

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ECONOMY AND GROWTH)** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE 0.1A, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, CAMBS, PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 5TH OCTOBER 2017** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

**Contact
(01480)**

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 6)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2017.

**A Green
388008**

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda item.

3. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (Pages 7 - 10)

A copy of the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions is attached. Members are invited to note the Plan and to comment as appropriate on any items contained therein.

**B Buddle
388007**

4. GODMANCHESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION OUTCOME AND PROGRESSION TO REFERENDUM (Pages 11 - 132)

The Panel are to receive a report on the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan Examination Outcome and Progression to Referendum.

**J Campbell
388432**

5. BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY REVALUATION RELIEF SCHEME 2017/18 (Pages 133 - 144)

The Business Rates Discretionary Revaluation Relief Scheme 2017/18 is to be presented to the Panel.

**J Taylor
388119**

6. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF CAR PARKING TASK AND FINISH GROUP - VISION (Pages 145 - 224)

Members are to receive the Strategic Review of Car Parking Task and Finish Group's Vision.

**N Sloper
388635**

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROGRESS (Pages 225 - 234)

Members are to receive the work programmes for all Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

**A Green
388008**

Dated this 27th day of September
2017



Head of Paid Service

Notes

1. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- (1) *Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and unless you have obtained dispensation, cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must also leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.*
- (2) *A Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it -*
 - (a) *relates to you, or*
 - (b) *is an interest of -*
 - (i) *your spouse or civil partner; or*
 - (ii) *a person with whom you are living as husband and wife; or*
 - (iii) *a person with whom you are living as if you were civil partners*

and you are aware that the other person has the interest.
- (3) *Disclosable pecuniary interests includes -*
 - (a) *any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;*
 - (b) *any financial benefit received by the Member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a Member (except from the Council);*
 - (c) *any current contracts with the Council;*
 - (d) *any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;*
 - (e) *any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;*
 - (f) *any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the Member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest; or*
 - (g) *a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.*

Non-Statutory Disclosable Interests

- (4) *If a Member has a non-statutory disclosable interest then you are required to declare that interest, but may remain to discuss and vote providing you do not breach the overall Nolan principles.*
- (5) *A Member has a non-statutory disclosable interest where -*
 - (a) *a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the authority's administrative area, or*
 - (b) *it relates to or is likely to affect a disclosable pecuniary interest, but in respect of a member of your family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom you have a close association, or*
 - (c) *it relates to or is likely to affect any body –*
 - (i) *exercising functions of a public nature; or*

- (ii) directed to charitable purposes; or
- (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a Member or in a position of control or management.

and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

2. Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings

The District Council supports the principles of openness and transparency in its decision making and permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking and micro-blogging websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) to communicate with people about what is happening at meetings. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Council and available via the following link [filming, photography and recording at council meetings.pdf](#) or on request from the Democratic Services Team. The Council understands that some members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be filmed. The Chairman of the meeting will facilitate this preference by ensuring that any such request not to be recorded is respected.

Please contact Mr Adam Green, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), Tel No. 01480 388008/e-mail Adam.Green@huntingdonshire.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk (under Councils and Democracy).

If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Elections & Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ECONOMY AND GROWTH) held in Civic Suite 0.1A, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 3TN on Thursday, 7th September 2017.

PRESENT: Councillor D B Dew – Chairman.
Councillors C E Bober, E R Butler,
Mrs S Conboy, I D Gardener, Mrs J Tavener
and K D Wainwright.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Harrison, B Hyland, D J Mead, T D Sanderson and D R Underwood.

16. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2017 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were received.

18. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Panel received and noted the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which has been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st September 2017 to 31st December 2017.

Members noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Customers) is due to consider the Asset Disposals report. The Panel have requested to be involved in the scrutiny of the topic.

19. UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF STREET MARKETS - HUNTINGDON AND ST IVES

The Head of Operations, Business Development Manager and Markets Officer were in attendance to present the Panel an update on the Review of Street Markets – Huntingdon and St Ives. Before the update was presented the Panel was reminded of the background to the Review of Street Markets.

The Huntingdon Street Market currently comprises of nine traders, the market was moved from Market Place to the High Street with the first market taking place on 6th September and the first Saturday market due to take place on 9th September. The Panel was informed that each pitch is priced based on where it is located on the High Street and that casual traders pay extra. A fire access test was carried out on 6th September.

Concerns were raised regarding cyclists and the manner of the cycling. The Panel was informed that the Council has offered to fund the correct signage in order to inform cyclists that they are not able to cycle down the High Street on a market day.

Members were updated on plans for St Ives Street Markets. It was noted that the Council were looking at moving the market in order to avoid implementing the road closure at the cost of £4k per year. It was hoped that in order to do this some stalls could be relocated to Bridge Street.

The Council consulted with retailers and market traders who were both negative towards the idea. A footfall survey, carried out in conjunction with students from St Ivo School, found that footfall is lower in Bridge Street. In addition, Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department have stated that even if the market is moved it is still best practice to implement the road closure. It is therefore the recommendation that the planned relocation of the market does not go ahead.

A Member commended the Officers present for getting the students from St Ivo School involved. They added that they were not surprised with the footfall figures.

In response to a question regarding the road closure, Members were informed that the Council pays for an employee to stand with cones from 8am until 5.15pm every market day, however some consideration has been made to purchasing a lightweight fence which can be manoeuvred into place. The Council continue to work with St Ives Town Council to seek a solution.

The Panel was informed that the street markets are trading at a profit to the Council of £30k per year.

20. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROGRESS

With the aid of a report by the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Panel reviewed all the Panels' work programmes since the last meeting.

The Panel stated they would like the relevant Portfolio Holders to attend a future Panel meeting to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Enterprise Partnership as well as to provide an update on Devolution.

Members have indicated they would like to scrutinise the following topics: impact of neighbouring developments on the District's Market Towns, Infrastructure Projects and Bus Services. The Chairman and the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) assess the topics and scope out the work.

Chairman

NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS INCLUDING THOSE TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Prepared by Councillor G J Bull, Executive Leader of the Council
Date of Publication: 12th September 2017
For Period: 1st October 2017 to 31st January 2018

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor G J Bull	Executive Leader of the Council	Councillor R Fuller	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Housing and Planning
Councillor D Brown	Executive Councillor for Commercial and Shared Services	Councillor J A Gray	Executive Councillor for Strategic Resources
Councillor S Cawley	Executive Councillor for Transformation and Customers	Councillor R Howe	Executive Councillor for Devolution and Growth
Councillor Mrs A Dickinson	Executive Councillor for Community Resilience, Well-Being, and Regulatory Services	Councillor J White	Executive Councillor for Operations

Notice is hereby given of:

- Key decisions that will be taken by the Cabinet (or other decision maker)
- Confidential or exempt executive decisions that will be taken in a meeting from which the public will be excluded (for whole or part).

A notice/agenda together with reports and supporting documents for each meeting will be published at least five working days before the date of the meeting. In order to enquire about the availability of documents and subject to any restrictions on their disclosure, copies may be requested by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 01480 388169 or E-mail Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

Agendas may be accessed electronically at www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

Formal notice is hereby given under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that, where indicated part of the meetings listed in this notice will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. See the relevant paragraphs below.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a decision which is to be made or wishes to object to an item being considered in private may do so by emailing Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or by contacting the Democratic Services Team. If representations are received at least eight working days before the date of the meeting, they will be published with the agenda together with a statement of the District Council's response. Any representations received after this time will be verbally reported and considered at the meeting.

Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) (Reason for the report to be considered in private)

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the Financial and Business Affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations that are arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of or office holders under the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the Authority proposes:-
 - (a) To give under any announcement a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) To make an Order or Direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Huntingdonshire District Council
 Pathfinder House
 St Mary's Street
 Huntingdon PE29 3TN.

- Notes:- (i) Additions changes from the previous Forward Plan are annotated ***
 (ii) Part II confidential items which will be considered in private are annotated ## and shown in italic.

∞ Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private.	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Annual Review Green Space and Play Provision	Cabinet	12 Oct 2017		Neil Sloper, Head of Operations Tel No. 01480 388635 or email: neil.sloper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J White	Communities and Environment
Car Parking Strategy Task and Finish Group - Vision	Cabinet	12 Oct 2017		Neil Sloper, Head of Operations Tel No. 01480 388635 or email: neil.sloper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J White	Economy and Growth
Memoranda of Understanding with the Local Enterprise Partnership	Cabinet	12 Oct 2017		Andy Moffat, Head of Development Tel No. 01480 388400 or email: andy.moffat@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Howe	Economy and Growth

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Home Improvement Agency Annual Report and Review/Disabled Facilities Grant budget	Cabinet	12 Oct 2017		Caroline Hannon, Housing Strategy Manager 01480 388203 or email: caroline.hannon@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Fuller	Communities and Environment
Business Rates - Discretionary Revaluation Relief Policy	Cabinet	12 Oct 2017		John Taylor, Head of Customer Services Tel No. 01480 388119 or email john.taylor@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J A Gray	Economy and Growth
Homelessness Strategy	Cabinet	12 Oct 2017		John Taylor, Head of Customer Services Tel No. 01480 388119 or email: john.taylor@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Fuller	Communities and Environment
Site Disposal - A##	Cabinet	12 Oct 2017		Frank Mastrandrea, Policy and Enabling Officer Tel No. 01480 388208 or email: frank.mastrandrea@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J A Gray	Performance and Customers
Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan Examination Outcome and Progression to Referendum	Cabinet	12 Oct 2017		Jacob Jaarsma, Planning Services Manager (Development Management) Tel. No. 01480 388432 or email: james.campbell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Fuller	Economy and Growth
Site Disposal - B##***	Cabinet	12 Oct 2017		Colin Luscombe, Estates Strategic Assessment Tel No. 01480 388728 or email: colin.luscombe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J A Gray	Performance and Customers
Small Land Sales Policy***	Cabinet	12 Oct 2017		Clive Mason, Head of Resources Tel No. 01480 388157 or email: clive.mason@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J A Gray	Performance and Customers

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Commercial Investment Strategy: Business Plan Review***	Cabinet	16 Nov 2017		Clive Mason, Head of Resources Tel No. 01480 388157 or email: clive.mason@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J A Gray	Performance and Customers
Treasury Management 6 Month Performance Review	Cabinet	16 Nov 2017		Clive Mason, Head of Resources Tel No. 01480 388157 or email: clive.mason@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J A Gray	Performance and Customers
Asset Disposals##	Cabinet	16 Nov 2017		Clive Mason, Head of Resources Tel No 01480 388157 or email clive.mason@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J A Gray	Performance and Customers
Growth and Infrastructure Group Terms of Reference	Cabinet	16 Nov 2017		Clara Kerr, Planning Services Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or email: clara.kerr@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Fuller	Economy and Growth
Approval of Council Tax Base 2017/18	Section 151 Officer	1 Dec 2017		Clive Mason, Head of Resources Tel No. 01480 388157 or email: clive.mason@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J A Gray	Performance and Customers
Corporate Enforcement Policy	Cabinet	14 Dec 2017		Chris Stopford, Head of Community Tel No. 01480 388280 or email: chris.stopford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		A Dickinson	Communities and Environment
Local Plan: Proposed Submission Consultation	Cabinet	14 Dec 2017		Clara Kerr, Planning Services Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or email: clara.kerr@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Fuller	Economy and Growth
Review of Fees and Charges***	Cabinet	14 Dec 2017		Adrian Forth, Finance Manager Tel No. 01480 388605 or email: adrian.forth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J A Gray	Performance and Customers
Business Case for CCTV Commercialisation##* **	Cabinet	18 Jan 2018		Chris Stopford, Head of Community Tel No. 01480 388280 or email: chris.stopford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		D Brown	Performance and Customers

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan examination outcome and progression to referendum

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny (Economy and Growth) – 5th October 2017

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Housing and Planning – Councillor R Fuller

Report by: Senior Planning Policy Officer

Wards affected: Godmanchester

RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan examination outcome and progression to referendum from the Cabinet report attached at Appendix A.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan examination outcome and progression to referendum

Meeting/Date: Cabinet – 12th October 2017

Executive Portfolio: Growth

Report by: Senior Planning Policy Officer

Wards affected: Godmanchester

Executive Summary:

Following the examination of the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan this report proposes acting upon the Examiner's report to accept the modifications proposed and progress to referendum.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Agree that the District Council should act upon the Examiner's report and recommended modifications, and progress the neighbourhood plan to referendum.

1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT?

- 1.1 The report seeks agreement to act upon the Examiner's report into the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan leading to a referendum on whether or not it should be brought into force as part of the statutory development plan. It also sets out a timetable for this process.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY

- 2.1 Following the examination of a neighbourhood plan the Examiner sends their report to the local planning authority and the town/parish council preparing the neighbourhood plan. The examiner is required to set out one of three options:

- a) That the neighbourhood plan proceeds to referendum as submitted
- b) That the neighbourhood plan is modified by the local planning authority to meet the basic conditions and the modified version proceeds to referendum; or
- c) That the neighbourhood plan does not proceed to referendum as it fails to meet the basic conditions and/ or legislative requirements and cannot be modified to do so.

- 2.2 The local planning authority has limited options in how to respond to the examiner's recommendations:

1. Act upon the Examiner's report and progress the neighbourhood plan to referendum, whether or not the Examiner recommends modifications are necessary to meet the basic conditions;
2. Propose to take a decision substantially different from the Examiner's recommendation which is wholly or partly as a result of new evidence or a different view taken by the local planning authority about a particular fact; or
3. Decide not to progress the neighbourhood plan in light of the Examiner's report - this is only permissible where c) above is the case.

- 2.3 The Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan was examined between 3 July and 30 August 2017. The Examiner recommended that with appropriate modifications the neighbourhood plan would meet the basic conditions against which it is required to be tested and so should progress to referendum.

- 2.4 The Examiner proposed a number of modifications to the proposed submission neighbourhood plan. These have been discussed with representatives of Godmanchester Town Council. The recommended modifications and the proposed timeline (see section 3 below) were discussed and approved by Godmanchester Town Council met on 22 September 2017.

- 2.5 The modified version of the Neighbourhood Plan, the examiner's report and draft Decision Statement setting out the modifications considered by the Examiner as necessary to enable the submission neighbourhood plan to meet the required basic conditions are all included as Appendices. Having regard to the options set out in paragraph 2.3:

- It is considered that the modifications will enable the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan to meet the basic conditions required; and
- There is no new evidence or a different view taken by the local planning authority about a particular fact to indicate that option 2. in paragraph 2.3 should be followed.

3. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN

- 3.1 Following approval by Cabinet preparations will be made for a referendum to be held on the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Regulations.
- 3.2 In addition to considering whether the neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions the Examiner is required to recommend on the area to be covered by the referendum. In this instance she recommended that the referendum area be the same as the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan area, approved by the District Council.
- 3.3 There is a statutory requirement for 28 working days' notice to be given before the referendum is held. There is also a requirement that the referendum is held within 56 working days of the decision that the neighbourhood plan should proceed to referendum, unless there is an existing planned polling opportunity that the referendum could be combined with which the qualifying body (Godmanchester Town Council) have agreed. A potential date for the referendum has been discussed with Democratic Services. Holding the referendum on 7 December 2017 is proposed, which would meet both time requirements. This provisional date has been discussed with representatives of Godmanchester Town Council, and they have indicated that they support this date.
- 3.4 At the referendum residents will be able to vote on the question: 'Do you want Huntingdonshire District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Godmanchester to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'
- 3.5 If a majority of residents vote 'yes', Full Council will be asked to 'make' the neighbourhood plan at its next available meeting, which, assuming that the referendum is held on 7 December, would be on 13 December 2017. This would require a late report. The plan will then become part of the statutory development plan for Huntingdonshire.

4. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN

- 4.1 Progressing the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan through to referendum links to the strategic objective 'To empower local communities'. It will help to achieve the action of working with parishes to complete neighbourhood and parish plans.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A Neighbourhood Plan must meet the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Examiner's report has confirmed that Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan, as proposed to be modified, meets all the basic conditions. Officers are satisfied that there are no conflicts with the basic conditions and legislative requirements.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Extra Burdens Grant of £20,000 can be claimed following the referendum, intended to meet the costs of the referendum and other resources involved in supporting the production of the neighbourhood plan.

7 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 7.1 The recommended decision is necessary to enable the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to referendum.

8. RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 8.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Agree that the District Council should act upon the Examiner's report and recommended modifications, and progress the neighbourhood plan to referendum

9. LIST OF APPENDICES

- 1) The modified version of the Neighbourhood Plan
- 2) The examiner's report
- 3) The draft Decision Statement setting out the modifications considered by the Examiner as necessary to enable the submission neighbourhood plan to meet the required basic conditions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Localism Act 2011

The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

CONTACT OFFICER

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Godmanchester Town Council



Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2036

Post Examination 2017 FINAL

How To Read This Document:

In writing a Neighbourhood Plan there are number of formal things that we have to include in the Plan document: these are covered in Section 1.

There are also issues that you have told us you think we should be trying to achieve through creating new planning policies: these are covered in Section 3.

There are the additional items that are either the detailed background or are detailed lists of other policies that we needed to include: these are included in the Appendices, Sections 11 – 14.

Finally, there is the list of activities and good ideas you told us were important to think about doing. They are not ‘planning policies’ therefore are not in the main Plan but because you told us they were important we have listed them here so the Town Council can consider taking them forward: these are detailed in Section 9.

You may have time to read all the pages and we would thoroughly recommend this. If you only have time to read a small amount, then the blue text boxes are the most important – these contain the policies that we think would make Godmanchester an even better place and on which you will be asked to vote on when we get to the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.

What Happens Next

The independent Planning Examiner has now reviewed the Plan and advised as to whether the policies meet planning requirements. She has made recommendations that have now been included in the Plan. We are now ready to move towards a Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.

You Get To Vote

Huntingdonshire District Council will organise a Neighbourhood Plan Referendum on our behalf. The date will be advertised once it is known. At the Referendum, all residents who are registered to vote will be asked to say if they support the Plan. If more than 50% of those who turn out support it, then it becomes a legal planning document once ratified or ‘made’ by the District Council. Subsequently it will be one of the documents used to determine all new planning applications in the Town.

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1 Introduction

Purpose of the Plan

- 1.1 This document represents the Neighbourhood Plan for Godmanchester parish from 2017 to 2036. The Plan contains a vision for the future of Godmanchester and sets out clear planning policies to realise this vision.
- 1.2 The principal purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to guide development within the town and provide direction to anyone wishing to submit a planning application for development within this area. The process of producing a plan has involved the community as widely as possible. The different topic areas are reflective of matters that are of considerable importance to Godmanchester, its residents, businesses and community groups.
- 1.3 Some of the Neighbourhood Plan policies are general and apply throughout the Plan area, whilst others are site or area-specific and apply only to the appropriate areas illustrated on the relevant map. Nevertheless, in considering proposals for development, the Town and District Council will apply all relevant policies of the Plan. It is therefore assumed that the Plan will be read as a whole, although some cross-referencing between Plan policies has been provided.
- 1.4 The process of producing the Neighbourhood Plan, and the feedback from engaging with residents, has identified a number of actions which have not been included in the policies sections. This is because these are not specifically related to land use matters and therefore sit outside the jurisdiction of a Neighbourhood Plan. These actions will be addressed by the Town Council outside of the Neighbourhood Plan process.



Policy Context

- 1.5 The Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan (GNP) is being prepared in accordance with the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- 1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It was published on 27 March 2012 and is now also supplemented by Planning Practice Guidance. The NPPF provides a framework which has been used to produce a locally distinctive Neighbourhood Plan which reflects the needs and aspirations of the community.
- 1.7 All new developments in Godmanchester have to be in accordance with the NPPF, the planning policies adopted by the local planning authority, Huntingdonshire

District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and, when adopted, this Neighbourhood Plan.

- 1.8** The policies in this Plan have been produced to be in general conformity with the Huntingdonshire Core Strategy 2009. In addition, the Plan has given due regard to the emerging Huntingdonshire Local Plan which, when adopted, will cover the period to 2036.

Developing the Plan

- 1.9** Godmanchester Town Council set up a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group which comprises five Town Councillors, including a District Councillor and a County Councillor and a number of local volunteers. The Plan has been written using feedback from public consultations and the Neighbourhood Plan survey to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan accurately reflects the aspirations of the community.
- 1.10** The Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan covers all Godmanchester parish. In preparing the Plan, there has been dialogue with the adjoining parishes as well as with Huntingdonshire District Council. An application for neighbourhood plan designation was approved by Huntingdon District Council in March 2015.



1.11 The map in Figure 1 below shows the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, which is the same as the administrative boundary of Godmanchester parish.

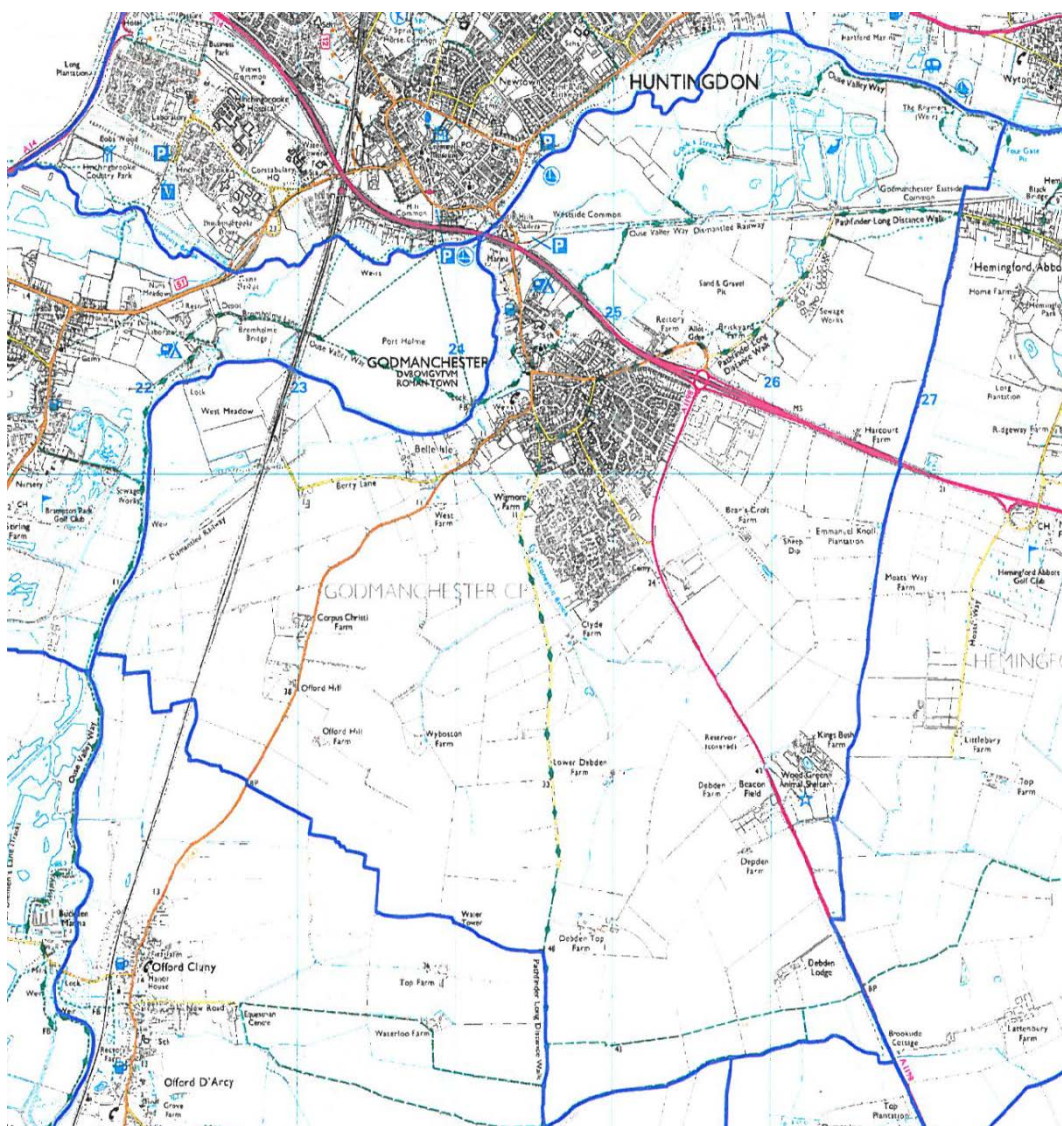


Figure 1: Godmanchester neighbourhood plan area/parish boundary

Monitoring the Plan

1.12 Godmanchester Town Council, as the 'Qualifying Body', will be responsible for maintaining and periodically revisiting the Plan to ensure relevance and to monitor delivery.

Community Action Plan

1.13 The consultation process identified a number of issues and potential projects that could not be addressed through the policies in this document. These are captured in Chapter 9 as a Community Action Plan. The Town Council will consider how these issues and ideas might be taken forward in partnership with other organisations.

2 Local Context

History of Godmanchester

2 Godmanchester is a Borough Town, chartered initially by King John in 1212. Its Town status is important to residents but for all intents and purposes the settlement has more in common with a large village in terms of its feel, connections, community spirit and facilities.

2.1 Much of historic Godmanchester is built on top of a Roman Settlement: sections of the road, temples and houses have been found and numerous artefacts are unearthed each year by householders.

2.2 Later, the Danes occupied the area and changed the shape of the Town by creating the area of water by the Causeway as part of the establishment of an inland port. Norman

Godmanchester was a wealthy Royal Manor and became a thriving market town. All through the Middle Ages towards the end of the second millennium, the Town continued to benefit from its location on the London to York road. It served as a place to rest and change horses. The former proliferation of inns and taverns in the town is testament to this. The Great Ouse was also an important trade route and Godmanchester enjoyed the benefits of servicing river traffic.

2.3 In the last century or so, as rail then road became the primary mode of transport, Godmanchester remained and continues to be today a good focal point, being close to the East Coast main line and the A1, M11 and A14. Despite enjoying a rural (or at least semi-rural) location, Godmanchester remains close to major transport routes. In about 1909, the Wright brothers brought their flying machine to Britain and flew it at Portholme; the first manned flight outside of the US.

2.4 The Town's proximity to the once relatively quiet A604, now the A14 linking the north, the south and the east, has brought growth in neighbouring Huntingdon but traffic and noise to Godmanchester. Today we are in a fast-growing part of the country: there is increasing house building and business development. Our proximity to a number of major roads makes the Town an attractive location for developers wanting to build: the pressure to grow from a small rural Town to a large characterless urban sprawl is significant.



Profile of the Community Today

- 2.5** Huntingdonshire is one of the fastest growing parts of the United Kingdom as well as within Cambridgeshire¹. It is set to grow in terms of housing and businesses: a number of sites are already identified, including Alconbury Weald, Wyton and Wintringham Park. Whilst the infographics show that Godmanchester is currently fairly similar to the rest of Huntingdonshire in 2016, that is less likely to be the case as areas around us expand and become more populated between now and 2036.
- 2.6** Godmanchester is keen to retain its unique character of being a Town with the community feel of a large village. It will be important for us to retain the profiles set out below which characterise the Town.
- 2.7** The population of the Town has grown significantly since the 1990's, with a steep increase in numbers since 2010. In 2016 we have approximately 6800 residents. and Cambridgeshire County Council forecasts that we will have grown to 8600 residents by 2040². That is a 26% increase that is predicted for Godmanchester.



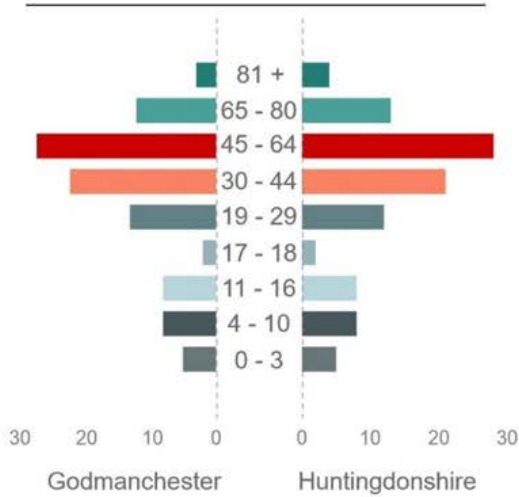
¹ Huntingdonshire District Council Marketing Strategy 2016

² Based on delivering all the sites in the HDC Draft Local Plan to 2036

Total Population

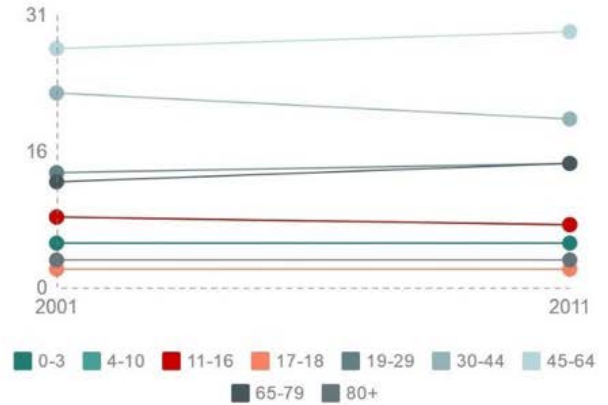
6,711

Age Profile (%)



Age Profile Change 2001 - 2011 (%)

Godmanchester



Housing Type

Godmanchester



Huntingdonshire

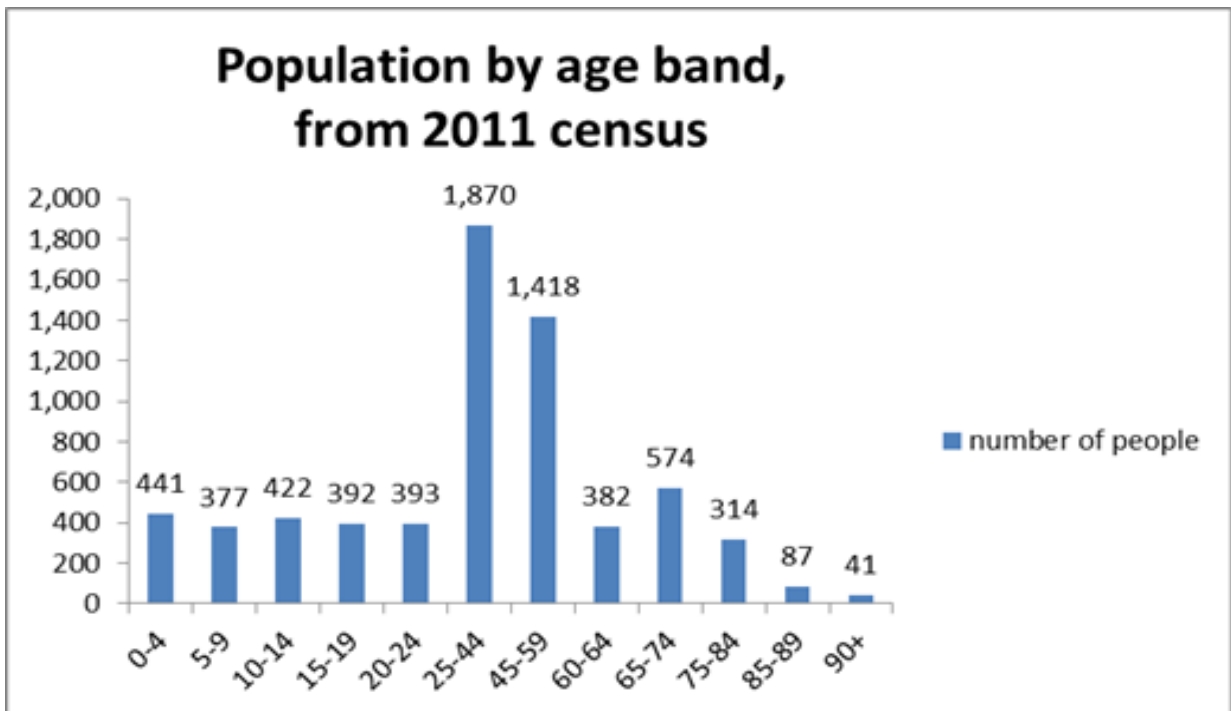


3

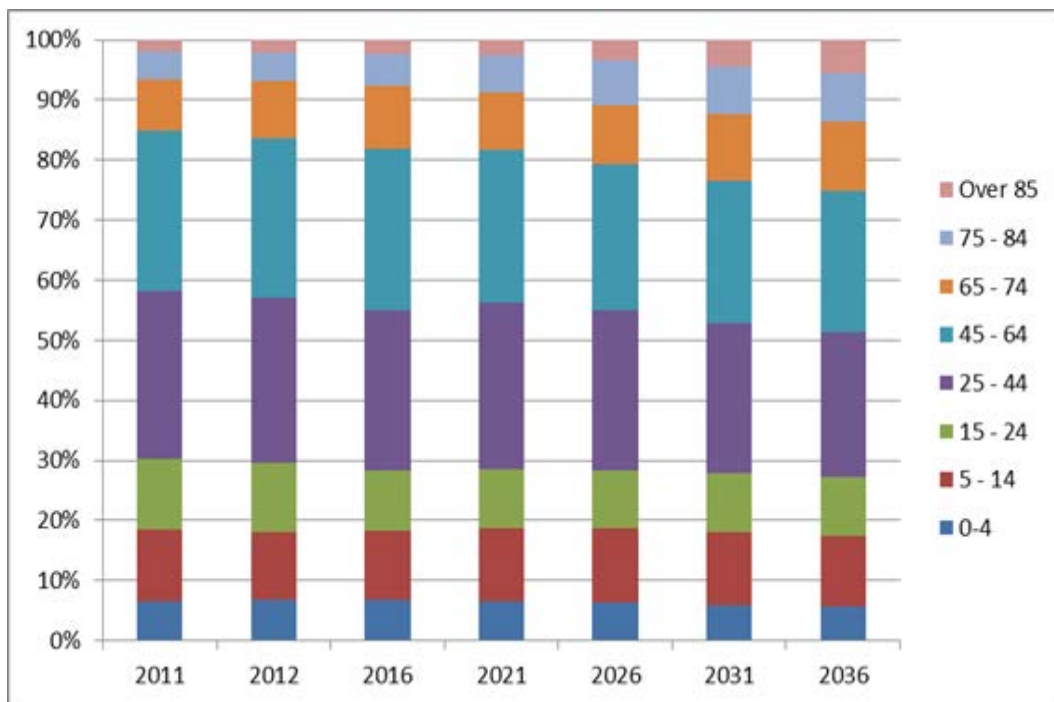
➤ Godmanchester has a similar population profile to Huntingdonshire district.

³ All data comes from the 2011 Census.

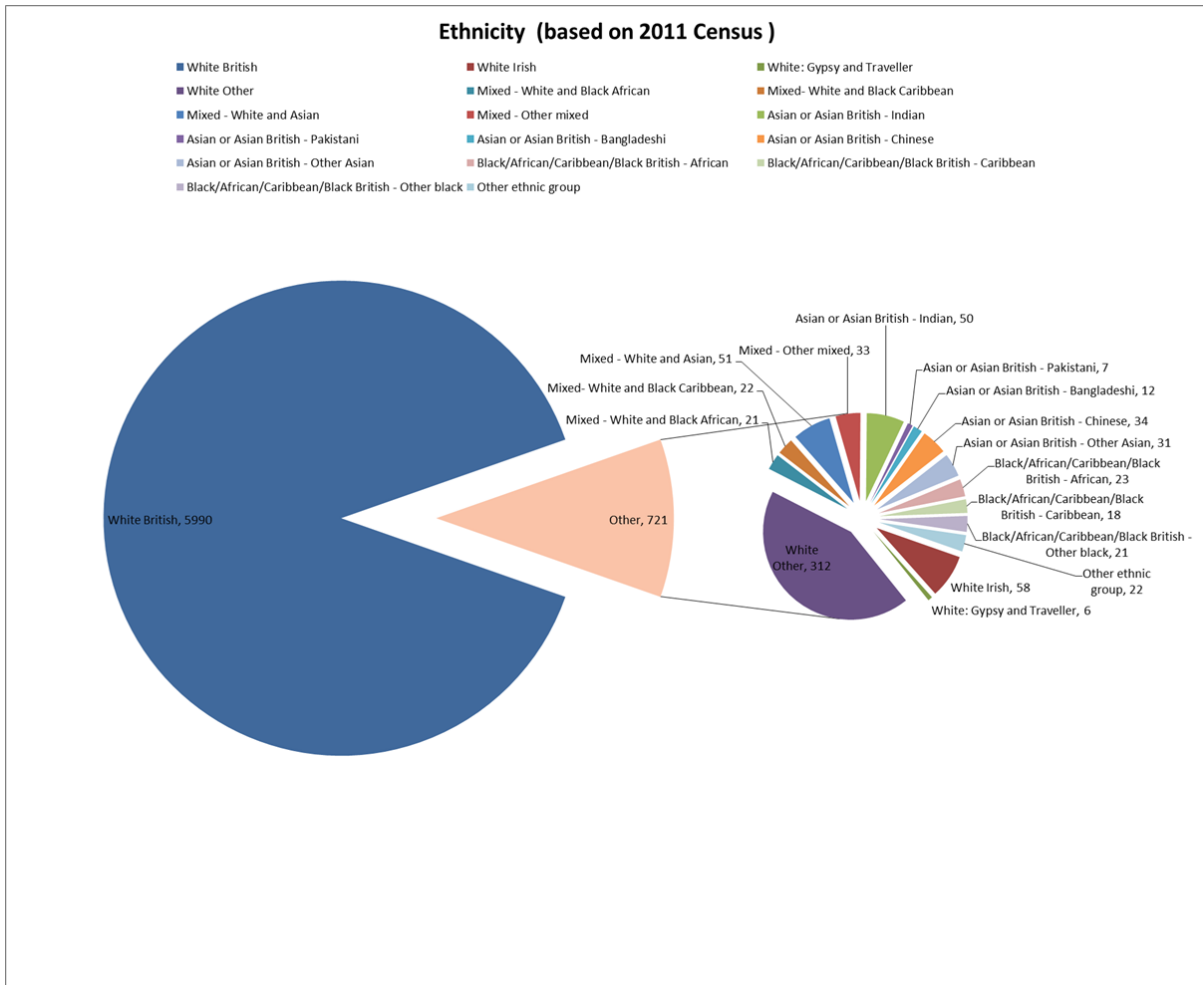
- At the 2011 census the biggest proportion of our residents were aged between 25 and 60 years.



- Since 2001 the main growth in Godmanchester's population has been those either moving towards or at retirement age.



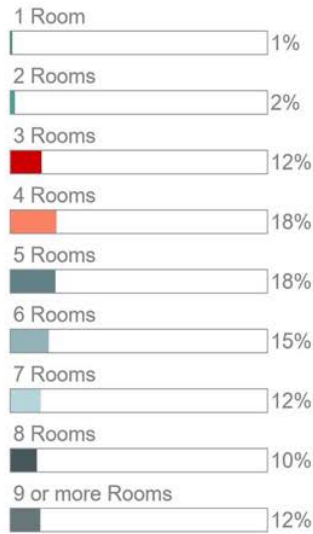
➤ The Town's population is ethnically diverse.



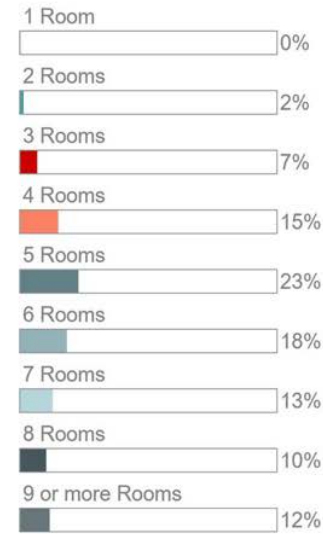
➤ Patterns of the method people use to travel to work are similar to those in Huntingdonshire but car ownership is lower. This reflects the historic pattern of development which limits space for parking in many parts of the Town and also the good access to services in Godmanchester and Huntingdon.

Number of Rooms

Godmanchester



Huntingdonshire



Housing Tenure

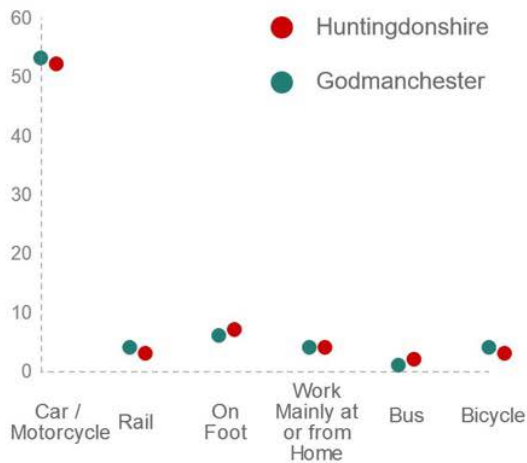
Godmanchester



Huntingdonshire



Method of Travel to Work (%)



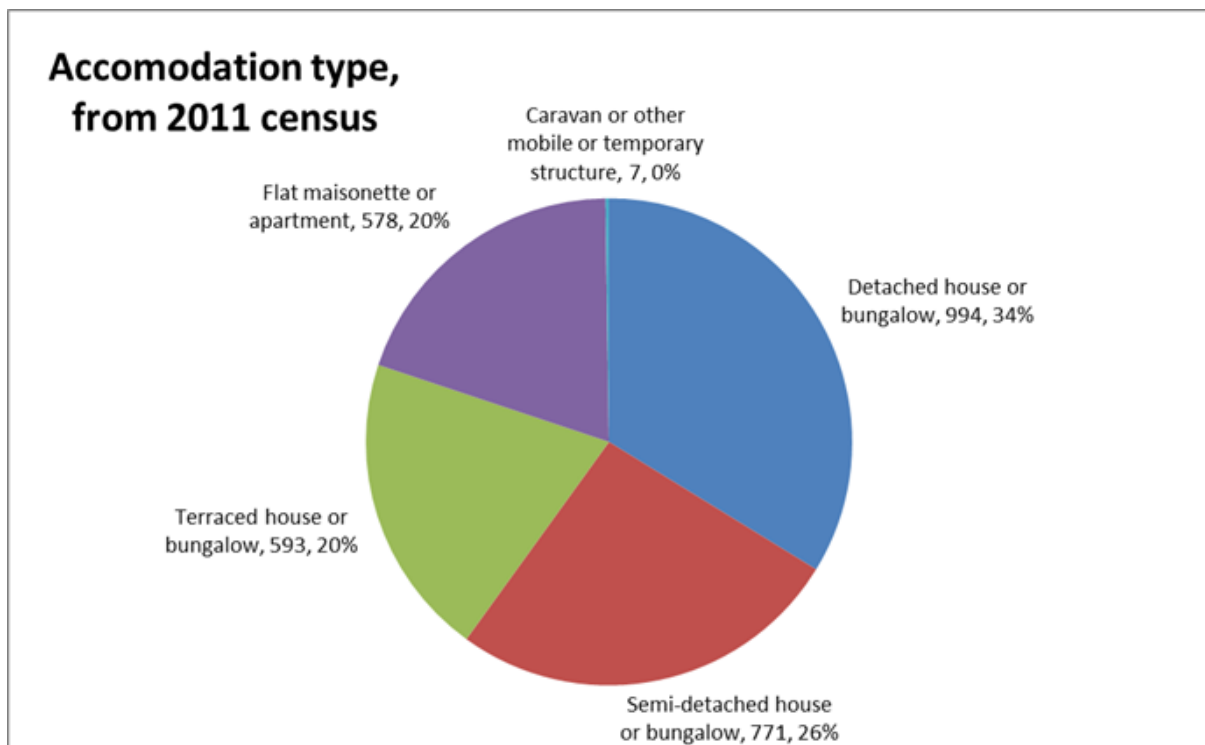
Average Cars per Household



- Due to the large proportion of flats, Godmanchester has a high proportion of smaller properties.

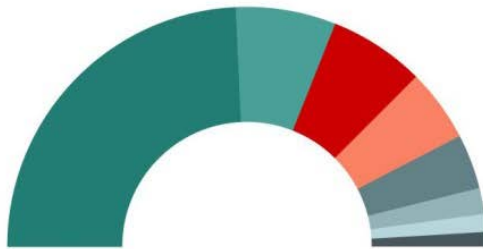


- Social rented properties are higher in Godmanchester than in Huntingdonshire, with ownership levels correspondingly lower.

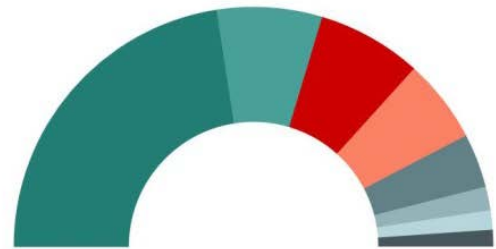


Economic Activity

Godmanchester



Huntingdonshire



Qualifications

Godmanchester



Huntingdonshire



- Godmanchester has high levels of economic activity, with many people in full-time employment.
- The overall level of qualifications of Godmanchester residents is high.

Employment Sector

Godmanchester



Huntingdonshire



- Godmanchester has a high proportion of people working in public administration, education and health (compared to Huntingdonshire), with low proportions working in retail services.

3 Visions and Objectives

Challenges for Godmanchester

3.1 The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to address, as far as is possible, the challenges that face the community of Godmanchester. In summary, these challenges are:

Growing population

- 26% increase in population over the next 20 years⁴
- Help new people engage and enjoy living in the town;
- Ensure all homes are within walking distance of the “historic core”⁵
- Support a growing ageing population⁶;
- Support a population that may change as the local housing market changes, e.g. a growth in pre-school children
- Risk of Godmanchester becoming a dormitory town serving Cambridge and other nearby towns.

Increasing traffic on our narrow roads

- Existing rush hour congestion through the Town;
- More traffic from new development in Godmanchester and other development in the district;
- Broadly beneficial impact of A14 Improvement Scheme⁷ but with longer north bound route from Godmanchester.
- Increased demand for parking combined with some poor and dangerous parking

Protecting our unique heritage and surrounding countryside

- Maintain Godmanchester’s independence from Huntingdon and separation from surrounding villages and hamlets
- Increased pressure for more new houses making us too like a large sprawling Town and feel less like a historic “village”;
- More new development that detracts from the character of the “historic core” of Godmanchester.

Deteriorating public services

- Deteriorating roads with increasing numbers of potholes and poor pavements;
- More support for vulnerable people needed from families, volunteers and community groups.

Supporting local businesses to thrive

- Maintain the range of restaurants and shops;
- Ensure local services, e.g. Doctors have capacity needed.

Ensure that flood risk minimised

- Risk, albeit low, of flooding in the old Town area if the flood walls are overtopped.

⁴ Based on planning permissions granted in outline in July 2016 and the Draft HDC Development Plan 2036.

⁵ The “historic core” refers to the older part of Godmanchester centred on the Causeway and as shown on map in Section 10.

⁶ Based on forecast data provide by Cambridge County Council (p11) but also noting that new housing developments are not factored in.

Vision for Godmanchester

3.2 In consultation with the community, the established vision for Godmanchester is as follows:

By 2036, Godmanchester will be an even better place to live, work and visit than it is now:

- ***The town's historic core and rich architecture will have been protected and the beautiful open spaces, particularly along the Ouse Valley, enjoyed by residents and visitors;***
- ***The community spirit, amenity, recreational and spiritual facilities, and good educational opportunities will be the envy of surrounding parishes;***
- ***New residents at Romans' Edge (formerly known as Bearscroft), and in any other new developments, will have been welcomed and any further development will be within the town's existing built boundary;***
- ***Traffic flows through the town will have reduced as a result of the A14 bypass, therefore allowing more people to use buses, walk and cycle safely;***
- ***Developments elsewhere in the district have been planned and the necessary infrastructure has been provided to ensure Godmanchester remains unaffected by these developments in terms of traffic.***



Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

3.3 The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan as identified through engagement with the community are as follows:

1. Protect and enhance our beautiful and tranquil countryside and open spaces.
2. Protect and enhance our historic heritage and improve the appearance of the Historic Core.
3. Provide a range of vibrant amenity and recreation facilities that are used by residents and visitors.
4. Ensure any new residential developments meet the housing needs of local people and benefit our Town.
5. Provide essential services and infrastructure.
6. Help local businesses thrive.
7. Help people get around more easily.



4 The Natural Environment and Open Space

- 4.1** It is our aim to ensure that the Town's beautiful open spaces, particularly along the Ouse Valley, can be enjoyed by residents and visitors. These spaces, and the natural environment in which Godmanchester is located are key to make our Town an even better place to live, work and visit.

The Importance of the Countryside Setting

- 4.2** Godmanchester sits alongside the River Great Ouse which is a dominating feature of the landscape and responsible for much of the current patterns of settlement and land use. Especially evident is the impact of sand and gravel extraction as well as extensive and intensive agricultural use. Current and past major transport links, and the now redundant land fill site, also add to the variety of habitats. An additional and important feature within the Town of Godmanchester, are the areas of green space and urban landscaping which together with a number of large homes and gardens provide a rich diversity of habitats.
- 4.3** To the north, east and west of the town a crescent of river and floodplain habitats studded with open water, wetland woodland, scrub and grassland provide significant wildlife value much of which is in the process of being proposed as the Ouse Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty⁸. This strategically important ecological network forms a core component of the green infrastructure within the county and beyond. There is significant potential to further enhance the varied habitats present. Draft policy proposals that enhance the natural environment and the ecological networks, including land along the Ouse Valley, the Local Green Spaces and other designated sites, will be welcomed.
- 4.4** The agricultural land to the south has been improved by the informal linear Silver Street nature reserve.
- 4.5** Portholme Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI] and Special Area for Conservation [SAC] is of European significance as it is the largest area of lowland floodplain meadow in the country. Whilst it is in the neighbouring parish of Brampton and falls within their Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area, it is a significant local conservation and recreational resource. It is also a vital visual presence in the Historic Core of the Town.
- 4.6** Smaller areas of meadow and flood plain grassland occur within the Godmanchester boundary and are very significant features.
- 4.7** Godmanchester also has the East Side Common SSSI and the West Side Common both of which are used for grazing and both provide valuable habitats and amenities for the Town.

⁸ The Ouse Valley is also defined in the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment 2007, HDC 2007

4.8 Along much of the valley, the river is flanked by large areas of open water, a legacy of sand and gravel mineral extraction. These sites are important recreational and biodiversity resources.

4.9 Whilst the agricultural value of the land around Godmanchester is classified as ‘very good’ to ‘good’⁹ it contributes much besides food production to the culture and scenic/recreational value of the Town. The meadows alongside the river are subject to flooding but the low, level grazing and cutting of these contribute significantly to the rural character of the area and form significant assets in regard to biodiversity and landscape. The fields to the east and south of the town are of lesser conservation value to those on the valley bottom along the river Great Ouse however in terms of the landscape. The gentle rising land forms an important backdrop to the Town and contributes significantly to view and impression that the visitor gets approaching from the south. “The high quality and distinctive character of this landscape make it vulnerable to changes stemming from developments of an unsympathetic design or scale.”¹⁰



4.10 The countryside around the built form of the Town is crucial in providing Godmanchester with its rural character and reflecting its historic past. It is a well-defined semi-rural settlement with a clear built-up form and boundaries. The separate nature of the settlement reflects its history as it pre-dates all surrounding settlements. Its character is derived from this separation and should be retained so that it remains a settlement significantly removed from neighbouring villages. Even the differences in the Medieval Bridge’s construction reflect Godmanchester’s independent nature, with arches that are different from those built from the Huntingdon side.

4.11 The new A14 route, whilst being publicised as having the potential to bring relief from congestion to Godmanchester, will have a significant impact on our surrounding landscape.

⁹ Defra’s agricultural land classification

¹⁰ Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment 2007, HDC 2007

- 4.12** It is imperative that development which may take place along the new A14 does not reduce the ‘open countryside’ gap between Godmanchester and the new A14. Similarly, it is important that growth in all local settlements, including Godmanchester, does not see the currently separate Towns and villages merge or the ‘open countryside’ gap reduced. The particular gaps of relevance are between Godmanchester and Hilton, Papworth, Papworth St Agnes, The Graveleys, The Offords and The Hemmingfords.

Policy GMC1: The importance of the countryside setting

Development in the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan Area shall be focused within or adjoining the settlement boundary as identified in the plan¹¹. Development outside the settlement boundary is classified as being in the ‘open countryside’.

Development in the ‘open countryside’ will only be acceptable where it is a use which is appropriate to the open countryside and should seek to preserve and protect our best and most versatile agricultural land and land of local environmental value including, but not limited to, The Godmanchester Nature Reserve at Cow Lane¹², The East Side and West Side Commons in Godmanchester and the Ouse Valley¹³

- 4.13** The Godmanchester Nature Reserve at Cow Lane (part of which is also known as the Peter Prince Memorial Nature Reserve), the Huntingdonshire Plant Nursery in Park Lane and the reclaimed land at the Cow Lane Landfill Site, are key open amenity spaces; the landfill site is being replanted and will become the new Neolithic Country Park. All of these areas provide important habitats for wildlife as well as important amenities for health and well-being of residents and visitors alike. Especially educational learning and skills development for school-age children and post-school individuals with additional or special educational needs; for recreational use by walkers, runners, cyclist and dog owners; bird watchers, nature enthusiasts and fishermen make use of the lakes. Additional facilities such as toilets, visitor centres, walkways, viewing points and visitor car parking will be important in making sites accessible to visitors. It will be important that such facilities should enhance their location as their prime purpose is to enable visitors to enjoy the wildlife whilst ensuring that those habitats are protected and enhanced.

Policy GMC2: Development of visitor and tourist facilities

Development proposals will be supported where they propose to develop visitor facilities that support the tourist and visitor attractions of the area, including those at our nature reserves and amenity spaces. Proposals need to be: of an appropriate scale for their location; be sympathetic to their location; be sustainable; have minimal impact upon their environment.

¹¹ As shown in Chapter 10 of this document

¹² Part of which is also known as the Peter Prince Memorial Nature Reserve

¹³ The Ouse Valley as defined and mapped in the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment 2007, HDC 2007

Preserving the Semi-Rural Village ‘Feel’ Within the Town.

4.14 There are a number of green spaces within the built-up part of the Town. This Green Infrastructure¹⁴ is important to not only provide connection for wildlife but also is crucial to maintain the semi-rural village-like feel of the Town and for residential amenity, as demonstrated through our community consultations. These green spaces are set out in Appendix 1.



4.15 The Local Green Spaces within or adjoining the settlement boundary are listed in Appendix 1, and are demonstrably special to the local community of Godmanchester. Also in Appendix 1, are sites in the Parish designated for their national and international significance for wildlife and as registered Common Land. Thirdly, Appendix 1 lists other non-designated green spaces, many of which were allocated as public amenity spaces under planning permissions for development on neighbouring land. These are all sites of community value, i.e. they provide a valuable space for recreational activities such as walking, dog walking, informal play, sports or allotment gardening. They are an important feature in and around the town and contribute to its character, adding to the distinctive open feel and reinforcing the sense of a rural village rather than an urban area.

Policy GMC3: Local Green Spaces

Godmanchester's designated Local Green Spaces¹⁵ and other green spaces are set out in Appendix 1. Proposals for development on the Local Green Spaces will not be permitted

¹⁴ "Green infrastructure is defined as a network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities." Cambridgeshire County Council Long Term Transport Strategy

¹⁵ The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land. (NPPF p18)

Green Spaces as listed in Appendix 1. Where areas which maintain the semi-rural feel of Town are identified but cannot be classified as being Local Green Spaces they will be designated as Other Green Spaces.

unless it can be demonstrated that it is required to enhance the role and function of an identified Local Green Space. Proposals for development on other green spaces should demonstrate that alternative informal recreational space is available within walking distance for neighbouring and future residents, and the semi-rural 'village' feel within the Town will not be seriously compromised.

Greener Streets

- 4.16** Whilst Godmanchester has many attractive streets, there are some streets with comparatively little greenery. Trees and other vegetation improve the visual features of public spaces and add to well-being, as well as contributing to the wider character of the area¹⁶. These streets could be made far more attractive, and wildlife friendly, with more street trees and planting.
- 4.17** The green spaces around our built environment, including verges and hedges for example, are important to improving public amenity. It can be difficult to identify who maintains or owns these areas of land. and It will be important that where any new development takes place, there is a clear plan as to whom will maintain the area and that asset records are accurate and reliable so that ownership is clearly identifiable¹⁷.

¹⁶ "Urban trees can make a significant contribution to a sustainable, integrated infrastructure approach, promoting value and economic development, climate change adaptation and human health and wellbeing", Baroness Kramer, Minister of State for Transport 14th Sept 2014

¹⁷ Environment Agency in the Pre-Submission Consultation

Policy GMC4: Landscaping and planting to keep the semi-rural character of the Town

All new development should demonstrate a high quality of landscaping and planting that is in keeping with the surrounding area and which replicates and extends the semi-rural character of the Town. This may include, but is not limited to, replicating the local pattern of traditional hedgerow planting, the use of native species and the inclusion of open “village” style greens. It will be important to maintain and extend linked habitats for wildlife: green corridors should be maintained/created to enable wildlife to move from one habitat to the next.



- 4.18** The Town has a wide range of wildlife living in its green spaces, back gardens, hedgerows and verges. These features provide a vital link to the surrounding countryside, as well as forming individual habitats and are key to giving the Town its semi-rural feel.

The River

- 4.19** Arguably Godmanchester’s greatest asset and the element that defines the Town is the watery highway for both people and wildlife. This adds greatly to the rich diversity of wildlife in the Town and represents 3000 years of water transport and trade from Bronze Age to today. The flora and fauna are typical of the area and are a constant reminder and pathway to the countryside and the landscape beyond. The aquatic biodiversity of the Ouse and its tributaries is important.

4.20 The river is mainly used for recreational activities and “quiet tourism” such as pleasure boating, kayaking and canoeing. The low impact, low level noise, is important to maintain the tranquillity of the area and to promote the diversity of wildlife.



Policy GMC5: Making the most of our waterside assets.

Development proposals that promote use of the river for quiet and low-impact leisure, wildlife and tourists’ pursuits, with low risk to wildlife and habitats, will be supported. Proposals to protect, restore, replace and enhance public moorings and create new public mooring space to encourage safe access to the river and spaces for short stay¹⁸ visitors will be supported. Public access and use will be prioritised over private access and use. Proposals that will create activity on the river will be expected to demonstrate that such uses do not have a detrimental impact on the tranquil environment through the creation of excessive noise or pollution.

¹⁸ Up to 48 Hours as set out by the Great Ouse Boating Association

Play Areas and Recreation Spaces

- 4.21** Godmanchester has a reasonable amount of play area provision which is quite well distributed throughout the Town¹⁹



- 4.22** The new development at Romans' Edge will provide some additional play spaces. There is deficit in natural and semi-natural areas. A number of potential green space sites for example, Wigmore Meadow where the wildflower areas could be extended to provide the biodiversity element needed, have been identified.²⁰ Huntingdon District Council (HDC) have identified that we need more parks and gardens. It will be important to ensure that the balance of parks, gardens and play spaces is kept under review to ensure they meet the changing needs of the Town.



¹⁹ HDC Paper March 2016: Godmanchester & St Neots - Needs Analysis of Green Space & Play Facilities, A Merrick.

²⁰ HDC Paper March 2016: Godmanchester & St Neots - Needs Analysis of Green Space & Play Facilities, A Merrick.

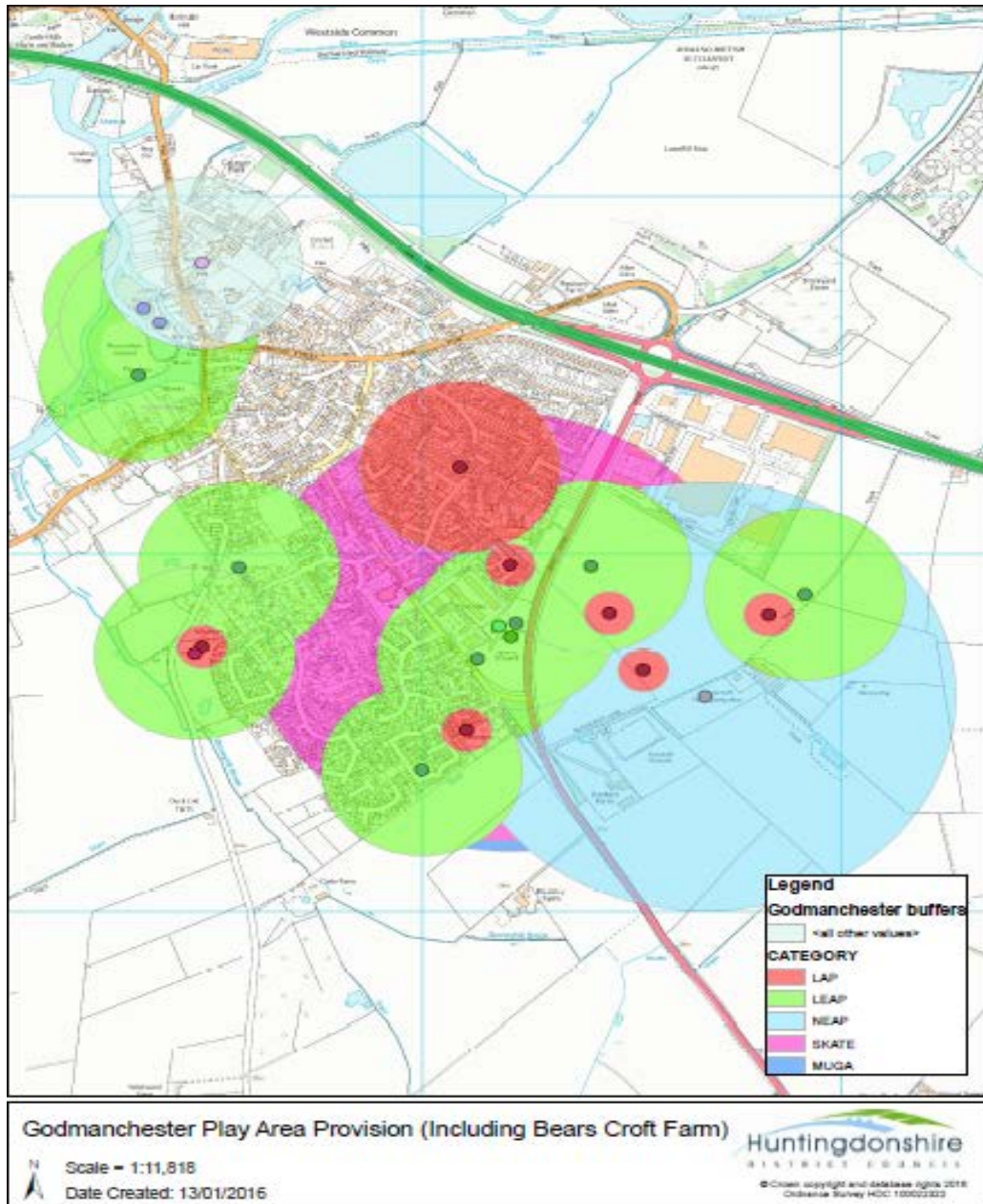
Figure 2: Green Space Provision as set out in Godmanchester and St Neots: Needs Analysis of Green Spaces and Play Spaces, HDC 2016²¹ A definition of what each heading means can be found in the footnote below.²²

Green Space Provision (ha)	Policy	Actual (ha)*
Parks & Gardens	3.27	0.09
Green Corridors	0.00	0.41
Natural & Semi Natural	1.57	0.00
Allotments & Community Gardens	2.18	3.52
Amenity Green Space	7.43	9.66
Total Green Space	14.45	13.68
Play Provision (ha)		
Total	1.70	0.57
* HDC, TC & PC and 3rd party ownership all included		

²¹ Godmanchester and St Neots: Needs Analysis of Green Spaces and Play Spaces, HDC 2016

²² *Parks and Gardens*: “This type of open space includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events, within settlement boundaries”
Natural and Semi-Natural: This type of open space includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrubland, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, nature reserves and wastelands with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and bio-diversity within the settlement boundaries.
Amenity Greenspace; This type of open space is most commonly found in housing areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and greenspaces in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancing the appearance of residential or other areas. It also includes village greens. Amenity space is often the only type of provision found in smaller settlements.

Figure 3: Green Space Provision as currently available in Godmanchester and St Neots: Needs Analysis of Green Spaces and Play Spaces, HDC 2016



Legend terminology: LAP: Local Area for Play LEAP: Local Equipped Area for Play NEAP: Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play : SKATE: skate park; MUGA: Multi Use Games Area²³

²³ Defined by Fields In Trust and Play England.

- 4.23** Whilst the Town has a number of play areas, HDC have identified that we need more and the additional play areas proposed for the Romans' Edge will help address this.



- 4.24** It has also been identified that the north of the town would benefit from an additional play area. The area where there is sufficient space is to the side of the Cricket Pitch, near to Pavilions Close. "However, if there were an opportunity to upgrade a LEAP²⁴ play area to a NEAP²⁵ play area in the north-west the funding to increase the size and play designation of a LEAP to a NEAP would need to be financed through securing a Section 106 funding from local developments"²⁶.

Policy GMC6: Improving and increasing all our public Green Space²⁷

Development proposals will be supported which:

Improve our Green Spaces and increase the provision of "parks and gardens"²⁸ for public use; and

Create more natural and semi-natural²⁹ green spaces giving improved public amenity space for mental and physical health and educational use.

²⁴ LEAP: a local equipped area for play with a minimum of 6 play experiences

²⁵ NEAP: neighbourhood equipped area for play with a minimum of 9 play experiences

²⁶ HDC Paper March 2016: Godmanchester & St Neots - Needs Analysis of Green Space & Play Facilities, A Merrick.

²⁷ "Green spaces" refer to Local Green Spaces and Godmanchester's Other Green Spaces

²⁸ As defined in HDC Paper March 2016: Godmanchester & St Neots - Needs Analysis of Green Space & Play Facilities, A Merrick. *Parks and Gardens*: "This type of open space includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events, within settlement boundaries"

²⁹ As defined in HDC Paper March 2016: Godmanchester & St Neots - Needs Analysis of Green Space & Play Facilities, A Merrick. *Parks and Gardens*. "Natural and Semi-Natural: This type of open space includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrubland, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, nature reserves and wastelands with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and bio-diversity within the settlement boundaries."

- 4.25** Walking for pleasure and recreation is important for health and well-being and Godmanchester’s rural setting lends itself to this. There are several well-used local footpaths and walkways, including The Charter Way³⁰, that lead beyond the settlement boundary and out into the surrounding open countryside: this includes the Ouse Valley Way. It is important that new routes are provided over time to ensure that we retain our semi-rural feel and our connection to the open countryside around us.
- 4.26** Dog walking is part and parcel of daily life for many residents and yet there are no green spaces in the Town designated as “off-the-leash” spaces. The provision of public amenity space that would enable off-the-leash dog walking space will be supported.

Policy GMC7: Improving access to the countryside

Development proposals will be supported that provide walking routes and enable ongoing access to the wider countryside.

Community Plant and Tree Nursery and Allotments

- 4.27** Godmanchester hosts the Huntingdonshire Community Plant and Tree Nursery (Park Lane) which provides plants and produce for HDC and the public. In addition, it also provides a social and learning space for adults and children (and has been used for pupils and young adults with Special and Additional Education Needs³¹). It is also a meeting point for HDC Health Walks. This space is listed as a ‘Asset of Community Value’ but there is a real possibility that it will be lost to development over time so it will be important to find a replacement site to enable this valued resource to remain within the Town.
- 4.28** There are currently 140 allotments covering 7.5 acres with more than 100 allotment holders. Those on the current site, on Cambridge Road, have been in use for nearly 100 years and are managed by the Allotment Association. There are more allotments allocated at the Romans’ Edge development. These allotments are a vital part of the town. The families and children involved enjoy an activity which is productive and healthy.

Policy GMC8: Ensuring public amenity space is retained within the Town.

Where public nursery and allotment space is lost through redevelopment for housing or other uses then an alternative easily accessible provision of equal scale and quality should be provided to the community within the parish.

³⁰ Route to commemorate the anniversary of the Town’s Charter.

³¹ Used by local schools for enrichment (Pupil Premium) and SEN/Additional Needs support as well as for young people spending their Personal Learning Budgets.

Sports Facilities

- 4.29** Godmanchester has a range of sports on offer for residents, with some utilising dedicated spaces and others using local recreation spaces. Whilst many sports are not available in the Town, a significant number are on offer in the neighbouring Town of Huntingdon and the wider area. It remains important for health, well-being and a sense of community for sporting opportunities to remain and grow in the Town.
- 4.30** Godmanchester has a cricket ground which is owned by HDC and is run by a group of volunteers. The wooden Cricket Pavilion is reaching the end of its life span and will need to be replaced. This open space is also well used by residents for recreation and as a public amenity space. This is an HDC “Strategic Facility”³² and is listed as an HDC Community asset.
- 4.31** Godmanchester has a small swimming pool on the Community Academy site which currently offers swimming facilities and lessons to the school and is open to the public. This is a well-used resource and those using it travel from far beyond the Town.
- 4.32** The new development at Bearscroft Farm, now known as Romans’ Edge will have a green sports pitches. The final details are yet to be determined but it is hoped that these spaces will encourage an even greater number of sports and sporting opportunities on offer in the Town.
- 4.33** Godmanchester has a floodlit Multi- Use Games Area (MUGA) at Judith’s Field which is freely available for the community to use.
- 4.34** The Town is home to both a thriving running club and cycling club. These are community led groups and are run on an informal basis.
- 4.35** A number of martial arts groups meet in the Town’s community facilities and we have a gym operating from one of our industrial estates.
- 4.36** Whilst we are on the river, we do not have any water-based sports groups based in the Town: there are active boat clubs and a canoeing club in Huntingdon, a dragon boat club in St. Neots and sailing is offered at Graffham Water.

³² Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-21

- 4.37** Godmanchester is home to an established football club, Godmanchester Rovers, and new affiliated youth football club, Godmanchester Town. The land where Rovers have their ground is leased from HDC and is accessed by the farm track, along Bearscroft Lane via the A1198. The site provides: two 11m by 11m pitches used by seven teams (three Rovers and four Town teams); a 9m by 9m pitch used by three teams (Town); a 7m by 7m pitch used by two teams (Town); and a mini-soccer school. The number of teams using in site in 2017 – 18 is set to increase to between 18 and 24. Although the team have invested in a club house and have significantly upgraded the facilities to meet league requirements (car parking, stands, turnstiles) they have a fundamental issue with the land on which the pitches sit: it routinely becomes waterlogged and is often unplayable. HDC note that ground would benefit from a 3G pitch³³, noting its impact on public participation and identifying it as local need. The football ground is now listed as an HDC Community asset.
- 4.38** The Town also hosts other youth football teams that train on the recreational spaces, including Judith’s Field but are unable to play matches due to the lack of available, appropriate pitches³⁴
- 4.39** Godmanchester Rovers are keen to convert their football pitches to the latest all weather pitches, which they would use as a wider community sporting facility. These would enable play all year-round and, as they would be lit, would enable longer hours of use in the darker months.
- 4.40** Godmanchester has a small Tennis Club which has been utilising the tennis courts at Godmanchester Primary School. HDC also note this in the Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-21: “These areas have been identified on the criteria they are within large enough settlements to support additional facilities and there is an obvious discrepancy in level of provision compared to similar settlements”. However, these facilities are being used as a temporary home for the Bridge Academy. It would be good to find a new more permanent facility within the Town as they currently have no place in which to play.
- 4.41** The Royal Oak Bowls Club has a bowling green accessed via St. Anne’s Lane. This is an important community asset and is used for regular club sessions.

Policy GMC9: Ensuring a wide range of sporting and recreation facilities are retained and expanded within the Town

Development proposals to retain, improve and enhance current sports and recreation facilities and offer new additional facilities that extend the range of sports on offer will be supported.

³³ Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-21

³⁴ This includes pitches which meet the needs of the Football Associations league requirements.

5 Heritage and the Built Environment

- 5.1 Godmanchester’s “historic core” and rich architecture is important to its character and is part of what makes it unique. This aspect of Godmanchester will need to be protected as the Town changes with time. However, what makes the Town special is its residents. To make our Town an even better place to live it needs to meet the needs of its residents. It is our aspiration that Godmanchester will have the community spirit, amenity, recreational and spiritual facilities, and good educational opportunities that will be the envy of surrounding parishes.
- 5.2 As many of Godmanchester’s historic and heritage assets are covered by national protection under legislation (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990), the shortness of this section does not reflect the value we place on them but rather seeks not to duplicate provision under planning law that already provide protection.

Heritage

- 5.3 Godmanchester is rich in history, archaeology and archaeological artefacts: its heritage is what makes it unique and provides its character. It is relatively unusual to have a settlement with such a long history which is still very much in evidence in its structure and buildings. The two conservation areas are full of listed buildings showing architecture from the last 400 years.
- 5.4 As the Town changes, archaeological investigations permit us a glimpse into our past: there are significant Roman sites around the Town³⁵, many of which are now shown through the interpretation boards near to these sites. In one location, we are able to see the original Roman Road - Ermine Street – visible only some two feet below the surface of the soil. In preparing for the new development at Romans’ Edge the archaeological work unearthed an iron age settlement. Under the former landfill site lie the remains of a Neolithic Temple It is important that we record the location of these sites and enable their story to form part of historical understanding of Godmanchester as a settlement.
- 5.5 The Museum has artefacts that date back to the Roman Town including a section of Roman Road. Currently the museum opens on a temporary basis in the Queen Elizabeth School: this means that exhibits can only be viewed on six occasions each year or by prior arrangement.

Policy GMC10: Promoting Godmanchester’s history and heritage

Development proposals that seek to promote and share the history and heritage of Godmanchester through development of the visitor economy and of tourist facilities will be supported. Proposals need to be: of an appropriate scale for their location; be sympathetic to their location; have low-impact and enhance their environment. Development proposals to provide a permanent home to the Museum within the historic core will be supported.

³⁵ As documented by Professor Upex, Archaeologist and Landscape Historian at Cambridge University in conjunction with the Porch Museum.

The Built Environment

5.6 The Town has a fine grade I* parish Church of mainly 14th Century construction. In 1853, the whole building was restored under the direction of the famous architect Sir G. Gilbert Scott RA. The Church is an important landmark in the Town and views to it are important to the local community. Plans are in hand to develop the internal space for greater use by the community.



5.7 There is also a Scheduled Monument in the plan area, a moated site 170m east of the church.

5.8 The focal point of the historic core of the Town is centred on School Hill, the location of Godmanchester's Chinese Bridge which is probably the Town's most photographed feature. The Queen Elizabeth School and the Town Hall, both Grade II* listed are here too.

5.9 The buildings along the Causeway are indicative of the character of Godmanchester. Fronting the old Viking harbour, are properties (commercial and residential) of architectural merit which are often photographed to illustrate the historic heritage.



5.10 Godmanchester has an unusually large number of listed buildings, the highest number in Huntingdonshire at 125 listed buildings and counting, marking it out as a place with a special heritage³⁶. There are significant buildings in the roads that radiate from the centre of the historic core including West Street, Cambridge Road Post Street and Earning Street. Properties here include large farmhouses from the 15th Century as well as bakeries, forges, cordwainers and a large number of former inns. In addition, in West Street, is Farm Hall, built in 1746 for the Recorder of Huntingdon. One of the Godmanchester's most imposing buildings is Island Hall, an elegant riverside mansion built in the late 1740s.



5.11 Godmanchester has two Conservation Areas: Post Street³⁷ and Earning Street³⁸. These are important nationally, as well as locally, as they demonstrate the history and heritage of the Town. (See Appendix 3 for a link to the list of all Grade I and II listings.)

Policy GMC11: Ensuring development maintains and enhances the character of the Town and reflects its heritage and history.

Development proposals within the historic core are expected to demonstrate that they are sympathetic to the surrounding buildings (including listed building), in terms of scale, design and amenity. Development proposals should reinforce the local character including the grain, scale, density and architectural distinctiveness.

³⁶ HDC Overview and Scrutiny Panel Report June 2015: A14 Joint Local Impact Report Statement Of Common Ground And Environmental Impact Assessment Matters

³⁷ HDC Godmanchester (Post Street) Conservation Area Character Statement 2002

³⁸ HDC Godmanchester (Earning Street) Conservation Area Character Statement 2003

5.12 Godmanchester is not a living museum and the needs of its residents and businesses will change over time. It is important that historic buildings remain in use and are well-maintained. It is also important that as build uses change we do not lose the important features that tell us about the buildings past uses, and the Town's long and varied heritage.

Policy GMC12: Protecting and celebrating our heritage

In order to protect and celebrate Godmanchester's heritage, development proposals that seek to alter or extend listed or historic buildings and structures should retain any key features that show their past use.



6 Housing

- 6.1 Over the HDC Draft Local Plan period to 2036, most residential development will be delivered on the Romans' Edge site. With this site, currently in progress, there is little potential to influence the detail of the housing development that it provides. However, any subsequent housing developments in Godmanchester need to address some important principles that have been established as important by the local community. In summary, these must ensure that any new development enhances the Town and provides the right mix of houses for all residents with affordable, good quality homes for families and the elderly.



- 6.2 In writing the Plan, we are encouraged not to duplicate planning policies which already exist in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) or in planning policies already adopted³⁹, or proposed,⁴⁰ by HDC as the planning authority. Consequently, there may be housing policies that are not covered in this document as they already exist elsewhere: the Huntingdonshire District Council policies which apply are set out in Appendix 2.

³⁹ The HDC Core Strategy 2009

⁴⁰ The HDC Draft Local Plan to 2036

Residential Development

- 6.3** New housing development of a moderate or minor scale is defined in Policy CS3 of the Core Strategy as developments of 10-59 dwellings and up to 9 dwellings respectively. Back land development is defined as development on land behind the rear building line of existing housing or other development, and is usually land that has previously been used as gardens, open spaces and wildlife habitats.
- 6.4** Infill development involves the development of a small gap in an otherwise built up frontage. It usually consists of frontage plots only and often comprises side gardens of existing houses.
- 6.5** One of the issues raised by the community has been the concern that infill development would serve to inappropriately increase the density of development in the Town thereby having a detrimental impact.
- 6.6** The combined, cumulative effect of new development including back land and infill development is that it can change the character of a settlement: here that would mean from a semi-rural character to a much more urban character. This would not be appropriate in Godmanchester, where care and attention to the scale, design and layout of new housing and its site context must be given.

Policy GMC13: Residential development.

Residential development within or adjoining the settlement boundary⁴¹ of Godmanchester should reflect the character of the surrounding area and protect amenity of neighbours. Sites within reasonable walking distance of the Town's historic core will be favourably considered. Development should be of minor or moderate scale⁴², or represent infilling or back land development. Infilling or back land development should reinforce the character of the existing street scene by reflecting the scale, mass, height and form of its neighbours, as well as the grain and density of its location. It should also reflect the semi-rural nature of the Town with its historic core.

⁴¹ As defined on the Settlement Boundary map in this document

⁴² Moderate or minor scale is defined as developments of 10-59 dwellings and up to 9 dwellings respectively

Improving Parking in the Town

- 6.7** Godmanchester residents have a high reliance on cars for accessing employment as shown in Section 2 of this Plan. The average number of cars per household is 1.4. However, a high proportion of homes in the Town, mainly in the Historic Core, have little or no off-street parking due to their historic nature – quite simply, many were built long before cars were invented. A number of local business, as well as the doctors’ surgery, operate in this part of the Town and so the problem is compounded by individuals who need to park to access those services and amenities.
- 6.8** A further challenge is that as the roads came long before motorised vehicles many are narrower than a normal carriageway further reducing the opportunities for on-street parking. A number of our roads are major thoroughfares⁴³ and are marked out with double yellow lines to prevent parking so as to maintain traffic flows and safe passage. This further reduces the number of possible on-street parking opportunities.
- 6.9** Parking is a real issue for Godmanchester residents, whether it is in terms of amenity for householders or safety where parking is poor and causes obstructions. It is vital that changes to the Town do not make the situation worse than it is already.
- 6.10** There is limited on-street and off-street parking in the historic core of the Town with no easy solution given the physical constraints of the environment. Vehicles parked on pavements create a safety issues for pedestrians and drivers.



⁴³ As identified by CCC Highways

- 6.11** The two local primary schools (three with Romans' Edge development) occasionally require buses/coaches to park to load and unload pupils but these are relatively infrequent. However, parking for school visitors overflows into neighbouring streets and there is local congestion associated with parents dropping and collecting children.
- 6.12** Godmanchester has three public car parks; all of which are owned and operated by HDC. People working in Huntingdon mostly use the Bridge Place Car Park. The Mill Yard Car Park is largely used by commuters from outside of the Town and by residents who live on Post Street. The car park on Park Lane is used mainly by those visiting the primary school, children's centre and swimming pool.
- 6.13** Increasingly Godmanchester is being used by commuters from outlying villages who park due its free parking and bus links to Huntingdon Railway station and the Guided Bus Way link into Cambridge. These additional cars reduce parking for residents, businesses and visitors.
- 6.14** Whippet, the local bus operator, has recently withdrawn a large section of the Town's bus route, citing obstructions caused by poor parking as being such a significant issue that it was no longer feasible to maintain the service.
- 6.15** Some of our recent housing developments clearly demonstrate that sometimes parking designs simply do not deliver what residents need and this then leads to cars parking on the roadside and on verges and pavements⁴⁴. We also have restricted road access which causes issues for cars, bin lorries and, more importantly, emergency service vehicles. The community expressed a preference for new developments to avoid the use of parking courts where possible. These were felt to encourage anti-social behaviour and were often under-used, with residents choosing to park in front of their properties instead.
- 6.16** It is imperative that the additional vehicles associated with the new Romans' Edge development do not exacerbate the situation of unacceptable levels of on-street parking. It is also considered that there should be no reduction of existing parking provision, either off-street or on-street, unless it can be appropriately replaced with an alternative offer.

⁴⁴ HDC's Draft Design Guide 2016 utilises images from Godmanchester to exemplify where parking design does not work

- 6.17** New residential development in Godmanchester should include parking provision which is based on a careful assessment of the site's location and the character of the surrounding area, as well as the nature and form of the proposed development, and the size of the dwellings (number of bedrooms). Regard should be had for guidance on parking in the Huntingdonshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document 2017, when residential or other development proposals are put forward.
- 6.18** Cycling is addressed in a later chapter but it should be noted that all new development should provide adequate secure cycle parking provision.

Policy GMC14: For new residential development, plans should not exacerbate any pressure on 'on-street' parking and should provide numbers of off-street parking spaces appropriate to the site's location and the character of the proposal. The number of spaces should reflect the mix, size and type of housing.

Parking spaces can take the form of spaces or garaging/car port facilities, but must be permanently available for parking use and must meet the minimum standards for size as set out by the Local Planning Authority⁴⁵.

Development that results in the loss of existing off- or on-street parking will be resisted unless it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that the amount of overall provision is adequate.

Proposals for new commercial development (A, B, or D-use class) must demonstrate that they can provide adequate off-road parking for their workforce, customers and deliveries and will not have a detrimental impact on the amenity of neighbouring residential properties or existing businesses.

Proposals for new commercial activity that include for the provision of a Travel Plan will be supported, particularly where use of public and community transport is included.

Proposals that result in the loss of public car-parking facilities in the historic core will be resisted. Such proposals will only be acceptable if parking provision is made elsewhere within the historic core⁴⁶ that is at least of an equivalent size, quality and accessibility as the existing facility.

⁴⁵ Huntingdon District Council Design Guide 2017

Townscape

Street Furniture, Hard Landscaping, Lighting and Signage

- 6.19** Godmanchester is proud of its appearance winning ‘Best small town’ category of the Anglia in Bloom competition in 2014. In order to ensure that Godmanchester continues to have an attractive townscape, it is expected that the landscaping of new development should demonstrate that it is of a high quality and in keeping with the surrounding character. As part of this, any new planting should seek to use similar species to those used elsewhere in the town: this policy is already covered under the greener streets section.
- 6.20** It is important that the appearance of the street scene is enhanced where possible, not just by the soft landscaping but by the hard landscaping, street lamps, road signs and shop signs. Litterbins, benches and seats are welcomed where they are carefully located to serve the needs of residents and visitors and enhance public amenity. It is important that these reflect the semi-rural nature of the Town as well as its heritage and history.
- 6.21** HDC have already reviewed the hard landscaping in Town and consider that the “heavily engineered nature of the historic core”: would benefit from a review to consider whether there are other hard landscaping treatment that would be more sympathetic “than the “wall to wall ‘black-top’ hard surfacing across the street frontage. The roads that pass through the historic core⁴⁷ form some of Huntingdonshire’s most historic streets and are of major historical significance located within designated Conservation Areas and containing a wealth of Listed Buildings. Over many years, these roads have become more and more traffic-dominated to the detriment of its historic nature and indeed, the street scene is dominated by almost continuous carriageway and footway.”⁴⁸

Policy GMC15: Improving and enhancing the Town through street furniture lights and signage that reflect the Town’s character

The provision of street furniture⁴⁹, hard landscaping, lighting and signage will be expected to minimise the visual clutter in the Historic Core and to enhance its historic character. Where new provision is made, it should be in keeping with its surroundings, have regard to energy conservation and public safety and be sympathetic to the historic character of the Town. Signage which seeks to interpret and promote the Town’s heritage and history will be supported.

⁴⁷ Principally but not limited to: The Avenue, Post Street, the Causeway, West Street, Cambridge Street and Cambridge Road, Corpus Christi, London Street and Earning Street

⁴⁸ HDC Paper to Environmental Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel 10 June A14 Joint Impact Report Appendix B

⁴⁹ Litterbins benches and seats

Flooding and Surface Water Flood Risk

- 6.22** Flood risk is an ever-present threat from the river but recent improvements to defences have reduced the risks from a 5% chance to a 1% chance or a 1 in 100 year risk from a 1 in 50 year risk Error! Bookmark not defined.
- 6.23** Significant parts of Godmanchester are still at risk from surface water flooding, as shown on the Environment Agency's flood maps:
- 6.24** Traditional drainage systems involve piping water off-site as quickly as possible are dependent on drains, sewers and ditches being kept clean. Increasingly detention basins and swales are being used to store excess water before it is then released into water management systems in a controlled way to avoid flooding. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) reduce flood risk by attenuating the rate and quantity of surface water run-off from a site, promoting ground water recharge and improving water quality and amenity.

Policy GMC 16: Reducing Surface Water Flood Risk

Development proposals will be expected to include Surface Water Management Systems (SuDS) in new builds and for retrofitting in order to reduce the existing surface water flood risk. Detention basins and dry swales provide a dual functionality and can be incorporated within the landscape and public green/open space. Provision for future adoption and maintenance will be essential.

7 Community Infrastructure and Businesses

- 7.1 For a community to thrive, its local infrastructure must provide for a range and choice of activities. It is important that what already exists within a community is protected and that additional infrastructure is provided to address the needs arising from growth.
- 7.2 One of the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan is to provide a range of vibrant amenity and recreation facilities that are used by residents and visitors. The way the Plan seeks to achieve this is by:
- improving existing indoor and outdoor recreational and sporting areas;
 - provide more facilities to reflect the changing needs of the community;
 - developing the community spirit in the Town;
 - developing moorings, fishing platforms and slipways to promote better use of the river;
 - ensuring our Town has sufficient good schools, health services, a wide range of local shops, and post office/banking services.



Protection of Existing and Provision of New Community Facilities

- 7.3** A range of community facilities have been identified as being needed by the residents. However, it is recognised that, over the plan period, it is likely that new or larger facilities will be needed to support the growth in the population or when ongoing maintenance is no longer financially viable. It is also recognised that needs and fashions change and the facilities may no longer be suitable, sustainable or well-used, needing to be updated, replaced, removed or a new facility offered.
- 7.4** This policy seeks to provide general support for the provision of such community facilities, as opposed to identifying a finite list or specific locations for the provision of amenities. It is recognised that the funding of such facilities is constrained and that the limited amount of residential development in the Parish means that developer contributions will also be limited. Therefore, it will be important that the local community uses its resources to lever in funds through grants and other means in order to fund the bulk of the cost of any new facility.

Policy GMC17: Provision of community facilities within the Town

Proposals that would result in the loss of community facilities will only be permitted if alternative and equivalent community facilities are provided, unless it can be demonstrated there is no longer a need or no reasonable hope of services being sustained.

Alternative community provision will be required to meet the following criteria:*

- *the scale⁵⁰ of the alternative provision must be at least of an equivalent scale to the existing provision; and*
- *the alternative site must be at least of equivalent standard in terms of layout to the existing provision; and*
- *the location of the alternative provision must be generally accessible by foot and within or adjacent to the built-up area of Godmanchester Town*

The provision of new community facilities to address the needs of the residents of the parish will be supported. These needs could relate to new recreation, leisure, spiritual, social, education and medical facilities.

**unless it can be demonstrated there is no longer a need or no reasonable hope of services being sustained.*



⁵⁰ Scale refers to range of facilities that are on offer rather than purely the size of the building or plot of land

Lawn Cemetery and Closed Church Yard

- 7.5** There is a “closed” churchyard, including a non-conformist burial ground, located at St. Mary The Virgin parish church. This means that it is no longer open for new burials. The Town Council is responsible for maintaining the Churchyard and non-conformist burial ground in conjunction with the Diocese of Ely.
- 7.6** The Lawn Cemetery is located adjacent to Stokes Drive and is managed by the Town Council. It provides burial plots and space for the interment of ashes. There is currently 50% space available for the future needs of the Town. In time additional space will be required: If the Town’s population grows at the current rate new space may be required from 2025. However, should the population change significantly that space may be required much earlier.

GMC18 Space for burials

Development proposals that provide additional burial space, including additional space at the Lawn Cemetery, will be supported.

Health Services

- 7.7** Godmanchester’s population is growing as our housing supply increases and so too is the demand for health services. Our population is statistically in good health (over 80%) and our average life expectancy age has risen to 85 years and with that come a higher level of long term health issues and disabilities^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}. We have steady birth rate but the growth of our community by a third with the new houses at Roman’s Edge may well see this increase.
- 7.8** Godmanchester is served by a single NHS doctors’ surgery (Roman Gate Surgery in Pinfold Lane) which is part of a practice serving Godmanchester and part of Huntingdon. The Roman Gate site is limited by the adjacent roads and building and there is already an issue with the lack of parking for staff and patients.



- 7.9** Godmanchester has not had a dental surgery from some years: the nearest NHS practices are in Huntingdon.
- 7.10** Godmanchester benefits from having Hinchingsbrooke hospital within a short car journey, however there is no direct bus route. The hospital currently provides a range of services including an Accident and Emergency Department. Specialist services are offered at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, Peterborough City Hospital and Papworth Hospital (due to relocate to The Addenbrookes site).
- 7.11** It will be important to ensure that there is adequate provision of easily accessible health service within Godmanchester to reduce the need to travel for day-to-day health care such as GPs and dentists. However, recognising that those who need health care may also need to use cars it is vital that adequate off-street car parking is provided that is designed to grow as the demand for services increases with a changing population.

Policy GMC19: Provision of health services to meet the needs of residents

Development proposals that improve the availability of, and accessibility to, health services within Godmanchester, especially GP and dental services, will be supported.

Education

- 7.12** Godmanchester has a number of well used pre-schools and nurseries within the Town. The projected numbers of under-fives suggest that more pre-school place providers are needed. Nursery provision in Godmanchester is already set to grow with new places opening at the Bridge Academy. This should mean there are adequate numbers but as the Town changes it will be important that parents have easy access to high quality places.
- 7.13** Godmanchester is currently served by two primary schools (St Anne's and Godmanchester Primary Academy) with a new primary school (The Bridge Academy) being built as part of the Romans' Edge development. All schools offer education from Reception to Year 6 as well as hosting a wide range of other community based activities.
- 7.14** There is no secondary school in Godmanchester: Year 7 – 11 pupils travel to Huntingdon. The majority of secondary school age children attend Hinchingbrooke. St. Peters and the new secondary school that will be built as part of the Alconbury Weald development are the only two other state secondary schools within a five-mile radius. Some secondary pupils travel to Peterborough, Kimbolton or Cambridge to access religious or private (fee paying) schools. A recent survey indicated that parents would prefer to see school pupils travel less distance⁵¹.
- 7.15** Hinchingbrooke and St Peter's have sixth forms and, along with Huntingdon, Cambridge and Peterborough Regional Colleges provide a range of post-16 qualifications. In Godmanchester, the College of Animal Welfare and Stage Stars also offer post -16 vocational qualifications.
- 7.16** It would promote health and reduce traffic congestion if there are good and safe walking and cycling routes to all our education sites.
- 7.17** It will be important to see public transport routes made available to enable school pupils and college students to access education sites in time for registration each day, as well as to make the return journey home. It would promote more post-16 access if routes beyond the Town were connected and travel cards enabled for single ticket discounted journeys.

Policy GMC20: Provision of education facilities for residents

We would support proposals that improve the availability and accessibility of education facilities in Godmanchester, where they are identified and needed, and are or the benefit of Godmanchester residents.

⁵¹ Godmanchester Academy Trust Parental Survey 2016

Helping Local Businesses Thrive

- 7.18** In a small town such as Godmanchester with a limited employment base, the local businesses are an important part of the community infrastructure. They provide the services that support the population; without them there would be more journeys to Huntingdon and other surrounding areas, putting more pressure on the already stretched transport network.
- 7.19** Our priority is the support of businesses which provide local services and employment.

Providing for the Needs of New and Existing Businesses

- 7.20** One of the key themes in the NPPF is supporting a prosperous rural economy. Paragraph 28 states that, "Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development."
- 7.21** There are over 33 listed businesses within the parish which does not include those working as sole traders. Over the plan period, it is considered vital to support local services and businesses in order that they may create employment opportunities for residents and local people.
- 7.22** In 2011 over 8% of the economically active population of Godmanchester parish was self-employed without employees, above the district average. In particular in a rural location it is considered most appropriate to encourage small scale businesses which develop and promote tourism and rural enterprise generally and/or benefit the local community. Many of these businesses will be start-ups and for these people, having access to low-cost premises on flexible terms is of paramount importance. The provision of such flexible space within the parish will therefore be supported.
- 7.23** The Romans' Edge mixed use development is required to deliver approximately five hectares of B-class employment land. This therefore represents a significant opportunity to provide appropriate accommodation.
- 7.24** Godmanchester is home to the Wood Green Animal Shelter at Kings Bush. This site houses a large number of cats and dogs, as well as other domesticated animals and pets. The location away from other settlements is key to its being able to operate safely. It also has a large arena space, outdoor spaces, conference rooms and catering facilities including a public restaurant. Its location on the A1198 does enable easy road access but the exit from the site is not ideal given that the speed of vehicles on this section of the road and is more congested than when the shelter was first established. The A1198 has no footpath or cycle way to the site and the nature of the trunk road makes any access other than by car very unsafe.

- 7.25** It is vital for the economic success of our community, as for residents' amenity, that there are good telephone services and high speed broadband services. Until 2017 we still had two parts of the Town with no fast broadband on offer as the infrastructure had either not be installed or it had not been connected.

Policy GMC21: Growing new capacity for small scale businesses in the Town

Development proposals to provide small-scale⁵² and "Micro-Business"⁵³ A2⁵⁴, B1⁵⁵ and D2⁵⁶ -class employment opportunities will generally be supported, in particular start-up space on flexible terms. This could either be through the following:

- conversion of existing buildings across the Neighbourhood Plan area, subject to the impact of provision on the highway network and parking; or*
- provision of new buildings or conversion of existing buildings within or adjoining the Settlement Boundary of the Town.*

Any such use will need to ensure that its impact on light, noise and air is acceptable and delivery, customer and employee access arrangements do not impact on public or neighbour amenity.

There will be a strong presumption against the loss of commercial premises or land which provides employment or future potential employment opportunities. Outside of permitted development rights, applications for a change of use to an activity that does not provide employment opportunities will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that:

- the commercial premises or land in question has not been in active use for at least 12 months; and*
- the commercial premises or land in question has no potential for either reoccupation or redevelopment for employment generating uses and as demonstrated through the results both of a full valuation report and a marketing campaign lasting for a continuous period of at least six months.*
- All new development must have good telephone services and high speed broadband services provided.*

⁵² With a floor space of about 150 – 200m²

⁵³ EU definition of a Micro-Business = less than 10 employees & turnover under £2 million

⁵⁴ A2 Shops - Shops, retail warehouses, hairdressers, undertakers, travel and ticket agencies, post offices, pet shops, sandwich bars, showrooms, domestic hire shops, dry cleaners, funeral directors and internet cafes.

⁵⁵ B1 Business - Offices (other than those that fall within A2), research and development of products and processes, light industry appropriate in a residential area.

⁵⁶ D2 Assembly and leisure - Cinemas, music and concert halls, bingo and dance halls (but not night clubs), swimming baths, skating rinks, gymnasiums or area for indoor or outdoor sports and recreations (except for motor sports, or where firearms are used).

8 Getting Around

8.1 Godmanchester is a growing community. Transport and traffic are major concerns for residents and must be addressed in and through the future planning of the Town. The vision is to:

- make the roads in the Town safer by reducing vehicle speeds and minimising traffic congestion;
- improve sustainable travel in the Town by: making the Town safer for cyclists; developing a coherent network of cycle routes; improving physical access for pedestrians;
- ensuring there is a reliable, connected bus service that meet the needs of residents;
- manage parking better in the Town.

8.2 With the anticipated improvements to the A14 road in Huntingdonshire and the levels of growth planned across Godmanchester it will be important that developments each contribute towards addressing the needs of the Town. By helping to develop a coherent and cohesive transport system incorporating more sustainable transport measures and enabling people to get around more easily and safely, we should also be able to protect the historic and natural environment.

8.3 Cambridge County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2015 and the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Transport Strategy seek to widen the choices available for environmentally sustainable transport, and manage the demand for transport, particularly private car use. All planning applications for development which would generate significant amounts of movement should be accompanied by a Transport Assessment, identifying the specific impacts of their proposals on the local transport network, and the measures needed to mitigate any adverse impacts. Measures should maximise opportunities for more sustainable transport e.g. promoting pedestrian and cycling, and improving public transport services. Travel Plans should be provided for all developments which would generate significant new movements.

Making the Roads in the Town Safer

- 8.4** The Town of Godmanchester routinely suffers from traffic issues associated with its proximity to Huntingdon (i.e. through traffic) and experiences congestion at peak times associated with its proximity to the A14 and its connectivity to the A1198, A428 and A1⁵⁷.
- 8.5** Whilst Godmanchester is a small town it has a high proportion of residents who commute for employment. The public transport services are not comparable to larger towns and cities in terms of frequency and coverage, so that many people are primarily cars users (52% of commuters' journeys are made by car against 5% by bus or train⁵⁸). The Romans' Edge housing development will see the population of the Town grow by 25% putting, potentially, a significant strain on the road network. The transport assessment and travel plan accompanying the planning permission (ref: 1200685OUT) are required to address this matter.
- 8.6** The Town has a number of businesses that receive deliveries from 7.5-ton vehicles. Part of the Town is marked as being restricted to these vehicles except for access. For the most part, vehicles delivering to Town businesses obey the limit restrictions. However, there is an increasing number of vehicles passing through the Town, without making deliveries, that are ignoring the restrictions. This includes an increasing number of articulated lorries attempting to use the weight restricted⁵⁹ weak Medieval Bridge to cross the river.⁶⁰
- 8.7** In addition the local roads are routinely used by buses, coaches, emergency services and agricultural vehicles as a through route to the A14 and other settlements. Future impacts of the new A14 and the de-trunking of the old A14 are unclear.
- 8.8** Speeding traffic is a well-known problem in Godmanchester. In 2015 the Police collected speed data which showed drivers in Post Street and The Avenue travelling at excessive speeds⁶¹. Monitoring of traffic has also taken place on London Road and West Street. The Police have undertaken ad-hoc enforcement activity relating to speeding in the Town.

⁵⁷ Whilst the A428 and A1 are outside of the parish they do have a direct impact on traffic through the Town as traffic diverts to continue its journey beyond Godmanchester.

⁵⁸ Source: 2011 Census

⁵⁹ Limited to 7.5 tonnes as "weak bridge"

⁶⁰ Emergency and public service vehicles, such as buses, are exempt from this restriction.

⁶¹ Report to Town Council: Cambridgeshire Police (Traffic) put in monitoring strips on the Avenue (near the traffic lights) for a week in late January 2015. The data shows that whilst some speeds were within the limits, there were many cars exceeding the speed limit including some where speeds exceeded the limit by an extra 20 mph. One vehicle reached 71mph in a 30mph limit.

8.9 Design changes to layouts that reduce the speed of traffic in and through the Town are welcomed⁶². There is an aspiration that a 20mph speed limit could be introduced for the historic core.

8.10 The Town suffers from severe congestion at peak times. This causes concern for residents in terms of pollution, ease of access and enjoyment of the Town. It will be important that solutions are sought to reduce existing issues and that new developments do not make things worse.



8.11 Godmanchester can become gridlocked when other trunk roads⁶³ are overloaded or blocked/shut. There is increasingly a justification to find a way of routing any diverted traffic away from residential areas when these situations arise.

8.12 On-street parking adds to the congestion at times. Traffic must negotiate pinch points caused by parked or loading vehicles and queues quickly form as the oncoming traffic is a relentless flow at peak times, offering little opportunity to pass. By reducing some of the on-street parking or managing its location better it may be possible to improve traffic flow.

8.13 Cambridgeshire County Council's Long Term Transport Strategy and their Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Strategy confirm these issues

Policy GMC22: Reducing traffic and congestion on Godmanchester's roads

Development proposals must demonstrate that they will not have a significant cumulative impact on the transport network. Where necessary, a transport assessment should accompany any planning application and traffic calming, improvements to public transport, cycling and walking routes, vehicle and cycle parking and other measures delivered which mitigate the impact of development, particularly through the 'historic core'. Where appropriate, a Travel Plan will be required, setting out how any adverse effects will be overcome, including through the promotion of use of more sustainable travel modes.

⁶² It is expected that the Town may make use of the "A14 Legacy Fund" to mitigate some of the A14 impacts.

⁶³ Including the A428, A1, A1198 and A14

Make the Town Safer for Cyclists

- 8.14** Godmanchester is a small town within 3 miles of the centre of Huntingdon, and within the relatively flat countryside of Cambridgeshire. It represents a highly suitable environment for cycling for people living and working locally, and for tourists and visitors. Currently 4% of commuter journeys are taken by bicycle (above the district and national averages) so it is important that this base is built on, particularly given the close proximity of a wide range of services in Godmanchester and Huntingdon. Cycling should be easily accessible, made safer and encouraged.
- 8.15** A significant proportion of secondary school children cycle or walk to Hinchingsbrook School. The shared cycle route along the Avenue and around the Huntingdon ring road is key to this access. However, there are problems with how pupils on cycles arrive at the route as it does not connect with the whole Town. Pupils (and their families) are intimidated by the volume of traffic, speeds of vehicles and parked vehicles on the highway and, as a result, cycle on pedestrian footpaths before arriving at the shared footpath section. Whilst they may make cyclists safer, it raises safety concerns for pedestrians. It is vital that the roads are made much safer so that cyclists feel able to use them and not the footpaths, or to provide new cycle routes/shared footpath alternatives to connect the Town and protect cyclists.
- 8.16** A particularly troublesome area highlighted is Post Street, from the Chinese Bridge to the Medieval Bridge into Huntingdon. This is already highlighted in County Council's Medium Term Transport Strategy⁶⁴
- 8.17** There are also concerns about the new Romans' Edge development having suitable routes for cycling to enable the safe crossing of the A1198, through the Town, and on to Huntingdon. Residents would like to see a suitable cycle crossing from Romans' Edge across the A1198, which ideally would not disrupt traffic flow, rather than the ground level crossings provided.
- 8.18** The footbridge over the River at Huntingdon causes a number of issues with cyclists not dismounting: there are routinely collisions between mounted cyclist and pedestrians. There is a pinch point and blind corner beside the Old Bridge Hotel which mean cyclists and pedestrians cannot see each other and have little space to pass each other. Cyclists, often secondary school pupils, resort to using the Medieval Bridge but do so with little care and attention, diverting from the carriage way onto the pedestrian island at speed and often against the flow of traffic. A dedicated cycle route over the River would be welcomed by cyclists.

⁶⁴ ...'traffic calming measures for Post Street and The Causeway' and 'Investigate feasibility for public realm improvements before delivery of the A14 scheme to encourage additional usage of Post Street by pedestrians and cyclists. More comprehensive schemes may be achievable after successful delivery of the A14 scheme, which may include, in the long term, discussions over closure of Godmanchester Town Bridge after due consultation with affected residents' Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Transport Strategy,

- 8.19** Householders who have doors opening straight onto the footpath are often faced with cyclists passing at some speed, which increase the risk of accidents. Shared footpath-cycle ways are not seen as being wholly successful, especially at school travel times. Residents feel there should be more cycle paths and safety measures to separate cyclists from the traffic flow as much as possible.
- 8.20** The link to the Ouse Valley Way is used by many cyclists from the Town for pleasure and to access employment in St. Ives. Leisure cyclists also use this route to visit the Town or to travel through it. Whilst cycle routes are marked, cyclists routinely report they do not think the markings are clear to them, or to pedestrians.
- 8.21** The Woodgreen Animal Shelter is part of the parish but with no off-road cycle route, or footpath, to link it to the Town it is rather disconnected and remains only safely accessible by vehicle. It is important that this connectivity is addressed.⁶⁵
- 8.22** Work has previously been undertaken by Sustrans and Cambridgeshire County Council⁶⁶ to look at cycle route options along Post Street. It was decided that the volume of traffic and on-street parking made this scheme undeliverable. If the A14 changes reduce traffic then it is hoped that similar scheme can be explored to provide a better route for cyclists along this road.
- 8.23** Increasing the number and coherence of safe cycling routes in the Town would encourage more people to leave their cars at home and to cycle as well as reducing the congestion of bikes and cars fighting for road space. A map of current routes is in the Maps Section.
- 8.24** There are several cycle parking racks around the Town but these are insufficient to meet demand. A lack of safe cycle parking does not encourage cyclist to visit the Town nor does it encourage residents to use their bike to access local services and amenities.

Policy GMC23: Improving cycling in Godmanchester

Development proposals that contribute to improvement of the network of cycle routes in the Town, or access to them, will be strongly supported. This includes the provision of safe crossing of roads for cyclists.

Development proposals to provide covered public cycle parking will be supported.

⁶⁵ Cambridgeshire County Council's Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Strategy 2016

⁶⁶ Cambridgeshire County Council and Sustrans schemes proposed between 2004 and 2006

Ensure Appropriate Public Transport Service to the Town

- 8.25** Godmanchester is in close proximity to the transport services that centre on Huntingdon, with bus, coach and train services all originating from Huntingdon.
- 8.26** Godmanchester is currently served by two circular buses, the 476 and 477, and a bus service which stops on route to Camborne and Cambridge, the X3 service. Other services are accessed via the Huntingdon Bus Station. However, the provision is patchy in terms of destinations that can be easily accessed. Some of the buses/coaches do not access workplace destinations or the railway station at appropriate times for commuter use.
- 8.27** Whilst bus and coach services are constantly being updated, they rarely offer easy access to local services from Godmanchester, including hospitals and schools, and where they do the local traffic congestion makes them a unreliable choice for those needing to arrive for a specific time. This means they are not a choice for travel for many. It is important that all areas of the Town have access to services and that these are reliable.
- 8.28** Many residents make use of the train, the close proximity of Huntingdon Station making this an attractive option for travelling to work. Connections accessed from the hubs of Peterborough, Stevenage and Hitchin allow for easy access to other parts of the wider rail network. Rail services from Huntingdon provide for a large number of London commuters who travel daily. Trains from Huntingdon enable: pupils to travel to schools and colleges in Peterborough; shoppers to access St Neots, Peterborough and London; and for local residents to access to a wide variety of leisure and recreation activities in the region and beyond. Whilst bus services are on offer for commuters many chose their cars to ensure connections can be made. There are increasing numbers who walk or cycle to the station.

Policy GMC24: encouraging greater take up and provision of public transport

Proposals to improve sustainable transport (public and community bus and coach services), including their connectivity with each other and with rail services, will be strongly supported. This may also include the provision of bus gates, laybys, 'real-time' information and shelters.

Improve Physical Access for Pedestrians

- 8.29** The Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan consultations regarding walking in the Town concluded that walking should be encouraged as much as possible for pleasure and for practical needs. Walking is a cheap and easy way to remain fit and healthy and encourages residents to leave their cars at home. Being able to walk to services and community facilities enables the community to be sustainably connected and helps to support a strong community feel.
- 8.30** Godmanchester residents are keen to see pavements being maintained, especially the link into Huntingdon, which is a popular route. Many footpaths in the Town are in a poor condition. Some pedestrian crossings suffer from standing water after rainfall making them difficult to use. Some of the leisure footpaths, including the Cow Lane section of the Ouse Valley Way, are in urgent need of attention. Residents are concerned about possible lack of lighting in some areas of Godmanchester including the parks, making these areas inaccessible at night.
- 8.31** Public Rights of Way are an important part of the transport network and need to be considered at an early stage of any development proposals. This will ensure that the needs of both the existing community and any future residents or businesses can be met in accordance with the County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.⁶⁷
- 8.32** Because of the limited amount of parking in Godmanchester, pavements often have vehicles parked partially or wholly on the pedestrian surface or blocking access to dropped kerbs which prevent them from functioning as they were designed to.
- 8.33** Equally, shared cycle paths/footpaths are challenging to use, with near misses for both types of user. It is important that more segregated paths are developed.
- 8.34** Ice can be an issue, especially on the sloping footbridge that crosses the Ouse beside the medieval bridge. As pedestrian and cycle routes are no longer gritted the provision of grit bins is becoming increasingly important to enable users to grit as required to ensure walking and cycling routes stay open and safe.

Policy GMC25: making it easier to get about on foot in Godmanchester

To ensure that residents can walk safely to the historic core, public transport facilities, schools and other important facilities serving Godmanchester town, all new developments should ensure safe pedestrian access to link up with existing footways that, in turn, directly serve the Walkway Routes⁶⁸. Development will not have an unacceptable impact on Walkway Routes, and provide a strategy to mitigate the impact of additional traffic movements on the safety and flow of pedestrian access. Proposals to enhance the identified Walkways will be strongly supported. Where possible, footpaths should be clearly delineated to separate them from roads and cycle paths. They should be constructed from hard-wearing materials and designed to be easy to maintain over time.

⁶⁷ Cambridgeshire County Council Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan

⁶⁸ See Appendix 4

9 Community Suggestions

This section reflects suggestions made by individuals and groups throughout the development of this Plan which we could not make into planning policies but which we did not want to lose as they are important to residents. It should be noted that this is not an agreed work plan. It is included here so that the Town Council, and others, can consider them as part of their work going forward.

Issue	To be considered	Which organisation might be best placed to lead or partner
Traffic	Reduce traffic	CCC Highways
	Consider options to reduce traffic: i.e. one-way system to alleviate congestion; close bridge	CCC Highways
	Consider options to reduce rat runs	CCC Highways
Speeding	Stop vehicles speeding	Police
	Consider reducing speed limits, including to 20mph in centre	CCC Highways and Police
Parking	Stop vehicles parking on pavements and on yellow lines- some of it is dangerous	Police
	More off-road parking is needed - consider what is possible	CCC Highways and Town Council
	Stop people parking on grass verges / green spaces	HDC, CCC Highways, Police
	Consider making existing parking work harder by introducing time limits	CCC Highways
Roads	In poor state of repair including lots of potholes	CCC Highways
Housing	More new housing that is cheaper to buy	HDC, The Local Enterprise partnership and the private sector
	More bungalows and one bedroom homes	HDC, The Local Enterprise partnership and the private sector
	When new houses are built (Roman's Edge), ensure we become one community - including the provision of welcome packs and street wardens	HDC, Town Council
Bus Services	Reliability of service and loss of part of route / some parts of the Town with little	Whippet Buses and CCC Passenger Transport Services

	or no service	
	Seek to improve local service to villages, hospital, train station, market towns and Cambridge	Whippet Buses and CCC Passenger Transport Services
Cycling	Consider a cycle route along the Causeway and Post Street, to Wood Green and to join up with other routes	CCC Highways
	Consider reducing speed and traffic to make cycling on the roads safer	Police and CCC Highways
	Stop cyclists on pavements	Police
	Consider adding more segregated cycle paths	HDC, CCC, Town Council
	Consider a new route along old railway line	HDC, CCC, Town Council
Community Events	More events as they make us a "community"	Community Association and Town Council
	More volunteers	Everyone, Town Council, Community Association
Play Equipment	More play areas and more play equipment, including more for teenagers – look at options	Town Council
	Skate park – look at options	Town Council
	More benches at play parks – look at options	Town Council
Sports	More sports on offer in the Town – tennis courts, sports centre, volley ball, archery, running track, indoor football and year round playing surfaces – see what is possible	HDC, Town Council and sports clubs and associations
	Sports changing rooms – see what is possible	Town Council
River	Encourage more boating opportunities, e.g. canoeing, kayaking	HDC, Town Council and local sports organisations and clubs
	Encourage better moorings and landing stages for boats	HDC, Environment Agency, Town Council
	Make more use of the river frontage: a boardwalk over the river, more cafes etc	Town Council, Environment Agency
	Reduce weed in river	Environment Agency
	Consider a fountain in Mill Lade / floating	Environment Agency

	pontoons	
Shops	A better range of local shops, including more shops for younger people and more to attract visitors	Town Council, HDC, private sector, Businesses In Godmanchester
Tourism	A Town map	Town Council
Paths and pavements	Many need resurfaced as they are uneven	CCC Highways
Community Facilities	Consider outside toilets at Judith's Field	Town Council
	Keep public buildings available for use, like Judith's Field and the Queen Elizabeth School	Town Council
	More places for young people to go	Town Council, HDC and private sector
	We need a community centre, more community use rooms	Town Council, HDC, business in Godmanchester
	Indoor play spaces	Local businesses
	Community cinema and music venue	Town Council
	Access to banking service in Godmanchester	Local banks, Post Office
	Keep the Plant Nursery	HDC, Town Council
	Water features in our green spaces, with seating	Town Council
Community Safety	More obvious and more frequent police presence	Police
	More CCTV	HDC, Town Council
	Better road crossings	CCC Highways
Infrastructure	Sort out drainage issues where they overflow	HDC, Highways, Anglian Water
Dog Fouling	Stop dog fouling on pavements	HDC
Improvements	Make the Mill Steps better	Town Council, HDC, Environment Agency, CCC
	Improve fencing in and around the Town where it is broken	Highways England, CCC Highways, HDC, Town Council, private landowners
	Remove old, unnecessary signage etc	CCC Highways, Highways England,
	Remove pigeons under A14 bridge (Cambridge Road) and keep it clean until then	Highways England, HDC

	Redevelop derelict sites e.g. Tyrells Marina	HDC, Town Council
	Consider relocation some rubbish bins and get others, which are rusting, replaced	HDC, Town Council
	More green spaces	HDC, Town Council
Weeds	Remove weeds more often and tidy overgrown areas	CCC, HDC, Town Council, Godmanchester in Bloom, volunteers,
Grass Cutting	Verges and green spaces need cut more often	HDC, Town Council, Godmanchester in Bloom, volunteers
Education	More school places and a secondary school	CCC Education
Trees	Plant more trees	HDC, Town Council, Godmanchester in Bloom, householders
Health	Another Doctors' surgery, with more parking	NHS, GP
	A dentist in Godmanchester	NHS
Wildlife	More habitats made available	HDC, Town Council and nature organisations
	New Neolithic Park on old Landfill	HDC, CCC, SITA, Godmanchester in Bloom
Museum and Heritage	A permanent home for the museum	The Porch Museum, Town Council
	Walking routes to explore Town's history	The Porch Museum, Town Council
Honours	Some way of honouring those who have given exceptional service to our community	Town Council
Antisocial behaviour	More patrols to reduce antisocial behaviour	Police
	Stop overnight lorry parking as causes littering	Police, CCC Highways
Litter	Reduce littering on roads	HDC, Highways England, CCC Highways, volunteers
Recreation	More clubs and activities in the Town	Town Council, HDC
	Online directory of What's On	Town Council, Community Association
Businesses	Encourage more businesses	HDC, Town Council, Business in Godmanchester, Local Enterprise Partnership

10 Maps

Settlement Boundary

The concept of settlement boundaries is to draw a policy line which separates built-up areas (within which development is, in principle, acceptable), from the countryside (within which, with limited exceptions, it is not). This is in conformity with the NPPF. Land within the settlement boundary may not be suitable for development due to other constraints, for example, flood risk zones, tree preservation orders, residential amenity, the protection of green space or townscape character.

In defining the settlement boundary for Godmanchester we have considered: current land and built form; land-use; landscape character; woodland cover; field pattern and settlement pattern using maps and aerial photographs. We have also considered: scale, enclosure and visual unity. We have made site visits and used local knowledge. The settlement boundary includes new development that has been allocated in the Core Strategy 2009 and in the HDC Draft Local Plan 2036.

Set out here is the methodology.

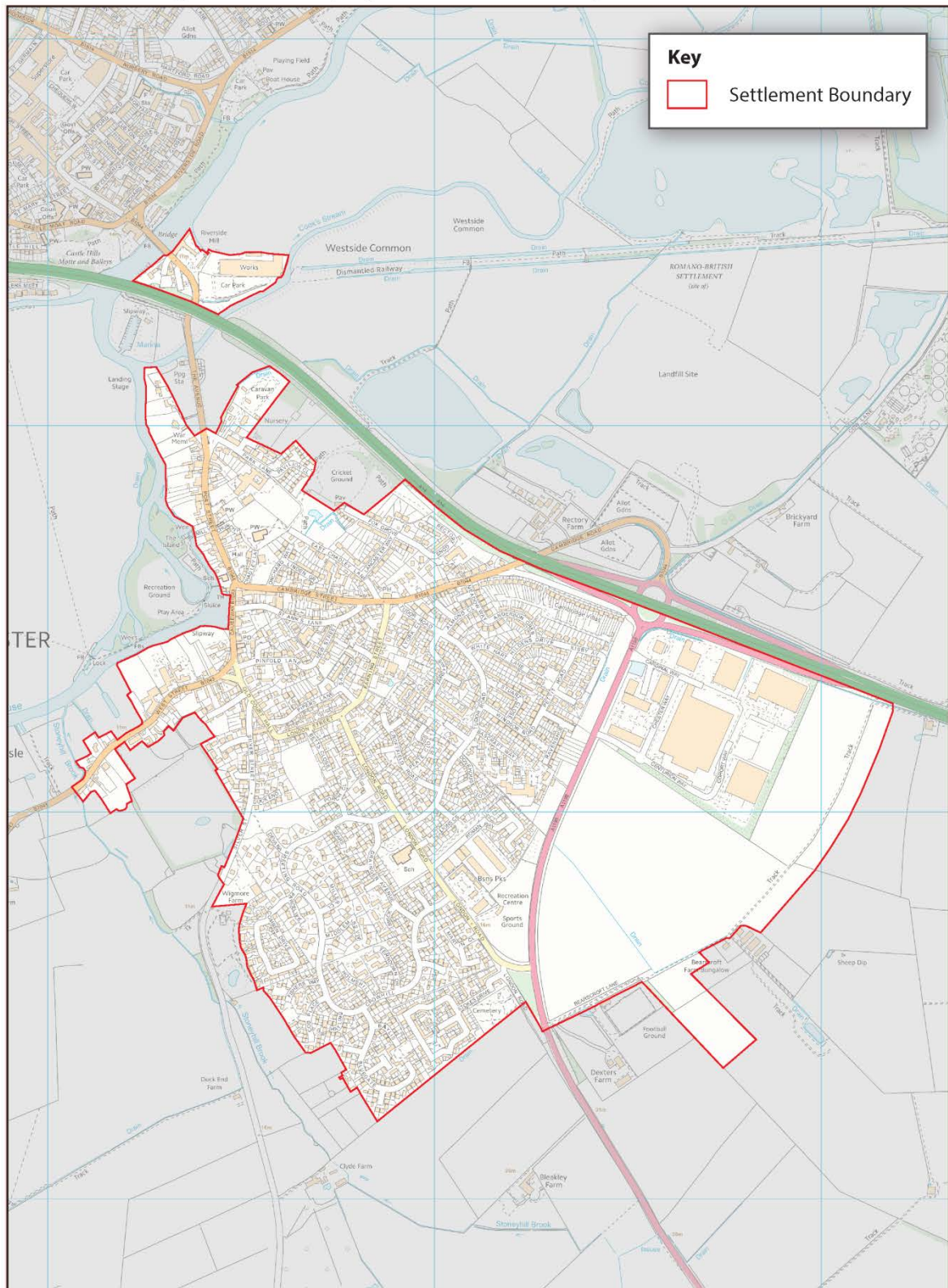
1.1 Guiding Principle	1.2 Implementation Notes
The built-up area boundary does not have to be continuous; any distinct group of 30 or more dwellings and their immediate surroundings may constitute a separate built up area within the parish.	Distinct areas of development may exist within the parish separated by areas of countryside. The remainder of the guiding principles provide advice on whether separate clusters of development constitute a separate built up area or are deemed to be isolated or sporadic development within the countryside.
The built-up area boundary will follow clearly defined physical features such as walls, fences, hedgerows, roads, field boundaries and property lines unless set out as exceptions below.	Where practical the built-up area boundary will include the whole curtilage of a property in recognition of the combined status of properties and their curtilages as a single planning unit. Exceptions are set out below for determining the boundary around extensive properties on the edge of the built-up area to reflect the difference in character between parts of the grounds closely related to the property, for instance containing garaging and tennis courts and that which has a more natural countryside character.
1.3 The built-up area will include:	
Residential, community, retail and employment buildings which are wholly encompassed by other buildings.	The majority of buildings within the built-up area boundary will fall within this category. It is included for the sake of completeness as most attention will be paid to determining where the edges of the built-up area are.
Existing commitments for residential,	Where development for residential,

community, retail and employment uses on sites which are physically/functionally related to the settlement.	community, retail or employment use has commenced or has outstanding planning permission the principle of development has been approved. The precise boundary around such sites should be determined with regard to the detailed guidance within this table. We have included sites already proposed in the emerging Local Plan to future proof this Neighbourhood Plan.
Greenfield land which is predominantly encompassed by and integral to the built-up area and defined by strong boundary features.	Some greenfield uses such as recreational or amenity open space, churchyards, wide grass verges and allotments, can form an integral and valuable part of the built-up area and its character. Typically, these should have buildings on at least three sides and have a clear physical and visual relationship with the built-up area rather than any adjoining countryside.
1.4 The built-up area will exclude:	
Open spaces and sports and recreational facilities, paddocks, allotments, caravan sites, churchyards and cemeteries which extend into the countryside or primarily relate to the countryside in form or character.	Areas of open space, sports and recreational facilities, paddocks, allotments, caravan sites, churchyards and cemeteries provide a visual buffer between the built form and the open countryside, softening the visual impact and linking the built-up area with its rural context. Such land is generally considered to primarily relate to the countryside where it is encompassed by built development on two sides or less.
Isolated properties and areas of ribbon and fragmented development which are physically or visually detached from the main built form.	To avoid areas of intervening countryside being unnecessarily included within the built-up area properties which are physically or visually detached should be excluded.
Farmyards and associated agricultural buildings which extend into the countryside or primarily relate to the countryside in form or character.	Agricultural buildings tend to relate more to the surrounding countryside when still in use for agricultural purposes. However, if the building comprises a long standing traditionally built building and is well related in terms of scale and positioning to eligible properties with a defensible boundary it may be included as it is likely to be deemed suitable for reuse under permitted development rights.
Sections of large curtilages of buildings which relate more to the character of the countryside than the built form.	Large curtilages with grounds stretching away from the rest of the built-up area are excluded to prevent sub-division of the plot for new development and protect any vegetation which is likely to shield views

	<p>into the plot from the public domain. Where practical the built-up area boundary will be drawn along physical features such as hedges and fences which sub-divide elements of the grounds that relate closely to the buildings, for instance formal gardens and ancillary parking from those with a more natural, rural character. Where no clear boundary features exist the built-up area boundary will be drawn 15 m behind the relevant wall to allow scope for minor alterations and extensions to the property.</p>
<p>Fingers of agricultural land, woodland, meadow, areas of water and natural habitats that penetrate the built form but primarily relate to the countryside in form or character.</p>	<p>These spaces can provide a visual buffer between built development and the open countryside, softening the visual impact and linking the built-up area with its rural context.</p>

Settlement Boundary Map

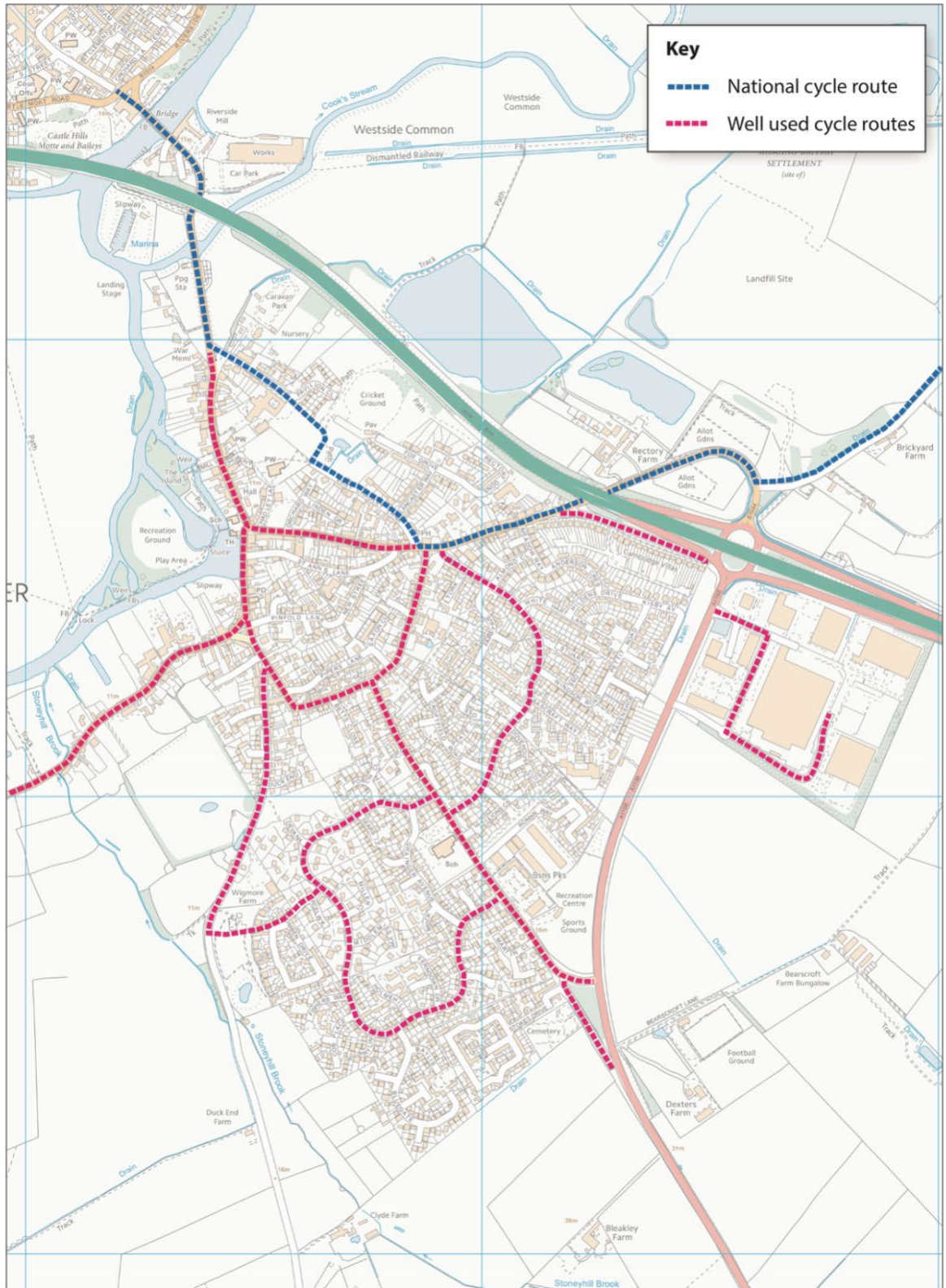
Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan | Map 6- Settlement Boundary



Based on The Ordnance Survey Mapping. (C) Crown Copyright.

Cycle Routes Map

Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan | Map 4 - Cycle Routes



Based on The Ordnance Survey Mapping. (C) Crown Copyright.

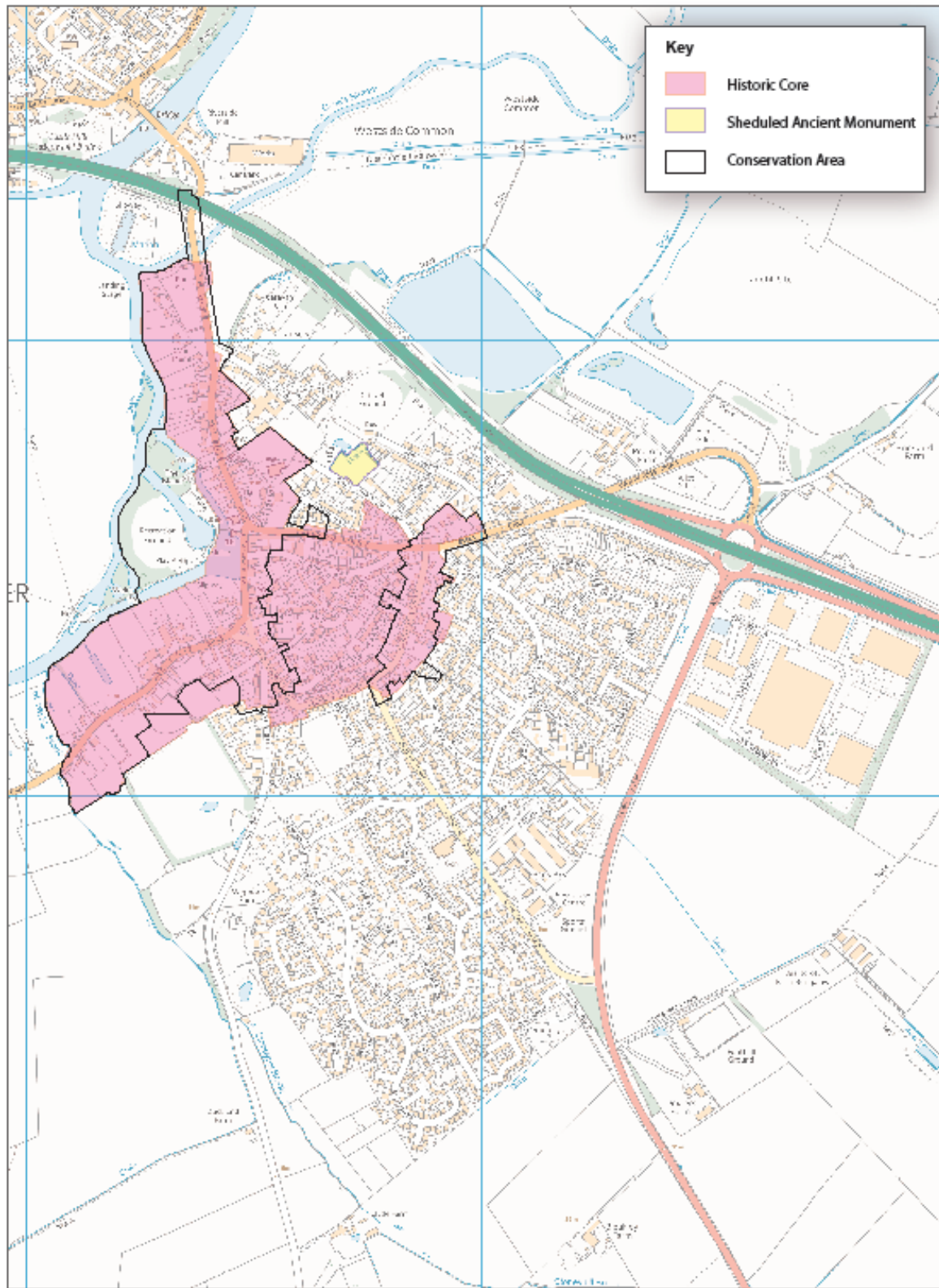
Walkway Routes Map

Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan | Map 3 - Walkways



Historic Core Map

Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan | Map 5 - Historic Core



Appendix 1 – Green Spaces

Green Spaces in Godmanchester:

This list is made up of Designated Sites, Local Green Spaces and Other Green Spaces which are of value to the community. Please note that spaces marked with an asterisk are where landowners have yet to give their consent to the proposed designation. Maps showing all Green Spaces are shown below.

Designated Sites

1. Portholme Meadow SAC⁶⁹ and SSSI⁷⁰⁷¹
2. Eastside Common SSSI⁷²
3. Westside Common⁷³

Local Green Spaces

These are defined by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which states: The Local Green Space designation...should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
 - where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
4. **The Cricket Pitch.** Special to the local community due to: its importance as a recreation space in the heart of the Town. It is the only green flat open area not prone to flooding large enough to host a cricket pitch.
 5. **The Green between Cob Place and Fishers Way:** Special to the local community due to: its importance as a recreation space and for providing views through to open countryside ensuring that this development maintained its connectivity to the open countryside beyond.
 6. **The green amenity and play space between Devana Close, Sweetings Road and Duck end known locally as Devana Park.** Special to the local community due to: its importance as a recreation space in the Town. This land includes a community planted orchard.

⁶⁹ SAC: Special Area for Conservation

⁷⁰ SSI: Site of Special Scientific Interest

⁷¹ This is covered by the Brampton Parish Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area. It is not part of the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan is, therefore, not covered by its policies. However, given its significance to the Town in terms of amenity, and flooding, it is noted here.

⁷² Designated as Common Land on the Commons Register

⁷³ Designated as Common Land on the Commons Register

7. **The green amenity space between Betts Close and Porch Close known locally as Buttermel.** Special to the local community due to: its importance as a recreation space in the Town retained as a quiet space.
8. **Judith's Field⁷⁴** Special to the local community due to: its importance as a recreation and play space in the Town with a purpose-built community use recreation building.
9. **The garden on the site of the Methodist Chapel off Cambridge Street.** The site of the former Methodist Chapel this site is special to the local community as it is a sensory garden for quiet contemplation which recalls the sites for historic significance in the Town.
10. **The War Memorial and the open space adjacent to it between The Avenue and Park Lane.** This site is special to the community as its forms part of the War Memorial space where we gather to remember those recorded on the memorial and where they are community seats.
11. **The allotments either side of Cambridge Road*** Special to the local community due to: its importance as a recreation/amenity space in the Town: these are the only allotments available for residents.
12. **The Football Ground at Bearscroft known locally as Rovers Football Ground.** Special to the local community due to: its importance as a recreation space in the Town: this is the only open space available for professional standard football in the Town. It also serves a wider football community.
13. **The Community Nursery (plant) off Park Lane.** This site is listed community asset and is well-used not only for providing a horticultural space but for providing an educational setting (schools and for post-16 years young people with additional and special needs). It has a strong group of supporters who enjoy its therapeutic benefits as well as the community and social events it offers. It's also a haven for wildlife and native species of flora and fauna, including a native species apple orchard and is an important "green lung" in over Town.

Godmanchester's Other Green Spaces

These are not defined within the NPPF but those listed here are mostly small scale public amenity, recreation and informal play spaces that are within the Parish and are important to the character of the Town, helping to provide a semi-rural feel. Many were allocated as public amenity spaces under planning consent for neighbouring properties.

14. **The Godmanchester Nature Reserve at Cow Lane, part of which is also known as the Peter Prince Memorial Nature Reserve.** Special to the local community due to: its richness of wildlife; its importance as a local habitat with close proximity to the Town; and its importance as a recreation space.
15. **The Cow Lane gravel pits, Huntingdon by-pass borrow pit, West Meadow and Westside pollarded willows, including 'Teddy's Lake'*.** Special to the local community due to: its richness of wildlife; its importance as a local habitat with close proximity to the Town; and its importance as a recreation space.
16. **The Recreation Ground including the green spaces leading up to the lock.** Special to the local community due to its importance as a recreation space adjacent to the river in the historic core. It is the largest open space in the Town and regularly hosts annual

⁷⁴ In Accordance with the lease to the Town Council

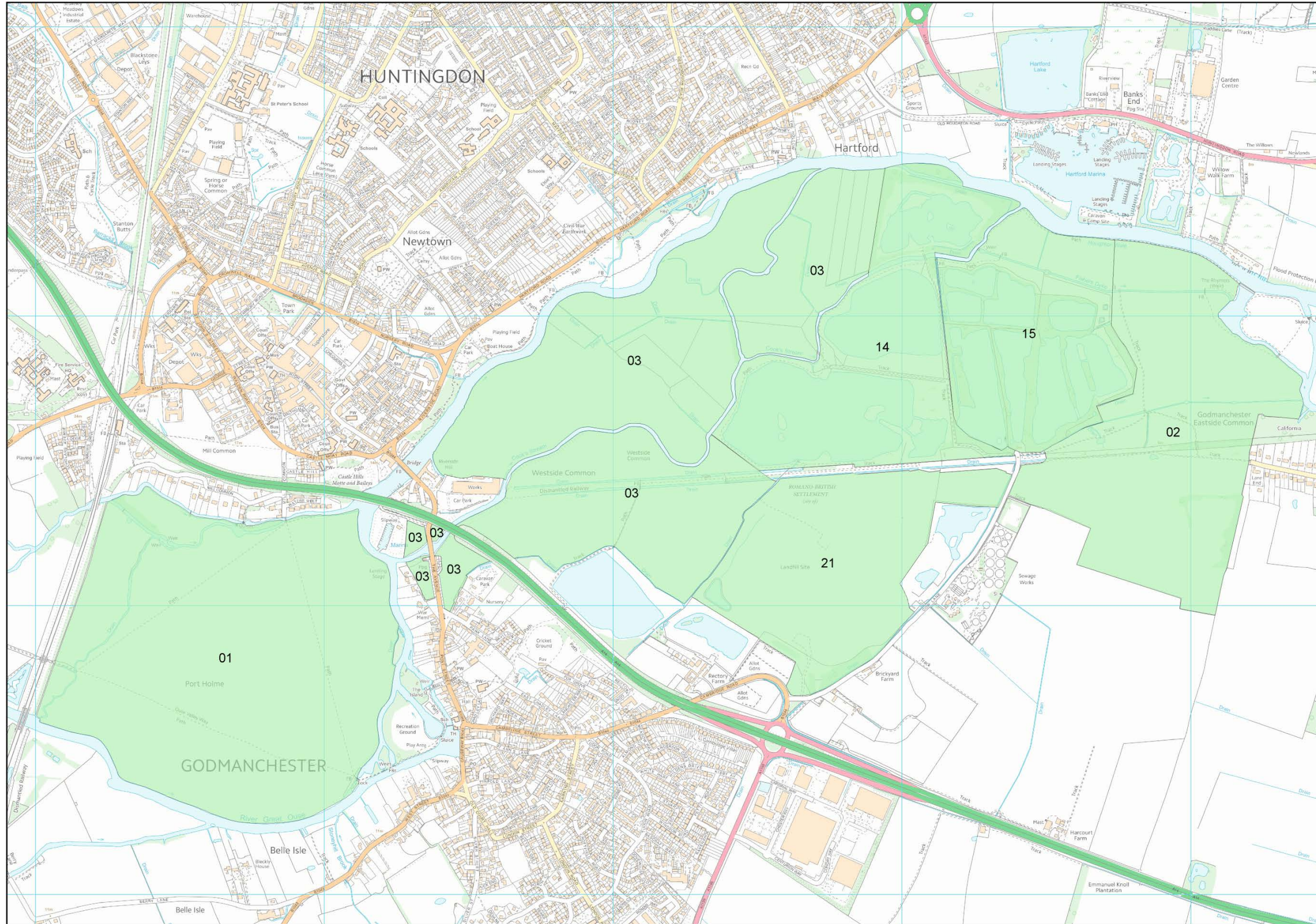
community events that could not be accommodated in any other location due to the size of the Town's population (Gala Day, Picnic in the Park)

17. **Queens Walk** Special to the local community due to: its richness of wildlife; its importance as a local habitat within the heart of the Town; and its importance as a recreation and play space adjacent to the river in the historic core.
18. **The green space adjacent to the Cricket Pitch, alongside Pavilion Close.** Special to the local community due to: its importance as a recreation space in the heart of the Town.
19. **The land between the school, the Church and East Chadley Lane.** Special to the local community due to: its importance as a recreation space in the heart of the Town. This land includes a community use pond.
20. **The green amenity and play space adjacent to Jarwood Walk and up to Silver Street, known as Wigmore Meadow.** Special to the local community due to: its importance as a recreation and play space in the Town. This land includes a community planted orchard.
21. **The proposed Neolithic Country Park*** This will be special to the local community due to: its importance as a recreation/amenity space and as its location on the site of a former Neolithic Temple.
22. Silver Street Nature Reserve
23. The green spaces along Bascraft Way:
24. The Green space along the bund between Roman Way and Lions Cross
25. The green walkways in Comben Drive
26. The green walkway between Ferndown and Brick Kilns\
27. The green walkway between Rushes Walk and Merton Walk
28. The Green at Earning Street adjacent to Pipers Lane
29. The extended verge on Pipers Lane
30. The extended verge in Sylton Close
31. The extended verge at the junction of Earning Street and Cambridge Road
32. The extended verges along London Road
33. The extended verges along The Avenue
34. The extended verges at the Windsor Road / Tudor Road junction
35. The extended verges along Ravenshoe
36. The extended verges between Hilsdens Drive and Anderson Crescent
37. The extended verges running in front of and between Cambridge Villas
38. The extended verges along Cambridge Road
39. The extended verge / green strip along Rectory Gardens
40. Extended Verges in Park Lane including where it meets Pavilion Close
41. The extended verges along and behind Centurion Way
42. The green walkway between Porch Close and London Road
43. The green at the Fox Grove, Lancaster Way junction
44. The Green at Pettit Road
45. The Green between Windsor Road and Ravenshoe
46. The Green between Tudor Road and Stuart Close
47. The green/play area at Roman Way
48. The green at Lions Cross*
49. The Green between Ferndown, Holmehill and Middlemiss View
50. The Green in Brick Kilns
51. The Green at Croftfield
52. The Green at Peate Close

53. The Green on Tudor Road adjacent to Field Walk*
54. The Green in Saxon Close*
55. The land adjacent to the slipway at The Causeway*
56. The Green in Granary Close*
57. The Green at Martin Close*
58. The wooded area opposite the lawn cemetery between London Road and the A1198*
59. The green at Field Walk*
60. The Green at Carnaby Close
61. The Green at Mowlands
62. The Green between Pettit Road and Kisby Avenue
63. The open amenity space in Rectory Gardens
64. The green and play space at Stokes Drive
65. The Green between Stokes Drive and Bayliss
66. The Green amenity spaces at Bearcroft Farm Housing Development / Romans' Edge⁷⁵

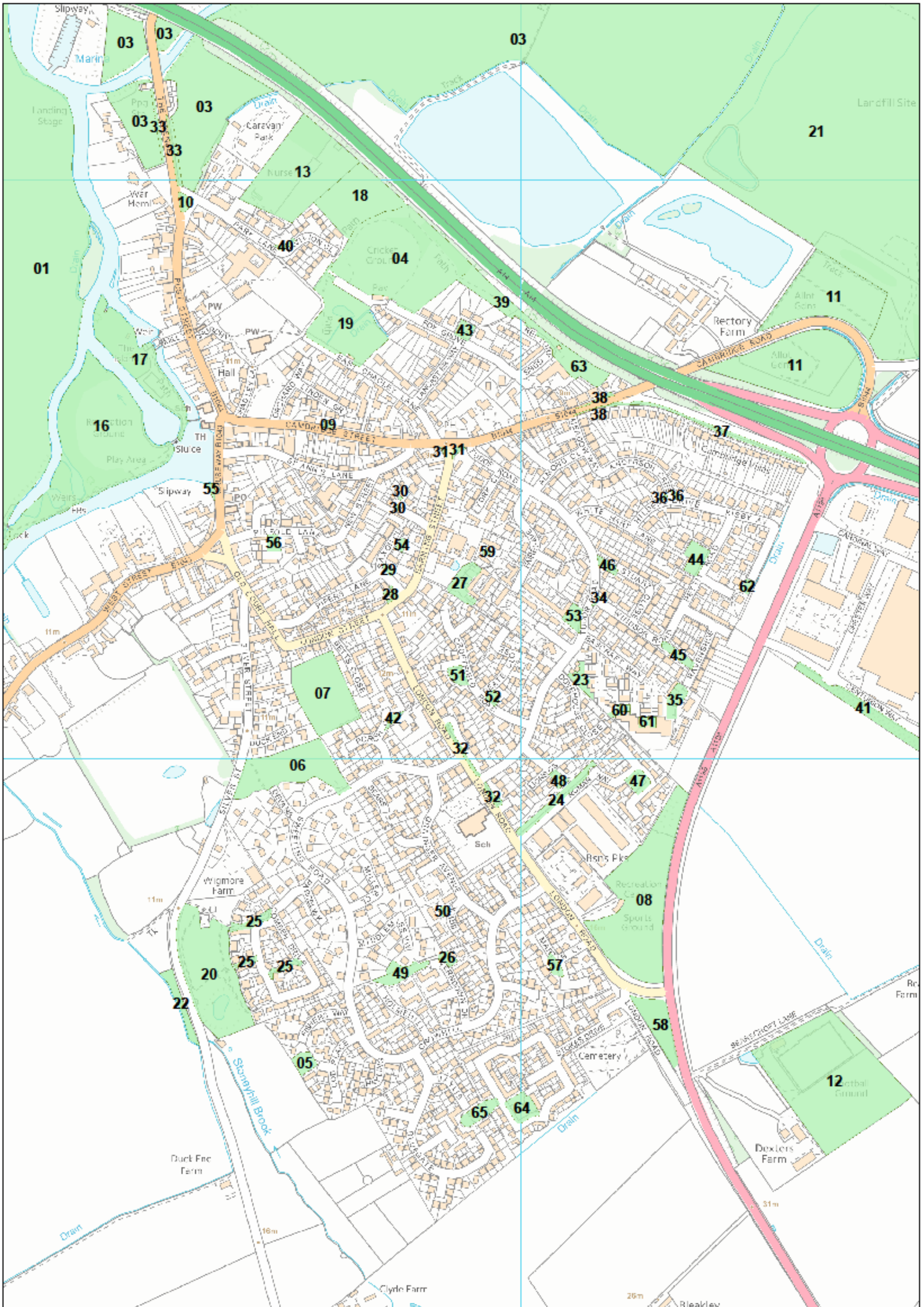
⁷⁵ At the time of writing we do not have names for all of the locations already approved through planning applications.

Godmanchester green spaces – wider area



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Godmanchester green spaces – town



11 Appendix 2 – Planning Policy - Housing

Existing Planning Policies as set out in Huntingdonshire, note the policy numbers in the emerging HDC Local Plan 2036 may change.

Issue	Existing/Emerging policy	Summary of policy
Quality of development and design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan 2002, Policy HL5: The Quality and Density of Development. • Emerging Local Plan 2017, Policy LP 10: Design Context; Policy LP 11 Design Implementation; Policy LP 12 Strategic Placemaking. 	A high standard of design is required to create a strong sense of place. Reference should be made to the various Design Guides and Townscape Assessments for Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire.
Development within Conservation Areas/Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPF, paragraphs 128-140. • Local Plan 1995, Policies En5 (development affecting conservation areas) and En6 (high standard of design in conservation areas). • Emerging Local Plan 2017, Policy LP 34: Heritage Strategy; Policy LP 35 Heritage Assets and their Settings 	Development affecting conservation areas should preserve and enhance its character and appearance. Development should consider the significance of heritage assets and their setting.
Housing Mix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging Local Plan 2017, Policy LP 24: Housing Mix 	Development should provide the mix of size, type and tenure of housing required by evidence of housing need
Affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy 2009, Policy CS 4: Affordable Housing in Development. • Emerging Local Plan 2017, Policy LP 23: Affordable Housing Provision 	Requires a target of 40% of new homes on sites of 11 or more homes or 1,001m ² residential floorspace or more to be delivered as affordable housing. This should meet the identified need in the district.
Space in new homes	This is addressed through minimum requirements in national Building Regulations.	Details are contained in: DCLG (2015) <i>Technical housing standards - nationally described space standard</i>
Delivering 'Lifetime Homes'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is addressed through minimum requirements in national Building Regulations. • Emerging Local Plan 2017, Policy LP 24: Housing Mix 	

12 APPENDIX 3 – LISTED BUILDINGS

Listed Buildings in Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, England

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/cambridgeshire/godmanchester>⁷⁶

⁷⁶ To note, this list should include the new listing of 1 -11 Corpus Christi Lane which was added 25 Jan 2016 but has not been updated on the website.

13 APPENDIX 4 - WALKWAYS

Godmanchester has a number of walkways throughout the Town. These are:

- between Pavilion Close and East Chadley Lane
- between Pavilion Close and Fox Grove
- between Pavilion Close, across the cricket pitches, under the A14 and to join up with the route round the lake, across to Cooks Backwater, along Cooks backwater, along the Ouse to Houghton
- Cow Lane to Meadow Lane (Hemingford)
- Cow Lane to Cambridge Road
- Fox Grove to Rectory Gardens
- Besters Walk (Cambridge St to St Ann's Lane) to The Stiles (The Stiles to Pinfold Lane) to Pipers Lane
- Berry Lane to Brampton
- Silver Street to Comben Drive
- Silver Street to Devana Close
- Crowhill to Holmehill to Ferndown
- Holmehill to Ferndown
- Middlemiss View to Grainger Avenue
- Bayliss to Stokes Drive
- London Road to A1198 opposite Bearscroft Lane
- London Road, along Roman Way to Mowlands or Dovehouse Close
- Littlefield to Sears Close
- Porch Close to London Road
- London Road to Croftfield to Peate Close to Field Walk
- Earning Street to Field Walk to Tudor Road
- Lions Cross to Dovehouse Close
- Roman Way to Judith's Field
- Roman Way to Lions Cross or Dovehouse Close
- Field Walk to Fairy Avenue and Merton Walk
- The Close to Tudor Road
- White Hart Lane to Petit Road
- Petit Road to Kisby Avenue
- Ravenshoe to Ravenshoe
- Cambridge Villas to A1198 to Cardinal Park
- *Romans Edge to Kisby Avenue
- *Romans Edge to A1198 to London Road
- Romans Edge to A1198 to Cambridge Villas



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Intelligent Plans
and examinations

Report on Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2036

An Examination undertaken for Huntingdonshire District Council with the support of the Godmanchester Town Council on the May 2017 submission version of the Plan.

Independent Examiner: Jill Kingaby BSc(Econ), MSc, MRTPI

Date of Report: 30 August 2017

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Main Findings - Executive Summary

From my examination of the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documentation including the representations made, I have concluded that subject to the policy modifications set out in this report, the Plan meets the Basic Conditions.

I have also concluded that:

- The Plan has been prepared and submitted for examination by a qualifying body – [the Godmanchester Town Council];
- The Plan has been prepared for an area properly designated – the Neighbourhood Plan area which is the same as Godmanchester Parish as shown on Figure 1, Page 7 of the Neighbourhood Plan;
- The Plan specifies the period to which it is to take effect – [2017-2036]; and
- The policies relate to the development and use of land for a designated neighbourhood area.

I recommend that the Plan, once modified, proceeds to Referendum on the basis that it has met all the relevant legal requirements.

I have considered whether the referendum area should extend beyond the designated area to which the Plan relates and have concluded that it should not.

1. Introduction and Background

Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan 2017- 2036

- 1.1 Godmanchester is a small town, with some 6,800 residents in 2016, located south of Huntingdon and separated from it by the valley of the River Great Ouse. The town has a long history having been a Roman settlement, and a Borough Town chartered by King John in the thirteenth century. Godmanchester, containing more than 100 listed buildings and two conservation areas and with a waterside location, has an elegant and distinctive character. Its development over the centuries has been closely tied to its strategic position on the old Roman road from London to York. In the Middle Ages, it developed as an inland port and prosperous market town. With the East Coast main rail line and A1 road to the west and M11/A14 to the east, Godmanchester remains a highly accessible settlement. The town is fairly intensively developed and compact, but is surrounded by open countryside of high value for its biodiversity, agricultural land value, scenic beauty and landscape quality.

- 1.2 The Town Council started the neighbourhood plan process in January 2015 and the area was designated in March 2015. The Basic Conditions Statement, which includes the Consultation Statement, records a range of measures used to inform and involve the local community and stakeholders in plan-making. Regulation 16 consultation on the submission Neighbourhood Plan was carried out in May and June 2017 and the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan (GNP) was submitted for examination in July 2017.

The Independent Examiner

- 1.3 As the Plan has now reached the examination stage, I have been appointed as the examiner of the GNP by Huntingdonshire District Council, with the agreement of Godmanchester Town Council.
- 1.4 I am a chartered town planner and former government Planning Inspector, with experience of examining other neighbourhood plans. I am an independent examiner, and do not have an interest in any of the land that may be affected by the draft plan.

The Scope of the Examination

- 1.5 As the independent examiner I am required to produce this report and recommend either:
- (a) that the neighbourhood plan is submitted to a referendum without changes; or
 - (b) that modifications are made and that the modified neighbourhood plan is submitted to a referendum; or
 - (c) that the neighbourhood plan does not proceed to a referendum on the basis that it does not meet the necessary legal requirements.
- 1.6 The scope of the examination is set out in Paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) ('the 1990 Act'). The examiner must consider:
- Whether the Plan meets the Basic Conditions;
 - Whether the Plan complies with provisions under s.38A and s.38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ('the 2004 Act'). These are:
 - it has been prepared and submitted for examination by a qualifying body, for an area that has been properly designated by the Local Planning Authority;
 - it sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land;
 - it specifies the period during which it has effect;

- it does not include provisions and policies for 'excluded development';
 - it is the only neighbourhood plan for the area and does not relate to land outside the designated neighbourhood area;
 - whether the referendum boundary should be extended beyond the designated area, should the plan proceed to referendum; and
- Such matters as prescribed in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)('the 2012 Regulations').

1.7 I have considered only matters that fall within Paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act, with one exception. That is the requirement that the Plan is compatible with the Human Rights Convention.

The Basic Conditions

1.8 The 'Basic Conditions' are set out in Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act. In order to meet the Basic Conditions, the neighbourhood plan must:

- Have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
- Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area;
- Be compatible with and not breach European Union (EU) obligations; and
- Meet prescribed conditions and comply with prescribed matters.

1.9 Regulation 32 of the 2012 Regulations prescribes a further Basic Condition for a neighbourhood plan. This requires that the neighbourhood plan should not be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European Offshore Marine Site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 2007), either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

2.0 Approach to the Examination

Planning Policy Context

- 2.1 The Development Plan for this part of Huntingdonshire, not including documents relating to excluded minerals and waste development, is the Huntingdonshire Core Strategy adopted in September 2009; and saved policies from the Local Plan 1995 and Local Plan Alteration 2002. The Core Strategy sets out the spatial framework for Huntingdonshire's future to 2026. It is a legal requirement that the GNP must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan and this is reflected in national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 184.
- 2.2 Consultation is underway (July and August 2017) for Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036: Consultation Draft 2017. This emerging plan for the area is expected to be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in March 2018. Although it does not as yet constitute part of the statutory development plan for the area, there are similarities with the GNP in respect of evidence bases and timescales. If an emerging Local Plan is in conflict with a neighbourhood plan, there is a risk that, when the Local Plan is adopted, it will undermine the effectiveness of that neighbourhood plan. Having regard for these factors and the advice in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)¹, I shall take the emerging Local Plan into consideration in this examination.
- 2.3 The planning policy for England is set out principally in the NPPF and the PPG offers guidance on how this policy should be implemented.

Submitted Documents

- 2.4 I have considered all policy, guidance and other reference documents that I consider relevant to the examination, including those submitted, which comprise:
- the GNP 2017-2036, Submission Version 2017;
 - Figure 1 of the Plan which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates;
 - the Basic Conditions Statement which includes the Consultation Statement, April 2017;
 - all the representations that have been made in accordance with the Regulation 16 consultation;

¹ PPG Reference ID 41-009-20160211.

- the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report prepared by Huntingdonshire District Council, April 2017; and
- The requests for additional clarification sought in my letters of 24 July 2017 and 26 July 2017 and the responses annotated on those letters by the Town Council².

Site Visit

2.5 I made an unaccompanied site visit to the Neighbourhood Plan Area on 20th July 2017 to familiarise myself with it, and visit relevant sites and areas referenced in the Plan and evidential documents.

Written Representations or Public Hearing

2.6 This examination has been dealt with by written representations. I considered hearing sessions to be unnecessary as the consultation responses clearly articulated the objections to the Plan and presented arguments for and against the Plan's suitability to proceed to a referendum. Godmanchester Town Council helpfully answered in writing the questions which I put to them in letters of 24 July 2017 and 26 July 2017.

Modifications

2.7 Where necessary, I have recommended modifications to the Plan (**PMs**) in this report in order that it meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements. For ease of reference, I have listed these modifications separately in the Appendix.

3. Procedural Compliance and Human Rights

Qualifying Body and Neighbourhood Plan Area

- 3.1 The GNP has been prepared and submitted for examination by Godmanchester Town Council which is a qualifying body, for the parish of Godmanchester, an area that was designated by Huntingdonshire District Council on 11 March 2015.
- 3.2 It is the only neighbourhood plan for Godmanchester, and does not relate to land outside the designated neighbourhood area.

²View at: <http://gmccouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Examiner-Request-for-information-Godmanchester-002.pdf> and <http://gmccouncil.com/neighbourhood-plan-examiners-request-of-information-response/>

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Plan Period

- 3.3 The cover of the Plan specifies clearly the period to which it is to take effect, which is from 2017 to 2036. However, paragraph 1.1 refers to a plan period 2016-36, and should be modified to read "2017-36" to avoid discrepancy with the front cover. The Town Council informed me (in its response to my letter of 24th July 2017) that the Submission Version of the GNP was finalised in May 2017. **PM1** should be made to correct³ these key dates for the benefit of users and readers of the Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan Preparation and Consultation

- 3.4 The Town Council began preparing a neighbourhood plan in 2014/ 2015 following information in the Winter Newsletter delivered to all households and available on the Town Council's website in late 2014. The neighbourhood plan area was designated in March 2015, and reports on progress with planning were provided at the annual Council meeting in May 2015, and monthly thereafter. Appendix 2a of the Basic Conditions Statement accompanying the submitted Neighbourhood Plan lists the engagement activities undertaken to inform and involve local people in plan-making thereafter. These included face-to-face meetings and workshops with stakeholder groups, approaches to landowners and their agents, social media activities, events in Godmanchester such as Gala Day and Christmas Lights events, and contact with Schools and the Youth Club.
- 3.5 Pre-submission Regulation 14 consultation took place between November 2016 and January 2017, and 33 responses were received. Regulation 16 consultation on the submission Neighbourhood Plan was carried out between 8 May and 19 June 2017, and responses were received from seven parties including the late representation from Cambridgeshire County Council Transport Assessment Team. I accept that the Town Council has undertaken an extensive and prolonged period of engagement with the local community and stakeholders, as described in the Consultation Statement. I am satisfied that the consultation process has both met the legal requirements and had regard to the advice in the PPG on plan preparation, and is therefore procedurally compliant.

Development and Use of Land

- 3.6 The Plan sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land in accordance with s.38A of the 2004 Act. However, Policy GMC7 does not relate wholly to the development or use of land and I have recommended modifications in paragraph 4.24 to make it legally compliant.

³ Paragraph 10(3)(e) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) provides for the recommending of modifications for the purpose of correcting errors.

Excluded Development

- 3.7 The Plan does not include provisions and policies for 'excluded development'.

Human Rights

- 3.8 Huntingdonshire District Council has not stated that the Plan would breach Human Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998), and from my independent assessment I see no reason to disagree.

4. Compliance with the Basic Conditions

EU Obligations

- 4.1 The neighbourhood plan was screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) by Huntingdonshire District Council, which found that it was unnecessary to undertake SEA. Having read the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report April 2017, I am satisfied from my own consideration of this matter that this conclusion is correct.
- 4.2 The report also concluded that the GNP would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any internationally designated sites either alone or in combination with any other plans. Therefore, Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) would not be triggered. Natural England wrote in support of this conclusion, and as a result of my independent assessment I endorse this view.

Main Issues

- 4.3 Having regard for the GNP, the consultation responses and other evidence, as well as my site visit, I consider that there are three main issues relating to the Basic Conditions for this examination. These are:
- Whether the GNP, in particular its Vision and Policies GMC1 and GMC2, and its subsequent policies regarding housing and economic development, is sufficiently positive to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and meets all the Basic Conditions for neighbourhood planning;
 - Whether policies to protect the semi-rural character of the Town and the surrounding countryside are proportionate, taking account of the Town's history and heritage, and satisfy the Basic Conditions for neighbourhood planning; and
 - Whether policies for transport meet the Basic Conditions for neighbourhood planning, in particular for sustainable transport planning.

Issue 1: Housing and Economic Development

- 4.4 The NPPF's section 6, paragraphs 47 to 55, refers to delivering a wide choice of high quality homes and boosting significantly the supply of housing. The Spatial Vision for Huntingdonshire in the Core Strategy addresses Sustainable Patterns of Growth and Sufficient Housing to Meet Needs. It commits to playing "a proactive role in accommodating housing growth... required as part of the London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough growth corridor ..". Policy CS2 identifies the Huntingdon Spatial Planning Area, which includes Godmanchester, where 1,800 new homes will be provided between 2009 and 2026, including significant mixed use development on greenfield land adjoining Godmanchester.
- 4.5 Policy CS3 of the Core Strategy provides a settlement hierarchy "to manage the scale of housing development appropriate on unallocated sites". Godmanchester is categorised as a key service centre where development schemes of moderate and minor scale and infilling may be appropriate within the built-up area. Moderate scale development is defined as 10-59 dwellings, minor scale is up to 9 dwellings and infilling up to 3 dwellings.
- 4.6 Chapter 2 of the GNP advises that Huntingdonshire is one of the fastest growing parts of Cambridgeshire and the United Kingdom. With approximately 6,800 residents in 2016, Godmanchester is expected to accommodate around 8,600 by 2040, implying a growth rate of about 26%. Chapter 3 sets out the Challenges for Godmanchester which includes the theme that additional housing growth may create problems, such as the risk of Godmanchester becoming a dormitory town for Cambridge and other nearby towns. Other issues identified include Godmanchester losing its independence from Huntingdon and its separation from surrounding settlements, the exacerbation of traffic congestion and parking problems and adverse effects on the character of the Town's "historic core".
- 4.7 The GNP Vision begins by stating that, by 2036, the town's historic core, rich architecture and beautiful open spaces will have been protected for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. New residents in new developments will be welcomed, but any further development will be within the town's existing built boundary. The Neighbourhood Plan objectives arguably could be characterised as conservative, with the first two aiming to protect and enhance the countryside and open spaces, and the historic heritage. Any new housing development should meet the needs of local people and benefit the Town. Policy GMC1: The importance of the countryside setting states that development shall be focused within the settlement boundary, which is shown on Map 6 in Chapter 10 of the GNP.
- 4.8 Chapter 10 helpfully sets out the methodology for defining the settlement boundary. Importantly, in my opinion, the boundary includes sites for new development that have been allocated in the Core Strategy 2009, and

have been put forward in the emerging Local Plan for 2036. The emerging Local Plan Policies HU16 to HU19 envisage new mixed use development at Tyrell's Marina (with approximately 15 homes), mixed use development at RGE Engineering site (approximately 70 homes), residential development at Wigmore Farm Buildings (approximately 13 homes) and a mix of new uses at Bearscroft Farm, also known as Romans' Edge (approximately 750 homes). I accept that the additional 848 new homes planned for these sites by 2036 will be a discernible change for the Town and its residents, but they should contribute to a major uplift in the local housing supply.

- 4.9 Consultation responses on the submitted GNP indicated some criticism of the settlement boundary and its implications for new housing development. Savills, on behalf of the Church Commissioners, put forward a possible new housing site off Corpus Christi Lane, which would be just outside the proposed settlement boundary. An amendment to the settlement boundary was proposed to include the site, with changed wording to refer to "accommodating future housing development in and around Godmanchester...". Fairfield Partnership with an interest in the Bearscroft Farm site questioned whether the GNP would make a sufficient contribution to Huntingdonshire's housing requirement to 2036. It considers that land east of Romans' Edge would be suitable for future development and could help deliver the aims and aspirations of the GNP. Gladman Developments Ltd also saw the settlement boundary as "unnecessarily restrictive", and recommended that a criteria-based approach for determining where development should be permitted should be used, so as to "resolve problems with delineated boundaries" in the earlier Local Plan.
- 4.10 I shall not comment on the desirability or otherwise of permitting housing development on the Corpus Christi Lane site, or east of Romans' Edge, or other potential housing sites in the Parish of Godmanchester. Huntingdonshire District Council will determine any relevant planning applications on their particular merits. However, the town of Godmanchester is quite intensively developed already so that limiting new development to "within the settlement boundary" could prevent new housing development, even of a moderate or minor scale. Although 848 new homes are planned on the sites named in the emerging Local Plan, there is no certainty that all the sites will deliver these numbers in full; in my experience, implementation can be delayed, sites abandoned and plans changed over time. Assessments of housing need may also change over time. The GNP is looking 19 years ahead, which is a relatively long time period, some 10 years beyond the Core Strategy. I consider it essential that the Plan should provide appropriately for new housing in this area of high demand (see paragraph 2.5 of the GNP), and allow for some flexibility over future housing sites and numbers.
- 4.11 Policy CS1 of the Core Strategy seeks to secure sustainable development, reflecting environmental, social and economic issues. Policies GMC1 and GMC2 of the GNP are focused on the importance of Godmanchester's

countryside setting and preserving the semi-rural feel within the Town. I appreciate that new housing development should not be so great in future that Godmanchester becomes "a large sprawling Town" instead of a "historic village". Providing new homes within walking distance of the Town's historic core should reduce the need to use the car for some trips and bring important social and environmental benefits. I am also aware that the countryside around the Town is precious for its agricultural land value, wildlife habitats, and high quality landscape alongside the River Great Ouse.

- 4.12 Nevertheless, in my opinion, Policy GMC1 should be modified to state that "Developmentshall be focused within or adjoining the settlement boundary as identified in the plan." It should be made clear that any new development should be either infill or of a minor or moderate scale, so that the local distinctiveness of the settlement is not compromised. **PM2** should be made to achieve this flexibility and ensure that regard is had to the NPPF and the promotion of sustainable development. PM2 is also needed to ensure that the GNP will be in general conformity with the aims for new housing development in the Core Strategy and align with similar aims in the emerging Local Plan.
- 4.13 Chapter 6 of the GNP entitled 'Housing' is very brief, and includes no figures for the scale of new housing development expected over the plan period. Appendix 2 of the GNP lists policies in the development plan and emerging Local Plan for Huntingdonshire which relate to the character and type of permissible housing. Whilst Policy GMC13 of the GNP provides useful design principles for residential infill and back land development, there is currently no reference to minor or moderate scale development. Paragraph 184 of the NPPF is clear that neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies. I consider that Policy GMC13 should be modified to accord with this aim of the NPPF, to secure general conformity with the Core Strategy and alignment to the emerging Local Plan, and to make allowance for new housing proposals other than infilling and back land development. **PM5** should be made to achieve this, and to clarify that any new development should be designed to respect the character of the neighbouring streetscene and historic core. PM5 should also be made to secure support for new housing development within reasonable walking distance of the town's historic core.
- 4.14 On Pages 11-15 of the GNP, it is reported that Godmanchester has a high proportion of residents aged 25-60 years, and high levels of economic activity with many people in full-time employment. Overall, residents have a high level of qualifications. The sixth objective of the GNP on Page 19 is to "Help local businesses thrive". Policy GMC21 addresses "Growing new capacity for small scale businesses in the Town". The supporting text refers to paragraph 28 of the NPPF on supporting a prosperous rural economy. The GNP describes the comparatively high numbers of self-employed businesses in the Town, and the expectation that some 5 hectares (ha) of new B-class employment land will be delivered at the

Romans' Edge site. This is in general conformity with Policy CS7 of the Core Strategy relating to new employment land. In order to align better with the modified Policy GMC1, and in the interests of sustainable development, I propose that Policy GMC21 should also refer to the provision of new or converted buildings within "or adjoining" the settlement boundary of the Town. Providing that **PMS** is made, Policy GMC21 will satisfy the Basic Conditions.

- 4.15 Policy GMC2, appropriately in my opinion, supports development proposals that would enhance the tourist and visitor attractions in the area. It aligns with the emerging Local Plan Policy LP22 relating to tourism and recreation in the countryside. Supporting text for GMC2 refers to a proposed Neolithic Country Park on reclaimed land in the countryside east of the town. Policy GMC5 supports proposals that will make the most of waterside assets for quiet and low impact leisure, with low risk to wildlife. I consider that both policies have had regard for paragraph 28 of the NPPF, and should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in accordance with the Basic Conditions.
- 4.16 Page 12 of the Core Strategy states that the majority of housing growth will take place in the most sustainable locations, but more limited housing development in larger villages will help sustain their existing facilities and amenities without damaging their character. This principle applies in Godmanchester, where there is concern that the settlement could become a dormitory town serving Cambridge (paragraph 3.1 of the GNP). Chapter 7 sets out an ambition for the town's future self-sufficiency protecting existing community infrastructure and providing more facilities. It wishes to ensure that the Town has sufficient good schools, health services, a range of local shops and post office/banking services. I am satisfied that Policies GMC17-20 of the GNP seek to broadly align with Policies LP5 and LP21 of the emerging Local Plan regarding the location of proposed town centre and other uses. In addition, I consider that my proposed modification to Policy GMC1, enabling some minor or moderate scale development in the future, should ensure that there is a growing population which will support a good range of local services and prevent some potential losses.
- 4.17 Providing the above modifications are made to the GNP, I conclude that its Vision and policies for housing and economic development including for visitor and tourist facilities and for community infrastructure and business, should be sufficiently positive to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and meet all the Basic Conditions for neighbourhood planning.

Issue 2: Protecting the Semi-Rural Character of the Town and the Surrounding Countryside

- 4.18 Policy GMC3 of the GNP designates 18 areas as Local Green Spaces (LGSs) (Nos 4-21 in Appendix 1). The NPPF advises that LGS designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open spaces, and this

leads me to question whether as many as 18 sites in this Parish, with a single small Town, is excessive. Whilst the Town Council and local community wish to preserve the "semi-rural village feel" of Godmanchester, it also wishes to prevent the development of a sprawling Town, to maintain independence from Huntingdon and surrounding villages and hamlets, and to ensure that all homes are within walking distance of the historic core. If the Town includes a large number of LGSs, with protection equivalent to the Green Belt, it seems unlikely to me that sites for minor scale or infill housing development or for employment use will be available in suitable, accessible and urban locations. Too many LGSs could increase the risk of a sprawling town with developments on the edge far from the Town's core.

4.19 I note that several of the proposed LGS sites are not located within the settlement boundary for Godmanchester Town. Sites 6 and 7, the Recreation Ground leading to the lock and Queen's Walk, are undoubtedly special to the local community for a number of reasons as summarised in Appendix 1 of the GNP. However, both sites are located in the Post Street Conservation Area where their character and appearance will be preserved or enhanced in accordance with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The PPG advises that if land is already designated as a conservation area, then consideration should be given as to whether any additional local benefit would be gained from LGS status⁴. Sites 6 and 7 are also adjacent to Portholme Meadow Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated as sites of international importance for wildlife and, in this protected environment, I consider that it is unnecessary to define the Recreation Ground and Queen's Walk as LGSs.

4.20 Sites 4, 5 and 19, the Nature Reserve at Cow Lane, Cow Lane gravel pits and the proposed Neolithic Country Park, are located east of the Town and outside the settlement boundary. The NPPF expects local green space to be in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves. Whilst some local residents will take walks regularly (eg. to exercise their dogs) and future residents are likely to support the proposed Country Park, these spaces are not immediately accessible like, for example, Buttermel. In addition, these sites are individually and collectively large, estimated as 61 acres (24.7 ha), 64 acres (25.9 ha) and 48 acres (19.4 ha) respectively. Gladman Developments Limited drew my attention to other NP Examiner's reports where conclusions had been reached that much smaller sites amounted to overly extensive tracts of land. In my view, examiners' judgments on proposed LGSs elsewhere, as to what constitutes an overly extensive tract of land, should not be treated as definitive. I have not adopted a solely quantitative approach in assessing the proposed LGSs, but have taken account of the specific context in which each site is located and each site's individual characteristics. A degree of judgment has necessarily been applied⁵. In the context of

⁴ PPG Reference ID:37-011-20140306.

⁵ PPG Reference ID: 37-015-20140306.

Godmanchester, I consider that sites 4, 5 and 19 are extensive tracts of land and therefore do not satisfy the criteria for LGS designation. It is also noteworthy that their countryside location and proximity to protected areas of Eastside Common SSSI and Westside Common, and inclusion in the Great Ouse Valley area identified as an area for green infrastructure enhancement in Policy CS9 of the Core Strategy, offer sufficient protection from unwanted development, in my view. LGS designation is not justified.

- 4.21 Sites 8, 9, 10 and 21 adjoin each other and are located within the settlement boundary, close to the school, church and A14 road. Collectively, they provide 11.4 acres or 4.6 ha of space. As I saw at my site visit, the church and school have their own open space so that this is not an intensively developed part of the Town. I accept that the cricket pitch and Community Nursery off Park Lane are demonstrably special and meet the other criteria for LGS in paragraph 77 of the NPPF. However, I consider that sites 9 and 10, being subsidiary and informal areas of open space, are of less importance and should not have the same high level of protection.
- 4.22 Site 12, Wigmore Meadows, as I saw at my site visit, is a pleasant area of open space with play facilities and tree planting which abuts the residential area to the east. It is a site of 10 acres or 4 ha, which is relatively extensive compared with the other proposed LGSs in Godmanchester. For example, it is nearly three times the size of the cricket pitch. More importantly, it is outside the settlement boundary in the countryside, and I consider that its designation as LGS is not justified. Site 15, Judith's Field, occupying some 6.9 acres or 2.8 ha between the A1198 and College of Animal Welfare, is described as special as a recreation and play space, with a purpose-built community use recreation building. The site is relatively close to Bearscroft Farm where significant new development is taking place, so that Judith's Field will become more centrally located in the Town's built-up area in the future, and will serve a larger catchment population. I accept that it is important to the local community, meets the criteria in the NPPF, including being local in character, and should be designated as a LGS.
- 4.23 From my site visit and from the information in Appendix 1 of the GNP, I am satisfied that sites 11- the Green between Cob Place and Fishers Way, 13 - Devana Park, 14 - Buttermel, 16 - site of former Methodist Church, 17 - War Memorial and 18 - allotments, and 20 - Rovers football ground, should be designated as LGS. Overall, with the cricket pitch, nursery and Judith's Field, I consider that 10 of the 18 sites listed in Appendix 1 of the GNP should be designated as LGS. The other 8 sites should be considered as other green space and listed accordingly in Appendix 1. Their "demotion" does not mean that they are unimportant as areas of open space. I recommend that **PM12** be made to confirm this, so that the Plan has regard for national planning policy. On Policy GMC3, it is essential that the policy relating to LGS designations, which is very protective and consistent with policy for Green Belts, is distinguished from policy for the other green spaces in Godmanchester. Having regard for national

planning policy and the contribution to the achievement of sustainable development, Policy GMC3 and its supporting text should be re-written, as set out in **PM3**.

- 4.24 I consider that Policies GMC4: Landscaping and planting, GMC5: Making the most of waterside assets, and GMC6: Improving and increasing public green spaces are commendable and consistent with high quality urban design in Godmanchester. They should promote sustainable development. Figure 2, which shows green space provision and needs, provides useful information against which development schemes can be assessed. I am also supportive of Policies GMC8: Ensuring public amenity space is retained and GMC9: Ensuring a wide range of sporting and recreational facilities are retained and expanded. They are consistent with the promotion of health and well-being as referenced in the NPPF's paragraph 171. The above policies further align with the aims of Policy LP11: Design implementation, in the emerging Local Plan.
- 4.25 Policy GMC7 supports development proposals that provide walking routes and enable access to the wider countryside, which has regard for paragraphs 69 and 75 of the NPPF. However, the designation of off-the-leash dog walking areas is not a matter for planning, in my view. Paragraph 173 of the NPPF cautions that Local Plans should be deliverable and developments should not be subject to such a scale of obligations and policy burdens that their viability is threatened. Prospective developers may regard the need to investigate the case for, and provide safely for, off-the-leash walking areas as too onerous. I appreciate from my site visit that there are many dog-owners in the GNP area who need to walk their dogs routinely and partly off-the-leash. However, the requirements for dog-walking should be addressed by community action and regulations/byelaws outside town planning. I consider that Policy GMC7 and its supporting text should be modified to prioritise improvements to the pedestrian access. The environment for dog-walkers should be mentioned in the Plan as a secondary matter only. **PM4** is needed so that regard is had for national planning policy.
- 4.26 The "semi-rural village feel" to Godmanchester is closely connected to its history, and the retention of so many old routes (from Roman times onwards) and buildings (around 125 listed buildings). Section 5 of the GNP addresses Heritage and the Built Environment, referring to the Town's "historic core" and rich architecture which will need to be protected as the Town changes over time. Map 5 on Page 68 of the GNP shows the historic core, which is referred to within Policies GMC10 and GMC11. Paragraph 5.2, correctly and commendably in my view, states that the brevity of section 5 is due to the fact that many of the Town's historic and heritage assets are covered by national policy, notably the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The GNP does not intend to duplicate higher level law and policy, but it does recognise the importance and value of its historic assets.

- 4.27 I asked the Town Council to explain how its historic core had been defined, in my letter of 24 July 2017. I was informed that consultation with local residents, the location of two Conservation Areas and over 100 listed buildings had been used to define the area. Based on this evidence and my site visit, I support the area as shown on Map 5, but consider that readers and users of the GNP would be assisted if the boundaries of Post Street and Earning Street Conservation Areas, and of the Scheduled Monument east of the parish church, were also shown on the map. This could strengthen the effectiveness of Policies GMC10, GMC11 and GMC12, giving due prominence to conserving and enhancing the historic environment in general conformity with Objectives 8, 10 and 11 of the Core Strategy, and they reflect the aims of Policies LP34 and LP35 of the emerging Local Plan. **PM11** also has regard for section 12 of the NPPF, and should be made.
- 4.28 As long as the modifications described above are in place, I conclude that the GNP's policies to protect the semi-rural character of the Town and the surrounding countryside are proportionate, take account of the Town's history and heritage appropriately, and are compliant with the Basic Conditions for neighbourhood planning.

Issue 3: Transport

- 4.29 Chapter 8 of the GNP – Getting Around – explains that transport and traffic are major concerns for residents. The vision for the GNP, in summary, is to improve safety on the roads, encourage sustainable travel by cycling, walking or on the bus, and manage parking better. Problems with congestion due to proximity to the A14 and Huntingdon, and dependence on the Medieval Bridge across the River, are described in the text preceding Policy GMC22: Reducing traffic and congestion on Godmanchester's roads. Cambridgeshire County Council's Transport Assessment Team (County Council) broadly supports the vision and objectives of the GNP.
- 4.30 However, the County Council stated that the GNP should reflect the policies and objectives of the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Transport Strategy. The LTP3 dated July 2015, sets out policy for Cambridgeshire to 2031. It begins by defining eight challenges which, I agree, are broadly reflected in the vision within the GNP. The Strategy in LTP3 is to achieve the defined objectives, particularly tackling climate change and enhancing the economy. It aims to address existing transport problems, cater for the transport needs of new communities and improve air quality. Notably, it seeks to widen the choices available for environmentally sustainable transport, and manage the demand for transport, particularly private car use. On sustainable transport, it goes on to describe the Manual for Streets 1 & 2 "user hierarchy" which places pedestrians first, followed by cyclists, public transport, specialist service vehicles and disabled drivers, ending with other motor vehicle users.

- 4.31 The Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Transport Strategy provides more specific policy for the GNP area. It expects all planning applications for major developments to carry out a full transport assessment highlighting specific impacts from their schemes on the local transport network. It references the improvements which are expected from the Bearscroft Farm (Romans' Edge) development, notably higher frequency bus services with better real-time passenger information between Godmanchester and Huntingdon, and monitoring of traffic flows on the Post Street corridor to inform traffic management measures. The Strategy for the area is to effect a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport with a particular focus on the daily commute. Greater levels of high quality cycle parking provision are to be sought in Godmanchester, among other places. A number of short term transport measures are described and costed, beginning with traffic calming measures for Post Street and The Causeway; "along with surfacing and lighting improvements to NCN51 and Cambridge Road".
- 4.32 The Market Town Transport Strategy also describes public transport schemes for the short, medium and long term, before moving on to road network and parking issues. The proposed new bypass to the A14 is expected to "significantly reduce the amount of traffic in Huntingdon, Godmanchester and surrounding villages and remove current rat-running to avoid the existing route". The County Council and Huntingdonshire District Council see the removal of the A14 viaduct over the railway line as a vital component of the scheme. The new A14 scheme is viewed as an opportunity to reduce traffic on the narrow and historic Town Bridge between Huntingdon and Godmanchester. However, the Transport Strategy acknowledges that some parts of the local road network which lie in close proximity to growth sites, will receive a significant increase in vehicular trips. "Furthermore, the A14 scheme itself may prompt a culture of rat-running through certain wards." On parking, it is acknowledged that there is significant local concern about on-street parking, and lack of off-street parking, in Huntingdon and on key routes through Godmanchester. The primary policy for a number of years has been to remove long-stay parking sites from the town centre to encourage travel there on foot.
- 4.33 I have included the above fairly lengthy summary of the two documents, in order to indicate the extent to which the GNP does or does not reflect the County Council's transport strategy. I note that Cambridgeshire Long Term Transport Strategy and the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Transport Strategy are referenced in paragraph 8.12 of the GNP, but consider that it should explain the role of the County Council and its policy documents more clearly. The introduction to Chapter 8 should also declare its support for the promotion of sustainable transport, explain that the Transport Assessment process and Travel Plans can mitigate the specific impacts of developments, and amend the reference to public transport services, as requested by the County Council Transport Assessment Team. These modifications would ensure that due regard has been had for the NPPF, paragraphs 29 - 41. The NPPF affirms that

reducing the need to travel, especially by private car, contributes to wider sustainability and health objectives, supports reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduces congestion. **PM9** would ensure appropriate regard for national policy, and should be made.

- 4.34 For similar reasons, I consider that Policy GMC22: Reducing traffic and congestion on Godmanchester's roads should refer to improving the provision of sustainable transport. It should also refer to the use of Travel Plans to set out how the use of sustainable modes will be facilitated and encouraged, having regard for paragraph 36 of the NPPF. PM9 would secure this. The County Council requested that the significant benefits of having a town with high levels of cycling should be set out in the section which begins on Page 54 of the GNP. I recommend that paragraph 8.13 be extended to provide additional information on this subject, which again relates to sustainable travel practice. I shall also propose additional information about the approach to cycle parking. **PM10** should be made to help contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 4.35 I consider that Policies GMC23: Improving cycling, GMC24: Encouraging greater take up and provision of public transport, and GMC25: Making it easier to get about on foot are consistent with promoting sustainable travel. Paragraph 8.30 and Appendix 4 helpfully give details of public rights of way, which will need to be considered at an early stage in any development proposals. These policies align with Policy LP15 of the emerging Local Plan and have regard to national planning policy.
- 4.36 Page 39 onwards of the GNP concerns parking. As the County Council Transport Assessment Team observed, parking standards are set by the local planning authority. The County Council cautions against over-provision of car parking spaces. Notwithstanding the existing problems with parking in Godmanchester, notably within the historic core, I consider that generous allowance for residential or other parking in new developments, as implied in Policy GMC14, is only likely to increase the number of vehicles on the roads, and undermine efforts to encourage use of more sustainable travel modes. The County Council favours the use of a bespoke level of parking for each proposed development, depending on its location and nature of development and the other criteria given in paragraph 39 of the NPPF.
- 4.37 Policy LP16 of the emerging Local Plan is a comprehensive parking policy, which includes provision for cycle parking, and refers to the Huntingdonshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document 2017. This is recently adopted, and I consider that it provides guidance which should ensure that new development proposals will achieve suitable and sensitive parking provision. Even if Policy LP16 and the Design Guide SPG are not identified as strategic policies of the development plan for the area, I consider that Policy GMC14 should be amended as shown in **PM6** in order to promote sustainable development and to have regard for the NPPF.

- 4.38 I support the principle of Policy GMC15 to enhance the appearance of the streetscene in the Town's historic core and minimise visual clutter. There is a minor typographical error in line 2 ("is" instead of "its") and I consider that use of the word "setting" could be misleading, as the "setting" of a Listed Building or Conservation Area refers to the land outside it. In this instance, I therefore recommend use of the word "surroundings", and have proposed this change in **PM7**. Providing all the above modifications are made, I conclude that the policies for transport meet the Basic Conditions for neighbourhood planning, notably for sustainable transport planning.

Other Matters

- 4.39 Flooding and surface water flood risk are addressed on Page 43 and in Policy GMC16 of the GNP. The Environment Agency's flood maps are referenced in the supporting text, as is the "ever-present threat" of flooding due to Godmanchester's location close to the River Ouse. The policy should alert developers to potential risks, and aligns with Policy LP9 of the emerging Local Plan, which sets strict, detailed tests for new development, in line with the NPPF.

5. Conclusions

Summary

- 5.1 The GNP has been duly prepared in compliance with the procedural requirements. My examination has investigated whether the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements for neighbourhood plans. I have had regard for all the responses made following consultation on the neighbourhood plan, and the evidence documents submitted with it.
- 5.2 I have made recommendations to modify a number of policies and text to ensure the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements. I recommend that the Plan, once modified, proceeds to referendum.

The Referendum and its Area

- 5.3 I have considered whether or not the referendum area should be extended beyond the designated area to which the Plan relates. The Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan as modified has no policy or proposals which I consider significant enough to have an impact beyond the designated neighbourhood plan boundary, requiring the referendum to extend to areas beyond the plan boundary. I recommend that the boundary for the purposes of any future referendum on the plan should be the boundary of the designated neighbourhood plan area.
- 5.4 Finally, I wish to commend the Godmanchester Town Council and its local community for the years of hard work which have been put into preparing

this Neighbourhood Plan, ensuring that local people were properly consulted and engaged, and informing themselves about the complex town planning system. Although some people will be disappointed by the modifications which are proposed in this report, which I am compelled to make to meet the relevant legal requirements, I hope they will appreciate that I am fully supportive of their aims for a compact town which maintains its distinctive and historic character set in the countryside, and will thrive in the future for the benefit of its residents and businesses. The GNP should provide a strong basis for good quality, decision-making on development proposals which take full account of the local community's wellbeing.

Jill Kingaby

Examiner

Appendix: Modifications

Proposed modification number (PM)	Page no./ other reference	Modification
PM1	Front cover and Page 5	<p>Front cover should add Submission Version May 2017 (or the date of the final version of the Plan)</p> <p>Paragraph 1.1</p> <p>This document represents the Neighbourhood Plan for Godmanchester parish from 20162017 to 2036</p>
PM2	Page 22	<p>Policy GMC1: The importance of the countryside setting</p> <p>Development in the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan Area shall be focused within or adjoining the settlement boundary....</p>
PM3	Page 23	<p>Preserving the Semi-Rural Village 'Feel' within the Town</p> <p>4.14 There are ... connection for wildlife but also is crucial</p> <p>4.15 Delete the first sentence and insert:</p> <p><i>The Local Green Spaces within or adjoining the settlement boundary are listed in Appendix 1, and are demonstrably special to the local community of Godmanchester. Also in Appendix 1, are sites in the Parish designated for their national and international significance for wildlife and as registered Common Land. Thirdly, Appendix 1 lists other non-designated green spaces, many of which were allocated as public amenity spaces under planning permissions for development on neighbouring land.</i></p> <p>These are all sites of community value ie. they provide a valuable space for the informalrecreational activities of the</p>

		<p>community such as walking, dog walking, informal play, sports or allotment gardening. They are</p> <p>Policy GMC3: Preserving ...Town Local Green Spaces.</p> <p>Godmanchester's designated Local Green Spaces and other Ggreen Sspaces are set out in Appendix 1. Proposals for development on the Local Green Spaces and Other Green Spaces will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated Local Green Space or Other Green Space.</p> <p>Proposals for development on other green spaces should demonstrate that alternative informal recreational space is available within walking distance for neighbouring and future residents, and the semi-rural 'village' feel within the Town will not be seriously compromised.</p>
PM4	Page 30	<p>Paragraph 4.26 – add a second sentence as follows: The provision of public amenity space that would enable off-the-leash dog walking space will be supported.</p> <p>Policy GMC7: Providing designated spaces where dogs can be walked off-the-leash and i Improving access to the countryside</p> <p>Development proposals that take account of the need to provide green open public amenity space that is designated for off-the-leash dog walking will be supported, as will those that provide walking routes and enable ongoing access to the wider countryside.</p>
PM5	Page 38	<p><u>Residential Infill and Backland Development</u></p> <p>6.3 New opening sentence:</p> <p>New housing development of a moderate or minor scale is defined in Policy CS3 of the Core Strategy as</p>

		<p>developments of 10-59 dwellings and up to 9 dwellings respectively. Back land development is defined</p> <p>6.6 The combined, cumulative effect of new development including back land and infill development is that This would not be appropriate in Godmanchester, where care and attention to the scale, design and layout of new housing and its site context must be given.</p> <p>Policy GMC13: Residential infill and back land development.</p> <p>All Residential infill and back land development within or adjoining the settlement boundary of Godmanchester should Sites within reasonable walking distance of the Town's historic centre will be favourably considered. Development should be of minor or moderate scale, or represent infilling or back land development. Infilling or back land development should reinforce the uniformity of the character of the existing streetscene by reflecting the scale, mass, semi-rural nature of the Town, with its historic core.</p>
PM6	Pages 39 to 41	<p>Improving Parking in the Town</p> <p>6.17 – delete the existing text and insert:</p> <p>New residential development in Godmanchester should include parking provision which is based on a careful assessment of the site's location and the character of the surrounding area, as well as the nature and form of the proposed development, and the size of the dwellings (number of bedrooms). Regard should be had for guidance on parking in the Huntingdonshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document 2017, when residential or other development proposals are put forward.</p>

		<p>Policy GMC14: For new residential development, plans should not exacerbate seek to reduce the any pressure on 'on street' parking and seek to improve parking issues through the greater provision of should provide numbers of off-street parking spaces appropriate to the site's location and the character of the proposal. The number of spaces should reflect the mix, size and type of housing.</p> <p>For new residential developments (Use Class 3)4 off street car parking spaces.</p> <p>Parking spaces can take the form Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>(Modify footnote 44 to refer to Huntingdonshire District Council Design Guide 2017)</p>
PM7	Page 42	<p>Policy GMC15: Improving and Enhancing the Town</p> <p>Second line:</p> <p>...and to enhance its historic character. Where new provision is made, it should be in keeping with the setting its surroundings</p>
PM8	Page 51	<p>Policy GMC21: Growing new capacity for small scale businesses in the Town</p> <p>Modify the second bullet of the second sentence to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of new buildings or conversion of existing buildings within or adjoining the Settlement Boundary of the Town
PM9	Pages 52 and 53	<p>8 Getting Around</p> <p>8.1 Godmanchester is a growing community.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve manage parking better in the Town.

		<p>8.2 With the <i>anticipated improvements to the A14 road in Huntingdonshire and the</i> levels of growth planned acrossfor Godmanchester it will be important that developments each contributes..... a coherent and cohesive networktransport system incorporating more sustainable transport measures and enabling which allows people to get around more easily and safely, we are thereby protectingshould also be able to protect the historic and natural environment.</p> <p><i>8.2 a Cambridge County Council’s Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2015 and the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Transport Strategy seek to widen the choices available for environmentally sustainable transport, and manage the demand for transport, particularly private car use. All planning applications for development which would generate significant amounts of movement should be accompanied by a Transport Assessment, identifying the specific impacts of their proposals on the local transport network, and the measures needed to mitigate any adverse impacts. Measures should maximise opportunities for more sustainable transport eg. promoting pedestrian and cycling, and improving public transport services. Travel Plans should be provided for all developments which would generate significant new movements.</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>8.4 Modify second sentence: The lack of public transport <i>services are not comparable to larger towns and cities in terms of frequency and coverage, so that</i> many <i>people</i> are primarily cars-users against 5% are by bus or train).on the road network. ... putting, <i>potentially,</i> a significant strain on the road network.</p>
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		<p><i>The transport assessment and travel plan accompanying the planning permission (ref: 1200685OUT) are required to address this matter.</i></p> <p>Policy GMC22: Reducing traffic and congestion on Godmanchester’s roads</p> <p>Development proposals ... accompany any planning application and traffic calming, improvements to public transport, <i>cycling and walking routes, vehicle and cycle parking</i> and other measures delivered which mitigate the impact of development, particularly through the ‘historic core’.</p> <p><i>Where appropriate, a Travel Plan will be required, setting out how any adverse effects will be overcome, including through the promotion of use of more sustainable travel modes.</i></p>
PM10	Page 54	<p>Make the Town Safer for Cyclists</p> <p>8.13, Add two new sentences to introduce this paragraph:</p> <p><i>Godmanchester is a small town within 3 miles of the centre of Huntingdon, and within the relatively flat countryside of Cambridgeshire. It represents a highly suitable environment for cycling for people living and working locally, and for tourists and visitors.</i></p>
PM11	Page 68	<p>Map 5 – Historic Core</p> <p>Modify the map so that it shows Post Street and Earning Street Conservation Area boundaries, and the boundary of the Scheduled Monument east of the parish church.</p>
PM12	Page 69	<p>Appendix 1 – Green Spaces</p> <p>Local Green Spaces</p> <p>Delete the following:</p> <p>4. The Godmanchester Nature Reserve at Cow Lane</p>

		<p>5. The Cow Lane gravel pits</p> <p>6. The Recreation Ground including the green spaces leading up to the lock</p> <p>7. Queen's Walk</p> <p>9. The green space adjacent to the Cricket Pitch</p> <p>10. The land between the school, the Church ...</p> <p>12. The green ...Jarwood Walk and up to Silver Street ...</p> <p>19. The proposed Neolithic Country Park</p> <p>Godmanchester's Other Green Spaces</p> <p>Modify the first sentence to read:</p> <p>These are not defined within the NPPF but those listed here are mostly small scale are within the settlement boundary the Parish and are important</p> <p>Add to the list of sites: Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 19.</p>
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Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement

1. Summary

- 1.1. Following an independent examination Huntingdonshire District Council's Cabinet has confirmed that the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Godmanchester neighbourhood area was designated on 11 March 2015 under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012). The Plan covers the town of Godmanchester which is contiguous with the Town Council's administrative boundary.
- 2.2. Godmanchester Town Council, as the qualifying body, initially submitted the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting evidence to Huntingdonshire District Council. The statutory six week submission consultation was held from 8 May to 19 June 2017.
- 2.3. Huntingdonshire District Council, in discussion with Godmanchester Town Council, appointed an independent examiner, Jill Kingaby MRTPI, to review whether the submitted Neighbourhood Plan met the Basic Conditions as required by legislation. Ms Kingaby issued her report on 30 August 2017 which recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan, subject to the modifications proposed in her report, met the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum.
- 2.4. The Basic Conditions are:
 - Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan
 - The making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
 - The making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority
 - The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, European Union (EU) obligations and
 - Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.

Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) (as amended) set out two basic conditions in addition to those set out in primary legislation and referred to above. These are:

- The making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects
- Having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the neighbourhood development order is made where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development (this is not applicable to this examination).

3. Decision

3.1. Huntingdonshire District Council's Cabinet considered the recommendations on 12 October 2017 and agreed to accept the Examiner's proposed modifications and approve the Godmanchetser Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to referendum.

3.2. The modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan, as needed to ensure it meets the Basic Conditions and in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations are listed in the following table.

Proposed modification number (PM)	Page no./ other reference	Modification	Discussed and Agreed with Godmanchester Town Council
PM1	Front cover and Page 5	<p>Front cover should add</p> <p>Submission Version May 2017</p> <p>(or the date of the final version of the Plan)</p> <p>Paragraph 1.1</p> <p>This document represents the Neighbourhood Plan for Godmanchester parish from 20162017 to 2036</p>	Yes
PM2	Page 22	<p>Policy GMC1: The importance of the countryside setting</p> <p>Development in the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan Area shall be focused within or adjoining the settlement boundary....</p>	Yes
PM3	Page 23	<p>Preserving the Semi-Rural Village ‘Feel’ within the Town</p> <p>4.14 There are ... connection for wildlife but also is crucial</p> <p>4.15 Delete the first sentence and insert:</p> <p><i>The Local Green Spaces within or adjoining the settlement boundary are listed in Appendix 1, and are demonstrably special to the local community of Godmanchester. Also in Appendix 1, are sites in the Parish designated for their national and international significance for wildlife and as registered Common Land. Thirdly, Appendix 1 lists other non-designated green spaces, many of which were allocated as public amenity spaces under planning permissions for development on neighbouring land. These are all sites of community value ie. they provide a valuable space for the informal-recreational activities of the community such as walking, dog walking, informal play, sports or allotment gardening. They are</i></p>	Yes

		<p>Policy GMC3: Preserving ...Town Local Green Spaces.</p> <p>Godmanchester's designated Local Green Spaces and other Green Spaces are set out in Appendix 1. Proposals for development on the Local Green Spaces and Other Green Spaces will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated Local Green Space or Other Green Space.</p> <p><i>Proposals for development on other green spaces should demonstrate that alternative informal recreational space is available within walking distance for neighbouring and future residents, and the semi-rural 'village' feel within the Town will not be seriously compromised.</i></p>	
PM4	Page 30	<p>Paragraph 4.26 – add a second sentence as follows: <i>The provision of public amenity space that would enable off-the-leash dog walking space will be supported.</i></p> <p>Policy GMC7: Providing designated spaces where dogs can be walked off the leash and i Improving access to the countryside</p> <p>Development proposals that take account of the need to provide green open public amenity space that is designated for off the leash dog walking will be supported, as will those that provide walking routes and enable ongoing access to the wider countryside.</p>	Yes
PM5	Page 38	<p><u>Residential Infill and Backland Development</u></p> <p>6.3 New opening sentence:</p> <p><i>New housing development of a moderate or minor scale is defined in Policy CS3 of the Core Strategy as developments of 10-59 dwellings and up to 9 dwellings respectively.</i> Back land development is defined</p> <p>6.6 The combined, cumulative effect of <i>new development including</i> back land and infill development is that This would not be appropriate in Godmanchester, <i>where care and attention to the scale, design and layout of new housing and its site context must be given.</i></p> <p>Policy GMC13: Residential infill and back land development.</p> <p>All Residential infill and back land development within <i>or adjoining</i> the settlement boundary of</p>	<u>Yes</u>

		<p>Godmanchester should Sites within reasonable walking distance of the Town's historic centre will be favourably considered. Development should be of minor or moderate scale, or represent infilling or back land development. Infilling or back land development It should reinforce the uniformity of the character of the existing streetscene by reflecting the scale, mass, semi-rural nature of the Town, with its historic core.</p>	
PM6	Pages 39 to 41	<p>Improving Parking in the Town</p> <p>6.17 – delete the existing text and insert:</p> <p><i>New residential development in Godmanchester should include parking provision which is based on a careful assessment of the site's location and the character of the surrounding area, as well as the nature and form of the proposed development, and the size of the dwellings (number of bedrooms). Regard should be had for guidance on parking in the Huntingdonshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document 2017, when residential or other development proposals are put forward.</i></p> <p>Policy GMC14: For new residential development, plans should <i>not exacerbate</i> seek to reduce the any pressure on 'on street' parking and seek to improve parking issues through the greater provision of <i>should provide numbers of off-street parking spaces appropriate to the site's location and the character of the proposal. The number of spaces should reflect the mix, size and type of housing.</i></p> <p>For new residential developments (Use Class 3)4 off street car parking spaces.</p> <p>Parking spaces can take the form Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>(Modify footnote 44 to refer to Huntingdonshire District Council Design Guide 2017)</p>	Yes
PM7	Page 42	<p>Policy GMC15: Improving and Enhancing the Town</p> <p>Second line:</p> <p>...and to enhance its historic character. Where new provision is made, it should be in keeping</p>	Yes

		with the setting <i>its surroundings</i>	
PM8	Page 51	<p>Policy GMC21: Growing new capacity for small scale businesses in the Town</p> <p>Modify the second bullet of the second sentence to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of new buildings or conversion of existing buildings within <i>or adjoining</i> the Settlement Boundary of the Town 	Yes
PM9	Pages 52 and 53	<p>8 Getting Around</p> <p>8.1 Godmanchester is a growing community.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve<i>manage</i> parking <i>better</i> in the Town. <p>8.2 With the <i>anticipated improvements to the A14 road in Huntingdonshire and the</i> levels of growth planned across<i>for</i> Godmanchester it will be important that developments each contributes..... a coherent and cohesive network <i>transport system incorporating more sustainable transport measures and enabling</i> which allows people to get around more easily and safely, we are thereby protecting <i>should also be able to protect</i> the historic and natural environment.</p> <p><i>8.2 a Cambridge County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2015 and the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Transport Strategy seek to widen the choices available for environmentally sustainable transport, and manage the demand for transport, particularly private car use. All planning applications for development which would generate significant amounts of movement should be accompanied by a Transport Assessment, identifying the specific impacts of their proposals on the local transport network, and the measures needed to mitigate any adverse impacts. Measures should maximise opportunities for more sustainable transport eg. promoting pedestrian and cycling, and improving public transport services. Travel Plans should be provided for all developments which would generate significant new movements.</i></p> <p>.....</p>	Yes

		<p>8.4 Modify second sentence: The lack of public transport services are not comparable to larger towns and cities in terms of frequency and coverage, so that many people are primarily cars users against 5% are by bus or train).on the road network. ... putting, potentially, a significant strain on the road network. The transport assessment and travel plan accompanying the planning permission (ref: 1200685OUT) are required to address this matter.</p> <p>Policy GMC22: Reducing traffic and congestion on Godmanchester's roads</p> <p>Development proposals accompany any planning application and traffic calming, improvements to public transport, cycling and walking routes, vehicle and cycle parking and other measures delivered which mitigate the impact of development, particularly through the 'historic core'. Where appropriate, a Travel Plan will be required, setting out how any adverse effects will be overcome, including through the promotion of use of more sustainable travel modes.</p>	
PM10	Page 54	<p>Make the Town Safer for Cyclists</p> <p>8.13, Add two new sentences to introduce this paragraph:</p> <p>Godmanchester is a small town within 3 miles of the centre of Huntingdon, and within the relatively flat countryside of Cambridgeshire. It represents a highly suitable environment for cycling for people living and working locally, and for tourists and visitors.</p>	Yes
PM11	Page 68	<p>Map 5 – Historic Core</p> <p>Modify the map so that it shows Post Street and Earning Street Conservation Area boundaries, and the boundary of the Scheduled Monument east of the parish church.</p>	Yes
PM12	Page 69	<p>Appendix 1 – Green Spaces</p> <p>Local Green Spaces</p> <p>Delete the following:</p> <p>4. The Godmanchester Nature Reserve at Cow Lane</p>	Yes

		<p>5. The Cow Lane gravel pits</p> <p>6. The Recreation Ground including the green spaces leading up to the lock</p> <p>7. Queen's Walk</p> <p>9. The green space adjacent to the Cricket Pitch</p> <p>10. The land between the school, the Church ...</p> <p>12. The green ...Jarwood Walk and up to Silver Street ...</p> <p>19. The proposed Neolithic Country Park</p> <p>Godmanchester's Other Green Spaces</p> <p>Modify the first sentence to read:</p> <p>These are not defined within the NPPF but those listed here are <i>mostly</i> small scale are within the settlement boundary <i>the Parish</i> and are important</p> <p>Add to the list of sites: Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 19.</p>	
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Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Business Rates Discretionary Revaluation Relief Scheme 2017/18

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny (Economy and Growth) – 5th October 2017

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Strategic Resources – Councillor J A Gray

Report by: Revenues and Benefits Manager

Wards affected: All

RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the proposed Business Rates Discretionary Revaluation Relief Scheme for 2017/18 and the proposal to delegate authority on the distribution of funding in future years to the Executive Councillor for Strategic Resources as per the Cabinet report attached at **Appendix A**.

Appendix A

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter:	Business Rates Discretionary Revaluation Relief Scheme 2017/18
Meeting/Date:	Cabinet – 12th October 2017
Executive Portfolio:	Executive Councillor for Strategic Resources – Councillor J A Gray
Report by:	Revenues and Benefits Manager
Wards affected:	All

Executive Summary:

Business Rates are a tax charged on non-domestic properties. The amount payable is determined by a Rateable Value (RV) set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and a nationally set multiplier. The VOA is required to undertake a revaluation of RV data every five years, but the 2015 revaluation was delayed for two years to 2017.

The Government has established a £300m discretionary fund over four years from 2017/18 to support those businesses facing the steepest increases in their business rates bills as a result of the revaluation.

Billing authorities are expected to use their share of the funding to develop their own discretionary scheme to support businesses within their area that face the greatest need.

A scheme has been developed for 2017/18 after seeking Members' views through an options paper that was considered by the Policy Development Group. The scheme has been designed to award the maximum available funding of £345,000 to around 160 local businesses.

Funding decreases each year over the life of the four year scheme and so the policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that on-going support is given to small local businesses most affected by the revaluation.

A consultation exercise with the major preceptors and the combined authority has been undertaken on the proposed scheme to meet the conditions set out by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) prior to presenting the proposed policy to Members.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1) approves the Business Rates Discretionary Revaluation Relief Scheme for 2017/18
- 2) delegates authority to the Executive Councillor for Strategic Resources to agree the revised Business Rates Revaluation Schemes for the next 3 consecutive years

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Business Rates are a tax charged on non-domestic properties; the liability is based on a combination of a nationally set multiplier and the rateable value (RV) for the property. The RV is determined by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), which compiles a Rating List for each billing authority area. Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) plays no role in setting the RV but is responsible for collecting the income.
- 1.2 The VOA is required to undertake a full revaluation of Rating Lists every five years to ensure that each RV is at an appropriate level reflecting the current economic climate and is broadly reflective of the rental value of the premises. The Government delayed the revaluation which was due in 2015 by two years, which means that the 2010 Rating List remained in use for seven years rather than five.
- 1.3 With every revaluation, the Government specifies a national scheme of Transitional Relief. This scheme sets limits on how much a ratepayer's bill can increase or decrease as a result of the revaluation.
- 1.4 Following the publication of the 2017 Rating Lists, the Government decided that the Transitional Relief scheme did not provide sufficient support for some businesses, and so the Chancellor announced three additional relief schemes as part of the Spring 2017 budget.
- 1.5 The remit and parameters of two of these schemes (Pub Relief and Supporting Small Businesses) were approved by a report that went to Cabinet on 9 February 2017 (National Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy). The third relief - Discretionary Revaluation Relief Scheme falls outside of the scope of the earlier report and needs to be considered and approved by Members.
- 1.6 In its role as a billing authority, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has the power to introduce discretionary reliefs for business rates in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As a result of the 2017 revaluation process, the Government introduced three relief schemes in addition to the transitional relief scheme:
 - a) Pub Relief: Pubs with an RV of up to £100,000 will be awarded a business rates discount of £1,000 for 2017/18. We initially awarded relief to around 90 ratepayers within the District but as occupiers change throughout the course of the year, the scheme will allow any new occupiers to benefit from this relief. This relief only applies in 2017/18.
 - b) Supporting Small Businesses: Small Business Rates Relief (SBRR) is a national scheme which reduces the rates payable by occupiers of some small properties. As a result of the revaluation, some businesses no longer qualify for SBRR and so a transitional scheme was introduced to limit the impact of any increase. The scheme caps any increase to 5% + inflation for the first year and then set percentage increases each year up until 2021/22 unless the property drops out of the scheme. In 2017/18, around 50 ratepayers within the District benefited from this relief.

- c) Revaluation Relief: A £300 million fund for Billing Authorities to devise their own discretionary relief schemes to support local businesses most affected by the revaluation.
- 2.2 DCLG allocated funding for the Revaluation Relief to local authorities based on the total rate increases for properties where the bill increased by more than 12.5% following revaluation and the RV is less than £200,000.
- 2.3 HDC's allocation of this funding is £592,000 spread across the next 4 years. This funding is frontloaded for 2017/18.

Amount of discretionary grant awarded (£000's)					
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
HDC	345	168	69	10	592

- 2.4 DCLG has not issued any detailed guidance on how the scheme should be operated locally. The only conditions which have been set in order for relief to qualify for this funding are:
- The billing authority must consult with their major precepting authorities and combined authority
 - The scheme must provide relief only to ratepayers who have seen an increase in their business rates bill due to the revaluation
- 2.5 The Government will make grant payments to both HDC and the County Council to offset the cost of any relief under this scheme which meets these conditions. However, if the value of the relief granted exceeds the allocation shown above, the cost of any additional spend will fall on HDC.

3. ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Members' views were sought through an options paper that was considered by the Policy Development Group with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Resources taking the lead. This fed into the development of the proposed HDC policy which ensures that the reliefs awarded as a result of this grant meet local priorities and makes full use of the funding.
- 3.2 A mandatory consultation has also been undertaken with Cambridgeshire County Council, the Fire Authority and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. No responses were received from this consultation.
- 3.3 The proposed HDC policy (Appendix A) has been designed using the principles that determined the level of DCLG funding along with a number of other conditions that maximises the amount of relief that can be awarded to local businesses. The emphasis has been placed on supporting smaller, local businesses and so multi-national businesses are specifically excluded from the list of qualifying criteria.

The qualifying criteria are as follows:

- the business was liable for business rates on or before 31 March 2017;
- the rateable value for 2017/18 is less than £200,000;
- the increase in the rateable property's 2017/18 bill is more than 12.5% compared to its 2016/17 bill before reliefs;
- the property is occupied;
- the business is not part of a national or global organisation;

- the award must comply with State Aid requirements;
 - relief will be apportioned on a daily basis if the occupier vacates the property or a change in circumstances renders them ineligible for relief;
 - any relief will be calculated after all other reliefs have been applied and will not exceed the rate liability for the year.
- 3.4 Using this criteria, around 160 local businesses would benefit from a share of the £345,000 funding.
- 3.5 The scheme is designed to have a small underspend as a contingency that would enable HDC to make payments to a business adversely affected by the revaluation that does not meet the criteria set out above. A decision to make this type of award would be done on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.6 The Non-Domestic Rating (Discretionary Relief) Regulations 1989 (S.I. 1989/1059) require the Council to provide ratepayers with at least one year's notice in writing before any decision to revoke or vary a decision that increases the amount of business rates payable. Awards of discretionary relief under this scheme will be awarded for the period of one year only with the relief being specified for the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 which negates the requirement for the year's notice.
- 3.7 The policy at Appendix B will be used to award support in 2017-18. Funding reduces significantly over each of the remaining three years of the scheme and although it is intended to use the same basic principles for schemes in future years, it may be necessary to change some of the parameters within the qualifying criteria to ensure that any award of relief granted is meaningful. Because it is intended that future schemes will remain inherently the same, it is proposed that the funding distribution for the years 2018-22 is delegated to the Executive Councillor for Strategic Resources.

4 COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 4.1 The comments of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be included in this section prior to its consideration by the Cabinet.

5. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the discretionary relief will be awarded to qualifying businesses in time for when the November 2017 instalment becomes payable. Relief will automatically be awarded to businesses that meet the necessary criteria.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND / OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The Business Rates Discretionary Revaluation Relief scheme will help HDC to meet the strategic objective of developing stronger and more resilient communities.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 A mandatory consultation exercise has taken place with the major preceptors and the combined authority. No responses were received.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 HDC's funding allocation for 2017/18 is £345k. This is the total amount of relief to be provided to ratepayers. Under the 50% business rates retention system, the reduction in business rates receipts from the award of the revaluation relief will generally result in a reduction in local authorities' business rates income of 50% of the value of the relief. Government has undertaken to reimburse the cost of providing relief via a grant under s.31 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 8.2 Any spend above the limit of the funding will be a cost to HDC.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 9.1 The proposed method of distributing the funding in line with the HDC Discretionary Revaluation Relief Scheme attached at Appendix B, gives the greatest amount of relief to small local businesses most affected by the Business Rates revaluation. This reflects the aims contained within the Government's consultation paper and helps to promote a strong local economy.
- 9.2 It is anticipated that the scheme for 2018/19 and beyond will retain the same basic principles as the scheme for 2017/18 but will be based on reduced funding. Therefore, once the initial policy has been approved by Cabinet, future adjustments should be minimal and so it is recommended that the decision on funding distribution is made by the Executive Councillor for Strategic Resources.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix A – Cabinet report

Appendix B – HDC Discretionary Revaluation Relief Scheme 2017/18

CONTACT OFFICER

Name/Job Title: John Taylor/Head of Customer Services

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Name/Job title: Amanda Burns/Revenues and Benefits Manager

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BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY REVALUATION RELIEF SCHEME 2017-18

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Business Rates are a tax charged on non-domestic properties. The amount payable is determined by a Rateable Value (RV) set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and a nationally set multiplier. The size and use of the premises, along with open market rental data, are used to establish this RV.
- 1.2 VOA is required to undertake a revaluation of RV data every five years, although in 2015, this was delayed for two years by the Government, to 2017. This programme of review ensures that rateable values are set at an appropriate level, reflecting the current economic climate and value of properties on the rating list.
- 1.3 The outcome of the revaluation saw some businesses' RV increase. As a result, the Government introduced a number of measures to support those affected including establishing a £300 million local discretionary relief scheme for local authorities to support those businesses facing the steepest increase in their Business Rates bills.

2.0 Funding

- 2.1 Huntingdonshire District Council's (HDC) allocation of the Government's funding is £592,000 spread over the next four years.

Amount of discretionary grant (£000's)					
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
HDC	345	168	69	10	592

- 2.2 The funding allocation was calculated taking into account the total rate increases for properties where the bill increased by more than 12.5% following revaluation and the RV is less than £200,000.

3.0 Financial Impact

- 3.1 Under the 50% Business Rates retention system, the reduction in receipts resulting from the revaluation relief will generally result in a reduction in local authorities' Business Rates income of 50% of the value of the relief.

- 3.2 The Government will reimburse HDC for the cost of providing the relief through a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 up to the maximum amount of grant.

4.0 Legal Requirements

- 4.1 The Scheme will be administered through billing authorities' discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

5.0 Principles of scheme

- 5.1 The scheme is based on the Government's principles and assumptions used in the distribution of the grant funding but also takes account of Members' views and those obtained through a consultation exercise with major preceptors and the combined authority.
- 5.2 The aim of the scheme is to provide relief to local businesses who faced the steepest increases in their Business Rates bill as a result of the revaluation in April 2017 and is based on the following principles:
- the business was liable for Business Rates on or before 31 March 2017. Retrospective additions to the list will not be considered;
 - the rateable value for 2017/18 is less than £200,000;
 - the increase in the rateable property's 2017/18 bill is more than 12.5% compared to its 2016/17 bill (before reliefs);
 - the property is occupied;
 - the business is not part of a national or global organisation;
 - the award must comply with State Aid requirements;
 - relief will be apportioned on a daily basis if the occupier vacates the property or a change in circumstance renders them ineligible for relief;
 - any relief will be calculated after all other reliefs have been applied and will not exceed the rate liability for the year.
- 5.3 The amount of relief awarded to each qualifying business will be determined by the number of eligible businesses and be granted by reducing the Business Rates bill by a percentage. The cost of the scheme will not exceed the grant allocation.
- 5.4 An amount of the Government funding is to be retained to make awards to businesses adversely affected by the revaluation that do not meet the criteria above. Such decisions would be made on a case-by-case basis.

6.0 Period of relief

- 6.1 Relief given under this scheme will be granted for the period April 2017 to March 2018.
- 6.2 The Non-Domestic Rating (Discretionary Relief) Regulations 1989 require local authorities to provide ratepayers with at least one year's notice in writing before any decision to revoke or vary a decision that increases the amount of Business Rates payable. However, a local authority may still make decisions which are conditional upon eligibility criteria which allow the amount of relief to be amended within the year to reflect a change in circumstance.

7.0 Calculation of relief

- 7.1 The relief will be apportioned on a daily basis to account for changes that may occur during the award period such as the occupier vacating or a change in circumstances that would make the business ineligible for relief.

8.0 Notification of decision

- 8.1 Ratepayers will be notified that the relief has been awarded to them by issuing a revised Business Rates bill and a letter setting out the criteria used to award the relief.

9.0 Right of appeal

- 9.1 There is no statutory right of appeal against a decision not to award relief under this scheme as the award is discretionary. However, where a decision has been made not to award relief, the ratepayer can request a review of that decision.
- 9.2 The request must be made in writing and include reasons for the request along with any supporting documentation. The review will be carried out by the Head of Customer Services.

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Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Strategic Review of Parking – Parking Vision

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny (Economy and Growth) – 5th October 2017

Executive Portfolio: Cllr Jim White, Executive Cllr for Operations

Report by: Neil Sloper, Head of Operations

Wards affected: All

Recommendation:

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the Huntingdonshire District Council - Parking Vision contained within the executive summary from the cabinet report attached as Appendix A.

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Cabinet Report 19 October 2017 (Strategic Review of Parking - Parking Vision)

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Strategic Review of Parking – Parking Vision
Meeting/Date: Cabinet – 12th October 2017
Executive Portfolio: Cllr Jim White, Executive Cllr for Operations
Report by: Neil Sloper, Head of Operations
Wards affected: All

Executive Summary:

It was agreed at Overview & Scrutiny: Economy & Growth Panel (O&S:E&G) on the 6th April 2017 under the agenda item “Strategic Review of Parking - Project Overview” that a Member Task & Finish group should be established to deliver an agreed vision and strategic priorities for car park management and operation. The Task and Finish group membership and outline plan was agreed by the panel recognising the requirements to develop a vision for the parking service that would inform and provide clear direction for the development of a strategy to guide future courses of action.

The accompanying report presents a record of the work undertaken so far and the parking the parking vision for endorsement.

Huntingdonshire District Council - Parking Vision:

Huntingdonshire District Council will support the sustainability and growth of its towns and villages through the provision of convenient, easily accessible car park locations that focus on achieving our core priorities of:

- Providing and delivering security and safety for our users
- Providing and delivering clean and well maintained parking places
- Implementing technology that positively assists our car park users
- Promoting environmental sustainability by supporting alternative fuel and travel methods

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Cabinet endorse the Parking Vision developed by the members of the “Strategic Review of Parking” Task & Finish Group (T&F) to enable the group to progress to the development of a parking strategy.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To seek endorsement of the parking vision developed by the “Strategic Review of Parking” Task & Finish group (T&F).
- 1.2. To highlight the work undertaken so far to develop the car park strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Overview & Scrutiny: Economy & Growth (O&S:E&G) agenda item “Strategic Review of Parking - Project Overview” discussed 6th April 2017 by O&S recognised that Huntingdonshire District Council has:
 - No agreed vision for the role of car park management and operation.
 - No agreed strategic priorities for car park management or operation.
 - No clear evidence base of user requirements or preference
 - Future investment and enhancements to car parks and their operation must be based on an evidence based vision and strategy.

3. KEY ACTIONS

6th April 2017

- The O&S:E&G panel agreed the purpose and membership of the T&F group for the agenda item “Strategic Review of Parking - Project Overview”.

30th May 2017

- The 1st T&F group meeting took place which saw:
 - The appointment of a Chairman (Cllr White)
 - The appointment of a Vice Chairman (Cllr Dickinson)
 - Discussion around the “Strategic Review of Parking” scoping document to ensure that a comprehensive approach is being taken
 - A review of the Parking Service “Service Profile Park” which provided an overview of all service resources and functions
 - Analysis of Stakeholders to identify who and when they need to be engaged with as part of the “Strategic Review of Parking”
 - A review of the proposed online “parking user survey” to ensure it captured all that was required

30th June 2017

- Finalisation of the Parking User Online Survey

3rd July 2017

- Parking User Online Survey “Go Live” date.

18th July 2017

- Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) feasibility study scope finalisation with RTA Associates
- HDC request RTAA to undertake additional “compliance” & “signs and lines” surveys

24th July 2017

- Parking Service initial discussion with “Inner Circle Consulting” undertaking the “Growth Masterplan for St Neots”

25th July 2017

- CPE feasibility study schedule for onsite surveys agreed (13th to 16th September 2017 - aim to capture “normal” term time behaviours)

26th July 2017

- T&F group brief of parking service financial information which sought to understand and separate:
 - Statutory costs
 - Operational costs (fixed)
 - Operational costs (income related)

28th July 2017

- Parking Service inception meeting with Steer Davies Gleave (SDG) to undertake the “Development vs Capacity” which saw:
 - Discussion into the aims for the study
 - An SGD brief on the tasks and approach to be taken
 - Agreement on a reporting deadline (end Oct 2017)

8th August 2017

- A meeting of the T&F group which saw:
 - A brief on HDC parking service discussion with consultants undertaking the “Growth Masterplan for St Neots”
 - An update on the ongoing works (CPE Feasibility study & SDG)
 - A visioning session comprising of 3 visioning exercises (see appendix 1)

29th August 2017

- Agreement for the T&F group to work smarter by developing a parking vision electronically

4th September 2017

- A meeting of the T&F group which saw:
 - A presentation by SDG on the Development versus Capacity Study.
 - Discussion around the presentation to ensure the study addresses all aspects the members of the group feel is required to develop an informed parking strategy

5th September 2017

- Parking Service debrief on the Parking User Survey (online)

11th September 2017

- Development of previous works by members of the T&F group towards the achievement of a parking vision

15th September 2017

- Delivery by member of the T&F group of a Huntingdonshire District Council Parking Vision.

27th September 2017

- A meeting of the T&F group whose focus will be:
 - A presentation of the Parking User Survey results.
 - Discussion around the survey results presented to ensure coherence with the priorities presented in the vision.

4. HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - PARKING VISION

Huntingdonshire District Council will support the sustainability and growth of its towns and villages through the provision of convenient, easily accessible car park locations that focus on achieving our core priorities of

- Providing and delivering security and safety for our users
- Providing and delivering clean and well maintained parking places
- Implementing technology that positively assists our car park users
- Promoting environmental sustainability by supporting alternative fuel and travel methods

5. Next Stages

5.1. The next are:

- Return of CPE feasibility study and accompanying “compliance” & “signs and lines” surveys for the consideration of (possible) endorsement by the T&F group.
- Return of the “Development vs Capacity” study for the consideration of the T&F group.

- Discussion and consideration of the comments stakeholder on the Parking User Survey by the T&F group.
- Development of a parking strategy by the T&F group.

6. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

6.1. The comments of the Overview and Scrutiny (E&G) Panel of the 5th October 2017

7. KEY RISKS

- 7.1. Failure to endorse a parking vision will impact delivery of a parking strategy by the T&F Group.
- 7.2. Failure to deliver an evidence based parking strategy will impact the direction and development of the parking service in its support of economic growth and development of our towns.

8. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN

- 8.1. The Corporate Strategic Plan identifies the delivery of a car parking strategy that is supportive of residents, visitors and local businesses as a key action under delivering Sustainable Growth.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1. Car park users have been consulted as part of the development of the strategy. A "Parking User Survey" was undertaken from 3rd July 2017 for a period of 6 weeks. This includes the opinions of businesses and stakeholder organisations.
- 9.2. Additional Stakeholder consultation is underway to double check that the views expressed within the survey match the issues previously presented to Town & Parish Councils.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 10.1. An agreed vision is required to inform a parking strategy.

11. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

- Appendix 1 - Car Park Visioning
- Appendix 2 - Parking User Survey Report

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Overview & Scrutiny: Economy & Growth Panel - Thursday 6th April 2017:
Strategic Review of Car Parking: Project Overview and T&F Scoping Document

<http://moderngov.huntsdc.gov.uk:8070/documents/s85153/Strategic%20Review%20of%20Car%20Parking%20Project%20Overview.pdf>

13. CONTACT OFFICER

George McDowell, Parking Services Manager (Operations)
george.mcdowell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Task & Finish - Car park visioning

Task 1

- Write 3 short, vivid, positive and innovative changes you would personally like to see by 3030 to the delivery of car parking
 - Discuss with your neighbour and agree one
 - Share with the group
-

Statements:

'able to find somewhere to park where and when you want at a price you chose'

- **Larger spaces (accommodate larger modern vehicles and making access/egress easier for less able drivers/passengers)**
- **Ability to locate spaces**
- **Improved system of payment (i.e. facility to pay for actual usage via smartphone)**
- Public/private transport harmonised
- Electric vehicle capability throughout
- Parking service linked to other services i.e. leisure use tech to cross-incentivise initiatives
- An initial "free" period or reduced cost parking
- Smarter technology (i.e. more apps)
- Any stay duration in any car park (no long or short)
- Coordination of all parking types i.e. on street / off street / private
- Peak time management of flow / usage
- Real time info on free spaces
- Better / easier enforcement i.e. CPE
- Pay direct from bank account

KEY EMERGENT AIMS:

= **Convenience:** access, location, availability, no-time pressure, use

e.g. car parks with capacity where needed in town, pay on exit not for a fixed parking term

=**Easy:** layout, payment options, design, location

e.g. larger spaces, payment in advance, by electronic means, improved flow and visibility

= **Assisting** (with technology): real-time information on availability most suitable place to park to meet your needs, payment choices

e.g. tools to advise where is free closest to your parking need and cost options with links to sat nav.

Task 2

- We are watching an LGA award ceremony, best innovative car parks
 - What are the key accomplishments of the winner?
-

Statements:

- Cost neutral
- Self-sustaining (i.e. solar/wind power generators, electric charging)
- Multiple uses for the space
- Rapid charge facilities
- Car to determine best place to park based on journey arrival time + purpose + length of stay
- Car drop off point with car parked for you by us

KEY EMERGENT AIMS:

Sustainability: Energy neutral design including future charging needs

e.g. solar powered energy for car parks, materials used in construction and maintenance

Cost Neutrality: Surplus invested? Or No surplus?

e.g. parking account used for technology trials and investment to be innovative

Sustainability of Towns: Protect our environment and health, driving innovation and not compromising our way of life.

e.g. Minimise pollution and congestion by helping/informing where to park in advance

Task 3

- We are interviewing customers about our award winning car park provision
 - What will they say?
 - What is valued and what is helpful?
-

Statements:

- Right location every time (i.e. space location apps)
- Advance booking (online / apps)
- Reserved spaces linked to number plate recognition
- Convenient locations
- Immaculately clean
- Car parks by retail needs (i.e. items you require)
- Shopping delivered to your car
- Free parking
- Space where I want it, when I want it every time
- Value for money
- Charge points for electric vehicles
- Good service
- Easy to use payment solutions
- Pleasant place to visit (including car park appearance)
- “green” car park (e.g. eco friendly)
- Park and ride automated system
- Car park in the right place
- Car park over occupied by season ticket users
- Car park too expensive
- Congestion too high

153

KEY EMERGENT AIMS:

Quality: Clean, well maintained, safe

Sustainability: Energy, technology, way of life, linked to transportation issues/aims
e.g. Minimise pollution and congestion by helping/informing where to park in advance

Ease of use: location, payment, advance planning

POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR STRATEGY AND SOLUTIONS:

- Improved and simpler end user experience:
 - car park layouts
 - features and facilities available
 - wider variety of payment options available
 - easier to find a car park & space
 - stay until ready to leave
 - value for money

- Improved infrastructure:
 - designation to support end user requirements
 - more effective enforcement
 - better information on usage

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Huntingdonshire District Council Car Park Survey: Research Results



5th September 2017





Background, objectives and methodology	3
Key findings	7
Car park usage	12
Overview by town	18
Individual car park overview: Godmanchester	25
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Individual car park overview: St Ives	43
Individual car park overview: St Neots	56
Recap: Recommendations	65



BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY



- ✓ Huntingdonshire District Council operate a number of different car parks across the district but are aware that they currently have no defined vision / strategy for the Council Parking Service.
- ✓ In light of this, a Task and Finish group has been formed to develop the strategy moving forward. The scope of group is wide ranging to ensure that a fully comprehensive Parking Strategy can be developed and implemented over the coming years.
- ✓ The Task and Finish group are ultimately looking to understand:
 - The needs, requirements and priorities of customer groups and any possible conflicts
 - The use and future requirements of parking provision
 - Contribution of car parking facilities to local infrastructures
 - Principles of car park operation and pricing
 - Standard of facilities provided
 - Occupancy/turnover of vehicles
- ✓ Whilst much of this information can be obtained from existing data, the council currently have little information on public opinion/perceptions of car parking provision and services. As such, they would like to conduct a customer satisfaction survey amongst car park users to fully understand this.



The **business** objective of this research is:

- ✓ To **understand public opinion** of the Huntingdonshire District Councils Parking Service to incorporate into the development of a Parking Strategy.

The specific **research** objectives, as understood and built upon by Cambridge MR, are as follows:

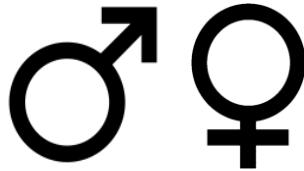
- ✓ To understand **customer behaviour** for car park usage within the Huntingdon District;
- ✓ To establish a hierarchy of **user priorities** when selecting a car park;
- ✓ To identify any **trends** in car park usage;
- ✓ To provide **recommendations** on the needs, requirements and priorities of the car park users.



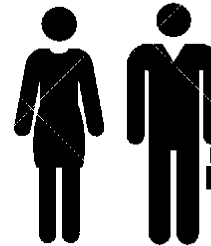
Sample demographics



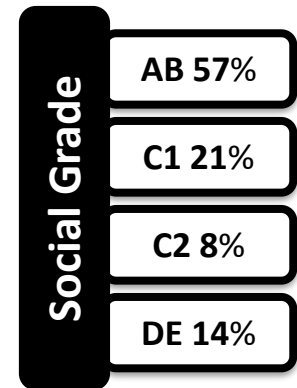
1177
users



42% Male
58% Female



Age: 18+ years
(18-24: 3%) (25-34: 15%) (35-44: 20%)
(45-54: 21%) (55-64: 20%) (65+: 20%)



162

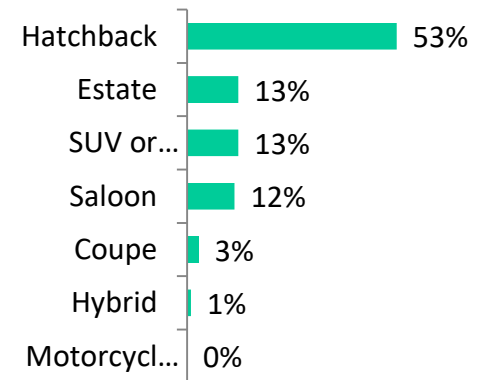
5% Blue Badge Holders

Family (children under 18 at home)	27%
Non family (no children under 18 at home)	73%



Vehicle ownership
(1: 34%) (2: 49%) (3: 11%) (4+: 11%)

Vehicle type



KEY FINDINGS





Overview

- ✓ A total of 1177 participated in the survey resulting in 4368 individual car park completions.
- ✓ Overall satisfaction with the car parks was generally high across the district with overall response similar between the towns and villages. A number of key trends were noted:

Usage trends

- ✓ There was a clear distinction between car parks used for retail purpose and those used on leisure occasions.
- ✓ Current usage of mobile payment systems (where available) is low.
- ✓ Car parks are generally used at least monthly with a high proportion used on a weekly basis.
- ✓ However, the average length of stay is low with most car parks used for 2 hours or less.
- ✓ Users predominantly have a PE postal code, typically more than 75% of the sample. There was a small percentage (less than 10%) with CB, NN, MK or SG post codes.



Satisfaction trends

- ✔ Convenience of location was at the top of the hierarchy when selecting which car park to use.
- ✔ Value for money was a key concern with this measure prompting the highest levels of dissatisfaction. Whilst an issue across the majority of car parks, it was particularly notable for the car parks in St Neots.
- ✔ To a lesser degree, car park security was also noted as a concern.

Convenience of location

- ✔ For more than a third, convenience of location was at the top of the hierarchy when selecting which car park to use.
 - More than three-quarters of users rated their satisfaction with location convenience as 'excellent/good' for car parks across the towns of Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots.
- ✔ Value for money, accessibility and purpose of visit complete the hierarchy in order of importance.





Retail vs. Leisure

- ✓ There was a clear distinction between car parks used for either retail or leisure purposes:
 - Car parks located in supermarkets, High Street / Market Square type locations were predominantly used when shopping.
 - The usage characteristics for these were typically high frequency, short stay, main day part.
 - Whilst overall satisfaction for these were acceptable there were more likely to be concerns with value for money.
 - Whilst, those in leisure e.g. Hinchingsbrooke country park attract less frequent but longer length stays and are largely considered better value for money

Potential improvements

- ✓ At an overall level across all car parks, more than a third expressed no opinion with regards to potential improvements.
- ✓ A similar proportion, however, indicated that wider bays for all vehicles would be welcomed.
- ✓ Verbatim feedback also indicates a dissatisfaction with current parking charges.



Whilst overall satisfaction with car parks across the Huntingdonshire District was acceptable there are issues which could be addressed.

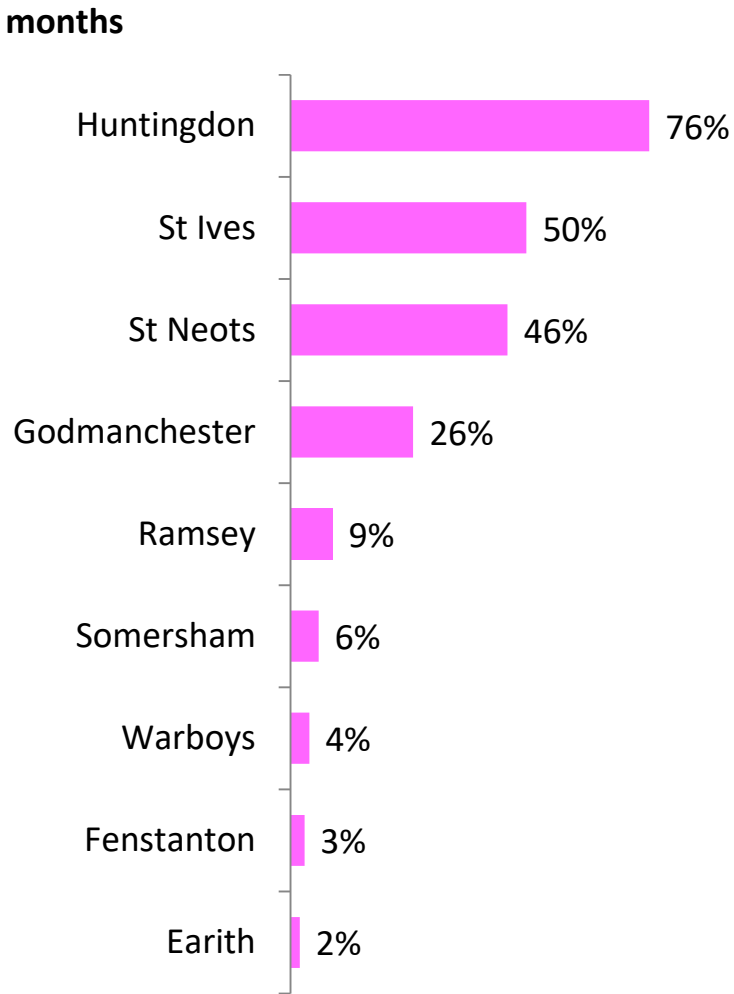
- ✓ When prompted about potential improvements, a common theme across all car parks was a desire for wider bays for all vehicles.
- ✓ More cashless payment options would also be welcomed. Use of the mobile payment system (where available) is currently low indicating a potential awareness issue.
- ✓ Value for money: This measure records the highest levels of dissatisfaction but users placed this second in the hierarchy for selecting a car park so should be reviewed.
- ✓ Car park security was not highly rated across the district. Consideration of this issue could help to raise user satisfaction.

CAR PARK USAGE



Three-quarters of the sample had parked in Huntingdon in the last three months.

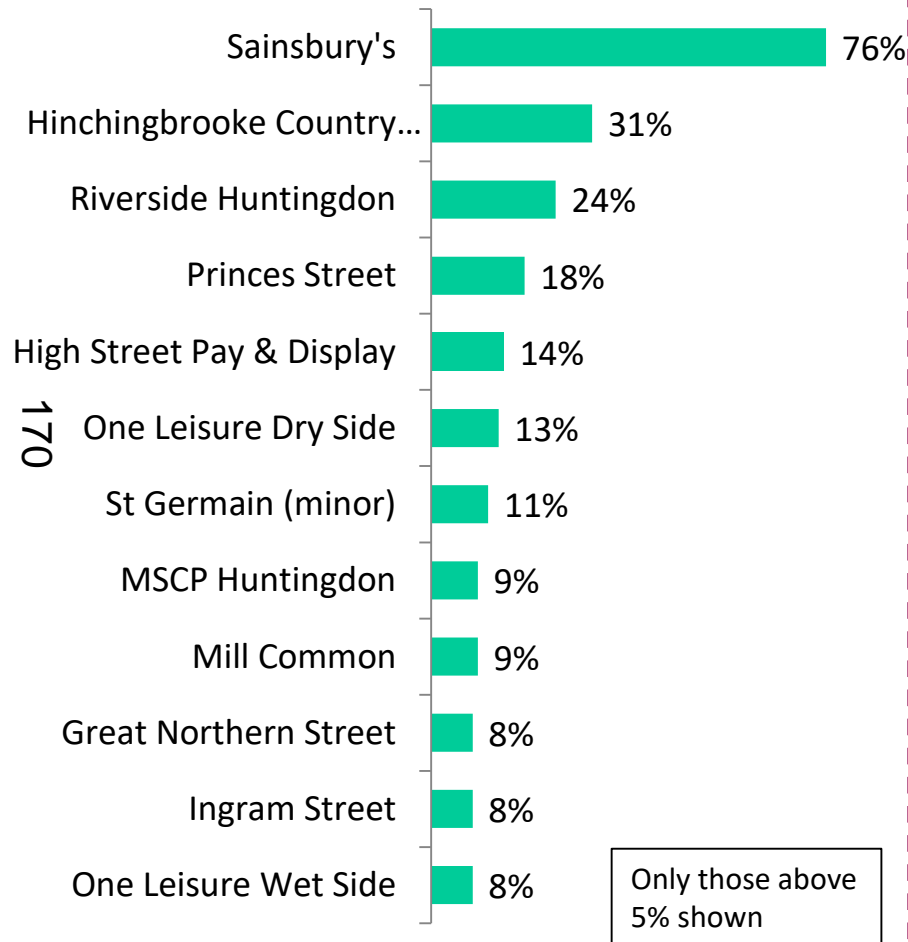
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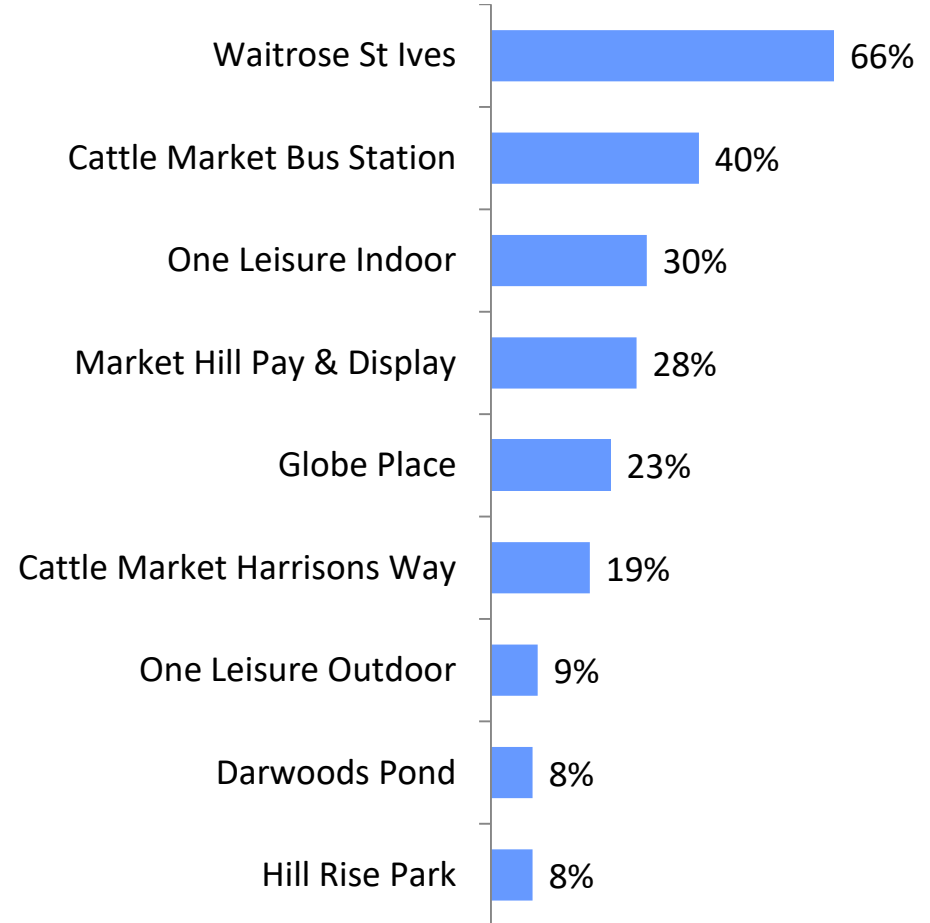
Q1. Please select the towns where you have parked in the last 3 months?
Base: Total sample (1177)

Three-quarter of those parking in Huntingdon used Sainsbury's. A similar pattern in St Ives with two-thirds having used Waitrose.

Car parks used: Huntingdon



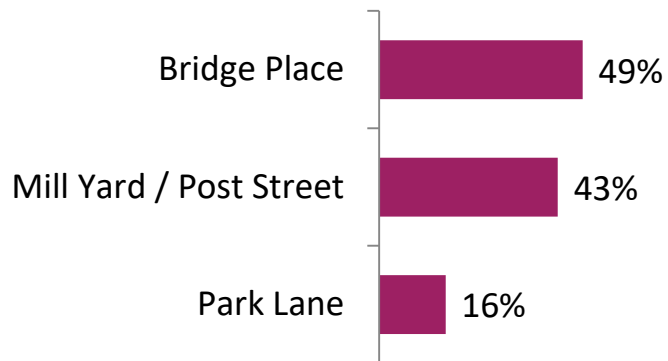
Car parks used: St Ives



Q2. Please select the car parks you use in Huntingdon / St Ives.
Base: Huntingdon car park users (891); St Ives car park users (592)

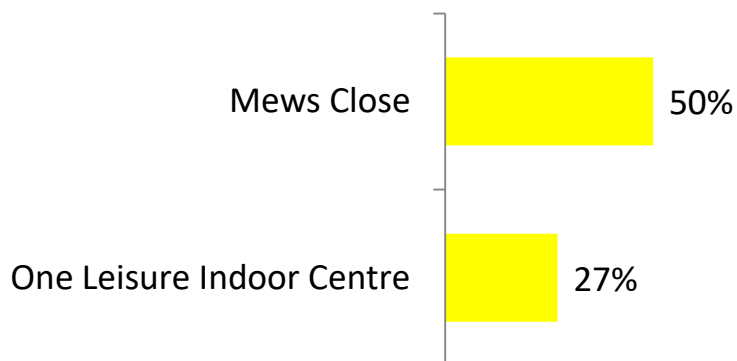
Bridge Place and Mill Yard most likely to be used in Godmanchester with Waitrose and Market Square in St Neots.

Car parks used: Godmanchester

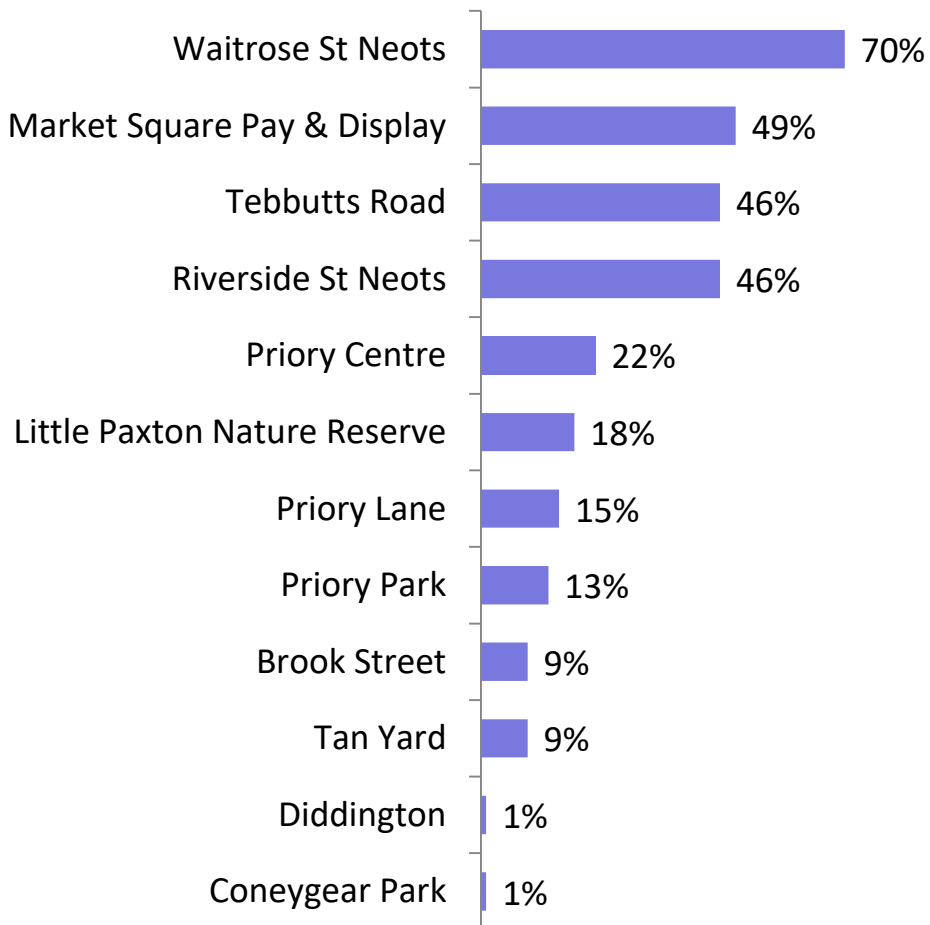


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Car parks used: Ramsey



Car parks used: St Neots

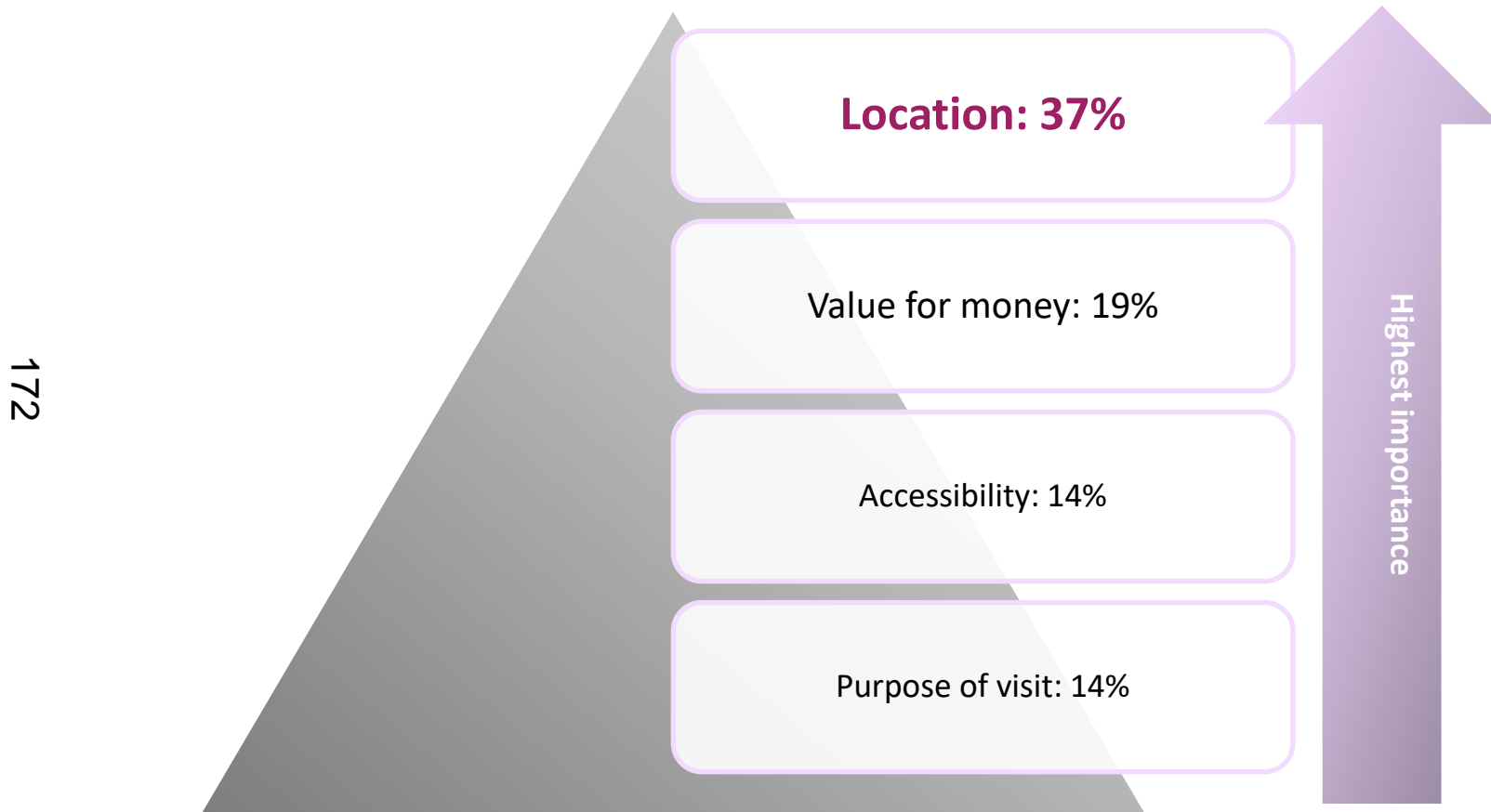


Q2. Please select the car parks you use in Godmanchester / Ramsey / St Neots.

Base: Godmanchester car park users (307); Ramsey car park users (106); St Neots car park users (538)

Convenience of location was the most important factor for more than a third when choosing where to park. However, value for money also plays a significant role.

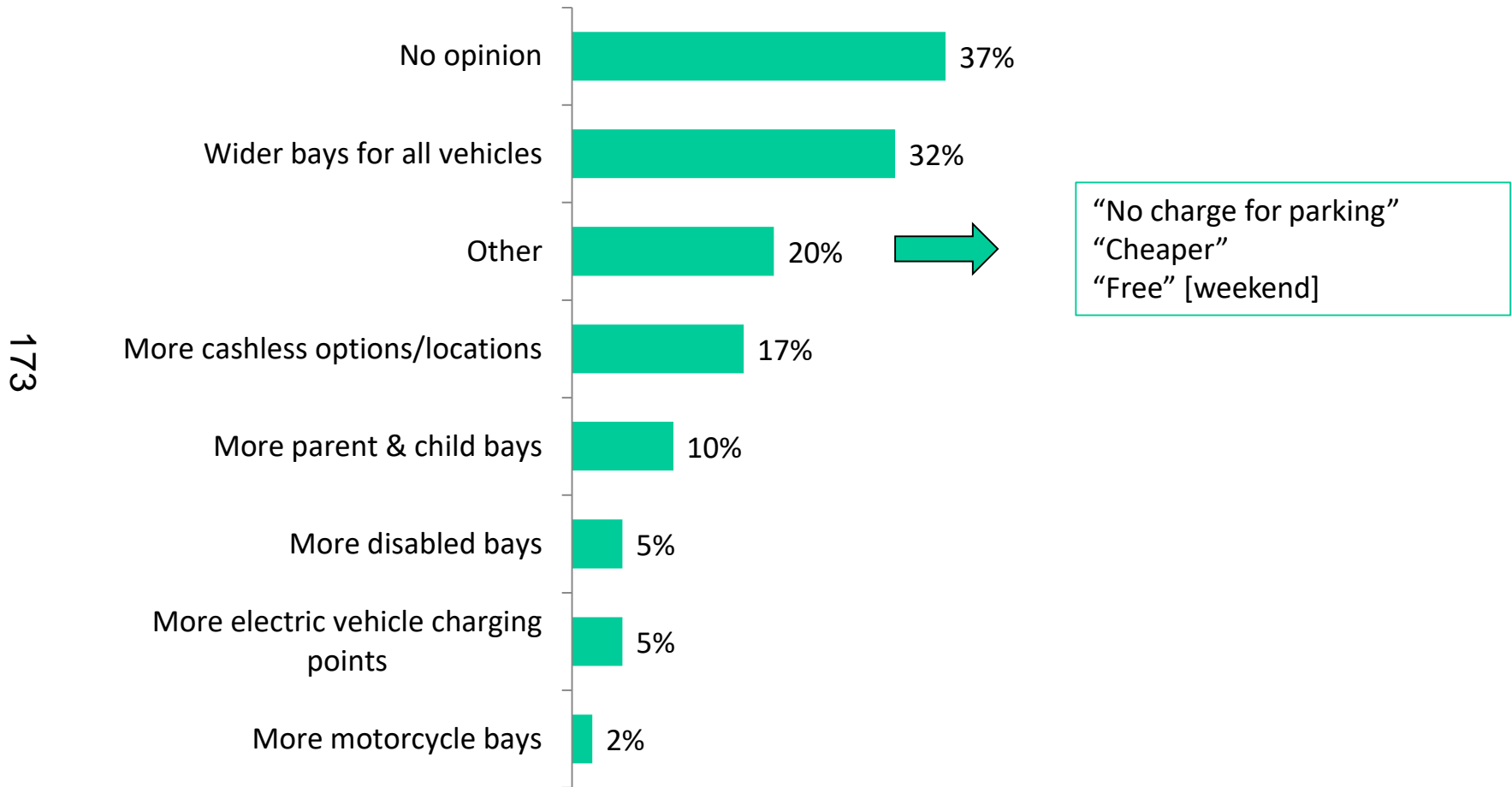
Car park selection factors: Most important



Q11. What is the most important factor to you when selecting your parking location?
Base: Total sample (1177)

Whilst a third were of no opinion about potential improvements, wider bays would be welcomed. Verbatim feedback also indicates a dissatisfaction with current parking charges.

Potential improvements: All car parks



Q10. How could this car park be improved?
Base: All completes (4368)

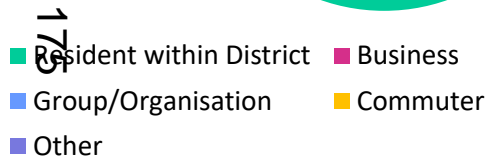
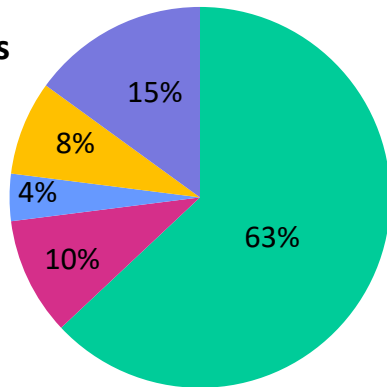
OVERVIEW BY TOWN



Across Huntingdon half the sample use car parks for retail purposes on a regular basis. The average length of stay is between 1-2 hours.

Huntingdon: All car parks

User status

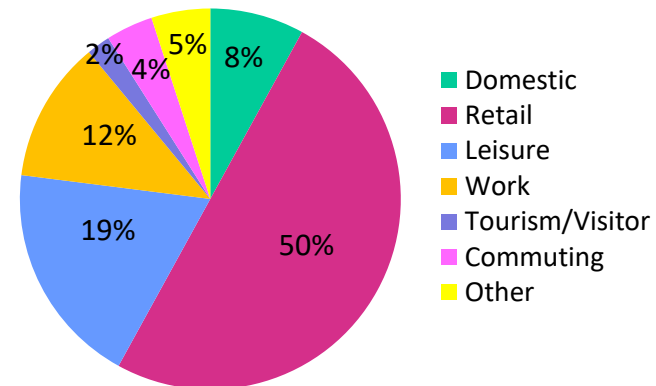


9%
with car park permit

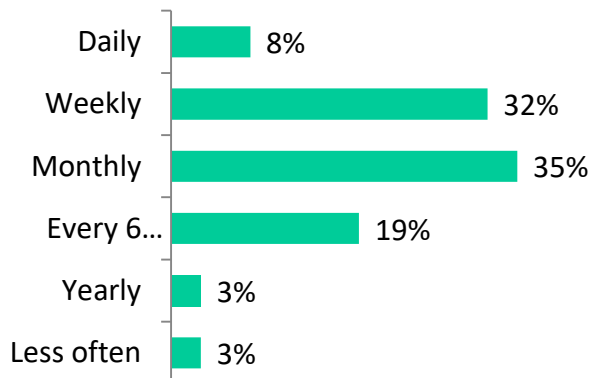
33%
on their own

8%
use the mobile payment service

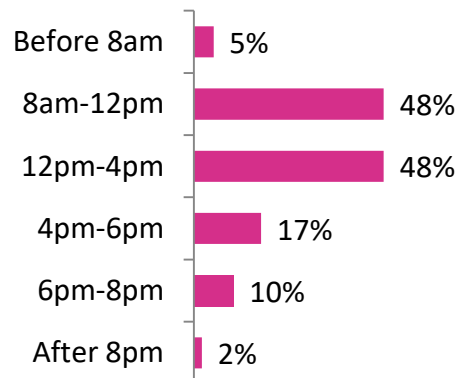
Main reason for use



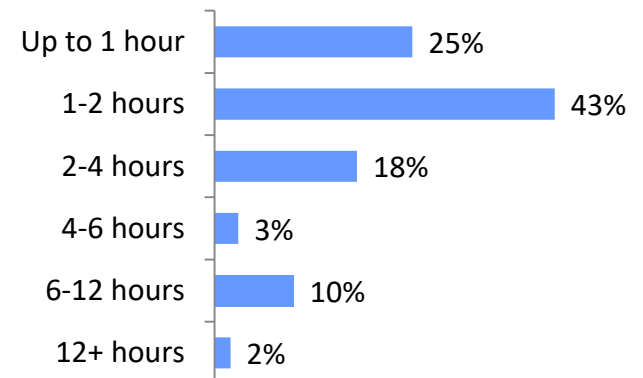
Frequency of use



Time of day



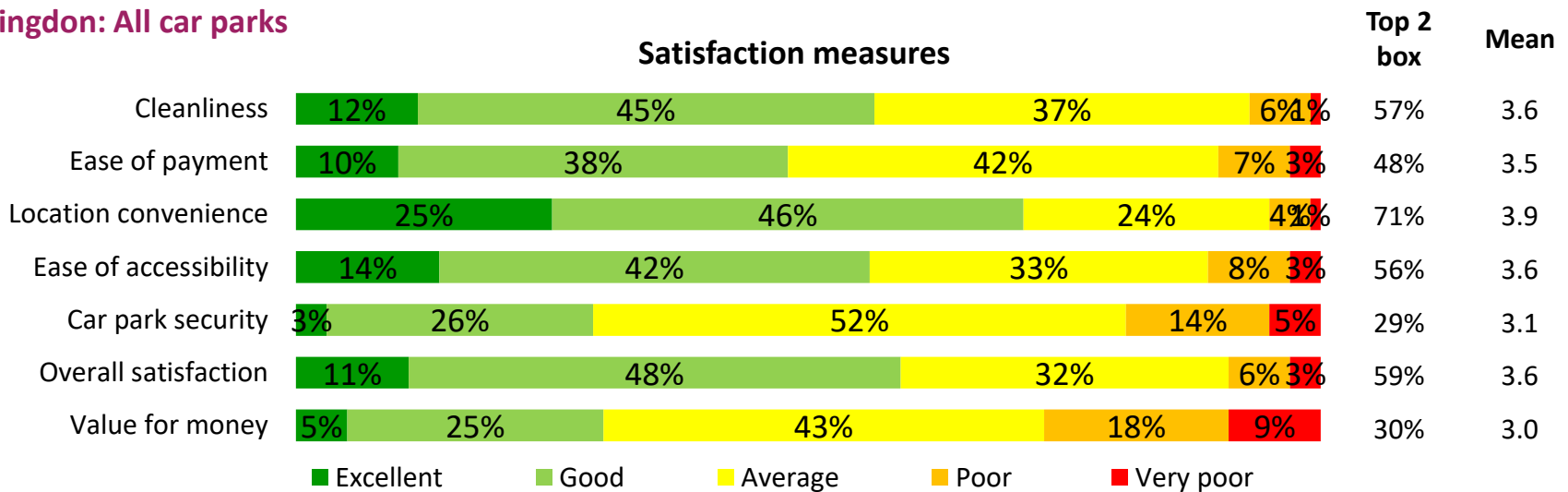
Average length of stay



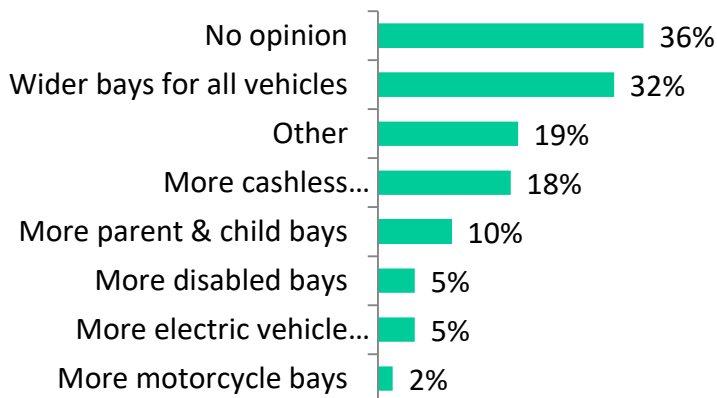
Whilst a quarter considered location convenience ‘excellent’ a similar proportion were dissatisfied with value for money. In terms of potential improvements, a third indicated a desire for wider bays.

Huntingdon: All car parks

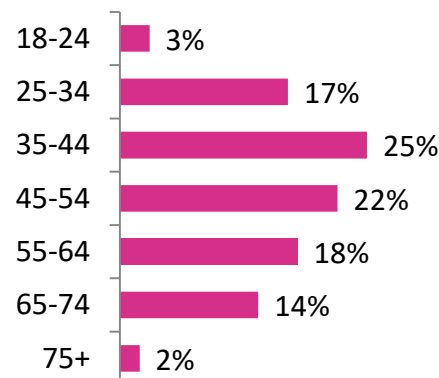
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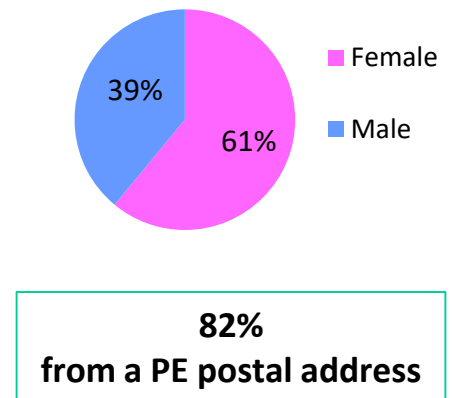
Potential improvements



Age



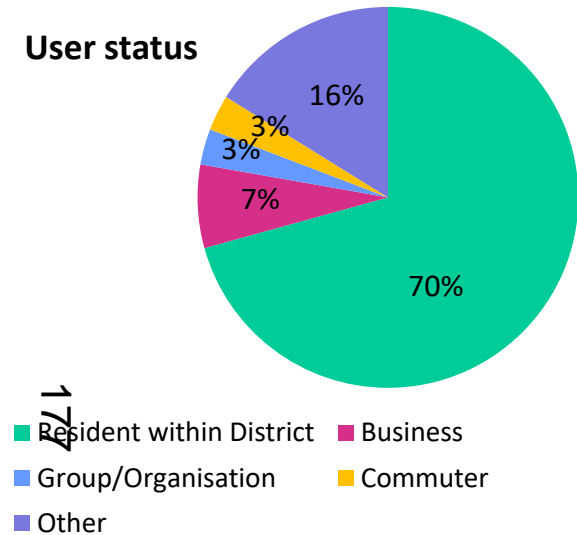
Gender



St Ives car parks are predominantly used for retail and by district residents. With frequent usage between 8am and 4pm, users generally stay for up to 2 hours.

St Ives: All car parks

User status

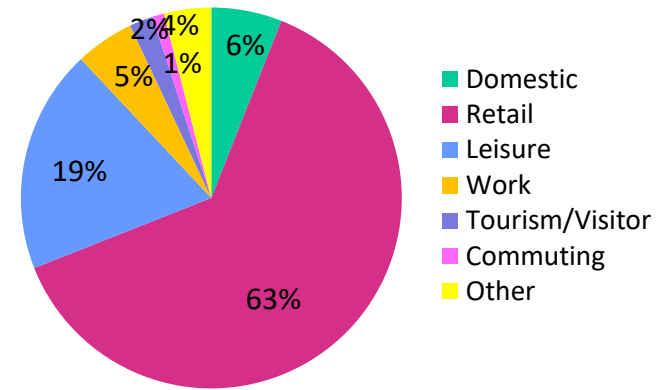


4%
with car park permit

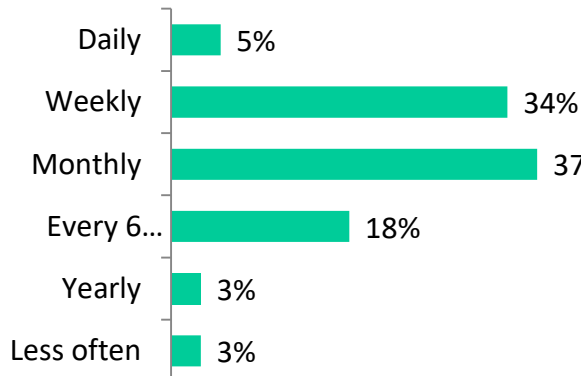
31%
on their own

6%
use the mobile
payment service

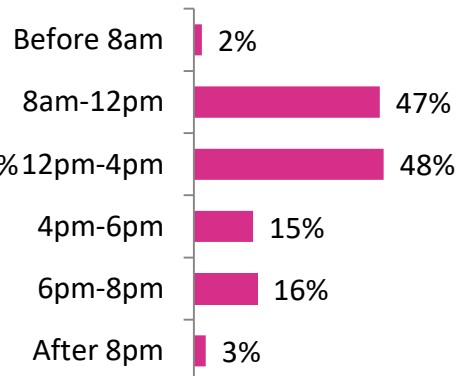
Main reason for use



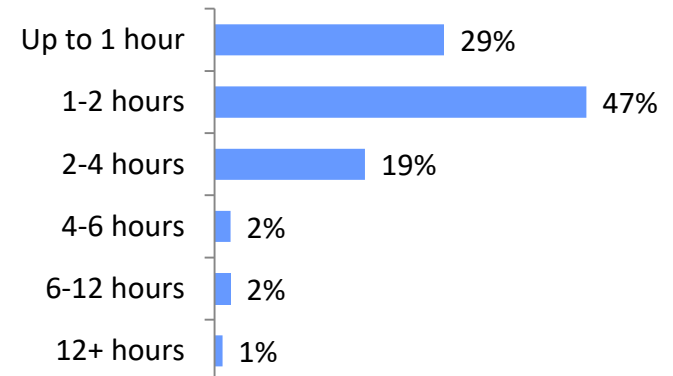
Frequency of use



Time of day



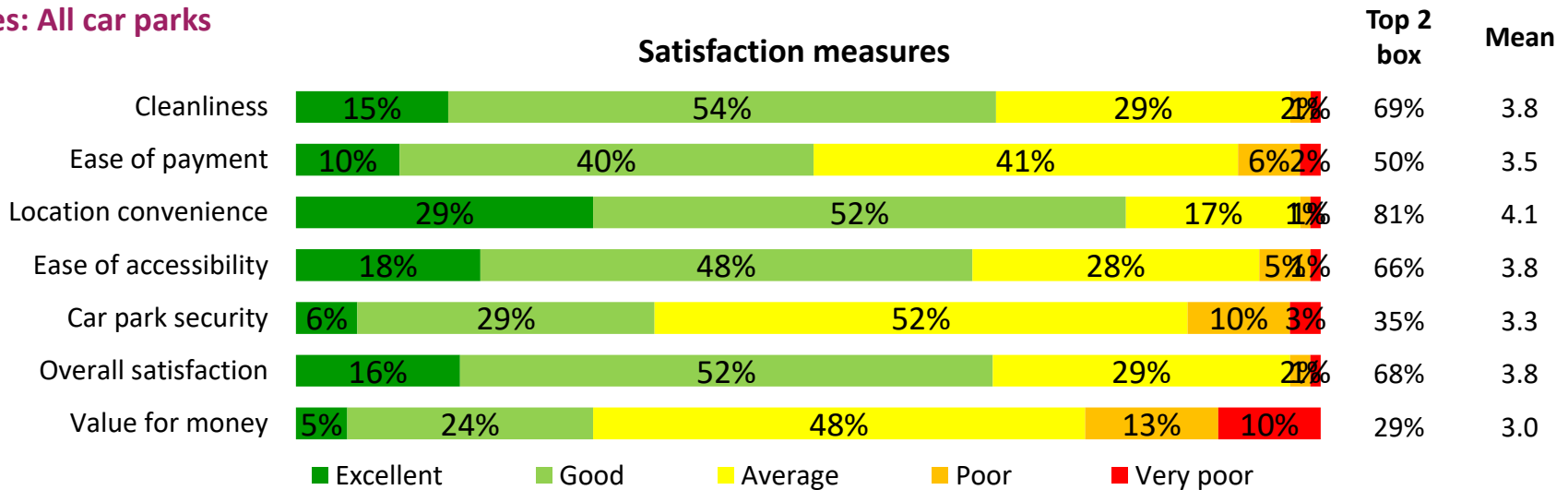
Average length of stay



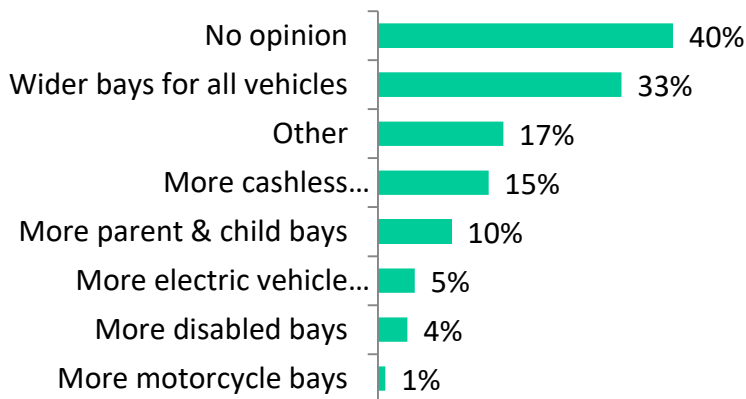
More than two thirds are satisfied with the car parks in St Ives with location convenience also highly rated. Value for money is of concern with 'cheaper parking' being requested as an improvement.

St Ives: All car parks

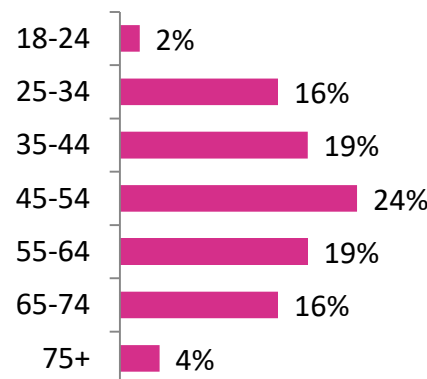
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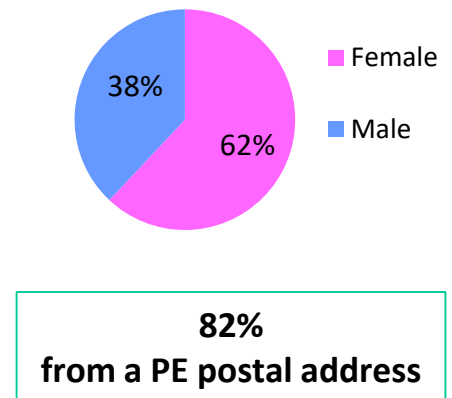
Potential improvements



Age



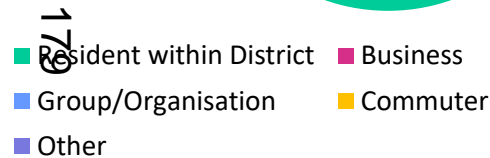
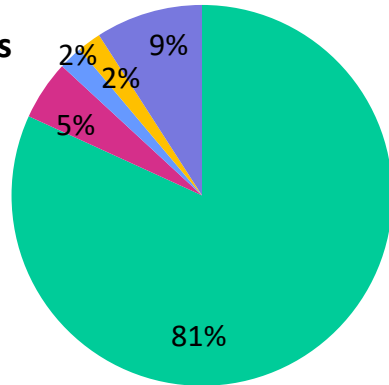
Gender



Retail and leisure account for more than three-quarters of usage occasions. On average, a third only park for up to an hour.

St Neots: All car parks

User status

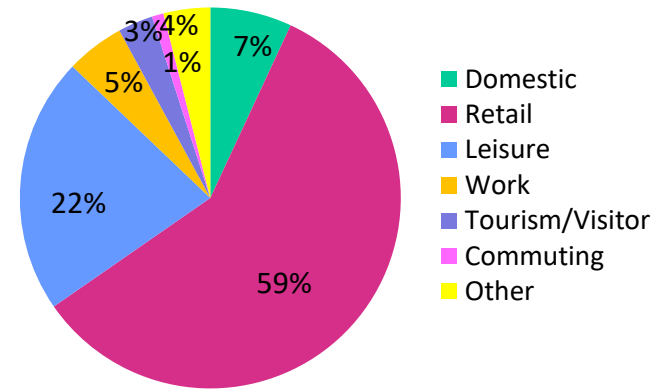


4%
with car park permit

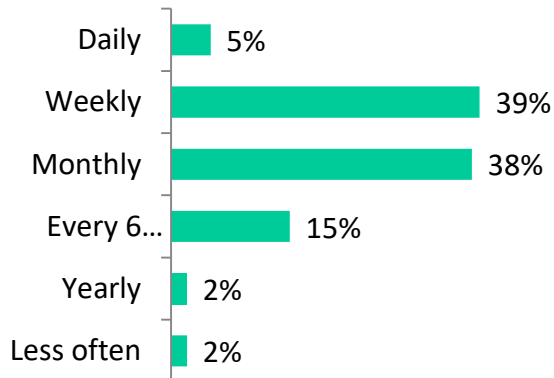
28%
on their own

5%
use the mobile
payment service

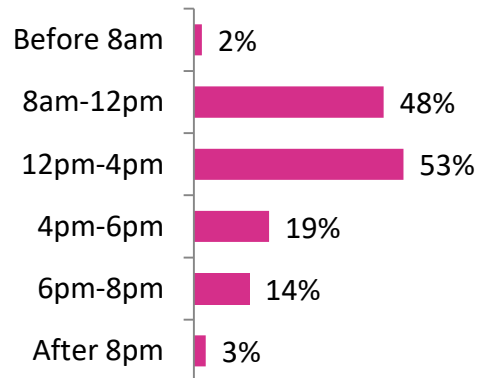
Main reason for use



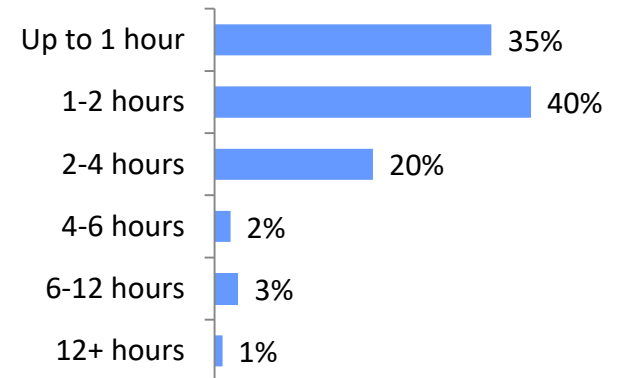
Frequency of use



Time of day



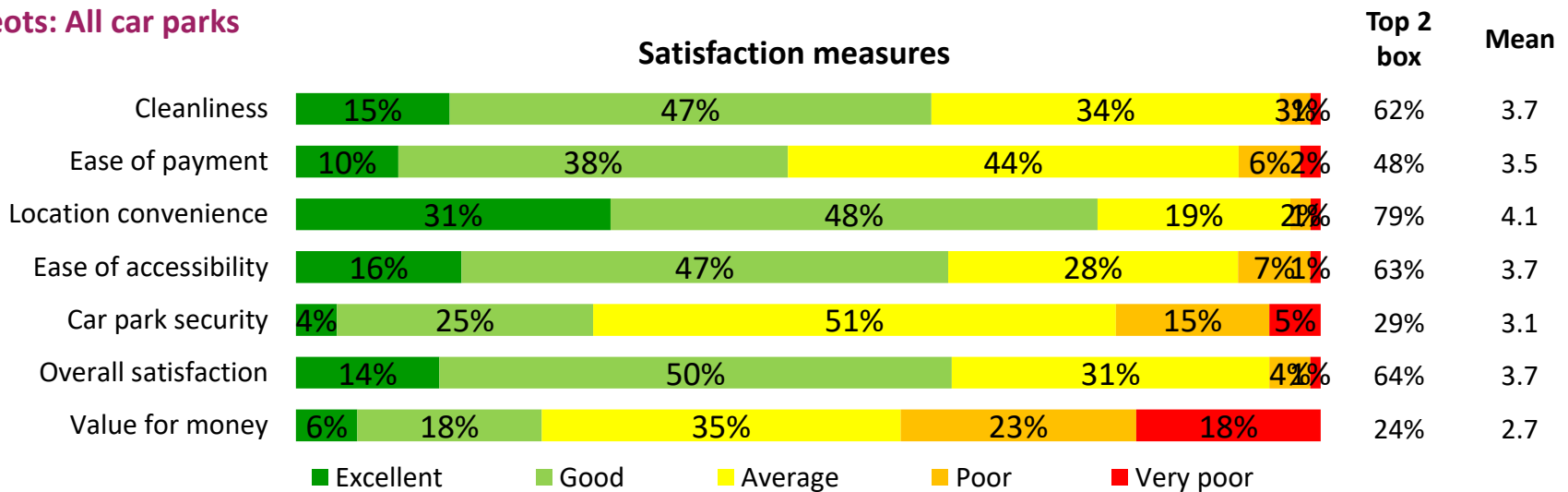
Average length of stay



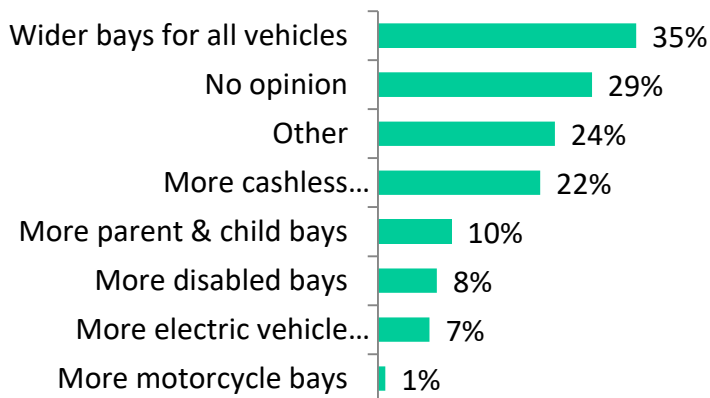
More than two-fifths rated value for money negatively, however, a third considered location convenience 'excellent'. Wider bays for all vehicles would be welcomed by more than a third of the sample.

St Neots: All car parks

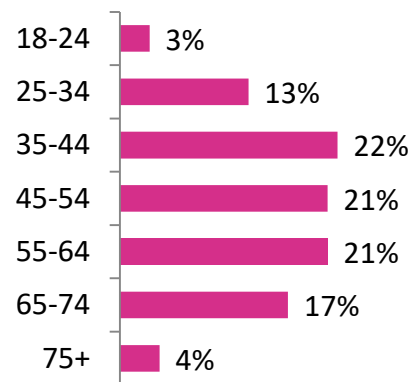
180



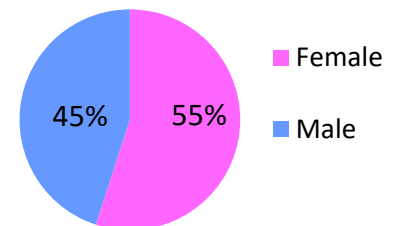
Potential improvements



Age



Gender



76%
from a PE postal address

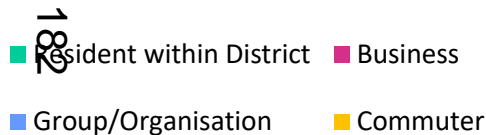
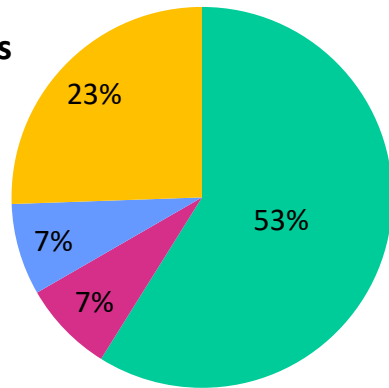


INDIVIDUAL CAR PARK OVERVIEW: GODMANCHESTER

A variety of uses albeit not very often. A third use the car park for 6-12 hours indicating this is potentially used by workers in the town.

Godmanchester: Bridge Place

User status

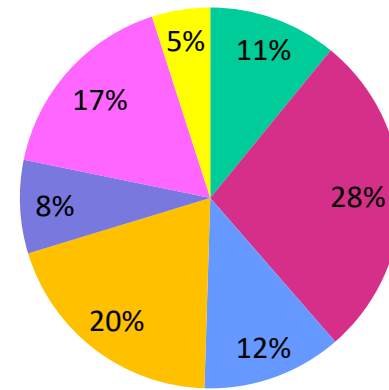


22%
with car park permit

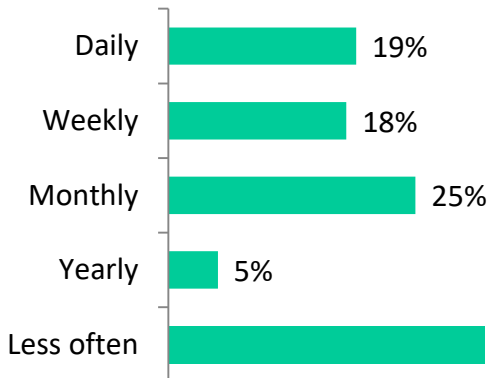
47%
on their own

14%
use the mobile payment service

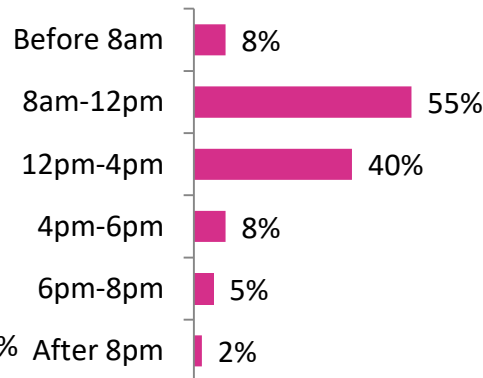
Main reason for use



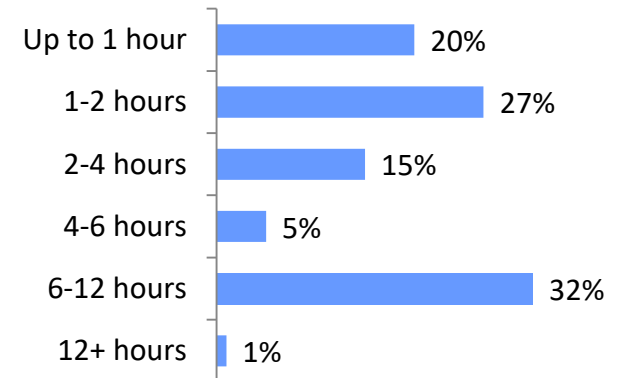
Frequency of use



Time of day



Average length of stay

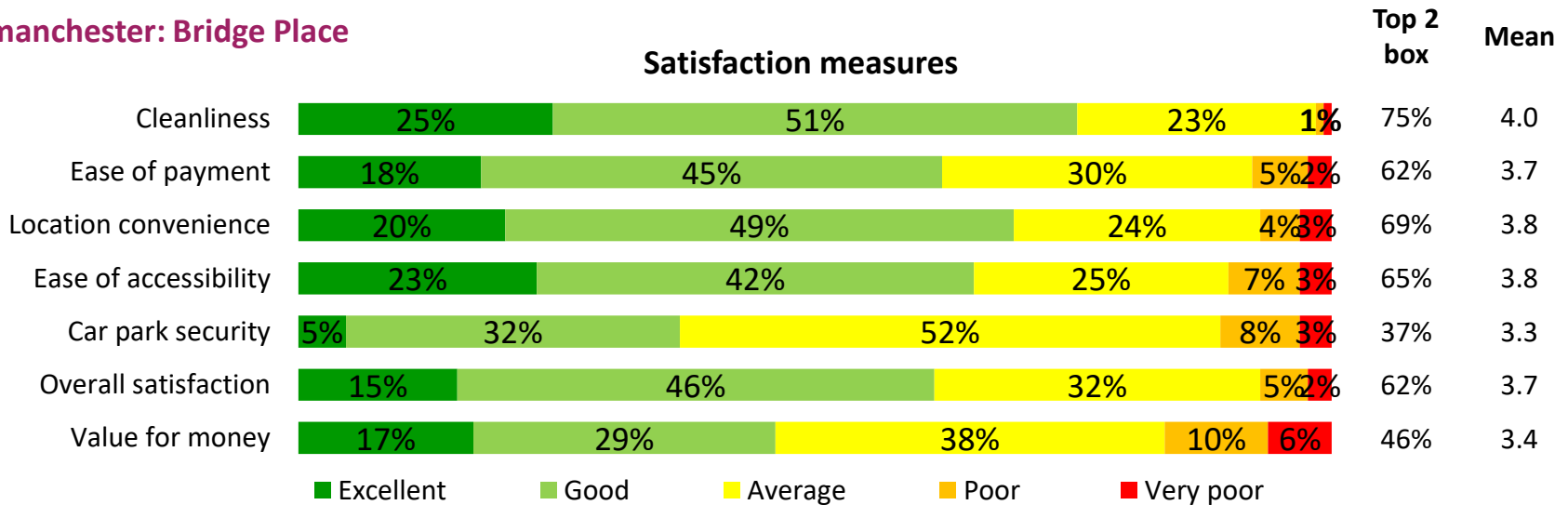


Overall satisfaction was high and this is reflected with more than half expressing no opinion for potential improvements.

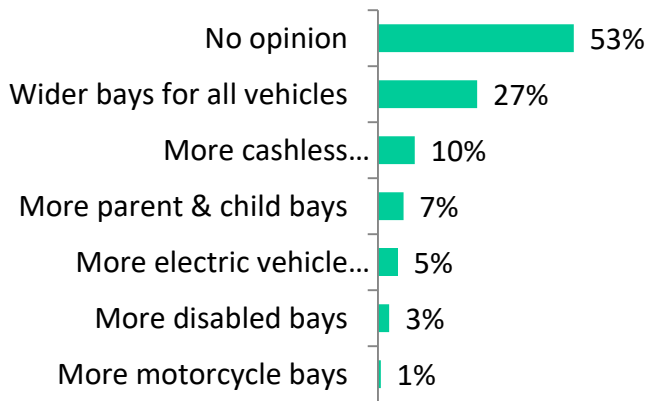
183

Godmanchester: Bridge Place

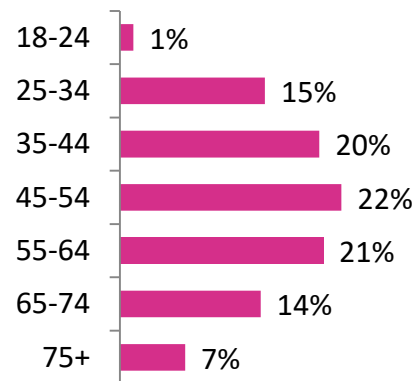
Satisfaction measures



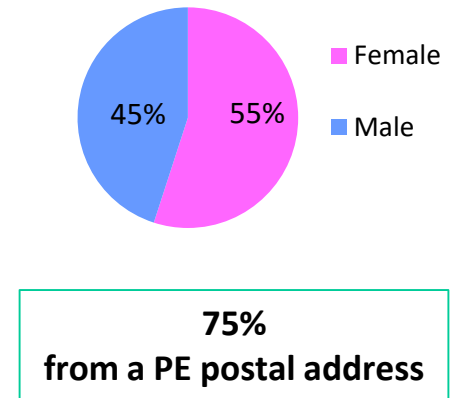
Potential improvements



Age



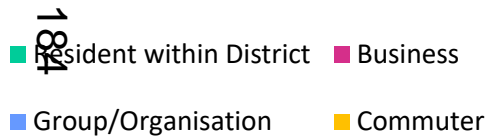
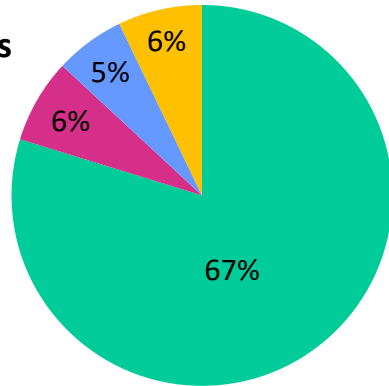
Gender



A short stay car park used by residents for domestic, retail and leisure purposes across a wide day part.

Godmanchester: Mill Yard

User status

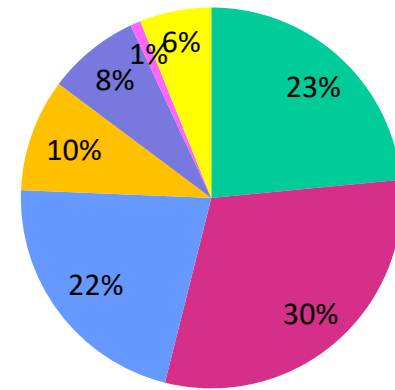


0%
with car park permit

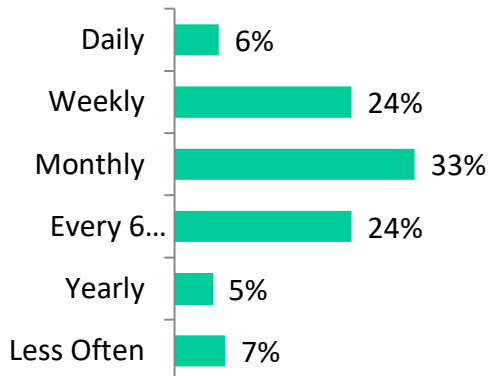
36%
on their own

No mobile payment
service available

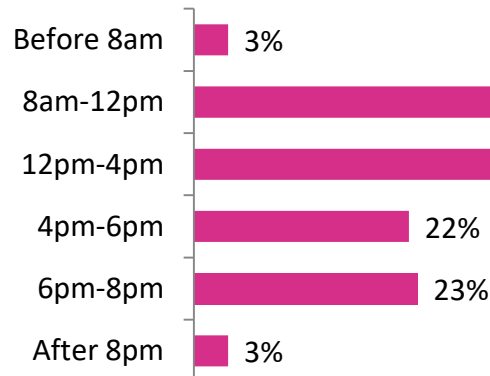
Main reason for use



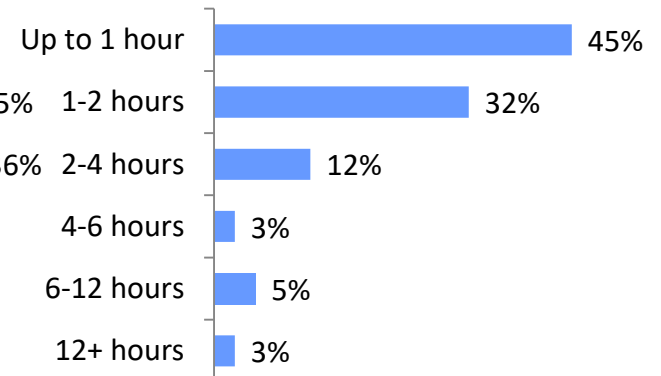
Frequency of use



Time of day



Average length of stay

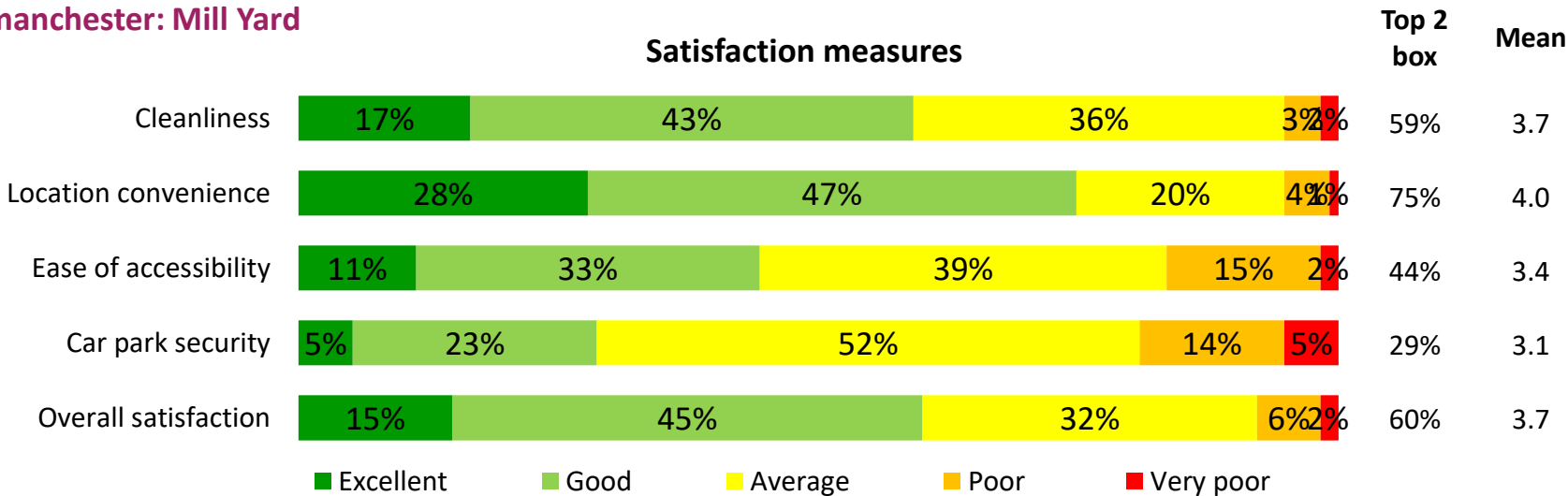


A convenient location with half offering no opinion on potential improvements.

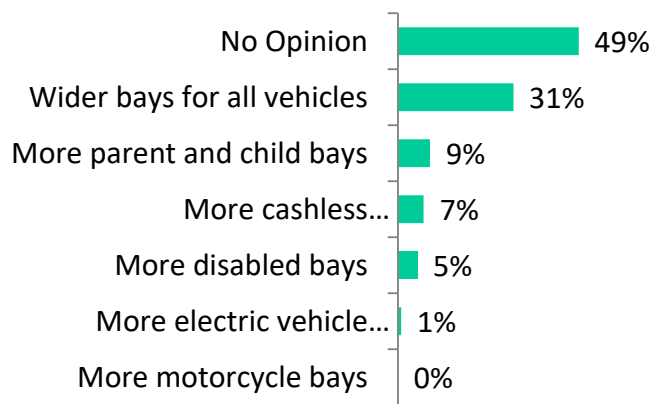
Godmanchester: Mill Yard

185

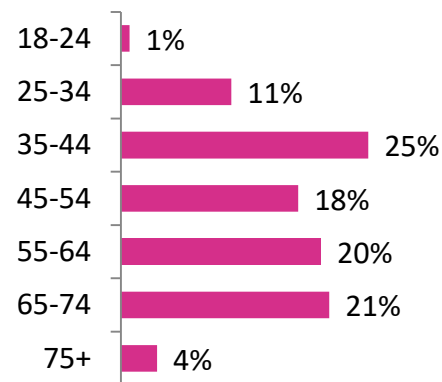
Satisfaction measures



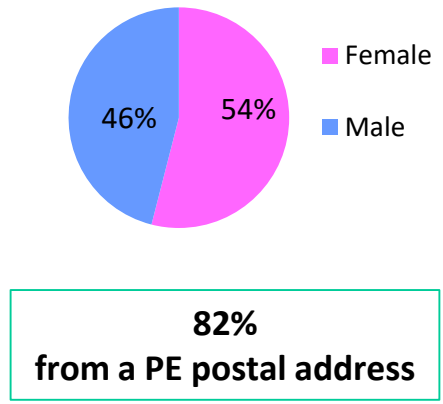
Potential improvements



Age



Gender



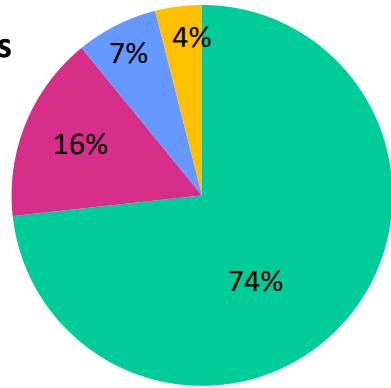


INDIVIDUAL CAR PARK OVERVIEW: HUNTINGDON

As expected for a supermarket car park, use is predominantly retail, short stay (2 hours) on a weekly or monthly basis.

Huntingdon: Sainsbury's

User status



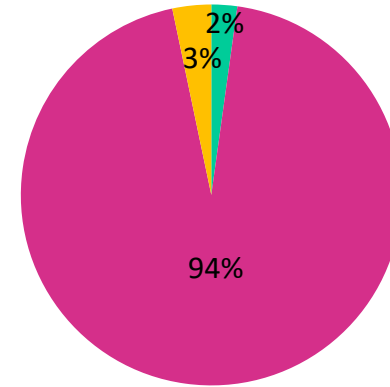
187
 Resident within District
 Business
 Other
 Commuter

2%
with car park permit

32%
on their own

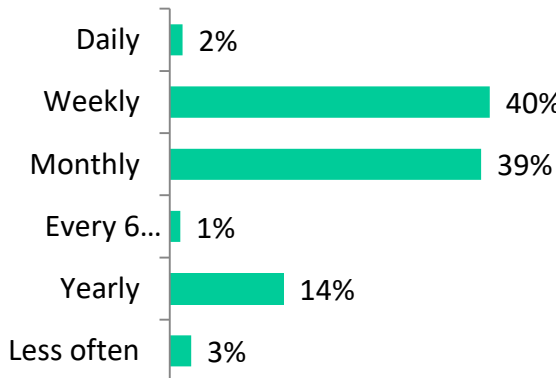
No mobile payment
service available

Main reason for use

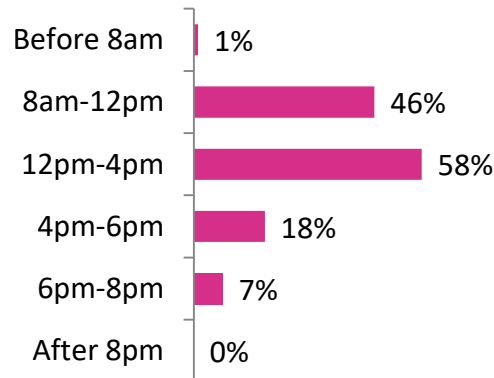


Domestic
 Retail
 Leisure
 Work
 Tourism/Visitor
 Commuting
 Other

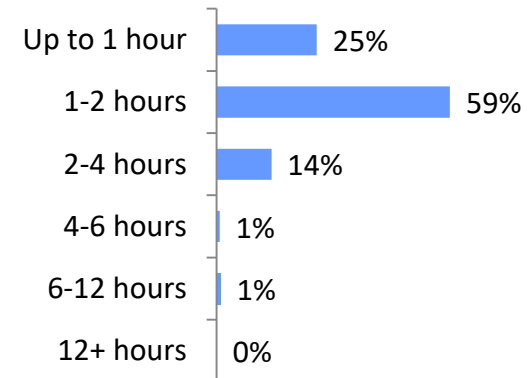
Frequency of use



Time of day



Average length of stay

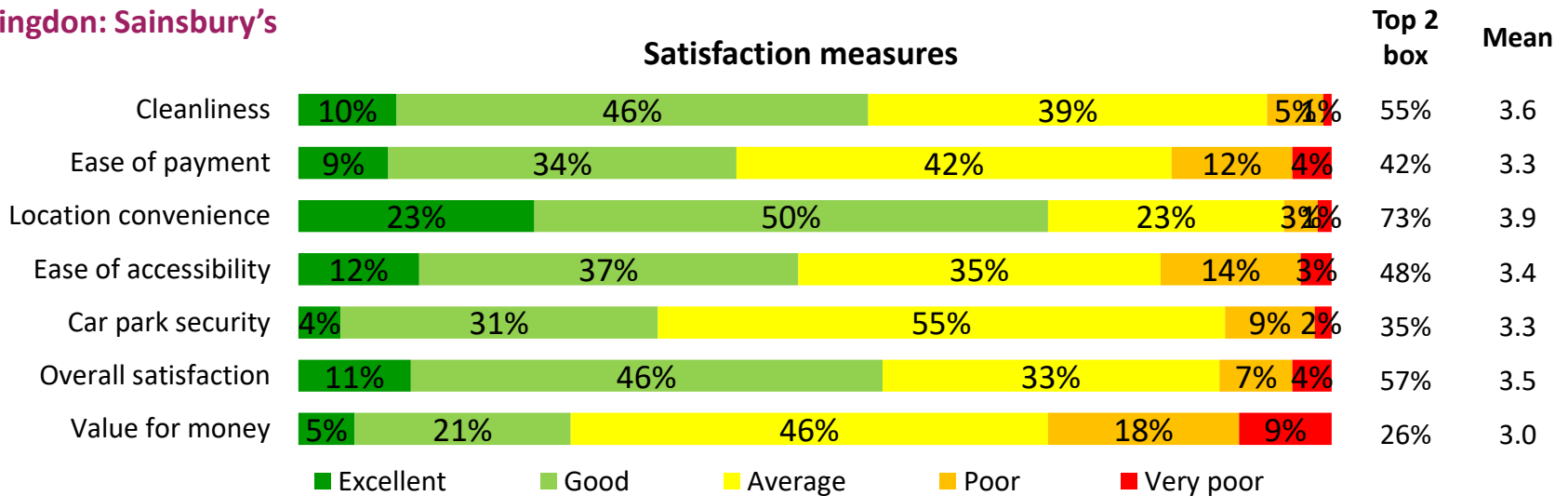


A convenient location but almost half would like wider bays for all vehicles. A quarter indicated a desire for more cashless payment options.

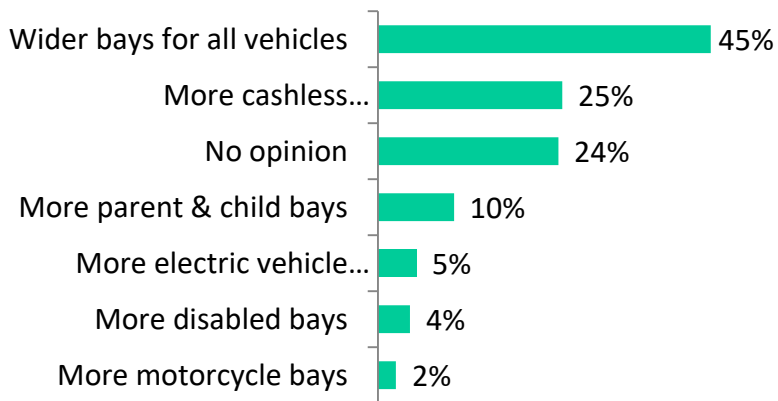
Huntingdon: Sainsbury's

188

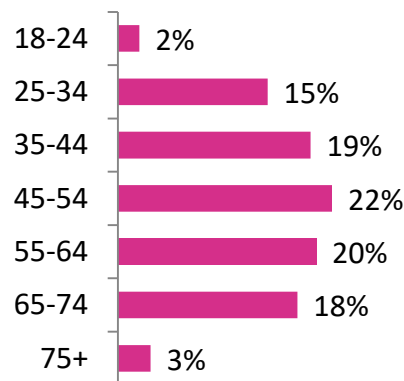
Satisfaction measures



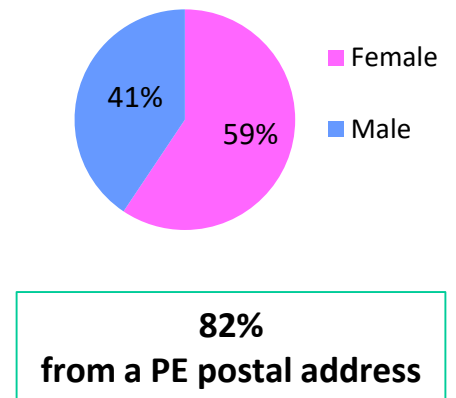
Potential improvements



Age



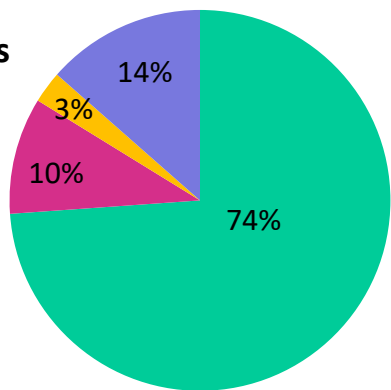
Gender



Predominantly used by residents for retail purposes, 6 in 10 only stay for an hour with a third usually the sole car occupant.

Huntingdon: High Street

User status



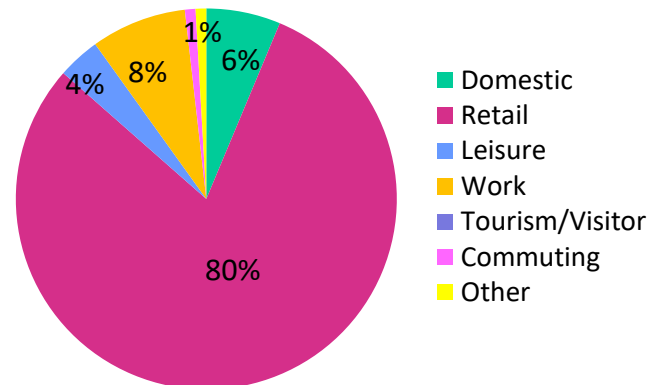
- Resident within District
- Business
- Group/Organisation
- Commuter
- Other

1%
with car park permit

34%
on their own

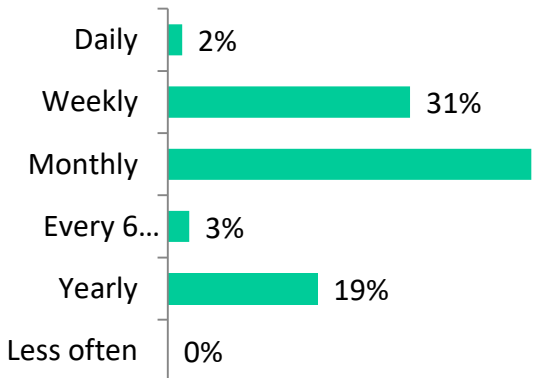
No mobile payment
service available

Main reason for use

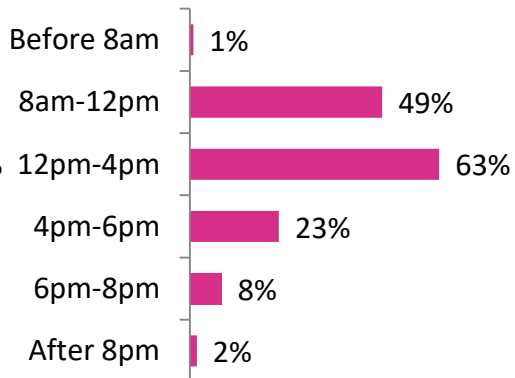


- Domestic
- Retail
- Leisure
- Work
- Tourism/Visitor
- Commuting
- Other

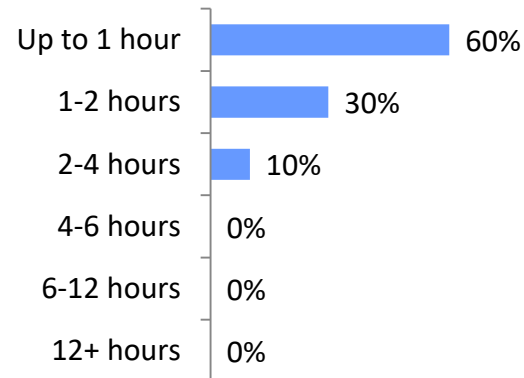
Frequency of use



Time of day



Average length of stay



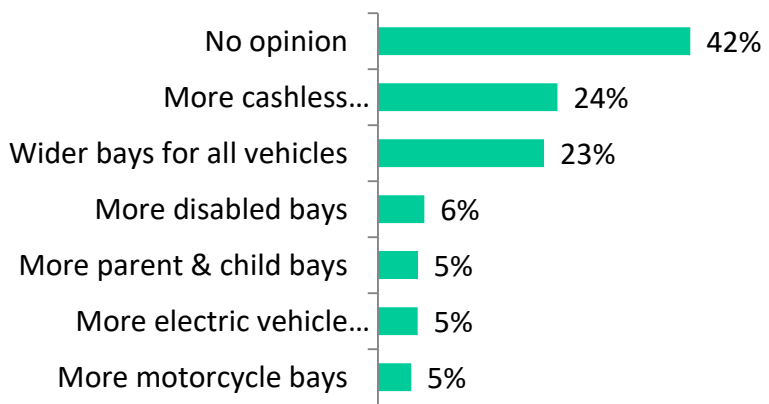
Poor value for money with concerns over car park security. Whilst 4 in 10 held no opinion on improvements a quarter would welcome more cashless payment options.

190

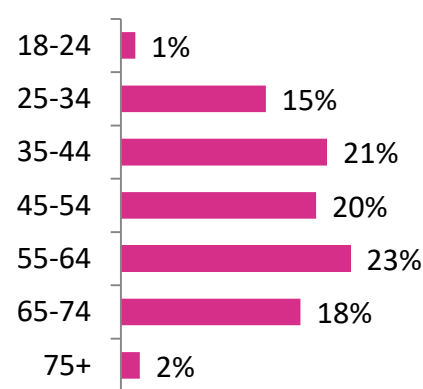
Huntingdon: High Street



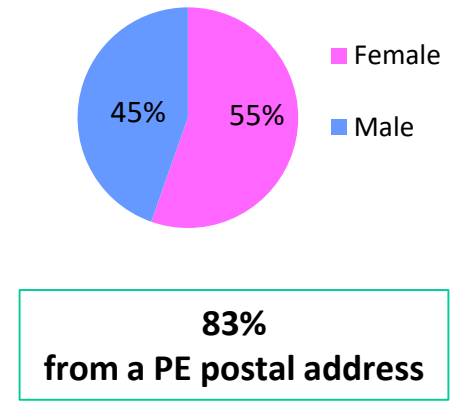
Potential improvements



Age



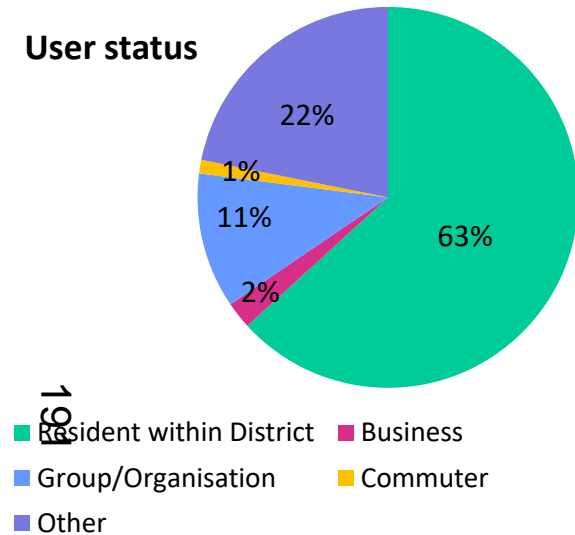
Gender



Higher usage of the mobile payment service than seen for other car parks and less likely to be on own given the location and reason for use.

Huntingdon: Hinchingbrooke County Park

User status

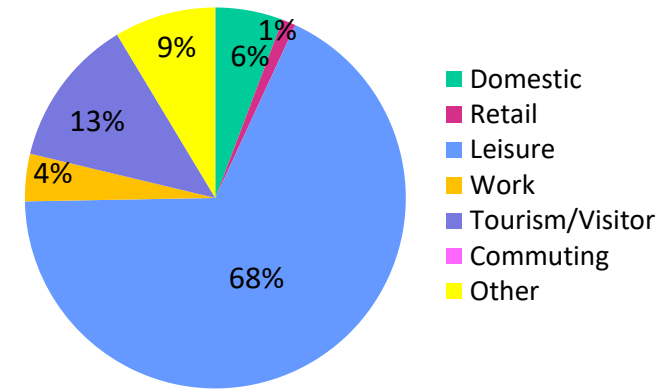


5%
with car park permit

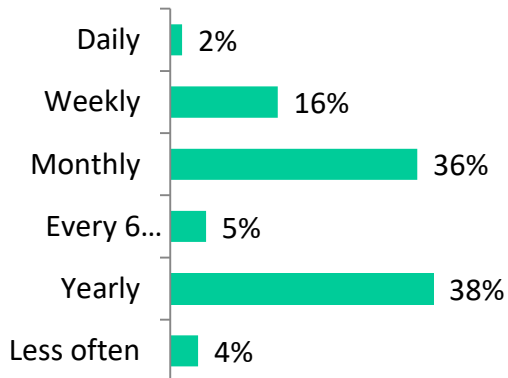
15%
on their own

14%
use the mobile
payment service

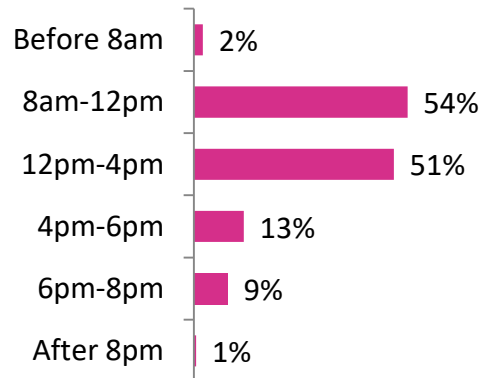
Main reason for use



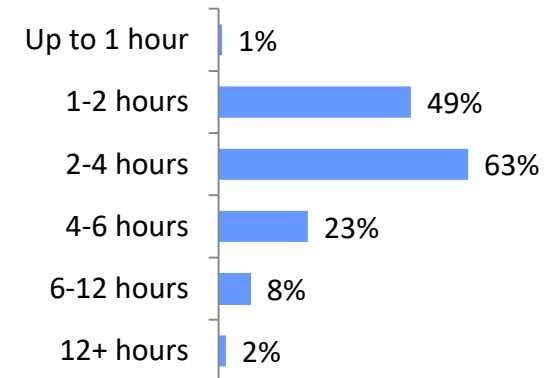
Frequency of use



Time of day



Average length of stay

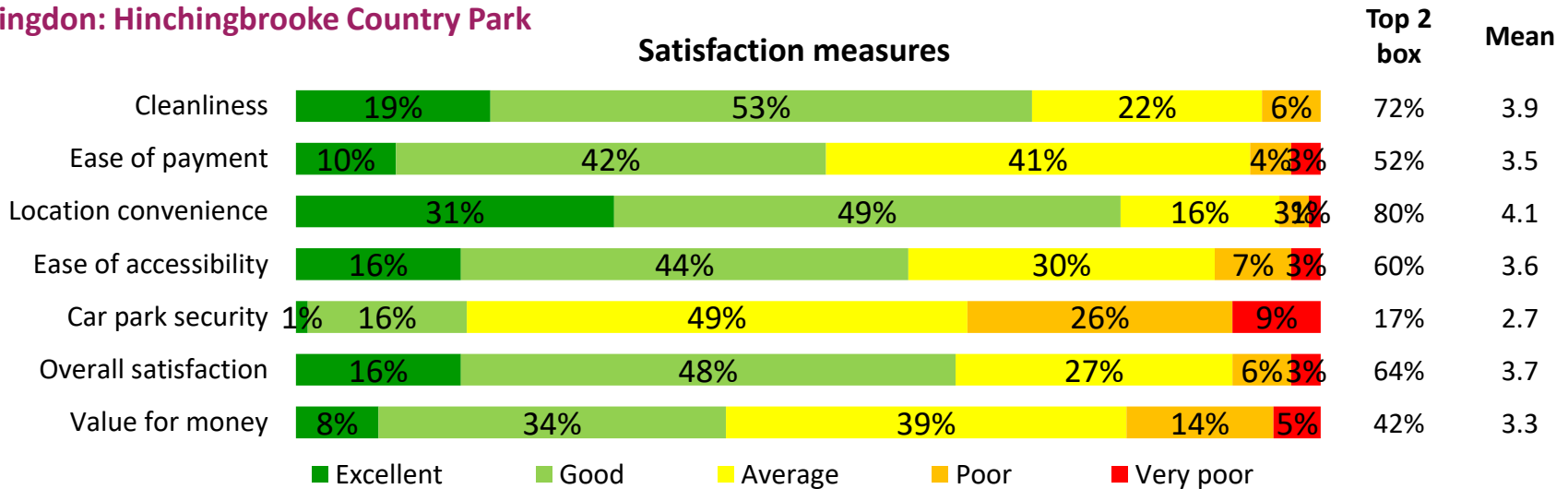


Convenient location for use of the country park, cleanliness, accessibility and overall satisfaction all highly rated.

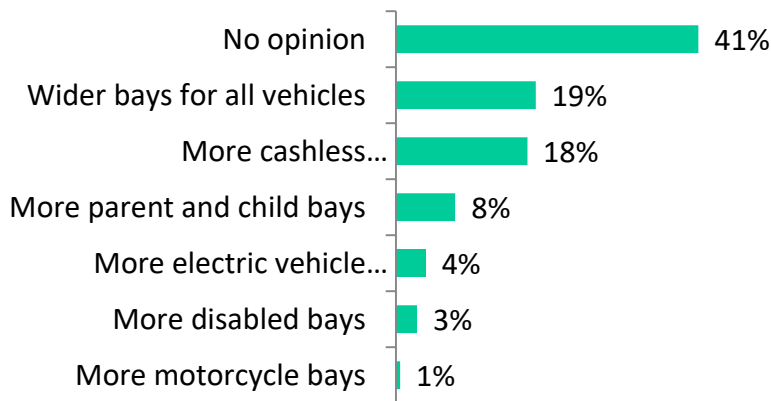
Huntingdon: Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

192

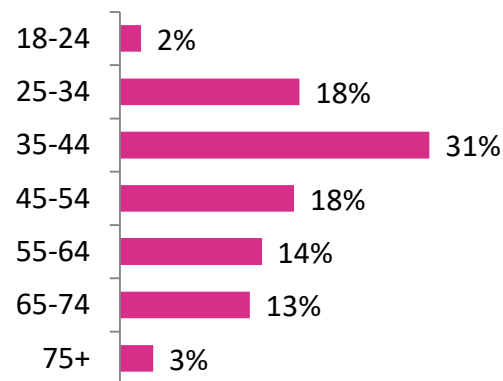
Satisfaction measures



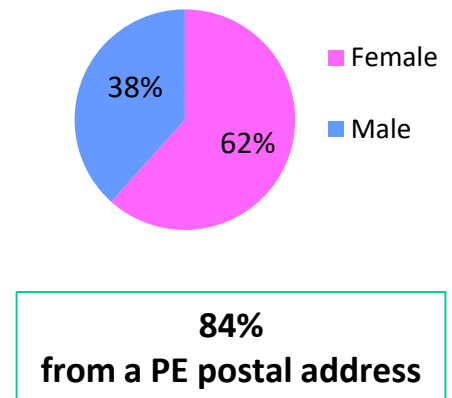
Potential improvements



Age



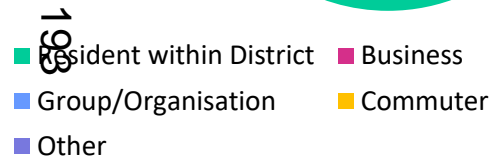
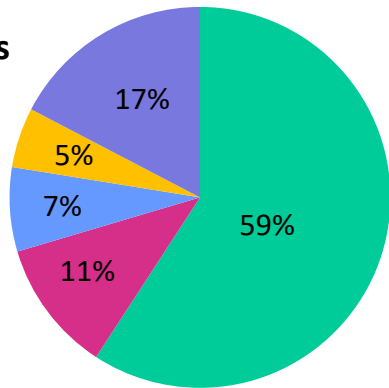
Gender



Predominantly used for leisure purposes, more than three-quarters stay for less than two hours although this spans a wide day part.

Huntingdon: One Leisure Dry Side

User status

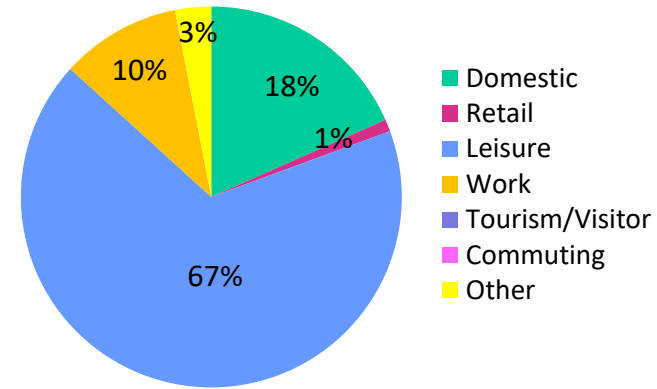


4%
with car park permit

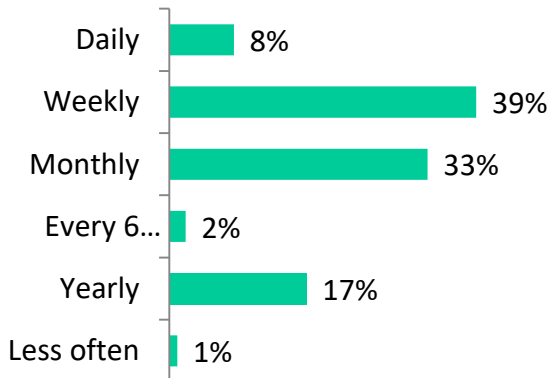
31%
on their own

No mobile payment
service available

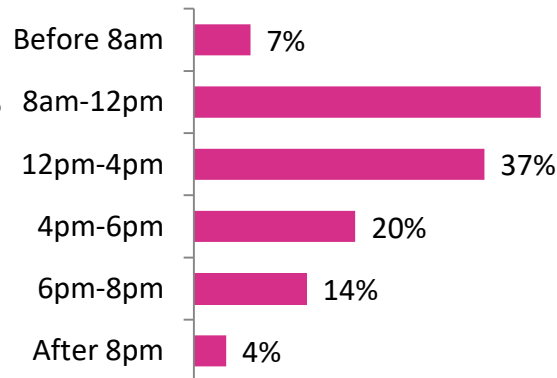
Main reason for use



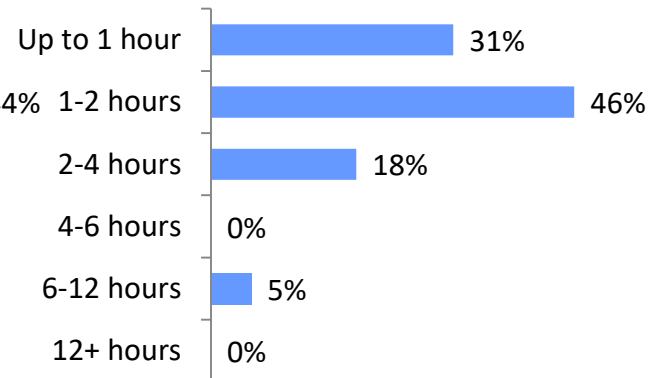
Frequency of use



Time of day

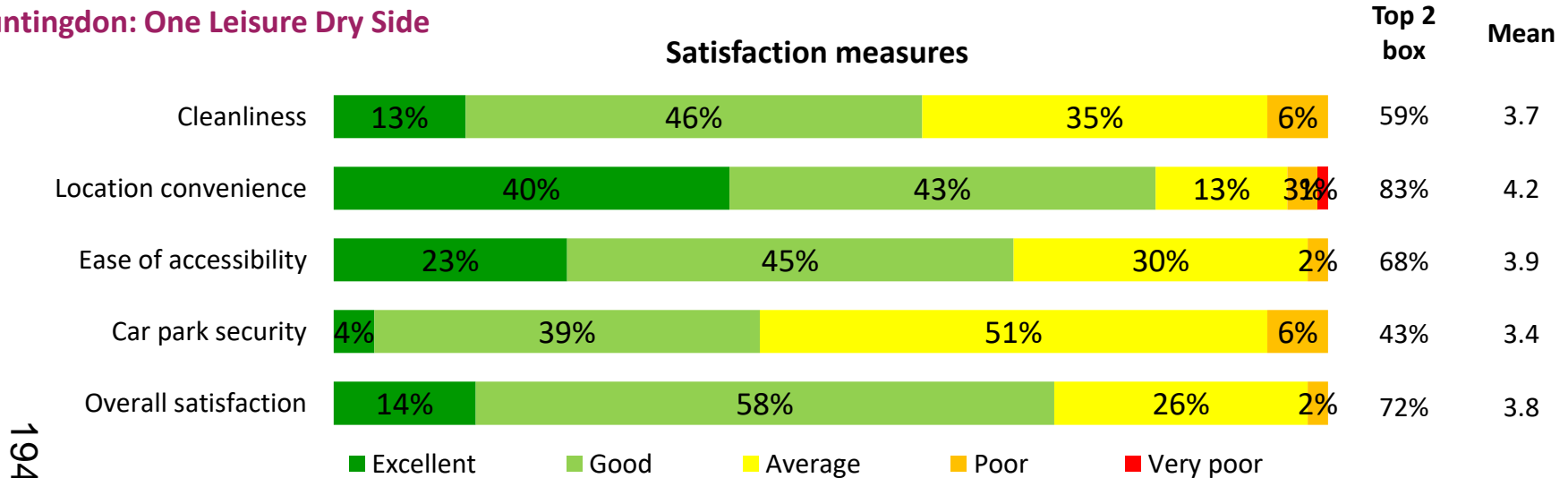


Average length of stay

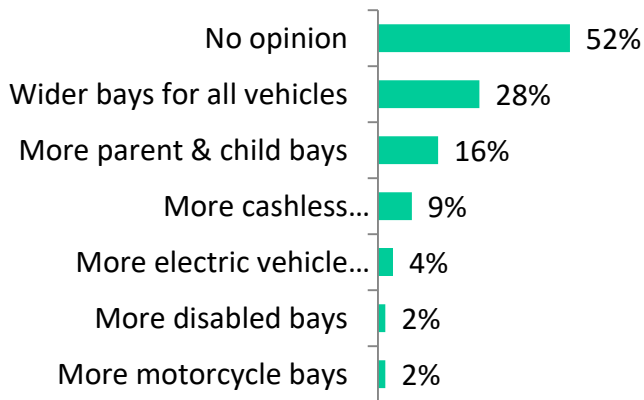


A highly convenient location for leisure with little negativity expressed for the satisfaction measures. More than half indicated no potential improvements.

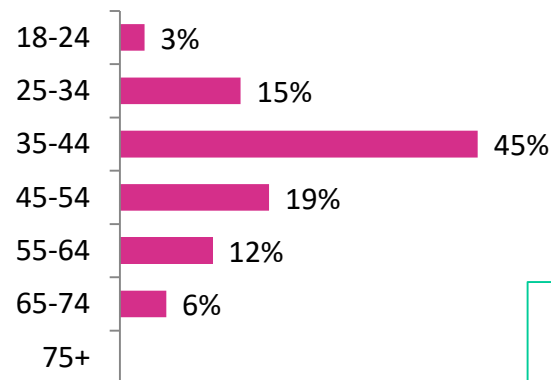
Huntingdon: One Leisure Dry Side



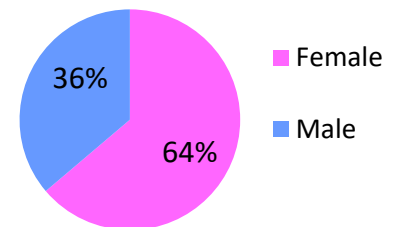
Potential improvements



Age



Gender

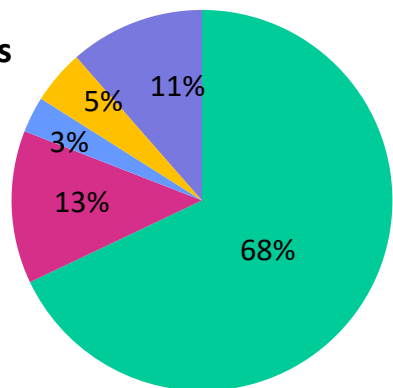


83%
from a PE postal address

Most likely to be used for retail purposes, 2 in 5 are usually the sole occupant when parking in Princes Street.

Huntingdon: Princes Street

User status



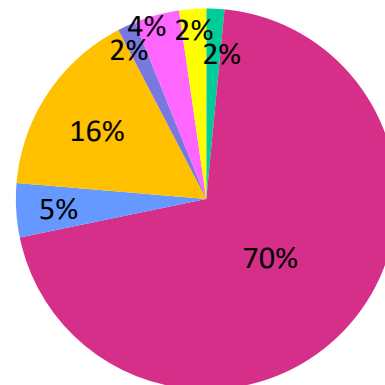
- Resident within District
- Business
- Group/Organisation
- Commuter
- Other

4%
with car park permit

41%
on their own

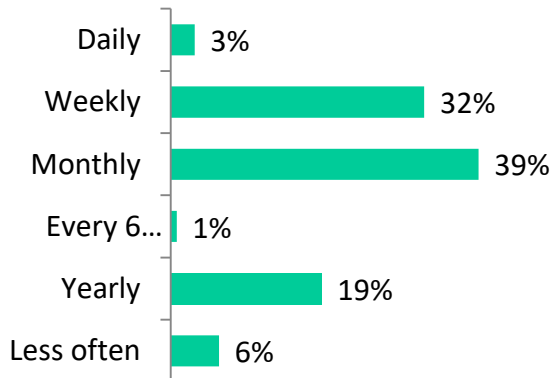
15%
use the mobile
payment service

Main reason for use

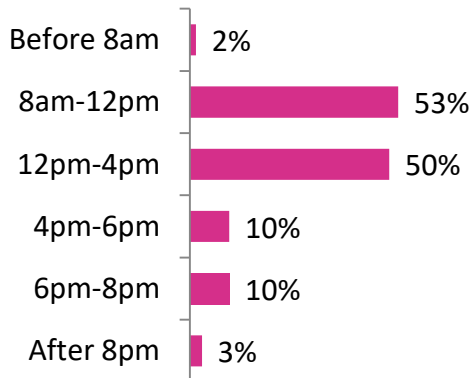


- Domestic
- Retail
- Leisure
- Work
- Tourism/Visitor
- Commuting
- Other

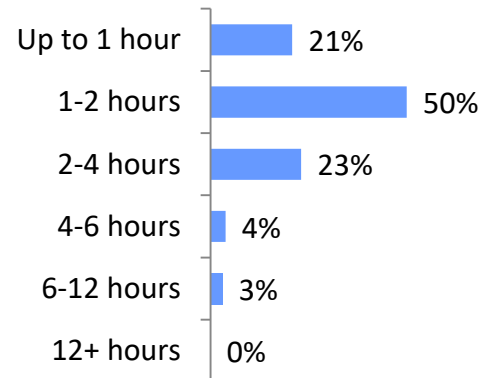
Frequency of use



Time of day



Average length of stay

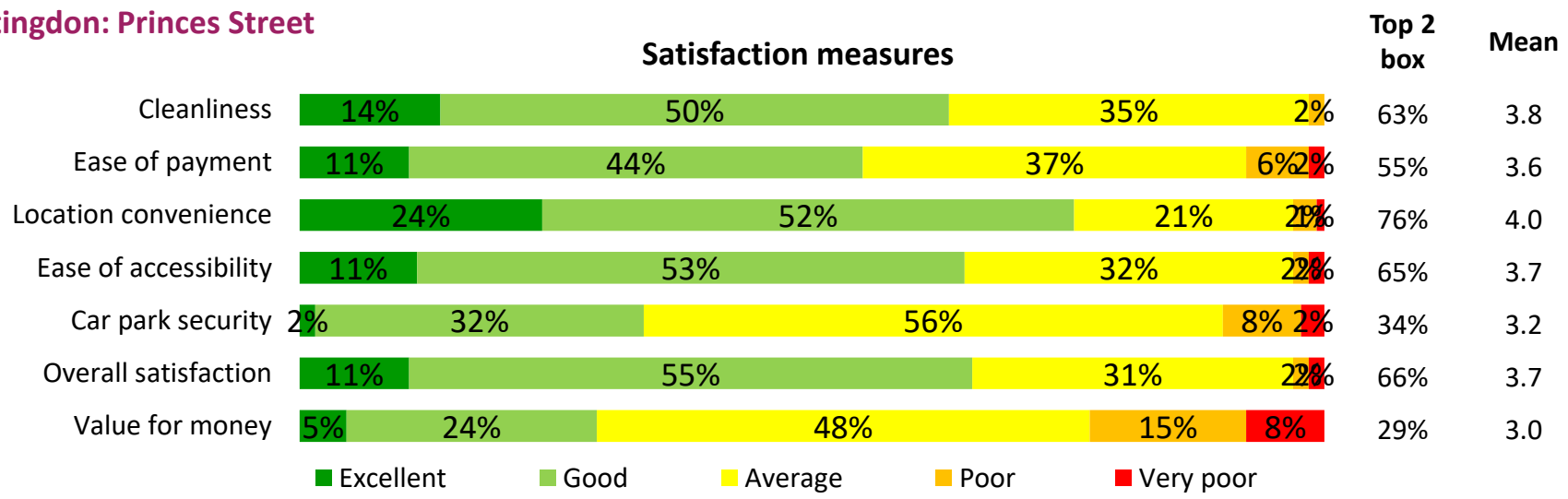


A convenient location with two-thirds satisfied with the car park. Higher level of dissatisfaction for value for money.

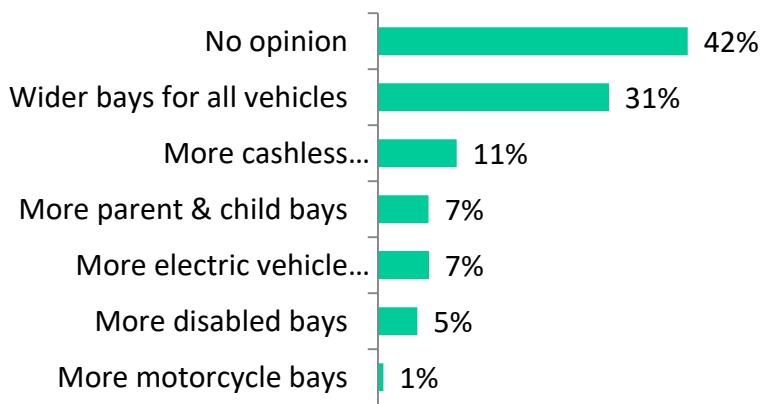
Huntingdon: Princes Street

196

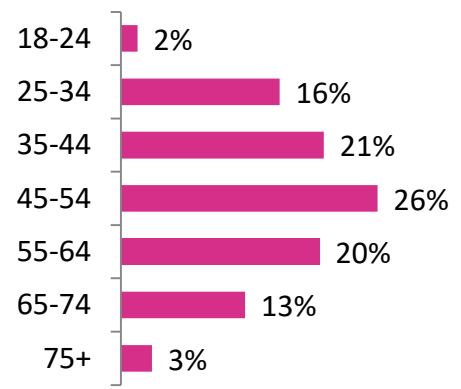
Satisfaction measures



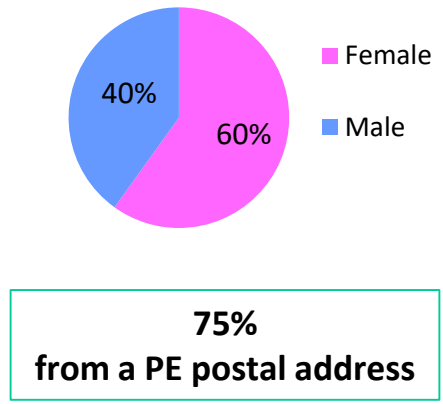
Potential improvements



Age



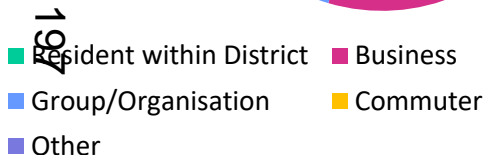
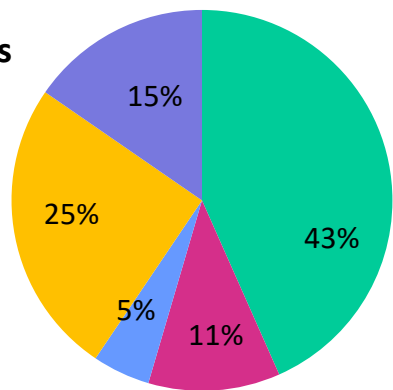
Gender



A higher level of car park permit holders with reasons for use and user type more varied than seen for other car parks.

Huntingdon: Riverside

User status

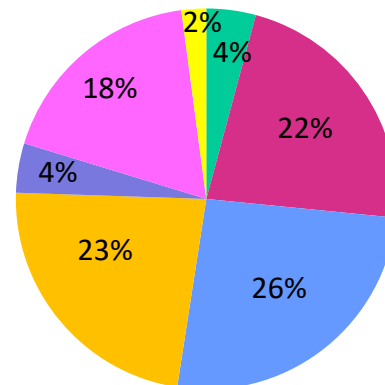


26%
with car park permit

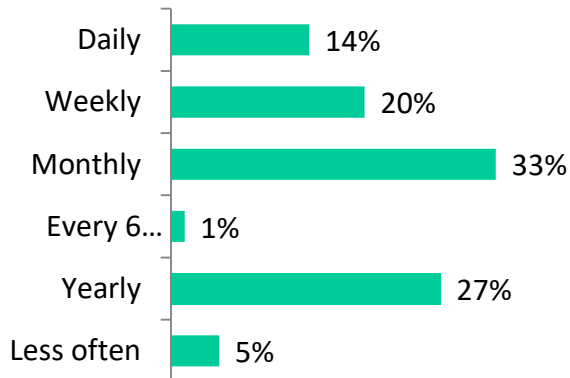
45%
on their own

13%
use the mobile
payment service

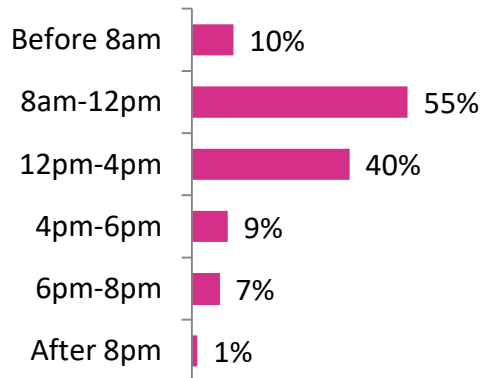
Main reason for use



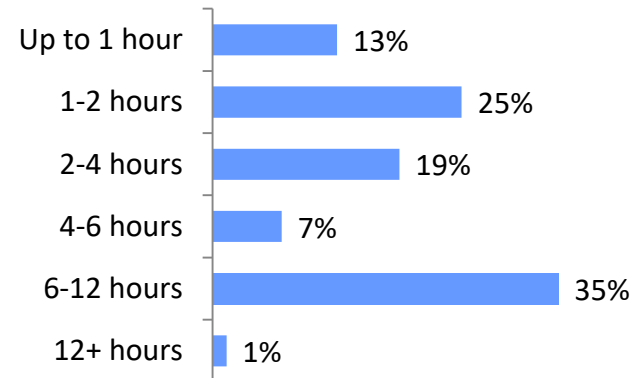
Frequency of use



Time of day



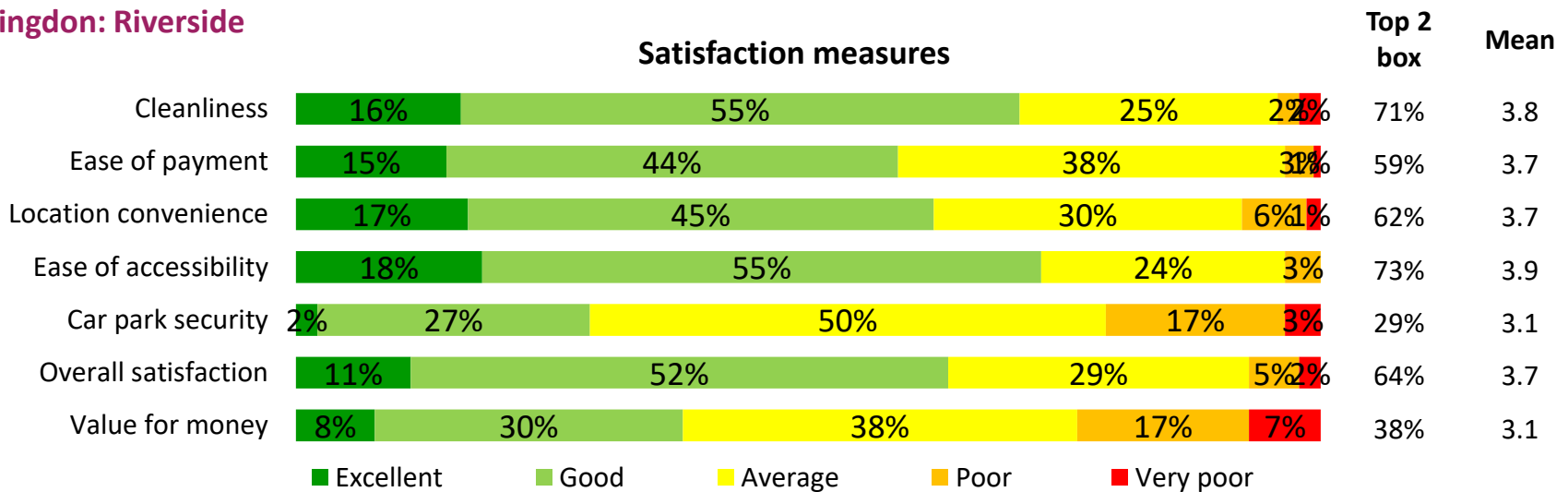
Average length of stay



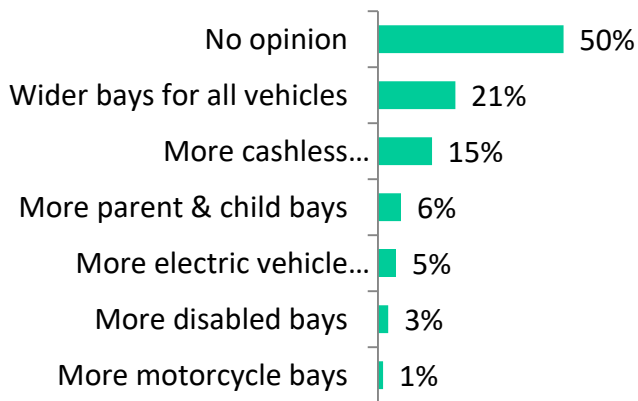
Solid response across the satisfaction measures although lower level of response for security and value for money. Half the sample held no opinion on potential improvements.

Huntingdon: Riverside

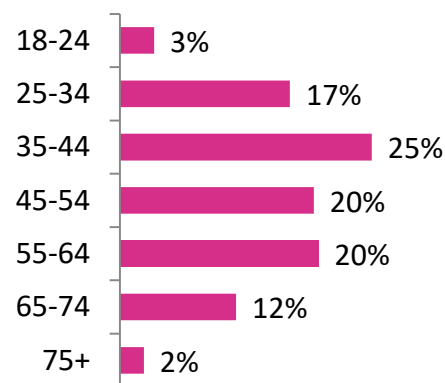
198



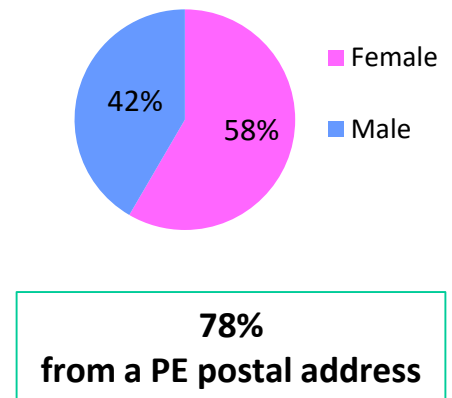
Potential improvements



Age



Gender



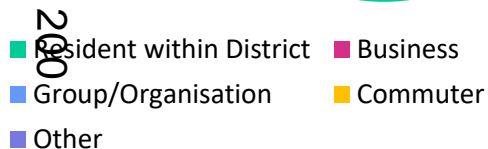
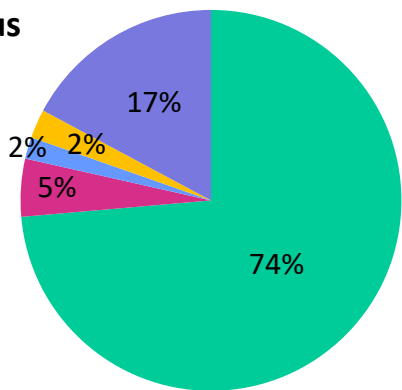


INDIVIDUAL CAR PARK OVERVIEW: ST IVES

Three-quarters use for retail purposes with frequency of use and length of stay reflective of this.

St Ives: Cattle Market Bus Station

User status

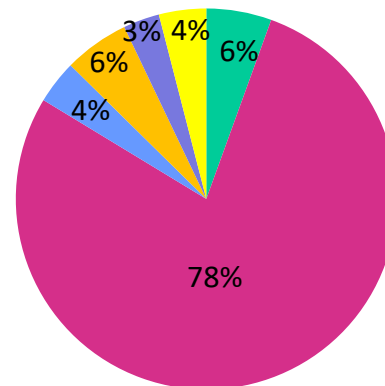


3%
with car park permit

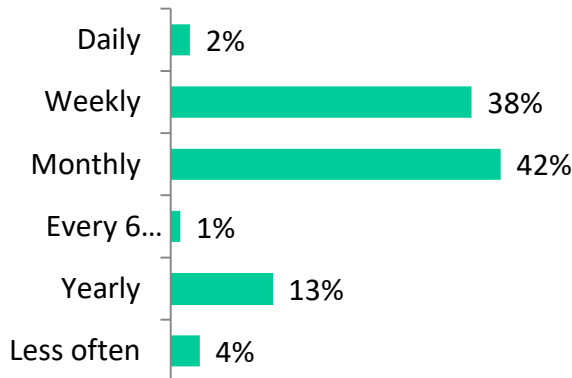
27%
on their own

15%
use the mobile payment service

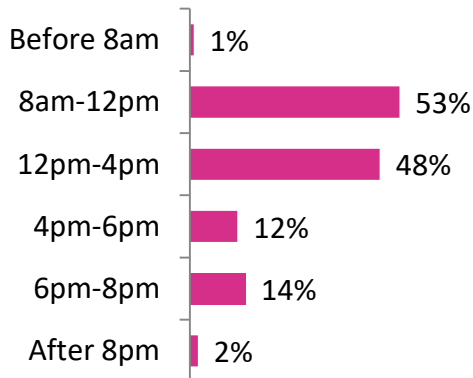
Main reason for use



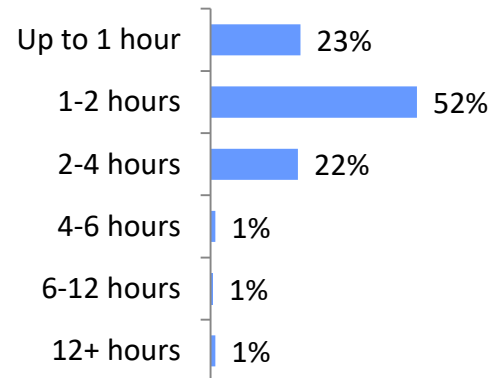
Frequency of use



Time of day



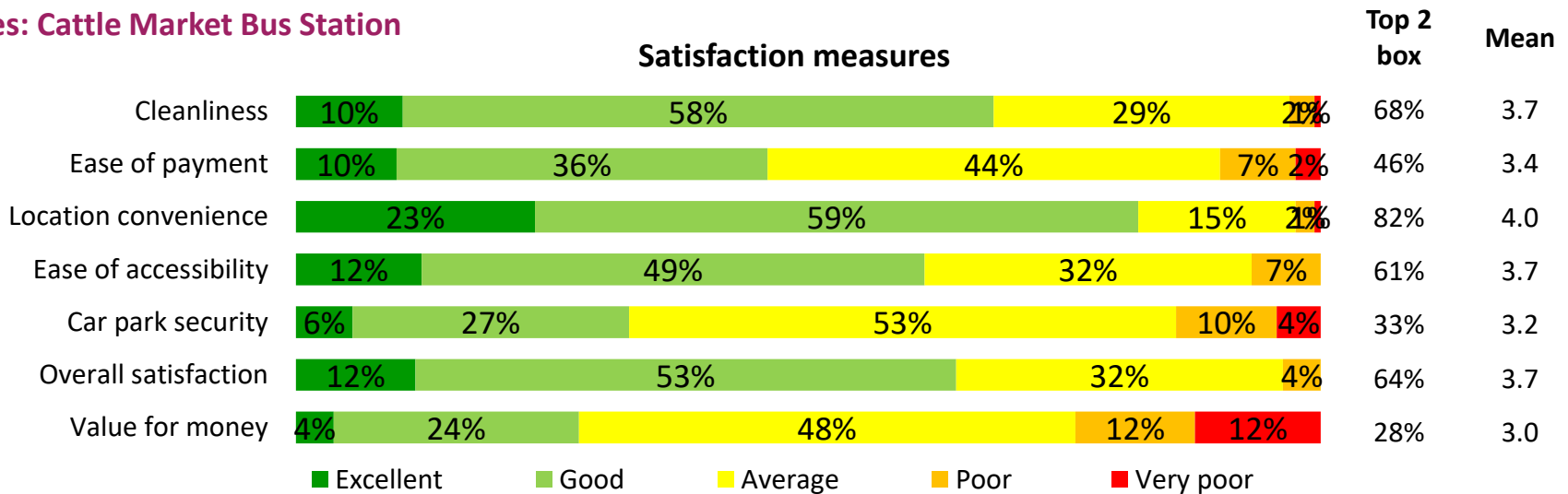
Average length of stay



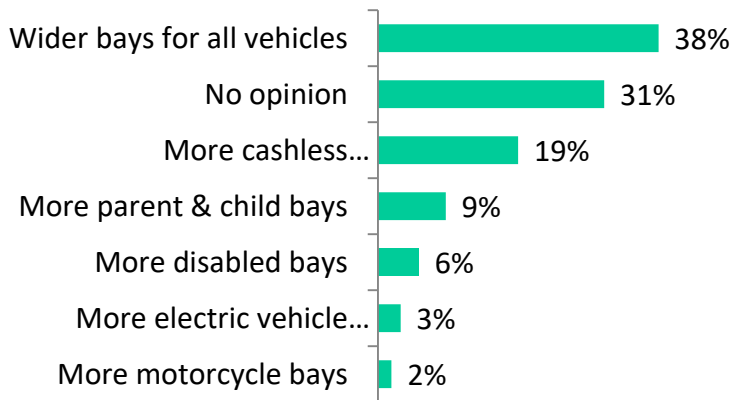
Almost two-thirds indicated positive overall satisfaction given location, accessibility and cleanliness. However, a quarter considered value for money poor.

St Ives: Cattle Market Bus Station

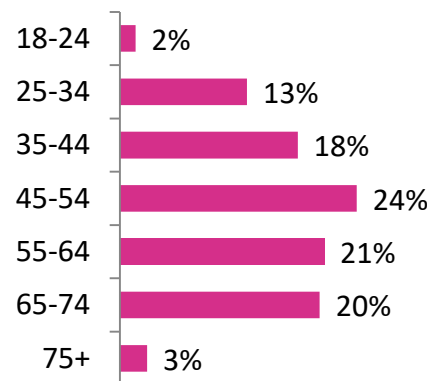
201



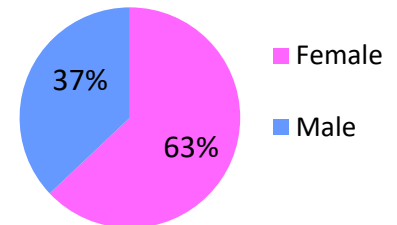
Potential improvements



Age



Gender

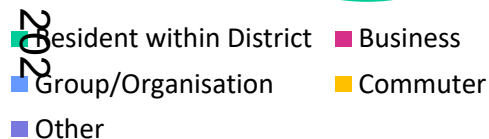
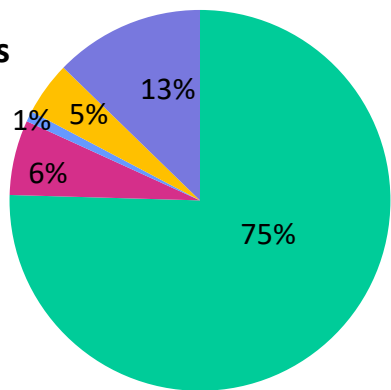


81%
from a PE postal address

Predominantly used by residents for retail purposes, two-thirds stay for less than 2 hours. More than 8 in 10 use at least monthly.

St Ives: Cattle Market Harrisons Way

User status

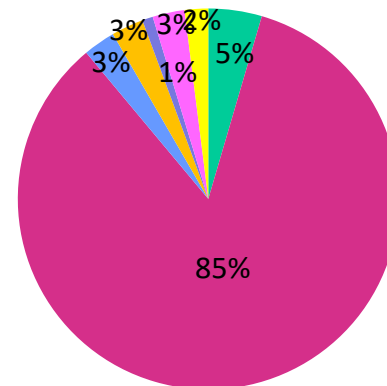


11%
with car park permit

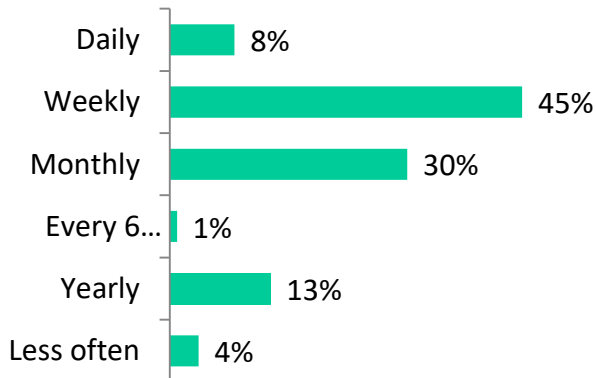
31%
on their own

16%
use the mobile payment service

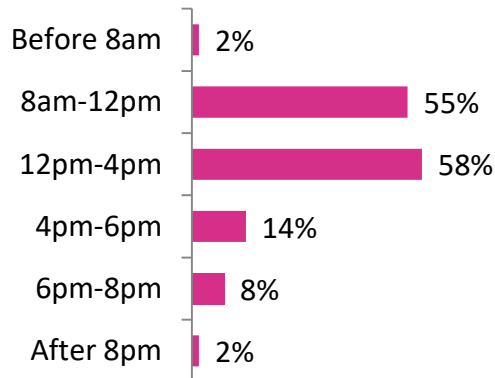
Main reason for use



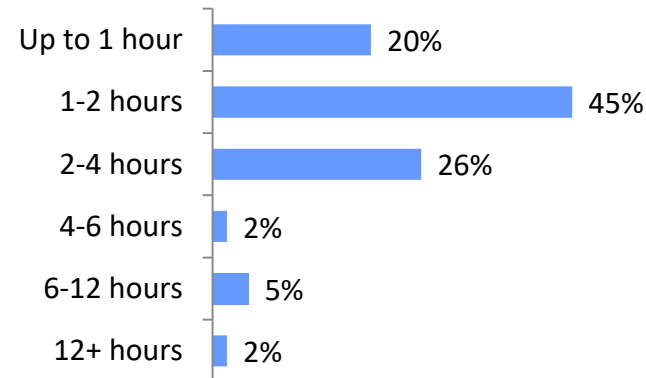
Frequency of use



Time of day



Average length of stay

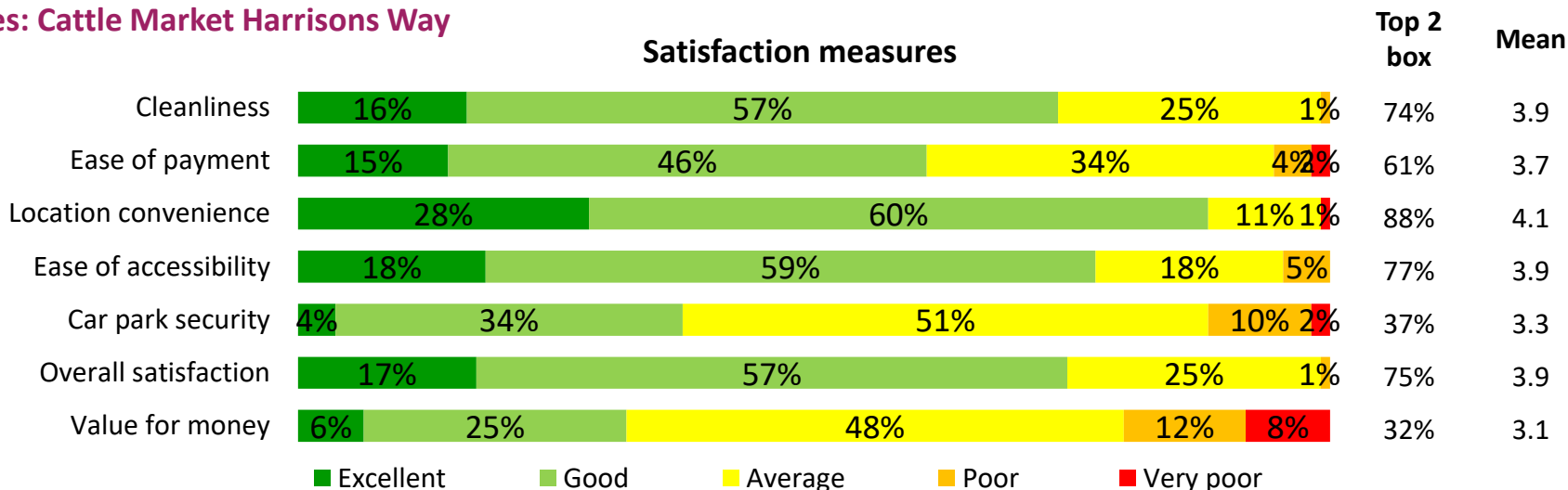


High level of overall satisfaction with more than a third indicating no opinion for potential improvements.

St Ives: Cattle Market Harrisons Way

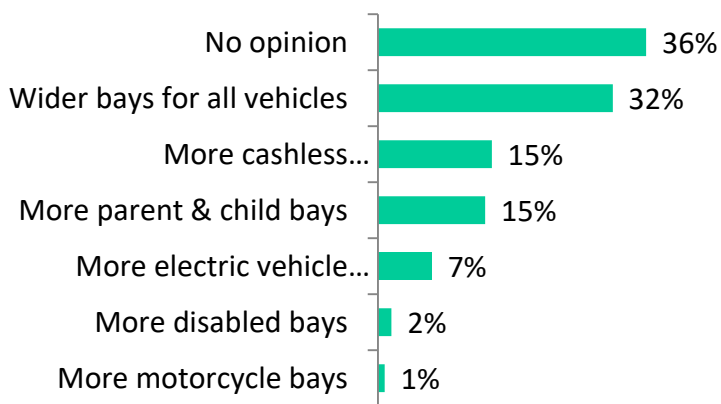
203

Satisfaction measures

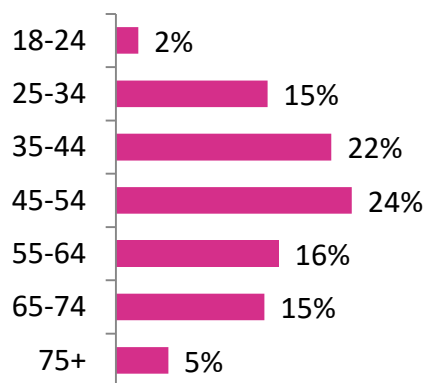


■ Excellent
 ■ Good
 ■ Average
 ■ Poor
 ■ Very poor

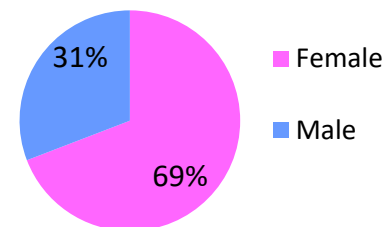
Potential improvements



Age



Gender

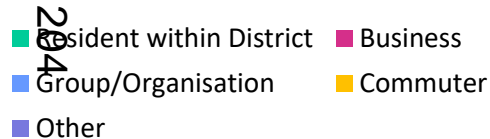
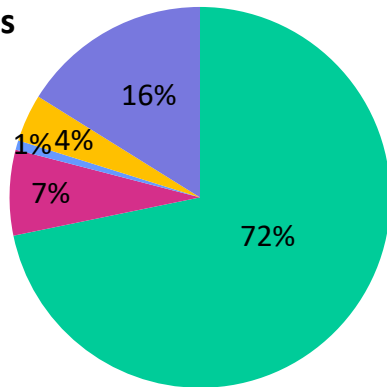


79%
from a PE postal address

Residents predominantly use this car park for retail. A quarter only stay for less than an hour but usage frequency is high.

St Ives: Globe Place

User status

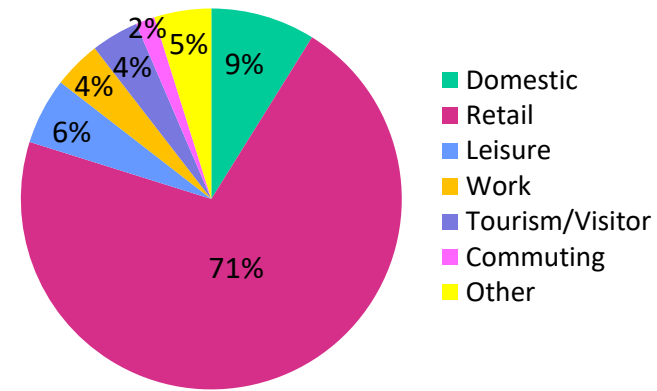


10%
with car park permit

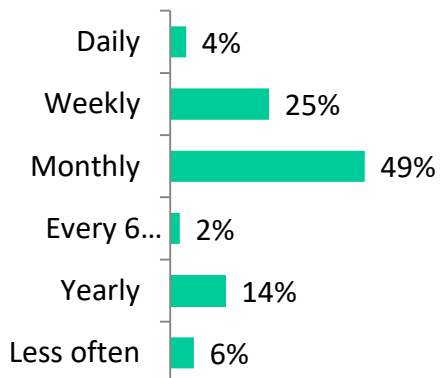
32%
on their own

12%
use the mobile
payment service

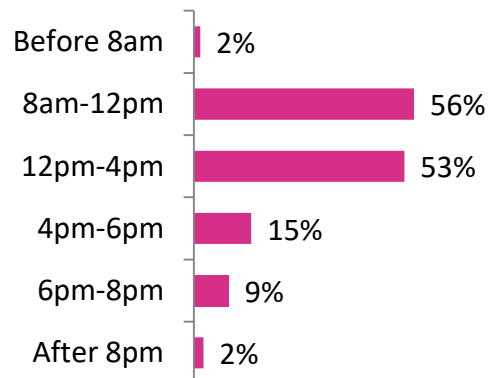
Main reason for use



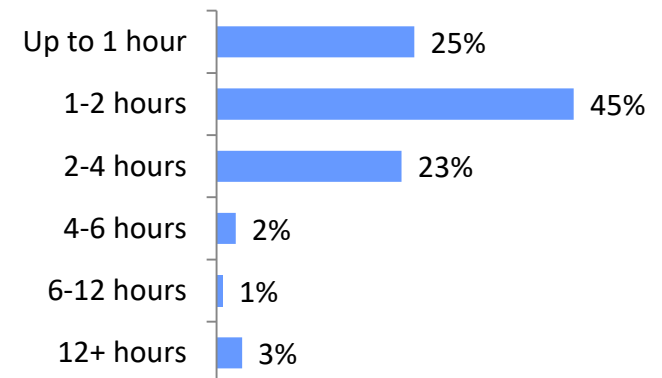
Frequency of use



Time of day



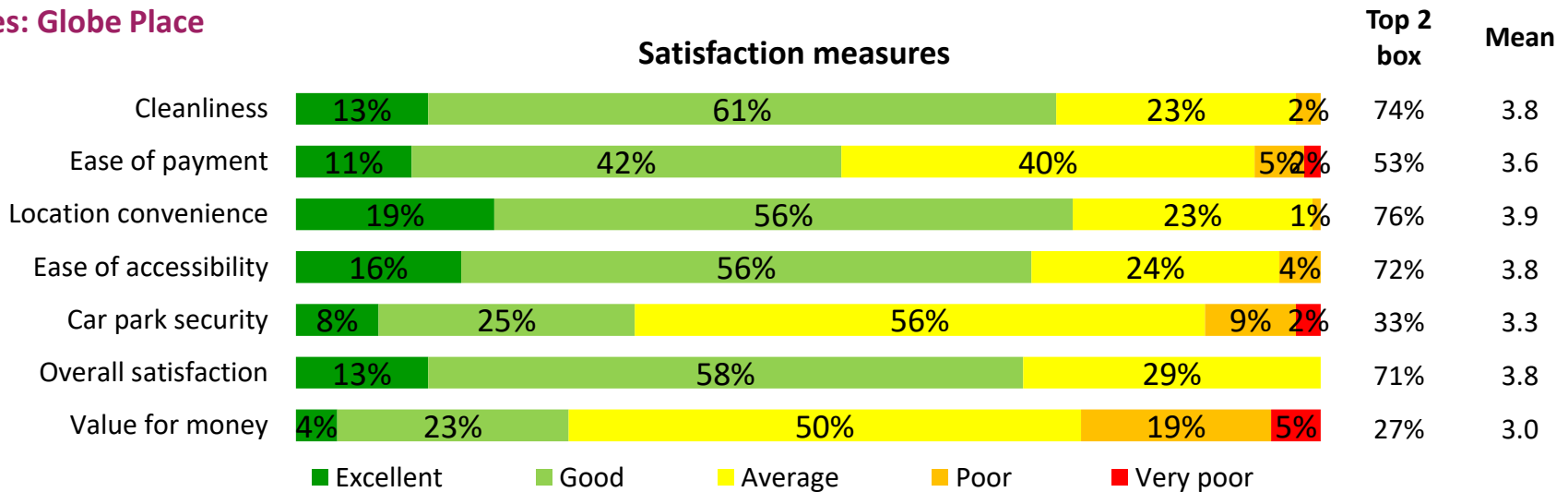
Average length of stay



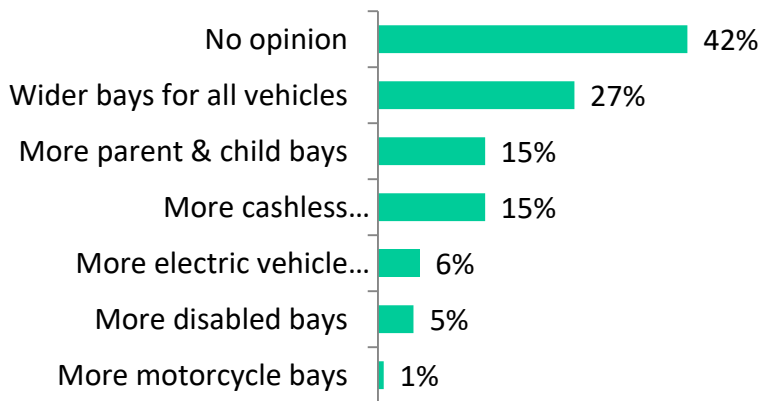
No negative response to overall satisfaction with 4 in 10 showing no opinion for potential improvements.

205

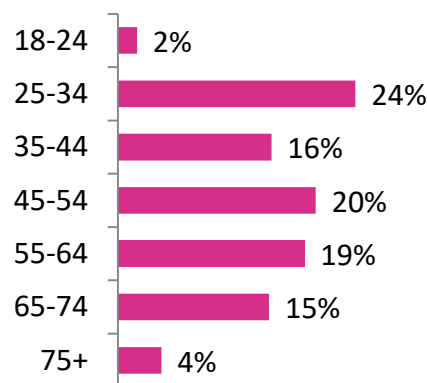
St Ives: Globe Place



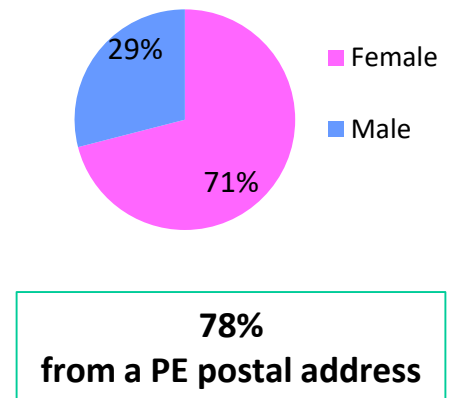
Potential improvements



Age



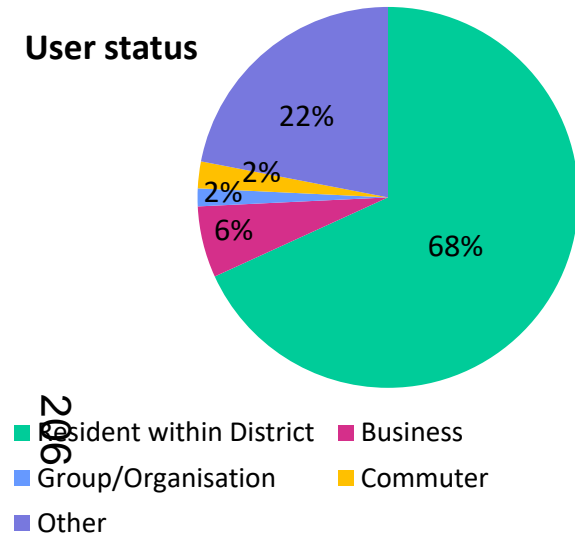
Gender



A short stay car park given location with almost 2 in 5 staying for less than an hour.

St Ives: Market Hill Pay & Display

User status

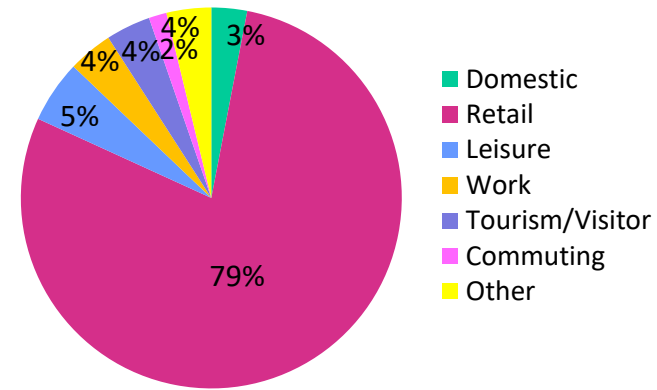


3%
with car park permit

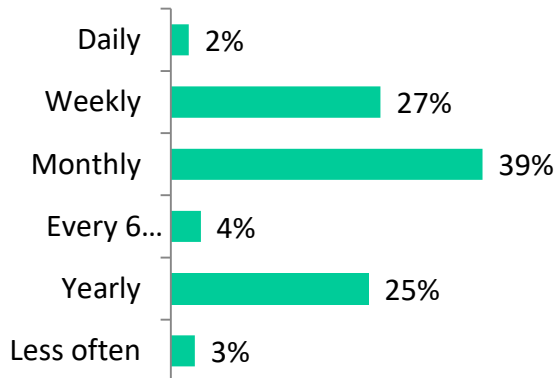
27%
on their own

No mobile payment service available

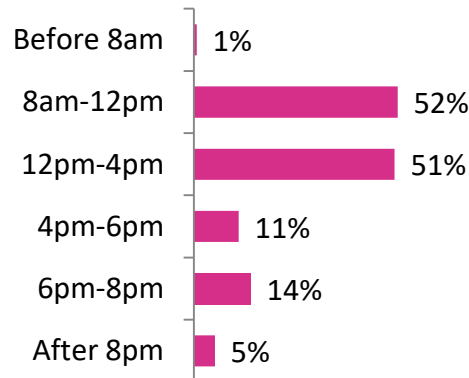
Main reason for use



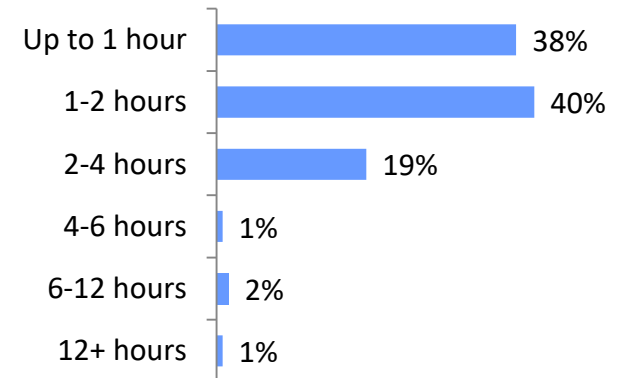
Frequency of use



Time of day



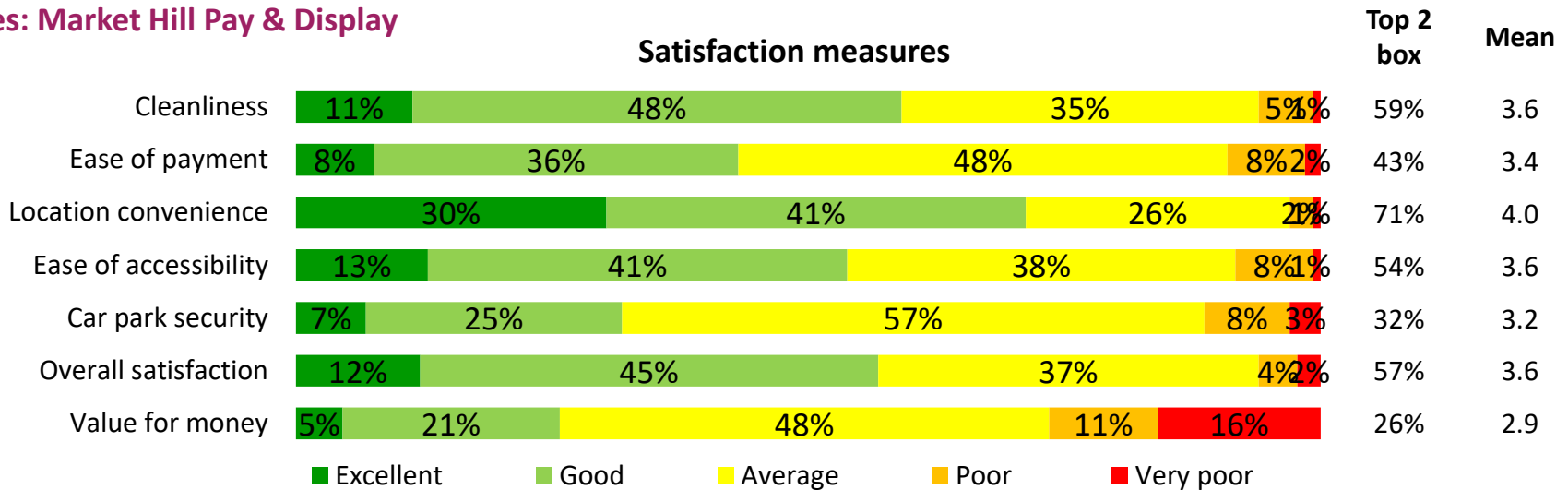
Average length of stay



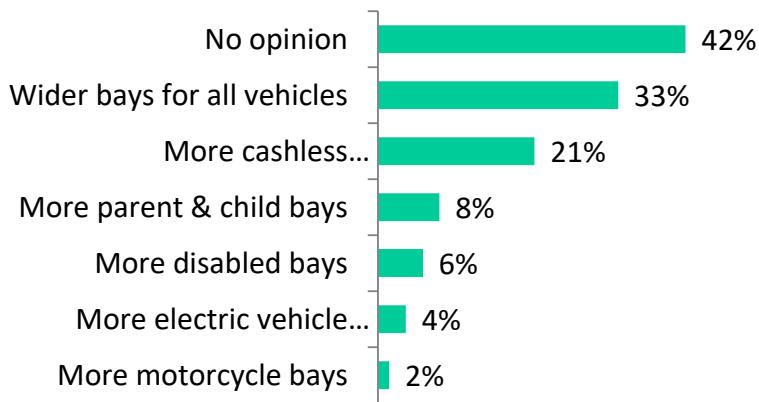
Poor value for money for a quarter but a highly convenient location.
A desire for wider bays was expressed by those looking for improvements.

207

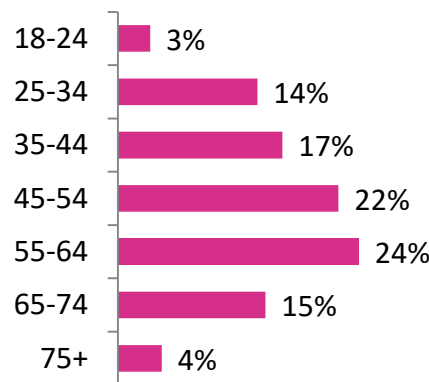
St Ives: Market Hill Pay & Display



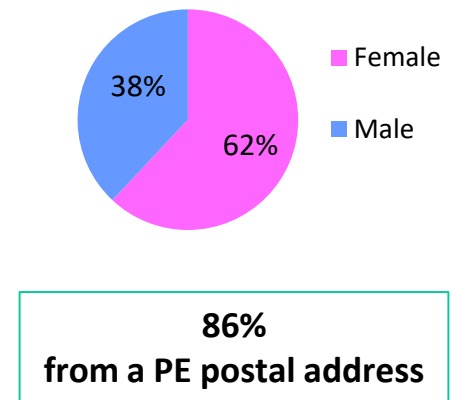
Potential improvements



Age



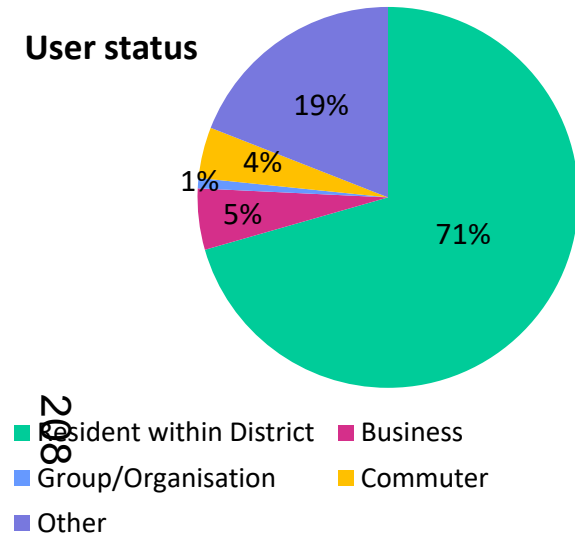
Gender



A retail based car park with the majority of the sample using for less than two hours.

St Ives: Waitrose

User status

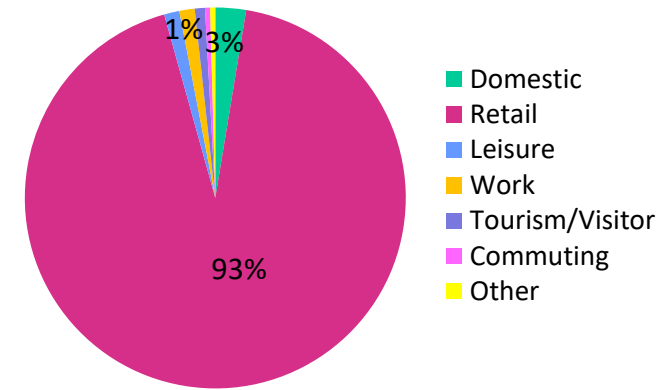


0%
with car park permit

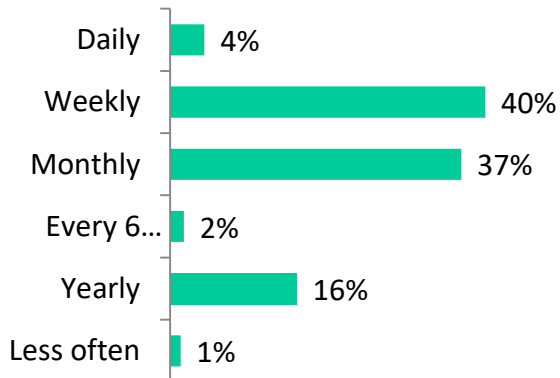
32%
on their own

No mobile payment
service available

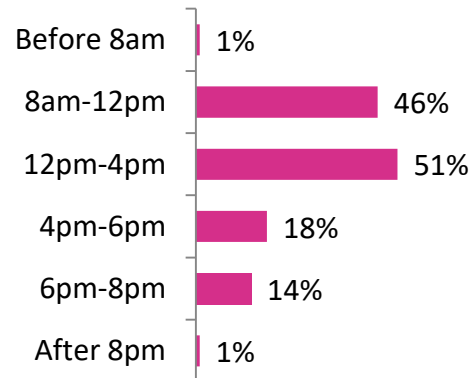
Main reason for use



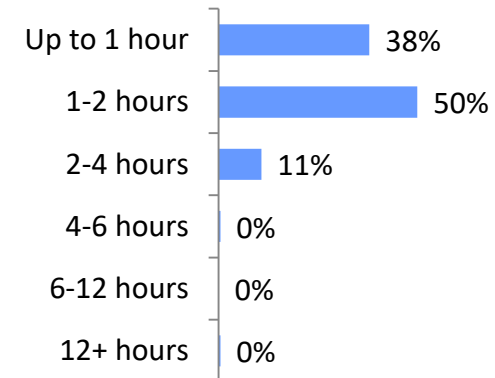
Frequency of use



Time of day



Average length of stay

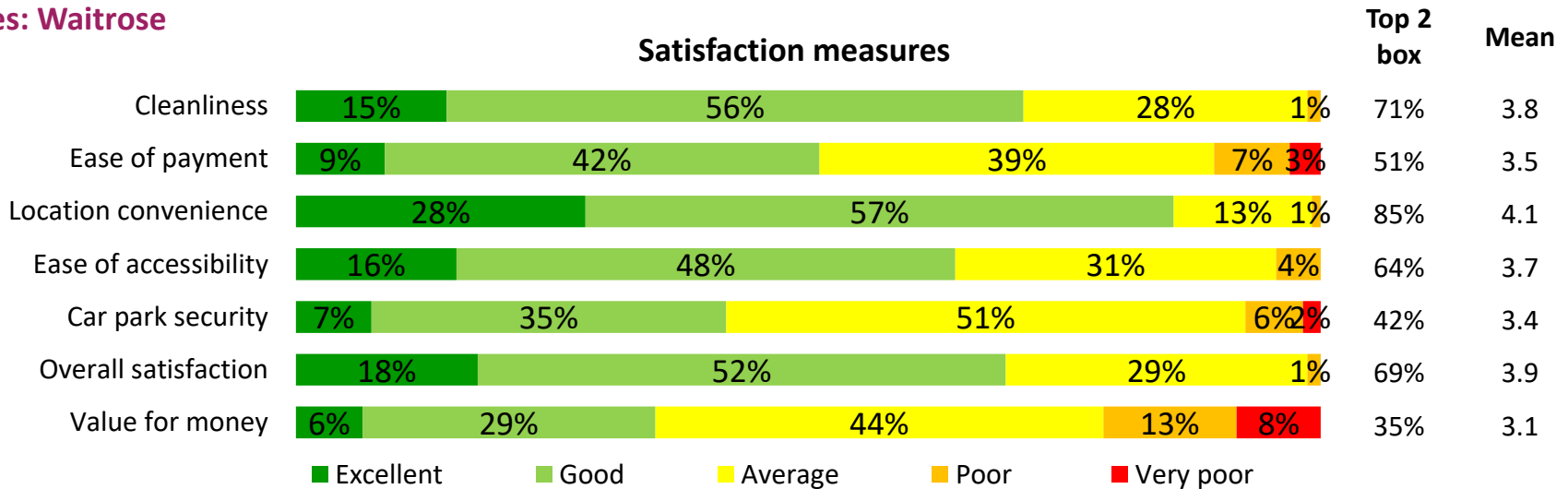


A convenient location with good accessibility. Users would like wider bays though.

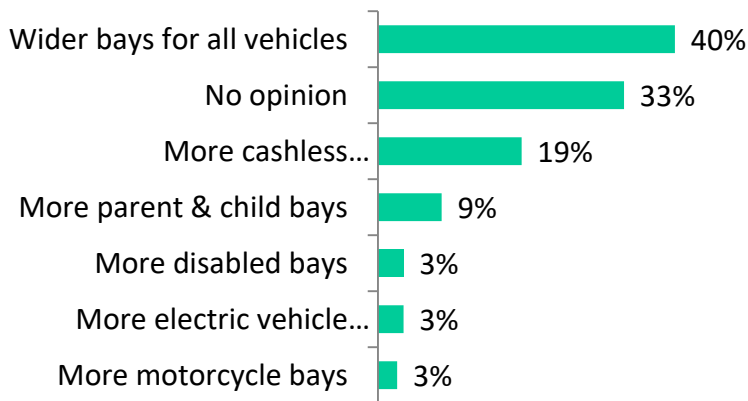
St Ives: Waitrose

2019

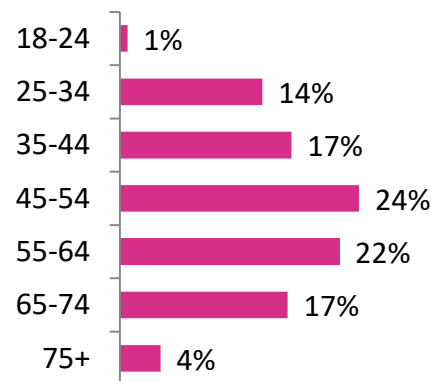
Satisfaction measures



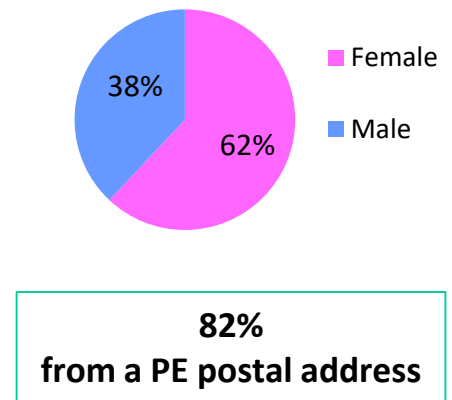
Potential improvements



Age



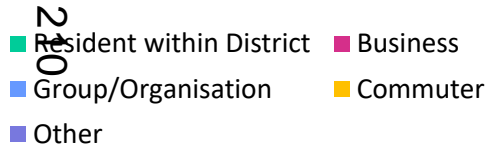
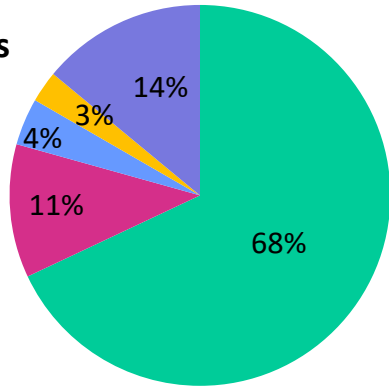
Gender



Used largely by residents for leisure purposes, half use at least weekly.

St Ives: One Leisure Indoor

User status

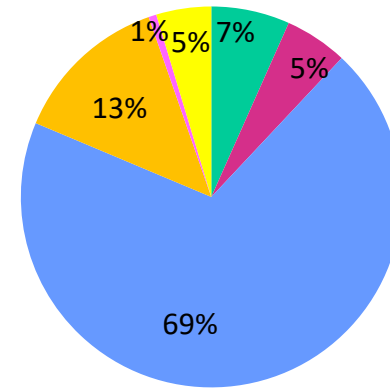


3%
with car park permit

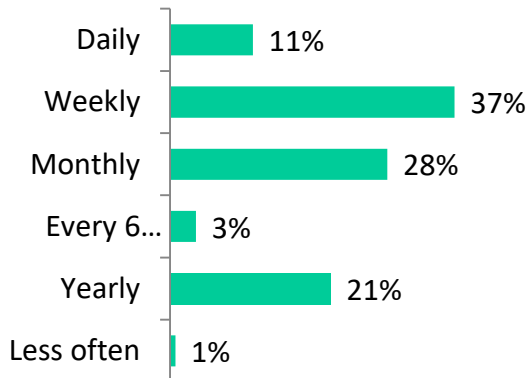
39%
on their own

No mobile payment
service available

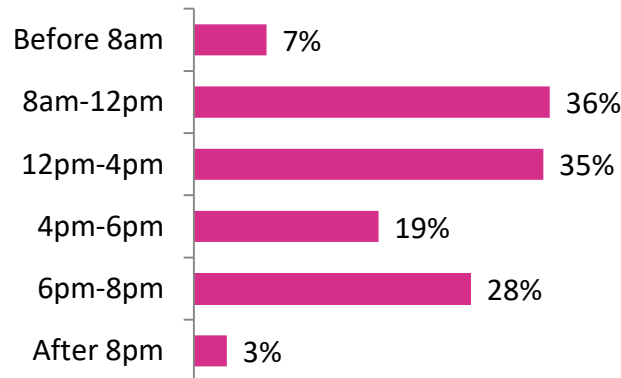
Main reason for use



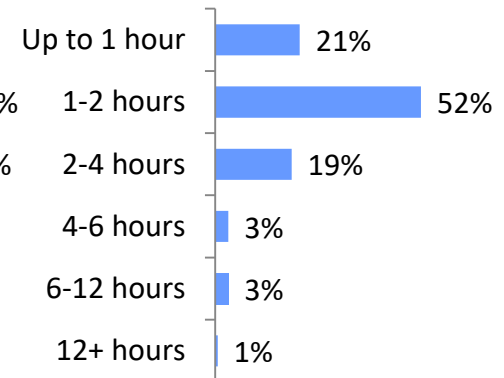
Frequency of use



Time of day



Average length of stay

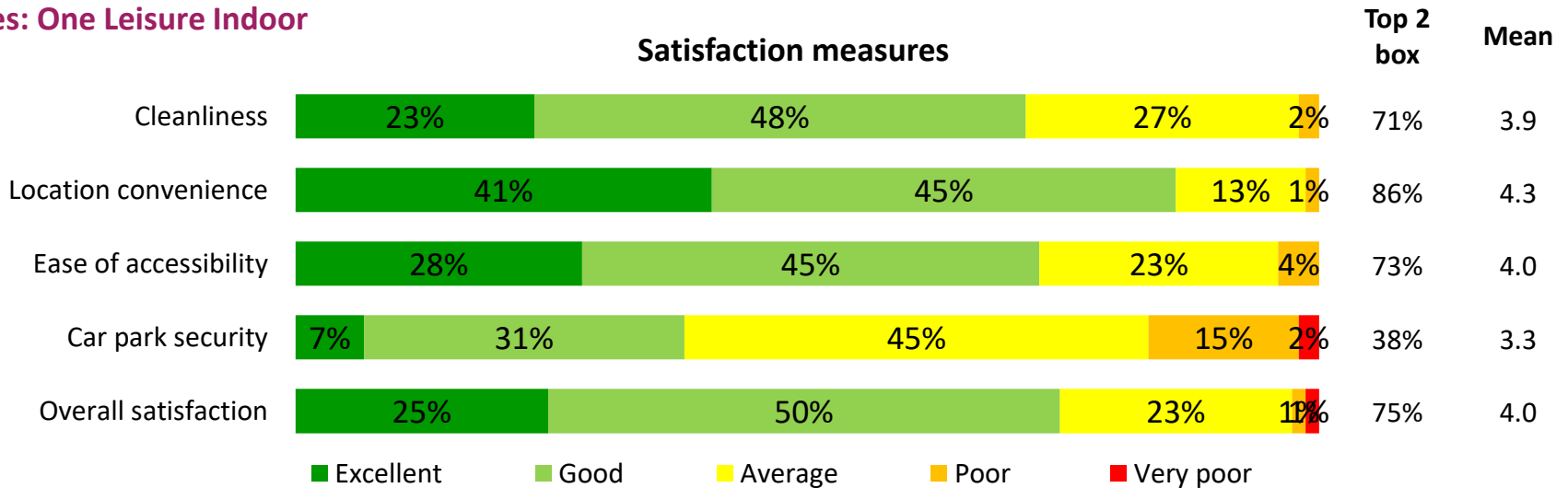


A strong level of satisfaction for this car park with only car park security of concern.

211

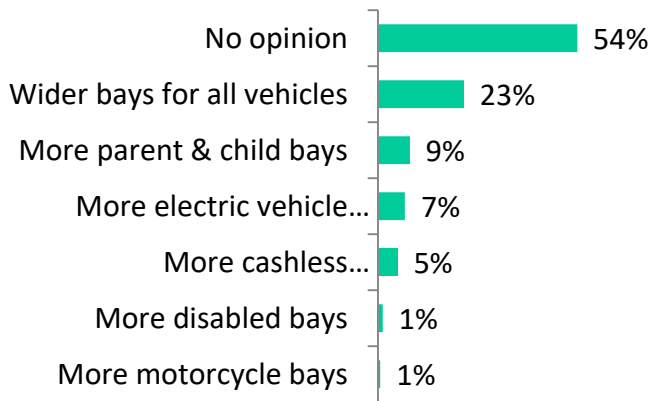
St Ives: One Leisure Indoor

Satisfaction measures

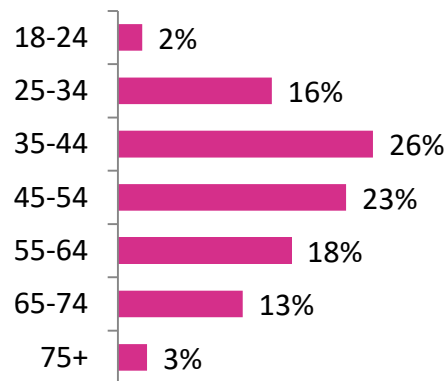


■ Excellent
 ■ Good
 ■ Average
 ■ Poor
 ■ Very poor

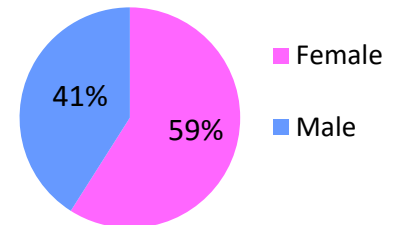
Potential improvements



Age



Gender



81%
from a PE postal address

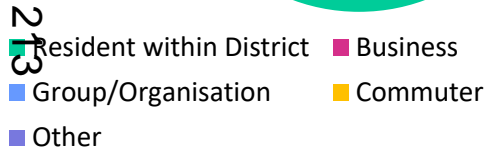
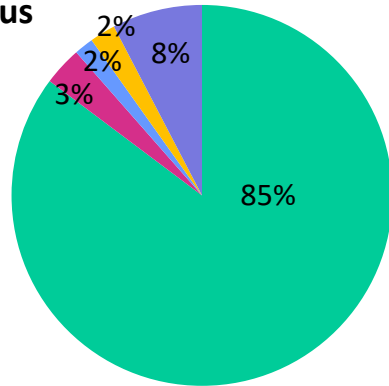


INDIVIDUAL CAR PARK OVERVIEW: ST NEOTS

Most likely to be used by residents for retail purposes, a short stay car park used on a regular basis during the day.

St Neots: Market Square Pay & Display

User status

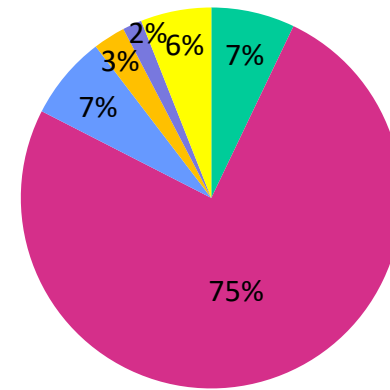


4%
with car park permit

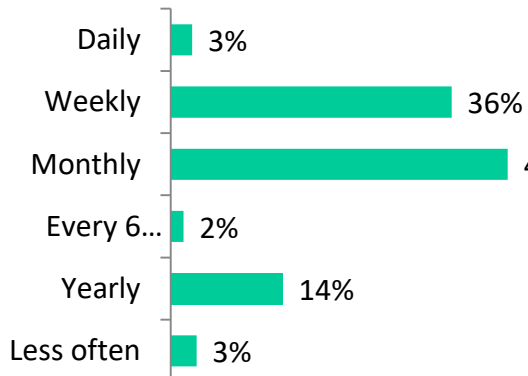
32%
on their own

No mobile payment
service available

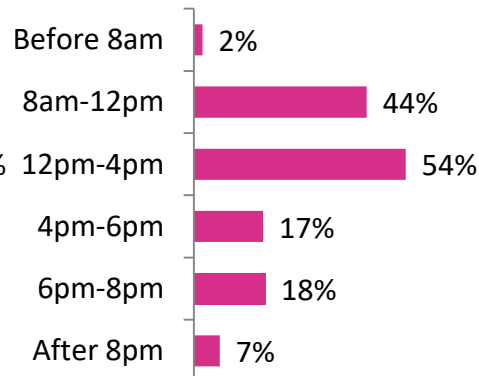
Main reason for use



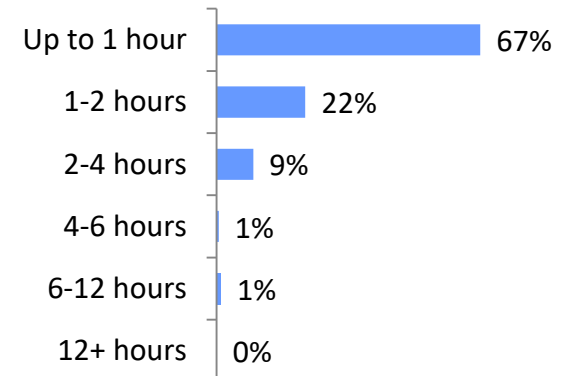
Frequency of use



Time of day



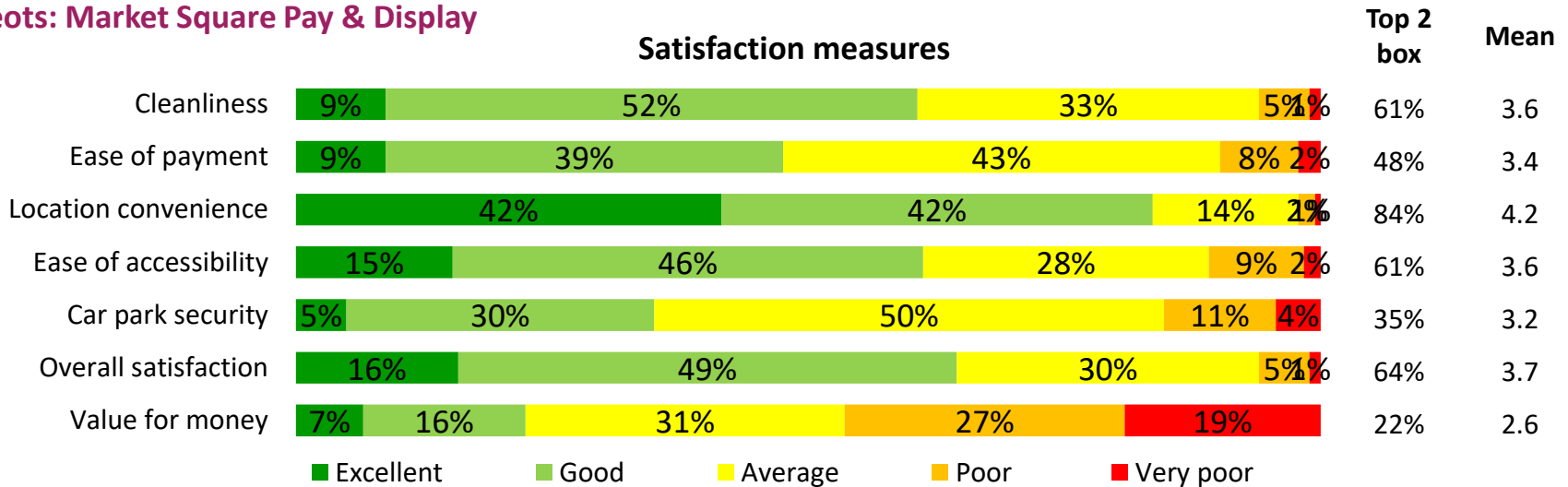
Average length of stay



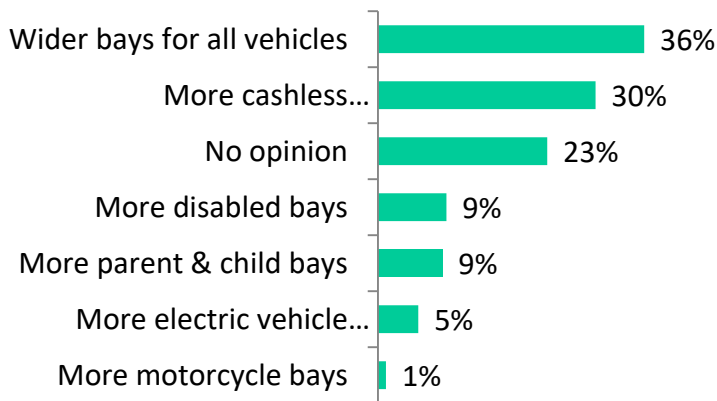
The highly convenient location of the car park was praised but almost half the sample indicated poor value for money. Wider bays & more cashless payment options were seen as key improvements.

214

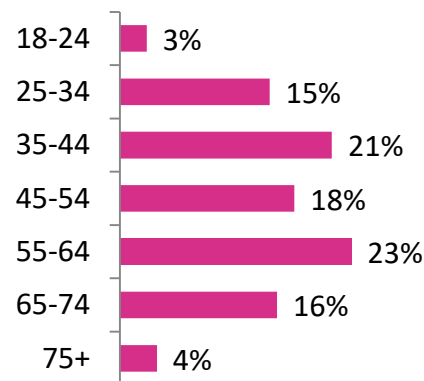
St Neots: Market Square Pay & Display



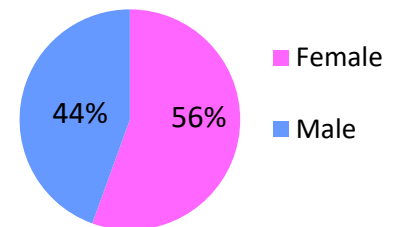
Potential improvements



Age



Gender

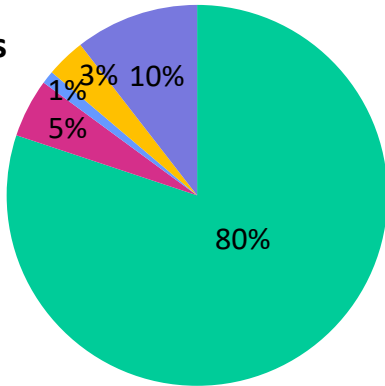


76%
from a PE postal address

With 7 in 10 using the car park for retail, average length of stay was less than 2 hours for the majority.

St Neots: Tebbutts Road

User status



215

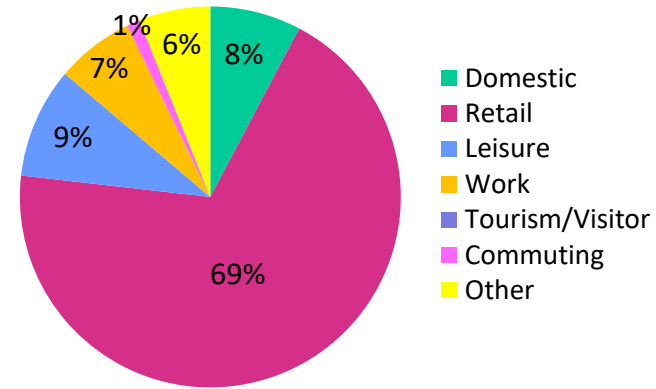
- Resident within District
- Business
- Group/Organisation
- Commuter
- Other

8%
with car park permit

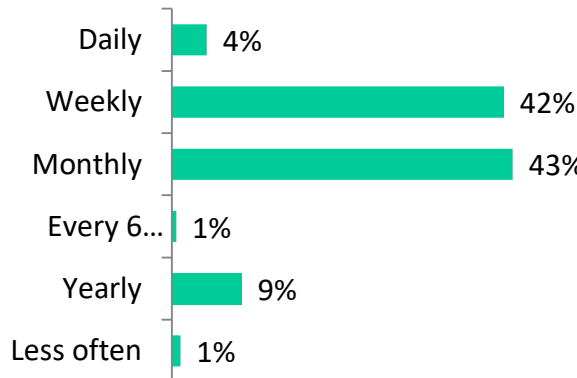
29%
on their own

12%
use the mobile payment service

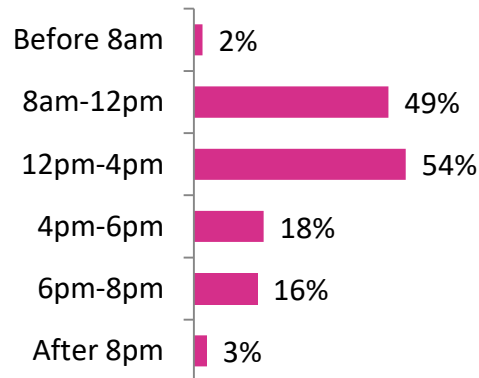
Main reason for use



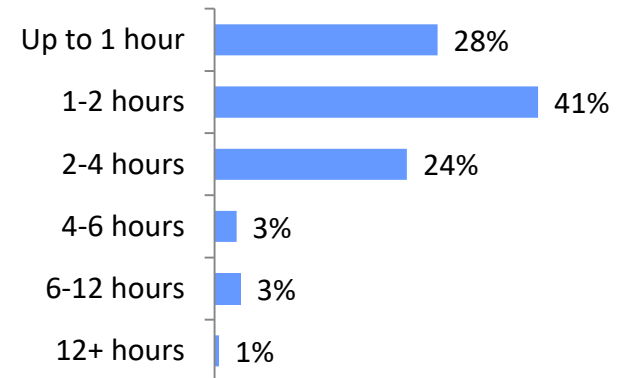
Frequency of use



Time of day

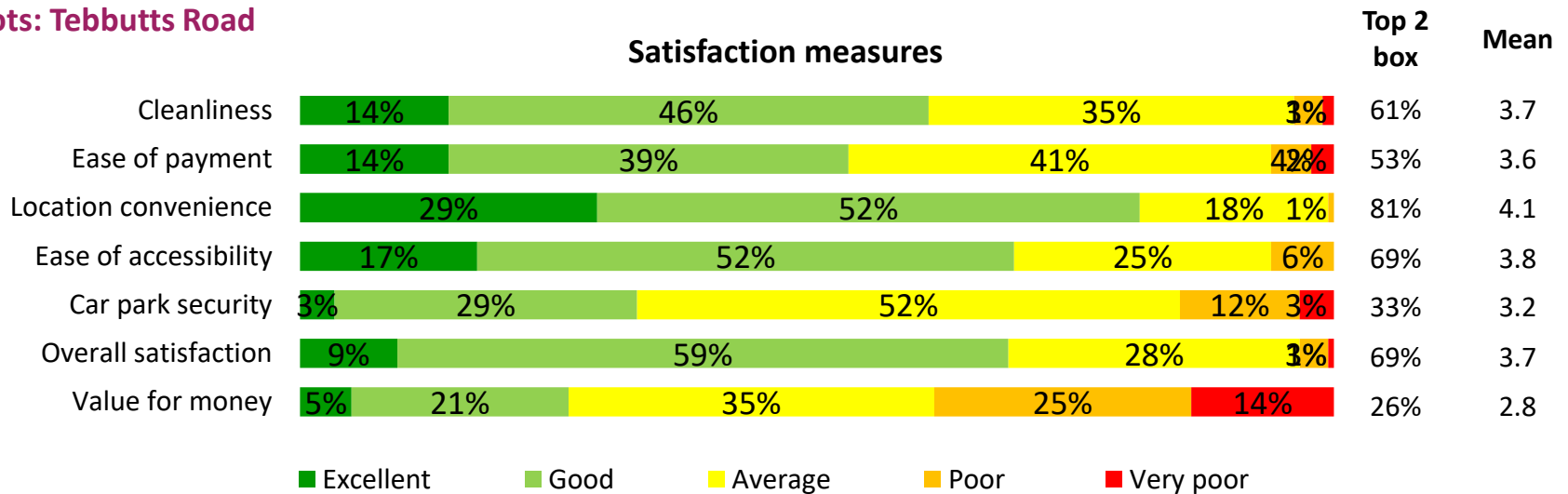


Average length of stay



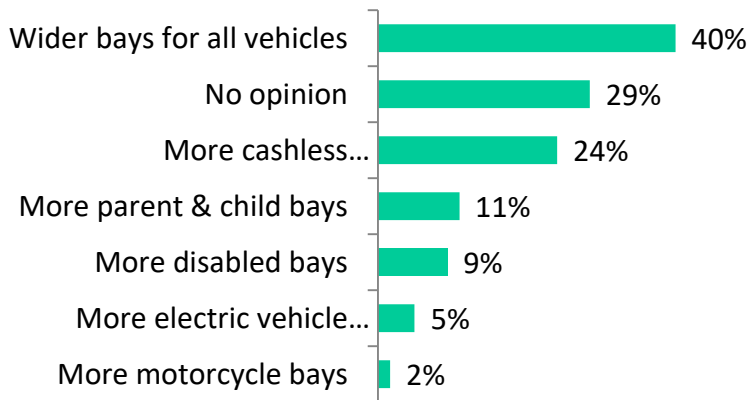
A convenient location but poor value for money. 4 in 10 would like wider bays for all vehicles.

St Neots: Tebutts Road

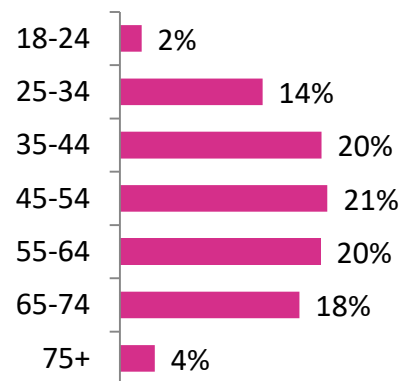


216

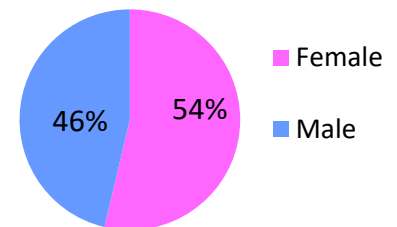
Potential improvements



Age



Gender

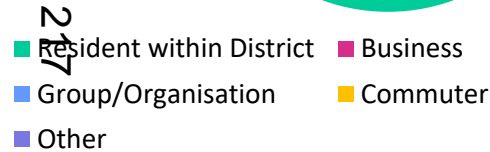
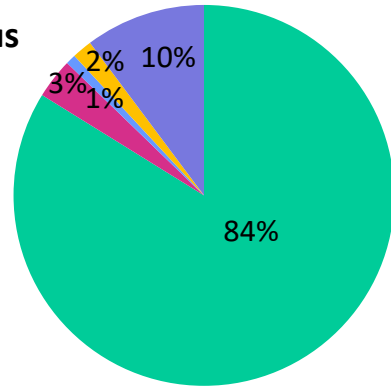


83%
from a PE postal address

A short stay car park (9 in 10 stay less than 2 hours), used predominantly for retail purposes.

St Neots: Waitrose

User status

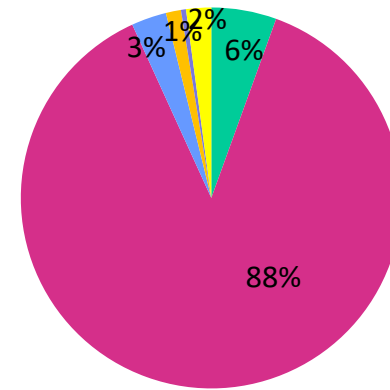


2%
with car park permit

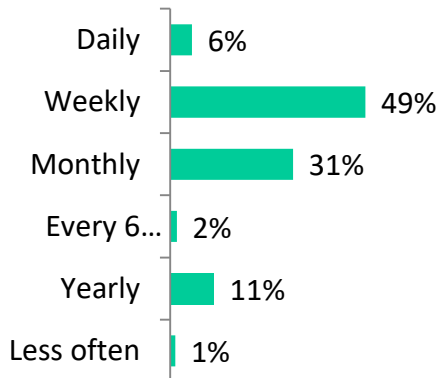
33%
on their own

0%
use the mobile payment service

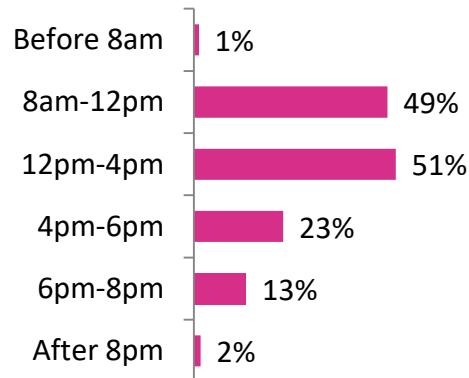
Main reason for use



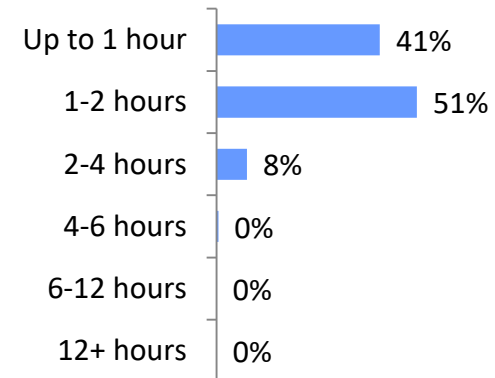
Frequency of use



Time of day



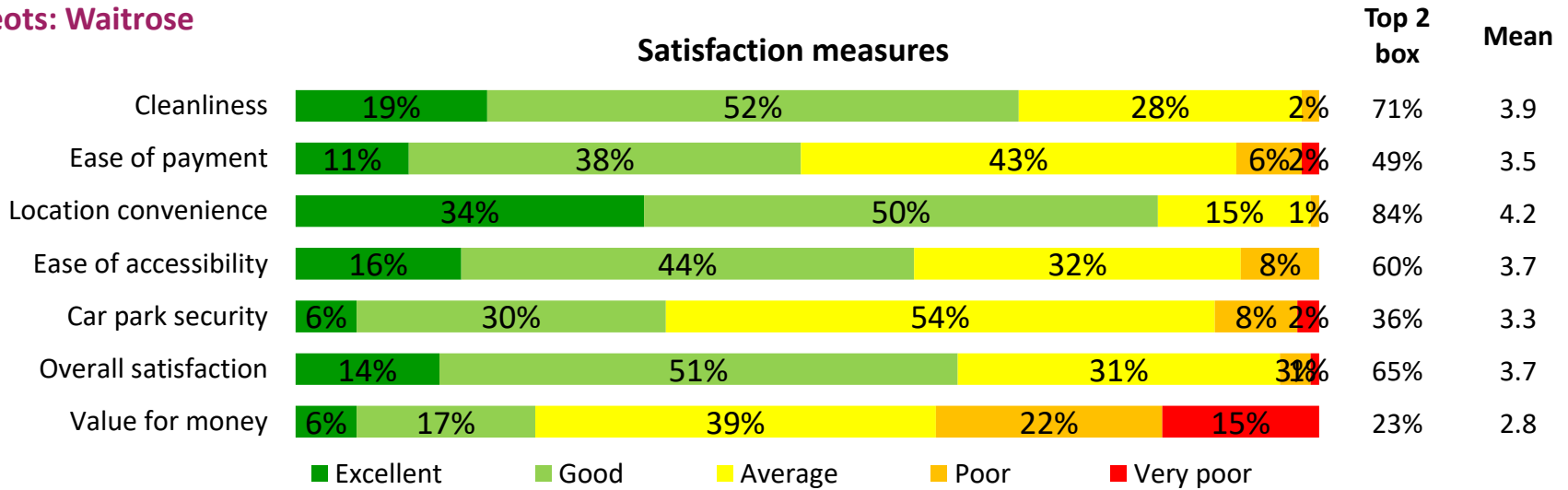
Average length of stay



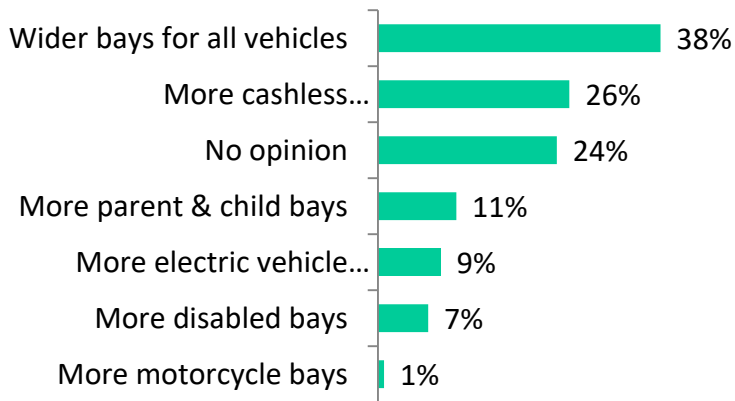
Two-thirds indicated positive overall satisfaction but concerns with value for money. A desire to see wider bays and more cashless payment options.

St Neots: Waitrose

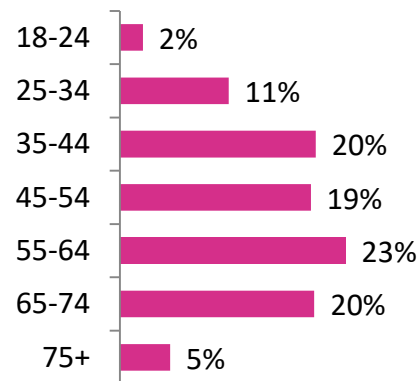
218



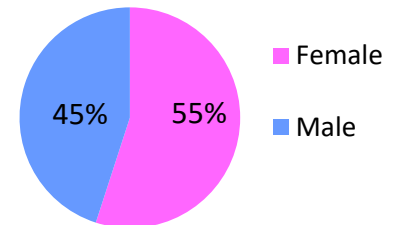
Potential improvements



Age



Gender

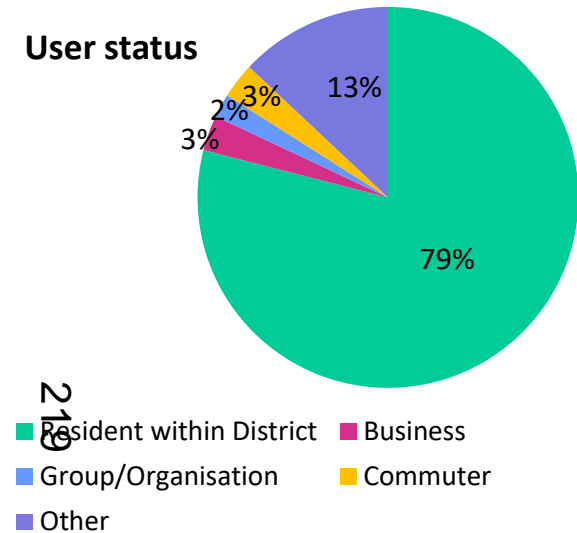


79%
from a PE postal address

With usage split between retail and leisure, stays range from less than an hour to up to 4.

St Neots: Riverside

User status

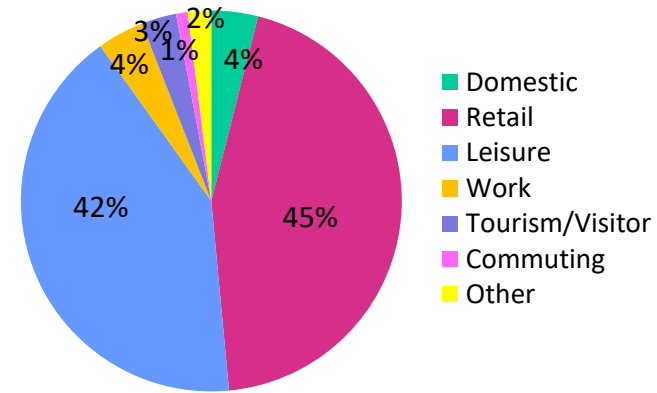


3%
with car park permit

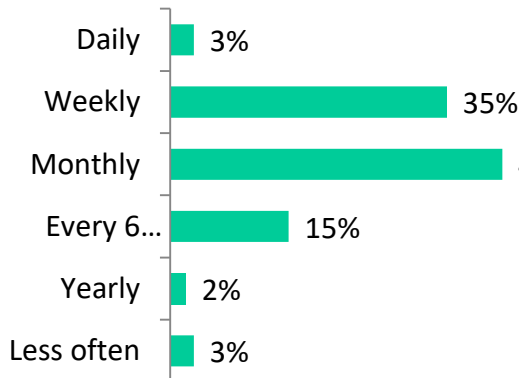
22%
on their own

7%
use the mobile payment service

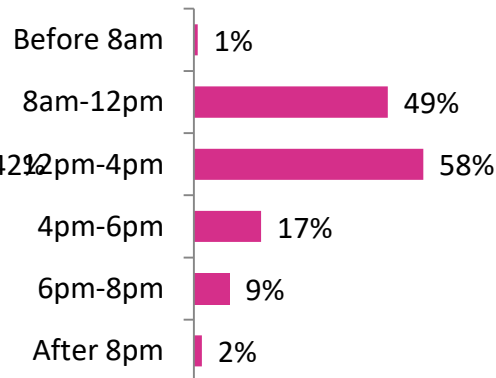
Main reason for use



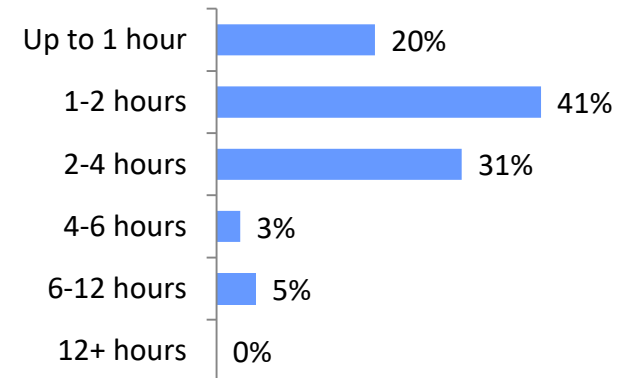
Frequency of use



Time of day



Average length of stay

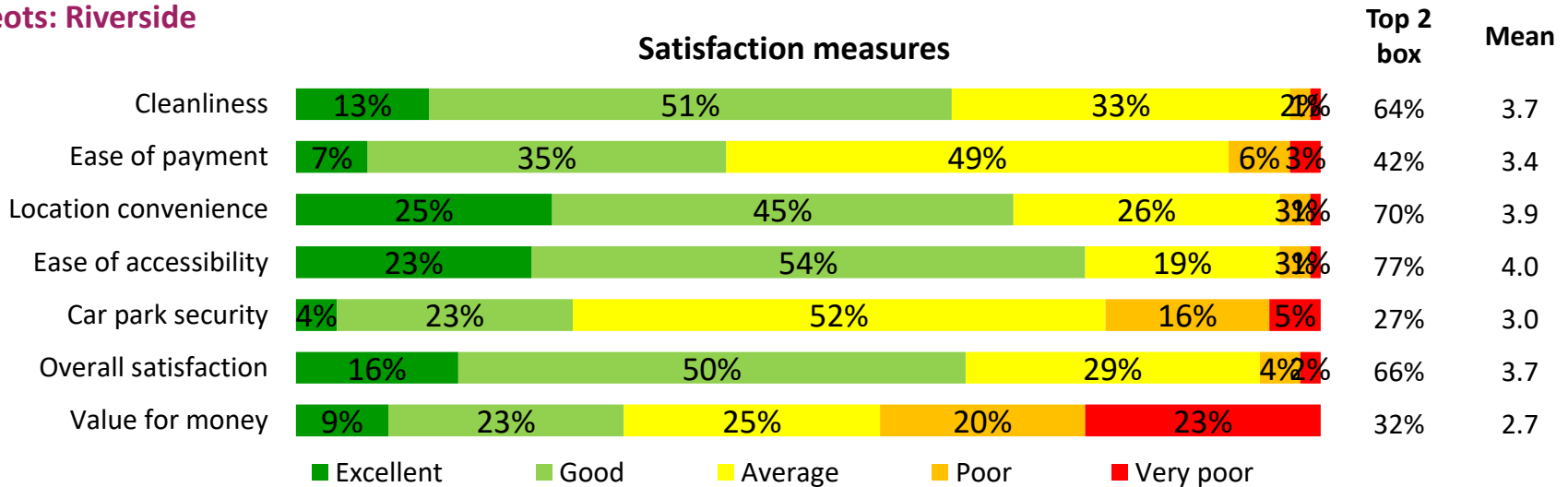


Whilst satisfied with location and accessibility, value for money is a key concern.

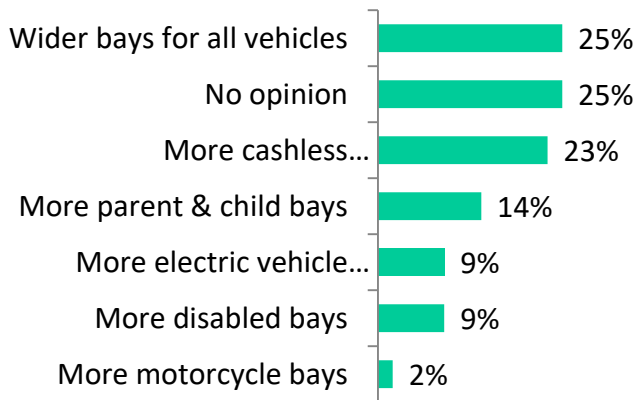
St Neots: Riverside

220

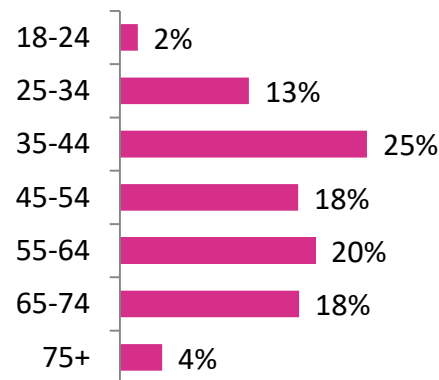
Satisfaction measures



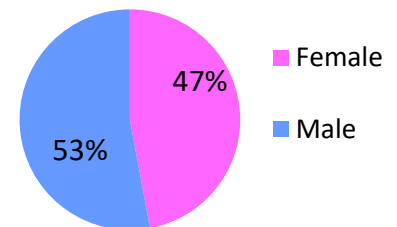
Potential improvements



Age



Gender



78%
from a PE postal address



RE-CAP: RECOMMENDATIONS



Whilst overall satisfaction with car parks across the Huntingdonshire District was acceptable there are issues which could be addressed.

- ✓ When prompted about potential improvements, a common theme across all car parks was a desire for wider bays for all vehicles.
- ✓ More cashless payment options would also be welcomed. Use of the mobile payment system (where available) is currently low indicating a potential awareness issue.
- ✓ Value for money: This measure records the highest levels of dissatisfaction but users placed this second in the hierarchy for selecting a car park so should be reviewed.
- ✓ Car park security was not highly rated across the district. Consideration of this issue could help to raise user satisfaction.





Thank you

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Panel	Study	Date	Status	Action	Date for Future Action
Economy & Growth 225	Forward Programme		Below are a list of reports to be presented at future Panel meetings:		
	October 2017		Business Rates – Discretionary Revaluation Relief Policy	J Taylor – Head of Customer Services	05/10/17
			Local Plan Update and Infrastructure Planning Update	C Kerr – Planning Service Manager (Policy)	"
			Car Parking Strategy Task and Finish Group – Vision	N Sloper – Head of Operations	"
			Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan Examination Outcome and Progression to Referendum	J Campbell – Senior Planning Policy Officer	"
			Memoranda of Understanding with the Local Enterprise Partnership	A Moffat – Head of Development	"
	November 2017		Growth and Infrastructure Group Terms of Reference	C Kerr – Planning Service Manager (Policy)	02/11/17
	December 2017		Local Plan Update and Infrastructure Planning	C Kerr – Planning Service Manager (Policy)	06/12/17
			Local Plan: Proposed Submission consultation	C Kerr – Planning Service Manager (Policy)	"
			Representatives on External Organisations	A Green – Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)	"
February 2018		Car Parking Strategy Task and Finish Group – Strategy	N Sloper – Head of Operations	08/02/18	

Panel	Study	Date	Status	Action	Date for Future Action
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	March 2018		Local Plan Update and Infrastructure Planning Endorsement of the Local Plan	C Kerr – Planning Service Manager (Policy) C Kerr – Planning Service Manager (Policy)	" 08/03/18
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226	Economy & Growth	Strategic Review of Car Parking	03/11/16	Following Cabinet's agreement to set up a Strategic Task and Finish Group, the Panel discussed the Strategic Review of Car Parking. The Panel appointed Councillors D B Dew, R Fuller, I D Gardener and T D Sanderson to the group.	It was agreed that the Task and Finish Group will not be led by Overview and Scrutiny; however the Panel will be responsible for the scrutiny of the Task and Finish Group's work.	05/10/17
			06/04/17	A project overview and scoping document was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.		
			30/05/17	A meeting of the Task and Finish Group was held. Members agreed the future meeting dates, discussed the reporting dates, carried out a stakeholder analysis and discussed in what form public participation should take. In addition the Group reviewed the scoping document.		
			08/08/17	A second meeting of the Task and Finish Group was held.		

Panel	Study	Date	Status	Action	Date for Future Action
Economy & Growth	Local Plan To 2036	06/10/16	Members agreed to keep the Local Plan to 2036 on the work programme. A task and finish group has not be established however the Panel have agreed that the Chairman should become the Panel expert on the topic.	The Panel is to receive a Local Plan and Infrastructure Planning update.	05/10/17
		15/06/17	The Panel received and discussed the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036.		
Economy & Growth 227	Devolution	06/10/16	Members agreed to keep Devolution on the work programme however before appointing a Panel expert, Members would like to invite the relevant Executive Councillor responsible to a future Panel meeting to update the Panel on what work has been done so far.	The Panel agreed to invite the Executive Leader to update Members after the election of the Combined Authority Mayor.	
		03/11/16	The Panel received an update on Devolution from the Executive Leader.		
Economy & Growth	Reports Due and Regular Items Representatives on External Organisations	Annual	Below are a list of reports to be presented at future Panel meetings: Selected Members represent the Council on various External Organisations. The Panel received updates at its meetings in November 2016 and February 2017.	Next report is due at the Panel meeting in December 2017.	07/12/17

Panel	Study	Date	Status	Action	Date for Future Action
	Marketing Strategy Work Programme	Annual	The Panel have requested annual updates on the work programme.	Report was presented in July 2016 and the next one is due at the Panel meeting in September.	07/09/17
Communities & Environment 228	Forward Programme October (3rd) 2017		Below are a list of reports to be presented at future Panel meetings: North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Sustainability Transformation Programme Homelessness Strategy Annual Review of Green Space and Play Provision	Stephen Graves – Chief Executive, North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust CCG Aidan Fallon – CCG J Taylor – Head of Customer Services N Sloper – Head of Operations	03/10/17 " " "
	October (31st) 2017		Luminus Update Grounds Maintenance Update Taxi and Hackney Carriage Policies	Luminus N Sloper – Head of Operations C Allison – Licensing Manager	31/10/17 " "

Panel	Study	Date	Status	Action	Date for Future Action
	December 2017		Corporate Enforcement Policy	C Stopford – Head of Community	05/12/17
			Representatives on External Organisations	A Green – Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)	"
	January 2018		Community Resilience Plan Update	Councillor Mrs A Dickinson, Executive Councillor for Community Resilience, Well-Being and Regulatory Services	09/01/18
	February 2018		Twelve Month Review of Bearscroft Farm Local Lettings Plan	J Collen – Housing Needs and Resource Manager	06/02/18
229 Communities & Environment	Future of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, Paxton Pits, Godmanchester Nursery and Public Rights of Way	01/11/16	The Panel received an exempt report on the contractual arrangements and potential improvement programme of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. The Cabinet received the same report but including the Panel's comments at its meeting in November 2016.	The Cabinet made a decision on the report. The decision remains confidential whilst negotiations are taking place.	
		07/03/17	Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways Maintenance Manager, Mr Jonathan Clarke, was in attendance to update Members on the maintenance of Huntingdonshire's Public Rights of Way.	A report on Hinchingsbrooke Country Park is expected at the Panel meeting in April 2018.	03/04/18
				A report on Paxton Pits is expected at the Panel meeting in April 2018.	03/04/18
				A report on Godmanchester Nursery is expected at the Panel meeting in June 2018.	June 2018

Panel	Study	Date	Status	Action	Date for Future Action
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Communities & Environment	Community Resilience Plan including relationships with Parish and Town Councils and the County Council	04/07/17	The Executive Councillor for Community Resilience and Well-Being gave Members an update on the Community Resilience Plan and encouraging Members to become ambassadors for the Council.	The Portfolio Holder has agreed to attend the Panel meeting in January to update Members on the work carried out.	09/01/18
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Communities & Environment 230	Reports Due and Regular Items				
	Representatives on External Organisations	Annual	Selected Members represent the Council on various External Organisations. The Panel received updates at its meetings in November 2016 and March 2017.	Next report is due at the Panel meeting in December 2017.	05/12/17
	Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership	04/10/16	Annual review of the work of the Partnership. The 2016/17 report is scheduled to be presented to the Panel in June 2018.	A six month update report is due at a future meeting of the Panel.	June 2018
	Corporate Enforcement Policy including Graffiti/Fly Tipping Policy	06/12/16		The Panel are to consider a report at its meeting in December.	06/12/17

Panel	Study	Date	Status	Action	Date for Future Action
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	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group	04/07/17	Members received an update on the Urgent and Emergency Care Vanguard Programme.	The Sustainability and Transformation Programme (STP) is to be presented to a future meeting of the Panel.	05/09/17
	Redesign of Mental Health Services	07/07/15	The Panel received an update report on the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).	The Panel requested an update at a future meeting.	05/09/17

Performance & Customers 231	Forward Programme				
	October 2017		Site Disposal B (Exempt Report)	C Luscombe	04/10/17
	November 2017		Integrated Performance Report – Quarter 2	D Buckridge – Policy, Performance and Transformation Manager (Scrutiny)	01/11/17
			Treasury Management 6 Month Review	A Forth – Finance Manager	"
			Commercial Investment Strategy: Business Plan Phase 1 Review	C Mason – Head of Resources	"
			Assets Disposals (Exempt Report)	C Mason – Head of Resources	"
	December 2017		Representatives on External Organisations	A Green – Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)	06/12/17
	January (10th)		Review of Fees and Charges	A Forth – Finance Manager	"
		Business Case for CCTV Commercialisation	C Stopford – Head of Community	10/01/18	

Panel	Study	Date	Status	Action	Date for Future Action
	2018 January (31st) 2018		(Exempt Report) Draft Revenue Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 to 2022/23 Integrated Performance Report 2017/18 – Quarter 3 Final Revenue Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 to 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 Corporate Risk Register	C Mason – Head of Resources D Buckridge – Policy, Performance and Transformation Manager (Scrutiny) C Mason – Head of Resources A Forth – Finance Manager D Harwood – Audit and Risk Manager	" 31/01/18 " " "
232 Performance & Customers	One Leisure Value For Money	05/07/17	The Panel agreed to create the Task and Finish Group. The following are Members of the Group: Councillors R C Carter, D B Dew, Mrs L A Duffy, M Francis, Mrs D C Reynolds and R J West.	A scoping document has been drafted. Meeting dates are yet to be decided.	
Performance & Customers	Cambridgeshire County Council Budget Scrutiny	05/12/16	Representatives from Cambridgeshire County Council were in attendance to present the County Council's Budget for 2017-22 and answer Members' questions.	Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) drafted a response to the budget proposals based on the points raised by Members at the budget scrutiny. The response to the budget proposals has been approved by the Chairman and was sent to Cambridgeshire County Council in December 2016.	

Panel	Study	Date	Status	Action	Date for Future Action
Performance & Customers	Social Value In Procurement	01/02/17	The Chairman informed the Panel that there will be a task and finish group investigating social value in procurement.	Officers are working on a scoping document.	

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