

LEEK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

STAGE 1 CONSULTATION

AGGREGATED RESULTS

Question 1: What Do You Like About Leek?

Total number of comments = 159

TOWN CENTRE (59 comments – 37.1%)

- Independent shops
- It has a “high street”
- Independent shops and markets
- Totally Locally
- Wonderful markets
- Great pubs
- Market Place and cobbles
- Totally Locally
- Charity shops/great mix of high street shops/Getliffe’s Yard
- Good choice of coffee shops
- Getliffes Yard & independent shops
- Good choice of coffee shops
- Dog friendly cafes and shops
- Local markets, street cafes & seating outside
- “untouched and un-commercialised”
- Getliffe’s Yard
- Small unique shops
- Local shops
- Great pubs, eateries and cafes.
- Totally Locally is fantastic. Support for local traders is strong and the sense of pride in the community is something not many other towns have.
- Market town atmosphere
- Good range of pubs & restaurants.
- The centre of leek is much improved and owes much to the hard working people who run our bespoke shops and the Totally Locally team. The market, should be in the Square and some shop fronts are not in keeping.
- Markets, especially monthly Sunday market and Saturday flea market. Pubs, park, easy parking Derby Street.
- Unique identity, the town has grown organically. Market town/Market Place.
- Independent shops
- Antique market

- Sunday locally market
- Antiques and Butter markets
- Totally Locally
- Very few big corporate shops like MacDonalds – keep them away.
- Easy to walk anywhere
- It's a great traditional market town
- Amazing independent shops and cafes all in walking distance.
- Friendly local shops and attitudes.
- Market and Totally Locally
- Independent shops
- Shops, bars restaurants,
- Local shops are varied
- Pretty town and lovely markets
- Antiques shops
- Local shops, rural setting
- Unique identity
- Markets
- The atmosphere – there's always something going on!
- Better for not having too many big name shops
- Small local shops
- Market feel
- Interesting shops
- Nice shops.
- Plenty of choice
- The new area in front of the Monument. Well done!
- Lovely toilets at back of Butter Market,
- Floral displays around the Monument.
- The hanging baskets around the town.
- Dog friendly
- Dog friendly
- Dog friendly,
- Dog friendly

Leek Town Centre is highly valued for its unique character deriving from the good range of independent shops, cafes, restaurants and public houses, the historic market, its accessibility and welcoming atmosphere, and the active support for local traders provided by Totally Locally.

HERITAGE AND ARCHITECTURE (23 comments – 14.5%)

- History
- Heritage
- Textile heritage
- History
- Conservation area
- The town centre and its historic Sugden buildings
- Some of the mills, including chimneys
- History of the area and buildings
- Heritage – industrial and social to be celebrated.
- Heritage, old buildings
- Fascinating heritage
- Retain its narrow street and blind corners.
- Architecture
- Lovely Buildings/great architecture
- Beautiful buildings
- Beautiful buildings
- Architecture
- High quality Victorian architecture & interesting chimney pots
- The Monument
- St Edward Street & Derby Street
- The Nicholson War Memorial and the benches
- St Edward Street and Derby Street. Some of the mills including chimneys.
- Beautiful arts and crafts buildings (some of which need work to look their best)

Leek has a rich built heritage based on its distinctive townscape, outstanding local architecture, and long history, exemplified by St Edward Street, the Sugden buildings, the Nicholson Memorial, and the town's mills.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY (19 comments – 11.9%)

- Community spirit/friendly town/nice place to live
- People
- Community spirit
- Friendliness
- Pride in the community
- Volunteers & community spirit
- The people.
- Friendly, independent

- Feeling of community
- Lively community
- Lovely community – people who look after each other.
- Local community is active,
- Friendly community
- Friendly people
- Friendliness
- Sense of community
- Feeling of community, strengthened by buildings for public use.
- Friendly people
- Friendly folk

Leek has a strong, active and friendly community.

ACCESS TO COUNTRYSIDE AND GREEN SPACE (18 comments – 11.3%)

- Lovely countryside on doorstep
- Countryside/proximity to Peak District/great country walks/superb views from the edges of the town
- Proximity to Peak Park
- Good walks by the canal, reservoir & Rudyard Lake
- Ladderedge country park
- Rudyard Lake, Tittesworth & The Roaches
- Access to Peak District
- Fantastic surroundings for walking.
- Access to the Peak District
- Beautiful countryside
- Its location in the Moorlands
- Location near to the Peak District
- Being able to walk to most services/facilities/activities/countryside.
- Green spaces
- Parks
- The Mount
- Brough Park
- The Mount

Leek is surrounded by beautiful countryside and offers easy access to many attractions such as the Peak District National Park, Rudyard Lake, the Roaches, Caldon Canal, river Churnet, and Tittesworth Reservoir, as well as Brough Park within the town itself.

ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION (15 comments – 9.4%)

- Creative/artistic
- Foxlowe
- Leek Club Day
- Leek Show
- Bands in Brough Park
- Events & Festivals
- Foxlowe
- Foxlowe
- Lively night life/music scene
- Music scene
- Events e.g. Scooterfest
- Leek Town Football Club and Leek Cricket Club
- Sunday Supplement
- Strong arts culture, leisure centre
- Foxlowe

Leek has a lively artistic and music scene, and a good range of sports activities and recreational events.

LOCAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES (13 comments – 8.2%)

- GP, Dentist all good.
- The excellent GP practices.
- Excellent U3A too.
- Vibrant U3A
- Good schools

- Health and social services delivered locally.
- Lovely churches
- Churches and foodbank.
- Great range of housing, all very different – even the terraces. However, still too expensive for young people.
- Heath & social services delivered locally.
- Great support for local businesses
- Premier Inn
- Cattle market

Leek has many high quality local services including the doctors' surgeries, schools, churches, U3A provision, and good range of housing.

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM (6 comments – 3.8%)

- Library
- The library & museum
- Nicholson Institute
- The library,
- Wonderful library
- Library

The Nicholson Institute Museum, Art Gallery and Library is greatly valued by the local community.

HOSPITAL (6 comments – 3.8%)

- The hospital
- Leek Moorlands Hospital
- Local hospital & Minor Injuries Unit – saves long and expensive trip to N. Staffs.
- Local hospital!!

- Leek Moorlands Hospital, including minor injuries and emergency unit.
- I love the fact that Leek people are passionate about issues like Leek Hospital

Leek Moorlands Hospital provides a highly valued local service and is widely supported across the community.

Question 2: What Don't You Like About Leek?

Total number of comments = 185

TRANSPORTATION AND MOVEMENT (68 comments – 36.7%)

- Removing the roundabout
- The current problematic traffic system/traffic jams
- Traffic along Mill Street
- Car park charges more than Macc. and Buxton
- Potholes
- Zebra crossing on Stockwell Street should be opposite the Foxlowe
- Poor disabled access on pavements, entrances to shops, pubs and cafes
- Derby Street area/road alterations
- Not enough pedestrian crossings
- Poorly lit zebra crossing on Stockwell Street
- No buses to Buxton
- Lack of multi storey car park
- Traffic congestion around schools
- Poor transport links/traffic congestion & pollution/parking problems in town centre streets e.g. Queen Street
- Losing the roundabout
- Lack of transport infrastructure - 40 minutes away from a lot of amenities
- Poor bus links to Macclesfield
- Gridlocked roads – quicker to walk into Leek
- Dangerous “public space” in Derby Street and Sparrow Park
- Loss of roundabout
- Poor road repairs/traffic calming measures/speed cushions
- Street clutter – redundant signs and poles
- Traffic lights by the Monument
- Traffic congestion
- Traffic volume, cost of parking, litter, dog mess & stained pavements.
- Heavy lorries through Leek
- Too many traffic lights – they cause hold ups.
- Traffic system is ridiculous.
- Poor transport links
- Traffic flow/congestion
- Pavement parking/shared space.
- Dangerous crossings for older people.
- Replacing paving with tarmac
- Traffic flow and shared space
- Traffic at lights bottom of St Edward Street. Air is now very toxic. Don't know if it's possible to divert but worth looking in to.

- Poor car parking, need to invest in new. Poor traffic management, too many traffic lights – roundabout actually worked!
- Shared space, dreadful road system. Dangerous crossings for older people – don't go into town because they are frightened of the road system.
- Lack of a railway station and track.
- The traffic! I write this after more than 1 hour stuck in Bath Street, Derby Street and Market Street. FIVE routes into Derby Street and only one route out. How can this encourage visitors and tourists.
- The shabby bus station. The roads are appalling, the traffic congestion not good.
- Lack of bus services. Parking.
- Traffic system is rubbish.
- Traffic system out of town centre – very difficult at the junction on to St Edward Street/Buxton Road.
- Traffic system.
- Cars driving through Sheep Market, which should be pedestrianised.
- Traffic horrendous in town centre – puts you off coming into Leek. Old disused buildings left to rot.
- Derby street – traffic/pedestrians is madness – confusing.
- No late bus service to and from Cheddleton.
- Shared space by the Monument very difficult/confusing for drivers.
- Traffic is bad/pot holes.
- Parking/traffic.
- Shared space, dangerous – not pushchair, wheelchair friendly. Parking charges. Pot holes everywhere.
- Get rid of pavement parking
- More crossings on St Edward Street
- Get rid of shared space!
- A far better traffic system required -since the removal of the roundabout traffic is horrendous.
- Two crossings on Stockwell Street.
- Trying to cross with the amount of traffic.
- Cost of car parking.
- On street parking.
- Rat run through Moorhouse Street – make it one way. I regularly get “attacked” by cars on pavement as they try to pass each other.
- Two crossings at top of Market Place.
- Lack of parking for local residents. Dangerous & inconsiderate parking. This is a serious concern, parking on pavements limits access for buggies & wheelchairs.
- Pavement parking – particularly on Frith Street, Alma Street, West end of Leek.
- Residents parking.
- Sunday evening buses to Hanley – where did they go?
- Crossing needed at St Edwards/High Street – elderly 7 children can't cross.
- Lack of buses

Many issues around transportation and movement were highlighted, including poor traffic flows and congestion, inadequate pedestrian crossing facilities in many parts of the town, unsatisfactory car parking facilities, safety concerns in the shared space by the Monument, and the poor bus service offering insufficient connections to neighbouring towns.

TOWN CENTRE (29 comments – 15.7%)

- Shop fronts of national retailers are inappropriate/out of character
- The market should be in Market Place and not Derby Street
- Market Place half used as a car park
- Lack of support to local shop owners re. business rates v charity shops
- Smithfield Centre
- Lack of a town vision
- Smithfield centre
- Market stalls spread all over the place
- Charity/bargain shops
- Increasing number of empty shops
- Smithfield Centre
- Empty shops
- Market Place lost to car parking.
- Too many empty shops. We are a new business and the council want business rates from us at over £1,000 per month. We are just out of the business rate relief at £17,000.
- Growing amount of empty shops.
- Butter Market could be modernised.
- Charity shops.
- Town centre is awful – every update brings fewer people into Leek. Traffic can be difficult to navigate.
- Shops shut on Sunday.
- High business rates.
- Small shops closing due to high business rates.
- Increasing number of empty shops.
- The market not being on the cobbles anymore and the council not listening to us when we wanted it back.
- Too many charity shops/road system not practical.
- The Smithfield centre is not an attractive building.
- Don't like that the council put up business rates so high that the small retailer is having to close – STUPID!

- Sloping pavements on derby Street
- Too many charity shops, business rates too high.
- The Smithfield centre.

The main concerns about the town centre were the increasing number of empty shops, high business rates causing shop closures, the unattractive Smithfield Centre, the location of some markets outside Market Place, and the lack of a town vision.

MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC REALM (28 comments – 15.1%)

- Blocked drains/litter
- Litter/dog fouling
- Graffiti
- Bus station is a disgrace/the toilets stink
- Bins left outside properties often smell and overflow
- Bins outside bus shelters that smell due to poo bags.
- Pavements are dirty and slippery by design.
- Litter
- Poor maintenance of roads & pavements
- Potholes
- Tarmac break up
- Out of date publicity posters
- Dirty road signs
- Dirty pavements
- Pigeons in the town centre – top of Derby Street/Market Place.
- The public realm looks dreary in winter.
- Victoria Buildings, Broad Street is very shabby. Plants growing in mill chimneys & gutters of old buildings.
- Dirty pavements – need powerwashing. Tidy up shop on Compton and crumbling Big Mill. Nothing for the young – cinema/ten pin bowling. Disappointed that the Sainsbury's site could not accommodate this.
- The large planters in Derby Street are not in keeping and seem to be used as rubbish bins. The public realm seems to be dangerous for drivers and pedestrians. There is no definition between the highway and footpaths.
- The bus station area & Smithfield - improve it or knock it down. The roads are a disgrace – what must visitors think?
- Leek bus station is disgusting.
- Road surface near Capita is dangerous for bikers – fill it properly.
- Blocked drains/grids.

- Disgraceful state of passage from Station Road to Springfield Road – litter everywhere – surely lighting and cctv would help.
- Potholes & litter.
- Horrible state of bus station and the toilets there.
- The bus station is dirty and unwelcoming and is a gateway into our town.
- Bus station

There were many comments about the maintenance of the public realm, particularly the litter, the need to repair potholes and pavement surfaces, the poor condition of the Bus Station and toilets, and dirty pavements.

REGENERATION AND EMPLOYMENT (21 comments – 11.3%)

- Poor development of brownfield sites
- Empty buildings and mills
- Half empty civic buildings – police station.
- Lack of local employment opportunities
- Neglected spaces that could be built on.
- Derelict land around canal basin.
- Deterioration of architecture e.g. Big Mill
- Lack of industry in Leek
- Plants growing in mill chimneys & gutters of old buildings.
- Old derelict buildings e.g. Big Mill – built for another time
- Old derelict buildings e.g. Big Mill – built for another time – get rid of them.
- No industry in Leek.
- Need more money for regeneration – old mills etc
- Empty mills which should be converted into housing (before new build).
Smithfield – start again.
- Derelict buildings on entry to town.
- Old mills especially Ashbourne Road – would make good parking for town & visitors.
- Main roads into Leek give a poor impression – derelict buildings/mills etc.
- Crumbling mill on Mill Street
- Victoria Buildings, Broad Street is very shabby.
- Not enough employment development.
- Lack of range of employment opportunities

Many people raised concerns about the number of large empty buildings and sites around the town, particularly the old mills, and the lack of substantial action to regenerate these buildings. People thought that opportunities to re-use these buildings for productive purposes including employment and housing were not being sufficiently actively pursued.

LOCAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES (17 comments – 9.2%)

- Lack of facilities for the youth
- Lack of police
- Lack of facilities for young people
- Tourist Information being hidden away
- Lack of children's facilities
- No concessions for unemployed & students for most events
- Only 1 post office
- Paying to hire school facilities
- Lack of social care for mental health and homelessness
- No theatre/cinema.
- Somewhere for young people to go out at night.
- No youth centre that is openly advertised and nowhere for children/teens to hang out except parks and just loiter around town.
- No activities for young people – causes all sorts of anti-social behaviour.
- The library not opening until 10.00am on Saturday.
- There's nothing for young people to do or take part in.
- Nothing to do for young people, results in kids trashing places.
- No disabled access at the Foxlowe.

The main deficiency in local facilities and services was the lack provision for young people; several other service deficiencies were identified by individual people.

HOSPITAL (7 comments – 3.8%)

- Plans to close the hospital & move it to Kniveden Hall

- Taking away the hospital
- Repeated lies about Leek Hospital/failure to act on public concerns
- No doctors at work in hospital anymore.
- Closing the hospital – it has helped my family numerous times!
- The way that the council and CCG are trying to close Leek Moorlands Hospital – keep it where it is with more facilities.
- We might lose our local hospital and our A&E for minor injuries.

Strong opposition was expressed to the closing down of Leek Moorlands Hospital.

HOUSING (5 comments – 2.7%)

- Plans to build another housing estate on the Mount
- No housing development on the Mount
- Lack of affordable housing
- Too many houses being built, with no additional infrastructure.
- Not enough social housing

Objections were expressed to proposed housing development on The Mount, and the lack of affordable housing.

GREEN SPACES (4 comments – 2.2%)

- Building on open spaces for children e.g. Fernwood Drive
- Loss of Ball Haye Green football pitch
- Too many garden plots over -developed, especially in Birchall
- Poor gardening at Brough Park.

There were a few comments objecting to development on open spaces and gardens.

MISCELLANEOUS (6 comments - 3.2%)

- Poor civic pride from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
- Broken promises from SMDC – cinema, Cornhill & Dementia Centre
- Drugs & late night drinking
- Non local people making decisions that affect Leek.
- Not enough policing of antisocial behaviour around local bars and night life.
- Backward looking.

There were a few comments on matters which are outside the scope of a neighbourhood plan, which can only deal with the use and development of land.

Question 3: What Improvements or Changes Do You Want To See?

Total number of comments = 244

TRANSPORTATION AND MOVEMENT (88 comments – 36.0%)

- Traffic system especially by the Monument
- Traffic congestion
- Mini roundabout outside the Green Dragon
- Cycle way/footpath around the town.
- Better parking facilities in and out of town, for larger vehicles e.g. camper vans
- Pedestrianise Derby Street everyday 9.00am to 3.00pm
- Better disabled access on pavements/shops.
- Improve the pavements for older people. Better parking.
- Change the crossings to consider disabled and blind people.
- Mini roundabout outside the Green Dragon. Traffic build up along Mill Street etc is awful. Just a blob of white paint and signs would suffice.
- Charging points for electric vehicles
- Railway link into Leek
- Residents' parking in narrow streets
- One way on side streets to major A roads.
- Pedestrianise the whole of Derby Street
- Change the awful kerbs on Derby Street
- Kerbs should be level, not sloping – difficult for people with mobility issues
- Bypass road
- Build a bypass and bring back the roundabout.
- Better parking facilities.
- Revert the road system to what it was before – put in a new roundabout.
- Railway line into Leek
- Roundabout put back.
- Roundabout back, more police, modern hospital, railway.
- One way on side streets to major A roads.
- Introduce one way gyratory system.
- One way system around the town.
- Parking for residents. Maybe a large car park just out of town for people who work in Leek and shoppers to take pressure off residential areas.
- Stop traffic taking short cut through bus station. Have No Entry signs.
- More car parking.
- Ban commercial parking in conservation area – no more vans, trucks, mobile homes – weight restrictions.
- Residential parking permits in the conservation area. Make the rat run off Compton down Albion Street through Alsop, one way.
- Speed control at Compton Mill.

- Pedestrian crossings where roundabout was.
- Pedestrian crossing A520 and A53.
- Crossing needed on St Edward Street at top car park in High Street.
- cycles, push chairs & wheelchairs could access.
- Improve the old railway line track to Rudyard – surface is too rough
- Pelican crossing or lollipop person at each school for safe crossing over heavily parked roads.
- Multi storey car park.
- Stop traffic driving through Derby Street. One way system.
- No parking outside schools. Reinstate roundabout and get rid of shared space.
- Bring back the roundabout neat the Monument.
- Provide charging pints for electric cars.
- The shared space in the town – there is such potential.
- Car parking ridiculous.
- A bypass to allow better parking/pedestrian areas.
- Something sensible to manage traffic & allow for pedestrians at the former roundabout and at the top of St Edward Street.
- Traffic plan improved – it's a nightmare atm.
- Better traffic parking.
- Train to Macc station and a cinema.
- Close Derby Street for special events, but no full pedestrianisation – loss of vitality.
- Better roads. Save the hospital!
- Better parking.
- The roundabout needs to be installed.
- Bring back the roundabout – perhaps a smaller version.
- Heritage rail link to Stoke.
- Parking is a perennial problem. Rules need enforcing. Shop fronts need to be sympathetic to surroundings. Newton House site needs using or demolish.
- Road improvements should be a priority.
- Improved parking
- Improved traffic management system
- A heritage rail link to Stoke
- Longer parking times, less one way traffic.
- More car parking. Market Place for the market.
- Improved traffic management system.
- Railway station and link to Stoke
- The roundabout needs to be brought back
- Install nice flat tarmac parking bays in Derby Street
- Better signage in the town
- Direct bus to Stoke station.
- More cycle paths
- Improve lights at zebra crossing on Stockwell Street.
- Urgently needed crossing from High Street to Stanley Street.
- Multi storey car park behind SMDC

- Improved parking.
- Traffic flow through the town.
- A bypass
- Improved road to get from Cheddleton Road to Barnfields site
- Better parking
- Replace the roundabout/new road system
- Reduce the number of speed cameras or use the money to repair roads
- Viability study to restore light railway into Stoke and Macc.
- Improved public transport connectivity – villages to Stoke-on-Trent. Cheddle/Leek/Biddulph.
- Build links with Churnet Valley Railway
- Restore the roundabout
- Make Garden Street, Belle Vue and West Street one way.
- Cycle routes
- Electric car charging points.

There were many suggestions on ways of improving transportation and movement in the town. These focused on an improved traffic management system to reduce congestion and improve pedestrian facilities, including a one-way system around the town, one-way access onto main roads, more pedestrian crossings, pedestrianisation of Derby Street, parking and speed restrictions in residential side streets, better car parking, and better cycle facilities. 11 persons asked for the roundabout to be reinstated. 10 persons wanted better bus and rail connections to Stoke, Cheddle, and Biddulph. 5 persons proposed a bypass, including access from Cheddleton Road to Barnfields. 2 persons proposed charging points for electric cars.

TOWN CENTRE (43 comments – 17.6%)

- Develop the markets to be bigger and better – more variety to attract more people.
- Combine the markets into one, along Derby Street. Close Russell Street on a Wednesday.
- National retailers should not be allowed to put up inappropriate shop frontages, which are out of character with the town.
- “Olde World” atmosphere of an old market town, brought carefully into the 21st century
- Market Place fully used as a market
- Market in Market Place, as well as the main street.

- See the town develop as a festival town. e.g. Walking Festival, Food Festival, Arts & Crafts – links with William Morris.
- Develop a town strategy – 5/10/20 year plan.
- Marks and Spencer food store
- More shop fronts in-keeping
- Tidy up the antiques shop on Compton
- Use town centre buildings above shops, for accommodation
- Food stalls on Sunday market could be expanded and ideally it should be weekly. More street music.
- M&S food store - Stone has a lovely one!
- The market square needs using more.
- All shops occupied. Train station.
- Shops open on a Sunday.
- Market back on Market Place.
- Put the market together again.
- Fewer charity shops. Reduced rents to encourage quality shops.
- Reduce rates on shops.
- Fewer charity shops, more quality shops, encourage quality shoppers!
- More cafes or something where students can read or study with no distractions, instead of being at home all the time.
- Market Place fully used as a market place and not a car park.
- No more supermarkets.
- Bottom of Russell Street – planting needs to commence.
- Gourmet restaurant
- From a business perspective, there is a problem with pigeons in the town centre. There are feathers and bird faeces across the top of Derby Street and Market Place and it is causing us some concern.
- Use the land at Sainsbury's – Travelodge or Macdonalds – both would encourage footfall in the town.
- Business rates should be lowered to allow new businesses to get on their feet.
- Lower business rates
- Tourist Information in a more prominent place.
- Support local businesses – reduce rates. Tourist Info to a more accessible point. Bring back leek Post & Times office.
- Attract more businesses to shops e.g. sport shop. Get a good gym with sauna, steam room etc, Council gym a bit grim!
- Council to give full business rate relief to new shops for first year, to help fill empty businesses.
- Develop and promote tourism
- Tourist Information in a more prominent place.
- Tell more of Leek's story – make more of the story with a future perspective.
- Increase tourism.
- Tourist office in the town centre and a market in Market Place.
- The tourist office in a central location.
- Use town centre buildings for accommodation above shops.

- Tourist office make it where tourists can see and find it.

The main improvements proposed for the town centre were to concentrate market activities in the Market Place and not use separate locations in the town, to support local businesses by reducing business rates, to put the Tourist Information Centre in a more accessible place and promote tourism, and to protect the historic character of the town by preventing or removing inappropriate alterations to shop fronts. Noteworthy individual suggestions were to use space above shops for residential accommodation, to create a programme of festivals in the town, to produce a town centre strategy, and to actively encourage quality retailers such as an M&S food store.

LOCAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES (32 comments - 13.1%)

- Cinema - especially for teenagers
- More for young people e.g cinema.
- Lack of facilities for the youth.
- More creative facilities for teenagers
- A lido
- Amenities for teenagers
- Boxing club
- Cinema
- A modern website, which is accessible and inspiring
- Cinema/theatre
- More things to do for young people
- A communal space for theatre, music & cinema
- Improve leisure facilities for children & teenagers, e.g. cinema
- We need a really good modern website, which is accessible and inspiring.
- More activities for young people – develop a volunteering network.
- Bring back youth clubs
- Additional school next to Churnet View
- Travel Lodge/McDonalds at Sainsbury's to increase footfall in town.
- Provide a public theatre/cinema – build on success of the Foxlowe.
- More support to build up the carnival & events in Brough Park.
- More adult education
- More activities for young people.
- Post Office in the town centre.
- Cinema & bowling.

- A cinema/theatre where more social activities can be held. More youth club type facilities for youngsters.
- Open the library at 9.00am/8.30am on a SATURDAY – like it used to.
- Support for arts programmes.
- More day time activities for older people.
- More daytime activities for older people, who don't want to go out at night.
- Improvement to pavements.
- More to do kids wise
- Heat the swimming pool properly.
- Improve swimming timetable for adults. Increase heating in the changing rooms.

The main suggested improvements to local facilities included providing more activities and facilities for young people, and creating a public venue for cinema, music and theatre. Noteworthy individual suggestions were to create a modern website for the town which is accessible and inspiring, to support an arts and events programme, and to provide more adult education and activities for older people.

HERITAGE, REGENERATION AND EMPLOYMENT (28 comments – 11.5%)

- Better use of the mills – demolish or revamp them, don't just leave them.
- More employment opportunities e.g start ups
- Demolish redundant mills – turn into garden area or car parks
- Sort out Odeon Antiques building
- Celebrate textile heritage e.g. a working museum – dyeing, weaving etc
- Heritage centre & silk mill museum
- Take over a mill to build on the success of Foxlowe – either a move or an extra venue?
- Use the old mills
- Better use made for brownfield
- Mill conversions, especially Big Mill e.g. residential/commercial/car park/heritage centre/tourist information
- Develop Barnfields as a mixed economy area.
- Neglected listed buildings on main entries to the town need serious attention
- Removal of grass & weeds growing in gutters of listed buildings
- Restore the mills
- Heritage area extended.
- Newton House site needs to be used or demolished.
- Empty mill buildings brought back to life
- Remove eyesore buildings – use land for car parks.

- More care and use of old buildings.
- A museum in one of the old textile mills would be a good tourist attraction.
- The brown sites should be utilised first for housing before destroying Green Belt areas.
- Maybe a textile museum.
- Can anything be done to encourage use of Big Mill and other empty textile mills?
- Deal with derelict mills on east side – York and London mills. Tidy façade, put flower beds in or demolish.
- Encourage more businesses into town – industry etc. Encourage development of the old mills around town.
- A textile museum
- Stop building on greenfield sites until all available brownfield are utilised.
- Highly educated knowledge workers working from home. Less physical commuting means that quality of life improves.

There was clear strong support for action to regenerate the redundant old mills in the town, by schemes to re-use them for employment, housing, and perhaps a textile museum. 7 persons thought action was required to improve the appearance of redundant buildings on the main approaches to the town. Several people stressed the need to build on brownfield sites as a priority before greenfield sites.

HOSPITAL (16 comments – 6.5%)

- Keep the current hospital
- Use the hospital we have, not spend millions on one we cannot get to.
- The hospital re-opened.
- Retain essential hospital services on existing site. Already modernised at great expense.
- Keep the hospital
- Retain the hospital.
- More NHS services locally.
- Make more use of hospital – not less. Don't even think of moving it out of town!
- Make sure CCG know the realities of accessing services in the Moorlands – having to go to Hanley is ridiculous.
- Council not interested in leek. Hospital staying in Leek. More local businesses.
- Maintain & expand local health services – local hospital.
- Secure future for Leek Moorlands Hospital.
- More transparency about local health/hospital services.
- The hospital should be retained at all costs.

- Availability of the outreach units at our hospital. E.g. INR, Physio, Xray, minor injuries. The wards need reopening and not shove our elderly, at great expense in private care homes, that are not accessible to relatives.
- More clinics at Leek Moorland Hospital to save poorly/elderly long journey & expensive parking at other hospitals.

Strong support was expressed for retaining Leek Moorlands Hospital and increasing the use of it by expanding the range of services available.

MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC REALM (9 comments – 3.8%)

- Increase fines for litter.
- The park requires improvement
- Repair surfaces by the Monument
- Make public realm area safe for pedestrians
- Potholes filled in
- Improvements to pavements.
- Improvements to Brough Park.
- More bins, collected regularly.
- Recycle bins in town centre to help with litter.

A range of improvements to the public realm were proposed including improvements to Brough Park, repairing pavement surfaces, and providing recycling bins in the town centre.

GREENSPACE (8 comments – 3.3%)

- Better use of the park and play area for children
- Retain green space around Leek – use infill as much as possible.
- Never build on the Mount
- Preserve Green Belt
- Protect the countryside e.g. the Mount, protect independent shops and the hospital and the Foxlowe
- Preserve the Green Belt.

- Brough Park needs a better playground for all ages, not a skatepark. If I have to travel to Buxton/Congleton etc for a play area, I shop there too.
- Improvements to Brough Park.

Several people said that existing green space should be protected, and Brough Park should be improved.

HOUSING (7 comments – 2.8%)

- Affordable housing should be just that and not 4 or 5 bedrooms plus double garages.
- Less new buildings, when there is good housing that needs updating/renovating
- Housing in town for young and old.
- More sustainable housing (Leek Co-Housing).
- More affordable homes
- Starter homes/homes to rent – not 4/5 bedroom houses.
- Houses not on the Mount

Several people wanted more affordable housing and more sustainable housing.

MISCELLANEOUS (13 comments – 5.3%)

- Go beyond minimum building regs. For new homes' insulation.
- No building on this site.
- Develop Anzio camp
- Norton House site not mixed use
- Better planning approvals – councillors should listen.
- More healthy food options.
- Change SMDC approach from fiscal priorities to social priorities.
- Change SMDC approach from fiscal priorities to social priorities (no social conscience).
- Green Agenda!

- Quite a few of the Leek councillors. We need a council that represents the people of Leek.
- Reduce council refuse collection service.
- More police presence
- Repair water leaks on Wallbridge Drive & Westwood Road

A number of suggested improvements were outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan or cannot be influenced by the Neighbourhood Plan, which can only deal with the use and development of land.