

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL****COMMUNITY COMMITTEE****21 JULY 2025****The Kings Arms Project****1. Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide the Committee with an update on progress on the project and the budget

**2. Background**

2.1 A paper was brought to committee in January 2025 to seek agreement to proceed with the project using CIL funding

2.2 This was approved and a budget of £80,000.00 was signed off

**3. Progress to date**

3.1 Work commenced in February 2025 with the fitting out of the space to accommodate the various community uses discussed.

3.2 We are now at an advanced stage and only a week away from opening with the carpet fitted, kitchen installed and furniture being delivered.

3.3 All has gone to programme and we have managed to accommodate a few necessary changes in the timescale.

**4. Budget**

4.1 The budget originally requested was £75,000.00 based on a cost plan prepared by Bob House and Helen Acreman.

4.2 The committee approved £80,000.00 and this has been used as the working budget.

4.3 Helen has monitored the budget closely for the whole duration and sought out quotations to give best value whilst meeting the timescales of the project.

4.4 We have also managed to absorb some unknown costs such as

- IT maintenance costs for the first year.
- Replacement windows at the front to give sound proofing, thermal benefits and also necessary ventilation.
- Removal of the capped off gas supply pipe.

4.5 Currently our budget position is as below in summary

- Spent and committed £68,655.84
- Estimated cost to spend or commit on known items £9,335.04

- Grants applied for and received towards building works £2,500.00
- Overall projected project cost £75,490.88
- Estimated underspend against £80,000.00 agreed - £4,509.12

#### 4.6 Detailed budget as below

<b>Working Budget for fitting out of Kings Arms Wellington</b>	
<b>Jul-25</b>	
Electrical (additional requirements using Falcon electrician)	£ 850.00
Kitchen Units incl servery/bar	£ 1,530.46
Partitions, Cupboards, Doors & Floor levelling	£ 10,979.74
2nd Fix and Decorations	£ 5,816.19
Flooring	£ 13,600.51
Hygienic Cladding to Kitchen Walls	£ 1,774.22
Additional cost to make good walls for cladding	£ 868.37
IT Survey	£ 1,000.00
Internet & IT equipment	£ 3,700.00
12months IT Warrenty and support	£ 4,800.00
Electrical IT cabling	£ 3,150.00
IT set up and equipment for Hub Manager	£ 2,196.26
Cutlery, crockery and glasses etc	£ 610.71
Renew front windows	£ 6,700.00
Kitchen Shutter over servery & Blinds	£ 1,228.96
Stainless Steel Kitchen Fittings & Equipment	£ 4,967.00
Plumbing including water heater to kitchen & sink to activity area	£ 1,389.00
Remove gas pipe	£ 977.00
Buggy store & Ramp	£ 1,868.62
Wrap to front door	£ 53.80
Cleaning	£ 595.00
<b>Spent &amp; Committed to date</b>	<b>£ 68,655.84</b>
Extract from kitchen area & additional Electrical to kitchen and other areas	£ 750.00
Improvements to rear yard	£ 1,000.00
Additional Ironmongery, Signage etc	£ 250.00
Reception Desk, Furniture, benching etc	£ 3,335.04
Fire extinguishers and blanket	£ 500.00
Broadband Installation	£ 1,000.00
External Signage	£ 500.00
General Contingency	£ 2,000.00
<b>Yet to Commit</b>	<b>£ 9,335.04</b>
<b>DDT Grants</b>	
Paint and water boiler	£ 1,000.00

SALC	£	1,500.00
	£	<b>2,500.00</b>
<b>Projected Project Cost</b>	£	<b>75,490.88</b>
<b>WTC CIL allocated</b>	£	<b>80,000.00</b>
<b>Predicted Over/Underspend against allocated CIL</b>	<b>-£</b>	<b>4,509.12</b>

Costs in blue have yet to be expended or finalised

Costs in Black have been spent or committed

**Prepared by – Helen Acreman**

**11/07/2025**



Meeting	Community
Date of meeting	21 July 2025
Action Required	Decision required
Report Author and email address	Pete Joint, Community Connect Champion peter@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

## 1. Introduction

1.1. The purpose of this report is to update the committee on current anticipated spend against the allocated operational budget to the end of the current financial year. The Committee's approval is required to allow spending from this budget. A recommendation to Full Council for probable overspends in order to ensure that essential costs are paid is also required.

## 2. Background

2.1 When setting the 2025/26 budget for the Kings Arms, the operational costs were unknown so a budget of £18,000 was set to account for £10,000 rental/lease costs and an element of funding for utilities.

2.2 As we get closer to opening, costs are becoming clearer and it is apparent that the £18,000 will not be sufficient to meet all costs.

2.3 As things stand the current estimated costs for August 25 – March 26 are as follows:

Item	Cost	Budget
Budget		£18,000
Rent	£10,000	
Cleaning	£4,200	
Broadband	£1,600	
Rubbish Collections	£200	
Responsive Maintenance	£500	



Proportion of booking system	£550	
Surplus	£950	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£18,000</b>	<b>£18,000</b>

2.4 The above does not include an element for utilities or any service charge that Falcon Rural Housing may levy as part of the lease arrangements. This is still being calculated by them.

2.5 Because it is estimated that up to 25 people will likely want to connect to the Wi-Fi at any given time, it has proven difficult to obtain a connection with enough line speed and bandwidth. Initial quotations direct with BT were in the region of £700 per month. MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant, has been able to source a part fibre line as well as a Starlink satellite connection for £200 per month. The Starlink connection will provide an additional connection for load spreading of bandwidth as well as a fall back connection should there be a power cut or fault on the traditional line. Using MTMIT to administer the line provides Officers with a guaranteed contact should problems arise which also leads into the 12 months service and support plan paid upfront as part of the set up costs.

### 3. Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

- Council Vision - An inclusive, safe and secure town where everybody is supportive of each other and offers particular care for the more vulnerable members of our community
- Wellington Place Plan - Inclusive Access and Connected Communities, Youth, Learning & Lifelong Support

### 4. Financial Implications

4.1 The Kings Arms Budget will be overspent at the end of this financial year given the costs that need to be met from it.

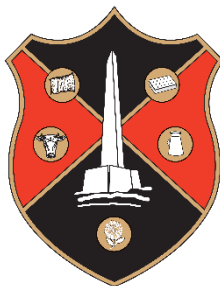
### 5. Risks

5.1 If it is not agreed to allow officers to overspend the budget the risk is that utility bills will not be paid and the Hub will not be able to function and we may be in breach of the Tenancy Agreement.

### 6. Considerations

The Committee is asked to

- (i) Approve the budget as set out above and give officers delegated authority to spend against the line as detailed, and
- (ii) Recommended to Full Council that Officers can overspend the budget for the sole purpose of covering essential costs such as utility bills and service charges.



# KINGS ARMS COMMUNITY HUB

## King's Arms Community Hub – User Agreement

**Between:**

**Wellington Town Council** (referred to as *the Council*)

and

**Organisation Name** (referred to as *the User*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Agreement:** \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Purpose of Use

The User agrees to use the King's Arms Community Hub for the following purpose:

**Purpose/Activity Description:**

--

[Insert brief description]

**Target Audience:**

[Insert e.g. young people aged 11–18 / parent carers / open public access]

---

## 2. Use of Facilities

- **Room(s) Booked:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Dates and Times:** [Insert specific booking details or ongoing arrangement]  
\_\_\_\_\_
- **Frequency of Use:** [e.g. Weekly, Monthly, One-Off] \_\_\_\_\_
- **Expected Attendance:** [Insert number] \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Charges and Donations

- Fees are as agreed with the council. Whilst the hub is currently subsidised by Wellington Town Council until March 2026 the Council reserves the right to make a charge where an activity is being supported by grant funding which has included an element for venue hire.
- Contributions and future fees for all users will be reviewed in advance of March 2026 to ensure sustainability.

## 4. Responsibilities of the User

The User agrees to:

- Leave the space clean, tidy, and in good condition.
- Set up and pack down furniture and equipment if required.
- Ensure no damage occurs to the premises or contents.
- Always maintain adequate supervision of attendees.
- Ensure compliance with safeguarding policies and legislation.
- Be responsible for Health & Safety of their staff, volunteers, and attendees during use. Users to carry out a risk assessment suitable for their activity and share it if requested.
- Hold appropriate insurance (e.g. Public Liability – minimum £5 million).
- Ensure that all service users and staff have signed in on arrival and signed out on departure.
- Please let us know of any access needs or additional support required.
- No smoking (including vapes), alcohol or recreational drugs to be used anywhere on the site including the storage area and car park at the back of the building.

## **5. Safeguarding and Insurance**

- All activities involving children, young people, or vulnerable adults must be undertaken in accordance with the Users Safeguarding Policy.
- We do not require DBS certificate numbers to be shared. Instead, all organisations must complete a declaration confirming that: All staff and volunteers involved have undergone the appropriate level of DBS check for their role.
- The User's Safeguarding policy and procedure are in place and up to date.
- A copy of your safeguarding policy and public liability insurance certificate must be submitted prior to first use.

## **6. Fire, Emergency Procedures and First Aid**

- The User must familiarise themselves with fire exits and emergency procedures.
- Fire exits must always remain clear.
- Any incidents or accidents must be reported to the Council within 24 hours.
- The User must familiarise themselves with the location of first aid boxes and advise the hub manager if any items are used and need replacing.
- The User must record any incidents where they have had to use First Aid.

## **7. Access and Security**

- The User will be provided with access arrangements (key fob) as agreed.
- The User must ensure the premises are locked securely after use (if last to leave).
- No unauthorised persons may be granted access.

## **8. Promotion and Publicity**

- The User may promote their sessions using the Council's digital or physical noticeboards with approval. Posters can be brought into Wellington Town Council reception at 30 Fore Street or emailed to [info@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk)
- Any branding referring to the King's Arms Community Hub must be approved in advance. Copies of the Kings Arms Community Hub logo are available upon request.

## **9. Cancellation and Termination**

- The User must provide at least 48 hours' notice of cancellation (except emergencies).
- The Council reserves the right to cancel bookings due to emergencies, maintenance requirements or inappropriate use without notice.
- Repeated breaches of this agreement may result in access being withdrawn.

## **10. Data Protection**

- The Council will process your data in accordance with its Privacy Policy.
- The User is responsible for any personal data collected during their activities in accordance with GDPR laws.

## **11. Induction of building and signing of policies**

- The User will be shown around and have an induction of the building before they start delivering services.
- The User will read and sign the safeguarding policy and be aware of health and safety policies and procedures.

## **12. Other users in the building**

- As a community hub, there will be times when other people will be using the building at the same time. Please be respectful of other agencies and service users and be mindful of confidentiality.
- If you have booked the kitchen there may be times that other users may briefly need hot water or equipment, and we encourage all users to work together to accommodate this.

## **13. Review**

Every booking will be reviewed quarterly, and rooms can only be booked for each quarter at a time.

#### **14. Feedback and concerns**

- Users are invited to provide feedback or suggestions about their experience using the Hub. This helps us continuously improve.
- Any concerns or complaints need to be passed onto the community hub manager- Kelly Enfield in the first instance who will escalate as appropriate.

#### **15. Storage**

- Storage of any items needs to be agreed by the hub manager in advance. We have limited storage so this might not always be possible.
- Anything stored at the community hub is left at the Users own risk.

#### **16. Signatures**

##### **Signed on behalf of Wellington Town Council**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

##### **Signed on behalf of the User Organisation**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_



## **WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL VOLUNTEER POLICY 2025**

### **1. Introduction**

Wellington Town Council (the Council) recognises and values the contribution of volunteers, acknowledging that volunteering enriches community life, enhances council services, and fosters civic pride. This policy outlines how volunteers are engaged, supported, and managed, while safeguarding both the volunteers and the Council.

### **2. Purpose**

This policy aims to:

- Define the Council's approach to involving volunteers.
- Ensure volunteers are properly supported, trained, and protected.
- Outline the responsibilities of the Council, staff, and volunteers.
- Establish a positive and inclusive framework for managing volunteer activity.

### **3. Scope**

For the purposes of this policy, a 'volunteer' is any individual who offers their time, skills, or services to the Council without expectation of financial compensation.

Volunteers support a range of activities, including gardening and open space maintenance, marshaling events, community hub support, and office administration. This policy sets out the framework for volunteer engagement and ensures clarity, safety, and mutual respect.

This policy applies to all individuals volunteering on behalf of the Council, including Councilors.



#### **4. Legal Framework**

This policy is informed by the following legislation and guidance:

- Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR

#### **5. Responsibilities**

- The Town Clerk ensures compliance and overall coordination of volunteer activity.
- Nominated coordinators undertake activity associated volunteer supervision.
- Volunteers are expected to follow Council policies and activity guidance.

#### **6. Risk Management**

- All volunteer activities will be subject to appropriate risk assessments.
- Personal protective equipment PPE will be issued where necessary and must be returned after use.
- Volunteers must report all incidents and accidents to their coordinator.

#### **7. Volunteer Recruitment and Conduct**

- Volunteers are recruited in accordance with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.
- A Volunteer Agreement or an event-associated sign-in sheet must be completed.

#### **8. Insurance and Liability**

- Volunteers are covered by the Council's public liability and personal accident insurance when undertaking approved tasks in an appropriate manner.
- Volunteers using personal vehicles must ensure they have appropriate insurance cover.
- Volunteers are not considered Council employees and will not be entitled to employee benefits.

#### **9. Safeguarding**

- Volunteers must adhere to the Council's Safeguarding Policy.
- Where expressly required, a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check may be required, but this will be made clear to any prospective volunteer.

#### **10. Data Protection and Confidentiality**

- Volunteer data is held in line with the Council's Privacy Notice.

- Volunteers are required to maintain the confidentiality of any sensitive information they may encounter while volunteering including personal data of individuals or confidential council matters.

### **11. Expenses**

- Reasonable expenses may be reimbursed with prior council approval and appropriate evidence.

### **12. Complaints**

- Minor issues should be raised with the activity coordinator.
- Serious complaints should follow the Council's complaints' procedure.

### **13. Use of Photography**

- Volunteer consent for photos will be sought and can be withdrawn at any time.
- Volunteers should seek permission before taking their own photos.

### **14. Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or when there are changes to legislation, whichever is the sooner.

The next review is scheduled for July 2026.

## APPENDIX A

### VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT AND CONTACT DETAILS

We very much appreciate you volunteering with us and committing your time and skills. We hope your experience with us will be rewarding and enjoyable.

The purpose of this Agreement is to ensure volunteers comply with the Volunteer Policy and to collect essential personal data and consents. This Agreement is not intended to be a legally binding contract and may be ended at any time by either party.

By signing this Agreement, I confirm that I have read and understood the risk assessment for this activity.

#### Personal Details

Volunteer Name:

Address:

Contact Number(s):

Emergency Contact Name:

Emergency Contact phone number(s):

#### Consent

Photographs of the task may be taken for use on the Wellington Town Council's website, social media sites and/or in presentations.

☐ I consent   ☐ I do not consent to being photographed for publication as above. I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time.

Signed (volunteer): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Coordinator - on behalf of Wellington Town Council): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Wellington Town Council is committed to protecting and respecting the privacy of everyone and ensuring it is fully compliant under the UK General Data Protection Regulations and the Data Protection Act 2018. We process your personal data in accordance with the law.

## **Kings Arms Community Hub**

### **Our Vision**

A connected, compassionate, and inclusive Wellington where all individuals feel valued, supported, and able to thrive. The Kings Arm Community Hub will be a one stop shop to provide advice and support for families, children & young people and vulnerable adults.

### **Our Mission**

To provide a safe, welcoming, and community-led space that empowers people through access to support, engagement opportunities, and positive relationships. The Hub will be a focal point for youth development and adult well-being, rooted in collaboration and care.

### **Our Priorities**

#### **1. Children and Youth Engagement/ Support**

- Offer safe, inclusive spaces where children and young people can access support, develop skills, and build confidence to give every child the best start in life.
- Collaborate with local partners to provide needs-led, relevant youth programmes and activities.

#### **2. Adult Social Care & Wellbeing**

- Create a friendly, non-clinical environment where adults—especially those at risk of isolation or poor health—can access support, information, and social connection.
- Enable health, care, and community providers to deliver localised, accessible interventions.

#### **3. Community Empowerment**

- Encourage active participation from residents and organisations of all ages to shape what the Hub delivers.
- Support the development of community groups and micro-providers that reflect local needs.

#### **4. Inclusivity & Safeguarding**

- Champion diversity and inclusion by ensuring the Hub is a safe space for all identities and backgrounds.
- Uphold robust safeguarding practices for all users, particularly children and vulnerable adults.

#### **5. Sustainable Impact**

- Ensure the Hub remains financially and operationally sustainable while retaining its social purpose.
- Monitor use to maintain alignment with the mission and avoid over-prescription or commercial drift.

## **Wellington Town Council Community Committee 21-07-2025**

### **1. SCC Consultation. One Team Review and Connect Somerset**

- 1.1 Connect Somerset working as a locality model. Now to be known as Connect Wellington
- 1.2 One Teams will also be working on a locality model. There are 3 FTE One Team Early Intervention Co-ordinators included within model. My locality area will be Wellington, Wiveliscombe and West Somerset. How One Teams work in our locality is very little change from the current model. We now sit in the Community Safety Team so will work alongside Council and Police ASB Officers and Violence Reduction partnership.

### **2. Wacky Wednesdays - Reminder**

- 2.1 The Summer Wacky Wednesdays will take place at wellington Park on 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August from 11.00 – 12.45. Steering Group will be meeting this week to finalise activities.

### **3. Children and Young Peoples Plan update**

- 3.1 This group has been reconvened
- 3.2 Summer programme arranged to include Outreach work via In the Mix
- 3.3 Young Somerset will be providing activities in the Kings Arms Community Hub
- 3.4 Group will be used as a triage for Funding for Young Peoples Services
- 3.5 Visit undertaken to Home Start West Somerset

### **4. PFSAs**

- 4.1 PFSAs support is part of my Connect Somerset Role.
- 4.2 They are line managed by RWG School and receive clinical supervision from Family Intervention Service
- 4.3 A handbook has been produced for all PFSAs to support them in doing the role.

### **5. Link up between This Committee, SCC neighbourhood planning, PCN, Neighbourhoods, One Team Community Work, Cradle to Career Model and LCNs**

- 5.1 Community Breakfasts continue to take place, currently on a monthly basis. There will be a break over Summer holiday period
- 5.2 Attendance is superb.
- 5.3 Cradle to Career progress will be shared via these meetings
- 5.4 Somerset Council are committed to a Neighbourhood / Locality model of working with Connect Funding secured for another year. One Teams working is being standardised across the county with the model used in our Locality area being piloted here and in Mendip before being rolled out across the rest of the County

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE****21.07.25****Community Development Plan****1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Community Committee for the draft thematic framework of the Wellington Community Development Plan (2025–2030), the accompanying community survey in both online and paper formats, the proposed programme of community engagement activities scheduled for summer 2025, and delegated authority to manage associated engagement costs.

**2. Background**

In my role as Community Development Officer, I have been tasked with coordinating a Community Development Plan (CDP) that reflects the needs, assets, and aspirations of Wellington's residents, groups, and partners. This plan is intended to deliver on the people-centred priorities of the Wellington Place Plan, align with the Cradle to Career model, and support inclusive, sustainable development over the next five years.

As outlined in my job description, the CDP will support strategic decision-making, guide partnership investment, and give a clear community-led mandate for Council activity. A full draft of the plan is currently in development. However, formal consultation and engagement with the community must now begin in order to shape and validate the plan content, including key themes, priorities, and delivery methods.

**Summer 2025 Engagement Plan**

The engagement programme will run from July to September and will include:

- Drop-in sessions (e.g. Kings Arms Café pilot)
- Group visits and invitations (e.g. schools, carers, SEND groups)
- Youth peer research via local partners
- Targeted mini-workshops
- Public engagement at local events (e.g. Summer Fayres, Whacky Wednesday)
- Partner briefings with professionals and service leads
- Online and paper survey promotion across all channels

The engagement will inform the draft CDP to be brought forward in September 2025, with the final version due for publication in November 2026, in time to influence budget setting.

## Presentation Materials

A copy of the CDP presentation is appended to this report and includes:

- A copy of the CDP presentation, which includes a summary of the six proposed themes
- A breakdown of each theme with potential areas of focus to better understand what the theme may represent.
- Summer Engagement Plan
- The draft community survey for approval

## Financial Implications:

To support the summer engagement programme, I request delegated authority for a budget of up to **£750** to cover:

- Materials and printing (survey forms, postcards, stickers, signage)
- Venue hire for workshops or mini events (if needed)
- Accessibility support (e.g. interpreter costs, easy-read versions)
- Light refreshments at events and partner briefings

Costs will be recorded and reported back to the Committee in September. Additional funding sources may be explored to supplement Council resource.

## Strategic Fit

### Wellington Place Plan (Adopted 2023):

The Community Development Plan delivers on the people-focused ambitions of the *Wellington Place Plan*, including:

- A welcoming and connected town centre
- Celebrating heritage and cultural identity
- Promoting sustainability and inclusion
- Strengthening community resilience

It is also aligned with other key frameworks such as *Cradle to Career*, *Connect Somerset*, and the Town Council's own objectives on inclusion, civic pride, and safeguarding.

## Risks and Considerations:

- Engagement fatigue or perceived tokenism: Some residents may feel that their input won't make a difference. The process will therefore include clear feedback loops such as "You Said, We Did" boards, and updates across all platforms.
- Underrepresentation of certain voices: Engagement will prioritise outreach to underrepresented

groups including carers, young people, ethnically diverse residents, and disabled adults. These individuals may also be best placed to support future delivery.

- Lack of interest: While not all residents will choose to engage, it is essential that everyone has the *opportunity* to do so. Making engagement visible and accessible will increase inclusivity and long-term participation.

This approach is not only about gathering input, it is about building rapport and empowering those who want to shape Wellington’s future.

**Timescale:**

Stage	Action	Date
Committee approval	Themes, survey, engagement plan	July 2025
Engagement begins	Outreach, events, survey live	July–Oct 2025
Engagement ends	Survey closes, last outreach	Sept 2025
Data analysis	Insights log and summary	Oct 2025
Draft CDP completed	Based on engagement	Nov 2025
Final CDP published	Before budget setting	Jan 2026

**Recommendations:**

That the Community Committee:

1. Approves the draft Community Development Plan themes as the basis for community consultation.
2. Approves the survey for immediate release (online and in print).
3. Approves the Summer 2025 Engagement Plan as presented.
4. Grants delegated authority of up to £750 for the Community Development Officer to carry out the engagement activities.



## WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

### COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

21 JULY 2025

#### Place Standard Tool

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a report on the results of the Place Standard Tool from the past year and how this reflects on Wellington Town Council and Wellington as a whole.

### 2. Background

- 2.1. The Place Standard Tool is a framework developed by the Scottish Government to facilitate conversations about place. This tool helps people to think about physical and social aspects of a place and can help authorities consider the elements of a place in a methodical way. This tool helps show the strengths of a place as well as areas where services are lacking.
- 2.2. Wellington Town Council first utilised this tool in June 2024 at the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Street Fair. Since this event, it has been used six times at Wacky Wednesdays, the Spring Fayre, and Wellington Independent Market.
- 2.3. The chart for this tool has been printed with the title “How Good is Wellington?” onto a 1 by 1.3 metre piece of corrugated plastic, allowing us to have people fill it in interactively with stickers. This has proved to be an engaging exercise for all ages and is very eye-catching for people who pass by our gazebo at various events.
- 2.4. The tool rates the town across 14 headings and asks participants to rate each item from 1 to 7, with 1 being the worst quality and 7 the highest. At the end of each event, the numbers are tallied and the average score for each heading is calculated. This average then inputted onto a radar graph which gives us an overview of how each heading performed.

### 3. Overview of Results

- 3.1. The results gathered from this tool are varied as we attended different types of events with different audiences. On the whole, results have remained consistent throughout the past year, with some aspects improving over time whilst others have been rated worse as time has gone on.
- 3.2. In broad terms, Wellington has scored consistently highly in the headings Natural Space, Feeling Safe, and Identity and Belonging, and Social Interaction. Areas that have scored consistently low are Public Transport and Traffic and Parking.

- 3.3. The results of these surveys and the conversations they have facilitated have allowed us to get an honest impression of Wellington's standard over the past year.
- 3.4. A compilation of the data separated by event can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.5. A graph showcasing the difference in score between the first and last event can be found in Appendix B
- 3.6. A graph showcasing the average score across the entire year can be found in Appendix C.
- 3.7. The criteria for each heading can be found in Appendix D.

#### **4. Considerations**

- 4.1. Throughout the seven events that this tool was used, we spoke with a wide variety of people from all backgrounds. Our Wacky Wednesday events saw us speaking exclusively with young families who may have different priorities than the people we spoke to at the Spring Fayre or at Wellington Independent Market. This results in different events having different scores simply due to people's different experiences of the town.
- 4.2. Using average scores for each heading is the fairest way to show the prevailing opinion at each event, although it should be noted that on some occasions overall scores were brought down by one or two very poor scores. This issue is remedied by the inclusion of a stacked graph showing how scores were distributed along the chart. This is available in Appendix A alongside the radar graph for each event.
- 4.3. Current affairs can also have an effect on scores, we saw this especially with Feeling Safe, where if an event took place recently after a high-profile police incident people would generally give a lower score.

#### **5. Analysis**

##### **5.1. Play and Recreation**

- 5.1.1. This heading received an average overall score of 5.68.
- 5.1.2. In conversations with the public issues that were raised in this area included a need for more accessible play equipment, updates to older equipment, provision for older children and teens, and a desire for the Town Council to have ownership of all play areas, including those currently looked after by management companies.
- 5.1.3. This heading allowed us to have good discussions about accessibility, highlighting that when play areas are updated, we must consider all abilities and provide equipment that can be enjoyed by everyone.

5.1.4. Youth provision has been brought up a lot and since the Kings Arms Project has moved forward we have been able to give more satisfying answers on what is being done for young people in the area. Since we started using this tool we have become far more involved with youth provision through our Kings Arms Community Hub Manager and Community Development Officer.

## 5.2. Natural Space

5.2.1. This heading received an average overall score of 6.1 and is one of the top-rated aspects of the town.

5.2.2. When discussing natural space, participants remarked on links to the surrounding countryside as well as the open spaces within the boundaries of the town.

5.2.3. The Green Corridor was brought up in conversations, with people remarking on the positive changes being made and how inspiring the tree planting scheme has been.

## 5.3. Facilities and Services

5.3.1. This heading received an average overall score of 5.12.

5.3.2. This heading covered items such as access to doctors, dentists, schools, and libraries. It should be noted that although none of these items are directly managed by the Town Council, it is useful for us to have the data on how they are viewed.

5.3.3. Access to doctors and dentists pulled this score down as there are ongoing issues with these services nationwide. Despite this, we spoke to some residents who recently moved to Wellington from other parts of the country and they had found their experience better here.

5.3.4. Participants, particularly those with children, remarked on the good quality of the library in Wellington following its recent refurbishment. Feedback on schools was also positive, with younger participants at Wacky Wednesday events telling us about their favourite subjects.

## 5.4. Feeling Safe

5.4.1. This heading received an average overall score of 6.01.

5.4.2. This heading had variation across events as recent incidents would feed in to how people felt at the time of taking part in the survey.

5.4.3. In broad terms, most adults remarked that they felt extremely safe in Wellington, though this could vary depending on their lived experience. For example, we found that people who had lived elsewhere in the

country said that they felt very safe in Wellington, whilst people who were lifelong residents scored this heading lower.

5.4.4. Children's responses varied with their ages, with very young children feeling safer than those who were beginning to become more cognitively aware of potential dangers. At the Howard Road Fun Day event we had three young teenage girls fill out the chart and they rated this heading at only a two. The week before this event there was police incident in Church Fields, impacting how safe these particular individuals felt.

## 5.5. Care and Maintenance

5.5.1. This heading received an average overall score of 5.76.

5.5.2. When discussing this topic there were remarks about the improvement in maintenance since Wellington Town Council took on more services.

5.5.3. This score was brought down by the state of the roads and the lack of maintenance of some town centre buildings. Unfortunately in both instances the power lies outside of the Town Council, but we were able to assure people that Councillors have been calling for better highway maintenance, evidenced by an ongoing scheme of refreshing road markings throughout the town.

## 5.6. Influence and Sense of Control

5.6.1. This heading received an average overall score of 5.67.

5.6.2. While filling out this part of the chart, we used the opportunity to ask participants if they knew where to find the Town Council, how to contact us, and how to raise issues with their local Councillors. Those who did not know were informed on how to reach us and encouraged to get involved in local decision-making.

5.6.3. Children and young people ranked this heading lower as they felt that they did not have influence or control of local decisions. Our developing youth engagement work will help to remedy this.

## 5.7. Work and Local Economy

5.7.1. This heading received an average overall score of 5.36.

5.7.2. When discussing work and local economy, conversations surrounding access to white collar jobs came up as a recurring issue. It was said that there was plenty of opportunity for training and work in vocational fields but that jobs in technology, finance, law etc were limited to being based in larger towns and cities.

5.7.3. When news of the Junction 26 closure came out, participants who had to travel for work were anxious about how their travel time would be impacted.

5.7.4. It was remarked that a train station would be a boon to working professionals who live in Wellington as they would be able to access their workplaces in Bristol or Exeter with much more ease.

## 5.8. Housing and Community

5.8.1. This heading received an average overall score of 5.41

5.8.2. This topic brought about discussion about the explosion of proposed developments in the Wellington area, with many participants against rapid expansion without improvements to infrastructure. During these conversations we were able to assure people that developments would take years to complete and that Councillors and our MP were actively against developments being built south of the A38.

5.8.3. Housing and rent prices in general came up as an issue with participants expressing how unaffordable housing has become in recent years, especially for young people.

5.8.4. Aside from the above, people felt that their homes met their needs.

## 5.9. Identity and Belonging

5.9.1. This heading received an overall average score of 6.52 and was our highest scoring subject.

5.9.2. The feedback from this heading was overwhelmingly positive, with people having a distinct pride of place and feeling of belonging in Wellington. Wellington is overall a welcoming place to long-term residents and people who are new to the area.

## 5.10. Social Interaction

5.10.1. This heading received an overall average score of 6.29 and was one of our top-rated aspects.

5.10.2. Participants praised the variety of community groups and clubs in the area and said how there was something available for most age groups and interests.

5.10.3. Lack of youth provision was brought up several times but as news regarding the Kings Arms Community Hub was shared, people were hopeful and excited to see what is available for young people in the future.

#### 5.11. Moving Around

5.11.1. This heading received an average overall score of 5.95.

5.11.2. Participants felt that almost all services they needed to access could be reached on foot.

5.11.3. Provision for cyclists was remarked as lacking, with many feeling unsafe cycling on the roads.

5.11.4. Accessibility for wheelchair users is a concern in some areas with narrow pavements and inconvenient dropped kerbs making movement difficult.

#### 5.12. Public Transport

5.12.1. This heading received an average overall score of 4.34 and was by far rated as the worst aspect of the town.

5.12.2. During the year that this survey has been administered, there have been ongoing issues with bus services in the town. This has largely been improved thanks to public complaints and the Town Council meeting with representatives from First Bus. People are still not entirely satisfied with the service, but improvements have been made with the introduction of electric buses and the continuation of a fare cap.

5.12.3. Discussions surrounding a train station have been frequent, with those in support of and against the station sharing their views. Those in support are more numerous and at Wellington Independent Market, just after the inclusion of Wellington's Station in the budget was confirmed, there were many people expressing excitement at the prospect of finally having a station.

#### 5.13. Traffic and Parking

5.13.1. This heading received an average overall score of 4.78.

5.13.2. Though this heading received an overall lower score, people who had moved to Wellington from elsewhere were keen to praise the affordability of the town's car parks, including how evenings and Sundays are (at the time of the survey) free.

5.13.3. This heading brought up issues with the overall state of the roads and car parks, many of which are in need of resurfacing. In these cases we directed people to submit reports to Somerset Council or to contact their local Councillors regarding ongoing issues.

#### 5.14. Streets and Spaces

5.14.1. This heading received an average overall score of 5.81.

5.14.2. Participants shared that the quality of pavements in Wellington's town centre was in decline, in particular citing Lancer Court. Since our last use of the Place Standard Tool, we wrote a letter to ASDA asking them to prioritise repair of this walkway. Within two weeks work was undertaken, and the loose and uneven bricks have been repaired.

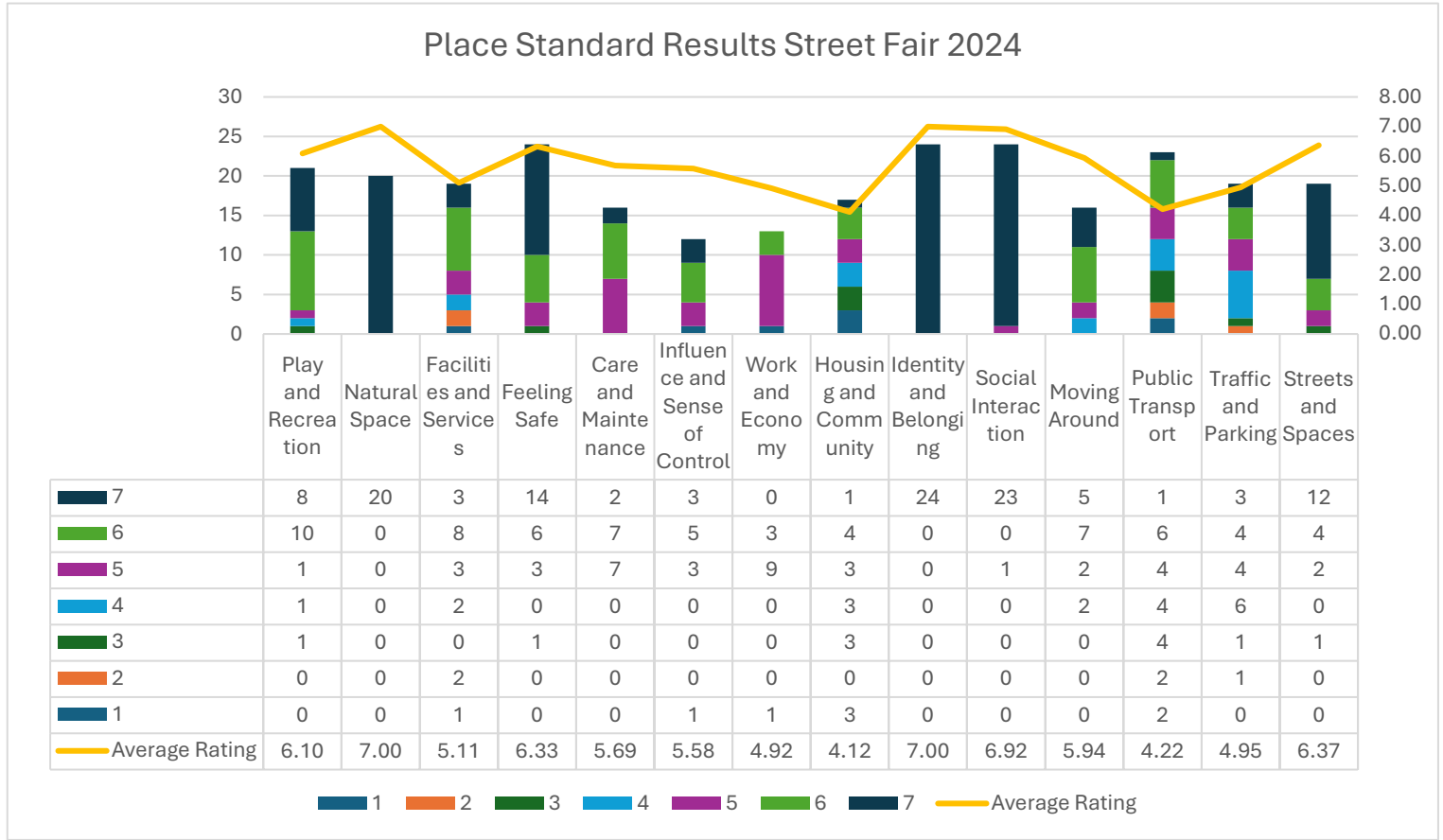
5.14.3. Residents noted that Wellington is a welcoming town with a distinct identity and overall a good standard of maintenance. It was clear during conversations that many did not realise which jobs fell under the Town Council and which were the responsibility of the Unitary Authority. We used these opportunities to educate the public and made some reports on their behalf throughout the process.

## **6. Conclusion**

6.1. Wellington as a whole has been rated very positively by those who took part in the Place Standard Tool in 2024/25. All but two headings had an average score over 5 over the course of the year. We will continue use of this tool at events where we have a presence and will continue to collate results to feed back to the Council. This tool has facilitated some excellent conversations between the public and staff/councillors and it will continue to do so in 2025/26 and beyond.

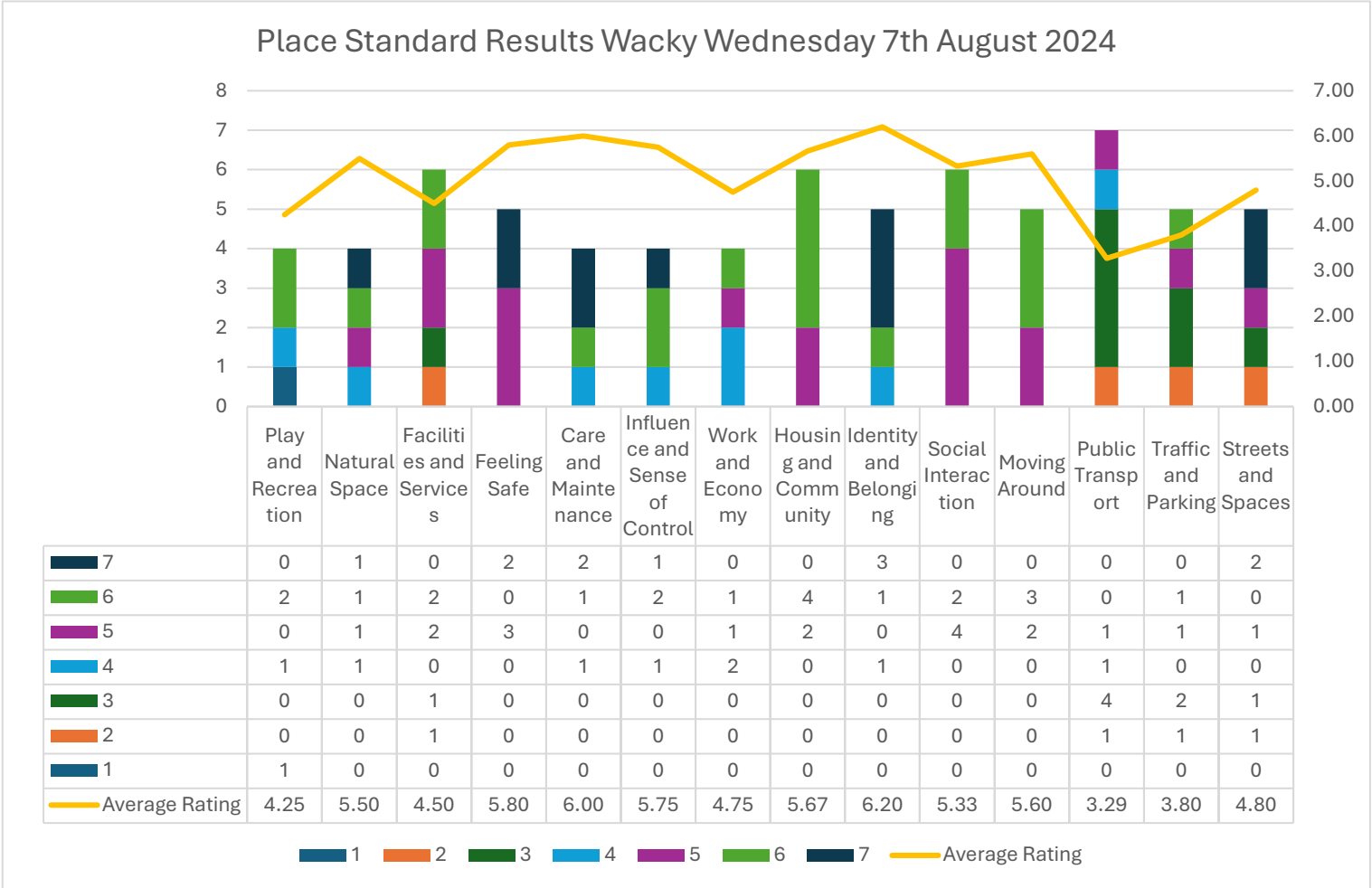
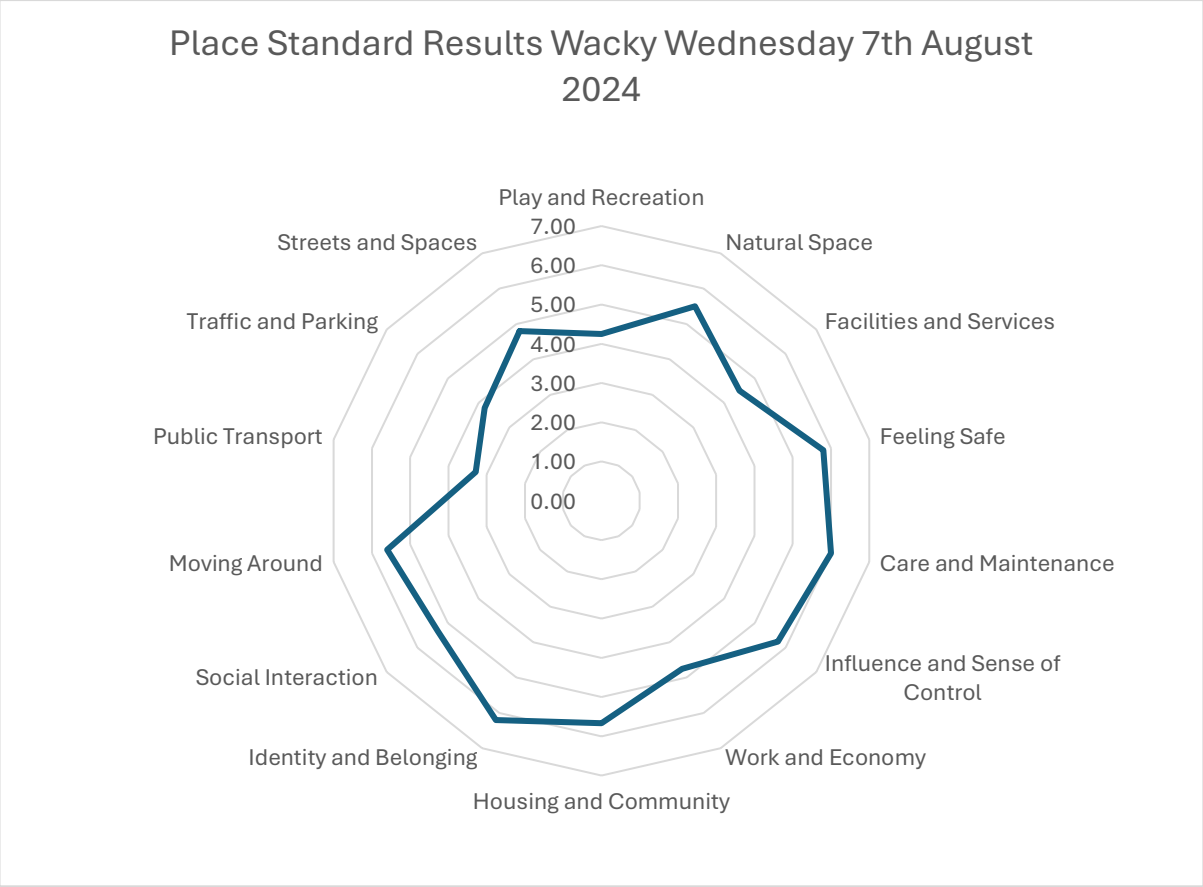
APPENDIX A

Wellington Street Fair 01/06/2024

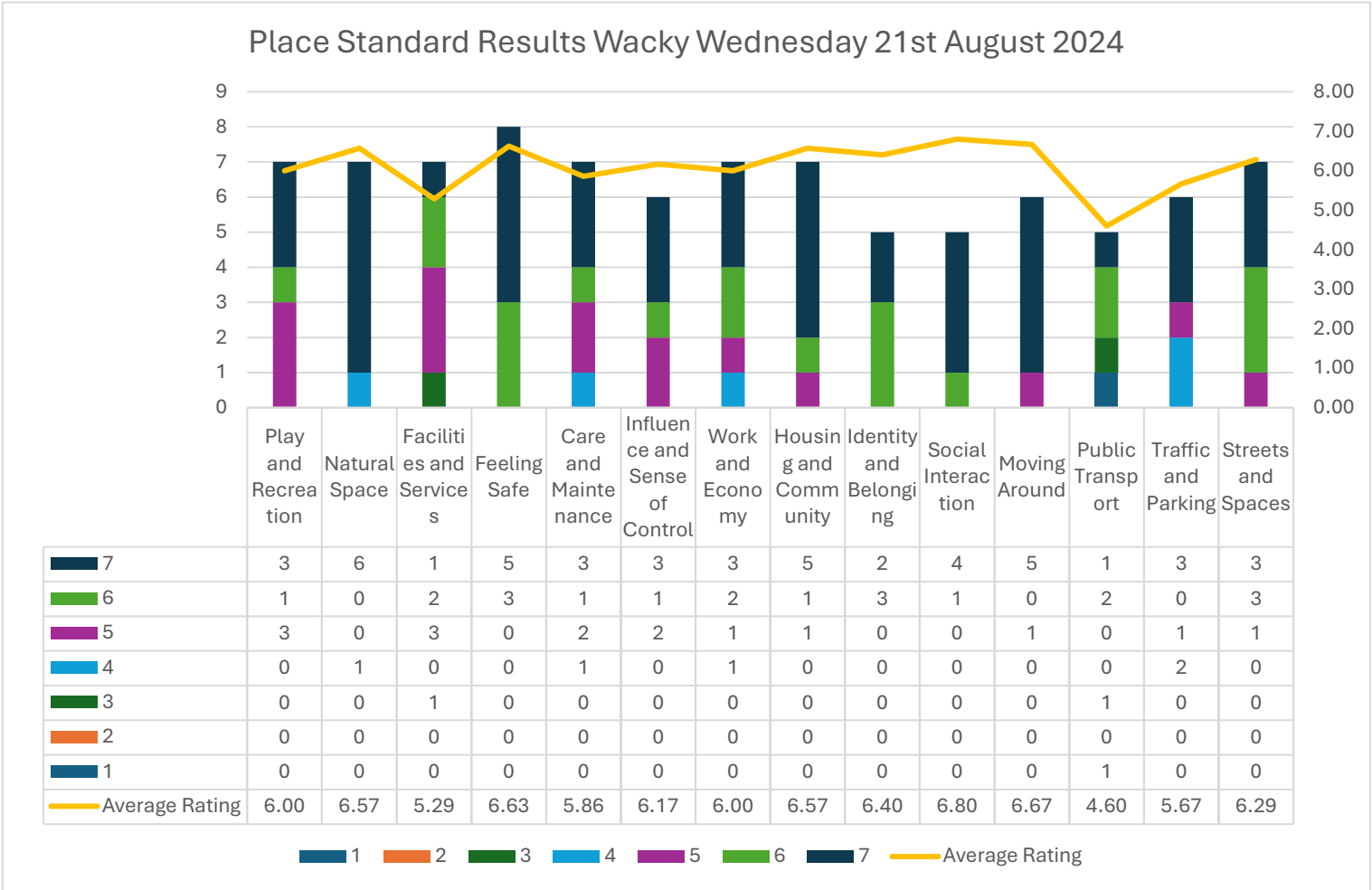
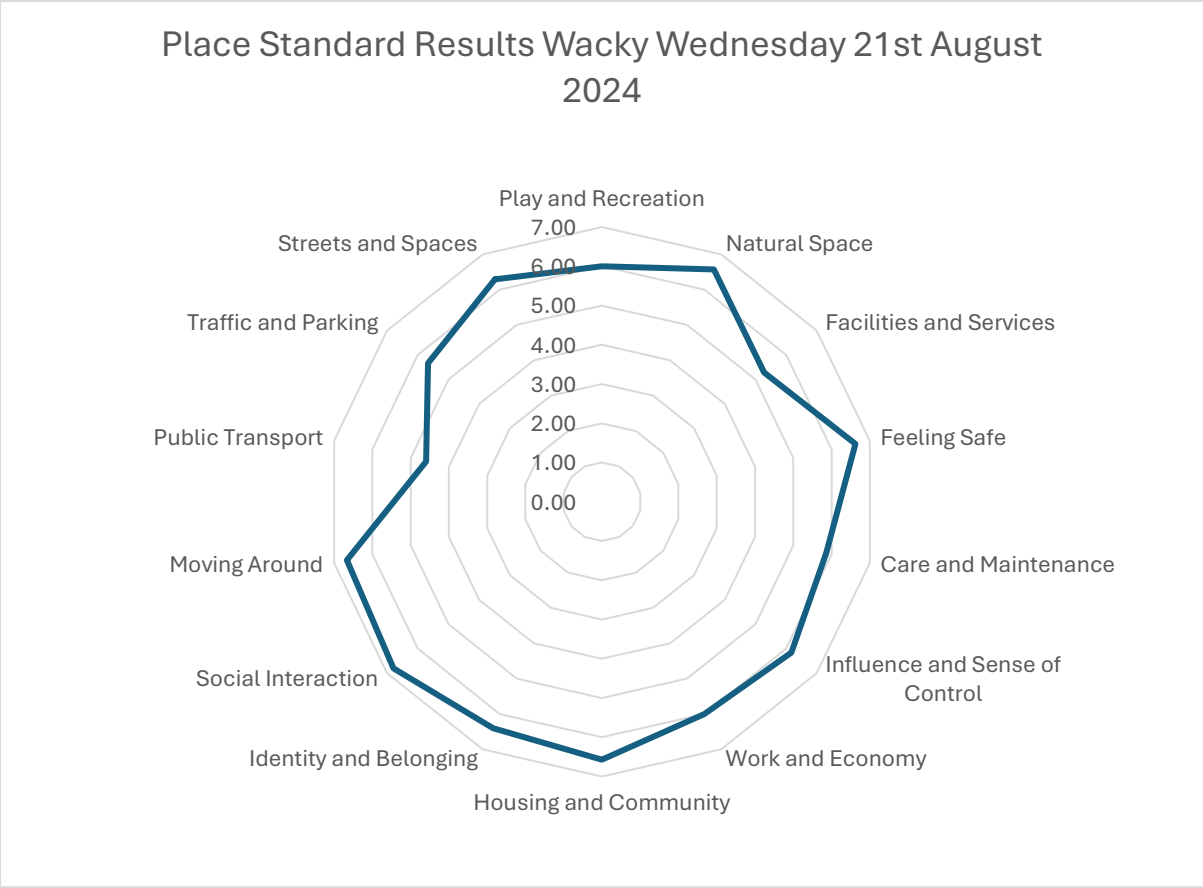




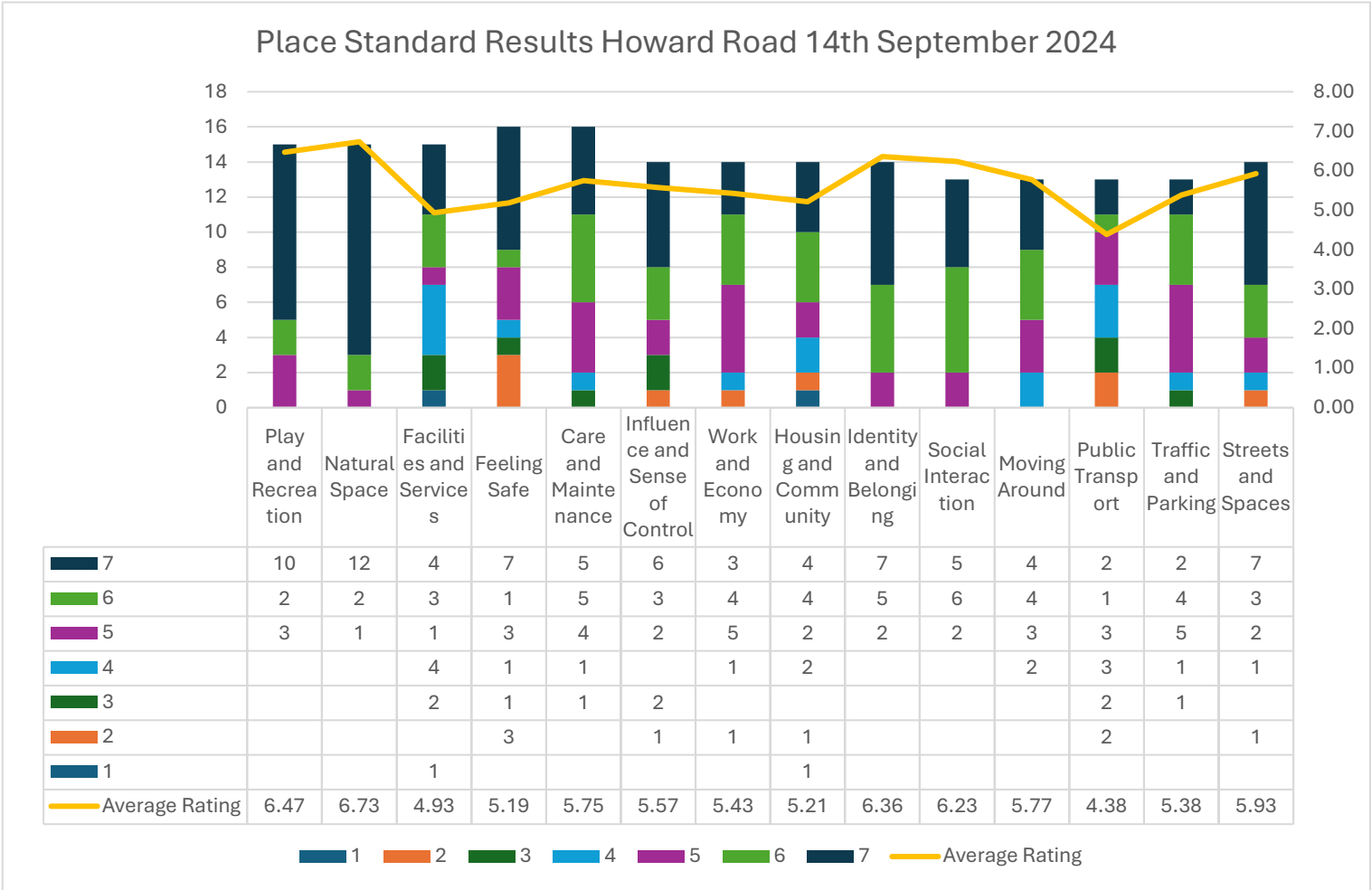
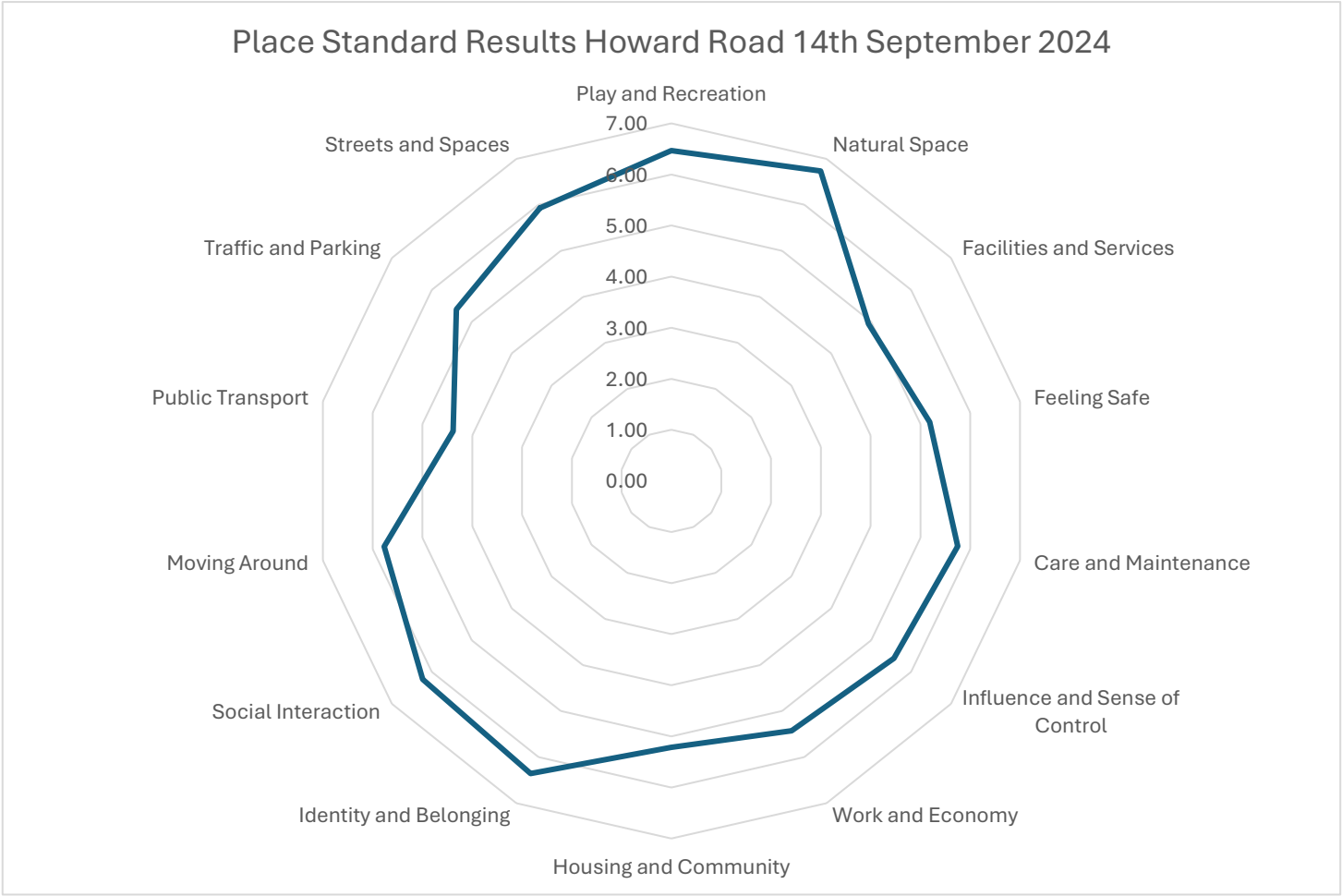
Wacky Wednesday 07/08/2024



Wacky Wednesday 21/08/2024

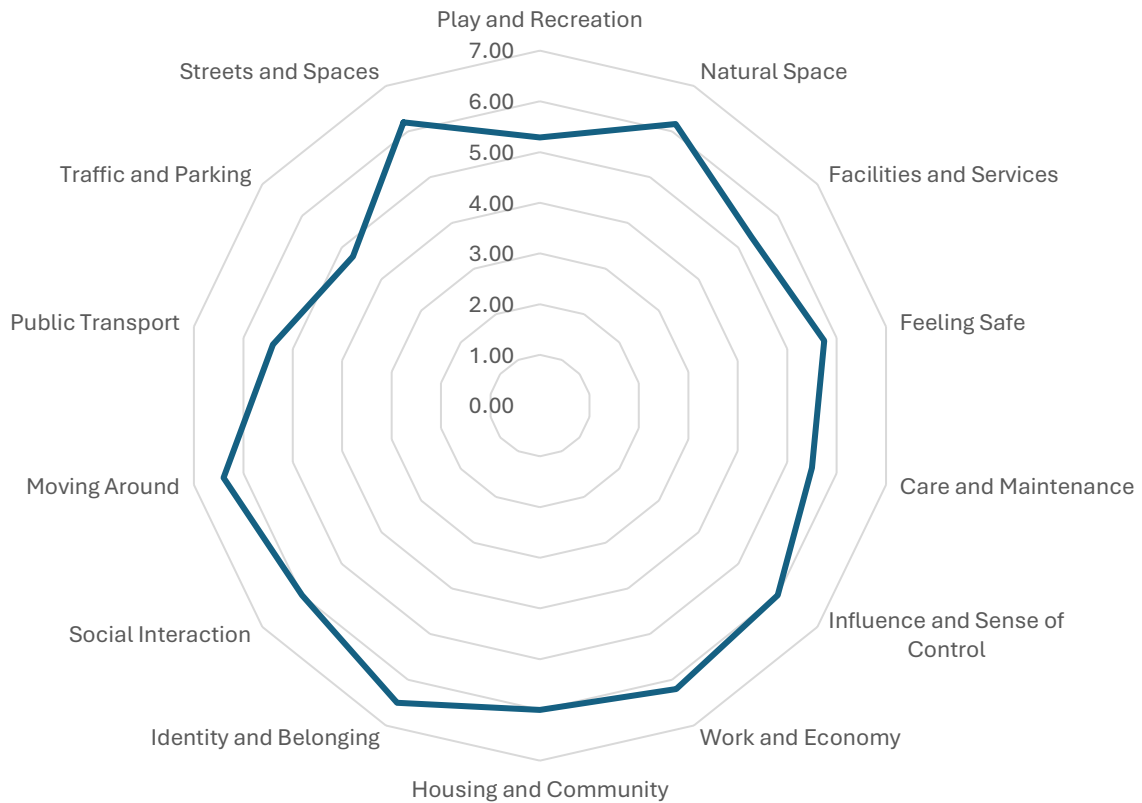


Howard Road Fun Day 14/09/2024

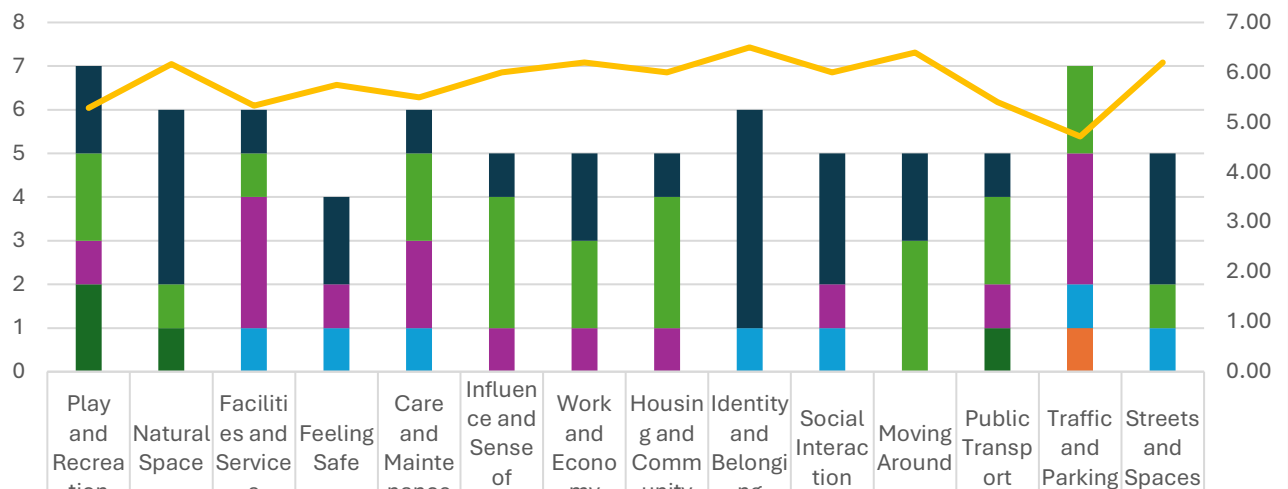


## Wacky Wednesday 16/04/2025

### Place Standard Results Wacky Wednesday 16th April



### Place Standard Results Wacky Wednesday 16th April 2025

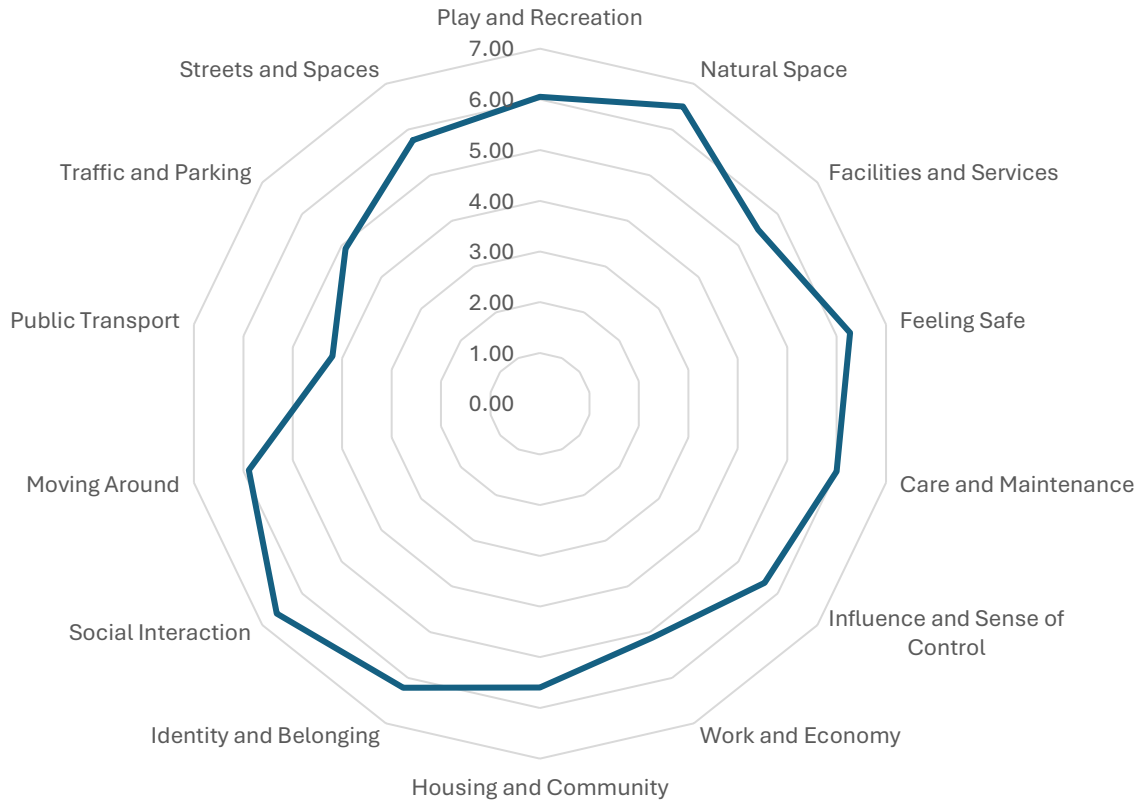


	Play and Recreation	Natural Space	Facilities and Services	Feeling Safe	Care and Maintenance	Influence and Sense of Control	Work and Economy	Housing and Community	Identity and Belonging	Social Interaction	Moving Around	Public Transport	Traffic and Parking	Streets and Spaces
7	2	4	1	2	1	1	2	1	5	3	2	1		3
6	2	1	1		2	3	2	3			3	2	2	1
5	1		3	1	2	1	1	1		1		1	3	
4			1	1	1				1	1			1	1
3	2	1										1		
2													1	
1														
Average Rating	5.29	6.17	5.33	5.75	5.50	6.00	6.20	6.00	6.50	6.00	6.40	5.40	4.71	6.20

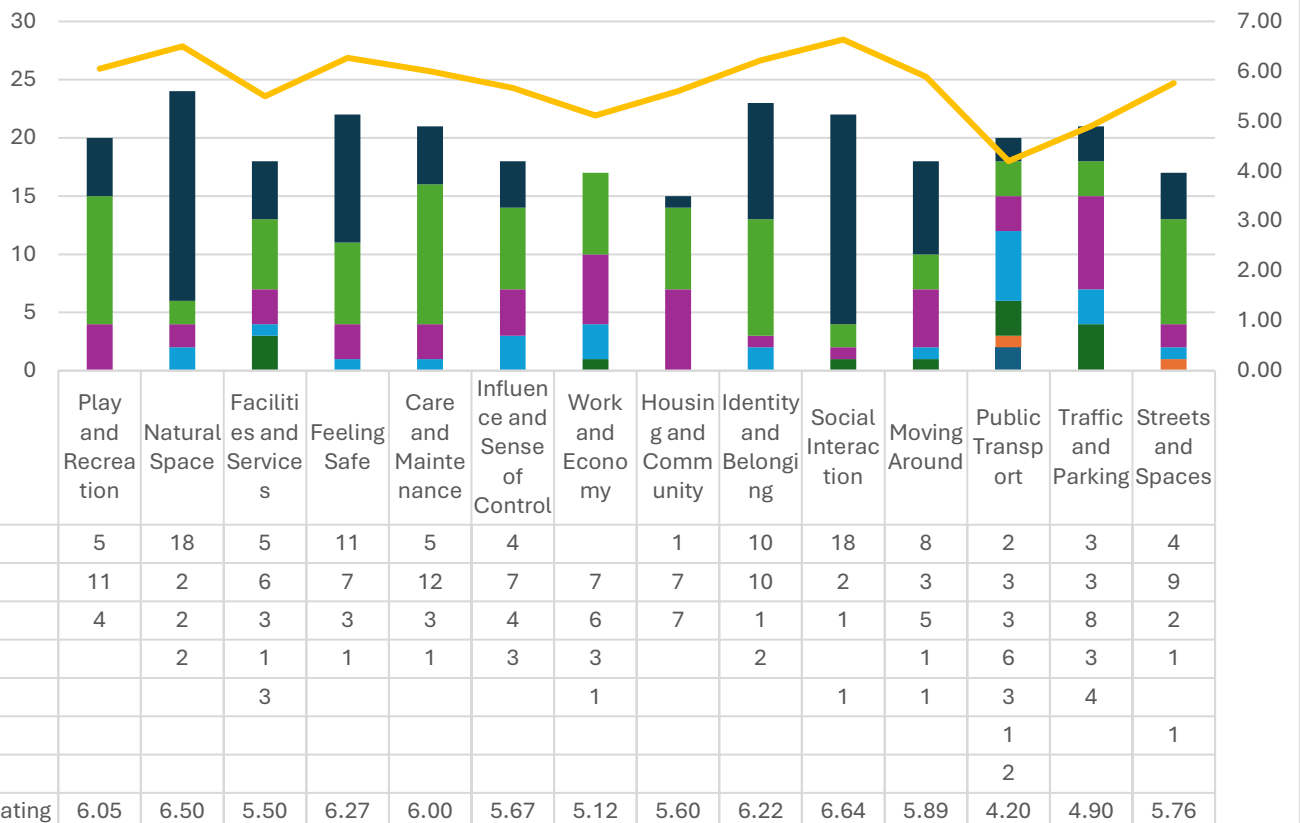
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Average Rating

## Spring Fayre 04/05/2025

### Place Standard Results Spring Fayre 2025



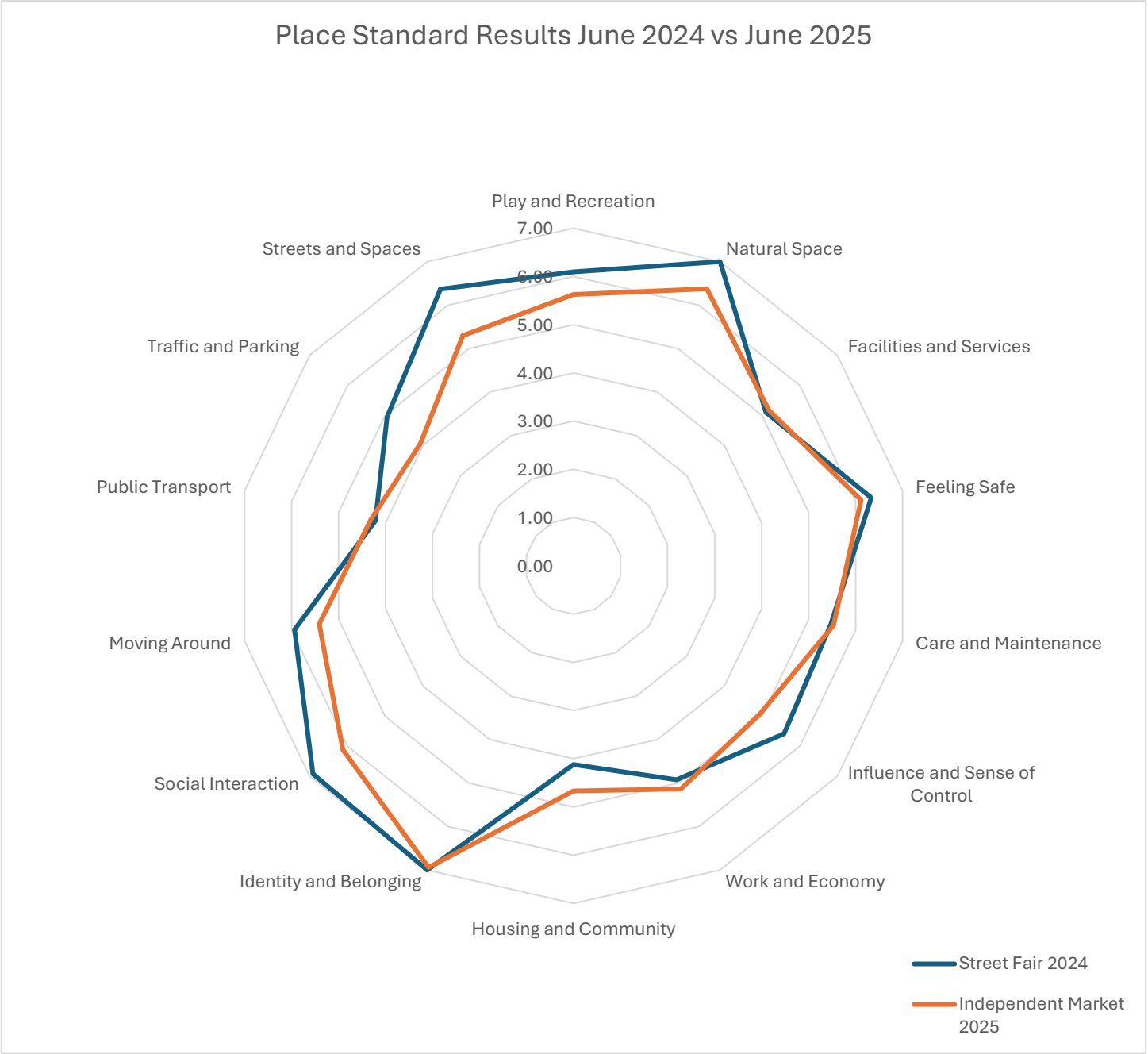
### Place Standard Results Spring Fayre 2024



■ 1 
 ■ 2 
 ■ 3 
 ■ 4 
 ■ 5 
 ■ 6 
 ■ 7 
 — Average Rating

**APPENDIX B**

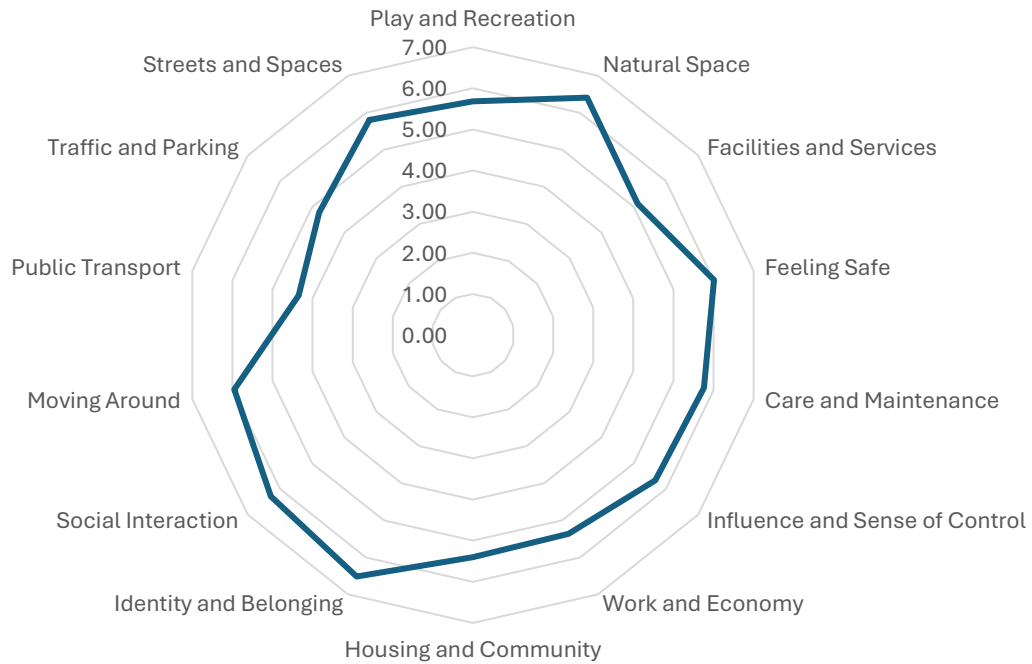
**Place Standard Tool Averages June 2024 vs June 2025**



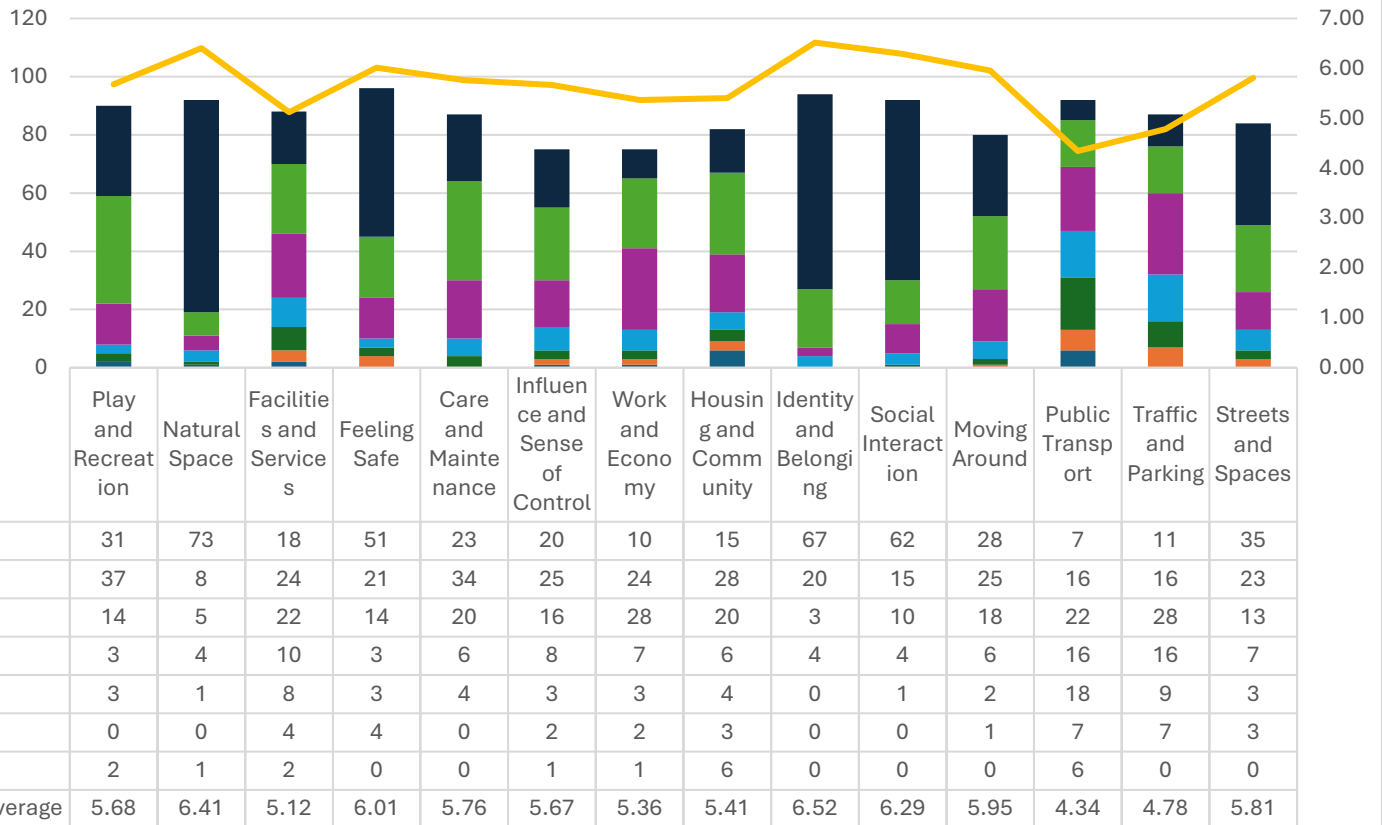
## APPENDIX C

### Place Standard Tool Overall Results 2024 - 2025

Overall Averages 2024-25



Overall Scores 2024-25



1
  2
  3
  4
  5
  6
  7
  Average



# PLAY AND RECREATION

Play and recreation can improve the quality of our lives and our health and wellbeing. Good opportunities for play are essential for children's development. Places with a range of formal and informal indoor and outdoor spaces and events encourage children, teenagers and adults to play and to enjoy leisure, culture and sporting activities.

## How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in Wellington?

### Here are some things to think about:

- What opportunities are there? (play, sports, culture, arts, leisure)
- Are there places that everyone can enjoy? (children and young people, adults and older people, non-disabled and disabled, vision/ hearing impaired, locals and visitors)
- Are spaces and facilities well used? (easy to get to, free or affordable, safe and well maintained, fun and welcoming, different times of day or year)
- How else could we make the most of what we have? (streets close to home, vacant and derelict land, playgrounds, natural spaces, libraries and public buildings, hosting activities and events)
- Are there any issues? (access, location, lighting, noise, cost, public toilets, traffic, weather, play not welcomed by the community)



# NATURAL SPACE

Good quality natural spaces provide many benefits – improving health and wellbeing, supporting wildlife, reducing flooding, and improving air quality. This includes parks and woodlands, fields, streams, canals and rivers, the coastline, green spaces alongside paths and roads, and tree-lined streets.

## How easy is it for me to regularly enjoy natural space?

### Here are some things to think about:

- What kind of natural spaces are there? (welcoming, easy to get to, accessible, safe and secure, well-connected, meets my needs)
- Can everyone use the spaces? (disabled people, dog walking, prams and buggies, walking and cycling, local food growing, playing, places to rest)
- Are spaces looked after? (clean, safe, in good order, community volunteers)
- What stops people using spaces? (litter, noise, dog fouling, surface mud/ dirt, air quality, flooding, no seating, overcrowding, no toilets)
- How can natural spaces work better for us? (drainage, rewilding, protect and encourage wildlife and nature, tree planting, cleaner air, shade)





# FACILITIES AND SERVICES

When facilities and services in a place, such as schools, doctors, shops, libraries, social care and community groups are easy to access locally, this can help people to live independent, healthy and fulfilling lives. It can be difficult for some people where there is a lack of local facilities, the quality of those facilities is poor, or where the services and support available in the community is limited.

## How well do facilities and services in Wellington meet my needs?

### Here are some things to think about:

- What facilities and services are there? (schools and education, health facilities, social care, shops, library and culture, community centres and halls, recycling and repair, healthy food, leisure, gas, electricity and water)
- What other support is available? (charities and clubs, welfare support, community food groups, places of worship, housing and employment advice)
- Do the facilities and services meet local needs, now and in the future? (affordable, all ages, different needs and abilities, responsive to emergencies)
- Are facilities and services easy to get to and use? (within a reasonable walking, wheeling or cycling distance, for disabled people, available online, linked to other services)
- Are there other barriers for people? (unwelcoming, limited healthy choices, language, internet access)



# FEELING SAFE

How safe a place feels can support community activity, affect people's wellbeing and influence how and where we spend our time. Good design and maintenance can make places feel safe by reducing crime and antisocial behaviour.

## How safe does Wellington make me feel?

### Here are some things to think about:

- Does everyone feel safe in our place? (daytime, evening and night-time, children and teenagers, adults and older people, women)
- Are there physical barriers or areas that feel unsafe? (lighting, derelict buildings, empty homes, vacant land, flooding, clean/ clear paths, flooding)
- Are there social issues? (freedom of speech, anti-social behaviour, hate crime, inequality, lack of diversity)
- How do we share our concerns? (neighbourhood watch, reporting crime, social media)
- Are there other issues? (litter and graffiti, hidden or unreported crimes, unsafe at specific times/ certain places, traffic speed and volume)



# CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Places that are cared for can make us feel positive and secure, while those that are not looked after properly can affect people's wellbeing.

## How well is Wellington looked after and cared for?

### Here are some things to think about:

- Are buildings, streets and spaces maintained? (clean and safe, quick repairs, loved and cared for, accessible to everyone)
- Who helps to maintain our place? (council, community, businesses, others)
- Are there any challenges? (litter and fly-tipping, vandalism, pavement surfaces, changes to services, flooding, extreme weather)
- Do we report issues? (who to, online or to a person, is it easy, how responsive, does this lead to action)
- What are local services like? (cleaning, recycling, property maintenance)



# INFLUENCE AND SENSE OF CONTROL

Having a voice in decision-making can help to build stronger communities and better places. Having a sense of control can make people feel positive about their lives.

## When things happen in Wellington how well am I listened to and included in decision-making?

### Here are some things to think about:

- Does the community have a voice? (confidence to take part, getting involved, influencing decisions, doing things ourselves, do we know and successfully exercise our rights)
- Is the community listened to? (are our needs understood, who do we talk to, how are we consulted, more or less consultation)
- Are there effective local groups? (community council, residents' association, business groups, charities or lobby groups, building/ user forums, social media)
- Do I feel able to take action on my own or with neighbours? (litter picking, local improvements, working together to take action)
- Are there barriers for some people? (clear language, online/ digital tools, hearing/ vision needs, disabled people, can everyone take part)



# WORK AND LOCAL ECONOMY

A strong local economy with a mix of businesses can help to make places feel active and attractive – most people enjoy spending time in lively places. Access to good quality jobs, volunteering and training can help us to stay active and healthy, provide social connections, a sense of identity and satisfaction, and an income where paid.

## How active is the local economy in Wellington and are there good opportunities for work, volunteering, and training?

### Here are some things to think about:

- Is there an active local economy? (able to spend locally (shop/ eat/ drink), mix of businesses, including local and community-owned, opening days/ times)
- Is there work available in the local area for those that want it? (a mix of jobs, paid work and volunteering, temporary and permanent, seasonal and parttime positions)
- Are there opportunities for people to build skills? (education, training or retraining, community work, local or accessible nearby)
- What support is available? (for people with different needs, employment advice, starting and growing a business, childcare, travel)
- Are there any challenges? (pollution, noise, reliance on a few major employers, broadband, working conditions, closed businesses)
- How does the local economy affect how I feel about my place? (thriving or declining, lots of activity or empty streets, boarded up or attractive buildings)



# HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

Good places have a mix of housing in attractive, safe and connected communities for different types of families and people. Where we live and call home affects our health and wellbeing.

## How well do the homes in Wellington meet the needs of my community?

### Here are some things to think about:

- Is there a good mix of housing types? (different sizes, various prices, privately owned, rented, specialist housing, supported living, multi-generational)
- Are residential areas attractive? (well maintained homes, private and community gardens, well laid out, communal areas)
- Are homes and places able to adapt to changing circumstances? (changing climate, population changes, global health challenges, energy efficiency)
- Is there a good community spirit? (local activities and events, friendly neighbours, welcoming neighbourhoods, intergenerational mixing)
- Are there any challenges? (damp/ draughty homes, secure boundaries, flooding, noise and disturbance, homelessness, anti-social behaviour, no storage)





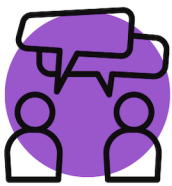
# IDENTITY AND BELONGING

How a place looks, its history and what other people think of it can affect how we feel. A positive identity can also attract people and businesses to move into an area.

## **To what extent does Wellington have a positive identity that supports a strong sense of belonging?**

### **Here are some things to think about:**

- How strong is the sense of identity and belonging? (pride, neighbourliness, traditions, local groups)
- How does the community celebrate? (history/ heritage/ arts/ music/ culture, sports, public events, social media, our uniqueness, our inclusiveness)
- How involved are people in the community? (volunteering, sharing experiences, support networks, different groups, come together in a crisis)
- How welcoming are people in this place? (friendliness, tolerance and openness, all ages and ethnicities, for disabled people, language, culture)
- What do others think of the place and community? (reputation, profile, community)



# SOCIAL INTERACTION

Good places have a mix of spaces and opportunities to meet and spend time with other people. Some places also have active websites or social media networks to help people meet and take part in the local community. Feeling isolated can be damaging to our health and wellbeing.

## **How good is the range of opportunities which allow me to meet and spend time with other people?**

### **Here are some things to think about:**

- Where do people get together? (local halls and centres, schools, places of worship, food and drink outlets, streets, outdoor seating, online)
- How do people find out what's happening? (friends/ family/ neighbours, social media, advertising and posters, local radio and newspapers)
- Can everyone join in and mix? (accessible, friendly, inclusive, welcoming, free or affordable, digital access and skills)
- Is there a mix of activities? (indoor and outdoor groups, kids clubs and pensioner clubs, community activities, events, specialist groups)
- Would people come together in a crisis? (networks, support groups, resources)
- Are there any gaps? (type of activities, type of spaces, use of spaces)



# MOVING AROUND

Pleasant and safe routes can encourage people to move around by walking, wheeling and cycling without relying on cars or public transport – this is good for health, and for the environment and air quality. This can include off-road paths, wide pavements, quiet streets with reduced speed limits, and walking and cycling routes that can be used by people in wheelchairs, mobility aids, prams or adapted bikes.

## How easy is it to move around and get to where I want to go?

### Here are some things to think about:

- Are paths and routes suitable? (walk, wheel, or cycle, adapted bikes)
- Are there enough routes for people to get to where they want to go? (shops, school, work, parks, public transport)
- Are routes attractive and safe? (good surfaces, well-lit, seating, continuous, clean and clear, free from pollution, all weathers)
- Can everyone use them? (all ages and mobility, vision/ hearing impaired, pushchairs and prams, mobility aids, bikes)
- Are there any barriers? (pavement parking, traffic volume/ speed, overgrown hedges, refuse bins; lack of dropped kerbs or tactile paving, no safe crossing points, no safe mobility aid/bike parking or storage)



# PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Good public transport is affordable, reliable and well connected. This can reduce reliance on cars and encourage people to get around in ways that are better for the environment and for their health.

## What is public transport like in Wellington?

### Here are some things to think about:

- Is public transport a good option? (safe and convenient, frequent and reliable, affordable, clean and comfortable, easy to change between services)
- Can everyone use services? (wheelchairs, prams, vision/ hearing impaired, cyclists, all weathers, all times)
- Do facilities and services have what people need? (toilets, seating, shelter from weather, visual/ audio help points, green/ low emissions, cycle storage, car parking)
- Is there information on services? (easy to find, easy to use, clear and accessible)
- Does the public transport system allow people to get to where they need to go if they can't get there by walking, wheeling or cycling? (health centre, shops, to meet friends, parks)



# TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Traffic and parking affects how people move around. Good arrangements can help people to get the most out of their place.

## How do traffic and parking affect how I move around Wellington?

### Here are some things to think about:

- Do people have priority over vehicles? (traffic calming measures, good pedestrian routes, safe road crossing points)
- How does traffic affect people? (congestion, speed, pollution, noise, fear of vehicles or bicycles, delivery vehicles)
- What impact does parking have? (on walking, wheeling and cycling, accessibility of pavements, attractiveness of the area)
- What is parking like? (safe and secure, in a convenient location, accessible for blue badge holders, cars/ bicycles, inconsiderate parking)
- Are there options for lower carbon travel? (bike hire or sharing schemes, e-bikes, park and ride, car clubs, car sharing schemes, electric vehicle charging)



# STREETS AND SPACES

Buildings, landmarks, greenery, views and natural landscape can help to create an attractive place that people enjoy being in. Distinctive streets and spaces can help people to find their way around, and greener streets and spaces are not just good for wellbeing but also for the environment and for biodiversity.

## What are the buildings, streets and public spaces like in Wellington?

### Here are some things to think about:

- What are streets and spaces like? (welcoming, distinctive, pleasant, accessible, fun, sheltered, shaded, places to rest, adaptable)
- Are there points of interest? (local landmarks, historic features, public squares, parks and gardens, trees)
- Is it easy to find my way around? (good surfaces, visual features, well signposted, direct and easy routes to follow)
- How accessible are spaces for everyone? (pavement width, crossing points, tactile surfaces, dropped kerbs)
- Are there any challenges? (flooding, derelict buildings, vacant land, pollution, litter, lighting, busy roads, pavement clutter, illegal parking)



## Wellington Community Development Engagement Form (2025–2030)

### Help shape the future of our community.

Wellington Town Council is developing a five-year Community Development Plan and would love to hear from local individuals, groups, and organisations. Your insights will help us understand what's working well, what needs support, and what ideas you have for the future.

This short survey should take around 5–10 minutes and will help shape how Wellington grows, connects and supports people over the next five years

### 1. About You *(Optional – this helps us ensure responses reflect the full diversity of Wellington's community)*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode or neighbourhood: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Age group:

☐ Under 18 ☐ 18–30 ☐ 31–50 ☐ 51–70 ☐ Over 70

#### Are you responding as:

- ☐ A resident
- ☐ A community group or organisation
- ☐ A business
- ☐ A professional/partner
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Tell us about your work or involvement in Wellington.

*(e.g., What do you do? Who do you support? What events or services do you run?)*

Free text box

### 3. What do you think are the most important community issues or needs in Wellington right now?

*Tick all that apply and add your own if needed:*

- ☐ Children and young people – activities, support and safe spaces (Youth and Learning)
- ☐ Youth services and opportunities for older teens (Youth and Learning)
- ☐ Mental health and wellbeing support *(Wellbeing & Sustainability)*
- ☐ Inclusion, belonging and reducing isolation (Belonging & Inclusion)
- ☐ Support for older people and those with disabilities (Connected Communities)
- ☐ Affordable housing and welcoming community spaces (Housing & Safety)
- ☐ Cost of living – food insecurity, warm spaces, financial help (Wellbeing & Inclusion)
- ☐ Access to advice, digital support, and training (Access & Skills)
- ☐ Safer, cleaner, more accessible public spaces and town centre *(Pride in Place)*
- ☐ Walking, cycling and safer travel routes (Sustainability & Access)
- ☐ Cultural, creative and heritage opportunities (Culture & Belonging)
- ☐ Community safety and better communication with residents (Housing & Safety)
- ☐ Supporting local groups, volunteers and community projects (Community Resilience)
- ☐ Public facilities – toilets, benches, small-scale improvements (Access & Inclusion)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Free text box

*Free text box*

Free text box

- ☐ Pregnancy & Early years (0–5)
- ☐ Children (5–11)
- ☐ Young people (11–18)
- ☐ Young adults (18–25)
- ☐ Working-age adults
- ☐ Older adults
- ☐ Whole-family approach
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Free text box

Free text box

Free text box

Rate from 1 (Not important) to 5 (Very important) or tick "I need more info":

[illegible]



**12. Would you like to...**

- ☐ Invite us to speak at your group/school/organisation
- ☐ Book a 1-to-1 conversation
- ☐ Be part of ongoing community planning (e.g. future workshops/ working groups)
- ☐ Sign up for the Wellington Town Council newsletter

**If yes, please leave your name and email:**

**13. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?**

*Free text box*

**Your Information**

We'll use your feedback to help develop the Community Development Plan. Your contact details will only be used for follow-up related to this plan or Council updates, and will **not be shared without your permission**.

## Structure for Emergency Plan Project

### 1. Preparation (Now – Aug 2025):

- Map flood zones and risks.
- Schedule community workshop(s).
- Begin drafting emergency plan structure.

### 2. Community Engagement (Sep – Dec 2025):

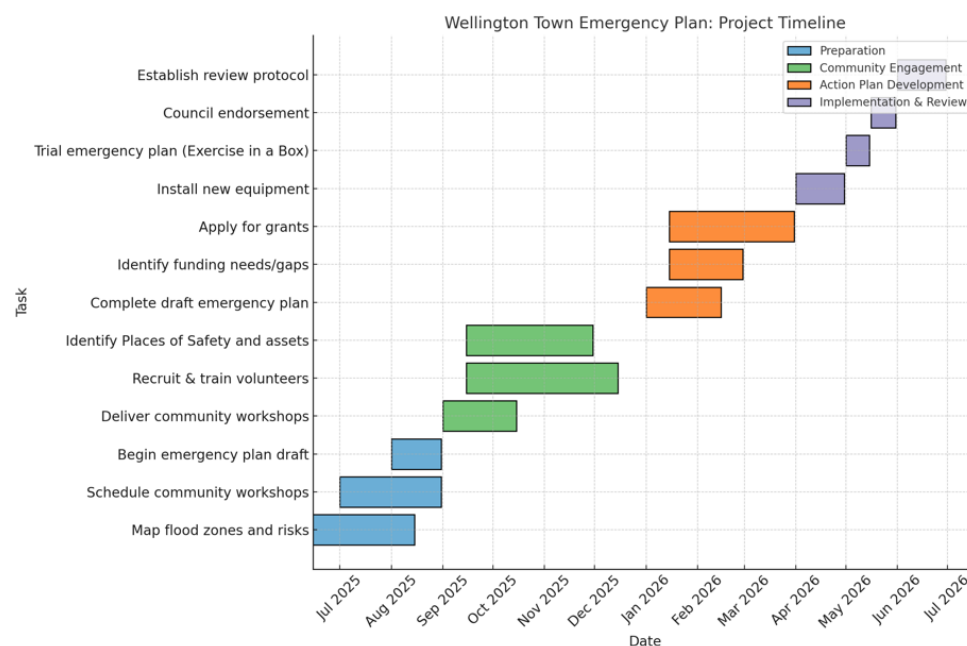
- Deliver workshop(s).
- Recruit and train local volunteers.
- Identify Places of Safety and assets.

### 3. Action Plan Development (Jan – Mar 2026):

- Complete draft emergency plan.
- Identify funding needs/gaps.
- Apply for grants.

### 4. Implementation & Review (Apr – Jun 2026):

- Install any new equipment.
- Trial plan (exercise in a box).
- Council endorsement.
- Establish review protocol.





## WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

21.07.25

### Application of the Accelerated Reform Funding

#### 1. Introduction

The Council proposes a new project: Wellington Connect. The project aims to create a coordinated, preventative, community-first model for adult support in Wellington, centred on expanding the role of the Community Hub Manager. Funding of £38,000 will be sought from the Somerset Community Foundation's Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF) to cover staffing and delivery costs for one year.

#### 2. Background

Wellington Town Council in the process of reopening the King's Arms Community Hub (KACH), which is quickly becoming a key location for accessible and inclusive community activity. The hub currently provides a space for organisations including Young Somerset, Bold and Brave, Bright Beginnings, In the Mix, Reminiscence Learning, NHS partners and more. The hub has a current youth and family focus, but feedback and strategic planning have identified a significant gap in adult social care support, early intervention, and community signposting.

The Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF) is a government-backed grant administered by Somerset Community Foundation, designed to support innovative, community-based approaches to adult social care. The fund prioritises prevention, wellbeing, early support for carers, and local care navigation — enabling community groups and councils to help people live well and independently in their communities.

**Commented [DF1]:** @Laura Batcha - have moved this from the intro bt forgot to track change!

#### 3. Proposal

The ARF- Wellington Connect project will strengthen the Council's ability to support adult residents in living well and independently. In particular, it will allow us to:

- Deliver a community-facing campaign (e.g. *"Could You Be a Carer?"*) to raise awareness and encourage residents to identify themselves as carers.
- Establish the King's Arms Community Forum to engage directly with residents about their support needs, feedback, and service ideas.
- Build a local Community Directory – a digital platform hosted on the Town Council website – acting as a one-stop shop for information and support. This will help residents and stakeholders navigate available services, from adult social care and health services to wellbeing groups, peer support, and voluntary networks.
- Facilitate outreach and stakeholder engagement, with the Hub Manager and volunteers proactively working across Wellington to map existing provision and build inclusive pathways into support services.

These measures will address a current gap in Wellington: the absence of a coordinated local access point for adults to receive early help, preventative support, and community-based care alternatives. While the Community Hub has initially focused on youth and family activities, this project would expand its remit

to include targeted adult support and signposting, helping to ease pressure on statutory services.

#### **4. Relevance to the Place Plan and Community Development Plan (being developed)**

The Wellington Connect project strongly aligns with the Wellington Place Plan's themes of improving community cohesion, health and wellbeing, and access to services. It also aligns with emerging priorities in the Community Development Plan, particularly around:

- Tackling social isolation
- Building community capacity
- Creating better signposting and joined-up support
- Supporting unpaid carers and older adults

This project represents a step forward in embedding accessible support directly within the heart of Wellington.

#### **5. Financial Considerations**

The Council will apply for a £38,000 grant from the Accelerating Reform Fund. This will cover:

- £31,000 towards the Community Hub Manager's post
- £3,000 towards Community directory
- £3,000 for delivery and outreach
- £1,000 for evaluation and volunteer support

The Council has already invested significantly in the hub refurbishment and will continue to provide in-kind support including premises, comms, and project oversight. If successful, the Council will explore longer-term funding to sustain the post beyond the grant period.

#### **6. Risks**

Key risks and mitigation measures include:

- Staff dependency: Mitigated by volunteer development and partnership support
- Project sustainability: To be addressed through a business plan and longer-term council funding
- Reputational risk if delivery is delayed – managed through a clear timeline and oversight
- Safeguarding: Covered by the Council's approved safeguarding policy, already in place and additional KACH Safeguarding Policy in development.

#### **7. Timescales**

- Application submission: July 2025
- Project start: April 2026
- Funding duration: 1 year (April 2026 to March 2027)
- Initial outcomes reported: October 2026
- End of year review and sustainability plan: March 2027

## **8. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Approves the Wellington Connect project as set out in this report along with a submission to the Accelerated Reform Funding.
2. Delegates authority to the Community Development Officer to finalise and submit the bid.

15 July 2025

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
Summary of Income & Expenditure 2025 - 2026

All Cost Centres and Codes Delegated to Community Committee (Between 01/04/2025 and 31/03/2026)

Community Services		Income			Expenditure							
Code	Title	Inc Budget	Inc Actual	Inc Variance	Exp Budget	Ex Actual	Ex Committed (POs)	Ex Committed by Committee	Ex Total	Ex Variance	Net Position	Notes
66	Other Payments			0.00	300.00				0.00	300.00	300.00	
67	Youth Services		2,500.00	2,500.00					0.00	0.00	2,500.00	Earmarked Reserve balance £50,000
97	Cades Farm Community Hall			0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	Earmarked Reserve balance £6,900
134	Kings Arms			0.00	18,000.00	700.41		17,050.00	17,750.41	249.59	249.59	
139	Cost of Living			0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	Earmarked Reserve balance £20,000
189	Kings Arms CIL		1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	42,378.31	18,302.86		60,681.17	-60,681.17	-59,181.17	NB - Doesn't match report as some expenditure falls in the previous financial year. Some cross reverencing/checking required on outstanding POs as project nears completion.
196	Community Development & Support			0.00	11,000.00	217.84		750.00	967.84	10,032.16	10,032.16	
Total		0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	29,300.00	43,296.56	18,302.86	17,800.00		-50,099.42	-46,099.42	