

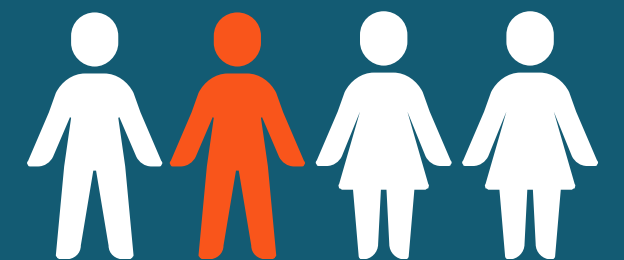
STOCKPORT 8

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Stage One Consultation Feedback Summary
March 2024



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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL



HEADLINES



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The first community conversation for Stockport 8 was launched on January 18th and closed on March 1st 2024. The following summary provides an overview of the feedback received:

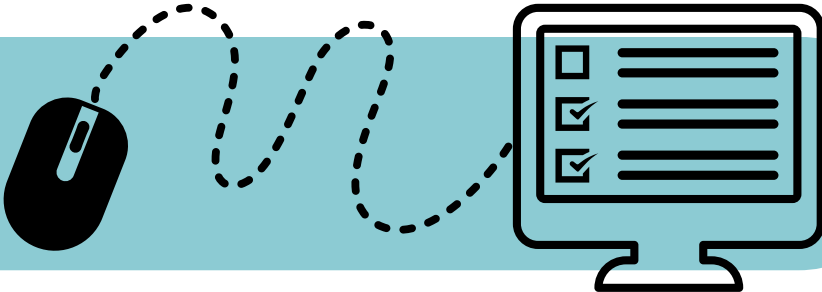
310 responses to the consultation



5 feedback forms completed at events



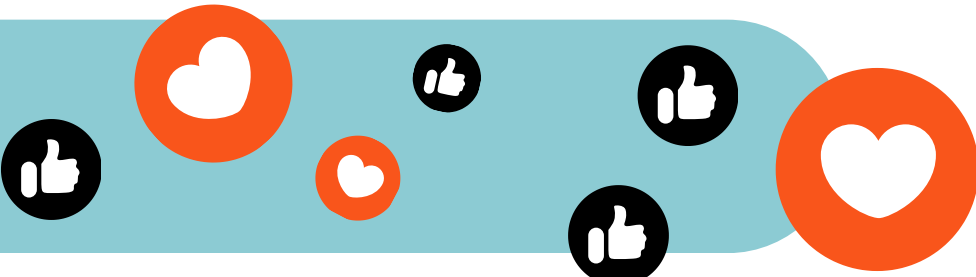
91 feedback forms completed online



214 feedback forms completed and returned via post

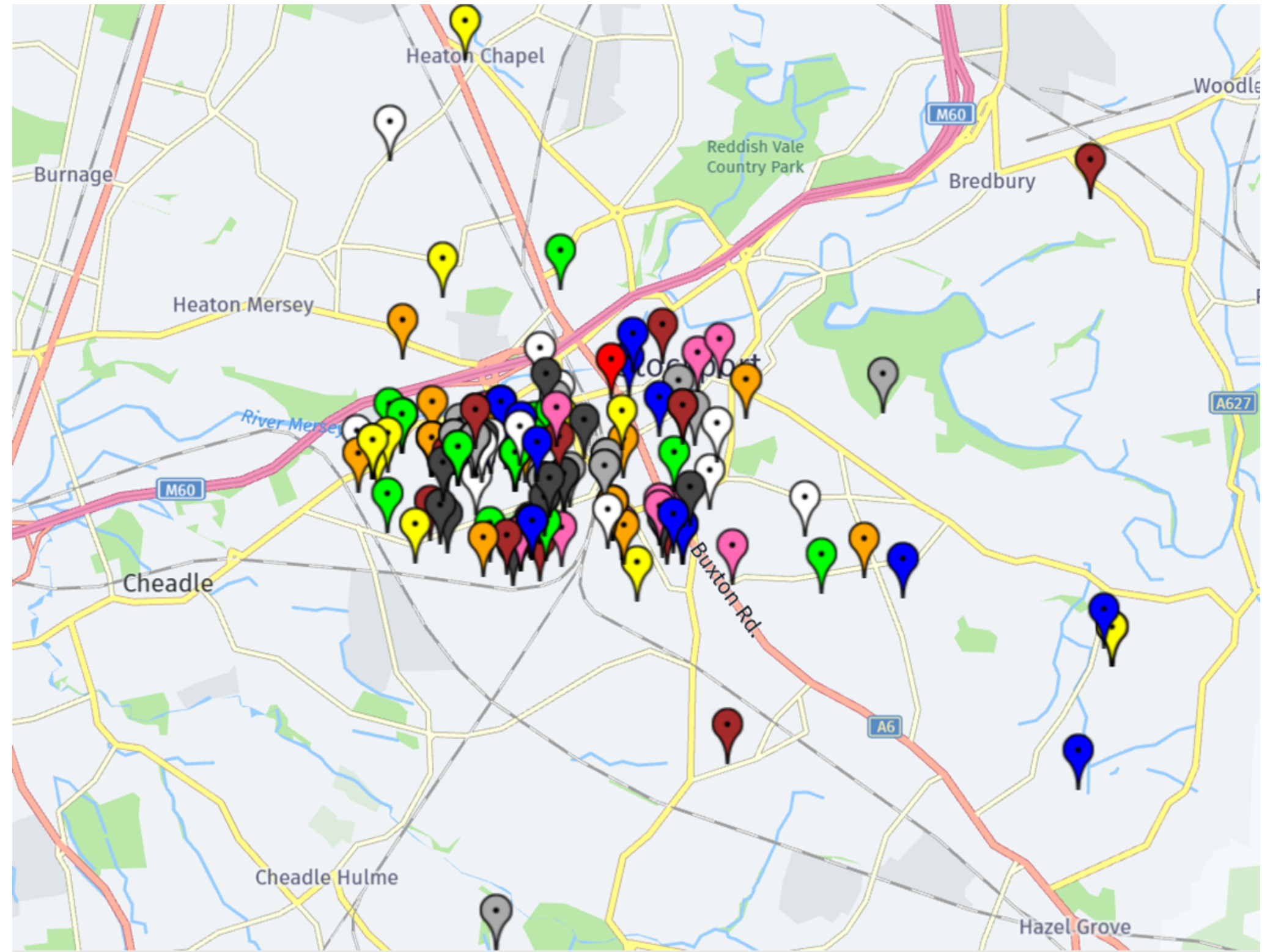


248 followers on Instagram with total impressions of over 9000



Postcodes

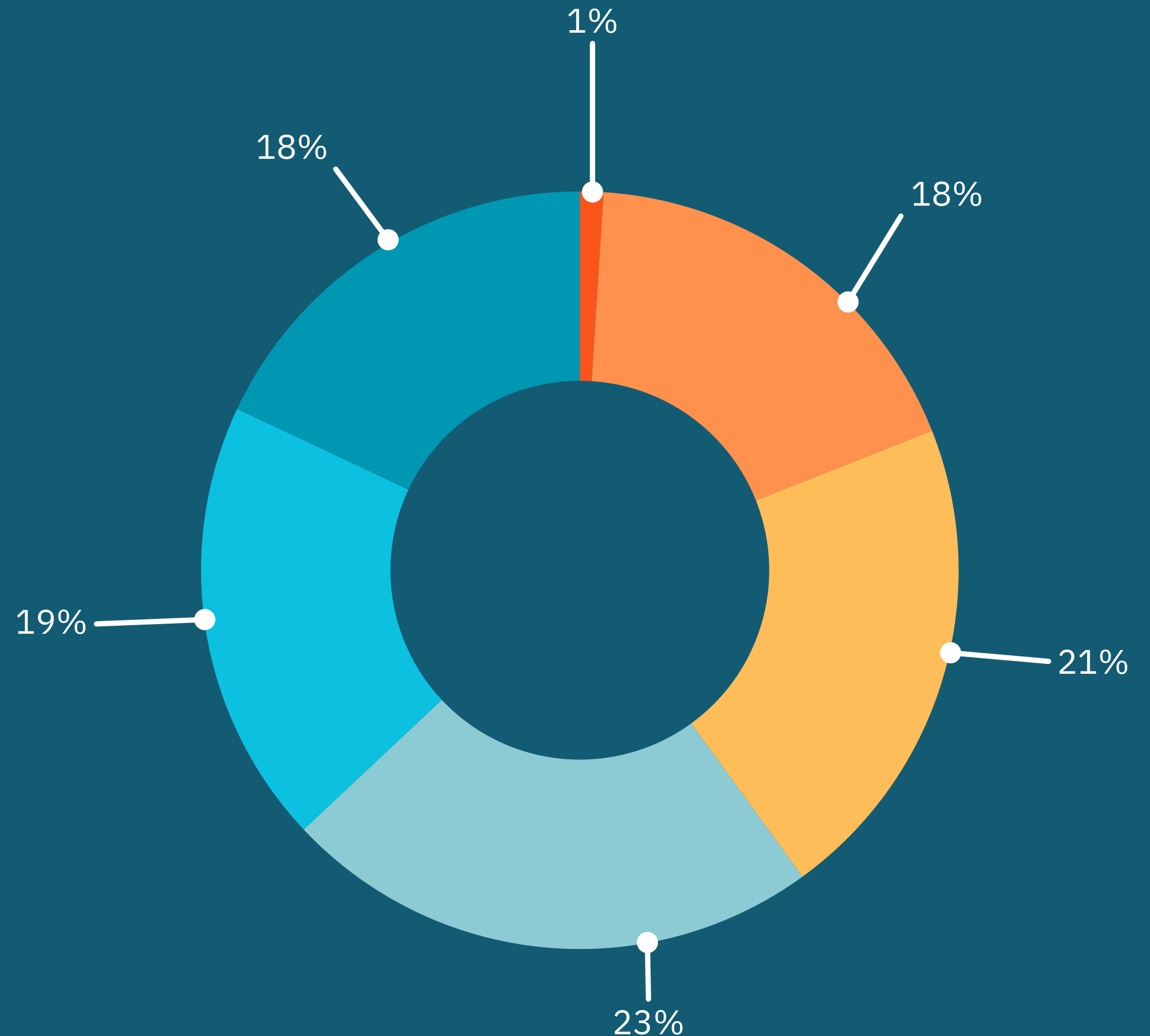
The image to the right shows (where stated) the postcodes of people who completed the questionnaire.



Demographic

The questionnaire sought to understand the demographic of those who participated. The breakdown of ages of respondents is as follows:

- Under 20
- 20 - 35
- 36 - 50
- 51 - 65
- Over 65
- Unknown



Feedback Summary



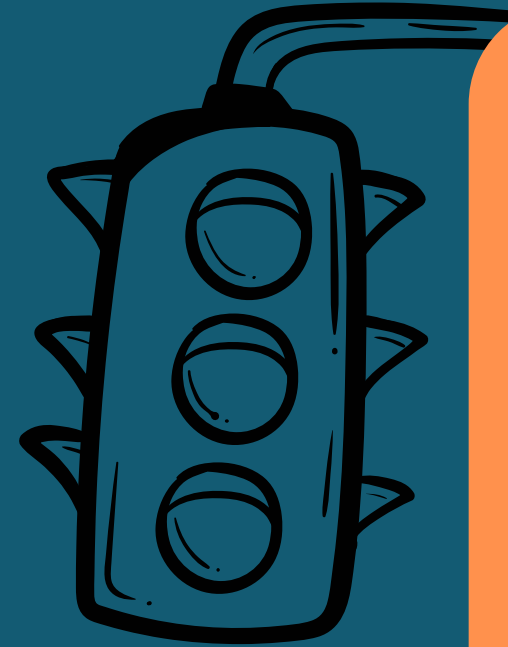
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Key Themes

Retail/commercial space

The overarching comments were that people want more shops, more high-quality shops and more independents like in The Underbanks. However, there were also a lot of comments about the old market and how the people of Stockport would like to revive something like that, not only as somewhere to get their fruit and veg but also to use as a community meeting spot. When asked about new uses for the area, there were lots of requests for new restaurants, bars and coffee shops.

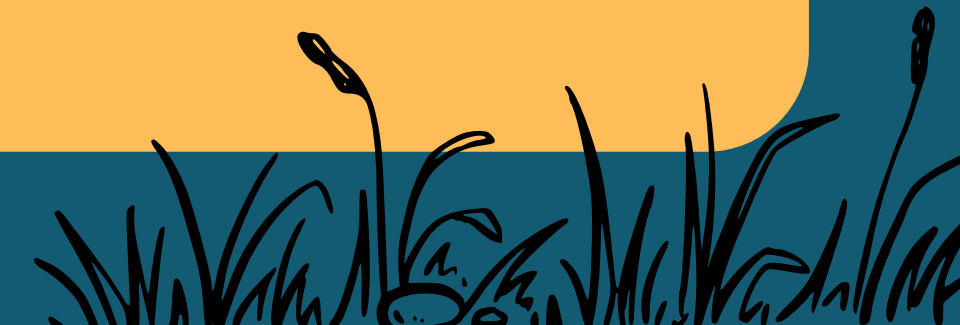


Transport

Great rail and motorway links came up a lot in the responses that we received. The requirement for a Metrolink also came up a number of times, as well as the need for cycle lanes. Several people commented that it's important to ensure the right amount of parking is provided, whilst congestion in the town was also raised against the backdrop of increased development.

Green and outdoor spaces

This was a very popular topic, with people wanting space for live events, pop ups and food and drink festivals. In addition, more picnic areas, outdoor spaces and seating areas were cited, as well as areas for more trees to be planted and green spaces for people to enjoy.



Key Themes

Homes

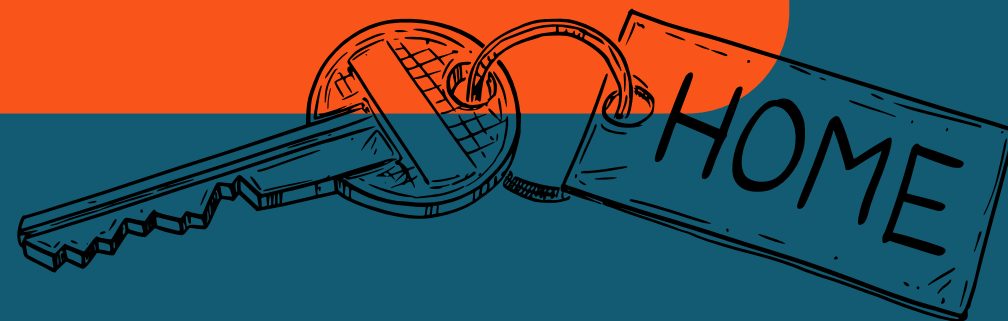
The importance of affordable homes came through very clearly in the feedback with more than two thirds of respondents highlighting this in question 4. Overall, there was a requirement for a mix of tenures to suit people in all stages of the life cycle including first time buyers, down sizers, older people and families. There were also a number of requests not to block out the views of the viaduct with the new development.

A sense of community

The comments that we received highlighted a strong community spirit in Stockport, and especially in Edgeley. Whilst it seems that people are content with the leisure facilities, more community facilities are required – dentists, doctors etc, as well as spaces for everyone, including families. Other facilities to provide and enable more local jobs were also key.

Celebrate history

Many of the responses focused on the viaduct and the people of Stockport have many memories of it. There were also a number of references to the beautiful, historic buildings in Stockport, which should be preserved. The importance of remembering and celebrating Stockport's industrial past was a key response, as well as references to preserving the old mills.



1. What do you think are the best things about living in Stockport? What do you think could be improved?

The comments below show the most common responses to the question, themed into what people think are the best things about Stockport and what could be improved.

What are the best things?

Transport links (66)

- Parks / green spaces (48)
- Close to Manchester City Centre (44)
- Community feel (36)
- Rail links (29)
- Great bars (29)
- Great restaurants (27)
- Thriving independents (24)
- Good coffee shops (17)
- History / landmarks (14)
- Stockport County Football Club (14)
- Love the new development going on (13)
- Cinema (13)
- Close to the motorway (12)
- Places to walk (11)
- Underbanks (11)
- River Mersey (9)
- Good performing council (8)
- Affordable (7)
- Viaduct (7)
- Music venues (4)
- Beautiful buildings (2)

What could be improved?

Need a Metrolink (33)

- Need better shops (52)
- Nothing good (17)
- Drugs / anti-social behaviour (16)
- Road infrastructure issues (15)
- Town centre needs improving (15)
- Buildings need a facelift / run down (9)
- Social infrastructure needs improving (9)
- Need better cycle lanes (9)
- Too much building going on (6)
- Market needs an update (5)
- Need more activity for children (4)
- Rubbish everywhere (1)
- New development should blend in with the rest of the area (1)
- Need more dog owner controls (1)

2. How do you describe the local area and what are your memories?

The comments below are a snapshot of some of the memories we received regarding history, heritage and the viaduct.

History, heritage and the viaduct:

“

There is a strong heritage with the arts and music.

“

Love the terraced houses in the local area.

“

I love the textile history of Stockport.

“

Beautiful buildings - traditional and unique.

“

The viaduct arches - my father helped to build these when he was working as a brick layer/builder in his younger days. They hold a special place in my heart.

“

The viaduct, the heart of Stockport, dominated everything around it. Stockport's heritage is the viaduct, Plaza, Market Hall, Museum, Central Library, Town Hall.

“

I like that the old industrial past can be seen nearby.

2. How do you describe the local area and what are your memories?

The comments below are a snapshot of some of the memories we received regarding retail, shops and the market

Retail/ Shops/ The Market

“

My memories of Stockport are a great outdoor market and lots of shops of all types.

“

My memories of Stockport are the hustle and bustle of the market and Mersey Way town centre.

“

I love Stockport but sadly the town centre is just not like it used to be.

“

I loved going into Stockport when I was a teenager, and we had all the big clothing brands. Christmas and birthday money was always easily spent. I'd love to see it thriving like this again.

“

I remember Castle Street being a hub of activity.

“

I miss the market because it was the heart of the town on weekends.

2. How do you describe the local area and what are your memories?

The comments below are a snapshot of some of the memories we received regarding outdoor and green spaces.

Outdoor/ Green Spaces

“

Going to alphabet zoo and building. Walking around Alexandra Park during Covid lockdown.

“

Love the plaza, attended lots of performances there.

“

There used to be lots of trees and spring bulbs - things that made people feel good.

“

Having walks along the River Mersey, green space is so important for people's mental health.

“

We used to have a bowling green, organised fun days on the park hearing children laughing and happy.

“

My memories are a picnic at Vernon Park with my mum, dad and two sisters. This was classed as a day out, watching the trains go across the viaduct.

2. How do you describe the local area and what are your memories?

The comments below are a snapshot of some of the other memories we received.

Other memories

“

More signposts needed and more blue plaques to celebrate Stockport and the people from Stockport.

“

History that has its own identity without needing Manchester. Being known as Stockport in its own right.

“

Pride in the community.

“

Remember being able to walk around the town centre and feeling safe.

“

Historically, we didn't have cars cluttering up all of our public spaces and streets.

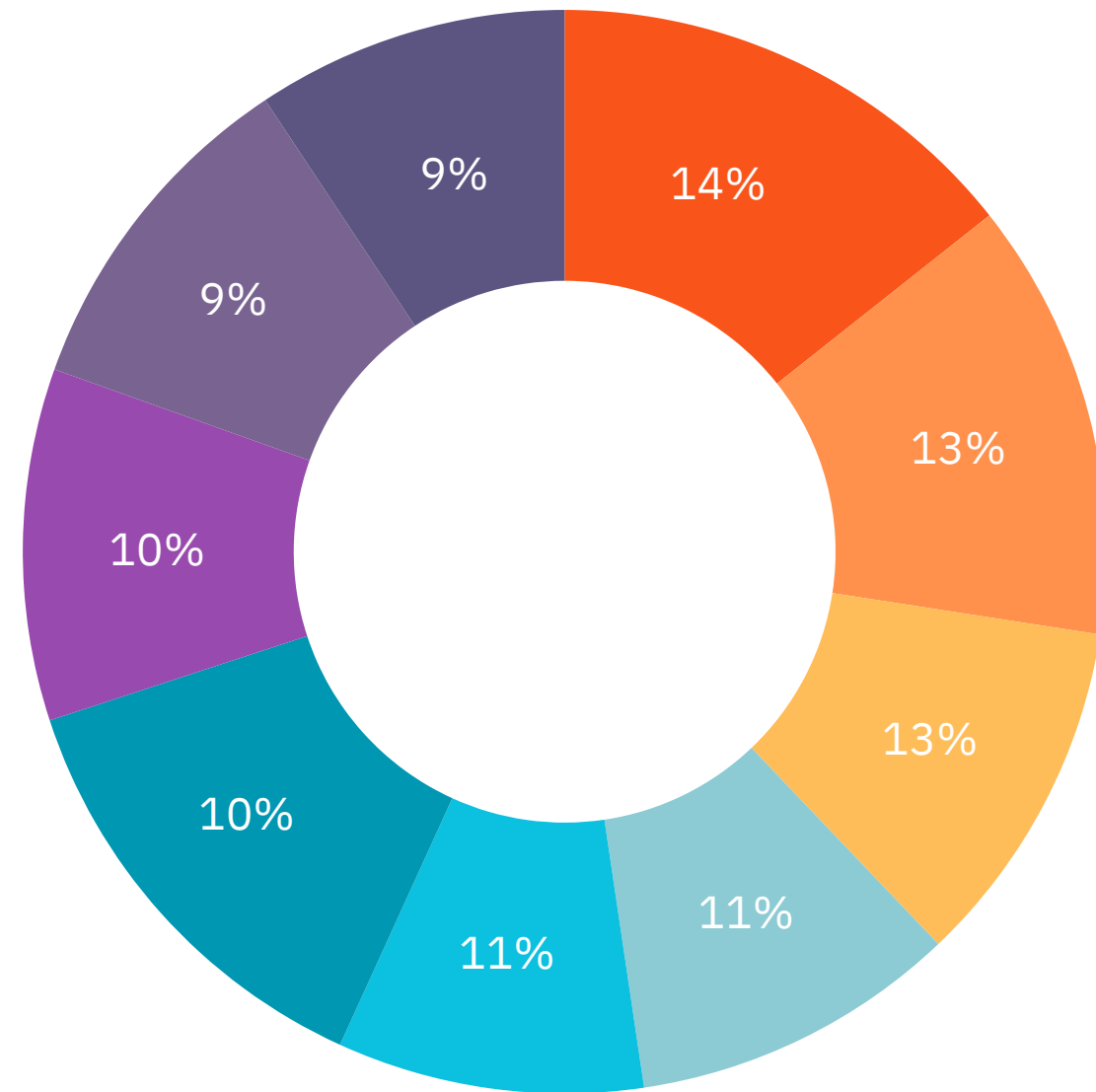
“

Kids from this area to be able to afford to buy their own homes at affordable prices.

“

I would say Stopfordians are accepting of new ways and that Edgeley has a strong community spirit - it is one of the last breed of authentic communities you are going to get anywhere else!

3. What are the main things we should be thinking about as we develop the plans?

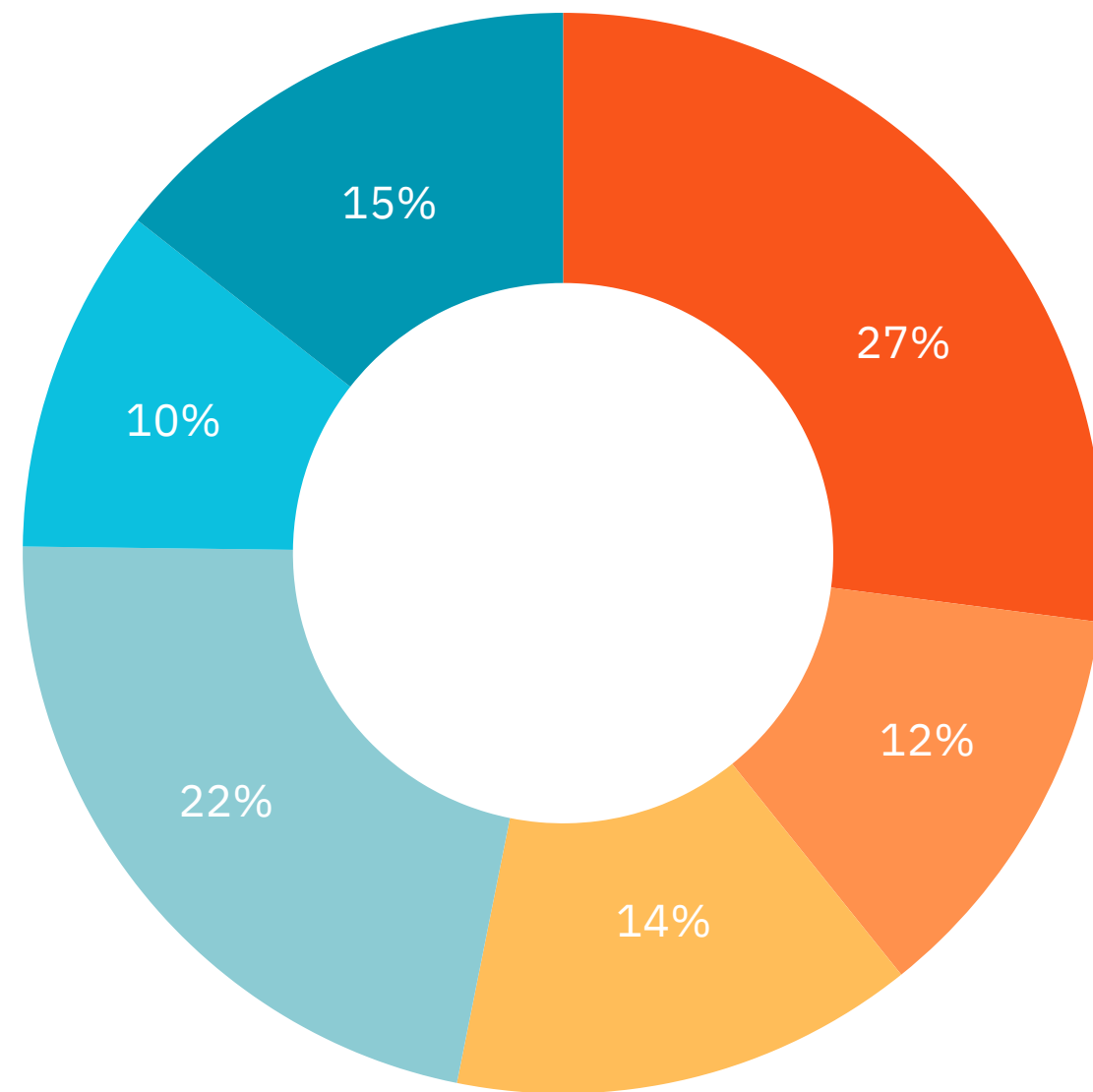


- Complementing Stockport's character/ heritage (254)
- Sustainable transport links (232)
- Design & layout of buildings (185)
- Inclusive development with something for everyone (173)
- Green & outdoor space (162)
- Community facilities (233)
- Improving health & wellbeing (186)
- Housing types & choices (181)
- The environment & climate change (165)

OTHER COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

- Some decent shops
- Tram line
- Infrastructure to cater for new population
- Cycle paths
- No charity shops, vapes, Greggs, or nail bars.
- More spaces for outdoor sports and activities
- Youth services
- Space for dogs
- Independent shops
- Bars
- Restaurants
- Well maintained walkways
- Market
- Doctors
- Dentists
- Affordable and Social housing
- Street lighting
- Business hub
- Parking spaces
- Disability access
- Safety measures
- No pavement parking

4. What kind of housing do you think Stockport needs?



Affordable homes (206)

Homes that enable downsizing (93)

Specialist older-persons accommodation (106)

Homes suitable for first-time buyers (168)

Larger family homes (79)

Apartments suitable for a range of age groups (110)

OTHER COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

- Housing on a human scale not tower blocks
- All older/empty buildings should be turned into new flats before building new homes
- Apartments with balconies or rooftop garden common areas
- Single bed homes that aren't noisy flats stacked up on each other
- Social housing
- Housing Association houses and flats
- Homes with parking
- Energy efficient homes
- More bungalows and housing that allows pets
- Adaptable for those with disabilities
- Supportive housing for homeless people

5. We're planning outdoor spaces for people to meet and for things like markets, food festivals and live events. What would you like to see?

The comments below show the most common responses to the question.

Most popular suggestions

Live music/event spaces (52)

Picnic areas/outdoor spaces/seating areas (42)

Planting/trees/green spaces (31)

More shops/improved market (30)

Food/drink festivals/events (27)

All of the above (22)

Variety of spaces for all ages/mixed use (14)

Youth spaces/events (12)

Ensure high quality and maintenance (10)

Safe walking routes/safe spaces/security (10)

Improved access via public transport (7)

Independent retail (6)

Grocers/butchers/fish mongers (6)

Pop up event spaces (5)

Better pubs/bars (4)

Arts/crafts (4)

Outdoor eating area (4)

Pilates/yoga/dance spaces (4)

Not at the expense of existing parks (3)

Health & wellbeing spaces (3)

Sport events (3)

Makers/farmers market (3)

Antiques markets (2)

Outdoor gym equipment (2)

Heritage markets (2)

Flower/planter market (2)

OTHER COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS (ALL SINGULAR RESPONSES)

Water features

Leisure facilities

Events/activities for ethnic minorities

More high street shops

Open air cinema

Nature/sustainability focused events

Better access to defibrillators

Improved access via car parking

Schools

Ensure locally sourced products/businesses

International food vendors

No smoking areas

Retain existing community buildings

Allotment spaces

Green energy solutions

Multi-use/pop up spaces

6. Is there anything else you would like to see?

The comments below show the most common responses to the question.

Popular comments

Community hub/youth services/mental health services (22)

- Health care facilities (20)
- More trees/planting/green spaces/landscaping/living walls (15)
- Shops (13)
- Improve local infrastructure (10)
- Places to eat and drink (9)
- Active travel routes (9)
- More car parking facilities (8)
- Better transport links (7)
- Arts/craft spaces (7)
- Affordable rates for new shops (7)
- Independent retail (6)
- More affordable homes (5)
- Metrolink station (5)
- Recreational/play areas (5)
- Well-lit/safe walking areas (5)
- More police presence (5)
- Everything must be affordable for all (5)
- More conservation of heritage buildings (3)
- Allotment/community garden (3)

OTHER COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

- Dance/fitness classes (2)
- No increase in traffic (2)
- More repurposing of older sites (2)
- Spaces for small/artisan businesses (2)
- Music/live event spaces (2)
- Green grocers/butchers/bakers (2)
- Ensure long-term maintenance (2)
- Community event spaces (2)
- Multi-use/pop up spaces (2)
- Outdoor seating areas (2)
- Sport/leisure facilities (2)
- A more integrated community (1)
- More investment in Stockport precinct (1)
- More late-night venues (1)
- Improved security (1)
- Open air cinema (1)
- Less office spaces (1)
- Museum (1)
- Outdoor gyms (1)
- Family sized housing (1)
- Bungalows (1)
- Varied religious spaces (1)
- Retain existing community buildings (1)
- A lido (1)
- Green energy solutions (1)
- Amazon lockers (1)
- A Post Office (1)
- Private residents parking (1)
- A new taxi rank (1)
- Roof top bar (1)
- Water feature (1)
- Co-working space (1)
- Yoga/pilates/dance studio (1)
- No smoking areas (1)

STOCKPORT 8

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