



Age Friendly York

Getting Out And About Your Destination

An Age Friendly York consultation took place between 16th September and 13th October to seek people's views of the public spaces they use in York and how Age Friendly they are. In addition the opportunity to provide views was available at each drop-in information session with the 50+ festival in September.

The opportunity for specific places to have the consultation questions available will continue to build a city wide understanding as well as information regarding the public's view of specific spaces.

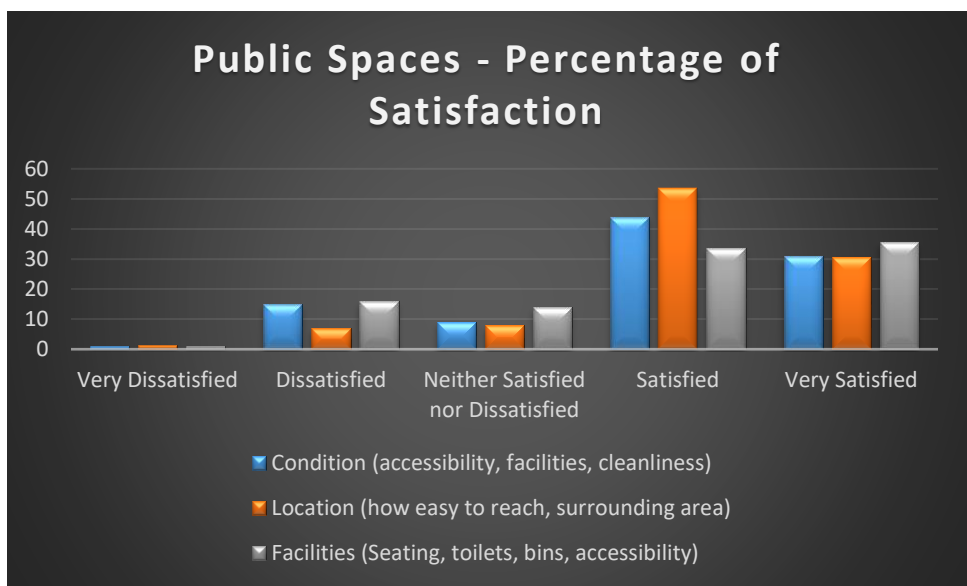
The results of the survey will inform the Getting Out And About Baseline Assessment and Action Plan.

The initial feedback included 101 electronic and paper feedbacks and were of the following public spaces:

Community Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Earswick Folk Hall ➤ The Centre @ Burnholme ➤ Red Tower ➤ Lidgett (2) ➤ The Gateway Centre (2) ➤ Priory Street Centre (1)
Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explore York (9) ➤ Rowntree Park Reading Café (3) ➤ Acomb Explore (4) ➤ Libraries general (3) ➤ Tang Hall Explore
Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rowntree Park (3) ➤ Glen Gardens (3) ➤ York Memorial Gardens ➤ Museum Gardens (4) ➤ West Bank Park ➤ Hob more ➤ Scarcroft Green ➤ Homestead Park ➤ Foxwood Park
Blue Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Walk (2) ➤ Riverside near city ➤ River side/Clifton Ings
Other - internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ St Sampson's Community Church ➤ Edinburgh Arms ➤ Minster Care - Care Home ➤ Art Gallery

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tang Hall Club ➤ City Screen ➤ Marks & Spencer's ➤ Railway Institute ➤ Acomb Rugby Club
Other External (Bumping Spaces)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parliament Street, Kings square, St Sampson's Square and city centre shopping area (7) ➤ Kingsland Terrace bus stop ➤ Grass area outside Honeysuckle House

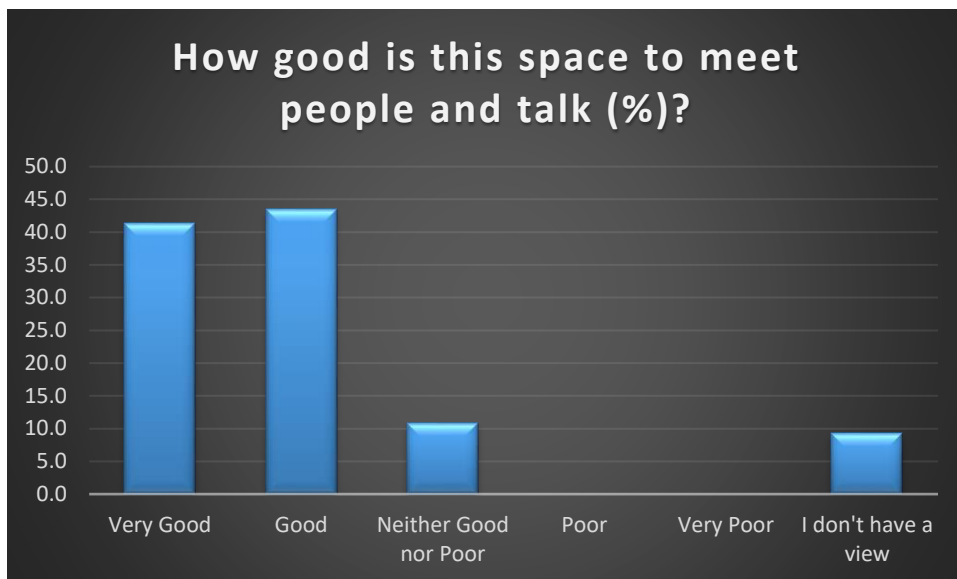
The survey deliberately allowed the residents to define what they regard as a community space, resulting in a number of different types of venues. The care home mentioned above is included as this welcomes residents from the surrounding area. One submission of the West Office Café was excluded as this is not open to the public.



Out of 101 responses the condition of Public Spaces were: 82.1% satisfied with condition; 96.4% satisfied with location and 63.0% satisfied with facilities.

Residents were asked how they use the space which included: reading, resting; walking, use of the internet; taking visitors; visiting exhibitions; playing games; speaking another language; looking at market stalls; playing instruments; watching films, performers and concerts; yoga; meeting friends; cycling or having a drink or meal.

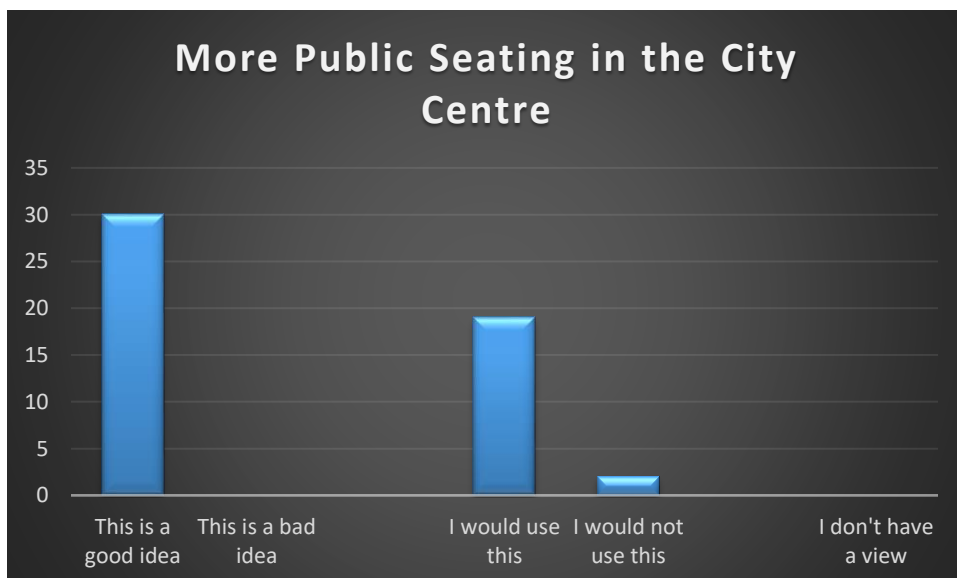
Residents were also asked how they would like to use the space in the future, most people wanted to continue to use the space in the same way, some additional comments included: higher seated chairs; somewhere to put walking stick so it does not fall down, more evening, afternoon activities, improved toilet facilities, reassurance that there are toilets and more seats; more walking and sitting events, more opportunities to take grandchildren to activities, more of a social place to meet; improve public transport; the genres of books within shelves labelled; more refreshments; improved cleanliness; recycling bins; more things happening each day; views of the river opened up more.



Of 92 responses 84.8% of venues identified were considered by residents as good or very good spaces to talk.

The Your Journey survey also identified three Your Destination proposals which were consulted on as part of this survey:

More Seating in the City Centre



All 30 respondents felt this was a good idea with a range of specific spaces and places suggested, predominantly around the shopping areas or places where there is something to see. It was also suggested that walk arounds were done to look where suitable benches could go, this could inform other Getting Out And About proposals.

“This is a good idea, especially if integrated sensitively into the street scene.”

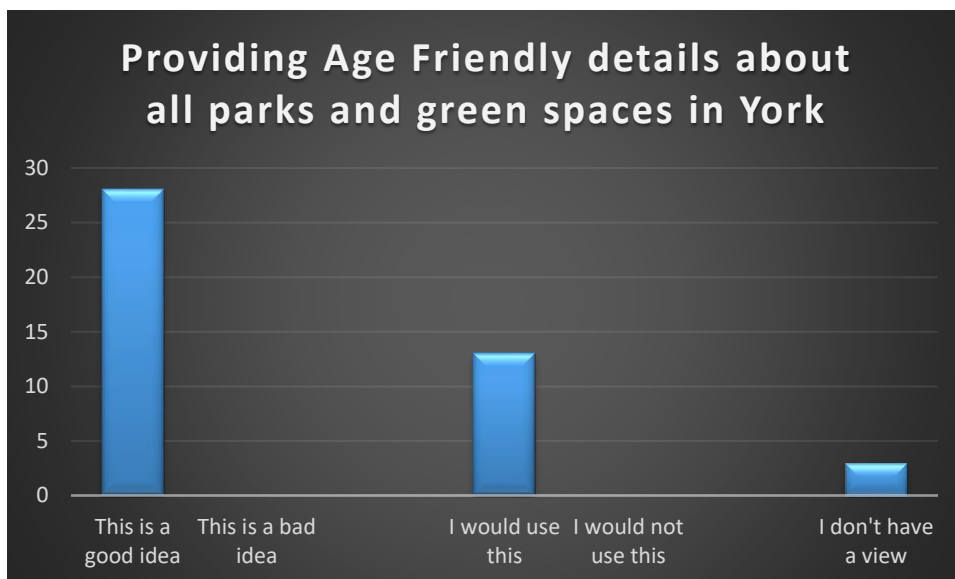
“I think this is an excellent idea and would also encourage people to go out more and be around others and continue doing things they enjoy.”

The seating in York are mapped on the City of York Council website called [YorkView](#) (the public map browser - under ‘Street Care’). However this is out of date and does not have age friendly criteria (eg/ if they have arms and a back rest). An initial Age Friendly pilot has taken place in the Guildhall ward to re-map the benches with the support of Goodgym community group. This is intended to then happen on a ward by ward basis which will then help to inform any ward based decisions.

In addition the “Take a Seat” initiative is being proposed for York modelling on the 330 locations available in [Nottingham](#). This has a dedicated resource, however the appetite for the initiative can be tested through combining the offer with the York CVS [Safe Places Scheme](#). This approach would also cast a dementia friendly lens on the initiative and be available to people with disabilities not just older people.

There has been feedback requesting more benches in the city centre or places to sit inside. Anchor has produced a national initiative called Standing Up 4 Sitting Down, this includes a tool for assessing how many seats there should be based on the older population. For York this calculates at 181 with 163 benches plotted as part of this baseline assessment. 73 of these benches have been assessed as Age Friendly with having a back and arms. An additional benches are therefore likely to be where there is large distance to the next bench or where there is not sufficient quantity of Age Friendly benches in that area.

Providing Age Friendly details about Parks and Green Spaces



All 28 respondents thought this was a good idea. There is currently a [Parks Gardens and Green Spaces Directory](#) which provides information about some of the green spaces in York. This could be both expanded and enhanced to meet the Age Friendly agenda. Community Groups, in particular [friends of groups](#) could support the process as well as the York CVS [Growing Green Spaces](#) initiative.

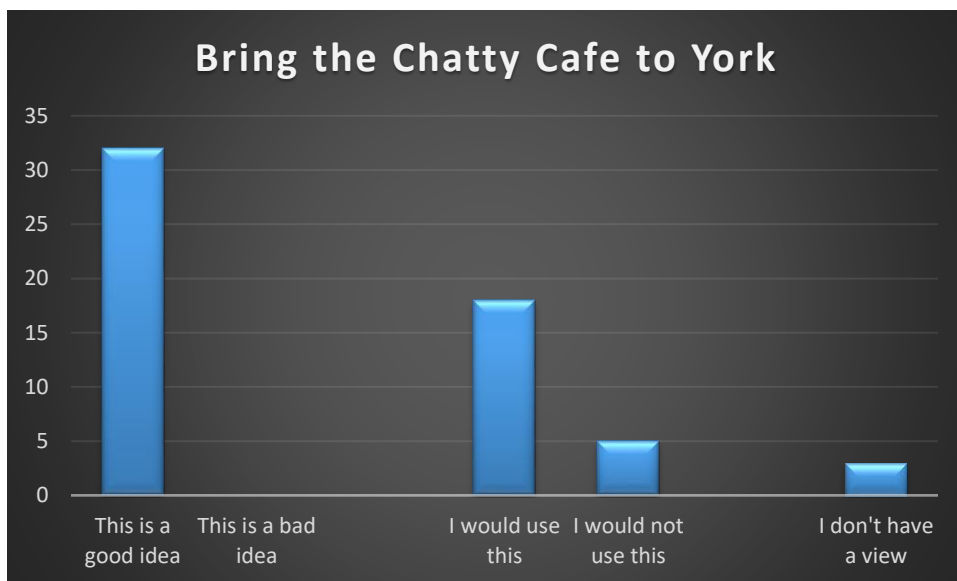
“The more information that is made available about walks and accessible footpaths, the more likely people will be to use them. Use standard criteria to describe footpath surfaces, see how other specialist websites grade/describe routes. Remember wheelchair users have different needs to able bodied walkers.”

[Access Able](#) could also be an alternative approach to capturing Age Friendly information about green spaces.

York currently has 3 green flag awards for parks and gardens. Meeting and presenting the green flag criteria could be considered as an approach.

“yes please this would encourage me to walk and get out into the fresh air”

Bring the Chatty Café scheme to York - this allocates a 'chatter & natter' table in specific cafés where customers can sit if they are happy to talk to other customers.



All 32 respondents thought this was a good idea, although less stated they would use it if available. There are a wide range of community cafes which have a deliberate social focus so this needs to be taken into consideration. The location may also be important as Monks Cross Sainsbury's tried this for 12 weeks without success. Looking at where it has been successfully introduced may be a good starting point.

Conclusion

The quantity of feedback is not sufficient to reach any specific conclusions per public space however it does give a starting point for a way forward:

- Engagement can take place per public space depending on the buy in from those responsible for the space. A good starting point would be through friends of groups for green spaces and community centres.
- Details of Age Friendly green spaces can continue to conclude the best tool to do this
- Work should progress on updating the mapping of benches, focuses initially in the Guildhall Ward as a destination.
- Contact can take place with other Age Friendly groups that have Chatty Cafes to see whether it can be tested in York eg/ Costa in the centre of town
- Walk arrounds could be utilised to also include the Age Friendly agenda to build up a place based understanding of priorities

- The take a seat concept can continue to be developed further in partnership with Home Instead and York Older People Assembly.
- Initial findings can be included in the baseline assessment and updated as additional findings come in.