



Denton South Research Evaluation Report June 2017



ambition
for
ageing
tameside



Denton South Community Research

Acknowledgements

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A huge thanks to everyone who carried out the research and a big thank you to those who were interviewed for giving their precious time and their thoughts.

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Introduction

Welcome to the Community Research Report that was carried out on the Yew Tree Estate in Denton South during the month of March 2017. This research was carried out by 5 local residents as well as 2 members of staff from the Ambition for Ageing project (Tameside). Denton South is one of the Wards that Ambition for Ageing is working in and the Yew Tree Estate was a particular place of interest simply because the Ambition for Ageing project was struggling to engage the local residents who were over the age of 50.

The research volunteers gave Ambition for Ageing a unique perspective of the area and were able to identify the properties in the chosen area where people aged 50 plus were more likely to reside.

We took an asset based approach to the research, as we were keen to find out what was working well already and build on this. We felt that this approach would help people think more positively about how things could be improved in the future and was more likely to result in them wanting to get involved long term.

Ambition for Ageing is a £10.2 million Greater Manchester level programme aimed at creating more age friendly places to live and empowering people to live fulfilling lives as they age. It is funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Ageing Better programme, which aims to reduce the social isolation experienced by some older people.

Led by Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisations, the 5 year programme is delivered by a cross-sector partnership with Local Delivery Leads (LDLs) leading on the work in 25 neighbourhoods across 8 local authorities in Greater Manchester. Tameside is one of the Local Authorities.

In Tameside the Local Delivery Leads are Age UK Tameside and Action Together. Ambition for Ageing is being delivered across 3 Wards in Tameside, these are:-

- Denton South
- Ashton Waterloo
- Newton Hyde

Ambition for Ageing Tameside is now at the end of the second year of delivery, and is moving forward and preparing to deliver for the next 3 years.

This research project aimed to identify ways to improve the involvement of older people in and around the Yew Tree estate in Denton South. The research area covered: Yew Tree Estate, (Yew Tree Road Pendle Road) and Marie Close off Two Tree's Lane.

Ambition for Ageing has a steering group based in Denton South. This steering group is made up of local residents, a local Councillor as well as representatives from the VCFS (Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector).



Introduction

The steering group began meeting at the Yew Tree Community Centre in 2016 and Ambition for Ageing developed a launch event to promote the programme in the area. This was a coffee and cake event which was publicised widely around the Yew Tree estate.

The steering group wanted to find out what people loved about living on the estate and what they would like to see improved there. However, no-one from the estate attended.

In spring 2017 a meeting was held with Becky Marsh-Activities Coordinator New Charter to discuss how to best target older people who live in the area. Following this meeting a list of streets and roads were highlighted.

An initial meeting was undertaken to recruit researchers from the local community. Five members of the Denton South Steering group volunteered to carry out the research with two members of staff. In addition a risk assessment was developed by the group undertaking the research.

The areas highlighted by New Charter would receive an introduction letter explaining that we were undertaking research with the dates and times we would be in the area, this also included photo identification of the researchers. We also gave residents the option to opt out of the research. 270 letters were distributed.

The research took place during the week beginning 6th March 2017. There was one extra day of research which took place in April 2017 as we were unable to gain access to one of the supported housing schemes during the research week.



Summary



This research was aimed at creating more age friendly places and empowering people to live fulfilling lives as they age in the Yew Tree area of Denton South. The research was designed and delivered by people who live in Denton South and are already involved with the Ambition for Ageing project as well as the staff who work for Ambition for Ageing Tameside.

This participatory research model ensured that local people were responsible for designing and asking the questions and the data collection. We also used an Asset Based approach to the research because we were keen to find out what was working well for the community and what they would like to see improved to make it a more age friendly place to live.

We interviewed 37 residents which represented 15.48%. All the residents we spoke to were aged 50 plus. The majority of residents stated they enjoyed living in Denton South because they have friendly neighbours and enjoy the peace and quiet.

The people enjoy getting together and speaking with their neighbours particularly during the Summer months. The majority of the residents have lived in Denton South for more than 5 years and most of those said they brought their children up in the area.

The majority of the residents were really pleased to be involved with the activities that were taking place locally either within the neighbourhood or within the sheltered housing schemes. 1 resident stated that he was really pleased to be able to organise events or activities within these schemes.

In the future, residents would like to see more access to disabled parking, a bus shelter and the introduction of a bus route through the estate as well as more activities for older people.

64% of the people who participated in the research said they would like to get more involved in order to make the area a better place to live. They said they would be happy to spread information about what is going on as well as volunteering for different projects.





Methodology

This report presents the findings of our interviews with 37 residents. Direct quotes from the interviews are written in italics.

Ambition for Ageing are working in 3 areas across Tameside. One of the aims of the project is to develop steering groups in each area or to attend a forum meeting, already in existence, in order to talk to local people.

In Denton South we have developed a steering group made up of local residents, a member of staff from one of the local Housing Associations, a local Councillor and local people who are already involved with local organisations.

The majority of those who volunteered to carry out the research already attend the Steering group in Denton South, we also had a local resident who got involved with the research project but had not been involved with the Denton South Steering Group previously.

Before Ambition for Ageing approached the volunteers a discussion had taken place at the Denton South Steering Group to discuss the difficulties that we had experienced in trying to engage people over the age of 50 who lived on the Yew Tree Estate.

As with all the launch events that Ambition for Ageing held across all of the areas we wanted to find out:-

- What people liked about living where they live
- What they would like to see improved as they grow older.

In order to ask the residents aged 50 plus on Yew Tree Estate those questions, we held a 'Coffee and Cake' event at the Yew Tree Community Centre but were unable to attract anybody on the day. It was therefore agreed by the Denton South Steering Group that a smaller research project would be more useful. This research project would give us the opportunity to ask those questions as well as inform the residents about Ambition for Ageing.

In 2015 Action Together carried out a community research project in Dukinfield, Tameside, which focused on the health and wellbeing of the local residents. The local residents and staff drew up a questionnaire which had an asset based approach as well as drawing down qualitative and quantitative data. This questionnaire was used as the model for the Denton South research.



Findings

The steering group went through the questions and amended them to reflect the information that they wanted to attain. The steering group were really clear that they didn't want to ask demographic questions because they recognised that such questions could be intrusive and might hinder the rapport that needed to be built with the respondent .

The steering group wanted the research to be carried out on a one to one basis and to be directly involved in gathering the data. Four of the committee agreed to undertake the research door to door and one of the volunteers had no involvement with the committee but lived locally and expressed a desire to become involved.

We held a meeting with the volunteers where we discussed:-

- The questionnaire
- The area and which properties we were expecting to visit
- Assessing Risk
- Date and times etc.

To publicise the research we began by posting letters through all the doors where we knew older people lived, explaining when and why we would be calling.

To provide support for each other and to ensure our safety we conducted the interviews in pairs.





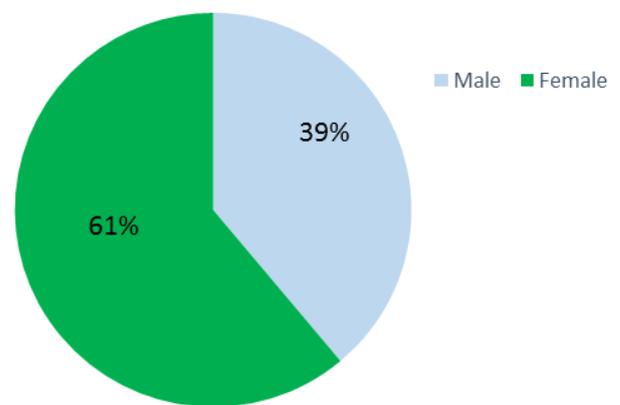
Findings

After the interviews the information from each questionnaire was uploaded to Survey Monkey. This allowed us to analyse the quantitative data easily.

We interviewed 37 people in total and all were aged 50 plus.

We interviewed 14 men, 22 women and one person who didn't comment.

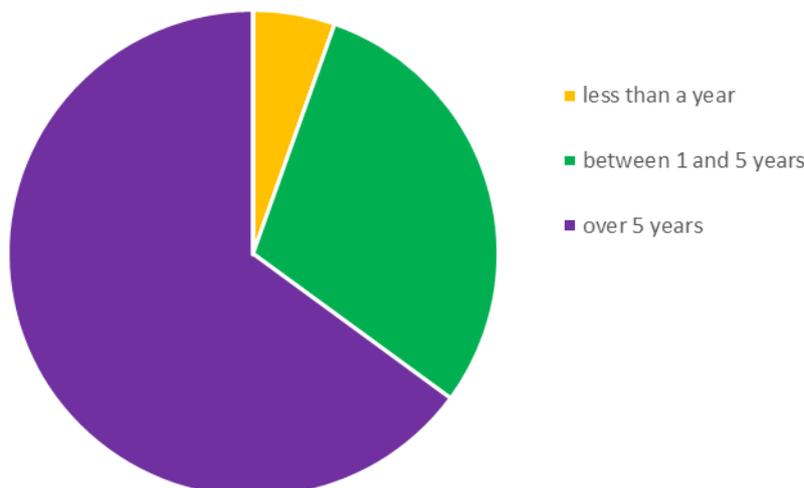
How do you define your gender?



The majority of people we spoke to had lived in Denton South longer than 5 years. Many of these people had seen their families grow up in the area.

2 people we spoke to had lived in the area for 1 year or less. 11 people between 1 and 5 years and 24 people over 5 years.

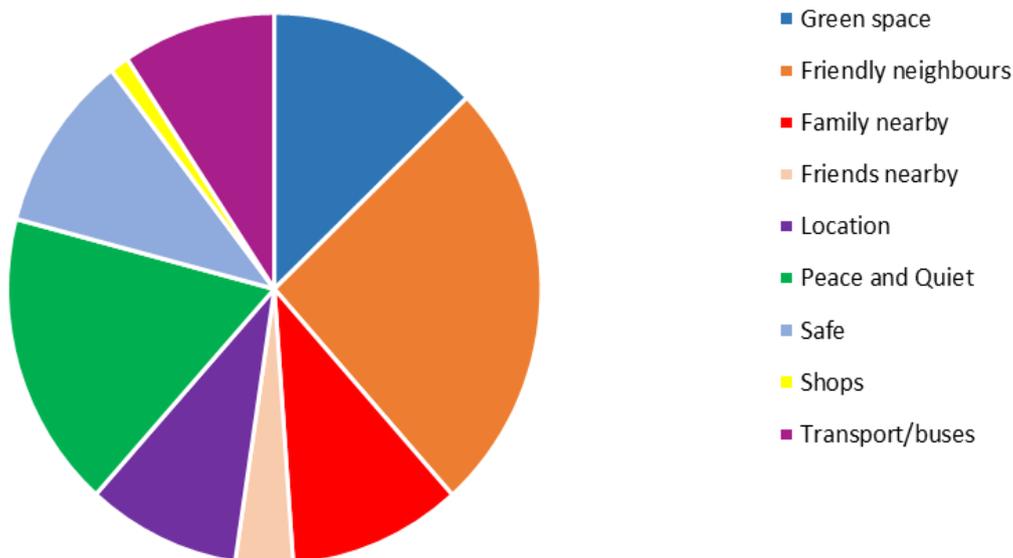
How long have you lived in Denton South?





Findings

What do you love about living in Denton South?



We asked the question “What do you love about living in Denton South?”

The most common responses were: friendly neighbours (64.7%), Peace and quiet (44.1%) and green space (32.4%).

Other common things that were mentioned, in descending order of frequency, were people feeling safe (26.5%), family nearby (26.5%), close to good transport links and buses (23.5%), friends nearby (8.8%) and shops (2.9%).

Some of the residents expressed pleasure in attending local groups. Being able to get out and about using Miles of Smiles or a service being run by St Mary's church.

People also valued the groups that they are involved with locally i.e. the knitting group or being involved with what is going on in their sheltered housing scheme.





Findings

We then asked the question

“ We would now like to ask you to think about a particular time when you were really pleased to be living here?”

We explained that this could be something that happened very recently or something that happened sometime ago. Some people have lived in Denton South for all their adult life and have had families grow up in the area.

The majority of the comments came from people who are still residing in family home and still had their family around them.

Some of the comments we noted:-

“We spent a lot of time together, the neighbours and I when the children were young. We had access to a field at the back, lots of neighbouring and I am still amongst all the original neighbours. We all had children together, all similar”.

“Family times were the best times and being part of Pendle Road residents Association. My partner was alive and my family grew up in this house”.

“Moved with family in 1967 good area and good family environment”.

“1977 jubilee Year great community spirit, street parties, family, happy families focus was on community - shared goal, shared happiness”.

“Neighbours come over to talk to me and keep an eye on me, sometimes come over for a cup of tea. I am part of art for health group but I haven't been well and they ring to check I'm ok”.

The residents at the sheltered housing schemes (Pendle House and The Grange) made the following comments:-

“I was in hospital and I came to Grange House straight from hospital. It has taken me 6 months to get used to it. when I sold my house it was a great relief, I have gained confidence here and it has began to feel like home. I like to sit in the garden and be part of the garden club. I like the activities around Grange House and I don't need to go out too far”.

“I enjoy baking and cooking although cant stand or sit for a too long because of a bad back. The people are friendly, used to be able to walk around in a dressing gown like it was a real home but that has stopped in the corridors now. somebody organises trips and days out and we pay £2.00 towards the activity fund for events, garden plants etc”.

“It used to be great here there were lots of things going on. The Warden used to organise things and the other residents were friendly. We used to have coffee mornings and I used to like knitting. is also interested in the Passchendaele event taking place in August 2017”.

“I enjoy organising activities and enjoy the praise for a job well done”.



Findings

Some of the residents confirmed that they felt happy living in the area:-

“Before moving here I lived in Rusholme but I never went out”.

“I enjoy walking my dog, there are a variety of places to walk”.

What this tells us

From the comments made we can see that people enjoy living on the estate and that family and neighbours are important to them. There are a group of residents who have lived on the estate all their adult lives. They have raised their families here and have got to know each other very well.

The residents, particularly those living in the sheltered accommodation value the time they spend together whether that's carrying out a joint activity i.e gardening, participating in the activities that are organised locally or generally meeting up for a chat.

The next question we asked focused on the future:

“Thinking about the future, imagine this community in a few years time. It is a really brilliant place to live. What would be happening, what would it look like for you as you grow older?”

Roads, transport and parking and access were issues that the residents were keen to address. We spoke to people who live in sheltered schemes as well as purpose built bungalows for older people. The comments they made are:-

“Widen road to help buses”

“Mobility issues ramps”

“Local better transport more frequent door to door”

“I would attend events at Grange or Pendle House, but would like the cut through to Stockport Road to be cleaned and to stop it becoming waterlogged. Would prefer to be transferred to another area - Stockport, better adaptation for the scooter”

“Better parking / permits / disabled parking. a cut through could be used as parking area for the bungalows. Public toilets in Denton”

“Bench at the bus stop on Stockport Road. Need a bus around the Yew Tree road and receive up to date information about the events in my area”

“Better car parking for older people. Families use the parking outside the older peoples properties but it would be better if the older people had use of the spaces and not the families it would make it easier to walk to the car. maybe use designated parking bays or permit holder only”

“Disabled parking areas”



Findings

People also said that they would like to see more activities. The people who lived in the sheltered housing schemes were much more aware of what was going on in their scheme and in the community.

In one of the sheltered schemes they had a person who enjoyed organising activities. The comments we received were:-

“More activities at Yew Tree, needlecraft”

“Bingo, cooking, jam-making, gardening, allotments”

“I would attend events at the Grange or Pendle House”

“Make sure that the activities that are promised are delivered i.e. coffee mornings and bingo. not having to rely on staff”

“Being able to do the Garden at the Grange, Water being turned on for the garden projects, all the residents getting on and enjoying each others company a new printer”

“Going to St Lawrences, bingo cake and coffee events, sixties night, I think we need to get our brains active with quiz nights and bingo”

“I am happy as things are I would like to keep the garden club going. more activities at St Lawrence they had a 60's night there”

“Integrate the youth and the older community good network lost - volunteering dog walking group for older people in the area / befriending”

“It would be good for a place where we could get together”

“Would receive up to date information about the events in my area”

“More exercise would be good and maybe the opportunity to fish”

“It would be good to have a community venue available for example Grange House to meet other neighbours”

“More neighbourly, more community, more socialising opportunities”

What does this mean

People aged 50 plus in the area are concerned about the transport issues in Denton South. The roads and parking situation on the Yew Tree estate needs improving to take into the account the wide vehicles that need to pass, including buses. The residents we spoke to thought that there are not enough disabled parking facilities for those who have a blue badge.



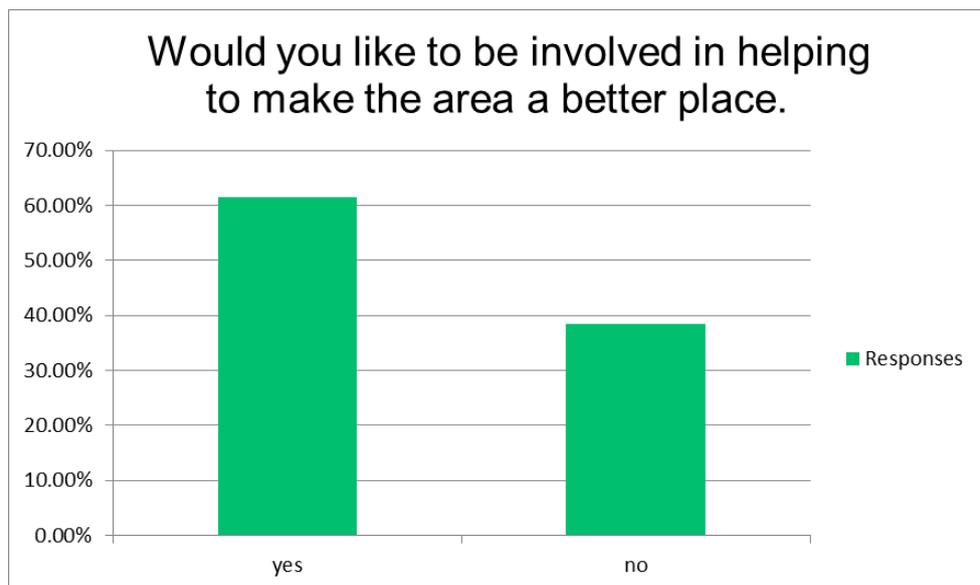
Findings

In order to access public transport residents have to walk quite a distance if they want to catch a bus. Stockport Road is a busy road and to cross the road safely the residents use a pelican crossing. However the pelican crossing is quite a distance from the bus stop that gives the residents easy access to their home.

There are 2 sheltered housing schemes in the Yew Tree area. Both these schemes have a space where residents are able to meet collectively. The people who live outside of the schemes are not always aware of the events that take place in either Pendle House or The Grange.

Some of the residents access the activities at St Lawrence's on Stockport Road. The majority said they would like to see more activities taking place as well as more information about the activities, particularly those residents who live in the properties surrounding The Grange and Pendle House.

The final question we asked was:



26 people answered this question and 61 % said they would like to be further involved. Which is a good result. Some of the comments they made were:-

"I am happy to tell people what is going on"

"I would volunteer in the area"

"like to be involved with the Passchendale event in Denton South in August 2017"

"I could help by helping to support community, e.g. helping with litter picks ups etc"

This is a great result particularly if people are mobilised and want to get involved in planning activities as well as having a good understanding of what the issues are locally.



Conclusions

Conclusions

The research that we have carried out was based on a representative sample of residents in Denton South, particularly on the Yew Tree estate.

The majority of residents like the location where they live particularly the friendly neighbours and the peace and quiet.

Looking to the future the residents would like to see improvements around the roads, public transport and the parking facilities. They would also like to see an improvement in information sharing as well as activities in the community venues available including Pendle House and The Grange.

There are some residents that would like to get more involved in improving the area. This shows us that people are keen to improve the area for themselves and their neighbours. We are aware however that we need to arrange to meet up with these people again to move things forward.

Recommendations

1. Arrange to meet up with the residents who want to begin tackling some of the transport issues that have been raised.
2. Meet with New Charter activity staff to raise the issues that the people outside of the housing schemes raised. Particularly around information sharing.
3. Ensure all those that have requested further information receive the quarterly Ambition for Ageing Newsletter.
4. Ensure this report is sent to all those who have participated in this research.
5. When this report is sent out to residents ask for feedback.

