

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM EACH QUESTION

Question 1 How long have you lived in your home?

- 1.1 Although the residential areas are relatively new compared to the Borough's housing stock in general, the respondents have had some time living in them - enough time for the respondents to get an overall impression of the area and to be able to answer the questionnaire in a knowledgeable manner.

Question 2 How many people live in your household?

- 2.1 According to the 2001 Census, 64% of the Dartford Borough's population are adults, 21% are children and 14% are elderly.
- 2.2 These results highlight that there are proportionally fewer elderly people in the 5 residential areas.

Question 3 What type of accommodation do you live in?

- 3.1 The 2001 Census shows that within the Borough of Dartford 35% live in terraced houses, 33% live in semi-detached houses, 13% of the population live in detached houses and 15% live in apartments.
- 3.2 The 5 residential areas provide a range of accommodation, with more modern developments providing a greater mix of properties.

Question 4 How many bedrooms does your home have?

- 4.1 The Borough of Dartford has a typical average household population of 2.4 people according to the 2001 Census.
- 4.2 The 5 residential areas provide a range of accommodation sizes, although they do tend to have proportionally more large properties than elsewhere in the Borough in general.

Question 5 What attracted you to buy/rent your home?

- 5.1 All 5 residential areas offer a range of factors that attract people to move there.
- 5.2 Location and individual property considerations are the most important factors that respondents have taken into account when moving into their home.
- 5.3 The surrounding area/estate, the quality/safety of the environment and financial factors have less of a pull on respondents when moving into a new home.

Question 6 How many vehicles do you own?

- 6.1 From the 2001 Census, Dartford Borough's population has 20% with no cars, 46% with 1 car, 27% with 2 cars and 7% with 3 or more cars.
- 6.2 From the results, there are proportionally fewer respondents with no cars and proportionally more respondents with two cars compared to the Borough's average figures.

Question 7 How many parking spaces are available to you?

- 7.1 A range of parking options are available to residents, the most popular being parking on driveways or in garages attached to properties.

Question 8 If you have a garage, do you use it for parking your car?

- 8.1 More than half of the garages are not used for parking a car.

Question 9 If you have a garage, do you use it for other functions?

- 9.1 Garages are used for a variety of other functions than parking a car, the most common of which is storage.

Question 10 Do you experience any particular problems in parking your car?

- 10.1 Problems of car parking are experienced in all 5 residential areas.
- 10.2 The most common problems are too few parking spaces for visitors and lack of residents' car parking.

Question 11 Do you use your car to travel to work?

- 11.1 The 2001 Census identifies that 56% of the population in the Borough of Dartford travels by car/van to work compared to 14% that travels by rail and 4% by bus.
- 11.2 The respondents travelling to work by car reflects the Borough's travel to work pattern in general.

Question 12 If not, how do you rate your chosen method of travel?

- 12.1 A range of scores were generated for different local travel services.
- 12.2 None of the services were found to be very poor, but nor were they found to be very good.
- 12.3 The proximity to the rail station scored the highest mean average of 9.

Question 13 Do you experience any of the following problems?

- 13.1 Numerous problems can be encountered living in the residential areas.
- 13.2 Car parking, pollution (at Braeburn Park) and buildings seem to be particular concerns.

Question 14 What do you think about the type and quality of local community facilities and services accessible to you?

- 14.1 There are a range of mean average scores for different types of community facilities.
- 14.2 Those that scored highest include food supermarket, trains and chemists.
- 14.3 Those that scored lowest include elderly centres and youth centres.

Question 15 Are you or your family part of any local community groups? If so, which ones and where do they meet?

- 15.1 Only a limited proportion of respondents are part of local community groups - the majority of respondents do not participate.
- 15.2 However, there are a range of local community groups that the minority participate in.

Question 16 Do you feel there is a strong sense of community?

- 16.1 The majority of respondents perceive there to be a general lack of community spirit in these relatively new residential areas.

Question 17 Do you think it is a good neighbourhood to live in?

- 17.1 Overall, respondents feel that their residential area is a good neighbourhood to live in.

Question 18 What are the three main things that you like?

- 18.1 There is an array of reasons why respondents like to live in these residential areas.

Question 19 What are the three main things that you dislike?

- 19.1 There are many reasons why respondents do not like living in these residential areas.

Question 20 Do you see yourself still living in the community in future years?

- 20.1 The general opinion is that respondents will stay in their residential areas about 2-5 years before thinking of moving on elsewhere.
- 20.2 There may be a high turnaround in some of the residential areas.

Question 21 Would you recommend it as a place to live for others?

- 21.1 Despite the issues raised by the respondents throughout the questionnaire, a high percentage of respondents are satisfied living in their residential area, and would recommend others to live there too.