

Newsome Voices



Newsome Voices 20th May to 26th July 2022

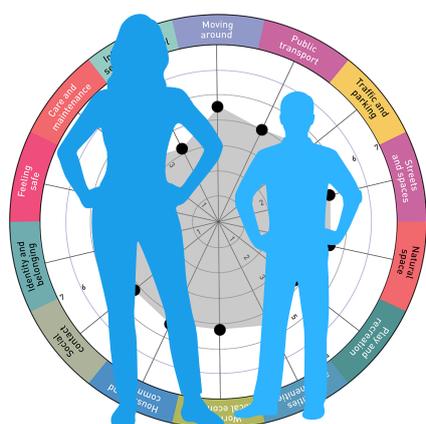
What we did

Newsome Centre and Newsome ward councillors, supported by volunteers and council staff, asked local people what they think about life in Newsome. We asked people who live in, work in or visit Newsome about what works now, how things might change in the future and what matters most to them. We used a tool called the “Place Standard” which encourages conversations about your local place, by using some simple questions.

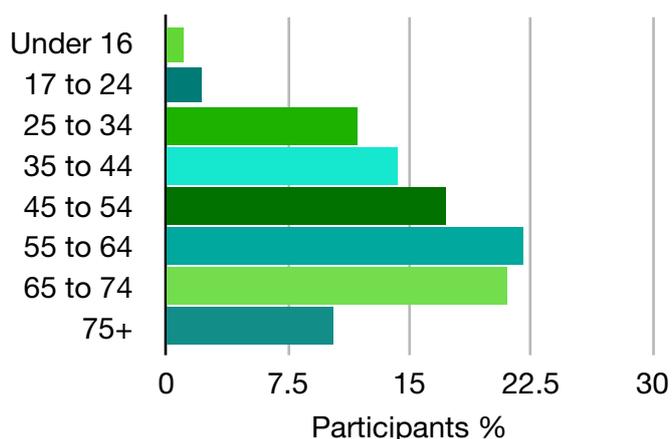
Who participated?

People took part in conversations at local community events including the Growing Newsome Plant Swap and Berry Brow Carnival, along with sessions at the former St. John’s Church Lychgate, Hall Bower Sunday School and Hall Bower Athletic Club. Children from Newsome Junior School and Hillside Primary School, parents at a Berry Brow I&N School event and a range of local businesses also contributed their views.

311 citizens took part, completing **272** Place Standard assessments.



Female 62% Male 31%
Other / unknown 7%



What participants said

Moving around



Key issues: Participants have a broad range of views on how people move around the area, especially as it is very hilly in places. People said Newsome is a great place to walk around, with lots of routes to



access key places such as open spaces, woodland and the town centre, with footpaths generally being ok. Some people are concerned about overgrown or blocked footpaths, with stiles being difficult to get over on land around Stirley Farm. Lots of people said there are issues with pavements, including double parking, bins obstructing access, and cars mounting pavements, causing issues to both pedestrians and other road users. Specific areas mentioned include Newsome Road, High Lane, Malvern Road, Stile Common, Plane Street and Lockwood Scar.

Some people said the overall condition of some pavements is poor and requires better maintenance. This includes debris and broken pavement edges, raised gratings, dog poo, litter, overgrown areas and tree roots restricting easy access, which in some places causes trips and falls (for example, in Hall Bower).

Many people said there is limited or no cycling infrastructure and they are concerned about safety. The terrain does not support general cycling because of potholes, steep inclines and busy roads with double parking.

A lot of participants said traffic volume and traffic management is a significant issue, along with some roads being in a poor state of repair. Specific areas include the junction between Newsome Road and Newsome Road South, Church Lane and Jackroyd Lane, including Hall Bower, especially during match and practice days.

Suggestions:

Better signposting for local walks. More benches in key places. Paths such as the school path by Newsome High and Junior schools could do with cementing over at the sides to stop the weeds growing as it becomes inaccessible over spring and summer and a lot of people with prams use this path. Land around Stirley Farm has either been closed off or made unattractive - more well-publicised volunteer events needed to maintain and improve existing off-road footpaths. Some places to cycle and walk, but we need more autism friendly walks. Newsome Centre would be an ideal place for a central position for secure storage of bikes and could link to a cafe, post office, surgery, etc. Speed camera on Newsome Road South near Castle Avenue. More zebra crossings on Newsome Road. E- bike loans or hire for people to discover the benefits on hills. Drivers are impatient with cyclists and improved road markings or cycle lanes would signal to drivers that bikes are significant road users too. Priorities should be with improving our footpaths network and maybe more cyclists would use them and get off the busy roads. More safe cycle storage in busy areas is needed. A segregated cycle or walking route to town and to Holmfirth would encourage active travel. A similar scheme elsewhere in Newsome is needed.

207 people commented on this theme.

“Improve walking areas around Newsome some are very untidy.”

“Local pathways need to be attended to regularly, they are very uneven.”

Public transport



Key issues: 99 people said that generally bus services are poor and unreliable. Their concerns include reduced services making the buses busier, problems with Sunday and evening services, poor



connectivity to other areas, clashes of timetables with other public transport providers and buses missing. Specific areas and services where people said busses missed or receive a poorer service include: Jackroyd Lane, Almondbury, Milnsbridge, High Lane, 308 school bus change, Ashenhurst, Primrose Hill, Cross Lane, 319, Hospital, Hall Bower, 306 and Croftlands. In contrast, 50 people said that the bus service is okay, with good connections to Huddersfield and Holmfirth.

60 people said that they do not use public transport. with walking and car (taxi) being their preferred option, because of the unreliability of public transport and high bus fares. Taxis are generally cheaper to get into town.

Several people said bus stops are in bad positions, that they lack covered bus stops and poor timetable information (via electronic screens) is available, in places such as Hall Bower and Lockwood Scar.

Few people commented about train services at Berry Brow. However, some people said that high costs, unreliable services and safety concerns - such as poor lighting and overgrown vegetation - are barriers to using the Berry Brow station.

Suggestions:

Action to address public transport that serves the needs of Newsome and the wider community. Make buses free to under 18s. Shorter trips should be cheaper. The flat £2 rate is fine. Why can't there be a lower rate for less stops travelled? Cut vegetation back on the slope to Berry Brow station - this would make passengers more visible and therefore people would feel safer while waiting on the platform.

219 people commented on this theme.

“The bus service by day is quite good but very hit and miss after 6pm. It’s deteriorated significantly since Covid.”

“Buses are good but not reliable enough. Some routes are not well advertised. Great to have a train station in Berry Brow.”

“There is no school bus for Newsome children even though a large number of them go to Honley High School.”

Traffic and parking



Key issues: 131 people said they are concerned about parking in Newsome, with a range of parking and traffic problems mentioned. These include parking on both sides of the road, limiting it



to a single lane carriageway, parking on blind bends and cars parking on the pavements blocking pedestrian access. People also mentioned the number of vehicles linked to houses, with a high number being terraced housing with no off-road parking options. Outside of the village centre, problematic roads are Longley Road, Cross Lane, Fair Lea Road, Ruth Street, Stile Common, Malvern, Close Hill, Ingleton Road, Newsome Road and Hall Bower. Some people suggested that more parking permit areas are required.

People said there is a lack of parking within the village centre and that a car park would be beneficial. There is inconsiderate and illegal parking (with cars parked on double yellow lines, blocking pavements, parking in bus stops and parking over dropped kerbs), and this blocks access to businesses. Some people said it is not safe and more parking restrictions and enforcement is required, specifically targeting bus stops and double yellow lines, with measures to include additional speed cameras and traffic calming schemes. 29 people said that parking is generally okay.

Participants said vehicle speed is a major concern, naming places such as High Lane, Castle Avenue and School Lane as key problem areas. People also raised concerns about generally poor or dangerous driving and parking on Newsome Road South, including near the scout hall when events take place (causing congestion), and Hall Bower when matches are taking place, impacting significantly on residents. Some people are concerned about school drop offs, specifically on Edale Avenue and Birch Road. Others said there is a lack of infrastructure, such as car parking, cycling lanes and reliable public transport, which doesn't encourage people to reduce car use.

Suggestions:

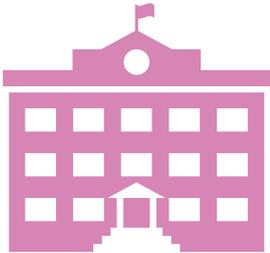
Extend road widths in some areas of Newsome to allow for safe and legal parking. Improve central Newsome junction as it gets very busy and many use it to avoid Lockwood, it would be beneficial to discourage this, perhaps a layout change or traffic calming measures. Parking near the schools is very busy and sometimes dangerous - explore options for funding more active travel options to present to parents and children. Huddersfield town centre needs something to draw people back into the town, so e-bikes and drop off points for people could help. Huddersfield used to have a tram system and those tram lines are still there. You could bring back all green electric or solar powered trams. Residents parking in Stile Common Road, Cross Lane and Plane Street - disabled parking. More access to free parking in the area, more permits, better transport links, Access Bus for the most vulnerable in the area. More front gardens dug out to get cars off the narrow and sometimes awkward lanes and roads. Parking on both sides of Newsome Road South affects traffic flow. Double yellow lines are to be installed on one side. Speeding cameras along Newsome Road South, and traffic calming measures could also be used. Stop big wagons coming up Newsome Road South, it's a cut through and cars, buses and wagons speed. Off road parking options to be looked at around Hall Bower - increasingly busier with visitors to the clubs and matches.

212 people commented on this theme.

“Too many cars not enough spaces.”

“Parking in Newsome centre is terrible and also by the school and pubs. Roads not big enough for cars to park on the street in these areas.”

Streets and spaces



Key issues: People said a range of things about Newsome Mills. Comments from 66 participants include it being an eyesore, that they're glad to see it finally being sorted out, the new proposals look good and that it will look amazing when restored. Other people said its destruction is abhorrent, it's a dumping ground and an area where youths cause trouble, riding motorbikes and quads. It is said the clock tower is an accident waiting to happen, the clock face has been damaged for years and is in need of repair, with 30-40 years being too long before something is done.



People said the plans for the former Newsome Church building are exciting, positive and great for the community, but some external work is required. The grounds require a lot of maintenance - the wall with Jackroyd Lane is bulging badly and pointing is falling off. The trees need pruning. Both the scout hall and village hall could do with more care and modernisation.

People said Newsome has superb access to greenery and open spaces, but there are few green areas in the village centre. The church yard is beautiful and calm. Participants said playgrounds are heavily used, but feel run-down and outdated. The abandoned park near Greenwood Street has never had any restoration. Ashenhurst top park is in a decline. Kids can't play there anymore. Newsome Road skatepark needs work; the concrete has holes, no lighting, surrounding trees make it wet, the bowl is filled in and rails taken out. The park on Fair Lea Road is a mess. There is lack of seating in the parks.

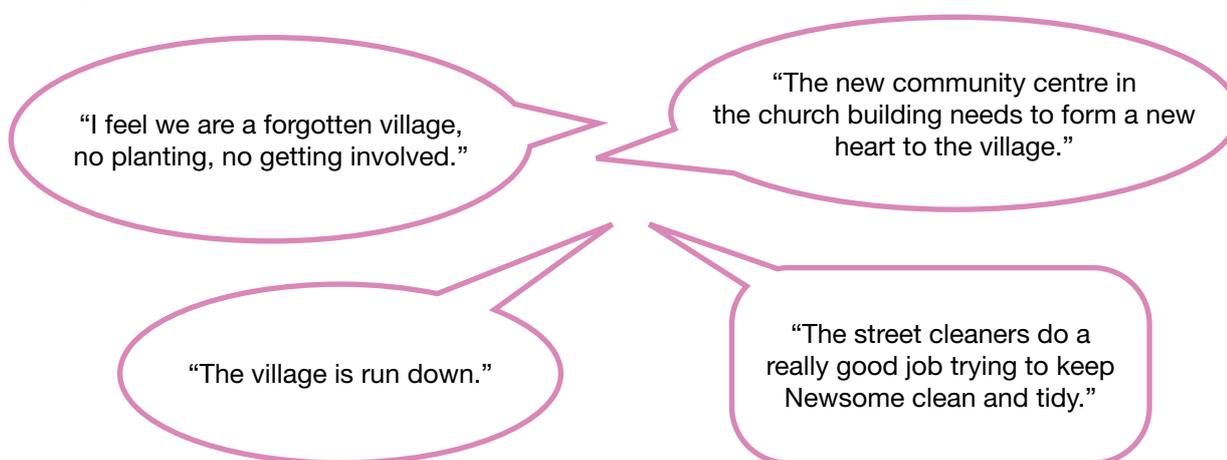
Some people said Newsome centre could look more attractive and could do with a tidy up, as it looks dirty and unkempt. Streets look uncared for and it makes the area feel unsafe. Some road signs are badly weathered and need either cleaning or replacing. Drains do not seem to be cleared any more. Lots of rubbish and dog poo everywhere. There are leaves and weeds on pavements. Overgrown bushes and trees. Nettles and brambles on Newsome Road South. The footpath between Taylor Hill and Newsome is overgrown and a fly tipping area. There is fly tipping on Towngate, by Blagden Lane and Taylor Hill Road. Behind the shops at the crossroads is rundown.

There are not enough safe crossing points or dropped kerbs for people with physical or learning disabilities. Newsome crossroads is quite dangerous for the visually impaired.

Suggestions:

Major refurbishment and improvement of mill site with up-market business such as a restaurant, affordable housing or a community hub. Refurbish the Clock Tower, it's a landmark. Build a hub, café or tea house for the community use. A safe space for teenagers to chill. Christmas light switch on with Christmas Fayre. Scarecrow walks. Remembrance poppy displays. Community maintenance and ownership of green spaces - a group is needed. Newsome in Bloom or garden visits and lend equipment to garden owners who can't afford, help for older people. Tree planting, hanging baskets, planters, flower beds in village centre. Free or low-cost events in green spaces to encourage social connection. Keep church yard mowed and tidied - many people look at the gravestones. Less early mowing of grass to encourage wildflowers and greater biodiversity. Reinstate footpaths and stiles. Sensory things to do especially as we have schoolchildren with physical disabilities. Install more benches for older people on local walks and in communal spaces. Encourage use of rubbish bins – Keep Newsome Tidy. A litter bin between Victoria pub and Jimmy's (for takeaway rubbish). Warden or contact on estates to educate and deal with fly tipping issues. Dogs around football pitch - needs notices or a gate to prevent access where farm animals are. Improve skate park off Newsome Road - could be a really good asset for young people. More street lighting by train station and steps from Wain Court to Station Street shops. Lighting on footpath between Taylor Hill and Newsome. Street lighting by train station and steps from Wain Court to Station Street shops. Clean or replace some road signs. Wider pavements. More road crossings where pedestrians and cyclists have priority. More 20mph areas and making rat runs much less attractive. Restrict car parking, wheelie bins, cyclists, e-scooters etc from blocking or using pavements.

215 people commented on this theme.



Natural space



Key issues: People said they are very proud and appreciative of natural and green spaces in Newsome) expressing praise for the range of outdoor spaces and views generally. People were positive about specific natural sites across Newsome, such as Castle Hill, Hall Bower, Stirley Farm, the fields near the Scout Hall and Orchard Terrace. However, people also said that access to (or the current state of) specific sites is poor). For example, the styles on Cross Lane, access to Longley Woods and the demolition of Newsome Mill Ponds.



Participants said there are many different natural spaces in Newsome and others said there is natural space close at hand or nearby.

People have mixed views about parks or playable spaces across Newsome. Parks praised by participants are Taylor Hill, Lockwood Park and Jackroyd Lane. The parks on Plane Street, Berry Brow, Primrose Hill and Taylor Hill were criticised for dangerous and overgrown, graffitied or vandalised. A few people said there are not enough parks in Newsome, there is drink and drug misuse, and poor maintenance of the skate park.

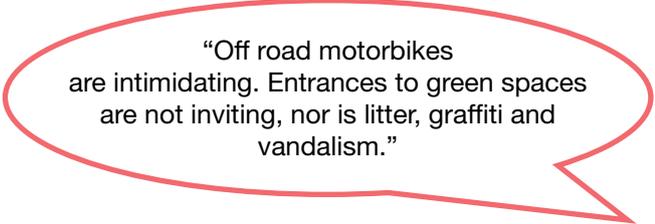
People said new housing developments are a threat to green, open spaces. They also said anti-social behaviour and noise caused by off-road motorbikes is an issue. Some shared concerns about the amount of littering and fly tipping, with key spots near Green Bridge, Palm Street, Plane Street, Greenwood Street and the canal.

Participants recognised Newsome has good walking options and routes, but occasionally they can be blocked or full of overgrown vegetation. A few people said dog ownership, intimidating dogs and dog fouling are a problem. Other key points raised were about a lack of indoor recreational options in Newsome, lack of outdoor youth provision and the need for more promotion of outdoor spaces.

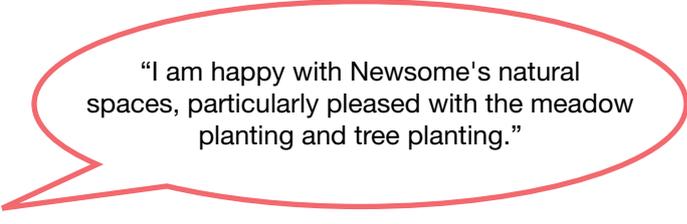
Suggestions:

Restore the mill tower and land. Protect open green spaces. Utilise existing green space as outdoor space for residents. Create a 'better' park for young people in central Newsome. More play equipment, including for teenagers. More sports equipment in natural spaces. Install natural play options in local parks. Convert the church grounds into a park. Diversify available green space, create small parks, more biodiversity. Install raised planters. Install natural features (for example, ponds, hedges and trees or fruit trees). Set up an action group to utilise derelict space. Reduce council vegetation cutting to support wildflowers. Improve disabled access at local green spaces. More regular litter picking. More cutting back of trees and vegetation, better maintenance of parks. Create autism friendly green spaces. 'Spruce up' Castle Avenue recreation ground. Cut the grass at Stirley Farm twice a year. Stirley Farm to engage more with residents. Install allotments on Edale terrace. Create a riverside walk. More promotion of local walks. Create some dog free spaces. Improve Greenway signage. Install a map or info board. More promotion of local green space. Install seating and a café in front of the church. Improve air quality. Complete the fence around Newsome Junior School. Improve water quality.

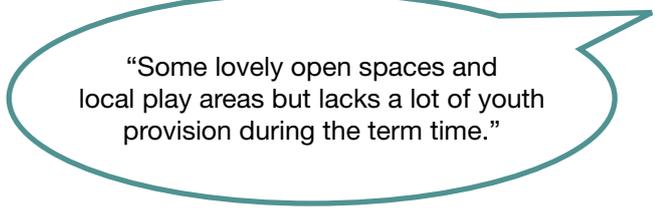
200 people commented on this theme.



"Off road motorbikes are intimidating. Entrances to green spaces are not inviting, nor is litter, graffiti and vandalism."



"I am happy with Newsome's natural spaces, particularly pleased with the meadow planting and tree planting."



"Some lovely open spaces and local play areas but lacks a lot of youth provision during the term time."



"Lots of outside spaces to enjoy. However, far more limited options inside. The Newsome Centre will be a welcome addition to indoor space."

Play and recreation



Key issues: Most participants spoke highly about the range of outdoor opportunities that are available in and around Newsome. From access to outdoor spaces for walking, rugby, football and cricket, to local play areas across

Newsome for children and families to access. A wide range of indoor activities are also available, for example at the Scout Hall and Hall Bower Sunday School.



However, there is still a significant number of people who said the parks and open play areas are in need of repair and improvement for younger and older children to use. Lack of seating was also brought up by parents, with many saying they are unable to sit on grassed areas to watch their children play, due to people not picking up after their dogs.

One resident made reference to the importance of making parks accessible to disabled people, such as Jackroyd Lane Recreation Ground. The skatepark is growing in rubbish and anti-social behaviour and outdoor gyms would be welcome. In regard to Newsome High School, Hall Bower Cricket and Rugby Clubs, a number of people said parking in and around these sites is problematic during busy periods, for both people visiting and for nearby residents. They said that off road parking opportunities are a key priority.

Some people said indoor venues are limited in Newsome and often booked up (for example, Newsome Scout Hall and Hall Bower Sunday School are busy) making it difficult for new or additional activities. A high percentage of people said the new Newsome Centre is a welcome addition to the area, which could host lots more activities, such as a café, youth activities (given there is no indoor youth club in the area anymore), arts, crafts, yoga and more, for all age groups. Some mums would like to see a soft play area where mums and toddlers can meet up in the centre with popular activities like Melody Makers.

Some residents said the demise of the bowling green is a tragedy and an asset lost to the village. It brought together many older residents in need of physical activity and social interaction.

Many people said that there is a wide variety of activities on offer, but the promotion of them in different ways is lacking. Lots of people aren't aware of what's happening in the area, as many people aren't on social media.

Suggestions:

A dog friendly shuttle bus up and down from the bottom of Lockwood Scar and Newsome Road to Castle Hill stopping off up the hill would be great for access. Parks team and Councillors to promote more widely on the status of play area improvement scheme, so residents can see how they are prioritised (numerous ones were highlighted in the engagement), and which ones are being consulted on and when funding is in place to improve specific ones. Could outdoor gyms and seating be a consideration to future designs? A playpark could be made at Fanny Moor on the area of land leading into the wood. There is a picnic table there and it could be made into a lovely safe place, plus would deter motorbikes from entering the wood there. Identify opportunities to improve the feeling of safety at the skate park area and deliver facilitated sessions from the site by youth providers. Identify opportunities for off road parking at key sites such as rugby, cricket club (Hall Bower) to alleviate parking pressures for residents and visitors.

Identify new opportunities to better promote, in different ways, what is available to access in outdoor spaces and in buildings, sites and schools across the area for all age groups. Have a wide variety of social, learning and fun activity based opportunities, being delivered out of the new Newsome Centre for all ages groups.

195 people commented on this theme.

“Growing Newsome are doing terrific work to encourage and support growing and enjoying plants and produce in this area.”

“Limited social offer and no cafes or places to meet to have a bite to eat and drink in and around the centre of the village.”

Facilities and amenities



Key issues: Participants have mixed views on the GP Surgery. Many said the service is good and access has improved, with a good pharmacy next door to it which many people value. However, many are still experiencing difficulty in getting appointments and experiencing long waiting times.

Some people highlighted the importance of having a local dentist. Most people said the Newsome Centre will be a welcome new place in the heart of the village, with lots of new, much needed activities, courses and services closer to the community, especially a café and entertainment. Many people said a café or tea room is missing from the village. Indoor and outdoor dining options will be attractive to walkers and local residents.



However, a high number of residents said poor quality, expensive produce is sold in some village shops. Access to transport and lack of affordability are barriers to many people who cannot travel to town to seek cheaper produce. There is a need for good quality, affordable fresh vegetables and meat (given there is no butcher now, which many people feel strongly about). Some people said an express supermarket would alleviate pressures of travelling out of the village to larger supermarkets.

A number of residents said positive things about the success of Growing Newsome and they would like to see more activities available throughout the year – the plant swap and community lunch events are enjoyed by so many residents.

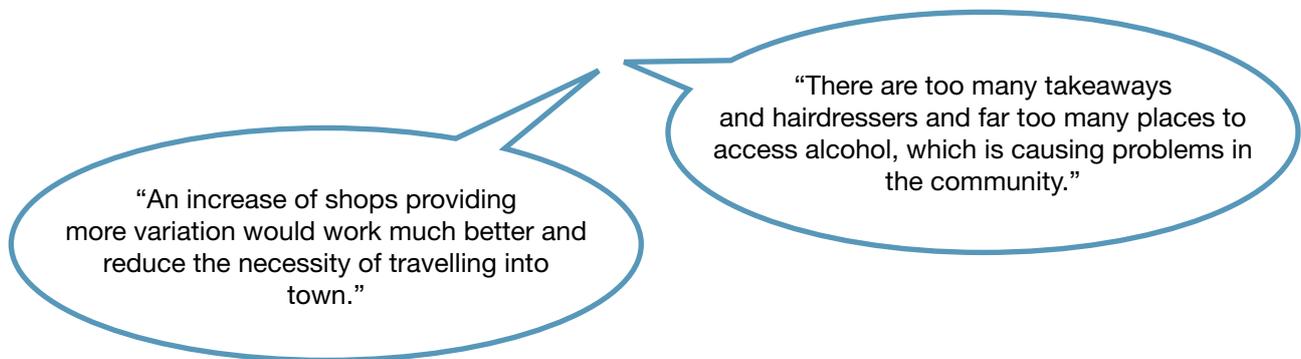
A number of residents said the lack of library facilities is an issue and travelling to town is not always an option for many. Therefore, could the Newsome Centre establish a mini library or book swap service?

Suggestions:

Create a tea room or café at the new Newsome Centre to offer a place for people to eat and socialise all through the week. Maybe the old Kirkwood charity shop could be transformed into a bar or restaurant. We have a really strong local food growing community in Newsome. It would be great to take the next step and see more locally grown and locally produced food on sale regularly in Newsome. A village food and drink festival could be a good way of starting this off, perhaps promoted in tandem with the

Stirley food festival. There are too many take aways and not enough daytime eateries. It would be great if Newsome had a café! What about a shop for local goods and produce, from crafts to vegetables. Identity opportunities with Stirley Farm to better promote what activities are on throughout the year across the community – given a number of residents felt they don't get to hear about their timetable of events on a routine basis. Establish a free book swap in the new Newsome Centre given there is no library in the village.

207 people commented on this theme.



Work and local economy



Key issues: 60 people said that opportunities for work in Newsome and Huddersfield are limited. It's a residential area with a very small village centre and few shops. Most people travel to work in town or commute outside the area. Others travel in to work here at schools, care centre or GPs.



Most businesses are small and family run. Bills for businesses are high. There are not many opportunities for new businesses and firms in the locality. Not many jobs are advertised in the local area. There is quite a lot of unemployment and a lack of local services and facilities supporting employment and training, other than Castle Hill hub and the college at Taylor Hill. Job centres don't give advice on training. There's not enough affordable, quality childcare for pre-school children.

Participants said there is nothing for young people unless they travel. There doesn't seem to be much volunteering or training advertised and there are no evening classes in Newsome. A few people commented that there is nothing in Huddersfield anymore; the council has increased rents and shut the market hall. The university is geared for others, not local people. 38 people said they did not know about work and local economy, were unsure or that it's not applicable to them, they are retired.

17 people said there are good opportunities for local work and volunteering. Many people work from home too. There is a range of local industries and lots of trades people are based in Newsome. It is a good location for the employment corridor in Lockwood and to access town centre jobs and beyond.

Some people feel there are opportunities for continuing education, skills development and support into employment. Nurseries and schools are close by, which makes it easier for parents. The local schools do good training courses for adults which are easy to access. Kirklees College and the University of Huddersfield are good assets, and the college does a lot of community activity.

Good volunteering opportunities include helping in the church yard, scout leadership, Newsome Ward Community Forum. Also Stirley Community Farm and Hall Bower Club. Hall Bower Chapel and Berry Brow Church offer coffee mornings and soup kitchens. There is a good local community economy, such as the Plant Swap and coffee mornings.

Suggestions:

The new Newsome Community Centre in the church to offer home workers a different venue to work, have a coffee and see people, have a job club, a cafe as a site for training and work placement, have good internet access, provide volunteering opportunities like the Aspire group at Berry Brow, and offer room hire. Local services needed to support employment and training. Support for people wanting to change direction in their work life. Castle Hill hub to be a high profile service. Schools to offer training. Local library or training venue. Free or cheap adult education for all. Easier access to benefits advice. More investment and opportunities for young people in the local area. Apprenticeships for young people. Government scheme with living wage while people train or start up a new, sustainable business. Conservation and green industry innovation.

180 people commented on this theme.



Housing and community



Key issues: The majority of people said there is a good mix of housing – size, tenure, style and affordability. However, a high number of residents felt that when new properties are being built, such as on the mill ponds, or existing ones are

being refurbished and upgraded (whether they are social, private rented or owned), they need to be more energy efficient, which will offer more affordable options as many just can't afford the increase in energy bills, mortgages and increases in rent.



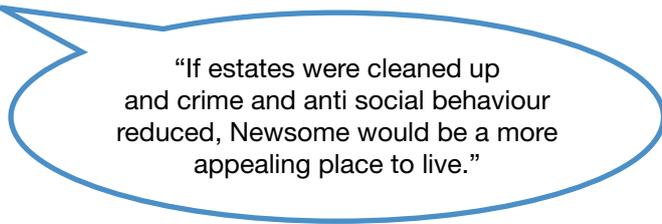
Many people said there is too much student accommodation in the area which is limiting options for younger adults and families to secure local affordable properties. A number of people have concerns about mixing young single people with older people in social housing areas like Edale, Wain Court, Plantation Drive and Towngate, given incidents of anti-social behaviour and drugs use being on the rise.

There is a strong feeling that when new housing is built in Newsome, it needs to be considerate of the green spaces which many people don't want to lose. Creating more community spaces to help reduce isolation and promote social cohesion is seen as important to the future of developing housing and communities for all ages.

Suggestions:

There is a good range of housing locally, but we need more opportunities and help with renewable energy sources, such as grants and advice. Need more green initiatives such as solar or insulation schemes and solar tiles, heat pumps. Having more eco built homes in the area would be great especially at Newsome Mill. Restrict student and HMO accommodation in favour of affordable family homes. Properties could do with insulating more so that energy bills are not as high, rent is getting higher so it needs to be considered.

194 people commented on this theme



“If estates were cleaned up and crime and anti social behaviour reduced, Newsome would be a more appealing place to live.”

Social contact



Key issues: One comment was: “Newsome is quite a strong and active community, although I know that not everyone feels included. I'd hope that having a community centre will really help with this, as it will give lots of people a way of making contact more easily and finding something that's right for them. The Growing Newsome community is full of people who support each other with growing their own food, including sharing plants and seeds, donating surplus pots and produce, and passing on old tools. There's a lot of community spirit here - I see it all the time. When you have the confidence to ask for help, it is always there. And in times of crisis, such as the fire at Newsome Mills, people are clearly there for each other and understand how each other are feeling. I think this is something we can build on to grow a more sustainable community for the future.”



Residents talked about key events and meeting places which are valued in bringing people together. These include Growing Newsome events, parks, Castle Hill, allotments, Berry Brow Carnival, Newsome Ward Community Forum, Hall Bower Sunday School activities, Berry Brow Church, Scout Hall Coffee Mornings, local churches, the Rugby and Cricket Club and local pubs and clubs: Victoria, Fountain and Hall Bower Athletic Club.

There was an overwhelmingly positive response from participants to the church becoming the new Newsome Centre in the village. “The Newsome Centre in the church is going to be great. It should have a mix of provision to suit all ages, cultures and backgrounds. The right programme of events to attract both local people and those from further afield.” Regarding the impact on other venues and activities, people said it needs to be ensured that the new Newsome Centre doesn't take away opportunities at the Scout Hall, but adds to the local offer. Residents want to see an offer for all age groups, young and old, and especially for 20 to 50 year olds, during the day, on evenings and at weekends.

There are mixed views about the local pubs, as many people said the owners are doing their best to make a go of them and attract new people, but other people said they do not feel like safe places to go.

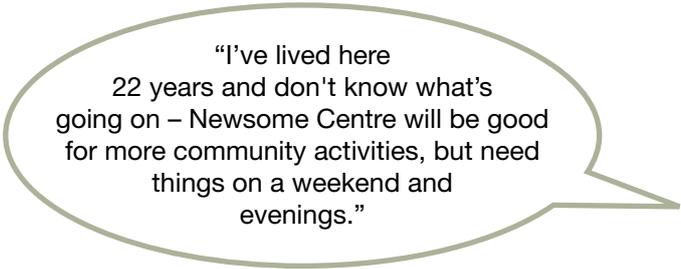
Many people said Newsome hasn't got the same village feel as neighbouring villages, with no places to eat and drink and meet up with friends, such as café's, bars or restaurants.

Some residents said Stirley Farm is an excellent venue for activities and events, but they don't feel publicity is put out in good time given many people are not on social media.

Suggestions:

Stirley Farm to put out more timely info on events. Newsome desperately needs a dedicated community centre that is spacious, with a modern interior and amenities. This should not just be open during the day, it should have evening use, including youth groups etc. A designated 'ring and ride' on set days and times that could bring people to a community space to socialise who are unable to get about easily. There are no running initiatives for car share, bikes etc. and this could be improved. Perhaps the new church centre could offer food swaps to reduce food waste. While there are events, these are fixed and limited. The Newsome Centre could provide a better balance and flexibility. There are very limited evening activities for the community. Newsome Centre can fill that gap with cinema evenings, talks, music and events. Hopefully, the church plans will go ahead, with more classes that include a mix of exercise and non-exercise options for people of all ages. A local bottle bank is needed. More info on what can be recycled.

193 people commented on this theme



"I've lived here 22 years and don't know what's going on – Newsome Centre will be good for more community activities, but need things on a weekend and evenings."



"There are groups trying hard to engage, but I don't see the community actively engaging."

Identity and belonging



Key issues: Over half of the participants said they have strong connections to the area and feel passionate about its heritage, which should be celebrated more. A high number of people said the opposite, that the area has declined and has a "lack of investment and nourishment". Some residents said the crime rate has increased due to anti-social behaviour - off road bikes and drugs - and it is not safe to walk around the area, especially at night.



"The ward is a huge place spanning many different neighbourhoods - the typography makes it difficult for residents to connect and the lack of social facilities in the Newsome village adds to that problem but it's hoped the new Newsome centre will bring many different opportunities." Some residents have lived in the area for over 20 years and feel very settled, but some said the area is very transient – references were made to the student population adding to this issue.

People said it is important to bring people together through shared interests, such as the plant swap events by Growing Newsome and the range of social activities and events

held in other key venues across the ward, such as the local churches, Hall Bower, Stirley farm, the clubs and the scout hall. People feel that activities and events are not promoted across the area in different ways.

Suggestions:

More celebration of heritage please. Could have a history walk or trail round Newsome. A lot of groups maybe just need promoting more. I think there is a sense of belonging in Newsome but more could be done to bring the community together - young and old. I am not sure that the history of Newsome is currently being celebrated although the proposed development of the mill may help with that. We could develop a community recycling area that could generate income for the community through the likes of The Newsome Centre (a community benefit society). The Newsome Centre could facilitate this. Opportunities at the new Newsome Centre to bring people together from all ages through various events and activities throughout the year and the development of a café on site will be a welcomed asset in the area.

173 people commented on this theme.



Feeling safe



Key issues: People's concerns around not feeling safe in Newsome are due to various factors, including: derelict buildings, increase in anti-social

behaviour, gangs, graffiti, vandalism, poorly lit areas and footpaths (for example, paths from Towngate to Close Hill Lane and from Lockwood), speeding and badly parked cars, illegal motorbikes and quad bikes, electric scooters on pavements, burglaries, fly tipping and drug dealing (Orchard Terrace, Plantation Drive, old mill site). These add to the feeling of not feeling safe in the area especially at night in places like Bluebell Woods, Riverside Walk, Kingsmill Road, Damside Road, Plantation Drive and School Lane.



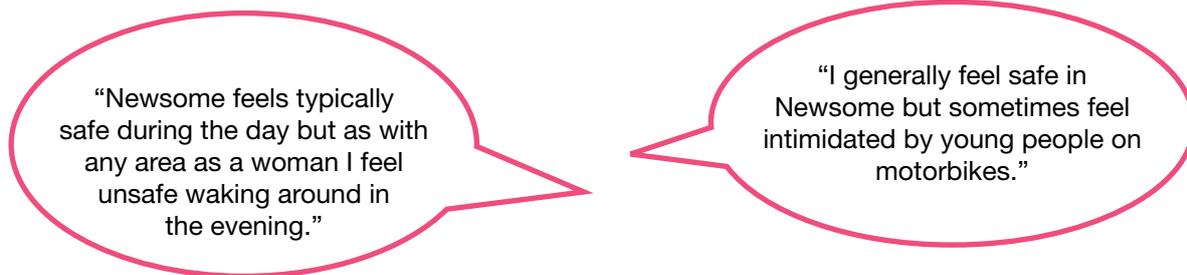
A number of people also stressed concerns that young people are being housed in areas where there are already high numbers of older people, which is causing distress to many older tenants. Some people feel unsafe using taxis and public transport, especially in the evening.

A small number of people said they generally feel safe. One said: "I have always felt safe here but as i get older i am more wary of the gangs of youngsters but I've never had problems with them". Another resident said: "There are very affluent areas and very deprived areas - perceptions and town centre crimes can often exacerbate people's views of feeling safe".

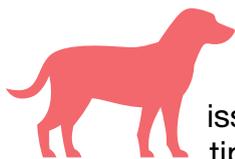
Suggestions:

Less litter and clearing up derelict buildings will add to a feeling of safety and tougher action or policing of antisocial behaviour. More police on the beat. A police officer at the school - this needs to be brought back. Cars use Hall Bower Lane and Lady House Lane as a cut through route - need a sign to reduce speed and a proper footpath down Lady House Lane. There is nearly a path there just needs cutting brushes back and tarmacking. A youth club would be good. Community Safety days to raise awareness of key issues and importance of reporting any incidents to the police. Identify funding to ensure throughout the year, especially in term time, there are more facilitated activities for young people to engage in at the skate park, detached on the street activities, activities in the new Newsome Centre.

193 people commented on this theme.



Care and maintenance



Key issues: Lots of participants said all the dog mess on streets and in the woods and fields is an issue. Other issues include the derelict mill and clock tower, litter, fly tipping, vandalism, graffiti, no local recycling facilities, grass areas not being cut, public footpaths overgrown with

vegetation (steps from Bankfield Estate and Lady House Lane), poor quality and hazardous roads (junction at Lockwood Scar), overgrown trees on footpaths (Close Hill) and roots underfoot (Hall Bower).



Some people mentioned Blagden Lane's good community approach to help tackle similar issues and problems, such as having a committee and an agreed charge of £25 per year to employ a company to sort the communal areas. This could be a potential model to be explored in other areas.

Residents appreciate the groups and individuals who get involved in litter picks, such as the Scout Group and Newsome ward councillors.

Suggestions:

Explore model used at Blagden Lane for charging residents £25 per year to employ a company to sort the communal areas out – could this model be rolled out further if residents support it? Community recycling facilities - for example, there's no glass recycling facility that you can get to on foot. Lack of accessible glass recycling points - have these been proposed on any of the new developments? Just get the mill sorted please. Better waste management for flats and shared buildings with lockable bins. There are very few seating opportunities on Newsome village itself - might be nice to offer more. Bin collection point on Falcon Street. It is often messy and litter all around. A waste bin on Edale Avenue car park would be good. More bins (allowing dog poo disposal) and signs to remind people to pick up after their dogs. Regular street cleaning to pick up the leaves so drains do not become blocked. Cut the church yard grassed areas to demonstrate it is being looked after.

193 people commented on this theme.



Influence and sense of control



Key issues: A high number of participants said that the support and information provided by their local ward councillors is good when local issues are raised. People said that they are active, approachable, accessible, a team, genuine, inclusive, good listeners, supportive, responsive and proactive. However, some feel they get outvoted at Council meetings which impacts on the needs of Newsome, with many issues being out of their control, such as Castle Hill pub, planning applications, removal of the bowling green and Newsome Mills.



There is a split between residents who say they are engaging in decision making locally - for example, through Newsome Ward Community Forum, via ward councillors, by attending local community groups and churches, Growing Newsome and events or Berry Brow Carnival - and those who focussed their comments on voting in local elections.

A small number of people, including local businesses, said their voice is not heard and that this conversation is the first time they had been included in local discussions about Newsome.

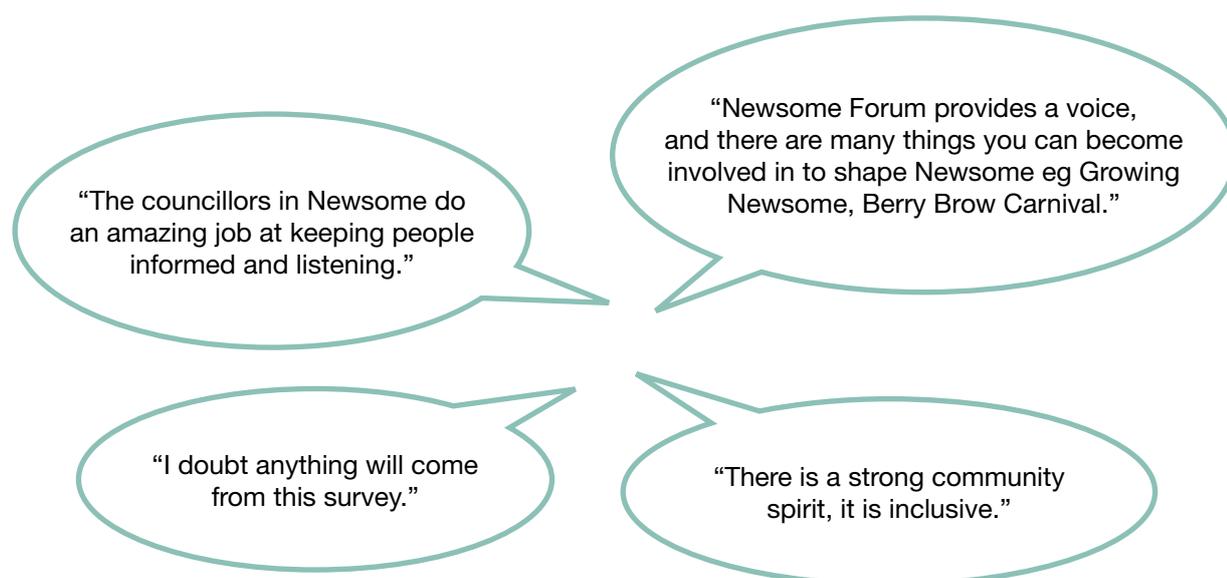
On housing specific concerns, participants said there is a lack of tenant involvement in some of the areas and that when residents have reported specific concerns to the Housing and Neighbourhoods team, they are not acted on or not in a timely way.

Although many people said they can share their concerns and issues through the relevant channels, there is a sense that more people would like to help out in their community. Some people said they don't know how, when, with who, where to go, or who to even begin to talk to about this. This initiative is the first that some people had heard about getting involved locally. One person said they had only heard about Newsome Voices from someone who doesn't live in Newsome.

Suggestions:

As part of their commitment for local neighbourhoods to be shaped by the people who live in those places, I'd like to see Kirklees Council backing the aspirations of people in Newsome. I think the councillors do work hard but their budgets are too small. As a business we've never been asked - but recently Councillors asked if I would like to get involved in the church project. Caldercliffe Road has barrier in place but there are no notices about it and I hit my head on it – it needs a safety notice. I try to support local, go to local beer festivals like Hall Bower beer fest, plant swap at the scout hall and Berry Brow Carnival, but there's not much goes on here to be fair and if there is, it's not advertised enough. We used to have a free local paper years ago, but that's disappeared. Some residents would like opportunities to raise key issues and have a voice through the new Newsome Centre – Councillors to consider holding a regular surgery with key partners such as police and housing. Be able to have cake and a coffee shop at the new centre. I am an active member of the Newsome Community and will put my view forward if I wish to. I do think that some thought could be given to finding a way of gathering the thoughts of people who frequent the pubs as I would hazard a guess that a large portion of those people do not make the effort to share their views but have them nonetheless.

165 people commented on this theme.



Newsome Voices score sheet

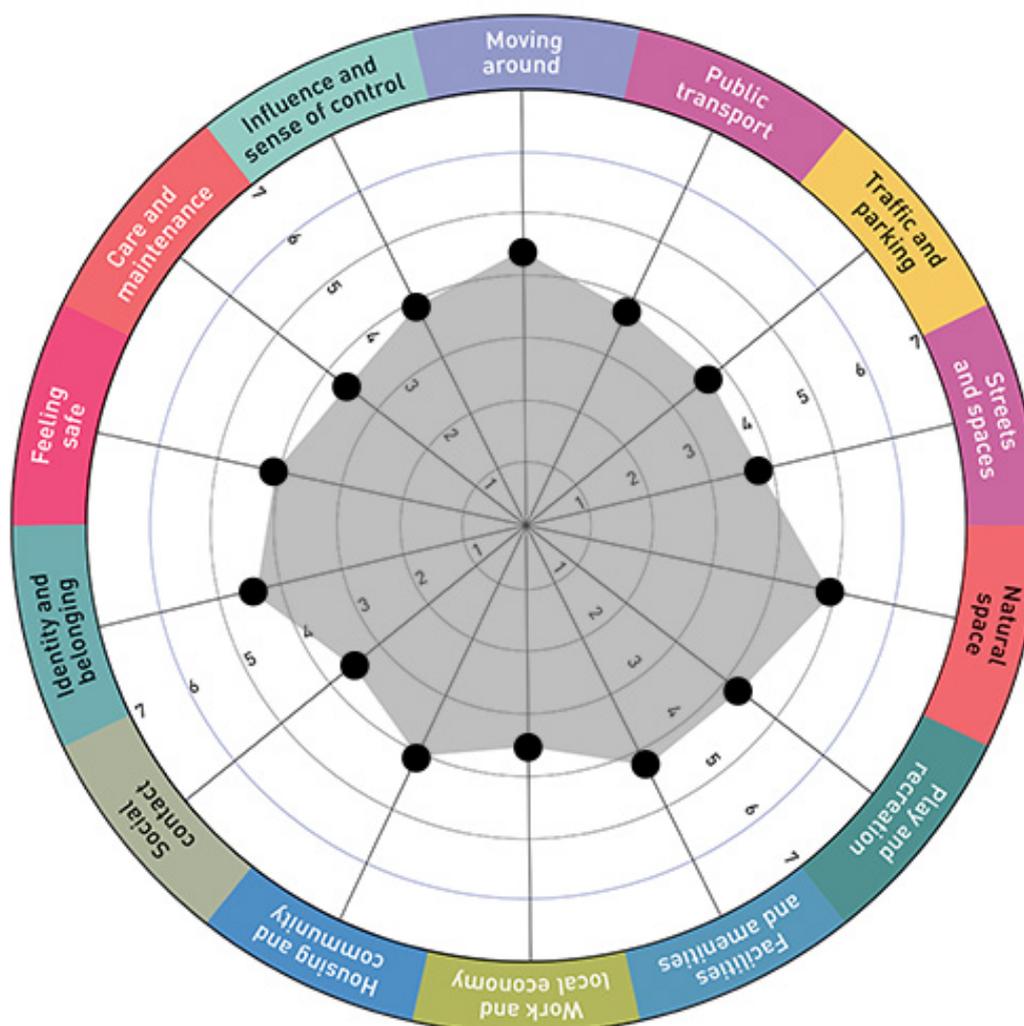
How participants scored Newsome on a scale of 1 to 7,
whilst talking about 14 different themes:

	Overall	Age 25 to 44	Age 45 to 64	Age 65 to 75+	Male	Female
Moving around	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
Public transport	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Traffic and parking	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
Streets and spaces	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Natural space	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Play and recreation	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Facilities and amenities	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Work and local economy	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Housing and community	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Social contact	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Identity and belonging	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Feeling safe	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Care and maintenance	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
Influence and sense of control	3.9	4	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9

311 people participated in the Newsome conversations,
completing **272** assessments.

The overall scores are the **Mean average** of the **272** assessments.

Overall scores for Newsome



Natural space	4.9
Identity and belonging	4.4
Moving around	4.3
Facilities and amenities	4.3
Play and recreation	4.2
Housing and community	4.1
Feeling safe	4.1

Influence and sense of control	3.9
Public transport	3.8
Streets and spaces	3.8
Care and maintenance	3.7
Traffic and parking	3.7
Social contact	3.6
Work and local economy	3.6

Full data is available at:
www.HowGoodIsOurPlace.org.uk