

Thematic Analysis of Community Meeting Notes

1. Strong Sense of Community and Local Identity

Key idea

Residents expressed pride in the area and valued strong social ties, community organisations, and shared spaces.

Participants highlighted:

- Mosques and faith groups
- Community organisations such as Zest and Hadith Club
- Local shops and facilities
- A close-knit community culture

Community spaces were described as vital for bringing people together and hosting events or youth activities .

Interpretation

Community identity is a major asset in the area. Residents appear motivated to collaborate with organisations and local government to improve conditions.

2. Concerns About Crime, Safety, and Anti-Social Behaviour

Key idea

Crime, drugs, and anti-social behaviour were repeatedly identified as major concerns.

Residents discussed:

- Drug activity and gang concerns
- Youth becoming involved in crime
- Safety concerns in parks and public spaces
- Anti-social behaviour affecting neighbourhood wellbeing

Meeting participants also discussed:

- Increasing neighbourhood police presence
- Building trust between police and residents
- Concerns about being seen reporting crime .

Interpretation

Safety issues are both practical and relational:

- need for policing

- need for trust and safe reporting mechanisms
- need for preventative youth support.

3. Need for Youth Opportunities and Support

Key idea

One of the most dominant themes was the lack of structured opportunities for children and young people.

Participants mentioned:

- lack of youth clubs
- lack of homework clubs
- need for safe youth spaces
- sports activities
- career aspirations and job pathways

Community discussions also highlighted:

- development of youth services in Netherthorpe
- potential partnerships with schools and community organisations
- outreach youth work and youth employment initiatives .

Interpretation

Residents see youth engagement as the main preventative strategy for:

- crime reduction
- community development
- future employment.

4. Employment, Skills and Economic Opportunities

Key idea

Economic opportunities were a recurring concern across discussions.

Residents requested:

- more job fairs
- apprenticeships
- skills and training programmes
- stronger links with universities and schools .

Meeting discussions also noted young people seeking informal work (e.g., delivery services) and the potential for employment pathways through community programmes .

Interpretation

Economic opportunity is closely linked to:

- youth engagement
- social mobility
- crime prevention.

5. Importance of Community Services and Facilities

Key idea

Community facilities and services were seen as critical for social wellbeing.

Residents referenced facilities such as:

- Zest community centre
- parks such as Ponderosa
- gyms and sports clubs
- community hubs for women and families .

Discussions emphasised improving access to community spaces and ensuring Netherthorpe is not overlooked in service provision .

Interpretation

Community infrastructure acts as a social anchor supporting cohesion, health, and youth development.

6. Environmental Quality and Public Space Management

Key idea

Residents expressed concern about the condition of local environments.

Issues mentioned included:

- litter and fly tipping
- lack of bins
- poorly maintained parks
- lighting and safety in public spaces
- leaves and hazards on pavements .

Interpretation

Environmental quality affects:

- perceptions of safety
- pride in the neighbourhood
- community use of public spaces.

7. Need for Better Communication and Engagement

Key idea

Residents emphasised the need for stronger communication between services and the community.

Suggestions included:

- newsletters or local newspapers
- community drop-ins with police
- improved information sharing
- consultation with young people about services .

Residents also emphasised:

- better awareness for parents on issues such as online safety, exploitation, and SEND support .

Interpretation

Communication gaps may reduce community participation and trust in services.

8. Representation and Inclusion (Women, Parents, Cultural Context)

Key idea

Participants highlighted the need for more inclusive representation and culturally aware services.

Workshop participants stated:

- women and girls' voices are often underrepresented
- cultural barriers affect access to services
- parents need more support and information .

Interpretation

Inclusive engagement is necessary to ensure community initiatives reflect diverse needs.

Key Priority Themes across all meetings

The most frequently occurring themes across the meetings were:

1. Youth engagement and opportunities
2. Crime prevention and community safety
3. Employment and skills development
4. Strengthening community spaces and services
5. Environmental improvements
6. Better communication between residents and services.

Overall Interpretation

The meeting feedback reveals a community that is highly engaged and motivated, but facing several interconnected challenges.

Residents see solutions not only in policing or infrastructure, but in preventative, community-based approaches, particularly:

- youth development
- employment pathways
- stronger partnerships between organisations, residents, and local authorities.

Community assets (faith groups, local centres, and volunteering networks) are viewed as critical foundations for future improvements.