

Community Profile



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Overview

Grange Big Local has been awarded £1million to spend on improving the local area.

What is Big Local?

Big Local is not about government or national organisations determining how the money is spent; it is not about individual groups fixing their own problem without consulting widely with the local community; and it is not about short term thinking - Big Local areas have 10 years or more to plan and deliver the best options for their area. Instead, Big Local puts the local community, and most importantly residents, firmly into the driving seat allowing them to identify local needs, take action and make a difference. In order to be successful and bring change, Big Local areas need to be flexible and realistic with their approach and be underpinned by the continuous involvement of residents supported by a local partnership which brings long-term thinking and the ability to build capacity and share learning.

Why does Grange Big Local need a Community Profile?

A Community Profile is designed to offer a useful overview of a Big Local area and will support the process of creating a long-term vision for the Big Local area. This profile aims to highlight the current strengths and challenges in the Grange Big Local area. It draws on information gained through a community survey conducted by the Grange Big Local steering group; data from national statistics; government documents; and the ideas raised in a Community Profile Workshop.

This profile will begin an important planning and annual review resource and acts as a starting point to plan from and a guide to look back on and assess progress over time. It is to be used as a resource to help Grange Big Local make future decisions.

Summary

This Community Profile document is a key step in the Big Local community pathway and gives an overview of the Grange Big Local area, located in East Finchley. This profile highlights and maps the community strengths and weaknesses, with the aim to help Grange Big Local to begin the planning stage of its work and create a vision. To collect information for this Community Profile, the Grange Big Local Steering Group have consulted with the local community via a survey, gained insights through a community profile workshop and analysed 2011 census data.

The Grange Big Local area is a place with many strengths to draw upon: it has a friendly and active community, is quite leafy and green and generally feels quite safe; it has good transport links and is close to central London and yet manages to maintain a 'village feel'; and it has many local community assets such as Martin Primary School and the Ann Owens centre. People surveyed like the range of green spaces and play facilities, the local shops, and the improvements in local schools.

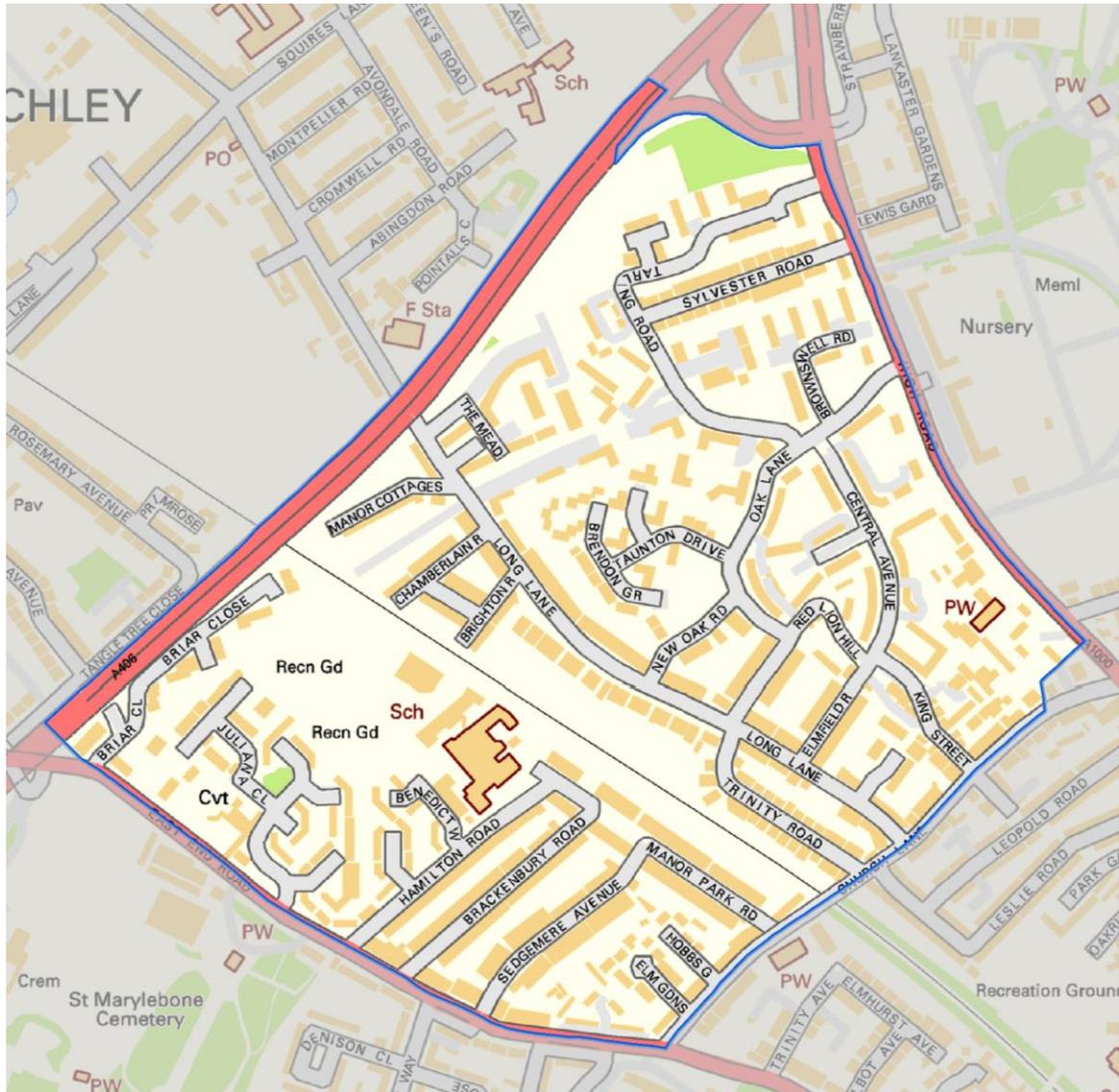
However the area also faces challenges. The Grange Big Local area has a high density of social housing and one of its LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas) falls in the 30% most deprived in the country (Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010). Residents suggest one weakness of the area is a lack of a 'community heart', a place to bring its diverse population together. Respondents in the survey conducted expressed a strong desire to see more community events and activities specifically for young people and children and they highlighted the lack of a centrally-located community space as an obstacle to this desire.

Within the scope of the survey respondents also expressed a desire for the playgrounds and parks in the area to be enhanced, the need for more play equipment, and better environmental maintenance in general. The community workshop also highlighted a desire for the green spaces within the Grange Big Local boundaries to be utilised further.

Our research into the 2011 census data showed a growing population of children coupled with a lack of childcare facilities and services in the wider East Finchley ward. Census data and the community profile workshop highlighted a need for Grange Big Local to reach out to different demographic groups within the Grange area, particularly those living on their own and those who live on Thomas More Estate.

The Grange Big Local Boundaries

The Grange Big Local area is in East Finchley, Barnet. It is a small area located close to the busy North Circular. It is enclosed to the East by the High Road, to the South by Church Lane and South West by East End Road. The Grange Big Local area includes the Grange Estate, along with Font Hills Estate, the Thomas More Estate and all the streets in between (including the Old Village). Long Lane runs almost centrally through the Big Local area, as does the Northern Line between East Finchley and Finchley Central. The map below shows the boundaries of the Big Local area.



Sources of Information for this Profile

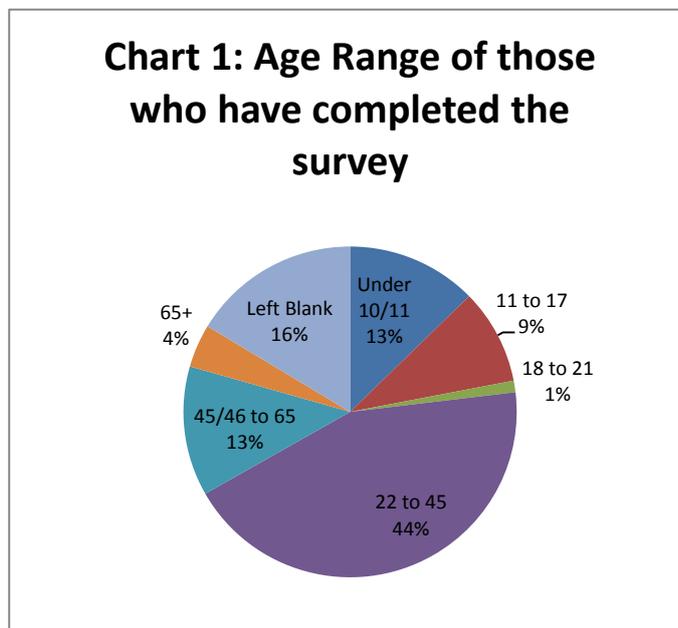
Survey Data

The Grange Big Local has been consulting with people in the Grange Big Local area. We have surveyed 355 people who live, work, go to school or volunteer in the area. People have submitted their surveys either online via the Grange Big Local website, by completing them at Newstead Children’s Centre or by filling them out at a number of community events in 2013.

The survey asked three questions and allowed participants to fill out their answers in a blank box. The questions were:

- 1) What do you like about the area?
- 2) What would you like to see more of?
- 3) What needs changing?

Chart 1 below shows the age range of those who completed the survey.



The ethnicity of those who completed the surveys was requested. However in many cases this information was not provided. A percentage breakdown of survey participants’ answers is included in the appendix.

Community Profile Workshop

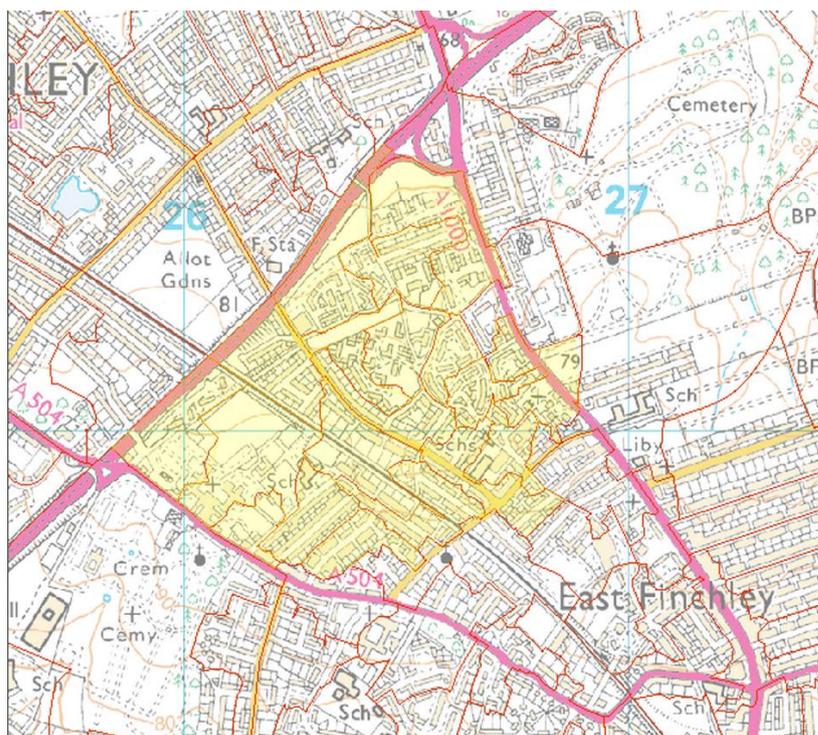
A Community Profile Workshop was held on Saturday 8th March 2014 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church. The session was facilitated by Mobilise Public Ltd, the organisation appointed to support some areas of the steering group’s work. It was attended by 14 people who comprised of members of the Grange Big Local steering group and people from organisations from across the community.

The aim of this workshop was to take the group through the community profile information, identify any gaps, build statements and ideas around a range of themes that represent the Grange Big Local’s view of the area and its strengths and needs, and finally identify potential future actions and next steps.

In this profile, we have pulled out ideas discussed in the workshop and created a vision for Grange Big Local and the Grange area based on this work.

Statistical Data and Information

Statistical data used in this profile was taken from 2011 census data available on the Neighbourhood Statistics website. To focus on the Grange Big Local area, we built up a custom area as close to the Grange Big Local boundaries as possible and extracted data on this area. Due to the way data on smaller areas is collected by Neighbourhood Statistics (Super Output Areas), we were only able to create an approximation for the Grange Big Local area. The map below shows this approximated area:



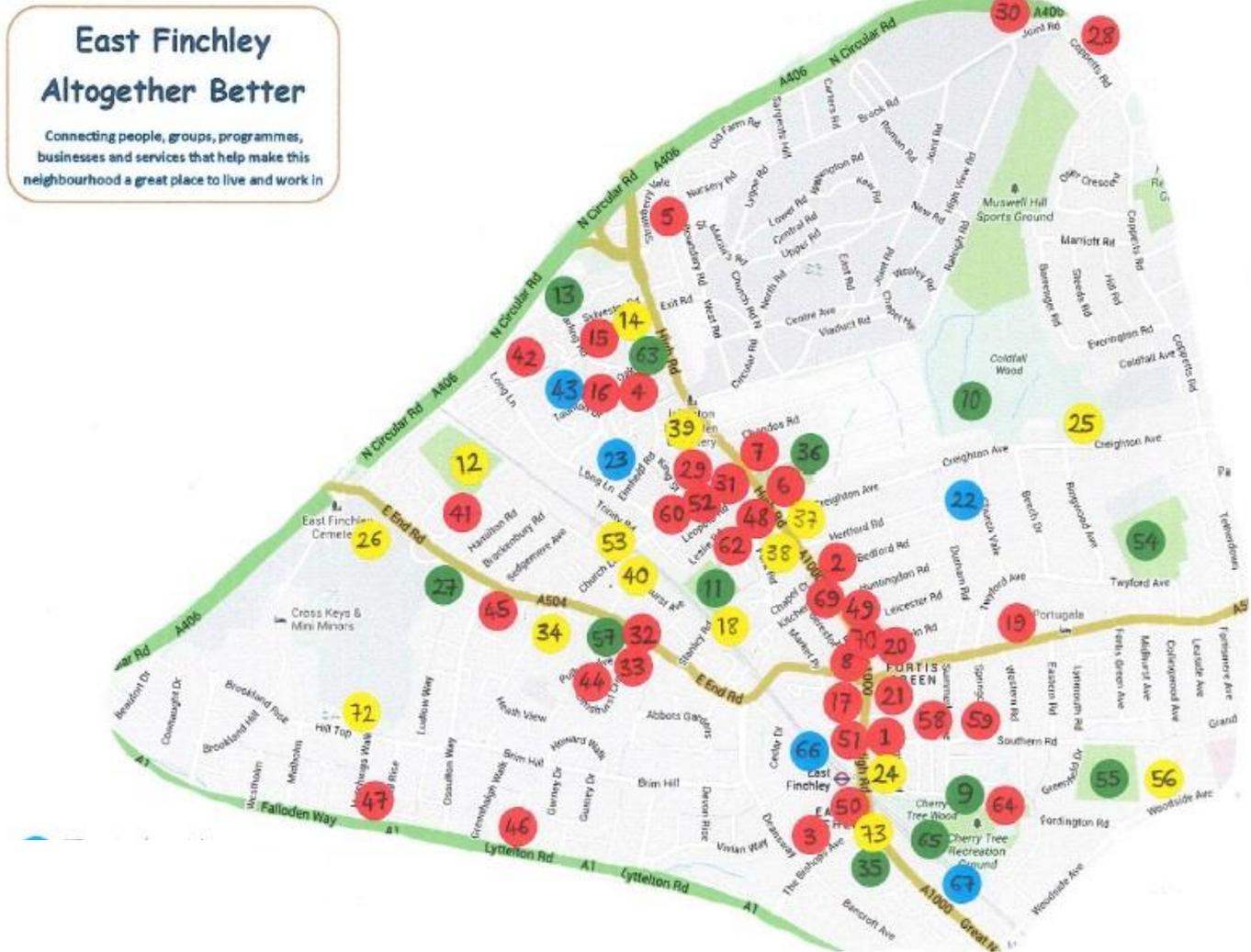
Other documents and sources

We used a number of other sources to collect information for this profile including Ofsted Reports, Barnet Council documents and websites for local organisations such as Bishop Douglass School.

Community Asset Mapping

East Finchley Altogether Better have developed a map of community assets in the Grange Big Local area but also more widely. This map highlights key educational establishments, businesses, health facilities, outdoor spaces, residential areas and more. The map is featured below, and the key is on the following page.

The Community Asset Map shows the strength of the community, and the opportunities and social value within the Grange area.



Key

East Finchley wide/non map specific:

61 The Archer newspaper

66 East Finchley Festival

Businesses/shops/cafes with community aspect:

1 Phoenix Cinema

2 Finchley Youth Theatre

3 Hampstead Garden Institute (Arts Centre)

4 Anne Owens Centre

17 Bobath Centre

19 Manor Gym Club

20 LA Fitness Gym Club

21 Campbell & Syme Coffee Shop

22 Finchley Open Arts Fair led by artists in East Finchley - homes in the area.

23 The Grange Big Local

28 Somali & Bravanese Centre (recently destroyed)

29 Boyden's Café, Church Lane

30 Power League

31 East Finchley Combat Academy

32 Five Bells Pub, East End Road

41 Thomas More Estate

43 Finchley Charities – Willmott Close

45 Local shops

46 Market Place Shops & Post Office

47 Hampstead Garden Suburb Volunteers Library

48 Seasons Cafe

49 East Finchley Town Centre

50 White Lion Pub

51 Bald Faced Stag Pub, High Street

52 Windsor Castle Pub

62 Constitutional Club

64 Cherry Tree Wood cafe

65 Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion

69 Bike and Run shop

70 Chorak Cafe

Educational/Religious establishments:

6 Martin Primary School

12 Bishop Douglass School

14 Newstead Children's Centre

18 Holy Trinity School

24 Monkey Puzzle Nursery

67 Christmas Fair

68 Finchley Memorial Hospital and grounds

71 Casserole Club

5 Green Man Community Centre

7 East Finchley Library

8 Post Office

15 Old Barn Community Centre

16 Oak Lane Children's Health Centre

25 Eden Primary School

26 Christ's College Finchley School

54 Fortismere School

56 Treehouse School

72 Brookland School

73 Archer Academy

53 Holy Trinity Church

34 Nazareth House

37 East Finchley Baptist Church

38 East Finchley Methodist Church

39 St Mary's Catholic Church

40 Shree Aden Mithramandal Community Centre

Residential centres:

42 Sheltered housing

44 Sheltered housing

33 Fairacres Care Home

Health Centres:

58 East Finchley Medical Practice

59 Cherry Tree Surgery

60 Woodlands Medical Practice

Outdoor spaces:

9 Cherry Tree Woods

10 Coldfall Woods

11 Stanley Field (Archer Academy)

13 Vale Farm Allotment

27 New tennis club (coming soon)

35 Allotments

36 Fuel Land Allotments

63 Brownswell Playground

55 Tennis Club

57 Children's Play Area

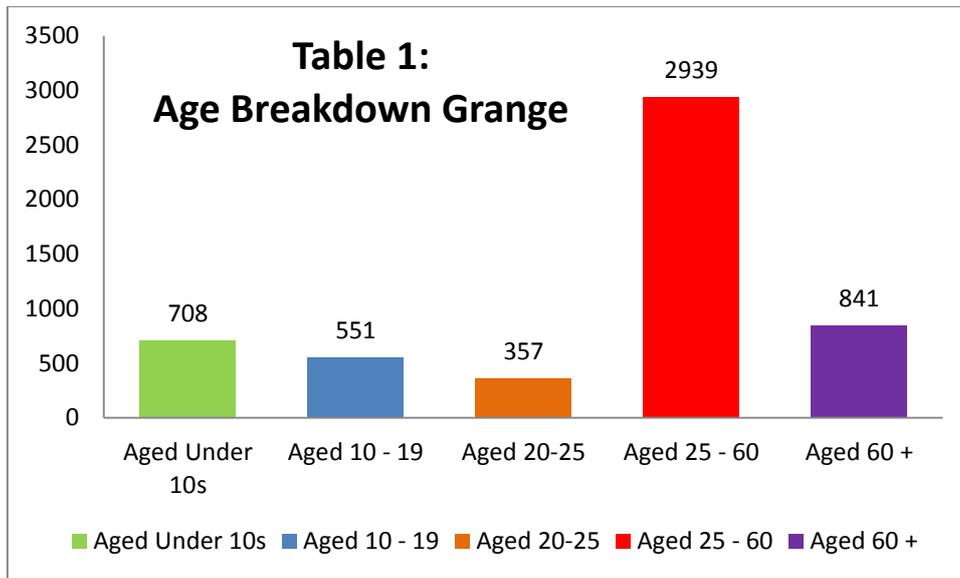
People

Population

The population of the Grange Big Local area is estimated at 5,396, with 4092 residents of working age (16 to 74). There are 2346 households in the Grange Big Local area.

Age Structure

Table 1 below shows the age breakdown in the Grange Big Local area. The table shows a significant proportion of the population (2939) is aged from 25-60. It also shows that large numbers of the population are aged under 10 and over 60.



Young People & Children

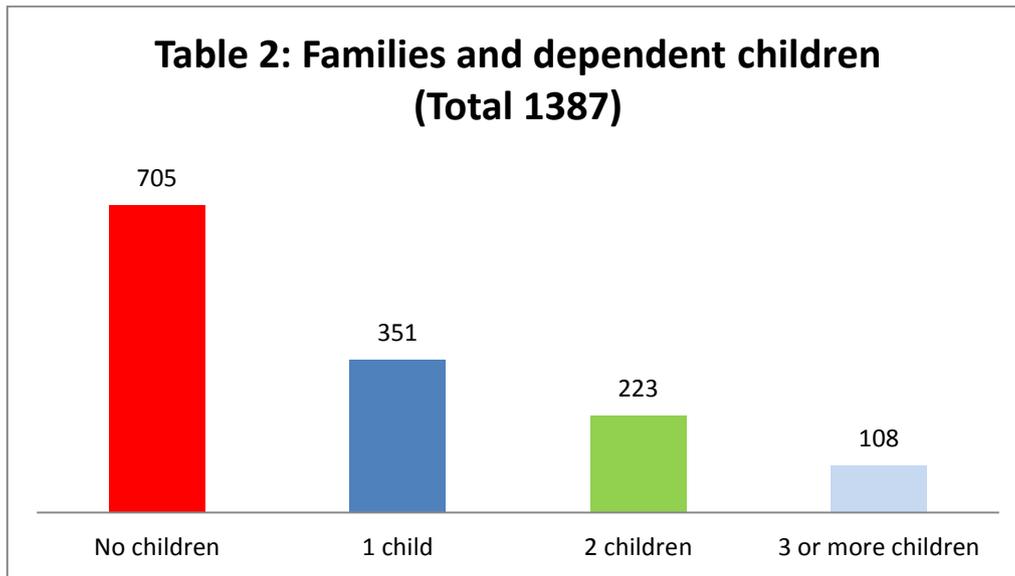
When survey participants were asked what they would like to see more of, the second most common response to this question, with 19% of answers highlighting it, were suggestions for young people and children. Respondents described a lack of youth facilities and a lack of activities for both young people and children. Some typical responses were as follows:

“Youth centres”
“More facilities for young people, teenagers regularly.”
“More activities for kids and youth.”

These survey results show that residents are concerned that activities for young people and children are lacking and this could be an area the Grange Big Local might like to investigate and improve.

Dependent Children

According to 2011 census data, more than half of the families* living in the Grange Big Local area have no dependent children. Table 2 shows the breakdown of families with or without dependent children. Attendees at the community profile workshop highlighted that this is an important consideration for Grange Big Local. Often the assumption made is that the Big Local area and East Finchley as a whole is all about families and children when the data clearly shows that there is also a high number of families without dependent children.

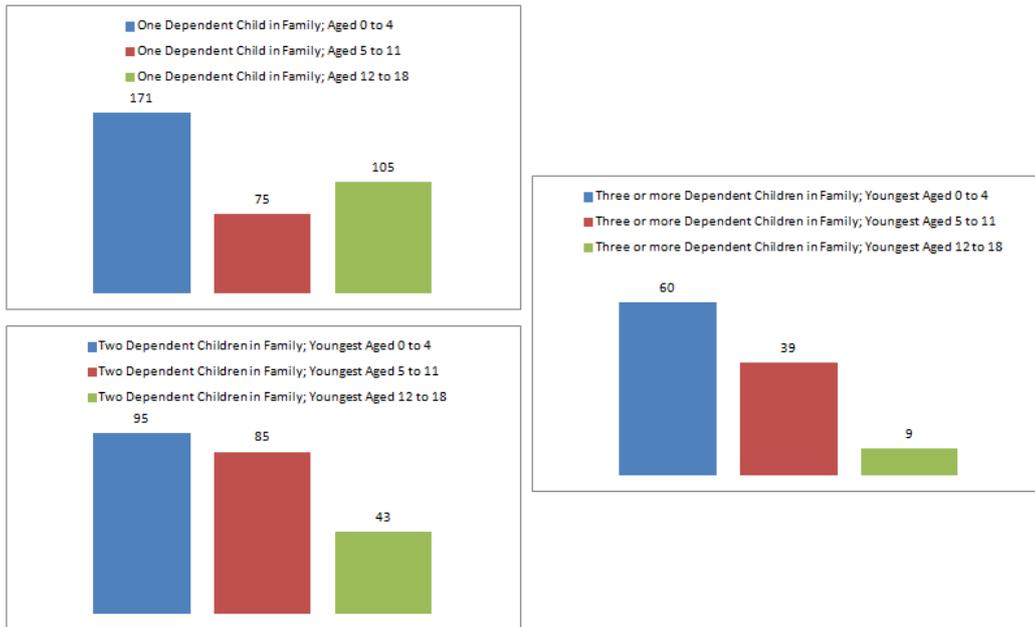


Family Structure

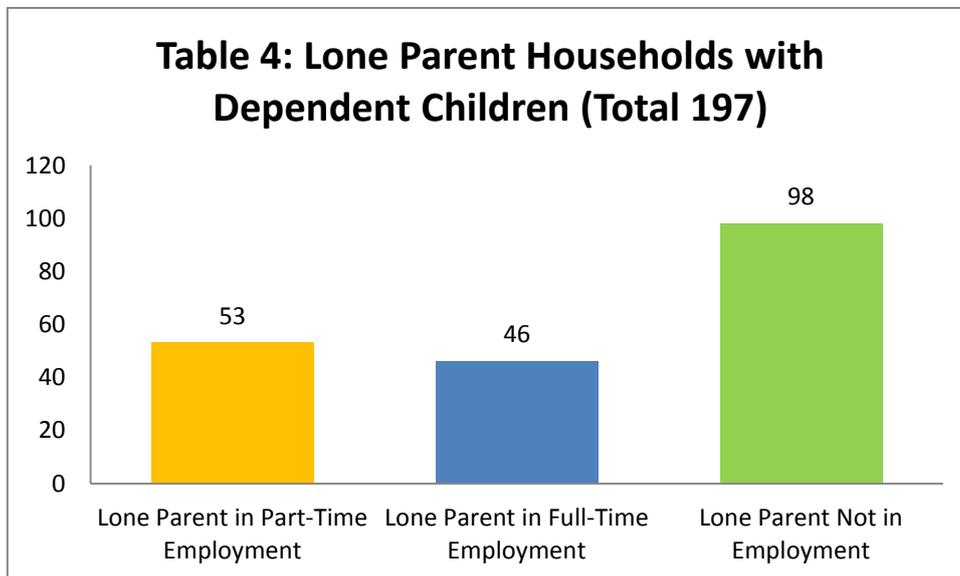
The three tables on the following page (Table 3) show the age range and number of dependent children in families in the Grange Big Local area and show a growth in families with younger children. Furthermore, according to the Barnet Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2011), *'East Finchley which like Colindale has an LSOA in the 10% most deprived nationally has the second lowest rate of relative supply of early years' childcare.* This shows a mismatch between the growth of younger families in the Grange area and access to childcare provisions in the wider East Finchley area. A lack of childcare provision was also brought up by a number of attendees at the community profile workshop.

*National Statistics define the term family as: A family is defined as a group of people who are either a married, civil partnered, or cohabiting couple, with or without child(ren); a single parent with child(ren); a married, civil partnered, or cohabiting couple with grandchild(ren) but no children in the intervening generation present; a single grandparent with grandchild(ren) but no children in the intervening generation present; or two or more individuals who are related in some other way. Children in couple families need not belong to both members of the couple. For single or couple grandparents with grandchildren present, the children of the grandparent(s) may also be present if they are not parents or grandparents of the youngest generation present.

Table 3: Age & Number of Dependent Children



There are a number of lone parent households with dependent children in the Grange Big Local area. Census data shows that in 2011, 197 of the 2346 households were single parent households with dependent children. The recorded employment situations of these lone parent households are shown in Table 4 below, and shows around half are not in employment.

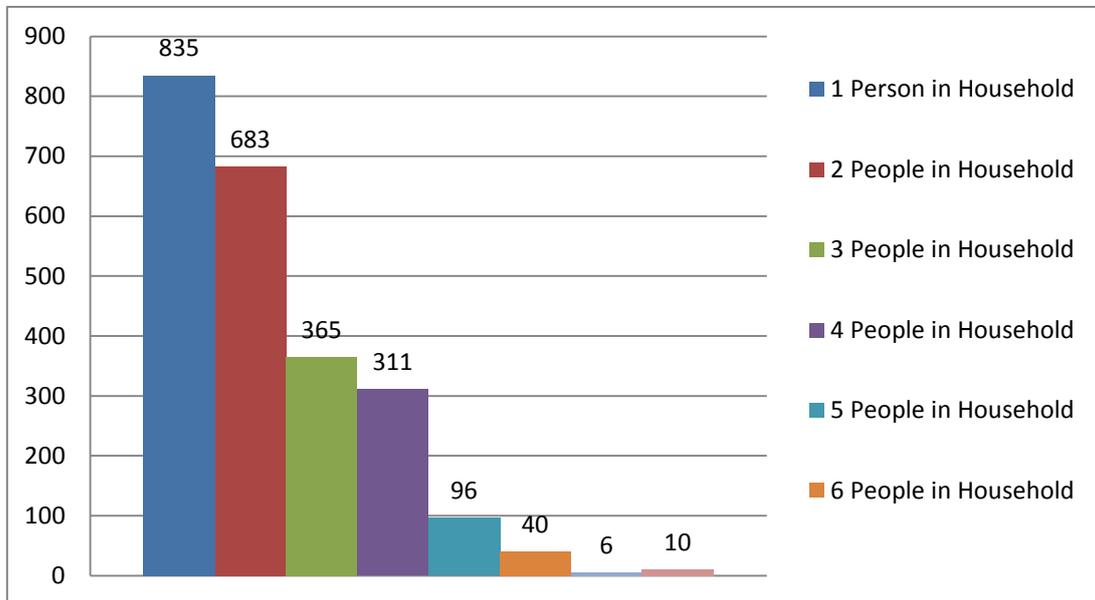


Living Arrangements

The following table shows a significant number of people living in single person households. Attendees to the community profile workshop expressed concern about this and explained that there was a need to better understand this demographic group. There was some concern that those living alone could be vulnerable.

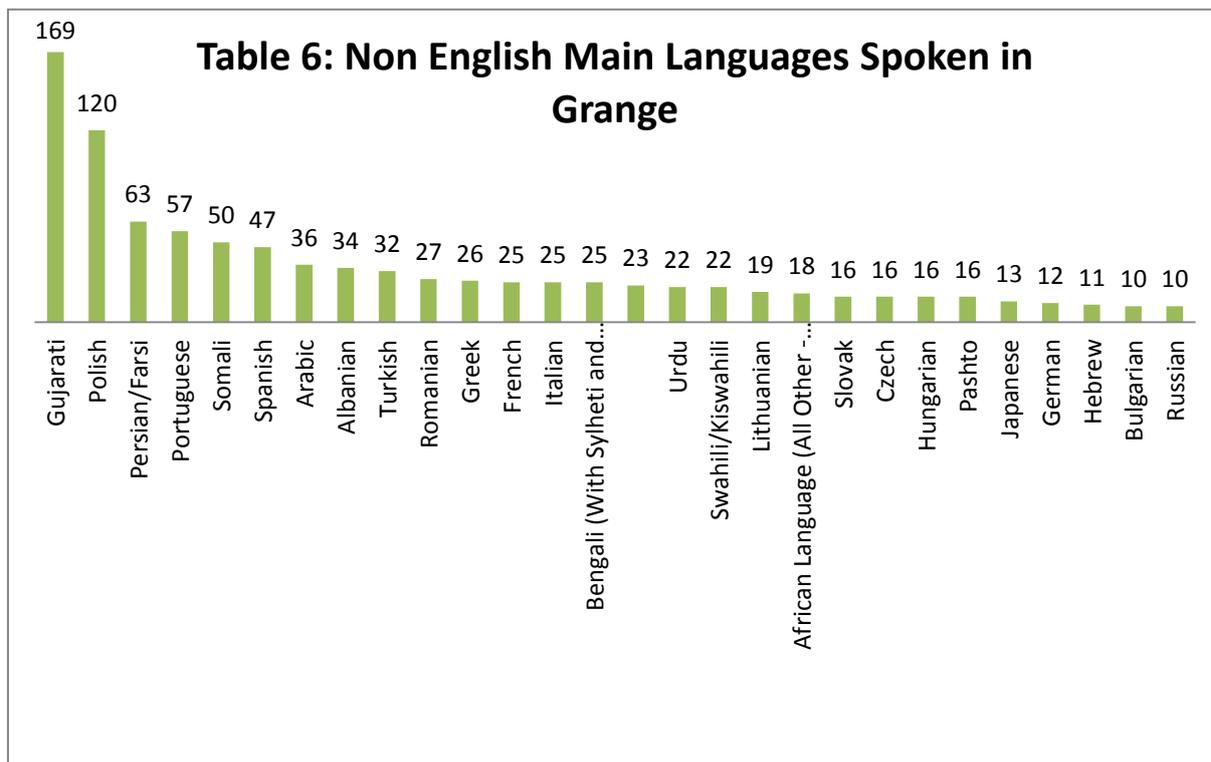
At the community profile workshop, there was discussion about the importance of considering this demographic group in the Grange Big Local plans moving forward. Attendees felt that this group needed to be included in the plans to a further degree.

Table 5: Number of People in Household



Languages

79% of the Grange population speak English as their main language. According to the 2011 census, aside from English, the main languages spoken in the Big Local area are Gujarati at 3%, Polish at 2% and Farsi / Persian at 1% of the population. The other 15% is made up of a multitude of other languages; Table 6 below really shows the variety of languages spoken in the Grange Big Local area. The table on the following page only includes other languages that are spoken by ten or more people in Grange. There are another 38 different main languages spoken by 10 or less people.



Those at the community profile workshop were surprised that the figure for people who did not speak English as their main language (21%) was not higher. They believed that this would have shifted in the past few years, and that the Grange community had become more multicultural.

Community Cohesion

When asked what they liked about the area, the most common answer was about the community feel. The following survey answers demonstrate those responses:

“The village feel”
“Easiness of people talking to each other.”
“There's community spirit.”

The survey results paint a picture of Grange as a strong and active community, where neighbours know each other and care about each other. However, those in the community profile workshop still had concerns about community cohesion. Although some felt it had improved over the past few years (that residents now see school children of different races playing together in the street) there still was some concern that people of different groups do not mix and there are other divisions in the Grange area such as between those who are financially better and others who are worse off.

Another divide in the Grange Big Local area is the railway line that cuts through separating the Thomas More area from the more northern parts of Grange. Attendees at the workshop were concerned about the lack of involvement in Big Local of residents from the Thomas More Estate. Furthermore, attendees expressed a concern that the Grange Estate felt ‘cut off’ from other, more affluent parts of East Finchley. There was a sense that the Grange Big



Local Area needed a 'heart', somewhere neutral, a place for all to mix which could bring people together and that currently this was lacking.

In answer to the survey question 'what would you like to see more of?', events and activities was the third most common response with answers including the following:

"More events like this!"
"More community events"

This demonstrates a desire to bring people together in the Grange Big Local area.

Grange Vision for People

- A place and more community events to bring the diverse population more together
 - To reach out to people without children and those living on their own
- A response to the growing number of families with young children and the lack of childcare
 - A desire for more activities for children and young people
 - The need to reach out further to residents of the Thomas More Estate

Natural & Built Environment

The Grange Big Local area is located in leafy East Finchley. In the survey, when asked what was liked about the area, respondents mentioned the greenness and the natural environment as the second most common answer. Furthermore, the third most common answer was about the general atmosphere of the area and that it felt calm and peaceful. The Grange area is fortunate in that like many areas of London, it has a range of green spaces and trees. Within the Grange Big Local boundaries there is Stanley Road Fields (to become sports facilities for The Archer Academy with community access) and the Vale Farm Allotments along with a number of small green areas and play facilities. Near to the Grange Big Local are Cherry Tree Woods, Coldfall Woods, St Stephens Gardens, Long Lane Pasture and Victoria Park. The area is also surrounded by other types of green spaces including a number of allotment sites and two large cemeteries.

Attendees at the workshop felt that there was an additional valuable network of smaller green spaces but that these were underutilised and the community needed to work together to make them real community resources. Some believed that open spaces were seen by local residents as breeding grounds for anti-social behaviour and crime but they felt this notion needed to be challenged and that open spaces could be used for positive community purposes.

Although the survey results point to a general appreciation of the natural environment in the area, they also suggest concerns with upkeep and improvement. Respondents described overgrown greenery, damaged fences and the need for a more improved upkeep of green areas. Other common suggestions mentioned in the survey responses when asked what needed changing was doing something about the litter in the area, the dog mess and the general untidiness.



These ideas were also discussed in the community profile workshop and attendees explained that they felt some parts of the Grange Big Local area were neglected and had a sense of 'faded glory'. They also spoke about improvements being piecemeal, for example the underpass under the train track which was built with good intentions but is always on the local Councillors' list of things that need attention.

Playground and Parks

Brownsell playground falls just within the Grange Big Local boundaries and there is a children's play area at Market Place which is just outside the area.

In the survey, when participants were asked what they would like to see more of, the most common response was about the parks and playgrounds in the area. Examples of answers are as follows:

“Playgrounds”
“Play areas - playgrounds, football”
“More parks with swings and other fun stuff”
“Nice park that’s close, with decent equipment, redevelopment of park”
“Better playgrounds, at Brownswell Rd - more in them, more for older children 9+”

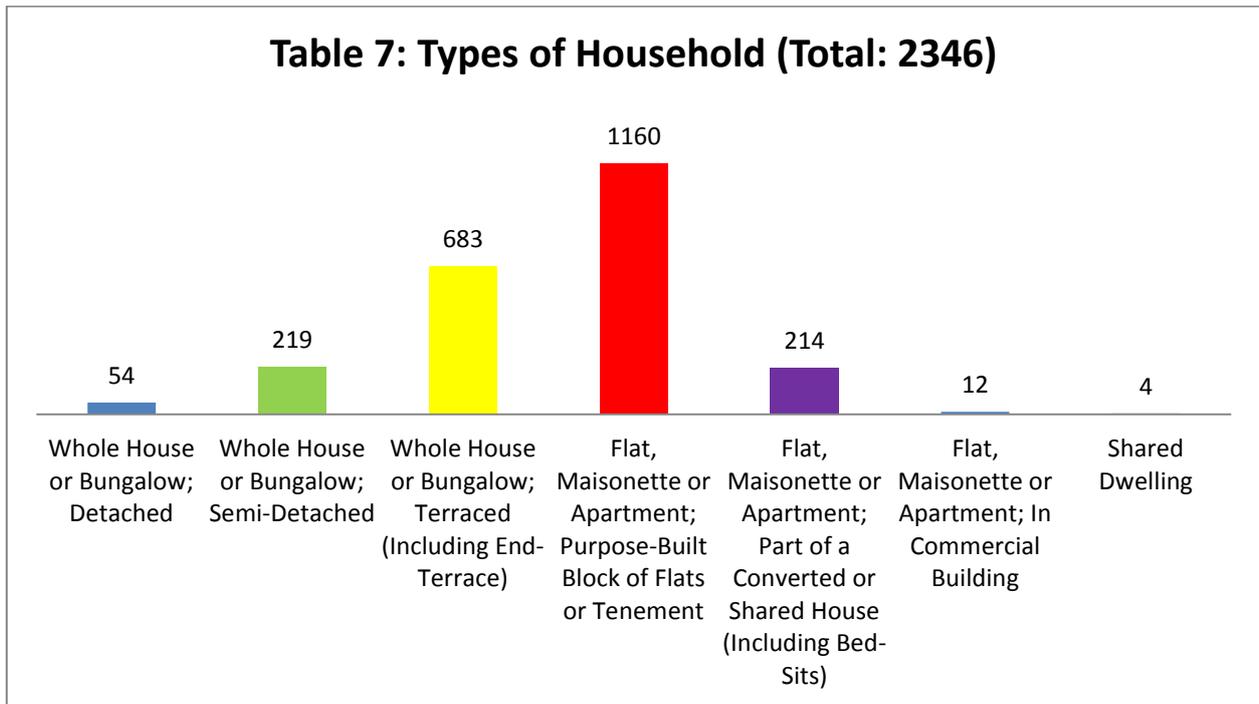
It was clear that a significant number of people were supportive of enhancing the park and playground facilities in the Grange area, and this desire was echoed in the community profile workshop, with attendees describing a need for further equipment in the current playgrounds and parks.

Vision for Natural & Built Environment

- Ensure green spaces do not become prone to anti-social behaviour and utilise them more for positive community purposes
 - Enhance parks and playgrounds – improve the equipment in the ones we’ve got
 - The idea of ‘faded glory’ - an improvement in the upkeep of the local area

Housing

Within the Grange Big Local area there is a mixture of housing, both private and socially owned. Within the actual Grange Estate, there are mainly blocks of flats which were built in the 1950s. In the community profile workshop attendees discussed the contrasts between housing in the Grange Big Local area, from blocks of flats to standard terrace houses. Table 7 below shows this diversity of house types. It shows that over half of the households in the Grange Big Local area are flats, maisonettes or apartments.



Attendees at the community profile workshop explained that they felt the different types of housing were one of the key characteristics of the area, but also that houses reflect differences in wealth and could play a role in dividing people.

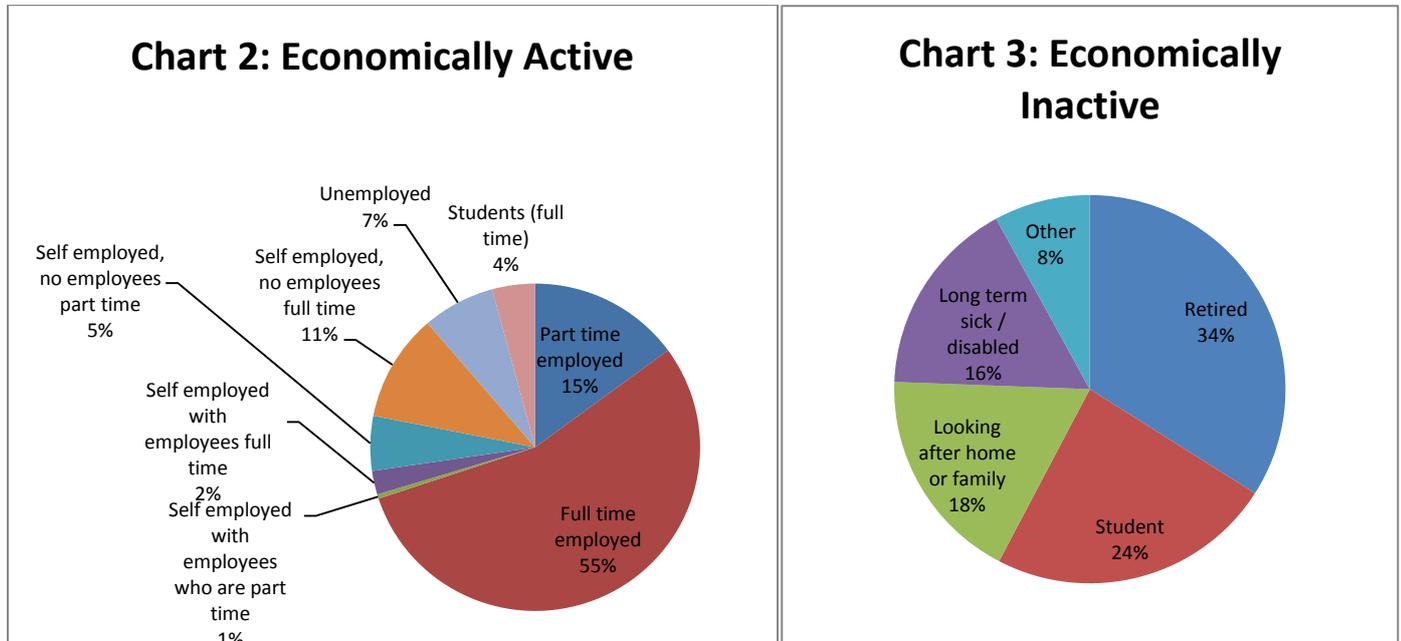
Vision for Housing

- Big Local activity should help people come together across housing types

Jobs, Employment & Local Business

Jobs

When it comes to economic activity, 73% of Grange residents (of working age) are classed as economically active and 27% are classed as economically inactive (long-term sick, retired, looking after family / home or student). The charts below give a breakdown of economic activity and show a 7% unemployment rate, which is in accordance to the national rate (currently 7.2%).



Residents of the Grange area work in a variety of jobs but the biggest proportion (just over a quarter) work in professional occupations. According to the 2011 census data, the second most common area of employment is in the category managers, directors and senior officials. The breakdown is as follows:

- 26% work in professional occupations
- 12% work as managers, directors and senior officials
- 19% work in associate professional and technical occupations
- 10% are in administrative and secretarial occupations
- 8% are in elementary occupations
- 7% are in skilled occupations
- 7% work in caring, leisure and other service occupations
- 7% are in sales and customer service occupations
- 4% are employed in process, plant and machine operative positions

Local Business

There are a significant number of small business owners in the Grange area. There are a number of local cafes and restaurants in the area, and independent shops line parts of East End Road, the High Road, Church Lane and Long Lane. Businesses with a significant community aspect include Seasons, Boyden's Cafe, the Phoenix Cinema, Five Bells Pub, the Archer Newspaper, Campbell and Syme Coffee Shop along with many

others. There were a number of positive comments about the local shops by survey participants in relation to what was liked about the area. These include:

“Church Lane area and shops there”

“The local shops”

“Independent shops”

Those who attended the community profile workshop were surprised by the number of people who were self-employed (see Chart 2 above). They suggested that a business forum for small businesses could be developed, allowing networking, skill sharing and linking up. The idea of a local shop campaign was floated, along with the potential of local businesses to provide apprenticeship or internship opportunities for young people. The group discussed the idea of a business hub in the Grange to support and enhance local business in the area which could provide access to facilities, desk space, technology, enterprise opportunities, training and expertise and play a role in providing apprenticeships and work experience. There was also some concern in the community profile workshop that some of the businesses in the area were struggling and that they perhaps did not meet local needs.

Vision for Businesses

- A forum for local businesses to network, link up and share skills
 - A shop local campaign
- Training, internship and apprenticeship opportunities for young people
- A business hub – to provide facilities and networking for the self-employed

Transport

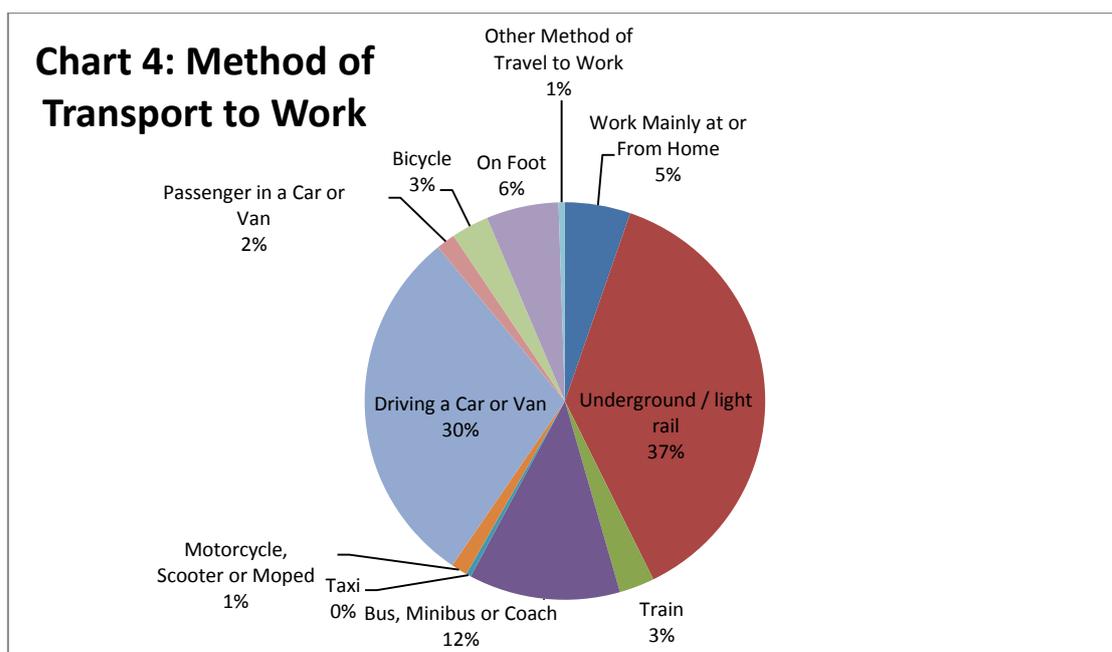
The Grange Big Local area and the wider East Finchley area, like any zone 3 London location, attracts people who work in central and other parts of London. It has good transport links, with East Finchley and Finchley Central Stations in close proximity. These stations link East Finchley directly with central transport nodes such as Euston, Kings Cross St. Pancras, Charing Cross, London Bridge, and Waterloo via the Northern Line. The transport links provide easy access to all of London’s prime business and work locations – such as the West End, the City, Canary Wharf and also through the easy access to mainline stations to much of the rest of the United Kingdom and even international locations through St. Pancras International.

The Grange Big Local area is well connected for buses with routes going to Barnet, North Finchley, Finchley, Hampstead, Holloway, Highgate and Edmonton. In the nearby area there are bus stops for the 102, 143, 234, 263, 603, H3 and the N20 routes. Bus stops are located along East End Road and the High Road – both of these very local to different parts of the Grange area -- and at East Finchley Station.

In addition to tube, train and bus access, the Grange area is located next to the North Circular Road with easy access to it at the junction with the High Road. From here in normal traffic conditions you can reach the M1 in less than 10 minutes, the M11 in about 20 minutes, and Heathrow Airport in about 45 minutes.

In the survey, when participants were asked what needed changing, 6% of answers (9th most common answer for this question) spoke about traffic and transport related subjects. Answers highlighted issues concerning speeding, the need for more parking in the Grange area and a few complaints were made about the parking tickets issued on the High Road.

Chart 4 below shows a breakdown of how people get to work in the Grange Big Local area. It shows a significant percentage (37%) taking the underground / light rail and a significant percentage (30%) using a car or van to get to work.



Facilities & Services

Education

Families living within the Grange Big Local boundaries have a choice of primary and secondary schools.

Bishop Douglass is a Catholic secondary school located within the Grange Big Local boundaries which, having previously struggled, received a 'Good' Ofsted rating in 2013. The school is currently undersubscribed. In April 2014 the school appointed a new acting head teacher after the previous head left.



Martin Primary School was formed in 2007 after the amalgamation of Martin Junior School and Martin Infant School. It is just outside the Grange Big Local Boundaries on the High Road but perhaps is the main primary school for the Grange area (and serves Grange Big Local as its Local Trusted Organisation). The school has been recently rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted after a huge push to improve it over the last 5 years by a new head teacher and its governors. Martin Primary has expanded to become 3-form entry to meet the demand for places from local families.

Other primary schools within walking distance for families who live in the Grange Big Local area include Holy Trinity, Manorside, Tudor, Brooklands, Akiva (Jewish primary), Eden (Jewish primary in Haringey), Our Lady of Lourdes (Catholic primary) and St Theresa's (Catholic primary). However it is important to note that catchment areas for these schools (including Martin School) vary from year to year. The significant increase in demand for primary school places in the local area has led to the recent temporary and permanent expansion of several of these schools.

In addition to Bishop Douglass, secondary schools within walking distance are Christ's College (boys) and The Archer Academy which opened in September 2013 in the old Institute building by East Finchley tube station. The Archer Academy was opened under the free school initiative after a huge campaign by parents and governors in the area to find a solution to the lack of secondary school options locally for those wanting a non-selective, non-religious and mixed (boys and girls) education for their children. The Archer will be a split-site urban campus school with work starting in September 2014 to build a lower school on the Stanley Field site with sports facilities which will be available for use to the local community outside of school hours.

Other secondary school options available to those who live in the area are the schools a bus ride away in Finchley (The Compton and Friern Barnet) although catchments vary from year to year; selective schools (e.g. Henrietta Barnett, QE Boys and Latymer, located in Enfield) or schools with some selective or banded intake (e.g. Mill Hill and Hendon); and faith options such as The Wren (Cof E with 50% community places), St Michaels (girls' Catholic grammar), Finchley Catholic High (boys) or JCOSS (Jewish secondary located in East Barnet). For those who want a girls' comprehensive school there is Cophall Girls which now has a reciprocal arrangement with Christ's College. Just over the border in Haringey is Fortismere, a popular comprehensive school. Several of the comprehensive schools have recently expanded to meet the demand for places. In addition to the available school 6th forms there is also Woodside College located in Finchley. For more information on all schools contact Barnet Admissions.

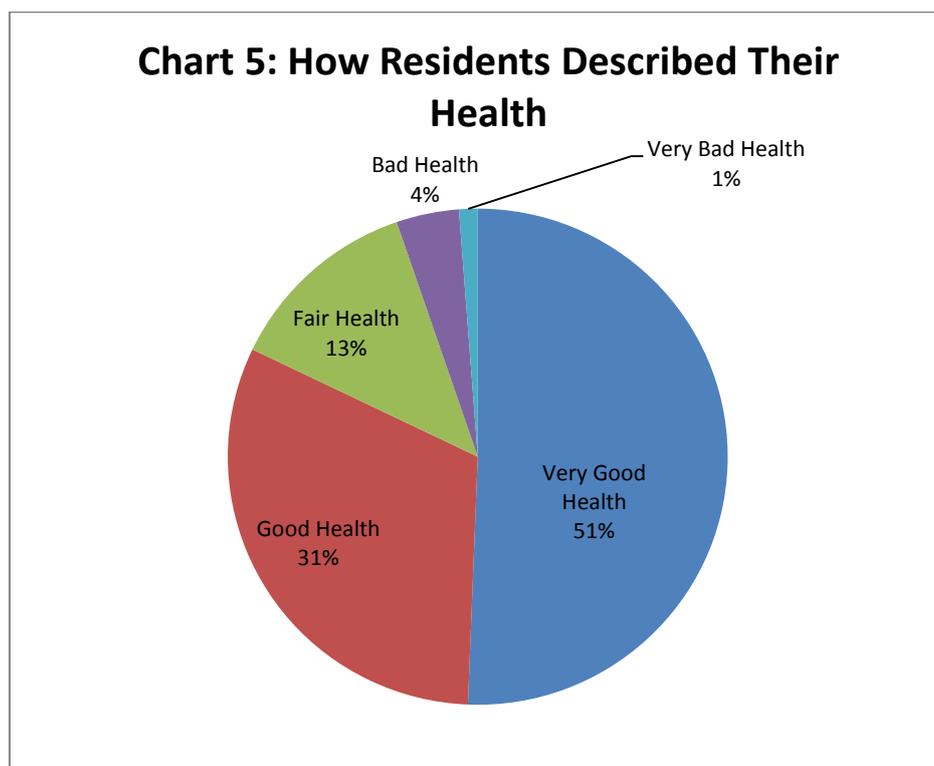
Newstead Children’s Centre is located in the Grange Big Local area. It offers 32 childcare places for children aged two to five years, along with offering a range of courses for parents and other services and support / advice groups. Additionally there are other private nurseries in the area including the Monkey Puzzle Nursery, Scribbles and new business Tiddly Tots, which has opened in the old Grange community centre.

Health Facilities

Within the Grange Big Local boundaries is the Woodlands Medical Centre. Outside the boundaries but nearby is the East Finchley Medical practice and small Cherry Tree Surgery. There is also the Finchley NHS walk in centre at the Finchley memorial Hospital which is located to the north of the North Circular Road and about a 20 minute walk away from the Grange area.

During the Community Profile Workshop there was some discussion about a lack of GPs in the area and a need for ‘pop up’ health check facilities. However, this subject was only mentioned by one person in the survey.

Chart 5 below uses the 2011 census data to show how residents within the Grange Big Local boundaries personally described their health. This is a subjective measure but more than 82% of residents described their health as either ‘very good’ or ‘good’.



Care Organisations

Nazareth House on East End Road provides a local care provision for older people and people who are suffering from mental illness. They are run by Nazareth Care Charitable Trust, and although they are a Catholic organisation they welcome people of all lifestyles and religions. There is also the Fairacres Care Home, which is not far from Nazareth House on East End Road and is a retirement home and sheltered housing. Also on East End Road is the Bobath Centre for children with cerebral palsy.

Religious Facilities

There are a number of religious facilities in the Grange Big Local area and nearby. Within the boundaries is St. Mary's Church and Holy Trinity Church along with the Hindu Community Centre Shree Aden Mithramandal on Church Lane. Just outside of the boundaries is East Finchley Methodist Church and East Finchley Baptist Church. There are a number of synagogues not far from the area and the Finchley Mosque.

The Food Bank

A Food Bank has opened in the Grange Big Local boundary area. This food bank operates every Saturday at St. Mary's Church. It opened up in February 2014, and is supported and run by a number of Churches in the local area. They feed approximately 15 adults and 5 children a week but the organisers report that numbers are growing.

The Ann Owens Centre

A number of services are provided by the Ann Owens Centre which includes a day care service for older people provided by Age UK Barnet, exercise classes for older people, a Muslim Women's Lunch Club, a toenail cutting service, a music appreciation group and computer classes for older people. The centre is also hired out to a Pilates class, the Monday Club (youth group for 9 – 15 year olds) and other groups.

The Ann Owens Day Care Centre for older people is under significant threat. The centre is owned by Finchley Charities who own a lot of land in the area, mainly sheltered housing. A number of services are provided through the Ann Owens Centre. These are largely for older people and include meet ups, computer lessons, arts and crafts, exercise classes and bingo. A Casserole Club operates in the local area allowing neighbours to share cooked food with each other, strengthening community relations. However changes in Age UK Barnet's core contract with Barnet Council has meant running it as a day centre will now be challenging. The contract for the centre will continue for at least one more year but past this the future of the Ann Owens Day Centre seems uncertain. Attendees to the community profile workshop were concerned about Ann Owens and felt it was an important community asset.

General Community Facilities

Local community facilities include East Finchley Library which is on the High Road near Martin School and the Post Office.

In the community profile workshop attendees spoke about the idea that the Grange Big Local area is lacking a central facility, a place to bring people together - 'a heart' - although the survey results do not point to a considerable concern about the use of community facilities in the Grange area. Only 4% of responses for 'what do you want to see more of' (6th most common answer for this question) and 5% of responses when asked 'what needs changing' (10th most common answer for this question) spoke about the need for / use of a community facility. However, as discussed previously in this profile, the survey responses highlighted a desire for more youth activities, along with general community events and activities, and for these activities and events to take place it is necessary to have access to a community venue.

The Grange has suffered a number of community losses over the past few years. Relations have been strained around the use of the Old Barn Community Centre, with locals unable to utilise the facility. Residents are trying to regain control with the support of the Charity Commission, Community Barnet,

Barnet Council, local Councillors and MP Mike Freer. The Somali and Bravanese Centre was burnt down in 2013 which although was located a half a mile outside the Grange Big Local area served many local residents. The Institute Adult Learning centre relocated from the building near the tube station (now the home of The Archer Academy) to buildings within Bishop Douglass School.

Sports Facilities

Residents within the Grange Big Local area have close access to the North Finchley lido which contains swimming and gym facilities. There are also a range of private facilities near the local area (e.g. LA Fitness on the East End Road) and sports clubs such as Finchley Cricket Club, also on the East End Road. The Combat Academy provides combat classes to both juniors and adults. However, attendees at the community profile workshop felt that the Grange Big Local area lacked exercise facilities, and 8% of answers for the question 'what would you like to see more of' in the survey, expressed a desire for more sports activities.

Youth Services

Youth Services in the area include the Monday Club, Homework Clubs in local schools and the East Finchley Youth Theatre. These bring a lot of good for young people in the area. However, recent reports (BBC) have shown that there has been a massive reduction in the provision of statutory youth services across England and LB Barnet is no different. Figures suggest that money spent on youth services across England has fallen by 36% in the past 2 years and has hit services hard. Couple this with worries about provisions for young people and children in the Grange area raised in the survey responses (highlighted in Young People & Children on page 9), youth services could be perceived as an area of particular concern for Grange Big Local and the Grange area.

Vision for Community Facilities

- A central location, to bring people together of all different communities - a community 'heart'
 - More activities and opportunities for young people
 - Concern over the loss of community facilities and a desire to maintain or gain back
 - The importance of Ann Owens Centre

Government

The Grange Big Local area is located in the East Finchley Ward in the London Borough of Barnet and is represented by three local councillors: Cllr Arjun Mitra, Cllr Alison Moore and Cllr Alon Or-Bach (all Labour). Barnet is the Local Authority for the area and this is currently led by the Conservatives. When it came to discussing local government in the area, attendees at the community profile workshop felt they had sometimes been let down by the council and its housing ALMO, Barnet Homes.

Organisations, Partnerships & Networks

Key organisations, partnerships and networks were discussed in the community profile workshop. The key organisations that were highlighted are as follows:

- **All Together Better East Finchley**

East Finchley All Together Better is an initiative designed to connect local people and groups to other programmes, businesses and services in the Grange and wider East Finchley area. It has been organised by a wide range of community groups, such as CommUnity Barnet, Finchley Charities, Barnet Council, Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group and Barnet Older People's Assembly.

- **Finchley Charities**

Finchley Charities provide sheltered housing in the local area.

- **Age UK Barnet**

Age UK Barnet operates in the local area providing services for older people through the Ann Owens Centre.

- **Barnet Homes**

Barnet Homes is the primary social housing provider in the Grange area and is part of the Barnet Group which is owned by Barnet Council and manages 15,000 council homes. It also works to prevent homelessness and allocates homes to social housing applicants.

- **East Finchley Village Residents Association**

East Finchley Village Residents Association is an action group in East Finchley made up of residents and with the aim of tackling issues that affect daily lives, bringing the community closer together.

- **Air Cadets**

There is an Air Cadets East Finchley Squadron.

- **Youth Group – Strawberry Vale**

There is a Youth Group that operates at the Green Man Community Centre in Strawberry Vale.

Banking

The nearest banks to the Grange Big Local area are NatWest, which is at 85 High Road and Abbey Bank at 87 High Road. Attendees to the community profile workshop explained that there are no cash points near the Grange estate.

Safety

Safety within the Grange area appears to be an issue down to perception. When survey participants were asked about what they liked about the area, 7% explained that low crime and a feeling of security was a key thing they liked about the area. Some answers for this question are as follows:

“Generally feel safe”

“It is safe environment”

“People knowing each other”

“Low crime”

“Less antisocial behaviour”

Rather conversely, however, when asked what needs changing, the third most common response (11%) was a crime, safety and security themed suggestion. Answers were as follows:

“Making things less dangerous”

“More security”

“More policemen on the beat!”

Attendees at the community profile workshop felt that the area generally felt safe but agreed that each individual’s perception or disposition was different. Furthermore, they also discussed the reputation of the Grange Estate in the wider local area: some felt that it was perceived negatively, whereas others did not feel this was the case.

Appendix 1: Community Profile Write Up

Attendees

Roger Chapman
Helen Drake
Sandy Barker
Elizabeth James
Julia Hines
Cllr Alison Moore
Jon Woolfson
Yair Shifman

Aisha Kane Lawrence
Paul Bragman
Emily Burnham
Paula Dozier
Lara Hayes
Micah Gold
Katy Dawe
Liz Hamson-Wright

1) Photograph Exercise

Pick 2 photos from the selection that for you best represent the Big Local area. Attendees were asked to explain why they chose the 2 photos and how these photos typify Grange Big Local.

Roger Chapman:

- Environmental and education based pictures
- Oak Lane – because of its local history

Helen Drake:

- Newstead – believes the work the Newstead does could be expanded, a flagship in East Finchley
- Block of flats – Showed ‘flat living’

Sandy Barker:

- Railway line – History of the rail line, good connections but also dividing people (different sides of the line) and also pollution
- Long Lane – showed local shops, struggling along, but they are still there

Elizabeth James:

- Flats and houses – key characteristics of the area, divides people, something needs to be done about the division

Julia Hines:

- Bishop Douglass – past issues of racism, seem to have been reduced, it used to be a failing school, it is now doing well. It now engages more with the community.
- Ann Owens – Part of the community, older people not being heard.

Jon Woolfson:

- Ann Owens – important part of community

Cllr Alison Moore:

- Under pass – Underground passage, disconnect, built as a positive, became a negative, now full of rubbish.
- Old Barn – Vibrant community centre, is not that anymore, there is lots of social capital that could be utilised, could be a hub for the community.

Yair Shifman:

- Wall – wall on estate divides people, maps only on estates, stigmatise
- Building works – seems to always have building works

Aisha Kane Lawrence:

- Housing block of flats – dilapidated, old, pockets of land neglected, old community centre
- Nature reserve – full of rubbish

Paul Bragman:

- No pictures - Outsider looking in, discussed the Old Barn, linked to community projects, contrasting neighbourhoods, green space not utilised.

Emily Burnham:

- Martins school – her kids at Martin's school, community, somewhere for the kids to play
- Housing – Red Lion Hill, flats, trees, beautiful, nature.
- Horace's Playground – turned wasteland into playground, but it lacks equipment

Paula Dozier:

- Building works – by her house, dangerous and have been there for years
- 'Telly Tubby Park' – good memories, positive, sledging, conker picking. But also angst, there was a playground in the middle, cordoned off. No swings.

Group discusses:

- Discusses the divide between Grange Estate and houses
- The food garden and the community allotments not tapped into
- The quietness of the area

2) Reflections on Photograph Exercise

- **Contrasts** – divisions between housing, wealth, people
- **Opportunities** – Lots of opportunities, social value, social capital, how do we build it up, how do we empower people?
- **Neglect** – The idea of 'Faded Glory' Ann Owens, the Medical Centre
- **Piecemeal** – underpass, good intentions but didn't get anywhere
- **Central meeting place** – the need for a 'Heart' in the community, a common and neutral place for all to mix, how do we bring people together?
- **Diversity** – Mix of housing, mix of people
- **Deprivation** – poverty in area
- **Perception** – A negative perception of the Grange amongst certain groups, the need for positive PR
- **Divisions** – Sometimes feels cut off, divisional, Christmas Lights different end of East Finchley, cut off from other parts of East Finchley, people can feel disconnected
- **Future Planning** – The need to keep some Big Local money aside for future projects

3) Micah Gold, Mobilise presents the data for Community Profile

- Census data on languages, population, economic activity, families with or without dependent children, growth in families with younger children and people per household

- Survey results: What people liked about the area, what they want to see more of and what needs changing.
- Community asset map of the area
- Scaling down of results, what the picture looks like in Barnet, East Finchley and then Grange

Discussion about data:

- Languages a surprise, thought number would be higher, compare against school data
- Interesting - growth in young children, yet lowest rate of childcare
- One person households – attendees generally surprised at how high rates were
- Attendees wanted to find out more about the single person households – do they have resources? Do they want to get involved? Single older people?
- This challenges the assumptions that the Grange is all about children and young people
- Surprised at how many people were self-employed on the Grange, how to tap into the one person bands?
- Issues with infrastructure discussed
- Low levels of involvement from Thomas More

4) Thematic Community Profile Task

Jobs, businesses & shops

Jobs:

- Mix of commuting workers, self-employed and part time workers
- No obvious employment opportunities –e.g. job notice board
- Need to tap into local business owners

Positive

- Lots of small business owners
- Potential networking, skill-sharing, mentoring / interning, a local shop campaign

Negative

- Time poor, how do we get them to engage?
- Do the businesses meet local needs?
- Business rates
- No branding – disparate not complementing
- Need for affordable childcare

Businesses:

- Business Forum – shops & self employed
- Business Hub – Tech facilities, desk space, accounts, enterprise, expertise & entrepreneur
- Boxing academy

Shops:

- Market – opportunities
- Affordable, small artisan shops
- What could encourage people to shop in the GBL?

- New shops – Moroccan Restaurant, Off License?

Services, health, organisations & local government

Services & organisations

- Buildings and services are being lost through cuts and there has been a change of use
- There is a lack of awareness of some services and a need for a community hub

Services – What we have

- Monday Club, Homework Clubs in School, the Ann Owens Centre, allotments, Finchley Charities, FYT – Youth Employment, Casserole Club and Newstead

Organisations:

- Age UK Barnet
- Finchley Charities
- Barnet Homes
- East Village Residents Association
- Finchley Food Bank
- Altogether Better in East Finchley
- Air Cadets
- The Institute
- Youth Group – Strawberry Vale

Local Government

- Supportive and active local councillors
- Broken promises around Council and Barnet Homes

Health:

- Health / GP in area – Pop up health screening?
- Child health clinic
- Issue around lack of GPs
- Exercise opportunities lacking for all areas of community

What we've lost:

- East Finchley Advice Service
- Old Barn
- Institute

What's under threat?

- Allotments
- Newstead
- Ann Owens / Age UK Barnet

Natural & Built Environment, Housing, Parks & Transport

Natural Environment:

- Valuable network of green spaces which are underutilised
- Community work together to conquer fear that they are unsafe and make them real community resources, come together and take responsibility for their sustainable use by and for the whole community

- Could be used to provide play areas
- Spaces seen as problematic, anti-social behaviour, in fact could be used to promote community cohesion
- Spaces across estate and non-estate areas – working with council / housing associations to develop practical projects
- Need to map green space
- Need to overlook the idea that these areas are unsafe

Parks:

- Parks in East Finchley are outside the area, can we promote walking routes to increase their use? Getting people walking in their area.
- Utilise small communal areas – playgrounds, football pitch, basketball and skate park
- Benches? Places to sit?

Transport:

- Transport links – generally good
- East Finchley & Finchley Central
- Bus service – 263? Another route?

Housing:

- Mixed housing in the area
- Privately owned
- Barnet Homes and housing association
- Energy efficient – somewhat?
- Fuel poverty – opportunity for project or social enterprise around improving insulation / tackling fuel poverty

People, Cohesion, Safety and Facilities

Facilities

- Shocking lack of facilities
- Resources – working with what we have, the old Barn, the Library
- Lack a community centre
- Potential for facilities – very little open for everyone

People:

- People living on their own are generally vulnerable, we need to understand more about individual situations

Cohesion:

- On the whole, different groups do not mix, need for neutral space

Safety:

- On balance, feel safe
- Safe borough – need to look at the root causes, not things like CCTV cameras, a plaster on the wound

5) Action Plan – Community Profile

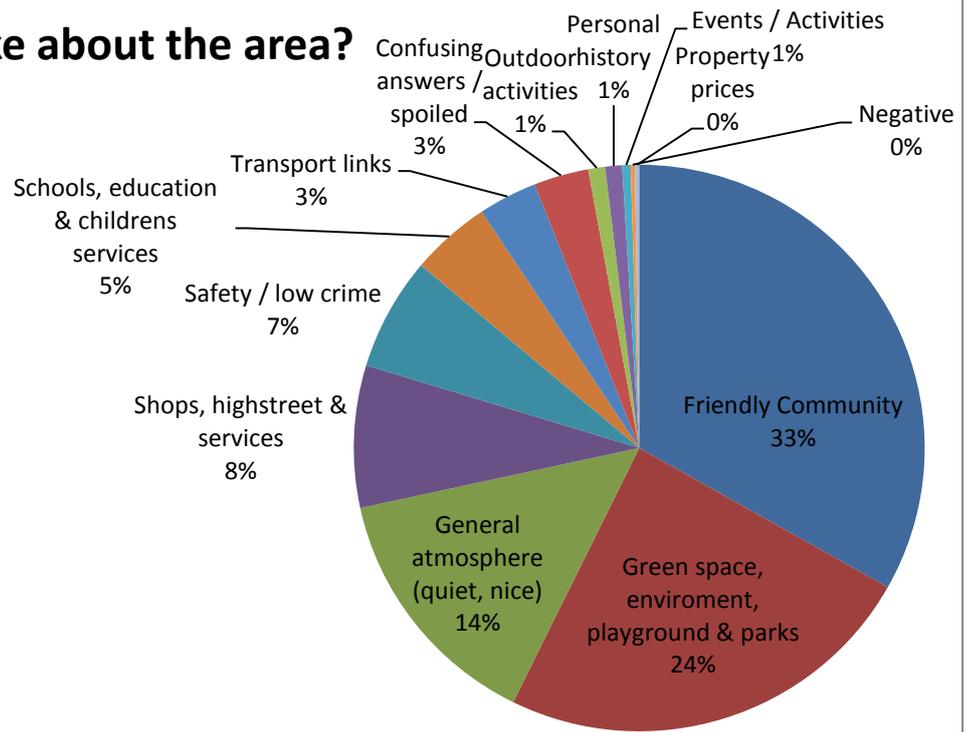
- **Mobilise** - to look into numbers of single parents, carers & single occupants

6) Action Plan - General

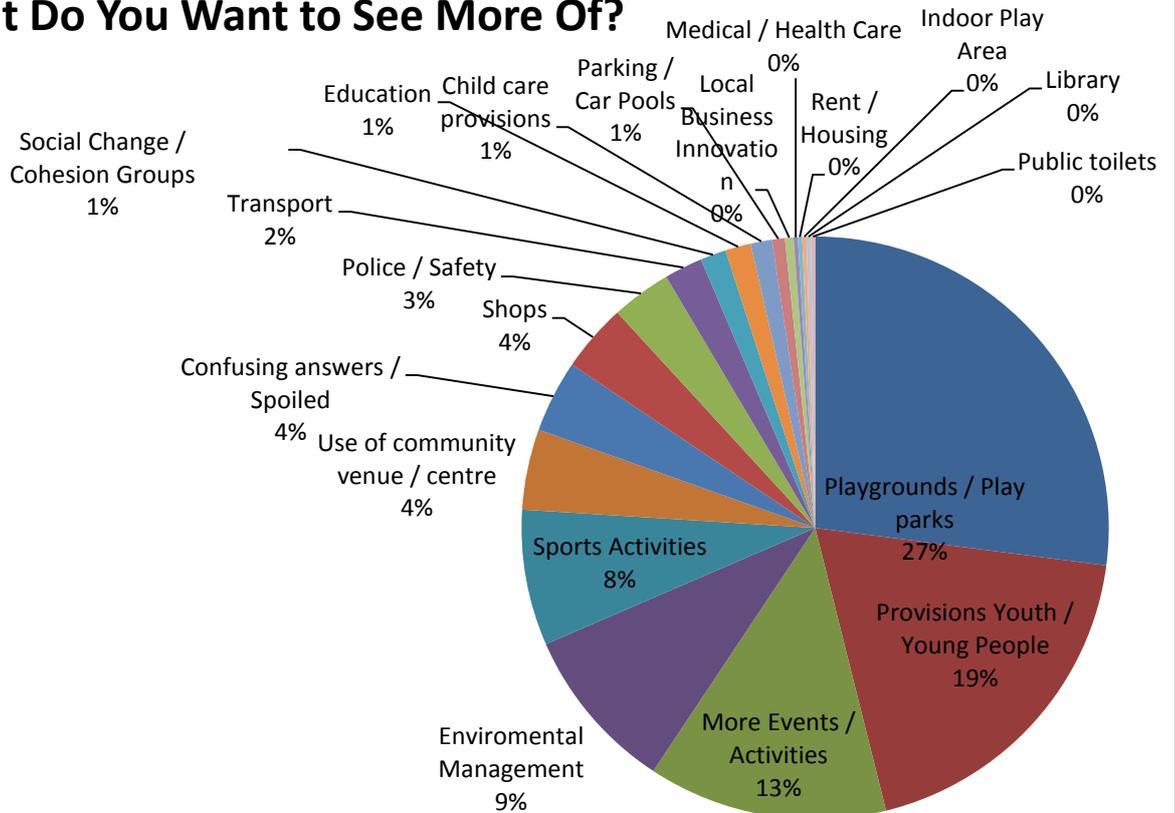
- **Need more contact / feedback from Thomas More** – Liz Hamson-Wright, a Thomas More resident, will to get residents involved in Thomas More area. Action: Lara to speak to her about possibly becoming a Resident Ambassador?
- **Targeting surveys at Sheltered Housing Groups** – Julia willing to look into this
- **More surveys to be completed** – A social media drive?
- **Future Action** – Possibility of mapping open spaces
- **Review of Grange Big Local name**

Appendix 2: Results of Surveys – Chart Format

Q1: What do you like about the area?



Q2: What Do You Want to See More Of?



Q3: What needs Changing?

