

**Influence the future of Louth**

## **The Active Travel Scheme Louth Town Centre Business Survey**

**Survey undertaken from  
31<sup>st</sup> August– 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
by Louth Town Council**

**56 submissions received**

**Both online and hard copy surveys  
were available to complete**



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## Active Travel Scheme - LTC Business Survey Results – 56 submissions

### 1. With regard to the Active Travel Scheme at this current time (31/8/2022) and Café Culture do you:

- 26 Totally object - Mercer Row/Cornmarket and Market Place should revert to how they were in 2019
- 25 Support with compromises
- 3 Totally support - leave in current state
  
- 2 Participants ticked more than one option

### 2. Two seating units have been put in place on Mercer Row by Lincolnshire County Council as a part of this scheme, do you think the seating should be:

- 38 Not installed at all
- 14 Installed in the Cornmarket
- 3 Installed in Mercer Row and the Cornmarket
- 0 Installed in Mercer Row
  
- 1 Participant ticked more than one option

### 3. Compromises which could be suggested may be (please tick up to 3 options if you ticked above \*that you support the scheme with compromises) – please note that the 3 hour disabled parking bay on Mercer Row has now been reinstated:

- 30 All of the Cornmarket be used for parking through the winter months (except for market days and special events such as Christmas Market) and Cafe Culture be encouraged through the spring and summer months
- 20 Mercer Row reverts to parking as in 2020
- 14 Cornmarket parking reverts back to parking as was in 2019 (All year except market days)
- 11 3 x 30 minute parking spaces in Mercer Row
- 6 Drop off points in Mercer Row
- 5 3 x 30 minute parking spaces (wide enough for disabled users) in Cornmarket (not on market days)

Not all participants completed this question.

(86 options chosen – up to 3 per survey permitted).

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### Question 4 - go to the end of the survey document

**5. Since the commencement of the trial period of the Active Travel Scheme arrangements and due to the scheme, the following statement is true:**

- 23 This business' trade has suffered significantly in the last 6 months
- 9 This business' trade has experienced no change in the last 6 months
- 8 This business' trade has suffered slightly in the last 6 months
- 8 I do not know or do not wish to disclose this information
- 5 This business' trade has increased slightly in the last 6 months
- 0 This business trade has increased significantly in the last 6 months
  
- 3 Participants didn't answer the question

### Locations of business

- 45 Town centre
- 11 Not town centre

Please note that the following suggestions which were entered into the survey form have not been edited, therefore any incorrect spelling and grammar has not been corrected. The following suggestions will be analysed in due course.

### 4. Please write down any other relevant compromise suggestions that you may have below:

1. I just think that on market days cafes should be able to be tables and chairs out! However on non market days it should be a car park, Myself owning a business and being open on a day like Sunday it's a struggle because people aren't coming into town, this Sunday no where was open and I was.
2. The area from mercer row to davenports chippy at the end of the one way system should be pedestrianised from 10am till 4pm allowing plenty of time for shop deliveries. A bold decision like that would transform the offer for the whole town. The town centre is probably doomed for retailers otherwise in the next 5 years.
3. As a local restaurant owner, the outside seating in the Cornmarket has been invaluable since covid appeared. We would not have survived without it. However, in the winter months, the space will be much better used for parking.
4. 6 x 30 minutes parking spaces in Mercer Row
5. Question 5 is slightly unfair, as its been summer months, therefore has much more footfall anyway.
6. Any and all seating should be on the Cornmarket, not Mercer Row. If Parkelets have to remain, they should be cased in wood, not yellow metal. The signs saying 'Road Closed' in Cornmarket should be replaced with signs that look less hostile - my suggestion would be 'Pedestrianised Area', but in a

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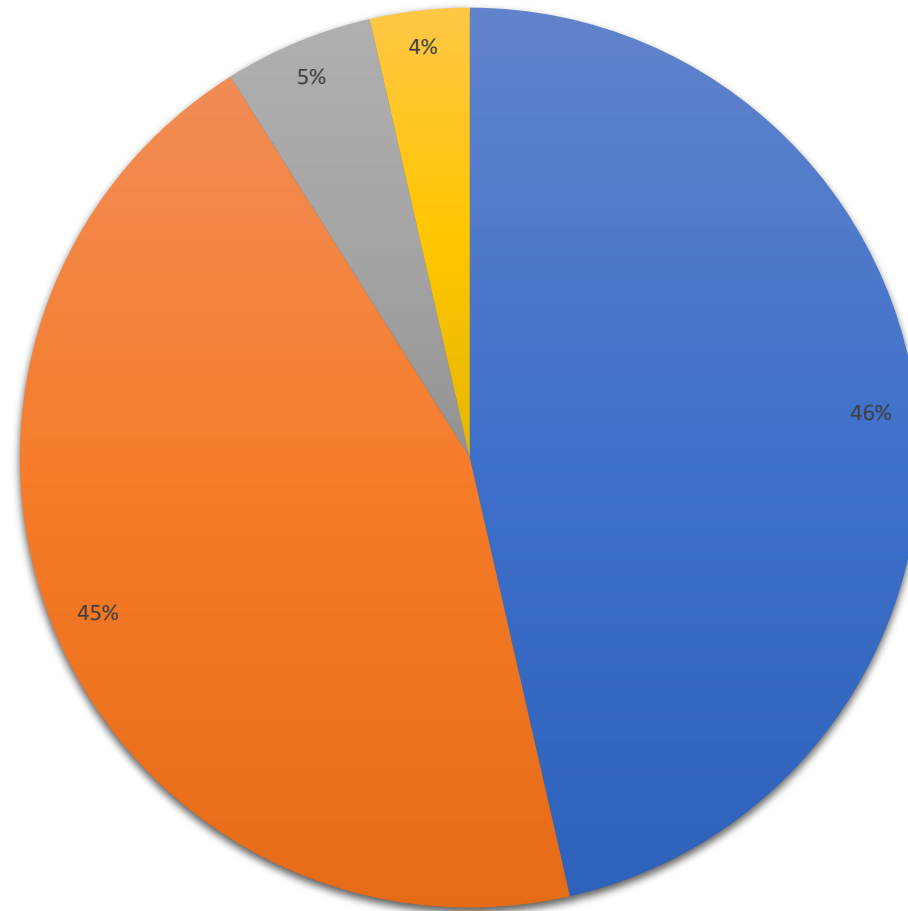
nice design and colours that are in keeping with a Georgian market town. All traffic cones and metal barriers look unsightly, and should be avoided. Planters should be full of flowers, rather than empty, or half hearted like the ones in the 'Parklets'. In my opinion, there's no point in pedestrianising if it is unsightly. View it from a visitors eye.

7. Seating to be more in keeping with the Georgian Market Town. More benches, not reclined seats which are difficult to get in and out of
8. The brick paved area (disabled parking at present) next to the bank should be the pedestrian area with the seating and planters. And the cornmarket should be seasonal.
9. The below are too simplistic, retail trade has been going down for the past 12 years. Brexit, Covid and now fuel cost have also hit hard. Where are the plans for the future everything is currently being aimed to please the Darby and Jones club what about the future customers of the town the families with young children they need encouraging to shop local so the town centre has to attract them with activities and a SAFE environment where they can walk without breathing in exhaust fumes or dodging mobility scooters. If we don't attract them then the town will slowly die, compromise has to be made and personal grievances that so obviously exist should not be allowed to enter the debate. The idea of if it's not broke don't fix it is a bit like driving a car but never having it serviced, when it eventually does go there's no repair possible. The town centre was never designed for traffic, we have to have it flowing through but let's regulate things to ensure the town survives in a pleasing way for all not just a minority
10. Mercer row complete one way no buses shop deliveries before 9-0 am and after 6-0 pm Front angled Parking in marked bays on north side of road self metred for max 20 min [ Louth Nipper Buses Re Routed Corn Market Marquee type structure to cover three quarter length and half width west end and south side for use of outside Cafe use and random stalls all days bringing in custom to town centre and income to council no moving of stall equipment needed Still leaves room for open market? From very late Autumn to Early Spring Corn Market could be used for some short stay car parking!
11. Cafe culture should be encouraged all year round with proper seating, canopies and heaters Make it more European and a square to be proud of. 30 minute parking is no use whatsoever. Needs to be longer. More parking on Mercer Row needed all year round. New seating area is pointless, not in keeping with the town and blocks the road. Complete waste of money.
12. cornmarket should be paved like the fish shambles area, with affordable seating area to be used by businesses and general public. More free parking to stop street parking. Better parking signage which could stop some traffic crawling through centre of town
13. I actually think that instead of putting ridiculous seating along the busy road (Mercer Row), they should make Eastgate pedestrianised (with times available periodically for deliveries) and divert the traffic up Queen Street from Mercer Row... this would then make the market place connect better to the rest of the shops in Eastgate.
14. During the winter months could you not have free parking on the least busiest days to encourage more footfall or late night shopping on the follow up to Christmas offer free parking
15. I believe market days & weekends the corn market should offer part parking, also parking back to how it was on mercer row. Too many businesses are suffering cause people do not just pop into town anymore.
16. Cornmarket needs money spent making it pretty so it doesn't just look like people are sitting in an empty car park.

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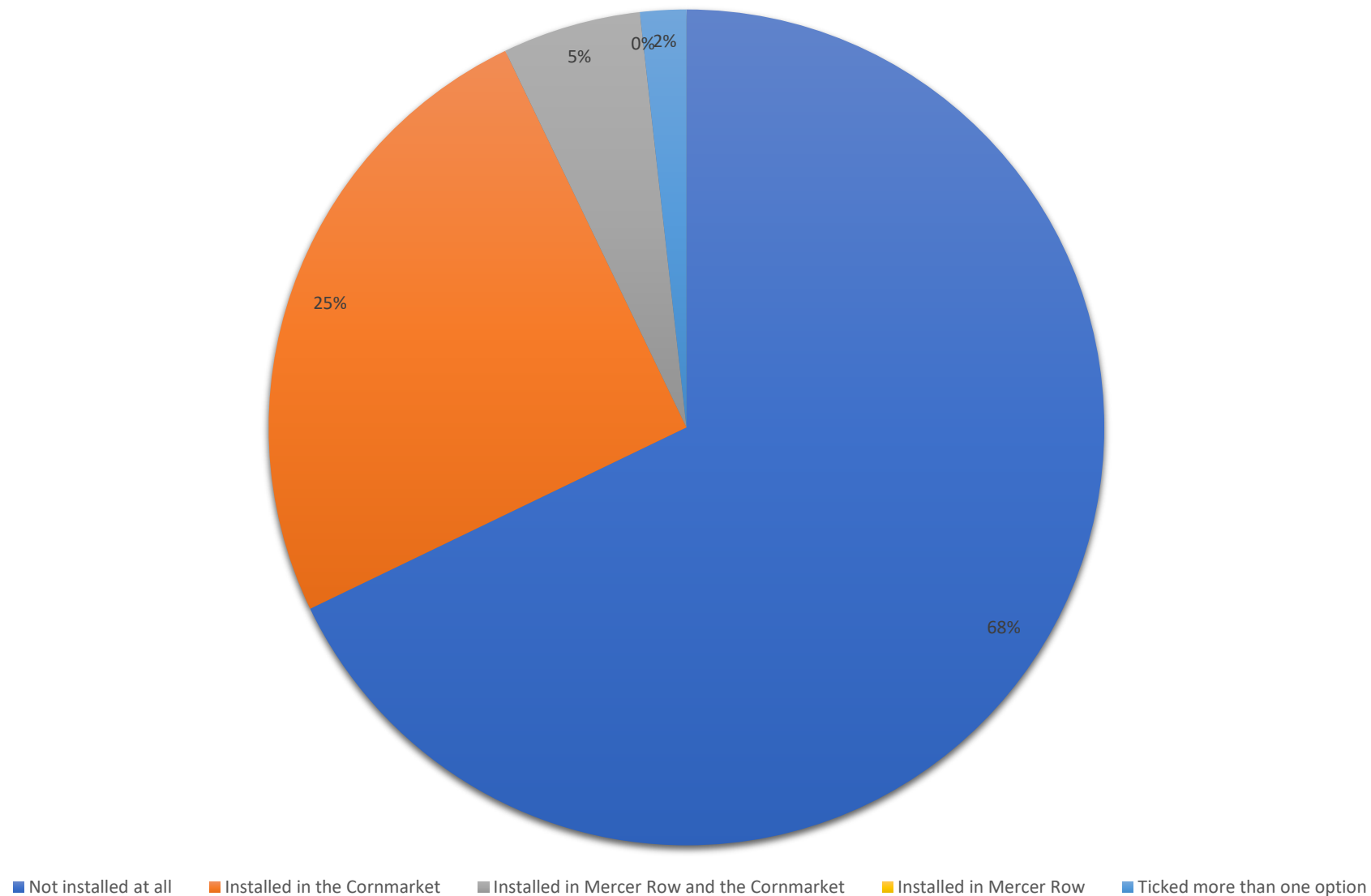
17. I believe everything should revert back to original status. And then and only then be discussed properly with all businesses and residents concerned . The way this was done was appalling and the whole system of local government needs addressing
18. Why doesn't all of the market stalls start outside HSBC bank and fill up all of the cornmarket leaving the disabled bays available for use by those requiring them rather than disabled using double yellow lines b4 Barclays Bank which blocks buses going past and then blocks all of Mercer Row behind that? The fumes from this stationery traffic is then going into all the shops. Disgusting. If you want proof, I have photographs!! Leave Louth alone. It slowly being killed. Revert and let it breathe again please.
19. If the parking doesn't return after Christmas most of the shops won't survive and will close.
20. As it stands trade persons can not get close to work nor deliver to Cornmarket shops etc.
21. As a business owner and disabled, I have found the whole scheme ridiculous, unnecessary and a waste of money and quite embarrassing for Louth!
22. Parking has become an issue with many parking on the zigzags as no other street parking or not enough on Mercer Row, people are even waiting for a space which is causing congestion.
23. Perhaps only allowing public transport to travel in the same direction as the other traffic will ease congestion.
24. Extra seating to match benches & flowers already at front of cornmarket . Possible small pretty seating area outside HSBC
25. If you're going to give the cafe businesses a huge help with extra seating in the cornmarket then do the same for the rest in town. Seems very unfair 3 businesses get such benefits when no one else gets any at all
26. I think the area that is cobbled where disabled parking has been put could be made into an attractive area for cafe culture if well designed. The rest of the corn market and mercer row should've reinstated as it originally was.
27. Cafe culture on market days only. Move market off car park at natwest have that open all the time.

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and Cafe Culture, do you:**

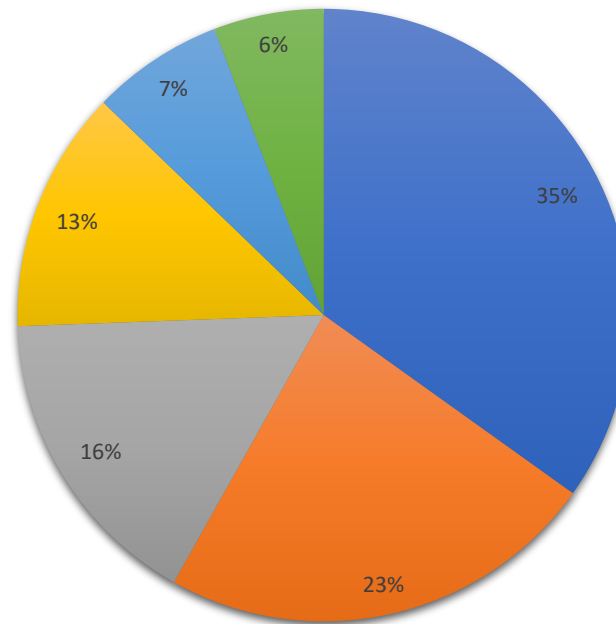


- Totally object - Mercer Row/Cornmarket and Market Place should revert to how they were in 2019
- Support with compromises
- Totally support - leave in current state
- Ticked more than one option

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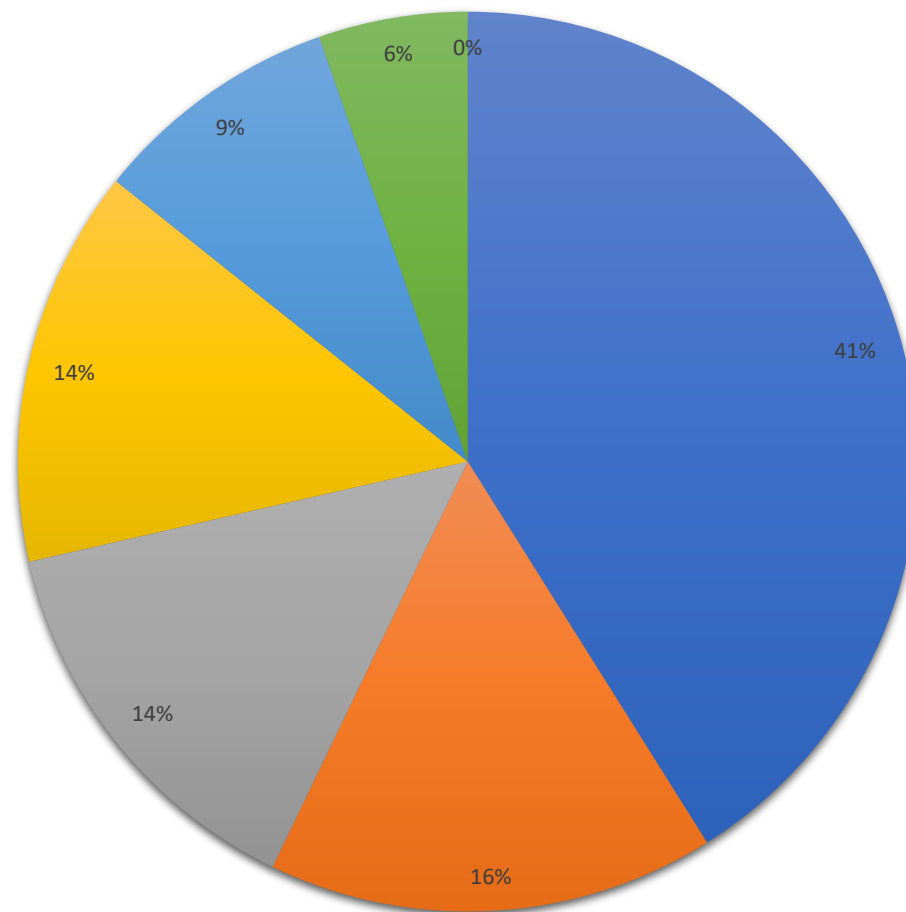
**3. Compromises which could be suggested may be (please tick up to 3 options if you ticked that you support the scheme with compromises on question 1). Please note that the 3 hour disabled parking bay on Mercer Row has been re-instated:**



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**5. Since the commencement of the trial period of the Active Travel Scheme arrangements and due to the scheme, the following statement is true:**



- This business' trade has suffered significantly in the last 6 months
- This business' trade has experienced no change in the last 6 months
- This business' trade has suffered slightly in the last 6 months
- I do not know or do not wish to disclose this information
- This business' trade has increased slightly in the last 6 months
- Person didn't answer the question
- This business' trade has increased significantly in the last 6 months

Locations of business

