

# **Farnworth Library Consultation**

**Findings by Consultation & Engagement Team**  
**October 2025**

## 1. Background and Methodology

Between 15<sup>th</sup> August and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, the Council ran a public consultation, seeking representations on the proposed relocation of Farnworth Library services to a purpose-built community space at the new Farnworth Green development.

The current library at Farnworth is in a Grade II listed Carnegie building that opened in 1911. The building is in poor condition with significant water damage to the roof, causing internal damp. The Council proposed to relocate the library service in Farnworth to a new, fully accessible site in a central location with modern facilities. Initial concept designs included a Farnworth history exhibition, a children's library, and an improved digital offer.

During the consultation period, a comprehensive communication plan was implemented to raise awareness of the proposal across the borough, with a strong emphasis on engaging service users, families and local businesses in Farnworth. To inform stakeholders, targeted emails were distributed to targeted groups including Elected Members, community groups and residents on the e-View consultation database. Paper copies of the survey were distributed to Bolton Town Hall – One Stop Shop, Farnworth Library, Farnworth Family Hub and Farnworth Town Hall. Social media posts were also published, and a press release was distributed to media contacts, Elected Members, MPs and Council officers. Articles about the proposed relocation were published in [Bolton News twice](#), as well as the [Manchester Evening News](#).

Supporting documentation was made accessible on the Council's consultation webpages, including a Frequently Asked Questions document. Posters were also distributed at Farnworth Town Hall, Farnworth Library, Farnworth Family Hub and the proposed development at Farnworth Green (refer to Appendix A).

In addition, three drop-in events, including children's activities and a small exhibition about Farnworth, were held at the current library and at the proposed site. These events enabled service users and residents to outline key concerns and ask questions relating to the proposal. Local businesses surrounding Farnworth Green also received a courtesy visit from a member of the consultation team, raising awareness of the consultation and the drop-in event. These sessions took place on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 4<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> September. Additional details can be found in Appendix B.

Participants were surveyed using a questionnaire tool made up of open and closed questions, over a period of six weeks, providing respondents the opportunity to reflect and share their thoughts on the proposal. The questionnaire was made available both digitally and offline, with the questionnaire being accessible on the Council's consultation web page, as well as in hard copy format, on request. Paper copies were also made available to each drop-in session. A copy of the questionnaire is included at the end of this document, located in Appendix C.

### Analysis notes

- All questions were optional.
- Results are presented in the questionnaire format with 'Don't know' type responses removed unless stated.
- Comments have been categorised where feasible. Unless otherwise stated, categories with 10 or more responses are shown. Categories may overlap and a comment from one respondent included in multiple categories. A sample of comments [verbatim] are included in the report. Comments may be abbreviated so that only the relevant extract is included. One comment may be coded into multiple categories, and each category may only cover a certain aspect of the comment, for example a respondent may have made both positive and negative comments about the same aspect.
- Base: unless otherwise stated the base is the number of respondents to a particular question.
- Data has been cleansed where appropriate, e.g., comments moved into existing responses.

## 2. Consultation Responses

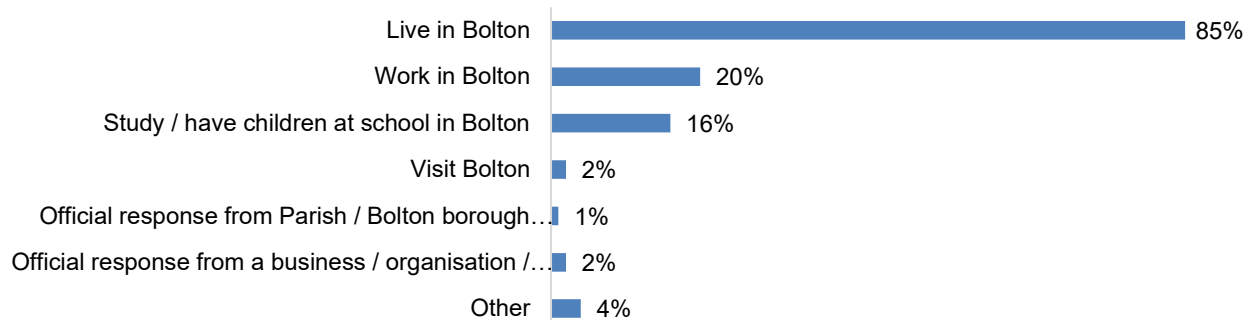
A number of open-ended questions were included in the consultation survey to give respondents the opportunity to comment on the proposal, suggest improvements to the library services at Farnworth and to outline potential barriers to accessing Farnworth Library services, if the proposal was approved.

Throughout the consultation period, the following responses were received:

- 246 completed electronic questionnaires from residents and stakeholders.
- 54 completed paper questionnaires from parents/carers and stakeholders.

A total of 300 stakeholders took part in the survey, outlining their reflections on the proposed relocation of Farnworth Library Services to Farnworth Green. 85% of respondents reported that they live in the borough, 20% work in the borough, and 16% are studying or have children at a school in Bolton. Responses received from individuals responding in an official capacity include two ward councillors, a Trade Union Representative and five representatives from businesses and community groups. Additional responses were also received from individuals that had heritage links to the Farnworth area.

### Repondents interest in the proposal



Base: 292

Postcodes were provided by 264 respondents (see the demographics section below). Of the responses received, 86% are resident in the south of the borough.

Overall, the response to the proposal was split, with the heritage of Farnworth and the library building being the primary reflection points for opposition, whilst improvements to the library service and a more central location were common reasons for supporting the proposal.

## 3. Using Local Libraries

### 3a. Library membership

As part of the consultation process, Bolton Council were keen to understand how many respondents service users are and engage with Farnworth Library. Respondents were asked to outline whether they were a member of a local library and the frequency of their visits. Out of the 296 responses received, 78% are library members.

78%



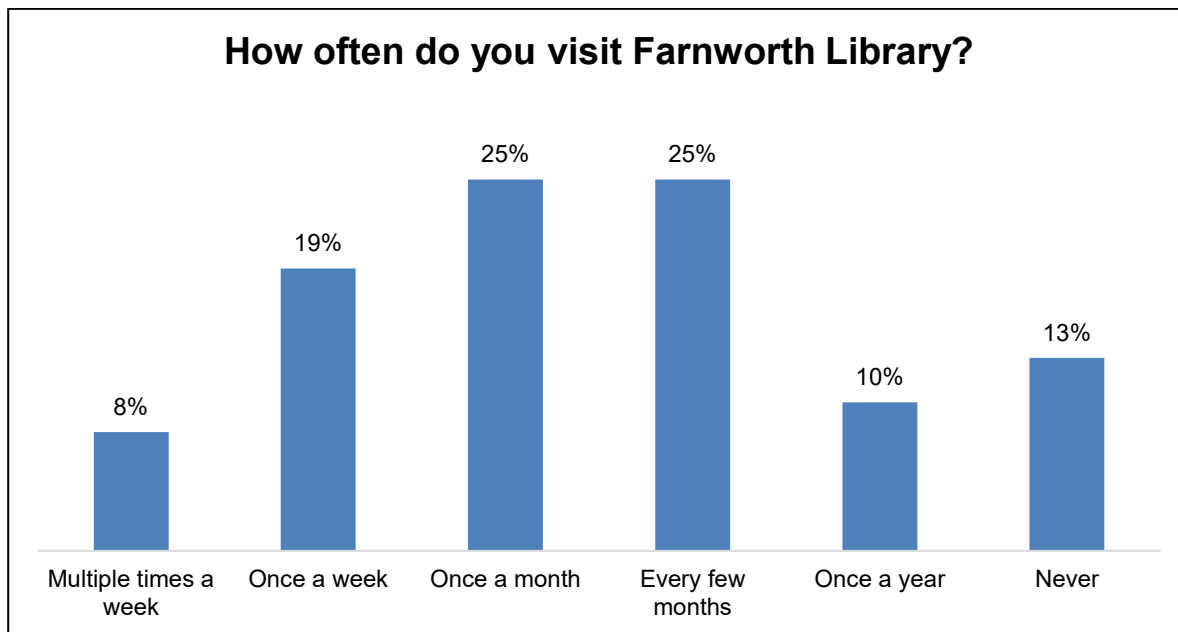
22%



Base: 296

### 3b. Frequency of visits

All stakeholders were asked to reflect on how often they visit Farnworth Library. Out of 295 responses, one-quarter (25%) visit Farnworth Library on a monthly basis, one-quarter (25%) visit every few months and 13% never visit Farnworth Library.




Base: 295

### 3c. Use of other libraries

Respondents were asked to state which other libraries they attend to gauge how popular other libraries are with respondents. Out of 256 responses, 43% of respondents stated they use other libraries.

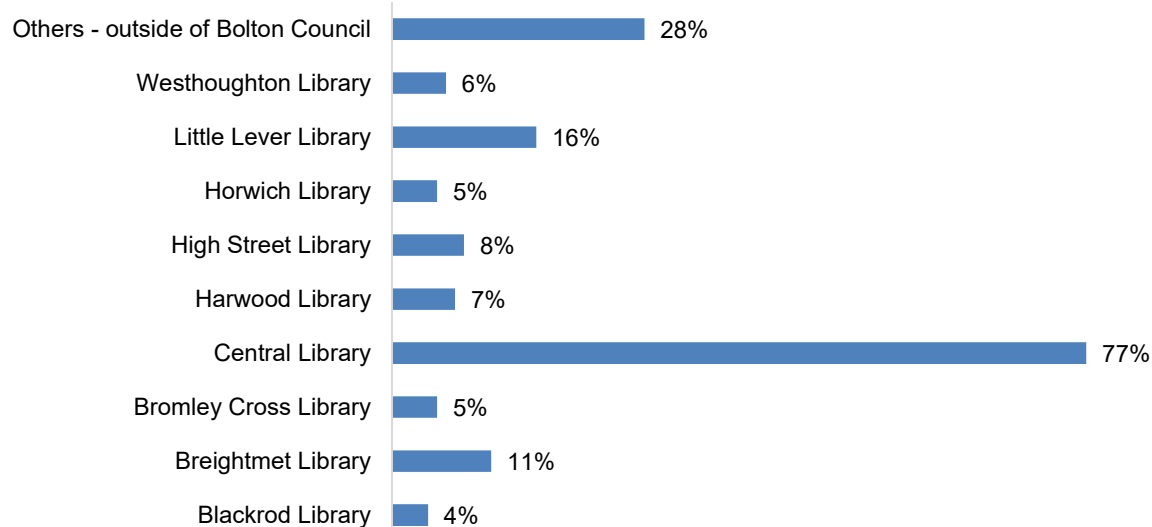
**43%** 

**57%** 

Base: 256

Respondents were asked to outline the other libraries that they use. Out of 108 responses received, Central Library was most popular with 77% of stakeholders visiting, followed by Little Lever Library (16%). 28% of respondents state they visit libraries outside of Bolton borough.

### Which other libraries do you use?

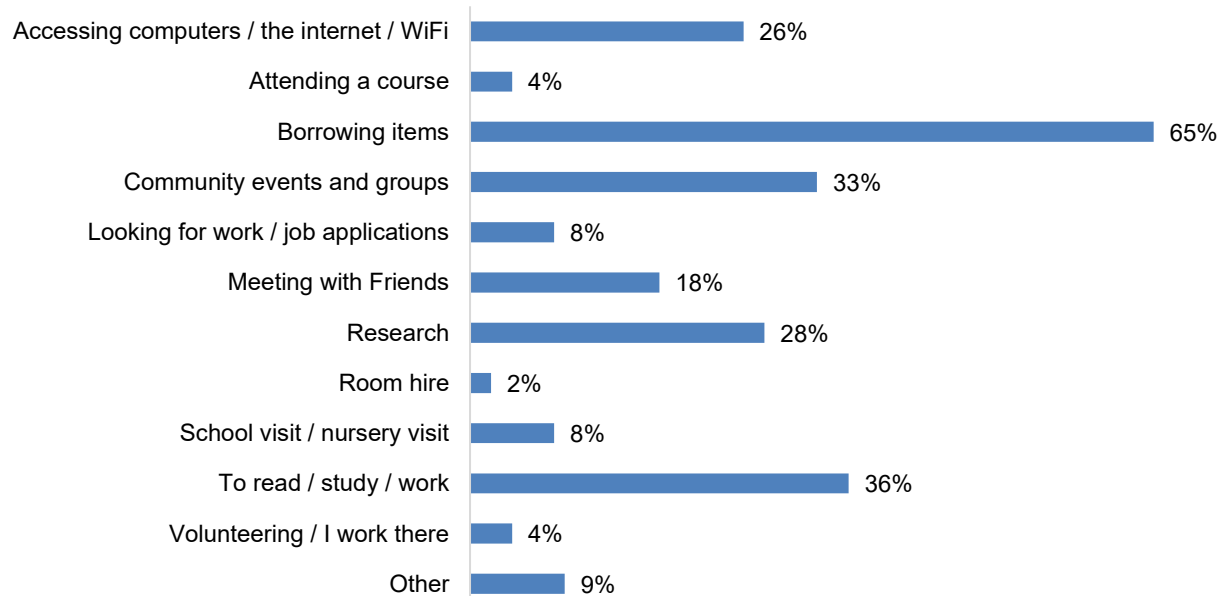


Base: 108

### 3d. Use of Farnworth Library

There are many reasons why people use libraries, and this consultation sought to understand further how residents and stakeholders use Farnworth Library currently. Out of 250 responses, most respondents use Farnworth Library to borrow items (65%), to read / study / work (36%) and attend community events (33%). The graph below outlines the diverse ways people currently Farnworth Library.

### How do you currently use Farnworth Library?



Base: 250

9% (23 respondents) stated they use the library service in another way, this includes using library facilities e.g. photocopiers and printers, attending groups and courses, and accessing support.

- “Printing”
- “Just a look around”
- “Hearing Aid and research”
- “Use it for Guide Dog Training”
- “Book club and also history group”
- “Photocopying and Open Stop Shop desk”
- “Place of peace from hostile environment (abuse, m. health)”

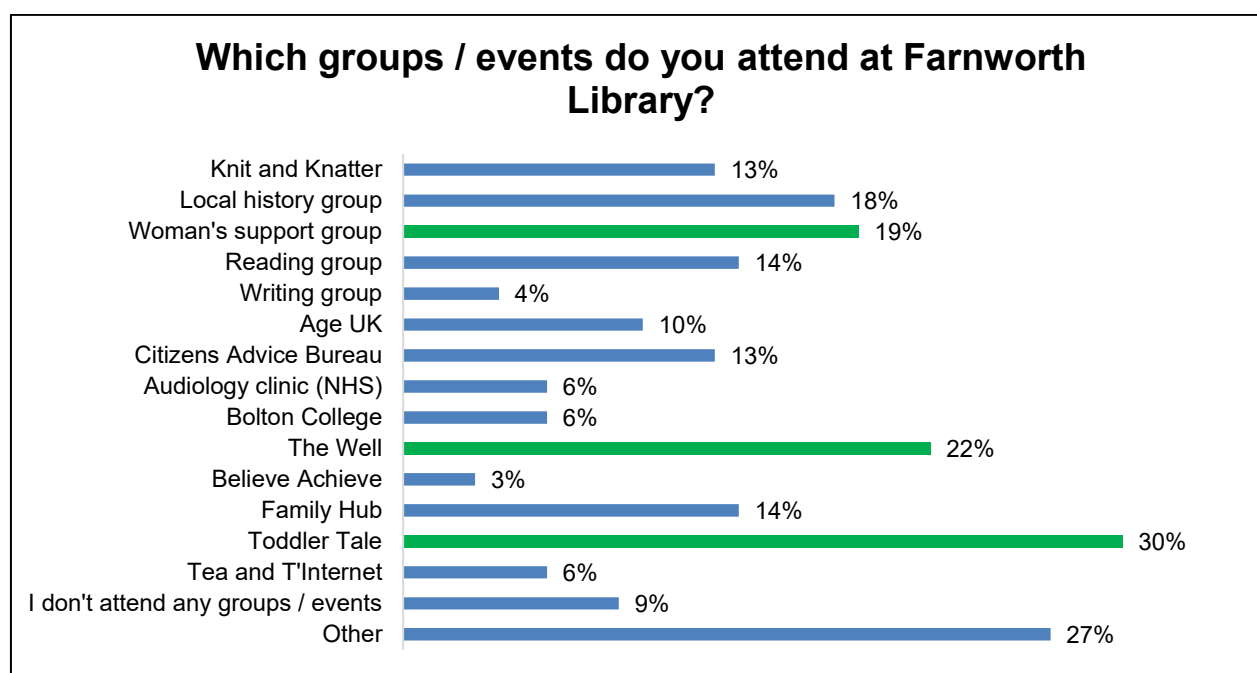
During the drop-in events, respondents were also asked how they use the current service provision. Seven responses were received, including “Research topics of interest”, “printing”, “photocopy and family history” and pre-ordering books.

### 3e. Accessing groups at Farnworth Library

Of the one-third of residents and stakeholders who access events and groups at Farnworth Library, Toddler Tales is frequently attended by 30% of stakeholders. The Well is also frequented by 22% of those respondents, and just under one-fifth (19%) attend the Women’s support group.

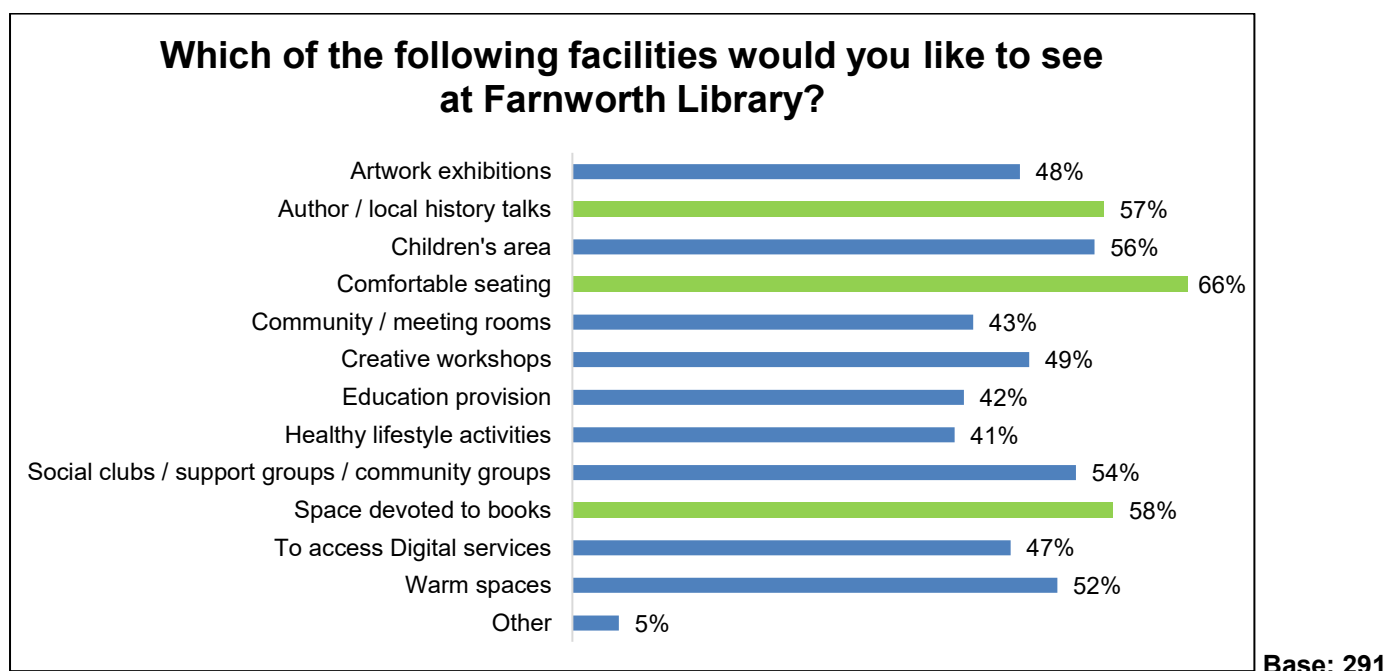
During the consultation drop-in consultation events, stakeholders also stated they attended the following events.

- Coffee morning
- Book exchange
- Saturday children's crafts
- Writing Group
- Monthly college course
- Local History Group (8 yrs)
- English classes
- Summer Reading Challenge (6-8 year old)



#### 4. Future facilities for a Farnworth Library Service

Respondents were asked about the facilities they would like to see at Farnworth Library to guide service improvements. A total of 291 respondents answered this question. The most preferred facilities included: “comfortable seating” (66%), “space devoted to books” (58%), “author / local history talks” (57%) and a “children’s area” (56%).



13 respondents provided other suggestions, including creative events, social activities and improvements to communication from the library service.

- “Have school art displays”
- “Craft session, repair café”
- “Better communication as to what is on”
- “After hours hub availability plus weekends”
- “Having traditional bookcases and shelving”
- “Open to anything that convenes the community!”
- “A nice toddler area... an art exhibition and art workshops... space designed where you can meet friends, play board games”.

The same question was asked at the drop-in consultation events, resulting in 42 representations. The responses were categorised into three themes: general facilities, groups and activities and library design features.

| What facilities would you like to see at Farnworth Library? |                            |                    |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Rank  | Category                   | No. of respondents |
| a.  | Library design suggestions | 19                 |
| b.  | General facilities         | 10                 |



|    |                       |   |
|----|-----------------------|---|
| c. | Groups and activities | 7 |
|----|-----------------------|---|

#### a. Library design suggestions

19 comments focused on the design of the library, where several people commented on the layout of the space and specific features, such as signage and windows.

- *“Sun glaze on window can see through but not heating the building”*
- *“Farnworth history section”*
- *“Road signs used for wayfinding and library usage”*
- *“Should have transparent windows for outside views”*
- *“The Hollywood style sign”*
- *“Sensory area”*
- *“More computers, new designs”*
- *“For children very colourful, modern up-to date services”*

#### b. General facilities

Ten people suggested the provision of general library facilities and features, including “comfy” seating, air conditioning, “disabled parking”, and an improved technology offer.

- *“Comfy seating”*
- *“Air con (please)”*
- *“Disabled parking/location”*
- *“Playstation, VR, tuck shop, cinema”*
- *“Wider choice in authors and their series”*
- *“Good wi-fi for hybrid working and charging points”*

#### c. Groups and activities

Seven people commented on the provision of activities or groups at Farnworth Library, with some referring to children’s activities.

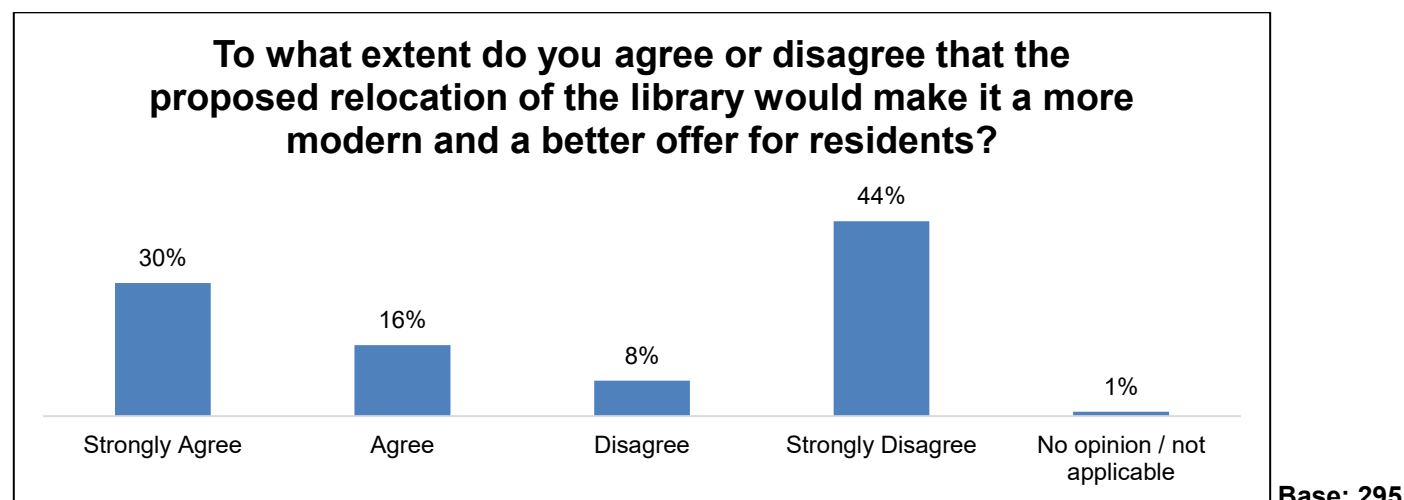
- *“Scavenger hunts for kids”*
- *“SEND family group”*
- *“Art appreciation group/Anime and graphic novels/how to draw”*
- *“Playgroup”*
- *“More activities for kids”*

There were six other comments which featured “mental health support” facilities and “local history,” for example, *“Historical of Farnworth – special achievements and acknowledgments heritage”*.

### 5. Proposed Relocation of Farnworth Library to Farnworth Green

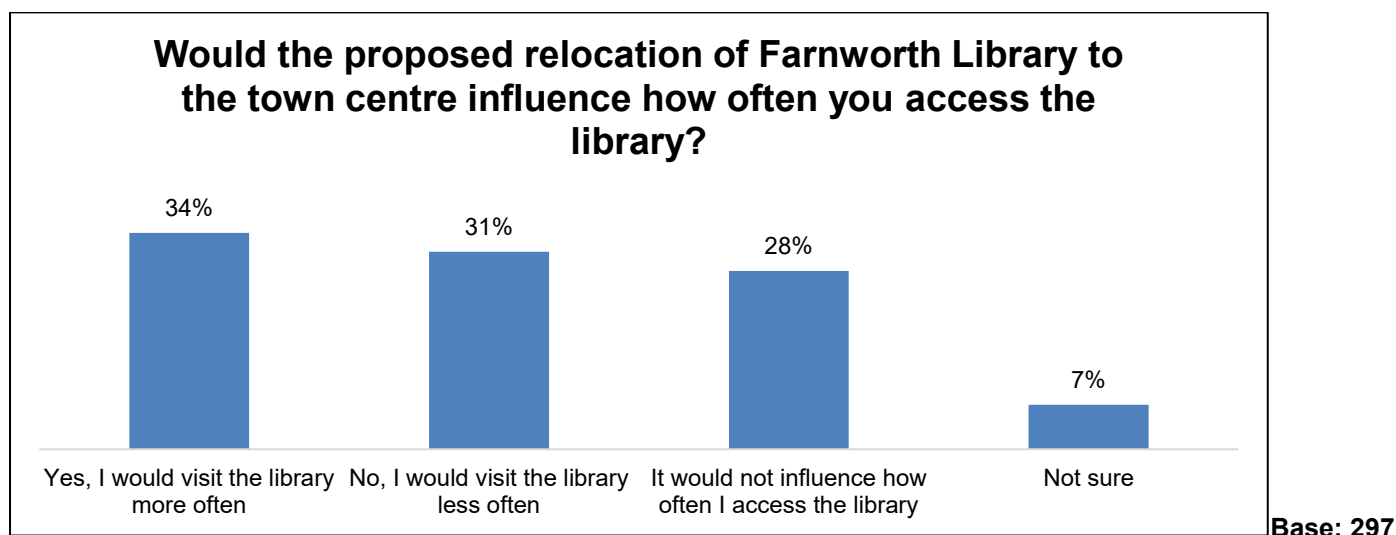
#### 5a. Service offer

Respondents were asked to reflect on whether the proposed relocation of the library service would make a *'more modern and a better offer for residents.'* 295 responses were received, with 52% disagreeing with the statement and 46% agreeing.



#### 5b. Influence of relocation on accessing Farnworth Library

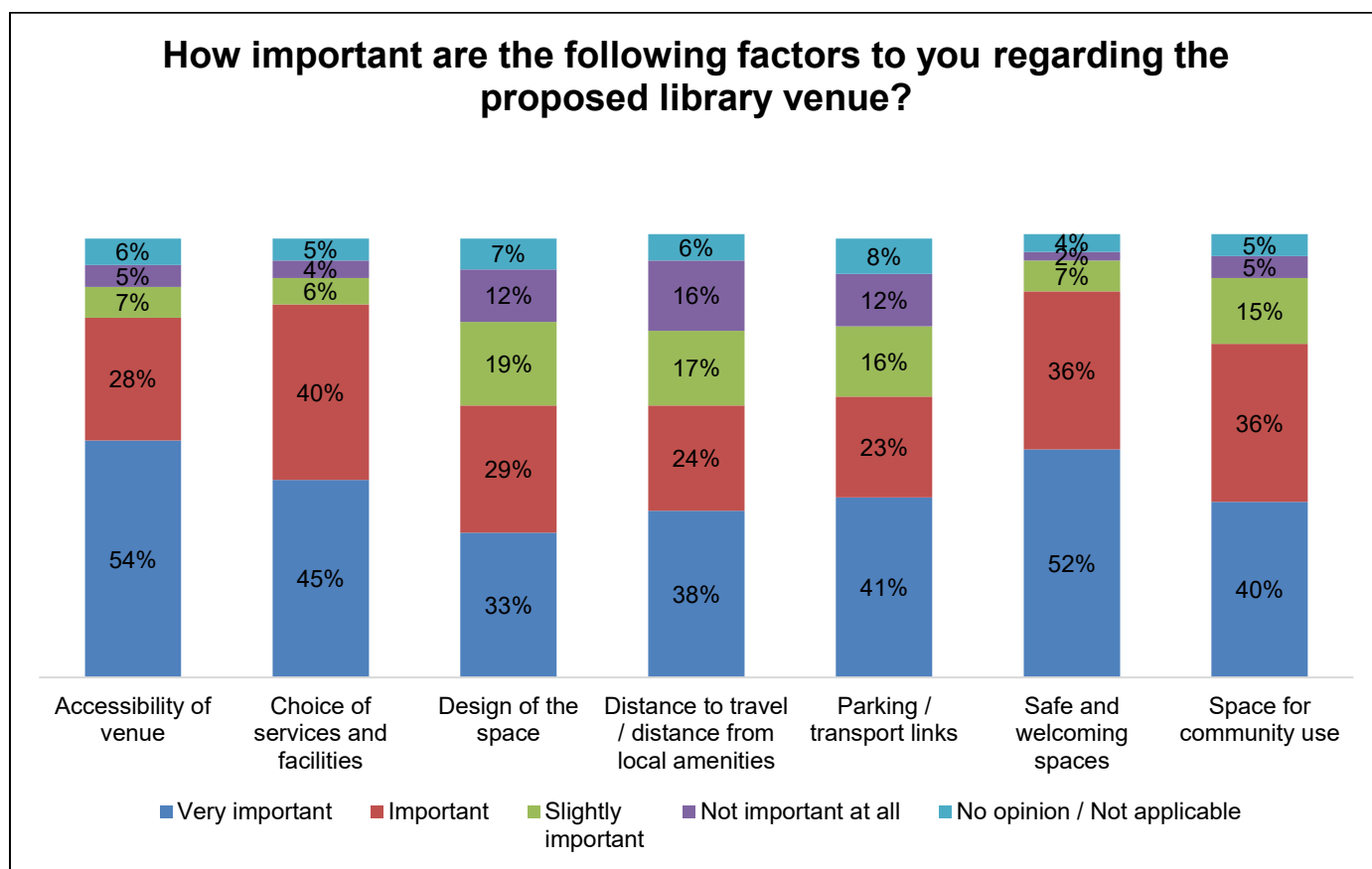
The Council was keen to understand whether the proposed relocation of Farnworth Library could impact how often people visit the library. Out of 297 responses received, 34% stated that they would visit the library more often, 31% would visit less often, and 28% said the proposed relocation would not impact how often they access the library.



#### 5c. Important factors for the proposed venue

Residents and stakeholders were asked to consider how important certain factors and facilities are when proposing to relocate a library service. An average of 280 responses were received across seven themed statements. The three most important considerations residents and stakeholders would consider in a

proposed library service relocation are “*having a safe and welcoming space*” (88%) having a “*choice of services and facilities*” (85%) and the “*accessibility of the service*” (82%).



**Base average: 280**

## 6. Impact of the Proposed Relocation

Residents and stakeholders were invited to outline the impact the proposed relocation of Farnworth Library would have on them, their family, business or community. 243 stakeholders took the opportunity to reflect on the potential impacts. These responses have been themed into ten thematic reflection areas. Most comments were concentrated on how the proposal may impact the frequency of library visits (60 comments), comments about the library location (51 comments), as well as concerns about losing an iconic building and gaining a less attractive venue for provision (50 comments).

| What impact would the proposed relocation of the library have on you / your family? |  |                    |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Rank  | Category   | No. of respondents |
| a.  | Frequency of library visits                          | 60                 |
| b.  | Library location, including parking                  | 51                 |
| c.  | Current library building / proposed library building | 50                 |
| d.  | Local heritage                                       | 45                 |
| e.  | Vulnerable groups                                    | 27                 |
| f.  | Anti-social behaviour and safety                     | 25                 |

|    |                      |    |
|----|----------------------|----|
| g. | Library experience   | 25 |
| h. | Little to no impact  | 23 |
| i. | Support for proposal | 12 |
| j. | Library service      | 11 |

### 6a. Frequency of library visits

60 respondents outlined how the proposed relocation of the library could impact how often people visit. Explanations were particularly concentrated on the library's location, parking, safety and the environment of the building. Some stakeholders stated that they would visit the library less frequently, as it would be "further away", there is a "lack of parking, no direct bus route", "anti-social behaviour at Farnworth Green", or it could be "too busy and noisy". On the other hand, other stakeholders stated they would visit the library more frequently, due to there being more on offer, it being "new library space", or "closer to other amenities".

#### Visit less

- "I wouldn't go at all"
- "I would stop using the library and start using bolton."
- "Would move the Library further away from us, would not visit with my child"
- "We would no longer attend the library due to the unsuitability of the proposed location."
- "We will visit the library on rare occasions then. I would prefer to leave where it is. It is a lovely building and accessible for all."
- "We probably wouldn't use it at all due to lack of parking, no direct bus route from home and the antisocial behaviour around Farnworth Green."
- "We wouldn't go and use it if it moved to the town centre as it's too busy and noisy. A library is supposed to be somewhere to read and relax."
- "We wouldn't use it anymore :( it would be a safe space lost to us from domestic abuses and haven for recharging our mental health"

#### Visit more

- "Would use it more"
- "If more services on offer would attend more"
- "Me and siblings would come to the library more often."
- "We would be happy to visit/ work in a fresh new library space."
- "We would visit more often, as it's within the building we live in."
- "I think I would possibly visit more as it is closer to other amenities"
- "Would be more likely to call in when shopping at Farnworth centre"
- "It will be closer to my house and I would visit it often with my toddler."
- "I would be more unclined to use more up to date facilities, the new proposed library would be much closer to where i live."

### 6b. Library location, including parking

51 respondents outlined the convenience of where the library is currently located. Several refer to liking the library's proximity to the park, whereas some respondents focus on the convenience of the proposed venue being in a central location.

The proposed library location revealed a mixed response. The impact on parking was commented on by many stakeholders, revealing a split between stakeholders considering the location would bring a better or worse offer: some respondents state it could be “*easier to park*”, but some others think it could be “*awkward to park nearby*”. The current library service was praised for being “*out of the way, but still in perfect location*” and near to “*Moses Gate Country Park*”. Some respondents see its current location as though the service is “*forgotten about*”, so people are “*missing out on amazing events and services the library has to offer*”. However, some commented on the library relocation improving proximity “*to other amenities*”, making it “*more convenient*” for visitors.

### Current library location

- “*The library provides foot traffic for the well cafe behind. Being across from the park also provides opportunity for families to wonder over when they may have not been before*”
- “*Me and my little daughter tend to go to library every Saturday to pick some new books, and play with another kids of it's raining. I think the current library is perfect, out of the way but still in perfect location.*”
- “*I have used this library since I was a small child. It is located in an amazin place close to Farnworth park and Moses Gate Country Park.*”
- “*I take my children so does my mum then they go to farnworth park across the road so its a full day out.*”
- “*I like the place where library is now because close to the Farnworth Library is Farnworth Central Park and playground and is close to Mosses Gate Park, so library is in good place to take little break when we are on the walk.*”
- “*Convenient to go to the library when going to the supermarket. Books are heavy to carry and there is car parking close by and close to bus routes. Not as far to travel from Kearsley.*”
- “*I enjoy it being on the edge of town*”
- “*At the moment outside the town it is away from the people and people don't always see what is happening at the library missing out on amazing events and services the library has to offer.*”
- “*Its often forgotten about in its current location*”
- “*Parking is already bad in the surrounding streets, especially with Council workers in the Town Hall*”
- “*The current location of the library is on the main road, so it's not very suitable to walk the kids to and from.*”

### Proposed library location

- “*It would mean walking through petrol smelling streets instead of beautiful Farnworth Park.*”
- “*In the centre is awkward to park nearby*”
- “*It would be more convenient for me to visit the library.*”
- “*Easier to access by adding it onto the shopping trips or before or after swimming. Near cafes to make a morning / afternoon of it. Easier to park.*”
- “*The library would be easier to visit given its proximity to other amenities.*”
- “*The library would be more difficult to get to from where I live.*”

### 6c. Current library building / proposed library building

50 comments focused on the current library building, including its aesthetics, whilst other comments focused on the proposed library venue. Respondents expressed concern about the history and character of the current building being lost, sharing reflections and personal nostalgic anecdotes. Some stakeholders called for the current library to be repaired instead of relocated, and some relayed that the library “*belongs*” to the local community. Some respondents criticised the look of the proposed library as “*boxy*”, saying it may not cater to the community’s needs. Some stakeholders were concerned that the proposed venue

would take away valuable commercial space at Farnworth Green, highlighting that original plans for the area had earmarked it for retail use, despite it actually being ringfenced for community use.

### Current library building

- *"It would lose its personality as an historic and beautiful building."*
- *"Fear that this listed building will fall into the wrong hands."*
- *"No need to relocate. The current library is in a beautiful building, opposite a wonderful park with a lovely cafe in The Well behind it."*
- *"The current building's character, architecture, and sense of history create an atmosphere that no modern space could replicate."*

### Repair current library building

- *"Farnworth library is a beautiful building but its in need of repair."*
- *"Just repair the existing no need for this to be moved ..disgusted"*
- *"It belongs to the Farnworth /Kearsley community, plus it will cost more to relocate so mend the roof & maybe update alittle."*
- *"It's tragic that Bolton Council are unable to make the existing library viable... it could be used to support the park in terms of recreational use."*
- *"The layout of the current library could be better thought out. Yes it isn't as modern as the new location could be, but that is a part of the charm. It is a gorgeous building, close to The Well."*

### Proposed library building

- *"You want to make us have a featureless box because you cant rent it out commercially to anyone"*
- *"Farnworth Green was never proposed to house a library, this appears to only be an option now due to the lack of idea/options/ and businesses unwilling to move into Farnworth Green."*
- *"Wouldnt be the same walking into a glass box nobody else wants"*
- *"I feel the new location will be boring, boxy and just aimed at families, even though the groups that use the library are actually aimed at an older demographic."*
- *"I don't wish to be in a glass box."*

## 6d. Local heritage

45 comments raised the importance of the current building's heritage and the legacy the Carnegie Library provides for Farnworth. There was a strong sentiment of grief, 'disgust,' and frustration from stakeholders, many of whom cited personal stories relating to the library, saying *"it is a cornerstone of Farnworth"* and *"a reminder of Farnworth's history"*.

- *"History and heritage matter to people."*
- *"Utter disgust at losing the Carnegie library"*
- *"The building itself is iconic and a reminder of Farnworth's history."*
- *"It would be a catastrophic waste of a wonderful community space that was gifted to the people of Farnworth"*
- *"The library is a beautiful building that's part of Farnworth's heritage and I'm frankly disgusted that a move is even being contemplated. We have lost enough of our old buildings and this should not be another tally to the chart."*
- *"Losing this location would mean losing an irreplaceable link to our town's past, something I value deeply and want my children to grow up appreciating."*
- *"Farnworth library has been apart of my childhood and is apart of my daughter's childhood. It is a heritage to Farnworth and should be left as it is"*



- *"The current building has stood there for over 100 years and has been at the centre of the community. The building might be difficult to upkeep but it is a cornerstone of Farnworth, it's history and is located on one of the main access roads to the town. I am horrified that the building might be lost."*

## 6e. Vulnerable groups

27 comments focused specifically on how the proposal would have an impact to those with protected characteristics. Stakeholder comments particularly reflected the accessibility of the proposed venue, the impact the venue could have on neurodiverse individuals, and parking for people with access needs.

There was a split in opinion, with many citing the proposed venue as *"less accessible"* for *"those with limited capacity or disabilities"* and *"no longer an enjoyable experience"*, as it may be *"too bright and loud"* for neurodiverse individuals. In addition, some noted how libraries provide safe spaces for those who are victims of abuse.

Conversely, some respondents suggest that the proposed relocation could be *"more accessible"* for families and non-drivers, and others outlined how there could be *"more places to park"* and it would be *"easier to access by public transport"* due to local facilities and amenities being within walking distance.

### Less accessible or inclusive

- *"It would make it less accessible"*
- *"My son is autistic and has adhd it would be impossible to keep him engaged when he can see what is going on outside. My older son who is also autistic would not go as other teenagers who already bully him for reading would see him in there and he would worry about them seeing him and waiting"*
- *"It would make services harder to be accessed for those with limited capacity or disabilities in the area...Cost to travel to new location"*
- *"The redesign of the Central Library has been awful. For people with sensory needs it is too bright and loud."*
- *"Looking at the new plans for new library I find it too open. I can see my autistic child more concerned with what's going on outside rather than focusing on playing or looking through books."*
- *"It would impact us hugely if it moved to the town centre as we like the peaceful location, I have members of my family suffer with anxiety and the quiet location really helps them relax and enjoy the time spent there."*
- *"If moved to a busier place, myself and my neurodiverse child would be over stimulated and it would no longer be an enjoyable experience."*
- *"It needs to have enough space to accommodate parking, especially mobility spaces. Space for family cars."*
- *"I am currently able to park right outside the library as I am disabled, which wouldn't be possible in the new location."*
- *"There are several members of my family, myself included, who would struggle accessing the proposed new venue due to lack of accessible car parking. Parking on Asda car park which is the nearest car park (and is supposed to be for their customers) would mean a long walk to the new facilities. Even walking a few steps causes severe pain and possible breathlessness to disabled people."*

### More accessible or inclusive

- *"It's not as far for me to walk now as I'm disabled"*
- *"The new library is more accessible to us, as a family."*
- *"Farnworth Green is more accessible as a non-driver."*
- *"The new library is easier to get to, more places to park."*
- *"Easy access will encourage use, can pop in when shopping, etc."*

- *"As being a pensioner it would be easier to access by public transport"*
- *"I have mobility issues and don't drive. I could walk to Farnworth Green more easily."*
- *"Better access for car parking as I cant always park (blue badge holder) near Farnworth Library."*
- *"I would be more unclined to use more up to date facilities, the new proposed library would be much closer"*
- *"Easier parking; my 80yr old mum, who lives more locally to Farnworth Green would be able to visit and borrow her own choice of books, etc."*

#### **6f. Anti-social behaviour and safety**

25 comments were received which focused on anti-social behaviour and safety at the proposed site at Farnworth Green. Several respondents stated that the area is *"not safe"* due to anti-social behaviour, which disparages them or their family from visiting the area. Some stakeholders expressed concerns that anti-social behaviour could be brought into the library as a result of the relocation.

- *"My family do not feel completely safe visiting the centre of Farnworth. If the library is relocated here, there would need to be increased security. I feel that moving the library here would encourage some people who would disrupt the genuine visitors to the library."*
- *"I do not feel safe in the newly built area."*
- *"It would make me feel anxious having to go to that part of Farnworth with the yobs hanging around and intimidating people"*
- *"I would hope that it's relocation would make it safer for users and not subject to the problems with teenagers that beset the Little Lever library when it relocated."*
- *"The centre of Farnworth is not safe. Where the library is now is out of the centre, safer, less intimidation. My mother is scared of going into the centre of Farnworth."*
- *"I am deeply concerned that a move to a central location will mean the library will be full of youths that currently populate the town centre...they are allowed to terrorise shops and their staff, vandalise farnworth, physically injure and cause serious harm to other members of the community"*
- *"With the anti social behavior increasing since new development opened we try to avoid Brackley street and surround areas. I have seen a lot of kids with baclavas assulting people there".*
- *"The new proposed site is constantly full of youths on bikes being a general nuisance. I want to take the younger members of my family but i would never take them to the dystopia that Farnworth town centre has become."*

#### **6g. Library experience**

25 respondents referenced the importance of the user experience when accessing library services. Several commented on the atmosphere that the current library provides, whilst some respondents criticised the feel of the proposed library space. One respondent referred to another library: *"Little Lever Library is an excellent example of shared community space."* The semantics surrounding the current library are positive overall, being described as *"lovely welcoming"*, *"traditional cosy and quiet"* and having *"soul and warmth"*.

The semantics for the proposed venue were mixed: some referred to the proposed venue as *"more flexible"*, *"much more welcoming to all ages"*, and *"community focused"*. However, others anticipate that the proposed space would not be *"calm and peaceful"*, could have *"dreadful"* acoustics, nor have an *"atmosphere, smell and appeal"*, and the seating would not be *"conducive to reading and relaxing"*.

#### **Current library**



- *"It's private, it's a lovely welcoming space."*
- *"I love where it is now, a quiet atmosphere, no distractions while I choose my books."*
- *"Not sure why making a library more modern is so important, people love the look and feel of the current library."*
- *"When we went to Farnworth Library recently we were so happy to see a traditional cosy and quiet library. This instills in children the value of literacy and having a quiet space to use away from other local spaces"*
- *"I like the oldy worldy feel of the current library. The new refurbished one in the centre feels cold and clinical. The current building has soul and warmth. Don't take that away!"*

### **Proposed relocation**

- *"The space would be far more flexible to use, more welcoming, brighter"*
- *"I feel it would just not be as calm and peaceful an experience as it is now where it is."*
- *"A library should have an atmosphere, smell and appeal. This modern look does not provide that."*
- *"Libraries are not only about books but they should offer a peaceful atmosphere which is lost when they are placed in modern settings."*
- *"Acoustics are dreadful and the children's section is used as playground by some families. The seating in the library are hard benches and not conducive to reading and relaxing."*
- *"Visiting the library is also about experiencing that space – it is inspiring, educational, and connects us to generations before us. Moving it to a modern building would strip away that sense of place and continuity."*
- *"If is designed like the library was at Crompton Place, it would be more welcoming and community focused. More people would use it as it is in the centre of Farnworth near shops and the bus station. I feel it would be much more welcoming to all ages."*

### **6h. Little to no impact**

23 comments focused on the proposed relocation of the library having little to no impact on stakeholders.

- *"The relocation wouldn't have an impact on my use."*
- *"None really, I have access to University libraries which are infinitely better than public ones. But moving to a new facility is better for farnworth."*
- *"None at all, I would still use the library."*

### **6i. Support for proposal**

12 reflections were received providing general support for the proposal. Some comments refer to the services that the proposed library could include, such as a children's area and a "meeting room".

- *"I would definitely also join many available activities in library. I strongly recommend move to this new location."*
- *"If you relocated our library to a modern building and have good facilities, like meeting room, special place for kids to play, will influence in a good way."*
- *"Am not local to farnworth but can see how this proposal would benefit Farnworth"*
- *"I believe this change will have a positive impact for the community."*

### **6j. Library service**

11 comments were received that reflected on what services the proposed venue could provide. Several stakeholders echoed their support for the proposal in terms of improving the library offer, including the activities available. However, some residents were concerned that there could be "less space for storage of

current archive information” or books, and ‘non-existent’ facilities for people that are not familiar with technology.

- “I worry that there would be less space for storage of current archive information for research purposes”
- “It was there once before while something was done to the library-I hated it, Not enough space for lots of books or computers.”
- “The impact of the move is the increase of people using the library service to keep it open and encourage people to find the benefits of reading. The modernisation of the library would allow more creative events to take part and inspire future artists.”
- “My main hobby is reading, to have less space for books would affect my enjoyment of this and the quantity of books on offer.”
- “As someone who crafts and works in freelance employment, I would very much like to use welcoming spaces to hold job clubs and some craft classes.”
- “The facilities available at our library would be non-existent in the new location, unless you use digital and have a kindle.”

## 7. Barriers to Accessing Library Services

Stakeholders were asked to explain whether the proposed relocation of the library could prevent them from accessing library services. 228 stakeholders took the opportunity to reflect on the potential impacts. These responses have been categorised into five thematic reflection areas, with the top areas being safety and anti-social behaviour (61 comments), the suitability of the proposed location (40 comments), and the impacts on vulnerable groups (35 comments). It should be noted that the majority of comments received (62) outlined there would be no barriers to accessing services if the library relocated.

| Would anything prevent you from using the library if it relocated to the proposed location in Farnworth town centre? Please explain here. |  |                    |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Rank  | Category                                   | No. of respondents |
| a.  | No barriers / not sure / not applicable    | 62                 |
| b.  | Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour           | 61                 |
| c.  | Suitability of proposed location / design  | 40                 |
| d.  | Impact on vulnerable groups                | 35                 |
| e.  | Heritage and experience of current library | 26                 |

### 7a. No barriers / not sure / not applicable

62 respondents outlined that there would be either no barriers to access the library if it relocated, or they stated they were not sure. Several respondents stated that there would be no barriers because it is a “more central location”, or because “the location is still accessible.”

- “No, it would encourage us to visit.”
- “Nothing I think it’s a great proposal.”
- “No as the location is still accessible.”
- “No, the new library would be alot easier.”

- *"No - other than reduction in opening hours, as work daytime."*
- *"No, as accessibility is key and the more central location would encourage people to visit."*

## 7b. Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour

61 respondents explained that the anti-social behaviour at Farnworth Green would prevent them from accessing the proposed venue, if the relocation went ahead. Residents who are elderly, or parents, stated that they would feel *"uncomfortable"* going to the proposed library venue, due to anti-social behaviour. Respondents noted how *"kids on bikes wearing balaclavas"* and *"drug and alcohol abusers"* are making Farnworth feel *"unpleasant"*, *"unsafe"* and *"not a child friendly environment"*.

- *"It feels very unsafe in the centre of Farnworth at times."*
- *"Yes. Farnworth Town Centre is not a child friendly environment."*
- *"Gangs of youths would make me uncomfortable being an elder person"*
- *"Yes I would not go at all due to anti social behavior at this moment in time."*
- *"Disrespectful kids in the area will ruin it for others as a mum of 3 young children I don't want to put them in danger of getting hurt by yobs"*
- *"Yes all the kids on bikes wearing balaclavas nearly running people over and the threats and vile language"*
- *"Yes the masked bike riders that are in the area from tea time and have been for months. No way will I be taking my grandchildren there."*
- *"I am intimidated by all the youths hanging about and riding electric bikes in Farnworth Green. I have lived in Farnworth all my life and I am now scared to go in...Farnworth Green."*
- *"Yes to busy and drunken people hanging around and with antisocial behaviour from the younger generation"*
- *"This is not a safe area at all. It's full of drug and alcohol abusers, shoplifters and e-bikers. You are quite aware of these problems, police or the council fail miserably to do anything about it."*
- *"Farnworth centre is an extremely unpleasant and unsafe area to frequent, whether that be shopping for groceries or meeting with friends!"*
- *"I would hope there were some sort of security measures in place to make it safer for visitors. I know from personal experience that some libraries have been meeting places for trouble-making teenagers because they think they cannot be disciplined for causing problems in a public space."*
- *"We wouldn't visit, the town center doesn't feel safe anymore. There are people with masks on riding electric bikes, mugging and drugged up people. I don't wish for my children to see these things"*
- *"The only thing that would prevent me using the new library is the ongoing issue with anti-social behaviour from young teenagers. Although the police are providing more patrols, the issues still persist."*

## 7c. Suitability of proposed location / design

40 respondents discussed the suitability of the proposed location for Farnworth Library. Many criticised the design of the space and its surroundings, stating that this could prevent them from using the library if it relocated to Farnworth Green. Several said that the proposed venue lacks character and privacy, *"is just not conducive to a library"*, has *"no historical significance"*, is *"busy and overcrowded"*, and could have less space for books and activities. Some people commented on parking and the proposed location being distracting service users.

- *"The buildings are soulless and characterless."*
- *"I would find a new building aesthetically abhorrent."*
- *"The open modern space which becomes very impersonal."*

- *"Yes its not near the park and would have an eye sore of shops"*
- *"Yes it was supposed to be shops on Farnworth green not a library"*
- *"Revised design is needed for modern world, to attract more people"*
- *"Current location is easy to get to, direct parking outside and on direct bus route"*
- *"The size of spaced used to house books and the quantity of them in the library, room for groups."*
- *"Anti social behaviour, noise levels, distractions from outside the building, lack of research documents"*
- *"It would make me use it less. The relocation would not enable adequate space for multiple groups. Lack of parking, where it is now is easier to park."*
- *"Yes, it's busy and overcrowded and would likely be used by lots of people for a variety of reasons, not always related to the purpose of what it's meant to be used for."*
- *"I don't think the space being offered will enable the library to offer the same scale of activities, lending and groups as it currently does."*
- *"Yes. It is completely open to view from passing footfall. Where is the privacy to sit in seclusion in a brightly lit glass box. I would not use this location as a library as I feel it has no importance to the town."*
- *"A Library needs to feel like a library and have quiet, cosy spaces within it. For example Central Library is too open and bright, it is noisy and not how a Library should be."*

#### **7d. Impact on vulnerable groups**

35 comments illustrated how the proposal could impact those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, elderly people, people with low mobility or disabilities, and neurodiverse individuals. The *"cost of transport"*, the transport links available, parking and access for non-drivers were highlighted by several individuals. Accessible parking, particularly for disabled people, was mentioned by many respondents. There were numerous comments about elderly people not being able to access the library due to mobility restrictions. Several people discussed the concept designs of the library, mentioning the need for space for prams and handrails, or rails, and some outlined that the open space or bright lighting could bring adverse impacts for some users. Some commented that the library being busier could also impact disabled or neurodiverse individuals.

#### **Socioeconomic impacts**

- *"Cost of transport"*
- *"Yes, the location and cost of commuting."*
- *"If current free parking was to be made payable."*
- *"For the return journey... there is no convenient bus or bus stops"*
- *"It will not be possible for me to reach there by walk as I don't have a car."*

#### **Impacts for elderly people**

- *"Loss of the friendly feel, a new modern space would not address my needs and feelings as an older person."*
- *"I go once a week with my mum and dad who are in there 80s and we park right outside, if you move it it'll be too far for them to walk as dad uses a walking aid and can't walk too far, but loves his trips out to pick his own books."*
- *"Parking is awful around that precinct now so you are making people with less mobility walk much further get to the pedestrian area. it's just not right. i will save my visits to a minimum now if you move it, just wholly inconvenient"*

#### **Impacts on accessibility and inclusivity**

- *"Anxiety, less welcoming building"*

- *"Probably the open aspect, all glass."*
- *"No good at all for sen children who want a quiet place"*
- *"Also would put me off due to how busy it would be and impact on my anxiety."*
- *"Further to push my dad. He doesn't like change due to issues relating to a stroke"*
- *"I feel not being able to park directly outside would impact the disabled users of the library."*
- *"Needs ramp access and handrails. Needs area to be able to leave prams / buggies safely inside."*
- *"I would no longer visit... as a disabled person, I would not be comfortable in a building that is so full of windows, making it so bright I would have trouble seeing to actually read the books"*
- *"Yes my partner is disabled and the car park is too far away. Not as easily accessible as where it is now as you can park outside or down the side road."*

## 7e. Heritage and experience of current library

26 comments discussed the user experience of libraries and how this could be impacted by the proposed relocation of the library service: respondents refer to the proposed library as *"characterless"* and *"generic"* compared to the current building. Many respondents referred to the historical and cultural heritage of the building preventing them from accessing library services.

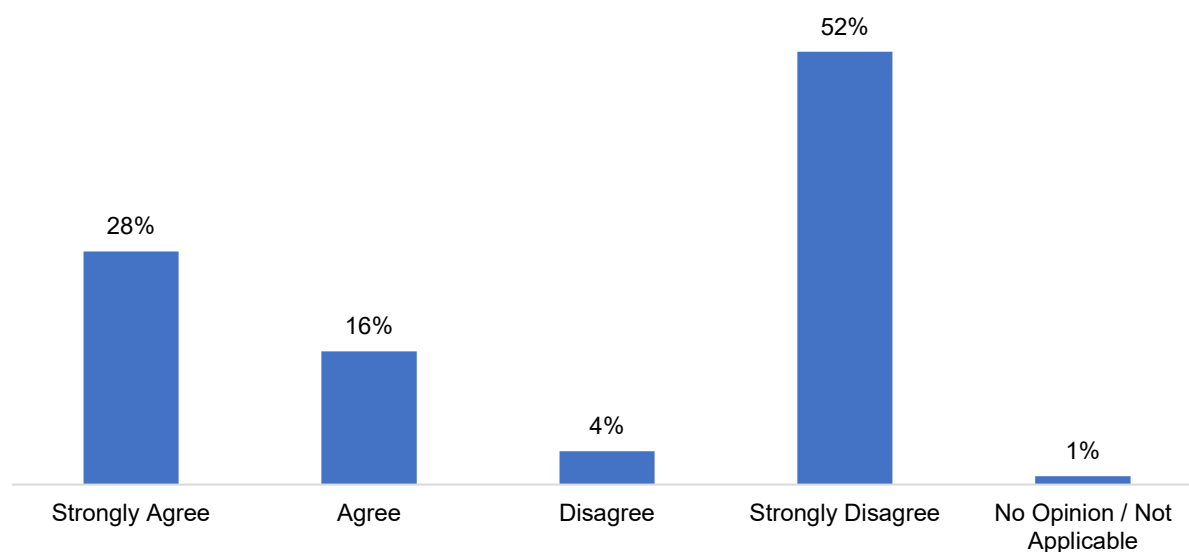
- *"Heritage would prevent me"*
- *"Yes, no history and family connections."*
- *"Yes. It just wouldn't be the same. I wouldn't use it."*
- *"I want a quiet space in a safe environment while I choose my books"*
- *"Grief, the Carnegie building... is the library, its so much more than a building"*
- *"It hardly seems like a peaceful place to read, access digital services or study in a town centre"*
- *"Loss of the friendly feel, a new modern space would not address my needs and feelings as an older person."*
- *"Yes I disagree with the Carnegie building that was gifted to the people of Farnworth being used to pay off council debts"*
- *"It would be characterless, so would be far less inclined to visit. Going to a library is an experience and the character of it is important, it has gravitas so to speak."*
- *"The historic building is a big part of why I visit; it offers a unique atmosphere, charm, and sense of connection to Farnworth's past. Moving it to a modern setting would remove that experience entirely and make it feel like just another generic space."*

Other comments expressed scepticism of the proposal or the council, for example: *"it's not what we were promised for Farnworth Green"*. Others questioned why the proposal focuses on relocation instead of restoration: *"it's annoying the current building could be left to go into disrepair. It's as though the council doesn't care."*

## 8. Overall Views

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with the proposal to relocate Farnworth Library Service to Farnworth Green. Out of 297 responses, 56% disagreed with the proposal and 44% agreed with the proposal.

### To what extent do you agree with the proposal to relocate Farnworth Library to Farnworth Green?



Base: 297

Respondents were asked to outline why they agreed or disagreed with the proposal. 245 responses were received. The key reasons for opposing the proposal related to the heritage of the building and the user experience the current library provides, followed by concerns with the proposed location including safety and anti-social behaviour, parking, and accessibility. The reasons for supporting the proposal include the benefits to service users, the proximity to amenities, and the condition of the current library.

| Please outline why you agree or disagree with this proposal. |   |                    |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Rank   | Category  | No. of respondents |
| a.   | Preserving heritage   | 58                 |
| b.   | Benefits of proposed library  | 45                 |
| c.   | Concerns with the council, future of current building, and resourcing | 45                 |
| d.   | Condition of the current library                                      | 37                 |
| e.   | Location including car parking  | 34                 |
| f.   | Safety and anti-social behaviour                                      | 20                 |
| g.   | Impact on vulnerable groups   | 12                 |
| h.   | Suitability of proposed library                                       | 16                 |

#### 8a. Preserving heritage

58 respondents outlined the importance of preserving the heritage of Farnworth Library. Some responses indicated concerns about losing: a “*part of Farnworth’s history*”, a “*civic space*” and “*access*” to the building. There was acknowledgement from some respondents about the importance of investing in the building and



the differentiation between the library as a building and as a service: *"it's the service and provision inside the building which are the library"*.

- *"Repair the roof keep our heritage."*
- *"I strongly disagree with relocating Farnworth Library because preserving historic civic spaces matters. When we move public services into generic modern units, we don't just change an address — we chip away at the everyday places where our shared history is felt."*
- *"The library is a historic building gifted to The People it is a Carnegie library. It feels like anything that Farnworth has of any value Bolton strip away."*
- *"Let's be clear: a leaking roof is not a valid reason to uproot and relocate such an important community asset. Buildings of this heritage and cultural value deserve investment, repair, and proper maintenance—not abandonment."*
- *"I disagree because of the beauty and legacy of the building. Too often libraries have no soul and are like any other build of any purpose. The Carnegie library offers a different experience and an appreciation of Edwardian design and altruism."*
- *"Disagree as it is part of Farnworths history and will become another empty building."*
- *"The number of Carnegie libraries currently in use for their intended purpose is rapidly declining and we should be proud, in Farnworth, to have it."*
- *"There is a persuasive argument to keep the service in the Carnegie building, due to the historical context in which it sits and the privilege of havng it in the council's care; but the library is more than the bricks and mortar: it's the service and provision inside the building which are the library. Arguably, the architectural design and deterioration of the building can impact the public's access and impression of council services."*
- *"Farnworth is not blessed with high quality buildings, and to leave this building without an active end use would be to put it at risk. Obviously another use might be found for the building (such as at Astley Bridge library) but to deprive the public of access to such a heritage asset and building of quality is unfair. This is a more prominent and important building than Astley Bridge library and certainly more so than Little Lever. It is part of the three graces of Farnworth and should be celebrated, not removed from public use."*
- *"It's a piece of farnworth historical architecture and isn't belongs to the people NOT THE COUNCIL."*

#### **8b. Benefits of proposed library**

45 respondents provided benefits of the proposed library for their reasoning behind their overall perspective on the proposal. Common benefits included the space being *"modern"*, *"welcoming"* *"inclusive"* and *"different"*. Several respondents mentioned the potential benefits for businesses, visitors and shoppers. Several acknowledged the value of the current library building, but the limitations of the facilities and location.

- *"It's something modern and different."*
- *"The new library would be more accessible and inviting."*
- *"It would be a more modern space and welcoming space"*
- *"More people would use the library, before or after shopping"*
- *"Convenience and hopefully better childrens space and more events"*
- *"Bringing it to the centre of Farnworth makes it more of a community hub."*
- *"It would be a more modern, inclusive setting and would probaly be more open."*
- *"The new library will be better for residents to access, near to shops, parking and bus station."*
- *"Will be much more modern, better location, and will look better. Think it will be a positive move"*
- *"A relocation would be good and help make the library more appealing and gather more members."*

- *“The libraries needs to be closer to the centre of Farnworth to be a focal point for community. Farnworth deserves a library that is more modern, adaptable and has the digital resources and stock for that the people deserve.”*
- *“A modern council service ideally needs a space that is flexible to change and able to respond to changing residents' needs in order to be fit for purpose.”*
- *“1) Option for a multi-use facility. 2) Modern, attractive design may attract more users and a broader age, etc. 3) May have a positive impact on other businesses and services, etc.”*
- *“1) Although the Carnegie library is a very imposing building, it was build in 1910 and needs a lot of money spending on it. 2) The new proposed location would encourage people to drop in, because there are shops / other facilities nearby.”*
- *“Agree, the present build is difficult to heat and the reception for wifi is not always good. The toilet is not really equipped for multi use (disabled / babies - nappy changing / male / female, etc) - one toilet.”*
- *“The local community deserves a better, more accessible space which they can truly be proud of. The current Farnworth Library looks distinctly worse than any of the other libraries in Bolton due to its age and condition, and is also too far away from the town centre.”*

A couple of comments referred to other library changes, including the new Little Lever Library and a previous relocation of Farnworth library.

- *“I've seen how good Little Lever Library is and I want Farnworth to have the same”*
- *“The library relocated temporarily in 2021 to Brackley Street while maintenance work took place. The staff who worked there said that it was busy with visitors, membership increased and they saw both regulars and new faces. The pop-up was a success in improving access to library and council services for a brief space of time... I am convinced that moving the service up to the Green can only be a positive move in terms of providing an inclusive and more accessible service for all of Farnworth residents”*

In addition, a response from a local councillor was received, discussing the “*important history*” of Farnworth Library and the potential benefits of the proposed library, including “*learning, socialising, and cultural events.*”

*“As a local councillor, the proposal to relocate Farnworth Library to a new, purpose-built space within the Farnworth Green development would place the library in the heart of the community, and create a modern, accessible facility that meets the needs of both new and long-standing residents.*

*The proposed location in the town centre is highly appealing, particularly as it sits alongside shopping and community spaces, making it a vibrant hub for learning, socialising, and cultural events. I personally would like to see a great facility for children.*

*At the same time, I am conscious that the current Farnworth Library is a Grade II listed building with a long and important history. I believe the council must set out a clear and firm plan for the future of the existing building. It is vital that it is not left to deteriorate or be sold off, as has happened with other civic buildings in the past. Protecting our heritage while providing a modern library for the community is essential, and I look forward to seeing a plan that respects both these priorities. In short, a new library at Farnworth Green offers a transformative opportunity for our town, but we must ensure that the story and legacy of the old library are safeguarded for future generations.”*

### **8c. Concerns with the Council, future of current building, and resourcing**

45 respondents raised practical concerns about the proposal, such as resource allocation, the future of the current building and queries about why restoring the current library has not been considered as a proposal.



The majority of comments focused on the building, but some raised financial concerns and distrust of the Council.

- *"Why waste money to move only 5mins walk away."*
- *"This is not what Farnworth Green was intended for."*
- *"Preserve Farnworth's history and restore this beautiful building"*
- *"I would be concerned about the current library being demolished"*
- *"I would like the council to disclose any rent costs this move incurs."*
- *"More wasted taxpayers money for something the people paying tax do not want."*
- *"The proposal to move to Farnworth Green is only because the units can't be filled."*
- *"The building would then be left empty for god knows how long and then used inappropriately"*
- *"No proposal has been made to say what will become of this building should the library relocate."*
- *"Why waste money when the library is in a perfectly decent, accessible and stunning location already?"*
- *"They haven't managed to get shops in to the center so how would they get anyone in to the current building? It's very clear they re just wanting to fill spaces rather than do things the town actually needs"*
- *"Why not spend some of the money that Farnworth has been given on updating and repairing The original library rather than ripping the heart out of Farnworth."*
- *"A leaking roof is not a valid reason to uproot and relocate such an important community asset. Buildings of this heritage and cultural value deserve investment, repair, and proper maintenance—not abandonment. Residents rightly expect the council to maintain its public buildings, not use neglect as a justification to move them elsewhere."*
- *"How has a council building not been properly maintained in the first place thats what we all pay are council tax for"*
- *"I want to know why -a building, gifted to the people of Farnworth can't be given the love and attention that the central library received?"*
- *"Agree with everything said in the presentation/slides. Although I would also like to know what will happen to the current building as I feel that we should preserve it or put to another use"*
- *"Because we have already done this consultation and everyone was against the proposal to move the Library. Lies, lies and broken promises. Repair the Library"*
- *"Other areas celebrate their heritage. Why should Farnworth be any different? I'm not against new development, and I think Farnworth Green is a really positive development for Farnworth, but the loss of access to a rare asset like this would have a negative impact on the area."*
- *"No figures are given for maintenance costs. As the Carnegie Library will still be owned by the council it will still need to be maintained."*

#### **8d. Condition of the current library**

37 respondents reflected upon the condition of the current library, many of whom suggested that the building is *"fit for purpose"* as justification for opposing the proposal. Other reasons for opposing the relocation include the library being *"fine where it is"*, *"a safe place"* and *"easily accessed"*. Some responses acknowledged that the library might benefit from restorative work, including making *"better use of the space"*, whilst others explained that the poor condition of the building was a reason to support the proposal, as *"further deterioration of the building would discourage visitors in future"*.

- *"Farnworth library is fit for purpose !! Just needs some repair and restoration. Please don't demolish it."*
- *"I disagree as this is a safe place in Farnworth and easily accessible for the Farnworth community."*
- *"The building totally is fit for it's purpose since 1911, totally roomy, easy re accessibility too."*
- *"The current library is easily accessed and very visible, the new location is not."*
- *"The library is fully accessible - As a disabled person, I can fully attest to this - and is right at the heart of Farnworth. To move from this location would be a HUGE mistake and further ruin the town of Farnworth for it's residents."*

- *"I disagree with the relocation as its perfectly fine where it is. The council can spend money on the upgrade instead of moving it."*
- *"There is nothing wrong with where it is now."*
- *"The layout needs to be worked out and moved around to make better use of the space for people visiting the library, community groups and those renting space in there."*
- *"The deterioration of the building manifests itself in the following ways: leaking dome and roof in several places; peeling, flaking paint in over several areas of the library, including the focal point, the dome; dreary paint work that has been neglected for decades; dry rot; old fabrics and furnishings; the smell of damp and age throughout the building; out-of-date lighting; draughtiness and poor energy efficiency (it is a large building with high ceilings and internal dome area.) I would suggest that modern audiences expect a clean, modern environment to access services. The current state and further deterioration of the building would discourage visitors in future."*

#### **8e. Location, including car parking**

34 people commented on the location and parking of the current and proposed library. Comments suggest that the proposed library venue would be *"more central"* and in a *"prime position"*, with only a few stating the location of the proposed library would be worse than its current location.

- *"We probably wouldn't use it at all due to lack of parking, no direct bus route from home"*
- *"More central."*
- *"Easier to park and access."*
- *"I generally agree with the proposal. It makes sense from a location point of view and given issues with the current library building."*
- *"I feel that the present location is too far away from other public amenities."*
- *"The library being in an area with much higher foot traffic can only be a good thing."*
- *"It is much more likely to attract more visitors passing by given that it would be in a prime location."*
- *"I agree with the proposal, as it would help deliver a much-deserved modern and attractive library service that would be in a prime position to deliver the organisation's broader priorities to a greater number of Farnworth residents."*
- *"Still close (short walk) to Farnworth Park play area."*
- *"Moving it to Farnworth Green will not only improve the quality of the space and the services provided, but will attract more people by being in a prime location close to other amenities."*

#### **8f. Safety and anti-social behaviour**

20 stakeholders discussed the safety and anti-social behaviour at Farnworth Green and the town centre, particularly highlighting ongoing issues, including *"drunken adults"* and *"misbehaving youths"* impacting how safe residents feel in Farnworth.

- *I think the new library will attract anti social behaviour.*
- *There is a lot of anti social behaviour at Farnworth City Centre which is ongoing and not being resolved. Additionally, Brackley Street is being used as a smoking space by customers and staff of the nearby shops, cafe's and the pub.*
- *The green is a place that we do not go to for drunken adults and abusive youths causing mayhem it's very off putting*
- *It will be full of teenagers causing a nuisance*
- *The new location is already targeted with misbehaving youths I wont feel safe*

#### **8g. Impact on vulnerable groups**

12 respondents discussed the potential impacts on vulnerable groups, particularly outlining adverse impacts. However, some suggest the proposed relocation “*may make it more accessible*” for residents to access the library.

- *“This move will NOT ensure equality and accessibility for ALL of the community. As a disabled person, I would not be able to use a library in such a busy and noisy location. I would struggle even getting into the town centre due to anxiety, and I know from community groups I have visited, that there are many residents who feel exactly the same.”*
- *“Factor in the level of noise in the town centre - how are residents supposed to sit and read quietly in such a noisy environment? I am deaf and wear hearing aids, which means that noisy environments cause me to experience physical symptoms, such as, migraines and anxiety attacks. This is another issue that prevents certain members of our community from accessing services.”*
- *“This would remove a lifeline for local residents who depend on the facilities and would impact children in poverty completing school work with the use of facilities at the library. It would isolate the elderly in the area having to commute if they have disability needs. The library has helped many in the community and supported with life issues... moving this to a new location would increase costs of travel for the Farnworth people, it would be more busy which means it’s harder to get the help and support.”*
- *“Making the library part of what little shopping area we have may make it more accessible”*
- *“The space looks a lot smaller, it is in a high antisocial behaviour area there is no nearby disabled parking”*
- *“I understand that it is a beautiful building where it currently stands but not accessible to everyone as it is a little out of the way from the centre and not everyone can walk there or park there.”*

#### **8h. Suitability of proposed library**

16 comments about the suitability of the proposed library venue were raised, including concerns that the proposed library would be filling up “*Farnworth Green retail space that isn’t selling*” and the atmosphere of the proposed library venue would be “*like your sat in a fishbowl*”. Some showed support for the rationale for the proposed relocation.

- *“The existing location is a purpose built library, beautiful and a community hub, it just feels like a desire to move to fill up farnworth green retail space that isn't selling.”*
- *“I agree with this proposal strongly. The old library is outdated and dilapidated. A new building would be lovely to work in and welcome the community into.”*
- *“I disagree due to the building feeling like your sat in a fishbowl where everyone can see you, I dont feel comfortable being watched while I enjoy looking at/reading books or what other services are planned in that space.”*

#### **9. Further Comments**

At the drop-in events, 35 additional comments on post it notes were received, eight of which were in opposition to the proposal, 20 were supportive of the proposal, and seven were neutral.

20 comments in support of the proposal were received from attendees:

- *“Positive impact for the area, as will potentially increase footfall, local business”*
- *“I like the castle because different shapes. I like the pink chair (children's area)- 5 years”*
- *“I don't use the library but I would if it moved”*
- *“I like it and it should be more inclusive for kids and old people”*
- *“It will be fresher and newer. Lots bigger. I like it”*

Eight comments were in opposition to the proposal, with several citing the benefits of the current space, the heritage of the building and concerns of the future of the building.

- *"Current location has character"*
- *"Like the convenience to the park"*
- *"What else would this space be used for - would end up like Walkden (empty shops)"*

Neutral comments were received from seven people. Several discussed books: *"books still important, I couldn't afford to fund my reading habit"*, whilst others considered the user experience of libraries: *"library is a place not just a facility. A library is a haven. When a child learns to read, they need books!"*

Respondents completing the survey were also asked to provide any further comments about the proposal, and 151 responses were received. These comments were themed into seven areas, with the greatest comments being about preserving heritage, restoration of the library or alternative solutions' (44 comments) and dissatisfaction with the proposal (34 comments).

| Please use this space to share any further comments on the proposed relocation of the library. |   |                    |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Rank   | Category  | No. of respondents |
| a.   | Preserving heritage / restoring the library / alternative solutions | 44                 |
| b.   | Dissatisfaction with the proposal                                   | 34                 |
| c.   | Benefits of the proposed relocation                                 | 18                 |
| d.   | Concerns about the proposed location                                | 18                 |
| e.   | Distrust of / dissatisfaction for the Council                       | 18                 |
| f.   | Future of the current library building                              | 15                 |
| g.   | Benefits of the current library                                     | 11                 |

#### 9a. Preserving heritage / restoring the library / alternative solutions

The most common theme referenced by stakeholders was regarding the need to preserve Farnworth's heritage and outlining alternative solutions for the current library, including restoration. This was raised by 44 respondents. There was a strong sentiment of pride in Farnworth's heritage from stakeholders, of which some respondents reminisced on previous experiences of using the library in the current building. Several respondents suggested improvements for the current library space including modernisation, *"improving accessibility"*, *"repairing the roof"*, *"bringing it into a more workable space"* or even *"adding a mez level to really make use of the gorgeous windows"*. Other suggestions include using the proposed venue as a *"community hub"* or converting the current library into an *"art gallery or community space"*.

- *"We want to protect our heritage!!!"*
- *"Stop trying to sell off Farnworths herititage."*
- *"It is important that the old library building is looked after and kept for public use."*
- *"Bolton library has been updsted and modernised. Why cant Farnworth library have the same?"*

- *"The library is fine where it is, the funds to move could be used to renovate the current location."*
- *"Improving accessibility, modernising facilities, and preserving its heritage would not only protect a landmark but also provide a far better long-term return for the community than paying ongoing costs for a less distinctive venue. I urge the council to invest in preserving and improving the current Grade II listed building rather than abandoning it."*
- *"By repairing the roof and preserving the building, the council could both honour our history and continue to provide a vital modern library service for future generations. The people of Farnworth deserve a library that is invested in, not written off."*
- *"Invest in preserving the history of Farnworth whilst bringing it into a more workable space-it can be done-we've seen it at the central library. But I guess we aren't worth that investment, same old story."*
- *"The inside of the library needs to be shifted around to make better use of the space, maybe even adding a mez level to really make use of the gorgeous windows. So much could be done with it to make more money if that is what's needed. I feel a "more modernised space" is just code for family friendly and money making, without thinking of the current groups who use the space."*
- *"Farnworth is proud of its past, it's history but all of it is disappearing and soon it will be just another space that could be anywhere in the country."*
- *"Expansion of the existing building and keep it under full local authority control and add value, put a dedicated community hub where the new library is planned and take the load off the library as a mixed use building rather than a public knowledge bank."*
- *"It would be important that the current grade 2 listed building is maintained and maybe converted to an art gallery or community space rather than being left to degrade or sold on."*

## 9b. Dissatisfaction with the proposal

34 comments expressed dissatisfaction with the proposal, with a strong sentiment of protection over the current library building and aversion for the proposal entirely, suggesting to *"leave the library where it is."*

- *"Keep the library where it is!"*
- *"Absolutely disagree with the proposed move."*
- *"Please DO NOT move the library from it's current location."*
- *"Everyone i speak to feels the same way that the library shouldnt be moved."*
- *"I strongly disagree with the proposal and i would never use it again if it was relocated to Farnworth Green."*
- *"Whilst moving the library may have benefits, I largely think you are doing this as you are currently unable to fill the units in the new build. Just leave the library where it is."*

## 9c. Benefits of the proposed relocation

18 respondents reiterated their support for the proposal, with several stating it is a *"great idea"*. Numerous comments discussed the benefits of the proposal, such as potential improvements to the library services and facilities available.

- *"It's a great idea!"*
- *"It will give more choice to facilitate outdoor linked activities within the farnworth green space at the front."*
- *"The current building is historic, but comes now with maintenance issues, as all historical buildings do." Relocation will reinvigorate the library and its services - a building is not necessarily the library, the library is housed in the building."*
- *"1) More space would mean increase use by community groups, such as knit & natter, book groups. 2) Children's activities, which is what a modern library service is about."*
- *"The voices of the local young people and families needs to be listened to (and not just the older generation who aren't comfortable with change). Plus for those who need a flexible working space, the new location will be much better. The new building is forward looking and about the future. It's also*



concerned with using a library in a fresh way that brings a more diverse community together. The location is far better suited for an exciting programme of events/activities/groups - compared to the old building where the parking situation is terrible and the space isn't flexible at all."

- "More space would mean increase use by community groups, such as knit & natter, book groups."

#### 9d. Concerns about the proposed location

18 comments raised questions about the proposed library venue if the proposal went ahead, including criticisms of the initial concept designs and the building being "generic". It was noted by respondents that the surrounding area for the proposed library is "shabby" and impacted by anti-social behaviour, and the user experience may not be "conducive to quiet research or reading".

- "Kids area need to be improved on proposal."
- "It will just be another generic building with nothing special or pressence about it."
- "Moving the Library to the new site will lessen The 'Library' experience and undermine tradition"
- "The proposed new location already looks shabby with dead trees, weeds and uneven paving. I'm surprised the developer has been allowed to get away with such poor work. It does not bode well for the relocation."
- "Hubs are common places and although they may be practical for medical services and community activity they are not always conducive to quiet research or reading"
- "Anti social behaviour needs to be sorted in the new Farnworth Green area. The Little Lever one was blighted with antisocial behaviour with children using the space at tea time early evening but no mention of that when using that relocation as a prime example."

#### 9e. Distrust of / dissatisfaction for the Council

18 comments outlined distrust or dissatisfaction for the Council with regards to: the development at Farnworth Green, whether the Council "do as they please anyway", the use of funds, and the maintenance of the current library.

- "We havent got the shops that were promised us."
- "You have no mandate to keep wasting our money."
- "The council do as they please anyway and are not interested in public opinion."
- "Have you made your decision already and this consultation is just paying lip service?"
- "I think many people who are angry about this consultation are not thinking about the future of libraries and they just want to make sure that the building stays open."
- "Bolton Council have a duty of care to preserve and maintain architectural buildings of importance. Money has to be set aside to keep them in good condition and not wait until it 'damp due to needing repair'"

#### 9f. Future of current library building

15 comments questioned the future of the current library building. Some responses speculated whether the library would be converted "into flats" or would remain as a community asset. Several mentioned the need for more information and "reassurance" regarding the current library.

- "Are Bolton council closing the library simply to fill the empty units on Farnworth Green, and then converting the library into flats?"
- "The community want to know what is going to happen to a historic building, grade 2 listed that has served them for over 100 years. You are only consulting on part of the plan."

- *"I believe most of the opposition stems from lack of information about the future of the current building. Reassurance is needed regarding this."*
- *"What will happen to The Well if the library moves? Is it going loose a lot of footfall from the library customers."*
- *"Do not demolish the building like they did with the Grammar school"*

### **9g. Benefits of the current library**

11 stakeholders took the time to outline the benefits of the current library, remarking on the convenience to the nearby park, and public transport links.

- *"I use the library regularly and every time I go in it's being well used and families come in and then cross the road and use the park."*
- *"The existing library is perfect where it is. Right near a park and next to the Well for wellbeing and food bank access. That's a community location."*
- *"Farnworth Library is central to Farnworth and Kearsley people plus us is easily accessible by public transport, it currently used by small groups."*

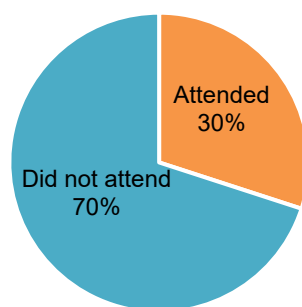
Other wider comments reflected on the need for community involvement, for example, *"the people in Farnworth /Kearsley should have a vote on this very important matter."* Ongoing communication was also mentioned: *"Please ask for public input. Advertise things better. Let local people do the build. Keep us informed and connected."* Furthermore, the impact of recent roadworks on Market Street on visiting the current library was raised as having: *"left the library even less accessible as there is currently no parking at all and the road is narrowed, making it harder to cross as the island in the middle of the road has been removed. This makes the current location dangerous for people with mobility issues or young children."*

## **10. Consultation Events**

### **10a. Number of attendees at drop-in events**

Out of 288 responses, 30% of respondents stated they attended at least one of the consultation events. Out of 83 responses received, most respondents attended the event on 19th August (53%), compared to the other events on 4<sup>th</sup> September (42%) and 6th September (16%).

### Did you attend any of the consultation events about the proposal?



Base: 288

#### 10b. Reflections on the drop-in events

Respondents who attended a drop-in event were asked to share their reflections of the sessions. 51 responses were received. The response towards the events were positive overall, with some stating they were “*informative*” and insightful. The proposal boards and local history display were received as “*clearly set out*” and “*interesting*”. On the contrary, some respondents critiqued the consultation, questioning whether the consultation would impact decision-making. Some stakeholders reflected on the opposition for the proposal, stating that it was not “*reflective*” of the community overall. Meanwhile, others highlighted a high level of concern about the future of the current library building, rather than the library service.

- “*Informative but I feel like this is going to happen against the will of most residents.*”
- “*It gave me insight on the plans and what a more modern outlook would like if it went forward*”
- “*That Bolton Council have already decided to move the library to the new location and they are pretending to consult the people of Farnworth.*”
- “*It is a good idea for people to be able to pop in to see the proposals in person and ask questions. The proposals were clearly set out.*”
- “*Not a true consultation, no alternative vision for the plan presented, or details of how the current building would be utilised and kept within local authority ownership.*”
- “*Well attended session - too many moaning negative Nellie’s there though. You have to move with the times but some people seem rooted in the past*”
- “*I would like to know how much this is costing the tax payers and how much it will cost in the future.*”
- “*Good, well organised and staffed. Informative presentation boards and staff engaged attendees.*”
- “*A lot of people in the community share my views and do not want a relocation.*”
- “*It’s a small, vocal proportion of the older demographic who are against the change, they aren’t reflective of the wishes of the wider population of Farnworth as a whole.*”
- “*The event provided a good insight into the aims of relocating the library. Display on local history was interesting.*”
- “*There were lots of people who hadn’t been in the library for a long time coming in for the consultation and often seem more concerned about what was happening to the building than the library.*”

## 11. Stakeholder Demographics

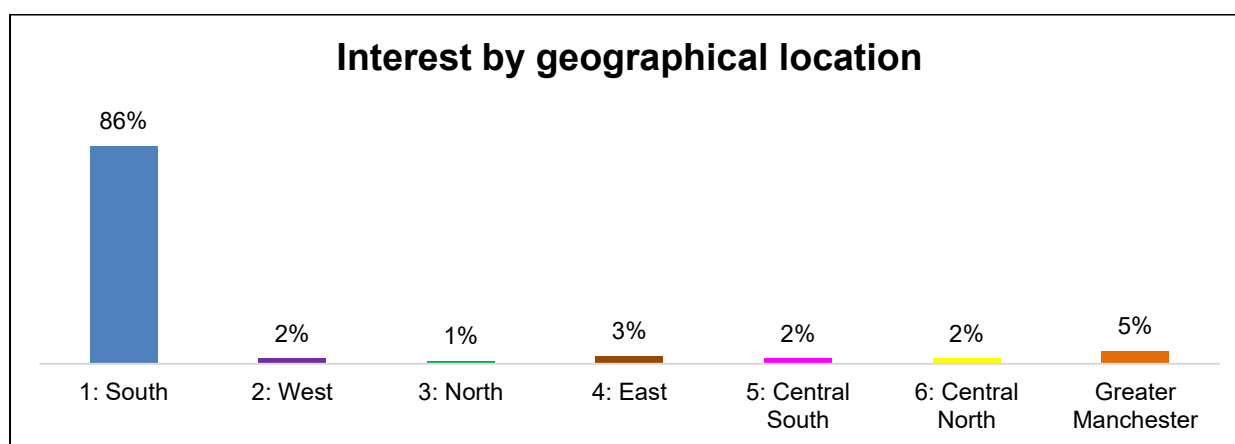


## 11a. Demographics: Geographical

The table below outlines the demographics of respondents by geographical neighbourhood. A total of 264 respondents provided their full postcode. Those in the South of the borough, where the current and proposed library service is located, make up the largest number of responses (86%). The bar chart below provides a breakdown by neighbourhood, with the table below showing the breakdown by ward. Residents in Farnworth North (82 responses), Farnworth South (72 responses) and Kearsley (71 responses) have the highest representation.



\*Neighbourhoods are a local geography for integrated health and social care; all have a population of around 50,000 residents.



| Ward          | No. of responses |
|---------------|------------------|
| Astley Bridge | 1                |
| Bradshaw      | 2                |
| Brightmet     | 3                |

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Farnworth North             | 82 |
| Farnworth South             | 72 |
| Great Lever                 | 5  |
| Heaton, Lostock & Chew Moor | 1  |

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Horwich North            | 1  |
| Horwich South & Blackrod | 2  |
| Kearsley                 | 71 |
| Little Hulton            | 1  |

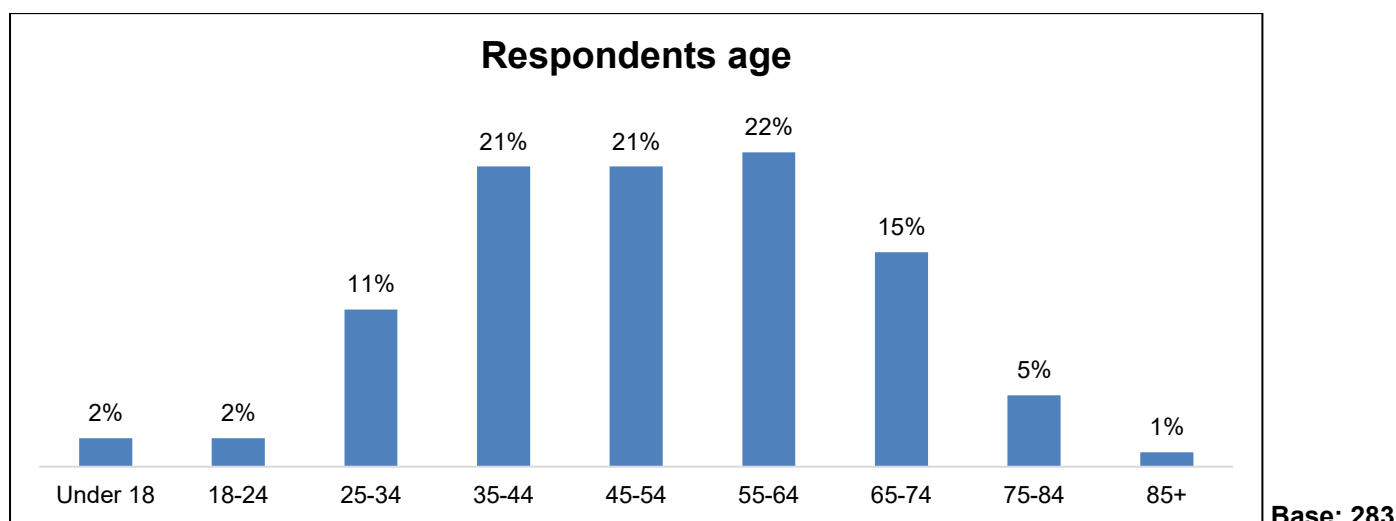
|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Little Lever & Darcy Lever | 4 |
| Queens Park & Central      | 1 |
| Smithills                  | 4 |
| Tonge with the Haulgh      | 1 |
| Westhoughton South         | 2 |

### 11b. Preferred identity

290 responses were received providing the respondent's preferred identity. 73% of respondents' identity as being female, one-quarter (25%) identify as male, and 1% respondent identified as "other".

### 11c. Age

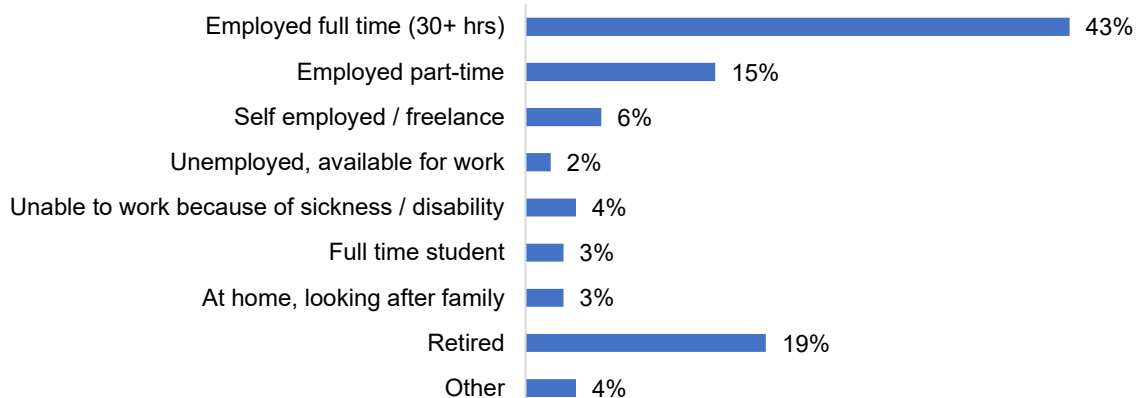
Responses were received from individuals in all age categories. 15% of respondents are under the age of 34 years. 64% of respondents are aged between 35 – 64 years. 21% of responses were received from individuals above the age of 65 years.



### 11d. Employment Status

64% of responses received were from individuals in some form of employment. 19% of respondents are retired. 3% of responses were from individuals in education. 4% of responses were received from individuals unable to work due to sickness or a disability and 3% of respondents stay at home to look after the family. Those who stated "other" responded as carers and volunteers.

### Employment status

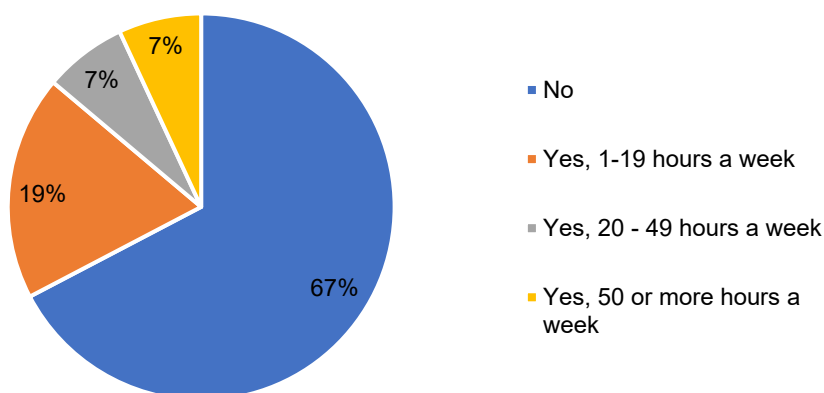


Base: 286

### 11e. Caring Status

Respondents were asked whether they provide any care or support to individuals with long term physical and mental health difficulties. One-third (33%) of the 276 responses received had a caring responsibility. 67% don't have any form of caring responsibility.

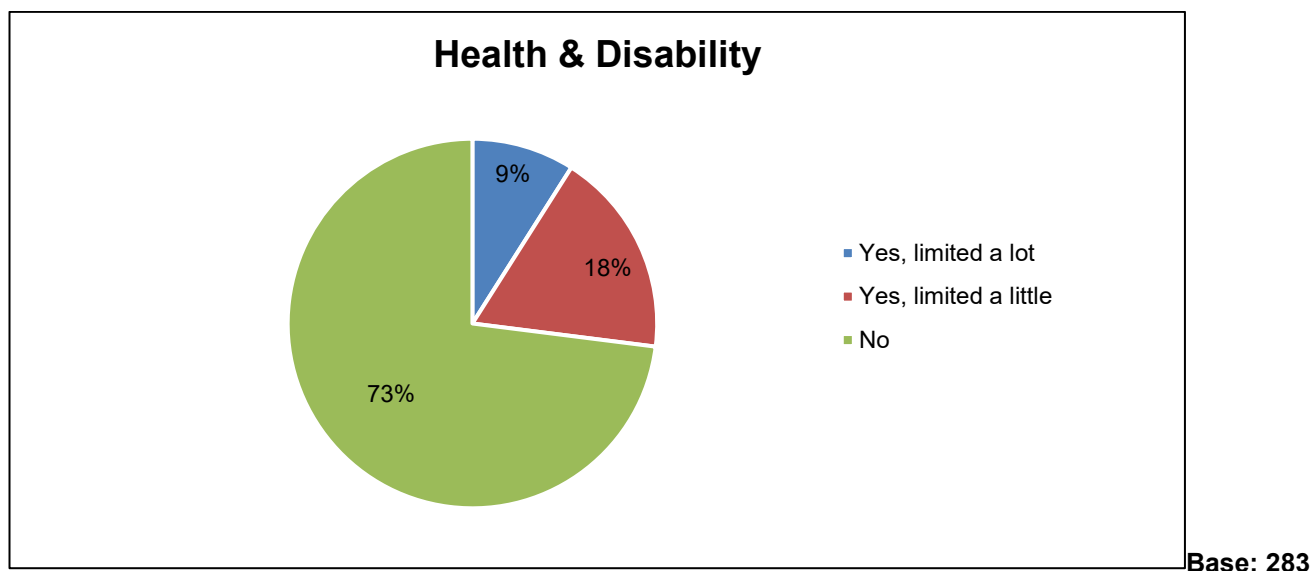
### Caring responsibilities



Base: 276

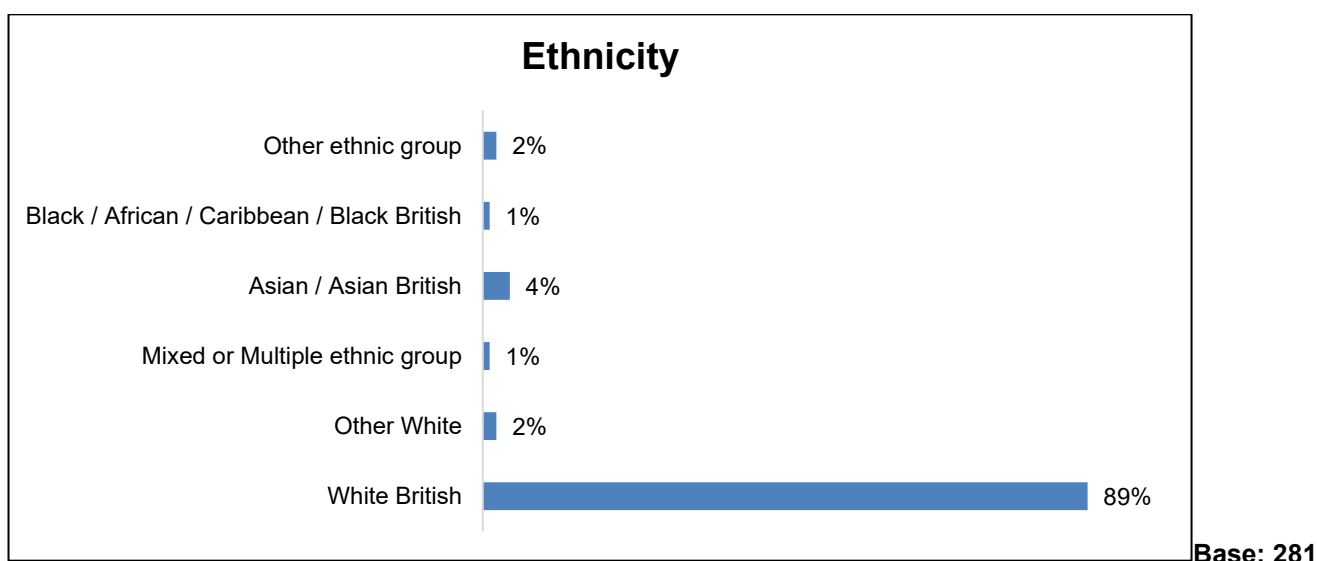
### 11f. Health and Disability

Respondents were asked whether their day-to-day activities were limited due to a long term physical or mental health illness. Of the 283 responses received, just over one-quarter (27%) stated they were impacted by a long-term condition. 73% were not.



#### 11e. Ethnicity

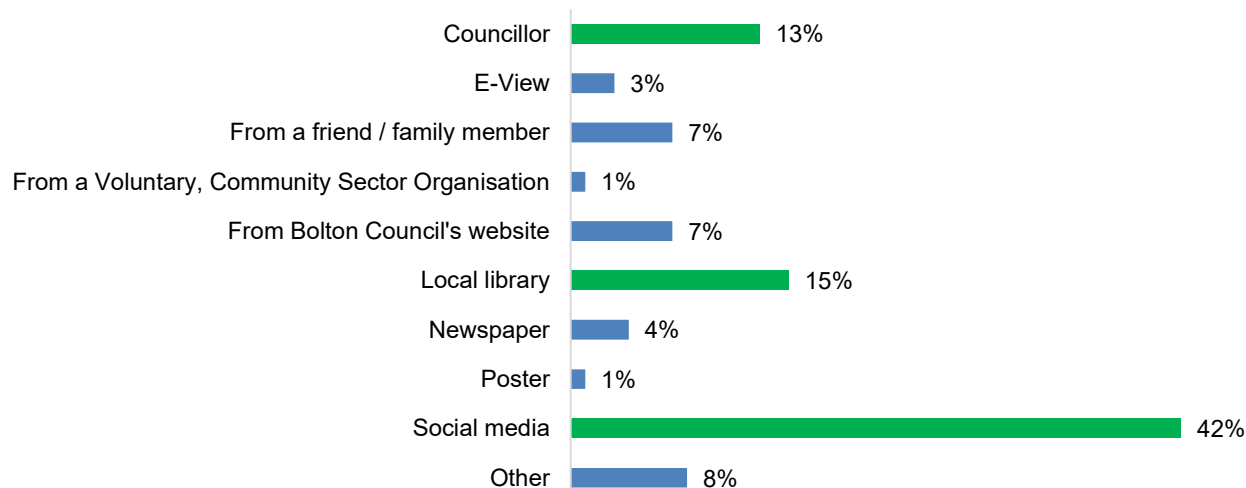
281 respondents provided their ethnicity when undertaking the consultation. 89% report as being White – British. 10% report as being from other ethnically diverse communities, this includes 4% from the Asian / Asian British community. When asked whether respondents were fluent in English, 100% stated they were.



#### 11f. Awareness of the consultation / survey

Respondents were asked how they found out about the consultation / survey. The medium seeing the highest level of engagement is social media (42%). Other areas where respondents accessed information include the local library (15) and local Councillors (13%).

## How did you find out about this consultation?



Base: 281

## 12. Report Summary


Between 15<sup>th</sup> August and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, the Council ran a public consultation, seeking to engage families, residents and local stakeholders in sharing their views on the proposed relocation of Farnworth Library services, to a purpose-built community space at Farnworth Green.

A public survey was conducted to gather stakeholder views on the proposal, alongside three drop-in events at the current and proposed library venue (these attendees represented 30% of respondents). During the consultation period, a comprehensive communication plan was implemented, including targeted communications with local businesses, community groups and schools.

300 responses to the consultation were received, including several from community groups and local businesses. Qualitative feedback was also collected from the consultation drop-ins, via engagement activities. An overwhelming majority of resident and stakeholders engaging in the consultation were based in the South of Bolton (80%), particularly from Farnworth North (82), Farnworth South (72) and Kearsley (71).

Respondents were asked if they are currently members of the library service; 78% of respondents stated they are, with 13% of respondents outlining that they never visit Farnworth Library. Stakeholders that use the current service predominantly visit to borrow items (65%) and to read, study or work (36%). Those attending to access groups and events tend to access Toddler Tales (30%), the Well (22%) and the Women's support group (19%).

Respondents were asked to reflect upon future usage, specifying what facilities they would like to see the library service provide. Those responding outlined the importance of "comfortable seating" (66%), "space



*devoted to books*” (58%), “*author / local history talks*” (57%) and a “*children’s area*” (56%). Those attending drop-in sessions reflected further, outlining a general desire for better library facilities, an array of groups and activities, and specific design features at the proposed site.

Stakeholders were asked to consider whether the proposed relocation would provide Farnworth Library Service with a more modern and better offer for residents. 52% disagreed and 46% of respondents agreed. However, on being asked whether the proposed relocation would influence how often stakeholders would visit Farnworth Library, 34% stated they would visit more often, 31% would visit less frequently, and 28% would not visit any differently.

Stakeholders were asked to consider how important certain factors and facilities are when proposing to relocate a library service. “*Having a safe and welcoming space*” (88%), a “*choice of services and facilities*” (85%) and the “*accessibility of the service*” (82%) were all considered important factors when developing a library service.

The consultation with stakeholders also explored how the proposal could impact them, their family, business, or community. Comments were received that demonstrated that the proposal could have an impact on the frequency of library visits (both increasing and decreasing visitor numbers). Within this section and continuously throughout the proposal, numerous respondents stated the proposal could have an impact on the heritage of Farnworth with strong sentiments of protection and nostalgia for the current library space. Queries were frequently raised about the future of the current library building, and whether restoration could provide an alternative to moving the service.

Impacts of relocation on disabled and neurodiverse people, elderly people and those from low-socioeconomic backgrounds were also highlighted, with both pros and cons outlined across the proposal, particularly around accessibility and engagement with the space. When stakeholders were asked whether the proposed relocation could present barriers to accessing library services, specific concerns were raised around the safety at Farnworth Green, particularly outlining anti-social behaviour activity as a cause for concern.

Overall, 56% of residents and stakeholders disagreed with the proposal to relocate Farnworth Library Services and 44% agreed with the proposal. When asked about their reasoning, responses focused predominantly on the heritage of the current Farnworth Library building and resource / funding allocation as an explanation for disagreeing with the proposal. However, it should be noted that comments were also received highlighting the benefits of relocating the library service into a more central location, nearer to local amenities, as well as the possibility of providing a greater range of facilities for its users, if designed with its service users’ needs in mind.



# Farnworth Library Consultation

15 August – 26 September

Have your say on a proposed new site.

Scan the QR code to fill in the online survey:



Or come to the consultation drop-in sessions:

**Tuesday 19 August, 2-7pm,**  
Farnworth Library

**Thursday 4 September, 2-7pm,**  
Farnworth Green, Rivington Building

**Saturday 6 September, 10am-2pm,**  
Farnworth Green, Rivington Building

**#HaveYourSayBolton**

**Bolton  
Council**

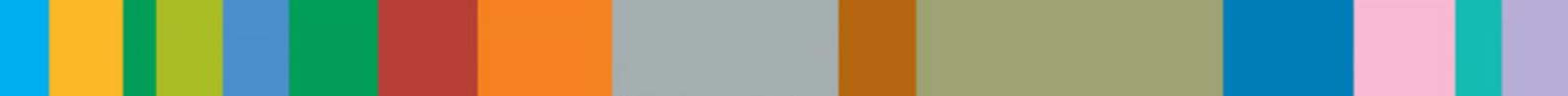


## Appendix B: Farnworth Library Relocation Consultation Drop-ins

The sessions took place at both the current proposed locations on the 19<sup>th</sup> August, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> September. Stakeholders had the opportunity to talk with library and consultation staff, look at design boards, share feedback on mind map boards, and fill in surveys. In addition, children craft activities were undertaken to explore the voice of children and young people and adults could explore the history of Farnworth collection, for the proposed exhibition in the new setting.

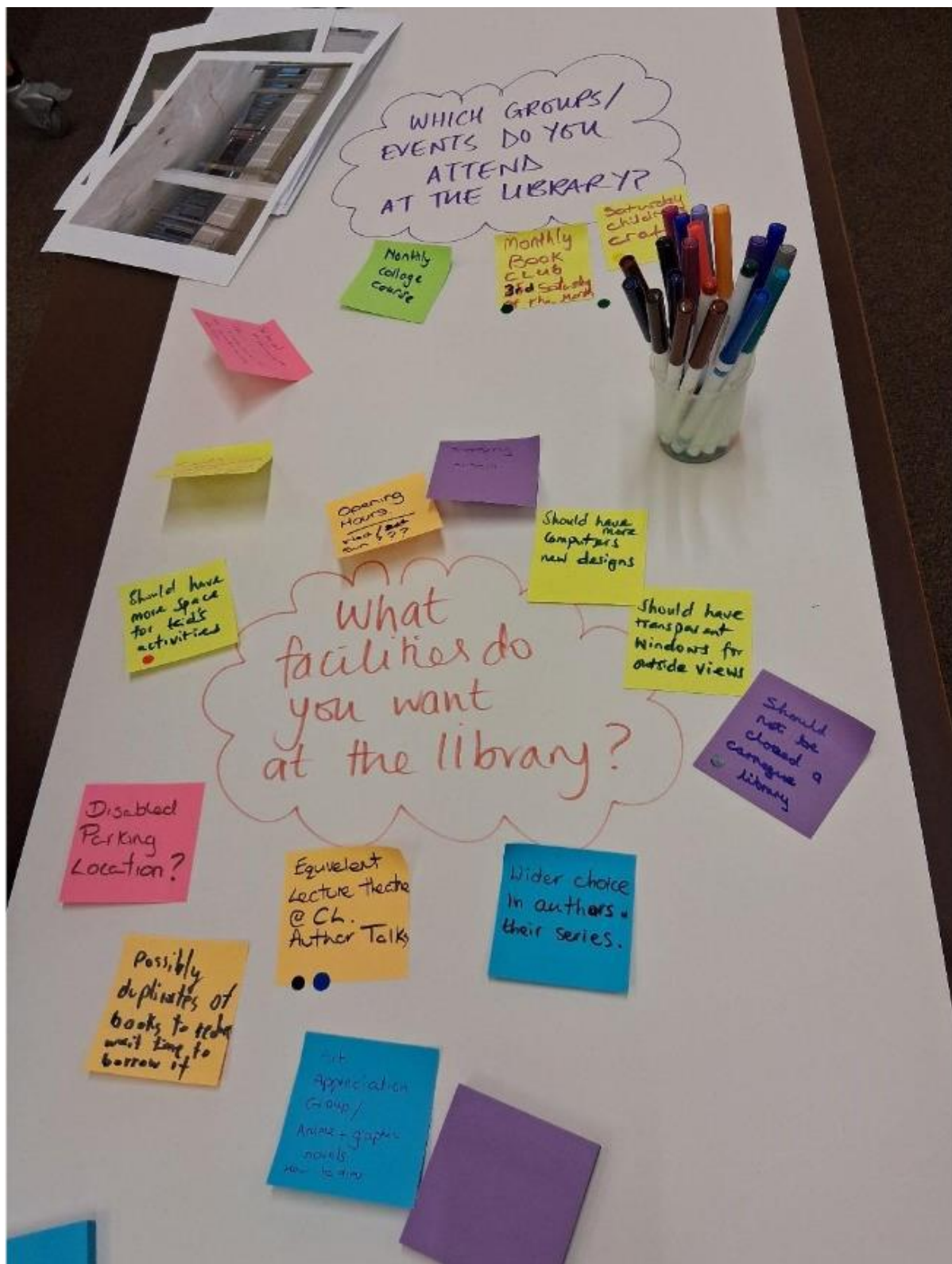
















## Farnworth Library Consultation- closes on 26th September

### Background information

Farnworth Library was opened in 1911 and is a Grade II listed building. Currently, the library is outside of the town centre and the space is not flexible. The building is in poor condition with significant water damage to the roof, causing internal damp. Bolton Council is now proposing to relocate Farnworth Library to a new, fully accessible site, which will provide a space for visitors that is modern, accessible and friendly.

The proposed location aims to redevelop the library into a purpose-built community hub sitting in Farnworth town centre, within the Farnworth Green development, which was funded by the Future High Street Fund.

The library at Farnworth Green will provide a transformative experience for visitors. Book borrowing, informational services and access to digital will remain a central focus and will be made more accessible to other community facilities. The proposal will include a Farnworth history exhibition which will tell the story of the town and its people. There will also be an imaginative children's library and an improved digital offer. It will also link into the outdoor performance areas and events spaces.

We invite you to give your views on the main proposals in the review, which are outlined within the questionnaire. Please view the full proposal, FAQs and concept designs prior to completing this survey.

[www.bolton.gov.uk/directory/13/consultations/category/195](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/directory/13/consultations/category/195)

Your views will be considered alongside other information to help Bolton Council decide whether to go ahead with the proposals or not.

### Your response - keeping your data safe

Most questions are optional; just miss out any that you don't want to answer.

The results of this consultation may be made public. If you're responding as an individual you won't be identified in any report as your responses will be anonymised and grouped with those from other people. If you're responding in an official capacity your response may be published but no personal details will be included.

Any personal data you provide will be held securely, in line with our retention schedule and privacy policy:

[www.bolton.gov.uk/data-protection-freedom-information/privacy-notice](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/data-protection-freedom-information/privacy-notice)

We use Snap Surveys professional software to collect and process your data. Snap Surveys Ltd. follow the UK General Data Protection Regulation, and their privacy policy can be found by following this link:

[www.snapsurveys.com/survey-software/privacy-policy-uk/](http://www.snapsurveys.com/survey-software/privacy-policy-uk/).

## Using local libraries

**1. Are you a library member?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

**2. How often do you visit Farnworth Library?**

☐ Multiple times a week ☐ Every few months  
☐ Once a week ☐ Once a year  
☐ Once a month ☐ Never (Skip Q5 - Q7)

**3. Do you use any other libraries?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

**4. If 'Yes', which other libraries do you use? Tick all that apply.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackrod Library      | <input type="checkbox"/> High Street Library                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breightmet Library    | <input type="checkbox"/> Horwich Library                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bromley Cross Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Lever Library                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Library       | <input type="checkbox"/> Westhoughton Library                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harwood Library       | <input type="checkbox"/> Others - outside of Bolton Council area |

**5. How do you currently use Farnworth Library? Tick all that apply.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessing computers / the internet / Wi-Fi                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Research                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending a course  | <input type="checkbox"/> Room hire                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Borrowing items e.g. books, DVDs  | <input type="checkbox"/> School visit / nursery visit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community events e.g. interest groups, book clubs and children's events | <input type="checkbox"/> To read / study / work       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Looking for work / job applications                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering / I work there  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting with friends  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                        |

**6. If 'other', please specify.**

**7. Which groups / events do you attend at Farnworth Library? Tick all that apply.**

- ☐ Knit and Knatter
- ☐ Local History group
- ☐ Woman's support group
- ☐ Reading group
- ☐ Writing group
- ☐ Age UK
- ☐ Citizens Advice Bureau
- ☐ Audiology clinic (NHS)
- ☐ Bolton College
- ☐ The Well
- ☐ Believe Achieve
- ☐ Family Hub
- ☐ Toddler Tales
- ☐ Tea and T'Internet
- ☐ I don't attend any groups / events
- ☐ Other

**Improving library services**

**8. Which of the following facilities would you like to see at Farnworth Library? Tick all that apply.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artwork exhibitions  | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy lifestyle activities                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Author / local history talks   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social clubs / support groups / community groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's area  | <input type="checkbox"/> Space devoted to books                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable seating  | <input type="checkbox"/> To access Digital services                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community / meeting rooms  | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm spaces                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative workshops e.g. art, writing, dance, film and photography, music | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education provision  |   |

**9. If 'other', what information or services would you find helpful at Farnworth Library that is not already available?**



## Proposed Farnworth Green location

The proposed relocation of Farnworth Library to Farnworth Green within the town centre aims to make services more accessible for residents and stakeholders.

10. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed relocation of the library would make it more modern and a better offer for residents?

- ☐ Strongly agree  
☐ Agree  
☐ Disagree

- ☐ Strongly disagree  
☐ No opinion / Not applicable

11. Would the proposed relocation of Farnworth Library to the town centre influence how often you access the library?

- ☐ Yes, I would visit the library more often  
☐ Yes, I would visit the library less often

- ☐ No, this would not influence how often  
☐ Not sure

12. How important are the following factors to you regarding the proposed library venue?

|  | Very important           | Important                | Slightly important       | Not important at all     | No opinion / Not applicable |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Accessibility of venue                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| Choice of services and facilities                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| Design of the space                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| Distance to travel / distance from local amenities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| Parking / transport links                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| Safe and welcoming spaces                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| Space for community use                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    |

## Impact

13. What impact would the proposed relocation of the library have on you / your family?

14. Would anything prevent you from using the library if it relocated to the proposed location in Farnworth town centre? Please explain here.

### Overall

15. To what extent do you agree with the proposal to relocate Farnworth Library to Farnworth Green (Farnworth town centre)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree          | <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion / Not applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree       |  |

16. Please outline why you agree or disagree with this proposal.

17. Please use this space to share any further comments on the proposed relocation of the library.

## Your interest

**18. Which of the following best describes you / your family's interest in this consultation?**

- ☐ Live in Bolton borough [Bolton Council area]
- ☐ Work in Bolton borough
- ☐ Study / have children at school in Bolton borough
- ☐ Visitor to Bolton
- ☐ Official response from Parish / Bolton borough Councillor / Elected Member
- ☐ Official response from a business / organisation / community group. You must have their permission to submit an official response on their behalf
- ☐ Other - please explain below

**If 'other', please say what your interest is.**

**If applicable, please say which ward, business organisation or community group you represent.**

**If applicable, please say what your role is - in what official capacity do you represent the ward, business, organisation or community group?**

**19. If applicable, would your business / organisation / community group be interested in discussing how this proposal may affect you / your activities further?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**20. If you would like us to contact you about this, please leave details of your name, contact number and/or email address below.**

**21. Did you attend any of the consultation events about the proposal?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**22. If 'Yes', which event did you attend?**

- ☐ 19th August
- ☐ 4th September
- ☐ 6th September

**23. What were your reflections from the event?**

**24. How did you find out about this consultation? Please select one option.**

- ☐ Councillor
- ☐ E-View
- ☐ From a friend/family member
- ☐ From a Voluntary, Community Sector Organisation
- ☐ From Bolton Council's website
- ☐ Local library
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Our Bolton Newsletter
- ☐ Poster
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Other (please specify)

**25. If 'other', please specify.**

## About you

Your answers in this section help us to make sure we are getting views from different types of people. They will **not** be used to contact or identify you unless if you give us permission.

**26. Please give your full postcode.**

**27. How do you identify?**

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Identify in another way

**28. Which most closely describes you? Please select one option.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed full time [30 hours or more a week] | <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to work because of sickness / disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed part-time [up to 30 hours a week]   | <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self employed / freelance                    | <input type="checkbox"/> At home, looking after family                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed, available for work               | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other - please explain below                    |

**If 'other' please explain.**

**29. Which age group are you in?**

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 - 64    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 24  | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 - 74    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 - 34  | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 - 84    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 - 44  | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 or over |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45 - 54  |                                     |

**30. Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others who need help because they have a long-term physical or mental ill-health / disability, or have problems relating to old age?**

**Please don't count anything you do as part of paid employment.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 20 - 49 hours a week    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 1-19 hours a week | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 50 or more hours a week |

**31. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a long-term physical or mental health condition / illness?**

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, limited a lot    | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, limited a little |                             |

**32. What is your ethnic group?**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White British                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White other                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Black, Black British, Caribbean or African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed or Multiple ethnic group | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ethnic group                         |

**33. Are you fluent in English? By this we mean that English is the language you normally use, or that you speak, read and write well enough to get by in everyday life.**

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

**Please post to: Freepost RTTT-YTEL-YSXS, Consultation & Engagement Team, 2nd Floor, Town Hall, Victoria Square, Bolton, BL1 1RU.**

