

MIDDLETON

OUR TOWN, OUR FUTURE

A COMMUNITY-LED CONVERSATION ON THE FUTURE OF M24



Inside this summary

03 Foreword	21 Heritage
06 The Numbers at a Glance	22 Evening Economy
09 What Middleton Said	23 Green Spaces
11 Warwick Mill	24 Cleanliness and Safety
12 Empty Buildings	25 Family-Friendly Middleton
13 Local Independent Businesses	26 Where People Live
14 Middleton Shopping Centre	27 Continuing the Conversation
15 Middleton Gardens	EVIDENCE
16 Public and Community Spaces	28 Buildings and Shared Spaces
17 Housing	29 Local Economy, Culture and Identity
18 Transport and Connectivity	30 Homes, Families and Everyday Life
19 Young People	31 Connections and a Continuing Voice
20 Arts and Culture	32 Made in Middleton

Produced by Middleton Co-operating,
supported by Kerry Tottingham, A
Brilliant Thing CIC.

Illustrated by Steve Whitworth

Foreword

By Middleton Co-operating

What a brilliant project this has been.

What a brilliant place.

How has our little town built such a rich history, heritage and identity?

It's because of its people.

The Middletonians.

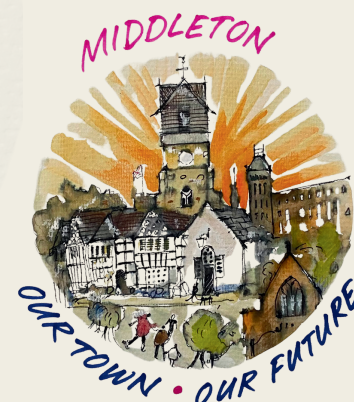
Whether you've lived here all your life, moved here, have family here, work here or go to school here, you are a Middletonian.

And Middletonians care deeply about our town.

We all knew it, but this report proves it.

Midd is full of proper characters. It's been an honour and a privilege to chat with so many of them and gather their views for this conversation.

Those conversations, along with the massive survey response, showed that we've got a town full of funny, passionate, witty people who generally made the same point: **people want regeneration to be done with Middleton, not to Middleton.**



We reached people from right across M24 and created opportunities to take part in loads of different ways: through conversations, events, surveys and **community activities in schools, businesses and Art House Middleton.**

Many spoke with pride about community spirit and identity. Some shared frustration that previous changes have not always felt guided or led by local people.

The Middleton Co-operative Mayoral Development Corporation (CMDC) is being set up to bring about the regeneration of Middleton, with a commitment, strongly backed by co-chairs Rose Marley and Steve Coogan, to ensure that local people are involved in shaping how that regeneration happens.

In line with that commitment, Rochdale Council commissioned us at Middleton Co-operating to gather people's views about the town, about what matters most in their day-to-day lives, what people want to change, and what should be protected and nurtured as the work of the CMDC progresses and as Middleton changes and develops.

**1,991**direct survey
responses

“Our Town, Our Future” was carefully designed to feel different from a conventional consultation.

Alongside the survey, we brought people into conversations in everyday community spaces across Middleton. We worked to make the process approachable and relevant to people’s lives, and to connect with people who might not normally feel listened to or involved.

Nearly 2,000 people responded to the survey, and more than 500 were involved in face-to-face conversations and activities.

We’re grateful to everyone who took part.

This document brings together the key messages, recommendations and the evidence behind them, coloured by wonderful sketches by Steve Whitworth. A fuller evidence pack and detailed report will also be available online.

This is not the end of the conversation.

It is the start of a journey towards our future.

Let’s use these findings to build a Middleton that we can all love and enjoy, together.

**This is Middleton. It’s Our Town, Our Future.
Enjoy this report. We’re dead proud of it.**

We’re dead proud of Midd.

Middleton Co-operating x

541

face-to-face
engagements

The Numbers at a Glance



Middleton Turned Out

The conversation was rooted in Middleton.

Responses came from North Middleton, South Middleton, East Middleton, West Middleton and Hopwood Hall, with strong participation from neighbourhoods including Alkrington, Langley, Boarshaw, Hollin and Rhodes.

1,991
completed survey
responses

541
face-to-face
engagements

2,532
direct engagement
interactions

1,881
people giving at least
one open-text answer

668
people spending more
than 20 minutes on the
survey

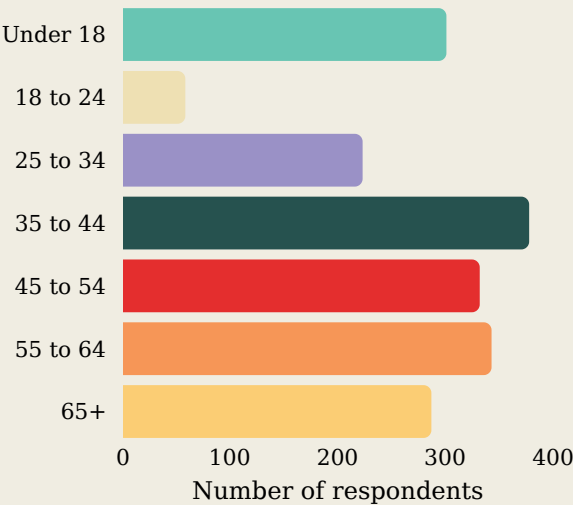
1,332
people saying yes to
future contact

301
under-18
respondents

225
respondents identifying a
school

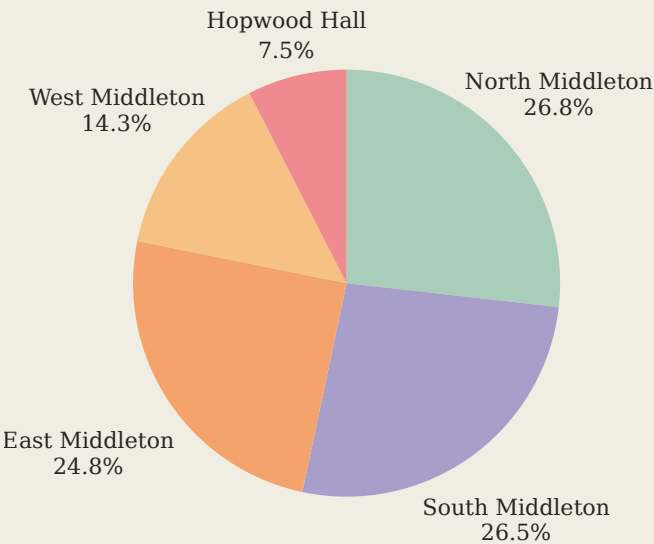
1,760
respondents living in
Middleton

Age Split



Base: 1,922 respondents who answered the age question.

Postcode Distribution by Ward



Base: 1,760 respondents who said they live in Middleton.
Postcodes grouped using the current ward boundaries.

People didn't just skip through the survey.

They spent time and energy giving their views.

1,332 people said they wanted to be contacted about future opportunities to take part. Community involvement in any decision-making going forward is paramount.

This level of participation supports moving beyond one-off consultations and creating ongoing ways for residents, businesses, community groups and young people to influence what happens next.

The survey ran from 19 November 2025 to 1 April 2026 and received 1,991 completed responses. A further 541 face-to-face engagement interactions were recorded through schools, businesses, Art House, community outreach and public events.

Written responses were coded into themes; counts are indicative and themes may overlap. Quotations are anonymous. Quoted wording and spelling have been retained. Ellipses show where words have been omitted; punctuation may have been lightly edited for readability.

The recommendations in this report draw on the survey findings, face-to-face conversations and project interpretation; they were not separately voted on.

1,881

gave at least one open-text answer

61.2%

spent at least 10 minutes

1,219 of 1,991

33.6%

spent at least 20 minutes

668 of 1,991

21m 09s

average completion time

What Middleton Said



“I would love to see change genuinely occur as I am proud of this town.”

Middletonians Want Progress

They want investment. They want the town centre to feel safer, cleaner, busier and more hopeful. They want empty buildings brought back into use.

They want quality affordable housing, better youth provision, investment in public spaces, more locally owned businesses and more reasons to spend time in their own town.

They want Warwick Mill sorting out. They want it to be a mixed-use town centre hub of housing, business, food and retail. They want Providence Church and Tonge Hall to become beacons of the town's proud heritage.

They want to be able to bank and go to the Post Office. They want to be able to walk around the town and not be surrounded by empty buildings, dodgy vape shops and takeaways.

They want to celebrate Middleton's rich arts and culture. They want the opportunity to start their own businesses. They want to see their hopes manifest into something real. Something tangible. If Middleton is going to get a "refurb", as the co-designers put it, then people want to see their voices turn into real decisions, real investment and visible change.

1,332

people gave permission to be contacted about their views in future

"Involve the people, not everybody will agree and that's okay but together we have a better chance of making a positive change"

RECOMMENDATION

Make sure local people are involved in decision-making.

Use this report as a launch pad to create a permanent Community Engagement Programme for Middleton's regeneration.



Warwick Mill

People want Warwick Mill brought back to life as a landmark for Middleton's bright future.

Warwick Mill is not just another building. For many people, it represents Middleton's heritage, decline, frustration and potential all at once.

People see it every day. They want it to stop being a symbol of neglect and become something useful, beautiful and ambitious.

People talked about heritage, suggested housing, independent businesses, food and drink, creative space, community use, leisure, jobs and mixed-use development.

Warwick Mill should be a flagship regeneration opportunity that benefits Middleton, not just a private development that happens to be in Middleton.

"Warwick Mill is a fantastic building and could be the heart of the town centre; it's beautiful, a reminder of our industrial history, and perfectly placed as a gateway into the town from the south/east of the town centre. But currently it's dangerous, unsightly and neglected. I'd love to see it as offices/shops/cafes/flats/community spaces."

RECOMMENDATION

Prioritise the Warwick Mill and London House site as a flagship community regeneration opportunity.

Plans for Warwick Mill should combine economic development with community benefit, protect Middleton's heritage where possible, and strengthen connections between the mill, the town centre, Middleton Gardens and surrounding neighbourhoods.



822

people gave their ideas on Warwick Mill

Empty Buildings

People want Middleton's empty buildings and neglected spaces working again.

Warwick Mill is the biggest landmark, but it is not the only place people want brought back into use.

They care about Market Place, Assheton Arms, the Old Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Tonge Hall, Providence Church, Lodge Mill, former banks and pubs, empty shops, vacant land and neglected precincts on Langley and Boarshaw - they want to see them brought back to life.



“Middleton is famous for derelict empty buildings. They could all be brought to use but they are privately owned and are allowed to deteriorate and remain empty even though they appear available to let.”

RECOMMENDATION

Bring Middleton's empty buildings and spaces back into use.

Map the priority sites, work with owners and use available enforcement or acquisition powers where neglect continues.

Support temporary community, cultural and business uses while permanent plans are developed.

1,170

gave their views on empty buildings

Local Independent Businesses

People want to back Middleton's businesses and help new ones grow.

Middletonians do not want a town centre that could be anywhere. They want more independent shops, cafés, restaurants, markets, creative businesses and locally owned places that give the town character.

They want more businesses like Amigo's Coffee Bar and the Britannia Inn, not more bookmakers and pawnshops.

People want to spend money locally, but they need more reasons to do it. They want better shopfronts, more footfall, more events, more promotion, better use of empty units and practical support for the businesses already trying to make Middleton better.

Local businesses are proud to be here. They care about the town. But they are under pressure from rising costs, high rents, low footfall, tired buildings and a lack of reasons for people to stay in the town centre.

"Not another short-term reshuffle of the same type of shops, but a deliberate push to attract quality independent cafés, restaurants and small businesses that give people a reason to spend time (and money) locally."

75.4%
of respondents
would use more
locally owned
businesses

RECOMMENDATION

Attract, support and retain independent businesses.

Develop affordable space, business support, shopfront improvements, stronger promotion, events, local procurement, empty unit activation and support for local people who want to start businesses in Middleton.



Middleton Shopping Centre



Middleton Shopping Centre is still one of the main reasons people come into the town centre, but people say it needs renewal. It is practical, but not somewhere people choose to spend time for long.

Middletonians want better shops, more variety, fewer empty units, more food and leisure, a stronger independent offer, cleaner surroundings and a shopping centre that feels more active and welcoming. They want affordable rents for local businesses.

65.4%

selected lack of retail/shopping choice as a main town-centre issue

“Middleton needs a mix of businesses that bring people back into the town centre and encourage them to spend time there. As a smaller town, it cannot compete with larger shopping destinations, so it needs a distinctive and practical offer.”

RECOMMENDATION

Engage with the new owners to make Middleton Shopping Centre work better for local people and businesses.

Middleton Gardens

Middleton Gardens is valued, but people want it to feel greener, safer, cleaner, more active and more welcoming.

They want it to be somewhere people sit, meet, attend events, bring children and enjoy culture. They want to feel proud of it.

It should not just be a space people pass through. It should be one of the places that helps Middleton feel alive.

61.7%

had used Middleton Gardens or the town-centre space in the previous year - 981 of 1,590



People love it when events are held there, but some see it as a hotspot for antisocial behaviour in the evenings and at weekends. Local business owners argued that a stronger evening offer could keep the Gardens busier and help deter antisocial behaviour.

“To see Middleton Gardens reinstated as a green and safe place to meet and enjoy”

RECOMMENDATION

Continue investing in Middleton as a civic and community hub, using the Gardens as a focal point for arts, events and culture.

Create fertile ground for community-led activity. Improve safety, lighting, maintenance, seating and the overall look and feel.

Public and Community Spaces

As with Middleton Gardens, people want places to meet, gather, belong and take part.

Middletonians talked about the need for spaces where children can play, teenagers can gather safely, older people can connect, families can spend time together without always needing to spend money.



976

people selected events and activity as a way to improve public spaces

People use our libraries, community centres, parks, creative spaces, warm spaces, youth spaces, meeting rooms and public spaces, and want them to feel open, welcoming and cared for.

“Public spaces tend to feel safer when they are well used, well maintained and well lit. Encouraging more activity in the town centre through shops, cafés, leisure venues and community events would naturally bring more people into public spaces throughout the day and evening.”

RECOMMENDATION

Protect and expand welcoming, accessible and active public and community spaces across Middleton.

Regeneration should create more places where people can gather, connect, participate and feel part of the town.



Housing

Middleton does not want to be ‘gentrified’. People want housing that meets local needs. They want affordable homes and social housing.

They are not against new housing. They want the right housing: warm, safe, affordable, accessible homes that work for families and people at different stages of life.

Issues with affordability, poor conditions and private renting were mentioned frequently. People want social housing, family homes, apartments for younger people, homes for older people and mixed-use town centre living.

There is a growing concern that regeneration could push existing residents out or create housing that does not match what local people actually need.

1,021

supported affordable family homes in the town centre

“More affordable housing. We private rent and struggle, 5 of us in a 2 bed house but cannot afford to move. If rent was lower we would be able to move to a bigger house. Maybe help to get on the property ladder for working families.”

RECOMMENDATION

Prioritise social housing in all planned developments, along with affordable, accessible and family-appropriate housing.

Take steps to control rents and improve quality in the private rented sector.

Housing plans should meet local needs, improve standards, support mixed communities and benefit existing Middletonians as well as future residents.

Transport and Connectivity

People want Middleton to feel properly connected to the rest of Greater Manchester.

Middletonians want better public transport and to be able to walk across the town with ease.

In the survey, 79.8% supported Middleton being connected via the Metrolink.

People also raised practical concerns about routes, congestion, disruption and whether the 'tram' would take people out of M24, rather than bring people into the town.

They want the details to be shaped with residents, not imposed on them.

Transport needs to be planned properly, with public transport, walking, cycling, parking, access and town centre movement all considered together.

1,204

people supported bringing the Metrolink to Middleton.

"I understand any tram to Manchester would follow the route the buses take and therefore get stuck in traffic too"

"A tram stop would make Middleton more attractive for people to come into town"

RECOMMENDATION

Prioritise improved public transport connections, pedestrian travel routes and accessibility.

Transport plans should be shaped with local people and connect Middleton to jobs, education, services, leisure and the wider Greater Manchester economy.

Young People

Our youngsters want to have places to go, things to do and be able to influence Middleton's future.

Older Middletonians agree.

People talked about the need for youth clubs, sports and creative activities, safe spaces, affordable things to do, places for teenagers and support for family activities.



We need Middleton to be a town that helps young people feel valued rather than blamed for the town's problems.

Schools helped extend the conversation during lesson time, with responses from St Anne's, Edgar Wood, Cardinal Langley and Middleton Technology.

301

survey respondents were under 18

1,177

people supported better provision for children and young people in open text answers

"...no spaces for kids and teens... there is nowhere that we can belong."

Survey respondent, aged 15

RECOMMENDATION

Invest in youth facilities and opportunities designed with young people, not just for them.

Create direct routes for young people to shape regeneration through schools, youth groups and community outreach.



Arts and Culture

Arts and culture are a massive part of Middleton's identity.

People spoke with pride about our musicians, heritage buildings and community-led arts.

People are frustrated that historic buildings have been left to fall into disrepair.

They want more chances for local people to create, perform, gather and take ownership.



Art House Middleton came through as a strong example of what happens when people are trusted to create things themselves. It made engagement feel more human, welcoming and accessible.

874

people talked about Middleton's arts and culture in open text responses

"Supporting local musicians, bands, artists, rehearsal rooms... Build Middleton Band a proper band room, practice rooms that can be hired out to locals at realistic rates not inflated ones."



RECOMMENDATION

Treat arts and culture as core regeneration infrastructure.

Protect and expand community-led creative organisations and spaces, support local artists and musicians, and invest in regular cultural programming.

Heritage

“Keep and restore key heritage sites, not demolish them. Make them part of the new design so old and new blend together. Co-design with residents, community groups, and young people. Let people who live here shape how the town looks and feels.”

The Olde Boar’s Head, St Leonard’s Church, Edgar Wood’s buildings, the Old Grammar School, Tonge Hall and the Long Street area are sources of pride in the town.

People want these buildings maintained and used, conservation standards enforced and new development to respect Middleton’s character.

They want more heritage walks, open days and school projects, alongside a permanent place where Middleton’s history can be seen and shared.

Middleton’s heritage has to remain visible in everyday life and shape future regeneration.

RECOMMENDATION

Protect Middleton’s heritage and make it part of the town’s future.

Restore and maintain historic buildings, enforce conservation standards and bring heritage spaces into suitable public, community and commercial use.

Build local stories, learning, trails and events into regeneration, with residents involved in deciding what is protected and how it is used.

65.7%

selected buildings and architecture as a source of heritage pride



Evening Economy



Middleton needs a better evening offer, but it needs to be safe, varied, independent and rooted in the town's identity.

They want to protect the town's pubs. They want restaurants, cafés, music, culture, food, events and safe evening spaces. They want to spend evenings out in Middleton instead of travelling elsewhere.

People want a town centre that feels alive after daytime shopping ends. A stronger evening economy - a busier town centre at night - could support local businesses, increase footfall, improve safety and make Middleton feel more confident.

68.5%

said a better evening offer would bring them into town more often

RECOMMENDATION

Develop an evening economy strategy focused on independent food, culture, entertainment, music, family-friendly activity and safer public spaces.

"Whenever we want to go somewhere for food or drinks we tend to either go into Manchester or ... Royton or Prestwich ... Middleton town centre there's not much going on at night time."

Green Spaces

People want Middleton's green spaces protected, cleaned up and brought to life.

Middletonians value parks, woods, fields, walks, play areas and outdoor spaces. They are important for the town's wellbeing, family life, children's play, walking, sport, nature, safety and pride.

But people also said green spaces need better maintenance, safer access, more seating, better play equipment, youth facilities, lighting, planting and activity. Some people were worried that development could put valued green space at risk.

They love Alkrington Woods, Jubilee Park, Bowlee, Whit Brook, Wince Brook and Boarshaw Clough.

They want them cared for properly.

"Parks, green spaces, get rid of the graffiti, fly tipping off market street and do up our old buildings instead of pouring concrete into our green spaces."

1,434

people mentioned green spaces in open-text responses



RECOMMENDATION

Protect existing green spaces and invest in better facilities, maintenance, access and activity.

Green spaces should support wellbeing, play, youth activity, family life, biodiversity and community pride.

Cleanliness and Safety

People want visible improvements that make the town feel cared for, safer and more welcoming.

Cleanliness and safety were among the most consistent concerns raised throughout the conversation.

Residents linked visible neglect directly to declining confidence and pride in the town.

They want practical improvements that make their environments feel safer, cleaner and better cared for.



75.5%

selected safer, cleaner local areas as something that would make the biggest difference

People want the basics done well: regular cleaning, repairs, better lighting, visible action on fly-tipping and dumped rubbish, and safer routes through the town and its neighbourhoods.

“To feel safe walking round our local areas... Less litter and dumped rubbish everywhere. Getting the basics right. Clean maintained.”

RECOMMENDATION

Prioritise visible environmental improvements including cleanliness, maintenance, lighting and community safety measures that Middleton residents can see and experience in their daily lives.

Family-Friendly Middleton

People want more family-friendly facilities, activities and public spaces that encourage families to spend time together locally.

People described wanting Middleton to be a place where families choose to spend time together.



Residents feel the town currently lacks enough family-focused activity and destinations.

1,506

responses supported a more family-friendly Middleton

“More support for SEND children and their families. More safe areas for Send children to play and parents can sit knowing their child is safe”

“Our community is struggling hugely. There has to be more youth provisions put into place- there’s nowhere for young people to go, there are no play centres for children to attend or for parents to go to make friends. Parents are lonely, they can’t mingle with other like minded parents because there’s nowhere for them to take their babies or children. The elderly have nowhere to go but coffee shops!”

RECOMMENDATION

Design family-friendly activity into regeneration plans from the beginning.

Promote and develop safe, SEND-friendly public spaces, play, youth activity, family events and accessible community venues where parents, children and teenagers can spend time locally.

Where People Live

Middleton is one town with many localities, estates and neighbourhoods.

Survey responses came from across M24: from Alkrington, Langley and Boarshaw to Hollin, Rhodes, Junction, Moorclose and the town's smaller localities.

Langley is one example. Residents value their neighbours, community spirit and green spaces, including Bowlee and Truffet Park. They also described fly-tipping, parking, safety, limited youth provision, pressure on services and the condition of Lakeland Court and other local shopping areas. Some feel the estate has been overlooked.

The recurring subjects across localities were transport, parks, youth provision, cleanliness, local shops, housing, safety and access to everyday services. Town-centre investment matters.

People want town-centre investment to connect to visible improvements where they live.

887

people talked about their local area

"Some areas of Langley feel safe and like a community. Others feel like they're stuck in the 2000's. There is a huge inequality on the estate and Langley feels frayed because of it."

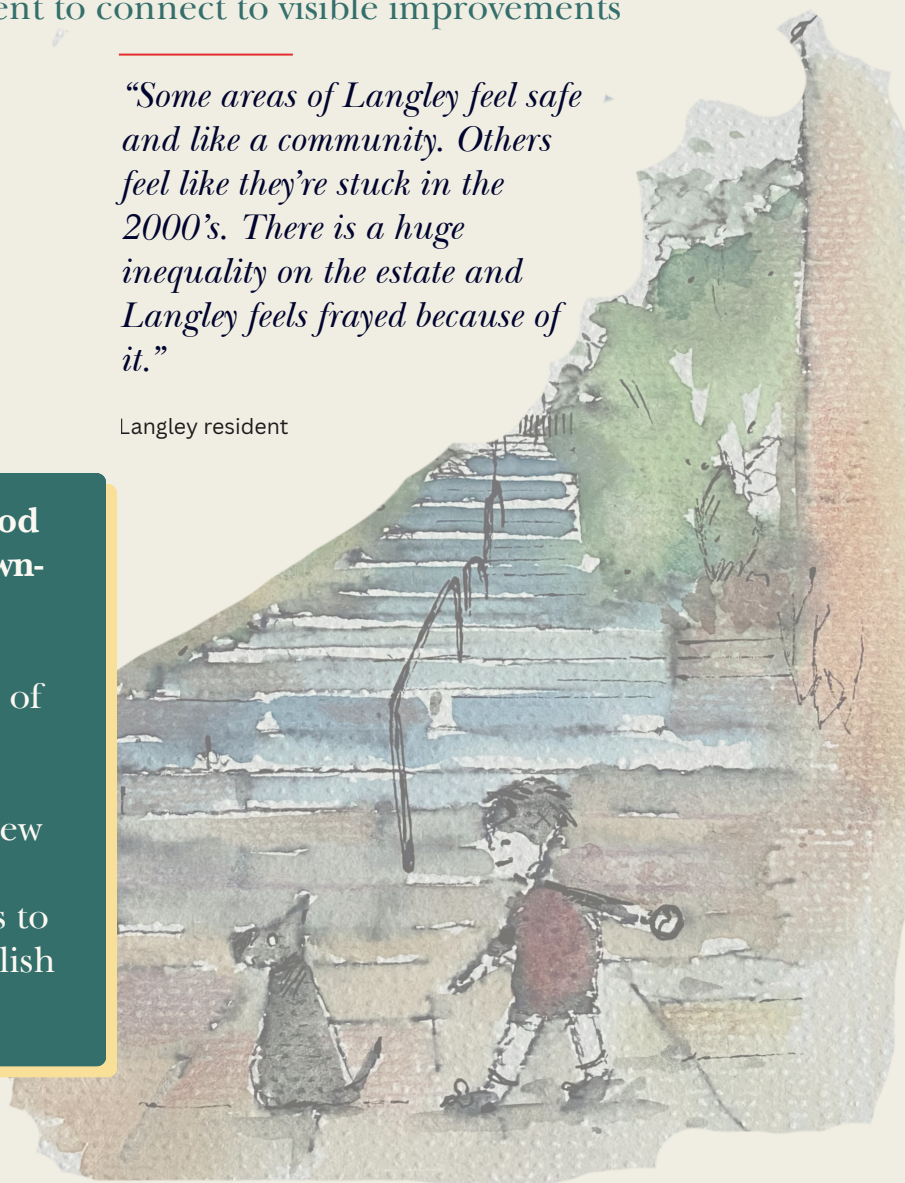
Langley resident

RECOMMENDATION

Plan regeneration neighbourhood by neighbourhood as well as town-wide.

Create resident-led plans for all of Middleton's localities.

Protect valued green space, renew neighbourhood centres such as Lakeland Court, improve access to transport and services, and publish what will change in each place.



Continuing the Conversation

“Middleton urgently needs an economic boost. At the moment, the decline of the area makes it difficult to see a future here for a family. Although I don’t have children yet, I wouldn’t feel confident raising them in Middleton as it currently stands. The town feels forgotten, neglected, and repeatedly overlooked compared to other areas nearby. There’s potential here, but people need to actually see visible improvements and opportunities if confidence in the town is going to return.”

“There are loads of good people in Middleton who’d happily muck in if they felt they were part of something real. People want cleaner streets, safer parks, more for young people — but they also want to help make it happen. Sometimes it feels like decisions are already made before local people hear about them. This felt different because someone actually asked us what we thought. If the town wants change to work, local people need to stay involved after the consultation too.”

“Regeneration should keep Middleton’s identity, not replace it. The community worries about losing its identity and not having a say in what happens. Some feel regeneration could be used for PR and big businesses not for real change. People want real influence and shared power in decision-making. The town’s future should be by the people, for the people.”

“People talk about Middleton like there’s nothing here, but there’s loads happening if you look properly. There are community groups, artists, local businesses, volunteers, families looking out for each other. Places like Art House have shown what’s possible when people are trusted to create things themselves. What’s been missing is support, investment and joined-up thinking. This consultation felt hopeful because it focused on what Middleton could become, not just what’s wrong with it. People don’t want empty promises anymore, they want to see things grow from the community outward.”

“Middleton should feel welcoming to everyone. There’s lots of different cultures and communities here now and that should be seen as a strength, not something separate.”

Buildings and Shared Spaces

822

people wrote about
Warwick Mill and London
House

41.3% of all 1,991 survey
respondents



WARWICK MILL AND LONDON HOUSE / PAGE 11

Of the 822 written responses:

Housing	488
Arts, events and culture	355
Shops, retail and markets	293
Heritage, history and identity	247
Food, cafés and restaurants	243

Coded written responses; themes overlap.

EMPTY BUILDINGS / PAGE 12

1,170 people answered the question about nearby
empty buildings and spaces that could be brought
back into use.

Heritage, history and identity	413
Empty buildings and reuse	250
Housing	141
Shops, retail and markets	138
Parks and green space	124

Overlapping themes, not votes for individual uses.

MIDDLETON SHOPPING CENTRE / PAGE 14

86.1% had used Middleton Shopping Centre in the
previous year
1,369 of 1,590

Lack of retail choice	65.4% · 1,237 of 1,892
Lack of banking services	65.5% · 1,240 of 1,892

MIDDLETON GARDENS AND PUBLIC SPACES / PAGES 15-16

61.7% had used Middleton Gardens or the town-
centre · 981 of 1,590

Cleaner and better maintained	76.0% · 1,176 of 1,548
More events and activity	63.0% · 976 of 1,548
More seating and planting	53.4% · 827 of 1,548
More play and youth space	48.7% · 754 of 1,548

HOW TO READ THIS EVIDENCE

Each percentage uses the number of people who answered that question. Multi-select questions allowed more than one answer. Written responses were coded into themes that may overlap. The survey supports the direction of the recommendations; it did not separately vote on every proposed delivery mechanism.

Source: Our Town, Our Future survey, 2026. Bases vary by question. Multi-select and coded-response themes may overlap.

Local Economy, Culture and Identity

LOCAL INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES / PAGE 13

75.4% said they would use more locally owned businesses
1,217 of 1,614

Might **22.9% · 370**

No **1.7% · 27**

502 people would like to start a business in Middleton
502 of 1,454 · 34.5%

70.4% said thriving locally owned businesses would bring them into town more often ·
1,132 of 1,608

ARTS AND CULTURE / PAGE 20

64.6% had used Middleton Arena or attended events there
1,021 of 1,581

247 of 779

written responses about keeping Middleton’s culture and heritage alive mentioned arts, events or culture
31.7% of the written-response base

287 of 1,552

selected arts and music as a source of pride · 18.5%

HERITAGE / PAGE 21

Buildings and architecture **65.7% · 1,020 of 1,552**

Local stories and people **44.3% · 687 of 1,552**

Parks and green spaces **35.1% · 544 of 1,552**

Social and industrial history **34.8% · 540 of 1,552**

In 779 written responses about keeping heritage alive:

415

heritage, history and identity

289

empty-building reuse

247

arts, events and culture

Coded written responses; themes overlap.

EVENING ECONOMY / PAGE 22

68.5% said a better evening offer, including food, music and culture, would bring them into town more often
1,101 of 1,608

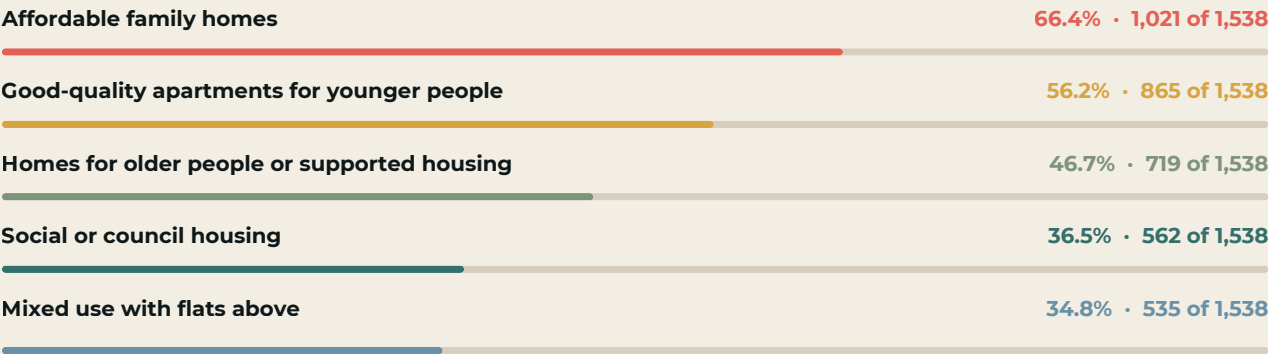
Lack of restaurants **69.8% · 1,321 of 1,892**

Lack of pubs, bars or nightlife **39.7% · 752 of 1,892**

Homes, Families and Everyday Life

HOUSING / PAGE 17

Asked which kinds of town-centre housing they would support:



Respondents could select more than one housing type.

YOUNG PEOPLE / PAGE 19

301

survey respondents were under 18
301 of 1,922 who answered the age question
225 respondents named a school.

Across all age groups:

48.7%

more play and youth space
754 of 1,548

41.2%

better provision for children and young people
642 of 1,558

70.9%

selected apprenticeships as an opportunity
Middleton needs
931 of 1,314

FAMILY-FRIENDLY MIDDLETON / PAGE 25

39.3%

said more family and young-people activity would bring them into the town centre more often
632 of 1,608

38.4%

selected better or cheaper leisure
599 of 1,558

326

written responses about the future for families and communities mentioned children, young people or family provision · 36.1%

GREEN SPACES / PAGE 23

55.1%

had used a local park in the previous year
876 of 1,590

35.1%

selected parks and green spaces as a source of pride · 544 of 1,552

332 of 829

written locality responses mentioned parks and nature · 40.0%

CLEANLINESS AND SAFETY / PAGE 24

77.7%

selected crime and antisocial behaviour as a main town-centre issue
1,470 of 1,892

75.5%

selected safer, cleaner local areas as something that would make the biggest difference · 1,176 of 1,558

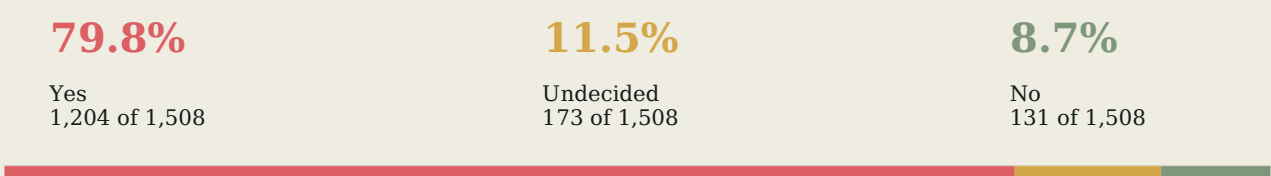
76.0%

selected cleaner, better-maintained public spaces · 1,176 of 1,548

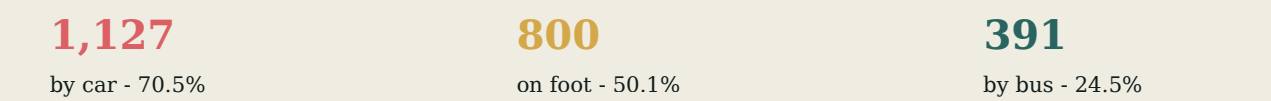
Connections and a Continuing Voice

TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY / PAGE 18

Do you agree that Middleton needs to be connected to the wider Greater Manchester transport network or tram?

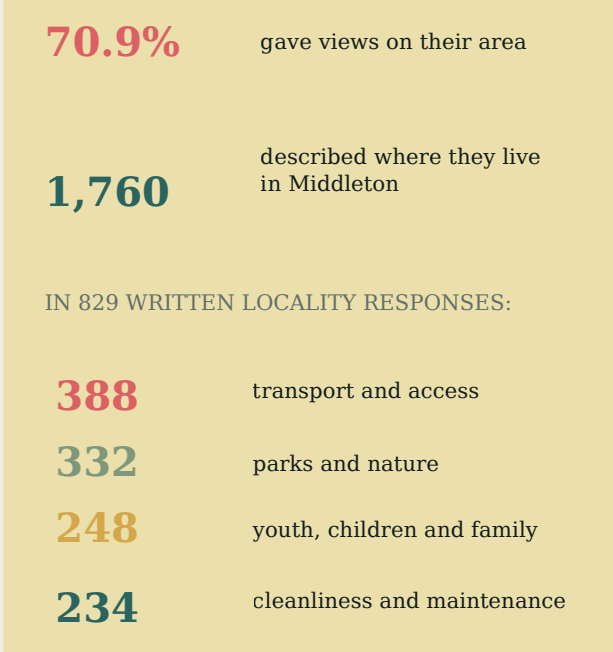


CURRENT JOURNEYS INTO THE TOWN CENTRE

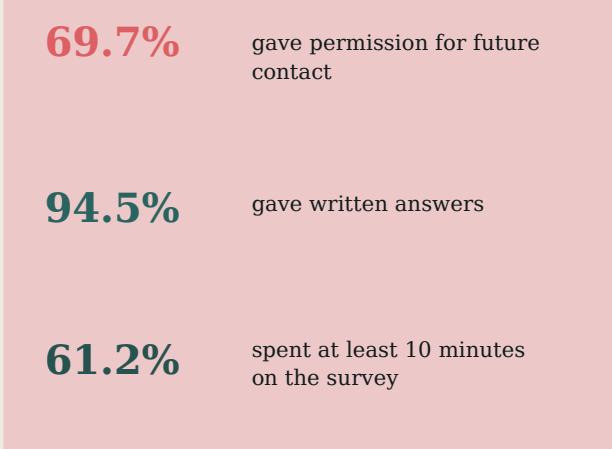


Support was in principle. No route or detailed scheme was put to respondents. Journey base: 1,598; people could select more than one mode.

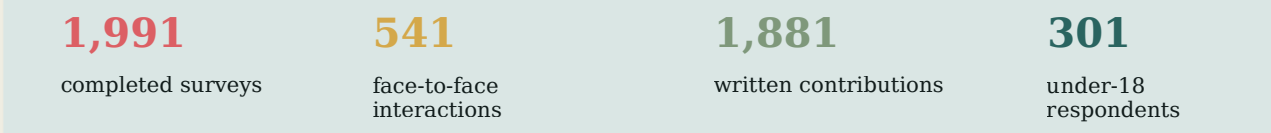
WHERE PEOPLE LIVE / PAGE 26



A CONTINUING VOICE / PAGES 10 AND 27



HOW MIDDLETON TOOK PART



Source: Our Town, Our Future survey, 2026. Bases vary by question. Multi-select and coded-response themes may overlap.

THANK YOU, MIDDLETON

Made in Middleton

Thank you to every resident, young person, business, school, community organisation and volunteer who shared a view, hosted a conversation, delivered a leaflet or helped make this work possible.

Action Together

All Season with Carrol

Asma and Soul Sisters

Bamford Print

Caroline Pheasey

Chantelle F

Claire, Christia and Ondrej

Culture Co-op

Edgar Wood Rooms at Long St Methodist Church

Evan Barlow and Lizzie Chandler

Frances Northrop from The New Economics Foundation

Helen S

Henstock Property Services

John King, Paul Beswick and everyone who delivered leaflets

K-ESTATE

Kate Daley

Kerry Tottingham from A Brilliant Thing CIC

Kirby and Middleton Tenants Union

Labake and Steered to Serve

Laura

MC Shallar

Mark R

Mick Elliott

Middleton Fish Bar

Middleton Independent Business Forum

Middleton Co-operating members

Middleton Cultural Pioneers

Millie Taylor

Our businesses

Our people

Our pubs

Rochdale Council Officers and Councillors

Sign and Print Direct

Steve Whitworth

The Lighthouse Project

The Rochdale Development Agency

The co-designers

The students and staff at Cardinal Langley, Edgar Wood, St Anne's and Hopwood Hall College

Tom Davies

Tracing Steps

Wes at Amigo's

Your Trust

1,991 completed surveys. **541** face-to-face engagement interactions. **One public record**, made in Middleton.

www.middleton.coop

