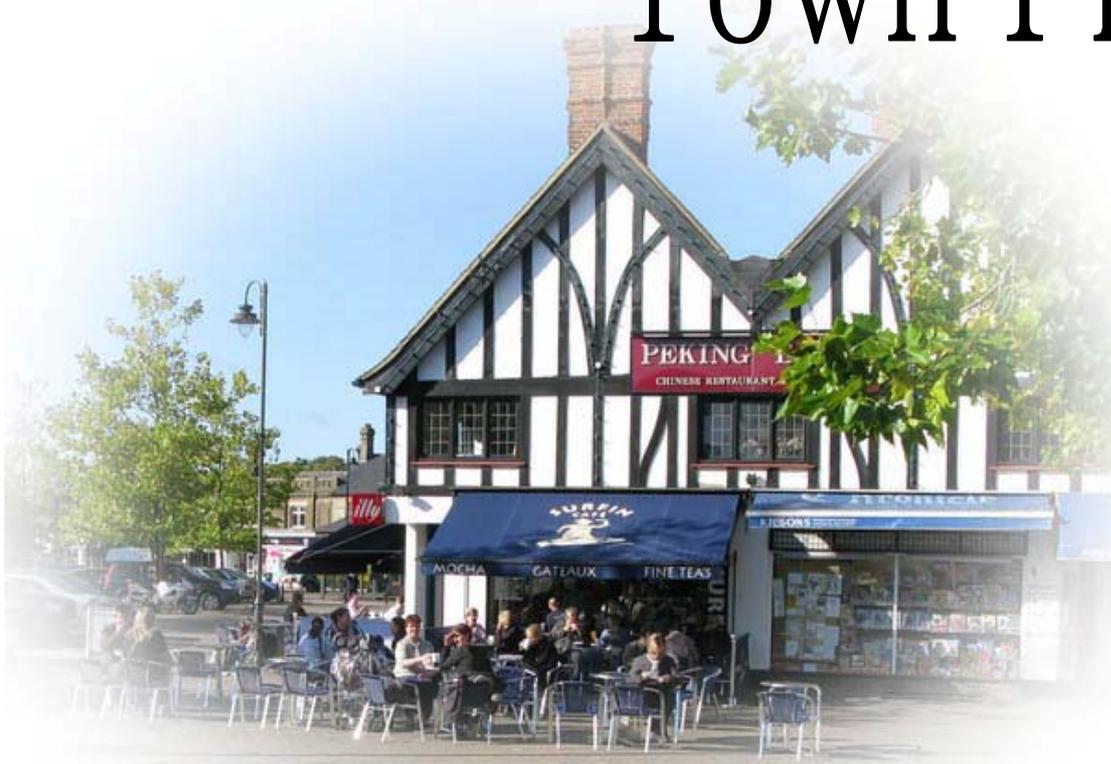


# Biggleswade Town Plan



## Questionnaire Results

Produced by the  
Biggleswade Town Plan Steering Group  
from our consultation with you.

July 2010

## About Us

The **Biggleswade Town Plan Steering Group** is an independent group of volunteers and we have been meeting since September 2008. The group is supported by, and works alongside, Biggleswade Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. We have carried out numerous public consultations over the period we have been working to enable you to tell us what you feel is important and so help us to determine what should be included in the questionnaire the results for which are published in this document.

We apologise for the delay in publishing these outcomes, it is purely down to there being insufficient volunteers to achieve our objectives in the timescale we would have liked to have achieved.

All of the findings from the **Biggleswade Town Plan** have been provided for consideration for inclusion in the 'Bigg Picture' Master Plan that is currently being produced for Biggleswade by Central Bedfordshire Council under the Town Centre Partnership programme.

We have been developing Action Plans from the results of the questionnaire and, once they have been agreed by the Town Council, we shall arrange for these to be presented to you, the residents of Biggleswade, for your consideration.

**Mike Strange**  
**Member of the Biggleswade Town Plan Steering Group**

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# Biggleswade Town Plan Questionnaire Results

## Section 1 - Introduction

This questionnaire was active from 14<sup>th</sup> September to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009 both via the Biggleswade Town Plan Steering Group web site ([www.BiggleswadeTownPlan.org.uk](http://www.BiggleswadeTownPlan.org.uk)) and hand delivered copies in theory to every household as well as being available in the Library and Town Hall. Due to delivery issues with the contracted company some households were regrettably omitted.

1220 completed questionnaires were received (paper and electronic) covering an additional 1541 people according to the response to Question 5 but 1618 according to Question 6. This gives a total representation of 2761 to 2838 people, or 16.59% to 17.05%, of the Biggleswade population. (Population based on the 2007 Mid Beds District Council figure of 16,640).

## Section 2 - Demographics

| 1. Gender?     |                  |                |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Male           | 43.0%            | 524            |
| Female         | 53.3%            | 650            |
| (not given)    | 3.8%             | 46             |

| 2. What age group do you belong to? (Also see the result from Question 6 and the combined results) |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
| 0 - 5 years  | 0.0%             | 0              |
| 6 - 8 years  | 0.0%             | 0              |
| 9 - 12 years   | 0.2%             | 3              |
| 13 - 15 years  | 0.7%             | 8              |
| 16 - 18 years  | 0.3%             | 4              |
| 19 - 24 years  | 1.2%             | 15             |
| 25 - 44 years  | 30.3%            | 365            |
| 45 - 59 years  | 26.0%            | 313            |
| 60 - 74 years  | 31.5%            | 379            |
| 75 + years   | 9.8%             | 118            |
| (not given)  | 1.2%             | 15             |

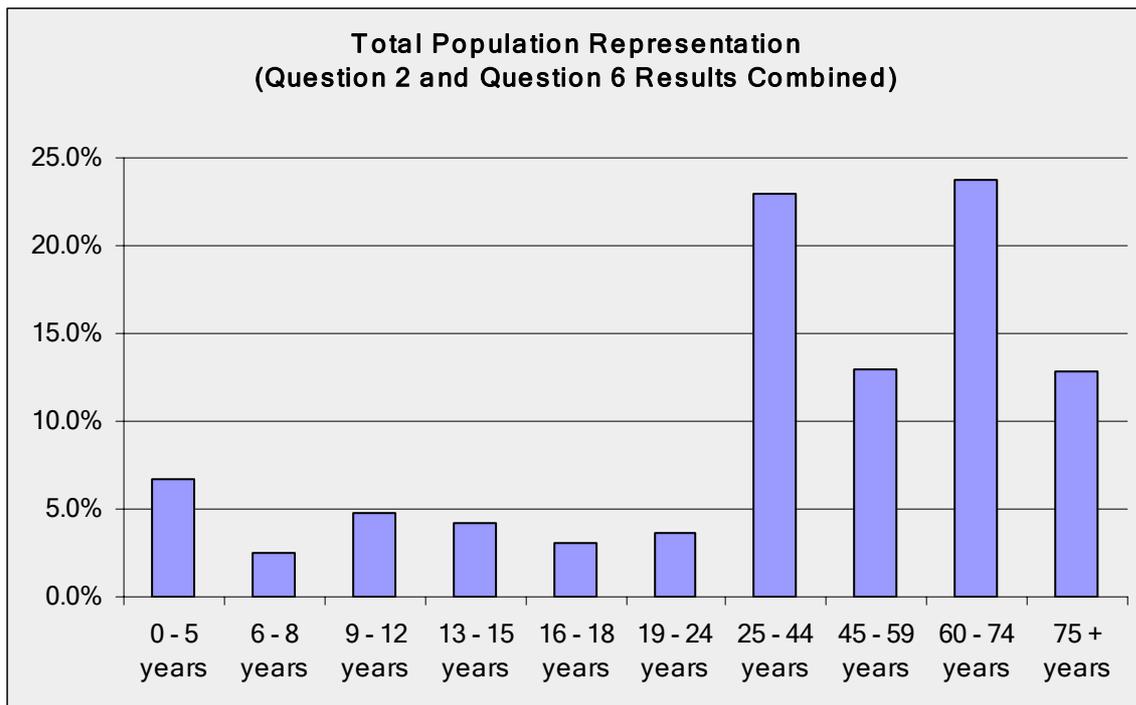
| 3. How long have you lived in Biggleswade? |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options                             | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Less than 1 year                           | 2.3%             | 28             |
| 1 - 5 years                                | 13.3%            | 162            |
| 6 - 10 years                               | 16.0%            | 195            |
| 11 - 25 years                              | 25.4%            | 310            |
| 26 - 40 years                              | 21.5%            | 262            |
| More than 40 years                         | 20.2%            | 246            |
| (not given)                                | 1.4%             | 17             |

| 4. In order for us to ensure that we have questionnaire responses from across the whole town, please tell us your Post Code. |                |
|--|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Count |
| Total responses  | 1204           |
| (not given)  | 16             |
| Spoiled, partial or non-Biggleswade responses  | 110            |
| Useful responses   | 1094           |
| Unique valid postcodes recorded  | 231            |

| 5. If you are answering this questionnaire on behalf of your household, please specify how many additional people live in your household. |                |
|---|----------------|
| Answers   | Response Count |
| Useful answers  | 798            |
| Total number of additional people   | 1541           |

6. For these additional household members, please specify how many people there are in your household from each of the following age groups.

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 0-5            | 11.6%            | 188            |
| 6-8            | 4.3%             | 70             |
| 9-12           | 8.1%             | 131            |
| 13-15          | 6.9%             | 112            |
| 16-18          | 5.2%             | 84             |
| 19-24          | 5.5%             | 89             |
| 25-44          | 17.5%            | 283            |
| 25-44          | 3.3%             | 53             |
| 45-59          | 18.0%            | 291            |
| 60-74          | 15.0%            | 243            |
| 74+ years      | 4.6%             | 74             |
| <b>Total</b>   |                  | <b>1,618</b>   |



## Section 3 - Traffic and Transport

### 7. Which of the following existing bus services do you use?

| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Scheduled Services (e.g. Mars, Grant Palmer, CentreBus etc) | 31.6%            | 385            |
| Link a Ride   | 1.3%             | 16             |
| Ivel Sprinter   | 6.2%             | 76             |
| None  | 63.4%            | 774            |
| (no response)   | 3.6%             | 44             |

### 8. If you do not use the existing bus service, what improvements would encourage you to use it more?

| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Lower fares  | 17.9%            | 218            |
| More frequent daytime service  | 19.7%            | 240            |
| More frequent evening service  | 10.2%            | 124            |
| More frequent weekend service  | 13.1%            | 160            |
| Later evening service  | 11.1%            | 136            |
| More destinations  | 23.7%            | 289            |
| Timetables and maps in the town centre                               | 21.9%            | 267            |
| Timetables on all bus stops  | 25.7%            | 313            |
| Increased promotion of existing service (e.g. in local publications) | 16.5%            | 201            |
| Nothing  | 24.7%            | 301            |
| (no response)  | 21.6%            | 263            |
| Other (please specify)   |                  | 36             |

#### Summary of text responses:

- Detailed route maps and/or destinations and at least one 'via' on all bus stops e.g. 'Route 200 to Flitwick via Shefford and Ampthill'.
- More reliable services.
- Consistent charges for young people.
- I start work at 6.30am cannot get to bus at this time
- Bus drivers who stop when hailed and are helpful
- Bus services coordinated with train arrivals not times. Buses leave the station empty before trains have arrived so they are not used.
- Bring back the East Beds Dart service that served the station and Saxon Gate in the evening.
- Local transport must be convenient to be used, the service to Langford is no use
- The bus journey time is too slow.
- The bus station area is so depressing.
- Better promotion of journey times and destinations
- Buses clearly marked as to the destination
- More child and pushchair-friendly buses for boarding and stowage
- Electronic bus times board
- Services to Cambridge, Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth Royston and Milton Keynes running early and late with long turnaround times
- More direct routes, especially Bedford, so that a 30 minute journey taken in a car doesn't take almost twice as long if using the bus.
- Awareness-raising is definitely a key requirement to get people out of cars and onto buses - commuters (by car) may not be aware that there are buses that will take them to work.
- Cheaper family fares for small children

### 9. Do you think that any of the following would improve train services for Biggleswade?

| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Better access to the platforms for all passengers (e.g. those with impaired mobility, pushchairs, heavy luggage or cycles) | 71.8%            | 876            |
| Non stop train to Kings Cross  | 37.5%            | 457            |
| Additional carriages on trains to Kings Cross (to allow for increased capacity)  | 46.4%            | 566            |
| Increased provision for bikes on trains  | 17.2%            | 210            |
| More frequent trains   | 31.0%            | 378            |
| (no response)  | 8.2%             | 100            |
| Other (please specify)   |                  | 50             |

#### Summary of text responses:

- Additional limited stop services in peak periods (say Finsbury Park and Kings Cross only)
- Extend the platforms - Add extra coaches - need more seats at work times
- Put in extra trains, lower fares, less first class accommodation
- Making it easier to ride (e.g. easier to get tickets, friendly employees who work at the train station to be there when you need them an to make sure you ride safely)
- Improve access to the platforms
- Trains stopping south of Stevenage in the mornings and the reverse in the evenings
- Decent facilities on platform - toilets, longer opening hours for cafe, nicer waiting area out of weather, free and plentiful car parking, better timetabling.
- Improved station security at all times of the day and night, by rail personnel, not simply more CCTV.
- Getting rid of the youths that congregate there in the evening
- Ban bikes from carriages as they can be obstructive and a danger to passengers
- Better pedestrian routes and crossings to station e.g. crossing by Red Lion/Stratton House
- Ensure that the station is a safe place whatever the time of day
- Secure cycle storage
- I love the station at Biggleswade; it's part of the town's character and we should strive to maintain character. More pride in the beautiful buildings that exist and in the surrounding area it has so much potential but is a sad tip
- The service is already very good
- More room for pushchairs once on train.

### 10. A transport interchange at Biggleswade train station has been suggested. Would you support this proposal? (This would include provision for trains, buses, taxi parking, bike and pedestrian access to the town centre.)

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes            | 76.6%            | 935            |
| No             | 16.2%            | 198            |
| (no response)  | 7.1%             | 87             |

### 11. Do you cycle within Biggleswade?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes            | 40.4%            | 493            |
| No             | 56.0%            | 683            |
| (no response)  | 3.6%             | 44             |

### Summary of Text Responses

- Biggleswade is not cycle-friendly
- Restrictive one way system in the middle of town - for example getting to the Saffron Health Centre has multiple choices - getting back is more difficult without either cycling all the way around via Teal Road or pushing your bike up a one way street.
- Need proper cycle lanes against traffic flow in one-way streets; Cambridge does it so why not Biggleswade?
- Cycling the wrong way on a one-way street is dangerous
- Need a Cycle Working Party of users and experts to cycle around town to see just how bad it is in carrying out specific tasks
- I do not want to cycle
- I cannot cycle
- Segregated cycle tracks from pedestrians and cars by more than just a white line, or a bit of green painted tarmac.
- Improvements to parking, particularly at junctions, as these are a frequent problem for both cyclists and motorists alike.
- Improve the road surface especially at sides of roadways with drains and pot holes
- Shared pedestrian cycle-ways, mixing fast cyclists with older, infirm, disabled persons does not work.
- Cyclist should adhere to the roads and follow the rules of the road.
- Cycles on trains + space for cycles on trains any time of day
- Biggleswade is great for cycling but spoilt by the attitude of motorists and volume of traffic.
- Notices telling cyclists to dismount on narrow or confined footpaths
- Many motorists within Biggleswade, particularly those in the 17 to 25 year age bracket, pay scant regard to speed limits.
- Introduce sleeping policemen to ensure 20mph is not exceeded within the town centre,
- Introduce more pelican crossings in the town centre would help prevent erratic driving.
- An undertaking from Bedfordshire & Transport Police to take thefts seriously to be proactive in preventative investigation
- 

### 13. If additional cycle routes were available to the following locations, would you use them?

| Answer Options                        | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| North towards Sandy (avoiding A1)     | 34.6%            | 422            |
| North-east towards Potton             | 24.8%            | 302            |
| West under the A1 to Broom            | 30.9%            | 377            |
| South towards Langford                | 29.5%            | 360            |
| Along the River Ivel towards Shefford | 33.1%            | 404            |
| East towards Dunton                   | 22.1%            | 270            |
| (no response)                         | 46.0%            | 561            |
| Other (please specify)                |                  | 36             |

### Summary of Text Responses:

Would use all these for leisure purposes, most important is a safe crossing point of the A1, do not cycle, would like better cycle tracks like route 51, A1 south avoiding or parallel to A1 to Stevenage, more bridleways would improve cycling in this area, safe, circular scenic routes for leisure cycling around the whole of Biggleswade, town centre to the Biggleswade retail park on London Road and Stratton to Baldock would be most useful, obviously with inter county agreement.

#### 14. Do you feel that any of the following are needed with regards to pavements in the town?

| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Wider pavements (specify where)  | 24.3%            | 296            |
| Improved surface condition   | 54.7%            | 667            |
| More dropped kerbs (for pushchairs, wheelchairs etc)                                 | 29.2%            | 356            |
| Additional pavements (specify where)   | 4.8%             | 58             |
| Clearance of overgrown vegetation  | 46.7%            | 570            |
| Removal or re-siting of street furniture, lamp posts and other physical obstructions | 12.5%            | 152            |
| (no response)  | 17.3%            | 211            |
| Where (please specify)   |                  | 132            |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

- Wider pavements Foundry Lane on the west side opposite the Post Office, over the Potton Road/St John Street railway bridge, Hitchin Street, St. Andrews street between Mill Lane and the Conservative Club and Station Road.
- Additional pavements at junction of Kitelands/Holme Court Ave, Broom Turn road, round lake near swimming pool, to Stratton Way Cemetery as folk have to walk along the road, Biggleswade to Potton, Biggleswade to upper Caldecote and at Chambers Way near roundabout.
- Improved surface needed in Mead End outside Holme mead School where tree roots are lifting the surface, Stratton Way and surrounding streets, the route to Edward Peake, from the new Wimpey estate going to both Langford and Biggleswade town centres, Mill Lane, pathway along the west side of the railway from the station towards Holme Court estate (dirty and overgrown), outside H&H on the High Street the pavement is uneven and dangerous, Teal Road, Church Street, The Baulk, Drove Road, walkway between Lincoln Crescent and path to station, near Asda, St John street by Viceroy, Rose Lane, Fairfield Road, and Brunts Lane, both sides of road at 'Codfather' chip shop, Potton Road near hospital and put Shortmead Street back to paving in keeping with the historic character of the street as opposed to the tarmac Every junction should have dropped kerb, the corner of Foundry Lane and Saffron Road mentioned
- Clear vegetation on junction of Potton Road with St. John's Street, Rose Lane, at Kingsfield roundabout and the alley between The Baulk and Drove Road.
- Remove obstructions such as street and A-boards etc on High Street and Abbots Walk.

#### 15. What is your view on parking in and around the town centre?

| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| There IS NOT enough short stay parking (e.g. 2 hours or less) | 44.6%            | 544            |
| There IS adequate short stay parking                          | 32.8%            | 400            |
| There IS NOT enough long stay parking                         | 41.5%            | 506            |
| There IS adequate long stay parking                           | 18.9%            | 230            |
| (no response)   | 12.2%            | 149            |

#### 16. If you think that there are 'NOT enough' car parking spaces where do you think additional spaces should be provided?

| Answer Options           | Response Count |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| <i>answered question</i> | 152            |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Aldi north car park as long term, Bonds Lane, extend the station yard to incorporate the former stables yard behind Maurice's, use of the Saffron health centre car park at weekends to park market traders vehicles to free up Rose Lane as a 2 or 4 hour car park for shoppers, subterranean multi story at Rose

Lane, Bonds Lane area with shops above, near Saxon Centre, near Stratton Way, out-of-town with Park & Ride facilities near Homebase on derelict land, Aldi car park could be pay and display, old council office site on London Road, there are no places for additional parking (one of Biggleswade's problems), resurface and upgrade Rose Lane car park, take over Railway long-stay car park, where the current bus station is if it were moved to a new transport hub, Hitchin street on site of old Black bear pub, Multi-storey opposite the Conservative Club and The Stratton House hotel for overnight parking.

#### 17. What are your views on parking charges in the town centre?

| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| All parking should be chargeable regardless of the length of time | 2.5%             | 31             |
| There should be a mixture of free and chargeable spaces           | 18.0%            | 219            |
| Parking should be chargeable after 2 hours                        | 26.2%            | 320            |
| Parking should be chargeable after 1 hour                         | 5.6%             | 68             |
| All parking should be free of charge                              | 40.0%            | 488            |
| (no response)   | 7.7%             | 94             |

#### 18. With regard to parking in residential areas, are any of the following a problem for you? (please tick ALL that apply and specify WHERE)

| Answer Options                              | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Lack of available parking for residents     | 24.5%            | 299            |
| Parking by people using the train station   | 32.9%            | 401            |
| Dangerous parking (e.g. near junctions etc) | 49.3%            | 602            |
| Layout could be improved (describe below)   | 5.4%             | 66             |
| Parking on grass verges                     | 18.9%            | 230            |
| Parking of commercial vehicles              | 12.0%            | 147            |
| Parking of vehicles at bus stops            | 9.3%             | 113            |
| (no response)                               | 24.0%            | 293            |
| Where                                       |                  | 192            |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

- St Johns Street near junction with Wisheres Road
- Free parking for train users at the station. Season Ticket holders could have a pass to display on their vehicle. Casual rail users would purchase a parking ticket which would then be deducted from the cost of their train ticket.
- Parking around Dells Lane - and particularly parking on the pavement.
- Saffron Court is used for train station parking, including residents-only car parks and parking near the corner with Saffron Road. This will get worse when the permit scheme in Saffron Road comes into effect.
- Workers and shoppers blocking Mill Lane & Mill Close
- The Balk
- Stratton Way, have had protracted discussions with former Beds CC
- Derwent Avenue
- In most places because the pavements are too narrow and it impedes the passing if you are walking with pushchairs or children
- Dells Lane/Holmecourt Avenue
- Junctions around Bunyan Road
- Hitchin street at both the Peacocks end and on the bend past the road with the saddler in
- Junction of Hitchin Street/Berkeley Close.
- Parking on grass verges should be an enforceable offence as in Letchworth.
- Tennyson Avenue dangerous parking
- Outside Viceroy Restaurant in Sun Street making it difficult to see from St. John's Street
- Cooks Way - there is not enough parking for residents and visitors. This area is also used by the residents of Drove Road who do not have a legal place to park outside/near their own property.

- Give High Street lay-bys angled entrances and exits - the current right-angle is stupid.
- Nursery Close and Potton Road junction
- Residents' parking scheme on The Baulk

**19. The initial consultation suggested that there is a traffic flow problem in the town centre. Do you feel that this could be improved by any of the following suggestions, should they prove feasible? (A map was provided showing each option)**

| Answer Options                             | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Reverse the traffic flow in Hitchin Street | 20.3%            | 248            |
| Reverse the traffic flow in Saffron Road   | 8.5%             | 104            |
| Reverse the traffic flow in Foundry Lane   | 3.2%             | 39             |
| Reverse the traffic flow in Bonds Lane     | 4.9%             | 60             |
| No change                                  | 45.5%            | 555            |
| (no response)                              | 26.6%            | 324            |
| Other (please specify)                     |                  | 56             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

- Reverse the Hitchin Street flow but only as far as Bond's Lane
- Needs a combination of all of these. Need to set up a feasibility/working group of users and experts to look at the possibilities.
- Reversing the flow in all of Hitchin Street is not advisable as all traffic would have to use the Market Square
- Make road in Bonds Lane two way from Aldi car park to Station Road This will enable traffic to go southwards instead of being forced around the one way system in the town
- Take out some of the traffic lights in the town centre
- Reverse the flow across the Market Place and reverse the bus lane
- Foundry Lane should be two-way
- Make a one way system around town i.e. Station Road one way towards the station; then Teal Road, St. Andrews Street one way towards Shortmead Street. High street one way to complete the circle.

**20. Do you think that any of the following junctions, identified in the initial consultation, need improving?**

| Answer Options                            | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Sun St /Shortmead St                      | 66.6%            | 813            |
| London Rd /Dells Lane /The Baulk /Back St | 59.4%            | 725            |
| London Rd /Eagle Farm Rd /Drove Rd        | 32.2%            | 393            |
| London Rd /Kitelands Rd                   | 4.3%             | 52             |
| London Rd /Chambers Way                   | 13.4%            | 163            |
| High St /Rose Lane                        | 27.7%            | 338            |
| (no response)                             | 12.4%            | 151            |
| Other (please specify)                    |                  | 47             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

- Some of these could happen now. There was a recent variation on the East Biggleswade Schedule 106 Agreement that allows for the Council to claim back from developers the cost of work carried out in advance of the agreed trigger points. We need the Sun Street/Shortmead Street roundabout now.
- Station Road/Saffron Road/Palace Street
- Where Station Road meets Saffron Road outside the station. It's a mess
- Back Street onto Station Road junction is dangerous.
- A1 south access from Biggleswade.
- From the Dunton roundabout to the industrial estate/Homebase roundabout. Prevent traffic turning right to access the rear of Matalan, instead use the roundabout industrial estate/Homebase to loop round and return to make a left turn in. This will avoid the traffic

delays and congestion and will make the access safer. Similarly make traffic exiting only turn left and use the Dunton roundabout to loop back.

- Dells Lane/Windermere Drive
- The junction of St John's Street and Sun Street.
- Rear exit from Asda into Rose Lane, road markings non compliant this should be a stop line.
- London road/ Elm Road - mini-roundabouts would be helpful
- Mead End/Dells Lane

**21. Do you think that the speed of traffic is a problem in any of the following roads in the town?**

| Answer Options         | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Dells Lane             | 19.4%            | 237            |
| Hitchin Street         | 8.7%             | 106            |
| Holme Court Avenue     | 19.3%            | 236            |
| London Road            | 28.2%            | 344            |
| Potton Road            | 19.0%            | 232            |
| Saxon Drive            | 4.8%             | 59             |
| Shortmead Street       | 17.3%            | 211            |
| St Johns Street        | 8.6%             | 105            |
| Stratton Way           | 6.4%             | 78             |
| Speed isn't a problem  | 25.0%            | 305            |
| (no response)          | 14.8%            | 180            |
| Other (please specify) |                  | 63             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

Havelock Road, Lawrence Road, Station Road, Saffron Road, Teal Road, High Street, The Baulk, Hitchmead Road, Drove Road, the Fairfield Estate, Rose Lane, St. Andrews Street , Rowan Crescent, Kitelands, Mead End, Church Street and Chambers Way .

## Section 4 - Housing and Development

### 22. If further development was permitted in the town, which types of housing development would you prefer to see?

| Answer Options                        | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Homes with designated office space    | 5.4%             | 66             |
| Larger family homes (3 or more beds)  | 27.1%            | 331            |
| Sheltered housing                     | 18.4%            | 225            |
| Small family homes (less than 3 beds) | 34.3%            | 418            |
| Starter homes                         | 32.0%            | 391            |
| No new housing development            | 30.9%            | 377            |
| (no response)                         | 9.8%             | 120            |
| Other (please specify)                |                  | 37             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Houses with larger gardens, small space leads to psychological issues, bungalows, key-worker housing and a range of houses looking different from each other, not like Saxon Gate where they all look the same!

### 23. Do you think that there is a need for additional housing of any of the following types in the town?

| Answer Options                                  | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Local authority / Housing association rented    | 30.8%            | 376            |
| Owner Occupied                                  | 22.9%            | 279            |
| Private rented                                  | 6.5%             | 79             |
| Shared ownership / joint equity                 | 23.4%            | 286            |
| Foyer (e.g. Supported housing for young people) | 17.5%            | 213            |
| (no response)                                   | 40.8%            | 498            |
| Other (please specify)                          |                  | 26             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Help the needy, not the greedy, no, the infrastructure cannot support it, fully maintained traveller site required

### 24. If further development was permitted which facilities would you prefer to see included in the town?

| Answer Options                              | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Mainly housing                              | 9.1%             | 111            |
| Open spaces                                 | 39.7%            | 484            |
| Community facilities                        | 49.1%            | 599            |
| Education facilities                        | 24.5%            | 299            |
| Commercial uses (e.g. offices / industrial) | 9.3%             | 113            |
| Retail provision                            | 38.9%            | 475            |
| Leisure provision                           | 62.9%            | 767            |
| No new development                          | 8.0%             | 98             |
| (no response)                               | 5.5%             | 67             |
| Other (please specify)                      |                  | 33             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

- Dog park; somewhere safe and secure to take dogs and let them run and play together without upsetting people that dislike dogs who use current parks.
- Areas of beauty for relaxation for adults. A park with a garden would be the solution.
- Somewhere with a bandstand etc to host community events.
- Public transport infrastructure in place to meet new demand
- Bigger Pool 50 metre size
- Adequate Doctor surgery provision and car parking

- Winter sport facilities
- New Medical Centre
- Sport for leisure is vital to community viability (wellbeing encourages discipline and respect in younger)

**25. If development was permitted in the town, which of the following impacts would you be most concerned about?**

| Answer Options                           | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Impact on the town's character           | 38.9%            | 474            |
| Impact on the schools                    | 27.6%            | 337            |
| Impact on public services (e.g. doctors) | 60.7%            | 740            |
| Impact on the environment                | 24.7%            | 301            |
| Increased parking issues                 | 54.6%            | 666            |
| Increased traffic congestion             | 65.1%            | 794            |
| Increased congestion on commuter trains  | 18.7%            | 228            |
| (no response)                            | 6.0%             | 73             |
| Other (please specify)                   |                  | 13             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

They are all important, crime, no need for additional housing, I would be pleased about the positive potential impact on the community, that is, increased economic growth - leisure potential activities and increased political activity and none if development strategy was correct.

**26. The Bonds Lane / Foundry Lane area behind the Market Square has proposals for redevelopment. What type of redevelopment do you think should be encouraged there?**

| Answer Options                           | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Offices                                  | 3.9%             | 47             |
| Shops / Services                         | 40.8%            | 498            |
| Leisure facilities                       | 42.2%            | 515            |
| Community uses                           | 28.1%            | 343            |
| Retention of the Medical Centre          | 32.4%            | 395            |
| Expansion of the Medical Centre          | 47.5%            | 580            |
| Housing                                  | 5.5%             | 67             |
| Parking                                  | 39.3%            | 480            |
| A mix of the above (specify which below) | 8.7%             | 106            |
| (no response)                            | 4.5%             | 55             |
| Other (please specify)                   |                  | 34             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

No more shops as there are still empty premises in the town centre, a park, a cafe culture expansion more things like the Old Maltings would be great with paved pedestrian area and a central meeting place for all community use youth and retired, sheltered housing for the elderly, a cyber café, roller disco space for all ages, area needs reconnecting to High Street current proposal does not do this - more retail anchor or leisure may, shops meaning clothing shops i.e. Next store or M&S food store, no more estate agents, hairdressers or cheap food shops.

## Section 5 - Retail

### 27. Which shops / services do you currently use in the town?

| Answer Options                                       | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| I don't use any                                      | 0.5%             | 6              |
| Supermarkets   | 93.1%            | 1136           |
| National chains (e.g. New Look, Superdrug)           | 73.9%            | 902            |
| Services (e.g. Hairdressing and banking)             | 85.7%            | 1045           |
| Cafes  | 50.5%            | 616            |
| Restaurants  | 46.4%            | 566            |
| Farmers market                                       | 27.9%            | 340            |
| Saturday market                                      | 66.6%            | 813            |
| Independent retail (e.g. shoe shop, ironmongers etc) | 73.4%            | 895            |
| (no response)  | 2.3%             | 28             |
| Other (please specify)                               |                  | 15             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Church, Job Centre, library, petrol stations, pubs, tour operators, DVD rental, bank, newsagents, greengrocers, general store, florists, jewellers, chemists (I would use the Farmer's Market if it was at the weekend!), small shops like 'Serendipity' and 'Vintage Rose' that went bust and retail park e.g. Homebase.

### 28. Do you think that there is a sufficient range of shops and services in Biggleswade?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes            | 24.1%            | 294            |
| No             | 71.9%            | 877            |
| (no response)  | 4.0%             | 49             |

### 29. If additional facilities were to open in the town, which types of shops would you use?

| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| More high street clothing stores  | 41.6%            | 508            |
| General store (e.g. Wilkinson's)  | 71.6%            | 873            |
| National Stationers / bookshop (e.g. WH Smith)                            | 52.9%            | 645            |
| More small independent shops  | 42.7%            | 521            |
| More discount stores  | 17.1%            | 209            |
| Supermarket / food stores   | 5.0%             | 61             |
| More regular market   | 11.1%            | 136            |
| More regular farmers' market  | 12.3%            | 150            |
| More restaurants  | 20.9%            | 255            |
| Specialist Shops (e.g. toys, health food etc) (please specify type below) | 28.4%            | 347            |
| (no response)   | 3.9%             | 48             |
| Other (please specify)  |                  | 83             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Primark, high spec indoor market/ deli, health food shop, toy shop, general homeware and cookware shop (table linens, crockery, etc), Woolworths style shop, grocers, fishmongers, clothes shops for men, sports shop, book shop, sandwich shop (e.g. Subway), farmer's market on Saturday, arts & crafts; music; better quality shops, no more cheap shops, a larger variety of restaurants, children's clothes, stationer's, clothes for the older generation, Toys R Us, Mothercare, Curry's on outskirts with adequate transport to and from, model-making, Debenhams, River Island, motor factors parts suppliers,

jewellers, giftware, electrical, a pharmacist open on Sundays, 2nd hand bookshop, haberdashery/drapery, department store.

**30. Would you support the idea of Biggleswade being a Fair Trade Town (i.e. shoppers being encouraged to buy, and traders being encouraged to stock, as wide a range of Fair Trade goods as possible)**

| Answer Options                                     | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| I do not support the idea                          | 9.0%             | 110            |
| I am not bothered either way                       | 28.7%            | 350            |
| I might support the idea but need more information | 33.8%            | 412            |
| I definitely support the idea                      | 24.3%            | 297            |
| (no response)                                      | 4.2%             | 51             |

## Section 6 - Environment

### 31. Would you support the provision of a 'country park' to the west of the town between the River Ivel and the A1?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes            | 87.4%            | 1066           |
| No             | 4.5%             | 55             |
| (no response)  | 8.1%             | 99             |

### 32. Would you like to see any of the following facilities provided along the River Ivel?

| Answer Options         | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Additional seating     | 65.0%            | 793            |
| Additional litter bins | 60.7%            | 741            |
| Information boards     | 42.2%            | 515            |
| Refreshment Kiosk      | 35.3%            | 431            |
| Picnic Facilities      | 60.0%            | 732            |
| (no response)          | 12.3%            | 150            |
| Other (please specify) |                  | 48             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Needs to be developed sensitively and appropriately, and managed properly  
 dog bins, area to lock bikes, cycleway, toilet facilities, upgrade children's play area at Mill Lane, improved disabled access, clear the riverbanks and make it navigable, it would be wonderful to be able to hire a boat and cruise or row along the river from Jordan's Mill to Sandy, play equipment or trim trail, cycle track along river from Sandy to Langford, we should make the most of having a beautiful river, wheelchair-friendly circular route, car parking, a dog friendly area, strongly none, improve paths and gateways for wheelchairs, fishing platforms, leave as natural as possible, managed green spaces combining natural features, like Bedford or St Neots, pitch & putt, I kayak along the river, it would be great to see it cleared and put back as the lido, the river could be such an easy tourist attraction.

### 33. What improvements do you think could be made to the entrance to Biggleswade Common from Shortmead Street?

| Answer Options                                 | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Screening of the Anglian water pumping station | 38.2%            | 466            |
| Relocation of the cattle pens                  | 21.2%            | 259            |
| Planting / Landscaping                         | 67.8%            | 827            |
| (no response)                                  | 20.2%            | 247            |
| Other (please specify)                         |                  | 36             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Don't know where this is, clearing of weeds/dog mess from footpath, cycle access to common, it's Common land, don't waste public money on Common land, accessible to wheelchair users, cattle pens are part of rural life and should remain, no improvements are needed, more publicity, clean up of the river and banks, more seating would provide a pleasant environment, removal of alcoholics drinking on the picnic tables, no dog poo, eliminate fly-tipping, make a better path from the car park to the common, extend picnic area; have more cattle-free green-space, footpath along the side of the river, tree planting along the A1 boundary, big notice board to say "Biggleswade Common", Gateway kiosk/Info area and give back the 'oldy worldy' feel.

### 34. If additional allotments could be provided in the town, would you use one?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes            | 18.3%            | 223            |

|               |       |     |
|---------------|-------|-----|
| No            | 72.8% | 888 |
| (no response) | 8.9%  | 109 |

**35. Would you like to see any of the following improvements made to the main entrances into the town? (please tick ALL that apply)**

| Answer Options                 | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| New 'Biggleswade' signs        | 23.1%            | 282            |
| Planting of flowers and shrubs | 67.7%            | 826            |
| Fencing / Gateways             | 14.8%            | 181            |
| (no response)                  | 26.1%            | 318            |
| Other (please specify)         |                  | 25             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

'Britain in Bloom' competition, lose the advertising hoardings north and south, larger Welcome to Biggleswade signs saying what Biggleswade has to provide like shops etc, general appearance of buildings/ new coat of paint /tidy up areas., make the Biggleswade sign stand out more, it's fine as it is, just keep what we have tidy and clean, removal of billboards advertising land on entrance to Biggleswade , more trees, railings over the lvel to replace ugly existing ones, the flora that was so aggressively removed from London Road/Stratton Bus Park should be re-instated as the area is now an eyesore - very short-sighted and plant native wildflowers that will help support our declining bees.

**36. Do you think that any of the following improvements to Public Rights of Way in the town are needed?**

| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| No improvements needed  | 5.2%             | 64             |
| Information on routes made available                              | 41.8%            | 510            |
| Improved signage  | 33.4%            | 408            |
| Better access for those with mobility problems / pushchair access | 38.0%            | 464            |
| New paths to make circular routes                                 | 37.5%            | 457            |
| Overgrown footpaths to be cleared                                 | 68.7%            | 838            |
| Additional Routes (please specify where)                          | 3.0%             | 37             |
| (no response)   | 9.9%             | 121            |
| Other (please specify)  |                  | 21             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

Joint pedestrian/cycle use, more bins in countryside, north-south routes in Saxon Gate including through linear woods, more cycle routes to maximise Sustrans Route 51 and bridleway use, tarmac pathways leading to schools, more access to the river, sign and maintain existing footpaths adequately, improve lighting in the area of the station, access to Common directly from the Fairfield Estate, sign that Bridleways are not for cars to use, barrier restrictions to prevent fly tipping, I will not allow my children to use the footpaths ever for fear of drugs paraphernalia, Biggleswade green-wheel multi-user route, a ramped foot bridge (pushchair access) to connect the new Brunel drive area with the Lincoln Crescent area for walking to Holmemead middle school and a town circular route.

## Section 7 - Crime, Disorder & Safety

### 37. Are you aware of any of the following initiatives that operate in the town?

| Answer Options          | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Neighbourhood watch     | 58.4%            | 713            |
| Community safety forum  | 13.5%            | 165            |
| No cold calling zones   | 64.8%            | 791            |
| Alcohol free zone       | 45.3%            | 553            |
| Police advice surgeries | 12.7%            | 155            |
| (no response)           | 17.5%            | 214            |

### 38. Have you been affected by any of the following types of crime within the last two years?

| Answer Options                          | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Burglary                                | 4.3%             | 53             |
| Vehicle crime                           | 11.9%            | 145            |
| Threatening behaviour in a public place | 8.5%             | 104            |
| Anti-social behaviour                   | 30.1%            | 367            |
| Vandalism                               | 19.1%            | 233            |
| Other                                   | 3.4%             | 42             |
| (no response)                           | 54.8%            | 669            |

### 39. Which of the following responses would you like to see implemented in the town?

| Answer Options                         | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| More social / recreational facilities  | 56.9%            | 694            |
| Extension of the alcohol free zone     | 31.1%            | 379            |
| Improved control of alcohol sales      | 47.1%            | 575            |
| More Police Community Support Officers | 33.9%            | 414            |
| More CCTV cameras                      | 27.5%            | 335            |
| Increased police presence              | 67.6%            | 825            |
| (no response)                          | 8.2%             | 100            |
| Other (please specify)                 |                  | 28             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Open the Police Station 24 hours, enforce AFZ, increase police presence with full-time officers, CCTV at South View/Hitchin Street junction to deter drug dealers and at station cycle parking, zero tolerance on intimidation and antisocial behaviour, enforce 'No cold calling Zones' and picking up of dog mess.

### 40. Do you feel unsafe walking in Biggleswade? If 'yes', please specify where?

| Answer Options                         | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Yes (by implication)                   | 15.4%            | 188            |
| (no response - means no but see below) | 84.6%            | 1032           |

### 40 (Adjusted) Do you feel unsafe walking in Biggleswade? If 'yes', please specify where?

| Answer Options                            | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Yes (adjusted as 75 specified No in text) | 9.3%             | 113            |
| (no response - adjusted for No in text)   | 90.7%            | 1107           |

**Summary of Text Responses:** (Ignoring that 75 people specified No in the 'where' box)

Chapel fields, town centre, sometimes when the market place is full of young people, path from station along by railway line to Tennyson Ave and Bunyan Road, alley near the train station (towards Dells Lane), Railway Station alley-way by scout hut, at night around St Andrews Street because of the large numbers of young people that gather here, in the park and use the alleyway, large groups of youths hanging around town/Asda drunk adults around town/parks, alley ways on Fairfield estate, bus station, Mead End parade of shops (mainly in the evening), through the park at Kitelands Road, the long alleyway going from near Mead End shop to London Road, next to York Close, Crab Lane, I felt safer living in London and Stratton Way cemetery/playing field area as youths hang around,

| 41. If you feel unsafe, what time of the day is this at?       |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Day time   | 0.3%             | 4              |
| Night time   | 39.3%            | 479            |
| Both   | 4.8%             | 58             |
| (no response - could imply 'feeling safe' but not necessarily) | 55.7%            | 679            |

| 42. Do you think that any of the following would help enhance the appearance of Biggleswade? |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
| More litter pickers employed   | 33.2%            | 405            |
| Organised community litter picks   | 18.0%            | 220            |
| More rubbish bins in the town centre   | 30.9%            | 377            |
| On the spot fines for dog mess and littering   | 66.3%            | 809            |
| Regular clearing / spraying of weeds   | 62.7%            | 765            |
| Planting of trees and flowers  | 52.5%            | 641            |
| (no response)  | 8.4%             | 102            |
| Other (please specify)   |                  | 37             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

Organise those on Community Service/Payback to pick litter and clear weeds and other vegetation, more rubbish bins \*out\* of the town centre and around the station, enable unused land to be used for things like community gardens, bring more colour to the town centre, use unemployed able bodied people claiming benefits, removal of graffiti, persons caught littering should be forced into community litter picking sessions, on the spot fines for spitting and dropping of chewing gum, more road sweeping, a goal to build ONLY quality building in Biggleswade that will enhance the general appearance, a goal to preserve good old buildings and their cartilage, empty shops makes it look rough place, maintenance of the bus station (the roof leaks badly; half the lights don't work; the seats need re-varnishing; the uprights need repainting and the graffitied/scratched/broken glass needs replacing, some control over fast-food rubbish to reduce incidence of such litter, removal of the bus station and replacing 'tired' street name boards.

## Section 8 - Health

### 43. The current intention is to combine The Baulk and The Saxon Road surgeries. Where do you think this new medical centre should be located?

| Answer Options         | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Town centre            | 63.4%            | 774            |
| Outside town centre    | 25.5%            | 311            |
| (no response)          | 11.2%            | 137            |
| Other (please specify) |                  | 44             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

If not the existing site then the old Council office site in London Road, I don't think they should be combined, near the retail park with good bus access, no preference, somewhere easily accessible to those without own transport, near town, not on outskirts, by Saxon pool/Leisure centre which would be the centre of Biggleswade when Biggleswade east is built, nearer to the north and older area of the town where the majority of older people live, put all medical facilities together including Saffron Road off Chambers Way, as close to public transport as possible, somewhere it will be easy for Mum's with pushchairs and the elderly, out of town centre but only if there is a good bus service route every 15 minutes with a nice place for people to sit and wait for a bus.

### 44. Which of the following Health Centres do you attend?

| Answer Options               | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| The Ivel Medical Centre      | 41.9%            | 511            |
| Health Centre (Saffron Road) | 50.6%            | 617            |
| The Lawns Medical Centre     | 0.2%             | 2              |
| (no response)                | 7.4%             | 90             |
| Other (please specify)       |                  | 11             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Biggleswade Hospital for specialist eye checks for diabetics and Northamptonshire.

### 45. For your most recent appointment which of the following best describes your experience?

| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| I saw my preferred doctor when I wanted                                       | 48.4%            | 544            |
| I saw my preferred doctor but I had to wait a long time to get an appointment | 10.9%            | 122            |
| I couldn't see my preferred doctor  | 18.7%            | 210            |
| I had difficulty getting through on the telephone                             | 46.8%            | 526            |
| The appointment time offered was convenient                                   | 47.6%            | 535            |
| The appointment time offered was not convenient                               | 11.2%            | 126            |
| (no response)   |                  | 97             |

### 46. Good Neighbour Groups are run by local volunteers and provide assistance to anyone in need of a little help (e.g. Lifts, collecting prescriptions, shopping, befriending etc). If there was a Good Neighbour Scheme in Biggleswade would this be of use to you?

| Answer Options      | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes                 | 9.2%             | 112            |
| No                  | 24.4%            | 298            |
| Maybe in the future | 59.0%            | 720            |
| (no response)       | 7.4%             | 90             |

**47. Would you consider volunteering to assist with a Good Neighbour Scheme in the town?**

| <b>Answer Options</b> | <b>Response Percent</b> | <b>Response Count</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes                   | 38.4%                   | 469                   |
| No                    | 48.5%                   | 592                   |
| (no response)         | 13.0%                   | 159                   |

## Section 9 - Community Services, Facilities and Recreation

### 48. If any of the following facilities could be provided in the town would you use them?

| Answer Options              | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 10 pin bowling alley        | 49.5%            | 604            |
| Ice skating                 | 20.5%            | 250            |
| Roller skating              | 12.0%            | 147            |
| Indoor bowls                | 20.0%            | 244            |
| Theatre                     | 54.1%            | 660            |
| Cinema                      | 73.7%            | 899            |
| Live music venue            | 29.0%            | 354            |
| Pool / Snooker club         | 12.4%            | 151            |
| Night club' for under 18yrs | 12.2%            | 149            |
| Local history centre        | 31.5%            | 384            |
| (no response)               | 11.0%            | 134            |
| Other (please specify)      |                  | 34             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Community centre, Mcdonalds, Go kart track, out door swimming pool like the one that was demolished - for housing, more family-friendly restaurants, classical music events proper sports venue, a multiuse venue would be great - look at Center Parcs for inspiration, theatre doubling-up as a cinema, 50 meter swimming pool, wine bar/nightclub for over 21s, Astro Turf Football/hockey pitch with floodlights, floodlit training grounds, community craft venue, museum, art gallery/temporary exhibitions, parents that have time for their children, 9 Pin Bowling - the balls are smaller and easier to handle, Squash/Racketball and Lido.

### 49. If any of the following developments were to be made to the River Ivel / Franklin's Recreation Ground (Mill Lane), would you use them?

| Answer Options         | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Paddling pool          | 33.5%            | 256            |
| Sunday bandstand       | 56.9%            | 435            |
| Boating pool           | 34.2%            | 262            |
| River boating          | 61.3%            | 469            |
| (no response)          |                  | 455            |
| Other (please specify) |                  | 40             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Bandstand any day!, The Ivel needs to be made navigable for small craft (small cruisers, narrowboats etc) to where it joins the Great Ouse with a marina near the mill pond would be a major asset for tourism, refreshment kiosk, picnic area with BBQ facilities, pitch & putt, more facilities for the playground, sand park, Henlow and Clifton are small villages but their play parks for children put Biggleswade to shame!, country park with cafe and nature reserve, the space is not large enough we need to be thinking bigger about managed public spaces - the A1 / River Ivel being the best location, any developments would have to result in no deterioration to the River Ivel, as set out in the Environment Agency's river basin plans for Anglia, as according to the Water Framework Directive so Biggleswade Town Council are obliged to ensure that the Ivel reaches 'good ecological status' by 2015.

**50. Are there any other activities / facilities that you would like to see provided in or around Biggleswade?**

| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Boxing venue   | 4.0%             | 49             |
| More bowling greens  | 6.1%             | 74             |
| Indoor skate park  | 12.5%            | 153            |
| Internet / cyber cafe  | 13.0%            | 158            |
| Non alcoholic cafe / ice cream parlour open until later in the evening | 37.5%            | 457            |
| Motorcross / Minicross bike track                                      | 8.4%             | 103            |
| BMX bike track   | 10.5%            | 128            |
| Dinghy sailing   | 10.8%            | 132            |
| Social sports facilities (eg tennis, cricket, kick-about area)         | 36.9%            | 450            |
| (no response)  | 36.1%            | 441            |
| Other (please specify)   |                  | 35             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

Improved skate park as there are problems with the surfaces at present so wet weather means the equipment is unsafe, social dancing venue, LGBT coffee shop/social and advice centre, heavy weights gym, fuller range of non vocational adult education at reasonable/no cost, outdoor swimming pool, dog park (popular in USA), lake for angling controlled by local club, more areas for youth to enjoy organised floodlit football teams, CCTV at the existing skate park made operational, cycling track, toddler-safe play areas, mountain bike area, snooker club, leisure park similar to Stevenage, indoor venue for archery, incorporate BMX track, indoor skate park, social sports facilities and the cafe etc all into one building, affordable gym for elderly, somewhere for flying model aircraft and sailing model boats, Lido, indoor windsurfing, climbing wall, dedicated badminton courts, squash club.

**51. Which of the following facilities aimed specifically at young people would you like to see in the town?**

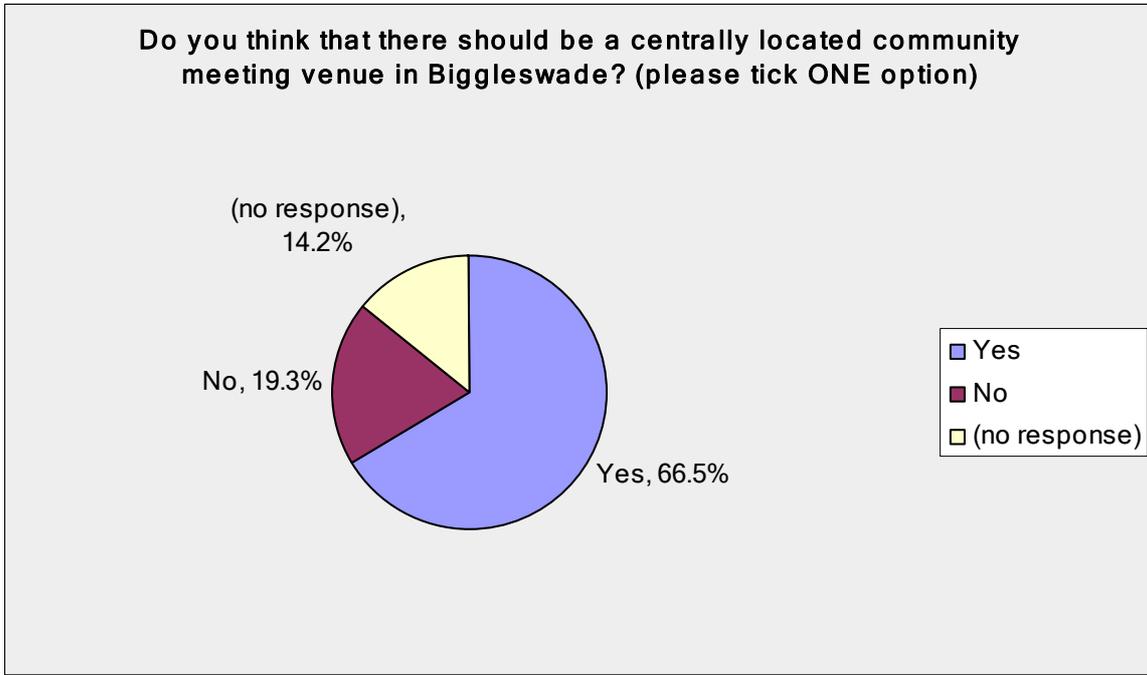
| Answer Options                                  | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Youth shelters (meeting points)                 | 26.1%            | 319            |
| Graffiti walls                                  | 12.6%            | 154            |
| Indoor drop in centres                          | 25.4%            | 310            |
| More frequent opening of existing youth clubs   | 36.9%            | 450            |
| A new dedicated youth centre                    | 43.6%            | 532            |
| More qualified youth workers / leaders          | 39.2%            | 478            |
| Youth clubs for under 13yrs                     | 28.1%            | 343            |
| Play areas for 0 to 5 years                     | 21.9%            | 267            |
| Play areas for 6 to 12 years                    | 26.1%            | 319            |
| More evening activities arranged at the schools | 43.0%            | 524            |
| (no response)                                   | 16.9%            | 206            |
| Other (please specify)                          |                  | 11             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

A Biggleswade Town Youth Council to let children of all ages be involved in decisions that effect them, managed sports activities, something for the 13-16 year olds, we desperately need more play parks for young children, borstals, without volunteers this question is a waste of time as we all know how difficult it is to get these groups up and running otherwise in respect of play areas you need to manage the existing facilities (Repair / Clean / Improve) rather than adding new play areas).

**52. Do you think that there should be a centrally located community meeting venue in Biggleswade?**

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes            | 66.5%            | 811            |
| No             | 19.3%            | 236            |
| (no response)  | 14.2%            | 173            |



**53. How important do you feel it is for Biggleswade to have Christmas lights?**

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Very important | 54.3%            | 663            |
| Important      | 27.8%            | 339            |
| Not important  | 5.1%             | 62             |
| Don't mind     | 8.8%             | 107            |
| (no response)  | 4.0%             | 49             |

**54. How do you feel the Christmas lights should be funded?**

| Answer Options         | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Town Council           | 10.7%            | 130            |
| Local businesses       | 7.1%             | 87             |
| Local fundraising      | 2.4%             | 29             |
| A mixture of the above | 74.7%            | 911            |
| (no response)          | 5.2%             | 63             |
| Other (please specify) |                  | 17             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

Every year we hear desperate pleas that the lights need money - fund it centrally - it is a real asset to the town in the darkest months; those who want them should be encouraged to fund them - it should not be a burden on Council Taxpayers; every house to be given a chance of making an enveloped donation : £1, £2, £5 etc; major retailers like Asda, Sainsbury's, Aldi could fund a large percentage followed by Town Council; fund raising through the year on varied themes, plus funding from Central Bedfordshire Council, national lottery, no lights, think about the environment, perhaps the Carnival

could contribute; the town rates should include a charge on national/multi-national stores towards these costs in order that they should not benefit from sales on the backs of the local businesses; the New Inn has started a fund to keep these going - put a collection box in every shop/place of trade and encourage donations.

**55. The initial consultation has shown a need for improvements to be made to the market square area. Which, if any, of the following do you consider need improvement?**

| Answer Options                                 | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Removal of weeds                               | 28.0%            | 341            |
| Increased street cleaning                      | 36.9%            | 450            |
| Increased litter picking                       | 32.5%            | 396            |
| Improved toilet facilities                     | 68.7%            | 838            |
| New street furniture (e.g. bins, benches, etc) | 21.0%            | 256            |
| (no response)                                  | 15.2%            | 186            |
| Other (please specify)                         |                  | 48             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

Herring bone parking spaces in the square and make ends of lay-by bays in the High Street tapered to allow for easier entry and exit, the toilets are a disgrace especially at peak times (market days etc) and the hand driers need adjusting - 3 seconds is definitely not long enough, keep the square for pedestrians and cyclists, I think it is fine as it is actually!, provide an area for loading / unloading, more flowers and benches to make it more colourful, removal of chewing gum (this has improved recently), removal of the badly behaved young people particularly in the evenings, a concentration on fines for litter and dog fouling, improve the paving there are a lot of uneven slabs etc, improve the aesthetics of the screens used at the bus station, make more of the history of Biggleswade, signage for the river.

**56. If any of the following adult education classes were available in Biggleswade, would you attend them?**

| Answer Options         | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Languages              | 21.5%            | 262            |
| Computer               | 29.0%            | 354            |
| Art and craft          | 30.6%            | 373            |
| (no response)          | 43.8%            | 534            |
| Other (please specify) |                  | 28             |

**Summary of Text Responses:**

Engineering such as metal machine shop techniques with day and weekend one-off workshops too, dance clubs e.g. salsa, non vocational humanities type courses, British sign language, skills e.g. brick-laying, exercise, aerobics, keep-fit, afterschool courses that a family can attend, French language course for a family to learn together, fun craft and art course for a family, business, Yoga, Pilates, alternative therapies, career enhancement, Greek, squash/racketball, holistic therapy, massage.

## Section 10 - Education & Employment

### 57. When would you prefer these classes to be available?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Daytime        | 27.4%            | 334            |
| Evening        | 41.1%            | 502            |
| Weekend        | 20.4%            | 249            |
| (no response)  | 41.2%            | 503            |

### 58. Would you like to see increased community use of any of the following school facilities?

| Answer Options         | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Computer facilities    | 24.8%            | 302            |
| Sports facilities      | 38.0%            | 464            |
| Hall /Room hire        | 32.0%            | 391            |
| (no response)          | 45.8%            | 559            |
| Other (please specify) |                  | 17             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Need to have sensible room hire charges, hall at Holmemead school that was until September used by over 60's keep fit, but after enrolling my 89 year old mother was told they wouldn't be running the class as "the school needed to use it", and no other hall was available - so much for community use!!!!!!!!!!!!; the schools are closed for 25% of the year, this is simply a waste of public resources, Stratton, Biggleswade schools are working hard to be open to the community, the schools are fantastic facilities, but are rarely used to their full potentials, get some art classes, language classes, dance classes etc aimed at families doing together - and let people know that they're on, we often do not know about courses on offer despite searching for them because of a lack of information, Holmemead computers, Stratton for cycling on the field.

### 59. Following on from the previous question, please name the school and facility if you have a specific facility in mind.

| Answer Options | Response Count |
|----------------|----------------|
|                | 68             |

#### Summary of Text Responses:

Stratton Upper School (IT, hall and sports field), Holmemead Middle School (IT, hall and climbing frame), Edward Peake Middle School (field), Southlands school (keep fit), St. Andrews lower school (kick boxing, ladies only self defence), subsidised use of school halls for registered charitable organisations.

## Section 11 - Information and Communication

**60. Which of the following places do you go to for information about clubs, organisations, meetings etc that are taking place in or around Biggleswade?**

| Answer Options             | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| The library                | 40.8%            | 498            |
| The Internet               | 36.3%            | 443            |
| Biggleswade Chronicle      | 66.6%            | 812            |
| Free newspapers            | 41.1%            | 501            |
| Notice boards              | 13.5%            | 165            |
| Town Council Offices       | 5.7%             | 69             |
| Biggleswade Official Guide | 8.1%             | 99             |
| (no response)              | 7.6%             | 93             |
| Other (please specify)     |                  | 21             |

### Summary of Text Responses:

Didn't know there was an Official Guide (several made this important point), don't receive free newspapers, word of mouth, The Villager and Town Life, word of mouth, school, C.A.B.

**61. Would you like Biggleswade to have a free community Newsletter?**

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes            | 70.3%            | 858            |
| No             | 19.3%            | 235            |
| (no response)  | 10.4%            | 127            |

**62. How do you think we could best provide young people with an opportunity to put forward their wishes and ideas?**

| Answer Options                         | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Consultation at local schools          | 67.3%            | 821            |
| Via the internet                       | 32.7%            | 399            |
| Formation of a Youth Council           | 33.5%            | 409            |
| Youth meetings at Town Council offices | 25.2%            | 307            |
| (no response)                          | 10.3%            | 126            |
| Other (please specify)                 |                  | 13             |

### Summary of Text Responses:

Events in the Market Square staged by the youth e.g. music, drama, fund-raising for charities and displays, you will not get the most disaffected youths putting themselves forward for Youth Council but these are the young people you need to be reaching out to, through local churches, so many young people become anti-social because the adults in their lives do not make time to spend quality shared time with them - I believe the way forward is to bring families together, more after-school activities that would be either free or low cost that families could do together would help bond families (courses, dancing, social events, etc.), until they pay council tax their ideas are not important, Facebook group, they will take pride in something they have had a part in also, more likely to use it and less likely to vandalise as it 'belongs to them'.

## Section 12 - General Comments

| 63. Please add any additional comments that you think may be relevant to the Town Plan  |                |
|---|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Count |
| Only this 10% random sample was entered from the questionnaires and is recorded in full below; some people wrote quite a lot. | 126            |

1. Biggleswade desperately needs a more responsive and less self-centred Town Council. They must take account of and act on the wishes of residents not what they think is 'good for us'. Party politics are playing a huge part in decision-making and stifling the town's growth and development.
2. More police needed to supervise young people at weekend nights; especially as they are holding parties down by the river at weekend or in fields surrounding Biggleswade.
3. Let's just hope it doesn't take too long to put things in action. Good luck to all involved and many thanks.
4. For me, the most important things are better pavements for wheelchair and pushchair users, and somewhere for teenagers to go in the evening that isn't a pub, doesn't involve spending a lot of money, and where there are friendly adults who will befriend them.
5. I really like living in Biggleswade!
6. Get rid of gum off streets.
7. Shops and maybe some food places like McDonalds, and some leisure places like cinemas and bowling alleys.
8. Basically, Biggleswade is pretty good. However, there is a lack of activities of most kinds unless you travel into Bedford or Stevenage, for both adults and children.
9. We have no children's play centres, or adult and youth activity places. I would also be encouraged to walk a lot more often if I felt that the pavements were safe enough to walk with 3 small children or when walking my 2 dogs, but in places, especially going out from Biggleswade to Langford, the pavements are downright deadly!!!! On some occasions especially in the summer, it would be nice to walk my children to the school they attend in Langford, but this is impossible. I feel it is only a matter of time before someone gets killed on those pavements, if indeed there hasn't been a fatality already. The same goes for walking my dogs to Broom. I take my life in my hands each time I do so. I know there is a definite theme throughout the answers in this questionnaire on my feelings about the pavements here, but I feel very strongly that it would encourage people to walk if they felt safe enough to do so. Thanks for listening!!!!
10. Please could we get rid of some hairdressers !!!!
11. Improvements to the appearance and pleasant environment would be helped by enforcement action by the Local Authority to ensure that householders were made to return wheelie bins to the properties they belong to after emptying, rather than allowing them to stand continually on roads and pavements as is the case at the top end of Berkeley Close. Not only is this unpleasant to look at but encourages attack by cats when the bins are full to overflowing and the waste contents become strewn over the pavements and adjacent gardens.
12. I think it is very important to provide facilities for families and young children- specifically parkland.
13. It is vital that the youth of the town are provided with more facilities. I have 3 young children who in a few years need something to do when they reach their teenage years. Many of our residents complain about our teenagers hanging around town and being a nuisance - the fact is they have limited things to do. It is normal for them to want to go out and be with their friends, we all did the same - let's provide somewhere for them to go! Our council needs to pull their fingers out and move with the times - approve funds and plans for our children who are our future instead of arguing over things that are not really that important and blocking plans that will make our town a better place!
14. For any of this to work will require Biggleswade people to have pride in its town and the support of the Town Council.
15. I am in favour of new developments on existing brown-field sites such as at the areas at the retail park on London Road and behind Market Square but object to building on green field sites such as Biggleswade Common
16. With regard to the plan to combine the medical centres, please remember that some residents do not own cars and so must travel to the GP surgeries on foot or by taxi. Therefore any plan that resulted in the surgery being located outside of the centre of town would result in people like myself having no or restricted access to medical care.

17. Need to fill Woolworths with better class of shop such as M and S or Next. No more cheap shops or estate agents. Need to get people to come into Biggleswade, at the moment there is nothing to come here for.
18. As a secretary to one of Biggleswade's youth football teams, i would desperately like to see the kids of the town get what they rightfully deserve, which is a proper floodlit training ground for all of the 12 youth teams to train safely. We have terrible trouble in finding adequate and affordable training ground.
19. Improve the quality of the road in Dells Lane.
20. Not much to add that hasn't already been mentioned. Speaking of our own circumstances, my husband and I work full time, I travel into London via train hence the answers of a more frequent service, especially in the evenings. My husband has an 11 year old daughter that often stays with us and I know that she would love to have more services in the town that she could attend.
21. Please remove parking outside White Hart pub which is a blight on the street scene and could be replaced at a less visible location and restore open space. The pub could probably swap their private parking spaces for use of part of the open space improving the street scene. Earlier approaches by the Town Council exploring the possibility of such a swap were sympathetically received.
22. Never been consulted before on the Town Council decisions so could be interesting to see if these questionnaires are a worthwhile venture
23. With regards to question 31 - provision of a 'country park'. I am all for the idea provided it does not impact on the lives of the residents on some housing estates that line the other side of the river.
24. I have lived in Biggleswade all my life but find it has become run down. The town looks and feels tired. There are few leisure facilities available. I would like to see a cinema, proper sports facilities available to all for a fair price. My son plays football for the under 12's. They don't have proper training facilities and their matches are played at either Eagle Farm Road or "The Lakes" these are poorly maintained and often have dog mess, glass and large stones on them presenting a health risk. The Weatherley Centre has fallen into a state of disrepair but could be revitalised and the field used by Stratton School could house athletic facilities these could be used by the school and opened to the public in the same way as Sandy Upper.
25. I shop out of town as the parking at weekends is impossible and there are no shops to speak of. The town centre traffic is too congested with poorly placed crossing lights which could be substituted by zebra crossings which help traffic flow (Baldock have done this) all in all Biggleswade is a sleeping town which offers very little to residents in comparison to similar sized towns nearby such as Letchworth and St Neots. Action must be taken to stop its further decline!!!!
26. The countryside around the town should be preserved or developed as areas of peace and quiet for the public and wildlife and not made into play areas. Peaceful pursuits such as walking, cycling, fishing and bird watching should be encouraged.
27. The road between the market and shops should be pedestrianised.
28. More floodlights available for Biggleswade football.
29. Free pitch hire for Biggleswade football clubs.
30. Reduced speed limits all around the town.
31. Encouragement of small independent shops.
32. Town would benefit greatly from a public riverside park/recreational area such as St Neots.
33. Re development of Bonds Lane/Foundry Lane area should include sport/leisure facility with town's youth in mind.
34. As a parent of a very enthusiastic son and football, I would like to see a venue for organised football training which will enable current teams to train during the evening.
35. Flood lights at the Lakes or Eagle Farm Road park would enable training and matches to be played all year round at different times of the day.
36. Before any more houses are built there needs to be serious consideration to the severe lack of any leisure facilities in the town for all age groups. I have four children and cannot afford the train fare to Stevenage plus the cost of the cinema, bowling etc and something to eat there, on a regular basis. Consequently they like many of their friends hang about around the town and local parks. When I was their age we at least had a cinema and also a Saturday disco at the Georges Hall to go to. Considering what a huge increase there has been in the population of the town, there has actually been a decrease in facilities. Biggleswade has become a town where you live but don't want to go out in!
37. I feel that the switching on of the Christmas lights should change back to a Friday. It is the last day of the week and it is usually easier for carers to finish work for the weekend and get home than on a 'weekday'. It is too late for younger children on a Monday and the switching on of the lights on a Friday was a great end to the week and a great start to the weekend.

38. Traffic MUST be reversed in Hitchin Street, where is the logic in more roads out of the town than into it ?? We need to encourage people to use the Town Centre not avoid it. The traffic lights in to Town cause mayhem. It was fine until the changes made with the arrival of Asda.
39. The traffic congestion at the Sun St/Shortmead St is a nightmare - Biggleswade is awash with lights in the Town Centre and flooded with mini roundabouts in Hitchin Street, yet there is nothing in to ease the traffic in this area.
40. Biggleswade is a beautiful town, let's keep it that way!
41. We must find something to occupy our youth or they will continue to intimidate and control the town centre in the evenings.
42. For the size the town has become the facilities for the all the people including the young has decreased we are a town of houses & nothing to do no cinema, bowling alley no dinner dance.
43. In the town. Franklin's rec. is a disgrace along the river not even a toilet & the market square toilets are a disgrace to the town.
44. What is happening to Georges Hall now this should be for young & old we had discos every weekend.
45. The cinema didn't close due to lack of the public just it was very poorly managed in the latter years also the films finished after the last bus had gone where was the sense in that, Saturday mornings could be used for the younger people to go.
46. Eastern bypass linking Saxon Drive with Potton Road
47. Never even knew a town plan was in progress and never even knew there had been any public consultations. Were was this information advertised!!!!!! Obviously not well advertised and obviously not everyone in Biggleswade has been aware. Only received this questionnaire on 2nd October for a response by 9th October. Not really encouraging the average person to actually have time to think about answering.
48. There are 5 things we feel strongly about, they are below.
  - a. Please do something about the Sun Street/Shortmead Street junction as it can be extremely difficult to turn right out of Sun Street during peak traffic hours - after many years of asking, we are hoping that this will finally be taken very seriously.
  - b. We really think the Fairfield estate would benefit from a 20 mph zone as would other estates in Biggleswade.
  - c. There are a number of street lights that need mending as they are not lit at night, this makes jogging difficult for my husband as it is important to see where your feet are to avoid accidents. It is also dangerous for people walking around as they can feel unsafe in a dark area. These lights have been broken for years - is there a problem with funding or something?
  - d. We think it makes sense for the new joint Health Centre to be out of town because there should be enough space to provide adequate parking and also expansion of the Centre in future years if necessary. However we realise that this would be difficult for mothers with small children who do not drive and older people who do not drive, so it would be important to provide a cheap frequent bus service from the town centre and other parts of Biggleswade to the Health Centre - the sort of buses that are easy to get on and off with a pushchair.
  - e. Cycle paths would be a huge bonus as we would definitely use our bikes around Biggleswade rather than just for fun as we do at the moment.
49. The Rose Lane car park could be greatly improved.
50. I suspect that a lot of the vehicles parked in Dells Lane are train commuters that don't want to pay for car parking. Could be made 'residence only parking' to reduce congestion here.
51. Knock down all the buildings behind the market place along Hitchin Street, Bonds Lane as far as the Teal Road traffic lights. Rebuild a proper shopping centre with better quality retail outlets, some offices and multi-storey car park. The area is presently a disgrace to Biggleswade and has been allowed to deteriorate by an inept council.
52. We should strongly encourage businesses that create heavy haulage traffic to provide facilities for drivers over-nighting in the town i.e. toilets, showers, sitting area. Stratton industrial estate often has lorries parked overnight/over weekend and the drivers tend to use the public footpath as their toilet and leave a lot of litter (often discarded tin cans, dangerous to wildlife and pets).
53. There should be more patrolling of the Town Centre to reduce the Anti Social Behaviour.
54. My main concerns are with public transport as I am a London commuter.
55. More housing developments in the town will lead to more overcrowded trains unless plans are made in conjunction with the rail companies.
56. When the original Link bus was set up, it was intended and worked well as an integrated service with train services. However, as mentioned earlier, this service has dwindled over the years and is now not really usable by commuters.
57. Commuter parking problems in residential areas are caused by lack of alternatives to car usage and high parking charges at the station or nearby car parks.

58. I see traffic every day on London Road travelling much too fast and have had near misses on pedestrian crossings.
59. More Parking, sports facilities and larger 50 metre pool.
60. Involve the town's people and not the few, if only this questionnaire had gone to all and not the few which it clearly has.
61. To look at the work existing groups have done and take more notice of all the independent council funded reports have suggested many over the last 15 years have reported the same improvements.
62. Have some foresight and make a longer term plan with some vision, even if you can only build on it slowly as moneys come available. Think for the future not the next 5 years!
63. Ring fence moneys raised from new houses and extensions (keep a set calculator do not negotiate each separately) for facilities in the town and when the pot is big enough do the next thing in the plan.
64. Providing a new sports centre for all for all sports and community activities as St Ives, Cambes and other large towns to get all ages together in one facility.
65. The plan should have as a goal to improve Biggleswade. This improvement must also take into account the history and the preservation of historic buildings and their curtilage.
66. In the last 40 years many fine buildings have been demolished and many replaced with eyesores.
67. It is important that the impression that Biggleswade gives is a good first impression. Have a look at affluent Hertford which has a thriving business and community.
68. Give us an area that you can use for under fives in the day (over 5's at school) a separate area for the elderly as they will all be off - then it can be used at night for the teenagers when the elderly and under fives are in bed!
69. Cinema - definitely needed - doesn't have to be big but at least 3-5 screens.
70. Ice Cream parlour - or meeting cafe when friends i.e. teenagers/mums/nans etc can meet up and chat but it has to be cheap enough for kids cos they do not get much money!
71. Some means of controlling the amount of litter left around the town by weekend revellers would be beneficial to all.
72. There seems to be a job culture on Friday and Saturday nights who find it amusing to smash glass bottles on local residential roads (I have had a puncture caused by broken glass from a smashed bottle, not only is it inconvenient it is also expensive) and throw fish and chip, pizza and other debris around rather than use the bins provided. Maybe the local restaurants/take-aways could play a part by promoting an anti litter mind set to their customers. A walk into the town centre on a Saturday or Sunday morning usually reveals numerous fast food containers etc. and broken glass on roads and pavements.
73. A comprehensive maintenance programme should be initiated to improve all the footpaths in the housing estates within the town.
74. Following the introduction of the fibre optic cables communications network, and other works, the pathways have deteriorated significantly. This, together with the lack of weeding by the council makes most estates look run down and neglected. This is probably the responsibility of the Highways Agency, but the town council should put pressure on Central Bedfordshire Authorities to fulfil their responsibilities.
75. I think that Biggleswade is lovely the way it is, I feel it could benefit from a bigger health centre and also no housing developments.
76. Living on Rose Lane and close to town I feel that the Rose pub needs a noise limiter as it is very noisy at weekends.
77. If Rose lane car park is turned into a paying car park residents should have free permits as we have no parking. Also I miss Woolworths and the local book store and the empty Woolworths site looks awful a Wilkinson's in there would be lovely.
78. Also a cinema at the industrial estate would be nice. Also we need more clothing stores as we have too many hairdressers and cafes, food retailers more clothes stores would be nice.
79. Cameras on the Rose Lane car park would be nice as me and my partner have both had our cars vandalised. I know you probably don't care but these things are important to me and also my neighbours! Many Thanks
80. As parents with children with ages ranging from 11 weeks to 14 years we feel there is nothing in Biggleswade for any of them and the parks that are here for the younger ones have been ruined by older children. Transport links in the evenings are not good so the children have to be ferried around and this is not always possible. It would be nice to be able to go out with the children on a weekend and not have to drive or bundle buggies up, to have something on our doorstep. It is a huge town that is increasing in population and the small towns that were on the outskirts are gradually getting closer and closer with new developments so surely there should be something to assist families of all ages.
81. Expansion of the town and regeneration go hand-in-hand. The town cannot stand still. A larger population will attract, and make more financially viable, a wider range of facilities.

Town centre retailing needs to be upgraded from the current low-end offer and there needs to be greater representation of national chains. The predominance of hairdressers and cafes is not helpful and there are too many charity shops (I don't begrudge them a place but they are too dominant). Traffic volumes and speeds are becoming an increasing problem with too few pedestrian crossings outside the town centre.

82. A lot of people are very concerned that if there are new housing developments, Stratton won't be able to hold all the students coming from not only Biggleswade but Sandy, Gamlingay, Caldecote etc. There needs to be another Upper School.
83. Biggleswade is a great town and we should encourage pride in it.
84. I can't think of many other options that haven't been mentioned here
85. I think a cinema and improved shops like Marks and Spencer
86. Maybe a more popular takeaway like McDonalds or Burger King as the take-aways are appalling here, burnt food and getting orders wrong and I'm just talking about Pizza XXXX, that place is a dive.
87. The main thing that I think would be an improvement is to have a heavier police presence down Lawrence Road maybe a camera (if monitored so that the offenders are quickly apprehended and moved on) as most evenings many of the residents are woken up by drunks or kids running down the street slamming on doors and windows, shouting violence and general loud behaviour which is scary and threatening and should not be allowed down a road that is made up of families. Complaints have been made and police have been called out but nothing happens, this occurs most evenings, (for example my brother who also lives down this road witnessed two drunk people around midnight walking up and down the road several times slamming on windows and doors and shouting) but it is terrible evenings and bank holidays too, something should be done.
88. Improved energy efficient, white light, street lighting should be installed as current lights are too dark and pose accident risks because of poor paving conditions as well as security risks to homes/vehicles.
89. The Baulk should be closed to large vehicles such as coaches. The only large vehicles that should be allowed are emergency vehicles, refuse collectors and lorries for delivery/collection purposes only.
90. Traffic calming measures should be introduced such as speed restrictions or road humps. Traffic lights/pedestrian crossing should be installed at junction with London Road/Dells Lane.
91. Biggleswade has improved a lot in the last 20 years - lets keep it improving
92. Thank you for the opportunity to complete this survey as I did not receive it by delivery. I was passed this from a friend via the internet to complete.
93. We appreciate the commitment of your organisation to improve our town.
94. There should be an open discussion about the relevance of having a Town Council. There should be a concerted effort to increase local people's opportunities to engage in the democratic process. We need a full Community Engagement Strategy and locally elected representatives should do more to ensure that the views of local residents are heard and acted upon. It is not enough for the Town Councillors to expect residents to turn up at Town Council meetings - these are not of relevance to most people. We need a fully funded Community Forum made up of active citizens from the various neighbourhoods around the town.
95. Need more football pitches for youth football. Very important for the town and the health and well being of future generations
96. The survey falls short because it is already out of date missing out any reference to the large new housing development proposed.
97. The map shown does not give a true reflection of the problems to be solved around the town in the near future.
98. Much more thought needs to be given to the overall town position and not just the town centre.
99. I thoroughly enjoy living in Biggleswade and wouldn't want to live anywhere else at the moment.
100. I think that although Biggleswade has grown enormously in population since we first moved here the facilities have basically stayed the same. In particular the town should do more to provide useful/healthy things for young people to do during early evening and weekends and try to make these facilities free as much as possible. Other than the pool and the Skate Park there isn't much to do IN Biggleswade. The Shuttleworth play area is fantastic but you have to pay to go there and it's no use if you haven't got a car! Why can't the existing play areas within the town such as the Southlands playing field/Franklins Recreation Ground/Proposed country park be developed to this standard? It would also encourage children to get there '60 minutes a day' exercise needed and keep them out of trouble at the same time - surely a good investment for the future?
101. Please can we have a Lego Shop and a McDonalds.
102. A cycle underpass, under the A1 near Sainsbury to allow safe access across to the road towards Old Warden.

103. I am very proud to live in this beautiful town and I feel very worried that it may go down hill. I trust in you to do best for the "real, loyal, long term" residents of this town.
104. Biggleswade needs to get bigger. Another 10,000 people would drive and fund improvements to the town centre, transport and leisure services. The target should be to make Biggleswade as large, affluent and pleasant as Hitchin. Its proximity to the A1 should make this possible.
105. Town square should be made one or other either pedestrianised or properly organised parking and pedestrians, as it is at the moment it is in my opinion very dangerous, especially at the Bus Station end
106. We have a couple of issues that need to be addressed.
  - a. Too many youths hanging around town at night. Why?
  - b. How are youths getting hold of alcohol and cigarettes in and around town?
  - c. Do we need to have 10-12 pubs in our town? All we are doing is attracting the wrong type of people to our town.
  - d. Parking is a joke!! Some days you cannot even get a parking space in Asda!! Are you telling me that everyone is in Asda are shopping. I don't think so.
  - e. We need more clubs for adults and youth such as Boxing clubs floodlit facilities and maybe a cinema or theatre and also an ice skating rink in market square through the winter. Also computer courses etc
107. Please consider that the development of a new school is essential before any new homes are built.
108. Make St John's Street and Sun Street up to the Viceroy one-way. East bound on St John's and West bound up to the Rose Lane junction. Two-way along Rose Lane up to St John's/Potton Road. This will give a circular flow and make the junctions safer.
109. Roundabout or lights at the junction of Shortmead and Sun Street.
110. Additional leisure facilities are very necessary, particularly for use in the evenings. There is currently very little available anywhere in the town other than public houses after the shops close.
111. Our town is one the best around with a true local feel about it. Please don't change it to much or let it get too large.
112. Shortmead St needs traffic calming measures.
113. A cinema would be excellent.
114. Controls over the colours that people are able to paint their houses and businesses.
115. Bonds Lane/Foundry Lane is an eyesore and needs sorting as soon as possible.
116. More regular refuse collection to avoid serious health problems (especially in summer).
117. A safe cycle route across/under the A1 to allow safe access to the villages west of Biggleswade.
118. The banning of cars parking on pavements and grass verges.
119. There is an ongoing problem with parking in London road where people going up to London leave their cars all day .If the railway station made parking at the station a nominal cost then people would use these facilities instead of creating a bottle neck in London road.
120. The other problem area is outside the bingo hall. There are double yellow lines on Saffron road but the police allow them to park on the double yellow lines blocking the view as you come out of Back street.
121. There should be a sound barrier on the A1(M). This is a MUST.
122. Biggleswade needs to retain its character but vastly improve its facilities for children. As the mother of a young child (4yrs) I am appalled at the lack of play parks and the state that the ones we have are in. I always take my child out to Henlow or Clifton where, even though they are small villages, their play parks are far superior to anything Biggleswade has.
123. Biggleswade seems to have its fair share of anti-social-behaviour from some teenagers - There is nothing for them to do except hang about in groups and make others feel intimidated (even when they are not meaning to). They need places to meet up and things to do as boredom is a shortcut into crime and anti-social-behaviour.
124. We need more green spaces where dog walkers are free to walk their dogs and let them off their leads, they have to be walked somewhere and we should leave our green spaces alone!
125. I think Biggleswade is known for its quite character and some things are best left alone.
126. Provision of an additional road crossing over the railway in the southern half of the town.
127. More tree planting along roads throughout the town
128. More 'Pocket-parks' around the town.
129. Improved surface water drainage (specifically in Boddington Gardens - I get fed up with being flooded)
130. Thank for taking the time to read my comments. I am extremely worried about the rise of anti-social youth behaviour and the dismantling of the family. More and more young people and low income families are turning to alcohol and drugs. I believe it's because they no longer believe that they have control over their lives. They do not believe they can make changes to

- make their lives better. How can we change this? This should be the focus of the town planning. Bringing families together. Empowering young people to believe in themselves as valuable individuals who have a contribution to make to the world they live in.
131. Would it be possible to bring young people and families together to work together to build some of the lovely parks and recreational areas that you have in mind? If young people and families worked together to build the areas, then maybe they would feel pride and ownership in what they helped to build. Too much is provided on the silver platter so to speak without work or effort, so it is taken for granted and abused. Would it be possible to bring young people together in a fun and constructive way to create some of these areas together?
  132. Please do not turn Biggleswade into a sprawling ugly town like so many in the south east that have been over developed
  133. There has been an increase in the number of children that live in the in Shortmead Street who require to cross the road to attend St Andrews School, I think there should be some form of traffic calming in Shortmead Street as this is a very busy road and difficult to cross at the best of times, I know that lorries need to come along it so narrowing the road is not practical but although I am not a fan of road humps I think this may be a solution or a pedestrian crossing close to the Twitchell /Brunts Lane/Coach &Horses area.
  134. I am concerned that some one will be run over before anything is done especially as it might be me!
  135. Try to concentrate on improving what's here already, then add to it. There are many empty shops in prime positions, and depressed looking streets on main routes through the town. An outsider coming into the town's first impression won't currently see them returning anytime soon.... Good luck.
  136. Biggleswade is slowing becoming a ghost town.
  137. There is a lack of variety for places to eat.
  138. The pubs are not as good as the old days when green king was based in the town. People have let their standards slip.
  139. The kids have no respect for other peoples property or their elders.
  140. Question 10 not clear. The station already has trains, buses, taxi parking, bike and pedestrian access to town centre.
  141. Litter picking on footpaths is generally very good. But the footpath between Kitelands Road and 144A London Road (Brigham Pre-school) has a bad litter problem and doesn't seem to be visited regularly for clean-up. This path is now the main safe route between Southlands Lower School and the pre-school since the pre-school moved to its new site 12 months ago, and is well used. NB part of the current litter appears to be copies of this questionnaire!
  142. Parking at the train station costs need to be reduced to encourage commuters to park there and free up spaces for residents and shoppers in the Town.
  143. Biggleswade definitely needs a bowling alley or cinema. something for the teenagers to do. Keep them off the streets.
  144. A clothing superstore would be great.
  145. Would be good to see more big retailers
  146. As explained illegal parking/deliveries add to the traffic flow problems and also make driving and walking dangerous in Biggleswade centre.
  147. Sun Street/Shortmead Street junction in desperate need of improvement, this was promised before Sainsbury's was opened; needs a roundabout or traffic lights.
  148. Traffic flow in St Johns street has become desperate, the numbers of parked cars in the evenings makes traffic flow impossible. One way system needed and/or ban large HGV's.
  149. Further development will only make matters worse in both of these areas.
  150. There is a definite need for a crossing between Red Lion/Stratton House and road towards the train station
  151. The town Library is an excellent facility and should be supported.
  152. I don't think we should keep building on agricultural land as food should be produced locally.
  153. Biggleswade may need a bypass to the north of the town in the future as too much traffic goes through the town centre and St John's Street is too narrow.
  154. There is a lot of anti-social behaviour in the town centre and by the train station in the evenings and at the weekends, mainly youths, but also some older people. We hope that not all the housing will be aimed at social housing groups and would like more police to control behaviour in the town. We were recently threatened in the high street by a drunken couple early on a weekday evening. This has resulted in us avoiding the town centre which is not acceptable. There also, seems to have recently been an increase in the number of teenagers loitering in the town centre and young drivers racing up and down the town roads during the evening.
  155. There is a real need for a park space to walk in that is attractive with trees and flowers. This could possibly develop from one of the existing recreation spaces, or with the development of a new park.

156. If this is simply that we have a pot of gold and wish to know how to spend it - then resurface all the roads and pavements that are in dire need of improvement!!!!
157. The Town Council needs to take more pride in its own Town.
158. The current negative policing needs to be turned into pro-active policing with a more adequate number of officers and "feet on the beat" at more appropriate times of the day, evening and night. The Police Station needs to be open at more convenient times for the residents - it is just a weekday part-time station (it is shut at lunchtimes as well)!!!
159. There needs to be action to encourage more residents to take pride in their town!!!
160. Encourage the residents, the Town Council and our Police to take more pride in their town.
161. Since moving here I continue to be pleasantly surprised at how Biggleswade, especially the town centre, is busy and thriving in comparison to similar sized market towns. Please be careful about change for changes sake. Too much change or disruption to existing businesses could upset the balance and trigger a decline.
162. I think that some thing needs to be done about the width of the road in back street as near the station road end it gets very narrow and it looks like the post office loading bay has taken over a foot of the pavement making it almost useless on that side. So just get rid of it and make the road wider.
163. More free parking (short stay) would encourage people to park in the market square and use the shops there, otherwise they park in the supermarkets shop in it and go home. It is impossible to take a pushchair on a train in Biggleswade, not to mention how hard it is to get on the platform if you are disabled.
164. Enforced rules on noise reduction from pubs and other venues
165. This strikes me as a mediocre questionnaire without vision and presence. There is no reference to the appearance of the buildings in the town centre, many of which are down at heel. Nor is there a feeling that the council wants to be involved, there are insufficient questions in the plan. I do hope the outcome will not just leave us where we are.
166. Look at it all through a child's eyes because they are the future and if you mess it up for them then what becomes of the future of the town?
167. We regard the matter of the Shortmead Street/Sun Street Junction (Q20) as the single most important issue to be resolved. A Mini roundabout seems the simplest and most easily effected solution- not exactly difficult to do with a tin of paint and a few signs.
168. Biggleswade needs to improve its outdoor public green spaces.
169. At the moment the facilities in Biggleswade are very poor and most Sundays during the summer we end up driving to get to a well maintained park area (St Neots by the river listening to the band, being the best. Alternatively Bedford's (wide choice of Bedford Park, Priory Park or Russell Park & others), Danish Camp at Willington or Fairlands Park Stevenage. Proof of how popular these parks are is easy to see from the number of people at them during the summer months.
170. Biggleswade appears to disregard opportunities for young people to meet socially. This really needs addressing in an attempt to solve the issue of large gatherings of noisy youths.
171. Measures and changes put in place to reduce car use, traffic and inhibit speeding should be a focus of the campaign. 'Boy racers' are currently a serious problem in the town, and soon someone will be seriously injured if not killed. Sleeping policemen on the High Street are essential, as well as other areas.
172. The presence of at least two large supermarkets puts a burgeoning pressure on the small food stores, butchers and such. They should be given further support.
173. Again, I think greater thought and consideration must be given to green infrastructure, within the town centre, as this is currently lacking to the detriment of the town.
174. From a personal point of view, I would like to see a 'Next' and a sports shop for example JJB move into any vacated units by Homebase. With regards to entertainment, a cinema would be great and love the idea of a country park.
175. Keep Biggleswade as a nice Village, it's already getting bigger and losing its character
176. Don't even think about increasing housing and subsequently the population in Biggleswade until you've sorted out the infrastructure. These people are unlikely to work in the area so have a good think about how they are supposed to get to work and back, where their children are going to go to school, and how they will be provided for in and around the ever congesting town centre. Sort that out first and then put the housing in. Do it the other way around, which is how town planning has been conducted in the past, and it'll just be another buggers muddle.
177. I just wanted to make a free comments:-
  - a. Free parking in the town - I made this comment as I feel there is not much worth coming into the town for, I have lived here over 11 years and only come in for banking, odd grocery shop, doctors, post office.
  - b. Overgrown vegetation - I am a dog walker so really get to see how much overgrown vegetation there is on my walk, one of the worst areas is along Saxon Drive, I have had to call two years running to get some of it cut back it has got so bad at times that

you could not possibly keep to the path. Another area where I think it is extremely dangerous and I am surprised there has been no accidents is off the roundabout at Lavender way, the planting of shrubs on the corners prevents you from seeing what traffic is coming from around the corner, and as there is a roundabout there traffic comes quite fast. As an adult I struggle to see, so I feel that a child has no hope.

- c. The junction from Chambers Way onto London road really does need some serious consideration on how it can be improved, I think there has already been a couple of accidents, it is very difficult to turn right at the peak times and quite dangerous, I frequently have difficulty if there are parked cars on the verges it's very difficult to see, I sometimes will go the long round and come out at Saxon Drive long way I think just to turn right. The speed of the traffic is in my opinion quite fast at times.
178. A great idea that all residents have a chance to put forward their views. Well Done
179. More organised outside seating areas for cafes and pubs instead of the current provision of some tables stuck on the pavement and in alley ways. I am not too sure about pubs providing seating outside in full view of the public walking around the town as it gives out the wrong message concerning the use of alcohol to impressionable young people.
180. Please ensure the results of this consultation are made readily accessible and that any actions as a result of this analysis are also available.
181. A litter free Biggleswade is a must, especially with so many fast food shops and take-aways.
182. It would greatly enhance Biggleswade to have the roundabouts full of colourful flowers and shrubs. Stevenage set a very good example also Bedford.
183. I think Biggleswade is a lovely town where people would like to visit and would benefit by developing the area near the Mill into a country park with a cafe and leisure facilities, and also a few more shops and flowers in the town with adequate parking provided.
184. I also think that the crime rate would decrease if we had more affordable facilities for young people and less access to alcohol and drugs. I think 24hr opening for public houses has accentuated the problem with alcohol abuse. I feel that increasing alcohol free zones would also improve things.
185. As a whole Biggleswade is a good place to live. Safety in the town has improved since the opening of the Stevenage leisure park. Please do not pull trouble back into the town with similar leisure facilities that can be reached by train and taxi in Stevenage and Bedford.
186. It must create a sustainable community.
187. Employment, especially the young is essential
188. Followed by a suitable choice of housing to attract people to stay and raise families plus make it attractive to higher earners who will support local retail, leisure, restaurants and pay their council tax.
189. I love Biggleswade even though 10 years ago I hadn't heard of it. Perhaps without trying it has maintained its market town feel and sense of community. I would love to see some additional facilities but am also willing to travel to find facilities.
190. Don't change too much in Biggleswade - focus on growing community spirit.
191. Biggleswade is a lovely town.
192. The way the Market Square is cleared on Market days is excellent. Could Woolworths be used to house the markets? The canopies are dull; nice cream or green all the same is good like big folding gazebos (Pedestrians only)
193. Biggleswade is a nice town generally and most council decisions are good. It does suffer from a youth/alcohol problem and a greater police presence is needed on some nights to enforce the existing alcohol ban. At present it is not enforced at all.
194. Develop Bonds Lane it is an area of drug dealing.
195. Keep medical services central by a Bonds Lane/Foundry Lane development.
196. To make Back Street a one-way street with the traffic flow from London Road to Station Road
197. Is there anything that can be done to support local business during this difficult time. So many are due close that people are shopping elsewhere, the market is becoming much wider.
198. While I would agree that young people need more affordable homes to get on the property ladder I don't feel the town centre can take any more homes without specified parking spaces, whether homes or business.
199. Retail facilities definitely need to be reconsidered in the town. There are too many charity shops and not enough 'National Brand' and boutique stores. We also need more places like 'The Lounge' to eat and drink but with later licences.
200. Personally, I think having 'Asda' right in the middle of town was a big mistake. Massive increase in traffic congestion and affects small local trades adversely. It should have been located right on the edge of Biggleswade.
201. Road width and system on High Street is slow and poor. Shame on you for putting double yellow lines outside top of London Road! Stratton Hotel part of town!! i.e. dry-cleaners etc.
202. It is wonderful that you give people the opportunity to have a say. It is obvious from your questions that you have the key issues in mind.

- 203. Congestion at junctions
- 204. Activities for the youth of the town.
- 205. Litter and general condition of the public areas to promote pride in our town.
- 206. Well done.
- 207. Biggleswade is a nice place to live and bring up children. We should always remember how it was before we lose that in redevelopment.

## **A BIG THANK YOU!**

**We said that at the end of the questionnaire as well because we knew that the good folk of Biggleswade would not let us down.**

**Your huge and most excellent response did the town justice giving us some truly valuable material to work with.**

**We now know what the majority want for our town so the task now is to get those in the position to deliver to plan for and provide what has been asked for.**

**The Biggleswade Town Plan Steering Group**