



Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice Community Consultation 2019: “Huskisson Woollamia Speaks”

August 2018 – October 2019

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Purpose.....	3
Background on Huskisson Woollamia	4
Community consultation stages.....	5
Results	6
Results of Phase 1	6
Results of Phase 2 – Ranking of visions	7
Results of Phase 3.....	10
Results from Student perspective	12
Outcome of the consultation – the community vision	13
Next steps.....	14
How we will use this information?.....	14
Appendices	15
Appendix 1: Statements from the first phase of community consultation – Huskisson/Woollamia.....	15
Appendix 2: Results from conversation mapping.....	19
Appendix 3: Combined results from ranking.....	23
Appendix 4: Results of ranking when ‘not at all important’ is factored in.....	26

Introduction

Purpose

It is some years since the Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice (HWCV) undertook a systematic and broad consultation of the community's views. In 2006 the HWCV undertook a "Plan for a better place to live and a better place to visit". With a changing environment, new challenges, and new residents it was felt that it was time for the HWCV to touch base with as many residents as possible.

The Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice meeting Monday 13 August 2018 decided to form a temporary sub-committee to articulate the expectations/aspirations that Huskisson residents have for the future growth/development of their town with particular reference to the use of public space for events.

This document outlines the community consultation method, its results and next steps.



Background on Huskisson Woollamia

Huskisson and Woollamia are two small villages, located on the shores of Jervis Bay and Currambene Creek in the Shoalhaven City. The two villages have a population of approximately 1008 (2016 census). The area had a long and prosperous Indigenous settlement prior to white settlers moving here and successfully establishing boat building and fishing industries. Until recently Huskisson provided the two villages with a baker, butcher, two banks, newsagent, chemist, doctor surgery, small grocer shop, post office along with other services. Since the early 2000s the area has grown in popularity as a tourism destination focusing on the beauty resource of Jervis Bay. Subsequently more food and drink outlets have emerged along with a considerable increase in holiday rental accommodation, and there has been a loss of some mainstream services such as newsagent, butcher, bank, and doctor's surgery. An industrial estate in Woollamia hosts a broad spectrum of industries from boat manufacture, printing, laundry service, mechanical services and so forth. The villages are now vibrant holiday destinations hosting special events, markets, live music and a range of eateries. The permanent community ranges from retirees to young families.



Community consultation stages

The community consultation was undertaken in stages from January 2019 to September 2019. These stages were:

- Phase 1: Collecting the raw data– over 80 residents responded to 4 questions either by returning a written response to our letter box, or responding face to face at our street table. The questions we asked were:
 1. What do you most like about Huskisson / Woollamia?
 2. What do you most dislike about Huskisson / Woollamia?
 3. What do you worry about for the future?
 4. What would you like to see added / changed?

Each individual comment from the written responses and face to face discussions were written onto separate post-it notes – 850 in total. The project team then met for a ‘sense making’ session where the separate comments were organised into 18 common themes. A vision statement was then written for each theme (Appendix 1).

- Phase 2: A public community day was held at the Huskisson Primary School, with numerous events and information stalls but where the primary focus was an opportunity for people to look at the 18 visions, and rank the most important, second most important and not at all important vision. A poster was made for each vision. Attendees were given 3 green sticky dots, 3 yellow dots and 3 red dots. They were asked to put a green dot on the vision that they thought was the most important to achieve, a yellow dot on the second most important, and if there were any visions they felt were ‘not at all important’, to put a red dot on those. Additionally, a conversation map was posted on the wall for two issues which emerged from Phase 1. Attendees were asked to anonymously add their thoughts. The two conversations focused on: Shoalhaven City Council engagement, and Environmental preservation. (See Appendix 2)
- Phase 3: A public meeting was held at the Huskisson Community Centre to present the results from this ranking, and to then identify priority steps or actions.

Results

Results of Phase 1

At the 'sense making' session the following eighteen themes, henceforth called visions emerged from the raw data contained in the community's stories and answers to the four questions that were asked in Phase 1.

Village Character

1. Developing and planning the villages while preserving their character
2. Maintaining the village feel (ambience)
3. Keeping Huskisson and Woollamia identity
4. Respecting the village heritage
5. Fostering a vibrant permanent community
6. Becoming a self-sufficient village again

Improving the tourist experience

7. Planning 'Events' to work for everybody
8. Building sustainable tourism
9. Continuing to improve Huskisson / Woollamia Bay and Creek recreation
10. Growing the network of foot and bike paths that support everybody

Natural environment

11. Improving parks and open spaces
12. Improving the street trees and street scapes
13. Preserving the magnificent views
14. Protecting our pristine and precious natural environment

Transport Issues

15. Improving transport access to Huskisson / Woollamia
16. Improving traffic management
17. Improving parking during peak-season periods

18. Having a Council that works for us

(detail in Appendix 1)

Results of Phase 2 – Ranking of visions

Participants were given three green dots (most important), three yellow dots (second most important) and three red dots (not at all important). They were asked to read each of the 18 vision statements and use the dots to indicate the vision importance to them. Not everyone gave a red dot (not important at all), and some people drew in extra green dots (most important) which we have counted here in Figure 1. Developing and planning the villages while preserving their character, and Respecting the village heritage emerged as the most important visions for the community.

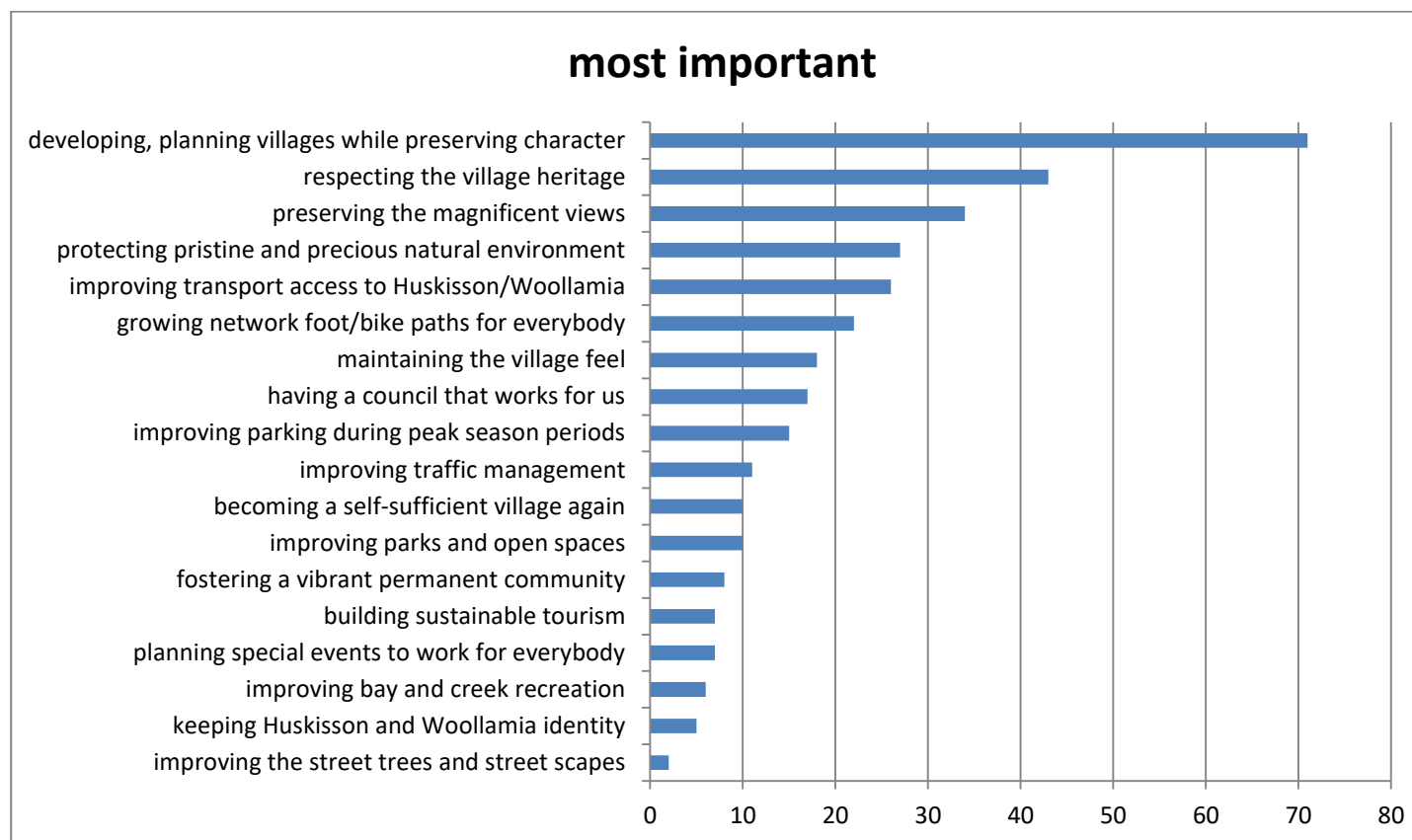


Figure 1: Most important vision for Huskisson Woollamia

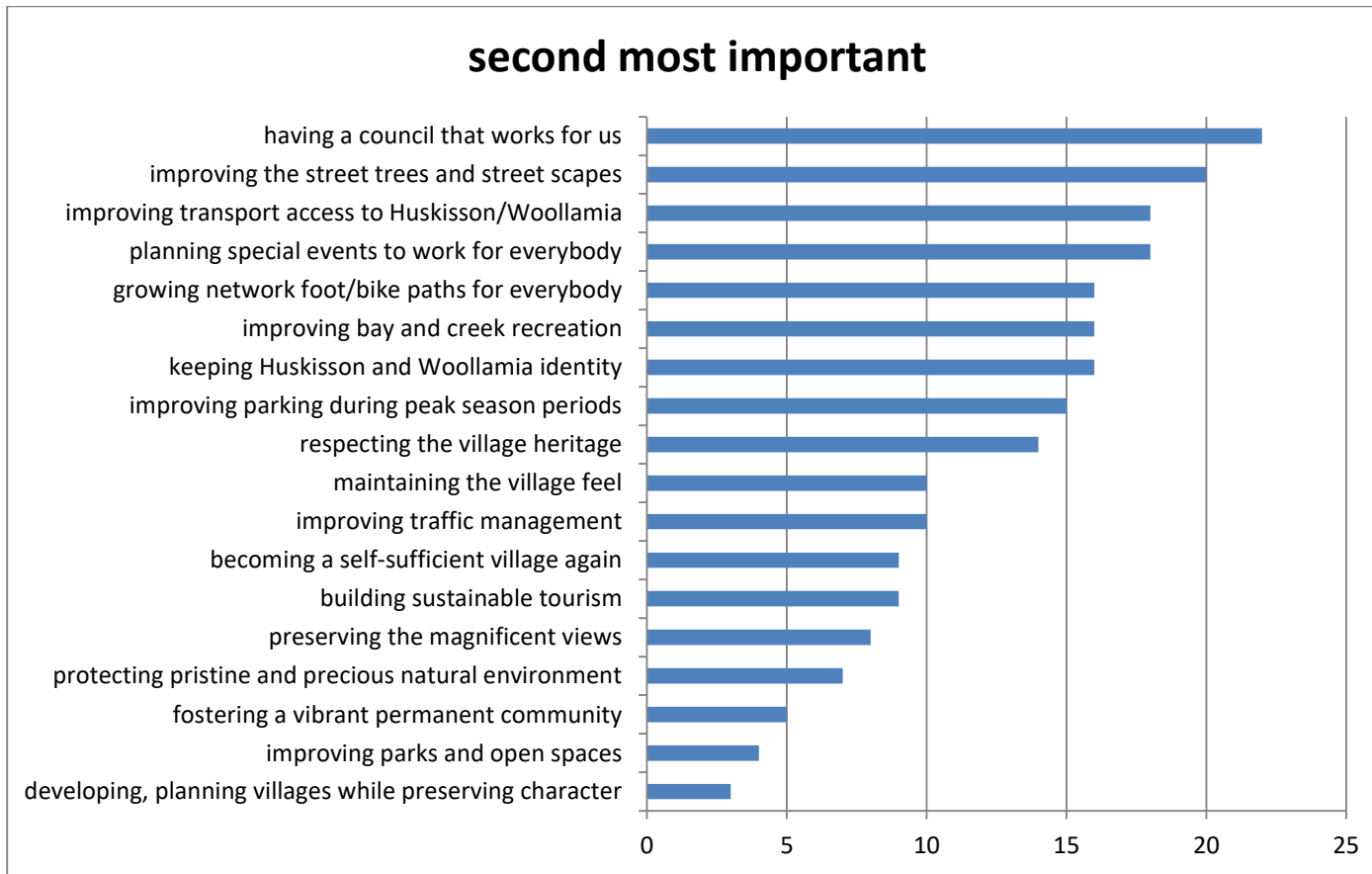


Figure 2: Second most important vision for Huskisson Woollamia

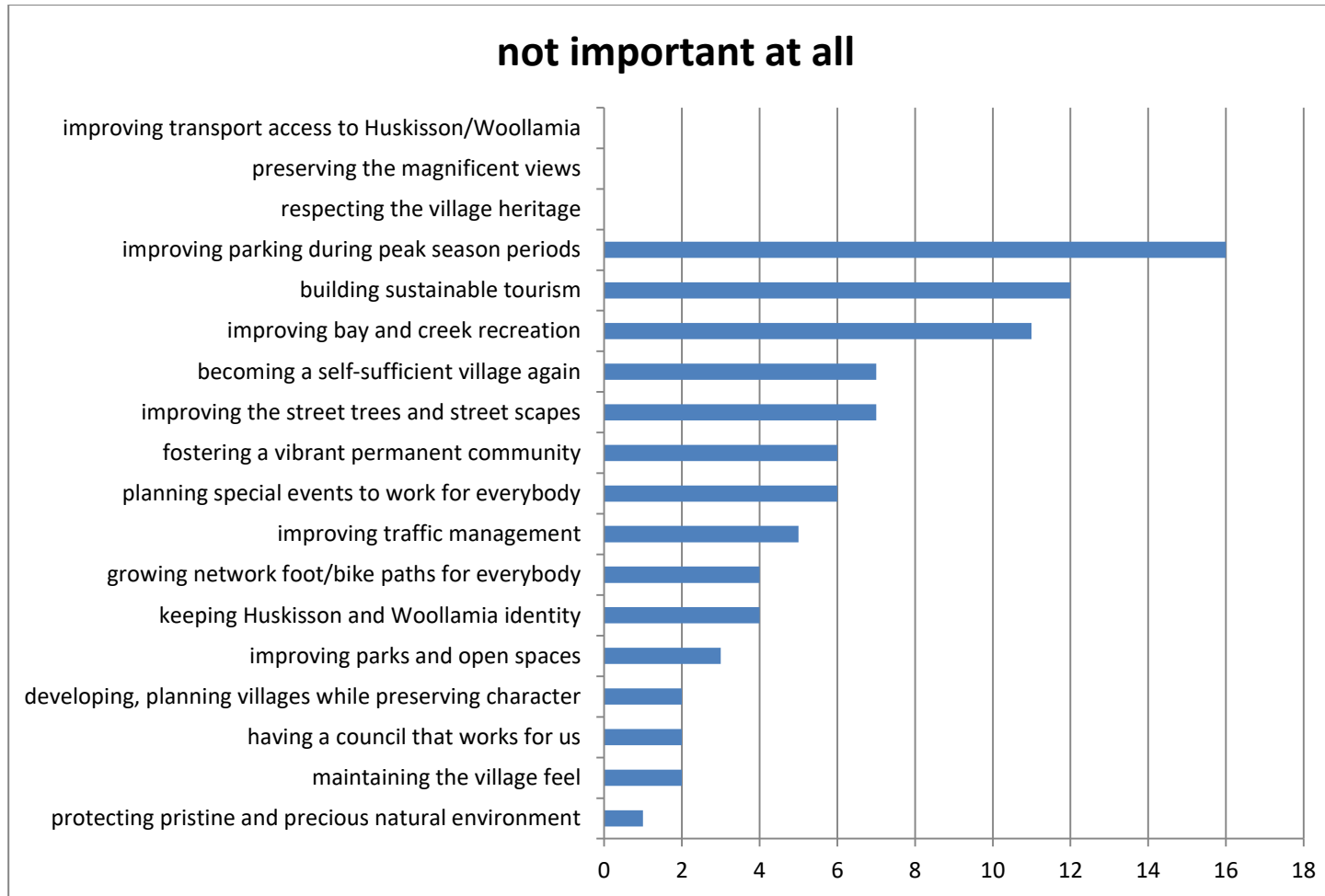


Figure 3: Vision considered not important at all for Huskisson Woollamia (see Appendix 3 for a combined graph of levels of importance)

See Appendix 3 for the combined rankings.

Results of Phase 3

Eighteen community members attended a meeting to explore the next steps. The community thought that the community consultation was a professionally executed survey, and that it did not present unexpected results. Whilst numerous suggestions were made for specific strategies to help achieve the visions identified in the consultation the broader discussion and emphasis was on the big picture ideas of reporting back to Council, and developing a 4 year Strategic Plan for the HWCV to provide clear direction and strategies. To support the development of a strategic plan it was suggested to contact Shoalhaven Heads CCB. It was thought that in general the building of relationships with other Huskisson / Woollamia groups (especially the Chamber of Commerce, and Jervis Bay Tourism), along with other CCBs would be useful. Other ideas from this meeting, linked to the relevant vision are presented in Table 1.

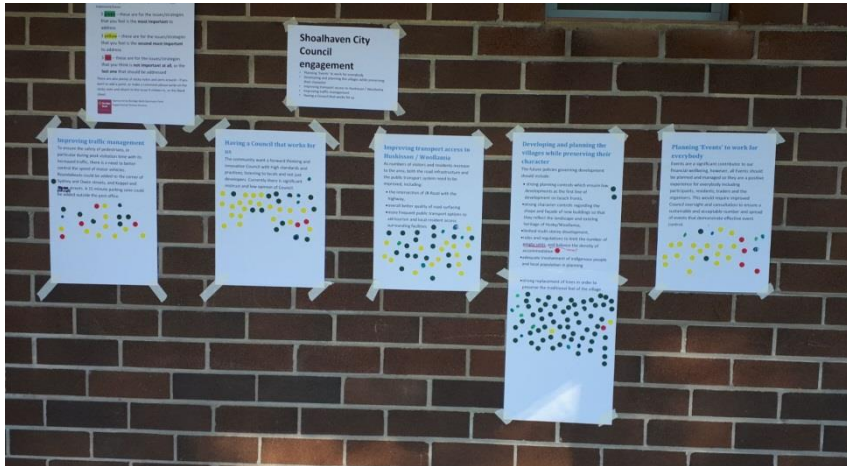
Table 1: Suggested actions from Phase 3 meeting and how they relate to the community vision

Vision to emerge from Phase 1	Suggested actions from Phase 3
improving the street trees and street scapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a tree audit – this could be a project driven by Huskisson Public School • Undertake a street tree program • Encourage Council to develop an urban forest policy
keeping Huskisson and Woollamia identity	
improving bay and creek recreation	Add to, and improve play equipment near the Huskisson sea pool Provide activities for school aged children e.g. around the swimming pool
planning special events to work for everybody	
building sustainable tourism	
fostering a vibrant permanent community	Start a community shop
improving parks and open spaces	
becoming a self-sufficient village again	
improving traffic management	
improving parking during peak season periods	Not specifically just for peak periods install more motorbike parking, and disabled parking
having a council that works for us	
maintaining the village feel	
growing network foot/bike paths for everybody	Connect the boat ramp to the existing pathway
improving transport access to Huskisson/Woollamia	
protecting pristine and precious natural environment	Make Huskisson to be plastic free
preserving the magnificent views	
respecting the village heritage	
developing, planning villages while preserving character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request a 5 year review of the DCP and LEP • Hold a planning Expo of development applications yet to be activated and current plans for community information • Demonstrate that current planning/development control is not working with respect to top 3 visions

Results from Student perspective

After consulting with a broader group of students the Student Representative Council of the Huskisson Primary School responded to our question with the following vision:

We would like to see the Huskisson Sea Pool improved by making it bigger and adding an interactive playground for families to use. This could incorporate some shade for picnics and less marine creatures in the pool.



Outcome of the consultation – the community vision

As a result of the community consultation the following community vision has been drafted:

Huskisson Woollamia community envisages a future that recognises and maintains the built, natural and cultural values of the local area, and wants future growth and planning to not substantially change the current size and feel of the built environment, maintain the views, tree-scape and European and Indigenous history.

In more detail the community envisions for Huskisson / Woollamia:

- Maintain Huskisson/ Woollamia as a beautiful coastal village with significant number of permanent residents and continue to be a popular tourist destination because of its pristine natural environment and relaxed atmosphere and sleepy coastal feel.
- Maintain a vibrant community that welcomes and supports tourism and well planned events supported by planning that manages the impact of growing tourist numbers on the limited infrastructure and feel of the village and surrounds.
- Community members want to have a strong voice in Local Government in regards to future growth and planning ensuring their vision is achieved.

Next steps

Following the public meeting on the 25th September the immediate 'next steps' were decided to be:

- Report back to the HWCV meeting 11 November 2019, endorsement of Report and Vision statement
- Present a motion to this meeting requesting that the HWCV prepare a rolling 4 year strategic plan
- That we organise to meet with Council CCB liaison to present findings and to get advice on how best to share with Council Officers (we have been advised to present individually to Ward 2 Councillors)
- Engage with Huskisson Chamber of Commerce, and Jervis Bay Tourism to share findings and identify a common pathway
- Liaise further with Huskisson Public School students (attend their Student Reference Group meeting) to gather further information regarding their vision, and what they feel is most important to for Huskisson Woollamia.

How we will use this information?

In addition the HWCV will use this information, whilst it is understood to be current, to:

- Inform HWCV responses to Council plans and proposals
- Inform projects adopted by the HWCV
- Continue to reflect on the vision and suggested strategies from Phase 3.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Statements from the first phase of community consultation – Huskisson/Woollamia

Planning 'Events' to work for everybody

Events are a significant contributor to our financial well-being, however, all Events should be planned and managed so they are a positive experience for everybody including participants, residents, traders and the organisers. This would require improved Council oversight and consultation to ensure a sustainable and acceptable number and spread of events that demonstrate effective event control.

Improving parks and open spaces

Voyager Park, White Sands Park, the Woollamia Boat Ramp and the foreshore along Husky Beach enhance living in and visiting the village. Facilities such as changing rooms, toilets, which would accommodate families with young children should be added to these parks and open space.

Improving the street trees and street scapes

The streetscape is an important part of Huskisson. A policy that conserves the beauty and unique ambiance created by the trees and lights in Huskisson be put in place. For example, underground powerlines, replacement of trees further from the power lines could be considered.

Becoming a self-sufficient village again

The village scores well when it comes to restaurants and cafés. Husky Pics is a gem. To become a more self-sufficient village, community and council work toward the replacement of newsagent, small independent butcher and retention of banking services, policing and a medical practitioner. Our self-sufficient village would also include better information networks / signs especially for Events and activities.

Maintaining the village feel (ambience)

We love the village character of Huskisson and Woollamia and it is a critical part of the attraction to residing and visiting. The qualities that would need to be sustained are:

- being small and friendly (where you know most people),
- rural (Woollamia),
- peaceful,

- walkability (crossings and paths),
- safe and secure.

All infrastructure and building developments should only be approved when they meet these village qualities. Further 'developments' should be appropriate, facilitate access to spaces that encourage interaction, contain noisy activities. Existing projects such as the Maritime Museum and its market plan to connect into the total community ambience.

Developing and planning the villages while preserving their character

The future policies governing development should include:

- strong planning controls which ensure low developments as the first line of development on beach fronts,
- strong character controls regarding the shape and façade of new buildings so that they reflect the landscape and existing heritage of Husky/Woollamia,
- limited multi-storey development,
- rules and regulations to limit the number of empty units, and balance the density of accommodation
- adequate involvement of indigenous people and local population in planning
- strong replacement of trees in order to preserve the traditional feel of the village.

Fostering a vibrant permanent community

City planning and development should be ruled by policies aiming at creating a vibrant permanent community grounded on a range of employment options and avoiding empty houses and units that are only available for short term accommodation. The council must be empowered to say no to developers and should require high design standards, fresh thinking, forward looking solutions particularly to support young people in the area.

Preserving the magnificent views

The beautiful bay and beaches are core to the attraction of Huskisson and Woollamia. Strict planning controls should be put in place that keep the strong visual connection to the bay and bush and avoid multi-storey buildings that block views. These controls should ensure access for all to views and to the beach and bay. 59 Owen St could be turned into a green space for all to enjoy the view of the bay and beach with a car park put underneath.

Keeping Huskisson and Woollamia identity

“All good as is.” Huskisson / Woollamia should move forward while being able to retain what makes it unique and attractive, its essence and simplicity. Chain and franchise shops should be kept away.

Protecting our pristine and precious natural environment

The bay contains pristine water and the area supports a healthy environment, and sense of connection with nature. As marked by the advertising campaign ‘unspoilt’, Husky-Woollamia should continue to acknowledge these values and protect them. Policies and innovative initiatives should be put in place to promote responsible behaviours and standards of sustainability that would ensure the protection of our precious beauty and ecosystems.

Respecting the village heritage

Huskisson / Woollamia hosts considerable indigenous and colonial history. The heritage of the area is found in many local stories and places including Huski Pics, old weatherboard homes, the Anglican Church, old trees, and the maritime history. Planning control should ensure the protection of this cultural and natural heritage.

Improving transport access to Huskisson / Woollamia

As numbers of visitors and residents increase to the area, both the road infrastructure and the public transport system need to be improved, including:

- the intersection of JB Road with the highway,
- overall better quality of road surfacing
- more frequent public transport options to aid tourism and local resident access surrounding facilities

Improving traffic management

To ensure the safety of pedestrians, in particular during peak visitation time with its increased traffic, there is a need to better control the speed of motor vehicles. Roundabouts could be added to the corner of Sydney and Owen streets, and Keppel and Owen streets. A 15 minute parking zone could be added outside the post office.

Building sustainable tourism

The Huskisson and Woollamia community would like to share this beautiful place they call home with tourists while ensuring the environment and residents' lives are not negatively impacted. Strategies should be devised in collaboration with the community and the tourism organisations to ensure the sustainability of tourism, such as attracting visitors off the peak-season.

Continuing to improve Huskisson / Woollamia Bay and Creek recreation

The area offers many recreation opportunities for locals and visitors and contributes to lifestyle and tourism quality. Council and community have done a fantastic job in providing and facilitating these opportunities (boat ramp, wharf, barbecues ...). They should continue to provide and look for ways to add and enhance these areas which won't distract from existing experiences, and in particular, providing opportunities for younger generations (e.g. skateboard park).

Growing the network of foot and bike paths that support everybody

People enjoy the opportunity to walk or cycle safely around the villages and to other places. This network of pathways should continue to grow and include paths on the village streets so that people with mobility aids (walkers, prams) can enjoy greater safety.

Improving parking during peak-season periods

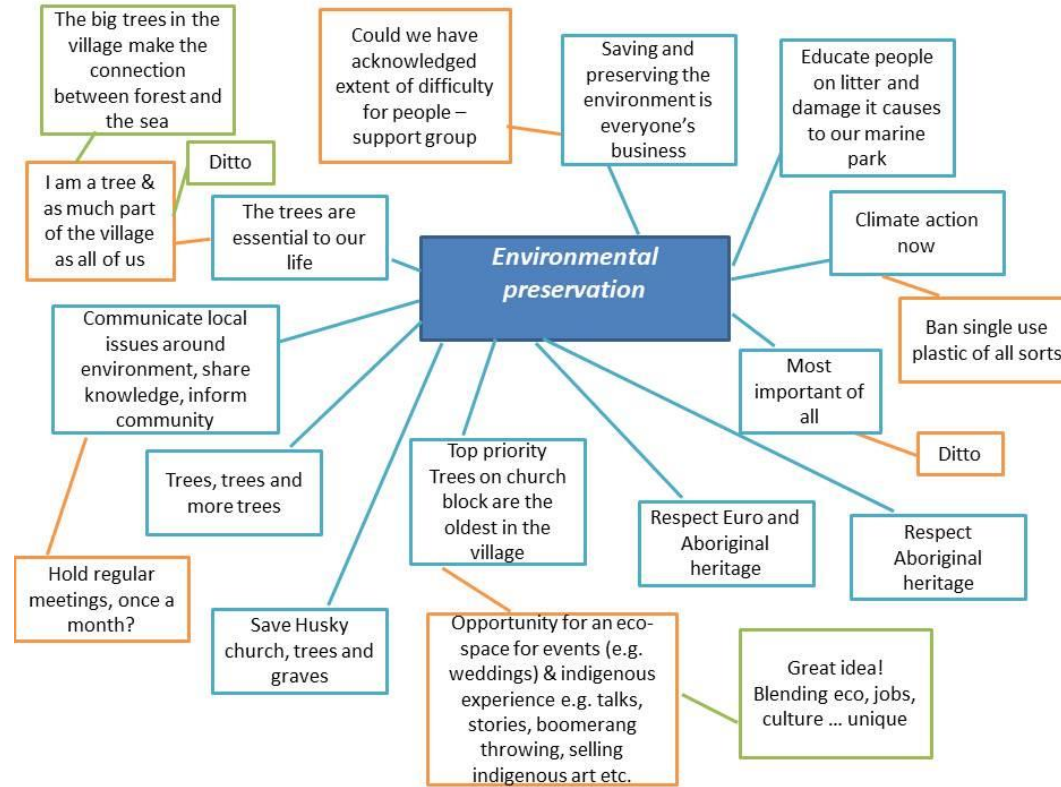
Short, medium and long-term parking is problematic in periods of high visitation, and limits the access to commercial services. Creative long-term solutions ought to be found which do not turn Huskisson / Woollamia into a giant carpark.

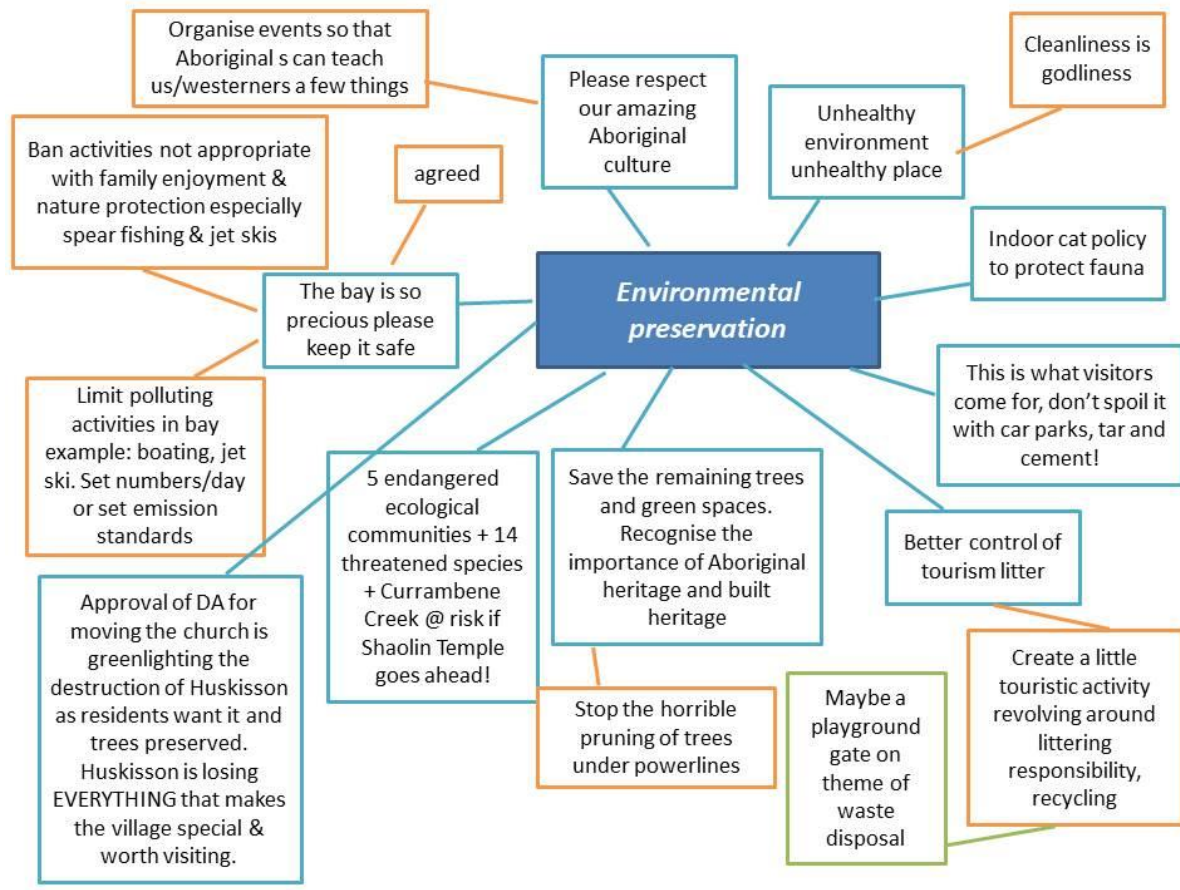
Having a Council that works for us

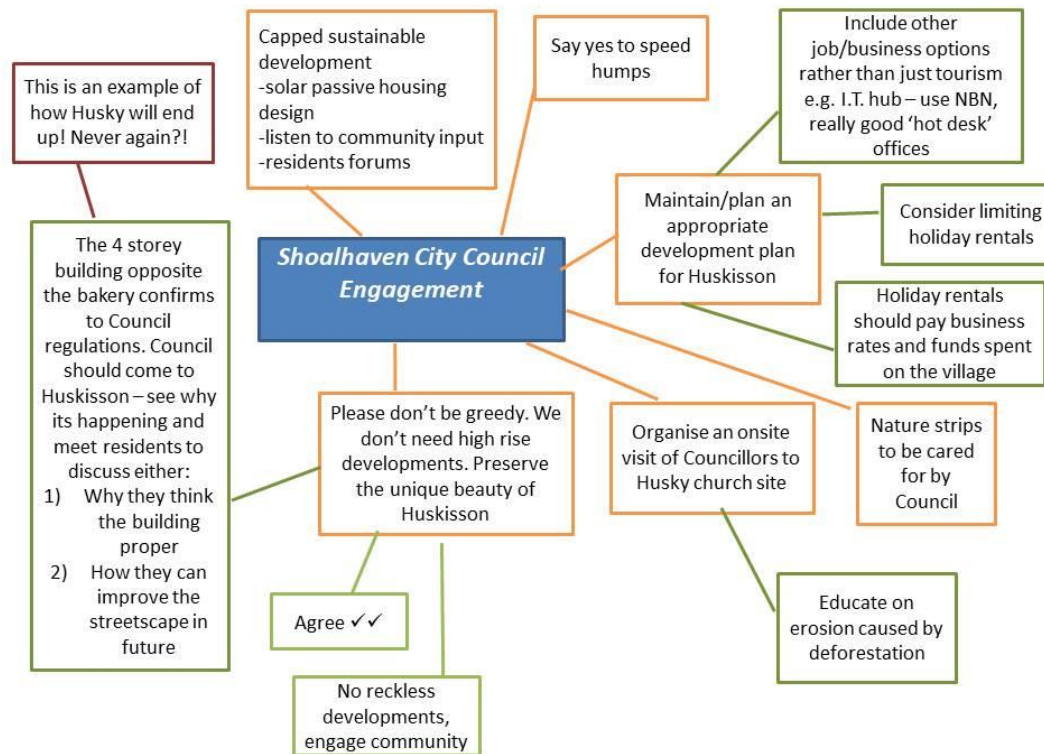
The community want a forward thinking and innovative Council with high standards and practices; listening to locals and not just developers. Currently there is significant mistrust and low opinion of Council.

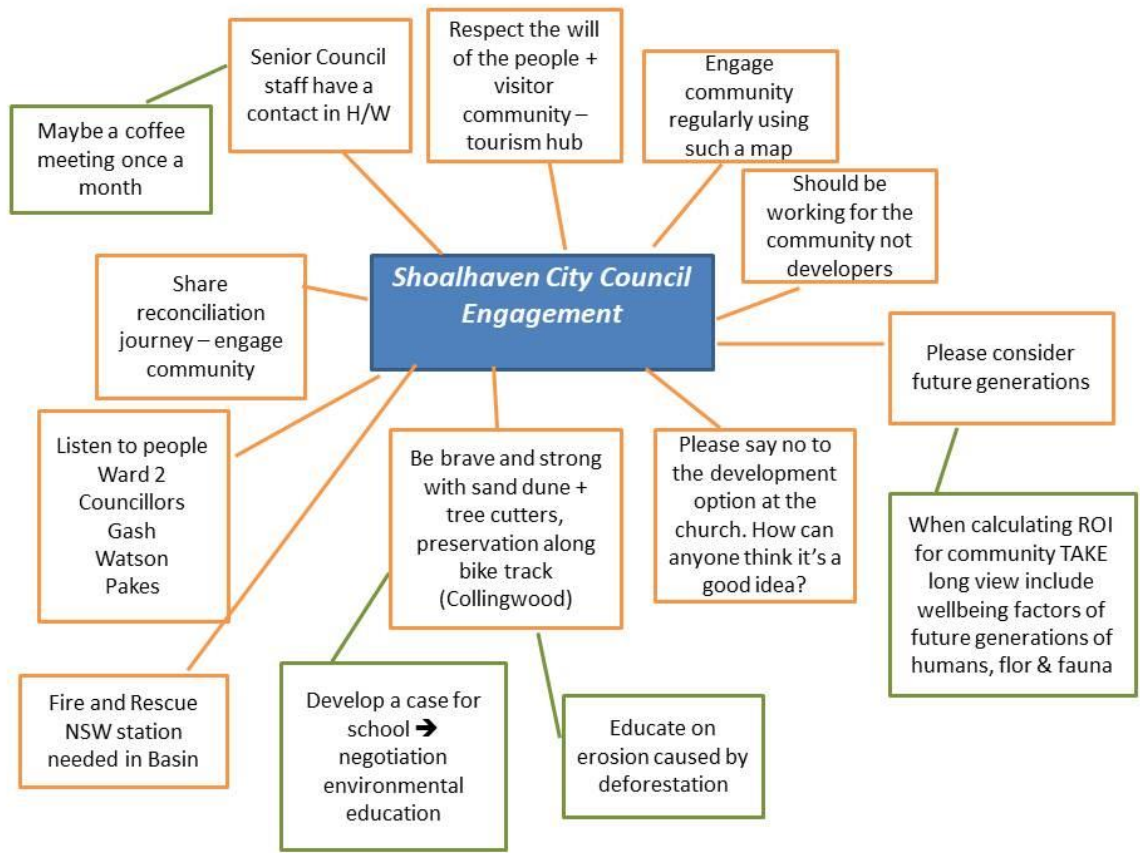
Appendix 2: Results from conversation mapping

Results of mapping









Appendix 3: Combined results from ranking

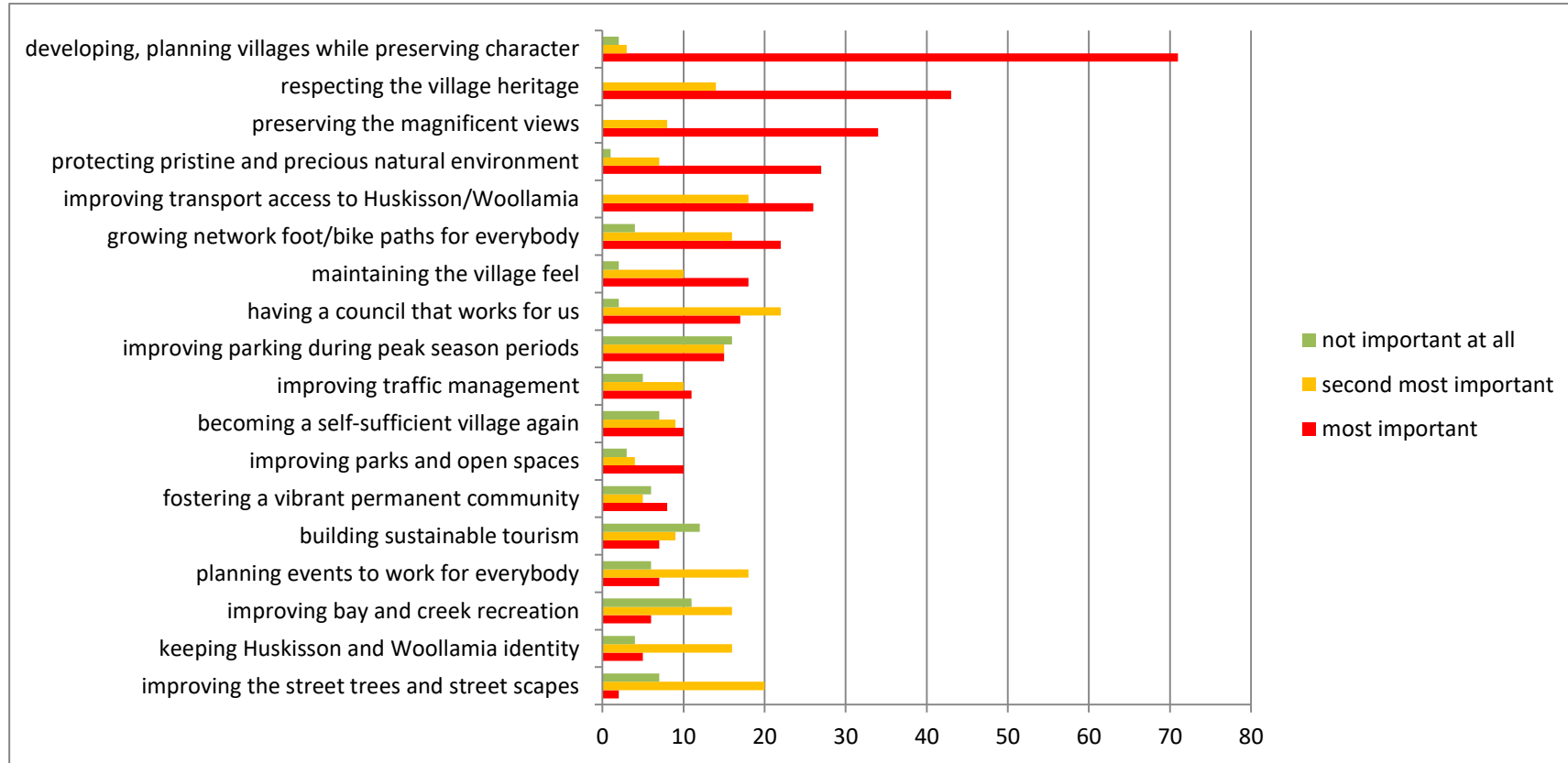


Figure 4: Rankings for most important, second most important and not important at all

Three visions had no dissenting votes regarding their importance: Respecting village heritage, Preserving the magnificent views, and Improving transport access to Huskisson and Woollamia. Other ranks of the visions revealed that the community had contrasting views as to their importance (see Figure 3). Specifically, Improving parking during peak season periods, Building sustainable tourism, and Continuing to improve Huskisson/Woollamia Bay and Creek recreation stand out as having divided importance for community members.

Figure 5 provides a summary of all three rankings. The voting was recalculated rating each 'most important' vote with a value of two, a 'second most important' vote with a value of 1 and a 'not important at all' vote with a value of minus two. Figure 5 is the result. What is significant about factoring in the 'not at all important' votes is that 'planning events to work for everybody' and 'keeping Huskisson and Woollamia identify' moved into the top 11, and 'improving parking during peak season periods' dropped into the bottom 5 visions. (See Appendix 4 for additional detail)

When the low priorities are factored in Developing and planning the villages while preserving their character and Respecting the village heritage again emerge as the topmost important visions. The next cluster of priorities is Preserving the magnificent views, improving transport access to Huskisson and Woollamia and Protecting our pristine and precious natural environment. A fourth priority cluster emerges: Having a council that works for us, Growing the network of foot and bike paths that support everybody, and Maintaining the village feel. The remaining visions were significantly lower in rank.

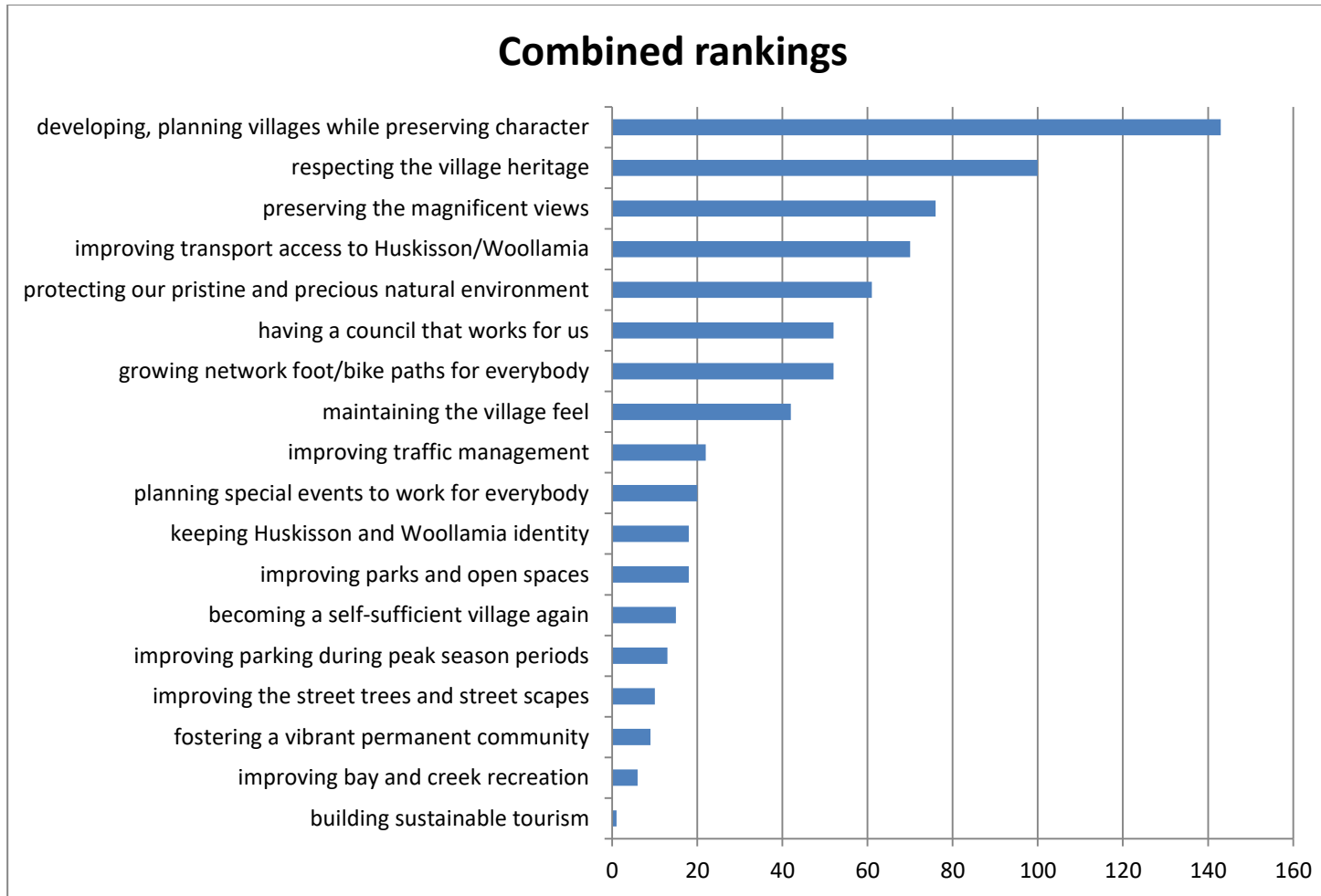


Figure 5: Combined and adjusted rankings where 'not important at all' is given a negative but same value as 'most important'

Appendix 4: Results of ranking when 'not at all important' is factored in

Table 2: Changes to ranking when taking into account the 'not at all important' rankings

	Figure 1 rank	Figure 2 rank	Change to rank
developing and planning the villages while preserving their character	1	1	0
respecting the village heritage	2	2	0
preserving the magnificent views	3	3	0
protecting our pristine and precious natural environment	4	5	-1
improving transport access to Huskisson and Woollamia	5	4	+1
growing the network of foot and bike paths that support everybody	6	7	-1
maintaining the village feel	7	8	-1
having a council that works for us	8	6	+2
improving parking during peak season periods	9	14	-5
improving traffic management	10	9	+1
becoming a self-sufficient village again	11	13	-2
fostering a vibrant permanent community	12	16	-4
improving parks and open spaces	13	12	+1
planning events to work for everybody	15	10	+5
building sustainable tourism	14	18	-4
continuing to improve Huskisson and Woollamia Bay and creek recreation	16	17	-1
keeping Huskisson and Woollamia identify	17	11	+6
improving the street trees and street scapes	18	15	+3