

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

Background information

Durham County Council held a Consultation Event to seek the views from residents on five proposed environmental improvement schemes in Shotley Bridge village centre identified at an open meeting hosted by Shotley Bridge Village Trust. Section 106 (S106) money linked to the development of housing on the former Shotley Bridge Hospital site has been attributed to the village. The S106 money is available for environmental improvements in the village centre (the Article 4 area).

From the Open Meeting a 'wish list' of areas to be considered for improvement was produced, and five schemes identified to progress to design stage. These were the raised bed on Snows Green Road, Kiln Bank, the bottle bank area, the triangle and the bus shelters.

On the evening of the consultation Durham County Council Officers from the Community Economic Development Team were available to speak to residents and provided details of the five proposed schemes including designs and estimated costs. Attendees were asked to complete a short questionnaire in relation to the proposals. The questionnaire also provided the opportunity to make suggestions for other environmental improvement projects which they felt were important within the village centre.

In total 79 people attended the event, 42 were female and 37 were male. From the 79 people 75 were residents of Shotley Bridge and 4 people were business owners.

Below is a combined response taken from each individual questionnaire completed and email responses. These indicate people's preferences and comments. It must be noted that from the questionnaires completed, not all questions were answered and some responses did not relate directly to the environmental schemes being proposed. The number of responses and all comments have however been recorded and this summary is an accurate response collated from the information provided.

The questions asked were as follows:

- 1) Are you in favour of the improvements to the two bus shelters within the village centre?**

51	yes	59%
35	no	40%
1	unsure	1%

Responses to If No please can you tell us why?

30	preferred the current style of bus shelter (stone) as this was in keeping with the village and conservation area.
9	thought the cost was too high and thought DCC should cover this through the existing maintenance / replacement programme.

- 2) **Are you in favour of the improvements to Kiln Bank given the issues surrounding maintenance of this site?**

49	Yes	56%
36	No	41%
2	Unsure	2%

Responses to **If No please can you tell us why?**

16	expressed concerns over land ownership. Unclear on who will keep up the maintenance if there is no clarity on ownership, therefore a waste of money.
11	thought scheme seems very costly with little benefit to the village
12	suggested repairs to the steps, handrail
3	suggested bollards at the bottom of the bank and drainage as a problem
2	suggested making the area into car parking bays

- 3) **Are you in favour of the Improvements to the small public open space known locally as “The Triangle”**

47	Yes	55%
39	No	45%

Responses to **If No please can you tell us why?**

16	scheme too costly, and money could be better spent
11	not sure if this area was used enough to justify spend
8	were in agreement for improvement to walls
7	did not agree on the suggested use of materials
4	DCC should absorb the maintenance within the budget

- 4) **Are you in favour of the Improvements to the raised flower bed area on Snows Green Road?**

50	Yes	59%
35	No	41%

Responses to **If No please can you tell us why?**

13	scheme is too costly
6	did not agree with re turfing
5	DCC should cover this in maintenance costs
4	money would be better spent in the village on improving parking and lighting

- 5) **Are you in favour of the Improvements to the Bottle Bank Area?**
If No please can you tell us why?

66	Yes	79%
15	No	18%
3	Unsure	4%

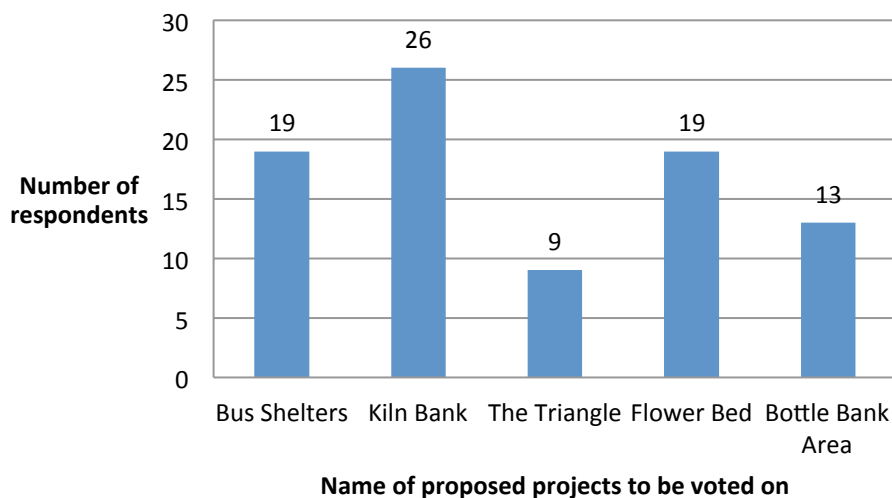
Responses to **If No please can you tell us why?**

6	should come under DCC maintenance
6	cost was too high and money should be spent elsewhere
6	in favour of extra parking
5	concerned with the removal of the Bottle Banks

- 6) **Please can you rate the 5 projects in order of priority 1-5 in which you would like to see them carried out (1 = the project you would most like to see developed; 2 the 2nd project you would like to see carried out 3 the 3rd project you would like to see carried out, etc.)**

Suggested Schemes	Total	%
Bus Shelters	19	22%
Kiln Bank	26	30%
The Triangle	9	11%
Flower Bed	19	22%
Bottle Bank Area	13	15%
Total	86	100%

Results priority order 1-5



In addition to this 2 people were opposed to them all
 2 people would like to see the crossing converted to a pedestrian crossing
 Other comments included additional street lighting and car parking.

- 7) **We also asked residents the question? Have we missed something? Are there any other regeneration priorities which you feel we should look at?**

The number of responses and comments included:

23	more car parking facilities
10	improvements to street lighting, additions and replacements
8	improvement to the children's play area. Or another built
7	speed management / facilities eg cameras, speed limit signage
5	improvements / clean-up / provide signage to the River Walk
3	more Pedestrian Crossing facilities
3	fountain re-instated
2	need for further consultation before designs were drawn up
2	would like a village hall
2	see more waste bins in particular around the Chinese takeaway and Cricket Club
2	improvements to bus shelters on Snows Green Road (Junction with Benfieldside Road, Derwent Dale)
1	ground near the waterfall opposite Kings Head to be cleared and seats placed
2	paving improvements around Queens Road, Front Street
1	Spa grounds looked at
2	derelict buildings tackled (Ebchester and Oak Lane)
2	commented upon the drainage between Oley Meadows and Meadomsley turn off, Front Street, Cooperative Terrace
1	more thought was put into projects for people with sensory impairments
1	would like a public telephone box

Other general comments included:

- The need for a Mini roundabout at the junction of Snows Green Road, Front St, Church Bank and Riverside to slow traffic
- Encourage new businesses to the area
- Develop the area known as the cut – the pathway between The Terrace and The Briary.
- Make flower beds by Crown and Cross Alley more presentable, remove shrubs cut down trees, and point barn wall
- Clean up or fill in the old mill race and to stop the tipping of rubbish over the wall down to the mill race
- The importance for street lighting, more parking rather than aesthetic changes in the village
- Litter a problem in the village
- Re instate the Post Office
- Pointing to the retaining wall behind bus shelter – a bed of alpiners or Erica's by the welcome sign seen from bridge
- Why are no Shotley residents involved in planning? Why is a designated area so limited
- The Section 106 funding should not be used for maintenance only for improvements to the urban realm
- Complete the paving scheme on Front Street which was started in 2003
- No Bus route from the Woodlands new Estate to Benfieldside
- A direct Bus route from Shotley Bridge to Lanchester

Under further additional information the following comments were collated:

9	further consultation is needed and were unhappy about the consultation they have taken part in to date
6	would like to see the money spent wisely
3	disappointed that street lighting and car parking were not part of the consultation
2	pleased to be part of the consultation
2	detail drawings should have been a part of the consultation

Concerns raised in relation to car parking in the village have been passed to the Strategic Traffic Team at Durham County Council.

The Community Economic Development Team will seek to progress an extension to the conservation paving and lighting within the village centre should the schemes be feasible.

CONCLUSION

1. KILN BANK



Although Kiln Bank was identified by 30% of the attendees as the main priority Community Economic Development are unable to progress this scheme. This is due to issues regarding land ownership and future maintenance. The area does not belong to Durham County Council and a land search proved inconclusive.

2. REFURBISHMENT OF THE TRIANGLE



Although 55% of the attendees are in favour of the proposed improvements of the five schemes only 11% of attendees sited the refurbishment of this area as a priority. Concerns were raised over the cost of the scheme and choice of materials. Therefore the Community Economic Development Team will not be seeking to progress this scheme.

3. REFURBISHMENT OF RAISED BED ON SNOWS GREEN ROAD



22% of attendees are in favour of improvements to this area. These will include incorporating coping stones on the raised beds, using the appropriate conservation materials and re-turfing if advised. The Community Economic Development Team will seek to take forward this scheme.

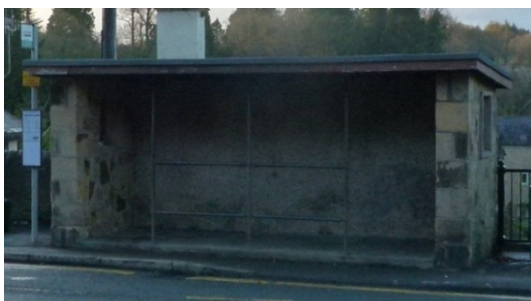
4. BOTTLE BANK AREA



This scheme was identified by 15% of attendees being in favour of these improvements. This will include the installation of new kerbs, resurfacing of the existing tarmac area with bitmac and mistral setts. The low level block wall will be removed to improve access. Community Economic Development will seek to take forward this scheme.

5. BUS SHELTERS

Stone bus shelter located next to the Kings Head



& Metal bus shelter located opposite the Kings Head



Durham County Council's Public Transport Team will review both bus shelters under their remit as part of their on-going schedule of work.

Should you require additional information in relation to this summary, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Economic Development Team on one of the number shown below:

Jackie Donnelly	03000 261068
Dawn Reed	03000 261068
Angela Mulholland	03000 261074