

Have Your Say Community Consultation

During the period 14 to 24 May 2002 the “Have Your Say” Community Consultation was carried out across the Colin area. The purpose of the consultation was to confirm community agreement and support for the key issues that had been identified by Colin Neighbourhood Partnership (CNP) (Previously known as Colin Neighbourhood Partnership) and to highlight any additional issues that the community considered important to address.

The consultation was carried out by distributing a short questionnaire to local residents through community facilities, schools, churches, post offices, local health and training centres, and the NIHE office.

Approximately 7,000 questionnaires were distributed during the consultation, 6,300 through the above venues, and an additional 700 were completed by children at St Colm’s school. The response rates to the questionnaire are detailed below in

The completed questionnaires were analysed to provide results for the whole Colin area and then subsequently broken down on an area-by-area basis (Kilwee, Lagmore, Poleglass, and Twinbrook) based on information provided by respondents about where they lived. However, the questionnaires completed by the children at St Colm’s school were analysed separately so that the views of children could be viewed independently.

This section of the report provides a summary of the results of the Consultation. It concentrates primarily on the overall results of respondents in the Colin area (i.e., the 1,577 responses received) and compares them with results from each area and with those from St Colm’s school.

Questionnaire Results

The design of the questionnaire was broadly divided into three sections:

Section A

Respondents were asked to prioritise their top five issues from a list of 13 by ranking them from one to five, with one as the most important. The list of issues had been previously identified by the CNP Steering Group.

Section B

Section B consisted of open questions. Respondents were asked to list three things that they considered “best” and “worst” about their area, and to list three things that would make their area “a better place to live”:

Section C

Section C requested details about residency, gender, and age range so that the questionnaires could be analysed on an area-by-area basis and a demographic profile of the responses from each area determined.

Key Issues

Question 1 provided a list of the 13 issues which had been identified by CNP as important to the community and which needed to be dealt with to make the area a more safe, secure, and more comfortable place to live. Respondents were asked to select what they considered to be their top five issues and to rank them from one to five, with 1 being the most important issue.

“Anti-social behaviour” was the top issue identified in the Colin area with 23 percent of all rankings, followed by “abuse of drugs and alcohol” with 18 percent.

St Colm’s identified the same issues in their top five and were consistent in ranking “anti-social behaviour” and “abuse of drugs and alcohol” as their top two issues.

Positives and Negatives of Living in Colin

This section of the questionnaire consisted of open questions to allow respondents to highlight issues that they considered as important. As the results were qualitative, they were grouped into categories for analysis purposes.

Question 2 asked respondents to list three of the “best things” about living in their area. “Friends, family, neighbours, children” was notably listed as the “best thing” making up 24 percent of all listings. Sharing 10 percent each was “schools/education” and “park/open spaces”.

All areas and the school children listed “friends, family, neighbours, children” as the “best thing” about their area.

However, the remaining responses given varied considerably, and although not listed in the overall top five, residents of individual areas considered “community spirit”, “parish/church” and “peace/quiet” as other “best things”. In comparison school children listed “facilities” and “shops”.

Question 4 asked respondents to list three things that they considered would make their area a “better place to live in”.

A large section of the respondents (38 percent) listed “more/better facilities” as an important part of making the area a better place to live. Also listed were “less litter/graffiti” and “no anti-social behaviour”.

The results reflect the top issues raised in Question 1, with residents wishing to see better facilities, a cleaner area to live in, and less anti-social behaviour.

In comparing the listings between the areas and St Colm’s school there was agreement that “less litter/graffiti” and “no anti-social behaviour” would also contribute to making the area a better to live.