

Town Plan for Todmorden Consultation

Thanks for your feedback.

We recently asked you about what you like/ dislike about Todmorden. We thought you'd like to hear what people said.

The overall message from you was that you loved living in Todmorden (96% of respondents). You loved its beautiful location, proximity to other towns and cities, interesting history and heritage, friendliness and community spirit.

You also liked the range of community activities on offer as well as the market, park, canal and opportunities for recreational activities.

Overall you thought that Todmorden was an excellent town to live with great potential for further development.

You were concerned, however, with the number of derelict sites, particularly the Abraham Ormerod/ Olympia buildings and the Halifax Road site and the effect this site has on the entrance into Todmorden. You felt that these sites should be improved as a matter of urgency, with a range of views about their best use. Strong views were given regarding the proposal to locate Sainsbury's supermarket on the Halifax Road site, both for and against, although those against were more prevalent. There were mixed views on the Abraham Ormerod site, some welcoming a small supermarket close to the bus station, others feeling strongly that the site should provide a community use.

It was felt that Todmorden would benefit greatly from the regeneration of the town centre with the development of a pedestrianised area, with cafes, interesting shops and attractive seating

areas. The canal was another area with potential for further development. Many of you queried the length of time the scaffolding had been up around the town hall.

Regarding shops, many of you liked the interesting shops in the town, but would like to see more variety, particularly selling clothes, shoes and electrical goods. You thought that Todmorden provided some great locally sourced food but that this could be developed further.

Most of you considered the market to be the hub of the town and it should be supported and promoted further. You requested longer opening hours, more variety of items on sale and more events such as farmers' markets.

You were very concerned about the lack of job opportunities in the town, particularly for young people and requested that the town council look at ways to improve this situation.

You thought that there should be more for young people to do, that too many were hanging around in groups in the town centre and suggested more youth clubs, cheaper activities at the sports centre and more variety of activities on offer, particularly in outdoor recreation.

Teenagers themselves requested more to do and would love to see a cinema or bowling alley in Todmorden. Younger children felt very safe and happy living in Todmorden, but were concerned about the state of playgrounds in the town and requested more variety of equipment on offer. Overall, children attended a wide range of clubs in the town but more were requested including rock climbing, rugby, mountain biking, art and cookery clubs.

You were very concerned about the closure of the Acorn Centre and the loss of the activities that the centre provided. You requested that activities such as maths and english tuition, assistance with computer skills and job hunting be provided elsewhere in the town.

Many of you commented on the excellent work being done by community groups in the town, and thought that Todmorden should continue to promote itself as a green sustainable town as well as a town with a thriving art scene. It was also felt that Todmorden would attract more visitors by holding more events in the town, following the success of events such as Todfest and the agricultural show.

It was felt that the town should be promoted for its excellent outdoor recreational scene, and that more should be made of the beautiful walks, mountain biking routes and horse riding opportunities.

Promotion of the town as a good place to live for commuters was suggested with its easy access to Manchester, Leeds and surrounding towns.

You were generally very pleased with the public transport facilities serving the town, but requested better access to the train station, more carriages at peak travel times and trains running later at night.

Requests were also made for a station at Cornholme and more stops at Walsden station. Regarding the buses you raised concerns about the times and cost of buses, transferable bus tickets, and better linking of buses and trains.

You were very concerned about parking costs in the town and the effect these had on the number of people shopping in the town centre, requesting free parking for the first hour.

Finally you were concerned about environmental issues, particularly the proposed location of wind farms, and Eastwood residents requested the relocation of the Waste Transfer Station, being positioned too close to a residential area.

The town council now need to consider how best to focus on the issues raised. There are some matters which can easily be addressed, while there are others that will be more difficult to undertake. By obtaining your feedback however, we are getting a much clearer view of the way forward.

Thanks again for your support.

Todmorden Town Council