

Report on Portslade Consultation

Targeting engagement of
Hyde & Clarion tenants.

October 2021



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I. Context

Mile Oak and North Portslade are on the outskirts of Brighton and Hove and are recognised areas of isolation, with physical barriers to engagement and limited bus routes. Whilst the no. 49 bus route links Boundary Road and Portslade Station to Brighton town centre and the no.1 bus route links up to North Portslade and Mile Oak, there are a number of facilities not immediately accessible by public transport.

There are areas of deprivation : one area within North Portslade falls within the 20% most deprived in England for employment, barriers to housing & income deprivation affecting children. 15.3% of children in North Portslade are in out of work households compared to 12.4% in Brighton & Hove and 14% in England. There is also lower educational attainment with 24% of people in North Portslade having no qualifications compared to 16.1% in Brighton & Hove and 22.5% across England.

Hyde and Clarion both have housing stock in Portslade but neither has any shared facilities such as a community centre or hub.

During the **Covid 19** Pandemic the sense of isolation increased as nearly all activities ceased. We also knew that many households were managing on low incomes, and this had been exacerbated by the pandemic. Emergency food demand quadrupled in the area during the pandemic.

TDC is the lead partner in Brighton & Hove's Inclusive Communities Partnership. We became aware of how Covid was exacerbating the isolation of residents in deprived neighbourhoods and communities of identity. You can see some of our communities responded to Covid here:

[Communities Tackling Covid - Trust for Developing Communities \(trustdevcom.org.uk\)](https://trustdevcom.org.uk)



II. Purpose

This consultation was commissioned by Hyde Foundation and Clarion Futures and carried out by the Trust for Developing Communities. We wanted to identify how much this perceived isolation and economic deprivation was impacting on people linking where they live and their sense of wellbeing.

The objective of the consultation was to:

- Identify local priorities
- Find out what people feel is missing in their area
- Find out what local community assets are used
- Recruit community volunteers around their passions and interests



Mile Oak

III. Method

To ensure the survey was accessible it was carried out in various ways:

- Visiting local facilities, services, and groups, e.g., Local foodbank
- Door knocking housing areas where Clarion & Hyde have stock
- Community groups on social media
- Through newsletter (5000 households)

TDC is known in the area due to a council commission where we support administration of Healthy Neighborhood funding to seed healthy activities and we were able to make contacts with local community leaders through these connections.

TDC used some of our resource on this project to ensure a newsletter issue went out with the survey. Please see appendices.



Would you like to be included in a community survey?

Amy from the Trust for Developing Communities has been carrying out a survey in Mile Oak and North Portslade to find out from residents what it's like to live here. The survey will help to find out what the priorities are for the area.

It's a short 3 – 4 minute survey and includes questions like 'what is it like living in Mile Oak/North Portslade, can you access everything you need?' 'What facilities or activities do you access, what do you think is missing in the area?' The survey can be anonymous (unless you want us to contact you) and the more people that complete it the better we know what you want. You can scan the QR code to complete the form online or email Amy on amy.allison@trustdev.com or phone 07477 972455

Join the Community Conversation
Your ideas for our Community

IV. Who

138 respondents were surveyed in person and through digital methods.

67% of respondents were over 50 and 77% were female.

Of those that answered 22% considered themselves to have a disability.



V. Key findings

a. Lack of information

30% of households surveyed offline raised lack of information either online, or noticeboards/newsletter as a barrier to knowing others or connecting at a neighbourhood level. Even booking a hall to hold a private function was considered virtually impossible by several.



“We used to at least get that newsletter and we don’t even get that now”
Hyde Resident

“Lived here 25 years. Don't know about any local activities, presume they'd post something if there was anything. Used to be a newsletter, no noticeboards but would be useful to have one as used to be one”

“I don't hear about local activities except through the north Portslade newsletter so I'm very pleased to see it being delivered again”

b. Lack of places and activities to meet others

47 households mentioned a desire for more community projects/ activities. Many felt there was nowhere to hold these and 13 raised the cost of using the leisure centre as a barrier

“No, I’m not aware of anything near to me in Mile Oak and anything outside of the area in Brighton is too expensive for me to access”

Portslade Village Centre (20-minute walk from Mile Oak) is primarily used for Extra Time activities. However, there has been some tentative discussion about running a parent led junior youth group from the centre



Mile Oak Community Centre is used as a nursery from 9-5 every weekday but it can be hired out in the evenings and weekends. Currently there is no accessible information on how to book the space or the costs.

“The library facility was only part time even prior to the Covid crisis and is now not open. We cannot afford membership for the local gym”

“Not enough going on or investment in community spaces”

“Mile Oak library occasionally. There may be activities and services I'm unaware of. I have in the past been to the village centre, it's hard to find so people may not know it's there”

c. Lack of activities specifically for young and older people

- 60 people mentioned lack of events/projects/activities for young people.
- 47 mentioned same for older people



d. Cost of accessing activities and essentials like food.

The demand on the Purple People Kitchen foodbank quadrupled during the pandemic to several hundred, and due to need, a temporary food bank was started at Mile Oak Primary School.

Following the pandemic there was a need to build something more sustainable to help address food poverty, particularly as accessing the Purple People Kitchen Food bank in Portslade was very difficult for those living in Mile Oak and would require a bus trip that many couldn't afford.

25 people mentioned access to affordable food.

“I started volunteering at the primary school food bank which was vital during the pandemic but wasn't sustainable. I know there are lots of families in Mile Oak that need help to access affordable food, so I jumped at the chance to start the affordable food project with BrightStore”



“The shops are too expensive. They have outpriced themselves. I now go all the way into town to get my stuff, which takes a long time and costs money. I refuse to pay their prices”

VI. Survey Results

Q1: Please can you tell us what it's like to live in North Portslade/Mile Oak, can you access services in your area easily? E.g., shops, activities, GP surgery?

Overall, people responded positively to this question with many citing good access to their GP surgery, regular bus service (number 1) and easy access to the South Downs.

However, many mentioned the lack of other services for themselves, their families and older children. Several spoke of isolation and difficulty in moving around the area due to disability. Traffic congestion and no bus service linking Mile Oak/North Portslade to Hangleton and Sainsburys was also mentioned.

“Good local GP, not much other services here, local shop is quite expensive”

“The bus service is outstanding, but we are out on a limb in Mile Oak, so it is isolated from both shops and facilities”

Q2: Do you participate in any local activities or use any community facilities (e.g., community centres, sports centre parks)? If not why not

Most of the people responding to this question don't use local community facilities other than the local parks. The reasons include, not know what activities are running locally, not knowing where to find out about local activities or no activities running that they would be interested in attending.

24% of responders couldn't afford to access the local sports facility.

“There is a community space that has been shut for years. It would be really useful for the community to have access to it and was better locally when it was open. It's just sitting there rotting and has been vandalised several times. There isn't a residents' group, but I know friends that have residents' groups, and it helps them to get things done”- Warrior Close resident

10 of the people spoken to didn't know there was a local community centre.

"I use the park, but not community centres - I don't really know where to find out what's on there"

*"No, I used to be the chair for Hyde and my wife was the treasurer. I used to have to go up to London for them. I worked as their director too on the charitable side, but then the residents meeting stopped because of costs. it was a real shame" –
Hyde Resident*

Q3 How do you find out what is going on locally? E.g., notice board, newsletter, Facebook, other?

84% of people responding to this question use either social media (Facebook) or the North Portslade newsletter to find out what is going on locally. 21% of people mentioned that the newsletter had stopped and/or there was no local noticeboard.

"I don't, I avoid Facebook as I don't want to engage with the negativity that can be posted. It won't be good for my mental health as I'll worry"

"Facebook is the main source of information, but I try not to be on my phone/laptop longer than necessary and sometimes it takes a while to find things as there are so many places to look, so notice boards and newsletters would be good way to access information in 1 place"

Q4: What is missing in the area? Is there anything you would like to have access to/be involved in locally? E.g., baby and toddler groups, older people's group, residents' association, youth groups?

- 60 people mentioned lack of events/projects/activities for young people.
- 47 people mentioned lack of community activities for adults.
- 29 people mentioned lack of information/newsletter/noticeboard.
- 25 people mentioned lack of affordable facilities for meeting with others, with 13 specifically mentioning the leisure centre prices and it being the only known facility.
- 25 people mentioned access to affordable food.

The biggest response to this question was the lack of youth provision in the area. 47% of people had concerns regarding the lack of youth activities and the knock-on effect of an increase in anti-social behaviour.

"All you see on the Mile Oak Facebook page is people complaining about teenagers, but what do you expect when there is nothing for them to do!"

"We live in Hyde housing and used to have a Resident's Association and wish we still did".

"Things for young people. Used to be a youth centre but it shut. Boring for children and crime and anti-social behaviour has gone up massively in the area."

"Older people's group. I am a carer for my husband and would love a reasonably priced relaxation class, to help ease my stress levels".

VII. Next steps

a. Launch Portslade Community Action Network (6 volunteers – 5 new)



5 new volunteers will join the group at the AGM in November. 1 current volunteer will continue in the group.

Bi-monthly meetings on themes raised. First will include asset mapping local resources and possible activities. Will bring in other stake holders: library, PACA, primary school, Football teams, table tennis group, friends of parks.

b. Re-establish Newsletter (6000 households) and notice boards (at 2 key locations) (6 volunteers plus 93 volunteer deliverers)



The 3 volunteers who make up the newsletter team will be joined by 3 others for the next issue. The large delivery team of 93 volunteers will be put back in action.

Keep those offline connected - quarterly issues with up-to-date information of local groups, services and upcoming events plus local historical and other interest-based articles.

The newsletter will generate funding to pay for printing costs by charging local businesses and organisations for advertising. A large volunteer team will deliver to the 6000 households.

TDC has recruited new community volunteers and intends to offer advice and training to them to enable them to produce a regular newsletter.

**c. Develop BrightStore food market into Hub
(12+ volunteers, 180+ beneficiaries)**

Work with Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, BrightStore and FareShare to fully establish volunteer run affordable supermarket.

12 volunteers help to run the weekly sessions which include, setting up, clearing up, collecting food from supermarkets, receiving food from food providers, stock take and banking. Since the project started in June 60+ families have accessed the project with new people coming each week. This benefits approximately 180 people.



Work with Money advice plus, Brighton & Hove Energy Saving Co-op, Ageing Well and local volunteers to bolt on information and advice and job skills and search drop ins.

d. Work with Council, Hyde & Clarion engagement teams to open up existing properties where possible to be more accessible for community activity.



Unused derelict community building in Warrior Close, North Portslade

e. Seek expansion of Hangleton & Knoll Project's youth and older people's participation offer.

VIII. Appendix 1 Newsletter

NORTH PORTSLADE

COMMUNITY NEWS

Produced and delivered free to over 6,000 local homes and businesses throughout Portslade

SPECIAL EDITION SUMMER 2021

BrightStore – your new affordable food scheme is now open in Mile Oak!



BrightStore is a new weekly social grocery store, designed to give local families easy access to high-quality, affordable food including: bread, eggs, fruit and vegetables along with other essential items. It also demonstrates a new way our local food systems can operate; making them fairer, more sustainable and more empowering for communities.

The majority of BrightStore's food comes from surplus and wastage, all still good to eat, but reducing your carbon footprint at the same time as saving your wallet.

Everyone is welcome to visit, it's open every Wednesday at the Church of the Good Shepherd Church Hall on Stanley Avenue from 1 until 4. BrightStore is a solidarity scheme so if you are able to pay a little more, this helps to support your neighbours.

The Mile Oak community has really taken BrightStore to their hearts - all the local councillors support the project, as well as Penny Gilbey (chair of the Portslade Community Forum), Mile Oak Primary School and The Church of the Good Shepherd congregation are also very supportive of the project, and there are already team members from the church coming along to help.

There is a lot of value placed on the importance of not wasting food here, the team are determined to share, re-distribute and compost anything that's left over, so important to think about in these troubled times for our planet.

It's so wonderful to see the community coming together and it feels like BrightStore Mile Oak is going to be a huge success and make a real difference to this little enclave in the north of the city. Follow us on facebook to find out more (search for BrightStoreBrighton) or email info@brightstore.org

Back by popular demand - but we need your help!



After an 18 month break during the pandemic and now with the support of our Trust for Developing Communities community worker and some welcome donations, we've been able to deliver your community newspaper again (albeit with fewer pages and currently for this edition, no adverts).

However, in future we will need to have our network of over 90 deliverers and distributors back again and also some more volunteers will be welcome. Therefore, in the next couple of weeks Penny will be phoning (we do not have email addresses) to see whether people are still available.

If you want to be involved please contact Penny by email penny4portslade@gmail.com

We're also in urgent need of a treasurer or someone who could help with setting up internet banking and dealing with our few transactions.

You're still welcome to send your views, comments, ideas for future articles and information about any non-profit making groups to the editor, Fran Breeze npcneditor@gmail.com

Finally, we would like to give a huge thank you to Jo Fuller for all her hard work over the last 25 years with the newspaper group, and also many thanks to Mike at Ace printers for his contribution and help.

Penny and Fran

DIARY OF EVENTS

Free activities for Young People with the Hangleton and Knoll Project

The Hangleton and Knoll Project are running a full summer programme of activities for young people. There's tons going on so why not join in? To find out more about what's on offer and how to get involved follow them on social media or email youth@hkproject.org.uk Young people from Portslade are very welcome. **Their regular clubs will be starting back on September 13th.**



Mile Oak Football Club

Mile Oak Football Club was established in 1960 and plays its home games at its football ground in Mile Oak Rec on Chalky Road.

During the season, home games are played on Saturdays and Wednesdays, and the first team is in the County League, so why not come along to support your local team?

You can buy tickets on the door on the day or in advance through social media – look for 'Mile Oak Football Club'. There is also an under 23s team that trains on Thursday nights and an under 7s that trains on Saturdays.

To find out more or to volunteer (we have lots of ways you can get involved) follow us on social media or email mileoak1960@outlook.com



Mile Oak Wanderers



Mile Oak Wanderers has 15 teams for the forthcoming season and we are proud to offer footballing opportunities to boys and girls from 5 to 17 years old. The club committee and coaching team are all volunteers and we continue to maintain a value of keeping fees affordable and as low as possible for our members. If you have a budding footballer or your child wishes to try something new, then please visit our website www.mileoakwanderers.com for more details on training times at the 3G pitch at Freedom Leisure Centre on Chalky Road. If you have any further queries or would be interested in a volunteer role then please contact the club chairman at chairman-mow@outlook.com.

Get fit and have fun throughout the summer holidays at Portslade Sports Centre

- Family circuit sessions Tuesdays 4-5pm Members free plus £1 per child, non members £5 plus £1 per child (children must be 7 years +)
 - Gymnastics 5 – 12 years Mondays 9.30 – 11.30
 - Trampolining 5 – 8 years and 8 – 16 years sessions Mondays
 - Multi-sport sessions 5 – 12 years Tuesdays and Thursdays

Booking recommended. To book phone 01273 411100 or email portslade@freedom-leisure.co.uk to find out more visit www.freedom-leisure.co.uk

COUNCILLOR CORNER



Mayor Alan Robins. Call: 01273 291157/07557 197591 or email: alan.robins@brighton-hove.gov.uk

In May 2020 I became mayor of Brighton, Hove and Portslade - we were about two months into the first lockdown and there was no official mayor making ceremony, although myself, the chief executive and deputy mayor had to go into Hove town hall in person to sign the mayoral pledge. This was the beginning of what can only be described as one of the strangest mayoral years to date. One by one, all of the usual events that the mayor attends, such as Pride, paddle round the pier, the marathon and veteran car rally were all cancelled, and many events and meetings moved online, as did the full council meetings which the mayor has to chair (it's not an easy task trying to control 54 councillors through a computer screen). We held some fundraising events online for the mayor's charities, such as quizzes and a murder mystery night, but again it was no real substitute for holding these events in person. In May 2021 my fellow councillors voted for me to have a second year as mayor and now slowly and surely things are opening up and I am able to attend events in person. It was a great pleasure for me personally that two of the first events I was able to attend was the opening of the Portslade Old Manor as an education and learning centre, telling our story from 1066 to the current day, and the opening of the new Portslade Bowls Club in Victoria Park. I will write more about this in future issues.



Cllr Peter Atkinson. Call: 01273 291080 or email: peter.atkinson@brighton-hove.gov.uk

The Thakeham/Clarion development behind Overdown Rise is due to be finished next summer and will comprise 125 properties. There will be 28 units for 'affordable' rent (80% of average local rent) and tenants will be taken from the council's Housing Register. The rest of the development will be sold on a shared ownership basis and some have already moved in. We continue to suffer from sporadic anti-social behaviour (ASB) in North Portslade, mainly low level, but still worrying and annoying for residents. Please use 101 phone e-mail service to report any ASB and our Local Police Community Support Officers will follow it up. Feel free to contact me if you need to. A safer crossing at the junction of Fox Way, the link road (A293) and Hangleton Way is still a live issue and we continue to press the council for proposals on making this crossing safer. Plans for about 25 council houses at Monarch's View - off the Mile Oak Road - are still a long way from any sort of definite proposal or planning application and they've also been delayed by the consultation on the City Downland Estate Plan. The windows in Wickhurst Rise flats are due for replacement later this year/early next year following lobbying by myself and some of the residents. Local boxer Bill Davies, and his wife Tracey, are really keen to start a kids boxing club in the area. Anyone who has an idea where this might be situated please get in touch.



Councillor Anne Pissaridou Call: 07562 437609 or email: anne.pissaridou@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Welcome to all who have recently moved here and those now living at Oak Point. After the most traumatic and stressful year, I am pleased to update you about my role during the pandemic and working with the local community. At the beginning of lockdown, I took on the role of lead councillor working to ensure all residents had sufficient food for their families and setting up extra food hubs in areas of need, including Extratime at The Village Centre (while continuing to support Purple People Kitchen with their extra demand). Much of this good work has continued. Thanks to all our volunteers at PPK and the newly formed Brightstore who I am also supporting. Many of you may have noticed the replanting of the large planters outside the Valley Road shops, looking renovated, renewed and refreshed. They will be decorated with designs by our local children. Thanks to residents and Goodgym for their enthusiasm and help and also thanks to Lisa of Forgetmenot. More good news! Warrior Park has been allocated £60,000 for a much-needed renovation. I have ensured that it will include play equipment suitable for all children. I am working on a community orchard project which is in its early stages – watch this space. Given the antisocial behaviour that has sprung up, I have walked around with our local PCSOs and am continuing to meet with our PCSO and sergeant regularly.



Cllr Les Hamilton Call: 01273 702052 or email: leslie.hamilton@brighton-hove.gov.uk

The old building at 6 Locks Hill, formerly known as Chimneys, was a school; firstly St Nicolas, then St Andrews, then it became offices and a path was established running through the grounds linking Locks Hill and Locks Crescent. It is well-used, especially by children attending St Nicolas and Brackenbury schools, and providing easy access to the bus stop. A few years ago Chimneys was no longer needed by the city council and sold for development. This all took some time and the path was out of use for a long period when the building works was taking place. I was determined to retain the path and the council had an agreement to sell the land to the developer and then buy back the path. Unfortunately when the council bought back the path they did not buy all of it. The access at the western end is in fact owned by the residents of 6a to 6d Locks Hill. There was concern when notices appeared saying that the path was to be closed. Several people approached me and I spoke to one of the residents. He assured me that they did not want the path to be closed as the value of the path to residents was appreciated. It is therefore important the residents and path users respect each other and that it is not subject to litter disposal and any form of antisocial behaviour. Let's all work together to safeguard the path for the future.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Portslade Community Forum (PCF)

PCF is a community group that represents the views of Portslade people and holds regular meetings to which all residents are invited to discuss issues affecting the whole community.

We are an umbrella group, supporting other groups, working closely with local organisations, service providers and our local Portslade councillors, plus we participate and input into Brighton and Hove City Council consultations.

Unfortunately, during Covid-19 we have not been able to meet, but we are now arranging to hold our meetings again at The Village Centre and also preparing for our AGM and Open Day where we generally showcase the activities of groups in the local community. To find out more about PCF contact Penny penny4portslade@gmail.com

Calling all Community Groups in Portslade

Once again PCF is pleased to have been awarded Healthy Neighbourhood Funding (HNF) and applications are invited from local groups and organisations for projects that provide a health-related benefit to their group or the local community. We're keen to hear about any projects that benefit members' health and well-being, whether it's physical activities or during Covid-19, initiatives that prevent social isolation or benefit mental health etc.

Over the last 10 years, HNF funding has supported events in our parks and local sport clubs, and activities

for young and old, including football, cricket and bowls. It has funded our local guides and scouts, our foodbank, given funding for arts and astronomy groups and hopefully, the community cancelled barn dance can be rearranged soon.

We have also funded community allotments, encouraging residents to grow their own produce and most recently the plants in the rejuvenated planters in Valley Road. To apply, email penny4portslade@gmail.com

Chair – Penny Gilbey



Would you like to be included in a community survey?

Amy from the Trust for Developing Communities has been carrying out a survey in Mile Oak and North Portslade to find out from residents what it's like to live here. The survey will help to find out what the priorities are for the area.



It's a short 3 – 4 minute survey and includes questions like 'what is it like living in Mile Oak/North Portslade, can you access everything you need?' 'What facilities or activities do you access, what do you think is missing in the area?' The survey can be anonymous (unless you want us to contact you) and the more people that complete it the better we know what you want. You can scan the QR

code to complete the form online or email Amy on amycallison@trustdevcom.org.uk or phone 07477 972455



Are you a Hyde Housing resident?

Our Customer Involvement team, with funding from the Successful Places team (part of [Hyde Foundation](#)), wants to help residents' groups and those in the community get the training, IT and support they need.

Gabs Tiranti from the Customer Involvement team comments: "We want to ensure Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs), residents' groups and local communities can access the support and help they need to work more closely with their community and Hyde."

Hyde can help with funding for laptops, tablets, getting online and other training.



If you are part of a TRA, residents group or have an idea that can get your local community connected, please complete our [online survey](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CommunityITandTraining/) to let us know how we can help: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CommunityITandTraining/ If you have any questions, please call Hyde on 0800 3 282 282 and ask to speak to the Customer Involvement team or email customerinvolvement@hyde-housing.co.uk

IX. Appendix 2 Contacts

a. Church of the Good Shepherd

BrightStore and the new Older Peoples group are run from this church hall.

32 Stanley Ave, Mile Oak, Portslade, Brighton BN41 2WJ

<tel:07872572681>

b. BrightStore

Is an affordable food project that helps to tackle food insecurity.

BrightStore runs weekly at the Church of the Good Shepherd

info@brightstore.org tel:07306655432

c. Portslade Community Action

Is headed by Portslade Community

Forum. The group will be holding an AGM event in November

Chair: Penny Gilbey penny4portslade@gmail.com

d. Portslade Leisure Centre

Chalky Rd, Mile Oak, Portslade, Brighton BN41 2WS

<https://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/centres/portslade-sports-centre>

e. Portslade Village Centre

3 Courthope Close, Portslade, Brighton BN41 2LZ

www.facebook.com/portsladevillagecentre

f. Local Councillors

Cllr Peter Atkinson peter.atkinson@brighton-hove.gov.uk

01273 291080

Cllr Anne Pissaridou Anne.Pissaridou@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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