

Results analysis

Department of the Environment March 2018



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Introduction

In August 2017, the Minister for the Environment launched an online survey to find out what Islanders think about St Helier's open spaces. This survey was designed to inform the forthcoming St Helier Open Space Strategy, which is being developed as part of the Strategic Plan 2015-2018 priority to regenerate St Helier, known as 'Future St Helier'.

The survey was open to all Islanders and ran for a period of two months. As the survey was only available to complete online, the Department offered to assist anyone who required support to complete the survey, ensuring that everyone who wanted to take part, could do so. The Minister also offered everyone who took part in the survey, the chance to be entered into a prize draw to win £100 shopping vouchers as a thank you for taking part; the winner of which is to be announced separately.

Population and Response Rate

The survey attracted a total of 999 completed responses, all of which were voluntary and not sourced from a sample. The survey was promoted through conventional media (radio and newspaper), social media and circulated by email to key stakeholder groups, including disability groups and schools.

The results from this survey have not been statistically weighted, and it is worth noting lower than hoped for participation rate for the under 18's and 18-24 age group (0.2% and 5.61% respectively). This, in addition to the online and voluntary nature of the survey has limited how we can ensure equal representation across age and social groups in the survey results, as opposed to if the survey was conducted with a controlled or random sample with weighting techniques.

The future development of the St Helier Open Space Strategy will nevertheless involve a number of opportunities for further consultation with all age, social and disability groups before the strategy is progressed to adoption.



The Minister for the Environment wishes to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

Summary



18% of St Helier 18% residents don't have any access to a garden, balcony or communal space where they live

OVER 80% make regular use of public open space in St Helier



visit a particular open space because it has a

safe walking route



Summary

15% Control of play space in town

nearly 20% never go to an open space in St Helier





can get to an open space in St Helier easily no matter where they live

90%



demographics SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents were asked some basic questions about age, parish of residence and whether or not they have access to open space at their home. The purpose of these questions was to help us understand if there are any notable patterns based on age, where people live and what type of private outdoor space they have access to, across the survey.

Q1. How old are you?

The survey representation by age comparison with 2011 Census population data highlights an under-representation in the survey by those aged below 24 years and an over representation from 24 years and above – in particular amongst the 35-53 years age group.

Answer Choice	Response Total	Response Percent	2011 Census Population ¹	Survey Representation by age
Under 18	2	0.2%	9%	-8.8%
18-24	56	5.6%	9%	-3.4%
25-34	200	20.0%	16%	+4%
35-54	482	48.2%	34%	+14.2%
55+	259	25.9%	30%	+4.1%
Total answered	999			

Table 1: Survey representation by age comparison with 2011 Census population data



Figure 1: Graph - survey representation by age comparison with 2011 census population data

¹The survey distribution was focussed on secondary school age children and above; it has therefore been reasonably assumed that 0-11 year olds will not have taken part and subsequently, the census population share figures exclude 0-11 years.

The Minister for the Environment has noted the representative age differential and will seek further consultation throughout the development of the St Helier Open Space Strategy, ensuring a better balance across the age groups.

Q2. Where do you live?

The survey asked Islanders to tell us which Parish they lived in. This information has been used to indicate survey representation by location and helps us to understand if the views of St Helier residents were different to those living outside of town.

The results indicate that residents of St Helier took the greatest interest in survey participation and those residing in St Brelade were least inclined to share their views.

Answer Choice	Response Percent	2011 Census Population ²	Survey Representation by Location
St Helier	40.5%	34%	+6.5%
St Clement	8.5%	9%	-0.5%
Grouville	5.4%	5%	+0.4%
St Martin	3.5%	4%	-0.5%
Trinity	4.7%	3%	+1.7%
St Saviour	13.8%	14%	-0.2%
St John	2.4%	3%	-0.6%
St Mary	1.6%	2%	-0.4%
St Ouen	3.1%	4%	-0.9%
St Peter	3.8%	5%	-1.2%
St Brelade	8.6%	11%	-2.4%
St Lawrence	4.0%	6%	-2%

Table 2: Survey representation by location comparison with 2011 Census data

Q3. What is your post code?

The post code location of responses data has not be analysed at this time. This information may be used in the future to understand if particular opinions can be mapped by district within the parish of St Helier.

²2011 Census, Chapter : Population (States of Jersey)

Q4. Where you live, do you have access to outdoor open space?

When asked whether or not they had access to outdoor open space, 71.5% of respondents said that they have access to a garden, 17.8% a balcony, 18.1% a communal space and 9.2% did not have any kind of access to outdoor open space.



Figure 2: Access to private outdoor open space - all Island

The survey indicated that residents of St Helier were least likely to have access to any kind of outdoor space where they live, with 18.3% of St Helier respondents not having access to a garden, balcony or communal space.





Q5. What is more important to you?

When asked which kind of access to space was more important, the majority (79.6%) of respondents thought that access to private space and public open space were of equal importance and 8.8% think that public open space is more important.



Figure 4: What kind of access to space is more important?



SURVEY RESULTS

We asked respondents a number of questions about how they use open space within St Helier and what they would like to see more of in the future. These questions are intended to help us understand people's habits and preferences, enabling us to prioritise favoured characteristics for the public spaces of the future.

Q6. Do you make use of the public open spaces in the Town of St Helier?

We asked whether respondents make use of the public open spaces in town; the majority of respondents said yes, with 89% of St Helier residents and 82% of respondents from outside of St Helier saying that they make use of open space.



Figure 5: How many people make use of public open space in St Helier?

Q7. WHY don't you visit open space in St Helier?

Of the 155 people who said that they DO NOT visit open space in St Helier, we asked them to tell us their reasons why.

More than a third of people who don't visit open space say it's because they are too busy and don't have enough time to make use of open space.



Figure 6: Reasons why people DON'T visit open space in St Helier

60 people specified 'Other' reasons, with some of the most popular being:

- A general concern about an anti-social presence in the parks, with 23% of 'Other' responses stating that they avoid visiting parks, and in particular, Parade Gardens, because of their concerns about drink and/or drug users who also use the space
- They live outside of town and have access to nicer spaces with more variation
- The difficulties parking and to then have to pay to park makes visiting St Helier unfavourable
- Whilst the open space isn't always used, doesn't mean it is not valued

Q8. Please tell us what might encourage you to use open space in the future

We asked the people who DO NOT use open space to tell us what might encourage them to use open spaces in the future.

The responses called for:

- The removal of anti-social behaviour, including drink and drug users, from parks and open spaces
- Better links between spaces in town
- Cleaning and maintenance of spaces as a priority
- A dog friendly park
- More seating areas
- Nice toilets
- On-site park keepers to monitor anti-social behaviour.
- Shelters for adverse weather days
- BBQ and picnic areas
- Entertainment and things to do

Q9. WHY do you use open space in the Town of St Helier?

We asked all the people who DO use open space in town, why. The majority of people use open space in Town to sit, relax, think and get some fresh air (64.3% and 63.6% respectively), with more than half of people saying they use open space to have some lunch or break from work, and to enjoy some walking.



Figure 7: Reasons why people use open space in St Helier

55 People specified 'Other' reasons, with some of the most popular being:

- An opportunity to access the outdoors, given a lack of outdoor space at home.
- To rest whilst walking across town.
- A walking route that avoids the roads.
- To enjoy the flowers and scenery.
- To meet friends and socialise.
- To enjoy music in the park.
- Enjoy the weather.

Q10. What time of day are you MOST LIKLEY to do these things?

The majority of people like to use open space casually at various times of the day. However, there is a noticeable spike during lunch time, where 21.9% of people say that this is the most likely time that they will make use of space in town.



Figure 8: What time of day do people like to make use of open space



Q11. HOW OFTEN do you use open space in the Town of St Helier?

Of all the people who said they DO use open space in St Helier, over 98% use open space at least once a month, with 26% of people using town's spaces daily.

Figure 9: How often do people use open space in St Helier

Q12. Which particular space do you visit most often?

When asked which space they visit most often, Parade Gardens (22.4%), Millennium Park (20.1%) and Howard Davis Park (18.2%) have come out on top as the most visited open spaces in town.

Answer Choice (free text)	Response Frequency	Response Percentage
Parade Gardens	203	22.4%
Millennium Park	182	20.1%
Howard Davis Park	165	18.2%
Peoples Park	102	11.3%
Waterfront/Castle Quay area	56	6.2%
Royal Square	40	4.4%
Jardins de la Mare/La Frigate	28	3.1%
Beaches	28	3.1%
St Andrews Park	23	2.5%
Harbour area	17	1.9%
Green St Cemetery	12	1.3%
Liberation Square	12	1.3%
Town Church yard	10	1.1%
Mount Bingham and surrounding area	9	1%
Westmount gardens	7	0.8%
Lower Park	4	0.4%
Coronation Park	2	0.2%
Victoria Park	2	0.2%
Sir Winston Churchill Park	2	0.2%
La Collette	1	O.1%
Total	905	

Table 3: Which spaces do people visit most often?

Q13. What is the main reason you use this open space?

We asked people to tell us the main reason they visit their chosen space. The responses indicate that people have a tendency to choose an open space to visit based on its accessibility; more than a third of people said because it is the nearest space to their home and 26% of people say it is because it has a safe walking route.

1 in 5 people like to visit a particular location simply because it is their favourite and more than 1 in 10 people choose a location because it has parking nearby and a large proportion of people visit a location because it is near to their work (37.6%).



Figure 10: reasons why people go to their favourite open space

Q14. Please identify 5 things you would like to see in future open spaces around town?

We asked people to identify 5 things that they would like to see in future open spaces, to help us understand and prioritise characteristics for the future.

The resulting top five things people would like to see are; somewhere to sit, trees, grass, somewhere peaceful, wildlife (birds, butterflies etc) – closely followed by on-site toilets.

The least popular choice was for hard surfaced areas, with only 3.9% of people selecting this as one the 5 things they would like to see in the future.



Top choices for things people would like to see in future spaces in town

Figure 11: Things people would like to see in future open spaces, by order of preference.

150 'other' suggestions were made by respondents, with some of the most popular suggestions being:

- Artwork, sculptures and interactive installations.
- A dedicated and secure dog park / no dog mess
- No anti-social behaviour, including removal of drink and drug users. Zero alcohol policy.
- Provision of drinking water fountains.
- More planted flower beds, wildflowers.
- Better facilities for teenagers.

Q15. How often, with a child in your care, do you visit and use an equipped children's play space in St Helier?

Overall, when asked how often they visit an equipped play space, only 12 % more of St Helier residents compared to the rest of the Island visit a play space at least once a year. In both cases, more than half of respondents said they don't visit a play space at all.



Figure 12: How often do you visit equipped play space in St Helier?

Q16. How do you rate the standard and accessibility of play space in St Helier?

Across the Island, respondents were generally satisfied with the standard and accessibility of play space, but 14.9% were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.



Figure 13: Rating the standard and accessibility of play space in St Helier

Q17. What do you think could be done to make children's play space better?

We asked respondents to tell us what they think we could do to make children's play space better. Some of the suggestions occurring most frequently include:

- Removal of anti-social behaviour, including drink and drug users
- Keep them clean, tidy and well maintained
- Better facilities for sports and ball games
- Better range of equipment to suit a variety of age groups
- Equipment available that encourages the development of proper 'physical literacy' in the children
- Educational and interactive facilities
- The equipment at Howard Davis Park is fantastic
- Good, clean toilet facilities

Q18. How often do you visit a beach in St Helier?

38.3% of people said that they make frequent use of St Helier's beaches, but nearly one in five people said that they never go.



Figure 14: How often do you visit a beach in St Helier?

We wanted to know why people do/don't visit St Helier beaches and asked respondents to tell us "I would visit St Helier's beaches more if..." The most popular responses to this question include:

- An overwhelming majority stated they would visit more if the sea lettuce issue was removed
- The beaches were generally cleaner
- They live near a better beach so have no reason to visit St Helier's beaches
- They would go more if there were better walking connections to town
- A wish for dogs to be allowed all day, all year
- If there were better parking facilities
- There were better facilities including cafés, bars and shops

Q19. If/when you visit a beach, are you MORE LIKELY to visit a beach in St Helier (St Aubin's Bay, Havre des Pas) or travel to other beaches?

More than 80% of people from across the island are more likely to travel to a beach location outside of St Helier. This includes 66.9% of respondents from St Helier, who said that they prefer to leave their Parish to make use of this natural open space resource.



Figure 15: Are you more likely to visit a beach in St Helier or travel to other beaches?

When asked why they are more likely to visit a beach inside or outside of St Helier, the post popular responses include:

- Because beaches outside of St Helier are nicer
- They choose other beaches because of the sea lettuce issue in St Helier
- They choose a beach to visit based on where they live
- They choose a beach to visit based on ease of travel and parking
- They choose other beaches based on their facilities; including cafes, toilets and parking

Q20. If allotments were available in St Helier, would you want to make use of one?

We wanted to know if people would be interested in making use of allotments in St Helier. Unsurprisingly, St Helier residents were more likely to want to make use of an allotment in St Helier, with over 55% saying yes or maybe. 68.5% of people from outside of St Helier said no, they wouldn't, but many of these people have access to a private garden and don't have the need for an allotment.



Figure 16: Would you be interested in making use of an allotment in St Helier?

When commenting on their answer, some of the things people said include:

- Yes, but it would depend on the cost of doing so
- If they didn't already have a garden they would have definitely said yes
- Yes, and community gardening in parks is also a good idea

Q21. If there was better access to the rural parts of St Helier (wooded areas, reservoirs, agricultural land) would you want to walk, cycle, jog these routes?

They majority of people from across the island said that they would make use of the rural parts of St Helier, if there was better access.



Figure 17: If there were was better access to rural parts of St Helier, would you make use of it?

When commenting on their answer, some of the things people said include:

- They would enjoy having a more pleasant location to walk and exercise
- The areas would require facilities such as parking and toilets
- Safer cycling routes would be welcomed
- They hope the wildlife will not be harmed or disturbed by more people visiting the natural parts of St Helier
- More outdoor leisure options would be good
- It would be nice to have other places to explore with children
- It would be good for exercising dogs

Q22. Roughly how many events held in a St Helier public space have you attended in the last 12 months? (e.g. Fête de St Hélier, food festivals, music events etc.)

The majority of people said they visit between 1-5 events in St Helier every year, with some people attending as many as 10.



Q23. How do you normally travel to this open space?

Overall, the majority of people walk to their favourite open space, although more than 18% choose to drive and only 3% get on the bus.

Looking comparatively at St Helier alone, more people walk (87%), the same proportion of people take a bus and there are still people who choose get in their cars (7.2%).



Figure 18: How people travel to their chosen open space.

Q24. How long does it take you to get there?

Overall, the highest number of people can reach their most frequently visited open space in under 5 minutes (38.8%), with more than half of St Helier residents able to get there in that time. It is unlikely that it will take more than 20 minutes to reach your favourite space if you live in St Helier, with only 1.4% of respondents saying it takes that long.



Figure 19: how long does it take to get to the open space of choice?

To help us understand how long people need to walk in order to reach their favourite open space in St Helier, we looked at how many people from across the Island walk to their favourite open space and how long it takes them. More than half of respondents said they can get there in under 5 minutes, and nearly 80% can get there in less than 10. Only 1% of people said it takes more than 20 minutes to walk.



Q25. How do you feel about having to travel this far/long to reach the open space?

When asked how they feel about the time it takes to travel to their chosen open space, people were largely happy, with over 61% of people feeling satisfied or very satisfied and only a minority unhappy; with just under 5% of people feeling dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.



Figure 21: how people feel about having to travel to reach open space

When commenting on how they felt about travel time/distance, some of the comments include:

- They make the journey to town to go shopping, taking the opportunity to visit open space whilst they are there
- They simply enjoy the walk and chance to get some fresh air and exercise
- They don't choose to travel as far as they do, but the area they live in lacks open space
- Parks and squares are great, but we need to improve the roads in between them

Q26. Do you think St Helier's open spaces are generally 'easy' to get to?

We asked people how 'easy' spaces are to reach and the majority of people said yes, spaces are easy to get to – both from within and outside of St Helier.



Figure 22: Are St Helier's spaces 'easy' to get to?

Respondents were given the opportunity to make a 'comment' to support their yes/no answer. Some of the most popular comments include:

- How easy it is to get to a space depends upon where you live. If you live in town its easy, if you live outside of transport and parking becomes an issue
- They are not easy to get to if you have mobility or eyesight issues
- They are easy to get to, but is not a pleasurable experience



Do you have any suggestions to make St Helier's spaces better?

People made over 600 suggestions as to how we could make St Helier better. Whilst there were a number of individual suggestions that were put forward we have summarised the emerging themes:

- Less street clutter
- Zero-tolerance on anti-social behaviour, including drink and drug use in public spaces
- More benches and places to sit around town
- Reduce the amount of cars in town
- Dedicated pedestrian walkways
- Improve parking in town
- More trees, wildlife and green spaces
- Make spaces better connected
- Better cyclist facilities
- Deal with dogs create dog friendly locations, exclude dogs from locations, deal with dog mess
- More alfresco areas/zones
- Extend Millennium Park
- Utilise Warwick farm for public open space
- Improve facilities for teenagers and children
- Make the use of public space for events/use for fitness classes easier/cheaper

- Focus on small "pocket park" areas
- Permaculture spaces
- More trees, more shade
- Existing spaces need better management and maintenance
- Better toilet facilities
- Howard Davis Park is a good example of good open space in St Helier
- Provide better information about spaces and places and what facilities are nearby
- Provide outdoor exercise equipment
- Less development in town
- Covered open spaces for adverse weather
- Better disabled access
- Art and interactive features
- Street-food Thursdays idea to be expanded into parks
- More pop-up events
- Set-up a group and introduce a funding mechanism to pay for improvements; and
- Spaces are already great as they are



The Minister for the Environment, in partnership with the Minister for Infrastructure and Parish of St Helier will use these survey findings to start developing a strategy on open spaces and the public realm in St Helier.

The States of Jersey will continue to engage with and consult Islanders as the strategy is developed and then published for consultation.

Any further comments or suggestions in respect of open space in St Helier may be forwarded to:

Future St Helier Planning and Building Services South Hill, St Helier JE2 4US

T +44 (0) 1534 445508 E FutureStHelier@gov.je