HOME COMFORTS

How the design of our homes and neighbourhoods effected our experience of the Covid-19 lockdown and what we can learn for the future

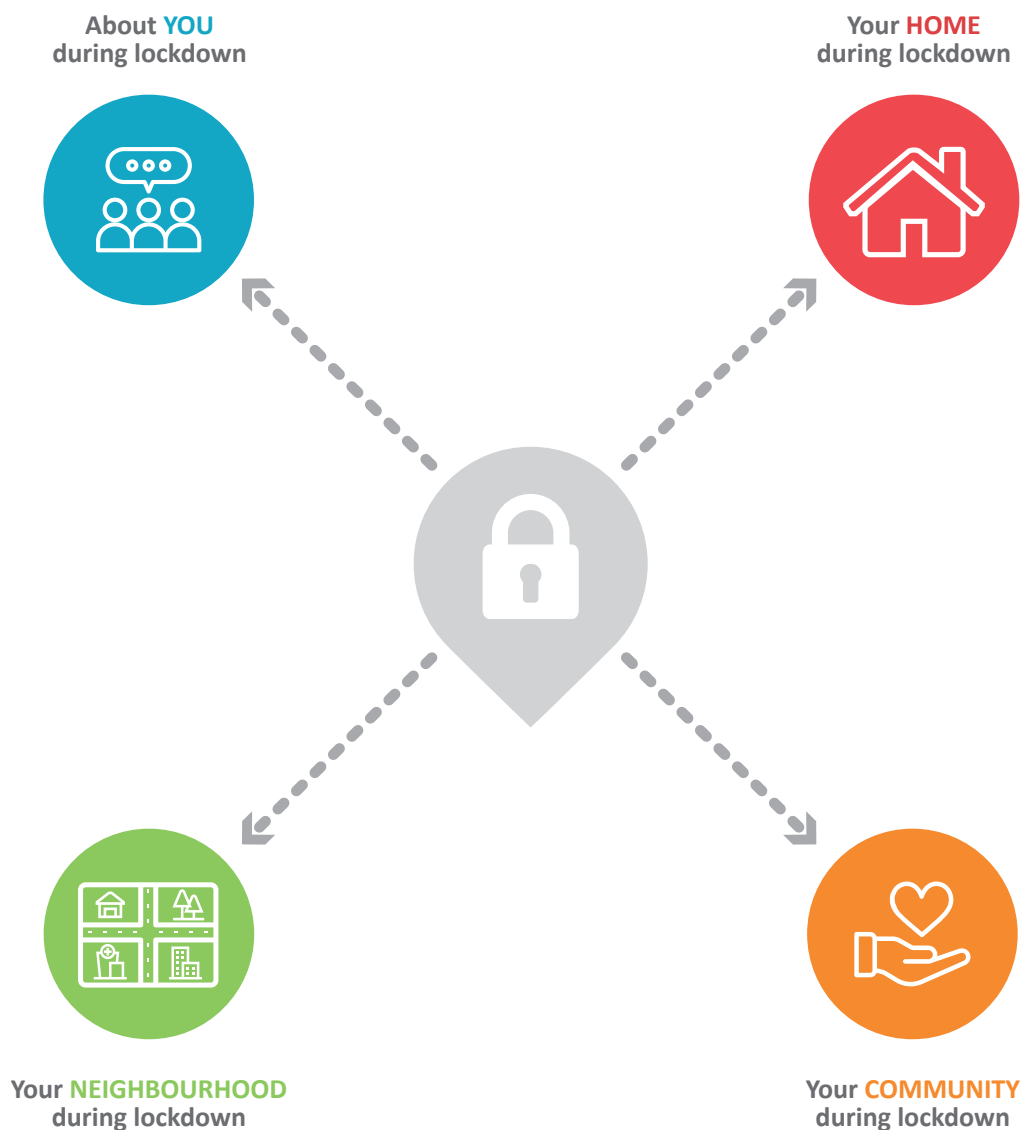# CONTENTS

FOREWORD

This report summarises findings of a national survey of 2,500 households (representing 7,200 people) aimed at understanding how well or how poorly the design of our homes and their immediate neighbourhoods supported us during the period of coronavirus lockdown.

The intention was to understand what we can learn from this period of unprecedented stress on our home environments. The findings offer insights into how we should be designing or adapting them in the future in order that they are more resilient and better able to support happy and healthy lifestyles.

Findings are grouped according to the following themes:

About **YOU**
during lockdown

Your **HOME**
during lockdown

Your **NEIGHBOURHOOD**
during lockdown

Your **COMMUNITY**
during lockdown

1. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on 2510 responses, the research concluded:

OUR HOMES DURING LOCK-DOWN

1 - Most are comfortable, but many are not

- **Millions of uncomfortable people:** Two thirds of people felt comfortable or very comfortable during lockdown, but a sixth were either uncomfortable or very uncomfortable. Extrapolated across the UK this would represent 10.7 million uncomfortable people.
- **Houses are more comfortable than flats:** Those living in houses (of any type) were more comfortable than those living in apartments, with those living in mid- (5-10 storey) or high-rise blocks (over 11 stories) being the least comfortable of all.
- **The newest dwellings are the most uncomfortable:** Dwellings were progressively less comfortable the newer they were, with the most recently built homes (built between 2010 and 2020) recording the lowest proportions of comfortable residents.
- **Social renters suffered the most:** Tenure was the strongest predictor of comfort in the home. Owner occupiers were the most comfortable, followed by those in the private rented sector. Those renting from local authorities or housing associations were the least comfortable by some margin.
- **Key workers were least comfortable:** Perversely, those working from home during lockdown were more comfortable than those working away from home (the so-called key workers).

2 - Why are some less comfortable than others?

- **Access to private open space is critical:** Access to private open space from the home was the strongest design-based predictor of comfort. Households with a private garden or terrace space were the most comfortable, followed by those with a private balcony or shared garden. Households with no access to any sort of private open space were least comfortable.
- **More space means more comfort:** Dwellings were noticeably more comfortable the more rooms they had per occupant, whilst dwellings with 5 or more occupants were noticeably less comfortable during lockdown.
- **Most (but not all) work comfortably from home:** Only 7% struggled to work at home, with social renters prominent amongst them. Common problems included a physical lack of space, difficulties in separating home and work life, poor home technology (notably wifi), and poor physical conditions (lighting, environmental conditions, inappropriate furniture, lack of storage, etc.).
- **Internal design matters:** Preferences for open plan over cellular arrangements within the home vary, although the pressures of lockdown have led to a desire amongst many for a greater degree of cellularity, including for a dedicated home office space. Good environmental conditions, fresh air, daylight into the home and good noise insulation, were widely seen as fundamental.
- **We want more:** Even for those with good space standards our aspirations are typically first, for access to better (larger) private external space followed by, second, more living space in the home.

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD DURING LOCK DOWN

3 - Our neighbourhoods serve us well (most of us)

o **A minority suffer poorly designed neighbourhoods:** Almost three quarters of residents felt that their local neighbourhood met their everyday needs well or very well during lockdown, approaching a quarter that it was OK, and just 4% felt this was not the case. Extrapolated across the UK this would nevertheless represent a population of 2.7 million people.

o **Urban is just as good:** Comparing levels of satisfaction with neighbourhoods across rural, suburban and urban areas revealed very similar levels of satisfaction.

o **High-rise comes out poorly:** Neighbourhoods composing houses (whether detached, semi-detached or terraced) score markedly better than those with apartment blocks, particularly those with high rise blocks.

o **Newer neighbourhoods come out worse:** The data showed a progressive deterioration of the neighbourhood experience of lockdown in the most recently established neighbourhoods.

o **Owner occupiers are happiest with their neighbourhoods:** Again, owner occupiers scored their neighbourhoods most highly, followed by private renters. Those renting from housing associations and particularly from local authorities scored their neighbourhoods least well.

o **Poor space at home and around:** For residents with no or only limited access to private open space (e.g. a balcony), the wider neighbourhood was often failing to fill the gap left by their lack of access to open space at home.

4 - Green, mixed-use, less-trafficked and connected neighbourhoods are key

o **Parks and greenery are fundamental:** Proximity to a park or significant green space (within a 5 minute walk) was the strongest predictor of satisfaction with neighbourhoods during lockdown, with satisfaction dropping off markedly the further away open space was and significantly when over 10 minutes. The green (landscape) qualities of the environment, including green streets and garden spaces, were seen as fundamental by residents.

o **A 5 to 10 minute city:** Factors relating to the presence of local facilities (shops and services) within easy reach of the home and large shops not too far away were almost as strong as a predictor of satisfaction. Satisfaction peaked at 5 minutes and dropped away markedly over 10 minutes.

o **Space for walking and cycling on quieter streets:** The availability of less trafficked streets and good walking and cycle routes from the home were particularly prized during the lockdown, as were wider pavements where they existed.

o **COVID is an opportunity:** There is a strong desire to use the crisis of COVID to deliver better environment standards and clear long-term health and quality of life benefits through a permanent switch in modes of travel, a material change in the quality of streets and open spaces, and a safer and more pleasant environment.

OUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY DURING LOCK-DOWN

5 - A variable sense of community (pre-COVID)

o **Community feeling is typically rudimentary:** Most respondents (two thirds) felt that a tangible but weak sense of community existed before lockdown. The remainder split between those for whom the feeling was either strong or weak, or in excess of 10 million people in each category if extrapolated across the UK.

o **Rural is better for community:** Rural areas seemed to exhibit a significantly stronger sense of community.

o **Building higher means less community:** Apartment blocks have a much weaker sense of community than houses and the sense of community reduces the higher blocks become.

o **Older means more community and newer less:** The older the housing stock, the stronger the sense of community.

o **Churn reduces sense of community:** The weakest sense of community – perhaps explained by the higher rates of churn in the sector – were occupiers in the privately rented sector, whilst owner occupiers report the strongest sense.

6 - COVID has boosted community feeling, but not equally

o **Community has helped us through:** Approaching a third of respondents suggested that the sense of community had changed a lot during lockdown, and a little over half that it had changed a little. Those at home but not working during lockdown experienced the change most keenly, a group incorporating older groups who were most likely to benefit from assistance.

o **Community builds community:** All categories of dwelling and neighbourhood saw an increase in community feeling and support during lockdown, but those with the strongest pre-exiting sense of community saw it reinforced most.

o **Higher, newer and social come off worse:** People living in rural areas, in houses (as opposed to apartments), in older housing and in owner occupied dwellings experienced a greater deepening of community support. Residents in high rises, post-2010 homes, and local authority owned developments experienced the smallest boost in community feeling.

o **Online can boost community:** Residents strongly value a community spirit and nice neighbours, and during lockdown this partly expressed itself in the emergence of local online social networks which people value.

o **A silver lining:** Respondents reflected on a period in which people seemed friendlier (despite social distancing), in which the environment seemed to recover and even thrive, and in which they had more time for things that matter, the family, exercise, the garden, neighbours and the community.

Lockdown has revealed much about our living environments. It has brought into sharp relief those aspects of the home and neighbourhood that we value and those we don't. A small number of simple but fundamental recommendations can be made, all of which we already know, but often fail to deliver:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DESIGN OF DWELLINGS:

o All new homes and newly converted homes should have mandated access to private open space, even if just to a balcony.

o Without exception, all new and newly converted homes should be built to decent national minimum space standards such as those in the Nationally Described Space Standards and in a manner that prioritises good environmental conditions in the home: access to fresh air, daylight and good insulation against the transmission of noise.

o The *Nationally Described Space Standards*[1] should be amended to reflect working from home needs, and all new and newly converted homes should be built with provision for occupiers to comfortably work from home.

o Greater care is required when building high. People in the survey were happier when closer to the ground suggesting that we should only build high if we can simultaneously deliver the other recommendations in this report, both at the home and neighbourhood scales.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DESIGN OF NEIGHBOURHOODS:

o The higher and the denser we build, the greater the need for high quality parks and green spaces and local facilities within the neighbourhood.

o The aspiration should be for everyone to live within five minutes walk of a significant green space or park, and never more than 10 minutes.

o The aspiration should be for everyone to live within five minutes walk of a basic range of local facilities, including shops, and never more than 10 minutes.

o Homes, facilities, and green spaces should be linked by connected, walkable, and green streets and by high quality walking and cycling infrastructure with, wherever possible, low levels of traffic.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOR A MORE COMMUNITY-FOCUSED CITY:

o To encourage a stronger sense of community in newer and denser developments, shared public and private spaces for safe interaction and play should be built into schemes, as well as convenient access to local amenities and facilities.

o Social housing should enjoy the same essential amenities as housing for sale or to privately rent, including access to the qualities recommended above across dwelling and neighbourhood scales.

o Giving stronger security of tenure to renters in the private rental market would help to reduce churn and build a stronger sense of community and greater well-being.

COVID has put us under huge strain, but has also revealed new opportunities and reminded us of some things we value: nature, family, freedom to walk, and community. As we look likely to continue to spend more time in the home environment in the future, we need to build our homes and neighbourhoods as decent places where people wish to spend time in, and in which we can build better lives. As *A Housing Design Audit for England*[2] suggested and this survey confirms, in recent years we have let design standards drop. We should learn from the stress test that lockdown has given our homes to build better living environments in the future and to retrospectively adapt those we are already living in today.

2. INTRODUCTION

From the 23rd March 2020 the UK was put into lockdown in an unprecedented attempt to fight the spread and impact of Covid-19. Initially the British public were under strict instructions to remain at home, and only to venture out when absolutely necessary for food, medicine or daily exercise. Until a gradual easing began from the 10th May onwards, families, couples, sharers, and individuals were (and in many cases still are) spending more time at home – and together – than ever before.

Our worlds shrank physically to our homes and their immediate neighbourhoods, yet the roles we needed to perform there expanded: working from home, looking after families, home schooling, staying in touch (remotely) with isolated relatives, shopping, exercising, and so on. Evidence started to be published about the social impact of these privations, notably on the country's deteriorating mental health[3], physical health[4], worsening domestic abuse in the home[5], and general decline in general happiness and well-being[6].

Whilst Covid-19 represents an unprecedented social, economic and health trial for society at large and has been a personal disaster for many, it has long been recognised that such turbulent periods in history give rise to innovation[7]. In this crisis we have seen the unprecedented spread of technology to fill key gaps, notably: video-conferencing helping us to stay in touch with friends and loved ones, work from home, host events, exercise together, learn together, and much more; online shopping and associated home deliveries has helped us to feed, clothe and otherwise distract ourselves; and online entertainment has filled some of the gap that cinemas, theatres, the pub, and other in-person social venues normally fulfil.

A big question is whether we will ever return to the patterns of life that we saw in the pre-Covid world, or whether new patterns are here to stay, notably a much greater degree of home working, a permanent move to shopping online rather than physically, and an associated reduction in travel, both within our cities and overseas.

On these issues only time will tell, but in the short-term the period of lockdown has provided a unique opportunity to stress test our homes and their immediate environments, to gauge how they have performed during this period, whether or not they have supported our everyday needs in these strangest of times, and how we might need to design them or adapt them in the future to build in a greater resilience and capacity to support happy and healthy lives. That was the purpose of the survey reported in this report.

3. METHODOLOGY

In order to get a picture of how well or poorly the design of our home environments – our homes and the neighbourhoods – have been supporting us during the period of Coronavirus lockdown, a short non targeted survey was prepared utilising SurveyMonkey. The survey contained a combination of 25 closed and open questions and was launched in May 2020, initially via a series of professional and civil networks – the Place Alliance, Urban Design London, Good Homes Alliance, Civic Voice, Town & Country Planning Association, and the Urban Design Group – and latterly by word of mouth (or social media).

The closed questions were focussed on collecting background information on the otherwise anonymous participants, whilst the open questions focussed on garnering opinions in a manner that would not unduly lead participants responses. Whilst this made the task of analysis much harder, requiring extensive coding and classification of often complex responses, it also gave a greater opportunity for the true voices of participants to come through and avoided colouring the analysis with the preconceived perceptions of the researchers, all of whom were also subjected to lockdown.

A total of 2510 responses were collected, 98% of which were from across the UK (92% England, 3.5% Wales, 2% Scotland, 0.5% Northern Ireland), the remainder from overseas. Just over half of the response was from London. 520 responses were incomplete in various ways, typically because some open questions were skipped. Percentages given in this report are therefore percentages of those that completed each question.

The survey was structured into four parts and this is used to structure the remainder of the report:
• About you: background questions about respondents
• About your home during lockdown
• About your neighbourhood during lockdown
• About your community during lockdown.

2510 responses were collected
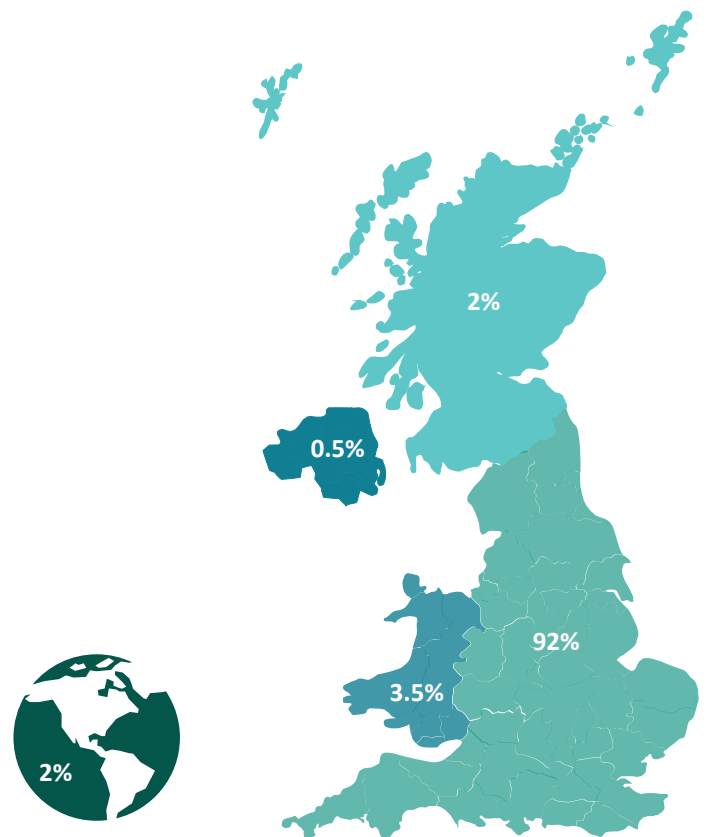
Survey Completion Rate By Country

4. SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 ABOUT YOU

The survey began with a series of closed questions designed to understand the personal circumstances of those who were responding. In launching the survey, the research team was concerned that the results would be unduly coloured by the nature of the largely built environment professional and civic society activist networks initially targeted with the survey and, in part, these questions aimed to tease out how significant a bias that might be.

The analysis revealed that in most respects – house and neighbourhood mix and type, tenure, demographics, space standards in the home, levels of occupancy, and access to private external space – the responses echo the profile of household / dwelling types found across England and broadly across the UK. The high response rate from London (with its urban character, older housing stock and generally good access to parks and green spaces) coloured the findings to some degree, as did the

predominantly white-collar experience that the survey captured as reflected in the high numbers of survey respondents able to work from home.

Despite overrepresentation by some groups, the survey results reflect the diversity of circumstances in which households across the country found themselves during lockdown. Responses demonstrated, in particular, the typical range of experiences that one might expect nationally and, to the extent that there can be such a thing, offers a national voice on the experience. This 'voice' would, of course, vary significantly if more focussed work was done in relation to particular forms of household or dwelling, for example, households in particular housing types (i.e. high-rise), tenures (i.e. private rented), or household formations (i.e. adult sharers). Here, however, the experience is generalised across the 2,500 responses to the survey.

First a series of questions were asked relating to the physical nature of the places in which respondents lived covering the type of neighbourhood, dwelling and dwelling age.

Neighbourhood type

There is no common definition for what is an urban, suburban or rural area and respondents were simply asked to self-define what they thought their areas was. National statistics show that in 2014 17% of the population in England lived in rural areas[8] – although this will include areas that look and feel suburban – whilst the Centre for Cities estimates that 55% of the population lives in suburban areas[9]. Reflecting the high proportion of respondents living in London, the response elicited a lower rural and a higher urban response rate than might be expected nationally.

51% URBAN
40% SUBURBAN
10% RURAL
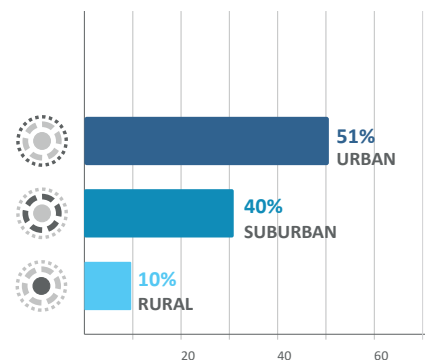
Dwelling type

National statistics show that 92% of owner-occupied dwellings in England are houses (a quarter of which are detached), compared with 63% in the private rented sector (5% detached) and 56% in social rented stock (1% detached). Together the rented sectors have much higher proportions of converted (11% in the private rented sector) or purpose built low-rise flats (36% in the social sector). High-rise purpose built flats make up just 2% of the stock[10]. When taken together with the tenure figures (below) the responses broadly echoed the distribution of housing types seen nationally with a predominance of houses and relatively few high-rise homes[11].

18% DETACHED
26% SEMI DETACHED
29% TERRACED
20% BLOCK LOW-RISE
5% BLOCK MID-RISE
2% BLOCK HIGH-RISE
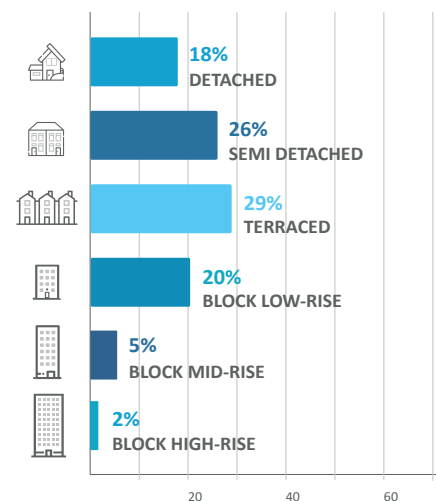
Dwelling age

National statistics show that, in England, the proportion of homes built before 1919 is around 20% and after 1980 about 26%[12]. The responses showed an identical proportion of post 1980s homes and a slightly higher pre-1919 rate reflecting the higher rates of historic homes found in London[13]. The age of dwellings strongly links with the nature of the houses and neighbourhoods as different periods have brought with them different standard dwelling and urban typologies that have been built around the country. Crudely these are: urban (albeit often leafy) streets pre-1919, suburban semi-detached city expansions between the wars, a continuation of suburban expansion matched by public sector post-war housing estates up to 1979, followed by car-based suburbs and latterly increasingly densification from the 1980s.

34% PRE-1919
19% 1920-1939
21% 1940-1979
17% 1980-2009
9% 2010-2020
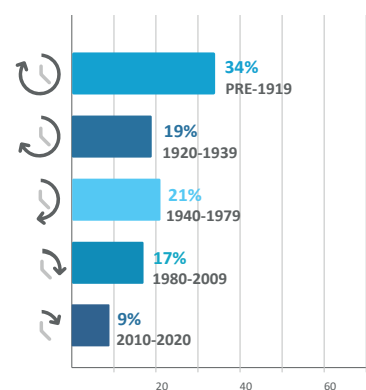
Next a series of questions relating to the social and demographic circumstances of respondents were asked. These related to the tenure of occupiers, the age profile of households, and the nature of their occupancy, what they were doing during lockdown, and how many people were in what space.

Tenure type
National statistics demonstrate that, in England, 64% of households own their own homes (a figure rising to 74% amongst households from an Indian background and down to 20% and 17% for those from Black African and Arab backgrounds[14]). 19% of households nationally rent in the private rented sector, 10% from housing associations and 7% from local authorities[15].

The responses received reflected a 10% higher proportion of owner occupied homes and a lower response rate from the different socially rented categories, communities which are always harder to reach with surveys of this nature. Respondents renting in the private sector reflected almost exactly the proportions found nationally. 51 respondents ticked the other category which included occupants in shared ownership schemes and living in student halls of residence. Predominantly the response reflects the continuing dominance of owner occupation in the UK, but also the growth in the private rented sector in recent years.

Ages of respondents
The survey response of 2,010 households represented a residential population of 7,210 people. The demographic profile of the UK reflects a bell curve and so did the survey responses, with a remarkably similar profile. Only the numbers of over 75s varied significantly (as might be expected for an entirely online survey), in this case replaced by slightly higher proportions in the 25-35 category.

Work and home learning
Of the responses, 30% were living in dwellings with children, and 70% without, again reflecting almost perfectly national statistics where 29% of households consist of families with dependent children[16]. The large majority of these would have needed to cope, to varying degrees, with home learning.

Perhaps reflecting the nature of the networks initially targeted when distributing the survey,78% of households had at least someone working from home, either full or part-time. This stands in contrast to a national picture where YouGov report that 23% never worked from home during lockdown, 23% were furloughed (temporarily not working) and 8% had no work, leaving 46% working from home (up from 27% before COVID[17]). Responses are likely, therefore, to reflect a predominantly white-collar perspective.
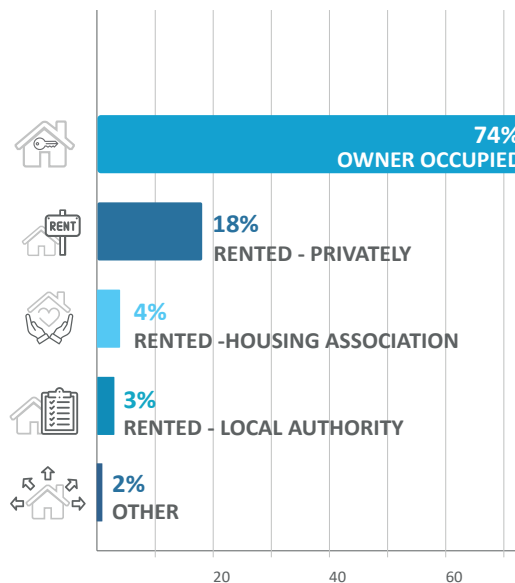
AGE GROUP	% NATIONALLY (UK)[18]	% IN SURVEY
0-17	21	19
18-24	9	9
25-34	13	18
35-44	14	15
45-54	13	13
55-64	12	14
65-74	9	9
75+	8	3
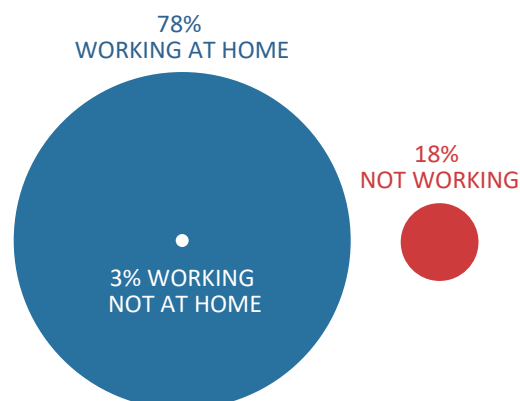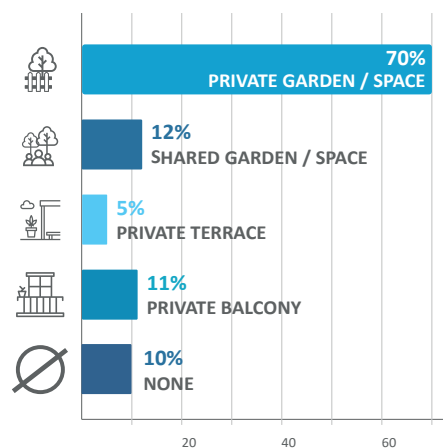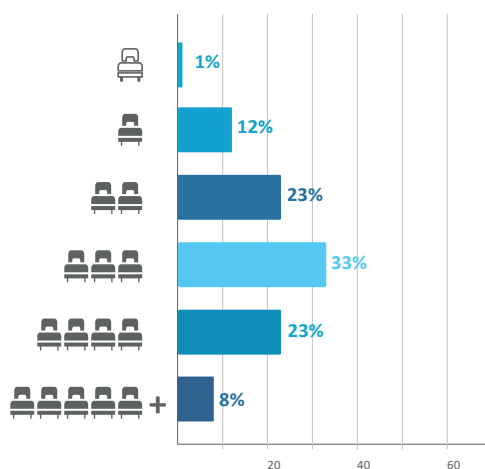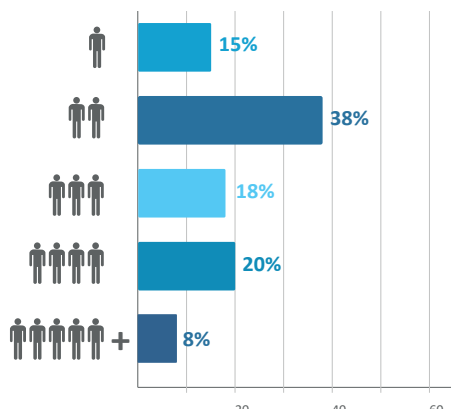
Occupancy and space

Government statistics show that, In England, the average usable floor area of dwellings is 94m2, broadly equivalent to a three bedroomed (two storey) home in the *Nationally Described Space Standard*[19]. Homes in the social sector tend to be smaller (66m^2) than homes in the private rented sector (76m^2), whilst owner occupied homes are, on average, larger than social and private rented homes (108m^2)[20].

As a measure of occupancy that was easy for respondents to describe, the survey asked for the numbers of people living in each dwelling and the numbers of bedrooms. Three bedrooms was the average size of home in the survey whilst analysis showed that 44% of homes had more bedrooms than occupants, 35% the same number and 21% fewer bedrooms than occupants (8% two fewer bedrooms than occupants). Whilst, given the sharing of bedrooms by couples, this is not necessarily a measure of overcrowding, people in these latter categories will have been under more pressure for space during lockdown.

Private outdoor space

Office for National Statistics data shows that 12% of households (in Great Britain) during lockdown had no access to a private or shared garden space (a figure that rises to 21% in London, and is much higher amongst ethnic minority groups, groups in semi-skilled or unskilled occupations and younger households)[21].

Again, the survey broadly reflected the national picture, with 10% having access to no external space and 11% to only a private balcony (21% in total, reflecting the overrepresentation of London in the survey). Significantly, the large majority of people do have access to private external space of some form.

A final set of analyses in this section sought to understand the availability of local neighbourhood amenities during lockdown, notably green open space and local shops.
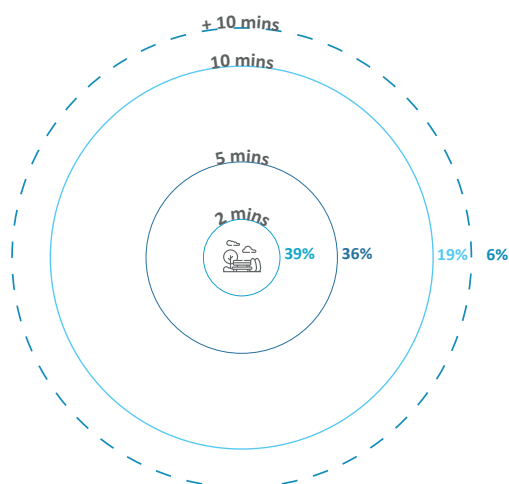
Park / open space

The survey asked respondents how long it would take them to walk to their nearest park or significant open green space. Office for National Statistics data shows that more than a quarter (28%) of people across Great Britain live within a 5 minute walk (300m) of a park and 72% within 15 minutes. The 5 minute figure rises to 34% amongst people in the most deprived neighbourhoods, compared to just 18% in the least deprived areas. In London 44% live within five minutes of a park[22].

Again, reflecting the high response rate from London to the survey, respondents in the main seemed to be well served by local green space, with three quarters reporting that they lived within five minutes of a park or open space.
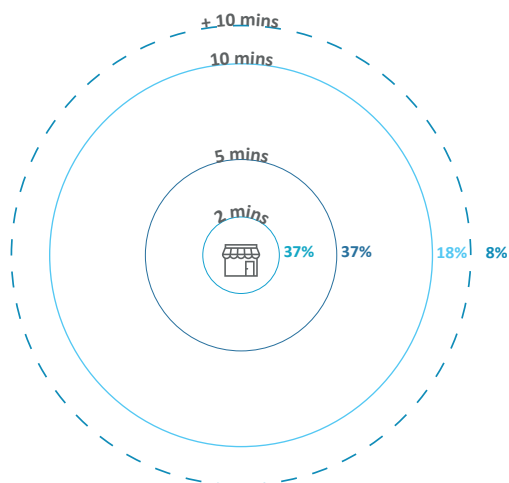
Food / convenience shopping

Access to shopping mirrored that to green open space, with 74% able to reach a local shop within a 5 minute walk. Beyond such distances people will typically take the car, if they are able to, rather than walk.

4.2 ABOUT YOUR HOME DURING LOCKDOWN

Home comfort

This section of the survey focussed on the individual dwellings of respondents, on how comfortable residents have been (and why) and which aspects of their home they most valued and which least. First, respondents were asked how comfortable they have felt whilst staying at home.
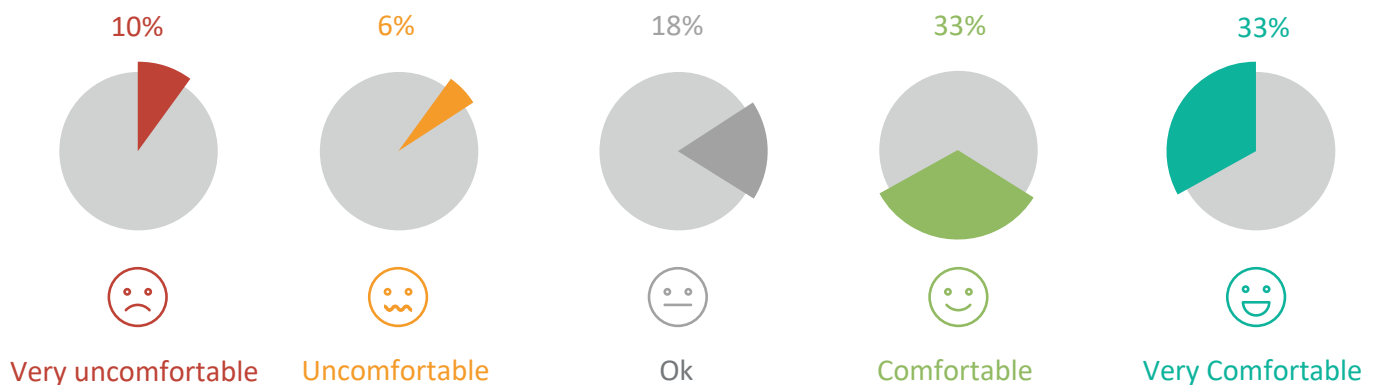
10%	6%	18%	33%	33%
Very uncomfortable	Uncomfortable	Ok	Comfortable	Very Comfortable

LEVEL OF COMFORT DURING LOCKDOWN

Positively, two thirds of those who responded to the survey either felt comfortable or very comfortable during lockdown. Around a fifth felt OK and a sixth either uncomfortable or very uncomfortable. Extrapolated across the UK this would be a population of 10.7 million (a conservative estimate given the profile of survey respondents).

In order to understand these results, they were cross-related to a number of the 'About you' questions to reveal who was and who was not comfortable during lockdown.

Comfort by dwelling type: Notably, those living in houses, as opposed to apartments, were the most comfortable, with terraced homes recording the largest proportion of their residents across the two comfortable categories (70%) and the smallest in the uncomfortable categories (13%), whilst residents in mid and high-rise apartments were noticeably less comfortable, mid-rise with the lowest proportion of residents in the comfortable categories (48%) and high-rise the greatest proportion of uncomfortable residents (27%).

Comfort by dwelling age: When analysed by age, dwellings showed a small but consistent tendency to be progressively less comfortable the newer they were, with the most recently built homes (between 2010 and 2020) recording the lowest proportions of residents in the comfortable categories (61%) and the highest proportion in the uncomfortable categories (20%) as against pre-1919 homes (69 and 15% respectively).

Comfort by tenure: A very clear pattern was revealed when the comfort data was collated against tenure which overall represented the strongest predictor of comfort in the home. Owner occupiers were revealed to be the most comfortable, with just 15% of respondents scoring themselves in one of the two uncomfortable categories and 70% in the comfortable categories. Given the smaller numbers of responses (130 in total) responses from local authority and housing association residents were combined and showed almost a third (27%) were uncomfortable or very uncomfortable with just 42% in the comfortable categories. The equivalent figures for those renting in the private sector sat in between at 19% and 55%.

Comfort against availability of private open space: Access to private open space from the home was another strong predictor of comfort with three categories detectable. Households with a private garden or terrace space had similar rates of both high comfort and low discomfort (respectively 70 & 66% across the two comfortable categories and 15 and 13% across the uncomfortable ones). Those with access to a private balcony or shared garden also had similar rates but further towards the less comfortable end of the spectrum (respectively 62 and 59% and 19 and 19%). But households with no access to any sort of private open space had both low scores in the comfortable categories (53%) and associated high scores for discomfort (28%).

Comfort by work status: Those working from home during lockdown and those not (either because they did not work or were on furlough) demonstrated almost no difference in comfort levels, whist the much smaller numbers who were still working away from home, scored themselves around 7.5% less comfortable on average across the comfort categories.

Comfort by occupancy: When levels of comfort were correlated separately against, first, the total numbers of bedrooms in a dwelling and second, the total numbers of occupants, there was little obvious pattern that suggested a relationship. The one exception was that dwellings with 5 or more occupants had proportionally twice the rate of responses in uncomfortable and very uncomfortable categories to those with 1, 2, 3 or 4 occupants. When checked against the crude measure of space per occupant (see 4.1), dwellings were noticeably more comfortable and less uncomfortable the more rooms they had per occupant. Across the two comfortable categories dwellings with, respectively, more bedrooms than occupants, the same number and fewer were 74, 64 and 53% likely to appear. They were 14, 17 and 20% likely to appear at the other end of the scale across the uncomfortable and very uncomfortable categories.

Home work
Given the unprecedented and sudden requirement for many to work at home during lockdown and the likely long-term impact this may have on living patterns in a post-COVID world, the survey contained a specific question asking how easily the design of the home was able to support home working.

2%	5%	33%	32%	28%
Very poorly	Poorly	Ok	Well	Vey Well
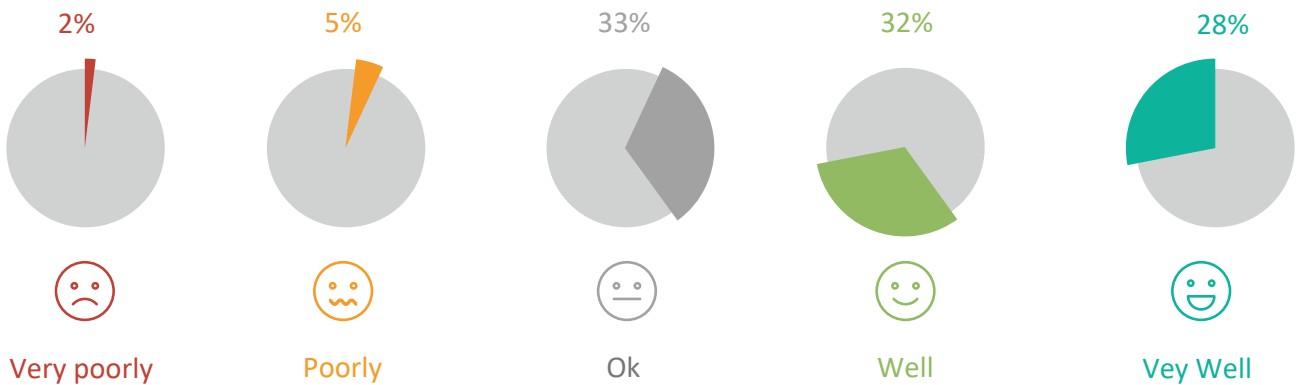
Ability to support home working within the home

Overall the picture was a surprisingly positive one, with three fifths of respondents claiming that their home environment supported home working well and a further third reasonably well. Only 7% suggested that home working was problematic. Notably, the strongest explanatory variable for those who felt their dwelling was less suited for home working was tenure. 24% of those renting from housing associations and local authorities (combined) felt their homes supported working from home poorly or very poorly compared to 4% of those in owner occupation and 12% in privately rented homes. Equally just 26% renting from housing associations or local authorities felt their homes supported home working well, against 66% and 46% who felt the same in owner occupied of privately rented homes.

Those who felt that their home environment supported home working well, pointed to the availability of good technology and enough space (either dedicated or dual use) of a good enough quality to be dedicated or requisitioned for work purposes. Those who did not pointed to a physical lack of space, difficulties in separating home and work life, poor home technology (notably wifi), and poor physical conditions (poor lighting, environmental conditions, inappropriate furniture, lack of storage, etc.) as amongst the key problems. Very small numbers felt a sense of loneliness and lack of support whilst working from home.

Home qualities

When asked what qualities of the home had been most valued during lockdown, answers were very diverse although three aspects stood out from the rest. First, the availability of external space, from a full private garden to a balcony (22%), second, the sufficient space within the home to live in comfort without feeling cramped (12%), and third, the ability of fresh air and daylight to penetrate the home (10%).

"We have a back garden- escape to the outdoors. We've become "gardeners in training" and are very much enjoying it".

"I live overlooking two communal garden squares and this has been a huge asset during this difficult time. The garden can be used for exercise, chatting with neighbours, and a window on the natural world. The birdsong has been fantastic this spring"
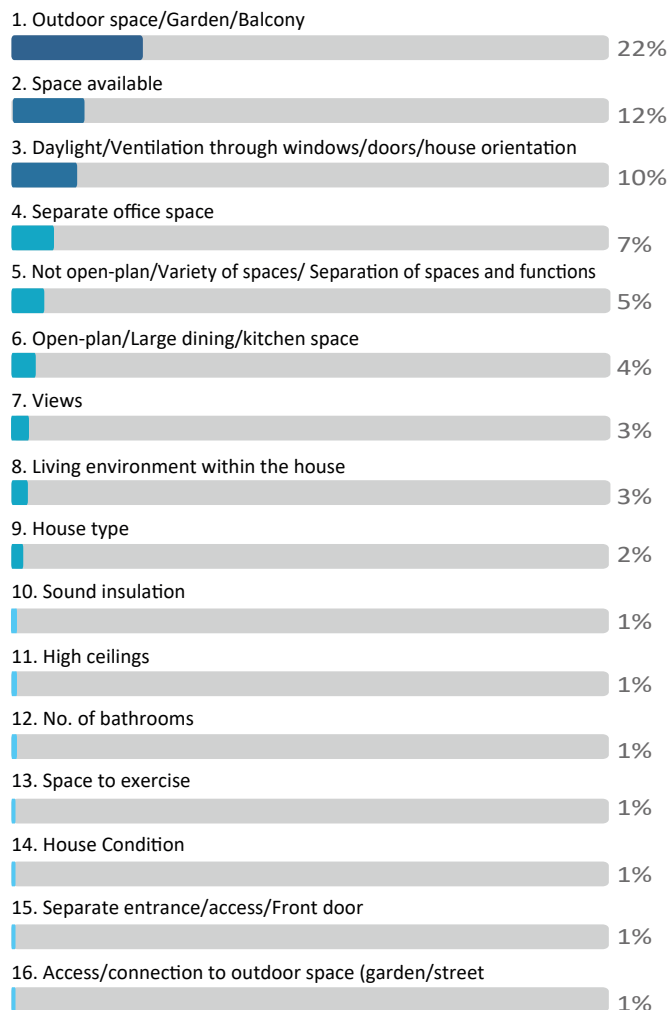
"Good Edwardian space standards". "Plenty of space to 'spread out' and quiet corners to read"

"A private recessed balcony with doors from kitchen and living room allows air flow and is cool to sit on"

How space was best divided within the home was subject to some disagreement. With the pressures to work at home on top of home schooling, 7% of respondents prioritised the availability of a separate room that could be used as a home office, a further 5% identified the variety of separate spaces in their homes, each able to cater for different functions, as being fundamental to their wellbeing. By contrast, 4% valued the open plan and flexible nature of their homes, with large spaces that were able to adapt to multiple uses.

"There is sufficient number of rooms for us to be either together or separate as we wish"

"A separate dining room to the kitchen for minimum disruption when working plus space for a table in the kitchen for additional workspace for schoolwork"

1. Outdoor space/Garden/Balcony — 22%
2. Space available — 12%
3. Daylight/Ventilation through windows/doors/house orientation — 10%
4. Separate office space — 7%
5. Not open-plan/Variety of spaces/ Separation of spaces and functions — 5%
6. Open-plan/Large dining/kitchen space — 4%
7. Views — 3%
8. Living environment within the house — 3%
9. House type — 2%
10. Sound insulation — 1%
11. High ceilings — 1%
12. No. of bathrooms — 1%
13. Space to exercise — 1%
14. House Condition — 1%
15. Separate entrance/access/Front door — 1%
16. Access/connection to outdoor space (garden/street — 1%

QUALITIES MOST VALUED IN THE DESIGN OF HOMES

When asked what respondents would change if they could, answers were again diverse with aspirations reflecting the qualities already listed as valued. Whilst 'no change' was listed by a fortunate 9% of respondents, the largest proportion of 'aspirants' (13%) wished they had access to external space or, if they had that already, then access to better external space (e.g. a larger garden, patio, balcony, etc.). This was closely followed by aspirations to have more living space in general (8%) – with space for a home office, a larger main living space, and more space for storage / utility functions particularly hankered after (by 7, 6 and 5% of respondents). The only other factor mentioned in more than 5% of responses was better sound insulation within and between homes reflecting the longer times that residents were living in close proximity to their neighbours.

1. Garden/Balcony/Private outdoor space/ More garden space/ Better garden/ Larger Garden/Conservatory/ Patio — 13%

2. No change — 9%

3. More space — 8%

4. More space for office — 7%

5. Better sound insulation — 6%

6. Larger living room/kitchen/diner — 6%

7. Storage space/Utility space — 5%

8. More toilets/bathrooms/better bathroom facilities — 4%

9. More light — 4%

10. Better heat insulation/ better energy efficiency/eco-friendly — 4%

11. House alterations/conversion/retrofit/refurbish — 4%

12. Better facilities — 3%

13. Better access to garden/outdoor space — 2%

14. Separation between different spaces/rooms — 2%

15. House type — 2%

16. More ventilation/fresh air — 1%

17. Better orientation — 1%

18. Better working arrangements — 1%

19. Garden /balcony - location/orientation — 1%

20. View/Better connection to the outside — 1%

QUALITIES MOST ASPIRED TO IN THE DESIGN OF HOMES
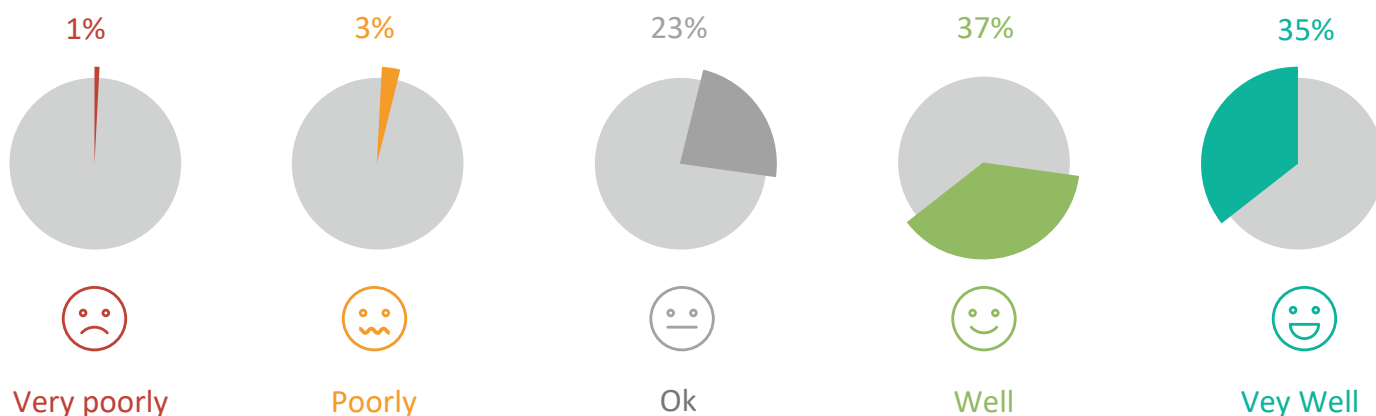
4.3 YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD DURING LOCKDOWN

Neighbourhood needs

The third section of the survey focussed on the experience of local neighbourhoods during lockdown. Whilst the functions local neighbourhoods were having to perform during lockdown had not changed, our relationship with them had. For many, their neighbourhood's boundaries were now the physical outward extent of their lockdown world. Reliance on local neighbourhoods was therefore greater than ever before.

This section began with the question, beyond your own home, how well has your neighbourhood environment supported your everyday needs? Again, in the main, residents felt that their local neighbourhoods met their needs well or very well, with 72% across these categories. A further 23% felt their neighbourhood was OK, with just 4% in poor or very poor categories. Extrapolated across the UK this would be a population of 2.7 million.

In order to understand these results, they were cross-related to a number of the 'About you' questions to reveal who was and who was not comfortable during lockdown.

1%	3%	23%	37%	35%
Very poorly	Poorly	Ok	Well	Vey Well

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT AND MEETING EVERYDAY NEEDS DURING LOCKDOWN

Meeting needs by neighbourhood type: Comparing the meeting of local needs with whether respondents lived in a rural, suburban or urban neighbourhood revealed almost no difference in how responsive neighbourhoods were thought to be in meeting everyday needs during lockdown. Only a minor reduction in negative perceptions was recorded in suburban areas (equivalent to 3% across the two poor categories when compared to the other types) with only 25 out of the 1030 suburban respondents seeing their neighbourhoods in negative terms.

Meeting needs by dwelling type: Because dwelling types tend to be grouped in neighbourhoods with other similar homes, this measure gives a reflection of the nature of neighbourhoods beyond the individual home. The analysis revealed that neighbourhoods composing houses (whether detached, semi-detached or terraced) tended to score the same against the two poor categories (4%), with terraces and semi-detached scoring a little better across the combined well and very well categories than detached homes (75 against 70%). Neighbourhoods with apartment blocks seemed to score less well, particularly those with high rise blocks which registered 12% across the combined poorly supporting everyday needs categories and 54% across the combined well supported categories.

Meeting needs by dwelling age: Again, dwelling age gives a reflection of the neighbourhood type as regards when it was built and therefore also of its spatial characteristics (see 4.1). Here the data showed a progressive deterioration of the neighbourhood experience of lockdown with older neighbourhoods scoring better than more recent ones. Across the combined poor and very poor support categories, pre 1919 neighbourhoods scored 4% as opposed to double that (8%) in post 2010 neighbourhoods. Similarly, across the combined well supporting everyday needs categories the equivalent difference was 77% and 68%.

Meeting needs by tenure: Whilst houses of different tenures will be mixed into many neighbourhoods, often the predominant tenure will give neighbourhoods a particular set of qualities and this was reflected in the data. Again, owner occupiers scored their neighbourhoods most highly (76% across the combined well supported and 3% across the poorly supported categories), followed by private renters. Those renting from housing associations and particularly from local authorities scored their neighbourhoods least well, the latter group placing 15% of their neighbourhoods in the poor categories and only 39% in the well supporting everyday needs categories.

Meeting needs against availability of private open space: Although the availability of private space might be regarded as a feature of the home rather than neighbourhood, its presence is likely to impact on how reliant residents will be on public open spaces beyond the home. On this issue residents in dwellings with either a private garden, terrace or shared garden were all almost equally positive about their wider neighbourhoods, together recording only 4% across the combined poorly supporting everyday needs categories. Residents with no access to private space, by contrast, were the most negative (12%), followed by those with only a balcony (10%). This may suggest that for these residents the wider neighbourhood was failing to fill the gap left by their lack of access to private outdoor space.

Meeting needs against proximity to open space: proximity to a park or significant green space was the strongest predictor of satisfaction within neighbourhoods during lockdown. Those closest to a park showed very strong support rates with little difference noted in satisfaction between those with up to 2 and up to a 5 minute walk to a park (respectively 78 and 74%) and identical low levels across the poor categories (3%). Positive perceptions of support for everyday needs dropped to 65 and then right down to 41% for those living between 5 and 10 minutes, and further than 10 minutes walk from a park, with associated increases in negative perceptions of 7 and 20%.

Meeting needs against proximity to local shops: almost identical although marginally less strong patterns were seen when the perceived support given by neighbourhoods was compared against the availability of a local food or convenience store. Again, those closest to a shop showed very strong support for how this helped them meet everyday needs, with no difference in scores between those at a 2 and 5 minute walk (respectively 76% across the well supporting categories and 3% across the poorly supporting categories). Positive perceptions of support for everyday needs dropped to 65 and then down to 53% for those living between 5 and 10 minutes, and further than 10 minutes walk from a shop, with associated increases in negative perceptions of 7 and 16%.
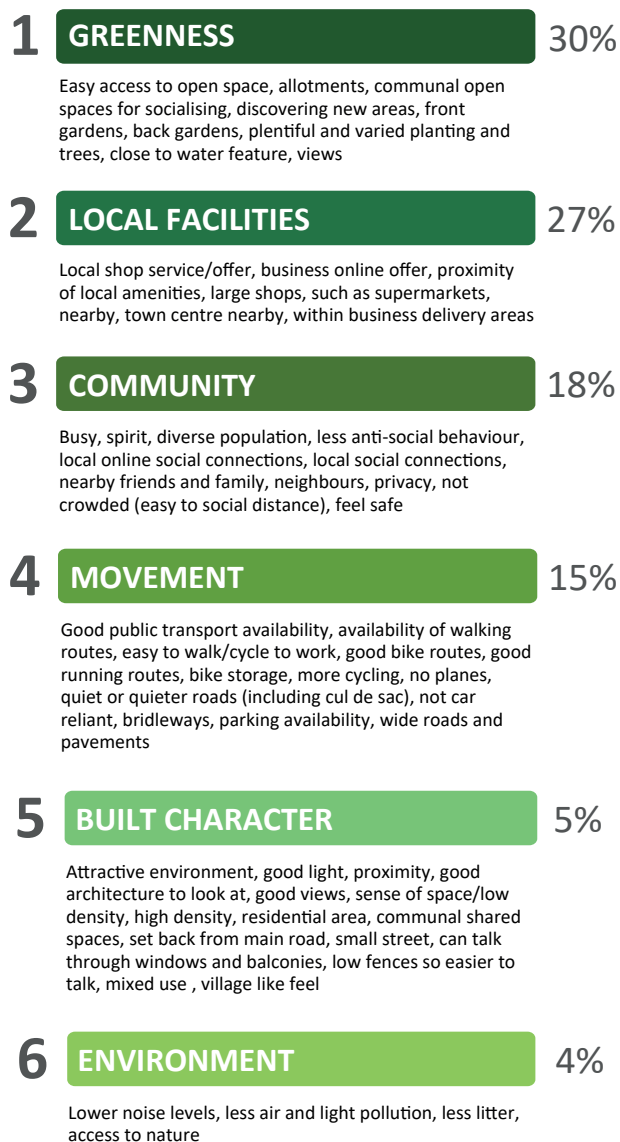
Neighbourhood qualities

When asked what characteristics of their neighbourhood respondents valued most, a diverse range of responses were provided. The green (landscape) qualities of the environment were most often identified by respondents as being important to them, notably the availability of greenspace within easy access and living in an environment with green streets and garden spaces.

"Larger areas of green space closer by, so I can feel like a normal human being on a more frequent basis."

"More green space and walking routes - My daily walks have become the highlight of my day, it is calming and relaxing to walk on a route with no cars."

"More park / green space for activity - There are only two dedicated public green spaces and both are dominated by childrens' play areas, not great for other exercise or users."

"A big park a bit closer. We don't have a car and so can't get to significant green space easily."

1 GREENNESS 30%

Easy access to open space, allotments, communal open spaces for socialising, discovering new areas, front gardens, back gardens, plentiful and varied planting and trees, close to water feature, views

2 LOCAL FACILITIES 27%

Local shop service/offer, business online offer, proximity of local amenities, large shops, such as supermarkets, nearby, town centre nearby, within business delivery areas

3 COMMUNITY 18%

Busy, spirit, diverse population, less anti-social behaviour, local online social connections, local social connections, nearby friends and family, neighbours, privacy, not crowded (easy to social distance), feel safe

4 MOVEMENT 15%

Good public transport availability, availability of walking routes, easy to walk/cycle to work, good bike routes, good running routes, bike storage, more cycling, no planes, quiet or quieter roads (including cul de sac), not car reliant, bridleways, parking availability, wide roads and pavements

5 BUILT CHARACTER 5%

Attractive environment, good light, proximity, good architecture to look at, good views, sense of space/low density, high density, residential area, communal shared spaces, set back from main road, small street, can talk through windows and balconies, low fences so easier to talk, mixed use , village like feel

6 ENVIRONMENT 4%

Lower noise levels, less air and light pollution, less litter, access to nature

QUALITIES MOST VALUED IN NEIGHBOURHOODS

This was closely followed by factors relating to the presence of local facilities (shops and services) within easy reach of the home and large shops not too far away.

"I would like a small local shop - The only food shop option is a supermarket. It would be nice to be able to pop out for small fresh items, rather than make a longer, busier journey to queue for just a few things"

"We need a convenience shop without having to get in the car. Living in a village on the edge of total suburbia without pavements is dangerous due to the amount of fast traffic"

"It would be great to have only a few mins to walk to the shops rather than 10 uphill!"

"I Don't drive so it is hard to get to essential shops without relying on a different household member"

Factors relating to the larger community came next, with a strong community spirit and nice neighbours strongly valued by participants in the survey, whilst local online social connections were also valued by a smaller number. Different dimensions of movement were identified as important by respondents, with the availability of good walking and cycle routes from the home most prized during the lockdown, as were wider pavements where they existed. A strong welcome was also apparent for the quieter roads that respondents were experiencing, with a final category identifying that the associated reduced noise and pollution was valued by many.

"Mixed and settled occupancy of homes has meant a mix of ages - younger are helping older with shopping"

"Birds nesting and be able to watch them"

A basket of qualities relating to the built character of neighbourhoods were highlighted in what was perhaps the most diverse category. In this, the overall attractiveness of the built environment and its architecture and a sense of space were most frequently mentioned as important to those who completed the survey.

When asked what respondents would change if they could within their local neighbourhoods, 11% desired no change at all and were happy with their neighbourhoods. Amongst those wishing to see change, issues relating to movement were most prominent, notably a desire to see a permanent reduction of traffic, traffic speeds and parking and an improvement in cycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The desire to see more and better open / green space and more greenery generally, as well as access to a better variety of local shops also featured prominently in respondents' aspirations for their neighbourhoods. Other prominent issues related to the better management of neighbourhoods in terms of better cleanliness, better maintenance of streets, dealing with anti-social behaviour and people in contravention of COVID rules, and generally involving communities more in future plans for their neighbourhoods.

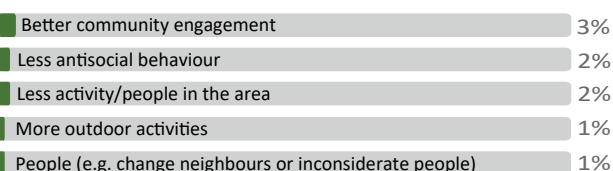When asked to justify their aspirations, perhaps expectedly, many cited the restrictions imposed to fight
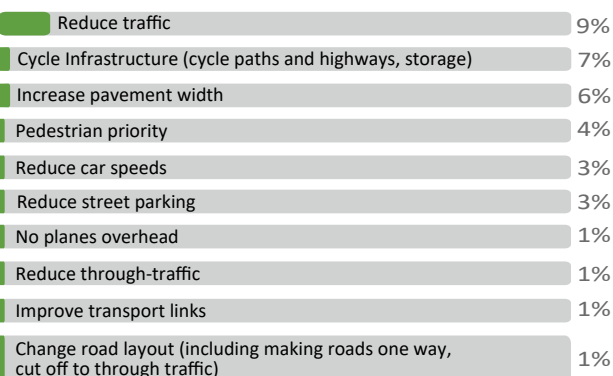
GREENNESS

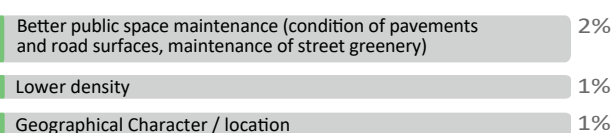|	
More green / open space and improved access to existing space	8%
More greenery (street trees and planting)	3%
Front gardens	1%
Access to private garden space (including communal space & balconies)	1%

LOCAL FACILITIES

Closer shops	5%
Better variety of shops	2%
More independent shops	1%

COMMUNITY

Better community engagement	3%
Less antisocial behaviour	2%
Less activity/people in the area	2%
More outdoor activities	1%
People (e.g. change neighbours or inconsiderate people)	1%

MOVEMENT

Reduce traffic	9%
Cycle Infrastructure (cycle paths and highways, storage)	7%
Increase pavement width	6%
Pedestrian priority	4%
Reduce car speeds	3%
Reduce street parking	3%
No planes overhead	1%
Reduce through-traffic	1%
Improve transport links	1%
Change road layout (including making roads one way, cut off to through traffic)	1%

BUILT CHARACTER

Better public space maintenance (condition of pavements and road surfaces, maintenance of street greenery)	2%
Lower density	1%
Geographical Character / location	1%

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce rubbish (litter, fly tipping, dog mess)	3%
Less Noise	1%

NONE

Would not make any changes	11%

QUALITIES MOST ASPIRED TO IN NEIGHBOURHOODS

COVID-19 and the need to find ways of allowing people to safely use their neighbourhood streets, spaces and facilities without unduly impacting on the safety of the community at large. These justifications were balanced however by even stronger desires to use the crisis of COVID to deliver better environment standards and clear long-term health and quality of life benefits through a permanent switch in modes of travel, a material change in the quality of streets and open spaces, and a safer and more pleasant environment.

4.4 YOUR COMMUNITY DURING LOCKDOWN

Sense of community

In a final section of the survey, respondents were asked about their community and what changes they had perceived during lockdown. A first question sought to understand whether there had been a strong sense of community before lockdown. Two thirds of those who completed the question felt there had been some sense of community before lockdown and a fifth felt it had been strong. A smaller proportion (14%) felt no sense of community. Extrapolated across the UK that would be a population of 10 million people living in such areas.

15%	66%	20%

No sense
of community

Some sense
of community

Strong sense
of community
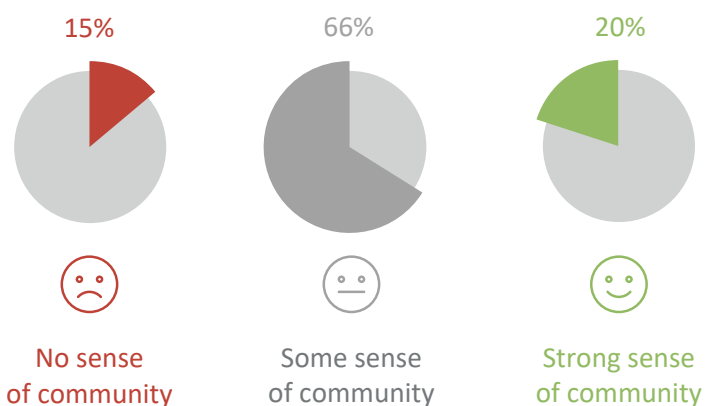
SENSE OF COMMUNITY BEFORE LOCKDOWN

In order to understand the factors impacting on the sense of community and how they changed during lockdown, it was first important to cross-relate with some of the 'About you' questions in order to reveal where such feelings 'normally' predominate.

Community by neighbourhood type: relating sense of community with neighbourhood type revealed a similar sense of community in suburban and urban areas with, respectively, 13 and 17% feeling no sense of community and 19 and 18% feeling a strong sense. By contrast, in rural areas few respondents reported no sense of community (6%) and over a third reported a strong sense (34%).

Community by dwelling type: When correlated to dwelling type the pattern was stark. Whilst detached, semi-detached and terraces houses all had similar above average scores for sense of community (10% of respondents living in houses – of all types – recorded no sense of community and 23% a strong sense), apartment blocks had a much weaker sense of community that reduced the higher they became. Thus respondents living in low, mid, and high rise blocks recorded, respectively 24, 30 and 39% with no sense of community prior to lockdown, and across all apartment-related responses, only 11% with a strong sense.

Community by dwelling age: Against dwelling age, the older the housing stock, the stronger the sense of community with dwellings in the pre-1919 category recording the highest percentages of strong community feelings prior to lockdown (27%) and lowest proportions of no community feelings (11%). When compared to post 2010 dwellings, responses that recorded a strong sense of community fell to 15% and no sense of community rose to 25%. Other dwelling age groups tended to record higher percentages in the some sense of community category, averaging 69% between them.

Community by tenure: Finally, against tenure the data demonstrated a stronger sense of community prior to lockdown in owner occupied homes with just 11% suggesting there was no sense of community and 22% suggesting it was strong. The weakest sense of community – perhaps explained by the higher rates of churn in the sector were privately rented homes with 29% feeling no sense of community and just 10% feeling a strong sense. In between housing association and local authority tenants combined recorded no sense of community in 24% of cases and a strong sense in 15% of cases.

Changing communities

When asked whether this sense of community had changed during lockdown as regards an increase in support from neighbours, local groups and services, there was a sense that it had. Approaching a third of respondents suggested that it had changed by a lot, and a little over half that it had by a little. A fifth felt no change.

Digging further into where these changes occurred, it seems that trends already apparent prior to the lockdown were deepened during lockdown. Thus whilst all categories of dwelling / neighbourhood saw an increase in community feeling and support during lockdown, those that already had a strong

19%	54%	27%
Not at all	A little	A lot
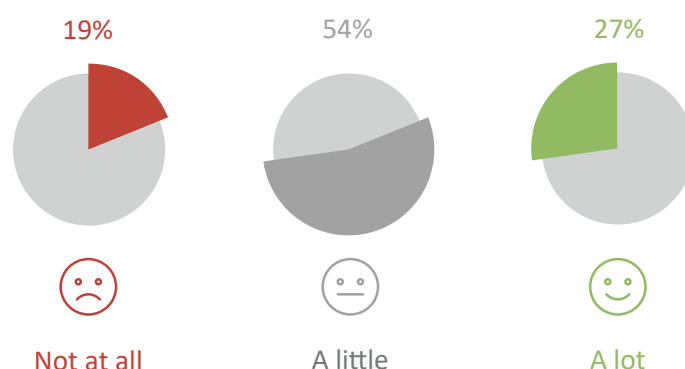
CHANGE TO SENSE OF COMMUNITY FOLLOWING LOCKDOWN

sense of community significantly reinforced it, while those which had not, reinforced it far less. Thus people living in rural areas, in houses (as opposed to apartments), in older housing and in owner occupied dwellings experienced greater deepening of community support whilst those that did not experienced a less profound change. Of these, residents in high rises, post 2010 and local authority owned developments came off worse.

Notably, those at home but not working during lockdown experienced the greatest surge in

community feeling, perhaps because this group included older residents about whom others were concerned, or perhaps because the group had more time on their hands to make new local links.

A final question asked what other changes had been noted in the living environment (the home and neighbourhood) during lockdown. The results of these questions can be distilled into a number of categories and in terms of whether they are positive or negative outcomes of what has been a unique period in history.

COMMUNITY

Supportive community / community spirit	Community spirit, a more supportive community, coming together as a community, helping vulnerable people in the community, setting up local community support groups	15%
Social interactions	Talking to stranger and neighbours, getting to know other people, interacting with others	11%
Friendliness i.e. waving and smiling	Friendly attitude of strangers, strangers and neighbours smiling and waving	5%
Thursday clap for carers	Clap for carers, showing appreciation for key workers/the NHS	3%
Online groups (WhatsApp and Facebook)	The creation of social media pages and groups, street/community WhatsApp groups, sharing information and asking for help online	3%
Slower pace of life, peaceful, relaxed, tranquil, less rush	Slower pace of life, more relaxed, peaceful, calm, tranquil	2%
Spending more time with family / flatmates	Spending more time with family / flatmates	1%
Street / window / front garden decorations	Rainbow drawings in windows, chalk drawings on the street, other decorations e.g. bunting and posters	1%
Respectful / considerate	Respectful and considerate behaviours	1%

ACTIVITY

Busier, more alive, more people	More activity, busier, more people around	1%
Fewer people	Fewer people around	1%

ENVIRONMENT

Less traffic	Less road traffic	11%
Noise pollution	Less noise pollution, quieter, less noisy	9%
Air pollution	Less air pollution, cleaner air, better quality air	5%
Less air traffic	Fewer flights, quieter skies	2%
Cleaner (litter)	Streets are cleaner, less litter	1%

GREEN SPACE AND NATURE

Wildlife / nature	Wildlife, wild animals, nature	4%
Increased use awareness / exploration of outdoor space	More people using outdoor/green space	3%
Birdsong / birds	More birds, hearing more birdsong	2%
Gardening / better looking gardens	Gardening, nicer looking gardens	1%

WITHIN THE HOME

Cleanliness, organisation, home improvements	Home is cleaner/more organised, time to complete odd jobs around the house, time for home improvements and DIY	1%

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

More physical activity	Being more physically active, seeing more physical activity in other members of the community	4%
Walking	Walking more, seeing more people walking	2%
Cycling	Cycling more, seeing more people cycling	2%

LOCAL FACILITIES

Support and action of Local businesses	Discovering small local businesses, supporting small local businesses, local businesses supporting the community	2%

COVID-19

Following social distancing rules	Other people are following social distancing/lockdown rules	1%

REFLECTIONS ON LOCKDOWN – POSITIVE QUALITIES

Reflecting on the positive changes that respondents to the survey had experienced, overwhelmingly they reflected on a period in which people seemed friendlier (despite social distancing), in which the environment seemed to recover and even thrive, and in which they had more time for things that matter, the family, exercise, the garden, neighbours and the community. A number of quotes sum up the changes:

"I now get to enjoy my home, which my partner and I have really enjoyed making ours. Pre-lockdown I used to be very aware of how little time I actually spent at home. It has been wonderful to spend more time here."

"Front gardens have become very important as they provide a space for social activity while socially distancing. The streets have a more enjoyable and intimate level of activity, and streets are quieter."

"We are seeing neighbours more regularly and talking more when we do see each other. More pavement chalk drawings with children having more time to play outside more regularly. More wildlife is evident (perhaps because we are around more to see it, or is it coming out more?)."

Local identity has appeared to grow."

However, in additional to the tragic health, social and personal consequences of Covid-19 itself and the long-term economic effects, a significant proportion of respondents also experienced negative consequences in their homes and neighbourhoods. Whilst some of these are a direct response to imposed social distancing rules causing social isolation and depriving users from the facilities and amenities that they value, others relate to the hardship experienced by particular groups. These include those living in a smaller home environment who, in normal circumstances, compensate by spending more time out of the home (e.g. many young Londoners), or those, who – as a consequence of lockdown – have had to deal with more people than usual in and around the home or local neighbourhood more of the time. Again, selected quotes illustrate these issues:

"Massive increase in folk exercising locally and more dogs than I've ever seen here before; worse by far was the initial rise in the vigilante and curtain twitching squad which did calm down after first few weeks."

"Traffic that remains is loud and disruptive as it's no longer background noise; people have yelled at motorcyclists making loads of noise, so it's become contentious to use loud vehicles."

"London housing situation is not for living indoors, it's for living outdoors with the option of having a bed under a roof!."

"Empty and darkened hotels, academic and office buildings make the streets feel unsafe after dark."

"Pavements outside are too small for social distancing. Our street is dominated by motor vehicle traffic both parked and moving and it highlights how much space is taken up by this mode of transport."

COVID-19

Isolation, social distancing, unable to meet people	Social distancing rules, unable to interact with people, unable to see family and friends, isolation, loneliness	8%
Shops, restaurants, amenities closed	Closure of shops, restaurants, pubs, hairdressers and other amenities	6%
Non-adherence to lockdown rules	People not following lockdown/social distancing rules	6%
Shopping queues	Effects of social distancing in shops, shopping queues	2%
Not enough room for social distancing	Unable to social distance due to space constraints e.g. pavements are too small to keep 2m apart	1%

COMMUNITY

Judgment and distrust	Other people being judgmental or distrustful, mainly around adherence to lockdown rules	3%
Anxious, paranoia, nervousness	Other people being anxious, nervous and paranoid, mainly around catching COVID19	3%
Negative Interactions with others (inc. fights, arguments)	Negative social interactions including fights and arguments	3%
People being less friendly / staying away	Unfriendly attitude of strangers, avoiding eye contact and moving away	2%
Selfish / inconsiderate	Selfish and inconsiderate behaviour of others	2%
Noise from neighbours	Noise from neighbours e.g. children shouting or loud music	2%
Antisocial behaviour	Antisocial behaviour including drinking, drugs and criminal activity	2%

PUBLIC SPACE

Speeding traffic	Cars driving over the speed limit	5%
More noise	Noisier, louder	4%
Littering	Littering - in public places	3%
Overcrowding / more people around	More people around, too many people around, busier, overcrowding, too many people to social distance	3%
Fly tipping	Fly tipping	2%
Too few people around	Fewer people around, quieter, ghost town	2%
Changes to local services (e.g. rubbish collections, rubbish tips, post)	including rubbish collection, bins in parks and postal delivery	2%
Cyclists on pavements / footpaths	Cyclists on pavements and footpaths	1%
Dogs, dog poo	Dogs barking, dogs in public places and owners not picking up dog mess	1%
Limited / no access to outdoor / green space	No access to outdoor/green space	1%

REFLECTIONS ON LOCKDOWN – NEGATIVE QUALITIES

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APPENDIX A - SURVEY

Your homes and neighbourhoods during the Covid-19 pandemic

This survey is an attempt to understand how well or poorly the design of our home environments – our homes and the neighbourhoods – have been supporting us during the period of Coronavirus lockdown.

The questions are in four parts:
1. **background questions**
2. **questions about your home during lockdown**
3. **questions about your neighbourhood during lockdown**
4. **questions about your community during lockdown.**

Responses will not be individually identifiable: they will be compiled together and analysed as a group. The results will be shared on social media and will be publicly available.

Thank you for taking the time to complete it. It is anticipated that it will take you no longer than 5 to 10 minutes, but it is important to complete all sections.

The Survey will close at midnight on Sunday the 24th of May.

The Place Alliance Team

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Your homes and neighbourhoods during the Covid-19 pandemic

PART 1 (of 4) - SOME QUICK BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

A few short questions about you and where you live.

* Where do you live? Please select from the drop-down list.

Your homes and neighbourhoods during the Covid-19 pandemic

PART 1 (of 4) - SOME QUICK BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

A few short questions about you and where you live.

Please enter the first part of your postcode

[   ]

* How would you describe the area where you live?

○ Urban

○ Suburban

○ Rural

* How would you describe your home in terms of type?

○ Detached

○ Semi-detached

○ Terraced

○ Apartment block (low rise – up to five stories)

○ Apartment block (mid-rise – five to 10 stories)

○ Apartment block (high rise – 11 plus stories)

* How would you describe your home in terms of age?

○ pre-1919

○ 1920-1939

○ 1940-1979

○ 1980-2009

○ 2010-2020

* How would you describe your tenure?

○ Owner occupied

○ Rented (privately)

○ Rented (housing association)

○ Rented (local authority)

○ Other

If you ticked "Other" please Specify (student hall, retirement home, care home. etc.).

[   ]

* Including yourself, how many people live in your home?

1	2	3	4	5+
○	○	○	○	○

* Including yourself, what ages are the people living with you?

	1	2	3	4	5	6+
0-17	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
18-24	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
25-34	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
35-44	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
45-54	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
55-64	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
65-74	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
75 and over	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

* How many bedrooms do you have?

0 (studio flat)	1	2	3	4	5+
○	○	○	○	○	○

* Do you have access to a private outdoor space? (please tick more than one if appropriate)

☐ Private garden / space

☐ Shared garden / space

☐ Private terrace

☐ Private balcony

☐ None

* How close is your nearest park or significant green space?

◯ 2 minute walk

◯ 5 minute walk

◯ 10 minute walk

◯ further

* How close is your nearest food / convenience shop?

◯ 2 minute walk

◯ 5 minute walk

◯ 10 minute walk

◯ further

* Have you been working during the lockdown?

◯ Yes (at home)

◯ Yes (not at home)

◯ No

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Your homes and neighbourhoods during the Covid-19 pandemic

PART 2 (of 4) - YOUR HOME DURING LOCKDOWN

Your home implies your private or shared living space inside and out.

* During the period of lock-down, how physically comfortable have you felt staying at home?

◯ Very uncomfortable

◯ Uncomfortable

◯ OK

◯ Comfortable

◯ Very comfortable

* What aspects of the way your home is designed have you really valued during this period?

1.

2.

3.

* What aspects of the way your home is designed would you change if you could?

1.

2.

3.

* Can you explain why?

1.

2.

3.

* If you have been working from home, how well has your home supported this?

○ Very poorly

○ Poorly

○ OK

○ Well

○ Very well

Please give example

[   ]

Your homes and neighbourhoods during the Covid-19 pandemic

PART 3 (of 4) - YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD DURING LOCKDOWN

Your neighbourhood implies the area within walking distance of your home.

* Beyond your own home, how well has your neighbourhood environment supported your everyday needs?

○ Very poorly

○ Poorly

○ OK

○ Well

○ Very well

* What characteristics of the neighbourhood in which you live have you really valued during this period?

1.

2.

3.

* What characteristics of the neighbourhood in which you live would you change if you could?

1.

2.

3.

* Can you explain why?

1.

2.

3.

Your homes and neighbourhoods during the Covid-19 pandemic

PART 4 (of 4) - YOUR COMMUNITY DURING LOCKDOWN

Your community implies the neighbours, local groups and services with which you regularly interact.

* Before the lockdown was there a strong sense of community where you live?

○ No sense of community

○ Some sense of community

○ Strong sense of community

* How has support from neighbours, local groups and services changed during the period of lockdown?

○ A lot

○ A little

○ Not at all

* What other changes have you noticed in your living environment (your home and neighbourhood) during lockdown?

Positive changes	
Negative changes	

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Copies of this report can be downloaded from

www.placealliance.org.uk