

# **Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan**

## Engagement Statement

**For Submission Neighbourhood Plan**

**February 2018**

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### **Purpose of this statement**

- 1.1 This Engagement Statement supports the submission Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan. It brings together the Engagement Reports and materials of the two previous rounds of engagement (Appendices A, B and C respectively), providing a brief summary of each.

### **Engagement rounds**

- 1.2 Three rounds of comprehensive engagement have taken place prior to the submission of the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan. Engagement 1 and Engagement 2 were not formal rounds of consultation, whereas Engagement 3 comprised a pre-submission consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan and was carried out in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

#### Engagement 1

- 1.3 Engagement 1 (Report, including appendices at Appendix A) took place at the outset of the process of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and involved a survey testing residents views on a number of “key issues”. The survey was delivered to all households in the Neighbourhood Plan Area (also available online) and was supported by three dedicated engagement events and additional targeted consultation.

#### Engagement 2

- 1.4 Engagement 2 (Report, including appendices at Appendix B) sought residents views on the emerging content of the Neighbourhood Plan, namely the Vision, Objectives and Policy Ideas for each key theme. As with Engagement 1, a survey was delivered to all households and available online, which was supported by four engagement events and targeted engagement.

#### Engagement 3

- 1.5 The Engagement 3 Report (included with appendices at Appendix C) details the six-week consultation held regarding the Draft Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. In addition to meeting the requirements of Regulation 14, the Engagement 3 Report is prepared in accordance with Regulation 15(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

- 1.6 The Engagement Reports provide more detail of the methodology and approach of each round of engagement and include all relevant materials from each round.

### **Consultation outside of the engagement rounds**

- 1.7 In addition to the three rounds of consultation, additional targeted consultation has taken place throughout the process of preparing a neighbourhood plan.

#### Site promoters

- 1.8 Developers have been involved throughout the site assessment process. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group sought to meet with all site promoters following the initial sift of sites and continued to correspond with promoters as required through the selection of site allocations. More detail of this engagement is provided in the Site Assessment Summary Paper.

#### Local groups

- 1.9 Ongoing consultation has taken place with local groups such as school students and the Harpenden Society. This has usually been in the form of presentations and workshops.

#### Individual residents

- 1.10 On behalf of the Steering Group, the Project Officer monitored all emails received throughout the preparation period, escalating all emails that required action. Many emails were issued by Working Group members, however, some were from individual residents not involved directly in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

# Appendix A: Engagement 1 Report

# Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan

## Stage 1 Engagement Report

on behalf of Harpenden Town Council

May 2017

## Introduction

As part of the process for bringing forward the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan, a public engagement exercise on the key issues for the area was undertaken between 20 March and 18 April 2017.

The engagement was promoted through:

- Town Council website
- Coverage in local media
- Leaflet distributed to all households in the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan area
- Drop-in sessions at 3 locations within Harpenden
- Hardcopy and online questionnaires

Events were held on the following dates:

- Wednesday 29 March (4-8pm) at Batford Memorial Hall, Tallents Crescent, AL5 5BS.
- Wednesday 5 April (4-8pm) at Park Hall, Leyton Road, AL5 2LX.
- Tuesday 11 April (4-8pm) at Kinsbourne Common Hall, Luton Road, AL5 3QE.

Around 150 residents attended the drop-in sessions. The drop-in sessions consisted of information engagement boards, including a board for each of the Neighbourhood Plan themes to allow people to leave comments and a questionnaire that each attendee had the chance to complete. Comments left on the boards consisted of 'hopes and fears' relevant to each Neighbourhood Plan theme and can be found in the appendix to this document.

The events were staffed by members of the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and consultants from Nexus Planning. At the close of the engagement period a total of 2,162 responses had been received via the online and hardcopy questionnaires.

Respondents were asked for their opinion on key issues across the following 5 key themes:

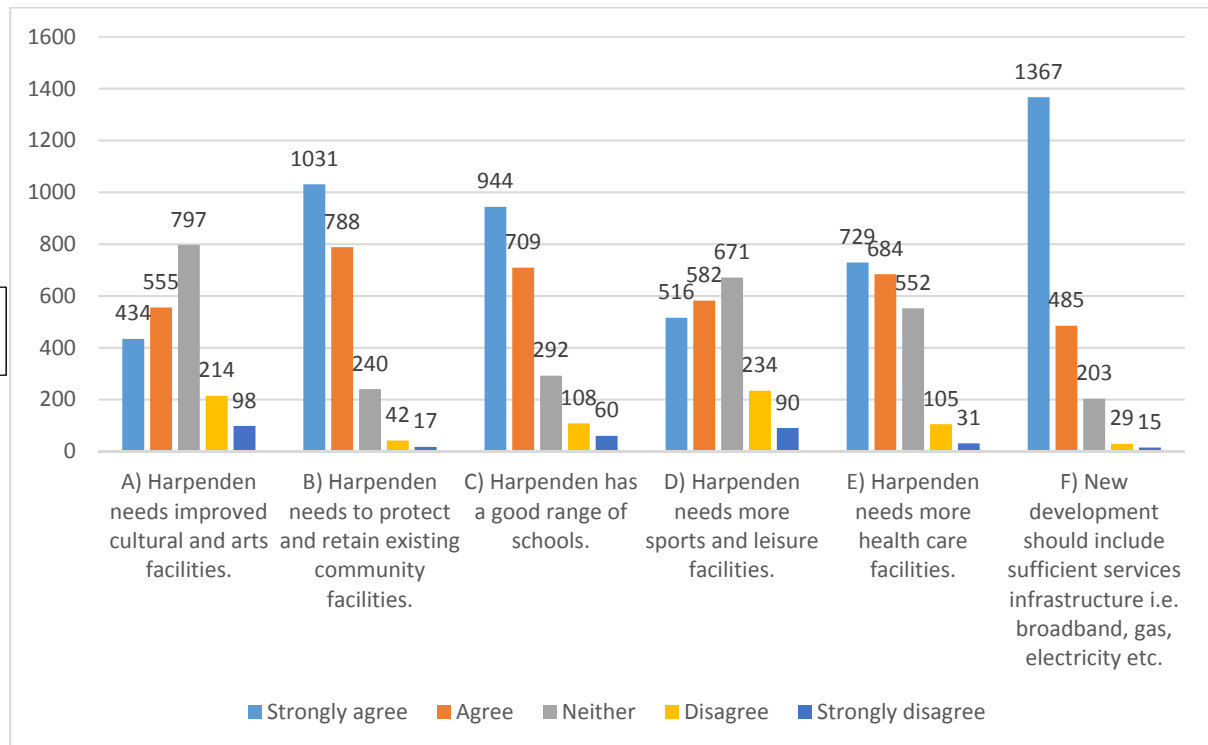
1. Social infrastructure and community facilities
2. Transport and Movement
3. Environment Sustainability and Design
4. Employment and Retail
5. Housing

The questions focused on what improvements are needed under each theme and what should be considered in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

The responses from the questionnaires have been analysed with the findings set out below under each of the relevant themes.

## Social Infrastructure and Community Facilities

Responses can be found summarised in the chart and table below.



- Just under half of respondents (47%) agreed/strongly agreed that Harpenden **needs improved cultural and arts facilities**. A further 18% 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.
- A large proportion of respondents agreed/strongly agreed (86%) that Harpenden **needs to protect and retain existing community facilities**.
- Over three quarters of respondents (79%) agreed/strongly agreed that Harpenden has a **good range of schools**.
- Just over half of respondents (53%) agreed/strongly agreed that Harpenden **needs more sports and leisure facilities**. A further 32% 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.
- More than two thirds of respondents (68%) agreed/strongly agreed that Harpenden **needs more health care facilities**. Only 6% of respondents disagreed with this statement.
- The majority of respondents (85%) agreed/strongly agreed that **new development should include sufficient services infrastructure** i.e. broadband, gas, electricity etc.



	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Harpenden needs improved cultural and arts facilities.	434	21	555	26	797	38	214	10	98	5
Harpenden needs to protect and retain existing community facilities.	1031	49	788	37	240	11	42	2	17	1
Harpenden has a good range of schools.	944	45	709	34	292	14	108	5	60	3
Harpenden needs more sports and leisure facilities.	516	25	582	28	671	32	234	11	90	4
Harpenden needs more health care facilities.	729	35	684	33	552	26	105	5	31	1
New development should include sufficient services infrastructure i.e. broadband, gas, electricity etc.	1367	65	485	23	203	10	29	1	15	1

Comments received regarding the social infrastructure and community facilities in Harpenden included the need for more **secondary school places** to be made available to enable all pupils to attend school locally (215 respondents). The need for **improved health facilities** and in particular access to local GP's was also frequently mentioned (104). Other issues that emerged included better **utilisation of the Red House** for medical purposes (53), general improvements to the **current infrastructure** in Harpenden (51) and the desire to see improvements to the **swimming pool** facility (45). A more detailed list of comments received is set out below.

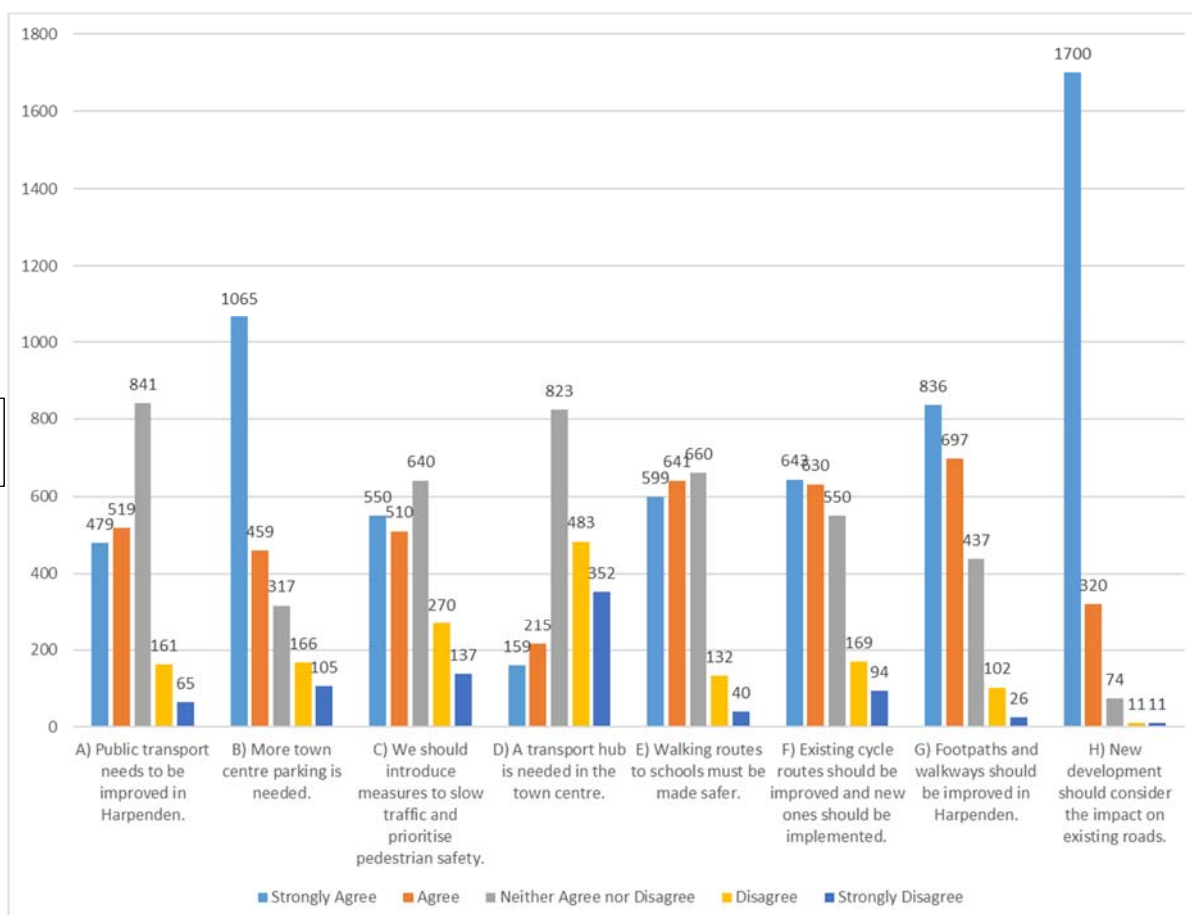
Comment	No.
More schools / school places are needed in Harpenden	215
Improved healthcare facilities / easier access to GP surgeries necessary	104
The Red House needs to be utilised	53
General infrastructure improvements would be necessary as currently under strain	51
Improvement required to the swimming pool	45
Parking issues within Harpenden need to be resolved	43
Sports facilities require upgrading	38
Road infrastructure and congestion to be considered	34
Good Schools within Harpenden	34

Improvement to community facilities required	28
Children should be able to attend local schools	24
Children's play areas / equipment need improvement	22
Cinema wanted in Harpenden	20
The new school should be in an alternative location	16
Refurbishment needed of the Public Hall	15
Theatre wanted in Harpenden	15
Support for the new sports and cultural facility	14
Facilities for teenagers wanted	13
Improvement needed to arts and culture facilities in Harpenden	12
Infrastructure generally under strain	12
Provision needs to be made for healthcare for the elderly	10
Internet speed needs to be quicker	10

Comments mentioned less than 10 times have not been included in this table.

## Transport and Movement

Responses can be found summarised in the chart and table below.



- Just under half of respondents (48%) agreed/strongly agreed that **public transport needs to be improved in Harpenden**. A further 41% 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.

- Just under three quarters of respondents (72%) agreed/strongly agreed that **more town centre parking is needed**.
- Half of respondents (50%) agreed/strongly agreed that **measures should be introduced to slow traffic and prioritise pedestrian safety**. A further 30% 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.
- Over one third of respondents (41%) disagreed/strongly disagreed that **a transport hub is needed in the town centre**. A further 41% 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.
- Over half of respondents (60%) agreed/strongly agreed that **walking routes to schools must be made safer**.
- Over half of respondents (61%) agreed/strongly agreed that **existing cycle routes should be improved and new ones should be implemented**.
- Just under two thirds of respondents (73%) agreed/strongly agreed that **footpaths and walkways should be improved in Harpenden**.
- The vast majority of respondents (95%) agreed/strongly agreed that **new development should consider the impact on existing roads**.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Public transport needs to be improved in Harpenden.	479	23	519	25	841	41	161	8	65	3
More town centre parking is needed.	1065	50	459	22	317	15	166	8	105	5
We should introduce measures to slow traffic and prioritise pedestrian safety.	550	26	510	24	640	30	270	13	137	7
A transport hub is needed in the town centre.	159	8	215	11	823	41	483	24	352	17
Walking routes to schools must be made safer.	599	29	641	31	660	32	132	6	40	2
Existing cycle routes should be improved and new ones should be implemented.	643	31	630	30	550	26	169	8	94	5
Footpaths and walkways should be improved in Harpenden.	836	40	697	33	437	21	102	5	26	1

New development should consider the impact on existing roads.	1700	80	320	15	74	3	11	1	11	1
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Comments received regarding transport and movement in Harpenden included the need for **improved road infrastructure and** the current and future levels of **congestion** to be considered when thinking about new development (100 respondents). It was felt that there is a need for **maintenance** to be carried out on both **roads** (92) and **pathways** (84). **Parking** was mentioned in several contexts, respondents stated that parking issues in general when parking in Harpenden (58) need to be addressed, it was further mentioned that additional parking is required in the town centre (59) as well as at the station (46). A more detailed list of comments received is set out below.

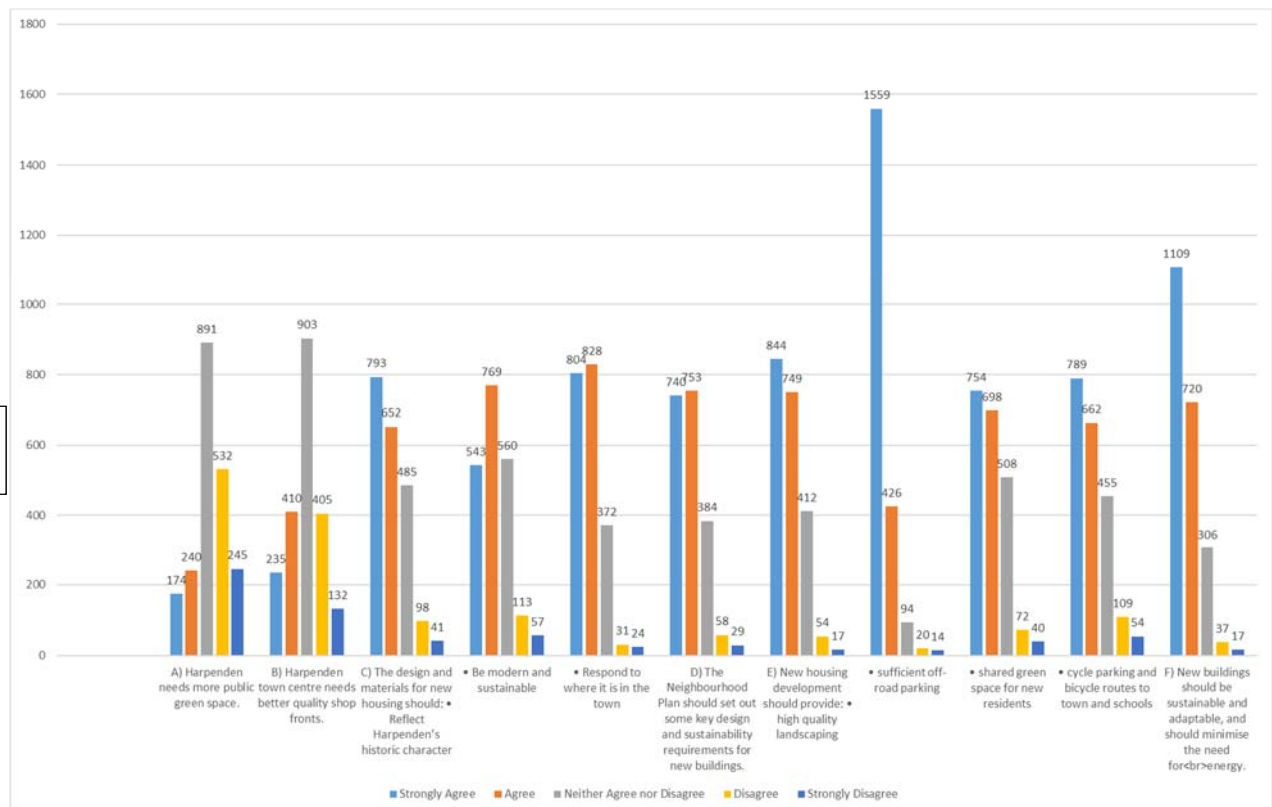
Comments	No.
Road infrastructure and congestion to be considered	100
Roads in need of maintenance	92
Pathways in need of maintenance	84
Additional town centre car parking is needed	59
Impact of new development must be taken into consideration (generally)	58
Parking issues need to be resolved	58
Parking at the station is difficult	46
Safer cycling routes should be a priority	41
Buses need to be more frequent / extended hours	39
What is a transport hub?	39
Walking should be encouraged	38
Improvements to public transport are required	33
On street parking causes issues in Harpenden (buggies, wheelchairs, access etc)	29
Parking changes should be more affordable	27
New / extended cycle routes needed	27
Traffic calming measure are needed	26
A multi storey car park is required at the station	25
Cycling should be encouraged	24
Improved train services needed	24
Walking routes need to be made safe	24
Speed bumps should be removed / unsafe	22
School drop off impact on congestion	21
Commuters parking on residential streets is an issue	19
20mph should be introduced on more residential roads	18
Multi storey car park needed	18
Bypass needed	17
Concerns regarding impact on traffic of the new school	17
Poor access to the station	17
Issues of speeding in Harpenden	16
The town centre should be pedestrianised	15
Public transport needs to be more affordable	14
Car use should be discouraged	14
Pedestrian crossings needed	14
Harpenden benefits from good public transport	13
Cyclists on pathways cause issues	12
Narrow pathways are dangerous	12
Difficult to reach other towns by public transport	12

Park and ride scheme should be implemented	12
Street lighting hours should be extended	12
Free parking required for town centre	10

Comments mentioned less than 10 times have not been included in this table.

## Environment, Sustainability and Design

Responses can be found summarised in the chart and table below.



- Only 20% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed that Harpenden **needs more public green space**. A further 43% 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.
- Just under one third of respondents (31%) agreed/strongly agreed that Harpenden town centre **needs better quality shop fronts**. A further 43% 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.
- Respondents were asked to consider the design and materials for new housing:
  - Over two thirds of respondents (70%) agreed/strongly agreed that new development should **reflect Harpenden's historic character**.
  - Three quarters of respondents (75%) agreed/strongly agreed that new development should be **modern and sustainable**.
  - Over three quarters of respondents (79%) agreed/strongly agreed that new development should **respond to where it is in the town**
- Over three quarters of respondents (76%) agreed/strongly agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan should set out key design and sustainability requirements for new buildings.
- Respondents were asked what of the following new housing development should provide:

- Over three quarters of respondents (77%) agreed/strongly agreed that new development should provide **high quality landscaping**
- The vast majority of respondents (94%) agreed/strongly agreed that new development should provide **sufficient off-road parking**
- Over two thirds of respondents (70%) agreed/strongly agreed that new development should provide **shared green space for new residents**
- Similarly, over two thirds of respondents (70%) agreed/strongly agreed that new development should provide **cycle parking and bicycle routes to town and schools**
- Over three quarters of respondents (82%) agreed/strongly agreed that **new buildings should be sustainable and adaptable, and should minimise the need for energy.**

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Harpenden needs more public green space.	174	8	240	12	891	43	532	26	245	12
Harpenden town centre needs better quality shop fronts.	235	11	410	20	903	43	405	19	132	6
<b>The design and materials for new housing should:</b> Reflect Harpenden's historic character	793	38	652	32	485	23	98	5	41	2
Be modern and sustainable	543	37	769	38	560	27	113	6	57	3
Respond to where it is in the town	804	39	828	40	372	18	31	2	24	1
The Neighbourhood Plan should set out key design and sustainability requirements for new buildings.	740	38	753	38	384	20	58	3	29	1
<b>New housing development should provide:</b> high quality landscaping	844	41	749	36	412	20	54	3	17	1

sufficient off-road parking	1559	74	426	20	94	4	20	1	14	1
shared green space for new residents	754	36	698	34	508	25	72	3	40	2
cycle parking and bicycle routes to town and schools	789	38	662	32	455	22	109	5	54	3
New buildings should be sustainable and adaptable, and should minimise the need for energy.	1109	48	720	34	306	15	37	2	17	1

Comments received regarding environment, sustainability and design in Harpenden included the need **for sufficient parking to be provided as part of any new development** (75 respondents). The desire to ensure that the **character of Harpenden** is retained was stated by 69 respondents. With regards to **green space** in Harpenden a number of different comments were received stating that green spaces must be protected (67), there is currently a good amount of green space (60) and that current green space should be maintained (18). A more detailed list of comments received is set out below.

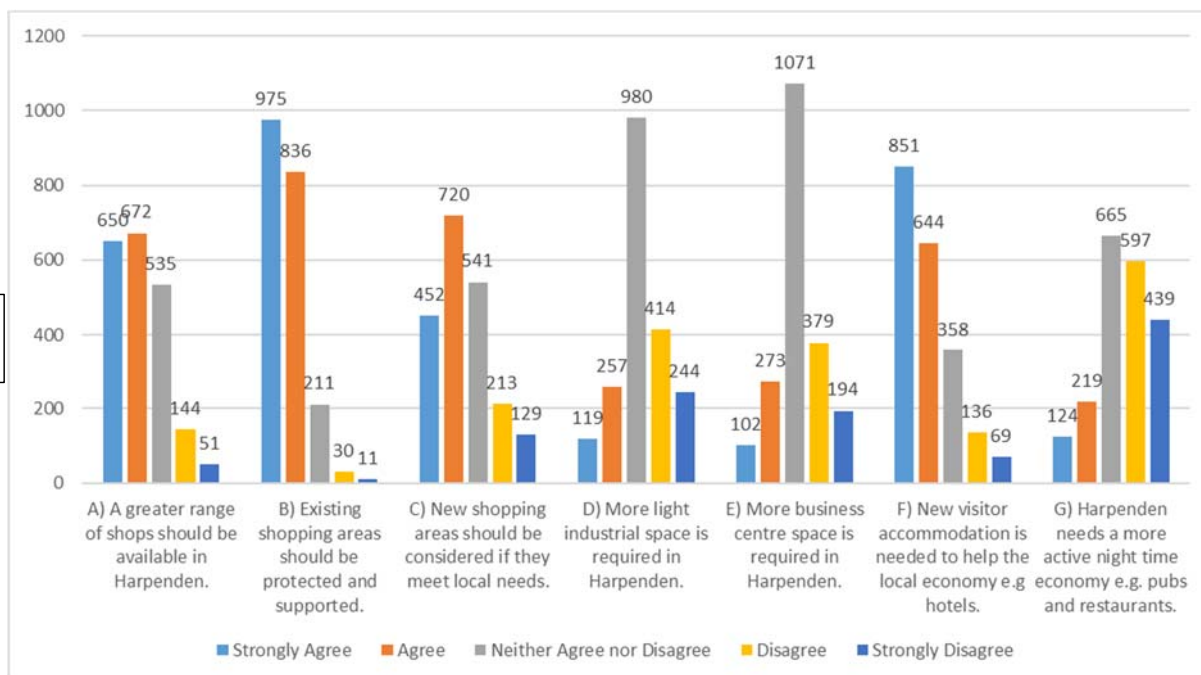
Comments	No.
Enough (off-street) parking needs to be provided for new developments	75
The village character of Harpenden needs to be retained	69
Green spaces need to be protected	67
Harpenden currently has a good amount of green space	60
Road infrastructure and congestion to be considered	51
Available school places need to be considered	51
New development should be sustainable	49
Infrastructure concerns regarding new development	40
Affordable housing needed in Harpenden	28
Increased health facilities required	27
No new housing needed in Harpenden	24
Modern architecture should be considered	19
Safer cycling routes should be a priority	19
Appearance of shop fronts should be considered	19
Current green space should be maintained	18
Lower rents/rates needed for shops/businesses to survive	16
Parking at the station is difficult	16
A large proportion of housing is being demolished and replaced by large houses	14
Harpenden is already full	12
New developments in Harpenden are bland	12
Better variety of shops wanted	11
Additional town centre parking is needed	11
Less charity shops in the town centre	10

Children's play areas should be improved	10
Walking should be encouraged	10

Comments mentioned less than 10 times have not been included in this table.

## Employment and retail

Responses can be found summarised in the chart and table below.



- Just under two thirds of respondents (65%) agreed/strongly agreed that a **greater range of shops should be available in Harpenden**. A further 26% 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.
- The majority of respondents (88%) agreed/strongly agreed that **existing shopping areas should be protected and supported**.
- Over half of respondents (57%) agreed/strongly agreed that **new shopping areas should be considered if they meet local needs**.
- One third of respondents (33%) disagreed/strongly disagreed that **more light industrial space is required in Harpenden**. A further 49% 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.
- Less than one third of respondents (29%) disagreed/strongly disagreed that **more business centre space is required in Harpenden**.
- Over two thirds of respondents (72%) agreed/strongly agreed that **new visitor accommodation is needed to help the local economy e.g hotels**.
- Half of the respondents (50%) disagreed/strongly disagreed that Harpenden needs a **more active night time economy e.g. pubs and restaurants**.



	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
A greater range of shops should be available in Harpenden.	650	32	672	33	535	26	144	7	51	2
Existing shopping areas should be protected and supported.	975	47	836	41	211	10	30	1	11	1
New shopping areas should be considered if they meet local needs.	452	22	720	35	541	26	213	10	129	6
More light industrial space is required in Harpenden.	119	6	257	13	980	49	414	21	244	12
More business centre space is required in Harpenden.	102	5	273	14	1071	53	379	19	194	10
New visitor accommodation is needed to help the local economy e.g hotels.	851	41	644	31	358	17	136	7	69	3
Harpenden needs a more active night time economy e.g. pubs and restaurants.	124	6	219	11	665	33	597	29	439	21

Comments received regarding employment and retail in Harpenden stated that there are already plenty of **restaurants** in Harpenden (141 respondents). The need for replacement **visitor accommodation** was also frequently mentioned (139). With regards to retail, the need for lower rents/rates was stated by 110 respondents, with a further 91 requesting that **fewer charity shops** are in the town centre. Respondents also stated that they would prefer **fewer coffee shops** (78), **estate agents** (40) and **hairdressers** (38) are located in Harpenden. A more detailed list of comments received is set out below.

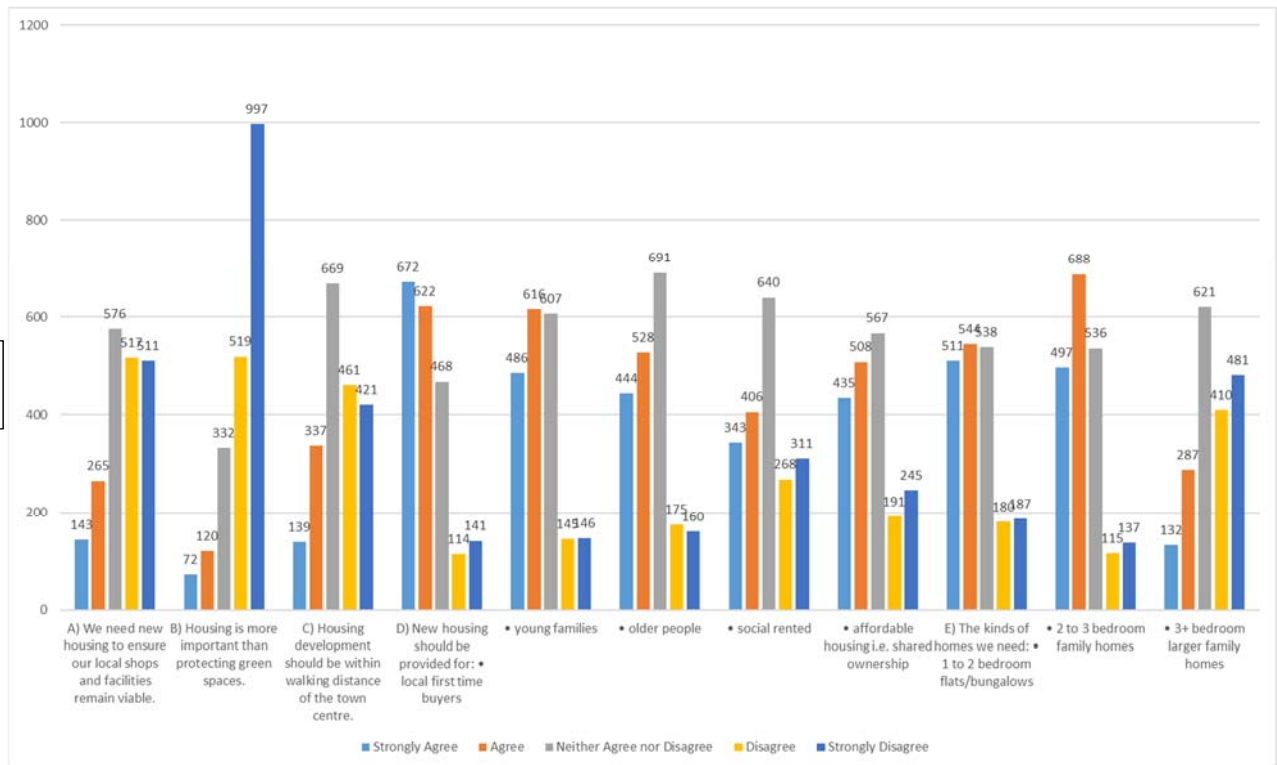
Comments	No.
Already plenty of restaurants in Harpenden	141
Visitor accommodation is needed within Harpenden	139
Lower rents/rates needed for shops/businesses to survive	110
Fewer charity shops in the town centre	91
Already plenty of pubs in Harpenden	88

Less coffee shops required in the town centre	78
Better variety of shops wanted	73
Hotel replaced with residential	60
Independent shops should be encouraged in Harpenden	60
Less estate agents needed	40
Less hairdressers needed	38
Hardware shop required in Harpenden	34
Clothing shops wanted in Harpenden	33
Hotels not viable, shouldn't be replaced	28
Available parking is an issue in the town centre	27
Better quality restaurants wanted	26
Shoe shops wanted	25
Local employment should be encouraged	21
Market forces will decide what is viable	20
No chain shops wanted within Harpenden	20
Affordable shops needed	18
Store selling household items wanted	16
Less fast food outlets in the town centre	16
Retain the village character of Harpenden	16
Respondents travel elsewhere to shop	15
Hotel is missed	13
Less beauty salons needed	13
No additional shopping areas are required	13
Cinema wanted in Harpenden	11
Industrial space is being converted into residential	10
Retain the pharmacy in Southdown	10

Comments mentioned less than 10 times have not been included in this table.

## Housing

Responses can be found summarised in the chart and table below.



- Just over half of respondents (51%) disagreed/strongly disagreed that Harpenden **needs new housing to ensure our local shops and facilities remain viable**. A further 29% 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.
- Just under three quarters of respondents (74%) disagreed/strongly disagreed that **housing is more important than protecting green spaces**.
- Under half of respondents (44%) disagreed/strongly disagreed that **housing development should be within walking distance of the town centre**.
- Respondents were asked who new housing should be provided for:
  - Just under two thirds of respondents (64%) agreed/strongly agreed that new housing should be provided for **local first time buyers**
  - Over half of respondents (55%) agreed/strongly agreed that new housing should be provided for **young families**
  - Just under half of respondents (48%) agreed/strongly agreed that new housing should be provided for **older people**
  - Over a third of respondents (38%) agreed/strongly agreed that new housing should be social rented. A further 33% 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.
  - Just under half of respondents (48%) agreed/strongly agreed that new housing should be **affordable housing** i.e. shared ownership.

- Respondents were asked what kind of homes we need:
  - Over half of respondents (54%) agreed/strongly agreed new homes should have **1 to 2 bedroom flats/bungalows**
  - Over half of respondents (60%) agreed/strongly agreed new homes should have **2 to 3 bedroom family homes**
  - Less than a quarter of respondents (22%) agreed/strongly agreed new homes should have **3+ bedroom larger family homes**

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
We need new housing to ensure our local shops and facilities remain viable.	143	7	265	13	576	29	517	26	511	25
Housing is more important than protecting green spaces.	72	4	120	6	332	16	519	25	997	49
Housing development should be within walking distance of the town centre.	139	7	337	17	669	33	461	23	421	21
<b>New housing should be provided for:</b>	672	33	622	31	468	23	114	6	141	7
• local first time buyers	486	24	616	31	607	30	145	7	146	7
• young families	444	22	528	26	691	35	175	9	160	8
• older people	343	17	406	21	640	33	268	14	311	16
• social rented	435	22	508	26	567	29	191	10	245	13
• affordable housing i.e. shared ownership	511	26	544	28	538	27	180	9	187	10
<b>The kinds of homes we need:</b>	511	26	544	28	538	27	180	9	187	10
• 1 to 2 bedroom flats/bungalows	497	25	688	35	536	27	115	6	137	7
• 2 to 3 bedroom family homes	132	7	287	15	621	32	410	21	481	25
• 3+ bedroom larger family homes										

Comments received regarding the social infrastructure and community facilities in Harpenden included the need for more **secondary school places** to be made available to enable all pupils to

attend school locally (129 respondents). The need for improvements to **infrastructure** in general before new development commences was stated by 90 respondents. Other issues raised included the need for affordable homes to be available (77), consideration should be made for road improvements and the current level of congestion (75) and a further 75 respondents stated that they felt no new homes should be built in Harpenden at all. A more detailed list of comments received is set out below.

<b>Comments</b>	<b>No.</b>
Available school places need to be considered	129
Infrastructure concerns regarding new development	90
Affordable housing needed in Harpenden	77
Road infrastructure and congestion to be considered	75
No new housing needed in Harpenden	75
Green spaces need to be protected	75
Appropriate dwellings to be available for those wishing to downsize	74
There's enough expensive, overly large houses in Harpenden	70
Increased health facilities required	63
Parking issues need to be resolved	61
The village character of Harpenden needs to be retained	54
Smaller houses are needed in Harpenden	41
A balance of housing is needed in Harpenden	40
Young people are forced to move out of Harpenden due to house prices	39
Affordable housing needs to be available for local people	36
A diverse population is needed in Harpenden	36
Harpenden is already full	36
Housing needs to be available for young families	34
First time buyers need to be able to buy in Harpenden	29
Housing is too expensive	27
Housing being taken up by those moving out of London	22
Social rented housing needed	22
New development ideally within walking distance	20
Properties in Harpenden are being over extended	19
Urban sprawl should be discouraged	18
Currently enough housing to support the shops and facilities	17
A large proportion of housing is being demolished and replaced by large houses	17
Housing needs to be available for key workers	17
Bungalows are being demolished and replaced with large houses	16
Accommodation for the elderly is needed	16
Development should be on brownfield sites	15
An improved train service is needed to cope with an increase in population	14
Bungalows needed	13
Some green space will need to be built on	12
3 bedroom properties wanted	11
New builds need to include appropriate parking	11
Public transport needed if development is away from the centre	10

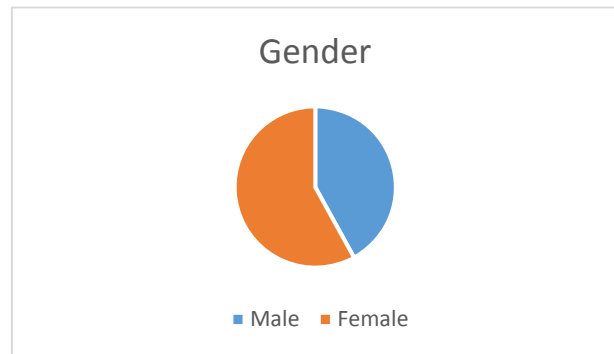
Comments mentioned less than 10 times have not been included in this table.

## Demographic data

Respondents were asked to provide some personal information about themselves, while identities are to be treated as fully confidential under the Data Protection Act, an overall demographic breakdown of respondents gender, age and years lived in Harpenden can be found below.

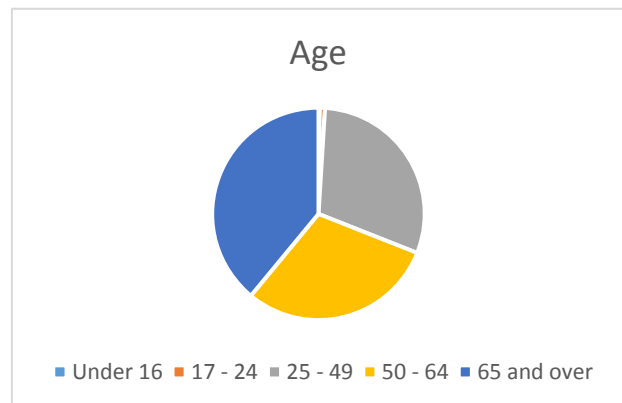
### Gender

	No.	%
<b>Male</b>	867	42%
<b>Female</b>	1195	58%



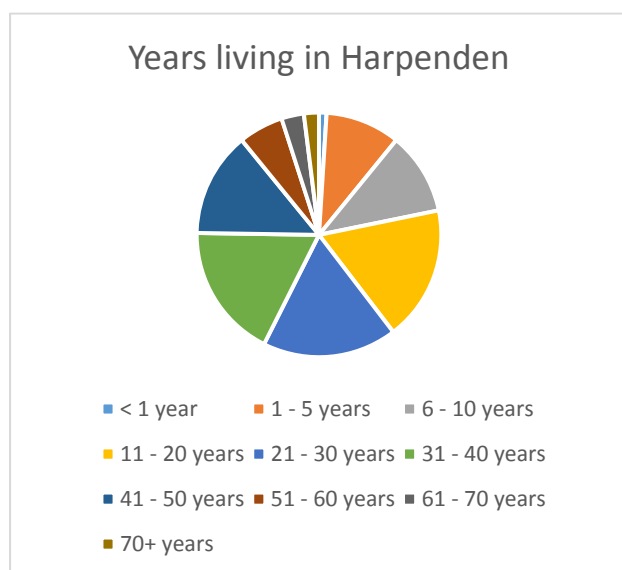
### Age

<b>Under 16</b>	4	0.2%
<b>17-24</b>	11	0.8%
<b>25-49</b>	623	30%
<b>50-64</b>	624	30%
<b>65 and over</b>	800	39%

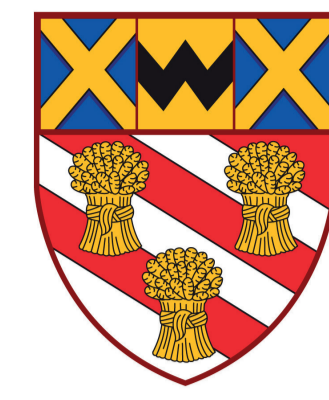


### Years living in Harpenden

<b>&lt; 1 year</b>	27	1%
<b>1 – 5 years</b>	201	10%
<b>6 – 10 years</b>	211	11%
<b>11 – 20 years</b>	357	18%
<b>21 – 30 years</b>	349	18%
<b>31 – 40 years</b>	342	18%
<b>41 – 50 years</b>	267	14%
<b>51 – 60 years</b>	110	6%
<b>61 – 70 years</b>	63	3%
<b>70+ years</b>	29	2%



## **Appendix A – Exhibition Boards**



# The Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan

## Help decide...

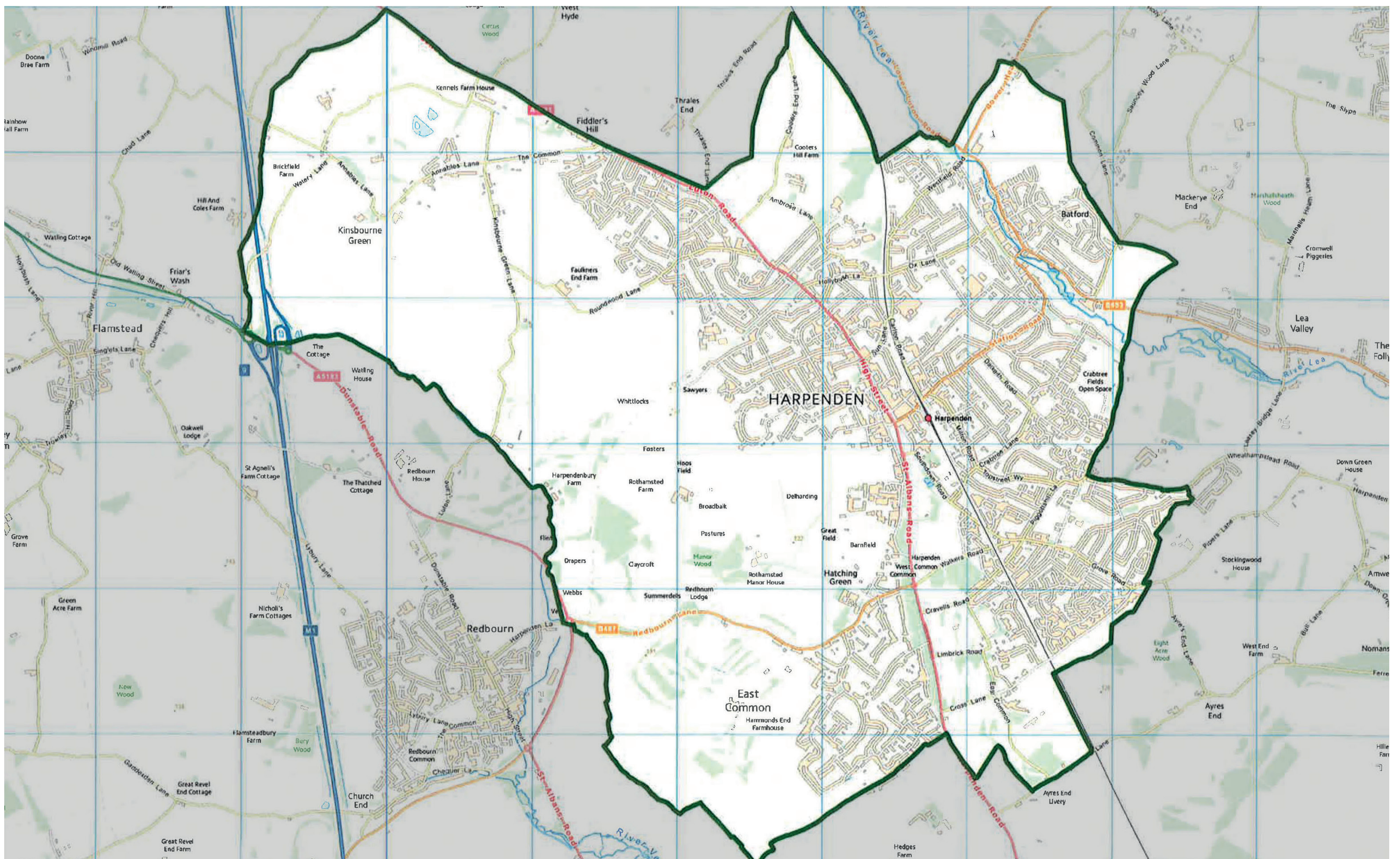
What are **your views** on some of the most critical issues that will affect you over the next 15 years? Housing? Shopping amenities? Employment opportunities? The environment?

### What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood Plans enable local people to write planning policies for their local area. These planning policies will help influence development and growth in the town as future planning applications will be judged for conformity with these policies, alongside national and local authority policies.

### Why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan allows the local community to decide where new development is provided within Harpenden. It provides the residents of Harpenden with an opportunity to decide how we would like our town to look in the future.



Neighbourhood Plan Area Boundary



# The Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan



## What will be in the Neighbourhood Plan?

The Plan can cover any topics related to land use and development. Your views will decide what goes into the Plan. Emerging themes are as follows:

**Social Infrastructure and Community Facilities** - thinking about what facilities need improving or ones that are missing.

**Transport and Movement** - looking at ways to reduce traffic impact and improve how people move around the town.

**Employment and Retail** - supporting existing, and considering if new employment, retail or tourism developments are needed.

**Environment, sustainability and design** - identifying and protecting local green spaces, setting out what new development should look like and how eco-friendly it should be.

**Housing** - what type of homes are needed and the areas where development could happen.

## How is the Neighbourhood Plan being put together?

A Steering Group, including Town Councillors and residents, will meet regularly to move the Plan forward. It will be shaped by engagement with local residents.

## How far have we got and what happens next?

This is the first stage, where residents help set the vision and objectives and scope of the Plan by identifying the key issues. The next stage will be to engage in more detail on the draft vision, objectives and development options. There will be a formal public consultation later on for a draft Plan and finally a Referendum where residents will vote YES or NO for adoption of the Plan.



## How can you get involved?

A questionnaire has been sent to every household asking **YOUR VIEWS** about the Neighbourhood Plan topics. Regular events are taking place providing an opportunity for you to come along and talk to someone about your ideas for the future of Harpenden.

Working Groups have been formed to look at aspects of the Plan in more detail.

Please visit the Town Council website or email to keep updated throughout the Neighbourhood Plan process.



Town Council Website:  
[www.harpenden.gov.uk](http://www.harpenden.gov.uk)



Email:  
[Philip.wright@harpenden.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.wright@harpenden.gov.uk)

**Please sign up!**

# The Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan: Social Infrastructure and Community Facilities

**Harpenden has a range of cultural, community and leisure facilities offering activities that promote community activities and education.**

**Key community, sports and leisure facilities:**

- A number of schools, which comprise:
  - o 16 Nursery schools and play groups;
  - o 11 State primary schools;
  - o Three state secondary schools; and
  - o Three independent schools.
- Three doctors surgeries plus the Harpenden Memorial Hospital, which provides some limited out-patient services;
- Recreational facilities, including the Harpenden Sports Centre and swimming pool;
- A large number of sports venues and clubs, including tennis, golf, rugby, football, hockey and indoor and outdoor bowls;
- Cultural facilities, including the Harpenden Public Halls;
- A number of community and religious venues; and
- A large number of campaigning and interest groups, including those represented through social media.

Harpenden's offer is growing, with plans in place for the redevelopment of the Sports Centre and pool to provide new leisure and cultural venues. Plans are also in place for a new state secondary school, with a site secured adjacent to the Lower Luton Road and Common Lane and an anticipated opening date of September 2018.

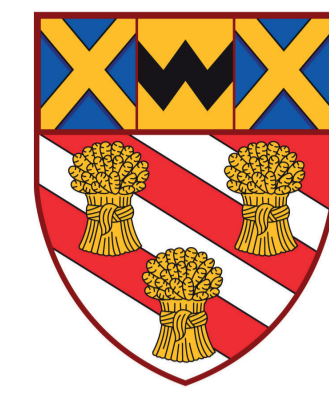


**Does Harpenden need improved cultural and arts facilities?**

**Does Harpenden need more sports and leisure facilities?**

**Does Harpenden need more health care facilities?**

# Social Infrastructure and Community Facilities



**HARPENDEN  
TOWN COUNCIL**  
*CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY*

## Hopes

for the future of Harpenden

## Fears

for the future of Harpenden

# The Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan: Transport and Movement

The Neighbourhood Plan cannot make strategic transport decisions (such as new bypasses) or create new public transport services. However, it can consider how land use can improve our local transport network and set priorities for improvements alongside future development.

## Key Issues

### Highways

The A1081 suffers from high traffic flows northbound and southbound throughout the day, but particularly at AM peak times.

Station Road is another congested route, especially between the A1081 and the junction with Cowper Road during AM and PM peak times.

General congestion occurs around Harpenden due to commuter traffic and school runs at AM and PM peak times.

### Parking

Key issues include commuters using on-street parking spaces (outside of controlled areas) and an undersupply of off-street parking spaces.

### Walking

Residents have previously felt there should be better crossings between the A1081 and the Common.

### Cycling

There are issues with cycling in the town centre, including lack of continuous cycle routes and poor crossing facilities by the station.

### How is choice of transport changing in Harpenden?

- Car – 83% (2011) to 82% (2014);
- Bus – 9% (2011) to 9% (2014);
- Foot – 7% (2011) to 9% (2014);
- Bicycle – 1% (2011) to 2% (2014); and
- Motorcycle – 1% (2011) to 1% (2014).

## Public Transport

Harpenden station is on the Thameslink Network, with fast trains to London and other destinations.

A number of bus routes run through Harpenden, connecting the town to several destinations.

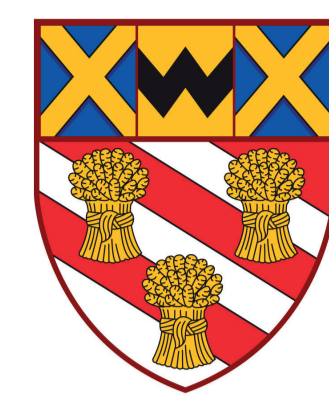
**Is more parking needed in the town centre and, if so, where?**

**Should we introduce measures to slow traffic and prioritise pedestrian safety?**

**How can cycling in Harpenden be improved?**



# Transport and Movement



HARPENDEN  
TOWN COUNCIL

CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

## Hopes

for the future of Harpenden

## Fears

for the future of Harpenden