



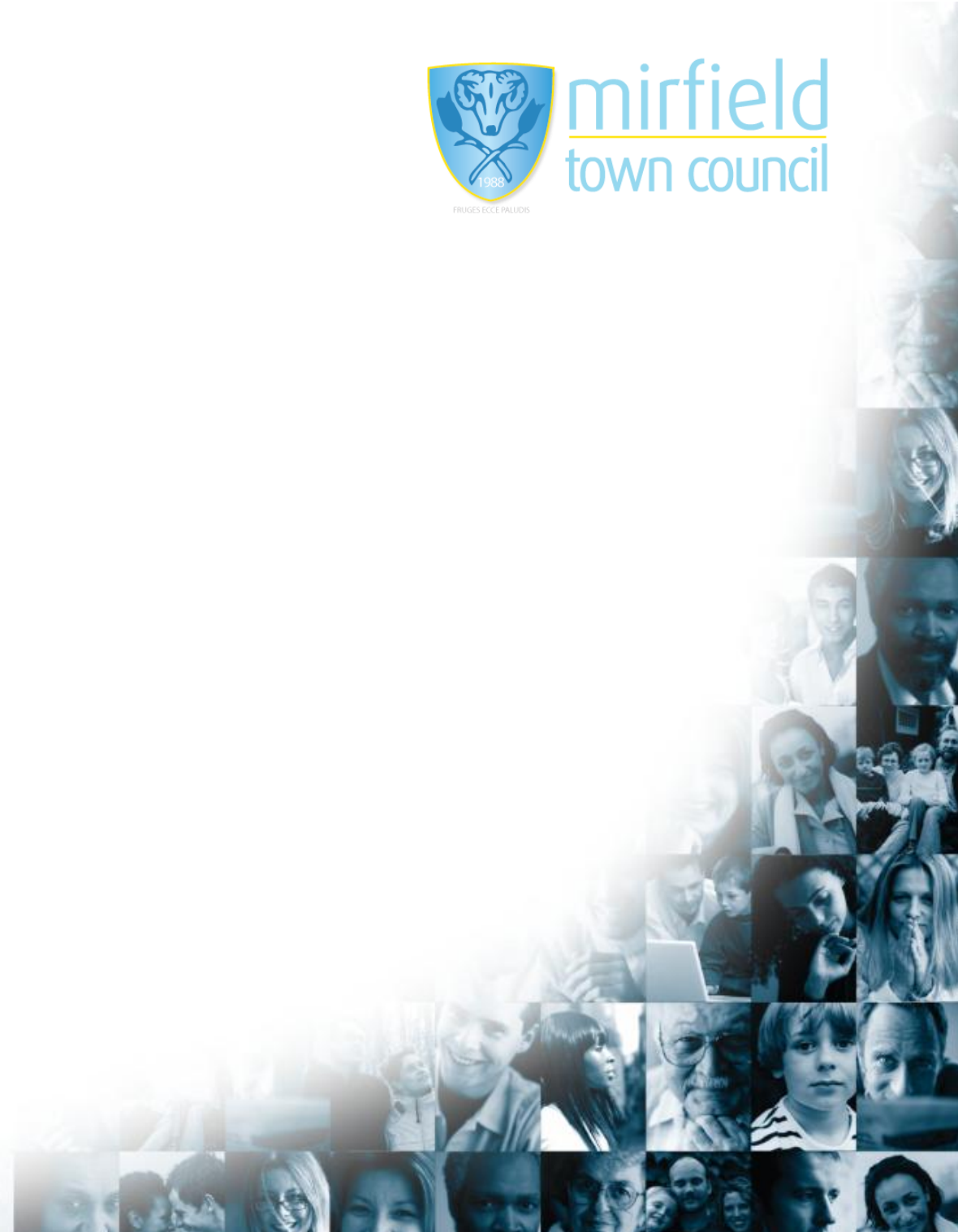
mirfield
town council

Mirfield Matters Residents Survey 2015

Mirfield Town Council

Summary

December 2015



Introduction

The survey was commissioned by Mirfield Town Council. The purpose of the survey is to gain a better understanding of the views and opinions of the residents of Mirfield. By carrying out this survey the residents' views will help shape Mirfield and ensure that councillors are fully aware of the views of the whole community.

The survey repeats a previous resident's survey carried out in 2007 and enables Mirfield Town Council to track views, issues and progress over time.

Questionnaires were mailed out to all 8,965 households in the Mirfield area during October and November 2015. In total, 2491 completed questionnaires were received by the closing date in December, representing a response rate of 28%.

Main findings

This summary report highlights the key findings from the survey, a detailed report is available on request.

➤ Living in Mirfield

Overall, the majority of respondents are satisfied with Mirfield as a place to live.

There are high levels of satisfaction amongst respondents with shopping facilities, parks and open spaces and street lighting in the area.

Satisfaction is much lower with traffic flow and road and pavement repairs.

Traffic flow, road and pavement repairs and health services people are most in need of improvement in Mirfield.

➤ Health services in Mirfield

Twice as many respondents find getting an appointment for dental services easier than for GP services.

Respondents said they find it easier to register for GP services than dental services.

Most respondents find travelling to pharmacies, opticians, GP services and dental services easy.

More respondents would prefer one large health centre than a number of smaller centres.

➤ **Leisure facilities in Mirfield**

The most popular leisure/sporting activity amongst respondents is walking.

However one third of respondents said that they don't take part in sports at all.

The most frequently used sports and leisure facilities used by respondents are those not run by Kirklees Active Leisure.

Satisfaction with facilities for children and young people in parks and play areas in Mirfield varied across different age categories. Satisfaction was greatest in respect of facilities for younger children (aged 4 to 11 years).

Satisfaction with facilities for children and young people in parks and play areas in Mirfield, in particular for older children and young people aged 8 to 16 years old has increased.

Regular usage of community facilities is low with three quarters of respondents saying that they do not use a community centre, church hall, scout hut or similar at least once a month.

The majority of respondents feel that there are adequate community facilities in Mirfield for use by local people for social activities.

Public footpaths and the canal are the areas used most by Mirfield residents for leisure activities such as walking, fishing and horse riding.

The areas reported as being most in need of improvement by respondents were public footpaths and parks.

➤ **Getting around your area**

One third of respondents never use public transport.

The main reason that respondents give for not using public transport is that they prefer to travel by car.

The majority of respondents said they use a car for most of their regular journeys such as shopping for food and travelling to and from work.

➤ **Your local environment**

Satisfaction with the standard of Mirfield town centre and local shopping areas is fairly high, in contrast dissatisfaction is highest with regards to the cleanliness of public toilets and pavements.

The majority of respondents disagree with the idea that any business should be allowed to build its premises in parks, open green spaces or moorland in Mirfield.

Less than half of respondents think that there are particular "grot spots" in Mirfield that are in need of attention.

➤ **Crime and anti-social behaviour**

Only a minority of respondents have been a victim of crime in the last 12 months. The most frequently experienced crimes are anti-social behaviour and car crime.

Respondents said that they are most worried that the following crimes might happen to them in the future: assault, house burglary and car crime.

Abandoned and burnt out cars, noisy neighbours or loud parties, people being attacked or harassed because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion and people being insulted, pestered or intimidated in the street are not considered to be a big problem in Mirfield. Respondents are more concerned about people using or dealing drugs, rubbish or litter lying around, teenagers hanging around on the street and vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage.

Police patrols, parental responsibility, local staffed police station and CCTV are all considered to be important measures in trying to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour throughout Mirfield.

➤ **Information and communication**

The Mirfield Reporter and The Press are given by the majority of respondents as their key sources of information about Mirfield Town Council and their local area.

There is a mixed response regarding awareness of how to contact local town councillors. Only one third said they had ever contacted their local town councillors.

Awareness levels of Dewsbury & District Committee (prior to reading the questionnaire) were relatively low. One third of those that are aware of Dewsbury & District Committee have attended a meeting.

Awareness levels of Mirfield Town Council (prior to reading the questionnaire) were higher.

The majority of respondents said it was either very important or important to them to have a town council in Mirfield.

One third of respondents are prepared to pay at least £1 more per year to assist Mirfield Town Council in supporting community projects. However, one third think that £5 per year is about right and one in ten think that the current £5 is too much.