

Future Priorities for Bassetlaw

'Have your say' Community Consultation Exercise (March & April 2007)

Summary of Final Report

'Have Your Say' – Community Consultation Exercise March / April 2007 (Conducted by BLSP and BDC, supported by Inspira Consulting)

This consultation exercise was designed to provide views from Bassetlaw's community on the proposed future priorities for Bassetlaw District Council and the BLSP for 2007-09. Inspira Consulting carried out the consultation together with volunteers from Manton CAN (Manton Community Action Network).

The previous consultation with BLSP partners, and discussion with BDC senior officers, identified three proposed over-arching priorities for Bassetlaw's future:

- ▶ Creating **Jobs & Enterprise** within the District to secure our long-term viability (Economic Well-being)
- ▶ Ensuring our communities are **Safe & Strong** enabling residents to take an active role in their local neighbourhoods, lead a healthy lifestyle and live without fear of crime (Social Well-being)
- ▶ Making Bassetlaw a **Clean & Green** area for those that live & work here (Environmental Well-being)

Building on the consultation with BLSP partners, the purpose of this community consultation exercise was to gather views on the three proposed over-arching priorities from those living & working in the District. A key consideration of this consultation was to encourage responses from sectors of the District's community considered to be 'hard to reach'.

Informed by Bassetlaw's Community Engagement Strategy, this consultation exercise included a broad based approach (using a postcard survey available across the District including via the internet and the Citizen's Panel). In addition to the broad based approach, there was also more tailored work with specific groups to respond to the diversity of the District.

All of those responding to the consultation were asked:

- ▶ to comment on the three proposed over-arching priorities (respondents were asked if they agree with the proposed priorities and whether there are any other issues they think should be prioritised to improve Bassetlaw);
- ▶ if they would like to be involved in improving the area they live in and, if so, what support they would need to do this;
- ▶ to list two things they like about the district and two things they would like to change.

The targeting of specific groups was informed by previous work in the District on engaging with so-called 'Hard to Reach' groups. The 'Hearing the Hard to Hear' Report (December 2005) defined 'Hard to Reach' as 'any group of people which either don't, find it difficult to, or decline to engage with the Council and its partners.

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL **Priorities for Bassetlaw's Future** **Strategic Partnership**

Tell us what YOU think!

The District Council and partners in the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership (BLSP) are currently reviewing their main plans for the area's future. The Council are producing their new Corporate Plan, and the BLSP are reviewing the Community Strategy. **These are just some of the ways we want to improve the District for all our residents**

Jobs & Enterprise	Safe & Strong	Clean & Green
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Increase the number and quality of jobs in the area◆ Support business start-ups, existing businesses and encourage new, high skilled businesses to locate in Bassetlaw◆ Improve skill levels through promotion of training opportunities◆ Create thriving Town Centres and increase the number of quality business/office premises within the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Work in partnership to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and the affects of drug and alcohol abuse◆ Support local people to take action to improve the areas they live◆ Increase residents involvement in decision-making◆ Increase the number of volunteers to support local organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Create cleaner public spaces by reducing fly-tipping and litter◆ Increase recycling and composting◆ Improve and maintain the quality of local parks, green spaces and conservation areas◆ Develop a wetland reserve and conservation/education centre at Idle Valley

Summary of Results

626 responses were generated by the 'Have your Say' Consultation Exercise.

Agreement with proposed over-arching priorities:

- ▶ Overall high-level of support for the proposed priorities;
- ▶ Level of agreement was broadly similar across all groups consulted and across District as a whole;
- ▶ Very few respondents disagreed with proposed priorities;
- ▶ Some concern that proposed priorities were too generically worded/ needed to be more specifically tailored to Bassetlaw;
- ▶ Some desire to see cross-cutting focus on raising aspirations, tackling deprivation and improving communication.

Emphasis/focus placed on a particular proposed priority:

- ▶ Particular focus on litter & crime (as part of the proposed priorities of Safe & Strong and also Clean & Green);
- ▶ More work by BLSP and BDC needed to explore the balance between enforcement and engagement for litter and crime;
- ▶ Less overall focus on proposed priority of 'Jobs & Enterprise' – though some focus on town centres, shops and work opportunities.

Other issues that should be prioritised:

- ▶ Wide range of additional priorities suggested;
- ▶ Local Transport was identified as the biggest additional priority for the district's respondents as a whole;
- ▶ Traffic was the second biggest additional priority as suggested by the district's respondents as a whole;
- ▶ Improving Public Services was the third biggest additional priority as suggested by the district's respondents as a whole.

Getting involved in improving the area:

- ▶ Many want to get involved to help improve the District – litter, crime and consultation were identified as top three issues that respondents wanted support to get involved with improving;
- ▶ Positive responses often didn't identify specific support needs – need to know more about the type of support required to help respondents get involved;
- ▶ Overall, many respondents answered this question with 'don't know' – suggesting that they might be willing to engage locally if given appropriate advice and support;
- ▶ Response rate to question seems to vary according to mechanism used to ask the question – could be more likely to respond positively if asked directly and if the question is tailored to a specific local issue/ example (e.g. as part of face-to-face survey by another local person).

Positives about Bassetlaw:

- ▶ Environment, friendliness of local people and national transport links/ location were the top three 'likes';
- ▶ Shops was the fourth most popular single 'like' in terms of responses for the district as a whole;
- ▶ Town Centres was the fifth most popular single 'like' in terms of responses for the district as a whole.

Things respondents wanted to change about Bassetlaw:

- ▶ The initial results show close correlation between what respondents most often wanted to change and issues identified for particular focus;
- ▶ Litter, crime & traffic are the top three for change;
- ▶ Local Transport was in the top five list of things the district's respondents as a whole wanted to change about Bassetlaw;
- ▶ Town Centres/Shops featured in the top ten list of desired changes about the District as compiled by respondents as a whole;
- ▶ Facilities for the young, housing and public services also featured in top ten list of desired changes about the District as compiled by respondents as a whole.

Partners involved in the consultation exercise/ groups consulted:

- ▶ A1 Housing Bassetlaw Ltd.
- ▶ Albion Centre
- ▶ Bassetlaw Citizen's Panel
- ▶ Bassetlaw District Council
- ▶ Bassetlaw District Youth Assembly
- ▶ Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership
- ▶ Bassetlaw MIND
- ▶ BCVS
- ▶ Connexions
- ▶ Greenacre Day Centre
- ▶ Harworth Age Concern
- ▶ Harworth Methodist Church
- ▶ Hope for the Homeless
- ▶ Kilton Children's Centre
- ▶ Langold Children's Centre
- ▶ Manton CAN
- ▶ Manton Polish Residents Group (English Speaking Group)
- ▶ Manton Primary School
- ▶ New Testament Church of God (African Caribbean Church)
- ▶ North East Bassetlaw Forum
- ▶ North Leverton Children's Centre
- ▶ Nottinghamshire Women's Aid (Bassetlaw service – Farr Centre)
- ▶ Parish Council Liaison Group
- ▶ PPI Forum
- ▶ Retford Action Centre
- ▶ Ryton Park School

Methods of consultation:

- ▶ Postal Survey via postcard
 - ▶ Citizens Panel
 - ▶ District Councillors
 - ▶ County Councillors
 - ▶ Parish Councils
- ▶ Ballot Boxes/ Pick up points for postcard
 - ▶ Workshop One Stop Shop
 - ▶ Retford One Stop Shop
 - ▶ Harworth Area Office
 - ▶ Connexions Offices
 - ▶ North Notts College
 - ▶ Bassetlaw District General Hospital
 - ▶ Retford Hospital
 - ▶ The Turbine
 - ▶ Manton Community Alliance Office
 - ▶ A1 Housing Property Shop, Workshop
 - ▶ BCVS
 - ▶ Tuxford Mine of Information
 - ▶ Retford Action Centre
- ▶ Circulation by partners to their customers
- ▶ Face to face group sessions
- ▶ Internet – via BCVS online survey (online version of postcard). Links to site from Bassetlaw District Council and BLSP websites
- ▶ Individual conversations
- ▶ A1 Tenants Conference
- ▶ Harworth & Bircotes Information Day