

We asked, you said, we did...

In December 2023, Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) and Wilmott Dixon consulted with the public, primarily residents who live and work in Ollerton, on the proposed changes to the town centre.

The outcomes of this consultation have reinforced and informed the plans for the development of Ollerton Town Centre.

This report outlines what we asked, what residents told us and how this has impacted our plans.

We asked...

As part of the launch of the developed plans for Ollerton Town Centre, the Regeneration team organised an engagement event at Ollerton Town Hall. Members of the public were invited to attend to talk to members of the team, read through the materials and provide feedback to us via the feedback forms. The feedback form was also available on the Ollerton Regeneration webpage on the main NSDC website from 11 December 2023 until 03/01/2024.

The feedback form was completed 42 times.

How important are the new proposed uses to you?

When asked to consider how important the different proposed uses, listed in the plans, are to you in improving the town centre, you said:

- 24 respondents considered access to community health services as important or very important.
- 21 respondents considered a wider shopping offer as important or very important.
- 20 respondents considered outdoor space to meet family and friends as important or very important.
- 19 respondents considered restaurants/cafes as being important or very important.
- 18 respondents considered public services as being important or very important.

Other areas identified as important or very unimportant included skills learning spaces and outdoor spaces to hold events. A new library or community cinema were ranked lower than other features and this is likely attributed to the perception that other community needs take precedence.

How often would you use the proposed uses?

When asked about how often you would use the proposed uses, you said:

Would use the proposed uses weekly:

- 18 respondents said they would use the wider shopping offer weekly.
- 11 said they would use the outdoor space to meet family and friends weekly.

Would use the proposed uses monthly:

- 12 respondents said that would use the outdoor spaces to hold events monthly.

Would use the proposed uses 2/3 times a year:

- 16 respondents said they would use the new library 2/3 times a year.
- 14 respondents said they would use the access to community health services 2/3 times a year.
- 15 respondents said they would use the skills learning space 2/3 times a year.
- 21 respondents said they would use the public services 2/3 times a year.

In addition, 18 respondents said they would use the community cinema either 2/3 times a year or monthly – which is average for regular cinema goers – with 6 said they would use it weekly.

What will the new proposed uses do for the town?

When asked to reflect on what you think the news proposals will bring to the town of Ollerton, you said:

- 29 respondents said they agreed it would encourage town centre usage.
- 24 respondents said they agreed it would enhance community pride.
- 23 respondents said they agreed it would increase visitors from further away.
- 21 respondents said they agreed it would attract a wider range of shops and restaurants.
- 20 respondents said they agreed it would help improve the town centre.
- 18 respondents said they agreed it would improve street connections.

Additional feedback you provided...

The survey provided an option for you to provide any other comments for consideration, you said:

- Concerns with traffic management, additional parking requirements, and signposting – suggestions for parking permits
- Lack of access and safe parking for mobility scooters
- More facilities and spaces to attract young people
- Cinema space potentially used for dual space theatre
- Concerns of anti-social behaviour in walkways / access points
- The houses were welcomed and a popular concept
- Dentist / GP
- Keenness to celebrate and preserve Ollerton's history

What we did...

We recognised the bits of the new plans that you felt were the most important...

Access to community health services, a wider shopping offer and outdoor space to meet family and friends

We cross referenced that with the proposed features that would get the most use...

A wider shopping offer, outdoor space to meet family and friends, new library, more houses.

What our plans do...

Your feedback will inform our plans as we finalise the design of the town centre regeneration scheme over spring/summer 2024. A further engagement event is planned for the summer for you to provide comments on the final designs and will be promoted nearer the time.

We recognise that access to community health and public sector services is incredibly important to you as Ollerton residents and we will continue to engage with the NHS, with the public sector hub remaining as a key component at the heart of the redevelopment. In addition, we also understand how vital a wider shopping offer and space for you to meet family and friends are—both of these elements have already been included heavily in our developed plans, and we are committed to making sure these continue to be included in our plans. The popularity of additional houses was raised and we are refining these elements to better suit the needs of the Ollerton community.

We are completely dedicated to ensuring that the new Ollerton Town Centre is shaped by what works for you. Your feedback is invaluable in informing our plans for your town.

If you have any additional comments or would like to get in touch with someone in the team, please email regeneration@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk