



**Let's Talk Boston:  
Plan for Neighbourhoods Funding  
Consultation and Engagement, Summer 2025**

**Final report  
September 2025**

Prepared by The Engaging People Company on behalf of Boston Town Board

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## Executive Summary

### Overview

Consultation and engagement has been carried out across a range of methods to gain meaningful insight from the public to shape the Plan for Neighbourhoods plans for Boston, under the banner of Let's Talk Boston. The aim has been to raise awareness, engender interest, share information, and drive involvement, and to build on findings from engagement and consultation work carried out in 2024.

At the heart of the approach was a concerted consultation period between 4<sup>th</sup> July – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025. During this period, people had their say through the following online surveys, resulting in the following responses:

- General survey ('Let's Talk Boston') - 338 responses
  - *The total sample size for this survey provides findings with a margin of error of +/-5% (at a 95% confidence level) (based on a Boston town population of 45,347 - Source: ONS Census 2021).*
- Young people survey (for under 25s) - 61 responses
  - *The total sample size for this survey provides findings with a margin of error of +/-12.5% (at a 95% confidence level) (based on a Boston town population under the age of 25 of 16,226 - Source: ONS Census 2021).*

In addition to these surveys, Boston College led-engagement activities at Futurefest and Sparkfest generated 102 and 347 responses respectively.

In addition, feedback has also been shared via community group activities and freepost response leaflets. 96 leaflet responses were received by post.

Around 1,100 separate pieces of feedback have been captured from people through the process.

The feedback from consultation and engagement mechanisms is highlighted within this **report**.

### Let's Talk Boston: engagement overview

Boston Town Board is committed to engaging local people in the development and delivery of plans for Boston, ensuring that they are supported and empowered to have their say, in a range of accessible ways. The Board is taking a collaborative approach, involving the community in co-creating plans that are 'owned' by local people.

The approach to engagement is underpinned by some guiding principles:

- **Inclusive** – the Board seeks to ensure that its engagement and communications activities meet the diverse needs of the population, and that it connects with people who may be seldom heard;

- **Creative** – the Board looks for opportunities to ‘do different’ and encourage involvement through creative activities;
- **Empower** – the Board seeks to empower by delegating responsibility to community groups and local people;
- **Listen** – the Board actively listens to feedback, and demonstrates its understanding and actions in response to feedback through action;
- **Easy** – the Board makes it easy and convenient for people to access information and get involved.

## **Plan for Neighbourhoods consultation and engagement: phase 1**

### **June – August 2025**

In summer 2025, Boston Town Board ran a multi-layered programme of consultation and engagement which aimed to gain robust, meaningful, and deep insight and understanding of local people’s views, hopes, and ideas for their town. This programme built on the foundation of previous consultative activity, namely the consultation in 2024 around the then Long Term Plan for Towns scheme. This report can be found [here](#)

## **Programme of consultation and engagement**

### **1. Boston College consultation**

Boston College played a leading role in consultation and engagement with a dedicated survey which was rolled out at two key events – Futurefest, a careers festival dedicated to secondary schools and post-16 learners – and Sparkfest, Boston College’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Engagement was incentivised with ice-cream at Futurefest, and the Sparkfest engagement was led by community Interviewers from Boston College who received training in interview and coaching skills as well as reimbursement for their role. 120 young people had their say at Futurefest and 449 people of all ages completed the survey at Sparkfest.

### **2. Let’s Talk Boston**

Together with Boston Borough Council, the Let’s Talk Boston brand and messaging was developed to ensure a consistent and coherent approach across all consultative activities in the town. Let’s Talk Boston also set out a call to action to the community and underpinned a number of different mechanisms for engagement, including:



- A **general survey**, incentivised, and available online, with the survey also made available in nine other languages. The survey questions sought to build on previous insight and gain depth of understanding. 338 people had their say in this survey;



- Two versions of incentivised **freepost leaflets** were also produced, which invited people to have their say on four questions (two per leaflet), and return their responses freepost. These leaflets were distributed at venues across Boston and offered an accessible and easy way for people to join the conversation. 96 people had their via these leaflets. Responses have been incorporated, where applicable, in the general survey analysis.



- A dedicated and incentivised **young people survey** was developed and made available online. The survey was set up in partnership with Boston Youth Hub as a collaborative exercise, and the youth hub supported the survey by having iPads available at the centre for young people to engage with the survey. 61 young people had their say in the survey.

### 3. Events

Face to face engagement was an important part of the programme and representatives and interviewers had a presence at a number of different events during the summer, inviting feedback from the public via the online survey on an iPad and the freepost response leaflets.



Engagement took place at the following events:

- Boston Community Day at Jakeman's Stadium, 20<sup>th</sup> July;
- Boston craft market, 26<sup>th</sup> July;
- Boston Pride, 26<sup>th</sup> July,
- Boston market, 30<sup>th</sup> July;

- Boston teenage market, 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

These events offered the opportunity to engage other community groups, businesses, and traders as well as the public in the consultation.

#### 4. Community group collaboration

A crucial part of the approach was empowering and supporting community groups to take a lead in delivering consultation and engagement, recognising that they have existing trusted connections within Boston. This element of the programme was supported by a [toolkit](#) and funding from the capacity funding. The opportunity to get involved was promoted via a presentation to the Boston Community Leaders meeting, and through direct contact and conversations with numerous community groups, organisations, and champions in Boston. This resulted in additional engagement activities led and delivered by community groups, and supported by the Boston Town Board:

- **Boston Lithuanian Community** – a programme of engagement activities over the summer such as ‘Talk & Tea’ Drop-in sessions, a feedback wall, and an art club workshop. The survey was offered in different languages – provided by the Board – with the responses translated by members of the group. So far 26 Lithuanian surveys and 24 Russian-language surveys have been captured, with more to come.
- **Boston mosque** – engagement is ongoing and has included providing materials and an iPad at the mosque for people to complete the survey, which was promoted within the Friday service.
- **Boston Youth Hub** – in addition to the dedicated survey and iPad, the Board has also funded a graffiti wall to engage young people in an activity with the opportunity to also share their views.
- **Boston Centrepont** – the Board funded an art workshop where clients of the charity were able to complete the leaflets.

Conversations also took place with other partners and community groups - such as LCVS, the Boston Community Connector, and the Young Journalists scheme amongst others – with opportunities identified for collaborative engagement activities in the next phase of consultation and engagement, and beyond.

#### 5. Summary of engagement

Hundreds of conversations about the Plan for Neighbourhoods and the opportunity it represents have taken place over the last two months - at events, with community groups, within organisations, and online. Currently, there are over 1,000 separate pieces of feedback with more to come in the form of feedback leaflets.

#### Driving engagement

It was crucial to drive engagement in the consultation, ensuring that people were aware of it taking place, and knew how to get involved. Activities took the form of:

- Continuous **organic and paid-for social media content**. During the consultation period (4<sup>th</sup> July – 11<sup>th</sup> August) the Boston Town Board Facebook page had 77,509 views, 16,080 reach, 566 content interactions, and 742 link clicks. The paid for Facebook ad for the general Let's Talk Survey had 9,388 views, 4,382 reach, and 394 link clicks. Meanwhile, the paid for Facebook advertising for the under 25s survey generated 7,819 views, 3,555 reach, and 152 clicks. Content was also shared in the town's biggest Facebook group Boston the People.
- Paid for **web banners on Boston Vibe** promoting both surveys had the following results:

Period: 23rd July 2025 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025

- Views: 32,582
- Clicks: 12

Period: 23rd July 2025 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025

- Views: 122,584

Period: 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025

- Views: 25,770
- Clicks: 8

Period: 23rd July 2025 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025

- Views: 117,334

- A Boston-based graphic designer was commissioned to support the promotion of the consultation with **social media assets and vox pops** which served to capture views and also encourage others to get involved. The films can be viewed [here](#)
- The **freepost leaflets and associated posters** promoting the consultation were distributed across the town in a number of locations.
- A dedicated **Chair's Update** with details of the consultation and engagement was sent directly to 168 subscribers and shared online on the Boston Town Board website.
- A **press release** was prepared and issued to local [media](#).
- Content about the opportunity to get involved was created on the Boston Town Board **website**.
- In addition, **content** was shared by board members, partners, and members of the public to encourage people to get involved and share their views.

### **Inclusive engagement**

An absolute priority for the Board has been **inclusive engagement**, ensuring everyone is able to make their voice heard and access routes to have their say. This has been underlined by creating accessible feedback mechanisms – including offering translated surveys – and working with community groups who are trusted sources of information. As outlined previously, the Board has worked with Boston College and the Youth Hub to engage young people and engagement also took place at Boston Youth Market. As such, the youth voice is well represented in this consultation, and beyond that, young people have been supported and empowered to play a leading role as community interviewers.

In addition, activities have been supported by Boston Lithuanian Community, Boston mosque, and Centrepont, allowing the Board to connect with the views of people

diversely. The Board will continue to build on the foundations that have been created and extend its reach further in the months and years to come.

**Next steps**

The next steps are to continue to engage people in Boston, and to seek further, deepening insight through focus groups. The Board will continue to deliver against its commitment to engage people meaningfully to co-create plans that belong to local people.

## Themes

There are some key themes coming through the feedback:

- **Identity and vision** – there is strong support for Boston embracing its heritage alongside progress and creativity. Respondents want it to be known for its history, market town charm, independent businesses and cultural life.
- **Cleanliness, safety and anti-social behaviour** - top concerns include crime, anti-social behaviour and public cleanliness. There are calls for more visible policing, improved street lighting and better maintenance of public areas.
- **Town centre and local economy** – there is a desire to revitalise the high street, support independent shops and improve the look and feel of the town. Suggestions include affordable parking, filling empty shops and enhancing green spaces.
- **Community, integration and inclusion** – there is emphasis on community spirit, multicultural integration, and cross-cultural events. However, there is a need to overcome division and low civic pride.
- **Support for young people** – with priority for job opportunities, career advice, youth spaces and mental health support to help young people stay and thrive in Boston.
- **Health, wellbeing and leisure** – there is interest in affordable fitness, walking/cycling routes and support for clubs and community activities (e.g. funding, spaces). Events and leisure activities are key to encouraging local engagement and visitor interest.
- **Skills and training** – there is a need for accessible learning, apprenticeships and support for people to gain skills or start businesses. Strong support for community learning hubs.
- **Arts, culture and events** – there is widespread enthusiasm for more music festivals, seasonal events, food markets. Culture and heritage seen as key to improving the visitor / tourist experience.
- **Volunteering and community involvement** – many are already involved, and others would engage more if opportunities were flexible and well-communicated. Most want to contribute through consultations and idea-sharing.
- **Communication and access to services** – there is preference for community hubs, online services, and mobile support. Clearer communication about opportunities and services is needed.

## **Key findings**

### **Part A: survey analysis – General Survey**

#### **i. Our vision for Boston**

##### **Thoughts about Boston's possible identity (prompted)**

1. The large majority of respondents like the idea that Boston's identity could be about its history side-by-side with progress and creativity – 80% quite like it OR like it a lot.
2. With 48% 'liking it a lot'.

##### **What should Boston be known for, so it stands out (open-ended)**

3. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Its history and heritage
  - b. Independent shops and local businesses
  - c. Cultural activities, events, festivals
  - d. Public spaces and town aesthetics
  - e. Its market town identity

##### **Main changes would want to see in Boston by 2035 (open-ended)**

4. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Cleanliness, safety and tackling anti-social behaviour
  - b. Revitalising the town centre and retail
  - c. Parking and traffic management (including a bypass)
  - d. Community, culture and integration
  - e. Family-friendly facilities and green spaces

##### **Best things about Boston that we should build on (open-ended)**

5. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Heritage and history
  - b. Community spirit and friendliness
  - c. Green spaces and the natural environment
  - d. The market and town centre
  - e. Diversity and multiculturalism

##### **Description of the Boston that you would be proud to be part of in 2035 (open-ended)**

6. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Clean and safe town
  - b. A thriving market town
  - c. Sense of community and togetherness
  - d. Celebrating its history and heritage
  - e. Diverse, multi-cultural and integrated

#### **ii. Boston moving forward**

##### **Small, quick changes that could make a big difference (open-ended)**

7. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Cleanliness and maintenance of public spaces
  - b. Crime, safety and police presence
  - c. Bins, litter and dog waste facilities
  - d. Pavement and road condition (potholes, cracks, safety)
  - e. Town aesthetic and shopfront improvements



### **Biggest challenges in local community (open-ended)**

8. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Anti-social behaviour and crime
  - b. Immigration, integration and community division
  - c. Safety and town centre decline
  - d. Lack of services and infrastructure
  - e. Community apathy and low civic pride
  - f. Young people, activities and opportunities

### **How can these challenges be tackled (open-ended)**

9. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Visible policing and enforcement
  - b. Shared activities, understanding and celebration of diversity
  - c. Clean streets and maintained public spaces
  - d. Revive the high street, reduce empty shops, lower rents, support local businesses
  - e. Improvements to transport and connectivity

### **Community support, advice, services needed to live well in Boston (prompted)**

10. When prompted, 77% of respondents selected 'activities for young people'.
11. Closely followed by 'social activities' (73%).
12. With 'mental health support' chosen by around half (52%).

### **How and where easiest to access this community support, advice or services (open-ended)**

13. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Community hubs / centres
  - b. Town centre / central location
  - c. Online services
  - d. Mobile / pop-up services

### **Whether volunteer or get involved in community groups, projects or activities (prompted)**

14. 49% of those who responded to this question volunteer or get involved in community groups, projects or activities.

### **What would encourage volunteering or getting involved in community groups, projects or activities (prompted)**

15. When prompted, those who don't currently volunteer or get involved in community groups, projects or activities are most likely to consider doing so if there were 'more flexible ways to get involved' (41% of those who don't volunteer / get involved).
16. Around a third (35%) would like 'more information about ways to get involved'.

### **iii. Supporting people in Boston**

### **What would help you and others stay healthy and active in Boston (open-ended)**

17. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Walking and cycling infrastructure
  - b. Affordable and accessible fitness options
  - c. Support for clubs and community activities
  - d. Better communication and promotion
  - e. Safety and cleanliness

**How can help young people to stay in Boston (prompted)**

- 18. Prompted, respondents are most likely to think 'better jobs and career opportunities' would help young people to stay in Boston (76%).
- 19. Followed by 'local job fairs' and 'career advice' - 53% of respondents respectively.

**How can support people of all ages to get the skills and training they need (open-ended)**

- 20. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Access to information and advice
  - b. Apprenticeships and work-based learning
  - c. Free or affordable training courses
  - d. Employer partnerships and work experience
  - e. Community hubs and local learning centres

**Whether would like to see more support for local people to achieve ambitions (prompted)**

- 21. The large majority of respondents would like to see more support for local people to achieve their ambitions to start and build new businesses (89%).

**iv. Improving our town**

**What could do to make Boston town centre more attractive and welcoming (open-ended)**

- 22. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Cleanliness and tidy appearance
  - b. Reduce anti-social behaviour / improve safety
  - c. Fill empty shops / encourage independent retailers
  - d. Free / affordable parking
  - e. More greenery, flowers, art

**What would encourage more frequent and longer visits to Boston town centre (open-ended)**

- 23. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Better and more diverse shops
  - b. Free or cheaper parking
  - c. Addressing safety and anti-social behaviour concerns
  - d. More events and activities
  - e. Cleaner and more attractive environment

**What could be done to make people feel safe in Boston (open-ended)**

- 24. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Improved street lighting
  - b. More CCTV and visible monitoring
  - c. Control / disperse large groups loitering
  - d. Reduce anti-social behaviour.
  - e. Cleaner, busier and more attractive town centre

**How could more be made of green spaces in Boston (open-ended)**

- 25. Key themes emerging include:
  - a. Maintenance, cleanliness and safety
  - b. Improved play and recreational facilities
  - c. Community events and social activities
  - d. Community gardens and allotments



## **v. Spending time in Boston**

### **How enjoy spending free / leisure time in Boston (open-ended)**

26. Key themes emerging include:

- a. Walking
- b. Going for a coffee
- c. Going to the cinema, theatre, attending cultural events
- d. Eating out
- e. *However, a notable number do not spend their free / leisure time in Boston, preferring to go elsewhere*

### **Types of events should be hosted in Boston (open-ended)**

27. Key themes emerging include:

- a. Music events
- b. Christmas events (markets, light shows, festivals)
- c. Boston Brilliance (light shows)
- d. Summer festivals / Party in the Park
- e. Food festivals and markets (including multicultural food)

### **Whether would like to see more support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities (prompted)**

28. The large majority of respondents would like to see more support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities for local people to get involved in (81%).

### **How can improve the visitor experience for tourists (prompted)**

29. Prompted, the large majority think the visitor experience for tourists would be improved by a 'better choice of shops and places to eat' – 80%.

30. Closely followed by 'bringing Boston's heritage to life' – 73%.

### **How can work better together and make multi-cultural Boston work for us (open-ended)**

31. Key themes emerging include:

- a. Better integration and mutual respect
- b. More inclusive, cross-cultural community events
- c. Improved communication, education and language support
- d. Celebrating and enhancing of a shared heritage

## **vi. Getting involved**

### **How would like to be involved in making a difference (prompted)**

32. Prompted, respondents would most like to be involved in 'making a difference' through having their say in consultations such as this (68%).

33. Around half (46%) would like to be able to suggest an idea for a project.

## **vii. About Respondents**

### **How would describe themselves (prompted)**

34. The sample has a strong female bias, with 63% describing themselves as female.

35. And 33% as male.

### **Respondent age (prompted)**

36. There is a good spread across age groups, although only a small number of those who responded are under the age of 25 (6%). However, noting that a separate survey was available for young people to complete.

37. 28% are aged 25-44; and 45% 25-54.

38. 45% of those who responded are aged 55+.

### **Respondent postcode (open-ended)**

39. As expected, respondents are most likely to have a PE21 postcode (Boston).  
40. With PE20 also a notable mention.

### **Whether would like to be kept informed of the findings of this consultation and future consultation and engagement by Boston Town Board (prompted)**

41. 72% of those who responded to this question (or 169 individuals) would like to be kept informed.

## **Part B: survey analysis – *Young People Survey***

### **a. Your ideas for Boston**

#### **What would make Boston a place where you want to live, work or study in 2035 (open-ended)**

1. Key themes emerging include:
- Job opportunities (especially for young people)
  - More youth activities and spaces
  - Improvements to shops and the town centre
  - Safety, cleanliness and (addressing of) anti-social behaviour

#### **Activities / spaces would make you want to spend more time in Boston town centre (open-ended)**

2. Key themes emerging include:
- Music events / live music / music venues
  - study spaces / youth clubs / safe social spaces
  - shops / shopping centres / cafés
  - Festivals / markets / cultural events
  - sports and active spaces (e.g. football, trampoline parks, arcades)

#### **Support needed to achieve goals in Boston (open-ended)**

3. Key themes emerging include:
- Career advice
  - Skills training
  - Mental health support

#### **How can we make Boston's green spaces and community events more appealing (open-ended)**

4. Key themes emerging include:
- Festivals and events – music, sport, youth-oriented
  - Sports facilities and activities
  - Cleanliness, maintenance, beautification
  - Mental health support
  - Security and safety (including police presence)

## **Part C: Sparkfest**

These statements emerged as the most important from the Sparkfest feedback:

- Everyone in Boston should have access to training that leads to a good local job
- Boston should feel safe for everyone, day and night
- The town centre should be a place where people live, work, shop and can spend time together
- Everyone should be able to access good quality local healthcare

- Young people in Boston should be actively involved in shaping the town's future
- Boston's unique history and diversity should be celebrated more.

## **Part D: Futurefest**

These statements emerged as the most important from the Futurefest feedback:

- Everyone should be able to learn skills that help them get a good job in Boston
- Boston should feel safe for everyone, during the day and at night
- The town centre should be a place where people can live, work, shop, and hang out
- Everyone should be able to get good, local healthcare
- Young people should have a say in decisions about Boston's future
- Boston's unique history and mix of cultures should be celebrated more.

## **Part D: Community group activities**

### **i. Boston Lithuanian Community**

- Cultural and Social Life
- Learning and Skills Development
- Safety and Security
- Cleanliness and Environment
- Infrastructure and Transport
- Community Integration and Support
- Health, Workload, and NHS Access
- Recreation, Health, and Wellbeing
- Support for Local Economy and Creativity.

### **ii. YMCA / Boston Youth Hub**

This workshop successfully combined informal education principles with creative expression, offering young people a space to explore identity, collaborate with peers, and engage in meaningful art-making.

### **iii. Boston Centrepont**

The main ideas were:

- More accessible toilets in town.
- A homeless shelter.
- Buses on a Sunday.
- More free music events to bring people together.
- A cheap affordable café that acts a community hub.
- Help to give Centrepont Outreach a refurbishment.
- More places to go on a Saturday and Sunday that are free or very low cost.
- A heritage centre or more events on the river.

## Part A: survey analysis – *General Survey*

### i. Our vision for Boston

#### 1. Thoughts about Boston's possible identity

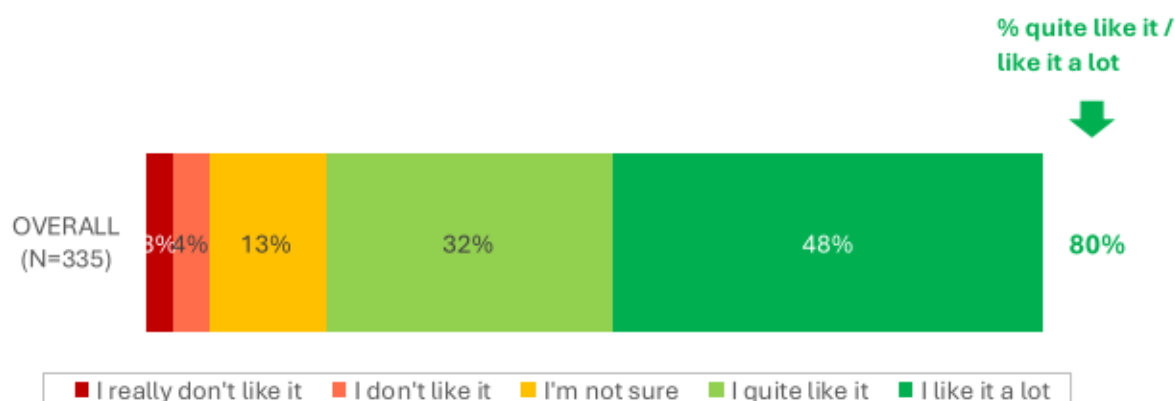
*Q: We need to think about what we want Boston to be in 10 years' time – this is our identity. Based on previous consultation, we know that people want Boston to prosper, to make more of its history, but also look to the future. So, our identity could be about Boston's history and heritage side-by-side with progress and creativity. What do you think about that? (prompted)*

*Response rate to this question: 335 people / 99% of respondents to this survey*

The large majority of respondents like the idea that Boston's identity could be about its history side-by-side with progress and creativity – with 80% quite liking it or liking it a lot.

Indeed, around a half (48%) 'like it a lot'.

A further 13% are unsure.



Option	%	Number
I like it a lot	48	160
I quite like it	32	108
I'm not sure	13	43
I don't like it	4	13
I really don't like it	3	11

## 2. What should Boston be known for, so it stands out

Q: What do you think Boston should be known for so that it stands out from other neighbouring towns? For example: this could be things like small independent shops, arts and crafts, or cultural activities like events and festivals. (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 366 people (comprising 313 online responses and 53 leaflet postal responses).

Boston's **history and heritage** is frequently highlighted as a defining feature to celebrate and promote.

With specific mention of its Pilgrim connections, architecture and maritime past.

*"More focus on the history, the Pilgrim Fathers or how the port used to be one of the greatest."*

*"Keep making use of our history and architecture... that certainly stands out from other towns."*

*"Celebrating its Hanseatic history, making the most of the historic buildings."*

*"Boston has so much heritage. Signpost it, bring back links with USA and further Hanseatic links."*

There is a strong desire for Boston to be known for **independent shops and local businesses**.

Respondents dislike the dominance of shops such as barbers and vape shops.

*"Independent shops that aren't a repeat of the same thing! We don't need any more barbers or Eastern European grocery stores."*

*"It would be lovely to be known as a hub for independent shops, craft workshops, wellbeing offerings etc."*

*"Build up the small shops with nice olde world frontage, not these big glass windows/brash advertising."*

Being known for **cultural activities, events and festivals** also comes through strongly (e.g. arts, music, theatre, parades, heritage festivals, multi-cultural events).

*"Boston needs more cultural activities. Some of the events like the Festival of Light have been brilliant."*

*"Events and festivals would bring a sense of community to the town and a sense of well-being."*

*"Art / cultural events such as Boston Brilliance, Illuminate Parade, etc."*

For its **public spaces and town aesthetics**.

Respondents want a beautiful, well-maintained and inviting town centre with thoughtful design, flowers, clean streets and seating areas that evoke a sense of pride.

*"Boston should be known for its beautiful and creative public spaces that inspire stories, spark curiosity, and encourage interaction."*

*"Its attractive centre with welcoming flowers and plants and gardens and park."*

*"It definitely needs a big clean up with some lovely Independent shops to come in. A town to be proud of which it's not at the moment."*

And its **market town identity**.

There's nostalgia and advocacy for reviving the traditional market, better using the market square and promoting local produce and makers — reinforcing Boston's roots as a proud market town.

*"More shopping choices and bring back the proper markets like used to be - not a 5-stall wonder it is now."*

*"A thriving market would be a good start."*

*"Market town — build on this."*

*"The market should be developed further to include local produce etc so supporting local farmers."*

*"Boston was always known for its market. Let's make it happen again."*

Other notable mentions include:

- **Safety and cleanliness** – many want a town that feels safe, clean and welcoming.
- **Infrastructure and transport** – frequent mentions of the need for a bypass, better roads, parking.
- **Youth facilities** – a need for more activities for children and teens.
- **Community integration** – some call for better integration and cohesion amongst diverse communities.

### 3. Main changes would want to see in Boston by 2035

Q: What are the three main changes you would want to see in Boston by 2035 to make it a thriving place? (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 376 people (comprising 321 online responses and 55 leaflet postal responses).

**Cleanliness, safety and tackling anti-social behaviour** is a key theme emerging when respondents were asked about changes they would want to see in Boston by 2035 (e.g. more policing, action on alcohol / drug use, littering and intimidating behaviour).

*"A strong community response to reduce drug and alcohol misuse, especially in public areas."*

*"Zero tolerance to drinking, anti-social behaviour"*

*"Improved lawfulness and cleanliness."*

*"More police presence — more visible security to stamp out shop lifting."*

*"Less litter and fly-tipping."*

*"No drinking in the streets."*

Another key theme coming through strongly is **revitalising the town centre and retail** (e.g. reviving the high street, filling empty shops, supporting independent businesses, bringing in popular or unique brands).

*"Bring alive the dead town centre by opening new shopping outlets and leisure centres."*

*"More shops, different varieties, not cheap Eastern European food markets."*

*"A small focused retail centre, independent shops not chain stores - a bit different from everywhere else."*

*"Create food pop-ups, exhibitions & galleries in empty buildings."*

*"Vibrant town centre - shops, cafés etc that locals and visitors want to visit."*



As does **parking and traffic management (including a bypass)**.

Free or cheaper parking and a bypass to reduce traffic congestion are frequent mentions.

*"1 hour free parking arrangements to drive footfall."*

*"Bypass to reduce congestion from freight and agricultural vehicles plus summer caravans going to Skegness."*

*"Better road system (not to be stuck in traffic all the town)."*

**Community, culture and integration** comes through notably too.

With calls for greater community cohesion, cultural understanding, inclusive events and promotion of Boston's heritage and identity.

*"A stronger, more united community - where local people are friendlier, more positive, supportive, educated, and integrated."*

*"Shout about its history and its wonderful church."*

*"More integration between cultures."*

*"A regular calendar of events - particularly in sports and music - to bring the community together and attract visitors."*

There is a desire for better **family-friendly facilities and green spaces** (e.g. parks, play areas, family events, safe public spaces).

*"Renovated buildings and Witham Park transformed into a lively hub for festivals, sports, water activities, cafés."*

*"More outdoor space for people to meet."*

*"More play areas for children."*

*"A big and beautiful park."*

#### 4. Best things about Boston that we should build on

Q: What are the three best things about Boston that we should build on as we head towards 2035? (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 304 people / 90% of respondents to this survey

When asked about best things about Boston that should be built on, the most dominant theme emerging is its **heritage and history** (e.g. architecture, connections to Pilgrims and the USA).

*"Its rich history and heritage, which give the town a strong identity and unique character."*

*"Boston has a lot of history that a lot of people don't know about, more awareness and education on the history would be good."*

*"It's heritage, schools/college and port. Three extremely important environments that are working in isolation."*

The town's **community spirit and friendliness** is another notable theme highlighted as something to build on.

*"Our friendliness and sense of community and willingness to volunteer."*

*"The friendly attitude of Bostonians."*

There is some mention of **green spaces and the natural environment**.

Respondents seem to value parks, woods, rivers.

*"The riverside and green spaces, offering opportunities for leisure, events, and community gatherings."*

*"The river - could it be more of a feature with a water taxi."*

*"Natural green spaces to enjoy."*

And the **market and town centre**.

The market, market place and central area still hold cultural and nostalgic significance, despite concerns about decline (and there is a clear desire for things to go back to 'how they used to be').

*"Town centre looking nice e.g. no empty shops."*

*"The market (as it was)."*

*"There are spaces to develop within the town centre and improve the appearance of the town."*

*"The market Wednesday and Saturday - sadly depleted at the moment."*

*"Make more use of the large market place."*

**Boston's diversity and multiculturalism** is highlighted by many.

With frequent praising of the variety of cultures and languages in Boston.

But noting the divisive nature of this theme in some feedback.

*"It's multicultural residents. Highlight their cultures, music, singing, dance and food."*

*"The diverse and hardworking community, bringing different cultures, skills, and perspectives together."*

## 5. Description of the Boston that you would be proud to be part of in 2035

Q: In one sentence please describe the Boston that you would be proud to be part of in 2035? (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 338 people (comprising 298 online responses and 40 leaflet postal responses).

The most commonly expressed aspiration for Boston is for a **clean and safe town**.

*"A clean, safe, thriving, market town with access to healthcare, education, and leisure activities."*

*"A clean tidy town where people can walk without intimidation."*

*"Cleaner and safer streets, also discouragement of the unruly and disrespectful element."*

There is a strong desire for Boston to be a **thriving market town**, and to bring back Boston's identity as a busy, prosperous market town.

*"Revive the town centre to the vibrant, popular destination it used to be."*

*"A thriving market town that looks well-kept and has lots of little quaint shops."*

*"A clean, tidy, thriving town with no empty shops, a better market (like it used to be) ..."*

With a good **sense of community and togetherness**.

*"A Boston that comes together as a community to celebrate and support each other."*

*"A community that works together, is resilient and proud of its town's past and passionate about its future."*

And **celebrating its history and heritage** with pride.

*"A town that celebrates its unique history that is open and accessible to residents and visitors from far and wide."*

*"Boston would be a place where the rebellious spirit of the Pilgrim Fathers lives on."*

*"One in which its rich heritage is clearly marked. An active tourist information centre ..."*

Many support a **diverse, multi-cultural and integrated** town, although there are some divisive views surrounding this theme.

*"A proudly multi-cultural town, with a vibrant market ..."*

*"A really integrated, multicultural accepting society."*

*"Back to a nice market town without gangs of foreigners hanging about."*

*"A vibrant interacting multicultural society with everyone embracing the town ..."*

## ii. Boston moving forward

### 6. Small, quick changes that could make a big difference

*Q: What small, quick changes could make a big difference in your neighbourhood right now? This can be anything you can think of, but could include things like providing small, amounts of funding or support to deal with issues like weeds or cracks in pavements, dog poo bins / bags, small amounts of funding for local community groups – and much more. (open-ended)*

*Response rate to this question: 302 people (comprising 265 online responses and 37 leaflet postal responses).*

**Cleanliness and maintenance of public spaces** is a key theme emerging in terms of small, quick changes that could make a big difference in respondents' neighbourhoods.

There are deep concerns voiced about the state of streets, pavements and green spaces. There is widespread demand for regular cleaning, weeding, bin placement, graffiti removal and general tidiness.

*"A mass clean up, street cleaning, litter removal and maintaining the grass verges, river banks and road edges."*

*"Definitely give the place a good scrub! Repair and clean damaged signs and street furniture."*

*"Cut the grass in the public areas. Clean the pavements, empty the drains."*

*"Just making the streets cleaner. Less weeds, cut grass, less dog poo, clean road signs etc."*

*"Less litter and the town much cleaner. Fewer empty shops."*

**Crime, safety and police presence** is a theme coming through strongly.

There is widespread call for more visible policing, particularly in the evenings, and a clampdown on anti-social behaviour, street drinking and crime. People feel unsafe and want action.

*"Bring back community policing in the town centre."*

*"More beat police, and I don't mean in cars!"*

*"Fund the return of the Town Rangers. People will feel safe if they see boots on the ground, not CCTV."*

*"Stronger enforcement to stop public drinking and drug use in outdoor spaces."*

*"Police the streets. I am an elderly person who daren't walk the streets or centre of Boston due to groups etc."*

**Bins, litter and dog waste facilities** is another noteworthy theme.

There are frequent requests for more litter bins, dog waste bins, especially near parks, schools and walking routes.

*"A bin located near my local park to stop people dropping litter."*

*"More bins in useful places like parks and outside schools."*

*"More litter bins and dog waste bins to be provided in the town to help keep the town tidy and clean."*

**Pavement and road condition (potholes, cracks, safety)** is highlighted by many.

Potholes and cracks are perceived as safety hazards, especially for the elderly, children and those with mobility needs.

*"Fix pavements. All pavements leading to our house are cracked, potholes everywhere. Hard to pass with a wheelchair or a buggy."*

*"Definitely improve road conditions. I see many potholes start small and expand over time."*

*"Pavement doing down near Tower Road Academy so my child doesn't fall off scooter at least 3xs a week."*

*"The quality of some roads around the town is shocking. Fixing these properly would make a massive difference."*

There is some mention of **town aesthetic and shopfront improvements**.

Respondents want a visually appealing and vibrant town centre — better shopfronts, flowers, greenery, art installations and generally more investment in making the town more attractive.

*“More flowers and greenery in public areas, cleaner streets, better lighting in the evenings, and more benches.”*

*“Support for shopfront and café window decorations to brighten the town.”*

*“Allowing art students to display their artwork to brighten dull, lacklustre areas.”*



## 7. Biggest challenges in local community

Q: What do you think are the biggest challenges in your local community? (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 272 people / 80% of respondents to this survey

The most commonly emerging theme when asked about biggest challenges in the local community is **anti-social behaviour and crime**.

This encompasses drug use, street drinking, aggressive and intimidating behaviour (e.g. groups in public spaces), theft, vandalism and a lack of (visible) police presence.

*"Public drug and alcohol misuse, which makes some areas feel unsafe and unwelcoming."*

*"No policing in the town."*

*"Drug dealing, theft."*

Another key theme coming through is **immigration, integration and community division**.

With many responses reflecting a perceived divide between immigrant and local communities, often with strong or negative language used.

This includes issues around cultural differences, lack of integration and fear.

*"A big divide between nationalities."*

*"Integration and fear of the difference."*

*"Immigration – so many and they are bringing the town to be like a third world country."*

*"Getting people of all nationalities to work together to make Boston a place to be proud of."*

**Safety and town centre decline** is a commonly mentioned theme.

There is frequent talk of not feeling safe, especially in the evenings. The town centre is perceived to be run-down and uninviting (e.g. empty shops, derelict buildings, littering and fly-tipping, intimidating atmosphere).

*"People feeling safe in the town, particularly young girls."*

*"The town centre feels intimidating, especially in the evening."*

*"Too many empty units, buildings in disrepair."*

*"Lots of people feel intimidated by groups 'hanging around' in the town centre."*

There is a perceived **lack of services and infrastructure**.

With deep concern over insufficient services, especially in health, public transport and support for vulnerable populations.

*"Health services, especially GPs, unable to keep pace with the massive population rise."*

*"Public Transport - buses don't go far enough out (so it's a problem just getting to the closest bus stop), or bus schedules don't start early enough or finish late enough to be all that useful. And taxis are expensive, so it has to be buses."*

*"Sustainable support for community groups and centres, that work with vulnerable people and those with low language skills."*

**Community apathy and low civic pride** is also a notable mention.

Many respondents feel that people have given up on the town or no longer care. Some blame a lack of visible progress.

*"Apathy in people to support their local community."*

*"People have lost hope."*

*"Making people take more pride in where they live."*

And **young people, activities and opportunities** too.

There's evident concern for the future generation, with mentions of few safe or engaging spaces for young people and a lack of aspiration.

*"Nothing for youngsters to do."*

*"Opportunities for young people to have careers."*

## 8. How can these challenges be tackled

Q: And, how do you think these challenges can be tackled? (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 261 people / 77% of respondents to this survey

There is strong call for **visible policing and enforcement** - against anti-social behaviour, crime, intimidation, and to make people feel safe.

*"A zero tolerance to policing and enforcement."*

*"More police. Orders to move on or not hang around for people discovered to be drunk/drugs."*

And for **shared activities, understanding and celebration of diversity** - to tackle any division within the community.

*"Community events, sharing of stories, humanising people in each group."*

*"Education! Dedicated events that bring people together... like the beach in the park."*

**Clean streets and maintained public spaces** are key suggestions to counteract respondents' frustrations about the 'poor' look and feel of the town, and to foster a sense of pride in the environment.

*"Make the town a safer and cleaner environment for us all to enjoy."*

*"More litter pickers, more maintenance programmes."*

There is a strong desire to **revive the high street, reduce empty shops, lower rents and support local businesses** – for a vibrant, thriving and attractive town centre.

*"Reduce shop rents/rates to attract new ones."*

*"Offer short-term, low-rent 'pop-up' shop schemes for local entrepreneurs."*

Some suggestions are provided for **improvements to transport and connectivity** – e.g. bypass, more buses ...

*"Fast trains from London/Birmingham to Skegness; frequent bus services to Peterborough."*

*"Build a bypass."*

## 9. Community support, advice, services needed to live well in Boston

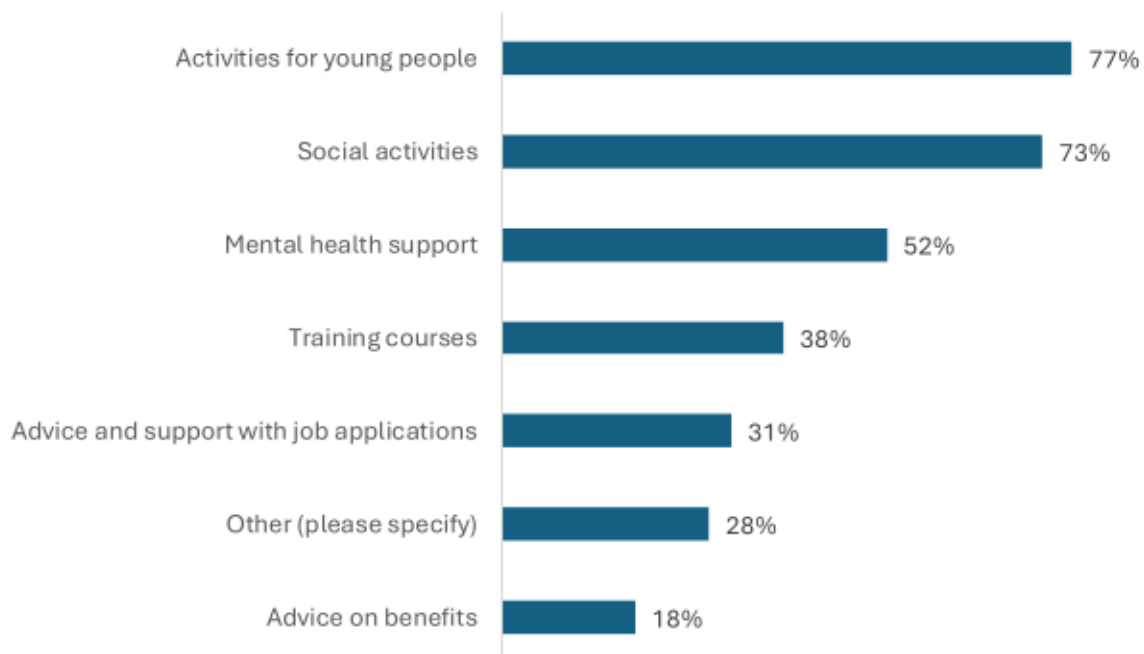
*Q: What community support, advice or services do you or others need to live well in Boston? (please pick all the things that you think are needed) (prompted)*

*Response rate to this question: 276 people / 82% of respondents to this survey*

When prompted about community support, advice or services needed to live well in Boston, respondents are most likely to select 'activities for young people' – around three quarters of those who responded to this question (77%).

Closely followed by 'social activities' (73%).

And 'mental health support' is chosen by around half (52%).



Option	%	Number
Activities for young people	77	212
Social activities	73	202
Mental health support	52	143
Training courses	38	105
Advice and support with job applications	31	86
Other (please specify)	28	76
Advice on benefits	18	49

## 10. How and where easiest to access this community support, advice or services

Q: And how and where would it be easiest to access this community support, advice or services? For example, this could be centres or hubs in the community, online services or mobile services. (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 249 people / 74% of respondents to this survey

**Community hubs / centres** are, by far, most frequently mentioned.

Often paired with 'town centre', 'accessible', 'face-to-face', 'welcoming'.

*"Small community hubs within the town."*

*"Centres or hubs in the community where people can get face to face support."*

*"Through well-advertised, welcoming community hubs and centres in central and accessible locations ..."*

Indeed, **town centre / central location** support is commonly cited.

Visible, walkable services.

*"Use one of the empty shops as a pop-up centre within the town."*

*"Something central in town where people notice it and investigate what's on offer."*

As are **online services**, but typically as a supplement to in-person support.

It is seen as convenient, but not as a 'replacement', and particularly with the elderly in mind.

*"A universal Boston online portal should be created."*

*"Online is always good... but a hub would be marvellous."*

*"For so many older people something that isn't online."*

**Mobile / pop-up services** are often mentioned alongside hubs / online as a flexible outreach means of providing community support.

Useful for reaching villages and non-digital users.

*"A talking bus that comes to people."*

*"Pop-up hubs in the market square."*

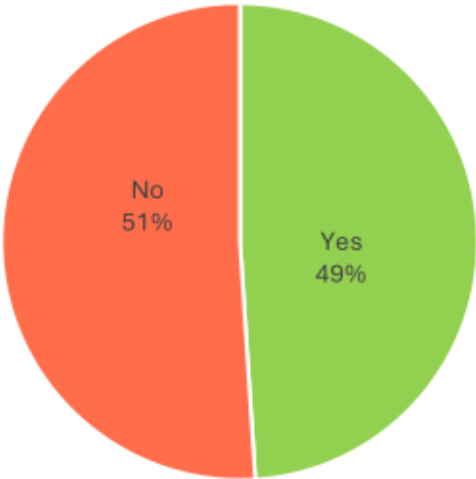
*"Mobile services or pop-up support stalls in high footfall areas (like markets or parks) could also help reach more people, especially those who don't go online regularly."*

**11. Whether volunteer or get involved in community groups, projects or activities**

*Q: Do you volunteer or get involved in community groups, projects or activities?  
(prompted)*

*Response rate to this question: 280 people / 83% of respondents to this survey*

Around half of those who responded to this question (49%) volunteer or get involved in community groups, projects or activities.



Option	%	Number
No	51	144
Yes	49	136

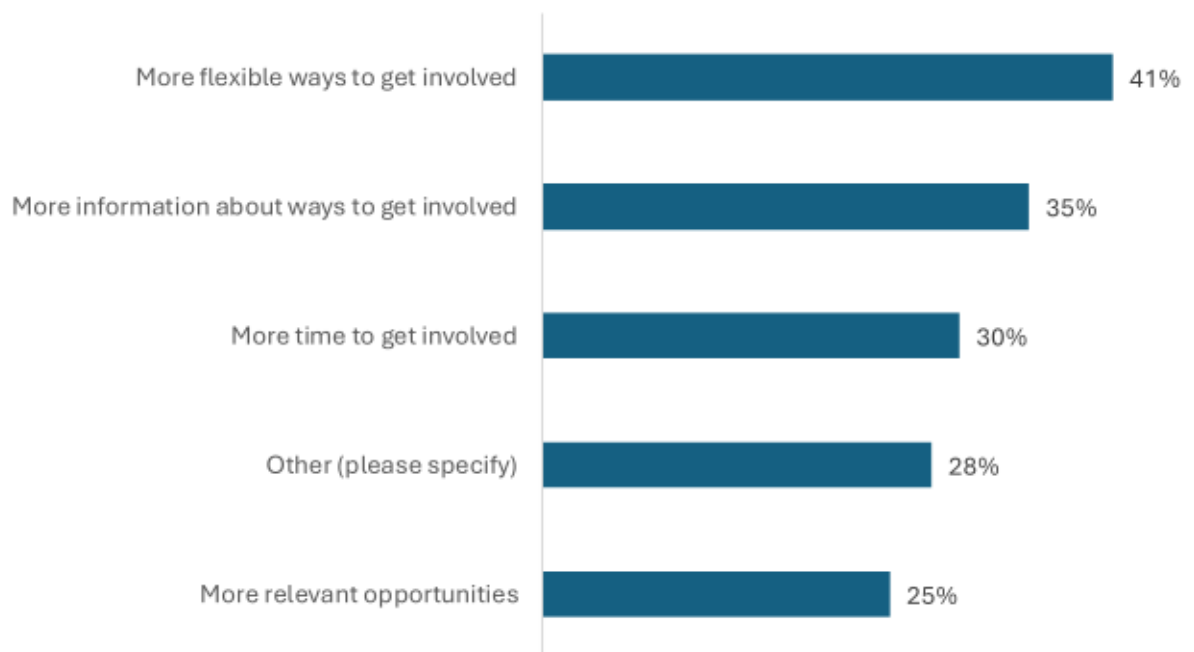
## 12. What would encourage volunteering or getting involved in community groups, projects or activities

Q: If 'no' to the previous question, what would encourage you to do so?  
(prompted)

Response rate to this question: 142 people / 99% of respondents who said 'no' to the previous question

Prompted, those who don't currently volunteer or get involved in community groups, projects or activities are most likely to consider doing so if there were 'more flexible ways to get involved' (41% of those who don't volunteer / get involved).

And around a third (35%) would like 'more information about ways to get involved'.



Option	%	Number
More flexible ways to get involved	41	58
More information about ways to get involved	35	49
More time to get involved	30	43
Other (please specify)	28	40
More relevant opportunities	25	36



### iii. Supporting people in Boston

#### 13. What would help you and others stay healthy and active in Boston

*Q: What would help you and others to stay healthy and active in Boston? For example, health programmes, advice and support (other than through NHS), sports clubs, outdoor gyms, walking trails or healthy eating initiatives. (open-ended)*

*Response rate to this question: 240 people / 71% of respondents to this survey*

**Walking and cycling infrastructure** is the most strongly emerging theme.

This includes terms such as walking routes, trails, safe cycle paths, bike roads and connectivity to villages.

*"Walking trails that are accessible."*

*"A cross-country walking and cycling route."*

*"Safe and inviting walking and cycling routes."*

*"There aren't enough pavements / cycle lanes connecting the villages to Boston."*

There is a strong call for **affordable and accessible fitness options**.

Frequent mentions of cost barriers for gyms, swimming and sports generally, Many requests for free or low-cost gyms, outdoor gyms.

*"Free gym membership."*

*"Outdoor gyms or cheaper gym access would help a lot."*

There is notable desire for **support for clubs and community activities**.

Calls for more sports clubs, walking groups, activity clubs.

And the space / funding to support them.

*"Financial support to local sport, fitness activities."*

*"Walking groups, Pilates, swimming ..."*

*"More active options for adults (and more of a range of active options) ... I think also giving various clubs proper spaces to work from would be helpful, too, as a lot of them in Boston are either out-of-town or squirreled away - which makes them inaccessible or makes them seem a little dodgy (even when they aren't)."*

**Better communication and promotion** also comes through notably from feedback.

With many simply not knowing what exists in Boston to stay healthy and active.

*"I don't know what's available."*

*"There is plenty of things to do, but aren't advertised well enough."*

And **safety and cleanliness** too.

There is clear concern about feeling unsafe when out walking or using parks.

With anti-social behaviour frequently highlighted.

*"Not feeling scared to walk around the town."*

*"Cleaner walking trails."*

*"I believe we have enough places to walk and be healthy it's just many don't feel safe walking in most areas."*

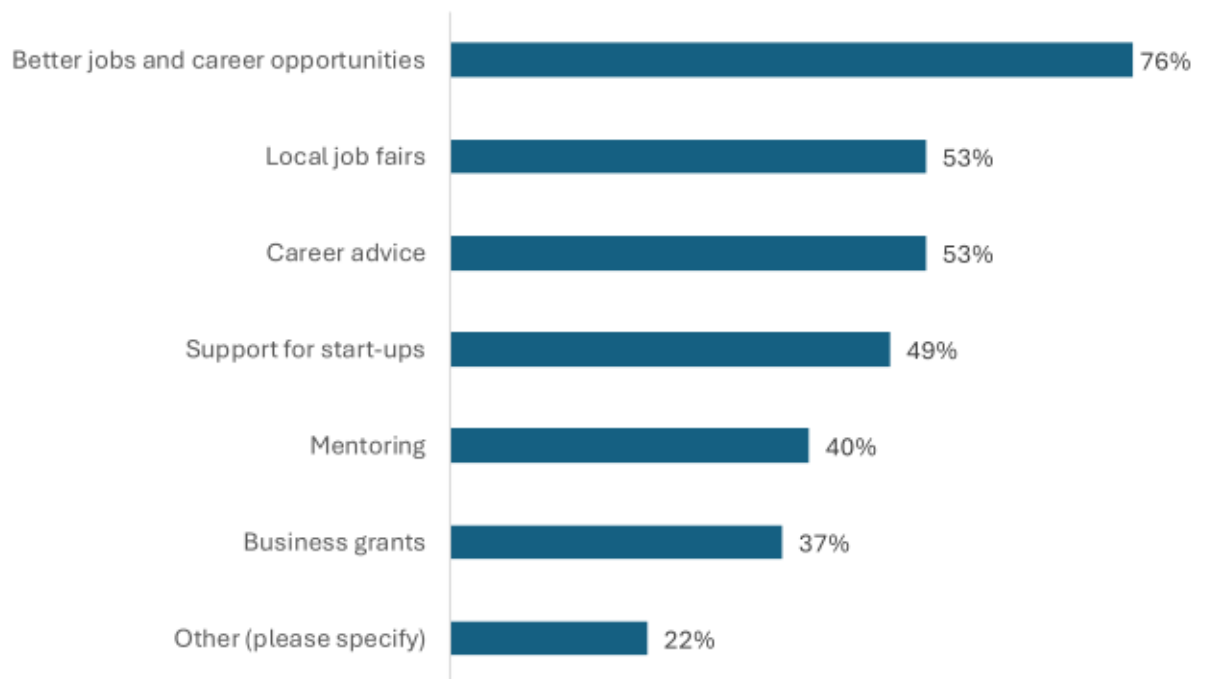
#### 14. How can help young people to stay in Boston

*Q: How can we help young people leaving school or college to find opportunities and stay in Boston? (prompted)*

*Response rate to this question: 270 people / 80% of respondents to this survey*

Prompted, respondents are, by far, most likely to think 'better jobs and career opportunities' would help young people to stay in Boston after leaving school or college (76% of those who responded to this question).

'Local job fairs' and 'career advice' are other notable means of encouraging them to stay – selected by 53% of those who responded respectively.



Option	%	Number
Better jobs and career opportunities	76	205
Local job fairs	53	144
Career advice	53	143
Support for start-ups	49	132
Mentoring	40	108
Business grants	37	101
Other (please specify)	22	60

## 15. How can support people of all ages to get the skills and training they need

Q: How can we support people of all ages to get the skills and training they need for the jobs and careers they want? (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 232 people / 69% of respondents to this survey

When asked about how best to support people to get skills and training they need, **access to information and advice** comes through strongly as a theme.

There were many mentions of a lack of awareness or clarity around what opportunities exist for training and skills.

Suggestions include better publicity, centralised advice hubs, school involvement, community outreach.

*"Boston College offers a lot but many people do not know about it."*

*"A centrally located careers centre."*

*"More support before they leave school. There is no encouragement once leaving school as benefits are given too readily and easily."*

*"... mentoring and giving people advice on how to find their career path would be a start on the right direction."*

**Apprenticeships and work-based learning** are a key mention too.

There are calls for more apprenticeships, especially ones that are easy to access, well-supported by employers and available across industries.

*"Apprenticeships. Mentoring. Talks in schools by people of all occupations."*

*"People need information about careers, work experience, maybe talks, incentives, apprenticeships scheme support for businesses too, career conventions."*

*"Work with local businesses to offer more apprenticeships. Encourage larger companies to relocate to Boston by giving them incentives or making it easier for them to relocate with planning permissions."*

**Free or affordable training courses** would be welcomed.

Cost is seen as a major barrier. There are frequent requests for more free, subsidised or lower-priced training options.

*“Not everyone can afford to go to college or university, have some free practical training in the community. For example the wood carving that took place in Witham Country park a few years ago.”*

*“Providing affordable or free training as well as training in multiple languages to make it accessible for all.”*

Another notable theme coming through is **employer partnerships and work experience**.

There is a call for employers to engage more actively, such as offering job shadowing, mentoring, internships and training. There is some mention of financial support for businesses to do so.

*“Create a plan with local businesses to fund internships.”*

*“Give employers more advice and financial assistance to provide either in-house or contracted out training.”*

**Community hubs and local learning centres** are cited by some.

There is support for more learning options in informal, local spaces – e.g. community centres, pop-up workshops, rural outreach.

*“Community Learning Hubs.”*

*“Pop-up workshops within rural areas.”*

*“Courses at college and community centres.”*

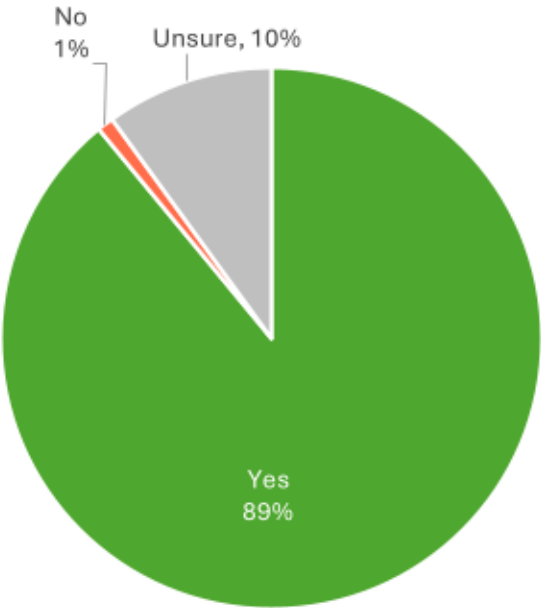
**16. Whether would like to see more support for local people to achieve ambitions**

*Q: Would you like to see Boston offer more support to local people of all ages to achieve their ambitions to start and build new businesses? (prompted)*

*Response rate to this question: 270 people / 80% of respondents to this survey*

The large majority of those who responded to this question would like to see more support in Boston for local people of all ages to achieve their ambitions to start and build new businesses (89%).

And a further 10% were unsure.



Option	%	Number
Yes	89	239
No	1	3
Unsure	10	28

#### iv. Improving our town

##### 17. What could do to make Boston town centre more attractive and welcoming

*Q: What do you think we could do to make Boston town centre more attractive and more welcoming? (open-ended)*

*Response rate to this question: 246 people / 73% of respondents to this survey*

**Cleanliness and tidy appearance** comes through very strongly when asked about what could be done to make the town centre more attractive and welcoming.

There are consistent comments about litter, weeds, dirty streets, unkempt shopfronts, general visual upkeep.

*"Clean it up!"*

*"Regular deep cleans of the pavements, alleys, bins and shop fronts."*

*"Just tidy it up and encourage more businesses to empty buildings."*

*"Just keep the place nice and tidy. Weed the streets, clear the litter, repaint the signs and lamp posts. Keeping a town tidy automatically creates a more welcoming place and gives people a more sense of pride."*

Another key suggestion is **reduce anti-social behaviour / improve safety**.

Respondents frequently mention loitering, drinking, drugs and large groups making them feel unsafe.

With visible policing a common demand.

*"Find a way to make the groups that congregate either move along or improve their behaviour."*

*"More police patrols to discourage antisocial behaviour and alcohol consumption."*

*"Tidy it up. Proper policing. Move on the groups that congregate around the market place, Ingram memorial, that are intimidating."*

There is notable call to **fill empty shops / encouraging independent retailers**.

Empty, boarded-up, neglected shops are widely noted as damaging the town's image.

There is some suggestion of incentives for small or independent businesses.

*"Fill the empty shops as boarded up and empty shops don't appeal."*

*"Fill the empty shops as boarded up and empty shops don't appeal."*

*"Tidy up shop fronts and put vacant buildings back to use (independent shops, arts and craft space or centre, community hubs, start-up opportunities, retail, accommodation)."*

Specifically, **free / affordable parking** would be widely welcomed.

*"Cheaper or no car parking charges especially on Sundays."*

*"Free parking or at least 2-3 hours free."*

As would **more greenery, flowers and art**.

Respondents want the town to be more visually appealing, with suggestions including flowers, planters, murals and seasonal art. Some mention of connecting this to local artists or heritage.

*"Add more flowers, lights and murals from local artists ..."*

*"Colour (flowers, art, seasonal decorations) - less grey."*



## 18. What would encourage more frequent and longer visits to Boston town centre

Q: What would bring you into the town centre more often or make you stay longer? (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 251 people / 74% of respondents to this survey

**Better and more diverse shops** are, by far, most likely to encourage more frequent and longer visits to the town centre.

Notable call for more clothing shops.

Repeated frustration with the high number of charity, vape, phone and barber shops.

*"Shops that are nice! I desperately miss M&S, Oldrids, Clarks shoes, Wilko."*

*"More shops but not any more barber shops."*

*"Better shops, I feel I can't find hardly anything I want in town, there is a lack of clothing stores for men and kids ...."*

**Free or cheaper parking** would be a key incentive to visit and / or stay longer.

There was some call for 1–2 hours of free parking.

*"One hour free parking if you buy from certain shops!! Remember Wilkos did this!"*

*"Free parking on market days."*

As would **addressing safety and anti-social behaviour concerns**.

Mentions of feeling unsafe due to groups loitering, street drinking and lack of visible policing.

*"As someone who is LGBT+ I do not feel safe there for long periods."*

*"If I felt more safe, street drinking/anti-social behaviour makes me anxious to bring my family into town."*

*"... less groups of men hanging around. Do not feel safe."*

There is some call for **more events and activities**.

This includes festivals, craft fairs, family events, food nights, pop-up attractions.

*"Activities in the marketplace.  
The reggae festival was  
absolutely fantastic and drew a  
really big crowd of people."*

*"Pop-up events i.e. street food  
night, jazz night, Polish night, etc."*

*"Seasonal events / festivities."*

*"More Craft and Farmers type  
Markets and other weekend  
events. It is already improving."*

And a **cleaner and more attractive environment** would be a draw for many.

There is a desire for improved cleanliness, flowerbeds, benches, public toilets and revitalised shopfronts.

*"If it were cleaner and more  
welcoming. It's such a beautiful  
town and it's being neglected."*

*"Create vibrant public spaces with  
more flowers, greenery, and  
comfortable seating... improve  
shopfronts... seasonal decorations  
like Christmas lights, spring  
flowers."*

*"I come into town quite a lot but it  
always feels dingy. If the market  
place/shops were smartened up,  
it would feel nicer."*

## 19. What could be done to make people feel safe in Boston

Q: We know from previous feedback that some people do not always feel safe in the town. So, apart from more police, what do you think we could do to make people feel safe? (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 245 people / 72% of respondents to this survey

Apart from more police, **improved street lighting** is a key suggestion to make people feel safe in the town.

Poor lighting makes areas feel unsafe, particularly at night. Respondents highlighted dark alleys, streets and parks as problem areas.

*"Improved lighting – Boston Brilliance was ace for this!"*

*"Keeping street lights on at night.  
Tackling grot spots where ASB  
takes place."*

*"Street lighting on all night."*

**More CCTV and visible monitoring** is also widely highlighted.

*"CCTV everywhere and  
actually do something when  
people are not behaving."*

*"Good lighting and signage to confirm  
CCTV is in place."*

Another notable mention is **control / disperse large groups loitering**.

With comments typically relating to groups of men, which can be intimidating.

*"Less men standing around,  
which makes young girls feel  
unsafe."*

*"Try and stop groups of people sitting  
outside the memorial in town / stump."*

*"Find ways to discourage gangs of men in central places."*

Another key measure to make people feel safe in Boston is **reduce anti-social behaviour**.

This includes public drinking, drug use, littering, urination – contributing to a sense of disorder and fear.

*“Crack down on small crimes, drinking, spitting, drugs.”*

*“Enforce the no drinking in the town centre and central park.”*

*“Stop people urinating and dedicating in the street. It didn't used to happen but I've seen it too many times.”*

There is some mention that a **cleaner, busier and more attractive town centre** would feel safer and entice more frequent and longer visits.

*“More businesses open = more people about = feel safer.”*

*“If the town was filled with more shops, it would feel more watched.”*

## 20. How could more be made of green spaces in Boston

Q: Boston has lots of areas of green space, how do we make more of these areas so they are more appealing and are used more? Green space could be spaces such as parks, communal gardens, verges. Examples could include renovating parks, play facilities, community gardens and essential facilities. (open-ended)  
Response rate to this question: 230 people / 68% of respondents to this survey

When asked how more could be made of Boston's green spaces, the key theme emerging is **maintenance, cleanliness and safety**.

So, respondents overwhelmingly want clean, well-kept and safe green spaces – including through regular litter picking and grass cutting, tackling anti-social behaviour, more bins, dog fouling control, CCTV, police presence.

*"Keep them clean and tidy. Cut grass regularly. Discourage teenage gangs hanging around."*

*"Bring back park wardens."*

*"Keep them free of drugs and other filth. Prosecute those who ruin the benches and wooden statues."*

*"Clean them up and add more flowers/plants but these need to be maintained by the community as well."*

There is notable call for **improved play and recreational facilities**.

Modern and safe 'play' areas for all ages, outdoor gyms, cycle paths, sports pitches.

*"Play facilities should be provided for ALL green spaces ... include additional play facilities for teenagers."*

*"More play facilities aimed at all ages 1-18."*

*"Update local parks. Put more for the kids to do. It's all very dated."*

*"The play equipment in parks is aimed at small children. Construct challenging things for teenagers to do."*

**Community events and social activities** would be warmly welcomed.

There is a desire for green spaces to be used for social engagement, bringing the community together.

Suggestions include outdoor cinemas, fairs, music events, picnics, gardening clubs, family activities, sports.

*"Bring back 'Party in the Park'."*

*"Outdoor sessions on things like yoga or Pilates, park runs for all ages."*

*"Host family-friendly events like outdoor cinema, markets, or sports days."*

There is repeated interest in **community gardens and allotments** - grow-your-own projects and shared green use.

And some low-level suggestion of educational growing and cooking spaces.

*"Start community gardens to grow fruit and veg. Give people support and confidence."*

*"Community gardens growing produce to eat. Teach people how to cook with produce."*

*"Community gardens and allotments need to return."*

## v. Spending time in Boston

### 21. How enjoy spending free / leisure time in Boston

Q: How do you enjoy spending your free / leisure time in Boston? (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 242 people / 72% of respondents to this survey

**Walking** is a key way that respondents spend their free / leisure time in Boston.

There is some mention of enjoying local green spaces, such as parks and woods.

*"Walking in the volunteer-maintained woods ..."*

*"I love walking in the park and  
Witham country park."*

*"Going on walks with my friends  
and family."*

**Going for a coffee** is also a key pastime.

Often tied to socialising (meeting friends / family).

There is some mention of visiting Boston's (independent) coffee shops / cafés.

*"Meeting up with friends for  
coffee."*

*"I like the independent cafés that it  
offers."*

Going to the **cinema, theatre and attending cultural events** is enjoyed by some.

With specific mentions of local venues - Blackfriars, the Stump (events) and Gliderdrome.

*"I visit the theatre and am a  
member. I go to the cinema and  
Gliderdrome."*

*"I go to the cinema and to Blackfriars."*

As is **eating out**.

Although many express a desire for more and better-quality options.

*"Eating and drinking out with friends and family."*

*"There isn't much to encourage people to spend time in town. We need more restaurants and eating places."*

However, a notable number of respondents say **they don't spend their free / leisure time in Boston**, preferring to go elsewhere, due to concerns about safety, limited amenities or a lack of atmosphere,

*"Generally go out of town now."*

*"I don't spend it here anymore."*

*"... most of the time go out to Leicester and Peterborough."*



## 22. Types of events should be hosted in Boston

Q: What types of events should Boston host for local residents and to bring people into our town? For example, events in Boston have included Boston Brilliance, Beach in the Park and Boston's Christmas Festival 2024. (open-ended)  
Response rate to this question: 224 people / 66% of respondents to this survey

There is strong call for **music events** to be hosted in Boston (live music / festivals).

Catering for all ages and tastes.

*"Music festival in Central Park for local bands of all nationalities and high-quality tribute acts."*

*"Get some bands to play in the town."*

*"I think overall, you need more events with music (preferably live...)."*

With **Christmas events (markets, light shows, festivals)** also a popular mention.

*"A Christmas market would be amazing."*

*"Christmas/Halloween events would be great and would help encourage people out when it's cold."*

*"Christmas Market, another Christmas light show."*

As is **Boston Brilliance** (and light-based events).

*"Boston Brilliance was AMAZING – more of this please!"*

*"Go bigger – Boston Brilliance - needs to be longer than 2 days."*

And **summer festivals / Party in the Park**.

*"Bring back Party in the Park!"*

*"Festivals in the park especially in the summer – draw in 18+ people."*

*"I used to love the Party in the Park."*

Also, **food festivals and markets (including multicultural food).**

*"Really liked the international food market, especially Asian dishes."*

*"Something like a food festival so people can share a piece of their culture."*

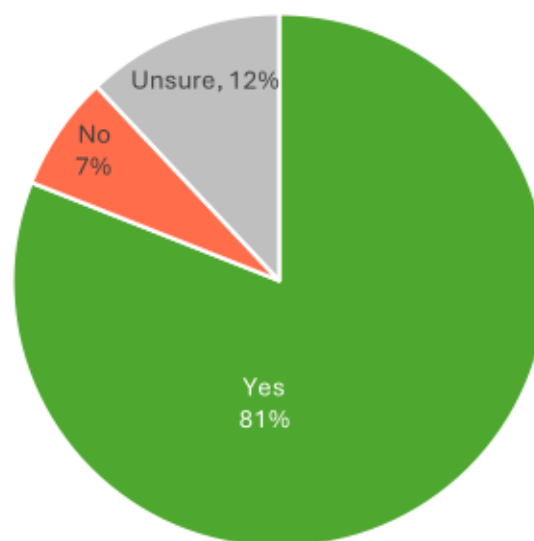
*"Perhaps an intercultural market by and for local people. Food tasting, cookery demonstrations of different ingredients and foods."*

### 23. Whether would like to see more support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities

*Q: Would you like to see more support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities that local people can get involved in? This could be things like heritage tours, art classes or performances. (prompted)*

*Response rate to this question: 250 people / 74% of respondents to this survey*

The large majority of those who responded to this question would like to see more support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities for local people to get involved in (81%).



Option	%	Number
Yes	81	202
No	7	18
Unsure	12	30

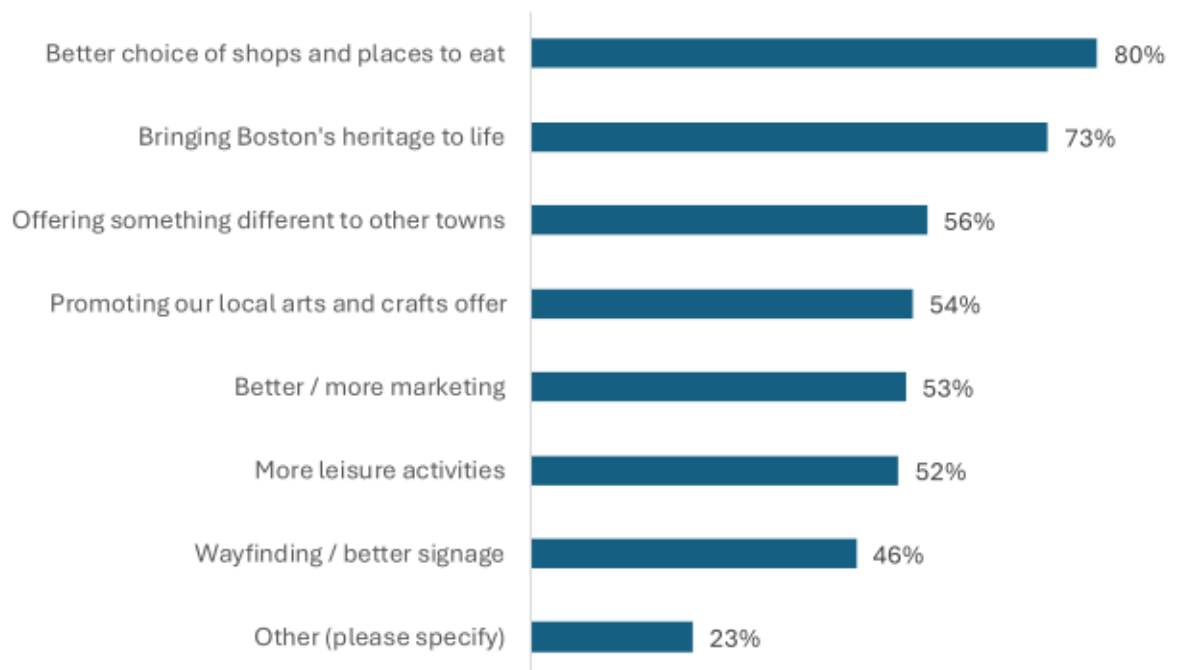
## 24. How can improve the visitor experience for tourists

Q: How can we improve the visitor experience for tourists and support Boston's attractions? (prompted) (please select all that apply)

Response rate to this question: 251 people / 74% of respondents to this survey

Prompted, the large majority of those who responded to this question think the visitor experience for tourists would be improved by a 'better choice of shops and places to eat' – 80%.

Closely followed by 'bringing Boston's heritage to life' – 73%.



Option	%	Number
Better choice of shops and places to eat	80	202
Bringing Boston's heritage to life	73	183
Offering something different to other towns	56	141
Promoting our local arts and crafts offer	54	135
Better / more marketing	53	133
More leisure activities	52	130
Wayfinding / better signage	46	115
Other (please specify)	23	57

## 25. How can work better together and make multi-cultural Boston work for us

*Q: Thinking about the group of people who went to America from Boston almost 400 years ago and, along with other immigrants, founded the vibrant multi-cultural city of Boston Massachusetts: how do you think we can work better together and make our multi-cultural town work for us, like those who did before us? (open-ended)*

*Response rate to this question: 210 people / 62% of respondents to this survey*

There is a strong call for **better integration and mutual respect** between communities.

With efforts from both sides – locals and newcomers.

*“By everyone, all nationalities, across the whole Boston borough, town and villages/Parishes, treated equally and all working together.”*

*“Respect. That’s all. Both ways. When you have respect you can combine so many cultural aspects to create vibrancy.”*

*“Make people feel more welcome. What does it matter where you came from, everyone has a right to their space on the planet.”*

And **more inclusive, cross-cultural community events**, such as cultural festivals, food markets, art / music-based gatherings, to bring people together to celebrate diversity.

*“Have events such as art/music where different cultures can come together and try each other’s art, instruments etc.”*

*“Multi-cultural events, encouraging people to try something (food, dance, song, language) from another culture.”*

There is some mention of **improved communication, education and language support**, including English classes for immigrants, cultural awareness training for locals and education in schools.

*"Free provision of English lessons."*

*"I did training several years ago with PAB languages for work... helped me understand that what seems rude is often just a cultural difference."*

*"Start young! Teach children about Boston's heritage and links to the world and make them understand the importance of community."*

And the **celebrating and enhancing of a shared heritage**.

The town's shared history (especially the Pilgrim Fathers' story and connection to Boston, USA) to be celebrated and better utilised for community building and tourism.

*"We should have better links to Boston in America, the Pilgrim Fathers story could be reenacted live in the town every year."*

*"Create an annual Boston Festival to celebrate the heritage."*

*"Partnering with Boston, USA, and organising shared cultural, educational, and heritage events would strengthen connections and inspire unity."*

## vi. Getting involved

### 26. How would like to be involved in making a difference

*Q: There is funding available to help community groups take forward actions and projects that make a difference. How would you like to be involved in making a difference? Please pick as many choices as you like. (prompted)*

*Response rate to this question: 224 people / 66% of respondents to this survey*

When prompted, respondents would most like to be involved in ‘making a difference in Boston’ through having their say in consultations such as this (68% of those who responded to this question).

And around a half (46%) would like to be able to suggest an idea for a project.



Option	%	Number
Having my say in consultations like this	68	153
Being able to suggest an idea for a project	46	102
Talking with the Boston Research Project team	33	73
Supporting the more vulnerable in our community	30	68
Volunteering at a community event or activity	29	64
Working with others to set up ad deliver a project	28	63
Other (please specify)	15	34

## vii. About Respondents

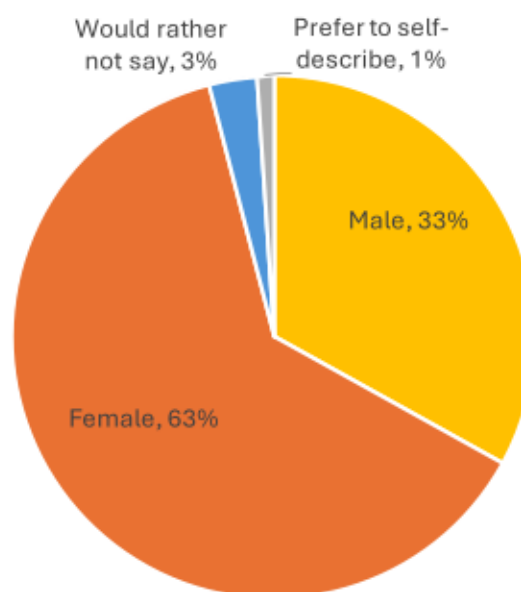
### 27. How would you describe yourself? (prompted)

*Response rate to this question: 249 people / 74% of respondents to this survey*

The sample has a strong female bias, with 63% describing themselves as female.

And 33% as male.

*N.B. Gender breakdown for Boston (town) is 48.9% male, 51.1% female (ONS Census 2021).*



Option	%	Number
Female	63	157
Male	33	82
Would rather not say	3	7
Prefer to self-describe	1	3



## 28. What is your age? (prompted)

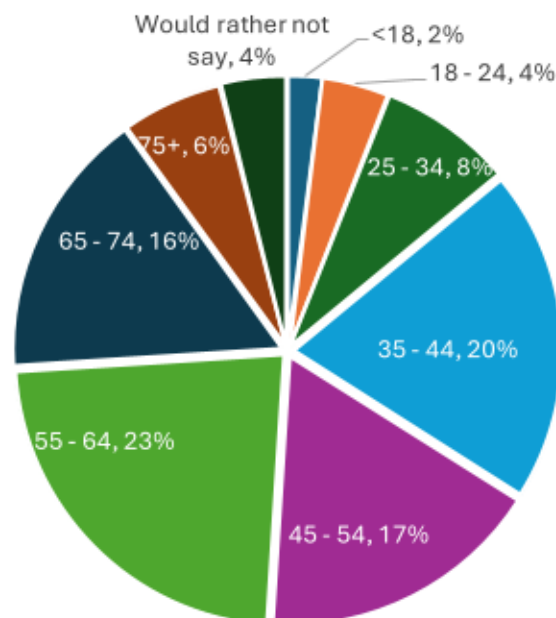
Response rate to this question: 249 people / 74% of respondents to this survey

There is a good spread across age groups, although only a small number of those who responded are under the age of 25 (6%). However, noting that a separate survey was available for young people to complete.

28% are aged 25-44; and 45% 25-54.

45% of those who responded are aged 55+.

*N.B. The median age in Boston (town) is 39 years (ONS Census 2021). The median age for England is 39 years.*



Option	%	Number
Under 18	2	4
18 – 24	4	9
25 – 34	8	21
35 – 44	20	49
45 – 54	17	43
55 – 64	23	58
65 – 74	16	39
75+	6	16
Would rather not say	4	10

## 29. Where do you live? (postcode) (open-ended)

*Response rate to this question: 240 people / 71% of respondents to this survey*

As expected, respondents are most likely to have a PE21 postcode (Boston).

With PE20 also a notable mention.

Postcode	No. of respondents
PE11	1
PE13	2
PE20	24
<b>PE21</b>	<b>116</b>
PE22	14
PE23	1
PE25	1
Other 'non-PE' postcodes (inc. DN, LN, NG)	6

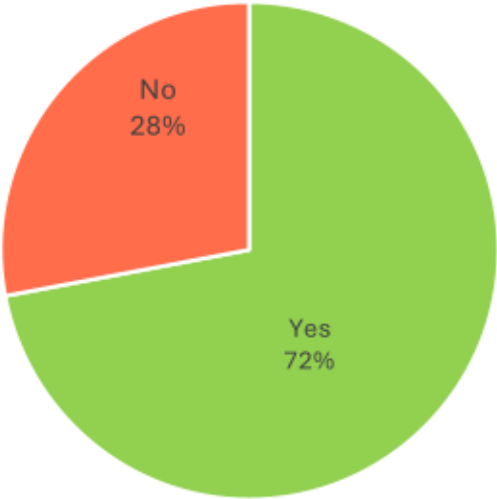
However, noting that many respondents did not give their postcode as requested, but the name of the town or village where they live instead.

An additional 35 respondents stated that they live in 'Boston'.

**30. Would you like to be kept informed of the findings of this consultation and future consultation and engagement by Boston Town Board? (prompted)**

*Response rate to this question: 235 people / 70% of respondents to this survey*

Just under three quarters of those who responded to this question would like to be kept informed of the consultation findings and future consultation and engagement by Boston Town Board (72% or 169 individuals).



Option	%	Number
Yes	72	169
No	28	66

## Part B: survey analysis – *Young People Survey*

- Respondents were screened into the survey if under the age of 25. Otherwise, they were directed to the General Survey
- All 61 respondents are under the age of 25

### i. Your ideas for Boston

#### 1. What would make Boston a place where you want to live, work or study in 2035

*Q: What would make Boston a place where you want to live, work or study in 2035? This could be things like more youth activities, job opportunities or creative spaces. (open-ended)*

*Response rate to this question: 61 people / 100% of respondents to this survey*

A key theme emerging when asked what would make Boston a place where they would want to live, work or study in 2035 is **job opportunities (especially for young people)**.

The lack of accessible, well-paying and entry-level jobs, especially for teenagers and young adults, is consistently highlighted.

*"More job opportunities would be amazing. I'm from Boston and have recently graduated university but currently not considering moving back to Boston due to lack of job opportunities and poor state of the town."*

*"More job opportunities for people aged 14-16 during the summer holiday."*

*"More job opportunities as many places want people to have experience and no one wants to give it."*

*"More job opportunities that provide a decent wage for young people to get started in life, as well as opportunities for learning and growth."*

Another key theme coming through is **more youth activities and spaces**.

There is a strong desire for more fun, engaging and meaningful things for young people to do, and particularly outside of school.

*"More clubs for young people so they are not always on social media, they can connect with others in real life."*

*"There's nothing for young people to do here."*

*"More youth activities, more entertainment for youth as it's boring, there's barely anything to do except the park."*

*"Definitely more youth activities... reading groups, art activities."*

Also notably, respondents want to see **improvements to shops and the town centre**.

They want to have better shopping options, especially high-street chains and a more vibrant and modern town centre.

*"More shops, like clothing shops or just restaurants like there are in cities, for example like Zara or some other good shops."*

*"Bring back Primark."*

*"We need more modern shops to attract footfall to town as many shops are catered to the elderly."*

*"More places such as better clothing shops, more smaller businesses such as alternative shops."*

**Safety, cleanliness and anti-social behaviour** is another theme coming through strongly.

There are concerns around feeling unsafe, anti-social groups and the general dirtiness of public areas.

*"A safer place, more policing to get bad people off the streets, and also, for the town to be cleaner."*

*"It's a horrible environment on the streets... Make the streets a nicer safe place."*

*"Sort out the intimidating groups of men that always group together... Main reason many of us won't go town."*

*"Clamping down on antisocial behaviour is essential as it has increased significantly."*

## 2. Activities / spaces would make you want to spend more time in Boston town centre

Q: What activities or spaces would make you want to spend more time in Boston's town centre? This could be things like youth clubs, music events or study spaces. (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 61 people / 100% of respondents to this survey

**Music events / live music / music venues** are frequently mentioned by respondents.

Requests include concerts, music festivals and spaces for live bands or specific genres (e.g. rock, 80s).

*"It would also be nice to have some sort of a summer music festival, inviting local and national artists to our town."*

*"More clubs, personally I really like rock and 80's music. So a club playing this type of music would interest me."*

*"More music events and stuff like the festivals in the park ..."*

There is notable call for **study spaces / youth clubs / safe social spaces**.

Respondents emphasised the need for quiet, safe spaces for young people and students to study, hang out and engage in free or low-cost activities.

*"A student-only study space that isn't the library."*

*"Study spaces which are quiet, secure and clean. Free or low-cost social spaces."*

Another key theme emerging is **shops / shopping centres / cafés**.

There is a strong desire for more shopping options (especially in the town centre) and a better variety of shops – along with places like cafés for socialising.

*"More shops, like a mall."*

*"More shops would be great to attract people."*

*"More variety of shops or cafés,  
maybe with a discount for students  
/ young people."*

*"More shops, we lack any good  
shops in the town centre. It's  
honestly embarrassing at the lack  
of ANY good shops in the towns  
CENTRE. Any actually proper  
shops are either on the outskirts  
of Boston or can only be found in  
neighbouring towns."*

**Festivals / markets / cultural events** would be welcomed by many.

Local festivals, international markets, food and craft fairs, cultural weeks are suggested as a way of enriching the town's social life.

*"Town fetes, whole town  
celebrations for occasions."*

*"Cultural weeks, like food  
festivals."*

*"Bring back the international  
stalls."*

*"Dance workshops."*

There is some request for **sports and active spaces (e.g. football, trampoline parks, arcades)**.

Respondents would like fun physical activity spaces, such as arcades, indoor football, trampoline parks and parks with fitness equipment.

*"To me, most important is the pull  
up bars, dip bars in parks."*

*"More indoor activities like bowling  
in Boston, or some arcades."*

*"Like futsal or like five a side  
football."*

*"Paddle courts or squash courts."*



### 3. Support needed to achieve goals in Boston

Q: What support do you need to achieve your goals in Boston? This could be things like careers advice, skills training or mental health support. (open-ended)  
Response rate to this question: 58 people / 95% of respondents to this survey

The most frequently mentioned support needed to achieve goals in the survey feedback is **career advice ...**

*"I think a lot of people in the town could benefit from career advice and further training to help them get jobs."*

*"Workshops, where we can learn new skills. Personalised advice with a holistic approach...."*

*"Training available that actually help obtain a job and work experience for young people."*

*"Boston needs role models, it needs entrepreneurs who can be looked up to and advice can be taken from them ..."*

... and **skills training** too.

*"If more training programmes could be run to help support young adults."*

*"Workshops, where we can learn new skills ..."*

*"Skills training, not just for careers, but for everyday tasks, like finance and personal development ..."*

*"More skills training and job opportunities for chefs and cooks ..."*

Responses suggest that **young people are looking for practical, tailored support** that helps them:

- Identify career paths
- Build real-world skills
- Access personalised, experience-based advice
- Get job-ready with work experience

There is some mention of **mental health support**, albeit at a lower level.

*"Mental health support is massive!!  
So hard to access anything."*

*"Mental health support  
because it's so hard to get to a  
doctor here quickly and get  
mental health help which really  
keeps me back from achieving  
more."*

#### 4. How can we make Boston's green spaces and community events more appealing

Q: How can we make Boston's green spaces and community events more appealing, so that young people like you want to use them? This could be things like sports facilities, festivals or digital engagement. (open-ended)

Response rate to this question: 61 people / 100% of respondents to this survey

**Festivals and events, such as music, sports and youth-oriented**, are highlighted by many as a key way in which Boston's green spaces and / or community events could be made more appealing.

Respondents would like to see more frequent, varied and better-advertised festivals / events, especially ones involving music and sports.

*"More festivals would bring and encourage more young people to engage with the community."*

*"A young people festival. something that teenagers could enjoy, like a club."*

*"Hosting music festivals would be amazing!!!"*

*"Have sports events."*

**Sports facilities and activities** also emerge as a significant mention.

There's high demand for public sports areas (e.g. tennis, football, skate parks).

And emphasis on affordable access and youth engagement.

*"More places for freedom such as sports facilities."*

*"Definitely sport facilities. But not the ones for old people ... decent calisthenics parks."*

*"Create more clubs for sports like tennis, football and outdoor sports."*

*"Spaces for different sports that are well used by local clubs, teams or just freely available to use ... Swimming pools that are cheaper for young people to use to stay active. Young people are clearly interested in staying healthy, as the new Pure Gym is busy, so investing in activities for young people is a great idea, as long as they are affordable."*

Also coming through as a key theme, albeit less strongly, is **cleanliness, maintenance and beautification**.

Respondents would like parks and green spaces to be clean, well-maintained and visually appealing, with flowers, trees, benches etc.

*"Cleaning up town park and adding more flowers."*

*"Trees, more benches, flowers, hidden nooks for picnics."*

*"By making green spaces stay nice and clean."*

**Security and safety (including police presence)** is reasonably frequently raised too.

There are concerns around crime, anti-social behaviour, vandalism and safety. There are calls for police presence and general safety measures.

*"Lighting and permanent police presence."*

*"Make sure police are present to deter people from vandalising."*

*"Boston needs to be a safer place before people will consider venturing out the house."*

## Part C: survey analysis – Sparkfest

### 1. Respondent age (N=347)

Age group	%	Number
0-18	27%	94
18-35	16%	57
<b>35-65</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>177</b>
65+	4%	15
Prefer not to say	1%	3
No reply	0.3%	1

*N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding*

### 2. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic - Deprivation, Skills & Economy (N=342)

% ranking as TOP PRIORITY	Statement
<b>42%</b>	<b><i>Everyone in Boston should have access to training that leads to a good local job</i></b>
18%	There should be more opportunities for professional training and development to keep young people in Boston
12%	We need more opportunities for adults to retrain and upskill throughout life
11%	There should be more and different job opportunities in Boston
10%	Businesses in Boston should work closely with schools and colleges
5%	We should support new businesses and entrepreneurs from all backgrounds
2%	Boston should lead the way in food innovation, agri-tech, or green industry

*N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding*

**3. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic – Safety, Trust & Social Cohesion (N=318)**

<b>% ranking as TOP PRIORITY</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>62%</b>	<b><i>Boston should feel safe for everyone, day and night</i></b>
13%	We need more activities and spaces for young people to have things to do
9%	Reducing anti-social behaviour should be a top priority for Boston
7%	Everyone in Boston should feel they belong, no matter where they come from
5%	Police, residents and communities should work together to prevent crime
3%	We need more safe spaces where people can come together as equals
2%	People from different backgrounds should have more chances to meet and mix

*N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding*

**4. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic - Housing, Public Space & Town Centre (N=297)**

<b>% ranking as TOP PRIORITY</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>45%</b>	<b><i>The town centre should be a place where people live, work, shop and can spend time together</i></b>
20%	Vacant shops and buildings should be put to other uses, such as community space
10%	Everyone deserves a warm, safe and affordable home in Boston
8%	More needs to be done to improve the quality of local housing
7%	Boston should have more places to sit, gather, and feel safe in the town centre
6%	We should offer more reasons for people to come into our town centre other than shopping
4%	We should invest in greener, more climate-friendly homes and buildings

*N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding*

**5. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic - Health, Wellbeing & Social Infrastructure (N=267)**

<b>% ranking as TOP PRIORITY</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>53%</b>	<b><i>Everyone should be able to access good quality local healthcare</i></b>
15%	Boston should offer more support for mental health within the local community
14%	Everyone should feel able to ask for help with their health or wellbeing
10%	There should be more public spaces where people can spend time taking part in active or healthy activities
9%	Loneliness and isolation should be treated as urgent health issues

*N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding*

**6. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic - Young People & Future Opportunities (N=267)**

<b>% ranking as TOP PRIORITY</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>33%</b>	<b><i>Young people in Boston should be actively involved in shaping the town's future</i></b>
21%	Boston should support every child to thrive, no matter their background
21%	Schools should help students feel proud of Boston and their potential in it
17%	We need more safe, welcoming spaces for young people to meet, learn and play
8%	Young voices should be heard and respected in local decisions

*N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding*

**7. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic - Culture, Identity & Community Assets (N=265)**

<b>% ranking as TOP PRIORITY</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>32%</b>	<b><i>Boston's unique history and diversity should be celebrated more</i></b>
25%	We need more free or low-cost creative activities for all ages
14%	Everyone should feel proud to say "I'm from Boston."
14%	Boston should host more events that bring people together
9%	Local artists and creatives should be supported to build careers in Boston
6%	Public spaces where people can do activities such as watching a film or listening to music should be for everyone who lives here

*N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding*

**8. Right now, what one thing would most improve Boston for you? (open-ended)**

Key themes emerging in terms of improvements include:

**a. Safety and crime reduction:**

Many respondents are concerned about crime, anti-social behaviour and feeling unsafe in public areas.

- *"Being able to feel safe to walk around the town."*
- *"Boston needs making safe... it has a bad name because of all the anti-social behaviour."*
- *"Make it safe for people so they don't get scared going out at night."*
- *"Crackdown on crime."*
- *"More police presence."*

**b. Shops and town centre revitalisation**

There's call for more shops, fewer empty stores and a vibrant, clean, appealing town centre with a better retail mix.

- *"More shops lots of vacant shops."*
- *"A redecorated and gentrified town centre, something that makes Boston look like a nice and welcoming place."*
- *"Fill the empty shops with more independent businesses NOT BARBERS!!!"*
- *"Better shops."*
- *"Investment into the town centre."*

**c. Youth activities and community spaces**

Respondents highlight the lack of things for young people to do and the need for safe, inclusive, engaging spaces and events.

- *"More activities/clubs for young people to do."*
- *"Access to youth activities in the community."*



- *"More community centres, youth centres and festivals where people would feel safe and happy."*
- *"Social spaces for young people."*

#### **d. Transport and infrastructure**

Comments about better transport links, traffic flow (especially a bypass) and improved roads are commonplace.

- *"Better transport links."*
- *"Get a bypass built to relieve traffic congestion."*
- *"Investment in roads and infrastructure."*
- *"Not being stuck in roadworks!"*
- *"Better traffic management and more appealing town centre."*

#### **e. Cleanliness and environment**

Residents want a cleaner town with more green spaces, better litter management and environmental improvements.

- *"The litter"*
- *"Make it cleaner, less shops shutting down."*
- *"Weeding and upkeep of communal areas."*
- *"Greener"*

### **9. If you had millions of pounds to spend in Boston, what would be your priorities? (open-ended)**

Key themes emerging in terms of priorities include:

#### **a. Bypass / traffic reduction**

Repeated call for the construction of a bypass or ring road to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow, make the town more attractive to visitors and businesses.

- *"Build a bypass around to lessen bottlenecking through Boston."*
- *"Ring road to divert traffic. And fund more into the roads, police etc."*
- *"Bypass – help with traffic and more desirable shops and things to do."*

#### **b. Revitalisation of the town centre / empty shops**

A notable number of responses focus on bringing life back to the town centre through renovation, reducing empty shops, attracting businesses.

- *"Fill vacant shops."*
- *"Revitalising the town centre."*
- *"Renovating empty buildings."*
- *"Investment in the high street."*
- *"Redevelopment of town centre."*

#### **c. Youth engagement and activities**

Widespread desire for more facilities, activities, safe spaces for children and young people to keep them engaged and supported.

- *"More clubs for young people such as a gaming café."*
- *"Youth clubs places for young people to stay out of trouble."*
- *"Create more youth areas and activities and make a safer town."*
- *"More stuff for children."*

#### **d. Safety and anti-social behaviour**

Many respondents are concerned about safety and want increased policing, a reduction in anti-social behaviour and a cleaner, safer environment.

- *"Make it feel safer."*
- *"More policing and making it a safe environment for everyone."*
- *"Better Police presence."*
- *"Cleaning up crime and making it a better community."*

#### **e. Housing and homelessness**

Affordable housing, renovation of derelict buildings for residential use, and support for homeless people are key concerns.

- *"Improve housing and buildings to reduce dereliction..."*
- *"Create safe accommodation for homeless to transition..."*
- *"Housing, NHS, more things to do."*
- *"Make a house for homeless people."*

### **10. 10 years' from now, in 2035, what would you like to be different about Boston? (open-ended)**

Key themes emerging in terms of priorities include:

#### **a. Safety and crime reduction**

A strong desire for a safer, more secure town where residents and visitors feel comfortable to be.

- *"Everyone to feel safe, day and night when out in town"*
- *"Safer and less obvious drug peddling"*
- *"Crime and anti social behaviour handled"*
- *"To feel more safe within the town. More police to ensure safety"*

#### **b. Cleanliness and visual appeal**

Frequent mentions of the need for a cleaner town with better-maintained buildings and public spaces.

- *"Cleaner streets"*
- *"Cleaner and safer place"*
- *"Buildings need improvement as some look rundown"*
- *"Cleaner, less deserted buildings, more things to do"*

#### **c. Community cohesion and pride**

There is a strong desire for improved community spirit, inclusivity and a return to feeling proud of Boston.

- *"A united prosperous community"*
- *"Everyone got on whatever colour you are or whatever country you come from"*
- *"I would like the people that are from Boston to be proud that they are from Boston like it used to be"*
- *"A warm welcoming place that's thriving and full of kind people"*

#### **d. Thriving town centre and more shops**

Respondents want a vibrant town centre with more shops, activities and a flourishing economy.

- *"More shops and more kid friendly places"*
- *"A more thriving town centre. Less groups of people hanging around..."*
- *"All the shops filled so no empty shops"*
- *"Thriving town centre with educational opportunities"*
- *"More modernised shopping"*

#### **e. Youth opportunities and things to do**

There is frequent call for more facilities, jobs, and activities for young people to keep them engaged and give them a future in the town.

- *"More opportunities for young people"*
- *"Great youth resources inside and outside"*
- *"More clubs and activities to do for young people"*
- *"Jobs for young college leavers"*
- *"More sport and social spaces"*

## Part D: Futurefest

1. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic – Skills, Jobs & Opportunities (N=101)

% ranking as TOP PRIORITY	Statement
34%	<b><i>Everyone should be able to learn skills that help them get a good job in Boston</i></b>
19%	We need more training and job opportunities to help young people stay in Boston
13%	We should support people from all backgrounds to start their own businesses
12%	There should be more types of jobs in Boston
10%	Adults should be able to learn new skills and change careers if they want to
10%	Local businesses should work closely with schools and colleges
4%	Boston should be known for leading the way in areas like food, green jobs, and farming technology

N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

2. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic – Feeling safe & part of the community (N=96)

% ranking as TOP PRIORITY	Statement
48%	<b><i>Boston should feel safe for everyone, during the day and at night</i></b>
19%	There should be more things for young people to do and places to go
10%	Stopping anti-social behaviour (like vandalism or public trouble) should be a big focus
8%	Everyone should feel like they belong in Boston, no matter where they come from
5%	Police and communities should work together to prevent crime
5%	There should be safe places where everyone feels welcome and treated equally
4%	People from different backgrounds should have more chances to meet and get to know each other

N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

**3. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic – Homes, Public Spaces & the Town Centre (N=95)**

<b>% ranking as TOP PRIORITY</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>33%</b>	<b><i>The town centre should be a place where people can live, work, shop, and hang out</i></b>
21%	Everyone should have a warm, safe, and affordable place to live
19%	Empty shops or buildings should be used for things like community spaces
12%	The quality of housing in Boston needs to be better
8%	There should be more places to sit, relax, and feel safe in the town centre
4%	We should give people more reasons to visit the town centre besides just shopping
3%	Homes and buildings should be better for the environment (climate-friendly)

*N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding*

**4. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic – Health, Wellbeing & Support (N=82)**

<b>% ranking as TOP PRIORITY</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>44%</b>	<b><i>Everyone should be able to get good, local healthcare</i></b>
22%	People should feel comfortable asking for help with health or mental wellbeing
12%	There should be more public spaces where people can be active or do healthy activities
12%	Feeling lonely or left out should be treated as a serious health issue
10%	Boston should offer more mental health support for young people and the community

*N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding*

**5. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic – Young People & the Future (N=86)**

<b>% ranking as TOP PRIORITY</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>26%</b>	<b><i>Young people should have a say in decisions about Boston's future</i></b>
24%	We need more safe, friendly places for young people to meet, learn and have fun
23%	Schools should help students feel proud of Boston and believe in their future here
19%	Boston should help every child do well, no matter their background
8%	Young people's opinions should be heard and respected by local leaders

*N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding*

**6. Rank the following statements in order of priority the first being the highest priority and the lowest the least priority: Topic – Culture, Community & Pride (N=81)**

<b>% ranking as TOP PRIORITY</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>42%</b>	<b><i>Boston's unique history and mix of cultures should be celebrated more</i></b>
20%	There should be more free or cheap creative activities for people of all ages
12%	Everyone should feel proud to say "I'm from Boston."
11%	Boston should hold more events that bring people together
10%	Artists and creative people should be supported to build careers here in Boston
5%	Public places for watching films, listening to music or other creative things should be open to everyone

*N.B. percentages may not total 100% due to rounding*

## **7. What's one thing that would make Boston better for you right now? (open-ended)**

Key themes emerging in terms of improvements include:

### **a. Safety and cleanliness**

Many concerns about crime, anti-social behaviour, litter and a general lack of safety in the town centre.

- *"Clamping down on anti-social behaviour, starting with educating young people and providing more alternative spaces"*
- *"Less rubbish"*
- *"Stop crime and more stuff for kids"*
- *"Be more safe / cleaner"*

### **b. More for young people (activities, jobs, education, support)**

There is a demand for youth-focused infrastructure, activities and support, especially around jobs, education and safe recreation.

- *"Awareness of opportunities for young people"*
- *"More education for younger people"*
- *"More jobs for young people"*
- *"To spend more money on the young people"*
- *"New places for kids to have fun and not too expensive"*
- *"Stop crime and more stuff for kids"*

### **c. More shops / better shopping experience**

Some respondents want better or more diverse shopping options to make the town centre more appealing.

- *"More shops"*
- *"Encourage more shopping in the centre"*
- *"Cooler shops, places for children"*
- *"Improved shopping"*
- *"New shops"*
- *"Making the town centre itself 'buzz' - more of an outdoor café culture"*

### **d. More things to do, parks, community spaces**

A notable number of respondents call for more community spaces, green areas, and recreational activities to improve quality of life.

- *"More activities"*
- *"Mountain bike park"*
- *"More parks"*
- *"More things to do"*
- *"More access to the arts"*
- *"A public track field"*
- *"Add to the Boston centre skatepark"*

## **8. If you had millions of pounds to spend in Boston, what would you spend it on? (open-ended)**

Key themes emerging in terms of what respondents would like money spent on in Boston include:

### **a. Young people-focused resources and support**

Needs highlighted include things for young people to do, education improvements, mental health support, job readiness, youth centres.

- *"More for kids to do to keep them entertained"*
- *"Massive youth and mental health facilities"*
- *"Education"*
- *"Help me be better at my job in future and resources I can use"*

### **b. Housing**

There was call for affordable housing, safer housing, help for the homeless.

- *"A house"*
- *"Affordable housing, doctors, dentists, schools"*
- *"To help the homeless people"*
- *"More public space and homes/shops"*

### **c. Infrastructure, environment, cleanliness**

Some cited a need for roadworks and transport improvements, cleanliness (bins, litter), better town infrastructure.

- *"Build the bypass"*
- *"Improving existing infrastructure"*
- *"Less litter"*
- *"More bins"*

### **d. Health and care services**

There were requests for more hospitals and health centres, elderly care, child health and mental health services.

- *"Child and health care"*
- *"Places for care homes and the elderly"*
- *"More hospitals"*

### **e. Community spaces and inclusion**

Respondents want places that bring people together; inclusive, multicultural spaces; general community cohesion.

- *"Community projects to bring people together"*
- *"More things for people from all backgrounds to join to feel included"*
- *"Community venue"*



## **9. In 10 years (in 2035), what do you hope will be different about Boston? (open-ended)**

Key themes emerging in terms of hopes for Boston in 2035 include:

### **a. Cleanliness and environment**

A recurring desire is for cleaner streets and less litter.

- *"Less litter"*
- *"Cleaner streets"*
- *"Less rubbish on the streets"*
- *"Environment - more ecofriendly"*

### **b. Safety and crime reduction**

Some responses emphasise wanting a safer town, with less crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

- *"Crime free"*
- *"Less crime"*
- *"Less robbery and theft"*
- *"More people will feel safer to visit Boston"*
- *"Safer environment"*

### **c. Community and inclusivity**

Respondents want a stronger sense of community, with more acceptance, friendliness and integration between different groups.

- *"Better community"*
- *"A thriving community"*
- *"More accepting of each other"*
- *"People will get along"*
- *"No more crime and people from different countries will be treated the same as Brits"*
- *"A better, safer, friendlier culture, with more locals playing a part"*

### **d. More things to do / leisure / town centre revitalisation**

Respondents desire a more vibrant town centre with more shops, leisure activities and entertainment.

- *"More theatre"*
- *"More things to do"*
- *"More nature in town"*
- *"That more leisure things will be around"*
- *"A more upbeat vibe, bustling town centre"*

### **e. Opportunities and infrastructure**

There's demand for more jobs, better housing, transport, schools and future opportunities - especially for young people.

- *"Better housing"*
- *"More jobs"*
- *"Schools and colleges"*
- *"Safe place to live with opportunities for different jobs"*
- *"Better mental health for young people"*

## Part E: community group activities

### i. Boston Lithuanian Community

#### Survey Collection and Translation

- Collected 26 Lithuanian-language surveys (translated into English at the end of July).
- Collected 24 Russian-language surveys, mainly from Ukrainian nationals but also from Latvian, Bulgarian, and Belarusian participants.
- Currently translating Russian surveys into English, with completion expected by 20 August. Translation is essential to ensure all responses are accessible and consistent for the consultation team.

#### Engagement Activities Delivered

- Organised 2 targeted ESOL engagement sessions with Lithuanian- and Russian-speaking students, offering language support and simplifying survey completion.
- Delivered 8 “Talk & Tea” drop-in sessions at the Hub for one-to-one and small group support.
- Collected additional surveys from clients attending regular sessions and consultations.
- Planned children’s art workshop for late August, where participants will create artwork depicting their vision of the town. This will contribute to a Hub feedback wall showcasing the community’s ideas in a visual and engaging format.

#### Key Outcomes

**Inclusive engagement:** Reached residents who might otherwise be excluded from the consultation due to language barriers, building confidence to take part.

**Diverse perspectives:** Gathered a rich mix of views from Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Latvian, Bulgarian, and Belarusian residents, representing a broad cross-section of the local migrant community.

#### Themes emerging:

1. **Cultural and Social Life:** Interest in more cultural and family events, food and music festivals, art and creative exhibitions, themed days, fairs, and celebrations of different cultures and nations.
2. **Learning and Skills Development:** Strong interest in free or low-cost English language courses (with more hours per week), education on UK laws and rights, development of digital and vocational skills, and training opportunities for older people to learn new professions.
3. **Safety and Security:** A strong desire for improved safety across the town, including more street lighting in dark areas, CCTV in public spaces, faster police response, volunteer evening patrols, and measures to address anti-social behaviour.
4. **Cleanliness and Environment:** Calls for cleaner streets, better waste management, provision of free rubbish containers in fly-tipping hotspots, deratisation (rat control), more greenery, and well-maintained public spaces.

5. **Infrastructure and Transport:** Requests for road and street repairs, improved modern infrastructure, pedestrianising parts of the town centre, and better public amenities such as benches and recreational areas.
6. **Community Integration and Support:** Ukrainians and other migrants highlighted the importance of help in their native language and tailored integration support, including:
  - Access to information through local hubs in their own language.
  - Housing rental support.
  - Assistance in understanding and exercising their rights.
7. **Health, Workload, and NHS Access:** Many respondents, particularly Ukrainians, raised concerns about:
  - Difficulties accessing NHS services, dissatisfaction with the quality of care, and long waits for treatment.
  - The impact of language barriers on healthcare experiences and outcomes.
  - The need to identify health problems early and link them to their causes.
  - Calls to limit physically demanding workloads at work to protect health and wellbeing.
8. **Recreation, Health, and Wellbeing:** Desire for safe parks, walking routes, children's play areas, sports clubs, creative hobby groups, outdoor workshops, wellness programmes, and spaces to interact with animals and nature.
9. **Support for Local Economy and Creativity:** Encouragement of small shops, family-run businesses, local craft enterprises, and support for street artists and musicians.

**Community connection:** Engagement activities strengthened relationships within the community, creating spaces for discussion, cultural exchange, and shared problem-solving.

**Creative contribution:** Upcoming art workshop will add a visual, youth-led perspective to the consultation, making the feedback more accessible and engaging for the wider public.

**Trust and accessibility:** By providing translated materials and direct language support, participants felt their voices were valued and that their input would be accurately represented.

## **ii. YMCA / Boston Youth Hub**

### **Overview**

On Tuesday, 5th August, we delivered a graffiti workshop for young people attending Boston Youth Hub, in partnership with Tonic Health. We departed our base at 09:20 and arrived in Boston approximately one hour later. Upon arrival, we familiarised ourselves with the Youth Hub setting—an open-access provision offering a range of recreational activities including table tennis, snooker/pool, darts, air hockey, and gaming consoles (Xboxes). Workshop Structure

The session followed a structured plan designed to engage participants creatively, safely, and meaningfully:

1. Icebreaker Activity – Played a group game of Corks to build rapport and ease young people into the session.
2. Discussion: Graffiti – Art or Vandalism? – Explored the differences between legal and illegal graffiti, encouraging open dialogue and critical thinking.
3. Skill Building: Lettering Techniques – Introduced various lettering styles and techniques to make words visually stand out. – Young people were given time to experiment and practise these on paper.
4. Outdoor Spray-Paint Practice – Transitioned outside to practise using spray paint on large plywood boards. – All spray-painting activities were conducted outdoors for health and safety compliance.
5. Creative Concept Development – Participants reflected on the identity and purpose of the Youth Hub. – They brainstormed six words that came to mind when thinking of “Tonic Health Youth Hub.” – Tonic Health Staff also contributed ideas.
6. Design Drafting – Using their brainstormed words, young people sketched their final board designs on practice paper.
7. Board Painting – The group collaboratively painted their designs onto the wooden boards outdoors.
8. Drying and Break Time – While the paint dried, young people were offered 15 minutes of free time.
9. Detailing and Finishing Touches – Once dry, the boards were enhanced with highlights and finer details using Sharpie paint pens.

### **Participant Feedback & Evaluation**

The session was well received by the young people. While there was initial hesitance, participants quickly became engaged and demonstrated enthusiasm and creativity. We gathered feedback using post-it notes. Young people were asked to share their thoughts about the session.

### **Responses included:**

- “10/10 – Staff were really friendly.”
- “Sigma 100/10.”
- “Very nice – 10/10. Aura can’t lie.”
- “Very entertaining and fun.”
- “I like the people, the spray paint, and doing the board.”

**Conclusion**

This workshop successfully combined informal education principles with creative expression, offering young people a space to explore identity, collaborate with peers, and engage in meaningful art-making. The partnership with Tonic Health and the supportive environment at Boston Youth Hub contributed positively to the overall impact of the session.

### iii. Boston Centrepont

The general ideas were:

- More toilets in town. Accessible ones without steps.
- A homeless shelter.
- Buses on a Sunday
- More free music events to bring people together.
- A cheap affordable café that acts a community hub – different projects going on.
- Help to give Centrepont Outreach a refurbishment.
- More places to go on a Saturday and Sunday that are free or very low cost – Safe spaces.
- A heritage centre or more events on the river – as Boston used to be a major port town historically.



## Appendix A: survey questions – *General Survey*



### ***Let's Talk Boston***

#### ***Let's talk about Boston***

Have your say on Boston, help to shape the future of our town, and you could win £100 in shopping vouchers.

Our town is set to benefit from multi-million-pound government funding (around £2M a year for 10 years) – and together we can all play a part in deciding how this money should be spent.

We need everyone who lives, visits, works, and cares about Boston to **make your voice heard**.

Share your thoughts, your ideas, your hopes for our town – please answer as many questions as you can - and just by having your say, **not only will you help to shape our town's future, you could also win £100 in shopping vouchers**.





## ***Our vision for Boston***

We need to think about what we want Boston to be in 10 years' time – this is our identity.

Based on previous consultation, we know that people want Boston to prosper, to make more of its history, but also look to the future.

1. So, our identity could be about Boston's history and heritage side by side with progress and creativity. What do you think about that?

- ☐ I like it a lot
- ☐ I quite like it
- ☐ I'm not sure
- ☐ I don't like it
- ☐ I really don't like it

2. What do you think Boston should be known for so that it stands out from other neighbouring towns? *For example: this could be things like small independent shops, arts and crafts, or cultural activities like events and festivals.*

3. What are the three main changes you would want to see in Boston by 2035 to make it a thriving place?

1st change

2nd change

3rd change

4. What are the three best things about Boston that we should build on as we head towards 2035?

1st best thing

2nd best thing

3rd best thing

5. In one sentence please describe the Boston that you would be proud to be part of in 2035?



## ***Boston Moving Forward***

6. What small, quick changes could make a big difference in your neighbourhood right now? *This can be anything you can think of but could include things like providing small amounts of funding or support to deal with issues like weeds or cracks in pavements, dog poo bins/bags, small amounts of funding for local community groups - and much more.*

7. What do you think are the biggest challenges in your local community?

8. And, how do you think these challenges can be tackled?

9. What community support, advice, or services do you or others need to live well in Boston? (please pick all the things that you think are needed)

- ☐ Mental health support
- ☐ Social activities
- ☐ Advice on benefits
- ☐ Advice and support with job applications
- ☐ Training courses
- ☐ Activities for young people
- ☐ Other (please tell us what you think)

10. And how and where would it be easiest to access this community support, advice, or services? For example, this could be centres or hubs in the community, online services, or mobile services

11. Do you volunteer or get involved in community groups, projects, or activities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

12. If no to the previous question, what would encourage you to do so?

- ☐ More information about ways to get involved
- ☐ More relevant opportunities
- ☐ More time to get involved

☐ More flexible ways to get involved

☐ Other (please tell us what you think)

### **Supporting people in Boston**

13. What would help you and others to stay healthy and active in Boston?

*For example, health programmes, advice and support (other than through NHS), sports clubs, outdoor gyms, walking trails, or healthy eating initiatives.)*

14. How can we help young people leaving school or college to find opportunities and stay in Boston?

☐ Career advice

☐ Mentoring

☐ Local job fairs

☐ Business grants

☐ Support for start-ups

☐ Better jobs and career opportunities

☐ Other (please tell us what you think)

15. How can we support people of all ages to get the skills and training they need for the jobs and careers they want?

16. Would you like to see Boston offer more support to local people of all ages to achieve their ambitions to start and build new businesses?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

### **Improving our town**

17. What do you think we could do to make Boston town centre more attractive and more welcoming?

18. What would bring you in to the town centre more often or make you stay longer?

19. We know from previous feedback that some people do not always feel safe in the town. So, apart from more police, what do you think we can do to make people feel safe?

20. Boston has lots of areas of green space, how do we make more of these areas so they are more appealing and are used more? *Green space could be spaces such as parks, communal gardens, verges. Examples could include renovating parks, play facilities, community gardens, and essential facilities.*

### **Spending time in Boston**

21. How do you enjoy spending your free/leisure time in Boston?

22. What types of events should Boston host for local residents and to bring people into our town? *For example, events in Boston have included Boston Brilliance, Beach in the Park, and Boston's Christmas Festival 2024.*

23. Would you like to see more support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities that local people can get involved in? *This could be things like heritage tours, or art classes, or performances.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

24. How can we improve the visitor experience for tourists and support Boston's attractions? *Please pick all that apply.*

- ☐ Wayfinding / better signage
- ☐ Better / more marketing
- ☐ Offering something different to other towns
- ☐ Bringing Boston's heritage to life
- ☐ Promoting our local arts and crafts offer
- ☐ More leisure activities

☐ Better choice of shops and places to eat

☐ Other (please tell us your ideas)

25. Thinking about the group of people to America from Boston almost 400 years ago and along with other immigrants founded the vibrant multi-cultural city of Boston Massachusetts: how do you think we can work better together and make our multi-cultural town work for us, like those who did before us?

### **Getting involved**

26. There is funding available to help community groups take forward actions and projects that make a difference. How would you like to be involved in making a difference? *Please pick as many choices as you like.*

☐ Having my say in consultations like this

☐ Being able to suggest an idea for a project

☐ Working with others to set up and deliver a project

☐ Volunteering at a community event or activity

☐ Supporting the more vulnerable in our community

☐ Talking with the Boston Research Project team

☐ Other (please tell us your thoughts)

### **About you**

27. How would you describe yourself?

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Prefer to self-describe

☐ Prefer to not say

28. What is your age?

☐ Under 18

☐ 18-24

☐ 25-34

☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54

☐ 55-64

☐ 65-74

☐ 75+

☐ Prefer not to say

29. Where do you live? Your postcode

### ***Keeping connected***

30. Would you like to be kept informed of the findings of this consultation and future consultation and engagement by Boston Town Board? The consultation privacy policy can be found [here](#)

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

31. Would you like to enter our prize draw to win £100 in shopping vouchers? to win £100 in shopping vouchers? Competition terms can be found [here](#)

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

32. If you answered yes to question 30 or question 31 please add your contact details here:

Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

What you tell us will help to decide how funding is invested in Boston.

[www.bostontownboard.co.uk](http://www.bostontownboard.co.uk)



**Funded by  
UK Government**

## Appendix B: survey questions – *Young People Survey*



### Let's Talk Boston - young people's survey

#### Let's talk Boston - and you could win £100 in shopping vouchers.

Millions of pounds of money from the government is going to be coming into Boston over the next ten years. It works out at about £2m each year from next year. **And together we can all play a part in deciding how this money should be spent.**

We really want to hear what you want in Boston. Can you tell us what you think in this short survey please?

And just by having your say, you can also enter our prize draw to win £100 in Love 2 Shop vouchers.

1. Are you aged under 25?

☐ Yes

☐ No - if no, please head over to our main survey which can be filled in here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/letstalkboston>

2. What would make Boston a place where you want to live, work, or study in 2035? *This could be things like more youth activities, job opportunities, or creative spaces.*

3. What activities or spaces would make you want to spend more time in Boston's town centre? *This could be things like youth clubs, music events, or study spaces.*

4. What support do you need to achieve your goals in Boston? *This could be things like careers advice, skills training, or mental health support.*

5. How can we make Boston's green spaces and community events more appealing so that young people like you want to use them? *This could be things like sports facilities, festivals, or digital engagement.*

6. Would you like to enter our prize draw to win £100 in shopping vouchers?

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. **If you are 13 and over:** please provide your email address to enter the prize draw. By submitting this form, you confirm that you are aged 13 or over and consent to the use of your email address solely for administering the prize draw, in accordance with our [Consultation Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms and Conditions](#). You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting [michelle@engaging-people.co.uk](mailto:michelle@engaging-people.co.uk)

Name

Email Address

Thanks so much! If you want to find out more about what's happening and the money coming in to our town have a look [here](#)

8. **For respondents aged under 13**, this part **must** be completed by a parent or guardian.

Parent or guardian - please provide your name and email address for your child to be entered into the prize draw in accordance with our [Consultation Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms and Conditions](#).

Before doing so, we need to know that you are giving your consent to allow your child/children to enter the prize draw so by adding your name and address below you are confirming that. The [Terms and Conditions](#) can be found here:

By providing your name and email address, you confirm that:

You are the parent or legal guardian of the child.

You give consent for their entry into the prize draw.

You understand that your child's/children's personal data will be processed in accordance with our Privacy Notice and Terms and Conditions of this survey.

Name

Email Address