

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF MUSSELBURGH HIGH ST



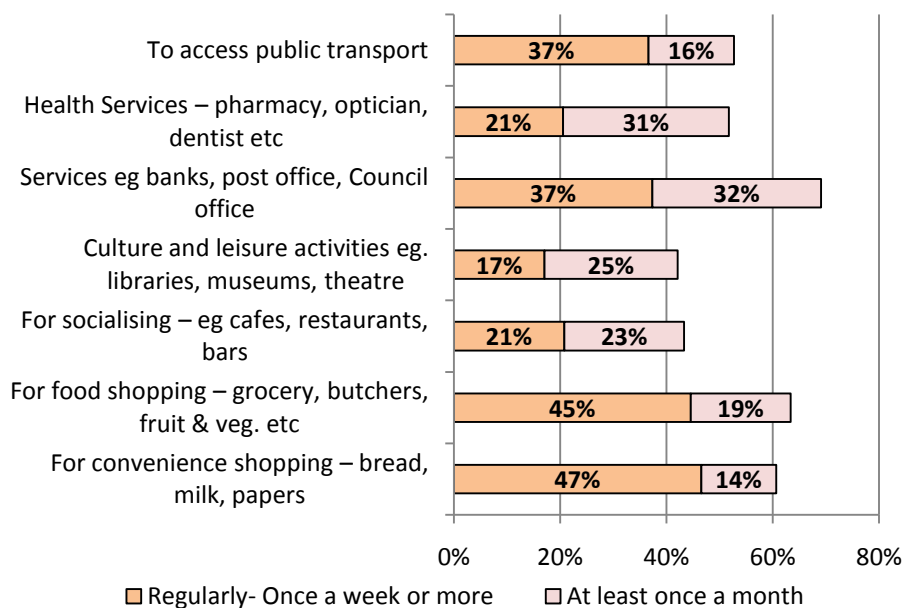
Throughout the summer members of the Musselburgh Town Centre Task Group have been consulting with people living and working across the Musselburgh area about their ideas, concerns and aspirations for the future of Musselburgh High St.

This update presents some of the initial findings from the consultation.

How are local residents using the High St?

- 80% of the people completing the question report using the High St (including North High St) at least once a week
- People who completed the survey on line were generally less likely to use the High St, regularly however 69% of them still claim to visit the High St at least once a week
- Almost half the respondents claim they use the High St for food and convenience shopping once a week or more

Percentage reporting they use the High St at least once a month for a range of different services and activities



What has taken place?

The 3-D town High St map was on display for :-

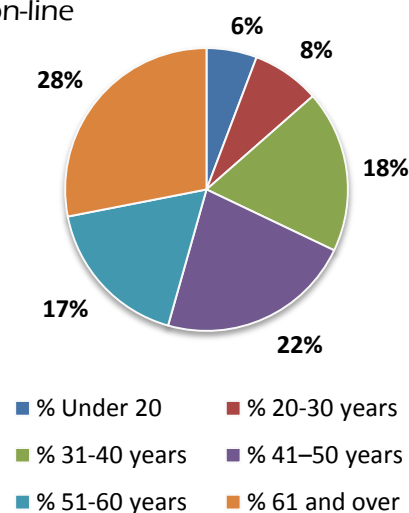
- 2 days at Brunton Hall
- 2 days in a 'pop-up-shop' on the High St
- at FestiVale, youth music event at Lewisvale Park
- 1 week at Musselburgh Library
- a morning at the Hollies Day Centre
- a Saturday morning at Tesco

Over 1000 people so far have taken part in the consultation.

Over 1200 separate cards and comments have been put on the map

404 surveys have already been completed by people of all ages

20% of surveys were completed on-line



What is it all about?

The Musselburgh Town Centre Task Group has come together as part of Local Community Planning initiatives across the area. This group, made up of local residents, community groups and local businesses, is currently working with East Lothian Council to develop a Town Centre Strategy for Musselburgh. The views and ideas collected throughout this consultation will contribute to this strategy and help guide plans and investment in the area.

To find out more about local Community Planning in Musselburgh call 0131 6534068 or 0131 6534065 or visit our webpage - www.eastlothiancommunityplanning.org.uk/musselburgh.aspx



LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING
Making a Difference
 across the Musselburgh wards

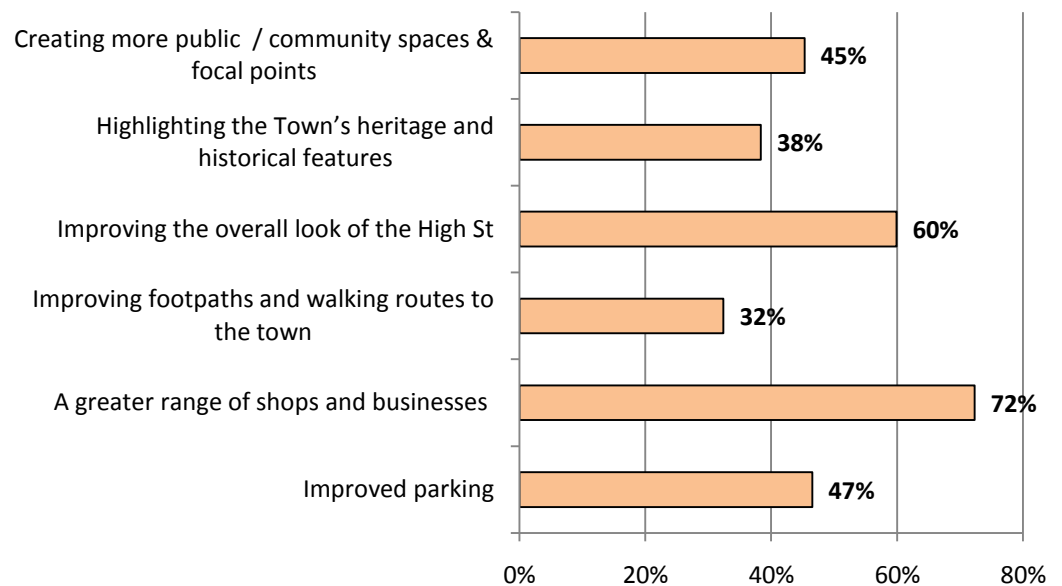


What would make a difference to the High St?

From the ideas and suggestions placed on the map there were a number of key, reoccurring themes:-

- Traffic congestion was a major concern for many people – and particular problem areas were highlighted at the Dalrymple Loan / Bridge St intersection, on Newbigging and also at Loretto Corner.
- An increased range and diversity of shops was the main thing people felt would improve their use of the High St and attract new users to the area, and the Council was urged to consider what could be done to support small business and new start-ups on the High St
- Another focus was on making better use of the area's assets - from highlighting the historic buildings around the Town Hall to making better links between the High St and the river Esk
- Overall the High St was felt to be in need of a 'makeover' - in addition to a general desire for streetscape improvements a number of specific examples of damage or neglect were identified, including the Musselburgh Arms and the old Bingo hall.
- A number of areas along the High St were highlighted that could be focussed on to create community spaces that people wanted to spend time in rather than simply pass by – the main examples were in the square outside the Town Hall, the area surrounding Brunton Hall and the bottom of Shorthope St

What would make a big difference to people using the High St?



What happens next?

The Working group is still processing the huge amount of information collected through the consultation, analysing it and building up recommendations for the Town Centre Strategy. In the meantime:

- A number of specific, very local issues identified on the map eg parking problems, damage, footpath maintenance etc have been passed on to relevant ELC Departments or other agencies for attention
- Further consultation is being planned with traders and local businesses
- We will be presenting a full summary of the consultation findings at the Local Area Forum in November and distributing further updates as information becomes available.