

Hello and welcome to the South Gloucestershire Viewpoint newsletter

Viewpoint Surveys – June and September 2020

Thank you to those who completed the June surveys covering the Council Plan and Green Spaces and the September surveys on the Local Outbreak Management Plan and impacts of Covid-19 on Travel. Your feedback is very important to us.

This newsletter takes a look at the findings from these surveys.

Council Plan

There was broad support for the priorities and commitments overall, but respondents wanted to see more detail about how progress would be achieved, for example in the form of an action plan.

As a result of the feedback received, several amendments were made to the document itself, for example the recognition that in understanding the area's context, the two most fundamental challenges the council's priorities need to address are the climate emergency and equality of opportunity for all our residents.

The council is looking to focus on 'keep it local' and ensuring that South Gloucestershire's economy and social services cater for all the area's residents and that the council is supporting those who are most vulnerable, disadvantaged or disconnected from council services



Green Spaces

The most frequent reason for visiting green spaces before lockdown was to enjoy natural scenery and wildlife, and this remained the main reason to visit during lockdown as well (77% of people listed it in their main five reasons for the period before lockdown, and 78% during the lockdown period).

Almost all respondents visited a green space at least weekly before lockdown (85% at least weekly).

48% of respondents have used green spaces more since lockdown. Respondents aged between 16-44 used green spaces more frequently (65%) compared to respondents aged between 45-64 (40%) and respondents aged 65+ (19%).

Exercise and playing sport was the most frequent reason to have used green spaces more (28%), with the benefits for mental and physical health noted by numerous respondents.

Green spaces are highly valued by respondents, with (46%) showing appreciation for open spaces, and the mental and physical benefits of using green spaces being noted (22%).

Local Outbreak Management Plan

A key finding from the recent survey was the need to improve communication to older residents regarding testing for Covid-19. We are currently working on a strategy to enhance the provision of this information.

We are creating targeted communication and engagement activities in neighbourhoods where there are higher levels of confusion towards the guidelines. We have provided support marshals who are available to talk to people and assist with any queries, they are also handing out flyers and masks specifically in areas where people congregate.

We have created specific communications around how to take care of your mental and physical health during lockdown. We are also trying to tackle the low perceived risk of infection by continuing our campaign of the 'real impacts of Covid-19' through sharing real life stories.

In addition, we are continuing to work on ways to counteract misinformation surrounding Covid-19 and promoting the correct information through social media.

Covid-19 Impacts on Travel

The car was by far the most frequently used form of transport before lockdown (53% of respondents using it daily), however that changed after the start of the pandemic, with walking becoming more popular (51% daily).

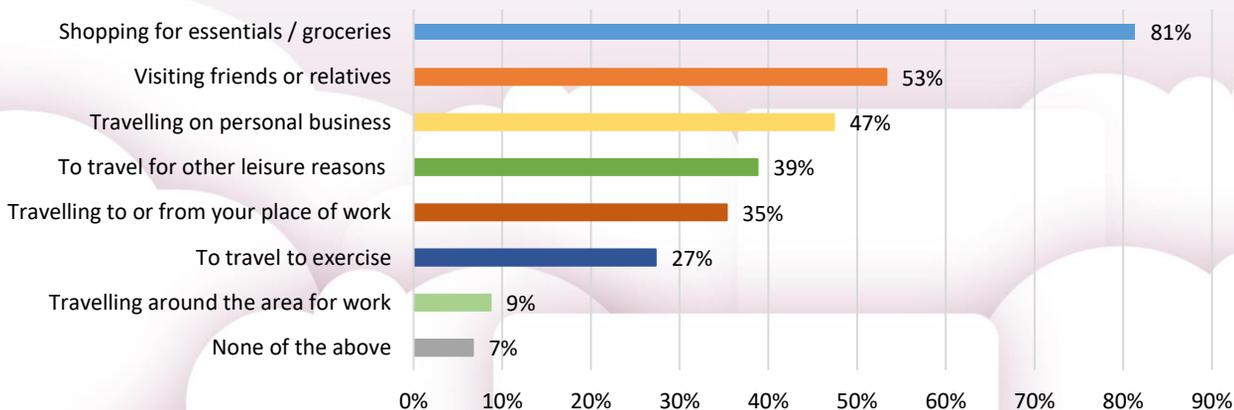
Younger people (aged 16-44) were significantly more likely to travel for a number of the reasons than older people, including travelling for other leisure reasons (44%), travelling on personal business (55%) and travelling to and from their place of work (48%).

Levels of car usage have dropped since the start of the pandemic. Only 4% of respondents are using their car more, with 20% using their car the same amount and 76% using their car less.

Of those respondents who had used public transport, the majority had felt unsafe (54% on the public bus and 56% on the train).

Half of all respondents expected to work from home more in future (50%), with only 12% definitively stating it was unlikely.

Purpose of travel



What will happen with the results?

The viewpoint panel is an important way for us to gather feedback from local residents and to help us understand your views on your local area. The teams involved would like to thank you for your feedback.

Safe and Strong Communities Division

We will use the results from the community section of this survey to inform our decision making process and to help shape our service priorities for the future. These results are also used to measure the performance of the council and ensure we are providing the best service possible.

Environment and Community Services Division

We will use the results to gain a better understanding of residents views on climate change and perceptions between local areas. These results will also assist the council in encouraging residents to take up active travel and understand approaches to domestic energy efficiency work.