

Batchworth: Neighbourhood Plan



Consultation Statement

Volume 3 (of 4): Vision, objectives and ideas

November 2023

Batchworth Community Council



BATCHWORTH

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Consultation Statement

Volume 3 (of 4): Vision, objectives and ideas

November 2023

Batchworth Community Council
Basing House
46 High Street
Rickmansworth WD3 1HP

<https://www.batchworth-ecc.gov.uk/>

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Batchworth: Neighbourhood Plan



Summary of Questionnaire Responses August 2021

Batchworth Community Council



BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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Contents

1. Overview	4
2. The Vision.....	7
3. Objectives	8
4. Objective 1 – Enriching green and blue assets	9
5. Objective 2 – Climate Change.....	11
6. Objective 3 – Living and working in Batchworth	13
7. Objective 4 – Sense of place.....	15
8. Objective 5 – Access and movement	17
9. Open Ended Questions.....	19
10. Summary	21
Appendix A: Flyer.....	23
Appendix B: BCC Newsletter	24
Appendix C: Summary Boards	25
Appendix D: Questionnaire	31

1. Overview

Between July and August 2021 consultation on the Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken. The purpose of this was to determine whether the vision and objectives identified during earlier stages of the plan making process fairly reflected the community's aspirations for Batchworth or, if not, whether there were other challenges and issues to be addressed.

The consultation was advertised through a flyer that was delivered to all households in Batchworth. In addition to the flyer, communications distributed by the Community Council also directed residents to the consultation. Respondents to earlier consultations were contacted directly as were Residents' Associations and other similar groups, who were then able to share the details with their members. The flyer and supporting material, including summary display panels, were also made available on the Batchworth Community Council website and the dedicated Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan website. Alongside the above, the write up of feedback from previous consultation, including the 'focus workshops', was also made available, providing more detail behind the ideas.

The questionnaire presented respondents with the draft vision for Batchworth, a set of objectives, and multiple 'what if' propositions for each objective. They were asked to tell us how they felt about each of these on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being strongly agree and 5 being strongly disagree. The survey also had two open-ended questions. These asked:

- Do you have any comments or suggestions about the vision, objectives or any of the ideas?
- Are there any other topics, issues or opportunities that should be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan?

In total, 179 responses were received. As expected, the majority of respondents were local residents, who made up more than 80% of the responses. A small number of responses (approx. 10%) were also received from residents of areas just outside the Neighbourhood Area but within the catchment of Rickmansworth town centre, and thus whom look towards the area for day-to-day services and facilities. The remainder of respondents comprise a mix of those who work in the area, those who represent a business or organisation, and those who were visiting the area.

Of those who provided their age, less than 15% were under the age of 45. Furthermore, 20% of respondents placed themselves in the 46-55 age band, with this figure rising to over 27% for the 56-65 band. The largest proportion of responses came from the 65+ age band, which accounted for 34% of all respondents.

In terms of gender, 51.45% of respondents were male, 43.35% were female, and 5.20% chose not to disclose this information.

A breakdown of information by respondent is presented in Figures 1 – 3.

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

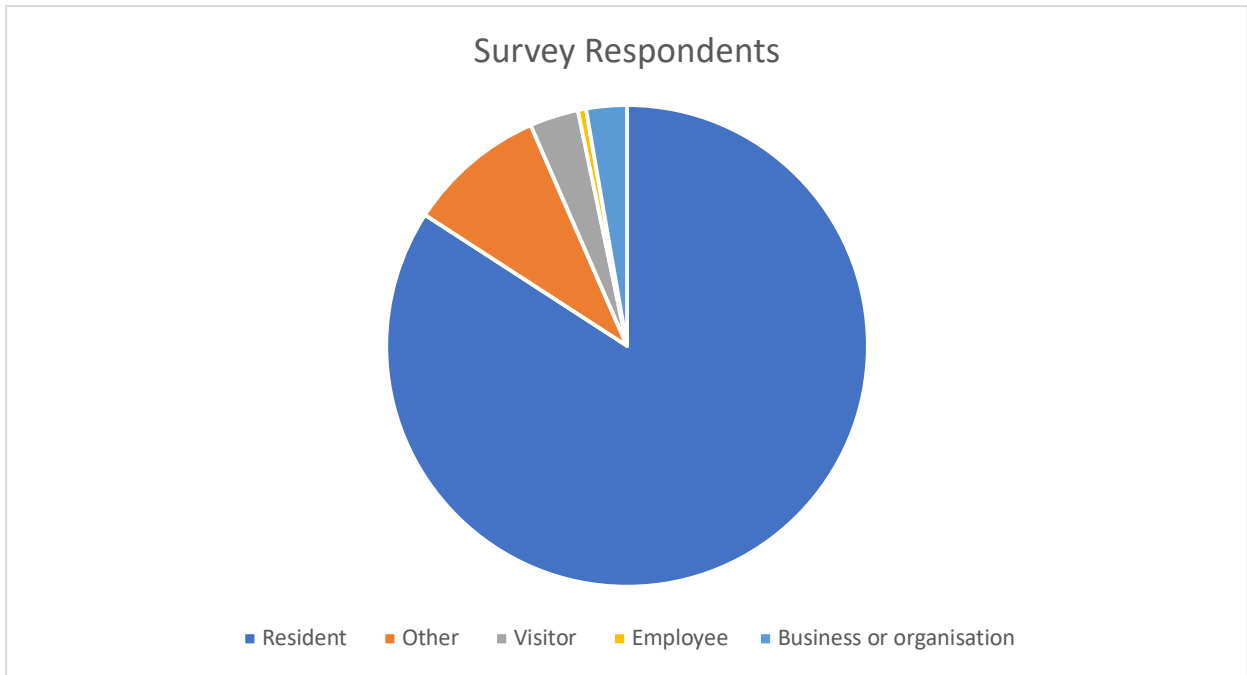


Figure 1: Respondents to survey categorised by their relationship with Batchworth

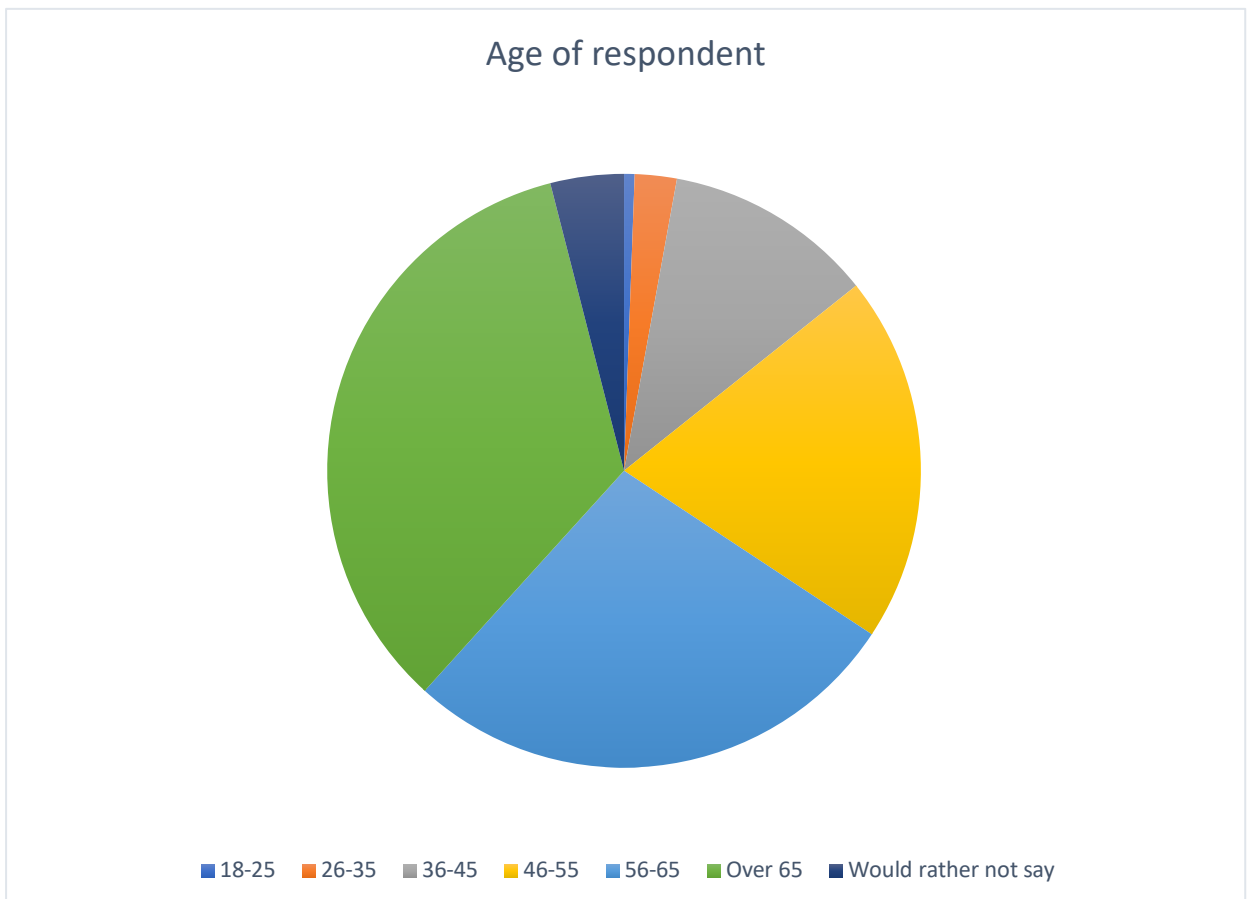


Figure 2: Respondents to survey grouped by age band

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

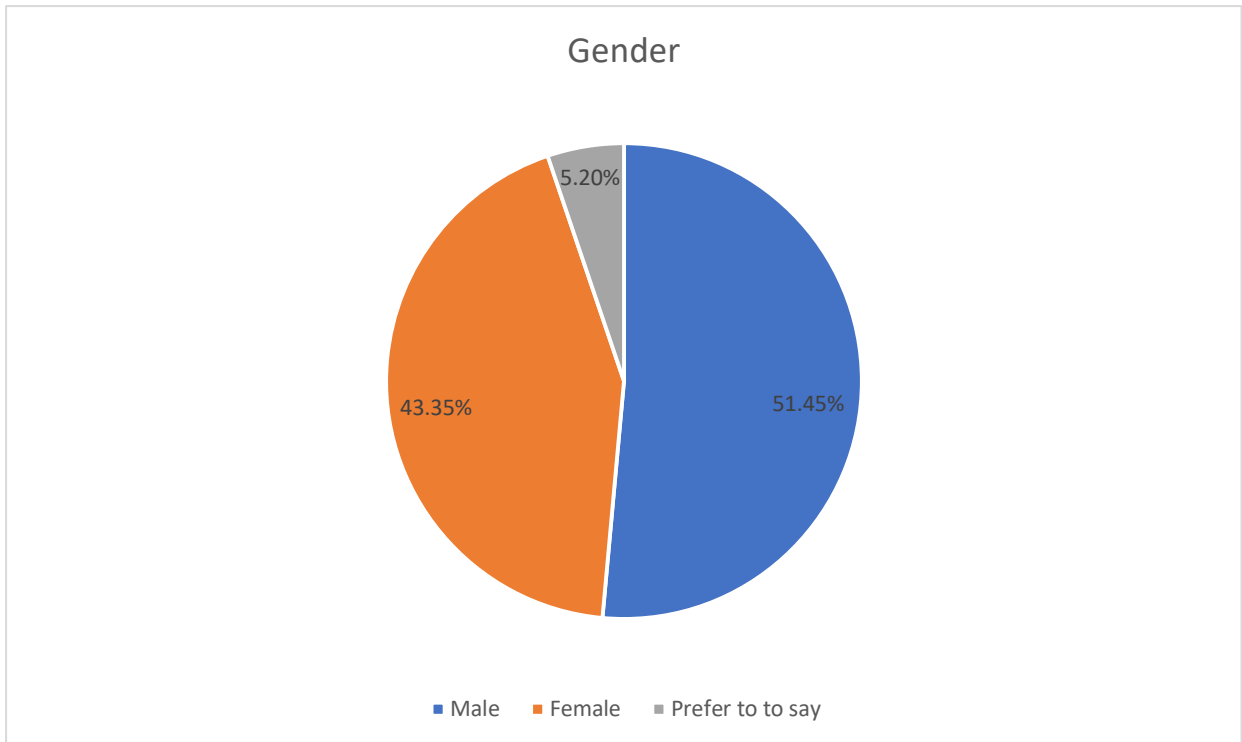


Figure 3: Respondents to survey grouped by gender

2. The Vision

First, respondents were asked how they felt about the vision for Batchworth, as summarised in the consultation material as being to:

“Develop a reputation as a ‘green and blue’ area, reflected in protection and enhancement of open spaces, biodiversity and wetland habitats, and measures that deliver high standards of sustainability in buildings and the way we move around.

Essential infrastructure, provided alongside high quality new development, will strengthen the distinctive identities of our neighbourhoods.

Batchworth will be a thriving and healthy place to live, learn and work, supported by a wide range of recreational and community facilities.

The area will respond to modern life and working patterns, supporting and strengthening local business opportunities, reinforced by a network of vibrant centres.

Batchworth will be a place that is safe and easy for all to move about, with improved public spaces at the heart of the community being places for people to enjoy visiting and spending time in”

As the chart below shows, there was an overwhelming amount of support for the vision, with over 85% of respondents either strongly agreeing or agreeing with it.

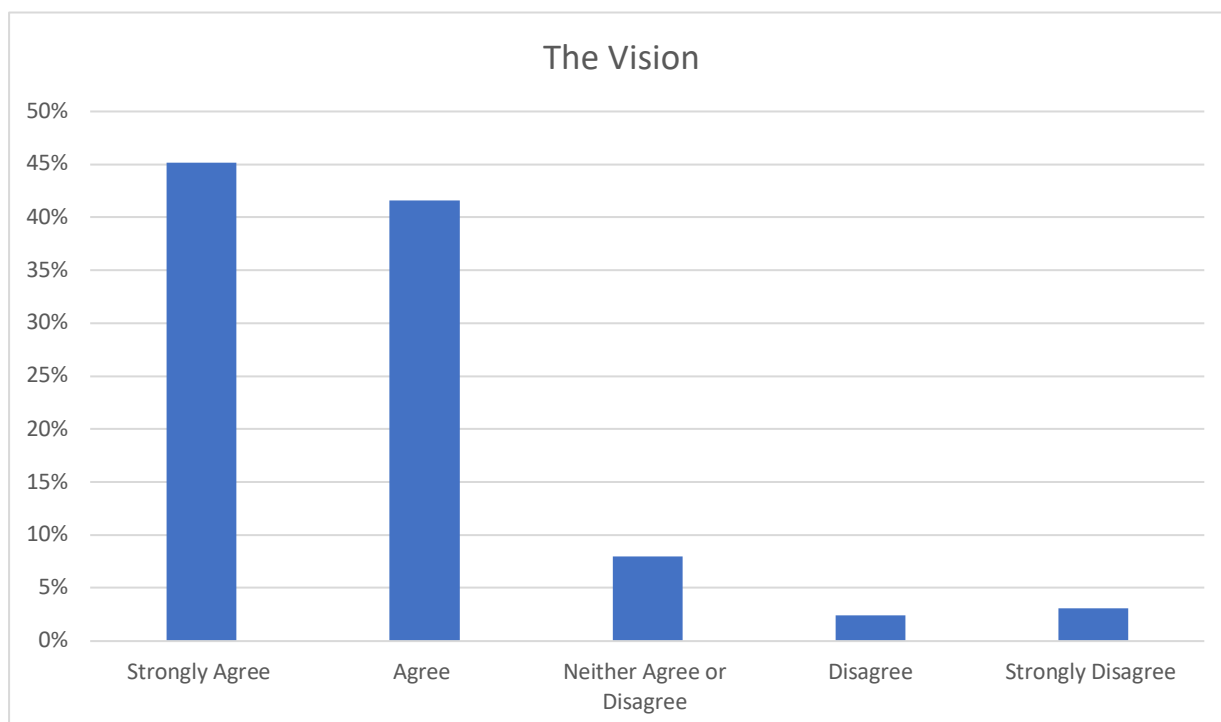


Figure 4: Responses to the proposed vision for Batchworth

3. Objectives

Respondents were then asked to say how they felt about a series of objectives, as well as several 'what if' ideas for each of them.

The objectives were based on the follow categories:

- Objective 1: Enriching Green and Blue Assets
- Objective 2: Climate change
- Objective 3: Living and working in Batchworth
- Objective 4: Sense of place
- Objective 5: Access and movement

As shown on the chart below, all objectives received positive feedback. The upcoming sections of this document look at the responses for each objective in further detail, as well as analysing the feedback on the 'what if' ideas.

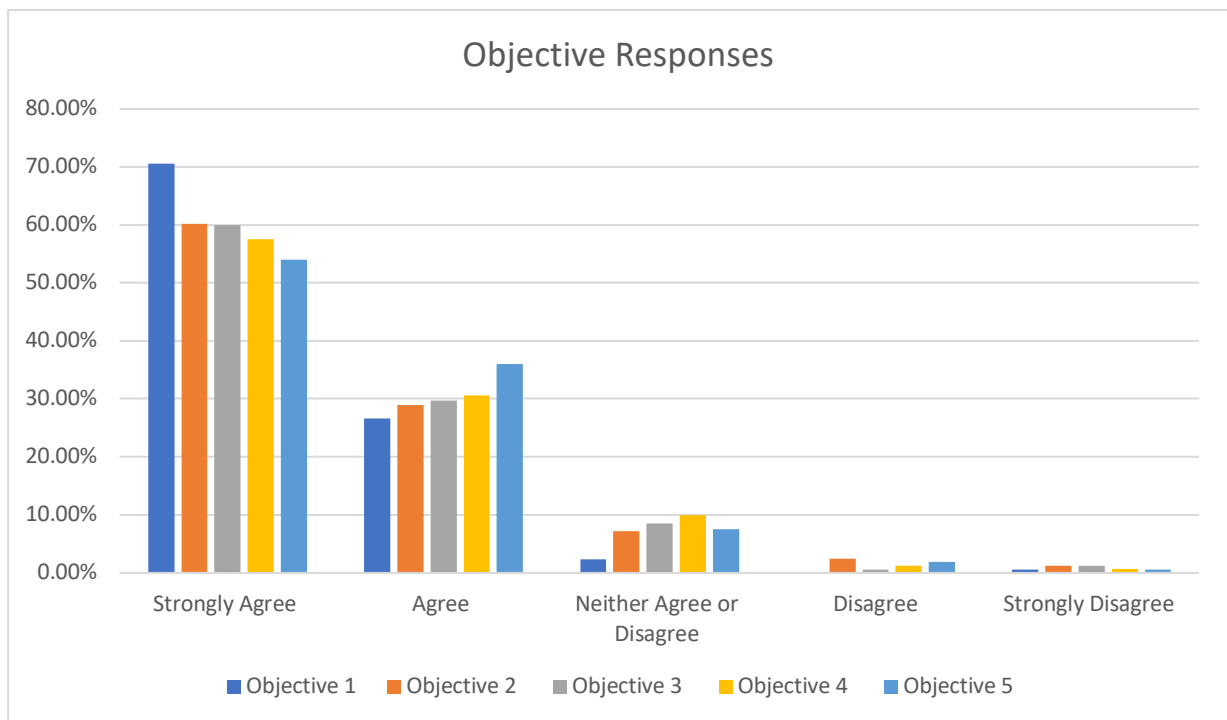


Figure 5. Summary of responses for all objectives

4. Objective 1 – Enriching green and blue assets

Objective 1 was:

“To enhance the richness and experience of green and blue spaces in the area”

The response to this objective was again incredibly positive, with more than 95% either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement.

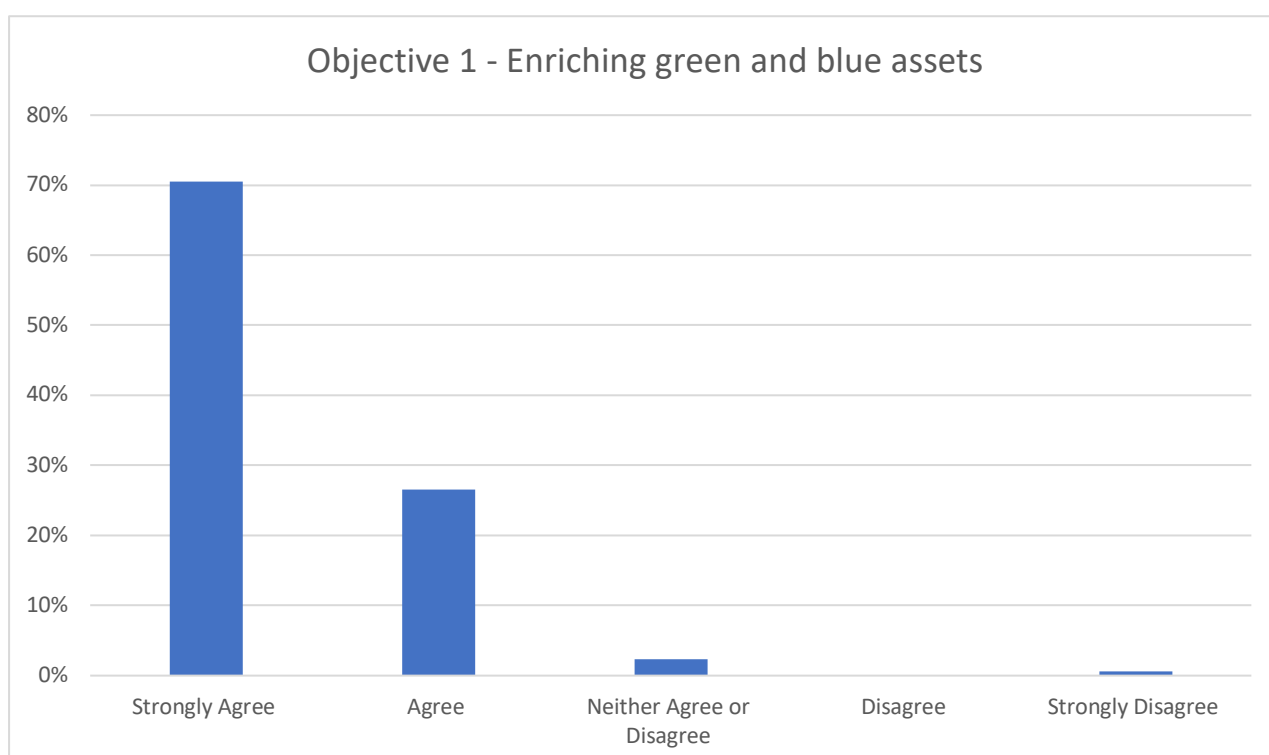


Figure 6: Responses to objective 1, which focuses on enriching green and blue assets

The ‘what if’ ideas for this objective were:

- *Idea 1: Transform streets and redundant spaces through the planting of street trees, wildflowers and raingardens, enhancing biodiversity and supporting wildlife habits*
- *Idea 2: Increase and improve access to green and blue spaces by foot and by bike*
- *Idea 3: Designate open spaces of value to the community for long term protection from development*

The responses to each of these ideas are displayed on the chart below. All three ideas received high levels of support, with more than 80% either agreeing or strongly agreeing to each question.

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

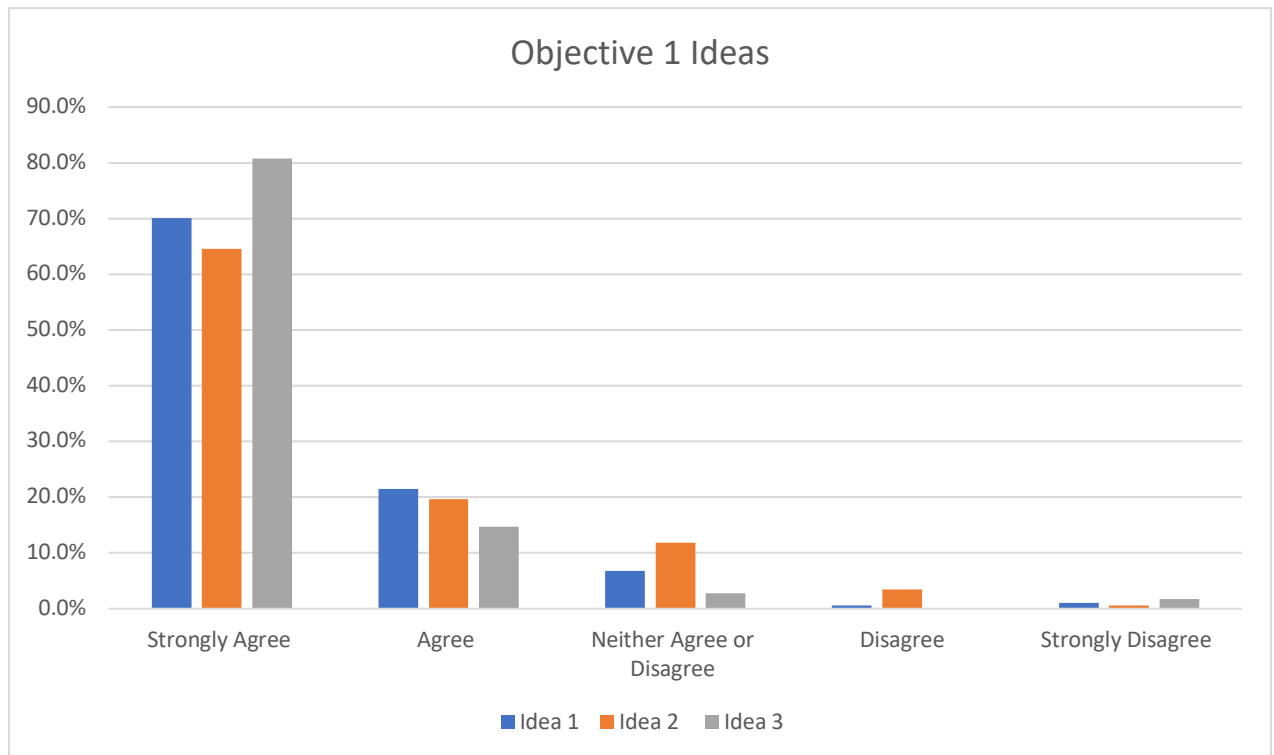


Figure 7: Responses to the ideas for objective 1

5. Objective 2 – Climate Change

Respondents were then asked about their feelings towards addressing climate change in the Neighbourhood Plan. This objective was listed as:

"To sensitively respond to the challenges of and future proofing Batchworth against the impacts of Climate Change."

Again, the response was positive to this objective, with over 85% of all respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement, as shown on the chart below.

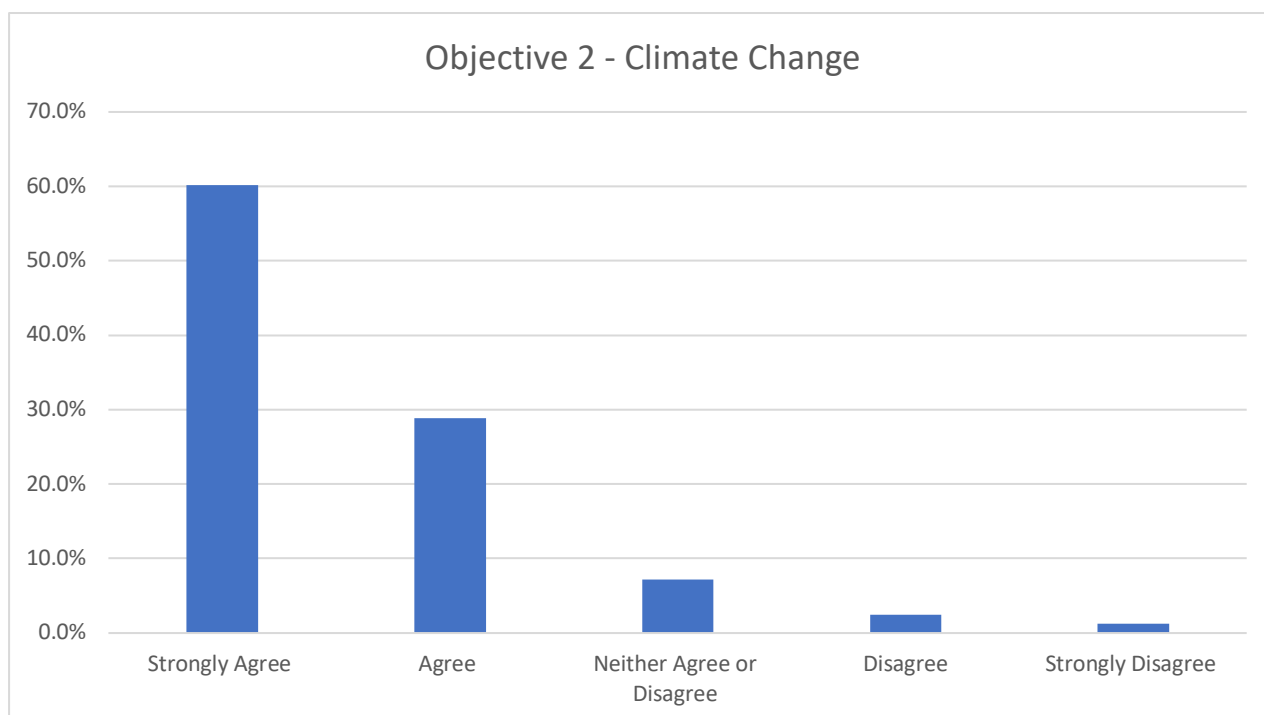


Figure 8: Responses to objective 2, which focuses on climate change

The ideas presented for this objective were:

- Idea 1: Support high energy efficiency standards in all development
- Idea 2: Support development of small scale community-owned renewable energy generating projects
- Idea 3: Incorporate flood mitigation measures into new development and existing streets

As shown on the chart below, there was strong support for all ideas. Over 90% of responses for Idea 1 and 3 were either agree or strongly agree. While 79% of responses to Idea 2 were either agree or strongly agree.

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

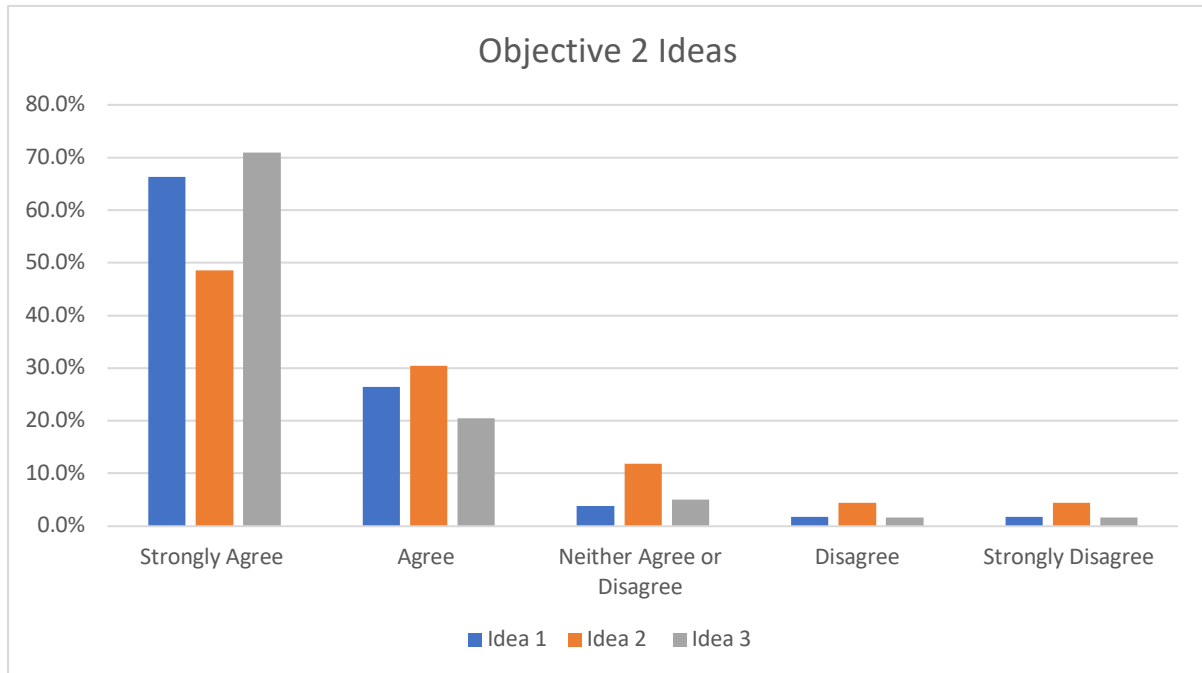


Figure 9: Responses to the ideas for objective 2

6. Objective 3 – Living and working in Batchworth

Next, respondents were asked how they felt about an objective focusing on living and working in Batchworth. The objective was listed as:

“To strengthen community cohesion and inclusiveness by making Batchworth an attractive place for all to live and work in.”

As presented on the chart below, the majority of respondents were in favour of this objective, with just under 90% either agreeing or strongly agreeing with it.

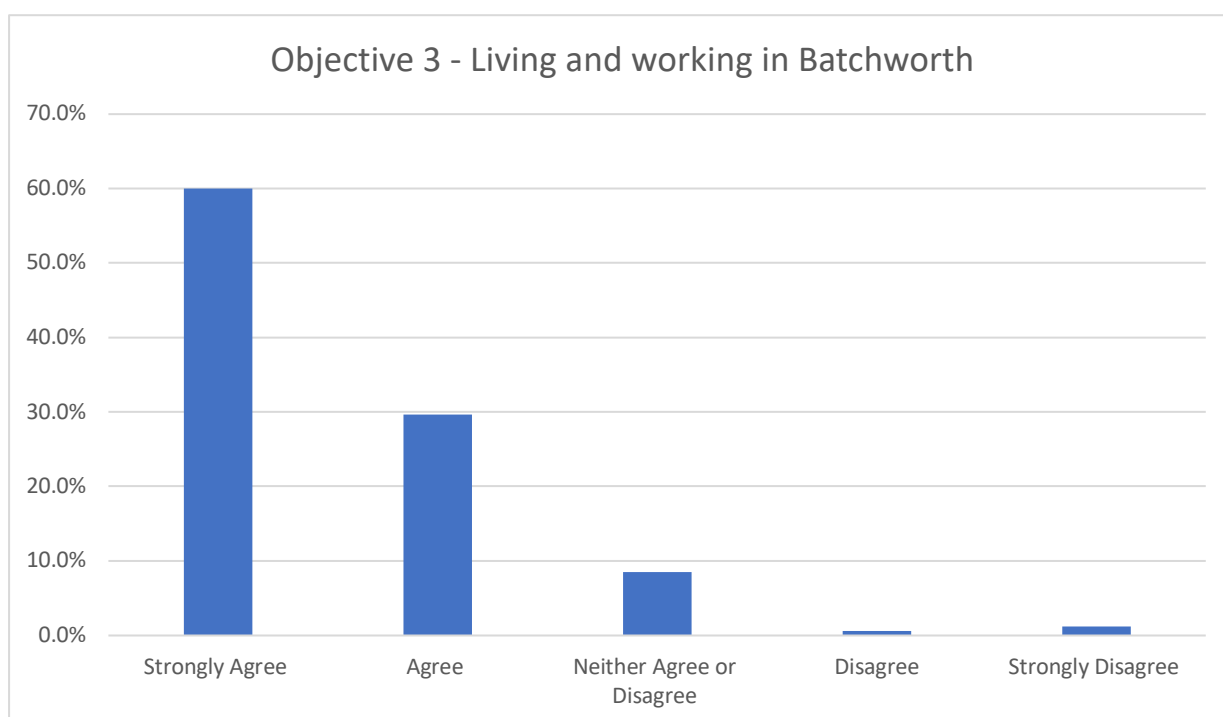


Figure 10: Responses to objective 3, which focuses on living and working in Batchworth

The 'what if' ideas for this objective were as follows:

- *Idea 1: Support delivery of a mix of new housing types and sizes, including affordable homes, self-build homes, and homes for an ageing population*
- *Idea 2: Prepare a masterplan for Rickmansworth town centre establishing principles for the type, height and uses of new buildings, and improvements to quality of the public space*
- *Idea 3: Provide new flexible work spaces for small businesses and improve the quality of the environment in the Tolpits area*

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

As presented on the chart below, respondents expressed support for all ideas, though with some variance between questions. Over 78% of responses to both Idea 2 and 3 were either agree or strongly agree. The response to Idea 1 was still mostly positive but did receive notably less support than Idea 2 and 3, with just over 55% of answers being either agree or strongly agree. Furthermore, over 25% of responses for Idea 1 were either disagree or strongly disagree, this was the highest percentage of negative answers for any question in the survey.

An explanation for this response is likely to be found in the fact that in parallel to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation, Three Rivers has also been consulting upon their new draft Local Plan. It is the Local Plan that establishes the housing figure for Batchworth and which identifies sites for development. The purpose of the Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan is not to identify sites or set housing figures, but rather to say that if new growth and development as indicated in the Local Plan does come forward, then it must do so in a way that responds to local needs and character.

Many of the comments left in the 'freeform' questions of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation survey (See section 9 below) express concerns about the scale and location of growth, including objections to that. It is suspected that the lower level of support expressed for Idea 1 is reflective of this, with some respondents conflating the Local Plan with the Neighbourhood Plan. Having said that, and although the level of support for this idea is lower than others presented in the survey, more people still expressed agreement for the idea than disagreement.

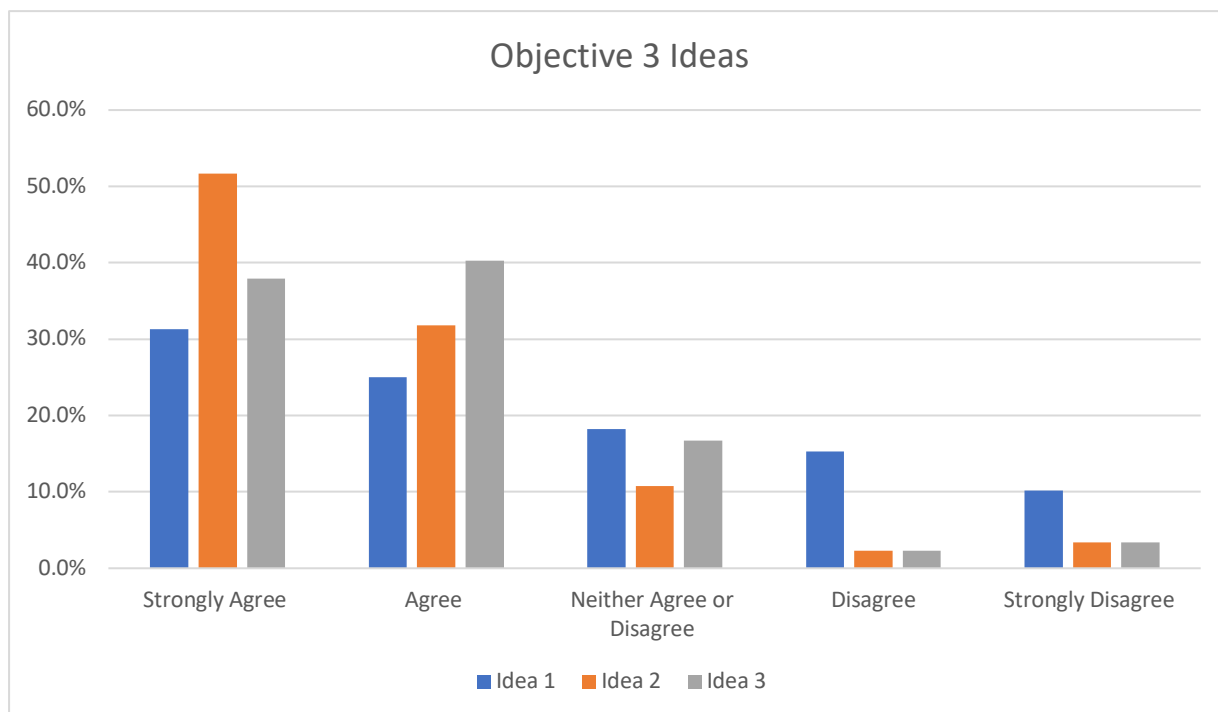


Figure 11: Responses to the ideas for objective 3

7. Objective 4 – Sense of place

Respondents were then asked how they felt about the following objective:

“To promote high quality design in new development that helps build a sense of place, responding to local character and identity.”

The chart below displays the strong positive response to this objective, with over 85% of answers being either agree or strongly agree.

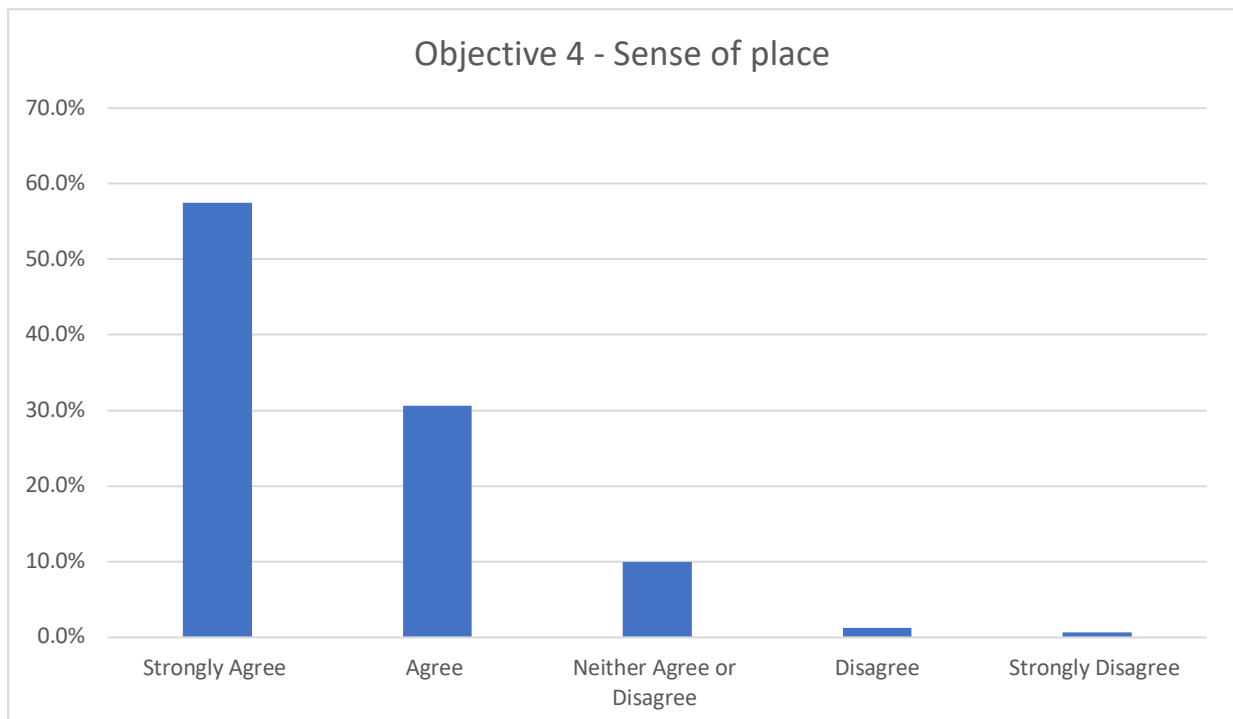


Figure 12: Responses to objective 4, which focuses on sense of place

The ideas presented for this objective were:

- *Idea 1: Establish design guidance for all development, reflecting the best qualities of the area*
- *Idea 2: Promote use of design review to evaluate the quality of design being proposed in new development*
- *Idea 3: Improve arrival points to the area, at Batchworth Lock and the railway station, celebrating arrival and welcoming visitors to the area*

Overall, the response to these ideas was positive, as shown on the chart below. There was some degree of variance in the level of support between ideas. Over 85% of responses to both Idea 1 and 2 were either agree or strongly agree, with this figure dropping to 74% for Idea 3. Meanwhile, 18% of responses for Idea 3 were neither agree or disagree, comprising

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

the highest occurrence of this response option across the whole survey. This may be because it is unclear what is meant by 'celebrating arrival'. As work on the Plan progresses this could be explained further.

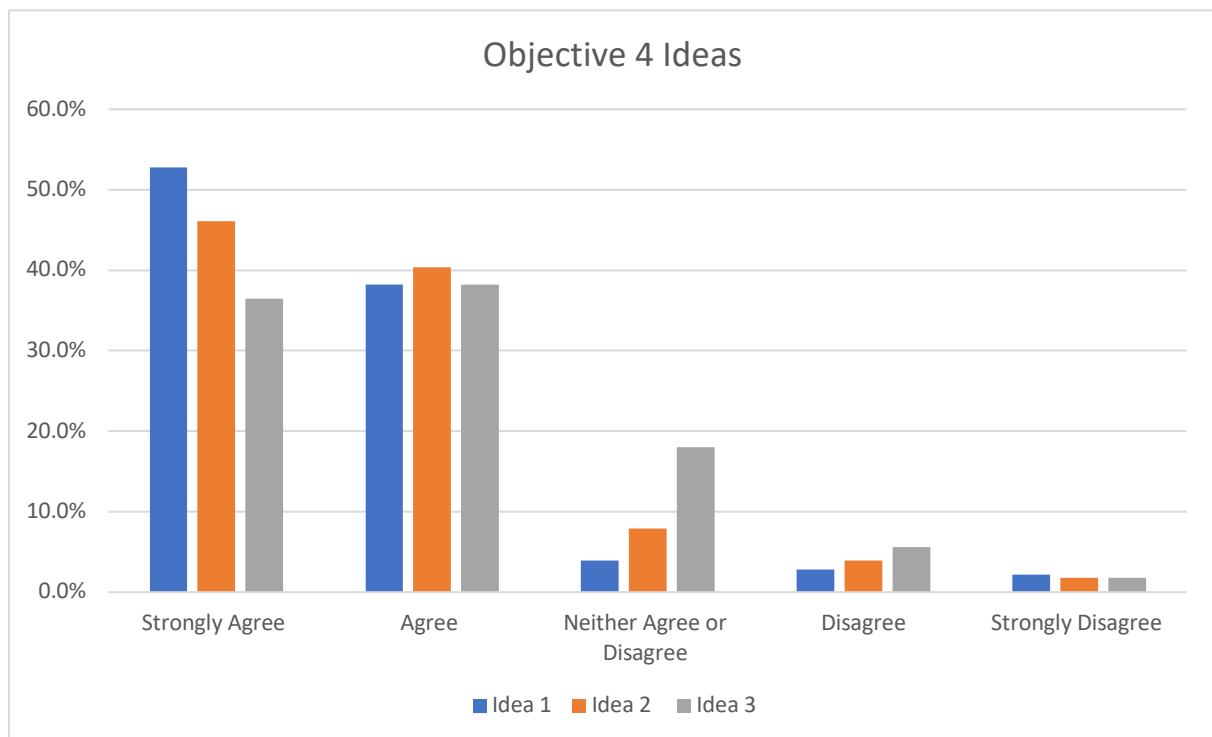


Figure 13: Responses to the ideas for objective 4

8. Objective 5 – Access and movement

The final objective presented to respondents was related to access and movement, and was listed as:

“To improve access and movement for all.”

Again, as shown on the chart below, the response to this objective was overwhelmingly positive. 90% of responses were either agree or strongly agree.

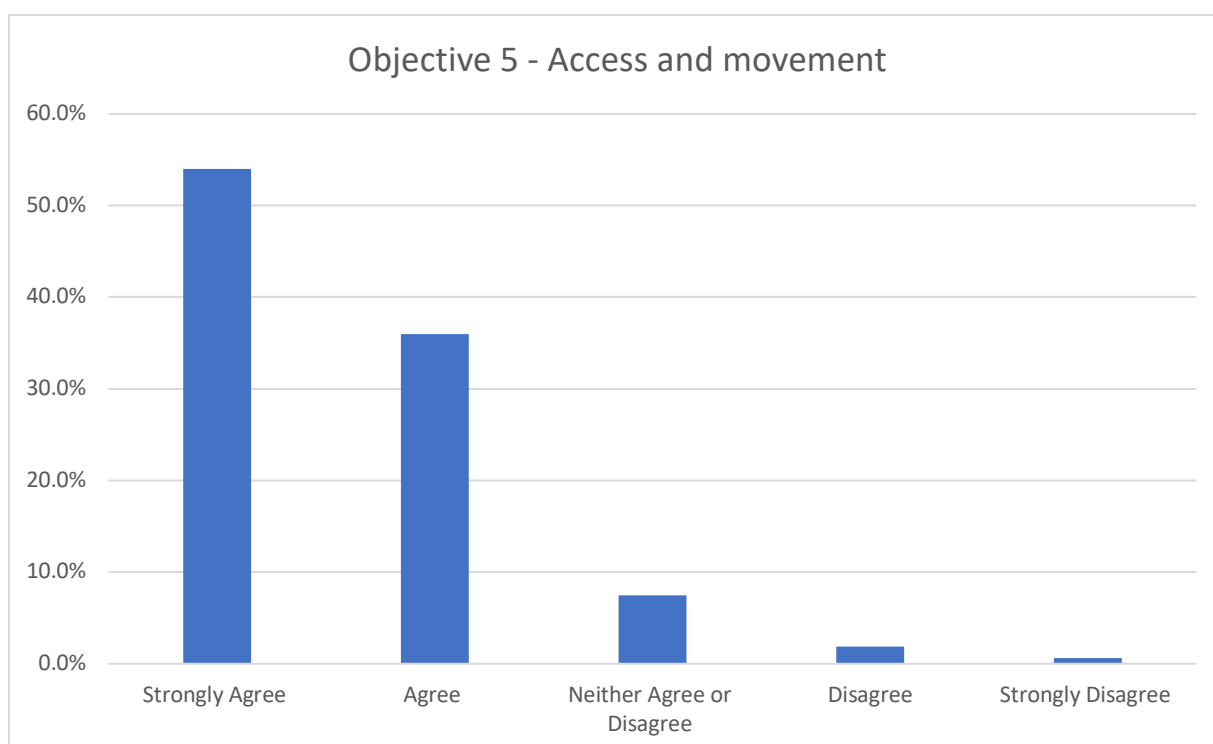


Figure 14: Responses to objective 5, which focuses on access and movement

The three ideas given for this objective were:

- *Idea 1: Provide a network of safe cycling routes*
- *Idea 2: Plan for use of new transport technologies and an improved public transport system*
- *Idea 3: Preserve and improve access to canal towpaths*

As shown on the chart below, the response to all the ideas was positive from the majority of respondents. Over 75% of responses for each idea were either agree or strongly agree. Just under 60% of responses for Idea 3 were strongly agree, meanwhile this figure dropped to 48.3% and 46.4% for Idea 1 and 2 respectively.

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

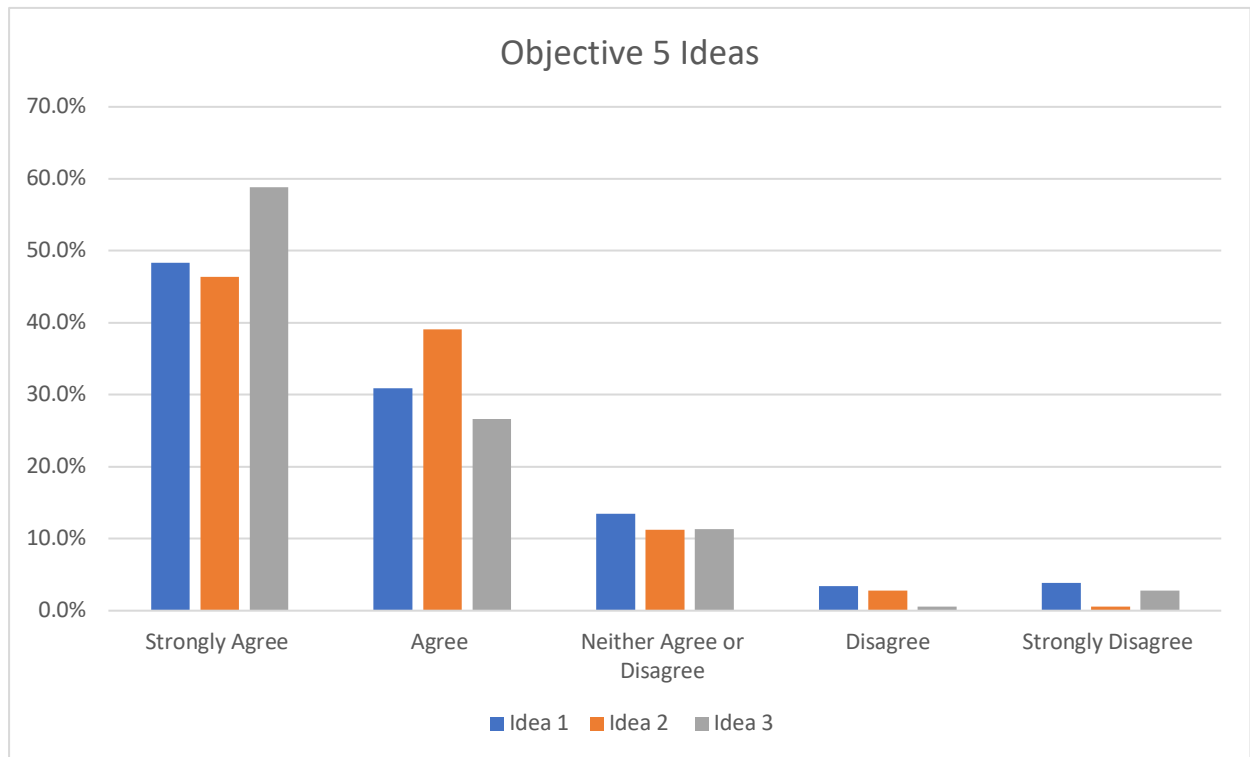


Figure 15: Responses to the ideas for objective 5

9. Open Ended Questions

After rating their level of support for the objectives and ideas, respondents were given the chance to respond to two open ended questions. The questions were:

1. Do you have any comments or suggestions about The Vision, Objectives or any of the Ideas?
2. Are there any other topics, issues or opportunities that you feel should be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan?

By reviewing the responses to these questions, it is possible to draw out key themes and issues that respondents felt were most important for Batchworth.

As mentioned beforehand, many of those who left comments focused on concerns associated with new development. For example, comments were made such as *"No more houses should be built in this area. The infrastructure isn't there"*. A number of responses contained similar objections and concerns regarding the location and size of new development. Although these are perfectly valid concerns, they are better directed towards consultation on the Local Plan as opposed to the Neighbourhood Plan, as it is the Local Plan that is seeking to establish the scale and location of new homes.

Some comments also focused on the Canal Towpath, which followed a pattern of wider concern for all pedestrian/cycle infrastructure in the area. It seems from the responses that there is a large amount of support for the improvement of and development of new cycle/pedestrian routes, but that Batchworth's existing infrastructure is inadequate and often creates safety hazards for those using them and affected by them.

This point can be linked to several responses that were concerned with increasing levels of traffic in the area. Comments alluded to the idea that the growth of traffic was in part a result of a lack of adequate active travel infrastructure, which creates a reliance on car travel.

Furthermore, there was support shown by several respondents for the pedestrianisation of the town centre to be made permanent, following the trialling of this as a temporary measure in response to the Covid pandemic.

Responses, whether directly or indirectly, showed support for the idea of the '20-minute neighbourhood' and the need for residents to be in close proximity to services and facilities, with one respondent saying that *"There should be an objective that every home is within 1/4 mile (for example) of a 'corner shop' and possibly a cafe to reduce the use of cars."* Similar comments to this were made by other respondents, who expressed a desire to ensure neighbourhoods were in close proximity to a range of facilities.

There were also multiple comments made regarding the height of new development: amongst those commenting it is suggested that developments of three/four storeys should be the maximum that should be permitted in Batchworth.

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

The responses also recognised the importance of Batchworth's green spaces and the need for the protection of and improvements to green infrastructure. For example, several comments suggested that front gardens should retain a certain amount of greening, as well as promoting soft boundaries such as hedgerows over hard boundaries e.g. brick walls.

Another key theme that came from the free form questions was concern over flooding and the increased likelihood of this given climate change (which may in part also be linked to comments about front gardens above).

10. Summary

The questionnaire responses indicate support for the majority of the content presented.

However, although Objective 3: Living and Working in Batchworth proved popular, it did average the lowest amount of agree and strongly agree responses for its 'what if' ideas. In particular, there seemed to be some concern over Idea 1. Idea 1 was to 'Support delivery of new housing types and sizes, including affordable homes, self-build homes, and homes for an ageing population.' This idea received considerably less support than all other ideas in the survey. However, as explained earlier, this is suspected to be the result of respondents conflating the Local Plan with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Objective 1: Enriching Green and Blue Assets was the most popular of the objectives, receiving the highest average of strongly agree responses both for the objective itself and the subsequent 'what if' ideas. The most popular idea across the survey was Idea 3, which suggested 'Designating open spaces of value to the community for long term protection from development' (i.e.: making use of Local Green Space Designations).

Meanwhile, responses to the open-ended questions highlighted some of the key concerns for Batchworth. These were related to local cycleways and footpaths, levels of traffic, flooding issues, height restrictions on new developments, the importance of green infrastructure, and the need for adequate retail opportunities in residential areas.

Overall, this questionnaire recognises strong support for the emerging ideas and the potential for these to be translated into locally specific policies and projects.

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

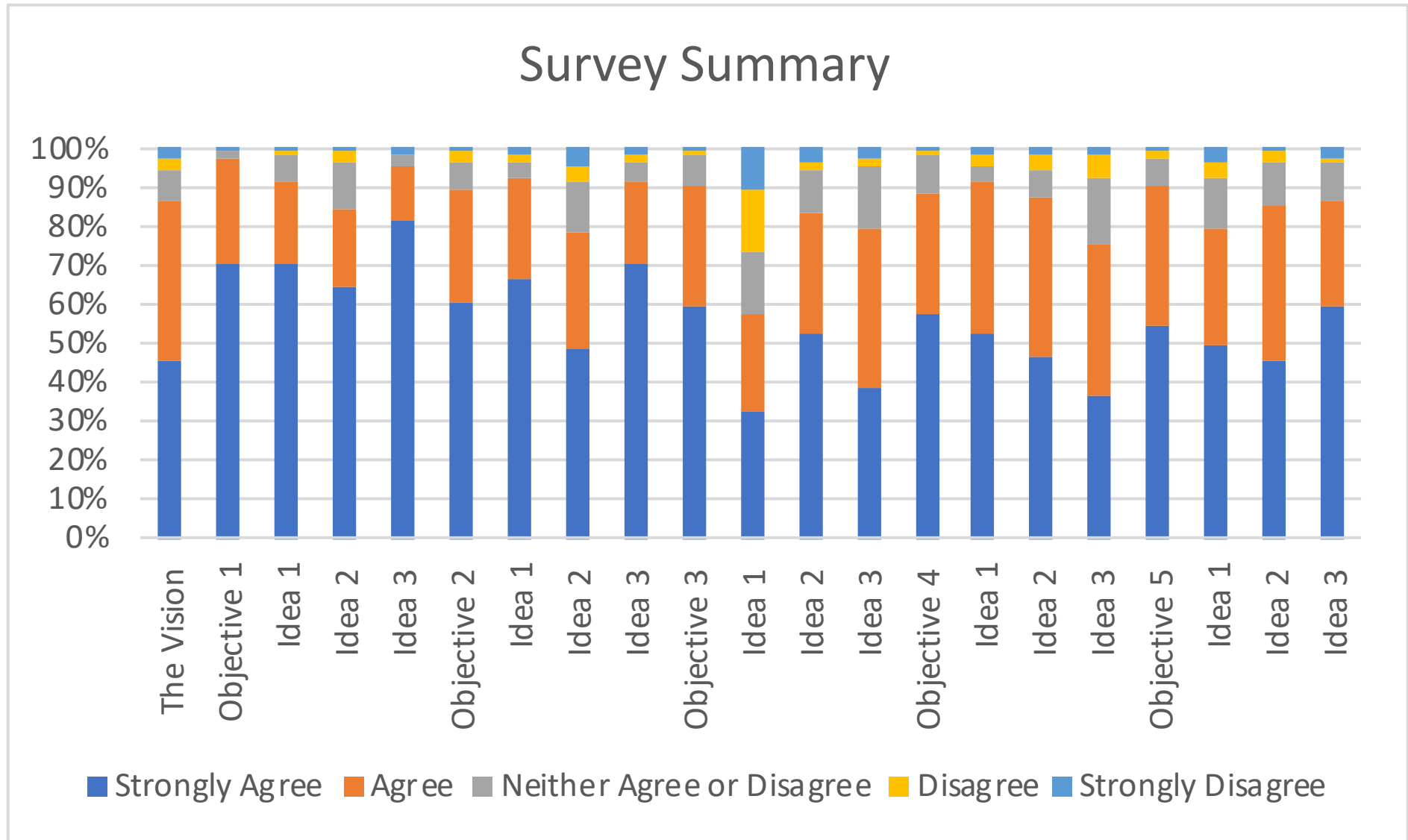


Figure 16: Summary of all survey responses

Appendix A: Flyer



VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Thank you to all who participated in consultation events on the Neighbourhood Plan last year. Based on these we have prepared a vision and set of objectives for the Plan and would like to know your views on these.

The purpose of the Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan is to help improve the quality of life and the built and natural environment for our community. It will establish policies for new development that calls for the highest standards of design and sustainability.

The vision and objectives are summarised on this leaflet, with more information available on the Community Council website. Please do view the material and respond to the questionnaire. Together we can then make our Plan for Batchworth.

This round of consultation will run until 18th July 2021.



Batchworth
Community Council
Eastbury - Moor Park - Rickmansworth

Neighbourhood plan

Please tell us what you think:

To find out more about the Plan please visit the Neighbourhood Plan website: www.batchworthplan.org.uk

Please submit your views by either completing the questionnaire online or by hand and returning to the Council offices at Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1HP. Please respond by 18th July 2021.

To leave your comments on the emerging ideas please visit the Neighbourhood Plan website or scan the QR code:



www.batchworthplan.org.uk/questionnaire



THE VISION

Key elements of the vision for Batchworth are to:

Develop a reputation as a 'green and blue area', reflected in protection and enhancement of open spaces, biodiversity and wetland habitats, and measures that deliver high standards of sustainability in buildings and the way we move around.

Essential infrastructure, provided alongside high quality new development, will strengthen the distinctive identities of our neighbourhoods.

Batchworth will be a thriving and healthy place to live, learn and work, supported by a wide range of recreational and community facilities.

The area will respond to modern life and working patterns, supporting and strengthening local business opportunities, reinforced by a network of vibrant centres.

Batchworth will be a place that is safe and easy for all to move about, with improved public spaces at the heart of the community being places for people to enjoy visiting and spending time in.



OBJECTIVES

Five objectives have been drafted that will frame policies in the Plan. In summary, they are:

1. To enhance the richness and experience of green and blue spaces in the area
2. To sensitively respond to the challenges of and future proofing Batchworth against the impacts of climate change
3. To strengthen community cohesion and inclusiveness by making Batchworth an attractive place for all to live and work in
4. To promote high quality design in new development that helps build a sense of place, responding to local character and identity
5. To improve access and movement for all

More information on the vision and each of the objectives is available online: www.batchworthplan.org.uk



Appendix B: BCC Newsletter

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN *Neighbourhood plan*


Views and opinions have been summarised into a leaflet which came through your doors recently. Please tell us if the Vision & Objectives reflect your wishes for your neighbourhood. Please complete the questionnaire online or download it and post it back to Batchworth Community Council Office, Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth.

Please find the questionnaire at the following link: www.batchworthplan.org.uk and provide your feedback by 18th July 2021.

RICKMANSWORTH HIGH STREET - HAVE YOUR SAY *Hertfordshire*

Hertfordshire County Council would like your views on whether the changes made in your high street and town centre in response to the COVID-19 pandemic could also support long term high street recovery.

For more information and to comment visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highstreetrecovery



Engagement extended to 11th July 2021.

Your feedback will help to shape how the schemes are progressed.

For any alternative formats please contact at:
Email: HighStreetRecovery@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 0300 123 4047



Our
Batchworth
Moor Park
Rickmansworth
Eastbury
Page

ECO INITIATIVES IN BATCHWORTH

Take a look at www.sustainablethreerivers.org who is looking at making lifestyle changes to protect the planet. If you have an eco-initiative that you would like to share with us, please send it in and we can publish it here.

FIND US AT:

Our website is www.batchworth-ecc.gov.uk
Write to us at Batchworth Community Council Basing House 46 High Street Rickmansworth WD3 1HP
Telephone: 01923 590201
Email: clerk@batchworth-ecc.gov.uk

Hello from Batchworth Community Council (BCC),

Welcome to your first edition of our Batchworth Community HOME PAGE. This page is designed to update you on important matters relevant to our area and to let you know how you can get in touch with us or join our meetings. THANK YOU to all the Batchworth Community, for all you have done, and continue to do, to keep us safe during this difficult and uncertain time. Fortunately the pandemic has not prevented us from appreciating, now more than ever, our beautiful green neighbourhood. If we are to maintain these green spaces and help shape the future of Batchworth there are two plans that you can be part of, the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan. To find out how you can become involved see overleaf.

Don't forget to visit our BCC website www.batchworth-ecc.gov.uk where you can see what your Council is doing to support and enhance our community. Listed on the site are local events, such as our Local Plan Forum on July 14th. You can also find out information on how to apply for grants from the Council and learn how to request support for community initiatives. If you would like to be more involved with BCC get in touch, we are always looking for more volunteers!

Join us at our Full Council meetings or our Finance and Planning meetings, all dates can be found on our website. Please register with the BCC Office to attend.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you soon.

Councillor Andrea Fraser - Chair BCC, Di Barber, Craige Coren - Vice Chair, Steve Mander, Alan Moss, Francois Neckar, Neelima Payne and Mike Sims.



Eastbury Treasure Hunt

"Thank you ERA and everyone involved in organising the event. What a lovely morning filled with a treasure hunt, a lovely plant sale, delicious cake and some healthy fruit to balance it out. Lovely to meet so many more members of our lovely community"

Over 200 residents attended and helped to raise more than £1,000 for local charities. Thanks to "Fruity Fresh" for their sponsorship and support.

WHAT'S ON IN BCC?

BCC Forum on TRDC Local Plan. Wednesday July 14th 7-8.30pm

If you would like to attend this meeting please join us on Zoom at 7pm
Meeting ID: **873 9016 4109**
Passcode: **801157**

You can view the full list of proposed development sites and give your opinions on the plan both on the site and policies involved with the developments at the following link:
www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcd-page/new-local-plan

The Local Plan prepared by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) is to provide a proposed vision and policy framework for future levels of growth within the District, up until 2038. The closing date for feedback is 23rd July 2021.

Rickmansworth High Street Summer Fete

Save the date for our Summer fete. Running from the Fox and Hounds pub up to Basing House Square. There will be live music in gazebos up and down the High Street, fun fair rides and Punch & Judy. A great day out with food and refreshments also on sale. We hope to see you there.

Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) Lunch Club

All Batchworth residents over 60 welcome. Served daily from 12pm, two course home cooked meal for £5 served at The Old School Building, Church Lane, Mill End, Rickmansworth. For more details and to book please contact DI on 01923 896043.

TRDC Local Area Forum Zoom meeting

For agenda and to register visit www.threerivers.gov.uk/meeting/rickmansworth-local-area-forum-6-july-2021



Appendix C: Summary Boards

Batchworth
Community Council
Eastbury - Moor Park - Rickmansworth



Neighbourhood
plan



A vision for Batchworth



Based on ideas suggested at earlier consultation events a Vision for Batchworth has been drafted. This is:

*"The **richness of natural assets** in Batchworth will be strengthened, building its reputation as the **"Green and Blue Area"**. This will be reflected both in the protection and enhancement of open spaces, wetland areas and riparian environment, biodiversity and wildlife habits, but also through measures that deliver **high standards of sustainability** in new and existing buildings, and the way that we move around.*



*Infrastructure that supports walking and cycling, particularly for shorter, everyday journeys, will be provided, **facilitating safe and sustainable access for all** residents and visitors.*



*A wide range of recreational and community facilities will help make Batchworth **a thriving and healthy place to live, learn, work and play** for everyone, of all ages and abilities.*

*Through **public realm improvements** and business-friendly policy, local centres and employment areas at Money Hill, Tolpits and Rickmansworth Town Centre will be bolstered to create **flexible, socially inclusive, economic and social hubs** that respond to modern-day life and working patterns.*



*New residential development will embed high environmental standards and **quality of design**, and be delivered alongside appropriate infrastructure. Individual character areas, from Rickmansworth Town and Money Hill to Moor Park and Eastbury, will retain their **distinctive identities**, preserving existing built and natural heritage whilst encouraging innovative and sustainable design."*

To find out more about the Plan please visit the Neighbourhood Plan website:
www.batchworthplan.org.uk

Please submit your views by either completing the questionnaire online or by hand and returning to the Council offices at Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1HP. Please respond by 18th July 2021.





Objective 1:

To enhance the richness and experience of green and blue assets in the area

What if we...



1. Create a connected network of green corridors across the town by incorporating green infrastructure into the built environment through street planting and landscaping. This could include incorporation of street trees, wildflowers and raingardens, bringing biodiversity and environmental benefits into the urban environment, transforming and retrofitting 'grey' spaces to bring people closer to nature.



2. Increase and improve access to green and blue spaces through a legible and well-maintained network of public rights of ways and cycle paths so that people can move to and from these in a safe, environmentally-friendly manner.



3. Identify areas of green space of value to the community for long-term protection, including places for leisure and recreation, as well as important wildlife habitats and areas of biodiversity. These could include longer term protection of places such as Bury Gardens, the Eastbury Recreation Ground and others.

To find out more about the Plan please visit the Neighbourhood Plan website:
www.batchworthplan.org.uk

Please submit your views by either completing the questionnaire online or by hand and returning to the Council offices at Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1HP. Please respond by 18th July 2021.





Objective 2:

To sensitively respond to the challenges of and future proofing Batchworth against the impacts of climate change

What if we...



New energy efficient housing scheme in Norwich, source: Mikhail Riches Architects



Westmill Solar Cooperative, Oxfordshire, source: B. Cavanna



1. Embed sustainable design principles such as high energy efficiency standards, maximising natural lighting and using eco-friendly materials, into all development, bringing cost savings to all and reducing carbon emissions.
2. Support the building of a network of community-owned renewable energy generation projects, taking advantage of the town's existing natural assets to produce green energy for the use of local businesses and residents. This might include a small solar farm or electricity-generating watermills into the existing waterways.
3. Mitigate against increasing extreme weather events, developing a strategy that identifies opportunities for effective flood mitigation measures and embeds sustainable urban drainage solutions into streets, open spaces and developments.

To find out more about the Plan please visit the Neighbourhood Plan website:
www.batchworthplan.org.uk

Please submit your views by either completing the questionnaire online or by hand and returning to the Council offices at Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1HP. Please respond by 18th July 2021.





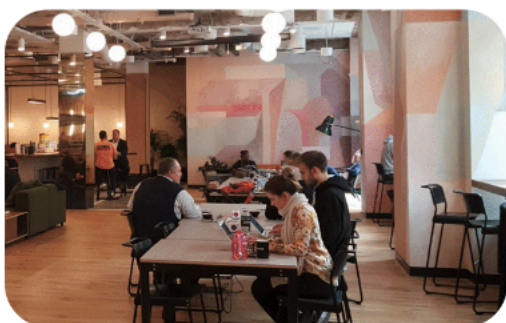
Objective 3:

To strengthen community cohesion and inclusiveness by making Batchworth an attractive place for all to live and work in

What if we...



Example of self-build housing, Almere, The Netherlands



1. Support delivery of a wide range of housing types and products that cater for the needs of our changing population, including homes for the elderly, young families, opportunities for self and custom build homes, and new affordable homes.

2. Prepare a masterplan for Rickmansworth town centre, establishing guidance around future forms and scale of development, and improvement to the quality of public spaces, creating thriving and vibrant places that foster social interaction and attract investment. Provision of new social and community facilities should be directed to our centres, with the Rickmansworth Library and Watersmeet Theatre becoming the heart of civic life and a 'public room' where a wide-range of events and activities take place.

3. Provide flexible working spaces for small businesses and start-ups, responding to changing working patterns, and supporting environmental improvements to the Tolpits area, enhancing access, relationship with the waterfront, and providing a central hub supporting the growth of smaller businesses.

To find out more about the Plan please visit the Neighbourhood Plan website:
www.batchworthplan.org.uk

Please submit your views by either completing the questionnaire online or by hand and returning to the Council offices at Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1HP. Please respond by 18th July 2021.



BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES



Neighbourhood
plan



Objective 4:

To promote high quality design in new development that helps build a sense of place, responding to the character and identity of individual areas in Batchworth

What if we...



1. Establish guidance on the appropriate scale, height, materials and design of development, responding to the distinctive identities in each neighbourhood. Guidance could also be established in respect of car parking in residential areas that minimises the impact of the car on the quality of the street environment.



2. Promote independent design review of proposed new developments to support delivery of good design.



3. Identify opportunities to improve "gateways" to the area, such as Batchworth Lock and the railway station, that celebrate arrival to, and welcome visitors. This could include public realm improvements and improved routes and connections that encourage people to spend time in these areas.

To find out more about the Plan please visit the Neighbourhood Plan website:
www.batchworthplan.org.uk

Please submit your views by either completing the questionnaire online or by hand and returning to the Council offices at Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1HP. Please respond by 18th July 2021.





Objective 5:

To improve access and movement for all

What if we...



1. Make streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians, allowing short journeys currently made by car to be replaced by bike or on foot, rebalancing road provision and creating safe and attractive routes that allow movement by all ages and abilities for everyday trips. Streets and junctions to be reconfigured along best-practice Dutch-style principles to make walking and cycling attractive propositions.



2. Plan for an improved public transport service, alongside other emerging technology, such as 'mobility as service' and micro-mobility hubs, promoting these as attractive alternatives to private car use and ownership.



3. Preserve and enhance existing river and canal towpaths to ensure that they remain integral corridors of movement for Batchworth. This will include 'breaking the barrier' created by highways infrastructure around Rickmansworth for example, making these streets easy to cross and facilitating improved access to the waterfront.

To find out more about the Plan please visit the Neighbourhood Plan website:
www.batchworthplan.org.uk

Please submit your views by either completing the questionnaire online or by hand and returning to the Council offices at Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1HP. Please respond by 18th July 2021.



Appendix D: Questionnaire

Batchworth
Community Council
Eastbury - Moor Park - Rickmansworth



Neighbourhood
plan

**BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:
VISION AND OPTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE**



Batchworth Community Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the area covered by Eastbury, Moor Park and Rickmansworth. It is important that this Neighbourhood Plan reflects your ambitions and views. Last year and early this we asked for your ideas on important matters to be addressed in the Plan. We have now used these to prepare a vision for the area, a draft set of objectives and ideas.

We would like you to tell us how you feel about these on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being strongly agree and 5 being strongly disagree, and whether you have any suggestions for the Neighbourhood Plan.

You can return this questionnaire to the Community Council offices at Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth, or by completing online at the following link, where further information on the emerging ideas can also be found:

www.batchworthplan.org.uk

Please respond by 18th July 2021. Thank you!

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

1) Are you (please tick all that apply):

A resident of Batchworth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visiting Batchworth	<input type="checkbox"/>
An employee in Batchworth	<input type="checkbox"/>	A business or organisation in Batchworth	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="text"/>		

2) How old are you (please only tick one):

Under 18	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	Would rather not say
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3) Are you:

Male	Female	Would rather not say
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Located in (please write your full postcode): _____

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

THE VISION

Key elements of the draft vision for Batchworth are to:

*“Develop a reputation as a ‘green and blue’ area, reflected in protection and enhancement of open spaces, biodiversity and wetland habitats, and measures that deliver **high standards of sustainability** in buildings and the way we move around.*

*Essential infrastructure, provided alongside **high quality new development**, will strengthen the **distinctive identities** of our neighbourhoods.*

*Batchworth will be a **thriving and healthy place** to live, learn and work, supported by a wide range of recreational and community facilities.*

*The area will respond to modern life and working patterns, supporting and **strengthening local business opportunities**, reinforced by a network of **vibrant centres**.*

*Batchworth will be a place that is **safe and easy for all to move about**, with improved public spaces at the heart of the community being places for people to enjoy visiting and spending time in”*

OBJECTIVES AND IDEAS

The draft objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan are:

- **Objective 1:** *To enhance the richness and experience of green and blue spaces in the area*
- **Objective 2:** *To sensitively respond to the challenges of and future proofing Batchworth against the impacts of Climate Change.*
- **Objective 3:** *To strengthen community cohesion and inclusiveness by making Batchworth an attractive place for all to live and work in.*
- **Objective 4:** *To promote high quality design in new development that helps build a sense of place, responding to local character and identity.*
- **Objective 5:** *To improve access and movement for all.*

A series of ideas have been developed under each of the objectives, which could form the basis of projects and policies in the Plan. These are presented below as a series of ‘what if’ propositions. Please tell us how you feel about these.

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Please tell us how you feel about the following on a scale of 1-5 by ticking the appropriate column:

	1. Strongly Agree	2. Agree	3. Neither agree nor disagree	4. Disagree	5. Strongly Disagree
4) The Vision					
<i>Objective set 1 and 'what if' ideas: Enriching green and blue assets</i>					
5) Objective 1					
6) Idea 1: Transform streets and redundant spaces through the planting of street trees, wildflowers and raingardens, enhancing biodiversity and supporting wildlife habits					
7) Idea 2: Increase and improve access to green and blue spaces by foot and by bike					
8) Idea 3: Designate open spaces of value to the community for long term protection from development					
<i>Objective set 2 and 'what if' ideas: Climate change</i>					
9) Objective 2					
10) Idea 1: Support high energy efficiency standards in all development					
11) Idea 2: Support development of small-scale community-owned renewable energy generating projects					
12) Idea 3: Incorporate flood mitigation measures into new development and existing streets					

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

<i>Objective set 3 and 'what if' ideas: Living and working in Batchworth</i>					
13) Objective 3					
14) Idea 1: Support delivery of a mix of new housing types and sizes, including affordable homes, self-build homes, and homes for an ageing population					
15) Idea 2: Prepare a masterplan for Rickmansworth town centre establishing principles for the type, height and uses of new buildings, and improvements to quality of the public space					
16) Idea 3: Provide new flexible work spaces for small businesses and improve the quality of the environment in the Tolpits area					
<i>Objective set 4 and 'what if' ideas: Sense of place</i>					
17) Objective 4					
18) Idea 1: Establish design guidance for all development, reflecting the best qualities of the area					
19) Idea 2: Promote use of design review to evaluate the quality of design being proposed in new development					
20) Idea 3: Improve arrival points to the area, at Batchworth Lock and the railway station, celebrating arrival and welcoming visitors to the area					
<i>Objective set 5 and 'what if' ideas: Access and movement</i>					
21) Objective 5					
22) Idea 1: Provide a network of safe cycling routes					
23) Idea 2: Plan for use of new transport technologies and an improved public transport system					
24) Idea 3: Preserve and improve access to canal towpaths					

BATCHWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

25) Do you have any comments or suggestions about the vision, objectives or any of the ideas?

26) Are there any other topics, issues or opportunities that should be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan?

KEEP IN TOUCH

27) If you would like to be kept updated on the Neighbourhood Plan please provide your email address:

DATA PROTECTION

Data is being collected by Batchworth Community Council. Data in this questionnaire will be analysed to inform the contents of the Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan. Anonymous data may be shared as evidence that the Plan reflects the aspirations of the community. Email addresses will only be used as stated and will not be shared with third parties. If you wish your data to be removed or to change your contact preferences, please email: admin@batchworthplan.org.uk

Please see Batchworth Community Council's privacy and data retention terms at: <https://www.batchworth-ecc.gov.uk/privacy-policy/>

Batchworth Community Council
Neighbourhood Plan
Consultation Summary Paper, August 2021

Batchworth Community Council
Basing House
46 High Street
Rickmansworth WD3 1HP

<https://www.batchworth-ecc.gov.uk/>

Batchworth Community Council
Neighbourhood Plan
Consultation Statement
Volume 3 (of 4): Vision, objectives and ideas
November 2023

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Basing House
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