

Blueprint Consultation Evaluation and Feedback 2010

Contents

	Page
Workshop Feedback and Evaluation	
Building Schools for the Future	3, 4, 5
New and Affordable Homes	6, 7
Healthier Lifestyles	8, 9
Skills and Enterprise	10, 11
Roads and Transport	12, 13
Casework questions and responses	14, 15, 16
Online and booking form feedback	17
Traffic Light responses – Marketplace workshop	18, 19, 20, 21
Evaluation and Feedback	22

Workshop Feedback and Evaluation

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE WORKSHOP

Building Schools for the Future – all responses highlighted that development of schools as community hub/centre is essential – Schools for the future are all about communities.

What are the main challenges that schools face today?

The challenges identified during the workshops included the need to ensure that young people have the right skills to prepare them for working life. In contrast to this was the challenge around meeting targets and the agenda. Parental involvement is seen as being key and this can be achieved by schools becoming a larger part of the community.

If we were able to build new schools, what would you change?

- Schools need to be a community resource and used to engage families, host community meetings, adult education, voluntary sector groups, health centres, housing offices, police liaison officers.
- Flexible types of learning needs to be introduced, with emphasis on developing life skills.
- Learning outside the classroom in the community and employees being a bigger part of education is very important as is more independence and control over the working day.
- Future schools need to have improved sports facilities to ensure healthy lifestyles.

What types of opportunities for learning will help every pupil make the best possible progress?

- Practical training and apprenticeships will ensure progress and needs to be a part of education system.
- We need to ensure that we make a range of services available and focus on a child's learning by harnessing their skills.
- We need to ensure that we improve health advice within schools and have more sports facilities available for use by all the community.
- Progress can be achieved by ensuring that we have the right resources in schools for example library facilities, consider having police working from school sites so that the community can go there to meet them.
- Ensuring that we have the right ICT training and equipment will strengthen opportunities.
- Moving from primary school to secondary school to higher education and changes that this involve needs to be managed more effectively as its very daunting for young people.

What stops young people achieving their best? How do we remove these barriers?

- All agencies need to interact and be involved in lessons
- We need to provide more opportunities for learning outside schools and provide greater choices in relation to education
- We need to recognise the benefits of third sector provision
- Running social enterprises for example growing for the future, teaching garden skills will help young people to achieve their best and create healthier lifestyles
- We need to ensure that we engage with those families who have no aspirations.

What types of opportunities for learning will help pupils make the best possible progress?

- Progress can be achieved through providing health advice within schools
- We can create healthier lifestyles by ensuring that we use sports facilities within schools for the whole community outside of school hours
- Police can be effective by working from school sites so that they are more accessible to the whole community
- ICT Technology – ensuring that we keep with the pace of change, provide security and safeguarding. ICT used as a tool with a range of other learning.

What sort of curriculum do we need for young people in the future to help them make the best start in life?

- More effective use of the website to ensure that students can review lessons on line
- Provide more open days so that families can be involved in school activity, learn more about their child's education
- Teach students more about cyber bullying and how this can be prevented

What sort of services to children, families and the wider community should be offered through school sites?

- Ensure other agencies involved from start within schools for example social services in a discreet way – this would develop a blueprint potentially and design schools around this type of thinking
- Other services for example Police, Youth Support and Theatre
- (Young Person's perception) – Technology not good/distribution poor ie computers in science block
- Opportunity to do something differently and think differently
- School in community in its own right not just building for education ie dental facilities, youth support, doctors etc
- Co-location important

- Partnership starts when building schools for funding and providing services etc.

How do you think schools could be organised, led or structured differently?

- 2 main points – education, whole person, range of learning opportunities
 - Schools as focus of community, bespoke for area and all
 - Need a headteacher not a business manager
 - Team management for a group/pyramid of schools (cluster)
 - Schools in each area managed together with support team (teams built around the child)
-

Discussion on ICT Technology included:

How we see that raising aspirations
Funding per student and infrastructure
Affects all schools

Outwood Grange
Virtual learning environment – can use at home/school
Control over how to learn
Very new technology

VLE
New technology – used in primary schools as well as secondary schools
Wider range of young people engaged

Some schools have no written homework, all computer based but assumes all have access to IT off site
Local laptops are essential to support VLE work
IT rapidly changing

How ready are ICT schools for disabled children – consider DDA as part of BSF programme

ICT safeguarding key in terms of security element inviting community into school to discuss safeguarding young people

NEW AND AFFORDABLE HOMES WORKSHOP

Factors for identifying land for new homes and jobs include:

- Affordability/demand and population growth are key
- We need to see new methods of construction
- Accessibility to public transport
- Road access is key as is the use of previously developed land
- Consideration needs to be given to the impact on the environment
- Homes and jobs need to be near to services and easily accessible by a range of transport modes to reduce travel to work from out of district. Developments can support and sustain public transport through developer subsidy and contributions.
- Broadband access for internet shopping is key to ensuring that we reduce the impact on traffic to supermarkets
- We need to ensure that we have provision for disabled people
- We need to think carefully about flooding issues when identifying land for new homes

What are the most important infrastructure and services needed to support growth?

- Social/communal facilities with multi uses
- Well maintained public spaces – green infrastructure and bringing green areas into development
- Wardens for elderly people
- Infrastructure (roads/cycle ways and footpaths)
- Facilities for young people with multifunctional centres for the use of all the community
- Accessibility to public transport
- Schools and education
- Locating developments next to economic areas where people work
- Accessibility of emergency services

What are the most important issues to take into account when providing new homes?

- Improved use of empty properties is really important for the future
- Energy efficiency and reduced running costs, use of solar panels
- Deliverability
- Viability – new models for delivering affordable housing will need to be considered
- Flexible housing
- Housing completions are currently outstripping starts therefore an increased shortage of supply will be an issues in 12 – 18 months time
- We need to consider mortgages and the housing ladder
- Lifetime homes are important for the future allowing young people as well as older people to stay in their homes as their circumstances change – home design is really important to achieve this

Design of future buildings to reduce Anti Social Behaviour and crime needs to include:

- Youth facilities for all age groups will reduce anti social behaviour and crime. We need to involve young people in the design and planning of our estates – places to encourage football and active lifestyles
- We need to improve the management of private rented properties
- We need to have well lit spaces – with sensor lighting
- Natural surveillance of open space can be created through improved design. Problems often occur when land has no specific purpose. Allotments are a good use of open space.
- CCTV can be overpowering and inhospitable and we can avoid the use of CCTV through improved design
- We need to take responsibility for ownership, maintenance and upkeep

What is considered to be good design in terms of new and affordable homes?

- Affordable to all
 - Energy efficiency
 - Development of communal refuse areas
 - Flexible properties
 - Lifetime homes feature
-

HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES WORKSHOP

How can we best support people, especially in our most disadvantaged community to make healthier choices?

- Through one to one contact to encourage people to lead active lifestyles. This can be signposting activity or by providing cookery lessons around healthy eating, the use of community champions is key in this, people who can act as ambassadors and who are known in the community.
- Providing information on what is available for example free swimming and activities available
- Provide incentives to encourage people to change
- Provide information about debt management and credit unions to promote savings accounts in schools
- We need to ensure that we have less fast food on high streets and encourage other providers for example greengrocers. In addition we need to work with fast food outlets to ensure that they provide healthy options
- By creating an eat well website we can provide information about accredited restaurants and healthy eating options

How can we best improve access to such preventative services, especially for our most disadvantaged communities?

- Keeping communities together in their own homes and not moving them to care homes
- We need to ensure that we consult with those who do not work to ask them their views
- We need to ensure that we have useful internet sites – with good search engine and up to date information, on occasions when we Google and make random searches we do receive inappropriate results
- Communications is key for example through the Citizen newspaper to promote health messages
- Ensure that services are accessible
- Secondary schools need to be used more and become a community hub

How can we maximise the beneficial effect of work on health, especially in our most disadvantaged communities?

- Volunteering is key especially within schools to educate them on benefits and how they can get involved. Generally we need to promote volunteering and provide information on how people can volunteer and the rewards and benefits of getting involved. Volunteering is important to keep healthy after retirement.
- We can improve health by training volunteers to be health trainers.
- Working with newly diagnosed patients to provide a bank of 'expert patients' that people can talk to and who can pass messages on.

How can we reduce income inequalities in the district? (In particular child poverty?)

- Key agencies need to ensure that they have the right referral process to services 'Every contact counts'. We also need to signpost citizens to other services that they are not aware of.
- Intergenerational work is the key to the future.
- Ensure people are getting the correct benefits.

What are the most important things that need to be done to ensure we all enjoy a healthy environment, especially those in our most deprived communities?

- Protect the greenbelt land by promoting ownership, keeping it clean and free of fly tipping
 - Encourage communities to use allotments and benefits financially, to health in terms of being active, pride and intergenerational activities transferring skills and knowledge. Promote the use of allotments through healthy eating in schools
 - Promote the green space we have in the district, play areas etc
 - Support parents in good parenting skills
 - Keeping the environment clean and free from dog fouling is key
 - Smoking ban has created litter – from the cigarette butts
 - Local networks and communicating what exists.
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SKILLS AND ENTERPRISE WORKSHOP

**As a place where you live and/or work, how do you see Wakefield now?
How would you like to see it in the future – 5-10 years?**

- Wakefield needs its own university.
- Need to ensure that we link education to businesses in area and have the right skills match for the jobs within the district.
- We need to ensure that we think about the ageing workforce.
- We need to market the district and make sure of land to attract employers

What qualities do employers look for when recruiting people?

- Somebody with the right skills including reading, writing and numeracy
- Education needs to link closely to the needs of the private sector and the needs of businesses.

How can we help people stay in work and not return to benefits?

- Apprenticeships are key and an alternative to university.
- Consider how we support those people who have a disability/ill health back into work.
- Lack of motivation for those people on benefits to change, social interaction is key.
- Short term skills training is one area for development in the future
- Job centre has limited time to spend with each client and are a key link – perhaps the approach can be reviewed.
- Benefits pay more than jobs in some instances – we need to review this.

How can we encourage young people/citizens to gain the skills they need to secure good jobs?

- More employee led training is required
- We need to change people's thinking and ensure that young people feel that they can aspire to succeed with the support of others
- Intergenerational work is key where retired people go into schools and help young people
- Reduce the schools agenda prioritising skills for work – reduce the gap between what employers need and constraints on education.
- Provide transferable skills
- Financial constraints on schools result in lack of skills for jobs.

What types of employer/industry should we be encouraging to invest in the Wakefield district?

- We need to build the right infrastructure to encourage knowledge based industries for example solicitors and law firms to invest
- We need to support small businesses – Federation of small businesses involved in appointing people with disabilities but lots of companies do not have the right facilities. More support and benefits for a small employer required.

- Hotel industry, area as a visitor attraction making use of natural beauty of area.

How can we better market the opportunities in Wakefield to the workforce of the future?

- Building schools for the future is key – working more closely with investors, businesses through apprenticeships for example.
- Improve advice for business start up; provide more case studies around success stories.
- Ensure that what is created is part of the new Building Schools for the Future programme.
- Need more funding and encouragement for those wishing to return to education.
- In the next few years we need to ensure that employers are involved in education through work experience.

How can we encourage and support more people to start up their own businesses?

- More information required and advice for those who want to start up their own business, this needs to be part of college courses. For information more advice needed on National Insurance, financial guidance etc.
 - Incubation units where people can trial setting up and establishing their business would provide support.
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ROADS AND TRANSPORT WORKSHOP

How can we improve the quality of public transport?

- We need to get more people to use public transport this can be achieved by restricting car users (free running buses, park and ride schemes, transferrable tickets)
- **College bus routes** – we need to ensure that we look at future issues, need more forward thinking of bus operators and subsidy
- **Rural Bus Services** are sparse and service infrequent, routes need to be reviewed and consideration given to use of social funding
- **Urban Services** - 'Quality bus contracts' required as way forward.
- **Bus Lanes** - Requires capacity. Park and ride sites required. Doncaster Road is a major problem for congestion, create bus lane and park and ride site.
- Combination of road widening and road space allocation 'Unofficial' park and ride are problem
- **'Bull ring issues'**
All one level is a problem. Safety issues for pedestrians have been raised. New concept, reduce traffic and slow down vehicles and buses.
- **Pedestrianisation**
Remove all traffic from city centres
Encourage café culture
Particular problem at Normanton identified
Need more facilities, better market in Wakefield city centre
Need urban realm to attract people to city centre.
- **Improvement to bus services.**
Public Transport/rural services/evening services/park and ride/car parking
Bus lanes – quality contracts with operators are the way forward.

2. What are the best ways to help improve people's ability to travel around the district? (Please tick three)

- We need to get more children walking to school
- Park and Ride has worked well in York, however, expensive to park. However, in contrast this has not worked so well in Doncaster
- Oyster cards in London increase people on buses; however, less time is then spent in shops
- Rail system needs integration with public transport. We need to ensure that we have improved parking
- Safety is a priority at the rail station both in terms of personal safety and vehicles
- Frequency of trains on network key as is the access getting to the rail station
- Links to airport need to be improved, inadequate bus/rail services to Manchester airport along with issues in terms of access to Leeds Bradford and Doncaster airport across

- Different start times at colleges and staggered start times for schools would improve people's ability to travel around the district and reduce congestion
- Improved transport would encourage tourists and visitors to the district.

Casework Forms

During the Blueprint events a number of delegates raised individual concerns or queries during the programme of events on specific issues and have received a comprehensive response direct.

A summary of questions raised and response made are listed below.

Question	Answer
<p>A question was asked about an article which appeared in the Citizen newspaper. The article stated that plans for Persimmon to build 78 homes in Westfield Lane were not being progressed. The questioner wanted to know why the planned build had not gone ahead?</p>	<p>Last year, Cabinet approved that the City Estate site be released to Wakefield's Developer Framework. The Developer Framework is a preferred list of 8 housing developers who have a proven track record in delivering high quality regeneration.</p> <p>Officers are currently identifying a vision to guide the new housing development on the former City Estate site after detailed consultation with the City Estate steering group and local residents. The developers on the framework will be invited to put forward proposals for developing the site and these will be evaluated against a set of key criteria. The best proposal will then be awarded.</p>
<p>Please could we have some information about the Local Development Framework and the context map for the South East area?</p>	<p>There is a website specifically for the LDF at http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/ldf where information about the LDF's progress is outlined. Documents that have already been adopted by the Council are also displayed on this site, they are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy • Development Policies • Central Wakefield Area Action Plan • Waste <p>There is also have a database for people who are interested in the LDF and who would like to be kept informed of progress.</p>
<p>Can the derestricted road sign outside the village on Newstead Lane be moved?</p>	<p>This information has been passed to the team for further investigation.</p>
<p>Information was requested about confirmed access from High Street South Elmsall to plots SE20 and SE41 so that the 3 owners can know the value of the land and plan for the future.</p>	<p>Both sites were proposed for housing in the Local Development Framework's Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document Preferred Options report in July 2008.</p> <p>There have been issues about how a suitable vehicular access could be provided for the sites and various options were considered. Highway Development is now of the opinion that, in principle, a vehicle access solution is achievable by using 36 and 38 High Street, however, it will have to be clearly demonstrated how any difficulties will be overcome.</p> <p>Further information is also available Local Development Framework's website at: http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/ldf .</p>

<p>The bus routes in Ackworth do not allow people living in low Ackworth to reach the doctors and chemist without having to get two buses. Can consideration be given to introducing a small loop to the Beverley Arms roundabout, this would cure the problem?</p>	<p>Passed on for consideration.</p>
<p>Why has no children's play area been provided in the Hemsworth, Station Road housing estate when it was originally shown on the plans? Although there is an open space the land is too steep to make an effective play area. Is there a directive which states that when over 30 houses are built on a site a play area should be provided, if so why hasn't this been enforced?</p>	<p>When planning permission was granted in 2003 an area of public open space with a play area was located centrally on the site. However, after construction started it was agreed by the Planning and Highways committee that the open space could be switched to the south of the site as the houses under construction in this location were causing over looking problems for neighbouring bungalows as a result of altered land levels undertaken on the site. It was also agreed that rather than place children's play area equipment to the rear of existing houses a commuted sum of £35,000 would be provided by the developer to improve existing facilities in the vicinity. In planning terms we currently require public open space contributions (either on or off site) on developments over 30 units but do not necessarily specify that these have to be provided with play equipment.</p>
<p>Are there any plans to run 'return to cycling' courses this year and how can more information about them be obtained?</p>	<p>Some over 50's Return to Cycling Courses were run in August 2009. The initial response to our Adverts was excellent and had a good quantity of enquiries, however, on booking the date and venue the actual people interested dwindled with only 4 turning up.</p> <p>More of these courses can be run if better numbers can be guaranteed.</p>
<p>Aysgarth residents find it too far to walk to the bus stop on Horbury road and are desperate for a ring and ride service on the estate. People are limited because of the cost of taxi's which results in people being trapped and isolated in their homes. People need to be able to get off the estate to town, doctors etc.</p>	<p>Metro's AccessBus service is currently available to people who find themselves in a position where they are unable to use conventional bus services.</p> <p>Further Details are available on the Metro website - http://www.wymetro.com/BusTravel/accessrural/AccessBus.htm</p>

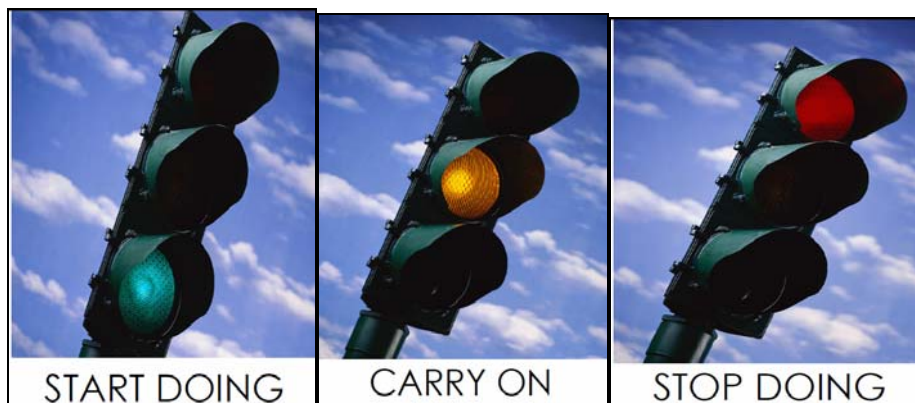
<p>What is the council's position on Community Transport?</p>	<p>Wakefield Council (& its strategic partners) via adopted transportation policies seek to promote integrated transport interventions which are equitably available, sustainable, safe & enable accessibility to key destinations (employment, education, health facilities & sources of affordable fresh food). These objectives may be achieved in a number of ways. In some circumstances this may involve community transport or comparable activities. However any decisions regarding practical support have to be made at a strategic level within the confines of budgetary constraints, other priorities & value for money.</p>
<p>A question was asked about whether funding support for adult education at Kinsley and Fitzwilliam Resource Centre could be mainstreamed rather than being granted year by year?</p>	<p>Funding is allocated to Kinsley and Fitzwilliam Community Centre on an annual basis from Wakefield Adult and Community Education and has continued so for some years. However the funding for Adult and Community Education (ACES) cannot be guaranteed as there are many factors which change in terms of post-16 funding for education and worklessness which ACES has no control over. The funding has reduced this coming year for post 16 providers and may do so again in the future.</p> <p>ACES endeavours to support partners as well as is possible given the changing arena in which we work.</p>
<p>An issue was raised about a household not receiving a copy of the citizen newspaper.</p>	<p>The council is always keen to hear from residents who are not receiving copies of the citizen so that they can inform Royal Mail of this fact. If you are not receiving a copy please ring the council contact centre on 0845 8 506 506.</p>
<p>Could I please have some more information about promotion of cycling to the community?</p>	<p>Wakefield Council, Wakefield Cycle users forum and partners are involved in a number of projects and organise a series of events every year to promote cycling. A list of events can be found on the council website at www.wakefield.gov.uk/cultureandleisure/outdoors or you can obtain more details by ringing 0845 8 506 506.</p>

Online feedback and Booking Forms

Facilities were made available for those people who did not attend the events to contribute through the invitation response; a summary of these comments is highlighted below:

- I am concerned about the amount of countryside being lost for the building of industrial estates and warehouses. I appreciate the need for more job opportunities but there are several empty warehouses and office blocks on the original Normanton Industrial Estate which should be used first
- We need a transport network in place to ensure access to the new hospital service for patients and visitors
- I am concerned about the volume of traffic on the A639 which will be increased when the remedial work to Colorado Way and Park Road begins in March. Is there any possibility of having either another temporary or permanent crossing on the A639?
- Litter is still an issue in the Half Acres area, in Temple Street at the bottom of Love Lane and we have problems relating to fly tipping in the park
- I am concerned at the amount of rubbish that is left when the dustbins have been emptied, this is not the fault of the dustbin men but those who put out the dustbins that are overflowing
- I would like to suggest that we get people who have community service orders against them to use that time to pick up litter for the benefit of the local community, could we ask those out of work to clean up the local area
- I have no vision for the Wakefield district, I feel that it has declined over the last 20 years
- Healthier Lifestyles are important from birth and throughout ones life
- I would like to see more properties to rent being built
- I am very concerned about some groups manipulating planning laws and building on green belt land.

Marketplace Feedback Board/Workshop



Delegates were asked to write a brief summary on the post-it note and place the post-it note under the relevant traffic light poster.

What should we 'start' doing (Green traffic light poster) – feedback included:

Schools/Education

- Educating people on money management, control door stop lending, debt management/personal financial management
- Cookery classes for adults and promote healthy portion sizes
- Listening to the requirements of young people at an early age. Involve more community champions. Ensure that we engage and listen to the views of all citizens including communities of interest
- Arrange external visits to add value to teachers programmes and promotion of citizenship ie school councils with proper training and support
- Free computer classes for the elderly
- BSF to link and partner with universities
- Match work experience children 15 – 16 years with placements that open their eyes to possible future employment opportunities.

Health

- GP referrals to get more people active
- Reintroduce health screening/healthier lifestyles, annual health checks for young people aged 7 onwards and as part of Building Schools for the Future programme
- New legislation required to stop dog fouling
- Focus on the strong links between physical and mental health and provide services which target both
- More intergenerational work.

Supporting Businesses/Promotion of the City

- Use vacant shops on short let to voluntary groups to raise their profiles
- Introduce discussions between students and councillors
- Introduce food co-ops so that we are able to buy one item ie pint of milk at the price it would be for four pints
- Link with local cultural/arts providers to participate in programme delivery
- Promoting the South East of the district.

Public Transport, Traffic and Parking

- Enforce traffic and parking regulations
- Improve bus service in Ackworth area
- Extend free bus range to cover Pinderfields hospital
- Consult at planning so that transport comes into action when people need it so they don't need to think about a car
- Implement park and ride to clear congestion in town centres
- Provide secure cycle storage in city centre with a view to rolling this out district wide
- Build a park and ride to link visitors and tourist attractions – work with tourists to develop plans
- More access for mobility scooters with improved kerbs

Community Safety

- More community service – where offenders are seen throughout the district actively engaged in rubbish clean ups particularly in Altofts area.

Housing

- Invest more in improving housing – particularly inner Pontefract, Knottingley and Airedale
- Provide more allotment space and an opportunity to purchase compost.

What should we “STOP” doing (Red traffic light poster) – feedback included:

Health

- Stop young people smoking
- Stop charging for sports facilities.

Transport

- Stop charging young people to use the buses, trains and provide free transport to access education
- Spending all our efforts on those that can achieve in school and provide more attention to slow learners.

Education/Schools

- Stop letting young people leave the school premises at lunchtime, reduce lunch breaks
- Reduce form filling for teachers
- Spending all our efforts on those that can achieve in school and provide more attention to slow learners
- Focusing on buildings is all about education outcomes.

Business Development/Planning

- Stop giving permission to take aways in areas where we already have them
- Stop businesses using the bins outside their shops
- Unsupported development of small businesses

Other comments received:

- Promoting an elected Mayor
- Outsourcing public transport to private companies
- Short term fixes and initiatives

**What should we Carry On Doing (Amber traffic light poster)
feedback included:**

Education and Learning

- Night classes for parents on school curriculum and more involvement in Education
- Carrying on improving numeracy, literacy
- Help students to stay in education
- Extending vocational opportunities for young people in this city
- Funding ICT – a necessary tool in the foundations of a good school
- Working with children to educate them about rubbish.

Activities for the Young

- Providing more youth clubs ensuring that young people are off the streets.

Healthier Lifestyles

- Promoting cycling and cycle tracks to create healthier lifestyles
- Enforcement of legal age of sale for alcohol.

Engagement

- Consulting with key stakeholders particularly maintaining and improving our green spaces and considering all age ranges in their designs
- Providing more opportunities for people to have their say.

Transport

- Provide more bus routes for remote areas of the district eg Upton to the train stations, Moorthorpe and South Elmsall
- Promote Wakefield district as a venue for employers
- Policing the green spaces
- Improving transport

Recycling

- Improving recycling eg plastics are limited to recyclability 1,2,3, number.

Blueprint evaluation – overall rating of all three events:

97% of attendees would be interested in attending an event of this kind in the future:

