



WICK AWARD

Wick Area Big Local REPORT March 2016



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Acknowledgements

Wick Award and WSA Community Consultants would like to thank all the members of the community who took part in this research project. Particular recognition and thanks must go to the Community Research team who worked with the WSA Community Consultants team in undertaking research. The team have brought a wealth of local knowledge and are introduced in their own words over the next two pages:



“My name is Debbie. I have lived in the Wick Award area for 25 years. This research has allowed me to visit places in the area I hadn’t been to before and speak to people I probably wouldn’t have spoken to before. Also working in such a friendly team has been a pleasure. One thing I would like to change about the area is more use of Gascoyne 2 Community Hall by everyone on our estate.”

“My name I Sharon, I have lived in Hackney all my life and I have enjoyed doing the research. The one thing we need in this area is community”.



“My name is Rebekah and I’ve lived in Hackney for 6 years. One thing I’ve enjoyed about being a community researcher is the sense of contributing to the community and helping build for the community’s future. Something I’d like to see is activities that decrease isolation.”

“My name is Cabrini and I’ve lived in Wick ward my whole life (18 years). I’ve loved how interested the local people are – I thought people would be less in touch with their community as it is so large. I would love to see more resources single mums / young families to help them make big decisions without causing strain.”



Polly Mann is the Community Development and Partnership Worker at Wick Award. She helped to plan the project and got involved in the training and interviewing process. Polly is a Hackney resident and has worked in Community Development in the area for many years.

I am Jade and have supported this project as a youth worker helping to engage the young people in what types of changes they would to see within the Wick Area. Being born and raised in Hackney myself I felt a passion being part of such an exciting project. I gained an insight into how some of the young people live and what struggles they face and It was lovely to also hear of some of the positive things they enjoyed within their area. I look forward to seeing all the amazing changes that will take place, helping these young people and their communities to flourish within the Wick Area.



We would want to thank other community members and organisations who helped this process including Gainsborough and Wentworth Children’s Centres who hosted our training sessions and meetings, Devonte Edwards who was initially involved as a peer youth researcher, Nicki Coa for volunteering and carrying out some research at Gainsborough Children’s Centre, Maureen Sammon for input around Trowbridge, Wick Award Partnership members for advising and undertaking questionnaires and all the groups that hosted us for research.

Thanks to everyone involved!

Contents

Acknowledgements	2
1 Background	5
2 Introduction	6
3 Methodology	7
4 How do people feel about the Wick Award Area?	12
5. Use of Local Community Centres	16
6. Local Community Needs	17
7. Improvements to the Wick Award Area	21
8. Youth Consultation	26
9. Recommendations to consider	27
APPENDIX 1: Wick Award Theory of Change	30
APPENDIX 2: Wick Award Youth Research Report	31
APPENDIX 3: Community Research Questionnaire	35

1 Background

Wick Award is a Big Local project, funded by Local Trust with funding from the Big Lottery. Wick Award Big Local is one of 150 Big Local areas across England. Big Local supports communities to make their areas an even better place to live through the investment of at least £1 million over 10 years.

Big Local is based on the idea that communities have the skills and ideas of their own to identify local issues and develop solutions. It is a locally driven approach to help communities fulfil their ambitions and make their local areas better places to live.

The Wick Award Partnership Panel is made up of local residents and stakeholders and is working to ensure decisions around the activities funded reflect the needs of the local community.

The Wick Award Priorities are:

- Promote wellbeing for all
- Create opportunities for young people
- Build community spirit

The Wick Award area is situated in the London Borough of Hackney and stretches from the Lee in the east over to Well Street Common in the West. The area is crossed by the A12 which runs through it splitting the east and west.



2 Introduction

In autumn 2016 Wick Award commissioned WSA Community Consultants to support a project where local people would be trained as community researchers and work alongside the WSA Community Consultants team to undertake research and find out more about what people would like to see in place within the Wick Award priorities listed above. Initially WSA Community Consultants delivered a workshop with the Wick Award Partnership to develop a framework around what questions to ask and to better understand the priorities for the programme and the changes or outcomes the partnership were hoping to see (see appendix 1).

The overall aims of the community research were to:

- Assess local community needs in order to support Wick Award Partnership to better plan around need
- Train and recognise local community researchers
- Recruit and support local young people to undertake a dedicated youth consultation
- Provide accredited training in leadership
- Raise awareness of Wick Award Big Local

This report sets out our approach to undertaking the research and the fieldwork undertaken and the key findings from the Wick Award Community which show both how people feel about the area now and their hopes, needs and aspirations for the future. We have also made some recommendations for consideration around the three priorities for Wick Award. We hope the Partnership and wider Wick Award community will find this a useful document for planning and moving forward.



3 Methodology

After reviewing the best method to deliver the project we agreed with the Wick Award Partnership in November to focus initially on two teams based loosely around the west and east of the ward. The recruitment of the volunteer researchers and the two young peer researchers took place in December and from January we worked to build the community research team and prepare and plan for the fieldwork. Four community researchers stayed with the project, three of whom have carried out the accredited unit.

The community researchers have helped to shape the project, brought substantial local knowledge and understanding as well as worked hard carrying out the research.

The process for training of the community researchers has included:

- Initial meetings to explain the purpose and suggested methodology of the community mapping
- Training sessions on undertaking community research
- Piloting the questionnaires and participatory exercises
- Support in how to safely carry out the questionnaires
- Fieldwork to carry out interviewing
- Fieldwork to carry out consultation events
- A meeting to look at the findings and reflect on the experience

A separate process has been carried out with young people within the area. Initially two peer researchers were employed by Wick Award. Whilst one had to leave the Peer Research for another role Cabrini Cotter-Boston has worked alongside Jade Grey Christie, a qualified youth worker with experience in researching young people's needs. Cabrini and Jade have worked to consult young people about their needs and wants for the Wick Award area. This consultation has taken place at youth centres and outside in places that young



people hang out such as Well Street and Mare Street. In addition to this Cabrini has been supported to visit local schools and carry out focus group sessions.

3.1 Data Collection

Within this Community Research we have used the following methods to collect information from the community:

- A questionnaire developed with the community researchers (appendix 3). 170 surveys were returned of these 54 were filled out online using Survey

Monkey and 116 were paper surveys filled out with community researchers. These were filled out at local community events, through door knocking on estates and asking residents in the street.

- Consultation exercises were carried out for quick feedback and wider reach at school gates, Stay and Play events, Wick Village Tenant Management Organization, a Senior Citizen's Club and at a Fruit and Vegetable stall.
- Youth Consultation events and focus groups were held at local youth clubs and within both primary and secondary schools. A separate full youth consultation report accompanies this research and draws together clearly all the findings from the youth consultation (appendix 2)

3.2.1 Questionnaires

A questionnaire draft was initially drawn up for the community researchers to pilot and consider. This process allowed us to change the questionnaire to better suit and reflect the area, the kinds of data we were looking to collect and ensure clarity. These questionnaires were then carried out through door knocking with the community researchers along with an online survey placed on survey monkey.

3.2.2 Consultation Exercises

The community researchers and WSA Consultants held consultation exercises with community groups including:

- Parents and carers of young children both at the children's centres and school gates
- Wick Village Tenant management organisation (TMO)
- Trowbridge Senior Citizen's club
- Residents of Chigwell Court Sheltered Housing
- Residents of John Crewdson Court Sheltered Housing
- People shopping at a fruit and vegetable stall were invited to participate.
- Ideas captured at training sessions and meetings with the community researchers have also been included within this evaluation

Three consultation sessions were held with Children's Centre parents and carers at stay & play sessions. Stay & play sessions are aimed at children aged up to school age and their carers. The parents and carers who contributed may have had older children too which could have influenced their views. One session with childminders was also held. Quick interviews were also held with parents and carers at the school gates.

These groups were asked:

- **“What ideas do you have to improve the local area?”**
- **“What kinds of community activities would you be interested in?”**

3.2 Demographics of the respondents

Below is the demographic information for the survey carried out on paper and online. Whilst demographic information was not collected during the other consultations an effort was made to ensure that these were carried out at locations around the Wick Award area.

170 surveys were returned of these 54 were filled out online using Survey Monkey and 116 were paper surveys filled out with community researchers.

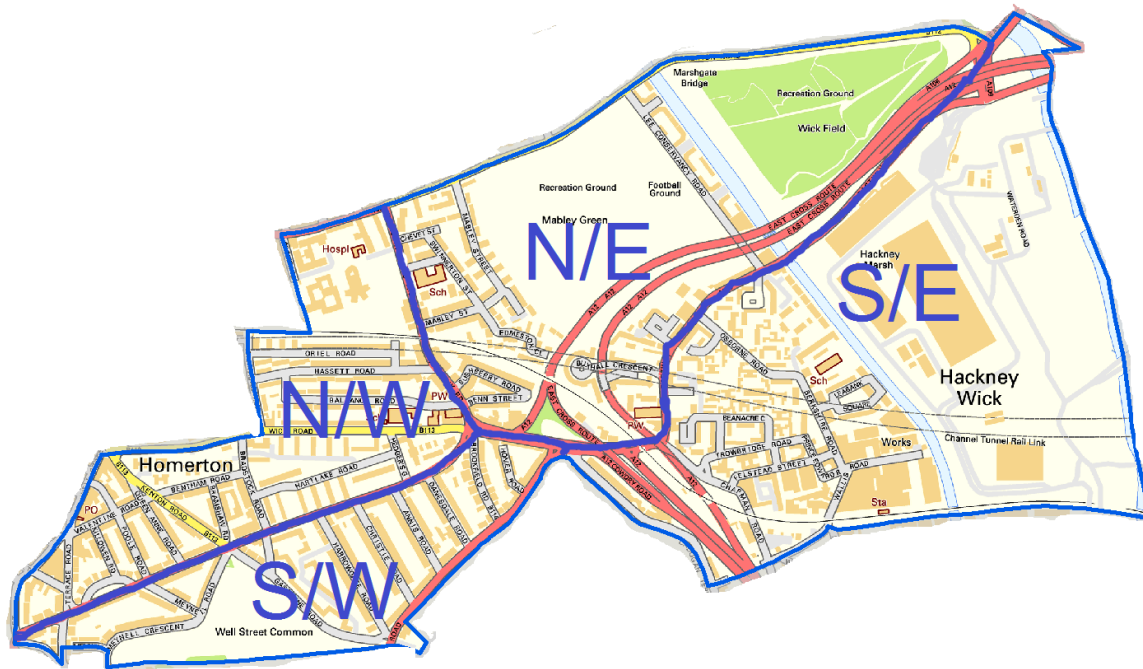


Figure 1 Wick Award Area Split into Quadrants

The greatest response came from the SE quadrant (64 respondents or 37.6%). 23 replies (13.5%) came from people who did not live in the Wick area. Of that 23, 10 (or 43%) worked in the area while others were using services (e.g. shops, GPs or schools) in the area. Only 1 respondent (4.3%) said they did not regularly use the Wick area.

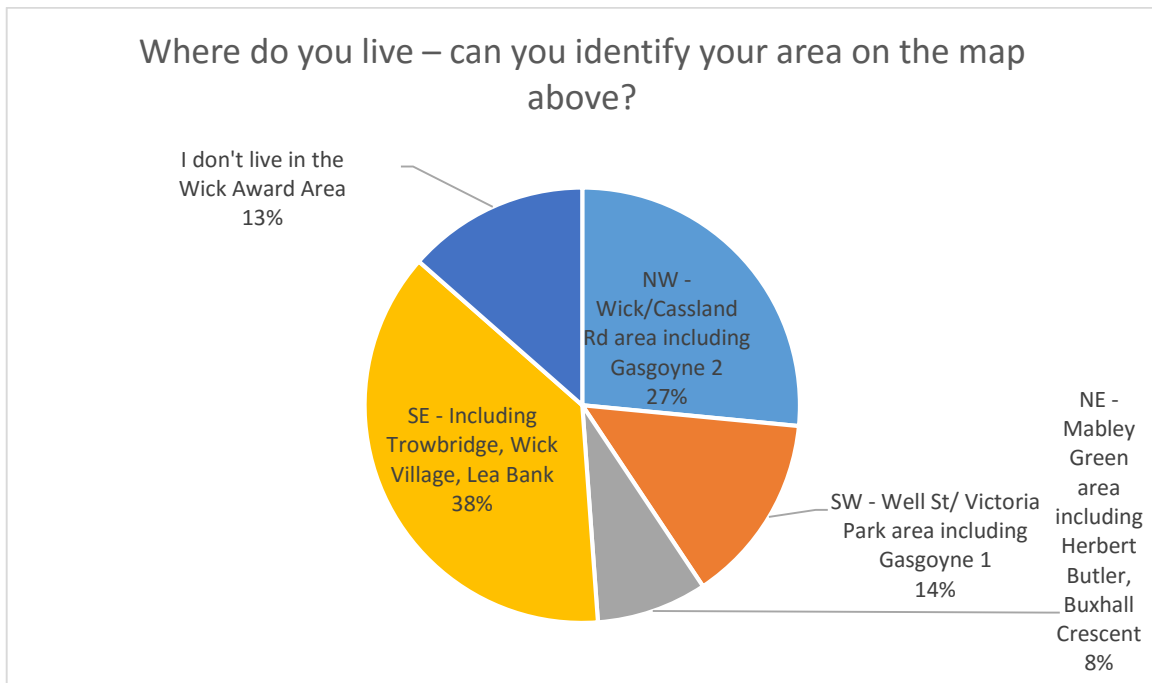


Figure 2 Where Survey Respondent's Live

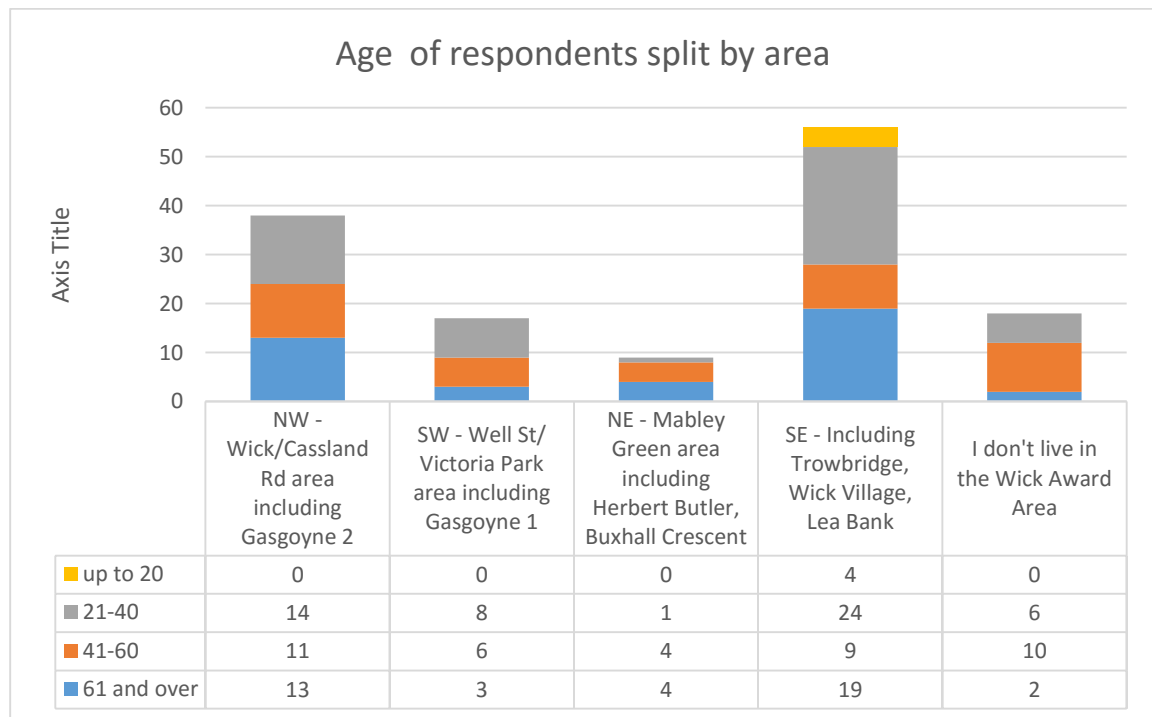


Figure 3 Age of Survey Respondents Split by Area

There was a fairly even spread of ages of respondents over 20. Whilst only 3% of respondents were ages under 20 these views have been assessed during the youth and school consultations below. Of the 4 respondents under 20, three of these identified as Black/African/Caribbean/Black British and all four were from the SE quadrant. The largest single age group was the 21-40s with 53 responses

(38%). The 41-60 group accounted for 40 responses while 41 respondents said they were aged 61 or over.

A majority (61.9%) of respondents identified as 'White' with Black/African/Caribbean/Black British accounting for 19.4% of replies to this question.

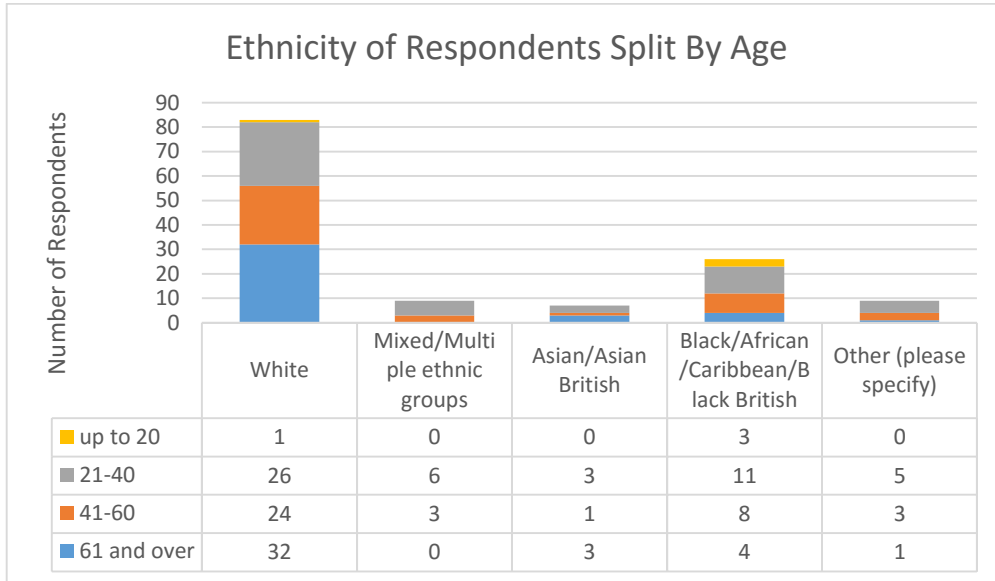


Figure 4 Ethnicity of Survey Respondents by Age

More respondents to this survey gave their gender as female than male with only 22% reporting themselves as male, this figure can however be skewed by the low response rate to this question.

Whilst the highest proportion of respondents to the survey had been living in the Wick Award area for 1-5 years 70% of respondents had been in the area for over 5 years and 17% for over 30 years. The longest any of the respondents had been in the area was 95 years!

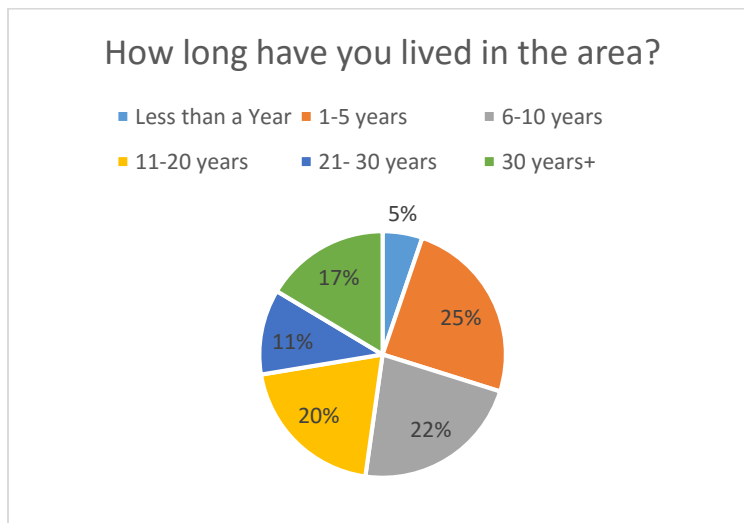


Figure 5 How Long Have Survey Respondents Lived in the Area

4 How do people feel about the Wick Award Area?

In order to set out changes in the Wick Award area it was important to initially gauge how people feel about the area at the moment in order to provide a starting point from which Wick Award can build.

Survey

The majority of replies to the questionnaire showed that people agreed and strongly agreed that they liked spending time in the area. This was slightly varied in the different areas of the Wick Award with 95% of people who don't live in the area saying they agreed or strongly agreed they liked spending time in the area whilst only 80% of respondents in the NE Mabely Green area felt the same. The NE Quadrant also felt the lowest sense of pride in their community with only 60% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with that statement. Pride in the community was highest again in those who did not live in the area followed by the SW including Well St/ Victoria Park area and Gasgoyne 1 where just over 80% of respondents felt a sense of pride in their area.

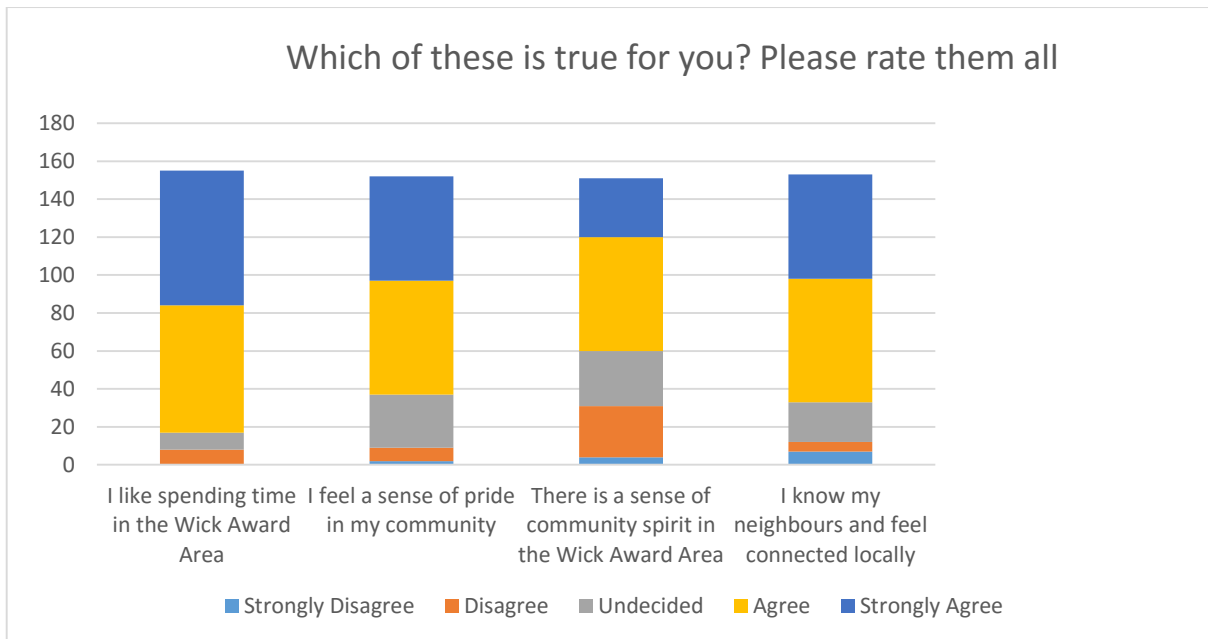


Figure 6 Survey Responses to 'Which of these is true for you?' Questions on Area

The figure below shows that there was a large variation by area in the sense of community spirit felt within the Wick Award area. Whilst those outside the area felt the most community spirit, the NW quadrant had 75% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that there was a sense of community spirit. However, this dipped to a low of 45% in the SE area (including Trowbridge and Wick Village) with around 5% of respondents strongly disagreeing.

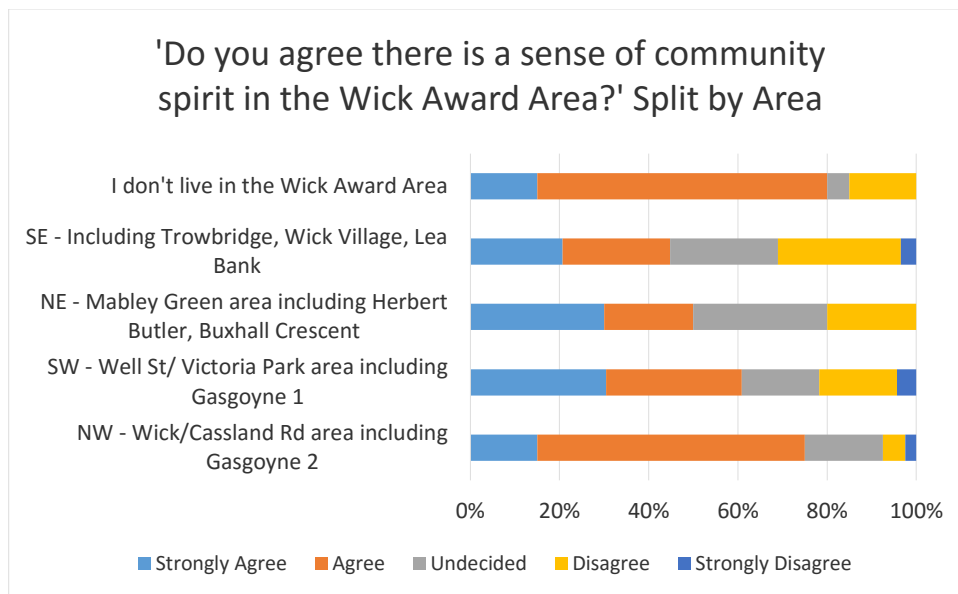


Figure 7 Survey Responses Split by Area to 'Do you agree there is a sense of community spirit in the Wick Award Area?'

Whilst in most areas around 80% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they know their neighbours this was lowest within the NE area of Wick Award (which includes the Mabley Green area, Herbert Butler and Buxhall Crescent) here only 70% agreed or strongly agreed.

Young People

Children at local schools were asked to rate how much they like living in the Wick Award area on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest. Berger school, a primary, had an average answer of just over 7, this shows that whilst there are positive associations with the area there is still some way to go. When looking at the range of results in the table below there were 14 respondents who rated the area as a 9 or 10 showing that they particularly enjoy living in the area. However, three other student respondents hold very negative opinions about the area.

Berger (Primary)

How much do you like living in this area?

Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Number of responses	2	1			5	5	1	2	6.5	7.5

Berger mean average= 7.18

When the same exercise was carried out with secondary school children at Mossbourne the average was higher at 7.4 and with more clustering around the options of 7,8 and 9. This shows quite high satisfaction with the area although this still provides room for some improvement.

Mossbourne Victoria Park (Secondary)

How much do you like living in this area?

Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Number of responses					1		5	3.5	1.5	

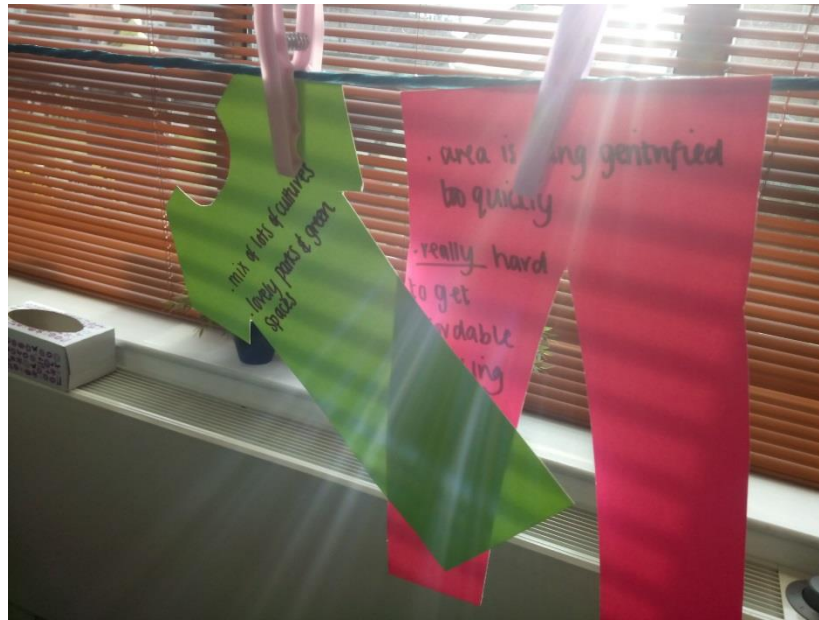
Mossbourne mean average= 7.4

This fear of crime was also present within the other research carried out with young people and demonstrates a strong concern, this will be explored in more depth in local community needs below.



Other Consultations

When the Community Researchers carried out the Tops and Pants Exercise this showed that they felt positive about their area (valuing its established community, its green spaces, and its diversity), this group also identified gentrification, and the effect on housing, as a concern. They identified housing for young people as a particular issue. Like the young people and children, they picked up on ASB in housing as a concern, suggesting that the estates could be better managed. They were concerned that residents of all ages could become bored or isolated.



Key themes:

People like to spend time in the area:

Over 80% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed spending time in the area. Whilst this was highest (95%) amongst those who did not live in the area so perhaps used the area through choice the lowest it reached was 80% in the North East Quadrant. In addition, young people asked at their schools were generally positive about the area with both rating it as just over 7 out of 10. This does however show some room for improvement. Local school children demonstrated their experiences in the area associating different places with recreational activities however this was tempered with a fear of crime.

Pride in the area

Pride in the area was a very mixed with the South West Quadrant with Well St/ Victoria Park area and Gasgoyne 1 being a place where just over 80% of respondents felt a sense of pride in their area. Yet in the North East this fell to 60%.

Sense of community and knowing neighbours

Sense of community spirit was the most disputed of the statements in the survey with the South East of the area feeling little community spirit and the North East of the area feeling less like they knew their neighbours. This is also highlighted below as one of the needs for the area

5. Use of Local Community Centres

58.1% of respondents said they used a community centre or community group in the Wick area. None of the under 21s used such a facility but this rose to 64% in the 21-40s. but then reduced once again for those over 60.

Do you use a community Centre or Group in the Wick Award area?		
Age	Yes %	No %
Under 20	0%	100%
21-40	64%	36%
41-60	65%	35%
Over 60's	51%	49%

Do you use a community Centre or Group in the Wick Award area?		
Area	Yes %	No %
NW - Wick/Casland Rd area including Gasgoyne 2	64	36
SW - Well St/ Victoria Park area including Gasgoyne 1	48	52
NE - Mabley Green area including Herbert Butler, Buxhall Crescent	60	40
SE - Including Trowbridge, Wick Village, Lea Bank	50	50
Doesn't Live in the area	81	19

Comments show that the activities on offer are welcomed and that people appreciate that these are 'close to home'. Quite a few comments focused on the importance of increasing attendance at the centres.

Key points:

Age

Under 20's didn't report using community centres or groups at all. However, this group has a very small sample for the survey and may not reflect the general population. In addition, it is the over 60s that had the second lowest usage.

Area

Of those who took part in the survey it was people outside the area who were most likely to use a community centre or group. This is due to the sampling of this group as most people who live outside the area but took the survey would have done so at a community centre or group.

6. Local Community Needs

This section serves to highlight the complex needs within the Wick Award area before section six goes on to explore improvements

Survey

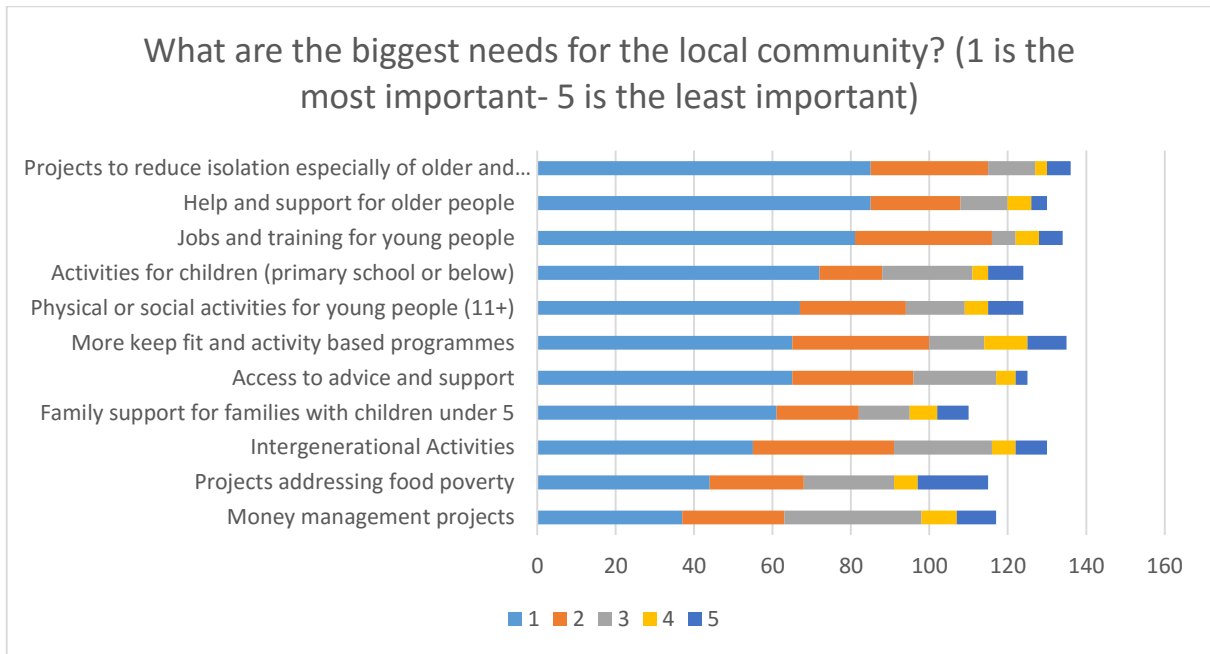


Figure 8 Survey Response to 'What are the Biggest Needs for the Local Community?'

Whilst help and support for older people and projects to reduce isolation for the elderly and vulnerable were rated as the biggest needs of the community help for younger people in terms of jobs and training as activities for the very young were also highly rated. The lowest rated needs were project to address food poverty and money management projects. There was some variation in the needs for each particular area with activities for children (primary age or below) not being considered to be a high local need in the NW and SW of the Wick Award area. A few of those interviewed feedback they would like to see jobs and training

support for a wider age groups should be available, not just targeting young people.

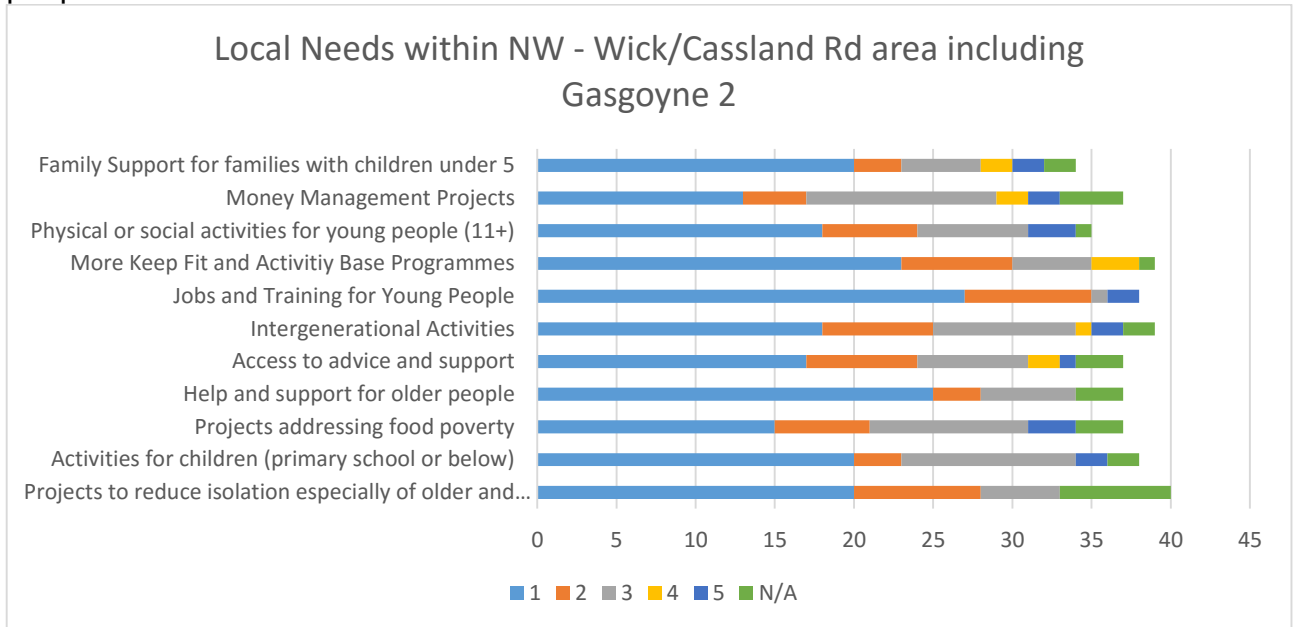


Figure 9 Local Needs within North West of the Area

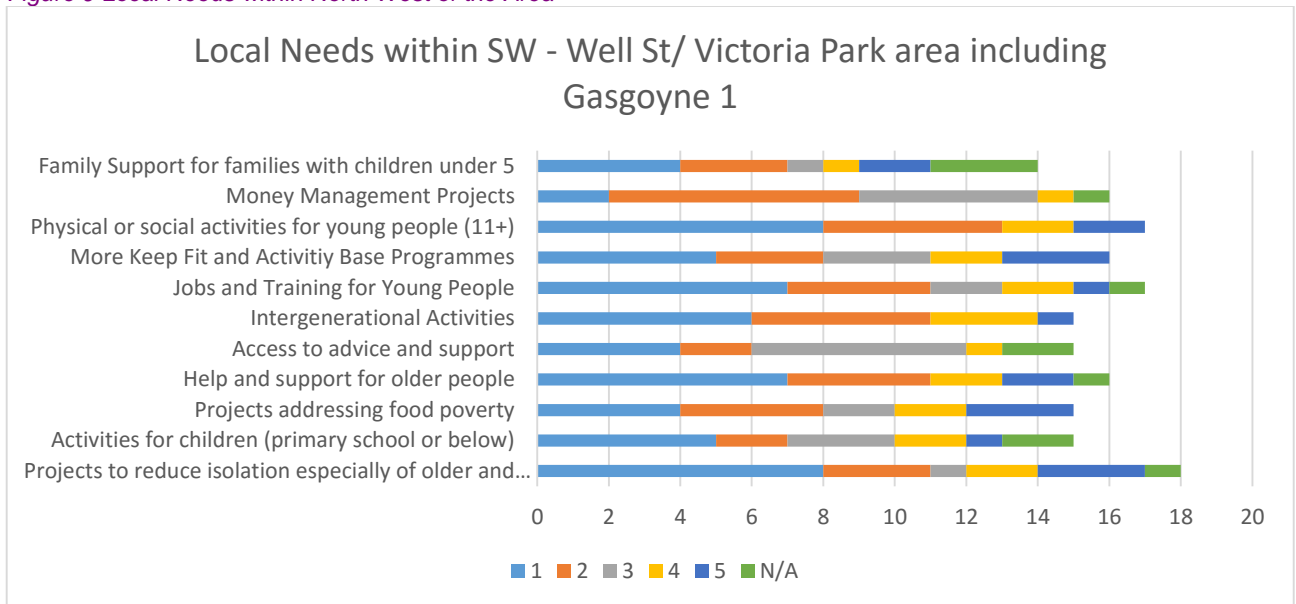


Figure 10 Local Needs within South West of the Area

What other issues are affecting the community?

Housing/ Gentrification (mentioned by 20 people)

Concern over rising housing prices and changes in the community forcing local residents out of the area were common place

“Gentrification. Everyone is upset about this! Everyone knows they are going to destroy the Wick and prices keep going up kicking out all the local residents and replacing them with spoiled kids with yoga mats.”

Crime (mentioned by 16 people)

Drugs and anti-social behaviour were the most commonly mentioned crime problems although fear of gangs were also mentioned

“Young people smoking weed- joints in mouth always in gangs & gun signs- intimidating”

Things for Young People (mentioned by 14 people)

Young People were not seen as having enough to keep them entertained. A number of the comments regarding a lack of activities for Young People linked this to anti-social behaviour and serious knock on effects.

Community (mentioned by 12 people)

Concern over the community not fully integrating and a lack of spaces for the community to come together

Young People

In consultation with schools, young people in public places and youth the issue of crime was raised as a major concern for the area. This was coupled with concerns over drugs and alcohol and anti-social behaviour

‘I hate my block because the big boys destroy it’.

They also raised environmental concerns including pollution, litter and wanting more green spaces.

‘I don’t like the area because Hackney air makes me feel sick’

The groups also mentioned quality of housing, homelessness and local poverty.

Key Themes

Crime was a particular concern amongst young people and within the main survey across age groups. This was often mentioned in relation to young people reflecting concerns surrounding gangs, drugs and anti-social behaviour.



Help for older and vulnerable people- Providing help for older and vulnerable people was considered a top priority from the list of options given. This was the case throughout the Award area reflecting widespread need.

Help for young people - Both the comments section of the survey and the list of priorities shows that help for young people is a priority. However, the focus on this was on jobs and training, physical or social activities for those above 11 and activities for those under 5 rather than family support. The comments also reflected a need for youth clubs and activities for teenagers. This is fully backed up and supported by the dedicated youth consultation that took place as part of this project (appendix 2).

Concern about lack of community

Whilst not addressed within the list of priorities a number of respondents expressed concern that there is nowhere to forge community connections. These concerns also involved a need to integrate new members of the community and a concern over when this doesn't happen.

Housing and Gentrification

Whilst again not recognized on the list of priorities there were noteworthy concerns from residents about the rising cost of housing, loss of social housing and changing demographic of local residents. One respondent explained their concerns with rising local tensions leading to graffiti on one local business stating 'hipsters out'.

7. Improvements to the Wick Award Area

Sections four and five have set out how respondents to this research feel about the area and what they see the local community needs as comprising of. This section will then build on this to explore improvements which respondents have highlighted.

Survey

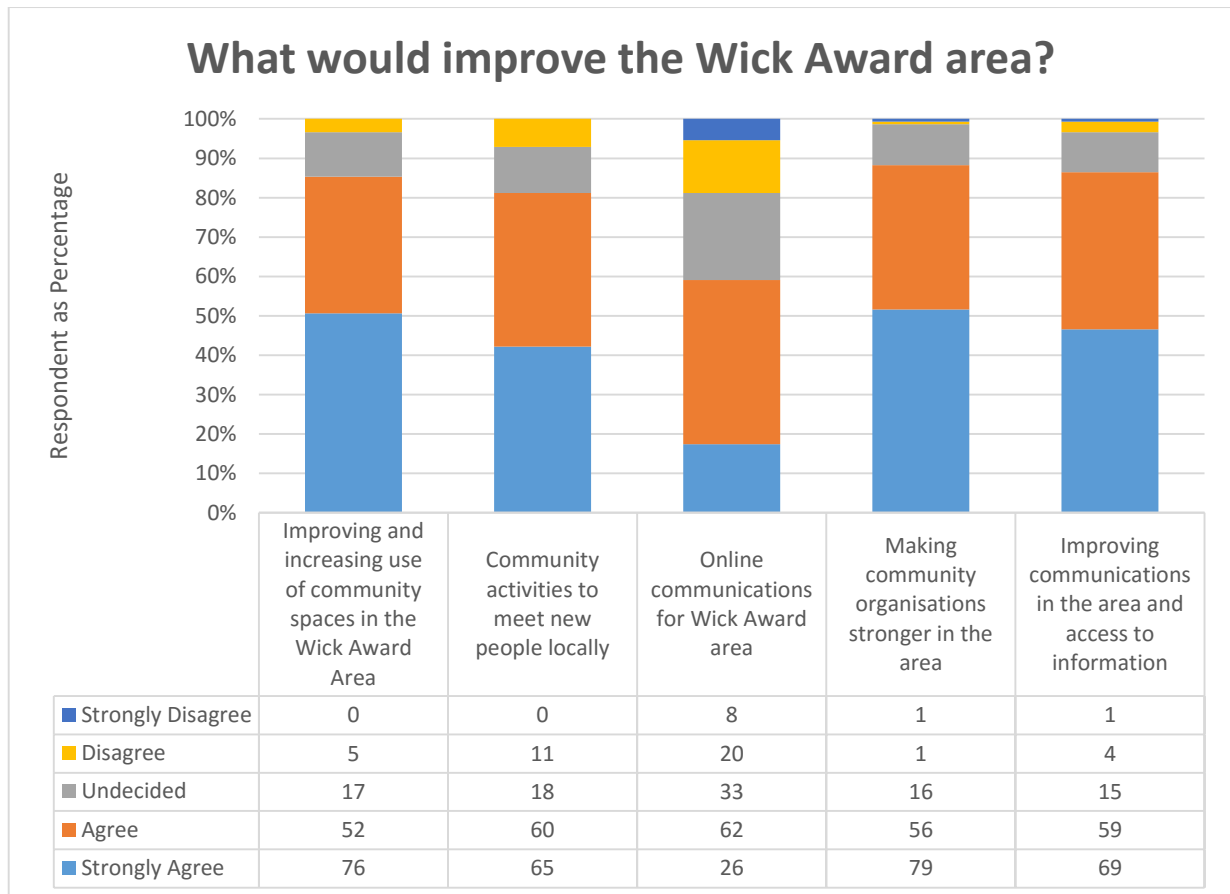


Figure 11 Survey Responses to 'What would improve the Wick Award Area?'

Respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the suggestions with between 80%-90% agreement for increasing and improving community spaces, community activities, making community organizations stronger and improving communications. However, this agreement did vary slightly around the area with 65% of residents of the NE quadrant agreeing or strongly agreeing to the improving and increasing the use of community spaces whilst 95% of Trowbridge residents felt the same.

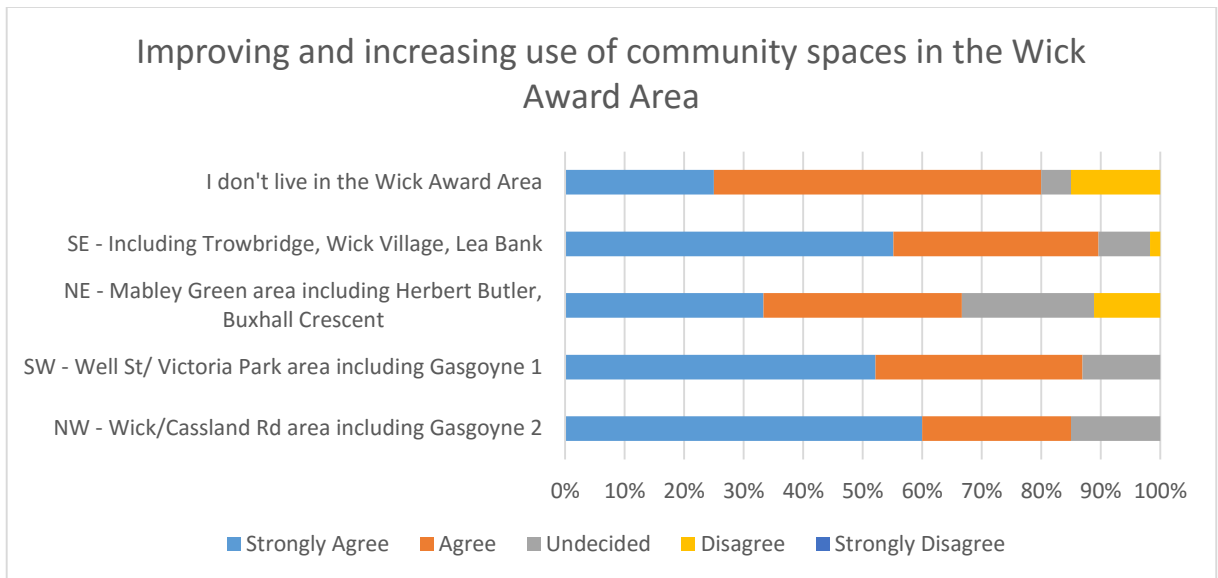


Figure 12 Survey Responses to 'What Would Improve the Wick Award Area... Improving and Increasing Use of Community Space in the Wick Award Area'

A significant number (28 out of 149 with 33 undecided) disagreed or strongly disagreed with 'online communications for the Wick area', this disagreement was highest in the South East area (with 25% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing) but also when split by age. Disagreement with online communications was highest amongst those over 60 where over 35% disagreed or strongly disagreed (13 people)

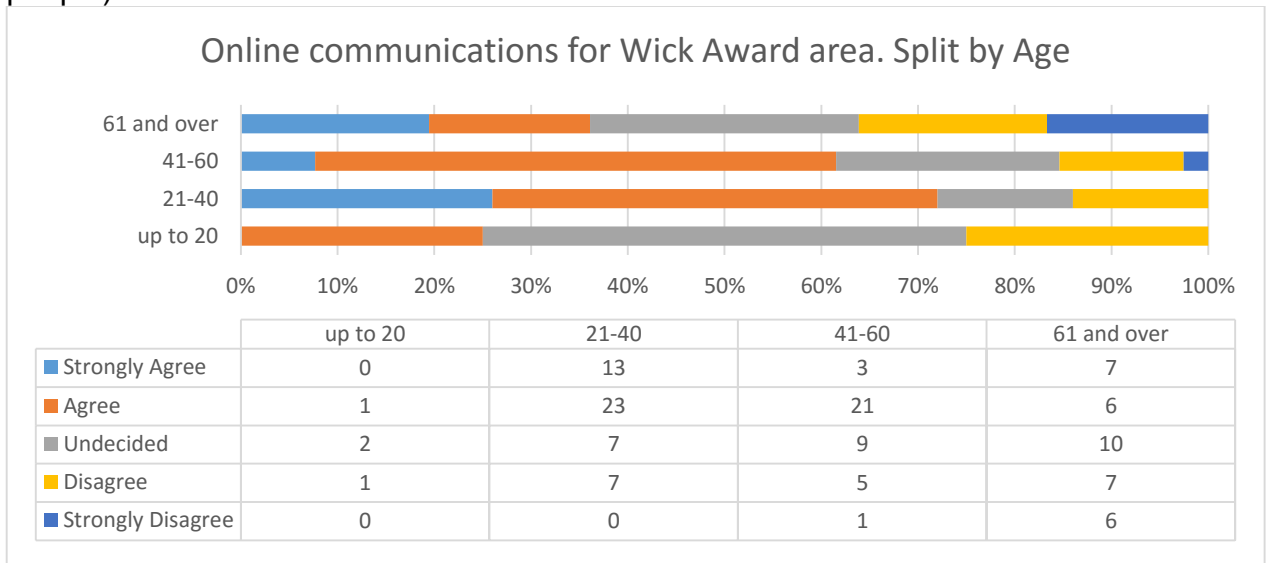


Figure 13 Survey Responses to 'What Would Improve the Wick Award Area... Online communications for the Wick Award Area' Split by age

Residents were asked 'If you could do one thing to improve the Wick Award area for the local community what would it be?' their replies focused on the following areas:

Area	Number of mentioned
Elderly	5
Employment and Money	5
Gentrification+ Housing	7
Crime	9
Environment	11
Young People	28
Community	32

Consultation with parents, careers and childminders

The Children's Centre and School gates consultations ideas focused on children's needs such as playground improvements and indoor play facilities.



They also identified that there was a lack of activities for children of all ages at the weekend. They were mindful of the needs of young people and suggested a community centre which could host youth activities.

Whilst it was noted generally the need for longer hours at the children's centres. Those who attended the Gainsborough drop in noted the need for sessions after school, weekends and holidays for children and young people, including those with disabilities.

Community activities such as ball games in the park were suggested as a way of bring the community together alongside the need for more social events for all ages. The need to provide activities for adults with disabilities and young people was also highlighted.

Most frequently the parent and careers identified the need for more art or play-based activities and playgrounds. They would like to see after school and indoor activities that are including older children and young people, such as internet access, cookery classes, homework clubs and swimming lessons. One respondent suggested a buddying scheme for the elderly and another suggested family festivals.

The environment also featured with a call for more housing, better shops; the removal of controlled parking, better road crossings and a request for speed cameras. Several respondents cited dirt and dog fouling as a problem for their children.

Through discussion the need for improved indoor space or youth club was also discussed and young people would like to have somewhere with good facilities and free Wi-Fi which was seen as key.

A number of young people also discussed the need for help for people facing homelessness or unemployment.

Key findings:

Activities: Activities were in demand for young people, older people and to try and bring the community together. Whilst intergenerational activities were not rated as a high need there is considerable need for activities to bring people together and reinforce a sense of community. The following support for activities were highlighted

- Activities for young people, particularly sporting activities
- Support for Youth Clubs
- Support for indoor play areas
- More summer activities for elderly people
- Activities to bring the whole community together

Environmental Improvements - Environmental issues including traffic, litter and dog faeces were mentioned as problems for the area. Solutions to these have included litter picks or clean up days, speed cameras and more planting.

Digital communications - Digital Communications were a controversial area for support with only 60% of respondents supporting them. This support was lowest amongst the over 60s.

Support for community centres and organisations - Whilst making community centre's better used was widely supported this was less recognised within the North East of the area. Community centre and group use was particularly low among the under 20s and over 60s so both of these groups could benefit from further activities within these spaces. There was also considerable support for making community organisations stronger which may be a viable way to build the capacity and structures of the community.

8. Youth Consultation

In undertaking the youth consultation (for full report see appendix 2) the best places to engage with young people were mapped out by the team including schools, youth clubs, and known hang out spots. The team carried out structured research through focus groups at Mossbourne Victoria Park, Berger school, Morningside youth club, Gainsborough school and Wentworth nursery with age appropriate activities. Mare street and Well Street were chosen for street interviews.

Young people spoken to in street interviews and at schools expressed deep concern about gangs and crime. These young people were very aware of their surroundings and also concerned about ASB, drug taking and littering. Young people within the Trowbridge area has particular needs for a play park since the climbing frame was taken down these young people wanted more activities and gates to keep them safe from the main road and to stop groups riding their motorbikes on it.

Whilst young people liked the green spaces and activities which offered a good social life many young people wanted more outdoor and indoor facilities for young people. In terms of outdoor facilities young people requested football cage with basketball hoops, more sports clubs and better facilities within youth clubs. The young people were on the whole not aware of Gascoyne youth club (the only active youth club in the wick ward) but asked for a “big” youth club with “cheap” activities. The Gascoyne youth club currently does not have the space or facilities to offer this and other options to support Gascoyne Youth Club to have a bigger space could be explored. Young people at the youth club itself asked for a space with internet access for kids to do homework.

The young people at both Berger and Mossbourne were very keen on the idea of creating a youth committee or forum tied in to the Wick Award to help keep a youth voice in the decisions over the following months/years. This group brainstormed on how this would work including monthly meetings and a social media account to keep in touch with younger people. This has helped to develop a pool of young people who would like to stay involved to see this to fruition



9. Recommendations to consider

For this section we have gone back to the Wick Award Partnership priorities and looked at each one in relation to the findings of the research. We aim to offer you some recommendations for each for discussion and consideration as follows:

Promote wellbeing for all

- **Encourage local connections:** The partnership can consider how best to encourage local connections— although this is across the board there are particular challenges to engagement in the NE quadrant of the ward and some focussed activity should be considered for this area
- **Community pride and connectivity;** It may be useful for the partnership to consider why community pride and connectivity is variable in the different quadrants and how this could be improved through locally based interventions or activities
- **Wellbeing activities:** Some wellbeing activities could be developed as identified under those activities people feel were most relevant to them
- **Local Environment;** Consideration around community events to improve the local environment e.g. clean up events, addressing dog mess etc. From this research we know ASB and the environment affects people's sense of well being
- **Traffic and speeding;** Residents are concerned about traffic and speeding problems locally and Wick Award could think about how to act as a link to the public services that have the power to make changes and build confidence

“I would like to organize some sort of big pots of flowers and other vegetation in the area located at the back behind the buildings Wellday House and Selman House”

“Make the walkway from under the bridge to the Olympic park less car orientated! Not good for young lungs”

Build Community Spirit

- **Networks and information hubs:** Ways of creating networks and information hubs can be explored by the partnership
- **Community centres as hubs;** In recognition of the concern over a lack of community activities and spaces the partnership could work to support local community centres as hubs to bring people together.
- **Supporting local organisations;** The partnership could help to support local community organisations and help to make them stronger which may be a viable way to build the capacity and structures of the community. This is one of the existing Wick Award priorities and the research supports this.
- **Increasing activities;** A number of ideas for activities have been generated by the research which could bring members of the community together. Implementing these could be explored by the partnership through ongoing community development, the community chest programme and engaging local people to lead projects going forward

“Community centre where everyone could bring their ideas and increase physical contact across the generations”

Create opportunities for young people

Here are the key recommendations from the youth research report please see appendix 2 for more details.

- **Ensuring Youth Work Support Going Forward:** The Young People involved in this research have expressed an interest in leading these activities and need proper support in order to be able to achieve this, currently there has been success in engagement by having a youth worker and young peer mentor and this is something which could be built upon as the resourcing of this going forward will be key to keep the momentum achieved to date.
- **Support for Gascoyne Youth Club;** young people have said they would like a space with wide ranging facilities including internet and computers where the children can come and do homework or socialise. This could be achieved on the west side of the ward by close work with Gascoyne Youth Club and Wick Awards input.
- **Support for Hub 67:** To increase the reach of their promotion to young people in order to let them know that the space is available for them and

funding activities for young people in the hub with specific outreach on Trowbridge and in the surrounding area.

- **Financial support for sporting activities;** these could be on Well Street Common or Mabley Green.
- **Arts and Crafts activities** would be welcomed.
- **Outdoor play space;** Specifically, in the South East of the area
- Life skills sessions teaching skills such as cooking, money management and sex education along with teaching the children their rights when being arrested/stopped and searched

“There is nothing on weekends for children to do and therefore they congregate in squares and roads where they live playing football which is distorting the flats where I live. Would be nice to have properly organized community activities so that people respect the area they live in more- less rubbish and dog mess!”

APPENDIX 1: Wick Award Theory of Change



APPENDIX 2: Wick Award Youth Research Report

Cabrini Cotter Boston (peer Youth Researcher), Supported by Jade Gray Christie (Youth Worker)

Starting the job as a youth researcher for the Wick Award in January I had one clear objective- to reach the most diverse group of young people from the Hackney Wick area within a 3-month time frame. We looked at a map of the ward and brainstormed the best places to engage with young people such as schools, youth clubs, and known hang out spots. We then compiled a list of contacts and got our main locations- for more structured research we chose Mossbourne Victoria Park, Berger school, Morningside youth club, Gainsborough school and Wentworth nursery; Mare street and Well Street were chosen for street interviews. We planned out age appropriate activities- “H diagrams” for the secondary school children but more focus on “melting pot” exercises for the primary school age ones, along with quick questions such as “What is one thing you’d change about your local area?” for parents during the school run. Although not everything went to plan (for example Morningside had to be swapped for Gascoyne at very late notice) we feel as if our results are in depth and really show what youths in the Wick ward need.



Speaking to teenagers on the streets we got an overwhelming sense of despondence- almost all teens we spoke to stated gangs or crime as the one thing they felt had to be improved within the area. One particular teen spoke to us about how she didn't believe we would help in any way, as many organisations had promised the community things before and not followed through. Speaking to 10 year olds in Berger school gave us very similar results- one boy said that he liked absolutely nothing about his area because the “*big boys*” were ruining it, although others seemed to question this blind fear of what happens on the streets with one boy asking him “*but when have you ever even heard gunshots though?*”

We noticed that the children were very aware of their surroundings, many of them being street aware beyond their years. Children were also very aware of littering and ASB such as smoking and dog foul, many kids complained about the smells on estates and drugs in their area- they were showing clear indications of exposure but also knowledge that it was wrong. Things that the young people did like were very limited- many said nothing as their answer with one boy telling us that “the people” were the problem. Green spaces and a good social life were the highlights of the area, although many did stress the need for more outdoor facilities and indoor hangout spaces.

Most of our activities focused on what to improve about the area, so we got masses of data for this. We went into Berger, Morningside, Mossbourne and Gascoyne to ask the young people what they would improve and got an

overwhelming amount of requests for better facilities to hang out in and more sports-based spaces. So many of the children requested a football cage with basketball hoops, more sports clubs and better facilities within youth clubs that would allow them to get more involved in outdoor stuff. The young people were on the whole not aware of Gascoyne youth club (the only active youth club in the Wick ward) but asked for a “big” youth club with “cheap” activities. When we visited the youth club itself we got many requests for a space with internet for kids to do homework and to have access to more sports based activities, mainly football and pool. Younger children were very keen on campaigns to let people know about ASB and to try and stop them from committing it, whereas the teens focused more on a space for them to hang out off of the streets, away from trouble.



The young people at both Berger and Mossbourne were very keen on the idea of creating a youth committee or forum tied in to the Wick Award to help keep a youth voice in the decisions over the following months/years. The young people at Mossbourne brainstormed on how this would work and came up with some really good ideas including monthly meetings and a social media account to keep in touch with younger

people. We feel it's important that this happens, and hopefully by working with the youth clubs and passing information through to the schools it will get up and running. In fact, some of the young people we have spoken too have already said they would like to stay involved and the schools have agreed we can work through them to pass on information to the young people once the next steps are agreed.

The young people were also very aware of those less fortunate- many children proposed swap shops and charities for those who were poor with one girl speaking solely about mental health and disability awareness and providing help for them. Looking at the written surveys a youth club, an adventure park and helping people in need were the most popular answers. Speaking to a group of children in the Trowbridge area we saw that their play park was a huge problem- the kids spoke about being bored since the climbing frame was taken down and wished for a playground with more activities and gates to keep them safe from the main road and to stop groups of boys from riding their motorbikes on it and ruining the grass.

We faced several problems within this research, which may have affected the results that we collected. About a month in to the job one of our two researchers left which put our research to a halt as we planned to go out and do research the next day in Mare street but had to cancel. The researcher that dropped out owned a film company and had pushed the idea of filming young people to make a mini documentary so when he quit we had to re-plan our approach and therefore missed a day out in the field. Whilst out researching we also ran into a few problems. After doing one in-depth session with young people at the Morningside youth centre we realised that it was just out of the

award area, so most if not all of the data that we had collected from them therefore didn't apply to the area we would be funding. We tried to do another session there with more young people but quickly realised that the estate itself had many internal problems and the children weren't addressing things that the Wick Award could help with, so we had to think quickly and ended up going to their "sister" youth club the Gascoyne which we at first excluded as it is literally a boarded up portacabin which has a miniscule turnout. We turned up basically unannounced due to the rush so none of the children had been prepared. Although we got very insightful answers from both the young people and the youth worker running the session we felt we needed a more structured session and organised to come back two days later. When we came back it was closed due to a lack of volunteers.



To conclude, from all of the evidence we collated from interviews, sessions, and activities we see a desperate need for funding in the following areas which form the basis of our recommendations to Wick Award. We also think this should be a participative process where there is a youth forum so young people are leading the change:

- The Gascoyne youth club needs a better space than the existing portacabin they were given when their proper centre was knocked down to make space for flats. The Gascoyne hall is the most obvious choice for this although we are unsure of facilities within it. The youth club needs sufficient funding to enable it to provide a service to the young people. The youth club is trying to do such good things for the children in an area rampant with crime and anti social behaviour, so bad that the lady running the sessions has to walk children home in the dark as she is scared of what might happen to them. Under the recommendation of a volunteer and the children we feel that money should be spent on providing a space with internet and computers where the children can come and do homework or chill out as many children don't have access to broadband or computers.
- We feel money should be given to allow for more activities across the Wick Award area; sports based ones being what most feel are needed. Well street common is on the boundary of the Wick ward but we feel this is the best space to have activities such as football club, a space to skateboard, or even an outdoor gym- all of which were well requested amongst the young people. The school children spoke about using Mabley green and the marshes so these would also be good options if the centre can travel.
- A small amounts of money for arts and crafts would go a very long way in the youth club and also for other activities across the area. When speaking to younger people/their parents we were consistently hearing complaints about lack of activities for younger people, and we feel that a small grant for indoor activities would be very much appreciated by the Gascoyne youth Club but also could be used for activities in other parts of the area and would go a long way to engaging people in meaningful activities.

- In the Southeast area we were made very aware of the lack of space for young people. Speaking to a young boy who showed us around the whole area we learnt that they had taken away the play area and had replaced it with a rope swing with a wicker bottom that wasn't enjoyed by anyone. The young people we spoke to felt threatened by older people riding their motorbikes on the grass they played on and complained about the lack of gating which allowed them to do so. They asked for the grass to be replaced with astro-turf for them to play sports, as the grass was so rundown.
- None of the young people mentioned Hub 67, a community hall built for the local people and we feel that Hub 67 should be advertised more to young people in order to let them know that the space is available for them and if necessary give them funding to provide services for the young people with specific outreach on Trowbridge and in the surrounding area. The young people were very aware of the club for Senior Citizens on Trowbridge and told us that they wanted one just like that for young people.
- We feel that life skills sessions are very much needed for the young people-children from such excluded areas need to be taught skills such as cooking, money management and sex education as they are often pushed to be much more independent than most people their age. When speaking to the youth worker after the session the idea of teaching the children their rights when being arrested/stopped and searched came up, and she was very excited about the prospect of it. The children in this ward are being put at risk by missing out on these key lessons that are sadly very relevant to their day-to-day lives.

In conclusion this report breaks down the needs we have identified through the research and draws recommendations together for Wick Award Partnership to consider. We look forward to presenting our ideas and are happy to discuss the ideas more.

APPENDIX 3: Community Research Questionnaire

Wick Award is a Big Local programme – this is a community led programme helping local people make their area an even better place to live! Wick Award has three priority areas identified by local people and these are: Building Community Spirit, Creating Opportunities for Young People and Promoting Wellbeing. The Wick Award community researchers are carrying out research to ensure we understand better what residents need and what would make a positive difference to the local community. We would appreciate it if you could take some time to tell us what you think, thank you!

Name of community researcher: _____ -

Date of interview: _____

- 1 Where do you live – can you identify your area on the map (**show them map of the Wick Award Area and see which quarter of Wick Award area they live in**)?

NW - Wick/Casland Rd area including Gasgoyne 2		SW - Well St/ Victoria Park area including Gasgoyne 1	
NE - Mabley Green area including Herbert Butler, Buxhall Crescent		SE - Including Trowbridge, Wick Village, Lea Bank	

- 2 If you live outside the area do you regularly use Wick Award Area and if so how?

Work in the area	
Have friends in the area	
Have children going to school in the area	
Hang out in the area	
Use services in the area e.g. GP, Shops	
Other (please state)	

If no to both questions thank them for their time and explain the questionnaire is for those living, working or regularly using the area so you won't need to ask them the questions. If yes carry on with the questionnaire.

- 3 How long have you lived in this area? (**for residents only**)

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4. Which of these is true for you? Please rate them all

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Comments
I like spending time in the Wick Award Area						

I feel a sense of pride in my community						
There is a sense of community spirit in the Wick Award Area						
I know my neighbours and feel connected locally						

5 What would improve Wick Award Area?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Comments
Improving and increasing use of community spaces in the Wick Award Area						
Community activities to meet new people locally						
Online communications for Wick Award area						E.G?
Making community organisations stronger in the area						
Improving communications in the area and access to information						

6 Do you use any community facilities, centres or community groups in or near the Wick Award Area?

Yes No

(if no go to question 7)

Which

ones _____

6a What do you like about these community facilities or groups??

6b Is there anything that could make these facilities or groups even better?

7 What do you think are the biggest needs are for the local community? – Rate all of these out of 5 (1 is the most important- 5 is the least important)

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Comments
Projects to reduce isolation especially of older and vulnerable people							
Activities for children (primary school or below)							
Projects addressing food poverty							
Help and support for older people							
Access to advice and support							
Intergenerational Activities							
Jobs and training for young people							
More keep fit and activity based programmes							
Physical or social activities for young people (11+)							
Money management projects							
Family support for families with children under 5							
Other:							

8 What other issues are affecting the community?

9 If you could do **one thing** to improve Wick Award Area for the local community what would it be?

We would like to keep you informed of activities, projects and ways to get involved in Wick Award Big Local. If you would like to be kept informed, please give us your contact details below:

Name	
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Address / Postcode	
Telephone Number	
Email	

We aim to contact different groups and would be grateful if you could provide some information about yourself so that we can check that we reach a wide range of residents

Gender:				
Age:	up to 20	21-40	41-60	61 and over
Ethnicity:	White		Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	
	Asian/Asian British		Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	
	Other ethnic group (specify) _____			
Do you have a disability?				

*Thank you for completing this questionnaire and being part of Wick Award!
(Researchers – remember to give out Wick Award leaflet)*