

Notes of an informal meeting to discuss the Community Strategy
8 March 2024

Present: Cllrs Thompson, Perry, Peters, and Spencer.

Officers: Catharine Mann and Pete Barker.

The informal meeting was to consider the development of the Community Strategy and in particular, the engagement process and results. The engagement had received 2,106 resident survey responses, 236 engaged in face to face conversations and 92 partner survey responses.

The results of the engagement were being analysed and a full report would be available soon.

There would be a member event on 21 March and the developed strategy would come before Corporate O&S Committee for pre decision scrutiny in July 2024.

The Members present offered the following comments:

- The response rate was considered to be viable, particularly given the partnership consultees.
- There was surprise that only 10% of respondents were concerned about green issues.
- It was felt that there was a lack knowledge in the community over the functions and services local authorities had control over.
- There was a need to manage public expectations as people who responded may expect action to take place.
- The term 'pride' can mean different things to different people.
- There were opportunities to build on existing neighbourhood groups such as neighbourhood watch.
- Members felt that it would be useful to see the more detailed analysis. This could enable a targeted approach to consultation of areas of the community or groups who haven't responded.
- Schools/Libraries/supermarkets had provided good response rates.
- Social media could be used in a better way.
- The question of how to enable volunteering without making the system bureaucratic with health and safety or permissions etc was raised as an issue.
- Links needed to be made with other corporate strategies such as the climate change strategy, the cultural strategy or the Digital strategy.
- The 'Mans Shed' project; allotment groups; cost of living groups; printed and posted questionnaires would be considered in some areas to increase participation.