



Southampton Inside Out



Initial Area of Consideration

GO! Southampton is working with Southampton City Council and other stakeholders on 'Southampton Inside Out' – a new initiative, which aims to make it easier for businesses in the hospitality sector to create/add more outside seating. In the coming weeks, it is predicted that a large number of businesses will be reducing their capacity to enable safe social distancing; creating more opportunities and simpler processes for utilising outdoor space could help to mitigate this.

Following an analysis of GO! Southampton's previous hospitality survey, traders within both Bedford Place and Carlton Place had expressed specific interest in exploring opportunities within this area of the city for outdoor dining.

In addition, through their Green Transport Recovery Plan, Southampton City Council are proactively looking to provide opportunities to think creatively about the public spaces that are available. This could be through managing queues and spaces to enable them to be used for other means such as dining space, public art, activate new spaces, and working with community groups to re-design their local areas.



Location

The initial area of consideration is highlighted in yellow on the map above. This includes Bedford Place (from Canton Street to Henstead Road), Carlton Place (Bedford Place to Southampton Street) and Lower Bannister Street.

Initial feedback from the hospitality sector is that Upper Bannister street would not be required and would only include the closure of the junction to Carlton Place.

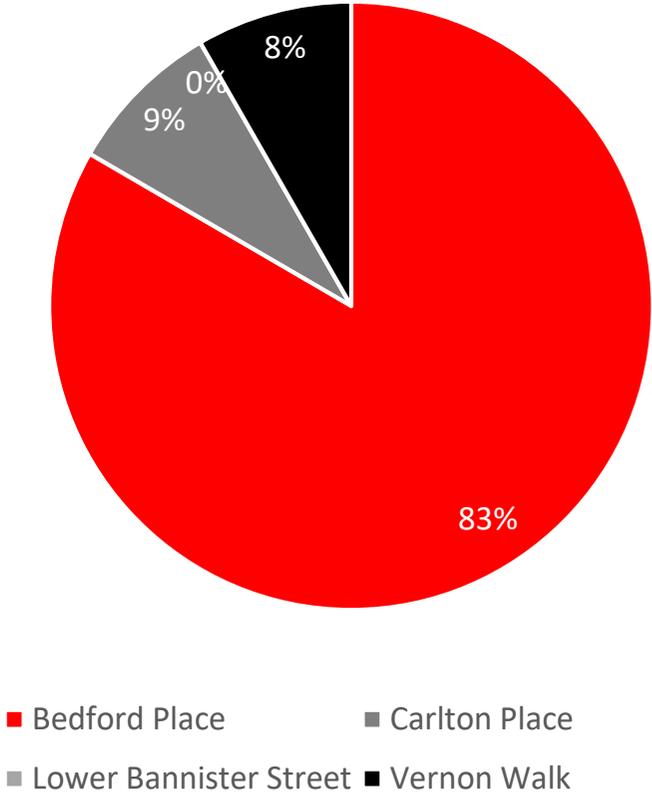


Appearance

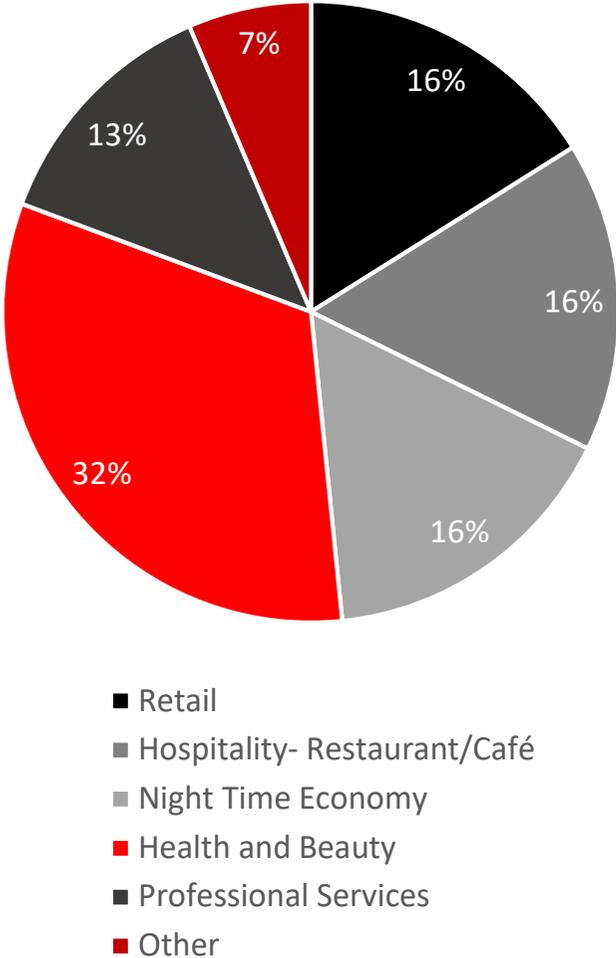
This scheme would initially be introduced through an Experimental Traffic Order to provide flexibility to test this concept and to adapt to feedback throughout the pilot period. In order to provide some clarity on the approach being taken, Southampton City Council has created the mock-ups below to indicate the alfresco approach with planters, which would be provided by the Council.

Respondents

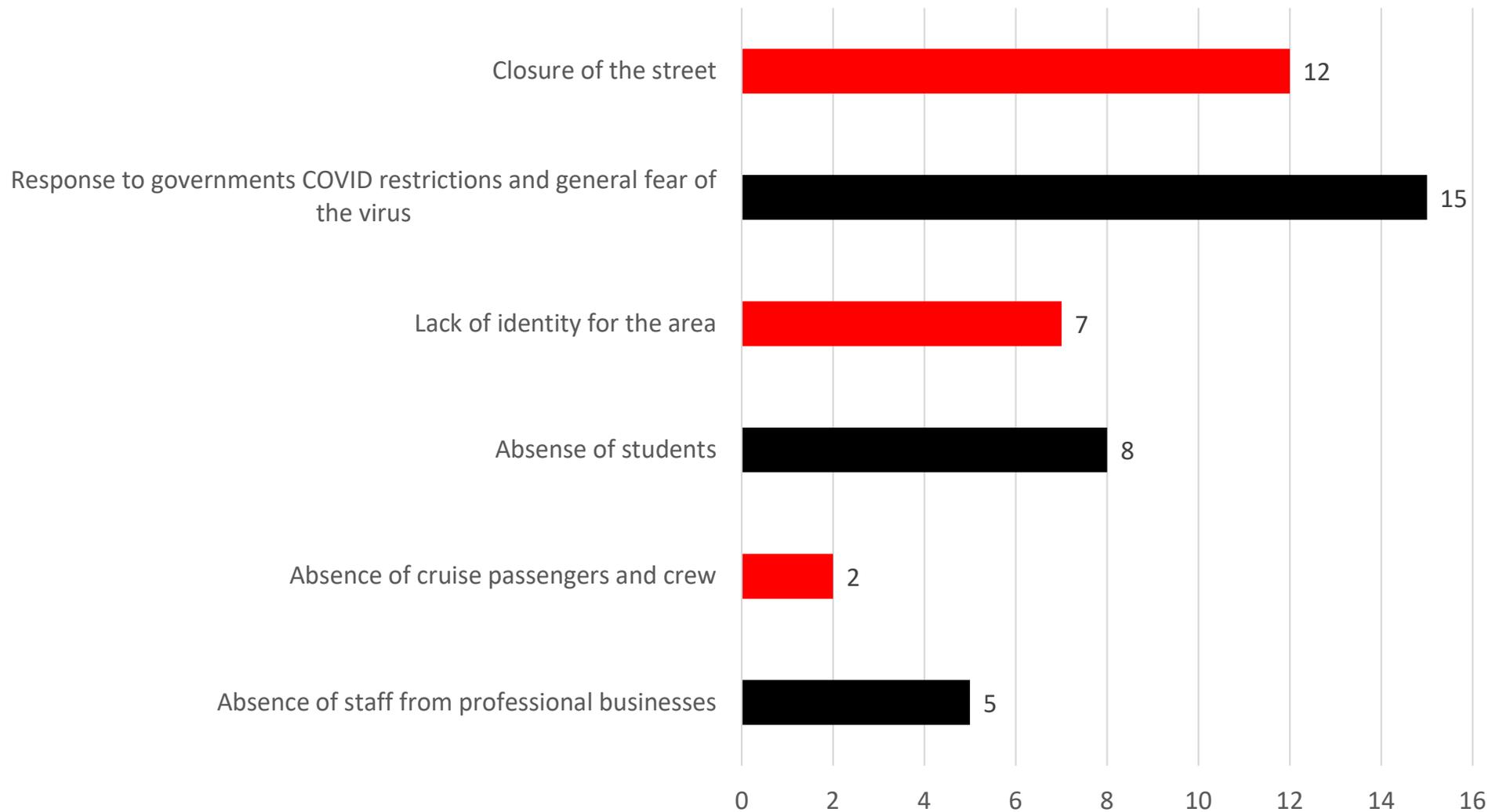
Business Location



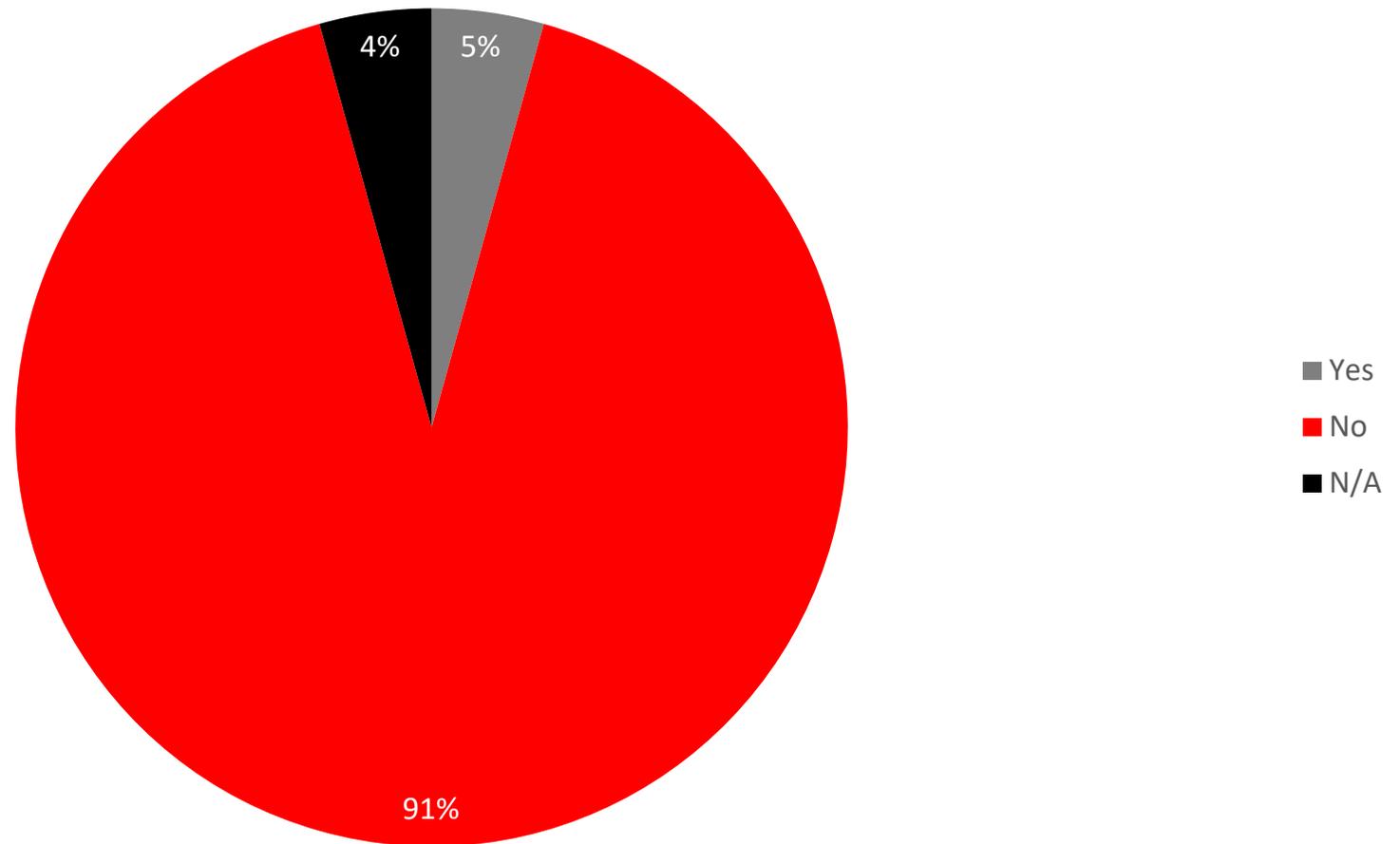
Sector



Causes of a downturn in trade in 2020



Is Bedford Place and Carlton Place as good as it could be?



Reasons

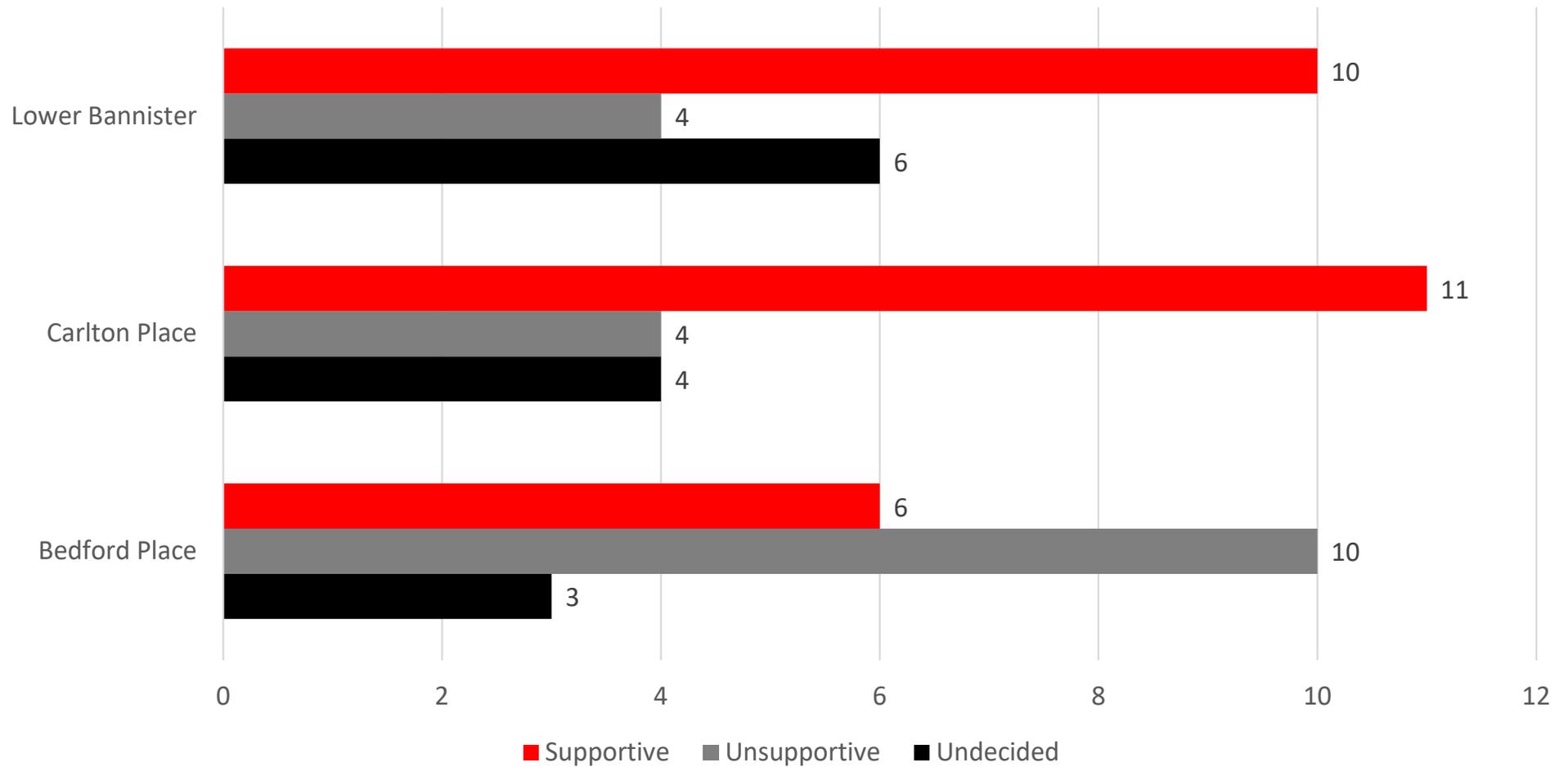
- Because it isn't looked after. The pavements are bad and there is chewing gum and food grease . Particularly at the bottom of Bedford Place where all the kebab shops are. Is this where you think the name Boutique Quarter will work.
- There is currently no theme within the area that ties businesses together. We need a stronger identity as a "go to" area. Carlton Place has also been the ugly sister and needs the same level of support. There is also problems with theft and drugs users in the area.
- Road closure has turned Bedford Place into a cul de sac and reduced our visibility
- Homeless and drug and crime rate high here as a resident as well as a business owner this needs to be sorted big time my 6 year old daughter has to play in her garden listening to drug deals being done in the back lanes. Both business and home has had attempted break ins if you want you make this a family area this really needs sorting I've lived here all my life and it's always been a problem but this is the worst ever and drugs do more evident. plus do much more can be done in Bedford place in regards of greenery and markets now road is closed which is fabulous lots of lots of less speeding but different well advertised events would draw attention to area in a good way and businesses that are there like the clothes shoe shops and gallery and. Loud wine. Good individual businesses.
- Please make the road a through road again
- More pedestrianisation done properly. Not just stick a concrete barrier up and a few wooden boxes with no flowers in
- The area is blighted with beggars, drug dealers and homeless hostels. Blocking off through traffic has taken the life out of the street and makes it feel like a cul de sac, disconnected from the town centre. New customers which have previously found us as they drive to & from the City centre now are diverted around or away from Bedford Place, reducing our exposure to new & passing trade.
- It could be marketed better to attract cruise passengers. The cars drive through too fast and its not particularly safe for pedestrians and all the school children. The ambience and feeling of the area could be improved a lot as is starting to happen now.
- Most of the kebab shops are encouraging homeless people to hang around and we have even seen the shop people giving drugs to them. if this was stopped we would have a better chance.

Reasons

- Empty shops and undesirable characters do nothing for the appeal of the area. Again, we feel The Place could become a safe, inclusive community given some effort by all and we look forward to being part of the journey!
- signs and rethink the turning circle people may get run over
- poor lighting, limited and expensive parking
- Because the council do not look after the aesthetics of the street. We could have cleaner streets pavements. Hanging baskets, trees etc
- The road has been blocked.
- Too many homeless and drug addicts around. We have had people doing drugs on the step at the front of our premises
- Streets and parts of the area seems run down
- Needs to look more classy

Levels of Support

Levels of Support per Street



Supportive Feedback

- Only if these streets will look nicer. (Supportive of B, C, LB).
- Because you could make do much more of it to attract new custom to Bedford place if helps the bars and restaurants and if they closed it would be catastrophic to Bedford place to have large properties shut but hearing and more greenery should be provided for this to create a place to meet and relax safely. Traffic is slower so less speeding. But drug users and homeless is a huge problem as I said in previous comments this really needs to be addressed to make it a family area and more cctv and security needed. (Supportive of B, C, LB).
- Lack of cars is always good. Encourage walking. (Supportive of B, C, LB).
- No need for cars in the area. (Supportive of B, C, LB).
- The reduction of traffic has made it safer for my customers with young children visiting the shop. The area has been made more interesting and exciting with the inside out scheme allowing people to eat outside. We haven't noticed a downturn in customers visiting us. Our back to school at the end of August and September was a busy as the year before. If people want to come to the area parking in the open air car park on Amoy Street is still really easy. (Supportive of B, C, LB).
- Carlton and Bedford Place have historically been used as cut through roads for unsafe drivers. London Road and Devonshire Road along with ample public car parks provide adequate routes to access businesses. The pedestrianisation also means that pupils at St. Anne's can safely socially distance on their walk home from school. (Supportive of B, C, LB).
- Carlton place is limited in range of traders and blocking vehicles has all positive implications including stopping racing cars. i.e. no vehicles is safer, greener and more pedestrian friendly. (Supportive of C, LB and undecided of B).
- Carlton Place and Lower Bannister Street are areas with a high density of hospitality venues, mainly functioning during the evening, for which outdoor spaces would be an advantage. (Supportive of C, LB)
- This is an exciting opportunity that we have to grab and build on to create an area that encourages more footfall and activity (Supportive of B, C, LB).
- We really feel that The Place could become a very desirable area in Southampton. A vision of cozy winter markets and outdoor heating is something we hope to look forward to, as well as summer fetes and street festivals. (Supportive of B, C, LB).
- The introduction of the outdoor seating has been most welcomed by us and others in the hospitality industry, increasing our capacity in line with COVID guidance and we cannot express how important this has been in recent months. (Supportive of B, C, LB).

Unsupportive Feedback

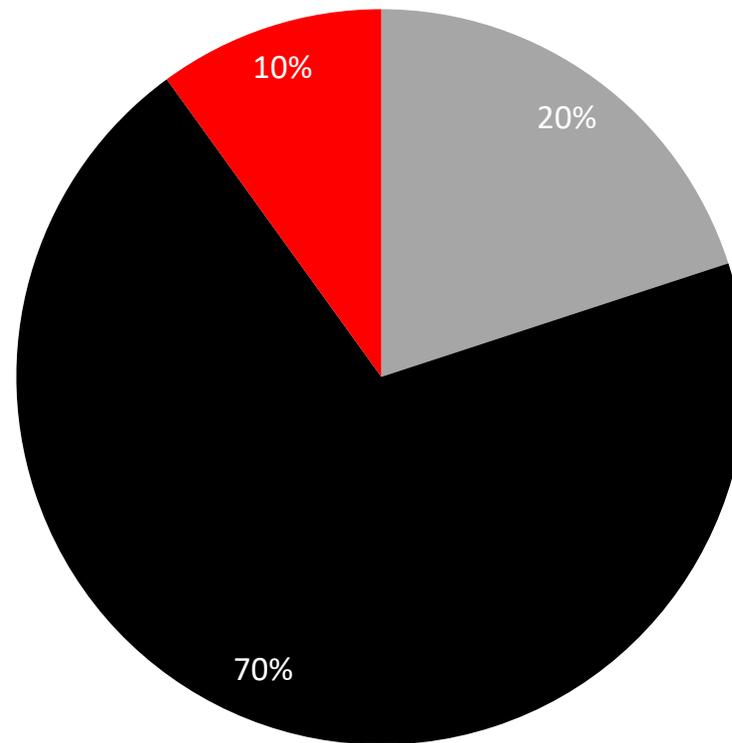
- I don't believe it works as it looks terrible. It looks shut. There is a huge drop in footfall. Business has definitely decreased. (Unsupportive of B, LB and undecided of C).
- Bedford Place benefits from passing trade if vehicles are allowed to pass through. (Unsupportive of B, Supportive of C and LB).
- The pedestrianisation is restricting retail trade in the area. (Unsupportive of B, C, LB).
- Knee jerk reaction. Ill thought out. Nonsense idea that it would encourage people to the area. Kills traffic by car. Honestly, you could not make up a worse scenario. (Unsupportive of B, C, LB).
- Bedford Place appears to have been cut off to traffic for the sole benefit of one pub, Vodka Revolution, when they could quite easily share road space along Carlton Place. Neither my colleagues nor any of my customers are in favour of the blockade, which simply makes Bedford Place less easy to navigate in or out of. (Unsupportive of B, Supportive of C and Undecided of LB).
- I've never seen the Street and business demoralised by career politicians. (Unsupportive of B, C and undecided of LB).
- This makes driving anywhere an absolute nightmare. (Unsupportive of B, C, LB).
- killing some of the smaller shops (Unsupportive of B, Supportive of C and Undecided of LB).
- Because I can see already a huge decline in the footfall and flow of the streets. I also think the whole thing looks cheap and unattractive. I hear all the time traders feeling unheard and unhappy about the state of the situation. (Unsupportive of B, C, LB).
- Bedford Place has a high density of independent traders who rely on daytime, passing trade, formerly helped by the former 10-minute parking spaces. (Unsupportive of B)
- Bedford place is the wrong place to have a boutique corner, there are too many homeless, too many drug dealers parked up waiting for calls and there are not enough decent venues to make it work. (Unsupportive of B, C, LB).
- The traders do not want this scheme. It looks awful. It looks a complete mess. Clients have stopped coming. We have noticed a huge decline in footfall. Bedford place used to be lovely a vibrant before all of this took place. It was decided without proper consultation. (Unsupportive of B, C, LB).

Undecided Feedback

- Unless there is a comprehensive/professional pedestrianised scheme whereby all businesses can benefit I'm not yet convinced its right. The poor signage and horrendous concrete vehicle barriers were poor (I get it was temporary and the artwork arrived later). If its done properly e.g. road paved, quality street furniture, permanent planters etc then I would certainly reconsider. I have a concern that some of the businesses maybe adversely effected by the restricted vehicle access to the area too. (Undecided of B, C, LB).
- Some businesses here are dying why would this help it needs rethinking. (Undecided of B, C, LB).
- I agree with the outdoor seating except for the road closure of Bedford Place. The way in which you initiated this process was disgraceful. You did not consult the school or the people that live on Canton Street. You claimed businesses supported it when many of us didn't and you are ignoring businesses complaints. (Undecided of C, LB and Unsupportive of B).

Has the Pedestrianisation helped your business?

Pedestrianisation Helped Business

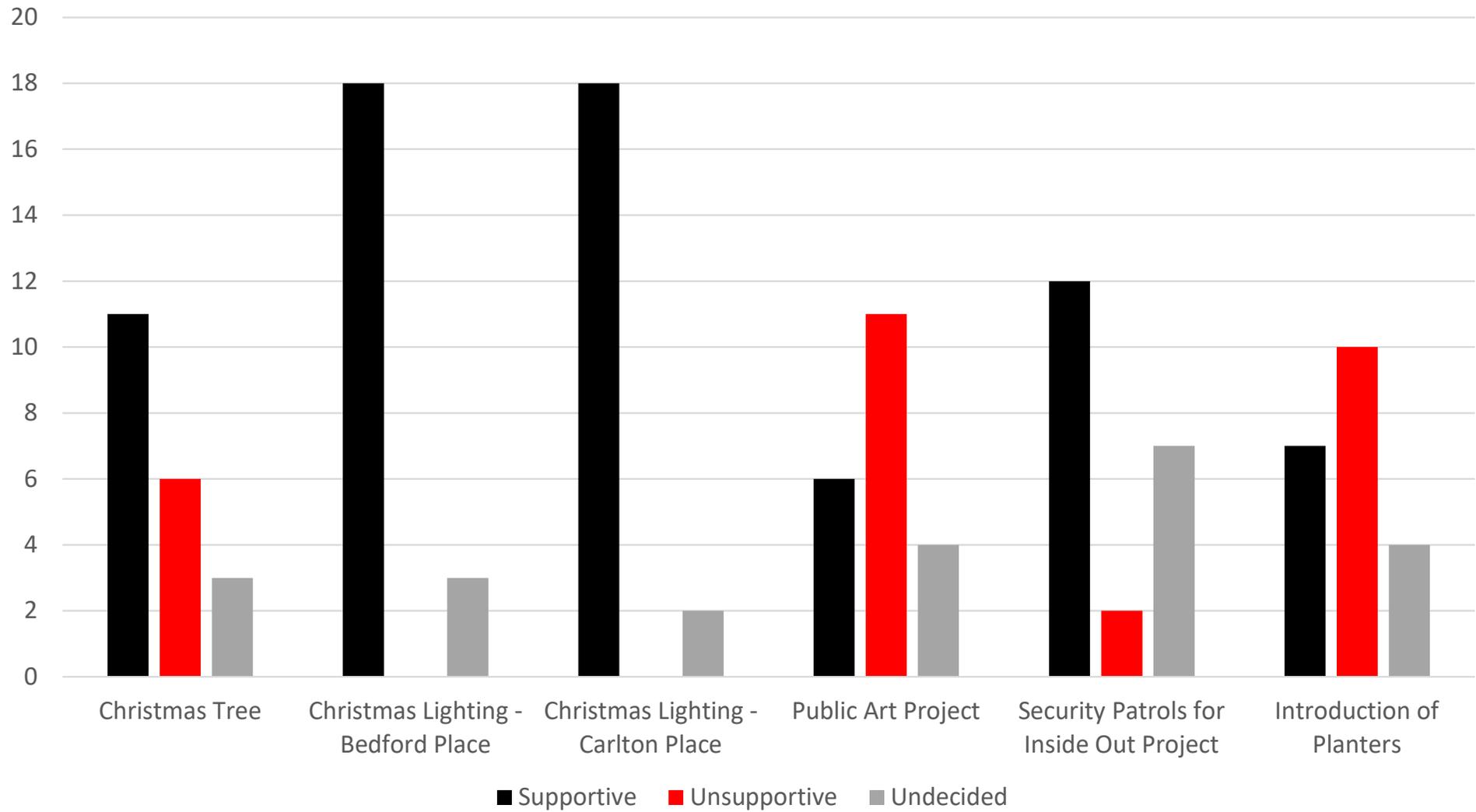


■ Yes ■ No ■ N/A

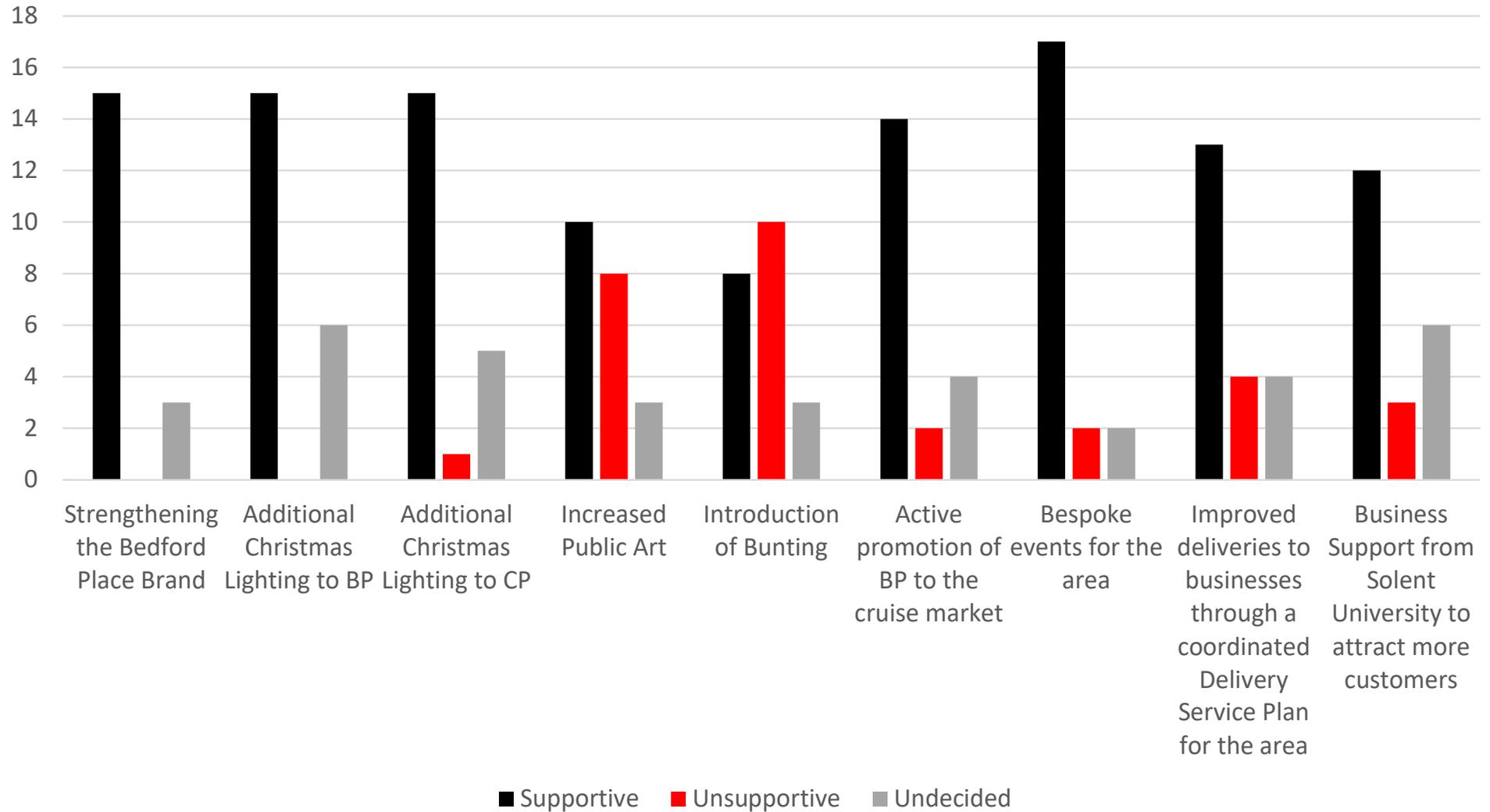
If the scheme continues, what changes would you like to see to the scheme during 2021 and beyond?

- If the scheme continues its unlikely businesses will all be around to discuss what changes can be made
- Nicer street, does not look nice at the moment.
- More lights over the street, more events and continued publicity of the area and businesses in the street. Build on the landscape ideas of Darren Bray.
- Removing those horrible concrete blocks
- Open the road.
- I do not want to see the scheme continue.
- Scrapped
- Get rid of it.
- New pavement and no road
- An inclusion of Vernon Walk, perhaps via signage, artwork etc
- More markets and greenery needed make it a lovely place to visit.
- free parking for all the business owners along Bedford place, better lighting all the way along and more police making sure there are no beggars. Better CCTV as currently it isn't good enough.
- Reopen Bedford Place. Broaden the pavement on the eastern side, by installing decking over the car park spaces, in order to create a level pavement surface, which will be both safer to use than the drop kerb while also permit social-distancing. Move the meters which issue 10-minute free parking tickets across to the main car park and designate the row of spaces on easternmost edge of that car park as the new 10-minutes free parking spaces.
- improved lighting, robust furniture with weather covers - e.g. industrial canopies, more marketing
- I do not wish the scheme to continue. Take the lumps of concrete up immediately and let us carry on with our business. Come and talk to each individual in Bedford place and ask what we would all like to be done.
- change the turning circle
- Open the road it is as simple as that
- Additional signage and aesthetics to make The Place noticeable and impactful - we can't wait for the light installation on Thursday!
- Ask the business who run here perhaps a survey to the whole city of Soton

Support for interventions to date in Bedford Place/ Carlton Place



Support for future interventions in Bedford Place/Carlton Place



Southampton Inside Out

- Southampton Inside Out increased capacity of hospitality venues by 45%.
- If the scheme continues the trade asked for the following:
 - Flowers in planters. Maintenance of planters
 - Heaters for the colder months and street cleaners to upkeep the pavements
 - weather related covering. improved lights
 - More security more greenery more heating. Or covered areas.
 - Clear definition between venue tables. Customers don't always realise that each bench belongs to a specific venue and this causes confusion with ordering and service. Heaters for the colder months and street cleaners to upkeep the pavements.
 - Covered and better seating like in Europe ie Paris, Amsterdam, Barcelona wish we had the weather
 - Free parking after 5pm instead of after 8pm
 - Great scheme if it is executed permanently and funded correctly by all stakeholders, not just Go Southampton.
- If the scheme was removed the impact on the businesses would be:
 - It would possibly shut us down if restrictions don't return back to pre corona
 - It would mean that we once again have to endure revving engines day and night, which is disturbing for diners and pedestrians. The outdoor dining area also gives us ability to offer an outdoor space whilst still only operating on one floor. This is helpful during the summer months, as demand is not always there to open our Sky Bar, which of course incurs additional costs.
 - Significant

Other Comments

- This is such a fantastic area full of so much potential just some areas need sorting for it to work. Everyone needs to pull together to help this work so Bedford place and it's businesses survive. Patrols, clean up, green space,, community feel and help with shop fronts.
- Very little communication face to face with the 78 business in Bedford Place.
- most definitely the parking things have to change, if you stop drivers coming to us with a huge parking charge, this will not help
- I have had my business in Bedford Place for over 30 years and yet nobody has asked previously asked me about any changes to this part of town. Meanwhile the City News continues to state that it has consulted all the local businesses. That is not true. The potential for part of this scheme to be regarded as having an element of a conflict of interest is not a comfortable feeling in a democratic community.
- Hand on heart I was totally for this until it was in place and I did not realise how much it would affect some of the small businesses here I'm on an appointment only and I tell my clients of the road closure and I tell them where they can park but lots of people I know and I talk to every day in my business say how they buy wine from their local supermarket now rather than going to cloud wine for example Or even our local Sainsburys or shoes from somewhere else because they can't be bothered to get through all the traffic and wind round all the back roads they said it's a complete wind up