



Morley Towns Fund Community Engagement

Final Report

December 2020

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Executive summary

Morley is one of 101 towns invited to develop proposals for the Government's £3.6 billion Towns Fund. This fund has been created to enable towns to apply for up to £25m of government investment. The process for accessing this funding is the development of a Morley Town Investment Plan (MTIP). The MTIP will provide a vision for the town, describe how that vision will be achieved, and will detail the individual projects that would be delivered through the plan's implementation.

In September 2020, a partnership of Locality and Commonplace was commissioned to undertake a community engagement exercise focussed upon obtaining the views of residents and other stakeholders (business community, voluntary/ community and faith sector etc) to support the development of the Morley Town Investment Plan (MTIP).

Locality is a national charity and community engagement specialist. Commonplace is a provider of online engagement solutions.

Between September and December 2020, we undertook the following engagement activities:

- [Morley Commonplace Heatmap](#) – an online engagement exercise (live between September and October). enabling participants to place pins on a map to identify places of value to them, and places which they are concerned about
- **Stakeholder & resident interviews** targeting those in leadership positions within Morley as well as Morley residents
- **Engaging with hard to reach / seldom heard from individuals**, including young people, older people, and those who are economically disadvantaged or vulnerable
- **Business engagement event** - An interactive Zoom event with Morley business owners
- **Received submissions** – reports from several organisations that had undertaken their own engagement exercises

- **Better Morley postcards** promoting the consultation with freepost return envelopes distributed at White Rose Shopping Centre and key locations within the town centre
- [Morley Commonplace Project Consultation](#) – A second Commonplace platform (live within November and December), which provided an overview of project ideas and invited comment

We have also analysed the public posts on the central government [Morley Mytown](#) website, and another commonplace heatmap, [Connecting Leeds Commonplace](#) (exploring what action can be taken to improve pedestrian and cycling safety)

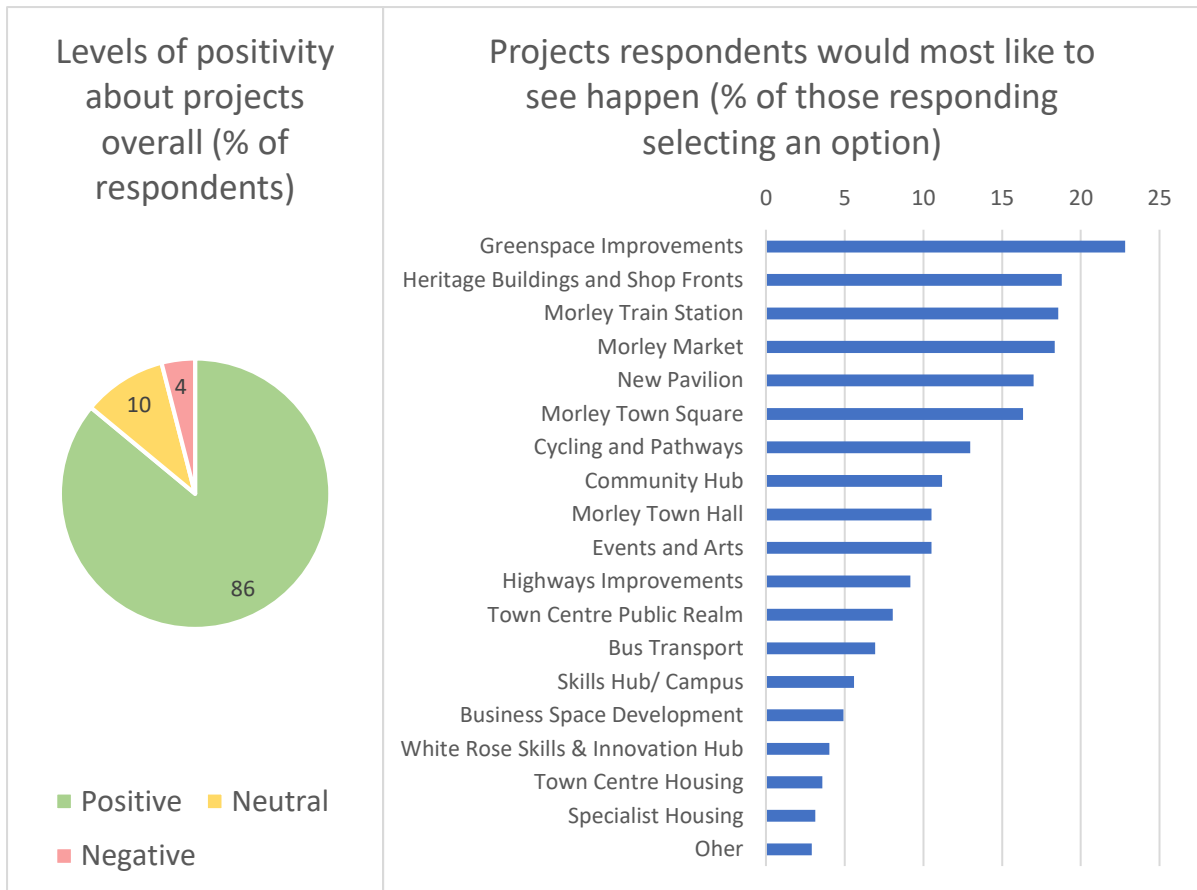
Overall, we have engaged or have received responses from over 1,600 individuals including young people, children, older people, members of the business community, and residents including a high proportion of Morley’s South Asian community.

Across all engagement formats we have identified the following priorities:

Area	Issues
Parks and open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investing in these areas to further encourage their use including updating play facilities Installations including outdoor gyms Encourage use for organised activities Re-introducing woodland and tree planting
Town centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting and repurposing Morley’s heritage buildings The creation of a town square for Morley. Potential linked to large gatherings and events, and incorporating public art Linked to the town square concept, arts installations, and events to increase town centre footfall Public realm improvements and pedestrianisation, including integrating greenspace and planting schemes to improve public amenity, and creating gathering places Incentivising private sector investment to improve shop frontages Measures to bring empty units into use or to reduce the number of retail units to reflect a reduction in demand

	<p>Schemes to promote high-quality retail, particularly independent stores but also attracting and retaining chain stores</p> <p>Increasing proportion of residential within the town centre including repurposing retail space</p> <p>Reconfigure Queen Street to concentrate retail in the middle and measures to encourage evening economy at either end</p>
Morley Train Station	Improved facilities, accessibility, condition, safety (e.g. CCTV), and improving the pedestrian & cycling route to the town centre (signage, public realm, and signage improvements)
Market Hall	Refurbishment and strengthening offer, including a greater variety of stalls
New Pavilion	Action to prevent dereliction, incentivising investment, potential for multi-purpose use including community space that can be used flexibly, evening entertainment, vocational learning, arts
Town Hall	<p>General refurbishment to preserve for the future, and enable better utilisation</p> <p>Heritage and arts activities, exhibitions, cultural events, and installations within and around</p> <p>Improving public realm surrounding</p>
Cycling lanes and facilities	Identification of this need across multiple areas of Morley – increase in cycle lanes, cycle storage, and hire schemes. Locations included the route between the station and town centre and creating a route between Morley and Leeds
Morley Bottoms	Pedestrianisation, road safety improvements, focus for the evening economy and café culture, public realm improvements, incentivising investment
Post 16 education offer	<p>Exploring the potential to increase provision in this area – particularly vocational learning opportunities, which link to local employment opportunities</p> <p>Recognition that this is a gap in provision in Morley, which leads to young people leaving</p>
Bus travel	<p>Reducing buses idling and creating congestion on Queen Street, including an exploration of the potential to create a depot</p> <p>Increasing frequency of buses between Morley train station and town centre and potential for integrated ticketing</p>

Morley residents and other stakeholders responded to an online community engagement exercise held between mid-November and mid-December. They were presented with eighteen project which were based on the first phase of the public consultation and research undertaken to date and refined through a rigorous project prioritisation exercise with the Morley Town Deal Board. 447 individuals responded, and the results were as follows:



About the Morley Town Investment Plan

Morley is one of 101 towns invited to develop proposals for the Government's £3.6 billion Towns Fund. This fund has been created to enable towns to apply for up to £25m of government investment.

The process for accessing this funding is the development of a Morley Town Investment Plan (MTIP). The MTIP will provide a vision for the town, describe how that vision will be achieved, and will detail the individual projects that would be delivered through the plan's implementation.

A key element of the MTIP is to be able to evidence that community engagement has taken place – that communities have been able to identify their own priorities for improvement and have had chance to have their say on proposals put forward by others.

Community engagement delivery partnership

In September 2020, a partnership of [Locality](#) and [Commonplace](#) was commissioned to undertake a community engagement exercise focussed upon obtaining the views of residents and other stakeholders (business community, Voluntary Community and Faith Sector etc) to support the development of the MTIP.



is a national charity and a membership organisation for community organisations, which believes in unlocking the power of community to transform communities and help to create a fairer society. Their delivery model involves providing high-quality consultancy services for community organisations, Local Authorities, and others.

Locality works nationally but is also fiercely local in its approach with staff based all over the country including within Leeds and Bradford. We consider West Yorkshire to be one of our heartland operating areas.

[Locality](#) is the contract lead and will deliver the in-depth, qualitative aspects of the engagement process alongside supporting the development of the Morley Commonplace platform.

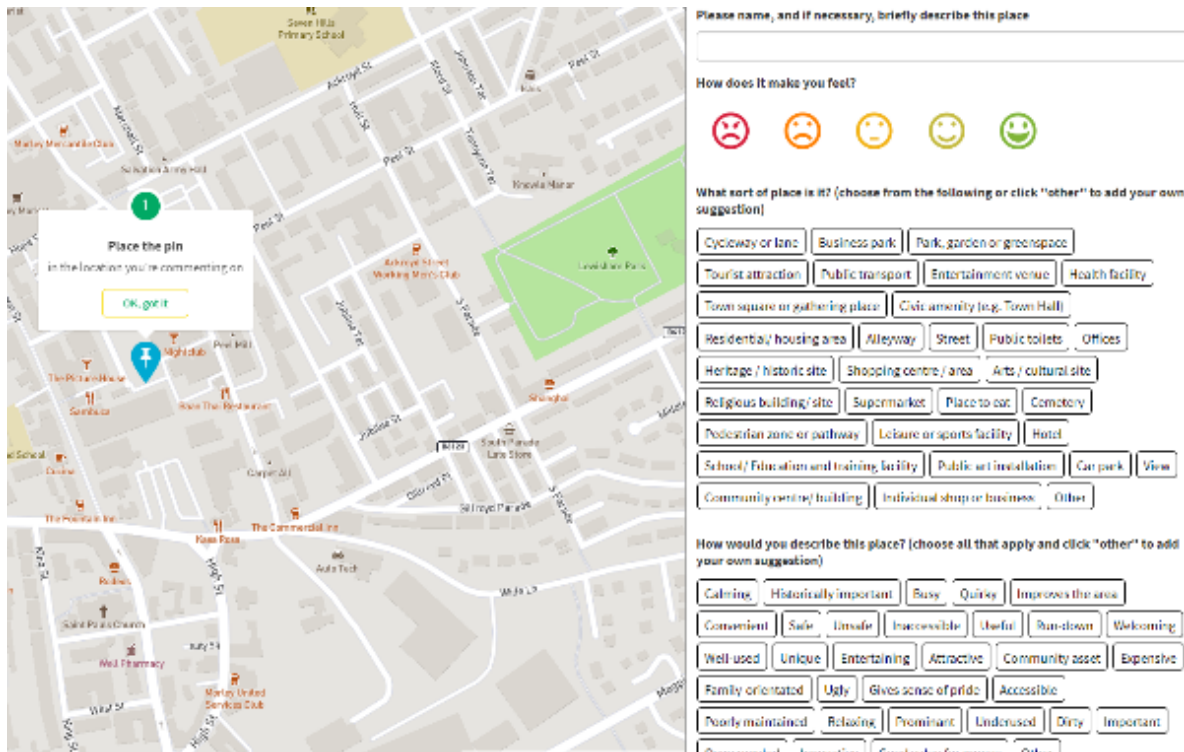


Commonplace provides a specialist digital engagement and consultation service for a wide range of built environment projects. They have delivered over 250 projects, worked with over half the London boroughs, and won awards such as Planning Magazine's Best Stakeholder Engagement organisation. [Commonplace](#) is supporting online engagement using their highly sophisticated engagement tool.

Engagement work undertaken

Between September and December 2020, we undertook the following engagement activities:

- [Morley Commonplace Heatmap](#) - An online engagement tool designed for high volumes of responses by providing a map of Morley, which participants can place pins on to identify places of value to them, and places which they are concerned about, which could be priorities for Towns Fund investment. This was supported by a parallel marketing campaign, driving traffic towards the site. Respondents were also asked questions which would support our understanding of the public perception of the strengths and weaknesses of Morley, and their priorities for investment



- **Stakeholder interviews** – Targeting those in leadership positions within Morley or/and those with an in-depth understanding of the town. including local politicians, VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise) leaders, members of the business community, and others in positions of leadership. We undertook semi-structured interviews predominantly using web-conferencing technology as well as telephone. In addition to individual interviews, we also undertook one-to-many interviews in an online workshop format whenever possible, using the interaction between participants to stimulate discussion, resulting in a greater depth of information
- **Resident interviews** – Undertaking interviews, similar to the stakeholder interviews, but with those individuals indicating a willingness to be contacted for this purpose by indicating a preference for this on the Commonplace platform
- **Engaging with hard to reach / seldom heard from individuals**, including young people, older people, and those who are economically disadvantaged, or are considered vulnerable; individuals who may be less likely to engage through the Commonplace platform. One-to-many online meetings in a workshop format, with access to these groups facilitated through contact with VCFSE leaders and council officers who work with them

- **Business engagement event** - An interactive Zoom event was held on 25th November. It was attended by ten local business owners from a range of sectors including hospitality venues, retailers, market traders, and service businesses. The structure of the workshop was based upon a consideration of Morley's strengths, weaknesses, and investment priorities, as well as an exploration of Morley based on thematic areas (e.g. skills, enterprise etc)
- **Received submissions** – We made substantial efforts to work with and through a broad range of VCFS organisations and service providers to facilitate access to groups we consider “seldom heard from” or “hard to reach” (as above). However, we also received reports from several organisations that had undertaken their own engagement exercises. This included the Council's Youth Service (two separate sessions held with young people), Churwell Primary School (about a whole school project they had done around the “future of Morley”), as well as a submission received from the Primary Care Network's Clinical Director (which had undertaken a survey of local health practitioners)
- **Better Morley postcards** promoting the consultation with freepost return envelopes distributed at White Rose Shopping Centre and key locations within the town centre




- **[Morley Commonplace Project Consultation](#)** – A second Commonplace Platform live within November and early December. This provided an outline of project ideas, which were based on the first phase of the public consultation and

research and refined through a rigorous project prioritisation exercise with the Morley Town Deal Board. Those responding were asked to feedback on by selecting the projects they identified as priorities. As with the first stage, this was supported by a comprehensive marketing plan (including encouraging contributions from the individuals who contributed at the first stage)

Comment on this proposal

How do you feel, overall, about the projects which are being considered?



Based on the descriptions of the projects provided above, please select the projects which you would most like to happen

Bus Transport Morley Market Morley Train Station Events and Arts Heritage Buildings and Shop Fronts Business Space Development

Highways Improvements Town Centre Housing Cycling and Pathways Greenspace Improvements White Rose Skills & Innovation Hub

Community Hub New Pavilion Skills Hub/ Campus Town Centre Public Realm Morley Town Hall Specialist Housing Morley Town Square

Other

Please leave some further comments. This could be about the projects you really like, ones which you think are problematic, or projects you think are missing

We have also considered findings from the following engagement activities:

- [Morley Mytown](#) - Analysing the public posts on this Central Government website set up to enable the public to post their thoughts about Morley and their priorities for improvement
- [Connecting Leeds Commonplace](#) – Analysing another Commonplace heatmap commissioned by Leeds City Council (Connecting Leeds) to understand what action can be taken to improve safety for essential walking or cycling trips (linked to encouraging the adoption of safer more environmentally sustainable transport options during the pandemic)

In addition to the above, we also delivered a **Morley Town Board Visioning Exercise** (on 21st October 2020), which included the development of a vision for Morley, a consideration of desirable outcomes achieved through the implementation of the TIP, and a discussion of the potential projects which could feature in the plan

Morley #Mytown

Our engagement activity builds on work already undertaken by MHCLG directly through their [#Mytown](#) campaign and webpage (ongoing engagement portal for residents linked to the Town Deal), which to date has resulted in twenty-seven suggestions being posted. We have analysed these comments and have grouped these into themes in order of priority (based upon identifying the issues most mentioned):

Issues identified	Examples of comments
Public transport	<p><i>If we had longer platforms or more trains calling at Morley, then it would be a more realistic mode of transport.</i></p> <p><i>Lifts and ramps for the disabled/ those with luggage/ pushchairs/ wheelchairs at Morley railway station. Improved parking and park and ride to station or bus service to connect to town centre</i></p> <p><i>Train station - Improved security - CCTV and lighting plus a few trees and shrubs would not go amiss to brighten up the area for commuters! It's pretty grim down there at the moment! A small convenience store might help, space permitting!</i></p> <p><i>A pair of proper waiting rooms and some kind of facilities would be a real bonus. Due to the remote location of the station you have to wait for the next train to arrive if you happen to have a call of nature</i></p> <p><i>The walking routes to the train station could be improved to encourage more people to walk to and use the train</i></p> <p><i>The train into Leeds has too few carriages and isn't often enough to accommodate commuters at peak times</i></p> <p><i>Enclosed bus shelters</i></p> <p><i>Bus services are good but often cause a bottleneck in the town centre leading to delays, long queues and frustrated passengers and drivers</i></p>

<p>Retail and high street</p>	<p><i>A refurb of the indoor market, which is a treasure for the town</i></p> <p><i>Invest in tidying up the shops frontages maybe have them all matching. Same font on signs giving it a classic feel</i></p> <p><i>Maybe more promotion on the new bars as there's a lot of cool bars now opening, and this will bring more people to stay out in Morley on a night out instead of going into Leeds</i></p> <p><i>Re-generate the rundown and closed shops. Morley Bottoms - force landlords to improve their unkempt properties</i></p> <p><i>Morley is inundated with charity shops. This is because they can claim back a percentage of the rent. If rents could be subsidised for the first two years this will help start-up businesses and will hopefully encourage independent retailers</i></p>
<p>Road travel</p>	<p><i>There should be more double yellow lines on busy roads as currently cars double park everywhere and getting down a one street takes five minutes</i></p> <p><i>Traffic light junctions should also be reviewed as they're outdated and of old and poor traffic design</i></p> <p><i>Potholes also need addressing as many roadways are old and knackered, ... and sunken manholes are unavoidable in many places</i></p> <p><i>Streets like Peel Street need speed bumps to stop people speeding in a 20mph zone</i></p> <p><i>Please build a dedicated cycle highway from Morley into Leeds. This will reduce traffic congestion by giving people a safe alternative to commuting by car and will improve air quality</i></p>
<p>Environment and recreation</p>	<p><i>Investing a small amount of money on much needed improvements to the satellite parks for the community but then making a much larger investment in Scatcherd Park. Remove the existing playground and install a large wooden adventure playground with an area for toddlers and a trim trail as well as a wildlife pond where people can feed ducks etc. Something sorely missing from this town</i></p> <p><i>At the present time there is a huge, under-utilised area of grass behind and next to the Sport Centre</i></p> <p><i>Public 3G football field</i></p>

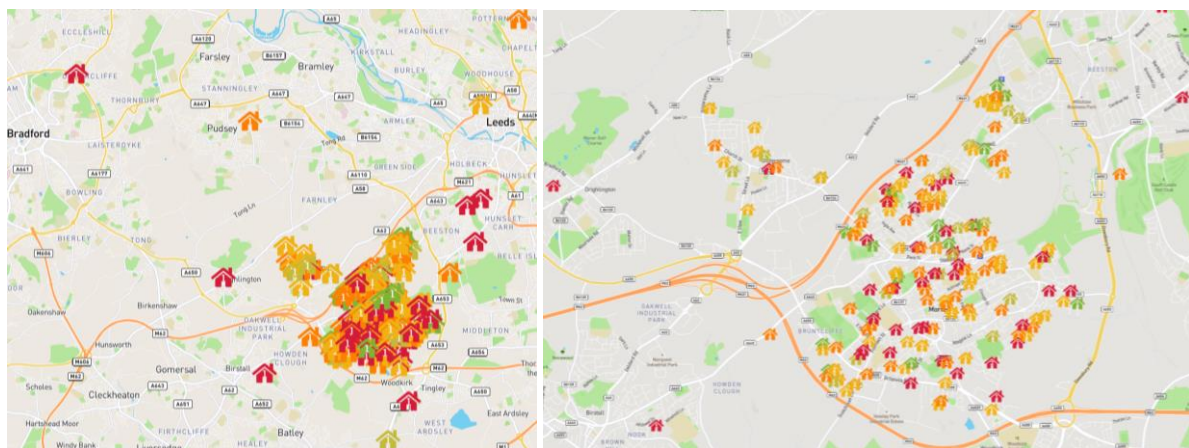
<p>Youth</p>	<p><i>Youth club for kids to hang around at and do activities rather than hanging about on the streets</i></p> <p><i>Youth clubs are needed. Often young teens (and younger children) are spending more and more time indoors, physically isolated from one another. But many churches in and around Morley have fantastic resources in terms of buildings but are underused and not entirely suited to children/young people activities, but with a little finance could easily be adapted</i></p>
<p>Town Hall/ heritage</p>	<p><i>I feel Morley needs a small museum to celebrate the town and keep things safe for future generations. The Town Hall seems like the perfect venue for this, Exhibits could be housed in such a way that no on-site staff are needed but it would also be an ideal location for local volunteers to meet and curate things while sharing their knowledge. Local schools and clubs could utilise this resource</i></p>
<p>Business start ups</p>	<p><i>Small businesses are the lifeblood of towns and we need to encourage more small businesses into the area. One hurdle for small businesses and start-ups is finding affordable premises. These could be built to make Morley a small business and start up hub. This would bring employment and prosperity to the town at an affordable price</i></p>
<p>Supporting the vulnerable</p>	<p><i>Provide a supportive place where people can access courses to explore their creativity. Proven to be beneficial for overall health and notably mental health.</i></p> <p><i>Increase funding to support family groups, young people's groups (we have a high number of children experiencing mental distress). Clothes exchange, community food nights. Let's restore a real meaning of community in Morley - sharing food, creativity, skills</i></p>

Commonplace Stage 1 (Heatmap) – About those responding

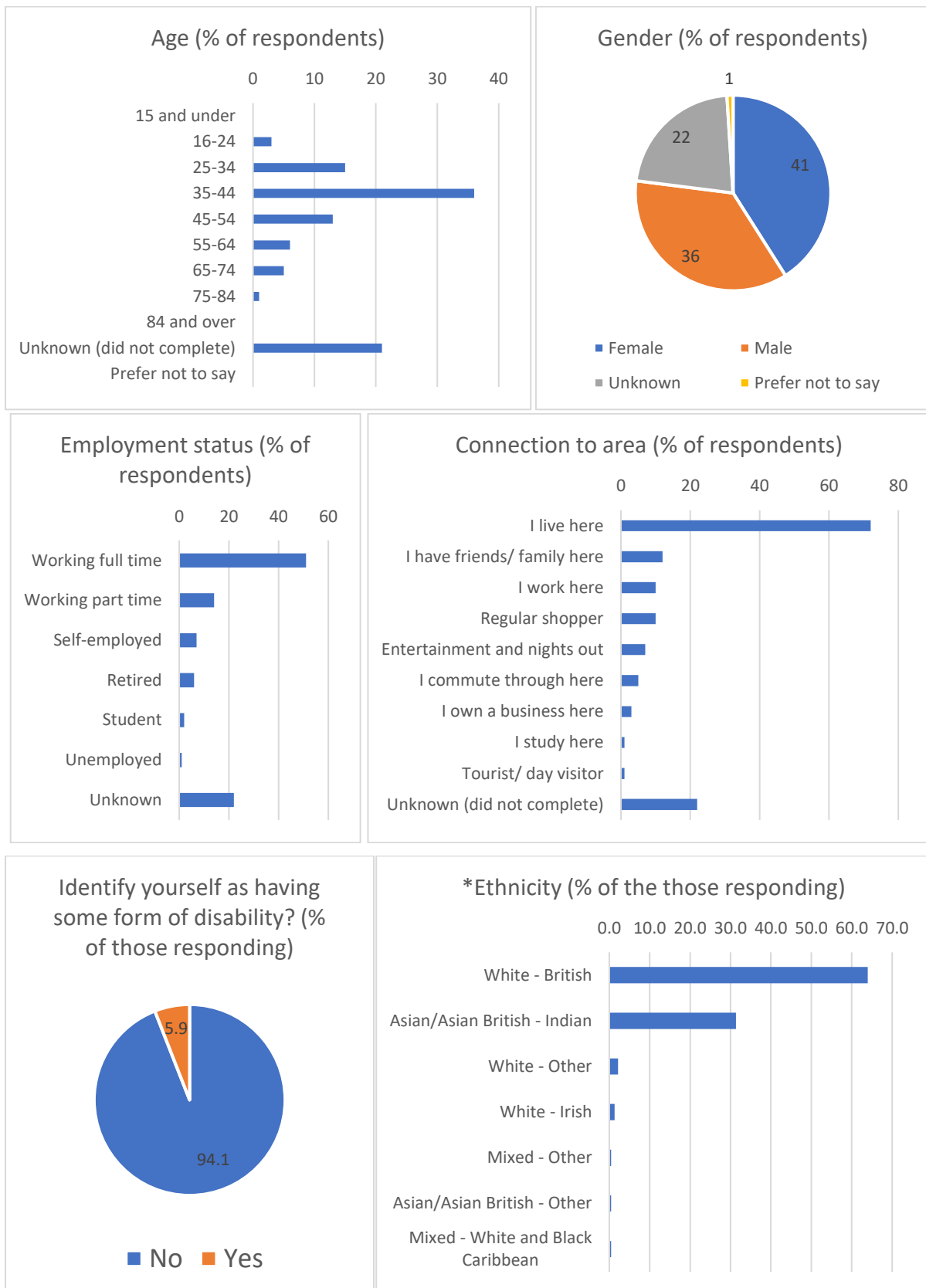
In relation to the first stage of the Morley Commonplace Engagement Exercise, between 27th September and 9th November 2020 there were **2,375 visitors** to Morley Commonplace resulting in **550 individual respondents** (people that completed all or part of the survey information on the site).

The graphs and charts below provide a demographic overview of the individuals who participated in the engagement exercise via the Morley Commonplace platform. The “unknown” category is when this section was not completed. For graphs where totals are more than 100%, respondents could select multiple responses.

The maps below identifies where the individuals lived, based on their postcode, and illustrates that a proportion of those responding were not based within the Morley area. The colour scheme of the house icons on the map indicates their overall sentiment (green indicating positive sentiment and red indicating negative sentiment). Roughly 85% of those who responded reside within Morley.



The graphs below provide a demographic overview of those who responded to stage 1 of the commonplace community engagement process:



Commonplace Stage 1 (Heatmap) – General findings

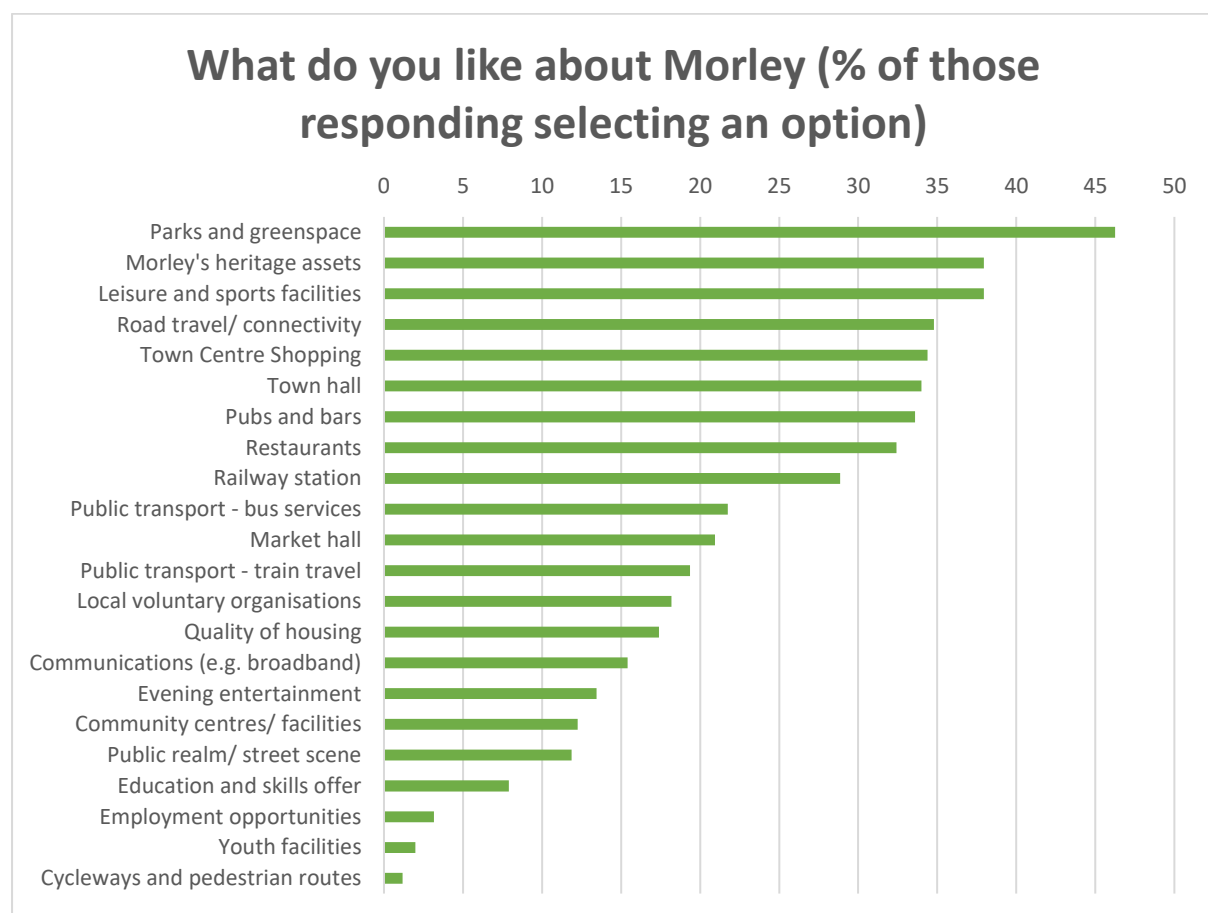
Accompanying the heatmap element of Commonplace were three multiple choice questions for those responding to complete:

- What do you like about Morley?
- What do you dislike about Morley?
- We are applying for funding from central government to improve Morley. How should this money be best spent?

Those responding were able to choose multiple options from those provided

Likes

The following graph summarises the results of the question: “What do you like about Morley?”



This indicates that Morley's parks and greenspaces are highly valued by the local community. This corresponds with those responding on the heatmap, which included multiple pins placed in greenspaces, alongside generally positive comments about those areas, particularly Scatcherd Park.

Morley's "heritage assets" were also well regarded by those responding and this corresponds with the high proportion of listed buildings in the area. This includes the Town Hall which is Grade I listed, and the sixth highest answer given.

Leisure and sports facilities were also particularly valued, which is likely to be influenced by the modern and well-regarded Morley Leisure Centre.

Town Centre Shopping was the fifth highest, providing a strong indication of the value placed upon it by local people, despite it also scoring very high as a dislike (see below).

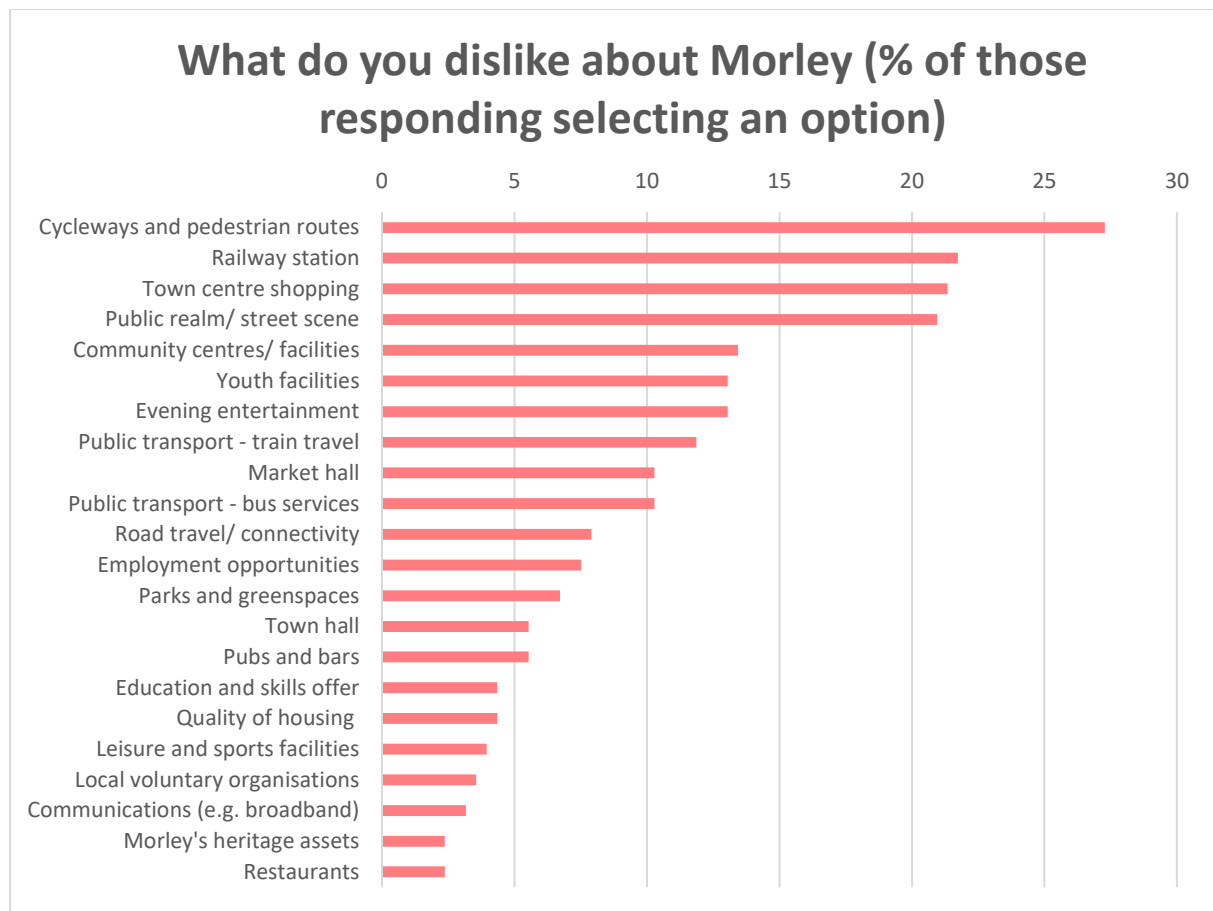
Pubs and bars alongside restaurants were also identified as being a significant asset to Morley - a finding also reflected in the interview results. Despite the competition with Leeds Centre Morley performs well in this area in comparison to areas of a similar size.

Those responding were also given an "other" option where they could respond using an alternative word or phrase. Each of the following were identified once each:

- House value
- Library
- Community spirit

Dislikes

The following graph summarises the results of the question: “What do you dislike about Morley?”



The graph particularly indicates dissatisfaction with Morley’s cycleways and pedestrian routes. This corresponds with comments made on the heatmap (including the Connecting Leeds site) and the results of interviews which indicated aspirations for the further pedestrianisation of town centre locations (e.g. Morley Bottoms) and improved cycleways (e.g. from train station to town centre, from Morley into Leeds).

Despite it featuring fifth as a “like”, town centre shopping was identified as an area in need of improvement. Multiple comments related to the numbers of charity shops, aspirations for more quality independents, and the need to improve shop frontages.

Both issues identified above are likely connected to the fourth most identified dislike, which was public realm/ street scene. Comments received from interviews and the

heat map indicate an aspiration to refresh and improve the look of the town centre and to incorporate new planting and greenspace areas.

Morley Train Station was third, and comments related to its condition, accessibility, and facilities, as well as the transport and pedestrian/cycle routes between the station and Morley town centre. A related dislike was train travel which was fifth, and likely relates to comments made about the infrequency of trains, quality of the passenger experience, and the limited number of carriages.

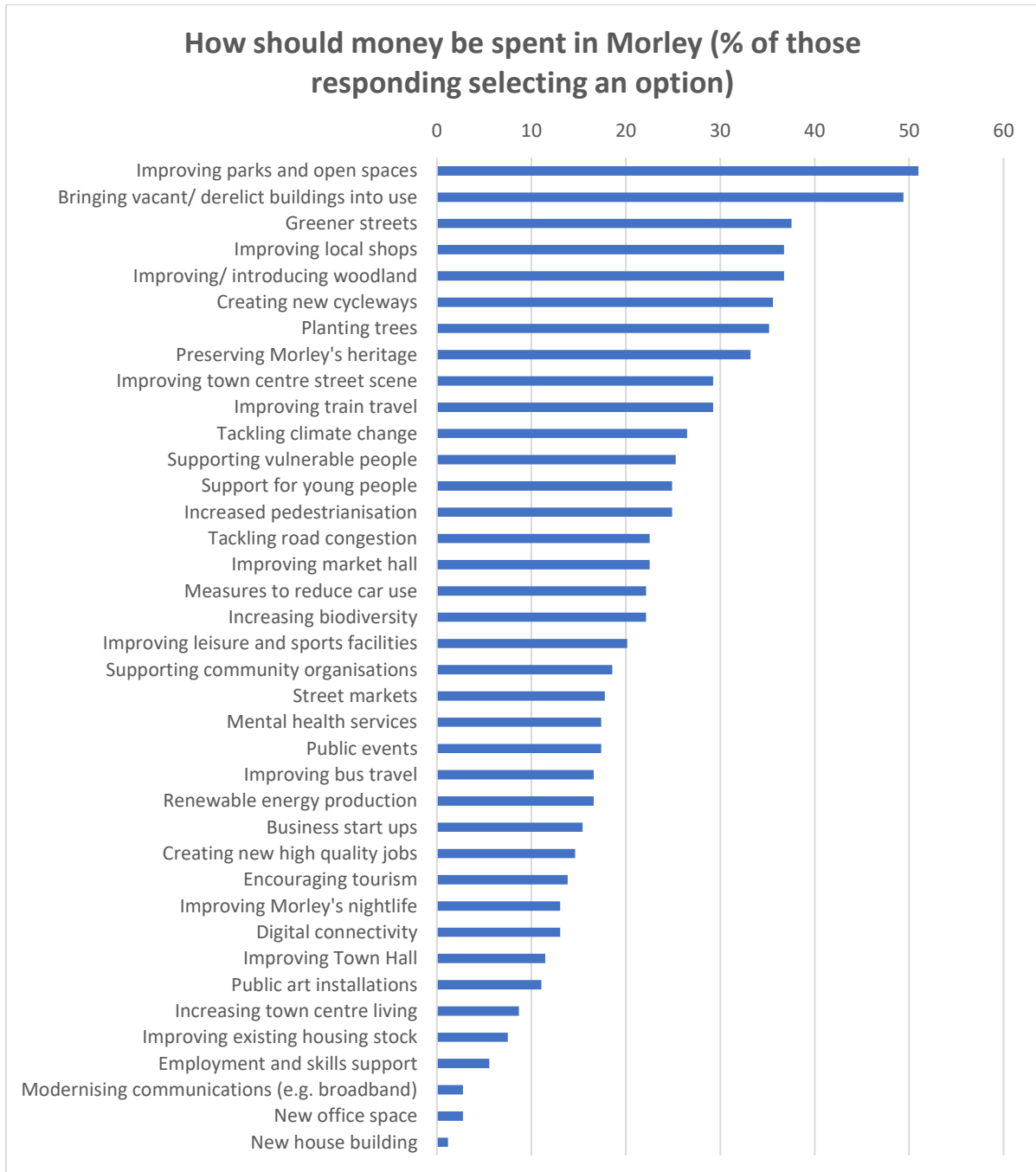
Sixth was youth facilities, which is likely linked to the perception of a lack of dedicated facilities for young people, and a growing concern for the wellbeing of young people because of COVID-19.

Those responding were also given an “other” option where they could respond using an alternative word or phrase. Responses under this category included:

- Very few if any vegetarian/ vegan options for food and drink
- Hembrigg Park
- Scruffy appearance of the shops opposite Prospect Bar in Morley Bottoms
- Too many charity shops and betting shops
- Overdevelopment - all the green fields that surrounded Morley have gone to housing causing congestion of traffic, doctors, dentists, noise
- Litter

Investment Priorities

The following graph summarises the results of the question: “We are applying for funding from central government to improve Morley. How should this money be best spent?”



In relation to the priority areas most identified by those responding, two distinct trends have emerged:

1. Priorities generally focussed upon the town centre, particularly an ambition to bring unoccupied retail units and other derelict buildings (e.g. The Pavilion) back into use, and initiatives to improve local shops
2. Priorities that have an environmental or green element - including improving parks and open spaces, creating greener streets, introducing woodland and tree planting, and in relation to green transport, creating new cycleways

Preserving Morley's heritage also featured highly and aligns with the value that local people place upon heritage assets (as indicated by the high proportion of people who selected this under the "likes" question).

Further transport-related priorities also feature highly with improving train travel, increased pedestrianisation, and tackling road congestion, featuring tenth, fourteenth and fifteenth, respectively.

Those responding were also given an "other" option where they could respond using an alternative word or phrase. Responses left under this category included:

- Provide much-needed bus depot and stop buses using the main Queen Street - so many near misses
- Free parking, removal of parking restrictions!
- Bus station. Pavilion, town hall. Morley could be so much more than it is
- Education - more schools and a state grammar school
- Reduce planning applications for greenbelt land, such as on Laneside Farm unless road and public infrastructure is improved
- Add a pedestrian crossing at Morley Bottoms to get to train station

Commonplace Stage 1– Heatmap pin clusters

The following section focuses upon geographical areas of Morley, which have been identified by those leaving comments on the Morley Commonplace Heatmap. The Heatmap works by those responding placing pins on the heatmap, which then opens a window enabling those responding to:

- Name or describe the area
- Choose from a selection of words which describe what type of place it is (e.g. street, hotel etc)
- Choose from a selection of descriptive words to indicate how they feel about the area (e.g. overcrowded, family friendly etc)
- Indicate whether they feel it should be a priority for Town's Fund Investment (Yes or No)
- Provide a comment (e.g. what they like, dislike, how it could be improved etc)

As the number of pins grow, clusters of pins begin to emerge. This has enabled us to identify the areas of Morley which are of most concern to the community. The following section provides an overview of the clusters which are beginning to emerge. We have used illustrative quotations which are relatively typical of the comments relating to the pins within that cluster.

Cluster 1 – Morley Train Station



The train station is vital for those living and working in Morley. It is quite remote from the town centre and can feel isolated at night. It would benefit from better lighting and perhaps a small cafe or something. It isn't very accessible to all so perhaps this could be improved

Comments about Morley Train Station included:

- Inaccessible for pushchairs and wheelchair users including steps, and condition and steepness of pathways (explore potential for lift access)
- Toilet facilities
- Cafe/ shop
- Improved lighting (linked to feelings of safety)
- Extremely important in relation to connectivity of the town (e.g. to Manchester and Leeds)
- Longer platforms to allow for longer trains with more carriages
- Better signage and pedestrianisation between station and town centre
- Improved shelters for poor weather
- Increase car parking provision on brownfield site in proximity
- Bus connectivity and frequency (to town centre, to White Rose, including integrated smart travel)



Cluster 2 – Morley Bottoms



Whilst a number of empty buildings have been adapted as commercial ventures several remain vacant and in poor condition. Revitalisation of this area as a bar or eating district would be welcome

This four-road junction has no pedestrian crossing. There is no gap in the lights to allow pedestrians to cross

Comments about Morley Bottoms included:

- Improve pedestrianisation (including pavement widening)
- Improve quality of public realm
- Reconfigure to allow for outdoor seating area
- Improved layout of junction for cyclists
- Provision of bars, cafes, and restaurants (improved evening economy)
- Improved shop frontages
- Renovation and restoration of heritage buildings



Cluster 3 – Queen Street



People used to travel some distance to come to Morley to visit the shops and particularly the market however it has become so run down and sadly representative of many small towns it no longer holds an appeal. A little bit of investment in the facades of the buildings and the use of the shops would start to attract people again

Desperately need a bus depot. Buses constantly blocking lower Queen Street stopping traffic nearly every morning, roads just not wide enough

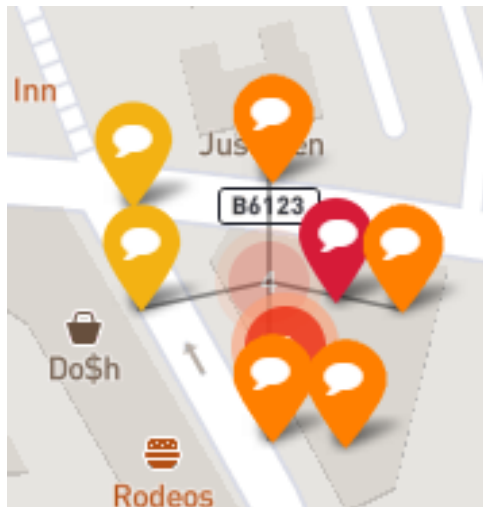
The upgrade to the bus facilities is great, but there is a complete lack of facilities for cyclists wanting to come into Morley on their bike

Comments about Queen Street included:

- Improving look of shop frontages
- Investing in Morley Market
- Improved public realm including planting and greenspace
- Increasing number of independent shops (e.g. delicatessen, organic food etc)
- Pollution reduction
- Bus depot
- Utilising heritage buildings to enhance appearance



Cluster 4 – New Pavilion



Architecturally this is a lovely building and part of Morley's heritage. It is currently derelict which is an absolute shame, and it would be lovely to see it converted for public use

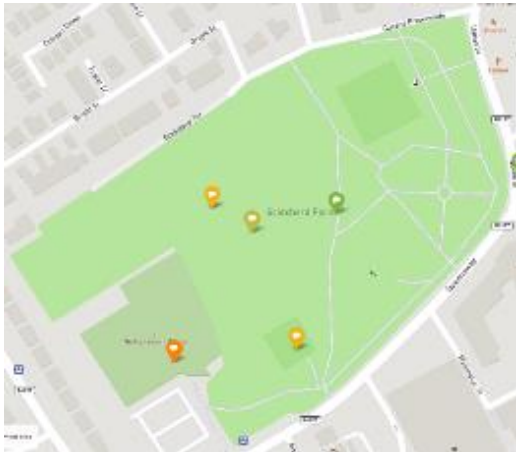
It's currently a really run-down eye-sore but has the potential to be an amazing music venue/ bar or it could house independent shops or street food vendors. Would love to see it used for entertainment purposes

Comments about the New Pavilion included:

- Potential for independent shops
- Potential for bar/ music venue
- Architectural value
- Arts/ heritage centre
- Fitness, sports, indoor climbing centre
- Community space/ hub
- Concern about dereliction
- Need for enforcement action to safeguard the building



Cluster 5 – Scatcherd Park



The skate park is a really valuable facility and is very popular with young people. I think additional facilities like this should be considered in other spaces in Morley, although I know that litter is a major problem here

I would like to see some lighting in the middle of the park. As a safety feature it would benefit anyone walking through the park

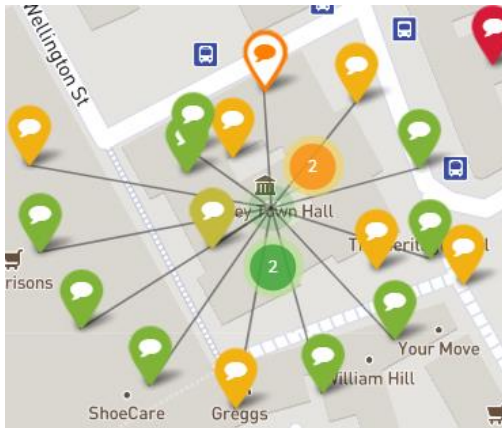
Not a cluster as such, but Scatcherd Park did attract pins in multiple locations across the park.

Comments about Scatcherd Park included:

- Valued by local people
- Concern about litter
- Suggestion for a programme of events and outside activities
- Visitor attraction in the park (large wooden playground)
- Youth facilities/ hub
- Improve lighting



Cluster 6 – Morley Town Hall



Needs development and maintenance to preserve its heritage

It is a super place to have exhibitions and concerts but is also vastly underused. It is also becoming increasingly difficult to access. I think that a combination community centre and heritage centre would be a great improvement

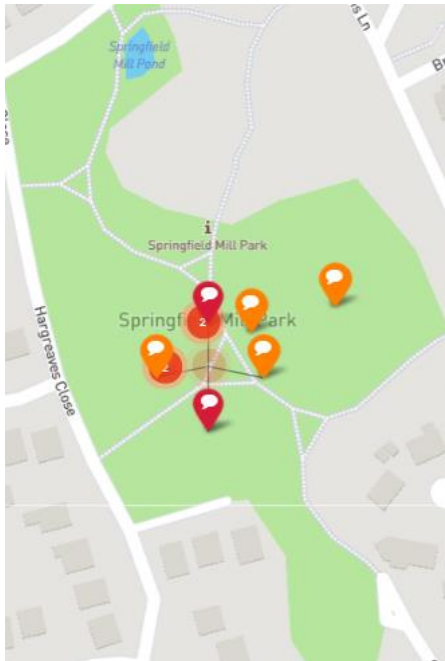
We would like to propose creation of a space for the Morley Indians community to meet and conduct cultural activities like celebration of festivals like Diwali (Festival of Light), Holi (Festival of Colour) and others

Comments about Morley Town Hall included:

- A request to fix the town hall bell
- Arts and cultural venue
- Internal refurbishment needed
- Need to refresh the town hall activity offer
- Suggestion of use for Indian cultural and religious events
- Highly valued by local people



Cluster 7 – Springfield Mill Park



This park has been run down for many years, no fence, broken equipment, and hole in the soft flooring around the equipment

The fence around the playground is collapsed so dogs get in making it unsafe for kids

I appreciate this park was installed as part of the development surrounding residential estate but clearly there were no legacy allowances in the consent to ensure this park was look after in perpetuity. Capital investment in new play equipment and then stewardship by local volunteer groups would maximise this asset

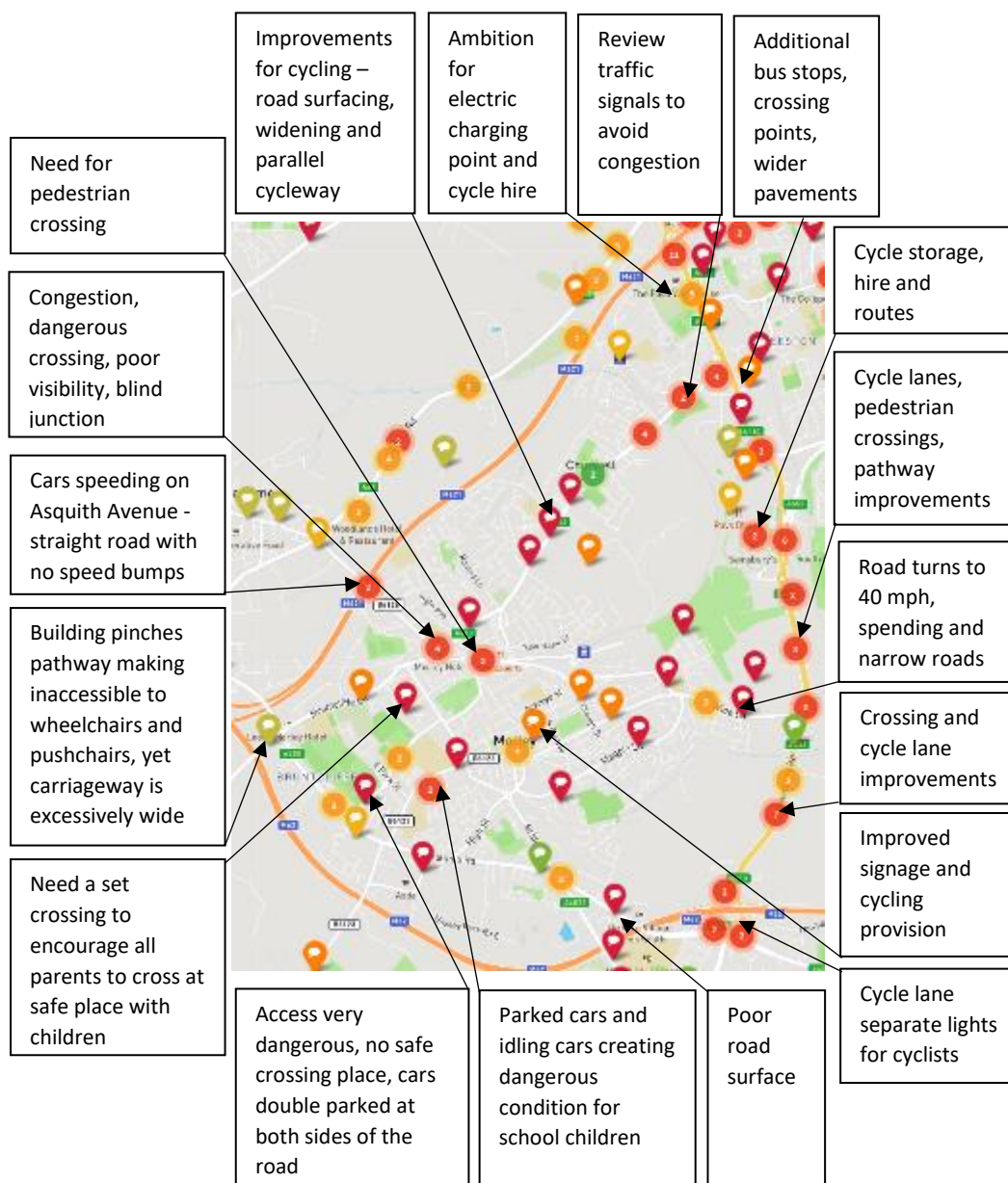
Comments about Springfield Mill Park included:

- Concerns about vandalism and equipment safety
- Improve and maintain the football pitch
- Value on the volunteers that contribute to its maintenance
- Need to replace a lot of the equipment and replace fencing
- Request to bring the park back under Council control



Connecting Leeds

Morley Commonplace is not the first Commonplace site for Leeds. [Connecting Leeds COVID-19 Transport Response](#) is part of the council’s response to COVID-19; emergency action to help the public safely make essential walking or cycling trips. We have provided highlights of comments made below within the Morley boundary, but a key finding was the number of times that cycling routes and facilities were identified as a need.



Stakeholder & resident interviews

Fourteen stakeholder interviews and fourteen resident interviews have been undertaken to date. The responses are summarised below with a selection of illustrative quotations:

Strengths

People and Sense of Community:

There is a strong sense of place and independence within the town. It has civic pride, civic identity, and community spirit. It is a definable town that has not blended into Leeds and residents benefit from access to services and amenities locally.

Feels more like a village than a town. People are very protective of Morley

Fiercely independent on lots of different levels – politics, community spirit

Close knit - it's a place where generations stay

I don't need to go into Leeds for things, and not having a car - that is a selling point

People should be complimented on the effort they make on things like the German Market. The town is decorated for Christmas and can look beautiful. This is the Morley I like and would love to see more of

Residents interviewed frequently mentioned online community support groups (particularly Facebook) as being particularly prolific, as well as being invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic and something people are keen to see continued.

There is an active online presence in Facebook groups and a Town Council group

Social media feels like a tight community. The town has pulled together over the last few months

Location and Connectivity:

Interviewees identified the strength of Morley's location and its connectivity, including rail links to Manchester and Leeds, with the station being an anchor point for the town. It also has proximity to the motorway network making the town an attractive place for commuters.

A small-town feel but only ten minutes from Leeds, fifty minutes from Manchester, and easy to get to London

Almost feels like the centre of the universe. You can be in lots of places pretty quickly

Despite the number of responses suggesting the need for an increase in cycling lane provision and navigable pedestrian routes, travel within Morley was identified as a strength, with places viewed as being generally easily accessible by car or on foot.

...quite compact and easy to get around. There is usually parking available for free somewhere

I can walk and cycle to most places including my work

Economic Assets:

White Rose and Capital Park each represent economic assets for the town despite not being based within the centre. White Rose also feels connected to the town, being a supporter of events such as the arts festival.

Views were expressed that the Morley economy was relatively diverse and was therefore not reliant upon one industry or a single large employer.

The town centre was also identified as a strength in terms of the footfall it attracts and the combination of independent and family businesses alongside chains (although attracting more brand retail names was an aspiration of some). The market was also considered as an asset and it was felt that this represented an opportunity for growth.

We are a convenience town. You don't need to leave Morley for anything other than an airport

Heritage Assets

Morley was considered to have a wealth of heritage assets – manifesting through the history of the area (particularly its industrial past) as well as the architectural merit of its built environment. The Town Hall particularly was identified by a very high proportion of those interviewed as representing a “symbol of civic pride and identity”, although comments were also made about whether its heritage value was matched by the value created by its use

Education

Morley’s schools were identified as “outstanding”, including the secondary school offer with Grove Academy particularly being singled out as a school that performs well despite taking a higher proportion of disadvantaged students than others

Housing

The residential housing market was identified as being healthy with lots of choice, whilst remaining affordable for the majority

Health & Wellbeing

The Leisure Centre was identified as representing outstanding provision and potentially the best in Leeds.

The number of parks serving Morley was also identified as a strength, particularly for a place so close to Leeds Centre. Parks were especially valued by residents interviewed with Dartmouth Park and Scatchard Park being singled out as examples of quality green spaces.

Morley's like a Mars Bar – you can work, rest and play

Weaknesses

Demographics

Morley was perceived to be a place where young people do not stay (but also a place that they come back to in later life, once they have explored educational and employment opportunities elsewhere). Young people leaving the area to pursue post 16 and 18 educational opportunities because of lack of Morley-based opportunities

was identified as a weakness for the town. This view was reinforced by a belief that Morley's population skews older, and this is reflected in the use of the town centre.

Attitudes & Perceptions

Some interviewees identified a tendency for Morley to be "inward looking" with people sometimes being overcritical of new ideas and initiatives. And that Morley's identity is defined by its history and is rooted in the past, limiting an exploration of Morley's future ambitions and its purpose going forward

Still some old-fashioned attitudes. Some people haven't moved with the times

"We've always lived in Morley; We've always done things this way" Is anyone looking outside the town to see how things are done in other places? Does this insular mentality stop people coming into the town?

Transport Connectivity

Despite the Train Station and Morley's overall connectivity being considered as an asset, comments were also made about how far the station is from the town centre and the lack of a clear pedestrian corridor between the town centre and the station. Multiple issues were identified with the station – parking, accessibility, facilities, condition, and its visual amenity.

Parking at the station is appalling. Need to address that to get people out of their cars

Bit of a third world station

The station is not accessible and not well lit. I avoid it on dark nights. It doesn't feel secure. Something that means more people are in and around the station, like a café, would help

The lack of suitability for cyclists was also identified as an issue to be addressed – the lack of facilities for cyclists for storage and the lack of cycling lanes (with environmental implications on as well as transport connectivity). This was reinforced by the multiple responses on the Leeds Connect Commonplace site.

You can walk to most places within a mile or two but access for bikes is lacking, including places to leave bikes

Traffic and road capacity were also identified as a weakness, with congestion around the one-way system and the town hall mentioned as particular hotspots. The lack of pedestrian crossings in some areas was also identified as a concern, and something that discouraged people from walking.

There are traffic hotspots, lots of junctions that are tricky, and the area around Morley Bottoms doesn't have a crossing at all. There have been quite a few accidents around there

You can walk everywhere but not everywhere has a safe place to cross

Town Centre

Despite the Town Centre and the retail offer being viewed as a strength of Morley, aspects of the town centre were also identified as a weakness. A challenge is created by its length (Queen Street), and whether this undermines the ability to present a compelling and cohesive retail offer. The gaps (unlet units) can create a run-down feel and several interviewees commented upon the proportion of charity shops and bookies, which were viewed as undesirable.

Other weaknesses associated with the town centre included the lack of a strong “night-time” economy, although there were differing opinions on whether the bar and restaurant scene had been improving and some had not fared as well as others during COVID-19.

The indoor market offer was also identified as needing investment and some optimism in this area was evident, linked to the recent change in ownership of this building.

The look of the town was also identified as a weakness, with Morley Bottoms being identified as an area that is particularly run-down, an issue compounded by its status as a gateway into the town. The dereliction of the New Pavilion was also identified as an example of where Morley’s heritage could be under threat, a site which creates a poor impression of the town and a potential target for Town’s Fund investment. The need to “refresh” aspects of the town centre was also identified:

It was built in the 1970s and looks like it

The town centre is unattractive with no glue or focal point to hold it together

It looks like it could do with a good wash!

Seems to be an invisible wall halfway down the street. People walk down, look around and walk back. We used to have good shops and brands but one by one they have been replaced by charity and betting shops. They dominate the high street

Pavilion at the end of the high street looks tired and dated, and it is clear there has been no investment in it

Would be nice to see the regeneration that is starting to happen in Morley Bottoms spread to the high street

Over development

A particular concern of residents was the amount of new housing development planned for Morley. The impact of new housing on local services and amenities (schools, doctors, roads), which were viewed as being at capacity, was mentioned frequently, as was the loss of green spaces that new development could result in.

Morley has been built on for far too long. It's getting too built up. It's expanding too quickly and spreading into other areas. We're in danger of losing our community spirit

...impacts on schools and service which will be detrimental to the community. It impacts on the capacity of services and amenities

Skills and education

A key gap in skills and education provision identified was post-16/18 provision - particularly the development of vocational skills. This was also identified as a contributory factor to young people leaving the area to access opportunities elsewhere

Investment Priorities

Leverage

Stakeholders identified the need to use the Towns Fund £25m to lever further investment, and that this should be an overarching priority and a principle for the board to adopt in relation to all its investment decisions - the need to use this money as a trigger or catalyst for project activity which transcends the spending of the £25m:

Make the £25m into £50m. There needs to be a strategic plan - not just for other public funding but private sector investment too

The board need to be clear about top level priorities that will make a difference and we know we can deliver

Town Centre

Several suggestions were made to reconfigure the town centre, particularly concentrating Queen Street's retail offer in the middle, with the potential for an evening economy offer at either end of its length.

Increasing the proportion of town centre residential property was also suggested, including replacing retail and exploring residential above retail - increasing the town centre residential population and contributing to town centre footfall for daytime and evening use.

Investing in Morley Bottoms was suggested, particularly pedestrianisation and public realm improvements. A proposal was to use improvements in public realm to increase the connectivity of this area to the rest of the town centre.

Other town centre investment suggestions included:

- Town hall, and the area surrounding, particularly with a focus on arts and enhancing the public realm
- New Pavilion – Training/ learning Centre as well as an evening entertainment venue

- Using Towns Fund money to lever private sector investment from property owners to upgrade buildings they own or bring them into use, particularly for uses which will benefit the local community

Bring the town up to scratch and make it look more aesthetically pleasing. The Pavilion would be a priority as it has been empty for years. A lovely building but has been left for so long

Lots of charity shops on the high street and lots of empty units. Would be nice to fill the shops with something usable - workspaces, community spaces...

Supporting the development of Morley's night-time economy was identified as a potential priority area – and dovetailing this with public realm improvements to encourage a café culture (particularly the provision of outdoor seating areas on newly pedestrianised areas).

Investing in projects to improve feelings of safety within the town was also identified, including CCTV and locations for the Police to have a presence.

Skills and Training

An investment in post 16/18 education and training – particularly vocational training opportunities linked to local employment opportunities and active industries. The aim would be to encourage young people to stay in the town providing an opportunity to ensure a transition from secondary to further education to employment can take place locally. An ancillary benefit would be to encourage the proportion of young people using the town centre.

Transport

As previously identified, investment in Morley Train Station was viewed as a priority with improving accessibility (for wheelchairs and pushchairs), facilities (shelters, shops, café and parking), signage, security, and improving pedestrian and cycling routes to the town centre.

Shuttle link from station to town centre – cable car, monorail, something different! Must be accessible for wheelchair users, pushchairs etc

Train station is not accessible when coming from Leeds, which causes problems for people with disabilities.

Investment in sustainable transport infrastructure was also viewed as a priority with improvements to cycle lanes and footpaths identified as a particular need.

Introduce cycle lanes to encourage people to cycle more. This would reduce traffic. The roads feel unsafe at the moment

Footpaths feel old and unsafe, often too narrow

Parks

Investing in parks to encourage their greater use (relaying pathways, outdoor gyms, skate parks, play equipment, etc) – recognising their contribution to health & wellbeing and exploring their use as events spaces.

*Lots of lovely parks in Morley, but revamps haven't been high quality.
Dartmouth Park children's play area was updated but broke quickly and nothing has been followed up.*

Arts & Culture

Recognising the potential to increase the profile of Morley through arts and culture (exhibition and events, including building on the Arts Festival), to improve footfall to the town centre from local people, as well as strengthening the visitor economy, and the potential to use public arts to enhance the town centre environment. This could include exploring the potential to use the town centre, and the space in front of it, as a hub for arts activities and installations (alongside permanent improvements to the public realm). Encouraging artists and crafters to display and sell their creations with the potential for street markets or to enhance the offer within the permanent market hall is another possibility. This could be a potential USP for Morley.

Investment priorities under six themes

The following themes were used as prompts - to support interviewees thinking about Morley in terms of considering issues from a variety of perspectives and to encourage thinking beyond the activities which relate to physical assets. These

themes are not proposed themes to be adopted by the Town Deal Board, nor are they themes provided by Government under the programme.

The themes, in full, were:

- **Housing and the Environment** - Morley as a place to live, including improving housing quality and green spaces
- **Economy and Enterprise** - Morley as a place to work, and for businesses to become established and grow
- **Skills and Education** - Morley as a place to develop the skills, experiences, and qualifications for a successful career
- **Communities and Health** - Morley's health and leisure services, its community assets (including youth and community centres) and the organisations that help us to remain happy and healthy
- **Transport and Communications Infrastructure** - Morley as a well-connected place in terms of road and pedestrian access, cycleways, and public transport; alongside its digital connectivity
- **Town Centre, Visitor Economy & Arts and Culture** - Morley's town centre with its mix of uses and high-quality public realm, alongside Morley's arts, culture, and entertainment offer

The information summarised in the table below represents the information captured under these themes:

Housing and the Environment	Economy and Enterprise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spaces in between the houses - landscaping of public areas • Not just green spaces for the sake of them – how are they used? • More greenspace in the town centre • Higgledy-piggledy place. Historically high-quality buildings but also low quality. It does not quite blend • Developing Morley as part of a bigger plan, rather than developers coming in and building suburban properties with no real regard to the town • Crying out for sheltered housing and places for this have been identified • Getting to the top of the housing list is a task • Nice mix of housing that suits most demographics – residential developments for families, converted mills for young professionals • More affordable homes. Some buildings in the town centre have potential to be affordable homes (e.g. housing association) • Shortage of affordable homes, but opposition to building on greenbelt land • Concern about scale and type of future development and capacity of roads, schools, GPs, dentists, and other services and that any new development needs to take this into account • Lack of bungalows (impacts particularly upon older people who want to stay in Morley) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do people really see it as a place to work? Would struggle to name any current big employers. Historically there was Kodak • Disparate offer – retail, offices, some tech • This theme must be thought about in the context of COVID-19. Potential for agile working spaces (e.g. couple of days per week) • Eclectic mix of businesses who have chosen to be in Morley because of its location – proximity to motorways • White Rose could be a place to attract new businesses building the social and economic links between WR and town • Looked at establishing Business Improvement District a few years ago but Morrisons (largest town centre business) was not supportive • No business support or networking offer for SMEs (particularly to support high street independents) • Business rate reduction • Industrial estate could become more tech focussed (White Rose or Capital Park)
Skills and Education	Communities and Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking to John Townsley (Academy Trusts) and local business owners to explore how connection between skills and industry could be improved • FE centralised in Leeds about ten years ago for good reasons (austerity). Reinventing FE offer for Morley feels exciting. Not a little college - a strong quality offer of key skills and basic skills • Free education for adults is lacking (particularly for medical and education roles) • Employer led offer, (apprenticeships, vocational) • Is a college in Morley the right thing for young people? Is it better for them to get out of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of aging population with poor health. • Fantastic Leisure Centre offer, well used • Less provision of a private fitness offer • Need for more sports pitches • Strengthen community infrastructure for wellbeing. Council owned community space run by community groups • Youth Services work well but target most vulnerable/ ASB rather than broader offer • Awareness and support for men’s mental health • Dementia Friendly Morley, in response to ageing population. Involve local businesses

<p>town raising aspirations and exploring the wider world?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Awards incorporated into Arts Festival • Could skills offer attract business • Gaps in post-16 and post-18 offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate & promote community groups • Elderly Action during COVID-19 - food banks, keeping in touch with vulnerable • Food banks and other new support mechanisms have brought the community together (need to ensure these continue)
<h3>Transport and Communications Infrastructure</h3>	<h3>Town Centre, Visitor Economy & Arts and Culture</h3>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateways into the town centre need to be improved to create a better first impression • Digital connectivity also needs to include how the town is represented online • Free parking in the town centre is an asset and needs to be preserved • Station – out of the town centre. The walk from the station to the centre is not signed and can be dark. How do we connect station to the town centre? • Accessibility issues at the station especially on platform 2 • This is a commuter station and there is not enough car parking, people park on the roads surrounding the station. Discussions ongoing with Network Rail • Bus station –something that could be a focal point in the town centre, but also a view that it is not needed and there is no space for it in the town • Layout of the roads is awkward for buses – not a simple clear bus route through town • No sense of a cohesive cycle network • Town centre to White Rose would be a priority for cycle routes • Issues around speeding, would like to see some better traffic calming measures, camera network etc to encourage people to drive responsibly • Road capacity is inadequate and new developments are adding to congestion • Parking permits for residents living near the town centre. Even though there is free parking elsewhere these streets can become busy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage – raise awareness for visitors & residents • Town centre is not going to be a visitor attraction and Morley visitor economy is limited • Need to create attractive offer for residents with money – market, café culture, quality shops • Needs a more varied retail offer. Too many hairdressers, charity shops, bookies etc • Not a place you would go for a night out. Town shuts at 4-5pm. Need a vibrant night-time economy • Different bar and restaurant offer at either end of the high street; “glitzy” offer at one end & independent craft brewery feel at Morley Bottoms • Need to be improvements – reduction in ASB, better lighting, CCTV etc • How do you re-engineer the mix of the town centre so that works in reduced retail environment. What is going to drive footfall? • Morley as a destination - arts festival at town hall • Town Hall is a key building but how can it best be used? What is its purpose? • Residential offer in the town centre – flats over shops to bring young professionals into town • Layout of the town centre is problematic - no central anchor point. Offer is disjointed at two ends of the high street • Pavilion could be the anchor building at the other end of the street. • Highlight the town centre as an alternative shopping venue – as opposed to White Rose or Leeds city centre • Needs something to create an impression, whether that’s green spaces, street furniture, installations. • Younger families who live in the town as a commuter base or because of good education do not necessarily use the town centre • Free parking needs to be kept - to encourage footfall to town centre businesses • Need more entertainment businesses targeted at children and young people

Morley business engagement event

An interactive Zoom event was held on 25th November. This was chaired by the Gerald Jennings (the chairperson of Morley Town Deal board). It was attended by ten local business owners from a range of sectors including hospitality venues, retailers, market traders, and service businesses. The structure of the workshop was largely based upon the stakeholder interview schedule - a consideration of strengths, weaknesses, and investment priorities, as well as an exploration of Morley via specific themes. An interactive whiteboard was used to record comments made (screenshots of which have been provided below).

Two supplementary one-to-one interviews were also undertaken with two other business owners who were unable to attend the Zoom session.

Morley's Strengths

Morley was identified as “buzzing” and has an “up and coming feel to it”, especially the hospitality sector

There are strong levels of community spirit in the town. Residents engage with businesses, participate enthusiastically in local events, and are “fiercely loyal”. Many of the businesses in the town centre are run by local people, which adds to this feeling. The high proportion of independent shops and bars supports community spirit and encourages loyalty with people remaining keen to come into the town centre and support local businesses. The market is a particular strength, considering many towns do not have a market anymore. Morley also attracts customers from surrounding areas with word of mouth being a powerful mechanism.

Transport and accessibility are strengths of Morley, including pedestrian access within and around Morley with people being able to walk to most places. There is also plenty of free parking and the town is well positioned in relation to the motorway network. The train station is an asset for the town despite the issues it has.

What are Morley's strengths?



Morley's Weaknesses

In relation to public transport, buses stopping on Queen Street can block the road creating problems for traffic and pedestrians. This also obstructs car parking spaces, which creates issues for customers.

Local businesses weren't consulted about bus stops and traffic flow even though it affects us

Morley station is well used but is lacking in amenities and has accessibility problems. It is badly lit and feels dangerous at night. The distance from the town centre is also an issue and it was identified that improved bus links and frequency would help with this, especially at peak times.

The junction at Morley Bottoms was identified as being dangerous. Queen Street was identified as often being used as a rat run, with people ignoring the pedestrianisation. Suggested improvements included better signage, more cameras, and bollards.

Signage in the town centre was identified as poor. This particularly affects the market considering it is indoors and therefore not as visible. People often tell traders they were not aware of them being there.

It was suggested that the pedestrianisation of Queen Street and Albion Street could be used to create a more cosmopolitan feel - a safe space for families and older

people to shop. It could also provide a space for outdoor markets.

We need a clear vision for what we want on Queen Street.

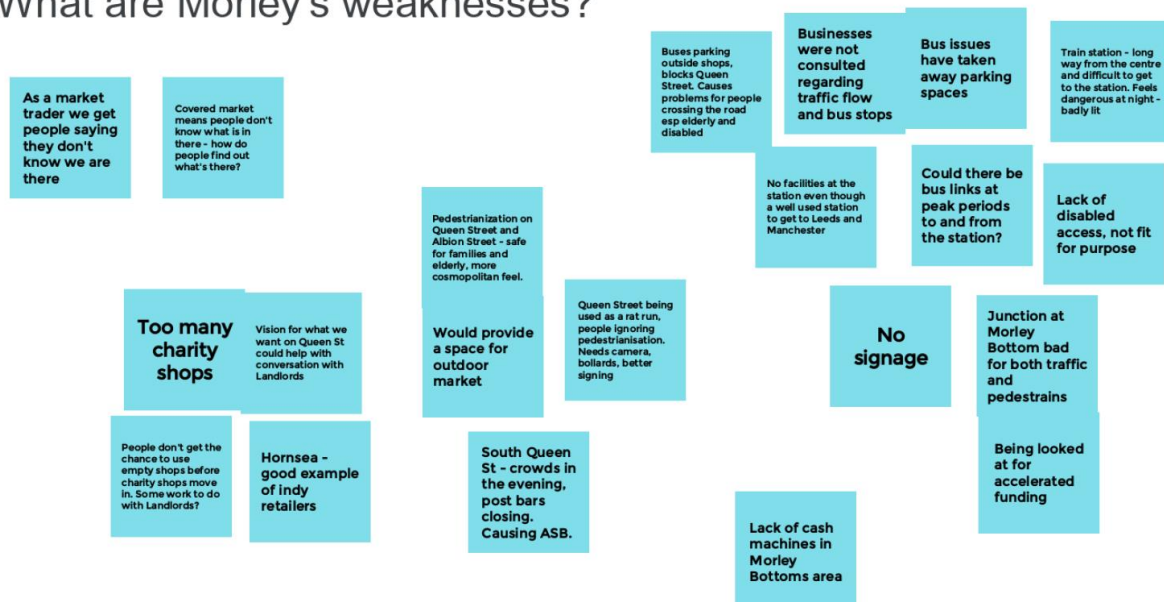
A high number of charity shops was identified as a weakness and that landlords should be included in the conversation about addressing this – particularly that local businesses do not get the chance to take on units before they become charity shops. Rents and rates were considered high, which can make it difficult to set up a new business in Morley.

The town centre environment was identified as “a bit scruffy” and the empty units contributes to this. This was an issue pre-COVID-19 but there was an expectation that this would be exacerbated because of it. It was suggested that radical thinking was needed to get the high street going again.

It was identified that South Queen Street has regular incidents of anti-social behaviour in the evenings when the bars are closing.

A need for cash machines in Morley Bottoms area was identified as an issue particularly for older customers like to use cash.

What are Morley's weaknesses?



Priorities for Investment

We want Morley to be a destination; a place people want to be. We should invest in making Morley a place to come to. Investment needs to have longevity; something that appeals to families and the next generation

Creating a “flow” through the town centre and connecting it to Morley Bottoms was identified as a priority and that further pedestrianisation and the right variety of businesses would help this.

The town needs something that pulls it together and draws people down into town from Aldi or Morrisons. Creating a continental feel with markets, events, micro bars would make the town centre a place to go. Pedestrianisation of Queen Street would also help by creating a safe space that would help with the traffic situation

A bus terminal on the edge of the town centre was identified as having the potential to help reduce the traffic and parking issues, however participants were unsure where this could be located.

More cameras in the town centre was identified as a development which could improve safety as would a more visible police presence, especially in the evenings.

Access and lighting at the train station was identified as needing improvement and therefore a priority for investment.

It can actually feel quite dangerous at night and is an issue for staff who work late and have to make their way home in the dark during winter

Marketing and communications like a local e-newsletter was also identified as a development, which would help to promote businesses.

Spending Priorities



Thematic Discussions

Participants of the workshop made the decision to only focus upon four out of the six themes (excluding transport and communications, and the town centre, heritage and arts theme), which had previously been used to encourage broader discussion during stakeholder interviews, on the basis that they had covered those areas during discussion of the other themes:

Housing and the Environment	Economy and Enterprise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scatchard Park could provide a link into the town centre from the rest of Morley. Dartmouth Park is also a great green space. There is not enough affordable housing. Lots of green space has been given over to development but this tends to be expensive Spaces over shops in the town centre should be used as accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives that support new and existing businesses in Morley including needs linked to COVID but also that this could create opportunities for new businesses Grants scheme for start-up businesses (unique, independent, and improving the high street. Criteria applied to help fill gaps in the current offer in town Existing businesses could benefit from funding to support business development Network and skills sharing. Mentors from existing businesses to support start-ups A wide-reaching campaign to promote Morley as a business destination (featuring local businesses) Need to promote vacancies in the town centre giving independent businesses the chance to take them on

Skills and Education

- Business skills for owners. One-stop-shop for businesses including skill share offer (digital offer or in person)
- Life skills both for adults and in schools, particular personal finances, budgeting etc. A place that people can turn to and ask for help without feeling embarrassed. There is an increasing life skills gap amongst school leavers (e.g. time keeping, work ethic, customer services skills):

It makes it increasingly challenging for us to employ school leavers as we need to spend so much time with them. Sometimes it's easier to pay a little bit more money for someone with a bit of experience

Communities and Health

- Increasing population increases demand on local services (e.g. appointments with GPs and dentists)
- Schools are very popular and well performing but are also in high demand (with students from outside Morley come to local schools)
- A notable increase in mental health and need for emotional support:

Local service businesses can have a strong emotional link with their customers. During COVID we've seen how important human interaction is to people and we can see when people are suffering. Where can we signpost these people to so they can get support?"

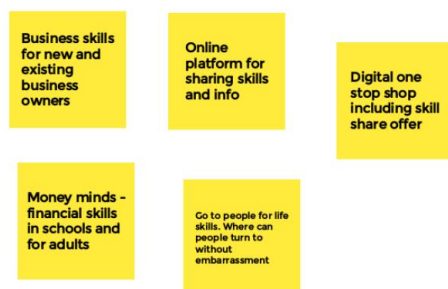
Housing and Environment



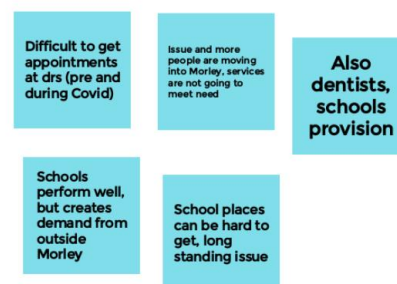
Economy and Enterprise



Skills and Education



Communities and Health



Submissions received

We received submissions from several organisations which had chosen to undertake their own engagement exercises. This included the Council's Youth Service (two separate sessions held with young people), Churwell Primary School (about a whole school project they had done around the "future of Morley"), as well as a submission received from Leeds Primary Care Network's Clinical Director (which had undertaken a survey of health practitioners).

Churwell Primary School, based in the northern part of Morley, undertook a school-wide project within October involving all school years. Over 360 children were involved in discussions and deliberations in classes and in groups. The following list of highlights represents a summary of some of the suggestions from the children:



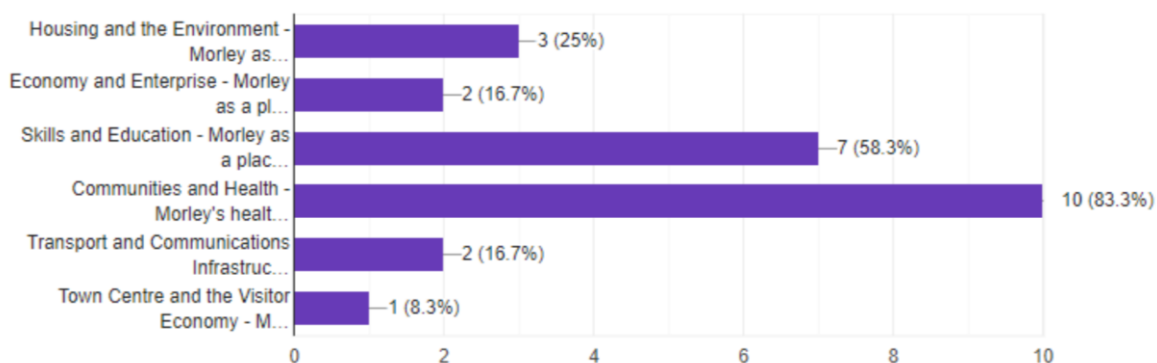
- More special events to take place (e.g. parades, concerts to celebrate special events like Diwali or Christmas)
- Community garden where people can chat or chill out
- More trees, plants, and greenery
- A new playground with a tree house, climbing frame or a woodland walk
- Family camping ground and adventure area
- Football pitch
- Better public toilets
- Litter picking initiative
- Anti-pollution programme (e.g. car idling)
- Recycling bins and recycling facilities with easy access in Morley town centre



Leeds City Council Youth Service, within October, undertook an engagement exercise with 42 young people, a mix of genders, aged 13-19 years old (one group of 12 and one group of 30). The table below summarises the findings of that exercise:

Like about Morley	Dislike about Morley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of young people stated they really enjoyed having a leisure centre but would like to upgrade it such as more pools and young people friendly gyms (young people stated they feel intimidated by adults) • The market • The parks • The town hall and the history (but would like to upgrade it and bring it into 2020). • The free parking • Lots of takeaways • Bus service is good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To many betting and charity shops • Certain groups of Young people are not friendly • ASB • People taking trolleys from Morrison's and riding up and down the precinct on them (should make them the £1 trollies) • Not enough youth centres
Priorities for improvement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close some betting shops • Park equipment at Lewisham park • Open Youth Club again. • Cheaper public transport to get into town • Make the parks better • Have a youth centre for young people run by the youth service that has everything in one place such as mental health service for young people, sexual health, Youth workers, People to help you get a job and in to education. One big youth centre a centre for young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lights in the skate park near the sports centre for dark evenings in the winter • Lights in the park near the sports centre as it is used as a cut though to get to town • Upgrade Lewisham Youth Centre • Make a Youth Hub like the Leeds Youth Hub (could make it next to the sports centre or Lewisham Park) • Make an "xscape" like the one in Castleford • Cinema

The Clinical Director of Morley & District Primary Care Network, Dr Sabodh Gogna, undertook a survey amongst his wider team, which was based upon the themes we adopted at an early stage of the engagement process. Twelve individuals responding identified the following thematic priorities:



Further feedback provided by health practitioners through Dr Gogna included:

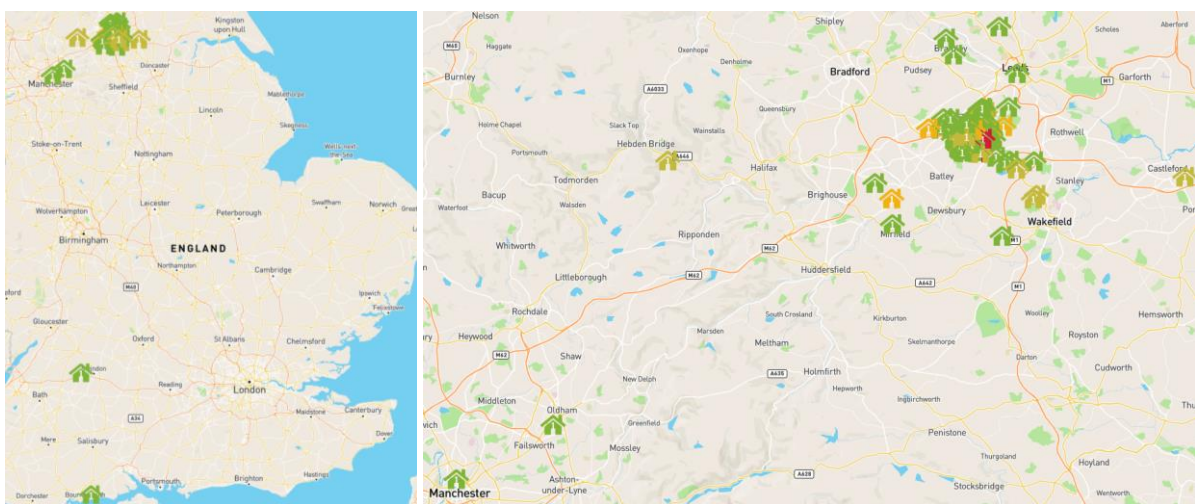
- **Elderly population** – The main health & social care issues are around supporting those who are mild/moderately frail (i.e. people who could and want to live independently but need support to do so from community health teams like district nurses and social care who are all stretched). Initiatives like community transport schemes that help people get around Morley easily could help maintain independence. Easy access to secondary health services within Morley’s health centres so people do not have to travel to Leeds hospitals also important.
- **Mental health** – an existing problem but obviously enhanced by COVID-19. Particularly a need for more children’s/ young people’s mental health support within schools. Academy school system does some of this themselves but would benefit from external expertise
- **Obesity** – a national issue, not necessarily specific to Morley but still important
- **Management of long-term conditions** - Local focus on preventing foot and leg issues linked to diabetes, and on asthma/ COPD management

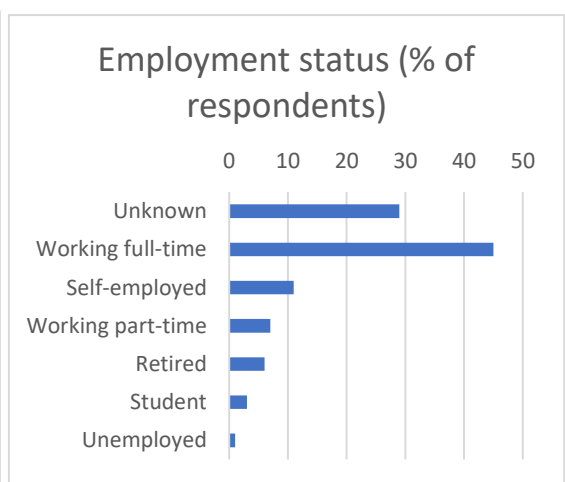
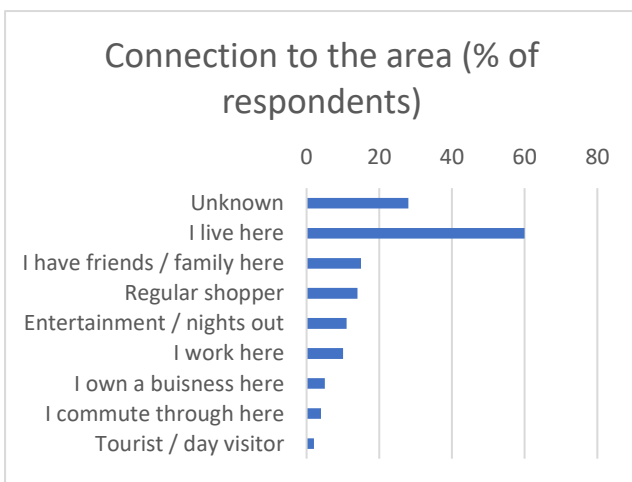
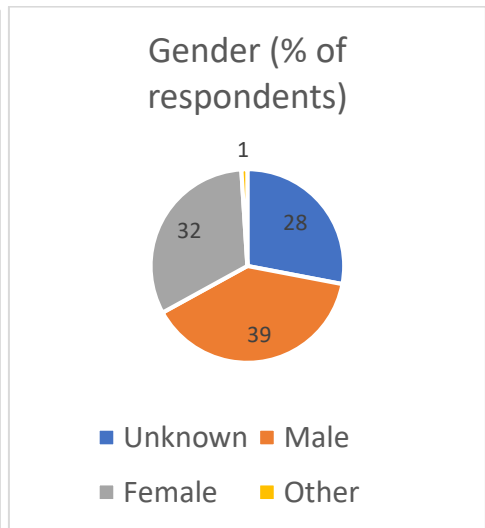
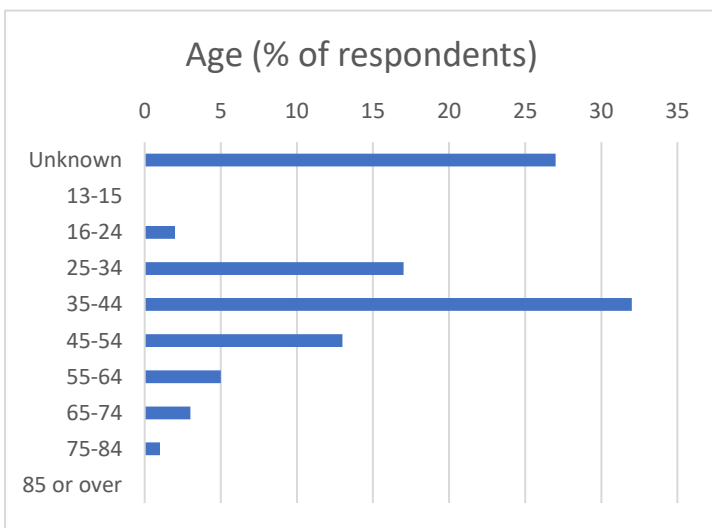
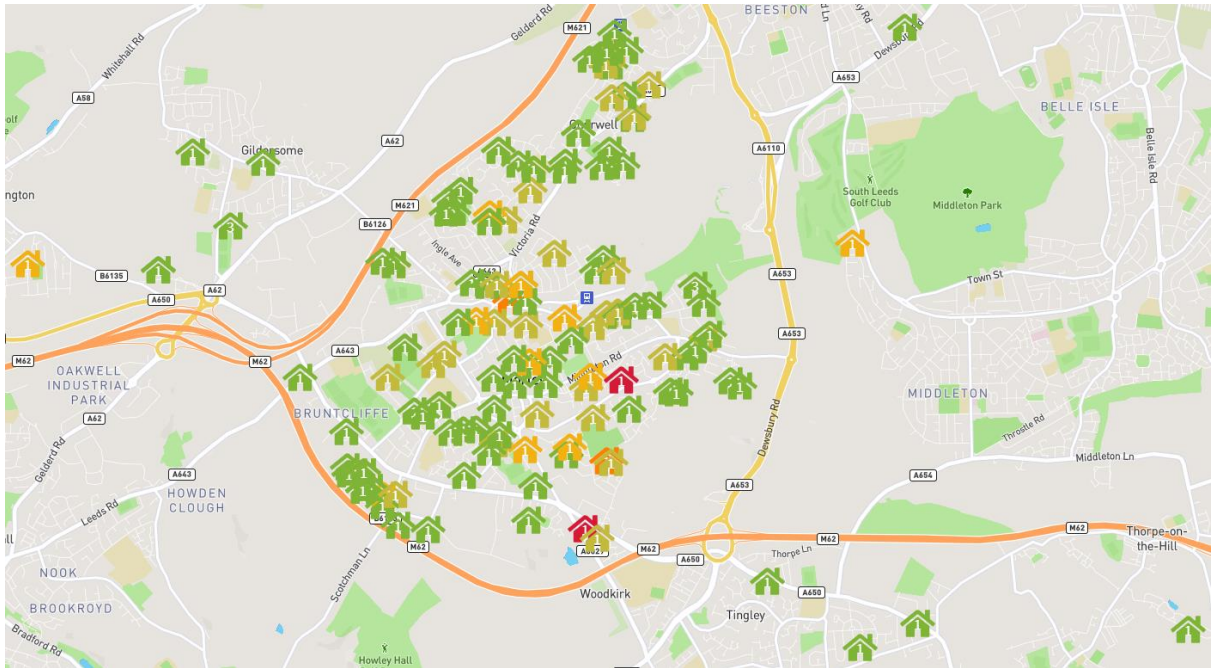
Commonplace Stage 2 (Project Consultation) – About those responding

In relation to the second stage of the Morley Commonplace Engagement Exercise, between 20th November and 14th December 2020 there were **2,221 visitors** to the Morley Commonplace resulting in **447 individual respondents** (people that completed all or part of the survey information on the site).

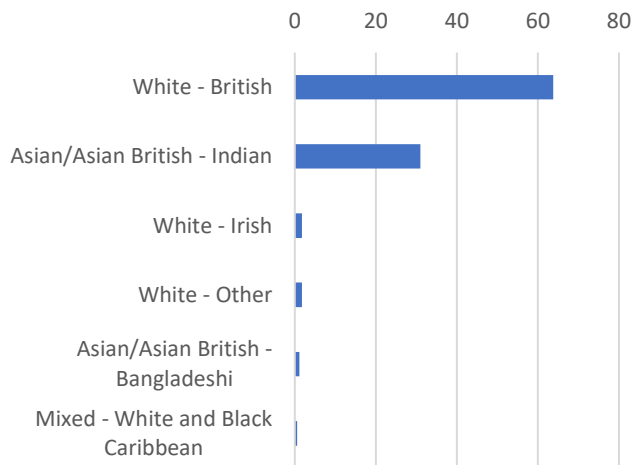
The graphs and charts below provide a demographic overview of the individuals who participated in the engagement exercise via the Morley Commonplace platform. The “unknown” category is when this section was not completed. For graphs where totals are more than 100%, respondents could select multiple responses.

The maps below identifies where the individuals lived, based on their postcode, and illustrates that a proportion of those responding were not based within the Morley area. The colour scheme of the house icons on the map indicates their overall sentiment (green indicating positive sentiment and red indicating negative sentiment). Roughly 90% of those who responded reside within Morley.

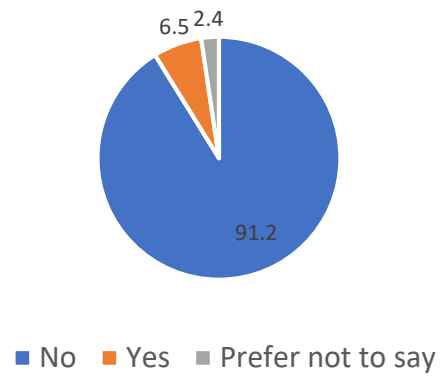




Ethnicity (% of respondents)



Identify as having a disability (% of respondents)



Commonplace Stage 2 (Project Consultation) – Findings



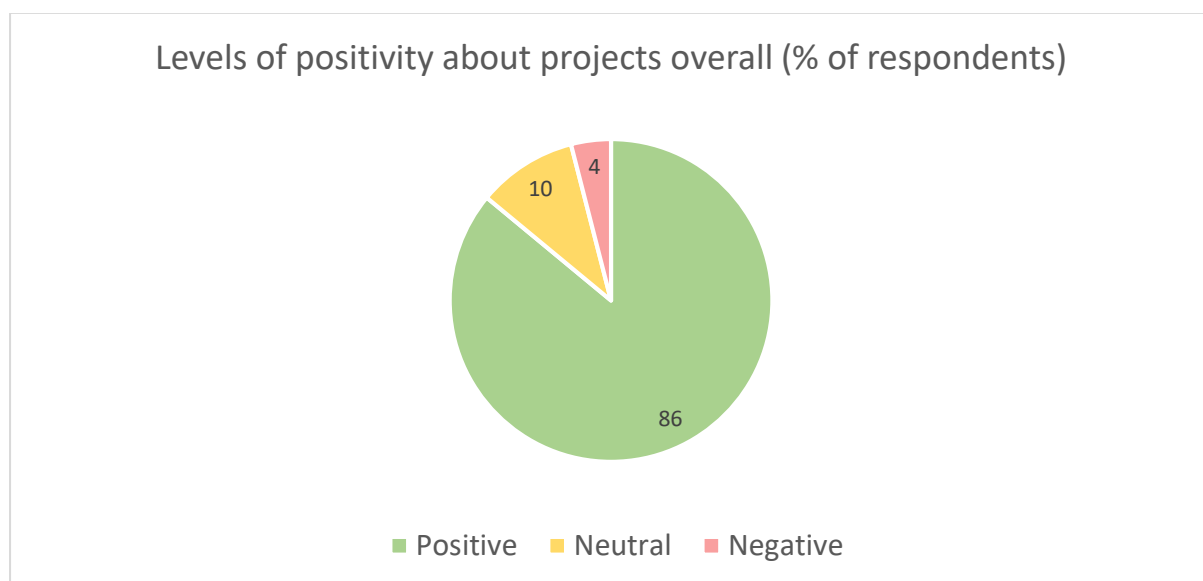
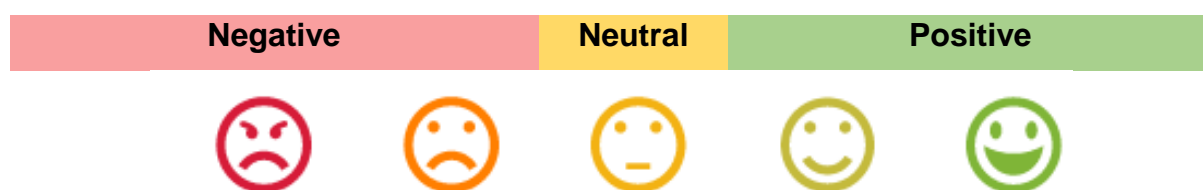
This second Commonplace Platform provided an outline of project ideas which were based on the first phase of the public consultation and research undertaken to date and refined through a rigorous project prioritisation exercise with the Morley Town Deal Board:

- **Events and Arts** - Investing in Morley's arts and cultural offer including the potential to create workspace for artists, new or improved venues that promote arts and culture, and developing indoor and outdoor spaces for arts and cultural events
- **White Rose Skills and Innovation Hub** - Based at White Rose Office Park, a combination of business space, and business support for start-ups and small and medium enterprises, including digital skills, and the development of new technologies
- **Morley Town Square** - Creating an attractive new civic square in the town centre, providing a focal point for Morley, with the potential for use as gathering place and for community events
- **Business Space Development** - Creating new co-working or office space in Morley, responding to a likely growth in remote working practices, as well as supporting the self-employed and those working in creative industries

- **Heritage Buildings & Shop Fronts** - Support and incentives to improve the appearance of Morley, including improvements to shop fronts, and bringing empty heritage buildings back into use
- **Morley Town Hall** - Refurbishment and alterations to Morley Town Hall, which both preserve its heritage value but also improves public access - supporting a vibrant range of uses
- **New Pavilion** - Restoration and developing support for a new use for the building, alongside wider improvements to the surrounding public realm and highways
- **Town Centre Housing** - Supporting the development of housing at key strategic sites in Morley, with a particular focus upon increasing the amount of housing within the town centre, supporting the regeneration of the town centre and increasing footfall for town centre retail
- **Specialist Housing** - A focus on developing housing within Morley, which has been designed around the needs of specific sections of the population. including older people
- **Greenspace Improvements** - Investing in Morley's parks and greenspaces, potentially including new spaces, lighting, facilities, footpaths, and planting schemes
- **Community Hub** - The provision of space for community members and community organisations to meet
- **Morley Market** - A refurbishment of the indoor market making it more attractive for a wide range of stall holders and increasing customer footfall
- **Morley Train Station** - Improvements to the accessibility, car parking provision, and the environment around the train station
- **Bus Transport** - Working with bus operators to improve bus service provision and journey times from Morley to surrounding areas
- **Highway Improvements** - Undertaking highways improvements to reduce congestion, improve connectivity and address safety issues
- **Cycling and Pathways** - Improving pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, to encourage healthy, active travel - including cycle lanes and storage, pathway creation and improvements, and measures to improve safety

- **Skills Hub/ Campus** - Developing a Morley based skills development offer, including vocational learning opportunities, connecting local people to local jobs
- **Town Centre Public Realm** - Improving the town centre street scene through a series of public realm enhancements to improve key routes and gateways within the town centre

Those responding were initially asked to indicate, overall, how they felt about the list of projects being considered using the following scale to indicate their view. The results are displayed in the pie chart below. It indicates, overall, a high level of support of the project areas.

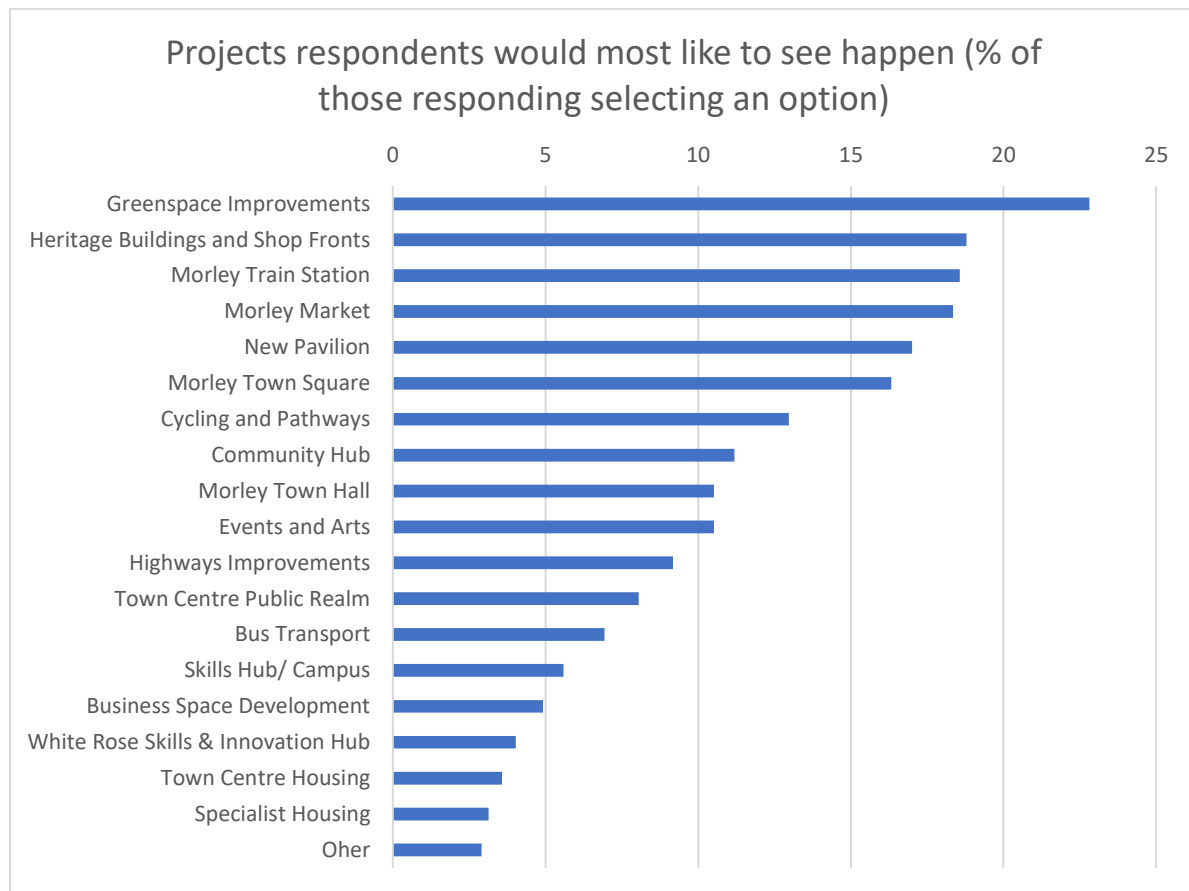


Analysis of the comments of those that expressed an overall dissatisfaction with the projects, priorities revealed that this often related to a specific aspect (e.g. a concern about over-development generally or disagreeing with a single project idea):

...the White Rose isn't Morley. Anything spent there is not going to benefit Morley

Building more industrial units will ruin Morley

Respondents were then asked to select the projects they would most like to see happen, which produced the following results:



The project area identified as the highest priority was greenspace improvements - a consistent priority area, which also featured the highest at stage 1 of the Commonplace online engagement process.

Having brought children up in Morley.....we really were drawn to the area because of the parks and green space.....just think of how many more families would be drawn to the area to work/live/travel to, if our parks were rethought & extended....the parks were given an injection of life and we could all cycle safely to these places as a family. That would be my dream

The identification of Morley’s heritage as a priority area also continued with the second priority area being heritage buildings and shop front improvements.

I would love us to embrace our historical town heritage, create an environment of beauty, and love our history

We need visitors and footfall to spend their time and money here - but for that we need to ensure lighting, transportation and parking is good and that the

environment is pleasing - memorable heritage shop fronts, restoration of buildings - further encourage small business to put down roots

The following three project areas (listed in order of their priority place) related to significant Morley buildings and locations:

- Train Station
- Market
- New Pavilion

*I tend to avoid **Morley train station** because it is not a nice place to wait, especially with a young child, and has no access for buggies or wheelchairs to platform 2, also no toilets*

***Morley market** has needed an upgrade for a long time to make it more inviting for shoppers- would be nice to attract more stalls so there are more variety to choose from*

*Please preserve the iconic **New Pavilion**. It has a long history of serving the local community and had an international reputation as a pioneering techno club in the 90s-2000s. It would make for a fantastic community hub and potentially a café bar and club space too. So much potential and it's a historic building that dominates the Morley landscape*

A new town square for Morley also received a high level of support, as the sixth highest priority

The area outside the town hall should be redeveloped to become the heart of the town, offering space for community projects and events

Consistent with other engagement process outcomes was the identification of the need for improved sustainable transport/ active travel with the inclusion of cycling and pathways as the seventh highest priority.

Morley is surrounded by major roads and car obsessed. It should be possible for everyone in Morley to get to all parts of Morley, neighbouring towns and Leeds via dedicated cycle paths, segregated cycle lanes and 20mph local low-traffic roads

The importance of events and arts (in eighth place) was also recognised by those responding, potentially based upon the view that these would play an important role in revitalising the town.

My personal preference would be for arts, culture, and music. Following the difficult and challenging year we have had with social restrictions and also the impact Covid-19 has had on the landscape of events and arts, I feel the public and the arts and events industry would benefit from investment. Plus, who doesn't feel happy with music and live concerts and events to attend! I imagine Morley has so much potential to be a hotspot as I believe it has been in the past! Let's make it come alive and put it back on the map!

Relating to the view of the importance of Morley's heritage, Morley Town Hall was identified as the ninth highest priority and the Community Hub project was tenth.

...the Town Hall of any town is the centre, the heartbeat, of any town. As we have a lovely building it is run down and can see the cracks in the heart of the town. This lovely building needs to keep its historical parts but also bringing it to the 21st century not just for the public, but also for the people that work there

Residents were also presented with an "other" option (if wanting to suggest an additional project idea), which resulted in responses including:

- Morley's nightlife
- 3G pitches
- Additional schools
- Youth services
- Disabled parking and facilities



Locality is the national membership network for community organisations that bring local people together to meet local needs. Locality supports local community organisations to be strong and successful, helping them to build a fairer society. Locality provides specialist advice, peer-learning, resources, and campaigns to create better operating conditions for our members.

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