



SELSDON COMMUNITY PLAN, PART 1: 2020 - 2025

Setting out Selsdon's priorities and proposals
based on community engagement in 2019/2020





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Selsdon Community Plan (SCP)

Executive Summary

The Selsdon Community Plan (SCP) Part 1 has been developed by the Selsdon Community Plan Steering Group (SCPSG). The SCPSG is made up of local groups, churches, ward councillors, local businesses and schools with an aim to change Selsdon for the better by:

- Building a pleasant, modern, healthy environment respectful of our heritage, fit for our heritage, fit for our future
- Nurturing sustainable local businesses to secure high quality jobs for local people
- Creating a connected, collaborative, welcoming community of which residents are proud

The SCP sets out the community's priorities and proposals for improving and investing in Selsdon over the next five years to 2025. The wards covered are Selsdon and Addington Village and Forestdale and Selsdon Vale.

It is based on the findings from community engagement that took place between November 2019 and 12 March 2020.

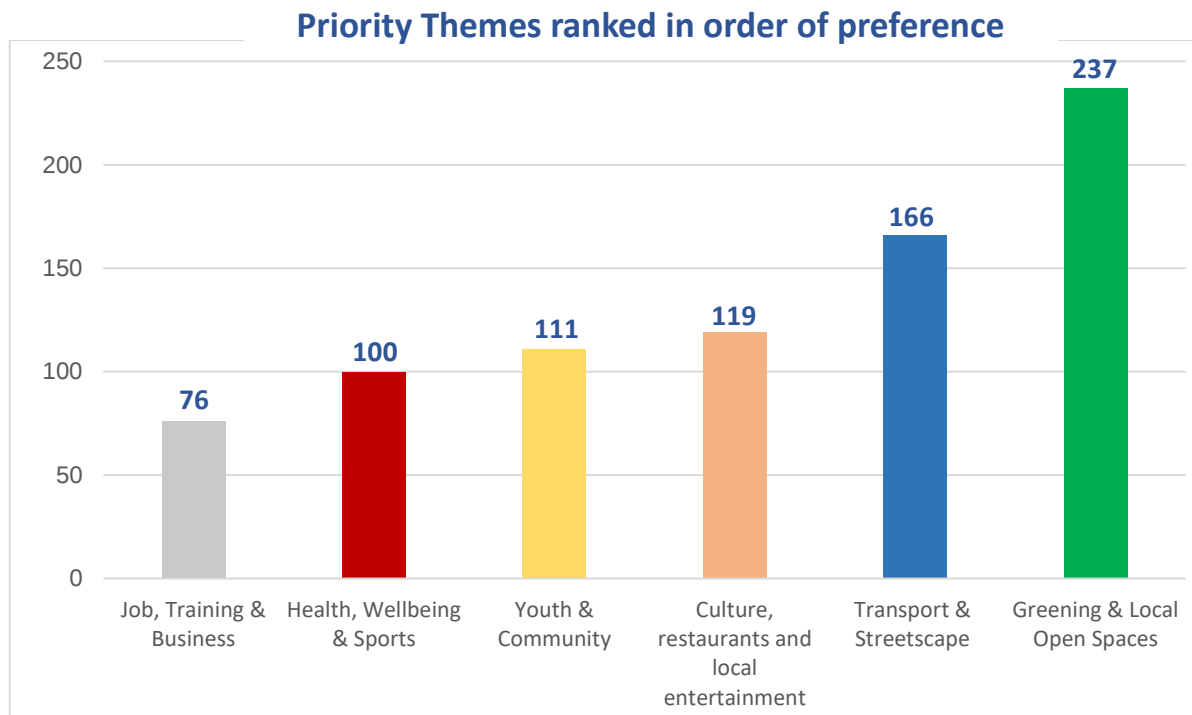
All the engagement activities were promoted via Selsdon Gazette, community mailing lists and social media. A promotional A5 leaflet was hand delivered to over 3000 homes and local businesses to encourage responses to the survey.

Main Highlights and Key Findings

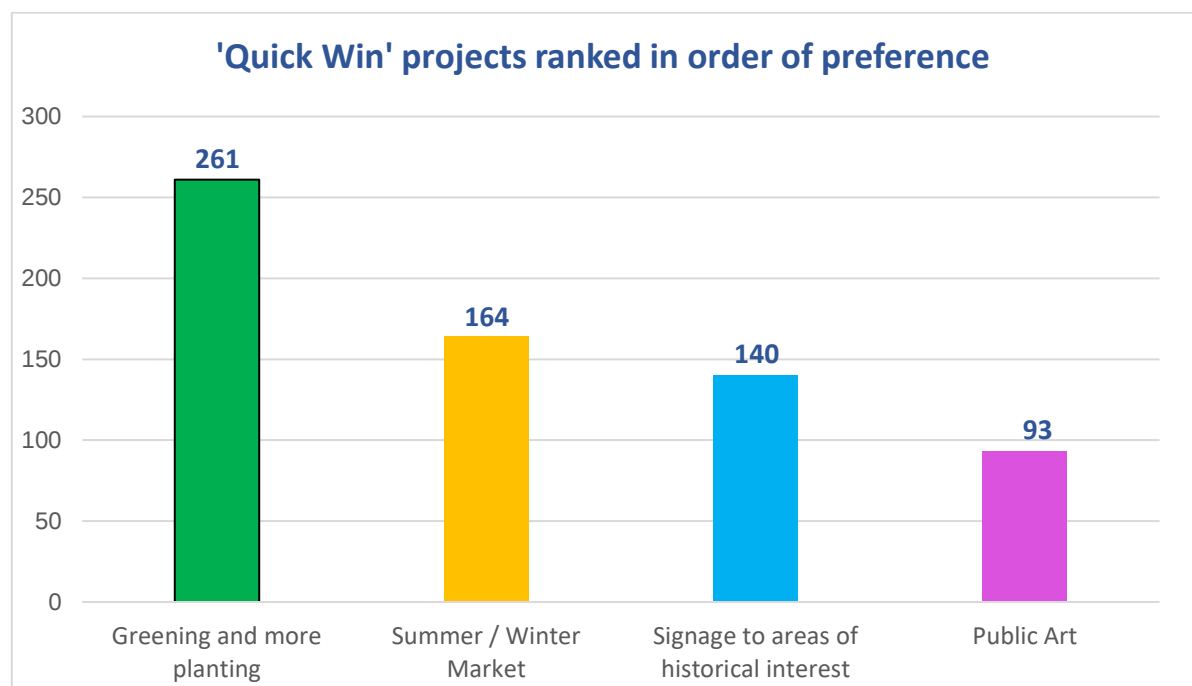
Just over 1000 people responded with their views during the engagement period including the online survey. Of those who responded 91% were home owners; 78% were white; 39% were 61+ in age; 6% were under 18 years of age and 96% of the respondents have lived in Selsdon for 5 years or more.

The engagement events and survey questions were intended to identify the community's priorities for improving Selsdon by theme as well as identifying projects that the community could get behind and deliver quickly.

Improving and preserving Selsdon's green spaces was by far the top priority and included comments about restricting development on green and open spaces. It came out on top not only in an opening question about what people liked about the area, but also in a question asking people to rank priorities for improvement by theme and was mentioned frequently in other questions. In total there were 6,984 comments made during the engagement. The graph below shows priorities in order.



In terms of project that could be delivered quickly, within 18 months, again, adding greening and planting to Selsdon High Street was the top priority as shown in the graph below.



The Next Steps

This document forms Part 1 of the SCP. Part 1 reports the findings of the engagement exercise and identifies projects that will be taken forward by the Selsdon Community Plan Steering Group (SCPSG), working with the council and other agencies over the next eighteen month period.

The SCPSG will be developing Part 2 of the SCP early next year. This will identify longer term priorities that the community can take forward. Further community engagement is envisaged to develop this action plan with the aim of publishing in Spring 2021.

Chapter 1

Introduction to the Selsdon Community Plan (SCP)

The Selsdon Community Plan (SCP) sets out the community's priorities and proposals for improving and investing in Selsdon over the next five years to 2025. The Selsdon area includes, Monks Hill, Addington Village, Forestdale and Selsdon. The wards covered are Selsdon and Addington Village and Forestdale and Selsdon Vale.

The community engagement period to produce the SCP ran from November 2019 to March 2020. The plan is being led by the Selsdon Community Plan Steering Group (SCPSG) with support from Croydon Council.

The SCPSG is made up of local groups, churches, ward councillors, local businesses and schools with the aim to change Selsdon for the better by:

- Building a pleasant, modern, healthy environment respectful of our heritage, fit for our heritage, fit for our future
- Nurturing sustainable local businesses to secure high quality jobs for local people
- Creating a connected, collaborative, welcoming community of which residents are proud

This report summarises the findings of the community engagement exercise, which have been reviewed by the steering group to produce this report. Chapters 2 to 4 discuss the engagement methodology and findings by priority and theme along with project ideas suggested by the community. The final chapter looks at “quick win” projects that can come forward in the short-term, subject to funding and feasibility, and how the steering group is mobilising to assess how other priorities might be delivered over the term of the plan, aim to publish a Part 2 SCP in Spring 2021.

The publication of this report has been delayed due to Covid-19. The steering group have continued to meet and are looking at how to take forward the priorities in a safe sustainable way.

How to Use This Document

This document describes the demographic and socio-economic makeup of Selsdon and by means of an extensive five-month engagement process, outlines what the community think are the benefits and issues associated with living in Selsdon and their priorities for improving it in the future.

This document provides an evidence-base and is intended for use by anyone or any organisation who has an interest in improving Selsdon for example by actively supporting projects and getting involved with the SCPSG or by seeking to raise funds for projects and activities to support the community's priorities and improve Selsdon

Get Involved and Keep in Touch

Find out more and get involved at [Selsdon Regeneration Webpage](#)

Or Email us at SelsdonCommunityPlan@croydon.gov.uk

Chapter 2

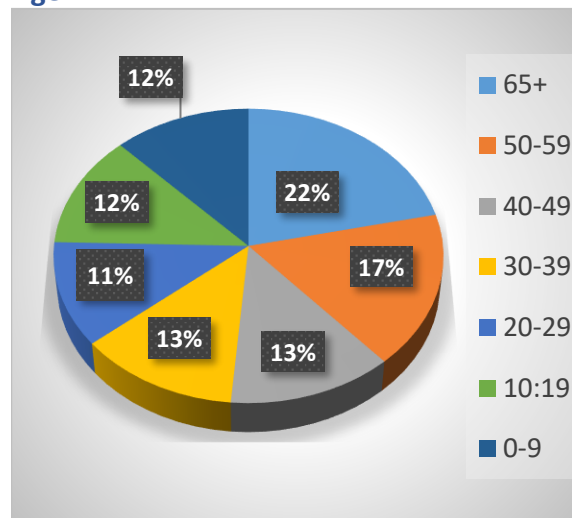
Selsdon: The Place

Selsdon as one of the sixteen 'Places of Croydon' (please map of 16 Places of Croydon on page 10) is a leafy suburban area four miles south-east of Croydon town centre, broadly defined by the two wards of Selsdon Vale and Forestdale, and Selsdon and Addington Village. It includes the local centres of Addington Village, Forestdale and Selsdon High Street, all of which offer a range of shops and services to the community.

In the East, the church of St Mary the Blessed Virgin in Addington Village is the oldest public building still in use in Croydon, having been founded in 1080 A.D. To the West, is the De Vere Selsdon Estates a luxury hotel, the oldest part of which dates from the seventeenth century.

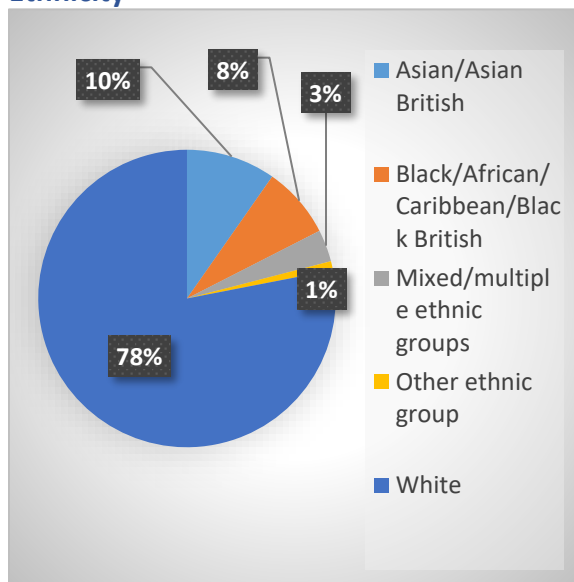
Modern Selsdon dates back to the 1920s when an extensive building programme created what was then called Selsdon Garden Village. The areas of Monks Hill and Forestdale were added in the 1940's and 1960's respectively.

Age



218 ONS: Source - Croydon Observatory

Ethnicity



218 ONS: Source - Croydon Observatory

From the very beginning the conservation of green spaces was important to the community. Consequently, the area is rich in green open spaces including Adding Park, Selsdon Wood, Sanderstead Plantation, Heathfield, Hutchinson's Bank and Littleheath Woods. It is bordered to the South by countryside designated as Green Belt.

The current estimated population is around 20,000, which is expected to grow by around 6% by 2030. The residents are relatively older compared to the rest of Croydon with a median age of 56 years compared to Croydon as a whole at 34 years. The largest ethnic groups are White (78%), Asian (10%) and Black (8%). This compares to the borough at 55%, 16% and 20% respectively. Employment is high, as are average salaries, compared to Croydon.

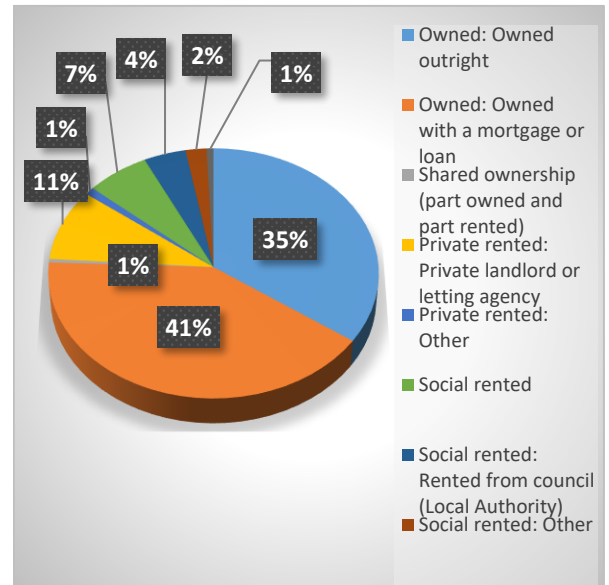
The area has a high proportion of family homes, a high proportion of which are owner-occupied, split roughly equally between owned with a mortgage and owned outright. The average price for property in Selsdon stood at £457,773 in October 2020. Only 7% of Selsdon's residents live in social housing, predominantly on the Monks Hill Estate.

There is excellent education provision with several local primary schools. The Quest Academy and the independent Croydon High School offer secondary education as well as the nearby Riddlesdown Academy, Shirley High and Coloma schools. Further education is offered by John Ruskin College.

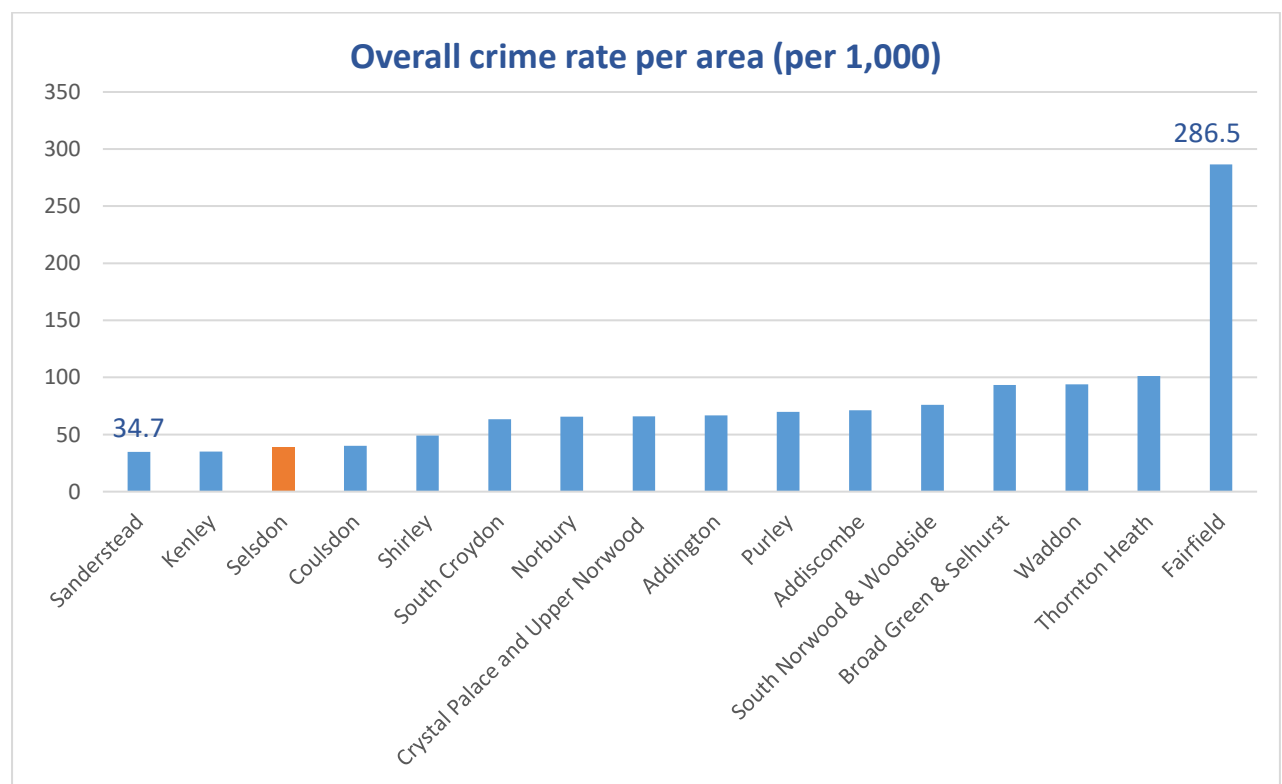
Transport connections are good, with regular bus services to Central Croydon, New Addington, Purley and Thornton Heath. The area is served by major roads that include the A212, A2022 and B275, which experience heavy traffic during the school opening/closing and rush hour periods. The area is also served by the Croydon tram service in the East.

Crime levels are amongst the lowest in London and Croydon.

Tenure



218 ONS: Source - Croydon Observatory

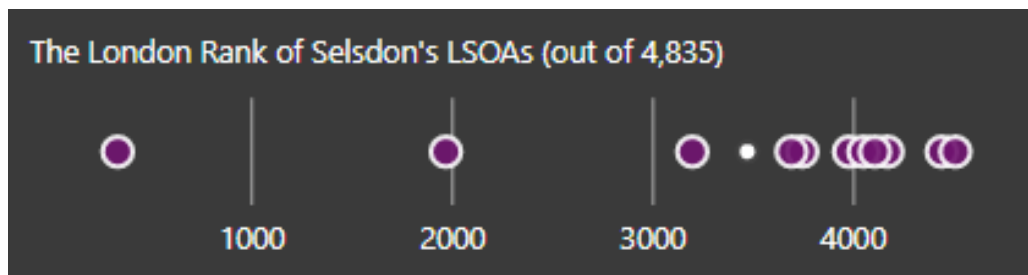


218 ONS: Source - Croydon Observatory

Selsdon is, on the whole, a place with comparatively low levels of socio-economic issues. This level of these issues is low when compared to the rest of Croydon, the rest of London and especially the rest of England. The majority of Selsdon has low levels of these issues particularly in the centre, west and south of the Selsdon.

However, socio-economic issues are actually quite acute in the east of the Selsdon, an area which conforms almost entirely to Monks Hill estate.

Overall Selsdon, performs well above the Croydon average for socio-economic issues.

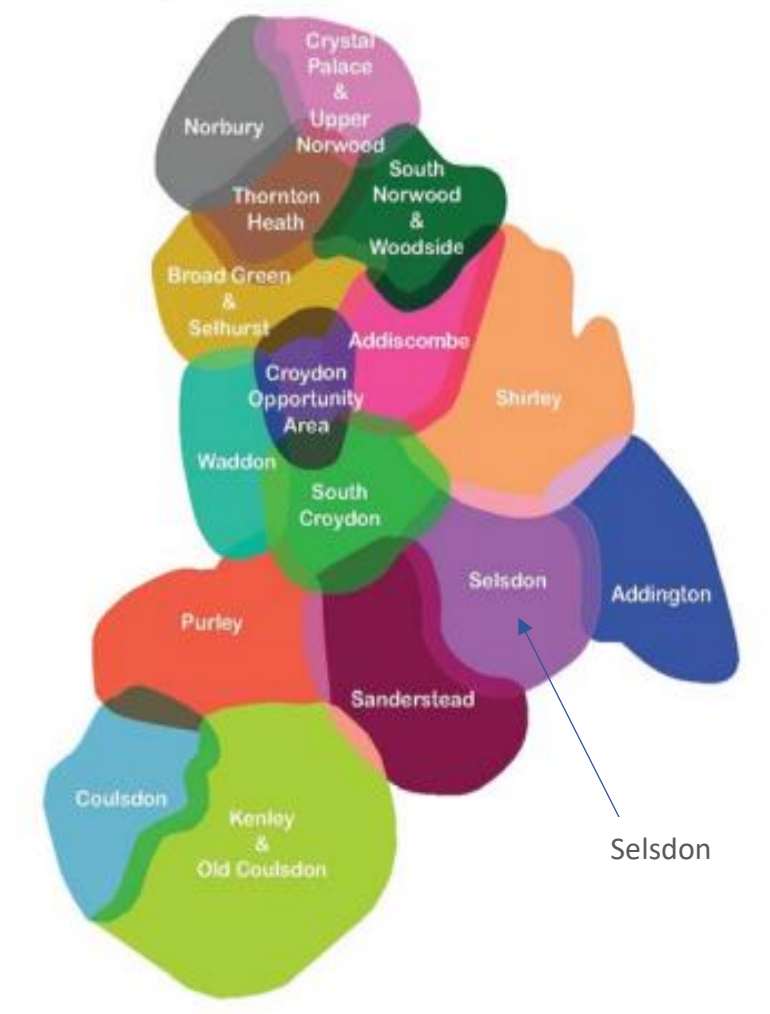


The graph above represents all of Selsdon's LSOAs (purple dots). LSOAs – Lower Super Output Areas are a new national geography created by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for collecting, aggregating and reporting statistics.

As can be seen, the majority of Selsdon's LSOAs are near the top ranks for all London's LSOA's meaning they are not very deprived. The only two LSOA's with quite acute levels of socio-economic issues (at least compared to only London LSOAs) are found around Monks Hill Estate. You can see these as the two outlier dots on the left hand side of the graph.

The white dot is the average figure for all of Selsdon's LSOAs.

Map of the 16 Places of Croydon



Chapter 3

The Engagement Process

To produce the plan, the Selsdon Community Plan Team engaged with residents, businesses and visitors across Selsdon over five months from November 2019 to March 2020 to gather their views about the future of Selsdon.

A mixed method approach to engagement was used to capture wide and representative views from across the area. This included public events and these face-to-face activities were supported through an online survey hosted on Croydon Council's website from 16th December 2019 to 12 March 2020.

Marketing

All the engagement activities were promoted via Selsdon Gazette, community mailing lists and social media. 3000 promotional A5 leaflets was hand delivered to residents and local businesses.

Community engagement: November 2019 to March 2020

Five community events were held and, together with the on-line survey, just over 1000 people participated.

Total number of people who participated		
Online Survey	518	16 Dec 2019 to 12 Mar 2020
Community Day	250	22 Nov 2019
Christmas Market	150	30 Nov 2019
Quest Academy Young People's Event	100	5 Feb 2020
Quest Academy Parents Forum	12	12 Feb 2020
Forestdale Forum	18	11 Mar 2020
Total	1048	

Engagement at the Selsdon Baptist Church – 22 November 2019

Approximately 250 people attended

Location: Selsdon High Street

The event held at the Baptist church presented an opportunity for members of the community to share their views on how they thought Selsdon could be improved. Participants were invited to leave their comments on a number of themed information boards (see event boards at Appendix 1).



Engagement at the Selsdon Christmas Market – 30 November 2019

Approximately 150 people attended

Location: Selsdon High Street

During the Christmas Market, a Selsdon Community Plan stall was set up to invite further comments using the information boards.



Quest Academy engagement event (young people) – 5 Feb 2020

Approximately 100 people attended

Location: Monks Hill

In order to get the views from young people aged 14 to 18 years, a focus group event was held at the Quest Academy in Selsdon.



Meetings

Approximately 30 people attended

Location: Monks Hill and Forestdale

At the Quest Academy Parents and the Forestdale Forum meetings, a presentation was given to describe the purpose of the Selsdon Community Plan and participants were encouraged to complete the on-line survey.

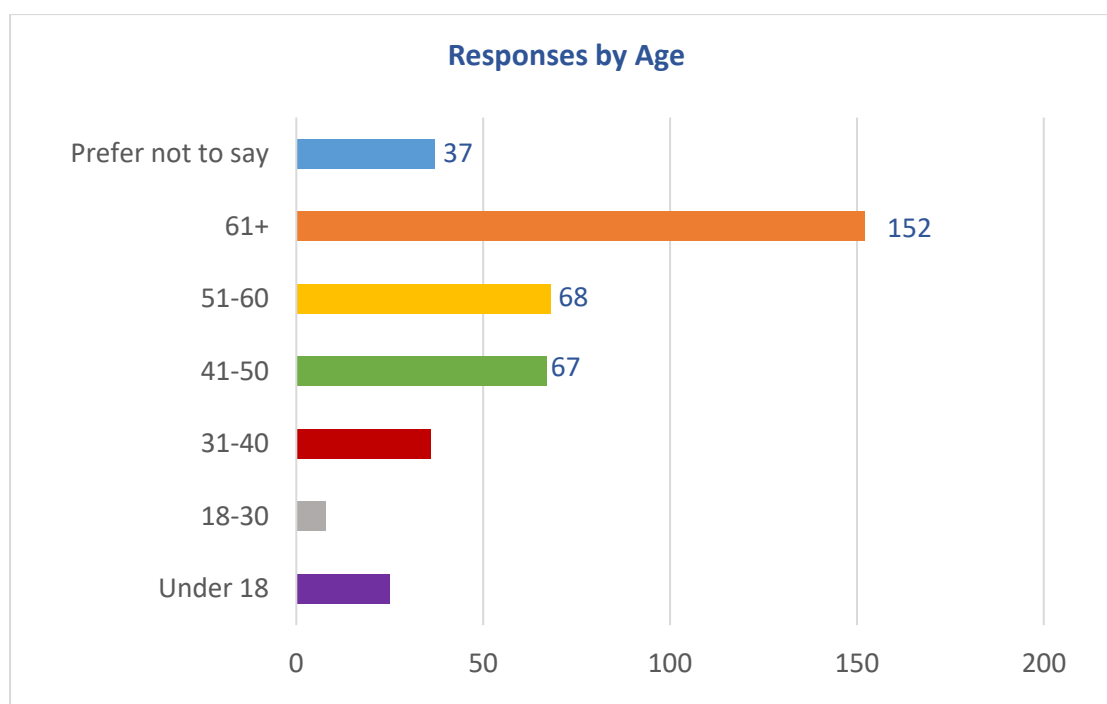
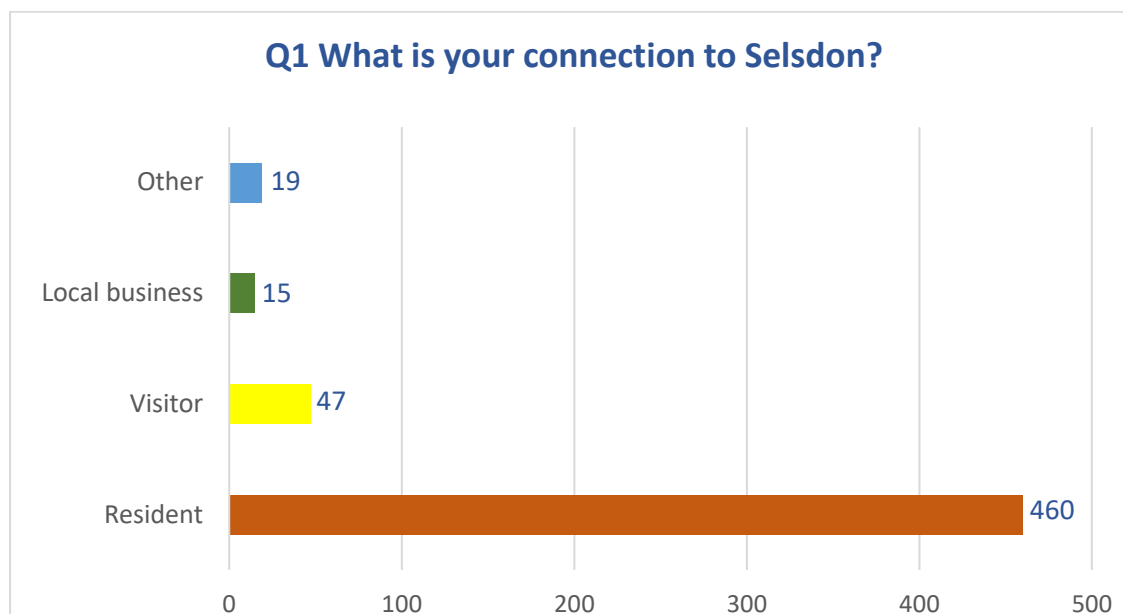
On-line survey

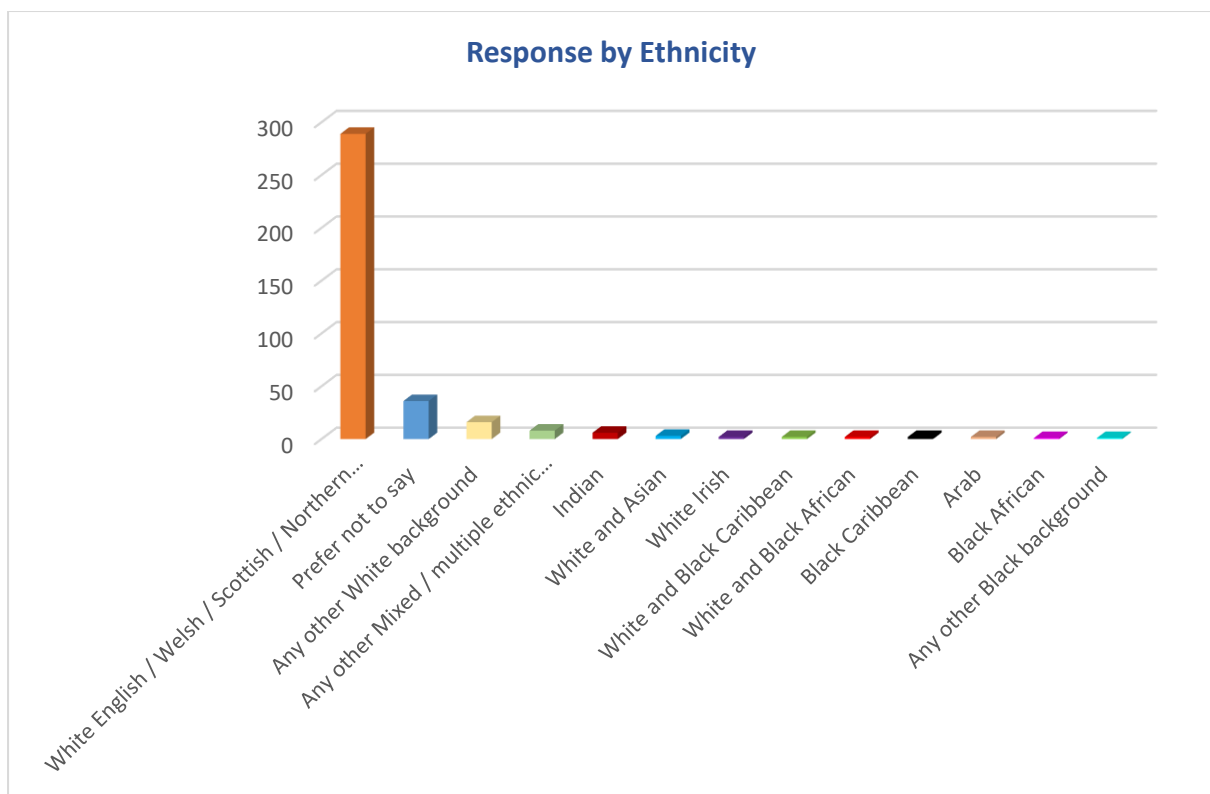
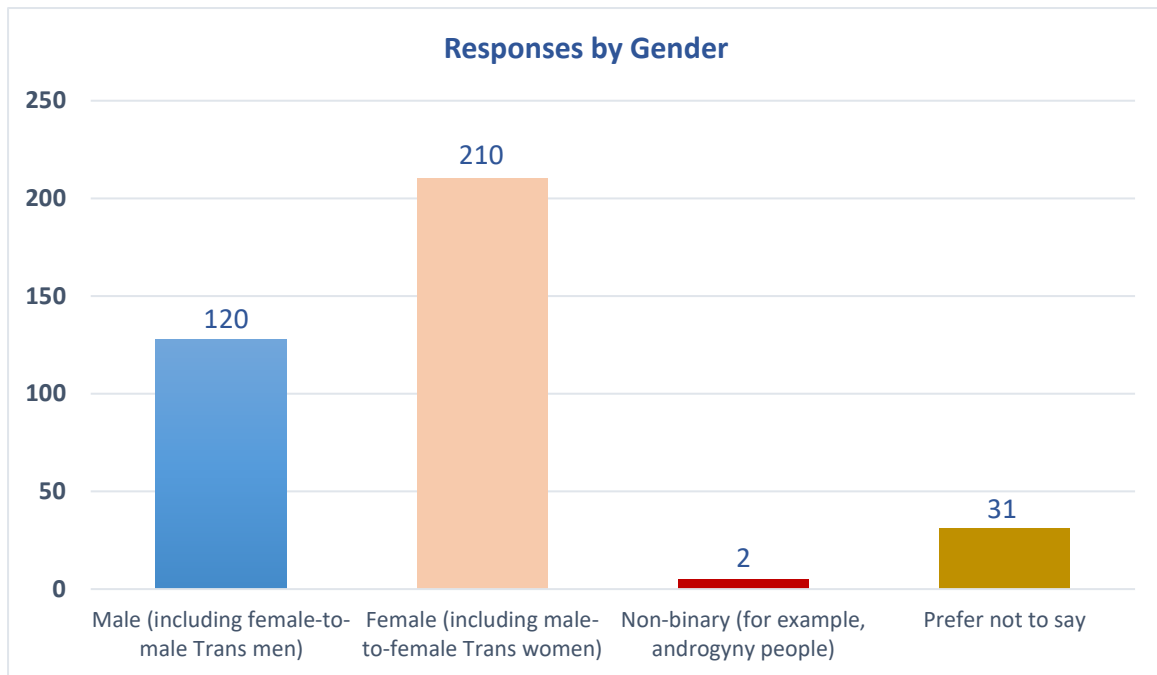
16 December 2019 to 12 March 2020

The purpose of the survey was to seek views from a wider audience. The following survey questions were drafted using ideas and suggestions made by the community at the November events:

SURVEY QUESTIONS	
Q1	What is your connection to the Selsdon area?
Q2	What do you like most about living in Selsdon?
Q3	Do you think improvements could be made to Selsdon?
Q4	Please rank the following themes for improving Selsdon in order of importance to you. Please rank from 1 (high) - 6 (low)
Thematic Questions	
Q5	What do you think are the priorities for improving Transport and Streetscape?
Q6	What do you think are the priorities for improving Greening and Local Open Spaces?
Q7	What do you think are the priorities for improving Youth and Community?
Q8	What do you think are the priorities for improving Health, Wellbeing and Sports?
Q9	What do you think are your priorities for improving Jobs, Training and Business?
Q10	What do you think are the priorities for improving Culture, Restaurants and Local Entertainment?
Q11	We are hoping to deliver some projects quickly, in the next 18 months. Please state the extent as to how much you would like or not like seeing these projects delivered.
Q12	Do you have any other comments?

518 people responded to the survey and the following graphs provide information about who responded where demographic information was provided by respondents. In summary, the majority of respondents were residents of the area, more women than men replied, and the largest age group to reply were in the 61+ years category with just over double the number of responses (152) or the next highest group (age 51 – 60 years).

Question 1: What is your connection to the Selsdon area?



Chapter 4

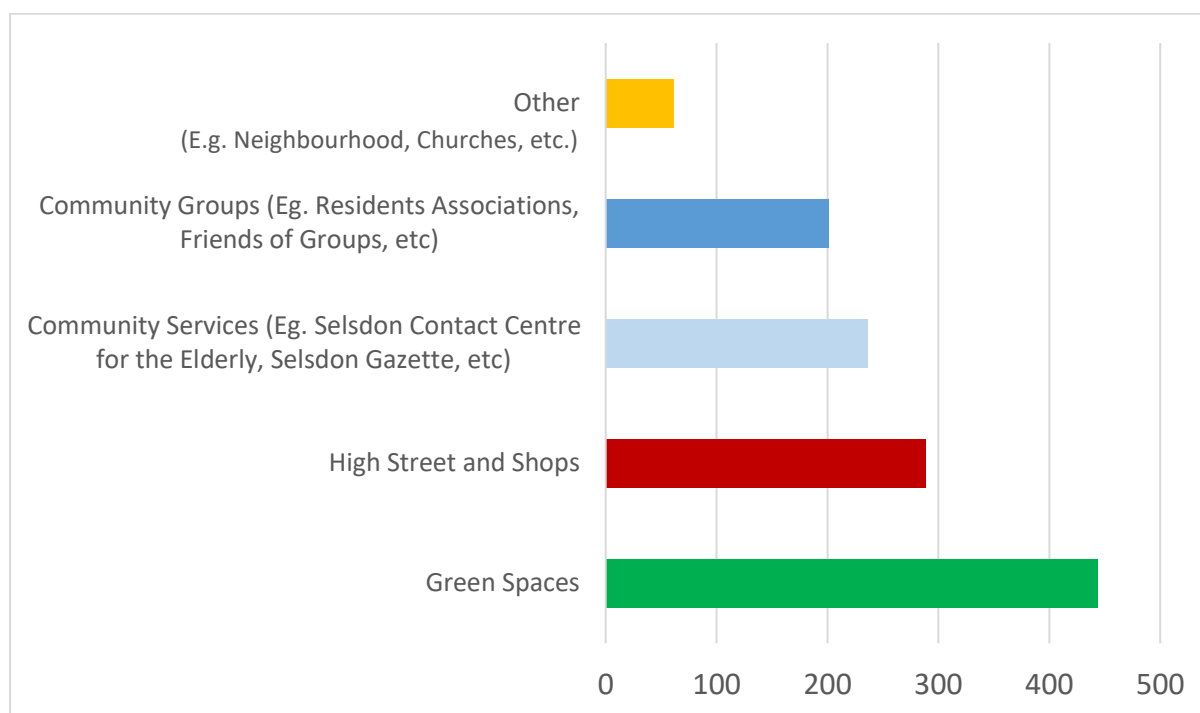
Summary of On-line Survey Findings

This chapter outlines the summary on-line survey findings. The most significant issues have been summarised by theme and listed in order of priority. Detailed responses from the November community events can be found at the appendices section of this report.

Methodology

Survey findings have been analysed by grouping answers by common topic in order of priority for each question. This section shows graphs for each question summarising topics in order of priority and then providing further narrative analysis for of the “most frequently mentioned” points.

Question 2: What do you like most about living in Selsdon?



Responses

There were 1231 responses to this question. The vast majority of responses to this question were positive.

Most Frequently Mentioned

Greenspaces (444 responses – 36%)

This was the top comment. The proximity of Selsdon to the Greenbelt and the quality of green spaces and the easy access to the countryside was the most frequently mentioned topic of the respondents to this question.

‘Close to countryside feeling and easy access to countryside walks’

‘Our parks and woodlands are so necessary - especially with all the publicity regarding Climate Change, thereby keeping the green and open spaces untouched’

‘Protection and maintenance of the bird sanctuary as well as all the greenfield areas in neighbourhood to ensure areas for recreation and nature’

High Street and Shops; (289 responses – 23.4%)

The second most frequently mentioned opinion expressed by respondents was the look of Selsdon high street and the types of shops. Respondents liked the flowers and hanging baskets on the high street. Respondents also liked the village-like feel of the high street. Although most comments were positive, some respondents were concerned about the high street offer, in particular the number of takeaways, nail and barber shops.

‘Along the high street I believe that we have a lot of restaurants!’

‘Disappointing selection of quality food choices. Shop fronts unexciting. Never easy parking to utilise the fast food choices. Looks nice at Xmas but rest of the year drab’

‘a high street with permanent financial opportunities for fresh new businesses to thrive’

‘Better high street shops, other than estate agents and hairdressers!’

‘By improving the look of the high street people will think of Selsdon as an option when socialising. It is central to many areas and the standard of the existing restaurants is good’

‘I think we are lucky to have established local entertainment either through the high street or community groups. The perennial complaint in the Selsdon Gazette is that we have too many fast food outlets on the high street but if that is where the demand is, I’m not sure that is a significant issue’

Community Services (236 responses– 19.2%)

The third most commonly mentioned subject was the availability of local amenities and services in Selsdon. Amenities and mentioned included churches, library and shops.

‘Key amenities on hand (e.g. Doctor, Dentist, optician, supermarket); good transport links to Croydon, Purley, Central London; easy access to Surrey and Kent countryside’

‘Medical centre, library and their services and Selsdon still has that village type feeling’

‘Maintaining / improving current services in the area’

‘More accessible and proficient services’

Community Groups (201 responses – 16.33%)

The fourth most mentioned comments was the number of active community groups. The work carried out and support given by Friends Groups, Residents' Association and Scot Groups was seen as a valuable service that makes Selsdon a great place to live.

'Lots of the community want to work together to make Selsdon a better place'

'Working with community groups to establish a youth club'

Working with community groups to establish appropriate groups to encourage participation'

'I think we are lucky to have established local entertainment either through the high street or community groups'

Other (61 respondents – 4.9%)

This was the fifth most mentioned topic and consisted of responses in support of the local Churches, how friendly and safe the neighbourhood was and its family-orientated feel.

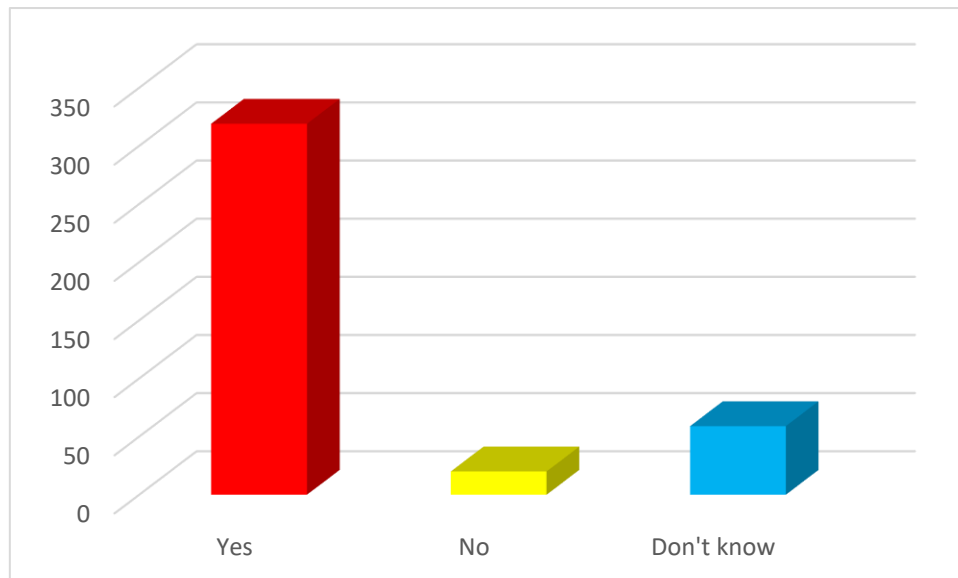
'Nice friendly local community'

'Low crime rate and quiet neighbourhood'

'Good neighbours and a pleasant area to live in'

'Clean air, regular public transport, safe/low crime area, stable friendly family demographic, good spacious well-maintained housing stock (not overcrowded or run down)'

Question 3: Do you think improvements can be made to Selsdon?



Responses

There were 398 responses to this question which consisted of both positive and negative comments

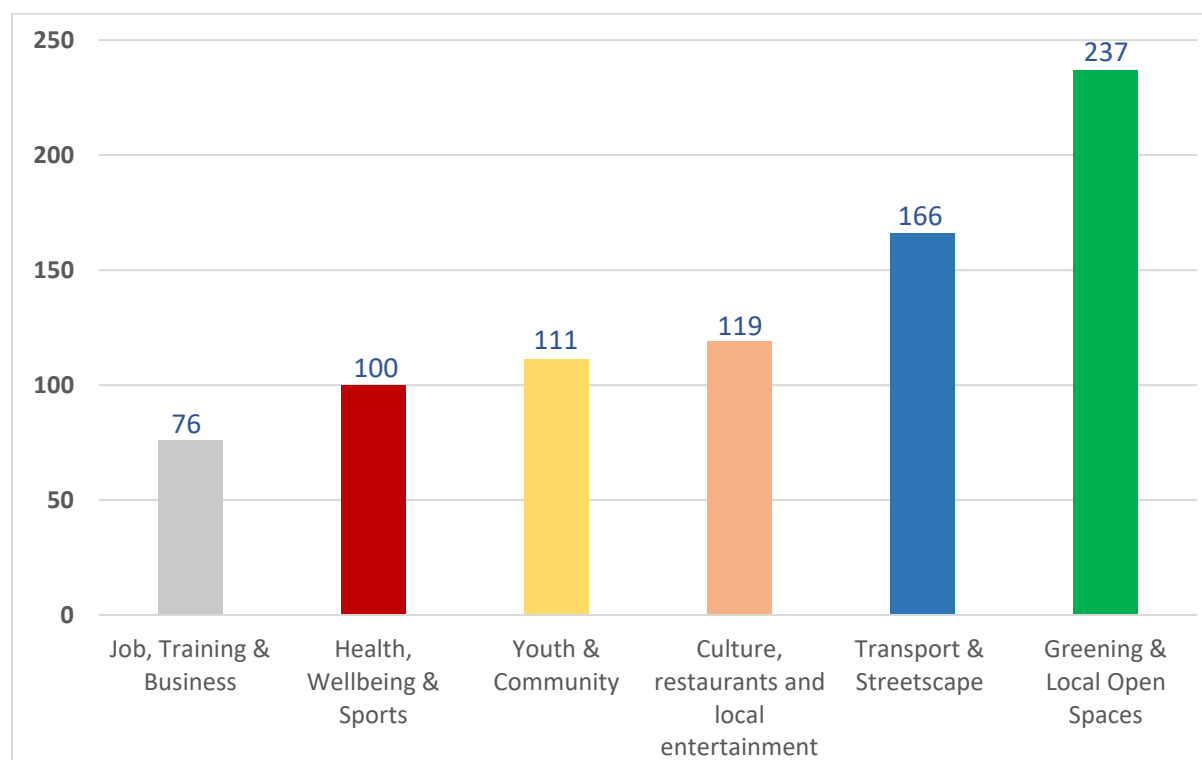
Most Frequently Mentioned

319 respondents left further comments in a free-text box.

The topics most frequently mentioned talked about the need for better parking controls in and around Selsdon high street, improving the high street offer with a wider variety of shops and providing more things for young people to do. These topics have been reflected and expanded on in the thematic questions summarised in the following section.

Priorities by Theme for Selsdon

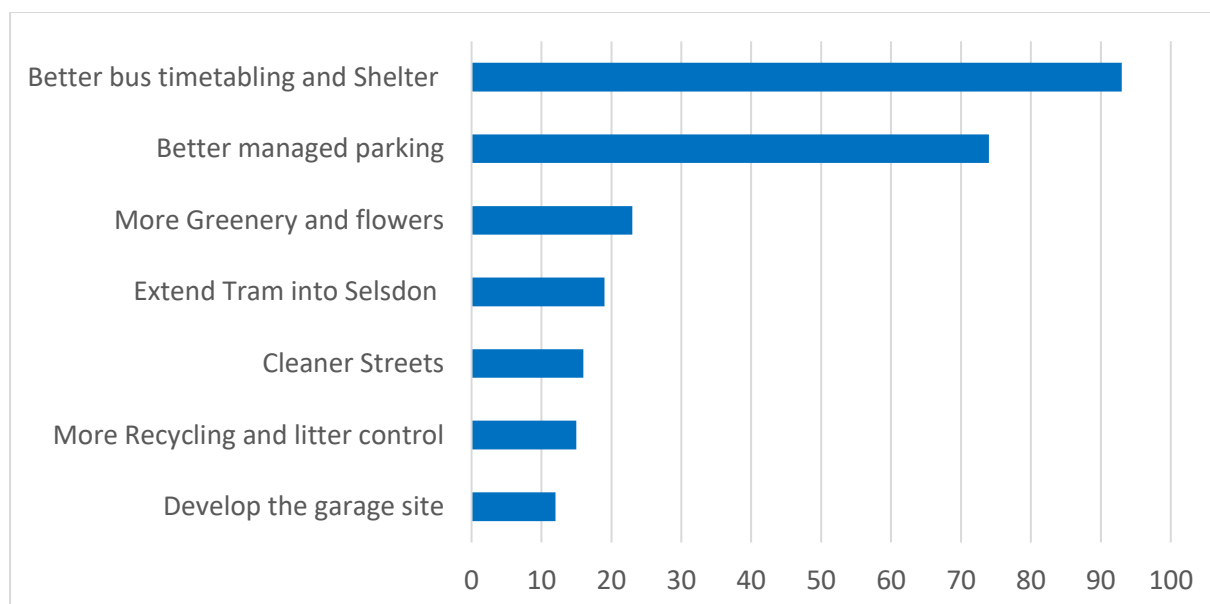
Question 4: Please rank the following themes for improving Selsdon in order of importance to you. Rank from 1 (high) - 6 (low)



Priorities by Theme

The following section summarises findings by topics within themes.

Question 5: What do you think are the priorities for improving Transport and Streetscape?



Responses

Transport and streetscape issues was the second priority theme identified in the survey, with 21% (166) of responses.

Most Frequently Mentioned

Better Bus timetabling and shelter – 93 responses (56.1%)

Bus services were the most frequently mentioned topic under transport and streetscape. Many comments concerned the changes to buses that travel around Selsdon. The reduction in the bus 433 had major impact for those who lived in Forestdale and travel to central Croydon. Improving bus timetable information was a significant issue for many. There were concerns that online information was not accurate and suggestions that live bus arrival times should be available at all bus stops. The lack of bus shelter cover at bus stops was also raised as a significant issue particularly for the elderly

‘Bus services (e.g. 433, 412 route) have been reduced. They are unreliable and do not serve stations such as East Croydon or West Croydon or link up with trams’

‘Arrange for bus shelters to be placed at all bus stops’

‘Bus shelters with working countdown displays and lighting’

‘More bus shelters rather than just bus stops’

'Bus services are vital if you want to encourage people not to use cars and 433 timetable on line does not work properly for a long time now'

Better managed parking – 74 responses (44.69%)

Parking was the second most made comment under this theme. The two main issues raised here were that there was not enough parking spaces for shoppers and the lack of parking control in the Forestdale shopping car park and Selsdon High Street shopping area.

People mentioned parking in several of the side streets off Farley Road, Croham Valley Road to go to work / shopping in Croydon as an issue. Parking on Farley Road, particularly at the top end, reduces the road to one lane.

Enforcement of parking restrictions.

There was concern about double parking and lack of control and monitoring of people parking in the parking bays on Selsdon High Street and Forestdale car park.

'Allow for more cars and for the capability to park on the high street and prevent/control the use of local roads as areas for parking'

'Better parking facilities with longer stay & better accessibility to the shops / road crossings'

More Greenery and flowers – 23 responses (13.9%)

Green spaces and flowers was the third most popular topic under this theme. Comments about green spaces varied from protection of green spaces to people front gardens. Comments about the green spaces were concerned about housing development on these spaces. On this matter comments were critical about any proposals for the building more housing, particularly on the green space on Fairleigh Road. However, there was many suggestions about planting more trees and doing more with the flower pots on shopping areas of Forestdale and Selsdon High Street

'More flowers to brighten up a gloomy space'

'Plant a few trees and flowers around the base'

'More flowers trees along pavements'

'Greening the High Street - encourage traders to have their own flowers/tubs'

Extend tram into Selsdon – (19 responses – 11.5%)

The extension of the current tram line into Selsdon along the Addington Road was the fourth most popular topic raised under this theme. Respondents thought extending the tram would make it easier to commute to Croydon and would provide an alternative way of travel in addition to the current bus routes to Croydon.

'Extend the tram route to make travel into Croydon and neighbouring areas more sustainable'

'Extend tram link'

Cleaner Streets – (16 responses – 9.6%)

Improving the cleaning of the High Street was the fifth most commented topic. Respondents mentioned that the high street was becoming increasingly messy as a result of the number of takeaways on the high street. Respondents also mentioned that streets were messy because the bins were not emptied regularly and the sweeping of the High Street was not as frequent as it used to be.

‘Cleaner streets, not just sweeping the main roads but paved areas like around bus stops, regular dustbin and especially street cleaning (empty the street bins and recycle areas) would be nice’

‘A clean and green high street - it would improve enormously the sense of well-being of shoppers’

‘Better rubbish collection. Dustmen drop so much rubbish on collection days and just leave it laying in road/pavement’

More recycling and litter control (15 responses – 9.03%)

The need for more recycling units/areas and the control of litter was the sixth most commented topic. Respondents mentioned that the recycling unit in Forestdale although was a good idea, it had become an eyesore due to the overflow of rubbish. Respondents also mention that this unit needed to be emptied on a more regular basis in order to control this. Other recycling units on the High Street were also commented as something that needed to be improved with larger units or emptied more regularly. Respondents were of the view that litter control on the high street and the open spaces of Selsdon Rec, Queenhill Play space and Littlewood Woods could be controlled through education, fines and better monitoring of these areas. Imposing fines on local businesses that produce the litter was put forward as a way of litter control.

‘The ability to force businesses to pay for rubbish and properly sorted recycling material to be removed, to reduce fly-tipping’

‘More recycling sites and/or more frequent collection. The one in Forestdale is too small for local use and ends up looking like a dumping site’

‘Educate some people to deter them from dropping litter including cigarette ends and chewing gum!’

‘Selsdon Rec and Queenhill play space have plenty of bins but Littleheath Woods have very few. There need to be more bins around the woods for both dog waste and general litter. If dual purpose bins were sited at entrances then the amount of rubbish in the woods would decrease. Residents who collect litter could dispose of it more’

Develop the garage site (12 responses – 7.2%)

The final most commented topic was the development of the derelict garage site on the High Street. Respondents were of the view that the garage site was an eye sore on the High street and respondents mentioned that it could be converted into social housing, gym, community work space or independent shops on the ground floor.

‘Derelict garage site should be put to good use - housing or community space’

‘Getting something done about the boarded up garage by the shops and opening up something other than fast food and nail bars’

‘The streetscape can be improved by ensuring that the ex-garage on Addington Road is redeveloped, preferably into a local entertainment centre or cinema’

‘Also, encourage a good quality gymnasium into the local area, possibly in old garage near Aldi’s’

Question 6: What do you think are the priorities for improving Greening and Local Open Spaces?



Responses

Greening and open space issues were the top priority theme overall identified in the survey, with 29% (237) of responses to this question.

Comments to this question were mostly critical about the nature and intended future use of the green spaces.

Most Frequently Mentioned

No Development or buildings – 150 responses (63.3%)

No development of the green spaces was the top comment made by respondents under this topic. Other comments included better maintenance of the green spaces and community assets; promote the use of green spaces as venues for community events such as community festivals. However, the majority of comments related to not building housing on the green spaces.

Other issues raised were:

‘provide a café and toilets at Selsdon Rec’, disabled access and signage to green spaces, develop historic walks for Selsdon, put on events and activities in green space and dog friendly spaces’

‘Ensure unnecessary development is addressed especially in our green spaces’

‘Do not allow our small green spaces to be built on especially those small bits of green in amongst the existing developments’

'I am aware that houses are important but green space needs to be factored in to any new developments'

'Keep development away from green spaces, e.g. Hawthorn Crescent. One of the benefits of living in Selsdon, on the edge of Croydon, is the opportunity to walk in woodland and fields. Children of all ages are able to learn about nature. Keep the woodland and other green space management at least to the standard it is at the moment'

Improve play areas– 45 responses (18.9 %)

Play areas was second most mentioned topic under this theme. The general view was that the play spaces needed to be modernised and remain well maintained so that it could be used more by the community. Addington Park, Edgecombe and Selsdon Rec playgrounds were the play areas mentioned by respondents as requiring the most improvements.

'Improved play equipment on the Rec which is maintained and not just removed if broken'.

'Children's play areas are limited and out dated and dirty. We have lots of open space, need children's adventure playground, Splash Park'

Conservation, protection. Preserve woodland – 34 responses (14.4%)

Nature and Conservation was the third most mentioned topic for this question. Comments made concerned the enhancement and protection of wildlife, places for children to learn about nature and the promotion of the use of the woodlands and green spaces.

'Our parks and woodlands are so necessary - especially with all the publicity regarding Climate Change, thereby keeping the green and open spaces untouched'

'Conservation of all green spaces and wooded areas'

'Respect Conservation areas and green spaces - no land snatching and no bending rules for the building of new housing'

'Protection and maintenance of recreation ground and bird sanctuary as well as all the Greenfield areas in neighbourhood to ensure areas for recreation and nature'

Better cleaning and waste management (32 responses – 13.5%)

Better cleaning and waste management was the fourth most mentioned topic. Respondents mentioned that dog mess on our green spaces was an issue. Selsdon Rec and Nature Reserve were mentioned as the spaces where this was most notable. Despite the provision of waste bins, dog owners and walkers were not responsible in clearing up after their dogs. In terms of waste management respondents suggested that having a zero or plastic waste shop would something to introduce on the High Street.

'New dog waste bins in nature reserve need regular emptying or it was pointless installing them'

'A zero waste shop would be great'

'A plastic waste shop would be amazing'

'Plan for litter collection in these areas via council working with voluntary groups'

'Impose strict fines on individuals who do not pick up dog litter, especially in green spaces, tracks and foot paths where children play or people walk for exercise'

Wellbeing and health (33 responses – 13.9%)

Wellbeing and health was the fifth most mentioned topic. Positive comments mentioned the importance of green spaces as sources of physical activity especially for young people. Respondents also mentioned that green spaces help contribute to the positive mental health and wellbeing of the community. Negative comments were few but some respondents wanted to ensure that all Selsdon green spaces were preserved, improved and maintained as a valuable resource for the community.

'We hear so often that access to green spaces and the outdoors is vital for supporting good mental wellbeing so we must preserve and protect what we have in the local area'

'Encourage more young people via schools, youth groups to use woods and open spaces for example to keep healthy - jogging and walking and learning about nature. Encourage them to enjoy being out and about and not be fearful of being harassed. Open spaces should not just be for dog walkers'

'We should certainly be making it more appealing to get the younger generation out and using such spaces... Perhaps organising a regular 5K Run/walk every couple of months around the area to get people out and about with some incentive at the end of it?'

'Green spaces need to be preserved for the health of residents and to reduce the impact of climate change'

'Providing visible greenery in particular where the area lacks trees, flowers, plants. This would not only be of benefit to sufferers of poor mental health, but would also encourage a greater variety of birds and insects to these areas'

Build on brownfield sites and stricter planning (31 respondents – 31.1%)

Building on brownfield sites and adding stricter planning policy on building on greenspaces was the sixth most mentioned topic under this theme. Respondents were keen for the protection of the local green spaces from housing development and suggested building housing on the Croydon Airport and Selsdon garage sites.

'Planning should be more considered. The council seems to want to build on Greenfield sites rather than developing brownfield sites'

'Stop approving new building in the current Green spaces! There is plenty of Brownfield sites (Croydon airport etc.) for business purposes and some housing. Protect the existing green spaces from developers'

'Do not grant planning permission for multiple dwellings on green spaces'

'Scrap change of use planning proposal for the Pavilion on Selsdon Rec'

'Ensure that inappropriate planning applications are not passed to build on green and open spaces'

Improve Selsdon Wood and Selsdon Rec (30 responses -12.7%)

The improvement of Selsdon Wood and Selsdon Rec was the final most mentioned topic mentioned by respondents. Many respondents had positive view of both green spaces but believed that they could be much better if some improvements were made to facilities and infrastructure within them. In Selsdon Woods, respondents mentioned that the pavilion and toilets facilities have been closed and is an important facility for wood users. Pathways in Selsdon Woods were not wheelchair friendly and did not encourage the use of the woods by wheelchair bound people. Respondents mentioned that although Selsdon Rec is a great facility, the playground, pathways and sporting facilities needed updating to encourage more use by the community.

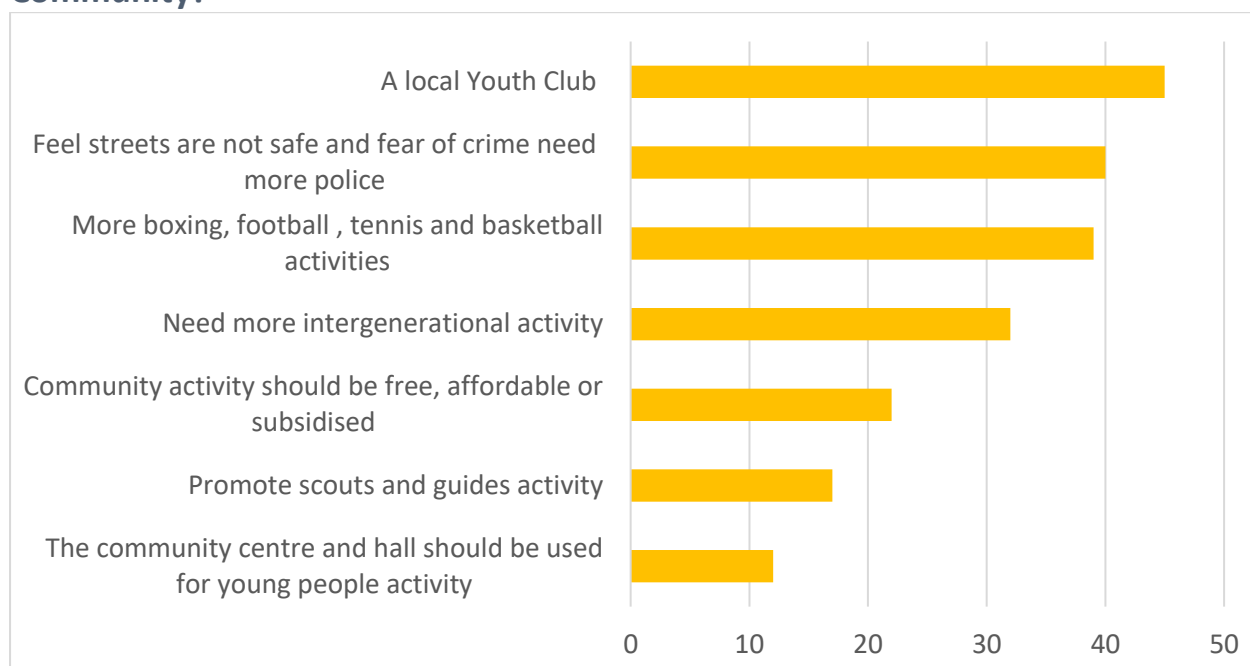
'Private fund proper pathways in Selsdon Woods so making it available to wheelchair accesses'

'Too much dog mess in green open spaces, to be discouraged. I have stopped walking in Selsdon woods because of it'

'Bottom path in Selsdon Woods (end of Yew Tree Way along boundary to Old Farleigh Road) could be improved - just drained and flat not paved'

'Selsdon Recreation ground is a lovely space, which we use for football (using the goals and the hard courts), basketball, cycling, scooting, exploring the woods and the playground. But the playground is dated and only really good for quite young children. Equipment and flooring is old and damaged. The old pavilion needs demolishing or repurposing & toilet facilities should be available. People with kids don't want to have to pack up & go to Sainsbury's to find a toilet'

Question 7: What do you think are the priorities for improving Youth and Community?



Responses

Youth and community issues were the fourth priority theme identified in the survey, with 14% (111) of responses.

Most Frequently Mentioned comments

A local youth club – 45 responses (40.5%)

Provision of youth clubs and youth leaders was the top response made under this theme. Respondents commented that Youth clubs were essential in order to keep young people engaged after school, to give them something positive so that they do not hang around on the streets. People believed that youth activities in the area were very poor and that any existing provision was not publicised enough.

'youth clubs still seem to work... give them places they can call their own ... sports halls... church halls. They need a place to do homework and use internet that is warm, safe and free'

'A regular youth club/space for young people to go. Somewhere they can meet, enjoy activities and access support if necessary'

'A youth club where the derelict garage is'

'As far as I am aware, Jubilee Church and Selsdon Baptist churches are the only organisations with Youth Clubs. Need variety of provision for young people - maybe something for the many children in the high street after school - homework clubs, counselling service, entertainment'

Feel streets are not safe and fear of crime. Need more police – 40 responses (36%)

Crime was the second most mentioned issue under this theme. The responses made were about safety and policing. The presence of more police at Gravel Hill tram stop and the High Street was seen as an important thing to do to make Selsdon safer. Improving links between the council, police and community & voluntary groups was also seen as a way of improving safety in Selsdon.

Many responses expressed the concern about children's safety on the road after school and in particular gangs, drugs and knife crime was a major concern for respondents

'Activities for young people to keep them away from drugs & crime'

'Ensure that there are ample facilities and interesting things for young people to keep them off the streets and away from gangs, thereby having an impact on knife crime'

'Although crime is relatively low here, children not getting bored is the key. Maybe a youth centre etc. would prevent that happening? I am aware that there are some facilities available which is good for the area'

More boxing, football, tennis and basketball activities – 39 responses (35.1%)

Sports was the third mentioned topic area in this theme. Respondents were of the opinion that more needed to be done to engage with the youth and community. The use of green spaces to encourage activity in community was something many people commented about and were in favour of. Young people were seen as the main benefactors as far as sports were concerned, as respondents thought this was one of the ways to keep them busy and away from anti-social behaviour. More structured sports and affordable activities in existing venues such as youth centres were where respondents felt these activities should be delivered.

'Maintain open green spaces with recreational value (e.g. sports pitches)'

'It is needful for the youth to be encouraged outdoors and to take part in sports'

'It would be good to have more youth provision perhaps based in the library or the introduction of some form of local and affordable gym provision or boxing club or other leisure/get fit facility'

'Selsdon Recreation ground is a lovely space, which we use for football (using the goals and the hard courts), basketball, cycling, scooting, exploring the woods and the playground'

'Outside table tennis court Basketball or skateboarding ramps?'

'There are no free youth services for teenagers of Selsdon. Tennis courts, social venues with pool tables, indoor basketball or just a place to chill etc would really help build the community'

Need more intergenerational activity – 32 responses (28.8%)

Intergenerational activity was the fourth most mentioned topic area. Respondents mentioned that projects and spaces where the older generation could pass on valuable skills to younger ones and in turn the younger ones could help and support the older population. Respondents thought this was good for improving community spirit.

Community activity should be free, affordable and subsidised – 22 responses (19.8%)

Free and affordable or subsidised community activity was the fifth most mentioned topic area, with respondents mentioning that facilities to carry out activities were available but not affordable. Respondents suggested having sporting activities free at source or subsidised and using existing community facilities such as church halls to host more community activity.

‘There’s very little for youth locally (I have four teens) anything would be an improvement. Table tennis club? Free or subsidised activities’

‘It would be good to have more youth provision perhaps based in the library or the introduction of some form of local and affordable gym provision or boxing club or other leisure/get fit facility’

‘Affordable activities. Use the sports facilities at Monks Hill more. Have fitness and yoga clubs that are council run, maybe cooking run classes for young mums. Run more centres for people with children to meet and attend classes at the same time’

‘Making sure fitness and sports clubs are available and affordable for young people, that developments include places for people to go. Green spaces, sports centres, football fields, netball courts, youth and adult sports centres are so important especially now as they are disappearing at an alarming rate, money and development before services and community’

Promote scouts and guides activity – 17 responses (15.3%)

The promotion of the activities run by scouts and guides was the sixth most mentioned topic. Respondents mentioned that these activities were available locally but their activities and services were not promoted well.

‘Promote and support scouts and guides and other youth groups in the area’

In Selsdon we are lucky as there is a youth group at Selsdon Baptist church. Plus Girl Guiding and Scouts have units at three of the churches. More adult volunteers for these groups

‘Active encouragement to promote scouting and guiding within the community’

The community centres and hall should be used for young people activity – 12 responses (10.8%)

The provision of youth activity within existing community centres was the seventh most commented topic. Respondents wanted to see the community centres used more to host youth community activity. The existing community centre in the Sainsbury’s Hub, empty shop units and church halls were the venues suggested by respondents.

‘More youth activity at the Community centres and options for cycling’

‘Putting in basic facilities for young people, I live in Selsdon but there is no community centre other than in the church below Sainsbury’s. Provide a community space that can be accessed by all residents of the area day and evening. Maybe one of the empty shops would be a good start?’

‘Most of the facilities in the area are private membership but feel that public sports/community centre should be available locally’

‘What about CALAT (Croydon Adult Learning and Training) organising day / evening classes in keep fit/yoga etc. the community centre’ <https://www.calat.ac.uk/>

‘Work with the local churches and community centre to give details of what is available. Make sure that all sections of the community are aware using media they are familiar with. Exercise classes for the elderly’

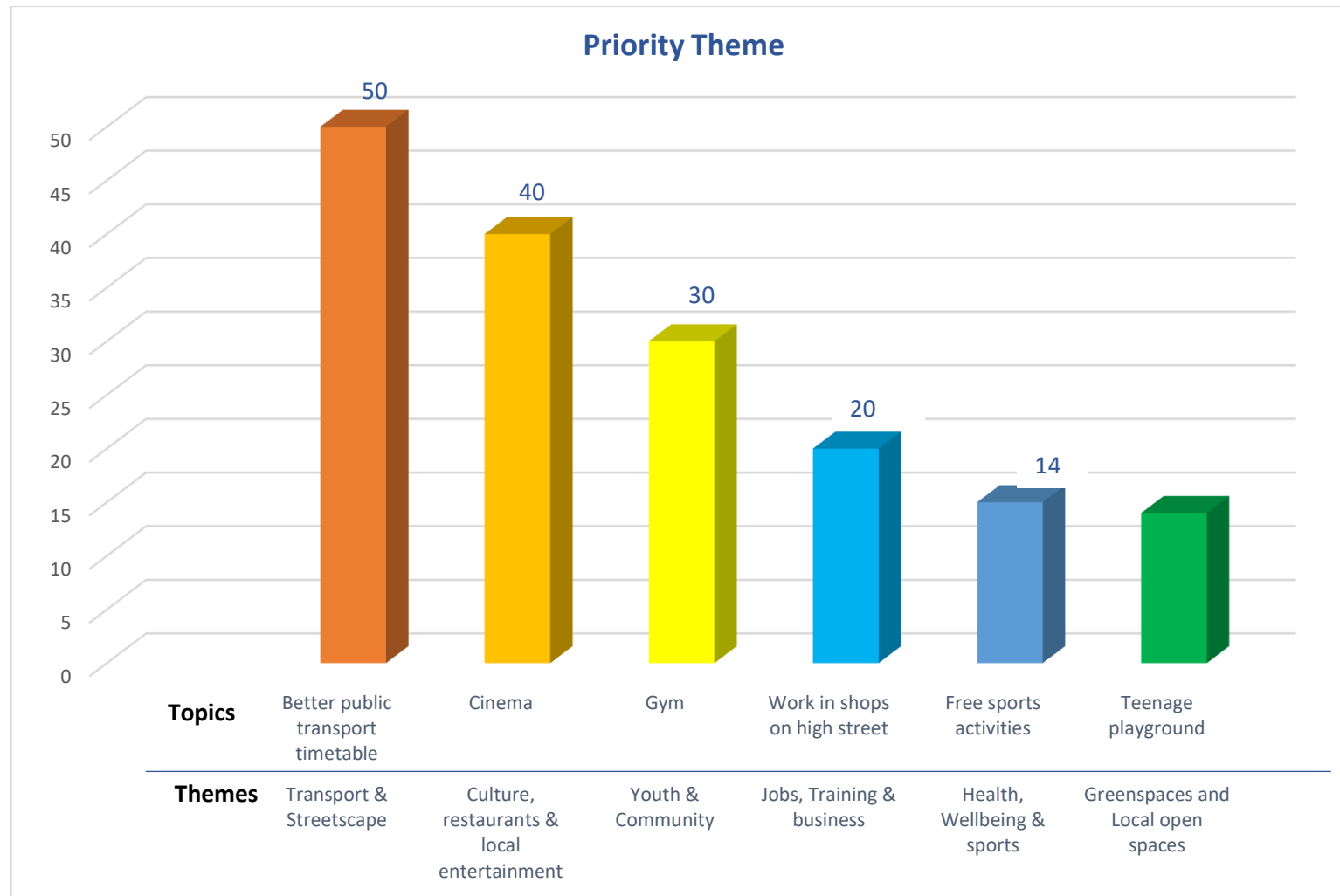
‘Perhaps the community centre could be used for amateur concerts/talks/theatre’

‘The community centre needs more visibility’

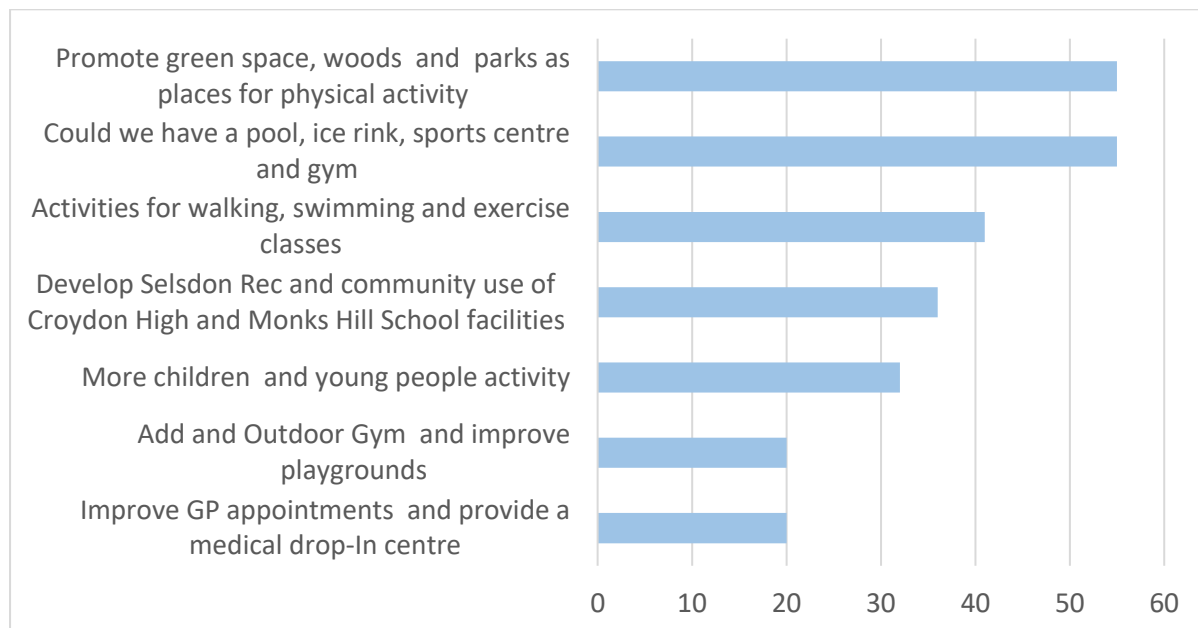
Quest Academy Youth Focus Group Event – February 2020

As noted above, the on-line survey elicited responses from approximately 60% of people who were over 60 years of age. As the Community Steering Group establishes projects to take forward in the next phase, they will ensure that there is further engagement young people to establish their priorities in more detail. It is interesting to note that the priorities of the young people at this event differ from the survey findings. Their top priority was for improved public transport, followed by “things to do” such as a cinema and gym. Opportunities for local employment has also been identified.

The following graph shows the responses made by 14 to 18 year olds from the Quest Academy during the youth focus group event in February 2020. Over 100 students participated in the event.



Question 8: What do you think are the priorities for improving Health, Wellbeing and Sports?



Responses

Health, wellbeing and sports issues were the fifth priority theme identified during the engagement, with 12% (100) of responses.

Standout responses

Promote green spaces, woods and parks – 55 respondents (55%)

Woods and parks was the top topic mentioned under this theme. Respondents valued the fact that Selsdon was blessed with many green spaces, including parks, wood and recreational spaces. Respondents saw the woods and parks as a valuable asset for the community and many respondents wanted the community to use these spaces more. To encourage greater use of the woods and parks respondent mentioned using these spaces for more structured leisure, physical and community activities.

'Encouraging people to use the beautiful woods we have in Selsdon. We are incredibly lucky to have three areas of ancient woodland in Selsdon; Croham Hurst, Little heath and Selsdon Wood'.

'Selsdon Wood used to hold an annual Country Fair over a weekend in the summer. It was incredibly popular, many local people remember it and how much they enjoyed it. I am not sure why Croydon Council stopped it, but it would be great if it could be revived'

'Our green spaces need to be promoted for their benefits so that they are used by the community'

'Keep them as they are. Maintain them. Promote them. Love them'

Could we have a pool, ice rink, sports centre and gym – 54 respondents (54%)

Sport and fitness facilities was the second most mentioned issue under this category. Two topic areas featured prominently from respondents: requirement of High Street gym and sports centre. Respondents mentioned having a gym at the disused garage site. Respondents also mentioned that having a sports centre similar to the one in New Addington would encourage people to look after their health more. Other issues mentioned was having health and fitness programmes published and promoted locally.

‘A better and larger sports centre as well as more opportunities for activities in the area’

‘How many people know about Monks Hill sports centre? Never see any promotion of it locally. I only found out about the London loop walking route a couple of years ago and I’ve lived here for over 40 years’

‘Use the sports faculties at Monks Hill more’

‘All parks should provide facilities for Sports such as tennis, football, cricket, netball, and rental prices should be kept to a minimum. The council should run more fitness groups around the borough aimed at people of all ages and abilities’

Activities for walking swimming and exercise classes– 41 respondents (41%)

Sports activities were the third most mentioned issue under this theme. Respondents raised to main issue under this heading, high cost of activities and the lack of a structured and promoted fitness programmes.

In terms of cost respondents felt that the cost of using the gym, attending exercise classes or swimming pool was too high and often discouraged them to use these facilities.

Respondents also felt that fitness programmes that met the needs of the elderly and young would also encourage a fitter Selsdon. Existing community facilities that put on fitness classes such as community centres, church halls and facilities at local schools should also be promoted and open to the public to use

‘Add a trim trail to Selsdon recreation ground. Support some community sport activities & teams like a local football/ cricket team etc. Community café. Ealing club? Running club?’
‘Getting older people to do outdoor activities’

‘Affordable activities. Use the sports facilities at Monks Hill more. Have fitness and yoga clubs that are council run, maybe cooking run classes for young mums. Run more centres for people with children to meet and attend classes at the same time’

‘More sports and communal activities as well as putting to use the abandoned building next to the Aldi’

‘Access to activities. The centre at Sainsbury’s focusses on the elderly which is wonderful, but some central information for kids clubs and sports and local events would be good’

Develop Selsdon Rec and community use of Croydon High and Monks Hill 36 - responses (36%)

Developing Selsdon Rec and using local facilities such as Croydon High and Monks Hill was the fourth most mentioned topic. Respondents mentioned that Croydon High was a great local facility but it was not easily accessible to the local community partly due to the cost of its use. Monks Hill School and Centre was also mentioned as a great venue but needed to be used more for local activity and publicised more about activities it offers.

‘Croydon High School provides some sports and classes. But a local one for the senior members should be more available’

‘More use of Monks Hill School’

‘Croydon High sports club I know is available, however pretty expensive. I am aware there are walks available around Selsdon’

‘For health, woodland walks - self guided and guided, opportunities for range of sports for all - Croydon High has a pool but is restricted and costly, similarly Selsdon Park Hotel.’

‘For sports, ensuring that local schools continue to have access to sports facilities at, for example, Croydon High School’

More children and young people activity – 32 responses (32%)

Activities that support and involve young children and people was the fifth most mention topic. Respondents mentioned that young people needed more things to do locally. Respondents mentioned using local open spaces such as Selsdon Rec, doing after school activity and structured activities such as those provided by a youth club or local churches would help.

‘Encourage more young people via schools, youth groups to use woods and open spaces for example to keep healthy - jogging and walking and learning about nature. Encourage them to enjoy been out and about and not be fearful of been harassed’

‘Selsdon recreation to be better provisioned for young people with supervision and youth work’

‘Build a good relationship with the young people of the area and give them somewhere to go to keep them off the streets’

‘Ensuring there are free activities for all ages, especially young people in holidays’

‘Facilities for young people to meet and take part in activities that build skills, cooperation, teamwork and self-esteem other than sports’

Add an outdoor gym and improve playgrounds – 20 responses (20%)

The provision of an outdoor gym and the improvement of the playgrounds was the sixth most mentioned topic. Respondents wanted outdoor gyms similar to that at Lloyds Park developed at Selsdon Rec or Monks Hill area. Playground improvement was mentioned by respondents especially the playground on Selsdon Rec.

'They need to be improved to pull all residents to them to use, i.e. outdoor gym equipment, update/maintain playgrounds for children. Run public transport too, or past so they are accessible to everyone, making sure they are accessible for people with mobility problems i.e. flat walking paths, cycle paths'

'Gym in the high street Better signposting of green spaces Outdoor gym in Selsdon Rec or Monks Hill Better protection of green spaces'

'More outdoor gyms in parks is a really good idea, I believe first brought to Croydon in Lloyds Park. By positioning them by playgrounds this will help young people engage in the equipment as they will see this as an extension of their playground, maybe even roll this out to Primary Schools too'

'Outdoor gym facilities in Selsdon Rec'

Improve GP appointments and provide a medical drop-in centres 20 responses (20%)

Improving GP appointments and medical support locally was the seventh most mention topic under this theme. Respondents mention difficulty in getting quick GP appointments and opening times as something that they would like to see improved.

'We could do with more GP spaces'

'Need GP practices to have good agencies for referral for any problems residents may have.'

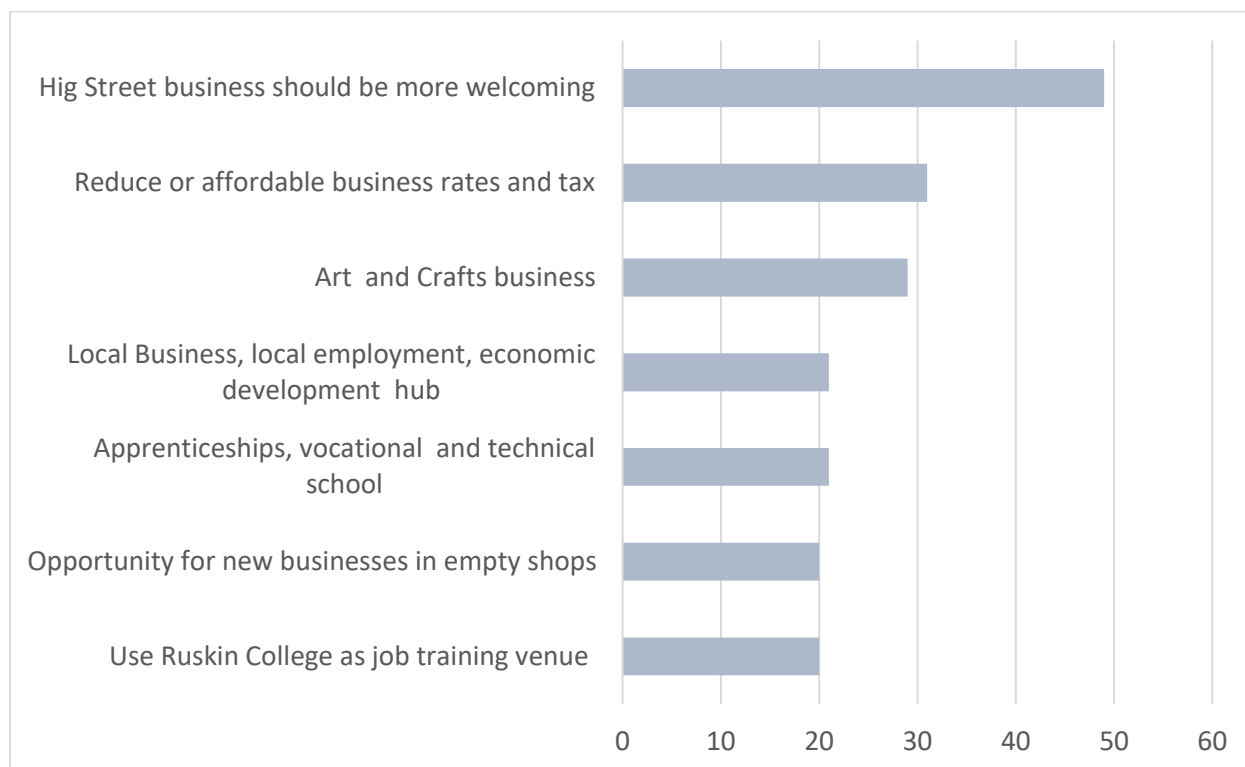
'Ensure that GP Surgeries in Selsdon operate a seven-day week for appointments. Encourage more individual health care and management of health at home'

'For health and wellbeing, ensuring that there are good GP practices and other facilities (such as Croydon Physio) around'

'What health facilities are available for those living on Monks Hill - where is their nearest GP Surgery?'

'Make GP Surgeries / Health Centres be more flexible with opening times and appointments and referrals'

Question 9: What do you think are your priorities for improving Jobs, Training and Business?



Responses

Jobs, training and business issues were the sixth priority identified theme in the survey, with 9% (76) of responses.

Most Frequently Mentioned

High street business should be more welcoming – 49 responses (64.5%)

High Street and streetscape received the top mention by respondents under this theme.

The current types of businesses on the High Street are the same or similar. Respondents mentioned the prevalence of barber shops, tattoo shops and takeaways. A more diverse shopping experience was mentioned by respondents and they wanted a High Street that they want to go to.

Regeneration of the high street was also mentioned by respondents. Respondents felt that the High Street was dated and needed to be regenerated with new types of shops, better looking shop fronts and more work done to clean and beautify the High Street.

‘Improve the streetscape, especially around Addington Road to make it a more pleasant place to shop’

‘Encourage businesses to the empty units on the high street and this will create more jobs’

‘Diversity would be a good start... Selsdon is overrun with fast food trash and not a lot else. Just how many takeaways does one place need?’

'The Forestdale centre is over 50 years old and in desperate need of an overhaul. It all looks terrible'

'Make high street a more pleasant environment. Cleanliness, shops you would want to visit (even charity shops would be better than more and more fast food or nail bars)'

'Regeneration of the High Street and shops'

Reduce or affordable business rates and tax – 31 responses (40.8%)

Business rates was the second mentioned topic under this theme. Respondents were of the opinion that high business rates and other associated business charges was the cause of empty shop units on the high street. It was also the opinion of respondents that reduced business rates would encourage new and unique start-up businesses on the high street, in turn resulting in a diversity of shops.

'The high street is quite depressing at the moment. Too many properties remain empty. Are the rates too high?'

'There are local businesses which thrive in Selsdon such as Sainsbury's and Aldi but, sadly the high street is mostly centred on food outlets now, mainly due to unaffordable rents and business rates'

'Reduce the Business Rates and Council Tax to make it easier for shops and businesses to survive providing more local employment, training of people'

'Encourage any new businesses by lowering Business Rates not increasing them year on year until no small business can afford them, thereby destroying local business instead of supporting and encouraging them'

Arts and crafts businesses – 29 responses (38.2%)

Arts and crafts was the joint third most commented topic under this theme. Respondents want to see art and craft shops on the high street. They were also of the opinion that local schools could support the art and craft business by encouraging classes in this field.

'Restarting adult education in the evening in local schools would be a good idea teaching craft skill:- plastering, bricklaying, electrical skill, repair of white goods, etc.'

'Encourage businesses for local produce, arts, crafts and clothing, foods and drinks, services and skill, etc. More evening classes at John Ruskin College for the development of talents art, craft and painting, dressmaking and tailoring, gardening, dancing, martial arts, engineering with a focus on using green energy in homes and businesses, etc.'

'More diverse shops on high street, eg clothing, arts and crafts and local produce'

Local business, local employment, economic development hub – 21 responses (27.6%)

Increasing local businesses, local employment and a developing an economic support service for Selsdon was the fourth most mentioned topic. Respondents mentioned that the empty shop units was an opportunity for new businesses to strive on the High Street. Respondents mentioned support for independent trader would be a useful thing to do in order to improve the sustainability of small local businesses.

‘Encourage more local businesses’

‘An economic development plan for Selsdon would identify ways to enhance prospects of people living and working in Selsdon’

‘More incentive for small local businesses on the high street’

‘Support for small businesses who want a presence on the high street, not letting empty shops become more nail bars, hair salons, beauty parlours, chain food stores’

‘Get local business to talk to each other to develop common interests, encourage local trade and training opportunities. Business Development District might be worth proposing’

‘The commercial provision is adequate for my requirements. More local jobs would relieve the traffic problems and change the demographic of the population to be more diverse which would be a good thing. A shared serviced office space might be a possibility. Small groups or individuals mainly working on line but requiring, for instance, receptionist, meeting room, IT support, book keeping’

Apprenticeships, vocational and technical school – 21 responses (27.6%)

Local apprenticeships, vocational training and technical school was the fifth most mentioned topic. Respondents mentioned giving local businesses incentives by having local businesses offering opportunities to young people through apprenticeships at local businesses.

‘Apprenticeships to local businesses and access to free training, local evening classes would be a start’

‘I’m a bit too old to know what is provided at the moment but lots of good career advice for children in schools plus maybe local businesses making work experience available to older children trying to decide on a career’

‘Incentives for local businesses to take on short term apprentices for training/insight, a local business fair, a craft fair to show off peoples' handmade skills and encourage them into business with local support, small loans or grants for good business plans’

‘Investing in and promoting local businesses and apprenticeships. Supporting career changers and returners to work’

‘More variety of shops and therefore jobs. Promote apprenticeships for local people in local businesses. Healthy wellbeing hub could also be a place for entry training into health social care and community sectors’

Opportunity for new businesses in empty shops – 20 responses (26.3%)

Empty shop units on the High Street was the sixth most mentioned topic. Respondents mentioned that new types of new businesses could be introduced into vacant units, which would liven up the High Street and bring new jobs and other opportunities.

‘Encouraging businesses by cheap / free rent in the empty units caused by long Westfield delays etc. Help with training for new businesses with finances etc.’

‘Encouraging new businesses to open vacant premises will bring in jobs and enhance the high street's vibrancy’

‘We should be encouraging people to start a business in the empty shops in Selsdon but reducing the business rates & supporting them when it is so expensive to start a new business’

‘You should provide a high street with permanent financial opportunities for fresh new businesses to thrive’

Use Ruskin College as job training venue - 20 responses (26.3%)

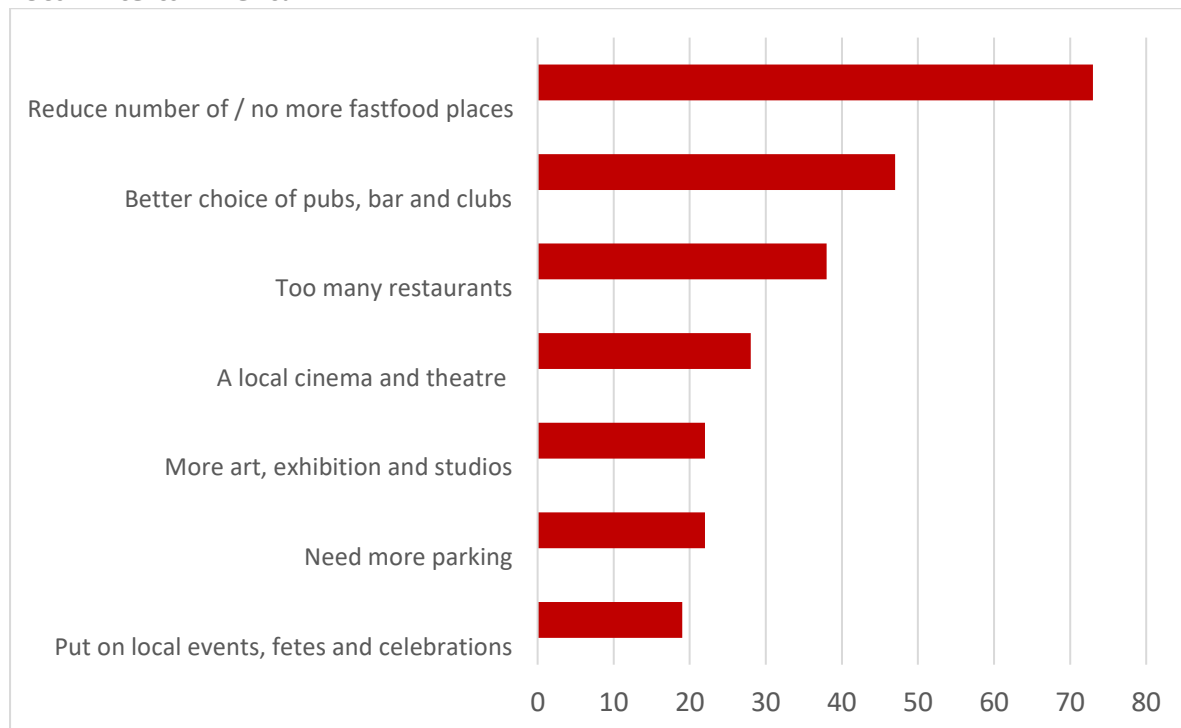
John Ruskin College was the seventh most mentioned topic. Respondents mentioned that the college could be used to provide additional classes for the community particularly evening classes. Further opening up and promoting the college could be an opportunity for it to be used also as a training venue was also mentioned by respondents.

‘More evening classes at John Ruskin College for the development of talents as photography, IT, wood work, cooking and baking, art, craft and painting, dressmaking and tailoring, gardening, dancing, martial arts, engineering with a focus on using green energy in homes and businesses, etc., etc. The college is underused in evenings and offers the site to help develop local talents and learn skills to create employment and business opportunities’

‘Opening up resources in John Ruskin to further training opportunities for adults and at weekends’

‘On the border of Selsdon is a technical college, John Ruskin. This needs to be supported with more funding and links to business. I would like all schools to have better links to businesses for their pupil work experience. If there were more part time working opportunities or re-training actively promoted I think more retired people would return to work’

Question 10: What do you think are the priorities for improving Culture, Restaurants and Local Entertainment?



Responses

Culture, restaurants and local entertainment issues were the third priority theme identified during the engagement, with 15% (119) of responses.

Most Frequently Mentioned

Reduce number of takeaway and fast-food – 72 responses (60.5%)

Takeaway and fast food was the top topic under this theme. The respondents were of the view that there were too many takeaways in the area which is unhealthy and leads to increased littering and loitering. Other comments included that there should be no further fast food outlets allowed on Selsdon High Street and that there should be healthy eating restaurants rather than any more fast food places.

‘We are overrun with takeaway outlets’

‘Selsdon high street is over provided with fast food outlets’

‘Fewer takeaways in high street’

‘Less takeaway shops and more independent shops to give the high street variety’

‘Less takeaways more "proper" restaurants’

‘Selsdon High Street needs different shops to just takeaways’

‘The high Street is full of takeaways and hairdressers etc. It needs more variety’

Better choice of pubs. Bars and clubs– 48 responses (43.2%)

Pubs and bars was the second most popular expressed opinion in this theme. A lot of the opinion expressed were about the nature of Selsdon in comparison to central Croydon in terms of the availability of pubs and clubs. People wanted to retain the village feel about Selsdon and thought that any more developments of bars and clubs would impact negatively on this. The current number of pubs and bars in Selsdon was seen as sufficient for the area and that there should be no more such establishments. Conversely, there was also significant support for another pub due to the current one in Selsdon High Street and Forestdale being over crowded.

‘Don't think the area needs pubs or night clubs’

‘Selsdon needs another public house as the Huxley is often full and the new Micro pub is a niche market’

Too many restaurants – 39 responses (32.8%)

Too many restaurants was the third most mentioned topic under this theme. There were many suggestions about improving the quality of restaurants in order to make Selsdon a High Street that people want to visit to eat out in the evenings. Other respondents thought that there were enough restaurants, and more were not needed in the area.

‘Along the high street I believe that we have a lot of restaurants, maybe too many’

‘Discourage new restaurants’

‘More restaurants for eating out and socialising’

‘We need good quality restaurants. Don't think we need more cafes’

‘Greater variety of shops required too many restaurants’

‘Discourage the opening of more fast food outlets and Indian restaurants and concentrate instead on encouraging the opening of more high class restaurants, e.g. Italian’

‘I don't feel we need any more Restaurants in Selsdon but what was Selsdon Garage could be turned into a local cinema and affordable housing for the younger people’

More art exhibition and studios – 22 responses (18.4%)

To increase the cultural offer in Selsdon respondents mentioned having more exhibition and studio spaces. This was the fifth most comment topic. Respondents mentioned art exhibitions on the high street and creative industry studios and venues would enhance the reputation of the area.

'Croydon had an amazing music culture back in the 70s and probably earlier, there were pubs and small venues that had live music, there was a lovely small theatre, I would like to see more venues for alternative music and theatre, I'd like to visit an independent cinema that was supported and could compete with the multiplexes to show current films and art house films'

'I would like to visit an art gallery and museum that was well maintained and held regular exhibitions not just dusty unloved artefacts'

'Various small but well-supported events such as exhibitions and concerts take place in local churches, and such things could be supported and promoted by the SRA'

'Local musicians, artists and entertainers could be given the chance to have a free evening's session at one of the halls in Selsdon, to give a performance or hold an exhibition etc., and perhaps be able to do this regularly, subsequently paying for hall rental by an entrance charge'

Need more parking – 22 responses (18.4%)

The need for more parking was the sixth most mentioned comment that there should be more parking made available on the high street

'More parking near high street'

'More parking to enable access to the shops. I never use them for that reason'

'More parking spaces, less buses and no parking outside Selsdon school during peak times, normally when the parade of mums are dropping kids off/picking up on the main road'

'Again I think more parking would help and maybe some base for young children to use for groups such as brownies etc.'

'It would be useful to have more parking for the High Street. This would encourage people to shop there and to use the restaurants in the evenings'

Put on local events, fetes and events – 19 responses (15.9%)

Hosting community events in Selsdon was the seventh most commented topic. Respondents mentioned the abundance of green spaces as an opportunity to put on new events or past events such as the Forest Commission event at Selsdon Woods and Nature Reserve open event. Respondents also mentioned events such as the Christmas market and mentioned that Selsdon should build on such events and make them more regular.

'The centre at Sainsbury's focusses on the elderly which is wonderful, but some central information for kids clubs and sports and local events would be good'

'Community events, a local run or encouraging people to join parkrun would instil more of a sense of community'

'Build on the sense of community that we have. More community events like the street market'

'Keeping up with national celebrations (having our own on the High Street and involving local businesses) and ditto with small events important to just Selsdon or Croydon - key dates'

'More local events. Keep the Christmas lights and the event to switch them on Have more markets like the Christmas market Business rate relief for new businesses as they get established'

'The Selsdon Show which ran for many years in the Selsdon Wood was a good place to showcase people, events and entertainment. Rather than creating something new it may be better to find existing events taking place amongst churches and other local groups and promote them and perhaps fund them to help increase their offering'

Quick Win Projects

Question 11: Please state the extent as to how much you would like a lot, like or not like seeing these projects delivered.

Number of responses – 374

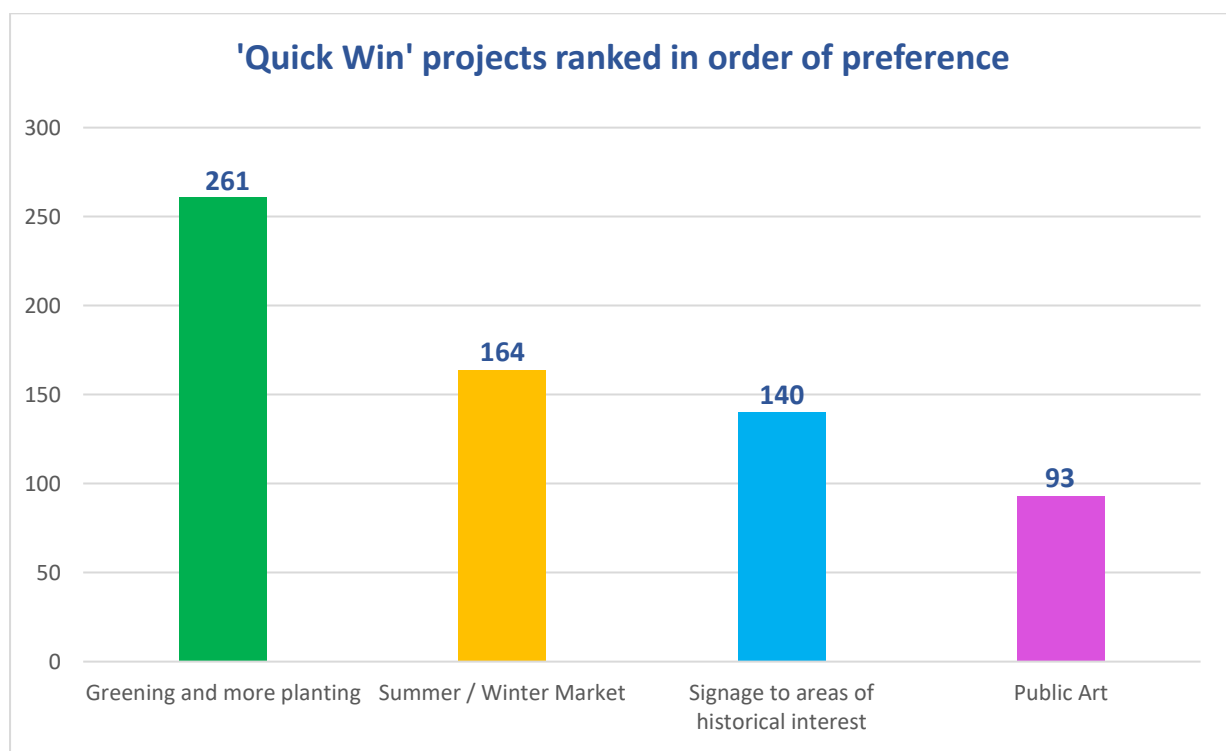
The engagement events and survey asked people to prioritise projects developed and agreed by the Selsdon Community Plan project team that could be delivered quickly.

These are projects that can be developed and implemented with an 18 month period subject to securing funding, establishing feasibility where appropriate, and assessment of risks principally in relation to the Covid 19 context.

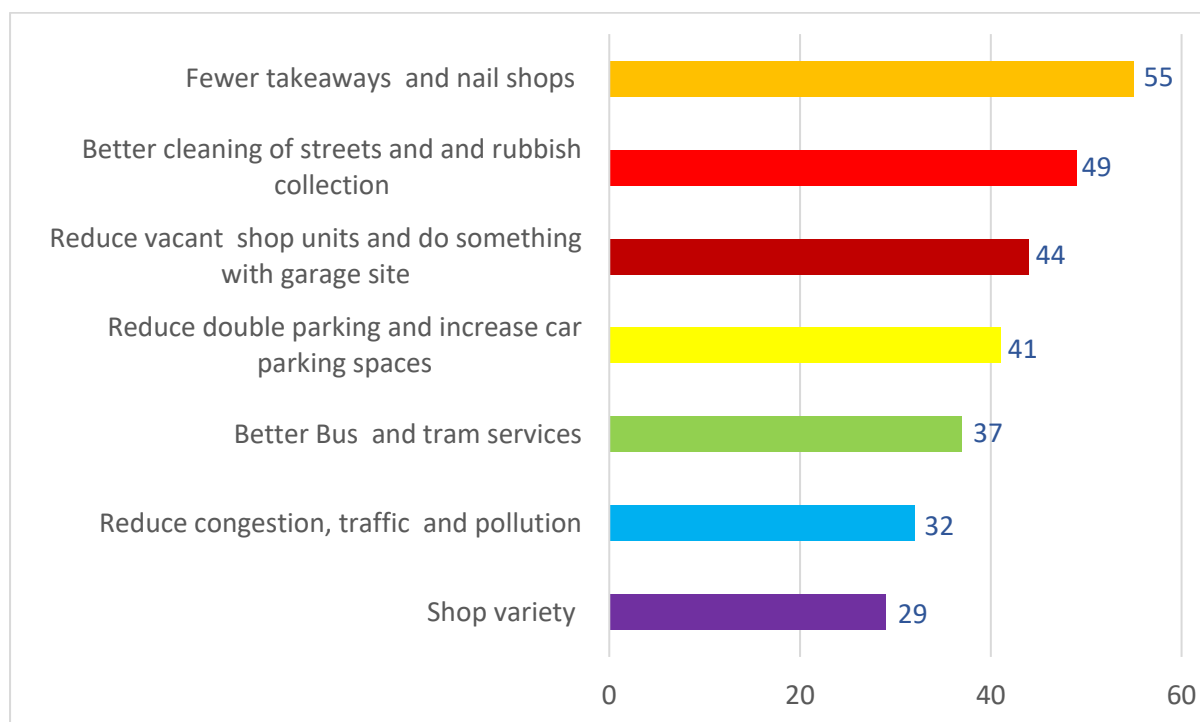
For each quick win project ranked by the respondents, the graph shows the top rank only by respondents who 'liked a lot' the quick project idea.

The Quick Win projects ranked in order of preference are:

1. Greening and more planting
2. Christmas / summer markets
3. Better signage to Selsdon areas of historic interest
4. Public art or sculpture



Question 12: Do you have any other comments?



Responses

205 respondents to this question. Many of the topics here were mentioned in response to other questions in the survey and where this is the case, it has been noted below.

Most frequently mentioned

Takeaway and nail shops– 55 responses (26.8%)

Takeaways and nail shops was the top mentioned topic by respondents under this theme. Respondents mentioned that the High Street had too many similar shops and in particular nail and takeaway joints. For them these services did not make the High Street village like and it also made the High Street a place they did not want to shop at. Many associated the takeaway shops as the major cause of litter on the High Street.

‘Similar comments were made in question 10, 9, 8 & 2’

‘Fewer nail bars and fried chicken establishments’

‘High street - more culture/restaurants, less fast food’

Cleansing – 49 responses (23.9%)

Street Cleansing was the second most mentioned topic under this theme. Respondents were concerned that the High Street was becoming increasingly dirty, as they saw it. Respondents said, this was mainly as a result of the many takeaways on the High Street.

Similar comments were made in question 5 and 6

'Cleaner streets, not just sweeping the main roads but paved areas like around bus stops, regular dustbin and especially street cleaning (empty the street bins and recycle areas) would be nice'

Garage site & vacant shop units – 44 responses (21.5%)

The garage site and vacant shop units was the third most mentioned issue for respondents. Vacant shop units were mentioned as an issue by many respondents, with the concern that they were bringing down the high street and making the High street lose its village feel. Respondents also said that the empty shop units was an opportunity to introduce more traditional shops such as a baker, butcher and other up market independent type shops.

For respondents, the garage site has been empty for years and it had become an eye sore on the High Street. The garage site for many respondents presented an opportunity to develop the space into social housing, a community space, a gym and space for youth activity were some of the suggestions made by respondents.

'Getting something done about the boarded up garage by the shops and opening up something other than fast food and nail bars'

'It no longer looks a smart and well maintained area. Sort the derelict garage out. Too many empty shops'

Similar comments were made in question 3, 5 and 6

Parking & traffic congestion – 41 responses (20%)

Parking and traffic congestion was the fourth mentioned comment made by respondents under this theme. Pixton Way, Addington Road and Court Wood Lane were mentioned as places where parking was an issue.

Double parking within this theme was mentioned by many respondents. The area where double parking was considered an issue was on parking bays outside shops on Addington Road and Forestdale shopping parade car park.

Traffic congestion particularly during school drop off and pick up times was mentioned as an issue on the High Street. The Aldi car park exit and entrance was mentioned as a contributing factor to road congestion on the Addington Road.

Similar comments were made in question 3, 5 and 10.

'Parking on the High Street and traffic management on Addington Road both need improvement'

'Parking on the High Street. It should be excellent since the recessed parking bays were introduced. However people just double park and cause traffic flow problems'. 'Also, traffic lights aren't great. Traffic flow was actually far better when someone took out the lights and people just drove through when it was safe to do so. The roundabout would work better'

Better Bus and tram services – 37 responses (18.1%)

The quality of public transport especially buses and tram services was the fifth most mentioned topic. Respondents mentioned the need for better bus services to Forestdale and the Selsdon Bird Estate. The loss or reduction in several local bus routes (Busses 433, t33, 359) was also mentioned. Respondents mentioned that tram and bus timetabling could be better linked and that also the extension of the tram along the high street towards Sanderstead would be a good idea.

‘It would be good if there was a better bus service in Forestdale where there are many elderly residents having to wait a long time for the 433, being the only bus route that goes through it.’

‘A more reliable bus service servicing Selsdon Bird Estate’

‘And extra bus route from Croydon town centre via Selsdon to Warlingham and Caterham’

‘Buses and trams are rarely integrated which would be a help’

‘Extend the tram route to make travel into Croydon and neighbouring areas more sustainable. Bring the tram up to Ashen Vale’

‘Tram stop on the High Street would be amazing!’

‘The tram service is inadequate and there isn't a frequent enough service for the volume of people using. Too often in rush hour people have to let trams go because they can't get on or are squashed in in scenes worse than the tube’

Reduce congestion traffic and pollution – 32 responses (15.6%)

Traffic congestion and the resulting pollution was the sixth most mentioned topic. Respondents mentioned school drop off and collection traffic along Addington Road was a major factor in traffic congestion. Respondents also mentioned the turning of traffic into Aldi also caused traffic congestion along Addington Road. Some mentioned having electrical buses could reduce the amount of pollution on the High Street.

‘Traffic congestion between Sanderstead and Selsdon’

‘Dealing with congestion in the High Street and near Primary school’

‘Addington road also has terrible congestion which could cause issues for the children attending the local schools’

‘Reposition bus stops to stop congestion and reduce pollution. Install electric charge points for electric cars. When buses are not busy reduce them from double decker to single deck buses and introduce electric buses to reduce pollution. Reduce the cost of bus fares to help encourage people from using their cars.’

‘High traffic levels through Selsdon causing noise and particulate pollution’

Shop variety – 29 responses (14.2%)

The last most mention topic area was the shop variety on the high street. Respondents mentioned that there were many shops of a similar type, particularly takeaways, nail bars and barbers.

'A greater variety of shops in the high street'

'Better selection of shops i.e. butchers, hardware shops but these would only work if used by the residents'

'Better shops e.g. the shops/area by Forestdale are very outdated. The Forestdale pub is uninviting'

'Fill missing shops on Selsdon high street with variety of traders'

'High street could have more variety, boutique shops etc'

'HSBC bank (alternative to Barclays), Boots chemist (alternative to Lloyds), hardware shop, shoe menders, less eating places, coffee shops, nail and hair places'

'Maybe some clothes shops instead of 3 nail bars & loads of takeaways'

EVENT FINDINGS

Project Ideas

Responses - 225

This section summarises key findings from the community events. The tables listed below look at what respondents suggested as project ideas. The events include, the community day, Christmas market and the Quest Academy young people focus group.

Transport and Streetscape

Double Yellow Lines
Parking Control
Bus Routes (run for longer times)
Empty Litter Bins More
Traffic Calming Measures
More Trees on High Street
Local High Street Gym
Develop Garage Site
Reduce Street Car Parking
Improve Shopping Parade
Road Barrier Extension

Youth and Community

Youth Centre
Arts and Drama Club
Forestry Day
After School Club
Outdoor cinema
Festivals
Redevelop Selsdon Rec
Intergenerational activity
Skate Park
Annual woodland fayre
CCTV on high street
Street Pastors
Forestdale Community Events
Cares Centre in Selsdon

Greening and Local Open Spaces

Plants on High Street
Wildflower bed at Selsdon Rec
Toilets in Parks
Maintain woodlands
Bench with name of local famous people
Promote London Loop
Green Gyms
Improve parking on Selsdon Rec
Provide affordable housing on garage site
More tree planting within Selsdon Rec
Employ a green spaces warden

Health, Well-being and Sports

Outdoor Gym on Edgemoor Park and Selsdon Rec
Green Gyms
Walking group
Restore pavilion in Selsdon Park for use by local clubs
A young people gym
Make more accessible routes in the green spaces for people with disabilities
Outdoor Gym and renovation of the play area in Addington Park

Jobs, Training and Business

Pop up shops in empty shops
Local Saturday market
Anti-fraud seminar for elderly
Pet shop
Eco shop
Parcel delivery shop
Vegetable Market
Independent shops

Chapter 5

Next steps

In the context of Covid-19 priorities will be reviewed by the Selsdon Community Plan Steering Group (SCPSG) to plan further engagement with the community to agree how priorities and projects can be taken forward. in a safe sustainable way.

January 2021 – Summer 2022 - Focus on quick-win project

Over the next eighteen months the SCP team will be working with the council and other agencies to further develop the Quick Win projects and an action plan follows in the Chapter 6.

Spring 2021 – Develop Part 2 of the Selsdon Community Plan

Part two of the SCP will be developed and will focus on the longer term priorities and projects for Selsdon. Using the findings in the report, the steering group will develop these further together with the wider community. This document is intended to be a working document which is likely to change as the priorities and projects are assessed for feasibility and as funding becomes available. The aim is to publish the first draft of this action plan will be published in Spring 2021.

Get Involved and Keep in Touch

The SCPSG will keep the community updated on progress through local and council local social media channels

Find out more and get involved at [Selsdon Regeneration Webpage](#)

Or Email us at SelsdonCommunityPlan@croydon.gov.uk

Chapter 6

Quick-Win Projects Action Plan

Greening and more planting

Greening and planting on the high street came top in terms of community priorities, with a total of 261 responses.

Locations and ideas

- Selsdon recreation ground at Woodland Gardens was mentioned as a place to have a community garden where fruit and vegetables could be grown by respondents
- The green grassy area between Sainsbury's and the main road could be planted with wild flowers in order to attract insects. More tree planting within Selsdon Rec
- Planting trees in Selsdon High Street & planting trees on Pixton Way.
- Replace lots of the pavement trees that have been lost over the years
- Flowers on the triangle by the wonderful clock outside Sainsbury's.
- Providing visible greenery in particular where the area lacks trees, flowers, plants.
- Planting more trees and creating/cultivating green space in as many locations as possible, particularly verges.
- A community farm maybe if we can find the space, particularly around the Monks Hill area, where there is little space for gardens etc. for growing vegetables

Current situation

There are a number of hanging flower baskets and railing planters on Selsdon high street. The baskets and the flowers are planted and maintained by the Selsdon Residents Association. These are the only hanging baskets in the SCP area. There are no hanging baskets at the Forestdale neighbourhood shops, for example.

There are two large planters on Selsdon High Street which are in good condition and maintained by the council. They contain a couple of small trees and some planting. There are no planters in the SCP area including at the Forestdale shops.

Selsdon Rec is mentioned in the survey as a space requiring much love. Respondents mention that the grass needs to be mowed more regularly and trees and flower planting introduced to make it more appealing for use by the community.

There are a number of Friends of Groups for the green spaces including:

- Friends of Kingswood
- Friend of Selsdon Wood
- Friends of Littleheath Woods
- Friends of Croham Hurst Woods

The Council grounds maintenance team have limited resources and do not have the budget to install and maintain additional planters.

To Progress the more greening ideas, funding is required together with the management by the community, with the appropriate permissions sought where necessary from the Council and local organisations supporting parks and open spaces.

Proposals and next steps

The SCP Steering group propose: To establish a community gardening group to include residents' associations and other local groups already supporting greening initiatives to take forward new greening projects.

- Agree the locations and assess the feasibility and costs of interventions based on the survey results and seek the necessary permissions, which could include:
- More hanging baskets be commissioned and be installed along Selsdon high street and Forestdale shopping area.
- Add a newer selection of approved low maintenance plants/flowers on top of earth mound on the planters.
- Agree a funding and delivery and maintenance plan, including a service delivery arrangement with the SCPSPG.

Who will lead

- SCPSPG

Potential funding sources

- National Lottery Funding
- Local fund raising
- Other external funding applications
- Crowd funding

Christmas / Summer Market

A Selsdon Christmas and summer market was the second most mentioned Quick Win project with 164 responses.

Current situation

A successful Christmas market happened in 2019. The market was set up and ran by the SCPSG with the support from the council and funded through council ward councillor budgets. The proposed market for 2020 has been cancelled as a result of COVID-19.

Proposals and next steps

The engagement process showed that there is community support to continue with the Christmas/Summer market event in 2021 subject to the COVID situation.

Next steps:

- The 2019 Christmas Market has provided a robust delivery plan and costs to be able to plan and deliver successful events in future years. All the necessary processes and licences and documentation have been captured for future use.
- Consider setting up an events team with reps from the community and led by a member(s) of the SCPSG.

Who will lead

- SCPSG
- Agree which member(s) of the SCPSG will take forward

Potential funding sources

- Ward budgets
- Local fundraising
- Funding applications
- Income from stall holders

Signage to areas of historic interest

Current situation

Selsdon High Street is located in close proximity to historic parks and gardens. When on the high street there is no evidence that these spaces are close by.

Historic walk brochures have already being produced by the group in partnership with Croydon Council.

The walks cover:

- Addington Village Heritage Walk
- Explore Selsdon Neighbourhood Walk

Proposals and next steps

Signage to these areas of historic interest it would encourage more people to visit these spaces for leisure and educational purpose. Selsdon could be promoted as a place to visit to enjoy its rich history. Respondents mentioned using of an empty shop unit as a place to have information that promotes Selsdon and its heritage.

Next steps:

- Agree which historic buildings and green spaces could be signposted as areas of local interest informed by the survey results.
- Establish a signage strategy seeking advice and the necessary permissions from the Council.
- To establish a historic Selsdon working group to lead, progress this work including:
 - Developing a Selsdon Historic/heritage activity guide booklet to relate to the historic building and green spaces signage

Who will lead

- SCPSG
- At the required meeting agree which member of the SCPSG will take forward

How this could be funded

- Ward budgets
- Funding applications
- Local fundraising

Public art and community projects

Public Art in Selsdon was the fourth most mentioned Quick Win project with 93 responses.

Current situation

The Selsdon Clock outside Sainsbury's is the only current public art work that has been commissioned on Selsdon High Street.

Proposals and next steps

Some respondents from the engagement process have suggested having a sculpture on the high street and public art work on the hoardings around the garage site on Selsdon high street that has been vacant for 26 years.

It is proposed to carry out a feasibility study on having art work around the hoardings. The success of any art work will be subject to approval by the site developer and Croydon Council.

Next steps:

- Develop a workshop to look at potential low cost public art project ideas

Who will lead

- SCPSG

How this could be funded

- Funding applications
- Ward budgets
- Site developer
- Local fund raising

Other projects

These are projects not listed as quick win projects, but are projects that could potentially be delivered within the 18 month quick win time frame

Community Hub Project

Consisting of two main spaces –

- First would be a Community Support and Information Hub, think Tourist Information Centre but not for tourists but for local community, giving support to local businesses and residents alike.
- Second would be a space where those working from home can come and hire a desk for a day or more in a week (so they are no longer commuting to offices in London or even Croydon but also have the opportunity to leave the house), have access to meeting rooms. The second space if demand is high could be in multiple locations.

Next Steps

- Set out key approach to developing the community hub by:
 - Review key data including survey results to determine the number of potential uses of the proposed facility
 - Agree potential locations and the availability of existing spaces to house the project through liaising with landlord lords and freeholders
- Establish the required funding streams to develop and fit out the required space into the desired specification.

Who will lead

- SCPSPG

How this could be funded

- Funding applications
- Ward budgets
- Site developer
- Local fund raising

Selsdon Digital Platform and Road Map

APPENDIX

Engagement Boards

Report from engagement event

A. Engagement Boards



2.

Transport & Streetscape

Join the conversation about Selsdon and the Community Plan



What are your priorities?

Write them down on the post it note and stick it here

(Please note: Priorities can only go forward subject to feasibility and funding)

Potential Ideas

Can you add to the potential ideas suggested already?
Is a potential idea missing? - if so please add them on a post-it note

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. More planting on high street – where?
- 5.
6. Road resurfacing
- 7.
8. Improve pavements - where?
- 9.
- 10.
11. Better signage to Gravel Hill tram stop
- 12.

3.

Youth & Community

Join the conversation about Selsdon and the Community Plan



What are your priorities?

Write them down on the post it note and stick it here

(Please note: Priorities can only go forward subject to feasibility and funding)

Potential Ideas

Can you add to the potential ideas suggested already?

Is a potential idea missing? - If so please add them on a post-it note

- 1.
2. Basketball court
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
6. Selsdon local festival - what already happens?
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
10. Safe places for young people to play
- 11.
- 12.

Jobs, Training & Business

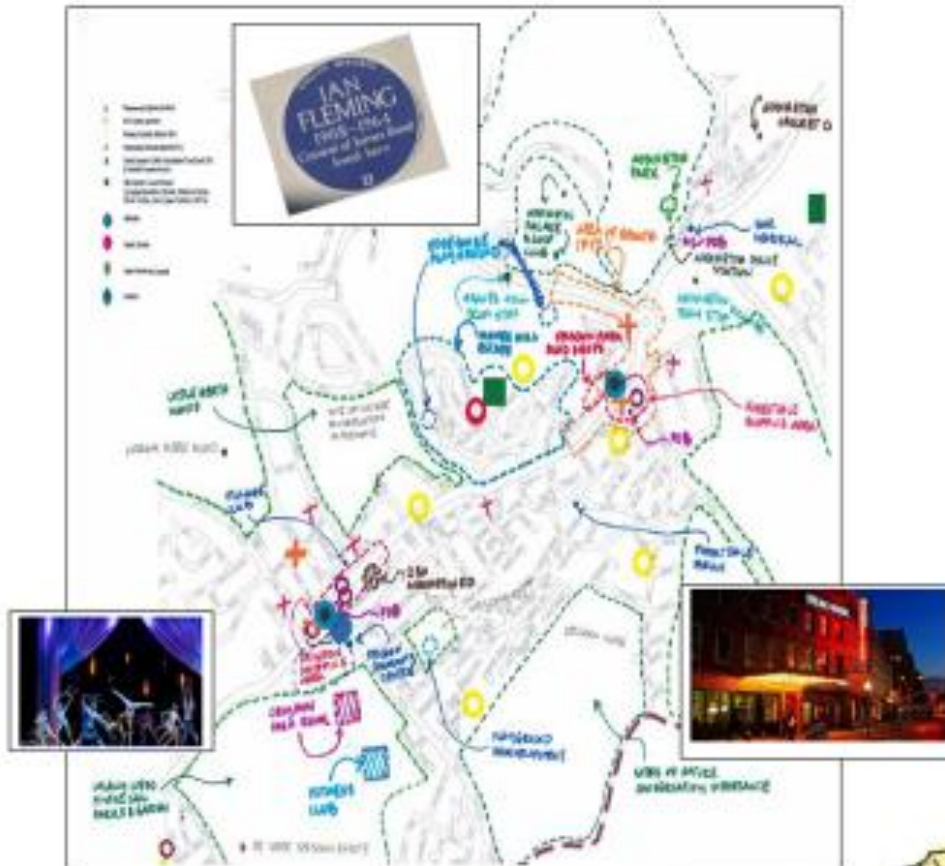


(Please note: Priorities can only go forward subject to feasibility and funding)

Can you add to the potential ideas suggested already?
Is a **potential idea missing**? - if so please add them on a post-it note

- 1.
2. Create small business hub
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
6. Selsdon work experience scheme
- 7.
8. Pet grooming shop
- 9.
10. Vocational training for young people
- 11.
- 12.

7. Culture, restaurants and local entertainment



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What are your priorities?

Write them down on the post-it note and stick it here

(Please note: Priorities can only go forward subject to feasibility and funding)

Potential Ideas

Can you add to the potential ideas suggested already?

Is a potential idea missing? - if so please add them on a post-it note

- 1.
- 2.
3. Blue plaques on shops showing past usage
- 4.
- 5.
6. Selsdon work experience scheme
- 7.
8. Reviving the Broadway and Selsdon Parade as identities
- 9.
10. All about Selsdon Shop
- 11.
- 12.



8. What do you **Like** and what would you **Improve** about Selsdon?

Join the conversation about Selsdon and the Community Plan



LIKE	IMPROVE

9. Some 'Quick Win' ideas: Tell us what you think

Join the conversation about Selsdon and the Community Plan



Quick Win ideas are potential projects that we think that can be delivered within 18 months.

Public Art / Sculpture



Christmas Market



Using the post-it notes provided, please score from 1-5, (1- low and 5- high) if you like the idea of public art and a Christmas market in Selsdon

More planting on high street



Better signage to Selsdon areas of historic interest



Using the post-it notes provided, please score from 1-5, (1-low and 5- high) if you like the idea of more planting on the high street and Better signage to Selsdon Places of historic interest



B. Full Survey Responses