

Spalding Town Board: Chair's Update

Hello,

This summer, you kindly took part in the Spalding Town Board consultation to understand local people's priorities for the town. As part of the survey, you said that you would like to be kept informed on the findings of the consultation and the next steps, and I am pleased to now share an update with you.

Your town, your feedback

507 people had their say in our consultation which took place to help to shape a long term plan for Spalding, after government funding was announced for the town in 2023.



A town centre feedback walkabout taking place during our consultation

Here are some of the key findings from the consultation:

• There was feedback that the best thing about Spalding is its **river / waterfront area,** with around two in five of the survey respondents highlighting this.

• Ayscoughfee Hall, and the sense of community, community spirit, and the people are also valued by respondents to the survey.

• There is a clear desire for a **better town** centre experience.

• People would like to be able to **enjoy Spalding safely** with tackling anti-social behaviour and improving community safety the top priority for a quarter of respondents (25%).

• Spalding's **heritage** is important to people with around three quarters of respondents (71%) wanting to see the fixing up and

improvement of the town's historic sites and buildings.

• There is also a call to invest in **community facilities and resources**, and interest in support for volunteering.

The feedback that has been shared with us has been invaluable, and has allowed us to understand what matters to the local community, and what people's priorities are for investment in Spalding. Thank you so much to everyone who had their say. You can read the full report <u>here</u>.



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Investing in Spalding

One of the first decisions we have made as a board has been to use some of the early government funding provided to invest in new Christmas lights for Spalding. Our consultation showed us that whilst there is pride in many aspects of Spalding, there is also a clear desire for a better town centre experience with people wanting to see improvements. Funding the Christmas lights is just one small but significant way in which we can add to the town centre's appeal, and ensure that everyone coming into Spalding during this festive season, and for many more years to come, has an even better experience. Find out more about the new lights <u>here</u>.



An example of the type of cross street motif that will be used, but may not be identical to the final version used in Spalding.

Next steps

The Spalding Town Board is committed to working with the community to make a difference for the town. Whilst we wait for an update from the government on the next steps around the funding for Spalding, we are continuing to meet and work together for the benefit of our town.

Thank you for your interest, and I will be in touch with another update as soon as we have more information. In the meantime, you can get in touch: <u>Spalding.TownBoard@sholland.gov.uk</u>

Robin Hancox Chair, Spalding Town Board



