

## RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

**Report:** Town Plan Survey Summary  
**To:** Planning & Environment Committee  
**From:** Dean Williams, Technical Officer  
**Date:** Wednesday 2 April 2014

Now the reports are finished for the Town Plan Survey, I can present a summary report showing the priorities for each section:

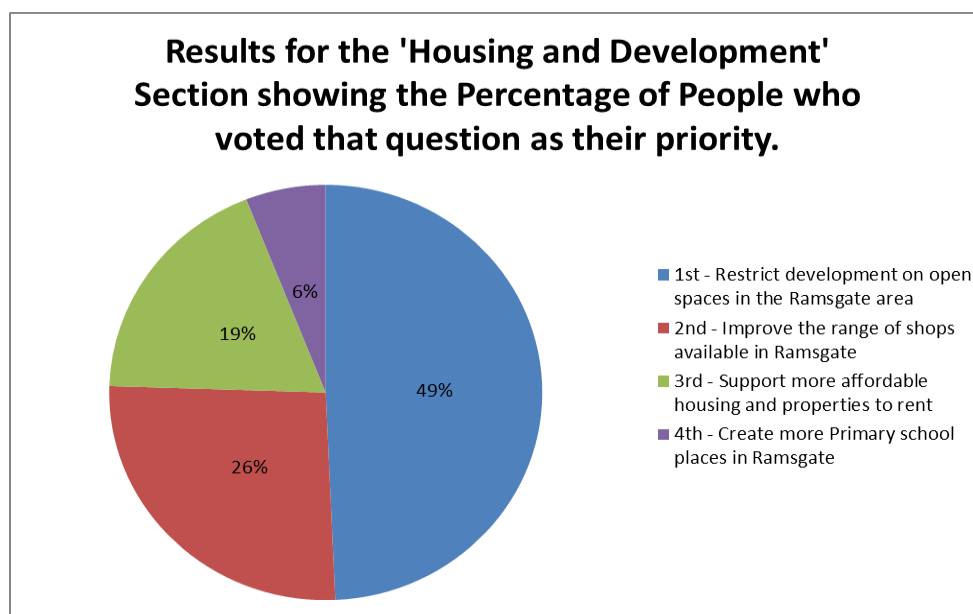
### HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

**1st** – Restrict development on open spaces in the Ramsgate area. (173 Responses)

**2nd** – Improve the range of shops available in Ramsgate. (92 Responses)

**3rd** – Support more affordable housing and properties to rent. (65 Responses)

**4th** – Create more Primary school places in Ramsgate. (21 Responses)



### **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMENT:**

#### **Restrict Development on Open Spaces in the Ramsgate Area**

Ramsgate Town Council will support/engage with Thanet District Council's Local Development Plan and Corporate Plan with the objective of preventing development on all open spaces in Ramsgate.

#### **Improve Range of Shops available in Ramsgate**

Ramsgate Town Council will encourage an improved range of shops in Ramsgate and also encourage individual entrepreneurial shops to be brought into the town as opposed to the same shops found in Westwood Cross.

The Town Promoter will engage with current businesses to encourage them to bring 'pop up' shops into the town.

Ramsgate Town Council will seek to engage with Thanet District Council in relation to a Development Plan for King Street, Ramsgate.

#### **Support more Affordable Housing and Properties to Rent**

Ramsgate Town Council will seek to influence the housing mix through Thanet District Council's Local Development Plan and residents.

Ramsgate Town Councillors to identify long standing empty properties in their Wards and bring them to the attention of Cllr Huxley to progress.

#### **Create more Primary School places in Ramsgate**

Noting that this was not within this council's remit Cllr David Green was to be asked for suggestions for this priority within the Town Plan.

It was resolved that Cllr Shonk would, as a KCC Member, contact KCC and get the following statistics for the next committee meeting;

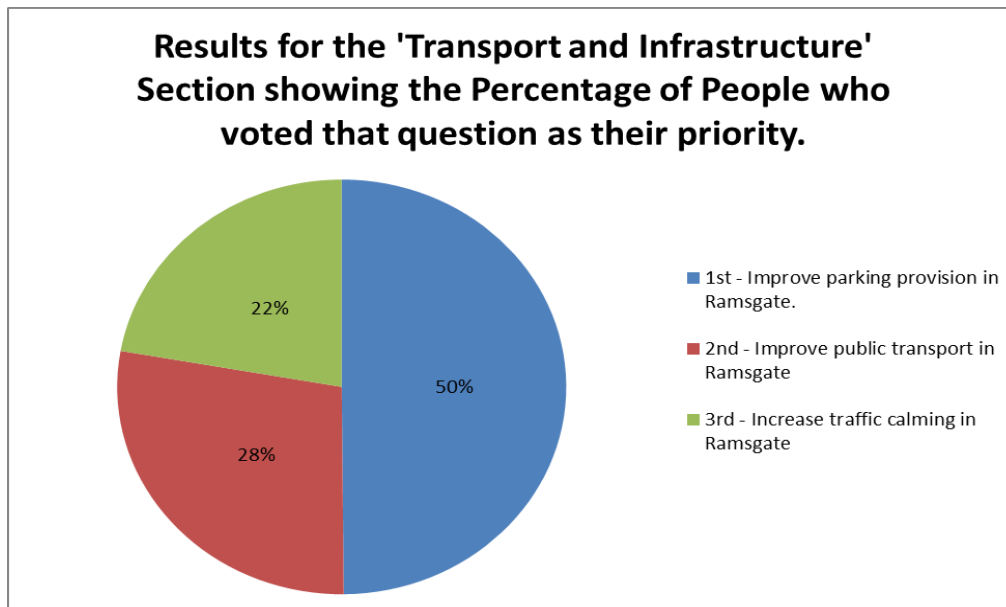
- Which schools in Ramsgate are expanding – Cllr Shonk had indicated that KCC had plans to expand in Thanet.
- The number of new schools planned for Ramsgate and their location.
- The percentage of families in Ramsgate who get their first choice of school.
- How far children have to travel to attend school.

### **TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**1st** – Improve parking provision in Ramsgate. (175 Responses)

**2nd** – Improve public transport in Ramsgate. (98 Responses)

**3rd** – Increase traffic calming in Ramsgate. (78 Responses)



### **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMENT:**

Thanet District Council to be asked to review parking arrangements in Ramsgate including;

1. Public car parks.
2. Use of the car park opposite the Custom House.
3. Residents parking.
4. Signage.

A letter to be sent to Mr R. Chantrill-Smith, Parking Manager TDC, requesting that he takes forward, with the representative on the Thanet Bus Partnership, Cllr D Green, a request that the bus service is increased between Sandwich, Cliffsend, Nethercourt and Westwood Cross linking to the Discovery Park in Sandwich. An earlier and later service would accommodate those working at the Discovery Park.

TDC to be asked to look at the cost of parking permits.

Cavendish Street and Staffordshire Street car parks need improvements and possibly more spaces created.

## **TOURISM AND LEISURE**

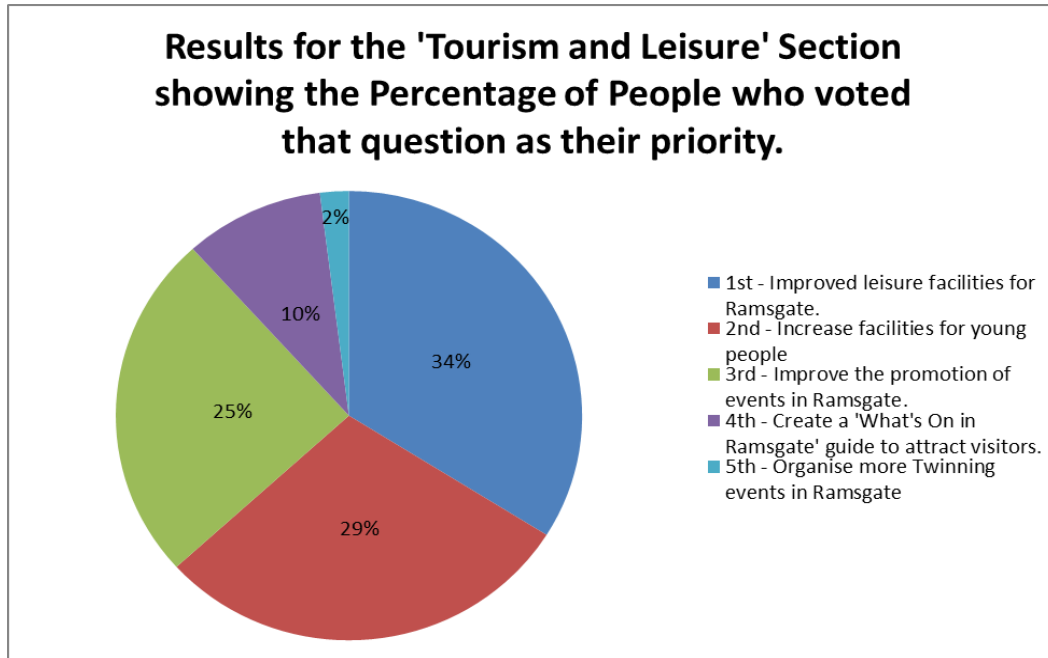
**1st** – Improved leisure facilities for Ramsgate. (119 Responses)

**2nd** – Increase facilities for young people. (103 Responses)

**3rd** – Improve the promotion of events in Ramsgate. (88 Responses)

**4th** – Create a 'What's On in Ramsgate' guide to attract visitors. (34 Responses)

**5th** – Organise more Twinning events in Ramsgate. (7 Responses)



### **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMENT:**

The committee were keen to point out that many successful events had taken place in Ramsgate over the past year.

#### **Increase facilities for young people**

In reference to the new skateboard park to be built in Warre Rec – this new facility is welcomed by RTC. Although RTC are not responsible for this they are statutory planning application consultees and therefore are able to have some input into the planned build.

'Active Ramsgate' is promoted by RTC and includes activities for young people.

A new swimming pool and renovated leisure centre in the High Street was opened in Ramsgate in the summer of 2013.

TDCs Destination Management Plan has funding for £500,000.00 for Thanet. Ramsgate will benefit from this investment for the following;

1. Improving Ramsgate's beaches and making them cleaner.
2. Restoring empty public buildings in the town.
3. Promoting Ramsgate as a tourist destination.

#### **Organise more Twinning events in Ramsgate**

Advertise for more members of the Twinning Association giving Cllr Moore as the contact.

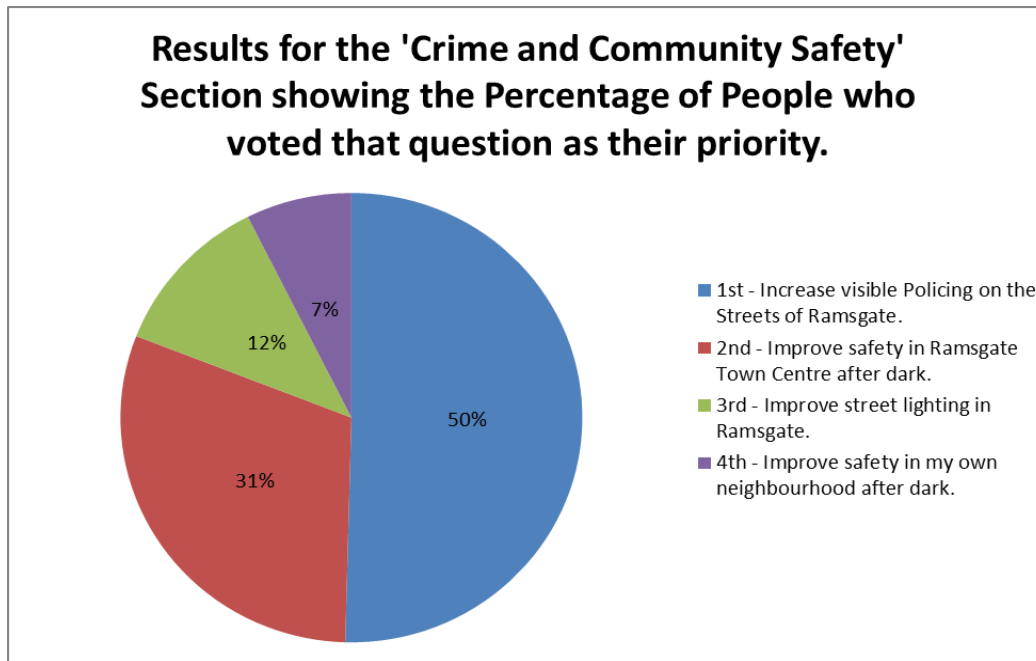
## **CRIME AND COMMUNITY**

**1st** – Increase visible Policing on the streets of Ramsgate. (177 Responses)

**2nd** – Improve safety in Ramsgate Town Centre after dark. (107 Responses)

**3rd** – Improve street lighting in Ramsgate. (41 Responses)

**4th** – Improve safety in my own neighbourhood after dark. (26 Responses)



### **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMENT:**

Current police practice is for only one warranted officer in Ramsgate.

Unwarranted policing is carried out by PCSOs who report to Margate police station before starting their shifts and report back at the end of their shifts.

The Ramsgate PCSOs are also used for other duties during their shifts which may not be in Ramsgate and also cover duties previously carried out by administration staff.

Ramsgate Town Council has strongly objected to this form of policing with senior police officers and raised objections with the Police Commissioner, Ann Barnes.

The second highest priority 'Improve Safety in Ramsgate Town Centre after dark' would be greatly improved if policing levels were increased.

### **Increase visible Policing on the streets of Ramsgate**

RTC will encourage residents to contact the Police to report any incidents.

Current policing practice is for no warranted officers to work out of Ramsgate. All warranted officers and PCSOs are based at Margate Police station.

Leopold Street Exclusion Zone - RTC supports TDC's proposed policy to extend the Exclusion Zone licence by six months.

RTC supports TDC's Reduce the Strength Licensing Policy (the voluntary scheme to reduce the amount of very strong and very cheap alcohol being sold in off-licences in the town) but notes that none of the off-licences in the area designated in central Ramsgate have joined the scheme.

More enforcement by TDC Licensing is required to discourage the sale of alcohol from off-licences to street drinkers.

### **Increase street lighting in Ramsgate**

RTC Councillors are meeting KCC officers and undertaking a 'walk about' to check the situation in Ramsgate.

RTC will endeavour to persuade KCC not to continue with the street light switch off programme in Ramsgate.

It was resolved that the Town Clerk arranges for a presentation to Members on the new policing arrangements as agreed by ACC Price when he was last in attendance at the Custom House on 12 February 2014.

### **CREATING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**

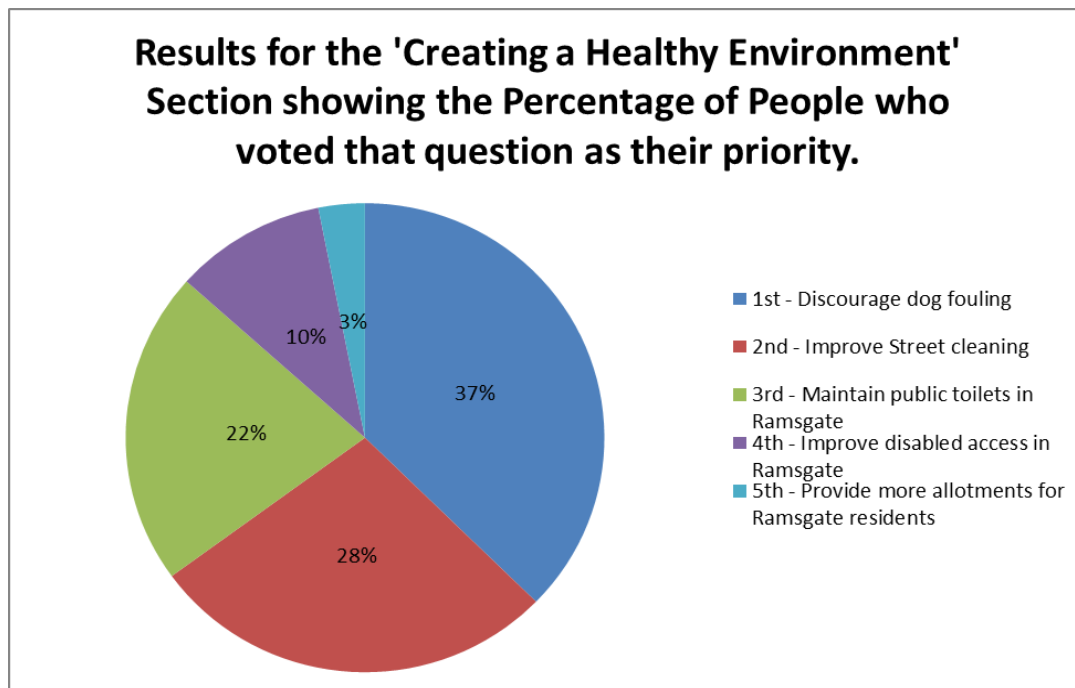
**1st** – Discourage dog fouling. (131 Responses)

**2nd** – Improve street cleaning. (97 Responses)

**3rd** – Maintain public toilets in Ramsgate. (76 Responses)

**4th** – Improve disabled access in Ramsgate. (36 Responses)

**5th** – Provide more allotments for Ramsgate residents. (11 Responses)



### **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMENT:**

#### **Discourage Dog Fouling**

RTC Councillors will inform TDC of all incidents and encourage residents to do the same.

RTC will encourage TDC to increase prosecution of owners who do not clear dog fouling and publicise prosecutions.

RTC will advise TDC that dog bins need to be emptied more often.

RTC will advise TDC that the opinion of this council is that all dogs should be licensed.

#### **Improve Street Cleaning**

RTC will advise TDC that more in-depth street cleaning in the tourist areas of Ramsgate is needed.

RTC will advise TDC that waste bins in Ramsgate need to be emptied more often.

## **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES**

**1st** – Representing Ramsgate on Town Planning Issues. (124 Responses)

**2nd** – Events & Events Funding. (123 Responses)

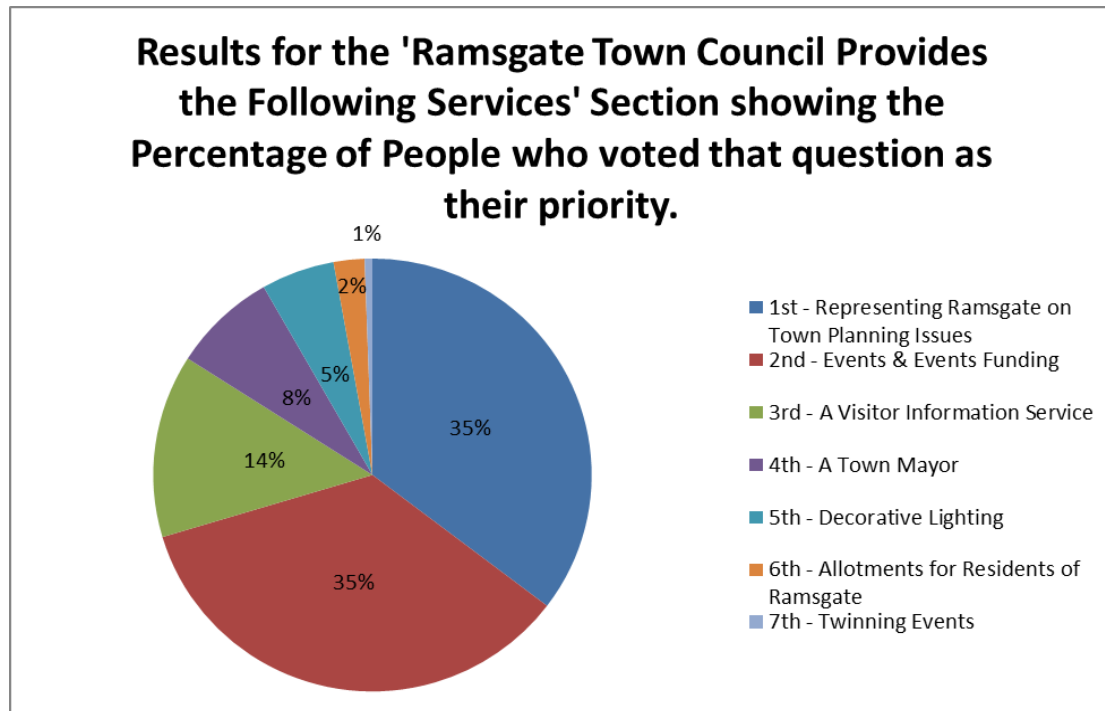
**3rd** – A Visitor Information Service. (48 Responses)

**4th** – A Town Mayor. (27 Responses)

**5th** – Decorative Lighting. (19 Responses)

**6th** – Allotments for Residents of Ramsgate. (8 Responses)

**7th** – Twinning Events. (2 Responses)



### **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMENT:**

#### **Representing Ramsgate on Town Planning Issues**

RTC Members are happy to present the Town Council's views on applications in particular those which are major applications which can raise strong public opinion. An example would be the slipways application.

#### **Events and Events Funding**

There is an annual selection of varied and vibrant events held in Ramsgate which are 50% funded by RTC and match funded by TDC.

#### **A Visitor Information Service**

VIC services are excellent and solely provided by volunteers and managed by volunteer Coordinator Ralph Hault.

#### **Decorative Lighting**

The decorative lighting has recently undergone refurbishment and the centrepiece is replaced on an annual basis which gives a different display each year.