

5. Leisure opportunities that local people can afford, enjoy and access

Summary: People who live in Lancing would welcome more leisure opportunities that are affordable and safe. Difficulties travelling to and from and between different places in Lancing also limits how people use the high street and the leisure opportunities that currently exist.

Lancing's story	Quotations
<p>Children, parents & carers and older residents all talked about the value of friendly places to meet and socialise in Lancing. And being out and about doing things was linked to better mental and physical health. However, it was felt opportunities for leisure are limited in Lancing. This is why 20-25 year olds travel to Brighton. But for people who need to stay in and around Lancing for reasons related to age, money and mobility it was felt there is not enough going on at a price that is affordable.</p>	<p><i>"I wish there could be better parks e.g., moving Monks closer to the front of the field"</i> - A young person commenting on the quality of parks data at the Youth Forum.</p>
<p>Parents and carers pointed to a lack of activities for school age children unless you have money to pay for clubs. There are also few places for parents to socialise in the centre of Lancing. Young people explained how £25/hour to hire a 3G football pitch for a game with friends was too expensive. Likewise, £3 a ride at the fun fair is too much. For post-working-age residents in particular, a lack of investment in infrastructure - public transport, toilet facilities, banks, pavements - makes it difficult for people to use the local high street to shop. They are more likely to come to the centre to go to clubs and socialise, for example at Chesham house now it has reopened.</p>	<p><i>"In Blackburn people have free access to gyms and swimming"</i> - A member of Age UK Social Club commenting on community infrastructure.</p>
<p>Difficulties moving around also prevented people going swimming and to the gym. And for people without a car, the South Downs National Park is difficult to access. There was a strong consensus in the data that more cars is not the answer. People would like fewer cars and more regular, reliable and affordable green transport options.</p>	<p><i>"If you haven't got the money for after school clubs there is nothing to do"</i> - A parent / carer commenting on things for young people to do.</p>
<p>Health and Community Professionals reflected that Lancing Skate Park is a good news story. There is a great community of children and young people who take care of it and each other. More generally, Councilors and Officers noted how Lancing's coastline is treasured, becoming a real draw for outdoor activity, which raised questions about protecting it from waste water pollution and sea level rise into the future. Members of Age UK Social Club described how the lack of sheltered seating on the seafront meant they were less motivated to spend time on the beach.</p>	<p><i>"[We are a] low income household with family. Both adults are key workers and work hard but don't have spare income and struggle with prices of everything at the moment going up/interest rates rising....We would love for there to be more things for our children to do in the local area, particularly monks rec"</i> - Parent Carer, aged 40-49, survey respondent.</p>
<p>Data from the Open Space Survey showing comparatively lower quality of access and provision than neighbouring Shoreham and Worthing resonated with people's experiences. Monks Rec was mentioned in most conversations and in the survey responses, often as a source of frustration because it is seen as a space with great potential although improvements have been slow to happen.</p>	<p>"The open spaces are very below average and broken, need updating" - Parent / carer and worker in the area, aged 30-39, survey respondent.</p>
	<p><i>"I wholeheartedly support more facilities for the young, things to do and hobbies are how to stay out of trouble. I'd like to see more people on the street to encourage people to do things locally. The sailing club is a fantastic asset along with the kite and football club we have a lot of assets we should use them"</i> - Resident new to the area, who works locally, aged 30-39, survey respondent.</p>

Unanswered questions

- What are we going to be left with on the high street? (asked by a member of Age UK Social Club)
- What is the role of the police station site in developing and regenerating our green spaces? (asked in the Councilor and Officers lunch and learn)
- Is Hamble Park being re-done? (asked by a young person)
- Is the country park at New Monks Farm going ahead? (asked by a voluntary sector representative)
- Rising sea levels - Worthing and Shoreham are developing infrastructure but what's happening in Lancing? (asked by Councillors and Officers)