



Golborne and Lowton Infrastructure consultation

Consultation Report

June 2021

1. Introduction

- 1.1 We undertook public consultation in Golborne and Lowton from 8-21 March 2021 to seek the views of the local community on how funding secured from recent housebuilding in the area could be best used to effectively mitigate any impacts on local infrastructure capacity.
- 1.2 Around £8.6m has been secured which needs to be spent on specific projects. So far, it has been agreed that £1.9m of the funds will be used for education and community provision. The remaining £6.7m is for other infrastructure schemes which is what the public consultation was focused on.
- 1.3 This consultation report sets out how we engaged with the local community and key stakeholders, who we engaged with, and provides a summary of all the responses that were received.

2 How we consulted

- 2.1 The consultation consisted of a four page survey comprising 15 questions, designed to gauge initial opinion. The questions were focused on the following key themes:
 - Improving traffic flow and reducing congestion
 - Community provision
 - Cycling and walking
 - Open space and play
 - Parking provision
- 2.2 The survey also included a list of viable schemes that could be taken forward informed by local research, traffic modelling and regular discussions and engagement with Ward Councillors and representatives from local community groups.
- 2.3 The survey was widely publicised and distributed by the council, as follows:
 - A paper survey was posted to all addresses in Golborne and Lowton West Ward and Lowton East Ward, including a Freepost return envelope.
 - Paper surveys could also be returned to the SDF Hub at Ashton Library
 - It could be completed online at www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations
 - It was publicised regularly on social media, including on the council's Twitter and Facebook feeds.
 - Supporting information on the schemes identified in the survey, were also made available on the council's website.
- 2.4 The consultation was also publicised extensively by local community groups and by Ward Councillors.

3 **Comments received**

- 3.1 In total we received 2,275 comments to the survey. This included 2,201 from Golborne or Lowton residents (97%), 30 from people who visited Golborne or Lowton regularly, 12 from local business owners, 12 from people who work in the area and 20 who did not specify.

4 **Summary of comments received**

- 4.1 The survey results can be found in Appendix A and Appendix B.
- 4.2 Appendix B sets out the overall results from the questions which asked respondents to rate how much they supported options on a scale of 1-10 or rank priorities on a scale of 1-5 or 1-4.
- 4.3 The results demonstrate that there are a wide range of opinions, with some options attracting strong support from some and strong opposition from others, with also differing views on priorities. Some key headlines from the results are summarised as follows:

Improving traffic flow and reducing congestion

- Of the four key themes covered in the survey, improvements to traffic flow and congestion was clearly rated the most important issue overall, followed by better open space and play facilities, more cycling and walking facilities and latterly improved parking.
- Despite this, the Council's preferred option to ease congestion by creating a new left turn from A580 to Newton Road (southbound) and to widen Stone Cross Lane to create three lanes with an additional right turn lane received a mixed response, with the number of people (17% of respondents) being completely happy with the option the same as those being completely unhappy. Overall, just over one in three people scored this option an 8 or above, compared to one in four scoring it 3 or below.
- Of the 4 schemes considered in question 8, all received a mixed response in terms of their relative importance, with the average score for each being around 2.5 out of 4. The most polarised score was for replacing Golborne roundabout with a traffic signalled crossroads junction. This may reflect that the benefits of this would be predominantly felt by Golborne residents rather than Lowton residents.

Community provision

- The option to improve the facilities at Golborne Library, including public toilets and improved kitchen facilities, received strong support from many respondents with nearly half of respondents completely happy with the proposal and 3 out of 4 people scoring it a 7 or above.

- The options to upgrade the facilities at St Mary's Community Hall and to part-fund the extension and improvement work at Lowton Hub received more polarised views but were supported by more than opposed. Around 1 in 10 people were completely unhappy with these proposals.

Cycling and walking:

- Of the four options identified, the proposal to upgrade the public rights of way network adjacent to Rothwells Farm was considered the most important overall, closely followed by footway improvements to Slag Lane. Enhancing off-road connections from Bridge Street to Yew Tree Way was considered the least important yet all four schemes were generally supported in the comments.

Open space and play:

- The option to work with landowners to improve footways at Byrom Wood received considerable support with 70% of respondents scoring it an 8 or above.
- The options proposed at Golborne Bonk and Winton Road also received support, albeit the latter receiving a more mixed response.

Parking:

- The proposals to increase parking provision at Bank Street and Railway Road received strong support with one in three respondents being completely happy and over half of respondents scoring it an 8 or above.

4.4 Appendix B provides summaries of all the issues raised by respondents when providing supplementary information to support their scores. Comments submitted against Question 3 which asked respondents to prioritise the themes identified in terms of their importance are covered in the summaries of responses to other questions against the relevant theme.

Appendix A: Results from the survey

Golborne Lowton Engagement

Please rate the below in order of importance to you with 1 being least important and 5 being most important:

	1	2	3	4	5	Didn't answer	Average score
Improvements to traffic flow and congestion	162 (7.1%)	84 (3.7%)	208 (9.1%)	210 (9.2%)	1255 (55.2%)	356 (15.6%)	4.2
Better open space and play facilities	55 (2.4%)	256 (11.3%)	552 (24.3%)	623 (27.4%)	223 (9.8%)	566 (24.9%)	3.4
More cycling and walking facilities	70 (3.1%)	316 (13.9%)	623 (27.4%)	472 (20.7%)	231 (10.2%)	563 (24.7%)	3.3
Improved parking	107 (4.7%)	862 (37.9%)	269 (11.8%)	360 (15.8%)	85 (3.7%)	592 (26%)	2.7
None of the above are important to me	911 (40%)	14 (0.6%)	11 (0.5%)	11 (0.5%)	148 (6.5%)	1180 (51.9%)	1.6

Please provide extra information

310 people provided details (summarised in Appendix C)

Improving traffic flow and reducing congestion

It is understood that there is a community aspiration for a bypass near to the East Lancashire Road, however, a new road cannot be funded at this time.

Delivery of a bypass would require significant approvals from neighbouring authorities. We will look to identify funding opportunities and will explore whether this can be delivered in the long term.

Meanwhile, we know that residents in Golborne and Lowton would like improved congestion and better traffic flow.

Our preferred options are to create a new left turn from A580 to Newton Road (southbound) and to widen Stone Cross Lane to create three lanes with the installation of an additional right turn lane. Our traffic modelling work shows that these schemes would have the greatest benefit in relation to congestion.

On a scale of 1 – 10 (with 1 being completely unhappy and 10 being completely happy):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Didn't answer	Average score
How would you rate this option?	389 (17.1%)	85 (3.7%)	85 (3.7%)	77 (3.4%)	352 (15.5%)	193 (8.5%)	193 (8.5%)	289 (12.7%)	113 (5%)	389 (17.1%)	110 (4.8%)	5.8

Please provide extra information

970 people provided details (summarised in Appendix C)

Alternative schemes we could deliver include:

- Replace the Golborne roundabout with traffic signalled crossroads junction
- Creating a new left turn from A580 to Church Lane (northbound)

Please rate these schemes in order of importance with 1 being least important and 4 being most important:

	1	2	3	4	Didn't answer	Average score
New left turn from A580 to Newton Road	340 (14.9%)	401 (17.6%)	407 (17.9%)	426 (18.7%)	701 (30.8%)	2.6
Widening of Stone Cross Lane	366 (16.1%)	436 (19.2%)	400 (17.6%)	361 (15.9%)	712 (31.3%)	2.5
Replace the Golborne roundabout with traffic signalled crossroads junction	579 (25.5%)	224 (9.8%)	215 (9.5%)	712 (31.3%)	545 (24%)	2.6
Creating a new left turn from A580 to Church Lane (northbound)	305 (13.4%)	443 (19.5%)	509 (22.4%)	303 (13.3%)	715 (31.4%)	2.5

Please provide extra information

804 people provided details (summarised in Appendix C)

Community support

Ensuring community pride and ensuring people of all ages can access different services and leisure options is important to residents, as well as the council.

The council has been approached by the community with suggestions of how to improve local facilities.

One suggestion is to:

- Part-fund the extension and improvement work to the existing facility at the Lowton Hub on Newton Road

The proposal includes the creation of a new sporting facility for the Judo Club, which would also act as a centre for the wider community.

The council would invest £150,000 into this project and match funding from Sport England is in discussion.

On a scale of 1 – 10 (with 1 being completely unhappy and 10 being completely happy):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Didn't answer	Average score
How would you rate this option?	234 (10.3%)	74 (3.3%)	100 (4.4%)	96 (4.2%)	438 (19.3%)	161 (7.1%)	182 (8%)	263 (11.6%)	123 (5.4%)	481 (21.1%)	123 (5.4%)	6.3

Please provide extra information

667 people provided details (summarised in Appendix C)

Another suggestion is to:

- Use the funding to upgrade the facilities at St. Mary's Community Hall

This work would be in addition to the investment made in improving the heating and electrical system.

We also propose to replace windows and resurface the car park so the community can be comfortable when using the space.

On a scale of 1-10 (with 1 being completely unhappy and 10 being completely happy), how would you rate this option?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Didn't answer	Average score
How would you rate this option?	188 (8.3%)	62 (2.7%)	89 (3.9%)	85 (3.7%)	406 (17.8%)	181 (8%)	194 (8.5%)	239 (10.5%)	119 (5.2%)	575 (25.3%)	137 (6%)	6.6

Please provide extra information

489 people provided details (summarised in Appendix C)

Golborne Library

Whilst the library is already well used by the community, it could be more extensively used if its facilities were improved. We propose to include public toilets and improved kitchen facilities for

local groups and library users. This will also create the opportunity for youth groups to be hosted at the library.

On a scale of 1 – 10 (with 1 being completely unhappy and 10 being completely happy):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Didn't answer	Average score
How would you rate this option?	88 (3.9%)	28 (1.2%)	39 (1.7%)	44 (1.9%)	204 (9%)	126 (5.5%)	181 (8%)	303 (13.3%)	216 (9.5%)	977 (42.9%)	69 (3%)	8.0

Please provide extra information

501 people provided details (summarised in Appendix C)

Cycling and walking

Encouraging people to walk and cycle more has been an ambition for the council for a very long time. There are many health and wellbeing benefits to sustainable modes of transport, alongside environmental benefits too.

We have identified key routes to increase connectivity, link residential communities to amenities and sites of employment and education.

Please rate these schemes in order of importance with 1 being the least important and 4 being the most important:

	1	2	3	4	Didn't answer	Average score
Upgrade the existing public rights of way network adjacent to the Rothwell's Farm Development site. This will provide links to Byrom Hall Woods, Bridgewater Canal and Pennington Flash	261 (11.5%)	232 (10.2%)	528 (23.2%)	860 (37.8%)	394 (17.3%)	3.1
Upgrades to the existing off-road public rights of way network connecting Bridge Street, Barn Lane, Peter Street and Croft Street, providing better connections to schools	327 (14.4%)	718 (31.6%)	463 (20.4%)	247 (10.9%)	520 (22.9%)	2.4
Enhance off-road connections from Bridge Street to Yew Tree Way, providing better connections to employment sites	673 (29.6%)	564 (24.8%)	331 (14.5%)	160 (7%)	547 (24%)	2.0
Improve footway provision on Slag Lane	466 (20.4%)	218 (9.6%)	451 (19.8%)	731 (32.1%)	409 (18%)	2.8

Please provide further information

554 people provided further information (summarised in Appendix C)

Open space and play

Ensuring local play and open space facilities are adequate for children and families is a key priority.

We have already secured funding to resurface the Pond Street play area, improve landscape and drainage at Braithwaite Park and also improve drainage at the Oakland Road play area.

We have looked at further options in Golborne and Lowton and have found the below schemes to be viable.

On a scale of 1-10 (with 1 being completely unhappy and 10 being completely happy), how would you rate these options?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Didn't answer	Average score
Golborne Bonk: resurface the multi-use games area, install new play equipment and improvements to the footpaths and landscaping	88 (3.9%)	24 (1.1%)	47 (2.1%)	43 (1.0%)	268 (11.8%)	126 (5.5%)	205 (9%)	283 (12.4%)	192 (8.4%)	826 (36.3%)	173 (7.6%)	7.7
Byrom Wood: to work with landowners to improve pathways	64 (2.8%)	26 (1.1%)	29 (1.3%)	40 (1.8%)	192 (8.4%)	114 (5%)	177 (7.8%)	303 (13.3%)	244 (10.7%)	894 (39.3%)	192 (8.4%)	8.1
Winton Road play area: resurface the play area and seek match funding to enhance play equipment	100 (4.4%)	48 (2.1%)	65 (2.9%)	73 (3.2%)	343 (15.1%)	181 (8%)	207 (9.1%)	258 (11.3%)	160 (7%)	583 (25.6%)	257 (11.3%)	7.1

Please provide extra information

401 people provided details (summarised in Appendix C)

Parking

Residents have told us that parking continues to be an issue in Golborne and Lowton.

It is proposed to resurface the Bank Street car park, remove vegetation and properly mark out spaces in order to increase the capacity of the car park to 10 formal spaces.

We also propose to improve signage to the Railway Road car park along the A573 High Street, which will further promote accessibility.

On a scale of 1 – 10 (with 1 being completely unhappy and 10 being completely happy):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Didn't answer	Average score
How would you rate this option?	129 (5.7%)	33 (1.5%)	67 (2.9%)	60 (2.6%)	305 (13.4%)	163 (7.2%)	216 (9.5%)	289 (12.7%)	148 (6.5%)	736 (32.4%)	129 (5.7%)	7.3

Please provide extra information

529 people provided details (Summarised in Appendix C)

Summary of scores received:

	1	2	3	4	5	Average score
Order of importance of issues						
Improvements to traffic flow and congestion	162	84	208	210	1255	4.2
Better open space and play facilities	55	256	552	623	223	3.4
More cycling and walking facilities	70	316	623	472	231	3.3
Improved parking	107	862	269	360	85	2.7
None of the above are important to me	911	14	11	11	148	1.6

Priority of schemes	1	2	3	4	Average score
Highways					
New left turn from A580 to Newton Road	340	401	407	426	2.6
Widening of Stone Cross Lane	366	436	400	361	2.5
Replace the Golborne roundabout with traffic signalled crossroads junction	579	224	215	712	2.6
Creating a new left turn from A580 to Church Lane (northbound)	305	443	509	303	2.5
Walking and cycling					
Upgrade existing public rights of way network adjacent to the Rothwell's Farm	261	232	528	860	3.1
Upgrade existing off-road public rights of way network connecting Bridge Street, Barn Lane, Peter Street and Croft Street	327	718	463	247	2.4
Enhance off-road connections from Bridge Street to Yew Tree Way	673	564	331	160	2.0
Improve footway provision on Slag Lane	466	218	451	731	2.8

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Average score
Highways											
Preferred highway options	389	85	85	77	352	193	193	289	113	389	5.8
Community provision											
Judo club	234	74	100	96	438	161	182	263	123	481	6.3
St Mary's Community Hall	188	62	89	85	406	181	194	239	119	575	6.6
Golborne Library	88	28	39	44	204	126	181	303	216	977	8.0
Open space and play											
Golborne Bonk	88	24	47	43	268	126	205	283	192	826	7.7
Byrom Wood	64	26	29	40	192	114	177	303	244	894	8.1
Winton Road	100	48	65	73	343	181	207	258	160	583	7.1
Parking											
Bank Street and Railway Road	129	33	67	60	305	163	216	289	148	736	7.3

Appendix B: Summaries of responses submitted to the survey by theme.

- Improving traffic flow and reducing congestion
- Community provision
- Cycling and walking
- Open space and play
- Parking provision

A. Improving traffic flow and congestion

1. Creating a new left turn from A580 to Newton Road (southbound) and widening Stone Cross Lane to create three lanes with the installation of an additional right turn lane.

Support:

- The proposals will ease congestion on A580, Slag Lane and Stone Cross Lane North.
- Proposals are essential to combat the impact of the new developments.
- Benefit to pollution levels.
- Short term benefit, however a bypass is needed in the long term.

The proposals will not resolve congestion:

- The proposals won't resolve the congestion issues at Lane Head between the A580 and Winwick Lane, Newton Road, Church Lane and Kenyon Lane.
- The proposals will not address the congestion issues at Slag Lane from the direction of Leigh.
- They will not prevent drivers using Lowton as a rat run, which they do to avoid congestion on the A580.
- Widening roads will attract more traffic through Lowton and Golborne.
- The Stone Cross Lane North scheme will attract more traffic.
- The proposals will only have an impact during peak times.
- The additional lane will promote the use of Winwick Lane as a cut through to the motorway, including HGVs that are prohibited from travelling southbound.

The proposals aren't needed:

- There is no congestion in these areas.
- Additional housing has had limited impact on congestion as there has always been issues in the Lowton area.
- There are no congestion issues on Stone Cross Lane North. The improvement will only make it easier for HGV traffic to exit the village.
- The Stone Cross Lane North improvements were agreed before the housebuilding started.
- There are no congestion issues on Stone Cross Lane North at all times throughout the day.
- Traffic turning right onto Newton Road from the A580 is a bigger issue than traffic turning left.

Other:

- It will increase air quality issues at Lane Head / Winwick Lane.
- The council should make turning onto Newton Road more difficult to promote traffic to stay on the A580.
- Reducing the proximity of traffic to residential properties would not be safe.

- Will add extra pressure on the heavily congested Newton Road.
- The A580 speed limit should be reduced if this proposal is approved.

2. Replacing the Golborne roundabout with traffic signalled crossroads junction.

Support:

- Golborne Island is an eyesore. A signalised junction will be an improvement.
- Replacing Golborne Island will make the junction much safer for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.
- Vehicles on the A580 travel at high speed on Golborne Island, making it difficult to exit Bridge Street.

Object:

- There are no congestion issues at Golborne roundabout.
- The roundabout operates well, constructing a signalised junction will add to the congestion.
- The decision to remove the roundabout at Atherleigh Way/Twist Lane proves that Golborne Island should remain.
- The island should remain, with funding spent on a cosmetic upgrade to the roundabout.
- Add traffic signals to the island that operate during peak hours.
- It will not address the congestion issues on Slag Lane, Church Lane, Kenyon Lane and Winwick Lane.
- It will not resolve the congestion issues on Newton Road (southbound between Atherleigh Way and A580).
- Improvements to Golborne Island should be made as part of the Parkside development, not S106 money.

3. Creating a new left turn from A580 to Church Lane (northbound)

Object:

- It will encourage unnecessary trips through Lowton to access Slag Lane/Leigh.
- There are never queues of vehicles turning left onto Church Lane.
- It will promote more traffic to use what is a residential road.
- It will bring the carriageway closer to three residential properties, thus having a negative impact on the properties.
- It will not address the congestion issues on Slag Lane, Church Lane, Kenyon Lane and Winwick Lane.
- It will not address the congestion issues on Newton Road (southbound between Atherleigh Way and A580).

Alternative schemes identified to improve traffic flow and congestion

(a) Bypass between the A580 and M6 Junction 22

- The money should be focused on a bypass not these schemes.
- The council should seek funding from the government to pay for a bypass.
- A bypass has been promised in the past.
- A bypass is needed to remove traffic from residential areas and resolve air quality issues.
- Only a bypass will resolve westbound congestion problems.
- Need to stop building houses until the bypass is constructed.
- A new bypass would have a negative impact on Green Belt land.

(b) Slag Lane/Stone Cross Lane North crossroads:

- Additional green time is needed to ease congestion on Slag Lane.
- Traffic coming from Leigh needs to be diverted from using Slag Lane.
- Difficult to exit the Garton Drive estate due to queueing traffic on Slag Lane.

(c) Review traffic signal phasing at Lane Head:

- Drivers crossing the A580 from Church Lane hit stationary traffic. Phasing should be altered to allow vehicles to flow onto Newton Road.
- The current phasing causes vehicles to back up on Church Lane to St Luke's Primary School.

(d) Golborne rail station

- Reopening Golborne rail station will help improve congestion issues.
- Reopening Golborne rail station will make congestion worse.

(e) Golborne town centre improvements:

- Heath Lane/High Street is a congestion hotspot.
- Make Heath Street and Charles Street one way.

(f) More sustainable options:

- Would prefer initiatives to get people to reduce car usage.
- Install more pedestrian crossings on Church Lane, Stone Cross Lane North and Slag Lane.
- More cycle lanes should be constructed.
- Pedestrian crossing facilities required at the Newton Road/Kenyon Lane junction.
- A bus service from Leigh to Newton-le-Willows via Slag Lane would ease congestion.
- Create a pedestrian crossing on St Helens Road near the junction of Mayfield Drive.

- Rail link required between Lowton/Leigh to Manchester.
- Construct safe cycle lanes to promote sustainable travel.
- Construct a signalised crossing outside the Lidl store on Bridge Street.
- Construct a footbridge over the A580 to provide a link between Golborne and Newton.

(g) New accesses onto A580:

- The Heath Lane development should have direct access on to A580 to avoid congestion on Stone Cross Lane North.
- An exit only on the eastbound carriageway would benefit those living in the new development off Stone Cross Lane North.
- A slip road would provide an emergency access as there are too many properties located off Heath Lane/Stone Cross Lane North.

(h) Access only or one-way restrictions:

- Make Slag Lane, Stone Cross Lane North, Golborne Road and Church Lane access only and force traffic on to Atherleigh Way and A573.
- Prevent access from A580 to M6 via Winwick Lane, allowing only local traffic and force traffic to Haydock Island.
- Make Barn Lane 'access only' to prevent rat running vehicles.
- Close Norwood Avenue to through traffic.
- Make Stone Cross Lane North and Church Lane into a one way system to improve traffic flow.

(i) Improve alternative A580 junctions:

- The Church Lane/A580 and Newton Road/A580 junctions are in need of improvement to combat congestion
- Remove traffic signals and construct a roundabout at the Newton Road/A580 junction.

(j) Traffic calming:

- Funding should be spent on traffic calming roads, rather than tackling congestion.
- Speed cameras should be installed on the A580 on both approaches to Golborne Island to improve road safety.
- Enforcement is needed on the A580, due to the dangerous speed of vehicles.
- The A580 should be 40mph to reduce pollution and make the use of the motorway network more attractive.

(k) Other:

- Traffic from Leigh direction needs to be diverted to use Atherleigh Way/A580 rather than use Slag Lane and Newton Road.
- Traffic calming is needed on Bridge Street, Kenyon Lane, Stone Cross Lane North and Newton Road due to speeding problems.
- A right turn filter from Newton Road into Winwick Lane would be beneficial.

- Traffic lights needed at the junction of Mayfield Drive and St Helens Road due to the new developments.
- Connect Crankwood Road to Warrington Road to alleviate congestion at Lowton crossroads and on Slag Lane.
- A slip road into Park Road from the A580 is required as the current junction layout is dangerous.
- The mini roundabout at the junction of Park Road and Bridge Street should be replaced with a give way to improve road safety.
- Remove the mini roundabout at the junction of Park Road, to allow two lanes of queueing vehicles on the approach to the A580.
- Add a congestion charge to Slag Lane.
- Install a signalised crossing outside of Lowton West Primary School to replace the school crossing patrol.

Other highways related issues identified:

HGV concerns:

- HGVs should be restricted from using St Helens Road/Newton Road, Winwick Lane, Heath Street and travelling through Golborne town centre.
- HGVs should be encouraged to use Atherleigh Way rather than St Helens Road/Newton Road.
- There should be a width restriction on Winwick Lane to prevent HGVs.
- Construct a roundabout at Dolly Bridge on Winwick Lane to allow a north/south weight limit.

Air quality:

- Pollution on Newton Road is horrendous.
- The roads are already at capacity which is causing air quality issues. The improvements will lead to more emissions.
- Car use should be discouraged, the improvements will be harmful for the environment.

On-street parking issues:

- Congestion at the junction of Golborne Road/Bolton Road is caused by parked vehicles.
- Parking on Heath Street causes congestion issues.
- Parking on footpaths is an issue across Lowton and Golborne.

Traffic modelling:

- The council should make the decision based on traffic studies from independent engineering consultants.
- The traffic modelling doesn't work as proven by the Atherleigh Way/Twist Lane junction improvement.

Consultation:

- More details on the highway improvements should have been provided, including a map and diagrams.
- It failed to outline that the proposal relates to Stone Cross Lane North, not Stone Cross Lane South.
- The consultation didn't clearly outline the Stone Cross Lane North scheme. Many respondents believe that the full length of the road would be increased to 3 lanes.
- Question 7 should have allowed respondents to rank all options as 1 (least important).

Other:

- New houses shouldn't have been built before the infrastructure improvements.
- Too many houses are being built in the area.
- New developments off Plank Lane will add to the congestion issues in Lowton.
- Parkside will add to the congestion at Lane Head, particularly Winwick Lane.
- These schemes will cause congestion during construction.
- Highway improvements should not come from S106 money.
- Difficult to exit Sandy Lane onto Newton Road.
- The roads in Golborne need resurfacing.
- Congestion on Newton Road and Church Lane causes drivers to rat run through Norwood Avenue.
- New houses shouldn't have been built before the infrastructure improvements.
- Improvements should be made at accident hotspots.
- Too much focus on congestion, funding should be used to target services for young people.

B. Community Provision

1. Lowton Hub / Judo Club

Support:

- Lowton Hub and Judo Club in need of refurbishment or new installations.
- Funding is well overdue but is welcomed.
- Not a community priority but beneficial to those who use the facility.

Object:

- It is rarely open and offers limited community resources
- The money would be better used elsewhere.
- Limited parking so would increase existing traffic problems.
- The judo club could be based at any of the schools, making them more cost effective.
- Judo is a minority sport that doesn't serve the community.
- Too expensive for a scheme that benefits a limited proportion of the community.
- Existing sports clubs e.g. Golborne Parkside should be funded instead.
- Many did not know of the Judo Club or Lowton Hub, website does not give location.
- Money would be better spent on litter collection/prevention, dog fouling, cycle lanes, bypass.
- Golborne needs a hub. Lowton hub is too far for some residents.
- Funding only going to Lowton, not Golborne.
- The building should have a wider use than just judo.

Community Opportunities:

- Community café with space for baby and toddler groups should return.
- Could the building incorporate other sports and clubs?
- Community Centre with a youth club would be beneficial to the area.
- Support improvements to the hub but question why one private company should receive funding over others that provide and promote community wellbeing.
- Local sports and social club offer more than Judo and are in need of investment.

Consultation:

- More information needed.
- Map needed.

2. St Mary's Community Hall

Support:

- Great facility serving many charitable groups.
- The Church Hall is a base for many community groups but hasn't had funding/improvement in over 35 years.
- Funding is long overdue.
- Welcome the improvements, wider use if made wheelchair friendly.
- Improvement would be beneficial to existing and new users.
- Use the hall for coffee mornings, more activities would be beneficial.
- Line dancing group may be able to hire the hall if safe to use.
- New kitchen and toilets would be a welcome addition.

Object:

- Should be funded by sale of Lowton Civic Hall.
- Should be funded by the Church.
- Old building that would cost a fortune to upgrade.
- Wrong side of Lowton for majority of residents.
- Too much money to spend on a small minority.
- Many don't know it exists, so it is not a community priority.
- Litter collection/prevention would have a bigger benefit.

Other:

- Car park surface needs improvement.
- Not enough parking spaces for users.
- Car park entrance requires widening, single use in/out causes traffic queues on Newton Road.
- Car parks in the area needs lighting for safety.
- Youth Zone provision accessible to this part of the borough would be beneficial.
- St Luke's has been given no attention.

3. Library improvements

Support:

- Expansion of offering and facilities at library would be beneficial.
- Project is for common good but needs careful thinking to avoid becoming an undesirable hang out for rowdy groups.
- Will be well used as there is no existing community hub/centre in Golborne.
- It will make the library more comfortable, modern and welcoming, especially for younger people.
- Refreshed library would be great for local groups (incl. youth and elderly) and SDF working.
- Kitchen facilities could be used to promote "independent living" for those who need it.
- More places for community/village activities would be nice.
- Improved shared spaces could encourage interaction between youth and elderly.
- Improvements will benefit low income families with opportunities and classes for young parents.

Object:

- It is never open.
- The library doesn't need a kitchen.
- It is too far for residents in Lowton St. Mary's.
- Libraries are becoming obsolete, not future proof funding them.
- Money better spent on other community areas.
- Question the impact on Heath Street Methodist Church youth group.

Youth provision:

- A Youth Zone is needed in this part of the borough.
- The library isn't big enough for youth provision.
- The library is well used and provides an excellent service as it is, youth groups can use the venue.
- Good idea if youths use it and keep off the Lowton estate.
- Anything designed for young people should be staffed, suggest youth workers based in Golborne and on a permanent basis.
- Prioritise young people by offering a hub to attend focussed groups for their future and wellbeing.

Public toilets:

- A community facility with toilet facilities is much needed in Golborne.
- Public toilets will bring people back to the centre
- Support the provision of public toilets, but they will only be accessible when the library is open.
- The toilets will need monitoring and may attract antisocial behaviour, particularly by youths, adding to the strain on library staff.

Alternative community schemes identified:

(a) The creation of a community hub at Heath Street Methodist Church

- It would provide a single central community hub in Golborne for meetings, social gatherings, support services and activities.
- It has the space and facilities to build additional support services to those currently offered by the church.
- It will provide greater outreach support to the Golborne community.
- It would replace many facilities that have closed during lockdown
- Its central location, existing facilities and its strong community focus makes it an ideal place to extend its role in the community.
- Funding sought to cover costs for urgent roof repairs, new 'covid-safe' kitchen facilities, improved toilet facilities (including accessible toilet) and enhanced audio visual equipment.

C. Cycling and Walking

1. Upgrade existing Public Right of Way network adjacent to Rothwells Farm:

- Support as this will enable walking with pushchairs to the canal and Byrom Woods
- These are important public rights of way, which are widely used and give the area a semi-rural appeal.
- The gypsy community living in this area restrict access to these footpaths. The Council needs to take action.
- Clear, new signage to the footpaths is needed from Lowton Road and the Rothwells Farm development. It is not clear that there are public rights of way across the fields.
- It will encourage trespassers as land is otherwise privately owned. Farming is hard enough without added stress. Impact on livestock and dog fouling causes issues.
- The bike stops are currently not suitable for a wheelchair to get round.
- The route to Byrom Woods via Pennine Lane is unpleasant, intimidating and has dog fouling issue.
- HS2 is planned to be driven through Byrom Woods, so it may be a waste of money.

2. Upgrade existing off-road Public Rights of Way connecting Bridge Street, Barn Lane, Peter Street and Croft Street:

- All routes need upgrading but will be ruined if housing is built on 'Old Jacks' (land at Barn Lane) which should be protected green space retained as allotments and for community use.
- The footpath along the brook from Bridge St to Barn Lane is collapsing
- The footpath from Bridge Street to Peter Street is fine in good weather but not when wet.
- The pavement on Peter Street (from the school to Barn Lane) has become too narrow to use, causing school children to walk in the road which is dangerous.
- Many of these footpaths are very narrow.
- Connections from Bridge Street have already been upgraded by Golborne in Bloom.

3. Enhance off-road connections from Bridge Street to Yew Tree Way:

- This route is usually flooded under the bridge, full of rubble, and difficult to pass unless wearing wellies. This is not ideal when walking to work.
- Lighting under the rail bridge would be beneficial.
- The Council should seek funding from businesses on Yew Tree Way to fund this as they would benefit.
- This route has already been cleared by Golborne in Bloom.

4. Improve footway provision on Slag Lane:

- This needs to be a priority after the recent fatality.
- This needs to be supported by matrix signs warning drivers to slow down and of the dangers.
- Slag Lane is very dangerous for pedestrians as the footways are very narrow with overgrown hedgerows, forcing pedestrians to either cross the road or walk on the pathway edge where traffic, both cars and HGV's regularly pass at high speeds.
- It is often not possible to pass other pedestrians safely without going into the road.
- It is particularly dangerous on the corner near the riding stable.
- A safe road crossing near Byrom Hall is needed
- Reducing the speed limit from 40 to 30 or 20 is needed.
- Slag Lane is very dangerous for cyclists due to narrow width and speeding traffic – suitable cycle paths are needed.
- Provision for cyclists on Slag Lane from Garton Drive to Plank Lane bridge would be very welcome.
- Alternative routes to Byrom Wood should be provided from the back of Woodvale Drive or improving the current access from the Barton Drive estate, so people don't need to walk along Slag Lane.
- Will HS2 not stop links from Slag Lane to Byrom Wood, the canal and Pennington Flash in the near future?
- Footway improvements will cause a lot of disruption and aren't needed. The number of people walking and cycling will reduce when COVID-19 restrictions end.

Other cycling and walking comments received:

Support:

- Improved, safe walking and cycling routes will lessen reliance on cars.
- More walkways and cycle paths is a bonus in light of recent developments.

Walking routes:

- Important to keep walking routes as many have been lost to housing development.
- Improved, safer footpaths beneficial to non-car owners.
- There is a priority conflict between cyclists and pedestrians on multi-use routes.
- Off road walking is healthier than walking alongside busy roads in terms of air quality and noise pollution.

Cycling:

- City-style local bike hubs would be beneficial.
- Cycle routes should be joined up so cyclists are not pushed out onto the road in busy sections or at junctions.

- Cycle routes should connect to adjacent local authorities - for example connecting Kenyon Lane to Culcheth Linear Park.
- Current cycle lanes are hazardous with parked cars and debris, off-road provision must be paved and kept clean to attract all cyclists not just mountain bikes.
- The cycle lane markings on Newton Road are too narrow and end before the busiest section.
- The pavement should be narrowed and a dedicated cycle lane added between Winwick Lane and the A580.
- The off-road path along Atherleigh Way from the A580 to the fire station is poorly maintained, frequently overgrown and flooded. The public rights of way should be upgraded to the east of this so it is made easier to cycle to Hope Carr etc.
- A pelican crossing outside Lidl on Bridge Street to help cyclists and pedestrians cross at busy times.

Other:

- All paths need to connect to enable cycling and walking from Golborne Park across to Yew Tree Way and also Nook Lane estate - the Neighbourhood Forum has drawn up the plans for this
- Many problems would be improved by the proper marking of double yellow lines so cars do not park on the pathway.
- All rights of way should be upgraded and clearly signed, with regular inspection.
- More bins and recycling bins needed as a lot of bags get left on the floor.
- The field between Newton Road and Slag Lane is cordoned off due to housing development, preventing access for walkers, horses or bikes to Byrom Woods or the Flash.

D. Open space and play

- Strong overall support for improvements to both public open space and play provision.

1. Golborne Park / The Bonc:

- The majority of comments were supportive of the open space and play proposals at The Bonc.
- In addition, the following requests were made:
 - Rewilding
 - Footpath improvements
 - Drainage improvements
 - Lighting installed
 - Provision of a skate park
 - Improved signage
 - Benches appropriate for all – not the teen shelters
 - Improved security on site to help address antisocial behaviour

2. Byrom Woods:

- There was a mixed response to Byrom Woods in the comments with some very supportive of footpath improvements and similar numbers stating that the paths are fine and did not need upgrading.
- Additional requests made were to have lighting installed and directional signage
- A number of respondents said it would be a waste of money given HS2 is proposed to run through the wood in the short term.

3. Alternative schemes:

- The creation of new play and public open spaces were suggested at the following locations:
 - On site, within the new residential developments
 - A community park in the centre of Golborne to bring the whole community together
 - Edge Green Lane
 - Heathfields
 - St Lukes, Lowton
 - Haywood Park
 - Newton Road
 - Bradwell Road
 - Crompton Way
 - Stone Cross Lane

- Harvey Lane
 - Cromwell Road
 - Lowton Civic Hall site
 - Lane Head
 - Tanners Lane verges
- Improved play provision:
 - New goal posts and basketball hoops at Winton
 - New skate park at Oaklands and Heywood
 - New play surface and play equipment at Legh Street
 - Improved public open space provision:
 - Football, rugby, and bowling provision, plus dog walking area at Heywood
 - Football pitch and path improvements at Winton
 - Sports pitch, lighting, fence, and gates at Braithwaite
 - Playing fields at Hesketh Meadow
 - Drainage improvements at Legh Street and at Oaklands
 - Biodiversity improvements were requested to offset pollution
 - A few people requested general footpath improvements across all parks
 - A few people requested dedicated dog exercise spaces
 - A number of respondents stated that there is a gap in facilities in the areas for teenagers, with requests for a Youth Zone, skate parks, community centres, and more challenging outdoor play areas.

Other:

- Many respondents stated that ASB, vandalism and drug dealing/taking was a significant problem within the parks, with an ask for CCTV, security measures, gates locked in an evening, etc.
- Quite a few people stated that litter was a problem, requesting additional bins and additional collections
- Car parks were requested at Byrom woods, Golborne Bonc and Braithwaite parks

E. Parking

Support:

- Increased parking provision is welcome, however, there is concern that on-street parking issues will persist.
- Improve traffic flow through Golborne, thereby reducing pollution.
- Must include disabled parking provision, restrictions on-street, CCTV and appropriate lighting.
- Encourage visitors to Golborne Centre.
- Needed to accommodate additional housing in the area.

Object:

- Prioritise walking and cycling instead.
- Increased car parking provision is not required.
- Prioritise public transport improvements instead.
- Minor increases in provision will not have a significant impact.
- Incentivise car use.
- Not value for money.
- Existing greenery must be protected.

Bank Street:

- Bollards or railings required at adjacent junction to prevent vehicles from blocking the carriageway.
- Not sufficient to address demand.
- Unaware where this is located.
- Greenery should not be removed to accommodate increased car parking provision.
- More efficient use of space required.

Railway Road:

- Resurfacing and relining required.
- More efficient use of space needed.
- Mature trees should not be removed to accommodate increased car parking provision.
- Benefit from better signage.
- No capacity issues.
- Multi-storey car park necessary when Golborne Rail Station opens.

Other:

- Consider time limit restrictions to prevent all spaces being occupied before 9am.
- Residential parking scheme required.
- Increased disabled parking provision required.
- Commuters must be charged to park.
- Increased parking provision must include electric vehicle charging points.

- Litter bins needed at all car parks.
- On-street parking issue in Golborne must be priority.
- Increased enforcement of parking contraventions imperative.
- Residents should be prioritised when any additional parking becomes available.
- Consider installing Pelican Crossing on High Street.
- Prioritise play areas instead.
- Open spaces decimated, need to be protected moving forward.
- Condition of the road network is poor, requires regular maintenance.
- Roads are too narrow to accommodate larger cars.
- Too many HGV's.

Alternative parking schemes:

- On-street parking issues along Heath Street, due to takeaways, must be addressed.
- Prioritise on-street parking issues on Derby Road.
- Restrict and enforce on-street parking on High Street.
- Remove grass verge on Elm Tree Road to increase on-street parking provision.
- On-street parking issues along Lower Field Gardens.
- Parking and speeding issues along Silcock Street.
- Oaklands Road car park should be a priority for resurfacing.
- Resurfacing of Rigby Street
- Reinstate parking to serve Byrom Hall Wood.
- Improve School Terrace car park instead.
- Residential parking issue on Sandy Lane.
- Removal of grass verge on Nook Lane would allow for residential parking and remove blight of dog fouling.

Schools:

- Additional parking required for Golborne Primary School.
- On-street parking and congestion at Gilded Hollins School and Lowton High School during peak periods.
- More people should be encouraged to walk and cycle to St Luke's and Lowton West, reducing traffic and congestion.
- Too much on-street parking on Cottessmore near St Thomas Primary, often parked at both sides of the road.
- Lighting required on footway to the rear of St Catherine's school.
- Residents unable to access drives near St Catherine's school because of demand for on-street parking.
- Relocate crossing and entrance to Lowton West Primary School.

Golborne Railway Station:

- Additional parking required to accommodate anticipated increase in demand.
- Parking proposals should be prepared in advance of new rail station.
- This will regenerate the wider area