

**UPLANDS PARTY
RESIDENTS' SURVEY 2020**



FEEDBACK REPORT

Thank you for taking part in our survey!

Dear Resident

Thank you for taking time to fill in and return our recent survey. In total there were 822 returns. We have now finished collating the results and put into place some actions which have been based on your valuable input.

In our report we will include the main findings from each of the questions and what we intend to do to respond to them.

With Best Wishes from your Uplands Party Councillors

Peter May and Irene Mann



Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything that you wish to discuss about this report or any other issue no matter how small.



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Uplands Councillors

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Uplands Councillors,
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QUESTION 1: We asked about the main challenges that you had faced during lockdown.

The main points arising made were:

- Being unable to work and worries about job and income.
- Isolation when shielding, loneliness, separation from family.
- Home schooling children and lack of provision for additional needs.
- Initial difficulty in obtaining medical supplies.
- Increase in anti-social behaviour by younger generation.
- Not being able to access services such as haircuts and dentists.
- Frustration about others not adhering to lockdown rules.
- Unable to use cafes and restaurants.
- Initial reduction in various council services.

Although a lot of these points were self-resolving as lockdown eased and were beyond the remit of local councillors, there are some aspects that we can make representations to act upon or help directly ourselves.

Throughout the period we helped with prescription collection and shopping deliveries or pointed people in the direction of street champions or Local Area Coordinators (LACs). LACs are council employees who support older people, disabled people, people with mental health problems, and their families and carers.

The Uplands Ward has five LACs who can help access services for people who are isolated.

Here are their details should you or you know of a vulnerable person, depending on which area of the ward you live in.

Fiona Hughes (Uplands, St Helens, Brynmill Fynonne) **07966 246033**

Tara Hughes (Glanmor, Cwmgwyn & towards Sketty) **07976 395630**

Claire McCarthy-Reed (Mount Pleasant) **07900 702829**

Bethan McGregor (North of and including Townhill Rd) **07976 477451**

Dan Garnell (Streets East of Brynymor Road) **07966 246037**

QUESTION 2: We asked about the benefits that you had felt during lockdown.

The main points arising were:

- More time could be spent looking after the house and garden.
- Getting to know neighbours, greater sense of community.
- Discovering local area through exercise and walking.
- Less traffic and better air quality, increase in wildlife and birdsong.
- Learning new computer skills, especially Zoom and Teams.
- Having time to think things through rather than rushing.

QUESTION 3: We asked what you would like us to focus on going forward to revitalise our area.

Here are the results of the tick box questions that we offered (we asked you to select your top 2):

- Cleanliness of the area **543**
- Helping local businesses to rebound **413**
- Protecting our environment **371**
- Supporting walking, cycling and public transport **220**
- Supporting community organisations **146**

We also gave an option to add your own priority. Significant numbers mentioned.

- Combatting drug dealing.
- Policing to combat anti-social behaviour in parks.
- Stopping the spread of HMOs

Policing to remedy anti-social behaviour in parks

Anti social behaviour in Uplands parks has risen during lockdown. We have worked with police and the council on youth engagement and are employing strategies to tackle the problem. It is a long job but we are making progress as well as discussing with youths what alternative provision would help.

Cleanliness of the area (TOP 2 Priority)



Here are the steps that we have taken:

- Continued to liaise with council departments to respond to littering issues.
- Continue to support community volunteers with equipment such as litter pickers and blue bags.
- Continue to carry out litter picks of our own.
- Re double our efforts to focus on gulley clearance.
- Continue to request dog fouling bins in response to demand.

IF YOU HAVE A LITTER CLEARANCE REQUEST PLEASE CONTACT US.

Protecting our local environment

We are currently supporting schemes which contribute to our Green Corridor project in the Uplands. We appreciate that parks and gardens have played an import part of wellbeing during the lockdown. This is why we have continued our front garden competition to celebrate residents that actively improved the street scene and promoted bioderversity.

Supporting walking, cycling and public transport

We are working with the council to endeavour to protect bus services as they re-emerge after lockdown. We are also working with local residents on road safety priorities particularly on school run routes in preparation for the return of our schools.

Helping local businesses to rebound (TOP 2 Priority)



Here are the steps that we have taken:

- Use the community budget to supply traders with 'buy local' bags to distribute free to customers advertising the importance of supporting local traders
- Supported applications from local traders to have licences to temporarily extend their serving areas to the pavement
- Assisted traders with advice on government and local support grants.

Supporting Community Organisations

We will work with groups as and when they gain the confidence to reconvene. Meanwhile, we will connect people with Local Area Coordinators.

Combatting drug dealing

We are working with local police and residents to combine intelligence to combat the issue. There have been so raids recently with arrests being made. Unfortunately this issue is ongoing and complex but we will continue to apply consistent effort with partnerships.

Stopping the spread of HMOs

We will be working on your behalf to review the council policy in light of a couple of loopholes having appeared which are allowing HMOs to be granted planning permission

QUESTION 4: We asked your opinion on the future of Uplands Square after the council was approached with a proposal to pedestrianise it.

We provided a tick box indicating preference for FOR or AGAINST the proposal. Underneath was space for additional comments.

329 were for pedestrianisation.

445 were against pedestrianisation.

48 did not commit to a preference.

Survey comments FOR the proposal were mainly:

- A perception that it would favour local traders
- It would reduce the number of cars
- Good opportunity for a community space
- Creation of a space to sit and encourage pop up events

Survey comments AGAINST the proposal were mainly:

- Traffic being displaced onto the school run and other junctions.
- Would attract anti-social behaviour in the night.
- Council should prioritise spending on essential services first.
- A perception that it would harm local traders.

Residents who did not commit a preference either didn't have a view or needed more information.

Two respondents submitted plans for alternative proposals.

Independently of our survey, there was a meeting which stated the council's position that pedestrianisation would NOT be happening.

