

The Abram Communities Together Neighbourhood Plan 2018

Introduction:

The Abram Neighbourhood Forum is a group of residents and stakeholders living within the Abram ward, with representatives from all five villages. The group have been developing the Abram Together Neighbourhood Plan for several years.

Key themes have been identified for the Neighbourhood Plan, specifically; economic development, housing and open spaces. There is an aspiration to maximise the use of significant assets including buildings and green space to increase the economic and environmental benefit of these for the communities in the Abram ward.

Power to Change funding has been secured, which is a significant boost and recognition of the excellent work that has been undertaken and the intended approach for going forward. This funding has a specific focus on supporting growth of community businesses.

As part of the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, PLACED were commissioned to engage local people in the emerging plan, raise awareness of the process and engage residents with the identified themes. In line with work undertaken to date, the key themes for engagement were agreed as:

- Local green spaces
- Local business hubs and economic ventures
- Local housing needs



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The Approach

PLACED delivered five public engagement events, one in each of the villages in the Abram ward. Locations were chosen in collaboration with the Abram Neighbourhood Forum, with spaces identified as having potential for passing trade and being easily visible. The events were based from a Campervan, Ed, along with a gazebo, encouraging people to stop and talk with the team.

The dates for the events were:

- 9th May: Platt Bridge (30 people)
- 16th May in Abram (16 people)
- 18th May in Bamfurlong (36 people)
- 23rd May in Bickershaw (23 people)
- 24th May in Springview (32 people)

In total around 136 people were engaged.

All five events provided an informal, accessible and visual approach for the residents to share their views on the Abram ward. The questions centred on the key themes mentioned above.

- **Local green spaces:** Questions focused on current use of local green spaces and what improvements would encourage greater use. A focus was given to the 12 key areas identified in the Abram Neighbourhood Plan

- **Local business hubs and economic ventures:** Activity explored what the local community felt would benefit the area from an economic perspective, including businesses and neighbourhood hubs
- **Local housing needs:** Activity focused on what type and size (number of bedrooms) of housing residents felt would be of greatest benefit to the Abram ward.

Questions were presented as a series of visual activity boards, including overarching information about the project, the use of precedent images to enable participants to envisage potential areas of opportunity, and maps of the area. Questions were designed to encourage participants to consider the whole ward and reflect on the close proximity of the villages to one another.

Event delivery

A large network of ambassadors, including professionals working in the industry and university students, supports PLACED events. This voluntary work brings in-kind support and added value to the work PLACED facilitates, with our volunteers drawing on their significant knowledge, expertise and experience.

Across the Abram events, six PLACED ambassadors and one Student Ambassador provided significant additional knowledge and experience, along with an in-kind value equivalent to £1,975.00.



Summary of Findings

Question 1: Have you heard of the Abram Neighbourhood Forum? Have you heard of the Abram Communities Together Neighbourhood Plan?

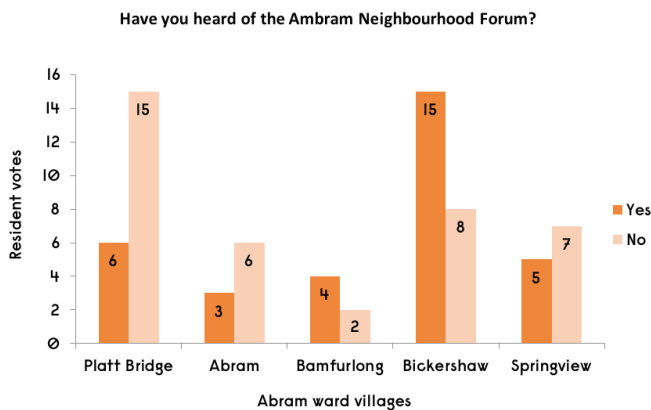
This activity was designed to establish the number of residents who have an existing awareness of the Abram Neighbourhood Forum and the Abram Communities Together Neighbourhood Plan. Participants placed a sticker in the relevant box to indicate either 'yes' or 'no' to each of the questions.

Question 1a: Have you heard of the Abram Neighbourhood Forum?

Total votes across Abram ward:

Response	Total number of votes	% of vote
Yes	33	46%
No	39	54%

Breakdown of responses by village

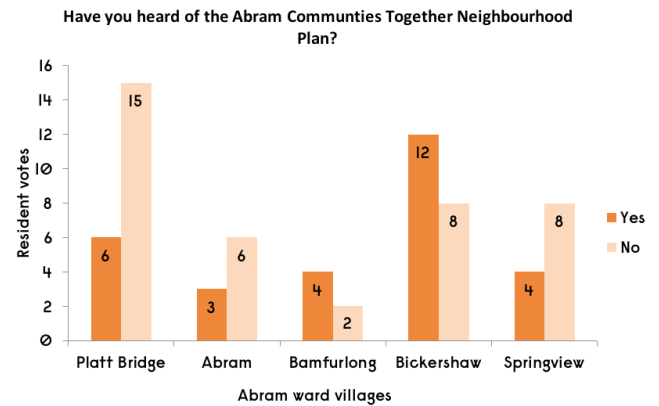


Question 1b: Have you heard of the Abram communities Together Neighbourhood Plan?

Total votes across Abram ward:

Response	Total number of votes	% of vote
Yes	29	43%
No	39	57%

Breakdown of responses by village



Question 1 findings

Bickershaw and Bamfurlong had the highest percentage of residents with an awareness of the Abram Neighbourhood Forum and the Abram Neighbourhood Plan. This may be in part due to efforts of members of the Forum in these two areas to encourage residents to come and speak with us on the day, leading to a higher percentage of participants having heard of the Forum and Plan through these representatives.

Whilst these were the only areas in which more people responded 'yes' than 'no', overall there was a reasonable awareness of both the Forum and the Plan.

Question 2: What size and type of homes are needed in Abram?

This activity was intended to understand residents' views on housing; specifically, what size and type of homes are needed in the Abram Ward.

The Activity comprised of two parts; Question 2a focused on the number of bedrooms that any new properties should have and Question 2b focused on the type of housing. A series of choices were provided for each question. Participants indicated their choice by placing a sticker in each relevant answer box, and could select multiple options.

Alongside the boxes, participants could use post-it notes to indicate a response which was not listed e.g. 'Enough housing', or an additional comment.

The tables below indicate the combined responses from all five events.

Question 2a: How many bedrooms?

How many bedrooms	%	Total
Three bed	12	44%
Two bed	5	19%
Four bed	5	19%
One bed	3	11%
Five bed	2	7%
	27	100%

Question 2b: What type of house is it?

What type of houses	%	Total
Semi detached	20%	9
Bungalow	18%	8
Detached	18%	8
Other	13%	6
Flats	11%	5
Terraced	9%	4
Supported	7%	3
Hotel	2%	1
Student flats	2%	1
		45

Comments were collated from each area, and included:

Platt Bridge

- One bed apartments to support homelessness issues
- Two bed bungalow so that carers can live there too
- More housing with adaptations for those with additional needs/elderly
- Want to live on estate with other older people - not families
- Can't get 2 bed housing close to school - now need to walk further
- Reuse existing housing stock
- Want green spaces within housing developments

Abram

- The green spaces are what makes Wigan special and different
- Don't need more housing
- Losing greenspaces to housing. The roads / infrastructure can't manage it
- Housing being built on green spaces - don't need more!
- Houses that have been empty and run down for years.

Bamfurlong

- It's more about who is living in the houses - not the size etc. Recent accommodation built now have drug users in

Bickershaw

- Bungalows for older people - gives more freedom
- Want more housing for children and grandchildren

Springview

- Don't see an immediate need
- None

Question 2 findings

Residents expressed a preference for housing for families, indicated by the highest choice being for three bed, semi-detached properties.

However, a significant proportion of people thought that there was enough housing with concerns over inadequate infrastructure for more housing, congestion management and loss of vital green spaces. This was a particular theme in Abram.

Additional comments were also received regarding the provision of housing suitable for an ageing population, with the 'Bungalow' option being the second most popular housing type.

It is worth noting that this activity was not as well engaged with as others. This could be because people found it more difficult to specify what they feel is required in terms of housing provision.

Question 3: What would support the local economy?

This activity looks to stimulate discussion and encourage people to consider what ideas would best support the local economy. Participants were also asked, wherever possible, to indicate where they felt these ideas could be realised.

19 precedent images representing a diverse range of ideas was displayed. Participants indicated which ideas

they felt were a priority for the area by placing a sticker in the adjoining space, with scope to choose up to 5 ideas. Alongside the boxes, participants were encouraged to use post-it notes to elaborate on their choices.

The table below shows the combined number of votes for each intervention from all sessions.





Image	Total combined votes	Comments
<p>Community Cafes</p> 	27	<p>Platt Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would be interactive - Affordable and sustainable - Run events e.g. Knitting club, parents groups, skills sharing - Good meeting place / Get to know neighbours - Good for family who can't walk as a social place - Café closes at 8pm - only McDonalds after that locally <p>Abram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abram community centre is good site - Would be good to generate interaction in area - Pubs declining - Labour clubs need growing <p>Bickershaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change perceptions of ex Labour club which is now community centre in Bickershaw - Bickershaw needs to take advantage of what is existing <p>Springview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hard for smaller businesses because of high rents - Nearest one is in Platt Bridge - Difficult because of the lack of available buildings
<p>Seasonal Markets</p> 	17	<p>Platt Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open space away from houses - Attract people to the area
<p>Community hubs</p> 	17	<p>Platt Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can use space to share info and skills - Community centre for older people (and others) in Hindley Prevents isolation. Not too expensive - Youth hub/space - nowhere for teenagers - Need more for young people - outreach and youth centre <p>Abram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abram community centre see themselves as a Community Hub. Want it to be for different groups and for different activities. Would like to be able to see it grow <p>Bickershaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community centre to stay open in Bickershaw
<p>Pop up shop</p> 	16	<p>Platt Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If premises empty for approx. 12 months then allow pop up tenancies - White building opposite Platt Bridge Health Centre to be used <p>Bamfurlong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pop up shops might sell community products <p>Springview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pop-up bars







Image	Total combined votes	Comments
<p>Entertainment / live gigs</p> 	16	<p>Platt Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trying to set up monthly cinema for older people - looking at ex-community centre. (£100/month) <p>Abram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More for the towns and cities. <p>Bamfurlong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Live arts - Open mic nights
<p>Skills & training</p> 	16	<p>Abram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nowhere for new skills to be learnt - Training from Abram community centre. i.e. IT skills <p>Platt Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training – especially in food to help grow local businesses - More training in trades - help people into work.
<p>Independent food</p> 	15	<p>Bickershaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Something local rather than a supermarket - Want local produce - Want a butcher <p>Springview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fruit and veg shops! - Wouldn't use it because people want cheaper chains
<p>Social enterprise</p> 	16	<p>Platt Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wide range of social enterprises <p>Bickershaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men's Shed in Platt Bridge is good - needs better transport to there from Bickershaw
<p>Community clubs</p> 	13	<p>Platt Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Zone - More youth space across Platt Bridge - Nothing for 5 - 7 year olds <p>Bamfurlong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dinner club - good for older people in Bamfurlong <p>Springview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elderly and dementia care - Community centre in need of support financially
<p>Independent stores</p> 	12	<p>Bickershaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Space for social enterprises to sell products who are struggling to get a space - Possibly in Leigh or Abram.



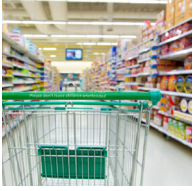




Image	Total combined votes	Comments
<p data-bbox="153 327 245 353">Libraries</p> 	11	<p data-bbox="472 215 608 241">Platt Bridge</p> <ul data-bbox="472 246 1445 309" style="list-style-type: none"> - At Hindley library well used by surgeries, councillors, workshops etc. Need something like that in Platt Bridge <p data-bbox="472 327 555 353">Abram</p> <ul data-bbox="472 358 1422 483" style="list-style-type: none"> - Community centre could put on a light lunch to get together more and to get more people out of their homes - Community centre could have a library - Bring library back <p data-bbox="472 501 611 528">Bamfurlong</p> <ul data-bbox="472 533 1082 560" style="list-style-type: none"> - Ashton one is closing down - no library in area at all <p data-bbox="472 577 604 604">Bickershaw</p> <ul data-bbox="472 609 807 636" style="list-style-type: none"> - If there was one I would use <p data-bbox="472 654 600 680">Springview</p> <ul data-bbox="472 685 970 712" style="list-style-type: none"> - Used to have a mobile library - now gone!
<p data-bbox="116 763 288 790">Indoor Markets</p> 	10	<p data-bbox="472 730 611 757">Bamfurlong</p> <ul data-bbox="472 761 1193 788" style="list-style-type: none"> - Ashton market is now shut - this would be great for community <p data-bbox="472 806 604 833">Bickershaw</p> <ul data-bbox="472 837 1038 936" style="list-style-type: none"> - Open space away from houses - Employment for local people who know the area - Niche products <p data-bbox="472 954 600 981">Springview</p> <ul data-bbox="472 985 1086 1043" style="list-style-type: none"> - Like markets but maybe out of touch with modern life - Would have to be a regular market
<p data-bbox="129 1111 276 1173">Chain retail/ food shops</p> 	10	<p data-bbox="472 1059 555 1086">Abram</p> <ul data-bbox="472 1090 1177 1117" style="list-style-type: none"> - There is enough and they have caused decline in local shops <p data-bbox="472 1135 600 1162">Springview</p> <ul data-bbox="472 1167 783 1225" style="list-style-type: none"> - Big store = more traffic - Like this idea but not here <p data-bbox="472 1243 611 1270">Bamfurlong</p> <ul data-bbox="472 1274 1465 1373" style="list-style-type: none"> - Little supermarkets have been operating and clamping down - shame as 'David's community shop' only facility. Post office is up for sale - If David's is closed we have to go to Platt Bridge <p data-bbox="472 1391 604 1417">Bickershaw</p> <ul data-bbox="472 1422 770 1480" style="list-style-type: none"> - Small shops gone - Tesco express sized shop
<p data-bbox="137 1496 268 1559">Community start ups</p> 	9	<p data-bbox="472 1574 608 1601">Platt Bridge</p> <ul data-bbox="472 1606 818 1664" style="list-style-type: none"> - In existing Platt Bridge centre - Supporting start ups
<p data-bbox="137 1767 260 1830">Co-working space</p> 	6	<p data-bbox="472 1868 608 1895">Platt Bridge</p> <ul data-bbox="472 1899 746 1926" style="list-style-type: none"> - More of different types

Image	Total combined votes	Comments
Professional services 	5	Abram - Will making Bamfurlong - Legal services - GPs surgery - People don't know what they are entitled to (learning disabilities) Bickershaw - Chemist and Doctors surgery needed!
Cottage industries 	4	Platt Bridge - Supplying cafes
Smart tech businesses 	3	Platt Bridge - Want in Platt Bridge Springview - 3D printers at Platt Bridge
Business activities 	3	

The information broken down by village can be found in the appendix. Whilst there were many similarities, there were some variations in priorities between areas.

There disparity in the ideas within the individual villages may be due to personal situations, such as those with relationships to young people or those with specialised health needs, i.e. older people or those with disabilities, along with the differences of facilities in the different areas.

Other Comments

A wide range of additional comments and ideas were received. These have been broken down into the categories below. Key for many was addressing the lack of opportunity for young people, with some feeling there was a lack of facilities for young people of all ages.

Comment theme	% of comments related to theme	No. of comments
Young people	25%	13
Entertainment	12%	6
Community buildings	10%	5
Support for elderly and those with additional needs	10%	5
Transport	10%	5
Sports and activity	8%	4
Security	6%	3
Environment	4%	2
Tourism	4%	2
Retail	4%	2
Skills	4%	2
Other	4%	2
	100%	51

Question 3 findings

Overall, community cafes received the largest number of votes. Some participants felt there is an absence of diverse food options, in particular those suitable for children of an evening. The social aspect of cafes was key, reflecting the demise of the local pub / social club which provided a meeting point in the past. Community cafes ranked particularly highly in Bamfurlong, where it was the top priority. Independent food stores were also ranked highly, in particular in Springview and Bickershaw.

Community Hubs and Community Clubs combined saw a significant proportion of votes, with Community Hubs being the priority in Platt Bridge. People identified activity for a wide range of age groups that could be delivered in centres. The centre in Abram was specifically identified by local people as having potential to grow and engage with more people.

Springview residents indicate chain retail / food shops are a priority, but every other village showed little demand for these. Rather, other areas ranked markets, pop-up shops and independent business much higher.

Abram saw Skills and Training, along with Social Enterprise as a priority, both also also ranked highly in Platt Bridge and Bickershaw.

Smart Tech, Co-working spaces and Community startups were not a priority in any area.

There was a strong interest in social spaces, such as entertainment and opportunities to enjoy live music and to socialise during the evenings and weekends. Many also felt that these types of interventions would make the areas more attractive to younger audiences and tourists.

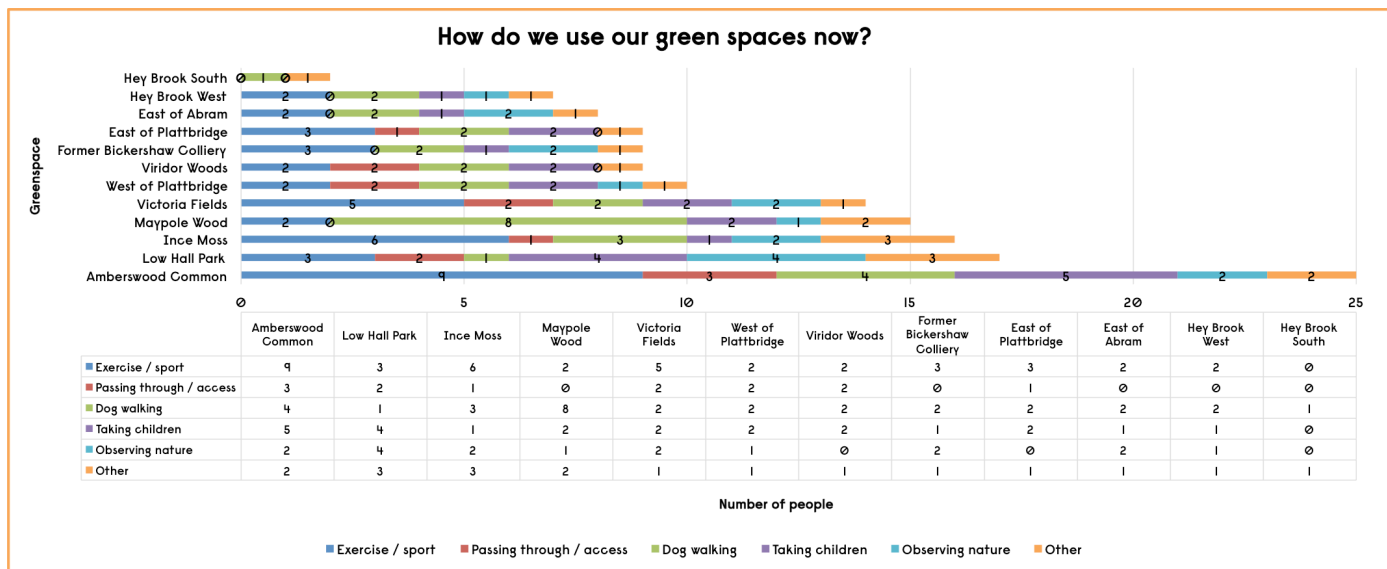
A breakdown of priorities by village can be provided in Appendix 1.



Question 4a: How we use our green spaces now?

This activity used a map to highlight twelve green spaces across the Abram ward, with five specified activities in which residents might use these spaces for. There was an 'other' category which they could highlight activities which were not specified or did not fit within the prescribed list. Participants used a sticker to indicate which green spaces they use today, and what they use the space for.

How do we use our green spaces now?



Question 4a findings

The most common activities highlighted were exercise / sport, dog walking and taking children to the greenspaces. The most commonly used green space was Amberswood Common. Low Hall Park, Ince Moss, Maypole Wood and Victoria Fields, were the next most used greenspaces. Generally, these areas were used mainly for the above-mentioned activities.

Participants could give additional comments, which highlighted specific areas in which residents enjoy regularly. These included positive comments on the following additional areas:

- Polly’s Pond: A good asset for families. However, respondents feel it needs to be made more visible and reduce vandalism to encourage more use
- Cycling paths: Generally, well utilised for exercise but also for walking and commuting between the villages
- The canal: This is a popular green space across all the villages. Participants commented that it is heavily utilised and feels safe and of great value to the Abram ward, particularly those in Abram and Bickershaw
- Fishing ponds / rivers: Some residents in Abram and Bickershaw commented on the use of these types of spaces had reduced as they have not been managed, and would be key green spaces if restored.



Question 4b: How we could improve our green spaces?

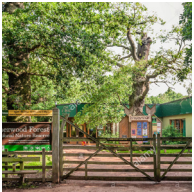




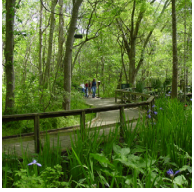


The second part of this question was designed to encourage participants to consider what interventions or improvements to existing spaces would have the greatest benefit, and where these should happen. This was intended to encourage them to consider the whole ward rather than focusing only on their own village.





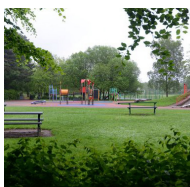


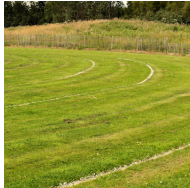
A series of images and image titles were provided, representing ideas identified by the Forum e.g. cycle

paths, Greenheart Centre, allotments, as well as having an opportunity to record their own ideas with the 'other' category. Participants indicated which ideas they wanted to see and in which of the twelve green areas they felt the idea should take place using a sticker.

The results can be found below, along with the number of votes received for the image across all wards.

How do we improve our green spaces	Image	Total	Comments included
Community Cafes		82	- Green gyms going out of fashion!
Children's play spaces		43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play spaces need to be protected - (rid of needles etc.) - Nothing close to school for playing in Platt bridge. Possibly knock down disused pub near roundabout. - Safer parks for children with softer furnishings - Number of families with children has dropped - Play areas need to be safe and secure.
Cycle Ways		26	
Wild Flower Meadows		25	- Flower boxes gone, bring back to brighten up street side
Picnic Areas		25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally, would like picnic tables - Picnic areas on empty green spaces.
Allotments/ Community Allotments		21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abram school has allotments and now fenced off. - More opportunity to grow produce - Allotments managed better.
Public Footpaths		20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need more seating for regular rests for those who can't drive or walk far - Maintain and cut pathways to link the better - Allow for better walking routes.

How do we improve our green spaces	Image	Total	Comments included
Nature & Visitor Parks		19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Café in visitor centre - Petty zoo/small farm - great for kids and tourists - Activity programme like Haigh Hall e.g. pong dipping, bug hunts - may see more parents using - Structured activities - canoes, fun days - Summer programmes in Amberswood. - Visitors centre to be by Polly's pond - needs to be made more visible and reduce vandalism.
Healthy Walking Trails		18	
Canals & Waterways		17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water taxis - need someone to operate locks - Access for disabled buggies on the canals. - Better maintenance, some cafes and rest points - Encourage activity on water e.g. Canoes on canals, water walking etc.
Leisure Parks		16	
Places of Contemplation		15	
Nature Trails		13	
Wildlife Habitats		12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tree planting wanted - Across all areas.
Greenheart Centre		12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Don't know much about the Greenheart centre - hard to comment - Something like Worthington lakes with education element - needs better communication!

How do we improve our green spaces	Image	Total	Comments included
Orchards		9	- Bowling club at Springview funded 70 apple and pear trees.
Bridle Paths		9	
Butterfly Garden		9	
Outdoor exercise classes		9	
Multi-Functional Park		9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Events and festivals for kids. - Public open green space given back - Abram Park paths needs improving for prams and disabled access - Parks aren't being maintained - areas neglected - Music festivals in Bamfurlong - Want recreational ground by park. - Like the idea but not sure where - Events on empty green spaces within neighbourhood!
Football / Rugby Pitches		9	- Football pitches need upgrading.
BMX / Skate Park		8	- Bamfurlong had a skate park before which didn't get used.
Walking / Running Track		6	

Question 4b findings

The most popular improvement to Abram's green spaces across all areas was through green gyms. This was the top ranked image in every area. It is worth noting that 50% of the votes for this image came from Bamfurlong, which inflates the perceived popularity of Green Gyms overall.

Children's play spaces rank very highly, linking with the reoccurring theme of needing more for young people in the Economy activity. Cycle ways, wildflower meadows, picnic areas and improved public footpaths all scored over 20 votes. During discussion, footpaths and the varied quality was noted frequently, and many people felt strongly that these could be improved.

Many of the larger projects did not receive as much support; football / sports pitches, multi-functional parks and allotments were amongst the lower scoring images.

The Greenheart Centre received modest support. This could be due to a lack of immediate understanding about what the aspiration for such a centre may be. With further work, this may gain support. There were several comments about security / vandalism of such a building which appeared to make many wary of the idea.

Through conversations it became apparent that each village had a different focus when discussing what could be done to improve their currently used green spaces.

- Amberswood Common and Victoria Fields both received over 70 votes for a range of new interventions. Green Gyms, play space, cycleways and picnic areas were the top four priorities for Amberswood, with Victoria Fields seeing Green Gyms, play space, community allotments and picnic areas as priorities
- Low Hall Park and Virador Woods scored highly for investment, with over 40 votes for different interventions. Green Gyms, play spaces, footpaths / walking trails were popular in these areas
- Ince Moss, the Former Bickershaw Colliery, East of Abram and West of Platt Bridge saw some interest, with between 20 and 30 votes each. On these, Green Gyms were the top priority, with a diverse mix of other images as important
- Less than 20 votes were received for any activity in Hey Brook South, Hey Brook West, East of Platt Bridge or Maypole Woods.

Other comments

Participants could add their own comments about other ideas to improve the greenspaces. These have been grouped under the following themes:

Safety:

- Stopping quad bikes - making area unusable for kids and can't catch those on bikes
- Motorbikes ruined fields
- Improve or introduce lighting in green spaces in Platt Bridge - may increase winter and evening use. Feels safer

- Wouldn't want anything that could be vandalised. Not fair on community
- Virador and Amberswood - safety issues
- Amberswood is overgrown and feels unsafe
- Lollipop person needed by schools - why did council stop maintaining areas?
- Lily Lane pelican crossings needed - have been asked for but council already say traffic is not heavy enough
- Gated areas in Bamfurlong to make it more secure
- Police station isn't used as a proper police station

Improved community links

- Improved links and relationships with Amberswood. Developing community relationships
- Improved links with and relationship with Ambers Wood Developing community relationships
- Develop volunteer networks and use what's existing. E.g. Youth offenders to maintain green spaces
- People in other areas don't know Bamfurlong exists - invisible!

Communication of assets

- Show green spaces people aren't aware of, or are accessible
- Better advertising and aware of what exists
- Visitor centre - perhaps by Polly's pond - needs to be visible and accessible
- Better advertising and aware of what exists

Maintenance / cleaner

- Fencing around LA housing is a disgrace. Bring fence down
- Bickershaw council has done well in improving area
- Polly's pond needs to be better kept
- People not collecting dog foul

Footpaths / access

- Polly's pond (Kinds Down park?) - Park footpaths on half of site
- Ince Moss needs better access for fishing

Other

- Secure dog walking field in Abram, Maypole Wood area (9 Votes)
- Sheltered bus stops and seating
- Don't lose green spaces in Platt Bridge
- Traffic pollution to be considered in all areas.

Summary

Generally, across all five events, there was an enthusiasm to see growth and change to the Abram ward through many avenues, including business ventures and hubs as well as improve green spaces. The following provides a summary of key findings:

Housing

Some residents showed an interest in new homes. Whilst the most popular type of housing was that suitable for families with children, some participants felt that this would need to be supported by improved community facilities such as shops, larger community hubs with activities for a range of ages, and better access to and in the green spaces.

Many participants opposed the loss of green spaces for housing; comments focused on the importance of maintaining good quality, accessible green spaces, both for community members and for increasing tourism, along with keeping the general attractiveness / character of the area. Similarly, residents were concerned about the increasing congestion and traffic, highlighted by residents in Bickershaw, Abram and Bamfurlong.

Economy

Community cafes, seasonal markets, community hubs, pop-up shops, entertainment and skills / training were top priorities. Many felt that the spaces which do exist are currently under used, or would benefit from physical growth to enable community leaders to do more.

Residents commented that existing Community Centres, particularly at Abram and Bickershaw, are invaluable to the areas. Increasing awareness of what is available and accessible to the residents, along with providing varied events, including live events, which target a diverse audience would see these facilities continuing to grow in significance.

Greenspaces

There were some participants who relayed feelings of neglect and a lack of safety across green spaces, particularly Virador Woods and Amberswood Common, which people feel are overgrown and unsafe. Residents in Bamfurlong made comments that they feel the village – “always gets left behind” and that they are “invisible”, to the other villages.

An increase in safe and secure children’s play areas was considered a key priority across all areas. Comments at all sessions noted that existing provision is not always maintained, dirty and in some cases dangerous.

Exercise and sports facilities were also highly recommended as improvements for the green spaces, particularly green gyms, more cycle paths connecting all the villages, healthy walking trails and footpaths. Many residents felt these would be attractive to people of all ages.

Another suggestion from several participants was to improve or introduce lighting into green spaces, mainly in Platt Bridge, which they believe may increase winter and evening use of facilities.

General

There was for many a focus on their local village. Participants often were not aware of the assets available in the next village, and there was no sense of the overarching asset offered by the greenspace.

Most residents wanted to have better information sharing across the villages, and for community members to interact with other residents. This supports one of the main objectives of the Communities Together Neighbourhood Plan to generate a strong sense of togetherness across the Abram ward - encouraging inter-village activity, inclusivity and investment.

The perception of safety across the Ward needs additional consideration; green space was a key concern, but many discussions also highlighted wider concerns over safety.

Significant work was undertaken by the group to promote the events, and they were held in different locations at a range of times. Despite this, the number of people engaged was lower than hoped. However, the in-depth discussion provided significant information. Many ideas with scope for development came from the sessions, and the feedback supports much of the objectives of the plan. Through the promotion undertaken for the events, a general increase in awareness is likely to have been achieved. Ongoing communication in the lead-up to the referendum is recommended.

Appendix

Question 3: What would support the local economy?

Number of votes for precedent images by village

Image	Total	Platt Bridge	Abram	Bamfurlong	Bickershaw	Springview
Other: detailed in main report	53	14	12	7	11	9
Community Cafes	27	6	2	10	5	4
Seasonal Markets	17	5	2	4	4	2
Community hubs	17	7	2	3	2	3
Pop up shop	16	5	1	5	2	3
Entertainment/live gigs	16	3	1	4	5	3
Skills and training	16	4	3	2	6	1
Independent food	15	4	1	0	5	5
Social enterprise	14	4	4	2	4	0
Community clubs	13	2	3	2	3	3
Independent stores	12	3	4	1	2	2
Libraries	11	5	2	2	1	1
Indoor Markets	10	3	1	3	0	3
Chain retail/food shops	10	1	1	1	0	7
Community start ups	9	3	2	0	4	0
Co-working space	6	1	1	0	3	1
Professional services	5	0	1	1	3	0
Cottage industries	4	2	0	1	1	0
Smart tech businesses	3	2	0	1	0	0
Business activities	3	1	1	0	1	0

How do we improve our green spaces	Amberswood Common	How do we improve our green spaces	Victoria Fields	How do we improve our green spaces	Viridor Woods	How do we improve our green spaces	Low Hall Park	How do we improve our green spaces	East of Abram	How do we improve our green spaces	West of Plattbridge
Green Gym	10	Green Gym	9	Green Gym	8	Green Gym	8	Green Gym	7	Green Gym	6
Children's play spaces	8	Picnic Areas	5	Children's play spaces	5	Children's play spaces	6	Children's play spaces	4	Cycle Ways	3
Cycle Ways	6	Community Allotments	5	Public Footpaths	4	Healthy Walking Trails	4	Nature & Visitor Parks	2	Nature & Visitor Parks	2
Picnic Areas	6	Children's play spaces	5	Cycle Ways	3	Wildlife Habitats	3	Wild Flower Meadows	2	Canals & Waterways	2
Canals & Waterways	5	Wild Flower Meadows	4	Allotments	3	Canals & Waterways	3	Leisure Parks	2	Wild Flower Meadows	2
Places of Contemplation	5	Greenheart Centre	4	Places of Contemplation	3	Nature & Visitor Parks	2	Healthy Walking Trails	2	Children's play spaces	2
Nature Trails	4	Nature & Visitor Parks	3	Wildlife Habitats	2	Wild Flower Meadows	2	Picnic Areas	2	Orchards	1
Public Footpaths	4	Wildlife Habitats	3	Bridle Paths	2	Public Footpaths	2	Butterfly Garden	2	Greenheart Centre	1
Leisure Parks	4	Nature Trails	3	Wild Flower Meadows	2	Cycle Ways	2	Wildlife Habitats	1	Leisure Parks	1
Healthy Walking Trails	4	Orchards	3	BMX / Skate Park	2	Leisure Parks	2	Orchards	1	BMX / Skate Park	1
Nature & Visitor Parks	3	Public Footpaths	3	Picnic Areas	2	Football / Rugby Pitches	2	BMX / Skate Park	1	Outdoor exercise classes	1
Bridle Paths	3	Cycle Ways	3	Community Allotments	2	Picnic Areas	2	Places of Contemplation	1	Healthy Walking Trails	1
Wild Flower Meadows	3	Allotments	3	Nature & Visitor Parks	1	Multi-Functional Park	2	Nature Trails	0	Picnic Areas	1
Football / Rugby Pitches	3	Leisure Parks	3	Nature Trails	1	Nature Trails	1	Bridle Paths	0	Wildlife Habitats	0
Greenheart Centre	2	Outdoor exercise classes	3	Orchards	1	Outdoor exercise classes	1	Canals & Waterways	0	Nature Trails	0
Outdoor exercise classes	2	Healthy Walking Trails	3	Canals & Waterways	1	Places of Contemplation	1	Public Footpaths	0	Bridle Paths	0
Multi-Functional Park	2	Places of Contemplation	3	Greenheart Centre	1	Orchards	0	Greenheart Centre	0	Public Footpaths	0
Wildlife Habitats	1	Bridle Paths	2	Leisure Parks	1	Bridle Paths	0	Walking / Running Track	0	Walking / Running Track	0
Walking / Running Track	1	Walking / Running Track	2	Football / Rugby Pitches	1	Greenheart Centre	0	Cycle Ways	0	Allotments	0
Butterfly Garden	1	BMX / Skate Park	2	Outdoor exercise classes	1	Walking / Running Track	0	Allotments	0	Football / Rugby Pitches	0
Orchards	0	Multi-Functional Park	2	Butterfly Garden	1	Allotments	0	Football / Rugby Pitches	0	Places of Contemplation	0
Allotments	0	Canals & Waterways	1	Multi-Functional Park	1	BMX / Skate Park	0	Outdoor exercise classes	0	Community Allotments	0
BMX / Skate Park	0	Football / Rugby Pitches	1	Walking / Running Track	0	Community Allotments	0	Community Allotments	0	Butterfly Garden	0
Community Allotments	0	Butterfly Garden	1	Healthy Walking Trails	0	Butterfly Garden	0	Multi-Functional Park	0	Multi-Functional Park	0
	77		76		48		43		27		24

How do we improve our green spaces	Ince Moss	How do we improve our green spaces	Former Bickershaw Colliery	How do we improve our green spaces	Maypole Wood	How do we improve our green spaces	East of Plattbridge	How do we improve our green spaces	Hey Brook South	How do we improve our green spaces	Hey Brook West
Green Gym	5	Green Gym	5	Green Gym	5	Green Gym	5	Green Gym	7	Green Gym	6
Picnic Areas	3	Nature Trails	3	Orchards	2	Nature & Visitor Parks	2	Children's play spaces	2	Wild Flower Meadows	1
Wild Flower Meadows	2	Community Allotments	3	Picnic Areas	2	Nature Trails	1	Nature & Visitor Parks	1	Cycle Ways	1
Public Footpaths	2	Children's play spaces	2	Butterfly Garden	2	Wild Flower Meadows	1	Wild Flower Meadows	1	Children's play spaces	1
Greenheart Centre	2	Nature & Visitor Parks	1	Children's play spaces	2	Cycle Ways	1	Cycle Ways	1	Nature & Visitor Parks	0
Cycle Ways	2	Wildlife Habitats	1	Wild Flower Meadows	1	BMX / Skate Park	1	Wildlife Habitats	0	Wildlife Habitats	0
Leisure Parks	2	Orchards	1	Greenheart Centre	1	Butterfly Garden	1	Nature Trails	0	Nature Trails	0
Nature & Visitor Parks	1	Wild Flower Meadows	1	Healthy Walking Trails	1	Children's play spaces	1	Orchards	0	Orchards	0
Canals & Waterways	1	Public Footpaths	1	Places of Contemplation	1	Wildlife Habitats	0	Bridle Paths	0	Bridle Paths	0
Allotments	1	Cycle Ways	1	Community Allotments	1	Orchards	0	Canals & Waterways	0	Canals & Waterways	0
Football / Rugby Pitches	1	BMX / Skate Park	1	Multi-Functional Park	1	Bridle Paths	0	Public Footpaths	0	Public Footpaths	0
Healthy Walking Trails	1	Healthy Walking Trails	1	Nature & Visitor Parks	0	Canals & Waterways	0	Greenheart Centre	0	Greenheart Centre	0
Children's play spaces	1	Places of Contemplation	1	Wildlife Habitats	0	Public Footpaths	0	Walking / Running Track	0	Walking / Running Track	0
Wildlife Habitats	0	Bridle Paths	0	Nature Trails	0	Greenheart Centre	0	Allotments	0	Allotments	0
Nature Trails	0	Canals & Waterways	0	Bridle Paths	0	Walking / Running Track	0	Leisure Parks	0	Leisure Parks	0
Orchards	0	Greenheart Centre	0	Canals & Waterways	0	Allotments	0	Football / Rugby Pitches	0	Football / Rugby Pitches	0
Bridle Paths	0	Walking / Running Track	0	Public Footpaths	0	Leisure Parks	0	BMX / Skate Park	0	BMX / Skate Park	0
Walking / Running Track	0	Allotments	0	Walking / Running Track	0	Football / Rugby Pitches	0	Outdoor exercise classes	0	Outdoor exercise classes	0
BMX / Skate Park	0	Leisure Parks	0	Cycle Ways	0	Outdoor exercise classes	0	Healthy Walking Trails	0	Healthy Walking Trails	0
Outdoor exercise classes	0	Football / Rugby Pitches	0	Allotments	0	Healthy Walking Trails	0	Places of Contemplation	0	Places of Contemplation	0
Places of Contemplation	0	Outdoor exercise classes	0	Leisure Parks	0	Places of Contemplation	0	Picnic Areas	0	Picnic Areas	0
Community Allotments	0	Picnic Areas	0	Football / Rugby Pitches	0	Picnic Areas	0	Community Allotments	0	Community Allotments	0
Butterfly Garden	0	Butterfly Garden	0	BMX / Skate Park	0	Community Allotments	0	Butterfly Garden	0	Butterfly Garden	0
Multi-Functional Park	0	Multi-Functional Park	0	Outdoor exercise classes	0	Multi-Functional Park	0	Multi-Functional Park	0	Multi-Functional Park	0
	24		22		19		13		12		9

Appendix

Question 3: What would support the local economy?

Additional comments broken down by village.

Village	Total
Platt Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Want a building for people with dementia - Space for dancing, music etc. Council sold building to private development - Community event for children - all age groups - Boxing clubs etc. - Indoor structured sports and activities Community skill swaps / knowledge sharing - Spa facility - run by anyone - will bring tourists - Bring tourists - Reuse empty pubs for helping homeless people, provide advice and support - Cinema (pop- up) - Fishing club - Sports club - Embrace - massive help. Restbite, appointments, play - No local high schools
Abram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local councilors should be much more involved - Need more shops (corner shops) in Abram - Abram community centre is a really good facility - Bus routes for older people are important for getting out - The area has become unsafe - on my road has been burglaries, fire bombing and car theft in recent months - residents feeling unsafe. Need more police. - Community coach trips e.g. From Abram comm. Centre - payment scheme - trips to Chester Zoo etc. - Kids activities in Abram Comm. Centre - A care home - Abram is near to Platt Bridge, so have all the shops you need - Good area - no problem with youth. // People look after each other - Traffic control on Simpkin street - Young people's fitness activities - gyms
Bamfurlong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a community centre for all to use - Police need to have more impact / action on drug hangouts - Outdoor spaces - Outdoor festivals - Communication between community hubs - Scout groups - People with learning disabilities.
Bickershaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pub on the cancel rarely open - it is a shame as it is in great location, would be good to use it - Youth activities - Opportunities for employment - Wehare club and café is good - One pub is enough - I do not think we can sustain any more than that - Community police officers - Something for teenagers and youth clubs - Community transport to help connectivity - get people to their door - Slow down Bickershaw Lane - Bickershaw lane feels a bit unsafe to walk with high speeds - Build up area so that people stay and enjoy the entertainment - A better and larger car park to increase numbers for community centre
Springview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not much places for children - Short for spaces and facilities in Springview - More facilities for children - Youth clubs and activities for kids - More child and infant friendly spaces - Needs a general tidy up - General tidying up - Maybe a youth centre (swimming, computers, music etc.) within walking distance - Some places feel 'off limits' and intimidating - only for locals