

**Bexleyheath Night Vision Strategy
Schedule of Responses to Consultation**

Respondent	Issues Raised	Council Response
English Heritage	1) Overall support for enhancements to heritage	1) Noted and welcomed.
Transport for London	1) Buses: N21 bus route to be extended to Bexleyheath. 2) Reduction in anti-social behaviour welcome since market place bus route affected at night. 3) Welcome approach to improve environment at night since will encourage walking and cycling 4) Public realm improvements welcomed – excellent opportunity to introduce cycle paths/parking. 5) Proposed late night shopping will improve safety and encourage pedestrian movement. 6) Removal of barriers to pedestrian movement supported – further scheme design required. 7) Shared space schemes to be introduced carefully, with appropriate consultation 8) Pedestrian audit should be undertaken and meet regs/guidance. 9) Way finding/signage welcomed. Reference should be made to the Legible London pilots. 10) Any proposals which result in impact on major roads should be referred to TfL 11) Taxis: Current rank not being used properly – being reviewed by TfL who would be happy to discuss further. 12) Marshalled late night rank may be appropriate to reduce illegal activity. 13) Note proposals to allow taxis into dead zone and willing to work closely to review new taxi rank provision.	1) Noted and welcomed. 2) Noted and support welcomed. 3) Noted and support welcomed. 4) Noted and support welcomed. Opportunities for improved cycling provision to be examined as part of proposed area based study. No change 5) Noted and support welcomed 6) Noted and support welcomed. Further scheme design as part of area based study No change 7) Agree introduction of improvements such as shared space will require further consultation as part of proposed area based study. No change 8) Noted. An audit will be considered as part of the area based study and regard will be had to relevant regulations and guidance. Detail not appropriate within strategy. No change 9) Noted and agreed. Proposed change: add reference to Legible London project where appropriate [See 07.6, p.44, para 3]. 10) Noted. 11) Noted and suggestion welcomed 12) Suggestion welcome and review to be undertaken. Action Plan amended [See AP, p.94, row 1; & p.95, row 7]. 13) Noted and welcomed.

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<p>Bexley LA21 Traffic/ Transport Group</p>	<p>1) Concern at not having heard of document and has not been widely distributed. 2) Who is going to fund better quality shops and restaurants in current downturn? 3) Who is asking for late night opening. Responses suggest many would not stay beyond 10pm so why stay open beyond 11.30pm? 4) Many contradictions in report and people are likely to be scared off rather than encouraged to visit. 5) Broad awareness of street disorder. Persons over 25-30 and families do not use Broadway after 6pm Fridays and Saturdays. Too few police. 400-500 woundings between 7pm-2am in Bexleyheath 2002-2006 cannot be ignored 6) most people who live in flats in the Broadway have been driven out by the troubles and noise. 7) Council has prioritised pubs/clubs over other users such as theatres, cinemas and cafes. Lack of cultural facilities mean all people can do is drink.</p>	<p>1) Document was distributed in accordance with normal Council practice for such consultations. 2) Improved environment and accessibility and reduced fear of crime will stimulate investment. No change 3) Responses suggest that people stay away from Bexleyheath at night for various reasons and go elsewhere to places which meet their needs. Latent demand therefore exists. No change 4) Noted but contradictions not specified. No change 5) The strategy acknowledges continued perceived fear of crime despite successful reduction in violent crime since 2006. Many proposed enhancements are targeted to increase safety for visitors and broaden the areas appeal. No change 6) No evidence provided to support this statement. Residential amenity protected through existing planning policy and nuisance and licensing laws. Balance needs to be struck between safeguarding amenity and encouraging viability and vitality. 7) Council policies favour broad range of appropriate uses within town centres in line with government guidance and Bexleyheath currently offers a variety of facilities. Cultural facilities are identified as a need within the Bexleyheath Development and Improvement Framework. Proposed change – provide</p>

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	<p>8) trading hours controlled to protect residents but 4 venues stay open until 1am</p> <p>9) late night transport is limited with only 1 night bus and few night trains and taxis. May contribute to drink and drive incidents.</p> <p>10) lack of night clubs is a positive since they put off families and older people – “ordinary” facilities required</p> <p>11) operator analysis reveals perceived wrong demographics and ineffective policing. Fear of crime results in lack of decent shops and restaurants</p> <p>12) Document states area poorly served by noodle bars but centre has noodle bar whilst one recently closed due to lack of trade</p> <p>13) introduction of traffic and kiosks into pedestrianised area will cause danger to pedestrians</p> <p>14) cleanliness standards not high especially in pedestrianised area which is not conducive to a pleasant night out</p> <p>15) alcohol free zone only helps if it is enforced. Many breaches take place – intimidating groups of youths are a major concern to retailers</p> <p>16) Disagree strongly with removal of barriers – important at crossings for the elderly and are apprehensive of “direct” crossing – barriers also preventing youths swarming across roads causing chaos</p>	<p>cross reference to Development & Improvement Framework [See 05.18, p.21, para 3].</p> <p>8) see response to 6) above No change</p> <p>9) The Strategy acknowledges poor transport at night and promotes pedestrian, cycling, public transport and taxi/mini cab improvements. No change</p> <p>10) The strategy acknowledges the importance of family friendly facilities and proposes a range of measures to encourage such facilities No change</p> <p>11) see response to 5) above. No change</p> <p>12) The strategy refers to the town being poorly served by casual dining formats of which noodle bars are just one example. No change</p> <p>13) The introduction of traffic onto the pedestrianised area is suggested but further work on the feasibility of this, including safety issues, would be required before this could be formally proposed. No change</p> <p>14) Discussions are to take place with new street services Contractor about enhancing performance within existing resources.. Action Plan revised {see AP, p.95, row 5].</p> <p>15) There has been a 50% reduction in problematic street drinking assisted by the enforcement of the Alcohol Free Zone. No change</p> <p>16) Before the introduction of any changes to the road layout and design</p>

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		detailed traffic analysis will be undertaken to ensure they would not negatively impact on the flow of traffic or pedestrian safety. No change
Local resident	<p>1) Removal of seating not considered appropriate – important social function for youths – should be consulted.</p> <p>2) Beneficial to review school time bus stops and routes to reduce numbers in particular area</p> <p>3) Fountain proposal not suitable – slip hazard.</p> <p>4) Over 21 bars – what about 18-20 year olds? Special events for these mid week?</p> <p>5) Live music venue at Library building when becomes vacant – tackle dead zone in evening.</p> <p>6) Shared minicabs/police offices opposite Christchurch similar to Erith.</p>	<p>1) The strategy does not propose the removal of seating but positively encourages more within public spaces. The action plan also seeks to consult with young people in the future about detailed proposals</p> <p>2) Noted and support welcomed.</p> <p>3) The fountain design shown is for illustrative purposes only but such designs have been used successfully in a number of town centre locations. Suggested change clarify fountain design is illustrative only [See 09.11, p.89; & 09.12, p.91].</p> <p>4) Although the introduction of over 21 policies has been one approach used in Bexleyheath to tackle anti-social behaviour, the strategy promotes a variety of venues to appeal to a broad range of visitors. It also proposes consultation with young people regarding evening activities. No change</p> <p>5) The strategy identifies the library as a potential focus in the evenings for cultural activity. No change</p> <p>6) A review of taxi rank provision is proposed in the action plan but it should be made clear that this includes private hire cab provision as well. Suggested change clarify review to include private</p>

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		hire vehicle provision [See AP, p.94, row 1; & p.95, row 7].
Laughing Buddha Restaurant	1) Generally supportive of proposals to improve pedestrian access. 2) Support for proposed barrier removal and traffic calming. 3) Support opening up pedestrian area and attracting new businesses but not at expense of existing businesses. Attract more people but not only into pedestrian area.	1) Noted and support welcomed. 2) Noted and support welcomed. Detail of proposals to be worked out at later stage. 3) The strategy aims to improve the environment of the town in general so as to benefit both existing and future businesses. No change
Local resident (Broadway)	1) Road sweepers start earlier than 9am and cause a disturbance. 2) Disturbance to residents needs to be taken into account – often ignored. 3) Buskers/street traders is a problem –there is no one to enforce at weekends. 4) Street cafés – noise will need to be controlled.	1) This issue has been passed to Highways and Amenities to respond to. 2) Residential amenity protected through existing planning policy and nuisance and licensing laws. Balance needs to be struck between safeguarding amenity and encouraging viability and vitality. No change 3) A duty officer arrangement is in place on Saturdays to deal with any complaints which may arise. No cover presently provided on Sundays. The matter has been raised with the service area 4) see response to 2) above
Cllr John Waters	1) Does not support re-engineering of junctions – they are unlikely to generate stream of pedestrians down Townley Rd, Avenue Rd and from the Station 2) Does not support vehicles into pedestrian areas due to safety.	1) The night vision audit suggests that surrounding roads form a barrier to movement and figures show low pedestrian and cycle usage of the town centre. Junction simplification is considered a key response to this. No change 2) The introduction of traffic onto the pedestrianised area is suggested but further work on the feasibility of this, including safety issues, would be required

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David Evennett, MP	<p>1) Concern over issues raised in strategy. Bexleyheath already has high number of licensed premises – any increase could worsen existing problems. Pavement café's could be positive but could increase clutter and act as magnet for anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>2) Detailed consideration needs to be given to changing pedestrian crossing and removal of safety rails – impact on blind people?</p>	<p>before this could be formally proposed. No change</p> <p>1) Strategy seeks to target premises with wider appeal. Café's considered positive provided they are properly controlled & regulated. The action plan proposes the creation of guidance on outdoor seating to deal with issues. No change</p> <p>2) Before the introduction of any changes to the road layout and design detailed traffic analysis will be undertaken to ensure they would not negatively impact on the flow of traffic or pedestrian safety. No change</p>
Albion Residents' Association	<p>1) Suggest diverting Albion Road to join Arnsberg Way and re-opening Oaklands Road.</p> <p>2) Oaklands Road [car park] to be reinstated to original size, topped by an upper deck.</p>	<p>1) The rearrangement of roads in this fashion would be a costly exercise for very little gain, and is unlikely to get any funding. The strategy seeks to change the feel of Albion Road by making it more attractive and pedestrian friendly. No change</p> <p>2) Oaklands Road car park is identified as a development site within the Strategy and will be important in making the area more attractive and lively. Although there is parking provision in the adjacent Super Bowl facility the importance of car parking on this site serving the western part of the town is acknowledged and some replacement car parking should be sought as part of any scheme. Proposed change – insert reference to potential replacement parking as part of any development [08.7, 2nd para, p.64].</p>

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	<p>3) Memorial Garden to be reinstated to original size. 4) Houses and surgery lost in 1990 as a result of Albion Road building should be reinstated following diversion works. 5) Engage London firm of architects to redesign shop units; and London marketing firm to 'sell' Bexleyheath.</p>	<p>3) The strategy recognises that there is relatively little green space within the centre but acknowledges that there are heavy constraints in providing additional space. The proposed solution is the creation of boulevards of trees along existing roads leading to established spaces around the town. The Framework document also proposes additional open space within new developments including the EDF site which is adjacent to the Memorial Gardens. No changes 4) See response to 1) above No change 5) Improved environment and accessibility and reduced fear of crime as sought within the Strategy will stimulate investment, including new shop fronts. Strategy's action plan also proposes publicity campaign for the town. No change</p>