MORLEY Town Deal

News Update

Winter 2023/24

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Leeds CITY COUNCIL

Building bought for new Learning and Skills Centre



Above: The former St Mary's in the Wood church building in Morley

In July 2023, Leeds City Council, on behalf of the Morley Town Deal, was successful in its bid to purchase St Mary's in the Wood United Reform Church in central Morley.

The Grade II listed Victorian building, located on Commercial Street, is the former Sunday School for the congregation of St Mary's in the Wood.

The purchase will see the building's use change from a church to a learning and skills centre for Morley operated by Luminate Education Group.

It is envisaged that the centre will focus on raising skills for adults through vocational training, particularly in new and emerging technologies.

Commenting on the purchase, **Leeds City Council executive member for sustainable development and infrastructure, Councillor Helen Hayden**, said: "The purchase of St Mary's in the Wood United Reformed Church is a key step in delivering the Morley Town Deal's adult education ambitions.

"Public consultations have shown there is a real thirst for a local technology-focused learning provision in Morley. I am looking forward to seeing the plans and curriculum for this valuable resource develop over the coming months."

Commenting on the purchase, **Jo Dye, Director of Adult Curriculum at Leeds City College**, said:

"This campus will allow us to create a strong local education provision so that people in Morley and surrounding areas can learn new skills and gain the necessary qualifications they need to progress to further studies or improve their career prospects."

Meet the Learning & Skills Centre Team



Above: Jo Dye

A major part of the Morley Town Deal is the Morley Learning and Skills Centre. Heading up the currciulum development is Jo Dye of Luminate Education Group. We met with Jo to get to know her a little better.

What is the Morley Learning and Skills Centre?

A high quality, purpose-built and inclusive educational and training facility that is being created - in a joint venture between Leeds City Council and Leeds City College to help local people learn the skills they need to maximise their potential.

How will the learning and skills centre help the people of Morley?

We are working closely with residents and local businesses to hear exactly what kinds of skills they need most, so we can tailor what we offer here accordingly. The whole goal is to help adults train effectively so they can either land new careers or move up in their current roles.

What will the curriculum look like and who will be able to access courses?

The centre will have an emphasis on teaching emerging technologies, such as coding, virtual reality, 3D printing and robotics, which we know are in-demand - alongside the baseline digital technology skills that so many different jobs need. We will also be offering English and maths courses, plus technical training in several key sectors. The courses will cover a range of educational levels to suit people at all stages of their working lives.

How can the people of Morley get involved in the project?

Leeds City Council held an initial consultation in 2022, with residents as part of the preliminary concept work for this project. Further, and more detailed, consultation will be carried out as the project progresses. Keep an eye on **morleytowndeal.commonplace.is/** for updates.

What are the longer-term goals of the Morley Learning and Skills Centre?

Our ambition is for the centre to become a valued and integral member of Morley's community - and a key part of Leeds' wider push to create a highly skilled workforce for our employers.

We can't wait to open this facility and show the people, and businesses, of Morley and the surrounding area everything it has to offer. There is so much potential here and this centre will, through quality training, help to unlock that.

Jobs Fair brings together key employers



Above: The Jobs fairs held at Morley Town Hall.

Twenty local employers offering a wide range of both short and long-term vacancies in retail, support and outreach, care settings, warehouse, cleaning, security, maintenance, and hospitality attended a jobs fair in Morley in October 2023.

Employment and Skills advisors were on hand to offer support with interview techniques, job applications, apprenticeships, and careers advice. Advisors also offered support to those people who struggle to access job opportunities digitally.

Several jobs were secured on the day in the service and hospitality sectors and a number of retail opportunities were subsequently filled at the White Rose Centre.

Chair of the Morley Town Deal Board, Gerald Jennings, said: "Making a real difference to the lives of the people of Morley and boosting the town's economy are both central aims of the Morley Town Deal.

"It was great to see how well attended it was from both an employer and a candidate perspective."

Heritage Investment Grant Fund launched



Above left: Aerial view of Morley Bottoms.



Above right: Morley Bottoms

A Morley Town Deal fund which aims to revitalise the town and restore heritage buildings was successfully launched at the beginning of November 2023, with a number of businesses and building owners already expressing their interest.

The Heritage Investment Grant Fund aims to provide business and building owners in Morley the opportunity to access grants to uplift and showcase prominent heritage buildings and bring them back to their former glory, create extra floorspace, and generate new jobs within the town.

Buildings within Morley's existing conservation area can apply for grants to fund works to:

- Install or restore traditional shopfronts.
- Repair heritage stonework and repointing.
- Reinstate or refurbish traditional windows, doors and signs.
- Bring historic buildings back to their former glory.

If you own a heritage building within Morley's conservation area and would like more details on how the Heritage Investment Fund could help you, please visit: **https://bit.ly/mtd-heritage**

Women's Safe Spaces in Morley parks



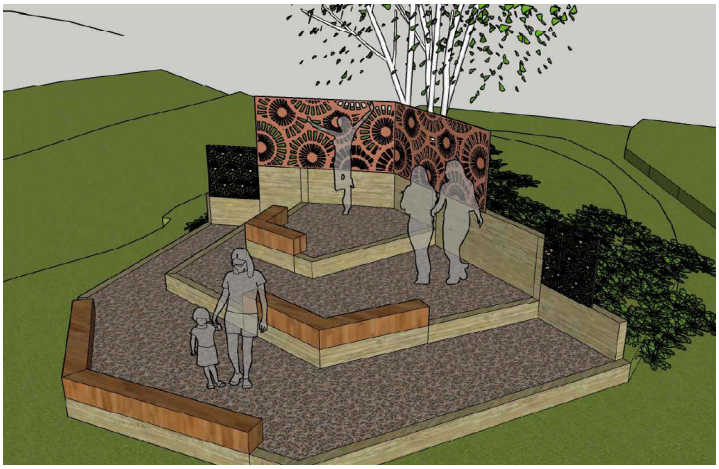
Above: Hembrigg Park. Left: A concept design for a safe space.

Plans for Leeds's first park-based 'safe spaces' for women and girls has moved a step nearer following a recent public consultation of women and girls in Morley.

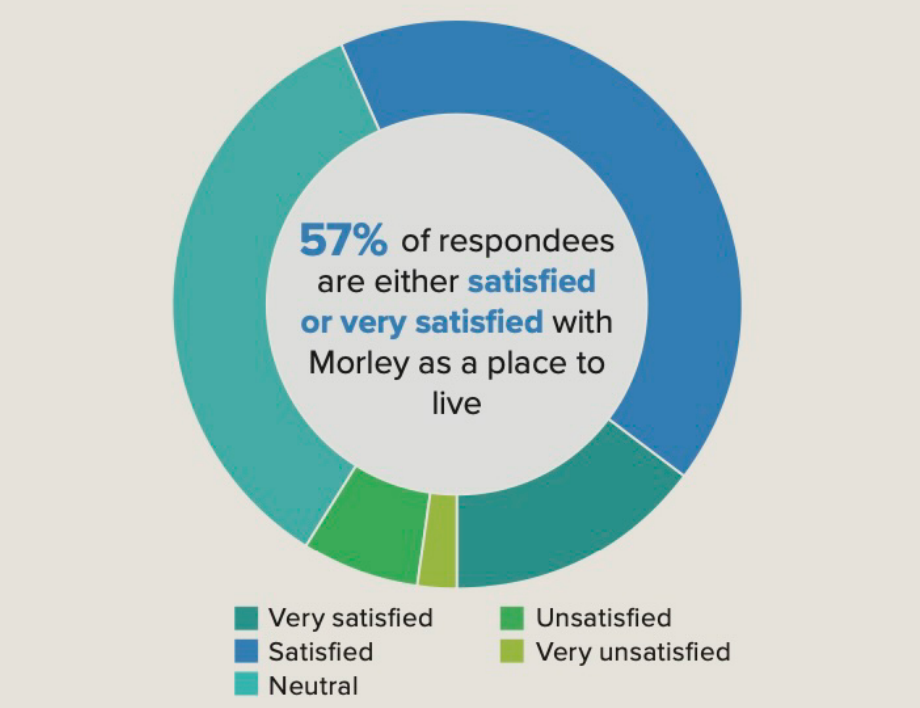
The consultation, led by Women and Girls Alliance Leeds, sought views on the creation of a newly designed area for women and girls using some of the design principles from the new 'Safer Parks' guidance.

The guidance is a partnership between Mayor Brabin, the University of Leeds, Make Space for Girls and Keep Britain Tidy, and is aimed at park managers, local authorities, police and community groups.

Two of the Morley Town Deal parks projects have successfully been allocated UK Shared Prosperity Fund grants to deliver these spaces so look out for them arriving shortly.



Morley satisfaction survey results are in!



Above: A graph of current satisfaction levels in Morley

Thank you to everyone who took part in the satisfaction survey last summer, with over 500 respondents completing the survey.

Overall, responses to the survey showed that residents in Morley are generally satisfied with the town as a place to live, work, and visit.

Equally, respondents were very optimistic about the improvements the Town Deal could bring to the town.

When asked what changes people would like to see, the top three responses were making Morley feel safer, improving major road junctions, and improving the streets in the town centre.

Preserving Morley's heritage, improving parks and playgrounds and supporting the creation of new employment were also identified as top priorities.

The satisfaction survey will be undertaken every year until the end of the Town Deal investment in 2026 so watch out for the next one in summer 2024. For the full satisfaction survey results please visit **morleytowndeal.commonplace.is/** for more information.

Inclusive Design Panel established



Morley Town Deal has established an Inclusive Design Panel, including residents from Morley who are having a say on how to deliver a more inclusive, accessible and welcoming town.

The panel has already met to look at the detail on some of the proposals for Greener and Connected public realm schemes which has fed into the overall design review process.

As part of the inclusive design discussions, the project team has also met with young people from local schools and colleges to discuss some of the schemes. Some of these young people are now joining the Inclusive Design Panel in 2024.

Some of the feedback from them was 'it felt good to be involved' and they 'loved the way their ideas were considered'.

If you want to be involved or find out further information please go to **https://morleytowndeal.commonplace.is/**

MORLEY
Town Deal

For board meetings details, project updates and forthcoming consultations in 2024, please visit:

morleytowndeal.commonplace.is