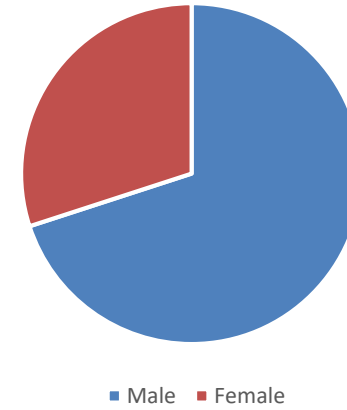


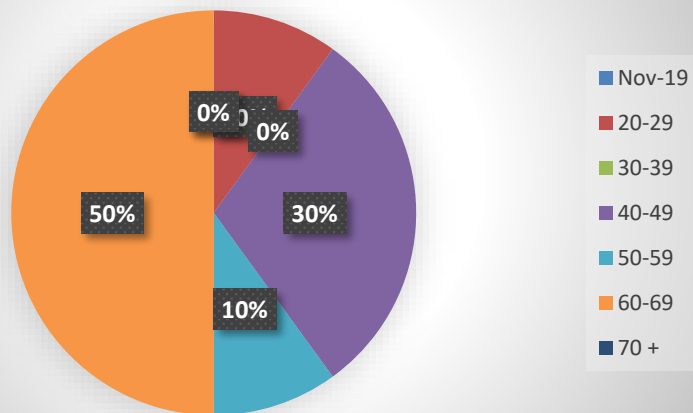
Sandy Town Council

Draft Community Plan Consultation Results

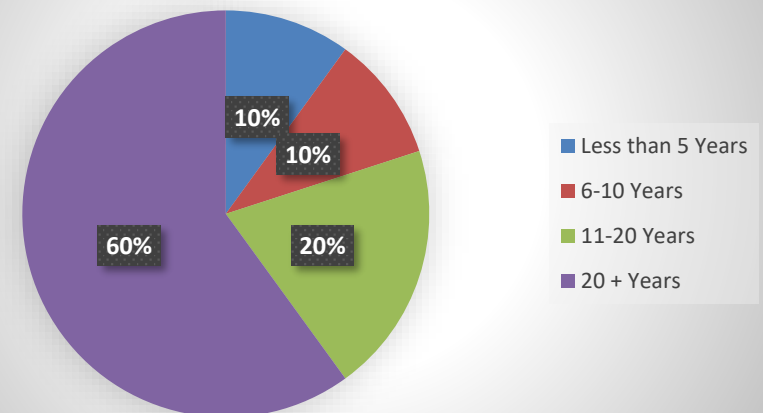
Gender of Respondents



Age of Consultation Respondents



Length of Time Lived in Sandy



What things about Sandy mean the most to you?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Shops and local businesses➤ All basic facilities are within walking distance of town centre➤ Most things needed are available without needing to leave the town➤ Not too big and retains market town feeling➤ Countryside within walking distance➤ Greenspace and children's play areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ History and heritage of the town➤ Good rail and road links➤ Safe walking areas away from traffic➤ Sense of community➤ Railway station and connections➤ Ease of access to A1 and transportation links |
|--|---|

What things about Sandy do you like the least

- A1 roundabout is a poor introduction to Sandy
- A1 and the increasing congestion resulting from A1 roundabouts
- HGV's through town centre/high street as a route to other destinations
- Needs better food and drink offering
- Needs improved retail offering and greater range of shops
- Poor train service
- Poor recreational facilities
- No 'destination' sale point for town

How would you improve them?

- Replacing this with traffic lights would allow for pedestrian access
- An 'inner bypass' is needed using an improved New Road/Station Road
- A bypass moving the A1 away from Sandy and Beeston is needed
- Improved Police presence needed
- Encourage more specialist shopping destination (antiques/models)
- Investment in an outside gym for community use
- East West Rail link via Sandy
- Enhanced horticulture
- Town summer festival

Key Theme 1: Arts and Culture

Q6: Do you feel Sandy has a good arts and cultural offering?

Yes: 25%
No: 37.5%
No Opinion: 37.5%

Q7: What would you like to see to improve arts and culture in Sandy?

- Dedicated museum as part of wider offering
- Better local community events with more operators at those events
- Re-planning of town centre facades back to historic look
- Art Gallery
- Central hub for meeting and holding events
- Better advertising of what's going on
- Improving town website

Q8: Would a public museum benefit Sandy?

Yes: 62.5%
No: 25%
No Answer: 12.5%

Q9: Do you believe there is a lack of community venues in Sandy?

Yes: 25%
No: 50% *(Comments suggest existing venues are used badly and poorly advertised)*
No Answer: 25%

Q10: Additional Comments

Good Library Carnival is getting bigger and better Village hall needs refurbishing Attract acts for regular events
Mosaics are very good **Sandy's size means there are bound to be limitations**
More local community events needed **More venues of varying sizes are needed with better fixings**
Museum would represent a poor return on investment **Dedicated museum needed** Crafts, events, clubs all good

Key Theme 2: Environment, Health and Wellbeing

Q11:

	Not an issue	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Priority matter
Insufficient health care provision			16.66%	33.33%	50%
Investigations & mitigating effect of pollution from the A1				16.66%	83.33%
Protecting community space in and around Sandy from development				16.66%	83.33% ¹
Enhancing existing community space			16.66%	33.33%	50%
Protecting and enhancing the river Ivel				50%	50%
Council allotment provision		50%	16.66%		33.33%
Mitigating flood risks			50%	33.33%	16.66%
Converting to and promoting renewable energy			66.66%		33.33%

Q12: Areas of concern not already raised in the draft Community Plan

- Pollution is far too high. Include national statistics of polluted towns.
- Maintenance of footpaths and access to locations such as the river and path between Ivel Road and Mill Lane

Q13: Any additional comments on what is important within Sandy's environment, health and wellbeing?

- If you don't build on areas that are likely to flood, flooding is not that great an issue
- Pollution levels
- Move the A1
- Encourage use of Fallow Land and recognise town's market garden heritage
- Allotment provision

Key Theme 3: Sport and Leisure

Q14: Are you a member of a sports team or do you play a sport regularly?

Yes: 12.5%
No: 62.5%
No Response: 25%

Q15: Sports played by respondents

- Squash
- Swimming

Q16: Do you play this sport in Sandy?

- Squash = Yes
- Swimming = No

Q17: Out of parish facilities used by respondents

- Biggleswade swimming pool

Q18: Do you use any leisure facilities in Sandy?

Yes: 33.3%
No: 44.5%
No Response: 22.2%

Q19: What leisure facilities do you use in sandy?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Bedford and Sunderland Road Parks➤ Open spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Pubs➤ Restaurants |
|---|--|

Q20: The below table shows how important respondents felt issues identified within the plan are.

	Not an issue	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Priority matter
Skate park improvements	16.66%	16.66	50%	16.66%	
Provision of new multi-use leisure facility			50%	16.66%	33.33%
Additional sporting facilities			33.33%	50%	16.66%
Creation of a destination park and gardens		33.33%			66.66%
Improvement of Jenkins Pavilion sports ground offering		16.66%	50%	16.66%	16.66%

Q21: Additional Comments on sports and leisure within Sandy

- An aging population means correct facilities are hugely relevant in the long term
- Move towards gardens to encourage wellbeing and relaxation
- Comprehensive outdoor gym equipment
- Leisure centre is not open suitable times for someone who works a full day in London
- Need a purpose-built community centre
- Increased youth facilities – could be at Sandye Place
- Too much emphasis on football
- Football could be moved to Sandye Place
- Unrealistic to provide a pool in sandy when Biggleswade is so close
- Additional park land needed
- Additional of swimming pool and cinema
- Reduce the concentration on just sports facilities
- All and any community and leisure facilities should be affordable for all

Key Theme 4: Housing

Q22: Do you agree with the concerns the plan highlights over the need for improved services and infrastructure prior to any development?

Yes: 62.5%

No: 12.5%

No Answered: 25%

Q23: Do you have any specific concerns over the growth of Sandy that are not included in the plan?

- Facilities need to grow in line with housing
- Biggleswade development has outstripped infrastructure and the town struggles. Sandy must not suffer in the same way
- Need for more local job creation to support expanding town.
- Better links to growth industries to attract new business to locate in Sandy
- Relatively small developments on piece-meal basis which have ignored impact on highways

Q24: Do you have any additional comments on the future of housing in Sandy

- East West Rail must stop at Sandy
- Industrial area could be moved and replaced with housing
- Avoid development east of the trainline and west of the A1. These would make significant breaks in the town. Beeston is very separate from Sandy.
- Affordable housing is needed for young families
- Bungalows are needed for the elderly (freeing up of family homes). These must be close to facilities and transport links.

Key Theme 5: Town Centre – Economic Activity

Q25: Do you agree with the issues highlighted in the plan?

Yes: 75%
No: 0%
No Response: 25%

Q26: Do you believe there are any issues facing Sandy's Town Centre which are not included in the Plan?

- Facades should be changed on shop fronts (create a more historical look)
- Too much emphasis on it becoming an area for evening entertainment rather than a daytime destination
- Train station needs to increase its parking capacity using adjoining land (freeing up town car park and streets)
- Recognise that habits are changing, more online shopping results in few shops. Possible consideration to converting shops to residential use
- The closure of the last bank in Sandy has had an adverse effect on footfall in the town
- Problems with litter – especially young people discarding energy drink bottles
- Two pharmacies owned by the same company with exactly the same stock

Q27: How would you improve Sandy Town Centre?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Highlight free parking➤ Offer business rate relief for new ventures➤ Work with landlords to get exciting tenants➤ Restrict charity shops➤ Allow for conversion of use classes➤ Buses to turn engines off when stationary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Market independent shops far beyond the town➤ Introduce weight restriction to reduce HGVs through town centre➤ Reintroduce substantial market, such as St Neots➤ Creation of a unique selling point which is different to other towns➤ Move bus stops in layby outside parade of shops on High-street/Market Square to stop buses travelling through market square➤ Sandye Place could become an appropriate and vibrant market location
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Key Theme 6: Transport

Q28: Do you agree with the transportation issues highlighted in the Plan?

Yes: 75%

No: 0%

No Response: 25%

Q29: Please let us know of any transport issues identified with the plan that you disagree with.

- Speeding is still an issue, especially on London Road
- HGV's adding to traffic congestion

Q30: Do you believe there are any issues facing Sandy's Transportation links that need to be addressed?

- By-pass needed
- Create an alternative plan to a bypass
- Better signage for Sand Lane industrial estate
- Use of New Road as outer relief road for HBVs to use avoiding the town centre.

Q31: Do you have any further comments on the Transportation section of the Community Plan?

- Good that the town council are looking at this.
- Beeston and Sandy should be reconnected.
- Include SG19 group in work on improvements to New Road and A1 connection to North of Sandy and industrial area (?)

Concluding Comments

Q32: Do you believe there are any issues which are not included in the plan and should be considered?

- Fundamental to the future of Sandy that the East West Rail line go via Sandy and that nothing 'important' is destroyed to build it
- The High Street is diminishing, this needs to be stopped
- Concern over closure of Sandye Place and quality of education in the town
- Greater inclusion of youth services/provision
- Sandye Place to provide facility for a culture hub, the museum, a health care hub, allotments and sports

Q33: Final comments not covered elsewhere

- Install charge points for electric vehicles
- Kingfisher Way is very overgrown, needs better monitoring and maintenance
- Council should be more visible, provide more community news and communicate more frequently.