

The area you live in has around 1000 houses and is about a 20 minute bus journey to the town centre. The houses are a mixture of newly built, privately owned homes, local authority housing and flats and some privately rented flats. The unemployment rate is slightly below average and there are a number of families with young children in the new houses. There are two small convenience stores, one of which also has a small café and a park built near the new build homes which is suitable for young children. The bus service to the town centre which has all the main facilities, leisure and entertainment, supermarkets, shopping centre, medical facilities etc. runs every 30 minutes from 7.00a.m. – 8.00p.m. There is a large open playing field with a run - down prefabricated changing room at one end of the town and between the new houses and the social housing there is an area of wasteland. Both these areas are unsightly, overgrown and littered with broken bottles, broken furniture etc. There is also a bowling green with a small clubhouse at the opposite end of the town.

Residents from the area are always complaining about the lack of facilities in the area, more so now that the new houses, built for families have increased the local population. There are now more children and young people living in the area and the older residents are worried that the young people meet up at the football pitch and the waste ground particularly on Friday nights. The local Police have been contacted more often recently with reports of drinking and anti-social behaviour and although they attend calls often the young people they find there are only “hanging out”. Only on two occasions have they found evidence of under- age drinking. Most of the time the young people are annoyed that there is nothing for them to do and they can’t afford buses and taxis to the town centre.

Many of the young families and elderly regularly attend the local Councillor’s surgery to complain about how difficult it is to access medical, bank and post office facilities and the fact that local buses stop running early in the evening, making it difficult and expensive to access leisure facilities.

There has been an increase of the number of residents being treated for obesity, depression and heart disease in the area over the past five years and the dental health of children from the area has been flagged up as particularly bad. The residents say this is again down to the cost and time it takes to get to get to G.Ps and dentist, particularly for parents and children and those with chronic illness or disability.

The residents want environmental and bus service improvements in the area, as well as increased facilities which will alleviate some of the problems the community are facing.

