

Friday 4 March 2022: For immediate release

Bexhill residents tell town council what improvements they want for the town

- **Results of ‘the Big Survey 2021’ are published for the first time today (Friday)**
- **Residents have given the council a clear directive of what changes and improvements they want for the town**

Residents across Bexhill-on-Sea have told the new town council what improvements they want to see for the town.

More than 2,000 people replied to the town council’s first ever consultation ‘the Big Survey 2021’, and the results are published today (Friday).

‘The Big Survey 2021’ ran for two months last year and was designed to hear views on a range of issues that affect the town, including transport, the environment, health and well-being, and tourism.

It also sought ideas on how to improve life for people in the town, as well as which “special expenses” services – for example, parks and open spaces, Christmas lights, or bus shelters – residents would like to see the town council take over from Rother District Council.

The results were:

- **Environment:** Residents said their top priorities for improving the environment were to smarten up the town (31% asked for this) and to address fly tipping (30%).
- **Highways and transport:** Tackling potholes (61%) and reducing vehicle speed (15%) were the two main concerns with the town’s roads and transport.
- **Music and culture:** Residents asked the council to prioritise improving access to live music (28%) and increasing local heritage and history trails (22%).
- **Young people:** Replacing the water fountain feature (35%) was the most popular ask around young people, followed by expanding local activities for teenagers (23%).
- **Health and well-being:** Addressing loneliness was the prime concern for the town’s health and well-being (33% of residents wanted this), followed by improving access to mental health support (22%).
- **Business and tourism:** Improving public toilets was the primary concern amongst residents (36%). Next up was improving disability access around the town (16%).

The survey revealed a clear mandate for Bexhill to have its own Neighbourhood Plan. The plan gives communities power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area (94% of residents wanted this).

And there was also a strong directive for the town council to take on “special expenses” local services from Rother (91%).

Chair of the town council Mayor Paul Plim said: "I'd like to say a big thank you to the people of Bexhill for engaging with our consultation and taking the time to share their thoughts on the town with us.

"Residents have spoken. They have given us a clear message on what issues need addressing across Bexhill – and they've shared their vision of Bexhill for the future. This will really help inform the future strategy of the town council.

"The next step is for the town council to develop a strategy to bring these improvements to life over the next few years, and to make that vision of Bexhill a reality for us all. I look forward to sharing that with you shortly."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The full report on the results of 'the Big Survey 2021' is available here: www.bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk
- Mayor Plim is available for interview on the results of the survey. Please contact the town clerk.

Contacts:

Julie Miller

Town clerk to Bexhill-on-Sea town council

Town.clerk@bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk

07769 254176