



Ask Meltham - 3rd July to 17th August 2019

What we did

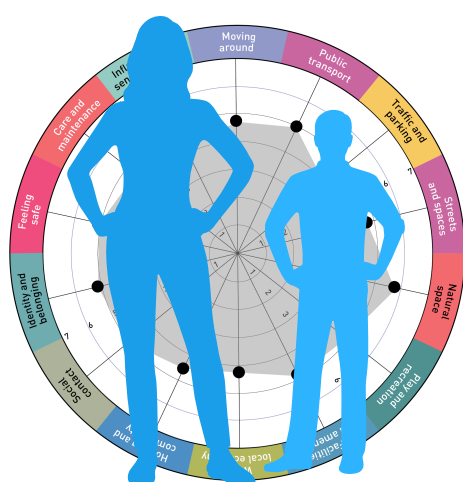
Town councillors, volunteers from Meltham and staff from Kirklees Council talked to people about life in Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw. We used a tool called the “Place Standard”. This is a way of helping to get conversations going about any place (it could be your street, neighbourhood or town), by using some simple questions. Meltham Town Council will use the results in our planning, to reflect local people’s priorities.

Who participated?

Our team of 30 volunteers talked with people about our area in many local places, including Meltham Library, St Bartholomew’s, Robert Ashton Memorial Park, Meltham Sports and Community Centre, Scar Green Sheltered Housing and the Crossroads Centre. We talked with local groups such as Walkers are Welcome and with children at Meltham CE, Meltham Moor and Helme CE schools. We also had conversations at local cafes, bus stops, shops and local businesses. 242 people participated online.

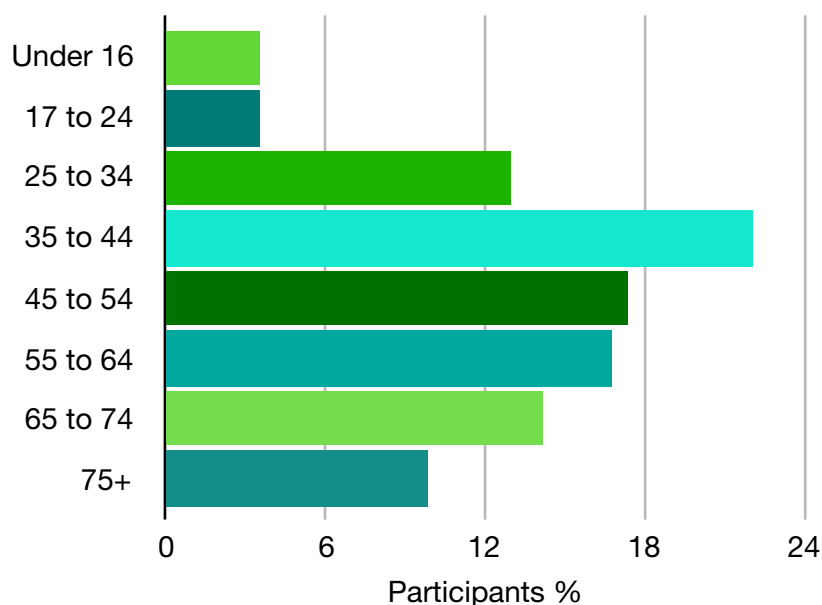
709 citizens took part in the conversations

574 Place Standard assessments were completed



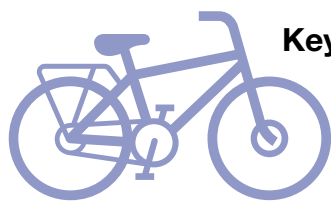
Female 63% Male 29%

Other / unknown 8%

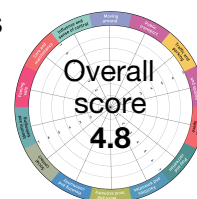


What participants said

Moving around



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants said that Meltham is good for walking, with lots of great routes which are generally in good condition. However, these are not always well signed, many have dog dirt and some are overgrown. It can be difficult for people with



mobility issues. Inconsiderate parking makes it difficult

for prams when walking to school. Other issues include slip hazards, a lack of seating along paths and stiles that limit access for less able walkers. Crumbling road surfaces and potholes (for example, Bent Ley Road) mean that the only place safe for cycling is on the Greenway. There are a lack of dedicated cycle paths. Walking and cycling routes in Helme are not maintained. Poor parking, heavy lorries and speeding vehicles can make walking and cycling in Wilshaw dangerous. Poor street lighting in some areas, such as at Slaithwaite Road junction with Birmingham Lane. Some areas of Meltham Catchwater are dangerous as they are uneven and there are old fence posts in the ground. No pavement at the top of Wilshaw and few pavements beyond the village.

Suggestions: Encourage more walking, cycling and scooting (and support schools to do this). Improve accessibility for people with mobility issues. Improve road safety at the junction of Tinker Lane and Wessenden Head Road, to make it a safe route to school. Better signposting for footpaths and bridleways, both in Meltham and online. Path maintenance sign telling you where to report issues. A map showing paths and tracks, to be available from the library. Create a circular walk from the end of the Greenway to Heeley House and back through Honley Wood. A BMX track in the woods. Reinstate bridleways and upgrade the access paths, where paths are wide enough to be shared. More seating on Meltham Way. Extend the Greenway from Netherton to Meltham.

326 people commented on this theme.

Public transport



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants said there's a frequent bus service to Huddersfield, but the two bus companies operate services within minutes of each other. You can't buy a return or weekly ticket that is



valid on both. Congestion at Lockwood Bar means services are not always reliable. Good small community bus (Morrisons to home service). Poor service to Wilshaw and outlying areas and a lack of services to Holmfirth, especially in an evening, and to the Colne Valley. The bus terminal is not fully utilised - buses stopping in the centre causes congestion. It's expensive, especially for families. Inadequate seating at bus stops. People are concerned about the environmental impact of old buses.

Suggestions: Liaise with the bus companies to improve the service. Bus services to Marsden, Slaithwaite and Holmfirth, and more after 6pm. Extend the community bus service to the park. Subsidise evening transport. Improve the bus shelters, seating and signage. Recommission the Huddersfield to Meltham branch rail line.

346 people commented on this theme.

"We are massively blessed with lots of great walking routes."

"The Pleasure Grounds and Robert Ashton Park are a credit to the village."

"The village centre of Meltham is dangerous. At peak hours it is very difficult to cross the roads."

Traffic and parking



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants commented on the volume of traffic in the centre and said crossing the main road into the centre is difficult for disabled people.

There's speeding traffic on Huddersfield Road, Helme Lane and Wessenden Head Road. Many people commented that the speed bumps at the Crossroads are dangerous. The extended corner narrowing the junction has reduced visibility for drivers turning right into Huddersfield Road (Station Street and Westgate junction) and traffic is "horrendous at the junction in the centre". There's inconsiderate parking on zig zags, double yellow lines and crossings (for example, outside the Co-op and the Carlile, Station Street). Traffic issues are worse at school times and when events are on.



Suggestions: A light-controlled crossing or roundabout at the junction in the centre, to improve safety. Reduce speed limits on Helme Lane and Huddersfield Road, and by schools. Install speed bumps on Slaithwaite Road. Enforcement action for poor parking. On street parking for 2 hours maximum, more parking for workers and keep the Carlile free. More on street parking for residents when events are on. Sign at Meltham Mills directing drivers to bypass the centre. Parking bay with traffic calming measures in Wilshaw. Improve the road infrastructure when new houses are built. A bypass.

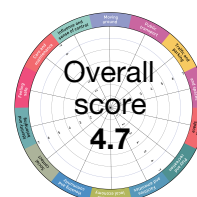
390 people commented on this theme.

Streets and spaces



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants said the area has some beautiful buildings but it is not being used to its full potential. Issues include litter, overflowing bins, weeds on pavements, road gutters not cleaned enough, flytipping, boarded up buildings and "dowdy" mismatching shop fronts and advertising hoardings. Buildings on Station Street,

Meltham Carlile, Wilshaw Village Hall and Robert Ashton Park are valued by local people. There are some lovely historic buildings in Wilshaw, but enjoying them is difficult due to speeding traffic. Helme Church is an attractive landmark, but grounds maintenance is limited. Minor works such as damaged walls in Meltham centre go unrepaired for long periods.



Suggestions: The centre of Meltham needs more investment. Brighten up the centre and Robert Ashton Park with colourful planting: flowers in tubs or baskets, edible fruit and vegetables or wild flower areas on verges. More allotment space. Little café in Meltham Park. Hold Meltham Memories in the park. Shop fronts scheme, with traditional matching identity. Liaise with Morrisons to sort out the litter. A traffic-free village green. Better recycling or a ban on plastics use in the centre. Remove graffiti at bottom of Sefton Lane.

285 people commented on this theme.

Natural space



Key issues: Ask Metham participants made many comments about the beautiful countryside and access to walks, national parks and open spaces, fields, moors, parks, the Greenway and Folly Dolly Falls. People feel lucky to have lovely local parks. Robert Ashton Park is great for the kids. The Pleasure



Grounds are great as a result of many volunteers' hard work and fundraising. Some open spaces are under used. Recreation ground and skate park and play areas could be upgraded. At Robert Ashton Park the toddler play area surface is broken up, causing trips and falls. In some places there is litter in the roadside ditches and poo bags hanging in trees. People are worried that house building will take over the surrounding fields.

Suggestions: More wildlife areas to teach children about birds. Pond dipping run by volunteers. Wildlife friendly planting. Bug hotels with information boards about local wildlife. Make Folly Dolly Falls more accessible (the gate is padlocked). Community litter picks in the worst-affected spots. A community tree planting event. Planting and picnic benches at Broadland Rec. Identify land for community projects like a community orchard. Wheeled access to natural spaces. Open up the riverside. Many requests for Robert Ashton Memorial Park to be locked at night to prevent vandalism.

137 people commented on this theme.

Play and recreation



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants said there are great leisure facilities and good parks, although Meltham Hall Park is no longer a safe space due to litter, broken glass and dog muck. There are limited indoor play areas or activities.



Amenities and classes at the Meltham Sports and Community centre are not well advertised. Some people commented that the facilities have fallen into disrepair and the centre could be more of a community hub. The Carlile Institute is a fantastic place for concerts. Play areas are limited and are getting tired and dated with nothing for children 12+, nothing for kids with disabilities and not much on offer for toddlers. Older youths can scare the younger ones away from the skate park. Good play area for children in Wilshaw, however access is via an overgrown path and children need to cross a dangerous road to access it.

Suggestions: More sports and activities facilities for young adults and for younger children. Youth club for teenagers, natural adventure play areas, zip wire, sensory spaces, craft clubs. An all weather pitch, basketball, climbing wall, larger sports hall, multi purpose courts, space for hopscotch, outdoor gym, bike park. Refreshments van or cafe at the Meltham Hall Park. Electronic noticeboard outside Carlile Institute. More communal areas for children at the top of Meltham (Millmoor Road, Calders Lane, Wessenden Head).

314 people commented on this theme.

"I love Meltham and think it's a beautiful place to live."

"The outskirts of Meltham are the best in Huddersfield. You can walk 10 minutes and be in the middle of nowhere."

"I like Meltham. It has a genuine Pennine mill town feel about it."

"Meltham has been over developed, putting too much strain on doctors, dentists and schools."

"As electricians we are very lucky not to have to travel further than Huddersfield generally, and also usually never further than Meltham!"

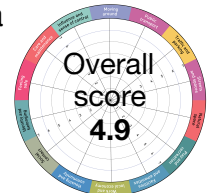
"We are lucky in Meltham to have good public buildings that can be used by the public."

Facilities and amenities



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants said that Meltham has a variety of amenities and good range of facilities, but is lacking in more independent shops, such as fresh fruit and vegetables. Too many takeaways, beauty parlours and charity shops. There are no public toilet facilities in

Meltham. It's difficult to get an appointment at the GPs. It's hard for working parents to find childcare. There are not enough restaurants and bars to attract people to Meltham for a night out like in other villages. People said there is little variation in what's on offer and quality is an issue too. The lack of a bank is a problem and it's impossible for people with disability issues to visit banks in Huddersfield. There are no safe storage facilities for cycles.



Suggestions: Transition to a zero carbon town. Collaboration between Robert Ashton Memorial Park, local councils and voluntary groups to improve the overall tidiness and look of the centre. Grants to smarten up shop fronts and incentives to open new businesses. Monthly farmers market. Co-operative greengrocers. A cheap brand supermarket. Opening times to suit families. Electric charging facility. Community zero waste shop and drop off points for items hard to recycle. More independent shops, bars and restaurants. Public toilets or open invite from businesses to use theirs. A high school to serve the 3 primary schools.

322 people commented on this theme.

Work and local economy



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants said there is not enough space for new businesses setting up. Empty buildings and mills in the area could be used better. Meltham Mills has quality employers. There are a good range of business units and access to local towns offering job opportunities. People

mentioned the good volunteering opportunities, such as in the library and charity shop for young people. There could be more full time employment in the area. Many participants said they couldn't comment as they are not of working age or they commute for work.



Suggestions: A business hub in Meltham Mills for start ups. Grants and a reduction in rates. Shared workspace or hot-desking for those who are self employed or work from home. Local jobs board. Night school and accessible courses. Promote Meltham as a destination with a niche or brand - for example, a mountain bike route to attract cyclists.

222 people commented on this theme.

Housing and community



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants often mentioned the lack of affordable housing and too many new builds which are expensive, including a lot of large 4 or 5 bedroom houses. People are concerned about the impact of new builds on the existing infrastructure.



Generally Meltham has a good housing mix but there are not enough bungalows or sheltered housing for the elderly, or starter homes for young people. Private rentals are limited and tend to be above market averages. The flats on Mill Moor Road need updating. Flats on Highfield Crescent designed for the older generation now house others, which has an impact on the community. There's a need for more social housing to be built, with associated services, and more lifetime homes.

Suggestions: Development should better reflect local need and demand. More affordable housing close to the centre, for older people and young people. Shared housing schemes and shared ownership options. Turn mills into family accommodation or build terraced housing. No more houses to be built in Meltham. Set up a community land trust to buy land and protect the green belt. Use Section 106 monies better - invest in local infrastructure. Local councils to be more robust in dealing with central government.

276 people commented on this theme

Social contact



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants enjoy the events which bring everyone together, such as Meltham Memories and the Scarecrow Festival. Many people said that Meltham is great for older people,

people who go to church or young children, but there is very little organised activity for teenagers and young people. There are less opportunities for the 20-35 age group to mix. Meltham family centre is

a great place to go for parents who feel isolated, but there is nowhere for vulnerable adults to socialise in a safe place locally. Some activities seem aimed

at families with incomes, so people from different backgrounds don't mix enough.

Activities are not always visible or publicised. The Community News leaflet is good for finding out what goes on. The Carlile Institute has done a lot to support social contact.



Suggestions: More activities for teenagers. Transport for isolated groups in an evening. Place for parents to meet with children. Community allotment. Noticeboard at top of Station Street. Community page on social media. Affordable, bookable facilities for non profit groups, or free room hire (for example, at the library once a week). Events on the Greenway and in parks. Promote sports and social groups. Improve church hall facility.

261 people commented on this theme.

"As someone who works from home and is new to the area, there doesn't seem to be a lot of opportunities to mix with people, except pubs."

"There are no through routes up and down the housing ladder."

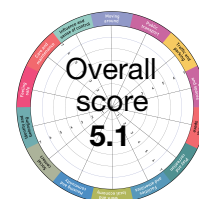
"My children wanted to live local but have had to move away to get houses they could afford."



Identity and belonging



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants mainly feel that Meltham is a welcoming place. 142 people said that they feel they belong and Meltham has a positive identity. 49 people said they don't feel like they belong and that Meltham does not have a positive identity. There were many comments from those who have recently moved in, saying that they feel welcomed. Others said that Meltham could be more integrated and there is a perception of a split between "Melthamers" and "incomers." Meltham has much interesting history but this is not well displayed and celebrated, apart from the tractor heritage. Local groups and small businesses make a difference in helping people to feel part of the community.



Suggestions: "We need to come together as a community and all be involved in decision making and how we maintain the village." Young people on committees. More events, which are better supported and promoted. Turn Meltham into a hub for something (for example, walking, cycling or sports training).

264 people commented on this theme.

Feeling safe



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants said that Meltham is a relatively low crime area. Over 70 people said they feel safe or very safe (all or most of the time) in Meltham. 18 people said they did not feel safe in some places

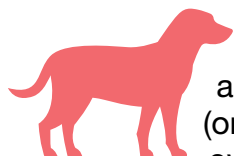
(such as Broadlands, the skate park and outside pubs) or do not feel safe at night. There are concerns about increases in anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Younger children said they are scared to use the skate park because teenagers are there. Children can feel intimidated by teenagers hanging out in Meltham. Some participants said they are concerned about an "anti" sentiment to people who are of different ethnicity, or who have a different religion. People are also worried that there is no visible Police presence.



Suggestions: Police patrols, neighbourhood watch or community crime watch. Dog warden to visit and target areas. Youth projects. Speed cameras. CCTV at Robert Ashton Park. Addiction support group.

311 people commented on this theme.

Care and maintenance



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants highlighted many areas for improvement. Issues include litter and dog poo (on pavements, around schools and at Morrisons), overgrown hedges, weeds on pavements, unmaintained

gardens (for example, on Broadlands estate), uneven pavements, lack of grit bins and disrepair of items in the public realm (such as the statue in Meltham Hall Park). Minor vandalism doesn't help (the bus stop at the turning circle is damaged as soon as it is fixed). The Greenway, Ashton Memorial Park and The Pleasure Grounds are kept tidy by volunteers. Good recycling facilities. Some buildings in the centre look tired or uninviting. Drains at Thick Hollins are blocked. The stairs between Mean Lane and The Cobbles are littered and filthy. The alley from Clarke Lane to Durker Roods estate is overgrown and rubbish-strewn. Participants appreciate the hard work done by Meltham Town Council, but some feel they get a "second rate service" from Kirklees Council. When the grass is cut, the council leave the grass cuttings around benches so they can't be used.



Suggestions: A shop owners charter to smarten up shop fronts. Fines for takeaways that leave litter, and for people who leave dog poo. People to take responsibility for tidying their areas (for example, Morrisons for cleaning the steps). Better waste facilities such as multi purpose bins. Plastic recycling facilities and promote more recycling. Employ a street cleaner. Community clean ups. Improve street signage. Improve the Christmas lights. More frequent grass cutting in parks, but also more open space left to go wild.

304 people commented on this theme.

Influence and sense of control



Key issues: Ask Meltham participants feel that Meltham is an independent place, with nothing in common with Kirklees. On the whole Meltham Town Council is accessible

and councillors are available and interested in Meltham. Some people find out what's going on via council and community social media, whilst others feel that Meltham Town Council and Kirklees Council don't communicate enough. Some who have raised issues previously feel that nothing has been done in response (for example, concerns about housing developments raised as part of Kirklees Council consultations). People want opportunities or forums to take part in any decisions made in Meltham, and there's a feeling that these opportunities don't exist. Current meeting times don't suit families or workers. Some people asked what their extra council tax is spent on, others want to know how to contact their town and Kirklees councillors. Ask Meltham is a good method and more activities like this are needed.



Suggestions: Better communication between the town council and residents. More updates, via different media, with opportunity to contribute. Tell people about things that affect them directly. Speak to local groups to find out what they want. A forum for local people to come together and volunteer, make local decisions. Bring church and town council together - focus on community and loneliness. Wider representation on the town council. More welcoming council sessions. Achievable local action plans. Share information about grants and funding. Use our public buildings for community projects.

243 people commented on this theme.

Ask Meltham score sheet

How people in Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw scored their place, on a scale of 1 to 7, whilst talking about 14 different themes:

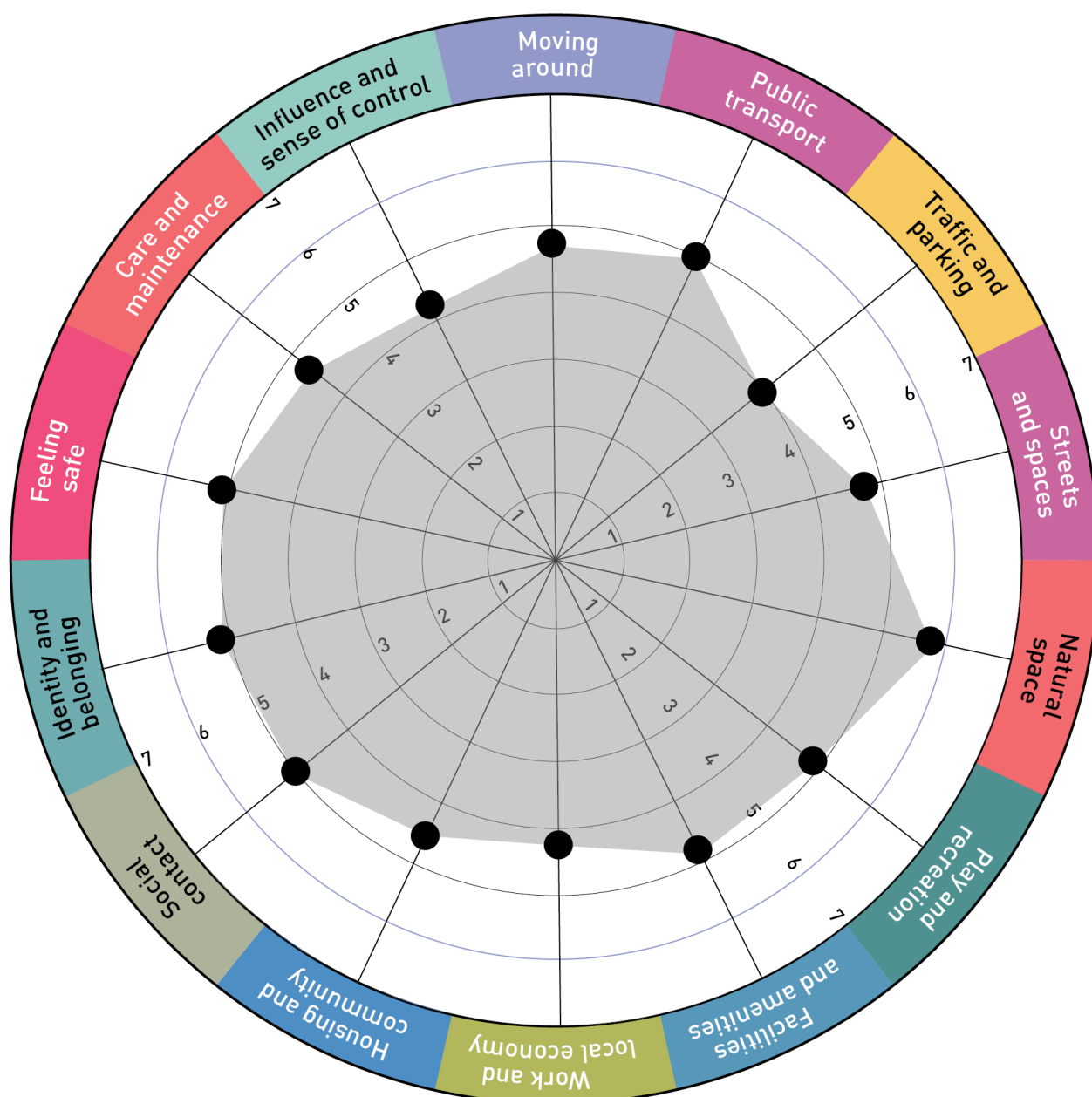
	Meltham overall	Helme	Wilshaw	Under 16s	Age 35 to 44	Age 65 to 74	Male	Female
Moving around	4.8	4.4	4	5.2	4.8	5.1	4.9	4.9
Public transport	5	4.4	3.8	5.3	4.9	5.8	5	5
Traffic and parking	4	3.4	4	4.5	4	4	4	4
Streets and spaces	4.7	4.2	5.1	4.6	4.7	5	4.6	4.8
Natural space	5.8	5.4	5.4	6.4	5.9	6	5.9	5.8
Play and recreation	4.9	4.8	4.9	5	4.7	5.5	4.9	4.9
Facilities and amenities	4.9	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.9	5.6	4.8	5
Work and local economy	4.2	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1
Housing and community	4.6	4.3	5.2	5.2	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.5
Social contact	5	5.2	5	5.1	4.8	5.6	4.9	5
Identity and belonging	5.1	4.8	5	5.4	5	5.6	4.9	5.1
Feeling safe	5.1	5.3	5.4	4.9	5	5.7	5	5
Care and maintenance	4.7	4.7	5.2	4.4	4.7	5	4.7	4.8
Influence and sense of control	4.2	4.8	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.5	4	4.3

709 people participated in the Ask Meltham conversations, completing **574** assessments.

The overall scores are the **Mean average** of the 574 assessments.

Note: 405 participants chose a sub-area when taking part. 386 people chose Meltham, 9 people chose Wilshaw and 10 people chose Helme. 169 participants did not identify a sub-area. The mean average figures for the Meltham sub-area are the same as for Meltham overall.

Overall scores for Ask Meltham



Natural space	5.8
Identity and belonging	5.1
Feeling safe	5.1
Public transport	5
Social contact	5
Facilities and amenities	4.9
Play and recreation	4.9

Moving around	4.8
Care and maintenance	4.7
Streets and spaces	4.7
Housing and community	4.6
Work and local economy	4.2
Influence and sense of control	4.2
Traffic and parking	4

Full data is available at:

www.HowGoodIsOurPlace.org.uk