



Brixham Town Council

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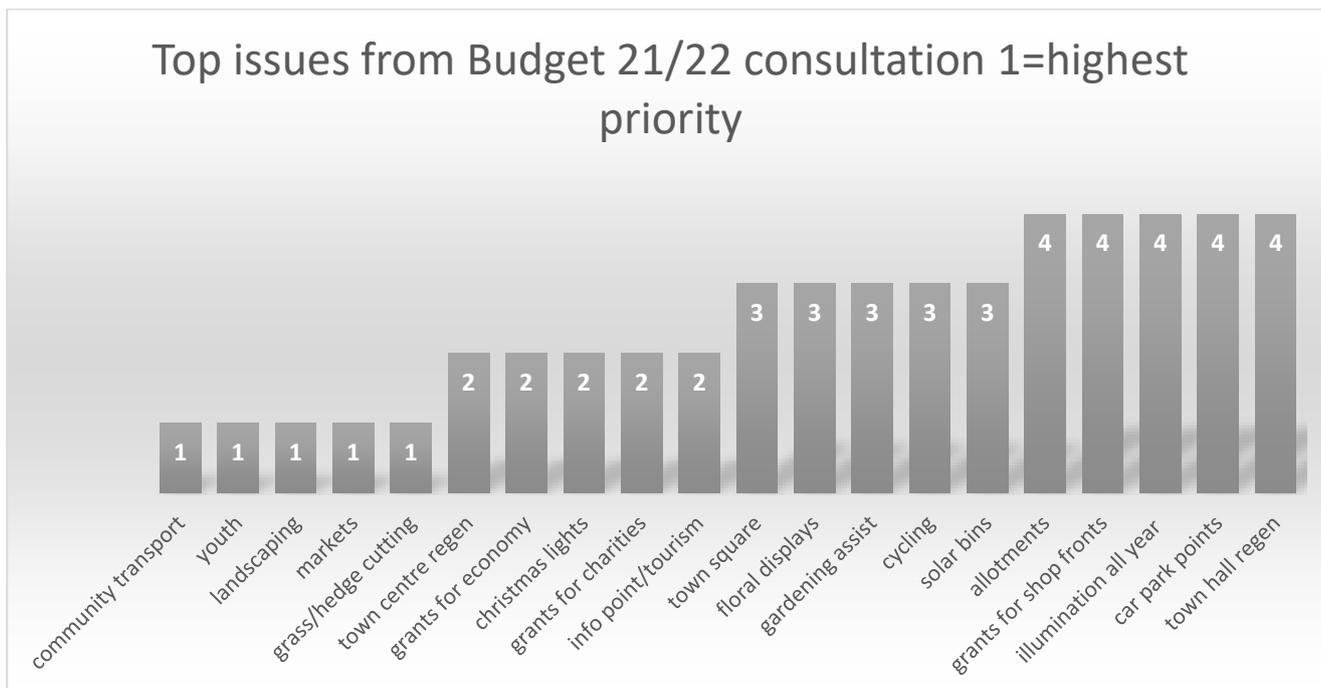
Town Clerk: Mrs Tracy Hallett

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Contact Officer	Liz McCusker	Job Title	Receptionist
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Findings from budget consultation 2021/22

Brixham Town Council went out to consultation to find out the views of the people of Brixham. A breakdown of the community level services that the Council deliver was given, as well as an explanation of how it receives funding. People were asked to respond to the questionnaire. The questionnaire was available via our website and promoted on our social media channels as well as a hard copy as part of the Signal newsletter that people could complete and either email in or post to us.

The first part of the questionnaire people were asked to prioritise their top five services, however many respondents rated all the services, we have ranked the services into four groups, the top five priorities are given 1, the next 2, followed by 3 and the lowest of peoples priorities given a 4. For a breakdown of these please see the table below.



People were then asked to add any services that they would like Brixham Town Council to start delivering that are not currently on the list and why.

Service	Reason
Tree planting	Environment
Grants for replacing boilers	Climate change
Help for homeless	An increasing need in Brixham
Town Centre Christmas Tree (Town Square)	Council should not have to rely on donated trees
Time and Tide Bell	Tourism
A more public facing Town Council	Town Hall is not customer friendly
Higher maintenance of foot paths and steps	To attract more visitors to Brixham
Build new sport stadium dedicated to women	No such facility in area (Ground next to Farm shop is a most suitable site)

There was also a list of services that are currently under Torbay Council or the Harbour Authority, it was unclear whether people thought we were delivering these or that we should take over delivering these services. An example is the given top priority to 'clean harbour area and ensure water is free from rubbish. Include Breakwater and Breakwater area'. 'Reason there is so much rubbish in the harbour it is an eyesore, and a danger to the wild life. Surely with assistance from the Fish Market, Harbour office and Marina, funding can be raised to keep it looking tidy'.

These are the services currently under Torbay Council or Harbour Authority that were services not on our list which they said they would like the Council to start delivering.

Litter
Illegal dumping
Graffiti removal
More dog waste bins (especially path to Berry Head)
Special offers on parking
Household waste collections as they are erratic
Clean harbour area
Fish Quay taken over by a few businesses at the detriment of choirs, bands and charities
Help for homeless
Street cleaning more often

The final question was are there any services that you would be happy for the Council to stop supplying? Here are the services and the reason given to stop.

Services to stop	Reason given
Supporting youth engagement	YES! charity and Job Centre can do this
Signal newsletter	Only sent via email to save costs – although some suggested a few copies for the library
Gardening Assistance Scheme	Subsidising garden costs, Council not responsible, not means tested
Shoalstone Pool	Should be self-supporting, implement charges if needed
Gig Club grants	Minority involvement/cliقة
Grants for shop fronts	Businesses should pay or Landlords
Town Hall regeneration	You have enough tax already/unnecessary vanity project
Lengthsman	Far too expensive/Pride in Brixham do most things
Illuminations yearly/Christmas	Nice but are they essential
Free transport	People should pay
Solar bins	What are they? Ordinary bins sufficient surely
Allotments	Should be transferred to allotment group
Town Hall Building	Should be transferred to the theatre group to generate income for them
Food Bank	Brixham does not need two food banks, support YES/ YES offer support as well this is needed to help people, without support deprivation is maintained.

Other suggestions, comments that were given include:

- You didn't mention
 - Shoalstone
 - Admiral swimming pool
 - Library
 - Parks & playgrounds
 - Theatre

I would put all these community services/locations at the top of the priority list compared to new ideas, I know that you don't have responsibility for some of these but in the current financial climate I am worried that they could become under threat.

- Manage own car parks
- Provide subsidised parking for local residents
- Need NHS Dentist and GP Surgery
- Encourage private investment
- A stronger voice, BTC does NOT campaign for Brixham nor demand anything from Torbay and it SHOULD. We scarcely hear anything from you, except facile propaganda of one sort or another
- As an elderly citizen I feel underqualified to suggest what our council should or should not do, without knowing far more detail under each heading. I am impressed at what having a town council has achieved and is aiming for. I feel privileged to live in Brixham

Conclusion:

One resident said that they could think of better ways to spend their £54 a year Brixham Council Tax on than:-

- Improving signage and charging points in car parks
- Cycling lanes
- Floral displays
- Grants to support projects helping Brixham economy/shop front appearances/charities with core funding
- Illuminations all year
- Markets in town
- Solar powered bins
- Town Hall regeneration
- Town Square a focal point for the town
- Youth supporting schemes to encourage local employment

They also wanted us to replace the pay and display meters and unisex toilets.

If the £54 a year was split equally across all the services given in the questionnaire they would be paying £2.70 to achieve all of these services in Brixham.

There were 74 responses overall from a population of over 16,000 equalling the views of less than 0.5% of the people of Brixham. However their views are very valuable and give a very diverse range of opinions on the main priorities the Council should invest in. Something that did come across very strong was that many are looking to Brixham Town Council to either influence the improvement of services provided by Torbay Council and the Harbour Authority and be willing if needed to step up and take these on if needed.