

PRESTWICH VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM:
ENGAGEMENT OUTSIDE LIBRARY DROP-IN EVENT: Qualitative Community Feedback
YOUR PRESTWICH: SECOND COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

The below feedback was collected from people who had attended the drop-in event at the library on Saturday 20th September. PVNF members stood outside the library and engaged with people leaving the event, asking what they thought about the proposals, what they liked, if there was anything they would change, giving prompts if required (eg thoughts on the housing, the market square, the location of the building, the retail space).

The feedback has been presented to align with key PVNF Aims and Objectives (NB: Inclusion and Safeguarding Vulnerable children and adults are the golden threads which run through all PVNF Aims and Objectives).

PVNF Aims and Objectives

Economy:

1. To sustain a thriving village centre with mixed use shopping and service provision, especially encouraging a range of independent retailers, offering goods and services to the local community and visitors.
2. To support a sustainable community that promotes employment creation across commercial retail and industrial sites using local contractors as far as possible.
3. To retain and improve on local retail and service provision including accessible community space and facilities, to encourage social interaction between all age groups and service providers.

Education:

1. To improve and extend the local educational facilities in line with future housing developments.
2. To ensure adequate education provision for local children of all ages and abilities.
3. To promote informal and social educational facilities for young people and adults.

Leisure:

1. To secure the long-term future and improvement of existing community, leisure and cultural facilities for all ages, with particular regard to the reinstatement of facilities and events previously held at the Longfield centre.
2. To promote the provision of new facilities to address the future needs

Health and wellbeing:

1. The provision of accessible health care with facilities for residents and visitors with disabilities, regarding expectations of the future population demographic.
2. To promote spaces which encourage activities and social interactions which contribute to general wellbeing.

Environment:

1. To protect and enhance local open spaces and improve accessibility.
2. Ensure that any new development meets the highest standards of excellence with regards to sustainability and longevity- at least 50 years.

Housing:

- 1 To plan and deliver a range of housing mix, sizes and types that are integrated into the community, and which will provide for both current and predicted future needs of the area. The provision of affordable social housing should be a priority.
2. To protect and maintain the heritage assets and historic character by guiding development that is sympathetic with existing buildings and surroundings.
3. To promote principles of good design and high quality that supports the local context and locality.

Infrastructure:

1. To promote cycle networks and disabled accessible, pedestrian friendly pathways through and around the village.
2. To reduce the impact of road traffic pollution and on road parking on the local community by the provision of adequate free short term parking space to provide access to the village centre, and longer-term parking associated with public transport options, in accordance with the city wide connectivity aspirations.
3. To seek timely and effective maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Feedback

ECONOMY:

Favourable	Less favourable	Challenges / Opportunities
<p>Many expressed broad support, noting that it is great to see investment in the area</p> <p>Feel like Prestwich needs more space for businesses especially night time economy/leisure - gets very busy at the weekend, with people travelling to Prestwich for an evening out. Probably main place people go out to in north Manchester</p>	<p>Concerns:</p> <p>That business owners have not been involved</p> <p>How the development will affect current businesses</p> <p>Regret that Iceland almost certainly won't be there</p>	<p>Would like to see current businesses have first refusal / priority for new business premises</p> <p>Would like to see traditional local businesses in the new development eg butchers, bakers</p> <p>100% consensus on wish to retain local small businesses</p>

		<p>Mixed feelings about Market hall- will it be a “canteen”, will small businesses now situated on Bury New Road move into it?</p> <p>Village Greens mentioned frequently as an important part of the village centre.</p> <p>Every one recognised the need to improve the centre and were keen that it remain a “village”.</p> <p>Questions were raised around the council tax coming from the newly built apartments and townhouses, what will that be used for.</p>
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LEISURE:

Favourable	Less favourable	Challenges / Opportunities
	Some dislike for the current design of the Community Hub expressed: “It’s like a prison” and similar remarks.	

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:

Favourable	Less favourable	Challenges / Opportunities
A very positive response to the medical centre relocating to the hub.	<p>Concerns:</p> <p>That it’s not confirmed yet what is happening with the health centre</p> <p>About distance between the parking and the community</p>	Suggestion for public water fountains

	<p>hub, particularly for people with mobility issues but not qualifying for a blue badge (from an occupational therapist. This comment is also linked to Infrastructure)</p> <p>About the provision of public toilets</p>	
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ENVIRONMENT:

Favourable	Less favourable	Challenges / Opportunities
The green roofs and the significant number of trees were much liked.		More could be done to connect with Prestwich's green space / promote the green space more generally

HOUSING:

Favourable	Less favourable	Challenges / Opportunities
	<p>Concerns:</p> <p>About the density and height of buildings proposed</p> <p>About the high number of apartments proposed</p> <p>Too many apartments, not enough family houses</p> <p>That Prestwich will lose its suburban / urban village feel and feel more like a town / become an 'urban jungle'.</p> <p>It will have an impact on the views / outlook from the existing apartments, if a new tall apartment block goes up opposite them</p>	<p>Want to make sure the housing is affordable.</p> <p>How many houses for social rent? How many affordable?</p> <p>Many expressed preference for more family friendly terraced houses, though recognised that housing was where the profits for the developers came from.</p> <p>Would like to see more in the architectural design that links to the area and its heritage, buildings look very blocky and lack design features / detailing</p>

	<p>About it including too much residential development</p>	<p>Height of apartment blocks facing the tram- 6 storeys maximum was the general consensus- anyway not so high as Radius!</p> <p>People choose Prestwich because it is quiet and suburban compared with the city centre, don't want to lose that more laid back, quieter atmosphere</p>
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INFRASTRUCTURE:

Favourable	Less favourable	Challenges / Opportunities
<p>A few people said they weren't that worried about the potential transport impact because they normally walk to Prestwich anyway</p> <p>Cycle parking important for some people</p>	<p>High number of comments about parking and traffic issues.</p> <p>Concerns about:</p> <p>Traffic and transport impact, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The impact of cars in the village if 200 housing units are provided. -People accessing the multistorey car park <p>On street parking on Heys Road and Poppythorn lane during construction of the car park was a major issue for several people living there. How is this going to be managed?</p> <p>Two older women were concerned re safety issues in multi-storey car park.</p> <p>Height of car park will greatly affect houses on Highfield Road</p>	<p>Queries about how the council is planning to maintain it. If it is the same level as now, it won't be good enough.</p> <p>Parking - commonly mentioned. Important topic for parents with young children and the elderly. Questions around how will parking be affected, where they can park, how much it will cost.</p> <p>Will the car park be 3 storeys or a ground floor and 3 storeys?</p> <p>Clarity on cost of parking desired</p> <p>Desire to see cycle parking in the public realm near amenities as well as at the transport hub</p> <p>A drop off zone by the hub was suggested. How many disabled spaces close to the hub will there be?</p>

	<p>There not being enough parking for the new apartments and the potential impact this could have on surrounding streets</p> <p>Concerns about how local services were going to cope with a rapid influx of people into the village centre eg health, social care, education services</p>	
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MISCELLANEOUS:

Favourable	Less favourable	Challenges / Opportunities
	<p>Concerns about the consultation process, one person hadn't received anything in the post and only found out about the drop-in session by chance on the day</p> <p>The very uncompromising modernist nature of buildings like the hub was very much regretted</p>	<p>Think there should be greater community involvement in developing the plans, shouldn't be mainly the council and a private developer. Should have been focus groups with the community etc</p> <p>View that the plans were not aspirational enough</p> <p>How does it measure up to the future demographic needs (retail) and of course housing. Is it sustainable for the next 50 years? How do they know (materials maybe ..but what about the design)?</p> <p>There should be more social value created as a result of the development, there should be more focus on social value</p>