



Kirton in Lindsey Town Survey 2021, Report of Results

Thank you to everyone who completed the 2021 Town Survey. A total of 336 responses were received, 196 from the online survey and 140 from the paper versions that were delivered to each home. This report gives a summary of the most popular responses and the results of multiple choice questions.

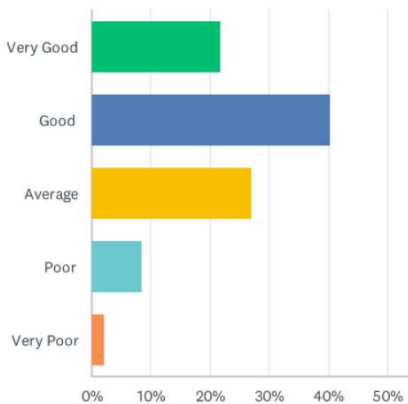


A lot of the regularly raised concerns, wishes for the future and priorities for projects identified in the survey responses are shared by the town councillors. The responses received will help to shape our plans for the future and ensure that the council represents the wishes of Kirton in Lindsey residents.

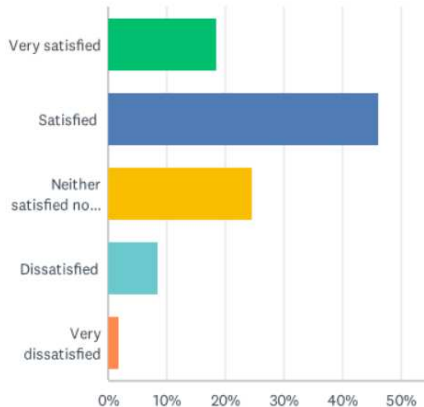
Christmas Fair



Please rate the light switch on event overall



Are you generally satisfied with the Christmas lights and decorations?



The open ended responses fell into three groups:

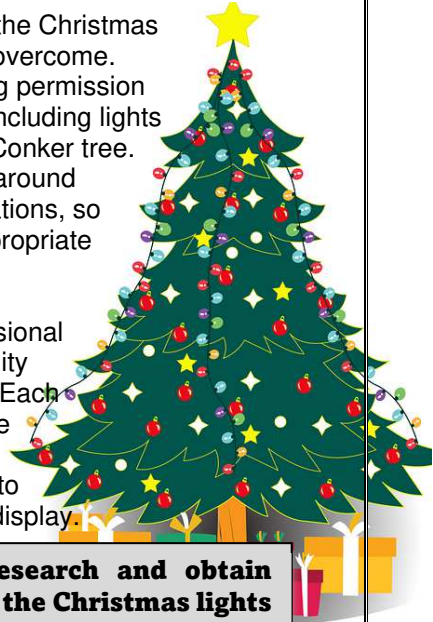
One group of people suggested leaving it as it is and felt it was a good community event with appropriate festive lights and decorations.

Another group of people felt that it was an inappropriate use of funds and should be reduced in both size and cost.

The third and largest group expressed that they would like more lights, spread throughout the town with suggestions to include the whole of High Street, main roads, junctions and the Conker tree at the Spa Hill junction, though there are budget considerations.

The Town Council have investigated expanding the Christmas lights for several years, finding many hurdles to overcome. More recently, we had some success in obtaining permission in principle to do this and investigated the cost, including lights at the main crossroads, the Green and Spa Hill Conker tree. The cheapest quotes entailed an overall cost of around £ 18,000 to do all of this including current decorations, so it was decided by councillors that it was an inappropriate use of funds at that time.

The Christmas lights must be installed by professional contractors with the appropriate insurances, quality of lights and legal procedures so are expensive. Each time the contract is due for renewal, at least three quotations are obtained and they are analysed carefully to pick the best value for money, trying to balance cost with the overall quality and size of display.

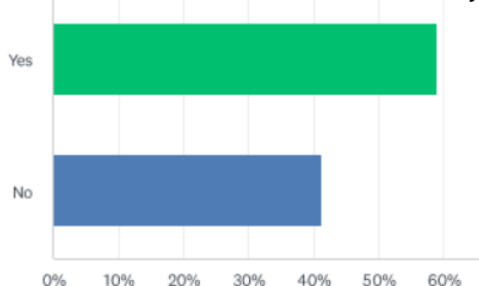


The town council will continue to research and obtain quotations from different companies for the Christmas lights display, trying to balance the views of those residents who feel the expense is too great with those who would like to see more lights covering a greater proportion of the town.

Some requests were made for a wider variety of stalls, a bigger tree and the suggestion that some part of the cost could be met by local businesses.

The majority of the cost of the Christmas Tree (excluding decorations) is very kindly covered by the A-Team charity, and in recent years the decision has been taken to have a smaller but higher quality tree, following some comments that the tree could be of better quality and shape and to accommodate a more prominent position

Is the event & decorations value for money?



Stalls are available for any businesses at low cost. Many businesses are contacted to see if they are interested, but anyone can request stall space. If any local residents or businesses would like to have a stall then please contact us at any point through the year to be put on the list.

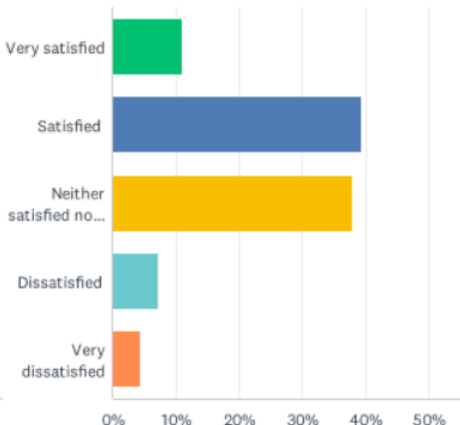
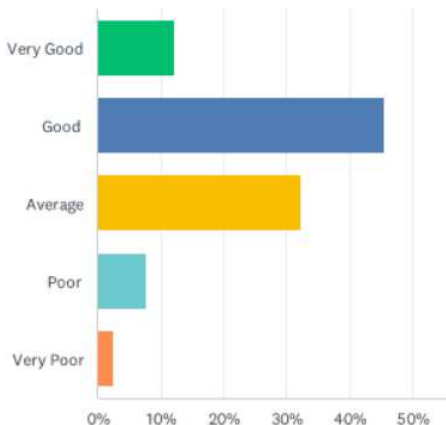
There are some local businesses who regularly donate prizes for competitions, selection boxes for Christmas and take pride in having an active role within the community, for which we thank them. We will continue to approach other local businesses to see if they are interested in contributing to the community, including helping with the cost of the Christmas event.

Summer Gala

Please get in contact with us if you or your business would like to be part of any of the town events

Overall rating for the Gala

Overall residents satisfaction for the event



Requests were made for more stalls, food & drink retailers with greater variety, more activities & sports with less tombola style stalls. Suggestions of live music with 'open - mic' sessions and classic car & motorbike displays were made

Any local business or group of people can reserve a stall for relatively low cost and efforts will continue to broaden the scope of goods on offer. We need more applicants to help widen the scope of stalls.

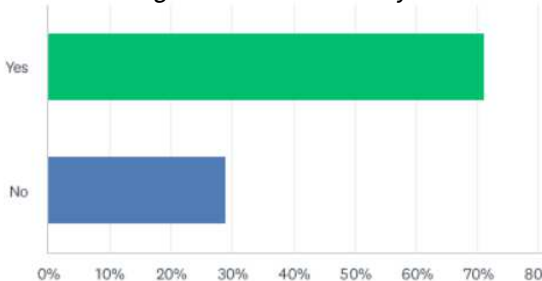
The success of the recent Food Fest will hopefully provide some confidence for local food & drink vendors that Kirton in Lindsey is a worthwhile venue and that the range of offerings can be expanded in the future.



We cordoned off a performance area that in recent years has hosted dance, gymnastics and trampoline performances and dog shows. This performance area can be used for any appropriate and interested groups – we will look into the possibility of hosting open-mic style musical performances and whether other suggestions such as a classic car display can be incorporated.



Is the Gala good value for money?



If you are part of a group that would like to display or perform at the Summer Gala, please get in touch.

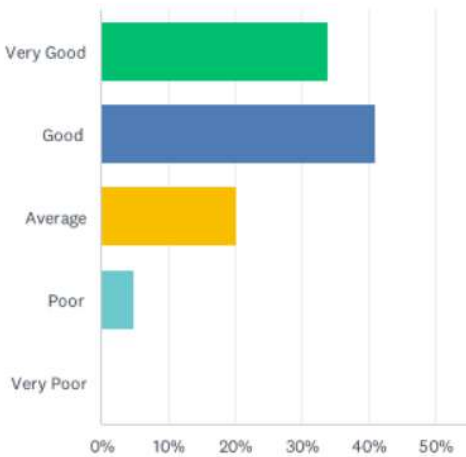
A couple of suggestions were made to use KLASSIC for this event, though it was also commented that this is less central and so may not be appropriate. Also, it was acknowledged that the Town Council has been forced to reduce in the number of voluntary councillors and so more help is needed for events.

Flower Beds

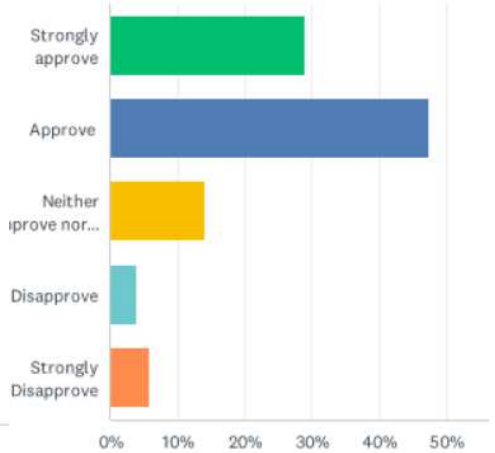
There was general support for continued expansion of trees, flower beds and planters at various locations around town. Thank you for the individual suggestions that will be discussed as we develop plans for the town.

Some of the flower beds and planters around town are maintained by the In Bloom group – this group is in desperate need of more volunteers, so if you are interested then please get in touch with them to offer your help and help the town to keep looking great.

Rate the Flower Beds & Planters



Would you like to see more of them?

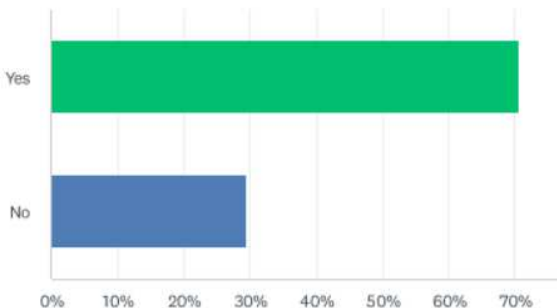


Car Park

The Town Council's attempts to secure permission and funding for a new car park at the top of High Street have met with general support.

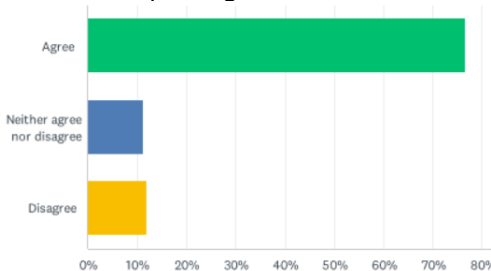
The planning application has been submitted to North Lincolnshire Council and we hope to hear the result of the application soon. If successful, we can start applying to various funding streams, including referendum for a Public Works Loan in case it becomes needed.

In principle would you support a Public Works Loan for funding the car park?

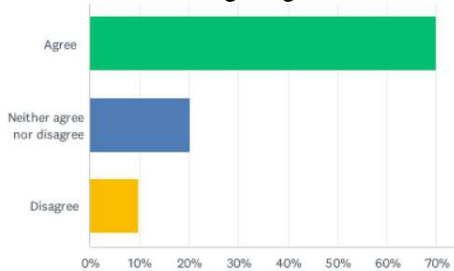


Opinions on facilities to be included for the car park:

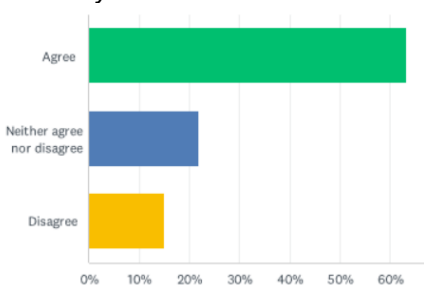
Free parking



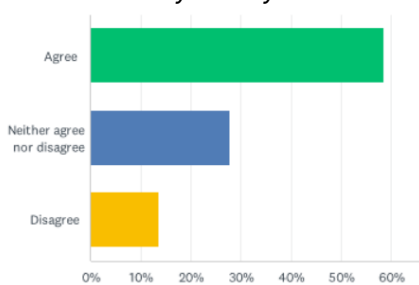
Low level lighting



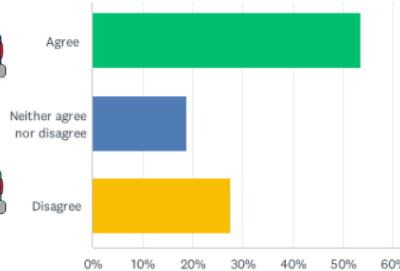
Cycle racks



Motorcycle Bays



Picnic benches

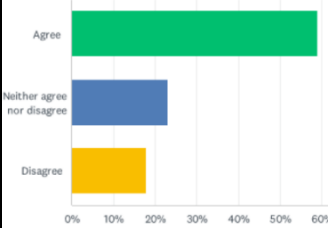


Ashwell

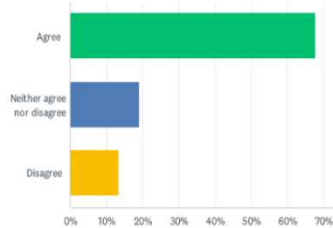
The plans for Ashwell received overall support, but there are concerns from some of the local residents about the possibility of future anti social behaviour. If work in this area is undertaken, all of the comments and feelings of nearby residents will be taken into full consideration. There is some appetite for improving the area, but also legitimate concerns about future consequences. The problems of excess water in the area are the subject of continual communications between the Town council and North Lincolnshire Council.

The opinions on features to have if the Ashwell project is undertaken are:

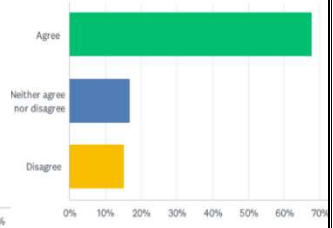
Trees



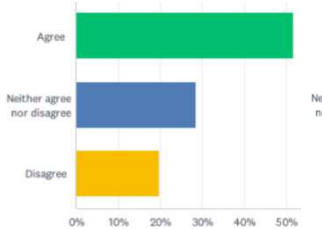
Flower beds



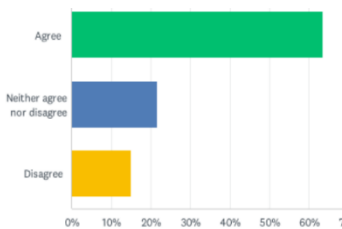
Seating



Decorative surround



Information boards



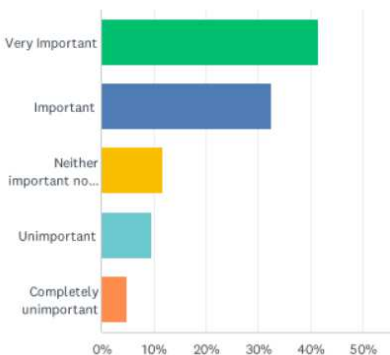
A few people suggested wild flowers for the area. There were some concerns raised about youths congregating.

Importance of Projects

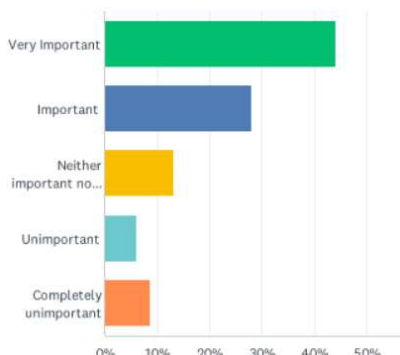
The vast majority of respondents viewed the Car Park and Sports Centre projects as being important or very important. Neither of these projects are guaranteed to happen, but a very large amount of work has been going on for some time to try and make them happen. It is extremely positive that this work is in pursuit of facilities that the majority of the community want.



Sports Hall / Vincent Hall



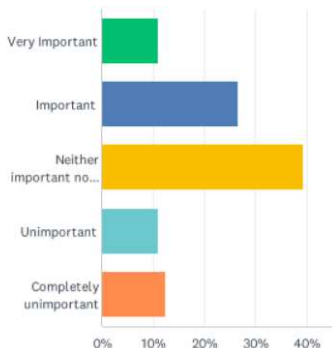
Car Park



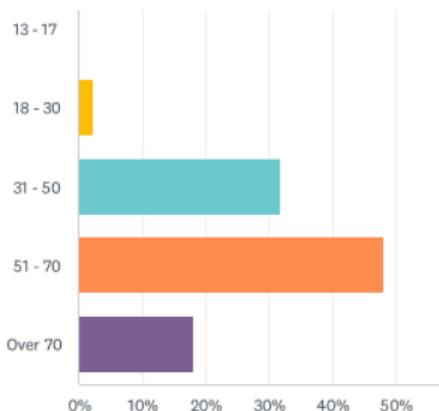
The Ashwell project also met with overall support, but with far more people viewing it as being neither important or not important when compared to the other large projects.

As mentioned above, all of the views of residents will be taken into account if work in this area does take place.

Ashwell / Traingate



Age Range



Most of the survey respondents were in the age range 51-70 or 31-50. There was also good representation from the over 70's, but unfortunately very few responses from the under 30's.

General Town Survey Feedback

Many responses shared concerns with parking in the town and felt that the Town Council should be working on solutions to this problem, with a number of varied suggestions put forward, including support for the proposed car park and requests to combat verge, path and dropped kerb parking.

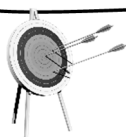
The Town Council has continued to seek the best solutions for parking within the town, for residents visiting areas including the Market Place and surgery as well as for visitors attending events or visiting generally.



The introduction and enforcement of time limits for parking, increased supply of parking spaces and traffic management are all being considered.

The provision of town centre parking spaces helps enable the visitor economy to develop, provides parking facilities for Kirton residents using town centre facilities and attract businesses, trade and events to Kirton in Lindsey.

Dropped kerbs are in the process of being more visibly marked and enforced, the trial of a one way system around the market place should be happening soon, and we have been researching methods of prohibiting verge parking effectively.



A lot of survey responses raised concerns over the lack of sporting facilities for the town and felt that the Town Council should be working to secure the former RAF sports building for community use.

For a number of years the Town Council has expressed interest in the former RAF sports building, with a view to bringing it back into use for the benefit for the whole community and Huntcliff School.

We have been working with a lot of assistance from Ward Councillors, North Lincolnshire Council and our MP, Holly Mumby-Croft.

Ownership currently remains with the MOD, but negotiations started some time ago and continue with the aim of reaching the right deal and making the building viable for leisure activities that the town will support and make use of. We hope that North Lincolnshire Council will successfully buy the property and help with funding for us to renovate and run it for the benefit of the community.



Kirton in Lindsey Community Sports Centre



Most responses noted concerns around the development of the town with the number of approved planning applications. Some people felt that the Town Council should be putting a stop to this overdevelopment of the town and communicating the concerns around this with North Lincolnshire Council as the planning authority.

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications and responds to each planning application, but overall decisions rest with North Lincolnshire Council.

Councillors use their knowledge of the town and views of residents to support or object to applications as necessary, both as a council and sometimes as individuals, including some representations at Appeal.

We have also held meetings with representatives from North Lincolnshire Council and Ward Councillors to try and ensure that the infrastructure of the town is developed to meet the needs of an expanding population.



Kirton in Lindsey Town Council will support residents of the town with respect to planning applications using all of the means available to it and we welcome hearing your views on any applications being put forward for consultation.



Some of the responses noted the lack of facilities for younger people in the town and felt that the Town Council should be providing more facilities and services both for younger people and catering for all ages within the town.

Kirton in Lindsey Town Council recognises the need to engage with younger people in the town to seek their voices on facilities and opportunities. The provision of new facilities requires both extensive funding and ensuring that they are sustainable and viable – that they will be used, looked after and can continue to be funded.



Work continues to improve and develop the play area on the Green with a five year development plan in the works that we hope will appeal to a wide age range. Thank you to all those who responded with their ideas and opinions for the park.

The long-standing request for a skate park in the town has always fallen down on sourcing a suitable location and funding. We hope that securing the former RAF sports building will include suitable land area for this and we can then work to try and secure funding.

The Town Council also created new Community Sports Sessions to replace with withdrawn StreetSports activities and will continue to listen and respond to this need.

Other responses felt that the Town Council should be putting on more community events to bring everyone together and that it should be ensuring a greater policing presence for the town.



It fell to Kirton in Lindsey Town Council to keep the Summer Gala going some years ago and ideas from the community, brought to the Town Council, such as the Scarecrow Trail are supported to build on this event. Over the past two years it was not possible to hold events in the same way and feedback is taken on board for the review of community events.

More ideas and help from the community is needed to make the best of community events – whether ideas, planning, fundraising or running them. Please let us know if you would like to offer any help.

A new venture funded by North Lincolnshire Council called ‘Kirton Connections’ has been set up to try and make the most of the facilities, groups and events that we have. The project aims to maximise participation and make sure that everyone gets the most out of what the town and its groups have to offer

The policing presence is controlled by Humberside Police and in assigning officers to places they consider the data for the town and the surrounding areas of responsibility.



We are fortunate to live in a low crime area, so that dictates the level of police presence – we have patrols by police officers and PCSO's, but unfortunately we aren't going to get a full time police station back.

Any concerns over criminal or anti-social behaviour should always be reported to the police so that their data is accurate and they can provide the right level of support to the community.



The cost of the Town Council to residents was also mentioned in a few responses, with a small number of residents feeling that the costs need to be reduced.

Each year the budget is reviewed and set with careful consideration by Councillors during public meetings. Information is published and residents are welcome to put forward their views and ideas to help with this difficult process.

The number of voluntary Councillors who make up the Town Council has been reduced from 14 to 9, which was recommended by North Lincolnshire and put to public vote.

As the Town Council takes on more responsibilities, including KLASSIC Park, devolved services from North Lincolnshire Council and projects such as car parking, the former RAF sports hall, allotments, play area development, sports provision and more events additional paid staff are needed, but budgets must be met.

We are the smallest town in the area population wise and so this has an impact if we want to maintain or improve the level of facilities, but the towns population continues to increase through housing development and this should at least provide more funds for town use in the long term.



As always, volunteers are the key to having a wide variety of projects at minimal cost. Please let us know if there is anything that you would like to help with

A wide variety of other matters were raised by individual responses, and included dealing with speeding, inconsiderate parking, HGVs, cycle lanes, public transport, the need for more shops, dog fouling, allotments, health and wellbeing facilities, flooding, pot holes and the maintenance of roads and footpaths, litter clearance and the openness, transparency and communication from the Town Council.

Control of some of these matters falls outside the control of the Town Council, however we can try to influence these things where possible, support initiatives and make requests to the relevant authorities for action, which we do on a continual basis.

The Town Council can make representations on matters outside our control, but these are much stronger when supported by residents and community groups.

We have made regular comment about flooding to the relevant authorities, both when making representation about proposed development and offering to support the residents action group for the Tudor Reach situation.

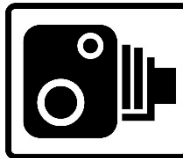


Health & wellbeing facilities and the provision of suitable pedestrian and cycle routes are regularly discussed at meetings with North Lincolnshire and we hope these will be improved

The recent campaign to reduce dog fouling appears to have improved the situation



We have been successful in obtaining additional mobile speed camera patrols on Station Road and Redbourne Mere after requests by residents.



We have secured land at the former MOD base for use as allotments and these are being developed.

The Town Council looks carefully at communication, openness and transparency and publishes information as widely and regularly as possible by a variety of means. Engagement with the community is considered very important and a means of open communication is always sought. There are guidelines on what the Town Council needs to publish, and this Council often exceeds those guidelines to keep residents up to date and informed

All council meetings are open to the public and so anybody can attend to see first hand the work that we are doing and projects going on around the town.

If you have a specific question that hasn't been covered in this overview of the survey, please get in touch so that we can answer you.

Thank you to everyone who completed the town survey

Contact details

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