

IMAGINE MIDSOMER NORTON

Town Centre Masterplan

Public Engagement and Consultation Report
November 2025



Executive Summary

The Midsomer Norton Town Centre Masterplan has been prepared to set out a vision and identify opportunities and future improvements to the town centre. It develops ideas that have been generated by the community and builds on the work of the Historic England funded High Street Heritage Action Zone programme (2020-2024), setting a bold vision for Midsomer Norton's future High Street.

This project has been undertaken by a team including Allies and Morrison, PJA and Avison Young covering a range of disciplines. It has been commissioned by Bath & North East Somerset Council in partnership with Midsomer Norton Town Council.

The masterplan is centred around the former Midsomer Norton Brewery buildings, located within the central High Street, and the surrounding core retail area. The masterplan also encompasses the two main car parks for the town located on South Road and to the rear of Sainsbury's supermarket.

The masterplanning process has involved an extensive engagement and consultation programme with members of the public. The programme's name, IMAGINE Midsomer Norton, encouraged residents, visitors and businesses alike to look towards the future of the town centre and share bold and creative ideas.

1. Overall Engagement and Consultation Strategy

1.1 All engagement and consultation activities aligned with B&NES Council's overriding purpose, **IMPROVING PEOPLE'S LIVES**, and its core policy, **GIVING PEOPLE A BIGGER SAY**.

1.2 The programme also adhered to the B&NES Council Engagement Charter, which sets out our standards for how we engage with our community. The project team committed to:

- Consult on decisions in a **meaningful way**
- Recognise the **demographic and geographical differences** across our communities
- Ensure we give full consideration to **addressing the climate emergency** when we plan our community engagement and consultation approaches
- Ensure we understand the **diverse needs of our communities**
- Identify, engage and involve **all relevant stakeholder groups**
- Work with the third sector to **engage hard to reach groups**
- Ensure we plan and engage early to **encourage 'good conversations'** and **build strong relationships**
- Utilise existing engagement mechanisms including the **area forums and parish liaison** and explore new opportunities to engage
- Be **clear in our communications**, using plain English, and **avoiding jargon**
- Be **clear about what we are aiming to achieve**, what decisions are being consulted on and who will make the final decision
- Ensure that there is **enough time given for the community** to consider and respond to consultations
- Ensure **feedback is given following consultation** so that the community understand why we have taken the decision

- 1.3 The engagement and consultation programme for Midsomer Norton was designed in three phases - DISCOVER, DEVELOP and DESIGN - each of which built on feedback from the previous stage. In doing so, the programme aimed to achieve early, open, transparent, responsive and inclusive engagement, an approach which has been proven to improve planning outcomes by ensuring that plans are shaped by community need.
- 1.4 The programme also aimed to avoid barriers to participation by introducing a programme of creative engagement activities, working in collaboration with five local artists. These sessions were designed to open up participants' imaginations, foster intergenerational conversations and make complex ideas more accessible. They also elicited responses from a broader cross-section of the community, including young people, people with physical disabilities, black and minority ethnic groups, older people, people from a lower socio-economic background, and disadvantaged families with young children.

2. DISCOVER Engagement Activities - September to December 2024

- 2.1 The DISCOVER phase of community engagement took place between September and December 2024. The aim was to make space for a learning and listening process, establishing the priorities of key stakeholders alongside members of the public.
- 2.2 This initial engagement programme included:
 - Project information and an interactive map hosted at www.bathnesplaces.co.uk
 - Two virtual drop-ins
 - Four in-person drop-ins
 - Stakeholder briefings
 - Press media campaign
 - Social media campaign
 - Posters and flyers
 - Business visits
 - Community group information packs
 - Pop-up displays
 - Schools pack
- 2.3 These activities all took place alongside a series of regular meetings and workshops with both the Midsomer Norton Regeneration Steering Group and Midsomer Norton Town Council. This collaborative approach ensured that emerging projects were all grounded in the needs and aspirations of the community.
- 2.4 Public engagement activities both online and in-person were structured around two open ended prompts, designed to elicit a wide range of perspectives:
 - One thing that I love about Midsomer Norton town centre is...
 - One thing that I imagine for the future of Midsomer Norton town centre is...
- 2.5 Over 300 comments were received in total.
- 2.6 A full Engagement Report detailing the DISCOVER phase of the engagement programme was published at <chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcjajpcglclefindmkaj/https://bathnesplaces.co.uk/regen/files/engagementreport.pdf>.

3. DEVELOP Engagement Activities - April to July 2025

- 3.1 The DEVELOP phase of community engagement took place between April and July 2025, following on from the appointment of consultants Allies and Morrison, PJA and Avison Young.
- 3.2 During the DEVELOP phase, the aim of the project team was to bring local people along on the journey by distilling the ideas received in the DISCOVER phase and communicating them back for additional input. Materials presented for feedback included a draft Place Vision and Place Priorities, and an initial Framework Plan map outlining key ideas and opportunities in the town centre. See **Appendix 1** for copies of the Develop phase engagement materials.
- 3.3 Information about this phase of engagement was communicated via:
 - Project details at www.bathnesplaces.co.uk
 - Stakeholder briefings
 - Press media campaign
 - Social media campaign
 - Posters and flyers
 - Business visits
 - Community group information packs
 - Pop-up displays

See **Appendix 2** for examples.

- 3.4 A public Open Studio, held at the Hollies Chamber in May 2025, was the main in-person event of this phase. The exhibition, attended by 155 people, allowed members of the public to view and discuss work-in-progress ahead of the formal consultation.
- 3.5 Additionally, focus groups and workshops with community groups were held throughout this period. This included a school project with 60 children in year six at St John's Primary School. Pupils were invited to consider what makes good places, learn about the role of urban designers, and to contribute their ideas to the work-in-progress masterplan.
- 3.6 Four artist residencies, entitled 'Shape Your High Street', were also supported. The artists produced creative responses to the project through poetry, painting and song, in collaboration with 500 local people from the ages of 3 to 96. Participants included members of Age UK, users of the skate park, First Thursday Afternoon social group, Welton Runners, St John's Primary School, The Good Afternoon Choir, and Radstock Museum. The outcomes were shared in July 2025 in high street shop window displays, as a way of communicating community aspirations and promoting the wider project. Pop-up performances were also held at Zen Rebel Café and the Town Park Amphitheatre. See **Appendix 3** for project promotional materials.

4. DEVELOP Engagement Feedback

- 4.1 As part of the DEVELOP phase engagement, an online survey was available. 128 responses were received, alongside 38 written responses from the Open Studio event.
- 4.2 In part one of the survey, respondents were presented with five Place Priorities and asked to rank them, as well as being invited to suggest a sixth priority. From 51 responses to this question, Retail and Recreation for Everyone was ranked most popular, suggesting that an

enhanced mix of shops and services, including evening economy, café culture, and an improved leisure hub, would be very positively received.

- 4.3 In part two of the survey, two questions were asked about each of four potential regeneration projects in the town centre. Overall, there was strong support for sustainable and sensitive improvements to the Old Brewery, the Gasworks, Excelsior Terrace Junction, and the Hollies (garden and shopping area). See **Appendix 4** for full survey responses received.
- 4.4 In addition to survey responses, qualitative responses from the community were recorded. These included comments from focus groups and workshops (see **Appendix 5**), worksheets from the St John's Primary School project (see **Appendix 6**) and artworks produced as part of the Shape Your High Street project (see **Appendix 7**).
- 4.5 Overall, responses confirmed that the masterplanning work-in-progress was being shaped by a strong vision and set of priorities which had the support of local people. They also provided valuable insights into some potential gaps to be addressed either in the draft masterplan, via the forthcoming Midsomer Norton Regeneration Action Plan, or via other council teams, including:
 - Services for children and young people
 - Improved play and leisure for children and young people
 - Support for businesses (e.g. incubation spaces and shopfront improvements)
 - Public toilets
 - Improved wayfinding and pedestrian links
 - Support for community organisations
 - Cleanliness and maintenance
 - Outdoor seating
 - Tree planting, shade and rewilding
 - Improved public transport and active travel infrastructure
 - Car parking charges
 - Celebration of Midsomer Norton's unique character and heritage
 - Creation of jobs
 - More housing
 - Seating

5. DESIGN Engagement Activities and Consultation - October 2025

- 5.1 The DESIGN phase of community engagement, which included the four-week formal public consultation on the masterplan, took place from 2 to 30 October 2025.
- 5.2 During this consultation period, stakeholders and members of the public were presented with the draft IMAGINE Midsomer Norton Town Centre Masterplan, which built on the priority projects established through the first two phases of engagement. See **Appendix 8** for copies of the DESIGN phase engagement materials.
- 5.3 Respondents were also invited to comment on the initial nine priority projects proposed for inclusion in the forthcoming Midsomer Norton Regeneration Action Plan, which will provide a framework for further regeneration interventions in the wider town centre area, beyond the scope of the masterplan.
- 5.4 Information about this phase of engagement and consultation was communicated via:
 - Project information at www.bathnesplaces.co.uk

- Stakeholder briefings
- Press media campaign
- Social media campaign
- Posters, flyers and lamppost wraps
- Business visits
- Community group information packs

See **Appendix 9** for examples.

5.5 The public drop-in offered stakeholders and members of the public an opportunity to discuss the draft masterplan with officers. Hosted outdoors at The Island, the event took place in collaboration with the B&NES Local Plan Options Consultation and offered family-friendly, artist-led creative activities as part of the Big Draw Festival. It was attended by several hundred people over the two days.

6. DESIGN Consultation Responses

6.1 In the consultation survey, respondents were invited to express their support for each of the 10 proposed projects on a Likert scale. There was also space to submit further long-form comments or questions on each of the projects.

6.2 There were 527 responses received in total across the 10 proposed projects. 109 individuals submitted their responses via the online consultation platform, while 67 individuals provided written responses at the in-person event.

6.3 63 individuals provided demographic information. Of these individuals, 66% live in the BA3 2 postcode sector (Midsomer Norton) and 7% in BA3 3 (Radstock), 7% in BA3 4 (Westfield), with the remainder providing generic BA2, BA3 or BS39 postcodes.

6.4 The age range of respondents who provided demographic information was as follows:

- 18-24: 2%
- 25-34: 3%
- 35-44: 27%
- 45-54: 14%
- 55-64: 26%
- 65+: 28%

6.5 143 responses were submitted without further comment, while the remainder had specific comments or clarification questions attached. These have been replicated in full below, with demographic information removed and specific responses and/or actions supplied for each individual comment. See **Appendix 10**.

6.6 Sentiment for each project was as follows:

- Sainsbury's Car Park: 84% agreed or strongly agreed
- Old Brewery: 76.93% agreed or strongly agreed
- Gasworks: 69.05% agreed or strongly agreed
- Hollies Gardens: 67.39% agreed or strongly agreed
- South Road Car Park: 67.31% agreed or strongly agreed
- Excelsior Terrace Sites: 66.67% agreed or strongly agreed
- South Road Frontages: 61.54% agreed or strongly agreed
- Excelsior Terrace Junction: 60% agreed or strongly agreed
- Eastern High Street Group: 54.55% agreed or strongly agreed

- Staff Car Park: 52.38% agreed or strongly agreed

See **Appendix 11** for full consultation sentiment analysis.


6.7 Suggestions and comments are being carefully considered by the project team and will be used to inform and revise the proposals as far as possible.

Appendix List

1. Appendix 1: DEVELOP Phase engagement materials
2. Appendix 2: DEVELOP Phase advertisement and comms
3. Appendix 3: DEVELOP Phase 'Shape Your High Street' advertisement
4. Appendix 4: DEVELOP Phase engagement survey responses received
5. Appendix 5: DEVELOP Phase focus groups and workshops
6. Appendix 6: DEVELOP Phase school engagement
7. Appendix 7: DEVELOP Phase 'Shape Your High Street' community artworks created
8. Appendix 8: DESIGN Phase engagement and consultation materials
9. Appendix 9: DESIGN Phase advertisement and comms
10. Appendix 10: DESIGN Phase consultation responses received
11. Appendix 11: DESIGN Phase sentiment analysis

Appendix 1: DEVELOP Phase engagement materials

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Improving People & Places



IMAGINE Midsomer Norton

Working to create a shared plan for the town centre

How do you imagine the future of your town?

Midsomer Norton is an extraordinary place. From its roots as a medieval market town to its role at the heart of the Somerset coalfield in the nineteenth century, it has offered a place for people to meet, trade, relax and celebrate for over a thousand years. Today, it provides independent retail and leisure against the backdrop of the River Somer and the natural landscapes of the Somer Valley.

Like many small towns, Midsomer Norton is facing a period of significant change brought about by shifts in the way people shop and use town centres, and by local housing growth. It's vital that we harness these opportunities for change to ensure the town thrives for the next one thousand years.

Bath & North East Somerset Council and Midsomer Norton Town Council are working with Allies & Morrison LLP and local stakeholders to develop a new Town Centre Plan - and we need your help.

What is a Town Centre Plan?

A Town Centre Plan is a visionary, guiding document which provides a route map to a more vibrant and welcoming town centre.

The Midsomer Norton Town Centre Plan is being created in two parts:

Regeneration Action Plan: Exploring short to medium-term improvements to the whole town centre, stretching the length of the High Street, surrounding residential areas and the Town Park.

Old Brewery Quarter Masterplan: Considering long-term development opportunities, focusing on an area centred around the Old Brewery buildings (also known as Bob's Palais or the Savoy Rooms) at the lower end of the town centre.

Your priorities.

A Pedestrian-Friendly Town Centre

Throughout winter 2024, local people were asked to share one thing they love about Midsomer Norton, and one thing they imagine for its future. From the hundreds of comments received, we've identified five place priorities:

- 1** Creating a more liveable environment by designing inviting outdoor spaces that are accessible for everyone and pedestrian friendly.
- 2** Showcasing the town's character through heritage-led interventions, from small shopfront improvements through to major reimagining of historic buildings.
- 3** Facilitating community growth and cohesion with flexible community spaces and local events.
- 4** Supporting a vibrant town centre that offers an enhanced mix of shops and services, including evening economy, café culture, and an improved leisure hub centred on the Town Park.
- 5** Enhancing health and well-being by providing better access to green and blue spaces.

Heritage-Led Redevelopment Thriving Community Spaces

Retail and Recreation for Everyone Natural Spaces for Well-Being

A Place Vision.

A Place Vision is a short, shared outline of what success would look like in a particular place. It reflects local aspirations, captures unique characteristics, and acts as a guide for decision-making. Our vision for Midsomer Norton town centre is...

Midsomer Norton will become the go-to place for people living in, working in and visiting the Somer Valley. The town centre will be known as a welcoming gateway to Somerset's natural beauty, and for its quirky and eco-friendly shopping. Its calendar of unique community-led events - such as wassailing, the town fayre and the illuminated carnival - will strengthen its individual character and its connections to historic seasonal rural activity.

The town centre will be recognised and celebrated for its local history, still visible in distinctive heritage buildings like the Italianate Town Hall, medieval tithes barn, high street almshouses, and rows of miners' cottages. Mixed-use town centre development will focus on the Old Brewery Quarter, which comprises the lower end of the high street and centres on the Old Brewery buildings, also known as the former Bob's Palais or Savoy Rooms.

Town centre development sites will blend sustainability with heritage conservation, showcasing the town's rich architectural history while offering much-needed affordable housing, flexible space for businesses, leisure facilities and a more diverse job market. Thoughtful transport planning will ensure accessibility, with pedestrian-friendly streets, safe cycling routes, and well-integrated public transport options reducing car dependency and enhancing connectivity.

The River Somer will remain a special asset for the high street, acting as an important, wildlife-rich habitat that improves community wellbeing, biodiversity and urban cooling. Connections to Midsomer Norton Town Park, and other local natural spaces will be improved, and public spaces on the high street will be further enhanced and greened to give visitors more opportunities to enjoy nature on their doorstep, whilst also adapting to our changing climate and allowing wildlife to thrive.



IMAGINE...

if the Old Brewery buildings were restored to their former splendour



A brewery complex once dominated the high street skyline. Originally built in 1839, the Smith's Brewery buildings have had a long and vibrant life not only as a brewery but as a public hall, boot factory, theatre, library and dance hall (the much-loved 'Bob's Palais'). Today, the site is made up of yard spaces and shops, although several are vacant. Some of the historic structures, including the striking brewery chimney, are still visible.

What would you like to see more of in this area?

Cafes and restaurants	Affordable workspaces	Cultural venues	Radical redevelopment	Housing

To what extent do you agree that the Old Brewery buildings are an important heritage landmark in the town centre?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
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Above: Open Studio engagement boards

IMAGINE...

if the Hollies was a more welcoming and inclusive space



The Hollies was at one time a grand house in 10 acres of parkland. In the 1930s the building became council offices, while the gardens were opened to the public - many local people have fond memories of leisure time spent in this special place. Today, the area is home to Midsomer Norton Library offices, shops and cafes and a town centre supermarket. The Hollies Garden hosts Farmers Markets and other community events.

How often do you visit the Hollies area of the high street (the buildings and/or gardens)?

Never	Once a year or less	Once a month or less	2-4 times a month	Every day
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For what purpose do you normally visit the Hollies area of the high street?

Shopping	Visiting cafes	Visiting the library or using council services	Other
Passing through on the way to the high street	Community events in the Hollies Gardens	Working	

IMAGINE...

if the Old Gasworks buildings were given a new lease of life



The Midsomer Norton Gasworks, which were located on what is now South Road Car Park, were constructed during the town's industrial heyday. Originally there would have been a coke crusher, coal store, purifiers and condenser and scrubbers. Today, just the retort house, which housed the main manufacturing equipment, remains. One of the last visible links to the town's coal mining era in the town centre, it has stood empty for several years.



What would you like to see more of in this area?

Cafes and restaurants	Affordable workspaces	Meanwhile (temporary) uses	Radical redevelopment	Housing

To what extent do you agree that the Old Gasworks buildings are an important heritage landmark in the town centre?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
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IMAGINE...

if the two ends of the high street were better connected



Midsomer Norton high street is over a kilometre long, divided into two distinct halves where it meets Excelsior Terrace by narrow pavements, parking, and a wide junction. Until the mid nineteenth century, more of the River Somer was visible along this stretch - it is now covered over by car parking. Today, it is an important junction, being the main connecting pedestrian route between the high street and leisure centre, town park and Greenway.

When visiting the high street, which end do you most often visit?

Lower (Hollies end)	Upper (Stones Cross end)	Both
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To what extent do you agree that uncovering an additional stretch of the river would improve the environment around the Excelsior Terrace junction?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
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Bath & North East Somerset Council
regeneration_team@bathnes.gov.uk



Have your say.

In person today

- Fill in a Place Vision card
- Share ideas at the tabletop map
- Use stickers to place your vote on the boards
- Take part in our family activities



Online

- Fill in the survey; www.bathnesregen.co.uk
- Access on your mobile via the QR code above
- Email the team: regeneration_team@bathnes.gov.uk

Develop

March 2025 - May 2025

Work with the masterplanning team
Undertake concept planning
Community engagement on first designs

Deliver

Sept 2025 onwards

Adoption by B&NES Council
Funding bids and planning applications

Discover

Sept 2024 - Jan 2025

Early-stage community engagement
Select masterplanning team
Analysis of community feedback

Design

June 2025 - Sept 2025

Refinement of plan following engagement
Completion of draft plan
Formal consultation on the draft plan

Above: Open Studio engagement boards

Your Priorities.

Throughout winter 2024, local people were asked to share one thing they love about Midsomer Norton, and one thing they imagine for its future. From the hundreds of comments received, we've identified five place priorities:

1 A Pedestrian-Friendly Town Centre	2 Heritage Led Redevelopment	3 Thriving Community Spaces	4 Retail and Recreation for Everyone	5 Natural Spaces for Well-Being
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Do you agree? Is there anything that has been missed? Tell us overleaf.

Consider each of the place priorities 1-5, and write the numbers in the boxes below in order from most important to least important.

MOST IMPORTANT						LEAST IMPORTANT
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If there was a sixth place priority for Midsomer Norton town centre, what should it be? Write your own place priority below.

Above: Open Studio place priority cards



IMAGINE Midsomer Norton Town Centre Plan



IMAGINE Midsomer Norton Town Centre Plan



Above: Open Studio framework plan tabletop map

Appendix 2: DEVELOP Phase advertisement and comms

IMAGINE
Midsomer Norton

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Town Centre Plan
Open Studio

In December 2024, you shared your ideas for Midsomer Norton town centre. Those ideas are now being transformed into a shared vision for the town centre, including a set of exciting public realm design possibilities.

Visit the Hollies Chamber (next to the library) to see the first ideas, have your say, and meet the design team. Your feedback will help to shape our next steps.

You can also learn about the reset of Bath & North East Somerset Council's Local Plan - a long-term plan for housing and economic growth in the wider area.

Open to all! Free family activities and refreshments available.

Thursday 15 May, 1pm to 5pm
Friday 16 May, 10am to 5pm
Saturday 17 May, 10am to 2pm
Hollies Chamber, Midsomer Norton High Street
what3words: ///vivid.dozens.restored
More info and have your say online: www.bathnesregen.co.uk
Email: regeneration_team@bathnes.gov.uk

IMAGINE Midsomer Norton

Town Centre Plan
Open Studio

Exhibition of design ideas for the town centre • Have your say
Meet the team • Free family activities and refreshments

Thursday 15 May, 1pm to 5pm
Friday 16 May, 10am to 5pm
Saturday 17 May, 10am to 2pm
Hollies Chamber, Midsomer Norton High Street
what3words: ///vivid.dozens.restored

Info: www.bathnesregen.co.uk
regeneration_team@bathnes.gov.uk

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Above: Poster and graphic for Open Studio event

New design ideas for Midsomer Norton town centre

© Date published: 2025-05-09 | Category: Giving people a bigger say, Leisure, Tourism and Heritage, Regeneration and Development, Somer Valley



Improved public spaces, refurbishment of buildings and the introduction of more trees and planting are among the proposed ideas for the Old Brewery Quarter area of Midsomer Norton as part a regeneration plan for the town.

Residents and businesses are being invited to comment on the design ideas via a series of 'open studio' events this month or by completing an online survey.

The Midsomer Norton Town Centre Plan is being developed by Bath & North East Somerset Council and Midsomer Norton Town Council and focuses on a masterplan for the Old Brewery area, alongside a Regeneration Action Plan for the wider high street.

The open studio will take place in the Hollies chamber, next to the library on Midsomer Norton High Street, on:

- Thursday 15 May, 1pm to 5pm
- Friday 16 May, 10am to 5pm
- Saturday 17 May, 10am to 2pm

Visitors will be able to view the ideas and have their say. At select times there will be creative family activities led by artists-in-residence Jo Slade and Steve Griffiths.

The feedback gathered from the events and from the online survey on the [IMAGINE Midsomer Norton website](#) will help shape the final design. The survey runs until Thursday 29 May.

The designs have been created following an initial round of public engagement at the end of 2024.

People will also be able to learn about the reset of the [Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan](#), a long-term plan for housing and economic growth in the wider area, at the open studio events.

Councillor Paul Roper, cabinet member for Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development, said: "These proposals for the town centre will further enhance the public realm improvements that have already transformed Midsomer Norton, helping to attract more people to discover and spend time here. Providing the community spaces that residents would like to see created in the town is important, so I hope lots of people will take part in one of these engagement events or respond online if you're not able to join us."

Councillor Martyn Plant, the Mayor of Midsomer Norton, said: "I would encourage as many residents of the town as possible to take this opportunity to shape and influence future developments of the town by engaging in these exciting opportunities. It is of utmost importance to the Town Council that the local community have a voice in determining the future of our town."

Midsomer Norton is the second town in Bath and North East Somerset to benefit from town centre regeneration action plans funded by £750,000 from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Housing and Regeneration Enabling Fund.

Find out about all of the [ongoing and planned regeneration projects across B&NES](#). Enquiries can be emailed to regeneration_team@bathnes.gov.uk.

ENDS

Above: B&NES Council press release, screenshot

Residents given opportunity to shape council's climate and nature strategy

Residents are being invited to share their views and experiences around nature loss and climate change in an online survey to shape Bath & North East [Council's new Climate and Nature Strategy](#), which launched earlier this week.

New design ideas for Midsomer Norton town centre

Improved public spaces, refurbishment of buildings and the introduction of more trees and planting are among the [proposed ideas for the Old Brewery Quarter area of Midsomer Norton as part a regeneration plan](#) for the town.

Above: B&NES Residents' Newsletter, screenshot

Wednesday, 17th May 2025 Contact us by email: contactus@mvjournal.co.uk Page 9

TV documentary maker and trainee vicar en-route to Peasedown St John

STAFF REPORTER

A former wildlife TV producer who once filmed documentaries around the world is now training to become a vicar and will be spending the next four weeks on placement with a group of rural churches in the Peasedown St John area.

Rose Patterson-Veira is training to become a priest at Trinity College in Bristol and part of her curricular activities are to spend time 'on the ground' in an Anglican parish.

Rose said: "I'm looking forward to working with Rev Matthew Street and the team in the St J's Group. I've heard so many good things about what the church is doing in the community to reach out to others and support those in need."

Rose grew up in East Africa, where her parents worked as missionaries. She studied Zoology at Liverpool University and spent 10 years working for a TV production company, making wildlife documentaries, before deciding to enter the church ministry.

Rose will be getting involved with various pastoral and community-based activities around the four churches in the St J's Group over the next few weeks, from attending school assemblies to preaching in church, and from supporting the church's children's outreach work to volunteering at coffee mornings.

Leader at the St J's Group, Revd Matthew Street, said: "We're looking forward to welcoming Rose in all our churches. Her experiences in project management, TV production and enthusiasm for the 'great outdoors' will be of huge value to us and the work we do across the community."

For more details about the work of the St J's Group, readers can visit their website, www.stjsgroup.church, which includes details of future events, the church's work in the community, activities going on during the week and live recordings of Sunday sermons.



Rose Patterson-Veira with her husband, Dan.

JOURNAL The Midsummer, Radstock & District **Chew Valley Gazette**

HOME [NEWS](#) PROPERTY SPORT WHAT'S ON SEND YOUR STORY SUBSCRIPTION MORE

Residents invited to comment on new Midsomer Norton town centre designs

By Sam Fisk | Reporter | SPREAD THE NEWS

Friday 9th May 2024, 12:04 pm [Leave a comment](#)

sam@mvjournal.co.uk [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#)



The open width that will take place in the British chamber will be held from Thursday May 11 to Saturday May 17 (Bath and North East Somerset Council)

NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

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I would like to be emailed about offers, events and updates from The Midsomer Norton, Radstock & District Journal. Read our [privacy policy](#)

MOST POPULAR

Road in Radstock set to face weekend closure for lead replacement works



Above: Midsomer Norton & Radstock Journal advertisement and editorial, screenshot

12/05/2025, 13:11 What now for Old Brewery Quarter – BATH NEWSEUM



BATH NEWSEUM

My views are my own! Contact: rich.wyatt@gmail.com

What now for Old Brewery Quarter

Richard Wyatt / May 9, 2025 / history



Improved public spaces, refurbishment of buildings and the introduction of more trees and planting are among the proposed ideas for the Old Brewery Quarter area

https://bathnewseum.com/2025/05/09/what-now-for-old-brewery-quarter/ 1/5

Above: Bath Newseum editorial, screenshot

Back in winter of last year I got in touch to let you know about the IMAGINE Midsomer Norton project. We've now reached the next phase of our programme and would love to invite you along to our events to have your say on the project.

I've attached a flyer and social media graphic, and there's also some suggested wording for social media posts below.

Many thanks and best wishes

IMAGINE Midsomer Norton is a project run by Bath & North East Somerset Council and Midsomer Norton Town Council, linked to the creation of a new Town Centre Plan for Midsomer Norton. You can find out more information here <https://bathnesregen.co.uk/index.php?contentid=11>

During the first stage of the project, we worked with residents, businesses, landowners, community stakeholders and charities to understand what people wish to see in their town in future. We ran six drop-in engagement sessions and had hundreds of 1-1 conversations.

Since then, we've been developing a place vision and initial design ideas for the town centre, and we'd love to receive your feedback. We'd warmly welcome you to visit our Open Studio 15-17 May in the Hollies Chamber, where you can meet the team and see some of the first ideas. Our artists-in-residence will also be running free after-school creative workshops as part of the event.

You can also provide feedback online at <https://bathnesregen.co.uk/index.php?contentid=11> from 15 May onwards.

Text for social media:

In December 2024, you shared your ideas for Midsomer Norton town centre. Those ideas are now being transformed into a set of exciting design possibilities.

Between 15 and 17 May 2025, visit the Hollies Chamber (next to the library) to have your say and help shape the next steps of the project.

Free family activities and refreshments are available.

Find out more at www.bathnesregen.co.uk

Above: Example of comms sent to community organisations

Appendix 3: DEVELOP Phase 'Shape Your High Street' advertisement

IMAGINE Midsomer Norton

Calling all Locals

A Song for Midsomer Norton

Hollies Council Chambers
24 April 2025 11am-1pm

Join us and help make a lasting record of our town! Singer-songwriter China Blue Fish and producer Trevphonic are creating a song for Midsomer Norton and are looking to interview people local to the area.

Share your memories, stories, and hopes for the town. To arrange a time to chat over tea & biscuits, please e-mail China at: chinablueboom@gmail.com



IMAGINE Midsomer Norton is a new project exploring the future of the town centre.

Enquiries: IMAGINEartcomm@gmail.com
Info: www.bathnesregen.co.uk www.44AD.net



IMAGINE Midsomer Norton

Free Portrait Workshops

We Are Midsomer Norton!

Hollies Council Chambers
15 + 22 May 2025 3:30-5pm

Come along to a free portrait drawing and painting workshop with local artist Steve (Griff) Griffiths, celebrating the stories of Midsomer Norton people. Materials provided - please feel free to bring along an image of yourself or a family member to work from. Suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



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Info: www.bathnesregen.co.uk www.44AD.net



IMAGINE Midsomer Norton

Free Drawing + Painting Workshops

Landmarks of Midsomer Norton

Outdoors Meet + Sketch the Town
15 May 2025 1-2pm (adults)

Hollies Council Chambers
15 + 16 May 2025 3:30-5pm (4-14 yrs)

Come along to a free art workshop with local artist Jo Slade. Create artworks of your favourite places and buildings in Midsomer Norton. No experience needed. All materials provided. Your creation will become part of a vibrant, large-scale artwork displayed on the high street for everyone to see!



IMAGINE Midsomer Norton is a new project exploring the future of the town centre.

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IMAGINE Midsomer Norton

Free Poetry Workshop

Midsomer Norton Skatepark

17 April 2025 11am-6pm

FREE drop-in poetry workshop with award-winning writer and slam-winning local poet P. Burton-Morgan. Expect BMX ballads, skateboarding stanzas and sonnets about scooting. Suitable for all ages.

Get creative with your sharpest rhymes, rhythms and raps, and your poems might even feature alongside P's work in the Midsomer Norton poetry trail. Come for the rhyming couplets, stay for the FREE snacks.



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Above: Posters for Shape Your High Street community workshops

IMAGINE Midsomer Norton

Free events

Shape Your High Street Arts Weekender is a free high street arts trail of creative works by four local artists. Each artwork - created in collaboration with residents - celebrates Midsomer Norton's culture and identity, and expresses hopes for its future

Fri 25 July 6-8pm - Arts Weekender Launch Celebration
Zen Rebel Cafe followed by Zen Rebel Live Music Sessions 8-10pm
Join us to celebrate the opening of the arts trail on MSN high street. Come and meet the artists. Music and refreshments served.

Sat 26 July - Midsomer Norton Open Air Amphitheatre
Crafts stand, refreshments and project information available
11am - Artist Introductions
Poetry Performance from P Burton-Morgan
Live Music Release *Home for me* - a song for MSN by China Blue Fish and Trevphonic.
12pm - Guided Walking Tour of the Arts Trail on the High Street.
Meet at town park amphitheatre, or collect a map to guide you at your leisure.

The event is part of IMAGINE Midsomer Norton, a new project exploring the future of the town centre. Local people have been working together with local councils, artists, designers, and businesses to develop a new Town Centre Plan - a route map to a more vibrant and welcoming town centre.

Shape your High Street

Arts Weekender 25-27 July 2025

Come and join us!

Landmarks by Jo Slade
Poetry by P Burton-Morgan
Portraits by Steve 'Griff' Griffiths
Music by China Blue Fish and Trevphonic
All created with the community of Midsomer Norton

More Info
+ Events





Enquiries: IMAGINEartcomm@gmail.com
Info: www.bathnesregen.co.uk www.44AD.net







Inspiring People's Lives

IMAGINE Midsomer Norton

Arts Weekender 25-27 July 2025

Thank you to the IMAGINE artists, local businesses, groups, and community of Midsomer Norton. Your creativity, support, and imagination have turned this project into a truly memorable celebration of our wonderful high street!

Zen Rebel Cafe
Fri 25 July
Arts Weekender
Launch Event
6-8pm

P Burton-Morgan
Breathless - a 50+ poem poetry trail woven throughout MSN featuring poetry from award-winning local poet P Burton-Morgan & community poets aged 4-96 yrs. From Bob's Palais to canoeing down the high street, from biking to Weston to dropping in at the skatepark...

Steve 'Griff' Griffiths
We Are Midsomer Norton! - a portrait series celebrating bold thinkers, creators, and workers of MSN. This is who we are - proud, united, and welcoming. Join us, and be part of something special.

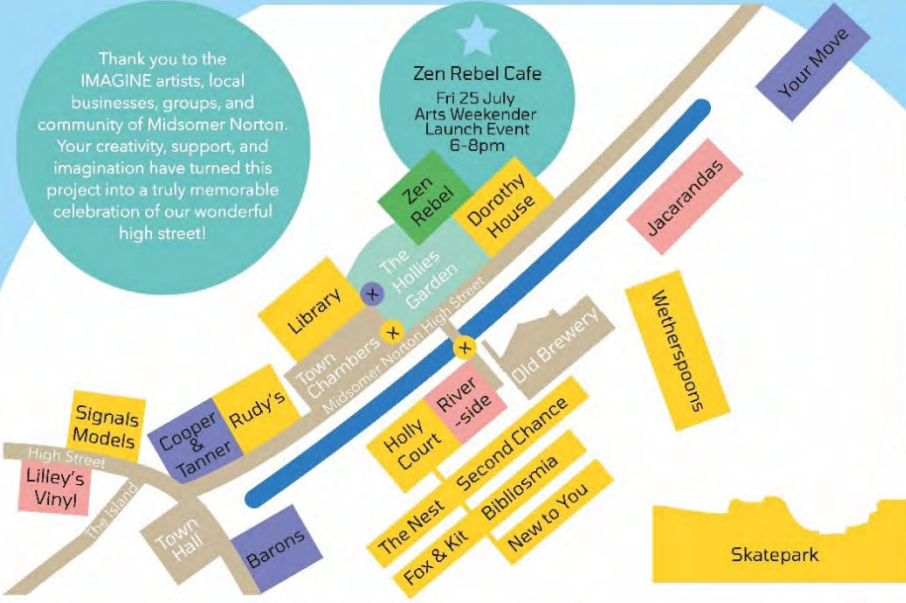
China Blue Fish
Home for me - a song for MSN, written by singer songwriter China Blue Fish and producer Trevphonic. Featuring voices from the community, beautiful sounds of 'The Good Morning Choir' and inspiration from 'The Dunkerton Carting Boys'. A song of heart, where old time mining song meets modern electronic beats.

Town Park Amphitheatre
Sat 26 July
Performances - 11am
Guided walk - 12pm
Refreshments
+Craft Stall

Jo Slade
Landmarks - a display of artwork celebrating iconic sites, reflecting the town's identity today while expressing local hopes and aspirations for the future. Created by artist Jo Slade in collaboration with the MSN community.

MAP NOT TO SCALE
Not all premises +
features included

A visual guide to IMAGINE Arts Weekender participating locations. Some artworks are viewable only during location opening hours.



Above: Shape Your High Street leaflet and map

Appendix 4: DEVELOP Phase engagement survey responses received

4a - Place Priorities

Consider each of the place priorities and rank them in order from most important to least important.

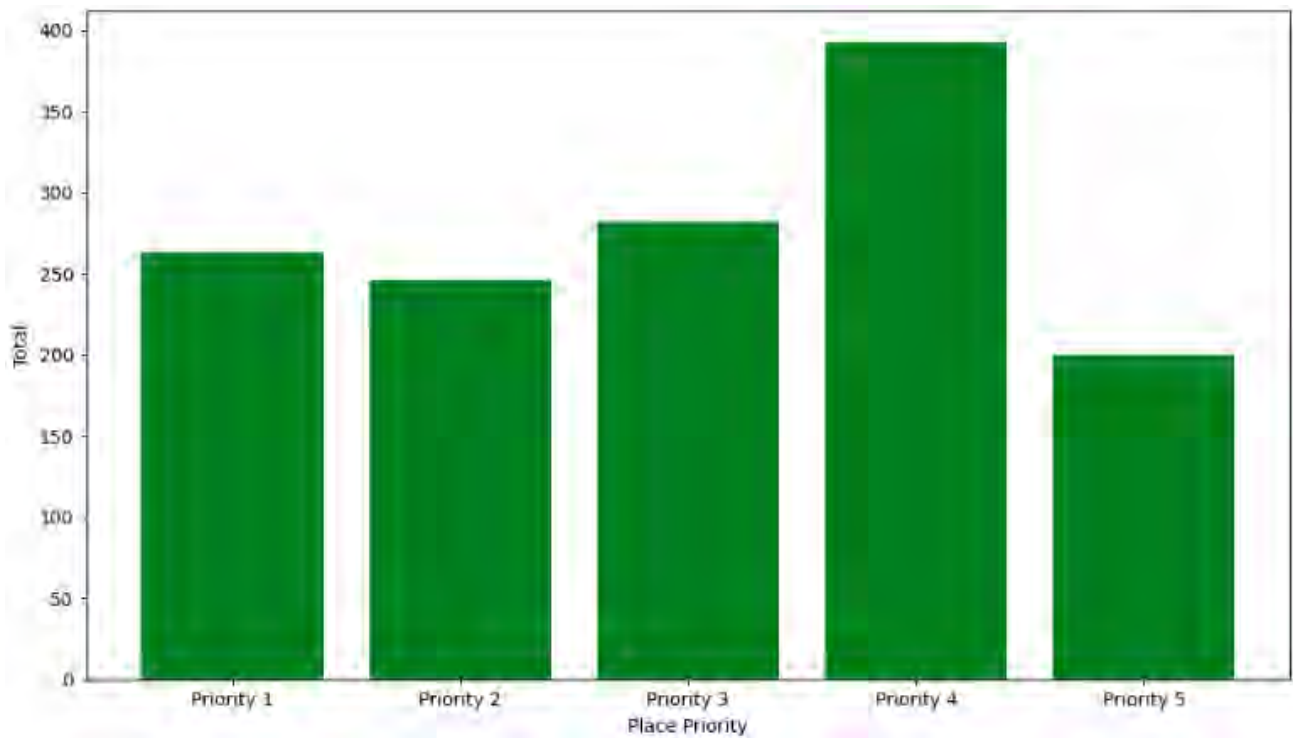
Priority 1 - A Pedestrian-Friendly Town Centre

Priority 2 - Heritage Led Redevelopment

Priority 3 - Thriving Community Spaces

Priority 4 - Retail and Recreation for Everyone

Priority 5 - Natural Spaces for Well-Being



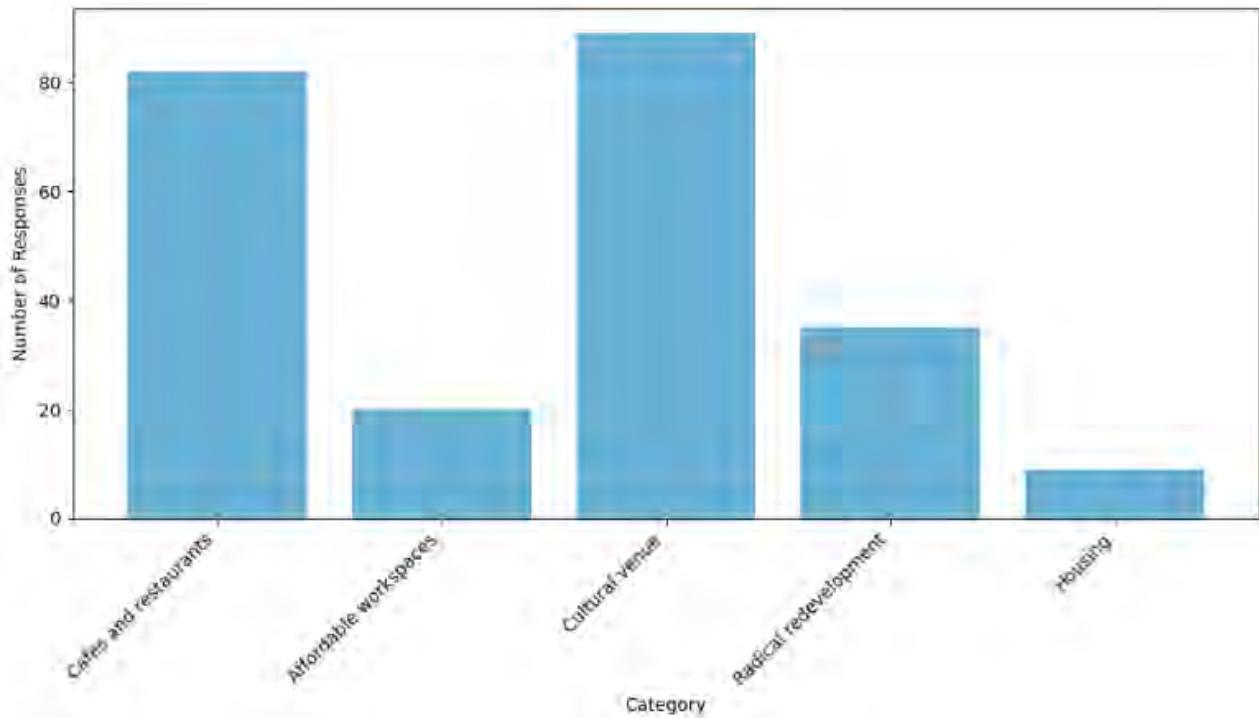
If there was a sixth place priority for Midsomer Norton town centre, what should it be?

Comments
Something for age 10- teenage children to do. The new park is mainly for babies. Currently teenagers are loitering in the skate park intimidating younger children because they have nowhere else to go and nothing to do. Would be nice to have maybe a little cinema or bowling alley or some inexpensive eating venues that will encourage the kids off the streets!
Cancelling the car parking charges
Improving public transport links
Enhancing the availability of fruit and vegetables to buy/enhancing the food culture of the town based on locally-sourced ingredients.
Cafés with outdoor seating or any outdoor seating spaces (especially during summer months) Most important if you want anyone to use the highstreet though will be getting a good mix of shops..no more hairdressers, estate agents or charity shops
More buses
Reduce number of nail bars, hairdressers, barbers & takeaways, m-s-n needs to have shops that support local people. We need: 1. Greengrocer 2. Butcher 3. Fish market 4. Health good shop 5. Refill shop 6. Newsagent 7. Kitchen shop 8. Cloths shop 9. WH Smith type shop Proper cinema/ theatre Something for the youth population
Free parking
Not wasting money on things that won't be used or make no difference like the square redevelopment. Waste of money
Free parking
To improve the quality of shops on the high street but enticing new businesses with lower rates/rent etc. having a monthly market like them do in Frome/Shepton
Free car parking - you've killed Midsomer norton B&NES council.
Encourage independent shops with financial incentives to stay or join the town.
Making it easier for small business (no parking charges)
Trees. Line the high street, Charlton Road, North Road and any other straight street that doesn't already have them with trees. It looks good, provides shade and reduces noise and pollution
Shops such as boots the chemist and women's clothing shops so can purchase clothing locally
Well maintained and aesthetically pleasing
Rewilding and conservation for animals.
Encourage more activities or groups for youths, e.g. youth clubs
Redevelopment based on International Architecture/Urban design competition and learning from the best European examples.
Charity shops
Clean and safe
Unsure. Local families and children need to be considered no matter what.
Recognise we're a rural community and most of us don't have public transport access so don't push us off the roads, out of car parks and out of Midsomer (which frankly is already our hub when we live in somer valley)
Public toilets
Creating an unique approach.
REMOVE THE PARKING CHARGES
Fill the empty shops
Transport hubs to Bath and Bristol
Power wash and repair the buildings. Get businesses less cheap signs. Welcome younger and more plant-based

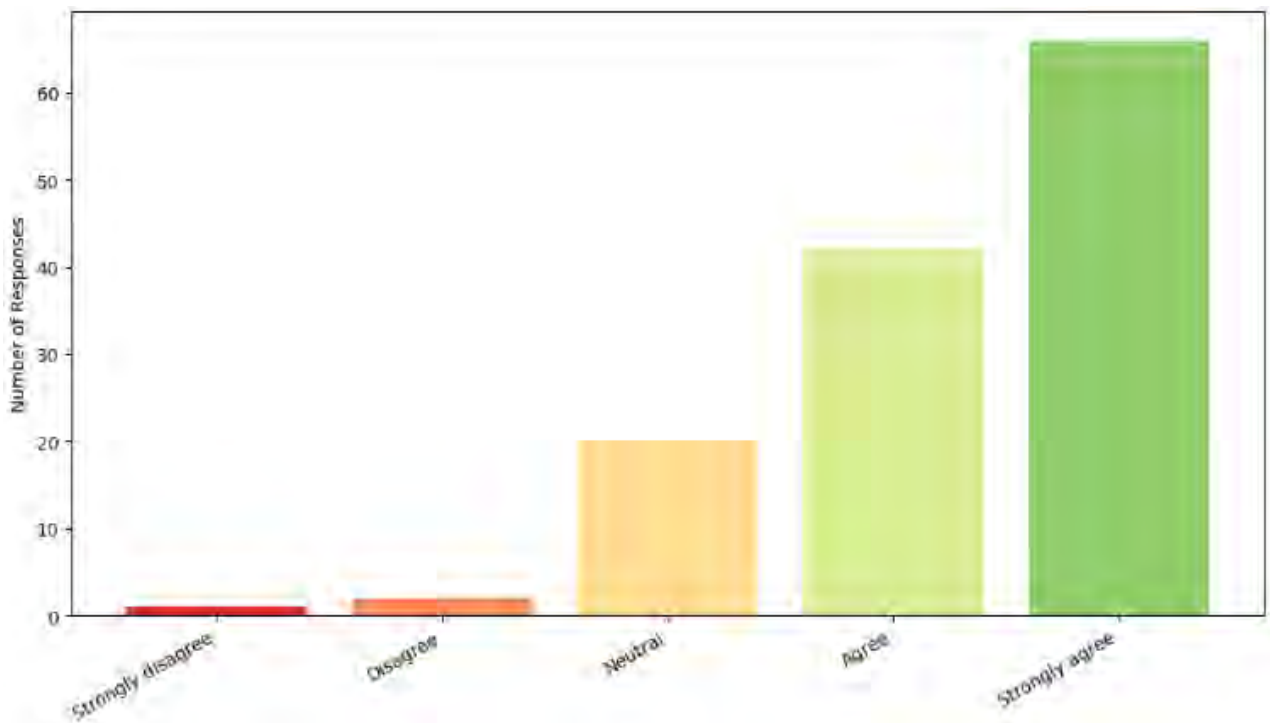
business through dedication to environmental goals. Keep parking free to save trade. Poundland less ugly colour. Dedication to conserving and reinstating buildings that match mining history (old stone).
Clean river
Restoration of old buildings
more shops as in. b&m a range,a mall,boots,sports direct act,more things for kids,shelter,soft plays,coffee places
Jobs for young people
Get bring brands in and keep them! Get mcdonalds and greggs!
Local artists workshop/selling space or climate hub
More disabled parking
Cinema or bowling
Greater cohesion across shopfronts, with only 3 or 4 colours of shop signage, as seen in other heritage environments
Close Lower High Street to through traffic
Limited residential planning
More everyday amenities such as fruit & veg, butchers, bakers etc.
Public toilets
Clothes and shoe shops
Public toilets
Public toilets
Better pedestrian routes to High Street, especially from Welton
Public toilets
Facilities for youth
Markets
Clothes shops
No more food or charity shops
Encouragement of better retails shops eg Iceland, Boots
More seating and rubbish bins by new bus stops
Holly Court is dark and uninviting
Stones Cross/Welton Bibbey's site
Bring in new shops and well known retailers
Focus on smalls scale inexpensive issues such as weeds, painting buildings and tidying up shopfronts before starting large scale redevelopment
Cinema or bowling for all members of the community - in former Argos?
Flats for people to live in
Extend railway to provide public transport
Create option of closing Lower High St for events to improve atmosphere
Encourage shops to stay open to 5pm
Shopfront improvement scheme
Rate relief for startup retailers
Free parking
Free parking
Remove parking charges as it does not support small local businesses
Add outdoor seating, t encourage more to stay longer on the High St, esepcially with small children
Creation of outdoor play equipment at Hollies garden and at The Island
Free parking
Traffic flow near Town Hall
Control over retail mix and andress lack of rears to shops.

4b - Old Brewery

What would you like to see more of in this area?

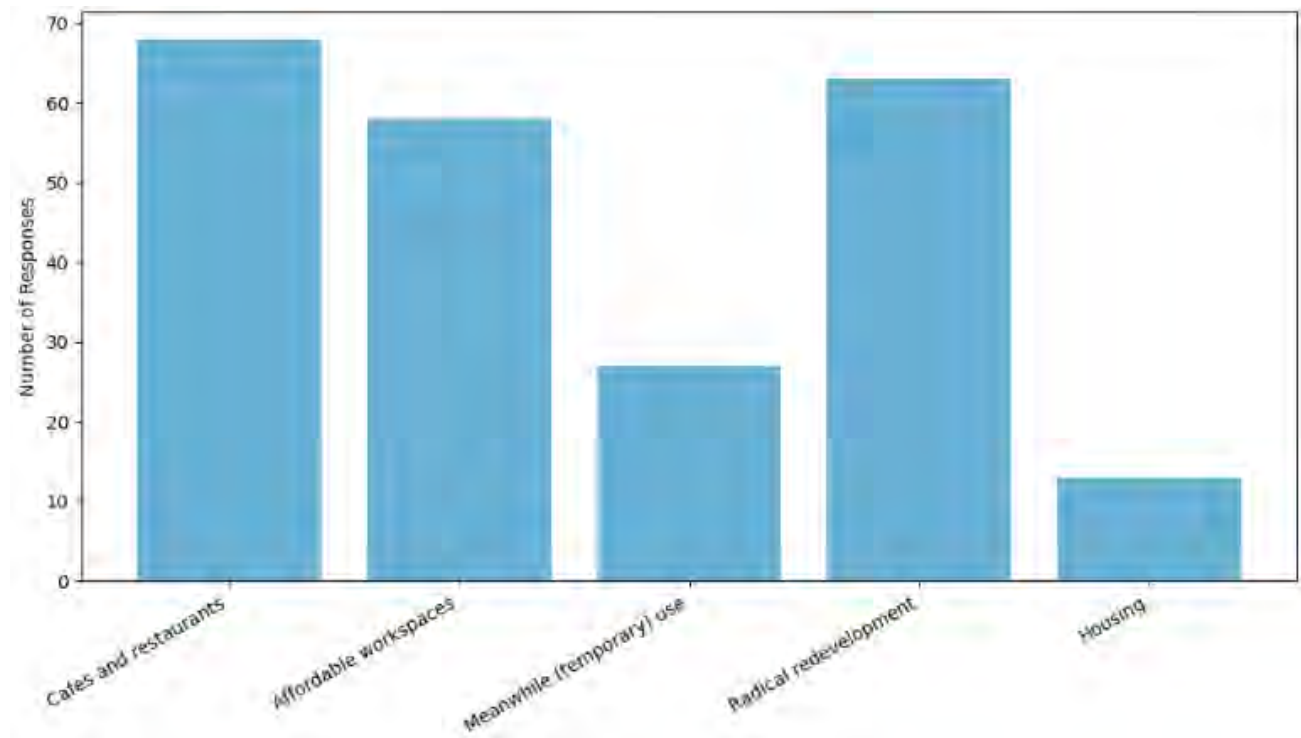


To what extent do you agree that the Old Brewery buildings are an important heritage landmark in the town centre?

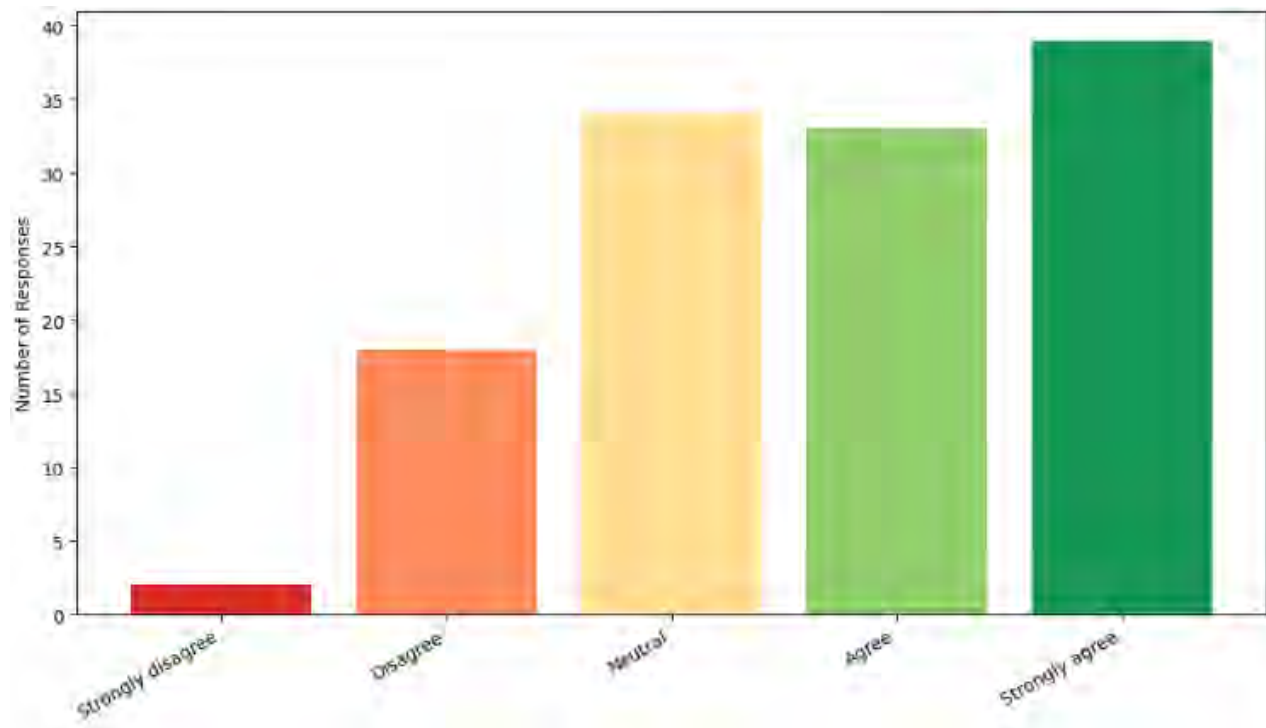


4c - Gasworks

What would you like to see more of in this area?

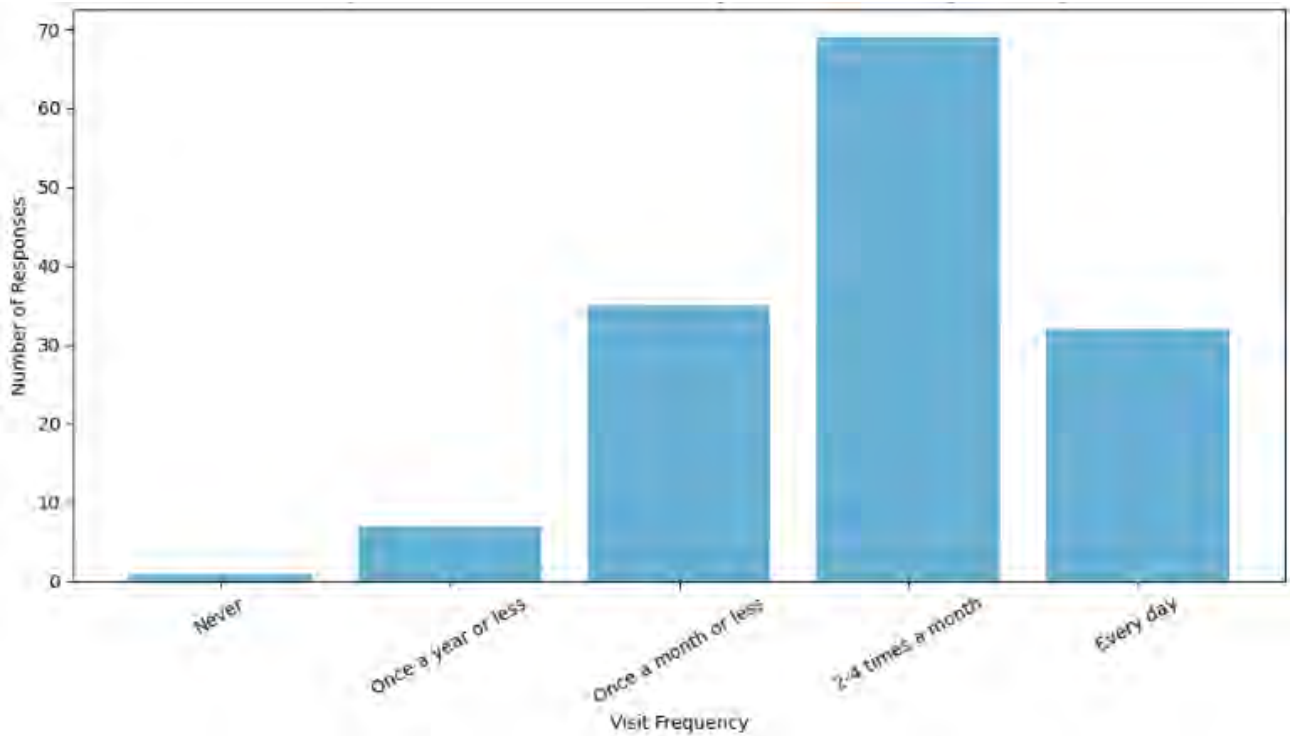


To what extent do you agree that the Gasworks buildings are an important heritage landmark in the town centre?

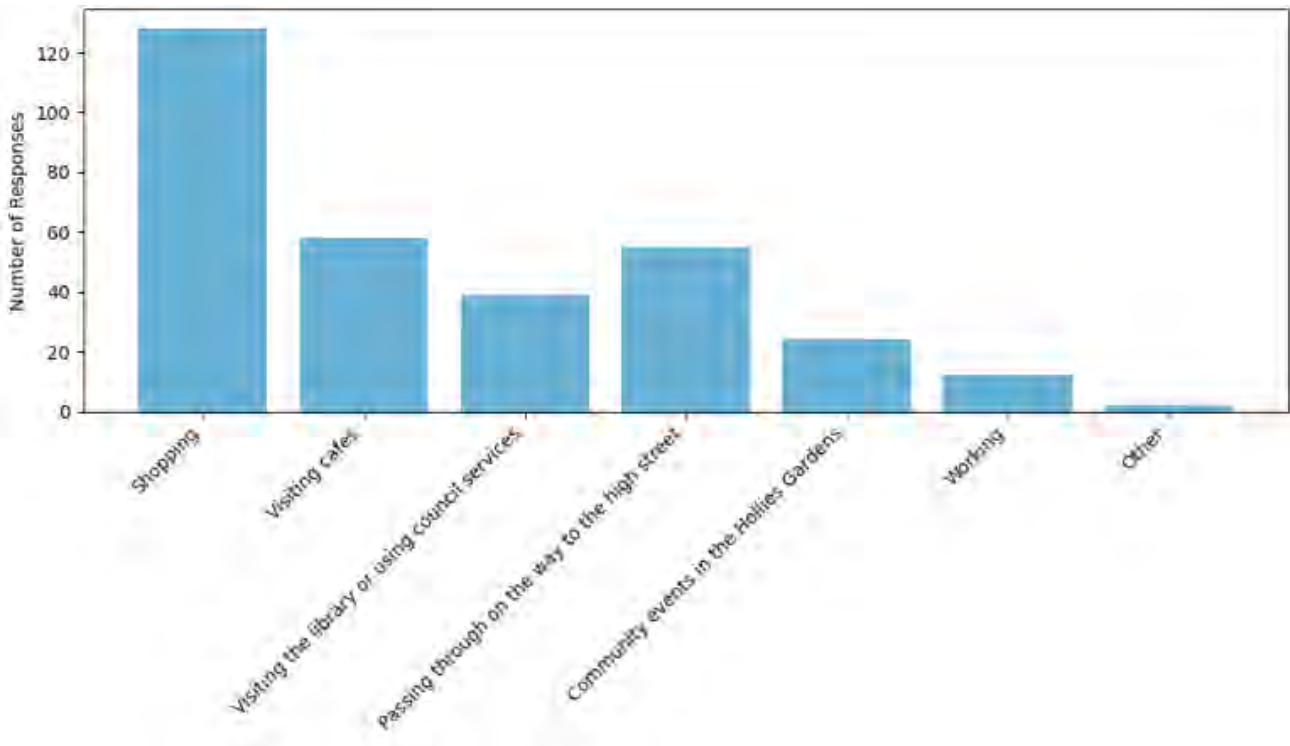


4d - The Hollies

How often do you visit the Hollies area of the high street (the buildings and/or gardens)?

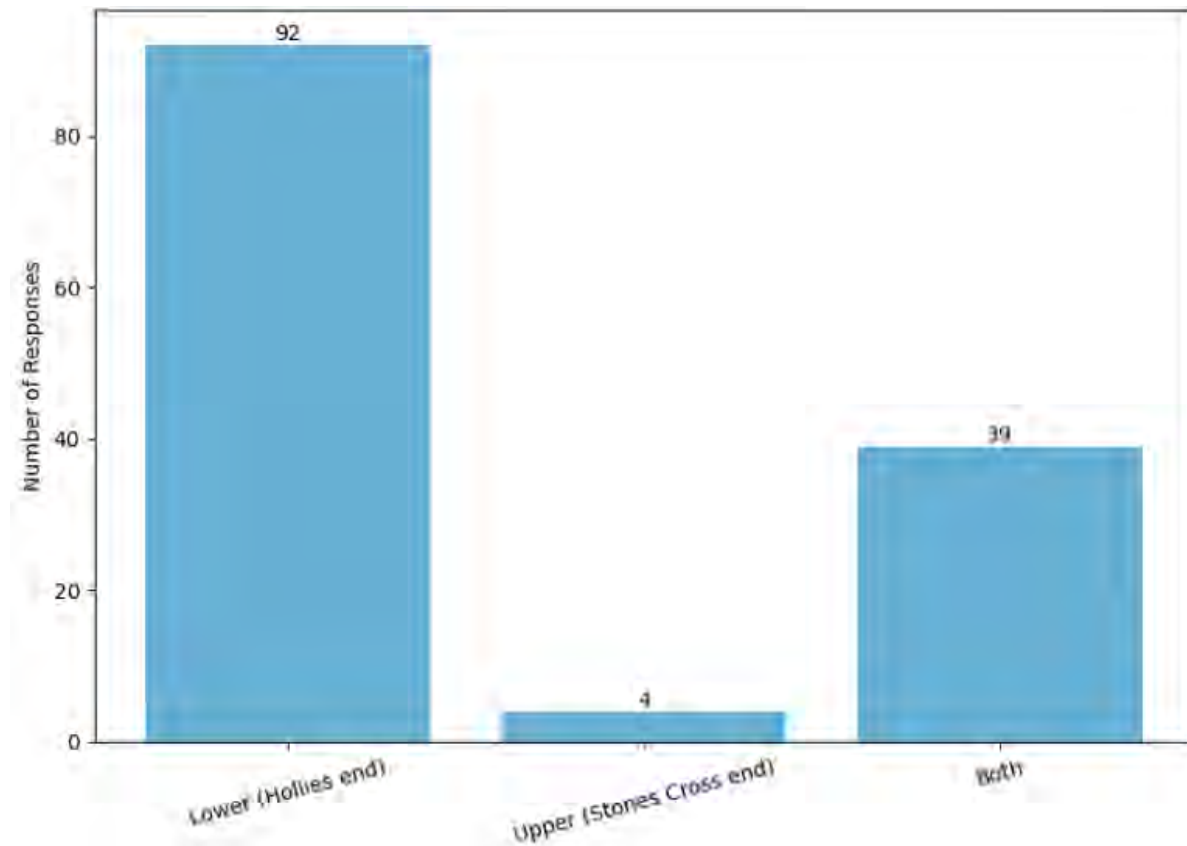


For what purpose do you normally visit the Hollies area of the high street?

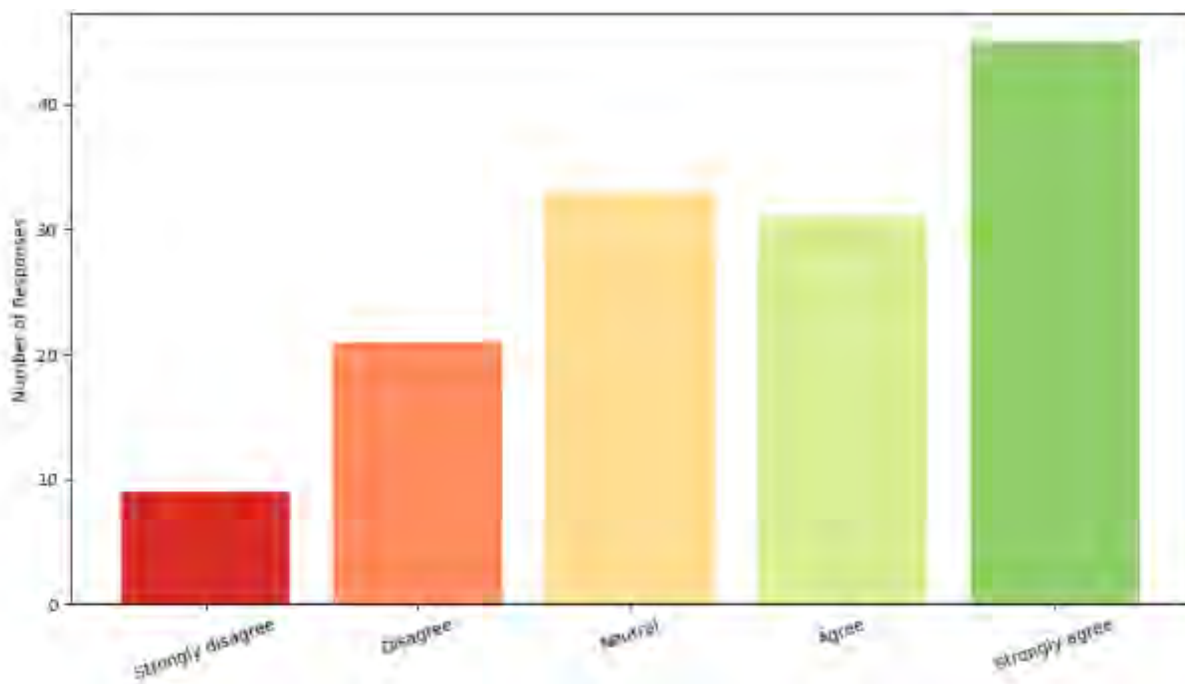


4e - The High Street / Excelsior Terrace Junction

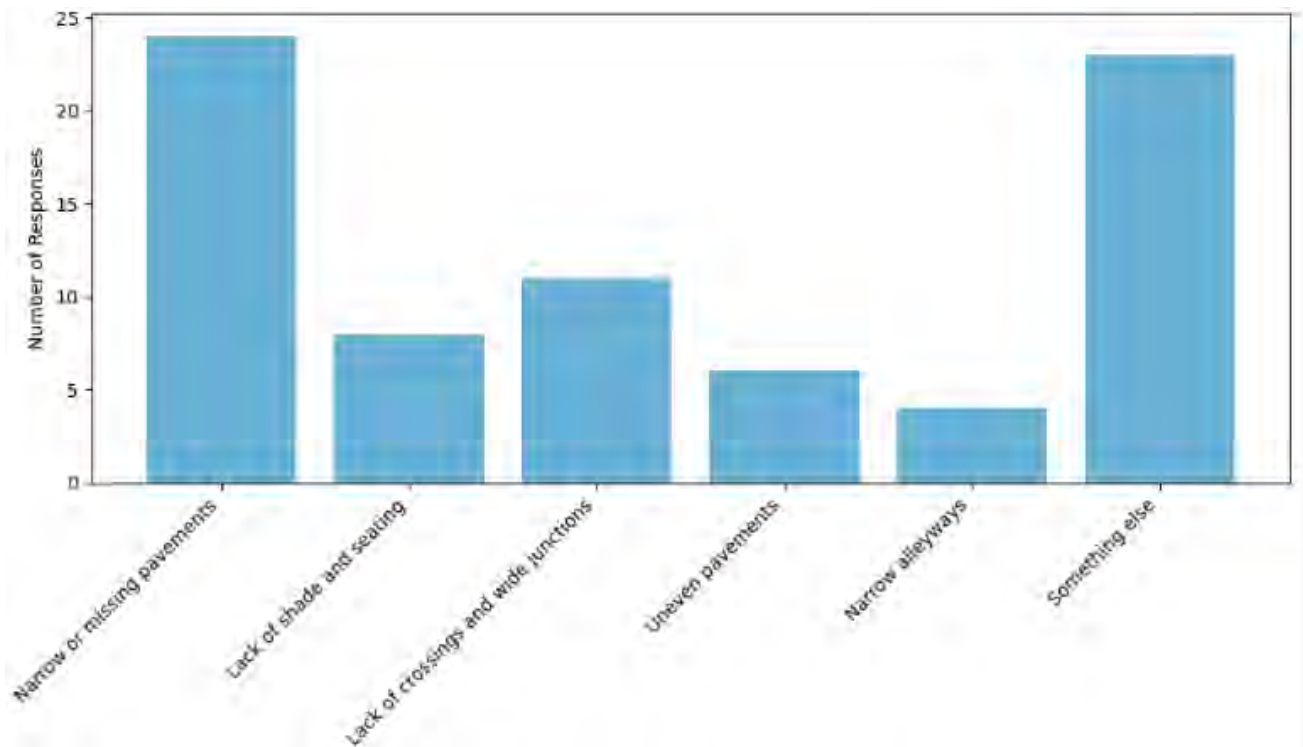
When visiting the high street, which end do you most often visit?



To what extent do you agree that uncovering an additional stretch of the river would improve the environment around the Excelsior Terrace junction?



In your opinion, what is the biggest obstacle to visiting Midsomer Norton town centre on foot or by bicycle?



Appendix 5: DEVELOP Phase focus groups and workshops

5a - Midsomer Norton Sight Support Hub

9 May 2025, 10.30am

Midsomer Norton Methodist Church

10 participants (partially sighted members and club leaders/volunteers, who live in Midsomer Norton, Peasedown, Paulton and Stratton)

Comments

Would like to see a better mix of shop on the high street – supportive of providing incubator spaces to encourage independent retail, and suggestion for a banking hub. Participants articulated their difficulties with self-serve facilities and emphasised the need for face-to-face interactions for shopping and services.

Strong support for a pedestrian crossing on the lower high street to enhance accessibility.

Supportive of enhancing the Hollies Gardens with eg. 'play-on-the-way' and keep fit equipment. Some participants also suggested some more radical interventions, such as a temporary ferris wheel.

Strong support for improvements to pedestrian connections between the high street and South Road to enhance accessibility – Holly Court and the South Road access path were cited as examples.

Little support for deculverting an additional stretch of the river (at the expense of high street parking). Participants mostly discussed their preference for the existing stretch of the river prior to interventions.

Participants were universally positive about the new Hollies bus stops – a more accessible and pleasant waiting environment, bringing people closer to where they want to be on the high street. The lack of real time signage and bins was noted – facilitator shared that these are incoming.

A number of participants noted North Road as a particularly difficult part of the town centre to navigate. Lack of crossings forces pedestrians to take very circuitous routes to where they want to be.

Several participants commented on the current lack of activities in the market square. One noted that the paving is considered uneven/hazardous among the blind and partially sighted.

5b - Open Studio Event

15-17 May 2025

The Hollies Council Chamber

155 visitors

Comments
Community Trust wanted to review potential for traffic signals at this junction to facilitate events that close the lower High St. The aim would be to allow traffic to join Silver St without backing up along South Rd. Could tie in with junction improvement
Existing issue of width for pedestrians but any improvement would need to maintain left turn from South Road as filter. Currently traffic backs up when vehicles waiting to perform right turn onto Silver St.
Focus on small interventions first such as condition of buildings given high level of dilapidation and lack of maintenance.
Tacky signage throughout the High St detracting from aesthetic.
Free parking needed to support businesses. Dwell time a specific issue with 2 hours free.
A Lack of evening activities in the High St except for Wetherspoons
Ducks have gone.
Review potential of pedestrianisation on lower High St.
More diverse retail offering needed, especially on new sites like the Brewery and Gas Works sites.
Some important active travel routes missing from the map - eg North Road to High Street and High St to Greenway (pit path).
Crossing needed high up on Silver Street near St Chad's Ave.
Issue when leaving Sainsbury's/Hollies car park as sequencing of signal heads does not allow traffic to join High Street at busy periods. Only 1-2 cars able to get out.
Do not need a crossing at One Stop as existing crossing provided at mini roundabout. Better to strengthen those existing crossings to prevent further traffic issues at peak times.
Parking spaces now drawn onto the pavement to encourage cars to pull halfway onto the pavement.
Improve connections and visibility of the Town Park from the High St.
No provision for public toilets in the centre except for within the library. Significant barrier for less abled visitors.
Condition of benches installed during HSHAZ now poor, require maintenance.
Safety rails in places broken and too low.
Multiple comments to support incubation space for retail and art. Discussed Shepton Mallet incubation space with several people.
Retailers surrounding Hollies garden benefit from music and events in the space and would support more.
Zen Rebel exploring music as well as evening opening for food.
Issue with buses manoeuvring from Silver St into South Road already mounting kerb.
More could be done to improve Stone Cross/High St junction and gateway into the High St. Wide pavements on High St side could be used to make entrance to MSN more attractive. Planters, signage etc.
Parking outside pet shop down to Dominoes an issue now as lines drawn on pavement.
Suggestion for GP surgery on the Argos site. Especially if further housing being delivered.
Need for an affordable hotel such as Premier Inn to support business growth and realise aim of MSN becoming gateway to Mendips and Somer Valley.

5c - Midsomer Norton Sight Support Hub

22 May 2025, 10.30am

Midsomer Norton Orchard Hall

25 participants (members and club leader/volunteers)

Comments

One participant mentioned that free roaming dogs can be a barrier to elderly people visiting the high street and green spaces. Discussed ideas such as wider pavements and enclosed dog exercise areas.

Strong support for celebrating the town's heritage – especially mining, farming, railways. The loss of the railways took out the heart of Midsomer Norton, and there would be strong support for bringing them back.

Strong support for preserving historic character and making better use of heritage buildings. The Old Brewery chimney was cited as a prominent example of the town's architectural heritage, and participants felt it should be retained.

Wetherspools as a positive example of heritage-led regeneration – retaining the heritage feel whilst modernising for the 21st century. 'Other Wetherspools I've visited aren't as good as ours!'

Strong support for more diverse shopping and leisure on the high street. Sense among participants that Midsomer Norton 'used to be the place you went', but now there is nothing to do or visit – members go to the high street to visit the bank or go to the opticians, but little else. Residents used to shop at the Co-Op, but now everyone goes to Tesco. Participants would like to see more clothes and gift shops, and more events taking place in the Hollies Gardens. They would like to see more support and encouragement for independent businesses, eg. an incubation space.

Participants felt that there is a better sense of community in the smaller surrounding villages, and that while less might be happening, it is generally easier to find out about what's on. Events in Midsomer Norton could be promoted better.

Participants come from a range of villages surrounding Midsomer Norton and felt that they are poorly connected – additionally, the connection between Midsomer Norton and Radstock has been lost, which participants consider to be a bad thing. Dial-A-Ride is a great service, but we need transport and planning to bring together the villages more cohesively.

Strong support for better accessibility offering on the high street – especially public toilets. Participants were pleased that the Island provided proper disabled parking provision. Some support for further pedestrianisation.

Support for more community spaces and meeting places eg. in the Town Hall, provided this is affordable to hire.

The changes to the river and additional planting were cited as positive examples of regeneration.

Support for the creation of new murals, provided they are not installed to excess. Suggestion for a 'community graffiti wall'.

One participant felt that people don't come together and work for a better community in the way they used to. People should have more opportunities to engage – present workshop was cited as a positive step in the right direction.

5c - Open Studio Event

22 May 2025, 10.30am

Midsomer Norton Orchard Hall

25 participants (members and club leader/volunteers)

Comments
Community Trust wanted to review potential for traffic signals at this junction to facilitate events that close the lower High St. The aim would be to allow traffic to join Silver St without backing up along South Rd. Could tie in with junction improvement
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Improve connections and visibility of the Town Park from the High St.
No provision for public toilets in the centre except for within the library. Significant barrier for less abled visitors.
Condition of benches installed during HSHAZ now poor, require maintenance.
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Suggestion for GP surgery on the Argos site. Especially if further housing being delivered.
Need for an affordable hotel such as Premier Inn to support business growth and realise aim of MSN becoming gateway to Mendips and Somer Valley.

Appendix 6: DEVELOP Phase school engagement

24 April 2025 and 1 May 2025, 1pm

St John's Primary School

60 participants (year 6 pupils and their teachers and support workers)

Pupils would like to see...

More cycle paths

Theatre

Museum

More places to eat and drink (KFC/McDonalds), which is also good for creating jobs

Better provision for wildlife

More things to do for young people, eg. a youth club, sports facilities, more play areas

Bowling

Markets

More greenery/planting, and a pond

More shade on the high street

More murals and colour on the high street

More of the river visible along the high street

Improved footpaths for pedestrians e.g. by Argos and by Sainsbury's

Better pedestrian crossings

More celebration of railway heritage

Better use of space than huge car parks

Better uses of the Hollies for local people

Midsomer Norton - Know your High

Part 1 - The Town Hall and Island

Instructions:

1) What kind of activities do you think people do in this area - either in the past or today?

2) Can you count how many people are currently in this area? Write the number below.

3) How can we attract more people to this area in the future? You can draw some ideas, or make a list.

1. sell things

2. talk / hangout

3. park there cars

4. buy things

12

I would put more beautiful plants and make the buildings look more prettier that it can attract people to shops and businesses. to maybe increase more economy.

Midsomer Norton - Know your High S

Part 1 - The Town Hall and Island

Instructions:

1) What kind of activities do you think people do in this area - either in the past or today?

2) Can you count how many people are currently in this area? Write the number below.

3) How can we attract more people to this area in the future? You can draw some ideas, or make a list.

1. buy / train

2. sit down / out

3. send the stock

4. buy / snacks

38

town Hall

pubs

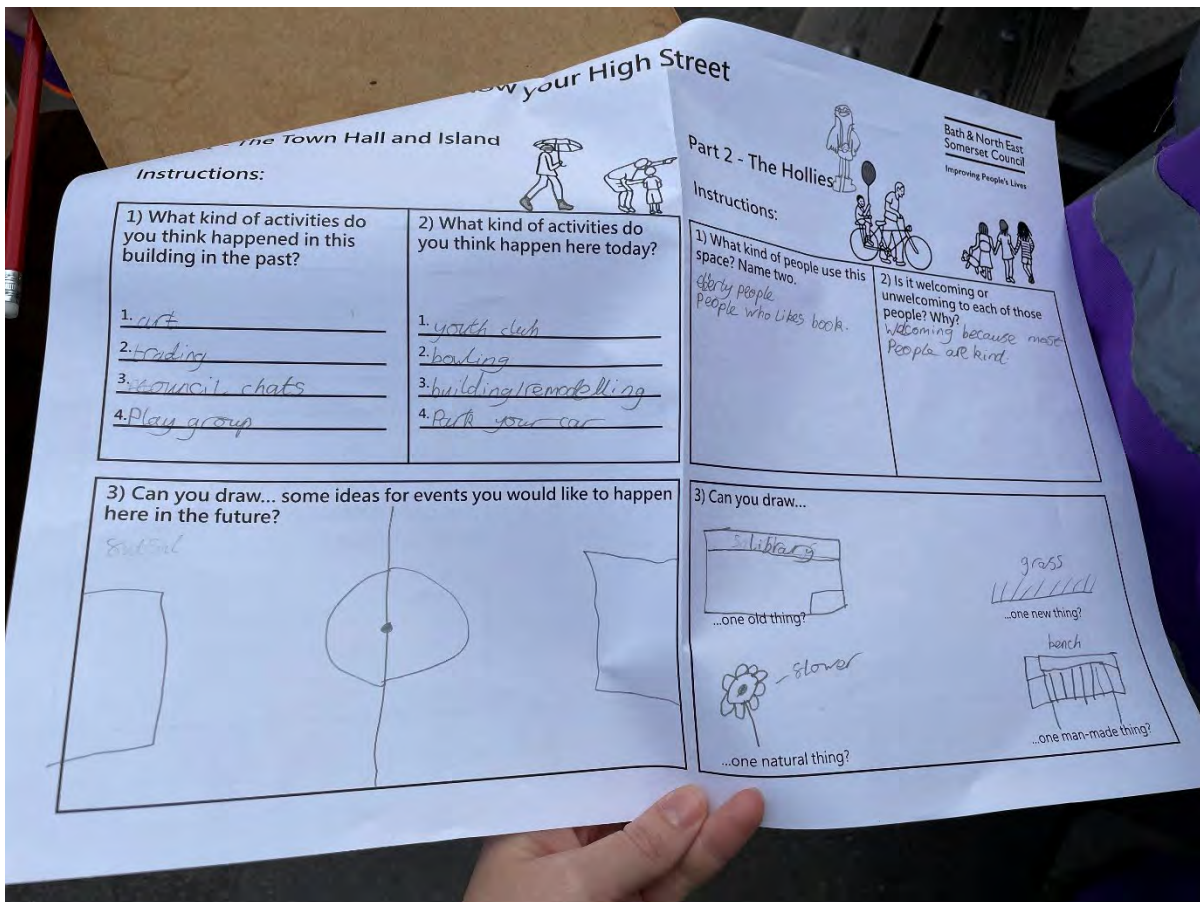
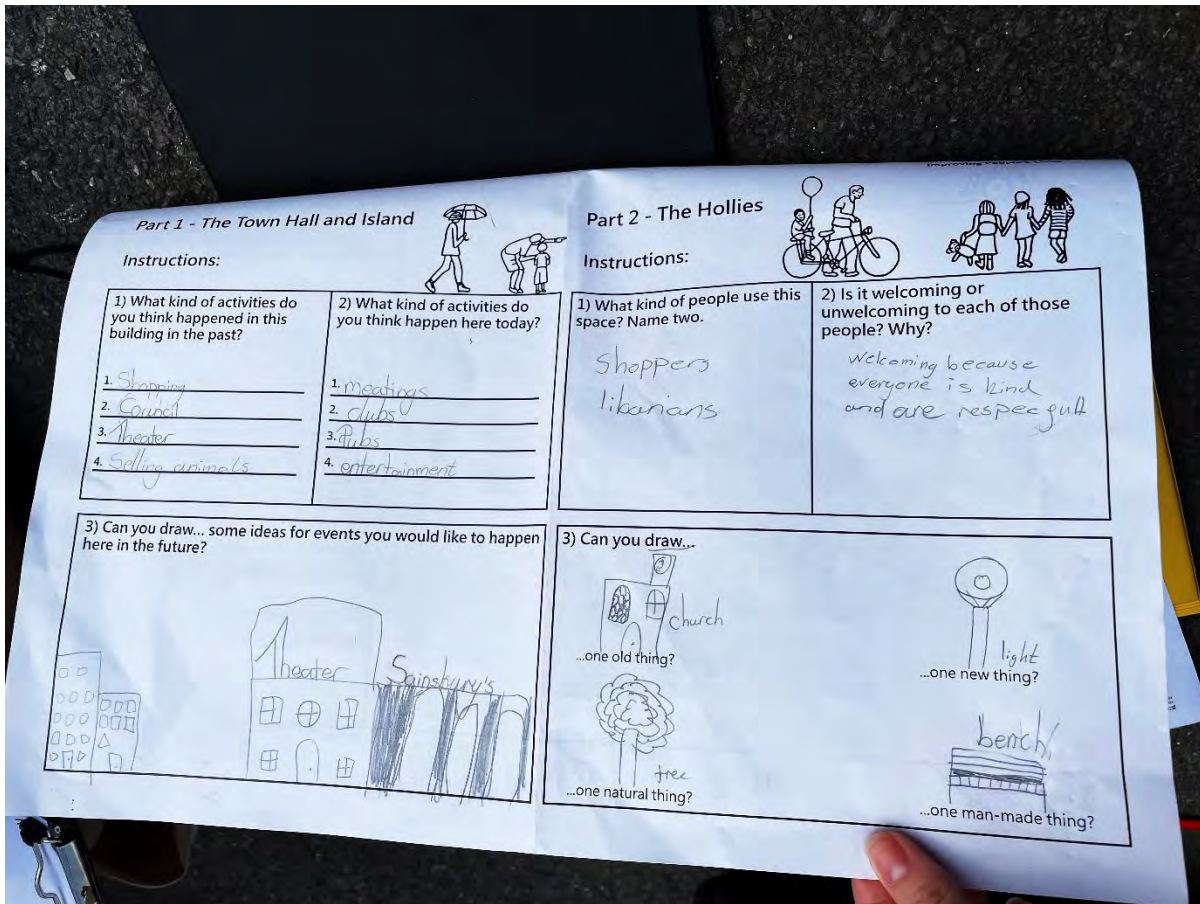
hair dresses

dog cafe

shop

sitate park

Above: Examples of pupil worksheets



Above: Examples of pupil worksheets

Midsomer Norton - Know your High Street

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives


Part 1 - The Town Hall and Island

Instructions:

<p>1) What kind of activities do you think happened in this building in the past?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selling things 2. Art 3. council charts 4. 	<p>2) What kind of activities do you think happen here today?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. you can ride 2. playing 3. building trampolines 4. putting pictures
--	---

3) Can you draw... some ideas for events you would like to happen here in the future?

trampoline



Part 2 - The Hollies

Instructions:

<p>1) What kind of people use this space? Name two.</p> <p>old people people who like books</p>	<p>2) Is it welcoming or unwelcoming to each of those people? Why?</p> <p>welcoming because people can sit here resting</p>
---	---

3) Can you draw...

<p>library ...one old thing?</p> <p>block of grass ...one natural thing?</p>	<p>Sainsbury's sign ...one new thing?</p> <p>Sainsbury's ...one man-made thing?</p>
--	---

Midsomer Norton - Know your High Street

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

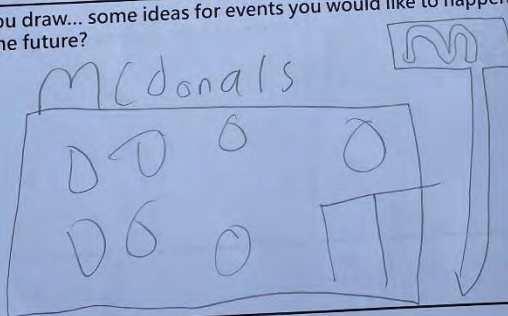
Part 1 - The Town Hall and Island

Instructions:

<p>1) What kind of activities do you think happened in this building in the past?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. selling Town hall 2. cinema 3. theater 4. market 5. council 	<p>2) What kind of activities do you think happen here today?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. clubs like boy scout 2. art museum 3. art gallery 4. shop 5. shops
---	---

3) Can you draw... some ideas for events you would like to happen here in the future?

McDonalds



Part 2 - The Hollies

Instructions:

<p>1) What kind of people use this space? Name two.</p> <p>Local citizens book clubs</p>	<p>2) Is it welcoming or unwelcoming to each of those people? Why?</p> <p>welcom in because it has lovely nature and there is a library</p>
--	---

3) Can you draw...

<p>mansions ...one old thing?</p> <p>...one natural thing?</p>	<p>...one new thing?</p> <p>Sainsbury's ...one man-made thing?</p>
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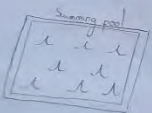
Above: Examples of pupil worksheets

Part 1 - The Town Hall and Island

Instructions:

<p>1) What kind of activities do you think happened in this building in the past?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Selling animals Selling food theatre council 	<p>2) What kind of activities do you think happen here today?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Park building Town hall meeting
---	--

3) Can you draw... some ideas for events you would like to happen here in the future?


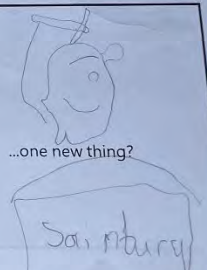

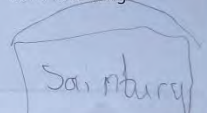


Part 2 - The Hollies

Instructions:

<p>1) What kind of people use this space? Name two.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> old people families children 	<p>2) Is it welcoming or unwelcoming to each of those people? Why?</p> <p>..welcoming because its calm</p>
--	--

3) Can you draw...


<p>...one old thing?</p> 	<p>...one new thing?</p> 
<p>...one natural thing?</p> 	<p>...one man-made thing?</p> 

Part 1 - The Town Hall and Island

Instructions:

<p>1) What kind of activities do you think happened in this building in the past?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> shopping counselling theatre Selling animals 	<p>2) What kind of activities do you think happen here today?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> clubs Entertainment Pubs Meetings
---	--

3) Can you draw... some ideas for events you would like to happen here in the future?


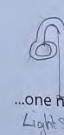

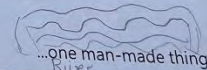


Part 2 - The Hollies

Instructions:

<p>1) What kind of people use this space? Name two.</p> <p>People shopping People that go to Sainbury's</p>	<p>2) Is it welcoming or unwelcoming to each of those people? Why?</p> <p>Welcoming because everyone is kind and respectful!</p>
---	--

3) Can you draw...

<p>...one old thing?</p> <p>Town hall</p> 	<p>...one new thing?</p> <p>Lights</p> 
<p>...one natural thing?</p> <p>Trees</p> 	<p>...one man-made thing?</p> <p>River</p> 

Above: Examples of pupil worksheets

Teddy
St. John's Primary
Redfield Road
Midsomer Norton
BA3 2JN

Friday 25th of April
Dear Beth and Nick

Thank you for allowing us and arranging this trip for us. On Thursday 24th of April I am writing to express my gratitude towards you both for taking us around Midsomer Norton. Your jobs are very fascinating and I think you have inspired some of my classmates to do what you do! I would like to find out more about the local history and what you can do with abandoned buildings.

One thing that I think is possible to do is brighten up the high street and rebuild cars of worn out buildings with more colourful paint and bright signs. Everybody appreciated the tote bags because the design was very cool. I think my classmates Mothers would've loved the bags because it is more sustainable shopping by not having to buy plastic bags. I really liked having a say in how Midsomer Norton could be regenerated. You listened to our opinions and considered our ideas.

Both of you are excellent tour guides! You know your way around the area off by heart unlike others. There was no inconvenience at all in this delightful trip. You guys are very good placemakers and you made the atmosphere very nice. Everything you said was relevant and helpful. You never interrupted either.

I hope that we will see each other again sometime.
From Teddy

Harry
St. John's Primary
School
Redfield Road
Midsomer Norton
BA3 2JN

Monday 28th April 2025

Dear Beth and Nick,

I am writing from St. John's Primary School to thank you for the highly interesting and detailed tour of Midsomer Norton you gave us. I hugely appreciate that you gave up your time to teach us the history of our local area.

I absolutely loved that you gave us a say on what the future of Midsomer Norton will be like! I actually got an idea that in the beautiful Houlie Gardens, where we sat and did the fun activities, on the stone slab stretching along the garden we could print a historical timeline of Midsomer Norton onto it! I thought it could give a sense of history to the green landscape.

In addition, thank you so much for the tote bags you very kindly gifted to us and everything else. Have a good day!

From Harry

Ruben
St. John's Primary
Redfield Road
Midsomer Norton
BA3 2JN

Friday 25th April 2025

To Beth & Nick,

Thank you for the wonderful trip that you took us on around Midsomer Norton on Thursday 24th April. The tour was very interesting and I learnt a lot about my local area.

My favourite place that we visited was the Kingsher mural next to Weather Spoons as it was my first time seeing it.

I am very pleased that I have been part of the regeneration on Midsomer Norton and hope to see some of our ideas put into action. We look forward to see you soon.

Many thanks - Ruben.

Above: Examples of pupil feedback and ideas

Appendix 7: DEVELOP Phase 'Shape Your High Street' community artworks created

7a China Blue Fish - A Song for Midsomer Norton

A Song For Midsomer Norton

China Blue Fish and Trevphonic



China Blue Fish is a multi-disciplinary arts practitioner working across music, theatre, poetry and facilitation. She devise and tours theatre shows, performs in bands, and works as a composer and musical director for theatre. Her interests as an artist lie in the unheard voice, in collective wellbeing and sustainability and creating beauty and joy.
www.chinabluefish.com
@chinablueofthequeens



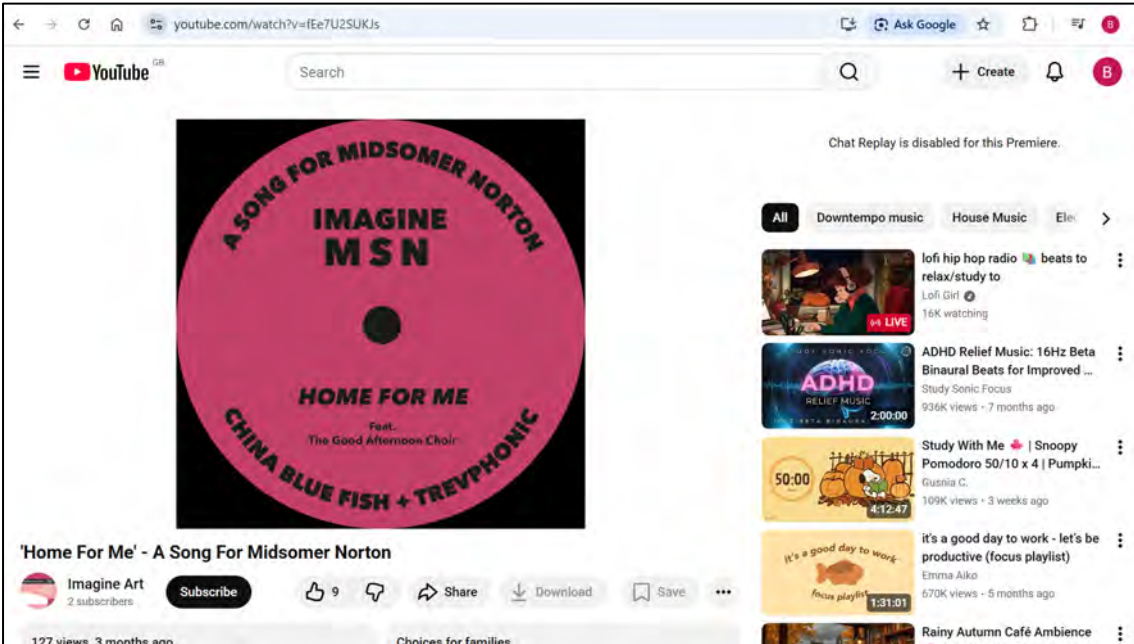
Trevphonic is an electronic music producer based in Bristol. His music spans chill-hop to trip-hop, deep house to ambient. He is a drummer and accordian player, and has been playing in bands since the age of 15. He is a long-term collaborator with China Blue Fish.
[@trevphonic](https://soundcloud.com/trevb111)

China is working with Trevphonic to capture stories of people's connection to Midsomer Norton, their experiences, histories and dreams for the future.

The project involves archival research and conversations with local groups. The song will be comprised of field recordings from the geophony of the local area (trees, rivers, woodlands), biophony (birdsong, animals) and anthrophony (human voices). It will fuse folk traditions, historical mining songs, vox pops, ambient sounds, and recordings with local singers.

A live performance of the work in the Town Park will be complemented by a visual artwork on the high street, allowing visitors to listen to the song in the place that inspired it.

Above: Screenshot of China Blue Fish project introductory information



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEe7U2SUKJs>



Above: Open air performance of China Blue Fish and Trevphonic 'Home for Me' (Ric Rawlins)



Above: China Blue Fish shop window installation (Ric Rawlins)

We Are Midsomer Norton!

Steve Griffiths

We Are Midsomer Norton! is a pop-up portrait gallery, celebrating the everyday people who make the high street what it is today - from business owners to maintenance workers and volunteers.

A collection of paintings by the artist will be displayed alongside portraits created by local people of themselves or their loved ones, created during a series of drop-in workshops. Residents will also have the opportunity to donate framed photographs to sit amongst the paintings.

Sustainability plays a key role in all Steve does, always looking to reuse, reclaim, and celebrate people, places and things. His work for this project is created using donated materials from local organisations.

www.achub-furniture-art.co.uk
@achub_furniture_art



Steve 'Griff' Griffiths is an artist and maker who lives in the Radstock area and is a resident artist at Old Printworks Arts. A primary school teacher by trade, he has been making art and facilitating others for over 30 years. His artistic work centres around using reclaimed materials as a canvas, and he creates large pop art inspired portraits and landscapes on wood and cardboard. He also upcycles furniture and has been building a new business, ACHUB, which focuses on all areas of his practice.

Above: Screenshot of Steve Griffiths project introductory information



Above: We Are Midsomer Norton! community portrait painting workshop



Above: Steve Griffiths shop window installation (Ric Rawlins)

Sydney Bull

What does Midsomer Norton mean to you?

To me, Norton is the trees and the fields and the rivers. Having lived in cities for a time, Norton is the home I was always relieved to return to. It is a place of unbridled creativity, passion for the arts and a love for the everyday that is reflected in its residents.

What do you hope for the future of Midsomer Norton?

I hope to see the continued rise of bands and music from the local area. Club Rock has helped to position young musicians at the forefront of Norton culture, with student band numbers at an all time high. The grassroots musical community has always been so strong in Norton, I would love to see its musical dynasty continue. I feel a venue acting as home for these musicians would be the next step in securing a fruitful future for local music.

Lucy Sidwick

What does Midsomer Norton mean to you?

Midsomer Norton had always been a small, creative and Independent town full of quirks and individuality that was embraced and encouraged.

What do you hope for the future of Midsomer Norton?

I hope that we return to this attitude and that the new generations create the same safe spaces for art, music and creative thinking that we had that is sheltered and protected from

Steve "Griff" Griffiths | We Are Midsomer Norton!



@achub_furniture_art

**IMAGINE
MSN**



Steve "Griff" Griffiths | We Are Midsomer Norton!



@achub_furniture_art

**IMAGINE
MSN**



Martyn Plant

What does Midsomer Norton mean to you?

Midsomer Norton is Community. It is the people that live and work in the town, those who provide activities, clubs and organisations to bring people together, and make it the fun, friendly, creative and welcoming place that is.

What do you hope for the future of Midsomer Norton?

I hope for a vibrant and positive community, where people come together for enjoyment, friendship, and fulfillment. And for the facilities and means to make this happen.

James Bridges


What does Midsomer Norton mean to you?

Norton means family, friends and home to me.

What do you hope for the future of Midsomer Norton?

I hope that Norton is a place where creativity and community thrives.

Steve "Griff" Griffiths | We Are Midsomer Norton!

 @achub_furniture_art

**IMAGINE
MSN**



Steve "Griff" Griffiths | We Are Midsomer Norton!

 @achub_furniture_art

**IMAGINE
MSN**



Adrienne Lynch

What does Midsomer Norton mean to you?

Midsomer Norton means - Home. I have lived here from the Age of 6 and have always worked locally (Bath being the furthest away). Our community has always been close to my heart and I have always enjoyed the friendliness of the local people, the fact you can walk in a shop and see someone you know and have a little natter is rather quite exceptional nowadays.

What do you hope for the future of Midsomer Norton?

I hope that in the future Midsomer Norton can increase its small independent shops to keep the High Street going and eventually make it a thriving busy place like 20 years ago. That local events keep happening to encourage footfall, but these do need to be within the High Street.

Rodney Gray


What does Midsomer Norton mean to you?

What I like most about Midsomer Norton are the lovely walks, the town park, the nature reserve and the beautiful flowers in the town centre.

What do you hope for the future of Midsomer Norton?

My hopes for the future would be a better shopping experience and major improvements to the pavement of the top half of the high street and no parking.


Steve "Griff" Griffiths | We Are Midsomer Norton!

 @achub_furniture_art

**IMAGINE
MSN**



Steve "Griff" Griffiths | We Are Midsomer Norton!

 @achub_furniture_art

**IMAGINE
MSN**



Above: Examples of portrait sitter interviews, displayed alongside shop window installation

Landmarks

Jo Slade



Jo Slade is a fine artist. Graduating with a Fine Art degree from Brighton University in 2007, she worked as a nurse before returning to painting in 2023. Her work takes inspiration from the natural world around her home in the rural outskirts of south Bath. She has exhibited at Burdalls Yard, Royal United Hospital, Pound Arts Centre Corsham, Studio 22, The Little Theatre and 44AD. She has been in residency with Remerge and Little Lost Robot at Old Printwork Arts, Radstock.

Jo is creating a series of paintings of landmarks that are important to local people in Midsomer Norton. The artworks focus on memory, history, the present town and the future hopes for the high street.

Painted in acrylic on wood panels, they tell a visual story of the town centre that is both hopeful and reflective.

The artworks will be informed by a series of intergenerational community workshops in which participants can learn simple drawing and painting techniques while sharing their stories and memories, as well as their aspirations for Midsomer Norton's future.

www.josladeart.com
@josladeart



Above: Screenshot of Jo Slade project introductory information



Above: Jo Slade community collages



Above: Jo Slade shop window installation (Ric Rawlins)



Above: Jo Slade installation at the Hollies Garden (Ric Rawlins)



Above: Jo Slade shop window installation (Ric Rawlins)



Above: Examples of pupils' contributions to Jo Slade installation at the Hollies Garden

7d P Burton-Morgan - Breathless

Breathless

P Burton-Morgan

Breathless is a poetry collection mapping the highs and lows, joys and sorrows of the leisure pursuits and hobbies of west country youth both now and in the past.

P's own writing will be complemented by poems written by local young people and elders in a series of creative workshops taking place over the spring months.

The workshops will enrich and expand participants' creative lives, and encourage them to share their own responses to the place and their memories of leisure activities.

A selection of poems will be displayed in shop windows, and there will also be an open mic event for community poets from all generations to share their work with one another.


www.mettatheatre.co.uk
@pburtonmorgan





P. Burton-Morgan is an award-winning local poet and theatre maker. They founded touring theatre company Metta Theatre in 2005, writing and directing over 30 productions including Sherlock Holmes & The PoisonWood (Watermill Theatre). In 2018 they were opera artist-in-residence at the V&A. Their debut novel *O* is out on submission with United Agents and their poetry has been published in Propel Magazine and anthologized by Arachne Press.

Above: Screenshot of P Burton-Morgan project introductory information

<p>MSN Skatepark</p> <p>Two trollish teens on the squat forms of BMXs. <i>You did not just do that.</i> Six and seven year olds on scooters, weaving between skaters with wild abandon and sometime raucous shrieks as they shout the stretch of concrete. <i>Today is gonna be the day...</i> A single silver-templed skater-Dad doing ollies, pausing to check his phone and surreptitiously get his breath back. <i>Tell your friend that we'll only be here for half an hour.</i> The strangely peaceful co-existence between the disparate species in the cement ecology. <i>Daddy, DADDY!</i> A background soundtrack of acrylic roll on curved concrete. <i>Just a bottle of water, thanks.</i> At the periphery the twisted flail of a shopping trolley, rib cage bent in on itself, wheels canted at unnatural angles. <i>Gotta go now, bye old man Jonny.</i> Reminder of the risks from all this violent flinging through space. <i>Be careful.</i></p> <p>P Burton-Morgan</p>	<p>Twirl</p> <p>Give us a twirl he'd chuckle in the shop, and she would twirl radiant, suddenly girlish, her face, a flower in the sun.</p> <p>Her coloured clothes wear out, edges fray, seams come undone but in the shop she cannot choose anew, now that he's gone.</p> <p>She makes do with the old clothes warm in the memory of his smile colours fading, hemlines wrinkled but at least these let her twirl.</p> <p>P Burton-Morgan</p>
<p>Breathless A Midsomer Norton Poetry Trail @ P Burton-Morgan</p> <p>IMAGINE MSN</p> 	<p>Breathless A Midsomer Norton Poetry Trail @ P Burton-Morgan</p> <p>IMAGINE MSN</p> 

Above: Examples from P Burton-Morgan's 60-poem collection

Dad

Dad ran the factory. Cast iron domestic equipment.
Things for the comfort and convenience
of the people. So he was very popular.

They sent over a big band. We had to find every chair,
see the polished curved feet sinking into the grass.
They played carols until they ran out of things they knew.

And then again for his funeral.
Standing on the grass with their instruments.
I sat inside, five years old, listening through the glass.

Robin, 80s

Breathless | A Midsomer Norton Poetry Trail
© P Burton-Morgan



The Telephone Exchange

Left school at 14. Went to Stratton on the fosse. Worked
in the telephone exchange and the post office. Moved
back to MSN. The telephone exchange was just in their
front room... I cycled in, every day. The river was still
open then. It was just me and the supervisor. One day the
river came up and gradually put out the fire. The
machinery started sparking. We lifted what we could onto
chairs. Finally we rang the head office in Bristol. We are
abandoning the exchange. They sent a van. It couldn't get
past the Co-Op. They never had a pair of wellingtons
between them. In the end my friend came. Man with one
arm. He carried us out on his back, one after the other.

Vera, 96

Breathless | A Midsomer Norton Poetry Trail
© P Burton-Morgan



Always a Fruit Cake

I been making cakes ever since...
Ever since the band started.
Lemon drizzle.
Well it was 2013.
So over ten years.
Coffee and walnut.

Them shop bought ones were disgusting.
I thought I can do better than that.
Carrot and walnut.
Six cakes a month.
Over ten years.
Ginger Roulade.
Always a fruit cake.
Oh yes. Always a fruit cake.

Anon

Breathless | A Midsomer Norton Poetry Trail
© P Burton-Morgan



Unintentional Bike Haiku

On my bike. So fast.
On the ramps. I do this in
circles. Then I go.

Jonas, 4

Breathless | A Midsomer Norton Poetry Trail
© P Burton-Morgan



Above: Examples from P Burton-Morgan's 60-poem collection

Imagine Midsomer Norton

In 2040

There would be Very lively morris dancers
And Bagpipes early on Sunday mornings.
The river would be clean and deep
with kingfishers, otters, frogspawn, kites and a raven.
Friday afternoons an Ice cream van would arrive outside
Children would come and read to me.
Dogs would visit me, and I would have whisky buddies.
There would be an Arts Centre in MSN
And theatre and films and drama.
Unlimited provision for special needs.
No need for food banks. Locally made cheese.
Pedal taxis on the greenways lined with cherry & plum trees.
A herd of strokeable non-escaping deer in Wellow brook.
And I would have climbed the Batch by then.

Mandy, 66

Breathless | A Midsomer Norton Poetry Trail
© P Burton-Morgan

**IMAGINE
MSN**



It hit the town in '94

what did we ever do?
we gave him a good home
a good life
I just got myself involved
he told us
he made a little poster
It's not my fault
the 'my' was for me
put it on the fridge
twenty years it took him
to get clean
I still work with Peasedown
group for families of addicts
we give them the poster
to put on their fridges.

Anon

Breathless | A Midsomer Norton Poetry Trail
© P Burton-Morgan

**IMAGINE
MSN**



Above: Examples from P Burton-Morgan's 60-poem collection



Above: P Burton-Morgan's community drop-in workshop at the skate park



Above: P Burton-Morgan shop window installations and murals

Appendix 8: DESIGN Phase engagement and consultation materials

IMAGINE MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN CENTRE FRAMEWORK

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Introduction
The Midsomer Norton Town Centre Masterplan has been prepared to set a vision and identify opportunities for future improvements to the town centre. It develops ideas that have been generated by the community and builds on the work of the Historic England funded High Street Heritage Action Zone programme (2020-2024), setting a bold vision for Midsomer Norton's future High Street.

The study is centred around the former Midsomer Norton Brewery buildings, located within the central High Street, and the surrounding core retail area. The masterplan also encompasses the two main car parks for the town located on South Road and to the rear of Sainsbury's supermarket.

What is a masterplan?
A masterplan like this covers many different sites owned by a range of individuals and companies as well as the Council. It sets out a direction of travel for the area and shows how a coordinated approach could have more impact than isolated schemes.

The Masterplan can encourage and enable good change, and is a key first step for the Council. For sites in other ownerships, it is intended to guide and stimulate the appetite for change, but can't force projects to happen... The ideas in this report could take time to deliver and may not all happen in the precise way that these examples illustrate.

ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

DISCOVER
Sept 2024 - Jan 2025
Early stage community engagement

DEVELOP
March - May 2025
Community consultation on early designs

DESIGN
June - October 2025
Completion of the draft plan and formal consultation

DELIVER
November 2025 onwards
Adoption by B&NES Council
Funding bids and planning applications

This is a joint project by Bath & North East Somerset Council and Midsomer Norton Town Council, which has involved engagement with the key landowners, local businesses and the community. The project has been supported by architects Allias and Morrison, transport specialists RIA and economic consultants Avision Young. The document is a strategy to guide change. It can inform planning policy development, guide landowners and support bids for funding, but won't all be delivered by the public sector.

HIGH STREET SOUTH OLD BREWERY

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

The Old Brewery site includes the main historic building and also a series of other buildings and spaces. The ideas in the master-plan show options for the main building, and also set out ways in which new town centre uses and new workspace could be provided on the rest of the site.

The proposals include a new pedestrian lane to improve links to the South Road car park, as well as creating a little more space on the High Street to better integrate the historic Palladium frontage (Wetherspoons).

The old Brewery building has been heavily modified over the decades, and so options have been explored to bring it back to life either as a venue or as homes.

Options for the Old Brewery

- Deliver yard space to support a practical working environment for studios and small businesses including a loading bay
- Establish a clear pedestrian lane through the site connecting South Road and the car park to the High Street
- Restore the historic brewery chimney stack to its full height as a key heritage feature
- Deliver flexible workspaces which can animate the site and the wider town centre
- Improve the existing lane past the site to retain an accessible route to the car park
- Improve the High Street space and better integrate the Palladium
- Reopen the ground floor space of the old building as shops

There are different ways that the old building could be given a new lease of life. Its current form it could be refurbished and possibly re-opened as a local venue with an entrance from the High Street and two other shops. Alternatively, the upper floors could be rebuilt to more closely match its historic form, providing new town centre homes with roof terraces above shops on the ground floor.

HIGH STREET SOUTH GASWORKS + SOUTH ROAD

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

The plans for the Gasworks site bring the old building back to life along with new buildings as a space for local businesses including ideas like a micro-brewery. The site has some contaminated land.

The design of the South Road car park can be improved to make it better to use and to add in tree planting and rain-gardens as well as possibly solar panels. There are also opportunities for individual land owners to add buildings along South Road which create frontage onto the street, making it a better part of the town centre.

ADDING FRONTAGE TO SOUTH ROAD

South Road is relatively modern in the town's history, and never had old buildings along it. Allowing land owners to add new buildings will unlock value, as well as help to make the street feel more attractive and provide overlooking to make it feel safer.

What could new development look like?

Give a new lease of life to the former gasworks building as a key remnant of Midsomer Norton's industrial heritage.

Establish a new car park layout which unifies the space and provides access to former gasworks.

Provide native species tree planting for shade along with rain gardens to provide sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS)

Incorporate charging points for electric vehicles

Provide improved pedestrian links with a new controlled crossing on South Road

Develop a series of simple new workspace buildings with yard space suitable for a range of different businesses

Seek out creative uses with the potential for a micro-brewery which could particularly make use of the yard space

HIGH STREET NORTH THE HOLLIES GARDENS

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

The Hollies Gardens is an important green space on the High Street. It is the remaining part of the gardens of the original old house, but the design dates from the building of Sainsbury's and includes narrow ramps and poor routes.

The masterplan includes ideas which open up the space to make the library and shops more accessible as well as creating clearer and shorter external steps and ramps. The plans also include a larger flat space which can be used for events including the farmers' market.

Vision for the future

- Create a clear and direct accessible route through the space, improving access to the library, Sainsbury's and the car park
- Integrate terraced seating and a larger flat space for events
- Support activity within the listed Hollies Building with new ramps to the front door
- Remove clutter on the eastern side of the space to connect the shops with the space and make pedestrian routes more obvious
- Include elements of play-on-the-way within the landscape
- Provide an accessible entrance into the front of the listed building to help bring it back into more active use
- Retain and maintain key features such as the grey mass and the elements of listed wall
- A new pedestrian crossing is already planned for the High Street, providing better connections into the gardens

Above: Consultation engagement boards

HIGH STREET NORTH SAINSBURY'S CAR PARK



The Sainsbury's car park not only provides car parking, it also needs to provide safe pedestrian connections from the High Street to adjoining residential streets and to the primary school. The design is dated, and it can be re-planned to include safe pavements, improved ramps, electric charging points, rain gardens and tree planting which would provide shade and help to manage rainwater.

The B&NES staff car park is also earmarked as a small housing site with a design which references Midsomer Norton's historic terraces of cottages and which will provide frontage onto the car park.



Vision for the future



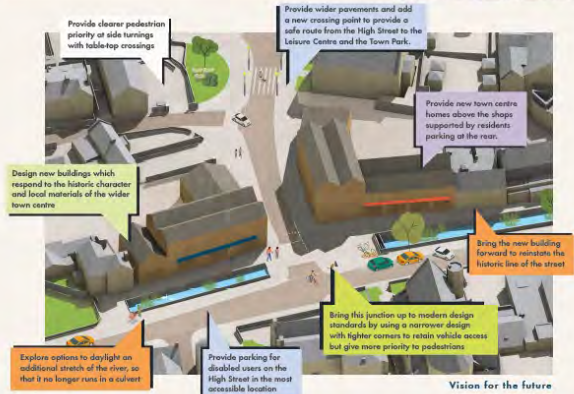
EXCELSIOR TERRACE SITES + IMPROVED PUBLIC SPACE



The junction of Excelsior Terrace and the High Street is a key part of the town centre in need of improvement. The existing road design separates the two halves of the High Street, whilst the buildings are dated, and don't reflect the local character.

The master-plan includes ideas for the junction and the buildings which will better connect the High Street as well as improving links from the Town Centre towards the Town Park and the Leisure Centre.

There could also be an opportunity to open up a further stretch of the river which is currently buried beneath parking spaces.



Vision for the future

EXCELSIOR TERRACE JUNCTION DESIGN

The series of junctions and crossings on Excelsior Terrace hold the key to significant improvements for walking and wheeling in the town centre. Our team has been exploring how to best use the areas available to create space for pedestrians and cyclists whilst also being sure that buses and other large vehicles which need to use the roads can safely manoeuvre.



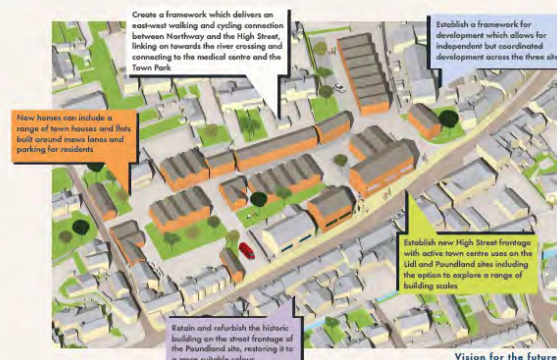
HIGH STREET EAST ARGOS + POUNDLAND + LIDL



The Argos, Poundland and Lidl sites are all parts of the High Street which could see development in the coming years. Whilst they might be designed and built by different landowners, setting clear guidelines for a coordinated approach will help to deliver development which is integrated with the wider town, rather than planned as a series of isolated cul-de-sacs.

The sites are large and can include a mix of uses, with new homes sited behind shops, community uses or other public functions on the High Street frontage.

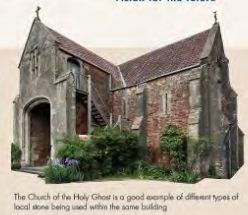
There is also an important opportunity to reduce the amount of hard surface and to increase tree planting and gardens which can help to boost biodiversity, provide shade to address over-heating and help to manage rainwater and flooding.



Vision for the future

MIDSOMER NORTON CHARACTER

Part of Midsomer Norton's distinctive character comes from the variety of natural stone which is found in the area, including a blend of different colours which are often seen within the same building. New buildings should reflect this local character to reinforce a strong sense of place.



IMAGINE MIDSOMER NORTON PROJECTS



- PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS:** Enhance connectivity and accessibility across key town centre areas, including from Welton into the town centre.
- COMMUNITY SPACES:** Support civic life by reviewing the provision of community infrastructure and making focused improvements.
- PUBLIC TOILETS:** Ensure the provision of accessible public toilets in the town centre.
- PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:** Identify gaps in youth services and create safe, engaging spaces including the potential use of 113a High Street.
- WAYFINDING:** Improve town centre navigation through updated signage, maps, and digital media.
- HIGH STREET ANIMATION AND EVENTS:** Activate the High Street by supporting year-round programming of new and existing events, festivals, and public art.
- HIGH STREET ANIMATION AND EVENTS:** Activate the High Street by supporting year-round programming of new and existing events, festivals, and public art.
- BUSINESS SUPPORT:** Support local businesses through shopfront improvement grants, vacant unit activation, retail and arts incubation spaces.
- BROWNFIELD SITE REDEVELOPMENT:** Unlock key brownfield sites for housing and mixed-use development through strategic partnerships, such as the Welton Bibby site.



Above: Consultation engagement boards

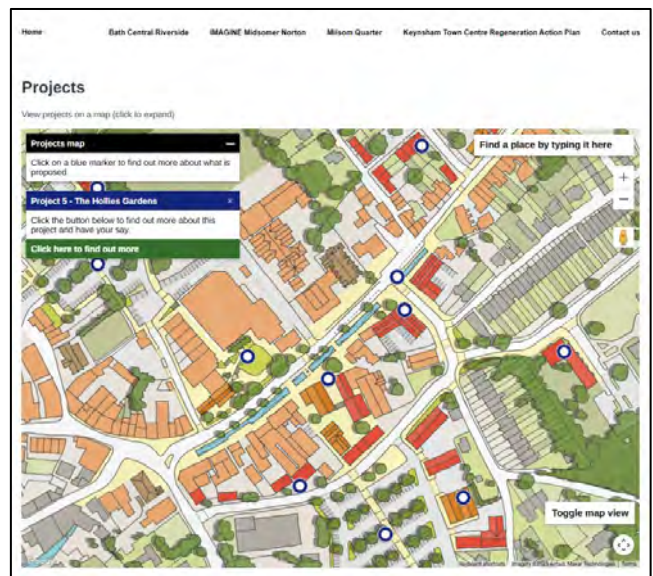
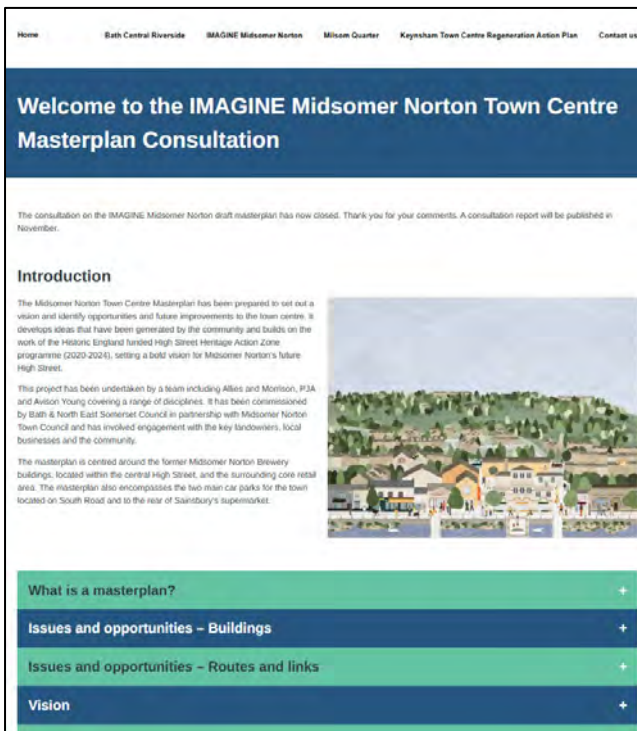
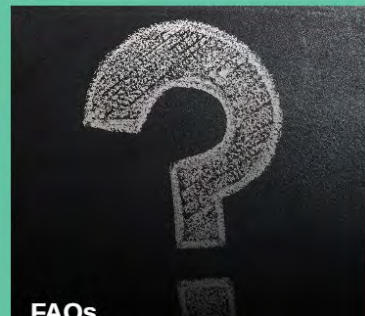
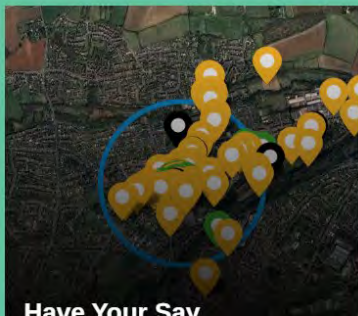
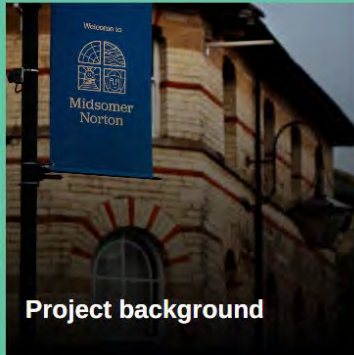
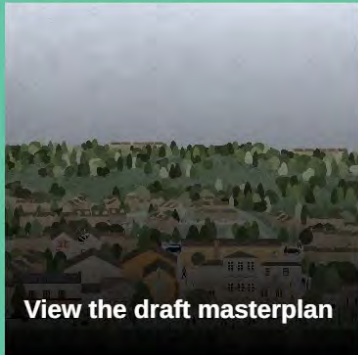
IMAGINE Midsomer Norton Town Centre Plan



IMAGINE Midsomer Norton Town Centre Plan

Above: Illustrative masterplan tabletop map

Find out more and get involved



Above: BathNES Places consultation platform, screenshots

Home Bath Central Riverside **MAGNE Midsummer Norton** Milson Quarter Keynsham Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan Contact us

Explore by project

High Street South

- Old Brewery
- Gasworks
- South Road Car Park
- South Road Frontages

High Street North

- The Hollies Gardens
- Sainsbury's Car Park
- Council Staff Car Park

Excelsior Terrace

- Excelsior Terrace Sites
- Excelsior Terrace Junction
- Leisure Centre Infill Site

High Street East

- Eastern High Street Group

Home Bath Central Riverside **MAGNE Midsummer Norton** Milson Quarter Keynsham Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan Contact us

Old Brewery

Project Area: High Street South

[Return to the consultation page](#)


Site – existing context

The existing buildings within the site span through the depth of the urban block between the High Street and South Road, including a series of layered spaces and a significant change in level approximating to a full storey height.

A feature of the change in levels is that the small central building has both an upper level opening onto the top yard space and a lower level opening into the lower courtyard, accessed via a steep ramp. The building sits within the same Local Plan designation as the wider site, under Policy SSV1, for a sensitive mixed use redevelopment.

Two large roof structures are dominant features - that of the Old Brewery building itself, and the adjoining roof of the Plattendach - now occupied by Wetterspoons. The prevailing grain is perpendicular to the High Street.

The upper yard space supports workspace in the site in allowing deliveries, but tends to default to car parking, which detracts from the potential of the site for intensification and the creation of frontage onto South Road.



© BathNES, 2018

Site location plan - [click to enlarge](#)

Site – emerging context


This site is allocated, within the Local Plan, for a sensitive mixed use redevelopment under Policy SSV1 and has been identified as an area where connections could be made by a strong pedestrian route through the site. This would establish a north/south connection from Sainsbury's car park through towards the Gasworks site and the South Road car park.

The Old Brewery historic buildings are another key opportunity with opportunity to restore prominence and significance. It may be possible to bring it back into use as an entertainment venue above shops, but it may also be appropriate to re-work the building to reflect its earlier structure and deliver town centre housing.



Above: BathNES Places consultation platform, screenshots

Appendix 9: DESIGN Phase advertisement and comms



IMAGINE
MIDSOMER NORTON

Bath & North East Somerset Council
regeneration@bathnes.gov.uk

Town Centre Masterplan

Collage by Jo Siatek and local residents for the IMAGINE MSH project

HAVE YOUR SAY...

Online
The consultation on the draft masterplan takes place 2 - 30 October 2025.

In person
Join us at The Island (outside the Town Hall):
Fri 10 October, 11am - 6pm
Sat 11 October, 11am - 3pm

We will also be consulting on the Bath & North East Somerset Local Plan Options.

Printed and Easy Read copies of the plan will be available at the event and at Midsomer Norton Library through October.

WEST MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY OF ENGLAND

Email: regeneration_team@bathnes.gov.uk
Call: 01225 477000

www.bathnesplaces.co.uk/regen



Above: Poster and bollard cover for Masterplan consultation event at The Island


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Share your views on new vision to IMAGINE Midsomer Norton town centre

© Date published: 2025-10-02 | Category: [Delivering for local residents](#), [Giving people a bigger say](#), [Regeneration and Development](#), [Somerset Valley](#)



Residents, businesses and visitors to Midsomer Norton are being invited to have their say on new opportunities to shape a vibrant and sustainable town centre that will thrive for the future.

Bath & North East Somerset Council and Midsomer Norton Town Council have jointly launched a public consultation on the [IMAGINE Midsomer Norton Town Centre Masterplan](#), a bold vision identifying projects to improve the heart of the town.

The masterplan is centred around the former Midsomer Norton Brewery buildings and the surrounding retail area. It also encompasses the town's main car parks on South Road and to the rear of Sainsbury's supermarket.


The projects in the masterplan include:

- Restoration and reuse of historic buildings, including bringing the former Bob's Palais and the Old Gas Works sites back into use
- Improved public spaces and pedestrian connections, including improving the links between the high street and the town park
- New homes and business spaces in the town centre, such as the redevelopment of a private car park for housing


The plan develops ideas that have been generated by landowners, local businesses and the community over the past year – including the [Shape Your High Street arts weekend](#) programme which saw 1,000 residents take part.

It also builds on the work of the Historic England funded High Street Heritage Action Zone programme which ran from 2020 to 2024.


The consultation runs until October 30 and there will be an outdoor consultation event at The Island on October 10 from 11am to 6pm and on October 11 from 11am to 3pm.




Independent review praises council commitment to improving people's lives



Council leading the way in tackling climate and nature emergencies



Big drop in wait for adult social care assessments in B&NES



Excitement builds in Bath with four weeks to go until the Christmas Market

GET OUR WEEKLY

The event will include information about the [Local Plan Options Consultation](#). There will also be opportunities to participate in family friendly and creative activities as part of [The Big Draw Festival](#). Printed and easy read copies of the Masterplan will be available at Midsomer Norton Library & Information Service.

Councillor Paul Roper, cabinet member for Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development, said: "This masterplan is a significant step forward in shaping a vibrant, sustainable and welcoming town centre for Midsomer Norton. It reflects the aspirations of our communities and sets out a clear direction for future investment and regeneration. Please share your views with us in the consultation."

Councillor Martyn Plant, the Mayor of Midsomer Norton, said: "The master plan is an ambitious and exciting initiative built on the ideas and suggestions of local residents and businesses. This is a real opportunity to help develop and improve the look and functioning of our town centre to benefit the whole community as well as visitors to Midsomer Norton. I enthusiastically encourage residents to look at the plan and contribute their responses, suggestions and ideas."

The project is funded by £750,000 from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Housing and Regeneration Enabling Fund for four high street regeneration action plans and one town centre masterplan in B&NES.




Helen Godwin, the Mayor of the West of England, said: "I want all the West's high streets to really thrive, including in places like Midsomer Norton. Three-quarters of a million-pounds is being invested by our regional authority to also help breathe new life into Keynsham, Radstock, and Twerton."

"We're working with the local council, listening to local people, to deliver change that communities can see and feel. Together, we can restore old buildings, improve public spaces, and build the right homes in the right places."

Find out about all the [ongoing and planned regeneration projects across B&NES](#)


ENDS

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Improving People's Lives

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Above: B&NES Council press release, screenshot

Chew Valley JOURNAL[™] Gazette


HOME NEWS PROPERTY SPORT WHAT'S ON SEND YOUR STORY SUBSCRIPTION MORE

NEWS

Midsomer Norton residents invited to shape town's future

Midsomer Norton residents, businesses, and visitors are invited to provide feedback on a new masterplan to guide the town's development.

Monday 8th October 2025 9:00 am [Leave a comment](#) [Share](#) [Facebook](#)



Computer-generated image of Midsomer Norton Town Square design produced by Nicolai Perren, Associates on behalf of Bath & North East Somerset Council, 2024. © Nicolai Perren, Associates

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- Caro plans affordable homes and green space in Timburlary
- Plans for new Bath Rugby Stadium could hold 18,000 spectators!
- Inspectors uphold council decision to refuse 'Sally Down' housing plan.

RESIDENTS, businesses, and visitors are being invited to provide feedback on proposals to guide the future development and regeneration of Midsomer Norton town centre.

Bath & North East Somerset Council and Midsomer Norton Town Council have jointly launched a public consultation on the **IMAGINE Midsomer Norton Town Centre Masterplan**, a bold vision identifying projects to improve the heart of the town.

Wednesday, 8th October 2025 [Contact us by email: contactus@mnjournal.co.uk](mailto:contactus@mnjournal.co.uk) Page 17

IMAGINE
MIDSOMER NORTON

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving Places & Lives

Town Centre Masterplan



HAVE YOUR SAY...

Online
The consultation on the draft masterplan takes place 2 to 30 October 2025.

In person
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View online and submit comments:
www.bathnesplaces.co.uk/legen

WEST OF ENGLAND MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY
Email: regeneration_team@batnes.gov.uk
Call: 01225 477000

Above: Midsomer Norton & Radstock Journal advertisement and editorial, screenshot

Have your say on masterplan for a thriving town centre

Somerset Guardian | October 03, 2025

Residents, businesses and visitors to Midsomer Norton are being invited to have their say on new opportunities to shape a vibrant and sustainable town centre that will thrive for the future.




New plans would transform 'bold' Somerset town's centre

The masterplan is centred around the former Brewery buildings

By [Abigail Nicholas](#) [Contents](#) [Editor](#)

10:42 3 OCT 2025 [Bookmark](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Comments](#)



Residents, businesses and visitors to Midsomer Norton are being invited to have their say on plans to shape the town centre

Residents, businesses and visitors to Midsomer Norton are being invited to have their say on plans to shape a vibrant and sustainable town centre that will thrive. Bath & North East Somerset Council and Midsomer Norton Town Council have launched a public consultation on the **IMAGINE Midsomer Norton Town Centre Masterplan**, a bold vision identifying projects to improve the heart of the town.

The masterplan is centred around the former Midsomer Norton Brewery buildings and the surrounding retail area. It also encompasses the town's main car parks on South Road and to the rear of Sainsbury's supermarket.

Above: Somerset Guardian and Somerset Live editorials, screenshot

I'm writing to let you know that today (2 October), Midsomer Norton Town Council and B&NES Council [launched the consultation for the IMAGINE Midsomer Norton Town Centre Masterplan](#).

The masterplan identifies opportunities for ambitious improvements to the town centre, building on the work of the recent High Street Heritage Action Zone programme. These plans have been in development for a year, undertaken with Allies & Morrison, PJA and Avison Young and following extensive engagement with businesses, landowners, community groups and residents.

Local people can have their say online at www.bathnesplaces.co.uk/regen until 30 October. An outdoor event will take place on The Island on 10 October (11am to 6pm) and 11 October (11am to 3pm), where you can see the plans and meet the team. The B&NES Local Plan team will also be on hand to share information about the Local Plan Options consultation.

We will also be celebrating The Big Draw Festival on the 10 and 11 October and will be offering games and activities which invite families to imagine and shape the future of Midsomer Norton through art. Everything is free and we would warmly welcome you to get involved. <https://www.thebigdraw.org/events/drawing-our-future-together-midsomer-norton>

Printed and Easy Read copies of the masterplan will be available to read at Midsomer Norton Library throughout the month.

I have attached a PDF/JPG poster and an image for sharing on social media. There is suggested wording for social media posts below. We would be so grateful if you could help us spread the word.

Text for social media:

Over the last year, you've been sharing your ideas for Midsomer Norton. Those ideas have now been transformed into a set of exciting designs for the town centre.

The IMAGINE Midsomer Norton Town Centre Masterplan consultation is now live. Have your say online at www.bathnesplaces.co.uk/regen until midnight on 30 October, or visit The Island on 10 October (11am to 6pm) and 11 October (11am to 3pm) to see the plans, meet the team and enjoy family-friendly activities.

Above: Example of comms sent to community organisations

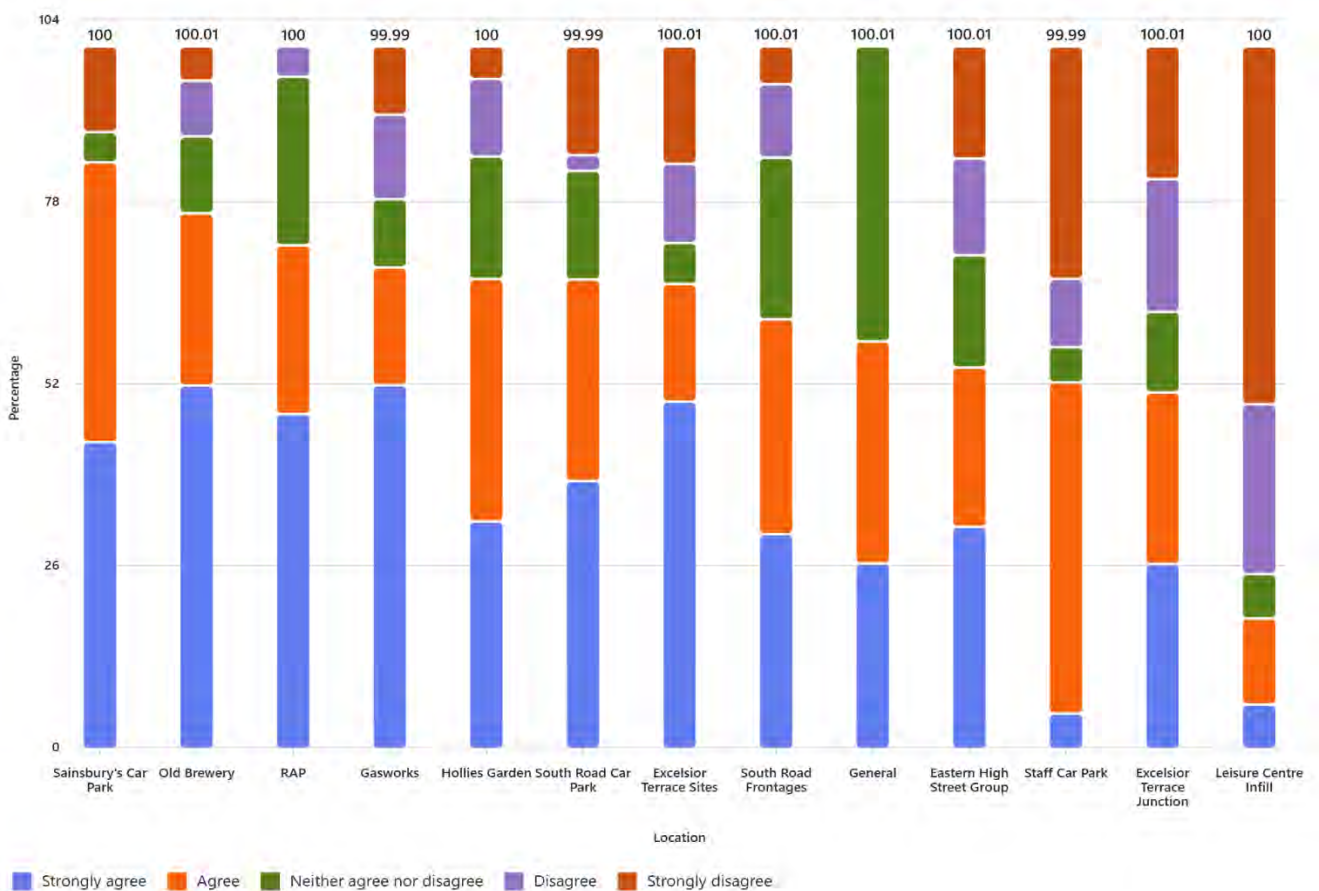
Appendix 10: DESIGN Phase consultation responses received

The DESIGN Phases Consultation Responses were received primarily through online input to the consultation website, and in-person written response at the consultation event in October.

These have been collated as an Excel spreadsheet, which accompanies this consultation report as a separate document.

Appendix 11: DESIGN Phase sentiment analysis

Location	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Hollies Garden	32.61	34.78	17.39	10.87	4.35
South Road Frontages	30.77	30.77	23.08	10.26	5.13
South Road Car Park	38.46	28.85	15.38	1.92	15.38
Sainsbury's Car Park	44	40	4	0	12
RAP	48	24	24	4	0
Old Brewery	52.31	24.62	10.77	7.69	4.62
Leisure Centre Infill...	6.06	12.12	6.06	24.24	51.52
General	26.32	31.58	42.11	0	0
Gasworks	52.38	16.67	9.52	11.9	9.52
Excelsior Terrace Si...	50	16.67	5.56	11.11	16.67
Excelsior Terrace Ju...	26.42	24.53	11.32	18.87	18.87
Eastern High Street ...	31.82	22.73	15.91	13.64	15.91
Staff Car Park	4.76	47.62	4.76	9.52	33.33



"The current walk through between the High Street and South Road is not pleasant in the darkness, a more 'open' lit space is needed."

"This is an excellent proposal, and should be taken forward. Currently these buildings are not being used properly. This is an effective and welcome development that will restore the best features of the buildings whilst putting them to good use."

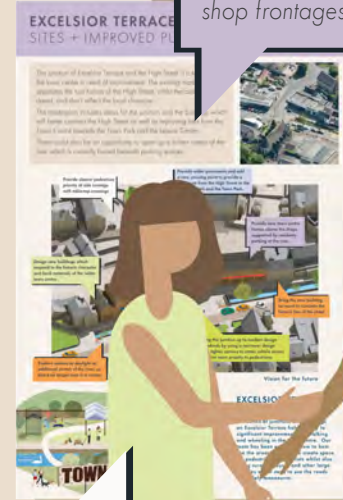
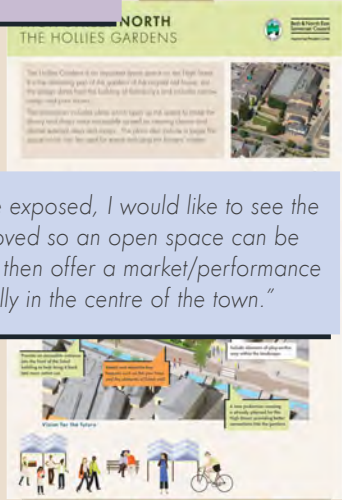
"The high street needs updating and modernising. It would be good to have more available for children and young families like- community space."

"Improve the shop frontages!"

"I would prefer for the area at the leisure centre to remain a green space only, with improvements to make it more attractive and welcoming, such as seating areas that encourage people to sit and socialise."

"If the river is to be exposed, I would like to see the retail building removed so an open space can be created, this could then offer a market/performance space that is actually in the centre of the town."

Pedestrian access and legibility is currently very poor. The existing ramp down to Sainsburys is very poorly designed. The proposals stand to vastly improve arrangements



Leisure Centre Infill

Many that took part in the public consultation disagreed with the proposals for the Leisure Centre Infill site. Respondents would like to see alternative uses including:

- Car parking or bike parking for the leisure centre
- Community green space with pathways, planting and places to sit and relax
- A new leisure facility with outdoor exercise equipment, play area or sports courts



The masterplan recognises the site as a space for future improvements, however, has removed reference to housing. We also include information on accommodating some of the above suggestions, for example greening the centre's frontage and creating an informal public space.

Eastern High Street

Negative responses tend to focus on general concerns about more housing development in the area (traffic congestion etc) rather than on the specifics of the proposal. There is a perception that there are not enough large commercial spaces available in the town centre and that we shouldn't be proposing to remove units.



Further information has been given within the report to explain the suggestion to remove the units, for example the changing nature of building regulations in relation to their energy efficiency and an overall aim in supporting the vitality of the town centre.

Excelsior Terrace Junction

During the consultation, many suggested that the benefits of unveiling a new stretch of river on the High Street don't outweigh the negatives on long disruption and losing car parking. There are also general concerns about the turning space being adequate for buses and HGVs, as well as the visibility of the proposed crossing location.



Within the document, we explain that exploring options to daylight the river should be seen as a parallel but independent project from the main junction improvements.

Further information has been given in the report to explain the design development behind the updates to Excelsior Terrace. The document highlights the analysis undertaken by the highway engineers to show how a scheme like this could be delivered in a way which meets modern highway standards.

South Road Frontage

Although the majority of respondents agree that the South Road frontages infill aspiration would improve the general experience of South Road, there were concerns raised:

- The disruption to existing business operations for example a loss of parking and space for loading.
- Some feel the architectural typologies suggested are not in keeping with the area.
- Whether the area provide adequate space for housing.



The masterplan document has re-affirmed that this change would only be brought forward in collaboration with businesses.

Old Brewery Site

Over three-quarters of respondents agree or strongly agree with the proposals for the Old Brewery site, using words like 'stunning' 'ambitious' 'excellent' 'welcome' 'positive' 'great improvement' 'love'. There were many suggestions as to the future use for the site including spaces for children and young families, a gallery space or a farmers' market, however, the consensus favoured a community use. Negative responses mostly focus on impact on existing businesses.



The team has created a series of opportunities for the Old Brewery site which explore the future uses of the site, accessibility and look and feel of the space.

Sainsburys Car Park

In total, 84% agree or strongly agree with the proposals for the Sainsbury's car park, particularly around improved pedestrian accessibility and safety. There were some helpful comments about the need for more accessible and parent/child parking spaces, which are often full. Questions were also raised about type of planting and plans for maintenance.



Both car park schemes are interconnected. Part of the staff car park is needed to unlock the improved pedestrian links to the school and also enables the wider improvements to the Sainsbury's car park, which were strongly supported in the public engagement.

Staff Car Park

Just over half of respondents agree or strongly agree with the proposals for the staff car park and 33% strongly disagree. Objections surround the possible loss of parking and there were concerns raised around how these homes may be accessed. There were also comments that future homes must be respectful of the local architecture.



South Road Car Park

The majority of respondents agree or strongly agree with the South Road car park improvements. There is considerable support for photovoltaic panels and more EV charging, and comments favouring greening of the space. Several questions were raised about exactly how many spaces would be lost.



The Regeneration and Parking teams will suggest a PV and EV charging area within the car park as a trial project. Concerns over anti-social behaviour of a covered area in the car park would need to be addressed.

Gasworks Site

In total, 69.05% agree or strongly agree with the proposals, comments expressed the proposals' ability to breath some life back into the town and promote community cohesion. Some responses expressed concern about the design of buildings being 'uninspiring' and not in keeping with the local area.

Hollies Garden

Many that took part in the public consultation, agree or strongly agree with the proposals. Some respondents have noted that the area is impacted by the inactive frontage of Sainsbury's and ask whether there are ways in which this could be improved. This could be through screening, extra planting or more lighting. There is also one helpful question on whether the new proposed ramps account for the gradient change, and whether the current proposal would be too steep.



The team have further explored the potential of the site and included precedent examples for possible future uses for the Gasworks.

The team have reviewed the slope gradient of the proposed ramps to ensure the gradient fits regulations. Information has also been added looking at public realm and uses for the Council Chamber and Hollies buildings.





With thanks to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority for grant funding this project.

WEST | MAYORAL
OF ENGLAND | COMBINED
AUTHORITY

Project team

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives



**AVISON
YOUNG**

Allies and Morrison

PJA