

PRESTWICH REGENERATION CONSULTATION: FEEDBACK FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

Compiled Evidence Document for submission to Your Prestwich from resident's feedback on social media Facebook platforms (Prestwich Village Neighbourhood Forum; Prestwich Cricket, Bowling and Tennis Club; Original Prestwich People and Your Prestwich)

Introduction

This document presents a comprehensive compilation of resident comments submitted in response to the Prestwich regeneration proposals.

It reflects the community's lived experience, expectations, concerns and aspirations, expressed in their own words but anonymised, without paraphrasing or dilution.

The evidence demonstrates a community that is deeply invested in Prestwich's future but increasingly disillusioned with the process, the shifting proposals, and the perceived prioritisation of commercial interests over local needs. While some residents welcome change and new amenities, the overwhelming weight of feedback highlights concerns about accessibility, parking, housing mix, housing density and design, the loss of community facilities, and the erosion of Prestwich's identity.

This document is submitted as part of the Neighbourhood Forum's commitment to procedural fairness, transparency, and evidence-based planning.

Executive Summary

The community's message is clear: **the revised Longfield Centre proposals do not reflect what residents were promised, what they need, or what they were led to expect.**

Residents consistently describe:

A **loss of trust** in the process

A sense of **manipulation** and "managed decline"

A belief that the scheme prioritises **developer profit** over community benefit

A fear that Prestwich is being reshaped into a high-density rental zone with little long-term community stability

Deep concern about **accessibility failures**, especially the library being placed on the first floor

Anger at the **loss of the health centre**, community spaces, and affordable housing

Anxiety about **parking chaos**, congestion, and the impact on local businesses

A belief that the scheme erodes Prestwich's **identity, heritage, and village character**

While a minority welcome new shops and modernisation, the overwhelming weight of evidence reflects **disappointment, frustration, and a sense of being ignored**

The purpose of this document is to:

Provide Bury Council and Muse with a clear, structured record of resident feedback

Ensure all voices are represented

Support transparency and accountability in the consultation process

Assist in identifying recurring themes, concerns and priorities

Comments have been grouped by theme for clarity.

1. Housing Mix, Affordability & Local Need

"It would have been good to have apartments that were affordable for local young adults."

"All of those look higher than 7 storeys to me..."

"With the 248 proposed apartments it will total 754 apartments !! Within a short walk of the village."

"There are only 233 apartments at The Rock in Bury!!"

"It is one of my questions, who are the people who are going to be living in the new apartments? Is it social housing or is it going to be private owners? We deserve to know."

“Bury Council, in partnership with Prestwich and District Housing Association, could apply for a Homes England grant for these properties... they could then be rented and truly affordable for people on the actual wages people are on.”

“Flats without gardens are a good option for those with mobility issues.”

“Flats are NOT a good option for people with mobility issues if they are built like the Radius! Have you seen how complicated it is to get from an apartment to the street in the Radius?”

“If you have shopping, you’re stuffed. If you have a mobility aid, forget it!”

“The lifts will be too narrow for disabled people or people who need mobility scooters.”

“They won’t be age- and future-proofed because Bury Council has not adopted a housing standard that requires homes to be built for life.”

“It is a totally ill-conceived idea, Bury Council are only interested in making money, not the good of Prestwich. How can you build flats and have no parking space for the residents?”

“They’ve done an assessment...people working from home !!!!! ”

“A large proportion of this should be social housing. The housing crisis has 1.33 million people on housing lists in the UK with 3,025 on the Bury housing list. It’s a disgrace!!”

“If these families could afford private rents or affordable house purchases, they would, but they can’t. Instead, they’re forgotten about or shipped to areas miles from family support, schools, work and everything they know.”

“Unlikely to be any social housing in this new development ,Bury Council generates more income from private apartments.”

“None of these should be built to rent. People are desperate for affordable homes. Build-to-rent pushes up prices both to buy and for rent.”

“These should ALL be built to live in for owners. Rented out only in exception.”

“250 apartments, all managed by a property company, all for rent.”

“Together with other apartment schemes this could mean around 700 apartments within 5 minutes of the village centre.”

“No homes for social rent or purchase despite the leaflet clearly stating there are homes for first-time buyers.”

“Twelve houses that were proposed in 2024... have now been removed.”

“The number of flats (without parking) is unsustainable in this location.”

“Muse and the Council seem to think Prestwich Village should be a mini city centre.”

“We need more 2-bed starter homes. Not apartments.”

“If you gave most people a choice between a house with your own front door and a flat with service charges... they would choose a house.”

“The flat itself might be affordable but the ground rent and service charges make flats UNAFFORDABLE.”

“Always was just a housing project.”

“I am pro-housing and pro-development but want housing that will be the right density, height and also meet the needs of our community in future generations.”

“One resident also in attendance was livid when a Cllr told her there would be no additional parking provision with the apartments as all tenants are not expected to have a car!”

“What happens if or when the young person meets someone and wants to settle down and live locally as they know the area but there are no family houses available?”

“Councillor said there are houses, they are always coming on the market in Prestwich and some residents will downsize etc !.”

“As a very active and reasonably mature resident, I won't be selling my mortgage-free, maintenance-free house to move into a rented apartment, I like an outside garden area and no additional outgoings.”

“Was a Housing Needs Assessment conducted?”

“There were 12 duplex townhouses on the last proposals that may have interested me in downsizing and freeing up my home for a young family.”

“Most downsizers want a larger property with parking and generally want to buy.”

“Young professionals may rent for a while but then want to buy.”

“We would have sold up to downsize, but we want a modern 2-bed house, parking, small garden, near the village.”

“We wouldn’t move from a mortgage-free house to pay rent, maintenance, leasehold fees, no garden, no parking, and only 800 sq. ft.”

“The problem with all 250 being privately rented is two-fold...”

“It will unbalance the housing market... and there is limited demand for 1-bed flats.”

“Selling to a single investor relinquishes all control over this key site.”

“Like a mini Manchester. Full of rentals at extortionately high prices.”

“Probably end up being short-term renters, not people looking to be part of the community.”

“Most downsizers who are looking for flats want a larger property with parking and generally want to buy.”

“Young professionals may rent for a while but then want to buy.”

“A number have been moving out of Manchester and into Prestwich because they want to buy houses in a more suburban area.”

“We would probably have sold up our family home to downsize, but we want a modern 2-bedroom house, car space, a small private garden within the vicinity of the village and public transport.”

“We wouldn’t want to move from a mortgage-free house to pay rent, maintenance, leasehold fee, no garden, no car space, further from the village and tram, and only with people living above/below us.”

“We lived in apartments when we were younger... until we had a child and wanted a house, so we bought and settled in Prestwich.”

“Spoke to councillors at the meeting, the flats are aimed at young professionals probably from out of the area or people downsizing.”

“It’s being done to create revenue for the site.”

“Like a mini-Manchester. Full of rentals at extortionately high prices.”

“Probably end up being short-term renters and not people looking to be part of their local community.”

“I was wanting to downsize and live closer to amenities but wanted to buy, not rent.”

“Management fees are like having another mortgage in new builds privately owned you’d be looking at minimum £300 a month.”

“The number of local hard-working young people who have little chance of owning their own home is proof we need more 2-bed starter homes, not apartments.”

“Is there that much difference between a 2-bed house and a 2-bed flat?”

“ Yes, Garden and parking space, even if on the street outside the house, come to mind.”

“As another resident pointed out, this will be 4 blocks of flats the size of the Radius, which is hardly in keeping with the Council Leader’s promise of retaining local heritage and the spirit of Prestwich Village.”

“Why an additional 50 apartments?”

“Where are the houses that were promised by the Leader and Muse Project Director (Stuart) who has now moved on?”

“Is it a strategic ploy to say 250 apartments so you can then say ‘we listened to you’ and reduce back to 200?”

“Why did the Leader not listen when many residents didn’t want 200 apartments, instead he’s added a further 50?”

“The JV are increasing the numbers which are not compliant with the in-depth evidence produced by Aecom that there are enough apartments for the projected demographic until 2040.”

“What is needed is more family houses.”

“This number of apartments will saturate the village,250 in addition to the 140 in Radius, 250 in Rectory Green and 10 at the Hollies.”

“Where is the quality social housing for young families?”

“Who’s going to buy the unaffordable homes if only a small number are affordable?”

“The number of flats proposed can only be funded by institutional investors.”

“The Council will have to relinquish control of this publicly owned site forever.”

“Where the actual funding is coming from has not been highlighted.”

“This project is, and always was, commercially driven.”

“Who will own them, Bury Council, Muse or someone else?”

“Muse won’t be funding much of this scheme, so where is the funding coming from?”

“Large buildings attract opaque funding with layers of ownership that are hard to control.”

“We need to remember this site belongs to us, the Council Tax payers.”

“This scheme seems to be too driven by Muse whose main interest is in securing the development of high-density flats and no doubt give them a nice profit.”

“The Council see it as an easy way to build residential units.”

“At the moment we seem to have no control over what happens to the site.”

“Other than developing the masterplan(s) and dealing with planning, Muse won’t be funding much if any of this scheme.”

“Property, particularly large buildings as are proposed here, unfortunately does attract some rather opaque funding and schemes are built with layers of ownership that make them hard to control or manage. I fear this could happen here.”

“The entire development is driven by profit. Profit isn’t a bad thing, but let’s not pretend that any element of the development is being provided for the benefit of the Prestwich community, if there is a benefit it is coincidental.”

“The Council has either supported the developer in maximising their profit rather than community interest or hasn’t the ability to resist it.”

2. Scale, Height & Design

“The trend seems to be to build up the way for maximum use of space and probably for financial gain.”

“Proposal for five seven-storey blocks... joining the four existing Radius blocks.”

“How boring! This is Prestwich Village, not some as other town centres.”

“The whole scheme looks like a copy and paste of every other new design, no architectural merit.”

“The public square looks far too large (no-one there could provide an accurate size) and as such could easily end up as a bleak and inhospitable area that is hard to maintain.”

“The whole scheme looks like a copy and paste of every other new design — no architectural merit, you could be anywhere.”

“How boring design!! This is Prestwich Village-not some other town centre.”

“It certainly won’t have a village vibe after that design.”

“Horrible design- choose someone else.”

“They all show an incredible lack of imagination.”

“The design will probably fit well for some investment company wanting to add to its equally bland property portfolio at the lowest price possible.”

“That is not a village design.”

“Awful, I’m currently drawing a plan, any architects on here? Let’s all get sketching and design it ourselves.”

“A kid with a box of Lego could have designed that!”

“Awful design.”

“Horrid.”

3. Parking, Transport & Travel Hub

“Is there going to be adequate parking for the large number of apartments proposed, or will they be spilling onto nearby residential streets, as currently happens from the Radius homes?”

“Well, if you are charging for parking then you kill Prestwich, how can you charge at Prestwich but not Radcliffe or Whitefield?”

“All the time the clock is ticking, businesses have closed or gone bust, the village looks lost and unfriendly and almost all side streets congested with parked cars.”

“How about listen to the 1000+ residents of Prestwich who desperately want Fairfax Road open every night of the week NOW.”

“All through the week we sit and watch an empty road closed for no apparent reason, this is so damaging to the village, the businesses, the residents.”

“Parking is already a complete nightmare around the village.”

“It’s ridiculous if they can get 248 flats through planning permission with insufficient parking.”

“...and half of your shopping money for car park!!”

“Will the upper level have Solar PV installed and a BESS to power the lighting and EV chargers, as well as draw electricity from the grid at night at a cheaper rate?”

“Car park that nobody wanted with less spaces around the proposed new Longfield Centre than there were before — and we’re getting charged for the privilege of having to use it to walk further to the shops and Metrolink. Some progress this is...”

“It’s only going to get worse once the new hub is charging for car parking.”

“ Another 248 apartments with cars. The apartment blocks should have their own car parking included in the build.”

“It’s madness.”

“They’re all going to work from home apparently?”

“Given that there are 200+ residences, I guarantee at the very least 60% of them will have at least one car... please don’t assume every occupant will be using public transport.”

“We definitely wouldn’t pay to park to go to the shops that you can find elsewhere such as Home Bargains. That one is really small anyway, the bigger ones elsewhere with free parking are better.”

“The only thing is, that Prestwich Library is our local library and we don’t have any alternatives to that so we will have to pay for the car park to go to the library.”

“People will have to pay to visit their GP on Fairfax Road.”

“Given the parking permits for residents and the need for disabled places, there will only be approximately 150 car parking spaces to serve the entire area.”

“Multi-storey car parks are notorious anti-social hotspots and I don’t think many people will want to pay to park to pick up for their prescriptions or go shopping.”

“The leader of our council is of the opinion that the future is walking and public transport and the majority of the new residents will be keen cyclists who won’t have cars.”

“Without procurement of land for additional parking spaces I feel this scheme will lead to every surrounding street becoming full of parked cars, leading to dangerous roads and congestion.”

“When the Radius planning application was submitted the council insisted that the developers included parking within the block — but on their own application they have chosen to include none.”

“The end of casual shopping in Prestwich. Last one out turn off the lights. Thank you, Bury Council. No parking, no footfall.”

“The car park owners are going to be raking it in every single day ,commuters using the tram, people visiting the library and the Health Centre.”

“The new shops will probably suffer from lack of footfall because like you say, who is going to pay to visit these jewellery shops that they can find at the Fort or in the city centre.”

“It’s all a bit of a disaster when it comes to car parking in my opinion. That was the beauty of the Longfield Centre, the free parking.”

“There definitely needs to be something for shoppers/diners but something to deter people parking there all day.”

“It’s a car park, not a hub.”

“Free at least for first 3 hours for shoppers and restaurants.”

“A car park that nobody wanted with fewer spaces than before.”

“No car parking facilities will become a big issue.”

“Maybe spend some money on the roads, they are a disgrace.”

“Multi-storey car parks are notorious anti-social hotspots.”

“The leader of our council thinks the future is walking and cycling.”

“Without more parking, every surrounding street will become full of parked cars.”

“The end of casual shopping in Prestwich. No parking, no footfall.”

“With additional homes, residents, visitors - where is the additional parking/infrastructure going?”

“Just wondering if any of the new parking is allocated to the flats and what are the anticipated parking fees?”

“Unlike the free parking in Whitefield and Radcliffe.”

“I’ve said before, it is a multi-storey car park, no more, no less.”

“‘Travel Hub’ what joker invented this phrase?”

“Problem is the number of spaces was designed around what was planned for the village.”

“With the additional homes, residents, visitors etc where is the additional parking/infrastructure going?”

It’s ridiculous if they can get 248 flats through planning permission with insufficient parking.”

“And half of your shopping money for car park!!”

“Car park that nobody wanted with less spaces around the proposed new Longfield Centre than there were before — and we’re getting charged for the privilege of having to use it to walk further to the shops and Metrolink. Some progress this is...”

“Will the upper level have Solar PV installed and a BESS to power the lighting and EV chargers, as well as draw electricity from the grid at night at a cheaper rate?”

4. Ownership, Funding & Governance

“Perhaps the key ethical aspect of the whole enterprise. That response from advisors sounds weak. If they really wanted to avoid the usual bloodsuckers buying for rent, simply preventing ANY buying doesn’t sound like the way to go at all.”

“So, the council view seems to be, like Bury: do what you want as long as we can collect huge numbers of council tax???”

“The primary healthcare facilities in the last iteration were to be located above the new library on the site of the former Halifax Bank, but this has been replaced with two blocks of 7-storey apartments-disgraceful.”

“What happened to the approved Masterplan that was approved by the council?”

“Why the big change?”

“Is it now unaffordable?”

“Are Muse still as committed?”

“Where is the documentation that sets out the rationale for the BIG CHANGE from the last version of the plan that was approved in July 2024?”

“What happened to the mantra that local democracy is important and was purported by the Leader and Muse Directors throughout all engagement events?”

“I don’t believe any of this cosmetic, so-called consultation process. It has already been decided.”

“A big project like this would have been planned well in advance.”

“Application planning?? I was under the understanding it was a done deal?”

“Or maybe the application will be turned down, Longfield flattened then simply grassed over.”

“I’m concerned the cost will prevent the Doctors building from being rebuilt. The budget has dropped from £250 million to £100 million.”

“Can you provide details on the cuts and respond to this message?”

“This all rings of total chaos, plans being replanned then re-replanned with little or no thought or consultation with US.”

5. Build-to-Rent & Pension Fund Concerns

“They advised me that a few property management companies are already expressing an interest in delivering the Build to Rent apartments, yet no discussion with the public or mention in the consultation leaflet”

“I was shocked as I’d never known about the apartments all being rentals as the leaflet clearly says first time buyers and mixed housing including downsizers; One Cllr said yes, all rented, it’s always been the case, this was never ever shared with the community until attendance at the event.”

“The rental apartments were never consulted upon and this documentation and the last consultation documentation clearly says mixed economy including first-time buyers.”

“How can local people afford the rents and also save up for their own family homes to move into later on as the rents will be very high and there will be no houses built within the village.”

“Councillors said the apartments are aimed at young professionals.”

“The tenants will be transient and only stay a couple of years and may not invest emotionally in the community on a long-term basis.”

“There are only flats to rent, none for sale.”

“The Muse representatives confirmed to me that their intention is for all the flats to be built to rent and sold onto a pension fund on completion (could be another long-term investor) with a management company employed to manage the flats.”

“This is a nice model for Muse who will get their development management fee quickly and for the contractor building the scheme.”

“This model will not include any flats to purchase and we-the public, will have no control over the future of **what is our land**.”

“You will own nothing & be happy! Agenda 2030... NWO...”

“Muse confirmed all flats will be built to rent and sold to a pension fund.”

“This model will not include any flats to purchase.”

“We, the public, will have no control over what is our land.”

“Don’t see how any company could commit to buying properties before they are built and what the economic landscape at the time of completion is.”

“There are multimillionaire investment companies which buy buildings like this one all the time.”

“The building companies buy up countless plots and release housing at a trickle to keep prices and profits as high as possible.”

“Even if they don’t build on the land, they make a profit because the land becomes more expensive over time.”

“Probably rents from £1,200 per month plus an annual maintenance/service fee of £1,200.”

“My guess is Touchstone will be the preferred operator.”

“There are some service charges nearly 3× that of the Longfield flats.”

“Do any individuals actually rent and pay for any of those apartments or is it people who rent with their benefits paying for it?”

“Probably some insurance/pension company, or a foreign private equity company.”

“We were told by a representative of Muse that there will be one group purchaser and they are a pension company for NHS, police and teachers.”

“Always a con...”

6. Consultation Process & Trust

“Regretting not keeping the first leaflet they sent out to compare with what is being offered now, wonder what our councillors would say?”

“This is a fake consultation they will do what they want and tick their consultation boxes.”

“Is there a way of making all presentation boards and other materials available online for people that can’t make the event?”

“It really does feel like it’s pointless having these ‘have your say’ events when the decisions have been made and it’s not going to change anything.”

“We’ve had a leaflet through the door saying when the new build is finished over 300 jobs will be created. Can you explain how?”

“Your voice will not be heard; it hasn’t been and won’t be.”

“Officials were dismissive of concerns raised.”

“How do we make sure we are listened to?”

“How utterly naive are the clowns (sorry, councillors) who are advocating this?”

“ A Cllr said ‘it could be worse with a big supermarket being developed there - ’ this is to make residents feel their current proposal is a far better option than a sprawling supermarket- it is unethical to use this as a threat.”

“I attended and had a good chat with Rob. Rob patiently explained the funding issues you have navigated through, how the market will be run and the timescales.”

“Signed, sealed, delivered, you don’t really believe you get a say, do you!”

“All has been decided long ago.”

“No one gives a toss what residents think.”

“I found Muse’s representatives very friendly and willing to discuss and interact in a very positive manner.”

“They noted the amount of negative feedback there has been.”

“Muse’s representatives were dismissive of my concerns.”

“I went along to ask questions, I was treated kindly; however, no one answered my questions.”

“I think it was just a PR stunt to make the people of Prestwich think they were doing something for us.”

“They have learned to dismiss their constituents, voters etc... .”

“I found Muse’s representatives quite dismissive of my concerns about the scheme itself ,particularly the number of flats.”

“Given the already broken promises I don’t trust what they say.”

“They couldn’t even provide an image that displayed what they are proposing.”

“ No visuals available on the leaflets to give any perspective nor any 3D model or visuals at the consultation events- poor communication”

7. Impact on Local Independent Businesses

“What happened to supporting businesses during regeneration?”

“All they’ve done is give the shops notice.”

“The area needed updating, not regeneration.”

“All those lovely shops gone!”

“The idea was so promising and exciting but where is that vision now?”

“The tower blocks are not what was promised or agreed, neither is paid parking.”

“The plan re Fairfax Road and traffic is causing chaos and the damage to St Mary’s Road already is shocking.”

“Are there any plans for the Makers Market to be relocated when the Longfield site is being demolished or developed?”

“I would also like to know what the plans are for the Makers Market while the redevelopment takes place.”

“Awhh some of these places offer a social service too.”

“I hope the Council and Muse do as they promised and support them to find a place to relocate.”

“We are writing to lodge our objections to the revised proposals that Muse have recently presented to the public in Prestwich, as we feel that if implemented, they will be very damaging to the operation and consequently viability and survival of our Club.”

“A number of our members have already expressed concerns separately about the revised plans both in general and specific elements of the proposals, but from a Tennis, Cricket and Bowling Club perspective we only seek to set out our concerns as it impacts on the operation of the Club.”

“The works that are taking place constructing the new car park on Fairfax Road are already causing major problems for Prestwich Tennis, Cricket and Bowling Club with people frustrated by the lack of parking and using our land to park their cars.”

“Surrounding roads, particularly Heys Road and Poppythorn Lane, are facing similar problems and this often leads to cars parked haphazardly blocking our access for larger vehicles, including those from the brewery and funeral hearses.”

“There seems to be scant regard being paid to the impact that these proposals will have on existing residents, businesses or clubs like ourselves.”

“One of our attractions as a Club to members and visitors is being in the heart of what is an urban village, with a strong family-based local community.”

“It is this family-based community that provides the bedrock of our members and particularly our wonderful volunteers.”

“The revised proposals from Muse seem to have sacrificed the wishes of local people who want a mix of housing and good community facilities for an over-dense apartment scheme.”

“This scheme will only be attractive to people ‘passing through’ the area and could encourage the movement of those very people who will sustain the Club in the future.”

8. Market Hall & Business Model

“The market hall model will be too expensive for existing small traders.”

“It will lack daytime use.”

“A mixed provision would be better.”

“Small stalls at cheaper rates could help displaced businesses.”

“No operator has been identified for the market hall.”

“No operator has been identified for the market hall and even if one is found initially, I have doubts as to the viability of this element.”

“If it fails, who will take on a large building that isn’t easy to service?”

“In terms of the ‘market hall’, on further questioning yesterday, it seems they are sticking with the original idea of this being a food/drinking venue, which by their own admission will probably be too expensive for our existing small independent traders.”

“Two concerns, impact on our existing traders and lack of use during the day.”

“Surely a mixed provision would be better, rather than the proposal which is similar to a Mackie Mayor model rather than a ‘market hall’.”

“Small stalls at cheaper rates could help some of the businesses who will have to close, provide footfall in the day and then have a small number of food/drinking vendors alongside.”

9. Community Hub, Health Centre, Library & Accessibility

“Library on the first floor is discrimination against disabled people.”

“NHS can't/won't afford to pay for a revamp so it stays as it is for the next five years when they can look at it again.”

“8 years before a refurbishment of the health centre!!!”

“My mobility scooter will not fit in a lift, I would no longer be able to use the library.”

“It could be moved easily, it's not even demolished yet.”

“Who is in the community hub besides the library or the health centre?”

“All the lending part of the library on the ground floor and computers and non-library services on the first floor. Common sense suggests lugging 12 books up and down stairs is outrageous, lift or no lift.”

“Separating parts of the library seems counter-intuitive.”

“To what extent will the library be able to serve as a community space too? Will there be a large area for events? Staging? Seats? Multi-purpose room for the community to use?”

“Or are we talking about a corner of the library used for specific types of events during library hours?”

“It would be a huge shame and disservice to the community boxing these assets on the first floor, with a gym on the ground.”

“The community centre and library should serve as an extension of the village square, and be two separate spaces as initially proposed.”

“Squeezing them together and boxing them upstairs is really poor.”

“Having the library on the first floor, to me, is madness.”

“How many lifts will there be?”

“Tuesday afternoons at the current Prestwich Library have a baby and mum group — are they all going to have to queue up to access the first floor?”

“If there is one lift to service all these people it is going to be chaos.”

“A library is a community hub and should be easily accessible to all users.”

“I find this plan very, very, very concerning.”

“Can anyone find out what’s happening to the dance floor in the Longfield Suite, as it was one of only a handful?”

“Doctors... gone. Community space deleted.”

“Library on the second floor will make it inaccessible by anyone with disability or mobility issues.”

“Don’t believe them when they say there will be a lift.”

“All the lending part of the library should be on the ground floor.”

“This barrier makes it impossible for wheelchairs and prams to access the village.”

“I am a regular user of the library but with mobility issues I would find it very hard to use the library if not on the ground floor as I sometimes have to use my mobility scooter and it is too large for a lift.”

“Lifts always break down too, when this happens many people with mobility difficulties would be unable to access it.”

“Please please reconsider having the library on the first floor — it is just not a viable option climbing stairs, lugging 12 heavy books back along with shopping bags and children in tow.”

“It’s not good health and safety, even if you’re able-bodied, having to climb stairs to return and borrow books.”

“You will need a full-time first aider if this goes ahead to attend to all the accidents people are going to have on the stairs.”

“Even if there are two lifts, it still won’t be enough, especially on mum and baby days when all the mums have prams and buggies to transport up in a lift.”

“Elderly and disabled people make up a huge percentage of library members and you will have queues of people waiting for lifts.”

“It is utter madness not having a library on the ground floor.”

“I feel you are marginalising library users in favour of retail units and not affording us the consideration we are due.”

“If we want to encourage reading and good literacy in our young children then we need them and their parents to be able to access the services easily and not have to negotiate a flight of stairs with little children and books.”

“I am very concerned.”

“I asked about this, the concern was noise related because of gym equipment and weights being used/dropped.”

“Maybe they should split the gym and library in half so two floors for each — children’s library downstairs along with a teen gym or soft play area.”

“Upstairs gym one side then adult library on the other with good soundproofing between them.”

“I didn’t realise there was to be a gym below the library.”

“I would have thought there would be enough space to create a separate gym and a separate library so they didn’t disrupt each other.”

“If they built fewer apartment blocks, they could have squeezed the gym elsewhere and prioritised the library on the ground floor.”

“What happens if the lift breaks down — what if a disabled person who used the lift to get up to the first floor is stranded there?”

“It will cause a whole range of problems having a library on the first floor, it just makes no sense to me.”

10. Infrastructure Capacity

“Are there enough schools, doctors, dentists or does anyone care?”

“Where will people park to go to the Health Centre?”

“The monstrous multi-storey won’t be finished when the existing car park closes.”

“It should, as it was always meant to be, a small shopping centre (with parking). Now they want a residential area with as many flats as possible and of course more people.”

“Doctors... gone, community space to be deleted, if not gone already, parking... paid (extortionate prices).”

“It is disappointing about the health centre ,but that appears to be an NHS decision and since when does the NHS apply joined-up thinking?”

“No car parking facilities will become a big issue, and I seem to have missed that the proposed Health Centre has now been abandoned? More questions than answers.”

“It is very disappointing that the scheme doesn’t include a new health centre.”

“At the very least a viable decant site (part of the Longfield car park) needs to be retained for this purpose.”

“Muse claim that the current Metrolink car park can provide this but I have my doubts.”

11. Heritage, Naming & Village Identity

“There is so much history around the name Longfield, it would be a shame to lose it.”

“Call the community hub ‘The Retreat’, after the Priests’ Retreat where Prestwich gets its name.”

“I can’t see the village pillory, stocks, horse trough etc ,the sort of thing traditionally associated with open spaces in villages. Not to forget the cricket pitch.”

“‘Village’ is a long-standing bit of PR nonsense for Prestwich: it’s a suburban town, one of the ‘six towns’ of Bury (unfortunately).”

12. General Comments & Attitudes to Change

“Our village is being decimated by a scheme that benefits Muse and Bury Council.”

“I’m looking forward to new shops; change is always difficult.”

“It would have been good to have affordable apartments for local young adults.”

“Community is being destroyed and it’s not OK.”

“One step closer to... change is always difficult but I’m looking forward to it all coming together and getting some great new shops.”

“I would rent an apartment when built but I can’t afford to — but perfectly placed for working, travel and leisure.”

“We all move on, society moves on.”

“Grasp the future, look at the potential.”

It’s very disappointing. Our village is being decimated by a scheme that benefits Muse and Bury Council as we suspected but hoped would not happen.”

“Basically, we’re getting The Rock in Bury now.”

“I like the new designs; larger library, larger public open space, and it seems the idea of the food hall (public canteen) has been ditched in favour of a market hall, and there's another 50 flats which I think should be allocated for social housing to rent for the young people/ over 55's of Prestwich. I would like to see restrictive covenants in place which stops the buy-to-rent landlords and/or corporate landlords buying any of the flats - homeowners only living in the flats. All-in-all in future proofs the town centre and provides much needed 1 and 2 bed flats for the area and I look forward to the public consultation. Then these final designs actually going for planning permission and the project getting started...once the funding is place of course!”

“An affordably priced gym would be very welcome, and an indoor market space.”

“I really don’t understand this project; it appears to be a series of consultations and planning applications as it goes along rather than a clear vision from the outset. Bananas.”

“I think we all feel so unhappy with it all!”

“So excited for this!! Looks great.”

13. Long-Term Strategy & Perception of Manipulation

“These projects start with an extreme plan, then pretend to listen, then deliver the original plan.”

“The Longfield Centre has been deliberately neglected for years.”

“No repairs, no cleaning, hanging baskets removed.”

“Demolition uncertainty drove businesses away.”

“Now the revised plan will be waved through because the site is derelict.”

“Ever get the feeling you’ve been cheated.”

14. Summary

This document presents a comprehensive collection of direct comments regarding the Prestwich regeneration proposals. The feedback reveals consistent themes:

A strong belief that the housing mix does not meet local needs, with an over-reliance on high-density rental apartments and no provision for social rent or affordable purchase.

Concerns about scale, height and design, which many feel are inappropriate for Prestwich's character.

Significant anxiety about parking, transport and the Travel Hub, including fears of reduced footfall and accessibility barriers.

Widespread mistrust in the consultation process, with many residents feeling unheard or excluded.

Serious accessibility concerns, particularly regarding the proposed library location and mobility barriers.

A sense of loss of heritage, community identity, local businesses and public control over publicly owned land.

Residents have expressed both hope and frustration, but the overwhelming message is clear:

they want a regeneration that reflects Prestwich's needs, identity and long-term wellbeing not a model driven primarily by investor returns.

The issues raised by residents and local businesses relate directly to material planning considerations, including accessibility, loss of community facilities, housing mix, design quality, transport impacts, and the economic vitality of the district centre. We therefore ask that these comments are given due weight in the assessment of the current proposals and are explicitly referenced in the Councils Planning committee's deliberations and decision-making process.

This document is submitted to ensure Prestwich community's voices are recorded accurately and respectfully and listened to.