

Ask Meltham 2024 action plan

Spring 2026



Ask Meltham - turning our conversations into action

What we did in Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw

In Autumn 2024 Meltham Town Council, working with Kirklees Council, undertook a second Ask Meltham conversation. To ask local people what life is like in Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw and to review progress since the first Ask Meltham conversation in 2019.

The “Place Standard” tool was used. The tool is a way of helping to get conversations going about any place (it could be your street, neighbourhood, or town). 514 people including 167 young people took part in the conversations. The conversations were led by a team of 20 volunteers from the local community, local town councillors, & Kirklees ward councillors and staff.

Volunteers talked to groups, individuals and businesses about our area. We had conversations in many local places, including Meltham Carlile, Wilshaw Village Hall, Meltham Library, St Bartholomew’s, Meltham Sports and Community Centre. We talked with children and young people at Meltham Youth Club, Meltham CE, Meltham Moor, Helme CE and Honley High schools. We also had conversations at local cafes and businesses.

The aim was to ensure planning by the town council and others continues to reflect the priorities identified by Meltham residents, businesses and local groups and to support bids for funding for Meltham. We have used what we learned to create this action plan, which includes ideas for how to improve the local area.



Ask Meltham overview & results summary with full data are available at:

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/ask-meltham/>

About Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw

Meltham Town Council is the first tier of local government serving the communities of Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw.

The total population is 9,417 (ONS population estimate 2024)

Male 4,572 (48.6%) Female 4,845 (51.5%)

Age under 16 – 1,691 (18 %)

Age 16 to 29 – 1,232 (13.1%)

Age 30 to 44 – 1,709 (18.2%)

Age 45 to 64 – 2,529 (26.9 %)

Age 65 plus – 2,256 (24 %)

White 8,672 Census 2021 (95.2%)

Black British 77 (0.8%) Census 2021

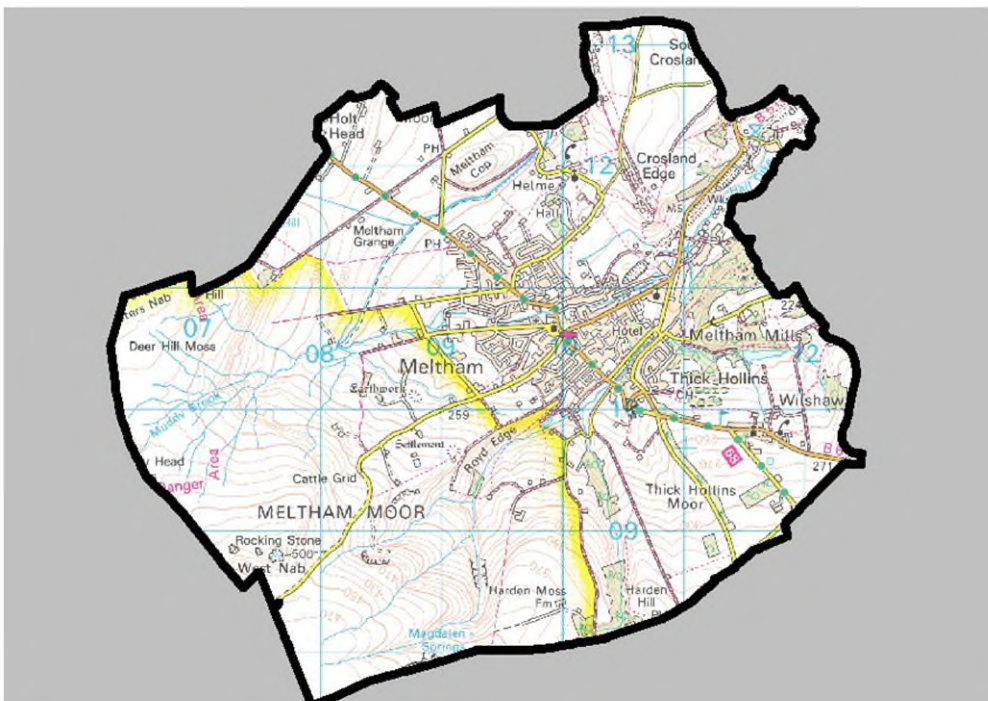
Mixed ethnic groups 205(2.3%) Census 2021

Number of households 3,885 (Census 2021)

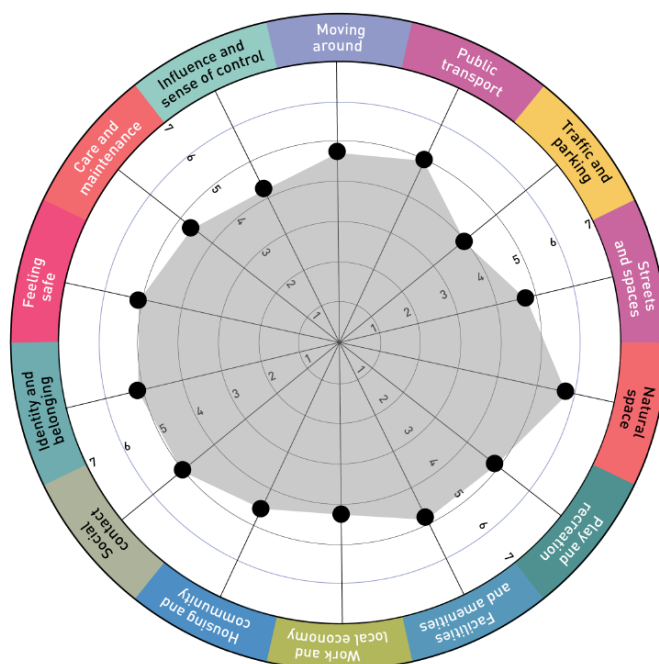
This information for Meltham Civil Parish is from the Kirklees Observatory:

<https://observatory.kirklees.gov.uk/>

<https://observatory.kirklees.gov.uk/overview-reports/#/view-report/e80c9f72c04646a4a6ff4360100d23b7/00CZ004>



Ask Meltham results



How people in Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw 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 scores 2024	Number of comments made	Average scores 2019
Moving around	4.9	240	4.8
Public transport	4.7	218	5
Traffic and parking	3.9	247	4
Streets and spaces	4.8	201	4.7
Natural space	6.0	186	5.8
Play and recreation	5.2	175	4.9
Facilities and amenities	5.2	164	4.9
Work and local economy	4.4	142	4.2
Housing and community	4.8	161	4.6
Social contact	5.1	141	5
Identity and belonging	5.1	126	5.1
Feeling safe	5.0	154	5.1
Care and maintenance	4.6	149	4.7
Influence and sense of control	4.2	119	4.2

Full results, including information about how different people responded, are available at: [Ask Meltham 2024 – How good is our place?](#)

Ideas and actions

The following actions were identified by a working group of Meltham town councillors and Holme Valley North ward councillors. Feedback sessions were held in Autumn 2025 for the community to see the results and give their views on what the priority actions should be. Around 50 people took part at St Bartholomew’s Church, Meltham Complex, Wilshaw Village Hall, Meltham Carlile. Over 80 young people from Meltham CE, Meltham Moor, Helme, Honley High and Meltham Youth Group gave their views.

Action plan

Meltham Town Council has allocated £65k to develop actions resulting from Ask Meltham as part of Meltham Town Council’s Plan.

Theme	Suggestions made in engagement & feedback session	Actions in progress	Funding 2026-27	Lead, partners, responsibility
Meltham to be well-kept- attractive, tidy streets and spaces				
Streets & spaces Care & maintenance Play & recreation	Encourage tidy shop fronts, keep individual & welcoming. Avoid flashing light. Consistent shop fronts for uniform look. Clean old stonework. More planting in the centre, seasonal plants & colour scheme. Wildflowers on the outskirts of town & Pleasure Grounds.	<p>1. Invest in town centre shop fronts - consistent look to signage and lighting in keeping with the conservation area. Create a sense of pride in Meltham, encourage owners of buildings, spaces to care as stewards</p> <p>Town Council has little influence with owners. To liaise with Kirklees Council Area Conservation Officer to ask for a study of non-compliance to understand the issues.</p> <p>Town Council has funding for grants to improve shop fronts in Meltham centre and Meltham Mills (up to 50% of the cost). Also has recently approved a grant pot for up to 50% of the cost of CCTV in local businesses. Town Council to work with –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * businesses to tidy/ adopt pavement frontages * householders to tidy their own spaces, overhanging bushes * volunteers including Town Council recognition 		Town Council, Kirklees Area Conservation Team, local businesses and community

	<p>See to the flags in front of the town hall. Flags for special occasions. Attractive street furniture, bins, paving.</p> <p>Better maintenance of paths & overgrown bushes on paths. Clear weeds on pavements e.g. behind old clinic, back of Colders Lane, footpath Morrisons – Mean Lane, Huddersfield Rd.</p> <p>Clear rubbish from Poppy Gardens Culvert to Sports Complex. Anti-litter and fly tipping campaign. Rubbish by golf course public paths – suggest bins to golf club. Lack of litter bins at Wessenden Head.</p> <p>Improve Robert Ashton Park – café, refreshment kiosk or</p>	<p>2. Make Meltham centre attractive with flags, lights, flowers (Meltham in Bloom), benches, bins</p> <p>Town Council provides funding for hanging baskets and tubs in Meltham centre. Town Council is discussing how this will be sustainable in future and what alternative solutions to putting up hanging baskets could be put in place.</p> <p>The Town Council asset register, which includes street benches, is regularly updated. A new bench was installed recently on Wessenden Head Road and the telephone box in Wilshaw is being renovated.</p> <p>The Town Council has formally documented it is responsible for the Christmas lights in Meltham centre. Almost all the lights have been replaced recently.</p> <p>Meltham Memories group put up the flags in Meltham centre.</p> <p>Kirklees Council waste bin provision is satisfactory.</p> <p>3. Wildflower and tree planting around the village. Tidy up green spaces and snickets, mini volunteer projects e.g. Poppy Gardens culvert</p> <p>The Town Council is in discussion with Kirklees Council (Corporate Landlord and Parks) to take on maintenance of pieces of land by St Bartholomew’s Church and The Carlile.</p> <p>A request has been made for the Town Council to take on the community garden in the centre.</p>	<p>Town Council £10k</p>	
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<p>catering van, better toilet facilities, nature trail, wildlife boards, improve pond, protect Monkey Puzzle Tree Forest school activity.</p> <p>Take back control of Broadlands Rec. Expand skatepark e.g. pump track, dirt bikes. Update Sports Complex facilities. Lighting for Sports pitches & courts in winter.</p> <p>CCTV in parks, gates around Broadlands Rec, parks to be 'no smoking' & 'no drinking' areas.</p> <p>More play areas in neighbourhoods - Kirklees garage land opposite Copley estate. A play area on Birmingham Lane. To help people socialise.</p>	<p>Bulb planting by the bus turning circle and on the grassy slope by Meltham Mills may be funded by travel hub funding from West Yorkshire Combined Authority.</p> <p>Poppy Gardens is not yet adopted by Kirklees Council.</p> <p>Residents can add or nominate untidy spaces to the Make Meltham Awesome Facebook group for one-off organised clean-ups by local volunteers and get involved in them.</p> <p>4. Anti-litter, fly tipping campaign and regular litter picks</p> <p>Meltham Moor School and Meltham CE School eco committee have been in touch to work with the Town Council on an anti-litter campaign.</p> <p>Residents can report issues direct to Kirklees Council for action: Report it Kirklees Council</p> <p>Town Council to include information on how to report issues in the Meltham Mercury (pot-holes etc) and on the Town Council website.</p> <p>5. Further improve Robert Ashton Memorial Park – pond, paths & access points, bandstand, café, more events, a gardener</p> <p>Following recent improvements to the play area and facilities, the Town Council is working with Kirklees Parks and Open Spaces Team to develop a Park Plan. The next step will be to procure a contractor for the work. A bandstand and pond management in the park is being discussed.</p>		
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		<p>6. Take back control of Broadlands Rec from Kirklees Council</p> <p>The Town Council has recently made an agreement with Kirklees Corporate Trustees to take on responsibility for Broadlands Rec. This will include improvement of the pitches and attracting investment. Town Council funding has been approved to tidy up the Rec. A general strategy and approach to managing the site including anti-social behaviour has been agreed.</p> <p>7. Multi-sports court, astro turf at Meltham AFC</p> <p>The Town Council is discussing whether to proceed with a project.</p> <p>8. Turn vacant plots in housing areas into community space e.g. gardens, playgrounds</p> <p>The Town Council's approach is to continue to invest in existing locations due to costs.</p>	Town Council £40k	
Meltham to become a destination for local residents and visitors				
Work & local economy Facilities & amenities Social interaction	Encourage & promote greater diversity of local shops. Positive identity & strategy. High street feel, social hub. Shop Local in Meltham.	<p>1. Develop a positive identity and a strategy for a retail, hospitality offer. Create a 'high street' feel and 'social hub', encourage more business diversity - coffee shop, book shop, quality choices, 'shop local'</p> <p>Town Council has limited role. There is not a lot of demand. Discussion is taking place to rebrand & redecorate The Carlile, to encourage people to spend more time in the community space without encouraging anti-social behaviour.</p>		

<p>Identity & belonging</p>	<p>Festival theme events. Use vacant buildings for pop-ups, arts, specialities, events.</p> <p>Promote what the village has to offer, social activity schedule.</p> <p>Welcome pack for new residents.</p> <p>Help older people access information technology.</p> <p>Encourage more people to get involved, promote volunteer opportunities & recognition for volunteers.</p> <p>More for people with well-being issues.</p> <p>Support existing youth provision.</p> <p>Youth centre with amenities.</p>	<p>2.Support and incentivise businesses with licensing, affordable rents and rates, pop up art, events in vacant buildings</p> <p>The Town Council does not have a role in this.</p> <p>3. Bring young and old into Meltham e.g. Christmas, Farmers markets, ‘old Meltham Memories format’</p> <p>The old format for Meltham Memories is no longer feasible due to dwindling of suppliers and equipment for 1940’s style events. There will be a retro-themed event for July 2026.</p> <p>The Friends Group organises regular social events at Robert Ashton Memorial Park following the previous Ask Meltham conversation.</p> <p>Meltham Pleasure Grounds holds the Lights Up event in November.</p> <p>The Beer Festival will be moving to the Meltham Complex in 2026.</p> <p>4. More community activities for men e.g. Men’s Shed, Andy’s Man Club</p> <p>Unfortunately, there isn’t a dedicated space for a Men’s Shed group in Meltham centre. Groups in the local area include:</p> <p>Holme Valley Men’s Support Group – Holmfirth Tech Find A Support Group - ANDYSMANCLUB (At Underbank Rugby Club, Holmfirth) Repair Cafe – Holmfirth Tech</p>		
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		<p>5. Support existing youth provision (free, low cost), a youth centre (pool, snooker for teens)</p> <p>The Town Council supports an existing youth drop-in. There is opportunity to develop youth activities at Broadlands Rec e.g. skateboard training.</p> <p>Town Council could discuss with local organisations whether they could offer dedicated youth pool or snooker for young people. Identify local partners who are open to ideas.</p> <p>6. Promote what's on – create a Meltham website with maps, walks, facilities, arts and culture, local jobs</p> <p>Town Council to discuss this idea. Existing noticeboards at key locations do advertise groups & activities - The Carlile noticeboard and the Meltham Crossroads Directory: Meltham Activities Directory - Meltham Crossroads</p> <p>Meltham Town Council Facebook provides timely official information, for example on road closures, facilities grants: https://www.facebook.com/MelthamTownCouncil</p> <p>7. Increase Police visibility, patrols & CCTV in hot spot areas</p> <p>Meltham Town Council continues to work with partners in a constructive way. There are regular conversations with the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and Kirklees Community Safety Partnership on local issues. The NPT hold regular drop-ins for the public at Morrisons Supermarket.</p>	<p>Town Council £15k</p>	
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Improve parking in Meltham				
Streets & spaces	Don't charge for parking, keep 1 st 2 hours free, free parking in centre for locals only.	1.Keep free parking in the centre, free parking for the first 2 hours		Meltham Town Council working with Kirklees Highways, and Kirklees ward councillors
Traffic & parking		Kirklees Council is responsible for parking charges. It is consulting with Meltham Town Council on the location of EV chargers at Meltham Carlile carpark.		
Facilities & amenities	More car parking in the centre.	2.Enforcement action for parking on pavements, yellow lines & zig zags e.g. school zones, Post Office, Co-op, Greens End Road		
	More parking enforcement outside post office, Green Ends Rd, Ban pavement parking Stop parking at bus stops on Broadlands.	Specific locations are dangerous and would benefit from yellow lines and enforcement – outside Carlile Post Office, in school zones. Noted balance of traffic flow and congestion and some traders rely on passing trade. 3.A bollard or barrier by Crossroads shop for pedestrian safety		
	Limit parking on narrow side roads.	To look into further with Kirklees Council. 4.Limit parking or introduce double yellow lines on specific streets e.g. top of Carlile Street, left verge of Station Rd/ Greens End Lane (village exit)		
	Open up Meltham Carlile carpark for parents to encourage 'park & stride' to Meltham CE School 8.30 – 9.00 am and 3.00 -3.30 pm.	Kirklees Highways have reviewed these locations and they are not eligible re the criteria. 5. More spaces and considerate parking to benefit Blue Badge holders, pushchair and wheelchair users		
		There are 3 existing disabled spaces in The Carlile carpark for use by Blue Badge holders.		

	Collapsible bollard (with key) by Crossroads shop. A permanent fixed bollard here would make it hard for collections, deliveries & lorries turning. Barrier at roadside.	6. Residents only parking and permits There are costs to residents for schemes. The Town Council to check with Kirklees Highways what enforcement action is undertaken on schemes for example at Meltham Mills Road where there is permit only parking.		
Safer roads -reduce traffic volumes, congestion and speeds				
Moving around Traffic & parking	Slower traffic speeds; 20 mph through village, 30 mph on outskirts. 20-25 mph maximum speeds limit by schools. Pedestrian crossing for school children on Slaithwaite Rd. More pedestrian crossings by schools Crossing on Helme Lane. Traffic calming on Huddersfield Rd Traffic lights at Huddersfield Rod/	1. More traffic management or measures at Wilshaw Rd, Wessenden Head Rd, Helme Ln/ Slaithwaite Rd junction, Huddersfield Rd/ Station Rd junction To look into with Kirklees Highways and ward councillors. 2. A crossing point on Station Rd by Crossroads shop, Huddersfield Rd at Meltham Mills, top of Birmingham Ln/ Slaithwaite Rd for school children, by Morrisons roundabout The Town Council has previously asked Kirklees Highways to undertake a speed review and review of crossing points as part of a Planning application. This was rejected by Kirklees Highways. 3. Speed and warning signs, cameras e.g. 20 mph on Slades Ln, 30 mph on Huddersfield Rd These have recently been reviewed by Kirklees Highways and expect it will be reviewed again in 4 years' time.		Meltham Town Council working with Kirklees Highways, Kirklees ward councillors

	<p>Holmfirth Rd junction in centre.</p> <p>Traffic calming on main road through Wilshaw.</p> <p>Sort out Thick Hollins bend.</p> <p>Pot holes should be fixed more.</p> <p>Open the tip Mondays and Tuesdays to reduce queues</p>	<p>4.Reduce speed limits on all roads into Meltham</p> <p>Kirklees Highways Speed Indicator Devices programme has 3 SIDS in use in the area. West Yorkshire Police Operation Trimborg currently undertakes additional monthly action to target speeding offences on local roads, funded by ward councillors’ budget.</p> <p>5.Resolve tricky spots e.g. queues at Bent Ley Rd recycling site, Thick Hollins bend</p> <p>The traffic issues on Bent Ley Road have been resolved with new road markings and changes at the recycling site.</p> <p>There are signs, warnings in the road and barriers at Thick Hollins bend. All cheap options have been done. The next step would be complete rethink which would require a lot of funding.</p> <p>6.Repair pot-holes and drains, improve road surfaces</p> <p>Public drains are cleaned by Kirklees Highways on reporting. To report go to: Report it Kirklees Council</p>		
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Get involved

To get involved or find out more, please contact:

Meltham Town Council Clerk, email: townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Meltham Town Council Website: [Welcome to Meltham Town Council - Meltham Town Council](#)

This document and more information is available online at:
<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/ask-meltham/>