

Two Mile Hill Appendix

Area overview

Two Mile Hill Road sits on the border between Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council and forms the western part of Kingswood Town Centre. It has historically been seen as a run through between Church Road and Kingswood, with mainly locals visiting or using the high street. Most of the businesses there are small independents, including some specialist retailers, and a high number of hospitality outlets. The appearance lacks vibrancy and looks very tired.

While two thirds of businesses surveyed recorded a decrease in footfall over the past 12 months, the majority are feeling confident about their survival over the next 12 months even if some do anticipate a decrease in footfall.

Two thirds of people spoken to come to the high street to shop, often a few times a week, and they do so predominantly on foot, spending up to 60 minutes there. Both local people and businesses commented that the area had a general feeling of being dull and grey and needed a boost of colour and vibrancy, as well as more variety in the retail and hospitality offer, which would attract more people to the high street.



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Engagement Feedback

We engaged with businesses and members of the public in two phases: first in late 2021 to identify issues and priorities and then again at the start of 2022 to gather more in-depth ideas and suggestions relating to these. This was done through a combination of face-to-face engagement, on-line focus groups and on-line surveys with a paper alternative.

Most conversations with local people highlighted the same as recorded in the online survey with some commenting that the area had a general feeling of being dull and grey and needing a boost of colour. Approximately two thirds of businesses surveyed would like to see more shops and services added to the high street with some suggesting more restaurants, but also a variety in the retail offering be included. There is already a good range of retailers and any new businesses will have to bear in mind the proximity of the much larger Kingswood High street.

The most popular options for improvements across both businesses and community were:

- Events, people would welcome a Saturday market and also suggested that community events to bring people together and celebrate the diversity of the area would be welcome, especially if they brought an element of fun and could contribute to traffic calming as the road is a busy one. There are a number of community venues on the street that could host events.
- Greenery, especially hanging baskets that would not encroach on the pavement.
- Improved litter/recycling facilities, the main concern is the amount of general litter and the need for more bins particularly near takeaways.

It was noted that the area faces a challenge becoming a destination as it has historically been seen as a run through to Church Road and Kingswood, with mainly locals visiting or using the high street. Many people see it as intrinsically linked with Kingswood High Street and do not recognise the division between the two local authorities, Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Concerns were also raised that if Kingswood shopping area was completely pedestrianised, how this would impact the traffic flow through Two Mile Hill.

On-Street Creative Engagement (Play Disrupt)

In Two Mile Hill there is a wide mix of global cultures, many of whom engaged with us. There is an appetite for community led activity, but very few avenues for the energy to be fed into. It stood out that one person said they 'just *lived* in Two Mile Hill' but there wasn't really much else to take part in.

There are good community and care hubs in the area, though they don't seem particularly evident on the streets and are not perhaps evident to much of the surrounding community. There is a lot of life behind closed doors and it was often mentioned that activities would 'bring people out of their houses'.

There is an appetite in the area for arts and performance events (dance-a thon) Residents are keen to trial a mixed market with music and family offers or a food event. It was suggested that Bourne Christian Centre car park is a good spot for trial markets and events and the church is supportive. It would be good to really connect these to local restaurants and businesses.

There is a lot of history just under the surface in Two Mile Hill which may not be known to younger residents, such as industrial history: boot makers, brassiere, textiles factory, as well as a story of a glider in the basement of Fantasy Brassiers. There is an opportunity for history tours/starting points for projects.

Exploration of the creation of events that really connect out to the community and are inclusive such as an on-street photography, light, visual art exhibition again connecting restaurants shops, could be something that brings people to walk around the area pop in and out of events. Exhibition in windows would be a good way to bring life onto the street and connect businesses- activity is quite sparse and unconnected on the street.