

Listening to Birkenshaw



Listening to Birkenshaw action plan

May 2024



Listening to Birkenshaw - turning our conversations into action

What we did in Birkenshaw

Birstall and Birkenshaw ward councillors supported by Kirklees Council, talked to local people about what life is like in Birkenshaw. 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. Each of the 1,522 households received an engagement pack including a letter, our ‘Listening to Birkenshaw’ questionnaire and web links for more information. We have used what we learned to create this action plan, which includes ideas for how to improve the local area.

Who Participated

397 citizens took part, completing 355 Place Standard assessments. Following publication of the results summary, we undertook some further engagement with citizens to check the priorities identified were correct, so we could form the action plan. These events were run during June and July 23.

Listening to Birkenshaw overview & Results summary with full data

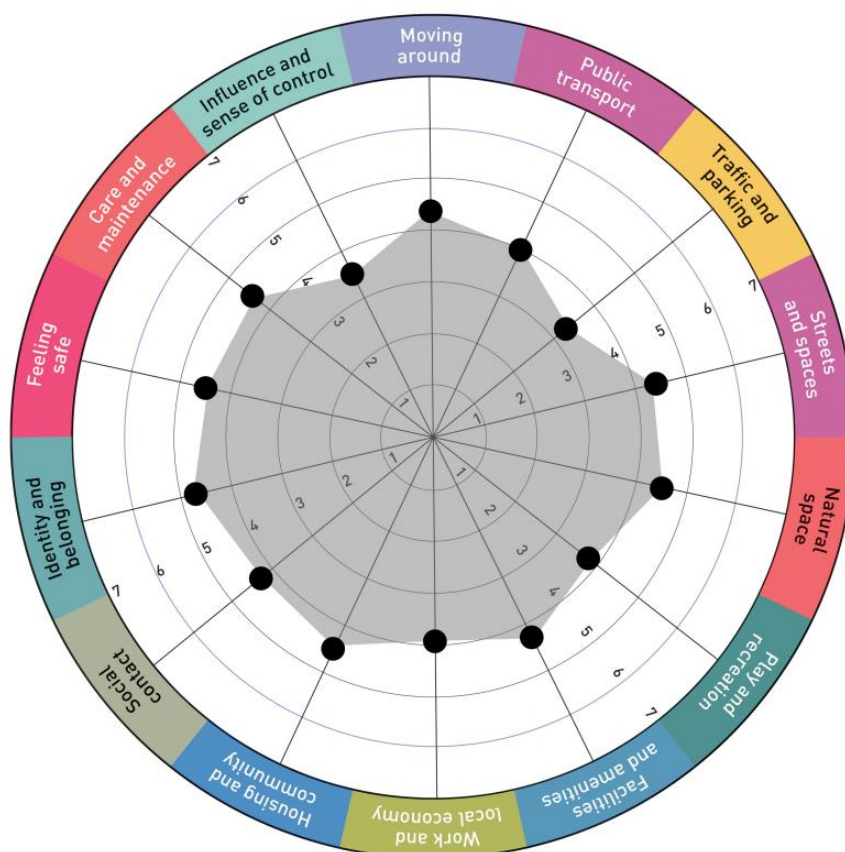
<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/listening-to-birkenshaw/>

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/2023/05/18/listening-to-birkenshaw-results/>



Information regarding the local demographic of Birkenshaw is available on the Kirklees Observatory:
<https://observatory.kirklees.gov.uk>

Overall scores for Listening to Birkenshaw



How people in Birkenshaw scored their place, on a scale of 1 to 7, whilst talking about 14 different themes, and how many comments we received about each of these themes.

Theme	Average score overall	Number of comments made
Moving around	4.3	214
Public transport	4	225
Traffic and parking	3.2	254
Streets and spaces	4.3	96
Natural space	4.5	192
Play and recreation	3.8	221
Facilities and amenities	4.2	224
Work and local economy	3.9	159
Housing and community	4.6	202
Social contact	4.6	181
Identity and belonging	4.2	149
Feeling safe	4.8	215
Care and maintenance	4.5	206
Influence and sense of control	4.4	169

Full results, including information about how different people responded, are available at: <https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/2023/05/18/listening-to-birkenshaw-results/>

Ideas and actions

After reviewing the data, we held follow up workshops where we asked participant to prioritize concerns that were raised in the feedback. The table below sets out priorities, ranked highest to lowest.

Action plan

Rank	Theme	Concern	Details	Suggestions / Possible Actions – Agreed Actions and Outcome Suggestions	Funding	Lead / Partners
	Traffic and parking	A variety of parking issues, poor animal ownership, dog warden	pavement parking, lack of specific parking areas, double parking, parking close to junctions, household car numbers.	School campaign project, targeted communication with specific problem areas.	Funding allocated through Listening to Birstall Action plan	School, KMC, councillors
	Play and recreation	Places for teenagers to go	Lack of opportunities for young people come together positively.	Working with local partners, we will explore options to develop a youth open access scheme in the park, (working towards an indoor venue for the following winter).	£7500	Local organisations, KMC and councillors
	Streets and spaces Care and maintenance	Public spaces require more regular maintenance	Litter picking, managing trees & leaves	We will continue to monitor the area and working with council teams and local volunteers. Litter picking equipment for volunteers	£500	Local groups, KMC
	Moving around	Limited or no safe cycling infrastructure	Places specifically identified - A58 / A651, Links to Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield	We will look for funding opportunities through local and national schemes.		KMC

	Facilities and amenities Streets and spaces	Limited facilities / Needs competition / Requires investment.	Bakery, Post office, green grocers, public toilets, charity shop	Councillors have explored opportunities to develop unused spaces in the village. We will continue to explore these opportunities.		
	Feeling safe	ASB / drug dealing	Park area & Co-op	Level of community reporting has improved, and police response has been positive. Councillors and partners will continue to monitor these events. We will explore youth diversionary activities, as previously mentioned		KMC, WYP, councillors and community partners
	Identity and belonging	Maintaining local identity and recognising Local history	Recent and future developing changing the local identity	We would like to explore working with residents and schools to develop a history trail, with some identified landmarks around the area.	£2500	BBG School, community partners
	Traffic and parking	High levels of traffic / poor air quality	Key Area - Bottom of Birkenshaw roundabout / Whitehall Road. M62 effect A650)	We will continue to monitor the air quality in the arena work with the air quality action plans to ensure (as much as possible) air quality is maintained.		
	Streets and spaces	More access and better green spaces.	Walking, play and sport, mobility issues	Local play spaces are currently being redeveloped. We are looking to develop a local history trail, where we will identify local paths that are suitable for everyone.		Kirklees MC
	Influence and sense of control	Opportunities to contribute to local issues.		Local councillors will be running a programme of ward forums.		Councillors
	Housing and communities	Targeted housing options	Older people, disabilities, downsizing	Where possible we would like to work with planners and developers to explore local housing issues.		KMC, developers and councillors

	Social contact	Limited space for local activities & people unsure about opportunities	meetings, Project, or activities	Councillors have supported Birkenshaw Village Association's community noticeboard, to help groups advertise and fill community projects, which benefit local community spaces.		Birkenshaw Village Association
	Housing and communities Natural space	Too much development	Green space concerns, loss of village feel, poor design.	Any review of the local plan, we would oppose any further allocation of land.		Councillors
	Public transport	Poor service / journey times	Service to Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Leeds, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, Hospital / Doctors, Station Lane Sunday service (Effects education, Work requirements and social opportunities)	Local Public transport is managed through the West Yorkshire mayor and the west Yorkshire Combine authority – Improvement strategies can be found at: A Mayoral Combined Authority - West Yorkshire Combined Authority (westyorks-ca.gov.uk)		WYCA
	Facilities and amenities	Concerns around Birkenshaw Medical Centre usage	Limited or no appointments, generally under used	Information forming the Listening to Birkenshaw programme has been shared with local PCN partners and practice managers.		Practice Manager
	Moving around	Paths overgrown or in need of maintenance.	Areas identified - Allotments at Bottoms Lane, Moor Lane (between the allotments)	We work throughout the year to ensure that path receive and cut back and maintenance. We encourage reporting in hot spot area.		KMC, councillors