Blackbird Leys Community Centre & Public Realm

Statement of Community Involvement





















Contents

[A] Introduction & Project Overview	3	[F] Feedback Received	
[B] Policy Context for Community Engagement		[G] Response to Feedback	49
[C] Engagement Strategy	14	[H] Ongoing Engagement	56
[D] Engagement Activities		[1] Conclusion	
[F] Levs Community Review Panel		Appendices	65

[A] Introduction

This Statement of Community Involvement has been prepared by Transition by Design Cooperative CIC on behalf of Peabody and Oxford City Council in support of a planning application for the new Blackbird Leys Community Centre and Public Realm.

This document outlines the engagement activity undertaken by the applicant, and led by Transition by Design, prior to the current planning submission, confirming that they have undertaken significant and appropriate pre-planning application discussion with key stakeholders and the community and actively involved them in the project development process. The commitments in this Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) are framed by wider City Council strategies about community engagement, as well as being informed by

consultation and other feedback.

This document sets out:

- The policy context of the Statement of Community Involvement and Community Engagement
- The engagement strategy undertaken for the project: how the community was kept informed
- Engagement Activities undertaken: including a record of outputs, both within this report and in further detail within the appendices of the WS2 & WS3 engagement summary reports
- How the engagement has shaped the proposals: Feedback Received & the response to feedback



(Public art created on hoarding as part of the Blackbird Leys Regeneration)

Introduction

As stated in the Oxford City Council Statement of Community Involvement (June 2021) we have followed the four key principles for effective engagement in planning processes:

Timely & Sustained

Events and activities should start before any planning decisions are made and engagement should last throughout the planning process and beyond Inclusive for all local people

Those living and working in an area have a right to be involved, all parties are welcome, and process must take account of peoples' varied needs

Two way, open and responsive

Communication should be discursive not prescriptive, so that information can be debated and ideas exchanged

A matter of public record

The processes must be documented and published.

(Roger Dudman Way Review, Vincent Goodstadt, 2013, paragraph 91)

Project Overview

Transition by Design (T/D) has been appointed by Oxford City Council (together with project partners, Peabody) to deliver community engagement and consultation for the development of the new Blackbird Leys Community Centre and surrounding Public Open Space.

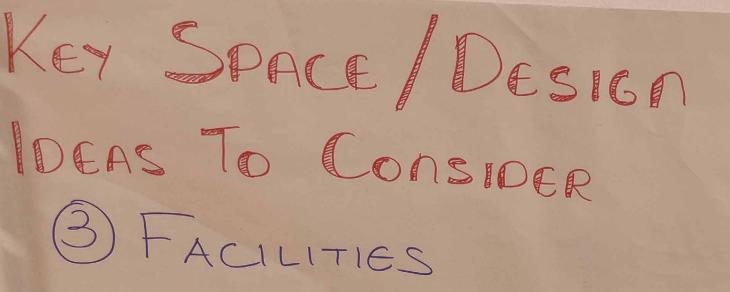
The Leys is to have a new identifiable Community Centre to meet the current and future needs of the Blackbird Leys & Greater Leys community. The centre will have a new inclusive and multifunctional community centre and better accessible public space. This will complement the wider regeneration of the Leys, which includes new shops and new affordable homes, and is being led by Peabody and Oxford City Council.

T/D used a Consult-Inform-Activate framework as a basis for the community engagement. Where most activities were consult (gathering input at a point when it can be usefully and meaningfully implemented) or inform (providing a platform or quality dialogue between the design team, client representative, local communities and key stakeholders).

This method has proved successful in several schemes across Oxford and Oxfordshire. The engagement strategy is explained in further detail later in the statement of community involvement.

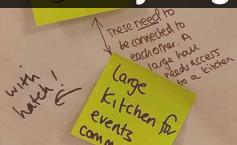


(Photograph taken from the African Families in UK Homework Club workshop with young people)



eg. Space to cook, work, toilets exc...

[B] Policy Context for Community Engagement

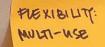


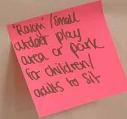


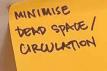








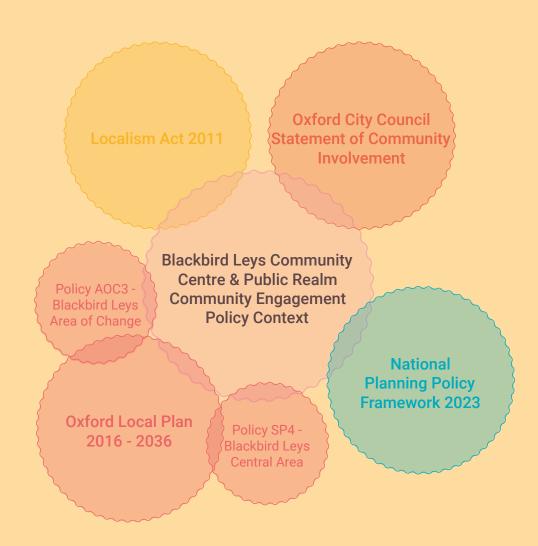






The process of community engagement carried out in preparing the planning application has been undertaken with direct regard given to:

- Oxford City Council Statement of Community Involvement, June 2021
- Localism Act 2011
- National Planning Policy Framework 2023
- Policy AOC3 (Blackbird Leys Area of Change)
- Policy SP4 (Blackbird Leys Central Area) of the Oxford Local Plan 2016-2036 (adopted June 2020)



The process of community engagement carried out in preparing the planning application has been undertaken with direct regard given to:

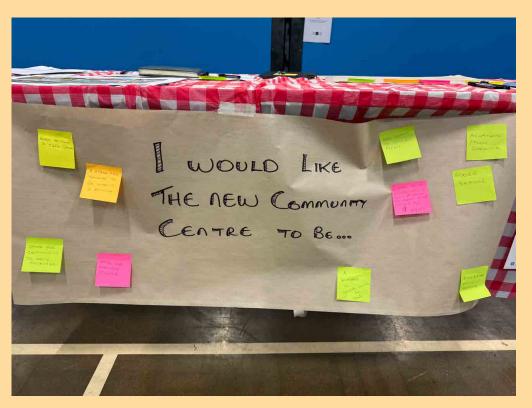
- Oxford City Council Statement of Community Involvement, June 2021
- Localism Act 2011
- National Planning Policy Framework 2023
- Policy AOC3 (Blackbird Leys Area of Change)
- Policy SP4 (Blackbird Leys Central Area) of the Oxford Local Plan 2016-2036 (adopted June 2020)

Oxford City Council Statement of Community Involvement, 2021

Relevant passages of the Oxford City Council Statement of Community Involvement are as follows:

Informing & involving the community:

• "2.1 We want to inform and involve the community in planning decision-making processes. Achieving effective community involvement in the planning process



(Photograph of post-it notes of feedback given at a community-run Christmas event)

can have several benefits, including:

- More focus on the priorities identified by the community;
- Influencing the provision of local services to meet local needs;
- Ability to draw upon a local knowledge base;
- Increased community commitment to the future of an area; and
- Increased support for planning services, as communities will have a better understanding of how planning policies are developed and how decisions are made."
- "2.7 Involving communities at an early stage, and continuing that involvement throughout the planning process, will help to resolve issues and achieve consensus where possible, which will in turn avoid the need for lengthy independent examinations."

Engaging with the City Council and relevant stakeholders:

- "6.2 All applicants (or their agents) are strongly encouraged to discuss
 development proposals with the City Council before applying for planning
 permission. Applicants are also encouraged, especially for major applications, to
 engage with the community and relevant stakeholders, to a degree proportionate
 to the nature of the proposal, at the earliest appropriate opportunity."
- **"6.3** There are significant benefits to involving communities and stakeholders early on in the process of preparing of a proposal before it is finalised and submitted to the City Council for planning permission, including:
 - Issues and opportunities can be identified, and where possible addressed, early on in the process, making more efficient use of resources (both for



(Photograph taken at key stakeholder & user group workshop which Parish Councillors and Local Councillors also attended)

the applicant and the City Council);

- Community and stakeholder views can be taken into consideration early on, helping to achieve higher quality design that utilises local knowledge and better reflects communities' needs and aspirations;
- Addressing issues early on is likely to result in higher quality proposals that are likely to move through the application process more quickly and smoothly;
- Responding to community and stakeholder views early on reduces the likelihood of objections at the application stage; and
- Early engagement increases openness and transparency."

Oxford City Council Statement of Community Involvement, 2021

Overall approach:

"If the scheme falls within the definition of a 'major' application then applicants are strongly encouraged to contact those who live, work and/ or undertake other activities in the surrounding area who may be affected by the proposals, to inform them of their plans and to identify/discuss any potential issues and opportunities so that the submitted proposal acknowledges and addresses community concerns, even if it cannot fully resolve them. Consultation at this stage should be appropriate and

proportionate, and will normally include helping the community and non-planning experts to visualise what the development will look like and to understand the impacts on the area. Consultation should utilise digital technology and include a variety of methods to engage with the community where possible.

Whilst there is no legal obligation for applicants to undertake consultation at the pre-application stage, failure to consult properly is likely to lead to objections being made by interested parties (such as neighbouring residents) later on in the process which could be material to the determination of a planning application. Pre-application consultation may be made a formal requirement via a Planning Performance Agreement where relevant.

A statement setting out how consultation has been carried out and any changes made to the proposals as a result, is encouraged to be submitted with the planning application, and should be easy for the community to find so that they can easily see the feedback. Developers are also encouraged to feedback directly to the community via a second round of pre-application engagement, before submitting



(Photograph taken during the Community Fun Day)

the application to the Council, to explain any changes to the proposal and how concerns have been addressed

We also encourage applicants to let the local ward councillors know about their proposals. The City Council's Code of Practice for councillors on planning applications advises that councillors attending public meetings should take great care to maintain their impartial role, listen to all the points of view expressed by the speakers and public, and not state a conclusive decision on any pre-application proposals or submitted planning applications.

Nonetheless we would encourage applicants on major schemes to make local councillors aware of their proposals so that they can help to bring it to the attention of their constituents at the earliest stages. Similarly, applicants are encouraged to contact local representative groups who may be able to help raise awareness and explain the proposals to the community, and may also be able to provide representative views from a community perspective and provide local insight."

National planning policy framework, 2023

Relevant passages of the National Planning Policy Framework are as follows:

Early engagement encouraged:

"39. Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and
effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality preapplication discussion enables better coordination between public and private
resources and improved outcomes for the community."

Involvement of local authorities & design expectations:

• "40. Local planning authorities have a key role to play in encouraging other parties to take maximum advantage of the pre-application stage. They cannot require that

- a developer engages with them before submitting a planning application, but they should encourage take-up of any pre-application services they offer. They should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications."
- "131. The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this. So too is effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process."

Design quality & approach to development:

- "132. Plans should, at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable. Design policies should be developed with local communities so they reflect local aspirations, and are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of each area's defining characteristics. Neighbourhood planning groups can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of each area and explaining how this should be reflected in development, both through their own plans and by engaging in the production of design policy, guidance and codes by local planning authorities and developers."
- "137. Design quality should be considered throughout the evolution and assessment of individual proposals. Early discussion between applicants, the local planning authority and local community about the design and style of emerging schemes is important for clarifying expectations and reconciling local and commercial interests. Applicants should work closely with those affected by

made by design review panels.

Localism Act 2011

Consultation before applying for planning permission:

Chapter 4 section 122 of the Localism act stipulates that:

- (2) "The person must publicise the proposed application in such manner as the person reasonably considers is likely to bring the proposed application to the attention of a majority of the persons who live at, or otherwise occupy, premises in the vicinity of the land.
- (3) The person must consult each specified person about the proposed application.

Oxford Local Plan 2016-2036 (adopted June 2020)

Policy AOC3 (Blackbird Leys Area of Change):

The community consultation has taken into consideration that Policy AOC3: Blackbird Leys Area of Change includes a vision to:

• "Create a high quality environment that builds on the community function of the district centre"

- their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot."
- "133. Local planning authorities should ensure that they have access to, and make appropriate use of, tools and processes for assessing and improving the design of development. The primary means of doing so should be through the preparation and use of local design codes, in line with the National Model Design Code. For assessing proposals there is a range of tools including workshops to engage the local community, design advice and review arrangements, and assessment frameworks such as Building for a Healthy Life54. These are of most benefit if used as early as possible in the evolution of schemes, and are particularly important for significant projects such as large scale housing and mixed use developments. In assessing applications, local planning authorities should have regard to the outcome from these processes, including any recommendations



(Photograph taken during the FriendLeys cafe visit)



Engagement Strategy

Our engagement strategy followed the following principles:

- Engagement across all work stages
- Inclusive Engagement: 'Meeting people where they are at'
- **Diverse Engagement:** 'Reaching across demographics of the Leys using a range of methods of engagement'
- Informative engagement: 'Engagement plus communications'

Engagement across all work stages:

Engagement as part of brief development: Our engagement strategy included engaging with residents and the local people to the Leys as early as possible during the design process. This was done to ensure that people informed the brief of the project. Therefore, our first engagement events were focused on the following questions:

- "What did you like about the previous community centre?"
- "What would you like to have in the new community centre and public realm?"

These desires and aspirations were captured through the engagement events and surveys. This informed and shaped the brief for the first phase of the design for the new community centre and the public realm.

Engagement at early-stage design stages: We continued to meet with the local community to gather their ideas on the emerging design principles. These emerging principles were developed by the community and translated into early-stage designs by the design team. Further information is shown in the engagement activities section.

Engagement during pre-application stages: The communities and councillors were engaged throughout all of the pre-application design stages. With various design iterations shown for comment at public or invitational events.

Engagement before the planning application is submitted: At the time of writing, the design team are finalising the designs for the planning submission. There will be a further opportunity for the wider community to comment on the designs and provide feedback prior to the submission of the planning application.



(Post-it notes of ideas captured during the FriendLeys senior cafe)

Engagement Strategy

Inclusive Engagement: 'Meeting people where they are at'

We intentionally chose to prioritise what we term 'on the ground engagement'. This is where we would meet people where they were at, by going to local community groups and activities to share about the community centre and the public realm. This would achieve two things:

- Ensure that the engagement approach is as inclusive as possible. When community
 or public engagement only relies on standalone invitation events, you do not get
 as many people attending as desired because of the limitations of time, date and
 location. By meeting people where they would naturally be, we are avoiding the risk
 of being exclusive in our engagement approach.
- This approach makes it as accessible as possible to get involved with the process, as the community can be informed or share their thoughts at an event that they would normally go to.

Diverse Engagement: 'Reaching across demographics of the Leys using a range of methods of engagement'

Building on the above approach, our aspiration was that the engagement would reach across all demographics in the Leys. One of our strategies in doing this was through incorporating the Leys Community Review Panel as part of the process. This is a demographically representative group of the Leys who met with the design team across 3 key design stages of the project: (Early stage / brief development, Pre-app [half-way point], Emerging final stages of planning drawings). Further information on the Leys Community Review Panel is included later in this document.

By attending several events, including, a café group largely attended by seniors, family fun day events, youth activities, community group meetings and the Community Larder, we were able to meet with a range of people across the Leys. We were able to meet with people from toddlers to residents over the age of 80+. We are thankful for each person that took part to enable us to ensure that we consulted a range of individuals, residents and community members. The methods of engagement are further explained below in the informative engagement section.



(Photograph taken during Youth engagement event)

Engagement Strategy

Informative engagement: 'Engagement plus communications'

To ensure that our engagement approach was accessible and informative, we used a range of methods including:

- Public meetings (gathering feedback via post-it notes on designs)
- Workshops (with councillors, previous users & tenants of the community centre, community group leaders)
- Surveys (both in-person physical surveys and online surveys)
- Social media campaigns (posts on Facebook pages, on X [formerly Twitter], Oxford City Council social media channels, Transition by Design social media channels, Design team social media channels, Instagram, LinkedIn)
- Newsletter (Tenants in Touch (reaching over 5,000 residents in Blackbird Leys, Hill Newsletters, Peabody Newsletters, Oxford City Council newsletters)
- Parish Council meetings (attendance and updates at Parish Council meetings by either Transition by Design or Oxford City Council)
- Meetings with Councillors, both city and local (to inform and update on the progress and designs of the community centre)
- Public exhibitions (standalone events with local community activities and the latest designs, more information included in the engagement activities section)
- Oxford City Council website updates
- Physical poster and flyers for public engagement events and timelines, printed and posted across Blackbird Leys including outside shops, schools, Parish notice board and on hoarding.

Our communications strategy ensured that we reached thousands of people both online and in-person. Through the various methods of engagement, we will have informed over 10,000 people on the ongoing engagement within the Leys.

We have had feedback continually that people have become more and more aware of the ongoing community engagement for the Blackbird Leys Community Centre & public realm project.



(Photograph taken during Youth engagement event)



The following pages include a timeline of all the engagement activities to date. Over the past 12 months, over 40 community engagement activities have taken place both online and in-person. The following pages include the following details for each event:

- The Date
- Event Location
- Activities included: (format eg. workshop)
- Purpose of the event

Engagement materials at in-person events included presentations and handouts. Most public engagement events included opportunities to write written feedback on post-it notes or provide feedback by placing coloured stickers on various design options and/or precedent studies. The following pages include overviews of the events, however, detailed feedback from each individual event is enclosed within the Work Stage 2 and Work Stage 3 community engagement summary reports.



(Photograph taken from the Key Stakeholder & User Group engagement workshop)

KEY



= Number of people reached

BLACKBIRD LEYS COMMUNITY CENTRE

(Organised by MES Creations CIC, voluntary & grassroots organisations together with OCC)

Date: Saturday 12th August 2023

Event Location: Blackbird Leys Community Centre,

Blackbird Levs

Activity: Attending the celebration event on a Saturday afternoon, spreading the word via word of mouth and flyers

Purpose: To encourage applicants from local people in the Leys to apply to be part of the Leys

Community Review Panel (LCRP)

KEY STAKEHOLDER MEETING: **OXFORD HUB**

Date: Tuesday 19th September 2023

Event Location: Online

Activity: Key stakeholder interview with Oxford Hub Purpose: To inform them of the LCRP and the wider community engagement. This process will include current and future active & vocal local voices and a stratified sample of residents and community groups. To listen to lessons learned from having a panel within Blackbird Leys

LEYS COMMUNITY REVIEW PANEL

Date: Thursday 21st September 2023

Event Location: The Farmhouse, Nightingale Avenue, Oxford, OX4 7BU

Activity: Facilitation and engagement with the Leys Community Review Panel for the panel to design and form the brief

Purpose: For the Leys Community Review Panel to initially meet together and to meet the design team. To gain insights from the LCRP on aspects that should be considered within the brief of the new community centre

KEY STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW: OXFORD

Date: Tuesday 26th September 2023

Event Location: Online

Activity: Key stakeholder interview with Oxford Polish association

Purpose: To inform them of the LCRP and the wider community engagement. This process will include current and future active & vocal local voices and a stratified sample of residents and community groups. The intention is to synthesise local knowledge in service of the feasibility and to send a clear message that we are listening.



KEY STAKEHOLDER **MEETING: AGNES SMITH ADVICE CENTRE**

Date: Tuesday 10th October 2023

Event Location: Online

Activity: Key stakeholder interview with the Agnes Advice Centre.

Purpose: To inform them of the LCRP and the wider community engagement. This process will include current and future active & vocal local voices and a stratified sample of residents and community groups. To listen to lessons learned from having a panel within Blackbird Leys

The Agnes Smith **Advice Centre**





BLACKBIRD LEYS PARISH COUNCIL

Date: Tuesday 31st October 2023 Event Location: Blackbird Leys Bowls Club,

Cuddesdon Way, Oxford

Activity: Share the upcoming dates for community engagement and introduce ourselves formally as Transition by Design to the Parish Council

Purpose: To inform the Parish Council and attendees of the community engagement strategy for the new community centre



Date: Thursday 9th November 2023

WORKSHOP 01

Event Location: Clockhouse, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Levs

KEY STAKEHOLDER

Activity: An 1.5hr interactive workshop. Invitation only through stakeholders identified by TbD and

Purpose: Gain insights from key stakeholders on the previous community centre design, its function and use. Covering what worked well and lessons learnt. Gather design ideas to be considered by the design





EXISTING AND PROSPECTIVE USER **GROUP WORKSHOP 01**

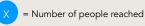
Date & Time: Tuesday 14th November, 12-1pm **Event Location:** Leys Pools & Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road, Oxford

Activity: 1hr interactive drop-in workshop. Invitation only through the OCC user group mailing list. Key stakeholders unable to attend the key stakeholder workshop are also invited.

Purpose: Gain insights from key stakeholders on the previous community centre design, its function and use. Covering what worked well and lessons learnt. Gather design ideas to be considered by the design



KEY



EXISTING AND PROSPECTIVE USER-**GROUP WORKSHOP 02**

Date & Time: Tuesday 14th November, 4-5pm **Event Location:** Leys Pools & Leisure Centre, Pegasus

Activity: 1hr interactive drop-in workshop. Invitation only through the OCC user group mailing list. Key stakeholders unable to attend the key stakeholder workshop are also invited.

Purpose: Gain insights from key stakeholders on the previous community centre design, its function and use. Covering what worked well and lessons learnt. Gather design ideas to be considered by the design



PUBLIC ONLINE WORKSHOPS 01

Date: Thursday 23rd November 2023 **Event Location:** Online

Activity: 1.5hr presentation with Q&A. Invitations sent to key stakeholder, but event published to the public

Purpose: Share the emerging design principles based on the key stakeholder, user group and leys community review panel meetings & workshops. Gain insights from the wider public on the above. Gather design ideas to be considered by the design team.



PUBLIC ONLINE WORKSHOPS 02

Date: Wednesday 29th November 2023 **Event Location:** Online

Activity: 1.5hr presentation with Q&A. Invitations sent to key stakeholder, but event published to the public

Purpose: Share the emerging design principles based on the key stakeholder, user group and leys community review panel meetings & workshops. Gain insights from the wider public on the above. Gather design ideas to be considered by the design team.

BLACKBIRD LEYS COMMUNITY LARDER

Date: Wednesday 29th November 2023

Event Location: Levs Pools & Leisure Centre, Pegasus

Activity: Attendance at the Blackbird Leys community larder. Discussion with the participants about the project, and invitation to fill out feedback forms.

Purpose: Inform the attendees about the engagement, provide opportunities to invite feedback, and details on upcoming events.



Blackbird Levs Community Centre Engagement Emerging Design & Programme

LEYS HEALTH

Date: Thursday 30th November 2023

Event Location: Leys Pools & Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road, Oxford

Activity: Attendance at the Blackbird Leys health promotion day. Discussion with the participants about the project, and invitation to fill out feedback forms

Purpose: Inform the attendees about the engagement, provide opportunities to provide feedback, and details on upcoming events



MEETING WITH CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Date: Monday 4th December 2023 Event Location: Church of the Holy Family, 1

Cuddesdon Way, Oxford

Activity: Discussions with a representative of the church held in person in the Leys

Purpose: To inform the church of the current design stage of the community centre, and to consult them on any aspects that relate to the boundary line between both sites and gain an understanding on the current plans for the church's redevelopment



MEETING WITH BLAP

Date: Wednesday 6th December 2023

Event Location: Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground (BLAP), Blackbird Levs Road, Oxford

Activity: Discussions with a representative of BLAP held in person in the Leys

Purpose: To inform BLAP of the current design stage of the community centre and consult them on aspects relating to the boundary line between both sites



Date: Thursday 7th December 2023

Event Location: Blackbird Leys Library, Blackbird Leys

Road, Oxford

Activity: Attendance at the homework club in the Leys library. Discussion with the youth and notes taken from informal questions, using the feedback forms as a guide

Purpose: To begin defining a 'youth-needs brief' for the new community centre design



KEY



= Number of people reached

LEYS CHRISTMAS

Date: Friday 8th December 2023 and Saturday 9th December 2023

Event Location: Leys Pools & Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road, Oxford

Activity: Attendance at the Blackbird Leys Meet Santa event. Discussion with the participants about the project, and invitation to fill out feedback forms

Purpose: To share about the community engagement programme for the new community centre. To invite feedback via consultation forms and interactive material at the stall that T/D will be hosting at the event

AFIUK COMMUNITY LUNCH

Date: Saturday 9th December 2023

Event Location: Active Learning College, Cuddeson Way, Blackbird Leys, OX4 6HZ

Activity: Attendance at the African Families in UK (AFiUK) community lunch that T/D were invited to. Discussion with the local community members about the project, and invitation to fill out feedback forms **Purpose:** To spread the word about the community engagement strategy and invite community members

to fill out the consultation forms

LEYS COMMUNITY REVIEW PANEL

Date: Tuesday 19th December 2023

Event Location: The Farmhouse, Nightingale Avenue, Oxford, OX4 7BU

Activity: Facilitation and engagement with the Leys Community Review Panel for them to review the current pre-app design for the new community centre. An opportunity to gather their feedback

Purpose: To gain insights from the Leys Community Review Panel on the current preapp design. An opportunity for the project team to gather feedback and incorporate it towards future design amendments

BULLINGDON COMMUNITY CENTRE TOUR FEEDBACK

Date: Saturday 20th January 2024

Event Location: Bullingdon Community Centre, 61 Peat Moors, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7HS

Activity: Facilitation and engagement with an open invitiation to stakeholders and members of the wider community, to a tour of the new community centre in Headington. The tour was led by Jessop and Cook and facilitated by Transition by Design.

Purpose: To gain insights from the Leys Community on the new-build community centre. An opportunity to discuss and record opinions on the design. The questions we focusing on were 'What went well?' 'What could be improved?' and 'What is missing?'



DESIGN MEETING WITH LOCAL AND PARISH COUNCILLORS

Date: Tuesday 23rd January 2024 Event Location: Farmhouse,

Activity: Design meeting with the Blackbird Leys Parish Council to share about the latest designs and to gather their feedback as a key stakeholder of the

Purpose: To inform the Parish Council of the engagement to date and to consult them on the latest design information. An opportunity for the Parish Council to meet members of the project team



22 JANUARY COMMUNITY LARDER VISIT



Date: Wednesday 24th January 2024 **Event Location:** Leys Health and Leisure Centre, Blackbird Levs

Activity: Attendance at the Blackbird Leys community larder. Discussion with the participants about the project, and invitation to fill out feedback

Purpose: To gather feedback to intergrate to the design



FRIDAY YOUTH SES-23 FRIDAY



Date: Friday 26th January 2024, 6-7:30 & 7:30-9pm **Event Location:** Leys Health and Leisure Centre, Blackbird Levs

Activity: An interactive workshop to develop a youth-specific needs brief for the new community centre and the public realm. Engagement workshop targeted towards 11-14 year olds (session 1) and 15-19 year olds (session 2). T/D to provide incentives for young people attending the workshop.

Purpose: To continue defining a 'youth needs brief' for the new community centre design



FRIENDLEYS SENIOR CAFE



Date: Tuesday 30th January 2024

Event Location: The Venue @ Cowley, Barns Road, Templars Square

Activity: Attendance at the FriendLeys senior cafe. Discussion with the participants about the project, and invitation to fill out feedback forms.

Purpose: Feedback to integrate to the design



KEY



= Number of people reached

25 COMMUNITY FUN DAY

Date: Saturday 10th February 2024 (12-3:30pm)
Event Location: The Barn, Nightingale Avenue and outside Blackbird Leys Community Centre site Activities: Exhibition and free food from Dutch n Such at The Barn. T/D, Oxford City Council and the design team were speaking to the community, getting their opinion on the design and finding out about the process. Music by outside The Barn hosted by Inspire Sounds. Public Art hosted by MES Creations on the fencing outside the building site.

Purpose: Gather feedback, inform people about the design process and ongoing engagement and activate the area by gathering the community.



29 ONLINE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Date: Tuesday 6th March (12-13:30)
Event Location: Online Zoom call
Activity: Online engagement to share the latest
design for the new community centre

Purpose: An opportunity to gather feedback from the wider community on the latest designs, for those unable to attend in-person.



26 YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS' WORKSHOP

Date: Wednesday 28th February 16:30-17:30

Event Location: Jungle Art Gallery, Templars Square,
Cowley Oxford

Activities: An in person workshop with young women and girls (ages 13-24) to speak on the new community centre and public realm design and gather feedback. Purpose: To gather feedback from young women and girls on the community centre design and public realm. Particularly ensuring that issues around

creativity, public safety and inclusivity are embedded

within the design process



30 PUBLIC EXHIBITION IN MARCH

Date & Time: Saturday 16th March 2024, 12-3pm Event Location: The Barn, Nightingale Avenue Activity: Public exhibition held on a Saturday afternoon to showcase the latest designs for the new community centre to the wider puble.

Purpose: Gain insights from the wider community on the latest designs from the community centre. Gather feedback to be incorporated into the design process.



27 OXFORD DESIGN REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Oxford, OX4 7BU

Date: Thursday 29th February, 09:30-13:00 **Event Location:** The Farmhouse, Nightingale Avenue,

Activity: Design Review Panel meeting with external panelists and Oxford City Council together with the project team and an LCRP member

Purpose: To gather critical design feedback from the built environment experts and review the latest designs of the community centre.

28 REVIEW PANEL MEETING 03

Date: Thursday 29th February, 18:00-20:00 **Event Location:** The Farmhouse, Nightingale

Avenue, Oxford, OX4 7BU

Activity: Facilitation and engagement with the Leys Community Review Panel for them to review the current pre-app design for the new community centre. An opportunity to gather their feedback Purpose: To gain insights from the Leys Community Review Panel on the current preapp design. An opportunity for the project team to gather feedback and incorporate it towards future design amendments



31 KEY STAKEHOLDER & USER GROUP WORK-

Date & Time: Tuesday 23rd April 2024
Event Location: Oxford Hub, Windale Avenue
Activity: 1.5hr interactive drop-in workshop. Invitation
only to key stakeholders (local organisations, local and
parish councillors), the OCC user group mailing list,
and LCRP members.

Purpose: Gain insights from key stakeholders on the previous community centre design, its function and use. Covering what worked well and lessons learnt. Gather design ideas to be considered by the design team.



32 LEYS COMMUNITY REVIEW PANEL MEETING 04

Date & Time: Tuesday 14th May 2024 **Event Location:** Online Zoom call

Activity: Facilitation and engagement with the Leys Community Review Panel for them to review the current pre-app design for the new community centre. An opportunity to gather their feedback

Purpose: To gain insights from the Leys Community Review Panel on the current preapp design. An opportunity for the project team to gather feedback and incorporate it towards future design amendments

KEY



= Number of people reached

22 MEMBERS MEETING

Date: Monday 24th June 2024, 10-11am

Event Location: Online - Teams Meeting
Activity: Online workshop to gather feedback on
the latest designs for the Blackbird Leys Community
Centre with an Oxford City Council member
Purpose: To share the current design for the
community centre and collect feedback for the design
team to review.

34 OPEN DOORS ONLINE WORKSHOP (SESSION 1)

Date: Monday 24th June 2024, 12-1pm
Event Location: Online - Teams Meeting
Activity: Online workshop to gather feedback on
the latest designs for the Blackbird Leys Community
Centre with an Oxford City Council member, invite
listed included users, councilors and the Leys
Community Design Review Panel

Purpose: To share the current design for the community centre and collect feedback for the design team to review.

External Design Explorations

35 ONLINE WORKSHOP (SESSION 2)

Date: Monday 24th June 2024, 4-5pm
Event Location: Online - Teams Meeting
Activity: Online workshop to gather feedback on
the latest designs for the Blackbird Leys Community
Centre with an Oxford City Council member, invite
listed included users, councilors and the Leys
Community Design Review Panel

Purpose: To share the current design for the community centre and collect feedback for the design team to review.

36 ONLINE WORKSHOP (SESSION 3)

Date: Tuesday 25th June 2024 12-1pm
Event Location: Online - Teams Meeting
Activity: Online workshop to gather feedback on
the latest designs for the Blackbird Leys Community
Centre with an Oxford City Council member, invite
listed included users, councilors and the Leys
Community Design Review Panel

Purpose: To share the current design for the community centre and collect feedback for the design team to review.



The section of the se





37 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday 25th June, 7-8pm **Event Location:** Blackbird Leys Bowls Club, Cuddesdon Way, Oxford

Activity: Design meeting with the Blackbird Leys Parish Council to share about the latest designs and to gather their feedback as a key stakeholder of the

Purpose: To inform the Parish Council and members of the public on the consultation findings and show how this reflects in the current design

38 COMMUNITY LARDER

Date: Wednesday 26th June 12-3pm

Event Location: Leys Pools and Leisure Centre,
Blackbird Leys

Activity: Attendance at the Blackbird Leys Community Larder to share the latest designs of the community centre to the wider public

Purpose: To share the current design for the community centre and collect feedback for the design team to review.

39 ONLINE WORKSHOP (SESSION 4)

Date: Monday 27th June 2024, 12-1pm
Event Location: Online - Teams Meeting
Activity: Online workshop to gather feedback on
the latest designs for the Blackbird Leys Community
Centre with an Oxford City Council member, invite
listed included users, councilors and the Leys
Community Design Review Panel

Purpose: To share the current design for the community centre and collect feedback for the design team to review.

O YOUTH CLUB

Date: Friday 28th June 2024, 6-8pm
Event Location: Leys Pools & Leisure Centre,
Blackbird Leys

Activity: Attendence at the Friday Youth Sessions to gather feedback on the latest designs for the community centre

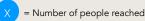
Purpose: To share the current design for the community centre and collect feedback for the design team to review.











41 COMMUNITY LARDER

Date: Wednesday 3rd July 12-3pm
Event Location: Online - Teams Meeting
Activity: Attendance at the Blackbird Leys community
larder. Discussion with the participants about the
project.

Purpose: To share the current design for the community centre and collect feedback for the design team to review.

42 FINAL PUBLIC

Date: Tuesday 15th October 2024 **Event Location:** Church Hall, Church of the Holy Family. Blackbird Levs

Activity: Public exhibition showing the planning submission designs for the new community centre. The event will also have food and an opportunity for the public to meet some of the project team.

Purpose: To share the final design for the community centre and collect feedback for the design team to review.

1,113 individuals were engaged in the 42 events listed above. However, even further people were consulted on standalone events outside of those listed above. These include:

- The Leys Health and Wellbeing Partnership Meeting (22 people reached out to on the engagement)
- Oxford Youth Partnership Meeting (20 people reached out to on the engagement)

This brings overall in-person and online engagement to 1,165 individuals across the engagement programme to date. With one final event before planning submission to be confirmed for the final public exhbition at the time of writing. With Leys having a population over approximately 13,400 this equates to 1 in 12 individuals across the Leys who have been involved in the community engagement to date.



(Photograph taken from the Key Stakeholder & User Group engagement workshop)

Communications Strategy

Communications for sharing about events was completed in a variety of formats. There was an online presence for the public engagement as well as physical leaflets, flyers and posters for the wider community to view and share about upcoming events. The following pages includes the various flyers that that were created to share about events that either were attended by project team members to gather the views of the community or events that were created by the project team.



(Flyer for engagement events in November & December 2023



(Flyer for 10th February Community Engagement Event)



(Flyer for engagement events in January - March 2024)





(Flyer for engagement events in January -March 2024)

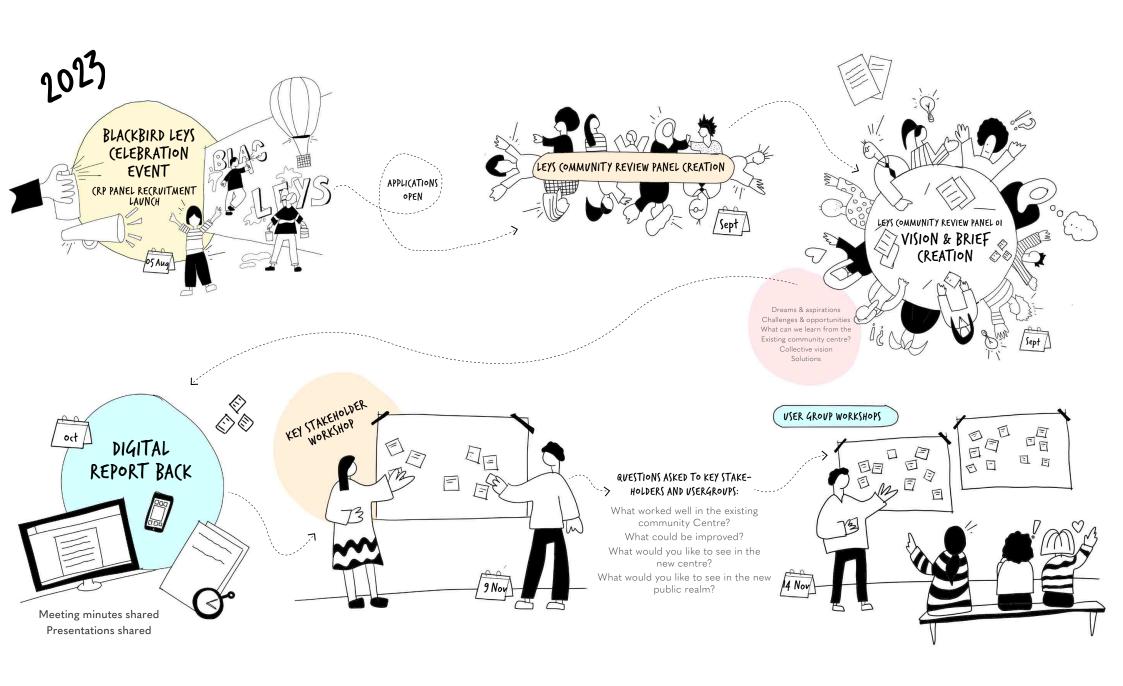


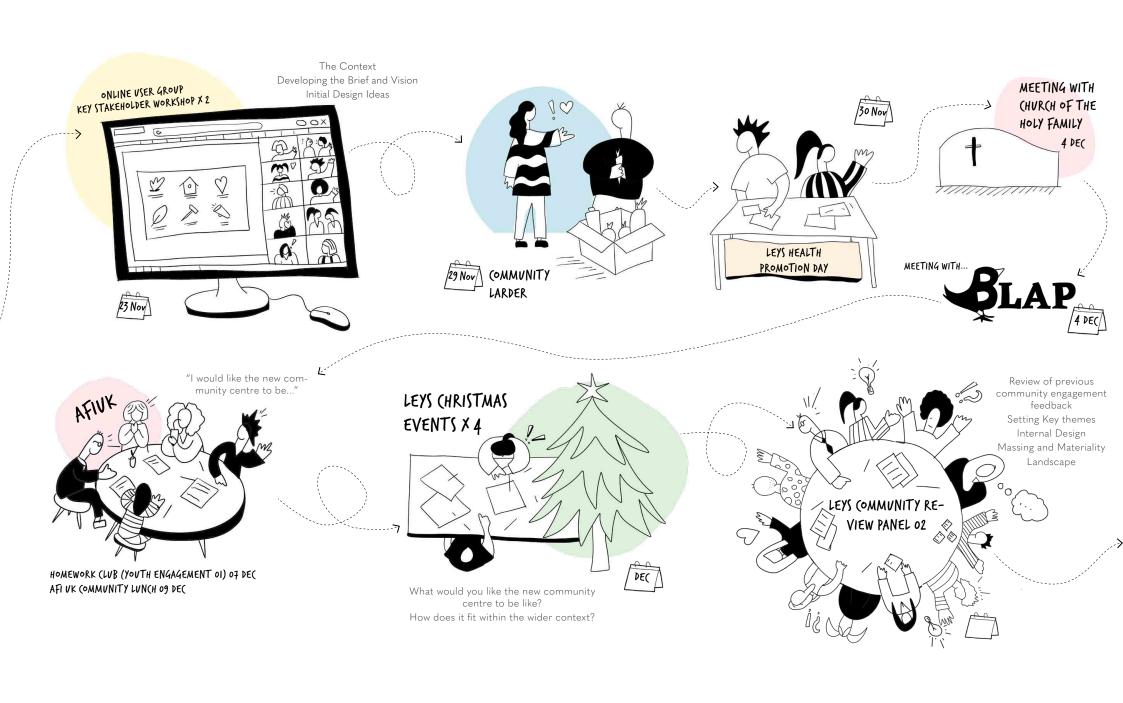
(Flyer for 16th March Public Exhibition Event

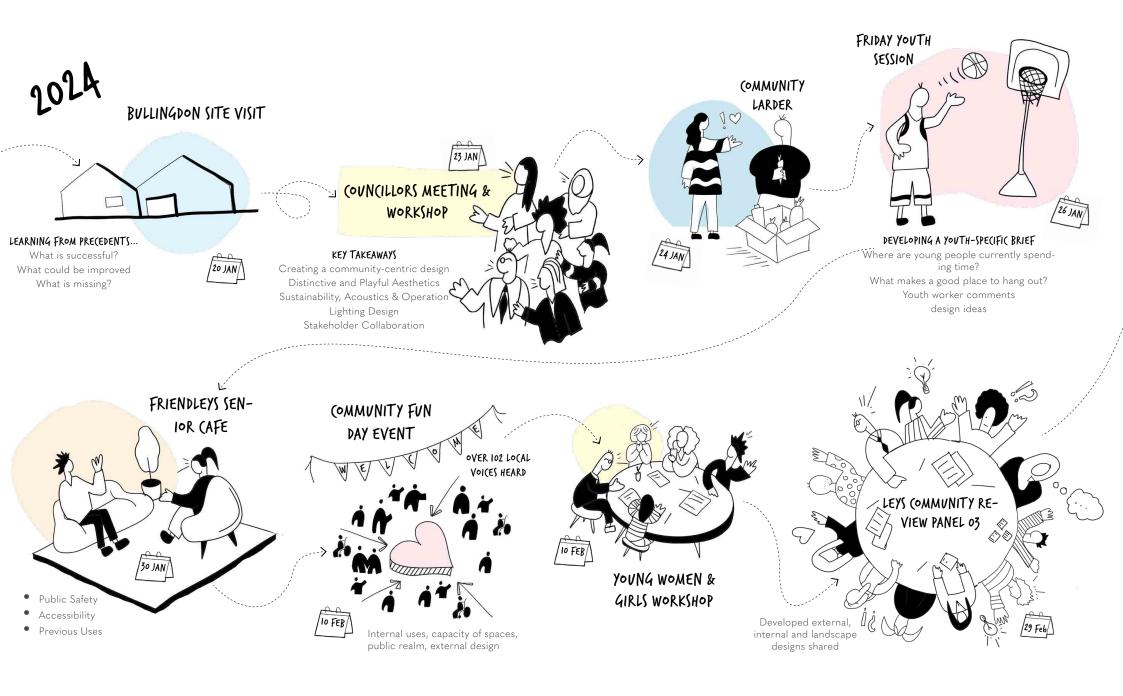


(Final Exhibition Poster)





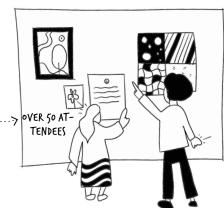




ONLINE ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP



PUBLIC EXHIBITION



Use zones, internal and external design, landscaping

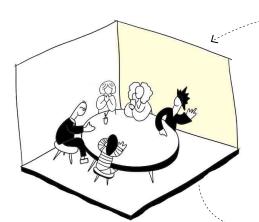


Several organisations and community groups including local and parish councillors met to discuss the current iterations of the design



FINAL DESIGN

Developed external, internal and landscape designs shared Updated on Programme



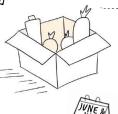
MEMBERS MEETING PARISH MEETING

Presenting past explorations and the current design Collecting feedback

ONLINE WORKSHOPS



(OMMUNITY LARDERS



What colours and materials do you prefer for the community centre?



FINAL COMMUNITY EXHIBITION

Showcase of final proposal submitted to planning



[E] Leys Community Review Panel

We want community engagement to be at the heart of our plans and are committed to listening to a diverse range of local voices to help shape the new community centre. Therefore, we have recruited local residents to join a Leys Community Review Panel, who play a key role in shaping the designs of the community centre. The Panel helps to make sure the design reflects the values and aspirations of the people of the Leys.

What is the Leys Community Review Panel?

Oxford City Council wants to make sure that current residents of the Leys play a key role in shaping the design of their local community centre. The Community Review Panel acts an independent, advisory role during the design process, discussing issues such as the brief, materials and spatial design of the community centre. The Leys Community Review Panel ensures that the new community centre is designed to a high quality, and meets the needs of people in the Leys at present day and in the future.



(Photograph taken at the first Leys Community Review Panel meeting)

[E] Leys Community Review Panel

Group Composition:

The Leys Community Review Panel (LCRP) brings local residents of the Leys (Blackbird Leys or Greater Leys) of all backgrounds over the age of 18. The group is made up of around 10 members. There was an open recruitment round in August 2023, where individuals were invited to apply to join the panel. We have been interested in including members who are not involved in leading community groups or are not already involved in key decision making within the Leys. This is because we want those whose voices may not currently be heard to be involved. We stated that members do not need to have a background in design, architecture or planning.

We were looking for people who can:

- Bring a unique understanding of the Leys and local needs
- Bring constructive feedback and ideas on proposals for the community centre
- Contribute well in meetings, both with a motivation for collaboration and with respect for others contribution to discussions.

WANT TO HELP SHAPE YOUR FUTURE COMMUNITY CENTRE?

We are recruiting for local residents to join a Leys Community Review Panel

APPLY NOW!

Collect a form in the community centre or go to the website tinyurl.com/bblpanel

The Leys Community Review Panel will play a key role in shaping the designs of the community centre. It will help make sure the design reflects the values and aspirations of people of the Leys. We would like to hear from people of all backgrounds who are interested. There will be a small thank you gift for your time for being on the panel.



If you would like more information, feel free to email us leysreviewpanel@transitionbydesign.org



(Recruitment poster for the Blackbird Leys Community Review Panel)

Leys Community Review Panel



(Photograph taken from the 3rd Leys Community Review Panel Meeting)

The group is chaired by local community engagement experts, Transition by Design, who facilitate the panel meetings between the Leys Community Review Panel, Oxford City Council and the design team.

Group Remit & Role of the Group

The panel have met four times throughout the design stage from September 2023 through to May 2024. The discussions from the panel meeting are included within the appendices as meeting minutes, and fed into decisions made by the design team. The panel's recommendations will be taken seriously as a formal part of the planning process.

The Leys Community Review Panel provides key local views and recommendations to the design team at key stages of the design process prior to the planning application. The group plays an advisory role for Oxford City Council and the design team. It is for Oxford City Council and the design team to take into consideration the group's comments and recommendations - balanced with other planning, budget and project management considerations.

Leys Community Review Panel

We have a range of individuals on the panel from people in their 20s, through to 60+. A mixture of employed, unemployed, carers, volunteers and part-time workers. We also have a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds represented on the panel.

This is by no means the sole interaction between the community and the design team. It is important to see this process as a contribution towards the wider engagement strategy and engagement events. However, it has been important for ensuring the design team meet with members of the community face-to-face.

The four meetings to date are outlined in the diagram opposite.

1st Meeting: Defining the Brief

Thursday 21st September 2023

2nd Meeting: Early / Pre-app 01 Designs

Tuesday 19th December 2023

3rd Meeting: Pre-app 02 Designs

Thursday 29th February 2024

4th Meeting: Pre-planning designs

Tuesday 14th Apri 2024

Leys Community Review Panel

Summary of engagement to date with the Leys Community Review Panel:

The Leys Community Review Panel has been an invaluable part of the community engagement process. It has been effective to have a consistent group of residents who could meet with the design team and review the latest design information. They have had opportunities to scrutinise the brief, design process and the proposals, asking several questions along the process.

Much of their feedback has been helpful in gauging the direction of the designs and the LCRP will continue to be a group that operates throughout the design to completion. It is expected that there would be a natural turnover of individuals on the panel, and there may be further opportunities for others to be a part of the LCRP. We have included meeting minutes from the LCRP meetings within the appendices.



(Photograph taken at the third Leys Community Review Panel meeting)



[F] Feedback Received

During the months of August – December 2023, the majority of the engagement work involved gathering feedback on the brief development and emerging design principles. Information was collected through various workshops, including attending public events, key stakeholder workshops and the Leys Community Review Panel. This information was translated into the following emerging design principles for the project.

In 2024, the engagement to date has included a co-design process of developing design proposals and gathering community feedback at different stages of the design. The following community aspirations were communicated from the engagement at the earlier stages:





Using these key design principles at the early design stage, the design team evolved the design through various iterations. These core principles have remained throughout the process.

Communication has been made with Oxford City Council throughout the design process to ensure that they are aware of the aspirations, and can review the aspects communicated against the budget and other constraints for the project.

As with any project, the feedback process is two ways; between the community and the project team and between the project team and the community. We have ensured that we have kept the community informed of design changes throughout the process. The following community aspirations pages are taken from JTP's Design and Access Statement and can also be viewed within that documentation in further detail.



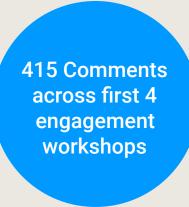


"The new dreaming spires of exford"

- Pride in the Leys and the new Centre
- "Something we can all be proud of"
- "Improving the 'image' of the Leys"
- "A place other communities are envious of"
- "Opening up to the rest of Oxford"
- Aligns with Oxford City Council's vision of "A World Class City for everyone."



We received 415 verbal and written feedback comments across the first Leys Community Review Panel Meeting, the first Key Stakeholder Engagement Workshop and the first two User group (previous users of the community centre) workshops. These were all collated into a community engagement matrix (pictured below) and categorised according to the various themes outlined (top right of image).



1503E_BI	ackbird Leys	s Communit	y Centre												1 Health & Wellbeing	The Vision
ommunity	y Feedback	- Brief Deve	lopment												2 Access & Servicing	Bring people together - a unified community hub for everyone
develop	ed by the pr	roject team													3 Flexibility & Futureproofing	Providing Skills and Opportunity
															4 Affordability & Long-term Use	Improving Health and Wellbeing
	Dates:														5 Skills and Opportunity	Community Ownership
- 2	21.09.23	Communi	ty Review	Panel 01											6 Community Ownership + Pride	Pride in the Leys and new Community Centre
	09.11.23	Key Stakeh	older Wo	orkshop 01											7 Art & Appropriation	
		User Grou													8 Programme & User Group Requirements	
		User Grou													9 Public realm & Outdoor Spaces	
				7											10 Welcoming entrance & Easy Wayfinding	
															11 Environmental Sustainability & Internal Comfort	
															12 Community Interactions	
															zz community intersections	
	Date	Comment	Type	Comment	KeyTh	omo										
	Dute		Written	Comment			4	5 6	. 7	8	9	10 1	11 12	2		
36	14.11.23	1	wiitten	Ability for user to have a shower. Doesn't have to be changing room. For users and organisations		1	-	- '	, , ,		-			-		
87 1	14.11.23	1		Active travel and cycling encouraged, showers would be useful		1										
	14.11.23	1		Another little hall might be needed for different events						1						
89 1	14.11.23	1		Rent is really important, being affordable. There is no point in putting up a beautiful building which local groups can't use			1									
	09.11.23	1		Somewhere in reception older people will sit and wait for the bus.										1		
	09.11.23	1		A clear entrance so people know where to come and don't get lost. The current Community Centre has too many entrances people don't kn	now where to go.							1				
	09.11.23	1		It should be a place to go and socialise.								-		1		
	09.11.23	1		Ability to open windows and get air in									1			
	09.11.23	1		If there isn't good soundproofing, a Sports Hall upstairs could sound like a herd of elephants.									1			
	09.11.23	1		Its so bright that we need to constantly have the blinds closed. All the rooms currently either feel really bright or really dark.								_	1	_		
	09.11.23	1		Aircon doesn't suit everyone. Ideally all windows should have ability to be opened. Need circulation of air.									1			
	09.11.23	1		Community Hall will be used in the evenings and we have to make sure we don't end with a Community Centre that can't be used in the ev	onings due to noise	and imp	ar 1						-			
	09.11.23	1		A sharing book honesty library/bookcase - built on trust	enings due to noise	and impa	ac I		1					1		
	09.11.23	1		Having wall space was great. Space for a noticeboard and that we can decorate with information for the community.			-		1 1					1		
	09.11.23	1		Can outdoor space link to the hub and allow spill out internally and externally?					1 1	1	1			1		
	09.11.23	1		Agnes Smith to be co-located with Home Start. Can tenants be themed? This would be really useful.						1	1					
	09.11.23	1		Outdoor space people can step out into would be great.			_		_	1	1					
	09.11.23	1								1	1					
		1		We don't want Community Centre to become an office block.			1		1	1						
	09.11.23	1		Too much dead-space in current community centre. How can we use the circulation?			1									
	09.11.23	_		The space should create the opportunity to bump into people and have those chance encounters and interaction between different users.			-		1			-	_	1		
	09.11.23	1		"Home from home" feeling					1	-						
	09.11.23	1		There should be busy active spaces to work and also somewhere to get your head down if you need.						1				1		
	09.11.23	1		We want the opportunity to invite people in to the centre and work with other organisations.					-	1				1		
	09.11.23	1		We should have tables to come and have lunch together. People shouldn't have to buy anything to sit there.					1		-	-	_	_		
	09.11.23	1		Big Hall should be able to overflow into reception. For weddings, events, spending time with family.			1			1						
	09.11.23	1		The reception should be a warm open space, both in temperature and feeling.									1			
	09.11.23	1		How can the existing community facilities connect up with this new Community Centre?					1							
	09.11.23	1		Concerns regarding people hanging around outside shops and possible antisocial behavior.	1		_				1					
	09.11.23	1		Colour palette is important.					1							
	09.11.23	1		In the current Community Centre there is a constant battle with sunshine.									1			
	09.11.23	1		Its so bright that we need to constantly have the blinds closed. All the rooms currently either feel really bright or really dark.									1			
	09.11.23	1		Bifold doors from community spaces to outdoors.						1	1		1			
18 (09.11.23	1		Smoke free zones around the Centre. Don't want people smoking outside our windows.	1					1						
	Total	142	273		48	47 62	31	32 7	4 35	108	57	12 5	53 59	9 64	18	

Feedback Received: Key Ideas & Themes

1. THE HUB

The heart of the building.
"A place to connect"
"A welcoming space."

A generous and light central atrium.

A central space that unites all the uses throughout the building.



"It should feel like a 'living space' for people in the community."

"(an be used as a co-working space."

"A place to exhibit art."



2.ART

"Artwork is key"

"Rough around the edges"

"Something we can all be proud of"

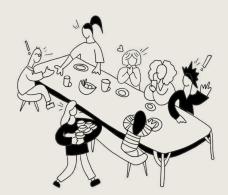
The events discussed the opportunity for local art both internally and externally. The community responded positively to the opportunity for evolving street art, and contributing to the feeling of community ownership



3. OUTDOOR SPACE

Sensory

- A safe outdoor usable space.
- Bifold doors from community spaces tooutdoors.
- Should be a strong link between inside and outside.
- Can outdoor space link to the hub and allow spill out internally and externally?



DIBBUNI

tea/coffee

social space

4. LIGHT, WARMTH & ENVIRONMENTAL

- Soundproofing is important. Both internally an externally, between spaces and outdoors.
- Ability to open windows and get air in

Outside

feating

area.

 In the current centre, the rooms are so bright that we need to constantly have the blinds closed. All the rooms currently either feel really bright or really dark.

5. FOOD

"Food is universal"

"People come together over food."

"(reate places to eat together"



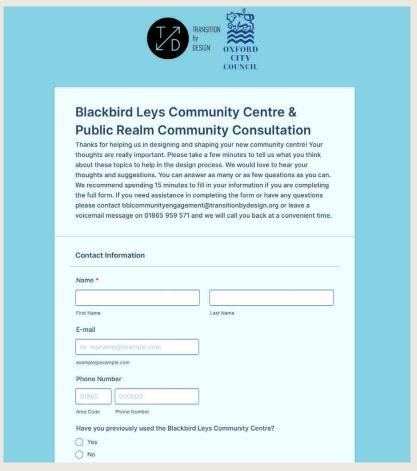
The community centre should work with other community offerings within the neighbourhood, including the training kitchens that will be offered within the leisure centre.

Online & Written Survey

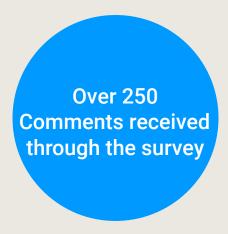
We launched a survey in the Winter of 2023 to provide an opportunity for individuals to provide written feedback to the design team. The questions asked within the written & online surveys can be found within the appendices. We asked residents and people interested in the project questions around the types of services & activities they would like to see within the new community centre and public realm, their previous use of the centre and their hopes for the new community centre and public realm.

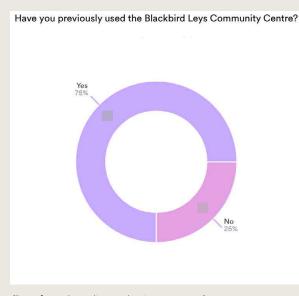
In order to make the written feedback form as accessible as possible we had paper copies available to collect and return to an Oxford City Council representative in the Leys at offices for a local community organisation. We also had the option for people to give feedback by calling Transition by Design's office number. The majority of people who responded lived in the Leys (85%), most respondents were aged 45-65 (65%), and people came from a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds (55% - white, English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish) and 45% from a range of other ethnic backgrounds.

The following pages include the feedback received from the surveys.



(First segment of the online survey)

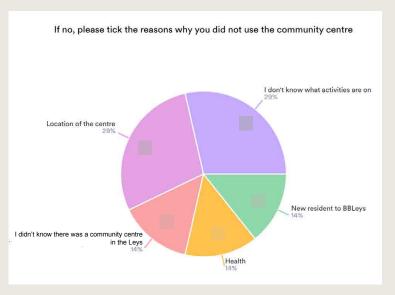




(Data from the online and written surveys)

The majority of those who completed the survey had previously used the community centre (75%). Of those that did not previously use the community centre, the following reasons were given:

- 29% Location of the centre (either not known or not convenient)
- 29% I don't know what activities are on
- 14% Health reasons
- 14% New resident to the Leys
- 14% Did not know there was a community centre in the Leys

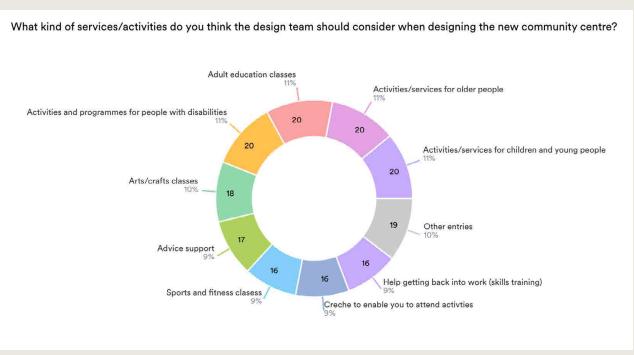


(Data from the online and written surveys)

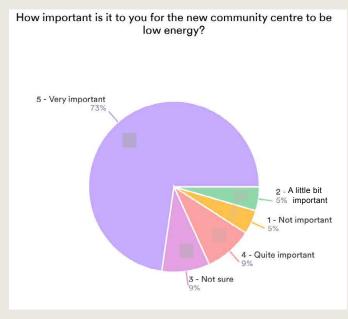
There were over 180 comments on the types of services / activities that the design team should consider when designing the community centre. The most commonly chosen services / activities were:

- Activities / services for children and young people
- Activities / services for older people
- Activities and programmes for people with disabilities
- Adult education classes

This was followed by other comments such as, arts / crafts classes, advice support, a creche, help getting back into work (skills training) and sports and fitness classes.



(Data from the online and written surveys)



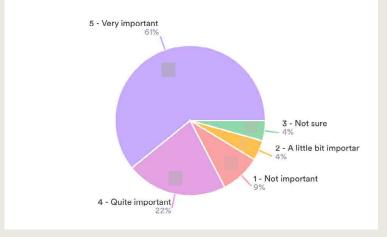
(Data from the online and written surveys)

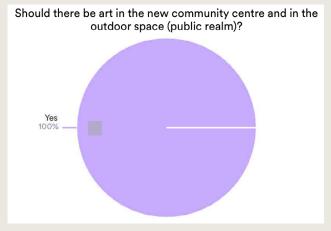
In terms of design aspirations and elements to consider, the majority of people felt that having a low energy performing community centre was very important.

The majority of people also felt that outdoor spaces were very important to think about for the new community centre, however, there is more of a range of results in this question compared to the low energy question.

All respondents thought art should be in the new community centre & public realm.

The project also involves the design of the outdoor public square and the public realm (outdoor public areas) around the community centre. How important are outdoor spaces for you when thinking of the new community centre?





A more detailed review of the feedback received is included within the Work Stage 2 and Work Stage 3 Engagement Summary Reports which are also appended to the planning application. The summary reports include 1-4 page summaries of each of the engagement events undertaken during this project.

We received over 3,000 comments and design ideas from members of the community, through verbal comments, written post-it notes, surveys and workshops. The later of which were relating to design decisions for the community centre and public realm, including reviews on the designs of facades and the landscaping of the scheme.



(Feedback received from young people during the African Families in UK Homework Club)



Response to Feedback

Methodology

Transition by Design continually gave feedback to the design team after each engagement event through an engagement event summary report. The reports included the following information:

- The event details including, date, location and times
- Level of attendance
- The format of the engagement
- A summary of the event
- Key comments captured from the event
- Conclusion

The design team went through an iterative process of reviewing design decisions in response to feedback given. Through this process, the engagement informed the design changes. The summary reports of each of the engagement events can be viewed within the Community Engagement WS2 (Work Stage 2) and WS3 (Work Stage 3) Reports, also included within the documents submitted for planning.

blos our comunity centre
· sex not trap door
· P. ano
'Alux Daint
15 AV base
· Hoare
· duh sonce
Plager Carring LEP
magniti y ing Wadow
* Tela copps
· chikens
· public kitchen
rayon hall
· Hatur reserve
· nork-per babics
· Kuskethall court
· le rink
4 Sknes
Shelters
approd hank
" homeschool aroups
4 Animal Speciful - 1 milion / 10 serious
- no ketchey allowed
Abo
Ideas list from a child under

Date: Saturday 20th January 2024 Event Location: Bullingdon Community Centre, 61 Peat Moors, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7HS

Activity: Facilitation and engagement with an open invitiation to stakeholders and members of the wider community, to a tour of the new community centre in Headington. The tour was led by Jessop and Cook and facilitated by Transition by Design.

Purpose: To gain insights from the Leys Community on the new-build community centre. An opportunity to discuss and record opinions on the design. The questions we focusing on were 'What went well?'
'What could be improved?'and 'What is missing?'

- mmary: There was a strong turnout of 9 stakeholders, and about the same from the community, as well as the people in charge of running the centre, an OCC representative, an architect from Jessop and Cook, and two representatives from TbD
- The day began with an introduction, followed by a tour round the key spaces, finishing with a group
- . Good to see investment in the community by OCC

- Large atrium with benches allows group gathering
 Single storey allows all spaces to be accessible
- Lots of dedicated storage in each room Room size variation from 24m² to 60m² to 120m²
- Tea point for accessible sink when kitchen isn't
 Warm regular spotlighting and ample uplighting
- Welcoming colour palette, doesn't feel institutional
 Flexible indoor and outdoor space partitions
- Notice board appreciating site and context history
- Two hatches connecting kitchen, hall and atrium
 Flower patches outside windows defensible space
 Successful heat retention
- · Coat hooks and high ceilings
- · Multiple entrances to hall enabling partitions
- Plenty of parking Fasy to access low window and door handles
- Easy access between indoor and outdoor spaces
 Excellent baby changing facilities
- Feels integrated well with the surrounding park
- Facilities successfully re-provided form old to new
 Pre-fabricated off-site allowed speedy assembly

- What could be improved:

 Large hall storage centralised on one end makes
- partitioned spaces function less efficiently IR heating panels unattractive, located out of reach due to safety risk
- Acoustic panels unsuccessful, uncomfortable environment for person with sensory sensitivity, lacking soft finishes, carpets, curtains and furnishings Proper signage internally, resorting to A4 laminated sheets with sellotape, and externally meaning
- some residents didn't know about the Bullingdon Community centre or couldn't find it Not enough colour, art, plants or textur
- Planters create escape route for children over fencing
- Serving hatch too small Long walk from nearest bus stop for elderly
- Double sided posters were a mistake as not possible
- to show both sides on a wall or notice board Toilets lacking efficient in-out flow due to hand dryer located away from the exit

- Groups with specific requirements (such as ground-
- floor only groups) need early consideration to avoid Separate spotlighting switches to vary light intensity Black-outs in hall for presentations or movies
- Re-used materials or elements from old centre
 Electrical points at floor midpoint to reduce trip risk



Blackhird Levs Community Centre and Public Open Space WS3 Engagement Report

(Top left: Ideas list from a child under 10 who attended the Bullingdon Community Centre Visit Right: Bullingdon Community Centre Tour Engagement Summary Report)

Response to Feedback: Internals

The following pages include feedback received on internals, externals and the landscape and how the project team responded to this in the design. This information is shown by stating "You said... "We did". Further information is provided in the Design and Access Statement. This page includes feedback on the internals:

You said:

"We want the community centre to be flexible for a range of different groups to use"

You said

"Will the centre be able to hold music and celebration events without disturbing residents?"

You said:

"We'd like to see the same principles as Bullingdon (ommunity (entre with a flexible hall, tea points etc"

You said:

"We want a welcoming space when people enter the community centre, a space to sit and meet others"

We did:

We allowed for a subdivision of spaces within halls and rooms. We have also considered this with the entrance space and the relationship to 'lettable' areas.

We did:

The building will be designed to modern construction standards to minimise risk of noise heard between rooms within the building as well as from neighbours outside the building

We did:

The layouts are carefully considered with overlap use of spaces such as the Hub 1 & 2. Every floor has tea points and meeting rooms can be used by all groups as a shared

We did:

We have included an entrance hub, a vibrant welcoming space for people to gather in the centre, without the need to book a space

Response to Feedback: Externals

The following pages comments relate to the external parts of the building:

You said:

"We want the community centre to be a new landmark and a building to be proud of in the Leys"

You said:

"We want to see public artwork as part of the building. The old centre had a lot of character"

You said:

"We'd like the building to be accessible, and a space which feels welcoming, especially the entrance"

You said:

"We want the building to look nice from all sides, and not to see equipment poking out at the roof"

We did:

Designed with a distinctive and playful facade approach that creates a marker at the heart of the district centre and reflects the people of Blackbird Levs.

We did:

We have ensured there is an incorporation of murals along elevations, providing opportunities for local artist commissions

We did:

We have created a clearly defined and welcoming entrance, making the community centre as accessible as possible for all

We did:

The design of all sides of the building has been carefully considered. The roof design conceals plant equipment from key views.

Response to Feedback: Landscape

The following pages comments relate to the landscaping and public realm:

You said:

"We want a soft surfaces around the community centre, we don't want it to all be concrete and hard surfaces"

You said:

"We want space for young children to be able to play and enjoy being outside"

You said:

"We'd like to be able to use the outside space for events and for festivals that might happen in the Leys" You said:

"Please can you make sure that the new community centre is accessible by different ways of travelling"

We did:

We have designed several green spaces, retaining several of the trees around the site. We have also included a Sustainable Urban Drainage System within the scheme

We did:

We have included space for natural play through including a rain garden with water play features, an outer square play area with play equipment and a youth hangout space

We did:

We have created several event spaces within the design including space for marquees and stages, and allowed for vehicular access for events &

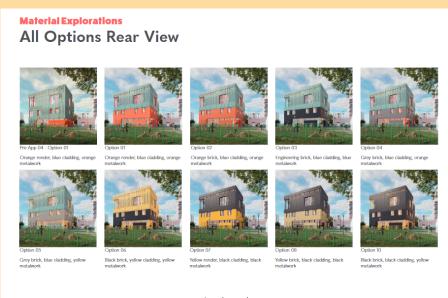
We did:

We have an active travel strategy with bicycle parking scooter parking. There is also a bottle filling station, pedestrian routes with clear links to buses

Response to Feedback

During the later stages of the design process, the design team shared facade studies with various members of the community to gather their opinion on preferred options. Highlighted comments and reflections are below:

- **Members:** "Should build for the new generation, young people prefer dark building." "Like idea of Community Art on the building/Blap side to bring colour."
- Community Larder: People at the larder seemed to migrate towards options where colour was coupled with black as in options 7, 6 & 3 (below in order of preference)"
- Parish: Regarding Option 2: "Prefer light at the top" "Worried too dark will be oppressive/hot inside"
- Young People: "Cool like Star Wars" Young people also preferred the options where a colour was coupled with black, particularly when coupled with yellow (also option 7 & 10). They showed strong interest in Option 3 where the black was coupled with the blue. There was a suggestion that if yellow was added to window frames, as in option 10, this would have all the elements of the blackbird



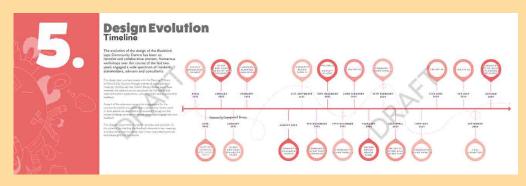
Findings were as follows on Preferred option (1st, 2nd or 3rd)

	Option 1/2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7	Option 8	Option 9	Option 10	Option 11
Members						2			1	
Parish	1				2					
Community		3			2	1				
Youth										
groups (below)		3				2		1	3	

Response to Feedback

A more detailed summary of response to feedback is included within the Design and Access Statement within the Design Evolution Section. Within this section there is a comprehensive review of the design changes and the relevant feedback and responses in relation to the internal design, external design and the landscape design.

The Design and Access Statement and associated drawings include the final designs which have been produced by the design team, through responding to feedback from the community and in consultation with the clients and the relevant consultants.



(Highlighted section of the Design Evolution chapter within the Design and Access Statement)



Ongoing Engagement

Engagement to date has been completed from RIBA Work Stage 1 (Preparation and Brief) through to Work Stage 3 (Planning / Strategic Coordination). We hope to continue to have public facing community engagement throughout the next stages of the design process. This could include, but not limited to, the following:

- Communications strategy on updates on the planning application
- Communications and possibility of public meetings / workshops during the technical design and/or construction stage to keep people informed of developments
- Workshops with Key Stakeholders, User Groups, Councillors and other interested parties
- Leys Community Review Panel Meetings



(Public mural painting during the 16th March engagement event)



Over 10,000 people reached through our communications strategy

Over 40 events in 12 months

1 in 12 people in the Leys have been engaged in the project to date

Thousands of comments & design ideas captured

Our engagement strategy has reached over 10,000 people through newsletters, flyers, posters, invitations and online communications.

On average, we have held 3-4 events each month, reaching a range of people across the Leys to ensure we gather as much input as possible from the wider community.

We have had over 1,100 people attend either events we have attended or our public community engagement events, which equates to 1 in 12 people in the Leys being engaged to date.

We have had over 3,000 comments and design suggestions captured throughout the process via workshops, surveys, verbal comments, written feedback and other methods of communication

Throughout the community engagement, we were able to follow the four key principles for effective engagement in planning. As shown opposite, these are that engagement is timely & sustained, inclusive for all people, two-way open and responsive and a matter of public record.

Timely & Sustained

We held over 40 events across the year from August 2023 to July 2024 (at the time of writing). We sustained a programme of events which made the project team's presence in the Leys visible. We ensured we had flyers advertising public events well ahead of time so that community members are informed and aware of upcoming events.

Inclusive for all local people

We met with local people across the Leys, from young people through to seniors within the population. We had demographically representative Leys Community Review Panel and ensured that we attended a diverse range of events that were ongoing, as well as hosting our own public consultation events. Engagement took into consideration the community's needs.

Timely & Sustained

Inclusive for all local people

Two way, open and responsive

A matter of public record

(Key Principles for Effective Engagement in Planning - Roger Dudman Way Review, Vincent Goodstadt, 2013, paragraph 91)

Two way, open and responsive

We led workshops, had open conversations and invited feedback through surveys in order to ensure that all communication was two way. We enabled contact to be made to the project team directly through a designated email box, and made our phone lines available for discussion. We took an approach of enabling the community to feel welcome to share their ideas throughout the process.

A matter of public record

This statement of community involvement is a public record of the engagement to date, together with the associated appendices.

The engagement strategy for the Blackbird Leys Community Centre aimed to be inclusive, reach a diverse community, and remain informative and engaging throughout all work stages. During design development, community members participated from shaping the initial brief to reviewing designs at each pre-application planning stage. We involved residents of all ages—from toddlers to seniors—with a special focus on youth to ensure their voices were integral to the scheme's development.



(Photograph taken during African Families in the UK Community Lunch event)

INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

Over £2,500
spent supporting
local catering, artists,
musicians & hiring
local venues

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Over 20% of engagement involved young people

SUPPORTING LOCAL NEEDS

£250 donated to the Blackbird Leys Community Larder

BUILDING COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE

Supporting the local community in decision making processes

Through the engagement events we supported local catering organisations, artists, music collectives and hiring local venues for workshops and engagement activities.

Over 20% of our engagement involved young people and children. This involved workshops with young women and girls, youth, and public engagement with young children

Over £250 donated to the Blackbird Leys Community Larder through the Leys Community Review Panel. These funds will enable the Larder to supply food to households and individuals in need and support a cause which tackles food waste

We met community groups where they are at to ensure that they were involved in giving feedback. Local residents are part of the Leys Community Review Panel. Most members do not have a background in building or landscape design and are not involved in key decison making in the Leys.

We held over 40 public events and engaged over 1,100 people in person. Our communications strategy, which included leaflet drops in newsletters, posters, online content, and social media, reached over 10,000 people. Local residents, Oxford City Councillors, staff, and the Oxford Design Review Panel have provided positive feedback on our unique engagement approach.

Information gathered throughout this process was continuously fed back to the design team, ensuring genuine integration of community feedback into the design development. Engagement methods included in-person workshops, drop-ins at public events, online and written surveys, online engagement workshops, standalone public consultation events, and organised events with targeted audiences.

All public events were advertised in advance. We also engaged with city councillors, the Parish Council, key stakeholder groups (including previous users and tenants of the community centre), and Oxford City Council communities team members, among others. We are thankful to everyone who has given their thoughts, guidance and shaped the design of the new Blackbird Leys community centre and public realm and we would like to reaffirm our commitment to ongoing community involvement and transparent communication.



(Photograph taken during Key Stakeholder & Councillor Workshop)



APPENDICES

1] Online & Written Survey	Questions	66	6
----------------------------	-----------	----	---

[2] Flyers, leaflets & posters 70

Please refer to the following submitted documents for summary reports for each engagement event:

- Community Engagement WS2 Summary Report
- Community Engagement WS3 Summary Report

APPENDICES[1] Online & Written Surveys

[1]Online & Written Survey Questions





Blackbird Leys Community Centre & Public Realm Community Consultation

Thanks for helping us in designing and shaping your new community centre! Your thoughts are really important. Please take a few minutes to tell us what you think about these topics to help in the design process. We would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions. You can answer as many or as few questions as you can. We recommend spending 15 minutes to fill in your information if you are completing the full form. If you need assistance in completing the form or have any questions please contact bblcommunityengagement@transitionbydesign.org or leave a voicemail message on 01865 959 571 and we will call you back at a convenient time.

Contact Information

Name *	
First Name	Last Name
E-mail	
Phone Number	
Priorie Number	
Area Code Phone Number	d the Blackbird Leys Community Centre?
Area Code Phone Number Have you previously use	d the Blackbird Leys Community Centre?
Area Code Phone Number	d the Blackbird Leys Community Centre?

If no, please tick the reasons why you did not use the community centre

☐ I did not know there was a community centre in the Leys
☐ I don't know what activities are on
Location of the centre
☐ Access problemts to the centre
□ No suitable activities
☐ Activities not at a suitable time
Facilities not in a good condition
3.
Affordability
Other
What things do you want in the centre that would make people healthier and happier?
That amigo do you want in the centre and would make people neutrino and mappier.
What should we include in the design to make sure that the community centre is future-proof and
can be used by the community for a really long time?
What kind of services/activities do you think the design team should consider when designing the
What kind of services/activities do you think the design team should consider when designing the new community centre?
new community centre?
new community centre? ☐ Activities/services for children and young people
new community centre? ☐ Activities/services for children and young people ☐ Activities/services for older people
new community centre? ☐ Activities/services for children and young people
new community centre? ☐ Activities/services for children and young people ☐ Activities/services for older people ☐ Sports and fitness classess
new community centre? Activities/services for children and young people Activities/services for older people Sports and fitness classes Arts/crafts classes
new community centre? Activities/services for children and young people Activities/services for older people Sports and fitness classes Arts/crafts classes Adult education classes
new community centre? Activities/services for children and young people Activities/services for older people Sports and fitness classes Arts/crafts classes Adult education classes Activities for both parents and pre-school children
new community centre? Activities/services for children and young people Activities/services for older people Sports and fitness classes Arts/crafts classes Adult education classes Activities for both parents and pre-school children Creche to enable you to attend activities Help getting back into work (skills training)
new community centre? Activities/services for children and young people Activities/services for older people Sports and fitness classes Arts/crafts classes Adult education classes Activities for both parents and pre-school children Creche to enable you to attend activities
new community centre? Activities/services for children and young people Activities/services for older people Sports and fitness classes Arts/crafts classes Adult education classes Activities for both parents and pre-school children Creche to enable you to attend activities Help getting back into work (skills training) Activities and programmes for people with disabilities Advice support
new community centre? Activities/services for children and young people Activities/services for older people Sports and fitness classes Arts/crafts classes Adult education classes Activities for both parents and pre-school children Creche to enable you to attend activities Help getting back into work (skills training) Activities and programmes for people with disabilities
new community centre? Activities/services for children and young people Activities/services for older people Sports and fitness classes Arts/crafts classes Adult education classes Activities for both parents and pre-school children Creche to enable you to attend activities Help getting back into work (skills training) Activities and programmes for people with disabilities Advice support
new community centre? Activities/services for children and young people Activities/services for older people Sports and fitness classes Arts/crafts classes Adult education classes Activities for both parents and pre-school children Creche to enable you to attend activities Help getting back into work (skills training) Activities and programmes for people with disabilities Advice support

[1]Online & Written Survey Questions

Are there things we should include in the design to make people feel proud of the new Communit centre?
Are there things we need to think about when we decide what art to include? If so, is there anyone that you feel should be involved in the process of decision-making or making art?
Are there specific groups of people we should think about when designing the new community
centre?
The project also involves the design of the outdoor public square and the public realm (outdoor public areas) around the community centre. How important are outdoor spaces for you when thinking of the new community centre?
○1 - Not important
Q2 - A little bit important
O3 - Not sure
Q4 - Quite important
○5 - Very important
What things should we have in the public square and the public realm to make it an interactive
outdoor space?

/hat makes an entrance welcoming for you?
ow important is it to you for the new community centre to be low energy?
1 - Not important
2 - A little bit important
3 - Not sure
04 - Quite important 05 - Very important
75 - very important
/hat things can we do to make sure it is comfortable inside the building?
That unings can we do to make sure it is commonable more are ballating.
re there places or things we should consider to encourage people to interact? What can we do to
ncourage people to interact?
ny additional comments or thoughts on the new community centre and the outdoor space (public alm)?

Thank you for sharing your valuable insights. Your feedback will play a crucial role in creating a community centre that meets the needs and aspirations of our residents.

[1]Online & Written Survey Questions

Diversity Monitoring (Optional)

We ask applicants to complete the following questions to help us monitor the effectiveness of our approach to equality and diversity on the community engagement for the new community centre. The information you provide will only be used to ensure that we involve a diverse range of voices from the community in the design process, so we encourage you to provide as much information as you can to us. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

What is your gender				
O Female				
ONon-binary				
OMale				
OPrefer not to say				
Other				
What age group are you	?			
OUnder 18				
○18-24				
O25-34				
O35-44				
O45-54				
○55-64				
O65+				
Do you live in the Leys?	(Greater Leys or	Blackbird Leys	s)	
OYes				
ONo				
What is your preferred	anguage?			

What is your ethnic background?

OMixed or Multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups
OMixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group
Other ethnic group: Arab
OMixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African
OAsian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Bangladeshi
OAsian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Chinese
OAsian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Indian
OAsian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Pakistani
OAsian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Other Asian
OBlack, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: African
OBlack, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Caribbean
OBlack, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Other Black
OMixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean
OWhite: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
OWhite: Irish
OWhite: Gypsy or Irish Traveller
OWhite: Roma
OWhite: Other White
ODoes not apply
Other

Data Protection & GDPR

The purpose of the survey is to consult those within and oustide of the Leys, Oxford on the Blackbird Leys Community Centre Design. Your data will be used to gather community design principles to assist the design team during the design process as well as to ensure that we involve a diverse range of voices from the community in the design process, so we encourage you to provide as much information as you can to us. Your personal details will not be shared with Oxford City Council or any third parties and will not be used for marketing. Transition by Design comply with the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation. For more information, please email Transition by Design at info@transitionbydesign.org.

Submit

67

APPENDICES[2] Flyers, Leaflets & Posters



(Leys Community Review Panel Recruitment Poster advertised in August 2023)



(Flyer for engagement events in November & December 2023))

SAT 10 FEB 12-3:30pm

FREE ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE LEYS FOR ALL AGES

& have your say on designs for the new community centre



(Flyer for 10th February Community Engagement Event)



(Flyer for engagement events in January - March 2024)





(Flyer for engagement events in January - March 2024)



(Flyer for 16th March Public Exhibition Event



TUESDAY 15 October

2:30-6pm

EXHIBITION & FREE FOOD

& come see the final designs for the new community centre & public realm



(Flyer for final public exhibition)























Produced by Transition by Design on behalf of Oxford City Council and Peabody





