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Calderdale Council LDF Workshop Report 7

Hebden Bridge

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 Hebden Bridge.

The written results from this consultation are thematic¹ and indicative of resident's experiences and aspirations in Hebden Bridge 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 18 residents took part in the workshop. Not all participants completed the equalities sheet therefore totals below do not add up.

1 described them self as 'Mixed', the rest as 'White'.

The age breakdown was: <25 = 3; 25 to 39 = 1; 40 to 59 = 6; 60+ = 5.

There were 5 males and 10 females.

1 described them self 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 enjoy many elements of Hebden Bridge which they believe contribute positively to their quality of life. Hebden Bridge is valued as a friendly and social town with a strong sense of community. Services and facilities such as the Library, Picture House, good schools, independent retailing and parks make it a good place to live. It is regarded as a special place because of the historic



architecture of the town and the unique landscape it is located in. Hebden Bridge is also perceived as a town with a strong artistic, cultural and learning offer which generate opportunities to participate, be creative and discover new things.



The key concerns for participants centre on the lack of affordable housing, the high volume of traffic through the town and a retail offer predominantly aimed at tourists.

Participants are keen to preserve all the things they already value about Hebden Bridge. Its look, feel and character - such as historic architecture, countryside setting and independent retail - are highly prized. The town's attractive social offer and vibrant cultural life make it an extremely attractive and rewarding place to live. Finally, the town's friendly nature together with its diverse and interesting community makes it a place participants feel very attached to and part of.

The key improvements they wish for Hebden Bridge 2031 is an appreciable reduction in traffic volume, affordable shops that are more appropriate to their practical needs and a retention of its population young and old through affordable housing, sheltered accommodation and good quality old people's homes. There were many other individual aspirations, all of which are outlined in the appendix.



5 Key Findings

5:1 Positive quality of life

Participants feel privileged to live in Hebden Bridge. They value many things about the town including its cultural, retail and social offer, its unique look and feel, the surrounding countryside and being able to feel involved in the community.

- **Facilities**

Participants cherish the variety of facilities and services on their doorstep. In their view the abundance of independent and unique shops, regular market days, the availability of local produce and the absence of big supermarkets create a special retail environment they enjoy very much. The many wine bars, restaurants and street cafes combined with the wide variety of evening classes and activities on offer help to make Hebden Bridge a sociable and rewarding place to live. The parks, playgrounds and skate parks offer a safe place for children and families to play and socialise.

“Services are what make a lot of people stay here.”

“The services we have are very well used and I think the people of Hebden Bridge do use them and appreciate them.”

- **Arts and Culture**

Participants regard Hebden Bridge as an arts-rich town. They enjoy attending and participating in creative and cultural activity and highly value the Picture House, The Little Theatre and events such as the Handmade Parade. All these enhance their quality of life through the opportunities for self-expression, creativity and continuing to learn new things.

- **Community**

Participants believe Hebden Bridge is a small, friendly, diverse town with a great community feel. This is evidenced by the abundance of voluntary groups and activities available for people to take part in for the good of the town and community. Combined with the wealth of social and personal growth opportunities, they experience a great deal of pleasure and fulfilment in their lives, together with a sense of belonging to the community.

- **Countryside**

The town’s countryside setting is a great source of spiritual and physical well-being.

- **Buildings**

Participants enjoy the historic architecture and feel of Hebden Bridge which they believe has been embraced by the town. They are attached to landmarks from the past such as the chimneys, steps, dry stone walls and ruined mills. They believe good use has been made of the town’s old buildings. They are also pleased that the town’s ‘feel’ has not been undermined by high rise flats or unsightly new builds.



- **Transport**

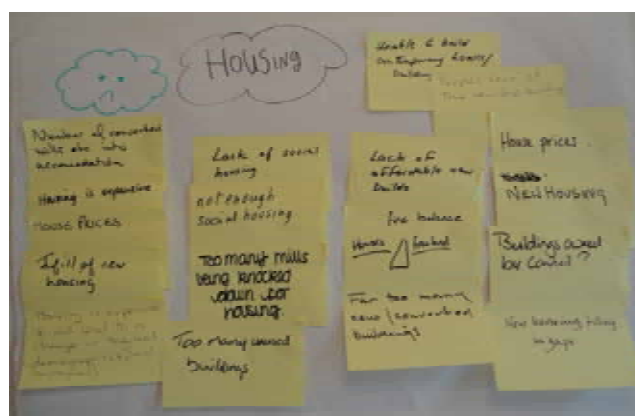
Participants feel well connected within the area and beyond through good road, rail and bus links.

5:2 Quality of life concerns

Participants voiced a high number of disparate concerns in relation to living in the town. For clarity of reporting their sub-groupings have been re-ordered below. The original themes can be found in full in the appendix.

- **Expensive housing**

Participants are concerned that high house prices are forcing out young professionals and encouraging wealthier commuters in - which in turn is forcing house prices even higher. Combined with a perceived lack of social and affordable housing, this is regarded as a threat to local jobs and a potential cause behind young people leaving the town.



- **Traffic and transport**

The volume of traffic through the town, congestion on the main street and the associated noise and air pollution cause much aggravation for participants. The plan to develop Todmorden into a principal town is a concern because of the inevitable increase in traffic that would bring. Those living on Market Street are hugely concerned about the impact on their homes of the vibrations caused by large lorries passing by. Lorries parked for unloading on Market Street are seen to contribute to the congestion problem.

“I live on the main road ... and I’ve had things fall off the shelf because of the traffic vibrations and it worries me because I don’t know what it’s doing to the foundations of my building.”

“I’m worried about this proposal to make Todmorden much bigger because I think it might add a lot of extra traffic to the one lane road to get there. I don’t think the transport links are good enough. It could make traffic a lot worse.”

“I see a lot of deliveries being made now because people order things off the internet and that’s something to do with the fact that there’s not so many shops in Hebden Bridge where you can buy things ... but then an individual truck or car has to bring it to my house and that seems silly. It sees a waste of fuel and energy and everything else.”

“We’re not going to change the geography of the place. It’s a narrow valley and there aren’t that many places to put transport links ... maybe we need a traffic survey to see what proportion of what’s thundering through here is urgently needed ... if things were shifted about a bit could some of it go on the canal? We just need a bit more strategic thinking.”

Some participants are also unhappy with what they regard as a poor rural bus service, threats of cuts to those services and expensive bus fares which can be prohibitive.

- **Retail**

Participants believe much of the retail offer in the town – including the proliferation of cafes – is aimed more at tourists than residents. Many of the goods on offer are expensive and impractical to their needs resulting in residents travelling elsewhere to shop. This exacerbates the traffic problem through the valley. There is also an issue around poor access to some of the shops on Market Street for people with disabilities.

“There are lots of tourist shops but ... a lot of them have not got much in that local people want to buy. They’re quite expensive.”

“I do think there should be a limit on the number of cafes that are allowed in the town ... those buildings could be used for other things and all those people cannot make a living ... I’d have thought it was in the Council’s interest not to have too many of the same kind of thing.”

“I know that some of the shops on the right of Market Street (coming from Todmorden) are not accessible. I’ve heard people say that about Bookcase. They need a handrail. There needs to be some kind of initiative about what it would take to change this.”

“It’s really hard for people to step up into those shops.”

- **In the town and countryside**

Participants voiced many individual concerns about the town and countryside, some of which are listed below:

- poor street cleansing,
- colour of recycling bins,

- not enough public toilets,
- not enough allotments,
- dissatisfaction with Xmas lights,
- unsafe at night,
- issues around parking,
- no public drinking water,
- wind turbines,
- care for the countryside.

“Wind turbines is one issue that seems to be very much governed by national policy. The Council have their own policy for protection of green belt and special landscapes but they seem to give more weight to national guidance who permit anything anywhere ... the policies are applied in a very inconsistent way. They’ll turn down a proposal somewhere and approve a much bigger one somewhere else that’s very prominent. The policies of advertising are inconsistent and the policies to complain to the Council are quite unsatisfactory, even when it goes further up the line to the Chief Executive.”

“What makes Hebden Bridge so beautiful is the countryside that surrounds it and it needs as much care as the buildings in the town ... It needs a lot of manual labour, a lot of people being organised.”

5:3 Community Aspirations

Residents themed their key aspirations into 11 headings. When invited to vote on which they believed were the most important the results, in descending order, were:

- Services
- Countryside
- Transport and travel
- Social mix & ethos
- Young
- Lighting and alternative technology / Recycling
- OAPs / Alcohol, pubs, drugs
- Shops
- Housing

All the findings are in the appendix. This section only includes areas that relate to planning. Some of the headings have been slightly changed for clarity of reporting.

• Services

Participants want to preserve the services they already have and value: the theatre, cinema, good schools and library. In addition, they want better health centres, more allotments, improved path maintenance for pedestrians, a good old people’s home, better services and facilities for young people and improved lighting in parks and streets (which might include solar lighting).

• Countryside

Participants want the countryside to be preserved, litter-free and well maintained for future generations to enjoy.

- **Transport and travel**

Reducing the volume of traffic and associated congestion is important to this group. Suggestions included a by-pass, introducing an access-only scheme and a traffic free centre in both Hebden Bridge and Heptonstall. In relation to public transport, participants want an improved, frequent and affordable rural bus service.



- **Shops**

Participants want the culture of independent shops to thrive in the town as a result of proactive assistance from the Council. They also want shops that are more suitable for and affordable to the resident population. They want the market to thrive and for the Co-op to remain the only supermarket in town. They'd like the main street to be smart and well-maintained to enhance the good image of the town. A suggestion was also made for mobile shops (bakers, fishmongers and library) for hill top villages.

“I’m not saying new independent shops should be subsidised, but I think the Council should be more proactive in the sort of guidelines there are for getting permission to set up a shop or café here.”

- **Housing**

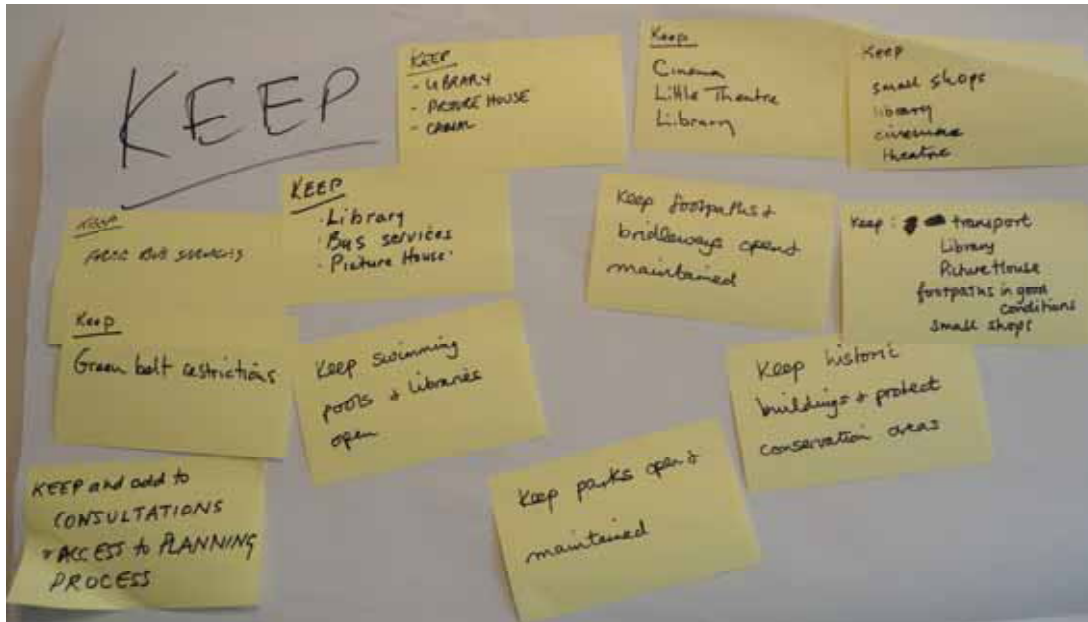
It is important for this group that Hebden Bridge retains its population through the provision of affordable housing, sheltered accommodation and good quality old people’s homes.

- **The Endgame**

The aim of all these aspirations is to retain the quality of life they already enjoy; a rich social and cultural life that enables them to continue to grow and learn new things; a cohesive and

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.



- **Services and facilities**

KEEP	ADD
Library Picture House Theatre Small shops Swimming pool and library open Parks open and well maintained	Dog poo bags and bins to other places in the town Drinking fountains in the town centre More services for young people Allocate more land for allotments Tax help to encourage small village shops and Post Offices
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
Blue L.E.D. lighting	Street lighting solar Coloured recycling containers to a uniform grey colour Improve pathway maintenance Paddling pool in park back to water Xmas lights from dull blue to something more festive

- **Countryside**

KEEP	ADD
Green belt restrictions Canal and footpaths in good condition Footpaths and bridleways well maintained	Have a policy on wind farms that is fairer and transparent More, but well-placed wind farms.
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
Stop approving large wind turbines in green belt / special landscape areas	

- Traffic and Transport**

KEEP	ADD
Free bus service	Bus services
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
Car movement through residential areas Lorries going through town unless delivering	

- General**

KEEP	ADD
Keep historic buildings Protect conservation areas Keep and add to consultations access to the planning process	More affordable housing More police on Fri/Sat nights More police in town / rural areas Subsidise apprenticeships for work to grow local food
LOSE/STOP	CHANGE
Pandering to silly H&S Needless beaurocracy	Planning to allow well-planned developments Improved access to planning consultations ... so it's easy to understand Change negative image of youth by adding Teen Heroes Awards

APPENDIX: RAW DATA

1 What residents love about their area

Facilities	Countryside	Buildings
Nurseries	Footpaths and bridleways	Original and old cinema
All the arts studios	Fells	Mills kept to same condition
The wine bar	Walks	The train station kept in 1800 style
Cheese and wine shop	Bridleways, easy access	Very open - no big flats
Shops - not many big chains	Walls	Local farmhouses
We have regular market days	Countryside	Historical elements
The old town Post Office and shop	Green countryside	Old buildings
Refills at Alternative Technology Centre - organic washing and cleaning products	Variety of scenery on doorstep	The historic buildings and alleyways
Shops	Hills	Ruined mills
Local shops	Canal and history	Steps and walls
Market	Walking areas	Varied housing
May's shop on Pennine Way	Lapwings and curlews	Historic buildings in good use now
Children's play areas newly built	The canal to walk along and watch the boats and locks	The history embraced by the town
Independent shops	My walk beyond Household Lane	The chimneys that are still remaining
Home made drinks/ale	Open countryside that can be used by all	The way the town has been made beautiful through old/traditional buildings
The many evening activities that can be undertaken - dance, yoga, music etc	Easy access to countryside (including for disabled, parents and children)	The old buildings
Variety of restaurants	Stoodley Pike	The stone - buildings, landscape, steps, walls
Schools	Ever changing views	No high rises blocking view
Street cafes	Hardcastle Crag	The mix of modern and old
Alternative technology	Beautiful accessible countryside	
Unique shops	Steps everywhere	
Children's play areas	Easy access to cycle tracks	
Christmas decorations and tree	Surrounding moors	
There are pavement cafes in sunny weather	The hills that can be seen from everywhere in town	
The station has a great cafe	Canal path and cruises	
Recycling aims and projects	The view into the woods from my window	
Recycling schedule	Canal-side life, walks, towpaths, bridges	
Places to eat	Wildlife	
Variety of facilities on doorstep	All the stone walls and steps	
Eating out	Fresh air on the tops	
No big supermarket	Parks / green land	
The Co-op	Hardcastle Crag	
Local produce shops	Perennial planting in the park	
Small shops	The landscape setting of Hebden Bridge	
Shops and Co-op	Open moors	
Good food shops	The surrounding countryside - hills, valleys, streams	
Good pubs for good food	The bike routes	
Fashion shops	The fells for running and walking	
The fact that Hebden Bridge has no big supermarkets		
Cinema and Little Theatre		
Individuality of shops		
Playing fields		

<p>No big supermarket</p> <p>Organic bread shop</p> <p>Skate parks</p> <p>Shops – not many big chains</p> <p>Parks</p> <p>A town of manageable size for community feeling</p> <p>Market on Thursdays</p> <p>Milk Bar</p> <p>The Parks</p> <p>Varying shops and unique shops</p> <p>Gyms and workout rings</p> <p>Local produce bought from shops with unique organic and different tastes</p> <p>Recycling facilities</p> <p>You can buy anything you need</p> <p>Independent clothes shops, book shops ... no chains</p> <p>Friendly sewing shop with great fancy goods</p> <p>The Milk Bar – yummy shakes</p> <p>Cider</p> <p>Skate parks</p> <p>Pubs</p> <p>Organic food shops</p> <p>The small shops – you can know the shopkeeper by name</p> <p>Local garages and ‘top mechanics’</p> <p>Shepherds</p>	<p>Open countryside</p> <p>Canal</p> <p>Hardcastle Crag</p> <p>The canal and the river and all the ducks and geese</p>	
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Transport	Community	Arts & Culture
<p>Easy access to towns</p> <p>Transport network</p> <p>Key transport – regular buses, train station etc</p> <p>Bus and train routes</p> <p>Most of the wonderful hilltops are served by public transport</p> <p>Public transport at times when we need them</p> <p>Train to Manchester</p> <p>Good public transport</p> <p>Reasonable public transport</p> <p>Easy access to everything</p> <p>The mini buses which take you all over</p> <p>Good transport within area</p> <p>Buses and connections to outlying areas and trains</p> <p>Easy to get to Leeds and Manchester</p> <p>Train station</p>	<p>School involved in community</p> <p>Community spirit – people willing to be involved</p> <p>Mix of local and incomers</p> <p>Varied types of people</p> <p>Everyone knows each other</p> <p>The feel of community and friendship</p> <p>Community groups</p> <p>Small size of town</p> <p>Family</p> <p>Community spirit</p> <p>The mix of people from many walks of life</p> <p>Our community website</p> <p>The abundance of community activists and volunteers that make so many things happen</p> <p>The number of voluntary societies and clubs</p>	<p>Hebden Bridge Cinema House</p> <p>The cinema</p> <p>The cinema – we are very lucky to have such a facility!</p> <p>Variety of artistic events incl. festivals</p> <p>Lots of arts</p> <p>Variety of cultural activities</p> <p>Cinema</p> <p>Live music venues</p> <p>Picture house and theatre</p> <p>Friendly library</p> <p>The Little Theatre</p> <p>Picture House</p> <p>Little Theatre</p> <p>Blues Festival</p> <p>Brownie’s Club</p> <p>The Carol Service in The Square on Xmas Eve – a chance to wish friends well</p> <p>Local festivals</p> <p>The varied activities available to participate in</p> <p>Hilltop village culture with something for all</p>

<p>Accessible buses</p> <p>Transport network</p> <p>Not many loud and congested roads</p> <p>No need for a car</p> <p>Good transport connecting locally and further</p>		<p>ages</p> <p>New experiences always around the corner</p> <p>Boxing club</p> <p>Pace Egg</p> <p>Handmade Parade</p> <p>Pennine Spring music</p> <p>Handmade Parade</p> <p>Picture House</p> <p>Lots of artists</p> <p>Arts festival</p> <p>Handmade Parade – lots of people involved in making art</p> <p>Canal and alternative/educational shops and programmes</p> <p>The variety of things to do</p>
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2 Associated positive impacts

Feelings of place & community	Social space	Shopping
<p>Feel part of community</p> <p>I experience continuity and change – history of the area gives roots to the place and then there’s lots of possibility for the future</p> <p>Pleasure in just walking in town, streets, amongst people</p> <p>Being involved</p> <p>Being part of a community</p> <p>Dreaming of what can make it even better</p> <p>You know people and become close/connected to people</p> <p>A sense of creativity, socialisation, growth, life and most of all, community and home!!!</p> <p>People organise to get things done</p> <p>Have plenty to do without leaving the town</p> <p>You know if you’re down you’ll probably see someone who will cheer you up</p> <p>Sense of belonging to place</p> <p>Belonging to place and caring about it</p> <p>Voluntary work</p> <p>Plenty of children everywhere to have fun with</p> <p>Independent</p> <p>Happy</p> <p>Retirees have lots to leave the house for</p> <p>Makes me want to stay living here</p> <p>The community strongly influences what happens in this town</p> <p>Friendship</p> <p>Contributing to the community</p> <p>Easy to be a part of the community and</p>	<p>Social town</p> <p>A feeling of freedom for children growing up – they can feel safe</p> <p>Tourism – meet people from all over the world</p> <p>Makes you relax after work</p> <p>Meeting and chatting with locals</p> <p>Always bump into people to stop and chat to</p> <p>Time to sit out, have a coffee and watch the world go by</p> <p>Good social facilities</p> <p>Good social life with good friends who all like the area and what it has to offer</p> <p>Good place to invite people to</p> <p>Greater social life</p> <p>I feel safe in Hebden Bridge – like shopping, cinema with sister and by myself</p> <p>Social</p>	<p>I love to interact with shop owners, staff who are very hospitable and helpful</p> <p>Charity shops enable me to help others, prevent waste and save money</p> <p>Good organic and locally grown food are accessible – no food miles</p> <p>Local food easy to get</p> <p>New things in the shops always give you a smile – the amount of variety</p> <p>Being able to shop locally and support local industries</p>

<p>volunteer</p> <p>Can achieve a sustainable life</p> <p>Quiet</p> <p>Makes me feel good to walk around the area</p> <p>Feel part of various communities</p> <p>Opportunity to take part in something local (e.g. HebVeg) and make a difference</p> <p>People with lots of ideas to tap into</p>		
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Environment	Arts and Creativity	Transport	General Access
<p>Healthier outlook</p> <p>Relax walking the dog in nice countryside</p> <p>Environmentally good</p> <p>Countryside gives a feeling of spiritual and physical wellbeing</p> <p>The chance to clear your head</p> <p>The park is safe, open and free and safe to go in</p> <p>So green after a day in bland grey</p> <p>No need to go on holiday: it's a beautiful area where I am happy to stay</p> <p>To leave civilisation</p> <p>Pleasure in just walking over the hills</p> <p>The open trails give you a chance to see the town and beyond and just think, or go as a family for fun</p>	<p>Express yourself via art, drama, dance etc</p> <p>Artistic environment challenges me to learn and think something new</p> <p>Be creative</p> <p>Gives creativity to a new generation from ours and our predecessors</p> <p>Able to see good films inexpensively and just a walk away</p> <p>I can live my values</p>	<p>Easy public transport access to cities, cinemas, theatres, big shops ... if you want them</p> <p>Enjoyable bus rides</p> <p>Freedom to get to difficult places</p> <p>Good public transport means I can live the way I want to without a car and environmental impact</p>	<p>Not having to travel to shops</p> <p>You don't need to leave the valley except for work - it's a great place to just be</p> <p>Everything is within 5 minutes</p> <p>Company and solitude both easy to find</p> <p>East access to other area - Lakes, Derbyshire</p>

3 Resident's concerns about their area

Housing	Traffic	Services	Miscellaneous
<p>Housing is expensive</p> <p>House prices</p> <p>Infill of new housing</p> <p>Housing is expensive and will lead to a change in the local demographic and less local employment</p> <p>The number of mills converted into accommodation</p> <p>Lack of social housing</p> <p>Not enough social housing</p> <p>Too many unused buildings</p> <p>Unable to build contemporary houses/buildings</p>	<p>Too many road crossings</p> <p>Traffic going through town</p> <p>Market Street is through-way to motorways</p> <p>Too much traffic</p> <p>Too much traffic in valley bottom</p> <p>Traffic - too many cars along A646</p> <p>Traffic jams</p> <p>Traffic</p> <p>Failure to enforce speed limits</p> <p>The lorries on Market Street</p>	<p>Lack of services for young people</p> <p>Poor recycling record</p> <p>Not enough facilities for young</p> <p>Price of cinema, gym rising</p> <p>Limited lights and night</p> <p>All the different colours of the recycling containers make the town look a mess. Could they all be grey or brown to fit in with street colouring</p> <p>Nearest Job Centre in Tod or Halifax</p> <p>Not enough free public toilets</p> <p>Use of Calder Holmes Park currently aimed at the young. We need to encourage the young and at</p>	<p>Emergency sirens make me feel like I'm living in a war zone</p> <p>How the cuts will affect Hebden Bridge</p> <p>Day trippers</p> <p>Unemployment and low wages</p> <p>Lack of local employment</p> <p>Use of drugs and alcohol</p> <p>Not enough parking</p> <p>Expensive parking</p> <p>Drug problems in town</p> <p>Young people unheard</p> <p>Drunken youths on a</p>

<p>Lack of affordable new builds</p> <p>A fine balance between housing and free land</p> <p>House prices</p> <p>Far too many new/converted buildings</p> <p>To many mills being knocked down for housing</p> <p>People's fear of the new - esp. buildings</p> <p>New housing is filling in gaps</p> <p>Buildings owned by Council?</p> <p>New housing</p>	<p>Terrible traffic congestion</p> <p>Traffic throughout Hebden</p> <p>Reliance on cars when there is so much good public transport</p> <p>Traffic noise</p> <p>Dominance of cars</p>	<p>the same time older people</p> <p>The closure of Youth House and the Pitt Street Buildings - both were wonderful resources</p> <p>No public drinking water</p> <p>Not enough allotments</p> <p>Christmas lights are a mess (blue!)</p> <p>Blue LED lighting everywhere</p> <p>Park has no lights - unsafe at night</p>	<p>Friday night</p>
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Litter, Rubbish	Roads & Pavements	Landscaping	Pollution	Transport	Shops
<p>Rubbish thrown about streets at weekends particularly</p> <p>Litter in countryside</p>	<p>Keep tripping on uneven pavements and roads</p> <p>Pot holes</p> <p>Lack of maintenance of paths and footpaths</p>	<p>Over development of hill tops</p> <p>Wind turbines in beautiful landscapes</p>	<p>Air quality</p> <p>Pollution</p>	<p>Poor rural bus service</p> <p>Overcrowded trains</p> <p>Expensive public transport</p> <p>Buses being taken away</p>	<p>Unique shops - impractical for some household goods</p> <p>Lack of a place for exchange of furniture and appliances</p> <p>Concern about new start-up shops because nothing very useful such as a cobbler, photographic shop, grocery stores</p> <p>Shops not appropriate to resident community</p> <p>Aimed at tourists</p> <p>Mix of shops going towards more tea shops and not useful shops</p> <p>No electrical shop</p> <p>Too many cafes</p> <p>Loss of pubs from recession</p> <p>No access for handicapped to some shops</p> <p>Expensive shops</p>

4 Associated negative impacts

Travel	Pollution & Rubbish	Shopping elsewhere	Issues with cyclists	Disabled & Access
<p>Cost of travel to do essential trips - hard to financially cope</p> <p>Loss of bus service</p>	<p>See people abuse the countryside leaving areas a mess</p> <p>Air pollution - more cases of asthma / lungs</p>	<p>People go elsewhere for cheap (less good) food</p> <p>I drive out of Hebden Bridge and go to Todmorden to shop</p>	<p>Canal towpaths ruined by cyclists - means not used by pedestrians in wet weather</p> <p>Mountain bikes making a mess of</p>	<p>Hard for old and disabled people to get up and down hills. Depend on taxis</p> <p>Tripping on uneven</p>

Having to rely on dubious train service for 25 years - aargh	Health damaged by air pollution Traffic noise is disturbing Litter spoils country walks	Going to Halifax to do major shops	woodland paths in bad weather Cyclists using footpaths cause aggressive feelings Cyclists going wrong way up Crown Street is dangerous	pavements keeps me at home when I hurt my knees Not being able to get into some banks and shops in a wheelchair Not being able to shop independently
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Anti-tourists	Environment & damage to buildings	Congestion & Traffic	Lack of safety	Jobs & social mix
Town full of tourists who don't buy from our shops Tourists get in the way at weekends and bank holidays So many tourists mean I don't go into town on a sunny weekend	Cracks in my house from traffic - buses and lorries My building vibrates because of the traffic through town - things have even fallen off shelves!!! (Market St) Graffiti spreading - makes me feel the place is spoiled Graffiti spoiling view and irritating residents Broken windows after drunks have been through town - and people's plant pots	Cyclists scared off main roads by amount of traffic More congestion and over crowding means I lose my sense of freedom Stress of living next to A646 traffic	Not wanting to go into Hebden at night I avoid town centre on Friday and Saturday nights I don't do night travelling - I don't feel safe I don't feel safe around Hebden Bridge when drunk people are around	Commuters with higher salaries forcing up house prices so youngsters have to leave Becoming a town of 0-18 and then 40+. No in-between ages because it's hard to stay and live here. Lack of ethnic mix or desire for it Lack of social and ethnic mix - homogenous population - even bland

Parking	Recycling	Young People
Frustration at no action being taken to provide more parking	Chaotic recycling embarrasses me when friends from elsewhere visit	Children and young people can't go on park or in pubs so end up on streets Young people feel abandoned and need to express views / creativity

5 Wishes for the future

Transport & Traffic
<p>Fewer cars</p> <p>Cycle route to Todmorden</p> <p>Good local public transport</p> <p>Access only traffic</p> <p>Everyone walked and cycled everywhere</p> <p>A by-pass</p> <p>Traffic free Heptonstall</p> <p>Cable car from Heptonstall to Pecket Well</p> <p>No traffic</p> <p>Traffic free town centre</p> <p>More people could work locally and not have to drive to work</p> <p>No combustion engines on Sundays: cars, strimmers, chain saws</p> <p>Integrated transport system</p> <p>Park and ride at station</p> <p>Good transport in rural areas and free for OAPs</p> <p>Cheap, accessible, frequent public transport</p>

	<p>A place with good public transport</p> <p>More mini-buses</p> <p>Free bus passes continue</p>
Countryside	<p>I wish I will be able to still walk in the countryside</p> <p>Involvement of many young people in land: farms, market gardens etc</p> <p>If only nobody dropped litter</p> <p>Lots more allotments and/or shared vegetable gardens</p> <p>I hope the countryside is not spoiled</p> <p>Most food produced in a 30 mile radius (less transport cost and food costs less)</p> <p>More allotments</p> <p>Children educated in the real value of food</p> <p>Renewable energy that didn't harm the landscape and produced more power</p> <p>More benches!!!</p>
Services	<p>Canal open to see bonfire</p> <p>No fun fair at the bonfire</p> <p>Theatre</p> <p>The cinema to still be here</p> <p>Cinema still thriving</p> <p>Local hospitals</p> <p>Lots of street theatre</p> <p>Swimming pool, sauna and jacuzzi</p> <p>Schools still good</p> <p>The library still being here</p> <p>Cinema is a community theatre for parties as well as films</p> <p>T Dances</p> <p>More ethnic mix and celebration of different cultures</p> <p>Day classes for pre-school and retired</p> <p>Better health centre with better facilities so less travelling to hospitals</p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if there were services for people with mental illnesses</p> <p>More talks to get the town to connect and learn about other cultures</p> <p>Keep the yearly choir for Xmas</p>
Shops	<p>More clothes shops and shoe shops</p> <p>Shops appropriate to residents and not tourists</p> <p>Independent tea shop in Blackshaw Head</p> <p>Thriving market</p> <p>Independent electrical shop and Bonsals forever</p> <p>Market Street would be really smart and welcoming and shop owners would get the community to help keep them painted etc</p> <p>Still small</p> <p>Affordable up-to-date shops</p> <p>Co-op stays as only superstore</p> <p>Electric shop</p> <p>Independent mobile fishmonger, bakery and library to hill top villages</p>
Lighting & Alternative Technology	<p>Solar street lighting</p> <p>Zero carbon Hebden Bridge</p> <p>I wish for more lighting in parks</p> <p>Street lighting for pedestrians</p> <p>Regenerate the Alternative Technology Centre</p> <p>Wind turbines</p> <p>Really pretty Christmas lights</p>

Social Mix & Ethos	<p>"Think globally act locally" (Schumacher)</p> <p>Family orientated town</p> <p>Freedom</p> <p>Religious traditions, share places and celebrations</p> <p>A rich social mix</p> <p>I wish it was a more equal community for younger and older generations to live</p> <p>Social mix</p> <p>More colour</p> <p>More mixing of the generations</p> <p>I wish there were more ways to connect the generations</p> <p>Sense of ownership</p>
Alcohol, Drugs, Pubs	<p>Wouldn't it be nice if everyone felt safe to go out</p> <p>Places to go and not feel unsafe</p> <p>People's tribunal and Friday/Saturday night stocks on George's Square</p> <p>More help and support for alcoholics and drug abusers</p> <p>Smoking back in pubs</p> <p>Nobody took drugs</p> <p>Places for everyone to go – not just pubs</p> <p>Pub closing hours reviewed</p>
Housing	<p>A homeless shelter</p> <p>No new houses</p> <p>Affordable housing</p> <p>My own house with my boyfriend</p> <p>Decent sheltered accommodation</p>
Young	<p>I wish there were more accessible services for young people</p> <p>More things for young people to do</p> <p>More joy and events through school</p>
Old	<p>Youth activities for young and oldies</p> <p>Cohorts of 18 – 25 year olds and elderly so young can help the old and elders can interact with youth</p> <p>A town full of badly behaved pensioners</p> <p>There was good housing and care available for elderly gay and lesbian residents</p> <p>A good old people's home</p> <p>A really good OAP home where all my friends can live</p>
Recycling	<p>No recycle bins</p> <p>If only all recycling containers were a uniform grey colour</p>
Other	<p>Fewer notices and signs on poles on roadsides</p> <p>Jobs available at all skill levels for all our local population</p> <p>I wish Hebden Bridge becomes an even brighter and more creative place</p> <p>Even pavements, scoped corner kerbs everywhere, oldie-friendly walkways</p>

6 Perceived impacts on wishes on quality of life

<p>Feeling</p>	<p>Safe Contented Excited Happy Peaceful Proud Content Energised by being part of everyone's town Feeling creative Fulfilled Optimistic Feel part of a good community Relaxed Happy and smiling at the well kept town and local area Hope that the community can help global needs Gratefully excited Thankfulness</p>
<p>Thinking/Saying</p>	<p>What a fantastic place to live This is not the end but a new beginning It is possible to make things better I'm pleased to be still involved with the community WE made this happen Saying what a great place this is to live I'm so lucky to live here It's the centre of the Universe There is nowhere else like it What do our twinned towns in Africa, Asia and Latin America need from us? How can we help?</p>
<p>Doing</p>	<p>Accessing local doctors / hospital Using my bus pass to get around the country Spreading the news of the new Hebden Bridge Listening to the young Attending a Moslem festival Walking, watching birds and wildlife 14 year olds organise litter picking Surveying with thanks from my chair (or heaven) 14 year olds will warn me of broken paving stones and help me around them Eating and drinking in good pubs and restaurants Socialising Enjoying the countryside Volunteering Taking my great-grandchildren to the park Making friends with all ages 14 year olds will take family shopping lists to the daily evening market, discussing veg and cheese with other adults and children Dancing Learning to paint Travelling more Learning something new Growing roses</p>

	<p>Walking and travelling</p> <p>Keeping warm in the library</p> <p>14 year olds will teach me safe roller blading</p> <p>Keeping pubs open</p>
Seeing	<p>Street parties in car-free streets</p> <p>Uniformly grey recycling containers ranged neatly under Council provided benches which they fit under</p> <p>Unspoiled countryside</p> <p>Seeing a clean and tidy town centre</p> <p>No litter on the streets or in the canal or river</p> <p>No dog poo bags hanging from trees</p> <p>Young people helping elderly and disabled</p> <p>Butterfly parks</p> <p>Lovely old buildings preserved</p> <p>Car-free areas</p> <p>Pedestrianised Market Street</p> <p>Cinema and Little Theatre</p> <p>Seeing well-kept countryside and well maintained paths</p> <p>Variety of shops and still few chain stores</p> <p>'Boris' motorbikes parked in hill-top villages</p> <p>Very few cars</p> <p>Market Street shops will be smart and accessible</p> <p>Families growing food, keeping chickens (pigs?)</p> <p>Stone walls maintained by youth gangs with their families and oldies</p>

7 Suggested positive actions

KEEP	<p>Keep free bus services</p> <p>Green belt restrictions</p> <p>Library</p> <p>Picture House</p> <p>Canal</p> <p>Library</p> <p>Bus service</p> <p>Picture house</p> <p>Keep swimming pool and libraries open</p> <p>Keep parks open and well maintained</p> <p>Keep historic buildings and protect conservation areas</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Library</p> <p>Picture House</p> <p>Footpaths in good condition</p> <p>Small shops</p> <p>Theatre</p> <p>Cinema</p> <p>Small shops</p> <p>Library</p> <p>Keep footpaths and bridleways well maintained</p> <p>Keep and add to consultations access to planning process</p>
STOP	<p>Car movement through residential areas</p> <p>Pandering to silly H&S</p>

	<p>Lorries going through town unless delivering (use M62 if poss)</p> <p>Blue L.E.D. lighting</p> <p>Needless beaurocracy</p> <p>Stop approving large wind turbines in green belt / special landscape areas</p>
CHANGE	<p>Street lighting to solar</p> <p>Coloured recycling containers to uniform grey colour</p> <p>Planning to allow well-planned developments</p> <p>Improved access to planning consultation ... so it's easy to understand</p> <p>Street lighting to solar lighting and not lighting up the sky</p> <p>Pathway maintenance</p> <p>Change negative image of youth by adding 'Teen Heroes Awards'</p> <p>Paddling pool in park back to water</p> <p>Xmas lights from dull blue to something more festive</p>
ADD	<p>More police on Fri/Sat nights</p> <p>More police in town and rural areas</p> <p>Dog poo bags and bins to other places in town</p> <p>Drinking fountains in town centre</p> <p>Bus services</p> <p>Add more services for young people</p> <p>Activities that target and involve more than one generation</p> <p>Allocate more land for allotments</p> <p>Give tax help to encourage small village shops and Post Offices</p> <p>Plan for and add more allotments</p> <p>Subsidise apprenticeships for work to grow local food</p> <p>More affordable housing</p> <p>More allotments</p> <p>Add Council resolutions that all decisions be made in awareness of scarcer and scarcer oil</p> <p>Have a policy on wind turbines so that it is fairer and transparent</p> <p>More but well-placed wind turbines</p>