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Calderdale Council LDF Workshop Report 5

Halifax

April 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 Halifax.

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 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+ = 6.

There were 4 males and 7 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

Halifax residents are proud of where they live. They regard it as a beautiful town: its buildings in particular are a source of great pride and of great concern.

Residents value the unique heritage of the town; its Victorian architecture, old buildings and historic sites. They are extremely concerned that neglect and the increased visibility of modern developments are chipping away at the unique architectural identity of the town.



Residents believe the Halifax town experience caters for a range of different needs. Socially and culturally there are the restaurants, bars, museums and a variety of theatres. Once opened, Broad Street Plaza will provide the town with a cinema which is largely regarded as a positive development. Practically, the town houses a good market and adequate range of shops.



There are however a number of issues around anti-social behaviour at night-time, inadequate and expensive parking, and a limited choice of shops compared to neighbouring towns – all of which act as a deterrents to visiting the town day and night.

The parks and open spaces are highly valued – so much so residents would like the parks open for longer in the summer time. The surrounding countryside is also highly valued as a major contributor to their well-being and quality of life.



There is a desire for improved recycling services and a move towards renewable energy sources. In their view, this would develop Halifax into an increasingly self-sustaining town and generate more income for the town through astute recycling management.

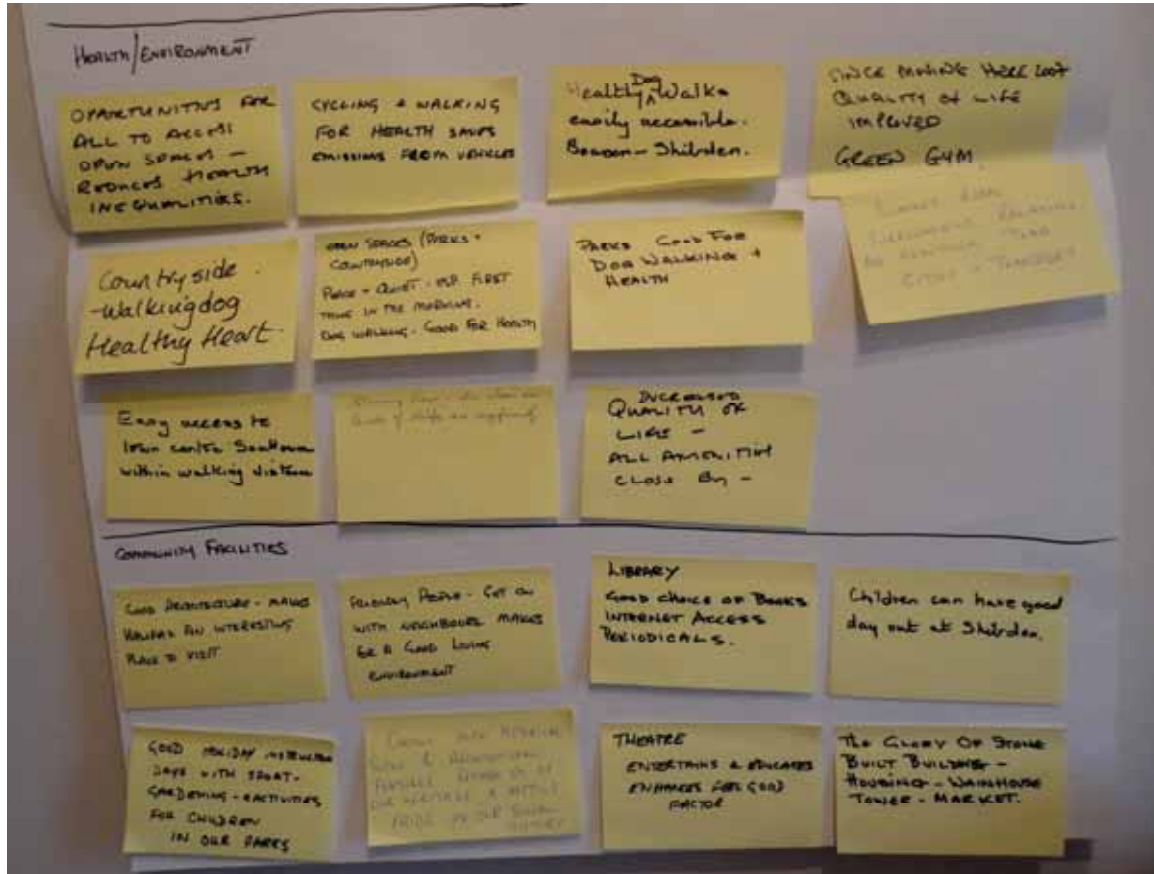
“I go to Bradford for the cinema but I won’t when this opens up. I’ll spend my money here.”

“I feel it will benefit Halifax. We’re talking about a cinema which we don’t have in Halifax.”

“Cinema will attract family groups because you have all the services in one place.”

Others were concerned however that it will shift people’s focus away from the town centre:

“What’s going to happen now is that if you’re coming to Halifax for the cinema, you’re going to use the facilities there (Broad St Plaza) instead of having to go into town.”



5:2 Quality of life concerns²

Residents are concerned in the main about the perceived erosion of the architectural wealth and identity of the town, a potentially stagnant shopping economy, poor parking and street cleansing.

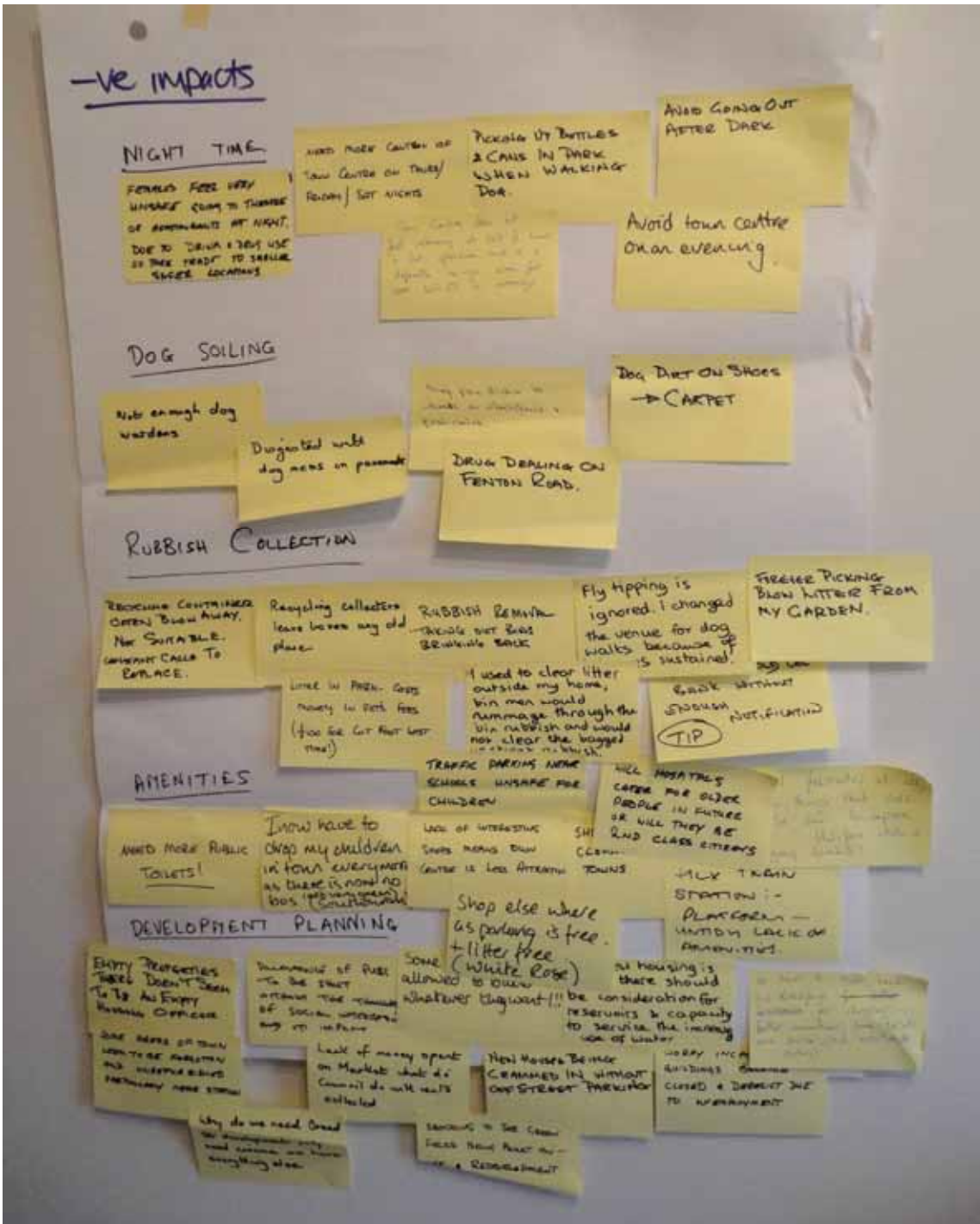
- **Buildings**

Residents are concerned about the impact of development on the architectural identity of the town. In their view, too many modern ‘eye-sore’ buildings are watering down Halifax’s distinctive architecture. Meanwhile existing old buildings (for example the market and the large warehouse buildings near the train station) are falling into disrepair through poor maintenance and neglect, making the town look scruffy and uncared for. Residents are

² Due to insufficient time to accurately theme the post-its, the consultant has re-organised them in this section for the purpose of clarity. The original themes can be found in the appendix.

worried that more buildings are in danger of deterioration or dereliction if more businesses close down or move away.

On a slightly different note, residents want Halifax's 'jewels' - Shibden Hall, Bankfield Museum, Manor Heath Park and Piece Hall in particular - better exploited for the benefit of residents and to attract visitors to the town. There was a strong view that the Industrial Museum would be an important contribution to tourism and civic pride and should be re-opened.



- **Town centre commerce**

Residents are concerned about the impact of high rates and insufficient/expensive parking on town centre trading. In their view the town has too many take-aways and charity shops and not enough volume and variety of retail outlets. This, together with inadequate parking provision and cost, act as deterrents for some shoppers who can access more choice and convenience in neighbouring towns. Poor parking provision also contributes to a sense of fear when visiting the town at night.

“Any women on their own tonight would have difficulty thinking about where to park. I’ve had a lift here ... I wouldn’t have come here if I’d have had to park the car.”

- **Rubbish and recycling**

Residents are frustrated at what they perceive as inadequate street cleansing and provision of litter and ‘dog poo’ bins. Some resort to picking litter up themselves around the vicinity of their homes and in parks. Items such as broken bottles in parks have caused harm to pets resulting in vet’s bills. Residents also seem frustrated at what they regard as an inadequate recycling service that does not fully exploit its revenue generating potential for the town.

- **Parking**

In addition to the town centre parking issue mentioned above, residents are also concerned about the impacts of increasing number of homes with no off-street parking and high incidences of illegal parking. In their view this clogs up the already narrow road systems with parked cars making them un-passable in places.

“At King Cross there’ll be two or three buses stopped. They can’t go through ... there’s cars parked where they’re not allowed to park. There should be a traffic warden stationed there – they’d make a small fortune.”

- **Other**

A number of other issues were mentioned:

- anti-social behaviour during the evenings resulting in residents avoiding the area,
- similarly with drugs and teenage gangs,
- inadequate facilities for 10 – 16 years olds to keep them off the streets,
- an erosion of the bus service,
- a dislike of wind turbines which are considered inefficient and damaging to wildlife.

“Maybe licensing and planning should talk to each other so that if there’s another request from licensed premises on the town they have to go through a planning process ... so they can look at things like safety, whether it’s necessary, whether there’s enough street lighting in the area where they’re proposing the new premises.”

“I do think there’s a point about routes which are profitable and routes that are needed because now the buses have been privatised, they’re obviously going to be making the maximum profit. They’re not going to be providing a service and there are a lot of areas that are not served properly by buses.”

“The council could pick up the tab and subsidise bus services.”

5:3 Community Aspirations

Residents themed their key aspirations into six core headings:

- Buildings,
- Community and amenities,
- Transport and parking,
- Shops and businesses,
- Young people,
- Miscellaneous.

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

- **Buildings**

Residents want no more modern 'concrete' developments. They want the council to focus on the preservation of Halifax's historic buildings, give empty properties at risk of dereliction and decay new purpose, and support the sympathetic renovation of old buildings in a way that is also environmentally conscious.

- **Community and amenities**

Residents had many wishes in relation to community and amenities. In town they would like a safer environment, cleaner streets, more seating areas and more free public toilets. Maintaining a varied and balanced leisure/cultural ecology is also important – including changing the proposed new bowling alley to an ice rink as Halifax already has a bowling alley. They would like to see cleaner parks with longer opening hours in the summer and an expansion of affordable sports and youth facilities.

- **Transport and parking**

Residents want an improved bus service (including a free circular for shoppers), more cycle routes and more blue badge parking spaces in town.

“The supermarkets have little buses to bus people in from the outlying areas but none is doing the same to get people into Halifax.”

- **Shops and businesses**

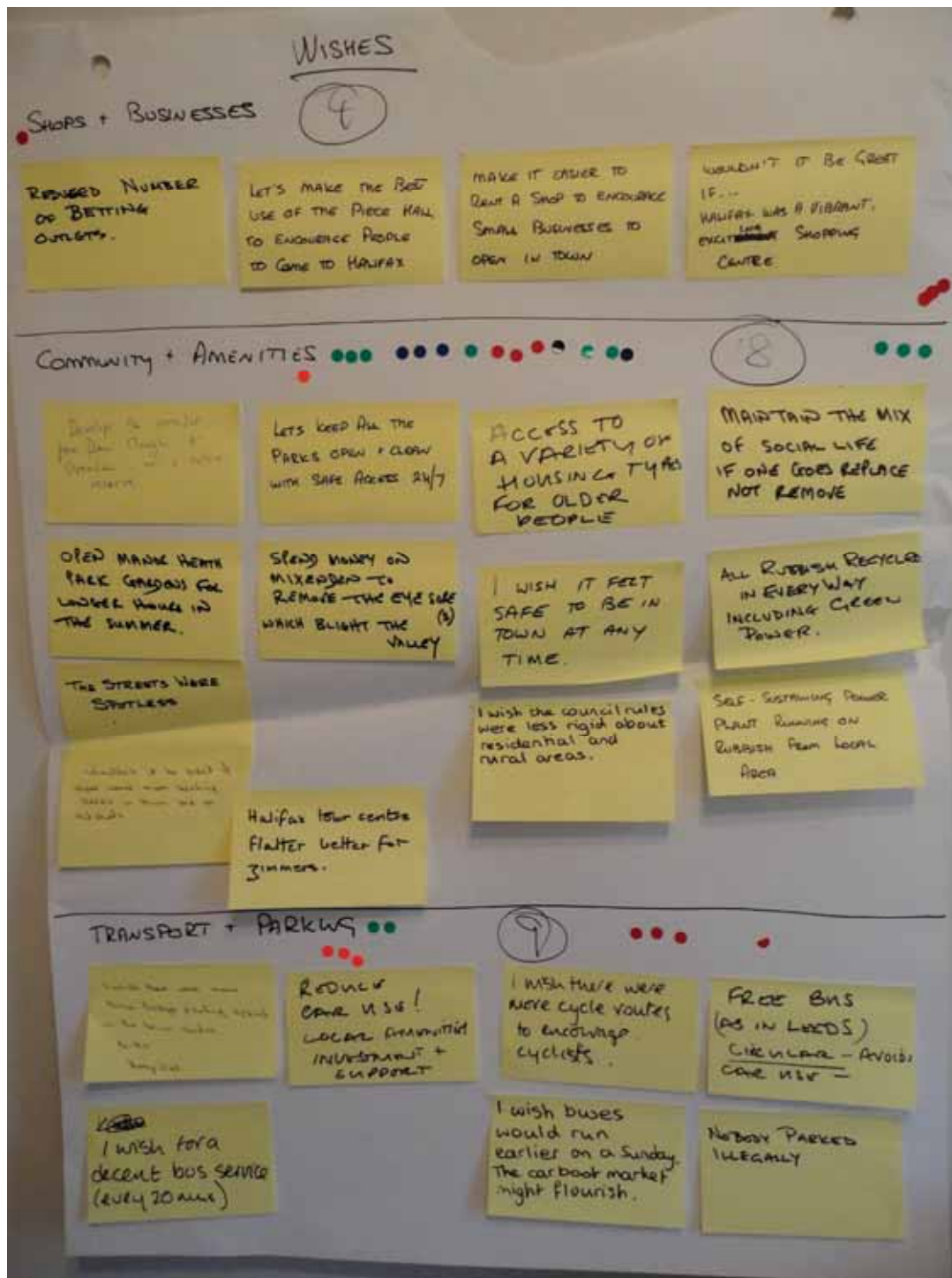
Residents wish for a vibrant, exciting shopping offer in Halifax town centre by reducing rents to encourage traders and by investing in Piece Hall. They also want fewer betting and charity shops.

“I think we need to take a leaf out of Hebden Bridge's book and go for the small and unusual and try and make it the place to go to if you're looking for something that isn't a supermarket or a big chain store.”

- **Young people**

Residents wish for a reduction in anti-social behaviour and increased provision of facilities for the young – perhaps by making use of existing buildings and schools. In addition, they want the town to be more youth-friendly – perhaps by offering a yearly free youth concert,

opening a young people's farm and investing in youth clubs, community centres and schools.



• **Recycling and renewable energy**

Whilst not brought up in the post-it exercise, in the subsequent discussion there was much talk about the need for an improved recycling service and the sourcing of renewable energy to contribute to an increasingly self-sustaining town. Water turbines were regarded as a more efficient, environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing alternative to wind farms.

“A small local power station that burns rubbish from the tip at Lee Bank to produce clean energy that will actually help Halifax become self sustaining.”

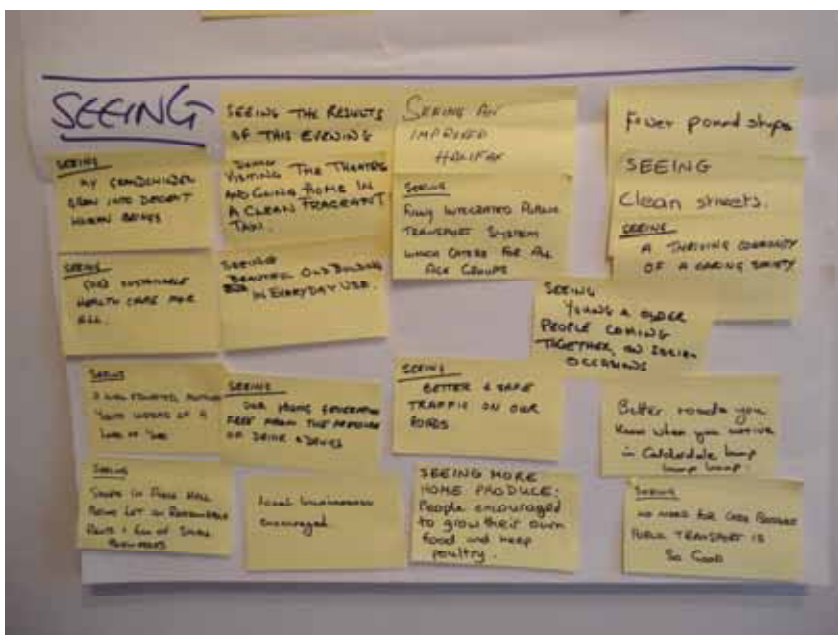
“Calderdale has a lot of potential for hydro-electricity generation. You don't have to talk about massive power stations. A small turbine in a stream or a series of small turbines can produce quite a lot of electricity and one thing we're not short of round here is water.”

“If you look into the logistics of it, you can walk up a stream that you've walked up all your life and not even notice the water turbines that have been put in the foot of that stream. There is minimal environmental impact for quite a large return.”

“People make a packet of money out of recycled goods so why are we paying somebody to carry it away out of our council tax ... some big company makes a lot of money out of it. Why don't the council make money out of it and pour it back into Halifax.”

• **Endgame**

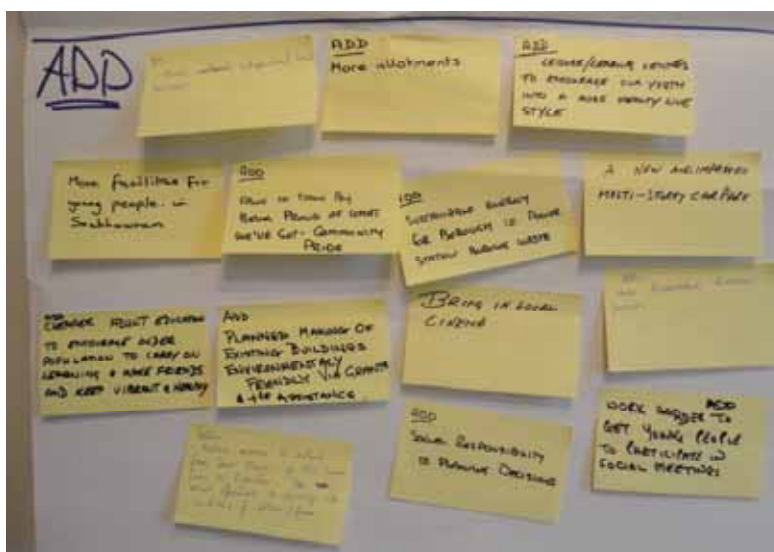
Residents want to feel proud of Halifax - its beauty and architecture. They want to see old buildings looked after and put to good use. They want the freedom to enjoy a safe town at any time of day without fear or intimidation. They want to reap the benefits of a thriving economy and a wide range of leisure and shopping options -



supported by improved public transport. They also want to be able to buy more local produce as well as grow their own. In summary, they want to feel glad that they live in, or have relocated to, Halifax.

5:4 Suggested Positive Actions

What follows are specific steps or action 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 outline is available in the appendix.



- Buildings**

KEEP	ADD
List more buildings Architectural history Beautiful buildings	Planned making of existing buildings environmentally friendly via grants and positive assistance
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
Architectural eyesores Stop building on open spaces – we will have none left in 20 years Development on green sites	All new building extensions to be advised on solar energy etc

- Community Well-Being**

KEEP	ADD
Entrance to museums free Piece Hall – develop a vibrant, self financing community facility	Cheaper adult education to encourage older population to carry on learning and make friends and keep vibrant and healthy More facilities for young people Add value to town by being proud of what we've got – community pride
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
Ultra safe regulations that inhibit the development of youth facilities Drug dealing on Fenton Road Drunken street parties on King Cross Prevent more out-of-town pubs from closing	Police and council labels for some areas i.e. treat 'rough' areas as a joke Police attitude to burglaries and break-ins A police force which has no-go areas Re-establish a borough police force under own Chief Constable

- Town Centre experience**

KEEP	ADD
	Provide a fund to stop bigger supermarkets killing smaller shops More independent local business A new improved multi-storey car park Encourage business to move to Halifax with loyalty discount rates
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
Lose 50% of gambling establishments in town centre High rents in town centre Any more supermarkets which prevent small business	Change/reduce number of takeaway food outlets in King Cross Town centre into a safe place at weekends

- Green living**

KEEP	ADD
	More renewable energy sources Sustainable energy for the borough
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
No more wind turbines. Investigate possibility of hydro-electric turbines from streams	Recycling to increase green turnover and boost council funds

APPENDIX: RAW DATA

1 What residents love about their area

Good buildings & architecture	Facilities	Location & Infrastructure	Parks & Open Spaces	Countryside
<p>Old buildings</p> <p>Architecture</p> <p>Town Hall (soon to be hidden)</p> <p>Good architecture</p> <p>Mix of solid stone and beautiful buildings</p> <p>The town centre architecture</p> <p>Old buildings</p> <p>Surviving Victorian buildings are beautiful</p> <p>Some good architecture</p> <p>Strict planning laws = use of stone in buildings</p> <p>Victorian buildings, historical buildings</p> <p>Lots of hidden jewels: Shibden Hall, Piece Hall, Bankfield Museum and so on</p>	<p>Good medical facilities – new hospital</p> <p>Skircoat Green close to everything: hospital, shops, activities, countryside, M62</p> <p>Mix of shops, not just ginormous supermarkets</p> <p>The new leisure facilities (cinema etc)</p> <p>Bankfield Museum – good local history</p> <p>Bankfield Museum</p> <p>Victoria Theatre</p> <p>Theatres – Civic, Victoria, Viaduct</p> <p>Diversity of theatres: Victoria, Square Chapel, Dean Clough</p> <p>Boothtown Community Centre</p> <p>Local butcher at King Cross</p> <p>Good market</p> <p>Shops (Harvey’s)</p> <p>Good local library (King Cross)</p> <p>Very few takeaways in Southowram</p> <p>Skircoat Green – good housing stock</p> <p>Regular bus services</p> <p>Small compact town centre not too far to walk to find anything</p> <p>Police force who listen</p>	<p>Close to motorway</p> <p>Good transport</p> <p>Southowram has good road links</p> <p>Halifax centre easy to access</p> <p>Handy for motorways and Brad/Leeds/Hudds</p> <p>Nearness to motorway, railway, schools, Saville Park</p> <p>Semi-rural aspect = easy to reach towns, easy to access countryside</p> <p>Close to get to town centre but just as easy to get to countryside</p> <p>Good transport</p> <p>Access to other places – via close network, M62, railway, airport</p>	<p>Shibden Park (toilets good now)</p> <p>Shibden Park (good café)</p> <p>Open space at Saville Park</p> <p>The open spaces of parks – Saville Park</p> <p>People’s Park</p> <p>Ogden Water – maintained open space</p> <p>Local walks esp. Ogden Water’s maintained public access</p> <p>Clean parks</p> <p>Having the park across the road (Shroggs Park at Lee Mount)</p> <p>Skircoat Green parks</p> <p>Well maintained Manor Heath Park</p> <p>Spring Hall</p>	<p>Southowram – the green fields</p> <p>Lovely open space on all sides</p> <p>Calderdale Way runs through Southowram</p> <p>I lift up my eyes to the hills ... the green spaces around town – hills</p> <p>Nice surrounding countryside areas – Bradshaw, Ripponden, Rishworth, Southowram etc</p> <p>The solitude in country walks is what I like – easy to reach</p> <p>Southowram – close to countryside – beacon</p>

2 Associated positive impacts

Shops	Health & Environment	Community & facilities	Travel
<p>Market – wide range of fresh fruit and fish = healthy eating</p> <p>Local butchers (King Cross) – good quality locally produced meat</p> <p>Department store almost unknown outside a few large cities</p> <p>Good shops – no need to travel for miles to get shopping – less impact on the environment</p> <p>Good selection of food and restaurants encourages eating out</p> <p>Small friendly town feels nice to come and walk around</p>	<p>Opportunities for all to access open spaces – reduces health inequalities</p> <p>Countryside – walking the dog, healthy heart</p> <p>Cycling and walking for health saves emissions from vehicles</p> <p>Open spaces (parks & countryside) – peace and quiet, especially first thing in the morning</p> <p>Dog walking good for health</p> <p>Stunning views also clean air</p> <p>Healthy dog walks easily accessible (Beacon, Shidben)</p> <p>Parks good for dog walking and health</p> <p>Increased quality of life</p> <p>Since moving here (2007) quality of life has increased – green gym</p> <p>Pleasant rural surroundings, relaxing and healthier than cities and transport</p> <p>Easy access to town centre from Southowram – within walking distance</p>	<p>Library – good choice of books, internet access, periodicals</p> <p>Children have a good day out at Shidben</p> <p>The glory of the stone built building: housing, Wainhouse Tower, Market</p> <p>Theatre entertains and educates, enhances feel good factor</p> <p>Contact with historical sites and architectural features reminds us of our heritage and instils pride in our local heritage</p> <p>Good holiday instruction with sport, gardening, activities for children in our parks</p> <p>Good architecture makes Halifax an interesting place to visit</p> <p>Friendly people, get on with neighbours. Makes for a good living environment</p>	<p>Route to work – reduced expense, reduced environmental impact</p> <p>Not far to travel to work – more spare time for other activities</p> <p>Good access to work places within area</p> <p>Good road access makes going away easier. Much better for coming back too.</p>

3 Resident's concerns about their area

Buildings	Social	Transport	Rubbish	Parking	Miscellaneous
<p>We do not appreciate or adequately promote out hidden jewels – Shidben Hall, Piece Hall, Bankfield, Manor Heath etc.</p> <p>We must make social use of Piece Hall</p> <p>Piece Hall initiative will come to nothing</p> <p>Piece Hall – what's there?</p> <p>Piece Hall – requires investment, vision and publicity</p> <p>Empty properties, there doesn't seem to be an</p>	<p>Drinking in the daytime in streets</p> <p>Drug use & dealing</p> <p>Break-ins common in some areas</p> <p>Gangs of teenagers walking the streets in the early hours</p> <p>Street drinking</p> <p>Need more police on the streets to prevent crime</p> <p>Too many late night licences –</p>	<p>Reduction / removal of public transport</p> <p>Reduced bus service at school times (1 per hour) – Southowram</p> <p>Town centre should be for shoppers, not buses</p>	<p>No collection of garden waste – can be recycled</p> <p>Recycling needs to be easier for public</p> <p>More recycling facilities – more stuff can be recycled</p> <p>Litter in streets</p> <p>Not enough litter bins at bus stops</p> <p>Dog fouling – people not cleaning up the mess</p> <p>Recycling – public litter bins should also recycle</p> <p>Dog dirt on streets</p>	<p>Parking too expensive</p> <p>Parking costs and poor facilities are a deterrent to visitors</p> <p>Cost of parking</p> <p>More thought needed on car parking facilities</p> <p>Skircoat Green daily parking issues</p> <p>Lack of parking for staff at local hospital – parking on roadsides</p> <p>No thought</p>	<p>Some areas wall to wall takeaway shops</p> <p>Lack of sports facilities</p> <p>Lack of council plans for increasing aging population</p> <p>Valley from Dean Clough neglected – would make a great nature trail</p> <p>High shop rent rates forcing out good quality shopping</p> <p>Rent and rates too high in town centre</p> <p>Reduce rents for traders in Piece Hall – compare Skipton which has market stalls which attract many visitors on</p>

Buildings	Social	Transport	Rubbish	Parking	Miscellaneous
<p>empty property officer</p> <p>Derelict buildings unsafe and scruffy</p> <p>Too many fine buildings not maintained e.g. market</p> <p>Losing thread of town 'theme' - too many 'modern' buildings</p> <p>More social housing/first time housing encourages people of all ages to stay</p> <p>Too many charity shops</p> <p>Shortage of affordable housing</p> <p>Up grade of older housing stock needed</p> <p>Refurbish old buildings rather than demolishing & putting modern buildings up</p> <p>New building will not last 20 yrs</p> <p>New houses being crammed in without off street parking</p> <p>Planners given too much free rein</p> <p>Too many eyesore modern buildings e.g. flats by bus station</p> <p>Should be more building on brown field/inner city sites</p> <p>More consultation on new build properties to make sure in keeping with local area</p> <p>Re-open the Industrial Museum</p> <p>Re-open Industrial Museum</p> <p>Too much new build on green field sites - need to preserve the countryside</p>	<p>more than Blackpool (fact).</p> <p>Drink and Drugs</p> <p>Fast, loud car radios blaring</p> <p>Unsafe feelings in town in evening and nights</p> <p>Police don't take crime seriously</p> <p>Speed cameras in wrong places</p> <p>I once asked the police to arrest 5 youths attacking me and my property. They couldn't send any help because I live in an area where that type of behaviour is to be expected.</p>		<p>Rubbish on streets</p> <p>Recycling scheme is inadequate - for example some plastic can be recycled, some can't</p> <p>My husband is a ranger and is fed up of clearing up bagged up dog muck hung up on shrubs and hidden behind walls etc ... lack of bin facilities</p> <p>Takeaway shop's litter</p> <p>Litter in the town centre</p> <p>Money to be made from recycling. Council should do it and cut tax</p>	<p>goes into planning car parks in town centre and hospital</p>	<p>several days per week</p> <p>We do not need any more wind turbines. They are hideous and unreliable. Often not generating electricity for days on end</p> <p>No wind turbines - bad for wildlife (noise and vibrations)</p> <p>Need more facilities to get kids off the streets</p> <p>Spring Hall area tennis court in ruin - could provide activity to promote skills and health to young and old</p> <p>No facilities for 10 - 16 year olds</p> <p>Lack of good quality employment investment - increases numbers of people travelling elsewhere</p> <p>Town centre needs more diversity and independent traders</p>

4 Associated negative impacts

Development	Amenities	Rubbish collection	Dog soiling	Night time
<p>We travel to Hudds, Leeds and Bradford for shopping. Better amenities, free toilets, more choice</p> <p>Worry in case buildings become closed and derelict due to unemployment</p> <p>When new housing is built, there should be consideration for reservoirs and capacity to service the increasing use of water</p> <p>Some new developers are being allowed to build where they want</p> <p>Allowance of pubs to shut without the thought of the impact on social integration</p> <p>Lack of money spent on market – what do councillors do with the rents collected</p> <p>Shocking to see green fields being built on</p> <p>Why do we need Broad St development – only need a cinema. We have everything else</p> <p>Some areas of town seem to be forgotten and not refurbished, particularly near station</p>	<p>Need more public toilets</p> <p>I now have to drop my children in town every morning as there is no bus</p> <p>Shop elsewhere as parking is free and litter free (White Rose)</p> <p>Will hospitals cater for older people in the future or will they be 2nd class citizens</p> <p>Lack of interesting shops means town centre is less attractive</p> <p>Feel frustrated at all the things that could be done to improve Halifax which is going downhill</p> <p>Halifax train station – untidy, lack of amenities</p> <p>Traffic parking near schools unsafe for children</p> <p>Shop in other cleaner, safer, more interesting towns</p>	<p>Recycling container often blown away. Not suitable.</p> <p>Forever picking litter from my garden</p> <p>Recycling collectors leave boxes any old place</p> <p>Litter in park – costs money in vet’s fees</p> <p>Rubbish removal – taking out bins and bringing them back</p> <p>I used to clear litter outside my home, bin men would rummage through the bin rubbish and would not clear the bagged up street rubbish</p> <p>Picking up bottles and cans in the park when walking the dog</p> <p>Fly tipping is ignored. I changed the venue for dog walks because of injuries sustained (to dog)</p> <p>Closure of old Lee Bank tip without enough notification</p>	<p>Not enough dog wardens</p> <p>Disgusted with dog mess on pavements</p> <p>Dog poo sticks to wheelchairs and pushchairs</p> <p>Dog dirt on shoes – then carpet</p>	<p>Females feel very very unsafe going to theatre or restaurants at night due to drink and drugs use so take trade to smaller, safer locations</p> <p>Need more control of town centre Thurs, Fri, Sat nights</p> <p>Avoid the town centre on an evening</p> <p>Town centre does not feel welcoming at best of times and is definitely a no-go area for over 40s in eves</p> <p>Avoid going into town after dark</p>

5 Wishes for the future

Buildings	<p>All old buildings were environmentally renovated</p> <p>It would be lovely if all out-of-town pubs were re-opened</p> <p>All old warehouse and empty factories converted into shops and housing</p> <p>All housing greened and brought up to date</p> <p>I wish the council would look into why so many shops and buildings are empty</p> <p>I wish there were more automatic doors</p> <p>Preservation of our old buildings</p> <p>Lets have a planning scheme which utilises new technology in old buildings</p> <p>Do not put the area completely under brick and tarmac and concrete</p> <p>No more concrete eyesores</p> <p>Spend money on Mixenden to remove the eyesores which blight the valley</p>
Community and amenities	<p>Develop the corridor from Dean Clough to Ovenden as a nature reserve</p> <p>Open Manor Heath Park Gardens for longer hours in the summer</p> <p>The streets were spotless</p> <p>Let's keep all the parks open and clean with safe access 24/7</p> <p>Access to a variety of housing types for older people</p> <p>Change Bowling Alley to ice rink on new Broad Street development</p> <p>Love to see an ice rink</p> <p>More public toilets</p> <p>Local amenities investment and support</p> <p>I wish empty pubs and offices could be used for sports and social activities</p> <p>I wish there were more sports facilities that could be accessed cheaply</p> <p>I wish I felt safe to be in town at any time</p> <p>I wish the council rules were less rigid about residential and rural areas</p> <p>Maintain the mix of social life, if one goes replace, not remove</p> <p>All rubbish recycled in every way including green power</p> <p>Self-sustaining power plant running on rubbish from local area</p> <p>Halifax town centre flatter - better for zimmers</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if there were more seating areas in town and on the outskirts</p>
Transport and Parking	<p>I wish there were more blue badge parking spaces in town centre, ditto hospital</p> <p>Reduce car use!</p> <p>I wish for a decent bus service (every 20 mins)</p> <p>I wish there were more cycle routes to encourage cyclists</p> <p>I wish buses would run earlier on Sundays. The car boot market might flourish</p> <p>Free bus (as in Leeds) - circular. Avoids car use</p> <p>Nobody parked illegally</p>
Shops and businesses	<p>Reduced number of betting outlets</p> <p>Let's make the best use of Piece Hall to encourage people to come to Halifax</p> <p>New businesses to help create wealth in our town</p> <p>Make it easier to rent a shop to encourage small businesses to open in town</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if Halifax was a vibrant, exciting shopping centre</p> <p>I wish for less charity shops in town centre</p>
Young people	<p>Good schools, good teachers</p> <p>Young generation are our future. Build facilities to excite them to use their time well</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if Boothtown youngsters had their own skate park</p> <p>If only we could use schools and existing buildings for evening facilities for sports and education for 10 - 18 year olds</p> <p>If only there were car parks next to schools to stop street parking</p> <p>If only there were no gangs of kids drinking on street corners</p>

	<p>Severe punishments to deter jobs and vandals</p> <p>A free concert at Piece Hall for young people – establish as an annual event</p> <p>Education, education, education</p> <p>Establish a young people’s farm</p> <p>I wish there were small secondary schools instead of the large ones we have</p> <p>We need youth clubs or community centres – our population locally and nationally are becoming fragmented and insular – we are losing sight of our social responsibility</p>
Miscellaneous	<p>No unnecessary road signs</p> <p>I wish the council would ‘big up’ Halifax more</p> <p>Advertising hoardings banned</p> <p>Let’s put Halifax on the map and compete with Bradford socially, economically and culturally</p> <p>All the sycamore trees with black spot were replaced with other species</p> <p>Wouldn’t it be great if we used offenders to do manual work which would benefit the community</p> <p>Common sense returns - no more health and safety</p> <p>If only we were the planners in 20 years time</p>

6 Perceived impacts on wishes on quality of life

Feeling	<p>Feeling warm, safe and comfortable</p> <p>Safe</p> <p>No worries</p> <p>Feeling proud of Halifax – Britain’s leading community</p> <p>Free to roam and eat in the beautiful town centre</p> <p>Feeling warm and well fed</p> <p>Great to be alive</p> <p>Feeling safe</p> <p>Safe</p> <p>A feeling of satisfaction that at last someone listened</p>
Thinking/Saying	<p>Youngsters have more to do</p> <p>Thank goodness we have turned the corner</p> <p>We must keep our eye to the future – just like we did all those years ago</p> <p>Thank goodness the 2010 plans for the Piece Hall didn’t go ahead</p> <p>Thinking that I made the right choice in moving here</p> <p>Why did it take 20 years to make it right</p> <p>Good to be alive</p> <p>I’m glad I moved here</p> <p>Thank god they got rid of that Broad Street eyesore</p> <p>That the council who are supposed to represent the people do</p> <p>Good to be alive in a beautiful town</p> <p>That new ice-based bowling alley is ace</p>
Doing	<p>Renovating old buildings to be green and easy to live in</p> <p>Driving an electric car</p> <p>Visiting a vibrant Piece Hall and not another car park or expensive eye sore</p> <p>Growing things in allotments</p> <p>Walking in clean parks and streets</p> <p>Using my zimmer on a nice, flat pavement</p> <p>Doing as now</p> <p>Interesting pastimes and activities</p> <p>Walking dogs in a clean, safe park</p>

	<p>Walking dog up Beacon without a chair lift</p> <p>Shopping in good local shops full of local produce</p> <p>Living in a retirement home with a voice in local affairs (and Vodka on tap)</p>
Seeing	<p>Seeing an improved Halifax</p> <p>Clean streets</p> <p>A thriving community of a caring society</p> <p>No need for cars because public transport is so good</p> <p>Fewer pound shops</p> <p>Seeing more home produce – people encouraged to grow their own food and keep their own poultry</p> <p>Better and safe traffic on our roads</p> <p>Younger and older people coming together on social occasions</p> <p>Better roads – you know when you’re in Calderdale – bump, bump, bump</p> <p>Fully integrated public transport system which caters for all age groups</p> <p>Seeing the results of this evening</p> <p>Visiting the theatre and going home in a clean, fragrant taxi</p> <p>Good sustainable healthcare for all</p> <p>Local businesses encouraged</p> <p>Shops in Piece Hall being let on reasonable rents and full of small businesses</p> <p>A well educated, motivated youth instead of a load of jobs</p> <p>My grandchildren growing into decent human beings</p> <p>Lovely old buildings used and looked after</p> <p>Our young generation free from the pressures of drink and drugs</p> <p>Beautiful old buildings in everyday use</p>

7 Suggested positive actions

KEEP	<p>Parks and open spaces in good order</p> <p>Open space safe</p> <p>List more buildings</p> <p>Architectural history</p> <p>Beautiful buildings</p> <p>Piece Hall – develop a vibrant self-financing community facility</p> <p>Entrance to museums free</p> <p>Parks and open spaces in clean condition</p> <p>Halifax a green town in both senses</p>
STOP	<p>Architectural eyesores</p> <p>Stop building on open spaces – will have none left in 20 years</p> <p>Any more supermarkets which prevent small business</p> <p>Development on green sites</p> <p>Stop drunken street parties in King Cross</p> <p>Drug dealing on Fenton Road</p> <p>No more wind turbines. Investigate possibility of hydro-electric turbines from streams</p> <p>High rents in town centres</p> <p>Prevent more pubs from closing</p>
CHANGE	<p>All new building extensions to be advised on solar energy etc</p> <p>Transport planning to consider routes that are needed not just profitable</p> <p>Recycling to increase green turnover and boost council funds</p> <p>Town centre into a safe place on a weekend</p> <p>Change/reduce number of takeaway food outlets in King Cross</p> <p>Recycling to be simpler, more efficient and make the town money</p>

	<p>Police and council labels for some areas i.e. treat 'rough' areas as a joke</p> <p>Encourage businesses to move to Halifax with loyalty discount rates</p> <p>Police attitude to burglaries and break-ins</p> <p>A police force which has 'no go' areas</p> <p>Re-establish the borough police force under own Chief Constable</p> <p>Ultra safe regulations that inhibit the development of youth facilities – relax these regulations to allow youth leaders more freedom to deliver services for future generations</p> <p>Lose 50% of gambling establishments in town centre</p> <p>Too many chiefs on high salaries and not enough Indians who do the job</p>
ADD	<p>More independent local business</p> <p>More allotments</p> <p>Leisure/learning centres to encourage our youth into a more healthy lifestyle</p> <p>A new and improved multi-storey car park</p> <p>Provide a fund to oppose bigger supermarkets killing smaller shops</p> <p>More renewable energy sources</p> <p>Sustainable energy for borough i.e. power station burning waste</p> <p>Bring in local cinema</p> <p>Social responsibility to planning decisions</p> <p>Planned making of existing buildings environmentally friendly via grants and positive assistance</p> <p>Nature reserve to extend from Dean Clough up Old Lane area to Ovenden. Use minor offenders to develop site instead of prison/fines</p> <p>Cheaper adult education to encourage older population to carry on learning and make friends and keep vibrant and healthy</p> <p>More facilities for young people in Southowram</p> <p>Value to town by being proud of what we've got – community pride</p>