

An initial Hackney Central community consultation event on the Masterplan was held on Wednesday 9th April between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. outside the Old Town Hall. The event took the form of an exhibition with 5 boards showing the Masterplan area, the opportunity sites and key urban design and transport infrastructure issues. The aim of the consultation was to find out from the local community what issues are most important and how they would like to see the development of the Masterplan move forward. The consultation/exhibition did not put forward any proposals for development but rather stressed the fact that future change could take many forms, from public realm improvement to new buildings.

Feedback from the consultation was provided during the consultation event with a total of 85 people handing in the official consultation questionnaire. Many more people visited the stand and asked questions about the Masterplan project throughout the day and into the evening. The questions asked and responses are outlined on the following pages.

Analysis of the consultation feedback reveals the following key issues:

1. The majority of people liked the public open spaces and local amenities Hackney Central had to offer.
2. Being part of a diverse and multi-cultural community is important to the local people.
3. Respondents were keen to see bus and traffic congestion resolved, most notably along Narrow Way
4. The majority of respondents like the streets and spaces in Hackney Central with a significant number of people using them for shopping.
5. 51% of respondents do not find it easy to move around Hackney Central whereas 49% do. Road safety is the primary reason why people do not find Hackney Central easy to move around.
6. 85% of the respondents agree with the opportunity sites identified by the Hackney Central Masterplan.
7. Most local people would like to see provision for both traditional and affordable housing. Respondents tended to prefer development to retain and foster existing local character.
8. 74% of respondents do think Hackney Central would benefit from a more diverse retail offer. The feedback suggests that there is no clear desire by the local people for new, large supermarkets.
9. Generally, respondents are keen to refurbish rather than demolish existing buildings.



Question 1: What do you like about Hackney Central?

Response	Number of Hits
Public open space	32
Local amenities/shops (chain and independent)	31
Other - miscellaneous comments (comprise responses with 4 or less hits)	30
Local/regional public transport links	21
Cultural diversity	16
Local History/Heritage/Architecture	14
Sense of community	10
Civic centre	8
Hackney Empire	7
Vibrant atmosphere/character	7
General Location	4
Nothing	4
Removal of street barriers	3
Safety/police presence	3
Freedom to cycle	2
Home	2
New playground in St John's Churchyard	2
Old Town Hall	2
Pubs/Bars/Cafes	2
Up and Coming area	2
Building refurbishment	1
Capacity for change	1
Everything	1
Living costs	1
Total number of respondents	80/85

Question 2: What would you like to change/improve about the town centre?

Response	Number of Hits
Improve bus and traffic congestion problem	38
Improve perceived image/public safety	23
Improve general cleanliness/upkeep	21
Improve low quality shops/cafes	21
Better provision for pedestrians/cyclists	15
Improved transport links/interchange	12
Better shops/restaurants	6
Improve community bonds	3
Old Town Hall should be for community use	3
Use Ocean Centre for community use	3
More support of local community - talent, trading etc	2
More trees/green space	4
Better parking facilities	4
Improved nightlife	3
Town centre focus/icon/open space needed	3
Nothing needs changing/improving	3
Introduce markets	3
Better play facilities for children	3
Better use of St John's Churchyard	3
Improved public toilets	2
Improve schools	2
Improve crowded atmosphere	2
Improve drainage	1
Better road signage e.g. to Police, Hospital	1
Information Centre needed	1
Get rid of Town Hall	1
Street barriers need to be put up	1
Provide designated drinking area	1
Introduce housing for the homeless	1
Open-air cinema in St John's Churchyard	1
Total Number of respondents	83/85

Question 3: How do you use the streets and spaces in Hackney Central?

Response	Number of Hits
Shopping	26
Walking	10
Through route	9
Enjoy open spaces	9
Travelling to work	8
Leisure	8
Residential use	6
Transport	6
Cycling	5
General errands	5
Enjoy historic architecture	3
Business	1
Other Comments:	
Overcrowded/congested	13
Dirty/cluttered/neglected	12
Too many drunks and homeless	1
Not enough street furniture	3
Play facilities for kids needed	2
Safety/security issues	9
Allotments needed	1
Total Number of respondents	83/85

Question 3: Do you like the streets and spaces in Hackney Central?

Yes	18
No	6
Total Number of respondents	24/85

Question 4: Are there any specific barriers to moving around?

Response	Number of Hits
Road safety (poor drivers, no barriers) and traffic/congestion issues	40
More cycle routes needed	8
Uneven/narrow pavements	5
More pedestrian-friendly streets needed	4
Bad public transport	3
Safety/Security	2
Railings create barrier for pedestrians	2
Aggressive drivers	1
Limited disabled access	1
Roadworks are a problem	1
Street lighting issue	1
Confusing layout/navigation	1
Anti-social behaviour	1
Lack of parking	1
Other Comments:	
Children vulnerable when moving around	2
Good public transport	1
Total Number of respondents	81/85

Question 4: How easy is it to move around Hackney Central?

Easy	33
Not easy	34
Total Number of respondents	67/85

Question 5: Do you agree with the opportunity sites that have been identified?

Yes	11
No	2
Total Number of respondents	13/85

Question 5: What others would you identify?

Response	Number of hits
Gibbons site - mixed use	7
Train Stations	7
Derelict buildings redeveloped	6
Bus garage	5
Youth Centre (Scout Hall)	5
No betting shop in Town Hall	3
No new buildings on open space	3
Old buildings preserved rather than developed	3
Site 17 agree	2
Site 22 agree	2
Mare Street	2
Additional parking at Tesco's	2
Ocean's site	2
Narrow Way	2
Tesco's	2
Marcon Estate	2
Council estates	2
Community centre	2
Site 1 agree	1
Site 9 agree	1
Site 27 agree	1
Site 28 agree	1
Site 26 agree	1
Whole area	1
Link opportunity between Sites 8 and 9	1
Façade of site no. 3 should be improved	1
Major shops should be redeveloped	1
Bohemia Place	1
Site 10 used for housing	1
New development to front onto St John's Church	1
Site no.4 a designated drinking area	1
Site 27 developed into mixed use scheme	1
More done closer to station	1
Improve fence around Clapton Square	1
Roof garden at Tesco's	1
Sites 15 and 2 - make safety priority	1
Site no.7 should stay as open space	1
More housing	1
Main street developed into central location	1
Clapton Square - activity/better maintained	1

Empire - café spill out into Town Sq	1
Redevelop Site No. 6	1
Redevelop Site No. 1	1
Keep Rectory green - no new buildings	1
Narrow Way pedestrianised	1
Other Comments:	
Tesco and back of Town Hall waste of time	3
Sites 6 and 7 are private	1
New developments should be built to last	1
More playgrounds	1
Danger of adverse effect to some residents	1
Consult with local imaginative people on redevelopment	1
Concern bus garage redevelopment may become gated community	1
Total Number of respondents	69/85

Question 6: What types of new homes and employment space would you like to see in Hackney Central town centre?

Response	Number of Hits
Affordable housing	18
Mixed use	12
New employment space and diversity needed to bring workers in	11
Retain/foster existing local character	9
Upmarket local businesses, esp. retail	8
Less large-storey/high rise housing	8
Family housing	7
More rental housing needed	6
Less flats	6
Traditional/proper homes	6
No need for new houses	4
Artist studios	4
Access to gardens, balconies and sunlight	4
Against intensification	3
Improve estates	3
Social housing	3
Rework existing houses	3
More flats	3
Contemporary architecture	3
General redevelopment	2
High quality building materials	2
Homes to fit into work/live context	2
No family housing	2
No gated communities/private housing	2
Safety a priority	2
Change nothing	1
Environmentally sustainable	1
4-6 storey homes	1
Change perception of town centre	1
More green space needed	1
Estate over-congestion a problem	1
Improve existing workspaces	1
Protect small businesses in arches	1
Flats incorporating public art design	1
More parking	1
Less employment space	1
More hostels	1
Young professional apartments	1
Private housing - Marcon	1
Shared accommodation	1
Education buildings - University etc	1
Amhurst and Mare Street for housing	1
Space for start-up businesses	1
Readily available housing	1
Total Number of respondents	77/85

Question 7: Do you think Hackney Central would benefit from a more diverse retail offer?

Yes	31
No	11
Total Number of respondents	42/85

Response	Number of Hits
More supermarkets/big chain stores	13
Majority of existing shops are rundown/tacky - booze/betting/pound etc	10
No more supermarkets/chain stores	10
Small/local business opportunities	7
Café	7
Better restaurants	6
Good food shopping	6
Bookshop	5
More clothes shops	4
Nightlife	3
More modern shops	3
Mid to high range retail shops	2
Balance between independents and large retailers	2
Less food shops	2
Introduce market	1
Definite benefit to employment/visitors	1
Increased traffic concern	1
Existing shops too small	1
Stationer's	1
More shops = more parking needed	1
HC currently rivalled by Stratford	1
Improve existing shops	1
Shopping to cover wider area	1
More mens' shops	1
Shopping centre	1
Provide art galleries	1
Total Number of respondents	82/85

Question 8: Are there any other comments you would like to make about your town centre?

Response	Number of Hits
Refurbish rather than demolish - keep character and old buildings/open spaces	9
Aesthetic improvement	5
Improve security/safety	5
Sort out public drinking/anti-social behaviour	4
Improve traffic congestion	4
More cycle lanes/routes	3
More opportunities for community activities	3
Night time economy potential	3
More youth activities - clubs etc	2
Address square next to Old Town Hall	2
Keep community informed of any changes	2
More community space e.g. playground	2
General refurbishment needed - new buildings, modern flats, market	1
Dedicated bus lanes improved	1
Recycling bins and artistic installation	1
More trees	1
Water features	1
Better connections with Dalston rail station	1
Problem of drunks in Old Town Hall	1
More children's clothes shop	1
Improve Narrow Way	1
Provide local cinema	1
Maintenance program for streets	1
Old Town Hall should be used for community - music venue etc	1
Café in St John's churchyard	1
Public information service - travel directions etc	1
More recycling points	1
Disused land fenced off for safety	1
Equal opportunities community	1
Historic buildings should be more accessible	1
Doubtful about Council's ability to deliver	1
Related website needed for comments	1
Toilets outside Old Town Hall need to be addressed - drunks make them off-putting	1
Total Number of respondents	56/85