

Corporate Plan – Help us Set Priorities for the future, Consultation August 2019 – Results

Introduction

Everything that Boston Borough Council does – from collecting your rubbish to promoting economic development – is guided by a plan. It's called the Corporate Plan and lays out what the council's biggest priorities are. It's due a refresh and the council has asked members of the public to help guide it. Public consultation ran from August 2019.

Methodology

The survey listed the following 8 phrases and asked respondents to rank them in priority order:

- I would like to see more high quality, skilled jobs available in the local area
- I would like to see the vibrancy and regeneration of the town centre improved
- I would like more education and enforcement to improve littering, fly-tipping and other environmental crime
- I would like to see action taken locally on the climate change/green agenda
- I would like to see an increase in people feeling safe in and around Boston (*We work in partnership with the police on community safety but the council have limited powers to deal with crime itself*)
- I would like to see resources directed to developing tourism in the borough
- I would like to see better standards of housing for people in the borough
- I would like to see more support for businesses to develop and grow.

Consultation ran from Tuesday 27th August to Friday 6th September 2019. The survey was placed online and on the council's social media sites, it was also distributed to a number of other local pages on Facebook. The survey was made available to a number of businesses in the local area who regularly engage with the Economic Development Manager. A special edition of the Bulletin was also produced, and an article appeared in both the Council News and Parish News. A paper copy was also available from the Municipal Buildings. 93 completed surveys were received.

Headline Results

Top 3 ranked phrases

- I would like to see an increase in people feeling safe in and around Boston (32)
- I would like to see the vibrancy and regeneration of town centre improved (24)
- I would like more education and enforcement to improve littering, fly-tipping and other environmental crime (17)

3 Least ranked phrases

- I would like to see action taken locally on the climate change/green agenda (32)
- I would like to see resources direct to developing tourism in the borough (15)
- I would like to see better standards of housing for people in the borough (13)

Full Consultation Results

Q. Please rank the phrases in priority order....

Phrases ranked as most important (1):

I would like to see more high quality, skill job available in the local area	6
I would like to see the vibrancy and regeneration of the town centre improved	24
I would like more education and enforcement to improve littering, fly-tipping and other environmental crime	17
I would like to see action taken locally on the climate change/green agenda	5
I would like to see an increase in people feeling safe in and around Boston (<i>we work in partnership with the police on community safety but the could have limited powers to deal with crime itself</i>)	32
I would like to see resources directed to developing tourism in the borough	3
I would like to see better standards of housing for people in the borough	3
I would like to see more support for business to develop and grow	12

Phrases ranked as least important (8):

I would like to see more high quality, skill job available in the local area	7
I would like to see the vibrancy and regeneration of the town centre improved	2
I would like more education and enforcement to improve littering, fly-tipping and other environmental crime	0
I would like to see action taken locally on the climate change/green agenda	32
I would like to see an increase in people feeling safe in and around Boston (<i>we work in partnership with the police on community safety but the could have limited powers to deal with crime itself</i>)	2
I would like to see resources directed to developing tourism in the borough	15

I would like to see better standards of housing for people in the borough	13
I would like to see more support for business to develop and grow	5

See Appendix 1 for full ratings.

Q. The council would also like to hear any other suggestions you have to make about how it could, within its powers,

I would like to see more high quality, skill job available in the local area

1.	Expansion in the local fishing and port faculties would make the most of the assets the town already has. To generate high skilled, high paid jobs, the export economy needs to be encouraged. For Boston, expansion in the food and drinks sector could be a possibility as well as encouraging tourism by capitalising on the history of the pilgrim fathers ie. A Mayflower replica functioning as a restaurant on the river?
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Improved town centre

1.	Improved town centre facilities and pedestrianised market place
2.	Better shops
3.	With regard to items 4 & 5, I would like to see the money and time spent on the town centre surrounding the current and historical Market Square rather than disrupting other areas which will take away from our actual town centre
4.	Improve the town centre for locals and tourists and this can only have a positive knock-on effect for investment and an increase in business and the associated rates collected.
5.	Lower the extortionate rent you charge local businesses, including charity shops!
6.	Incourage more good quality retail outlets. I feel we already have sufficient supermarket and charity shops options
7.	Make market place more appealing instead of great expanse of grey slabs! stop bus going through Straig Bargate . Terminate outside ex M&S and Smiths. Bring parking back to Town Centre more people will come into town. 30 or 1 hour.
8.	Quality shops, free parking, more police presence, John Adams Way
9.	More amenities in central park.
10.	Better network links with other towns and local cities. Develop an out of town shopping destination to attract people to the area. Turn the town the town centre into a space for socialising rather than shopping. Improve the pool and facilities to encourage others to travel to it, like Sleaford pool.

I would like more education and enforcement to improve littering, fly-tipping and other environmental crime

1.	Following a concerted education /awareness campaign, I would like to see a real zero tolerance approach to littering, spitting and fly tipping - no one should accept that littering in any form or at any scale has become so normal for Boston that it is now just acceptable behaviour.
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2.	<p>More work done on the cleaning up of the streets in town areas, West Street, High Street etc. Buildings and shop fronts kept in good order</p> <p>I would like to see the town a lot cleaner than it is. The gutters are full of cigarette ends and other debris in some areas, a clean environment is much more appealing to visitors than a shabby one. Empty shops are another concern, the appearance let the town down. I appreciate they are not owned by the council, but couldn't contact be made with the companies that own them to make the premises better looking.</p>
3.	Stop the street drinking and urinating in the public areas.

I would like to see action taken locally on the climate change/green agenda

1.	Provide electric car charging points to encourage the use of low-emission vehicles
2.	<p>I think that cycling in and around Boston should be made easier. I have a few suggestions: 1. Remove the no cycling restrictions along the Witham Bank. This pathway is adequately large to cope with both pedestrians and cyclists. The alternative routes along Fydell Street, Irby Street etc. are narrow and dangerous. 2: Consider building an alternative walkway (like Sluice Bridge) or on the Have Bridge. This would allow the present pathway to be used by Grammar School and Boston College students as a cycle tract without risking their lives in the traffic on Have Bridge: 3 Consider opening up Strait Bargate for cyclists.</p>
3.	Improve cycle/pedestrian solutions (influence Lincs County Council).

Feeling safe in and around Boston

1.	I would like to see less anti social behaviour in the town centre such as urinating in public and my children not being scared of people visibly on drugs.
2.	Zero tolerance on street drinking and drug use
3.	<p>Although Boston is the centric location it is very important to remember about the regeneration, enforcement etc. in the outlying villages. for example ensuring the same enforcement within the town locations are also replicated (resourced for) in the smaller yet very large parishes. focusing onto the town will mean that the anti social issues will go into the quieter locations and villages and we need to ensure we resolve the hidden issues and not just let the problem go outside of our area. Brexit will be hard for our town and Borough and I believe that we need to have a plan in place to help businesses, individuals and areas</p>
4.	<p>I strongly feel that once the town is cleaned up and people feel safe from anti social behaviour, crime and street toileting etc. Everything such as integration and growth will follow naturally. Weeds, litter, run down buildings, and antisocial behaviour. Until that is sorted street lights or alternate street lights need switching back on at night to also help deter crime. To do nothing or little against this is like giving permission for it to continue.</p>
5.	<p>Stop all street drinking in housing estates, reinstall cctv, if only cameras as they were a big deterrent to antisocial behaviour put the lights back on the change them to LED lights. Put the market place back to how it was and get someone local to design it who knows how it would work. Stop busses from going through the precinct, they can terminate each end like they did years ago.</p>
6.	Put the street lights back on at night.
7.	It stands to reason, feeling safe is a priority, litter and flytipping attract crime and make the town messy, HMO's cause many problems, nothing else can get better

	until these issues are dealt with. Businesses, jobs and tourism would then follow naturally with a sense of pride being restored to the town.
8.	Lock the park at night. Less hmo's, clamp down on street drinking, [removed expletive sentence] in the streets.
9.	I have a 1 year old son and 6 year old daughter. We walk from Bradford Road to Norfolk Street. At 8 am and 5pm. Myself and my daughter don't feel safe walking through Boston and we do it twice a day. It is a horrible experience. Due to foreigners drinking and being drunk while we walk past them and glass being smashed on the floor. Last week there was 3 piles of sick on the floor. The crime in Boston is disgusting and this town is not safe. And I am scared for when it gets dark earlier and we walk in the dark. We don't recommend Boston to anyone. The council needs to put more effort in protecting the people that live in Boston and I pay full council tax. See Boston Council only wanting to create tourism but not protect the people who live here.
10.	In cooperation with the police. Zero tolerance re: the huge amount of anti social behaviour in Boston. Zero tolerance with bad driving, illegal parking, speeding. West Street appealing and no go area.

Developing Tourism

1.	Look after the beautiful historic town. It has so much to offer. Just needs to be loved. Then tourism etc would follow naturally.
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I would like to see better standards of housing for people in the borough

1.	BBC continue to approve large-scale plans to build more houses around the local area, but do nothing but fight and reject any attempt to build decent commercial premises to create jobs by encouraging new and existing businesses to expand, creating jobs in the process. Where are all these house occupiers going to work?
2.	Cut back on new housing and hmo's improve the infrastructure and amenities first.

I would like to see more support for business to develop and grow

1.	Encourage business to relocate to Boston, just look at pinchbeck industrial estate lots of new units and developments what does Boston have?
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Other

Car parking

1.	reduce car park charges in town to help local businesses, support more local keep fit/exercise clubs and do more things in the park to encourage its use.
2.	Cheaper parking. A scheme where people found guilty of trashing the town in any way are punished by them having to work for certain periods clearing up results of other people's trashing.
3.	Free parking
4.	Free parking. Reduced rents/business rates .
5.	Free or much much cheaper car parking. Better "tourist" Road signs to encourage visitors to pull into the town. (Maybe the car park nr Bargate (off Field Street) could be 2 or 3hr free parking for visitors from Skegness etc with motorhome/caravan spaces.

6.	Better and cheaper car parking facilities, need more reason for people to come to the town..so better shops and help bring the market back to life
7.	Free Parking in Boston Town Centre will increase tourism and also make sure locals go into town instead of elsewhere

Mixture of shops in town

1.	Get rid of so many foreign supermarkets, betting shops and charity shops so that local businesses can come into the area. West street is a no go area for many people
2.	Stop granting alcohol licenses to so many EE shops. That's why we have most problems because EEs have cheap alcohol too easily available!
3.	Cap the amount of Eastern European shops that sell alcohol and cigarettes opening up
4.	Stop giving so many alcohol licenses as this encouraging the anti-social behaviour problem in town. We do not feel safe any longer in our own town.
5.	i think there should be a limit on the type of shops/business we dont need anymore nail bar, coffee shops,hairedressers and barbers and European shops. I also think there should be restrictions in place for the signage of these shops especially in the market place, we should be demanding a quality, traditional signage to fit in place with the local town. The european shops should not be allowed to block out their windows as its very intimidated and doesnt encourage people to integrate. Wormgate should be regenerated and made an attractive"Shambles" like place to shop especially for tourists.The flowers and displays have been magnificent...well done

Transport

1.	Sort the traffic issues out
2.	Long term (10 year plan) Transport development - better roads, more buses, more trains. Just a faster train link to London would dramatically improve Boston's appeal for commuter occupancy. Port industry development, port hinterland development industry/commercial opportunity.

Miscellaneous

1.	Focus resources on a smaller number of key priorities instead of spreading thinly across too many things.
2.	Create a unisex changing area in the leisure pool with cubicles including family ones similar to louth and skegness. Currently once my son turns 8 if I take him and my daughter swimming i would have to leave him unsupervised in the male changing area which is something i am not prepared to do. It needs a major revamp to attract more families along and would also help those with gender identity issues to feel safer and unjudged.
3.	Look at other towns and cities locally at what they have to offer in comparison to Boston, use some of their ideas
4.	We need to look past what resources the council currently has, which are constrained by Government grants etc, and look to use the future income (from delivery of housing etc and growth) to fund delivery of services.
5.	More places and activities for the teenagers - youth centres, being invovled more in the up keep and regeneration of the town.

6.	Get your existing house in order first. so much to do before you spend or get others to spend on other area. - (1) Lock Park gates (2) re-open Fish Hill toilets (3) more PCSO on patrol(4) put no cycling signs on each end of new foodbridge (4) Stop street drinking (5) Tidy up the park, re- erect fences and monitor it. Stop putting your head in sand. Pretty up West Street is a sticking plaster solution!
7.	Stop the buses from going through the precinct. The markets on Wed and Sat are getting less and less move them to all on one side of the Market Place.
8.	Its all been said before you know what needs to be done. Get on and do it. Keep asking the public gets nothing done, you only ask because you have to . Then dis-regards everything suggested.
9.	Stop parking on double yellow lines
10.	Whilst i can appreciate the PE21 Plan i feel i fails to improve the town for either visitors or shoppes/retail businesses. The reduction of car parking is a negative for visitors and businesses. The best thing that could be done is to develop the empty properties in the shopping areas. The current number of large empty do little to enhance the town.
11.	The new purple bins to be available to those with space, need and want for it, so it's a fair trial. More understanding on why the same area get support. Stop approving alcohol licences! 3 in how many metres on Eastwood road is ridiculous, it loses our fair in Council Services as there was no need. Sort west street out also and public conveniences manned, the street is not a toilet. Safety and zero tolerance on weapons
12.	Make sure its well policed. All litter is cleaned up regularly. Plenty of FREE - fire proof toilets to stop people using the streets.
13.	Provision for full fibre internet connection for rural areas
14.	Make the ITBuses use the route they use when the Boston May Fair is on the revert back to outside Oldrids being pedestrians only. Sunday should be FREE parking in the car parks!
15.	Keep path etc. clear from overhanging branches and encroaching hedges). Improve use of marketplace (events/café culture) (ban cars/parking – can do this during Mayfair so whey not all the time?{
16.	Continue to work with NHS partners and public health to reduce persistent health inequalities by providing good quality and accessible leisure opportunities for example. It is a great aspiration to create more job opportunities etc. but if people are in poor health they are less likely to be able to sustain such jobs and continue to put pressure on the wider systems such as health and housing.
17.	Fight for an improved contribution of resources from Lincolnshire County Council

Social Media Comments

A number of social media comments were also received: -

- Free parking
 - ..yes but you need something worth parking for
- Go to Spalding councillors. See how cheap it is to park there. Can shop at M and S for nothing. No problem is that why its still open and lots of other big shops
- Something like the wonderful Boston body hub what would us of a certain age do WITHOUT it? Hint hint

- More diverse classes for older people/less fast food outlets and charity shops. Encourage local businesses for local people. Hefty fines for fly tipping and make landlords take responsibility for their properties etc.
- Something active for the over 50s – aerobics, yoga somewhere to gather for chat and coffee after a workout
- It would be nice if Boston Councillors would leave their office and just have a walk around town with their eyes WIDE OPEN
- Do something about the market place it is a mess we don't need the proposed shopping area
- Sort the b&&*Y drinkers, excrementers and the fly toppers that would be a start!
- BBC – thank you for all your comments and suggestions, to include these in consultation process could you please fill out the survey
- What's the point, loads of comments have been posted stating that it's a stupid idea, moving the bus station etc etc. Until the town is cleared up and drinks, beggars, rough sleepers, foul smells from urine and worse, fly tipping, druggies there is no point in these proposals!!!!
- The council should do its statutory duties first and stop wasting time and money on grand schemes trying to impress no one
- And do you listen to what we have to say? No! We have said time and time again what Boston needs and it is always ignored. You only need common sense to see what it needs it's not rocket science. We want our thriving town back with much less crime not a flipping hotel or retirement homes. Sort our town out then a bypass then think about a hotel and retirement homes. If you can't do this then you should not be in the job then get someone who can. These are your priorities.

No comments on Twitter received.

