

**1 Contents**

<b>1</b>	<b>Contents</b> .....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	2
2.1	<i>The Survey</i> .....	2
2.2	<i>Analysis</i> .....	2
2.3	<i>Responses</i> .....	2
<b>3</b>	<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	3
<b>4</b>	<b>Overall Results</b> .....	4
4.1	<i>Does Alton need a new community centre?</i> .....	4
4.2	<i>Should theatre facilities be included?</i> .....	4
4.3	<i>Should Lady Place Car Park be the new site?</i> .....	4
4.4	<i>Comments</i> .....	5

## **2 Introduction**

### **2.1 *The Survey***

East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) is currently planning to build a new community centre in Alton, to replace the current one in Bank Car Park. A consultation was carried out to see what local residents felt about the proposals for the new centre. These included building the new centre in Lady Place Car Park and including theatre facilities.

The consultation was carried out between 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Respondents had the option of using a paper questionnaire or an online survey hosted on the council's website. Ballot boxes for paper responses were left at various locations around Alton. A road show event also took place during the consultation period.

### **2.2 *Analysis***

The analysis below shows the results for every question asked in the survey. Any no replies to questions were not counted during the analysis. It should be noted that due to rounding up, not every set of percentages will always add up to 100%.

### **2.3 *Responses***

In total there were 726 responses to the survey. 28 (3.9%) of these were submitted via the website. The other 698 (96.1%) were returned in paper format. Not every respondent chose to answer every question. As a result not every set of results will add up to 726.

### **3 Executive Summary**

The majority of respondents agreed with all the proposals in the consultation, including:

- That Alton needs a new community centre (87.1% agreed).
- That theatre facilities should be included (80.9% agreed).
- That Lady Place Car Park should be the site for the new centre (72.1% agreed).

## 4 Overall Results

### 4.1 Does Alton need a new community centre?

Respondents were asked whether or not they agreed that Alton needs a new community centre to replace the existing building at Bank Car Park. The majority agreed with this.

	Responses	Percentage
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	58	8.0%
<b>Disagree</b>	29	4.0%
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	47	6.5%
<b>Agree</b>	178	24.7%
<b>Strongly agree</b>	409	56.7%
<b>Overall level of agreement<sup>1</sup></b>	87.1%	

### 4.2 Should theatre facilities be included?

Respondents were asked whether or not they agreed with the idea of including theatre facilities in the new complex. Again, the majority agreed. However, this majority was slightly smaller than the previous question.

	Responses	Percentage
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	77	10.8%
<b>Disagree</b>	42	5.9%
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	93	13.0%
<b>Agree</b>	183	25.6%
<b>Strongly agree</b>	321	44.8%
<b>Overall level of agreement</b>	80.9%	

### 4.3 Should Lady Place Car Park be the new site?

Respondents were asked whether or not they agreed with the choice of Lady Place Car Park as the site for the new centre. The majority agreed, although this majority was smaller than the previous two questions.

	Responses	Percentage
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	117	16.3%
<b>Disagree</b>	56	7.8%
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	98	13.7%
<b>Agree</b>	180	25.1%
<b>Strongly agree</b>	266	37.1%
<b>Overall level of agreement</b>	72.1%	

<sup>1</sup> The overall level of agreement is the percentage of those that answered "agree" and "strongly agree" out of those that answered "strongly disagree", "disagree", "agree" and "strongly agree". Respondents that answered "neither agree nor disagree" or did not reply were not counted.

#### 4.4 Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to express any other views they felt should be taken into account in the planning of the new community centre. 360 (49.6%) chose to do this. A summary of the most frequently cited comments is presented below.

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percentage<sup>2</sup></b>
Car parking issues a concern	55	17.2%
General positive comments	37	11.6%
'Hurry up and get on with it'	30	9.4%
Refurbish / modernise existing facility	21	6.6%
Unhappy with consultation / questions asked	20	6.3%
Other buildings / sites in Alton maybe more suitable	19	5.9%
Inclusion of theatre is a good idea	19	5.9%
Good idea for the youth	18	5.6%
Current site (Bank) is fine	13	4.1%
Include a cinema	13	4.1%
Concerns over Holybourne Theatre's involvement.	13	4.1%
Must have disabled access / lifts	11	3.4%
Concerns about the impact on elderly residents living near by	11	3.4%
Concerns about noise and anti-social behaviour	9	2.8%
Lady Place site too small	7	2.2%
Plans too intrusive / detrimental to adjoining park	7	2.2%
Design of building should fit in / not be ugly	7	2.2%
Must consider needs of whole community	6	1.9%
Three stories too high	6	1.9%
Vehicular access concerns	6	1.9%

A number of letter responses were also received. These have not been included as part of this analysis but will be taken into account during the planning of the new community centre.

<sup>2</sup> This percentage is based on those that made comments (360), not those who responded to the survey.