlan is assisting particularly with preparing the draft Neighbourhood Plan and various supporting documents to go with it.

1.5 The Neighbourhood Plan will have most influence on how new developments take place in Sleaford, for example the planned large Sustainable Urban Extensions on the south and west sides of the town. But the Neighbourhood Plan will also influence smaller scale development and alterations to buildings and infrastructure in the other streets of the town including those in the centre, much of which is in the designated Conservation Area. Many of the problems highlighted in our engagement with the community, such as traffic congestion and improving the town centre are the responsibility of other bodies such as Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and North Kesteven District Council (NKDC). Fortunately the separate consultations carried out by LCC over the 'Transport Plan for Sleaford' and NKDC over its 'Masterplan' for the town centre match most of what the community has told us that they want to see in the Neighbourhood Plan.

1.6 Sleaford is a market town for many surrounding villages. In our engagement and consultation work, efforts were made to seek the views of visitors to Sleaford from near and far. In addition, the draft NP will be sent to a long list of interested organisations for comment including all neighbouring Parish Councils.

2 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan

2.1 In the UK all new buildings or alterations to existing buildings or land must be approved under the national planning laws. North Kesteven District Council is the Planning Authority responsible for managing the planning system in our area.

2.2 North Kesteven District Council, the City of Lincoln council, and West Lindsey District Council came together in a formal partnership with Lincolnshire County Council to prepare a joint Local Plan for the area in 2017. In response to significant changes to national policy, a review of that plan is underway to ensure it remains up to date. The revised Local Plan has a new target date of 2040 and so has this Neighbourhood Plan. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan sets out the planning framework for the town of Sleaford and is used as a guide against which planning applications will be determined for such things as:

- The location of new homes
- The creation of new jobs
- The protection of open spaces

2.3 The Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan must be developed in conformity with the existing Local Plan. In other words, the Neighbourhood Plan cannot propose policies which go beyond those set out in the Local Plan. For more information about the Central Lincolnshire Plan visit: www.central-lincs.org.uk

2.4 The Sleaford Neighbourhood Development Plan, if successful at the referendum stage (see Section 7) will be a legal planning document and decisions on planning applications in Sleaford will take account of the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the wider Development Plan alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

3 The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic

3.1 The process of producing the Neighbourhood Plan for Sleaford began with the first meeting of the Working Group in March 2020. Unfortunately, the Covid 19 pandemic was spreading rapidly around the world and caused the UK to enforce a 'lockdown' of society from April 2020, causing the largest disruption to our social and economic life for 300 years since the Bubonic Plague. Various Covid19 restrictions then severely restricted people's movements until July 2021 when the rules were eased. But in late 2021 the emergence of the Omicron variant caused many people to return to precautionary measures into 2022.

3.2 The pandemic and its immediate problems have rightly dominated the media and people's thoughts so it has been hard to obtain their input to a Neighbourhood Plan for the future. Against this background it has been impossible to produce a Plan in the traditional way through lots of direct face to face engagement with people. Advice from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) at the time encouraged the continued production of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) while following the rules around social distancing. To incentivise the development of NDPs, the government 'Basic Grant' was raised from £9k to £10k. We also had to rely much more on indirect methods such as questionnaires and websites to engage the community. But we have managed to run some Covid-safe events and they have produced similar results from the indirect engagement activities. The community has consistently raised the same issues and steadily supported the development of the Vision and Objectives that are presented in this report as the basis for the Neighbourhood Plan.

4 How we engaged the community

During the development of the Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan (NP) from November 2019 onwards the public were engaged through a wide variety of methods, which are summarised in the table below. Details of the methods, the results, and how they were used to help shape our work are given in the sections that follow after the table.

	DATE	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
4.1	November 2019 onwards	Websites	News about the NP on Sleaford Town Council website. And from October 2020 onwards on the Neighbourhood Plan website.
4.2	November 2019 onwards	Social media	Messages posted on Town Council Facebook page and 20 sites for Sleaford and the surrounding area.
4.3	April 2020 onwards	Print media	Various press releases. Articles In 'YourLocalLincs' magazine which is distributed to 23,000 homes and businesses in and around Sleaford. Various posters and leaflets produced for events since 2020.
4.4	September 2020	Baseline Survey	Baseline Survey circulated online and on paper to homes and businesses.
4.5	Sept. 2020 & Sept. 2021	Market stalls	Two promotional stalls in the Market Place.
4.6	Dec 2020 onwards	Banners	6m and 8m banners circulated around prominent sites in Sleaford.
4.7	February 2021	Household Survey	Published on-line. 1,000 hard copies distributed to homes in Sleaford including Greylees. Promoted by Lincs Chamber of Commerce and NKDC, and to all groups in our contact list and all Church Ministers and Leaders in Sleaford.
4.8	February 2021	Schools survey	Sent online to all three secondary schools in the town.
4.9	February 2021	Business Survey	As above, except hard copies not distributed to homes. Plus, leaflets distributed to 100 industrial premises in December 2020 and July 2022.
4.10	July 2021 onwards	Community groups	NP promoted to community groups via email. Civic Trust letter in response.
4.11	August & Sept 2021	Walking tours	Walking tours of the town centre for the public and Joint Sixth Form school students.
4.12	September 2021 & June 2022	Open Days	First Vision and Objectives 'Open Day'. 2nd Vision and Objectives 'Open Day'.
4.13	November 2021	Consultation events of others	NHS Lincolnshire consultation event in Sleaford, NKDC Sleaford Town Centre regeneration workshop.
4.14	August 2022	Final 'Vision and Objectives'	promoted via press release, email to Peoples' Panel and all community group contacts, on websites and social media, posters, leaflets and in public library.

4.1 Websites

4.1.1 Since November 2019 Sleaford Town Council has promoted the Neighbourhood Plan via its own website. - www.sleaford.gov.uk



A range of questions, suggestions and offers of help continue to be received through the Town Council website; all are directed to the Neighbourhood Plan working group.

4.1.2 By October 2020 a dedicated Neighbourhood Plan website was set up and widely promoted - www.sleafordneighbourhoodplan.co.uk



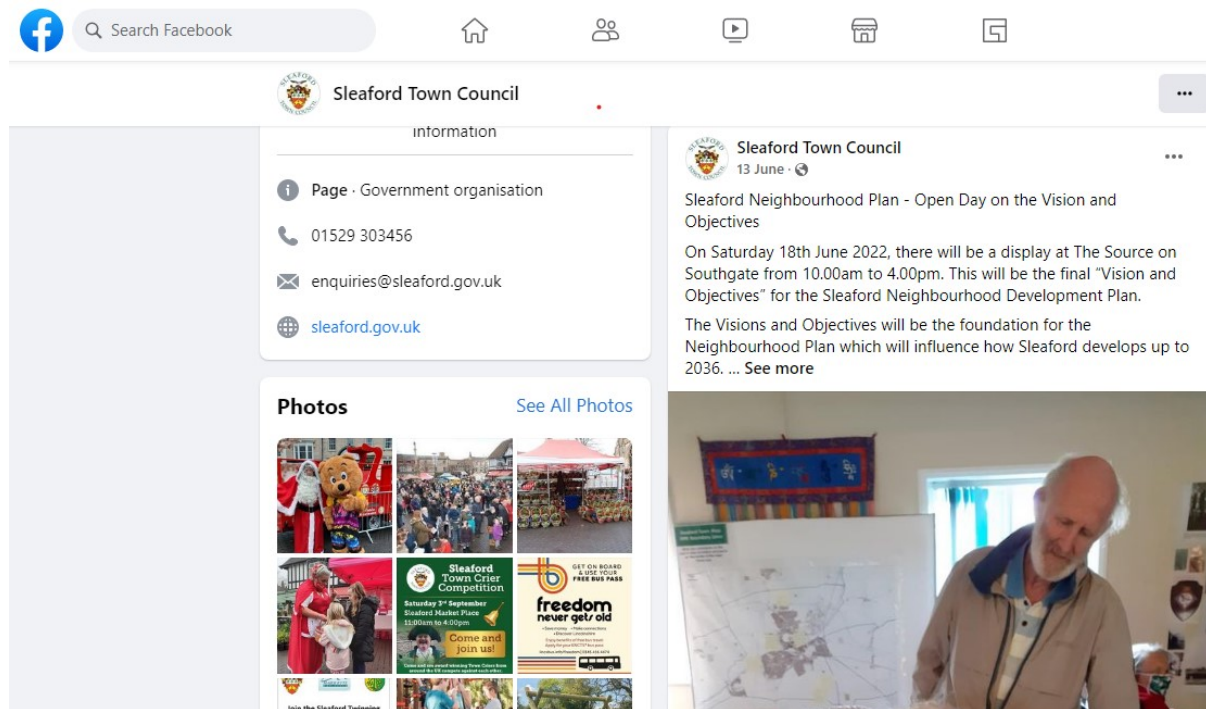
4.1.3 A wide range of questions, suggestions and offers of help continue to be received through the NP website, which is also an invaluable tool for communicating outwards to our audiences.

Impact of this activity

4.1.4 All comments and suggestions received via these websites are assessed and they help to shape and focus all of our other communications and engagement activities.

4.2 Social media

4.2.1 From November 2019 onwards messages about the Neighbourhood Plan have been posted on the Town Council's Facebook page plus twenty sites for Sleaford and surrounding area, which are also valuable means of communicating outwards to our audiences.



Impact of this activity

4.2.2 All comments received via social media are assessed and help to shape and focus all of our other communications and engagement activities.

4.3.1 Since the formation of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group in April 2020, various press releases and media articles have been published to promote the NP. The feedback received has helped us to shape our communications about the plan and to design further engagement activities.

This free magazine is delivered to 23,000 homes and businesses in and around Sleaford. We periodically placed articles in this magazine, as here from December 2020:



We periodically placed articles in the ‘Sleaford Target’ and ‘Sleaford Standard’ newspapers, as here from July 2022:

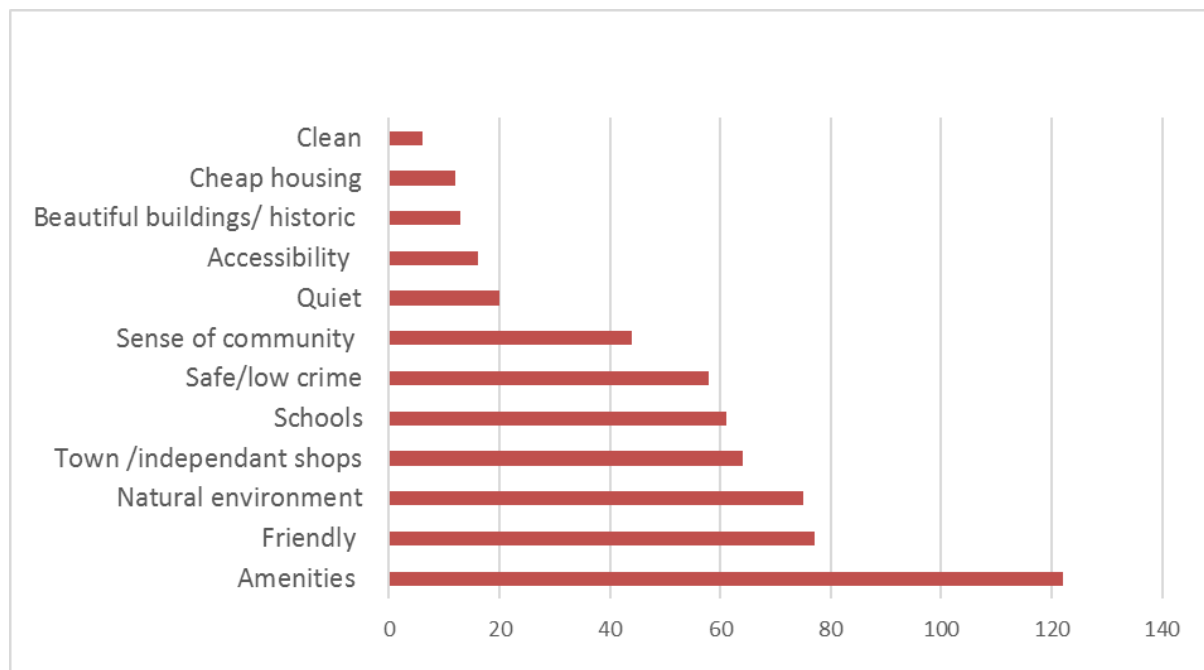


4.4 Baseline Survey

4.4.1 In September 2020 a short Baseline Survey was developed, circulated, and analysed for us by consultants Community Lincs, now part of YMCA Lincolnshire. The survey was designed to provide information on the key issues and concerns of local residents, businesses, and people that work in the town. The Baseline Survey would inform the development of a detailed households survey for distribution in early 2021. A Baseline Survey was useful as the Covid 19 pandemic restricted our face-to-face contact with people.

4.4.2 The Baseline Survey was circulated online and on paper. It contained five questions of which two were closed and three open-ended. The total number of responses was 409, with online responses numbering 371 and paper responses numbering 38. The majority of respondents indicated that they live in Sleaford. Almost a third work in the town.

4.4.3 In reply to the question 'What do you like about Sleaford', the 397 responses received are summarised in the graph below.



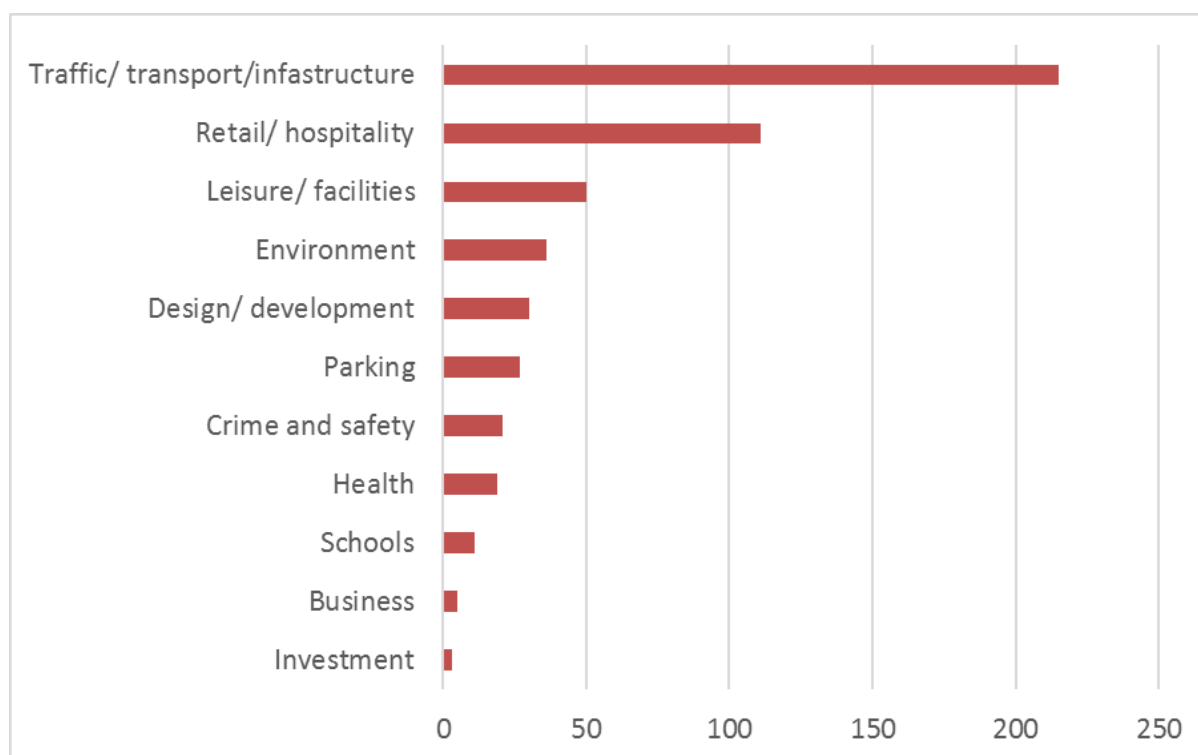
4.4.4 The top attraction of the town was its range of amenities, meaning its desirable or useful features such as recreation grounds, the Hub, theatre, market, pubs, and restaurants etc. The second attraction 'Friendly' is a positive but subjective view. But the third attraction 'The natural environment' was a theme mentioned repeatedly over all following engagement activities. The characterful old town centre with its wide range of independent shops was also a theme mentioned by many people in subsequent engagement activities. The town's good schools were mentioned by 60% of respondents. Nearly 60% of respondents referred to the relatively low crime levels in the town and feeling safe.

4.4.5 In reply to the question 'What do you NOT like about Sleaford', the 399 responses received are summarised in the graph below.

	Subject	Comments
1	Roads, traffic	200 comments including congestion and dislike of the one-way system in the town centre.
2	Retail/High Street	158 comments including lack of variety of shops and empty shops.
3	Leisure activities	72 comments. 37 about poor facilities for young people. 34 reference general lack of facilities. 16 comments that there is no cinema.
4	Parking	41 comments. 24 relate to parking being expensive.
5	Housing and growth	39 comments. 30 relate to lack of infrastructure support and related services for new housing developments.
6	Anti-social behaviour/community safety	37 comments. 25 references to drugs and drug taking.
7	Other	35 comments that were difficult to categorise.
8	Environment	21 comments. 14 references to litter/town looking dirty.
9	Connectivity	14 comments about inferior quality and lack of cycleways.
10	Public transport	13 comments about the availability/lack of public transport
11	Health	11 comments. 9 references to inadequate GP, hospital services.
12	Businesses/employment	6 comments on a range of issues.
13	Heritage	5 comments re monuments and buildings
14	Location	4 comments re distance from larger towns and the area not attracting funding

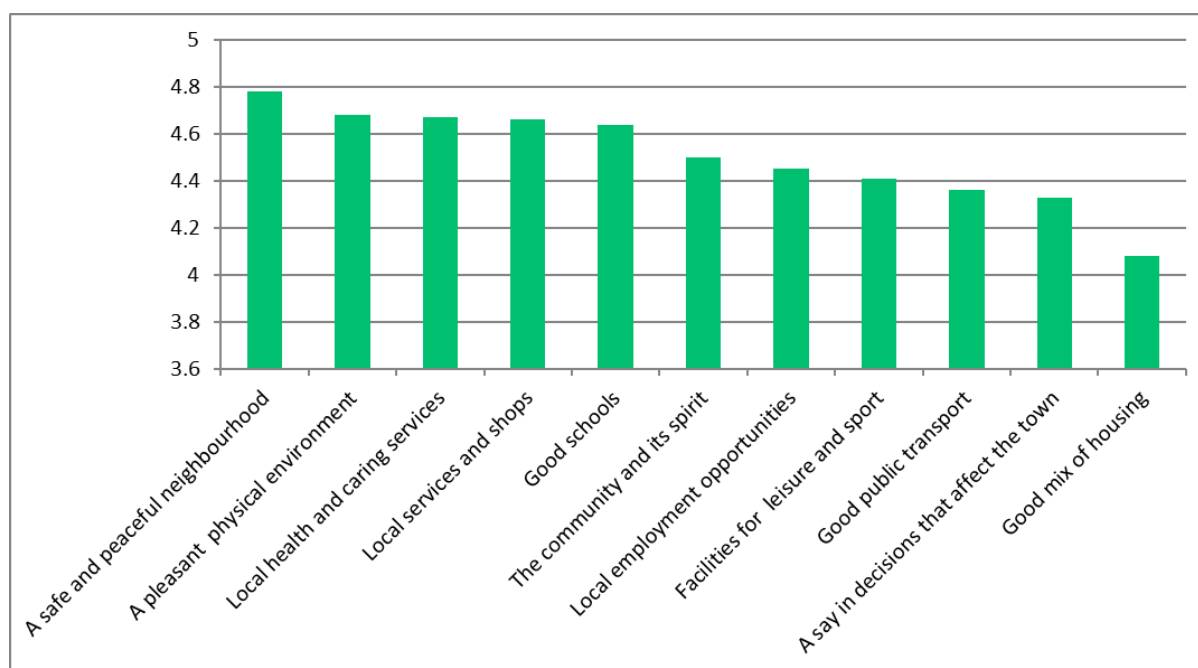
4.4.6 The main dislikes were around transport issues, especially in the town centre – roads, traffic, congestion, parking, public transport, and lack of cycleways. These were themes which were constantly raised in subsequent engagement activities and form the number one area of concern for the future development of the town. The second main dislike was the lack of variety of shops and that empty units existed on Southgate, the town's 'High Street.' Further engagement activities revealed that the main shops in demand were for clothing and non-essential items, where internet shopping has captured most of the market. Further engagement activities revealed a demand for the 'High Street' to be a place for more services and experiences such as cafes rather than daily essentials. The main leisure activities in demand were a cinema and for young people in particular a bowling alley and gaming centres. The lack of infrastructure and services in new developments was also a common theme in later engagement activities. Community safety was felt to be most threatened by drug dealing and drug taking around the town. The importance of a green and pleasant environment for people and the economy was a theme emphasised in later engagement activities, with the River Slea often mentioned. References to inadequate GP and hospital services were also common themes in later engagement activities. The small number of comments around business/employment prompted us to undertake a further survey aimed at this sector (see below).

4.4.7 The 528 responses to the question ‘What changes do you see as a priority?’ are summarised in the graph below.



These priorities were largely mirrored in subsequent engagement activities, except that a dedicated ‘Business Survey’ produced a larger response on the issues of business and investment.

4.4.8 In reply to the question ‘Which of the following are important to you?’, 409 responses were received, and the graph presents them weighted in descending order.



When the question is posed in this open-ended way, the top priorities of the community lean towards public safety, a pleasant environment, and good health services, shops, and schools. The lower concern for employment opportunities perhaps reflects the high employment rate in the area. The lower priority for leisure facilities and sport perhaps reflects the existing good sporting facilities in the town. The lower priority for public transport perhaps reflects private car ownership in the area being higher than the national average; a fact that contributes to many of the issues around transport cited above and needs to be addressed as part of the climate change strategy.

Impact of this activity

4.4.9 The results of the Baseline Survey helped to shape and focus the following more detailed Household and Business surveys described below. They also helped to shape and focus all of our other communications and engagement activities.

4.5 Stalls in the marketplace

4.5.1 Stalls were held in the Market Place in the centre of Sleaford on Friday 9th October 2020 and Friday 17th September 2021. The 2020 event was a day of cold and windy weather that attracted only twenty-seven people to the stall. But all gave us their views about the town and how it should develop in the future and took away copies of the baseline survey. This results from this event helped to shape further engagement activities. But further stalls were cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

4.5.2 The 2021 event was held on a fine and sunny day and one hundred and forty-eight people were engaged in the discussion. The majority agreed with the draft Vision and Objectives while additional comments were received. Sadly, further market stalls were cancelled due to the arrival of the Omicron variant of Covid-19.



Impact of this activity

4.5.3 The market stalls gave us face to face engagement with residents, visitors and businesses which helped to shape and focus our other communications and engagement activities.

4.6 Banners

4.6.1 From December 2020 onwards, 6m and 8m banners have been circulated around prominent sites in Sleaford to promote the NP and encourage input.



Impact of this activity

4.5.3 The market stalls gave us publicity with residents, visitors and businesses which helped to encourage their engagement.

4.7 Household Survey

4.7.1 We commissioned consultants, YMCA Lincolnshire, to design, promote and analyse a Household Survey in February 2021, informed by the Baseline Survey. The Household Survey was available to download and complete electronically and 1,000 hard copies were printed and delivered to one in seven of all households in the town.

4.7.2 We had 519 responses from households. No inference can be made that the responses were wholly representative, especially in a time of Covid restrictions. Community Lincs/YMCA Lincolnshire produced a report with a full analysis of the responses to the questionnaire. That analysis was used by the Working Group, alongside evidence from other engagement activities, to develop the Vision and Objectives for the Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan. The full YMCA Lincolnshire report can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan website.

4.7.3 The following is a summary of the Household Questionnaire responses, taken from the YMCA Lincolnshire report:

Community Safety

Although baseline survey responses had shown that respondents consider Sleaford to have a low crime rate; engagement with young people (Carre's Grammar School student questionnaire) Appendix 2, had identified concerns around antisocial behaviour and feeling safe in the town. Household questionnaire analysis on this topic concludes that the majority of respondents feel safe most of the time 66.6% and 27.38% feel safe all of the time. The time when respondents do feel less safe is predominately at night 73.6% and the locations for this mainly shortcuts and alleyways. Direct experience of antisocial behaviour is relatively low at 15%.

Environment and Sleaford's Heritage

The questionnaire aimed to expand on the results from the baseline survey and identify respondents' priorities for action. Visual improvements were seen as most important;

reduction in waste and litter, enhancements of green spaces and the River Slea were second and third respectively.

Highways, Transport and Parking

Longstanding issues around the causes of town centre congestion and car parking in the town were further explored in this section of the questionnaire. Use of the car is the most popular means of getting about although walking was favoured by 36% as a means of moving around the town. Public transport is used by only 6.20 % of respondents when leaving the town and only 1.16 % of respondents use the bus to get around the town. There is support for actions that will encourage more walking and cycling. The top three responses to Q8 related to encouraging more walking and cycling, followed by improvements to the existing infrastructure and creation of additional paths and cycle ways attached to new developments.

Housing and Development

The questionnaire stated that the Neighbourhood Plan would not be able to recommend less housing than had already been suggested in the Central Lincolnshire plan but could influence the type and design of housing. Respondents supported the notion that development of a Neighbourhood Plan did give an opportunity to make changes at a local level that would support actions required to reduce climate change. In summary respondents support developments that will help mitigate climate change with sustainable energy efficient design receiving the highest support. Respondents also wish to see design that is supported by appropriate levels of infrastructure and services, with adequate parking for all households. The need for more bungalows, 2 and 3 bedroom, received a high level of support. The age profile of respondents may be a contributing factor here. Homes on the open market received the highest percentage return although a number of the “other comments” supported the need for more affordable homes and homes for rent.

Leisure and Arts Respondents

Respondents view access to open green spaces as very important for the town. Play facilities also scored highly and along with improvements to both these and open spaces there is continued support for a cinema to be developed locally.

The Economy

Town centre shopping has seen a decline for some time and there is concern about the number of vacant properties. Covid 19 has accelerated a change in shopping behaviour locally and a migration of people to the larger town and city centres. The question responses identified support for visual improvements e.g., street scene and change of use for empty shops. Improving the café culture which is arguably on the rise is also seen as an important measure towards improving the local economy. Allocation of land to meet the needs of local business also received strong support. The need for access to affordable parking was a common strand of the baseline questionnaire and although not a main feature of this questionnaire receives a significant number of comments from businesses (see Business Questionnaire analysis).

Accessibility

The questionnaire wanted to identify issues of respondents or their family members who have a health condition that can exclude or minimise their ability to freely access services and facilities. The majority of respondents suggested that for the town to be accessible improvements to facilities were required, pavements and kerb improvements being the single most important change needed. The accessibility barriers that respondents encountered included narrow pavements and doorways, uneven roads and pavements and feeling unsafe crossing the roads.

About you

Responses do reflect a cross section of the population in terms of the age profile of households, with 25% of responses including the views of young people under eighteen.

Impact of this activity

4.7.4 The results from this survey helped us to focus other engagement events and to develop the Vision and Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.8 Schools Survey

4.8.1 In February 2021, Community Lincs/YMCA Lincolnshire also designed, promoted, and analysed for us a Schools Survey, informed by the Baseline Survey. Due to Covid-19 restrictions reducing school operations over the following months, we received responses only from students at Carre's Grammar School. Responses were received from students in years 7 to 11, which are below the Sixth Form level.

4.8.2 91% of students who responded felt safe when walking around Sleaford. The most unsafe areas were felt to be Nag's Head Passage, the alleyway between the Market Place and Church Lane, and the roads in the town centre due to lack of pedestrian crossings.

4.8.3 92% of students who responded had experienced traffic delays in the town of between thirty and ninety minutes, such as on bus journeys to and from school.

4.8.4 100% of students who responded had little or no desire to work in Sleaford in the future.

Students felt that industries or businesses missing in Sleaford included research and technology companies.

4.8.5 100% of students who responded felt that there was not enough out of school time provision for them in the town. Facilities missing included a cinema, bowling alley and gaming centres (especially for the winter months), cycle ways and a wider range of retail outlets such as clothes and sports shops.

4.8.6 60% of students who responded wanted the following sports/recreational facilities – more open spaces for walking, full size football pitches, basketball court, trampoline park, bigger skate/BMX park, bigger swimming pool, mini golf, squash court and running track.

4.8.7 100% of students who responded wanted to see more green space in Sleaford.

4.8.8 91% of students who responded felt that Sleaford was not at all or only a little environmentally friendly. Environmental measures suggested included:

- Less town centre traffic
- Wider pavements/more pedestrianisation in the town centre
- More cycle paths
- More electric car charging points
- More planting of trees and other habitats for wildlife
- Litter reduction, especially cigarette butts
- More solar panels on buildings
- Electric vehicle charging points

4.8.9 In summary, the views of young respondents matched closely those of adults surveyed regarding the top issues for the town including better traffic and transport

management, making the town centre greener and a more attractive place to visit for retail and leisure activities and wanting more green space for recreational activities. The main difference was the call of young people for more recreational activities for their age group and for more hi-tech and science-based job opportunities in the town.

Impact of this activity

4.8.10 The results from this survey helped us to focus other engagement events and to develop the Vision and Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Relocation of the two town grammar schools

4.8.11 The schools survey also prompted a submission from the Robert Carre Trust regarding the ambition of the Trust to relocate the two town grammar schools to a new site. The proposed site is on the west side of the A15 town by-pass adjacent to the Sleaford West Sustainable Urban Extension. The Trust has been working on this project since the Sleaford Masterplan suggested in 2012 the benefits of moving one or two of the Sleaford secondary schools out of their town centre locations. The 'Business Case Summary' for the project outlines a range of benefits that it would bring, including:

- Educational benefits
- Helping to meet the growth demands of the town
- Regeneration benefits
- Financial benefits
- Design benefits

Relocating the two grammar schools out of the town centre would help to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and improve the town centre visit experience for shoppers and recreation. The full details are set out in the 'Business Case Summary' for the project published by the Robert Carre Trust.

The Robert Carre Trust has developed a Communications Plan for the project to engage the public and key partners. There has been wide support for the project.

4.9 Business Survey

4.9.1 We also commissioned consultants Community Lincs/YMCA Lincolnshire to design, promote and analyse a Business Survey from February 2021 onwards, again informed by the Baseline Survey. The Business Survey was available to complete on-line. Due to Covid-19 restrictions impacting businesses over the following months, we received only twenty-six responses from them by the end of the year. No inference can be made that the responses were wholly representative of the business sector, especially in a time of Covid restrictions. However, the analysis of the responses was used as a guide to help shape further engagement work and the vision and objectives of the Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan.

4.9.2 The following is a summary of the Business Survey responses, taken from the Community Lincs/YMCA Lincolnshire report. Around 80 % of respondents represented businesses that are either sole traders or limited companies. The largest group was 'other' followed by:

- Business services
- Property services
- Health and care
- Building and construction

- Retail – non food
- Manufacturing and repair
- Hospitality
- Creative/arts
- Oil distributor, oil tank installation
- Seeds
- Registered charity
- Transport – bus and coach company

Business types that did not respond to the questionnaire included:

- Retail – mostly food
- Hair and beauty
- Farming/agriculture
- Education/training

4.9.3 Almost half of responding businesses had been operating in Sleaford for more than 11 years. Over 40% of respondents' businesses were located in the town centre. Seven respondents were home based, three respondents chose to record another location.

4.9.4 In response to Question 6: 'In your view is there a suitable capacity/quality of business space to support any expansion of your business in Sleaford?' The responses were near 50:50 for yes or no, fairly evenly balanced across the range of business types.

4.9.5 60 % of respondents indicated that there were no transport issues as a result of their location in the town. Of the eight businesses who stated that their business did suffer as a result of transport issues: five are located in the town centre, 1 north of town centre and 2 home based. Where transport was a problem more town centre parking needed for staff was the most common comment. Three quarters of respondents consider free parking to be an important facility for their business e.g. "My staff need cheap car park, one disabled needs to park close."

4.9.6 Ten businesses indicated they would like to see affordable meeting rooms, training facilities and start up business units.

4.9.7 42% of businesses who responded never connect with local decision makers and just over a fifth never connect with other local businesses.

4.9.8 In response to Question 12: 'In your opinion what would/does attract investors to the Town?' 21 responders gave the examples in the tables below:

Would attract:

Business Support	The 'High Street' and Empty Shops	Roads and Parking	Visual Improvements	Other
Availability of skilled employees	An attractive, busy high street	Free parking x 4 comments	A pedestrianised high street/areas	Cultural deficit, some key staff do not want to move to this area

Cheaper rents, small business grants	It would help if all the empty shops were occupied x2	Better transport links (e.g., rail)	All things beautiful	Faster mobile networks
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------	------------------------

Does Attract:

Town centre car parking but more required	The River Sleat, the Recreation Ground on Boston Road
A lively town that has its residents, business, and other local people at its heart	Awareness of good quality of living and good schools
Location, reasonable priced	

4.9.9 In response to Question 13: 'What are the challenges that face new businesses wanting to locate in Sleaford?' The following came top:

1. Cost of business premises compared to other areas
2. Availability of suitable business premises
3. Lack of skilled workforce
4. Inadequate transport infrastructure
5. Poor infrastructure e.g., Broadband, mobile phone connection, electricity supply

4.9.10 In response to Question 14: 'If you were marketing Sleaford as a place to run a business what would you say are its selling points?' The growth of the town, low crime levels and the view that Sleaford is an attractive place are the top three selling points of respondents.

4.9.11 Other comments in the report include the following:

Rental premises need to be a lot cheaper than they currently are, along with rates bills. We are a small town with ridiculous retail/commercial rents and rates, which mean starting a business is a no go for a lot of people, due to the huge amount of money needed instantly just to pay rent, rates, insurance etc., before they can even take a wage!	I would like to see the high street pedestrianised on weekends initially. Also, more conservation areas put in place so the destruction of shop/house frontages discontinues. Areas of high population densities to all be made 20mph zones (generally tending to be roads accessing multiple properties 100+ years old)
The lights at Southgate crossing gates are sub optimum i.e., set to cause delay? Take traffic that does not want to go into town centre onto an outer ring road. You need some smaller shop units for small businesses not a bigger supermarket. Can we get Waitrose.	The stagnation of the retail sector in the town allied with stagnant property prices has had a detrimental effect. The Sleaford Master Plan needs to be enacted as soon as possible to help to remedy these issues.
During Covid Pandemic the council do not appear to appreciate that just because we are trading, it does not follow that we are sustainable.	The issue ALL businesses & our customers have on Westgate is related to parking so any extensions or permits would be

	amazing and make our lives much less stressful. Thanks in advance
It would help if we had more police at night to stop people racing around the town. This does impact on business in the area.	It's a lovely place to work and live and I get annoyed when people decry our/my town.

4.9.12 In the view of Community Lincs/YMCA Lincolnshire, the survey respondents do represent a cross section of business types even though numbers were low. Businesses recorded similar views around what is needed to improve the town and in turn their business prosperity, including the lowering of business rates, the need for more affordable parking for their staff, and reducing the number of empty shops and premises in the town centre. Equally in terms of the town's positive attributes, businesses share similar views to residents, highlighting the good schools, the town's location in the county, the attractive river and generally being a good place to live. Sadly, the Covid-19 pandemic had a detrimental effect on businesses, with more than half recording a loss of trade in the previous year. On a positive note, a number of businesses predict a brighter future.

Impact of this activity

4.9.13 The YMCA Lincolnshire analysis of the responses in their report could only reflect the views of the businesses that participated. But those responses and the gaps that they show gave us important pointers to where we should concentrate future consultation with this sector over the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

4.10 Community groups

4.10.1 A request for input to the Neighbourhood Plan process from community groups was also hindered by the Covid 19 pandemic. Many community groups were unable to meet for extended periods over the years 2020 and 2021. Some managed to meet online, but it was difficult for the Working Group to engage with them during that time. We plan to make up for that by engaging with as many community groups as possible over the draft Neighbourhood Plan when it is produced this autumn hopefully.

4.10.2 One community organisation that did respond was the Sleaford and District Civic Trust, who in November 2021 sent us the following comments regarding the Market Place.

'Sleaford Market Square - Civic Trust thoughts for development to fit the future

There has been a market in Sleaford since Anglo-Saxon through the Norman and Tudor times to the present day – over a thousand years. The Market Place is almost unique in that the main door of the Church - St Deny's faces directly onto the Market Square. There were two Charters. The first between Henry 11 and the Dean & Chapter of Lincoln and the second from Sir Edward Fynes and the Lordship of the Manor of Sleaford in 1156.

On the market Place is a working Victorian Water Fountain commemorating the Bristol family erected in 1874. back in the 1970's the whole area was block paved in a band fashion which detracts from the important historical setting. The area is used as a car park, and with some areas used occasionally for the weekly market. Sleaford must develop this valuable area to give a community feeling and also to attract visitors to the town. No car parking

anytime and allow delivery parking with entry between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm, outside of those hours a limit of say 15mins. max. The only exception to be for funeral vehicles on a small, marked area directly in front of St Deny's Church. The uniform block pavers put in some 20 years ago are now regarded as dated with a drab uniform surface which creates a "car park" feel. Replacement of this drab block paving with more "friendly" paving will give a better feel to the area.

There are mature trees along the South side of the Square complimented by magnificent mature Churchyard trees along the Eastern side. This would be a good basis to further build a "country feeling" by the addition of many flower tubs for trees and plants. Liaise with the Church authorities to encourage using the churchyard as a quiet pleasant pace to sit. This may require an easier access route. The Churchyard is a closed churchyard now maintained by Sleaford Town Council. Most structural work is sanctioned by a Diocesan "De Minis" authority. The garden of Remembrance is maintained by the Town Council for Church under a faculty granted in 1962.

Have more general seating for people to sit down at leisure. The area around the restored Bristol Water Fountain was cleared of parked vehicles the space used to have public seating alongside a small area where the local cafes could have outside seating. However, the temporary rules under Covid have changed the layout which must be restored when the regulations allow. The "tented city" that grew up in Covid "Eat Out" times, must be reduced back to provide far better access around the back of the restored Bristol Water Fountain. Note this is a standing HLF requirement that the information board on the back of the fountain shall be easily accessible to all members of the public which shall include those in wheelchairs. Have much improved Welcome to Sleaford boards to show visitors where they are and what to see in the town. Have adequate security cameras to ensure anti-social behaviour to be reduced to a minimum.'

4.10.3 The views of the Civic Trust regarding how the Market Place should be developed chime with the comments received from most public, visitor, and business respondents. Most respondents wish to see the Market Place no longer used as a place to park cars, except for attending funerals at St Denys' church. Instead, they wish to see the ancient Market Place used more as place for continental style outdoor eating and drinking, with public seating areas under shade trees, where outdoor music and other entertainments can be enjoyed, alongside an extended market on market days.

Impact of this activity

4.10.4 The valued input from the Civic Trust helped us to focus other engagement events and to develop the Vision and Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.11 Walking Tours

Walking tour with the public

4.11.1 Unfortunately, Covid-19 restrictions slowed our plans for walks with members of the public to obtain further insight as to what they liked about the town centre and what improvements that had to suggest. In the event, only one walking tour was held on Sunday 22nd August 2021 in the morning around the town centre with the general public and Civic Trust members. The aim of the walking tour was to gain input on what aspects of the town centre they liked and which aspects they wanted to improve.

4.11.2 The results of this walking tour show a consistency with views previously expressed by residents, businesses, and visitors to the town. The tour participants expressed strong

support for the designated 'Conservation Area' to be protected, especially the Market Place, the historic buildings on the 'High Street' of Southgate, along with Millstream Square, and the Hub, the public toilets, and the bus routes. They also wished to protect the view along Southgate to the Handley Memorial.

4.11.3 Tour participants wanted the town centre traffic to be reduced and the 'High Street' improved for pedestrians as well as being made more attractive with street trees and seating for shoppers.

4.11.4 The lower end of Carre Street where a row of traditional houses was demolished in the past was singled-out as being unattractive and a site where traditional architecture should be restored.

4.11.5 On the tour the following cultural sites were requested to be preserved:

- The site of Sleaford castle
- Navigation House
- Sleaford Museum
- Cogglesford Mill
- The Bass Maltings
- Alms Houses on Northgate
- St Denys' church
- Market Place and the war memorial

4.11.6 Also, the following public houses were requested to be designated as 'Community assets' and protected from demolition or conversion to any other use:

- Watergate Yard on Watergate
- The Bull and Dog on Southgate
- The Ivy on Southgate
- The White Horse on Carre Street
- The Marquis of Granby on Northgate
- The Jolly Scotchman at Holdingham

Impact of this activity

4.11.7 The walking tour enabled us to obtain further insights as to what the members of the community liked about the town centre and what improvements that had to suggest.



Participants in the public walking tour

Walking tour with Sixth Form students

4.11.8 This walking tour involved students from the town's Joint Sixth Form. It was held on Wednesday 29th September 2021 and followed the same route around the town centre as the walking tour with the public. The walk was led by Steve Kemp of OpenPlan consultants and Emily Chaddock, Head of Geography at Carre's Grammar School. Twenty students attended the walk. The comments and suggestions from the students on the walk are set out in the table below, they mostly mirror comments obtained from other engagement activities.

Character Area: Central Sleaford	
Roads and street scene, footpaths and cycling tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widen paths down the main roads Market place alley way should go More crossing points Emphasis on pedestrian priority Artificial turf should go More cycle routes Better road markings Carre Street very nice Hub area very nice Improve footpaths down Westgate Lots of noise and traffic on High Street Reduce speed limit especially near schools Not a lot of greenery Too busy on Carre Street Housing in Hub feels wrong – make it more modern to fit in More cafes on riverside Alleyway near church needs lighting – intimidating at night Modernise alleys Better entrance to High Street Another crossing at the Hub More trees More public toilets Roads are too narrow More back street shops and small businesses needed Lots of banks and solicitors on high street – is this what we want to portray? Older style buildings are positive Some shops don't fit with the area – near Barge and Bottle Too many hairdressers More crossings throughout the central area More cycle paths as it is dangerous for cyclists due to busy roads More advertising for the shops off the high street Remove some traffic lights More pedestrianisation Street signs need to be made more visible Back streets need more lighting Lloyds is an appealing building Church Lane is quiet but a bit dodgy, drugs, smells vile Could limit lorries to certain times of the day or have a weight limit in town Whole of town gets blocked by the train line, bridge over for pedestrians? Shops needed for younger generations

	<p>More seating needed</p> <p>More squares like Millstream needed around the town</p> <p>Could Riverside be used as a green space area?</p> <p>Make a bigger statement of the river</p> <p>One way system is not effective, lots of traffic and time consuming</p> <p>Greenery needed to reduce noise and improve the aesthetic</p> <p>Eastgate needs off road car parking, it is too cluttered</p>
Open Spaces – including Natural Features	<p>Market place used as a car park, but could be used for other purposes as there is character there</p> <p>Shops and cafes could have more seating in the Market place maybe evenings and mornings so the car park can still be used</p> <p>Navigation Yard is modern, but isolated. Could be used as a grass area or a park</p> <p>River is attractive but more vegetation should be there to enhance it and create habitats for a variety of animals</p> <p>Open space near the Hub, more greenery with maybe a fountain in the middle</p> <p>Area behind Sainsburys could be made greener</p> <p>Market area shouldn't be used as a car park</p> <p>Market area could be a lively area in the evening with outdoor eating and entertainment</p> <p>Less chairs in the market area as it is very cramped for the busses after school</p> <p>More cafes etc in areas off the main roads to get people to visit other areas</p> <p>More green areas with sports facilities and play parks</p> <p>Should knock down old buildings</p> <p>Dangerous when cars are driving around the market place</p> <p>Keep old buildings in the market place and add greening round it</p> <p>Have more of a permanent market</p> <p>Rooftop gardens needed</p> <p>Do something with the windmill</p> <p>Try to have more of a Café culture in the market place</p> <p>Need more nightlife in Sleaford</p> <p>Events could be held in the Market place</p> <p>Not many luxury shops</p> <p>Hub area very nice</p>
Buildings	<p>Buildings in central Sleaford have character</p> <p>People of all ages can access the banks</p> <p>Better signage for where shops are</p> <p>Good range of restaurants around the town</p> <p>There needs to be some use of the mill</p> <p>More bike racks are needed</p> <p>Clean and paint the alleyways off the High Street</p> <p>Need more Millstream Squares</p> <p>Riverside Square, do not need another supermarket. More should be made of the river</p> <p>Shop fronts can be unattractive or unappealing</p> <p>Loose wires and cables off buildings need tidying up</p> <p>Turn old council building into a home for the elderly</p> <p>Navigation Yard could be a 'club district' or cocktail bars to make it more lively</p>

	<p>Town hall area looks nice so maybe an art area to blend with the Hub</p> <p>Remove carpet and recliner shops from near barge and bottle they do not fit with the area</p> <p>More street art could increase tourism</p> <p>Keep the old building style, but put more of the Hub style buildings in too</p> <p>Improve areas like Mill Street</p> <p>Put shops and nature into the square near Costa</p> <p>Old buildings add character to the town</p> <p>More lighting in the market square also put more plants etc</p> <p>More clothes shops needed to stop people going to Lincoln etc</p> <p>More recreation space could be put into central areas, basket ball courts etc</p> <p>Could put in more modern cafes, smoothie bars etc</p> <p>Use the Hub area as an outdoor sculpture park</p> <p>More clean public toilets</p> <p>Gym at Navigation Yard?</p> <p>The old Windmill could be turned into a café or bar</p> <p>The town needs a Cinema</p> <p>More restaurants near the riverside</p> <p>Keep banks as older population may not know how to use online banking</p> <p>Back of buildings should be made more visually pleasing</p> <p>Many shops are empty or run down</p> <p>Cycle racks need sorting out</p> <p>There is a good amount of food options</p> <p>More trees needed on the high street</p> <p>Make Navigation Yard like Mill Street</p> <p>Riverside shopping area needs green space</p> <p>Shops are let down by the alleyway onto the high street, more signage needed</p> <p>Riverside has potential for entertainment, bowling etc or for creative shops and craft fairs</p> <p>Reels time is up, it's rubbish!</p> <p>Banks seem to be the 'heart' of the town – should this be the case?</p> <p>Buildings along Northgate look tired</p> <p>Hub area is nice</p>
Landmarks	<p>Landmarks are not advertised enough</p> <p>More could be done with the windmill</p> <p>War memorial should be kept</p> <p>River attractive</p> <p>Could the windmill be made into a history centre for Sleaford</p> <p>More statues of historically famous people</p> <p>River is a great feature for Sleaford</p> <p>Needs more crossings around town</p> <p>Church is nice</p> <p>More nature in the river and more communal areas with benches etc</p> <p>Do something with the windmill</p> <p>More street art</p> <p>The hub should be promoted more</p>
Improvement Ideas	<p>Open businesses and shops that meet the needs of the current population. More high street brands</p>

	<p>Create seating areas near the river</p> <p>Use the market place as an entertainment space</p> <p>Keep the character of old buildings</p> <p>Put in a band stand with more seating and more greenery</p> <p>Parking in Sleaford is expensive so people are unlikely to use the services</p> <p>Advertise back street shops more</p> <p>Safer roads for cyclists</p> <p>More trees and green areas needed</p> <p>Improve the toilets</p> <p>Clean the river up</p> <p>Street art on blank walls</p> <p>More CCTV</p> <p>Reduce traffic through town</p> <p>More street lights in alleyways</p> <p>Widen roads</p> <p>Park and ride system put in</p> <p>Bass maltings area could be a car park</p> <p>Need more parks and foot paths with seats</p> <p>More sports facilities</p> <p>Architecture is uninspiring</p>
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Impact of this activity

4.11.9 The input from the walking tour with the Sixth Form students helped us to focus other engagement events and to develop the Vision and Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.12 Vision and Objectives ‘Open Days’

The first Vision and Objectives ‘Open Day’

4.12.1 The first draft version of a ‘Vision and Objectives’ for the Neighbourhood Plan was presented to the community for further input at a ‘Neighbourhood Plan Open Day’ held in Sleaford Town Hall on Tuesday 28th September 2021. A range of materials were made available to the participants including display boards, maps, comment sheets and displays about the NP. Members of the Working Group were present to discuss the issues with the visitors, as were as our consultants from YMCA/Community Lincs and OpenPlan.

Attendance at the event was unfortunately low due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and torrential rain on the day. Nevertheless a range of residents and business owners did attend and gave us their views on the draft Vision and Objectives and other aspects of the NP.

4.12.2 The feedback from the community at the first Open Day was all positive for the draft Vision and its four principles. The Objectives were similarly supported and some extra comments about each one were obtained. Most feedback comments were about actions that should be taken to deliver the objectives. The top topics for comments were traffic, buses and cycleways and improving the natural environment, green spaces and the river Slea. Most of the comments and suggestions matched those from our other forms of engagement with the community. The suggestions made at this first Open Day were then used to further refine the Objectives and produce a second version of the Vision and Objectives.

4.12.3 The green space proposals supported at this Open Day were:

1. Create a 'green wedge' extending west along the River Slea from the existing edge of Sleaford to the A15 and south from Drove Lane to the main railway line bordering Quarrington. This 'green wedge' would protect the river Slea and its floodplain and provide a green space to compensate for the building of the Sleaford West 'Sustainable Urban Extension'.
2. Extend Mareham Pastures Local Nature Reserve to the south, to create a larger and more sustainable nature reserve for the many extra visitors coming from the Sleaford South 'Sustainable Urban Extension'
3. Create a new wetland alongside the river Slea in a suitable location between the eastern edge of the town and the A17, to store flood waters, create wildlife habitat and be an attractive recreation area.
4. Plant a strip of woodland to connect Sleaford Wood to the nearby railway line to be a corridor for wildlife to move in and out of the wood, which is in danger of being completely isolated by new developments.
5. Create a new Local Nature Reserve on land north of the A17 at Holdingham, to be an attractive recreation area, a habitat for wildlife and to help maintain the neighbouring village of Leasingham as a separate community.

4.12.4 Other issues reinforced at the Open Day were the need to protect the key cultural and arts centres of the town such the Little Theatre's Playhouse and the Hub.

4.12.5 Comments received at the Open Day around sporting and leisure facilities included the need to protect and preserve sites including the rugby club, cricket club, indoor and outdoor bowling greens. Also to protect the Boston Road recreation ground and the adjoining school playing field, which together comprise are a large 'green lung' for the town.

4.12.6 The lessons learned from the first Open Day are that the people of the town largely agreed with our draft Vision and Objectives. However, more input was desirable from the business sector, which was partly achieved when local business owner Harriet Wells joined the Working Group and opened up new channels of communication with that sector.

Impact of this activity

4.12.4 Following the consultation on the first draft of the 'Vision and Objectives' a revised version with slight improvements was publicised and presented at a second 'Open Day' in June 2022.

RANDOLPH MURRAY

WASH BUILDING MEN
APPROACH DEVELOPMENTS: HOUSING,
CATERING INCREASE IN HEALTH CENTERS,
SCHOOLS, AND CARE HOMES
MAY BE A BUBBLE

AN IMAGE AS
THE NUMBER OF NEW
HOUSES + THE INCREASE
IN THE NUMBER OF
SCHOOLS TO HELP
CHILD STUDENTS
GROW

A MASSIVE
INFLUENCE TO
THE OUTSIDE
AREAS AND
WILDERNESS OF THE
BAY AREA AT THE
BASE OF CALIF.

THE RAY AREA
ADJACENT TO SERRANO
WOOD AND THE WOODSIDE
ESTATE NEEDS SOME MORE
DEVELOPMENT TO MAKE IT MORE
ATTRACTIVE FOR KIDS WHO REALLY NEED
IT... MORE EQUIPMENT AND STUFF
TO DO!!

SERRANO
Class, Green and
Flourishing

SUPERBIO
Planning, designed, built and
afford to meet all
Fast and reliable
internet accessibility
and digital networks
Wide range of
accommodations, well
equipped for
accommodation for
businessmen and
services
A network of
schools, multi-
sector
neighborhoods
Transport
resources to
support urban
thriving town
Design urban
form & buildings
for urban mobility
provide their own
power, water, internet
services
Careful
ownership of the
natural
environment and
built heritage
Good local health-
care facilities
Space to relax,
play and enjoy life
Convenient and
safe for walking
and cycling
Attractive,
friendly and
safe streets and
open spaces

[illegible]

The second Vision and Objectives Open Day

4.12.5 The arrival of the Omicron strain of Coronavirus delayed the second Open Day by several months. The second Open Day on Saturday 18th June 2022 was also unfortunately a wet one. However, at the Open Day the revised Vision and Objectives were overwhelmingly supported in the fifty-one comments received.

4.12.6 The feedback from the public and businesses that we received at the second Open Day was used to amend the 'Vision and Objectives' into a final version. As at the first Open Day, there were no suggestions for changing the wording of the Vision or Objectives. Most of the comments received were about actions that should be taken to deliver the objectives. Again, most of the comments and suggestions matched those from the first Open Day and our other forms of engagement with the community, with traffic and transport issues dominating followed by improving the environment and the river Slea. The comments and suggestions received at the second Open Day helped us to finalise the Vision and Objectives.

4.12.7 At the second Open Day suggestions were received for improving access for the less able around the town centre, including making pavement surfaces more even and providing access for the disabled to the public toilets, including suitable cubicles inside.

4.12.8 At this Open Day, requests were also made to preserve the views along the River Slea both westwards from the edge of the town out to the A15 and eastwards from the town centre to the A17. A request was also received to preserve the view from Quarrington Hill northwards over the River Slea and its floodplain to the higher ground of North Rauceby in the distance.

Impact of this activity

4.12.9 The comments and suggestions received at the second Open Day helped us to finalise the Vision and Objectives, which will help to form the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Images from the second Open Day



4.13 Consultation events of others

NHS Lincolnshire consultation event in Sleaford

4.13.1 In November 2021, an NHS Lincolnshire consultation event was held in Sleaford. Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group attended this event, which was an opportunity to tell the audience about the Neighbourhood Plan and invite their input to it.

NKDC Sleaford Town Centre regeneration workshop

4.13.2 In May 2022, a representative of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group attended this NKDC event, which was an opportunity to tell the audience about the Neighbourhood Plan and invite their input to it.

Impact of this activity

4.13.3 No specific responses were received from either of the above consultation events by others. Although NKDC officers are involved in assisting the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan in several ways. In the consultation over the draft Neighbourhood Plan document, we will circulate it to a wide range of local organisations to encourage their input.

5 Vision and Objectives

5.1.1 All of the engagement work described above was then developed into a final 'Vision and Objectives', summarised in the following 'Green wheel' graphic and described in the table below.



TABLE - Vision and Objectives - from the diagram above, reading clockwise

VISION			
SLEAFORD will be Clean, Green, and Flourishing			
PRINCIPLES - what we are aiming for	KEY OBJECTIVES - how we will achieve the principles		
1. Sleaford will be: ENTERPRISING	1. With fast and reliable internet access for working, shopping and accessing services.	2. With a wide range of accessible, well designed accommodation for businesses and services	3. Heritage, arts and cultural facilities attractive to residents and visitors
2. Sleaford will be: HEALTHY	4. Having convenient and safe routes for walking and cycling	5. With indoor and outdoor facilities to relax, play and enjoy life and sports	6. And good local health care facilities
3. Sleaford will be: SUSTAINABLE	7. With places and buildings designed to help reduce the impacts of climate change	8. By caring for the natural environment and built heritage, protecting the river Sleas, planting trees and increasing green spaces and biodiversity	9. With less town centre traffic and more carbon-neutral travel (buses, cycling and walking)
4. Sleaford will be: SUPPORTIVE	10. With safe streets In neighbourhoods well-served with shops, schools, and other facilities	11. With good educational and training facilities, accessible to all	12. And housing located, designed, built, and priced to meet the needs of all residents

5.1.2 Impact of this activity

From this Vision and Objectives we will develop a set of 'Key aims' that will be a foundation of the Neighbourhood Plan document.

6 Issues outside of the Plan

6.1 During the engagement process we received many comments and suggestions on issues outside of the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan. They included traffic and transport issues, GP services, crime and anti-social behaviour and others. We have recorded those comments in this report and will include them in the Neighbourhood Plan for the information of organisations who are responsible for those services, such as the highways authority, NHS and police.

7 Consultation on the draft Plan (Regulation 14 consultation)

7.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Regulation 14 require us to produce a report called a 'Consultation Statement' which records the pre-submission consultation over the draft Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan. The Consultation Statement contains details of the public engagement and consultations conducted on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. It also describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed final draft of the neighbourhood development plan.

7.2 The draft Neighbourhood Plan will be made available to the community for statutory six-week pre-submission consultation in the autumn of 2022. The Consultation Statement will include a list of organisations that the draft Plan was sent to, including surrounding Parish Councils, with the comments received from them. The Consultation Statement will include details of how the draft Plan was amended as a result the comments received.

8 Submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to North Kesteven District Council

8.1 Following the pre-submission consultation and amendments the Neighbourhood Plan will be formally submitted to North Kesteven District Council in early 2023. NKDC will organise a second six-week public consultation on the draft Plan. NKDC will publish the comments received during that second consultation. As a result of the comments received during that second consultation, the draft Plan will be further amended.

Independent examination of the Plan

8.2 Following the second six-week consultation NKDC will arrange for the Neighbourhood Plan to be subjected to an examination by an independent inspector. The result of that independent examination might be amendments to the Plan.

Local referendum

8.3 Following the independent examination, the NP will go to a local referendum where all registered voters in Sleaford are eligible to vote. If the NP is approved by more than 50% of those who vote in the referendum, then the Plan is 'Made' i.e., adopted as a legal document. Following which, decisions on planning applications in Sleaford will take account of the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the wider Development Plan alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

Members of the 'People's Panel'

Title	Name 1	Name 2	Organisation
Ms	Anna	Maltby	Evergreen
Mr	Mike	Parmenter	Resident
Ms	Ursula	Parsons	Resident
Mr	Brian	Towers	Resident
Mr	Chris	Nash	Resident
Ms	Louise	Stedman	Resident
Ms	Anthea	Ashmore	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Sleaford Area Group
Mr	David	Hebblethwaite	Resident
Mr	David	Harvey	Resident
Mr	Paul	Regan	Resident
Mr	Chris	Honey	Resident
Mr	Liam	Faulder	Resident
Mr	Peter	Cole	Resident
Mr	Dylan	Hardy	Resident
Mr	Peter	Garland	Resident
Mr	Andrew	Wilkinson	Carre's Grammar School
Ms	Sarah	Graves	Bristol Arcade
Ms	Jemma	Familton	Sleafordian Coaches
Ms	Christine	Yates	Resident
Mr	Simon	Pawley	Local historian and resident
Ms	J	Aspland	Pygott and Crone
Ms	Kathy	Blythe	Mareham Pastures Community Group
Mss	Doreen	Bamford	Sleaford Museum and resident
Mr	Andrew	Clark	Resident
Mr	Les	Hammond	Resident