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Calderdale Council LDF Workshop Report 9
Ripponden & Ryburn
June 2011

1 Context

The Development Strategy Team for Planning at Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council has commissioned this report to capture the ninth 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 Ripponden and Ryburn.

The written results from this consultation are thematic¹ and indicative of resident's experiences and aspirations in this area 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 11 residents took part in the workshop. Not all participants completed the equalities sheet therefore some of the totals below do not add up.

All described themselves as 'White'.

The age breakdown was: <25 = 0; 25 to 39 = 0; 40 to 59 = 5; 60+ = 5.

There were 4 males and 6 females.

None 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 believe they enjoy a good quality of life which they attribute to the peace and tranquillity of their rural setting, the sense of community and good local facilities/communication links.



Traffic volume and increasing congestion along the A58, together with new housing development participants regarded as unsuitable for local need, pose the biggest threats to their quality of life. Participants are concerned that if the villages continue to expand at the same rate and in the same way, not only will they lose their village identity, but the area



will not be able to support the housing needs of its residents at different life stages; from needing an affordable first home to being able to downsize in later years. In addition, older participants are genuinely concerned that when they reach a stage in their lives and health where independent living is no longer possible, they will be forced to move away from their community because of the lack of residential and nursing care in the area.

At the top of their 'wish list' for the future Ripponden and Ryburn area is a 'hand's off' approach from the Council so that it remains largely the same in look, size and feel. They also want reduced congestion on the A58, improved parking management through Ripponden, appropriate housing/care provision and more community facilities for young and old.

5 Key Findings

5:1 Positive quality of life

Participants value the contribution of the rural environment, sense of community, local facilities and good communications to their quality of life.

- **Environment**

The area's rural context is a source of great pleasure and contentment. The views, peace, fresh air, wildlife and walks were all mentioned as bringing a sense of privilege, tranquillity and enjoyment to their lives. When asked to encapsulate what it meant for them two themes emerged: 'You can't buy this' and 'Aren't we lucky'.

- **Appreciation of local facilities**

Participants feel well served by convenient local facilities. Good local schools, the variety and quality of pubs and restaurants, libraries, specialist shops, sports facilities (Rishworth School and Sowerby Bridge Pool), local services (doctors and dentist) and recycling were all mentioned.

- **Appreciation of improved transport facilities**

Good communication links and a perceived improvement in the local bus service are appreciated by participants. It means that, together with their rural location, they can enjoy (in their own words) 'the best of both worlds' in accessing both rural areas and towns and cities.

- **Community**

Participants value the local community spirit brought about by the friendly people, good neighbours, resident's long-term commitment to the area, good schools, local events and active community groups. The impact is a sense of stability, belonging and safety.



5:2 Quality of life concerns²

Concerns in this area centre on traffic volume and congestion and the negative impacts of new and inappropriate housing development on the area.

- **Traffic volume and congestion getting worse**

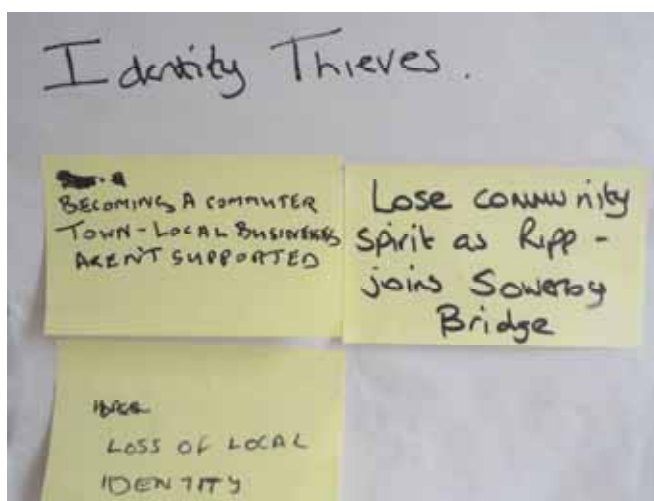
Increased traffic and congestion along the A58 – exacerbated by frequent closures of the M62, choke points at Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden and the high volume of HGVs using the road – are all having a negative impact on resident’s quality of life. Specific impacts mentioned include increased journey times, stress, frustration, poor air quality and increased risk of traffic accidents.

The popularity of Ripponden in the evenings and at weekends means a high incidence of on-street parking narrowing the main through-route which adds to the congestion issue.

“For me, Ripponden is a weekend place for residents so the issues are on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoon ... We need more parking provision in the centre of Ripponden.”

- **Housing**

Participants are concerned about the number of new building developments in the area with scant evidence of associated investment in infrastructure. They believe they are not receiving appropriate information or proper guidance in relation to building development in the area and are incredulous at proposals to build on green belt land (for



example at Kebroyd). The dearth of affordable and appropriate housing for young people or elderly residents wishing to down-size, together with the current trend in new builds aimed at affluent buyers and commuters, worries residents who don’t want to see Ripponden’s unique village feel disappear. At the heart of it all, they are worried that Ripponden may become a commuter town which would erode their sense of identity and community.

“We’ve been really desperately worried about our area.”

“That’s what’s so puzzling about LDF because it seems to be green belt areas that are earmarked for development.”

“My impression is that the government does precisely what it likes and when it decides a greenbelt area should become brown it turns it brown and then it’s subject to scrutiny about whether it should be built on and it’ll be built on.”

² Some of the themes have been converged for clarity of reporting. The original themes can be found in the appendix.

- **Maintenance**

Narrow roads and poor road surfaces are issues participants want addressing to assist traffic flow. For walkers, private landowners blocking Rights of Way, inadequate way-marking and poor maintenance of footpaths are all having a negative impact on their access to and experience of the countryside.

“There is a total budget of £50,000 a year (for Rights of Way) and we have the same amount of Rights of Way as highways and the highways budget is how many millions? ... it wouldn't take much more money put into Rights of Way to make a massive improvement.”

- **Disillusionment with the Council and planning procedures**

During the end-of-workshop discussion participants talked about their concerns in relation to how planning decisions are made, managed, consulted on and disseminated. They would like planning processes to be more transparent, consultations more open and accessible, the findings more widely disseminated and the Council to provide a clearer, more public statement of intent at the end of the process to show that they have listened, heard and responded to what people have been saying.

When someone suggested they attend Ward Forums, what came back was the perception that these were largely unappealing because the name and format seemed to too 'dry'. In their view, the Council needed to make consultations more appealing, more 'alive' to genuinely engage the public.

“This is an opportunity for people ... and it feels like this needs to be done more consistently, more regularly. I want it to be out there ... they need to come to us and facilitate and communicate with us.”

“There is a dryness about Councils and meetings. It needs to be more alive.”

“We don't feel involved enough in the whole process of being consulted, of putting our own ideas forward knowing that they're going to be listened to and it's so wrong.”

5:3 Community Aspirations

Residents themed their key aspirations into 10 headings. When invited to vote on which they believed were the most important the results, in descending order, were:

- hands off - qualified appropriate growth,
- better road systems,
- sense of place and identity,
- increased facilities,
- youth of tomorrow,
- local food and self sufficiency,
- energy and sustainability,
- alternative travel,
- Rights of Way,
- housing.

- **Hands off - qualified appropriate growth**

Participants want significant attributes of the area to remain intact and be well maintained; the green belt, Ripponden's village feel, independent retailers and the distinctiveness, identity and physical separation of Ripponden, Barkisland and Rishworth.

- **Better road systems**

A reduction in traffic volume and congestion along the A58 is a major wish. Suggestions included yellow lines along one side of the road in Ripponden, dedicated HGV routes to bypass the village, and a bypass for M62 diverted traffic.

- **Sense of place and identity**

As mentioned above, retaining the village feel and with that, a sense of community, is an important wish for this group which they believe could be met through the provision of a community building in each village together with investment in the local economy and countryside.

- **Increased facilities**

Participants want increased provision for the elderly (sheltered housing, a retirement home or village), for the young (schools, clubs) and for the general population (sports and recreation, scaled up amenities in relation to population growth).

"We do have a prosperous school in the area which, with a bit of joined up thinking, could provide facilities for youth. The school has sufficient facilities already to provide the kinds of things the young people of the area may need like Youth Club, like meeting places."

- **Youth of tomorrow**

The focus here was not just on the provision of facilities (youth centres, more local school places, playgrounds), but in educating children and young people about the area in order to foster local pride, appreciation and engage them in the local community.

- **Local food and self sufficiency**

Although not mentioned as a benefit or concern of living in the area, participants want to continue to be able to support local business through buying local produce in local shops or markets. The underlying principle here is again to retain the village and community feel.

- **Energy and sustainability**

There is a will from participants to develop more sustainable energy usage and improve recycling facilities.

- **Alternative travel**

Some participants think there needs to be more lateral thinking in relation to developing alternative travel solutions; such as using trains for freight to reduce HGV traffic on the A58, creating safe alternatives to the A58 for bikes – perhaps along disused rail lines – and encouraging/supporting the use of electric cars.

5:4 Suggested Positive Actions

• Development

KEEP	ADD
	Comprehensive retirement village Residential care home for elderly/infirm Add a retirement village / complex for the elderly Residential homes/retirement settlements
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
Stop anymore big housing developments Stop adding new housing without expanding amenities and facilities accordingly Stop allowing new builds without investing in infrastructure	

• Services / Facilities

KEEP	ADD
Keep and add to current recycling programme Local services and Post Office Barkisland Post Office Local library in Ripponden and the Post Office	Subsidise public transport – even make it free Allotments Create allotments where anyone can have a chance to grow local food and flowers Recycling facilities in Ripponden Youth centre to cover Ripp, Rish and Barkisland Facilitate the growing and selling of food – small scale in particular Additional school places and teaching staff
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
	Increase weekly household recycling capabilities

• Heart of Ripponden

KEEP	ADD
Heart of Ripponden Ripponden and Rishworth community spirit Keep all local traditions: Rushbearing, Pork Pie Rights of Way Increase budget for improvement and maintenance of Rights of Way Walking routes and maintain them	Improve support for local business Local market to include all local trade Add a local market once a week where local growers can sell or barter their goods Fresh local food market Local market Add more spring bulbs along road verges and maintain roadside areas Rights of Way signage
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
Stop fly tipping with spot fines and accessing local neighbourhood watch groups	Positively discriminate for truly local business

• Roads and parking

KEEP	ADD
	Add regular checks and improvements to narrow country lanes - Hollin Lane off Rochdale Road Add double yellow lines on one side of A58 Off-road parking in Ripponden Zebra crossing – not traffic lights – opposite Co-op Managed parking along Oldham Road
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
Unnecessary traffic lights	Speed limits – change to more sensible levels

APPENDIX: RAW DATA

1 What residents love about their area

Appreciation of local facilities	Love of the local environment	Sense of community	Appreciation of improved transport facilities
Good local schools	Rural nature of Ripponden area	The community spirit	Ease of access for travel
Local restaurants	Living in a rural surrounding	A fantastic Parish Council	Regular public transport
Good pubs and restaurants	Fresh air	Friendly people	Easy journey to work (Mytholmroyd)
Some new places for children to play	Countryside views	Friendliness of local people	Easy to get to Manchester and Leeds – equidistant
The local doctors	Ripponden rural aspect	Stability of the community – long term commitment to place	Regular bus service
Ripponden Branch Library	Peacefulness	Great local schools	Near motorway links
Local library	The weather in all its elements	Local events, i.e. Rushbearing, Children’s Day, May Day Gala, run by the community	Buses up to Mill Bank
Food waste recycling service	Seeing a variety of wildlife – the heronry	Friendly neighbours	Bus service has improved
Improved recycling programme	Lack of development where I live	History of the area	
Library in Sowerby Bridge	Countryside	Lots of active groups	
Good restaurants with great variety	Greenbelt sacrosanct	Many community events	
The local dance school	Countryside and walks	Interesting people (local characters)	
Local sports facilities at Rishworth School	Peace and quiet where I live	Totally Locally Initiative encouraging local businesses	
Specialist shops in Ripponden	The walks around the reservoir	A lot of active groups e.g. In Bloom	
New pool in Sowerby Bridge	Quality of older architecture and buildings	Low incidence of crime – presence of community constable	
Local services – doctors, dentist	Country views	Feeling of being part of the community	
Great range and choice of restaurants	Yorkshire stone houses and walls	Safe area	
Excellent Post Office in Barkisland	The countryside is fantastic and it’s criss-crossed with Rights of Way		
Local shops in Triangle, Sowerby and Ripponden	Dry stone walls		
Local Post Office	The lack of lights at night in my home		
Train at Sowerby Bridge	Fresh air brings good health		
Rishworth swimming pool	Flora and fauna		
Good pubs and restaurants	Mix of wooded valleys and moorland tops		
	Good quality local walks		
	Countryside on my doorstep		
	Great use of natural materials in house construction		
	Excellent bridleways - great place for horses		
	Improved canal network		
	Lots of walks		

2 Associated positive impacts

You can't buy this	Aren't we lucky	Best of both worlds
Contentment, peace and quiet and natural environment	Enjoyment of walking with friends and grandchildren	Can easily access other places if I want to (M62)
Gives a feeling of tranquillity	Makes me feel peaceful/tranquil	Rural living but only 15 minutes from motorway network
Feeds my soul	Easy to breathe, see the sky and be outside	Close to big cities so don't feel too insular
Makes for a contented retirement	Friends always want to come to us	Save fuel as not having to drive too far for entertainment
Enjoyment of solitude	Chance to see wildlife close up	Able to work without long commute
Contentment	At one with nature	
40 years in same house - I will never move	Delight at birdlife and animals	
Quality of life leading to high level of satisfaction	When I drive home from work on the bloody M62 a great weight lifts off me!	
Makes me smile	Feeling of privilege at where I live	
Improved health (due to walks and natural beauty)	My friends say it's like the Lake District with no tourists	
	The pleasure of being close to the natural environment	
	Marvellous place for our 'townie' grandchildren to visit	

Amenities	Feeling safe	Belonging
Keeping fit and healthy at local golf club at Ryburn	Safety and security	Wish to contribute back to society
Convenience - shops and facilities	Safe and secure	Improved social life
Convenience of amenities	Feeling of safety for the whole family	Choice - I can join in or not
		Stop and talk to walkers passing by

3 Resident's concerns about their area

Traffic volume & congestion getting worse	Infrastructure & maintenance of roads / walls	M62 can cause problems	Parking - lack of off street	Rights of Way
Increased traffic	Poor road surfacing	Problems when M62 closed	No off-street parking	Rights of Way not protected
Poor traffic systems ill thought out	State of road surfaces	Increased delay on local roads due to M62 diversions through here	Closing of car parks	Reservoir car park shut at Baitings
Choke points on roads into and out of Ripponden	Local lanes with dry stone walls need maintenance and widening to allow cars to pass one another	M62 closures forces traffic through Ripponden. Residents need warning sirens.	Not enough parking	Country paths not maintained
Traffic congestion - particularly HGVs	Narrow and poor maintenance of country lanes (Hollin Lane off Rochdale Rd needs resurfacing)		Parking on both sides of the road at night in Ripponden	Rights of Way blocked by landowners
Long time to navigate through Sowerby Bridge			Lack of off-street parking	
Traffic - so much on A58 and through Sowerby Bridge				
Nightmare journey through Sowerby Bridge at most times. Time has trebled in the last 3 years.	Crazy placing of new pedestrian crossing on hill down to West Vale			

Ripponden as a place	Housing	Concern for old age & housing	Concern for young people – schools & facilities	Other
<p>Worried that Ripponden is more a town than a village</p> <p>Ripponden is becoming a commuter town</p> <p>Increasing parochialism and lack of diversity in the community</p>	<p>Houses built without investment in the infrastructure e.g. sewage</p> <p>New houses often so boringly built – just have to be stone – why no new architecture?</p> <p>No affordable housing</p> <p>Too many new builds in Ripponden, not enough school places</p>	<p>Lack of property suitable for elderly to downsize</p> <p>Poor facilities for elderly</p> <p>No nursing or residential home in Ripponden. Why do I have to move when I am infirm?</p> <p>Broken promises regarding the replacement home for the elderly. Sold land and built private housing instead!</p>	<p>Schools oversubscribed</p> <p>Lack of facilities for children in the evening</p> <p>No youth club in Ripponden</p> <p>Lack of things for young people to do</p>	<p>Too many waste bins</p> <p>Lack of comprehensive recycling service</p> <p>Infrequency of bus service</p> <p>The promise to reopen Elland station which has never happened</p> <p>Dog fouling</p> <p>Drug dealing and dogging in reservoir car park</p> <p>An appointment at Brig Royd Doctors more and more delayed – up to one week</p>

4 Associated negative impacts

Confused walkers	Resources overstretched	Traffic chaos leads to pollution, stress, danger
<p>Uncertainty over signed footpaths – is it private land?</p> <p>Depressed by people buying places and blocking Rights of Way</p> <p>Too many ramblers have no real idea of the approved route</p> <p>Lack of signage leads to walker confusion</p> <p>Angry when Rights of Way blocked – hard to insist on walking through</p> <p>Lack of information about Rights of Way or footpaths</p> <p>Paths closed affects flora and fauna</p>	<p>Loss of trade at local shops as no-one wants to stop (parking)</p> <p>Overcrowding of schools</p> <p>Children having to commute to another school</p> <p>No real increase in overall infrastructure – schools, doctors etc</p> <p>Pollution of river due to capacity of sewage main</p> <p>More inhabitants need more local jobs</p> <p>Not enough places at school due to increased population</p>	<p>Time wasted through congestion on short journeys</p> <p>Slowness of travel means higher petrol/diesel consumption and expense</p> <p>Scared to bike on A58 - scared for my child too</p> <p>Tension increase due to traffic jams</p> <p>Air quality bad when road too busy – horrible to walk through Ripponden and Sowerby Bridge</p> <p>Rat runs to avoid M62 closure causes traffic accidents</p> <p>More accidents</p> <p>Frustration at traffic jams</p> <p>Traffic jams cause frustration, stress and anxiety. Puts people off travelling to use facilities.</p> <p>Late for work</p> <p>More children involved in road accidents</p> <p>Frustration at high incidence of accidents on M62</p> <p>Speed bumps don't work</p> <p>Slower journey time</p> <p>Increase in through traffic means higher levels of pollution in the air</p> <p>Traffic congestions causes extra mileage to bypass roads</p> <p>Traffic jams stop emergency services</p>

No place for the old	Decimation of local beauty spots	Identity Thieves
<p>Worry about old age and lack of facilities</p> <p>Worry about the future provision for the elderly</p>	<p>Annoyed that stuff is going to landfill when it could be recycled</p> <p>Fly tipping needs monitoring and policing especially on moorland roads</p> <p>Sight of fly tipping rubbish ruins the environment and causes aggravation</p> <p>Litter left by ramblers</p>	<p>Becoming a commuter town – local business aren't supported</p> <p>Lose community spirit as Ripponden joins Sowerby Bridge</p> <p>Loss of local identity</p>

5 Wishes for the future

Hands Off – qualified and appropriate growth	<p>Leave it alone. Keep things as they are</p> <p>Stay unspoilt. No more commercialism</p> <p>That the green belt remains green</p> <p>Limit growth. Keep our village</p> <p>All wishes could be achieved without growth of population/housing/roads</p> <p>Retain feel of space and beauty throughout area</p> <p>Historic sites maintained</p> <p>Limit further development of property</p> <p>Ripponden keeps a village feel</p> <p>High Street is not full of chain stores but unique shops</p> <p>Continued distinction between Ripponden, Barkisland and Rishworth</p> <p>Feeling of space</p> <p>Size remains as now</p>
Increased facilities	<p>Facilities for the elderly</p> <p>The building of a home for the elderly in Ripponden</p> <p>A cinema in Ripponden</p> <p>A youth club in Ripponden supervised by the Bowling Club</p> <p>New sports complex</p> <p>Sports facilities</p> <p>You could live your whole life here (provision of housing for elderly)</p> <p>Hospices, retirement homes, all levels of schooling, local surgeries</p> <p>Creation of a comprehensive retirement village</p> <p>Sheltered housing /residential care for the elderly</p> <p>I wish I could get a doctor's appointment in less than 3 days</p> <p>Local amenities that are sized to the population</p>
Sense of place and village identity	<p>Baitings Dam becomes a nature reserve</p> <p>Community centre for Barkisland</p> <p>Community centre for Rishworth</p> <p>Each village has a community building or focus – pub, church, shop etc</p> <p>Local shops in each village/settlement selling a wide range of goods</p> <p>Morris dancing tuition vital!</p> <p>Rebuild dry stone walls and widen lanes</p> <p>I wish young people and elderly can live side by side</p> <p>Barkisland retains Post Office</p> <p>A wildlife armed officer protecting wildlife and heronry</p> <p>New laws required to stop car passengers throwing rubbish out of the window</p> <p>No fly tipping</p>
Local food and self	<p>Able to buy local food at farm gate</p>

sufficiency	<p>I wish we still have working farms which produce our food</p> <p>Local fresh products, market</p> <p>I wish I could buy all my food as local food</p> <p>Local fruit and vegetable products available</p> <p>Diverse village shops</p>
Youth of tomorrow	<p>Youth centre started up</p> <p>Use outdoors to educate our children and feed their souls</p> <p>Ripponden school extended within its own boundaries</p> <p>More facilities for the youth of the area</p> <p>Playground for young children and facilities for older ones</p> <p>I wish young people really felt they could fly here</p> <p>All school children involved in Ripponden community</p> <p>Enough school places</p>
Energy and sustainability	<p>I wish that 100% of waste is recycled</p> <p>If only we all used renewable energy</p> <p>Continue to improve the recycling programme</p> <p>Development of a hydro station to generate power from water</p> <p>Sustainable fuel – wind? hydro? solar? All as much as possible</p>
Rights of Way	<p>Maps showing all Rights of Way and footpaths – all well maintained</p> <p>Ramblers know where they can and can't go</p>
Housing	<p>I wish we had housing for the full age spectrum</p> <p>More affordable housing for local young people</p>
Better road systems	<p>No pot holes on the roads</p> <p>Double yellow lines on one side of the road in Ripponden</p> <p>Improved standard of road maintenance</p> <p>More co-operation between services when digging up roads</p> <p>Dedicated HGV routes bypassing villages</p> <p>Bypass for M62 traffic</p> <p>No parking on lower end of B6113 (opposite new pub)</p> <p>High level maintenance of the smaller, narrow country roads</p> <p>Significantly less lorries through Barkisland and Ripponden</p> <p>A zebra crossing outside Co-op</p>
Alternative travel	<p>Need a bike route that avoids the A58 – disused railway would be perfect</p> <p>Trains – use them much more for freight</p> <p>I wish we could travel anywhere by public transport</p> <p>Electric rechargeable cars</p>

6 Perceived impacts on wishes on quality of life

Feeling	<p>The place has bustle about it but it isn't over-crowded</p> <p>Contentment</p> <p>Easy, calm living in retirement thanks to much reduced pollution</p> <p>My children have ample things to do</p> <p>Lack of conflict between people and nature</p> <p>That I am lucky to live here</p> <p>Feeling I belong in a community</p> <p>My children would want to live here in the future</p> <p>Safe and valued in my environment</p> <p>Content that my grandchildren can afford housing in Ripponden</p> <p>That community spirit still is thriving</p> <p>Content that being cared for</p>
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	<p>That I am living in a sustainable way</p> <p>Safe and secure that my needs in old age will be met here</p> <p>A valued member of the community</p> <p>Happy and content</p> <p>Feeling that the ideas we made together 20 years ago at the planning meeting have come to fruition and created Utopia</p>
Thinking/Saying	<p>I want for nothing – everything is on my doorstep</p> <p>I'm not destroying my planet</p> <p>I can easily get to where I want to go</p> <p>I'm glad I went to that meeting 20 years ago</p> <p>I am glad to live here</p> <p>I wish it was like it used to be but I'm enjoying the difference</p> <p>My carbon footprint is zero</p> <p>Thank goodness cars were outlawed</p> <p>That was close – we nearly lost it</p> <p>Re-cycling was a really cool idea</p> <p>My grandchildren love that Ripponden Youth Club</p> <p>I'm glad that I moved from Rochdale</p> <p>Amazing that traffic levels haven't increased over the last 20 years</p> <p>Chatting and sharing ideas with friends within a community</p> <p>Thinking that life is carefree and confident that I will be cared for</p> <p>I'm part of the natural environment</p> <p>Hoping that the pensions funds last</p>
Doing	<p>Living in a comprehensive retirement village in a friendly community of peers</p> <p>Eating local food</p> <p>Driving my electric car</p> <p>Walking in the countryside</p> <p>Enjoying life in a relaxed way</p> <p>Supporting local business and traditions</p> <p>Meeting other mothers at the playground</p> <p>Better access to country roads and paths</p> <p>Going to see a film at the Ripponden Odeon</p> <p>Being able to walk on all paths</p> <p>I can travel anywhere on public transport</p> <p>Living in the same house with fast access to medical facilities using pollution free transport. Regular exercise and good food</p> <p>Develop a system for burying all motorways underground. All long journeys fast, underground and asleep</p> <p>Not having problems with landowners due to better information re. Rights of Way</p> <p>Going watching Morris Dancing at Rishworth Community Centre</p> <p>Enjoying local amenities with my family that are on my doorstep</p> <p>Not getting stuck in traffic jams</p> <p>Freely walking on designated footpaths</p> <p>Getting about without my car</p> <p>Buying local produce</p> <p>Living as I do now</p> <p>Eating locally grown, pesticide free food</p> <p>Living in a close community where we look after one another</p> <p>A walk in the countryside after eating a Sunday roast from a local farm</p> <p>Walking down beautifully signed Rights of Way</p> <p>Leaving the car in the garage, enjoying the facilities of the retirement village</p>

Seeing	<p>A wide variety of local shops</p> <p>The same countryside I can see now</p> <p>Watching the early warning system in operation to warn Ripponden that the M62 is closed</p> <p>People out and about and talking to one another as they shop</p> <p>Seeing cars parked in off-street parking and the road in Ripponden is not like a motorway</p> <p>No trucks</p> <p>My neighbours relaxed and enjoying the communal facilities</p> <p>Beautiful grounds in the area for relaxing. Plenty of activities to keep mind and body active</p> <p>New facilities</p> <p>Amazing views and the odd windmill</p> <p>Beautiful countryside</p> <p>Wide open spaces, moorland, woodland, as now</p>
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7 Suggested positive actions

KEEP	<p>Keep and add to current recycling programme</p> <p>Rights of Way</p> <p>Increase budget for maintenance and improvements to Rights of Way</p> <p>Maintain quality of life. Don't allow improvements to 'drown' our original likes.</p> <p>Heart of Ripponden</p> <p>Local services and Post Offices</p> <p>Keep Barkisland Post Office</p> <p>Walking routes and maintain them</p> <p>Local government truly local – outside Westminster party politics</p> <p>Rights of Way</p> <p>Keep local library in Ripponden and the Post Office</p> <p>Ripponden and Rishworth community spirit</p> <p>Keep all local traditions: Rushbearing, Pork Pie</p>
LOSE/STOP	<p>Inferior housing</p> <p>Unnecessary traffic lights</p> <p>Stop fly tipping with spot fines and accessing local neighbourhood watch groups to target regular offenders</p> <p>Stop anymore big housing developments</p> <p>Stop adding new housing without expanding amenities and facilities accordingly</p> <p>Stop allowing new builds without investing in infrastructure</p> <p>Golden parachutes and over paid Chief Execs</p> <p>Manage local campsite – stop people chopping down trees</p>
CHANGE	<p>Increase weekly household recycling capabilities</p> <p>Speed limits – change to more sensible levels</p> <p>Invest in Ryburn at the same levels as Hebden Bridge</p> <p>Positively discriminate for truly local businesses</p> <p>SatNav systems to recognise bridleways/footpaths</p> <p>Rights of Way signage so it's clear and includes destination</p> <p>The way in which you consult – or don't in some cases – with the local community</p>
ADD	<p>Comprehensive retirement village</p> <p>Residential care home for elderly/infirm</p> <p>Subsidise public transport – even make it free</p> <p>Add regular checks and improvements to narrow country lanes, namely Hollin Lane off Rochdale Road</p>

	<p>Improve support for local business</p> <p>Re-energise local democracy - need full elections</p> <p>Allotments</p> <p>Create allotments where 'anyone' can have the opportunity to grow their own food and flowers</p> <p>Recycling facilities in Ripponden</p> <p>Add youth centre to cover Ripponden, Rishworth and Barkisland</p> <p>Add double yellow lines on one side of A58</p> <p>Local market to include all trade</p> <p>Really develop sustainable energy - need action to make it happen</p> <p>Facilitate the growing and selling of food - small scale in particular</p> <p>Add a local market once a week where local growers can sell or barter the goods they grow or make</p> <p>Fresh local food market</p> <p>Local market</p> <p>Add a retirement village/complex for elderly</p> <p>Residential homes/retirement settlements</p> <p>Develop alternative energy</p> <p>Add off-road parking in Ripponden</p> <p>Zebra crossing - not traffic lights - outside Co-op</p> <p>Local government to take over improvements so that locally elected Councillors of experience and ability carry out community wishes</p> <p>Managed parking along Oldham Road</p> <p>Inform Ramblers where they can obtain definitive maps - using these instead of Landranger will cut out 90% of present confusion</p> <p>Additional school places and teaching staff on account of a greatly increased population</p> <p>Give votes to mothers to use on behalf of their children - old people dominate voting</p> <p>Add more spring bulbs along road verges and maintain roadsides areas</p>
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