

ASTLEY AINSLIE

Report of Consultation

Executive Summary

This report summarises community opinions of the Astley Ainslie site. Local community groups and the City of Edinburgh Council have been involved in consultation and engagement processes. The key themes that can be drawn from this report include; preservation of green spaces and historic buildings, maintained and improved walking and cycling routes through the site, consideration for traffic and parking, and greater accessibility to kids play areas. Additionally, there is a general concern for potential impacts on existing amenities and infrastructure (ie schools, roads and public transport).

1. INTRODUCTION

This report gives an overview of public engagement exercises undertaken in the surrounding community of Astley Ainslie. The outcomes of which have been used to inform the Astley Ainsley place brief. The report summarises the outputs of the consultation events, includes a full breakdown of the comments received to the council's online questionnaire, and analysis of the feedback received.

In line with best practice, the council has sought to engage with the community - an early opportunity and to provide the community with the chance to provide feedback which will be taken into account in progressing the Place Brief.

2. CONSULTATION EVENTS

- **Monday 26th August** – Open Door, Morningside Road
- **Tuesday 3rd September** – Newington Library
- **Wednesday 4th September** – Eric Liddell Centre
- **Monday 9th September** – Marchmont St Giles Parish Church, Kilgraston Road

3. CONSULTATION FINDINGS

3.1 Online Consultation and Drop-in Sessions

The City of Edinburgh Council held 4 public 'drop-in' sessions and ran an online questionnaire, based on the place standard tool, to gain an understanding of how the local community view the Astley Ainslie site and surrounding area. The exercise was helpful in identifying opportunities and areas of improvement.

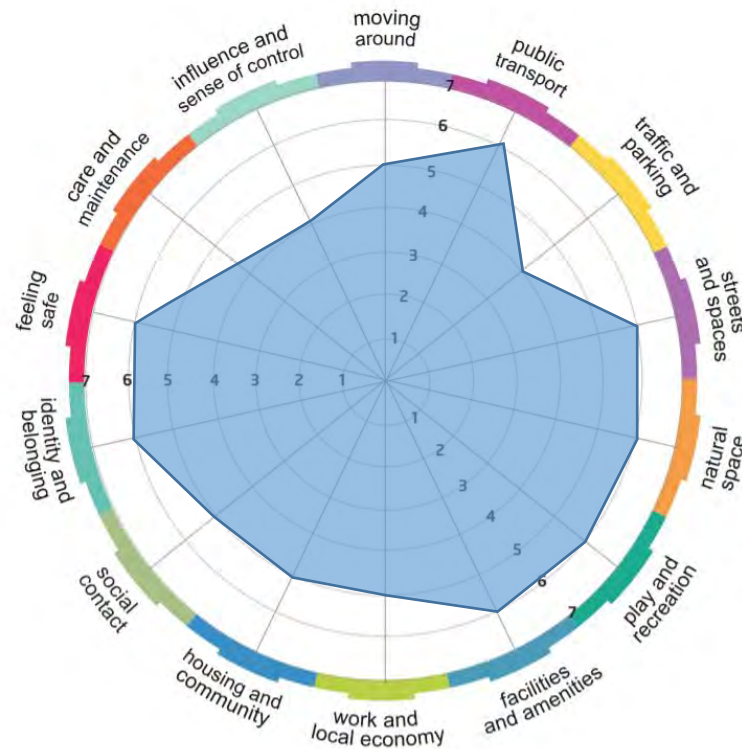
3.2 Themes for improvement:

- **Traffic and Parking**
- **Influence and Sense of Control**

3.3 Place Standard Tool

3.3.1 Wheel

In total 312 people completed the exercise – the findings are displayed in the wheel below.



The area scored highly in a number of aspects; **Public Transport, Streets and Spaces, Natural Space, Play and Recreation, Facilities and Amenities, Identity and Belonging** and **Feeling Safe** are the highest rated aspects with a score of 6. This provides a positive foundation for the Place Brief.

Work and Local Economy, Housing and Community, Social Contact, and Moving Around scored 5.

The lowest scoring aspects from this exercise are **Traffic and Parking** and **Influence and Sense of Control** with a score of 4. This suggests where there are opportunities for improvement.

3.3.2 Place Standard Questionnaire

In addition to the Place Standard Wheel respondents were asked a number of questions to gather further insight.

Each questionnaire was recorded and answers are grouped into categories below. A full schedule of comments is provided within the Appendix.

Moving Around

Can you easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?

- Astley Ainslie is important in linking Morningside and The Grange, providing walking and cycle routes through the site.
- At times main roads are too busy to walk and cycle safely.
- Walking is easier than cycling in the area.

Public Transport

Does public transport meet your needs?

- Bus routes are good to-and-from the city centre.
- More frequent evening busses are welcomed.
- More buses will be needed if housing is built.

Traffic and Parking

How easy is parking and driving in your area? How safe do you feel near the roads?

- Fairly congested.
- Dangerous at rush hour, especially at major junctions.
- Safe in 20mph zones, but people still occasionally speed.
- Parking can be variable.

Streets and Spaces

Do the buildings, streets and public spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around?

- There is an excellent mix of architectural styles, attractive planting and available open space.
- Pavements can be improved.
- Astley Ainslie is an important parkland area to the local community.

Natural Space

Is there sufficient greenspace to enjoy?

- The Hospital grounds, The Meadows and Blackford pond are excellent green spaces.
- Additional green space would be welcomed.
- Not enough kids play parks.

Play and Recreation

Are there good places to play, meet friends and relax? (including sports facilities, cinemas, museums etc.)

- There are plenty of cafes in Morningside.
- Good access to cinemas and museums in the city centre.
- There is a need for a children's play park and leisure facilities.

Facilities and Amenities

Do facilities and amenities meet your needs? e.g. shops, doctors, schools etc.

- Generally there is good access to facilities and amenities.
- Local schools are great but overcrowded.
- More sports, leisure and community facilities are welcomed.

Work and Local Economy

Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality work?

- Yes, there is strong, active local economy.
- Local shops provide some employment.
- Good connection to employment areas in the city centre.

Housing and Community

How friendly and neighbourly is your community?

- The area is generally a friendly neighbourhood.
- The community is concerned with Airbnb effecting community spirit.
- They would like more opportunities for community activity.

Social Contact

Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?

- Yes, mostly in cafes, pubs and churches.
- No opportunities for young people to meet and socialise.
- Need more outside places to meet.

Identity and Belonging

Does this place have a positive identity and do you feel you belong?

- Yes, there is a strong sense of belonging.
- It is a positive place to live.
- There could be more diversity.

Feeling Safe

Do you feel safe walking around this area?

- Safer during the day.
- Unsafe along busy roads.
- It is generally an unthreatening place to live.

Influence and Sense of Control

Do you feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?

- There a limited sense of control.
- Would welcome more opportunities to participate in decisions.
- Community engagement is good for this development.