ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected: N/A

JOSC report on the review of Adur and Worthing Evening and Night time economy

Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability & Resources

Executive Summary

1.   Purpose

1.1   The Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) is asked to receive and note the findings and recommendations of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) review on the Adur and Worthing evening and night time economy (ENTE). These recommendations follow on from the discussions of a Working Group set up by JOSC. A copy of the report from the Working Group to JOSC is attached as Appendix 1 to this report and JSC is also asked by the Working Group to consider the findings and recommendations from a previous report which was tabled at the cancelled JOSC meeting on 19 March 2020 which can be viewed here - . **JOSC report 19 March 2020**

1.2   The JOSC Working Group recognised that the challenges faced by the ENTE have not gone away and it found that from speaking with some business owners, relevant stakeholders and receiving comments from members of the Adur and Worthing communities, that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is still being felt and the future remains uncertain.

1.3   The Working Group has identified a number of findings and 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. Recommendations

2.1 That the Joint Strategic Committee note the report, findings and recommendations from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Working Group; and

2.2 That the Joint Strategic Committee agrees to receive a report in September 2022 on the issues raised by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and detailed consideration of the implications and feasibility for each recommendation contained in the Scrutiny report at Appendix 1 in order for the Committee to provide a formal response to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. Context

3.1 As part of its Work Programme, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) agreed to set up a Working Group to review the Adur and Worthing ENTE to help improve the ENTE and to assist in the recovery process during and after the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.2 Former Councillor Bob Smytherman Chaired the Working Group and Councillors Carol Albury and Joe Pannell (Adur) and Sally Smith (Worthing) were also Members of the Working Group. Councillor Andy McGregor (Adur) was a co-opted member of the Working Group. The following terms of reference were agreed:-

1. To review the evening and night time economy in Adur and Worthing post Covid-19; and

2. To consider if there is a need for any new approaches/changes to be introduced in Adur and Worthing to improve the evening and night time economies and to assist in the recovery process post Covid-19.

3.3 The JOSC Working Group concluded its work and reported the findings and recommendations to JOSC on 17 March 2022. The findings and recommendations from the Working Group are contained in Appendix 1 to this report and were agreed by JOSC and should also be read in conjunction with the earlier report in March 2020 as referred to above.

3.4 Joint Strategic Committee is now requested to consider the findings and recommendations from JOSC and its Working Group to provide the formal Executive response.

4. Issues for consideration

4.1 JOSC and the Working Group have identified a number of conclusions and recommendations which are intended to help the ENTE recover from the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

5. Engagement and Communication

5.1 The JOSC Working Group that undertook the ENTE review has held discussions with relevant Council Officers, local stakeholders, partners and those members of the community with an involvement in ENTE matters. As part of this process a public survey was also undertaken.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications relating to this report but if implemented, some of the recommendations from the Working Group might have some financial implications for the Councils.

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).

7.3 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Background Papers
Report to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee 17 March 2022

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Sustainability and Risk Assessment

1.   Economic

Matter considered. The issues contained in the Working Group report relate to the economic recovery of the evening and night time economy and link to Platform 1 - Prosperous Places.

2.   Social

2.1   Social Value

Matter considered. An improved evening and night time economy will improve social value for the communities of Adur and Worthing and visitors to the towns and village centres.

2.2   Equality Issues

Matter considered and no significant issues identified.

2.3   Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered. The report from the Working Group has investigated public safety and other community safety issues.

2.4   Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no significant issues identified.

3.   Environmental

The report from the JOSC Working Group has reviewed the environmental issues connected with the evening and night time economy and identified some issues to help climate change, air quality and encourage sustainability.

4.   Governance

Matter considered. The JOSC Working Group was set up in accordance with the JOSC Procedure Rules and formed part of the agreed JOSC Work Programme for 2021/22. Recommendations from the review need to be presented to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration.

A&W

ADUR & WORTHING
C O U N C I L S

NIGHTLIFE - Scrutiny review of the Adur and Worthing evening and night time economy - Recovery of life in the evening and at night during and after the Covid-19 pandemic

Report by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working Group

1.0   Summary

1.1   This report explores the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Adur and Worthing evening and night time economy (ENTE) and the recovery of the sector during the pandemic.

1.2   The report offers a series of findings, research and recommendations for how the Councils and other stakeholders can help the sector recover and rebuild during Covid-19 and also rebuild consumer confidence and boost footfall. If implemented, these recommendations will benefit local communities, businesses and visitors to the areas.

1.3   This report should also be read alongside an earlier report on the Adur and Worthing ENTE produced by the Working Group in March 2020 (Prior to the start of the pandemic) which was deferred in view of the pandemic. A copy of the March 2020 report is attached as Appendix B to this report for reference.

1.4   As in the earlier 2020 report, this report brings together the results of new up to date research and consultations undertaken by the Working Group during the pandemic with comments from local residents, Members and expert witnesses that have been interviewed.

2.0   What is the Evening and Night Time economy? The impact of Covid-19 on the Evening and Night time economy

2.1   Prior to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ENTE had become a central part of the future of the UK high street as more and more bars, restaurants and clubs took over retail premises and new options for evening entertainment sprung up across the country. None more so than locally in the Adur and Worthing communities with some excellent quality bars, restaurants and

entertainment venues being developed to enhance the ENTE. This increase in profile for the ENTE led to a need for the Councils to recognise this change and make sure it was a positive one that benefits the local community and economy. Adur and Worthing Councils have for some time been 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 clear strategic commitments which aim to help create the right conditions for the growth of the ENTE. However, this is not an overnight process and there is more to be done in these areas of work.

2.2   Since March 2020, however, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the ENTE industries across Adur and Worthing as nightclubs and other night time venues were forced to close under Government 'lockdown' laws until July 2021. Businesses and venues such as pubs, restaurants, theatres and live music venues were legally required to be fully closed or to periodically open with only partial and socially distanced capacity. This has been very challenging for a number of businesses despite them benefitting from the Government support measures. It has been difficult for the businesses to operate under the restrictions and the public health guidelines. Many businesses were forced to adapt their procedures during this time and employees lost their jobs.

2.3   Whilst further severe 'lockdown' restrictions have been avoided thus far since July 2021, the Government did introduce 'Plan B' measures on 8 December 2021 which were aimed at controlling the 'Omicron' variant of Covid-19 and this involved the introduction of compulsory mask wearing in most public indoor venues, an NHS Covid Pass to be mandatory to gain access to specific settings including nightclubs and other entertainment venues and people were also asked to work from home if possible. The Plan B measures were lifted on 27 January 2022 but prior to their introduction it was reported that they would impact on trade and the Night Time Industries Association (NTIA) reported that there would be a 'devastating impact' from the introduction of the Covid Pass on night time industries.

2.4   On 21 February 2022, the Government published its Plan for [Living with Covid] There will no longer be a requirement for people to self isolate and face masks will no longer be required in most settings. Free Covid testing will be ended from 1 April 2022. The Government has made this decision because of the strong vaccine programme in place.

3.0   Background and methods to the JOSC Review - January 2021 - February 2022

3.1   As part of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme, JOSC agreed to set up the Working Group to review the ENTE in Adur and Worthing and to assess how vibrant it has been during the Covid-19 pandemic. Councillors Carol Albury, Joe Pannell, Sally Smith and Russ Cochran were appointed to the Working Group with Councillors Andy

McGregor, Beccy Cooper and Bob Smytherman being appointed as co-opted members. Councillor Cochran withdrew as a member of the Working Group in the Autumn 2021.

3.2   The Working Group met in January, April and July 2021 to receive updates from Officers in the Place and Economy Team on the ENTE during 'lockdowns' in these periods and was also briefed on the work being undertaken by the Councils with the ENTE businesses to help them recover after the 'lockdowns' and open their doors once again to customers and bounce back.

3.3   Further meetings were held in September and November 2021 where the Working Group heard from key stakeholders, experts and businesses connected with the ENTE and heard about the key challenges that the ENTE was facing. These included concerns about public safety during the evening and night - (Issues concerning drink 'spiking' were raised and the need for more support/advice to be provided to businesses to help them deal with these crimes and the need to provide more support for women and girls safety was also raised). Other issues related to flexibility on licensing opening times, a need for extra street lighting, better support for businesses to guide them through the recovery processes. and more controls on anti social behaviour in Lancing. The Working Group was also able to undertake a 'walking' tour of the ENTE businesses in September 2021 to see for itself how the ENTE was recovering. Councillor Bob Smytherman was appointed as Chairman of the Working Group.

3.4   The Working Group recognises the value of the report undertaken by the JOSC Working Group in 2019/20 and considers that those recommendations should still be actioned where possible but also acknowledges that the ENTE is a very different place from then in view of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. For those reasons it was very much a case of needing to look afresh at the issues and write a new report to complement the previous one.

3.5   As with any city, town or village in the UK, the pubs, shops, bars, clubs, restaurants and cafes in Adur and Worthing are central to its recovery. The ENTE scene is critical to economic growth, and to ignore it would be a devastating blow to the cultural reputation of the areas.

3.6   Research published in October 2021 estimated that 393,000 jobs had been lost across the evening and night time economy in the UK due to Covid-19, including 86,000 in the 'night-time cultural economy' which includes nightclubs and theatres. This research commissioned by the NTIA found that the sector in the UK - which encompassed restaurants, bars, casinos, cultural venues and more - had been steadily growing over the last decade, reaching a peak in 2019 and the sector itself was valued at £36.4bn.
The night time cultural economy had been projected to grow at 9% over the period 2020-2024 but instead had suffered job losses as venues were forced

to close during the Covid-19 pandemic. Evidence provided to the Working Group in November 2021 indicated that footfall in Worthing in the night time was down by 20% and businesses were concerned about the Covid-19 situation.

3.7   The Working Group discussed and agreed new Terms of Reference and project objectives for the review as follows:-

1. To review the evening and night Time economy in Adur and Worthing post Covid-19; and

2. To consider if there is a need for any new approaches/changes to be introduced in Adur and Worthing to improve the evening and night time economies and to assist in the recovery process post Covid-19.

3.8   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 and help the ENTE in its recovery during the Pandemic.

3.9   From the start of the review, the Working Group wanted to ensure that it was fully briefed on the work that the Councils had undertaken to support the businesses connected with the ENTE during the 'lockdowns' and work also being undertaken to help in the recovery process for businesses that were allowed to open up in accordance with the Government roadmap to recovery steps in April, May, June and July 2021.

3.10   A public consultation on line survey form was also set up and available on the Adur & Worthing Councils website from 16 September until 22 October 2021 and this asked for views on ways to improve the vitality of the ENTE and to help people return to the town and village centres in Adur and Worthing safely and the views would also help the Working Group learn more about the impact of Covid-19 on the ENTE, what people felt about the ENTE and what more needed to be done by the Councils and other partners to help the ENTE recover. The questions in the survey also covered general points about the ENTE such as crime and disorder and transport into and out of the town and village centres in the evening and night time. 338 responses were received and 3 responses from local businesses consulted as part of a business survey. The Working Group also undertook a 'walking' tour of the ENTE in Adur & Worthing town and village centres on the evening of Saturday 4 September 2021 when the Members could see for themselves how the ENTE was operating.

3.11   Due to the fast moving nature of the Covid-19 pandemic and the spread of the virus, it is only now that the Working Group has been able to complete and report its findings. The onset of the Omicron variant of the virus in December 2021 has also impacted on the ENTE and this will have an impact for a long

time to come so it will, therefore, be essential that the Councils continue to monitor the recovery process and assist where possible.

3.12   The findings from the Public survey are set out in the Appendix to this report which includes a vast amount of data providing details for why people had not returned to visit the ENTE, views on the Covid safety precautions put in place by businesses, views about transport in and out of the ENTE areas and also views on public safety. The Working Group held evidence gathering meetings with the following ENTE stakeholders and experts as part of this review:-

Andy Willems - Head of Place & Economy, Adur & Worthing Councils
Fiona Burn - Place & Economy Manager, Adur & Worthing Councils
Terry Rickards, Timothy Drew and David Hansford - Adur & Worthing Neighbourhood Watch
Keith Sunderland - Worthing Street Pastors
Vino Vinojan - Worthing Pub Watch
Alex Smyth - Jungle Nightclub
Inspector Sharon Sawyer - Sussex Police
Fiona Kempa - Beach Green Hotel, Lancing
Keith Roberts-Jones - Buckingham Arms Public House, Shoreham
Sharon Clarke - Worthing Town Centre Manager on behalf of the Worthing Town Centre Initiative
Darren Gearing - Owner of Tap House, Shoreham, Beach House, Worthing and Corner House, Worthing and also representing the Shoreham Traders Association
Andy Sparsis - Owner of The Fat Greek Taverna and Fish Factory in Worthing and representing the Worthing Hospitality Association.

4.0   Findings and Proposals

4.1   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 during the pandemic. 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 this positivity, the ENTE has been hit hard by the pandemic and a lot needs to be done still to continue to help businesses and the communities recover. Public responses in the survey have highlighted a number of areas where it is suggested that there should be improvements to improve the ENTE to assist the recovery and help people return to the town and village centres. Some people are still reluctant to return to the ENTE.

4.2   Evidence gathered from the witnesses

Support provided by Adur and Worthing Councils

4.3   The Working Group was advised that the Councils and the Place and Economy Team had provided the following support to business during the pandemic:-

- Assisting in the distribution of in excess of £60m grant funding to businesses across Adur & Worthing - 8,000 applications between April 2020 - August 2021. - Further grants were provided from December 2021.
- The Team was also heavily involved in building consumer confidence by delivering the Observation Wheel, Laser Light City and markets in late 2020 and again in 2021.
- Additional trading opportunities through pavement licences and concessions were introduced.
- Additional 'people power' had been installed through Taxi marshalls and Compliance and Information Officers to provide further safety advice;
- Dedicated marketing campaigns were delivered to raise awareness eg Welcome Back AW and supporting national schemes such as 'Eat out to Help Out';
- Capitalising on the festive season through new installations, events and campaigns eg Festive Thursdays;

4.4   The distribution of appropriate grants and funding was critical to keep businesses active and the local economy resilient. The grants distributed were varied over the course of the pandemic, based on the needs of each lockdown. The team had to adapt to and deliver over 10 grant streams over the period, examples included:

- Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant
- Local Restrictions Support Grant
- Christmas Support Grant
- Restart Grant
- Additional Restrictions Grant

4.5   As outlined earlier, the Councils delivered a series of covid business grants to support businesses during each of the lockdowns. The initial mandatory funds supported all sectors, and predominantly those businesses that had a rateable value, to assist with such items as overhead costs. As the pandemic has continued and further lockdowns ensued, the Councils were also provided with discretionary grants which allowed more flexibility to target those sectors that weren't receiving the support or those businesses, for example self-employed businesses that 'slipped through the net'. The covid business

grants, through different grant strands, were provided to businesses from April 2020 to August 2021 and were predominantly targeted at those sectors most affected by the pandemic (e.g. retail, hospitality and leisure sectors).

4.6   Further to the covid monies, the Councils also secured further funding from West Sussex County Council to provide small business grants to enable those businesses who were pivoting or diversifying during the pandemic to gain some targeted support to facilitate this change. Whilst some sectors suffered, other businesses have pivoted well which has sustained and, in some cases, grown their business. The Small Business Growth Grant was delivered in the first six months of 2021 to provide a launch pad for those businesses coming out of the pandemic. A number of grants also went to micro entrepreneurs, therefore, these grants also supported start-up opportunities. In total the Councils supported 100 businesses across Adur and Worthing.

4.7   Due to the sectoral makeup, Adur and Worthing's town centres were severely disadvantaged during the pandemic. Not only in the initial lockdown, where all high street businesses, excluding those selling essential items, were asked to shut but also over the course of the last 18 months. Businesses are still feeling the effects of Covid-19 as consumer confidence still isn't at the same pre-pandemic levels. A series of interventions were delivered to support these businesses as they moved in and out of lockdowns.

4.8   In response to the initial re-opening of the economy in Summer 2020, a number of service areas, including Place & Economy, Licensing, Safer Communities, Wellbeing and Environmental Health came together to share business intelligence in order to provide up to date business support. The Safe Towns Group, which still meets, was the driving force behind advising businesses on the latest government initiatives, supporting consumer confidence and interpreting new legislation that would affect the high street. The Coronavirus (COVID-19): Business Advice page is still live on the Councils' website.

4.9   The Councils also received Reopening High Streets Safely funding around the same time to support the Summer reopening. Due to the need to practice safe distancing in town centres, and in order to allow businesses to create two metre queuing systems and to trade outside, the Councils' installed temporary road closures in Adur and Worthing, new covid markings and signs, whilst also providing marketing campaigns to encourage residents and visitors back into the town centres. These were joint initiatives with our business community.

4.10   The pandemic encouraged Councils and businesses to work in partnership to deliver a series of place-based changes in order to, amongst other things, capitalise on the 'Buy Local' theme which has been a positive change as a result of Covid-19 (due to workforce patterns). A number of legislative changes came into effect from the central government during the different lockdown periods, whilst a number of direct interventions, such as the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme directly supported the hospitality sector to recover after the initial lockdown period. The Councils also experienced an increase in outdoor concession (pop up business) applications as businesses wished to capitalise on the natural environment.

4.11   Changes to trading hours, the ability to trade outside through pavement licences, an allowance for food and beverage businesses to deliver off sales from their premises, new outdoor structures all came into effect during the pandemic and were managed by the Councils. Most of these government interventions supported the notion of outdoor activity rather than indoor activity, allowing businesses to trade where they might not have been able due to national covid restrictions. As with the business grants referred to above, the Councils had to adapt and deliver activity very quickly to ensure businesses had the opportunity to capitalise on the aforementioned initiatives.

4.12   In addition to the interventions referred to, the Councils felt it important to continue programmed works to upgrade our places and spaces, especially as more people were enjoying the outdoors. During the pandemic period public realm improvements such as Queensway in Lancing, new decking at Waterwise Play Area on Worthing Promenade and the start of construction of new public realm at Portland Road were examples of the Councils committing to improving spaces and places.

4.13   The Councils have also kept in close contact with our business networks to ensure 'on the ground' realities were fed through to allow the Councils to be flexible to react to the needs of the businesses. Active dialogue with Sussex Chamber of Commerce, Coastal West Sussex Partnership, Adur & Worthing Business Partnership and Worthing & Adur Chamber of Commerce provided an imperative connection during the last 18 months. These partnerships have strengthened as a result of the work undertaken to support the pandemic.

4.14   As a result of the networking and data collection through the covid business grants, the Councils now have a more comprehensive database of up to date business information. The majority of businesses have 'opted in' to receive further information from the Councils, which provides greater opportunity for engagement. This will be important as the Councils have been going through

the economic recovery phases.

4.15   The Working Group also received evidence suggesting that there was a need for extra policing to be available on the streets. Issues relating to general safety at night, in particular women and girls safety, were also raised. Drink spiking was considered to be a safety issue that was impacting the ENTE. It was suggested that more needed to be done to prevent 'drink spiking' and raise the profile of the problem in order to promote good health and wellbeing. The Councils should work on this with the Police and relevant stakeholders working together to alleviate the problem with businesses also being provided with more support and advice from the Police and Councils and best practice on how to deal with such crimes. It was suggested that the issue of drink spiking needed to be coordinated in a better way across all the relevant agencies with better working applied via the Police and the Safer Communities Partnership - There was a need for a central point to keep people safe on the streets and it was suggested that the advice/information available to help people wanting to raise 'drink spiking' for example was not readily available.

4.16   Evidence provided to the Working Group welcomed the work undertaken by the Worthing Street Pastors in supporting vulnerable on the streets at night and it was suggested that there could be better working with the Street Pastors to support the vulnerable people and some suggestions that the Pastors could work across in Adur if resources permitted.

4.17   The Working Group believes that there should be an Adur Pub Watch set up to support the Adur premises. The Covid Information Officer had been liaising with Adur premises to try and get this up and running with some support from the Worthing Pub Watch.

4.18   The Working Group also received information suggesting that Neighbourhood Watch could help in supporting the work by undertaking a visual audit of the ENTE areas to assess if any areas needed improvement such as additional street lighting or litter bins etc.

4.19   Evidence also received suggested that the Councils should arrange more 2 or 3 day events for Adur and Worthing which would help encourage people to visit the ENTE as previously happened with the 'Bird Man' and Chilli Festival events. This would help in the long term recovery process.

4.20   Evidence also suggested that licensing controls and opening hours should be more flexible to allow later opening to help improve the vibrancy of the town

and village centres and help the ENTE recover.

4.21   Concern was also raised about the Councils pre planning application advice service which had been withdrawn/reduced which it was claimed was not helping businesses who wanted to expand in the ENTE areas.

5.   Evidence gathered from the Public consultation

5.1   Responses to the latest Public consultation were very good with 338 responses received. The full results from the Survey are attached to this report as Appendix A.

5.2   The recent survey was designed to find out more about why people visit the areas and their views on Covid-19 safety precautions which were put in place and reasons why people had not visited the town centres since the Covid-19 pandemic. The survey also reviewed transport issues and general public safety in Adur and Worthing. The survey was undertaken at a time when there was no mandatory wearing of masks in shops and public places. This subsequently became a requirement under 'Plan B' introduced in December 2021 and was removed again from 27 January 2022..

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

5.4   <u>Reasons why people were not visiting the town and village centres</u>

5.5   There was a mixed response to this section. The main reasons for people not visiting were safety concerns, worry about Covid-19, transport into and out of the areas and not much going on in the areas.

5.6   <u>Views on Covid safety precautions put in place by businesses to make people safe</u>

5.7   People responding to these questions were mostly concerned about Covid-19 prevention measures not being put in place. Claims were made that there was no social distancing in place in some cases, a lack of hygiene controls being applied and a lack of mask wearing Etc. There were also some comments made under this section highlighting the lack of lighting and comments about feeling unsafe at night which was putting people off returning to the ENTE.

5.8 **Views on the quality of transport options into and out of the town and village centres and the Covid safety precautions in place**

5.9 Most responses to this question expressed concern at the frequency and quality/variety of bus, train and taxi services in the evening and night. There was also concern at a lack of car parking in the areas, the cost of public transport and concerns at the Covid safety precautions being applied by public transport providers in some cases. These issues were also raised in the previous report. The Councils cannot influence demand or provision of Taxis and Private Hire but can however work with trade to make them aware of opportunities. The Councils are currently investigating how the Taxi and Private Hire licensing process can be made more efficient by digitising the process whilst ensuring that public safety is maintained. The only way to provide low price Taxi and Private Hire is to subsidise by way of a voucher or similar scheme.

5.10 **Views on Public safety in the town and village centres**

5.11 The majority of people responding felt no difference in safety between 5pm and 7pm compared with the day time, however, the majority of people felt less safe between 7pm and 12 Midnight and also between 12 Midnight and 6am. People felt less safe generally due to anti social behaviour and a lack of street lighting in places which makes everything feel unsafe (Too many 'dark' spots), unsafe car parks and a lack of lighting in these areas or in some cases the lighting being obscured by overgrown foliage. There was also concern at a lack of Police presence during these times and a concern over women and girls safety.

5.12 **Views on what the Councils and other organisations can do to help improve the ENTE**

5.13 A wide variety of responses were received to this section, some of which overlapped with responses to the other sections. This included the need for the removal of street homeless and drug users from the town areas, more Police to be provided on the streets and better street lighting to be provided.

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 but recognises that it will take time for the ENTE to recover from the pandemic.

6.2 Since the restrictions were fully lifted in July 2021 the Working Group notes that it is a mark of strength and resilience that the ENTE sector has been able to bounce back so quickly and the Working Group is pleased that it has been able to see the ENTE operating relatively well with people starting to enjoy the ENTE again. This, however, does not mean that the challenges faced by the ENTE have gone away and the Working Group has found that from speaking with some business owners and relevant stakeholders and receiving comments from members of the Adur and Worthing communities, that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is still being felt and the future remains uncertain.

6.3 The Working Group offers a series of recommendations for how the Councils and other stakeholders can support the ENTE to rebuild in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic which are relevant at this time. The Working Group has recognised that it is not possible for the Councils to do everything to improve the ENTE and has, therefore, highlighted in its recommendations that there is a need to work with willing stakeholders to help implement the recommendations.

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

6.5 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 has received evidence during the review that the return of customer confidence was key to the full recovery of the ENTE. Consumer confidence is bound up with the feelings of safety both in respect of catching the virus and also from abuse or perceived abuse as residents. Residents in Adur and Worthing will only return to the ENTE if they feel safe to do so.

6.6 The Working Group has heard from Sussex Police on the work they are doing to protect people including the safety of women and girls at night. This is also a commitment contained in the Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership Strategy which has recently been approved. Work is also ongoing to protect the victims of 'drink spiking' but the Working Group has heard from some witnesses that more needs to be done to protect the victims and to prevent this from happening. There is a need to raise the profile on 'drink spiking' as a problem and to promote general health and wellbeing. There needs to be better reporting processes in place and for advice to be available to help people be able to report cases of 'drink spiking'.

6.7 The Working Group welcomes the work undertaken by the Street Pastors in Worthing who provide support to vulnerable people out at night. The Working

Group believes that the Street Pastors can help in the drive to identify and remove 'drink spiking' and also suggest that the Pastors could help and work across in Adur if required.

6.8   The Working Group has been concerned at the evidence received about safety at night, including incidents of anti-social behaviour in Lancing during summer 2021 and a lack of Police presence to deal with these and other issues at that time. The Working Group has questioned the Police on these issues and received assurances that the issues are being policed and extra resources applied where possible. The Working Group welcomes this approach but would like to see this manifest itself into reduced crime etc. The Working Group also welcomes the efforts of the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund initiatives to help reduce crime such as DISC app funding to support town centre businesses in Worthing.

6.9   Adur and Worthing Licensing controls in the evening and night time

6.10   The Working Group has noted the approach to allow businesses to obtain pavement licences during the pandemic which has allowed businesses to operate outside providing customers with extra protection against Covid-19. The Working Group considers that the approach should continue to provide businesses with greater freedom and allow them to accommodate customers safely, however, the Working Group was also mindful of the need to ensure that all businesses were offered the same conditions for seating to ensure fairness. There was also a need to balance this approach against the needs and considerations of local residents.

6.11   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.

6.12   Whilst this report and the impact on health and wellbeing stresses the need to provide extra opportunities for businesses to enjoy greater trading freedoms in trading to boost the economy, the Working Group is very mindful of the need to balance this against a possible increase and disturbance that may be generated for residents living in the town and village centres and the potential impact on their health and wellbeing.

6.13   Tackling Climate change and making the ENTE more sustainable

6.14   The Working Group is very aware of the need to tackle climate change and considers that the ENTE can play its part in this. Therefore, a recommendation is included covering these issues which can help tackle climate change, help the communities thrive and improve health and wellbeing.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 That the recommendations from the previous scrutiny review be endorsed as a series of recommendations which, if implemented, can help to support the ENTE as it recovers from the pandemic.

Reason - To recognise the work of the previous Working Group and the helpful recommendations proposed.

7.2 (a) That the Councils should recognise and promote the ENTE as being a key part of the overall Adur and Worthing economy and do more to promote the ENTE and this should be seen as central to campaigns to rebuild confidence in the Sector.

(b) That this recognition and promotion should be included as a commitment in the Councils new Corporate Strategy that will replace 'Platforms for Places: Going Further'. The Councils should also measure the success of this commitment.

Reason - To recognise the value of the ENTE. The ENTE should be seen as central to any future promotional campaigns for the areas and as a cornerstone of the local economy. This will demonstrate the Councils commitment to help it recover during the pandemic and beyond.

7.3 That the Councils should continue to support businesses and help them recover as we emerge from the pandemic by promoting the availability of any business grants and seeking external funding opportunities available and applying for these grants. Support should also include providing advice on changes to legislation and governance issues and also consider reintroducing its business pre planning advice service which will help businesses seeking to rebuild. There needs to be a consistent and clear messaging approach to promote the ENTE and rebuild confidence.

Reason - The Working Group welcomes the support that has already been provided to support businesses throughout the pandemic but considers that it is important that the support should continue to make businesses aware of the support available and help them. Evidence provided to the Working Group had indicated that some businesses were not always aware of support and grants available and were experiencing financial difficulties and also that the withdrawal of the pre planning advice service was potentially impacting on business growth. Communication on these issues should be clear and consistent to promote the ENTE.

7.4 That the Councils should review its programme of events and consider any new opportunities for events, which will help facilitate longer visitor stays to help promote the ENTE and overnight stay economy.

Reason - The Working Group has heard from stakeholders that there is a need for more events to be held in Adur and Worthing, all year round, and considers that this will help promote the ENTE and also help with the recovery process. The Councils should ensure that these events take into account consultation with the local communities.

7.5   **That the Councils working with other stakeholders should review use of redundant town and village centre buildings where possible that can be utilised in the ENTE to help it recover rather than always being focused on using these buildings for day time activities.**

       Reason - To help in place making and the overall recovery of the ENTE.

7.6   **That the Councils, working with stakeholders including the Police and the Safer Communities Partnership to address the aims of the 3 Year Partnership Strategy that has recently been approved, should review closely what action is being taken to improve general public safety in Adur and Worthing for all groups in the context of the ENTE. This review should be set out to address the concerns raised during this scrutiny review by stakeholders interviewed and public responses. It should also include tackling the issue of 'drink spiking' which appears to be a growing problem across the UK. Better messaging, information and advice and best practice for businesses and the public should be put in place to help with reporting this crime and to enable them to help businesses keep their customers safe.**

       Reason - Public safety has been a key strand running through this review and a number of issues relating to public safety were raised as concerns from residents and stakeholders interviewed by the Working Group. The Working Group believes that these issues need to be reviewed to see what more can be done to make people feel safer whilst being out in the ENTE.

7.7   **That, working closely with the appropriate agencies, the Adur and Worthing Neighbourhood Watch coordinators are enlisted to help with an ENTE audit of the town and village centres, if possible, to identify areas for improvement covering issues such as street lighting, street furniture and other safety issues.**

       Reason - The Working Group has been made aware of the need to improve street lighting and street furniture in some areas of the town and village centres and believes that the Neighbourhood Watch coordinators could assist with this as they had volunteered to undertake the role.

7.8   **That the Councils should help coordinate the setting up of an Adur ENTE Hospitality Scheme (operating in a similar way to a Pub Watch but which also includes other licensed premises).**

Reason - To address concerns from Licensees about crime and anti social behaviour in licensed premises in the Adur District. The Working Group has seen how the Worthing Pub Watch operates and the success of this system and considers that the introduction of an Adur District ENTE Hospitality scheme will help the ENTE, address concerns and reduce crime and anti social behaviour in Adur. The Working Group also acknowledges that a Hospitality scheme of this type will need to be designed to meet the needs of the area and will be different from the Worthing scheme in that the Adur District is more disperse and, for example, therefore, it may not be practical to ban customers from every premises in the areas as is done in the Worthing scheme.

7.9 **(a) That the Councils and other stakeholders involved in the ENTE should help influence where possible to ensure that all the strands of improvements to the ENTE are in line with commitments to tackle climate change, which include helping in the shift to sustainable transport and improve air quality as well as ensuring that there is a reduction in waste, re-use is increased and there is more recycling.**

(b) That food premises in the ENTE should be encouraged to adopt sustainability practices and promote healthy eating.

Reason - To act on climate change, improve health and wellbeing and help our communities thrive.

7.10 **That the Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee should continue to monitor the recovery of the ENTE by either receiving an annual report or agreeing to set up the ENTE Working Group again to closely monitor progress and recovery.**

Reason - Because of the need to continue to monitor the recovery of the ENTE which is a vital part of the local economy.

Local Government Act 1972
Background Papers:

None

Contact Officer:

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

Findings from the Online Public survey

The survey was made available on the Adur & Worthing Councils website from 16 September 2021 until 22 October 2021.
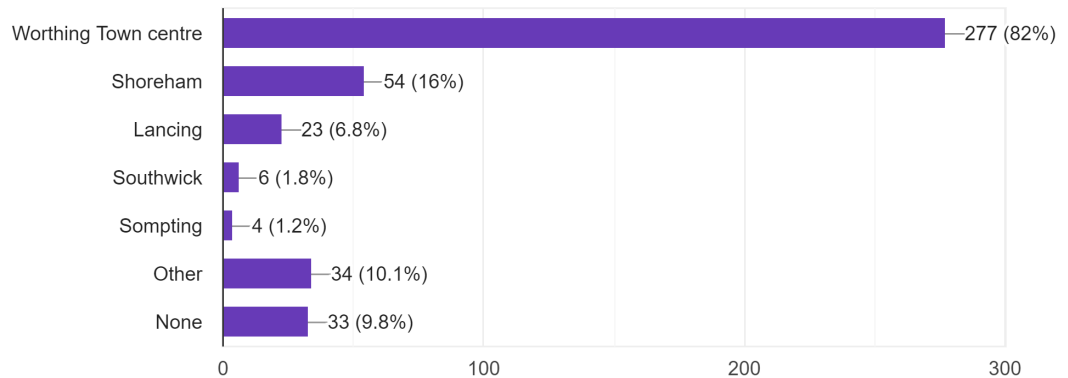
Links to the survey were also shared widely with:-
- Adur & Worthing Councillors and shared across social media platforms with local constituents.
- Local residents and community groups
- Press release sent to press contacts
- Local businesses connected with the evening and night time economy

338 responses were received and this is analysed as follows:-

Question 1 - 338 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:-

1. Which town or village centres have you used in the evening or night time since the easing of the 'lockdown' restrictions on 19 July? (Please tick all that apply)

338 responses

Centre	Value
Worthing Town centre	277 (82%)
Shoreham	54 (16%)
Lancing	23 (6.8%)
Southwick	6 (1.8%)
Sompting	4 (1.2%)
Other	34 (10.1%)
None	33 (9.8%)

Question 2. If you have not used any of the town or village centres in Adur and Worthing please explain why and please can you also let us know if you are planning to visit the town and village centres in the near future?

33 people had not visited any of the town or village centres.
34 people had visited other town or village centres not listed.

The following reasons were provided for not visiting the local town and village centres:-

I live on the high street

Increased crime / reports violence, street drinkers and drug dependent individuals.

Full of poundshops or betting shops. All decent shops have closed.

Still don't feel safe to go out and Worthing town is not pleasant in the day so wouldn't go at night. Use local village

I do not feel safe walking on my own. When I drive anywhere my car doors are locked. I feel vulnerable.

Still worried about Covid 19 and I am not sure that the measures in place are sufficient to prevent transmission of the virus. As yet, I am not going to use the town centre any time soon.

Had a baby!

I am too afraid to visit worthing town centre. Even during the day as there is so much aggression.

I live on Worthing seafront and quite frankly with the street drinkers and drunks out there at all times of the day and night I'd rather not. It's very intimidating and noisy

I don't feel safe after dark, never see any police and there are a lot of young people, usually with bikes that are very hostile.

I would feel anxious in town after dark - too many strange people on the streets. I'm not planning on visiting town in the evening in the near future.

I have visited in the day light

There is no atmosphere and actually nothing to do or see

All geared to the retired population and too many groups of drunk teenagers!

Only been out in Worthing as we have moved here and had a baby. Would consider an evening out in Shoreham but Southwick (where we used to live) doesn't really have a decent pub or restaurant so wouldn't bother going out there.

I would not feel happy about using the car parks. The multi storey ones are disgustingly filthy and all are poorly lit. I have no plans to visit.

There is literally nothing to do. We need one of the Worthing theatres to run a decent weekly comedy club night (with proper comedians, not rubbish old vets) similar to Komedia. We need a Green Door Store/Hope and Ruin type venue putting on variety of musicians and bands, not just old locals with their banjo or heavy metal. A lot of the entertainment in Worthing seems to be has-beens or old out of touch acts. Cater to the young crowd that have moved over from Brighton looking for cool fun nights. We have to go over to Brighton for a night out.

No plans to at the mo

Difficulty finding parking near the destination - awaiting diagnosis and Blue Badge, walking ability reduced severely at times, and parking often requires a long walk, as public transport excessively expensive for shorter distances, and no park and ride options for longer journeys.

Have not visited any of the areas recently. Will visit again soon.

Parking problems. No atmosphere.

Still concerned about Covid-19

We don't usually go out in the evenings.

Was in extremely clinically vulnerable category and is taking a while to adjust back to "normal"

They are not local to me

We have gone to Rustington as parking is easier and there is more space to eat outside

I have not had occasion to and I don't expect to visit any of them in the evening or night-time near future

Not safe

None

Not feeling safe enough to eat in a full restaurant yet. Not comfortable being in a full capacity cinema/theatre event without all attendees wearing masks.

Yes

Fear of covid. Might visit when fewer than 1000 people a week are dying and the number of new cases is falling.

Going out for a meal

Just relocated down to Lancing from Surrey and missing Surrey Life!!!

I get everything I need during the day

I avoid town centre where drunks come out of pubs and clubs. I drink in out of centre well managed pubs.

Work events planned in Worthing Town Centre

No

I would like to visit later in the evening (I have only been till about 6 pm) but as an older female I am not happy when I encounter larger crowds of people who may have been drinking.

Nothing to do there, dark and few night buses

Nothing really going on in these places of an evening. Will return when there's more evening entertainment on (other than just the cinema or theatre)

N/A

Haven't had a reason to visit outside Worthing but would have no particular qualms about doing so

Avoiding town altogether due to pandemic to minimise my risk of getting the virus. No plans to venture out during evenings or night time at all in the near future.

I have not felt comfortable since the start of the pandemic going out unless strictly necessary. I used to regularly go to the theatre or cinema in the evenings usually following a meal out. I never felt particularly safe walking through Worthing then and I can't imagine it has improved since the lockdowns. Also, I do work - having returned recently following the end of furlough, this necessitates a 45minute walk from High Salvington to Goring, if I am working in the evening, I arrange for my partner to collect me at 8pm as I don't feel safe walking home alone.

Nothing of interest in them. Not planning to visit any of them.

Having gotten used to 'staying in' am quite happy to continue doing so, especially as it further reduces the risks of being exposed to anyone carrying the virus as it continuously mutates making a total mockery of the whole case for vaccinations.

Sorry but don't feel safe to go out at night any more.

I don't live in them

We prefer to go to Findon , Steyning or Arundel as Worthing has nothing to draw us in especially at night . Worthing is such a dirty , poor town .

I have not felt safe late night even before COVID 19

out of worthing coming home late.

mainly use Findon Village. shopping wise Chichester or Horsham

Don't like clubs and pubs, don't need to go to restaurants in the evening.

Content to be at home, or someone else's home
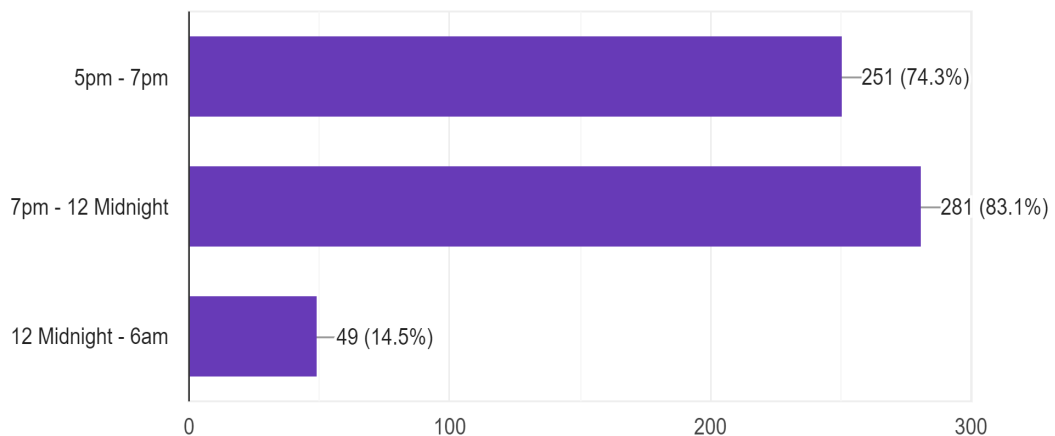
Poor parking & lighting for driving

worthing

Summary - There is a mixed response to this section. Main reasons for people not visiting are safety concerns, worry about Covid, transport into and out of the areas and not much going on in the areas.

Question 3 -

3. Please specify what times that you have used the town or village centres?
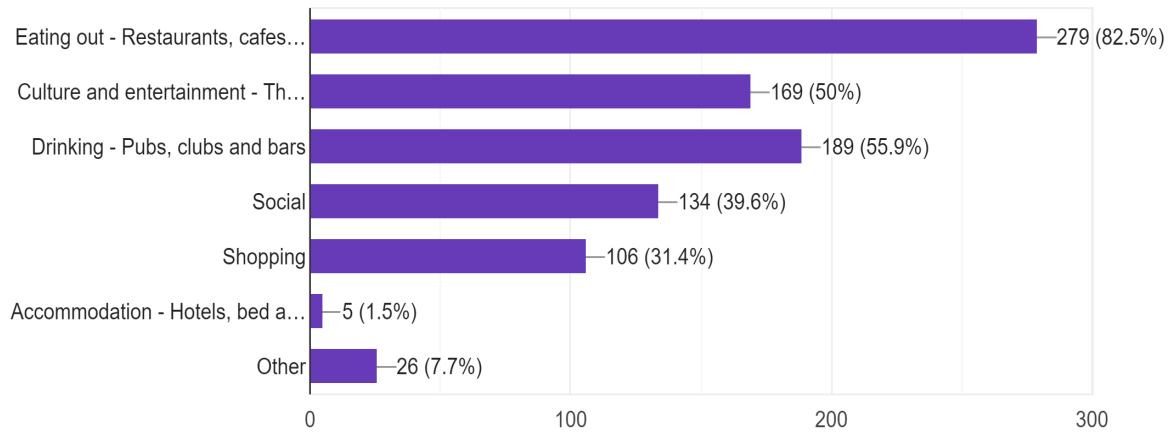338 responses

Some people visited at different times but the majority (83.1%) made a visit between 7pm and 12 Midnight.

Question 4 -

4. Why have you visited the town or village centres?

338 responses

Category	Count
Eating out - Restaurants, cafes…	279 (82.5%)
Culture and entertainment - Th…	169 (50%)
Drinking - Pubs, clubs and bars	189 (55.9%)
Social	134 (39.6%)
Shopping	106 (31.4%)
Accommodation - Hotels, bed a…	5 (1.5%)
Other	26 (7.7%)

Some people made visits for more than one reason, however, the majority of people visited to eat out in restaurants and cafes (82.5%).

Question 5. If you have recently visited any of the pubs, clubs, bars, restaurants, cafes or takeaways during the evening or night time how would you rate the Covid safety precautions put in place by businesses to make people feel safe?

338 responses -
Good - 32.2% (109 people)
Adequate 26.3% (89 people)
Very good - 18% (61 people)
No opinion 16% (54 people) - These people have not made any visits.
Poor 6.5% (22 people)
Very poor 0.9% (3 people)

Question 6. If you have recently visited any of the theatres, cinemas and other events how would you rate the Covid safety precautions put in place to make people feel safe?

338 responses -
No opinion - 45.3% (153 people)
Good - 21% (71 people)
Very good - 18% (61 people)
Adequate - 11.8% (40 people)
Poor - 3% (10 people)
Very poor - 0.9% (3 people)

Question 7. If you have recently visited any of the shops in the evening and night time how would you rate the Covid safety precautions put in place by the businesses to make people feel safe?

338 responses -
No opinion - 52.1% (176 people)

Good - 16.3% (55 people)
Adequate - 16.3% (55 people)
Very good - 8.9% (30 people)
Poor - 5.9% (20 people)
Very poor - 0.6% (2 people)

Question 8. If you have recently visited any accommodation premises in the evening and night time how would you rate the Covid safety precautions put in place by the businesses to make people feel safe?

338 responses -
No opinion - 90.5% (306 people)
Good - 3.8% (13 people)
Adequate - 2.7% (9 people)
Poor - 0.6% (2 people)

Question 9. If you found any of the safety precautions referred to in Questions 5, 6, 7 and 8 above, poor or very poor, please explain why?

People responding to this question were mostly concerned about Covid-19 prevention measures not being put in place and some comments on lack of lighting and feeling unsafe at night.

Comments -

No proper adherence to government guidelines.

Feels like many places people are acting like no measures need to be in place anymore.

Very professional

Most people no longer wearing masks, nor distancing sufficiently

Have just relocated to Lancing from Surrey to care for my elderly father. I never enter Lancing village in the evenings. There are no lovely bars & restaurants with good food and good service and the pubs I'm told are not safe.

Unclear Covid mitigation process (if any) in some pubs/clubs

Questions 5, 7 & * are non applicable as I have done none of these since the pandemic began.

Very few people wearing masks and little encouragement in bars

Very dark in town and many area feel unsafe due to the silence and darknesses. Town centres should be vibrant awake and alive . Thus makes people feel safe and encourages them to stay and engage

Cricketers Southwick has very little ventilation and can get extremely/uncomfortably hot

They seem to be non existent

I only use the Coop in Sompting for essential shopping, now and then. I see most people walk past the hand sanitiser and the staff on duty not reminding anyone to do it. Sometimes, now there is a self-service till, you don't see a member of staff at all.

Masks when moving around pubs seem to have phased out now

Nothing at all in bar, very well organised and clear instructions at the Dome

People not wearing masks and coming too close to feel comfortable and safe.

I have only visited places outside where I have felt very safe as have been able to have table ordering and not go inside.

Visiting the cinema there were no hand sanitisers visible and no social distancing in the auditorium. I did notice that the dome does do socially distanced performances so I could have attended those

There aren't really any precautions, other than the odd perspex screen on counters and bottles of hand sanitiser dotted around!

Very few people wearing masks, sometimes including staff. Little to no social distancing. Hand sanitisation points not always available. Very few options if you do not wish to be in venues at full capacity.

Cannot give opinion as all venues I wished to access for food and drink were inaccessible to my wheelchair, either steps, stupidly steep ramps or tables too close to pass between - the latter would worry my with covid safety

Lack of distancing. Mask wearing by public almost non existent

Some restaurants have their tables tightly packed together, with little or no ventilation

I have a bar below me and there are no masks worn by staff and the customer I've seen at nighttime are too drunk to care

During a restaurant visit not too long after the lockdown restrictions were eased, there was only one point of entry and exit to the restaurant and so when it got busy, there were people queuing in the door way to get in for their reserved time slot as people were trying to exit the restaurant after their meal (Lancing)

Lighting in some areas had not come on.

So many people seem to think that the requirements do not apply to them

Variable in cafes and restaurants

Pubs have been fine inside but outside areas of pubs awful where people smoke

In assembly hall no ventilation it was a like a sweat box. Also hand driers in toilets like some one sneezing for 12 seconds in a confined space.

No social distancing, very few face masks. Nightmare for vulnerable people.

Even though they are adequate. I feel that I need to wear a mask and try and keep my distance.

No wearing of masks in confined areas

No attempt at social distancing. Masks recommended but only while walking about so if you've been sitting for 2 hours very close to someone with the virus it's all a bit pointless.

Not been out.

Supermarkets are the big let down. They urge customers to wear a mask and none of their staff do

There are no restrictions in place (Government decision)

No measures in place

There no longer seems to be the same attention to cleanliness that there was. Some premises aren't cleaning tables between customers and the toilets have have been awful in two places. I realise that many businesses are short staffed which cannot help the situation but will still not be returning to the dirty ones.

no attempt to encourage mask wearing at music venues or in bars

No consideration for other people

Worthing has no good shops

Should have a 'doesn't matter' option!

Most places have removed all precautions, no gels, masks not worn in shops even when really easy to do does concern me.

Lack of use of wearing masks in areas where people in close contact.

Restaurants & cafes have just got lazy and complacent with it all

It should be mandatory for the wearing of face masks in theatres and cinemas during popular, busy shows/movies I.E James Bond film No Time to Die!

No masks were being worn, sometimes no hand sanitiser - I have now stopped going out for meals. I worked all through the pandemic as a teaching assistant and didn't have a day off. Started going out for meals and now have a very bad cold and sickness bug!!! will not be using restaurants until they realise it's not just covid we were protected from!!!!

No doors or windows open to ensure good ventilation

No. 5 wasn't ranked as poor as the question is so general. The difficulty in answering that question was that some bars were excellent with table service and others have bar service and dance floors with people mixing.

Covid precautions (mask and sanitizer) being ignored by customers, no attempt by staff to request compliance and no attempts to clean between customers.

People have become very lax, not helped by the lack of rules by gvt.

No social distancing in pubs, no masks being warm and generally businesses not giving a shit.

No social distancing in seatinf for show. Seating very packed together.

Pier pavillion had no social distancing, no apparent cleaning, no face masks, was far too hot and the Denton lounge wasn't much better

The Virus is still around and too many people do not wear masks

Rowdy individuals in town at night makes me feel unsafe

No matter how many requests or whatever precautions business owners put in you can't control the public-who are thoughtless to anyone else but themselves
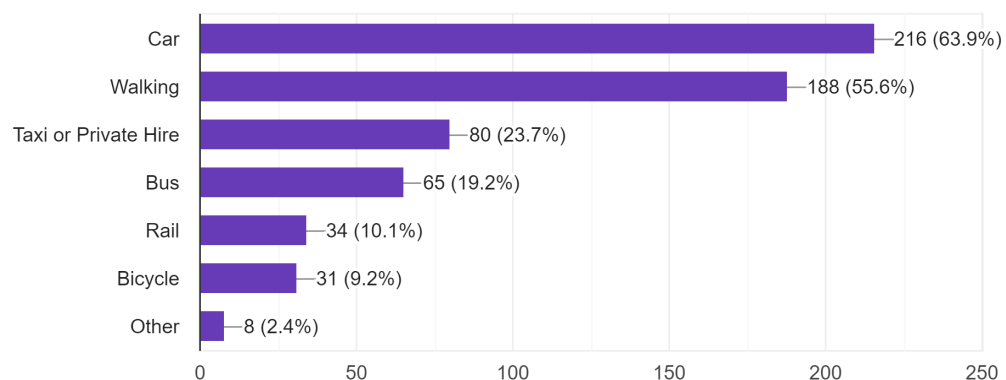
Other people are not wearing masks or social distancing in pubs and bars so it is hard to feel covid safe

I've no opinion because if you open theatres, etc., with bars it's just about impossible to keep covid 19 at bay. You either open or close for these types of venues

Question 10 -

10. What form of transport do you regularly use to travel to and from the town and village centres?
338 responses

People answering this question had a choice to tick on all forms of transport that applied to them and some multiple choices were made but the majority of people use car for travel (63.9%) but a significant proportion of people also walk.

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Question 11. How do you rate the form of transport which you regularly use to travel into and out of the town and village centres in the evening and night time?

338 responses -
Good - 30.2% (102 people)
Very good - 25.1% (85 people)
Adequate 16% (54 people)
No opinion - 15.4% (52 people)
Poor - 7.1% (24 people)
Very poor - 6.2% (21 people)

Question 12. If you consider the transport as poor or very poor please explain why and what can be done to improve it?

Most responses to this question relate to the frequency and quality of bus services. Also some responses relating to the costs of bus services, a lack of taxis and lack of car parking.

70 responses

Public transport is non existent where I live.

Better public transport access needed

Not often enough, too expensive

Need buses to be more frequent than once an hour after 6pm on thurs to sat evenings

Infrequent

I've only ever seen a bus go along the Brighton Road i.e. the 700, there are No hoppa buses that I've seen in and around the Train St / Village area. My elderly father (and other residents) who live in Beachville Court Retirement apartments on Brighton Road would love a hoppa bus into the village (not sure some of them would have the IT Skills to complete this survey though), they're so cut off down there and the pavement along Brighton Road in the direction of Worthing to Brighton opposite beach Green can't even accommodate their Mobility scooters it's so narrow and dangerous. My father as a result has to go the back way along Penhill Road but all the industrial lorries that park by Gardner and Scarfield also block his ability to get past them on the pavement safely. I think these access issues to the village need addressing. Make it easy for people to get there and spend their money. The Shops in the village are pretty poor.

Very few taxis at close of pubs/clubs and hard to order one, often end up walking home instead of waiting for unknown lengths of time

no buses in most of Worthing after 7pm!

I would prefer to take the bus as parking can be difficult but the busses I need don't run often enough in the evening

Taxi slow, no chance of getting a taxi from a restaurant or bar . Wait times very bad. This encourages young people to walk and sadly it's not safe for young to walk around dark quite streets in Worthing

Impossible to get a taxi

Lack of safe spaces to lock my bike up.

Would prefer safe night buses to avoid the cost of expensive taxis

It is extremely difficult to get a taxi after 10.30pm unless you pre book one. There doesn't seem to be enough at night

Expensive car parking

Worthing station can be intimidating late at night - more visible staff would be good.

The bus digital timetable at the bus stops have said that buses are due / nearby, but then last minute says they are cancelled. And this has happened a few times in the evening (from Southwick towards Worthing)

Bus service only runs and 1 and a half hourly intervals.

I have caught the train and felt very unsafe as the windows were shut and there was no restriction on numbers and the train was packed with hardly anyone wearing masks.

no buses

Lack of service to outer ares such as High Salvington

Limited bike racks

People are no longer legally required to wear face coverings on trains, and when they're busy it can feel unsafe for this reason

We have no buses from my area after 6pm

Too few local services.

Public transport options need to be available in the evening. Where I live the nearest later evening bus is the Pulse which is 15 minute fast walk home afterwards. We need more late buses and better reaching routes.

In high salvington we have 1 bus every hour and a half and they stop early if an evening

There is no bus service from High Salvington to the town centre in the evenings, Sundays or Bank Holidays. This needs to be rectified so that residents can get into the town to socialise etc without having to drive. Taxis are too expensive.

700 bus to Littlehampton takes ages as goes through all the villages.

Not many parent and child car spaces, often get blocked in and when alone with baby can not leave to move car to be able to open door to get baby car in the car

No direct bus link from north Worthing to centre and not a frequent service even during the day

public transport is not an option due to times and frequency of buses

Roads busy, continual roadworks, parking very poor and expensive

As soon as it is dark I feel threatened and nervous.

Buses since lockdown are infrequent and mask wearing is not required

Currently the timetable need urgent attention. Trains don't link up and there was a crowd on the platform in Brighton with many people not wearing masks. The government needs to stress the importance of some safety measures.

Over priced and unreliable

Don't use.

Public transport is poor, therefore I use my car.

Poor road surfaces

The stations for locking bikes have been decreased and are not in well lit CCTV covered zones (I.e. the Promenade). Parking is also an issue due to so many zones in the town centre being closed off due to Covid / improvement works

Road works everywhere.

Bus fares are very expensive compared to other towns. No incentive to use them

i have to use my car as buses stop about 8pm & only 1 an hour anyway!!!!

Parking is a real problem. I live in town and can't park near my house despite disability and having parking permit. Cars block pavements every night and park without fear of being ticketed or towed yet I can't park as bays are full and cars park badly using two spaces in resident bays.

Taxis are the only way.. And you wait ages for one.

In High Salvington we have no evening bus service nor do we have a Sunday bus service.

Bus service ends too early cannot use

Cycle storage is poor. Walking feels unsafe. I didn't notice marshalls on the taxi rank as I've seen before.

Free transport. Free parking

Drivers these days are often unfriendly and, as a lone woman, that can make you feel very uncomfortable.

Bus has been 30 minutes late from the time it's meant to arrive left questioning if it was even going to turn up, with no information from company as to the delay. Also have had to walk home before as other option was wait for two hours

Worthing has a very limited night time bus service and a sporadic taxi service - the town has developed significantly but the travel infrastructure has not. There are often very very long waits

for taxis - a centralised taxi rank with queues of waiting taxis like in Brighton would feel safer and more efficient

Bus service could run more frequently (no 10 device no sundays)

More taxi please

Would. To be happy to use public transport due covid plus safety

The cuts to the bus services means there aren't any to my area past 5pm, I'm disabled and can't drive so have to spend a fortune in taxis. I want to work over time or go out.

I walk from the station down to the sea front, it feels for me later in the evening to feel edgy, I am an older person but was used to walking home late at night in Brighton.

I live in High Salvington and would like to use a bus to travel home from work or to visit the cinema/theatre/pubs etc.,, sadly the single hourly bus stops running early evening.

Nowhere near enough disabled parking within walking distance of the Pier Pavilion

Parking needs to be cheaper, or improve public transport and bike security.

Difficult to find disabled parking

Buses and trains far too expensive for realistic use, given the distances, compared to any other country (including India, Iran, Iraq, Europe etc)

700 bus needs to be more regular, with proper controls by management staff at Worthing, currently inadequate.

I use car more than I would like because if not using more than twice a week, economically worse off using public transport and services have been cut in the evening don't feel safe

Severe lack of taxis so hanging around and feel uneasy. No option to use buses as they finish by 7pm in high salvington

lack to transport into certain parts of Worthing in the evenings

Expensive and doesn't run late

(Nationalise the railways)

Minimal cycle lanes and cycle lanes that are seen as an add on not a key piece of infrastructure. Such as "taking" space from the car lane this shared space model is not ideal.

The last buses in the week are at 11.03 to Shoreham, we need later buses

Question 13. If you travelled to the town and village centres by taxi or private hire, the bus or the rail service, how would you rate the Covid safety precautions put in place by the operators to make people feel safe?

No opinion - 54.4% (184 people)
Good - 19.5% (66 people)
Adequate - 11.8% (40 people)
Very good - 9.8% (33 people)
Very poor - 2.4% (8 people)

Poor - 2.1% (7 people)

Question 14. If you consider that the safety precautions referred to in Question 13 above are poor or very poor please explain why?

Most responses to this question relate to a lack of Covid-19 restrictions on buses and trains.

Responses:-
I haven't used these services

I drive everywhere so not applicable to me.

It should either be mandatory for taxi drivers to be vaccinated and if not for this to be clear to customers to ensure they can make an informed choice regarding the risks they want to take.

Mask wearing on trains also seems to have phased out now

People not wearing masks on public transport.

Answered above in 12

masks should be mandatory.

Trains have very little options for mask wearing or distancing.

No encouragement for passengers to wear masks

There's no difference travelling on a train now to prior to the pandemic - there are no safety measures in place. No requirement for face coverings, seats all used and not spaced out, no maximum number of people to a carriage, no improved ventilation.

No bus service when shows or films end

No hand gel, face masks not compulsory and seats not spaced adequately.

Masks are not required

Few wearing masks on train

Need to make mask wearing mandatory. Some buses were packed.

Don't go out at night.

There are no Gov restrictions in place.

Companies and private businesses appear to have reduced their safety measures

Not needed

I have noticed that most people in trains wear masks but not on busses which is why I take my car

Most people no longer wear masks

Too many homeless and drinkers in the town centre makes me feel uncomfortable hanging around waiting for a bus or taxi

N/A

No enforcement of mask-wearing and social distancing seen, especially late at night, poor hygiene generally.

Trains are getting much busier and only some people are wearing masks. This is despite having to tick a box agreeing to wear a mask when you purchase your ticket. No enforcement

Question 15. How safe do you feel in the town and village centres between 5pm and 7pm compared with the day time?

338 responses -
No difference - 69.2% (234 people)
Less safe - 25.4% (86 people)
More safe - 5.3% (18 people)

Question 16. How safe do you feel in the town and village centres between 7pm and 12 Midnight compared with the day time?

338 responses -
Less safe - 68.9% (233 people)
No difference - 26.9% (91 people)
More safe - 4.1% (14 people)

The majority of people feel less safe between these times.

Question 17. How safe do you feel in the town and village centres between 12 Midnight and 6am compared with the day time?

338 responses -
Less safe - 67.8% (229 people)
No difference - 30.5% (103 people)
More safe - 1.8% (6 people)

The majority of people feel less safe during these times.

Question 18. If you feel less safe in response to any of the questions 15, 16 and 17 above, please explain why?

People feel less safe generally because of too many drunks on the streets, Anti social behaviour, a lack of street lighting in places which makes everything feel unsafe, too many street homeless/street drinkers, unsafe car parks and a lack of lighting in these areas. A lack of Police presence, a concern over women's safety.

214 responses

Too many groups of youths

Drunken people
Noise and behaviour of young and/or drunk individuals, usually men.
Certain areas have drinkers present and people shouting and I feel less safe. No police presence
No respect for disabled people and no police presence visible
Fights, lack of police, drunk people
Purely because it's dark and I'm female
Can be groups of homeless/Street drinkers around looking for trouble
Lots of sketchy characters about, car parks feel unsafe in the stairwells, evidence of drug use and vandalism
Abusive Street drinkers and recent rape attack at the Guildbourne.
More street drinkers, large crowds outside venues
No police presence,
Increased crime / reports of violence and street drinkers / drug dependant individuals
Too many people are drunk in the streets and the car parks and streets leading to them feel dark and unsafe.
Yobs & drunks on the streets & trains, no police or security staff
Seems to be more violent assaults, drugs there was a rape recently police aren't interested when you try and report crime
Fewer people around

There are too many drinks and druggies around in groups of 3 or more. Groups of people being noisy. Also with Covid even more so.

Less people out and about, no visible police presence, some areas with poor lighting

Because there are regular reports of assaults and rape in the press.

Too many street drinkers / anti social behaviour

Its dark and people are drunk! Therefore unpredictable and more boisterous. But this has always been the case.

Dodgy people out and about and no police in the town

Street drinkers can be intimidating and I wouldn't park in multi storey car parks as drinkers hang around there in the stair wells

Less people around, less confident that help/police would arrive quickly if there was a problem.

Car parks feel unsafe at night - darker etc
Less people around
No so we'll lit in certain areas

Even driving through town, let alone walking, is problematic with crowds (young, drunk, loud, unpredictable) in the road outside Molotov which ironically is next to the police station, security guards not in control

Too many down and outs who are aggressive/abusive on seafront/town centre. Too many groups of youths causing problems. Do not feel safe with my wife and children late at night

As single woman I don't feel safe walking around Worthing after 7pm. There are far too many dodgy people around Worthing and after these hours I just don't feel that there's enough bustle in the town ie shoppers and shop keepers to help out if anything were to happen to me. I walk past drug deals at least on a weekly basis and there are currently a few gangs of Eastern European's that are harassing women in town and along the seafront.
The few times I do see a police presence, they aren't paying attention to what's going on around them and are generally just walking along chatting to each other. I often see people fly through town on electric scooters and they do nothing to stop them.

I feel Worthing Town centre is threatening to Many homeless people often drunk or high, which makes me feel unsafe.

Between 12-6am people are a lot more aggressive and wasted, screaming and fights down chapel road, always afraid that my window will get smashed or door pissed on

The amount of people around who are clearly either homeless or drunk. It's intimidating. It's scary if they approach you because you don't know what will happen. And worse at night because there's fewer people around generally.

Always have. Drunks, homeless begging.

Purely a matter of perception. More drunk people about, it's dark you have to be more aware of what might happen. Hence I feel less safe.

On seafront many areas well lit but shrubbery in some areas makes the path hidden from the road which makes me feel less safe

I have always felt less safe at night: and I'm a man. My answer has been to avoid going out after 5pm. However, in London there is a perception that you are safer. This is down to CCTV.

insufficient visible policing during the later times

As stated previously street drinkers and drunks . Very intimidating. Walking in Denton gardens the other morning 7am 2 drunks asleep on the grass, one holding an axe

Dark and drunks around. No sign of the police

Too many drug users, homeless people, alcoholics around at these times, it can feel quite threatening. I don't blame the addicts themselves, It shouldn't be happening in this country. These people need help.

Homeless and drug addicts handing around

I feel more vulnerable at night time. The trees in our lovely roads often obscure the lighting.

Lack of police and street drinkers around

Same as previous answer

Walking down Chapel Road and Warwick Street during drinking hours, I've never felt safe, even before the pandemic.

Poor lighting in car parks, lack of police presence.

It's always less safe after midnight but not because of covid

Badly lit streets.

Stabbing in North Road a few months ago. Anti social behaviour - drunk and disorderly people. Groups of youths gathering outside co-op are intimidating. I feel unsafe.

Lack of people in the town but additionally the type of people who are out (drinkers)

there are lots of younger people around, not saying they will be threatening but there is no one around(police etc). I did catch the last train home but stopped because for me felt unsafe walking to the sea front

Poor lighting no Police presence

No police presence and often drunk/ scary people around.

Lack of police on the streets to monitor night time behaviour.

Lack of police. Large groups of teenagers/young people. Streetlights.

Rough sleepers, some of whom are intimidating and known to the Police for entering licensed premises to order drinks and not pay, or simply enter to beg and harass paying customers. There's a well known group in Worthing.

We do not go into Lancing village or out in Sompting after early evening because of the undesirable youngsters who hang around, especially in Lancing around the station bus shelter on the North side. I don't even feel safe in Hamble Park with my grandson during the day as there are usually large kids around somewhere.
I'm a woman - everywhere is less safe at night
After around 2-3 in the morning the doorstaff go home and so the street pastors other members of the Public go home too.
I feel very safe in Shoreham and Southwick but I would not walk around Worthing and I'm sure you know the reason for that!! It's very intimidating
There are drunks and youths who are threatening
Inadequate lighting in some areas. I have never ever seen police around. I once called the police when a woman was drunk or high and crawling in the main road at risk, and was told they were very busy. It didn't I still confidence.
Drunks and immigrants
Homeless drunks and beggars
Anti social behaviour

To get home from town I have to walk through Homefield Park. This is really poorly lit and there are often people hanging out at the skateboard park, drinking and doing drugs. I don't feel safe crossing the park at all and even find it is not very well lit around the North side of the park on the pavement.

As a woman I feel vulnerable at night walking on my own. Sometimes there are people about who I feel uncomfortable around. Recently a gang of boys threw a vodka bottle in the air and it landed behind me and smashed. Was about 7pm.

No control over those using drugs (often see and smell) and often people around that have had way too much to drink

There seem to be a lot of people just hanging around the town, and the fact that there are discarded needle packages in so many locations isn't reassuring.

It's dark and less people around.

Quite empty during these times

Limited police presence. Aware of recent attacks and rape. Montague Street does not feel safe.

More intoxicated people

Street drinkers and men coming out from pubs in large groups. As a woman I don't feel safe going out in the dark in Worthing Town Centre.

Drunk people, big groups of youth, not much police presence
Male gaze. Some vulnerable people with drugs and alcohol use. Need outreach youth work teams too. Rubbish on streets.
no public transport,so forced to walk.Not many people about,many drunks around no police presence.
There is alot of places for groups to loiter, which I have experienced negative comments from. The car parks aren't well lit and don't make you feel safe. There is less and less for younger people to do meaning they spend more time on the streets. I feel safer in Brighton than Worthing even though it is much bigger.
Some evening drinkers are less predictable and feels more threatening of an evening
People drinking on streets, in groups and in shelters along the promenade no sign of police unless there is a major incident
The night plays tricks on the mind
So many homeless and disorderly
Youth
Less lighting, less people about
People in area can be dangerous and intimidating
Fewer people are around
Lots of youths hanging around with aggressive attitude.

Because it's dark and no where feels safe on your own as a woman after dark

Due to restrictions being lifted I feel public are less sensible/considerate re post covid lockdown and there aren't enough police around to make it feel safer

I am female and in my 30's. As soon as it gets dark I feel less safe. I live in Southwick but to be honest I could be in any area and feel less safe as soon as it gets dark. I like walking and I find that no matter what time of day it is, there are generally more lone males walking than lone females. We should be exploring why this is.

Usually its dark and often people are drunk. Also can often smell drugs in certain places around town and that's becoming more regular and in more places.

Streetlights go off at 12, before I get home. Drunken behaviour leads to less social distancing. Groups of people who have been together all evening is scary if you are on your own.

Just volume of people in a pub or restaurant but it's not something that particularly concerns me

It's dark. A lot of noisy groups and individuals around.

I'm concerned about drunken behaviour

More aggressive people around. No police

I am most concerned due to attacks reported on solo females. There has been attacks reported in press and some on Facebook that may not be recorded.
For me the drunks round the centre day and night are a fear having been attacked in the past. To be clear these are the drunks that drink on the street not the people drinking in bars.
I have never seen a police officer in the town centre. What does that say? Note I have seen a couple of pcsos.

Have noticed alot of rough sleepers normally this would not concern me but since Covid the streets are not busy to me there are less people out and more are going out in the afternoon

It's a natural position to feel as a woman once dark and out when many people are drunk and can be unpredictable. Safety is always a greater risk when it's dark.

I would not go into town centre at night now, the last time I did there were people acting in an aggressive way and it scared me.

Less noticeable police presence, more drunk and disorderly behaviour

Different group of people about, it's dark so you can't see as well and less people around to help if you needed it

Lack of people around, dark, less places open that you could go if felt unsafe.

Drunks/Drugs Yobs
No social distancing in place in most venues and when people are drinking, they don't tend to adhere to distancing either. Places aren't asking for people to wear masks everywhere either.
The question is tricky as I don't worry particularly between 7 and 12 but as there are less people around and shops closed there would be a raise of awareness and this would get higher after midnight. If I was on my own I would be fine if I was with someone else.
Car park and lane ways really dark
I don't feel safe as a woman. The streets are empty late at night and if someone approached me I would have nowhere to go.
Less visibility, more erratic and unpredictable behaviour as more people under the influence of substances etc.
Feel less safe due to the number or merry groups that can be loud during these hours.
Lots of people out drinking and a lack of Police presence. Seem to have street drinking around earlier in the evening which can be intimidating when taking the family out. A lot of people leaving bars or moving from one to the other after drinking later in the evenings / early hours.
Fewer people around. Some of the few appear to be under the influence of drink or drugs
The town is very quite at night with little policing. Some people can be intimidating

The recent rape case in Guildbourne car park has made my wife and I more on edge when visiting that area at nighttime
Too much chance of trouble, not enough lighting
Always feel on edge with type of people around
Unauthorised street drinking and antisocial behaviour are intimidating
Too busy in places, too many groups and being a female always feel unsafe.
More street drinkers and homeless trying to engage with you. Intoxicated people coming out of pubs, bars and clubs. More likely to be fights started. Less people about as witnesses to deter criminal activity.
Do not feel safe walking on my own. Large groups, inappropriate comments shouted, drunk people, fights.
Irresponsible behaviour of others
The mood seems to change in the town, there are a few more unsociable/unsavoury people around on the streets and benches outside of the Guildbourne Centre in particular. The multi storey car parks don't seem as safe in the evening or at night. I have two young daughters and definitely felt the need to protect them more during those hours we were in town in the evening just recently.
It's dark and large groups gather to drink in the evening
Street lights are poor

Few open businesses. Groups of younger people hanging around

Groups of people hanging around shouting. Drunken people. Being approached by men in cars.

Darkness, groups of youngsters on streets

Homeless, drunks, more violence

More private security about, which indicates there are potential issues.

Not many people about in some streets

Street drinkers, no sign of Police, drunk behaviour

Witnessed incidents involving street drinkers.

There are lots of drunks and heroin addicts in the town being aggressive

Just a bit nervous as not many people around

Less people around so tend to avoid such times.

Crowds, noise and drunken people in pubs etc

General awareness of people around especially if they are intoxicated. Also the sense of " not looking at people" incase the threat of " what are you looking at" rather than being sociable. Do not feel that I would assist any situation that maybe happening due to repercussions….no longer a " Good Samaritan "

The two pubs have a bad reputation, I don't feel safe walking past noisy/rough crowds of drinkers sitting outside The Farmers / The Railway, I avoid the area. hence I don't go any further down than Mulburry's in the evenings.

People tend to hang around in groups, shouting and or drinking

Not a lot of street lighting on some of the roads into town, plus it's just less busy which always leads to it feeling a bit less safe

It will always feel less safe when dark out, but more could be done to increase police patrols and also encourage the town centre to be busy and thriving so that more people are out and about to help create that safety in numbers

Less people around, a low proportion of those out and about threatening, or under influence of alcohol or drugs.

There are less people around and lots of dark areas

Only relatively less safe mainly due to potential behaviour of people under the influence of alcohol though I have personally seen very little abusive or aggressive behaviour in town centre.

Lack of police presence. Lots of antisocial behaviour

Not enough transport

Fewer people but many have been drinking

Fewer people around, there are a few usual faces - especially down Warwick St that ask for money.

Generally feel less safe in the early hours.

Does not seem as secure as before and the feeling of safety is not there anymore

Too many larger male groups and yobie youngsters with gobby mouths

Less people around. Some intimidating groips gathered

Quite a lot of roads through town with nothing open at night, so if walking through it feels very dark and isolated

The lighting is bad in areas, and how dirty the streets are makes me feel on edge.

Never any police presence, except driving around in cars.

Street drinkers and drug users dominate the town centre after dark

Not as many people or police around.

It's not just Worthing, I feel less safe anywhere later at night.

Street drinkers are intimidating, in the day as well. They behave in a way others would not be allowed too but no-one seems to stop them. It is horrible and irrespective of their problems their behaviour is vile and anti social.
Youths in groups. Lot of dope smoking on the streets which appears to be tolerated and is also intimidating.
New Street lighting creates far more shadows and dark areas, creating a feeling of being insecure.

There are not enough police on foot to deter large noisy crowds or people behaving in an unpleasant manner

Dark, more intimidating atmosphere, homeless and street drinkers about

Lack of police in area compared to the high numbers of public

Entertainment places like pubs should enforce the wearing of masks!

Quite a lot of anti social behaviour/ louts. As a female walking around alone it can be quite threatening

With the increase in reports of rape in the area, it makes me feel less safe in the evening and at night, particularly if I am on my own

Less lighting and street drinkers fighting

I had a very near miss when a cyclist nearly ran into the back of me in Warwick Street. It is virtually impossible to hear when they race up behind you and because I fell it has made me nervous of what could be behind me. I have never been to Warwick Street (I sit outside The Grape or Jonny's at least once a week) without seeing cyclists who have ignored or not seen the no cycling signs. Maybe it would help if they were painted on the ground rather than so high up on posts.

It's dark and there are people who are drunk. There was no police presence on the night I was in town. Before COVID there was a police presence.

You need a not applicable option for 17

Because there is no sign of any police presence to reassure the public
Gangs of young people around - daytime as well- sometimes displaying very intimidating and threatening behaviour
Not much lighting, also homeless , drunks and abusive people
I only feel slightly less safe mostly because there are less people around.
Lots of homeless people fighting and opening using drugs and leaving needles about. Lots of teens fighting and hanging about smashing shops front and causing havoc.
Different age dynamic as the evening progresses which potentially brings different problems. I don't feel unsafe but you specifically asked whether one feels less safe.
I'm female.
Groups of people smoking drinking.boys girls causing problems
The number of street drinkers in the town and spilling out to residential areas
There are no police around
Either lots of drunk people around leading to uncertainty about safety, and then later when there are less people around at all can feel unsafe if on own
It's natural to feel less safe when it's late, dark and quiet.

Too many vagrants and hostile people in the town now days

I feel uncomfortable with the groups of loud youths, drunk men and vagrants who seem to appear at dusk.

Worthing has had a number of alleged attacks on women, rapes, etc. in those hours as publicised by Sussex Police and Worthing Herald

Drunks, yobs and homeless people

Dirty, poor lighting, no police presence hideous local savages hanging around

Too many intoxicated idiots milling about in the latter/early hours

Not prepared to take the risk of going out anymore.

Because of the later time and darkness

Lots of homeless people are often drinking (and probably using drugs) and fighting by clock tower, sea front shelters and wandering around. This behaviour is frightening and makes me feel unsafe and, as a woman, I feel unsafe at night anyway. There are also less people around in the evening which makes me feel more vulnerable.

Because of drunks , people sleeping rough

Drinking makes people less careful 're Covid

Dark town centre, many street have no activity, no tables outside and town is dead after 11 am this is destroying the town center and the visitors economy

Street lighting
Too many drunks and yobs Lack of police
Fewer people around and poor streetlights
Just feels more daunting with issues going on / possible trouble / and drunks
Lack of police presence
Lots of places i.e shops & restaurants are shut (not lit up) and hardly any people around.
After 7 and before 12 the amount of criminal damage and ASB seems to go up-don't feel safe enough to walk on own-a lot of young people off their trolleys 'celebrating freedom' don't appear to be able to hold their drink-could be due to them turning legal age during lockdowns
Only if I'm walking alone at night, which I tend not to do. Just a bit more worrying in some darker, quieter streets
street lights only on one side of street sometimes obscured by trees, bushes
Too many people arrested by alcohol and it's dark.
Poor lighting and less people around. Groups of youths hanging around.
groupes of kids cogregate in arears of worthing

It's dark, once you get past 8pm the character of the town centre is different. After midnight the people one finds around are just different, not necessarily unpleasant or bad, just not 'us'.

Less lighting, fewer people, just feel less comfortable and we are 'day' people and happy to be so.

Due to the large number of bars and cafes serving alcohol, no restrictions on how much people drink, leading to possible drunken and unruly behaviour. This can be intimidating.

No police presence or likely to be

Unfortunately, it's mostly due to people experiencing homelessness and substance abuse issues. Only the other day I was walking along the prom opposite The Dome, and one of the half naked homeless men sat in a shelter walked towards me to stroke my dog and then vomited everywhere. It was beyond disgusting. His friends cheered and laughed. Normally, they are only a nuisance in so far as being loud, heckling people who walk past and being obviously off their faces on something. But after that, I won't go anywhere near that area again. Day or night.

Lack of police or other means of security

There are a lot of drunken homeless people wandering round town centre and not enough police to patrol.
Fewer people around, those that are will often have left pubs etc. I would not allow a friend to walk alone, or do that myself, for example.
Don't go into town centre at night generally, just local shopping parade but think is natural to feel more cautious when dark & fewer people around

Question 19. What more do you think that the Councils and/or other organisations and businesses can do to help improve the evening and night time economies in Adur and Worthing?

245 responses

More late night entertainment
Improve transport and range of activities
More policing at closing time
Wrong question. It is the night time economies causing the problems and you should be asking how they can reduce their impact on residents. I would consider very few of the businesses covered by the term to be necessary or beneficial to society and would like to see far fewer of them.
Stop overreaching into private businesses which are not your concern. Live and let live.
More security. More cameras.
Disabled parking Needs seriously fast addressing, pavements in many areas are dangerous particularly in Liverpool Gardens.

More street presence near bar areas

Continue to support outdoor dining and street food stalls

There should be a better system for pub watch and should always be enforced as well as making sure any trouble caused in one place is refused entry to all, invest in the look and marketing of the towns and help the businesses

Give planning permission & licences, esp on seafront

More open car parking to avoid Multistories, more police presence on drug taking and antisocial behaviour

Allow later licences and more clubs to prevent all venues closing at the same time..

Focus on outside areas of pubs to make covid safe

Don't view Worthing as a destination worth going out to.

Increased crime prevention and visibility of police, proper police and not community wardens / specials. Enforcement of alcohol free zones

Offer later licences for pubs and bars

Give up. Hand over responsibility to people who can do the job.

Cheaper parking, better public transport, improve bike security, police on the beat is VITAL, get rid of the street drinkers and people weaving along pedestrian areas on scooters and pushbikes.

Need to look at what's available for teenagers, rather then them hanging round parks where are the youth clubs etc? Stop the drinkers in town shouting and being abusive making it unpleasant to walk through town. The town looks run down and uncared for which makes you feel uneasy. Make public transport more affordable, police that care and are interested when you report a crime.

Keep shops open longer, offer incentive, reduced business rates for shops open longer hours.

More police patrols. Get rid of the drinks and druggies.

Encourage and create outdoor seating areas for eateries (like areas of Brighton centre) - the more people out and about, the safer you feel

Encourage more independent restaurants and bars

Decrease anti social behaviour particularly in the town centre from the regular 'crowd' - Both daytime and evening.

Get some bigger named restaurants and venues into the town

Ensure the area is lit at night

More on street tables and chairs in COVID times - closed streets
Better lit car parks
More taxis
Better bus service
Longer opening times on main events etc and pop up caravans eg
Public toilets opening times extended

It's like a drunken teenage zombie apocalypse at night, very intimidating, not so much Sunny Worthing either, more like Weedy Worthing - the smell of cannabis is incredibly strong from properties, people and passing cars (again right by the police station), I have no idea how this can be improved, meeting friends outside at night, covid safe (not to gov policy but to a medical/scientific standard) with no smoking and a focus away from alcohol would be lovely

Worthing is a dump. Council need to spend money making the place look presentable/ more beach restaurants etc. Develop the wasted spaces (Teville Gate/Union Place) and get on with it. Need to make parking cheaper and encourage visitors. Just very little in Worthing to do at night. More cafes open at night etc and police patrols to move on the problem crowd.

Up the police presence. Look into the types of people you are housing in the town centre. The Travel Lodge has been full of homeless people with mental health and drug and alcohol problems and affordable housing shouldn't be created in the town centre. Why should these people be housed in prime locations that private renters and buyers pay a premium for? More CCTV

Without a magic wand and an endless supply of money I think the Council's will have their work cut out to make the necessary improvements.

Later opening hours for bars in the centre of Worthing on weekends (beyond 12:30 the options become very limited). Late night trains running across to/from Brighton. Incentivise independent businesses to set up in Worthing - this is what we love it for!

Security from the taxi pick up extended to help with flow of people coming out of three fishes/Molotov and the warrick

Moving on drunks. Finding them help. Stopping them from hanging out in town. It's destroying the centre.

more police presence

Keep them close together so feel safe leaving them

Ensure walks back to transport are well lit

Allowing more outside seating

Probably increase the use of CCTV

Stop wasting their times on stupid surveys like this.

Local businesses need to diversify, spread their offer and bring new inter generational activity to the town that will attract people in. It's not for the council to do alone. Good business offers will attract more business.

Simply moaning that people aren't coming in is futile, businesses should be looking at what they are offering and ask why it isn't working.

Improve security, ensure Toilet facilities are available, some of the car parks need urgent improvement and are in a disgusting dirty state

increase the number of people living in the centre of worthing

Authorities be more visible.

Not staying open until 3am and causing a nuisance

Increase security and act on poor Covid precautions

Get a proper drug and alchohol program to help these poor people that are obviously victims and some form of trauma that they're numbing wiht the use of alchohol and drugs, then they become homeless, they need help.

Attract more people with free parking, attract more businesses with lower costs, allow outside seating indefinitely.

More community officers around. Possibly more outside areas for the cafes allowed and heated covered areas.

Improve public transport.

Support the continuation of the "cafe culture" that has developed in town, including permitting permanent pavement use. You could go further than this and encourage the use of temporary screens/roofs to extend the use of outside areas into autumn & spring.

More police, try and find out why there are 'gangs' of youths and find a way to occupy them meaningfully. I suspect there are few places for them to go. Worthing needs a skating rink or similar, for teens to go.

Honestly, I don't know. I appreciate it's a tough challenge, I think the onus needs to be with the bars to ensure people visiting aren't completely wasted and causing a nuisance after their visit.

Improve lighting, reduce cost of parking/transport, more police presence

More frequent public transport on busy nights

Improve street lighting.

No answer. Nothing appeals. The only draw is the numerous takeaways.

Reduce street drinking and beggers

Longer bus service

More protection police presents around
Better lighting
Improve lighting / visible Police presence
More police patrols and cctv signs
More outside provision from eating, dinning and drinking
Better lighting
Actually investing money into entertainment for adults instead of wasting it on sand pits or coffee shops!
Police patrols that actually do something.
I don't think you can without the help of the Police. Some of these young people are threatening and you dare not take them on verbally for fear of recrimination. It would take a huge 'army' of volunteers to meet in groups and monitor where these kids congregate so that they can see a large adult presence in 'their patch'. Their parents also need to be educated into keeping tabs on their offspring. The volunteers could then get to know the kids and be able to telephone their parents.
Better lighting. More police presence
relax noise restrictions and planning restrictions to allow more events and businesses and attract more tourists - particularly outside the town centres - to get rid of the "boring" feel
Make it more safer not that it's not safe now

End all restrictions. No vaccine passports

Tables allowed to be kept outside for people to eat. This really brightened up our area.
Keep street lights on. More police keeping an eye on Worthing

Cheaper transport more regularly

Obvious CCTV, some police preconceived, just walking about.

Invest time and money in facilities for those under 55

Some cheaper form of travel apart from taxi's even if it is an hourly service

Give Southwick square some much needed improvement. Looks so dated and very unappealing, if I didn't leave nearby then I would avoid it.

Better street lighting. In Worthing town centre, have some dedicated safe spaces for people who've had too much to drink or who have lost their friends to take refuge at for a bit.

More street performance on sea front as in Brighton to keep people about. Pcso presence around the town centre. Making sure no street drinkers.

Make those that offer food and drink adhere to regulations to allow disabled access rather than allow them to pack in tables and build steps where there were ramps in the past. I know they need to recover from vovid losses but alienating the disabled community is not helpful

Parking for blue badge holders has been a disgrace during covid. I push my wheelchair into the town forom Goring. We need bonnet/boot to curb parking to get chairs in an out without having to wait for inconsiderate parkers to return to their cars. Parking outside M and S is no use when you have to open doors onto the main road and push a chair into traffic.Montague place spaces must be kept for town centre access to dentists and opticians as well as shopping.

Buses running later at night Thurs -Sat and later in the evening on a Sunday (eg revive the N700 bus along the coast).

Tighter Covid restrictions for businesses and transport, which apply across the board and are enforced.

Make the town centre car parks safe and more attractive (ie clean).

Extend licensing hours for premises

Better bus routes to Findon

There is literally nothing to do. We need one of the Worthing theatres to run a decent weekly comedy club night (with proper comedians, not rubbish old vets) similar to Komedia. We need a Green Door Store/Hope and Ruin type venue putting on variety of musicians and bands, not just old locals with their banjo or heavy metal. A lot of the entertainment in Worthing seems to be has-beens or old out of touch acts. Cater to the young crowd that have moved over from Brighton looking for cool fun nights. We have to go over to Brighton for a night out.

Also when I moved to Worthing 3+ years ago, I go in touch with the Worthing Theatre offering to hire for a monthly comedy night. They told me they were planning these so refused. Almost 4 years later, still nothing. A local comedy night has started in town but already has a dwindling audience 1 month later due to the mediocre acts and lack of accountability on the night ruining the evening for half the crowd. I run comedy nights for 2 years successfully with huge tv names, it's not as easy as booking local acts and being done.
The theatres don't have a lot of shows on really either. I have tickets for The Horne Section but haven't seen advertising for it anywhere in town, only the bands online ad.

Lack of live music too. Bar 42 was great but it didn't really appeal for every genre. Would like another, small-ish (100 cap) live music venue with regular music on.

Make me the entertainments Manager in Worthing please haha :)

Love the food and drink festival, the markets and would love them more often. Level 1 is perfect! Excited for the seafront restaurants to be open and love the artwork and food trucks there too. Worthing has improved so much since we moved here!

Night buses in/out of town.
Stronger police / security prescence.
Better lighting and cameras in montague street.

Keep the buses running later

More PCSO / Police on the streets

Lower business rates to encourage more bars, restaurants and venues to move into empty premises vacated by shops in the town centre

I think this needs to be with the Police, they need to monitor certain areas at night.

Improve awareness of what is still in operation (businesses); better parking and/or park and ride, much lower public transport costs needed.

More police presence

Trees. Nice lights.

More cafes open until late that serve non alcoholic drinks.
Later shop times

Run later buses like other towns do.

Make on street parking easier at night. Ensure all car parks are well lit with CCTV obvious.
Look at what is provided for teenagers and young adults to do.

Street entertainment. Look to join up cultural offer through to ENTE - more consistent cultural programming

Better lighting in some central areas

Free parking along front especially out of season would encourage people to stay later or better frequency of bus services to return home.

Have police and security patrols
Stopping Street races in town. Curbing anti-social behaviour in town and parks.
More pedestrian areas. Better parks. Nice open promenades. Places open in the evenings that don't serve drinks.
More night patrols and a better area for the homeless to stay
More police patrols
Encouraging the use of link ID scanners
More lighting
Linked ID scanners, better door staff
More regular buses at night. Getting home from a day shift at the hospital takes ages as it's an 8pm finish (if you get out on time). It's too difficult to go into town and back on public transport in the evening
More police walking around plus masks being worn as mandatory rather than optional

Reactive strategies for safety:
-Free personal alarms for women.
-Cheaper or free taxi fares for lone women at night (why should we have the financial burden of paying for transport to feel safer from men if we can walk?)
- Thorough vetting process of male taxi drivers
- More lighting on streets that switch on when someone walks by
More preventative strategies for safety:
More women working in higher positions and gatekeeping positions in the crime and community protection sector, more female MPs, more MPs and council workers from the BIPOC community
- More targeted work on males who are considered a threat
- Ensuring more work in education on consent and respect (I know some of this is covered at schools now but would be good to see the impact of this)
- Supporting training of how officers can manage the reporting of crimes (so victims feel more supported and listened to and more likely to report)
- Neighbourhood watch / community meetings and info on these sent to all households
- Messages of crime on women - doesn't help that the narrative is portraying us as the weak victim (rather than e.g. focus on the male's wrongdoing, or, emphasis on high rates of domestic violence in homes where the victim is known to the perpetrator)

Not necessarily poor performing, but sometimes better lighting would help (environmentally/dark sky friendly lighting). We do think Warwick street now feels more continental at night with all the outside seating. We think Level one is a good idea and more sea front based restaurants and bars should be encouraged. The relaxed food and drink seafront concessions are good and more food and drink based events should be encouraged. Worthing has great restaurants and these should be encouraged to do outside catering with some flexibility and opportunities - not just the odd weekend in Summer i.e. more at Christmas

The impact of the night time noise on nearby residents should be looked into. Streetlights could stay on later around transport hubs.

I'm not sure there is anything more that can be done, other than limit numbers but I don't feel that is necessary

More cabs, night bus?

Maybe more marshals

Good lighting. Not sell too much alcohol to drunken people.

More patrols

-Cctv need cameras to catch the breaking of windows, attacks, dealing etc.
-Control drink licencing to shops that supply cheap nasty drinks to people suffering alcohol problems. This has worked elsewhere. Helps the people with problems and cleans up the area.
-Police patrols day and night. Drinkers causing problems is bad and visible drug dealing but I don't ever see police.
-Safe transport for women? I know it's hard to get a taxi some nights. Maybe cab share for females? Training for door staff to spot problem people? Safe places for females to go? Links between bars to share data of potential problem people?

More community policing

Have night buses and priority taxi access for women, especially if alone.

more police presence perhaps

public transport in and out of the town

Improve bus services to make transportation much easier

Improvement in marketing Worthing as a destination, cheap and convenient parking,

Better door staff at pubs and clubs. Security that do routine patrols on busy evenings such as bank holidays or big football events

Reduce rates to encourage new businesses, community support and police patrolling

More alternative diverse entertainment
Safe taxis and transport to get people home. Well lit high streets
Variety live music venues etc.
From this survey I get the impression that the council believes that people aren't going out because they're scared of catching covid. There are also a lot of people who are put off going out by the safety precautions. Many of my friends and family (including me) won't go to a venue that requires masks as it takes all of the joy and fun out of an experience. We will be encouraged to go out more by the world going back to normal.
I think the pavement cafe feel s superb and businesses who have space out the front should be able to use this. This even in the autumn and winter months feels more of a buzz and atmosphere.
Reduce rates for restaurants and shops Fill the empty shops with rent free pops ups Or at least fill the windows with art if inspiring imagery

A presence, either police/PCSO or uniformed council staff (wardens etc), better lighting. Better awareness/appreciation that women are more vulnerable to attack, sexual or otherwise because despite the high profile murders, organisations are still not puttng their money where their mouth it. Door staff need to be trained better and obligated to ensure any women who is intoxicated is put in a cab home and not just turfed out onto the street. They need to have a duty beyond the venue they work for, they are part of the nighttime economy and if women don't feel safe, they won't go out. Measure to reduce drink-spiking. Better security on doors re: ID so that clubs know who is in their venue.

Have 'safe space' locations where people can go for assistance or to get help should they need it, more knowledge of schemes such as Taxi Marshals and Street Pastors, better lit areas etc.

More indie music venues like Bar 42 - ie Brighton has indie music left right and centre

More of secuirty, pastrol presense around the main area, but otherwise not a lot, as it is just part of night life.

It has to appear safer to attract people and families, as there's no point in having a lovely meal out with the family only to hear shouting, etc. when walking through town or along the seafront. With less Police on the streets however, this looks difficult.

Staff / better security measures in public car parks? People might feel safer if they knew they could get someone's attention if necessary when walking to and from their car.

CCTV in beach shelters? Natural surveilance is poor along some parts of the seafront.

It would be good if in the on warm, sunny, long summer evenings, the stalls along the seafront did not close promptly are 5.30

Ensure that popular pubs have sufficient door staff and that there are Police and/or PCSOs available from 11.00am to 1am

Cheaper public transport, more policing. A whats on directory of events in town

Better lighting,make people feel safer

It is their job to provide this not mine

Zero tolerance on 'perceived' low level crime, unauthorised street drinking and antisocial behaviour

Improve parking. More walking police patrols. Enter lighting in places.

Help rehome rough sleepers. Police crack down on street drinking and drug taking. More of a police or town centre security presence in the town square on Chapel Road. Police or beach patrol presence on the seafront during the evening/night time.
Clear indication of behaviour expected and visible action of unacceptable behaviours
Less 'Street community'
Free parking after 6pm
Stronger Police/security presence, patrolling areas. Increased lighting in poorly lit areas.
Have more patrols out
More taxis, better lighting, cameras at tunnel under railway line by Morrisons, more police presence
Better lighting. More patrols by police.
More venues that aren't just bars. More security/police presence.
Shuttle buses, more lights, help women's safety without victimising them
Probably not just a local issue, general deterioration in confidence with the police in particular with anything not classified as serious.
Clear zoning? Live bus arrival info.
Better lighting, tackle street drinking and anti social behaviour

Open the pubs/clubs later. There are not many places to have a proper night out, and they all close at the same time increasing the number if people waiting for transport at any time.

More policing and keeping antisocial behaviour away , there is a growing drug and alcohol problem that is becoming very obvious within the town, making it unsafe and will put a lot of people off of coming into the town as it is dangerous.

Control drunkenness and substance abuse

Better lighting in some areas

Fighting a loosing battle I fear as social standards generally have declined ….we absolutely know there are no resources for either prevention or cure

Put some really nice / good quality bars and restaurants in Lancing Village with GOOD SERVICE. The food and drink in the beach area is so overpriced and too casual. When people come to stay with me in Lancing I want somewhere nice to take them out to eat within walking distance and somewhere where I feel 'safe' and proud to take them. It's very disappointing as it currently stands and it could be such an awesome village. I thought it was supposed to be undergoing regeneration!!! Put Lancing the Map for food and drink.

Encourage / build more al fresco seating / cafe areas in the town (E.g. outside Guildbourne Centres), work to create more solutions for homeless people
More lighting along approach roads for walkers ie Chesswood, seafront.
More lighting and more police presence
I personally feel pretty safe in Worthing town centre and less safe on outskirts of the town centre lighting poor on my way home near Victoria Park
More police presence. More lighting and more taxis
More event live music
I think Warwick st and Montague st should be more heavily policed _ or private security? People also live in the town centre, so I don't think entertainment hours should be extended - the Guildbourne area needs a major rethink…the area outside it is off putting - drunks and lots of areas for people to hang about hidden. The grass area down Liverpool terrace is a no go area for me even in daytime. Teville gate area - which is the first thing people see when they arrive in Worthing needs to be made appealing and indeed the walk from Worthing station to town.
Ensure that we can be safe and secure and still enjoy our self's when in town or village

Close pubs at 11pm and clubs at 2 pm at the latest to reduce need for police and healthcare services

Improve communication about night-time economy to show the positive social and economic benefits - need to change perception that the night time economy is about 'drunken youths and unwanted noise'. Worthing's demographic is changing and we need to evolve to encourage younger creatives and the vibrant new ideas they bring, while avoiding alienating older residents. Encourage more live music venues for emerging talent; more late night openings for cultural venues (museums etc); liven up the high street in the evenings by enabling creative spaces (for example how about encouraging short term use of the empty Debenhams store or other spaced vacated during COVID, as arts space/cafe/bar/music venues that open through into the late evening?).

more public communication about the benefits of the evening/nighttime economy to Worthing - both financially and socially - too often it's perceived as 'drunk noisy people causing problems', particularly by older residents. it's much more than that. Worthing could also benefit from efforts to stimulate the creative scene, with more venues for creatives, new music acts etc. Consider how spaced emptied during COVID can be used to stimulate a more vibrant evening economy, for example pop-up arts spaces and venues. Worthing's demographics are changing and we need to welcome and encourage the young creative people moving in to the area, so they can participate in making Worthing's future vibrant and prosperous

Visible patrols and stamping down hard on rowdy and destructive behaviour. More venues could make an effort to allow wheelchair access rather than cram in as many tables & chairs as possible giving no space for a wheelie.

Spread evening business across to West end of worthing, lots is based around the seafront or Warwick Street area

Have more events on and try to attract more night life to the main shopping areas

Better public transport, more venues open late, more evening events to discourage the drug users, street drinkers and homeless.
A local bus service that goes to specific towns/locations, it will stop the long line waiting for a taxi and be more reasonable on the pocket.
Police presence to deter trouble makers
Late night bus service going north to south.
Clean up the streets of undesirables, better street lighting, more police, more pedestrianisation with tables and chairs for cafes and restaurants to help self police the streets, in winter allow them to have zip up tents so people are still eating outside premises.
More police officers/PCSOs on foot patrol
More things to do, address safety issues, more buses, special meal deals, special events
Increased presence of security staff
Making wearing of face masks mandatory and the reintroduction of social distancing
Security
Much better lighting

Allow covered outside seating to return in the way it was allowed when we could only eat and drink outside. Have another taxi rank somewhere near the opposite end of Montague Street from the Chapel Road one. Rowlands road is now a vibrant restaurant and bar area but walking through the Montague Center at night to get to the taxi rank is not pleasant.

Police presence. More live music venues starting earlier in the evening

Better lightening in some areas

As above - have visible policing presence

More visible police - especially trained to know specific areas and the people who regularly cause problems in these areas.

Help the homeless
Get rid of the drunks / druggies from the town
Bring in shops that bring people in

Special events maybe?

Put more events outdoor events on, allow more street entertainment, make more of an effort during peak times... Christmas etc

Put some money into local police to help maintain the streets at nights

Can't really answer that without knowing what you currently do to support those economies. Clearly accessibility is key as is minimisation of costs for both the business and ultimately the consumer

Ensure good street lighting

More police in the beat.

A more visible and active police presence would be a good starting point!

More security

More available taxis or a night bus. Keep the stewards in the town centre

free parking

More lighting. Less hazards and more policing

Please have more police/community officers patrolling the streets!

Lean on Sussex Police to take complaints that women make more seriousy. Better police presence in the town. Reduction of street drinkers, and drugs, and reduction of pubs that open at provocative hours such as 8am which encourages vulnerable people to drink. Continue working closer with Turning Tides to help vulnerable street people rather than victimise them. Work with businesses to make business rates more attractive. Worthing is booming with some great food and drink entrepreneurs this should be encouraged, and more should be made about dining with sea views. Entertainment arts venues should be supported closer.

Don't know

Have a complete rethink of your town centres. They are a disgrace. Dirty, unimaginative, boring, old fashioned and unsafe. Thoroughly unpleasant places to be in

Nothing immediately comes to mind. The bottom line is that Covid-19 has royally screwed the evening and night-time economies through-out the whole country, not just our 'neck of the woods'?!?

Increase police presence and take appropriate action to reduce the chance of attack etc. Don't feel safe anymore.

Have very visible police, support officers or street angels

A get home safely scheme for women travelling alone, better parking facilities, better lighting on route to train station
Improve transport links. Encourage restaurants. Prevent areas with little footfall and poor lighting. More police presence in town centres.
Clean the streets up , empty bins .
Better street parking
sort out the bus services they are rubbish
Reinstate mask wearing and distancing.
More late night licences in town, more lights on building and roads and more evenings economy investment for ages ranging from 30-60.
Police presence needs to be obvious
Landlords should do more to prevent drunkenness and loutish behaviour. Far too many licensed premises.
More security and street lighting
More police presence, more lit up areas
Build an entertainment centre at Teville Gate
Take a look at other towns around the country and see what they do differently. Worthing has never been know for its amazing night life!
Police presence? More entertainment for people in the evenings, live music etc.

Art events
Better public transport-offer more than just drinking-noticed since easing food choices are down
Nowt
Enforce wearing of masks in all public situations except when eating or drinking.
I think Warwick Street has transformed in the last 2 years - some great restaurants and bars and with the declined Warwick closed on my last few visits, it has a lovely feel. Helping that cool artisan/craft vibe to spread out further into town, down to the seafront, joining up the Warwick area with the theatres and Dome would be great. Performance and arts programmes are great, too. More of the above please!
dont like going into carparks after coming out of events to get my car never anyone around to help if uneasy
Better police presence. More ambient places. Cleaner places. Much better quality theatres and cinemas and restaurants.
Improve street and car park lighting.
I am born and bred local but dislike Worthing Town Centre. Shops are mega disappointing so shops in other towns, parking very expensive, car parks dirty and old, drunks, rubbish and don't feel safe

Get up more decorative lights and try to get some occupants in Debenhams and nearby vacant plots.
Better lighting, no clubs, tidy the place up.
More money allocated to the police force so that they have the resources they need and the extra officers that have been promised (but have not materialised) to enable them to safeguard the public.
Provide security and eliminate drug takers & drunks from the streets
Day and night improve frequency of transport
I honestly don't know. On the one hand it's great having businesses open along the seafront until late, as many people enjoy stopping off for drinks/snacks whilst walking, but on the other hand, the later it gets the more people feel intimidated by the unpredictable nature of those experiencing homelessness.
More visible security
Let bars and pubs open longer till 1am on weekdays and 2am on weekends.
Na
Perhaps more events - outside of the standard nightlife

20. Please give your age range?

338 responses -
50-59 - 24.9% (84 people)
40-49 - 21.6% (73 people)
60-69 - 20.1% (68 people)
30-39 - 16% (54 people)
20-29 - 9.2% (31 people)
70-79 - 6.2% (21 people)
80 or over - 6.2% (4 people)
16-19 - 0.9% (3 people)

Findings from the Business survey

Only 3 responses received.

1. What changes have you had to make to your business to operate safely during the Covid-19 pandemic?3 responses

None

hand sanitisers , cleaning after every client

Stop live events

2. What are you doing to improve public confidence and help people return to visit the evening and night time economy businesses?3 responses

Nothing

I've taken both jabs and and staying away from crowded places and plan to have the booster in a month or so

showing that we are still alive

3. Do you consider that the Adur & Worthing evening and night time economies are recovering after the lifting of Government restrictions on 19 July?3 responses

Yes

sadly no , people are still worried and wary of booking weddings as they are not sure if maybe another lockdown is going to happen or if the situation is going to get worse winter time

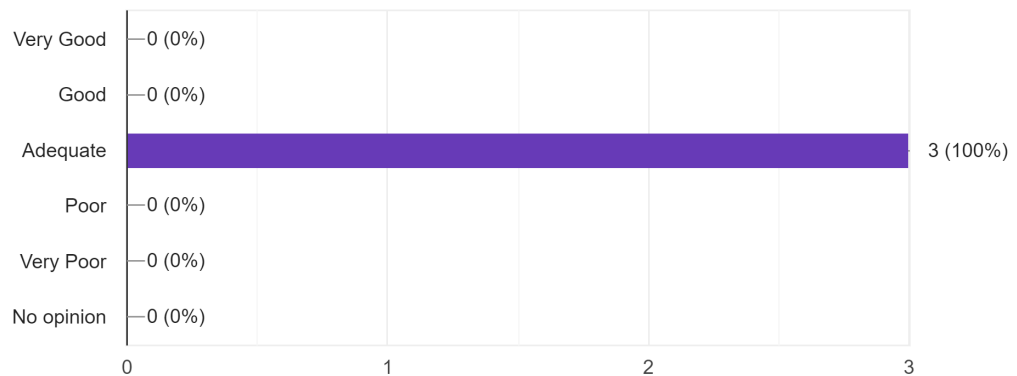Yes, live music is making a comeback

5. If you consider that public safety is Poor or Very Poor in answer to question 4 above, please explain why and what can be done to reduce crime and disorder during the evening and night time in the town and village centres? 2 responses

Improve safety for women , increase police presence

no i think overall its fine its people perceptions that get in the way

6. How do you rate public transport provision into and out of the town and village centres during the evening and night time after 5pm?
3 responses

7. If you consider that public transport provision is either poor or very poor please can you explain why and what can be done to help improve it? 1 response

its ok i think

8. What more do you think that the Councils and/or other organisations can do to help improve the evening and night time economies in Adur and Worthing?2 responses

better lighting , i think with Christmas coming up we need more festive lights to draw more people in

More varied events - Worthing has changed considerably over the last few years and we need to reflect that

Would you be willing to discuss your answers with the Working Group?3 responses