

Manor Park Consultation

In 2017, the Community Development (CD) Team at Slough Borough Council was asked to carry out a consultation at Manor Park which focused on the Community Centre and surrounding area. Prior to starting the consultation there were a number of factors we needed to consider including the reason for the consultation, information we already held on the area and a commitment to feedback the results of the consultation.

Once we'd established all of this we took a partnership approach to carrying the consultation working with numerous teams and organisations including the Facilities, Neighbourhood Services and locally based community groups who were key stakeholders in the community.

We drew up a number of questions that were clear and concise whilst making sure we weren't raising any expectations in the process. We delivered the questionnaires to homes in a defined area with options of returning it by post, dropping it off at the community centre or completing it on line leaving a clear two weeks for the consultation period. During the two week period the CD team hosted three drop in sessions for residents to visit the community centre and discuss the consultation face to face with officers with the added opportunity to discuss the questionnaire in their own language. We also hosted a dedicated focus group session for hirers of the community centre to allow them to have their say on issues they faced on a daily basis. The questionnaire was easily accessible with the many options for taking part and we asked for postcode as a minimum form of identity making sure that people could take part anonymously if they wanted to.

The consultation was a success as we received approximately 600 replies. Following this we gathered all the data and collated it in a report that included the information we had on the area and compared/contrasted it to what the community told us. Since the report was written we have carried out numerous actions including working with partners, teams and community groups to deliver what was needed in the area. We also worked in partnership with a local community group to put on an event which allowed us to feedback to the community the results of the consultation, the report and the actions we hope to achieve as a result of what they told us. This was done through a series of *You Said, We Did* posters as well as stalls at the event promoting what we were committed to delivering. To add to this we worked with community groups to apply for grants from external funding providers as the report provided a proven, identified need for services, equipment and activities in this area. Since the consultation and subsequent report Slough Borough Council and partners have delivered the following:

- New Green Gym
- New Cricket nets
- New Tennis equipment
- New Multi Utility Games Area
- Adult education taster sessions
- Flowers planted in Manor Park
- Refurbished Manor Park Hall
- Community Cohesion events
- Supported numerous funding applications for community groups

Our work continues in this area as we look to address the issues raised by working in partnership with public, private and third sector organisations to improve the lives of local residents.