



Horsham
District
Council

Better Billingshurst

Community Fund and Investment Programme

Public Consultation Report

December 2025

(updated for publication in March 2026)

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Background

For some time, the Council has been working with Billingshurst Parish Council and local community groups on possible improvements for the area, as part of the Billingshurst Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) published in 2017. Billingshurst Parish Council also identified infrastructure needs through the extensive work undertaken to prepare the Billingshurst Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Together, these workstreams have helped the Council create an initial list of projects for the Better Billingshurst Community Fund and Investment Programme.

For an in-depth introduction to the Programme, further details on the project development process, and each individual potential project, please see the Better Billingshurst Background Report.

Early Stakeholder Engagement

To ensure that the initial list of projects was robust and represented the wider needs and aspirations of the community, the Council conducted some early stakeholder engagement in 2024. Surveys were circulated to a wide range of community groups in Billingshurst as well as students and parents / carers at The Weald Community School and Sixth Form and Billingshurst Primary Academy. The objective was to test the pre-existing list of projects, assess which categories of projects were priorities for different groups, as well as identify other potential projects of interest to the community.

These surveys received over 80 responses and were important in further developing the Council's understanding of the scope of potential improvement projects. In addition to this, a number of additional projects were suggested, some of which were subsequently assessed and added to the list of projects.

For a summary of the Community Groups and Schools Consultation Feedback, please see Appendices A and B. This feedback also contributed to the Council deciding to create a Community Grant to fund local initiatives. In addition to providing vital feedback, the survey initiated new conversations with various stakeholders and a further development of the list of potential infrastructure projects.

As well as circulating the survey to their school communities, the local schools were very helpful in assisting the Council with understanding the views of young people in Billingshurst. Members of the School Council at The Weald surveyed their fellow classmates and teachers at Billingshurst Primary Academy held sessions with their students. The feedback from these sessions provided vital insight as to the priorities of young people in Billingshurst and contributed to the development of the additional projects for open spaces and recreation areas.

Fair Space Task and Finish Group

In July 2023, The Fair Space Task and Finish Group formed to consider whether policies relating to the provision of outdoor space and leisure facilities should be reviewed based on sex-based equality and inclusivity. The group held focus groups with young people throughout the District, including engagement with students at The Weald and a survey asking for young people to provide feedback on the existing leisure provision was also undertaken. On 21 May 2025 Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:

I. The themes and principles in Appendix C are developed by officers into design guidance to assist in discussions with local developers

II. Horsham District Council Play Strategy and Open Space, Sports & Recreation Non-Technical Summary are updated to better reflect the needs of young people in the district, particularly girls and young women

III. A request for a new teenager's play/leisure facility, which is built with gender equity in mind, is considered for inclusion in the Horsham District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan

In addition to this, the Council has adopted an Annual Plan Objective for 2025/2026 to *Improve access to sports for under-represented groups: Review and revise policies relating to planning of, and investment in outdoor leisure and play facilities to improve accessibility, especially for women and girls.*

Feedback from Billingshurst residents which was gathered through the Outdoor Space and Leisure Facilities Survey and input from The Weald focus group, has been considered alongside insights from the Early Stakeholder Engagement in developing proposals for additional open space and recreation projects.

Public Consultation

Consultation Objectives

The Public Consultation survey was developed collaboratively by officers, members and stakeholders to gather the views of residents and those with an interest in Billingshurst to understand which of the potential projects the community would most like to see delivered and why. The consultation ran for a four-week period from 23 June - 21 July 2025.

On 25 June 2025 Cabinet agreed the Governance Arrangements for the Better Billingshurst Infrastructure Development Fund which are designed to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure projects are brought forward and the fund is spent wisely. Further details on these arrangements can be found on the Council's website¹.

In accordance with the governance arrangements, the consultation feedback within this report will form an important part of the decision-making process and will be shared with the members of the Spending Panel along with the Background Report, information relating to potential revenue costs and the scores from the Project Prioritisation Matrices.

It is important to note that whilst some potential improvements included in the consultation may not be deliverable at this time, the information gathered through the work undertaken to date is expected to help shape future decision making. It is also important to note that this consultation has not been designed to act as a referendum on the projects but the feedback will form an important part of the wider decision-making process.

Survey Design

Closed Questions were included in the consultation to capture detailed quantitative feedback, suitable for analysis.

A large proportion of the survey was formed with the individual project importance rating questions (Questions 3-7). These questions were designed to capture feedback on every project from each respondent, providing a large sample of high-quality data suitable for data analysis. In combination with the demographic information and interest in Billingshurst data captured in questions 1 and 2 we are able to see which projects were important to different groups. Individual projects were grouped into five broad infrastructure improvement areas e.g. "community facilities". The theme importance ranking question (Question 8) enabled us to establish which themes were important and to whom.

Open-ended Questions were used to enable the collection of qualitative feedback and to understand the more detailed, expansive responses that cannot be conveyed in quantitative questions.

¹ [Governance Arrangements for the Better Billingshurst Infrastructure Development Fund, Horsham District Council.](#)

Questions 9 and 10 were designed to enable collection of explanatory feedback on the project importance rating and theme importance ranking questions, helping us understand the reasoning behind responses. An open textbox for other additional comments was also included.

For a complete copy of the public consultation questionnaire please see [Appendix C](#).

Participant Reach

A detailed Communications Plan was developed to capture a large and representative sample of respondents from the survey.

Flyers and posters were distributed to;

- Billingshurst Community & Conference Centre
- The Depot (Parish Council-run community facility in Billingshurst)
- Billingshurst Community Partnership (for sub-distribution to various community groups)
- Billingshurst Sports and Recreation Association
- Billingshurst Library
- Billingshurst Neighbourhood Wardens
- Billingshurst Primary Academy

Publicity material was sent to the following organisations to share through their social media and digital channels, encouraging viral marketing of the consultation:

- Billingshurst Parish Council
- Billingshurst Community Partnership (for sub-distribution to various community groups)
- Billingshurst Sports and Recreation Association
- Billingshurst Library
- Billingshurst Neighbourhood Wardens
- Billingshurst Primary Academy (included in their weekly newsletter several times)
- The Weald Community School and Sixth Form (included in the headteacher's message home and internal student email)
- Horsham District Council Digital Communications

Local Magazine Publications

- **Village Tweet** (July 2025 issue): Delivered to over 9,000 homes in Billingshurst and surrounding villages w/c 23 June 2025 and published online
- **Billingshurst Pages** (June/July 2025 issue): Delivered to over 11,000 homes in Billingshurst and surrounding villages w/c 2 June 2025 and published online
- **Our District** (July 2025 issue): Horsham District Council magazine distributed to over 66,500 households across the District

Facebook advertising through HDC Channels: 510 link clicks recorded

Effectiveness

A total of 769 responses were received, which equates to approximately 7% of the total number of people living in Billingshurst Parish. This is considered a good response and is in line with previous Council-run consultations. The consultation also had a high completion rate, with 57% of visitors to the consultation page completing the survey.

Respondents to the consultation tended to be older, with the largest age group being 40-59 years (48%), followed by 25-39 years (23%) and 60+ (23%). Whilst there was a lack of responses from respondents aged 24 and under with only 7% of respondents in this category, this is in line with other public consultations undertaken by the Council and despite direct promotion of the survey through The Weald School. To account for the older respondent bias, age-based analysis has been undertaken and is presented as part of this report.

Key Findings

The consultation attracted **769** completed responses. Respondents were **predominantly Billingshurst residents** (89%), with the remainder working locally, representing organisations, or having other connections to the area. Of the 78 respondents that represented organisations, the majority were from Billingshurst Football Club (36) Billingshurst Cricket Club (8), or their umbrella organisation, the Billingshurst Sports and Recreation Association (5). The rest were from various community groups and local organisations.

Across all respondents, there was a clear consensus on the top investment priorities:

- **Sports Facilities was the highest prioritised theme**, with strong calls for upgrades at Jubilee Fields including changing room upgrades for women and girls' football, pavilion replacement or refurbishment, as well as drainage improvements and provision of a 3G pitch. Leisure Centre improvements were also popular.
- **Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation was the second highest prioritised theme**, with the addition of a play area at Jubilee Fields receiving the most support followed by some other play improvements receiving moderate support.
- **Community Facilities was the third most popular theme**, a new two-storey Jubilee Fields Pavilion was by far the most popular suggestion in this category. All other projects under this subheading received minimal support.
- **Sustainable Travel and Movement ranked fourth in the themes**, with improved active travel links to Jubilee Fields, Five Oaks, and along Natts Lane receiving moderate support.
- **Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements was the lowest priority theme**, though a proposed car park to the rear of the High Street and vehicular link between Sainsbury's and Jengers Mead car parks drew notable support.

Demographic analysis showed:

- Residents and organisations both rated Sports Facilities highest, whereas those working in Billingshurst ranked Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation at the top.
- All age groups rated Sports Facilities the highest, although younger residents did to a greater extent.
- Older residents tended to place more emphasis on Community Facilities than younger residents.
- Sustainable Travel and Movement schemes were generally more popular with those who work as opposed to those who live in Billingshurst. Older residents also tended to prefer these schemes, with the exception of the Jubilee Fields link, which was more popular with younger residents.

- Younger respondents tended to rate recreation improvements more highly, whereas older residents were more in favour of additional Allotments / Community Garden Space, as well as a Memorial or Burial Ground.

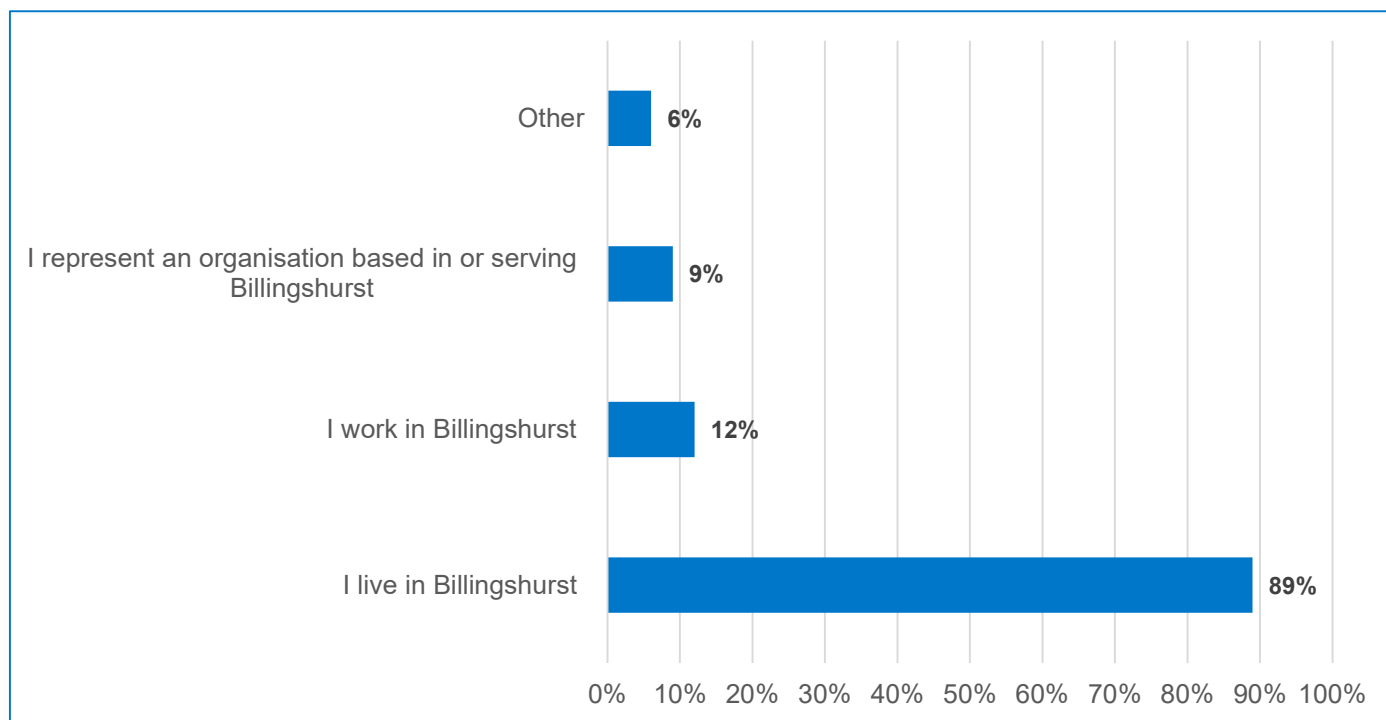
Qualitative feedback showed:

- Jubilee Fields is seen as central to Billingshurst's Sports and Recreation offer but requires significant investment.
- Walking and cycling safety both around and to the village was a recurring concern, along with traffic issues.
- Respondents emphasised the importance of providing accessible outdoor spaces for physical and mental health, as well as suitable recreation and play provision for children of all ages.
- Upgrades to Community Facilities, as well as provision of additional facilities for all ages, were requested. These facilities are viewed as important community hubs.
- Some respondents thought parking provision could be made more accessible and was too expensive.
- Residents were keen to see investment in the village considering the significant housing development.

Respondent Profile

Respondents were asked their interest in Billingshurst. They were presented with the following options and were asked to select all that apply:

- I live in Billingshurst
- I work in Billingshurst
- I represent an organisation based in or serving Billingshurst.
- Other



Respondents who selected “I represent an organisation...” were asked to specify which organisation. The survey received 79 responses from people representing local organisations, as follows:

(Note: some respondents belonged to multiple organisations)

Organisation	No. of comments
Billingshurst Football Club (incl. “FC”, “BFC”, “play for the football club”, “Football Club”, “Football”)	36
Billingshurst Cricket Club	8
Billingshurst Sports and Recreation Association (BSRA, “sports and social club”)	5
St Mary’s Church (includes “St Mary’s Billingshurst”, “St Mary’s Church Wednesday Group”)	4
Billingshurst Parish Council	3
Billingshurst Youth Football Club	3
Billingshurst Bowling Club	2
Dauxwood Pre-School	2
Horsham District Council	2
The Women’s Hall, Billingshurst	2
Billingshurst Scouts	2
Billingshurst Community Partnership	1
Billingshurst Community Transport	1
Friends of Station Road Gardens	1

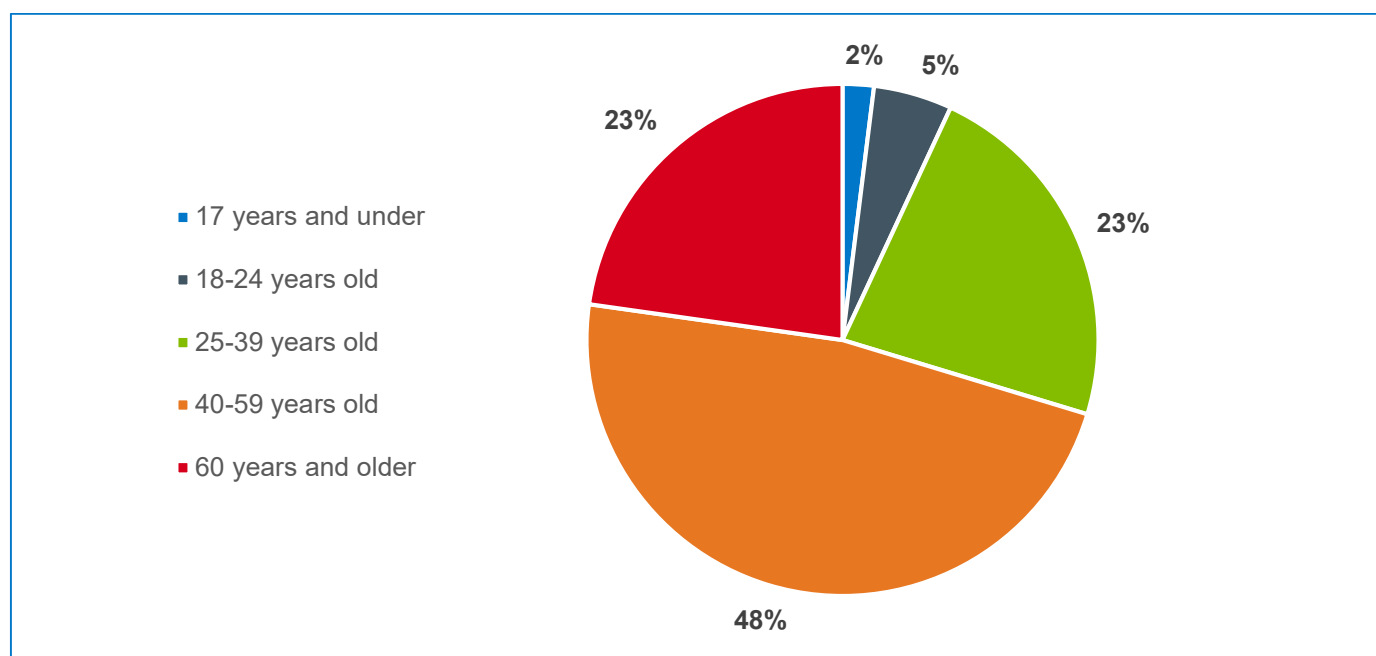
Organisation	No. of comments
Sussex Cricket League	1
Change-management consultancy	1
Billingshurst Family Church	1
Romans Rugby Union Football Club	1
AJW Group	1
Baby Zone	1
Billingshurst Community Minibus	1

Similarly, respondents who selected 'Other' were also asked to explain their interest. This received 49 comments. Most describe personal or family ties to Billingshurst or nearby villages and regular use of its shops, schools and facilities. Many also mention sports and fitness activities, especially football and bowls.

Respondents were then asked to select their age group from the following:

- 60 years and older
- 40-59 years old
- 25-39 years old
- 18-24 years old
- 17 years and under

The below graph details the age of respondents:



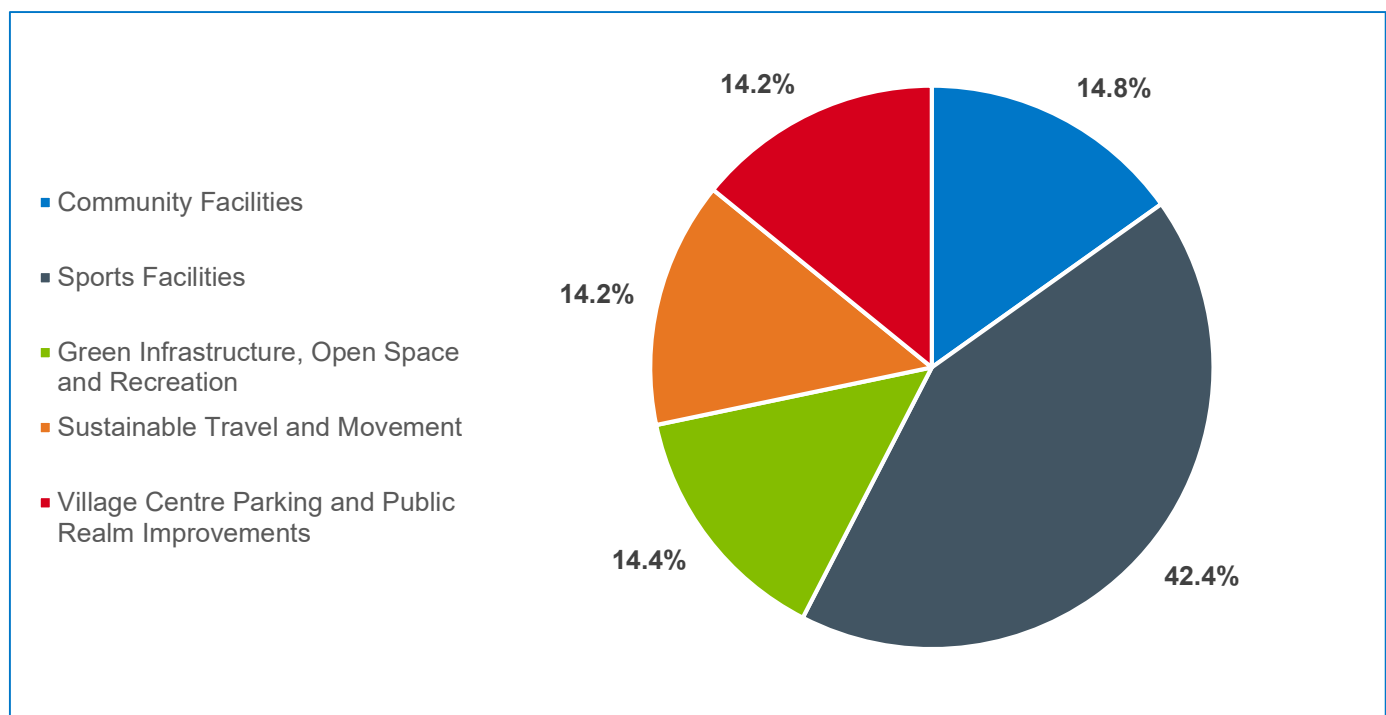
Themes

Respondents were asked to rank five themes from 1 (highest priority) to 5 (lowest priority) to help the Council understand where investment was favoured.

Across all respondents, the average priority ranking of investment areas from highest to lowest was:

1. Sports Facilities (average position 2.55)
2. Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation (average position 2.62)
3. Community Facilities (average position 2.87)
4. Sustainable Travel and Movement (average position 3.31)
5. Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements (average position 3.64)

Sports Facilities emerged as the clear top priority: 42.4% of respondents placed it first, more than twice as many as the next category (Community Facilities at 14.8%). The below graph shows what percentage of respondents ranked each theme as their highest priority.



Trends by Demographics

Age

While all age groups ranked Sports Facilities first and Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements last, there were slight shifts in the order of other themes as per the below table.

Age Group	1 st Priority	2 nd Priority	3 rd Priority	4 th Priority	5 th Priority
60+	Sports Facilities	Community Facilities	Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Sustainable Travel and Movement	Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements
40-59	Sports Facilities	Green infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Sustainable Travel and Movement	Community Facilities	Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements
25-39	Sports Facilities	Sustainable Travel and Movement	Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Community Facilities	Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements
18-24	Sports Facilities	Sustainable Travel and Movement	Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Community Facilities	Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements
17 and under	Sports Facilities	Green infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Sustainable Travel and Movement	Community Facilities	Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements

Interest in Billingshurst

Respondents also differed slightly based on their connection to Billingshurst as per the below table.

Interest Type	1 st Priority	2 nd Priority	3 rd Priority	4 th Priority	5 th Priority
Live in Billingshurst	Sports Facilities	Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Community Facilities	Sustainable Travel and Movement	Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements
Work in Billingshurst	Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Community Facilities	Sports Facilities	Sustainable Travel and Movement	Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements
Represent an organisation	Sports Facilities	Community Facilities	Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Sustainable Travel and Movement	Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements
Other	Sports Facilities	Community Facilities	Sustainable Travel and Movement	Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements

Residents and organisational representatives tended to prioritise Sports Facilities most highly, while those who work in Billingshurst put the greatest emphasis on Green Infrastructure, Open Space and Recreation.

Why have you ranked your priorities as you have?

After ranking the five themes from 1 (highest) to 5 (lowest), 346 respondents (45% of respondents) provided optional comments explaining their rationale. Below is a summary of what motivated respondents to choose each area as the top priority.

While the survey asked “why” respondents ranked their priorities as they did, many comments blended their rationale with specific project suggestions. These suggestions have been included in the analysis below.

Theme	No. of Comments	Comment Summary
Sports Facilities	139	Comments stressed that Billingshurst’s sports facilities at Jubilee Fields require improvement. Respondents point out that poor drainage renders pitches unusable for long periods in the winter and the facilities do not adequately support Women’s and Girls’ sport. The clubhouse and cricket nets are in poor condition, and limited parking and toilets hamper accessibility and convenience. An all-weather 3G/4G floodlit pitch was a common request. Respondents emphasised the importance of sport in supporting physical and mental wellbeing across all age groups and promoting community cohesion. Club members note frequent match cancellations and displaced training sessions, which frustrate volunteers and hamper local teams’ growth. Alongside the pitch and pavilion upgrade, some respondents called for padel courts, outdoor gym equipment and children’s play areas. Several comments called for improved additional changing facilities as well as exterior clubhouse works. Some respondents called for upgrading the Leisure Centre and Bowling Club pavilion. A handful of comments urged that planting, solar panels and better environmental design be incorporated into any sports facility upgrades.
Community Facilities	46	Comments called for upgrades to existing facilities to enhance community function, particularly the Jubilee Fields pavilion, as well as the Billingshurst Centre, Women’s Hall and St Mary’s Church. Respondents highlighted the importance of community facilities to the wellbeing and cohesion of the village, especially considering the recent housing growth. Community Facilities enable childcare, elderly care, community and musical groups to function, and need to be supported. Some respondents called for cheaper hiring rates, others requested additional space. Many respondents found there was a lack of options for young people to socialise and suggested creating a new youth-focused facility. Other respondents requested additional community facilities and groups for older residents.

Theme	No. of Comments	Comment Summary
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	45	Green spaces were viewed as important for the physical and mental wellbeing of the community. There was a consensus that play and recreation areas are crucial for children and young people. Several respondents found anti-social behaviour to be an issue in the village, many suggested there is a lack of engaging outdoor spaces for older children and teenagers. The green sheltered seating area at Station Road Community Gardens was highlighted as a problem. Green spaces would benefit from improvements to accessibility and functionality including additional seating, picnic benches and connections between areas. Respondents supported replacing or repairing outdated play equipment and provide a wider variety of equipment. New equipment should be easily accessible and usable in winter too. Jubilee Fields was frequently recognised as a key green space used by much of the community. Additional leisure and recreation uses were suggested. Respondents were more in favour of larger green spaces than smaller. Some requested a nature park. Southwater Country Park was referenced as a good model for green infrastructure provision.
Sustainable Travel and Movement	59	Comments cite the importance of safe and continuous footpaths and cycleways to promote active travel in Billingshurst. The crossing under the bridge by Natts Lane was frequently noted to be dangerous, respondents called for formal crossings, widened pavements, better lighting and dropped kerbs in order to improve this. This is a frequent route to school and seen as a key area to improve. Residents highlighted that the dangerous narrow footpath to Five Oaks deters walking or cycling and they called for improved active travel links to Jubilee Fields. Many respondents also intertwined their rationale with green infrastructure, a number acknowledged the value of open spaces for walking and general recreation and suggested linking these improvements with enhanced pedestrian and cycling routes, particularly safer crossings by the Natts Lane railway bridge and new footpaths to estates. Footpaths and public rights of way are seen as dangerous in some areas for residents with limited mobility. Marringdean Road is also perceived to be hazardous due to the lack of joined up pavements on the busy street. Some comments called for network of illuminated walking and cycling routes, separated from main roads that connect homes to facilities. Other respondents asked for dedicated cycle lanes on quieter roads and safe pedestrian-priority zones in the High Street.

Theme	No. of Comments	Comment Summary
Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements	57	There was a clear consensus that the privately owned Jengers Mead Car Park is disliked by residents, with some questioning the operation of the car park and calling for a Council-takeover. Other respondents commented on the high price of parking and requested free or subsidised short-stay bays. Several people were of the view that this could boost footfall and support local businesses. Alongside parking costs, uneven, narrow or missing footways in and around the car parks were seen as an issue. Pedestrianising or semi-pedestrianising parts of the High Street was also suggested. Some comments describe the public realm as outdated with planters in Jengers Mead and the Library Car Park needing replacement as well as improved landscaping. Public realm improvements such as electric vehicle charging points, cycle racks, improved lighting and CCTV were also requested.

Projects

The survey asked residents to rate the importance of the 38 potential projects that were presented in the public consultation. These projects were grouped into five thematic categories:

- Community Facilities
- Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation
- Sports Facilities
- Sustainable Travel and Movement
- Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements

Projects by Respondent Priority

The table below ranks all 38 proposed projects, calculating the average score based on the following scoring system:

Very Important = 5 points

Important = 4 Points

Neutral = 3 points

Not Important = 2 points

Very Unimportant = 1 point

This method is designed to reflect both the strength of respondent support and any corresponding lack of support, ensuring projects with broad backing rank higher than those with mixed or negative responses.

Theme	Project	Score	Overall Rank
Sports Facilities	Changing room upgrades to provide for women and girls at Jubilee Fields	4.08	1
Community Facilities	Provision of a new two-storey pavilion at Jubilee Fields to replace the existing clubhouse and provide an additional community meeting space	3.88	2
Sports Facilities	General refurbishment of Jubilee Fields pavilion (including roof repairs, solar panels to improve energy efficiency, and redecoration and repair)	3.87	3
Sports Facilities	Drainage and natural grass pitch improvements at Jubilee Fields	3.82	4
Sports Facilities	Small facility to serve the top pitches at Jubilee Fields to include toilets and changing facilities	3.81	5
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Improved walking and cycling links to Jubilee Fields	3.78	6
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Create a new play area at Jubilee Fields	3.71	7
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Improve walking and cycling from Five Oaks to Billingshurst parallel to the A29	3.69	8
Sports Facilities	Improvements to Billingshurst Leisure Centre	3.63	9

Theme	Project	Score	Overall Rank
Sports Facilities	3G artificial grass pitch (floodlit) at Jubilee Fields	3.62	10
Sports Facilities	Jubilee Fields exterior improvements including spectator hard standing and new decking	3.57	11
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Walking and cycling upgrades along Natts Lane and the railway bridge	3.56	12
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	New signage and equipment repair for Billingshurst play areas	3.50	13
Sports Facilities	New cricket nets / cricket ground equipment upgrades at Jubilee Fields	3.45	14
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Footway improvements to the northern section of the High Street	3.43	15
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Upgrade walking routes between Marringdean Road and B2133 to be made suitable for cycling	3.42	16
Sports Facilities	Additional car parking capacity at Jubilee Fields	3.40	17
Sports Facilities	A new padel tennis facility at Jubilee Fields	3.39	18
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Provision of a new walking and cycling link from Coneyhurst to Billingshurst	3.39	19
Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements	Create a small 16-space public car park to the rear of Billingshurst High Street and vehicular link between the Sainsbury's and Jengers Mead car parks	3.34	20
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Improve footpath surfaces south from Daux Road west to Lower Station Road	3.31	21
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	New pump track, multi-sports area and skate plaza for Lower Station Road Recreation Ground	3.30	22
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Provision of a walking and cycling link from Newbridge Road West to Lordings Road	3.28	23
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Upgrade footpath surfaces from High Street, through Bowling Alley Woods and up Wooddale Lane	3.24	24
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Additional play equipment for Natts Lane Play Area, as well as improved signage and general repairs	3.23	25

Theme	Project	Score	Overall Rank
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Create a ground level lit pathway from the Leisure Centre to the sports and seating areas at Station Road Community Gardens	3.18	26
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Additional allotments / community garden space	3.18	27
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Replace the sheltered seating area at Station Road Community Gardens with inviting, multi-group seating	3.11	28
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Resurface the multi-use games area at Station Road Community Gardens with bright colours and multiple set of lines for varied activities	3.08	29
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Create a perimeter path and seating areas for Lower Station Road Recreation Ground	3.07	30
Village Centre Parking Public Realm Improvements	Electricity connection for events at Station Road Community Gardens	3.07	31
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Memorial / burial ground to serve Billingshurst	3.01	32
Village Centre Parking Public Realm Improvements	Improvements to the car park at the rear of the Six Bells to create more parking and a permanent power supply for the Artisan Market	3.00	33
Community Facilities	Upgrades to the Women's Hall (improvements to create a more accessible and energy efficient building)	3.00	34
Community Facilities	Upgrades to Billingshurst Community & Conference Centre (solar panels with battery storage and energy efficient lighting)	2.94	35
Community Facilities	Building or re-purposing a new community hall / meeting space in Billingshurst village centre	2.85	36
Community Facilities	Upgrades to St Mary's Church (to create a more accessible venue and allow wider (non-religious) community use)	2.79	37
Sports Facilities	A new clubhouse for Billingshurst Bowling Club	2.79	38

The results demonstrate the popularity of projects focused on improving the sports facilities at Jubilee Fields as well as projects from other categories at the site. All 12 Jubilee Fields related projects were in the top 18

of the total 38 projects. Improvements to Sustainable Travel and Movement also scored highly and there was some support for Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation projects.

Proposals relating to community buildings (except Jubilee Fields Pavilion) and Village Centre Parking Public Realm Improvements received lower scores on average.

To see how each specific age group rated the potential projects, see [Appendix D](#)

How would the improvements you have prioritised benefit you and / or the Billingshurst community?

After rating all 38 projects for importance, respondents were asked to explain how the improvements they have prioritised would benefit them and / or the wider community. This was an optional question. This question received 329 comments, a 43% response rate.

Key Messages

Respondents that prioritised the investment in community facilities highlighted the importance of these facilities for community cohesion and called for modernisation of the current facilities to make them more appealing to use and allow them to expand their offer. Of those who commented, many highlighted the importance of community facilities for older residents, whilst others requested more indoor children's activities and the creation of a youth hub.

Lots of respondents stressed the importance of accessible green and play spaces. Expanded, well-equipped playgrounds, and facilities for teenagers were seen not only as improving the village's recreational offer but also as tools for reducing anti-social behaviour. Equally, the preservation of quiet, natural areas was linked to mental wellbeing.

Many comments highlighted the importance of Jubilee Fields as the village's sporting and recreational centre and urged substantial investment in its pitches, drainage and pavilion. Respondents described how poor drainage makes the pitches unusable for much of the year, affecting the club's entire membership and youth teams especially. Providing a changing space for female sport is viewed as a key issue preventing equal access to facilities. A 3G pitch would ensure fixtures and training run throughout the year and allow for evening sessions to be held, benefitting all current users and potentially enable more teams to be taken on.

Comments relating to Sustainable Travel and Movement cited safety concerns along the A29 to Five Oaks, Natts Lane and Marringdean Road, with narrow pavements and high vehicle speeds deterring walking and cycling. Parents were especially concerned with the safety of the Natts Lane crossing under the railway as this is a frequently used route to school. Others requested additional and improved footpaths linking houses to nearby facilities.

Respondents that supported the creation of a small car park to the rear of the High Street found that parking in the town centre is poorly organised and surrounding roads and pavements are inaccessible. Expanding bay dimensions to accommodate larger family vehicles and improving access for older residents and those with limited mobility was suggested.

Projects by Theme

The following sections covers the responses to each project in greater detail, organised by category.

Community Facilities

Respondents were asked to indicate how important each project relating to Community Facilities were to them, from very important to very unimportant. The below table details how all respondents rated each proposal.

Project	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Very Unimportant
Upgrades to Billingshurst Community & Conference Centre (solar panels with battery storage and energy efficient lighting)	8%	23%	36%	20%	13%
Upgrades to the Women's Hall (Improvements to create a more accessible and energy efficient building)	6%	27%	38%	17%	11%
Building or re-purposing a new community hall/meeting space in Billingshurst village centre	7%	19%	38%	22%	13%
Provision of a new two storey pavilion at Jubilee Fields to replace the existing clubhouse and provide an additional community meeting space	42%	25%	19%	8%	6%
Upgrades to St Mary's Church (to create a more accessible venue and allow wider (non-religious) community use	7%	18%	37%	21%	16%

Respondents demonstrated a clear preference for the proposed two-storey pavilion at Jubilee Fields, with 67 % rating it “very important” or “important” and only 14 % deeming it “not important” or “very unimportant”. In contrast, the three upgrade schemes for the Billingshurst Community & Conference Centre, Women's Hall and the St Mary's Church each attracted approximately one third of respondents as “neutral”. The concept of a new or repurposed village-centre community hall received similarly divided views.

Trends by Demographics: Community Facilities

Age of Respondent

When filtering results by the age of respondent, the new two-storey pavilion remains the clear top priority amongst all age groups, especially so with younger respondents. All other improvements drew more mixed responses with older residents generally rating the other Community Facility improvements higher than younger residents, but still relatively low overall.

Interest in Billingshurst

The proposed two-storey pavilion at Jubilee Fields is popular amongst all respondents and especially among organisations and “Other” respondents and organisation representatives. The other potential projects saw no notable trends by interest in Billingshurst.

Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation

Respondents were asked to indicate how important each project relating to Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation was to them, from very important to very unimportant. The below table details how all respondents rated each proposal.

Note: Billingshurst Parish Council owns and is responsible for Lower Station Road Recreation Ground, Station Road Community Gardens and Jubilee Fields. The Parish Council will consider in detail the proposed improvements for children and young people in these locations following the public consultation, prior to giving any landlord's consent.

Project	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Very Unimportant
Memorial / burial ground to serve Billingshurst	8%	25%	38%	18%	11%
Additional allotments / community garden space	11%	30%	33%	18%	9%
New signage and equipment repairs for Billingshurst play areas	17%	38%	29%	9%	6%
New pump track, multi-sports area and skate plaza for Lower Station Road Recreation Ground	17%	29%	30%	15%	9%
Create a perimeter path and seating areas for Lower Station Road Recreation Ground	8%	27%	38%	17%	10%
Additional play equipment for Natts Lane Play Area, as well as improved signage and general repairs	12%	29%	38%	13%	9%
Replace the sheltered seating area at Station Road Community Gardens with inviting, multi-group seating	9%	30%	35%	16%	10%
Resurface the multi-use games area at Station Road Community Gardens with bright colours and multiple set of lines for varied activities	8%	27%	41%	15%	10%
Create a ground level lit pathway from the Leisure Centre to the sports and seating areas at Station Road Community Gardens	9%	30%	38%	14%	8%
Create a new play area at Jubilee Fields	31%	31%	24%	8%	6%

The proposed new play area at Jubilee Fields generated the strongest support. Signage upgrades and equipment repairs at Billingshurst play areas also attracted majority support (55 % very important or important). Additional allotments/community garden space received a net positive response. Other improvements received mixed responses.

Trends by Age Group: Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation

Age of Respondent

Younger respondents, or respondents of an age likely to have young children tended to rate recreation improvements more highly whereas older residents were more in favor of Additional Allotments/ Community Garden Space.

Interest in Billingshurst

No significant trends

Sports Facilities

Respondents were asked to indicate how important each project relating to Sports Facilities was to them, from very important to very unimportant. The table below details how all respondents rated each proposal.

Project	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Very Unimportant
Drainage and natural grass pitch improvements at Jubilee Fields	37%	24%	25%	9%	4%
3G artificial grass pitch (floodlit) at Jubilee Fields	38%	16%	25%	13%	9%
General refurbishment of Jubilee Fields pavilion (including roof repairs, solar panels to improve energy efficiency, and redecoration and repair)	36%	30%	23%	7%	4%
Small facility to serve the top pitches at Jubilee Fields to include toilets and changing facilities	34%	31%	23%	9%	4%
Changing room upgrades to provide for women and girls at Jubilee Fields	43%	33%	16%	5%	3%
Jubilee Fields exterior improvements including spectator hard standing and new decking	26%	27%	30%	12%	5%
New cricket nets / cricket ground equipment upgrades at Jubilee Fields	22%	25%	36%	10%	7%
A new padel tennis facility at Jubilee Fields	20%	25%	36%	11%	8%
Improvements to Billingshurst Leisure Centre	24%	35%	27%	7%	7%
A new clubhouse for Billingshurst Bowling Club	9%	11%	45%	21%	15%
Additional car parking capacity at Jubilee Fields	23%	24%	32%	12%	9%

Respondents placed greatest priority on improving facilities at Jubilee Fields, with changing-room upgrades for women and girls receiving the highest positive score of any project (76% “very important” or “important”) ratings. Opinions on a new bowling-club clubhouse were divided, with 20 % rating it “very important” or

“important” and 36 % deeming it “unimportant” or “very unimportant”.

Trends by Demographics: Sports Facilities

Age

Whilst improvements to facilities at Jubilee Fields were popular with all categories, younger respondents tended to rate these improvements significantly higher. 89% of respondents under 24 rated the drainage improvements as “very important” or “important” whereas only 54% of those aged 60+ did so, similar trends can be seen across the Jubilee Fields improvements. Improvements to the Leisure Centre were popular overall, but especially with under 17’s. A new clubhouse for the Bowling Club was most popular with the 60+ age group, although only 34% rated it as “very important” or “important”.

Interest in Billingshurst

Respondents that represented an organisation consistently rated improvements to Jubilee Fields as “important” or “very important” more frequently. These respondents were generally from the Billingshurst Sports and Recreation Association, Billingshurst Football Club or Billingshurst Cricket Club.

Sustainable Travel and Movement

Respondents were asked to indicate how important each project relating to Sustainable Travel and Movement was to them, from very important to very unimportant. The table below details how all respondents rated each proposal.

Project	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Very Unimportant
Improved walking and cycling links to Jubilee Fields	28%	39%	21%	8%	4%
Walking and cycling upgrades along Natts Lane and the railway bridge	25%	28%	31%	9%	6%
Upgrade walking routes between Marringdean Road and B2133 to be made suitable for cycling	21%	27%	34%	10%	8%
Improve footpath surfaces south from Daux Road west to Lower Station Road	16%	26%	38%	12%	8%
Upgrade footpath surfaces from High Street, through Bowling Alley Woods and up Wooddale Lane	13%	26%	43%	10%	8%
Provision of a walking and cycling link from Newbridge Road West to Lordings Road	17%	22%	40%	12%	8%
Improve walking and cycling from Five Oaks to Billingshurst parallel to the A29	32%	29%	23%	8%	8%
Provision of a new walking and cycling link from Coneyhurst to Billingshurst	22%	23%	35%	11%	9%
Footway improvements to the northern section of the High Street	19%	30%	33%	10%	8%

Improved walking and cycling links to Jubilee Fields emerged as the highest priority, with 67 % of respondents rating it “very important” or “important” closely followed by the Five Oaks to Billingshurst walking and cycling improvements (61 % “very important” or “important”) and the Natts Lane walking and cycling improvements (53% “very important” or “important”).

Trends by Demographics: Sustainable Travel and Movement

Age of Respondent

Older demographics tended to support these schemes more strongly, except Jubilee Fields which was notably more popular with younger demographics. The Natts Lane improvement was significantly more popular with ages 25+, likely as this is a frequented route to school. Residents over 60 rated the improved walking links to Five Oaks and along the northern sections of the High Street especially highly.

Interest in Billingshurst

Respondents that work in Billingshurst tended to rate these improvements as more important than residents. The exceptions to this were the improvements from the High Street, through Bowling Alley Woods and up Wooddale Lane, and along Natts Lane.

Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements

Respondents were asked to indicate how important each project relating to Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements was to them. The table below details how all respondents rated each proposal.

Project	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Very Unimportant
Improvements to the car park at the rear of the Six Bells to create more parking and a permanent power supply for the Artisan Market	9%	24%	37%	19%	11%
Create a small 16-space public car park to the rear of Billingshurst High Street and vehicular link between the Sainsbury's and Jengers Mead car parks	20%	30%	25%	16%	10%
Electricity connection for events at Station Road Community Gardens	8%	28%	38%	17%	9%

The proposal for a 16-space public car park behind High Street, with a vehicular link between the Sainsbury's and Jengers Mead car parks, received the strongest endorsement with half of respondents rating it “very important” or “important”. Electricity connections for events at Station Road Community Gardens and the Six Bells improvements received mixed responses.

Trends by Demographics: Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements

By Age of Respondent

The proposals for a 16-space public car park behind High Street, with a vehicular link between the Sainsbury's and Jengers Mead car parks was especially popular with the 60+ age category. Other improvements saw no strong age-based trends.

By Interest in Billingshurst

No significant trends by interest in Billingshurst.

Additional Comments

The survey provided respondents with an optional open text box to provide any further comments. 156 comments were received, a 20% response rate.

Comments have been clustered into recurring broad subject areas to help quantify the qualitative responses. For each subject area we show how many comments mentioned it (count), what percentage that is of the total comments, and share the feedback as provided by respondents. These comments are direct excerpts from respondent comments and have been included to illustrate the type and tone of the feedback received. Some comments mentioned multiple subject areas and so have been counted multiple times.

Subject Area	Count	%	Representative Quotations
Jubilee Fields / Sports Facilities / Health and Wellness	44	21%	<i>Having access to an all-year-round training pitch and a clubhouse would significantly enhance what we do.</i> <i>The kids miss approx 2 months of football every winter due to poor weather and ground conditions. BYFC (Billingshurst Youth Football Club) can't currently host a fund generating tournament due to parking and other restrictions</i> <i>On the top pitches of Jubilee Fields there are little / no amenities nor access to safety equipment eg defibs without running about 400yds. The pitches are suboptimal for play and there are no toilet facilities nor changing rooms for the top pitches.</i>
Traffic and Road safety (junctions, crossings, traffic calming measures)	40	19%	<i>Speed of traffic, poorly laid out junctions plus narrow pathways make walking unsafe.</i> <i>Please make the Natts Lane crossing safer</i> <i>Marringdean Road is treacherous for pedestrians. The houses beyond Longhurst Drive are forced to walk in the road with no protection, insufficient signage and traffic that, even in March 2025 after seeing the council speed data still averages 39mph in a 30 mph.</i> <i>It would be good to look at how to reduce traffic speeds and volume on the Five Oaks Road.</i>
Walking and Cycling / Paths and Pavements / Accessibility	36	17%	<i>Would love a hard paving from bottom left end of SRGardens to join up with footpath from Natts Lane. In the winter this area becomes a quagmire!</i> <i>Join up more footpaths to encourage people to walk/enjoy our beautiful country side. I.e. the dead end foot path on hedgelands does not connect with the public footpath just 1m away.</i>
Jengers Mead / High Street / Village centre	28	13%	<i>Jengers Mead needs a serious upgrade</i> <i>Village centre needs an injection of quality and a census on particular types of business bringing the feel and appearance of Billingshurst down.</i> <i>Jengers Mead needs a total overhaul to create more of a business and shopping centre which is inviting!</i>
Housing / Overdevelopment / Underinvestment	24	11%	<i>The S106 money has been coming in for years, time to spend it.</i>

Subject Area	Count	%	Representative Quotations
			<i>As a resident of over 40 years there has been a serious growth in the volume of houses but little benefit to existing residents.</i> <i>The most important thing for me is: no more house building.....we are surrounded by beautiful countryside and we are slowly but surely losing it</i> <i>I think investment into the village is long overdue and with new housing comes more people.</i>
Youth facilities and Activities	12	6%	<i>There is very little for youths in the village anything that can improve this would be good, enabling the scout group to expand, setting up a youth group, Sports Facilities etc. Need cheap and easily accessible facilities.</i> <i>They won't benefit me but will the young people in the village.</i>
Green spaces / Nature / Climate / Environment	11	5%	<i>Improvements should be prioritised to create a safe and sustainable community that is resilient to changes in climate and user needs. Water management will be critical to manage surface water flooding and tree planting to reduce heat stress and to provide cool spaces during periods of extreme heat.</i> <i>It would be so beneficial for Billingshurst to have a larger, peaceful Billingshurst Nature Park with trees, lawns, shrub areas, pond, stream, sitting areas...</i>
Crime / Anti-social behaviour / Policing	10	5%	<i>I would like too see a police council hub for people too meet local service providers</i> <i>Bring back a police station to install law and order..... people actively doing drugs here Billingshurst has often been nicknamed pillingshurst! No police is what has caused a rise in antisocial behaviour</i> <i>... Finally cracking down properly on anti social behaviour is urgently needed as it is on the rise from youths in the village</i>
Healthcare / Dentists / Doctors / Childcare	4	2%	<i>We need doctors and dentists</i> <i>I note there is nothing here about improving access to doctors, NHS dentistry, childcare etc. and assume those are not part of this project. But they are very important.</i> <i>Billingshurst needs a new dentist</i>

Council Remit and Delivery Scope

As per the above table, the survey received comments about healthcare (GPs and dentists), policing, and the mix of shops in the High Street.

Horsham District Council is investing some £2.5 million through the Better Billingshurst Programme to improve the village centre, sports grounds, recreation areas and community buildings. However, a number of the services mentioned in the comments are the responsibility of other organisations:

- **Healthcare and dentists** are provided by the NHS and by independent healthcare providers. The Council does not run or fund GP surgeries or dental practices, so it cannot directly deliver new clinical services.
- **Policing and community safety** are led by the police and their partners. Whilst the Council supports community safety, it does not provide policing.
- **Major highways, public transport and education infrastructure** are the responsibility of West Sussex County Council. Horsham District Council can propose or support projects (and can contribute to small local walking and cycling improvements) but it cannot directly deliver major county-level transport or school improvement projects.
- **Private retail and shop tenancy** are controlled by private owners. In particular, Jengers Mead and its car park are privately run and maintained, so the Council cannot change tenancy, reconfigure the car park or directly manage businesses in that location. However, feedback from the consultation has been passed to colleagues in the Council's Enterprise team for their consideration.

Enterprise and Local Economy

The survey concluded with an open-ended question inviting respondents to share what types of businesses or economic activities they felt were missing from Billingshurst, or what they would like to see more of to support local economic development and encourage job creation.

Projects to directly enhance enterprise and the local economy in Billingshurst are outside of the remit of the Better Billingshurst Programme as this is specifically designed to invest in the public realm and community infrastructure (albeit it is acknowledged that upgraded and/or new facilities will likely have positive impacts for the local economy). However, Question 12 was included in the public consultation on behalf of the Council's Enterprise team to help inform their ongoing Enterprising Horsham work and their continued efforts to support the local economy in Billingshurst.

This question was optional, receiving 355 comments, representing a 46% response rate.

Comments have been clustered into recurring themes to help quantify the qualitative responses. For each theme we show how many comments mentioned it (count), what percentage that is of the total comments, and along with a selection of representative quotations. These are direct excerpts from respondents to the consultation.

Subject Area	Count	%	Representative Quotations
Greater variety of restaurants and cafes	112	23%	<i>Some more sit-down restaurants would be really nice.</i> <i>A good restaurant. Food options in Billingshurst are poor.</i>
Retail and independent shops	100	21%	<i>Local/ craft businesses, shops that are good for browsing/ buying gifts.</i> <i>Shops to shop in, not a service, nor charity or cafes.</i>
Jengers Mead pedestrianisation / High Street layout	44	9%	<i>Buy back the Jenger's mead car park from Napiers.</i> <i>Please sort out jengers meads.</i>
Greengrocer / farm shop / deli / fresh produce / butchers / bakery	42	9%	<i>Personally I would love a proper greengrocers or farm shop selling local produce.</i> <i>We need a green grocer (decent fresh produce without plastic wrapping)!</i>
Childcare, children's and youth facilities	42	9%	<i>Large indoor soft play area for children.</i> <i>Somewhere that provides an indoor activity for school age children, a youth club.</i>
Encourage start-ups, co-working, office space, business units, light industry, pop up shops	38	8%	<i>Office units, to allow space for small business to set up and employ.</i> <i>Pop up shop facilities where small businesses can trial market interest.</i>
Sports and Leisure facilities	26	5%	<i>Gyms. I have to drive miles to go to a decent gym.</i> <i>A sports academy at jubilee fields for football, cricket, rugby etc.</i>
Reduce no. of vape shops, barbers, charity shops and salons on High Street	22	5%	<i>No more barbers/vape shops...</i> <i>We don't need any more vape shops in the village.</i>
Banks / Post Office	18	4%	<i>It is a great pity we lost our high street banks.</i> <i>We need a bank!</i>
Health services	18	4%	<i>Another doctor's surgery to handle the pressure.</i>

Subject Area	Count	%	Representative Quotations
			<i>Decent Pharmacy in the High Street.</i>
Public transport	14	3%	<i>Electric vehicles chargers in or near Billingshurst train station.</i> <i>A functional taxi service...</i>
Cinema / theatre / arts / museum	8	2%	<i>A cinema/theatre would support local job creation.</i> <i>Upgrade existing community location with proper seating & screen for film screenings</i>

Appendix A: Community Groups Consultation Feedback

This is a summary of the feedback the Council received in response to the early stakeholder engagement undertaken with the community groups and representative organisations in 2024.

Theme	Feedback Summary
Community Facilities	Community Facilities were ranked as the second-top priority amongst the community groups surveyed. Respondents found there is a lack of facilities for community uses such as childcare, pre-school, nursery, elderly care, youth activities, health support services and community groups, especially considering the growing population. Some community buildings and club facilities would benefit from refurbishment and modernisation. Community facilities were cited as essential for community cohesion and mental wellbeing. The Depot is too small to run most community events. Older and differently abled residents may not have the ability to travel to Horsham to use facilities. There is a lack of indoor, non-sporting activities for young people.
Sustainable Travel and Movement (Walking, Wheeling and Cycling)	Sustainable Travel and Movement was ranked as the fourth most important theme by the community groups surveyed. Improving footpaths and cycle routes in and around the village were identified as a priority by several respondents. Providing safer walking and cycling to the schools is important, especially from new developments, and may in turn help to reduce traffic at peak times. Lack of a safe footpath and cycle link to Jubilee Fields. Damage to footpaths can make them dangerous, especially for older residents. Traffic is seen as an issue in the village centre and around the railway station and schools. Traffic calming measures in the village were supported by some but disliked by others. The signage in and around the village and footpaths is lacking or in poor condition. A central map with paths and key facilities was requested.
Green Infrastructure	Green Infrastructure was ranked as the third most important theme by the community groups. There are not enough allotments to fulfil demand, there is currently a waiting list in place. There is a lack of burial space and no memorial ground in Billingshurst. Adding solar panels to the large south facing roof at Jubilee Fields would reduce the current electricity cost and may generate revenue for the club.
Sports and Recreation	Sports and Recreation was ranked as the top priority amongst the community groups surveyed.

Theme	Feedback Summary
	Respondents highlighted the importance of Jubilee Fields as the main open space and sporting facility for Billingshurst. Maintaining the facility is crucial for the physical and mental health of young people, as well as the wider community. The pitches are unusable for much of the winter due to poor drainage, leading to games being called off frequently. Improving the drainage on the site or providing a 3G pitch were both suggested to remedy this. Jubilee Fields Clubhouse needs repairs and would benefit from significant refurbishment to make the facility more welcoming. There is a lack of provision for women's sports teams in Billingshurst. Measures to prevent and reduce vandalism to sporting facilities should be considered. There is a lack of facilities for young people in Billingshurst, such as playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor meetings spaces. Some facilities are in poor condition and need refurbishment. The children's play equipment at Station Road Gardens playground equipment would benefit from refurbishment. Lack of disabled access equipment in playgrounds. Lack of open green spaces
Village Centre Car Parks	Village Centre Car Parks were ranked as the lowest priority by the community groups. Most respondents found the parking provision sufficient for the time being but want to ensure this keeps pace with development. The private car park at Jengers Mead is unpopular. The accessibility and flow of the Six Bells and Library car parks could be improved.
Other Comments	There is a general view that infrastructure had not kept pace with development. The nearest hospital is a long distance away and the current doctors' surgery is oversubscribed, this is a particular issue for older, less-able residents. Other issues raised include the lack of affordable housing, poor bus service, lack of police presence and CCTV.

Appendix B: Summary of the Schools Consultation Feedback

This is a summary of the feedback the Council received in response to the early stakeholder engagement undertaken with Billingshurst Primary Academy and The Weald Community School and Sixth Form in 2024.

Topic	Feedback Summary
Community Facilities	Community Facilities were ranked as the top priority amongst parents, carers and students. Several responses from parents, carers and students wanted to see more groups for children in all age brackets, from pre-schools up to after school activities for secondary school children. Some respondents think more community facilities are needed to account for the expansion of the village, whereas others think the issue is a lack of groups for children. Feedback suggested the village lacks indoor activities and for children such as a soft play area, trampoline park, village arcade, pottery, and dance classes. Parents and carers highlighted that there is also a lack of facilities for adults, such as bars, cafes, and adult learning facilities. Public amenities such as water bottle refill stations, toilets and phone charging points were also requested. There is a lack of provision to assist homeless people.
Sustainable Travel and Movement (Walking, Wheeling and Cycling)	Sustainable Travel & Movement (Walking, Wheeling, Cycling) was ranked as third most important amongst parents, carers and students. A large number of parents and carers highlighted traffic, speeding and a lack of safe active travel options as a major concern, especially on routes in and around the schools on Marringdean Road, Station Road, Longhurst Drive and in and around the newer developments. To reduce this, speed humps, cameras, widening of and repairing pavements, 20mph speed limits, additional pedestrian crossings and cycle lanes were all suggested. The footpaths on Stane Street are thin, in poor condition and overgrown, this makes accessing Billingshurst from Five Oaks on foot and bicycle unsafe. Speeding is an issue on this road and speed cameras to reduce this were recommended. Public Rights of Way in Billingshurst are in poor condition and do not sufficiently link to facilities and the Downs Link. Banning lorries near the school at pick up-drop off would encourage active travel. A central map of footpaths in and around the village would encourage activity. Various improvements to the high street including traffic calming measures, more crossings and pedestrianisation were recommended. Jengers Mead would benefit from regeneration. Disabled access in Billingshurst was highlighted as being poor. Thin pavements, a lack of dropped kerbs and unsuitable gates in parks limit independent access to facilities. Lack of dog waste bins.

Topic	Feedback Summary
Green Infrastructure	Green Infrastructure was ranked as the fourth most important theme amongst parents, carers and students. Respondents were keen to maintain and upkeep greenspaces in the village, citing them as an important community resource for physical and mental wellbeing. More litter and dog waste bins in public parks. Secure bike storage would help to encourage active travel. Billingshurst Primary Academy provided lots of green infrastructure ideas such as bug hotels, flower gardens, minibeast areas, bird boxes, conservation areas for wildlife and planting trees throughout the village.
Sports and Recreation	Sports and Recreation was ranked as the second-top priority theme amongst parents, carers and students. General agreement that Jubilee Fields is a great community asset but needs improvements to the clubhouse and football pitches. Students were keen to see a 3G pitch in order to make sports more enjoyable and consistently accessible year-round. More lighting on the footpaths into Jubilee Fields as well as around the facility were requested. Floodlights for other sports pitches were also requested. Students, parents and carers provided lots of feedback on potential playground improvements. Large central play areas, as opposed to smaller neighbourhood play areas were preferred. Respondents wanted a greater variety of equipment including bouldering, trampolines, swings, disabled access equipment and larger equipment for older children and young teenagers. Skateparks, pump tracks, roller skating areas and basketball courts were all requested. Several students were in favour of more youth shelters, whereas parents and carers had a negative or no response to this. Lack of public art.
Village Centre Car Parks	Village Centre Car Parks was ranked as the lowest priority by parents, carers and students. The privately run Jengers Mead Car park is very unpopular and dissuades people from going into town. Respondents also suggested any extra facilities should provide commensurate parking, but current town centre parking is sufficient.
Other Comments	There is a lack of doctors and dentists in Billingshurst. An additional primary school will benefit the town. There were a variety of additional comments and suggestions, especially from students, including an Aquarium, Animal Shelter, Outdoor Cinema, Lido, Ice Cream Parlour, Pizzeria, and book swap box. Some parents feel more could be done to protect children, such as banning vape shops and increasing police presence.

Appendix C: Public Consultation Questionnaire

Better Billingshurst Community Fund and Investment Programme

Public Consultation, 23 June – 21 July 2025

Welcome to the Better Billingshurst Community Fund and Investment Programme survey. We want your views on where to focus investment in Billingshurst and how you think the identified projects would benefit the community. Whilst it may not be possible to deliver all of the projects in this survey, your feedback will form an important part of wider decision-making processes now and in the future.

Please note: Schools, healthcare, public transport and major roads are the responsibility of other organisations such as West Sussex County Council and the NHS and therefore we are focusing on the infrastructure projects we can directly help deliver.

This questionnaire looks at potential improvements across FIVE key themes and should take you about 15 minutes. All responses are anonymised, although if you represent an organisation, this information will be shared in the Council's consultation reporting.

About You

1. What is your interest in Billingshurst? (Select all that apply)
 - I live in Billingshurst
 - I work in Billingshurst
 - I represent an organisation based in or serving Billingshurst *[textbox to supply organisation]*
 - Other (please specify) *[textbox]*
 -
 2. What is your age?
 - 17 years or under
 - 18-24 years old
 - 25-39 years old
 - 40-59
 - 60 years or older
-

Community Facilities

3. Please indicate how important each project is to you:

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not important	Very Unimportant
Upgrades to Billingshurst Community & Conference Centre (solar panels with battery storage and energy efficient lighting)					
Upgrades to the Women's Hall (improvements to create a more accessible and energy efficient building)					
Building or re-purposing a new community hall/meeting space in Billingshurst village centre					
Provision of a new two storey pavilion at Jubilee Fields to replace the existing clubhouse and provide an additional					

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not important	Very Unimportant
community meeting space					
Upgrades to St Mary's Church (to create a more accessible venue and allow wider (non-religious) community use)					

Green Infrastructure, Open Space and Recreation

4. Please indicate how important each project is to you:

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not important	Very Unimportant
Memorial / burial ground to serve Billingshurst					
Additional allotments / community garden space					
New signage and equipment repairs for Billingshurst Play Areas					
New pump track, multi-sports area and skate plaza for Lower Station Road Recreation Ground					
Create a perimeter path and seating areas for Lower					

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not important	Very Unimportant
Station Road Recreation Ground					
Additional play equipment for Natts Lane Play Area, as well as improved signage and general repairs					
Replace the sheltered seating area at Station Road Community Gardens with inviting, multi-group seating					
Resurface the multi-use games area at Station Road Community Gardens with bright colours and multiple set of lines for varied activities					
Create a ground level lit pathway from the Leisure Centre to the sports and seating areas at Station Road Community Gardens					
Create a new play area at Jubilee Fields					

Billingshurst Parish Council owns and is responsible for Lower Station Road Recreation Ground, Station Road Community Gardens and Jubilee Fields. The Parish Council will consider in detail the proposed improvements for children and young people in these locations following the public consultation, prior to giving any landlord's consent.

Sport Facilities

5. Please indicate how important each project is to you:

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not important	Very Unimportant
Drainage and natural grass pitch improvements at Jubilee Fields					
3G artificial grass pitch (floodlit) at Jubilee Fields					
General refurbishment of Jubilee Fields pavilion (including roof repairs, solar panels to improve energy efficiency, and redecoration and repair)					
Small facility to serve the top pitches at Jubilee Fields to include toilets and changing facilities					
Changing room upgrades to provide for women and girls at Jubilee Fields					
Jubilee Fields exterior improvements including spectator hard-standing and new decking					
New cricket nets / cricket ground equipment upgrades at Jubilee Fields					

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not important	Very Unimportant
A new padel tennis facility at Jubilee Fields					
Improvements to Billingshurst Leisure Centre					
A new clubhouse for Billingshurst Bowling Club					
Additional car parking capacity at Jubilee Fields					

Sustainable Travel and Movement

West Sussex County Council (WSSC) is responsible for maintaining footpaths and public rights of way across West Sussex. In collaboration with WSSC and other stakeholders, Horsham District Council has worked to understand options for improved pedestrian and cycling facilities. Whilst we cannot directly deliver these projects, we will work with WSSC to improve these facilities where possible.

6. Please indicate how important each project is to you:

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not important	Very Unimportant
Improved walking and cycling links to Jubilee Fields.					
Walking and cycling upgrades along Natts Lane and the railway bridge					
Upgrade walking routes between Marringdean					

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not important	Very Unimportant
Road and B2133 to be made suitable for cycling					
Improve footpath surfaces south from Daux Road west to Lower Station Road					
Upgrade footpath surfaces from High Street, through Bowling Alley Woods and up Wooddale Lane					
Provision of a walking and cycling link from Newbridge Road West to Lordings Road					
Improve walking and cycling from Five Oaks to Billingshurst parallel to the A29					
Provision of a new walking and cycling link from Coneyhurst to Billingshurst					
Footway improvements to the northern section of the High Street					

Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements

7. Please indicate how important each project is to you:

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not important	Very Unimportant
Improvements to the car park at the rear of the Six Bells to create more parking and a permanent power supply for the Artisan Market					
Create a small 16-space public car park to the rear of Billingshurst High Street and vehicular link between the Sainsbury's and Jengers Mead car parks					
Electricity connection for events at Station Road Community Gardens					

Overall Priorities

8. Please rank the following areas in order of where you would most like to see investment in Billingshurst, with 1 being your highest priority and 5 your lowest priority for investment.

- - Community Facilities
 - Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation
 - Sports Facilities
 - Sustainable Travel and Movement
 - Village Centre Parking and Public Realm Improvements

9. Please explain why you have ranked your priorities as you have?

(optional open textbox)

10. How would the improvements you have prioritised benefit yourself and / or the Billingshurst community?

(optional open textbox)

11. Please use this box to provide any other comments.

(optional open textbox)

Enterprise & Local Economy

The Enterprise team at Horsham District Council would like to take this opportunity to hear your thoughts on how we can support local businesses and the wider community.

12. What types of businesses / economic activity do you feel are missing in Billingshurst or you would like to see more of? Please share here any ideas that you think would support local enterprise and/or encourage local job creation.

(optional open textbox)

Thank you for your time. Your feedback will help to guide improvements in Billingshurst.

Appendix D: Projects by Respondent Priority (per age group)

The table below ranks all 38 proposed projects, calculating the average score based on the following scoring system:

Very Important = 5 points

Important = 4 Points

Neutral = 3 points

Not Important = 2 points

Very Unimportant = 1 point

This method is designed to reflect both the strength of respondent support and any corresponding lack of support, ensuring projects with broad backing rank higher than those with mixed or negative responses.

Below is an extended version of the table found on page 16, with the addition of the ranking of each project per age group. To calculate this, the scoring system was applied individually to each project for each age category. To aid readability, the ranking of each of the scores is shown as opposed to the score received from each age group.

Theme	Project	Overall Score	Overall Rank	Under 17 Rank	18–24 Rank	25–39 Rank	40–59 Rank	60+ Rank
Sports Facilities	Changing room upgrades to provide for women and girls at Jubilee Fields	4.08	1	4	3	1	1	1
Community Facilities	Provision of a new two-storey pavilion at Jubilee Fields to replace the existing clubhouse and provide an additional community meeting space	3.88	2	6	1	3	3	7

Theme	Project	Overall Score	Overall Rank	Under 17 Rank	18–24 Rank	25–39 Rank	40–59 Rank	60+ Rank
Sports Facilities	General refurbishment of Jubilee Fields pavilion (including roof repairs, solar panels to improve energy efficiency, and redecoration and repair)	3.87	3	5	4	4	2	4
Sports Facilities	Drainage and natural grass pitch improvements at Jubilee Fields	3.82	4	1	5	6	5	9
Sports Facilities	Small facility to serve the top pitches at Jubilee Fields to include toilets and changing facilities	3.81	5	3	6	5	7	10
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Improved walking and cycling links to Jubilee Fields	3.78	6	11	12	7	4	2
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Create a new play area at Jubilee Fields	3.71	7	7	10	2	11	21
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Improve walking and cycling from Five Oaks to Billingshurst parallel to the A29	3.69	8	13	17	13	6	3
Sports Facilities	Improvements to Billingshurst Leisure Centre	3.63	9	2	13	10	10	11

Theme	Project	Overall Score	Overall Rank	Under 17 Rank	18–24 Rank	25–39 Rank	40–59 Rank	60+ Rank
Sports Facilities	3G artificial grass pitch (floodlit) at Jubilee Fields	3.62	10	8	7	8	9	31
Sports Facilities	Jubilee Fields exterior improvements including spectator hard standing and new decking	3.57	11	9	2	11	14	20
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Walking and cycling upgrades along Natts Lane and the railway bridge	3.56	12	18	27	16	8	6
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	New signage and equipment repair for Billingshurst play areas	3.50	13	21	18	9	13	18
Sports Facilities	New cricket nets / ground equipment upgrades at Jubilee Fields	3.45	14	12	8	17	18	16
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Footway improvements to northern High Street	3.43	15	26	20	20	17	5
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Upgrade walking routes between Marringdean Road and B2133 to be made suitable for cycling	3.42	16	17	24	21	12	22

Theme	Project	Overall Score	Overall Rank	Under 17 Rank	18–24 Rank	25–39 Rank	40–59 Rank	60+ Rank
Sports Facilities	Additional car parking capacity at Jubilee Fields	3.40	17	27	9	18	15	34
Sports Facilities	A new padel tennis facility at Jubilee Fields	3.39	18	20	11	14	22	26
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Provision of a new walking and cycling link from Coneyhurst to Billingshurst	3.39	19	29	34	19	16	12
Village Centre Parking & Public Realm	Create a small 16-space public car park to the rear of Billingshurst High Street and vehicular link between the Sainsbury's and Jengers Mead car parks	3.34	20	16	16	24	23	8
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Improve footpath surfaces south from Daux Road west to Lower Station Road	3.31	21	25	28	23	20	15
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	New pump track, multi-sports area and skate plaza for Lower Station Road Recreation Ground	3.30	22	14	22	12	19	36
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Provision of a walking and cycling link from Newbridge Road West to Lordings Road	3.28	23	24	36	25	21	17

Theme	Project	Overall Score	Overall Rank	Under 17 Rank	18–24 Rank	25–39 Rank	40–59 Rank	60+ Rank
Sustainable Travel and Movement	Upgrade footpath surfaces from High Street, through Bowling Alley Woods and up Wooddale Lane	3.24	24	28	31	26	24	14
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Additional play equipment for Natts Lane Play Area, as well as improved signage and general repairs	3.23	25	33	30	15	25	27
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Create a ground level lit pathway from the Leisure Centre to the sports and seating areas at Station Road Community Gardens	3.18	26	10	15	27	26	32
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Additional allotments / community garden space	3.18	27	32	33	30	27	13
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Replace the sheltered seating area at Station Road Community Gardens with inviting, multi-group seating	3.11	28	15	19	29	28	33
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Resurface the multi-use games area at Station Road Community Gardens with bright colours and multiple set of lines for varied activities	3.08	29	23	21	22	29	38
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Create a perimeter path and seating areas for Lower Station Road Recreation Ground	3.07	30	22	32	28	31	30

Theme	Project	Overall Score	Overall Rank	Under 17 Rank	18–24 Rank	25–39 Rank	40–59 Rank	60+ Rank
Village Centre Parking & Public Realm	Electricity connection for events at Station Road Community Gardens	3.07	31	31	25	31	30	24
Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation	Memorial / burial ground to serve Billingshurst	3.01	32	30	14	33	33	28
Village Centre Parking & Public Realm	Improvements to the car park at the rear of the Six Bells to create more parking and a permanent power supply for the Artisan Market	3.00	33	34	23	32	34	29
Community Facilities	Upgrades to the Women's Hall (Improvements to create a more accessible and energy efficient building)	3.00	34	35	38	35	32	19
Community Facilities	Upgrades to Billingshurst Community & Conference Centre (solar panels with battery storage and energy efficient lighting)	2.94	35	19	26	37	35	23
Community Facilities	Building or re-purposing a new community hall/meeting space in Billingshurst village centre	2.85	36	37	35	34	36	37

Theme	Project	Overall Score	Overall Rank	Under 17 Rank	18–24 Rank	25–39 Rank	40–59 Rank	60+ Rank
Community Facilities	Upgrades to St Mary’s Church (to create a more accessible venue and allow wider (non-religious) community use)	2.79	37	36	37	36	38	35
Sports Facilities	A new clubhouse for Billingshurst Bowling Club	2.79	38	38	29	38	37	25

