



ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
19 March 2020
Agenda Item 9

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

JOSC Working Group on the review of the Adur & Worthing evening and night time economy

Report by the Director for Digital & Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the recommendations from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Working Group which was created as part of the JOSC Work Programme to review the Adur and Worthing evening and night time economy (ENTE).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That JOSC consider the report and recommendations from the Evening and Night time economy Working Group and refer the recommendations to the Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) for consideration in due course.

3. Context

- 3.1 As part of its Work Programme, JOSC agreed to set up a Working Group to review the ENTE in Adur and Worthing and consider if there is a need for any new approaches/changes to be introduced in Adur and Worthing to improve the ENTE with a particular focus on accommodation, early evening/dusk

economy issues and transport issues.

- 3.2 The Working Group has now completed its work and produced the attached report and identified some recommendations which it considers can help improve the vibrancy of the ENTE in Adur and Worthing.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 JOSC is asked to consider the report and recommendations from the ENTE Working Group set out in the Appendix to this report and agree to refer them to the Joint Strategic Committee for further consideration in due course.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The JOSC Working Group that has reviewed the ENTE has undertaken consultation with a number of external organisations and has undertaken a detailed public consultation.

- 5.2 JOSC Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen and Senior Officers have also been consulted
on the report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications relating to this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.
- 7.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a Local Authority to do anything that individuals generally may do (subject to any current restrictions or limitations prescribed in existing legislation).

Background Papers

Any papers referenced in the Working Group report.

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

The recommendations contained in the Working Group's report can help to improve the vibrancy of the evening and night time economy if they are implemented.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

An improved evening and night time economy will help to enhance the wellbeing of local residents and visitors who use the town and village centres during the evening and night time.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered. There are potential community safety issues connected with an improved and vibrant evening and night time economy.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered. Any changes to improve the evening and night time economy will need to consider environmental factors.

4. Governance

Matter considered. Recommendations from the review will need to be presented to the Joint Strategic Committee.



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

**Scrutiny review of the Adur and Worthing evening and night time economy -
5pm - 5am**

Report by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working Group

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The evening and night time economy (ENTE) is becoming a central part of the future of the UK high street as more and more bars, restaurants and clubs take over retail premises and new options for evening entertainment spring up across the country. This increase in profile for the ENTE has led to a need for Councils to recognise this change and make sure it is a positive one that benefits the local community and economy. Adur and Worthing Councils are already leading work to help create the right conditions for the ENTE in the town and village centres with a balanced and varied programme of activities and some strategic commitments which aim to help create the right conditions for the growth of the ENTE. However, this is not an overnight success and there is more to be done in these areas of work.
- 1.2 This report explores the current status of the evening and night time economy in Adur and Worthing, bringing together the research results from the review, the views of Adur and Worthing residents and visitors, the input of the Working Group Members and the knowledge of the expert witnesses that have been interviewed as part of this review. The report identifies a number of findings and recommendations from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working Group which was established as part of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme to review the Adur and Worthing ENTE. The Working Group considers that its report and findings/research can help the Councils and other agencies in developing the ENTE for the benefit of local communities, businesses and visitors to the areas.

2.0 What is Evening and Night Time economy?

- 2.1 There are a variety of approaches across the UK to the management of ENTE. The ENTE is said to describe economic activity which takes place in the early evening after 5pm after many people finish daytime employment or formal education, and covers activities such as eating and drinking, entertainment, and nightlife up until 6am.
- 2.2 A vibrant ENTE has a number of benefits in that it can provide recreation for people which is often welcome after finishing work for the day, it can help increase employment in an area with increased local spending and it can help reduce social exclusion and increased vitality in towns. A vibrant ENTE can, however, lead to increased noise pollution, crime and/or anti-social behaviour, particularly where alcohol is involved and problems connected with traffic congestion and other transport issues.
- 2.3 According to recent data from the Night Time industries Association, the night time economy is worth 6% of UK Gross Domestic Product or £66 million annually and accounts for 27% of town and city centre turnover. The UK evening and night time economy also employs 1.3 million people across the UK (5-10% of most locations overall employment). There is, therefore, great potential for the ENTE to improve the vibrancy of areas, however, planning for a successful ENTE is not always sustainable with some businesses including accommodation providers, pubs and night clubs having to close for a number of reasons in recent years which impacts the development of the ENTE.
- 2.4 When considering growth and improvements to the ENTE it is generally considered important that this is concentrated around entertainment, leisure and eating and drinking but equally as important are the needs of residents, workers and the linked transport infrastructure.

3.0 Background to the JOSC Review

- 3.1 As part of the JOSC Work Programme, JOSC agreed to set up a Working Group to review the ENTE in Adur and Worthing and to assess how vibrant it is. Councillors Carol Albury, Lavinia O'Connor, Beccy Cooper and Bob Smytherman were appointed to the Working Group. The Working Group met in October and December 2018 and January, February, July and September 2019 to consider information and formulate its recommendations. Councillor Bob Smytherman was appointed as Chairman of the Working Group and Councillor Lavinia O'Connor as its Vice-Chairman. Members of the Working Group also undertook a walking visit of the town and village centres in April 2019 as part of the review. Councillor Margaret Howard replaced Councillor Beccy Cooper as a Member of the Working Group for the later stages of the review. Councillor Cooper was appointed as a co-opted member, however, to assist the Working Group as was Councillor Andy McGregor.
- 3.2 The Working Group has recognised at the outset of the review that the issues

relating to the ENTE are very complex and wide ranging. The issues cut across different functions of local Government and other agencies, including planning, licensing, urban design, safety and transport. Developing an effective ENTE, therefore, requires a multi-stakeholder partnership approach. In view of this, the Working Group has tried to look at all different aspects of the ENTE in the areas, the outputs from which are controlled by the other agencies and providers such as transport provision, Policing and the effort put in by local businesses to help improve the ENTE.

3.3 The Working Group discussed and agreed the following Terms of Reference and project objectives for the review:-

1. To review the ENTE in Adur and Worthing; and

2. To consider if there is a need for any new approaches/changes to be introduced in Adur and Worthing to improve the ENTE with a particular focus on accommodation, early evening/dusk economy issues and a focus on the transport issues.

3.4 This report provides the detail of the discussions and findings from the Working Group and some recommendations which the Working Group considers will help improve the vibrancy of the ENTE in Adur and Worthing.

4.0 Method of the review

4.1 From the start of the review, the Working Group wanted to ensure that it considered as many aspects of the ENTE as possible. It met on 16 October and 5 December 2018 and 30 January, 6 February, 16 July and 17 September

2019. A public consultation on line survey form was also set up and available on the Adur & Worthing Council website from 8 February until 8 March 2019. The Working Group also undertook a 'walking' tour of the ENTE in Adur & Worthing town and village centres on the evening of Saturday 6 April 2019.

4.2 Due to the wide ranging, complex nature of this review and the need to capture as much information and evidence as possible from the focus areas, it is only now that the Working Group has been able to complete and report its findings and the Working Group recognises that during this period of time there have already been further developments into the way the ENTE is recognised and is managed by the Councils in partnership with others (set out later in this report) which the Working Group welcomes.

4.3 The Working Group held five evidence gathering meetings with the following witnesses:-

Andy Willems, Head of Place and Economy, Adur & Worthing Councils
Fiona Burn, Place & Economy Manager, Adur & Worthing Councils

Sharon Clarke - Worthing Town Centre Manager
 Inspector Allan Lowe - Sussex Police and Chairman of the Joint Action Group
 Andy Sparsis - Chairman of the Worthing Hospitality Association
 Judy Fox - Visitor Experience and Marketing Officer, Adur & Worthing Councils
 Martin Randall, Director for the Economy, Adur & Worthing Councils
 Richard Carrington, Secretary to Worthing Taxi Association
 Sean Ridley, Adur Taxi Association
 Martin Harris, Brighton & Hove Bus Company & Metrobus
 Chris Chatfield, Compass Travel
 Rob Vince and Melanie Keylock, Stagecoach Bus Company
 Tina Tilley, Adur & Worthing Chamber of Trade and Commerce
 Councillor Brian Boggis, Adur District Council Executive Member for Regeneration
 Councillor Kevin Jenkins, Worthing Borough Council Executive Member for Regeneration
 Amanda O'Reilly, former Head of Culture, Adur & Worthing Councils
 Diane Guest, Worthing Pub Watch
 Petra Butler, Office Manager, St George's School of English, Worthing
 Councillor Pat Beresford, Chairman of the Adur District Council Licensing Committee
 Councillor Sean McDonald, Chairman of the Worthing Borough Council, Licensing Committee
 Simon Jones, Team Leader Licensing, Adur & Worthing Councils

- 4.4 The Working Group also wanted to obtain the views of the Adur and Worthing communities as part of the review to hear from them about how they use the town and village centres between 5pm and 5am, what they do, what activities they take part in and crucially what needs to be done to allow them to live their lives more fully. To help with this an online survey was set up via the Councils website from 8 February until 8 March 2019 - 506 responses were received. The Working Group was also keen to see for itself what the ENTE is like in Adur and Worthing and went on a 'Walking' Tour of the town and village Centres during the evening of 6 April 2019.

5.0 Findings and Proposals

- 5.1 The Working Group has received a great deal of evidence from the witnesses it has interviewed as part of this review and also from the results of the on line survey and the evidence has provided the Working Group with a good analysis of the state of the ENTE in Adur and Worthing. The evidence highlights that there is a lot of excellent work ongoing to improve the vibrancy of the ENTE and this is shown in some of the positive feedback from the local community who enjoy their experiences of the ENTE. However, despite the positive experiences there are still some issues and negative experiences which people are concerned about and the Working Group considers that these should be addressed if at all possible.

5.2 Evidence gathered from the witnesses

- 5.3 To begin the review, the Working Group received a presentation from Andy Willems, Head of Place and Economy and Fiona Burn, Place and Economy Manager from Adur and Worthing Councils which set the scene on what is meant by the ENTE, why there is an ENTE and how the 'Place and Economy' service was approaching delivering a vibrant Night Time economy. This presentation highlighted that the Councils were seeking to achieve a 'Purple Flag' status accreditation for Worthing which acts as a guide to good evening and night time economy provision and has national status. A Purple Flag Award was also considered to be helpful in recognising a joined up/partnership approach to the ENTE. In Summer 2019, Worthing successfully achieved the Purple Flag status which now means that Worthing is classed as meeting or surpassing the standards of excellence in managing the ENTE.
- 5.4 The Working Group also interviewed a number of witnesses to provide more information on the relevant issues about the ENTE and also for them to share concerns and explore suggestions for initiatives that will make Adur and Worthing better in the evening and night time.
- 5.5 These interviews were held in confidence and the issues set out below are some suggestions from the witnesses and outcomes (anonymous) which have provided the key evidence base for this report:-
- There is a lack of connectivity in some areas of Montague Street which are affecting the vibrancy of the night time economy. In particular, Montague Street can be dark in places and there is a need for improved lighting in that area and other areas as well with good access for all. Connectivity needs to be improved.
 - Residential use in the town centre should not stop the vibrancy of the night time economy.
 - Businesses need 'hand holding' to help them understand the processes that need to be followed. A Council helpline would be useful. The Councils need to give more advice on what they consider is acceptable when businesses are requesting business development advice.
 - There is a need for more consultation on events planned by the Councils. The Councils need to consider the impact on existing businesses when holding events and undertake appropriate consultation.

- Air BnB needs to have the same controls and regulations as B&B and Guesthouse accommodation. The Government should be lobbied to provide these additional controls.
- More buses need to be provided in the night time covering different routes (Dedicated night time service is needed). Cheaper bus services are also needed. It is important for there to be adequate infrastructure access. 'Bottle necks' do slow down the traffic on the roads. One of the biggest issues is that Adur & Worthing do not join up that well to spread the vibrancy across to each community. A night time bus service should be set up with co-ordination from the Councils working in partnership with bus companies and other partners including Worthing Theatres.
- The Council vision should be one that is a shared vision rather than one that is the Council's vision that is then shared with others. It is improving but sometimes information is distilled. The Councils do not always seem to appreciate what other Partnerships are doing. The Councils should recognise this sometimes in its wider communications to let others know what the Partnerships are providing as well.
- There are not enough events in the town being provided for longer than a day. There are no overnight stay events. The Councils need to provide more events to help with 'long term' stays in the town and to improve the vibrancy of the areas.
- Councils should produce a promotional statement about the developments in the area and the offer provided by restaurants.
- Worthing Theatres should promote deals with local restaurants to encourage people to see shows with the add on of them eating out in the town at a discount.
- There should be one brand for Worthing. There is not a close enough alignment between the direction of the Town Centre Initiative and Discover Worthing. It is confusing to have to use different brands - 'Discover Worthing' and 'I love sunny Worthing'. There needs to be better communication on Discover Worthing and information provided in Adur.

- There is potential for Adur District Council to benefit from a visitor and marketing experience if appropriate funding could be provided.
- Taxi and Private Hire licensing application process needs to be speeded up.
- The rail and bus companies working with the Councils should consider discounted ticket/travel options and restaurant offer with theatre ticket offer.
- Better signing. Better directional signs.
- More restaurants and activities open in the early evening.
- Encourage employers to relocate back into the town to bring footfall and spending back into the town. Encourage workers to remain in the areas and socialise after work to improve the early evening economy.
- Encourage housing to be provided in the town centres to increase the amount of people in the town centres.
- Encourage an Adur Pub Watch to be set up.
- Big local regeneration sites need to be developed as soon as possible to help regenerate the local economy eg Teville Gate site and Union Place site in Worthing.
- The Quality Bus Partnership should meet to discuss the bus service provision and this should be for Adur as well.

5.6 Evidence gathered from the public consultation

5.7 Response to the public consultation survey was very good with 506 responses received. A summary of the results is attached as an appendix to this report.

5.8 The survey was designed to find out more about why people visit the areas and who they visit with and was also designed to encourage views on the following issues:-

- What is good about the town centres and village areas in the early evening and then later in the evening.

- What would improve their visits into the town centre and village areas.
- The accommodation offer
- The retail offer after 5pm
- Accessibility of the town centre and village areas after 5pm
- The restaurant and entertainment provision after 5pm
- The activities (permanent and temporary events) provided in the town centre and village areas after 5pm
- The general atmosphere in the town centre and village areas
- The cleanliness of the town centre and village centre areas
- Improvements that people would like to see made to make the areas more attractive and cleaner
- How safe people feel in the town and village centres
- The type of transport people use to visit the town and village centres and what can be done to improve transport into and out of the town and village centres areas
- Car Parks and improvements for the use of car parks
- What more the Councils can do to help improve the evening and night time economy

5.9 The survey results provided a very wide range of views covering a number of issues which can be concentrated into the following issue groupings:-.

5.10 Provision of Entertainment/Events/Restaurants/Cafe/Pubs and Clubs in the early evening and night time

5.11 Some people considered that there is a good choice of restaurants cafes and bars and that there were plenty of pedestrian areas with tables outside. These people also considered that there was plenty on offer in Worthing with a good bus service. There were, however, some negative views that the towns and village centres were empty at night and that too many shops and cafes/restaurants were closed too early and should be open longer.

5.12 There were also concerns from some people that there were a lack of things to do in the early evening period between 5pm - 7pm and a lack of public events during this period. It was discovered that Worthing, in particular, lacks a core workforce that works in the town and then wants to enjoy the night time economy so after they have left there is an emptiness in the areas.

5.13 Public safety in the evening and night time economy

5.14 Some residents considered that the areas were safe in the evening and night but others felt less safe because of problems relating to street drinkers,

drunks and fighting, a lack of CCTV and a lack of a visible policing presence. There were also concerns that there was a lack of street lighting with some lights turned off too early. The safety in car parks and anti social behaviour were issues for others.

5.15 Evening and Night time Transport issues

5.16 The Working Group is ambitious for the role that transport can play in supporting the development of Adur and Worthing's ENTE. Transport is also seen as a key issue by those who responded to the survey and those interviewed by the Working Group. A lack of public transport was cited by some as a barrier to them wanting to visit the town and village centres at night or in the evening. These concerns concentrated on the need for more buses, taxis and trains to be provided at low prices. There were also suggestions that better and more frequent services were needed with better parking and free parking. To assist the ENTE a number of people suggested that more buses should be provided which operate later in the evening and consideration should also be given to the provision of night services.

5.17 Bus companies interviewed explained that they pick people up in Shoreham but do not drop people off in Shoreham for an evening out on a regular basis. The bus companies also considered that there was a need for bus companies to operate close to the town and village centres and the bus companies should not be forced to operate outside of the town and village centres.

5.18 Accommodation issues

5.19 The Working Group was also keen to find out opinion on the accommodation offer in the town and village centres. Only 232 people responded to this question and the vast majority (73.6%) had no opinion. With 7.8% considering the accommodation offer as good and 3.9% considering it to be poor.

5.20 Licensing issues

5.21 Individual licensing matters are not within the remit of the Working Group, however, evidence has been received relating to Taxi and Private Hire licensing and premises licensing issues which the Working Group has considered are important factors when addressing the ENTE.

5.22 The Working Group heard from the Chairmen of the Adur & Worthing Licensing Committees who considered that the Adur and Worthing ENTE was

affected somewhat by the 'open all hours' offer provided in the Brighton & Hove area. However, it was considered that the ENTE was buoyant in the Worthing area with a good number of premises licences issued during the year. Shoreham was buoyant in Adur but Lancing did not have the same vibrancy.

6.0 Conclusions and recommendations

- 6.1 The Working Group would like to thank all those involved in this review for their time, support and invaluable contributions throughout this process. The Working Group shares a consensus about the need for improvements for the Adur and Worthing ENTE. The Working Group considers that, if implemented, its recommendations for improvement can help the Adur and Worthing communities flourish in the evenings and during the nights. The Working Group considers that there needs to be better planning to ensure that the ENTE is thriving and this does involve reviewing cost and accessibility issues which hold people back from taking part in the evening and night time economy.
- 6.2 The Working Group has undertaken this scrutiny review and formulated conclusions and the evidence submitted to the Working Group as part of this review has highlighted the significant amount of work and initiatives already being undertaken to improve the ENTE in Adur and Worthing including the recent award for Worthing of the 'Purple Flag' award. The Working Group welcomes this approach as well as the recent place brand launch 'Time for Worthing'. The Councils Executives have a vital role to play in developing resources to help create a vibrant evening and night time economy and should put the evening and night time at the heart of all policy making. There is also a need to address those issues which were concerns of some of the people interviewed by the Working Group as set out above, which the Councils have some control over.
- 6.3 In the light of information supplied to the Working Group and the discussions held, the Working Group has identified some issues that it would like to submit to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration as it is recognised that these are some key points which need to be addressed as part of the overall strategic approach to managing the evening and night time economy in Adur and Worthing. The Working Group recognises that the issue is very broad and it has concentrated its conclusions on putting the spotlight on some key issues as follows:-
- 6.4 **Developing a vibrant, attractive and diverse Early evening and night time economy**

- 6.5 The Working Group welcomes the work which the Councils are already undertaking to try and create a diverse ENTE, in particular the recognition provided in achieving the 'Purple Flag status for Worthing in Summer 2019 and the development of the new place brand 'Time for Worthing'. The Working Group considers that the Councils should build upon this and continue to explore further opportunities including seeking 'Purple Flag status for Adur if that is possible.
- 6.6 As areas made up of village and town centres, the Working Group is of the view that a broad, holistic evening and night time strategy should be set up by the Councils and this will ensure that the approach to the ENTE is tailored to the special and very different characters of each town and village centre in Adur and Worthing. This will also support growth and diversification.
- 6.7 The range of events, activities and retail premises open in the early evening and night time is limited and the Working Group has heard from some members of the community and witnesses to the review who consider that there is not always much for them to do during these times, particularly the early evening or twilight period. The town and village centres are quite often quiet during these times which reduces the vibrancy of the areas. The Working Group considers that there is scope for more events and activities to be provided during these times. It is suggested that research should be undertaken to establish the case for longer opening hours for the retail premises. This work could be undertaken working in partnership with the Chamber of Trade and Commerce/Town Centre Initiative to galvanise interest and opportunities for premises to trade later with appropriate conditions if necessary. Later opening could also apply to cultural organisations including theatres and music venues that might be 'nesting' evening and night offers to improve the high streets and there might also be opportunities to make daytime culture available after 5pm.
- 6.8 Keeping Adur and Worthing moving in the evening and at night - Transport issues**
- 6.9 The Working Group acknowledges the need for additional bus services to be provided in the evening and night time to enable people to travel in and out of the town and village centres and that these services need to be concentrated around key areas in the town and village centres and also around where people live. To give people good choice about how they travel, there should also be more taxi and Private Hire services where possible which are reliable and cost effective. For those wanting to travel by car there should be adequate parking provision available which should be provided at an affordable cost and the car parks should be well lit with other security provisions provided to ensure users are safe and can enjoy a good night out. The Working Group is also aware of the need to protect the environment and cut pollution so also considers that adequate walkways and cycle routes should be provided which are well lit and safe for those wanting to travel by bicycle and on foot. The Councils should ensure that the comprehensive

review of the cycle rental scheme includes adequate scope to cover the use of the cycles during the evening and night time periods if people want to use the cycles at that time to enable them to travel safely.

- 6.10 To ensure that there is a provision of an adequate transport infrastructure it is suggested that the Councils could either establish or help coordinate the setting up of a focussed late night Transport Working Group to help in the desire to provide more late night transport services. The Working Group considers that this could be achieved by bringing together local rail and bus operators, taxi and private hire operators to be involved in this group as well as representatives from the night time and early evening businesses.

6.11 Keeping Adur and Worthing safe and light in the evening and at night

- 6.12 Safety considerations and fear of crime are a big reason why some members of the community choose not to be active late at night or in the evening. The Working Group, however, believes that the areas are relatively safe compared with large cities. The Working Group is, therefore, pleased with the ongoing work of the Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership and the Councils Safer Communities Team in tackling the safety of the night time economy and welcomes this approach. The Joint Action Group (JAG), chaired by Sussex Police, also looks at issues of priority crime and anti social behaviour. The Working Group believes that the Councils and all the other agencies connected with health and safety should continue with their partnership work to help improve safety in the communities and should develop new partnerships if necessary where appropriate.

- 6.13 Many members of the community enjoy walking around the town and village centres of Adur and Worthing in the evening and at night, however, the Working Group has received evidence to suggest that the lighting and other public realm aspects of the evening and night time economy are not always joined up. It is, therefore, suggested that this could be made more welcoming, safe and sociable at night.

6.14 Promoting Adur and Worthing in the evening and at night

- 6.15 The Working Group has been informed of the various initiatives and activities which take place in the town and village centres during the evening and night time at various times during the year. These include events such as lantern parades, open cinema, music festivals, the Shoreham WordFest, Worthing Pride, Christmas festivities funfairs and circuses. A number of these are weather dependent and rely on good promotion to attract people to attend these events. The Working Group, however, has heard from some residents that there should be more events provided during the early evening in particular to attract people into the town and village centres. The Working Group considers that more can be done to promote the richness of the evening and night time offer. Providing additional funding to promote and provide a dedicated programme of events in the evening and at night could

help but it is important to ensure that any promotional activities would need to capture the range of events held across the areas and showcasing the various events would attract a wider range of users and enrich the areas. There is a role here as well for 'Discover Worthing' and the new place brand 'Time for Worthing' will also help with this. There is scope for this to be extended across to Adur which does not have a dedicated tourism budget.

- 6.16 Promotion of Adur and Worthing also needs to ensure that visitors are made aware that there is more to the areas than just the Worthing town centre and the seafronts. Work to look at public transport referred to above needs to promote the benefits of public transport and increase usage. Work to promote Adur and Worthing at night should aim to increase the footfall in the quieter evening periods and at night, increase participation in cultural activities and seek to increase overall the number of visits and overnight visits

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 That the Working Group welcomes the various strategic commitments in place identified in 'Platform for our Places: Going further' and the excellent work being undertaken by the Councils to help create a vibrant and diverse ENTE and commends the Councils for its work in helping to achieve the 'Purple Flag' award for Worthing in Summer 2019;**

Reason - To recognise that the Councils are committed to achieving a vibrant and diverse ENTE and are making great strides to achieve this.

- 7.2 That the Councils review the issues which it is responsible for as raised by the witnesses and set out in Paragraph 5.5 above and also those issues raised in the public survey that relate to improvements to car parks and improvements to make the areas cleaner. This will enable the Councils to assess whether or not any interventions need to be made in the Councils approach to those issues to help improve the vitality of the areas;**

Reason - The issues have been raised as matters of concern and the Councils should investigate those issues to assess whether or not there is a need for any improvements to be made to the way the issues are considered.

- 7.3 That the Councils consider setting out its approach to the ENTE in an holistic ENTE policy;**

Reason - The Councils have no clear defined/detailed approach to the ENTE. This would ensure that the approach to the ENTE is tailored to the special and different characters of each town and village centre and also to support growth and diversification.

7.4 That the Councils investigate the case for establishing longer opening hours for retail and eating establishments in partnership with the Chamber of Trade and Commerce/Worthing Town Centre initiative.

Reason - Evidence provided to the Working Group has indicated that there is demand for premises to open later and the Working Group considers that later opening could galvanise interest in people visiting the town and village centres at night and in the evening. Later opening could also be applied to cultural organisations including theatres and music venues that might be 'nesting' evening and night offers to improve the high streets and there might also be opportunities to make daytime culture available after 5pm.

7.5 (a) That the Councils help to coordinate the setting up of some form of focussed evening and late night Transport Working Group and

(b) That the Councils request that the Worthing Quality Bus Partnership should be reconstituted as soon as possible and to include the Adur District.

Reason - (a) To help ensure that there is a provision of an adequate transport infrastructure to help in the desire to provide more late night transport services. The Working Group considers that this could be achieved by bringing together local rail and bus operators, taxi and private hire operators to be involved in this group as well as representatives from the night time and early evening business community.

(b) Because the Quality Bus Partnership has not met for a long time and there is an outstanding need to consider the Bus service issues for Worthing which should also include Adur as well.

7.6 That the Councils help to coordinate a review of the lighting in the town and village centres and the delivery of other public realm improvements connected to the evening and night time economy. This should include improvements to the car parks run by the Councils.

Reason - Evidence received by the Working Group has indicated that these issues are not always 'joined up' but could be improved to make some of the parts of the town and village centres more welcoming, safe and sociable in the evening and at night.

7.7 That the Councils consider providing some additional funding to promote Adur and Worthing town and village centres at night;

Reason - The Working Group has heard from some residents that there should be more events provided during the early evening in particular to attract people into the town and village centres. The Working Group considers that more can be done to promote the richness of the evening and night time offer. Providing additional funding to promote and provide an enhanced

dedicated programme of year round events in the evening and at night could help and should also cover the Adur District which has no tourism budget funding.

7.8 That the Councils lobby Government to introduce the same controls and regulations for Air BnB accommodation as applies to B&B and Guesthouse accommodation.

Reason - The Working Group is concerned that Air BnB accommodation is not regulated to ensure the safety of guests as applies to B&B and Guesthouse accommodation which is potentially putting guests at risk. Airbnb homeowners do not currently have to prove that their accommodation is safe for use.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

None

Contact Officer:

Councillor Bob Smytherman
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APPENDIX (i)

Scrutiny review of the Adur & Worthing Evening & Night time economy

Findings from the On line survey - 'Review of Adur & Worthing after 5pm'

The survey was made available on the Adur & Worthing Councils website from 8 February until 8 March 2019. 506 responses were received and this is analysed as follows:-

1. Which town or village centres in Adur and Worthing have you used after 5pm?

506 responses were received to this question. Responders were given a number of options and asked to tick all that applied to their visits. A number of people visited multiple centres but the majority visited Worthing. Responses were received as follows:-

- Worthing Town Centre - 452
- Shoreham Town Centre - 210
- Lancing - 79
- Southwick - 33
- Sompting - 21
- Other - 47

2. Please specify what times you use these areas?

506 responses were received to this question. Responders were given three time options for visits and asked to tick all that applied to their visits. The following responses were received:-

- 5pm - 7pm - 380
- 7pm - Midnight - 448
- Midnight - 5am - 99

Some people visited at different times but the majority made a visit between 7pm and Midnight.

3. Why do you visit the areas?

506 responses were received. Respondents were asked to tick all that apply to their visits. The following responses were received:-

- Eating out (Restaurants, cafes and takeaways) - 442
- Culture and entertainment (Theatres events, cinemas and music events) - 365
- Drinking (Pubs, clubs and bars) - 331
- Social - 233
- Shopping - 134
- Other - 49
- Accommodation (Hotels, Bed & Breakfast, Air BnB and Guesthouses) - 10

4. Who do you visit the areas with?

506 responses were received to this question. Respondents were given a number of options and asked to tick all that applied to their visits. The following responses were received:-

Partner - 337

Family and/or friends - 336

Family and/or friends (Including children under 16) - 182

Work colleagues - 167

Alone - 128

Family and/or friends (Including children over 16 and under 18)

5. If you visit with your families including children under 16 do you consider that there are sufficient activities available for families to take part in? If not then what extra activities would you like to see or do?

There were 220 responses to this question.

- Direct response Yes = 29
- Direct response No = 60
- N/A = 22

A number of responders did not completely answer the question with a Yes or a No but gave further detailed feedback. Many responders suggested similar extra activities and some responses can be considered to be general views relating to all times of the day rather than just the early evening and night time. See summary list below:-

Positive comments

- Atmosphere is good
- Good restaurants/bars/cafes - There is a good choice.
- Good bus service/public transport
- Safety
- Easier to park Outdoor eating and drinking venues are good.
- Good music venues and cinemas

Negative comments

- There is nothing to do.
- Some premises including cafes and shops close too early and should be open longer.
- The roads and transport system need to be improved.
- Too many pubs

6. In your opinion, what is good about the town centres and village areas between 5pm to 7pm?

There were 383 responses to this question. Many of the responders identified similar extra issues. There were a number of positive comments about the quality of the restaurants, bars and clubs and the general offer and the ease of parking at this time. However, some people expressed a view that there is not much to do during this period in the towns and the centres are not vibrant enough. There was an opinion from some that the shops and cafes/eating places need to open later to improve the vibrancy during this period. There was also a view from some that there was a need for more events and cultural activities to increase footfall and atmosphere in the centres. See summary list below:-

Positive comments

- Good restaurants, entertainment, bars and pubs and welcoming for family dining.
- Worthing has plenty to offer
- Bus service.
- Things to do, places to go.
- Mainly pedestrianised.
- Plenty of pedestrian areas and tables outside.
- Parking is free and easy to park. Town centres are well lit. Some shops are open late.
- Outdoor eating and drinking
- Good cinemas
- Good lighting

Negative comments

- Not much. The towns are dead.
- Too many businesses are closed early.

7. In your opinion what is good about the town centres and village areas between 7pm to 5am?

There were 381 responses to this question. Many of the responders identified similar issues. As with question 6 there were a number of positive comments about the quality of the restaurants, bars and entertainment venues and the general offer. However, some people commented that there was not enough choice available after 10pm and at certain times in the week there was not much available after 8pm giving the centres an empty feel - See summary list below: -

- Restaurants, bars, micropubs, bowling alley and cinemas
- Parking is normally close to where you want to go so don't have to wander through the town
- 24hr diner or cafe/coffee shop.
- Eating out, Socializing
- Very safe compared to London or Brighton.
- Pedestrian area of East Street, Shoreham
- Free parking
- Good kebab shops on the way home
- I only visit Lancing, which has a good value curry house I like
- excellent live music on offer in pubs.
- Quieter to park
- Choice of places to eat and drink
- There is a real buzz and all restaurants and pub/restaurants are full. At weekends you can only get a meal by booking ahead. Great news for the towns.

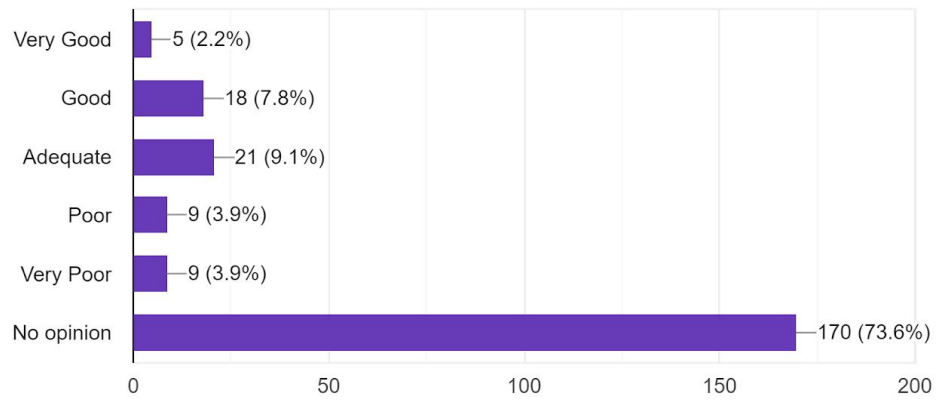
8. What do you consider would improve your use or enjoyment of the town centre and village areas or make you use the areas more between 5pm to 7pm and/or from 7pm to 5am?

There were 411 responses to this question. Many of the responders identified similar issues.

- More policing on the streets
- Better transport provision
- Better selection of shops /pubs and eating places are required which need to be open each day during these times
- Improved street lighting
- More coffee shops open between 5-7pm
- Less street drinkers
- Better parking
- Outdoor concerts
- More music events

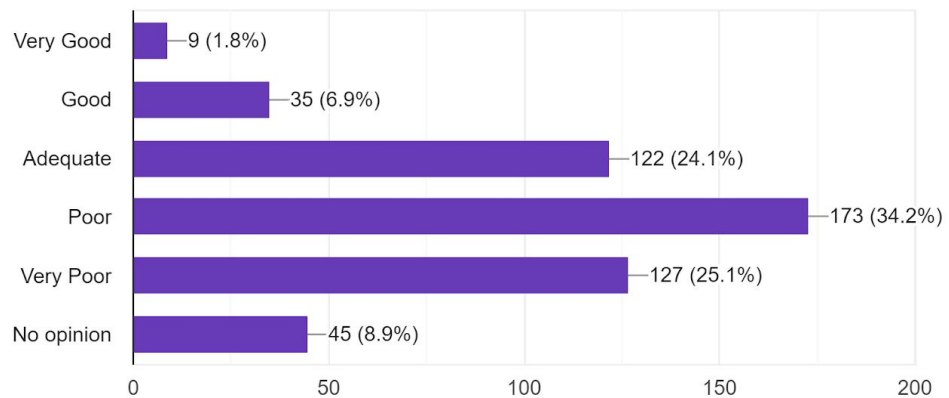
9. If you have recently used the accommodation offer in the town and village centres please rate this (Please go to question 10 if you have not)?

231 responses



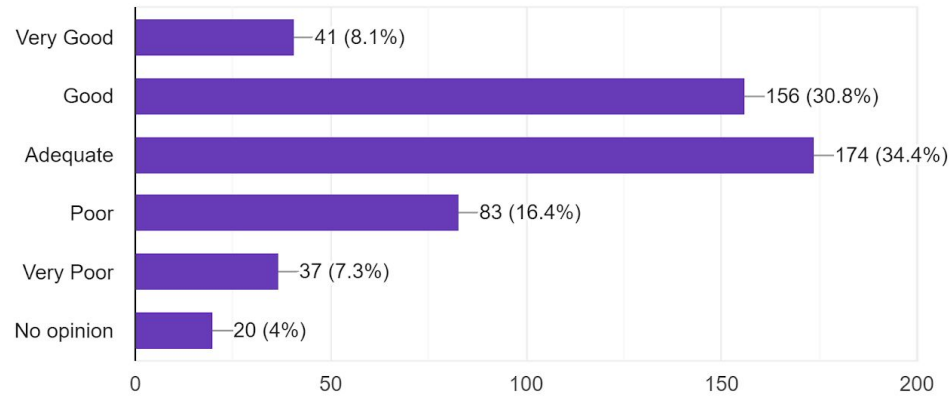
10. How would you rate the retail offer of the town centre and village areas after 5pm?

506 responses



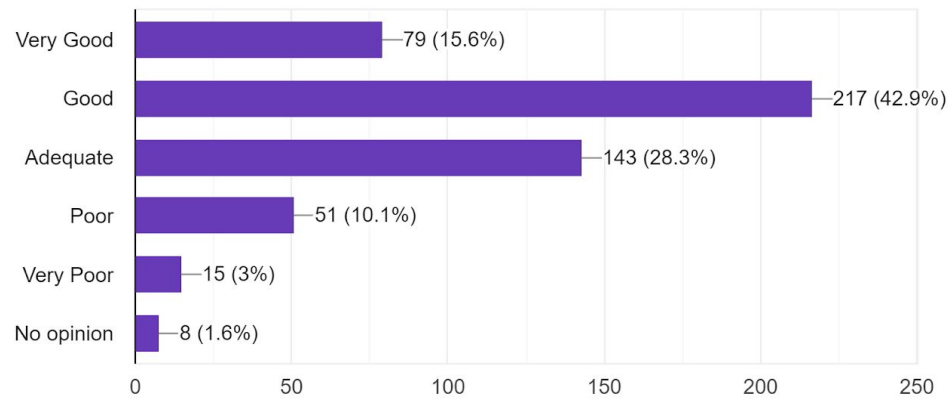
11. How would you rate the accessibility of the town centre and village areas after 5pm.

506 responses



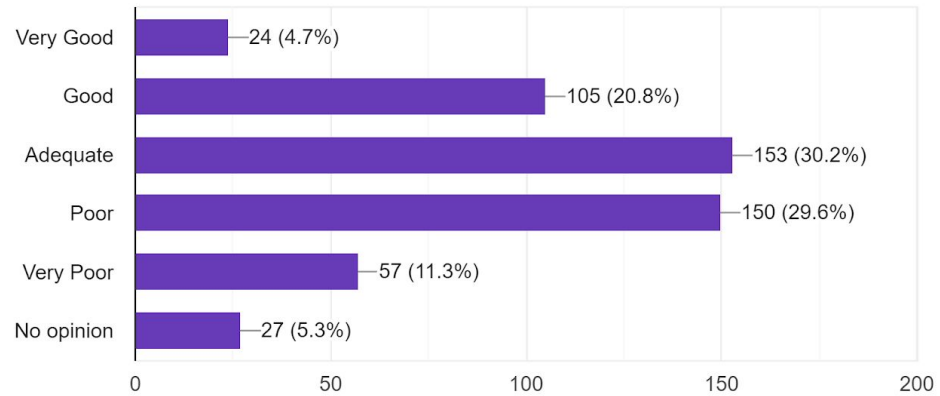
12. How would you rate the restaurant and entertainment provision after 5pm?

506 responses



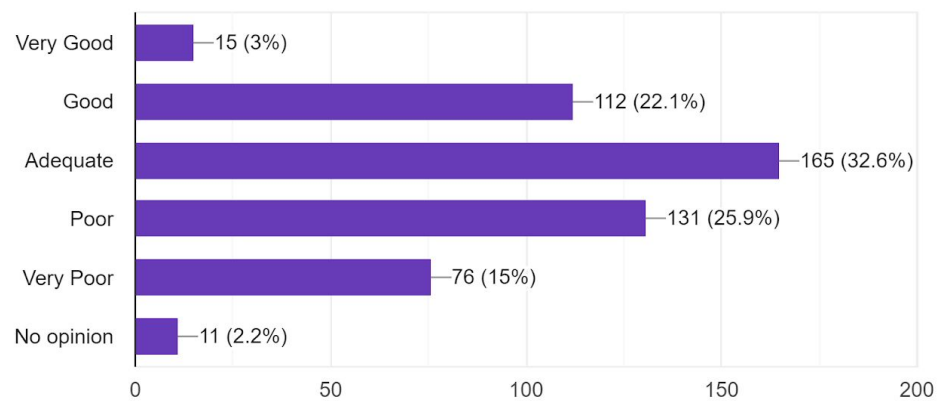
13. How would you rate the activities (permanent and temporary events) provided in the town centre and village areas after 5pm?

506 responses



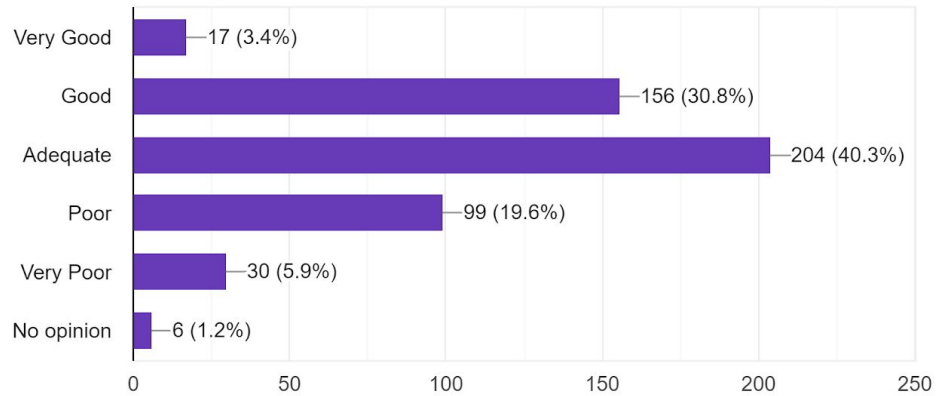
14. How would you rate the general atmosphere in the town centre and village areas after 5pm?

506 responses



15. How would you rate the cleanliness of the town centre and village centre areas after 5pm?

506 responses



16. What improvements (if any) would you like to see to make the areas more attractive and cleaner?

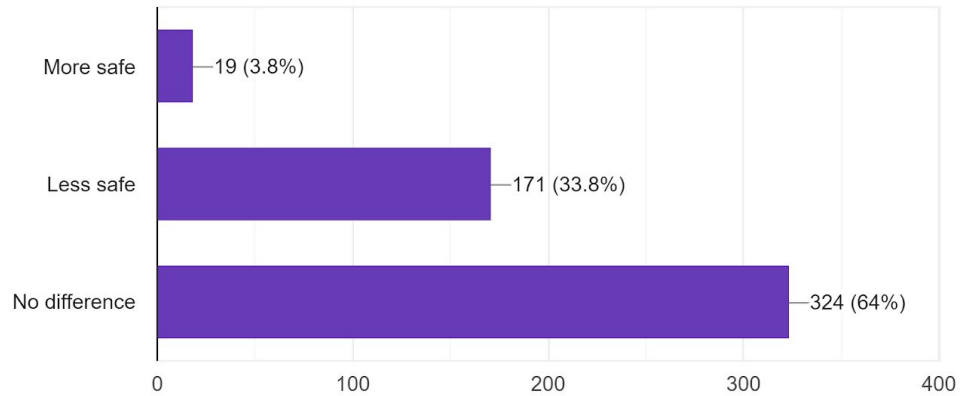
There were 299 responses received to this question

Key issues raised were:-

- Stop street drinking
- No rough sleepers
- More bins to be provided
- Bins to be emptied more often
- More street cleaning
- More street lighting
- More CCTV
- More POP up events or open air events to be provided.

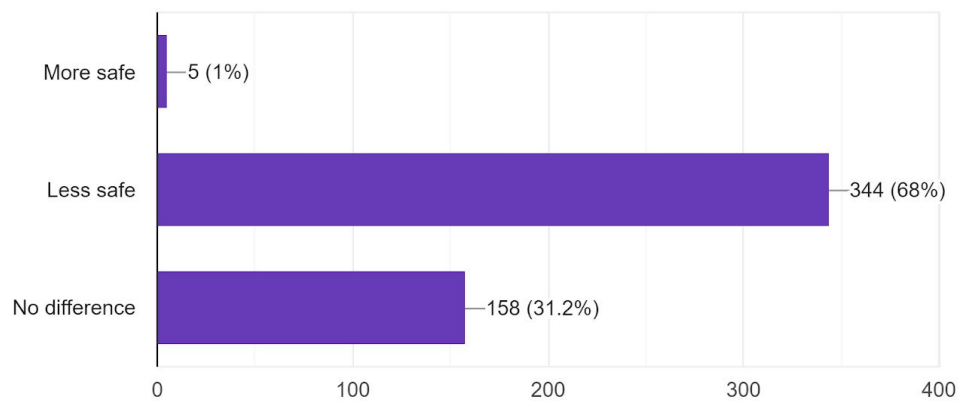
17. How safe do you feel in the town centre and village centres between 5pm to 7pm compared with the day time?

506 responses



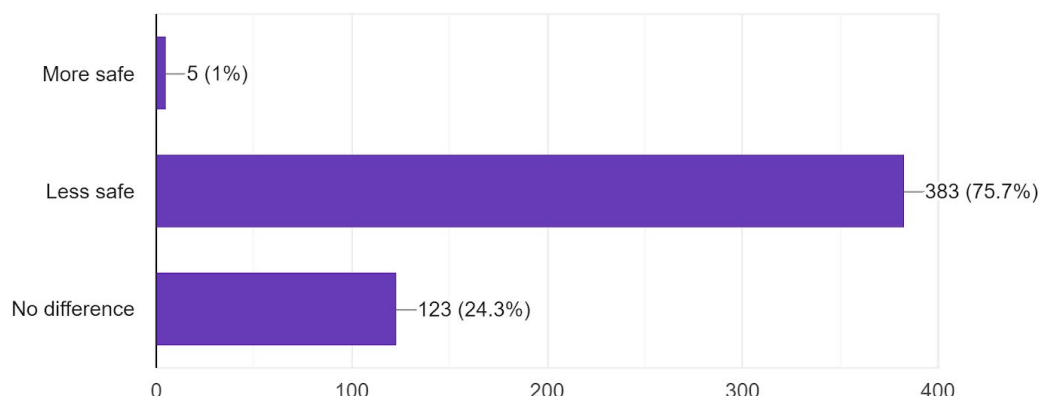
18. How safe do you feel in the town centre and village centres between 7pm to Midnight compared with the day time?

506 responses



19. How safe do you feel in the town centre and village centres between Midnight to 5am compared with the day time?

506 responses



20. If you considered that you feel less safe in any answers to questions 17, 18 and 19 please specify why?

370 responses were received to this question. Key issues raised were:-

- More street drinkers
- Drug users
- Drunks and fighting
- Not enough street lighting or street lighting turned off early
- Anti social behaviour
- Homeless people on the streets
- Safety in the car parks
- Lack of CCTV
- Lack of visible policing

21. What form of transport do you use to travel as part of your visits to the town and village centre areas?

There were 506 responses to this question and responders were given a list of all different transport options and asked to tick all that apply to their visits. The following responses were received:-

Car - 329

Walking 322

Taxi or Private Hire - 179

Bus - 178

Rail - 118

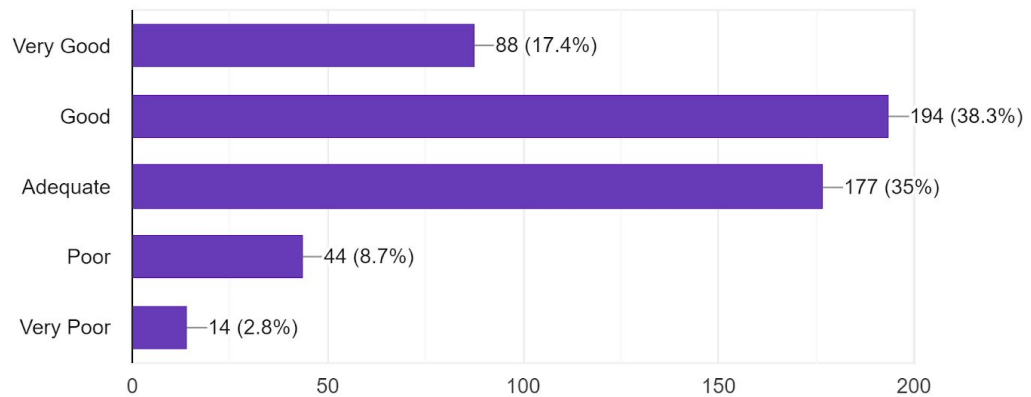
Bicycle - 82

Other - 12

None of the above - 2

22. How do you rate this form of transport for your visits?

506 responses



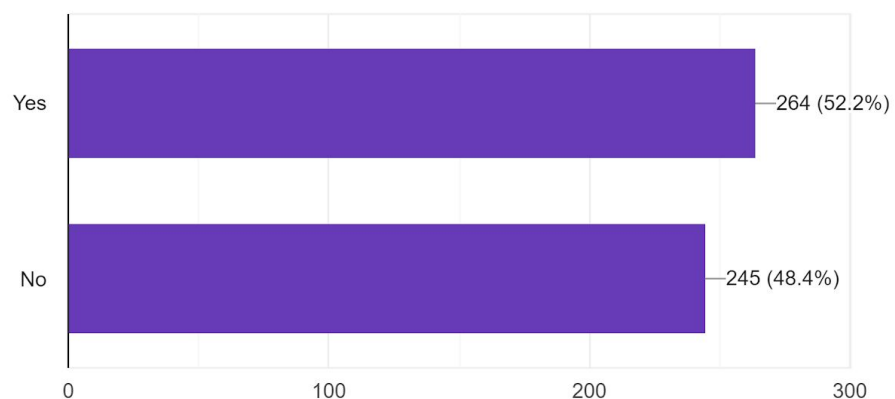
23. What do you consider can be done to improve transport into and out of the town and village centre areas after 5pm?

There were 326 responses to this question. Key issues raised were:-

- Provide more buses, taxis and trains with low prices
- Better and more frequent services
- Better parking and free parking
- Small link buses to operate and run people from the station to the town centres
- Later buses and more night buses.

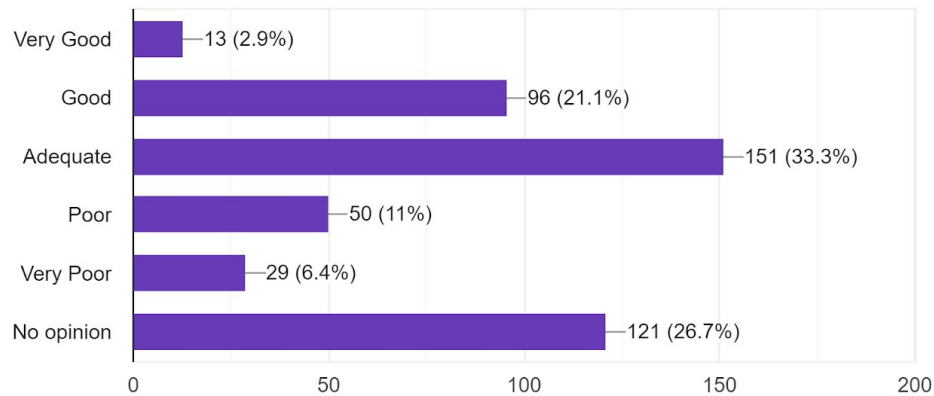
24. Do you use public car parks as part of your visits into and out of the town and village centres in the evening or night time?

506 responses



25. Please can you rate the use of the car parks?

454 responses



26. Which car parks did you use?

There were 335 responses to this question. Responders were given a list of the car parks and asked to tick all that applied to their visits. Responses were as follows:-

Worthing High Street MSCP - 153
Worthing Grafton MSCP - 129
Worthing Civic Centre car park - 100
Worthing Buckingham Road MSCP - 92
Worthing Union Place - 86
Worthing Liverpool Gardens - 57
Shoreham Pond Road car park - 57
Other - 58
Shoreham Middle Street car park - 48
Shoreham Tarmount Lane car park - 26
Shoreham Riverside car park - 22
Southwick - Southwick Square car park - 21
Lancing North Farm Road car park - 12
Lancing Littlecroft car park - 9 -
Southwick - Southwick Beach car park - 4

27. What do you consider would improve your use of the car parks?

There were 268 responses received to this question. Key issues raised were:-

- Better lighting
- Cheaper or free parking
- Cleaner car parks
- Better security in the car parks
- Better lighting in the car parks

- Provide parent and child spaces
- Have a flat evening rate for car parking
- Have additional ticket machines

28. What more do you feel that the Councils and/or other organisations can do to help improve the evening and night time economies in Adur and Worthing?

There were 395 responses received to this question. Key issues raised were:-

- Provide more family public events in the evenings
- More Police on the streets
- Raise the quality of the shops, cafes and restaurants
- Support events and those trying to organise events
- Night markets
- Hold more early evening events
- Deals could be provided for theatre visits/restaurants
- Shops and cafes to open later in the evening
- Provide and support the provision of leisure activities for teenagers
- Have cheaper business rates for businesses operating in the early evening and night time
- Encourage more restaurants, cafes and night clubs to open.
- The Planning Authority should be more tolerant of the night time economy to enable it to thrive.
- Remove the street drinkers and homeless.
- Promote the town in a better way
- Have more night buses

Ward - Where do respondents live - 288 respondents provided a Post Code which gives some indication of where they live. This is broken down as follows into Post Code Prefix:-

BN11 (Covering south of railway in Worthing - George V Avenue east to Brooklands) = 76

BN12 (Covering George V Avenue west to Goring and North through Durrington, Northbrook and parts of Tarring) = 25

BN13 (East of the Boulevard in Worthing and north through Durrington and onto High Salvington) = 36

BN14 (Covering south Worthing to Railway and north through Broadwater up to Findon Valley on the A24) = 54

BN15 (Covering Sompting and Lancing) = 25

BN16 (Covering Rustington and Angmering) = 1

BN17 (Covering Littlehampton) = 2

BN3 (Covering Hove) = 1

BN41(Covering South Hove and Portslade) = 1

BN42(Covering Southwick) = 3

BN43(Covering Shoreham-by-Sea and Shoreham Beach) = 49

BN44 (Covering Steyning/Bramber area) = 1

PO21 (Covering Bognor Regis area) = 1
RH10 (Covering Crawley area) = 1
RH12 (Covering Horsham area) = 1
RH15 (Covering Burgess Hill area) = 1
SS12 (Covering Wickford, Essex area) = 1

69% from Worthing residents
18% from Shoreham residents
9% from Sompting & Lancing residents
4% from other areas

Age: 417 people provided their age range - 89 people did not respond. Just over 66% of those who gave age details were in the 31-65 age range

Age range -

417 responses

