

# Lancing: Now and into the Future

Report for our communities

June 2023

Why and how did we learn about people's experience of Lancing now, and what they want for the future?

What did we find out and what happens next?

How can you use this report to support your work in Lancing?



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# Working with our communities

Adur District Council is committed to learning how to work with our communities to do better things and make better decisions.

We are at the beginning of our journey to understand what this means in practice.

What can we learn when we listen to local people in the places where they live and work?

How do we involve different groups of people in these conversations?

What happens when we invite different groups of people to share and create knowledge?

How do we make it easier for communities to get involved in local decision making and action?

How do we make sense of things and take action together?

# Lancing: Now and into the future

In 2022, **Adur District Council** worked with **Lancing Parish Council** and **Ideas Alliance** to run a project called **Lancing: Now and into the future**.

The project was designed to help everyone involved



**IDEAS**  
ALLIANCE

**learn** more about local people's experiences of Lancing in 2022

**strengthen** and build new relationships

**share** hopes and ideas for the future of Lancing

**guide** future action and decision-making in Lancing for 2023 and beyond

The project was funded by [Coast2Capital](#) to help prepare for a bid to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) for Lancing in 2023.

In this report we tell the story of the project, what we learned and our next steps for action in Lancing.

**This report has been written for community groups and organisations in Lancing to inform and support their work.**

# Project process and timeline

September '22

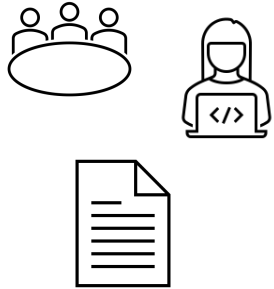
October / November '22

December '22

January - February '23

From March '23 on

1. We **gathered** information and knowledge about Lancing to share with local people



2. We **shared** the information with different groups of local people.



We **listened, learned and created** more knowledge about Lancing together



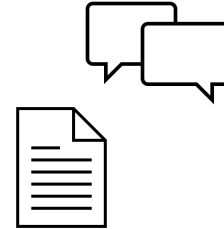
3. We **invited** the different groups to come together.

We **shared** our new knowledge and **worked together to agree** a set of future aims for Lancing.

We called these aims '**Lancing Aspirations**'



4. We **shared 'Lancing Aspirations'** with more local people and asked them to share with their communities for feedback.



5. We are **inviting** local people to work with us to form **action groups** to help achieve '**Lancing's Aspirations**'.

We also want to **celebrate, support and connect** to any any local people / groups already working on projects which move us closer to 'Lancing's aspirations'.

# Gathering information and knowledge about Lancing

To learn more about Lancing, we wanted to hold conversations with local people and include local information and knowledge.

So, we gathered local information about Lancing and organised it into three information boards.

Each board had a theme: **people, economy and environment.**

We planned to use the information boards with different groups of local people as a conversation starter.



[Click here to see the information we gathered about Lancing in 2022.](#)

# Listening, learning and creating new knowledge about Lancing

In October and November 2022, we held **community conversations** with different groups of local people living and working in Lancing.

We shared the Lancing information boards and together, learned more about Lancing's people and places.

	Group / community conversation	Event / Venue / Time	Number of people
1	Health and community professionals	Lunch and Learn at Fabric, Freedom Works, Lancing, 11.30am-1-pm, 20/1/22	12
2	Young people aged 11-17	'Pizza Night' with Electric Storm Youth at Adur Hub, Lancing, 7pm-8.30pm, 29/10/22	10
3	Local volunteers	'Volunteers Coffee Morning', Parish Halls, Lancing 10.30am-12pm, 31/10/22	25
4	Older residents	'Afternoon Tea', Fabric, Freedom Works, Lancing, 1pm-2.30pm, 31/10/22	12
5	Parents and carers	'Eat, Meet and Learn' at Lancing Library 7pm-8.30pm, 8/11/22	9
6	Politicians and officers	'Lunch and Learn' at Parish Halls, 11.30am-1pm, 16/11/22	11
7	Business and trading community	'Business Breakfast' at Lancing Library, 8.00am-9.30am, 17/11/22	17
		<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>

# Listening, learning and creating new knowledge about Lancing

We also ran a **public survey** for three weeks in October and November 2022 to share information with local people and hear from them about their **experience** of living and working in Lancing,

We asked them open questions about their **hopes** for the future and **ideas** for improvement.

The survey was available online through social media and on paper through Lancing Library, Lancing Parish Halls and Chesham House.

We had **more than two hundred responses**.

**Lancing: Now and into the Future**

Lancing: Now and into the Future

What we have found out so far about 'people in Lancing':

Historically, Lancing was renowned for its railway carriage works and market gardening. It was also a centre for retreat and care for vulnerable people from London and the Lancing area. The culture of caring continues today with many community, local interest and faith groups spaces such as the Parish Hall, Chesham House and Fabric and the community approved businesses on the high street and in the Lancing Business Park.

Lancing has a strong 'village' identity. People experiencing a stronger sense of belonging than in other parts of England. At the same time local people are experiencing more challenges in relation to housing, cost of living and health than in neighbouring areas.

What else are we learning?

Lancing's population is 27,861 and is steadily increasing. The population is growing faster.

86% of residents are satisfied with their neighbourhood.

Average household income in Lancing is £36,000. After housing costs this reduces to £28,000.

Average house price £212,000 with an affordability gap of £114,000.

According to national research, a couple with two children need to earn £49,000 between them to achieve minimum acceptable standards of living. 1,255 households suffered fuel poverty in 2019.

1 in 5 children in 2019 were living in families on a low income before housing costs.

Lancing experiences higher rates of obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and depression than other parts of England.

Does this information about 'people in Lancing' reflect your experiences? \*

Yes

No

Unsure

In some ways but not in others

No comments on 'people'

In relation to the information above on 'people in Lancing', please tell us how your experiences are similar or different?

Your answer

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*"A vibrant healthy town and village that takes care of their older generations and the older generation is able to help the younger ones"*

*Retired resident aged 60-69*

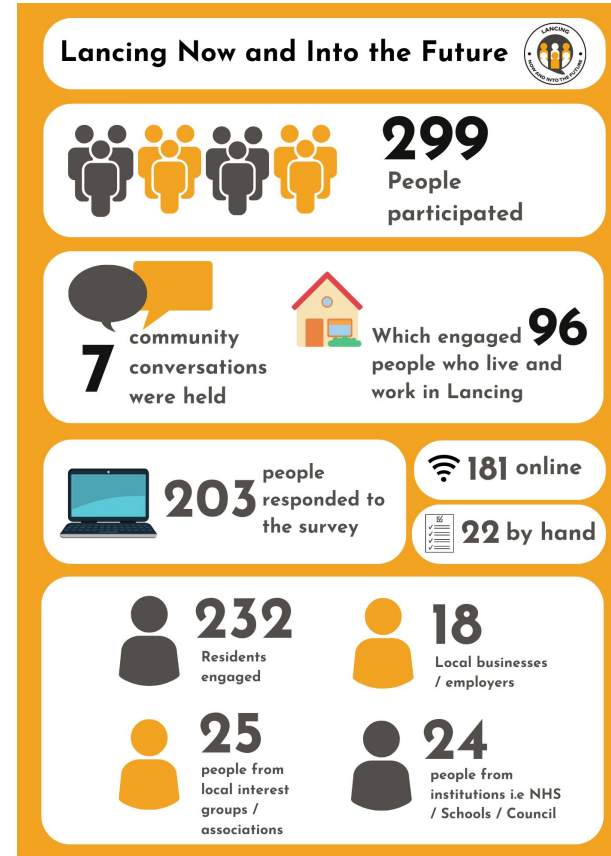


# Who did we reach and learn from in Lancing?

**Working with our partners and local organisations** including Community Works, Lancing Library, Lancing Traders Association, Lancing Business Park, Chesham House, Freedom Works, Electric Storm Youth and our local councillors **we were able to reach different groups of people in different community spaces** at different times. We involved a good range of local people including:

young people, parents and carers, older residents, volunteers and community groups, professionals, business people and local politicians and council officers.

And our **public survey** helped us open up the opportunity to other residents to get involved and be heard.



# What did we learn about people's experience of living and working in Lancing now?

From our **community conversations** and our **survey** we are learning that:

People in Lancing want leisure opportunities that they can afford, enjoy and access.

People in Lancing want to feel safer in public spaces and in active travel.

People in Lancing want to see the fair use of resources for the benefit of local people.

Lancing's population is changing and we need opportunities for local training, education and flexible, well-paid work.

People in Lancing are active and resourceful .

People in Lancing understand the relationship between health, cost of living and other factors including income, housing, access to good food and services and lifestyle.

Lancing's economy has centres of excellence but the high street isn't one of them...yet

Lancing is a place seeking identity.

**[We worked our learning about Lancing into eight community stories. Click here to read each story.](#)**



# Sharing knowledge and agreeing a set of future aims for Lancing

On 8th December 2022, we invited the different groups of local people from our small conversations and survey to meet together.

47 local people showed up at our 'big conversation event', hosted at Sussex FA, Culver Road, Lancing.

This group included people working and living in Lancing, local volunteers and business people, as well local councillors and officers.



**We shared** what we were learning about people's experiences of living and working in Lancing.

And, **we invited** people to work together to agree a set of future aims for Lancing.

We called these aims '**Lancing's aspirations**' and in January 2023 we asked people to share these aspirations with their communities for feedback.

# Lancing's aspirations

Lancing is a place **where local people can stay and enjoy** and **others want to visit**

Lancing is a place **where everyone can feel safe**, whichever community space they are in and however they travel

Lancing's **local economy connects and invests in our youth** and grows future adults and citizens

Lancing has **an improved high street** that connects to our centres of excellence and natural strengths

Lancing has **well connected, influential communities that are served by and use local resources** (healthcare, transport, education, homes, energy)

[Click here for the full Lancing Aspirations document.](#)

# Taking action to move closer to Lancing's aspirations

Idea	No. of votes
Community hub	76
Explore pedestrianisation	64
Splashpad	28
Higher police presence in the area	27
Affordable and social housing	26
Better, safer green spaces	26
Affordable reliable sustainable transport - Buses / Cycle Lanes / Footpaths	22
Improve links to village centre from N. Lancing / S. Lancing / New Monks Farm / Business Park	22
Local Alliance Partnership	19
More integrated Services for healthcare, well being, education - at the library?	15
Improve variety of business on the high street	15
Activities for young and disabled	15

In our December conversation we also invited people to vote on local people's ideas for improvements to Lancing.

And we invited people to join an action group to make those ideas happen.



# What next?

Action groups including members of the community, local councillors and officers are now meeting regularly and working on the following projects:

- A new community hub

- Village centre improvements

- Community-led housing

- Affordable leisure activities

Adur District Council is also working on a **Levelling Up Bid** to the UK Government to help fund this work.

And, we are **inviting** local people, groups and organisations to share how they are already working towards [‘Lancing’s Aspirations’](#) and [local people’s ideas for improvements](#) so **we can celebrate, support and connect into their work.**

# How to use this report and ‘Lancing’s Aspirations’

Our hope is that this report can be a useful to a range of local people and groups.

**Funding for Lancing-based projects:** please do use the information in this report to support any funding applications for projects aimed at moving Lancing closer to the ‘Lancing Aspirations’. You can click on the links in this report and use the stories and numbers to show how your work is linked to the priorities of local people.

For up to date information about funding opportunities please see:

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/grants-and-funding/>

**Designing your own project:** please feel free to use the ‘Lancing now and into the future’ process for your own community research / action project.

**Sharing your work with us so we can celebrate and support it:** please get in touch with us if you are already working on a project that is moving us closer to Lancing’s aspirations so we can celebrate and support it (see next page for details).



# Your invitation to get involved and find out more...

We'd love to hear from you if you are working on a project that is already moving us towards Lancing's Aspirations and/or you'd like to find out more about how to get involved.

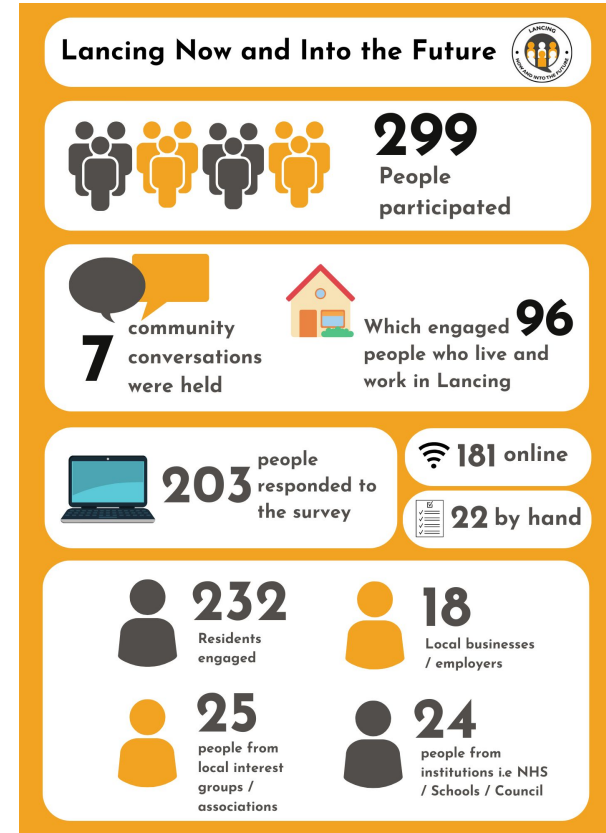
Please email us at:

[lancingfuture@adur-worthing.gov.uk](mailto:lancingfuture@adur-worthing.gov.uk)

or

[admin@lancingparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@lancingparishcouncil.gov.uk)

And, for further information about this project please check out our [webpage](#).





# 'Lancing's Aspirations'



**Lancing is a place where local people can stay and enjoy and others want to visit.**

We can achieve this by:

- Local people having access to free and affordable indoor and outdoor leisure activities including in nature
- Improvements to public spaces and amenities
- A range of activities to support healthy lifestyles



**Lancing is a place  
where everyone  
can feel safe,  
whichever  
community space  
they are in and  
however they  
travel.**

We can achieve this with:

- Things for young people to do
- Safer walking and cycling
- Safer and better lit parks and public spaces
- Local police presence



**Lancing's local economy connects and invests in our youth and grows future adults and citizens.**

We can achieve this by:

- Youth apprenticeships with local businesses
- Linking local education and business opportunities
- Flexible working
- Creating new work opportunities and communicating our successes
- Free and affordable activities for young people

**Lancing has an improved high street that connects to our centres of excellence and our natural strengths.**



We can achieve this by:

- Re-imagining the centre of Lancing as an urban green space where people can meet and socialise
- Making visible physical connections to our natural strengths including Beach Green and the seafront, the South Downs, Lancing Ring, Widewater and New Salts Farm
- Making visible, physical connections to our local centres of excellence including Lancing Business Park, Brighton and Hove Albion Elite Football Performance Centre, Brighton City Airport and Lancing College



**Lancing has well connected, influential communities that are served by and use local resources (healthcare, transport, education, homes, energy).**

We can achieve this by:

- Connecting different groups of people by sharing connections and learning, knowledge and skills
- Forming stronger links with and across power holders and decision makers, including Lancing Parish, Adur & Worthing Councils, Lancing Traders' Association and community groups



# How did we arrive at these aspirations?

## Lancing: Now and into the Future



**302**

People  
participated



**7** community  
conversations  
were held



Which engaged **96**  
people who live and  
work in Lancing



**206** people  
responded to  
the survey



**181** online



**25** by hand



**235**  
Residents  
engaged



**18**  
Local businesses  
/ employers



**25**  
people from  
local interest  
groups /  
associations



**24**  
people from  
institutions i.e NHS  
/ Schools / Council

These aspirations are the product of 'Lancing: Now and into the Future', a project which involved more than 300 local people and ran October - December 2022.

During this project, we took information about Lancing's people, economy and environment into community conversations with different groups including young people, parents and carers, volunteers, older residents, the business community, health and community professionals, local politicians and council officers.

We also shared the information in a public survey online and on paper.

We invited everyone to share their experiences of Lancing now and what they thought was important for the future.

On 8th December 2022, we held a 'big conversation' event which was attended by 47 local people from the different community conversations and survey participants.

We shared what we had been learning from the conversations and survey and asked people to agree a set of future aims for Lancing. We called these aims 'Lancing's aspirations'.

At the event, people came up with eight aspirations. Some were more formed than others.

In early January 2023 a team of council officers from Lancing Parish Council and Adur District Council with support from Ideas Alliance re-drafted the aspirations down to five.

In January a draft version of the aspirations was shared with Lancing networks for feedback. Feedback from organisations, residents and businesses was included in March.