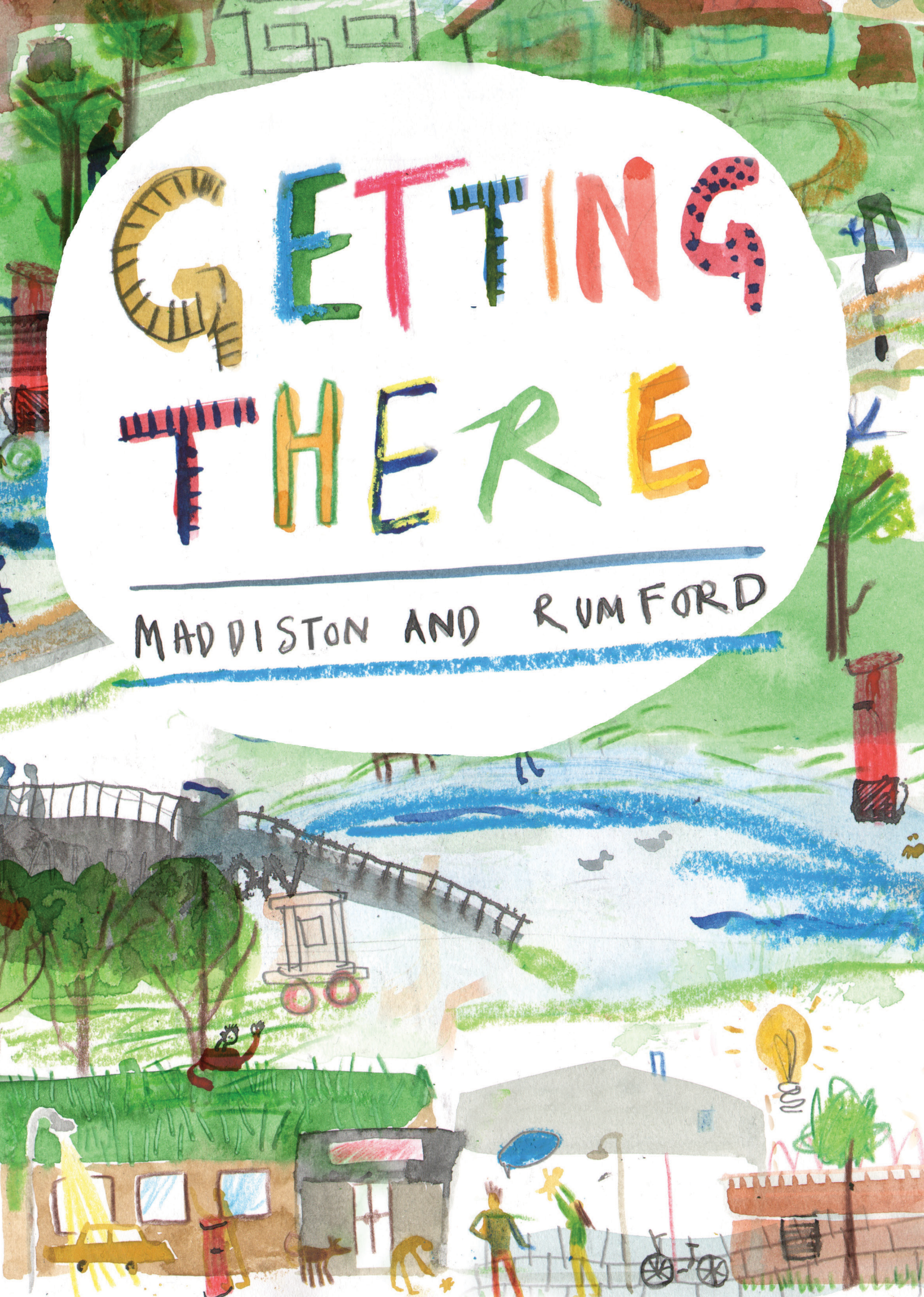


GETTING THERE

MADDISTON AND RUMFORD



Towards the end of 2016, Maddiston Community Council and a range of other partners helped design and conduct a survey asking local residents about their experiences of living in Maddiston and Rumford. We were delighted that over 200 adults from the local area and 250 children from Maddiston Primary School participated by filling in a paper survey, submitting answers online and being filmed on video. The majority of respondents were positive about life in the area but they also shared some things about what they would like to see improved. Through the survey, we grouped the findings into four broad themes.

Community spirit

The responses presented a very positive view of the local area and community. Most respondents, particularly children, were happy with life in Maddiston and Rumford. Many adults said that they wanted more opportunities to socialise, especially opportunities for people from the older parts of the villages to meet people who had recently settled into the newly built housing.

Respondents thought that a pub, café or meeting place would improve community spirit. Others suggested that community events such as gala days, dancing, discos or other fun activities could bring the community together more.

There seemed to be a demand both for more physical spaces for people to connect, but also for activities and events that would bring people together.

Local provision of services

The majority of people mentioned that they had seen notable improvement in local green spaces, paths and walkways over the last few years. As much as the new local housing developments were welcomed by most, there is concern over whether local services can keep up with a growing population.

When asked how to improve the local area, residents requested a range of amenities – a local GP, more local shops, and more leisure and sporting facilities to name a few.

At the moment, people need to travel outside Maddiston and Rumford to access the majority of these amenities.

Children + young people

Nearly all children were happy and found a great many positives about their experiences in Maddiston and Rumford and at Maddiston Primary School.

However, some adults expressed concern over the size of the current school building and how it might support an increased population of children in the future. Many adults also want to see more facilities and activities provided for older children.

The primary age children were more specific (and aspirational!), suggesting that the area would be improved with facilities such as a swimming pool, astroturf football pitch, skate park, sports centre, larger parks and a library. What really came through was the value the children put on outdoor and physical activities to have fun.

Travel, transport + traffic

There were a number of people who raised the issue of both traffic noise and how busy the streets were outside the shop, pharmacy and post office. Respondents wanted to see safe crossings on the main street and for the speed of traffic to be slowed.

We did find that most residents were car owners and that less than 10% of all respondents use buses regularly, but were unable to tell whether this was through choice or necessity.

"The rural area is a lovely place to live if you have access to a car but it would be good if there was better access to things like doctors and dentists and things that you could do within walking distance"



