

# Lower High Street Consultation Exercise

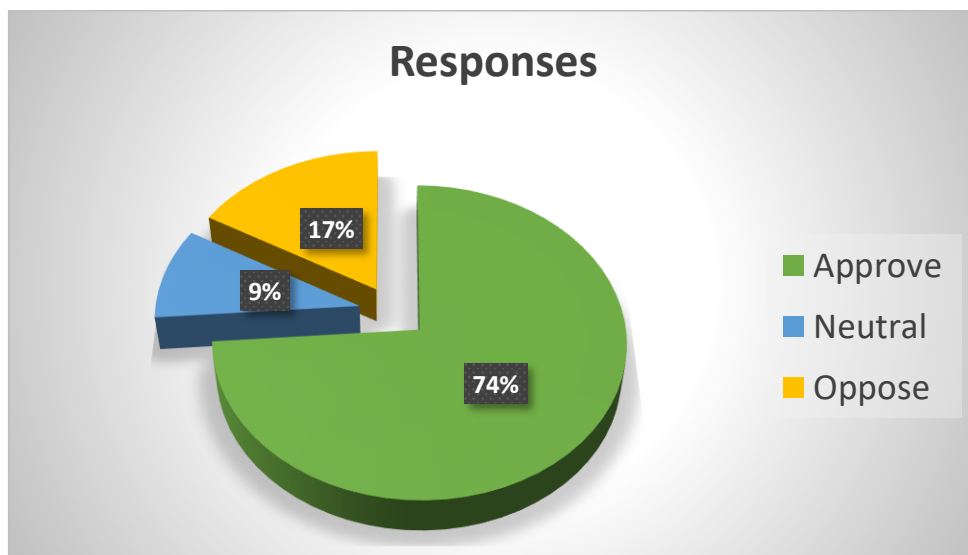
## Background

The Parish Council conducted a consultation exercise during October and November 2021 on a concept design for the future of the Lower High Street. Leaflets setting out the proposals were delivered to every household, post boxes for comments were placed around the Village, a comments form was placed on the Website and a public exhibition was held on 23 October. Around 50 people [check] attended the exhibition and in total 65 people commented on the concept design. The Parish Council would like to thank all those who took the time to attend the exhibition and everyone who commented.

The Parish Council are now considering the comments made in detail and will take these into account in the next iteration of the design.

## Key results.

The majority of comments favoured the proposed development. Those who opposed the concept design did so mainly registering concerns about the proposals to reduce vehicular access and relocate disabled parking.

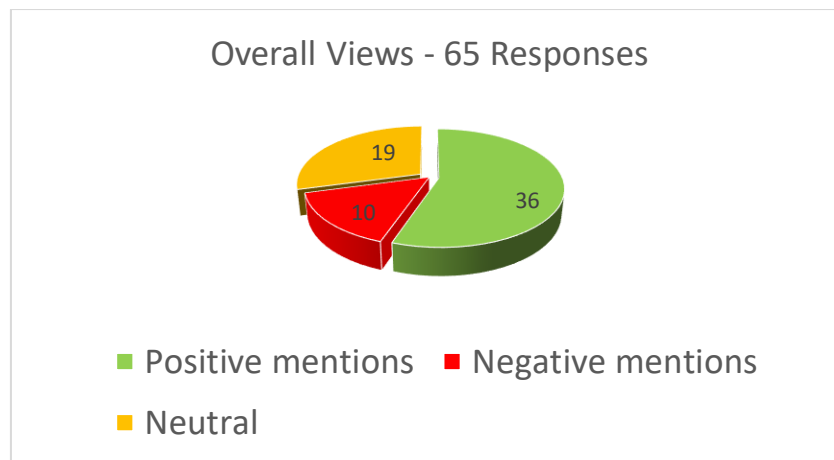


Concerns were also expressed about the positioning of the proposed seating and planting. A number of suggestions were made about events that could be held in the new pedestrian priority area.

## Results in detail

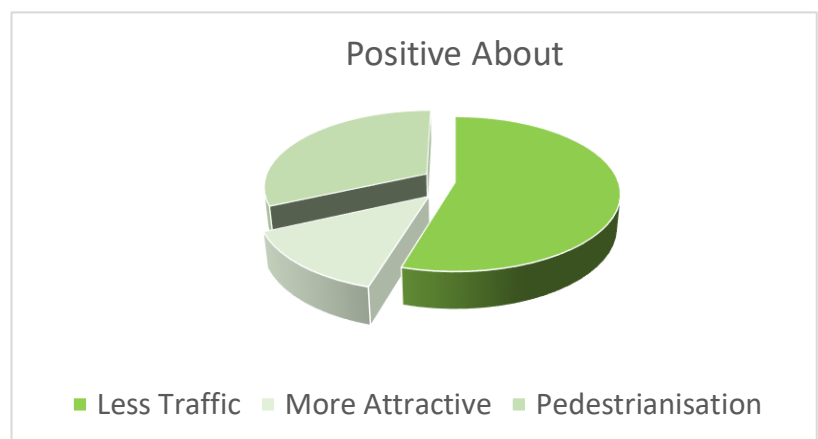
### Overall

Most respondents thought the proposals would enhance the Village and transform a tired comparatively unplanned street scene to something attractive for both residents and visitors. Many support the improvement of access to the beach in particular dealing with the very steep ramp that is difficult for people with limited mobility. The majority of people who responded supported a reduction in the number of cars accessing the area and the creation of a pedestrian safe place with seating, planting and outdoor dining. A number were however concerned about the impact on residents and businesses of the proposed limits on access for cars and many favoured the retention of some disabled parking.

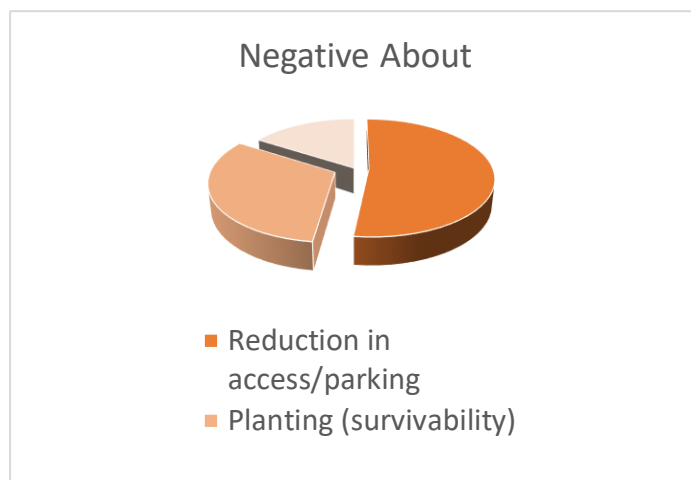


### Positive responses

Respondents particularly liked the proposals to reduce traffic and create a new attractive area with the potential for a café style environment with outdoor dining. Many were pleased at the prospect at this gateway to Rottingdean being transformed into an attractive space that would attract visitors and boost the local economy.



## Negative Responses



The key concerns from respondents were about the proposed reduction in parking and vehicular access, in particular for residents. People were also not convinced about the relocation of disabled parking spaces. They wondered what plants could survive in this open corridor. Concerns were also expressed about the additional noise that could result from the open space for outdoor dining.

## **The Key Themes.**

### Traffic

Almost all respondents favoured a reduction in the level of traffic in the area particularly during the summer which could benefit local businesses and make it a safer, more social space. Many also favoured limiting the times that delivery vehicles could access the area.

### Parking

Some respondents thought that relocating the parking to the long stay carpark would enhance the area significantly and reduce the current dominance of parked and moving vehicles. Others suggested drop-off points for patrons of local businesses and people using the beach. However, a number of respondents were concerned about the lack of access for cars, particularly local residents. Nearly all who commented on vehicular access thought some disabled parking should be retained given the difficulty of access to both the West Street and Long Stay car park for people with mobility issues.

### Pedestrianisation Priority

Many respondents supported this part of the plan and thought it an excellent idea for making better use of the space as a pedestrian safe and more attractive setting. Many commented that the Lower High Street could be a great space for additional seating for people to enjoy the views and a safe area for children running up from the beach

## Events

People thought that the proposal would create a great opportunity for a variety of events which could be held throughout the year such as farmers' markets, craft fairs, pop-up food festivals, and art exhibitions. Some were concerned that holding events could potentially increase noise levels for residents and should be limited and sympathetic to the residential properties surrounding the areas.

## Planting

The proposals to introduce planters with trees and grasses won a lot of support but many thought that the plants may struggle to survive. Some suggested static sculptures could be a better option.