

Summary of survey results in relation to the Economy, Retail, Tourism & Employment Group 2021

These are extracted from the survey with an attempt to filter out repetition.

Positives:

106 D It has access to shops/restaurants/arts centre; like festivals/markets;

looks clean and tidy, well kept

107 D Scenic/natural beauty; coat path; choice of pubs/restaurants; does not 'close down' in winter; Music Festival, Food Festival etc; the Flavel

111 D Dartmouth is a pretty and friendly town; there are several large events organised throughout the year - we enjoy being part of it. We are also looking forward to some yachting; 2 hour parking free

113 D – Working community; size of old town; range of small shops; arts & crafts availability; market area

120 D Environment & independent shops; Music Festival & Food Festival

128 SD Individual shops & restaurant; community working together

129 T? – Clean and tidy – welcoming & good selection of shops & restaurants

130 D Views, beautiful coast & countryside, Conservation area; The Flavel, food shops, regatta, Harbour activity e.g. visting ships, BRNC

147 D It has a good selection of shops and feels like a real community. The library and the Flavel too is a very good resource

198 D Own a B&B and it is a great destination and attracts tourists with festivals, regatta etc; well maintained gardens & general public areas

311 D B Attractive setting and characterful shopping streets

330 T The town has a good mix of businesses, housing and social groups. It has a lot of people volunteering to improve life

332 D It (just about) retains its heritage as a working port while offering a great range of things to do. The modern amenities are a bonus and the festivals are a constant attraction. The out of town stores are also good and the community spirit is always reassuring

378 D Location. Potential for tourism – historical significance/elegance

399 D Friendly locals, beautiful scenery, good supermarkets, lots of restaurants & pubs, good medical practice, a NHS dentist, parking in town is free apart from car park. Bus service up Victoria Road. Market is great, Flavel centre and library are great

400 D Quiet, peaceful, scenic (AONB status). Good range of quality shops. Excellent leisure facilities. Good sporting facilities. Arts well represented (Flavel) good choice of quality restaurants/cafes

505 D Feels safe: nice people, good tradesmen: most facilities within walking distance; no graffiti

508 T A very pleasant place to live – good location, river dart sea etc. Good shopping with new supermarkets!

549 D The nearness of the shops and services that one needs esp, as an older person (but the range/variety of these appears to have lessened in the last 15 years). I like the hospital here in such a unique position

568 D2nd HOME We have an apartment in Dartmouth and visit several times a year. We love the individuality of Dartmouth, the ambience, the friendly Dartmothians, the restaurants, the shops, the glorious scenery; it's our bolthole in which to relax

576 D I love the beauty of the surroundings; I love the friendliness and sense of community; I love the dog friendliness

Negatives:

101 D Lack of parking for shopkeepers; lack of signage (Bayards/Pilgrims/toilets)

102 T Lack of selection of shops (rent too high); lack of fine dining (only Seahorse); lack of places to sit outside with drinks/food i.e. embankment!

103 D Percentage of holiday homes too high! Rates going up and so many shops having to shut

105 T Paying for our public toilets – expensive for people to visit and you expect 20p to pee even at Music Festival where people come from miles!!! Oh and from locals!!

106 D Parking difficult for residents at times

107 D Arrangements for waste/recycling; lack of parking for residents; closing of the hospital

109 T – The lack of progression. Thankfully we now have Lidl and Sainsbury's but there is a lack of ordinary everyday shops in the town for local people – affordable (unlike somewhere like Totnes which seems to cater for all walks of life although still retains its quaintness

110 T Can be a bit insular; petty bickering of council. People in office forget they serve the people

116 D Lack of parking; negative attitude and resistance to change by a section of the community

120 D Poor parking; Regatta doesn't seem to benefit the town

122 T The dwindling ability to get practical items in local shops. Parking. The problem of attracting and retaining businesses to create employment 138D Sad that there are not enough outside café style eating/drinking places like the embankment. Also disappointed by negative attitudes to any new, positive plans

142 D A booze culture is evident. Regatta has been high (sic)-jacked by commercial interests (inc. too many air displays); 'local shops' have been replaced by major chains – clothes shops, galleries etc.

145 T Far from good roads – takes at least 3/4hour to reach a dual carriageway; lack of public transport

148 D People moaning about things which in the bigger picture are not really that important; negativity; resistance to change; parochial attitudes of some people

155 D Street parking in summer months for residents who live here. Too many art shops, not enough choice eg card shops, clothes shops that are not so expensive – need some competition; no police in the town centre any more especially in the evenings

159 T The litter that is accumulating; the prices in the shops, especially the Public Houses. Also a lot of drugs and too much 'social housing'

160 T Having to pay for toilet and always dirty & wet when you use them

161 T How busy the road is (we live on the A3122) in the summer! Plus the parking charges – as locals it is irritating having to struggle to park, especially in the summer. The Park and Ride is ridiculously expensive & we never use it

181 D Small politics/incohesive plans between biz groups & council

184 T Selfish council/ individuals who see the fault in progress & try to stop it progressing

185 D Shop rents are so expensive, small businesses don't last long. Too many empty shops appearing.

186 D Lack of office space for businesses

190 D Cars! Cars driving around again and again looking for parking. Seagull mess and noise; boarded shops, loss of independent shops to chains

199 D Lack of leadership cross the community groups; litter; ineffective parking; failure to promote businesses

20 D Corrupt Town Council, full of unelected members, brought on board by 'mates'

54 D Residents and officials who do not realise that tourism is the life blood of the town and should be encouraged alongside the interest of the resident community

55 T Sometimes decision made seem misguided – charging tourists to use public toilets, shutting the Tourist Information office. I think there's a lot of local politics, just like other towns I'm guessing

66 T Incomers trying to impose their will & change the town for their own ends

80 D Not enough jobs for local people – mainly seasonal. Roads that had residents now becoming holiday homes. The parking – particularly for locals. Sunday parking restrictions

96 D The constant bickering between certain individuals – I was completely disgusted by the hatred that emanated from some people regarding the BID – people are entitled to have an opinion but not entitled to be insulting or threatening

53 D Parking is key to all. Any European towns would have built huge underground car parks with public space above – eg the tennis court area

Aspirations:

92 D History & tourism – making greater use of Dartmouth's history & making it more of an integral part of tourism

100 D Development of river/marine services; identification of new industries to reduce fading retail

201 D Complete refresher and study on 2nd homes & holiday homes within Dartmouth; we should do a St Ives or even more pro-active to stop!

214 D Better use of riverside areas for business/tourism. It is our best asset. Consider using tidal solutions to harness renewable energy

219 DB More outside seating for restaurant – further pedestrianisation ie more continental

224 D (Find) Some way SHDC listens to the needs of Dartmouth. Coronation Park boat-park is money wasted. Public slipway improvements needed

234 D Funding for the TIC is vital to the town

253 D Café culture on Embankment; underground car park – Coronation Park

270 T Flood control planning

274 D Define what Dartmouth should be like in (say) 10 years' time

289 T Can unused buildings be made available for community use? ie classes, courses, small businesses, youth clubs etc. Skill sharing – communal office space

201 D Affordable housing, car parking, stop all free car parking within the town and roads into the town

202 T More parking & allowances for small business parking

216 D More transparency on how project development are funded especially where grants are used. Particular concern over initiatives going ahead in a 'grant-led' way ie "It's ok as long as some other fund is used"

226 NO ID A council elected with forward thinking, intelligent councillors prepared to work together for the good of the town

232 NO ID More new shops, cafes, bars, restaurants etc encouraged to open in town. Rents should be lowered for shops & businesses; too many vacant buildings

234 D Place parking meters on the Embankment. Restrict parking to 2 hours throughout the year. Just do it!

243 T Support for the promotion of tourist services

253 D New slipway; tramway system from park n ride

293 D Creating a plaza by the Boat Float. Regenerating the Castle Estate

299 T More industry/education; not tourist related

300 T Stop all day parking at any time in the year. Where now all day make it 4 hours in Winter; stop people with second homes leaving their cars on the embankment