



Marketing | Branding | Research

Calderdale Council LDF Workshop Report 6
Todmorden
May 2011

1 Context

The Development Strategy Team for Planning at Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council has commissioned this report to capture the fifth of ten creative consultations in Calderdale designed to explore the needs, aspirations and concerns of residents in relation to planning. This report concerns the existing and desired quality of life of residents in Todmorden.

The written results from this consultation are thematic¹ and indicative of resident's experiences and aspirations in Todmorden relating to planning. The report constitutes one element of a broad evidence base with which to inform the LDF Core Strategy.

2 Methodology

The workshop drew on Creative Problem Solving and Productive Thinking frameworks to promote active involvement and group decision-making from participants.

The workshop was framed within a 'quality of life' paradigm to encourage participants to reflect not just on planning issues but also on the real impacts of these issues on their lives and communities. The aim in doing so was to produce insights that have genuine relevance to both participants and the Planning Team.

The workshop was divided into four key areas of investigation:

- resident's current life/work context and impact on quality of life,
- aspirations for 20 years hence moving into their next life stage,
- what that imagined future would look and feel like to live in,
- specific positive actions the Planning Department could take to realise these aspirations.

The workshop concluded with a group discussion to further explore the themes and issues raised.

3 Participation

A total of 19 residents took part in the workshop. Not all participants completed the equalities sheet therefore totals below do not add up.

All described themselves as 'White'.

The age breakdown was: <25 = 0; 25 to 39 = 1; 40 to 59 = 10; 60+ = 3.

There were 6 males and 8 females.

2 described themselves as having a disability.

¹ Some highly specific suggestions were made during the workshop and are outlined in detail in the appendix of this report.

4 Overview

Participants are immensely proud of where they live and value the town's heritage, community spirit and green ethos. They regard Todmorden as a place with a unique identity that generates a strong sense of belonging and attachment. Their aspirations for the town are rooted in strengthening this identity, supporting a local job market and encouraging a thriving economy through local trade, small businesses and tourism.



Access to the canals, countryside, local food and good social and leisure facilities all contribute to a sense of well-being and active participation in the town's offer. Architectural landmarks, industrial heritage and historic housing give the town a distinctive look and feel whilst its historic status as a border town has given rise to its unique character. The Incredible Edible Initiative (IET) provides an ethical focus as well as national/international recognition which generate a strong sense of pride.

Todmorden wants to become increasingly self-sufficient and develop a stronger identity around sustainable living; achieved in part through embracing alternative energy generation, reducing its carbon footprint and trading in locally sourced goods.



The preservation of what is perceived as a unique community is also important: ensuring that in 20 years time Todmorden is a thriving centre for employment, culture, leisure and local trade. In addition, they would like investment in the town to make it a more pleasing and culturally active environment.

Participants are hugely concerned about the possibility of developing Todmorden into a principal town and all that comes with it: new builds on prized green sites, inadequate

infrastructure to support a precipitated population increase (roads, services, jobs) and the proliferation of supermarkets which would threaten the town's local trade ecology and undermine its unique character. Participants are also concerned about what they perceive as inadequate building maintenance, limited conservation (of landmark buildings and canals/walkways) and poor quality/inappropriate new builds, all of which threaten to dilute the architectural and industrial heritage of the town.

There is a desire from participants for stronger self-determination in order to achieve aspirations they believe are not well understood by the Council, and to minimise the incidence of what they perceive as ill-conceived and unsympathetic planning decisions.

From their perspective there is too much top-down decision making from a Council that doesn't understand the unique character and needs of the town. This makes residents feel



marginalised and disempowered. Participants want a stronger voice in shaping the trade ecology of Todmorden through support for more independent businesses, investment in the market and the shaping and delivery of a thriving tourism offer – all of which in their view would contribute to the town's regeneration in a way that is both proportionate and appropriate.

participate, creating a strong community spirit. Participants talked about feeling 'at home' in Todmorden and experiencing an associated sense of 'belonging'.



- **Good recreation and public facilities**

Residents value the good local facilities: Centre Vale Park, the library, leisure centre and health centre, the primary schools and the Hippodrome, as well as the sports and social clubs and good pubs and cafes. All these contribute to an active social and community life that enhances quality of life.

- **Architectural heritage**

Todmorden is regarded as having a unique heritage that brings with it landmark architecture (Great Wall of Tod), historic buildings (Town Hall, Market Hall) and pleasing housing (stone and Georgian homes). This creates a sense of heritage and pride in the town.

- **Good transport links**

Participants value the transport links between Manchester and Leeds,

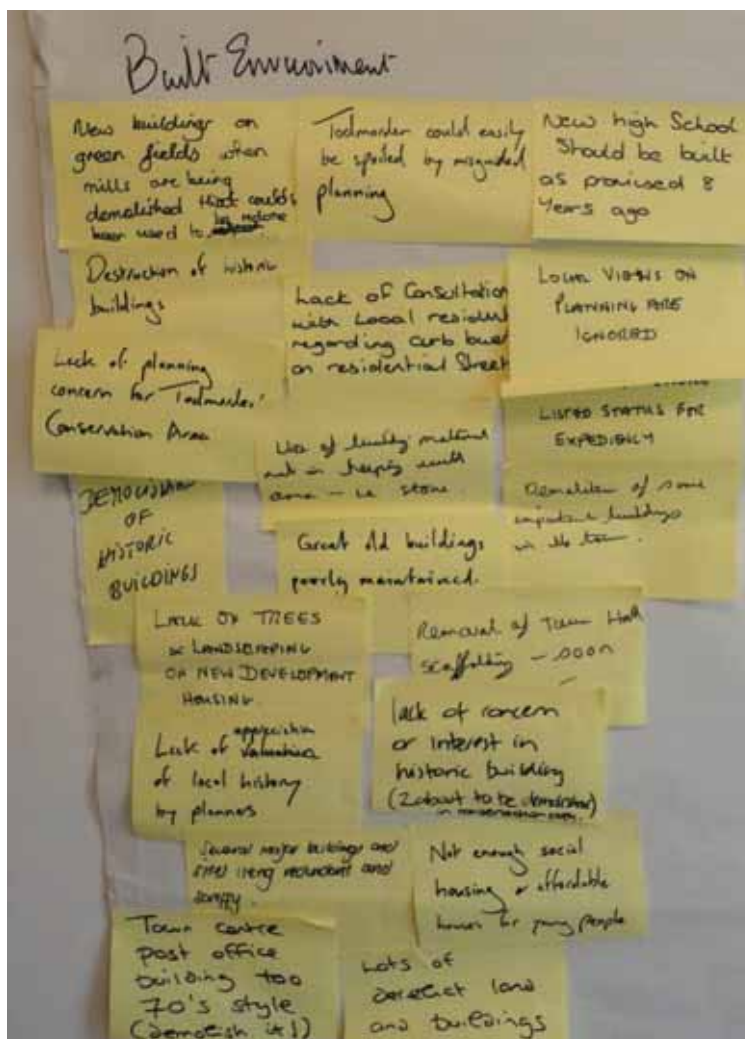
5:2 Quality of life concerns

Participants shared some strong concerns, primarily around the built environment, local trade, tourism and Council attitudes towards Todmorden.

• The built environment

Participants are seriously concerned about existing and planned housing development, inadequate care of the town's architectural heritage and poor maintenance of public realm sites and buildings.

Their most significant concern is the proposal to develop Todmorden into a principal town which they understand would result in a 20% increase in housing. They are worried about the lack of suitable land for these new builds, the threat of new builds on green sites, the possibility of more supermarkets to service the increased population and the impact of that on local trade, together with the impact of an increased population on the town's infrastructure and the environment.



“Where would you put supermarkets because warehousing is one of the biggest problems in Todmorden?”

“The West Yorkshire Plan says our main roads are reaching saturation in 2001 so we couldn't possibly support this economic and housing development. We are confined to narrow valleys.”

“I really don't think it should be a principal town. I think it came about because the Town Council asked for it because they thought we were ignored by Calderdale and so their response to that was to make us a principal town. But in planning terms that means 20% more housing and I don't think that's what the Town Council was really asking for. They were just asking for recognition.”

“We've been targeted with two more supermarket applications because they've seen this plan.”

In their view, current new builds are poorly designed, not in keeping with the town, and do not provide affordable housing. In addition, participants have observed an increasing and

worrying trend of individuals buying up homes for private rentals and not maintaining them properly, eroding the image of the town.

Poor building conservation and the demolition of historic buildings have angered participants; for example, the demolition of the Abraham Omerod building to make way for a supermarket car park, despite petitions against this from the public and a number of national heritage organisations. In their view, acts like this undermine the architectural heritage of the town, and with that community pride, local history and the potential for tourism.

“It’s outrageous that you can demolish a building of such historic significance (Abraham Omerod) just like that because it’s looking derelict. How did it get derelict in the first place?”

“The Council has the power to make the owner of a building keep it in good order and that was never enforced on that building. Why?”

“It’s not about making us a principal town but looking at what is worth keeping. Let’s talk about economic development – and our economic potential lies in our heritage ... It’s the Council’s job to help us and empower us.”

In addition, participants feel very strongly about what they regard as poor maintenance of buildings in the public realm: the Market Hall and Town Hall, the local High School building, the proliferation of derelict sites and buildings, the canal routes and paths. Together with inadequate street cleansing and refuse collection, participants believe this creates a poor image of the town for residents and visitors.

- **Local trade**

Participants are very much against the building of more supermarkets in the town. In their view this will have a devastating impact on local trade which they consider vital to their community, their quality of life and being able to live their values. Other concerns include the closure of local pubs, the impact of high rents on small traders and stall holders and a perceived lack of investment in the market which they perceived as the ‘heart’ of the market town.

- **Tourism**

Participants believe Todmorden could become a thriving tourist destination and worry they may have been pre-empted by Hebden Bridge. They are concerned that the failure to develop and properly maintain the canals and walkways, the threat of becoming a principle town and the threat of building on green sites could all ultimately undermine Todmorden’s viability as an attractive tourist destination.

“We have got a very important railway and a very important canal in Todmorden and there is absolutely no recognition – no museum, no exhibition about them and this is a shame because this is the basis of our tourism.”

“The canal is one of our most neglected assets.”

- **Council attitudes towards Todmorden**

Underpinning all their concerns was a commonly held perception that the Council does not understand, listen to or respond to the people of Todmorden.

They believe Todmorden has a unique voice and a distinct identity which the Council does not appreciate resulting in poor planning decisions. Furthermore, based on their experience of resident's wishes not being taken into account (for example in relation to building supermarkets and the demolition of the Abraham Ormerod building), they are cynical about the value of Council consultations which they described as 'lip service'. The impact of these perceptions and experiences are manifold; from anger, stress and frustration to a sense of disempowerment, feeling undervalued and forgotten. This has ultimately led to shrinking aspirations and subsequent apathy in trying to make things happen. The strength of feeling in this element of the discussion ran high.

"We won't get a great deal of support from Halifax because there is no understanding."

"There is a lot of apathy about Calderdale Council and there is a sense of disenfranchisement, that the Town Council is pointless, that people have joined it and failed ... and people have given up."

"When you've got a fantastic initiative like Incredible Edible being quashed by Council planning decision what does that do for our community spirit and wanting to get involved?"

"We want to be recognised. Just that. Give us the voice that we have and enable us to fulfil the visions that we have like pointing out our heritage because that is the sustainability of this town. If all the little initiatives and all the little dreams that are here are enabled, if we have the support, then this town would become a booming town with lots of things why people would come."

"We have to be enabled and empowered."

"We've had discussions like this for the past 10 years with the Council and nothing has changed ... no money has been spent on the market except for a feasibility study which would have been better spent mending the roof ... it's not apathy, it's despair."

"The squeakiest wheel gets all the oil and that's Hebden Bridge. They've got no big supermarkets there."



- **Community and facilities**

There are concerns about the lack of a community centre, threats to the library and other services and the perceived under investment in cultural spaces and cultural enterprise. The impact on their lives is the potential erosion of community and increased travel to access those facilities elsewhere.

- **Roads and transport**

Congestion is an issue; one they believe will be exacerbated by the natural increase in car usage and the precipitated traffic increase that would follow more urban development. Rail transport is also a concern because whilst there are good links to Manchester and Leeds there are poor links to Burnley, Huddersfield and Blackpool. For those who commute, there are also issues around overcrowded trains and frequent delays in service which lead to stressful journeys. In addition the Transpennine trains stop too early to access cultural and social events from towns along the route.

- **The environment**

The environment and sustainable living are important to participants who believe there is inadequate support for local, alternative energy generation options in the town. The fact that the floodgates are not controlled in Todmorden is a worry, and there is resistance to wind farms which participants regard as an inefficient source of energy generation.

- **Education, employment and young people.**

Participants are worried about the lack of provision and opportunity for young people which they believe gives rise to anti-social behaviour and an unsafe environment.

5:3 Community Aspirations

Residents themed their key aspirations into 8 core headings. When invited to vote on which they believed were the most important the results, in descending order, were:

- A lovely sustainable town
- Local democracy
- Good cultural stimulus, environment and leisure
- Lovely community to live in
- Successful local businesses
- Nationally recognised / Tourism
- Good local schools
- Decent housing

All the findings are in the appendix. This section only includes areas that relate to planning.

- **A lovely sustainable town**

Participants want to introduce sustainable energy generation through hydro electricity and the inclusion of solar panels in all new builds. They want to move towards increasing self sufficiency by encouraging people to shop local – for example by further investing in the

IET movement. They would like to reduce the carbon footprint of the town and have tangible, visible evidence of ethical living instigated through planning, for example:

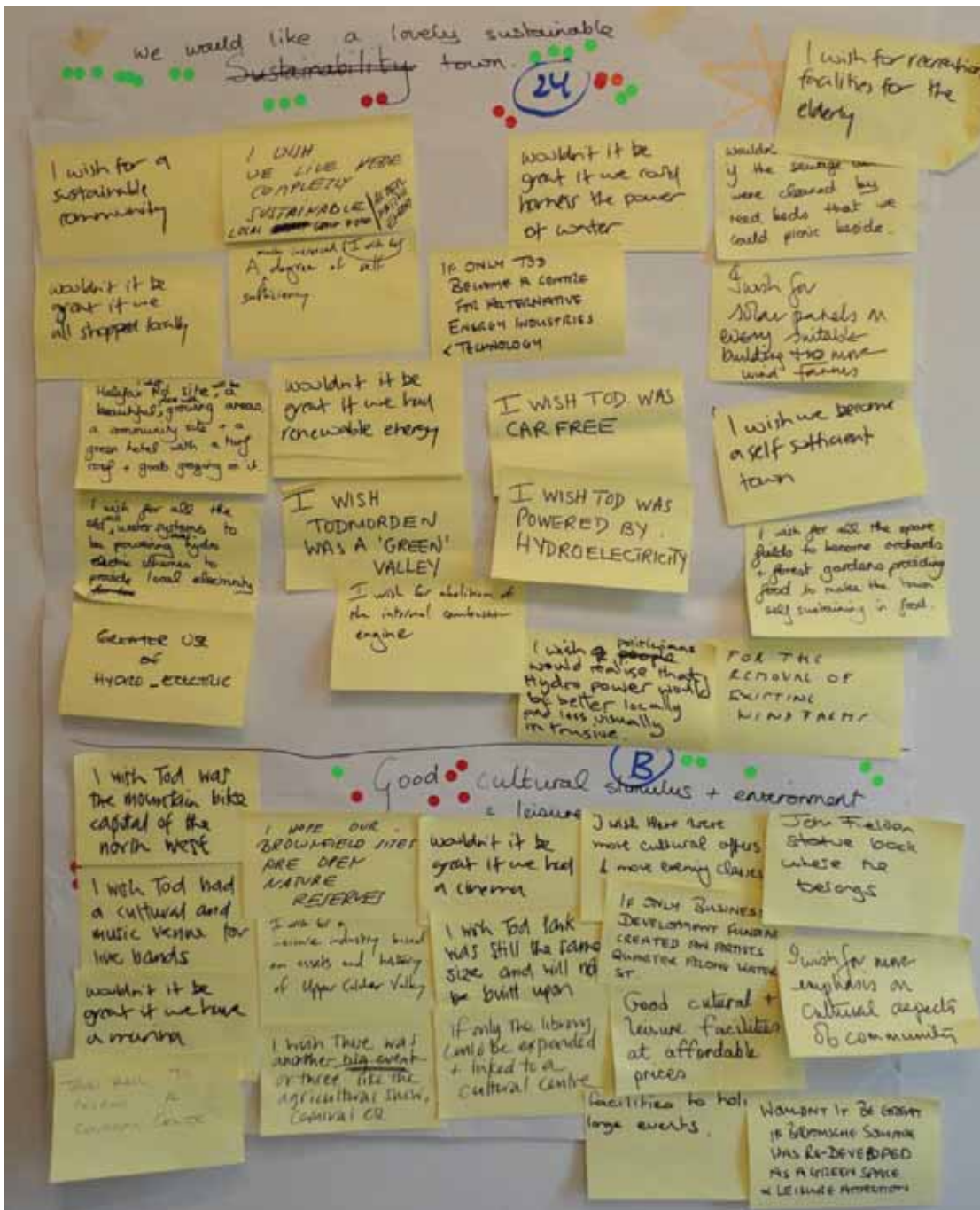
“Wouldn’t it be nice if the sewage beds were cleaned by reed beds that we could picnic besides?”

“I wish the Halifax Road site will be a beautiful place with growing areas, a community site, a green hotel with a turf roof and goats grazing on it.”

“The Council could change planning permission so every new build would have to have solar panels – or perhaps new schools too – and it could feed into a grid for the town...so the community at large benefit from it.”

“We can ask the Council to change planning regulations such as green loos in new schools –that will put us on the map. A town where all official buildings have green loos for example.”

“Why aren’t we seeing a load of straw baled houses which have a zero carbon footprint?”



- **Local democracy**

Participants would like greater independence from the Council and increased self governance. They would like to see local decisions made by local people, or at the very least, have a veto on Council decisions. In addition, they would like the Council to proactively engage with residents in order to better understand their concerns, aspirations and values.

- **Good cultural stimulus, environment and leisure**

Participants want a more pleasing town environment. Examples include the pedestrianisation of an area from the Town Hall up to the cinema building, a green space in town (Bamsche Square), a marina development on Halifax Road and pleasant places in town to sit.

They also want an enhanced cultural and leisure offer: a cultural and music venue, the development of the Town Hall into a cultural centre, recreation facilities for the elderly, an artist's quarter, a venue for large events, and more large scale events like the Agricultural Show.

- **Lovely community to live in**

Participants want the town's strong community spirit to flourish. They want better and more community facilities such as a community centre that offers a range of activities and opportunities for the generations to integrate. They want to retain community pride in the town through clean streets, refurbished derelict sites, green spaces and tree planting. They want a community where people can grow old and live safely and sociably, in affordable housing, feeling fully integrated and involved.

- **Successful local businesses**

Participants want to see local trade encouraged and flourishing. They want vacant shops filled and an increase in the number and variety of local independent traders. They want rents to be reviewed to better support business start ups and investment in the tourism industry. In their view, this would bring prosperity, quality of life and employment opportunities for all ages.

- **Nationally recognised / Tourism**

Participants have aspirations for Todmorden to become a national and international tourist destination. Its combined industrial, architectural and leisure appeal (e.g. canals, the Pennine and Calderdale Ways) together with a growing reputation as a 'green town' provides a highly differentiated tourist offer nationally, with broad appeal to a number of interest groups: green tourism, active holidays (mountain biking, walking, horse riding) and heritage.

In order to achieve the town's potential as a viable tourist destination, participants want Todmorden's architecture conserved, the canals and towpaths well maintained and

developed and accessible green walks for pushchairs and wheelchairs. They also wish for hotel and conference facilities, a museum and art gallery dedicated to the town's unique heritage/culture and a marina-shop-leisure offer on Halifax Road.

“Todmorden could really exploit this ‘Cradle of the Industrial Revolution’ theme as a tourist attraction.”

“We have an opportunity to have an open aspect to the canal and that one site is an opportunity to create an open and public right of way to that canal and that’s something that could address our history.”

“What is relevant is what can make this place special ... we can be a forerunner in trying things out. That would make our reputation.”

- **Transport links**

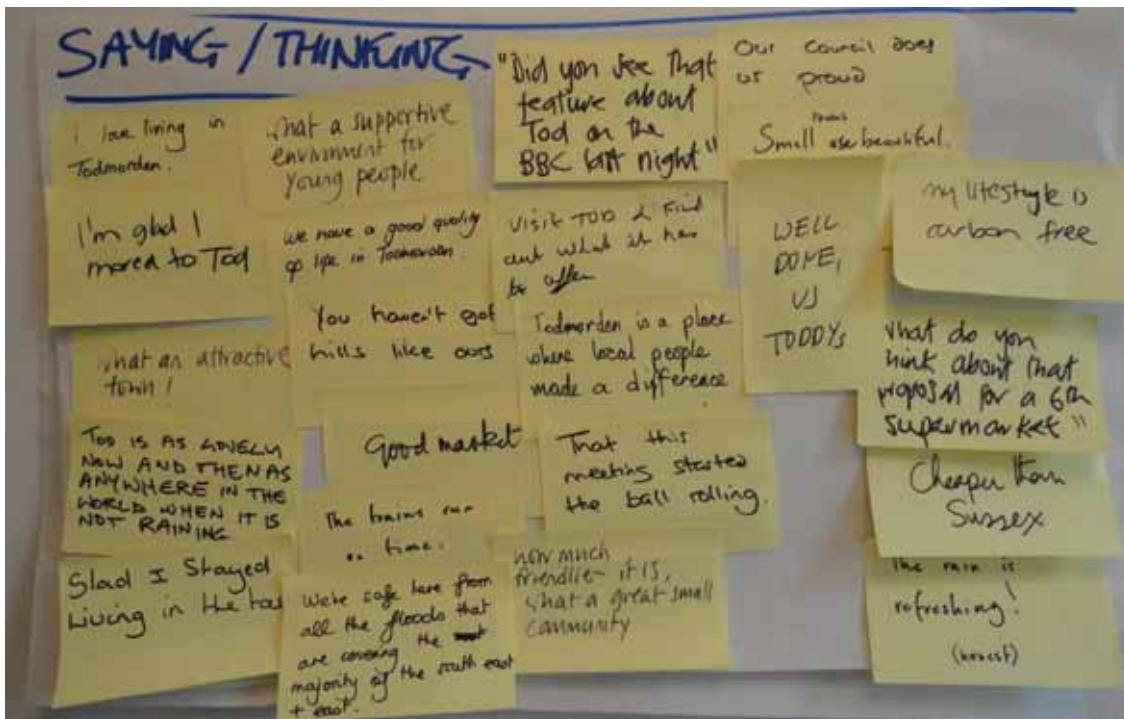
Participants want improved rail provision: more trains, late night trains and better connections. They want the Council to address traffic by finding an alternative to the A646 (the Burnley Loop or bypass system), adopting unadopted roads and introducing a free bike scheme. They also want an improved bus service to reduce road congestion and connect outlying residential areas.

- **Decent housing**

Participants want to see more affordable and accessible social housing, housing provision that is appropriate to local need and improved design standards and quality of new builds.

- **Endgame**

It is hugely important to participants that they are able to live sustainably and ethically, and retain their unique community and historical identity. If achieved, the personal and community impacts would be increased pride in the town, a sense of community achievement and empowerment and a better town for residents and visitors. They also want to put Todmorden on the map.



5:4 Suggested Positive Actions

What follows are the specific steps or actions points suggested by workshop participants that they believe Calderdale Council needs to implement in order to realise their aspirations. They are not weighted in any way and have been grouped for ease of use – a full detailed copy of all suggestions can be found in the appendix.

- Facilities and services for community and tourists**

KEEP	ADD
Centre Vale Park Park tidy Sports Centre facility The public realm clean Library Support for local community groups	Community centres and support High School Cinema Marina Art Gallery Historical/Industrial Museum Marina/mixed use development area Add to or enhance cultural centres More tourism Hotel and conference facilities Green tourism Add to or enhance cultural centres More funding for community and community schemes people Central community facility – better use of the Town Hall Burnley loop
LOSE/ STOP	CHANGE
Charging for parking Fly tipping Dog fouling and litter	Attitude to tourism Civic attitude among citizens – pride in gardens etc Railway link to allow better flow of transport

- Trade and Industry**

KEEP	ADD
The market viable for stall holders Keep and support IET Local food production Local trade	More facilities for local industry and enterprise on a small scale Employment to retain young people Small affordable industrial units built in character Add significant encouragement/incentives for local small businesses re. lower start-up business rates More opportunities for employers in manufacturing Employment sites, industry and sustainable growth
LOSE/ STOP	CHANGE
Proposal for Sainsburys Decay of Market Hall Big supermarkets Planning permission for more supermarkets Supermarkets	Change planning approach and decision making process on supermarkets to support local retail

- Development**

KEEP	ADD
Site adjacent to Health Centre for Marina development Old buildings Housing and population the same Green fields	Take enforcement action on Section 215 to tidy and improve ugly buildings Adopt an urban design policy and stick to it
LOSE/ STOP	CHANGE
Drift into poor quality housing Property owners who let property fall into disrepair	Utilise more spare land Demolish Cinderhill Mill – landscape empty sites The building currently housing the Post Office demolished and replaced with a building with character People's negative attitudes to any developments or changes to the town Central Post Office building complex Planning policy on supermarkets and large trade outlets Old Mills into modern industrial units

- Green Living**

KEEP	ADD
Recycling policy	Green industry Green energy generation Local community schemes to extract hydro-electricity from surrounding waterways and give co-operative ownership to local investors
LOSE	CHANGE
Wind farms	Use hydro Make recycling more efficient Reliance on car transport

- Council**

KEEP	ADD
	An opportunity for employment and decentralisation of Council jobs to Todmorden Apply for available funding to regenerate the town Encourage investment in the town by being proactive, not reactive
LOSE	CHANGE
	Policy of ignoring local people Your rules on top-down decision making Council's attitude on what people say Profile of Tod – national and international

APPENDIX: RAW DATA

1 What residents love about their area

Countryside	Local trade & market	Community
The canal is a wonderful asset	Regional food supply	Sense of community
Spectacular views from my house	The flea market	Friendly people
Closeness of the countryside to town	The mix of agriculture, industry and local retailing	Settled population, lots of families
Easy access to the countryside	I love Makepiece – the clothes they design and make from local wool	Pleasant people
The views of dramatic hills	The market and local food and suppliers	I love the people
Nice scenery	Local foods	Local people are friendly
I like how green the area is	I love that I can buy all I need from Todmorden	I love the sense of community amongst the people
I love being able to go for walks	Grandma Pollards (even though it's in Walsden)	Supportive local community
There are nice places to walk	Range of shops, markets and cafes	Neighbours and friends
Being in the country with easy access to the city	I love the local food supplied and market	Locals and openness
I love the green and the countryside around the town	I love the market and local food available	I love the greater sense of community than other areas
I love the views of the hills	The Todmorden Market	I love the mix of people in Todmorden
Wooded valley sides	Good market	I love the maverick character of the local inhabitants
Rochdale Canal	I love The Bear Wholefoods Shop	Interesting people
Canal Walkway	I love Todmorden Market where we shop every Saturday for meat, cheese and veg	I love the community spirit
The beautiful countryside and views	Local food supply	Friendly and diverse community
Hills on doorstep for walking and cycling	I love our market	Community spirit
Pockets of green space	The market	
Small paths, quiet walkways and easy routes to the hills	Great stalls, local food	
Glorious views	The wonderful meat available in the market	
The countryside	The Bear	
Wildlife and ecology	I love the market – local food available and meeting place	
I love the area for walking		
Lots of trees		
I love the walking opportunities which are in every direction		
Good bridleways		
Unspoiled moor		
Birds in our garden		
Area good for cycling		
The agricultural show		
Stoodley Pike		
Easy access to countryside		
Endless paths and bridleways		
I love living on a south facing hillside with views		
Three valleys		
Canal		
Gaddings Dam		
The general environment – rugged and inspiring		
Great parks and open spaces		

<p>Walking, cycling</p> <p>Leisure opportunity</p> <p>Beautiful scenery</p> <p>The countryside is on the doorstep – a walk away</p> <p>The rural nature of the town</p> <p>Moors and green spaces that can't be built on</p> <p>Horse riding, mountain biking</p>		
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Park	Historic Buildings	Recreation & Facilities	Events	Clubs
<p>Centre Vale Park – best park for miles</p> <p>The axolotl in the park</p> <p>I love the conservatory with the finches flying around</p> <p>Excellent park</p> <p>Tod park is a wonderful municipal park</p> <p>Centre Vale Park</p> <p>Tod Park</p> <p>Centre Vale Park – wonderful views</p> <p>Park and leisure centre</p> <p>The park, featuring the reptile house</p>	<p>Historic buildings and heritage</p> <p>Fielden Wharf</p> <p>The Market</p> <p>Living in a Georgian house</p> <p>The Town</p> <p>Great Wall of Tod</p> <p>The Great Wall of Tod</p> <p>I love the viaduct and other landmark architecture</p> <p>I love the Hippodrome</p> <p>The Town Hall</p> <p>Todmorden has unique heritage</p> <p>Stone buildings (especially when cleaned)</p> <p>Tod market</p> <p>Architecture of old buildings</p>	<p>I love bringing up my child here – particularly with the clubs and park</p> <p>Good doctors facilities</p> <p>Many of the facilities – parks, libraries etc</p> <p>Good library service</p> <p>Easy access to Hebden Bridge Picture House</p> <p>The leisure centre</p> <p>The Hippodrome</p> <p>Safe bus station and well lit own centre</p> <p>Decent sports facilities</p> <p>Good play spaces for children</p> <p>Good variety of sports activities, clubs for young children and teenagers football, cricket, gym club, pool, sports centre</p> <p>Good football, rugby and cricket clubs for up to 18yr olds</p>	<p>Community events</p> <p>I love the show every year</p> <p>Agricultural show</p> <p>Todmorden Show in June</p> <p>Tod in Bloom's efforts make Tod beautiful</p> <p>The carnival is a treat</p> <p>The agricultural show – unrivalled locally</p>	<p>I love Tai Chi here</p> <p>Three cricket clubs</p> <p>Cricket clubs, social groups</p> <p>I love that we have a community bee group</p> <p>Central and very welcoming churches – Methodist, Christian, inter-faith groups</p>

Tourism potential	Local initiatives	Pubs & cafes	Schools	Community & transport links
<p>Tourist information centre</p> <p>Local history</p> <p>The cobbles along Water Street</p> <p>The tourism opportunities</p>	<p>Incredible Edible Todmorden</p> <p>Incredible Edible's herb garden (use them a lot)</p> <p>I.E.T. is a fantastic initiative</p> <p>The new ideas springing up</p> <p>Community development: I.E.T., OAK etc</p>	<p>Staff of Life</p> <p>The 'Bare arts' – great pub</p> <p>The Bare Arts – best drinking establishment in Tod</p> <p>The Staff of Life, they cook wonderful food</p> <p>Local cafes sell homemade cakes</p> <p>Nice places to eat/drink</p> <p>Beer made in Todmorden and served in a pink pub – Bare Arts</p> <p>Local pubs and support for local bands</p>	<p>Good Junior and Infants school</p> <p>The primary schools are brilliant</p> <p>Good range of schools</p>	<p>Good rail links</p> <p>Good motorway connections</p> <p>Good rail links East and West</p> <p>Transport links</p>

2 Associated positive impacts

Countryside & leisure	Belonging & well being
<p>The views and green countryside give me balance from my time in buildings</p> <p>Exercise – walking, cycling</p> <p>The countryside is inspiring – great views should not be taken for granted</p> <p>Exercise outdoors</p> <p>Good feeling while walking my dog</p> <p>Parks and clubs have enabled me to encourage fitness in myself and child</p> <p>I enjoy the calm I get from walking locally</p> <p>Leisure centre – access to facilities improve health</p> <p>Opportunities to participate in sport</p> <p>A healthy lifestyle – walking and local food</p> <p>Watching the birds is relaxing</p> <p>I am 10 minutes from Tod and the countryside – both are pleasant walks</p> <p>The rugged environment creates a general feeling of good health</p> <p>The trees around the hillside inspire me and help me to become calm</p> <p>Clean air, pleasurable walking and space is healthy – I feel well here</p> <p>It has encouraged my daughter to appreciate her surroundings</p> <p>The great outdoors and scenery make me relax from a busy week</p> <p>I find the contrasts in the countryside make me happy</p> <p>Nice views from my house of the hillside</p> <p>The hills - to get away from it all, time on my own to relax and reflect</p> <p>Accessible hillsides give me peace</p> <p>Somewhere to unwind and walk after a day at work</p> <p>Views and countryside are relaxing and invigorating</p> <p>Access to open spaces – good for walking, horse riding, cycling = better health</p> <p>Opportunities for exercise in the open air keep me fit and healthy</p> <p>Todmorden is surrounded by spectacular views which calm and soothe</p> <p>The walking enables me to get healthy exercise and fresh air</p> <p>Living halfway up the valley is light and airy with beautiful views makes you feel good</p> <p>I feel privileged to live in such a lovely area</p> <p>I can relax when walking in the countryside</p> <p>The great outdoors and scenery make me relax from a busy week</p> <p>Recharge my batteries</p> <p>The changing seasons and views around Tod make me feel happy</p>	<p>Sense of privilege living here</p> <p>Feel home</p> <p>A feeling of home</p> <p>Make new friends</p> <p>Feel part of a community</p> <p>Laugh</p> <p>The great sense of community makes me feel welcome although I am not English</p> <p>Be inspired</p> <p>Enjoy the social aspect of friendly local shopping at the market</p> <p>Welcome and supportive nature of 'streets' and terraced housing encourages friendliness and community spirit</p> <p>Enjoy seeing friends in pubs</p> <p>Content</p> <p>A sense of wellbeing</p> <p>Small knit community – safe and belonging</p> <p>I enjoy social interaction in the market</p> <p>Meeting people I know when I go out in Tod makes me feel at home</p> <p>Lower stress levels (walking and friends)</p> <p>It empowers me</p> <p>The friendly and diverse community makes it a place you want to be</p> <p>I feel I belong here and I hope I shall die here</p> <p>Community spirit in the town makes me feel I belong</p> <p>Good neighbours give a sense of belonging</p> <p>Small knit community = sense of belonging</p> <p>Good feeling at the end of my working day to come home to Todmorden</p> <p>Like meeting people in the market at weekend – work out of Tod</p> <p>Good feeling to socialise with other Toddies</p> <p>Community spirit encourages participation in local activities and a sense of belonging</p> <p>Makes me want to get up in the morning</p> <p>Small nature of the town encourages walking into town centre and meeting people on the way</p> <p>So few people live here that it is more pleasant than living in a city. People are more sociable.</p> <p>Plenty of opportunity to meet new people with the range of cultural and sporting groups</p> <p>Welcoming and supportive groups in the community, good for social inclusion</p> <p>Talking to local traders makes shopping a pleasure</p> <p>Enjoy seeing friends in pubs</p> <p>Local people contribute to the town and help others – all the clubs/churches/theatre etc are run by volunteers. This makes me feel proud.</p>

	<p>Good local community and neighbourhoods= lower crime</p> <p>A sense of belonging</p> <p>An active social life</p> <p>Impressed by the number of clubs and groups in Tod</p> <p>Supportive environment for my children has helped me be a positive strong parent</p>
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History, Heritage & Culture	Food & Drink	Environment & Sustainability	Local pride
<p>Hippodrome Theatre and other cultural offers make me stay in Tod in the evenings rather than going to Manchester</p> <p>As a creative person I value the cultural heart of the town – the historic buildings, panoramic views, galleries and local artists</p> <p>Local galleries give chance to enjoy local artists</p> <p>Learn new exciting stuff</p> <p>Local architecture has inspired me to learn to dress and carve stone</p> <p>Town is becoming more well known to outsiders</p> <p>The library – I couldn't manage without this - access to books, DVDs at no/low cost</p> <p>The local history reconnects me with the radical past</p> <p>The agricultural show gives the place a timeless sense of tradition. It's comforting and stimulating</p> <p>History and heritage makes you take pride in your own town</p>	<p>The Bare Arts lets us wind down at the weekend</p> <p>I enjoy good food I buy locally – better than you can buy in any city</p> <p>The market enables me to build nice relationships with food suppliers</p> <p>The herb garden enable us to cook well and see food produced</p> <p>The Incredible Edible Initiative has given a new sense of pride and direction to the town</p> <p>Local food suppliers make me feel content and happy that I am not destroying the planet through my eating habits</p> <p>The markets provide the socio-economic heart of the town</p> <p>Market and local shops give better chance to buy local</p>	<p>Feel I can live a more sustainable life</p> <p>Benefiting the environment – low carbon footprint</p> <p>South facing hillside helps me live sustainably</p> <p>It enables me to be pro-active</p>	<p>Proud to live in Tod</p> <p>Telling people outside of Tod how wonderful it is</p> <p>Makes me like to tell people about where I live</p>

3 Resident's concerns about their area

Maintenance of environment & waste disposal	Built environment	Housing	Politics	Shops, pubs & supermarkets
<p>Threat of wind farms to moorland</p> <p>Too much derelict land, too many people object to any proposals to improve town</p> <p>Many examples of old and unused buildings need bringing into use</p>	<p>Demolition of historic buildings</p> <p>Not enough social housing or affordable houses for young people</p> <p>Several major buildings and sites redundant and scruffy</p> <p>Lack of</p>	<p>We need good refurbishment of current housing in the town</p> <p>Too many unsuitable flats being built</p> <p>New buildings are very poorly designed</p> <p>'Toy town' style of</p>	<p>Attitude of Calderdale that Tod is at the end of the valley and to be forgotten about</p> <p>Lack of clear strategy to new development – it is a random approach</p> <p>Seemingly</p>	<p>Shop signs are not controlled – too much clutter</p> <p>Golden Lion is a great location but isn't well run</p> <p>Only a few nice pubs</p> <p>The market is under threat (supermarket)</p>

<p>Too many vacant and run down sites</p> <p>Lack of proactive action to tackle untidy sites</p> <p>Derelict sites: Cinderhill, Sannard, DCR Street</p> <p>Poor maintenance of canal routes (lack of dog waste bins)</p> <p>Dog mess on canal - Yuck!</p> <p>No enforcement of existing dog fouling laws</p> <p>Clearing up of Autumn leaves left far too long</p> <p>Dog dirt on pavement</p> <p>Litter – street cleaning</p> <p>Not happy about dog poo on canal</p> <p>Wheele bins</p> <p>Poor maintenance of graveyards in central positions – lack of volunteers</p> <p>Dog fouling and litter is poor</p> <p>Big dog fouling problem</p> <p>Dirty streets</p> <p>Badly lit areas around the station – unsafe</p> <p>Lack of maintenance of public realm</p> <p>The poor maintenance of paths and lack of interest in adopting roads</p> <p>Mucky pavements</p> <p>Switch waste disposal – against people's concerns</p> <p>Refuse collection gone backwards I can't go to the tip in my van without getting a permit from Halifax</p>	<p>appreciation of local history by planners</p> <p>Lack of concern or interest in historic building in conservation area (2 about to be demolished)</p> <p>Town Centre Post Office building too 70s style – demolish it</p> <p>Lots of derelict land and buildings</p> <p>Lack of trees and landscaping on new development housing</p> <p>Removal of Town Hall scaffolding – soon</p> <p>Great old building poorly maintained</p> <p>Demolition of some important buildings in the town</p> <p>Planning ignore listed status for expediency</p> <p>Local views on planning are ignored</p> <p>Our high school should be built as promised 8 years ago</p> <p>Use of building materials in keeping with the area – stone</p> <p>Lack of planning concern for Todmorden's Conservation Area</p> <p>Destruction of historic buildings</p> <p>Lack of consultation with local residents regarding curb lowering on residential streets</p> <p>New buildings on green fields when mills are being demolished that could have been used for houses</p> <p>Todmorden could easily be spoiled by misguided planning</p> <p>The new health</p>	<p>new buildings – ugly</p> <p>Poor maintenance of some housing by private rental owners</p> <p>People renting on benefits, no encouragement to integrate into social housing</p> <p>Need a review of affordable rural housing</p> <p>Many examples of poor design of dwellings</p> <p>Tod is vulnerable to speculative builders</p> <p>Huge need for affordable social housing</p> <p>Badly designed new developments demonstrating weak and unambitious planning dept</p> <p>New houses being put up with little concern for infrastructure</p> <p>Massive buy up of terraced housing by private rentals – these are poorly maintained</p> <p>New housing is designed to hide behind tall walls – not integrated</p>	<p>inconsistent interpretation of policies</p> <p>Council does not listen to the people of</p> <p>Todmorden's views</p> <p>Not happy that paedophiles are being rehoused here</p> <p>Council listens but doesn't change its views or actions</p> <p>Poor supervision of planning transgressions in the town</p> <p>Poor enforcement regime</p> <p>LDf proposal to increase new housing by 20%</p> <p>Not being listened to</p> <p>Council's lack of understanding of the nature of community</p> <p>How much money the Council wastes on these planning 'consultations'</p> <p>Politics without community input</p> <p>Consultations often lip service to muzzle local opposition schemes</p> <p>Calderdale really does seem to end at Hebden Bridge</p> <p>More local control in decisions affecting the town</p> <p>How little notice the Council takes of local views on planning</p> <p>No democracy</p> <p>A lack of voice</p>	<p>Lack of retail strategy for the upper valley</p> <p>Rates for businesses are too high, it destroys businesses and is why shops open then shut down in 18 months to 2 years</p> <p>Too many roller shutters on shops</p> <p>Need to encourage a sensible night time economy</p> <p>Markets mid-week are not full of stalls</p> <p>Over-priced stall rates – need to encourage small businesses</p> <p>Lack of investment in the market</p> <p>Better support for market and small shops</p> <p>Failure to realise value of local retailers</p> <p>More encouragement for small shops in the centre of Tod</p> <p>Better use of market in evenings – always lit up</p> <p>The Factory Shop – it's rubbish</p> <p>Tod is likely to become supermarket alley</p> <p>Too many supermarkets</p> <p>Influx of supermarkets</p> <p>Not happy that new supermarkets are trying to muscle their way in</p> <p>Another supermarket is a huge concern</p> <p>Supermarkets will kill the market</p> <p>I'm concerned that supermarkets will flood the town and we'll have five stores</p> <p>I'm concerned there'll be no adequate parking</p>
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	<p>centre is a waste of money – it's too lavish</p> <p>Pubs shutting down</p> <p>Not enough nice welcoming pubs</p>			<p>for cars coming into supermarkets</p> <p>New supermarkets</p>
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Community & facilities	Education & Employment	Tourism	Young people	Roads & transport
<p>Make better use of Town Hall – should be a community asset</p> <p>Not recognising community pride</p> <p>Very elderly people don't get enough support from the town e.g. old people's homes</p> <p>Too many people criticise events held for young people e.g. Todfest</p> <p>Not enough co-ordination between local community groups</p> <p>No community centre</p> <p>Threat to Todmorden library</p> <p>Loss of services in Tod</p> <p>Cut backs to fire, ambulance, police</p> <p>Bus fares are ridiculously high</p> <p>Cost for use of public toilets, one and only!</p> <p>Town centre night club needs more control at turn out time</p>	<p>Under use of Tod College</p> <p>Destruction of further education opportunities in Community College</p> <p>Need to develop adult education facilities</p> <p>Not enough evening classes for adults</p> <p>Need a new school at Scaitcliffe</p> <p>Poor secondary school – Todmorden High (quality of building and education)</p> <p>Delays to renovation of Todmorden High School</p> <p>Shocking buildings at Tod High</p> <p>Poor quality of Tod High School building</p> <p>Need more employment opportunities – not just service or supermarket jobs</p> <p>Not enough work opportunities</p> <p>Too many dead-legs hanging about – boozing, spitting etc</p> <p>Shortage of employment opportunities</p> <p>High proportion of unemployed/highest proportion of disabled people in Calderdale – how are these groups being assisted</p> <p>More small units for cottage industries</p>	<p>Threats to green field sites</p> <p>Poor maintenance of scruffy canal banks</p> <p>Too many end-of-road boozers (pubs)</p> <p>Lack of clear information on local offerings</p> <p>LDF proposal to become a principal town</p> <p>No real investment in tourism in Tod</p> <p>Tourism Information Office should be actively promoting the town</p> <p>No decent hotel</p> <p>Failure to develop the asset of the canal</p> <p>Lack of use of canal and view as an asset – no activity except paths</p> <p>No good hotels for conference facilities</p> <p>No input into local tourism</p> <p>Lack of investment in canal – a major asset</p>	<p>Feral youth in some areas of town</p> <p>More facilities to deal with ASB for young people 16 – 25</p> <p>Need facilities for young people's needs</p> <p>Young people should be involved in decision making</p> <p>Lack of facilities for young people</p> <p>Shortage of opportunities for school leavers</p> <p>No supported housing for young people or people with mental health issues in the town</p> <p>Lack of opportunity for teenagers – related to education / FE</p>	<p>Poor road link to Halifax</p> <p>Travelling down the valley – routes out and into Todmorden are very congested</p> <p>Lack of co-ordination between highways and utilities creates havoc on valley roads</p> <p>Traffic congestion on A646 and A6033</p> <p>Trains stopping too early in the evenings</p> <p>Trains used to stop at Walsden which made travelling easier – but no longer</p> <p>Transport needs to be more affordable</p> <p>Poor train lines and very cramped and delayed trains to Leeds and Manchester</p> <p>I'm concerned the roads will not be adequate for the influx of traffic</p> <p>Lack of traffic calming on 'rat runs'</p>

Sustainable energy	Parking	Flooding	Culture
<p>Wind farms</p> <p>No support of</p>	<p>People double parking on sides of roads or double yellow lines by cash points</p>	<p>Automatic flood alleviation that is controlled locally</p>	<p>Lack of cinema – arts events, things to engage youth</p>

local generation of energy No support for alternative energies	Cost of parking in Tod town centre Paid parking in Tod town centre – free parking for two hours would be better Too much focus on needing more parking and not enough on walking More parking needed for shopping/library/leisure	Flood controls in Centre Vale Park to be maintained locally Flooding is still an issue Key holder for floodgates to live in Tod – not down the valley	No investment in cultural industries from county or Calderdale
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4 Associated negative impacts

Democracy, involvement in planning, running town	Shops & Town Centre	Transport
<p>Powerless</p> <p>Frustrated</p> <p>Undervalued</p> <p>Worried about top down decisions</p> <p>Worried about Halifax imposed decisions on Tod and quality of life</p> <p>Tod the forgotten town – all attention given to Hebden Bridge</p> <p>Council not following up what they say makes me frustrated</p> <p>The place isn't prosperous enough</p> <p>We don't feel we have a voice</p> <p>Decision taken at Halifax is a cause of anger and despair</p> <p>Due to not being consulted this made me feel like I wanted to move away</p> <p>No more quangos please</p> <p>What do Halifax Councillors really know about Todmorden</p> <p>Frustrated that democracy is a sham</p> <p>Give power to the local people</p> <p>If Todmorden is spoiled I will leave</p> <p>Not being listened to makes me angry and affects my health</p> <p>Want to move elsewhere</p> <p>Concerned about centralised decisions that don't take local opinions into account</p>	<p>Worry for local trades with the building of new supermarkets</p> <p>Decision about supermarkets – despite local opposition – is disempowering</p> <p>If Tod becomes a supermarket town and our local trade disappears I will look to move elsewhere</p> <p>Worried about too many supermarkets destroying local shops</p> <p>I value the food stalls on the market and worry the supermarkets will kill this off</p> <p>Worrying about supermarkets being built – concerns me for the future of my child and local food supplies</p> <p>Deeply resent lavish support of Hebden Bridge and poor support of Todmorden</p> <p>Concern that if supermarkets take over then it will kill local food movement which is the future of an unstable world</p> <p>Lack of retail strategy threatens the heart of our market town</p>	<p>Too much time is spent commuting – rush hour now starts at 7.30am</p> <p>No Todmorden Curve – I work in Blackburn</p> <p>Last train from Manchester is 10.40 – too early to go to events</p> <p>Rail delays and general horrible service makes staying here unviable</p> <p>Too few carriages on trains makes the rush hour commute difficult</p> <p>Trains stopping too early, stopping visits to Square Chapel, Theatre etc. Not possible without a car.</p> <p>Commuting in/out of Todmorden is VERY stressful especially coming through Hebden Bridge and their 'wonderful' traffic calming system</p> <p>Long hours commuting out of town for job means I can't access local shops midweek</p> <p>Concerned about older, frailer vulnerable people and lack of transport facilities</p> <p>Lack of good transport links to Burnley, Blackpool, Huddersfield necessitating car travel</p> <p>Have you tried driving to Halifax lately in the morning?</p> <p>Disabled access in town and at station very poor</p> <p>Commuting to Manchester every day is stressful and often frustrating</p> <p>Can't get to work by train. I would have to go to Hebden Bridge – this would take 2 hours</p> <p>The transport system for Halifax is not inclusive – left out Tod, feel vulnerable</p>

Quality of life	Planning	Community Facilities
<p>Worrying about losing green spaces makes me very concerned about quality of life</p> <p>Big cultural offer in Hebden Bridge makes me jealous of</p>	<p>Vacant and run down sites give town a bad image and perceptions</p> <p>No co-ordinated vision for the town centre</p>	<p>Very concerned about the loss of the community centre – was a good place for men to meet</p> <p>Lack of cultural heritage i.e. a museum and art gallery</p>

<p>not living there</p> <p>I fear I will lose quality of life</p> <p>I really do not enjoy riding through dog muck on my bike on canal bank</p> <p>Lots of talk but no serious attempt to do anything about dog fouling</p> <p>Feelings of anger and frustration at state of footpaths</p> <p>Lack of maintenance makes the place look scruffy and uncared for</p>	<p>The unstable nature of the countryside, hillsides are not taken into account when authorising buildings and planning</p> <p>New housing doesn't fit in and makes it feel like a nondescript place – depressing</p> <p>Calderdale doesn't follow through - knock down buildings on Halifax Rd and Rose St and leave behind derelict sites</p>	<p>There may not be a reason for our children to stay in Todmorden</p> <p>I'm worried about losing local facilities like the library/market as I enter retirement and having to rely on driving out of town</p> <p>Loss of community gives reason to leave</p> <p>Pubs closing – be lost forever. Community could become closed off – a concern to my future</p> <p>Café facilities at rail station – none at present</p> <p>Cheaper alcohol from supermarkets destroys local pubs which are over taxed</p> <p>No paddling facilities in the park</p> <p>What a shambles the town centre Post Office looks like to visitors (first impression)</p> <p>Fountain in the park should be put back in working order</p>
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Young people, jobless, drunks	Flooding	Education
<p>Boozing men make me feel unsafe at night</p> <p>There are lots of people of working age with nothing to do. They need manual jobs</p> <p>The cynicism of many young people worries me. Young people need to feel wanted with appropriate employment opportunities</p> <p>Jobless inactive people, excessive drinking in town – I'm worried about the health of the population</p> <p>Low key policing in the evenings makes me worry about the safety of my young teenagers</p>	<p>I can't get home when it floods</p> <p>Feel sorry for the people living near the river every time it chucks it down for days</p> <p>I worry about getting home every time it rains heavily</p> <p>Feel very upset when floods happen – see how the children who live near the river have nightmares and are terrified of the water flooding them again</p>	<p>No new High School will make people move out of the town</p> <p>Further education needs have to be accessed out of town</p> <p>Poor/variable quality of secondary school means many children go to grammar schools 11 – 12 miles away everyday</p> <p>Concern over quality of Tod High may lead to our family moving, and may prevent people from moving to Tod</p>

5 Wishes for the future

<p>We would like a lovely sustainable town</p>	<p>Greater use of hydro electricity</p> <p>I wish Todmorden was a green valley</p> <p>I wish Todmorden was powered by hydro electricity</p> <p>I wish we became a self sufficient town</p> <p>I wish Tod were car free</p> <p>I wish the Halifax Rd site will be a beautiful place with growing areas, a community site and a green hotel with a turf roof and goats grazing on it</p> <p>I wish for all the spare fields to become orchards and forest gardens providing food to make the town self sustaining in food</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if we could harness the power of water</p> <p>I wish for solar panels in every suitable building and no more wind farms</p> <p>I wish we lived here completely sustainable – local grown food, alternative energy</p> <p>For the removal of existing wind farms</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if we all shopped locally</p> <p>I wish for all the old mill water systems to be powering hydro electric schemes to provide local electricity</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if the sewage works were cleaned by reed beds that we could picnic besides</p> <p>I wish politicians would realise that hydro power would be better locally and less</p>
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	<p>visually intrusive</p> <p>I wish for a much increased degree of self sufficiency</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if we had renewable energy</p> <p>I wish for the abolition of the internal combustion engine</p> <p>If only Tod became a centre for alternative energy industries & technology</p>
Good cultural stimulus, environment and leisure	<p>I wish Tod were the mountain bike capital of the North West</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if Bamsche Square was re-developed as a green space and leisure attraction</p> <p>I wish for the development of leisure and tourism employment</p> <p>I wish ¾ of signage could be removed</p> <p>Pedestrian Zone from Town Hall towards Bumley up to cinema building</p> <p>Free short stay car parking in centre</p> <p>If only a good set of owners took over The Golden Lion and got rid of gambling machines and served good ale and food</p> <p>I wish for access to green space</p> <p>Clean and pleasant spaces in town to sit</p> <p>For Tipside to be used for public amenity</p> <p>I hope our brown field sites are open nature reserves</p> <p>I wish for a leisure industry based on assets and history of Upper Calder Valley</p> <p>I wish Tod had a cultural and music venue for live bands</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if we had a marina</p> <p>Town Hall to become a cultural centre</p> <p>If only the library could be expanded and linked to a cultural centre</p> <p>I wish there were more cultural offers and more evening classes</p> <p>I wish for recreation facilities for the elderly</p> <p>I wish for more emphasis on cultural aspects of community</p> <p>John Fielden statue back where he belongs</p> <p>Facilities to hold large events</p> <p>Good cultural and leisure facilities at affordable prices</p> <p>If only business development funding created an artists quarter alongside Water St</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if we had a cinema</p> <p>I wish Tod Park was still the same size and will not be built on</p> <p>I wish there was another big event or three like the agricultural show and the carnival</p>
National recognition	<p>I wish Tod was known nationally for its heritage and character</p> <p>I wish Todmorden was marketed properly to outsiders</p>
Lovely community to live in	<p>Good community centre and activities</p> <p>I wish for another Acom Centre up and running</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if we all contributed to a community centre of some kind</p> <p>I wish Tod retains its community spirit and identity</p> <p>I wish for opportunities for the generations to integrate</p> <p>Local facilities for individuals and groups</p> <p>If only parents realised younger people shouldn't be out on the streets at 11pm</p> <p>Of only residents could be compelled to keep their bit of street clean</p> <p>For the whole of Tod to be stone cleaned (as in the rest of Yorkshire)</p> <p>Working locally, providing services for the town</p> <p>I wish for security and a safe place to live</p> <p>For serious and extensive tree planting in town and on certain hillsides</p> <p>I wish our derelict sites are refurbished</p> <p>If only public realm areas were clean and well looked after</p> <p>It would be great if there were minimum standards for maintenance of privately owned housing</p>

	<p>Wouldn't it be great if town centre waste land was developed usefully</p> <p>I hope the green spaces survive into the next two decades</p> <p>I wish local shoppers would become more responsible re sales of alcohol</p> <p>I wish for access to green space</p> <p>It would be nice if there were some green scenery</p>
Tourism	<p>I wish that no more buildings of local historic importance are allowed to fall into disrepair and dereliction</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if the heritage of this place was done justice</p> <p>Need to change the shopping dynamics, opening times</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if tourists came to Tod</p> <p>If only people outside Todmorden knew where Todmorden was</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if we established a tourism hub in Calderdale</p> <p>Green walks accessible to wheelchairs and pushchairs</p> <p>New hotel and conference facilities</p> <p>I wish for a museum and an art gallery to make aware of the history of Tod and its culture to be more attractive for tourists</p> <p>I wish local people would actually walk into and use local art galleries – on Water Street, Platform One etc</p> <p>For a Marina, retail and leisure development on Halifax Rd</p> <p>If only we could be prosperous enough to enjoy the quality of life of southern towns</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if Todmorden can develop a successful economy and reputation for quality local food marketed nationally to attract visitors</p> <p>If only the canal is developed as a heritage tourist attraction</p> <p>Promote area for tourism – Stoodly Pike is in Tod, not Hebden Bridge</p> <p>Halifax Road site a successful marina / shopping complex</p> <p>I wish for a museum</p> <p>I wish for green tourism in the area</p> <p>I would like to see exploitation of 'cradle of industrial revolution' theme</p> <p>Tourism has been developed properly</p> <p>I wish IET and green industries will lead to prosperity for the town</p> <p>The market has been refurbished</p>
Successful local businesses	<p>If only there was no Asda where the nice old cinema was</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if local shops were helped and encouraged by fairer rates rather than choked to death</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if the town had pubs in 20 years</p> <p>I wish shop keepers would look after their buildings</p> <p>I wish for local trade and local food</p> <p>Night markets in summer months – good meeting place</p> <p>I hope I can still shop in a local market</p> <p>I wish all vacant shop units were taken up</p> <p>Develop the town centre to include starter units, high end retail outlets and quality restaurants</p> <p>Small local businesses survive the threat from big business e.g. supermarkets</p> <p>Good range of local employment opportunities</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if there were good local employment opportunities for younger people</p> <p>I wish people were encouraged to work locally e.g. local residents prioritised for local jobs</p> <p>I wish good sized employers were attracted to Todmorden. Not just Asda</p> <p>I wish there were more opportunities in the town for young people in 20 years</p>
Local democracy	<p>Independence for Todmorden UDI</p> <p>I wish this meeting will have a lasting legacy!</p>

	<p>I wish there was a locally elected and funded Council</p> <p>I wish to be in control of our agendas ourselves</p> <p>I wish to have local redevelopment decided at local level</p> <p>Planners had been held in check by local opinion</p> <p>There is evidence that local people were listened to and the Council changed their plans to take their views into account</p> <p>If only Halifax and Calderdale would stop interfering then Todmorden could develop its tourist industry</p> <p>I wish Tod to become a Calderdale free zone</p> <p>I wish there would be an awareness in Calderdale that Todmorden feels marginalised</p> <p>The LDF needs to recognise the importance of Tod's local food movement as a key feature of the town's future</p> <p>Decisions regarding all planning were made at a local level</p> <p>I wish for a democratic society</p> <p>If only planners understood community</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if Todmorden could veto decisions made by Calderdale that affect the town</p> <p>Self governing in all local matters</p> <p>I wish the imbalance between Halifax and Todmorden was reset in our favour</p>
Decent housing	<p>For an ambitious effective planning regime to insist on high standards of design and making</p> <p>If only housing requirements were linked to needs, like ageing population, not profits</p> <p>I wish new housing was built to a high standard</p> <p>I wish some of the horrible new housing would fall down and older properties refurbished</p> <p>Use derelict / brown field sites for accessible, affordable, social housing</p>
Good local schools	<p>New high school up and running</p> <p>Adult education extended</p> <p>I wish local children went to school in the local area to a good school</p> <p>It would be great if Tod had a good quality high school</p> <p>I wish there were more food and nutrition based courses at Todmorden College and High School</p>
Transport links	<p>I wish the railway links were more swift and numerous in contact with city centres</p> <p>I wish there was a by-pass (plural) that would take traffic around the town centre</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if there was frequent, reliable public transport around all the living areas of Tod to link into the town centre</p> <p>The Burnley Loop reopened</p> <p>I wish for good public transport</p> <p>Faster transport links</p> <p>Through trains to Burnley without having to go to Hebden</p> <p>It would be great if we had more unadopted roads adopted</p> <p>I wish there was a free bike scheme</p> <p>Tunnel to avoid Hebden Bridge bottle neck</p> <p>I wish bus fares were cheaper</p> <p>Alternative to A646 developed</p>

6 Perceived impacts on wishes on quality of life

Feeling	<p>Content</p> <p>Proud and happy</p> <p>Relaxed and content</p> <p>Satisfaction that all is right with the town</p>
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	<p>Happy and content Alive In control of my life Well Blissfully happy At home Useful Proud to be made in Tod Appreciation for living in such a lovely area Wholesome and fit Wealthy and healthy Comfortable Amazed Healthy Empowered: because the Council listened and made our town a good place to live and visit Fulfilled Happy to be alive and healthy Happy and content Calm Happy Relaxed and unstressed Content</p>
Thinking/ Saying	<p>That this meeting started the ball rolling How much friendlier it is, what a great small community Glad I stayed living in the town Well done us Toddiess My lifestyle is carbon-free Small towns are beautiful Our Council does us proud Todmorden is a place where local people make a difference Good market Visit Tod and find out what it has to offer You haven't got hills like ours We're safe here from all the floods that are covering the majority of the south east and east What an attractive town Did you see that feature about Tod on the BBC last night? We have a good quality of life in Todmorden What a supportive environment for young people I love living in Todmorden The trains run on time I'm glad I moved to Tod Tod is as lovely now as anywhere in the world when it's not raining Cheaper than Sussex What do you think about that proposal for a 6th supermarket? The rain is refreshing! (honest)</p>
Doing	<p>Still participating in Tod life Eat local cheese Attend local government meetings I will have enough pension to keep warm, eat well and have a good place to live</p>

	<p>Passing on my knowledge of plants and herbs to my grandchildren I'll be looking after and seeing my grandchildren – my children will have wanted to stay in the town Visiting the heritage trail Still learning and doing new things to keep me healthy Working Walking on new green paths in the hills Shopping in the market Enjoying life Socialising Shopping and eating well Sat in a nice pub drinking beer from a Tod brewery Be healthy and able to appreciate the lovely valley Taking part in community events Working locally Enjoying local leisure facilities Travelling into town by bus to enjoy shopping, meeting friends and the local culture Running a good business, viably – supporting local workers I will be involved in local cultural life I will be happy to raise my children here Become involved in local groups Sat by the new marina feeding the ducks with great grandchildren Show our world famous axolotl breeding group to tourists from Japan Walking, visiting theatre, cinema and shopping at Asda I will be using locally produced electricity from hydro electric Looking after my garden and tuning into the natural environment around me I will be 90 years old and hope to still be able to enjoy the new/old Todmorden Hopefully walking to town centre – chat with local people, shop, relax and walk home Enjoying new town centre facilities Enjoying the unblemished views I'll be using renewable energy Shopping on foot in the revitalised market I'll probably be working (67) and hopefully healthy Transport links improved taking me less time to travel</p>
Seeing	<p>A clean and well developed town centre A decent community centre The canal restored and much used An attractive and well maintained town centre Clean paths by the canal and healthy, happy children Clean, prosperous town Looking at the new High School building at last! Green A thriving local town Lots of happy old people A thriving, happy community Diverse and interesting shops Clean paths and lovely parks and gardens The local axolotls Happy, health and content people Seeing the hills and the wildlife</p>

	<p>A self sufficient town</p> <p>Seeing an unchanged, unspoiled hillside and local spaces retained</p> <p>No wind farms or unsightly housing</p> <p>All the best shops, market and buildings are preserved and put to new uses where appropriate</p> <p>The moors are not overwhelmed with wind farms</p> <p>Busy town, lots of people</p> <p>A buzzing local market</p> <p>Friendly people</p> <p>A clean canal and tow path</p> <p>Lots of bees</p> <p>People acting with respect to one another</p> <p>Tourists interested in industrial heritage</p> <p>The town centre has a cultural centre</p> <p>No car parks</p> <p>Access points for electric cars</p> <p>Countryside is still green and pleasant; accessible paths along valley floors</p> <p>A new high school building</p> <p>Lots of green visible from all areas in town</p>
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7 Suggested positive actions

KEEP	<p>Centre Vale Park – no taking bits off</p> <p>Keep and expand the sports centre facilities</p> <p>The park tidy</p> <p>Park as it is and preserve the woodland around it</p> <p>The market viable for stall holders</p> <p>Support Todmorden's economic, community and environmental prosperity through backing Incredible Edible Todmorden. This could provide the backbone for Todmorden's future.</p> <p>Existing market and shopping facilities</p> <p>The market and local food production</p> <p>The site adjacent to Health Centre for a marina development</p> <p>Older buildings including local terraces, encourage house owners to maintain</p> <p>Local trade, local food</p> <p>Keep up support for local community groups</p> <p>Parks, market, historic buildings clean</p> <p>Our present population size</p> <p>Keep the recycling policy, but make local collection systems more efficient</p> <p>Housing / population the same</p> <p>The market in good heart</p> <p>Everything except derelict land</p> <p>The market</p> <p>Incredible Edible Tod</p> <p>Todmorden's present character</p> <p>Keep the market</p> <p>Keep green, we value them, esp. green 'lung' areas</p> <p>Green field views from living areas (area around Tod – landscape of special interest spaces in present planning terms)</p> <p>The library</p>
STOP / LOSE	<p>The proposal for Sainsbury</p> <p>Not too many supermarkets</p>

	<p>All wind farms</p> <p>Charging for parking</p> <p>The decay of the market hall – have it listed</p> <p>Fly tipping</p> <p>Stop allowing new housing to turn its back on main roads, behind ugly stone walls and fences</p> <p>Encouraging 'drift' of unemployed/disfranchised into poor quality housing</p> <p>Dog dirt on pavement (fine people / confiscate dogs)</p> <p>Big supermarkets</p> <p>Property owners who let property fall in disrepair</p> <p>Supermarkets</p> <p>Dog fouling and littering – introduce penalties</p> <p>Stop planning permission for more supermarkets/ large retailers in the town</p> <p>Lose supermarkets</p> <p>Wind farms</p> <p>Stop any further wind farm development – use hydro</p> <p>Stop dog fouling</p> <p>Attitude that the Council knows best</p>
CHANGE	<p>Utilise more spare land</p> <p>Change planning approach and decision making process on supermarkets to support local retail</p> <p>Demolish Cinderhill Mill – landscape empty sides</p> <p>Change attitude to tourism</p> <p>Dear Council – change your policy of ignoring local opinion</p> <p>Change the railway link to allow better flow of transport</p> <p>Change the building currently housing the Post Office – demolish and replace with a building with character</p> <p>Civic attitude among citizens. Pride in gardens, yards etc</p> <p>Change people's negative attitudes to any developments or changes in the town</p> <p>Change your rules of top-down decision making</p> <p>Reliance on car transport</p> <p>Change your policy on planning large retail outlets – we don't want them</p> <p>Central Post Office building complex</p> <p>Planning policy on supermarkets and large trade outlets</p> <p>Council's attitude on what local people say – allow Council to change its mind</p> <p>Old mills into modern industrial units</p> <p>Profile of Tod nationally and internationally</p>
ADD	<p>Green industries</p> <p>Bumley Loop</p> <p>High school</p> <p>Marina</p> <p>Green energy generation</p> <p>A historical / industrial museum</p> <p>An art gallery</p> <p>Adopt and urban design policy and stick to it</p> <p>More opportunities for employers in manufacturing</p> <p>More tourism</p> <p>Local community schemes to extract hydro-electricity from surrounding waterways and give cooperative ownership to local investors</p> <p>More funding for community for community schemes and people</p> <p>Take enforcement action on Section 215 to tidy land or improve ugly buildings</p>

	<p>A marina / mixed use development area</p> <p>Add opportunity for employment and decentralisation of Council jobs to Todmorden</p> <p>Employment sites, industry, sustainable growth, community centres, support</p> <p>Apply for all available funding to regenerate the town</p> <p>Green tourism</p> <p>More facilities for local industry and enterprise on a small scale</p> <p>Employment to retain young people</p> <p>Add or enhance cultural centres</p> <p>Hotel and conference facilities</p> <p>Small industrial affordable units built in character – nice buildings</p> <p>Central community facility – better use of Town Hall</p> <p>Encourage investment in the town by being pro-active not reactive</p> <p>Add significant encouragement / incentives for local small businesses re lower start-up business rates</p> <p>Cinema</p>
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