

# Consultation Round Up 2009/10

Surrey Heath Borough Council completed a total of 20 consultations in 2009/10 giving residents, community panel members, partners and council staff the opportunity to give feedback about important decisions that may affect the future of the borough.

## Consultations carried out included:

### Heathscene magazine

A consultation on Heathscene was used to find out if it is read by a cross section of people in Surrey Heath and to improve access to it for all groups in the community. The survey was sent out to residents and also to the Surrey Heath Islamic Centre, Disability Initiative, Gay Surrey and the Nepalese Community Hall to name a few. The magazine was also reviewed by a young person on work experience at the council.

The survey showed that a wide range of ethnic minority groups and a high percentage of readers aged 50 and over read Heathscene. To try to ensure other groups read it, the outcome of the survey led to:

- A youth double page spread
- The communications team linking up with Surrey Heath Newspaper for the Blind
- More info relating to local events/community groups and for people with disabilities, such as grants, benefits and employment

### Heatherside community facilities and young people

The Heatherside community were involved in an extensive consultation carried out in partnership with the Safer Surrey Heath Partnership to find out what type of community facilities they would like to see developed for their recreation ground. Consultation involved a launch event, five survey forms sent out to all households to

encourage everyone to fill them in including young people, a Facebook discussion page, and a feedback event with workshops. The preferred option was a village green and skate park, residents also wanted the children's play area to be updated which will now form part of the project and is now subject to planning permission. Young people have also been involved in the design of the proposed skate park.

### Mi-pod

A mobile diary room was used at the recent Surrey Heath Show to ask the community questions on what they think about their local area and services.

The Mi-pod (Mobile Issues Pod) is an inflatable venue that can be positioned anywhere, inside or out, including shopping centres, community centres, festivals, to name just a few.

A wide range of people from teenagers to pensioners shared their views. Feedback is currently being analysed and will be used to improve services.

A consultation programme is available on the council's website with links to results of consultations and a

scheduled programme for 2010/11. Visit [www.surreyheath.gov.uk/community/consultingthecommunity/](http://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/community/consultingthecommunity/)

### Join the Community Panel

The Surrey Heath Community Panel is a forum for residents to have their say about local issues and panel members will be asked to give their views a few times a year via postal and electronic surveys.

The Council is always keen for new members to join its Community Panel and welcomes applications from all members of the community. To join, please visit [www.surreyheath.gov.uk/community](http://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/community) or call 01276 707100.

