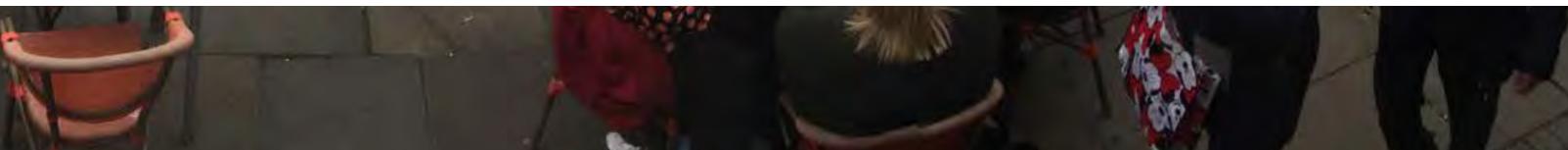




ST NEOTS FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND PROGRAMME

Community and Employer Survey Findings

September 2021



WHY ST NEOTS?

The Community Survey began by asking people why they had chosen to live in St Neots. 4 main factors topped the list:

- For 1 in 3 it is simply the place where they have grown up and then chosen to stay.
- For those who have moved into St Neots, the cost and affordability of housing has been a significant factor, this was particularly marked amongst those who had moved to the town in the last ten years.
- For almost 1 in 3 (31%), it is the town's rural setting and proximity to countryside/green space which makes St Neots the place they want to live. Related to this, the quality of the natural environment also featured amongst the top reasons.
- Proximity to family and friends was cited by 30% of residents.

The responses which indicate that people have spent their lifetime in St Neots combined with a desire to be close to family and friends suggests that the town has a strong sense of community.

Other factors shown in the table below identify St Neots' connectivity (26%), its closeness to places of work (21%) and availability of public transport (18%) as positive reasons to live in the town. Of particular relevance to the Council's ambitions to improve the town centre are the findings that proximity to local shops (12%) and the town's restaurants/leisure and cultural offer (9%) were amongst the lowest ranked reasons for choosing to live in St Neots.

	Nos	%
I grew up here	222	32
The cost of housing in St Neots	216	31
To be close to countryside/green space	213	31
To be close to family and friends	203	29
Connectivity to other local towns/cities	177	26
The quality of the natural environment	152	22
To be close to my workplace	146	21
Availability of public transport	123	18
Size and type of housing	101	15
The safety and security of the neighbourhood	86	12
To be close to local shops	84	12
To be close to good schools	77	11
To be close to my partner's workplace	72	10
To be close to restaurants/ leisure/culture	60	9
The quality of the built environment	42	6
I am studying in the neighbourhood	1	0
Other misc. e.g. connectivity to London, rurality and pleasant area	55	8

BASE: 690 RESIDENTS

WHY ST NEOTS?

The Business Survey posed two similar questions – how long had businesses been in St Neots and what attracted them to the town? 25 businesses completed the Business Survey. All but 3 of them were based in the town centre. 4 out of 10 of them had been in St Neots for more than a decade. The 5 businesses that had established themselves in the town in the last 3 years were asked why they chose to start a business in St Neots. The responses focused largely on the town's potential:

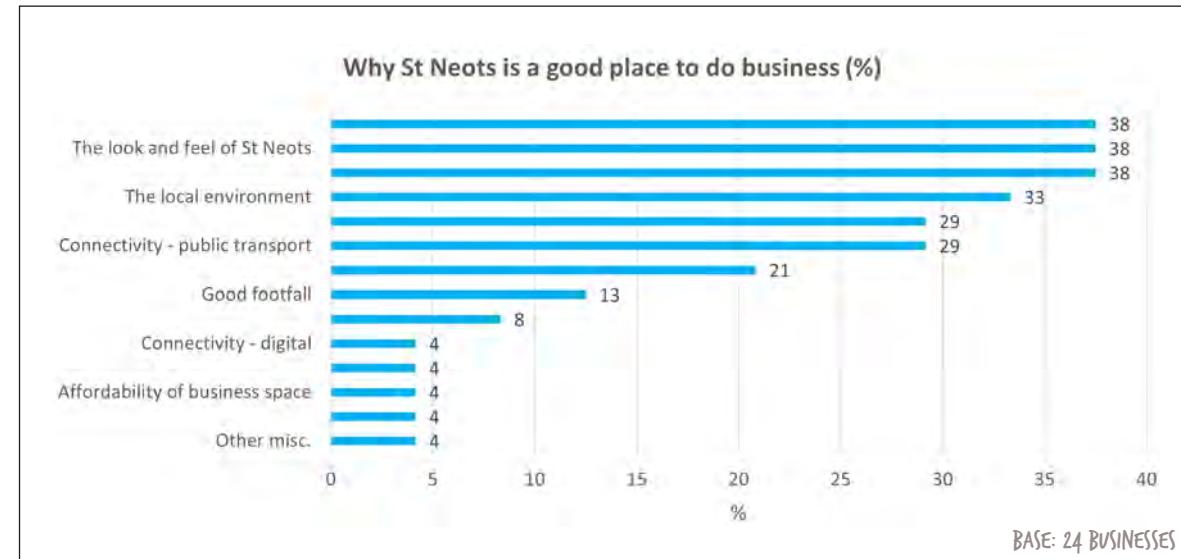
"Location - links to car and bus station. Good looking town with a happy community. Potential with viewing the developing building and growth."

"Nice old market town, good community, lots of potential from growing new housing."

"Potential growth in the town's population and the need for something like our artistic offering. At the time, the High Street was buzzing."

Employers were also asked to rate St Neots as a place to do business. The majority (60%) rated it as 'good'; 24% said 'fair' and the remaining 16% considered it to be 'poor'.

The reasons behind these ratings were explored further. For those who thought St Neots is a good place to do business it is its potential, its atmosphere and good road connections which top the list. Conversely, the quality of the town centre, was ranked amongst the lowest of the reasons given:



The businesses who rated St Neots as a poor place to do business explained that high business rates prevent small businesses transitioning to small shops; the parking in the town centre is detrimental to business; and there is a lack of variety in the retail offer - the latter two echoing the findings of the Community Survey reported elsewhere (Section 5):

"The High Street is failing to attract a diversity of retail stores and have become overwhelmed with barbers, coffee shops and charity shops."

"Costs of business to rent a shop unit in St Neots is suicidal for a start up business. It's well documented that Waterstones have stated it was one of the most expensive rent locations they own in the country. Secondly the major actions being taken to pedestrianise the town centre - at the minute business needs footfall and there is no way the average family wants to pay the raised parking costs just to pop to town for a pint of milk or small shopping experience. Other towns in Cambs have reduced parking and our town centre has raised our parking charges to subsidise this."

HOW/WHERE LOCAL PEOPLE SPEND THEIR LEISURE TIME.

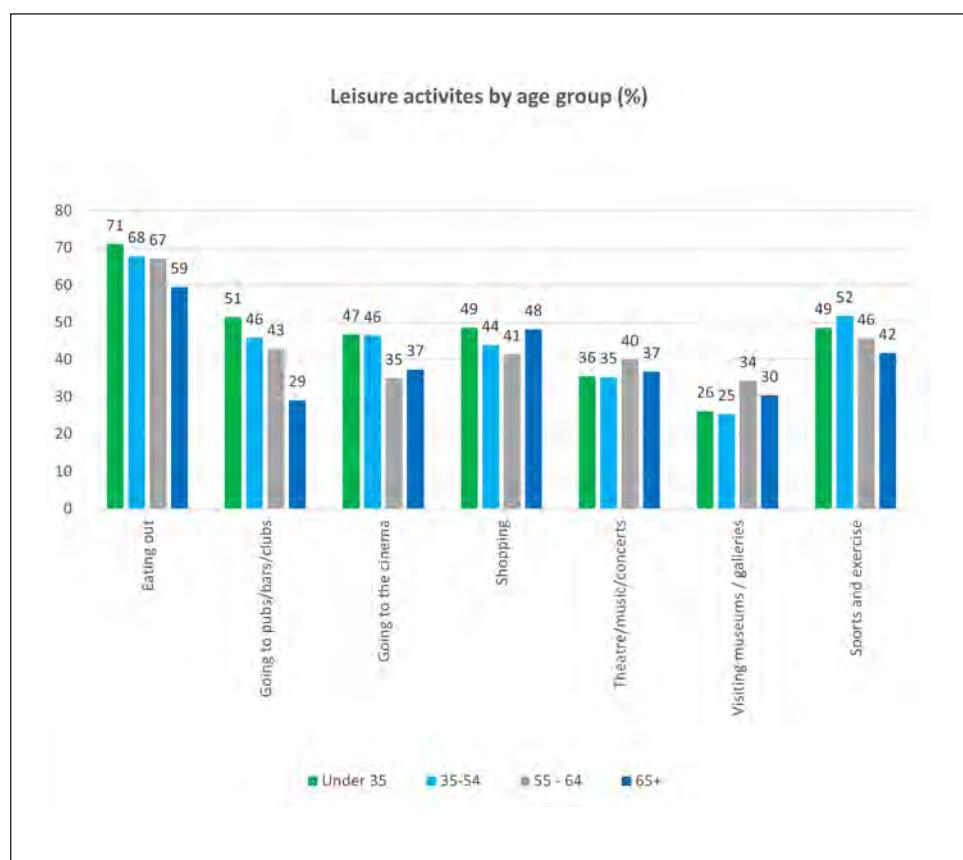
Leisure activities were wide-ranging and dominated by:

- Spending time with family and friends (80%)
- Days out (73%)
- Eating out at restaurants (73%)

	Nos	%
Spending time with family/friends	553	80.3
Days out/visiting places	504	73.1
Eating out at restaurants	502	72.9
Watching TV	408	59.2
Gardening	387	56.2
Reading	365	53.0
Sports/exercise	360	52.2
Shopping	340	49.3
Going to the cinema	322	46.7
Going to pubs/bars/clubs	321	46.6
Listening to music/audio books/podcasts	307	44.6
Internet/emailing	303	44.0
Theatre/music concerts	276	40.1
Visiting historic sites	253	36.7
DIY	224	32.5
Visiting museums/galleries	215	31.2
Arts and crafts	209	30.3
Playing computer games	112	16.3
Something else (e.g. church, voluntary work, walking the dog, using the river)	45	6.5

BASE: 689 RESIDENTS

Analysis of the age group of those undertaking leisure activities outside the home found fewer differences than might have been expected. The only statistically significant differences were found between the likelihood of 'eating out', 'going to pubs' and 'going to the cinema' between the under 35s and over 65s, but otherwise there were few differences by age, indicating the widespread appeal of shopping, the theatre, museums and exercise amongst all ages.



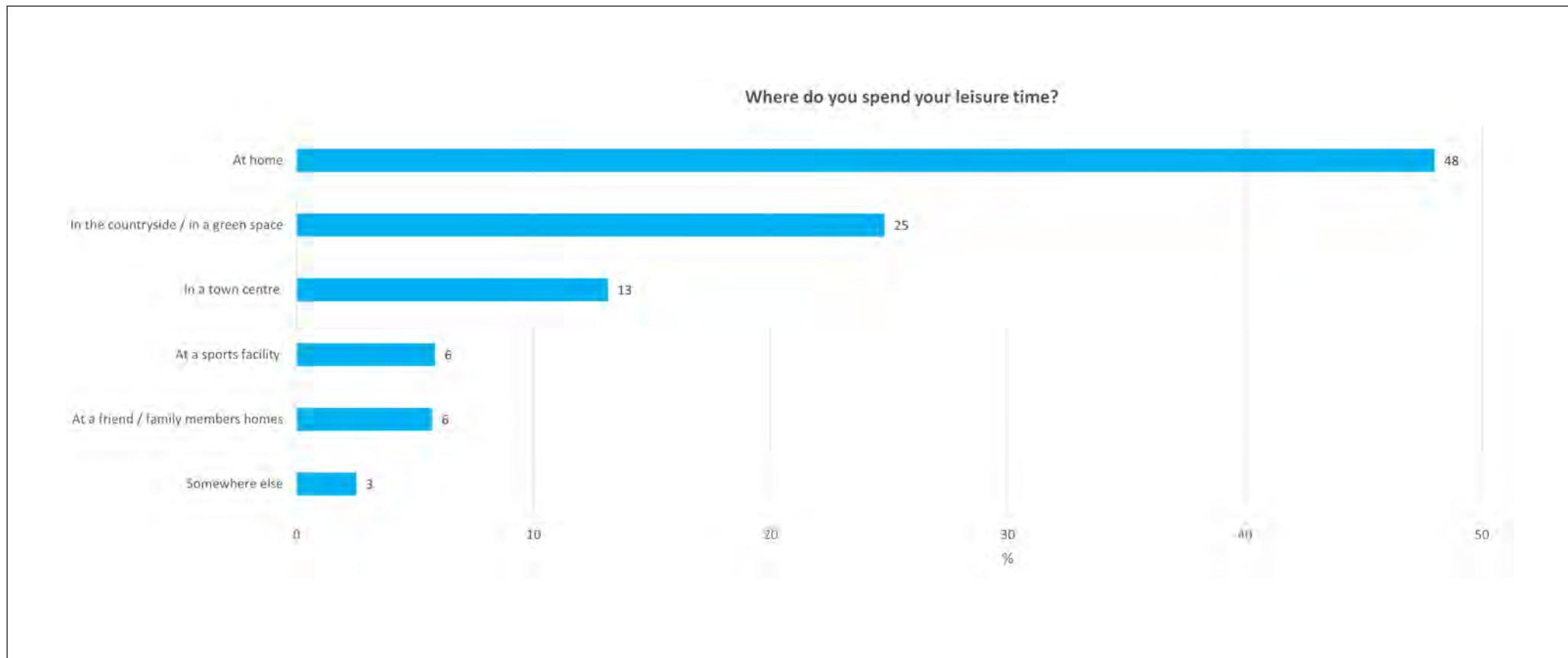
BASE: 728 RESIDENTS

HOW/WHERE LOCAL PEOPLE SPEND THEIR LEISURE TIME.

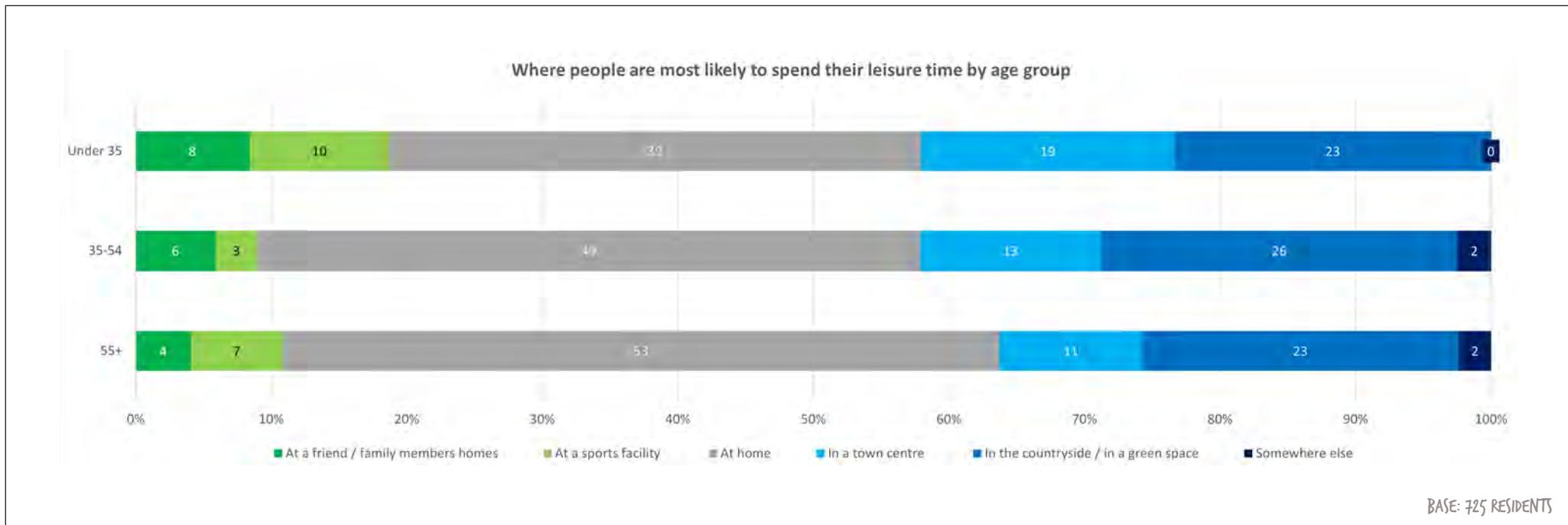
Residents' leisure time is most likely to be spent at home, with 54% spending it at their own or friends/family members' homes. Responses underline the importance of St Neots' proximity to the countryside and green space with 1 in 4 most likely to spend their spare time out of doors in the surrounding rural area/green spaces:

As can be seen, just 13% of residents were most likely to spend their leisure time in the town centre. More detailed analysis shows that these residents were more likely to be:

- More recent residents who have lived in St Neots for 3 years or less (22% spent their leisure time in a town centre – almost twice the average).
- Young: 19% of under 35s spent their spare time in the town centre compared with 11% of over 55s. The younger cohort were least likely to spend their leisure time in the home (39% compared with 53% of over 55s.)

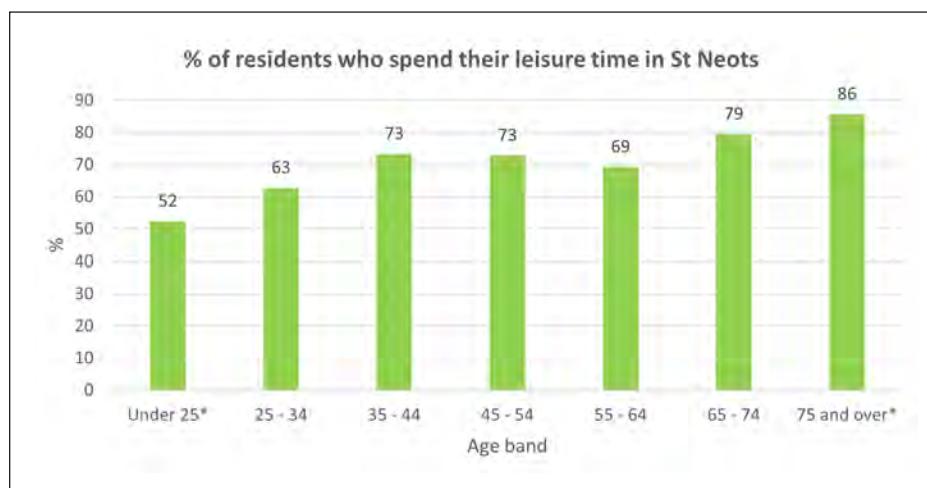


HOW/WHERE LOCAL PEOPLE SPEND THEIR LEISURE.



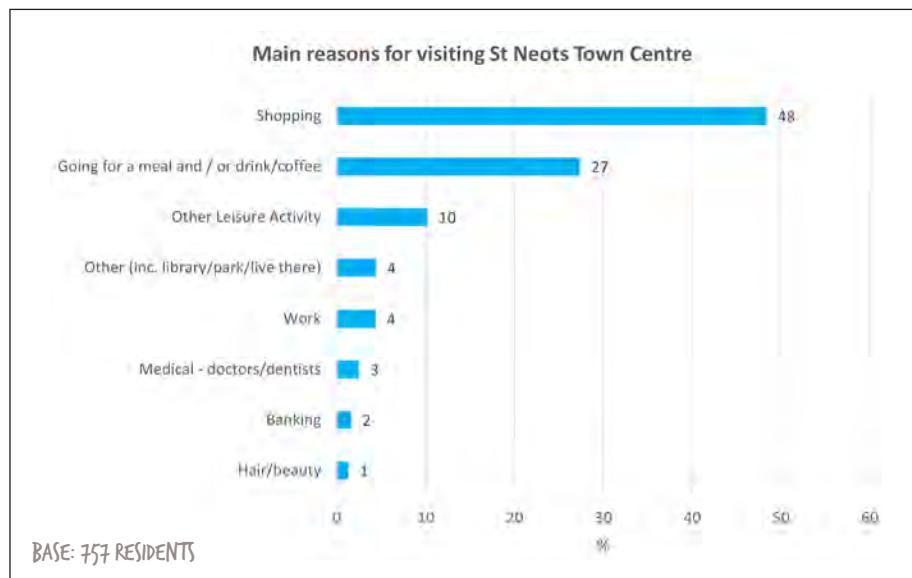
More generally, when asked whether they spend their leisure time in St Neots (i.e. not just the town centre), 71% said they did. This proportion will, of course, reflect the largely home-based nature of many of the leisure activities such as gardening, watching TV and reading.

Interestingly, although younger people are most likely of all age groups to spend their leisure time in town centres, they are least likely to spend it in St Neots. Thus, 63% of 25-34 year olds spend their leisure time in St Neots compared with 79% of 65-74 year olds:



Of course, the higher proportions of people in older age groups who spend their time in St Neots will also reflect their propensity to favour home-based leisure activities.

ST NEOTS TOWN CENTRE.



Residents were asked why they had recently visited St Neots. The responses were dominated by shopping; this was almost twice as likely to be identified as a reason to visit (48%) as the next most popular reason – going for a meal/drink or coffee (27%). Between them, these two reasons account for 3 out of 4 reasons for visiting the town centre. As can be seen, very few local residents in the survey actually work in the town centre (4%):

There is a clear and statistically significant difference between the ways different age groups use the town centre. Those aged 65 and over are more likely than average to use the town for shopping with the under 35s least likely to do so. Conversely, going out for a meal/drink in St Neots town centre is far more likely amongst the under 55s than the over 55s. As can be seen, the under 35s are more likely to visit the town centre for casual dining or other leisure activity (49%) than shopping (38%):

	<35	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 and over*	Total
Shopping	38	40	53	52	58	56	48
Going for a meal and / or drink	31	34	31	21	19	21	27
Other Leisure Activity	18	13	5	11	8	3	10
Other misc. (e.g. library)	5	10	8	10	13	21	10
Work	8	4	3	6	2	0	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

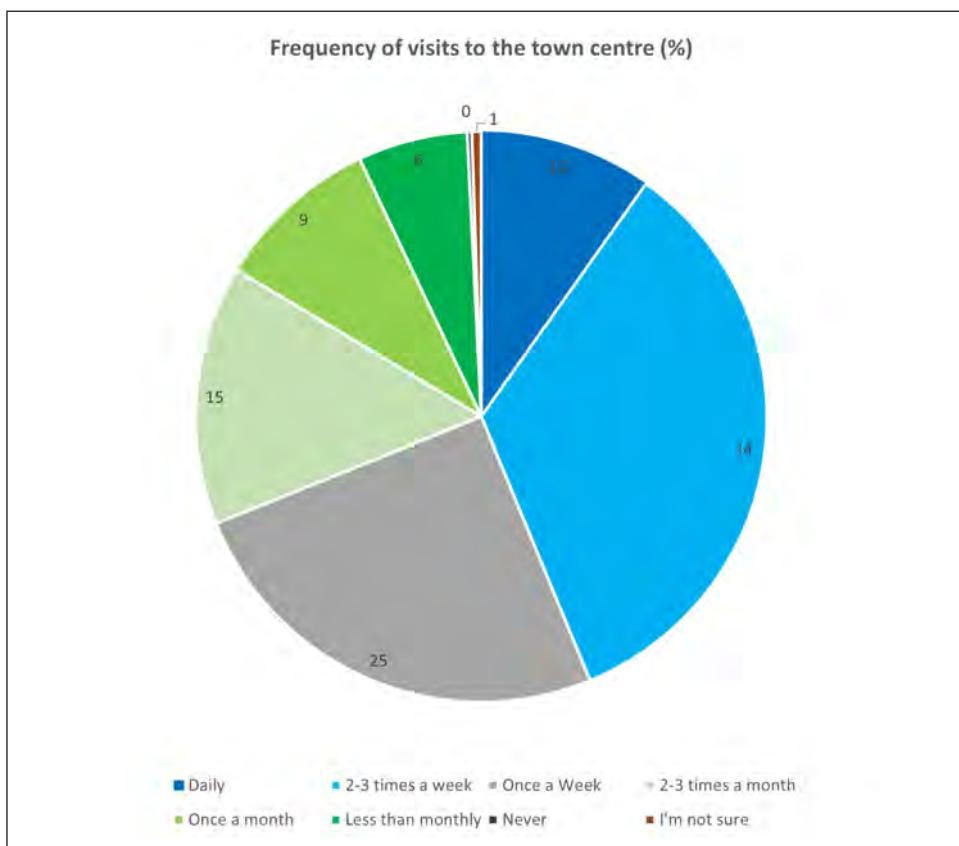
BASE: 730 RESIDENTS (*Caution small sub-samples)

By gender, there is a statistically significant difference in the likelihood of men (43%) and women (52%) using the town centre for shopping, otherwise the differences are minimal. There were no meaningful differences by length of residence in St Neots.

HOW RESIDENTS TRAVEL TO THE TOWN CENTRE AND HOW OFTEN.

- 1 in 2 residents (50%) drive to the town centre
- 43% walk
- 5% cycle; and
- 1% use public transport

In all, 69% visit the town centre at least once per week, with 2-3 times per week most commonplace (34%).



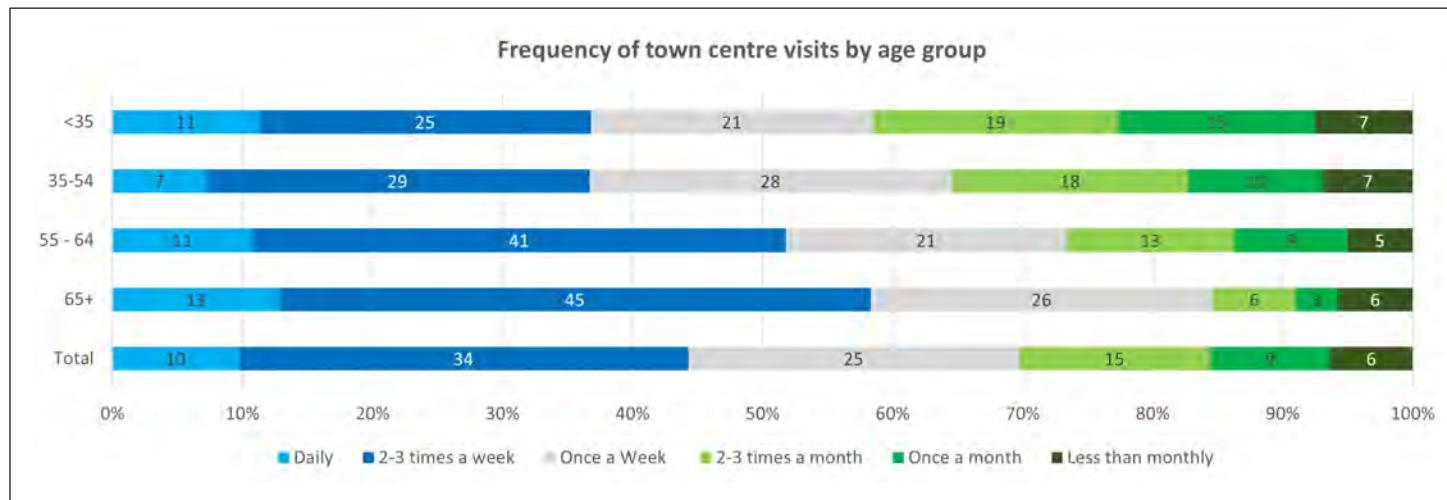
Those visiting less frequently, e.g. once per month or less are most likely to visit by car (70% vs 49% on average). In contrast, those who are close enough to the town centre to travel on foot are much more likely to be frequent visitors:

	Bicycle	Car	On foot	Public Transport	Total
Daily	5%	27%	68%		
0%	100%				
2-3 times a week	7%	40%	49%	2%	100%
Once a Week	4%	51%	43%	1%	100%
2-3 times a month	5%	61%	32%	1%	100%
Once a month	4%	70%			
Less than monthly	6%	68%	25%	0%	100%
Total	5%	49%	43%	1%	100%

BASE: 752 RESIDENTS

Although differences by gender are not significant, there are clear differences by broad age group. Whereas 84% of those aged 65 and over visit the town centre at least weekly, amongst the under 35s this falls to 57%.

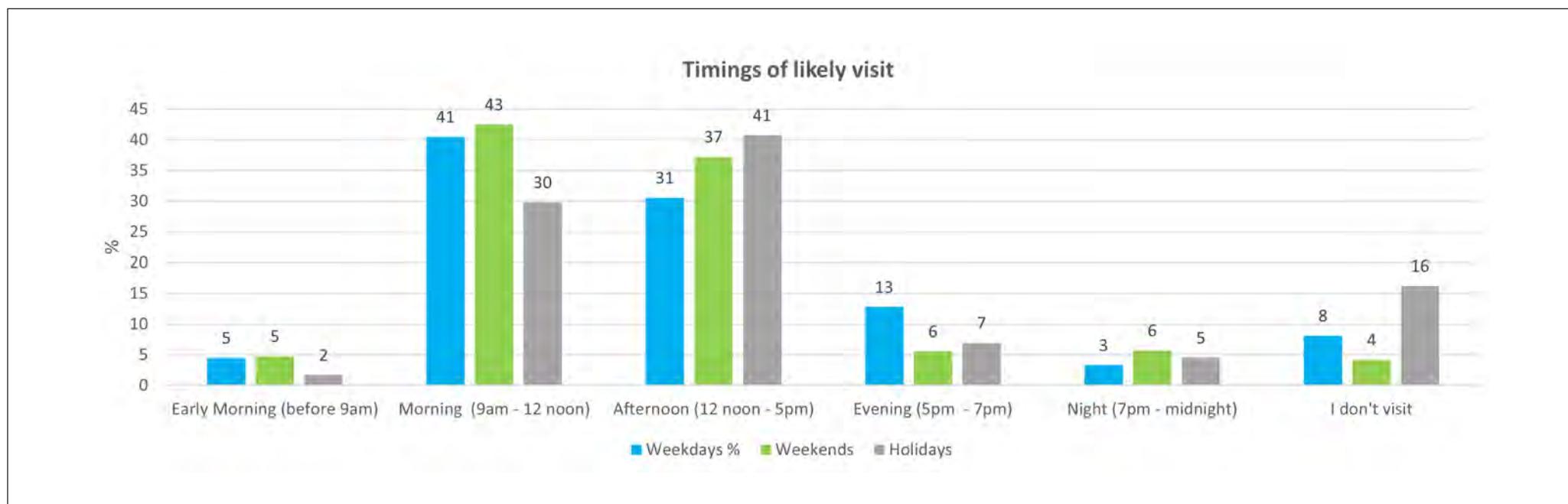
HOW RESIDENTS TRAVEL TO THE TOWN CENTRE AND HOW OFTEN.



BASE: 752 RESIDENTS

More detailed information on the timing of visits shows that:

- Mornings are most popular for weekday visits and weekend visits.
- Afternoons are most popular for holiday visits.
- Perhaps surprisingly, evenings are most popular for weekday visits.
- There is a minimal night-time economy.



WHY DO PEOPLE NOT VISIT THE TOWN CENTRE MORE OFTEN?

In an open question, people were asked why they did not visit the town centre more often. From the hundreds of responses given, the number one issue raised was parking. People want more free parking, or cheaper parking as typified by the following:

1. PARKING

"Better value for money parking, there's nothing in St Neots worth paying 2 hour minimum charge for."

"Cheaper parking. Expensive charges discourage lingering any longer than necessary e.g. I either shop or eat out but don't do both..."

"Free car parking. Easier to use car park machines."

"Free parking for at least an hour (like Sudbury and Fakenham)"

"Free parking, I and many others avoid the town centre, when out of town shopping is free. Biggleswade no longer charges for parking, and is back to busy."

"Easy access to affordable car parking with fair and reasonable charges - it should be possible to pay for what time you use, e.g. if you need to pop into town to collect a prescription, you should not be obliged to pay for an hour, when you only need 15 minutes."

Allied to this people complained about the traffic in the town centre, a lack of disabled parking and the need for pedestrianisation.

2. POOR RANGE/CHOICE OF SHOPS

The second factor which prevents people from visiting more often is the limited range of shops, with a plea for more variety and choice, more independents and fewer charity shops:

"If it was more attractive, better shop fronts, more trees and plants, better shops, local and specialised shops, more attractions like arts, crafts, singing etc. Pop up shops could encourage start ups. Parking outside of town should be encouraged and free. Toilet facilities should be available and kept clean. Making the town centre unique not boringly the same as everywhere else."

"More variety of shops. All the good ones have gone and we are left with charity shops, estate agents and a few restaurants. There is nothing to draw me to St. Neots, I would rather go shopping to Cambridge."

"At the moment there isn't much to go to St Neots for, but if we had better shops I might go more often."

"Better shops with more variety i.e. small independents as well as some well known names such as Next. I like to try and shop local but all we seem to have is an abundance of opticians and charity shops, with the town growing so fast I don't think it would be too difficult to attract some good retailers."

3. THE MARKET SQUARE

Almost 100 people mentioned the need to improve the market, the days it is held, its offer and its surroundings:

"A much better Market is needed. It has really declined over the years and now is really pathetic."

"Better variety of shops. More riverside eating space. If the main market was on a Saturday rather than Thursday. Or the farmers market was weekly."

"I would go into town more often if the market square area was fully pedestrianised with additional bars and restaurants."

WHY DO PEOPLE NOT VISIT THE TOWN CENTRE MORE OFTEN?

"If the old Falcon Inn is finally regenerated and re tasked the market Square would look less shabby and run down. Also the square could be made into something akin to a piazza so the various businesses providing food and drink can expand into the square. This would give the area a more sociable feel and encourage visitors from further away bringing more money to the local community."

"Cafe seating on market square with lots of planting and shelter from the sun making it a nice place to sit and relax with a coffee etc. No traffic at top end of high street by the square as well. Very noisy and large trucks giving off fumes is not pleasant."

4. OTHER FACTORS

Many people mentioned the need for a better range of restaurants/bars and cafes to attract people to come into the town and stay longer when they are there for other purposes. There was a plea for more events; better use of the riverside; more cultural and/or theatre events and more for children to do.

The full list of responses is given at Annex 1.



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19.

Nationally, High Streets have been in decline for some time and before the pandemic, data shows that footfall across the UK had dropped over 10% in the last 7 years. Internet sales rose to 21% of all retail sales at the end of 2019 compared to 7% a decade earlier, and during the height of the national lockdown period in May 2020 this had jumped to nearly 33% of all retail sales.

As a consequence, department stores like Beales went into administration in Feb 2020 before the impact of the pandemic had been felt. The introduction of 'lockdown' periods as a result of Covid-19 has subsequently accelerated these longer term trends, with shoppers getting used to shopping online and having socially distanced deliveries to their doors.

As might be expected, the Business Survey showed that successive lockdowns and social isolation measures have had a dramatic effect on trading conditions. Just one of the businesses (a professional services company) had experienced negligible effects from Covid-19, for the remainder, there has been a severe loss of turnover; staff shortages; a reduction in working hours; and an increase in online sales as exemplified by the following comments:

"As a non-essential retailer we have to close for several months, so our turnover dropped by 40%."

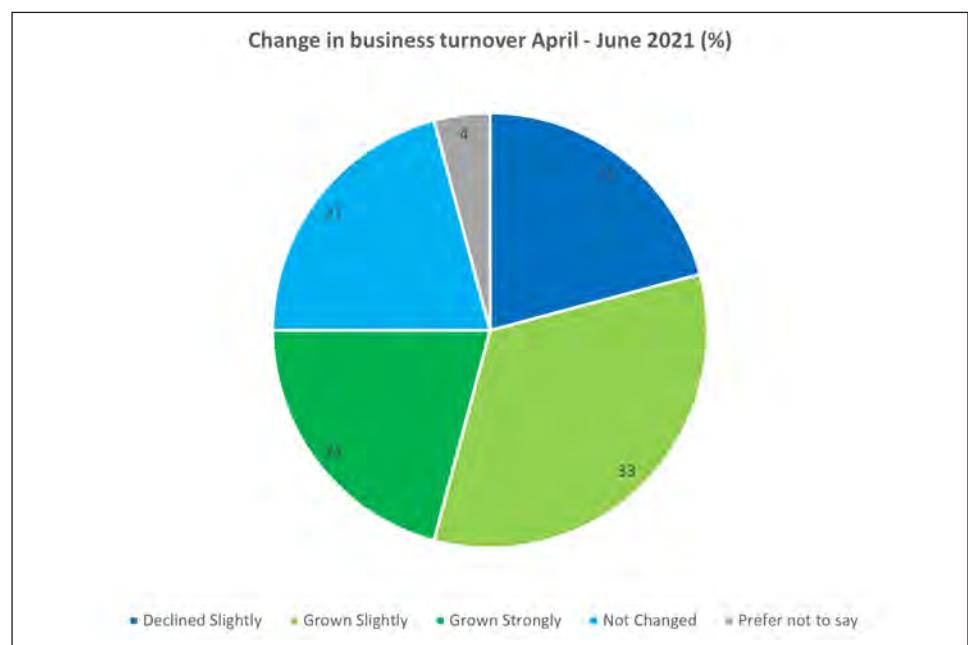
"Business has not been affected in terms of reduced turnover, as we've been awarded some significant projects during the Covid pandemic, but we have lost other projects that could not be delivered due to the pandemic (ie; face to face events). The loss of a large event contract did lead to the redundancy of one member of staff. The biggest challenges came in terms of business delivery, with the core team having to adapt to working from home, whilst also home-schooling our children!"

"Huge, if it wasn't for a very compassionate landlord we wouldn't still be trading."

"In terms of this shop, turnover has halved however this was supported by double sales online."

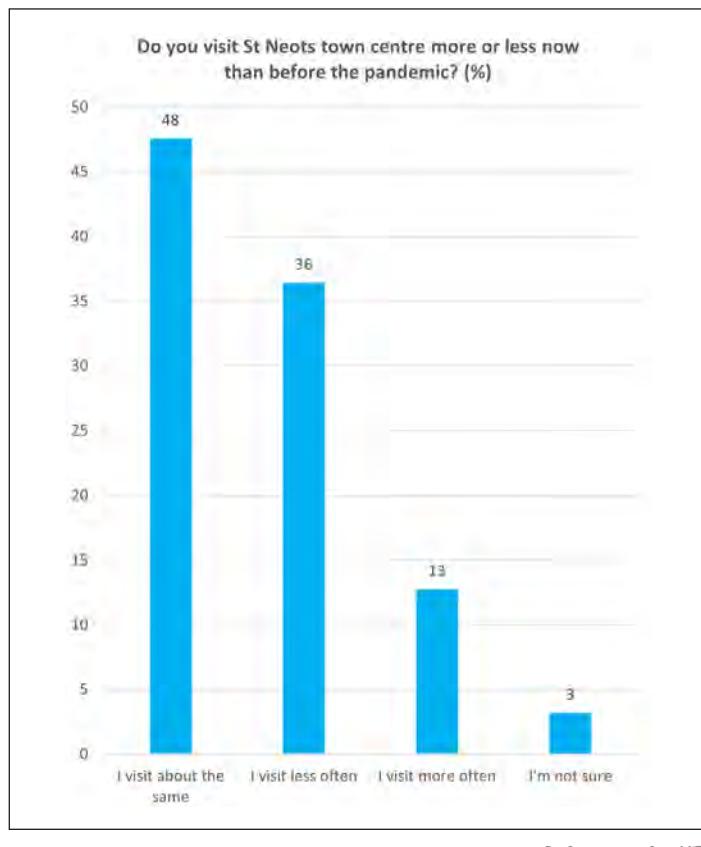
"I am currently working part-time hours due to substantial loss in trade since Covid."

When asked about a more recent period (April to June 2021) local employers reported signs of recovery with 54% having experienced some growth in turnover. However, 21% had not yet experienced any change and a further 21% had seen a slight decline. Those experiencing a decline were not exclusively retailers they were from a wide range of sectors.



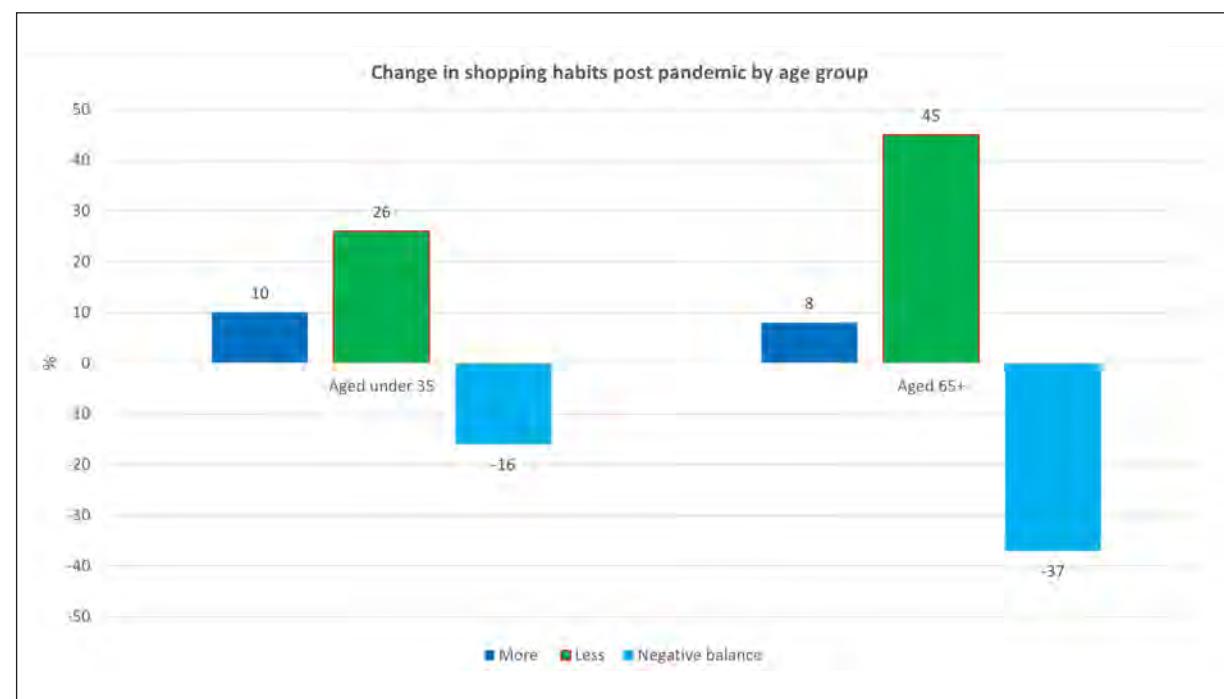
THE IMPACT OF COVID-19.

Turning to consumer behaviour, the Community Survey asked residents whether their visits to St Neots town centre had changed as a result of the pandemic. The analysis shows that for around half of residents (48%) their visits to St Neots town centre have not changed. However, 36% said that they visit less often, a figure which is somewhat counter-balanced by the 13% who visit more often:



- Women (41%) are now less likely than men (30%) to visit the town centre than before the pandemic.
- People with a long term illness or disability are much less likely to be using the town centre than before March 2020 – 51% of those with a disability/long-standing illness are visiting less often compared with 34% of those without (although the data should be treated with caution due to the small sample base of the disabled population).

In particular, there has been a strong and significant change as a result of the pandemic by age as shown here in relation to the youngest and oldest age groups. The chart shows that the overall negative balance (those who shop less minus those who shop more) is twice as great for those aged 65+ compared with the under 35s:



THE IMPACT of COVID-19.

In many ways, this is unsurprising as the effects of Covid -19 in terms of shielding and vulnerability to the physical effects of the pandemic have been greater amongst the older generations. However, if this change is permanent, it means that those who shop in the town centre most regularly (the pensionable age group) are those who are most likely to have reduced the frequency of their visits.

Only 1 in 4 residents visit other town centres/ High Streets more often than St Neots. Of those, 43% identified visiting Cambridge more often than St Neots; 27% visit Huntingdon more often and 14% visit Biggleswade.

The reason Cambridge tops the alternatives is largely to do with the variety and choice of shops that the city offers, coupled with a beautiful environment and a city vibe:

"It has more going on, more to offer."

"I love walking along the river. Taking punting tours. The shops are varied and the architecture is beautiful."

"More things to do, better shopping and beautiful place."

The attraction of Biggleswade is that it has free parking and Huntingdon is pedestrianised so is easier to get around and offers more choice of shops.



PERCEPTIONS OF ST NEOTS TOWN CENTRE.

Residents and businesses were asked to describe the town centre in their own words; the overwhelming sense of the many responses (See Annex 2) was that it was not at its best. Words like 'tired', 'dated' and 'run-down' were predominant:

"Dull, too many Barber Shops & Charity shops, we don't draw people in with the selection of what we offer for visitors. I used to go into town more to look around the clothes shops, Beales, New Look, Dot P and then end up in other shops whilst there. Now I shop online & only go in to meet friends for coffee."

"Faded grandeur. Beautiful Georgian buildings above, let down by shabby shop facades below, selling low-quality or charity goods."

Traffic issues and parking were another key source of complaint:

"Busy (in terms of traffic rather than footfall), grubby in places, disconnected (you have to cross various busy roads to get around and you'd never believe that the riverside is so close)"

"Clogged up with cars"

"It is one of the better market towns in Cambridgeshire, and the prettiest, with the Riverside Park/Regatta Meadows and Great Ouse running through it. It provides great opportunity to spend time enjoying food and drink, only curtailed by the restrictive and expensive car parking. However much one wants to leave the car at home, sometimes heavy shopping dictates it's necessity!"

But despite the loss of key shops like Beales and some of the national chains which have created empty outlets and issues with parking, there was also a lot of affection for the town centre, it was described as:

"A nice riverside market town"

"A nice town in beautiful setting with poor infrastructure (no bus travel other than to Cambridge). I would like to go to Buckfest without having to drive but found no bus going at weekends. A town with a tired looking High Street & Market Square but overall many good restaurants."

"A friendly place with most of the amenities you would expect in a town of this size."

Many residents identified its untapped potential, particularly in relation to the market square and river frontage:

"A bit run down. It could be very attractive as it has the river, but it's just a bit tatty."

"It has a lot of potential, with such a great market square space and close to the river. It's not being used to its full potential at the moment"

"It has lots of potential. Good to see the emerging farmers and craft market but a shame that the square has rundown buildings. Too many closed shops. Would be good to make better use of riverside."

To quantify people's perceptions, residents were asked to say the extent they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements as shown below.

THE POSITIVES

Despite the criticisms of the town centre voiced above, 68% said it was still the town centre/ High St they visit most often. Respondents were overwhelmingly positive about St Neots' feeling of safety; its ease for walking around; sufficiency of car parking provision and the range of events it offers.

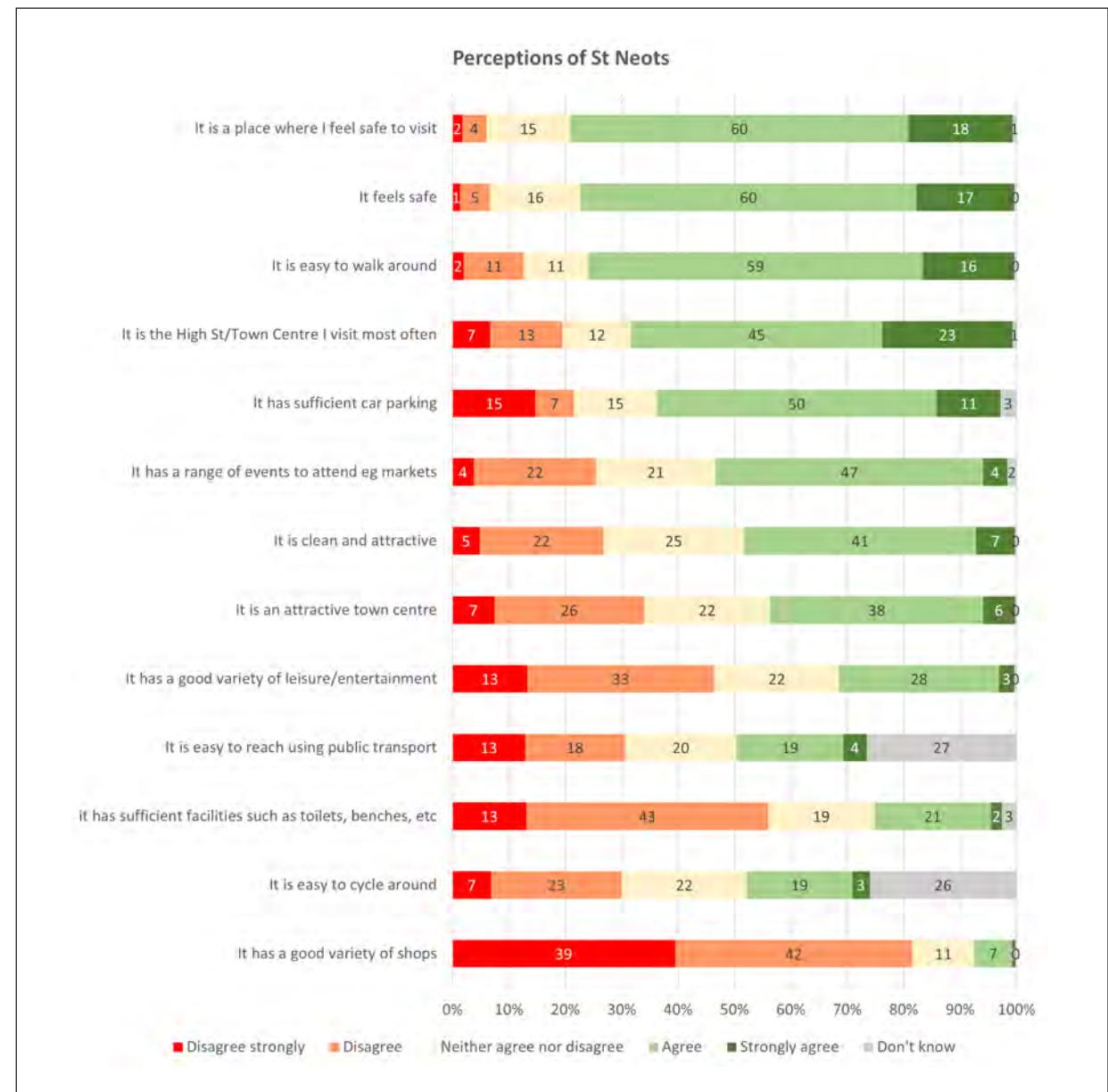
PERCEPTIONS OF ST NEOTS TOWN CENTRE.

THE NEGATIVES

The statement which provoked the strongest levels of disagreement was that 'it has a good variety of shops' – 39% of residents strongly disagreed and 42% disagreed – equivalent to 81% disagreeing. As noted above, the loss of major stores, the number of empty units and the preponderance of charity shops and hairdressers/barbers have made shopping locally less attractive.

A majority (56%) also disagreed that the town centre has sufficient facilities such as toilets, benches etc. suggesting a need to improve its public realm.

In terms of cycling and public transport, significant minorities had no experience on which to base a judgement. Of those who could reply, many more people were negative than positive, however as the open comments in Annex 2 show, many are unconvinced that narrowing the bridge will improve the town for cyclists.



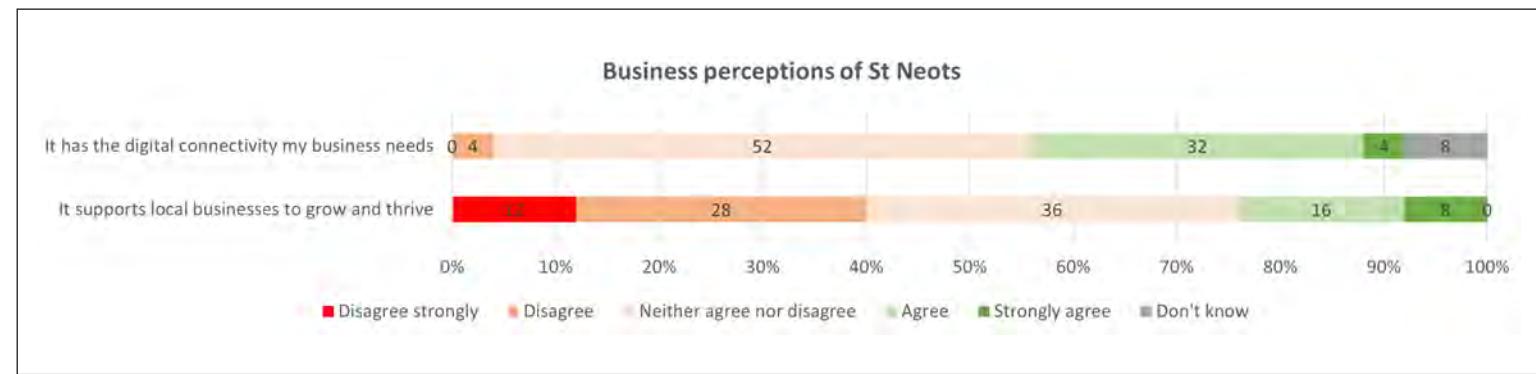
BASE: 750 RESIDENTS

PERCEPTIONS OF ST NEOTS TOWN CENTRE.

The same questions posed to local businesses elicited very similar responses – ‘safety’ and ‘ease of walking around’ were the top responses and ‘ease of cycling’ and ‘good variety of shops’ similarly received the lowest levels of agreement. Two areas of difference were that businesses were more likely to consider that St Neots has a good range of events to attend and only 40% of businesses considered it had sufficient parking compared with 61% of residents.

2 additional questions asked of businesses show that:

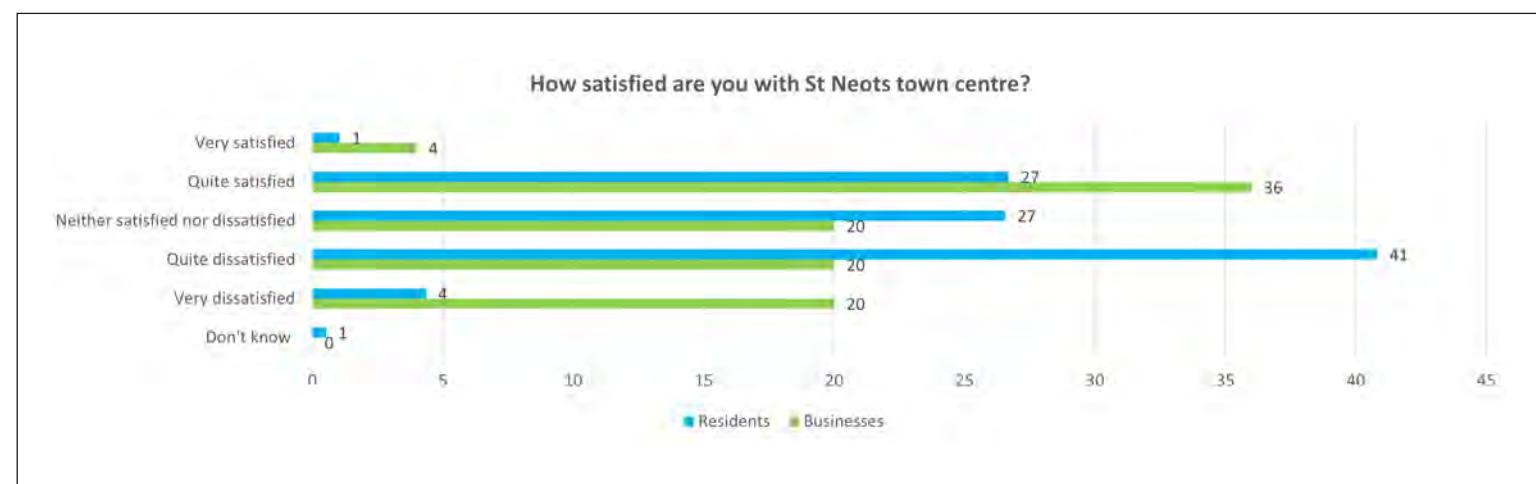
- 36% of businesses are satisfied with digital connectivity (as opposed to 4% who disagree)
- 24% believe that St Neots supports businesses to grow and thrive compared to 40% who disagree.



OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THE TOWN CENTRE

In all:

- Just over 1 in 4 residents (28%) were satisfied with the town centre compared with 40% of businesses.
- 27% of residents were neutral compared with 20% of employers.
- Almost half (45%) of the community expressed dissatisfaction, as did 40% of businesses.



PERCEPTIONS OF ST NEOTS TOWN CENTRE.

Given the small sample base of the Business Survey, the above differences between the two surveys are not statistically significant. What is clear is that significant minorities of residents and businesses are dissatisfied with St Neots town centre.

Reasons given to explain their views echo earlier comments i.e. the sense that more needs to be done to make people want to visit and use the town centre (See Annex 3). Typical resident comments include:

"As a long term resident I appreciate the progress made with the town centre in more recent years. I'd love to see the potential of the empty shops and buildings being fully realised to provide variety for our town especially for younger people."

"Attractive but too much traffic down the high street and around the market square."

"It gives an adequate basic offering but doesn't live up to its potential. Lacks the atmosphere and variety of other market towns."

"I like the town, it has huge potential (it's why I bought a business here) but it's way behind towns like Hitchin in terms of a town centre offering. Car parking is often stated as an issue but somewhere like Hitchin is a nightmare to park but that's because there is demand, and if there is demand, people will come (and find a place to park). Town square needs to be more of a draw - more events / regular markets / food offers / live music."

"It is a great town centre it just needs more to keep people's interest. The high street is in danger of becoming just charity shops and estate agents. The best thing that has happened recently is the additional chairs and tables in the market square from the bars and cafes giving it a more continental feel. More activities for kids like

a swimming pool/ splash park would be great."

Local business owners commented:

"I'm not unhappy but feel more needs to be done to reach its true potential."

"We are on the brink of St Neots being an amazing and attractive town to work in, live in and visit. With the right investment in the right areas this could easily be the highest profile town in Cambridgeshire."

Of those businesses that were dissatisfied this was because there is perceived to be not enough footfall; too many empty shops and too much traffic:

"It lacks a cohesive identity. Everything seems ad hoc, dirty dilapidated buildings and shop fronts. A town square that is neither one thing or another. It's not welcoming."

"No parking causing cars to park on pavement all around mkt Square. No good for pedestrians and customers in general."

LOOKING AHEAD: THE FUTURE OF THE TOWN CENTRE.

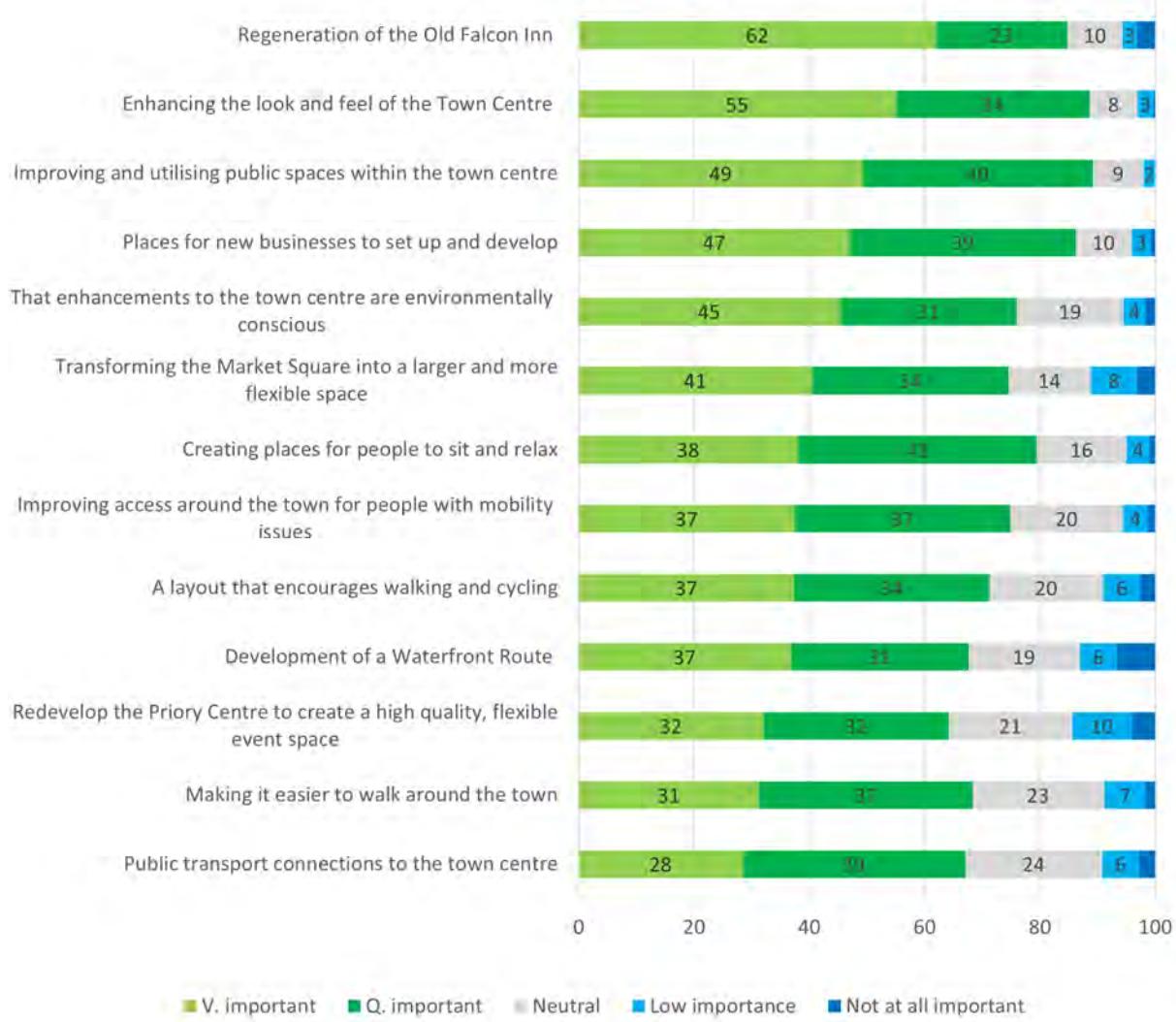
Both surveys proposed a range of potential initiatives and residents and businesses were asked to say how important they considered them to be. The initiative to which people attached the highest importance was the regeneration of the Old Falcon Inn, with 62% identifying it as 'very important.' (58% of businesses). This was followed the 'enhancing the look and feel of the Town Centre' (55% of residents/60% of businesses) and 'improving and using its public spaces' (49% of residents and 52% of businesses). When 'very important' and 'quite important' responses are combined then these latter two take top positions.

It is notable that all the suggestions were seen as important by a majority of residents. This was also true of local businesses with the exception of 'Development of a waterfront route' (40% saw it as important) and improvements to digital connectivity (40% considered it important).

Residents considered that the 'redevelopment of the Priory Centre' and 'public transport connections' were deemed least important of all the potential actions identified.

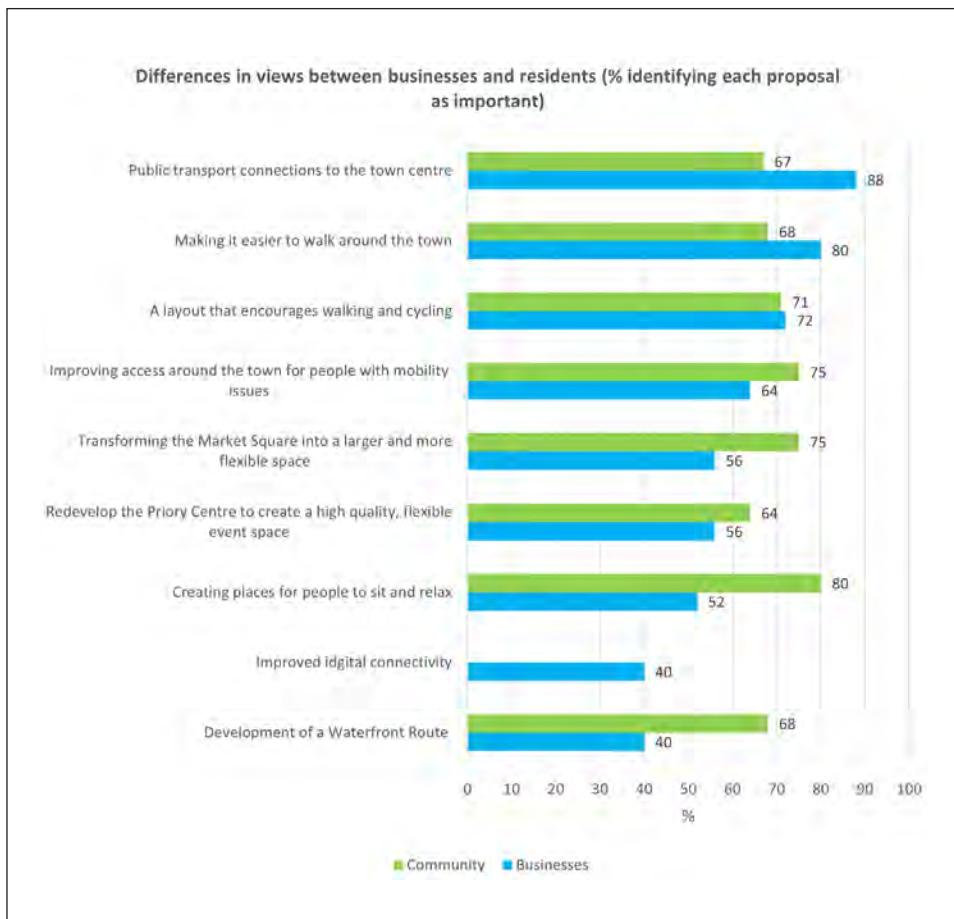
Two thirds of residents and 76% of businesses considered it important that enhancements to the town centre should be delivered in an environmentally conscious way.

The importance of changes to the Town Centre (Responses from the Community Survey %)



LOOKING AHEAD: THE FUTURE OF THE TOWN CENTRE.

While there was unanimity between residents and businesses as to the top priorities, there were some differences of opinion for the other suggestions. The differences were statistically different in relation to 'public transport connections' which businesses rated more highly; conversely businesses saw 'creating places to sit and relax' and the 'development of a Waterfront Route' as less important than residents:



Numerous suggestions were made as to what else would be important to the future of the town centre (See Annex 4 for community responses), with parking issues (including free parking), traffic, cycling lanes and a new bridge topping the list. Several respondents focused on the need for a more family-friendly approach with more for children and young people. Making more of the river frontage was identified with a more comprehensive approach than the development of a waterfront route to make more of activities on the river. Extracts from the comments are set out below:

"What we have been asking for over many years, improve traffic flow and get the traffic lights co-ordinated. Reduce or remove all parking charges to encourage visiting the Town Centre. Give small businesses help by slashing ridiculous shop space rental charges."

"Better traffic free cycle route from Eaton Ford to town centre. I.E. not suicide lanes on the town bridge. Whoever came up with that clearly never rides a bike!!"

"Another bridge - all the car traffic is forced through the High St, esp when Little Paxton is flooded. Needs more specialised independent shops - a quality bakers, a hardware shop etc so there is a reason to visit. Public toilets! Better access to the park. Traffic lights that give pedestrians priority."

"Probably job creation for young people. Lots of families with children live in the newer developments (Loves Farm and Wintringham etc). In 5-10 years from now, without sufficient local jobs their prospects for early careers employment, part time work, and all the personal development opportunities and experience that brings, will suffer. An area which doesn't offer employment or social/recreational opportunities for younger people will struggle in the long term."

LOOKING AHEAD: THE FUTURE OF THE TOWN CENTRE.

"Protection of parks and green spaces. Keeping the rowing clubs where it is. Making more use of the river with boat trips etc available."

Whilst responses from the Business Survey echoed the above, employers placed more emphasis on developing support for local businesses, for example:

"Business support, advice and training at a local level, plus town-led networking opportunities for St Neots based businesses."

"In light of the number of people who have been working from home in St Neots in the past 12 months, is there some way these people can be attracted to basing themselves from home more and therefore spending their money on this high street rather than in London & Cambridge? More workspace for solo workers? More locations to hot desk?"

"It needs to look after the businesses that are already here, if they don't survive the next 12 months then it's only going to be less appealing not more to the future residents and businesses."

"Links to training of local people to provide the skills businesses need. Encourage a strong arts culture in which to engage businesses."

Where should St Neots be like and why?

To help understand people's aspirations for the town the Community Survey asked survey respondents what town or city they would most like St Neots to be like and the Business Survey asked where St Neots could learn from. Clearly, a market town cannot hope to mimic a city economy but the purpose of this question was to evoke the less tangible qualities and kind of atmosphere that people enjoy about other places that St Neots could emulate.

The clear theme running through the responses from the Community Survey was an enthusiasm for places that embraced a European café culture, with street food, restaurants and cafes, thriving markets and a night-time economy, for example:

"We could import the best of French and Spanish town centres, with its local produce, wonderful covered markets for fresh foods, the cafe culture and vibrancy, get its own vibe (I'm thinking Brighton), uniqueness like the art on buildings in Quebec or Barcelona (doesn't have to be on that scale). Stamford celebrates its history whilst having a forward look. St Ives has much more of a unique feel and culture than St Neots."

Other factors that appealed about places elsewhere were cleanliness; places that have an attractive mix of old and new; places that make full use of their markets. Cambridge topped the list, followed by Hitchin:

"Cambridge - good mix of things to do, plus quieter green areas, and outdoor dining. Also safe for runners/cyclists."

"Cambridge centre because there is lots of variety. For example the water way is made use with bars and restaurants and punting for example. Lots of different ways to walk."

"Hitchin - individual shops, independent eateries, lots going on in the market square frequently."

"Hitchin due to the outdoor seating outside restaurants and bars creating a good atmosphere."

The aim of the question was not to ignore what makes St Neots special, and understandably several respondents wanted to build on St Neots' existing assets to create a unique feel:

LOOKING AHEAD: THE FUTURE OF THE TOWN CENTRE.

"I think St Neots should develop its own identity and not try to emulate other places! Why not be pioneering and bring something different that will attract visitors and local residents? That said, I do love the continental approach of outdoor eating and being able to sit with a coffee and just put the world to rights in a beautiful setting, which St Neots should be able to offer."

From the Business Survey, comments tended to focus on towns which have a good variety of independent shops and have become destinations:

"Bishop Auckland. Recognising the decline in the high street, there was a focus on moving towards being an attraction and attracting tourists to the town. They looked to attract small independent businesses to use the shops and create a destination."

"Bury St Edmunds. It was also once a small market town (without the river). It has a huge investment due to the large increase in new houses. It attracted large chain and small companies to open new stores. It's now a destination."

"Historic towns of similar size in France or Italy that are located on the banks of beautiful rivers. These tend to use the river banks and also make a big thing of the heritage. They are also artistic and culinary hubs that attract people to relax and spend quality connectivity time."

Hitchin was most frequently identified as a comparator by businesses because of its range of independent shops and better use of its market square.



ST NEOTS IN 2031

Both surveys asked what people hope for St Neots Town Centre in 10 years time, the responses are the polar opposites of how they perceive it to be now. So in place of 'tired' and 'run down', people want it to be 'vibrant' 'buzzing', 'bustling' and 'thriving'.

Full responses from the Community Survey are set out in Annex 5. A selection of resident/employer responses is included here which typify the desire for cafes and restaurants, effective use made of the river assets, traffic issues resolved and a greater variety of shops.

"A "must see" tourist attraction with boat trips, cafes along the river, outdoor swimming, independent small shops and good places to eat." (Community Survey)

"A buzzing town with great cafés, bars and restaurants. A pedestrianised market Square with no parking "at all". Easy access via public transport and better use of the river frontage for pedestrians and boat users. I would also like to see a safe canoe portage at Paxton lock to create better water tourism for the paddling community traveling from Bedford, St Neots and Huntington." (Community Survey)

"A lively mix of good quality shopping for all ages and gender including national brands and small individual traders, good quality eating facilities and coffee shops, a spacious traffic free environment with free parking on the close perimeter suited to the growing town and bringing in people from the new developments." (Community Survey)

"A town which people choose to visit, achieved via proper use of the town centre's existing assets; market square space, waterfront and green spaces, unoccupied buildings, prioritise pedestrians and cyclists over car traffic. Increased footfall will support the creation of independent shops and businesses which currently struggle to

survive." (Community Survey)

"We could make St Neots all about connecting, creativity and a place to refresh. a great place to grow - yourself, your family, your horizons." (Business Survey)

"I am totally convinced that St Neots could be one of the finest town centres in the UK in 10 years time Bustling with great places to eat and shop Filled with appealing spaces to meet others and socialise, and to work. Utilising all that it offers currently (square, river front, parks) to make it a destination town, while enfranchising those who live here to spend all their time and money here- as it will not lack any desirable amenity And it will have won many awards and accolades by then for having the best market anywhere in the UK, and for its pioneering approach for the reinvention of the market concept for the 21st century; we have the space, we have the local producers, we have the desire and we have the demand, so surely it's possible?..." (Community Survey)

ANNEX

Annex 1: What prevents people from visiting the town centre more often? (Community Survey Q7a)

Annex 2: Perceptions of St Neots town centre (Community Survey Q10)

Annex 3: Reasons for levels of satisfaction/dissatisfaction with the town centre (Community Survey Q12)

Annex 4: Suggestions as to what is important to change about the town centre (Community Survey Q14)

Annex 5: A Vision for St Neots 2031 (Community Survey Q16)

Annex 6: The respondents

ANNEX I: WHAT PREVENTS PEOPLE FROM VISITING THE TOWN CENTRE MORE OFTEN?

What, if anything, would encourage you to visit St Neots ...

more arts opportunities e.g. theatre
Secure cycle parking Less traffic on the high street Less pollution / less poor air quality Safer cycling routes
Specific cultural activity
More shops, especially small independent shops that are unique to St Neots.
no pandemic! less traffic

As a pensioner with mobility issues there are problems visiting St Neots High St, as the disabled parking places are invariably used by non disabled persons who use them as a more convenient place to park to go to the shops.
Beverage range of shops and restaurants
More secure bicycle parking.

Better shopping facilities, bus services and some desperately needed TLC. St Neots has been badly let down and left behind by all the governing bodies in recent years.
more variety in shops
More shops; wider selection of restaurants; not having to be available for work at home so much
Free parking
better shops
Free car parking
Public transport
More shops
Better shops and making for of the riverfront for meals and socialising
A better selection of retail shops

An "Arts Cinema" maybe in the Priory Centre, showing World Cinema ; an improved riverside walking route.
Decent shopping Not a lot of choice in St Neots
Cheaper parking
Better parking behind the old Beales,
Better shops lacks clothing shops
More mixed social space, outdoor food and drinking

Better range of shops. Being able to park in the centre of St. Neots i.e. Market Sq. as I can't walk far and at the moment most places I need to visit are around the Sq.
More variety of shops
Free parking, better choice of shops, improved town centre environment
Better range of shops
Better kept footpaths. Many reduced width due to overgrown bushes, weeds etc
More Police visible on the streets

More clothes shops
More shops (clothing etc)
A a decent sports and clothes shops.
Vibrant connen tal style Market Square
Free parking
An event in town. Restaurants. Shops
Larger stores to browse in
More variety of shops
More varied shopping
Cheaper parking. This would allow the possibility to nip in quickly to one or two shops.
More shops and less illegal parking
More variety of high street stores

I used to go more often when parking was free (the car park across the bridge was just fine). Now I drive elsewhere to shop, where parking is free. Parking in St Neots car parks is expensive and cumbersome (via mobile etc.)
More shops or acvie s. Currently not many reasons to visit.
More shops and restaurants More acvie s Bigger central point / pedestrianised square
More varied retail locaons.
Be. er variety of retail shops
Better parking
More things to do, frequent bus service.
Better shops Nice dayme/ evening bars/restaurants
Larger selecon of independent eateries - more places like Bohemia
Free short term parking in the centre
Decent shops
More retail shops Better bars
More variety of shops especially clothing
More shops.
If the town centre had any menswear shops other than the 1 & only it currently has
Reduce the parking fees and return parking to the Market Square
Replacing the stupid car park machines which are always broken.
Wider range of ladies clothes shops, more independent cafes and places to grab lunch. The place is also dead in the evenings, pubs close early so would spend more me if things were open
More variety of good shops
More one off shops, if it was dier and better cared for. Some storekeepers should do better maintenance

Less traffic, better variety of shops, improved public transport to outskirts, ability to make more use of waterfront setting
More high street brands. More river frontage hospitality.
Better selection of shops
Better Toilet facilities and more shops.
Longer river view walks with dog friendly pubs en route.

Independent shops, cafe's and events. Costa, Cafe Nero and other chains are the exact reason coupled with mass online shopping uptake why the town centre is so depressed. The only reason anyone under 50 would go to the Town Centre would be to visit places like Bohemia, Grill n Grind, and the Mews. The pubs surrounding the square are awful and inimical to people who will actually spend money and invest culturally in the quality of the town square experience

More shops, a variety & independent ones would be good. Improvement to the constant traffic congestion.
Better shops
More shops . Free parking
A lovely gastro pub, more shops (independent)
Cheaper/free parking. Better restaurants/cafes. Better and more varied shops.
Wider range of shops.
Better shops Nicer environment in the evening, higher end family restaurants
Better cafes, wider variety of shops
More high street shops, Restaurants, theatre, cinema markets
Better choice of shops, better market on a Saturday

Yes move market day to the weekend as most people work during the week it would revitalise the town
More variety of independent shops , more variety of any shops!!
Wider range of shops and leisure facilities with good parking
Free parking
Better shops and cafes
better/more affordable parking; better community signage eg to the museum/priory centre
Better shops

Create spaces to collaborate in, variety of quality services and products, experiences, community-driven events, live events, exclusive events in green spaces, festivals... anything that brings people together.
Better ticket machines in car parks.
More variety of shops. Too many empty units

Cheaper parking. Expensive charges discourage lingering any longer than necessary e.g. I either shop or eat out but don't do both. Also Huntingdon has a much better range of shops. St Neots is predominantly banks. Barbers/beauty, charity shops and restaurants.
Huntingdon has all the best ones so why would the big chains (Wilko, to Maxx etc) come here!
better array of independent shops
A Pedestrian zone without cars.

More shops. More leisure activities

Being redeveloped!

If there was a high street shop like Primark where you can pretty much get anything you need or a leisure park with a new cinema and other activities such as bowling and new places to eat. The bowling centre we have currently and the cinema are so old looking and dirty that it's off putting so because of this I go to bigger and better towns like Milton Keynes or Stevenage.

Free parking. Other towns offer 1 hour free parking.

A better pedestrian experience.

Different shops and somewhere to get lunch like a food festival

Free car parking Better range of independent shops

A greater variety of shops. Some pedestrianised areas. Less people riding bicycles and electric scooters on the pavement.

More diverse range of options for restaurants etc

Better range of shops - we have nothing!!

Better shops

Increased variety of retail outlets

Some decent shops, only visit now for meals out as there are no shops to go too anymore, full of estate agents and not much else.

Have to go to the town to get the bus to Cambridge to shop for clothes which seems a shame as likely to eat out during shopping too so a wasted opportunity for St Neots especially with the town expanding constantly!

More independent shops and redevelopment of Market Square

More variety in shops. Fewer estate agents/ building societies/ charity shops. More independent shops and clothing retailers.

More variety of shops. All the good ones have gone and we are left with charity shops, estate agents and a few restaurants. There is nothing to draw me to St. Neots, I would rather go shopping to Cambridge

Better shops, more choice.

Weekly farmers market

Better shops with more variety ie small independents as well as some well known names such as Next. I like to try and shop local but all we seem to have is an abundance of options and charity shops, with the town growing so fast I don't think it would be too difficult to attract some good retailers

More shops and more outside eating areas

More leisure activities, maybe an indoor crazy golf, escape room. Definitely better shops, I know it's something that has been said before but Primark would be fantastic

A better selection of shops: clothes, home etc to browse in, like those popular stores currently in Huntingdon and Biggleswade, rather than having to travel further away. We ARE the largest market town in Cambridgeshire, after all!! It was a missed opportunity that the Lidl/cinema complex area was not developed into a small 'retail park'.

More independent shops, greengrocers, more choice on the markets.

Free car parking Easier to use car park machines

Free Parking. Or parking machines that were easy to use. The user interface on the machines we have is absolutely awful.

Better shops and restaurants

Maybe a pedestrian only zone? More market square events?

Free parking and parking on the market square I'm not classed as disabled but I have trouble walking and carrying my shopping

Clothes and householdshops

Clothes shops, especially for children, entertainment, concerts theatre, smaller places for lunch that are family friendly (Edwardos in Bury St Edmunds is a good example), family acvie s

More clothes shopping facilities. Be. er access to the river front.

A more pedestrian feel to it, maybe a few more independent shops to browse and this looks more inving and sorng out the awful parking and pavements around the market square etc

Better access to the river

Better variety of shops.

Free parking

More clothing shops

Free parking!

Better variety of shops, including well known ones. I.e. Wilkinson's, Savers etc. We have enough take-sways and barbers. Perhaps somewhere to teach people to cook!

Better access to the river on priory centre side, more seang and entertainment on the Market Square, eateries actually be open around the market square rather than closing early, proper cycling routes.

Wider choice of restaurants and bars. A good mens clothing store.

Reconfiguring the market square so the mayor gets his events space in the middle but the rest of have car parking feathered around the edge - meaning everyone can drop in to use the shops and restaurants easily. If you think people will walk from other nearby car parks to use facilities, you're wrong. Humans are irraonally lazy. They'll drive to a different town rather than walk an extra hundred yards. make the parking free for electric and hybrid cars to counter the environmental argument.

A more variety of shops and cheaper parking.

Cheaper parking more facilities for arts and cras the Covid pandemic ending

Free parking, something to actually to go into st neots for (shops things to do etc.)

More things to do in the evening. Wider variety of shops for gis and clothing.

Resteraunts

More diversity of shops. Easy parking(machines in car parks are horrendous!!!!) Better public transport.

Less traffic congeson and better shopping

Free parking spaces. A greater selecon of shops; womenswear, childrenswear, gi/home. Arts spaces. Cafes and restaurants accessible to pushchairs and family groups. Child-friendly community events - e.g. Armed Forces Day, Lights Switch On

Market square returned to parking - it puts me off going in. Remove one set of traffic lights and reopen the side road.

Better variety of shops.

Better shops, no clothes shops anymore,

More shops

more range of shops

A wider variety of reasons giving me more of a reason to stay longer in town.

To be able to park on the market square likebefore. A choice if shops to browse / buy from. I never am able to get what I want in st neots. If landlords spruced their shop frontages up to make them look more encing too

More shops and a cleaner, more modern space

If the old falcon inn is finally regenerated and re tasked the market Square would look less shabby and run down. Also the square could be made into something akin to a piazza so the various businesses providing food and drink can expand into the square. This would give the area a more sociable feel and encourage visitors from further away bringing more money to the local community.

Larger range of big-chain shops

Entertainment. Adult educaon - one day classes

Easy parking within 15 min walk

More small, independent shops - eg: quality gift shops, or high-end chains.

Be. er high street cafes, retail, wellness spaces

More access to river frontage bars and restaurants

Acvie s for children, better shops. Cheaper cinema, currently travel to Bedford as Cineworld is overpriced.

Pedestrianize the high street. Restore the parking on the Market Square. There is no need to have that many Disabled parking spaces. Sort out the terrible road around the back of the Market Square. Toilets closer than Tebbets Road.

A better variety of shops. It seems all we have are women's clothes shops, barbers and charity shops. We need men's clothes, somewhere to buy current CDs and DVDs for example. More variety.

More events

So much could be done to improve the area around the Market Square, South St. and Brook St. by stopping cars from parking on pavements and in the no parking zones, replacing the ugly metal barriers blocking access to the central area, the wheelie bin permanently parked outside the flooring shop along with their pile of rubbish, improving parking for busses.

More leisure me

Variety of restaurants (not just Italians like at the moment!). Arts/cultural events and performances that people can get involved with. More trees/green spaces with seang so people can sit in town for its pleasant environment not just as a shopping centre.

Cheaper or free parking for 30 mins.

BETTER VARIETY OF SHOPS

Pedestrian only streets

More independent stores and restaurants

At the moment there isn't much to go to st neots for, but if we had better shops I might go more o en.

Better shops, free parking, more meeng places.

Re developed market square.

Better shops in the High Street itself. Its not all about the Market Square

Better quality top end restaurant. Better quality shops.

Be. er shops ,bigger market .

Free parking or reduced parking prices. If I just want to pop into one shop I dont want to pay for a hours parking.

Better variety of shops and things to do

Nothing, since I visit the town several me s a week already.

Better choices of shops - several have closed recently so high street shops are sadly lacking compared with so many charity shops and estate agents. More cafes with outside spaces - redeveloped Falcon with a river aspect?

More bus services from rural villages and more shops, especially clothes shops

Better selecon of shops. We need shops that provide clothing for ladies, men and children. Also shops that sell household arcles (we have to go to Cambridge, Bedford or Hunng don). Fill those empty shops with retailers again to encourage people back into our beauful town.

Cafes, riverside park area with more amenities, less shabby looking buildings

Return of Beales or a similar retailer.

Better shops. independent shops! Local bakery, fishmonger, local arts / cras / gis , clothes shops . Shop to make St Neots different and stand out from the rest. A much better Market is needed. It has really declined over the years and now is really pathec.

More clothes and toy shops.

Bring the Police back and make it safe

Better variety of shops, small independent shops

If it had more diverse shops. It has a abundance of eateries. The clothes shop appeal mainly to the young, even though it's the pensioners who have money. I would like to see a good Cook/ hardware shop, a cinema club showing unusual films.I also think some attempt should be made to do something about the mish mash of signs on the high street. And it should be spotless. Behind Beale's on the high street is a mess.

I live very much in the centre: it's unavoidable. It's in the nature of my work that I meet people there, and a matter of personal commitment that I buy things there when I can. I also manage one of its most significant cultural assets.

Better shopping facilie,

Decent Shops and Bars

A good entertainment venue, such as a comedy club or performance bar. Somewhere for relaxed meals such as brunch or lunch.

Acvie s such as escape rooms, or water sports hire facilities.

Cheaper/free parking

More acvie s in market square and the parks e.g.open air music, theatre, craft shows etc

Nicer outside seang , turning the market square into a coffee/food and drink place

Better shops!!! We need shops that will draw people in. Better and cheaper parking also.

More places to buy clothes. Better shops over all.

A great theatre facility, an improved market. Better shopping

Free parking and a pedestrianised High Street.

Somewhere nice to sit for some free entertainment not using cafes for seang but a place to sit and drink or eat whatever you

bought with you, or purchased in local shops.
Be. er variety of shops. More riverside eang space. If the main market was on a Saturday rather than Thursday. Or the farmers market was weekly.

No parking fees, or at least make it easier to pay for parking - not everyone wants to use debit/credit cards.

Good restaurants, coffee shops

More shops, independent shops, indie places in general like cafes and bars, more acvie s like crazy golf or roller skang , a trendier and younger feel to the town, more interesng places to sit and eat or drink

Better shops, better pubs, more restaurants

More shops

Something at The Old Falcon! Pedestrianised Town Centre

Better public transport and more acvie s especially on a Monday

If it was more ar acv e, better shop fronts, more trees and plants, better shops, local and specialised shops, more ar acons like arts, cras, singing etc. Pop up shops could encourage start ups. Parking outside of town should be encouraged and free. Toilet facilities should be available and kept clean. Making the town centre unique not boringly the same as everywhere else.

No traffic, disabled access that realy works

Cheaper parking, better quality shops

Better services, bus, parking. The shops are bad. The place looks undy and unloved. It's sad. More needs to be done. Better shops bring people in to socialise and eat and meet up.

More pedestrianised streets in the town centre; more independent shops

More clothing shops for teens. Sports shops

More vegan food places and cafes

Less traffic in the town centre it feels a bit like standing next to a bypass.

Better range of shops and services

Reduced parking charges, better shopping

Better shops aiming at a wider demographic its seems is all aimed at the older generaon. We 100000% need a proper music venue and again showcasing things for the younger generaon Our highstreet is full of barbers and charity shops which we dont need

I'm here everyday for business but a more ar acv e high street / better use of town square would be a benefit

If it looked more ar acv e and had a better atmosphere. We have some beauful buildings which we do not illuminate at night... why? St Neots United Reformed Church URC, Saint Neots Parish Church. These buildings should be proudly displayed and illuminang them at night would easily enhance the look of the town.

Better shopping - including local arts and cras for sale rather than big retail. It not snking of sewage in the middle of the summer in parcular . Dogs on leads in the park areas, or dog free areas.

Shop selecon, community event at Market Square. More arts and cras.

Decent clothing shops.

More shopping opportunie s, events in the square, range of acvie s in our age group (18-25).

A small music/theatre venue (although preferably I'd work as a technician there rather than visit in general), better quality of food outlets

More shops, bookshops, game shops, speciality stores. A hardware store. The cafe/restaurant provision is quite good, but shop provision is generally pretty poor

Free parking, more leisure/social spaces and activities.

More pavement/semi outdoor dining. The riverside is under utilised as a dining option. More for children, extra park facilities.

Less traffic, More festivals and markets

I would go into town more often if the market square area was fully pedestrianized with additional bars and restaurants.

More shops

More things to do, better shops. A pleasant area to sit / walk around

Less empty and run down looking high street. We have bars and restaurants but lack entertainment and shopping. Now we can't park on our square, we need to find ways to use it.

Shops with a good range of mens clothes, hardware, electrical goods, technology.

More retail units with a broad offering. The loss of the clothing stores, only to be replaced with never ending cafes and restaurants is really frustrating.

A pedestrian walkway - like Huntingdon and some shops. Free parking

A really nice artisan bakery, a green grocers an outdoor pool and more outdoor events

Tidier safer environment with better facilities

Better shops and entertainment (not restaurants)

More events, which I know is difficult in the current climate, and more shops

I visit St Neots at all sorts of times in the weekdays, mainly mornings and afternoons.

A wicked night club or different shops or place for activity of some form

More clothes shops, better restaurants. More independent bakers, delicatessen car / bike accessory shop(mini Halfords) mid range jewellers. Gift shops.

more shops

More shops

more big name shops

Free parking

Less traffic, more variety of shops and more museum space

Free parking Allowing the owner of the falcon pub to develop it and not waste taxpayer money on a compulsory purchase order

Opening up market Square car park for cars to park when not used for events

More clothing shops and reduced parking charges.

Nothing as I already visit daily

Free parking

Better shops, not charity, coffee, etc but actual shops, clothes, gifts, etc

- 1) A better choice of decent restaurants and brasseries. 2) An attractive market square. Removing market square disabled parking.
- 3) Get rid of the Thursday market, which sells cheap tat. It is extremely bad for St Neots' image. Either cancel it altogether or replace it with the food market, which is considerably better. We need restaurants along the river front, so that diners can sit at tables overlooking the river.
- More seating, better shops
- Clean toilets with baby change, pedestrianisation, more activities on town square
- Simplified and less expensive parking machines.
- Better variety of shops, less estate agents
- Better shopping
- Free parking, and many others avoid the town centre, when out of town shopping is free. Biggleswade no longer charges for parking, and is back to busy.
- More investment in culture; better events at the Priory centre, a greater diversity of stalls on the Farmer's market, events like the successful Street Feast earlier this year, arts & crafts events, more spaces like the Art & Soul cafe which houses a gallery for local artists
- Atmosphere of a country town with lovely well kept shops and eateries. Lovely riverside space to enjoy picnics and chilling out on or off of the river.
- More shops
- Much higher class of retail stores.
- More events, shops, cafes and eateries
- More shops with interesting & unique merchandise. More varied and interesting stalls on the market with proper craft fairs. Music on the square or riverside with additional facilities to cater for more people.
- Live music, food festivals or events (like the old carnival?)
- More activities in the town.
- If I could buy basic things I needed instead of being forced to use the internet as I don't drive
- Have a range of shops and less tea rooms /Barbers/restaurants then people might come back to St Neots like it used to be in 70s
- More places for disabled and being able to get into shops
- more shops
- More non-chain coffee shops; pleasant outdoor ambience; more amenities on Riverside Park.
- Better parking.
- More restaurants/casual eating
- Better shops
- Nicer spots to relax, more eating and drinking options. Outdoor dining. Regular markets
- Better range of shops, more of the area pedestrianised.
- Less traffic and more safe pedestrianisation combined with making the market square a castle more leisure orientated
- Better shop diversity, afternoon market/event on Market Square, 1h car park stay

Be. er parking on the market square. Taking away all of the Normal parking spaces was silly!

A bus route connecng Love's Farm with the Town Centre.

Big retailers a good selecon of shops not (hair dressers opons or more fast food outlets)

Greater variety of retail. We have limited selecon of clothes shops

Bigger retailers

More varied High Street shopping. A live music venue (similar to Esquires in Bedford). A pub more suitable for watching sports.

Community events around the Market Square.

Better selecon of shops .

Better men's shops

More clothing shops for men, women and children

There is currently no reason as it's just barbers and charity shops

Better high street shops, Mc donalds, Nando's, next etc

Free parking

Nicer bars and shops. I only go into town if I need something specific, I would love there to be more shops to browse.

free parking, pedestrianisaon of high street, no pavement parking, more acvie s on market square

A better bus service would be good.

As much dog friendly spaces / shops as possible!

^More pedestrianised areas More cafe seang in market square Free parking

Better clothes shops, independent food shops eg bakers with sourdough bread; more good restaurants; a good concert venue for rock bands.

Free parking and cycle lock up!!

More places to eat and / or shop

Free car parking,my husband is disabled and finds walking difficult. Need more cultural areas,musical events.

Better shops. Sports direct, next, island.

Free parking, wonderng range of family friendly acvie s, vegan restaurants/eang opons, arts and cras, music. Better/open public toilets and more of them near greenspaces!

Larger range of shops

Local transport to get in and out town. More shops for buying products and clothing. Kids events - character visits, fun ar acons and experiences. Fountains in the town centre would be great.

Greener scenery and better variety of shops

Better selecon of shops in order to avoid online shopping. A limit on the number of estate agents and barber shops. Do something with the Falcon now rather than think about it for another 10 years. Fix the roads in the town centre which are a disgrace. Consider the possibility of making the High Street one-way or even closed to general traffic.

More choice of shops rather than just eateries, opciions we have no real choice of shops have to go Bedford, cambridge, milton Keynes, Peterborough ect and your survey choices of me s for going to st. Neots are not great for those that have chose the opon

work

More variety in shops, such as more clothing shops especially for men. Also, having more popular shops, such as Primark, McDonald's and JD.

Beer shops, not just barbers and pubs everywhere. Sick to death of all the drunks in the evenings/weekends. Seeing vomit on the pavement seems to be a guaranteed thing on our walks to town.

Better access over the river

Better shops. Cheaper parking

Other options for leisure activities being available in town. For example, gallery, climbing wall, another pool.

Better shops, no remaining clothes shop and we've lost Narrates and Beales

More shops for clothing, men and women.

Easier cycle routes and less traffic. More things to do or places to meet people.

More restaurants and bars, farmers market/food fests/als/events in the square

I'd like to see a space for people to go to practice Arts and Crafts - somewhere with classes available to learn how to knit or crochet or to learn the art of photography or film making for example. I think it's important to be able to connect with like minded people and to create a space for people to gather and be creative at any age.

Child friendly toilets, family areas to spend a day in town, family volunteering opportunities

Better shops

More and better shops

Better shops, more variety. Something for parents and children like a cafe with seating included. A children's clothes store

Higher quality bars, restaurants and shops

Cheaper/better parking facilities. Variety of shops More restaurants

More shops sports clothing of all price ranges more to do other than just eat

A good music venue where bands / DJs could play and local promoters could put nights on
30 minutes free parking to allow me to access the local shops. It doesn't pay to use these shops if I'm paying parking when I could just go to Tesco and park for free

A few more shops would help, but if events are on we can be in town all day. Shop centre treasure hunts were good when the children were younger. I think encouraging children to do music, shows etc on trailers in the square and over the riverside has brought people into town and I have enjoyed the music on our extended square over lockdown, whilst having a drink and snack.

Replacement shops that have le!!! And to refurbish the old hotel as it's an eye sore

Pleasant atmosphere, nice outdoor spaces, greenery Cafes, art, prey outdoor cafe Less traffic Free parking Easy parking- don't like new parking machines so don't go to St Neots Better shops

Better shops

Free parking. Community events- thoroughly enjoy it when there's events on the market square. Decent performances at the priory Centre.

Cheaper parking

Restaurants, nice cocktail or wine bar, places for family activities.

Mens clothing shops; reasonably priced not designer.

Small independent shops or unusual shops

Better selection of shops, too many barbers only one shop to really buy decent clothes in unless you fancy going in one of the 7/8 charity shops we have

More shops and space for pedestrians

Wider variety of clothes shops. This is severely lacking

More independent shops and cafes

More to visit and see. More cafes

more shops with different variety.

A more inviting pedestrianised market square offering green space and plenty of seating to meet friends and family for a coffee. The current square is an eyesore and needs lots of TLC as it has so much potential.

More variety of shops, either independent or larger national companies

Have more decent cloth shops, stores. Have less cafes, hair dressers and charity shops. We need some of the bigger chain stores.

The place looks very run down and unattractive. Car parking is too expensive

Free parking

Eccentric mix of shops. Vintage etc

Nice cafes, attractive for families

Less traffic and more choice in shops

I live on St Neots Market Square. I moved here specifically because it was quiet so am opposed to over development of the Market Square specifically. I visit / walk through sometimes more than once a day so Q7 should allow more than one meeting point.

If they built a pedestrian bridge from Regatta Meadow to the Priory Centre.

Will start to go back as COVID safety improves. More interested in cafes and restaurants than shops.

A variety of stores, particularly alternative living and LGBTQ friendly

Better selection of retail shops and free parking at Riverside

More leisure activities,

Free parking, more shop variety. Children's clothing at reasonable prices,

Better shops

Less traffic

A footbridge connecting the Priory Centre to Regatta Meadow would encourage me to go to town more, as we won't be walking along the road bridge where cars go by very fast and we are also breathing in diesel/petrol fumes.

Improved cycling infrastructure from the suburbs in, some of the paths are quite dangerous.

Boutique shops and outside eating areas

More variety in market stalls. Maybe visiting trade stalls

Better shops it seems to be barbers and charity shops. More pedestrianised it's not appealing with the amount of traffic. I am disabled the town is pretty crap in some areas. It's not appealing at all.

be. er selecon of shops

The high street needs to be pedestrianised and a one way system introduced. Get rid of most of the traffic lights

Free parking

Better shop selecon (and less empty ones) more of our unique independent ones. More o en markets with a wider range of independent/unique stalls. More leisure acvie s in the town centre to drive people here and spend more me .

More variety of shops.

Wider range of shops.

Improved selecon of shops

A vibrant & ar acv e town square

Better variety of shops

more frequent busses

Better protecon for and more creav e use of green spaces for leisure acvie s, especially the Regatta Meadows, Riverside Park and St Anselm Green.

Théâtre, arts centre, better cycling infrastructure, fewer cars, better priority for pedestrians at crossings

More retail clothes shops.

Independent food shops Book shops Good restaurants Film, theatre, comedy etc

More clothing shops, shops selling gis items, .

Shops

Nothing it's dying, the money will be wasted, all the shops that wanna survive need to incorporate into a side of tescos! The rent is far too much for any shops to survive

Better Shops and restaurants, the centre to be pedestrianised and more made of the river.

more variety of shops

A larger department type store. Music venue.

Nothing I am happy with the amount I visit

Better shops. We need clothes shops (such as chains) and better places to eat and drink. More things to do.

Choice of shops - not enough variety of shops and really lacking in clothes. Something like a TK Max that caters for all age groups with home and gi departments would be perfect.

Better walking route into town

More ladies clothing shops

More art, galleries, theatre, independent clothes and jewellery shops, outdoor places with a parcular focus on family/children,

7coffee shops and cafes open in late afternoon and early evening

Clothes shops, sports clothing shops

More shops with a better variety of goods. Clothes shops would be a huge advantage

More places to shop, eat and entertain myself and friends.

Quality local shops and produce.

A 200 seater music/comedy venue - why don't we have one of those? Better outside seating for cafes.
Cannot think of any reason besides options, dens t, doctors. It is too far to walk from Love's farm at night, so I don't bother going to drink at the pubs in St Neots, I drink at home instead, since it feels safer than walking all that way at night.

Better range of shops

More choice of stores to shop in

Wine bar, undercover seating in market square like Truro in Cornwall. It makes it the hub of the town.

Different shops which provide a wealth of choice

Safer pathways from Eaton Ford and around the town centre. Encourage home owners to cut back overhanging hedges etc to the perimeter of their property. Stop illegal parking throughout the town. Arrange for road surfaces particularly Market Square and Brook Street to be relaid.

More good quality cafes, a delicatessen, independent shops, especially food shops, as in Leamington Spa

Better independent shops on the high street

Cheaper parking

Better shops

If there was something kids could do in the centre. It's dangerous with the roads and there's nothing there for them. Some fountains was a hot topic between myself and a friend and also a community space with activities.

More variety of shops.

More areas to sit outside and inside, more clothing shops, more toilets that are actually pleasant to use, more reasonable car parking charges

Free parking in the riverside car park with dedicated footbridge to the market square

more diverse shopping/ community centres. smaller businesses (not estate agents,charity shops or supermarkets) more events /events to improve community spirit

Wider variety of shops

Nicer retail mix with quality shops

Better shops, more variety of retail outlets eg Primark, H&M, TKMaxx, Bodyshop etc

A music venue for professional bands.

More variety of shops, cafe, foods

Better choice of shops - for example something like a WHSmith, better clothes shops. It'd also be great if there was a car rental shop locally (probably not in the town centre itself)

More shops and restaurants to try.

Parking - need to reinstate parking in the market square. Parking - reduce the cost of local authority car parks and make payment available for one hour or less.

River side walk and cafe overlooking the water. Also more independent shops

A band stand for locals and visiting buskers to perform on, could be put in place where the sundial is as nobody uses it now

Some shops would be nice. Any more we get shops they are all expensive ones. Never ones like Wilkinson. Market Square has been

ruined now.

Less empty shops.

More banks, bookshops, department stores, handicraft/handyman shops, bakers and a Mobile phone help. All these stores were here before the Pandemic. We had 3 jewellery shops.

Better parking for cars and a lower cost to park my car.

More ladies wear shops. Food Markets Craft Markets

A wider range of shops, restaurants/ bars or activities for children.

More boutique shops, home shops, sports shop (can't understand why there isn't a shop shop considering the sporting opportunities in St Neots) Would love better dining, drinking atmosphere for a lovely night out.

Improvement in Waterside area with Bars & Restaurants and improvement of Town square by turning carpark into a social meeting place again with bars and outside food stall similar to London's Southbank

Improve the market square, not just a carpark. Refurbish the Old Falcon.

More boutique shops, restaurants etc.

More diverse market stalls and more unusual shops

A variety of interesting shops.

More areas outside areas - most importantly, easy access to the river, riverside cafes etc.

More markets and more activities for young people other than drink and shopping.

More cultural activity. Wider range of shops. Pop-up shops.

1) Informal indoor spaces that build community, like cultural centres or community businesses. 2) Community events like the excellent Farm & Craft market and live entertainment. 3) Wider variety of high quality daytime and evening hospitality.

Better shops and more restaurants

More bike parking, less traffic around the market square, independent shops, less litter, direct bus into Cambridge City centre,

More shops, places to eat and things to do with the children.

Short term free parking

The continued ability to use the rowing club (SNRC) a more Parisian type street cafe' culture in the market square, and the proposed board walk. The rowing Club (SNRC and the Dragon boat) are a spectacle and make for a Cambridge type punning open air ambience.

Less traffic

More variety of shops, ie art gallery, a greengrocer, fishmonger, departmental store, hardware shop.

St needs more restaurants and coffee establishments, the market square should be pedestrianised and encourage cafes and restaurants to spread out onto it, more like a European town, also more local produce markets

Cheaper parking on the Riverside. Enabling us to walk into town and also enjoy the riverside itself. Obviously a better variety of shopping outlets and a good quality restaurant. I do feel that at least one reasonably priced carpark would encourage a lot more people to St Neots and the riverside is the obvious choice.

Free parking for at least an hour (like Sudbury and Fakenham)

the location of the Rowing Club not changing.

Be. er shops more outside dining

Instead of just having an empty shop with it looking r ed, put up some ar acv e pictures of St Neots in the shop windows to ar act potenal investors with a statement 'another business coming here soon'. Make the High Street more appealing, resurface the High Street road and some of its off shoots as this does not look good to make potenal investors and residents feel that they care about the town. Shops could be converted into other working environments. Maybe a pop up shop, where various trades and charies could rent to promote what they do.

More shops

Better selecon of shops. Ideally - independent, wider range of clothing (men/women/kids) A nice pub with riverside terrace (similar to Wroxham, Norfolk)

Better shops, more ar acv e environment, cheaper parking

Cheap parking and less traffic lights.

Events or greater variety of shops

Greater range of shopping opportunie s. There are currently NO shops, except Tesco, to but gents socks/underware/clothing. If I need to shop on-line to have delivery to Waitrose or M&S, I might as well have the items delivered to my home.

To get the rowing club renovated and improved. This will hugely improve St Neots as the rowing club is the home for many sports in the town and could be for more if the facilities could be improved and scaled up to take into account the rapidly growing rowing club and growing want that this country has to get fit again after the last two years. I have been rowing at the club for over 5 years now and it has brought me not only much joy but has also made me fit and more disciplined. The rowing club bring in a lot of trade to the town with its Regattas and other rowing races bringing people form all over the country as well as from abroad as it is one of the largest rowing regattas in the U.K. just look at the success of the most recent 2021 St Neots regatta there were hundreds of people coming to the town brining trade and enjoyment to the town.

More cultural acvie s.. A good range of independent shops, like the Refill Shop.

More shops and restaurants in the centre

More variety of restaurants, i.e japanese, burgers etc and also more quality, high end food and drink venues

I would visit the main high street more if there were a broader range of shopping facilities - currently the only reason I go to the high street is for boots, the bank and for a coffee!

Good restaurant, bar, better shopping area

More sporng facilities. Less housing. Pedestrian areas.

Secure cycle parking, improve marking of cycle lanes, reduced through traffic

Bigger market with more fresh food stalls

More shops, so many in the town centre have closed. The only ones I visit now are Waitrose and Boots.

Later opening hours for shops. More pubs and restaurants - especially independents

Better short term parking opons, I don't want to pay for an hour's parking to pop to the bank or library. More shops for browsing and cafes especially with outdoor seang.

More shops

Free parking and better shops

As local residents, we go in to do jobs regularly (ie; food shopping, present buying, options and barbers), but events would draw us in outside of that

A variety of shops, with some big retailers as well as independents. St Neots town centre is particularly lacking in men's clothing shops since the closure of Beales and Edinburgh Woolen Mill. As a result my wife and I tend to travel to Milton Keynes or Cambridge for clothes shopping.

More individual shops.

Fewer barbers and police enforcing illegal parking

More shops - clothes, gift, homeware etc

Small, boutique, independent shops

More leisure facilities and attractive, public seating areas.

A much wider range of businesses and activities

less cars, more pedestrians free shuttle between centre and train stations

Free parking

More variety of small independent boutique type shops or a regular specialist Market eg. antiques/ collectables

Better shops.

better shops

Free parking. Department store. Better night life

More designated purposes - quality events, markets, shows, arts and craft fayres... points of difference to other town locations that celebrates local businesses and the communities of the town.

More independent shops

Department store more premium clothes shops

Greater range of shops, especially clothing and children's shops

Refurbishment of the old Falcon, river front shopping and dining.

Better accessibility

More local shops and cafes

Better and more shops / a renovated market square including the hotel.

Better shops, we go to Milton Keynes, cheap parking - rarely come into town & combine errands so only pay once if I've driven as normally then drive elsewhere. Walk in if not much to do, eating out & weather is dry.

Better shops. Greengrocer, fresh fish, gift shops.

More outdoor socialising areas, including cafe and bar outdoor seating.

Good shops, less traffic, a market that is worth visiting, a proper path to walk around in the park **WHAT HAPPENED TO THE £500,000 THAT WAS EARNED FOR THIS TO BE DONE I BELIEVE THAT HDC SPENT IT ELSEWHERE.**

Free parking and some shops to browse.

Better shops

More members at rowing club

A good selecon of clothes shops for adults and children so I wouldn't need to travel to biggleswade, rushden lakes or even Hunng don.

A theatre Independent shops

A greater selecon of small shops where I could buy presents and arsan products, including edible.

More shops variety of shops not chemists / hairdressers/ restaurant or pubs. It becomes a precinct no road through Pathways are to small for the footvtraffic

More outdoor eang establishments, alfresco dining

More varied shopping.

St Neots Rowing Club

Be. er shops!

More clothing shops (not second hand clothing, I mean shops like Next etc)

Wider range of shops, especially clothes/shoes/DIY/gardening/gis. Free/cheaper parking.

Better choice of shops and restaurants. There are too many charity shops and not enough well known brand shops. Also like to see more independent restaurants

Better cycling facilities, ideally a dedicated cycle lane

Free parking, more shops

Better selecon of shops, clothing shops, car parks without overly complicated pay methods, live music

A greater variety of restaurants and cafes.

An improved built environment and more interesng shopping experience

Removal of parking charges. Better range of shops- very limited range of shops. Plenty / too many charity shops & barbers Need to ar act bigger variety of clothing stores- chains like Primark & Next

I live in the town centre, so it's really the easiest place for me to get to. I'd probably go there more o en to support independent businesses.

Some actual shops would be great! There are far to many "cafes" mist people I know struggle to get out of town so we need clothes shops in town.

The town needs to make more of it's riverside locaon - a beauful walkway along it with a cafe culture. A theatre. Make the most of our beauful Riverside park with wide walkways, art installaons and places to sit and picnic. More local bouques. Clean modern public toilets. Could more be done to ulise the river e.g. regular boat tours or if a safe area is created, paddle boarding/pedalos etc?

Events in the park or market square

Better shops

Get rid of the horrendous car parking charges. We generally visit for 1 hour and park in Tebbu 's road car park. £ 1.60 for two hours minimum. When the charges were suggested the true cost was never told. We were led to believe that we could park for 25 mins increments you can but not for the first 2 hours. The town has lost the main type of shopping so there is not enough shops to wander around.

More shops and restaurants

Less traffic blighting the high street and making it dangerous for pedestrians; more local businesses; outdoor cafes and pedestrian use of Market Square

More activities in the Town Centre. Much better range of shops and also restaurants. Present restaurants all at the same level - need some more special restaurants if they can be encouraged to set up here.

A wider range of shops and cheaper/easier parking

No unused shops

I live and work in St Neots but was not given the option in question 1 to select that option

Better shops

Entertainment cafes encouraging out

Better and more variety of cafes, restaurants, bars, pubs etc. More places to eat out. A wider variety of shops to browse in (clothes, home ware).

More cafes, places to eat

Better variety of high street stores. Currently there is only 3 clothes shops in town and they are not aimed at men or women 18-40. There is also a lack of shops for teens and kids. Too many charity shops, coffee shops and estate agents. I'd be hard pushed to spend longer than an hour in the town unless I was at a restaurant.

More varied independent shops, more varied events in a nice event space.

Less cars parked on pavements Something useful at Old Falcon pub

Better access to the river frontage. More cafes by the river and a better arts and culture scene.

Markets, better shops, better dining opportunities

A good variety of decent shops, no more charity shops or estate agents are needed. Cleaning up the market square (rather grubby looking) nice seating, more weather proofed, a place where people can meet up with friends and family and have coffee etc, not just in the day but the evening too as they do on the continent. No parking on the square at all.

More appealing boutiques, markets where local producers sell local products and locally grown fruits/veg. I have to drive extensively through the countryside for such products and it would be better if they came to us and be locally available. It would most likely be beneficial for the farmers too. A rock climbing centre - I have to travel to London and Milton Keynes for it. A yoga/hot yoga studio would be great. It will save me having to travel to London for it. I was contemplating opening one, but the red-tape was very discouraging.

More varied shops

I do my weekly shop at Waitrose (I have for years), but we need more variety of shops but also, very importantly, better-quality shops. There is a large population in and around the town but it is almost impossible to buy certain items in the town e.g. in our household over the last month, we have needed a men's good quality jacket and women's shoes for a wedding, some Clarins beauty products and a small holdall/suitcase - none of which I could buy in the town since both Barre's and Beale's have closed. Whilst I applaud the owners for taking the initiative, I loathe the appearance of some of the new shops that have sprung up such as the grocers, mini-market, some of the barber shops etc - their signage is cheap and gaudy and brings the overall appearance of the town down; if new shops are given leases, they need to have guidelines about standards of signage and shop fronts. Many of the shops need to up their game - e.g. Brixton has tonnes of tat in the window and the furniture is crammed in and mainly outdated - they need to aim higher and stock a better, more co-ordinated range of furniture. I would love to see stylish, useful shops come to the town so I could buy the things I need locally. I would also like better-quality restaurants - a good bistro, an authentic Italian, a stylish

wine bar - I can't believe the town's population wouldn't use better quality shops and restaurants; it feels as if new things aim lower and lower - what percentage of the population does it really appeal to? I also think it was a bad decision to allow car park charges for the Riverside car park - such a short-sighted move, which should be removed asap.

Better shops

Better pubs

More diy and clothes shops

The parking situation at the cinema sorted, perhaps being taken over by the council. At the moment poorly maintained parking machines are causing problems that are ongoing.

Better shops, fewer charity shops, opening the space behind the High Street shops to more niche shops and cafes.

Greater availability of retail outlets that I would personally visit. For example H&M, Bodyshop, Neal's Yard. Feels like there's a real lack of interesting clothing and footwear shops. Food experiences like the Food Festival recently (which I went to but it was oversubscribed and queues too long when you're hungry!) I'm keen to try out the Farm & Craft markets, not managed to attend yet but if it's good I would be a repeat visitor. I'd also love if there's a German Christmas market, when the season comes!

More family friendly areas/facilities.

High Street traffic free, this could be in part managed by closing the River Bridge to all traffic except bus, emergency, pedestrian and cycle traffic. This could be achieved when the proposed A428 new section of road from Black Cat to Caxton is built. Migration would be required for residents of Riverside Terrace but that could be achieved with limited traffic or perhaps access via New Street and the far side of the square.

Better facilities

More varied restaurants, cafes, etc.

Quality restaurants and quality shops.

More clothing shops.

Free parking

Better shops

Free parking or road-free cycle routes

Restore access to parking spaces in Market Square as it used to be (although accept need for a FEW more disabled bays. With it, restore possibility to buy a parking ticket for only 15-20 mins - convenient when collecting / shopping for only one item or for when dropping something off. Despite best intentions, it's not always an option to walk into town. Some use of the car is necessary depending on size /weight of items being carried / delivered / bought / collected.

My home is very close to the town centre. I previously lived in Little Paxton and moved to St Neots so that I didn't need a car to access services, doctors, library, etc.

More variety of shopping options.

Big name stores

Better shops and better parking and better traffic movement.

More shopping choices. No shops to buy men's clothes.

More shops. Places for lunch.

Ideally a predominantly pedestrian high street with more restaurants, cafes and pubs. At a minimum the high street should be made a single lane one way road with proper traffic calming (down to 10mph) with wider pavements allowing eateries the space to have outdoor seating. Shopping in towns is dying so it's vitally important the town takes the earliest opportunity to develop and adapt into a welcoming leisure based zone. Use the funding wisely to move the town in this direction. It will pay dividends in the future.

A better variety and More shopping facilities,

Better disabled access and retail offer

More accessible shops

Improved cycle & pedestrian access from Eaton Socon into St Neots town centre. The bridge is too narrow to cross with young children safely.

Later opening hours for coffee houses all are shut by 5pm which in the summer months does not make sense. Cafes are on market square with lots of planning and shelter from the sun making it a nice place to sit and relax with a coffee etc. No traffic at top end of high street by the square as well. Very noisy and large trucks giving off fumes is not pleasant

Better shops

A variety of shops to meander through, I used to spend lots of time in and out of many shops when there was a lot of choice and would always spend in most of them, clothing, records, sweets, kitchen wear, gifts, toys, furniture etc

Better shopping - more independents and cranberries

Better value for money parking, there's nothing in St Neots worth paying 2 hour minimum charge for.

A department store

better shops eg mens clothes

More shops and variety. High street is lacking quality shops, and very limited options to keep you going back.

Better selection of clothes shops.

More/better selection of shops

More Clothes shops for men, women and children. Community events held in market square, or venues in town. More Home/gift shops. More restaurants/delicatessen type places

Free parking

Better choice of shops being a guy not really a clothes shop for us or the ladies, no real hobby shops, don't see a need for more bars and food places as there are good choices at this moment

Better choice of shops

Cleanliness, polite people, good shops, green spaces.

More bespoke or brand shops - we can't rely on chain outlets!!!

More variety of shops

More pavement space

More shops

Cheaper parking, more local events like farmers market/ food festival.

Events. More unique shops

More cultural activities, more independent shops, free parking - I have a back problem which means I can't carry shopping long

distances, more events / stalls on the Market Square

Be. er shops worth vising walking around etc. Limit on Coffee shops, charity shops and opcians. Far to many empty retail units.
Makes you wonder who grants permission for another coffee shop etc.

Events, better range of places to eat and drink, better quality retail

More local, independent shops. I o en end up buying things online because places like the Handyman, the Health Food shope etc.
have gone

better parking

Cheaper parking

Cultural acvie s

More shops how the town use to be when I was growing up , you could spend a whole day in the town
parking in the town Centre car park

Better shops

More ACTUAL SHOPS...LIKE PRIMARK IN OLD BEALES BUILDONG

If the market square / old falcon had more appeal

Lots of privately owned shops, not chains. More going on at the market square, a market like it used to be 10 years ago.

Diverse range of shops and more restaurants.

Fish Monger, modern bars, better restaurants - top quality eg Old Bridge Hunng don or Plough Bolnhurst

I already visit it o en. The quesonnair e above is useless at explaining when I visit as my wish to visit varies a lot depending on what
I choose to do. The single choice above gives no opportunity to make this evident.

Better shops

More variety of shops

Better stores/ variety of larger shops / NEXT / M &S / quality quick internaonal food joints / seang in the square/ Better sunday
market

Less cars and a car free market square

If there was any of the following: Savers chemist, £1 shop, Primark, Home Bargains and a bigger outdoor market. Talking to other
residents all of the above would greatly improve St Neots as at the moment the older generaon have to travel by bus to find any of
the above. Also, the younger generaon would give a big thumbs up.

More quality clothes shops

Have a good selecon of shops like it use to be and less BARBERS AND RESTURANTS

More variety of high street shops

Affordable shops that aren't chains. More shops, restaurants, acvie s that are FULLY inclusive.
shops like primark, tk max, 99p shop,

Better shops

More food outlets

More eateries and outdoor seang. More independent shops such as a bakery. Music and community events.

Free parking and more food markets

Cleaner environment and different shops

More attractive Market Square and better pubs and cafes. Something done about the Falcon shit hole.

Not a lot as I live in the centre.

Better shops Events

If there were more shops. And parking cheaper or free

Better quality clothes shops

Investment in the infrastructure. The place has got very shabby !!

1. Improvements to cultural facilities for example to the museum and classical music performances. 2. Late night lawlessness, drunkenness appears more common now than when we first moved to the town centre in 2004. 3. The deafening cacophony from public houses continues until three in the morning. 4. Please DO NOT redevelop the Priory Centre for Rock music. We accept there may be a need for that type of place but please find an appropriate location where residents will not be disturbed.

Larger selection of shops, more events, live music.

Easy access to affordable Car Parking with fair and reasonable charges - it should be possible to pay for what you use, e.g. if you need to pop into town to collect a prescription, you should not be obliged to pay for an hour, when you only need 15 minutes

Better shops. a pedestrianised centre. a brighter looking place

Community Survey

What, if anything, would encourage you to visit St Neots ...

Better shops, some more appealing family friendly pubs, leisure facilities and improved use of Market Square.

If all the empty shops were filled by well known shops.

Less traffic - more cycle paths

Women's clothing shop, good entertainment place to go with friends e.g. comedy club, crazy golf, ping pong bar etc. We stay in St Neots for the bars - convenience. Cambridge is expensive.

Better footpaths to make easier walking and pushing of walker. Many foopaths are in awful state of repair and should be brought up to date.

Less vehicular traffic, get bikes and scooters off pavements. Better selection of shops.

More independent shops and a good department store

If the pavements were maintained better.

Free parking at Riverside Park

More retail shops

More open shops

Easier more short term cheaper parking.

ANNEX 2: PERCEPTIONS OF ST NEOTS TOWN CENTRE (COMMUNITY SURVEY Q10)

How would you describe St Neots Town Centre?

needing some love and care
Loads of untapped potential
Sleepy
A wealth of possibilities and opportunities if managed right with the public in mind .
traffic
It is a very nice area spoilt by empty shop premises. This is not helped by HDC insistence on putting up parking prices so that people are happier to travel further afield to spend their money elsewhere. Now this new initiative is intending on closing two car parks with the intention of building on the land. This will drive more people away if they see big queues for parking, they will just go elsewhere. You cannot disinvent the motor vehicle, especially when public transport is so poor.
Requires improvement
A lot more pleasant to walk around than Bedford.
Overall, I think the overall appearance of the town centre is quite good. However, locations such as the Old Falcon Hotel and former Westgate department store are spoiling the look of the town. The range of shops is also quite disappointing - we must have at least 15 different coffee shops and 20 hair dressers, but not a single department or hardware store. The parking situation is a major problem - there are simply not enough spaces, this was worsened by the questionable decision to prohibit car parking on the market square. As a result of this, pavament parking has become much more common.
Sad and neglected. There is a general feeling that Councils are not interested in St Neots - almost impossible to get responses to queries from Town and District Councils, dating back long before COVID. Focus seems to be on other areas. Feels less safe now - no police or community support presence.
Friendly, busy, useful
Small, familiar, has what I need, congested with traffic, seen be. er days
Going downhill and the roads are terrible, parking is expensive and the choice of shops not great
The traffic lights are not coordinated
Tired
Run down and with a dying high street, use of the priory centre is poor for modern families and needs revamping
Could be better!
Much improved from when I used to visit regularly in the 1970s (nearest town at that me), but still needs improvement especially the Old Falcon.
Dated
Since all the Londoners moved here. It's rubbish
Some nice small independent shops and cafes but would e
Lots of potential fir the market square and the main street
Waste of space other than restaurants and wasted too much money kn market square into a plaza is a complete waste of money
Clogged up with cars

	transitioning
Lacking!! We have some lovely shops but we haven't got the big names which attract smaller/bespoke shops.	
Expensive to park and not many clothes shops. Limited dine in evening meal venues (other than pubs)	
	Has potential
Great market square, except the Old Falcon. Quite a few unusual shops. Waitrose is a plus. Waterside location is brilliant. Priory area is attractive. Too much stationary traffic, speeding around the market square. Insufficient clothing shops. Too many empty shops. Small business in Huntingdon Street lose out as nothing to draw shoppers to this area. Nothing to draw you to the Priory Area itself.	
More flowers etc. needed along the High Street, not just o/s M&S and Brittain's. Some shop fronts are tatty.	
Unsafe. Very poor road and pavement maintenance. Polluting because of slow moving traffic caused by a pedestrian controlled traffic flow .	Calm and quaint
	Could be be. er with improving like the falcon
A lovely little Town which offers everything we need on our doorstep	
	Ok but would benefit from more shops
	Nice but full of charity shops
Card shop, coffee shop, bank, card shop, coffee shop, bank, card shop	
	useless only go in town for the library
Dull lacks investment need to sort market square	
Charming market town in need of some updating	
	Expensive and dead
	Good but too much traffic.
Very busy with traffic and parked cars and not many shops.	
	To many restaurants, not enough shops
It's lost it's main shopping area now. Nowhere to mooch or browse. So few actual shops to buy items in. Good or better if you want to meet/go for a drink or a meal. Great selection of eateries.	
	Small with a lack of good shops.
	Dreary
	Uninspiring due to lack of variety of shops
boring and full of charity shops and barbers	
Good venues for food and drink but not much else.	
Boring - there is a handful of good independent restaurants but there is nothing interesting to do or see. I would rather drive somewhere interesting. I really just go to St Neots for the gym or appointments	
	Lots of empty shops.
Too many barbers,charity shops,financial businesses,cafes. In general it is shabby and run down. Not enough independent shops.	

Nice but a lot of charity shops and some empty shops too

Attractive in places, although the High Street is a bit lacklustre. I'd love for it to become a proper leisure/cultural destination, where you could visit at any time and find interesting places to visit and things to do.

Sad, needs more shopping choice to keep people interested

Huge potential - a fantastic river and market square that could be the centre of things

Not very welcoming in terms of shops available and outdoor places on high street to enjoy

A waste of good space on the waterfront and market square. Barbers shops. Charity shops

In need of some sorting. I feel there are too many of the same thing ie barber shops charity shops. It looks awful with all the closed shops atm, although covid hasn't helped.

Ok

very pretty but lacking in choice

Starting to become a lovely place to visit. Enjoying the coffee shops and restaurants.

Nice well set out town.

I would say the town centre has suffered with its choice of shops for a long time

Below average. Better than it was 20 years ago, but nothing to write home about.

Buzzing market town

Boring and neglected

Boring and drab, not for new experiences like my husband and I who want more cultural experiences

Really lovely and when I visit I think I should visit more.

In decline, disappointing range of shops & services

Good but has potential to be much better if market square is used like a European town.

Nice place, becoming nicer and more vibrant. More community engagement. Some nice shops and restaurants. Nice green spaces nearby. Needs a better variety of shops. Parking far too expensive. Needs better, cheaper parking on the outskirts and more traffic wardens in town and on market Square.

It's a lovely friendly centre, however the lack of clean modern toilets greatly minimise the frequency and length of my visits.

Tired, tatty,

Traffic heavy but lots of potential.

Too many chain coffee bars, or discount stores. The square could be stunning. But the majority of the shops e.g. Greggs, Cafe Nero, the greasy spoon place, the scary nightclub looking bar, the chain burger joint....all look over it and make it an awful place. The cars in the centre make it an undesirable place to walk. If it was car free with fountains, gardens and trees families would go there and eat there lunch etc. St N Town Centre has enormous potential but right now is 5/10. But at least it's not horrendous. That would be a

2/10

Lots of arched buildings but lacks the choice of shops to visit. There are too many of the same thing- hairdressers/barbers/charity shops as well as other businesses.

Lacking character

Nice but not many shops. Love the river

	It's got potential!
	Tatty, with potential to improve.
	Sad looking, very grey. More cars than people.
	Tired
	Dying
A bit run down. It could be very attractive as it has the river, but it's just a bit tatty	
Beautiful dying town centre due to unfunding .	
A little tired and run down. Full of charity shops , opticians and barbers !!	
Busy and improving	
Uninviting	
Lovely & friendly, perhaps a bit rough around the edges and in need of a spruce!	
Boring	
In need of character	
Market town with good eateries. Used to have much be. er shops but now full of estate agents and charity shops. There are no decent shops	
Neglected, uninspired landlords for economic drive, not very startup friendly, in fact apart from the Momentum Hub and the Workstaon there is no incubation or co working which is needed considering the density of micro businesses registered around here. Fantasie hunger of the people but it lacks vision, confidence and infrastructure from those that are responsible for delivering that.	
Boring and lacks parking	
Needs a face-lift	
A very pleasant place	
Picturesque, market town, nice market square. Great riverside park. Town Center shops are a bit crap and lack quality produce	
Soulless	
A little market town	
A dying town. Nothing for young ppl to do. No decent shops.	
A wonderful place with so much potential	
Dull, too many Barber Shops & Charity shops, we don't draw people in with the selection of what we offer for visitors. I used to go into town more to look around the clothes shops, Beales, New Look, Dot P and then end up in other shops whilst there. Now I shop online & only go in to meet friends for coffee.	
It's a lovely looking town but there isn't an awful lot there. I still go as much as possible to support local business but I have to go elsewhere for shopping and days out with my children and evenings out with my husband.	
Run down. No signage for parking. Only visible parking for visitors is market Square and that's blocked off. Would put visitors off	
Ruled by cars. Busy roads and cars parked on pavements. Noisy.	

Loads of barbers and charity shops but good place to go out and eat. It also used to have a good night life back in the day but I'm pretty sure that has changed but I got kids now so don't get to go out much
Seen better days
Slightly rundown in need of a revamp.

A difficult space to fill but appears to be improving now that most seem to have accepted that St Neots will not be a shopping location
Bare, dull, nowhere to shop unless you want a charity shop or a barbershop
people, always moaning about how hard done by they are with regards to parking charges and that hunting don gets all the money
Great potential, needs basics sorting i.e. parking, make better use of Market Square - fully pedestrianise
Pretty market town but nothing there and expensive to park
Run down
Lacks variety. Uninspiring.
Boring
Empty
Great market square with lots of nice places to eat and drink, but not very good for shopping.
This is a very well laid out town centre that could with a bit of thought attract a great many people
Neglected in certain areas
Full of charity shops and estate agents
It is one of the better market towns in Cambridgeshire, and the prettiest, with the Riverside Park/Regatta Meadows and Great Ouse running through it. It provides great opportunity to spend money enjoying food and drink, only curtailed by the restrictive and expensive car parking. However much one wants to leave the car at home, sometimes heavy shopping dictates its necessity!
Fit for the basic visits like drinks and haircuts and groceries, but not somewhere people will go to spend a long amount of money.
Lots of promise but let down by the councils
Lots of empty units. Lots of dilapidated buildings both used and unused. Very pretty plant displays. Has potential to be improved massively.
Sad
Needs more shops
Lively, good independent cafés, lots of charity shops (which I love).
Looks run down, full of charity and coffee shops.. Not necessarily a bad thing but nothing else. Market Square looking more inviting now it is more pedestrianised. Priory centre is not marketed well and good be a much more focal point of the town
I would say it's very busy, lots of pollution from cars/buses. Very few shops that I would make the effort to go to town for. It's such a shame because St Neots is a lovely town with a great riverside but we just need to make more use of it with nicer features.
Pedestrianising the market square and making it look more pretty would help draw people in.
It's a little run down. I love the coffee shops and eateries that are appearing but apart from that not much else there to encourage me apart from M&S and Waitrose
Pleasant but in need of modernisation

Dreary.

Run down

Ok for barbers and charity.shops or waste agents but that's it

An ever expanding commuter market town by a river, often congested by bad parking issues! Lots of places to eat but nowhere to shop, business rates too high! Expensive/excessive parking charges

Too many closed shops. Relatively clean streets - our regular street cleaner does a good job.

A nice town in beautiful setting with poor infrastructure (no bus travel other than to Cambridge). I would like to go to Buckfest without having to drive but found no bus going at weekends. A town with a tired looking High Street & Market Square but overall many good restaurants.

Small town centre, a selection of good quality restaurants, but more would be good, poor range of shops - too many hairdressers, nail bars, barbers, charity shops, too many small shops

HDC have ruined the market square of late. It's meaningless useless space. Reconfigure it so it's useful now and in the future.

Dying, unfortunately. Becoming more dangerous with crime and the lack of police which the criminals know about.

Empty and run down

Outdated and run down because of vacant buildings. St neots has so much potential with space to attract more visitors but it is made up of mostly charity shops.

Lots of potential if invested in.

It's still a great place but sadly it's loosing its businesses and doesn't take full advantage of what it has available

Busy

Old . Outdated. Full of charity shops, coffee shops and banks that are never open when you need them!!

Pretty, and a great place for dining out or going for coffee. Starting though to have lots of closed vacant buildings...

Tired

Basic and largely uninspired - but a beautiful location with a few gems - e.g. Bohemia, Shume

Tired, run down and the market square markets take priority over all.

A bit run down at the moment.

Starting to look good.

Was a hub of activity but now not much point going

Hard to define.

nice little town lacking in a range of shops. too many estate agents barbers and opticians!

Overall a lovely town centre with a lot of potential. Currently a bit sad due to the empty shops. Has a fabulous river that isn't always made the most of.

A mess! Dowdy, dirty and run down. The market square looks awful. Metal barriers, awful yellow paint, taxis all over the place but no parking for anyone who can't walk far or only wants to stay a few minute. Certain cars park on the delivery bay on the High Street all day so can't even pull up there to pick up or drop off. It's disgusting. Was a vibrant area back when we had shops.

Non inspiring. Not much variety of shops, too much traffic and expensive parking charges.

Outdated, dull, empty

A little run down with empty shops and the falcon being le. to rot for so long

Decent enough, nothing spectacular. Good for geng essenals, but nothing really to make you stay and hang around for a bit longer.

Uninteresng , downmarket

Faded grandeur. Beaufu l Georgian buildings above, let down by shabby shop facades below, selling low-quality or charity goods.

Mainly good but some buildings around the market square (The Falcon Hotel) are in dire need of restoring. More diversity in the retail offering would be good.

Previously a sleepy market town with a good mixture of unique and chained shops. In recent years for a number of reasons including high rental prices/digital era, shops are closing therefore making other local towns the places to visit during leisure me .

St Neots however sll has a potenally beauful market square and local surroundings which with funding such as what's being proposed will make the centre a nice place to visit/ spend me at.

Lacking shops / entertainment venues

Good but could be better

Disappoinng. Not enough variety of shops or things to do.

good for food bad for shopping

Bustling, always busy. Lots of traffic.

Good high street with some nice/useful shops

Derelict, boring, repev e (all the same kinds of shops like hairdressers and estate agents whilst completely lacking others - clothes shops, second hand bookshops, independent shops)

Bit run down

not as good as it used to be

Beaufu l, mostly inving (too many cars), convenient

Needing tlc

Run down most shops really expensive

Old fashioned, small, cramped, annoying to drive through, limited shops, boring.

Tired.

Too many cafes, too many charity shops

Crowded

Hit and miss

Nice but could do with a bit more variety of type of shop

Prey

A friendly place with most of the amenities you would expect in a town of this size.

Tired. There are some lovely bits, but could be much better and make the most of the locaon. More shops needed and secure

tenants for empty units - is this caused by high rents pushing out tenants?

Lots of food shopping facilities but could do with more choice of shops eg hardware stores, more clothes shops, and a greengrocers would be perfect.

Empty. Struggling. Lacking class. (Stamford is a classy town to shop in) Lacking. Uninspiring. I could go on!!!!

Tonnes of potential. The addition of more market square focused stalls, water front walk and shops / eateries that people actually want to go to ie Bohemia, griddle and grind, the new loungers etc as well as more popular shops like fat face makes a huge difference as well as the surrounding green space
Boring. There isn't much to do in the town centre.

Mixed. Drab in some areas, modern and upbeat in others.

Worth a visit, but could be even better. er.

St Neots used to be a lovely little market town with a good market and usual shops. It still is a lovely market town but is full of Charity shops, barbers and restaurants. While all this is good it is getting harder to shop in town for example men's/ children's clothing etc which in turn is forcing people to shop outside of the area and online. This is making it hard to support our local town and business's.

It has potential to be great but is lacking enough shops to make a trip in viable - it's often cheaper to go to Tesco or a retail park outside of St Neots where you're more likely to be able to get everything on your shopping list. The restaurant scene is growing, which is great, but I have anxieties around being in town in the evenings. There needs to be solutions to making the town feel safer, perhaps more/better lighting, visible police presence etc.

Dangerous

Uninspiring

St Neots has great potential, but because there hasn't been an overall plan of how it should be presented, signs have gone up of all different kinds. Some are garish and inappropriate. Shops group their merchandise in colours, for a reason. The high street looks visually messy. I think it would be cost effective to look at the street from a aesthetic point of view., But that's not going to happen. The development of the town has happened haphazardly, by people who don't care how things look. It's a big mistake, as when you visit the likes of York or Bath or some of the smaller Cotswolds towns, the reason why visitors go there is because their high streets are aesthetically pleasing.

Tired (including in those aspects which are about visitor attraction and guidance. Signs of new business energy, but the problems of all High Streets. Sometimes congested with traffic but not irredeemably so. Some evening life, but probably needing more.

full of charity shops and barbers but little else

Tired

Pleasant, busy

Busy (in terms of traffic rather than footfall), grubby in places, disconnected (you have to cross various busy roads to get around and you'd never believe that the riverside is so close), outdated (the places to eat feel a little bland other than a couple of nice independent venues, and there are only really pubs rather than a nice bar or two). Basically it feels as though the younger people who have moved to the area for work or affordable housing aren't catered for in the town centre and so are less likely to spend money (and money) in the town.

Tired, full of hairdressers/barber's and charity shops. Shops are closing at a speed of knots and there is very little reason to visit.

Much prefer retail parks with bigger shops and free parking.

	A bit run down.
	I'm need of rejuvenation
	Overcrowded and WAY to many food outlets.
Run down. Too many barbers / charity shops. Needs clothe shops that are targeted to more people.	
	Lacking in good quality shops, tired
	Languishing and in urgent need of regeneration and investment
	An empty carpark whose only use is cafes.
Pretty uninspiring since Beals & Westgate have gone. Lacking in riverside eating out options.	
Lack of decent shops. Full of polluting vehicles making it an unpleasant place to be especially when having to wait so long at traffic lights while breathing in fumes.	
	Old fashioned, quiet, boring
	Run down, tacky
	A bit sleepy most of the mea
	Excellent potential not yet fulfilled
It has a lot of potential, with such a great market square space and close to the river. Its not being used to its full potential at the moment.	
Depressing. Forgotten. Uninspired. In need of life, invention, thought, greenery, art, culture, history, thinking outside the box.	
	Very poor for disabled people, too many cars
	Friendly, clean but boring
Looks sad. Untidy all the good shops have gone. No clothes shops, no shoes shops no stationery shops.	
	Tired
	Town centre with very narrow pavements for pedestrianised and often too crowded
	Disappointing
some really nice independent shops and restaurants starting to establish but still far too many chains and not many Mens clothes shops.	
	Quite charming, but a bit run down in places
	Run down and uncared for
	Boring and dull
	Like Hitchin 20 years ago
	Rough
Tired and run down in places. Over run with barbers, places to eat and charity shops - there is a lack of other things that might draw me in to town.	
	A bit tired, but improving.
	Lack of shops and rather run down

Quaint but run down

Run down and uninspiring, lots of traffic

The market square should be the focal point of the town, and should be maintained as a place for live performances, markets, and al fresco dining. It is maintained well although I feel that if it gets pedestrianised there should be more greenery to make it a preety place to be.

Nice, but busy. The combination of one main road through town with narrow pavements can feel unpleasant when busy

Interesting, but high rents/rates have made it so there are mostly charity shops and barbers!

Bitty

It doesn't fulfil its potential. It has scope for riverside dining, cafe culture. The traffic is smelly and intrusive so more traffic free areas would be good. The market square is beautiful with the trees & lights though. Full credit to whoever was behind that.

Messy, too slow to travel to and from

I have always loved St. Neots, but the injection of cash for development will be very welcome, as long as the town council do not spend most of it on consultants, only to drag their heels in making decisions to the point where costs have risen and the decisions are no longer viable.

No clothing shops, no modern shoe shops. Good places to eat but not to shop.

Tired, scruffy with so much unrealised potential

Huntingdon's very poor relation

A bit scruffy, full of empty or closing shop premises, congested with traffic due to poorly planned traffic calming.

Limited, it is serving the needs of the few, not the many! For people who cannot travel the high street does not have enough to support coming them. I find it mind boggling that councillors are so quick to encourage shopping in Cambridge or Bedford etc. The prioritisaation of housing ever encroaching on the high street seems illogical with the masses of development at Loves Farm et al.

Unattractive - too much traffic- too many eateries- too many Charity shops- too many Turkish Barbers - Very Poor Thursday market.

Nowhere in Town Centre to adversely what is on in the Priory Centre.

A town with massive of potential, friendly and on the up

Down beat

Busy but sleepy

I think it has a lot of fantastic, diverse eateries and is mostly very pretty, but does look a bit tired in places, especially where shops have shut down

It could do with some improvements. Drains, pavements, roads, and block paving repaired on the market square also the Old Falcon.

Standard

In need updating, a bit tired especially the roads and pavements. Shop fronts need updating.

Not enough shops, not nearly enough, a joke compared to Huntingdon

sad

Pretty market Square but what a waste putting parked cars and taxis on it.Not enough is made of the scenic river views

run down, boarded up, charity shops, hairdressers

Good in parts

Too much traffic, otherwise quaint and fascinating with wonderful old buildings, although many seem to need some tlc, market days are lovely as it is held in a historic market square which still has many original features, like most towns it lacks decent signage, for instance you would never know about the museum with prior knowledge. It has a friendly atmosphere.

Poorly policed Poorly run

Pretty. Love all the restaurants we have. Clean.

Bland but serves my purpose. I like the Thursday market

Very pretty with river & park but needs more shops , parking prevents one staying longer as always think you are going to get a fine!!

lacking shops and entertainment venues

Boring and tired.

It has potential. Fantastic river and riverside park. The market square could be very attractive, once the disabled parking is removed and the terrible Thursday market is cancelled.

Historic with some great features, but also dated in places / in need of a lick of paint

Bustling but too many cars, many parked illegally making life with a pram harder.

Scruffy

Clean, too much traffic. Too many traffic lights causing poor flow of traffic

Quiet mostly, not enough good shops

Run down, shops closing. Only charity shops, have shown growth.

Full of charity shops and food places

It has improved with the expanded Farmers' market but there could be more cultural spaces and it would be nice to see places like Beales or other empty shops replaced with more interesting independent shops and art galleries. More public art would brighten things up.

Lovely history in need of a re vamp

A little bit tires

Empty and boring

Has lots of potential to grow but it's not there yet.

Lacking in choice of shops. Too much disabled parking on market square. What if I want to shop in Iceland?

A pretty market town

empty & sad looking. Shops closed down square empty, barely a decent shop to look in.

I need of a complete makeover, the traffic flow is poor and the shops are starting to look dated. Add to that a lot of major businesses such as Wikos won't even look at the town.

Abit dull, full of hairdressers and charity shops. Boring.

Declining due to empty shops. It does not attract people into the town when they can shop at out of town outlets.

No diversity
 A eye sight
 Coffee shops, charity and banks
 boring with nothing to do
 Dull; difficult to park for quick purchase (less than 30 minutes); ugly.
 No thoughts
 Good amount of pubs and barbers. Lacking in shops and restaurants. There could be more made of the market square.
 Very poor for shops
 I think that it is quite dated and depressing. There are a lot of functional shops like opticians, hair dressers. Too many charity shops. I would love to see more independent retailers. I love the Saturday farmers market, visit the thurs market regularly now I work from home, love the riverside and all events, love the independent restaurants and cafes
 Tired and full of charity shops and cafes
 Can do be. er with the opons available
 Limited shoping experience/variety, has potenal
 Run down
 A good mixture of restaurants, shops and ammenies.
 Lacking in reasonable priced parking Lacking in main retail shops
 Limited choice of what can be done
 No shops just resturants pubs charity and opcians
 Nice. It has potenal
 Lost. In decline. Sad.
 In general - dated
 Great place to eat - loads of choice for cafes and restaurants but other than charity shops and hairdressers/barbers not much else
 Run down
 Very lame with not enough retail or proper chained restaurant
 Since the pandemic some shop fronts are looking neglected, this is of course down to the owners. Quite a few shops are empty.
 Needing an increase in a variety of independent shops
 Not much variety
 Empty and run down, needs more shops, cafes etc.
 Beauful riverside, not made the most of - poorly maintained footpaths, no cycle paths, very little river fronted hospitality. High street is horrific to drive or ride thru either way most of the time . needs a type of ring road so High St can be pedestrianised. Prey town, crime low, people welcoming, not good for shops, great for dining.
 Too many barbers, coffee shops and charity shops.
 Quiet
 Prey buildings, good cafes, too many vehicles,

Be. er than it was when I moved here 38 years ago but still room for improvement. It has a good Indian restaurant (Rose & Mango), and good cafe Bohemia), but it's lacking in clothes shops and specialist food shops. It has some areas and areas but some areas are not utilised as they should be eg, market square needs to have a better market on several days of the week

Good, need more variety of clothes shops though.

Charity shops, hair dressers and estate agents with the occasional take away

A lot of cars parked illegally on pavements, like the market square but would prefer it to be totally pedestrianised with taxis in Riverside Park. South street also should be car free.

Lovely but no sports shop, no clothes shops for younger people (next, river island, sports direct

Improving

Needs investment

Not enough to do especially for browsing now that Beales, New Look and Dorothy Perkins have gone. Clothing shops are limited. Not enough kids friendly experiences
Nice historic feel. Too many cars.

Apart from the Falcon a very pleasant market town that doesn't make enough of its riverside location.

Lack of retail choice

Very pretty, but lacking in quality shops. Way too many charity shops and hair dressers with a lack of things to bring tourists in like events, more popular shops and activities. Standard town centre you could find almost anywhere in Britain. Market square has a lot of potential if used correctly.

It's alright, but generally a bit run down - there's only perhaps one or two shops that would even sell things we would buy. I gave up on shopping for men's clothes in shops years ago because of the lack of variation and options. Most of the high street is just food stops, barbers, or pubs.. but once you've eaten one place, I don't want to go eat in every other place I'd rather have some decent shops to go into - again, some variation would be good.

Old fashioned and meagre

Tired. When the market square is buzzing it's great

Pretty good. Nice atmosphere and generally clean. Would like to see more greenery around. Lots of traffic due to there being only town centre and bypass as river crossings. Traffic puts me off as noisy and smelly especially when at a standstill which is often. litter is becoming a problem throughout St Neots.

Run down and dying

Tired and dated

A historic, riverside town centre that needs a little TLC but has heaps of potential.

Too much traffic, great green space, too many boarded up shops

St Neots Town Centre has huge potential but is in dire need of some TLC. It needs to reinvent itself to support and serve the growing modern community that surrounds it.

Sometimes too crowded; mostly eateries, barbers and charity shops

Looks drab. Needs a good facelift, lacking decent shops.

Nice market town with potential to be much better

Thriving with restaurants, dead for shopping
Full of hairdressers and charity shops
Sad and a bit scummy but has a lot of potential
Lacking in investment and variety
Dead unless you want to eat

In terms of food and drink good, shops not so good Night life dead apart from pig and falcon but needs to be proper music venue
Expensive to park and lacking interesting shops. Also looks quite tired and run down

Lacking shops, feel I need to go out of town for clothing, special gifts, nik naks and kitchen wares, you can't wonder into town and around a few shops, browsing like We used to as not enough shops to browse round.

Tired and it's lost it's spark

Run down Empty shops Too many fast food , barbers, charity shops etc. Not attractive
No shops, just places to eat

Full of unmet potential

Great for independent cafes but let down by the empty units- makes the town look rundown.
Love it but would love to see shops like Wilco

Nice, but room for improvement.

Tired looking and too much traffic, not the kind of shops I'm interested in.
Tired but trying to improve

Tired

Boring

Nice small-town centre but looking a bit tired but unfortunately due to so many shops closing it's like a lot towns now also let down with cars parking on market square looks untidy

Coffee shops and hairdressers/barbers
Huge potential

X

a place filled with estate agents, charity shops and hairdressers.

Uninviting, nothing that makes you want to stop and have a walk around and mo space to want to sit and relax in with a coffee etc (just want to rin in grab what you need and leave) A place you travel through to get from one side of town to the other. Lack of retail shops but overrun with estate agents/hairdressers/barbers/nailbars.

Run down, full of too many hair dressers and charity shops, looks in a poor state of repair, quite a few empty run down shops. Has gone down hill in the last 18 years. Way to many cafes. No longer proud of what is seen as a run down town

Congested with few shopping opportunities

Much potential to become a town people visit for interesting shopping eating and out door space. But lacks the shops currently.
Landlord prices equal empty buildings equal waste
In need of regeneration and less traffic

Needs prettying up. It doesn't help that the road sweeper man is absolutely useless, he doesn't sweep ANYTHING! I've taken my broom to sweep up the hundreds of cigarette end around Bosphorus, and the owner of the cafe sweeps all his rubbish into the road! The derelict building at the end (The Falcon) needs CPOing; it's shocking how many years the owner has been allowed to have the upper hand, causing the Square to look rundown. Stop people parking on the pavements and across our mews entrances - there need to be yellow lines and proper parking restrictions, not just one as you enter the Square. There are SIX CAR PARKS round the Market Square, why the hell can't people use them! The road surfaces are shocking; I campaigned for a year to get a manhole cover replaced because it was so loud, the council weren't interested, in the end I got local Cllrs involved and it's now been sorted. The Cllr who took control could not believe what a terrible state the manhole/surrounding road was in and what a noise it created every time vehicles went over it. Shame on the Council for being inept with the lack of road repairs.

Noisy and smelly because of the road but at least everything is all in one place and you don't have to go too far to shop. Most shops are small and have a limited range of goods. Could do with more clothes shops, in particular, mens and babies clothes.

Small town and slightly fading. Not a shopping centre, but starting to develop an interesting cafe culture. Inviting but the presence of pubs make me unlikely to visit in the evenings but to the reputation that these establishments have for alcohol fuelled behaviour

It has improved over the years aesthetically but we have lost so many retail shops very recently as it is, but too many empty shops appearing. Market Square needs complete pedestrianising.

Quaint. Nice
Market square could be used better, market on a Saturday finishing just as most people would use it! Parking have 1hour Free then pay after that, to encourage people to the town

Uninteresting
Not many shops to go to now. It's a shame clothes shops are closing and shops like Beales decided to go. We need more shops like big department stores similar to beales to come to St.Neots this would encourage more shoppers and improve the town centre.

Noisy, polluted, busy, red BUT with some great independent bars/restaurants/shops
Quaint but run down. Signage of shops tacky needs a more universal approach, classic timeless design. i.e wooden signage with border above each shop front.

A bit run down and lots of empty shops.
Not appealing at all.
red

A real place full of empty shops, charity shops and Turkish barbers
Small

Okay - needs improving and a USP
Becoming red! Weeds in all the gardens, empty shops, uneven pavements.
Run down and empty of good shopping facilities.

OK
Ordinary!
Pretty market town

Drab boring no variety in shops i don't want to go to the barbers eat out or get my nails done bot much else to do

Not as good as it could be.

A friendly community, medium sized market town with marvellous green spaces at its heart, thanks to good preservation of the river meadows and unspoilt by commercial and housing development on the river front. Please keep it that way.

It's a nice place to visit but it needs be. er town centre seang in the square and a range of shops and facilities to support a buzz

Not too bad compared to some. Reasonably thriving.

Quaint Accessible Limited

Lots of potenonal but rates too high for alot of small businesses. Its missing arts/theatre for entertainment(empty beales would be ideal.)the river ouse would invite alot of visitors. St Neots Town centre is small missing alot of things to bring in money sadly

It's looking red and shabby now. When I moved here 7 years ago it felt more friendly and progressive. Now shops are closing and pavements are too small, especially in a pandemic. I believe we should pedestrianise the town centre and have a ring road.

No shops, pubs and restaurants are good but no reason to go other than that

St neots high street has nothing and never will have anything going for it!! Spend the money on the riverside and bike paths and stop building houses!!

Run down and not easy to shop with all the vehicles.

Beaufu l but under used especially the river facilities

Reasonably busy compared to other high streets, but with potenal space to expand.

Lovely market town with a good range of shops, pubs and restaurants. It always seems to be busy

Decaying

Boring.

Clean, great locaon next to the river with some truly fantasc independent shops and restaurants however there is so much room for improvement to make the experience better. Including Visually, accessibility, traffic through high street on busy days, better variety of shops etc.

Pleasant but room for improvement.

A bit boring

Lacking in shops. Too many charity shops and coffee shops. Too much traffic going through the High Street

Full of charity shops, cafes and barbers. Too busy with cars, not very attractive currently

It's my town but red and desperately needs a freshen up

coffee overdose and estate agents

It is lacking larger shops. There are too many charity shops and estate agents

In need of investment. It lacks larger high Street names for all goods and does not feel very inviting to the shopper.

Well spaced out, needs work doing.

Outdated without a cycling route. There are some small and aspiring businesses that try to bring more people into the centre.

Shabby and not chic.

Tired

Less grim than it used to be. Good for restaurants but mostly uninspiring. I used to feel a strong sense of failure to grow up and move away from town, but the feeling revisits me every meaq I walk down the High St.

Busy, congested, too many hair dressers, pawn shops, charity shops and coffee shops. Not enough pubs and good places to eat.
Mostly overpriced now in comparison to staying in at home.

Historic market square with an eyesore building (old falcon). We have some great events and markets in the town square but it is still an under utilised resource.

Lacking vitality

Lovely town, just needs to uliseq the river. Needs a centerpiece.

A market town. I do love St Neots but I think there is not enough choice to keep the centre active and encourage people as much as it could.

good selection of shops, cafes and restaurants. nice spaces.

The hanging baskets and floral displays throughout the town are a great plus, generally needs a good tidy because can appear scruffy at meaq.

Rather dull. It has such potential but has very little that is stylish and almost nothing up market, all rather downbeat and at present rather depressing.

In need of a complete revamp

Hodge podge of shops, many independent ones though and great choice for food

Too many cars illegally parked particularly around the Market Square

Run down. Too many barbers and Christy shops. For people of working age with husbands in good jobs and kids at school there is nothing for us mums with money to do. The only thing I've ever done is get a coffee or a bite to eat in the town centre. I have used the spa at wyboston but I rarely think of St Neots as a go to place. I'd rather travel.

Lots of restaurants and a little run down.

Half dead

We have a fair amount of cafes but we are also overrun with charity shops and hairdressers which I think is totally unnecessary

Functional

A little tired, not much reason to visit, usually only to eat out

Out dated old needs a injection of new life & put into action ideas which have been debated for years

An attractive small friendly place

Slightly faded market town,

Attractive, but much too much traffic

Dull, tired, run down, forgotten, sad

Pretty good. Some nice amenities, with nice flowers. Well kept by local council.

Lack of funds. Local business needs help to compete with internet shopping. The buildings are tired and required upgrade. Lack of colours. Lack of transportation for people working in Cambridge.

A bit small - not much choice of shops, especially with Beales and Barretts gone. Too car dominated, for example it's hard to cross the two big junctions on the main road.

	Friendly, safe.
Shops - Lack of independent and chain shops catering for the demographics of St Neots Restaurants - Empty premises are being taken over by catering outlets which are now getting to be too many	
	Friendly environment but tired looking in need of redevelopment
	Nice and friendly, always clean
	Bloody horrible
Unable to purchase things needed. Amazon, big Tesco, online clothes shopping is be. er.	
	Very busy with lots of traffic. Constant hold ups, very bad roads.
	A nice market town that's not too big or too small.
Traffic queues, inconsiderate parking. Great place for restaurants and choices of cuisine!!	
A lovely centre in need of some renovaons. I.e around the market square and the bridge road. St Neots has some great restaurants but lacks the shops and cultural events to put it on the map for people outside of the town.	
	Prey! Too much through traffic and a lil e soul less in the evenings
In need of regeneraon making more ar acv e for residents and visitors, resolve the Falcon Hotel issue, step up 'background' police presence giving a sense of security	
	A run down but potenally excellant place.
	shabby, too many empty premises
	too many coffee shops and charity shops
	linear / too much traffic / parking a bit awkward
Good for essenals. Full of life when Market is on. Great selecon of dog friendly cafes.	
	A vicm of Hunng don Pathfinder House.
	Pleasant but not very excing
I would describe it as small and quiet. Mainly a place for the older generaon.	
Two Department stores when I arrived 7 years ago. Now even the charity shops are closing down. Smacks of a downward spiral even while the town connues to grow. Strangely high number of barbers.	
	Good size, impressively independent, disnct personality, huge potenal, at risk
	A bit run down and down market
Needs improving. Take cars of the market square and turn it into a pedestrian area only-conne ntal style. Plant more tree & sing out area's	
Shabby, but the main problem isn't addressed by these plans, and in fact will be worse is the single river crossing for all traffic other than the bypass or Lil e Paxton	
	Boring, drab and in need of vast investment.
	Useful
Lost significant stores (e.g. Beales) so have to go outside the town for white goods, clothing, &c, so it's shopping ar acons have diminished. It doesn't have any ar acon that pulls you to the town centre, so it's just food shopping and leisure eang and	

drinking.

Looking a little tired with too many charity shops and not enough speciality retailers. Business rated far too expensive. Car parking in its present form is inflexible and expensive for the fixed terms and not enough short term/pop in the post office parking.

Nice apart from the traffic, few too many closed shops post covid

Very devoid of variety of shops, too many boarded up shops, too many card shops, barbers. The high street is only brightened up by the lovely hanging baskets and floral beds.

Run down, tired, full of hairdressing and charity shops, nice market square dominated by estate agent shops, very few nice cafes, restaurants. Local market has a cheap goods theme. St Neots is the largest town in Cambridgeshire and has been for a while but sees little to no investment, Huntingdon on the other hand seems to get lots of new development!

Rather tired/shabby looking. Too many of the same kind of retail outlets and food outlets. Its lost its sparkle and seems a bit sad and depressed.

Lots of unrealised potential suitable for my needs although the Falcon pub needs fixing.

Tired and a bit boring

Poor

In need of investment. Roads and pathways need updating urgently. Currently looks tired.

In need of revitalisation

Run down, boring, insufficient, disappointing

Dated and in need of TLC

Under used.

Very few empty shops which aren't under offer. Reasonably clean. Beautiful floral displays.

Run down, nothing but hairdressers, charity shops, cafes and banks.

A average town centre.

It has lots of potential. Good to see the emerging farmers and craft market but a shame that the square has rundown buildings. Too many closed shops. Would be good to make better use of riverside.

Gives the impression of historically being a lovely functional market and historic town but now suffering and a little run down. Lots of potential, parts are very pretty!

Lacks variety poor pedestrian access in particular related to slow traffic light timings, polluted (fumes) and lack of pathway space.

Outdated and dying

Tired, lacking good quality restaurants and shops

Tired. Too many shops.

"Past its best". Congested with heavy traffic. The market square is under-used and looks scruffy.

Tired

Very nice in the daytime, anti social late at night

Small, difficult to cross the road, most of it is car parking

Its a lovely town centre, but now looking awful with lots of empty units and the Old Falcon is a disgrace.

Quiet

It feels fairly spread out, especially with all the empty shops we have currently. The market square should be more of a focus but the recent repainting of the parking spaces has made it less attractive. St Neots has lots of great qualities, the floral displays are lovely and the parks and green spaces are impressive but it doesn't feel as well loved as it should be.

Quite lively but not much of interest

Basic

A sweet little market town with the potential to become a high-end centre full of unique independents
In need of a bit of TLC, as since its revamp in the 90s many of the block paving has been filled in with tarmac, and currently there's a higher number of empty units in part due to covid.

Small with a lack of varied shops, but with a good selection of restaurants.

Rubbish. Too many cafes and take aways. Dreadful illegal parking everywhere. Too many table and chairs blocking pavements and advertising boards blocking pavements. No shops.

Declining

Improving

It has huge potential but it is In need of some imaginative investment. It has too many closed businesses/derelict shops
A waste - locked into the idea of retail and fighting a baleq against online shopping which has already been lost instead of encouraging creative services which can't be offered online.

A nice but overloaded and noisy space

Boring but convenient with hidden gems and under exploited / largely unavailable water front apart from the park, which is nice.
a bit run down but with potential, mostly due to the falcon but even more the blatant cars parking on the pavements around the market square

Beautifully presented with a country feel.
good for a meal, charity shop, bank or estate agent

Dated

Nice market town with great potential to be exceptional.

Commercialised

Lacks premium clothes shops department store for variety of choice

Empty. In need of more shops and food/drink outlets and nightlife. Empty shops need to be filled.

Great potential but room for improvement.

Friendly, busy, welcoming.

OK but could be a lot be. er

Could be really lovely but too many shops have closed and too many coffee shops opened .

Ok for basics ie bank, hair appointments, library but not much else. It's improved immensely for eang out/takeaways/cinema

Uninspiring due to the many closed shops.

Drab.

Pleasant place to be, but with obviously underused assets, such as the area of, and immediately around, the market square.

A one horse one road town in one end and quickly out that other end.

Dying.

Bland, seems to have too many card shops, charity shops and barbers

Lovely

Dull and boring.

Starting to look run down, the old pub on the Market Square needs renovating and the empty shops need filling

Tired looking, with too many empty premises of all types, a lack of focus and sense of community, too much traffic, lacking a bit of
love

Dull boring dirty empty shops cars going through the centre to many shops empty too long

Tired, I'm need of a revamp

In decline

Boring and old fashioned.

Embarrassing

Reasonable but lacking variety

A place to eat out and shop in charity shops

Very pretty, pleasant, friendly. But a bit forlorn and quiet now.

Has potentially that is currently not being met. Great space in and around market square. Wasted space in the old disused hotel.

Should be rejuvenated as a hub for food and shops

Market square with a lot of potential

Attractive, lots of restaurants

Pleasant, though slightly tired. It has the potential to be really nice.

The high street suffers due to vehicular through traffic which brings no value to the town Planners must bite the bullet and decide to
make the high street even less traffic 'friendly'.

A bit scruffy in places. Businesses a little repetitive. Too many cars parked on the pavements which are already in a poor state. Some
really nice Businesses though. Beautiful flowers.

Run down - needs investment to keep people in the town. Improvements to pedestrianise the market square is a good idea to make
it more of a focal point.

Slowly improving - its good to see the increasing number of independent businesses.

I don't class it as a town as you can't actually shop there its just cafes and estate agents!

Limited in offerings. Busy traffic - feels congested and not easy to navigate. Mostly the high street is tired and needs improvement.

Busy town with a good range of shops and restaurants

Average English market town. Good for hospitality and hopelessly poor for retail

It has died. Barre. 's closed, Dorothy Perkins closed, New Look closed , Edinburgh Woolen mill closed , Beals closed , pound stretcher closing. We shop in M&S,Waitrose and get a coffee in Costa.

Sad

Quiet, friendly, needs awakening

Tradional market town lacking appropriate shops and facilities for residents and visitors

The river and quality shops is the key ar acon and too inaccessible for people due to dominancy of traffic; the Priory Centre area looks as though its been underfunded for years with letters on the building falling off; prime river terrace has the air of neglected coastal town; oast building unused. In summary, that locals don't care about the town and it'll become ghettos of housing estates like Love's Farm, i.e., a ghost town.

A beauful place, much admired by our visitors, but o en ruined by vandals, motorcyclists and a lack of co-ordinaon from all businesses who use the town. In their attempt to look different the overall effect can be a hotch potch.

Dirty, run down with only charity shops, barbers and fast food outlets.

Much better than it used to be. Shame so many shops are empty now, all due to the Pandemic.

Energec and vibrant

A nice Riverside market town

classic architecture, uninteresng shops, good cafes/restaurant, not enough independant shops , too many estate agents, charity shops

A lil e r ed. In need of some new shops. 2 or 3 great places (e.g. Bohemia) but not enough variety or compeon.

Prey

Beaufu l but boring and over congested

It needs some love! We have some amazing buildings which could be lovely. There are many community groups which seem to lack cohesion in what they are trying to achieve - could there be a community hub maybe? We moved here to bring up our family and it has been a great place to be.

Tired Market square can be ulised a lot more. We should had a life size statue on the Eynesbury Giant on the square

Drab could be better. make more of the river and improve the market square.

Worn out

Too many empty shops, a busy road and too many cars

Sad and grubby unfortunately, it looks as though there has been a half hearted attempt to sort it, but someone has lost interest.

The right size for the right sized town, albeit gradually growing. There are a couple of local coffee shops that have either good coffee or an inving atmosphere (or both) and that is the main reason I find myself in the town centre.

Full of cafes and hairdressers

So much potenal, beaufully located but sliding in to a sad state. Not sure your proposals are tackling all the reasons it is going down; I genuinely believe if you had a really vibrant shopping experience then foo all would increase dramac ally.

Lovely old town but not fulfilling it's full potenal.

Currently it's r ed with not a great deal to ar act but definitely moving in the right direcon

Only good for food shops and pubs.

Beginning to look rather run down with a number of vacant units. The parking charges in Riverside are ridiculous. If you're taking children to the play park or using Riverside to park while you visit the dentist or a quick pop to the shops you still have to pay for more parking than you need.

Bit of a mixed picture. I like that there's both Waitrose and a Lidl close by, the river area is beautiful and there's some lovely quaint buildings and homes. Crosskeys shops is a cute part of town (could be spruced up a little perhaps) and the market square is nice (and could be even nicer). Other parts of the high street feel a bit outdated. It's really sad to see some closed retail outlets. I would have thought that with the developments on Loves Farm and Wintringham there is prime opportunity to open new outlets or venues in the town centre, which would add employment opportunities - provided that there are strong bus links into town. Overall it's attractive and pleasant but has that tell-tale sign of a less than prosperous high street, i.e. an abundance of charity shops per square foot.

Bustling and well supplied with a good selection of shops and restaurants/cafes.

A jumbled mess created by unthinking local government decisions over many years. Parking needs to be resolved and stopped in the Town Square and cyclists, electric powered scooters plus now electric powered skateboards need to be kept off all pavements not just the Town Centre

Tired

Quite pretty with lots of potential. A shame it can't take better advantage of its river frontage which is pretty much hidden. It has a very provincial feel about it. After 17.00 it is completely dead so the opening hours of restaurant, etc are very short. It really misses having a flagship restaurant like The Old Bridge in Huntingdon. There are no meaningful employers in the town which means that there is very low expenditure during the day mid-week. It would hugely benefit from having a flagship, high salary employer such as a next generation bank, etc. Just one of the technology firms based around Long Road in Cambridge would transform St. Neots.

A regular town high street with good supermarket and banking provision but lower than normal in terms of a variety of good quality restaurants and other quality retail e.g. clothing.

Full of hairdressers, charity shops and estate agents. It's a shame the town has lost its family and historical vibe. With bars gone.

An average marketplace, uninspiring shops, pretty good restaurants - good bones but needs some upgrading

Awful

Unimaginative

An average (despite some awful post war buildings being allowed i.e. Natwest; HSBC; Molby's / BHF; and the monstrosity which replaced the Corn Exchange (with its elegant spire). Sadly, like many towns, the variety of shops is declining.

Deteriorating because of the many shop closures.

A clean environment in which to shop and good choice of places to eat.

Good selection of independent shops. The market square is beginning to take shape as a community space

Boring

Run down. Ugly buildings.

A four shop town. Charity, barbers, banks and options.

Very spaced out. Needs a central hub.

Like most traditional high streets it's suffering and needs to quickly adapt to be less of a retail environment.

Parts are lovely but it's very crowded at the weekend, traffic can be heavy a be. er variety of retail shops would help

Tired and dowdy. The Falcon is a blot on the market sq

Pleasant but nothing special

Looking run down, lots of empty shops, good restaurants

Fine though a shame to see some shops no longer there

Cute & useful, I can get almost anything I need from there and the variety of places to eat is lovely.

Traffic fumes and noise. Nowhere nice to sit. Clu ered and uneven pavements lack of accessibility for all no decent shops.

Good cafe and restaurants, poor choice of shops.

It's beauful but I think a variety of shops again, as there used to be, town was always busy, may help even if they were bouque/ smaller type shops

Community minded, clean, takes pride in itself

Prey depressing. High Street is constantly clogged with traffic, the boarded -up Old Falcon is an eyesore. Market Square better now there's limited parking on it. The area to the east of the New Street/High Street juncon needs wider paving and a complete ban on parking. Whole area is unar acv e after dark, parcularly on weekends when there's o en ansocial behaviour.

A place to meet people

r ed and nothing excing or different

Beaufu l market town centre with great potenal, but lacking in acvie s such as mini golf, things to do and quality shops.

Pleasant but lacks any kind of decent outlet's

Large ugly building in a lovely market square. Too many closed shops. Has potenal.

A dead shell of a town

Friendly, but not much worth going in for.

Quite sas fied

Run down, only visit if you know what you want is there you cant just go for a wonder around the shops as there is nothing really to look at worked in retail for over 15 years in town going back about 8 years people would visit the town just to go round the shops and have lunch now there is no appeal

Too many barber's too close together down the high street too many charity shops l the pavements and benches are covered with li er where people are too lazy top put their rubbish in a bin

Not much of character. Could be very dirty. Drunk disorder in the evening. Inadequate street light. Graffi. Traffic. However, I believe St Neots has great potenals.

Its prey much go very lil e to offer. Ok if you want a coffee or meal but nothing else. The parking issue is another thing that puts me off. Saffron Walden has similar charges, but at least there is enough there to occupy you for at least the morning if not the whole day.

Has some. Lovely historical buildings but Old Falcon spoils the Market Square and the increasing number of empty shops is beginning to add to this.

Nice but a lil er ed.

Friendly

Lacking personality

Bustling but lacking amenities

Charming, pretty, makes you feel like you belong in a community, it's a friendly place.

Traditional market town with some beautiful cafes and breakfast spots. A great farmers market.

After a visit to Royston some mea ago I would say - thriving, bustling, friendly which is one thing many people love about the town,
also the closeness to open space the river & park is lovely

A ghost town a struggle to walk round shopping as most of the stores have closed. Eg Westgate Dorothy Perkins Barrats.

Under utilised. Some very good places to shop and eat and some very poor. Range of shops is weak and, in the main, generic. Some
good places for food and coffee, but not enough. Offer is not focussed with leisure and food in different parts. Plenty of parking but
access into and through the town over Town Bridge and Cambridge Street can be very slow

Generally OK, neither great nor awful. It's a pity that passing traffic has to drive through the High Street. It doesn't make the most of
its historic streetscape.

Thought some care had been taken until, for some reason the Town Council has allowed a gaudy yellow shop front to spoil the
Street Scene....this will definitely put visitors off

Good variety of shops, restaurants, cafes and pubs in a generally well kept state.

Pleasant but not vibrant

Beautiful town & surroundings

In drastic need of more shops and lots of shop fronts are tatty

It's a lost opportunity , use to be a great town , the restaurants are much be. er but not the shops
a shadow of its former self

Rather run down, with some empty shops and too many Charity shops

Full of pubs and cafes and eang /drinking opons, opcians, estate agents, work agency's and too many charity shops and
hairdressers and barbers

Charity shops and hair dressers sums up St Neots ! Beales needs a transformaon as it is looking incredibly old, drop the rates and
might get some investment

Dull and starng to look tay and dirty Full of charity shops, barbers and estate agents.

Typical market town.

Not as good as Stamford or parts of Hunng don, better than Biggleswade

Ar acv e to look at in general but a too limited choice of shops in what used to be a very useful town for geng nearly allthat I
needed to buy.

Run down lacking decent shops and not that nice a place to be on your own in the later evening

No shops, but has plenty of places to eat, and the market square is geng better

Unused / lots of potenal / dull / boring

Dominated by motor traffic

Dull

Extremely worried to see shops closing in the High Street
St Neots town centre going the way of other town centres in the north
A nice small town
Run down with very little appeal to visitors
Run down with little variety
Boring
Nice town centre but it has lot of traffic
no shops apart from charity shops and barbers
Full of charity shops and hairdressers. Tatty. Needing a face lift and under resourced.
I love the green space by the river and the market square but some of the empty shops make the place look less attractive
Has potential to rival, and potentially best, Hitchin for town centre vibe if traffic can be remedied through the square.
Looks tired and scruffy
Not the cleanest but still kind of pretty. A bit boring.
Needs sorting out, crap roads and paths + get rid of charieas and get proper shops back.
Crap
Limited
Adequate
Shabby. Tired and dated.
It is very poorly maintained by the Town Council. My husband has suffered serious injuries on two occasions when he tripped over on the uneven pavements. He was admitted to Hinchingbrooke Hospital on both occasions. He is recovering now although he will always have walking difficulties. Users of pushbikes should not be arrested for riding on pavements but the Police are nowhere to be seen. My sister has a mobility scooter which is often ridden into by youths riding on their back wheels and riding without consideration for others.
A growing town that's finding its identity.
Drab and rather uninspiring. Not much le. in the way of historical old buildings - or not much has been made of historical buildings (eg Paynes Mill, The former Brewery, The Falcon Inn). The plan to regenerate the Town centre to attract visitors is to be applauded - and we look forward to seeing the results and benefits that it should bring
Dull - lacking in anything of interest - not well maintained

Community Survey

How would you describe St Neots Town Centre?

It is okay be lacks good shops, there are some great places to eat which probably are the main reasons for visiting.

It lacks the variety of shops that we need and which we used to have.

Not exciting.

Busy market town - beautiful river

Boring compared to Huntingdon

A place that is convenient for last minute things from shops, last minute evening plans, good markets (feels like a community on these days).

As stated earlier - pot holes, footpaths, add drains to these, are all awful for senior and impaired residents.

Dying... too much food... not pedestrian friendly.

Too many: charity shopsp, tatoo parlours, hairdressers

A nice market square with a good range of places to meet for coffee or meals

Poor roads and pavements.

Depressing - too many coffee shops, turkish barbers and coffee shops.

Looks OK - lacking activity.

Dead for shopping

Inaccessible to older people without a blue badge

I love my town but it doesn't have enough variety of shops, but this is probably due to high rents. I like it overall and *****, Free 1st hour parking would be helpful.

ANNEX 3: REASONS FOR LEVELS OF SATISFACTION/DISSATISFACTION WITH THE TOWN CENTRE (COMMUNITY SURVEY Q12)

Why did you give the answer you gave to the previous ques...

some more interesting independent shops would be lovely. and great restaurants.

Too much traffic around the market square

Could be much more attractive and distinctive. It has no character.

Not enough investment in the past . Too many empty premises and the inability of local authorities to move projects forward in the interest of the local public.

it could be much, much worse

Because there are a lot of things that can be done to encourage back business to the shops, but I am guessing that high business rates is the number 1 killer.

Lack of variety of shops and restaurants

Because although the town centre itself looks reasonably good, the retail offering is quite disappointing.

St Neots Town Centre used to be a pleasant place to walk around but has now become the 'poor relation' in recent years. Councils appear to be disinterested and residents do not feel that any of their concerns about neglected gardens, litter, illegal pavement parking, cyclists and e-scooters on pavements are heeded. There are also drug addicts living in the town centre with the associated problems they bring. I am sure the relevant authorities are familiar with all these situations but there is a sense of nothing being done.

i really like that there are shops like Argos and Waterstones as well as a variety of cafes, pubs & restaurants. i didn't put very as there are a few large uninhabited shopping buildings that could be utilised for more variety.

The big public space (the square) is a car park; all roads permanently busy; lack of shops with many going under during the pandemic; the Falcon is a disgrace and has been for a long mea; not much going on. Hourly town bus service is poor.

The road has potholes everywhere, parking is restricted and expensive, shops are not great.

It's like any other country town centre

Illegal parking, lack of maintenance of roads and footpaths and cleanliness

There are few shops to look around. The only reason we go into town is for a coffee and to eat.

The town centre in itself is beautiful however why don't we have the selection of shops that, for example, Hitchin has. There is also something frequently going on in their market square other than a market which I think would help St Neots a lot. At the moment the town is easy to walk / cycle around so I don't believe investment is needed in these areas and the town looks / feels like a nice place to be.

A lot of improvements have taken place, especially in the area of the Market Square, but it is still given over to motor vehicles. It would be nice to remove parking from the Square and have it fully pedestrianised and landscaped.

Having been born here it was much be. er years ago. HDC have alot to answer for.

Town centre is nice but short term parking is high.

There is nothing for the younger generaon shops are all either bsrbers or charity needs more variety.

We waste money nonsense ideas and most of those proposed are another waste of money

The Old Falcon is a sad building rong away for over a decade. It should never have been allowed to get that way.

Always room for improvement

Sadly!! I was born here when it was a lively market town, with loads of independent shops and you could buy almost anything you needed here. Now you can't buy a pair of men's trousers in town!! Obviously we do very well with cafe's, hairdressers, estate agents and charity shops.

The planters/pots around the town are always well Neots. As are both Priory and Riverside Park. Litter is regularly collected by council staff and all council staff who I have come across have been kind/helpful.

It can improve and looking forward to new plans

We are lucky to live in an historic town in a Riverside Location. Very few towns can match this. Some focus and investment in the right areas will make a massive difference. We want people to visit for the day, use the park and river, eat in the restaurants and buy goods they can't get anywhere else. Rather than stop for an hour, buy some essentials and leave.

Read the above comments. The range of shops is poor. Hair and barbers predominant. Big names will not come because of low square footage. High rents discourage artisan traders. Vacant shops can now be turned into residential properties.

It could be cleaner and more should be done to control illegal parking

For a small Town there is quite a lot of Crime. If this was eradicated it would tick all my boxes. There seems to be a lot of either drug / drink youngish men who can be intimidating when walking through the Town.

It is a nice town centre

Restaurants are great as is the marketplace

Most of the surrounding towns have better centres. Huntingdon would be a fair comparison in terms of size and has more to offer.

No decent shops to many coffee shops and restaurants.

Could do more

I love living here and all town centres are suffering not just St Neots, we have to change the way we live and shop

Parking and it's dead

It could be more pedestrian friendly. Pavements are atrocious as are the state of the roads. Lots of litter strewn around. Too much through traffic

Shops poor. Traffic is busy and smelly with fumes

Would like to see more shops, no more restaurants

Places like the Old Falcon need to be finally renovated and more shops opened especially independent ones

It's shopping is so poor

There is nothing to actually draw you into the town centre unless there is a special function on no ambience, the selection of shops is poor, the center is unattractive, the markets are open at times when working people are unable to visit them. Events are poorly advertised, and underwhelming the few times I attended any. I compare St Neots to similar sized towns in France and Germany, and their events are fantastic by comparison.

An attractive town in an attractive location close to river but few reasons to visit.

I grew up here but does see it as a major attraction to move other than good links via train

There isn't much to do, it's mainly cafes, pubs, charity shops.

There seems to be a reluctance to put St Neots first over dictates from HDC. There is not enough done for teenagers in the town.

It needs more public toilets and cheaper parking

I generally feel positively about the town centre but it has so much potential to improve.

Definitely needs more choice of shops and affordable leisure facilities in the town centre

St Neots is almost good. It has lovely walks and open spaces but the town centre is a bit of a nothing It feels so wrong to have the natural centre of the town (the market square) as a car park The river and market square should make St Neots a major attraction for visitors

There are lots of ways it could improve and only a few things that make me think of it drawing others in
There was no option to be very dissatisfied. It could be great. It has potential, but it's badly used. Market square is a waste. Priory centre is one of the worst examples of bad planning I've ever seen

As mentioned previously poor range of shops

Needs more retail shops

Lack of decent shops. Too many barbers and charity shops.

It's getting there. Once further improvements are made it will hopefully be a very attractive and welcoming place for all

Could do with more variety of shops but it is ok other than that.

The town centre has nothing for me to visit more often than I currently do

Because it is just a bit average.

Has most of the things I need, but could do with improvement such as renovating the Priory Centre and opening up that whole part of town

St Neots is neglected by the council, it is very targeted to the older generation. Lack of facilities and shops that would interest the younger generation.

I think St Neots could be so much better. If it had more places for all age groups, if it was cleaned up and repairs made to shopfronts. Perhaps upkeep should be part of a leading agreement. Try and find a buyer such as Bohemia who has the vision to make something good out of the old hotel in market place. Better public transport to villages

It is a lovely place but just doesn't have the range of shops, leisure outlets & services that appeal to me

It has potential to be better.

Needs a better variety of shops and more parking controls

There is not enough shops and toilet facilities - are awful.

It needs dying up, better shops, the recent treatment of the Market Square was very badly thought through

It's an attractive and pleasant place but as with most places there is always room for improvements

Because I want to believe it could be amazing. You need to look at St Albans and Hitchin and other market towns which have drawn people from London because the coffee, food and atmosphere is rivaling cities like London now.

Because of the lack of variation in shops and the now very small Thursday market which used to cover the Market Square & attract a lot of visitors to the town... even coaches came just for the. Because of the lack of shops & the small Thursday market which used to cover the Market Square & attract people from outside the town.

It's ok but could be better, wasted space on market Square for example and the old big Falcon pub needs something doing to it.

I love the river but needs more

There is lots to like and be proud of in St Neots but the market square is wasted and many shops empty
As above - parking too expensive, shops (other than Waitrose) could improve, better cafes and restaurants, more facilities for kids needed.

Having lived here all of my life I just feel quite sad that there are now many empty shops, buildings that are in need of development/painting etc. There are certain businesses that are doing well but on balance there is more of a negative feel with regards to facilities/businesses and how these are cared for, or not.

Lack of shop variety More choice of restaurants Parking is ok
It has enough shops in walking distance for most daily things, but isn't a particularly enjoyable space to just 'be' without a purpose

The only main shops are card shops or charity shops. Shops are closing down mainly, I am told, because their rent is being put up to unaffordable levels
Lack of decent shops

Because many under 65 residents work and can't get to the market during the week so we all go to Tesco at weekend and once that done we can't be bothered to go into town afterwards .. listen move market to Saturday it will boost the town immensely

It needs more variety on the High Street.

There was a time when I would rarely visit St Neots but in the past few years the range of businesses has improved, including a wider range of cafes.

It's where I live, parking is tricky as you need to pay too much for short trips in. Traffic is poorly managed and pavements and roads are in poor condition. Shopping is dismal and restaurants are great if you want cheap poor quality food, a curry or a kebab - it's boring

Because I'm happy here, and I feel the town has moved in the right direction since I've been here (since 2016)
It is a lovely town, but has a great deal of untapped potential
We need more shops and more variety

It would be quite satisfied if I had visibility on where it is going, where it sits now is poor but if I could see what the future looks like then I would be able to form an opinion as to if I was satisfied we have what we need to enable that future.

Because everywhere is shut down. We lost our only centralised car park in the market Square. Traffic is now becoming a problem.

It is a great town centre but just needs a few tweaks
I would be very dissatisfied if it was an open

Lack of decent shops probably due to high rentals. The market square should be an attraction but is underutilised as a car park. We used to have a thriving market but traders seem to be driving away.
It is ok but needs improving

Putting all disabled parking on the market sq. why?? You just can't nip into town unless you pay nearly £2 for parking. Riverside car park. Why so expensive? They should be welcoming people not putting people off because of car park charges because it does or they choose to park in residential areas

Always room for improvement. At times it looks like it needs some TLC especially around the market square. Quite often has litter and is gradually being ruined by cars parking all around on the pavement and in South St

For the same reasons in my previous answer

It's decent enough if you need to get some food shopping or medication from the pharmacy and there's also parks there but at the same meq there could be be. er shops and the parks are not as maintained as others. The children's climbing frames look worn and dirty in the parks. There are no adequate baby change facilities in town and I have 2 young children so there is never anywhere clean to take them to change their nappies. The town is what it is I appreciate what it has but it's not the best.

It doesn't have the full range of shops required their I have to go elsewhere

It's not a nice experience to walk through or to visit.

Well I live in St neots I wouldn't travel far regularly to do a bit of town shopping but it's full of barbers and charity shops but has a fantasc range of restaurants

Vacant buildings and no reason to visit

The feeling of neglect around parts of the town.

As per my previous answer

Nothing here for me except the cinema

Could be so much better - needs investment - better balance of retail outlets - improve traffic flow - too may empty shops - more desna ons

Because it's a lovely town but nothing there to bring the locals to it, if I go it's purely to use the riverside park or have a meal but nothing else there to do or to see, it's a boring town

I only read bits about the SNTC in local press but as I live just outside the town I can't really comment on their effecv eness. Although they do seem to have been pung obstacles in the way regarding the long standing Old Falcon development for years!

Town Centre is good for necessary purchases, not including clothing. Plenty of pharmacies, opciains etc. Really needs an influx of bee shops and perhaps a dept store.

Same queson as before??? Not enough variety of shops. Rates have gone up so independant shops have closed and rather than reduce the rent the landlords let the units stand empty, most of the town is an eyesore and doesn't look ar acv e to others. At the moment it's ok for shopping if your over 70 and that's about it.

Lots of empty shops. Need more choice not barbers, charity shops or coffee shops.

Great for food/drinks, not great for shopping

See my previous answers too many shops closed and we need more variety St .Neots could be a wonderful town centre I would love it to have more shops and a prey market square but I'm realisc and there are other towns that are far worse! The shops in Hunng don are so much better but I don't feel safe there especially at night.

I have lived here for my 33 years and have truthfully seen it decline through most of those years. There is no where to shop properly and lots of empty buildings

The Town Council appears to have tried very hard over the past 2 or 3 years to make significant improvements, in spite of the ongoing pandemic. It is more locally focused than Hunng donshire District Council, who hold most of the purse strings, and have already developed Hunng don, while St Neots residents appeared to contribute vast amounts in Council Tax revenue from much addional housing.

There should be more free short term parking for people to use when they need to make a quick visit, forcing people to pay when they only want one thing just makes them go elsewhere - eg the butchers, people will go to a supermarket instead for convenience.

Expensive and difficult car parking. Too few shops

My experience would be much enhanced if the parking were free at least for "pop in" visits. The payment machines are very difficult to use. For this reason I often choose to shop out of town. Lots of empty units. However town has a good vibe and potential to be so much more.

I think the town centre needs independent shops and restaurants, cafes. The farmers market should be bigger and available to more vendors. I'd like to see a good use of the oast house and falcon and more use with be. er facilities in priory park.

I like St Neots as a town. Not being born here, it's my adopted town, and I do like it!

Because some idiot shut the market square car park because they wanted to for no good reason

I visit the cafes, shops and cinema o en.

When coming to the High St it is normally to visit one maybe two shops only. . Would be nice to be able to make a "trip" out of it Because there aren't enough quality shops. Parcularly clothes shops. Other than to go for lunch or coffee there is now nothing that draws me to the town. I would much rather go to Rushden Lakes or Biggleswade retail park.

I only tend to visit if I want a coffee, or a meal out or some basic shopping so it meets my needs

It is a dreary place with cheap rubbishy shops.

Not a lot of shops especially children's shops very run down

Because it has far less to do or shop so I go else where

No choice of shops! Parking charges way too high, holiday to Wales found all car parks free or minimal charge

It has some of the shops available that I want, but could have more.

Because I am neither dis nor sas fied but find the town centre especially around a wonderful Market Square very er ed looking. I am looking forward to a real improvement.

The High St is evolving throughout the UK due to the rise of online. Now we are emerging out of the pandemic, it would be good to have a place that is buzzing in the evenings, that has a place for anyone of any age to go to and feel safe, and enjoy a good meal and a drink. We have some good places, but I think we could have more - use the market square as a piazza - with outdoor seang for restaurants, using large parasols to keep off the rain, and heaters in the winter. Most other European countries use their outdoor space throughout the year.

We're in a no mans land currently with the market square, with the priory centre and with the old falcon. Just do something! As an aside no resident gives a fuck about what the old falcon turns into, they just want the eye saw fixed. Don't use our public money fir that, just let the owner do whatever they want to do with it.

Because I have lived in St Neots for 30 yrs and with the encroachment of more house and the loss of our shops, it is very much deprived.

It's ok I go for specific businesses I think st Ives is nicer with better markets especially with fabric stalls at bank holiday for cras and dressmaking

More shops needed so there are things to go into st neots for. We are mostly vising retail parks now as we get free parking and everything we need in one locaon. St neots has very high parking charges and nothing special to visit for therefore doesnt ar act us to visit

Looks depressing due to shop closures, and some unfulfilled potenal of parts of the Riverside.

It has many opportunie s to improve and prefer it when people get on with it and not just keep talking about changes

Its safe

St Neots is always forgotten about. Huntingdon. St Ives. And other towns are always put first. Ergo it's calling apart.
I worry with all the increased traffic from new developments and the increasing number of vacant shops that the town will not
be so desirable as I feel it is now.

It gives an adequate basic offering but doesn't live up to its potential. Lacks the atmosphere and variety of other market towns.
It is a difficult area, with large shops closing etc but something must be done to encourage smaller enterprises to take up property
on the high street.

Apart from lack of clothes shops it's not too bad to go to. If you like eating out then it seems this is the way our town is going,
somewhere to eat not shop

Not enough shops or things to do

I come because it's local and easy to get to but usually for a coffee. I tend to do most of my shopping online or elsewhere.
It is a good place to go for practical day to days jobs like buying cards, eye care etc, but it isn't a place I spend long periods of time
unless it is for a coffee, meal or the Riverside park.

Because there isn't a very dissatisfied option!!

There's some positive points but also some negative points.

It is very forgotten about by the council

Satisfied as it has a good range of cafes, particularly independent ones but very lacking in clothes shops, overwhelmed by barbers,
estate agents and charity shops

While the town center is ok there can always be an improvement in variety of shops and looks

As mentioned; it's an ok place to visit briefly, but not to dwell in for longer than you need to.

I like the new outdoor seating for cafes, but the loss of some shops has negated this. There's not really anything else to do in town.

There is too much traffic. It is not a shopping destination and probably ever will be. Neither is it a leisure destination, but it could be.

It is convenient for me. If it were not, I would prefer to go to Cambridge for all my shopping and leisure.

There could be a lot more quality independent shops cafes and restaurants

Whilst it needs work - it is not as bad as some I've been to. There can never be enough investment!

As stated above. Pedestrianize the high street. Restore the parking on the Market Square. There is no need to have that many
Disabled parking spaces. Sort out the terrible road around the back of the Market Square. Toilets closer to the High Street than
Tebbetts Road or Riverside carpark. Sort out the Falcon Hotel. Stop initiating stupid projects like having a hugely expensive cycle
bridge less than 100m from the town bridge. Pay attention to the architecture of the buildings. we have already lost too many
historically significant buildings and others have been covered up and hidden (the old Barras building).

As I have said, there isn't enough variety to draw people. We have no toy shops, mens clothes, somewhere to buy up-to-
date/current DVDs... etc. There's nothing to make St Neots town centre worth visiting really.

I like St Neots but it lacks shops and isn't visually the best

A few more shops, entertainment venues, less traffic, places to sit would really improve the town centre

There is a good range of shops for the size of town

Because the form has a misspelling otherwise I would have chosen very dissatisfied! See above answers, it's just not used to it's full potential, lack of variety of shops and restaurants. There is not one decent place to eat so I always go to Cambridge! apart from food shopping and collecting medication i don't visit the town centre for anything else, since the start of the covid pandemic i have bought most of the stuff online

I have lived in many places, this town does the best combination of convenience and rural I have seen

It has a lot of potential.

It's fine but lacking in shops and things to do

It does not make me want to stay

Cars parked where they like. Especially on pavements blocking them for pedestrians, wheelchair /mobility scooters, people with pushchairs

Car parks not close enough to shops as fewer spaces now in market square.

We have lost lots of shops , and people now travel to other towns to spend there money when they could be spending. Money in our town

Parking and variety of shops. As a driver the town can be busy to drive through but as a pedestrian all the lighrs to walk anywhere are a bit of a pain.

It has the amenities I would expect for a town of this size.

Lack of variety of shops - over the past few years we have lost New Look, Dorothy Perkins and Beales, with no replacements. The high street is largely filled with charity shops and barber shops, so if you want or need to do clothes shopping other than Fat Face, you have to go elsewhere.

I think more could be made of the square with perhaps children's activities, or art, and more benches for people to sit, perhaps with planting. It would be great if the now defunct Beales department store could be utilised in some way evenif it was an information/one-stop shop for the Council, or again arts groups, children's groups, meeting space.

The town needs some tlc. People love St Neots just not how it's been le. to degenerate. I don't want to sit on the market square and have a coffee as it is currently. I'd like to see a more European style of cafe/bar culture which encourages people to sit and relax. It just looks and feels wrong. Traffic reducon would also help. Encourage the cafes to really enhance the area for the customers and I'm sure people would use it more. When it's hot it unbearable to sit without shade. It wouldn't take much to make the square a place to meet friends and relax. Not so at the moment.

It's great but there is room for improvement in the form of the types of shops and doing something with the old falcon With all the expansion that has been happening to St Neots recently it feels like none of the development has been put back into the town centre. There feels like there is a huge lack of local infrastructure.

It is very dated. Not overrun by big chains but not very many nice independent shops either. I lived there 25 years ago. It's the same as it was when I le!

Lacking major retailers.

Because more needs to be done to encourage better independent shops to the area. We also have Beales at the end of the high street boarded up looking very unsightly, the Falcon pub stood empty for years also looking unsightly.

The town centre needs a bit of TLC, it could be a lovely prey town with lots to offer....just needs a bit of work/more shops etc.

Because you le. out "very" dissas fied
I'm not enced to go for a walk in to town to casually visit a coffee shop, for example, like I would on holiday.

Because so much more could be done to improve the centre.

It is what it is. To say 'dissas fied' would be unkind to many people who put great effort into making it a good environment, but it needs improvement.

Tired looking with not enough shops.

Transport generally could be better

See my descripon of the town centre.

Very unsas fied- full of hair salons, estate agents or charity shops. Lots of shops are closing and being left dearilict. Well known shops are leaving the town as rent is too high. Parking costs are far too high, no opon to "just pop in". Shops that are left are not open later into the evening so there is no reason to go into town. Even the banks now open part me hours which is no good when people work 40hour plus weeks and cannot get there during the reduced hours. Traffic flow is slow so generally avoid the area.

Not enough going on re entertainment in dayme, too many restaurants and not broad enough range of shops. Also random parking around the town square is a real eyesore as well as being dangerous and a nuisance to other vehicles.

It has mostly everything I need

To many food places and not enough shops.

Some areas of the town are dirty. Around USA chicken the other day was just disgusng. They should be made to clean that up. The cinema area is full of weeds and with the loss of frankys and bennys its looking bad. I try to use the town as much as possible but there is just not much there for me.

It is geng better with some small independent shops (the butchers being 1 x example), however lots of the new outlets seem to be barber shops, card shops and charity shops.

very few shops to browse in; too many coffee shops and barbers/hairdressers; pavements that are too cramped in normal me s and almost dangerous during the pandemic; eyesores like the Falcon that have been ignored since before I moved here 16 years ago; residenal developments off Market Square without car parking; too many prominent vacant shop premises. I would have said 'very dissas fied' had that been an opon.

Nothing there ! This was a thriving market town but in the last decade it has been destroyed.

Lack of variety of shops and riverside eang out places. Not dog friendly.

Too much traffic and very few shops I would visit

There is nothing to do on the high street unless I want to go to the same places to eat food over and over. The pubs are not trendy, but are old fashioned, not where I want to spend me . I wouldn't be proud to take my friends anywhere other than Bohemia or art and soul cafe. No acvie s to do, boring and old fashioned

The town centre is boring, most things are catered to families/childish events and the teenagers and 20-30's age range have been forgo en. Not everyone has children and therefore not everything should revolve around family events.

Not sufficient range of shops

It is a beauful pace, but would be more ar acv e if the Market Square was car free and there were more acvie s in there, rather than cars!

Because it could be so much better. More experience based shopping is the way forward. The tradional high street is dead

Because instead of having the option very dissatisfied the phrase very satisfied had been re-printed by mistake otherwise I would have chosen that. The centre is poor, the shops are poor the architecture of the town is poor, the market square is dull and uninspired and could be anywhere. Where is the inspiration to make it a unique place with history of the Priory and of St Neots the saint? The Eynesbury giant is not referenced. Where is the ambition to create a unique thriving market town that can look back in history and forwards to the future-creating a vibe, a hub for innovation and the arts? We never see any police in the area to create a feeling of safety and the police station isn't open to the public. Events that are put on tend to be under powered with limited ambion-theare are hundreds of new homes and new people crying out for a way to build a community and a. end events but it seemingly takes organisers by surprise. The area has few facilities or ar acons for any age group. The Priory centre is shamefully under used in a prime spot. It has a poor feel to it and is an uninving place to go to either for coffee or for events. It's very 'municipal' and unappealing which is a shame as it overlooks a great spot on the river. The river is rarely taken advantage of-look at the success of events when it is used.

Very poor disabled access

Has what I need to get by but nothing more

As said before, undy , not safe, not enough shops and stuff for young kids to do.

I go for essenal shopping and if what I want is unavailable I shop on line.

Pros: Ar acv e town centre with some good shops and some nice events on the town square eg weekend farmers market Cons:

O en too crowded and unpleasant to walk on the narrow pavements

Too many empty shops behind the mes.

Shops that do not interest me and minimal vegan restaurants / cafes / opsons

I think with a bit more investment and pedestrianisaon it could really nice.

It's OK, but it could be better

So much could be done to improve the town centre

Too many unused buildings too many barbershops and charity shops not enough shops aimed at the younger generaons

I like the town, it has huge potenal (it's why I bought a business here) but it's way behind towns like Hitchin in terms of a town centre offering. Car parking is o en stated as an issue but somewhere like Hitchin is a nightmare to park but that's because there is demand, and if there is demand, people will come (and find a place to park). Town square needs to be more of a draw - more events / regular markets / food offers / live music

The town has so much potenal but too lil e variety. Tons of charity shops, card shops, barbers. We need more places to eat/drink and spend me with friends and family. Also more food variety. A bakery, passe rie. More outdoor eang on the market square.

It has the potenal to be an amazing place but there is a real limit to what's available. I will o en go elsewhere because there is more choice. If, as I used to, I was driving in from surrounding villages the cost of parking would now put me off.

Needs more diversity and culture.

Lack of shops and market share could be much more ar acv e

Toilet faciles are limited for disabled people, events are limited (food or maybe a market), most shops close around 5-6pm which makes it difficult to visit after work.

I don't go there enough to be sas fied or dissas fied. I like the idea of pedestrianising the market square and the high street although I worry that it would cause the typical rush hour traffic to be even worse and more unsafe in other areas surrounding the

town.

I like the town, but wish it had a better range of shops, and ideally was more pedestrianized
Needs more, but it is already good in lots of ways.

It has no soul

Parts of the town are lovely, like the market square and the flower displays. They offset the traffic & fumes etc. The town has potential for more of the same, and the riverside seems , especially priory centre isn't fulfilling its potential. More live music would also be great.

Very frustrating trying to drive to, parking is expensive for short visits. I would only go for the butchers and the bank really. Would be nice to have more markets/music etc

I think the shops, bars and restaurants need to be more varied and by local traders. We have enough estate agents, charity shops and barbers.

As previously mentioned, the town looks red and scruffy. It needs to be cleaned and better maintained, more flowers etc. All shops should agree to maintain their buildings to a higher standard.

See earlier comments, buildings are run down, and we lack diversity in things to do and places to go.

Other than food shopping or pubs and restaurants, there is no reason now to spend long in St.Neots town centre.

Too much focus on coffee culture, not enough of serving the community needs

The market square could be so much more attractive. I would like the Old Falcon to become a little theatre.

It has really started to improve but a few empty shops and scruffy areas let it down

People don't respect it and it ends up insociable and dirty. It needs a police presence

Because it's not overly disappointing but it also doesn't wow.

I think St Neots is a fantastic town with great potential. The cycle lanes are shocking though and generally it could do with a bit of a tidy up

As answered in question 10

It's got shops but it's just all on a straight road not very exciting

Needs a good makeover, roads need resurfacing especially high street. Market square road paving needs replacing together with pavements along Brook St. Widen pavements with bike / scooter lane. Better lighting , preferably eco friendly, i.e. LED or Solar.

Develop the empty spaces above shops to affordable / social housing, this would keep people in centre. More car parking - not in Market Square. Standardise car parking charges with discounts or car park charge refund in shops. More electric car charging points.

The lack of shops, ie food, clothing etc. Also what the hell was that disabled bay spree in the market Square, I don't drive but it's an eyesore
no shops.

There is a will to improve but it never seems to materialise into anything
lived here my whole life, isn't anything special but it's far from the worst place ive visited

Things are always capable of improvement

It's a wonderful old interesting town centre, but like most places needs some maintenance, traffic reduction, extra shops, and more

needs to be made of its historical aspect

Very dissatisfied Let the falcon owner develop and don't waste this 12 million to but it off him to do what he wanted to do Car parking should be free Market Square car park should be used as a car park Council rates need to be lowered to prevent empty shops

Not enough retail shops for clothing. High parking charges. Lots of uneven roads and potholes.

I would like to see a place in the town that is a welcoming community hub

It needs more interesting shops.

could be so much more. needs more entertainment to draw people in, which will then lead to improvements in shops.

Actually I DO KNOW - BUT THERE IS A TYPO IN YOUR SUGGESTED ANSWERS, or a catch answer to get what you want us to say. My ACTUAL ANSWER IS - VERY DISSATISFIED !!!!!! My answer

The market square is not attractive. The remaining parking should be removed and replaced by planted areas and seating areas. The market sells tat and gives a very bad impression of the town. There are a few good eateries but not many.

Overall it's very good.

The town centre has become scruffy. There is no need for beggars to be sleeping on pavements.

Bad traffic is frustrating. There is no need for that many sets of traffic lights

Needs be. er shops, it's got a bit of everything just lacks quality bigger shops.

Parking fees are a major reason not to go.High st. traffic,another. The loss of shops,another. It is no longer an ar acion. Charity shops have been the only growth in recent years. They pay no rates.

It's ok , but shop online more convenient

As stated above there could be more investment in cultural spaces and events to draw people in from outside the town and to make it a real desna on. There is a thriving creav e community in St Neots with organisaons like the Neos ts - use them to make it a better place! The market square could do with a bit more colour, maybe flowers or public art / bunnng to brighten it up and make it more ar acv e - maybe take inspiraon from other towns, Ely for example looks bright and colourful and like a 'holiday town.'

Empty buildings like the Falcon do not look good.

In need of a revamp too many empty building and not enough variety of shops

Needs investment, if big shops wont come, and i believe the pandemic has altered peoples mindset on shopping, and may not return to town centre, then we need more diverse shops and they need realisc rent and rates I feel we dont capitalise on the river frontage, the Priory center is a big white elephant. Perhaps develop this whole area into cafes and bars, with apartments above to fund most of the cost of it. The Oast lounge just sits there idle The rowing club must stay of course but could the clubhouse be moved ?

There's not much left to go to for shopping. You must now leave town for anything or shop online.

I feel like the council aren't doing enough and it is a beauful town with so much potenal to grow. It has lost it's 'buzz'

It's enough for what I need but it could offer so much more.

Nothing the public say about how to spend the money will make any difference. Councillors will have already decided. Most will get spent on consultaons fees. It's not the town centre that is the problem. It's the lack of roads around st neots to deal with all the cars that come with new housing.

St Neots definitely needs more parking & a bigger array of shops. Also toilets are rare!

I think there is a typo in the choices so it is the only dissatisfied choice. The town centre is pretty dire, could be nice but square is empty & shops/buildings closed down. Some buildings empty for 20 years! SAD

There's just not much going on.

For the same reason as Q 10

There is too much of the same thing in the town and for visitors to the town most would look for parking in the centre of a town but this has been halved and the space not utilised enough to warrant closing off half the market square

No life just tables and chairs

Need more variety of shops, better access to shops for wheelchairs and changing places.

there's nothing too dooooo

It could be a lot better; cleaner, more accessible, better opportunities for informal meetings with friends, better community facilities.

It's gone to pot over the years and know we have way too many food outlets

Cinema is awesome. Restaurant choice is average to ok. Casual eating, eg cafes, is a bit lacking in terms of independents. The market square has a lot of potential. Parking is good although I do wish there was an hour at a cheaper price. Not a lot of leisure activities on offer.

Not enough shops

I think there is so much potential and it's sad that there have been places standing empty for so long. We also lost some good places because of pricing such as beautiful swaggers and beales. I don't like the shops like Iceland Poundland etc as they encourage throw away culture. I would not like more shops like this, there are more options close by in bigger towns, St Neots could be a lovely hub for local trade

It has a lot of potential to be better for shopping

Huge opportunities for residents and to attract outsiders if it was a friendlier and accessible place to visit.... The Delapidated old falcon on market square being a prime example The market square is an underused asset but could be a focal point if parking was eradicated and traffic calmed....

Lack of shopping experience, doesn't have the wow factor but as great potential

Because it doesn't stand out from any other town centres

We have good amenities like the library and cinema.

To many empty shops a lot of the shops are poorly maintained Hardly any parking on the market square which is causing parking issues on the pavements

Lack of things to do for young people

No choice if big retailers or independents shopping

There's just not enough variety of shops to be honest. Some nice clothing stores and sports wear stores would definitely attract my money.

The town centre acts as more of a hub than previous towns I've lived in. It has a reasonable amount of shops/facilities available.

Because so much could be done to rejuvenate and improve the town centre. Bring life back to the town,

It has an alright range of shops to meet my needs but there has been occasions when I have gone in to town specifically for certain things like hardware products or affordable young Mens clothing and been disappointed

As above, lovely place to eat out but no variation of shops

There isn't enough variety and it's dangerous at night. Fights are frequent and drug taking is rife (you can't walk through at neots without the smell of marijuana)

Not enough in the high street and the prices of the buses are ridiculous

It's friendly and clean.

I feel quite ambivalent towards the town centre

The shops and restaurants I go to are great but there needs to be more. It has so much more potential.

there are good and bad elements, pavements need improving, cycleways need improving/creating, too many traffic lights, parking too expensive, hard to pay. unenforced pavement parking. Parts are pretty, a few pleasant shops, good restaurants, market square could for socialising, lovely flowers

Overall it's a nice place but could definitely be improved

I can get most of the things I need in the Town Centre and it is generally easy to park

It's the town centre I visit most as it's where I live and I use it for occasional items of food shopping and other essential items. Me and my partner also go into St Neots for a meal or a coffee. However, it doesn't feel a very special place, and now so many shops are closed it feels a bit run down and depressing. It would be great to see the empty shops in use again and for the market square to have a good market on several days a week, including artisan food stalls. The Priory Centre really needs to be overhauled too.

It mostly has everything I need. Would like to have a Next outlet and Sainsburys at Wintringham, rather than another coop.

It's a non event

Feel that events organised are good but frequently not 'big' enough,e.g. Food festivalgreat idea but partly down to covid, not enough provision for the number of people who turned up.Advertising events also is very random a scarf banner, Feel Loves Farm more forward thinking than town council,Priory centre events.Need open air cinema in Priory Park or Riverside Park

It is lovely but needs be. er clothes shops!

Some lovely restaurants plus museum.

The variety of shops is limited so I shop online

Just not enough for families, a lot of barber shops and charity shops. Empty buildings . Main clothing shops are all gone
It is nice but there could be more to do and a wider variety of shops. Make the market square a pedestrian area. A touch up of paint is needed on a few buildings and there could be more benches and flowers.

Because apart from the Falcon I like it. I even like the idea of the market place being a car park unless something is happening such as a market, etc.. It's a typical English market town centre, don't tamper too much.

As there is no very dissas fied (very clever 2 very sas fied) and not enough variety to draw people including locals into the town centre

Similar reasons as before, it could just be so much nicer if some thought was put into it. If we didn't just fuel the town drunks and provided a better range of shops, died things up a bit. Made the place feel safer.. back when I lived on Great North Road I had two drunks on more doorstep, one basically trying to kill the other, and I wish I could say it was a single occurrence! I just don't go out anymore because the people are trash.

It's not dynamic

Unless I want a hair cut or a coffee from bohemia there's not a lot there. Tag clothing was the biggest loss to St Neots since blockbuster.

Traffic needs easing. Parking problems need to be sorted out to make paths attractive to pedestrians. Cycle lanes are needed

Need the good shops back, it is useful for certain things

Not enough variety of shops especially clothing for all ages/genders

I've lived here a long mea and can see huge improvements in the last few years. However, I think that there is a lot more that can be done. St Neots is an interesting place and a growing town, so the town centre should be. er reflect that.

It's a great lil e town centre, but could be so much more. Get rid of the boarded up shops and the remaining cars on the square, get some proper chairs and make it like a European alfresco square. Find some way of reducing the traffic in town (big conundrum) make much better use of the green spaces. Make sure the rowing club is a BIG part of the town going forward.

My basic needs are covered by a trip into St Neots but I would like to see it become more of a desna on to go to. I would like to feel proud to show friends around my town and be excited to take them to interesng venues.

Too much rubbish, not only in the town centre. Not bike-friendly, too many cars and car parking.

It has a lot of potenal to be an excellent town centre but is lacking quality at present

It's one of the nicest towns in the area, has plenty of pubs and restaurants, but could be so much better with more shops

Purely based on shopping but that is the public's fault for not using the shops when we have them.

Think there is more potenal for better shops, could be more eco friendly in areas, and look pree r but it isn't a bad town.

It isn't an ar acv e town centre but has a lot of potenal, especially around the market square and along the river.

Lack of cheap/free parking. Loss/variety of shops

I like to visit town but there's nothing there I think if market Square end was eateries and other end were shops I would visit more for shopping then lunch but wouldn't just go for lunch

Good fiod and drink places needs night life and proper music Not just chart hits in the priory

Same reasons as my descripon

It could be better with more shops to browse in, I spent more me in town and spent more money when I could browse round, stop for lunch then browse again after lunch. If you want to go out for food, drinks etc, it has a great variety to choose from now but most people probably don't have a meal out every day, so don't visit as o en as they would if we had more shops. The arcade was great with a variety of lil e outlets, maybe the westgate or Dorothy Perkins buildings could become something similar.

I have put forward easy ideas for example empty shop window displays and THE HOTEL!!

Poor parking Poor shopping Nothing to visit for Need to make better use of the river

Not enough variety of shops

As a ling term resident I appreciate the progress made with the town centre in more recent years. I'd live to see the potenal of the empty shops and buildings being fully realised to provide variety for our town especially for younger people.

When there are events on the market square, the town Centre is a great and thriving place to be. However generally day to day, it can seem quite bleak due to the empty run down units, especially the big falcon.

The town market could be used more

Parking charges put people off. We regularly visit Ely for markets etc because of free parking

I think it is a nice place, but it could be better. er.

The type of shops and leisure facilities do not attract me.

The market square especially the old Falcon needs a revamp and some of the premises need to have occupants preferably not charity shops

It's fine as it is really.

Because half the shops are either closed or of no interest.

It needs improving with more room for pedestrians

Lack of shops. Parking machines are awful. I now use the app but elderly residents likely will not. They struggle to press the buttons hard enough which causes queues and lack of social distancing

Ample parking (if a bit expensive) and sufficient food shops and places to eat and drink (day me)

X

there is nothing to do and not enough shops.

I feel that St. Neots has always been the side stepped market town of the county. More focus has been made on other market towns and enhancements of their facilities. I only feel things have started to show glimmers of improvements since Covid guidelines have been in place. Towns have had to meet with social distancing and the new outdoor living we have been encouraged to embrace.

The Falcon on the market has been empty for 10 plus years. The owner should be liable and able to refurbish it at HIS cost. If the council decides to buy it, this could take a huge amount of the money allocated to do so much more within the town.

The questions are wrong no option to say very dissatisfied so had to select quite satisfied

Recent investment has been poorly thought out and actually reduced the footfall and attractiveness of the town centre
Because there is potential for it to be better. We have the restaurants and space and beauty it's just that bit of retail that's missing.

Considering size of St Neots it is not generating the retail choice of other nearby market towns

See my response to Q10. It needs works and people need to be educated on where to park in one of the six car parks, and shop owners need to take responsibility for sweeping up and disposing of their rubbish.

Due to the single river crossing it would be wrong to prevent vehicles from entering the town centre, however, it is these vehicles that make the town centre unpleasant. It's just something we have to live with. I would rather the town centre thrive with shops rather than become a pedestrian ghost town.

Overall it mostly suits my personal needs, while I can see many ways in which it could be improved for others.

The variety of shops is a nice change from usual highstreets that have estate agents, pubs and not much more

I think there could be improvements such as free parking nearby. A dedicated direct cycle through town (via Riverside and High Street). Shops I would like to see are TKMaxx, H&M, Primark, Homesense and women's clothing. I realise this is driven by the retailers themselves but if the units were larger and the rates were lower perhaps these type of retailers would consider coming to St Neots.

needs fewer empty shops, needs market square pedestrianisation

Nice place but would like to have more things to do

Needs more variety, cycling routes currently in place the cyclists don't use and go on the road slowing traffic! There should be a rule

ifroute there it should be used

There are too many barbershop places to eat and not enough men cloth shops home furnishings shops

As I have seen a decline in St Neots Town centre. The fact that some buildings are left to ruin. And only private restaurants are left to flourish. There are so many empty buildings.

No footbridge connecting Regatta meadow to the town. Instead cyclists,(most are children attending Longsands school from Eaton Ford area)and pedestrians have to risk their lives using St. Neots Road bridge.

It has elements I like, such as Bohemia, the charity shops, but overall the facade needs an upheaval.

There is lots we can improve on. So many empty buildings we need to focus on bringing them back into use. Too many disabled parking spaces in the town square. Parking area still second off that needs to be reopened. We need more younger people to be attracted into town. More covered areas making it easier for people to sit outside

Try using a walker around the streets of St Neots you will realise how shocking they are for disabled people even the town. The town is not worth visiting unless you need a hair cut a charity shop or a pub. Everything is so spread out it's a nightmare.

looking run down and red. too many closed/empty buildings

Because it's a pity. The market square is a car park and the roads around are a mess along with the buildings.

Too many barbers and charity shops Need more high street stores especially clothes

Town centre is "okay" but it has potential to be much more. The unused spaces need to be put to use (even if they became indoor markets or leisure places like indoor seating for all the cafes etc) they make the town look stuffy and disappointing. More benches would be nice (maybe in the newly claimed part of market square?)

I like being able to walk into St Neots from the Eatons area to do my food shopping and find it fairly easy to do so. However, there has been a decline in the variety of other shops which might encourage me to browse and there has been an increase in the number of coffee shops etc, which I don't use very often. I also find the visual impact of the Market Square and High Street can be marred by weeds growing in the gutters, cars parked on the pavements around the Market Square and empty shops which are not being maintained. Of course the Old Falcon Hotel is also a blot on the landscape at the moment.

The Market Square could be a really nice space but is ruined by the derelict Old Falcon Hotel. The empty shops in the High Street show that businesses do not wish to invest in an already shabby area. Lack of diversity in the shops we have. How many card shops/opicians/barbers and hair dressers do you need? Where can men buy clothes?

It could be so much better!

Nothing to interest

It could be better, it could be worse.

It's OK but the recent improvements to the farmers market demonstrate that it could be great.

It has a reasonable variety of shops, cafes, pubs and places to eat, but has lost a couple of really good department stores which has had an impact.

I can see attractive features but it lacks some of the facilities that make other similarly sized towns more appealing

Because it's not the worst town I've lived in but it has so much room for improvement. There is no gent's clothing store, no place for shows entertainment or gigs with space. St Neots has the Riverside, lots of walks, but sadly the minority abuse these spaces leaving their trash and dumping ground for larger rubbish. St Neots need police on beat in town again to deter crime, drugs, litter

prevention. The roads are in bad repair and it seems that St Neots gets ignored for these issues. I love St Neots on the whole, but living in town centre you get to see a lot more and visitors have dropped off a lot (pre covid)

Because of the lack of shops, dentists, doctors and too many houses being built. Too many people now, lack of entertainment, adequate shops, space to walk through town. Lack of reasonably priced clothing especially mens and children's. Lack of novelty shops, now Beales and Barratts closed down.

Lack of shops

Wake up, it's not a quaint Cornish town, it's a dead end market town that the council has sold out to developers over the years. I've been here 45 years and it's the worst it's been

Because you didn't have Very Dissatisfied!

It has most of the shops I need for day to day living but could do with places selling household goods etc

Need more variety of shops.

I used to live nearby and in London previously I thought St Neots had a good range of facilities as well as being close to the countryside

It's boring. Nothing to do!

Would love to be able to shop more local and understand how difficult it is for high streets. I shop online too but would like more choice and quality in the town centre

The town centre is pleasant with a variety of shops/restaurants/ pubs however still plenty of improvement possible with several empty buildings.

I don't have strong feelings about the town centre

It could be. er, it could be worse!

It needs more shops....more shops...then more people will visit!!

As per previous answer, it doesn't feel safe with children on the high street - needs to be pedestrianised. Would love to see more art spaces ('Rowley Arts Centre' is a joke). Lots of independent cafes are good - just need a better range of indie shops now too.

As mentioned above, it dies after 5.00pm. Needs cafes open into early evening plus open air cafes in good weather. Also needs views over river. It is a disgrace that the Priory Centre turns its back on the river. Imagine if it was open to the river with rooms overlooking the river and parkland. It's as though the architect did not know there is a river on the boundary!

Because there are rats near the church in daylight, the bus stop is an eye sore, lots of empty shops, not enough clothing shops, no free parking for just nipping into bank.

It needs more shops

It has not been utilised to its full potential and does not always feel a very inviting place to visit

It's where I've lived for the past 29 years so it's all I know really.

There's not enough to warrant my time spent there.

See previous answers

I have been to Nongham town center just before the first lockdown for a work mates stag do, I walked around and there was way more shops and places to eat and drink. The nightlife was really in a league above St Neots and the transport system had its own tram system, which does not exist in St Neots (in comparison). I paid £7.50 last week for a Steve's taxi to take me across town to pick

up my car, which had been MOT'd at Eaton Socon. I cannot imagine how people would use a taxi service on a semi regular basis for a night out, with the pub drink prices being so inflated, it's like we're out in London... only slightly cheaper.

It could be so much better. er if the Old Falcon was repaired.

Retail premises have declined

It needs more shops and variety. It was great to have a department store previously and I think we need lots more small shops which offer a range of services.

Unsafe pavements, potholed roads, illegal and unsocial parking

See answer above; at present, the potential is not being realised, it needs more quality, less of the Greggs, Safeway, Poundstretcher, more of the Bohemia, Fatface, Waterstones (why so small and no cafe?) type of place, whether food, gifts or clothes - more like Hitchin or Olney. NO more barbers or nail bars, please!

Better use of market square has started but for a town on a river needs to use this as an advantage

I think we could have a better variety of specialist and independent shops. We also could make better use of the riverside and The Priory Centre.

The wording above is wrong but I'm very dissatisfied. The buildings are going to wreck and ruin. The planners would rather see a building that is listed crumble than bring it back to its former glory. The river is beautiful and nothing is being done to maximise its potential for bringing people into the town. The congestion around market square is unsightly. I would remove vehicular access to market square completely.

There a lot that needs improving

We have quite a few empty shops and we are completely overrun with unnecessary barbers and hairdressers and charity shops. The lack of variety of shops we have doesn't attract anyone to come and visit

The Falcon hotel has been falling apart for decades and needs to be opened as a quality restaurant hotel and function venue to rival the Bridge Hotel in Huntingdon

Two department stores closed limiting shopping choice. Needs less barbers and bigger range of shops

Retailers need to improve the look of their shops (so many are tatty, flaked paint and uninspiring) and drastically improve the customer service experience

As stated before, there is a lack but too much traffic down the high street and around the market square.

See previous answers. To have to travel by car to do shopping for anything other than groceries is a failure for such a large population. It is environmentally friendly and public transport to Cambridge is rubbish.

It has pretty much everything I would like it to have but could do with a slight tidy up and modernisation. The Priory Centre is a terrible waste of an opportunity on the riverside. The design does not look in keeping and it does not open up views to the river from the centre. A glass fronted building would be far better.

Need some upgrades.

Poor choice of shops

I would love to see the empty shops full. I would like to see more public transport to and from town. I would like to see less pound shop type establishments, we need higher end outlets to attract out of town visitors who want to eat in our restaurants and visit our shops.

Friendly environment but needs looking in need of redevelopment. A riverside walk and cafes on the town side of the river would

enhance the desirability of the area and encourage a greater footfall to the centre
I'm happy with the town centre but it needs more furniture such as benches and bin's
Town centre has nothing there why would anyone be satisfied with that.

There isn't anything that interests me- used to be able to wander into town to look around shops but it's not the same as it was a few years ago. With a five year old now there's no point trying to bring her in too.

I only use Marks and Spencer's weekly, the Bank and card shop. Post Office sometimes.
It's got sufficient shops in it, but it doesn't have bigger shops that you would find in bigger towns like Bedford or Huntingdon, for example a Next or TK Max

The closed shops and some areas are disappointing in appearance and let St Neots down.

It is a great town centre it just needs more to keep people's interest. The high street is in danger of becoming just charity shops and estate agents. The best thing that has happened recently is the additional chairs and tables in the market square from the bars and cafes giving it a more continental feel. More activities for kids like a swimming pool/ splash park would be great.

It is more attractive than a lot of town centres and had potential for so much more
The Town centre is not attractive, and losing high street retailers with many 'for sale/rent' signs gives an air of gloom

The center has not been developed in a satisfactory manner.

at the moment I don't have anywhere else to compare it with. Shabby with empty premises - but who is likely to want new premises these days.

why not

.

It would be great to have more gift shops, boutiques and maybe pop-up shops.

There are missed opportunities for making it more attractive.

It has what is expected of a town centre for a town this size but it's functional rather than functional. It would be so much improved if it was opened up to the river.

Although living so close to St Neots and growing up in the area, I don't feel much towards it. There aren't any special places to go or do other than the park.

If I go there I don't mind but the 'draw' isn't enough to make me go unless there is something specific I want or need.
Much is good or 'fine' but has the potential to be much better. er - in terms of public realm, amenities, community, business, culture...

It appears down market. It needs more class and up market shops and restaurants. Use Hitchin as a model
Too many cars parked, and surrounding shops could be presented better. Also something needs to be done about the Falcon hotel.

Because they are limited with the budget they are given

As previously mentioned the town lacks in shops, restaurants and places for family entertainment.

Under COVID it is the nearest and easiest place to do food shopping and have an outdoor coffee. Once COVID is predictable probably go to Peterborough or Cambridge (especially if the X5 is reinstated).

It could be a lot better. It needs to be Quaint but modern open but boardwalked. More should be made of the Victorian facades but

mixed with the modern.

good mix of useful shops and historic buildings, with a nice atmosphere during the day at least.

I feel very strongly that there should be a more variety of shops; car parking has also been discouraged by new machines, etc., and the closure of some of the car park on the market square which must be detrimental to those less mobile.

As I have said before , st neots is the largest town in Cambridgeshire by far and receives little or no investment, with the location of the river we should be looking to re develop the market square get rid of cars . The falcon is a prime example of something that could have been a great asset for the town but after years of left standing and other attempts to re develop it is still an old shell.

It is an average town centre with lots of charity shops, but no department stores. Limited for choice of clothes and shoes etc.

Because I feel it could be so much better but also appreciate town centres are struggling on the whole. St Neots has a wonderful river front and a good market square neither of which are really utilised enough.

I have lived in the St Neots area for over 45 years - it is very sad to see the decline in the variety of shops and so many of them shut and boarded up... free parking for at least an hour would encourage people into the town and make opening businesses more attractive and profitable

It meets my needs.

it could be so much better, with more events, the refurbishment of buildings, more upmarket eateries, a better selection of shops, it needs an outdoor café culture even in the winter and needs to make more use of its waterfront!

It's lacking shopd

Although I feel the town has become stuck, I believe the town does have something to offer, just need to capitalise on it.

The lack of shops and the general run-down state of buildings like the Falcon Hotel.

From appears to be incorrect as 'very dissatisfied' is missing! I would have chosen that option.

For reasons stated earlier, urban area visually, not enough quality retail, very poor for children's clothes

There is little choice in shopping now and Huntingdon has had a disproportionate amount of investment in its shopping area.

Need more variety of shops but don't think we have fared too badly from shops closing and empty units

see Q 9 &10

The rowing club deserves the funding and the improvements as it's a massive hub to the town centre and brings not only trade as said before but brings a feeling of unity and betterment due to people learning a skill and improving their health and fitness

It's a beautiful setting with some good restaurants and a lovely park but it's let down by a lack of facilities, arts venues, opportunities for creative development/career potential. Very few learning opportunities for post-16.

I'm from a city so find St Neots town centre small compared but for its size I am pleasantly surprised with the variation it has but the empty buildings in the centre could definitely be utilised better.

The growth of St Neots means there is increased footfall but more cars entering the town centre but the roads are so congested now. The public transport is terrible in the whole area.

The town centre in terms of the high street I am dissatisfied but I spend a considerable amount of time at sports facilities located close/in the centre which I am very satisfied with.

For the reasons described above

Happy living here. Returned from uni to live and work in St Neots due to the sports clubs.

I live very close to the centre and it is easy for me to walk in. I would give different answers if I had to drive in or through the town centre.

There's just be. er places to visit

Businesses need to be encouraged to take over the empty shops, more police at night.

I go and I will have a nice me , but I'm more drawn to seeing friends than what the town has to offer. I'd have as much fun in a cafe in the middle of knowhere

Empty shop units are not ar acv e

It has the essentals, but I would prefer more variety

I do like the town centre, I visit some of the shops and cafes regularly but I feel for a town of its size, especially one that is sll growing rapidly, it should be able to support more retail and leisure facilities.

I use it without enthusiasm

Feels like the market square could be so much better - feels tacky. My main gripe is that there aren't enough shops to buy basic clothes for young families. Too many opcians and charity shops.

It's that sense of potenal - I love being living in St Neots, but it could deliver so much more.

Having spent all my life growing up and living in St Neots I'd say overall it's okay. However over the past couple decades the town has grown considerably in size, and I'm not sure all the exisng infrastructure can fully cope. With St Neots set to expand further with more housing developments more investment in and around the town centre is required. In my opinion a new road bridge containing a cycle footpath connecng Crosshall Road with the Common would help ease the volume of traffic going through the town centre.

It has its good points and its bad points, as answered previously.

Full of expensive eateries

Lots of shops gone. Needs more to bring people in
St Neots is a lovely place but lacks a variety of shops

The Centre needs ongoing attenon and funding by an imaginav e TC Management team.

As above - the potenal is wasted and many of the services offered are of poor standard or are unable to compete with online shopping

It is OK, but far from exceponal, and you tax local villagers with parking, but why?

In general I like to visit the town centre with the provisos I listed above about illegal parking,. However the lack of police presence including NO police staon does make me feel uneasy.

Everything is great bar having some better shops.

lacks choice

It has shops for most essental items but not good for browsing

St Neots has faced its ups and downs over the past 15-20 years, as a town St Neots needs to idenf y itself and make it a desna on locaon that celebrates what is great about the town, businesses, communities, environment and locaon.

Need more independent shops

It lacks variety. I need to travel to get clothes household items such as linen plates. Therefore I mainly only visit for grocery shopping

The empty shops make it look sad. Not enough variety of shops to attract people to the town centre.

Lots of room for improvement but big potential

There are far worse town centres out there!

Empty shops look awful.

Because when I moved here the town had sufficient department stores coffee shops and charity shops but now it is decimated .

Don't feel strongly about either. Reality is you cannot change it to make the improvements it would need to rival big shopping areas, so have to go elsewhere. High Street is just a road I drive on for access to get to restaurants/takeaways/cinema. HDC garden teams are awesome & displays make huge difference. Landlords need to maintain shop/building frontages, looks run down in some places.

As mentioned above, the choice of shops is poor. We need less barbers and more independent shops selling good quality but reasonably priced groceries. The Refill Shop is great, but would be better in town.

The variety of shops is poor

Under utilised areas (market square), and not enough variety in shops, cafes and restaurants.

Look and you want see a lot, look at what used to be and do the same again but update the facilities

Town centre offers nothing to merit a visit

I use it as and when I need to but it doesn't excite me to go there

I think it's lovely

I live a 5 min walk but have to travel further afield to get what I need.

The Town Centre is not unattractive but certain aspects are. The Rowing Club is a big draw to the Town.

The focus has gone, the market is smaller and only once a week, the road is busy and not good for cycling, it just looks red and scruffy, particularly the Old Falcon premises.

See all the reasons above

St Neots has lost its identity . It needs to be a place you would like to visit. To look around admire. Enjoy spending money and money.

The centre gives what I need for the day to day but it doesn't keep me entertained, boringly.

Rundown town centre, empty shops, looks rough

We need more shops, wine bars and a better cafe culture

Because we enjoy eating out and there is a lot of options in town to do so

It has a poor shopping options.

It is forlorn now. Range of shops too small.

It's not meaningful it's potential. Too much unused old buildings in market square. Needs more independent shops and restaurants.

Should be more of a hub like Hitchin with all the commuters who live there.

It's good but could be better, the market square could be like a central plaza

Needs more retail shops

Too many charity shops, not enough variety. Tend to shop online now. Parking is poor. The parking meters are enough to

put me off going to town. Very slow and complicated and not Covid secure.

There is definitely room for improvement.

The town centre is improving however recent flooding issues indicates a dysfunctional local management system for a town which is fast becoming one of the largest developed semi rural areas in East Anglia. It is mega for St. NEOTS and area to have it's own political representative in Parliament which will begin to give the required community focus

It could be be. er.

There is room from for improvement- more seang , better bins for rubbish as exisng bins are dirty and I avoid touching them when trying to put li er in the bin. Better internet access in town centre More noce boards to adverse your events Seang that has some shelter for wet weather

It would be better if there was less traffic and a more relaxed feel.

Some actual shops would be great! There are far to many "cafes" most people I know struggle to get out of town so we at least need clothes shops in town. And it baffles me as to why the centre parking would be removed without having another short stay car park to replace it especially as thd main food shop (which dissent have paing) is right in the centre. Its impossible to do a shop there and walk all the shopping to amy other car park

It needs to become an enjoyable place that I want to spend me in. At the moment, I tend to visit out of necessity e.g. to go clarks shoes/boots/opcians/hair dressers.

Would like more shops/amenities

Compared to other towns of a similar size I think st Neots offers a bit of everything.

The bad outweighs the good, allow parking back on market square. Get rid of large motorbike gatherings which are just noisy and ruin a relaxed Sunday morning. The new market square benches are hideous. Get some better shops

We have toilets but not for disabled or mums to change nappies. They are not nice to visit and use. I have prostate cancer and need to use a clean toilet area to be able to use a toilet.

It needs to decide what it's purpose is. I think it needs to be more like towns like Oundle with a combinaon (range) of places to eat ideally around the market square and more bouque or pop up type shops to keep the town centre more interesng and adaptable to market changes

St Neots is nice but it could be so much better

There are too many estate agents and barbers and not enough shops. Nowhere for young people to shop and the town is not as vibrant as it could be.

See my answers above. It has the river that rivals places like Henley and Marlow but the atude of a fens backwater plus ghettos being built on the outskirts that are big, bland car parks with houses plonked on the site. The train staon is an eyesore...poor people that live close to it.

I think it could be so much better. It has historical connecns but who would know. We want St. Neots to be an individual not like everywhere else.

When we first moved here there were lots of events and festv als at the riverside such as the carnival. There is lile for my teenage sons to do as it is difficult to get me slots at the swimming pool and no toilet facilities at priory park most of the me .

I can do my food shopping, I can visit Bohemia, Elsie Mays or Bey Bumbles to eat. Market days are a bit busier for parking, but it is still possible.

Because town centre parking is so restrictive and the lost revenue but be enormous and the pub licences playing loud music until 3am Thursday, Friday and Saturday is dreadful

I used to live in London.

poor uninteresting/relevant shops, poor use of market square

For the reasons stated above.

I don't feel that St. Neots council wants to cater to all. I feel a lot of focus is trying to keep it a 'traditional market town' but what that means is we get no good shops, money is invested in projects that aren't a priority and they are more interested in trying to make it look pretty rather than make it appealing to consumers to visit. There are other historic market towns which have way more to offer people than St. Neots, I think it's mea we had more. Drop the rates to make it more affordable to businesses to move here, put in a park and ride and reduce parking charges and hey presto more people would visit. When there was free parking during the pandemic I visited the town lots more as it was convenient to 'pop' to the shops. Once the parking charges were reinstated I started going back to Tesco because paying £1.60 to park to just grab things is a hassle.

There is so much potential but is let down by the empty shops looking tired. I can get most of what I need from the town centre although I fear the high street is going to get worse before it gets be. er.

Visit town centre 5/6 days a week for over 40 years, it feels left behind compared to hunng don. We have a beauful river running right through the town and no where Nice to really sit and embrace it really. It's not parcularly nice sing in the small area next to/under the bridge, eang lunch with cars above you or people staring down at you as they walk over the bridge. Get rid over parking on the market square and create a nice green area/community area or something along the river front. The Priory Center waterside doesn't work as to hidden.

St Neots town centreis in a perfect posion to ar act visitors being close to the river and having a large market square. It has so much potenal, history and ar acv e historical building and they are being overlooked or ruined by bright yellow lines painted all over the market square, empty buildings which could become residenal. It could become much more quaint with pop up shops using empty spaces and better access to the river. More emphasis on its history and actually support local businesses by having either half an hour or an hour free parking. St Neots is surrounded by affluent areas and it can ar act people who will spend money in the town.

Other than the historical architecture it looks r ed, and with the exepon of restaurants there is like do.

It lacks vibrancy or a centre piece

See Q7a

I am aware that the closure of some large department stores meant the loss of local jobs. But personally I never took much pleasure shopping in a place like it and cannot say I miss it. Bouques where local arsans can sell their own products are a much more desirable. Also, shops that cater for the younger generaons (most of the shops in St Neots seem to sell clothing for the 55+).

See queson 7a. Needs more range and much better-quality of shops. Also needs Riverside car park to be reinstated as a free car park so people can 'park and stride' in to town with ideally another one at the other end of St. Neots.

The town should not have been allowed to deteriorate, especially the old Falcon and now with the loss of Beales at the other end it is even worse. The largest town in Cambridgeshire should have much more to offer, both independent and chain retailers.

It's ok but only ok. For the size of the populaon we have, I think it's a prey underwhelming offering. Upmarket cafes and Bars seem to do well showing a demand for this but there are not many opons. The waterfront is nowhere near uliz ed enough

No verity of shops. Cyclist's and electric scooter on the payments

The old Beal's could perhaps be broken down into smaller shops perhaps an indoor market. The parking should all be council instead of franchises, then the machines could be maintained in be. er condion, then trips out wouldn't end in frustraon!! The main car park seems to work well, only paying for your stay. No feeling that one has to rush back in case the me has run out.

Patrons can shop at their leisure.

The riverside area has much potenal but is underused. The Falcon definitely needs renovang perhaps with more riverside access.

There appear to be spaces in the areas behind High Street shops which could be used to house more niche shops and cafes.

Overall it is a nice town centre. It could be improved but so could any town centre, and it's startng from a really good base.

The high Street is very good, well looked after and has an appealing selecon of shops and restaurants/cafes/bars. However a department store would be very useful to have again and more family friendly spaces/shops/leisure acvie s would be ideal.

Because the Town Centre could be much more ar acv e without the endless traffic passing through, just look at St.Ives since their Bridge was closed to traffic to see what I mean.

The number and quality of shops is decreasing.

Because the loss of the department stores and the old ironmongers has had a major impact on the quality and variety of retail offering. There are also key landmarks that are very disappoinng and eye sores, such as the Falcon pub on the market square and the BT facility next to Waitrose. It is a shame as there is a huge amount of lost opportunity.

It is 'okay' but nothing more but it has the potenal to be much more compelling and ar acv e

Poor wheelchair access to most shops. Poor variety of shops it's all charity shops , opcians or barbers.We need gi shops, clothes shops,toyshops. I can't even get into my bank I have to do what I want to do on the street and the cashiers goes in to complete the transacon. The loss of Barre's and Beales has pulled the high street down.

Too many disabled parking spaces in Market Square. Need to provide spaces with opon to pay for only 15min parking for 'quick trips'. What public toilets? No public seang at eastern end of the High Street. Its easier to walk from edge of town to the centre than use a bus! Overall, a safe place to walk / shop etc, but declining due to online shopping.

Too many shop closures and charity shops, estate agents. Loss of Beales very unfortunate.

Feel empty shops could be ulised better. Perhaps consider using empty Beales store to provide housing and smaller shopping units

I think there is lots that can be done to make it more ar acv e, but a lot of those efforts are underway, so the potenal is there

I think more could be done

It is old fashioned, cramped and congested.

It is no different to any other town centres

Shops and businesses need to be more accessible - eg being able park outside shops or for a short period of me with ease. This would enable popping into shops or takeaways very quickly. Parcularly at the M&S end of the high street. There needs to be more shops for gis/ clothes/toys (I know this is out of council control). Needs to be an ambience for dayme eang - a cafe culture A focal point within market square.

I see such potenal in the town for leisure especially with the beauful river park and market square. The riverside needs to be enhanced with lighng and a riverside walk. If cars and traffic could be discouraged from using the high street and market square

and pavements enabled to be used by cafes, restaurants and pubs it could be a very lovely place to be anymeq of the day. With the heavy traffic and dead end tired old shops it's not a place you want to be unless you need to.

Loss of high street retail shops,

Lack of retail offer

Because we don't have a variety of shops, ie clothing for both men and women

I do not understand this question

Overall I like St Neots town centre, it could however be more cyclist & pedestrian friendly with improvements such as cycle paths & a bridge exclusively for pedestrians and cyclists.

Accessibility, lack of shops, traffic, lack of seating and evening cafes

Because it is looking more welcoming and tidy, I love the events now on the market square but would have more reason to go in if there were a few more shops but I also like the variety of eateries we now have too, though I do spend more on shopping than eating out

.
It's got it's good points and it's bad points, which overall probably balance each other out. But there's nothing that really inspires me to go into town.

It's no worse or be. er than a lot of town centres at present

car parking around market square and other streets illegally spoils the town

There's no where I want to shop, the drains in the high street snk, the public toilets are vile
It fulfils everything we need the town for.

I like it

I have no reason to go to the town centre cant get anything i have a interest or even clothing when i need it, it dose not give any reason to vait and the pqrking charges are high to visit a town that jas nothing

Because there lack of good shops stops people making the effort to come to town and would be good to have the carnival back like all the other towns

Like I already said, St Neots has massive potenal. Things to consider: * Street lights * Cleanliness * More ar acv e market square (the wooden boxes or whatever that is is a waste of money) * New promenade/river walk (this will ar act more visitors) * Graffi * Reliable, green transport * Visible police presence

Same as I have answered before.

Having lived here all my life the town centre is beginning to look r ed. We've had several "gis" of money in the past but these seem to have disappeared without making any impression. The Portas money, the pedestrian bridge for example.

It's nice, but a lil e r ed.

I am sad to see so many shops disappearing. I would love to see the riverside further developed to give access to town side to allow cafes etc. Riverside Park is beauful, one of my favourite places but also would benefit from more eang places.

Miss the shopping experience

Not enough shops or quality and too many cars

Cheaper parking and a wider variety of shops. Missing women's clothing choices and kids toys since beales and barras closed.

We moved from Peterborough so St Neots is a haven of calm for us! We need SNTC to have more control of the town so that they can bring about major improvements that the fast growing population need. We need the funding to develop the Priory Centre as a cultural hub and to redevelop the museum so that both can provide a mix of free and paying events and activities for the people of

the town. Car parking may be fairly priced in the minds of planners but the charges encourage many locals NOT to visit, the increasing development of other centres (in Eaton Socon for example) mean people do not need to shop in the town centre. Without more committed staff with a budget it is not easy for SNTC to bring about the changes we all want to see. Funding for more staff could bring about more changes linked to be. er infrastructure. Instead of building a walk way along the river the money could be spent on staff to write and implement a new Town Centre policy for business and culture and the arts, unfortunately these FHSF plans were drawn up without conslning local people in any meaningful way so no one had a chance to put forward their ideas.

As my points above regarding retail outlets. To many coffee shops and charity shops. Needs more diversity to ar act visitors a reason for vising St.Neots.

Some good shops for basic purchases, but could do with more interesng local offers. Same with restaurants. The Market Square seems to be confused and ill thought out. Farmers Market is good, recent events are good, but new seang / planters are a mess. Disabled parking on an island site where users have to cross a road to get to anything seems counter intuiv e. Having the other half of the car parking closed off seems confusing High St is bookended Falcon Inn and Beales Department Store, both empty and neither likely to be reopened as their original use. Needs some strategy to address

I have lived here 20 years and have to accept that the Town Centre is what it is. For much of the duraon people have bewailed the lack of large chains but I think we have a great opportunity to be entrepreneurial and encourage smaller bespoke local businesses. I use the Town Centre whenever possible and use mail order or sending people on errands when they are in other locaons to be environmentally friendly as possible. I don't tend to drive all over the palce myself to get what I want.

Thought some care had been taken unl, for some reason the Town Council has allowed a gaudy yellow shop front to spoil the Street Scene....this will definitely put visitors off

The town lacks public toilets, the priory center is inadequate for theater or concert performances being a mixed use facility. The towns late night pub culture is off-pung due to a lack of security/police presence.

It's a lovely town centre but it can be improved, shops are closing so what to do to encourage new businesses.

Lack of shops

Parking is expensive machines do not work properly , a lot of street lights do work , the car park in tebbus road has 3 lights not working so had to get to my car in the dark , some of the lights in the riverside park do not work had to bike home the other night very dark in places didn't feel very safe especially as the gypsies were parked up in the coneygear car park and they actually broke into my garden and stole all my original metal signs

Because i feel that certain narrav es from from a small amount people with influence have become blinkered to any other forms of opinions. The noon that we can create a European style market square is simply not feasible for a host of reasons.

I feel it is geng worse rather than better.

Because of lack of proper shops

St neots lacks the cosmopolitan town it is trying be, need huge investment on the high street and market square, not quite sure how much the new seang is in the market square but they look bloody awful, have you sat on them!?

This town used to be full of individually owned shops, it had a great market, there was more going on at the market square other than just being used for market day, it had youth club for the teenagers and also had lots going on at the priory center. It was just a really nice town all round.

Needs more variety of shops and things to do.

Its just slightly uninspiring

Until recent years I could be sure of being able to buy nearly everything I needed in the town. Now this is not possible.

It has deteareated massivelyover the years

The old falcon needs to be revamped then the square will look ok

Because I feel helpless. I dont like it the way it is. It has potential but the red tape an process to change is way too long.

To much motor traffic

It is 'meh' no interesting shops or places to look around. I go into town to food shop and nothing else

When I first moved into St Neots it was an extremely pleasant town to live in. However, recently I have to walk about with care due to e scooters wizzing around on pavements, sometimes 2 abreast, (at least twice they have nearly knocked me off my feet). There are cycle lanes in the road and people should be encouraged to use them as the pavements especially over the bridge are not wide enough.

Lack of quality shows. The new food market shop with is horrendous colours has really been a negative effect on how the town looks.

All my life the council do not really think about the public only them Self

It's a nice town and lots of improvements happening.

Because for years shops have been forced out by high rents and lack of investment from local councillors

It needs more tlc. I love our town and the rustic and historic features it has but I'm disappointed by the lack of community spirit, inclusive attitudes and the snobbish atudeq of several of the businesses that have established over recent years.

In need of: more shops Cafes Entertainment

I like it but I would like have a town centre with less traffic, more family oriented

charge council tax for what? no open air swimming pool changing market square bring back the x5

Because I feel St Neots has gone down hill. It is over populated with minimal shops that are of any use. Cinema is good though but the restaurants there need filling up. We have some big shops empty which could be filled also

As above - I like the market square and the river area but not the empty shops and the lack of bike access

Empty shops and the market square experience as it is, is stopping this from being excellent.

The town centre needs to be tidied up and pedestrianised as much as possible

Always looks unkept and dirty. Not much to do there.

It ain't had anything spent on it for ever . The paths and roads are disgusting . Shops have all closed cause of thee in Council and landlords.

I live in the town centre and all the shops have gone. I haven't got a car and can't get to Tesco and nowhere to buy clothes. When Family drop by they can't stay long as costs a packet in car parks and when drivers use my street as free parking.

Because it could have be. er facilities. Especially shops, cleaner toilets, more events etc. The market square needs something to break it up into zones, a cafe, some more trees, seang or something. A toy shop would be good , a hobby shop, gi shop, Wilco's

It's a place I've lived for many years and I've and not about to move from. There are more houses being built but the facilities do not keep Up with the populaon. There are hardly any shops, so forces you to go elsewhere for certain items. It does have a prey

riverside park.

Because that's what I feel

For the aforementioned reasons. Tired and shabby and is full of bl***dy estate agents.

Cars park everywhere because drivers resent paying so much for parking. We no longer own a car since Dr Ho said my husband should not drive so we walk and frequently have to step onto the road to go round cars parked on pavements. The pavement where

John fell was damaged by all the parking.

I enjoy the events that are currently on, but would like more. I'd like to see less empty shops and more independent shops. I would love there to be a general store like Wilko that could replace the Amazon shopping I do!

Because, overall, the town centre is drab and uninspiring

Think that more could be made of it ie more interesting shops. Be. er maintained and brightened up.

Community Survey

Why did you give the answer you gave to the previous ques...

Because we often go to retail parks for ease.

It is isn't something that I've thought out greatly.

It is lovely but could be improved.

Not enough for different age groups

It has room for businesses to thrive - so many people live here especially with Wintringham being built. High Street would be used if there was more of it.

Shops have deteriorated over the last 10 years or so, too many take away and eating place and charity shops the old type of stores have gone mainly due to the cost of council tax being much to high. Lower tax could mean better stores.

The town centre is adequate, but not really stimulating unless you want to just drift with a takeaway drink or sit near traffic at an outdoor table.

Market Square is incomplete - too much empty space in Market Square

It is a nice market square, with the trees and flowers but it does not make enough of the its beautiful river setting

There is not much to see - the pavements outside the Priory Centre are disgusting and death trap, they are all broken.

Reducing the car parking has pushed cars to park in the surrounding streets and on pavements.

A lack of free reasonable parking

Market Square and the Falcon need smartening up

Cafes only abundant

I and numerous older people cannot walk to far to shop at the market and farmers market. The few parking spaces on the market square are too few and full up whilst disabled parking spaces are empty.

Whilst we could have less empty shops and a better variety, compared to other town it is very good and looks to be bouncing back after covid.

ANNEX 4: SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO CHANGE ABOUT THE TOWN CENTRE (COMMUNITY SURVEY Q14)

Is there anything else that you think is important to the...

It needs to establish a distinct identity based on its history, geography, buildings or current economic or cultural activities
Making proper use of empty premises (Beales and the old falcon for example) and not allowing them to be turned into residential .

reduce traffic

The one major thing that is important is another river crossing away from the Town Bridge. At the moment we have the bypass bridge to the south of the town and the Little Paxton crossing to the north. In the winter the Lt Paxton crossing floods and the road is closed, causing the majority of this traffic to use the Town Bridge to cross the river. If there was money spend to provide a decent crossing for Little Paxton that raises the road level about winter floods it would remove a lot of traffic from the town centre.

Promoting leisure exercise in the parks and open spaces.

Encourage department stores and hardware shops to open in the town. Re-instate parking on the market square. I'd also quite like to see an improved museum as much of their collection is often in storage. The Riverside Park could also be improved with some landscaping and general maintenance as many of the paths are in terrible condition.

We need a presence in the Town Centre, be it police, community support or Council staff, to help shoppers and visitors with any concerns they may have. I have been told we have a policemen on a bike in the town but I live in the town centre and have never seen him.

Remove car parking space - eg behind Beales - and use it to have be. er sized shop units. Enforce parking controls and make sure pavement parking is stopped.

Don't waste money

Free parking

As said previously the town itself is laid out well, easy to get around, prey , nice size and loads of potenal. It just needs some more unique shops (come back Beales!) and reasons for people to visits

Reducon of motor vehicles with increased pedestrianisaon and landscaping.

Flatten loves farm and Winteringham.

Reduce anti social behaviour and enforce illegal parking.

It should recognise the fact that St Neots is growing, any scheme should be flexible to adapt as high streets move further from retail to experience zones.

You need to ar act people in to the town centre with ease of access, range of shops, a reason to come, parking which at the moment is a nightmare due to hardly any of the ck et machines work correctly. I can't see why having a few extra benches on the Sq, building some lovely waterfront flats, and a river walkway would get people rushing in to St. Neots!!

Encouraging more music/street ars ts maybe a bandstand or covered area which an be used all weather

Reduce car polluon. Al fresco eang is a health risk

Any taxpayers money should be spent on developing public owned areas, not supporng private development

Events to bring people in throughout the year

Be. er range of shops

To make the centre appealing to businesses. Large investments into layout changes etc will be a waste if there is no reason to come in the first instance.

Where possible move businesses out of side streets into High Street and make side streets residential

Geng people into the town all year and every day

Bring back traffic wardens to stop market Square parking

Catering for all age groups and the right balance of leisure to shops

A need to encourage independent shopkeepers into town. I keep seeing surveys of who want a Primark or a Next or other large stores to come to St Neots. I just don't think that's feasible.

Town Council to have more control of towns future, less decision making by HDC

Retain the history of the town but modernise it and bring it into 20th century with shops. Bring emergency services back into the town for quicker responses.

Improve uneven pavements.stop cyclists endangering people by riding on the pavements.

I recently cycled into town and the cycle routes are really not helpful and doesn't even have a safe route to the bicycle parking!

It's hard to choose between the above list as they are all really important. I also believe the capital improvements need to be backed up by acv ely managing key spaces to increase use and get the maximum buy-in from the local community.

Make use of the riverside frontage for all- bars /cafes- not offices/homes to take that away from most of the public!

The Street Food Fest al was such a good idea that was hugely popular - so much so that I couldn't get in It feels like St Neots could support a permanent version of this in the market square - take a look at Altrincham and their Market House with independent food in the centre of town - hp s://www.visitmanchester.com/food-and-drink/altrincham-market-house-p340841

More than ar acts the 20-35s

Pedestrianised centre. A separate way around for vehicles that doesn't require a huge detour. Bars and cafe's on the waterfront

With the new housing, there needs to be huge improvement to the town.

Abandoning the stupid idea about narrowing the road over the bridge to "improve safety for cyclists" - have you ever ridden a bike where a car cannot overtake because the road is narrowed? If not I suggest every one of the councillors who think this is a good idea ride a bike through the road narrowing in Eaton Socon with an impae nt van driver behind them.

Less expensive car parking. It discourages people unless an event on. Less charity shops and estate agents

Improved police presence. There are mes when violence or anti social behaviour make it undesirable to visit the town centre

Modern, clean toilets.

Preserve access to riverfront for all.....DO NOT allocate river frontage to private housing or business.

Its not as simple as saying "independent shops". You need to massively lower the rates for non chains, and give them the opp to get the best locaons. In ten years no-one will eat at Costa or Greggs. There is a refill env friendly coffee shop in Eynesbury but its 1000mtrs away presumably because of costs. That kind of shop will thrive and ar act the Gen Z people coming out of the cie s and inner suburbs. The only way to draw people from rival towns is to nail the independent scene. St Neots is already miles ahead of Sandy, Biggleswade, Hunng don and will bring all those people in regularly for food and safe places to be. Sounds snobby the but

other major barrier is the people the terrible pubs attract. Move those late licence pubs to the outskirts and you will have a much safer environment where people will spend more

To make parking free or at least a more reasonable cost.

Proper use of the market square, improved market, return to car parking on most days apart from Thursday market day and Saturdays

Cheaper parking. Keep charity shops

More pedestrian focused - better range of independent shops and a good pub

More facilities for children. Get rid of Priory Centre and use for proper businesses.

Maintenance of roads and paths. The route around the Market Square and down Brook Street is truly awful, actually I find it embarrassing that it is in such a poor state. I think it would definitely leave an uncared for impression of the town.

Safe Nice to look at More choice off restaurants and shops

Another bridge - all the car traffic is forced through the high St, esp when Lile Paxton is flooded. Needs more specialised independent shops - a quality bakers, a hardware shop etc so there is a reason to visit. Public toilets! Better access to the park.

Traffic lights that give pedestrians priority.

Open air cinemas . Free things for the kids . Make st Neots st Neots not HDC owned assets . Hand market Square back into St Neots hands lower the parking prices free at weekends. St Neots Riverside handed back to at Neots .St Neots bigger than Hunng don make it central .

Long term , sustainable growth !

Increasing outdoor leisure facilities such as canoeing and open swimming

More office space for businesses, cheaper parking to encourage footfall. Market Square redevelopment and reintroduce short term parking.

When implementing the changes, it would be good to have some voluntary projects as part of it. These could perhaps involve local schools or young people as well as residents . These projects would be a way of teaching younger people skills and also about community spirit, it may also encourage people to take more care of the town as it will be much of their hard work that has gone into it. It would be a good way of supporting residents who have perhaps felt isolated during the covid pandemic by offering a way to get out socialising with people in a fun and helpful way. St Neots definitely has a better community spirit than any other place I have lived - but there is always room to make it even better! It would also save money meaning more available for the more specialised and heavy duty work!

More trees/protect existing trees. More green spaces left to go wild. Less lawn mowing in parks. A ban on single use plastics in the town. More affordable zero waste takeaway food and sustainable ethical shopping.

encouraged community liaison amongst businesses. Better information for visitors (have been asked on several occasions if there is a museum/ where toilets are etc

With the housing growth, we need more Doctors and dentists. They cannot cope with the current population but this is expanding all of the more . Also an additional senior school

A vision and a system that enables and supports micro businesses, the measurable difference in the investment they make locally as they build to work in the very well connected surrounding economies, to employment, sustainability, education and overall spirit of the town.

Yes Remove the franchise for the market from Wendy Fair It could be an amazing market and an example to the rest of the UK- quite easily too The current market is so out of date and unappealing, and being run into the ground The company running it have no context in which to operate the market- it's not tailored or catered to the local community in any way shape or form- it might work or suit other towns in which the franchise operates but it clearly doesn't work here There are so many local suppliers that could support a be. er "french style" market With local produce of all sorts And stalls of other kinds that would entice people to attend

Not make them acutely stay away A larger, even more vibrant version of the fantasc farmers market- every week

You need to fix the problem of providing a great community experience in the town centre whilst not impacting the high streets essential purpose as the sole route of getting from one side of the town to the other. i.e we need another bridge.

1. Keep decisions in St Neots not Huntingdon! 2. Whoever was originally bribed to pass the plans for The Priory centre should be ashamed of themselves. A blank wall instead of Windows faces the best view over the river and when you sit on the tables outside, you are looking at a guard rail which is eye-height. This should be a great community centre for all but it's a disgrace. The market square used to be the hub of an annual carnival which gradually died when it was moved out of town to Priory Park.

More well paid local jobs it is all very well building thousands of new houses but because there have been no new jobs created for these new residents to work they have to travel and don't have the means to shop in the Town Centre hence its decline of retail shops.

My comment I know this isn't totally about the town centre but I need feel the town desperately needs to improve the paths around the riverside. It's such a beautiful area for dog walking and for visitors to enjoy so put some decent paths in and decent play areas rather than taking equipment out and putting in proxy benches

I am concerned that the old Falcon project is going to swallow a whole chunk of funds and it will turn into a millstone around the council neck, and will constantly need more money

Better toilet facilities, no more parking charge increases and newer leisure activities for children and adults.

Different way for cars to cross the river

A police presence to quell the number of antisocial incidents caused by a small minority of ill mannered individuals.

N/a

Please do not use that money to build a small waterfront walk, a total waste of money that could be used better elsewhere. It is not needed and of no benefit to the town at all. There is a huge park the other side of the river that you could put a small jetty or a wooden walkway along if you wanted, although still not necessary as you can walk along the path in the park next to the river.

INVEST IN THE TOWN CENTRE PLEASE!!!

Less red tape. I've lived in the local area over 30 years and have seen plans for redevelopment of the town many times and then nothing happens! Look how long the Rowley Art Centre took to be built!

Retain and improve cultural facilities.

Not to waste the money (as per the money wasted on the pedestrian bridge that was shelved from Eaton Ford to St Neots, which was never needed anyway). Get a variety of shops in town and don't let the councillors block them just because they have businesses in the same sector. We need to keep St Neots young and relevant. It needs to be a place people want to come to

Managed toilet facilities.

Please don't pedestrianise it, this happened where I used to live and the town totally lost its character/soul.

Not at the moment

Not wasting the money on consultants with unrealistic ideas that come to nothing! Actually spend the money on improving the

town centre!!

The return of the Stagecoach X5 coach lifeline to Cambridge is vital. The 'diversion' via Camborne (where I understand there are other services) is detrimental to residents, including many workers/students, but also elderly & mothers with small children who cannot access the upstairs of double decker buses to travel to a bigger city for more cultural activities than St Neots can offer.

Free short stay parking like Biggleswade has. A more vibrant centre with a choice of small local businesses and restaurants and bars,

Free car parking

Please address the parking payment machines. Look at possible free short term parking. Also acknowledge that proposed changes are worth doing but the empty units need to be addressed. What can be done to fill them. Please remember the older and disabled members of the community who rely on the town centre facilities for their daily needs.

More independent shops with a variety of products

maybe lower business rate rents to allow new businesses to prosper in the centre.

This survey is terrible the last questions are poor there is no mention of parking on the market square which a lot of people want however much Steven Ferguson stamps his feet like a child we still want to park on the market square it could be used at the moment why is it still shut !!!!

The rowing club keeping its position. Redesign of the outside area of the Priori centre so the river cam be seen easier.

The market square and riverside and priory centre area could be huge enticing factors for visitors but not being utilised in the correct way.. The square and priory just look drab and uninviting as does the high St. The market square much be. er wince cafe style tables etc are now out

As mentioned above the parking around the market square is generally ridiculous and dangerous with people parking along the pavements and the road being very uneven to drive on.

The new developments around the town are going to provide customers for many new and diverse businesses and cultural events, this is an ideal moment to rethink St.Neots.

More shops free parking

Shops and free parking! Or at the very least parking where you can stay for short periods for free. Beyond me why people have to pay to visit riverside park green space

Don't alienate car drivers, they are not total pariahs. Cheap short stay parking.

Not if everything in question 13 is done.

Car parking around the market square. The town centre has to be easy access. Removing parking on environmental grounds is a short term fools play. Sure, reconfigure the space so there is events space in the middle (although I would argue that you don't actually need much more) but put short term parking feathered around the outside. Best of both worlds.

We have a beautiful river, like Bedford and Cambridge, so let's put money in to make it a useable, enjoyable place for people to visit and spend money here, The Old Falcon would be an ideal project for this.

Maybe I'm old but I do like shops where you can see and try on products I really miss Beales

All age groups need things to do here.

Make it feel safer and give us more police presence do more about illegal parking with permanent traffic wardens who block vital parts of the town. Regular bus service from the station into the town centre. Make it more mobility friendlier as certainly isn't a

good town if you use wheelchairs or mobility scooter.

Needs something for all ages and abilities. With easy access. Not public transport that does not exist after 6pm. And nothing on Sundays.

Adequate infrastructure for increased traffic in the coming years for developments such as Wintringham estate.

Ensuring the infrastructure and changes are reflective of the surrounding development - car parking spaces etc may be adequate now, but that may change. Making the offering more family-friendly as more young families move into the area. Investing in resources for young people. Preserving the historical elements and architecture that give the town character. Encouraging community events.

To keep it a market town

Reintroducing some better shops, no more barbers.

Activities for children. splash park/ outside pool. festivals and carnivals

I would like it if the town is a place I choose to spend a longer period of time for leisure reasons. Also more free short-stay parking that allows me to quickly pop to one place e.g. bank, and whilst I'm there also pop into somewhere without having to pay for the whole 2 hours.

Reduce the parking charges. Sort out the buses too, it's a mess at the moment.

More leisure / entertainment venues and experiences to make people hang around. A family entertainment venue in the centre would go down a storm; large soft-play facility with a cafe and area for older kids. I also think it's very important to have a permanent employed team continually organising events throughout the year to keep a lively, buzzing atmosphere in a dedicated events space.

Add things to do for kids - e.g. town trail.

Make it leisure. Stick basics elsewhere.

Give autonomy to St Neots town council. As the largest town in Cambs, it should not be administered by a smaller, less local group, despite any historical reasons for administering via Huntingdon. Reduce business rates to encourage and enable smaller retailers.

Don't waste the cash on vanity projects!

Ensuring there are no disused rental properties or derelict buildings that stay empty for over 5-10 years particularly when one of which makes up one aspect of the market square!!!!

For me the important part would be to pedestrianise the high street from Huntingdon street to the junction outside the Bridge Hotel. Traffic travelling east from Eaton Ford would turn in front of the Bridge Hotel and past Waitrose. Traffic going west to Eaton Ford would travel down Brook Street, around the back of the Market Square and to the river bridge. Long term would be to put a bridge in from the common to Crosshall Road and pedestrianise the whole Market Square.

No.

It's a real shame that the proposed bridge over the river was not built as this would have diverted pedestrians and cyclists away from the main road. Public transport links are not good.

Make the most of our history! We have it in abundance we could really capitalise on that to bring tourists in to visit the priory and the history around it. Also make it a bookshop town like Hay on Wye or Wigton - run arts/literature festivals to bring tourists in! A theatre space is needed

Bringing in cheaper shops for people on low income.

Infrastructure as new houses are built, thinking about other St Neots areas not just the town centre, there should be a Winteringham "town centre" as it will be too far for a lot of people to walk and do not want to encourage more cars.

More pedestrian friendly - it's not all about the cars

Maintain and improve the Museum.

Train links across linking from Oxford, Cambridge, Norwich. Removing the road at the back of the Market square to enable the redevelopment of the whole area to provide a more flexible and attractive space.

As the pavements into the centre (from Cambridge Rd) are quite narrow, is there any way of pedestrianising any streets. Also to highlight historical buildings, the Market Square has some amazing buildings but these are not highlighted. Perhaps a history route?

Is there a possibility of an open air theatre for both shows and music in the riverside park area for example?

No

Not allowing a 10k Bedfordshire housing estate to pop up on the border and put pressure on the town

These developments need to take into account the wide range of people who live in and around St Neots. Old and young. More work needs to be done to encourage young people to visit the town centre and give young people something to do.

Attracting more retailers. If a major retailer ie Primark could be attracted to the high st, the increase in shoppers would be off the scale. Every other retailer would benefit. Affordable parking charges.

No

Bring the Police back

The integration of the east end of the High Street, the historic area around the parish church, and the town centre spaces either side of the Henbrook into the overall picture. The substantial improvement of the river frontage must not be at the expense of the eastern half of the historic centre.

Just making the town centre feel like it's a town centre for ALL, whether that's through accessibility or the range of venues and shops available. I think a co-operative community approach that encourages businesses based in the town centre to support each other and work together would help this.

You need to encourage more people to visit the area- variety of shops, unique experiences etc. Cheaper or free parking

Better policing of the town and park areas regarding anti-social behaviour.

Free parking should be considered. It would be a good way of getting people into town.

Toilets at Priory Park please. You want people to use green spaces, they need to have toilet facilities.

I think there needs to be more help for small businesses to open up shops within the town. More support to help them stay.

Encouraging shops to open, perhaps turn the ex Beales unit into a pop up shop indoor market style venue.

Show some progress on improvement. To invest and develop the centre with a good range of popular national stores and also small local shops that attract people away from out of town shopping.

Outdoor swimming pool which I had spent my childhood in, the indoor pool is no use to spend a sunny day in.

Less estate agents, more gift shops, riverside eating places and pedestrianised. Improved bus services to reduce car usage too.

Less traffic

Making it more appealing to young adults. So far you have enough for older people and children but nothing in between. A lot of

people will travel elsewhere to do activities that are interesting. We need to develop a feel of excitement in the town for a younger audience

Be. er transport in and around st Neots, it's an off pung place

A bigger more vibrant museum

More trees on the southern side of Market Square would be nice

Make the night me economy safer and more acv e, I quite o en see the detritus in the morning and it makes me not want to visit at night

Be ambious, make it a place to come to and shops and businesses will follow. Make it green in all ways of the word, inclusive, looking back to its past history and forward to innovaon and the future. Be bold and encourage ars ts and musicians, pop up shops and theatres, use the whole town and the river area. Let's create sculptures, encourage science, make the town beauful by using nature and encouraging the natural world as part of the town.

Make every shop disabled accessible and give us flat, level pavements

Ar acng more diverse businesses

No.

The provision of highly visible recycling bins, placed strategically where they will be most used to encourage people to recycle more.

The provision of clean toilets, including baby change facilities. These can be charged for but are badly needed to ar act parents with young children to the twon centre. A creche for young children, similar to the one at One Leisure. Again, this would hugely encourage families with young children to visit and shop in the town centre

Promote climate change. Improve the riverside with outside acvie s for all

Ulising out beauful river views and more independent / pop up shops.

Facilie s for teenagers, hardly anything to occupy them other than the skatepark which has its issues

More variety of shops bars and restaurants and more affordable too

The increase in populaon over the comes years will cause pressure on the town-centre road network which will need addressing

Give us better access to our main feature... The River. Let us punt, swim and enjoy it. Improve the exisng paths in the parks. They're in bad shape and very narrow. Designate cycle paths all through town, so our kids don't have to cycle directly in the road. Give some of the buildings on high street a face li, they are an incredible eye sore.

It would be great to see a space that can offer classes of all sorts to local residents. I would also like to see spaces available for local craspeople to set up studios offering classes and selling unusual items. The cinema has been a great addion to the town and further facilities to encourage people to come into town like this would be great.

There has to be more awareness of invisible disabilities. Create safe spaces for individuals. Also LGBTQ+ clear safe spaces. Ie an accreditaon

I o en cycle into town over the bridge. Twice I have been pushed over by cars coming too close. Cyclists need a PROPER MARKED CYCLE LANE. Plus this may help stop folk riding on pavements.

While many are opposed, we really need businesses open past 5pm, and also a club/bar that is suited to younger people rather than older adults.

We must ensure we do this in an environmentally conscious way. This is vital

Free parking, prevention of predatory private parking/landlord practices.

The environmental aspect mentioned above is crucial in these times. Recycling bins, more trees, wildflowers & explanations to support it & educate could be a great opportunity for a more environmentally aware community. Perhaps local historic plaques on walking routes etc. Please stop the council spraying glyphosate all along the verges & path edges.

Please see the obvious which is if you want to be carbon neutral you cannot have cars sitting in traffic through the town! Improving the flow of traffic would massively reduce carbon emissions.

Please make the Priory Centre into a fully functioning theatre/community space and involve the local groups who use it in the design of the building. Put people in charge who have experience in the theatre business with a better understanding on how it can be made profitable

For the size of the town, we need a louder voice and a fairer share of resources.

The riverside is beautiful and a major asset but there has to be a reason for people to cross the river and enter the town. Free parking outside the town centre, ie. the Riverside carpark. Boat trips along the Ouse from near the town bridge.

The rowing club needs to maintain and retake its position as a jewel on the river, central to the park. I've heard nonsense about pulling it down for housing. The rowing club is what draws crowds for one of the brightest events of the year, the regatta is a hub of activity. Pushing aside the rowing club would be detrimental to the value proposition of the waterfront and the town.

Take away the traffic A police presence occasionally

Having recently had a baby I'm surprised at how many cars park in pavements meaning you frequently have to walk the pram in the road many shops are also inaccessible (steps etc) it must be extremely difficult for those in wheelchairs. I'd also like to be able to safely cycle to the station but I feel cycling through the town centre is currently unsafe. Finally, we really need another pool, either an outdoor one or a new business like Bannatynes or Virgin Active.

It has something for everyone including shops and cheaper parking

The market square could be made into a more contemporary style, planters, good seating and partially covered. Develop old Beales store for small traders / indoor market. Restrict size of delivery trucks in centre and measures for delivery.

The town and market square used to be busy such a shame there is nothing in town. Not a lot either for teens to do.

Bring in some brand named shops

Affordable commercial space

Keep the historical alive, in particular via the museum

Decent leadership

Advertisement of what is available. Inside areas for art and craft fairs or market stalls. Lots of people have developed own businesses as a result of covid and I think it would be great to have a unit that could be bookable for stalls etc.

I would hate more buildings around the priory centre area. That is a quiet corner of town. We need to preserve green space and look at repurposing buildings not used.

Really think you need to consider the elderly & those with mobility issues it is generally really difficult to get about, and nowhere to sit unless you buy a coffee, but then where do you go to use the loo!

Stuff for kids.

The river is a beautiful resource that has been boxed in on the Town side preventing access.

More police on nights during the weekend. Stop the pub fights

Not the town centre as much but some more businesses around the coneygeare or an area for pop up events? That way we are not destroying green land park areas but making the most of these places during spring and summer.

Discourage out of town shopping. Reduce commercial, town centre rates. Change the ridiculous one way system, that forces traffic, from New st., to turn right. Go around the Market sq., and turn right , to head to Cambridge rd. A car park ,south side of high st

A wider variety of businesses supporting all people from young to old, every ethnic group and more support for the gay communities.

I believe you have covered most points above, just needs real forward planning, £12 million to spend is a great start, but it wouldn't take much to waste it, so lets get it right first mea

Restore the parking spaces. There is no need for it to be pedestrianized. This is not Paris or any other European market town that people want to pretend that it is.

Helping local business owners and investing in local business.

Acceptance that the way we shop has changed but we need to be able to support all these small businesses and food outlets Encourage enterprise, small business with small or subsidised rent. Have events for young people as well as older and families.

Live music /comedy events in the Square with food trucks and places to chill out would be so good. More plants on the square would also be nice.

Keep noticeboards and information boards clean and up to date. I have complained bout the state of the boards with no result so have cleaned them myself!!!! The board in the Riverside Park is in a dreadful state which doesn't give a good impression.

Get a Market on Thursdays like it was in the 70s

Make st.neots the first wheelchair friendly shopping experience clothes shops

Remembering the heart of it being a small market town, supporting local busy and not buying in to big things like primark etc

Get car parking out of the town centre including off the pavements.... More traffic wardens

To have a Changing place in the Priory Centre, to have 1h parking available for a smaller fee when you just want to pop to the market or pick up something. Taking away the Priory Centre car park would make that community centre less desirable to hire, particularly as the Riverside Car park get flooded. The town car park get busy during events.

We need to retain the character of our town. Buildings and streets should not be changed purely to encourage economic growth.

We need to accept when our town has reached it's potential and accept a static well-functioning economy where residents are happy.

It's no good improving access to the town if there is no reason to come You must have a good selection of retail shops large and small

An activity hub for young people

Make it more attractive for retailers to want to invest

It's vital we keep the rowing club . This is a huge part of the history of the town. It's a very popular healthy sporting activity that St Neots is well known for. This must be saved and have a future. Any riverside redevelopment must have the rowing club at its heart.

We need to keep it so the next generation can enjoy the river, the rega. a nc other club events brings lots of people to St Neots every year.

Banning cars. It has to be the way forward.

We need to get people to want to come to St Neots. Clothing shops, a variety of other shops. People shop in alternav e towns as we only have limited clothing stores

Better chained restaurants and better retail

Retaining the successful rowing club

Improve feeling of safety for those who walk into town centre. I am a 26 year old woman in Loves Farm and I don't feel safe walking alone in the evening.

A ring road to allow pedestrianisaon of high street. pavements free of parked cars, appauling block paved roads improved. car parking machines that a) work b) are reasonably priced c) allow for short visits d) take coins e) do not use numberplate recognion. market square used for pop up traders every day. The river to have more hospitality on its banks - the priory centre could do much more with its river facing side, Old falcon should use it's river frontage when refurbed, a floang /moored hospitality facility, a designated space of the public to do punng , river cruises, paddle boarding kayaking by the town not Eaton Socon.

More leisure facilities in the town centre. Swimming pool next to eat and bowl to be resurrected.

A pedestrian bridge across the river linking the riverside park to the town centre, ideally next to the current road bridge.

More outside seang for restaurants; Lower rents for shops so that more independent retailers can afford to come in; Make the town more ar acv e to some bigger high street stores eg Body Shop, White Stuff, etc A regular market several me s a week with a good mix of different stalls

Not having an EWR route slammed through the middle of it!

Need to sort the old falcon. Need to remove or reduce traffic in the centre - it's a divided town centre as a result

More creav e thinking, e.g.,using large buildings as community shared spaces, allowing tradional buildings to be used for other purposes,trying to integrate old people more,say,old style dancing in the square like in Spain, on summer evenings. More music fesv als,Begwary style

More fashion shops that appeal to younger generaon eg next river island and especially a sports shop... sports direct Range of shops to encourage people to visit. Car parks which are affordable and have working pay and display machines which are easy to operate and don't break or have bu ons that won't work.

To ar act different cultures and backgrounds

Simple transport opon's so we can spend me and money in town and get back home easily. Venues, events and shops to go into town for

Consider the possibility of closing the High Street to through traffic except emergency vehicles and buses. Make the prime route to Longsands and eastward areas as the bypass and Cromwell Road.

Using the market square and riverbank to their advantage, as it is something that makes the town stand out, as many do not have this.

Safety. Cleanliness.

Allow access to the river from the town

I think cheaper rents for more desirable and also start up businesses.

Variety of options for all things in St Neots.

Ensuring that the history of the town isn't lost and is enhanced instead. Especially the connections with the river and the focal point of the market.

Reducing traffic flow somehow, ensuring the rowing club/dragon boaters have a home that is central to the town - they are key to our cultural identity

Creating spaces for more independent shops, pop up businesses to thrive and grow. To keep the experience of visiting the town vibrant and fresh

Betterer shops (menswear, hardware/household, gift shops, independents)

Better road surface through and in/out of the town Center.

Wider variety of shops, redevelopment of all the ugly buildings along the high street e.g. Beales, plus MUCH better quality pubs and restaurants.

Sort out the parking charges so that people shop local. Encourage new businesses.

Allowing more interesting independent shops

I think the rowing club being central is important but could be improved, along with glass or metal balconies along the river side of the priory centre would open up this fantastic venue to wonderful views especially if that side of the building had floor to ceiling glass doors to, I'm sure the cafe would be busy on regatta days etc as it would be a fantastic viewing platform. The oast house was a great venue for eating and entertainment, so it would be nice to see it used again, I know the younger generation were doing more events there and had started to enjoy it before it closed.

Attract tourists Make better use of the river- cafes and outdoor bistro's, better walkways by the river , Craft markets Music events

Bringing facilities Make it attractive to visit More variety of shops Stop fast food outlets and barbers etc too many empty shops

Better short term parking and easier to use machines

Final point on sustainability - St Neots has the opportunity to provide a real example of sustainable local development which could lead the way not only in the Eastern region, but nationally . Using some scaled down green city approaches would be excellent.

Opportunities to attract more tourism to St Neots- more cultural activities so it not only benefits the residents but also increases the wider footfall to allow local and new businesses to thrive.

Alternatives to public transport maybe bike hire or autonomous taxi trials

Sorting out Beales building and encouraging companies like Wilco

Keep developing and striving for excellence.

Secure cycle parking

Don't leave empty shops and buildings to degenerate, encourage businesses to come to our town however please note that we don't need any more barbers!

I think the Old Falcon Pub should be developed by the owner and not us as I understand this has been in dispute for many years and would take a large portion of money from the funds allocated and this could be used to improve town and riverside walks and facilities

Events to build strong community spirit and pride in our town

X

That it can sustain the demand of the increased population.

Knocking down the Priory Centre and making the river frontage more appealing with restaurants, cafes, bars etc. The Priory centre is a waste, as it doesn't get used enough and is an eye sore

There are now too many disabled parking slots in the market square. Also we have lost many spaces in the market square so we have lost flexibility, the landlords to buildings should be made to keep them looking good and painted frequently. Too many are allowed to let go making the town look a mess. Too many empty buildings. Need to restrict the number of hairdressers, we do not need the level that we have. We want a town to attract visitors and encourage local buying. At the moment to get what you want you have to travel outside of st neots. Perhaps encourage Marks and Spencer's to take over beales store but offering reduced rent. Encourage other lager chains to come to st Neots. Remove or drastically reduce the cost of parking to encourage traders and more people to a. end the town

Improvement of traffic flow, especially from Eaton Socon over the bridge. Easily solved by opening priory lane again.

Landlords of buildings need pressure put on them to fill their spaces.

Better public transport to reduce car usage and make it more accessible to disabled users

The town is easy to walk round so nothing needs to be done there, and encouraging more and more people to sit and 'relax' in the town centre will encourage noise, li er and over development. Tidy St Neots Market Square, sort out the parking and li er then leave it alone.

Build a pedestrian bridge at Regatta Meadow so we don't have to cross the noisy, smelly and dangerous road bridge.

Overall there is too much staonar y traffic. The queues on the bridge and the lower part of the high street are very off pung for both pedestrians and cyclists, and it detracts from the market square. Not building the new footbridge was a missed opportunity.

Not sure how to overcome this problem, though.

Increase and/or maintain the variety of stores which is conducive to public interest and money being spent to further develop and increase levels of public grataude for the town.

We don't need so many Estate agents!

Improve public transport in evenings and weekends. Car parking to be properly controlled.

Falcon is a privately owned building using public money for this when it could be spent on other things is wrong.

To expand on what it has going for it not to suffocate or show disregard by removing or building over it....to keep its inherent identity .

Children walking to Longsands school from Eaton Ford area have to cycle and walk over St.Neots bridge everyday. It's a serious concern to me that as traffic increases our children's safety will be compromised. We need a foot /cycle bridge connecng Regatta meadow, Eaton Ford. to the town. By having a foot/cycle bridge, this will encourage children to cycle to school.

Keep up adversing to bring people to the town centre. Maybe some evening plays outside

Make it more appealing

Reduce the traffic congeson at peak me s so that there is less polluon. I do not, however, want to see The Priory opened up to traffic again as this would make it much more difficult to walk safely into town and would create a rat-run around the Waitrose car park area.

What we have been asking for over many years, improve traffic flow and get the traffic lights co-ordinated. Reduce or remove all

parking charges to encourage visiting the Town Centre. Give small businesses help by slashing ridiculous shop space rental charges.

Rega. a Meadow waterfront could be developed.

Ensure that planning for the future includes and appeals to everyone e.g. ethnic minority communities, LGBTQ+ citizens

Not enough space here to give all my suggestions.

A decent theatre and evening economy space beyond pubs would be great

There has been talk of using some of the green areas next to the river for building offices. This idea is ridiculous, one area is next to the rowing club and is a haven for swans and locals and workers to take lunch breaks etc. There are plenty of brown infill sites without building on the river. The river is for greenery and leisure.

We need to keep town accessible for cars and buses to allow visitors to come into the town, which will bring money into the town but town centre buildings and the road needs a revamp. It looks red I'm afraid to say. I like it for the walks in the area. The dragon boat races the boat illuminations. I think the fireworks should be diverted and the town doesn't need the fair rides it needs carnivals, fests, when they shut the road for the fair, why can't they instead of fair, have local small businesses on stalls Christmas's to take in with the lights going on.

Keeping places like the museum open and expand learning of the town. More arts centres maybe a small theatre like Cambridge Arts Theatre.

Encourage new businesses (shops) eg you would not go Xmas shopping in St Neots

Redevelop the riverside paths make them bigger and wider, they need to incorporate buggy's, joggers, bikers and general walkers!!! they have been the same since 1980

More local artisan businesses

Actually get on and doing something instead of endless talking planning and then canceling like the foot bridge idea!

Need attractions for younger people. Eg group activities.

The pollution and traffic in town is not ideal though with the river and some historic buildings being where they are I'm not sure how the problem would be addressed

Make better use of the waterfront location of the Priory Centre as a venue. This would not only benefit users of the centre but I feel would enhance the community building which is vital to the residents and visitors.

Reviewing the road structure. Would be great to have a large pedestrianised area. Too many cars and vehicles in and around the market square and surrounding area.

This questionnaire does not include the Riverside Park which for me is the most important aspect of the town. It is not properly maintained, ie the new footpaths we were promised on Regatta Meadow have not happened since the pedestrian bridge was cancelled, even though the money was ring fenced for this. Very disappointing

Shops!!!

Unitary control so that developments are not blocked by HDC. Eg a bandstand close to Ambiance. Concerts in the park A music festival. Why not convert the folk festival into a music festival? And give it professional management.

More green spaces like seating areas with plants.

If the market square is being changed what will happen to the disabled parking spaces

Use the river, it is the biggest natural attraction for the town and the best for miles around. It is not used fully for the benefit of the town.

Something to occupy young kids between shops. Soft play in the square?

There's about 40000 people here but we still have to go to other towns to see decent comedy nights or bands. Why isn't there a good venue in St Neots to support this? Why isn't some promoter taking this on? The Priory Centre is just awful. There's a big enough audience to a. end, I'm absolutely certain, but nowhere to go.

Yes, to make the town center a place everyone wants to use, you must offer us what retail parks and online shopping can never offer. That is a good me ! Pubs, clubs, restaurants and shops that offer a cheaper alternav e to what can be found online. We also need bigger doctors, dental and opciains to support the growing community, along with bigger roads and supporng rail links.

Reasonable business tax rates and rents to encourage business start ups

Ulise the river. Boat or kayak hire, and a wine bar.

Make it a viable opon for visitors and tourists but also for new business owners

Protect the Rowing Club encourages visitors to the town, i.e. regattas, dragon boat racing, in turn supporng trades in the town.

See comments above

Encourage the independent stores but could do with a big name to draw people in

Having sufficient parking for disabled people

Something for the younger generaons. It's all well and good encouraging business and arts to use the town but our kids need smula on.

Greater variety of shops. More places to sit/ have coffee by the river bank. Pavement has also become very uneven in places which is dangerous.

Before any changes to the traffic and pedestrian access to the town are changed a new bridge is needed as the town bridge is the only possible route from Lil e Paxton to the Town/trains.... when the common is flooded.

Regatta park is under ulised

As previously stated

Yes, better facilities for children

Safe environment for living and provide more child friendly town center is important. Bring in some big and small businesses create more job opportunie s for the locals.

I think the council should focus on making it more ar acv e to businesses, the rest will follow. Redeveloping the Priory Centre and the Old Falcon are likely to be a huge waste of money.

A younger age group need to be asked this queson as they will the visitors and users of the town centre in the future

As there are more housing being built in the local area we need more shop, ar acons and facilities such dens t and doctors. For example we recently moved to the area and all of the local dens t are full and we were told are unlikely to have any spaces in the near future.

Band stand

More public conveniences. Enlarge the Thursday market.

Not just handing land over to developers and leng them build lots of flats as seems to be the case in so many other town centres.

Permanent outdoor seang area on part of the market square, to make the most of the fabulous restaurants and food suppliers.

Tighter restrictions on parking outside of car parks.

Developing a waterfront route would be expensive and a complete waste when we have riverside park opposite, it would be better for money to be spent on the market square area. Whilst the environment and sustainability are extremely important, construction by its nature is difficult to make carbon neutral, in my experience insisting on this will lead to an expensive and artificially carbon neutral development.

As mentioned previously

The importance is the speed of proposed improvement and to also take advantage of our riverside areas, again introducing 'mobile' food and drink bars with recreational seating, plus the introduction and encouragement of riverboat restaurants. Improvement to our Riverside and Priory Park areas with more seating and recreational facilities and not just for playground and dog walkers

Pedestrianised town centre for more relaxed wandering.

Managing the traffic through the centre. Elimination of tortuous bus routes via South St. for example.

Ideally a better venue for concerts etc, more hotels.

Better bus connections to Cambridge. You aren't going to attract people from Cambridge to St Neots but the loss of the X5 Service is one less reason to visit St Neots which often formed a 'wrap around' as part of a trip to Cambs. Improvements to the size and variety in the market. Themed fests. Use empty shops as pop up restaurants, shops and venues for creative events. Support new businesses and enterprises.

Equality, diversity and inclusion should be at the core of all planning - not just physical accessibility. Further education provision is missing and is a significant opportunity. Community leadership development will ensure those who live, work, study and socialise in the town are involved in and can influence it sustainably.

Make all shop signs conform to classy looking standard. Replace Amusement Arcades and tattoo shops with upmarket / interesting shops and restaurants.

There is no mention in this questionnaire about the loss of parking or increase in residential development in the town centre I feel that these are important issues in the proposals to which I would object

St Neots should be a town that all ages can enjoy. It is important to factor in the needs of our entire community.

Changing the Priory Centre so the toilets do NOT face the river view, adding a restaurant or such in the old SNC offices with river overview. Making the green space by the rowing club into an accessible area for residents to use on that side of the river. Finding away to reuse the closed shops that attract residents to the town. Make sure you have water tight planning permission before spending any money refurbishing the old Falcon - in my mind this is a big Gamble. More trees and shrubs in the market square and no parking (save emergency and disabled spots). A long shot - making the high street and market square traffic free. What's happened about the pool or such in the priory area? Public toilets in Priory park.

To retain the links to the past, ie famous people from the town. The Rowing Club prominence on the river as a spectacle as are the punts are to the Cam in Cambridge.

Better traffic free cycle route from Eaton Ford to town centre. I.E. not suicide lanes on the town bridge. Who ever came up with that clearly never rides a bike!!

Please consider more artisan and independent shops, definitely no more card, charity or barbers shops. A departmental store would be a great asset and so would some big name stores. As we are also gaining a reputation for a variety of restaurants then it is

important that we make full use of the lovely Riverside Park and its surrounds and a well stocked high street for a good day out for visitors.

Maintaining a local bus service, which is reliable. More averagely priced clothes shops.

I have le. the issue of the Falcon blank as I would like to know the ownership of the property before any money is used to develop it. It has been an eyesore for so long that I agree something needs to be done with it. A nice bouque hotel with a riverside restaurant and individual lil e shopping outlets along the front would be nice. We have no good hotels in the town anymore.

We are the biggest town (populaon wise) after Peterborough and Cambridge - we have excellent routes via rail and road in all direcons... it's a shame that the town is growing and yet the facilities are shrinking and somemes disappearing altogether.

The Rowing Club and its locaon are important to the Town. Many people in the town have been members of the club or have friends or family who have a conneccon.

covered above

Need to ensure that when boat users arrive in St Neots, signs are in place - currently no signs exist! By having a sign welcome to St Neots with a Noceboar d, this will encourage more people to stop and visit.

Need to give the shops along the high street a face li - most buildings look very r ed. Need to make space thats ar acv e to potenal tenants

Develop use of roo ops in the town centre and reduce traffic.

Connue to maintain the cleanliness

Would be nice to see a police officer on patrol, not rushing past in a car.

More opportunie s for people to engage in a range of employment and creav e opportunie s

Increasing tree planing to improve the ar acv eness, help to deal with heat island effect and localised flooding as we experience more extreme weather events.

Please do not waste millions on environmental reports and carbon calculators for something you will build anyway, ullise the saving to provide other improvements.

As a member of St Neots Rowing club for the last 10 years and who spent all their teenage years around the club I know how important facilities like this are for the community. Facilie s like this around the town draws people in - I for one pop into town far more after training than i would do if i was not already in the town. All sporng facilities should be extremely important for this project as it aids healthy life styles, local sporng successes and community engagement.

Make sure rowing club exists

To keep the history of the town

Finding ways to reduce through traffic. Finding ways to improve flow - e.g. synchronising traffic lights and pedestrian crossings.

Re open through road beside bridgehouse pub. Remove the need to walk under town bridge if parking in Riverside carpark and accessing the town centre

Create an area where I would want to spend more me and money in the town centre, apart from eang and drinking. Ulise those empty units for smaller businesses at a price they can afford.

Free parking for couple of hours at least. Better bus links from villages like Gransden for teenagers. Pizza express is great but why is there not a nice family restaurant by the river? 99%of the me when I visit St Neots I'm not even aware there is a river. Such a shame as it's an ar acv e area.

A new road bridge containing a cycle footpath connecting Crosshall Road with the Common. This would help ease the volume of traffic going through the town centre, particularly when the Lileq Paxton bridge is closed due to flooding. This would also be an investment in the future expansion of St Neots, and any sale of the Meadowland and Rowing club for (presumably unaffordable) residential development could perhaps contribute towards the cost. Persuading East-West rail to adapt their proposed route to go through the existing St Neots railway station would greatly improve connections to and from St Neots. Any narrowing of carriageways on the High Street and existing river bridge should still be of the minimum width as per Highways England's guidelines, to avoid problems such as experienced in Wimborne (Dorset) where their lanes are now too narrow resulting in accidents.

Improvements to the local bus service would also help. Around town over the past couple decades the local 61, 62, 63, and 64 services have either been axed or stripped back. Similarly buses to and from surrounding villages and neighbouring towns have also been cut back, which used to bring people into St Neots, particularly on market days.

A less arrogant mayor, more policing for the an. social drivers and their noisy vehicles 24 hrs a day

Encouraging new shops parcularly small independent stores to set up. This can only happen if costs are affordable
Encourage/maximise river use.....rowing, pleasure cra, Riverside terraces etc.

The Rowing Club is absolutely integral to community of St Neots - it simply MUST remain an important part of central St Neots.

Make better use of the waterfront and make it much nicer to visit or we (surrounding villagers) will just shop with Amazon. Why should businesses pay high rates to the council who then discouraged locals from shopping and leisure visits by imposing parking fees

I believe the future of high streets in the UK is to become more oriented to smaller businesses mixed with resident and cultural/hospitality like Bohemia. connen tal towns provide examples of this, where shops and flats are interspersed.

No housing to be built along the river. The rowing club is beauful to look at and should not be replaced with housing. There are too many houses being built and traffic is sll too heavy with a lack of infrastructure.

Affordable rent for the shops.

Create a cafe culture for summer and winter and make the river and church area a centre piece
The return of shopping .

Pay for the traffic light sequencing along the length of the High Street to work together. Don't try & close the High Street/Market Square to traffic, there would be even less incenv e to go into town if you have to go round the by pass etc. On-line shopping would increase. Cannot see how it can be improved without demolion & redesign which is never going to happen.

Clamp down on pavement parking in areas such as Brook St. Better street cleaning. Better signposng to leisure facilities, bowling alley, miniature railway etc. Development should be sustainable where possible. Better access for people with mobility issues. More elecric car charging points. Free shul e bus service from railway staon to town.

I am a long-term member of the rowing club, and believe it is a unique asset to the town. It is an historical instuon that provides opportunie s to people of all ages and backgrounds. By itself and through partnerships with other clubs, it provides a hub for hundreds of local sports-people, and makes use of the unique river stretch for health and recreaon.

Yes give control of our Town back to the St Neots Council. Leave us alone HDC

More independent shops

More variety of shops for younger people

Keeping the rowing club going

The improvement of facilities at the Rowing Club

As a long serving and active member of St Neots Rowing Club I am concerned about the lack of information on relocation of this important sporting facility in the town. The club is recognised within the eastern region for its annual rega. a which brings significant kudos to the club and importantly, to St Neots. It must be relocated in an appropriate site so that the long history of the club (1865) continues and indeed allows the club to continue to flourish and support the town. The fact that there is to be considerable housing development around St Neots mustn't be overlooked as this will inevitably impact on use of the town, and will be a source of new membership for the rowing club.

The right mixture of people leading the changes needed

The rowing club should be kept in its present location. It is valuable asset that gives shape and character to the town.

The integration of St Neots rowing club with the wider community.

Greater encouragement of use and better facilities for town sports centres and clubs - they provide so much for the community as a whole including attracting visitors to the area

I row for St Neots rowing club and I believe it's very important to the town that stays in the centre

Not allow tacky shopfronts

Not too many chains, more individual shops. Fewer charity shops.

Delivering what the people who live and visit want. Rather than just what is pointless green space. We've got enough parks in and around the area. The town needs to be the central hub

I think a separate foot bridge across the Great Ouse to near the Priory Centre would still be a great asset and help improve that part of the town.

Clearing the illegal parking on the pavements around the market square should be an immediate priority. Ignoring it is ignoring rights of access to all, especially those with disabilities. It's also very dangerous and makes the place look bad.

I think a really bold move would be to completely pedestrianise the High Street. People don't drive to St. Neots because they have to, they do so because they can. Having said that, this would need to go in tandem with the improvement of local public transport options.

Lil' e town mentality and policy ineptitude on three levels will cause a loss of a real opportunity which is available resulting from current housing developments

Floral displays in the market square

We need to develop more of a sense of community spirit - a place we are proud to support.

As mentioned above plus if we are a bigger "town" why does Huntingdon get everything over St Neots?

Pedestrianised high Street where possible.

Using the waterfront to encourage new business

Redevelop empty shops and spaces especially the old falcon inn

Retail not just good and drink outlets. Demolish the falcon, it's not that attractive and not culturally or historically important. The council need to start making the case (as a commuter town) for workers who haven't gone in or back to London to remain homeworkers to support local high street

Less traffic, making the road coming from Eaton Socon over the bridge a one way left turn only so traffic can get to Waitrose car park without having to go via new street. Also giving traffic lights for pedestrians a little longer to be able to cross the roads.

A community area

Stop illegal parking around the market square and brook Street

Prevent it being a one street carfest, ghost town full of betting shops, charity shops, nail salons with ghe. os on outskirts and just an area for people that cannot afford to live in Cambridge. Even down at heel Hunng don (shiver) has a pedestrianised albeit horrible town centre. At least they got that right - cars go round the centre.

A development of pride from all residents - young and old.

St Neots town centre is prey good. Too many barber shops but better to get empty shops filled. Why spend lots more on it? not waste development of priory center, concentrate on high st and market square. Improve links and access from town to riverside park.

Help for independent businesses. Events, acvie s and things to do for people under 40.

Stop focussing on just making it look 'prey'. Give people more reason to visit and it'll look better as it'll be making more money to be reinvested.

Could Beales be used as an event space? Indoor crazy golf? Go kart track? Crystal Maze? Escape Room? Ping Pong? Such a large retail space is unlikely to be let, could a change of use be worthwhile? This is a great town, the pandemic has highlighted the strengths of the town and sadly the weaknesses. Please please make sure there are signs of change soon!

Local transport into town centre. It take me and others an hour to walk into town and home. The bus route needs more services.

Got to make better use of the waterfront locaon.

I definitely think not enough is made of the river, it could be a real tourist ar acon, really pung St Neots on the map. Lighng along the river, decent paths, not overgrown. As for the Priory Centre, what a waste, it could be a really money spinner, glass verandas, outside lighng , inside and outside dining, it could look fantasc! How about some decent river boat trips.

I am aware that the closure of some large department stores meant the loss of local jobs. But personally I never took much pleasure shopping in a place like it and cannot say I miss it. Bouque s where local arsans can sell their own products are a much more desirable but such businesses can only thrive if they don't drown in council/business taxes.

Discourage any further out-of-town shopping developments. Allow Waitrose to expand a lil e (as they wanted to a few years ago) so it incorporates a bigger range and a cafe (like the Bedford one). Don't clu er the high street with lots of things - try to harmonise the street furniture with that on Church Street and keep it simple.

Short stay parking prices should be re introduced. You should not have to pay for 2 hours minimum. More toilet facilities and they should be modern not just a concrete ult rian block.

With increased foo all it would be important to increase security measures such as CCTV

Filling the empty shops, but not with gambling establishments or too many takeaways, they seem to give towns a downgraded look.

We don't need any more charity shops or cheap shops, a department store like Beales would be good or M&S expanding into a clothes store as well as a food store. The Market Square car park could be turned into a more social space with perhaps more disabled car parking spaces provided in the Waitrose car park or maybe turn the smaller car park near the library made into disabled parking only.

Probably job creaon for young people. Lots of families with children live in the newer developments (Loves Farm and Wintringham etc. In 5-10 years from now, without sufficient local jobs their prospects for early careers employment, part me work, and all the

personal development opportunities and experience that brings, will suffer. An area which doesn't offer employment or social/recreational opportunities for younger people will struggle in the long term.

The town centre needs to be more family friendly, to have safe spaces for kids to be in while their parents get a coffee/areas to sit in as a family with lunch, more family friendly places for leisure/activities in the Square like the movie night that was done a few years ago.

Close the River Bridge as I said plus keeping bikes, escooters and eskateboards off the pavements. Decriminalisation of Parking all over St.Neots and a couple of wardens to issue fines would be a good start.

N/A

The river front scheme I am a bit luke warm on. Once people have used it once I can see them never returning, unless it incorporates specific leisure facilities - maybe a small ferry linking Eaton Socon with Lileq Paxton? And there should be some river front dinks/dining. Otherwise it will be a bit of a white elephant that none of the locals really get - just the town councillors.

Attracting quality independent and chain retail to balance out the offering. Currently the town centre is mainly estate agents, banks, charity shops and barbers/beauticians/ta. oo parlours. These are important but there needs to be a balance. St Neots should be looking to become a place with niche independent shops and a focus for the art community so it has individuality and heart. Much more should be made of the weekly markets too.

Cross keys staying how it is. We have list to much of our history within the town.

Retailers need foo all - to do this I think we have to make it easier for people t visit and one way would be to offer 2 hours free parking - as good as it is to get people to come via public transport, foot or bike, many will sll need to drive and charging for parking drives them to out of town shopping centres instead of into the town centre. Also, to be successful, most independent retailers will also need to offer online as well as a physical shopping environment so some sort of 'St Neots Online Support' could use local experts to help new retailers set up websites and understand the use of markeng and social media to support their business. Creang better routes around town and even 'quarters' could help drive foo all around the area - eg the Charity quarter, the food quarter, the homes and interiors quarter - where shops congregate to offer a more concentrated experience. Possibly this would be helped by some more pedestrianised areas. Making the market square a flexible and covered area might help to make this a more year round cafe and market space

Ar act shops in. Poundstretcher is now going. What is left ?????

A small covered (glass roof) market with stalls and a few small 'stsriter' units would be a boost, Suggested locaon -former Dorothy Perkins unit,with walk through access from Market Square to Waitrose, linking up the town.

Free parking would encourage more people to come to the town for shopping and help the economy of the small shops.town centres

Traffic is an issue, but I understand that that's not easy to resolve. Geng over the bridge by bike can be a bit of a struggle when cars don't leave enough space. It would be good if the bridge was wider, but again, not an easy undertaking

Bigger shops possibly by extending the high st

Small specialist shops are needed in the centre, big stores belong in out of town shopping centres.

A good electrical shop, men's clothes shop and an indoor market. Also a connual police presence.

Try and sector areas. Eg it's such a waste having estate agents around the market square. These shouldn't have the best fronted retail, however again I know this is out of council control.

Traffic desperately needs to be curtailed or rerouted. Take a look at what pedestrianisaon did to Beverley in East Yorkshire. It

totally transformed the center of the town into a vibrant friendly place to walk and be with cafes and eateries spilling out into the extra street spaces. This in turn improves the footfall making it possible for some retail stores to be more viable.

Retail, residential area is increasing all the mea and high street doesn't grow with that increase if anything it's is greatly reduced

Be. er access to and exploitaon of the river

Connue d encouragement of markets & fesv als for the community to enjoy

Protecon of parks and green spaces. Keeping the rowing clubs where it is. Making more use of the river with boat trips etc available.

Development of empty shops and premises.

Keeping the rowing club central, with regattas etc to enjoy, and the Riverside areas for relaxing, play areas, the mini railway and the skate park especially now it is an Olympic sport, the kids have hours of fun down there and it's great to watch them and it's a nice route back to Eaton socon or Eynesbury from a wonder around our town centre. A riverside promenade would be nice but I'm not sure how that could be achieved, the priory centre would be a great viewpoint of the riverside park if it had glass instead of brick balconies, pathways resurfaced over riverside and brookside areas as they are quite hard work with a wheelchair or walking trolley.

Need something to make the town centre interesng. I don't know what that is, but one thing is clear - High Street retail, at least for the large chains, is dead. The number of eang establishments is growing but I think the town can only support so many of these.

What can you do to ar act new, independent shops and businesses to the town centre? Space for pop-ups? The town's 'cycle routes' are in need of an overhaul. For example, the path on Cromwell Road is now very bumpy due to tree roots ling the surface. The lanes along Cambridge Street/Road (basically lines on the road) have prey much disappeared. With the large developments at Loves Farm and Wintringham, I think it's important to give people a safe cycling opon to avoid clogging the town centre with traffic.

Requires much more shopping opons and variety.

That foo all is increased for shopping by encouraging better shops to come and not just just eang and drinking

Free parking

Bring on more shops not giving over the big builds in town centre to bars try and bring in more shops that have intrest to younger people and where you can buy stuff you need

Street lights in the parks!!!!

One of the opons was for 'new business', specifically shops please. It's no good having a relaxing environment to sit and do nothing. St Neots will be dead in the day and possibly half alive in the evening. People visit other places for the whole experience, ie., shopping, art galleries, etc.

Look after what we already have. Informaon boards need regular cleaning - I've done it myself as no-one seems to be interested in them . HDC boards in Riverside Park have lost their informaon and look as though they've been abandoned.not a good impression for visitors

Make it somewhere people want to visit

Lots of shops, keep foo all high to support all local business.

More and better qualified SNTC staff to manage town is essenal to look after and manage the new infrastructure

No.

To succeed and be relevant, it needs to exceed the demands of local people and to ar act, albeit in modest numbers, regular

visitors. Community uses, enhanced events for example, GP practices, dentists etc. More town centre living, convert commercial to residential. Make more of the built environment and natural asset of the river

Not at present. I think ensuring green walk and cyclways can access the Town centre from all directions despite the excessive additional building on the outskirts is really important to reduce driving and parking congestion.

Do something with the old Beales Department Store

Modernisation of facilities.

Local food /farmer's market stalls are great I think they should be more permanent for people to have small businesses our local Thursday should to great not worth visiting now

To encourage all types of people to visit. Restore the car parking, and close off occasionally when any festivals / fêtes are planned.

Get some REAL shops like a big Primark in the old Beales store and you will get all the footfall from st. Ives , Huntingdon cambourne and all the villages so people don't have to travel to Peterborough, Cambridge or Bedford . PRIMARK is a one stop shop for the whole family, especially on the run up to Christmas when everyone, children, parents and grandparents will and do USE for Xmas shopping and they also use it all year round.. without a PRIMARK, you stand to LOSE MORE footfall. You cannot sustain a town centre based on purely supplying MORE food and drink places.. what about the people who CANNOT afford to go out a few megs each week. Can't afford to go to cafés, pubs clubs? There is a large population who simply can't afford these luxuries. Why base the sole existence of the town on outsiders who move here from say Cambridge or London. You're doing nothing for your own local kids growing up, they cannot afford to buy a property in their own town of birth because too many people with money either move here and can buy what they want in housing terms that then pushes up the prices for the local kids. It's disgusting that they have to move to Peterborough and beyond as that's the only place they can afford

Don't waste money on the priory center other than making the river frontage be. er, the building is fine. It's not difficult to walk around town, and there's plenty of seang at the riverside

Re instate X5 conneccon to Cambridge - full service with ability tp carry bikes - less people visit now and if do, do by car

It is important to keep ar acv e buildings and ensure they are brought up to good modern standards. It would be very sad if the library and Rowing club were to be moved. They are part of the history of the town and are important to many residents. I think the green area near the Rowing club is also an asset to the town.

The town needs a greater variety of good shops it needs a permanent police presence and a good safe area devoid of people racing around the pa nents on e scooters and drug dealers

Free parking to encourage visitors

Quickness of acon/ involvement of more people

More events, bringing back the autumn fair to riverside. More events like the regatta. We could ar act many visitors to the town if the riverside park hosted more events

Divert traffic from Town Centre

Get more shops in the Town

To have more variety in way of shops. I hear so o en st neots is just full of hair salons/barbers, charity shops, coffee shops and estate agents and it would be nice to have access to a clothing department parcularly for children's clothing. stop over charging for parking and business rates

Shops! Decent shops that will encourage people to visit. Most residents travel elsewhere to shop

Keeping it clean and well presented (eg hanging baskets, riverside walks)

Trying to find a way to reroute the traffic so that it doesn't directly pass the square, maybe via the bridge house road would greatly improve that section of the high street.

More facilities such as toilets, especially for people with mobility issues. Regular cleaning.

Stop closing pubs and shops and turning them into flats. There's too much built along the river side ruining the town. River terrace should be demolished or open up the riverside as it used to be. FCS turn the Falcon back in to a Pub and hotel.

A lot of shops I use to use are now charity shops, haircuts, estate agents and glasses. I used to be able to buy what I wanted and now I have to get on a bus somewhere else greedy shop owners and Huntingdon have let St Neots go to the dogs. There's no point living in the centre if everything has gone.

High quality toilet facilities, address parking issues i.e encourage people to park in the car parks not on the narrow streets by reducing the cost of the car parks. Create easier road crossing for pedestrians i.e diagonal crossing at junctions. Another pedestrian/cycle crossing across the river

Shops

The town desperately needs to be properly maintained. We think walking should be made easier. The town centre would be much improved if the Town Council spent money repairing the roads and pavements instead of noisy get togethers on the square and parks. There is not anything in town if you need assistance although the Citizens Office is really helpful and the lady in the library does her best. We were told now Huntingdon Council closed its Office in the Priory Centre that the Council Tax should come down and would like to know when that will come in as our daughter is struggling a bit.

Make it easier somehow for shops/businesses to stay open and thrive.

Non-Punitive Car Parking - there is a general consensus among motorists using the Town Centre car parks that they are being cynically targeted to raise money - and that the whole parking/ticketing process is overly complicated and unwelcoming. Toilets! There does need to be easy access to convenient, clean public toilets We obviously cannot build new historic old buildings - but the vast majority of housebuilding surrounding the town (Papermill Lock/Love's Farm and others) are of poor quality (both architecturally and in choice of materials) and of limited aesthetic appeal - when we do build something new, could we not include 'impressive' 'high quality' & 'visually attractive' in the brief. The Town does not have an Hotel in the centre

Pedestrianised and well maintained. Old buildings restored. To feel like a lively, bustling place to be.

Community Survey

Is there anything else that you think is important to the...

A more sociable, contemporary feel. Perhaps bistros, a mixture of small businesses and High Street brands.

Keep asking the young members what they think

Better use of the waterfront - more rowing but also a canoeing etc

A well run market would attract more people. More restaurants. More walks.

Create a High Street Team - at the start put them in a hub e.g. the Old Falcon, plan to promote events, businesses, port of call for tourists in the summer and residents all year round.

One way system in the centre needs improving - parking blocking public transport.

No

To have more independent shops and to make it more of a destination to enjoy rather than just for the necessities.

Yes for ST Neots to be looked after better, roads, pavements, shops, so we could be proud of St Neots and not ashamed.

We need to encourage established retailers to return and new independent start up shops.

Free car parking of a couple of hours or so each / every week day.

River

More varied shops (retail) and no more cafes or eating house.

Access by car needs to be retained as it is important for visitors / trips ***.

ANNEX 5: A VISION FOR ST NEOTS 2031 (COMMUNITY SURVEY Q16)

Over the next few months we're going to be working with t...

A place to linger, enjoy, socialise. A thriving market town that puts people before cars.

Vibrant, distinctive

A vibrant and busy town centre with many independent shops and restaurants that people will feel safe visiting any mea of the day.

no traffic.

I want to see a vibrant town centre with business' flourishing, that people want to come to, however if you go down the road of demonising motor vehicles people will go elsewhere.

Improved public transport links. More restaurant, leisure and shopping facilities.

Clean and friendly, but also thriving economically.

Not too different from now, but with a be. er variety of shops, a reopened Old Falcon and improved car parking facilities.

I would like to see a vibrant, busy town centre with good transport links.

Friendly, vibrant, prey , well regarded & safe.

More green clean spaces, better parking and roads with direct links to Cambridge and a better variety of shops

A place where you can easily park without worrying about overstaying and geng a fine

I hope there are the local small businesses sll in the town but with some other bigger names shops opening up.

Busy, fun and vibrant

Lively Community feel Social

All the improvement priories you have idenfie d (Old Falcon, Priory Centre, Riverside) have been implemented and cars eliminated from the Square.

Stop people moving here

It needs to keep its character and a leader in reducing carbon footprint.

Fun, vibrant and alive. A ars ts quarter would be good.

The social centre of the community.

Much better than it is now. Better, reliable access using public transport, the Market Sq. put to better use than it is now, the parking sorted (as I believe we might be losing a small carpark?) we will need more better parking, (and the illegal parking that causes a lot of traffic chaos). There is a parcel of land opposite the Bridge House adjacent to the river bridge which is a disgrace, and the first thing a lot of visitors see, it used to be a lovely lagoon. I would like to think a few shillings of this money could sort it out in ten years me?? The people I've spoken to about this just say "why would I want to go in to St. Neots?" We have the cafe's/bars, restaurants, cinema but what you have to change is the culture of people going elsewhere to do their shopping. Just 16 miles away we have Rushden Lakes with all the big named shops, free parking, cafe's and restaurants, the people who go there are the ones you have to get back in to the "need/want" to shop/relax in St. Neots.

More community focused and less people just dumping their cars to park where ever they like

Lots of people using the town centre, traffic in the background, mix of essenal shops and arsan-based outlets, an ar acv e market square and waterside, lots of leisure acvie s, vibrant market, a town that pulls in visitors from miles around

I'll be 88 so again, it's irrelevant.

Less traffic. Less empty shops. More sensible pricing of car parking outside the town centre to encourage people to park and walk.

More consideration to disabled, particularly blind and partially sighted

Not too much housing development in the future to keep the Town small.

A place with decent shops, restaurants and bars. Keeping the character of the town and outside spaces

To be large enough with appealing shops and attractions so there isn't the need to go to a nearby town with be. er opons

Sort the square and traffic

Vibrant with thriving individual modern businesses

Prosperitus and cultural

Hope it's quicker than ten years. Greener Town centre with no traffic

Make more of river frontage. Especially on the old falcon side. Far more shops and less traffic.

A place people want to come and visit and feel safe. Somewhere the less mobile can have better access to and a place that has something to offer everyone

A regenerated Market Square that can be used by everyone and more choice of shops

A vibrant Market Squre that encourages people to use its facilities and Prioy Meadow made use of daily eg small cafe and toilets as this area is undervused

Vibrant

Green, open, healthy

A place where you could spend the day. Go shopping for clothes, gis etc. Have lunch,

Cleaner,better variety of shops. A stop to building propere s on ares in the town centre

Bustling and welcoming for all ages. There needs to be more spaces for young adults to hang out. The old beales building needs to be made into a feature of the town

I want it to be a regional hub for leisure, culture and the creav e arts... with a top quality venue hosng professional theatre and music, a vibrant market square packed with events and served by lots of cafés, plus a vibrant creav e business scene - app and game developers, graphic design, product design etc. I also want St Neots to be leading the way for carbon reducon - having reached net zero by 2030.

More shops, better spaces for outside dining with connen tal feel.

Great place to visit for independent food, drink, beauful walks, and some small independent shops - all in a prey town with a fantasc river running through the middle

More variety of independent shops, bistros. Less hairdressers and charity shops. Places to relax and enjoy the river, connect the areas and enjoy the town centre

A waterfront boardwalk with cafe's bars and quality shops. A pedestrianised town centre with a separate route for vehicles slightly north of the town centre. A market square with seang at cafe's and covered for all weathers. Less charity shops. More upmarket shopping. There is literally no good clothing shops in st Neots. Closest shopping is Biggleswade.

More shops, free parking, no empty buildings allowing people to want to come to town

Busy Lively Fun

To see it thrive & make a town that we don't need to leave to get things we want or need, would be nice to have more places & things to keep us entertained too.

An attractive market town with a range of individual and different retail outlets

I have no hope that anything sensible will be achieved. Beales will still be shuttered up, and probably joined by some of the banks.

Charity shops will still proliferate. The Market Square will still be unused 300 days a year. There is a strong possibility that some absurd traffic scheme will have been implemented which will have driven footfall away and people will be wondering why more shops have closed.

Accessible, safe, with lots to do and somewhere I'm proud to call home

It would be more suitable for younger generations, more facilities for younger generation, uses money wisely.

Smart town with uniform shopfronts...development of a brand like others towns. More upmarket shops, more sophistication for those of a certain age

Unknown

A safe town centre, with a European style square and redeveloped water front hospitality venues.

Nice green spaces, and a nice vibrant town with independent shops, places for families to have fun.

A vibrant centre with individual, successful, shops, restaurants and a theatre.

Beauty, inclusivity and a certain quirkiness of individual businesses that bring about a unique "feel" to the place that makes it memorable and encourages people to remember it and want to visit.

St Neots Square will be a huge open space combined with floral and garden walkways. The food will be revered across Cambridgeshire.

A once again bustling town with independent retail & with a market square used for lots of events. Buildings like the Priory Centre & The Old Falcon using their best asset- the river. Traffic reduced on the approach to the town & no congestion build up!

Accessible, smart, reasonable parking charges for flexibility, non of this minimum 2 hr stay rubbish, how is that the flexible approach the changes were meant to be

Pretty, welcoming , fun for all ages, community

Bustling town centre with no traffic, ethical independent retailers and great bars a d eateries

Cafe culture; no traffic in centre (centre restricted to walking/cycling); sustainable, unpolluted.

Vibrant, secure, lively and accessible.

As green and full of nature as the surrounding countryside. Mostly pedestrianised. Lots of small independent shops that allow people to support local businesses. A beautiful, social place to 'be' rather than somewhere you go for a purpose then leave.

Lots more flowers, retail ,cafes theatre.

Owned and controlled by St Neots . Jobcentre and full mea police station . Revamp derelict buildings . If there has to be charity shops it has to be 4 to one ratio to normal shops butchers grocers newsagent clothing shops m lastly I say again move the Thursday market to Saturday .

To be a town to be proud of.

A place that provides opportunities for people from a range of backgrounds and with a range of interests to come together. One that promotes healthy and sustainable lifestyles.

Be. er connected from all parts of the town be it cycle routes or electric scooter friendly. Failing that give us cheaper parking more electric car charging availability and better spaces for businesses to trade

Vibrant, family friendly, prey , clean and eco friendly town with better pedestrian areas and to see us ulising the beauful river we have running adjacent to the town - we need to make this a huge feature! . It would be great if we could be an example to other towns by making the whole town, every shop & cafe/store etc accessible to those with mobility needs - even if this means providing grants to enable shops to make the changes. The whole of the UK is prey poor on this front! None in my family has mobility needs so I don't say this for my own gain, but I have seen people unable to access shops and cafes in the town because they can't get their wheelchair in - it must make people feel very excluded and it's heartbreaking.

It's all about mig aon from flooding, heat waves and food poverty.

The town centre would be the heart of the town, with opportunie s for new businesses and community projects, and a community feel emphasising the rural seng of the town

I would love to see St Neots high street to become vibrant again like it was 20 years ago. With a good mix of independent shops and chain stores. A busy market with lots of stalls. More outside seang and plants on the square . Outside live music on weekends and in the evenings

An inclusive and diverse town, with connected communities and enabled community leaders driving posiv e growth of what matters to those who live and are invested in the town. You can enjoy and engage with the local businesses and organisaons in the town, creang unique experiences to enjoy as memories with whomever you spend your me with here. You can buy almost anything locally (online is fine, Click It Local are one example of a resoluon for this), there are regular events happening that inspire acon for posiv e growth and community backed inia v es to overcome challenges.

I am totally convinced that St Neots could be one of the finest town centres in the UK in 10 years me Bustling with great places to eat and shop Filled with appealing spaces to meet others and socialise, and to work Ulising all that it offers currently (square, river front, parks) to make it a desna on town, while enfranchising those who live here to spend all their me and money here- as it will not lack any desirable amenity And it will have won many awards and accolades by then for having the best market anywhere in the UK, and for it's pioneering approach for the reinvenon of the market concept for the 21st century; we have the space, we have the local producers, we have the desire and we have the demand, so surely it's possible?...

Personally I would knock down the priory centre and the library and the rowing club and make that a huge riverside Restuarant/social venue. West facing riverside locaon would be ideal .

Unfortunately as we are becoming a commuter belt due to over-the-top development I fear the town centre doesn't have much of a future. As I have said previously, encourage foo all by lower (it's free in Fenland) parking and better public transport and it might stand a chance of ar acng people in and the larger businesses may follow!

A vibrant Town Centre with the market square being used for events instead of a car park. and the removal of all the cars that are parked on the pavement around it so people can walk safely around the square.

Buzzing lively with lots of lil e niche shops. Using the market square at its full potenal.

The market square is the key, remove the traffic and open the space up.

It would be a high street filled with good quality clothes shops, good restaurants and cafes, somewhere people will come to from out of town to visit. Somewhere we can be proud to say we love.

An even more beauful town with new restaurants, new cinema and other leisure acvie s such as so play, crazy golf and indoor skydiving. Also better high street shops like Primark and JD.

Be. er shops.

Better infrastructure

More like a town centre in Europe

A pleasant and ar acv e place to visit.

It to be lively and busy - the old Falcon being used and being amazing Busy shops and eateries and just being a fab place to visit

Traffic free - public spaces have mulple uses - good blend of retail outlets - riverside green areas protected and maintained

Community hub and a lovely place to visit for residents and visitors/ Market square should be pedestrian only and should be full of eang and drinking places with covered outdoor seang , STOP allowing estate agents to move in here we have 7 around the small

market square as it is and it is killing the market town. Better quality shops to keep residents from geng on that bus to Cambridge!!

Redevelop the Market Square once and for all sort out that awful Old Falcon building! Make more use of the river by cleaning up the river and have rowing boats and paddle board hire and more waterside bars and cafes.

St Neots should be a thriving, ar acv e town offering varied shopping opportunie s and a range of leisure acvie s centred around the riverside. It should also offer cultural opportunie s with a lively theatre, cinema and bookshops/ craft shops.

Clean and vibrant. Safe, friendly and welcoming

Bright. Open shops. Easy access for everyone. Riverside frontage accessible. Good transport facilities.

Busy and Bustling As is used to be with a place to visit to spend leisure me as well as a great shopping experience

More variety of shops ideally independent, clean, dy lots of prey flowers and raised beds. A large seang area seconed off for all the restaurants with ambient lighng.

My vision would be one where St Neots had become a better, special desna on venue and not a place to pass through en route to the coastal regions of East Anglia, where people want to linger and add to our local economy, benefiting our local community while having a memorable visit. This cannot be achieved by further vast swathes of housing right on the doorstep, (Dennybrook Village is an example) when facilities like health, schooling etc for local people are stretched to unacceptable limits. We can do this together!!

Busier, somewhere we can go to spend all day, somewhere we can go to for all our groceries and needs without having to visit the bigger out of town shopping centres as much.

A beauful waterfront with a buzzing and vibrant shopping street readily accessed by car, bus and cycling. A range of acvie s for all age groups.

Free parking. Units ulised for public use. Better access to the river front. Better and affordable public transport. Inclusive town that provides for all ages.

Bustling and ar acv e, green

Pedestrianized high street

It will be for people richer than me why do I want loads of restaurants I cant afford to go to every week I want shops I want to be able to carry 6 bags of shopping from Iceland to my car on the market square as the closest other car park is the back of waitrose too far for me

Vibrant, bustling and safe.

Good shops, clothing, home and child appropriate, good theatre style venue (again think of the Apex at Bury St Edmunds, relevant

market stalls, activities during school Holidays, mix of cheap and slightly. More expensive places to eat (not just coffee shops and greasy spoons) adequate parking, make something of the waterfront, the Bridge is great but that is all we have really.

A mix of old and new shops. A beautiful pedestrianised market square with trees and flowers, with seated areas for eating al fresco. A lovely link along the river for walks and for the Old Falcon to finally be rejuvenated to a lovely restaurant for eating and drinking.

Less cars, an even bigger cafe culture with lots of outside events and a lovely friendly family feel with a safe environment to sit and people watch

Vibrant. Is there any way that the traffic crawling through the town can be rerouted? It is noisy , polluting, and dangerous. Sitting in the town square is like sitting on a roundabout with exhaust pipes all around you.

Busy high street of shops

Brighter high street, shops.

Clean and safe environment with a variety of businesses. Not just take always and barbers.

I am afraid at age 72 I do not look 10 years ahead. Anyway, I would hope to see a busy vibrant town. In 1984 I used to drive through on my way to Cambridge and thought it a lovely looking town but only ever stopped once for a meal at what was a boring restaurant where the Bridge House is now.

Something like my answer to Q15

I hope we are ready and integrated with modern transport modes of the day. We may have driverless cars by then. We'll certainly be well on the way to be non-fossil fuelled. So a town centre that can receive and work with those fundamental changes is important. Also - a much better interface and interlinking with the train station is required. It's the gateway to the town. It's shortsighted to focus all our funding on the high street, when far greater things will happen through the station, loves farm and winteringham.

Only to consider previous points made on here. I hope St Neots will grow in stature for my grandchildren to enjoy and become a safe and enjoyable place to live and visit.

I'd like to see create spaces less traffic congestion it's not nice singing out on the market tasing traffic fumes as much as your coffee more open events to try new activities to meet people and make friends

Thriving with local businesses and events to go to

An even better destination for visitors, which meets the needs of all sections of the local community .

I would like to see more independent business coming to the town and much bigger cafe and bar culture and more concentration on making the market Square more open with cafes bars etc . A music theatre venue and some emphasis on the river front to make it more open and not with more properties. A much better bus service around the town. A bigger police presence and some strong emphasis on parking and create more pedestrianised zones

Cleaner and greener

Diverse. Welcoming. Buzzing with new ideas.

Diverse hub of business, leisure and commerce in Cambridgeshire which is much more green and attractive to locals and visitors. Better public transport links to Cambridge.

Lively, accessible and a place to spend a day out rather than popping in for essentials and leaving again.

Has less charity shops on the high street. Has a greater variety of smaller shops on the high street. I think the old falcon would make

an excellent multi cultural venue, with access to the river.

How the town was 20years ago. Good safe pubs, good shops to encourage people to come

Less cluttered with random 'street furniture'. A cleaner looking, more cohesive image in keeping with an old market town.

busy vibrant choice

Less traffic, better pathways and all shops trading. Lots of flowers (wildlife friendly)/trees.

Full of shops, life and green spaces

Full of life and atmosphere

Green and sociable

A place to exercise, relax and socialize.

A place where families & individuals of all ages feel safe, can meet for leisure in an area, well-maintained built environment. A

town with green spaces accessible to all, where the river can be accessed from the town side of the bridge, not only from the Riverside Park. More Well-maintained, vandal-proof seating areas (such as the very solid wooden benches currently in place in the Market Square) A range of independent shops to browse, and café-bars to sit in and to sit outside, connecting-style, with awnings to provide year-round, inside-out access.

Clean, traffic free, waterfront eateries and bars. Walking & cycling access. Good planning and trees for shade. Versatile spaces. River access as well as paths & cycleways.

A safe friendly town with little to no disused shops. Also important to have evening social pubs/bars to visit.

I'd like to see a traffic free High street where people can walk safely and unhindered from shop to shop. Market stalls and vendors could be at intervals along the street to encourage new and start up businesses and employment. I'd like to see canopies strung across the street between the buildings for shelter from the sun and rain. I'd love to see some of the buildings restored to their former self and even to have some of the more modern facades rebuilt to reflect the history of the town.

Hopefully better than it is now. Better provision for cyclists. Less barbers and charity shops, and more shops that we want.

Flexible, vibrant and multifunctional

Cleaner

Reducing of cars and traffic, more places to sit, places for street entertainment and events. A new entertainment venue would be great if it could be supported.

Vibrant, cosmopolitan, interesting!

a greater collection of shops so that people don't have to go out of town

More walking, less cars :)

Modern and eco friendly.

More routes in and out of town. Better roads and a town expansion / more hubs around St Neots rather than everything in town.

Clean, sustainable, accessible to all

Prettier and cleaner.

More trees and plants in public spaces and no derelict properties around the Market Square.

See previous answer re Abergavenny. A full and varied High Street offering with more clothes shops, fewer barbers and more outdoor cafes and social spaces.

Less traffic going through, historical buildings looked a. er, good range of shops and facilities, perhaps with more theatre and community projects.

I'd like to see St Neots back to being a vibrant town bursng with all age groups using its facilities. I'd like to see less traffic in our town maki g it safer for families to spend me there. I'd also like to see some community acvie s take place for young people and children because if there us nothing for them it won't matter how much you spend on this regeneraon as I believe the youth are the future of St Neots. Make the town a place to be proud of.

A community hub. The museum has expanded and is connuing its work in the town centre encouraging people to come into town.

There are more acvie s to do in the town centre for children be young people. It is easier to get to via public transport. The currently unused buildings have been redeveloped into usable community spaces.

A vibrant high st & market square. Ample al fresco drinking & dining choices under cover as the season dictates. Both major retailers & small specialist shops.

Good mix of facilities already menone d. Clean and dy , environmentally friendly, low emissions with plenty of charging points to charge your car whilst you are shopping, at the restaurant or cinema. Good street ligntg around the area so you can feel safe in the evenings. Waterside facilities with a range of acvie s/events for all ages throughout the year.

Green - trees and grass as well as carbon neutral. Social space. Safe. Good shopping and restaurant/cafe opons.

Let us be a proper market town again

A strong cafe culture. With links to river events.

The St Neots Crown Jewels are the River and the Market Square. The Market could be developed with more variety of stalls and extend on all sides on the square. Every week. Any acvity that takes place every other this or that is confusing. It doesn't have a great deal of variety at the moment. A floang restaurant, more boats for hire, night river cruises, etc They have them in York and Stratford upon Avon. The car parks need dyi ng up. Tebbis rd and those behind Marks and Spencer's are groy and weed ridden.

There is loads to do to make St Neots a lovely place to visit.

A place where more people live 'over the shop in good housing that integrates with retail below; a place which is the natural focus for all in the greater town and its dependent villages (and not the place we never go to); a place where history is celebrated and human contact is easily made; a place that inspires with art and music, and whose best built environment is celebrated.

Embracing the environment

I would like St. Neots Town centre to be a vibrant and diverse place that caters to a rmage of people with a variety of interests, a place that encourages the growth of independent, small, environmentally conscious businesses.

Modern, environmentally friendly, safe, well looked after

Town centre free of all parking around perimeter of market square. Better variety of small shops. Better policing of ansocial behaviour at all me s. A large noce board where anyone can post flyers for local events. At the moment there is nowhere to do this except some shop windows. Library etc will not take any flyers that are promong private events and many events can be missed if they don't show up on my Facebook. More events in market square.

A bustling social place with regular comedy, music, fesv als.

Less restaurants and cafes and more shops. Places to take children to that have toilet facilities etc.

Pedestrianised, with a top class theatre arts and music venue. Large range of local shopkeepers, a market square with a daily produce and craft market similar to the one in cambridge.

A lively mix of good quality shopping for all ages and gender including naonal brands and small individual traders, good quality

eating facilities and coffee shops, a spacious traffic free environment with free parking on the close perimeter suited to the growing town and bringing in people from the new developments.

A pedestrianised, attractive, dog friendly space with riverside eating places and other relaxing places to sit. A good variety of interesting shops. Also with much be. er bus services.

Apart from what has been said, more should be made of the river. Develop the Rowing Club to be more diverse, make the place into a water sport centre for the use of all.

I hope we will have less housing and more independent shops that cater to all sorts of people, I hope we can become a more inclusive town instead of being stuck as a Tory town as we have been, I want to see places people can sit for an afternoon and be proud of, instead of small dingey pubs and one dodgy nightclub

/

Vibrant but with peaceful spots

Market Square pedestrianised, filled with bars, cafes, independent restaurants and smaller bouque shops. And a restaurant in the Old Falcon with lawns at the back leading to the river

A vibrant place with something for everyone - fun things for kids, creav e uses of space, plenty of facilities, and maximisaon of the assets we already have here.

Referencing its fascinang history while encouraging all of the community to come together to give a unique vibrancy to St Neots for the future.

A great place for the family to visit where all can do what they want

Diverse, thriving social hub

Cleaner, safer, more shops, green spaces and better parking.

A green, pedestrianised town centre with a range of major chain and independent shops. Child and family friendly facilities such as a creche and playparks. A range of events being held in the market square eg fesv als, farmers markets etc

A place where the availability of shops makes you want to shop more locally rather than needing to travel to retail parks and the Internet.

Completely plant-based and environmentally friendly

Id hope that the market square removes the disabled spaces in the middle and the market square and the traffic route around the back of it (accept for a delivery route maybe to the back of the church) to be a more of a managed seang area with covered spaces and heaters for the winter. Id like to see local restaurants be able to server to those areas.

Vibrant, inclusive and excing

Would like to see our town centre busy with lots of husstle and bussle with more different events throughout the year.

See Q15

I hope it's somewhere that people bring their friends for it's atmosphere, it's food and drink and quality of life. I want visitors to wish they lived in St Neots.

A centre for ars c, creav e people but one that also makes the most of what could be a really beauful town centre - the Riverside park is lovely - perhaps some small units as part of this that people could rent out to use as an extension of the market? I'd love to see a Christmas fair make use of the great open space in the town centre rather than being crammed into the market square.

A safe friendly town for my children to grow up in, without fear or judgement. Both my children are part of the LGBTQ+ community.

One is transgender and does not feel safe to walk around St Neots.

A pleasant place to visit to shop but also to meet friends and have coffee or meals with.

I hope the town will grow with the people - have better roads and infrastructure for cars/public transport (as we only have maybe 1 bus route for the entire town) - attract more young people and their families rather than become stale.

A car free zone around the market square, which is now a creative hub complete with a thriving music/theatre venue, pubs, good quality restaurants, and local businesses. There should be a lot more greenery around the market square and throughout the rest of the town to try and distract from the greys of concrete and tarmac. There should be affordable car parks outside of town with a tram/electric shuttle service that takes you into town via what was the high street, with suitable provisions for those with disabilities.

More independent, characterful businesses like Bohemia, the cafes and doesn't open shops/spaces like Waterstones/Market Square.

I hope St Neots will have drawn on its amazing community spirit & expressed it in a town centre that has something for everyone.

Maybe with educational nods back to its historic past and with an environmentally optimistic vision for its future. Lots of wild flowers, trees, pedestrian areas that are bike/scooter free, live music & arts, crafts, theatre. A thriving riverside area on the town side of the river.

A bypass around it, more cafes and bars, incorporating the river more.

I would like St Neots to be known as the place to go for great food, drink, entertainment and exclusive shopping.

Sophisticated, fun, exciting, busy, profitable

Classy but still with its historical charm

With the growth of residential building envisaged, I foresee a permanent traffic jam, and The Falcon still awaiting a decision ! I think we need a new road bridge from the Common over to Crosshall Road with a view to eventually allowing the High Street to be pedestrianized.

The town will reclaim its identity as a thriving town, not cafe/dining hub. A whole diverse collection of shops that serves the many. A decent toy shop, menswear and children's clothing. I miss the independents like the handyman. St Neots used to feel local, but franchises like Bohemia feel disingenuous, no matter the service. We need to move with the times, so Barneys is never coming back, but still it all feels a little too corporate. Rates must play a part.

No traffic- good shopping - pleasant ambiance

Environmentally friendly, creative and connected

Busier, happier and more fun

I hope there will be less empty units in town. It would be lovely for the market square to be used as something other than a car park

Well looked after and well kept and well maintained.

Lively night life, appealing to outsiders with reasons to visit other than food and hair.

With all new housing being built the town needs to be accessible to all ages. The parks need updating especially paths, more benches (some in shade) and flower beds. Attract more groups to display in parks, i.e. car groups, military societies,

Shops like primary, McDonalds, Poundshop etc

Pedestrianised, café culture, fine restaurants, more tree planting, more floral displays, vibrant place with a good mix of well known shops and boutiques, more independent food outlets, cra. markets with event nights.

ulise the waterside. nightlife for the younger generaon

Clean, safe, vibrant, affluent and excing

At the risk of being repev e - cleaner environment in terms of less traffic and here's hoping there will be many modes of transport running on electric rather than creang poisonous emissions, plenty of walk ways, well maintained historical buildings with plaques or similar giving a history of the building, good signage, a connuing market day, extended museum facilities

Again like Cambridge where anyone of any age can visit anyme and have things to do and feel safe, in a clean, bright and prey seng.

A town centre that is welcoming and inclusive for all its residents and not just a town of expensive apartments and coffee shops.

Vibrant, acv e, fun, varied anywhere is better than here

St Neots has the potenal to be a superb river front market town. It could have a beauful market square, well maintained shop and restaurant interiors with council guidelines used to enhance the look of the buildings, and increased use of the river front with eateries overlooking the river.

Accessible and welcoming, family fun for all the family, a desna on to meet friends and family.

Clean, Welcoming place to sit and relax. Enhanced toilets. Police presence. Return to free parking in Riverside park to reduce traffic in town centre. Better planning to prevent hideous developments.

Modern

Mul funcional market Square with better shopping experience which in turn will boost the food and services we have around the town.

Community based,small shops thriving, a few naonals, ar acted back. Less High st. traffic.A bouyant market, both in the square, and Peacocks. Both have declined. A place where people want to go ,rather than avoid.

A centre for culture, fun, a real vibrant desna on with its own unique character - built by the creav e community and the people that live here.

Variety of shops and buildings, well kept, feels safe

Pedestrianised, and buzzing with life

Lower rents to encourage retailers back into town.

As above.

With the weather changing with climate change the outside spaces need to ' be undercover'

Buzzy happy friendly, worth vising. I can always get something nice when I go into the town and I always feel sas fied with my me & money spent.

Better than it is now.

It would be great to have a place where you go intending to run an errand but accidentally end up spending an afternoon / early evening there. Music playing and people enjoying the town.

I have filled in surveys about the town many mes and every me the town has money it is squandered and doesn't seem to show

any improvement. It is a shame that the footbridge was scrapped but it was a poor design. More footpaths and cycle paths into town would help to keep traffic out. Also better transport links - St Neots is ALWAYS left out with the exception of large new developments and lack of infrastructure.

Not much will improve

Pedestrianised main street with easy access car parks nearby; a new bridge over the river; cafe culture and a lot of pedestrians on the street; attractive frontages to buildings in main street and surrounding the market square. A decent bus loading bay.

I've moved here as a commuter to London. The town itself is a great choice in that regard. Great houses going up and the trains are good. But what I think about is when you see a Time Out list of 'best towns to visit' what is it that's going to get St Neots there? Cinema is ace for eg, and something that in my experience a lot of towns aren't lucky to have. Better shopping would be ace. Having some more reputable restaurants (and that doesn't mean brands). People go to places because they've heard that amazing steak place is awesome, for eg. A town 45mins from London, it's a gift to give people a reason to flock here to either visit or invest their cash into (property or business).

More up market

Bustling market town, with independent retailers and a hub for outside dining and relaxing, environmentally focused and celebrating the outdoor spaces

Carbon neutral, Arson, Leisure focussed with work being technology infrastructure to support more small businesses
Variety of shops, entertainment in streets/market square, accessible for all

An easy place for residents to get to, with cycle paths and public transport. A place that values our existing buildings and does not make costly changes purely to encourage economic growth.

A clean safe accessible town with a selection of shops the public would use. Perhaps have a public consultation and get there views on the retail outlets they would like see

More electric charging points and sustainable public transport and energy
Be vibrant

Calm relaxing space with nice retail stores less barber shops. A friendly and safe atmosphere for people and families from all walks of life

Put the local community and family life at the heart of the project. Personally I don't think music venues are the most important thing as people from St Neots will always travel to Cambridge or London both so close for theatres or concerts. We need local independent shops. Non chain restaurants, giving local restaurants a chance, the Market Square should be the heart of the town.

Vibrant, connected, promoting small business (no greedy landlords who charge ridiculous rents) so they don't fail 6/12 months later.
Safe spaces for teenagers and promoting inclusivity amongst generations

A pleasant place to visit, with shops and eateries. Where old and young can come together
Don't know

A range of vibrant independent shops, good cycle ways away from traffic and retaining the waterfront for all and keeping the historic rowing club

Diverse with variety and no need to travel further to get everything you need in one place

Vibrant, busy and lots of things for everyone.

ring road, pedestrianised, market square in full use daily, no illegal parking, buzzing with people dining out, having coffee, shopping in independant shops utilising the river, having plenty of outdoor social space with seating and good pavements with no risk of flooding.

Greater variety of shops and preeq r

Easy and safe to walk around, making the best use of our Market Square and proximity to the river, great range of shops and restaurants

See all previous answers

Mini Holland, finding ways to be innovative in the approach to Active Travel enhancements.

Would like to see more emphasis on the River,a proper Marina where people could hire boats,a pitch and putt area for adults and children in Riverside Park, an area to wild water swim, instead of negative signs from Envoronment Agency saying no swimming.Godmanchester have reinstated their pool.Early photos of St Neots show swimming points near bridge.Bring back outdoor pool near Priory Park much missed by many

Less cars during the daytime. Sports shop, next, river island (popular retail shops) More flowers, I also hope it does not get any busier

Environmentally friendly iniaàtives, opportunieas to be active, a good range of shops for all budgets.

A place where you can walk, enjoy the beautiful riverside park

A place I can get to by bus, spend a long meq enjoying views, company, food and shopping.

Nice outdoor areas. Pedestrian market square. More greenery and flowers. Less car parking areas to encourage walking or cycling.

Much as it is now but with a greater variety of shops, less estate agents and a revitalised Falcon together with a reworked Priory Centre that makes the most of its river frontage and stops trying to look like a WW2 bunker.

More free parking especially for those that are local villages or work in the town more retail choice be. er public toilets re open the road by the bridge public house leading towards priory to divert some traffic that does not need to go through the town and be held up by every set of traffic lights

I hope the market square will be fully pedestrianised with use of a range of things, such as eang and events. Adding onto this I hope St. Neots will have a shopping centre that is indoors so it is nice to go to in all weathers.

Just somewhere I can feel safe and happy to shop and walk around with my daughter, without fear of her thinking that alcohol culture is the way of the world.

I hope it's somewhere I can go with my then young adult children for an afternoon /evening of a bit of shopping and a bite to eat and a drink and maybe watch the world go by for a while.

Vibrant, fun, green, clean and inclusive to the needs of all types of people. Theatre venue and music venue available. The town needs another indoor pool so more focus can be put on adult fitness.

Variety and accessibility

Lively, open, diverse, welcoming, connected with the river, celebrahg food from the local area, a busy market day, sustainability running throughout everything.

Ar acv e, foodie desna on, classy not tacky, promong health using the green spaces

I'd like to see a real balance between a celebration of the town's past whilst simultaneously embracing its future. I'd like to see a resurgence in the cottage industry of the town's past...these traditional past meaṣ will be fundamental in boosting mental health, taking mea out to be creative while connecting with others and nature. It also needs to look to the future by offering opportunities to entrepreneurs and this in the creative artsZ

Vibrant market square with eateries and good quality shops which will ensure that people want to come to the town centre rather than go elsewhere

A town which people choose to visit, achieved via proper use of the town centre's existing assets; market square space, waterfront and green spaces, unoccupied buildings, prioritisea pedestrians and cyclists over car traffic. Increased footfall will support the creation of independent shops and businesses which currently struggle to survive.

A bustling market square with seating for nearby restaurants, coffee shops and bars, The Old Falcon opened again and used as a hospitality venue, a range of shops in the town for men, women and children. I hope the range and amount of restaurants stay the same or increase, it's the best thing about St Neots.

Beautiful, wonderful riverside walks, fantastic places to eat and drink, great place to shop, brilliant weekly authentic farmer's market

A welcoming, clean, environmentally friendly town with a variety of shops and leisure facilities. Encouraging use of green spaces (walking, cycling etc)

A good social place with culture and night life

Clean and fresh appearance. Outdoor relaxed cafe culture making the most of our waterfront position. Thriving independent businesses with mixed retail

A town that values our green areas for the good of people's mental health and for those who have no gardens (as more flats being built) to go and relax in and use, enjoyable spaces were families can walk traffic free. Free facilities like the skatepark, riverside, play areas, basket ball posts, railway, etc so all youngsters can use it without discrimination. A wider variety of shops, events to encourage our young people to gather and mingle, there aren't many events like the dances etc we used to a. end at the priory centre etc, a busy welcoming market square.

No empty shops and the Falcon is restored and it is safe and welcoming and the river front is ulised more

Lots of bistros along the river, regular market and craft stalls Good and safe walkways especially by tge river more greenery rather than concrete Variety of shops Better parking More leisure facilities for all ages No drunken bad behaviour at weekends as this prevents me vising at weekends Better restaurants , no fast food shops and healthier eateries

The Market Square will be in constant use and the high Street will have a wide range of shops

A shining example of sustainable living supporng a thriving community. Modern and unique design which incorporates our heritage and is a beacon for local business.

Cultural hub of Cambridgeshire with its community at the heart of it. More community events such as the carnival coming back and being supported by the council more. A place that ar acts visitors from far and wide due to its reputaon of an amazing place to visit.

A hub for events indoor and outdoor throughout the year, spread across various locaons, ar acng people to the area for work and leisure.

The market square will be beauful and inving. Falcon will be either shopping, hotel or restaurants. Regular use of market square, with daily stalls and food. Love seeing people sing and drinking.

A place you want to visit. Attractive, nice flowers, lots of choice and diversity.

It would be nice to see more river usage (such as canoe hire) and reduced cars. And a couple of pubs with beer gardens

To keep improving for the growth of new housing with more leisure facilities

A buzzing town centre and surrounding riverside that locals are proud of and that has a great reputation that spreads beyond the town itself. More employment opportunities as businesses set up in and around the town.

More vibrant, diverse with more to do and see.

a place where people will want to shop and visit.

To have a more continental feel with attractive outdoor spaces with a pedestrianised market square, a place you feel proud of and want to visit. A community hub that hosts events successfully and a market that you want to go and visit once more. Somewhere that you can use day and night and feel that family meq is important rather than feeling that you have to be at home at a certain meq.

A more practical town for pedestrians and motorists. Plenty for FREE parking on the Riverside Park and a cleaner more attract High Street! It is a Town Centre, but more commercial propereqas are being turned into houses. This is the start of the end of the High Street.

More sophisticated good quality well maintained shop fronts. Ideally free parking and a place people want to visit

A town to grab a coffee, wander round independent shopping , drink meal. Meet friends. Priory Centre is an event and arts hub Not a spare part.

Not to waste money on The Old Falcon, it is privately owned and the current owner should be forced carry the essential work to bring it back to use. There is much so much more needed to improve the town. Currently the best feature of this town, Riverside, is not accessible to wheelchair users because the pathways have not been adapted for disabled use. Hi

Pretty - tidy - clean - not overrun with hundreds of people.

More jobs, shops, working offices, less housing. The would be a link between the town centre and Rega. a meadow so workers can enjoy the park at lunchme. There would be a safe route for children to walk and cycle to school. Narrower roads, wider paths.

Lower cost parking especially for quick visits.

lots of non-chain local shops, cafes and restaurants. Polluon free. Cycle friendly. Highly ulised market square.

A less reliance on pubs/clubs to keep people coming to the area and more on variety and events.

All shops open with a greater variety of independent retailers. Market Square fully pedestrianised. All cars using proper car parks or side streets only. Public transport available in evenings. Museum expanded.

A place that both children and adults can enjoy, not just arts and cras but a wider view involve local scouts, running tennis clubs etc have these acvie s pop up spots in the square.

Cohesive. Inclusive. Enjoyable

A place where you can shop for clothes, household items and a place where you can get most things and not have to resort to shopping on line to get something.

Outside restaurants, few cars, high street converted to public walkway, bouque shops, outdoor heated swimming pool in priory park

Pedestrianised accessible better shops
vibrant and welcoming environment

I shouldn't think I will be here to see it, but good luck

I would like to see a greener Market Square with trees and shrubs to help absorb pollution. Plenty of places to sit would be good.

Dropped kerbs to help those with pushchairs, trolleys, wheelchairs and mobility scooters get around more easily. I still want to be able to do my weekly shopping but would like to see a wider variety of alternative shops which would attract tourists into the town. Maybe craftspeople too, who could offer visitors the chance to try their hand at the crafts. A good mix of refreshments available too will help keep visitors in the town for longer.

Somewhere I can get to easily and enjoy a good variety of shops and eateries, including if need be easy free parking if buying something large or heavy and to help the disabled. Also, to be able to socialise in a clean safe environment, free of being mown down by cyclists and those pesky and illegal electric scooters.

A vibrant Market Square and Waterfront.

A town that rejects a 'small town' introspective atmosphere, that embraces positivism and dynamism

Attractive, bustling, friendly town where we can shop and enjoy our leisure time.

A busy place that offers something of interest every time I visit.

Preserving the best of St Neots, protecting the riverside from commercial or housing development and creating opportunities for community use of public spaces, including Market Square, Regatta Meadows, Riverside Park etc. Also, better, safer pedestrian access across the river into the town centre. The pandemic has made all too clear how inadequate the pavements are on the town bridge - often crowded with people forced into the road to maintain any social distance.

I'd like to see SN as a leader in the arts, the environment and to become a town where sustainable transport takes precedence over the car and there is a European cafe culture combined with plenty of space to grow new and exciting businesses

Low density. And NOT a concrete jungle!

Accessible Vibrant Arts and culture

A town to be proud to call home. I've mentioned in the last question a vision of sorts. It needs to have proactive consistency not just talk. You need to use local businesses to bring St Neots town centre a fresh face-lift.

I would like it to be pedestrianised with a cafe culture where people can shop and relax. A ring road around it like Huntingdon. More arts theatre and larger museum. Also a swimming pool or outdoor pool, splash pool for children. Possibly a soft play centre. In the future the town should be the envy of other towns in Cambridgeshire. More cultural and impressive.

A place that draws people in from around the county

Bulldozed and made into housing

A place people will want to visit, no cars in the town centre, safe to walk, clean, artisan businesses as well as banks and household retailers. Good car parks in easy walking distance and the riverside developed for walking and restaurants.

A "must see" tourist attraction with boat trips, cafes along the river, outdoor swimming, independent small shops and good places to eat

A town centre that provides facilities for all ages and a mix of shops, residential, entertainment.

It would be fantastic if we can lead the way for the regeneration of other high Streets by making our town more eco friendly/green

Safe, welcoming, variety of shops catering for all ages, eco friendly

Welcome, inviting, pleasant space to spend me

To prosper, with good variety of shops and leisure facilities for all age groups and to be safe

I hope it has at least one clothes shop for men, women and children

Green, eco, art hub, pedestrianised

A town of which its residents are proud and which is the "go to" destination for foodies and recreational activities.

Greener, more shop variety, cleaner

Thriving, successful, a place people want to visit for what it is rather than what they need from the shops. A place where innovation is a daily occurrence and a cafe culture encourages people to meet, talk and enjoy life & work in a healthy, greener environment.

I hope that in 10 years St Neots will be a place where people can come to spend some time with their friends, while enjoying the nature. Ideally there will be more green (trees and green spaces) with cycle routes to get around.

Foodie hub. Not just restaurants but artisanal produce. With high end boutiques clothing, gift and book outlets.

One with good restaurants and good entertainment choices. One with good jobs for the people who live here. One with a science park on the edge of town. One that's green. One that's affordable. One that doesn't have awful buildings like those of West Gate and HSBC.

A clean carbon neutral environment, no petrol or diesel vehicles whatsoever. Roads and car parks that serve 0% emission vehicles (with cheap wireless charging for all EV road users) and electric trams, with cycle paths and fully automated 0% emission taxi services that can be booked with an iPhone or Android app. Buildings transformed to look modern and older buildings that have been vacant and unused (that boarded up old Falcon hotel for example), demolished and new modern carbon neutral building to replace the old, in the same footprint.

Vibrant, busy town with good choice of retail outlets and tired buildings renovated
Falcon finally refurbished.

Vibrant, wide choice, traditional, like a market town, individual, safe, homely, friendly,

Vibrant, all premises utilised, pavements level and clean, roads pot hole free,

More vibrant and enjoyable to be in, achieved through pavement cafes - the market square is crying out for these, specialist food shops, restaurants, cafes. All re up market than at present so that one goes in because it's a good place to be, not just because you have to (as now).

Leafy, relaxing spaces where people meet outside to catch up
Vibrant, welcoming, attractive.

I hope the Falcon is given planning permission for a community benefit and not the investors. However I think I'd rather see it put into use than crumble. There needs to be some middle ground met with this one. It's a big eyesore right now. I hope also we have a splash park or fountains for the kids in the summer. This idea brings so many families to Stevenage (mine included) in turn spending money in the town a day of fun. Even if St Neots charged a token £1 payment this would mean that people have a cheap day out, but the cost to run such a great space is kept minimal. People worry too much about profit for themselves now that they forget the big picture. Also I would like to see many more activities for our teenagers to attend - again £1 entry - that will grow their knowledge outside the classroom with groups that teach social and business skills for their adult lives.

See above

Alive

I would love to see more areas for people to sit and relax, eat and drink. I'd like to see a wider variety of shops that include clothing

in particular. I'd like to see less or no empty shops in the town

Don't forget that the town grew because of the bridge and the transport links it created. the town needs to be accessible to all and cars are not going away, those of us that use the town as our main shopping centre don't want to be excluded because of imaginary public transport or some tree hugging zealot that hates cars. like the idiot that closed the road next to the Bridge Inn creating additional traffic down the high street.

New businesses. Local entrepreneurs.

A town that embraces its history and naturally beautiful setting on the Great Ouse and offers a vibrant retail and hospitality mix for the local community and as a destination for visitors

Somewhere which is not only great for locals but a place that visitors would visit to shop and spend quality time by the beautiful river setting.

A pedestrian friendly, bustling beautiful place. Maximising the river front all across the town.

Hope St Neots could be one of the colourful places attract more young families moved in. A town that could offer the essentials where people would rather go and shop personally than getting online.

Bigger, fewer cars.

I would like it to be buzzy. Full shops, artisan bakeries, delis, boutiques, festivals, activities for kids. Beautiful CLEAN green spaces adjacent to a buzzy town centre.

Well used with a range of shops and outlets catering for the needs of the local people and changing with any population changes
Bustling centre but a calm and serene riverside area. A riverside walk on the town side and cafes with seating area overlooking the river and park

A sociable town that people visiting will remember and return to
Unfortunately can't see a vision for this town apart from a drug den.

Something for everyone. Somewhere you can go with spare time to walk around without being bored.
York. More variety of Shops, conveniences, markets, a bigger museum of the town's history. Less traffic on the high street, make the market square for pedestrians only.

It should look good and 'together' and not a patchwork of different regeneration projects, but it shouldn't turn it's back on community spaces like the priory centre or sports clubs like the rowing club or Tennis club.

Attractive town centre, offering food festivals and events of interest. Shows at the priory centre.

That it will be a better visible aesthetic state than it is now, that money is spent wisely on quality that lasts. Business and innovation are encouraged to come to the town. That the town is an attractive space renowned for its cafes, bars, restaurants, cultural events and a vibrant atmosphere.

To be a place where my then grown up children will want to stay & build their futures. Good jobs, good leisure and events, places to eat and drink with a good environment for their younger age

In ten years, I hope the plans set out and the suggestions put forward are in place but why 10 years, it only took 10 years to rebuild Berlin after WW11 and regeneration of St Neots should be undertaken as a priority with action and not just words

As a space for food and drink and a broad choice of shopping.

A traffic free zone with easy access by foot, linked up to riverside walks, with plenty of areas to sit, eat and drink.

A town of happy people at pavement cafes, a social open town.

A place to visit, relax and enjoy.

Bustling, vibrant, creative, flexible, varied.

Welcoming, inclusive, green, thriving, diverse, a desnaâtion that serves and reflects its communieas

A beautiful town centre with good shops and restaurants that is a pleasure to walk around. This will require sufficient cheap out of town parking. The town will also need be. er gyms and leisure facilities. Also there is a need for more independent GP pracces and the current health centre broken up.

Have all the money spent and work done on the items you have idenfie d without to many delays. ie get the job done ASAP.

To take account of the growing populaon with Winteringham and across the A1 in Dennybrook. Work on an ambiou plan to provide a new river crossing, perhaps from the common to Crosshall Road or through Conygear.

Vibrant meeng place for friends and family. Drug dealing to our children at our schools and on the market square will be eradicated.

Bright and airy, pedestrian focused, much more greenery, and with cafes &c a superb bouque shopping and meeng place for family and friends.

Retaining the soul of St Neots, the slower pace, the friendly face, but looking to the future for the young and the talented.

Lots of small independent businesses, nice open market Square with cars, and no traffic jam chucking out fumes.

More variety of shops, a lot of publicity for the variety of acvie s available, more people vising the town and wanng to come back.....

As Q14 sort the Falcon out. More pedestrianisaon. More green space. Ban parking outside the Conservav e Club (wholly unnecessary and impacts on traffic). Shop fronts dy and well maintained. It needs to look smart again and a town we can be proud of once again.

A clean pleasant place to visit - plenty of shops that would ar act both visitors and residents alike - making full potenal of our lovely river and parklands - and not cosng an arm and leg either a vibrant place with lots of space and places to relax, eat, drink and be entertained

A smooth blend of old and new, with the Falcon being redeveloped and ar acts people. Maybe use as a Museum with a Tourist Informaon Centre, definitely lacking. Keep the community feel whilst being a town. A place for all ages to feel safe, happy, relaxed and sufficient businesses in place for employment.

A town centre for pedestrians with occupied shop and eang places respecng the historic nature of the town.

Innovav e, ar acv e, wide range of shops.

Green, ar acv e, safe, vibrant, interesng , accessible

Much less traffic,more variety of shops,a greener appearance overall.

Friendly, clean, safe and something worth coming into town for

A range of shops appropriate to a Market town. If we cannot ar act people in then the town is NEVER going to prosper.

Green open place that have an excellent rowing club that is the home for rowers for miles around and a place where the St Neots regatta is one of the largest in the world.

Net Zero; green; creav e, buzzing, making the most of its natural assets.

A diverse green hub with a central cultural market square

Pedestrianise the town centre, create a car bypass around the town to lower use of the bridge, attract more high quality venues to eat and drink at. More trees and green spaces. Better public transport and connectivity across towns such that's new build estates don't need to drive into town and reduces pollution and traffic

Quaint town allowing for small businesses to start up with additional shopping/eating facilities. Reduced number of charity shops, barbers and banks consolidated to free up space for a broad range of facilities.

I hope the high street will be attractive and offer people variety of options to spend money. St Neots should (re) establish transport connections with Cambridge (x5 bus is no longer in service, now takes hours to get to Cambridge) and train connection between St Neots and Oxford. Would be much better place to live

More clubs and facilities in town to generate community. No more flats, chain restaurants and shops

Traffic free (apart from those with mobility issues) with easy-to-access car parking around the edges, The Market Square is a vibrant community space along the lines of those in French market towns.

Large areas of pedestrian zones allow social interaction with a variety of good quality independent shops and food outlets
Thriving shops and a pleasure to walk through day or night.

Pedestrianised Town with a regular market

I am now 64 and retired. In the next few years I intend to move to a smaller property. However, that may not be in St Neots and unless the town makes a massive improvement I see no reason to stay in the town.

I would love to see more independent shops and cafes, high streets cannot compete with out-of-town or internet shopping so they need to be attractive interesting places to visit. St Neots could surely support more big box type stores on the edges of town but the high street needs to be something different.

Where the town centre has atmosphere - someone we can go for a nice lunch with maybe a trip on a boat down the river. The only thing St Neots seems to be about at the moment is Lidl - outside of the town.

I hope it'll have a range of big high street names and independents for shoppers. Also a range of places for non-shoppers to visit and explore both during the day and evening. Finally improvements to local cycle paths and public transport to get to, from, and around St Neots.

Less through traffic, more pedestrianisation, more attractive shops increasing interest in local shopping.

Hopefully won't be here in 10 years time. Can't see it getting any better, too many houses being built with no expansion of infrastructure within St Neots

Thriving, vibrant, locals using it more

St Neots Town Centre should be a vibrant, inclusive, easy to access community space bustling with different activities and the 'go to' place for shopping, eating out and leisure.

Clean, eco-friendly with a range of shopping, entertainment and leisure facilities.

The Rowing Club and Dragon Boat Club should have been supported and developed to dramatically increase membership and become a centre of excellence, as well as opening more to community engagement and involvement.

A lovely place to dwell a while so we do dwell, watch, chat, think and spend. Exploit distant visitors by all means, but look after your locals and surrounding villagers as they are your bread and butter.

Cultural - Young - Family oriented - Eco

Not built up more shops and open spaces.

A mix of bigger town or city reputation, with a great environment, connectivity and economy that has a quality local feel which celebrates the town, communities, locality, businesses and heritage.

Welcoming pretty town with an assortment of shops and eateries. The priory centre to have been knocked down and rebuilt with fantastic views onto the river with entertainment/shows on offer for the community and to encourage visitors to our lovely town.

Thriving high street, very family friendly.

Beautiful town renowned for excellent market, shops, bars and food.

A place for all ages, not just old people like it currently is. Less estate agents and charity shops, more affordable high street shops.

Be. er wheelchair access.

No traffic, Local shops, Cafe and restaurants along the High st and River

Shops pedestrian access

See Q14. Don't alienate car drivers, disabled people need them and electric cars will be normal. Pandemic may have more impact on public transport usage in the future too. Public transport doesn't run early/late enough for trains, so drive to staon etc.

More environmentally friendly, better choice of independent shops, greener, less through traffic, greater foo all, more vibrant. Free shul e bus service from railway staon to town.

I think the market square should be vehicular free with a European piazza style feel to it. More variety of shops currently loads of charity shops but not much else.

A fully ulised market square and a developed water front that makes use of the space currently taken by the falcon pub (and buildings behind) and the priory centre.

A pedestrianised town center, FREE PARKING. Full of shops that the town NEEDS tables and chairs outside cafe music by ars ts. Get rid of the beggers, drunks, from the streets. In other words a very pleasant environment in which to shop and visit

I would like to see St Neots with its OWN UD Council independent of Hunng don

A thriving economy with lots of jobs for local people and a town for everyone to enjoy

I think the town is classically beauful now, and I hope it won't be spoiled by overdevelopment.

Fun, vibrant, modern, safe but a community feel.

Thriving, sustainable,

A dynamic, clean, excing , popular, trend seng , pioneering place with more planng , communal areas, less crime, safer, homes for the homeless, a co-ordinated approach so that it doesn't look piecemeal, can be enjoyed all year round, and is cared for and loved.

Energec offering something for everybody

A desna on for visitors to enjoy, look at local acvie s , eat and drink k, spend money.

To become vibrant and contemporary with good quality retails and bars/restaurants.

Ar acv e! I think we need all shops to have less chavy signage - the barber shops and fast food shops look rough - make a really poor impression. Should be a rule for signage to look ar acv e! Bohemia have nailed it and are great! We need better use of the river - bring back the boang lake and we need restaurants by the waterfront

More seang in the market square where people can relax, with some more plants/trees in the market square to to make it prey

Pedestrian with be. er shopping

Safe, friendly, ar acv e to older people as well as young. With plenty of green spaces and plenty of community facilities.

Full of independent shops and restaurants. A central hun. A hotspot in the area that ar acts people to it

Somewhere kids can cycle to without dodging traffic or pedestrians. Somewhere can sit in a market square which is dominated by families and friends relaxing, eang and drinking, and not by cars, traffic and parking. Somewhere with pleasant footbridge connecon to the Riverside park.

A bustling town centre, full of locals & visitors. Lots of independent small shops, free parking for the first 2 hours. Plenty of safe areas to cycle too.

Plenty of open spaces where people are free to move around without needing to keep an eye out for vehicles. Pedestrianised streets, outdoor dining, benches in mini parks where cars used to drive/be parked.

A community with the necessary polic al focus and required leadership to move towards idenf ying a vision which local people share and aspire to for the next 50yrs

I would like it to be a clean safe environment for everyone to enjoy. A good variety of things to see and do. A place which embraces and encourages visitors.

A vibrant town centre - a place to visit.

I'd like St Neots to be a community with sustainability at its heart.

As above

Clean, prey , mul cultural, leisure offerings, events and acvie s centred around the river, cafe culture, theatre, local businesses, bouques

A desna on for good food and drink

A thriving market town with good retail opportunie s

A town centre that you can visit and Wander around and enjoy the area including the riverside.

Vibrant, bustling, a range of shops to ence people: a desna on detail town

A town with shops that ar act all ages. A vibrant modern social town which makes the most of the beauful parks and heritage.

It was bloody hard enough to find this survey so I hope you increase visibility of the consultaon. See above - my vision is a place that I'd want to invite my friends to visit instead of "there's nothing here, meet you in Cambridge".

A vibrant but different centre for shops, restaurants and historical connecons. Our river connecon is almost unique. We should ulise this as much as possible.

A friendly and welcoming place for all ages that is safe.

I don't think much needs to change

A buzzing town with great caf s, bars and restaurants. A pedestrianised market Square with no parking "at all". Easy access via public transport and better use of the river frontage for pedestrians and boat users. I would also like to see a safe canoe portage at

Paxton lock to create better water tourism for the paddling community traveling from Bedford, St Neots and Hunng ton.

A vibrant and social community based arounf d faciliies in the market square and the riverside park with better connecons between both

Vibrant, green, somewhere you would want to spend an afternoon / evening eang , drinking and being merry. Somewhere to meet

with friends. Somewhere people want to visit from close by towns.

I would like it to have a wide variety of both high street and original local shops. I'd like the Market square to be pedestrianised at weekends. More music and comedy events hosted inside and outside.

An attractive town for both residents and visitors. More extensive advertising of the town as a destination, more varied events, concerts and gigs. More businesses based here rather than in Cambridge or London to capture young people.

An alternate route over the river for cars. Pedestrian/bike only for town centre. Market square a community space not car park. Lots of riverside businesses and punting on the river.

Independent cafes bars, better safer night life. No cheap and cheerful tat. A friendly, vibrant, diverse town that people are proud to call home.

A town centre that reflects the beauty of the riverside and regatta park

Less charity shops, more independent shops

Safe, vibrant, prosperous, friendly, a place people want to come and visit and are envious of people living here!

Reduced traffic, walking/cycling paths along the waterfront, community events, concerts, outdoor events, encouraging people to come together and undo the damage that the last 2 years have done to society overall. All the things I have to travel elsewhere to find. Fair council taxes for both residents and local businesses alike.

A vibrant place to shop with lovely restaurants, a cafe culture on the market square.

A vibrant town centre where all the retail units are occupied and not just with barbers, hairdressers, estate agents etc. We need shops, unique shops that sell things people want to look at before they buy, shops you want to browse in, events going on on the market Square, Christmas Markets, and we need the carnival back and even better the Riverside Festival was amazing. Sometimes to look forward you need to go back.

Less/no empty units. A vibrant and diverse hospitality offering that focuses less on late night binge drinking and more on evening dining. A nice flow to the waterfront with the re-purposing of the Priory Centre and Old Falcon Hotel

Somewhere to go apart from food shopping

That I will have to think about 😊

More of a social space in the centre, a good selection of foreign or craft markets, perhaps a Christmas market on the Market Square.

A complete renovation of the Falcon allowing access to the river and including cafes, bars restaurants. We have a great river front that is so under-used.

A sustainable and carbon neutral area which is appealing to people of all ages to come to and spend money together. A community hub of good local shops and cafés/restaurants with no or very little personal vehicles around.

River Bridge closed except for bus (Tram from Cambridge would be better) escooters and eskateboards removed from the centre. No car Parking in the Town Centre and a Tram System to Cambridge and a Station wherever the East West Railway passes the Town.

Decent anchor tenants for the larger stores and better community facilities

Busy 7 days a week from 08.00 to 22.00 with visitors, residents, and well paid employees in growth industries. A town that people need to visit even in January. I am happy to help out achieving this on a voluntary basis. At 48 I am semi-retired and of independent means. I have memory and wisdom to contribute.

The town centre has attracted a large number of independent shops and restaurants and art shops/galleries. Making the most of

spill over from the Cambridge vibe, its position on the Great Ouse and its retail offering make it feel individual and an attraction in its own right. Sport/Leisure and community facilities are an important part of the heart of the town centre, providing the community with a balance of health, fitness and social provision as well as retail. Ten years from now I believe bars and pubs will be less important, and less of an attraction, than health and mental health and community provision and so the incorporation of these into the town centre is vital.

Family orientated Town were everyone knows one another. Small businesses that offer different variety of shopping. The historical side of St Neots being restored and used.

A town known for something - perhaps a 'foodies haven' - that will bring in people from further afield - and a place that offers a great spot for independent shops to thrive by supporting these businesses in driving physical and online footfall and also creating.

Also a town that values its architectural and historical heritage and makes the most of both

Accessible for ALL. Variety of shops and a good community feel

Desirable, accessible from all of St Neots.

Considerate / in keeping architecture on all street fronts, leading past an covered) daily market, to a tree lined multipurpose (car parking; mini bus station; pavement cafes and 'festivals / events') Town Square, which in turn leads to a new town bridge (of sympathetic design i.e. stone arches. The town centre to have equal access for small electric cars/vans; cyclist, walkers and public transport (including a regular link to the relocated (more central) railway station.

A good meeting place with places to sit outside cafes. Flowers in pots and hanging baskets similar to those at the library and the Priory centre.

More of a mix of town centre dwellings and independent retail and eating places

A bustling, creative, and community oriented space where people come together to shop, dine and meet up.

Vibrant safe and accessible

An interesting place to shop, to meet friends, to find entertainment. Ideally a pedestrianised high street.

Welcoming, vibrant and diverse

Somewhere where there's varied independent shops and restaurants, so you don't need to visit other towns. A nice food/cafe culture that isn't spaced out. Better access to shops for quick purchases.

A center for leisure, where local people and visitors, but not their cars and traffic, are welcome. A place that can be walked about safely where you can sit, eat, drink and share fresh air and maybe take an evening stroll along a well lit path along the riverside park.

Staying true to its history, better retail options, clean well maintained paths and public areas

Area lively thriving

More buses travelling to more places

Quality shops, cafe life with lots of greenery on the market square, better facilities for the disabled bodied, pre town bridge, varied markets, well maintained buildings with fronts in keeping with the history of the town, good access to tourist information through digital way finder boards, river trips

That the Falcon is back in use, it was a great venue before as a pub and a cafe, so I'm sure it can be again. The community space being created on the square continues to gather momentum and locals can enjoy a variety of markets, food/entertainment fests and relaxation there

Doesn't matter, it won't and can't change much unless you demolish it all and start again.

A return to its strong market roots and to make it a place to go shopping while also being able to eat quality food and drink

Unless you bring more shops in more empty shops and streets

It would be nice to have a Toby carvery in St. Neots so we get to choose English food to eat as well as all the other types

Safer, cleaner, greener. Let's not wait till 2031. Let's make St Neots great now. To much talks and no action so far.

Unless someone takes action to avoid a dormant town I don't think St Neots has a future town centre wise. I can honestly say, being born and bred here, I am 100% disappointed with the direction it has gone over the last few years, even more so, more recently. I

am not sure I really want to live here, with all the new building in and around St Neots, which isn't even for the locals to buy.

Nothing is done for the infrastructure - we seem to have a lot of greedy companies taking but giving nothing of any value back.

A active, vibrant, lots going on, variety of shops

I hope it will have a good selection of unique independent businesses with the emphasis on environmentally sustainable goods and services. Also a thriving and lively centre for eating, drinking and other social activities.

Vibrant, active to all ages, markets, mix of independent shops and high street staples

Safe spacious traffic free

Vibrant, bustling, a destination to visit from out of town, successful with no empty units and plenty of eating and shopping options.

Fully pedestrianised. All the empty shops have been filled. Weekly Weekend events and lots of outdoor dining.

Thinking of the words in the HCD local plan I want St Neots to be a vibrant and economically thriving town with good cultural and community facilities, making use of the beautiful riverside setting on the Eaton Socon side of the town.

Safe happy and variety of retail outlets.

An active town centre with a range of good quality places to eat and drink. A town where there is good and well paid employment for residents. Well connected place with better access to the East and West

Lively but not rowdy. Aesthetically more appealing. Lots of independent shops that cater to our wide variety of income brackets in the town. A variety of cafes and restaurants. To make more of the river frontage. Perhaps the old Beales premises to become an 'indoor market' for start up traders. Facilitate more flexible leasing arrangements to encourage new businesses.

I would prefer to stay in St Neots rather than go to Cambridge

More peaceful at the weekend, more culturally diverse shows and events, more active and modern with better public facilities.

Less traffic.

I would love to see our town full of small business's and shops places to eat and drink without people off the high street heads on drink and selling drugs

better pavements, ample central parking.

The Market Square would be all pedestrianised, with Cafes and bars surrounding it, seating and a central fountain or artwork. There would be access to the river from the square, possibly through the Old Falcon.

More shops to shop in to stop people leaving the town centre to go elsewhere to do their shopping. Hopefully, there will be a bus from Luton and Wincanton for those who need it. Not everyone has 2.5 cars per household and an income over £100,000 a year. But maybe STOPpleming out shops for more hairdressers, barbers etc. We don't need it. Make sure that for shops, whoever

owns the buildings, do them up.. the former carpine warehouse is TATTY. AND the shop who has moved I to it have bodged the front with a distasteful colourful chea chipboard front which doesn't fully cover it and the rest of the frames need ripping out...so basically a tidy up, a decent market (been rubbish since Wendy fair killed it) . Clean up the buildings that need it, charge cheaper rent to keep the shops going, charity shops to stop receiving a huge subsidy they get,

A town that everyone cares about, a town you want to visit for a whole day or a. ernoon, a clean prey town please

More pedestrianised and better transport links.

Better variety of shops, non chain restaurants and bars, plus good indie music /comedy club. Not dictated by eco mania

A place where people want to live and work and also spend their leisure me. Include churches and schools in the planning and endure places or leisure acvie s are safely accessible.

A vibrant town with good shops great entertainment somewhere you can feel safe to walk at night not be forever looking over your shoulder, a d is a great place to live just like it was when I moved here in the 60s

A place to visit, wander around, shop and eat.

Tbh I will be out of at Neots the first chance I get

A place where people could shop and walk in safety & peace and be proud to visit.

Like it use to be

Engaging and entertaining environment that caters for all age groups.

Somewhere i can feel relaxed and at ease. That I can access easily without fear of judgement. Somewhere that has an "old fashioned" community spirit that you feel a valued member of.

to be able to shop local

Vibrant and busy with interesng shops and restaurants. To feel safe even at night. Ulising the river and Riverside park. Prey and well looked after. . With good facilities like doctors and dens t. More quality restaurants

Making the most of its history and geography - with good bike access, walking routes including historical trails and along the river. Good eang and drinking facilites and a range of local and naonal shops plus a good library and public events spaces. Good parking is also essenal.

Independent, sustainable, environmentally friendly, clean air, safe.

Fun, safe and clean. Plenty of different shops/ things to do and a thriving market town.

More parking and free to get the punters in and support shops and pubs and things - just spend money on repairing all the things which haven't had anything done on them for years. Sorng out the wavy block work near the Falcon is obvious. If you need to ask the queson you need to walk and drive round St Neots and see for yourselves.

Somewhere I can buy affordable things without going out of town. No more building flats and houses in town as it has already ruined the town now lost openness and not things so you can live in the centre if you haven't got a car and nowhere for residents to park. Them that go on about living in the centre and geng about on a bike don't do it themselves and should try geng to Tesco to shop and bringing a weeks shop back on handlebars

Unfortunately we are allowing houses to be built in the town centre where there could have been a shopping mall like in Hunng don. We could have developed arcades of small shops for tourists and locals to wander around. The market square needs to be made pree r not with large monstorous planters come seang plonked on the square!

A town needs more shops to encourage people to visit during the day. Look at how Hunng don has been developed. I can

remember when there was a thriving market on Thursdays, now very small. It can not be all about coffee shops and eating out. We have a good selection of these.

We think it is very important to protect the town history because that makes a place attractive to visit. We think the town centre needs to be properly maintained. We need traffic wardens and police in town and free places where visitors can park. No more building in the town centre please.

Thriving, culturally diverse, supporting the community and helping friendships and bonds to form. Enriching the lives of those who live here and visit.

The Market Square embellished. Perhaps the Falcon became a real hotel and(please) not just a national chain pub. Pheonix Square and Paynes Mill became a visitor centre - with arts and crafts shops and cafes opened up around the iconic Mill (the biggest and most eye-catching building that St Neots has). The High Street linked to Pheonix Square by safe walkways and cycle ways

A much more lively, vibrant town with old buildings restored. Town centre pedestrianised and well maintained. Toilet facilities and much more outdoor seating. Easy to use parking meters that ALWAYS work!

Community Survey

Over the next few months we're going to be working with t...

More open, pedestrianised.

Welcoming, safe, useful - with shops people want and need to use. Attractive (as it already is with excellent planting). Smooth pathways.

No

Environmentally concious, relaxing, safe

Vibrant - big market days, summer events, people from other towns coming into St Neots for meeting family and friends.

Just more of the same only better - the flower arrangements are wonderful our car park cleaner man does a wonderful job. Also the museum always deserves a word of thanks.

Closer to carbon neutral, pedestrian friendly, footbridge (pedestrian only) over river

Bustling, busy place that attracts and welcomes residents and visitors.

More like a town to visit than a place to pass through or just for essentials. I'd also like to see a lovely outdoor swimming pool, like a LIDO (not just a kids pool).

Somewhere to shop would be nice.

If the stakeholders are not careful St Neots will turn into a mass of housing linking Loves Farm, Wintringham and Cambourne to Cambridgeshire.

More shops

Tidy up centre of town

Not changing for the sake of changing, reducing rents might help but landlords will only increase rents if the town has more footfall. Developing the old Beales into a flexible smalled arcade might help as in Bedford.

ANNEX 6: THE RESPONDENTS

The Community Survey achieved sample

758 people responded to the Community Survey.

All age groups are represented in the responses:

How old are you?	Nos	%
Under 25	21	3%
25 - 34	86	11%
35 - 44	172	23%
45 - 54	152	20%
55 - 64	140	18%
65 - 74	119	16%
75 and over	39	5%
Prefer not to say	27	4%
Total	757	100%

The gender split was male (297 or 39%); female (434 or 58%). 4 people described themselves as 'other' and 19 (3%) preferred not to say.

In line with the population the majority described themselves as White British:

Ethnicity	Nos	%
White British	677	90%
White Other	30	4%
Asian/Asian British	5	1%
Black/Black British	1	0%
Mixed	2	0%
Other	6	1%
Prefer not to say	31	4%
Total	753	100%

79 respondents (10%) had a registered long-standing illness, disability or infirmity. Of these 50 (63% of the sub sample) the illness or disability was life limiting.

ANNEX 6: THE RESPONDENTS

The Business Survey Achieved Sample

Sector	Number	%
Accommodation & food services	1	4
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	4	16
Digital/Information & communication	1	4
Education	1	4
Health and social care	1	4
Manufacturing	1	4
Professional, scientific & technical	1	4
Property	1	4
Retail	13	56
Retail	2	8
Other misc.	1	4
Total	25	100

Number of employees	Number of businesses	% of businesses
1- 5	12	48
6-10	6	24
11-25	7	28
Total	25	100