



## Groundbreaking Bletchley & Fenny

### Questionnaire Survey Feedback Summary

Thank you to everyone who has made comments on the questionnaire survey – you’ve told us so much about the things you like in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford, as well as what could be done to improve the appearance and fortunes of the area.

This summary report sets out the key findings from the survey responses.



### What have you told us?

Theme: Urban Regeneration, Planning and Land Use	
<b>Strengths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ‘Small town’ feel – friendly and self-contained, providing something different from Central Milton Keynes, and a place where people like to shop locally with a number of independent shops and businesses.</li> <li>▪ Different character areas across the Town Deal area including older areas with attractive buildings. Some older buildings in Fenny.</li> <li>▪ Queensway – wide pavements, attractive, tree-lined shopping area.</li> <li>▪ A good range of local facilities – library, shops, health services, nursery.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor quality of public realm (Bletchley especially) – littering, poorly maintained roads and parking areas.</li> <li>▪ Feels unsafe and unwelcoming.</li> <li>▪ Empty buildings - the old Pollards in Fenny and the Co-op building in Bletchley.</li> <li>▪ Lack of diversity in the retail offer - references to too many charity shops, nail bars etc. Lack of healthy food options.</li> <li>▪ The closure of Sainsburys will have a significant impact on the area and on people’s ability to access relatively healthy food.</li> <li>▪ The Brunel Centre building closes off views to Queensway from the railway station to the west - Queensway is hidden.</li> <li>▪ Pressure from developers to redevelop existing buildings for residential use in Bletchley town centre which would further reduce the diversity and variety of the offer.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Invest in Bletchley town centre to improve maintenance and the quality of the environment; landscaping in Queensway and create a space for community events and a regular market.</li> <li>▪ Address car parking – enforce illegal parking and plan for more car parks, especially if the Sainsburys store car park is lost.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reuse/redevelop empty buildings for new uses – creative industries/ innovation hub or incubator space for start-ups.</li> <li>Improve signage in both Bletchley (especially to public conveniences) and Fenny Stratford – signs to area from the A5 and from the canal to encourage visitors.</li> <li>Redevelopment opportunity around the Brunel Centre.</li> </ul>
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### Theme: Skills and Enterprise

<b>Strengths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good local businesses such as Fenny Kitchen and the Chequers; Fabric World, Butchers, Green Grocers. Local run cafes.</li> <li>Its independence from Milton Keynes plus there is car parking in Bletchley high street which is important for its success and survival.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent companies not able to afford rents in the main high street area.</li> <li>Lack of jobs and help for people that need it most, homelessness, alcoholics and drug users.</li> <li>Lack of support for local start-up businesses in town.</li> <li>Better training /back to work opportunities, youth clubs/services, cycle routes.</li> <li>Poverty, lack of jobs at all levels.</li> <li>Limited digital connections and training - Issue is with digital poverty – inability to access broadband and lack of skills.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support/funding for local start up business opportunities.</li> <li>More youth opportunities and places for young people to meet, access services and gain skills.</li> <li>improvement to public libraries.</li> <li>Providing opportunities and aspirations for local families through volunteering, training, employing parents in school hours, empowering people.</li> <li>A Community/Adult Learning Centre - a place to go for advice and learn skills (digital, financial). Somewhere local for people to enrol in courses from fitting a plug to computer literacy.</li> </ul>

### Theme: Connectivity – local transport and digital

<b>Strengths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good connectivity to rail and roads.</li> <li>Proximity to the railway station.</li> <li>Convenience of local amenities, green spaces, train station that can take you to MK north, Bedford and south to London and beyond, broadband and AI deliveries (nowhere else in the UK can match it).</li> <li>Easy links to the remainder of MK.</li> <li>Bletchley public transport is already very good though it would be nice to have a decent bus stop rather than the present wind tunnel.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital poverty – inability to access broadband and lack of skills.</li> <li>Fenny Stratford – run more frequent train services from here and run later into the evening. More digital displays at Fenny Stratford station.</li> <li>Entrance roads on Newton Leys Willow Lake side need to be adopted – 6 years on and still not completed.</li> <li>Working from home has highlighted just how bad the internet connections are here</li> <li>Need for better redways and more cycling lanes. Access to the redways is still very poor and prevents commuting to MK for work. Connecting Newton Leys to central</li> </ul>

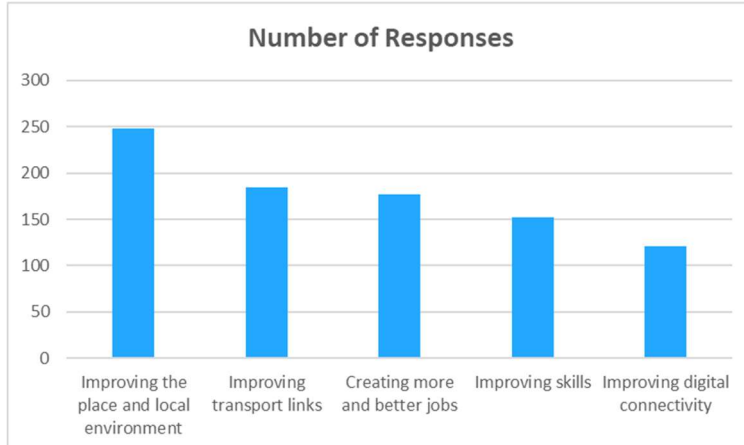
	<p>Bletchley/Bletchley Station with a cycle path through the Blue Lagoon would be good for commuters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not enough parking since the multi-storey was knocked down meaning people shop elsewhere.</li> <li>▪ Enforce parking regulations, targeting those who park on footpaths and yellow lines</li> <li>▪ Poor bus connectivity.</li> <li>▪ Dangerous to cycle round the area at present.</li> <li>▪ Improve access to the railway station - an east facing station with a foot bridge to the bus station is so important as a connection between the bus station and east west railway.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ East West Rail.</li> <li>▪ Improved access to redways network.</li> <li>▪ Bus routes that take people to industrial areas as well as/instead of shopping areas. Most industrial estates are impossible to get to by public transport especially at the times required for shift work.</li> <li>▪ Faster Broadband.</li> <li>▪ To create a safe "off Road" route for walkers and cyclists for leisure and access to schools and town centre - this should join existing Rights of Way to allow access to adjoining villages and the MK network. Also to include horse riders around the periphery of Bletchley so riders can access the Bucks and Milton Keynes network of Bridleways.</li> <li>▪ Redesigned railway station to provide an exit on the town centre side.</li> <li>▪ A public transport hub in Fenny Stratford where nearly all buses stop. This should have a sign that advises next buses and where they go but also the next trains from Fenny Stratford train station.</li> <li>▪ Improved cross-Bletchley bus journeys – reduce the need to change.</li> </ul>

Theme: Culture & Heritage	
<b>Strengths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The green open spaces, the trees, the plentiful play parks.</li> <li>▪ Canal walks.</li> <li>▪ Bletchley Park on the doorstep – the history of the area is something that many people are proud of.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blue Lagoon suffers from littering and some anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Signposting: Large numbers of tourists go along the canal but there is nothing to publicise Fenny as a good stopping place / watering hole. The 'Welcome to Bletchley' signs at some entrances to Fenny are a massive own goal and should have been removed or replaced years ago. There should be a sign on Queensway to show where both Bletchley and Fenny start and finish.</li> <li>▪ Create green spaces where people can relax, children can play safely.</li> <li>▪ Invest in the Blue Lagoon Nature Reserve to improve facilities and encourage residents to take better pride in it.</li> <li>▪ There should be heritage boards in both towns. We have something most of MK doesn't and that is history.</li> <li>▪ More facilities for young people that are affordable.</li> <li>▪ More social community events to build bridges in the wonderfully diverse community. Events like the canal festival, Fenny Poppers and West Bletchley carnival are fantastic there needs to be more of this.</li> <li>▪ Make more of the canal and the health &amp; wellbeing opportunities it offers</li> <li>▪ Invest in culture &amp; heritage to nurture the community &amp; present a distinctive character to the wider area.</li> </ul>

## Survey Data

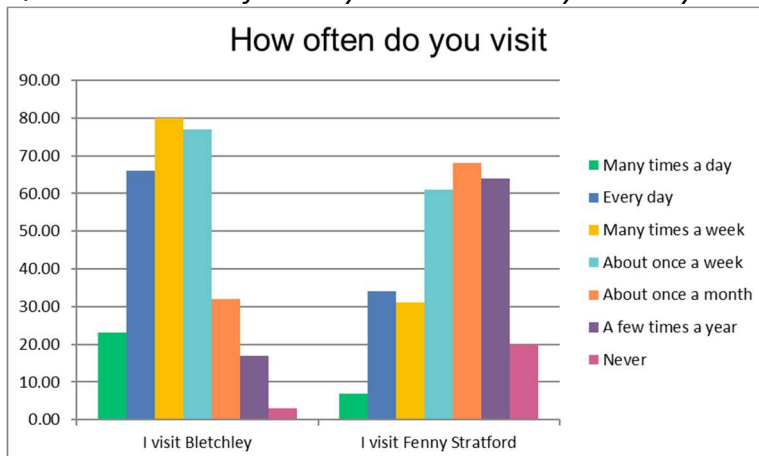
Survey data was collected between 18<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 via SurveyMonkey. A total of 320 responses were received. Questions 1-3 were free-text fields.

*Question 4: What should the Town Deal bid focus on in the areas set by Government?*



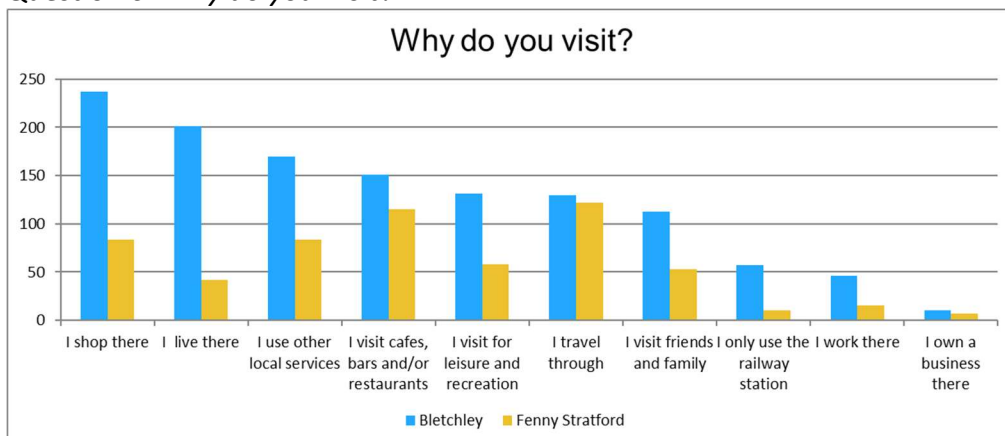
281 Answers, 39 Skipped the question

*Question 5: How often do you visit Bletchley or Fenny Stratford?*



299 Answers, 31 Skipped the question

*Question 6: Why do you Visit?*



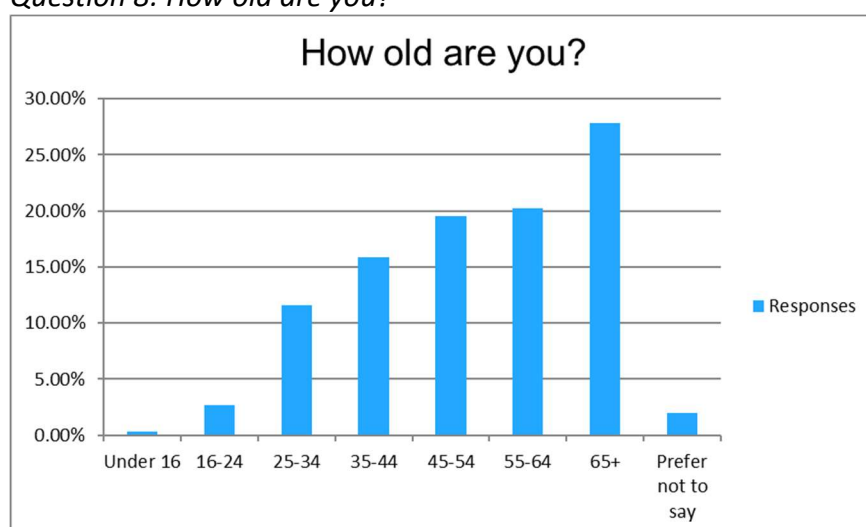
302 Answers, 18 Skipped the question

**Question 7: What would encourage you to come to the town centres more often?**



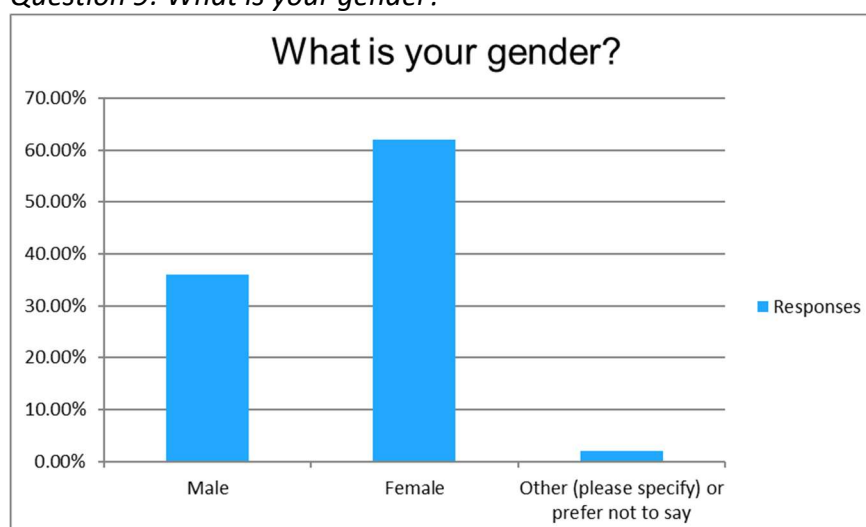
315 Answers, 5 Skipped the question

**Question 8: How old are you?**



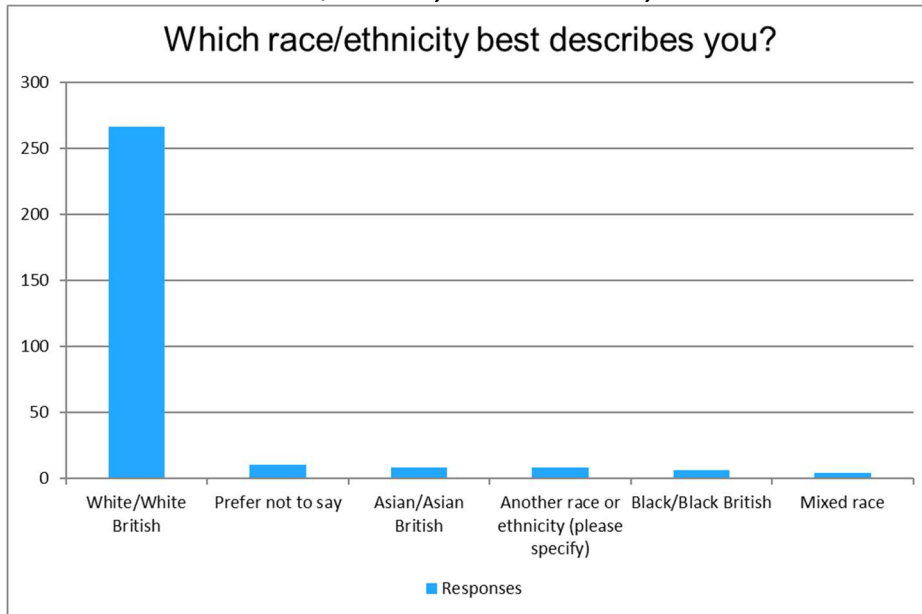
302 Answers, 18 Skipped the question

**Question 9: What is your gender?**



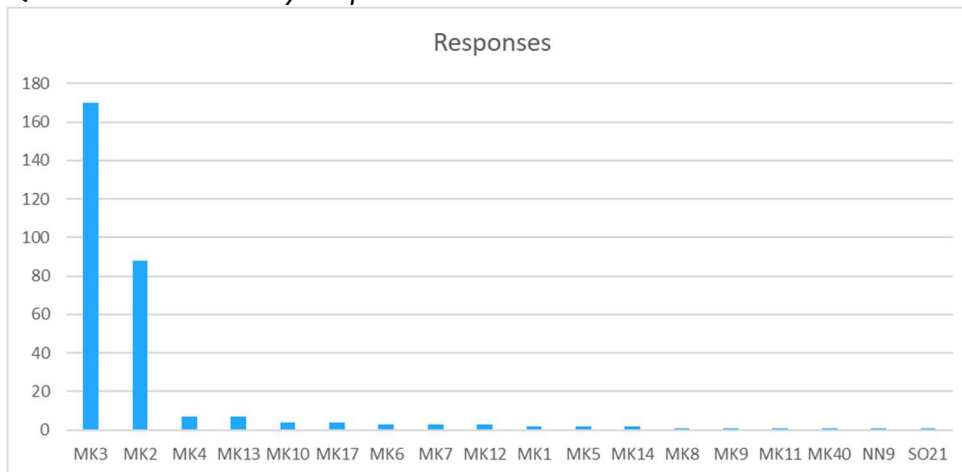
302 Answers, 18 Skipped the question

**Question 10: Which race/ethnicity best describes you?**



302 Answers, 18 Skipped the question

**Question 11: What is your postcode**



301 Answers, 19 Skipped the question