

Ask Brockholes



Ask Brockholes 26th February to 12th March 2022

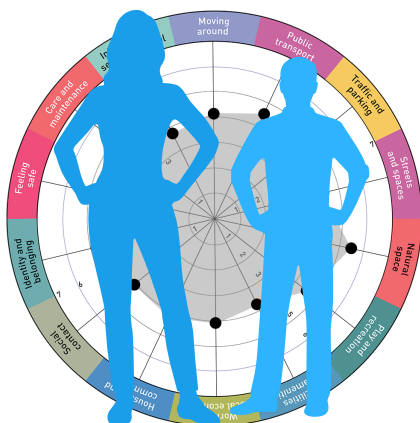
What we did

Holme Valley North ward councillors, supported by Brockholes C of E Junior and Infant School, asked local people what they think about life in Brockholes. We asked people who live in, work in or visit Brockholes about what works now, how things might change in the future and what matters most to them. We used a tool called the “Place Standard” which encourages conversations about your local place, by using some simple questions.

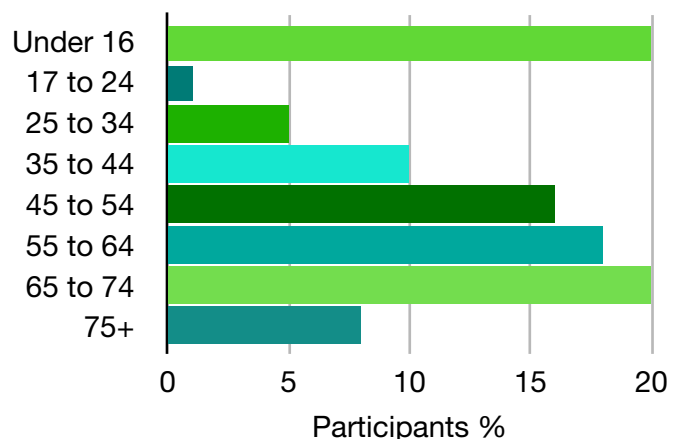
Who participated?

We promoted Ask Brockholes locally on noticeboards, via community groups, with local businesses and on social media. There were three drop-in events at Brockholes Village Hall. Children took part in group conversations at Brockholes C of E Junior and Infant School. 751 local households and businesses received a paper questionnaire and freepost return envelope. 76 people took part online.

147 citizens took part, completing **118** Place Standard assessments.

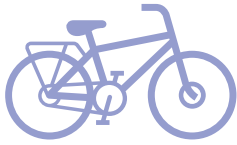


Female 44% Male 31%
Other / unknown 25%



What participants said

Moving around



Key issues: 44 participants commented about walking routes and footpaths. There is a good public footpath network for recreational walking and access to green spaces. Many flat routes are not always suitable for people with disabilities, such as the path to the caravan site. Cycling on public footpaths makes them impassable for walkers.



33 people commented about local cycle routes. Issues mentioned include...

Woodhead Road cycle path is not continuous. There is no cycle path on New Mill Road. It's very poor for safe cycling routes to Huddersfield and Holmfirth. New Mill Road is daunting due to parked cars and traffic speed from Rock Terrace to Thurstonland Bank. There is bottleneck and pinch point by the pelican crossing. The narrow pavement on New Mill Road towards Honley by the petrol station is dangerous. Poor road verges and potholes on Riding Fields, Steep Riding and Brockholes Lane.

18 people commented about the condition of pavements, mentioning that they are eroded, uneven or narrow (for example, by the Travellers Rest - a kerb only). Most pavements have raised or uneven slabs, which are trip hazards. Some are inaccessible for wheelchairs due to bins and cars - opposite The Rock Inn and builders merchants. Smithy Place has limited lighting, no footpath in parts and is icy in winter. There is no pavement at the bottom of Brockholes Lane and it is icy at the upper end in winter.

16 people commented about footpaths being in poor repair or overgrown and difficult to use, such as the top of Oakes Lane, in the Recreation Groun, Hagg Wood along the river is breaking up on a 30m stretch. There is dog waste, whilst poo bag bins remain empty. Signage is poor.

15 people commented about speeding on the main road and through the village, with some saying that Brockholes Lane and Smithy Place Lane are rat runs. There is congestion at school drop off and pick up times.

People commented about poor parking and parking on pavements, such as on Holmebank Mews at weekends, Brockholes Lane at school times, and at junctions. Access is difficult for pedestrians, especially parents with small children. New Mill Road and Rock Terrace pavement is often blocked by parked cars. The village green area is often congested. A few participants commented about poor pedestrian crossings - New Mill Road from Smithy Place to Huddersfield and at Neiley. The speed of cars on Woodhead Road by Holmfirth Camping site is a safety risk when crossing to Hagg Wood. There is no safe crossing into Brockholes Recreation Ground.

Suggestions

20mph speed limits throughout the village. Safe crossing outside school. School to encourage parents, families, carers to walk to school. Ban parking on Brockholes Lane and bottom of Oakes Lane at the start and end of the school day. Car-free walking zone for school children. Smithy Place Lane – make one-way and 20mph speed limit. Maintain routes to allow for more accessibility. Work on off-road paths so they are less waterlogged and muddy (for example, field to left of Oakes Lane. Upkeep of river path).

Clean kerbside path from Brockholes Bowling Club to petrol station (it's full of grit and rubble). Enforcement of dog waste on footpaths. Move bins from Rock Terrace. Oakes Avenue – remove grass verges to allow for parking. Ban parking on verges at the Thurstonland Bank end of Oakes Avenue. Safe cycle route direct into Holmfirth, Honley and Huddersfield. High kerb so people feel safe from main road traffic. Barriers to restrict illegal use of footpaths by cyclists. Cycle lanes and more routes for cyclists.

95 people commented on this theme.

"I appreciated the numerous footpaths around Brockholes during lock down."

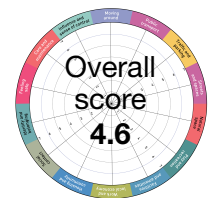
"Moved here a year ago, excited to have countryside to walk 2 dogs in. We still have no idea where public walks are, where is safe to walk or possible to go."

Public transport



Key issues: 44 participants commented on bus services. They said there are good transport links overall into Huddersfield and that bus services are frequent (every half hour), convenient and mostly

reliable. It's not far to walk between stops. There's a good minibus to Holmfirth and Meltham, which is good for older people.



However, bus stops no longer have a timetables attached and stops are not visible. Few stops have shelters. Bus services are restricted at night. Routes are limited so it is difficult to move quickly and easily between the valleys. Sometimes buses are not very clean and not well ventilated.

12 participants commented about the cost of bus fares, saying they are "expensive" and "much too high." One person said it is cheaper for the family to get a taxi to Holmfirth or Wakefield. Young people pay a disproportionate amount when they are in low paid work or training. Bus fares are higher than train fares.

60 people commented about train services from Brockholes station to Huddersfield and Sheffield. The service is convenient, valued, and an attraction to the area but only runs once an hour, less on a Sunday and can be unreliable: "they are often late and get stuck due to the single track." There have been recent cancellations at peak times due to driver shortages. A few people said train fares are expensive. The pre-paid ticketing machine is convenient, but puts older people at a disadvantage. The station platform is narrow, making it difficult when there are a lot of people.

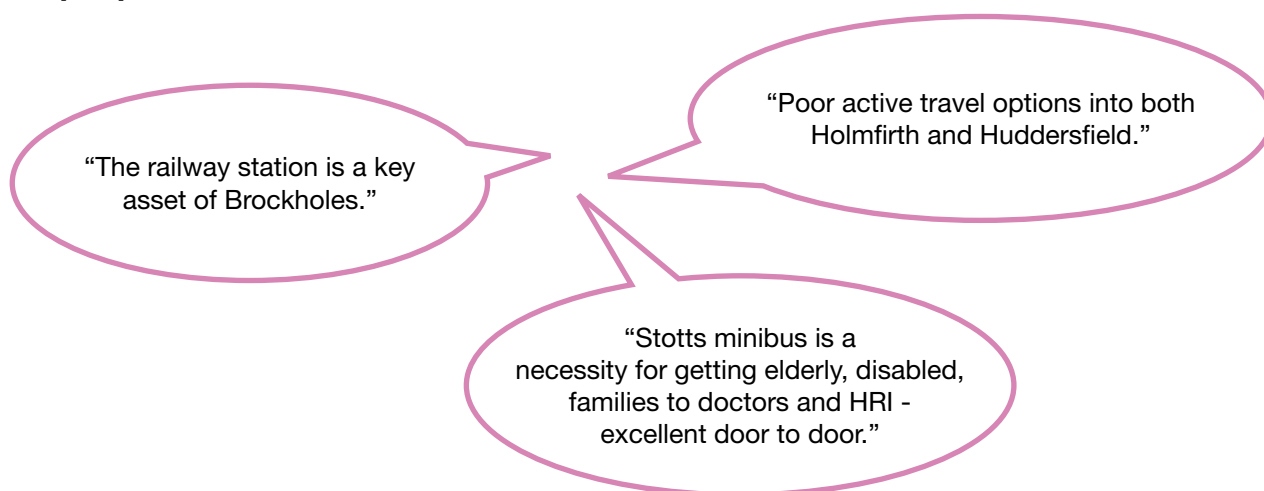
There is no secure parking for cars and bikes and no toilets at the station or in the village. The station is well maintained but basic. There are some issues with train commuters parking in the village. Some participants said there is poor (if any) development strategy or plan to improve rail services and parking facilities for commuters.

15 people said they do not use public transport.

Suggestions

Have a local single decker bus to and from Brockholes station and up Oakes Avenue. A system that limits fares as in London and Manchester. Commission a bus service to the GPs in Holmfirth. Bus shelters between The Rock Inn & Travellers pubs on both sides. Timetable the small bus service to link with the trains. Sunday bus services. More frequent or half hourly train service at peak times. More parking at the station. Upgrade the station. Trains with tables and all with USB charging ports and Wi-Fi. Yellow lines on the bend by the station - checks by police or traffic officers at peak times. A direct train to Leeds and Sheffield for commuters.

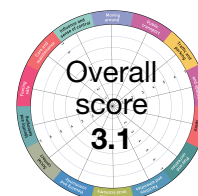
96 people commented on this theme.



Traffic and parking



Key issues: 87 participants commented about on-street parking. Issues include not having enough space and streets being full of parked cars, plus too much parking on pavements blocking pedestrian access. On Holmebank Mews and New Mill Road, households with more than one car and large vehicles cause issues. Outside local shops and takeaways it is difficult to get out of Brockholes (via both exits). Yellow lines and zig zags are ignored. Parking on Brockholes Lane by people using businesses, the school club and village hall affects residents.



There were 52 comments about parking around Brockholes School at school times. It can be very busy, congested and not always safe. People park on double yellow lines. Only one place is safe to cross with children - the island by Oakes Lane and Brockholes Lane. Parking overflows into residential areas such as Oakes Lane. There is double parking on Brockholes Lane bend.

27 people commented about traffic and speeding. The speed limit on Brockholes Lane outside the school is too fast – it is the national speed limit and does not change to 30mph until after the junction for Ridings Fields.

Heavy traffic on New Mill Road, and speeding towards Huddersfield after the speed cameras, is noisy and polluting. Woodhead Road speed limit is too fast, with insufficient calming measures in place.

Traffic through the village between the speed cameras at either end is often too high. It's a rat run down Smithy Place and dangerous by the blind bend. Drivers do not observe the zebra crossing at the end of River Holme View. The recent addition of the pedestrian crossing by Alexander's has helped pedestrians to cross New Mill Road safely.

Parking often obstructs junctions and causes problems for traffic trying to pull out. The War Memorial junction and the junctions leading from there onto the main road are dangerous.

On Brockholes Lane, under the bridge, trees and bushes grow into the road and above the railway bridge. The side drains are blocked. This causes flooding when it rains heavily, with stones and mud being washed into the village and eroding the gullies.

Suggestions:

20mph speed limit at the school and throughout the village. Waiting restrictions and traffic calming outside the school and down the hill, double yellow lines on school side of Brockholes Lane and enforcement, rumble strips. Drop off point for children who are walked to school by a paid member of staff. Additional parking for school staff. One way system up Brockholes Lane and round the green. Permit parking on Brockholes Lane with one car per household. More parking areas around the station. Shuttle drop off and collection service to station using playing field or Harriers car park. Parking lay-bys on Oakes Avenue, traffic calming and signage. Regular enforcement of parking restrictions on the main road. Extra parking for Alexander's sandwich shop. Rock Terrace to have designated parking to free up the main road. Re-paint white line of the road centre to one side, to indicate where cars should be positioned. 'Do not Enter' hatch box at top of Luke Lane for cars turning in from New Mill Road. Controls on large wagons and lorries using the village as a short cut to the motorway.

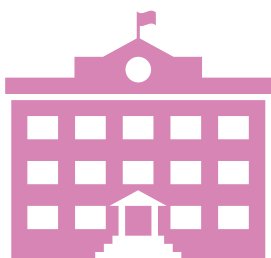
104 people commented on this theme.

"For most of its length Brockholes Lane is effectively a single track road due to all the parked cars."

"Traffic on New Mill Road is terrible, especially at school times. It's very difficult and dangerous for my daughter to cross to Honley High School."

"Parking on the pavements is really bad for mums with kids and prams."

Streets and spaces



Key issues: Participants gave mixed comments about the attractiveness of the village, from being post-industrial with a lack of a village centre to being very attractive, with the recreation ground at the centre. The main road cuts the village in two and there is no sense of arrival in Brockholes.



26 people commented about the maintenance of streets. The Kirklees Council street sweeper comes every week – the streets are clean and tidy. Pavements and roads are not always well maintained. There is litter and dog dirt on the footpaths. Oakes Avenue grass verges are very muddy due to cars parking on them, and have litter and dog mess. The garage site at the back of Oakes Avenue is an eyesore because of illegal dumping and fly tipping. The footpath by the station is covered in moss and leaves, so can be slippery. The wall by Travellers pub was knocked down a few years ago and still not repaired.

There were 25 comments about parks and green spaces. Trees get cut down, such as the cherry blossom on the school drive. Open spaces are pleasant. The park behind Rock Terrace isn't easily accessible by pram, and entrances on Brockholes Lane are not easy to use for young children.

22 people commented about buildings. There are a good range of buildings, traditional and modern houses make it aesthetically pleasing. Brockholes has many positive features such as the Recreation Ground, village hall, caravan site and train station. The village hall is well maintained and is a good facility for residents. Participants mentioned the Rock's flower displays, toll bar and pack horse bridge, and older buildings on the main road which are attractive.

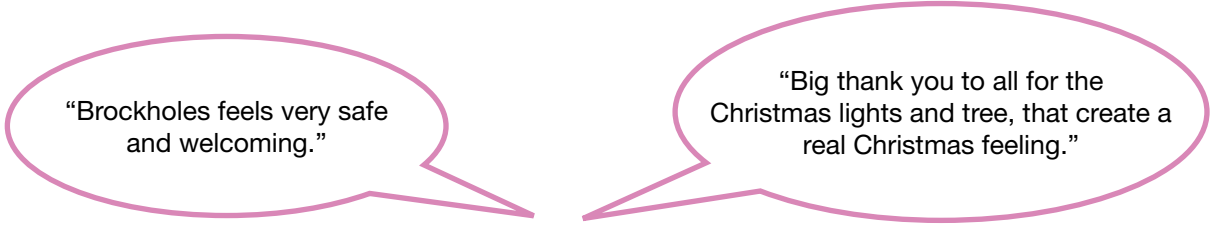
There are more business units on the main road, which are also part of village heritage and people said it is important that small businesses thrive. The approach to the village hall is poorly lit and the nearby church yard is dark. School children commented inside the after-school club at Brocks is scruffy and toilets are dirty. There is vandalism, rubbish, tipping, and anti-social behaviour on the land behind the village shop.

15 people shared concerns about planned developments. Participants said that too many green spaces being are used, more houses will spoil the area, and they are concerned about the impact on bigger green spaces and wildlife (for example, Lancaster Lane and green spaces surrounding Robinson Lane and Brook Motor fields). People are concerned that the village is losing its identity. Facilities and roads cannot support more people.

Suggestions

Public art. Developments should be strictly restricted. More cherry blossom. More tree planting at roadside. More wildflowers. Ban spraying of herbicide Roundup. Tidy paths overgrown with greenery frequently and add flowers. More lighting to highlight building features. Celebrate historical buildings such as the church - protect the Methodist church building for community use. A contemporary independent coffee shop selling local coffee. Dog fouling campaign with children at the school. Ban dogs on the Recreation Ground. More seating in the Recreation Ground. Repaint bridge on the footpath between the campsite and Luke Lane. The listed boundary marker, Rock Terrace is one of 4 Grade II listed building structures in Brockholes. It requires painting and the lettering highlighting - a legal responsibility of Kirklees Council. Remove "private land keep out" signs outside nearby woods that people have walked in for years.

78 people commented on this theme.



"Brockholes feels very safe and welcoming."

"Big thank you to all for the Christmas lights and tree, that create a real Christmas feeling."

"The Rock Inn put a lot of effort in to making the main road look lovely."

"The dis-used Methodist building is on a lot of people's mind and how this will be used in future."

Natural space



Key issues: Overall, people said that Brockholes is a beautiful village with good access to fields, woods, parks and the river (46 people commented). There are good views and wildlife, such as Hagg Wood by the river, by the railway, and the wood from Riding Field to Neily playing field, used to get to school in summer.



Some people said the park and play area are not maintained to a very high standard. The Recreation Ground could be improved for the whole community to use, for example by adding outdoor exercise equipment and a putting green. The park isn't pram or wheelchair friendly. It opens onto the road so people can't let dogs off the lead or allow young children to run safely.

Some footpaths are very overgrown. Poor conditions on the riverside footpath since flooding and the railway path is boggy for nine months of the year. Some popular routes are used by cyclists. The walk from Riding Fields over the railway is slippery in places and the path along the river from Smithy Place to the industrial units needs improving. Most paths through fields and woods are inaccessible for people with physical disabilities, the elderly, and pushchairs. Footpath signs are not always clear. There is limited seating on most walking routes. Plastic bags, glass in the woods, dog poo, and rubbish in the river are all issues. Garden waste is thrown over fences onto the railway line.

26 people said they have concerns about the impact of new development on natural spaces. Local flora and fauna are at risk and flooding has increased in cellars and gardens on the main road.

Suggestions

The path through the wood needs immediate attention. Open up a riverside walk to Holmfirth. A footpath along the river at Smithy Place will be great (work by River Holme Connections ranger is welcome). Footpath from Brockholes Lane alongside railway line towards Thurstonland needs work. Improve path at the top of Oakes Lane to the fields and woods (very muddy). Signpost footpaths and information about circular routes. Maintain the graveyard. More allotments (our allotments were taken away in Brockholes). Shabby garages on Oakes Avenue need attention. Bring back TRA and estate walkabouts (things have gone downhill since this ceased). Apply and closely monitor the Biodiversity Net Gain policy adopted by the council.

83 people commented on this theme.

"Play football on the fields, enjoy walks in the wood. On sunny days at the after-school club we can go to the bottom rec by Brockholes school."

"Badgers are an important part of the fauna and I'm concerned that they've been adversely affected by the housing development on Lancaster Lane."

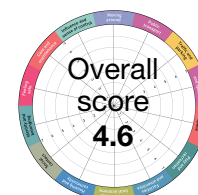
"I don't think that there is enough provision for young adults in the Village. No groups for the elderly."

"I hope if the new-build development goes ahead provision is made for a new play area in it as part of the S106 requirements."

Play and recreation



Key issues: People said there are two well used parks in Brockholes. For other leisure activities such as tennis, football and youth clubs, people travel into Holmfirth, Huddersfield or further.



34 people commented about Brockholes Recreation Ground. It has been improved greatly over the past 10 years, with good play area and is generally well kept. The After School Club regularly uses it. Older children enjoy a game of football using the goal posts. Walls and fencing make it a safe environment.

However, the Rec needs more equipment, pram access, better seating and more maintenance. The goal areas are worn and it gets water logged. Additional play equipment that toddlers and young children can access would improve it. The climbing frame and equipment is too large and high for smaller children. The play area is not challenging for children aged over seven or usable for children with disabilities. Access to and from Brockholes Lane does not always feel safe as the steps are directly on to the road with limited visibility for pedestrians and road users. Dog mess is a frequent problem. There can be anti-social behaviour and noise in summer.

There is a bowling club and pétanque. The village hall holds social events and some are advertised on the notice board by the shop. Playing in the woods and fields is a real bonus.

Suggestions

More local recreational and leisure facilities. More facilities in the rec for children of all ages. A hand ball court, more swings and regular upkeep of the bark. Install adult exercise equipment. Small fence around the play equipment to deter animals fouling where people play. Improvements to the Rec as at Meltham Pleasure Grounds. Some raised bed planters at the Rec - link with the school. Spruce up and develop the top playground on Oakes Avenue. Close off streets at certain times so children can play. Reclaim the Streets campaign. More events such as a gala on the Rec to increase sense of local community. Youth clubs and fitness activities for all abilities in the village hall.

78 people commented on this theme.

"A super local pub where the landlady has worked very hard to support the locals."

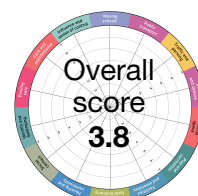
"For those less fortunate there is very little to support to access services."

"We need to be careful not to replace community shops with drive-thru services."

Facilities and amenities



Key issues: The majority of participants commented about limited amenities in Brockholes, in particular, shops. For most facilities people travel to Honley, Holmfirth or Huddersfield. The local shop and garage have good opening hours, but are quite expensive. Loss of the Co-op, green grocers, post office and glass collection is an issue. The mobile post office on Thursday mornings at the bowling club is not convenient for residents who can't walk.



Brockholes school children said there are not many shops to get healthy food from in the village. They can get pizzas and burgers at the village takeaways. No cafe to meet friends. 18 people commented about facilities for community and social activities. The village hall is a good facility and is well used. It hosts regular events and is used by the after-school club. Classes and groups run in the hall for health and learning. It has recently acquired a small boules court. It could be used more - not everyone uses it.

The Methodist chapel has closed so there is no meeting place for older people. It catered for luncheons, community events, meetings, baby and toddler group, youth and cinema club, as well as band practises.

There is lots to do in the wider area if people can travel. There are easily accessible sports clubs, tennis and athletics. Football is available nearby, also gyms and soft play areas. The mobile library service is no longer provided. Older people travel by public transport to Holmfirth or Honley to access library and GP services. There are no NHS dentists locally. A few people commented about the impact of developments on local amenities, school places, GPs and the increase in traffic in the wider area.

Suggestions

A shelter with perspex roof where people can sit on rainy days and enjoy the outdoors, with outdoor chess area. Better public transport to the GPs in Holmfirth. A coffee shop, green grocers and local produce store. Mobile post office at the village hall. The shop at bottom of Brockholes Lane needs updating. At Neily sports could there be bottle banks beside the other facilities for charities? Village hall ping-pong tables for open use, end room for groups, knit and natter, art classes. A community cafe and organisation meeting communal needs. A baby group at the village hall. Access funding to reimagine the Methodist Hall space - rehearsal space, theatre, coffee bar, post office, village shop, art gallery, a space for playgroups, youth club or yoga classes.

96 people commented on this theme.

Work and local economy



Key issues: 25 people commented about local businesses and work opportunities in and around Brockholes. There are good local businesses on the industrial estate and opportunities to start up and grow. There are some good job opportunities for local people.



Some people said there are few or limited opportunities for businesses or local work, though there are opportunities in the wider valley. Job opportunities appear to be limited to low paid work with people commuting for higher paid work. A large number of retail and work spaces have been built on greenfield and the old mill complex has given businesses opportunity to relocate.

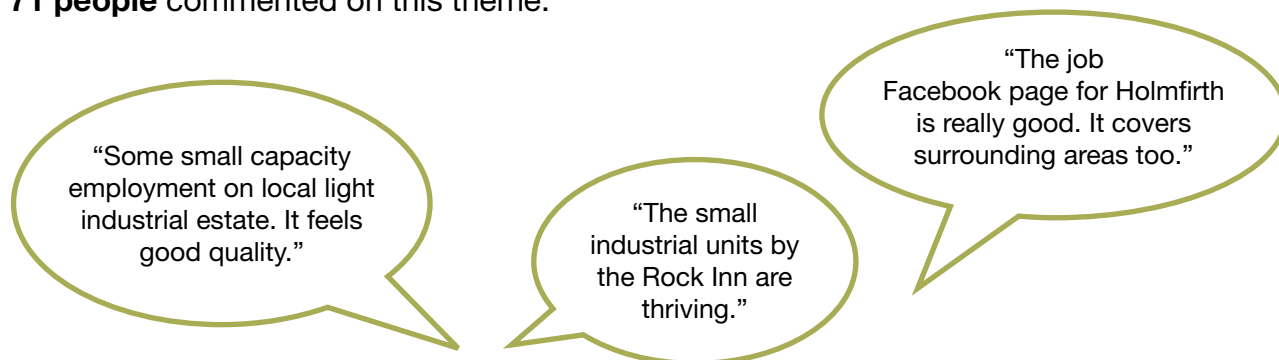
13 people commented about commuting for work. Most people travel to other areas for work and some commute to Leeds, Manchester or Sheffield for higher skilled or professional jobs.

Children at Brockholes School said their parents have a mix of local jobs and some travel to Manchester and Sheffield for work. There is work for teenagers in Holmfirth. 25 people said they can't comment due to not being in work or being retired.

Suggestions

Better public transport and frequency of trains would support employment. Employ local people, use local produce, buy at farm shops. Affordable office and business spaces for start-ups.

71 people commented on this theme.



Housing and community



Key issues: 25 participants commented about the range of housing in the Brockholes area. It ranges from traditional to modern and various sizes, owned, social and mainly private housing. New modest estates in recent years have fitted in.

People settle and tend to remain. There is not a big turnover of house sales. Prices are higher than other areas. Retired people with mobility issues stay in the community in bungalows. Most housing is well looked after, but some properties look scruffy.



42 people commented about the lack of affordable homes locally for first time buyers, young people and families. New builds are not affordable. 3, 4 or 5 bedroom houses are the norm for new builds.

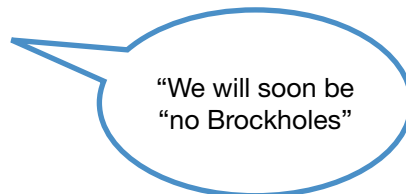
Elderly residents on Oakes Avenue have to move out of the village they have lived in for a long time, when they are asked to downsize by the council. There is no sheltered housing. Not enough social housing is available for rent. Some rentals are empty and neglected. 19 people said that new housing puts a strain on the local infrastructure and facilities, with issues mentioned including flooding, sewage, drainage and traffic. People are concerned about access to school places, doctors and dentists.

Some people commented about the impact of new building on wildlife. High density housing degrades wildlife, destroys habitats and breaks up wild areas. The design of the proposed estate at Smithy Place doesn't link into the village. Children at Brockholes School said they are concerned about there being less green space, where wildlife, hedgehogs, deer, badgers, foxes are all losing their habitat. Too many trees have been chopped down in the school grounds.

Suggestions

Demolish sub-standard housing, make it easier for developers to rebuild. More affordable housing for local people – town or terraced. Affordable eco housing. Priority to smaller properties including bungalows. More starter homes. Refuse any more planning applications.

82 people commented on this theme



Social contact



Key issue: 28 participants said the opportunity for social contact in the village is limited and that there is not much of a range of facilities. For most activities and events people travel to neighbouring villages. The village hall is underutilised by the whole community, and it's sometimes difficult to contact people at the hall. There are a lack of opportunities for over 60s to meet up, of coffee and chat sessions, lunches, craft activities or things for young people aged over 11. Since the Methodist church has closed the village has lost the soup lunch for older people. Since groups have stopped meeting during Covid there is less social contact. There is only one bench at the park.



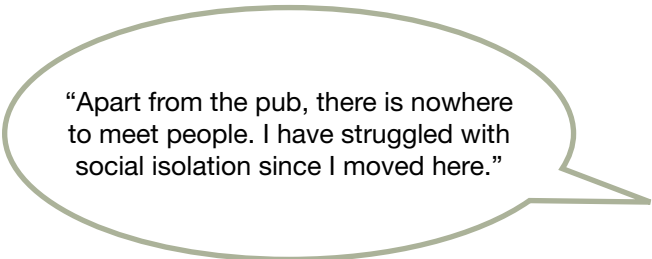
25 people said that social contact in Brockholes is good and there is opportunity to meet people. People are friendly and mix quite a lot. The village hall is used by the pre-school and after school club, for some regular groups and classes, as well as occasional talks and events organised by the Village Trust. There are monthly events, which have just started after a long break due to covid.

There are two pubs in the village. The Rock Inn organises events for charities and local fundraisers. There have been events for the whole community held in the school and church. The park provides a great outdoor space to relax and socialise with friends. There are also local sports clubs. People are on local Facebook sites.

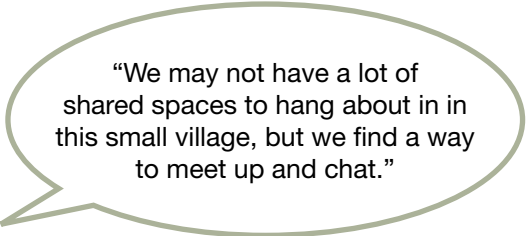
Suggestions

School to open its space for the local community to enjoy. A toddler group in the village. A youth club. Village hall could be more adventurous and put on more for the community. Additional funding to enable the village hall maintenance and improvement. More people involved in promoting and organising use of the hall. A coffee morning once a week. A cafe to socialise and catch-up with friends. The Rec is a hugely under-used space - Summer fetes and events could be put on. Areas to plant veg and cultivate, like the park at Farnley Tyas. Open the church during the week for prayer and reflection.

75 people commented on this theme



"Apart from the pub, there is nowhere to meet people. I have struggled with social isolation since I moved here."



"We may not have a lot of shared spaces to hang about in in this small village, but we find a way to meet up and chat."

Identity and belonging



Key issues: 39 participants said that Brockholes has its own distinct identity and sense of community. The village is viewed positively. It is a quiet village in the main. People are friendly and welcoming. People accept different members of the community. Older people feel connected to neighbours and friends, with good relationships between young and old residents.



Local people bring community spirit and create a nice environment to live in. The small Facebook groups bring people together to share information on crime, lost belongings and other things. People regularly share stories and photos on social media. The village trust organises regular events that celebrate local history. The school does a lot to help with identity and belonging.

There is a lot of heritage at Smithy Place - Toll Bar and industrial archaeology, the old mill site at the entrance to Hagg Wood and the war memorial. The school links with Holmfirth Harriers based at Neiley playing fields.

27 people said that Brockholes does not have a positive identity or sense of belonging. It has always struggled with identity as it is between Honley and Holmfirth - neither of which completely include Brockholes in events. Some people said its more of a through road.

Few people use the local shop. The Methodist church has closed and the church congregation is depleting. Covid has had an impact. The village hall is under used.

Housing developments feel separate to each other, and many people work outside the immediate area.

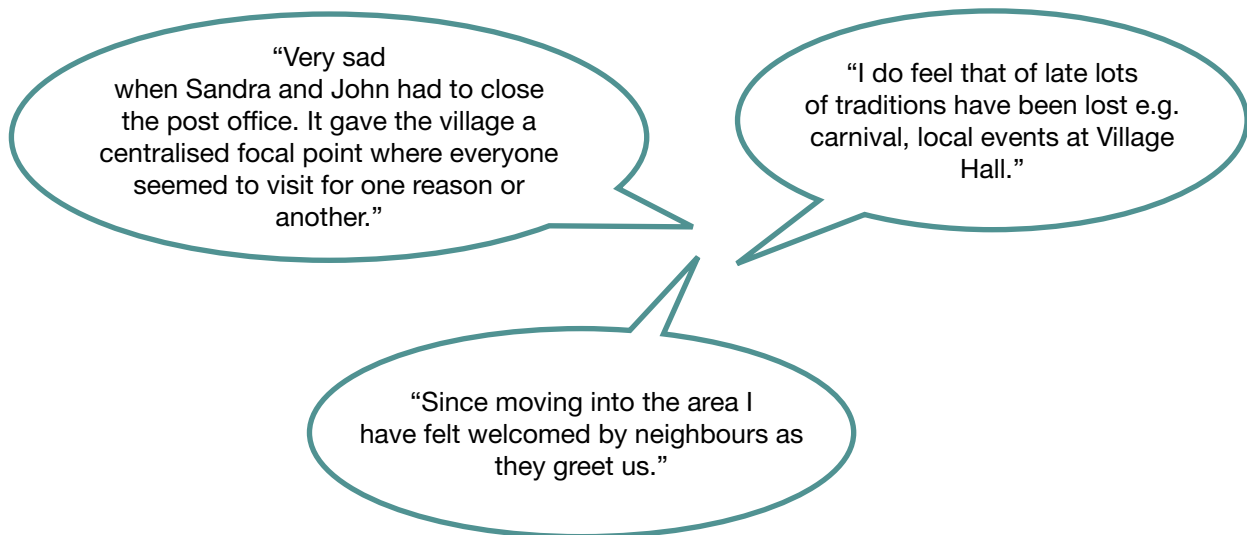
Suggestions

A history board would be a great community project. More sharing of local history.

The Village Trust should be supported by Kirklees Council and the parish council.

Recovery plans, events at school, church, park, village hall. Do we have a steering group?

66 people commented on this theme.



Feeling safe



Key issues: 43 participants said that Brockholes is a safe environment to live in. There is occasional crime from outside the village (break-ins, car theft) and anti-social behaviour issues. Roads and paths are well-lit.



25 participants said they do not feel safe, or feel less safe than they used to do at night, due to burglary, car theft and vandalism. Street lighting in some areas of the village such as on side roads is not sufficient. The path on to the Ridings is poorly lit and maintained. The 'duck hole' light has been out of action for over two years despite repeated requests. There is some anti-social behaviour near the pub and Brockholes Lane.

A few people said there are too many cold callers and they can be abusive, which is a big problem for the elderly. There were a few comments about people seen checking properties. There can be issues at the train station. Some participants mentioned a lack of Police presence.

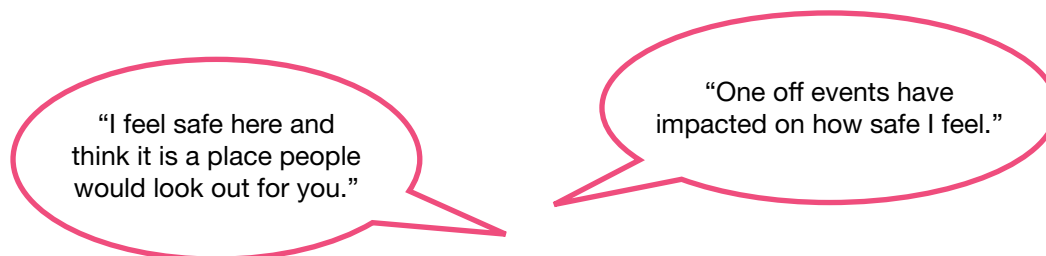
There is a lot of littering and dog mess. On the paths near the main road there are cans, rubbish and broken bottles thrown from passing vehicles. The main road is busy and cars drive close to the pavement. A lot of streets do not have pavements - for example, Smithy Place.

Brockholes school children said sometimes there is broken glass in the park and litter at the top park. The school was broken into a couple of years ago. The children feel safe to play in the parks in the day, but not in the top park on an evening. Everyone is friendly in the village.

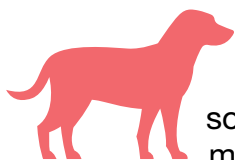
Suggestions

Lots of vehicle and opportunistic crime in the area – so CCTV would be beneficial. A 20mph speed limit. Gates and fences to prevent drug users and drinkers accessing the village hall car park. The path along the wood needs patrolling at night (cyclists and pedestrians in the dark with torches?). More lighting. PCSO presence to tackle anti-social behaviour. Kirklees Council need to blitz the garage site off Oakes Avenue and the path on Oakes Avenue needs cutting, along with regular estate inspections. A CCTV system to record cars entering and leaving Brockholes and Oaks Avenue.

76 people commented on this theme.



Care and maintenance



Key issues: 58 participants commented about lack of care and maintenance. They said Brockholes is scruffy in some parts. The play area and parks could be better maintained - there's broken glass, litter and dog poo. Too many TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) on trees around the

park at dangerous heights. Footpaths are poorly lit and rarely well maintained. Signposts may be at one end, but not at the other. Some places are overgrown with weeds and hedges. There's fly tipping in the wood areas next to the roads, river path and the corner of Brockholes Lane.



18 people commented about dog mess especially on footpaths, in fields and bags in trees, at the junction of Smithy Place and Rock Terrace. It is frequently mentioned on local social media sites. Some people mentioned a lack of recycling facilities nearer than Holmfirth, in particular for glass. The reporting system for missed bin collections is not helpful or responsive.

20 people said that buildings and spaces in Brockholes are, in the main, well maintained and cared for by local people and businesses. Footpaths through the woods in the village, Neiley fields and the Rec on Brockholes Lane need looking after. The railway station is attractive. Volunteers put a lot of effort into the village hall.

Some people said there is poor maintenance of roads. Road signs aren't clean, speed limit signs don't appear to have been uncovered properly since installation years ago.

There are too many potholes and overgrown pavements. Poor management of drainage issues further up Brockholes Lane. Long-raised issue of totally blocked drains and failure by the council to deal with it.

There were a few comments about poorly maintained gardens in some properties on Oakes Avenue. Large items of unwanted furniture and rubbish in the street and people's front gardens. Garage sites and green kerbs are neglected by the council.

A few people said there is a lack of an effective association for local residents, apart from the Brockholes Village Trust, whose main role is to run the village hall for the benefit of residents.

Suggestions

A recycling centre in the village, more recycle facilities, such as for clothing etc. Reintroduce glass collections. More litter bins. There is a lot of fly tipping at the top of Brockholes Lane and up near Heights Farm. More publicity on what the council bin collection can and cannot handle. Clean road drains and gutters regularly to prevent flooding. Resurface some roads and the bridge near the campsite needs attention. 'No dog poo' notices on lamp posts. Clean and weed footpaths regularly. Clean up the riverside. A path along the river from Brockholes. Top up gravel on the riverside walk. Kirklees Council to acquire land on riverside path from Crown to prevent fly tipping and encroachment from nearby housing. Encourage residents of Oakes Avenue to maintain the environment. Safety checks on the trees along the riverbank. Some trees look precarious and ready to fall. Left side of Brockholes Lane (just before school) - upgrade this area and have a planting scheme - veg and herbs.

75 people commented on this theme.



Influence and sense of control



Key issues: 33 participants said that they do not feel listened to. The planning process allows for comments, but they are not listened to. Developments have gone ahead on appeal even though the council may have

declined it initially, for example on Lancaster Lane. New housing estates are built without thought for the community, infrastructure and wildlife.

Kirklees Council does not act on emails and residents are not listened to or supported.



18 people said that they feel able to access information and contribute to local decision making. They mentioned positive dialogue with local parish and ward councillors and feedback - for example, posts on the local Facebook group.

A few people said they would like to get more involved, but weren't sure how to. Some participants were not sure that they would want to get more involved.

Suggestions

More community engagement would be helpful. Use social media to engage people and encourage them to get involved. A local group to consider local issues and to make suggestions to the council. A monthly surgery with local councillors. More activities for the older people in the village. A Mother and toddler group.

68 people commented on this theme.

"We have to continually object to the application to build 150 houses off Smithy Place Lane and Woodhead Road."

"We have a school council, there is training for it. Litter picking in the school grounds. We have a school eco committee."
(Brockholes school children)

"People can contribute if they want to - like this Ask Brockholes - sometimes it is about knowing whether the effort will result in any real benefit."

"Councillors do listen and act as much as possible on feedback. It's so sad to see the government overturn their hard work and go against what locals want."

Ask Brockholes score sheet

How participants scored Brockholes on a scale of 1 to 7,
whilst talking about 14 different themes:

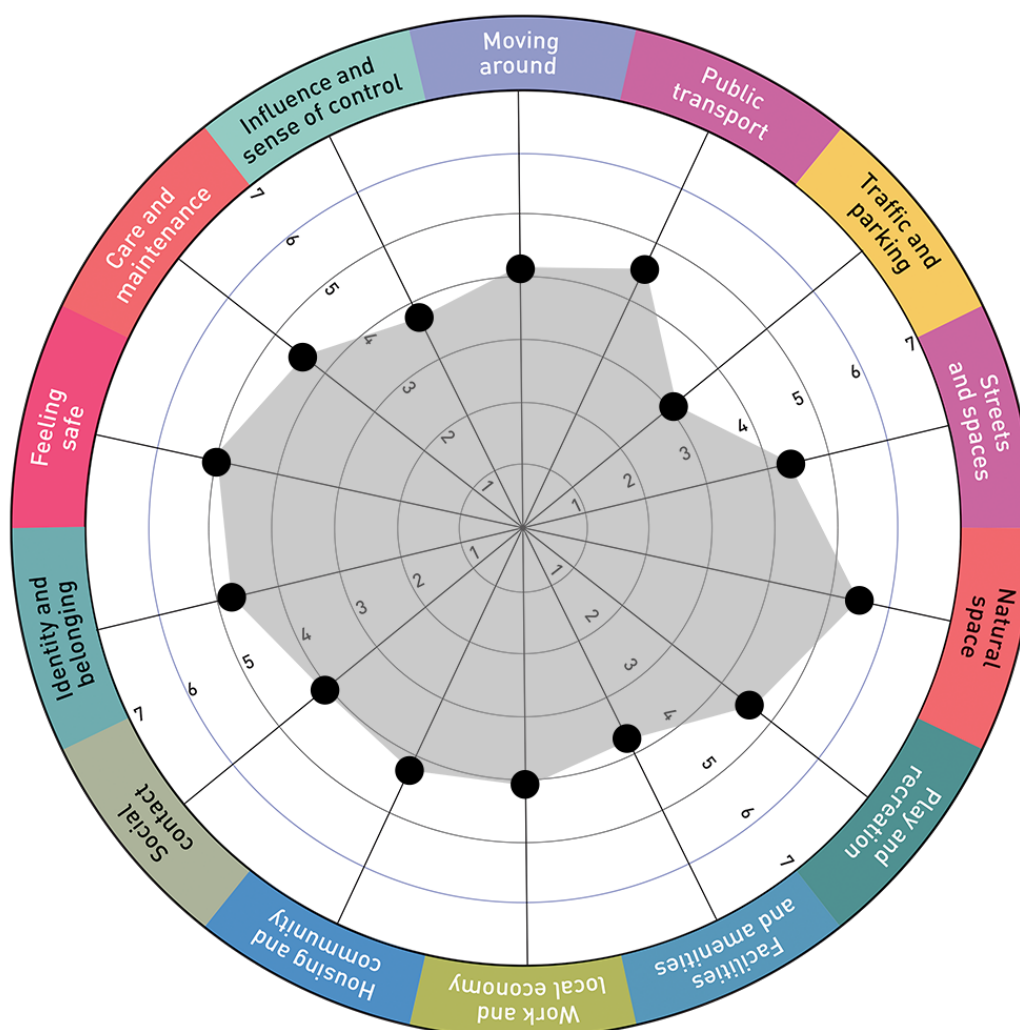
	Overall	Age Under 16	Age 25 to 44	Age 45 to 64	Age 65 to 75+	Male	Female
Moving around	4.1	6	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2
Public transport	4.6	5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Traffic and parking	3.1	2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Streets and spaces	4.3	5.7	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3
Natural space	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Play and recreation	4.6	6.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Facilities and amenities	3.8	4	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8
Work and local economy	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Housing and community	4.2	5	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Social contact	4.1	5	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Identity and belonging	4.8	6	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Feeling safe	5	4.7	5	5	5	5	5
Care and maintenance	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Influence and sense of control	3.8	5.3	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8

147 people participated in the Ask Brockholes conversations,
completing **118** assessments.

The overall scores are the **Mean average** of the **118** assessments.

The scores from Under 16s are based on three sets of combined scores,
each from a group discussion of ten young participants.

Overall scores for Ask Brockholes



Natural space	5.4
Feeling safe	5
Identity and belonging	4.8
Public transport	4.6
Play and recreation	4.6
Care and maintenance	4.4
Streets and spaces	4.3

Housing and community	4.2
Moving around	4.1
Work and local economy	4.1
Social contact	4.1
Facilities and amenities	3.8
Influence and sense of control	3.8
Traffic and parking	3.1

Full data is available at:
www.HowGoodIsOurPlace.org.uk