



Neighbourhood Action Consultation Results

September to October 2016

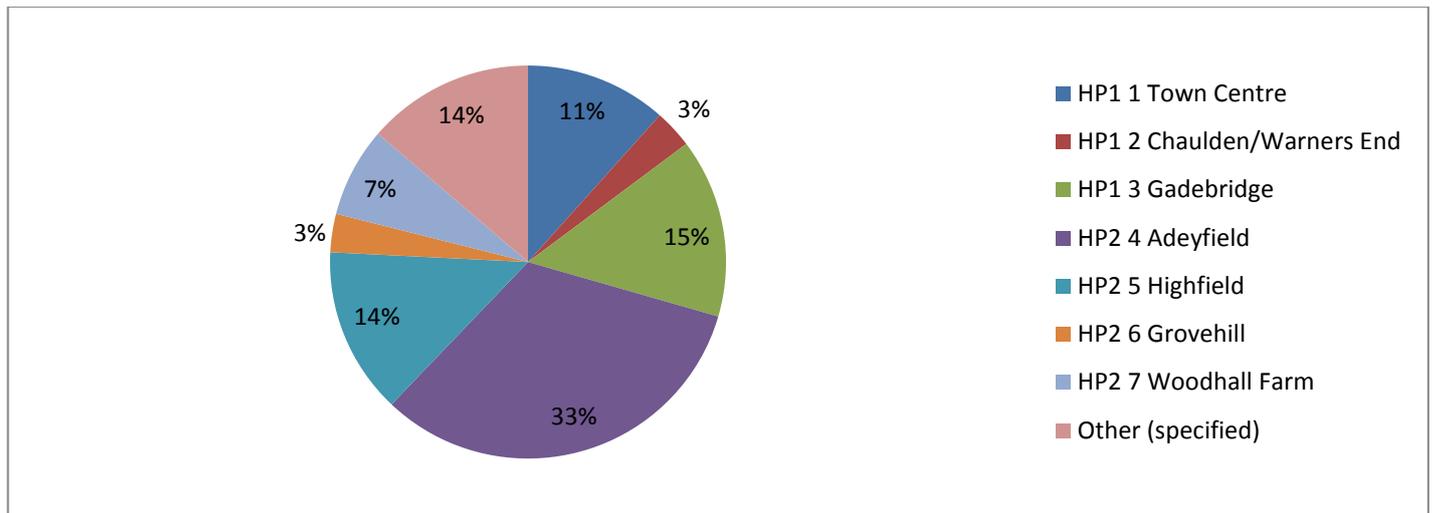
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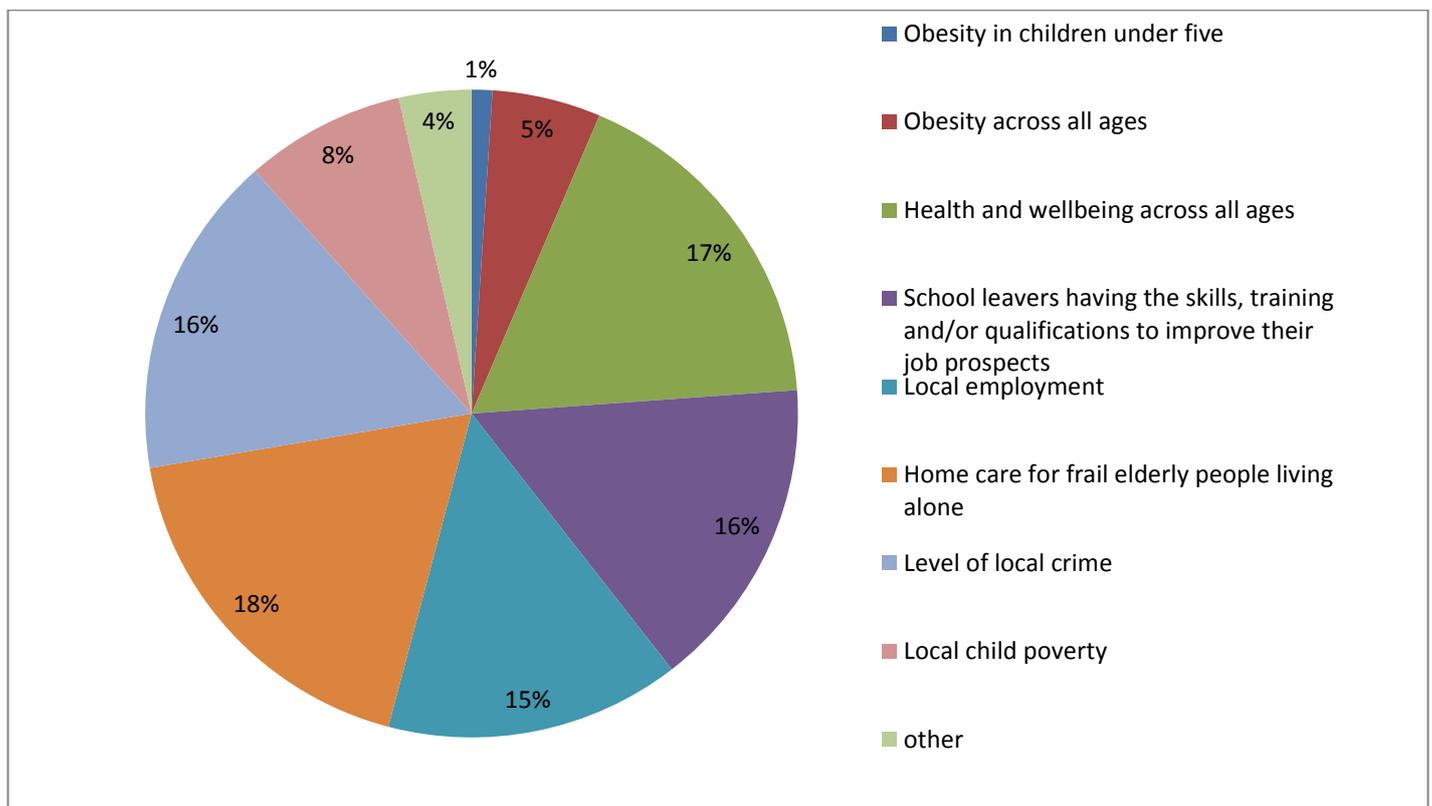
Neighbourhood Action Consultation Results

88 surveys were completed across all five Neighbourhood Action areas between August and October. The report is based on the views of the people who completed the survey and does not represent the views of wider individual neighbourhood community.

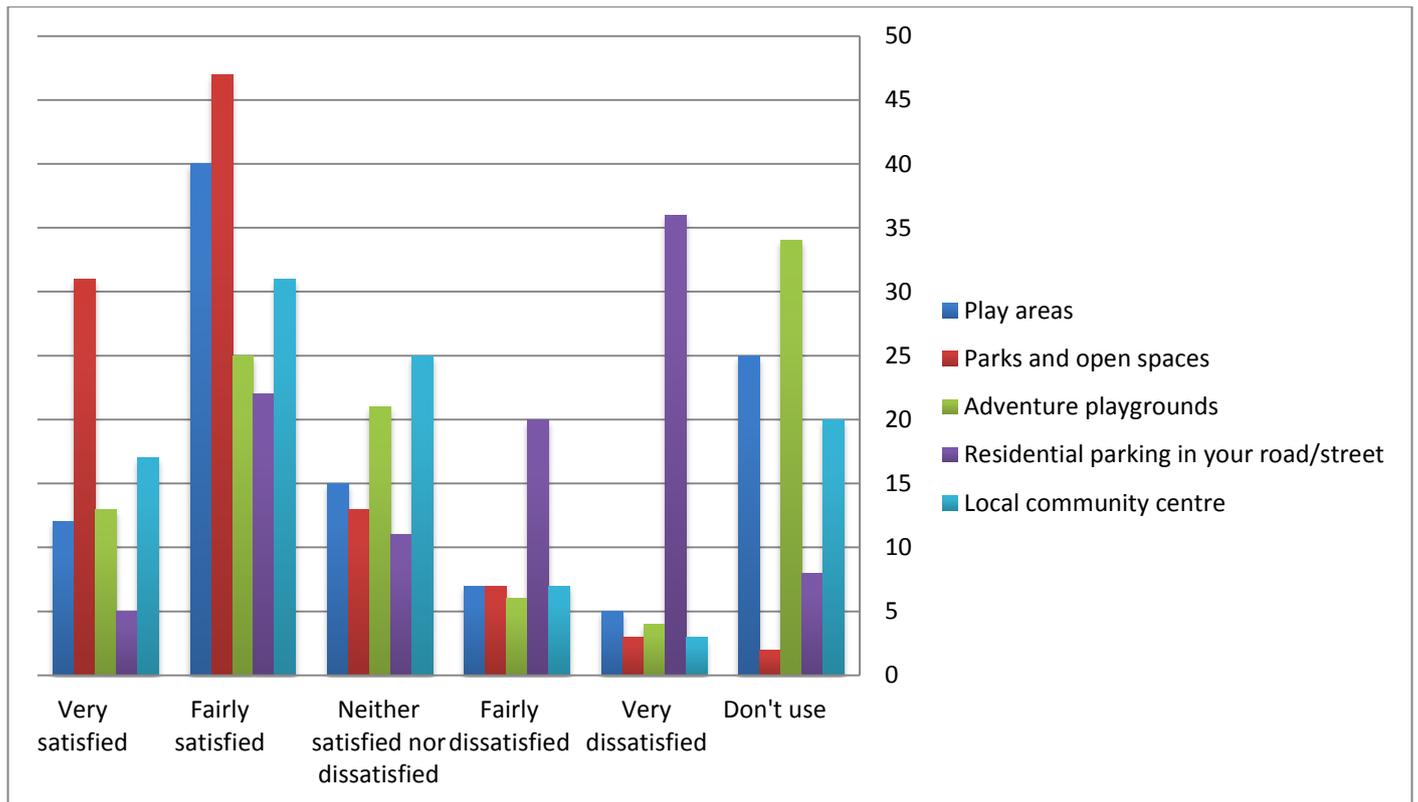
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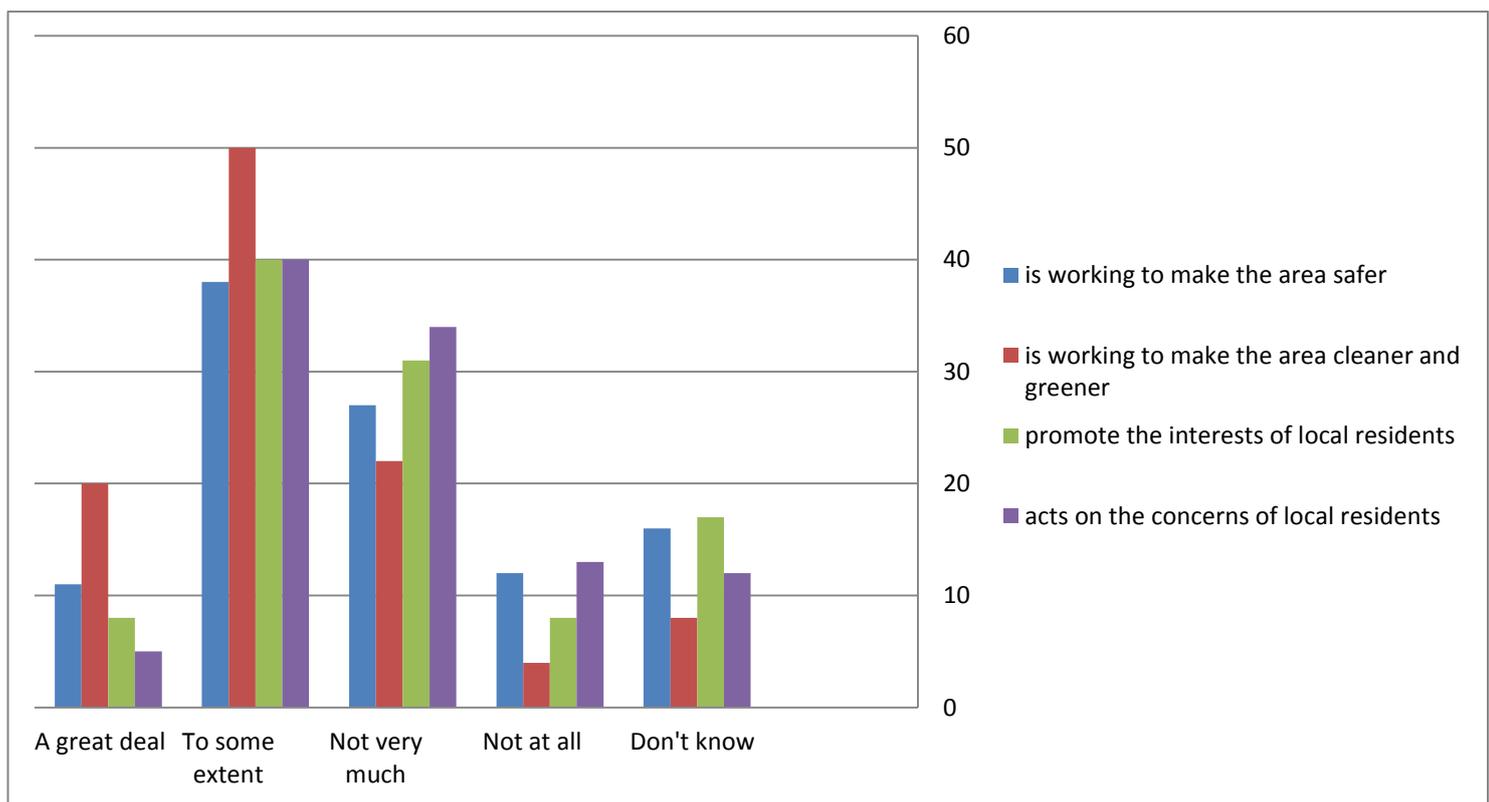
Q2. Statistics indicate that the below priorities are important to residents when considering how additional funding from Community Infrastructure Levy could improve their local area. From the below list, please tick the top four you consider a priority for your local area and would benefit from additional funding



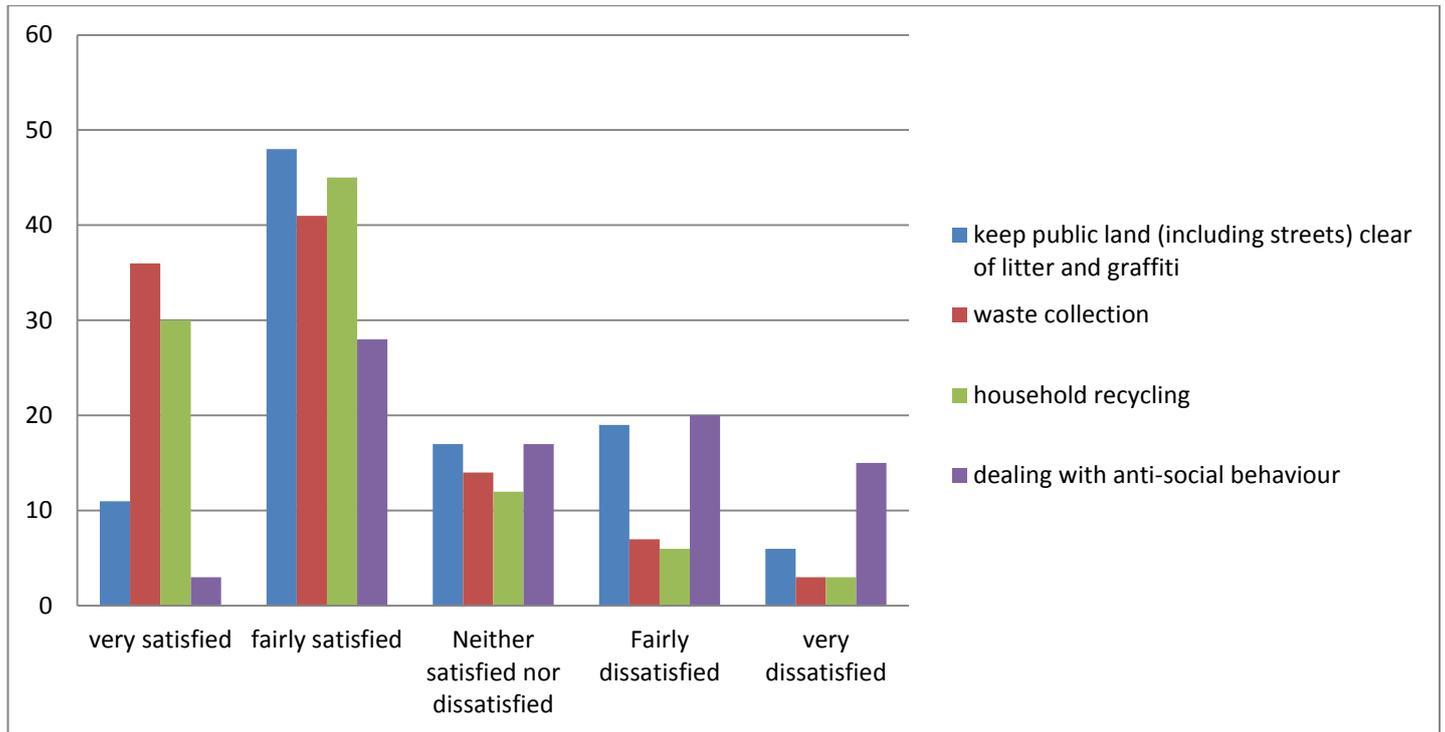
Q3. Please tell us how satisfied you are with the following...



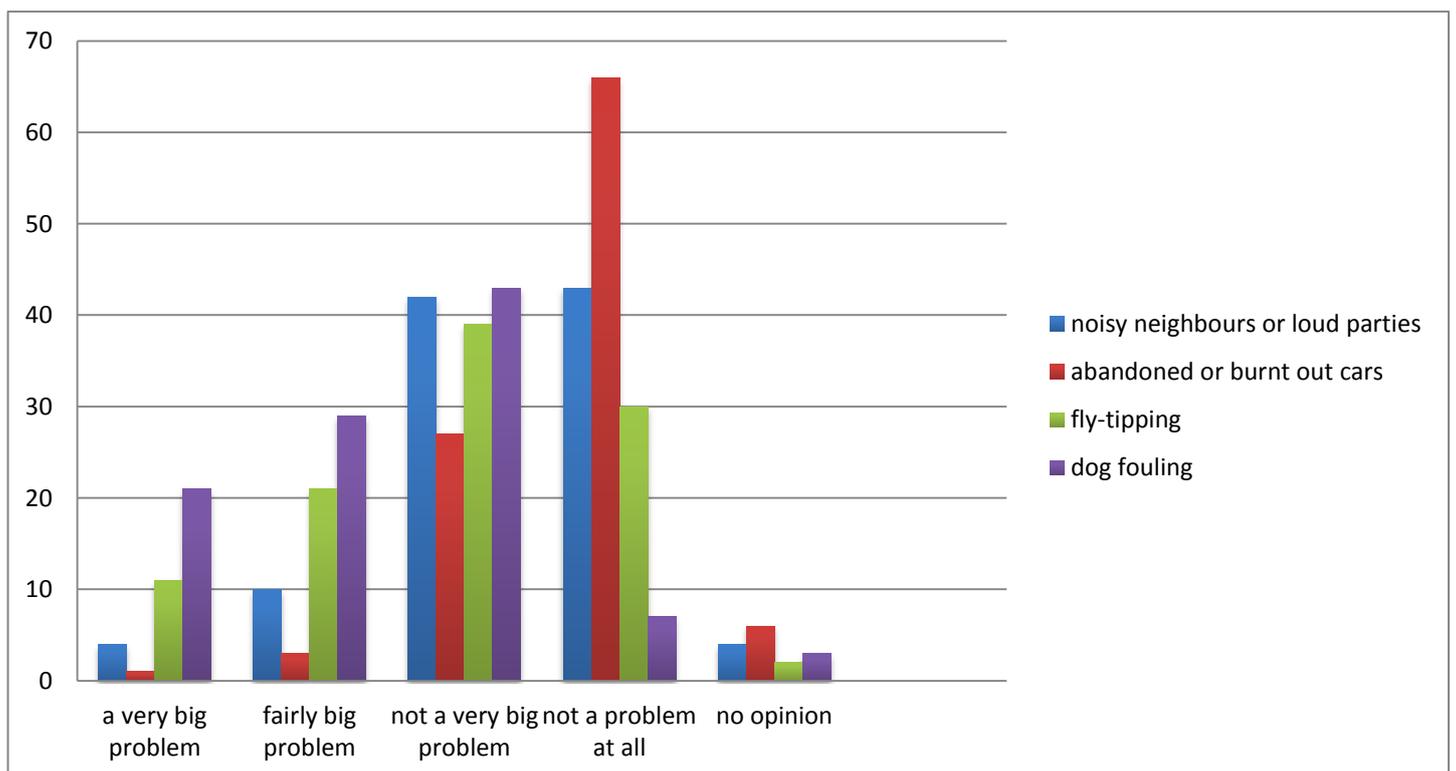
**Q4. To what extent do you think that these statements apply to your local area?
Dacorum Borough Council...**



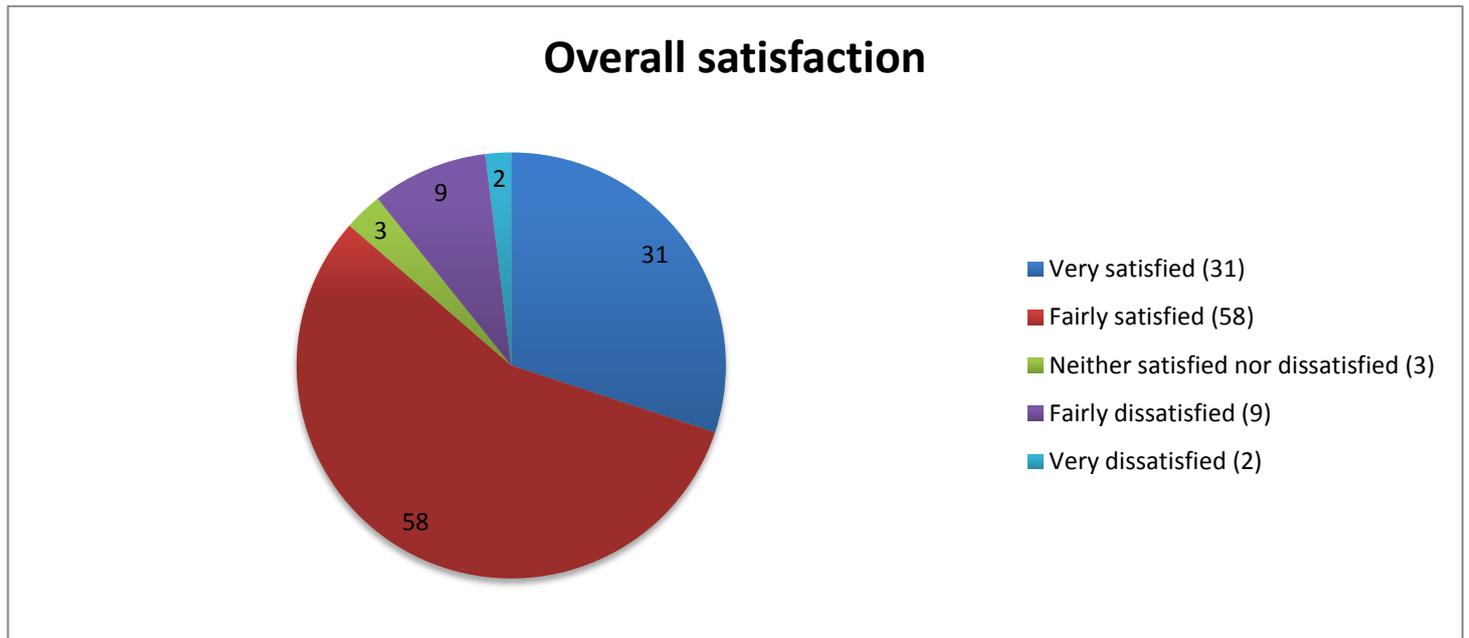
Q5. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following services we provide?



Q6. Thinking about your local area, how much of a problem do you think each of the following are?



Q7. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?



Q.8

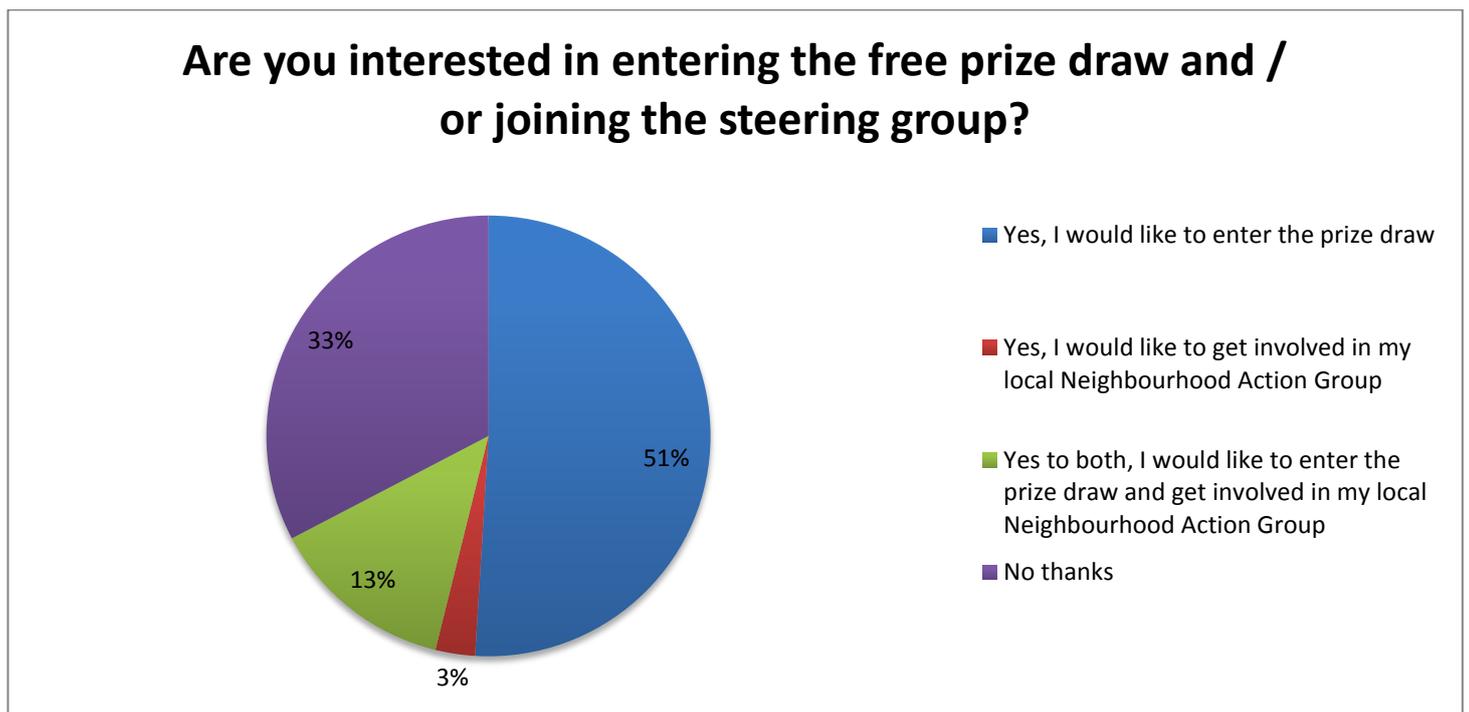
Please tell us if you have any other comments about the service you receive from Dacorum Borough Council.

There are 62 written responses.

Please see appendix 1 to read responses for question 2

Please see appendix 2 to read responses for question 8

Q9.



Appendix1. Written responses for question 2.

Priority 1

Obesity across all ages.

..should be more facilities for exercise classes, encourage people (young and old) to walk more. Educate school children to walk to school and the dangers of obesity.

.. as someone who works with young child and has daily access with parents it concerns me how many are overweight.

.. this is the cause of so much illness - diabetes can be controlled by taking exercise and healthy eating.

.. obesity indirectly affects all aspects of life from health to ability to work and support one's self. Therefore be independent and not become dependent on the state financially and for accommodation.

..there is a need to put across to all those who are obese or have children that fit this category that they run the risk of heart attacks and other health issues. This puts an added burden on the NHS which is already running into serious funding issues.

Health and wellbeing across all ages

..if people are happy and healthy it will take pressure off doctors and hospitals.

..young and old looking for healthy life style.

..having a place which promotes good mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health with support for families to learn and achieve well balanced choices for children. This should have an impact on obesity across all ages.

..wellbeing includes litter picks, caring for the environment, taking ownerships of our area.

.. this encompasses many of the other categories.

.. is key to all aspects of life. Poor health impacts on employment, health services, and family life. Poor health and wellbeing has a massive impact on costs to national and local government as well as the health services.

..no explanation needed!

..it is impossible to give 100% to anything we aim to achieve if we all only 50% healthy.

.. speaks for itself really. I assume by this you mean quality of life, so not (only) the usual health messages but also practical support. It would be nice to see an emphasis on the genuinely (e.g. healthy cookery lessons in local community centres at accessible times of day, helplines for isolated older people etc.) rather than the usual patronising health messages that sneer at Hemel folk, put the emphasis on behaviour change.

.. is the basis for everything else. You can't work if you are ill/on drugs/alcohol etc.

..because it encourages a mind-set which will include measures on obesity as well as smoking and activity etc.

.. a healthy population is better able to take care of themselves and help others.

..especially mental health. Activities of interest for all groups to occupy and amuse all ages, not just physical.

School leavers having the skills, training and/or qualifications to their job prospects

.. finding sustainable local employment and apprenticeships.

..how can they write CV's application forms, not just practise but real ones, interview techniques?

..skill, education is important for a civilised society.

.. would like to think that my children can receive very good state education, so I would like all schools to get the help and investment that they need.

.. important to the prosperity of the town this would probably improve all aspects of a teenagers life and benefit the community.

.. many school leavers have low self-esteem and aim low when it comes to looking for work. In spite of huge efforts by schools to counter this problem it still exists. Closer links with the world of work, further education might help.

.. to be fair I think it's the parents who need to be helped. Their attitude towards working rubs off on their children.

Local employment

..which helps drop level of local crime.

.. with prices of housing I am struggling to save to move to my own place and I have a full-time job. There will be people in much worse situations than me that will be a long way off affording a decent life for them.

.. there are no jobs for local people only eastern Europeans are employed, this is not right.

.. most of the 'industrial areas' are being used for housing which doesn't get allocated to hard working people. They have to private rent at huge costs but there are little 'well paid 'jobs in Hemel to help with the cost of living.

Home care for frail elderly people living alone

..many elderly do not meet needs levels for social work input but still struggle and costs are high.

..looking after people in their homes should save on hospital bills and is a more social conscious way

..is an essential support within the elderly community to ensure that the cost of their care does not escalate beyond their means especially if without it they have to vacate their accommodation? There is a need to look at innovative ways to ensure that such provision can be maintained.

.. because they need better facilities to be looked after as many care homes are understaffed and over worked.

..my wife (82) broke her arm badly and we received extra help with care for 5 weeks. I want others to get some level of help.

..not enough is done for the elderly.

.. many people are too busy getting on with their own lives to consider frail, elderly people who perhaps are lonely, housebound and can't get out to do their shopping. We must not ignore old people who have probably worked hard all their lives and contributed to the economy. Additionally it is cheaper to keep old people in their own homes than to support them in care homes.

Level of local crime

..although stats are low, the level of young adults causing a disturbance on the streets once the street lights go out do make me feel unsafe in my own home. There doesn't seem to be any community policing tackling this, so there is no deterrent to reduce damage to cars, overturned/stolen wheelie bins and general antisocial behaviour.

..is on the increase, and the presence of Police is on the decline, you hardly ever see any "Bobbies on the beat" anymore, very sad.

..it affects morale, insurance, makes people afraid. Adeyfield has had a fair few crimes.

.. feeling safe is the most important thing. It allows you to live your life freely.

.. if this is dealt with and people feel safe they tend to look after the neighbourhood more.

.. including benefit fraud.

Local child poverty

..there are some children locally who need help with clothes, money and social cleanliness. No child deserves to be brought up in the manner that they are.

.. set the next generation up to succeed.

Priority 2

Obesity across all ages

..more sport at schools and encourage local sports teams etc. to put something back into the community by offering the use of their facilities or coaching.

.. this is becoming a national problem and positive help is needed.

Health and wellbeing across all ages

..more education needed to encourage an active life and good diet. Recreation activities for all ages at accessible costs.

..could be greater support for activities that take place within the community that require finance for publicity and administration costs. Improved health for all means there is fewer burdens on finance to support unhealthy lifestyle effect.

.. local health is a massive issue. Money could be used to help ensure Hemel hospital stays open, or even reopen A&E due to the fact Watford simply cannot handle the number of emergencies and save on travel could make a difference between life and death.

..ensuring all ages get good health care and can access facilities.

.. very important not to forget those who have done their bit for the future for us all. It's a terrible thing to be lonely/alone. Also it is cheaper to provide care at home and better for those individuals who want to retain their privacy and independence.

.. ageing population.

.. I feel this is important and can help families as well as individuals.

..no local hospital/ sexual health clinic etc. You can't build up a town with housing for more people to move here and then not have a local hospital.

School leavers having the skills, training and/or qualifications to improve their job prospects

..having skills if children learn a skill they should have a job for life.

..there seem to be an awful lot of school aged children who aren't attending school, no wonder they have few qualifications when they leave.

..need more opportunity as the decline in the local area continues, just look at the number of retail units that have closed over the past few years in Marlowes, opportunities for school leavers are becoming fewer and fewer.

..not having the necessary skills to work for local employers. So not spending income within the local community.

..we have a growing population. We are already seeing an increase in those reaching school-leaving age. Measures must be put in place to ensure that they have bright prospects for employment. Before they become yet another statistic on the list of benefit claims for the unemployed.

Local employment.

..again this would benefit most people in various ways and also the community.

employment is important for any community with more money in pockets people can spend on local services.

..get the businesses in with decent career prospects.

..job availability for all age groups and retraining programs.

Home care for frail elderly people living alone

..people living alone as it's important that these people are cared for.

..there are a lot elderly people in Adeyfield. Have a one stop shop to see if they can claim more benefit to help them with their own care.

.. elderly people today were once young and very independent. It is our Christian duty to return our appreciation for their contribution to our town.

.. we will all get there one day and will need the help. How frightening to be alone but also wanting to be independent.

..this does not need to be much more than daily checks and a bit of companionship.

..we probably have a disproportionate number of elderly.

..we must support family carers, if we don't the Health and Social care will collapse.

.. as we grow older home care is vital to ease pressure on hospitals.

Level of local crime.

..sometimes when in the house on my own I'm worried who is at the door, locked and chained.

..police should have zero tolerance policy for people who break any law.

..car crime. Graffiti is an issue locally. More police presence. Promote neighbourhood watch etc.

..need to make Police available to all. We need children to know Police are there to help.

.. important services like Policing should not have their funding cut. If their administration was more effective and efficient, there would perhaps be a more visible presence on the streets. I believe minor crimes should be more heavily punished which might discourage the perpetrators e.g. I have had my car damaged, my fence and windows broken but the perpetrator are never made to pay - hit them where it hurts! Why should the innocent person have to pay?

..as I live in the Marlowes flats, there has been a lot of tension and low level crime, especially drugs.

..local drug dealing reported but not investigated..

Local child poverty.

..to address poverty would also address wellbeing and educational achievement.

..should always be a high priority, no one wants to be a victim of crime.

.. makes it a better place to live

.. it is a shame to see new projects where a lot of money has been spent be spoilt by vandalism etc

.. in relatively wealthy areas the difference between haves and have not sure is even more pronounced. The level of child poverty in the UK is shameful.

.. seeing children without the appropriate food, clothing and general wellbeing.

..tackling this is crucial so that all children can have a good start and access to excellent training and job prospects when they reach their teenage years.

..my experience in primary education has presented me with children who only eat at school – that is their only proper meal a day. They do not have sufficient clothes for the winter time. They arrive late and regular unwashed. Their parents are long term unemployed, who are in sub- standard housing due to a shortage of Council properties. These parents need to rely on the food banks.

..many children have comfortable lives while poor children only look on while the others have the latest gadgets etc.

Priority 3

Obesity across all ages.

..is a major problem, again no improvement or investments in Health Care facilities, the local powers that be seem hell-bent on closing Hemel Hospital, appalling state of affairs..?

Health and wellbeing across all ages

..it's what everybody deserves.

..more outdoor gymnasiums in parks for all.

.. mental and physical health of all is important.

..would like to see the hospital to be fully functional. Watford is falling apart. How can porta cabins be better than using the buildings in Hemel that are closed up?

School leavers having the skills, training and/or qualifications to improve their job prospects

..more experience offered to students for them to understand what a work life is about and the different job opportunities that could be available to them.

..make them have the skills the employers need.

.. all children are told in school that they will be nobody unless they go to University. All three of my children did but I wouldn't say that they needed too. The jobs that we have on our doorstep are amazing but what resources are there to encourage teenagers to look closer to home and gain skills. With Cavendish cutting teaching and LSA positions this year it will get worse.

..everyone who works hard to improve their life deserves to be rewarded for e.g. by governments skills and training. My Grandson has just been accepted by Bovis homes in carpentry.

.. ties in with local economy. It would be really helpful if service providers could begin by changing their attitude to the people of Hemel, which is generally patronising. Many of the kids who come out underqualified will often (to some extent) have been failed by the system - they need access to high quality training and education a little later in life, when they can clearly see the value of and need for it. The economy needs this too.

.. get them off the dole and into the workplace. Better for the economy and their self-esteem.

.. this can reduce teenagers crime.

Local employment.

..if people have a job it would help crime rate.

..creating a climate of support between local employers and the people they want to employ is vital for the future economic wellbeing of the area.

..more people in work and off benefits.

..not sure what 'local employment' opportunities we have. Opportunities need to be known about and promoted to allow them to be attractive to potential takers.

..more companies with better jobs.

..for a prosperous community and so individuals feel fulfilled and self-sustaining. Being in stable employment has social and economic benefits for the community.

..lots of empty space on the industrial estate.

..there are plenty of opportunities for those seeking work, Highfield is well placed near the industrial estate to make it possible for them to find a career that best suits them. However, they need encouragement and this could best be done by creating a register of all those who are unemployed in this area and approach them with a view to putting them in the right direction based on their underlying skills which remain dormant through the lack of encouragement.

Home care for frail elderly people living alone

..helps people living alone. This would seem reasonably obvious thing to do, I would imagine with most people in this capacity.

..the elderly have worked all of their life and brought up children and they should be respected and looked after.

..I realise it's a national issue, but hearing of elderly people unable to afford to heat their homes worries me very much.

..perhaps more visits to frail elderly.

..the elderly should not be forced from their homes. They should be provided with the care and respect to live their lives in the homes that they have built.

.. a civilised society should have the care and wellbeing for its elderly population as one of their top priorities.

.. keeping folks in their own home / community.

..this has to lighten the load of hospitals and therefore save money in the long term. It is also more civilised for the people concerned. Happy people are more healthy people.

..although this also comes under wellbeing of all ages in priority 2. It's really important vulnerable people are looked after properly.

..I feel not enough is being done about this with either elderly care or adult care. To the point of not getting enough care due to lack of funding...when it's those that need the most support.

..our populations is getting older and this fits with the work provisions.

.. more elderly people living longer, often lonely and struggling to care for themselves.

.. with more home care these vulnerable people could lead more active lives. They need practical help with shopping and home tasks. Mental stimulation a short chat makes such a difference to someone living alone.

..there are many elderly people who came with their families decades ago, now are the only ones left. They do not qualify or cannot afford sheltered accommodation and are finding mobility increasingly difficult. Home care consists of very short visits with no time to chat - sometimes only a couple of days a week - weekends can prove to be the loneliest times.

.. more care needs to be given to the elderly, maybe even a scheme put in place to help them with shopping in the winter. There are too many unemployed in Hemel sponging the benefits and getting housed yet the elderly are over looked.

Level of local crime

..it's not so much the presence but the response when you phone up the police & their interest in petty crime. Not really your responsibility I know.

..reduce incidence of petty crime e.g. vehicle damage.

..crime is always something of a worry, best to keep it in check.

.. everyone want to feel safe in their own home.

.. figures are down but need watching.

Local child poverty

.. people/families in poverty needs lots of help especially for the children.

..children out on the streets, filthy, hungry. Again it's an issue with the parents.

.. no child should live in poverty in Herts.

..i am amazed and disheartened that there is child poverty in this day and age. With the generous benefit system I cannot understand how this is possible.

Priority 4

Obesity across all ages.

..all ages need education and encouragement to adopt a healthy diet and reduce their weight to avoid health problems.

..again national concern, but it would be great that our local area was leading the way in tackling this.

Health and wellbeing across all ages

..again this would benefit community in a number of ways.

.. including mental health and tackling social isolation. Looking after individuals creates a caring community and has dramatic impact on some people's quality of life.

..too much strain put on doctors where people could do without resorting to medicines.

School leavers having the skills, training and/or qualifications to improve their job prospects

..all schools should offer skills training as well as educational skills as many children are better at hands on projects.

..especially for those who don't want to go on to university. Work experience? Skills that employers want.

.. will be necessary to improve their futures.

.. lack of skills and qualifications will impact on the ability of young people to gain employment; unemployment can lead to health and wellbeing issues and possibly higher crime levels.

.. the future prospects of the next generation of workers will have a knock on effect on everything including prosperity, affordability of housing in this area and general future prospects for them and their own immediate families.

..need all the help available to get them into employment.

..i think if we give them extra support about coping with things... I think this will give them more confidence when looking for work.

..we need to support our youth to find employment to take care of their families.

Local employment

..programs for those who are unemployed to help with loneliness in the elderly, that won't interfere with any benefits being claimed.

..training.

.. prosperity of town.

.. people need jobs to contribute, the more jobs the less people will need council help.

..if jobs are made available for the local community more people will take pride in the town.

.. many people are on low income, traveling to work can be extremely costly. Local employment could encourage benefit people to become independent.

..it brings the area up if local employment is good. I think that the re-development of Jarmans has been a great boost to the area.

.. school leavers to semi-retired have roles they can fulfil to give their lives focus and meaning

..programs for those who are unemployed to help with loneliness in the elderly. That doesn't interfere with any benefits being claimed.

.. a difficult one - there has to be the vacancies in order to employ the people.

..jobs we all need them.

Home care for frail elderly people living alone.

..especially in the form of friendship and activity groups to reduce loneliness.

.. would be nice to see some more money spent on resources here.

..older people need looking after. Better care.

.. we will all become older.

..I know of some of the elderly in my area but I have no detailed knowledge of their needs.

.. we treat our elderly people badly in this country and this need to change. Frail elderly people are often isolated, and loneliness itself is often enough to reduce life span. But we need to be creative and holistic in our planning: not just send along a (justifiably) stressed and disgruntled carer on minimum wage over to say hello and tick a box.

Level of local crime.

..so local people feel safe and secure.

..just make the place brighter, studies have shown that if you invest in a place to make it 'nice' then the vandalism reduces.

..we should not be afraid to go out at night or go shopping and get bag taken or wondering if we may be attacked could be more Police presence in the locality.

..this has to be aimed at middle school and early stages of senior school. Theft and bullying are two crimes that are becoming out of control especially with the "trolling" on the internet. Now our children can be bullied all day everyday even in their own homes.

..better police services with more officers walking the streets rather than zooming about in cars.

..affects us all. Best be kept to a minimum.

.. Police officers seen to be stretched to their limit they have to prioritise where they attend. How low crime can lead to worse activity and those involved often become trapped in a spiral of lawlessness and punishment.

..there has been an increase in crime in Hemel. Streetlights are not bright enough. There needs to be more Community Support Officers patrolling especially when the evenings get darker.

Local child poverty.

.. is miserable for children and bullying can often accompany it. Treat the cause.

..because I have been fortunate not to have witnessed child poverty first hand, I still find it very difficult to believe that it can exist in an area such as Highfield. It should not be allowed to exist here. As much as possible should be done to help parents/guardians out of such a sad situation.

Appendix 2. Written responses for question 8

Tackle fly tipping & litter improves the environment removes health hazards encourages local pride in area.

Hemel Hempstead seems to be enjoying a great influx of people from all parts of Europe and further afield. These groups of people need to be encouraged to integrate and take part in all the social activities that take place in the area and not feel left out.

Despite investment in town centre, there is nowhere near the amount of facilities for the community.

Lots of pavements are in a poor state with cars often parked on them, blocking the way for pedestrians and forcing them into the road. Especially true for pushchairs and wheelchair users. Grass could be cut more often outside the houses and weeds removed from paving - unsightly as well as a trip hazard.

I've had a damp issue for months. Reported it twice and done nothing about it.

Lack of parking in my road. Lack of parking in Queens Square to use the shops. Roads with more potholes.

Feel that the Council do not care about the needs of local residents. I live directly behind Hemel FC and the Council gave permission for them to build an astro turf pitch directly behind my house and use it from 9 am - 10 pm most evenings. We suffer constant noise, bad language and parking problems due to them building it on their car park. Despite many objections and complaints the Council state it's only football noise and don't care.

Generally Adeyfield is a great area and the Council does respond to the outward needs. While the big events do have some community value a limited amount of people attend. There have been films for the elderly but could there be something for the young/teenagers - films, live bands etc. I think the Council do a good job and you don't get the credit you deserve. One last point, information is important to the local residents - so where are all the children going to school when all these houses are built on Maylands locals here worry that their children will not get Hobletts Manor or Broadfield. Houses/homes great but schools seem to be a secondary thought.

Not easy to access housing service.

Think this is about bus company decisions but affects residents. Concerns about the stopping of some bus routes, meaning some of the elderly are not able to get to town without a long walk to the nearest bus stop (which some are unable to achieve) The early time of this last bus on some routes. Lack of buses to Maylands outside rush hours morning & evening e.g. getting to parcel collection office and some of the retail premises. Possible collection of bins that may be full and lid unable to close as they are now left unemptied if lid is not closed.

Good non car transport links. The car is very much king in Adeyfield - better footpaths and cycle paths would encourage more people to leave their car behind, reduce traffic noise and congestion.

The fly tipping in my local garages is quite a regular occurrence. Although the clean, safe and green team have responded to three requests I have made, there appears to be no active checking on garage areas.

Issues with antisocial parking are not addressed. Too much is spent on glossy advertising.

Playgrounds have been updated but equipment choice is very poor - would suggest it was chosen by someone who doesn't have kids or doesn't understand what age group uses these parks.

Gadebridge Road needs some traffic calming measure. It is sometimes used like a speed track.

I moved from Devon to HH in 2000 and enjoy living here, a brilliant and fantastic area for green areas, links to the motorway, the new town regeneration, the old town looking clean and tidy, a fantastic skate park, low cost activities for teenagers with the XC and the new Jarmans park complex, Gadebridge park is one of the great "failures" for Hemel Hempstead. A beautiful area which is very well maintained and is full during the holidays and weekend but there is very little for children to do. The Adventure Playground which is due to be placed in the Water Gardens should be put here, a splash park the person wastefully being employed to take money for the very under used crazy golf could be put to better use in a council or franchised café which could also take the monies for activities and generate a profit to be put back into the area. St Albans is a prime example: So many HH residents have to travel outside of the area to enjoy fun family days out when we could have it on our doorstep. Invest more into this area and more money will be spent within the local area.

Not happy with the way our taxes spent on social housing rather than improving status for those who paid it

In residential areas parking is a real issue especially on roads that share with a school. If you come to inspect somewhere please do it on a day reflective of the general traffic not the middle of the day in the school holidays. The lights being turned off are a real issue as it makes me feel too scared to go out of my front door at night as I can't see anything. Roads with alleyways need some source of light of an evening.

Parking is an issue and could be addressed by the Council by making more off road parking available where possible. The automated phone service is the worst I've ever come across pay a human to answer the phone and perhaps we'd get through to the right person first time!

Excellent service from Dacorum Borough Council, always deal with complaints where necessary

The people who have positions of authority in Dacorum Borough Council need to realise that they are paid from the taxes which come from the residents and businesses of Dacorum. Many have a condescending attitude and do not listen or act quickly enough to deal with concerns. They often seem isolated and do not really understand the day to day issues people face.

It would be nice to have Rossgate spring cleaned with seating for elderly people. We miss the coffee shop. Perhaps some nice shops would encourage more business.

Grass is not cut often enough. I feel I will be forced to commute by car again if public transport links to Maylands get any worse.

Especially shopping areas, grass cutting very shoddy work. Paintwork in very bad repair, black and gold waste areas always overflowing with rubbish. Blue railing look cheap against the black & gold flower containers. Voluntary rewards to clean up could encourage young and old to work together to keep Gadebridge tidy and an area to be proud off.

The dog fouling fines should be set up. I live near Galley Hill and the dip where children play is a big problem. The tree where I live has been removed which is a great shame.

The Council is great - it is largely the efforts of the Council that make Hemel a great place to live. You are doing well at continuing the spirit of which Hemel was born: i.e. making it a town in a park that genuinely serves its residents. In particular it is a wonderful place to bring up children. I grew up and lived for many years in what is nowadays (thanks to the housing boom) thought of as quite a posh town down the road (not the one beginning with B, the one beginning with St.!) : I would never go back there now (even if I could afford it!) I love, love, love Hemel and as I say, lots of that is due to local administration and planning. The only issues I have with how things are done are largely the result of national rather than local initiatives. Keep up the good work!

A lot more help and support for disabled people who do not look disabled. They need help to park and help from the bin men with their rubbish. Help disabled people to get disabled parking bays near their property.

My main gripe is the switching off of the street lamps at night. This is a backward step. Safety should be paramount in any cost saving. It has been argued that crime has not increased with the lights off but the fear of crime has. I want the lights back on and would be prepared to pay more Council tax to facilitate this. Overall I think Dacorum Council does an excellent job and I know it is not their decision reference street lamps, but I would like to see them bring pressure on Herts County Council to reverse this decision before it results in someone getting hurt in an accident or crime.

I have been very satisfied with the service I have been living in the area for 18 months. I love the recycling system, very easy to use and encourage all residents to recycle. I love the green areas of Hemel, please keep maintaining these!

Planning consent was given, without consultation to the neighbours for the house next door to be turned from a family home to a 5 unit bedsit. This has created a lot of pressure on parking which seems not to have been thought about when planning was authorised.

Anti-social behaviour; Residents should be dealt with zero tolerance by Police/Council. Example; 1. Dog fouling 2. Residents parking cars with all four wheels on footpath blocking people walking 3. Noisy neighbours playing loud music 4. Teenager crime.

Mostly everything is fine with the exception of kids on mopeds riding through parks. Dog walkers not picking up after their dogs and drug dealers in the park.

Street parking; A resident of Brambling Rise had 9 cars in our cul-de-sac. Some untaxed, no mot at least one no SORN there are others parked in nearby streets. He has a business at his home. Police informed via 101 gave him a courtesy visit. Situation worst.

A decent hospital in Hemel to cope with demand as Watford can't. Hemel is building more homes which will mean more people, will need more schools etc.

Shops in Hemel are mainly pound shops, or estate agents.

I would like to have a recycling facility at my block of flats. I was told at the beginning of the year it was being rolled out, yet our block is still throwing away huge amounts of recyclable material. Living in a small flat it is not always possible to store recycled material.

Children's parks are not very well designed for parents of multiples and especially those with disabled children.

Lack of clarity in division of responsibilities with Herts CC.

The Heights hasn't got a play area for the children. Adults drinking and smoking standing outside shop. Residents of the flats let their dogs roam free no leads or muzzles and let them do their business on the greens and don't clean up after them. The amount of strangers we now get from the hostel coming onto our estate their action are not pleasant. The parking at Mercury Walk people parking there from other streets, ambulance can't get through never mind a fire engine. The older teenagers find it acceptable to throw bottles whilst sat on the garage roofs. No point phoning police by time they get there it's over or they've moved on.

I don't really feel I do receive a service from the Council. I've made several complaints recently that have been ignored. The customer service staff answering the phones and emails may as well not be there, they are worse than useless. There is no point calling or trying to get anything done because it falls on deaf ears. Our rubbish chute has been blocked for the last week and despite several attempts to get the Council to fix it, my husband ended up having to do it himself because the entire block was stinking from mouldy food & waste in the hot weather. We have a communal drying area that no-one can use because no-one at the council can give us the code for the lock. I am sick and tired of being treated like a second class citizen and being ignored. Perhaps if I stop paying my rent I might get someone's attention?

I love the roundabouts, gardens etc. with varied flowers and planting. I live opposite a school which has recently doubled its footprint. Parking and double parking, has become a serious issues at certain times in the day. It's impossible for residents to find parking spaces anywhere near our houses, motorists are forced into the middle of the road as they come around the bend, there is no calming devises. Drivers often use the road as an access to the link road. We have been promised new Council house doors but have had no further information in the last couple of years. I am grateful for the new heating systems recently installed by the Council and the yearly safety checks. Whenever we have rain the garage block floods because the drains are constantly blocked by dirt etc. As soon as it is cleared it blocks again. We sometimes wade though fitly water to get to our garage doors. It is lovely to have the abundance of trees along the roads in our neighbourhood.

There could be more done to brighten up the rented garages. Some are in such poor state of neglect that it is no surprise when they get vandalised. I rent a garage myself and yet the surrounding woodwork and door hasn't had a coat of paint for years. Some of the houses are also poorly cared for, too much is left to the tenant. Street paving is progressively getting worse and dangerous to walk on at night and cars are being parked in areas that make it almost impossible for pedestrians to safely walk by. The Council rarely pays heed to these complaints even when raised at Neighbourhood Action Groups!

Dog fouling, when is more going to be done, I know with limited resources they have but it's not getting any closer to being sorted.

Garage blocks make it look like a slum. We need to put pressure on Council to repair the hard standing.

The road surfaces are awful. The work done in the town centre is good. Need now to attract decent shops not just pawn and charity shops.

The adventure playgrounds are such an excellent feature. They really need to open on a Sunday. For some children it's a safe place rather than out on the streets. Randall's Park play area needs to be completely fenced off. There is dog mess by the area which isn't fenced and it also gets so muddy. A splash park in Gadebridge (I know....hot topic) it's an expensive thing, why not get a company to sponsor it? You have Bourne Leisure or Park Dean resorts with offices locally....one of them may be interested. They can have their name all over it, their characters can make appearances and also opportunity to advertise.

We have an ageing population in Highfield and there are many living alone. Sometimes it is possible to identify these by the state of the property in which they live such as undrawn blinds or curtains, neglected gardens and general untidiness around the property. Although the public can play a big part in helping to identify these people, the local authority should take a greater interest in the properties they rent and send Council officers on random visits to ensure all is well.

Better paths and paving. Having seen elderly and young fall/stumble on the pavement at their local shops Bellgate and the Heights. It's been reported many times. The one time that it was fixed tarmac was poured over the drain covers handles. It's getting worse but nothing seems to be done for the safety of the residents.

Litter prevention - better education - more bins - easier terms for bulky collections to avoid fly tipping.

There are many good points; the parks and gardens are kept beautifully. Litter is cleaned up regularly, the town and water gardens have been regenerated making Hemel a lovely place to live. Lovely apartments have been built. On the down side there are issues which I have highlighted to the council e.g. fairground noise/ parking issues which never seem to get resolved and which I bring to their attention on a regular basis.

Could have more buses between Boxmoor and other local areas.

Nothing has been done about illegal turns in/out Leighton Buzzard Rd/Cotterells. Cars go fast into Cotterells from wrong way. It is a concern when parking manoeuvring on the road. I spotted a council van turning right out of Cotterells last week! Seems no one takes notice of signage. Police can't be there 24/7.

As a private renter I don't particularly have much dealing with DBC - only to pay my council tax. I am not happy about the affordable housing situation, it is not allocated fairly and private renting needs to be capped, it is disgraceful and only tiny apartments are being constantly built on every bit of free land. I'm not happy about the town centre becoming a child's playground. The town tends to cater for the single mums with many kids who have never worked. There needs to be more jobs as most of them are warehouse work etc.

