



Haydon Wick Residents' Survey Results

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Introduction

In late 2004 and early 2005, we distributed a residents' survey to 4,000 houses throughout Haydon Wick Ward. We have now received and collated all the results and present our findings here.



We began by asking which 3 local issues are of most concern to you. Council tax levels was the clear winner and we have responded by introducing the smallest increase seen for many years - 3%. Youth issues and anti social behaviour came a clear second. Haydon Wick has its own neighbourhood Safety Team (NeST) which meets every two months and has had some success in tackling these problems. We are also working to introduce more facilities for young people such as opening up the youth centre at the Northern Orbital shopping centre. Whilst

some residents expressed their dissatisfaction with the anti social behaviour in the area, others did not want to see any provision for young people to help tackle the problem. There are no easy answers but we will continue to look for the best solutions. Traffic was third and we have worked hard to introduce the new mini-roundabout at the junction of Westfield Way and Thames Avenue which is proving very popular. We are aware of a range of

other traffic issues and are working to see what can be done - again there are no easy answers. Education is also important to families and we have driven through a policy on the council which sees the introduction of an additional 27 primary school places at Bridlewood which will alleviate the pressure on places in our area. Seven brand new schools are being built with a new secondary school opening in the north in 2007.



Which of the following are of most concern to you?

	%
Council Tax	26.95
Youth Facilities / Anti Social Behaviour	18.96
Traffic	13.75
Education	11.15
Social Services	6.88
Public Transport	5.58
Development	4.46
Graffiti	3.35
Other / Recycling / Health / Police / Crime / Roads / Street cleaning	3.35
Leisure Facilities	3.16
Libraries	1.49
Housing	0.93



Next we asked you if you thought that the 42% increase over 3 years under a Labour Council was good value for money. The result speaks for itself. In our first year in overall control, the Conservatives introduced just a 3% increase.

Council Tax - is it value for money?	%
Yes	4.42
No	90.61
Unsure	4.97

We also asked if residents thought that your Labour MP claiming £112,000 on top of his £57,485 salary was good value for money. The answer was similarly emphatic.

MP's Expenses - Are you getting value for money?	%
Yes	3.87
No	82.87
Unsure	13.26

Under half of residents knew the name of the Labour MP. The majority did not and some offered other names.

Name of North Swindon MP	%
Knew it	44.51
Did not know it / Julia Drown	55.49

We then asked where you would like to see a redeveloped new stadium for Swindon Town Football Club.

Swindon Town FC - New stadium site	%
Redevelop County Ground	64.97
Find a new site in Swindon	23.16
Unsure	11.86

Unsurprisingly, the most contentious question was over the Bath University plans. The results showed that building it at the planned site adjacent to the GWH and M4 was the most popular choice but the other options were not far behind with a sizable number still undecided.

Bath University - What did you think of the plans?	%
Build it at Coate	32.24
Build it in the town centre	28.96
Do not support plans for a campus at all	28.42
Unsure	10.38

In the light of the resounding 'No' votes in the French and Dutch referendums on the European Constitution, the next question is largely academic but there was clearly strong feeling that there should be a referendum.

European Referendum	%
We should have a referendum	86.55
Leave it to the Government	9.36
Unsure	4.09



Next we asked whether the Conservatives were right to pledge additional Police officers. This proved to be a very popular policy as many of you expressed the need for more visible 'bobbys' on the beat.

Are the Conservatives right to pledge an extra 40,000 Police officers?	%
Yes	92.86
No	7.14

The national policy of cutting back on bureaucracy to reinvest in frontline schooling also proved popular.

Do you support Conservative plans to cut back on education bureaucracy to put the money into frontline schooling?	%
Yes	88.44
No	2.31
Unsure	9.25

The national issues residents found most important were Law and Order, health, pensions and asylum/immigration. The so called 'War on Terror' did not rate highly.

Which of the following national issues do you consider to be most important?	%
Law & Order	15.78
Health Service	14.11
Pensions	13.96
Asylum / Immigration	13.35
Europe / Keep the Pound	11.23
Tax / Interest Rates / Inflation	9.26
Education	6.98
Environment	6.07
The War on Terror	5.31
Transport	3.79
Other	0.15

Then we asked if Conservatives in Government should restore the link for pensioners with earnings. Residents were overwhelmingly in favour of this.

Restore link between earnings and state pensions	%
Yes	85.16
No	6.04
Unsure	8.79



We then asked which Party residents would vote for if there were an election tomorrow. Over 62% stated they would vote Conservative with support for Labour falling behind those who would not say, the Liberal Democrats and those who would not vote.

Which Party would you vote for?	%
Conservative	62.84
Other / Undecided / Would not say	13.11
Lib Dem	6.01
Would not vote	6.01
Labour	4.92
UKIP	4.37
BNP	1.64
Green	1.09

Finally, we asked who residents voted for at the last election. It is interesting to note that, compared with voting intentions then, support for the Conservatives and UKIP increased whilst support for Labour and the Liberal Democrats had declined.

Which Party did you vote for at the last election?

Conservative	59.90
Did not vote	12.50
Labour	11.46
Lib Dem	7.81
Other / Would not say	4.69
UKIP	2.60
BNP	1.04

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all residents who took part in our survey. As you have seen, we have already dealt with some of the concerns raised and we will continue to listen and take action where we can on the others.

Yours faithfully

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