



OUR FUTURE IS LYME REGIS

COMMUNITY PLACE MAKING
AND TRANSPORT PLANNING



**IMAGINING
THE FUTURE
TOGETHER**

**OUR
FINDINGS
SO FAR**

The covid19 pandemic has highlighted the fragility of our interconnected world – from the importance of our local communities to global trade, insecure jobs and our natural environment.

In response to this and wider challenges about the future, designers from the Royal College of Art together with partners from councils, civil society and charities, would like your help so that we can understand your beliefs, feelings and knowledge about your town.

Our focus is on how you can build your community together, how you get around town and your ideas about the future.

We asked you to be thoughtful and creative; to think about everyone's wellbeing in the future and to help your community become healthier, more vibrant, inclusive and resilient.

This small booklet is a summary of what we have heard and some initial thoughts on what this may mean for your town.

ABOUT THE RCA



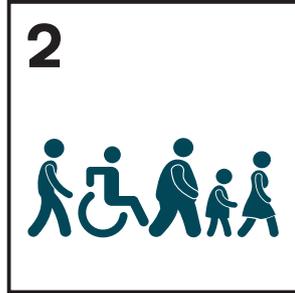
Royal College of Art

The Royal College of Art is the best place in the world to study art and design. This design and research project is led by the Intelligent Mobility Design Centre and includes a team from mobility design, architecture, communication and service design. We will be using our creative skills to help you to develop a vision of future community planning that is both inclusive and fit for the future! We are grateful to everyone who has contributed knowledge so far and look forward to hearing more.

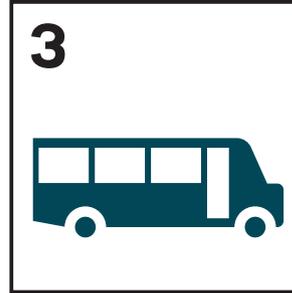
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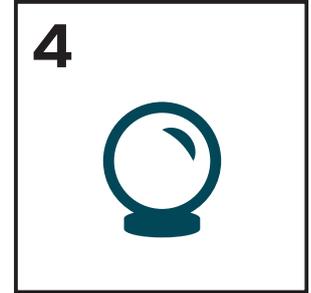
A little about us



About our
community



Getting around
town



Beliefs about
the future





10 MIN WALK

1.

A LITTLE

ABOUT US

We've heard from 38 people so far, so this is just a snapshot of your town. We'd love to hear from more of you, especially if you are younger or don't normally get involved in community activities or crazy things like planning the future of your town.

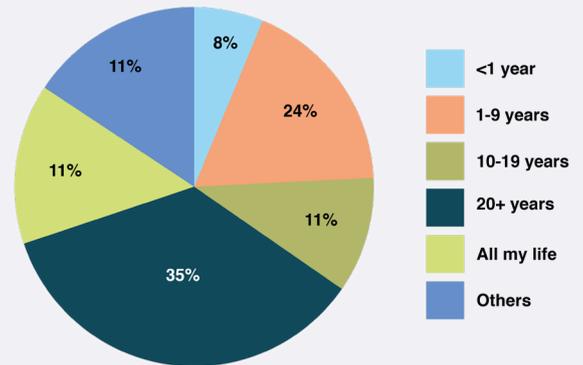
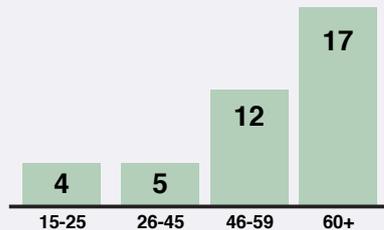
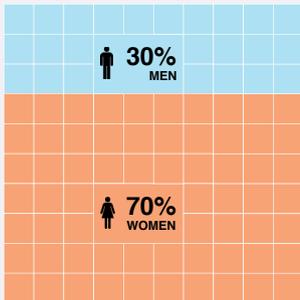
We'd like to hear what is missing and whether this sounds like your town.

WHO ARE WE?



We are artists, crafters and creators. We work for the community as health care workers, teachers and sustainable thinkers. Some are retired, some are just starting and many are families who are creating a new beginning. We garden to provide and walk to explore. We write to recall and work to allure. Some are holiday seekers and others are holiday makers...

How about you?



We moved for the scenery, for the great coastal views. We grew up here and discovered that we loved the outdoors and nature on our door step. We wanted our kids to have the childhood we had, to be close to the family we have. We came for the quiet winters and gorgeous summers.

WE VALUE THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR COAST, our neighbours and friendships, our homes, our family and their futures. We value the countryside and local activities; the gardens, the walks, the weekly and yearly events. Our history, our jobs and future town business.

We value helping each other and sharing ideas, listening and hearing what each has to say. Some organise, some rally, some discuss and some shout. We value kindness and empathy to understand each other. We value community spirit and the coming together as one. We value our young and we value our old.

We value our views, we value our surroundings, but we value our connections and links too. We love our individual neighbourhoods and quirky streets. We value the politeness of newcomers, short stayers and quick stoppers. We value the streets we share and the space we thrive in, the jobs we love and guests we depend on.

”

SOME OF OUR SECRET SKILLS

“ “ We are great at communicating, planning and organising. We are social and hard working, we aim to bring the community together. We are story tellers and advice givers. We are craftsmen, we are sellers, we are hospitality owners. We are strategic planners and sustainable thinkers. We thrive on community events and engagement as a whole, to provide a greater mental and physical well-being for all.

We are active creators and social media engagers. We each have our differences, backgrounds and interests. We love photography, music and history. We're engineers and artists, volunteers and sports enthusiasts. We believe in our youngsters and who they can become. We wish for them to prosper in an engaged community. We are committee members, community supporters and love to communicate the thoughts, fears and hopes of others. We encourage inclusivity through communication and support for those in need. We are team players, we are teachers, but most of all we care.

WHERE WE LIVE

What are your hopes and ambitions for your community?

→ A properly planned, green, clean and inclusive place! A place that embraces a sustainable approach to the future. A place that thrives on community spirit and engagement. More social activities and clubs to bring people together, including leisure and sport. Preserving the historical landscape and coastal environment.

→ Better transport connections to neighbouring villages, towns and cities. Reduced traffic in the centre of town and along the sea front. More affordable and readily available buses.

→ Integration of all individuals in the community. Affordable housing for the younger generations. Not to become overly commercialised and completely reliant on tourism. That local businesses don't just survive, but thrive and continue to grow. ”



→ Platforms for those suffering from loneliness, isolation and other mental issues to be heard and accounted for. More fairs and events for the community people to engage with each other.

→ A chance to reform our transport links, removing the mass summer traffic that flows through town. To develop an affordable and aspirational public transport network. Better use of parking for the people living in the area, not just a financial gain from people visiting. A greater focus on connections and networks to relieve the influx of people.

→ Greater variety and access to jobs for young people. Affordable housing for families and young people to start a new chapter. A way for people to get involved in community projects to create something we can all enjoy.



“

→ A solution for the litter problems throughout the area. A sustainable focus to reduce pollution and increase health and well-being. Kindness from all and a greater sense of empathy towards each other. Where all members of the community, regardless of positions, can have a say and input for the future town.

What challenges and problems do you want your community to overcome?

→ Let's get away from the congested streets! Let's create a town centre that everyone can enjoy, without the traffic and pollution. Lets improve the park and ride network and start to develop housing with young people in mind. We need to create affordable and reliable buses and find ways to reduce litter and waste. We need to try new things and share what we have. We need less me, me, me and more what's good for us all. That means fewer speeding cars, zero energy futures and more green business if we can.

”

Any barriers?

Congestion & Parking

"The town is often congested, full of fumes and cars and motorbikes that travel too fast and make too much noise." "Busy". "Congested". "One way routes for traffic". "Not being able to park along the Cart Road any more with my blue badge. I really valued that. It means it's almost impossible to park by the sea because there aren't enough disabled spaces."

Integration, socially and physically

"for the socially isolated to feel more welcome, included, valued and heard."

"That my children and grandchildren can afford to live here."

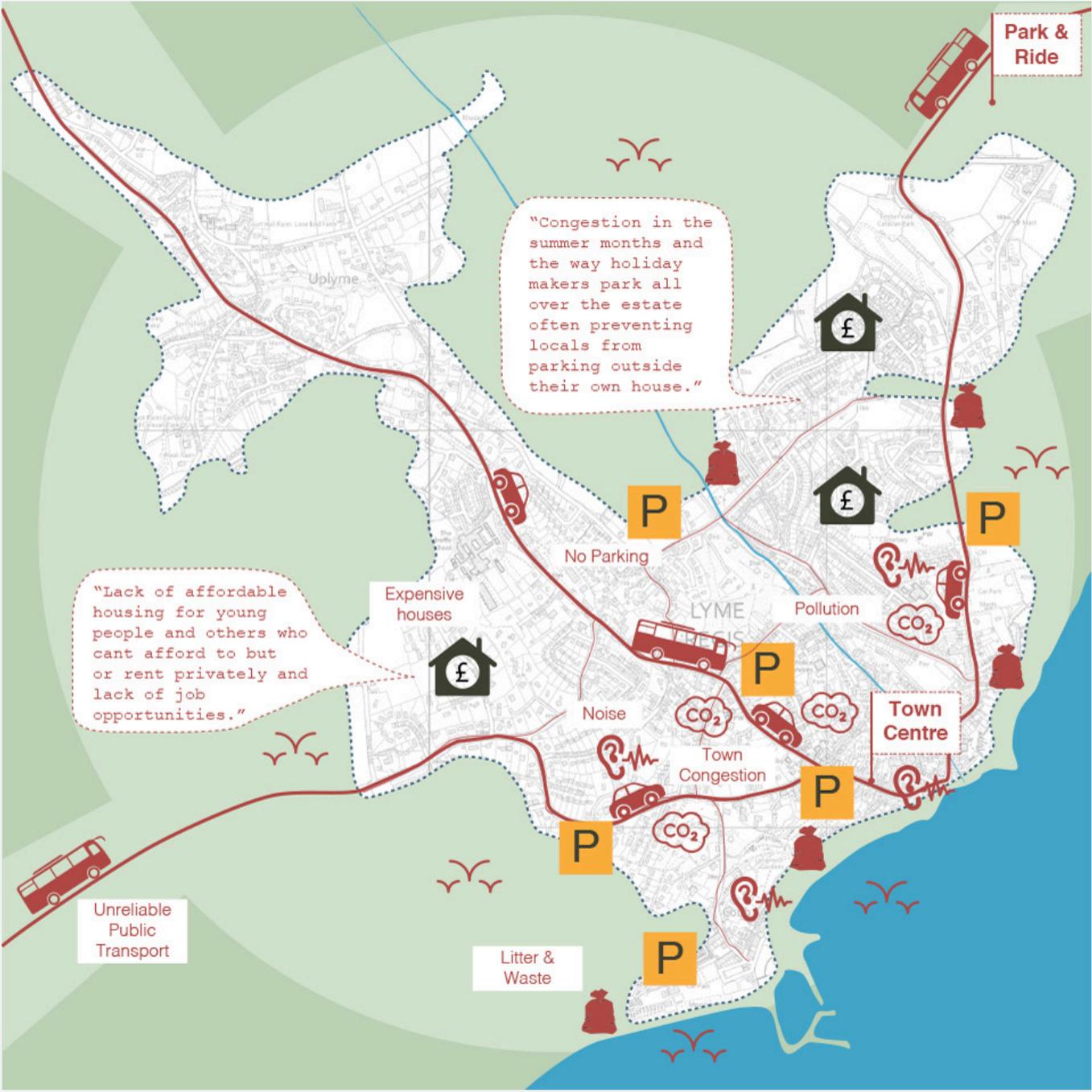
We need more leadership locally and nationally. We need more creativity, common sense and care. We need to coordinate our efforts, build capacity and finance. We need to get rid of gridlock and keep development sane. We need new homes to be better quality or not built at all. Lets get rid of traffic, we need our bus system to work! And if that isn't enough let's reimagine our streets that have been lost to cars, teach everyone music, pottery and art!

**What do you
love about where
you live?**

The coast, the community and often the events and activities. The scenery.  The Marine Parade.  The garden growers   and the people who lend a helping hand. The arts and crafts. The Town Mill area, the museum and the theatre.  We enjoy collecting fossils  and how they came to be, using new sciences and Darwin's philosophy. The quiet times when the holiday makers have left. The slower pace and relaxing walks.  The buzzing bars and numerous restaurants.  The safety and camaraderie of people  in the community. The local initiatives, shops and farms run by people.  The ocean views and countryside explorations. The short walk to the town and sea front.  It's beautiful, friendly and knowing so many people has its advantage. The mix of architecture and quirky streets.  The beaches. The people. The shops. The cafés. The activities and clubs.  It is a fabulous place to stay. It has not changed much and still presents a 'Regency' feel.

What drives you nuts about where you live?

The Traffic.  The hostility to diversity and difference. Cobb Road speeds. The lack of parking. The reduction of park and ride service. People stuck in their ways. The litter.  The holiday homes  that don't use gull-proof bags. Housing, employment, and low wages. We have a natural open air theatre above the amusement arcade, it sits in the gardens and doesn't see much use.  The cinema sits rotting.  The two diametrically opposed factions in the town. No more second homes.  The flow of traffic through town. Coaches, bus services, trucks and larger camper vans.  The street isn't fit for people.  The traffic and loud motorbikes. The local council does not have a true commitment to the sustainability agenda. Negativity about what business and council try to do to support the town. The lack of parking options for the community. **P** Backlog jams in both directions. People on holiday simply don't know how to drive sensibly.  Visitors can be rude, especially to shop staff, leave mountains of litter and feed the gulls for a laugh.  Misunderstanding about allowing dogs  on the seafront and the changing of by-laws. The gap between district and local. The noise. The tourists.  The house prices and second homes. Lack of bus routes and public transport which is expensive. You can't get buses after early evening.  Abusive drivers screaming at one another. Not meeting climate and carbon targets. The lack of youth groups, opportunities and the like. People not doing the best for the town.



Park & Ride

"Congestion in the summer months and the way holiday makers park all over the estate often preventing locals from parking outside their own house."

"Lack of affordable housing for young people and others who cant afford to but or rent privately and lack of job opportunities."

Unreliable Public Transport

Litter & Waste

Uplyme

P

P

P

P

P

P

Expensive houses

No Parking

Pollution

Noise

Town Congestion

Town Centre

CO₂

CO₂

CO₂

CO₂

CO₂

LYME REGIS

Car Parks

Stalls

Shops

Public

Services

Area

of

Lyme

Regis

Dorset

UK

© 2010

Map

Maker

Map

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Map

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2.

**ABOUT OUR
COMMUNITY**

SPECIAL PUBLIC PLACES

“

→ We love Marine Parade, with the amazing sea views and public gardens above, including the large wild-flower patch the town council has planted. We love the woodland walks and beach front treks. We love the local markets and town events, the live music, dancing and singing. We enjoy swimming in the bay in all kinds of weather. Golden Cap is always a beautiful place to see the whole local area.

→ We love the quirky architecture the town owns. We enjoy nights at the theatre, museum and the town mill. We enjoy singing and playing music in the town band. We enjoy the community spirit especially through these odd times. We enjoy the slower pace, the scenery, the pubs and the restaurants. We enjoy the safeness and comfort knowing there's others who will look out for us. We love the balance of community, seafront and countryside. ”



→ We enjoy the shops, the library and cafés. We love the clubs and activities and could only wish for more. We enjoy watching our football team and to be involved with pub cricket. We love our homes that are away from the busy town centre.

Tell us about a public place in your town that needs improving

→ There are not many places that need improving but maybe updating. Broad Street would be nicer if it was designed for people and not the traffic, and Church Street is even worse. Traffic causes great frustration for both drivers and pedestrians. Pavements are too narrow and uneven, and there's so much pollution from the large buses and lorries. Parking is the worst. The winter months fade and the summer tourists arrive. There's never any parking, even just outside. Public transport is not helpful. It's difficult at any time to get to other towns. We like to drive but don't like to cause congestion. If there was an alternative, it would help alleviate the roads. Disabled access is not present. It's very hard to navigate the hilly and uneven paths.

Tell us anything else that you think is important to know about your town and its people

→ The litter that is thrown around is not only bad for our natural environment, but is a huge eye sore in such a lovely town. The local cinema needs restoring to its former fame and glory.

→ Isolation is a major problem, but is continually improving. The community spirit is returning and people are communicating. We love to meet new people and bump into old friends. But the noise and traffic make it difficult to keep up.

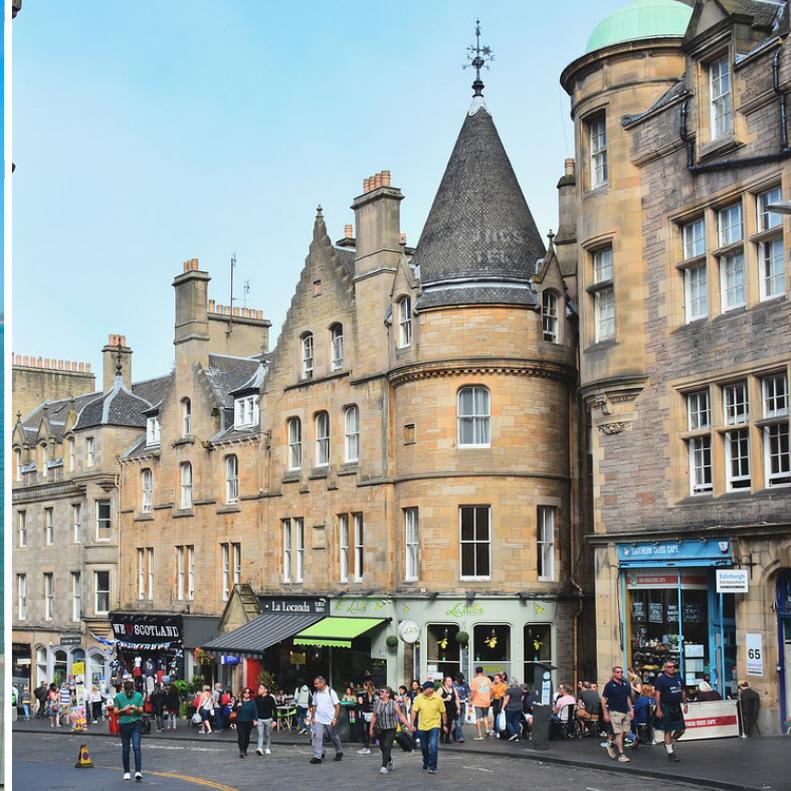
→ The talent amongst the community is always an amazement. We have our conflicts and differences, but we are there for one and another and are always happy to lend a hand.

→ We are a holiday destination. But we are a community too. Tourists help provide for our jobs, but we want to see more opportunities for the young and old throughout the town. We're in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the ground is prone to slippage so building work has to be carefully managed. Most of Lyme Regis is designated a Conservation Area. ”

**Tell us another
city or town that
you love**

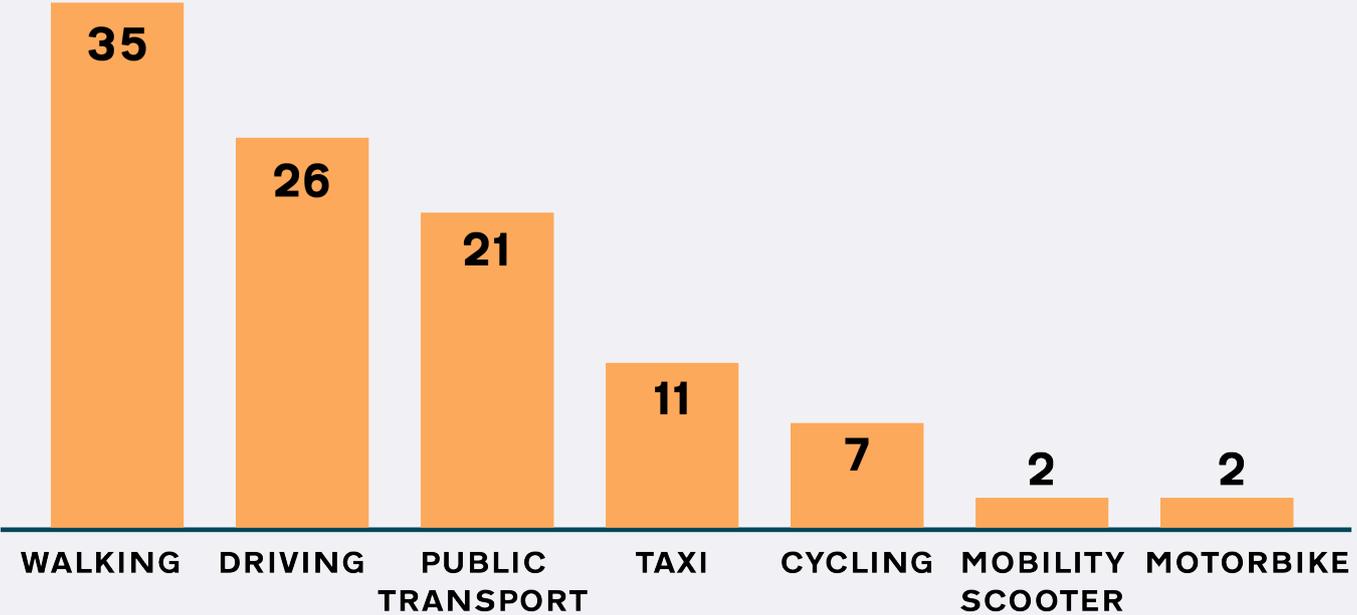
London
Chicago
Bridport
Sidmouth
Edinburgh
Exeter
Bath
Spreyton
Brighton
Wellington
NZ
Falmouth
Bristol
Cardiff
Mevagissey
Muscat
Honiton
Venice
Amsterdam
St Ives
Clovelly





3. GETTING AROUND TOWN

VALUE OF TRANSPORT



EVERYDAY JOURNEYS THAT MAKE US SMILE



→ We love to walk and explore the town gardens, the woodland outskirts and the coastal cliff paths. Langmoore Gardens first thing in the morning is such a pleasant sight. Walking up Slopes Meadow and then down to town at night. Heading down the hill into town and seeing the sea - it never fails to make me smile. Walking along the seafront when there's no-one there but equally on a lovely day when there are families having fun and people are surfing and swimming. Being able to see the bay and sea from our homes always makes us smile. Swimming in the sea during a hot and sunny summer day. Spittles is a lovely space to walk the dog and explore the natural spaces around.

→ Commuting or driving along the A35 makes for some stunning views, and an early morning cycle to the beach and back in the summer is always a enjoyable journey. Just driving into the town brings a big smile to any face.

→ Being able to say good morning to the friends who go for their morning walk. We love how much protected land there is. Not a building, car or man-made structure in sight. We love our Cobb. It's a short walk along, but takes you away from the hustle and bustle of town. ””

4. BELIEFS ABOUT OUR FUTURE

LOCKDOWN OPTIMISM

“

→ Seeing nature thrive whilst no-one was about. Hearing birdsong and seeing beautiful hedgerow flowers that popped out. Being out with the Garden Growers has brought many of us together. One vision can transform the way we act as neighbours and as a community, with selflessness and hard work, sharing and teaching. Growing food and donating the produce to the food bank and others in need. It's great to see the community spirit flourish, with small neighbourhood networks springing up to share goods with each other.

→ It was great to see local businesses adapt and be prepared to deliver their goods and services to the community. See the resurgence of nature, less consumption and more time spent with family. Knowing that travelling away and the stress that comes with it, is not the be all and end all. Being together as a town and community, without the outside world. ”

LOCKDOWN CONCERNS

“ “

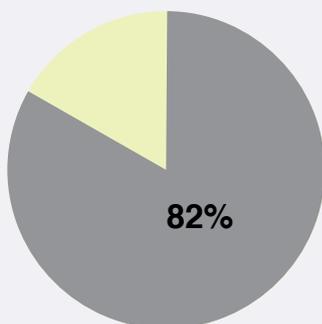
→ We worried for those who were sheltering and those all alone. We worried for our futures, our children's and their children too. We worried for the local businesses and the impact on residents. How would we make money to shop for food and clothes? We worried for the whole economy and all the job losses that would follow.

→ We worried for the education that our children and all young people would miss out on. Not just the lesson, but also the structure, discipline and a sense of purpose that schools provide.

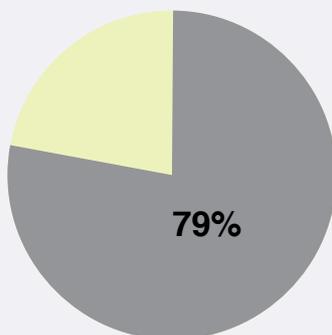
→ Our town works for the holiday goers and we are concerned that without them we don't have the infrastructure to support a local economy. Although we rely on these visitors, we are concerned about what some might bring with them. We are an older community and are at risk to the dangers of COVID19.

” ”

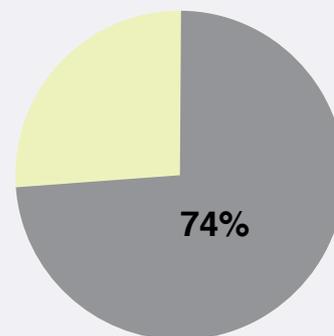
**Environmental issues
like climate change**



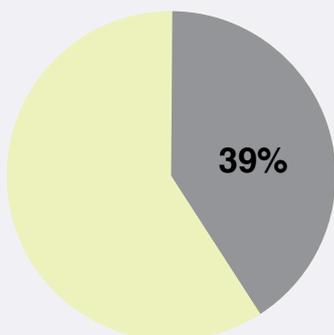
**The state of the economy
& things like inequality**



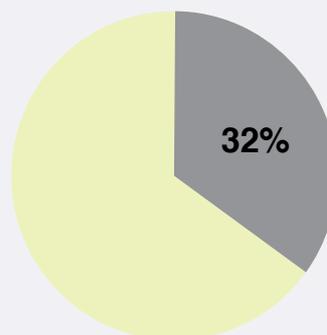
**Social issues like illness
& isolation**



Political differences



**How technology is
affecting your life**



Worried



Not Worried

OUR IDEAL FUTURE TOWN



→ We want a town that is safe to walk, cycle and socialise with enjoyment. An outdoor community that hosts events such as markets, live music, film screenings, leisure activities and art installations. We want wildlife to thrive with greater biodiversity, wildlife patches and green corridors. A busy local economy, where businesses thrive throughout the year and not just in the summer months.

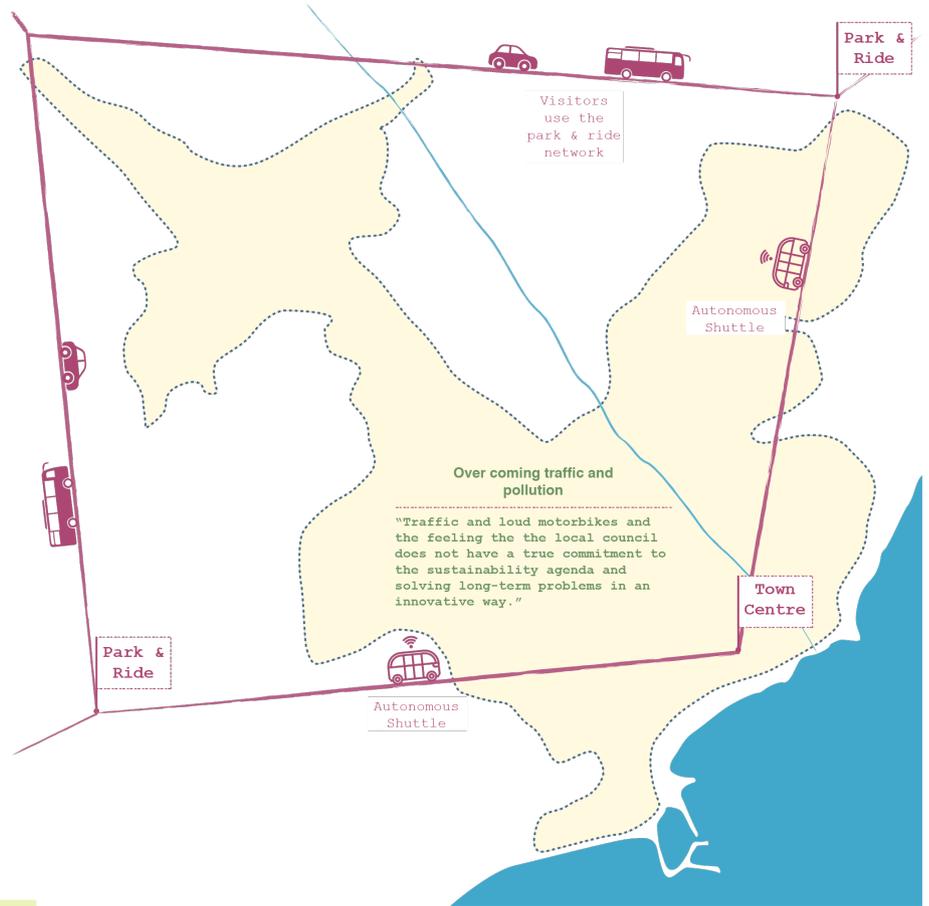
→ We want a community that cares for others, and puts well-being first and foremost. We want a healthy community, where we can walk, run, cycle and swim with ease. For the community to feel valued, safe, able to contribute and engage productively in democracy and civic society.

→ We want our cultural heritage to thrive once again. We want the council to work with us and bring a happy and friendly neighbourhood for all the community. A community that feels their needs are met before visitors and tourists.

→ We want greater sustainable progression with less pollution of noise and waste. An environment where people can relax and enjoy nature. A clean and peaceful town that welcomes all visitors and guests with open arms.

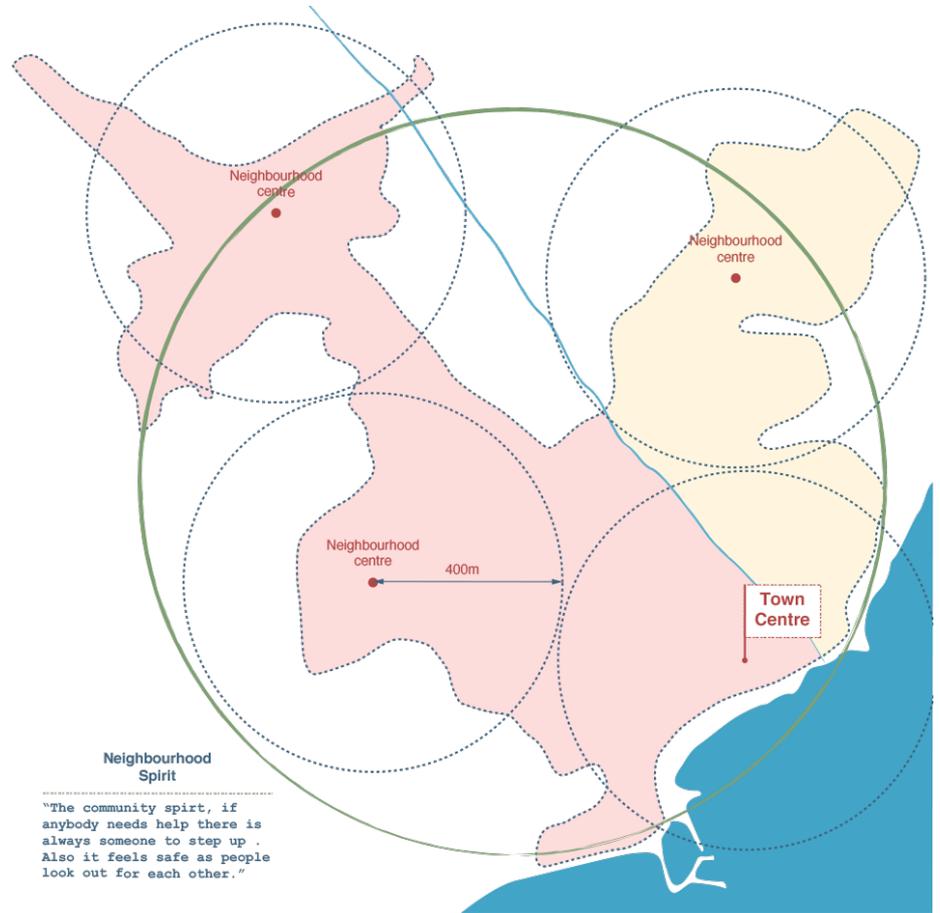
→ A town without cars, lorries and large buses. Making greater use of the park and ride network and better ways to deliver goods to the shops and community. For the streets to be given back to the people. A place where social engagement is common place without having to shout over the traffic horns. With more green spaces for everyone to engage with.

”



PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK

Greater connections to other towns and cities, making use of the park and ride facilities. Visitors and deliveries should use other alternative ways to access the town.



SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Improved social hubs throughout the town. Using neighbourhoods as a central connection. Bring down the barriers of isolation and segregation.

**What else do we know
that will help us to
create a better Lyme
Regis together?**

We need to work together and not segregate each other. Give people the opportunity to share their thoughts. The car is still important and shouldn't be forgotten or left out. Many of us still need to reach other towns for goods and services. Public transport is poor and expensive and could be improved. The terrain isn't easy to navigate, especially for the older generations and those with disabilities. Lyme Regis is a hilly coastal town and these are obstacles that need to be addressed. The lack of amenities and facilities in town can also be a problem. Many of the shops are purely focused on selling to tourists and not for everyday life.

Lyme Regis utopia / dystopia

Based on your hopes for the future we have created a visualisation of what might be possible in one part of town

Based on your worries and concerns for the future we have created a visualisation of what might happen in one part of town if we don't stick together.

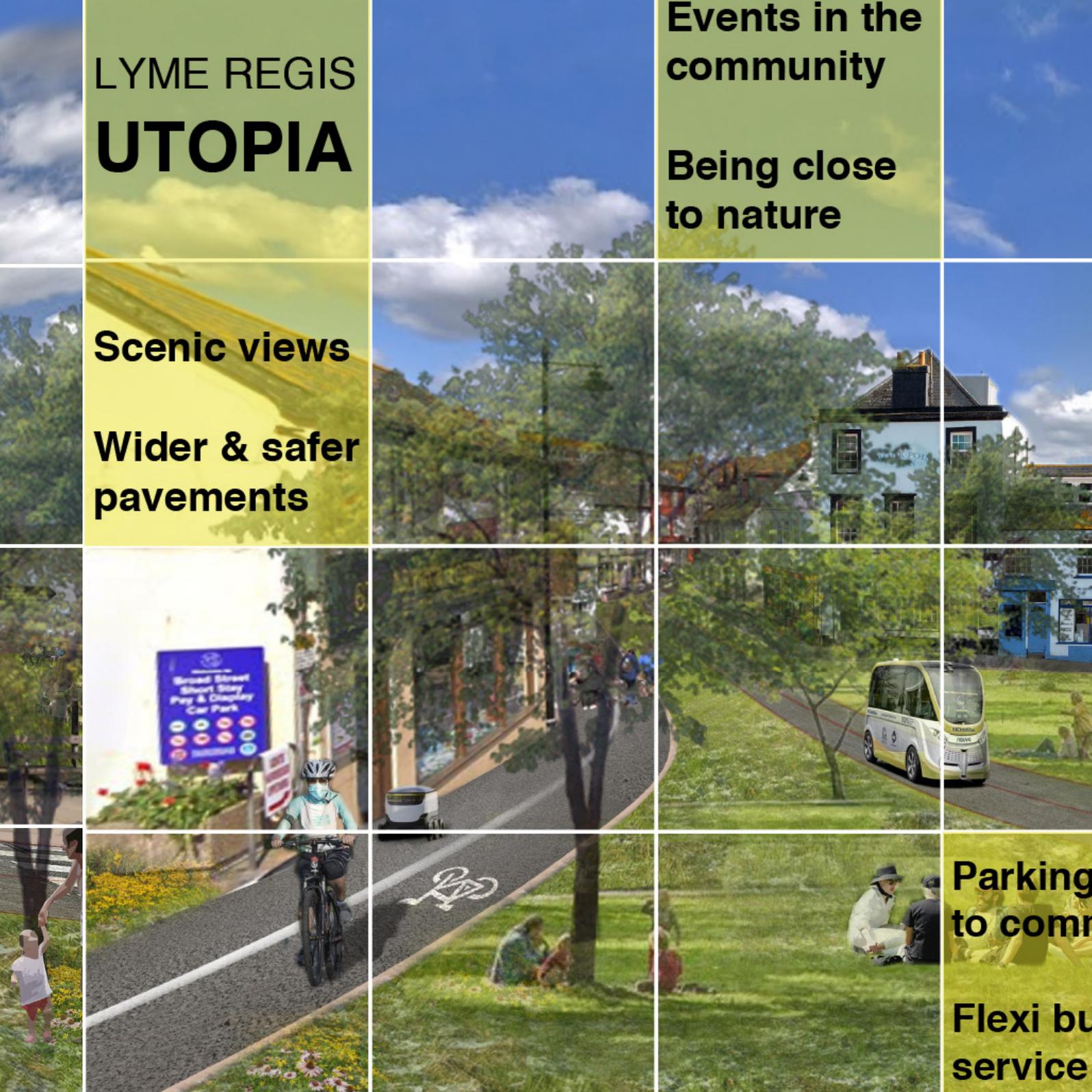
LYME REGIS
UTOPIA

**Events in the
community**

**Being close
to nature**

Scenic views

**Wider & safer
pavements**



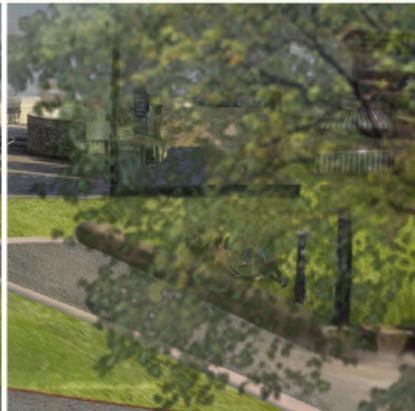
**Parking
to com**

**Flexi bu
service**



Delivery options

Impromptu social contact



Community

Bustling public realm

Reduced / zero traffic



LYME REGIS DYSTOPIA

More tourist
events

Poor public
transport

More tra
Full car
parks &
connec



Traffic

**no
options**

**Tourist
attractions**

**Tourism
based jobs**

**No green
space**



**Traffic
views**

**More road
space**

IMAGINING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

To share your thoughts
or to find out more about
the project please email
oliver.winter@network.rca.ac.uk