



Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code For Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton

Supplementary Planning Document Statement of Consultation

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
Regulation 12
December 2024

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 requires a local planning authority to consult the public and stakeholders before adopting a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Regulation 12(a) requires a Statement to be prepared setting out who has been consulted while preparing the SPD; a summary of the main issues raised; and how these issues have been addressed in the final SPD.

1.2 This statement is a record of consultation undertaken prior to the adoption of the Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton, Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

2. Background

2.1 The Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton SPD has been prepared to provide supplementary guidance on policies within Cambridge City Council's adopted Local Plan (October 2018). Once adopted, the SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

2.2. In 2023, as part of a National Design Code Pathfinder Programme, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) secured government funding to develop a design code for Arbury, Kings Hedges and West Chesterton. This is a pilot project focusing resources to work with communities and neighbourhoods with the most need, that doesn't have any guidance in place. It aims to help raise design standards, tackle inequality, inform and help assess small and large-scale planning applications that may come forward in the future in this area. Lessons learned will be shared nationally to guide the production of other district and citywide design codes that councils may be required to produce in the future.

3. Preparation of the draft Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton SPD

3.1. The Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code is a pilot design code that tests the process of consultation led area design coding. It has been central to the creation of the Design Code, informing both its structure and content. GCSP commission Pollard Thomas Edwards as the lead consultant to collaboratively develop the design code working with the community.

- 3.2. The draft design code was produced through a combination of community participatory events, workshops and surveys, complimented by frequent internal meetings and workshops with a core group of strategic stakeholders and decision makers from across local authorities. The core group included officers from Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service: Development Management, Built and Natural Environment and Policy teams, Cambridge City Council Parks and Open Spaces, Communities, Housing team and Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 3.3. Community engagement was conducted in three phase and was conducted online and in person.
- Phase 1 asked the community what they valued about the neighbourhood.
 - Phase 2 developed principles of the design code based on the responses received.
 - Phase 3 tested the detail of the document based on what people told us in the earlier phases
- 3.4. Online engagement was carried out using Cambridge City Council Citizen-Lab website from August 2023 to March 2024. There were 3 in-person workshops with residents at the Meadows Community Centre that mirrored these three phases online. In addition, the team engaged with mothers, the elderly, disability group, ethnic minorities and children at in-person events held at Arbury Court, Baptist Church, Good Shepherd. It also engaged with 67 children and their parents at the local Gove Primary School. The team also engaged with a small group of resident volunteers online to test some of the emerging ideas in the code.
- 3.5. The draft principles and code were reviewed jointly by the Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel and Cambridgeshire Quality Panel. The design code was also reviewed by the Cambridge City Council's disability consultative panel.
- 3.6. The various stages of engagement culminated in the 'Draft Design Code, Feb 24' document which went out for community consultation online using the Cambridge City Council Citizens-lab website from 13th February 2024 to 11th March 2024. The communities' comments have further informed the design code which is being put forward for formal consultation.
- 3.7. The table below sets out the timeline of the online and in person events, workshops and meetings:

Date	Event	Group/Participants	Output
Phase 1: Understanding the neighbourhood and establishing a vision 4th August to 24th September 2023			
29th August and 14th September 2024	Site Visit, Structure and programme	Core group	
4th August to 24th September 2023	Online Survey using Citizen Lab	113 Participants	Inspired living – Phase 1 findings and results – See Appendix A
4th August to 24th September 2023	Online Mapping	103 Participants 126 Comments	Online Map and comments – See Citizens Lab website
27 th September 2023	Exhibition and Workshop 1 at the Meadows Centre, Arbury Road 3:00pm to 6:30pm	5 Participants (residents)	
27 th September 2023	Thematic Meeting on Movement	Core Group	
Phase 2: Articulating the vision and emerging principles of the design code 9th October to 5th November 2023			
9 th October 2023 and 5 th November 2023	Online survey using Citizens-lab and In-person survey <i>(In person surveys were conducted at arbury town center and churches. It captured the views of families, particularly women, mothers with children and minority ethnic groups)</i>	72 Responses – online (above 20 years) 68 (15 full and 53 short surveys) In-person: Mix of	Inspired living – Phase 2 findings and results – See Appendix B
12 th October 2023	Thematic Meeting on Green Infrastructure (2 hrs)	Core Group	
18 th October 2023	Exhibition and Workshop 1 at the Meadows Centre,	5 Participants	

	Arbury Road 4:00pm to 8.00pm		
2 nd November 2023	Thematic Meeting on Housing and Character (2 hrs)	Core Group	
Phase 3: Testing, exhibition, and presentation of Design Code 13 th November 2023 and 12 th February 2024			
15 th November 2023	Exhibition and Workshop 1 at the Meadows Centre, Arbury Road 4:00pm to 8.00pm	6 Participants	Testing the code
1 st December 2023	Online Meeting with Volunteer groups (2 hrs)	5 Participants	
Core Group Document Review and Feedback December 2025			
9 th and 17 th January 2024	The Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service (YES) team - 2 Design Workshops	67 pupils (year 5 and 6) of the Grove Primary School	See Report in Appendix E.
25 th January 2024	The Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel and the Cambridgeshire County Council Quality Panel	Design Code Project Team Presented the code to the panel	See GCDRP and CQP report in Appendix C
30 th January 2024	Disability Consultative Panel	Design Code Project Team Presented the code to the panel	See DCP report in Appendix D
13 th February 2024 and 11 th March 2024	Online consultation, using the Citizen Lab on the Draft Design Code Feb 2024	55 responses	See Inspired living – Phase 3 Analysis of community comments and Design code Response : Appendix F (summary) and Appendix G (Detail)

4. Public consultation on the draft Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton SPD

4.1 It is proposed that public consultation takes place from 9am on 6th January 2025 to 9am on the 17th February 2025 for a statutory minimum period of six weeks. The consultation approach reflects the requirements of national regulations and the adopted Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement (2024).

5. Consultees

5.1 The following stakeholders will be directly notified of the draft Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton SPD in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) via email, or by post where no email address is available. Also, where we have been advised by individuals that they wish to engage in the preparation of planning policy documents, they will be contacted.

5.2 The stakeholders who will be contacted are set out in the Council's adopted Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement (2024). In summary these stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- Specific Consultation Bodies
- Local Parish Councils and resident associations
- Local Members
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Greater Cambridge Partnership
- Adjacent Local Authorities
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Delivery partners, including landowners, developers, infrastructure providers, transport providers
- Community organisations
- Local businesses
- General Consultation Bodies: including bodies which represent the interests of different diversity groups including based upon age, race, religion, disability; and organisations representing other interests such as environment, sports, heritage.

5.3. In order to inform residents across the city, local community organisations and local businesses, the following methods of notification will be used:

- A public notice in the Cambridge Independent newspaper,
- A Cambridge City Council press releases,
- A door-to-door leaflet drop to residents and businesses in Arbury, Kings Hedges and parts of West Chesterton,

- Updates through the Councils webpages,
- Social media posts through Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn,
- Publicity of the consultation through the Cambridge City Council engagement platform: Citizen Lab,
- Email distribution list of those who have been previously involved in engaging on the design code, through the Citizens Lab platform,
- Distribution of leaflets and posters in public, community buildings in Arbury, Kings Hedges and parts of West Chesterton.

5.4. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning will also be holding both in-person and online events to maximise participation in the consultation. These events include

- An online webinar on Monday 20th January 2024 at 18.00 – 19.30.
- An in-person drop-in event on 14th January 2024 and 28th January 2025 from 16.00 to 19.00 at the Meadows Community Centre, 299 Arbury Rd, Arbury, Cambridge CB4 2JL.
- An exhibition panel will be displayed at the Arbury Community Centre during the period of the consultation from the 6th January 2025 to 9am on the 17th February 2025
- An engagement event with young people within a school in the area.

6. Representations received

6.1 Consultation on the draft Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of West Chesterton will take place from: 9am on 6th January 2025 to 9am on the 17th February 2025.

6.2 The draft SPD and supporting documents will be made available to view at the following locations:

- Online on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website at:
www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-andguidance/supplementary-planning-documents/
- Online using the Cambridge City Council online engagement platform:
<https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/cambridge-neighbourhoods-design-code-spd>
- Cambridge City Council's Customer Service Centre (Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BY) between 9am-5.15pm Wednesday to Friday
- Cambridge Central Library (7 Lion Yard Cambridge CB2 3QD).

6.3 Alternative formats of the consultation documents will be made available upon request (such as braille, translations into other languages and large print).

6.4 Comments can be made and submitted as part of the consultation:

- Online using the Cambridge City Council online engagement platform: <https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/cambridge-neighbourhoods-design-code-spd>
- By email at designcodepilot@greatercambridgeplanning.org
- By post: Built Environment, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, Cambridge City Council, PO Box 700, Cambridge, CB1 0JH
- Or by submitting a completed form by email or post.

6.5 Respondents can request to be notified of the adoption of the SPD.

6.6 The following contact email address, telephone number and address for the Planning Policy Team were included on all publicity materials allowing those experiencing difficulties accessing the documents online to seek assistance. Officers were able to facilitate alternative methods for viewing the documents and for comments to be submitted including via email or post.

- Email: designcodepilot@greatercambridgeplanning.org
- Telephone: 01954 712931
- Address: Built Environment Team, Cambridge City Council, PO Box 700, Cambridge, CB1 0JH

Appendix A - Analysis and Survey Results for Phase 1

Inspired Living: A Design Code to enhance design in Northern Cambridge Neighbourhoods

Phase 1 Understanding your neighbourhood and establishing a vision Survey Results v1 09/10/2023

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Executive summary

Introduction

Inspired Living is a design code pilot aimed at enhancing the standard of design in northern Cambridge including areas of Arbury, Kings Hedges and West Chesterton. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, working with Pollard Thomas Edwards architects are collaborating with local communities in three phases on this project. As part of phase 1, we have sought to better understand the neighbourhood by hearing views of the community through online survey, comments on an online map, culminating in a small drop in exhibition and workshop on 27th September 2023. The comments received from these interactions are being used to inform the next phases of our engagement and will directly inform the design code.

Below is the summary of the phase 1 online survey, where we received 116 submissions. 59 participants also made a total of 126 individual comments on the interactive area map which you can view [here](#). The online survey includes a broad mix of participants with a range of ages above 20 and incomes. We would like to engage further with young people and schools.

Summary of Results

The survey asked questions about how people got around, their views on local green spaces/play areas, the use of local shops and facilities, the things that they most liked about the area and what could be improved.

- **Getting around**

This theme included question on walking, cycling, mobility storage, public transport and the private vehicles and safety.

Cycling is very popular, with most people making trips by bike at least a few times a week. Bike ownership is very high in the area, with most households having 2-3 bikes. However, around half of the surveys said people did not feel safe cycling on local streets. There was a desire for better cycling infrastructure (cycle lanes, bike storage), improved junctions and street lighting.

Public transport use is low. The survey indicates people would be encouraged to use it more if it was more regular and convenient.

The code will need to provide for car parking, as most households have one car, with a minority having more than 1 car. Around 18% of respondents did not have a car.

- **Local Green spaces and play areas**

This theme included questions on playground and parks, gaps, underused spaces and neighbourhood character.

Access to green spaces, and the presence of trees and planting, is the most valued and widely shared characteristic of the area. However about 40% of respondents did

not use the parks and playgrounds. Local playgrounds are used but many people said there were problems with antisocial behaviour and poor design.

People felt that the landscape can be much better, with more tree planting, better play for all ages, better design and management of spaces, areas of focus, places for meeting, with enhancements to green spaces being the most popular suggestion for improvement.

- **Quality and Accessibility of Shops and community facilities**

This theme included questions on community facilities and neighbourhood character.

People value their local shops and facilities, with a large majority finding it easy to access the local shops. People generally find these met their everyday needs, but would like to see more facilities for young adults, a pharmacy and some more restaurants/cafes/pubs rather than takeaways, etc. However, they would like to see these facilities supported by improvements to shops as well as public realm.

- **Neighbourhood Character and buildings**

This theme included questions on what people liked about their neighbourhood and what they felt could be improved.

People valued green space, trees and planting and felt that the contributed most to the neighbourhood's character. They valued the accessibility to local shop, community facilities and school and valued a sense of community all contributing to the neighbourhood character. At the same time people felt that the green spaces and a sense of community could be strengthened.

The look and feel of the existing buildings were by a wide margin the least popular characteristic of the area. Improving the design of buildings was the close-second most popular survey suggestion after improving green spaces.

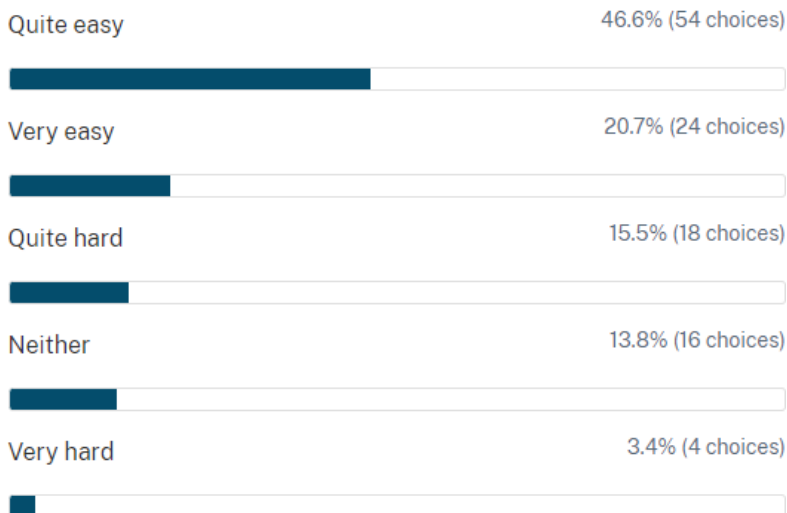
Detailed Survey Results



Walking and Cycling

How easy is it to walk and cycle in the area? For example, go to the local shops and schools?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



Do you feel safe cycling on local streets?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

Yes 53.4% (62 choices)



No 46.6% (54 choices)



What would encourage you to cycle and walk more in the local area? (Please tick all relevant answers)

Multiple choice - choose many - required

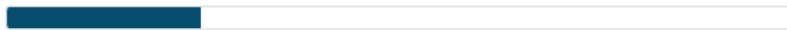
Better road infrastructure 30.5% (65 choices)



More cycle lanes 25.8% (55 choices)



Other (Please use text box at end of survey) 24.9% (53 choices)



More street lighting 18.8% (40 choices)



Residents loved the new cycle lane infrastructure recently delivered on Histon Road and Arbury Road and wanted more cycle paths in the area. They found the junction at Histon Road and Warwick Road complicated. However, they wished the continuation of cycleway on Arbury Road, recognising the constraints of a narrow road and pavement. They also felt that new cycling infrastructure needs to be properly thought through, citing the right turn from the new cycle lane on Arbury Road into Campkin Road as dangerous. It made it harder to pull out before the junction and sandwiched cyclists between motor traffic going north and south as they wait for a safe moment to turn.

They would like to see pavements and verges in a better state of repair with drop curbs, more even pavements in all areas, potholes repaired, making spaces more accessible and easier for disabled users in wheelchairs, mobility scooters, children on bikes, the elderly, pram and push chairs. They felt that the surfacing was particularly bad around Pulley Park, Aragon, Sackville Close areas, the route to Arbury Court, Northfield Avenue Road and Campkin Road near roundabouts.

Some residents highlighted the need to have more benches in the area including the route along Histon Road and from Roseford Road to the Co-op for people to rest when walking to shops.

Some residents felt the need to improve pedestrian safety particularly for children cycling on Arbury Road (Milton Road end) which was putting them into massive conflict with motorists due to the road narrowing and parked cars. One stated that Carlton Way is particularly unsafe during school drop offs whilst another was concerned about the safety for cars and cyclist at the junction between Mansel Way and Arbury Road.

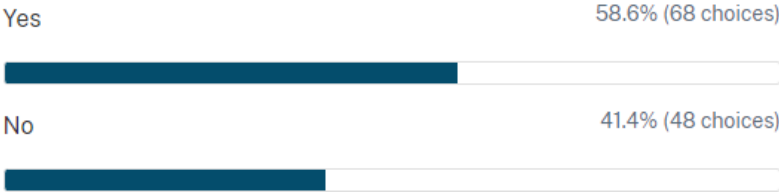
One resident commented that walking along the street in parts of Kings Hedges can feel isolating because pedestrians are surrounded by high fences needed for residents to have privacy in their back gardens.



Playgrounds and Parks

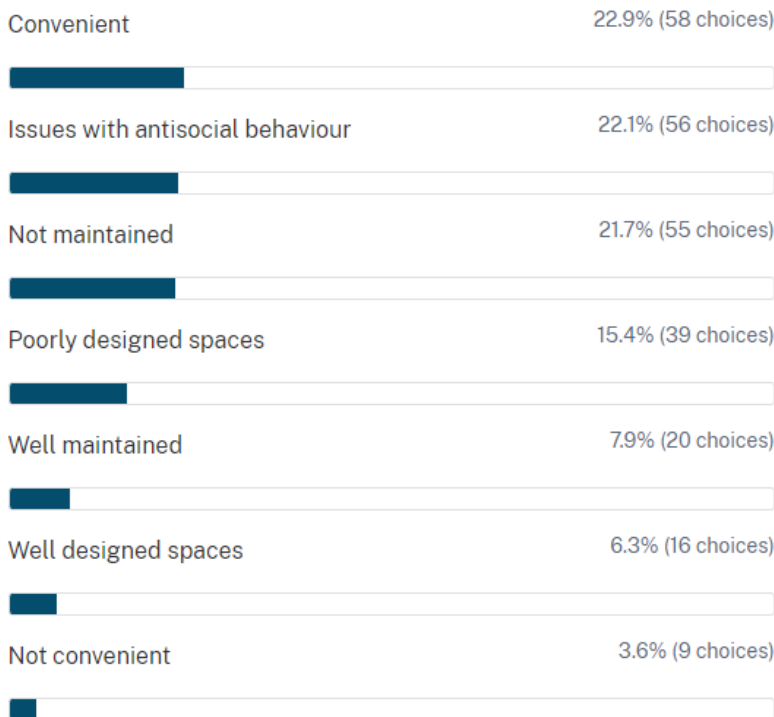
Do you use the playgrounds and parks?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



What you think of the existing playgrounds and parks? (Please tick all relevant answers)

Multiple choice - choose many - required



Residents felt that parks need to be better maintained as the grass is untidy, hard to walk through when it rains, hiding potential hazards such as dog poo and needles which you get in this area. Some residents felt that they didn't feel safe to let their toddlers walk around. Bins are constantly overflowing and not emptied leading to litter blowing around everywhere, which toddlers tend to play with, which is unsafe. The messy grass beds could become nice wildflower verges like other councils have done.

They felt that some of the play areas are rather run down or lack new equipment. and that they should have toilets in all of them. One commented that their favourite park is the infant area at Nuns way but some of its features like the little bridge are yet to be replaced.

Some residents mentioned that the local provision in parks trends too far towards providing 'Type C' spaces, at the expense of 'Type A' spaces. They feel that smaller, high quality play facilities offer parents the opportunity to meet and get to know other parents and children within their immediate local area, building a stronger sense of community.

They felt that there is a greater emphasis on providing 'modern' versions of play equipment such as tilted roundabouts, 'conceptual' climbing frames, monkey bars, 4-way see saws etc. that are aimed mainly for children of school age and above. They would like to see classic items such as slides, swings, roundabouts, see-saws, which can be used by all children including toddlers, pre-schoolers but also by all age groups.

Residents cited the Nuns Way pavilion, which is council owned but run by Northern Cambridge Community Partnership as a good example of venues run by local people in theory. However, they needed funding, capacity and checks and balances from the council to ensure that they are maintained, open regularly and serving the need of the wider community. It also needs investment for its up-keep.

There were suggestions to:

- improve Nuns way skatepark - demolish the old metal one and build a fit for purpose concrete mini ramp - 3 to 4 foot high, so more suitable for a range of abilities.
- replace dog poo bins and add more litter bins.
- improve the footpath/cycle path down the side of the Pulley play area park, on King's Hedges recreation ground.
- provide more seating and benches.
- improve playgrounds for kids at St Albans recreation grounds, Kings Hedges and Orchard Park.



Car Parking

Do you have a car or van?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

Yes, 1 vehicle 67.2% (78 choices)



No 18.1% (21 choices)



Yes, 2 12.1% (14 choices)



Yes, 3 or more 2.6% (3 choices)



Do you feel safe parking your car where you live?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

Yes 76.7% (89 choices)



No 23.3% (27 choices)



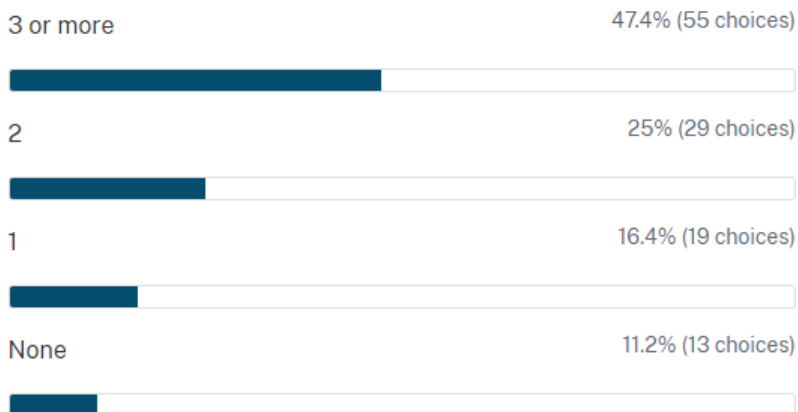
Residents felt that parking around Arbury School is anti-social and very dangerous at drop off and pick up time. They felt that there are significant problems locally, with insufficient convenient parking provision, leading to inconsiderate parking on grassed areas, turning areas, opposite other vehicles etc. On-street parking needs dedicated spots otherwise it can lead to a parking maze with dangerous and poor visibility.



Cycle Use and Storage

How many bicycles does your household have?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



Do you have an e-bike or e-scooter?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



How often are the bikes/e-bikes/scooter's used in your household?

Multiple choice-choose one-required

Daily 45.7% (53 choices)



Few times a week 21.6% (25 choices)



Never 19% (22 choices)



7.8% (9 choices)



Rarely

Few times a month 6% (7 choices)



Do you have access to a secure bike store, and does it feel safe to leave your bike there?

Multiple choice-choose one -required

Yes, safe 62.1% (72 choices)



No 27.6% (32 choices)



Yes, not safe

10.3% (12 choices)

Would more convenient bike storage encourage you to cycle more?

Multiple choice-choose one -required

No 43.1% [50 choices]

[Redacted]

Yes

36.2% (42 choices)

[Redacted]

Maybe

20.7% (24 choices)

[Redacted]

Residents felt that the area needed more secure bike racks, Sheffield bars for bikes (rather than the horrible wheel twisters that get installed as a cheap option in some places).

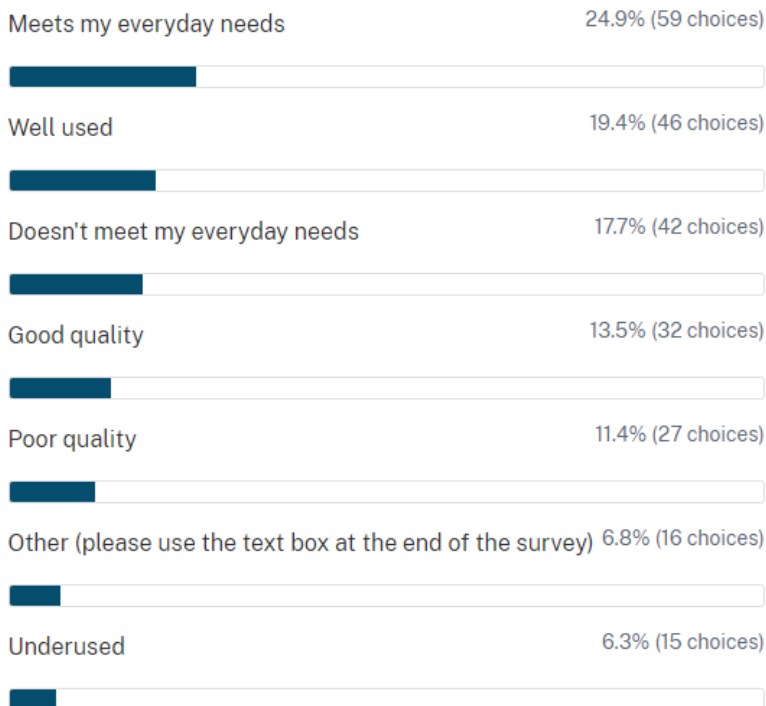
There was a suggestion that perhaps a scheme to provide subsidised bike storage options for households could be introduced as the cost of private purchase for these is high. However, if the council were to buy in bulk, then a discount could be negotiated with suppliers.



Community Facilities

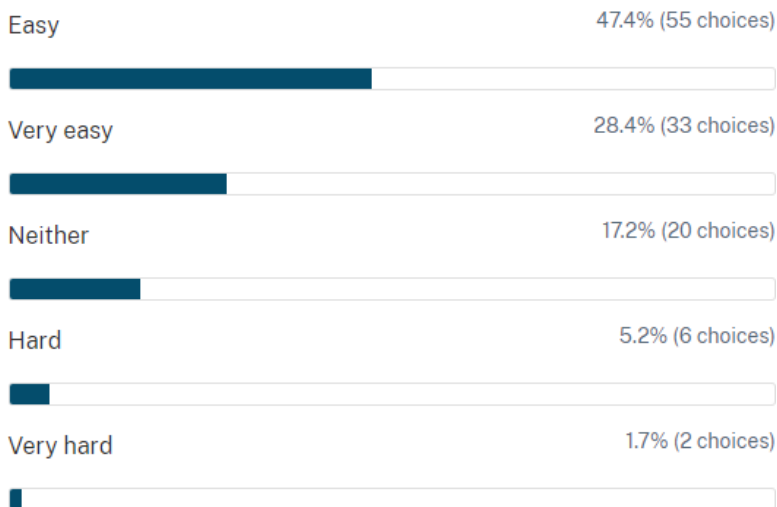
In general, what do you think about the local facilities you use? For example, shops, restaurants, schools, community hubs

Multiple choice - choose many - required



How easy is it to access local facilities?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



Residents felt that the area lacked restaurants, cafes, music venues, pubs, youth clubs, community hub, sports halls, pharmacies, post offices, a decent sized supermarket, a well-maintained football pitch and dentists whilst there were too many takeaways. They would like to see facilities that cater for older children and young adults such as a coffee bar with pool, darts, and gaming. Residents are pleased with Chesterton School and sports centre and the Meadows and Akeman Street Community Centres for providing a good mix of uses including a café. They would like to see the Carlton Arms staying as a working pub.

They felt that Arbury community centre is poorly maintained. They felt Arbury Court has improved recently for shopping with one mentioning that they loved the art on the side of Arbury Court. Some areas such as Arbury Court are underused, and they suggest providing a café and shelter to be more like a community hub. They suggested more benches for elderly people to rest in between shopping. Residents wrote that Arbury court is lively on weekdays but there is less activity at weekends and is less welcoming. They felt that a regular programme of community events in Arbury Court would benefit everyone.

Residents would like to see shops and services in Arbury court open throughout the day. They would like there to be afternoon community groups in Arbury / Kings Hedges and community a hub to meet and be warm in the winter. They felt that parking can be difficult at the Arbury Community centre as it is always full.



Gaps and underused spaces

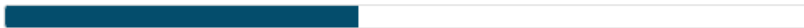
Are there underused spaces in your neighbourhood which you think could be put to better use?

Multiple choice - choose one - required

Yes (Please use text box at the end of the survey to tell us what they could be used for) 56% (65 choices)



No 44% (51 choices)



Residents felt that there are neglected gaps and underused spaces, particularly within Kings Hedges, which provide a green buffer, could potentially be made more friendly and welcoming with flowers, benches and bins that are regularly emptied to decrease littering. They should not automatically be considered for alternative use. A programme should be implemented to improve ill planned open spaces which could contribute to those protected within the ward.

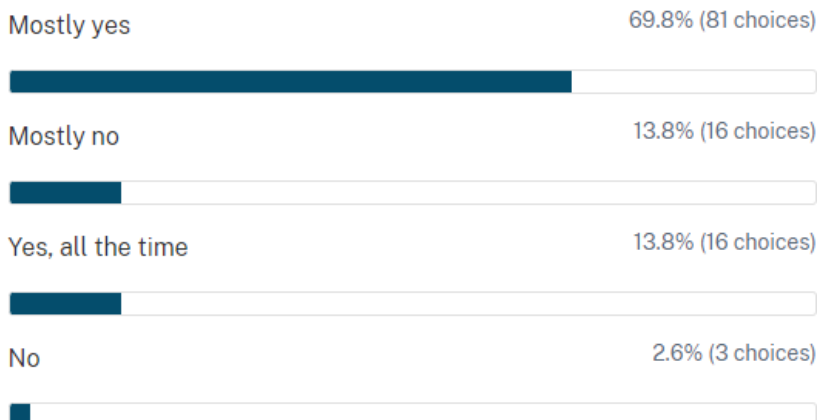
They liked the green spaces running through Kings Hedges but felt that there are few facilities / features within them that would encourage community use such as more benches, meeting spaces. They suggested subsidised Council marquee hire to help facilitate street / neighbourhood celebrations, provision of greater bike parking facilities to help people get around in a low carbon way and the provision of community cooking areas outside - brick BBQs in safe areas.



Safety

Do you feel safe getting walking around your neighbourhood?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



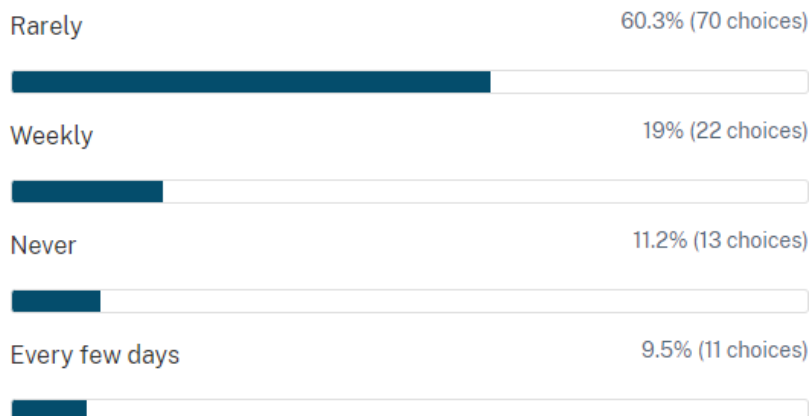
Residents expressed some safety concerns about walking at night in the dark, particularly for lone women as there are dimly lit, isolated pathways in parts of Kings Hedges and Arbury. Some residents felt that they have no choice but to walk around late at night and sometimes streetlights do not work. They felt that there needs to be better lighting on footpaths to help teen girls and women feel safe and help the visually impaired. They felt some streets such as Stretten Avenue are unsafe because of the sheer volume of cars parked on them. Resident pedestrians felt less safe on footpaths because of their use by cyclists, e-bikes and e-scooters.



Public Transport

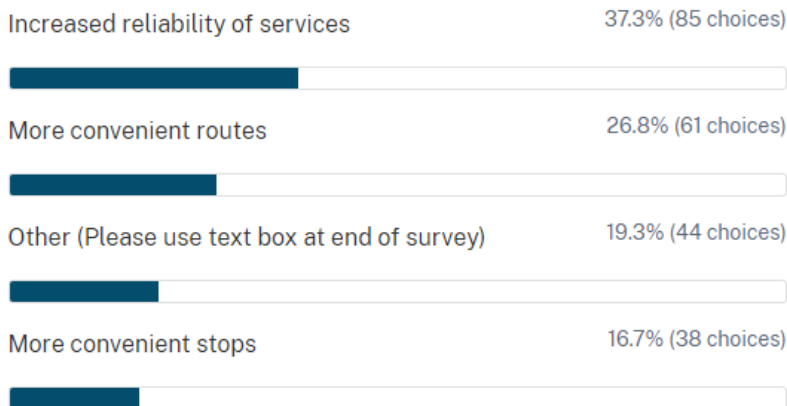
How often do you use public transport (trains and/or buses)?

Multiple choice - choose one - required



What would encourage you to use public transport more?

Multiple choice - choose many - required



Residents felt that bus services are expensive, subject to last minute cancellations, slow, dirty, lack sufficient ventilation and that there is not enough space on buses for wheelchairs and buggies. They would like to see smaller buses doing different journeys in the area to cater for more people. They felt some bus routes are quite inconvenient with little service to Cambridge north train station and for buses into Cambridge which often involves a long walk at one end or the other.

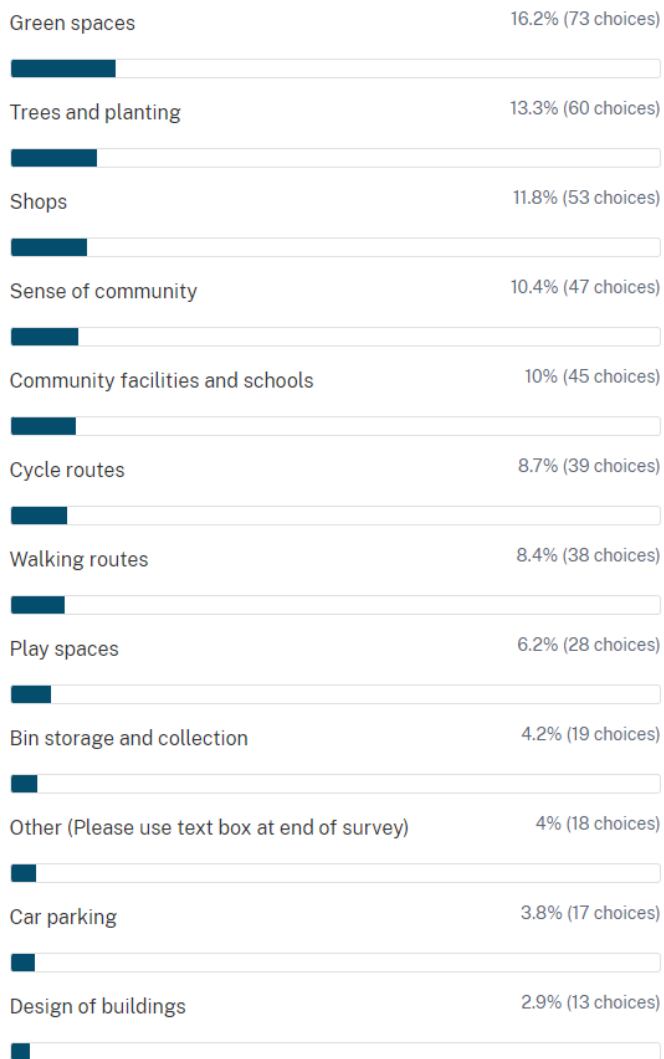
Residents would like to see bus stops with shelter, seating and up-to-date timetables. They would like to see Histon Road bus stops reinstated and buses always stopping at the new floating bus stops (at Brownlow Road, Carisbrooke Road) to pick up residents. Residents felt frustrated with the 15-20 minute break in service that buses regularly take at the intersection of Campkin Road and Arbury Road because there often isn't another alternative bus available that residents can board instead.



Neighbourhood Character

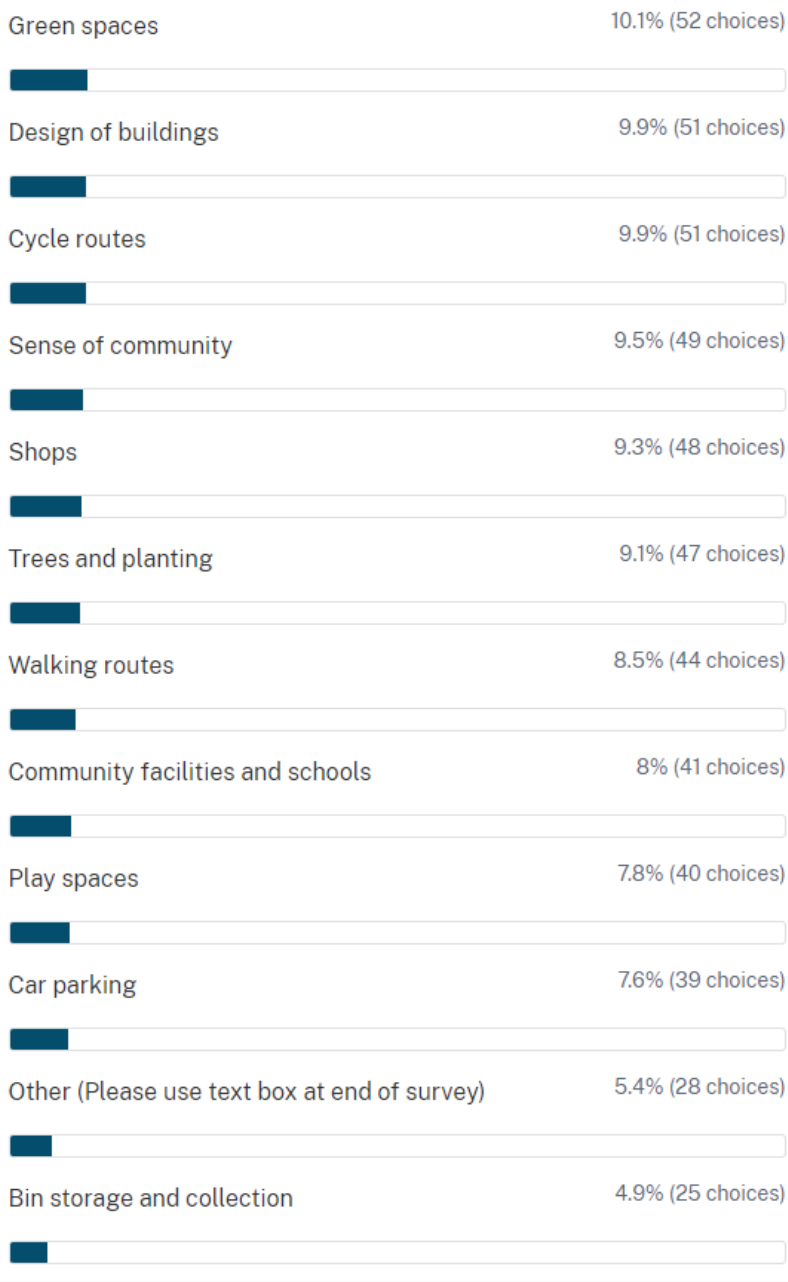
What do you like about your neighbourhood?

Multiple choice - choose many - required



Are there things in the neighbourhood that could be improved?

Multiple choice - choose many - required



Residents would like to see better maintenance of benches, fences, the grass being cut regularly on green spaces, removal of weeds from the pavements, repair of uneven pavements, cleaner streets, less litter and repairs to King's Hedges splash pad and climbing frame, and the provision of more dropped kerbs for wheelchair users. They felt that playgrounds are poorly designed and not accessible for children with dwarfism.

Residents raised concern about drug use; illegal camping on public spaces; cycle theft; fly tipping; vandalised communal property; and some occurrences of anti-social behaviour at Arbury Court and Tesco's on Campkin Road.

Residents would like to see better use of existing spaces for many more trees and wildflower planting, long grass/wildflower verges/areas, hedging, spring bulbs as well as community growing spaces/allotments. They would like the provision of some raised beds/boxes along some roads/paths for sensory planting. Residents would like there to be more permanent public artworks installed to reinforce Cambridge as a prime cultural and artistic location.

Appendix B - Analysis and Survey Results for Phase 2

Inspired Living: A Design Code to enhance design in Northern Cambridge Neighbourhoods

Phase 2: Articulating the Vision and Emerging Principles of the Design Code Survey Results v1 13/11/2023



Inspired living Design Code in-person Workshop 2:18 October 2023, Meadows Community Centre

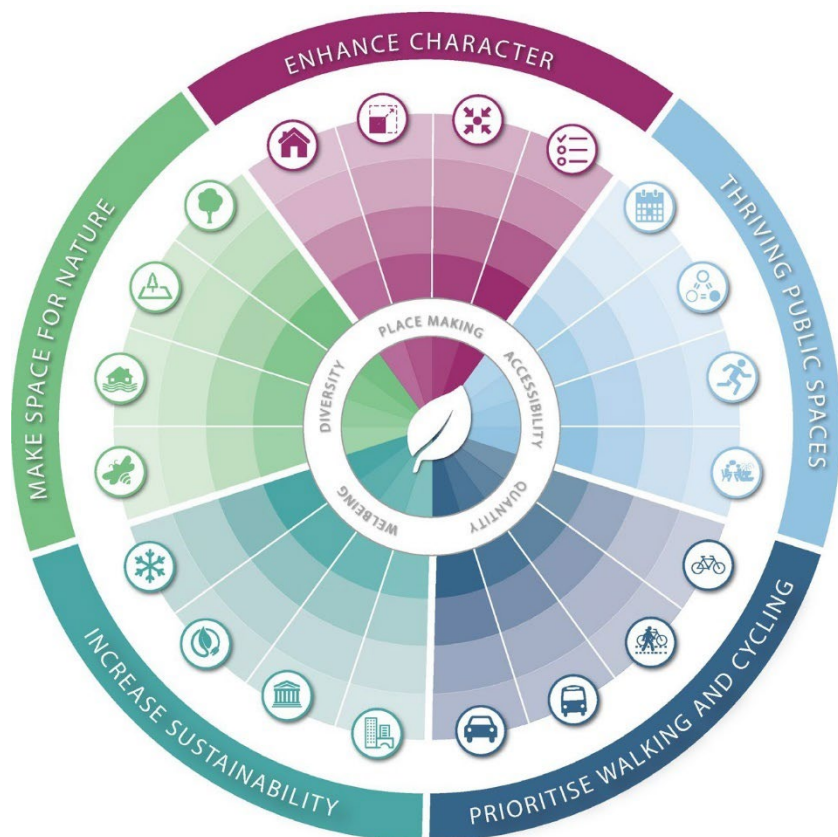
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Executive Summary

Introduction

Inspired Living is a design code pilot aimed at enhancing the standard of design in northern Cambridge, including areas of Arbury, King's Hedges and West Chesterton. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, working with Pollard Thomas Edwards architects, are collaborating with local communities in three phases on this project. As part of phase 1, we have sought to better understand the neighbourhood by hearing views of the community using our [online survey](#) and [interactive map](#), culminating with the first workshop at Meadows Community Centre on 27 September 2023. The results of the survey carried in phase 1 can be found [here](#), where we received 116 online submissions. 59 participants also made a total of 126 individual comments on the interactive area map.



As part of phase 2, and using the communities' priorities, feedback and our findings from phase 1, we have developed the design code based on five clear principles that start to articulate the vision and emerging

principles for the area and help structure the design code. They have been chosen to address the issues of the area, priorities of the community, to be memorable and have a clear focus. Each principle proposes a range of aspects for which technical design guidance would be developed, showing how they can work together successfully to deliver attractive places.

As we begin to draft the design code, we sought to ask the community's views on the five principles using our [phase 2 online survey](#), supplemented by in-person surveys in the local area including the Community Centres, churches, Arbury Local Centre, together with collaborating with residents on a second workshop at the Meadows Community Centre on 18 October 2023.

Below is a summary of the phase 2 online and in-person survey results. We received a total of 140 submissions: 72 online surveys, 68 in-person surveys (15 full surveys and 53 short surveys). The short in-person survey included the first two questions of the full (online) survey, focusing on the support for the five principles. The online survey includes a broad mix of participants with a range of ages (above 20) and incomes. The in-person surveys in community centres and churches were focused on families, particularly women, mothers with children and minority ethnic groups. We would like to engage

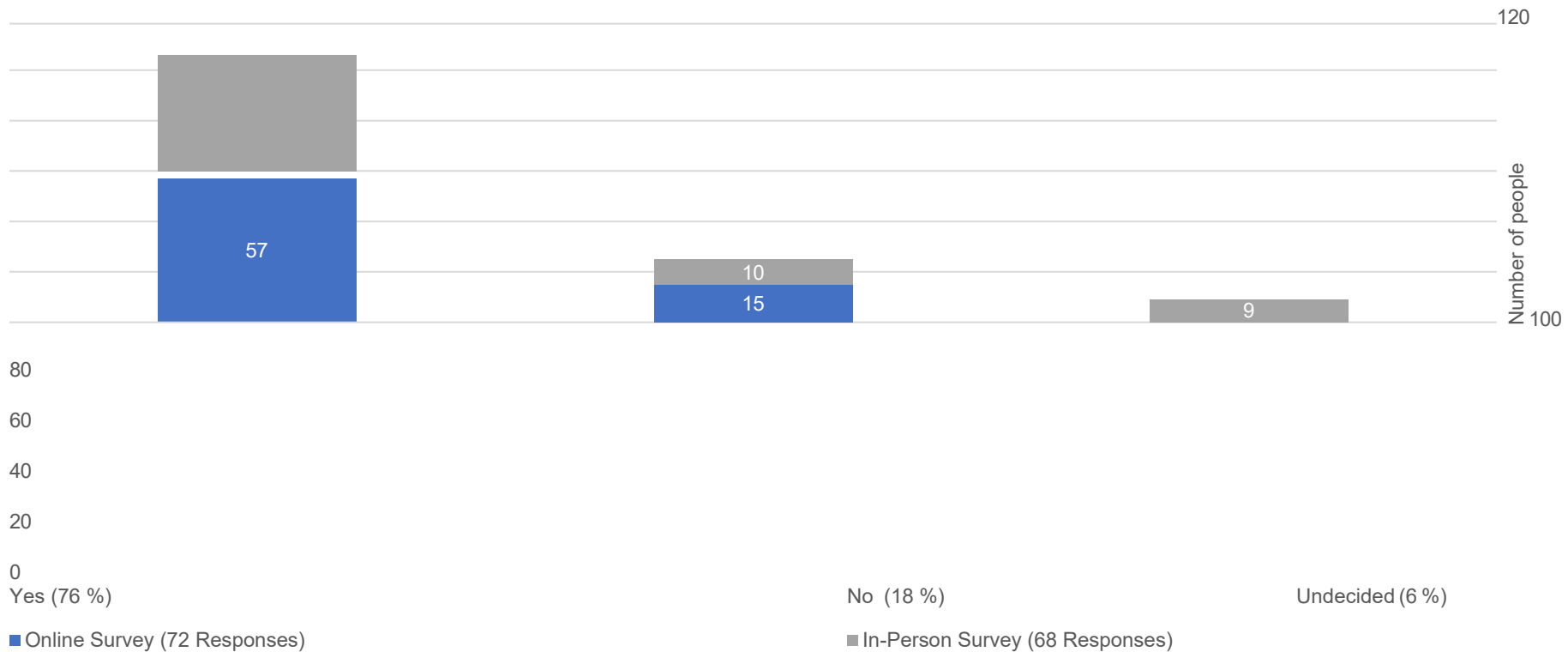
Figure 1. The Five Principles of the Design

further with young people and schools. The comments received from these interactions are being used to directly inform the design code and the next phases of our engagement.

Summary of the Results

The first part of the survey asked whether there was support for the five principles proposed and whether people felt that they had the potential to enhance the design of the neighbourhood. The second part of the survey focused on the detail aspects of each of the five principles in order to understand which aspect would make the biggest difference to the area.

Support for the five principles proposed for the Design Code



- **Support for the five principles proposed**

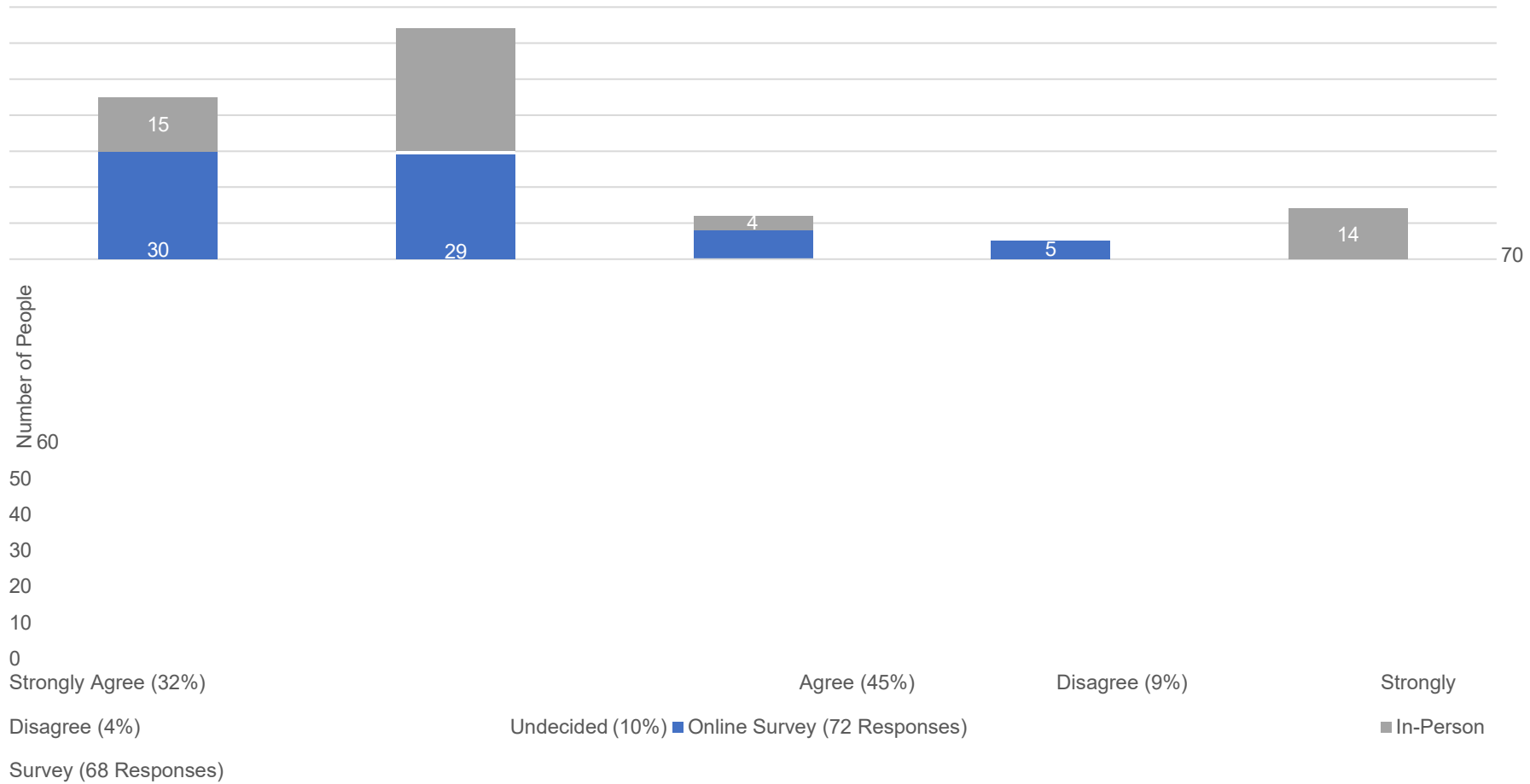
There was an overwhelming support for the five principles with 76 percent of online and in-person respondents supporting the principles proposed that helped address and prioritise the issues they felt were most important in phase 1. 18 percent did not support

the principles whilst 6 percent (mainly in-person survey respondents) were undecided.

- **Potential for the five principles proposed to enhance design of the neighbourhood**

77 percent of online and in-person respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that the five principles proposed had the potential to help enhance the design of the neighbourhood. 9 percent disagreed and 4 percent strongly disagreed with the five principles. 10 percent (mainly in-person respondents) were undecided.

Potential for the five principles proposed to enhance the Neighbourhoods



The second part of the survey captures the communities top five priorities/aspects within each principle that will make the biggest difference and are listed as follows:

Principle 1- Making space for nature

- Managing existing trees and planting more
- Improving access and safety of green spaces
- Retaining green roadside verges
- Promoting sustainable urban drainage – storing and absorbing rainwater run-off

- Encouraging hedgerows/planting in appropriate locations

Principle 2- Prioritise walking and cycling

- Segregated footways and cycle paths
- Prioritising key pedestrian and cycle routes that are legible, safe and connect homes to key destinations.
- Cycle locking stands near shops
- Routes with lighting and visibility from surrounding homes
- More better crossing points and speed reduction near shops and schools

Principle 3- Thriving public spaces

- Comfortable spaces to sit outside (e.g. cafes and outdoor activities)
- Spaces for older children and teenagers
- Spaces and facilities that are convenient and easy to get to
- Areas to play near family homes for younger children
- More local involvement (e.g. community gardening/orchards)

Principle 4- Enhance character:

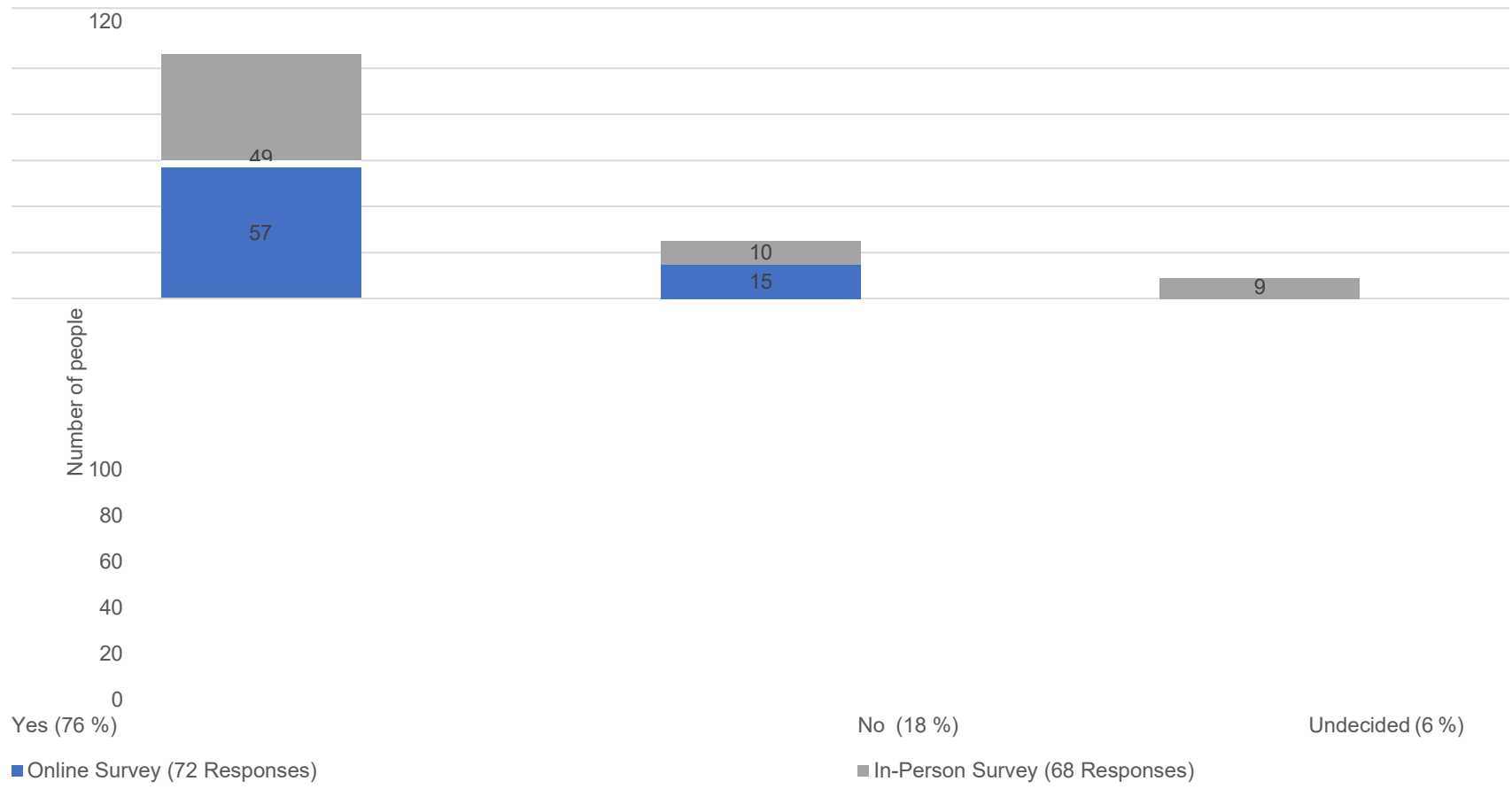
- Taking opportunities to improve quality of building design
- Maintaining a mix of homes for different generations, including homes for older people
- Opportunities for repair/reuse/recycle cafes and other facilities lacking in the area
- Improve natural surveillance by facing entrances and windows onto streets and green spaces
- Maintaining or enhancing character that is formed by buildings set within landscape

Principle 5- Increase sustainability

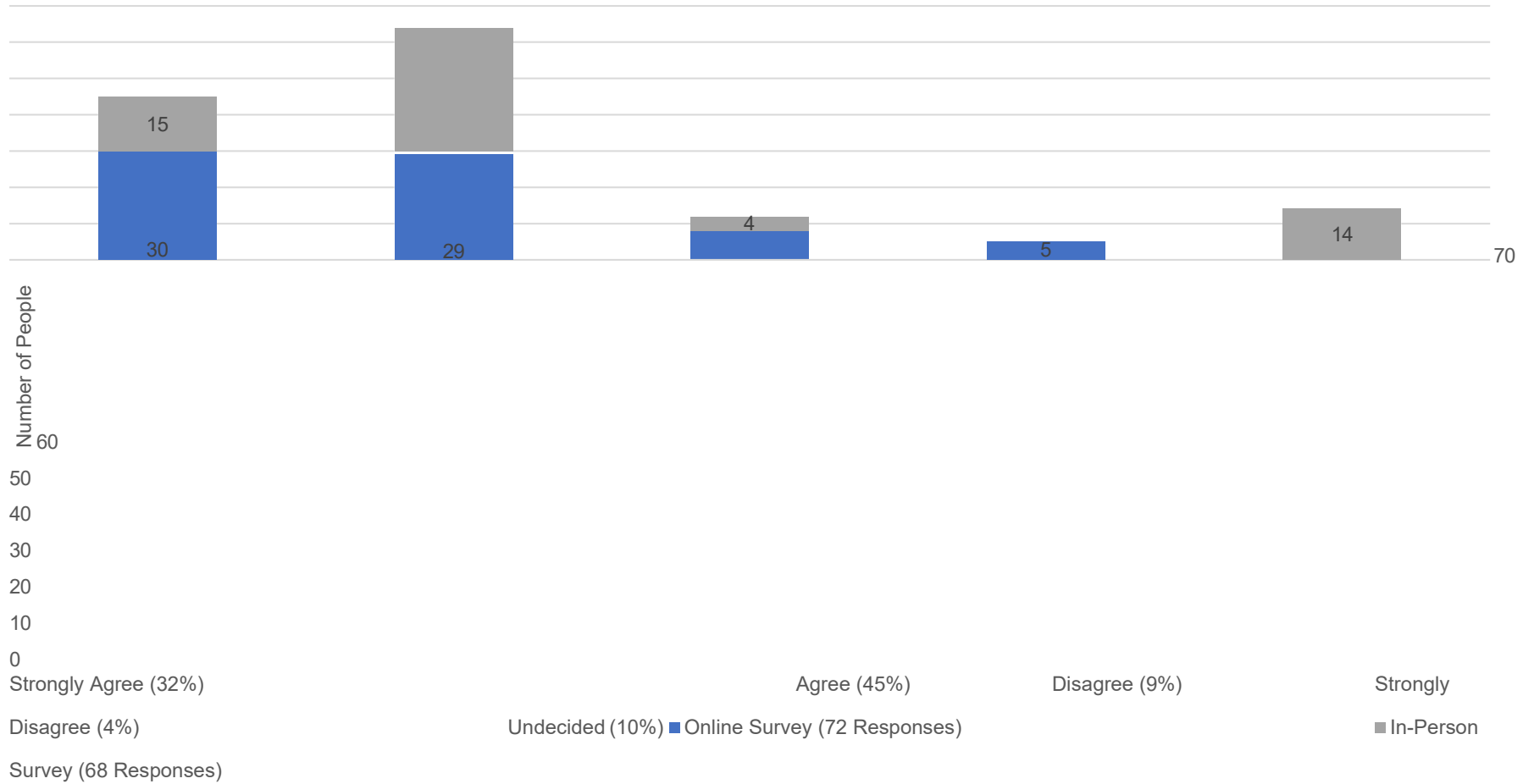
- Locating solar/photovoltaic panels
- Considerations on external insulation and cladding
- Promoting green planted roofs for new buildings
- Natural ventilation and 'dual aspect' homes
- Solar shading and overheating

Detailed Survey Results

Support for the five principles proposed for the Design Code



Potential for the five principles proposed to enhance the design of the neighbourhood



The citizens' responses to the 'Phase 2: Articulating the vision and emerging principles of the design code' project reveal a variety of responses and suggestions. A recurring theme is the need for sustainable development, with several respondents emphasising the importance of environmental considerations in urban planning.

Many citizens also expressed the need for continued maintenance and improvement of public spaces, roads, and pavements. The importance of aesthetics and cleanliness in public spaces was also highlighted.

Accessibility and inclusivity were other key themes. Several respondents stressed the need to consider the needs of disabled people, the elderly, and those who rely on mobility scooters.

The principle of prioritising walking and cycling was generally supported, but some respondents expressed concerns about the potential negative impact on motorists. Several respondents also highlighted the need for effective public transport systems.

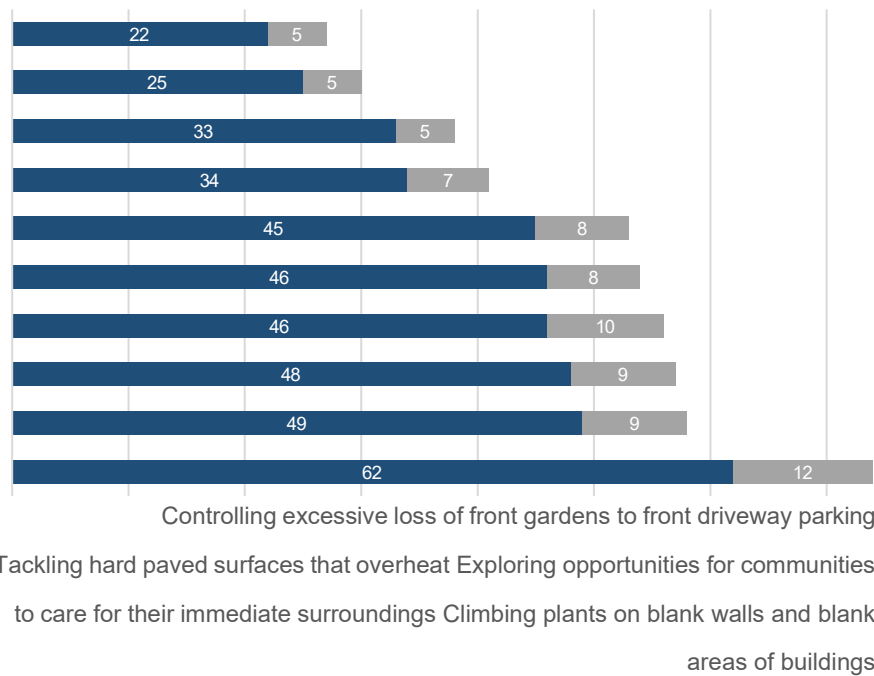
The need for community involvement in planning and development was also emphasised. Finally, some respondents expressed scepticism about the feasibility of the proposed principles, citing past experiences of unfulfilled promises.

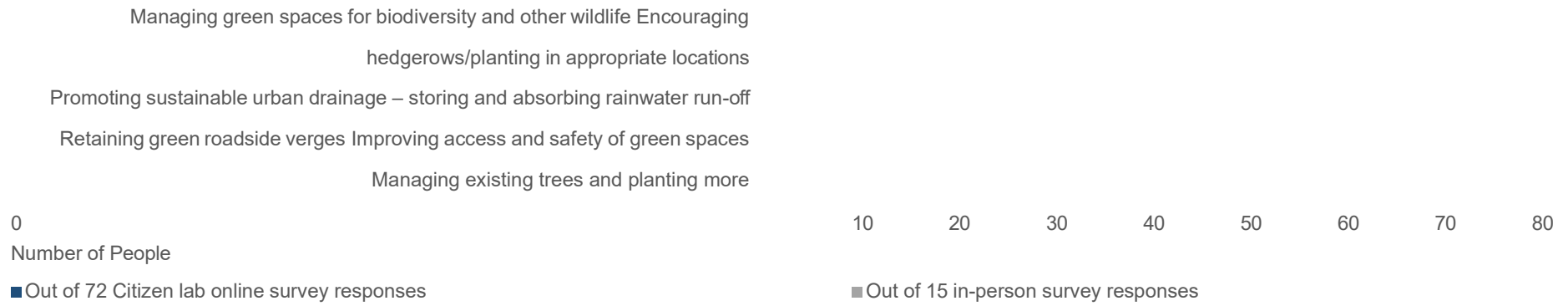


Principle 1 - Make space for nature

The code will provide design guidance for access to and conserving green space, tree planting, hedge planting, and sustainable urban drainage to absorb rainwater within natural planted areas.

Principle 1 - Make Space for Nature: Aspects that will make the biggest difference





The citizens' responses on this principle reveal a strong emphasis on biodiversity, green spaces, and environmental sustainability. A recurring theme is the need for more trees and greenery, with several respondents suggesting the planting of fruit trees, trees planted specifically for providing shade in the summer and the creation of more green spaces, micro parks on spare land pockets and mini woodland areas at parks. The idea of planting trees along roads to improve air quality and provide natural cooling was proposed and more planting and biodiversity at Nuns Way Park and Pulley Park was suggested.

The importance of maintaining biodiversity was highlighted, with suggestions for leaving tree stumps as habitats for wildlife, promoting urban wildlife, and creating hedgehog highways. However, some respondents expressed concern about the balance between biodiversity and aesthetics, arguing that some green spaces are currently unattractive and poorly maintained.

Accessibility was another key issue, with calls for inclusive disabled access and the maintenance of clear paths and pavements. Some respondents suggested that untidy green spaces can encourage littering and fly-tipping and called for these areas to be kept neat.

The idea of allotments and food growing was mentioned by several respondents, as was the need for play areas. Other suggestions included limiting the use of pesticides; ensuring green waste collection; hedgehog highways; planting pollinator public gardens, grass grid permeable parking spaces to enable drainage and avoid flooding; water storage (e.g. near or under playing fields and parkland with solar/wind powered sprinkler or other watering systems) for public green spaces; and providing wooden seating in public spaces.

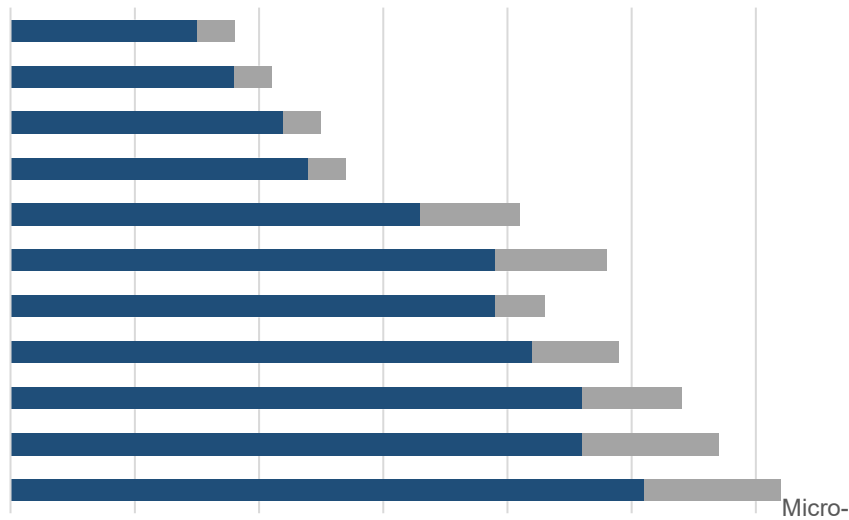


Image Credit: Tim Crocker

Principle 2 - Prioritise walking and cycling

The code will promote creating a safe joined-up network for walking and cycling that can be combined with green space and nature.

Principle 2 - Prioritise Walking and Cycling: Aspects that will make the biggest difference



Micro-mobility hubs (e.g. charging and locking stands for e-bikes and e-scooters)
 Opportunity for access to a car club (for when you do need a car)
 Downgrading or re-purposing road/parking infrastructure
 Incorporating/retrofitting convenient and

accessible home cycle storage
 Improving access to bus stops and improved shelter designs
 More better crossing points and speed reductions near shops and schools
 Speed reduction measures on residential streets
 Routes with lighting and visibility from surrounding homes
 Cycle locking stands near shops
 Prioritising key pedestrian and cycle routes that are legible, safe and connect...
 Segregated footways and cycle paths

15

3

0

Number of People ■ Out of 72 Citizen lab online survey responses

10

20

30

40

50

60

70

■ Out of 15 in-person survey responses

The majority of the responses from the citizens on this principle revolve around the need for better cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. Many respondents emphasised the importance of creating walking and cycling routes that are well-connected, safe, and prioritised over car traffic.

There were also concerns about the management of e-scooters and the need for their proper use and storage. Some respondents suggested the need for better lighting on pavements and cycle routes, especially in darker areas, barriers on pavements are removed, the provision of more cut throughs and signposting, separate paths for cycles/walking and more pedestrian crossings.

A significant number of respondents expressed concerns about the potential reduction of parking and the perceived anti-car sentiment. They argued that cars are still necessary for many people and that reducing parking could create further problems.

There were also calls for better maintenance of existing infrastructure, such as fixing potholes on pathways, gritting and provision of grit boxes in winter and improving the quality of cycle paths.

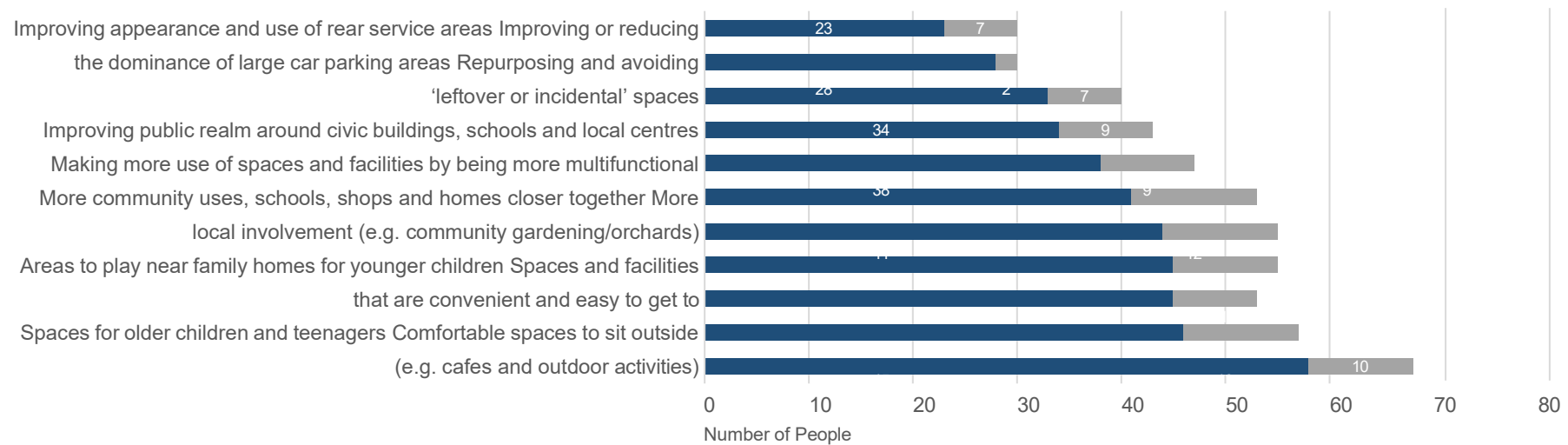
Finally, some respondents highlighted the need for measures to reduce bike theft, the provision of more cycle and mobility vehicle locking storage facilities and charging points and the need for better public transport information. There was a suggestion for making walking more interesting for children and adults: with coloured lines and stepping stones.



Principle 3 - Thriving public spaces

The code will provide guidance for well-integrated public spaces and local community facilities next to homes that can help to support businesses and bring people together.

Principle 3- Thriving Public Spaces: Aspects that would make the biggest difference



■ Out of 72 Citizen lab online survey responses

■ Out of 15 in-person survey responses

Citizens have proposed a variety of ideas and suggestions on this principle. A recurring theme is the need for more inclusive and diverse spaces. Several respondents highlighted the need for spaces that cater to different demographics, including older children, teenagers, and people without children.

The importance of preserving and enhancing natural spaces was also frequently mentioned. Some citizens suggested that certain areas should be left "unpurposed" and wild for biodiversity and water runoff, while others emphasised the need to protect existing habitats. The idea of incorporating biodiversity into every decision was also proposed.

Several respondents expressed the need for additional local amenities and services, such as shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants, outdoor gyms as well as community centres. The need for more local involvement in decision-making and management of resources was also highlighted.

Safety and antisocial behaviour were also raised as issues, with suggestions for better enforcement against antisocial behaviour and prompt attention to derelict sites. The need for comfortable and accessible seating was also mentioned.

In terms of specific amenities, suggestions included the inclusion of churches and religious centres in civic spaces; the provision of allotments, equipment (tool libraries), toilets and water fountain; more lighting, flowers, bushes and dog litter bin on streets; and the addition of info/map boards and recycling bins at key locations.

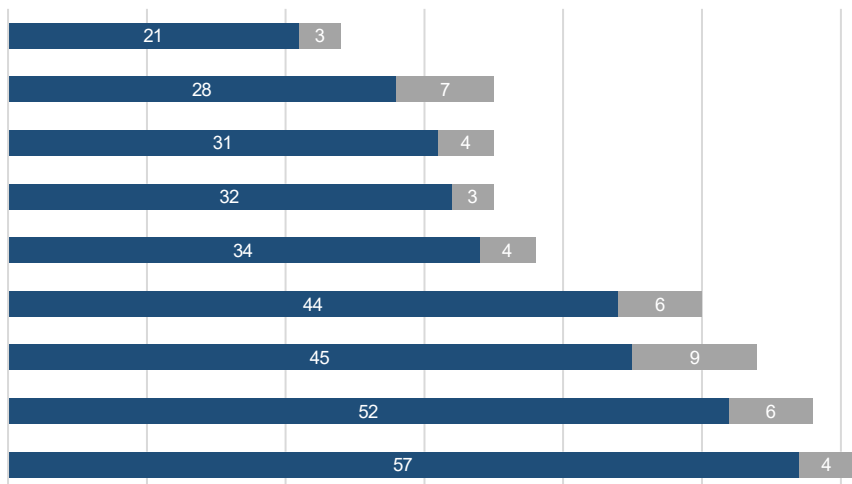
The need for cultural events, shared working spaces and after school activities was also mentioned. More things to do in public spaces, including physical activities, was suggested. The need for St Albans Way recreation ground needs to have more play equipment and renewing the Kings Hedges Pulley Park to meet the different age group's needs was also mentioned.



Principle 4 – Enhance character

The code will promote strengthening the green and leafy character of the area, maintaining gentle scale, and providing a mix of homes suitable for different generations.

Principle 4 -Enhance Character: Aspects that would make the biggest difference



Memorable building designs and building groups in key destinations

Designing safeguards in areas of change (front garden, boundary treatments, amenity provision etc.)

Materials and finishes that allow for the creation of distinctive buildings

Promoting gentle changes to height, providing varied rooflines in keeping with surrounding townscape

Maintaining or enhancing character that is formed by buildings set within landscape

Improve natural surveillance by facing entrances and windows onto streets and green spaces

Opportunities for repair/reuse/recycle cafes and other facilities lacking in the area

Maintaining a mix of homes for different generations, including homes for older people

Taking opportunities to improve quality of building design

0

Number of People

10

20

30

40

50

60

70

■ Out of 72 Citizen lab online survey responses

■ Out of 15 in-person survey responses

The citizens' responses reveal a few key trends.

Firstly, there is a strong sentiment against the construction of buildings that are "distinctive and memorable" for the wrong reasons. Many respondents expressed concern about the recent trend of constructing modern buildings that do not fit with their surroundings and are considered low quality and not user-friendly. They argue that buildings should be compatible in terms of design and materials rather than being distinctive. There was also a concern about tall buildings that are domineering.

Secondly, there is a call for more green spaces and communal areas. Respondents suggested that these areas should be equipped with enough seats for parents to watch their children or for elderly people to rest. They also proposed the provision of more shared communal indoor and outdoor spaces, such as guest accommodation, allotments, gardens, pubs, and community centres.

Thirdly, there is a desire for more mixed-density buildings with different purposes. However, there is also a concern about the increase in housing density, with some respondents arguing that this leads to congestion and a decrease in green spaces. For reasons of safety, a closer integration of homes, businesses, cafes and public spaces that attract activities and keeps the area busy rather than just residential only areas were suggested.

Lastly, there is a call for more citizen involvement in the approval of building designs. Some respondents suggested that the people who live in the areas should be the ones to define "character".

In terms of energy usage and sustainability, some respondents suggested the need for design safeguards to improve energy usage and to ensure that air source heat pumps do not annoy neighbours. There were also calls for energy retrofitting.

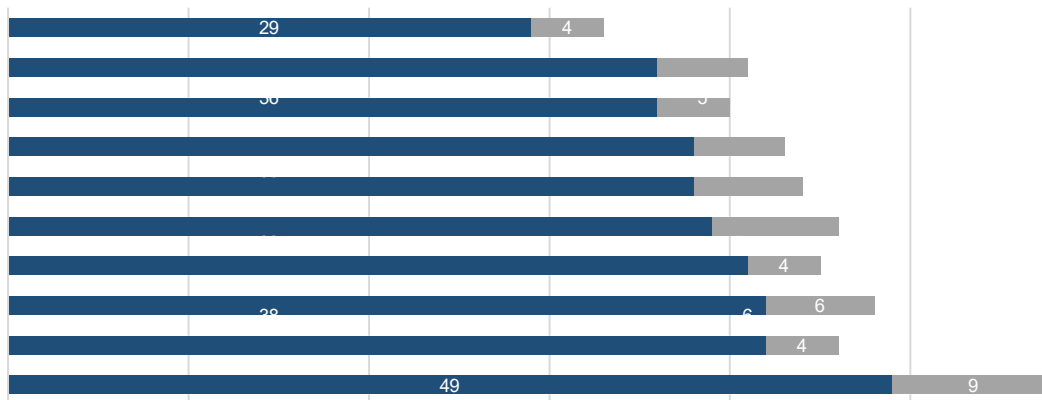
Overall, the responses indicate a desire for more citizen involvement in the design process, a focus on compatibility with surroundings rather than distinctiveness, the provision of more green and communal spaces, better lit and better maintained streets lined with trees, more small shops in Arbury / Kings Hedges and a community café and a consideration of energy usage and sustainability in building designs.



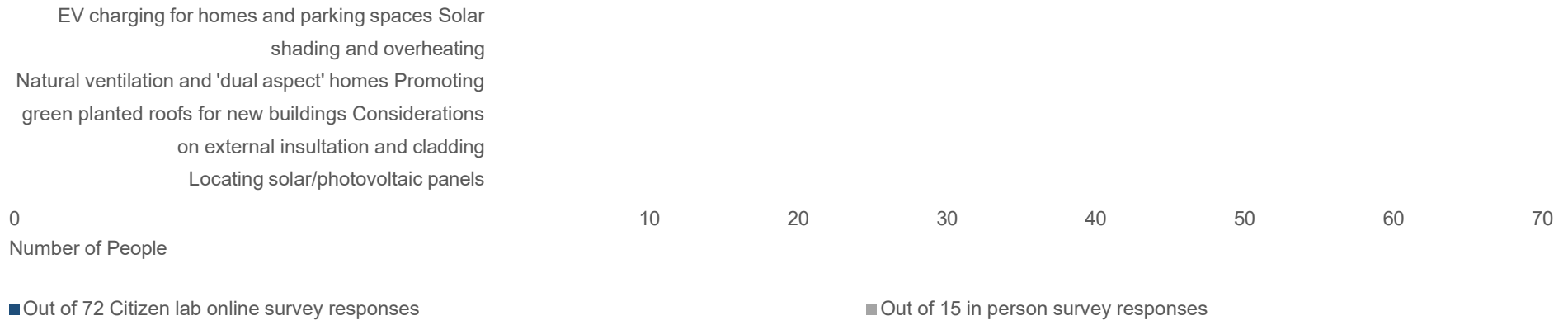
Principle 5 – Increase sustainability

The code will promote access to public transport and provide sustainability guidance for new buildings, as well as the improvement of existing ones.

Principle 5- Increase Sustainability: Aspects that will make the biggest difference



Embodied energy in material choices
 Locating air source heat pumps
 Passivhaus principles
 Useful links to advice for homeowners



The responses from the citizens on principle 5 reveal a strong interest in sustainable energy solutions. The most frequently mentioned ideas revolve around the use of heat pumps, particularly ground source heat pumps and air source heat pumps and their installation at a wider (street/community) level.

There is also a strong emphasis on the use of solar panels, suggestions of encouraging (even subsidising) solar panels on existing roof space, and the need for careful planning in their installation to maximise their efficiency. Some respondents also suggested the use of district heating to improve efficiency.

In addition to these, there were suggestions for innovative ways to conserve energy, such as using natural water flows and the use of natural cooling from tree cover or colour choice for roads and roofs to stop heat islands; forming community electric car clubs; external insulation of homes.

There were also calls for financial support for homeowners installing sustainable energy sources, and for the council to facilitate bulk buying of sustainable energy equipment.

However, some respondents expressed confusion about the terminology used in the survey, suggesting a need for clearer communication about the proposed measures.

Appendix C – Minutes of the Disability Consultative Panel

To note the first 4 pages contain redactions because they relate to two other confidential pre-application schemes (unrelated to the Cambridge Neighbourhoods Design Code for Arbury, King’s Hedges and parts of West Chesterton) which were reviewed at the meeting.



Disability Consultative Panel

Tuesday, 30 January 2024

14:00 – 16:30

Venue

**Room Swansley A&B, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne
and via Microsoft ‘Teams’**

Notes

Attendees

Mark Taylor	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (Chair)
Sue Simms	Former Housing Officer
Katie Roberts	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (Notes)
Jean White	Retired City Council employee
Betty Watts	Cambridge Deaf Association
John Taylor	Resident
Aaron Coe	Principal Planner, CIP and SCIP Projects (for presentation 1)
John Shuttlewood	Planning Enforcement Officer (for presentation 2)
Trovine Monteiro	Team Leader – Built Environment (for presentation 3)

Apologies

Jane Renfrew, David Baxter, Alex Innes, Rosalind Bird



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Presentation 3: Inspired living: A Design Code for Northern Cambridge Neighbourhood

Presenters

Alexis Butterfield – Lead Consultant/Partner, Pollard Thomas Edward architects

The Design Code for Northern Cambridge Neighbourhoods is a pilot design code, which is developing and testing a consultative approach to developing coding principles for existing residential areas of Arbury, Kings Hedges, and parts of West Chesterton in Cambridge. AB explained that the aim is to understand and test how design coding can apply at an area wide scale in existing neighbourhoods within Greater Cambridge, to conduct robust community engagement, and investigate how design codes can provide strategic vision and address placemaking challenges. He commented that the post-war estates were developed in a piecemeal fashion without an overarching vision, drawing attention to poor design of some of the existing buildings, the poor accessibility and the poorly overlooked landscapes. AB explained the approach to develop a code without a masterplan, which does not target known or fixed outcomes. He also commented on the 5-month engagement process, involving in-person workshops, a school project and online engagement. The draft code will soon be posted online for final comments. A survey was conducted seeking views on different elements of the neighbourhood, including the design of buildings, green spaces, cycling and public transport use, which determined the 5 principles that will be developed.

AB explained that it would be helpful for him and his team to understand what they should be prioritising to ensure equality of access to the various spaces. He added that they are conscious that many of the homes are not very accessible and it would be interesting to learn how whether it would

be more beneficial to invest in improving the fabric of the existing estate buildings or undertake something more significant and provide new, potentially more accessible, homes.

Panel comments

- JT commented that pavements and walkways would be a priority for disabled people, as well as the shopping centre.
- SS added that the structure of many of the buildings would need to be addressed.
- In response to comments from Panel members and other consultees, AB mentioned that the perspective around the reliance on taxis was important. He mentioned that an option is perhaps to downgrade the road directly around the Arbury Town centre itself to improve crossing at that point (there has been a focus on connectivity between crossing points), adding that it currently feels very cut off, which does not help it to thrive.
- In response to comments by the Chair, AB mentioned that he would check that the team is emphasising the inclusivity of the spaces involved because of the benefit of good social interactions on mental health.
- The Chair mentioned that the community mini bus and dial-a-ride is very important because of their role is enabling disabled people to access inclusive activities.
- AB mentioned that, in terms of next steps, the proposals would be discussed at a public consultation on 5 February, which would provide with the opportunity for Panel members to make further comments on the live consultation.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking AB very much for his presentation.

Appendix D – Joint Design Review by the Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel and Cambridgeshire Quality Panel



The Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel & Cambridgeshire County Council Quality Panel Joint Design Review

Inspired Living: Cambridge Northern Neighbourhoods Design Code

Thursday 25 January 2024, Hybrid meeting

Meeting venue: Monkfield Room, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne CB23 6EA

Confidential

The [Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth](#) sets out the core principles for the level of quality to be expected in new development across Cambridgeshire. The [Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel](#) provides independent, expert advice to developers and local planning authorities against the four core principles of the Charter: connectivity, character, climate, and community.

Attendees Panel

Members:

Russell Brown (Chair) – Founding Partner of Hawkins\Brown Architects
Maggie Baddeley (Character, Community) - Planner and Chartered Surveyor
Hero Bennett (Character, Climate) - Principal Sustainability Consultant, Partner, Max Fordham
Nicholas Anderson (Character, Connectivity) – Chartered Civil Engineer and retired South East Development Lead at Aecom
Lynne Sullivan (Character, Architecture) - Architect, LSA Studio, Chair Good Homes Alliance
June Barnes (Character, Community) – Chair, Hornsey Housing Trust/Member of Jersey Architecture Commission
John Dales (Character, Connectivity) – Director, Urban Movement Limited
Lindsey Wilkinson (Character, Landscape) – Landscape Architect, Lindsey Wilkinson Landscape Architecture

Design Team:

Trovine Monteiro – Design Code Pathfinder Lead, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning
Alexis Butterfield – Lead Consultant/Partner, Pollard Thomas Edward Architects (PTE)

LPA Officers:

Bonnie Kwok – Design Review Panel Manager
Katie Roberts – Executive Assistant / Design Review Panel Support Officer
Tom Davies – Design Review Panel Manager
Emma Davies – Sustainability Officer
Bana El Zein – Landscape Officer
Clare Spencer – Planning Policy Officer

Observer(s):

Robin Nicholson - Chair of the Cambridgeshire Quality Panel, Fellow of Edward Cullinan Architects

Declarations of Interest :

Lindsey Wilkinson and Maggie Baddeley are Design Council Experts supporting the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities' (DLUHC) Pathfinder programme, but their involvement excludes this particular project (DLUHC is the government department that funds this project). Lindsey Wilkinson also knows Alexis in a professional capacity – they both serve the National Trust's Specialist Advisory Groups. It was decided that the above are not considered to be conflict of interest.

Scheme Visit

The Panel gained a great deal from the site visit on 25 January 2024, as even the Cambridge residents were not familiar with this part of Cambridge city. The outstanding features were the sheer amount of open space and grass (rather than nature) and its lack of visible purpose. The Panel could also begin to understand the impact of car parking and significant blockages in the cycle and pedestrian routes. The Panel could see opportunities for some development sites by removing the garages. By directly experiencing the edge of Park at the edge of the Kingsway Estate Arbury Town Centre, the Panel was able to better understand some of the more detailed proposals involved in the Opportunities Framework.

Design Review Format

Given the nature of this extended Panel, operating more as a workshop to advise the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP), the responses from the PTE have been included in this document but the further comments made after the meeting have not been included in this note, although they are available to the GCSP team.

Introduction

Trovine Monteiro, the Design Code Project Lead, introduced the session and explained the purpose of the Design Code and its funding and terms of reference as a piece of research. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) obtained funding as part of the National Design Code Pathfinder Pilot Project from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and New Communities (DLUHC). He set the following questions for the Panel to answer/respond to:

- 1) Is the Code clear and able to be understood (and implementable) by the general public, or residents of the area?
- 2) Has the Code balanced proposals for large/long term strategic change with short-term incremental change?
- 3) Is the difference between ad hoc/organic and strategic/planned changes clear?

- 4) Does it respond to the different characters of the different areas, and the different housing layouts and status of the fabric?
- 5) Is it clear about the difference between the Arbury and King Hedges, for instance?
- 6) What does the Panel see as the next stage in the process? Is the Code robust enough to be a useful tool for development control.
- 7) Is the Code clear about what building/spaces should be kept and adopted, and what could be removed?
- 8) The Code is it clear in how it defines the movement of traffic, cycles, and pedestrians through the different areas, and how routes are linked or blocked.
- 9) Has it clearly identified and rated the quantity/usefulness of the public spaces?

Alexis Butterfield, Lead Consultant from Pollard Thomas Edward Architects, introduced the Panel to the Study Area, and the Term of Reference of the Project:

The Design Code is a pilot project that aims to develop and test a Consultative approach to development coding principles for an existing residential area. It is intended that the lessons learnt from both producing and then using the Code will influence policy and development control for other areas of Cambridge. The choice of area was based on earlier characterisation study and was chosen as an example of an area that:

- is experiencing pressure for change
- is economically deprived despite its 'leafy' suburban appearance
- there is no other design quality guidance

The Estate had been selected as a post-war estate, where the development had been quite quick but at different times bound around funding opportunities and the urban design trends of the time. As a result, the parts of the Estate are very disjointed. The housing has been mostly developed between 1953 and 1992, and little has happened since.

Arbury Town Centre used to be more "tight-knit", and better connected to the school and playground, for instance. The tree lined streets with houses facing across the street are legible and successful. Less successful areas are the blocks of flats with no ground floor use and rear servicing, they also block an original route/losing an important pedestrian link. There are also areas of housing built around courtyards and overlooking open space with no road frontage, with rear access to parking or garages. The vast areas of poorly used green space are a major issue (and a local priority to retain). A good deal of the building fabric has reached the end of its useful life (e.g. Kings Hedges), and a large number do not achieve the "Decent Homes Standard". A great deal of the green spaces is protected by current Cambridge Local Plan policies, but they are poorly used and of low quality. The area is still rated as having 'poor tree cover'.

The study area is an area of severe deprivation, which is close to areas of considerable wealth. The physical disconnection of road and pathways reinforces this sense of isolation.

The car ownership is relatively low, with 70% owning one car. It is perceived as safe to park a car in the street, but there is a preference to park on a drive or close to the house. There is very little bus use, this is due to a combination of factors, including a poor/infrequent service, few pedestrian routes through the estate to the bus stop.

Approach

- 1) This is a Design Code that stops short of a masterplan. Is, a broad masterplan or more focused area studies the next logical step?
- 2) Is the purpose of the Code to impose rules? There is a discussion to be had on whether the phrased "must" and "should" are the right approach and how this relates to the existing planning policy?
- 3) The draft Code has tried to identify a selective series of principles, that are based on the priorities that emerge from the consultation. Are there gaps or omissions in those principles?

- 4) The Code is trying to establish "the ground rules for change" and encourage short term/smaller scale change to come from within the community. Is this approach at odds with broader more strategic moves?

Consultation

It was an objective set out in the bid to DLUHC to use a "robust, genuine community engagement and participative process for area wide coding, engaging effectively with the community and stakeholders".

- 1) The consultancy period has taken five months and is ongoing to the end of March 2024.
- 2) Although there were face-to-face presentations, including three public workshops and in person engagement events; these were poorly attended. There has been much better take up through online questionnaires, using Citizens Lab (There is also a sense that the take up of online contacts gets a response from a wider audience). It is also an objective of the project to explore what digitization could mean for a design code particularly in terms of community engagement and making an accessible document.
- 3) There was also consultation with a core group, and local schools. The consultation with Grove School with the help the Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service (YES) was highly successful, engaging over 100 students and parents. It yielded lots of visual material and some more interesting ideas around the five main principles.
- 4) The consultation established five priorities that were adopted as the guiding principles for the code:
 - i. Make space for nature.
 - ii. Promote cycling and walking.
 - iii. Vibrant public spaces.
 - iv. Enhance character (of specific areas).
 - v. Increase sustainability.

Applying the Design Code

- 1) The Design Code is intended to become a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- 2) It will be used by development managers/local planning teams and should be used by local residents.
- 3) It should encourage community-led change and collaborative design.
- 4) It should be (relatively) flexible, as there is no masterplan. However, it can identify opportunities (and issues).
- 5) It sets a target of 10% biodiversity net gain, with no "off-siting".
- 6) It identifies water responsiveness as a major issue.
- 7) It seeks to establish a hierarchy of public spaces and seek cultural sustainability through the location of users.
- 8) It encourages enclosure and focal points. The current spaces are very "leaky". Better defined streets, and spaces could avoid the "strange sameness", and lack of variety of individual homes.
- 9) The consultation was negative about any increase in the scale of building, describing 5/6 storey flats as "out of scale" and "lumpy". The Design Code uses the phrase "gentle density".

Panel Questions

Maggie Baddeley (Character, Community)

- 1) How is the Design Code going to be used and enforced. If it is to be an SPD, it will be difficult for it to go beyond Local and National Planning policy.
- 2) Has the County Council been involved, particularly in the discussion around changing the designation of roads? (Response: The Council has attended some meetings and agreed in principle to the downgrading of Arbury Road).
- 3) Has the consultation addressed "Making Space for Girls"? (Response: so far consultation around play space has been gender blind).

Hero Bennett (Character, Climate)

- 1) Are there any drainage issues across the site and how has water resilience been addressed as a critical issue for Cambridge? (Response: flooding has not been identified as an issue through the consultation).
- 2) Is there guidance on the use of air source heat pumps in the Code? (Response: air source heat pumps have been considered as visual obstructions when they are installed in front gardens).

Nicholas Anderson (Character, Connectivity)

- 1) Why are people not using the public transport more regularly? (Response: footpaths do not easily lead to the bus stops or create accessible/desirable routes linking the housing to the main roads. Bus services are poor across the whole of Cambridge, buses are often infrequent. There are few bus stops in the study area and they are not conveniently placed.

John Dales (Character, Connectivity)

- 1) What were the findings about parking provision and garage use? (Response: residents parking habits were collected via surveys and observation. It is suspected that most garages are used for storage and do not contain cars. As a result, the areas around the garages are heavily parked. People feel it is safe to park in the streets).

Russell Brown (Character, Chair)

Accepting the forms of reference of the project, is there a danger that by entirely focusing the priorities and principles of the Design Code on the desires of the locals, it will fail to make a Design Code that addresses the wider issues of the housing shortage, the poor state of a lot of the fabric, potential intensification with taller buildings, more regional/national sustainability issues. (Response: the team accept that they are 'walking a tightrope' between local and national pressures and are aiming to encourage community, based change. In the short term in response to the terms of reference of the project. One local person did suggest that new homes were needed to address the housing shortage).

Panel Discussion & Comments

June Barnes

- 1) Suggested that the Design Code document could set out the wider issues in an introduction (being more honest?) and explain to the local residents the need for introducing change, the better use of land in the context of a (national and) local housing shortage, and how increased density could bring inward investment and positively contribute to 'thriving public spaces' that could enhance the character of the area.
- 2) There is also the need to address the failing fabric in houses that are 50-60 years old.

Maggie Baddeley

- 1) Sustainability is well covered in the draft Design Code, but there needs to be more detail on how the principles of sustainability can be achieved in this particular location. The Design Code should include guidance on climate resistance, district heating networks (see below) water management etc.
- 2) The team might need to reflect on what are the roles and responsibilities for officers, architects, developers, residents in implementing the Design Code. How does it address each of these users/audiences? How will the guidance be used across the different scales of potential development? For instance, how are house holder developments, that do require planning permission, dealt within the Design Code?
- 3) Agreed that the structure of the Code works well and that the 'must' (where consistent with development plan policies) and 'should' (providing further detail) approach is a good way of expressing the different priority of the aims.
- 4) The Code might help explain the different character of the areas by explaining more about the 'historic' sequence of development and the different design guidance at the time.
- 5) A target of 20% Biodiversity Net Gain should be included in the Design Code, noting that the statutory requirement is 10% and the emerging local plan refers to 20%.

- 6) Other Pathfinder Projects precedents, such as Brent/Staples Corner and the Beacontree Estate, might give useful positive examples of change.
- 7) There was discussion as to how real and imaginary images and diagrams are used, and whether they could be more specifically labelled/more local to Cambridge, without being seen as threatening to local people?
- 8) The word 'rule' might be misunderstood or misleading, other terms might convey a better message. 'Objectives' might be preferable?

Hero Bennett

- 1) The Design Code is very clear but in the sustainability section the headings are a bit repetitive and some of the recommendations are not robust enough e.g. water responsiveness.
- 2) There could be a stronger emphasis on whole life carbon assessment and the opportunities for retention (and upgrade) of the housing or infill between retained buildings, where new homes could be built without extensive demolition.
- 3) If Passivhaus principles are suggested, then Certification is required (applying some of the principles selectively has not been successful).
- 4) If demolition is necessary because buildings are poorly planned or in the wrong place, then can the materials be reused.
- 5) Check the orientation of all the diagrams/graphics.
- 6) Can more PV panels be installed on the roofs of the 3D images, to show it as standard?
- 7) Can the Design Code signpost people to the tree sponsor programme.
- 8) Have cargo bikes been considered when proposing cycle routes?
- 9) Even with some intensification, it is unlikely that any part of the area will be dense enough to support a distinct heating system.
- 10) The Design Code could encourage a 'retrofit first approach'.

John Dales

- 1) Liked the way the Design Code was structured, but always using 6 pages and the use of 'must' and 'should' for cycling and walking seem a bit contrived?

- 2) The Principles do not seem to prioritise cycling and walking, over driving?
There, should be a principle around 'sustainable movement', reducing car dominance and the spatial impact of static vehicles.
- 3) The Design Code should include what needs doing and no-one else is going to do and issues that are not on the public radar, e.g. how can spatial efficiency be achieved, and who owns/manages the landscape.

Nicholas Anderson

- 1) How will change be delivered? it is critical that the County Council continue to be involved.
- 2) Can there be more about wayfinding (This is difficult without a masterplan)

Lindsey Wilkinson

- 1) The emerging Design Code is clear and robust in terms of landscape.
- 2) The first (and most significant) principle is to "make space for nature". There is a lot of space for nature - but no nature for space! Is the principle aiming for better access to green space (such as it is). Is the Design Code aiming to re-allocate space (for nature) or make new space or better integrate space?
- 3) There are a whole range of types of space that could invite nature into the Estate, there is accessible nature, integrated nature, transition nature, links with nature outside the site. The Design Code needs to be 'super clear' about what it is proposing.
- 4) The principle of 'thriving' needs to be explored and better explained so that its meaning is better understood i. e. is this an active public realm of open spaces adding value by their role. What does, "enhanced character" mean? These ideas need to be worked through in more detail, for instance "leafy character" what does this mean, the Code needs to define it for this site.
- 5) The landscape is everywhere but what is it contributing? (even though it is protected)
- 6) Could these principles be better defined by annotated sketches or photographs?

- 7) A detailed tree survey would help define the quality of the green spaces. This could inform guidance on what could be removed, and what should be retained/retain the same.
- 8) The Design Code needs to identify who will be responsible for managing the green spaces (both formally and informally), clarifying legal ownership and information ownership e.g. the strip of grass outside someone's home or between the pavement and the road in front of a house. It needs to establish the value of the green spaces (green or hard standing) and to encourage/allow different places to have different quantities.
- 9) A good precedent is the Beacontree historic estate, which could provide useful examples of how to achieve change within a constrained framework.

June Barnes

- 1) It is important that the Design Code helps people to understand why the Estate is the way it is, this will help people understand where change is appropriate.
- 2) Mapping the Tenure/Ownership of all the land and housing will help identify where opportunities are.
- 3) The edges of this area will already have pressures to be redeveloped. can this be used a positive source of potential funding if properly controlled?
- 4) A masterplan for the whole area may be a waste of time, more focused studies may be able to find more specific solutions.
- 5) Detailed neighbouring based masterplans could identify areas that have more potential for change anxious to change i.e. the garages. This would allow the local authority to focus their resources on areas where change could be most effective.
- 6) The consultation has told us some interesting things. These are early days, can the consultation continue, and as poor areas of housing get poorer could change become more popular?

Lynne Sullivan

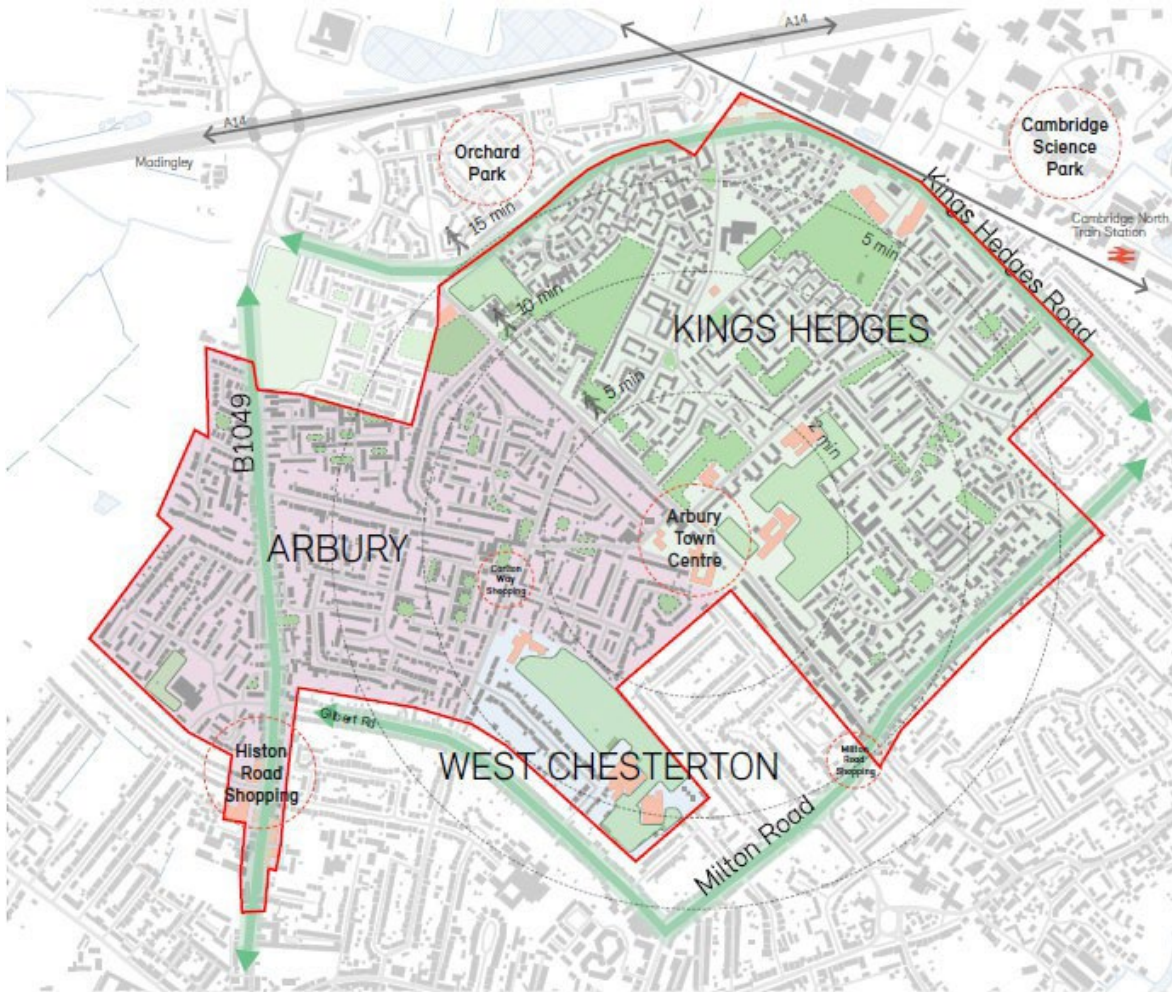
- 1) There is not enough in the Design Code that properly defines the character of each part of the Estate, and what is meant by terms like 'leafy'?

- 2) Could the Design Code introduce a series of "dos and don'ts", where the current spaces conflict with the principles. Is the extent of the green spaces and their poor quality the "elephant in the room"?
- 3) The Design Code needs to establish a vision for change that does not lose the feel of a "leafy suburb" there is not enough guidance about how the open spaces can become more legible, how they can encourage connectiveness, how they can add to the experience of the place.
- 4) Is the ecological corridor missing from the Code?
- 5) Since the 1970s, the use and size of cars have changed, and the garages are likely to be used for domestic storage. This could be illustrated in the Code as a driver and opportunity for change.
- 6) The nature of the roadways has also evolved and will continue to change, a movement strategy is essential part of the Design Code.
- 7) The Movement Strategy can inform and reinforce the landscape quality. The Movement Strategy needs to recognise the importance of the street and the various linkages (This is affected by the under provision of public transport).
- 8) Are these areas of SLOP (Spaces left over after planning)? Can new public spaces (using existing or new space) be enhanced by new routes to create the thriving public spaces?
- 9) Is there new criteria for parking in the light of changing lifestyles and changes in ownership? Can the community facilities be improved by better servicing and car parking (an example is the buildings in the park)?
- 10) Either a pilot study or better models for retrofitting the housing, could help inspire homeowners.
- 11) Identifying opportunities or an opportunities framework (as proposed) is a better way of exploring specific study areas, rather than a broad-based masterplan.
- 12) Densification would make a stronger case for better public transport links.
- 13) A useful guide to the future development of the landscape would be an Action Plan, starting with an evaluation of the current issues and opportunities and an appraisal of the quality (in the Design Code) and then suggesting opportunities and precedents as next a step.

Chair's Summary

- 1) The Panel congratulates PTE and GCSP and their team, for all their hard work and tackling a difficult task. The consultation has been very thorough, and the use of the internet seems to have got a better response than the standard evening presentations, and perhaps has reached a wider audience. A big question for GCSP is how will change be delivered and what are the next steps to help achieve the principles and opportunities identified by the study.
- 2) It is understood that the priorities and principles emerged through engagement with residents do not reflect an order of importance. Hence, they should not be traded off against each other. They should address the wider issues of the housing shortage, the poor state of a lot of the fabric, potential intensification and more regional/national sustainability issues as well.
- 3) Is the best way to encourage/enable/support improvement to focus on specific areas or instigate pilot studies, like upgrading examples where the fabric of buildings is failing? Or a development project replacing the garages or a landscape-based project?
- 4) The Panel understands that the terms of reference set for the project set a focus on a consultation-led approach looking for the short-term changes to come from the community itself.
- 5) A number of members of the Panel have commented that the sustainability aspects of the Code could be more robust but could also embrace other aspects in other parts of the document like the public spaces or active travel.
- 6) More specifically, retrofitting existing homes needs some built examples, and a better explanation of how and where it could be successful. Could this be a pilot study as a next step?
- 7) The extensive green spaces are poorly defined, ownership is unclear, little used and poorly landscaped (even the tree canopy standards are low). The quote 'there is a lot of space for nature, but there is no nature in "the space "' is very opposite.

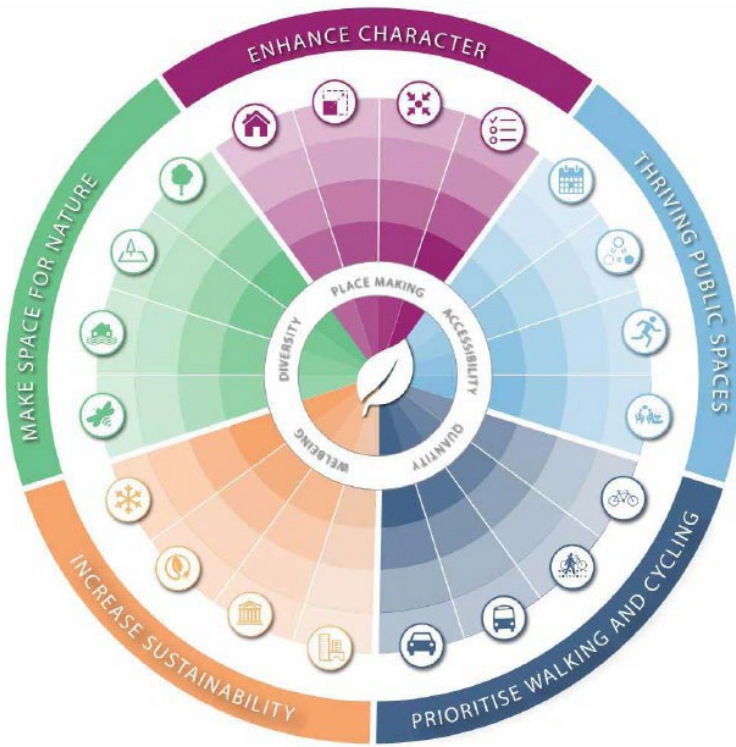
Design code study area



KEY

- Buildings
- Specific buildings
- Green spaces
- Study area

The 5 Design Code Principles



Youth engagement with the local community to inform the Design Code



Presenting urban design to year 5 and 6 students



Facilitator speaking to year 5 and 6 students on what they can imagine for Arbury Court



Judging of the bird box and bird feeder competition

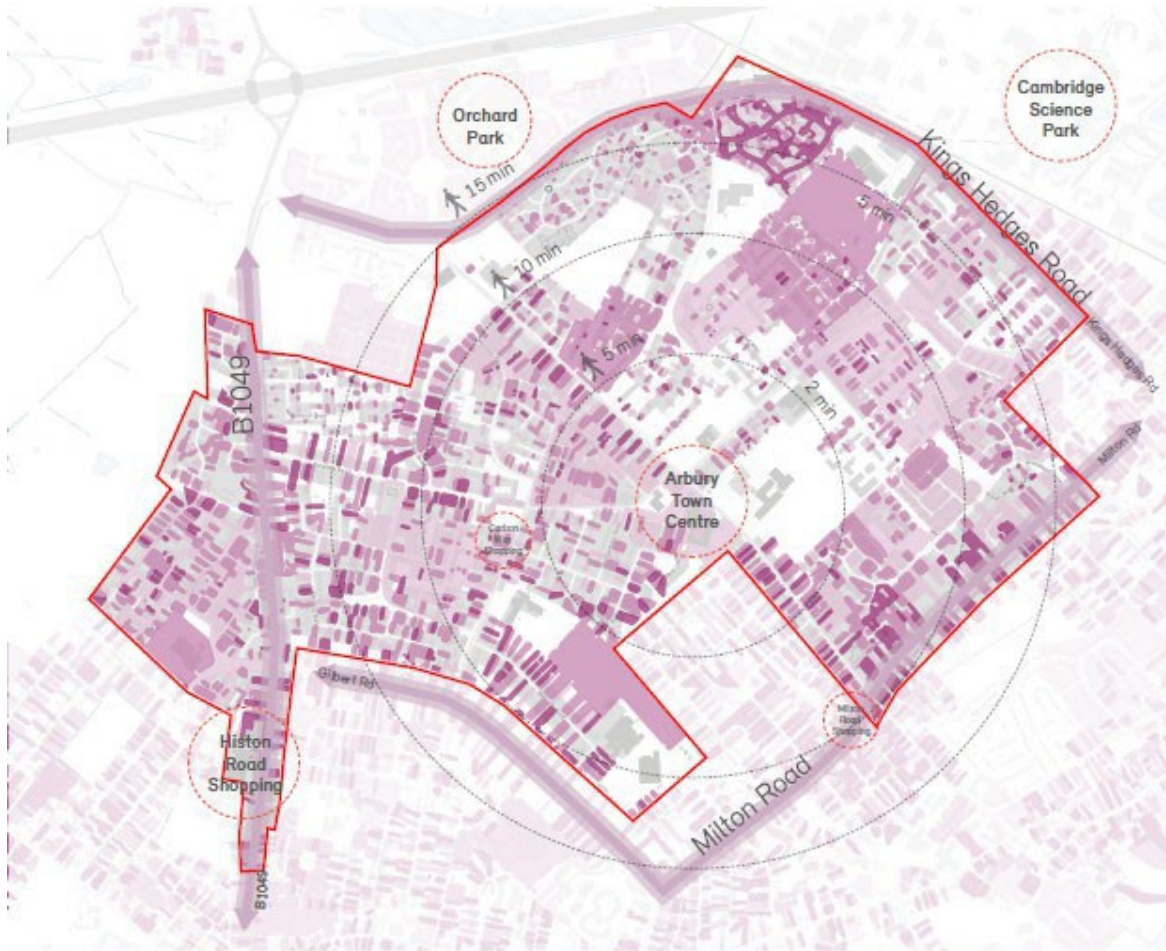


Councillors discussing the potential of Arbury Court



Judging of the drawing competition

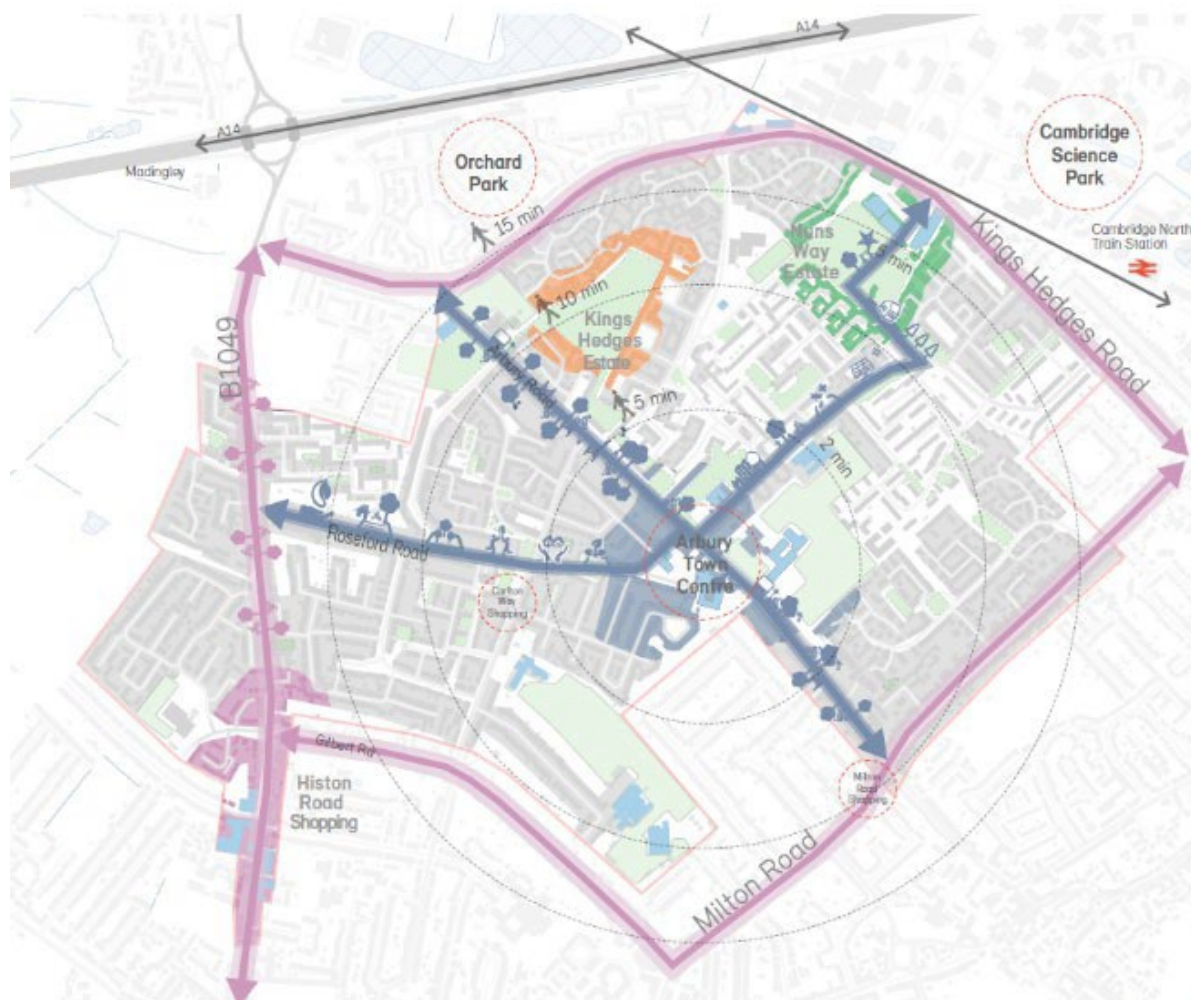
Sustainable Homes Study – EPC Rating




KEY


- Band - A-C
- Band - D-F
- Band - G
- Study Area


Design Code Opportunities Framework





KEY

- 

Priority improvements for walking and cycling to link across the area
- 

Access, play and frontage improvements to Kings Hedges Park
- 

Improved access, frontages and walking and cycling links between Nuns Way and the recreation ground, college and science park
- 

Urban greening and environmental improvements including potential for more mix uses in the centre
- 

Town centre improvements to support central local character and help bring together the mix of shops, religious and community, health, education uses and homes

Disclaimer

The above comments represent the views of the Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel and the Cambridgeshire County Council Quality Panel, and are made without prejudice to the determination of any future planning applications relevant to the Design Code should one be submitted. Furthermore, the views expressed will not bind the decision of Elected Members, should a planning application relevant to the Design Code be submitted, nor prejudice the formal decision-making process of the council.

Appendix E – Youth Engagement Report



Built & Natural Environment Team

Youth Engagement Report

Site visit address:	Arbury Court, Cambridge
Proposals:	North Cambridge Design Code
Case Officer:	Trovine Monteiro
Date of Youth Engagement Workshop:	Workshop 1 - Tuesday 9 January 2024 Workshop 2 - Wednesday 17 January 2024
School:	The Grove Primary School, Cambridge

1.0 Purpose of the Youth Engagement Workshop

Alignment with National Planning Policy Framework (2023):

Paragraph 16 writes that plans should be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees.

Paragraph 128 writes that to provide maximum clarity about design expectations at an early stage, all local planning authorities should prepare design guides or codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, and which reflect local character and design preferences. Design guides and codes provide a local framework for creating beautiful and distinctive places with a consistent and high quality standard of design.

Paragraph 129 writes that all guides and codes should be based on effective community engagement and reflect local aspirations for the development of their area, taking into account the guidance contained in the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code.

Alignment with the National Curriculum:

The activities are designed to align with Key Stage 2 National Curriculum subjects science, art and design, geography, design and technology and citizenship to ensure relevance and educational value.

Specifically, officers are interested in obtaining local youths' views on the draft Design Code for North Cambridge. It is also an opportunity to build their skills in urban design, planning &

architecture; develop their confidence in taking part in community consultation; provide advice on future study and career options in the built environment; familiarising the students with their part of the city; and understand the importance of social value.

2.0 Youth Engagement Framework

The Youth Engagement Workshop was designed based upon a framework developed by the Council's Youth Engagement Lead - "*Framework for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Youth Engagement*". It considers the following four key areas which aim to benefit all those who takes part in the workshop:

- 1) Impact on the plan-and decision-making process
- 2) Process
- 3) Educational value
- 4) Practical factors

3.0 Youth engagement process

The youth engagement process was conducted in two parts:

Workshop 1:

On Tuesday 9 January 2024, 37 Year 5 students and 30 Year 6 students, two class teachers and several teaching assistants from The Grove Primary School took part in the Youth Engagement Workshop 1. The Workshop was led by the Council's Youth Engagement Lead Bonnie Kwok and supported by Youth Engagement Team members Tom Davies and Maxine Ross, Trovine Monteiro and Mahrukh Awan, a Youth Engagement Researcher from Oxford Brookes University, Simon Leher and Michele Lewis from the council. From the masterplanner's team, Alexis Butterfield, Partner at Pollard Thomas Edwards and William Gorton, Architectural Assistant at Pollard Thomas Edwards attended. Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure and Mayor and ward Cllr. Jenny Gawthrop Wood also attended.

Introduction: A presentation setting out the purpose of the workshop was given to the participants, it introduced the draft Design Code, covering Arbury, Kings Hedges & West Chesterton, how the work is based on the 10 characteristics of well-designed places in the National Design Guide. The draft Design Code is based around these 5 principles:

1. Make space for nature
2. Prioritise walking and cycling
3. Thriving public spaces
4. Enhance character
5. Increase sustainability

The presentation emphasised the importance of youth engagement and basic principles of good urban design and how it contributes to the concept of sustainability.

Careers Talk: Officers and guests then provided a talk on career options in the built and natural environment field. The purpose of this talk is to inspire the students to pursue a career in these areas. It is hoped that the students would be able to seek local employment at the proposed development when they have finished education.

Walkabout: Students then took part in a guided walk to explore the local neighborhoods around Arbury Court and Campkin Road and the journey from Arbury Court to their school.

Biodiversity: Students learnt about the concept of biodiversity at Arbury Court to be able to define biodiversity; consider the importance of biodiversity in creating sustainable communities; and reflect on efforts around the world to restore biodiversity.

Outdoor learning: In the classroom, the students were divided into 5 groups representing the 5 principles of the Design Code. They were asked to write about aspects of Arbury Court including the buildings; protecting the environment; plants, animals and natural spaces; play equipment; and walking and bike riding at Arbury Court. The students discussed the rationale for their chosen memorable things from the tour. This exercise aims to understand their favourite aspects of Arbury Court and areas for improvement.

The results of our research into the student's written answers indicate that the students best remembered the Budgens supermarket and fish and chip shop buildings and that Budgens was also their favourite building; For identifying things to help protect the environment of Arbury Town Centre, planting more trees and less littering were the most popular answers; proximity to the shops and park were given as the main reasons for the benefits of living near Arbury Town Centre; the provision of more litter bins and less car parking were popular ways to protect the environment. The most common kinds of plants, animals or natural spaces you can find at Arbury Town centre were identified as trees, bushes and birds; being near nature and animals help people relax, be healthier, provide entertainment and provide opportunities to grow food and plants. The children's favourite natural things and animals that they saw during the tour were trees, birds and squirrels.

The most popular different things for children and young people to do in Arbury Town centre were playing, shopping and walking. The most popular types of play equipment you can see in the local park are swings, slides and monkey bars with swings being the most popular. The most popular reasons for using the play equipment are because of having fun and how the speed / height is exciting. The most popular reasons why people wish to get to Arbury Town centre are for shopping, because they live there or for work reasons; the most popular ways for how people can get to Arbury town centre are bike, car and walking; the provision of better pavement / paths, signage and planted areas were identified as factors making it nicer or easier for children to walk or ride your bike to the town centre. The overall results are summarised in Tables 1 to 5 in the appendices.

Quiz: The students were then divided into small groups and took part in an interactive quiz, with prepared questions that are tailored to the Design Code and the Arbury Court area, covering the local history and some urban design principles. The purpose of this quiz was to reinforce their learning outcome and it was very well received.

Creative Design Competition: The students were divided into the 5 groups again and then asked to draw their favourite plants, animals or natural spaces; play space; the buildings at a town centre of the future; a building with sustainability features; and bicycle parking areas that they have seen or would like to see at Arbury Court and town centres.

Our analysis of the data in these drawings is that overall, the children identified 20 different features and their favourite features for Arbury Court and town centres are in the following order

(highest first): trees; buildings; animals; cycle standards; plants; benches; play equipment; street lamps; flowers and sign boards; people and walking paths. See tables 6 and 7 in the appendices.

10 boys participated and 21 girls participated in the drawing competition and we carried out a gender analysis of these findings, giving insight into the different and unique components that the boys and girls used to communicate their ideas about their town centre. Although only 10 boys participated, they identified 12 different features whereas girls identified a total of 16. See the 4 Charts in the appendices

In the masterplanner's summary of the 5 types of drawing, the children wanted to see:

- Space for people that provides homes and habitats for animals. This should include bees and other insects as well as larger animals and birds.
- Create attractive, welcoming cycling facilities that are a joy to use. The children included designs for bright indoor spaces, as well as outdoor stands integrated with trees and landscape.
- Children are often not inspired by large grassy areas and want more imaginative and varied play. This might include slides incorporated into the landscape, safe water play and places to meet and be together.
- Consider how sense of place engages all the senses. For example, the bakery is popular due to its distinctive and pleasant aroma.
- Sustainability combines many aspects of design. Many children wanted designs to collect water in shallow ponds which can contribute to recreation and habitat for animals.

Birdbox/Bird Feeder Design competition: The students constructed and painted birdboxes and bird feeders to help enhance the biodiversity value of North Cambridge.

Workshop 2:

On Wednesday 17 January 2024, the same group of 37 Year 5 students, 30 Year 6 students, Head Teacher, two class teachers and two teaching assistants and 16 parents, grandparents and guardians from the Grove Primary School took part in the second part of the youth engagement workshop. This workshop was led by the Council's Youth Engagement Team Lead Bonnie Kwok and supported by Team Members Tom Davies, Maxine Ross, Trovine Monteiro. Assistant Director of the GCSP Heather Jones attended. Alexis Butterfield also attended this workshop.

Art Exhibition: The workshop comprised an art exhibition showcasing the design work that had been produced by the students in Workshop 1. This exhibition was open to all parents and guardians. Both the students and their parents were very pleased to see their framed designs and Birdbox/Bird Feeders. The children took home their framed artwork, Birdbox/Bird Feeders and Certificates of Participation.



Feedback:

A survey was conducted with the students – 63 feedback forms were completed, the vast majority of students said that they had enjoyed both workshops, and had learnt something useful, including things that are not normally taught in school, such as careers in the built and natural environment fields. They wrote that the guided walkabout provided an enriching experience for them.

A survey was then carried out with adults which include teachers, parents, guardians and grandparents to understand their views on the effectiveness and usefulness of the youth engagement workshops. 16 feedback forms were completed. The response was also very positive. See Tables 6 and 7 for further information.

Overall, the design workshop was a success and nearly all the participants said that they had enjoyed taking part in the decision-making process. Certificates and prizes for five Design Code Principles (categories) were awarded to students in the following areas:

- Most Inclusive Design
- Best Graphic Design
- Most Creative Design
- Most Sustainable design
- Most Innovative design

All students received an award for taking part in the workshops.

4.0 Results

See drawings 1 to 5 for overall winners

Appendices

Tables 1 to 5 – Outdoor learning

Table 1 - Buildings

Children's outdoor learning analysis - buildings												
List 4 types of building you saw in Arbury Town Centre	Frequency											Total
	Pet shop	1	1									
Fruit shop	1											1
barber shop	1	1	1	1	1	1						6
Dorringtons bakery shop	1	1	1									3
Budgens supermarket	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Library	1	1	1	1	1							5
church	1	1										2
Flats	1	1										2
Fish and chips shop	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					7
Take away restaurant	1	1										2
Pharmacy	1											1
Dog grooming parlour	1											1
Which is your favourite building at Arbury Town Centre?	Frequency											Total
Greengrocers / Fruit shop	1	1										
Budgens supermarket	1	1	1	1								4
library	1	1										2
Dorringtons bakery shop	1	1										2
barbers	1											1

Table 2 - Sustainability

Children's outdoor learning analysis - sustainability										
What are the different things that can help us protect the environment of Arbury Town Centre?	Frequency									Total
less pollution	1									1
no littering	1	1	1	1	1					5
plant more trees	1	1	1	1	1	1				6
no graffiti	1									1
No smoking	1	1								2
space for Planting	1	1								2
Bins	1	1	1	1						4
more plants / flowers	1	1								2
more grass / landscape	1	1								2
holes in the ground to find water	1									1
Activity centre	1									1
less cars	1									1
Fountains	1									1
Why is it a good idea to live near Arbury Town Centre?	Frequency									Total
Proximity to the park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		8
Proximity to shops	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			7
trees	1									1
near the school	1	1								2
Its clean	1									1
Friendly people	1									1
How can we protect the environment?	Frequency									Total
more trees / less cutting down trees	1	1	1							3
less cars	1	1	1							3
have more places to grow food	1									1
more bins	1	1	1	1						4
no more littering	1	1	1	1	1					5
no smoking	1	1								2
Grow more plants	1									1
Less concrete	1									1
Don't waste paper	1									1
Don't waste water	1	1								2
Keep areas clean	1									1
electric cars	1									1
benches	1									1
more walking / cycling	1									1

Table 3 - Nature

Children's outdoor learning analysis - nature														
List 3 kinds of plants, animals or natural spaces you can find at Arbury Town centre	Frequency												Total	
	Trees	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1
bushes	1	1	1	1	1	1								6
grass	1	1	1	1										4
birds	1	1	1	1	1	1								6
park	1	1												2
grass	1	1	1											3
berries	1													1
squirrels	1	1												2
plants / flowers	1	1												2
dogs	1													1
How can being near nature and animals help people?	Frequency												Total	
	help them relax	1	1	1	1									
entertainment	1	1	1											3
make them happy	1	1												2
environmentally aware	1													1
caring more	1													1
not littering	1													1
calm people	1	1	1											3
meditation	1													1
makes places feel natural	1	1												2
climb trees	1	1												2
learn about nature	1													1
opportunities to grow food and plants	1	1	1											3
wellbeing	1	1												2
health	1	1	1											3
attitude	1													1
hugging animals	1													1
petting animals	1													1
feeding animals	1													1
List 3 of your favourite natural things and animals that you saw during the tour.	Frequency												Total	
	trees	1	1	1	1	1	1							
park	1	1												2
bush	1	1												2
squirrel	1	1	1	1										4
insects	1													1
birds	1	1	1	1	1	1								5
grass	1	1												2
soil	1													1
plants	1	1	1											3
berries	1													1
flowers	1													1
leaves	1													1
dogs	1	1												2

Table 4 – Play

Children's outdoor learning analysis - play															
What are the different things for children and young people to do in Arbury Town centre?	Frequency														Total
	shopping	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
working	1	1	1												3
playing at the park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14
talking	1	1	1												3
walking / exploring	1	1	1	1	1	1									6
live in houses	1														1
play on parents' phone	1														1
have a stage	1														1
eating	1	1													2
haircut	1	1													2
List 3 types of play equipment you can see in the local park	Frequency														Total
slide	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
swings	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
monkey bars	1	1	1	1	1	1									6
splash pad	1														1
seating	1														1
zipline	1	1													2
bell	1														1
climbing frame	1	1	1	1											4
roundabout	1	1													2
seesaw	1														1
the grass pitch for sports	1														1
What is your favourite thing in the playground	Frequency														Total
monkey bars	1	1	1												
zipline	1	1	1	1											4
swings	1	1	1	1	1	1									6
climbing frame	1														1
football	1														1
Why is it your favourite thing in the playground?	Frequency														Total
keeps me energised	1														
the speed / height is exciting	1	1	1	1	1										5
fun	1	1	1	1	1										5
communal activity	1														1

Table 5 - Sustainability

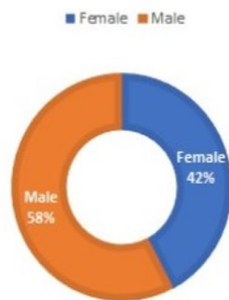
Children's outdoor learning analysis - movement																
List 3 reasons why people wish to get to Arbury Town centre?	Frequency															Total
	see trees	1	1													
see bushes	1	1														2
decorations	1															1
play	1	1	1	1	1											5
rent houses /access to where I live	1	1	1	1	1	1	1									7
shop	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							9
for school	1	1	1													3
for work	1	1	1	1	1	1										6
exercise / fresh air	1	1														2
church	1															1
food	1															1
post letters	1															1
List 4 ways how people can get to Arbury town centre?	Frequency															Total
	bike	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
car	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				10
walk	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			12
run	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								8
bus	1	1	1													3
scooting	1	1	1	1												4
motorbike	1	1														2
What would make it nicer or easier for you to walk or ride your bike to the town centre?	Frequency															Total
	more lighting	1														
more space	1															1
more equipment	1															1
more bike parking	1	1														2
better pavements / paths	1	1	1	1	1											5
more trees	1	1														2
more grass and plants	1	1	1													3
less traffic on Arbury Road	1	1														2
better signage	1	1														2
more benches	1															1
a pond	1															1
views	1															1
dedicated areas for walking / cycling / running	1	1														2
opportunities for doing exercise	1															1

Table 6 – Children’s drawings analysis

Children's drawings analysis																							
Name	Age	Theme	Trees	Plants	Flowers	People	Animals	Building	Roundsabout	Play Equipment	Bird feeder	Bench	Street Lamps	Walking route	Bike route	Cycle stand	Traffic signal	Sign Board	Water body	Bins	Solar Pannels	Windmit	TOTAL
Lex	10	Nature	1	1		1	1		1	1												6	
Catar	10	Nature	2	1																		3	
Sophie	10	Nature	2	1			17															20	
Emily	10	Nature	2	4	2		3			1												12	
Maddison	11	Nature	2				2	3														7	
Adrie	10	Nature	9																			9	
Lavinia	11	Movement	2									14	22	1	1							40	
Saandhi M	9	Movement										6				2	1	1				10	
Allshah	10	Movement	1	6							1							1				11	
Nama	11	Movement														2		2				29	
Tella	10	Movement	2	2	2		2											3				11	
Elena		Movement	3									1						1				10	
Ricky	11	Play	2							1												3	
Sahil	10	Play						2		2												4	
Gracie	11	Play	2				3			2		1						1	1			10	
Cherriell	10	Play					1											1	1			3	
Ariane	10	Play				3				3									1			7	
Valentine F	9	Play	1	1			2			5			1									11	
Dalleh		Building						2														2	
Bela	9	Building	2	2	2	2	1	2		5		2		1	1				3			23	
Jayne	10	Building		2			1	18														21	
Mark	9	Building	4	4	4		6	3			2				1							24	
Rosita	11	Building						1														1	
Emilia	10	Building	6	5	8		2	6											1			28	
Ayub Khar	10	Sustainability	15	2						1		2				3				2	3	28	
Alexee	10	Sustainability						1		3				1								5	
Aiden	9	Sustainability	2	1				1														4	
Sai	10	Sustainability	1	1			1	1		3		1	1	1								10	
Eeshal	10	Sustainability	3	3				3			3		2									14	
Yahya	9	Sustainability	8																1	1		11	
TOTAL			72	36	18	6	42	43	1	29	4	29	24	5	2	39	1	11	8	3	4	0	

Charts - Children's drawings analysis by gender

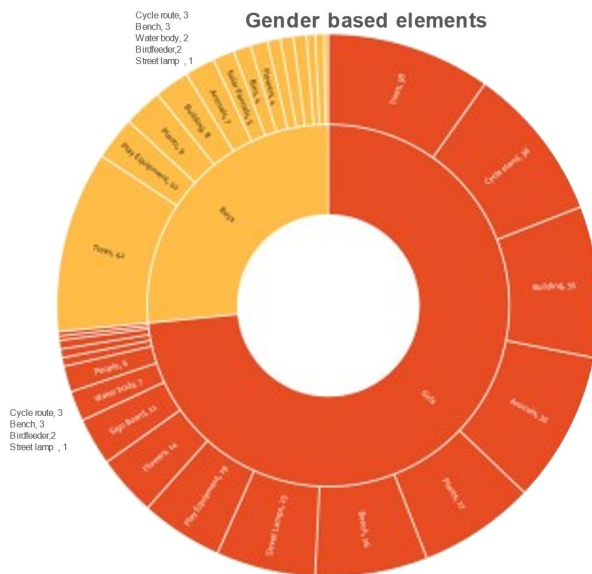
GENDER BASED ELEMENT PERCENTAGE



Total number of children=31
 Number of boys=10
 Elements percentage in drawings=58%

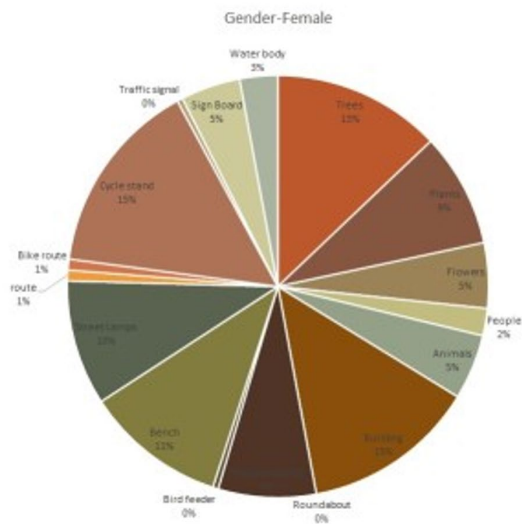
Number of girls=21
 Elements percentage in drawings=42%

Despite their reduced participation of boys in the drawing workshops they showed a clear preference for using varied design components to strengthen their conceptualizations for the sake of their local municipality. Their use of numerous design aspects not only demonstrated their inventiveness, but also contributed greatly to the development of new and smart urban ideas.

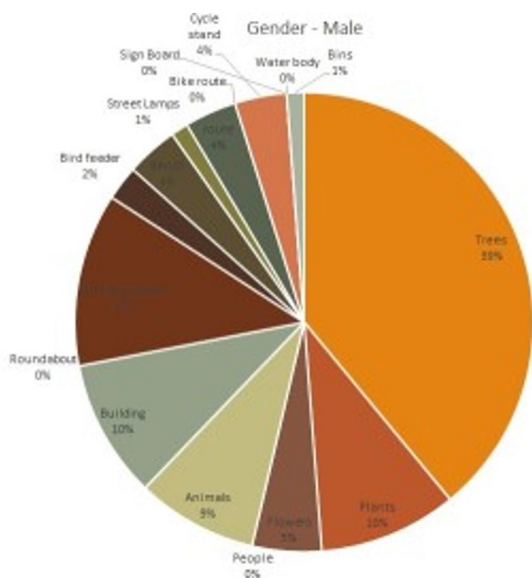


This chart shows number of elements used by both girls and boys.

Even their lower participation in the drawing workshop, boys demonstrated a strong inclination for using a variety of design components to reinforce their conceptualizations for the benefit of their local municipality. Their use of various design elements not only exhibited their creativity, but also tremendously aided the development of innovative and smart urban ideas.



This chart explains the design aspects used by girls in their drawings, giving insight into the different and unique components they used to communicate their ideas about their town centre.




This chart explains the design aspects used by boys in their drawings, giving insight into the different and unique components they used to communicate their ideas about their town centre.

Overall winner drawings Drawing 1 – Buildings theme

Inspired * Living Pollard Thomas Edwards


Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service
Inspired Living Design Code Project
Youth Engagement Workshop with Grove School
January 2024

Student name: E. Philo Year 5 (Year 5) Age: 10

Group Buildings 

Exercise 2 - Creative design - Let's draw!


We wish to see nice buildings in town centres. Draw a picture of a town centre of the future. Include different things to make it fun to visit and live there.



2


Overall Winner

Drawing 2 – Movement theme


Inspired * Living Pollard
Thomas
Edwards 

Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service
Inspired Living Design Code Project
Youth Engagement Workshop with Grove School
January 2024

Student name: Elena Year 5 / Year 6 Age:

Group Movement 


Exercise 2 - Creative design - Let's draw!
We wish to see safe roads to allow more children walk, cycle or use scooter to go to school or to go to the town centre. Please draw a children-friendly bicycle stand or a scooter parking area for us.



Elena


Overall Winner

Drawing 3 – Play theme


Inspired * Living Pollard
Thomas
Edwards 

Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service
Inspired Living Design Code Project
Youth Engagement Workshop with Grove School
January 2024

Student name: Valentine R Year 5 / Year 6 Age: 9

Group Play 

Exercise 2 - Creative design - Let's draw!
Draw a play space for people of all ages. Include somewhere for animals to play too. Use different colours to show the different kinds of space you would like to see in the play space.



Overall Winner

Drawing 4 – Nature theme



Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service
Inspired Living Design Code Project
Youth Engagement Workshop with Grove School
January 2024

Student name: Adele W Yr 6 Year 5 / Year 6 Age: 10



Exercise 2 - Creative design - Let's draw!

We wish to see safe roads to allow more children walk, cycle or use scooter to go to school or to go to the town centre. Please draw a children-friendly bicycle stand or a scooter parking area for us.



2

Drawn by Adele W

Drawing 5 – Sustainability theme



Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Service
Inspired Living Design Code Project
Youth Engagement Workshop with Grove School
January 2024

Student name: Yolya (Year 5 / Year 6) Age: 9

Group Sustainability

Exercise 2 - Creative design - Let's draw

Draw a picture of a building that has been sustainable features. For example, solar panels, low-energy lights, space to grow your own fruits and vegetables, etc.

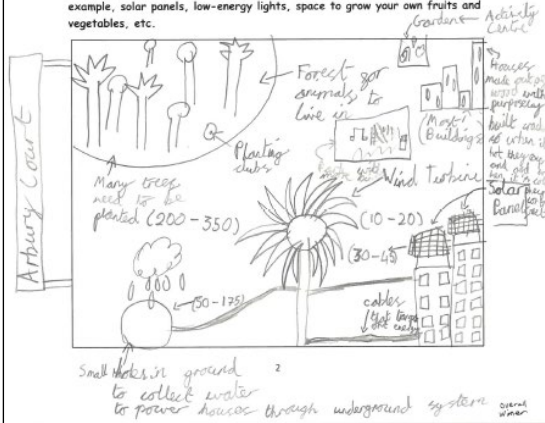


Table 6 – feedback from children

Youth Engagement Workshop

Results of Survey with children

Project	Design Code for North Cambridge
School:	The Grove Primary School, Cambridge
Masterplanner:	Pollard Thomas Edwards
Workshop dates	9 January 2024 & 17 January 2024

1. Did you enjoy the walkabout to look at the area around Arbury Court

Yes	57
No	6

Did not complete

2. Do you think you have learnt something useful about the design code.

Yes	46
No	17

3. Do you find the talk about the different type of jobs such as urban design, town planning, architecture, and local government useful?

Yes	44
No	19

Did not complete

4. Do you find it useful to learn about biodiversity.

Yes	49
No	13

Did not complete 1

5. Would you recommend our youth engagement workshop to other children so that they can benefit from having an input in new development proposals in the Greater Cambridge area?

Yes	55
No	8

Table 6 – feedback from adults

Youth Engagement Workshop

Results of Survey with adults

Project	Design Code for North Cambridge
School:	The Grove Primary School, Cambridge
Masterplanner:	Pollard Thomas Edwards
Workshop dates	9 January 2024 & 17 January 2024

1. Do you think your children enjoyed the walkabout to look at the area around Arbury Court

Yes	16
No	0
Did not complete	0

2. Do you think they have learnt something useful about the design code.

Yes	15
No	1

3. Do you think your children found the talk about the different type of jobs such as urban design, town planning, architecture, and local government useful?

Yes	12
No	3
Did not complete	1

4. Do you children find it useful to learn about biodiversity.

Yes	15
No	0
Did not complete	1

5. Would you recommend our youth engagement workshop to other parents so that their children can benefit from having an input in new development proposals in the Greater Cambridge area?

Yes	15
No	1

Appendix F - Analysis of Consultation Comments on the Draft Design Code at the end of Phase 3: (13 February 2024 to 11th March 2024)

Inspired Living: A Design Code to enhance design in Northern Cambridge Neighbourhoods

Summary of Consultation Comments on the ‘Draft Design Code- Feb 24’ at the end of Phase 3: (13 February 2024 to 11th March 2024) and Design Code Response

Contents

Summary of consultee comments and design code response

Q1. Do you have any comments to make about the introduction, process or context of the design code?.....	2
Q2. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 1: Make space for nature?	3
Q3. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 2: Prioritise walking and cycling?	4
Q4. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 3: Thriving public spaces?.....	5
Q5. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 4: Enhance character?.....	5
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Summary of consultee comments and design code response

Q1. Do you have any comments to make about the introduction, process or context of the design code?

36 responses

This question received quite a mixed response from respondents. Whilst there were large number of positive comments on the code and comments for improvement, there were some respondents who were sceptical about how people's opinion would be considered. Some criticised the lack of public awareness and engagement in the consultation process, whilst there were others who were negative about the outcomes the code would produce.

Generally, there were calls for a greater emphasis on sustainability, improvements in public transport and for the design code to be inclusive and flexible to accommodate all socio-economic groups. Some respondents highlighted the importance of maintaining and respecting existing open spaces while others suggested that the design code should encourage active public involvement in the management of spaces.

There was a comment on the complexity and length of the document. Concerns were raised about potential gentrification, management of open space, public transport related issues and incorporation of the needs of the disabled individuals.

Many respondents were supportive of the design code process and found parts of it well laid out with a clear vision. There was also a call for direct consultation with local businesses and for addressing the lack of area's identity. Some specific areas of inaccuracies and clarifications were pointed out.

Design Code Response

Public engagement has been key in preparation of the design code, which has taken onboard the priorities of the community through online and in-person engagements conducted with residents in 3 stages from September 2023 - March 2024, considered over 250 individual responses and has made significant effort to publicise the coding process including online surveys, adverts on social media, posters, leaflets, within public buildings/community centres/shops, attending in person events in community (including local churches and other religious groups) as well as hosting public events at the Meadows Community Centres.

Whilst the code is not able to directly address issues on public transport, movement infrastructure and management regimes as these sit outside the remit of the local planning authority, it is able to ensure that, where relevant, the code can assist to inform, coordinate the planning and delivery of various services by council departments, public and private sector stakeholders.

The design code is 56 pages and is shorter than most design codes which tend to be over 100 pages. Post formal consultation, the design code will add an executive summary at the front end of the code. See detailed response and changes proposed to question 1 at the end of the document.

Q2. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 1: Make space for nature?

36 responses

Respondents were generally supportive of the principle of making space for nature, emphasizing the importance of incorporating greenery and biodiversity into urban planning. There was a call for more trees, particularly native species, and the creation of wildlife corridors and habitats. Concerns were raised about the maintenance of green spaces and the need for community engagement in their care. Some respondents criticized current planning practices that allow for the removal of greenery within gardens.

The need for sustainable design, such as green roofs and the elimination of herbicides, was also mentioned. A few responses indicated frustration with perceived inaction or slow progress on environmental issues. There were suggestions to prioritize nature over traffic and to design roads to accommodate more green spaces.

Some respondents expressed scepticism about the feasibility of the proposals, citing concerns about developers' compliance and the practicality of maintaining biodiverse areas. The issue of parking on verges and its impact on green spaces was also raised.

A few responses were negative or dismissive, questioning the priority given to nature over housing needs. Whilst one response was strongly opposed to the principle, feeling it would restrict personal freedom, another felt that these principles should be applied across the city.

Overall, while there is strong support for integrating nature into urban environments, there is a clear desire for effective implementation, proper maintenance, and genuine commitment from authorities and developers to ensure that these green initiatives are successful and sustainable.

Design code Response

Many of the respondent referred to transport, open space, management and maintenance issues. Whilst the code is not able to directly address issues on public transport, movement infrastructure and management regimes as these sit outside the remit of the local planning authority, it is able to ensure that, where relevant, the code can assist to inform, coordinate the planning and delivery of various services by council departments, public and private sector stakeholders.

Many of the comment made reinforces issues that the code has already addressed such as importance of green corridors, importance of biodiversity, front and rear gardens, support for more trees and local involvement in the management of open space.

However, there were additional points incorporated such as the management and maintenance of green roofs, designing out verge parking, presumption in favour of large shade producing large specimen trees and ensuring footpaths are located away from trees. The document also clarifies the Arbury recreation ground and provides explanation of a section illustration of how greening will be achieved.

Q3. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 2: Prioritise walking and cycling?

48 responses

Respondents to the 'Draft design code' project have expressed a variety of opinions regarding Principle 2, which focuses on prioritizing walking and cycling. A common theme is the need for improved safety and infrastructure for both pedestrians and cyclists, with suggestions including better maintenance of road surfaces, safety measures for pedestrians from cyclists at blind corners and the creation of more connected and legible cycle routes.

Several respondents highlighted the importance of maintaining access for vehicles, particularly in light of the future prevalence of electric cars and ensuring that parking is available for residents and visitors. Concerns were raised about the impact of reduced parking and the need for parking spaces to accommodate those who rely on cars for longer journeys or due to mobility issues.

The issue of blocked cycle lanes and footpaths by parked cars and other obstacles was mentioned as a problem that needs addressing. Some respondents suggested specific improvements, such as electric buses on certain routes while others called for better public transport connections/services in general.

A few respondents expressed frustration with what they perceive as an overemphasis on cycling to the detriment of other modes of transport and some felt that the needs of the elderly, disabled, and families should be more carefully considered.

There were also calls for more green spaces and routes away from traffic to encourage cycling and walking as well as requests for traffic calming measures to reduce pass-through traffic and improve safety.

Design Code Response

The code whilst prioritising walking and cycling has always enabled the development of balanced solutions to accommodate the needs of all road users, including those who need to use the car for longer journeys, visitors, disabled, elderly, service delivery, businesses etc.

Many of the respondent referred to transport, open space, management and maintenance issues which sit outside the remit of this design code or the local planning authority but referenced in the document including reduction of traffic on Arbury Road, improving legibility and public transport in the area.

The code has taken onboard comments from respondents including safety of pedestrians from cyclist, additional routes for cyclist and pedestrians, improvements to public transport, taking account of improvement already made on Histon and Arbury Road, designing out verge parking, designing for mobility scooters, reference to Sheffield stands etc.

Q4. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 3: Thriving public spaces?

33 responses

Respondents to the 'Draft design code' project on Principle 3: Thriving public spaces have various points and suggestions to make on the area. A recurring theme is the need for traffic control or reduction to enhance public spaces. Management and safety of these areas are also highlighted, with calls for regular upkeep and measures to prevent anti-social behaviour, including natural surveillance, views of shops, improved lighting.

There were suggestions to improve places like Carlton Way, Hazelwood Road, Arbury Court and enable a more equitable distribution of facilities across the area. There was support for community involvement. The role of cars in public spaces was debated, with some advocating for car-friendly designs while others prefer less car dominance.

Several respondents express support for the principle while others were of the sceptical about the impact of such projects. Some specific suggestions include better road surfacing in parks the use of solar energy and the creation of more inviting spaces with trees and softer landscapes were suggested.

Overall, the common thread was a desire for safe, well-maintained, and accessible public spaces that cater to the community's needs and encourage social interaction.

Design Code Response

Some of the comment made reinforces issues that the code has already addressed such as importance measures to prevent anti-social behaviour, including natural surveillance, views of shops, improved lighting, enabling inclusive access and a place for socialising.

At the same time the code has taken onboard comments on improving places like Carlton way, Hazelwood Road, shops on Campkin Road and other areas, including places for walking, jogging exercising, avoiding artificial grass etc.

Q5. Do you have any comments to make about Principle 4: Enhance character?

33 responses

Respondents to the 'Draft design code' project have expressed a variety of opinions regarding Principle 4: Enhance character. There are calls for more distinctive and individual property designs, avoiding a generic "lego land" appearance and some suggest that certain areas could benefit from redevelopment with mid-rise buildings.

The importance of maintaining a unique local character is emphasized, with suggestions to incorporate elements of Roman history for creative placemaking and to ensure each area has its own signature character. Some respondents stress the need for professional design input and public engagement in the enhancement process.

There are concerns about the lack of clarity regarding access to private or shared gardens and the impact of tall buildings on the area's character. Some respondents support the principle in general while others are sceptical about the council's commitment to listening to public opinion.

The enhancement of green spaces and support for local businesses are seen as key to improving the area's character. Some respondents worry that enhancements could lead to gentrification and displacement of current residents. There is also a call for more nature, visible policing, and community involvement to prevent deterioration of character.

Design Code Response

Some of the comment made reinforces issues that the code has already addressed such as having more individual looking properties, promotion of hedges, roof gardens, high quality materials, heights of buildings etc.

However, at the same time the code has incorporated comments made such as multi-generational housing, taking opportunity to improve underutilised land, garage sites and incidental spaces, providing clarity on private gardens, incorporation of the area's roman history etc.

Q6 Do you have any comments to make about Principle 5: Increase sustainability?

34 responses

Respondents generally support the principle of increasing sustainability in the draft design code, with a focus on the use of sustainable materials and practices. There is a consensus on the importance of sustainability and the need for environmentally friendly solutions. Some respondents emphasize the need for sustainable management reuse of materials and less reliance on concrete. Public transport improvements and support for solar energy initiatives are mentioned, though one respondent had a negative experience with a solar panel contractor.

There are concerns about the practicality and cost-effectiveness of some sustainability measures and suggestions for improvements, such as tree-lined streets, underground bin systems, grey water harvesting, and community energy schemes. Some respondents are sceptical about the feasibility or benefits of sustainability efforts whilst other want to go further requesting the design code express clear practical cost-effective strategies for implementation.

A few respondents mention specific technologies such as air source heat pumps and the need for retrofitting existing housing stock to improve sustainability.

Overall, while there is strong support for sustainability, respondents also express a need for clear, practical, and cost-effective strategies to implement these principles. Concerns about the execution, cost, and oversight of sustainable initiatives are evident, as well as a desire for broader inclusion of various sustainable technologies and practices.

Design Code Response

Whilst some respondents would like the code to go further on sustainability and express clear practical cost-effective strategies for implementation, it sits outside the scope of the project. However, it signposts to areas where this information can be sourced.

Some of the comment made reinforces issues that the code has already addressed such as promoting materials with low embodied energy, reuse of materials etc. It also provides clarification on the EPC data and map, post occupancy evaluations, heat pumps.

At the same time the code has incorporated comments made such as reducing water use and incorporation of sustainability measures at a wider scale.

Appendix G: Detailed Comments, responses and amendments on the 'Draft Design Code- Feb 24' at the end of Phase 3: (13 February 2024 to 11th March 2024)

Inspired Living: A Design Code to enhance design in Northern Cambridge Neighbourhoods

Detailed responses the individual comments on the six questions and amendments to the 'Draft Design Code- Feb 24' at the end of Phase 3: (13 February 2024 to 11th March 2024)

Please see detailed responses to individual comments on the six questions here:
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/q3ed52ds/draft-design-code-detailed-responses.xlsb>

