

ARTS AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES CONSULTATION RESULTS AUGUST 2024



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

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Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Assistant Director - Culture and Leisure, and the Arts and Cultural Services Manager with the results of the consultations that have been undertaken with arts practitioners and residents of Bourne and the Deepings.
2. The aims of the consultations were:
 - To gauge the arts and cultural offer currently available in Bourne and the Deepings from the public's perspective. This to include both existing institutions and grassroot initiatives
 - To allow residents to voice their preferences and aspirations about what they would like to see provided/available going forward
 - To document the arts and cultural offer currently available in Bourne and the Deepings from practitioners' perspectives
 - To identify and highlight where any gaps in provision may exist
 - To understand what practitioners may require to increase or expand their provision into these areas
 - To use the information gathered as part of this exercise to underpin and shape a project bid to the Arts Council. If successful in attracting funding, this to be used to encourage further opportunities
3. The scope of these consultations was focused on the areas of Bourne and Deepings. This is because the results of consultation exercises previously undertaken identified that these areas were not as well served in terms of arts and cultural provision as the other two main areas of population in the district – Grantham and Stamford.

Objectives

4. The primary objective of the consultation was to:
 - Use the data gathered as part of the consultation to shape a bid to the Arts Council. Feedback from residents will illustrate what and how they would like arts and cultural activities to be provided in their areas, from an arts and cultural perspective. The feedback from practitioners will inform what is needed in the bid for them to establish themselves in those areas, or expand their offering

Secondary objectives were to:

- Communicate the Council's priorities – enabling arts and culture to thrive across South Kesteven
- Identify gaps and areas for improvement in the accessibility, diversity, and inclusivity of cultural activities
- Foster creativity, cohesion, and a sense of identity within the community
- Ensure that residents living in Bourne and the Deepings benefit from any additional funding which might be made available for arts-based activities or events

Timescales

5. The timescales of the project were as follows:

- Consultation proposals prepared by 17 May 2024
- Consultations commenced 5 June
- Four weeks for participants to respond
- Consultations closed 3 July 2024

Stakeholders

6. The stakeholders were identified as follows:

- Residents of Bourne and Deepings
- Arts and Cultural Practitioners
- Councillors
- Voluntary and Community Groups
- The Arts Council

Methodology

7. The table below identifies the method(s) used for each of the stakeholder types:

Stakeholders	Method(s)	Details
PUBLIC SURVEY Residents of Bourne Residents of the Deepings	Households on arts centres database with relevant postcodes contacted Opportunity to participate in consultation promoted on social media channels	Households on arts centre database with PE10 postcodes emailed web link and QR code to public survey Households on arts centre database with PE6 postcodes emailed web link and QR code to public survey Survey promoted via Facebook and Twitter on Guildhall and Stamford Arts Centre's and SKDC's social media accounts Bourne Corn Exchange, Bourne Community Access Point and Library, Deepings Community Centre and Deepings Community Library asked to share it on their social media channels

	Poster Business Card	Poster and business card included weblink and QR code to survey. Copies of poster and business cards were made available at the following venues: Bourne Corn Exchange, Bourne Community Access Point and Library, Deepings Community Centre and Deepings Community Library
	Webpage	Included context of consultation and links to both public and practitioners surveys
	Printed copies of survey	Printed copies made available at local venues including Bourne Corn Exchange, Bourne Community Access Point and Library, Deepings Community Centre and Deepings Community Library
	Press release	Press release included link and QR code to webpage. Webpage contained links to both surveys.
Councillors	District councillors informed about consultation	Councillors informed through the email to councillors from Cllr AB
Arts and Cultural Activity Groups	JP contacted the groups' leaders that hold workshops and sessions based in or around the areas of Bourne or the Deepings	Leaders of groups invited to complete the practitioner survey, as well as share the survey with group members
PRACTITIONERS SURVEY Arts and Cultural practitioners	Practitioners contacted and asked to share the consultation across their networks The consultation was promoted on the Guildhall Arts Centre, Grantham and Stamford Arts Centre social media channels	Practitioners on arts centre database were emailed the web link and QR code to the practitioners survey Survey was shared on Facebook artistic network groups: -Lincs Creative's hub -Creative Network SK Practitioners were asked to share in their networks

8. Surveys were prepared that were structured to reflect and inform these objectives. 230 local people responded to the survey for members of the public. 26 responses were received from arts practitioners.

9. The consultations ran for four weeks from 5 June 2024 to 3 July 2024.

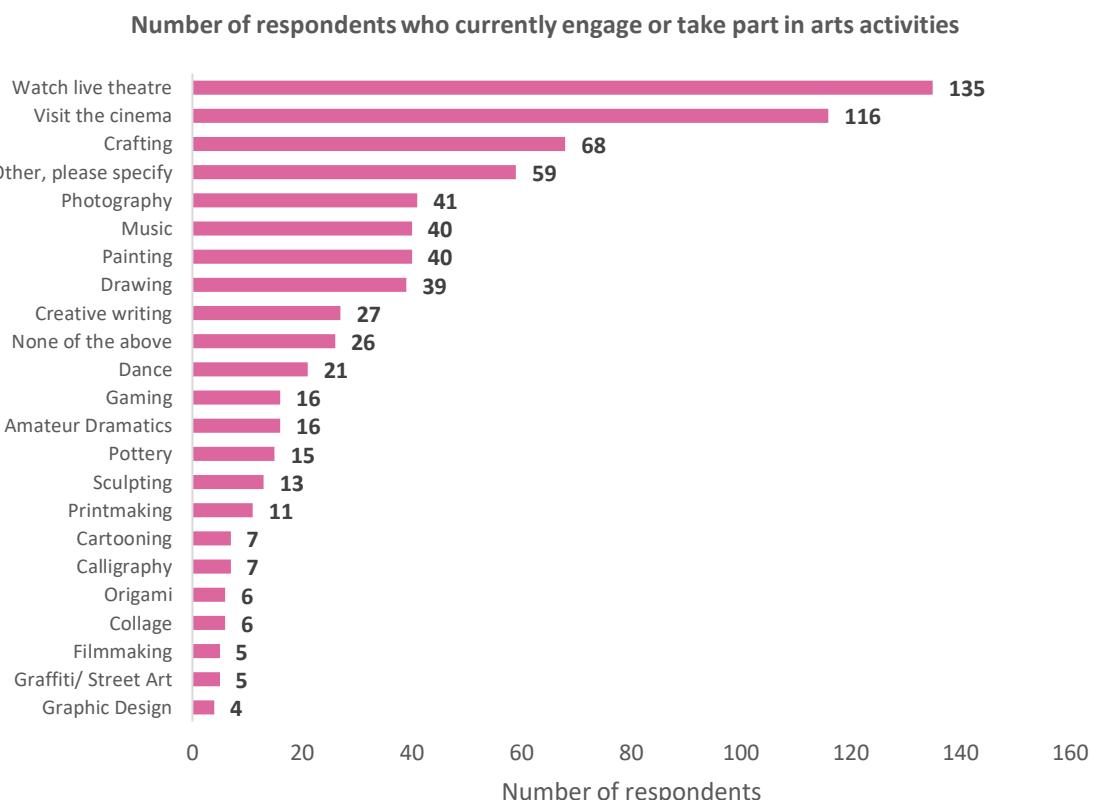
Context

10. SKDC was keen to establish what arts activities and events the people of Bourne, and those living in the Deepings, like to take part /attend in their spare time – and what activities they would be interested in, if they were available. The opinions collected will help to shape a bid for funding from the Arts Council for two areas in South Kesteven. The bid, if successful, will help to establish and promote events and activities within these areas.
11. Members of the public were asked several questions including “Are there any barriers which prevent you from taking part?” and “Is there something you would really like to do but are currently unable to?” Practitioners were asked if there was anything the Council could do to encourage them to either extend their provision to include the areas of Bourne and the Deepings, or increase the number of arts activities they already provide in these areas.

The results

PUBLIC SURVEY

12. The first question asked respondents to identify the arts activities they currently take part in. The top three activities identified by 59.5%, 51.1% and 30% of respondents respectively were watching live theatre, visiting the cinema and crafting activities as illustrated below:

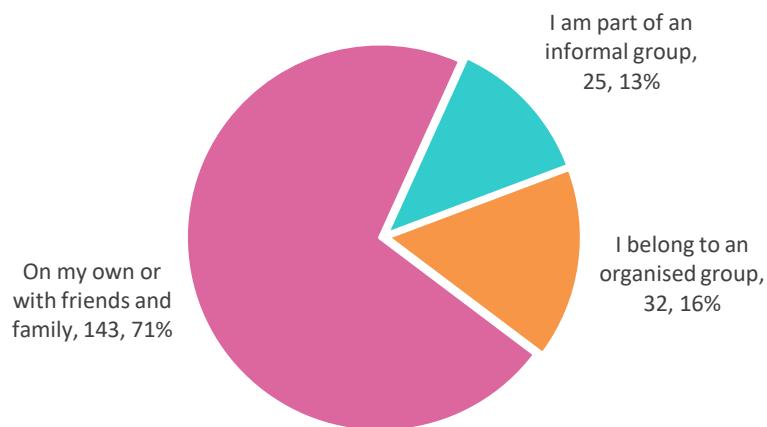


13. Around a quarter of respondents (59 or 26.0%) chose “other, please specify”. Most of these were from respondents who enjoyed reading and participating in various other activities provided at Deepings

Community Library. Other arts and culturally based activities mentioned by respondents included listening to live music, embroidery and flower arranging.

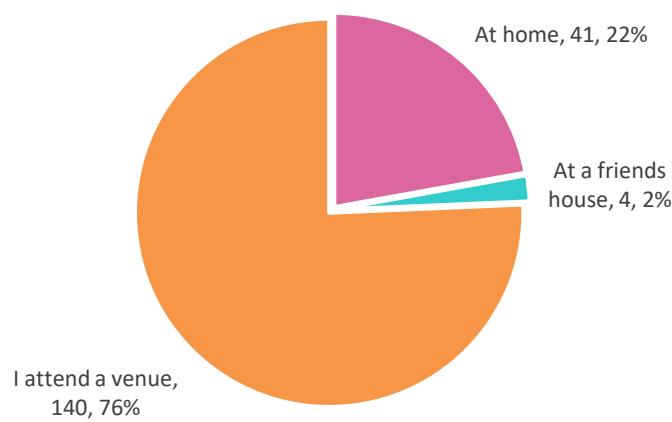
14. When asked who they were with when participating in this activity, seven out of ten (143 or 71.5%) were either on their own or with friends and family, as shown here:

Q2. Who are you with when you take part in this activity?



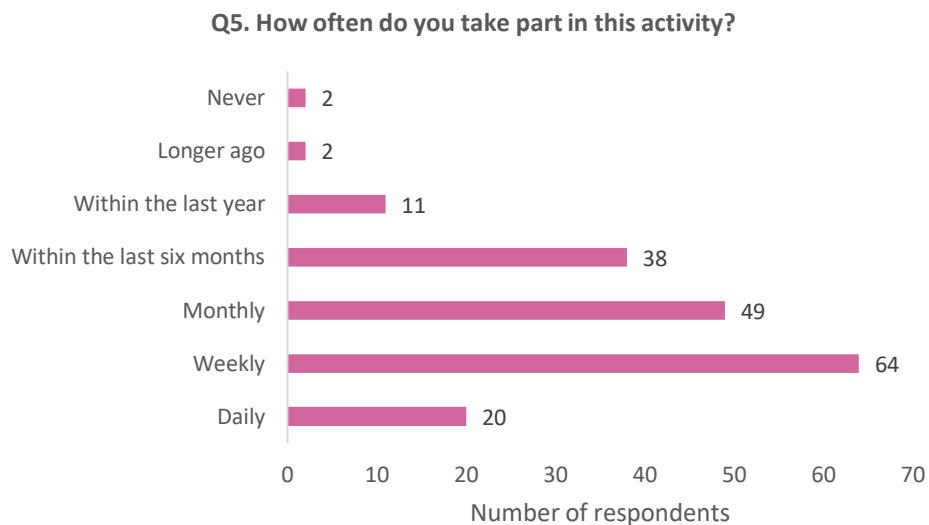
15. Three quarters (140 or 75.7%) of those responding said that they attend a venue to participate in arts and cultural activities, as illustrated here:

Q3. Where are you when you take part in this activity?

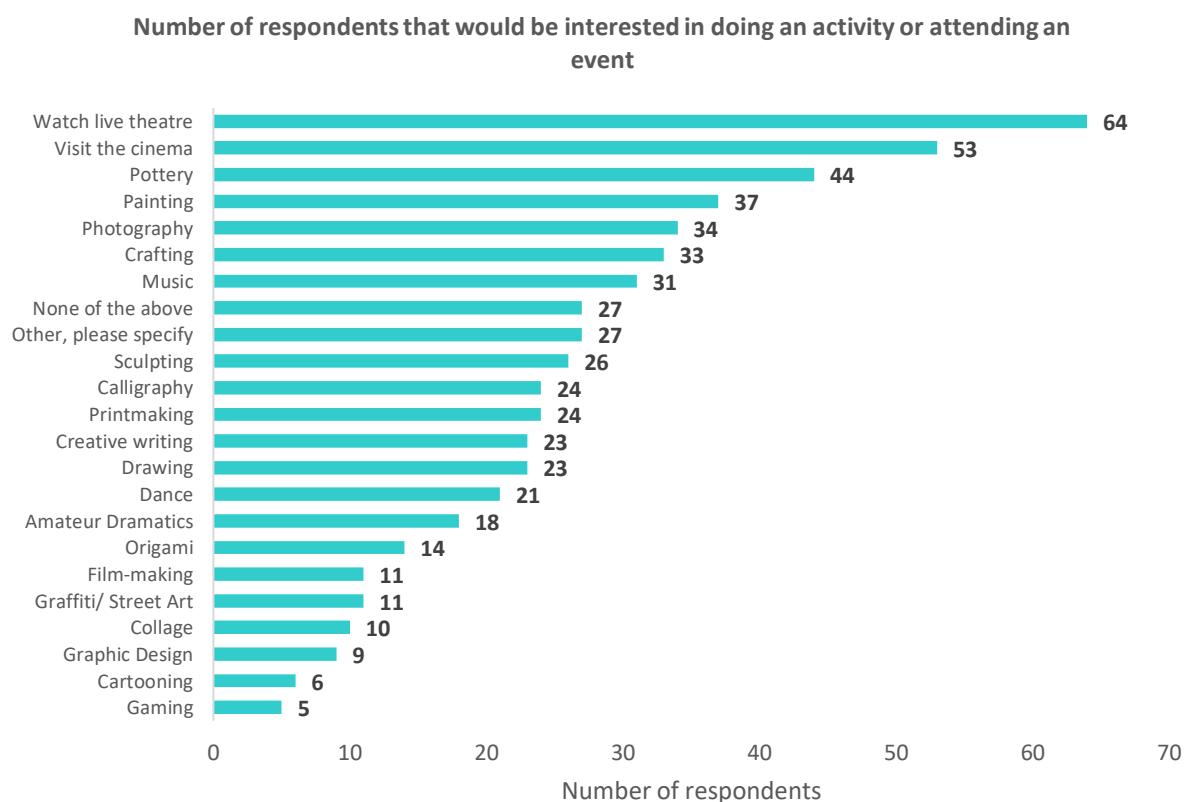


16. When asked to state where these venues were located, the answers given ranged from local village halls, libraries and community centres in Thurlby, Bourne and Market Deeping, to open air venues – Tolethorpe – and cinemas and theatres in Stamford, Peterborough, Spalding, Nottingham and London.

17. More than seven out of ten respondents participate in arts activities regularly. One in ten respondents (20 or 10.8%) said that they take part daily, 64 respondents (34.4%) stated that they attend events weekly and 49 respondents (26.3%) participated monthly as shown on the bar chart here:



18. Respondents were then asked "What other activities or events would you be interested in doing or attending, that you don't currently do, or are unable to attend? Watching live theatre, visiting the cinema, pottery, painting and photography were the activities mentioned most frequently by respondents, as illustrated below:



19. The percentages of respondents choosing each of these activities ranged from 2.7% who would like to be able to participate in gaming activities, to 34.8% who would like to watch live theatre.

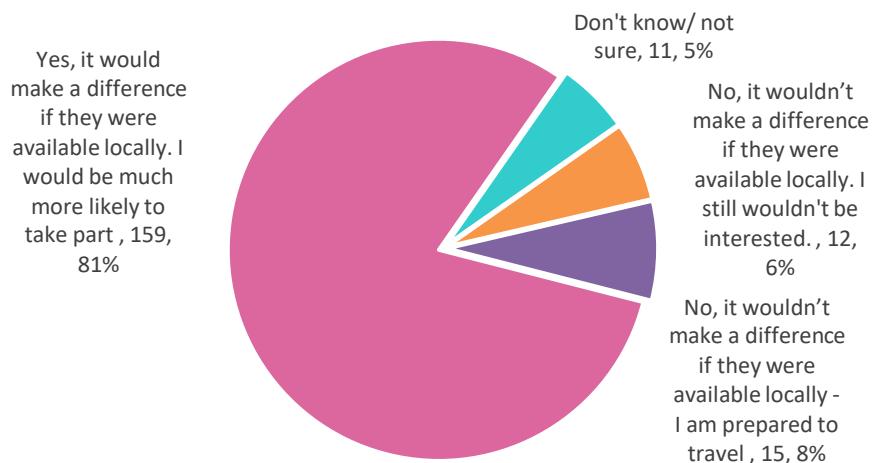
20. Various other activities were mentioned by respondents. These included jewellery making, smithing and sewing/ weaving/ upholstery classes. Several respondents were keen to promote activities at Deepings Community Library as illustrated in the quotes below:

“Activities at our library”

“Any activities that the library has the funds to organise!”

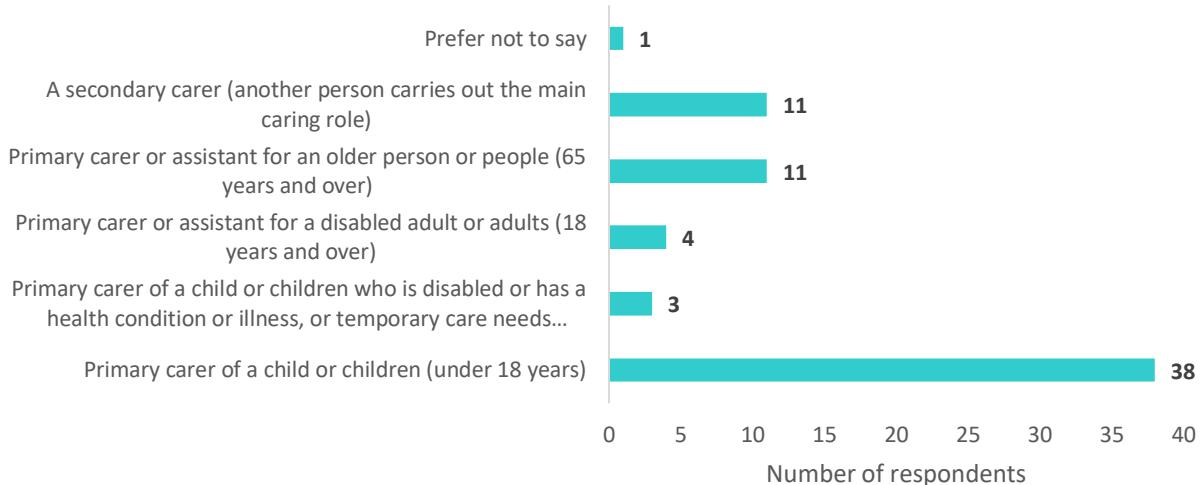
21. When asked if they would be interested in taking part in more of the types of activities listed above, if they were available locally, eight out of ten respondents (159 or 80.7%) said that they would. A small number (15 or 7.6%) said that it wouldn't make any difference, they would be prepared to travel.

Q7. Would you be interested in taking part in more of the activities listed above, if they were available locally?



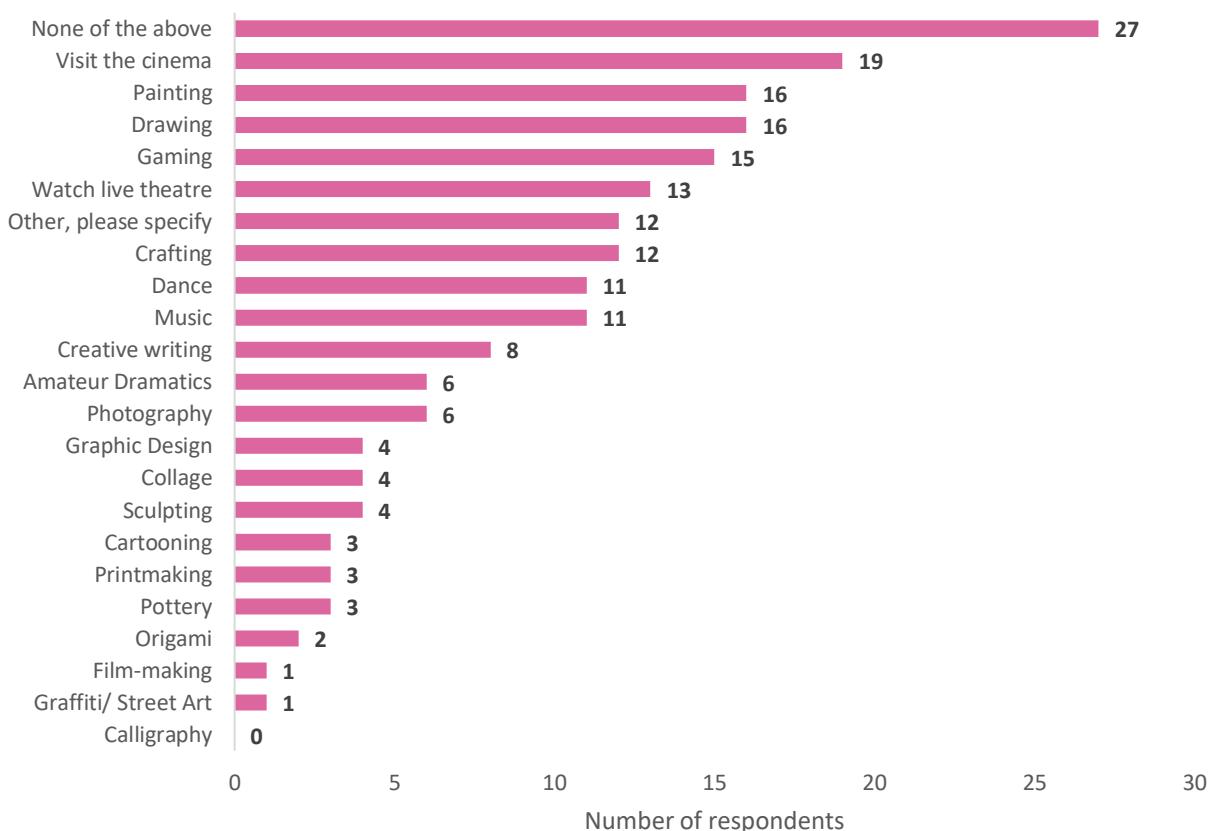
22. The next section of the survey was focused on those with caring responsibilities – what activities they currently take part in, what they would like to do, and if they would be more likely to take part if activities were available locally. Respondents without caring responsibilities were asked to go straight to question 16. Around a third of those responding (63 or 32.3%) said that they had caring responsibilities for a child or children or an adult. The number of respondents with primary or secondary caring responsibilities for a child or children or an adult is illustrated in the graph overleaf:

Number of respondents who have caring responsibilities for children or adults



23. Question 10 on the survey asked respondents if the person they care for currently engages or takes part in any of the arts activities listed below. The most popular activities were visiting the cinema, drawing, painting and gaming. The numbers of people participating in each of the activities listed was quite low however, as shown below:

Number of respondents whose dependents or those they care for currently engage or take part in arts activities



24. A third of those responding (27 or 37.5%) said that the person they cared for didn't participate in any of the activities listed. When asked to describe any other activities they liked to take part in, activities mentioned included reading, going to the library, playing sports and U3A.

25. Three fifths of respondents (25 or 59.5%) were, according to those who care for them, on their own or with friends and family when attending an event or participating in an activity. Eight respondents (19%) said that they were part of an organised group. The most popular locations for the activities were a venue – chosen by 18 or 40.9% of consultees or home – chosen by 14 or 31.8% of those responding on behalf of those they care for.

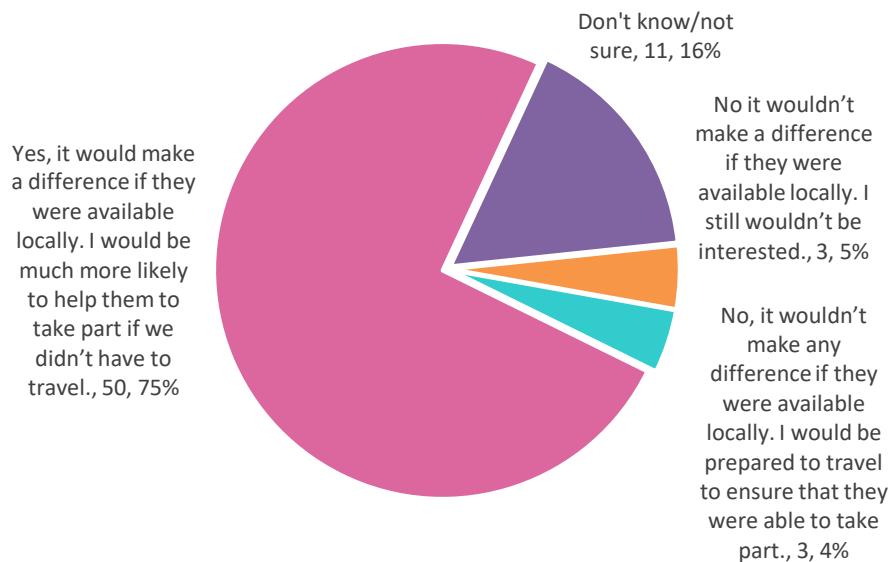
26. When asked to specify where these activities took place, various venues were mentioned. They included:

- Artivity in Market Deeping
- Deepings Community Centre
- Deepings Community Library
- Bourne to dance

27. The fourteenth question on the survey asked those responding on behalf of those they care for if they would like to take part in any of the following arts activities if they were available locally. The most popular activities were watching live theatre and visiting the cinema, each chosen by 27 (42.9%) respondents. Drawing, painting and pottery were also popular, chosen on behalf of those being cared for by 20 (31.8%), 19 (30.2%) and 19 (30.2%) respondents respectively.

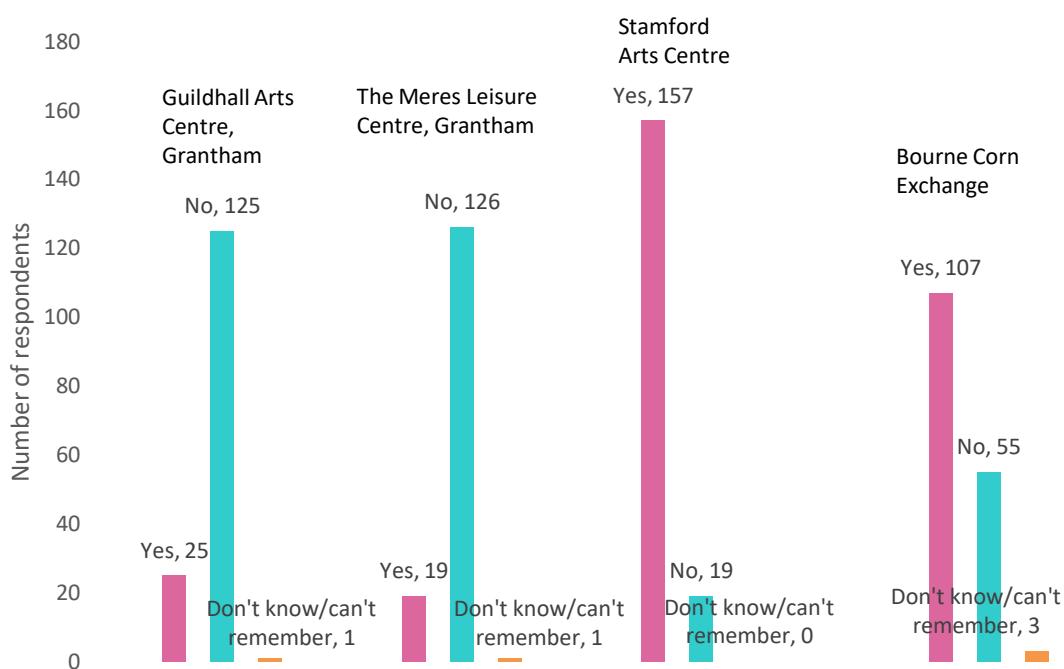
28. If activities were available locally, three quarters of those with caring responsibilities said that they would be much more likely to help them take part if they didn't have to travel. This is illustrated on the pie chart overleaf:

Q15. Would you be more interested in helping them to take part in more of the activities listed above, if they were available locally?



29. Respondents were then asked if they had ever visited one of SKDC's venues to watch a performance or take part in an arts activity. The difference in the number of respondents visiting the venues in the north of the district – the Meres Leisure Centre and the Guildhall Arts Centre in Grantham and those in the south of the district - Stamford Arts Centre and Bourne Corn Exchange- is immediately apparent.

Q16. Have you ever visited any of the following venues to watch a performance or take part in an arts activity?

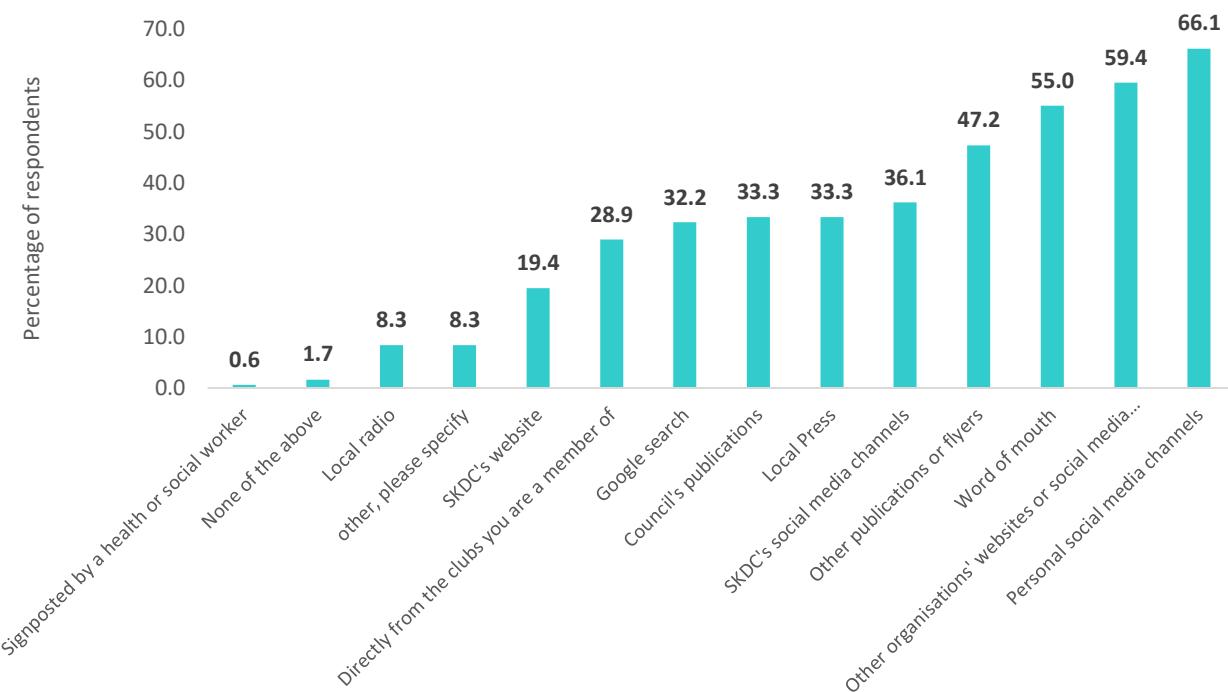


30. The Guildhall Arts Centre in Grantham had been visited by 25 respondents -16.6% of the sample.

Stamford Arts Centre had been visited by 157 respondents - 89.2% of the sample.

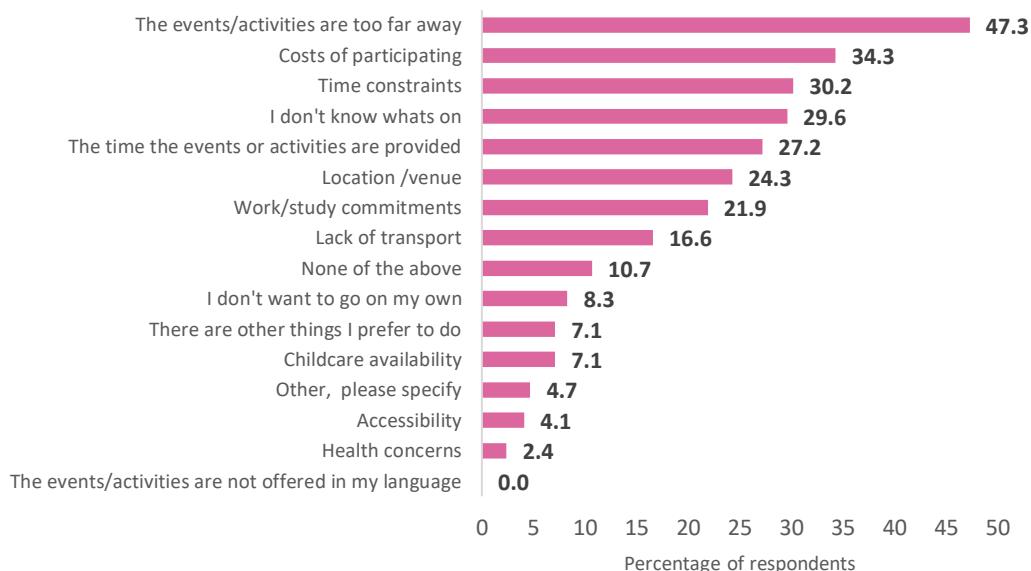
31. The seventeenth question on the survey asked respondents which sources of information they used to find out about arts activities and cultural events taking place in South Kesteven. The importance of social media as a source of information is illustrated below, with two thirds of respondents (119 or 66.1%) stating that they use their personal accounts to find out about arts activities and events. Over half (107 or 59.4%) use other organisations' websites and social media channels as a source of information, as illustrated below:

Q17. Which of the following sources of information would you use to find out about arts activities and events taking place in your area?



32. To understand what the main barriers to participating in arts and cultural events and activities were, respondents were asked to choose all that applied. The most popular choices were “the events and activities are too far away” – chosen by 80 (47.3%) respondents and “the costs of participating” – chosen by 58 (34.3%) of respondents. Time constraints and awareness about what is being provided were also chosen by 51 (30.2%) and 50 (29.6%) respondents respectively as shown in the bar chart overleaf:

Q18. What prevents you from taking part?



33. When asked if there was one improvement they could make to arts and cultural provision in their local area, one of the main themes identified by respondents was the lack of suitable venues for both Bourne and the Deepings, as illustrated here:

“There is no venue in the Deepings for films, ballet or plays”

Respondents also wanted to see more activities available locally, as shown in the quotes below:

“I would love to see activities on weekday evenings in Bourne.”

“More local activities, everything seems to be too far away from The Deepings.”

34. The Community Library in the Deepings was also mentioned by respondents. A venue where events currently take place but also a community hub where more events could be staged if funding was made available. This is illustrated in the quotes below:

“More events at the local library in Deeping”

“Funding for library in the Deepings”

35. The twentieth question on the survey asked respondents if they had any questions or wanted to comment on anything included in the survey. The prevalence of responses received from respondents in the Deepings – particularly from those using the library - is immediately apparent. Comments were received about Deepings Community Library not being included as a facility – as illustrated in the quote below:

“Disappointing that the library isn’t mentioned when it is free and used so much”

36. A couple of respondents thought the survey was very focused on Stamford and Grantham, and not on the Deepings.

“Very Grantham and Stamford focussed don’t forget Deeping!!”

“The Deepings has not been mentioned in this survey and arts and culture provision for this area needs to be discussed.”

37. It is unfortunate that this was perceived to be the case. Respondents would have liked Deepings Community Library to have been included as illustrated below:

“You have not mentioned Libraries as either a centre or a provision.”

38. Others mentioned the lack of activities and events available at Bourne Corn Exchange.

“More events needed outside of Grantham. The few events at Bourne are mainly music/cover bands. Would like to see cinema screenings and theatre available at Bourne Corn Exchange.”

Stakeholder Information (Public)

39. To check that the views of those living in Bourne and the Deepings have been captured, respondents were asked if they were a local resident, a parish, district or county councillor or representing an organisation. Most responses were received from people living in either Bourne or the Deepings, as shown in the table below:

	Number	% ¹
A resident of Bourne	59	33.7
A resident of the Deepings	90	51.4
A parish, town, district or county councillor	10	5.7
Representing a group or other organisation	3	1.7
Other, please specify	32	18.3

40. An analysis of the responses received under the other, please specify category revealed responses were also received from those living in various villages near each of these locations including Langtoft, Baston and Thurlby. A response was also received from Bourne Arts and Community Trust.

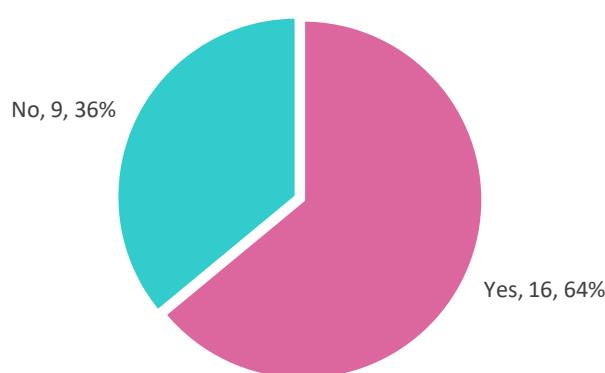
¹ Respondents could choose more than one option. Total number of respondents 175

41. When asked if they had any specific requirements which could affect their ability to attend an event, 14 respondents (8.2%) said that they did. Conditions mentioned included deafness/hard of hearing, mobility issues and long-term health conditions.
42. English was the first language for all respondents. All but two responses were from members of the public who described their ethnicity as white British.
43. Most responses were received from those living in either Bourne, the Deepings or one of the surrounding villages. Responses were received from those living in the postcode areas NG34, PE6 and PE10. Responses were also received from PE9, PE11 and PE12.

PRACTITIONERS SURVEY

44. Arts practitioners were asked to describe what they do, or what their creative skill is. Roles represented included artists, dance teachers, directors and illustrators.
45. Just under two thirds of practitioners (16 or 64%) said that they were earning a living from their creative skills. This is illustrated in the pie chart below:

Q2. Are you currently earning a living from your creative skills , expertise, experience or knowledge?



46. Three quarters of practitioners (20 or 76.9%) said that what they did was not aimed at a specific age group or community. Six practitioners (23.1%) provided arts activities for babies and toddlers, school age children or those aged 50 or over.

47. When asked if what they do is mainly provided from one location e.g. from home, or from various venues/locations, a variety of responses were received. Some practitioners work from home or from a studio or gallery, others hire venues or go into schools.

48. The sixth question on the survey asked practitioners to identify any barriers that they have encountered when considering starting up or extending their business to include additional areas. The top three reasons were:

- Suitability and availability of spaces/venues to host events
- Lack of funding and financial support
- Other, please specify

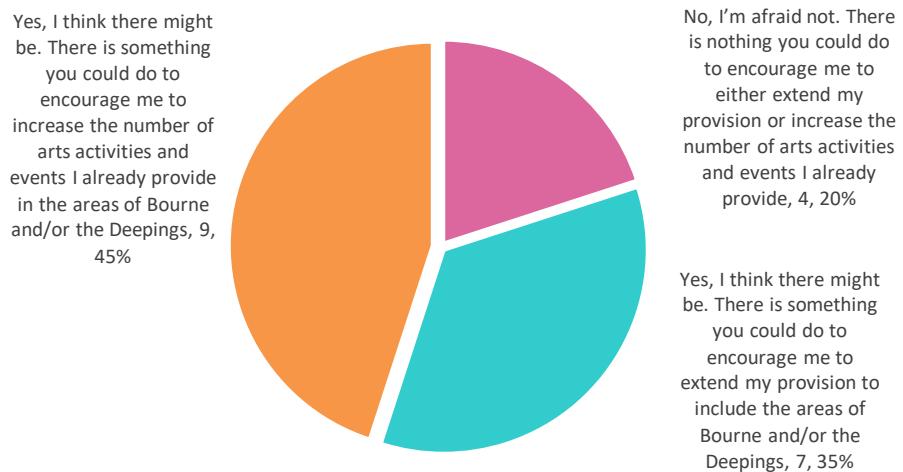
49. Topics mentioned under “Other, please specify” included access to available funding, affordability of venues, organisations being unable to meet the costs of providing workshops. The reasons chosen by each of the practitioners is illustrated on the graph below:

Q6. Please identify any barriers that you have encountered when considering starting up or extending your business to include additional areas



50. Arts practitioners were asked if there was anything the Council could do, to encourage them to either extend their provision to include the areas of Bourne and/or the Deepings, or increase the number of arts activities and events they already provide in these areas. 16 respondents (80%) of those who responded to this question thought that there might be – either by encouraging them to extend their provision to include the areas of Bourne and/or the Deepings, or by encouraging them to increase the number of arts activities and events they already provide in these areas. This is shown on the chart overleaf:

Q7. Is there anything SKDC could do, to encourage you to either extend your provision to include the areas of Bourne and/or the Deepings , or increase the number of arts activities and events you already provide in these areas?



51. Question eight on the survey then asked practitioners to outline what SKDC could do to encourage them to either provide arts activities and events in Bourne and/or the Deepings, or increase the number of arts activities and events already provided. Suggestions were predominantly centred around the provision of spaces/venues suitable for those promoting artistic and creative activities, access to funding and setting up a user group for arts practitioners. These are illustrated in the quotes below:

“Provide a suitable venue for extending my practice.”

“Provide funding for us to be able to visit more schools and care homes.”

“.... consider setting up an Art Practitioner User group to raise awareness of both the value of the Arts for the Community and needs of Artists...”

52. Arts practitioners were then asked if they could make one improvement to the provision of arts and cultural provision in Bourne or the Deepings, what would it be. A space dedicated to either create, exhibit or run classes or workshops was the most common request – as shown below:

“Have a particular area in Bourne or the Deeping that was dedicated to art, exhibitions and workshops.”

“Showcase people’s talents in the area and provide platforms to do so.”

“There is a huge lack of affordable art studio space for artists”

53. When asked if they had any questions or would like to comment on anything included in the survey, one practitioner welcomed the initiative. Another hoped that there would be an improvement in the amount of participation and real encouragement.

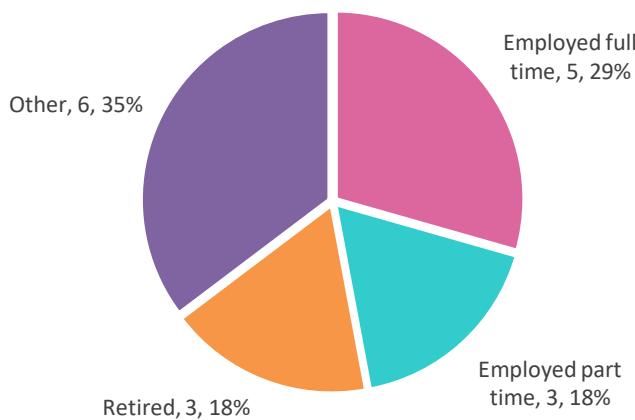
Stakeholder Information (Practitioners)

54. Practitioners were invited to tell us a little bit about themselves. Nine tenths of arts practitioners (17 or 89.5%) are either self-employed or work on a freelance basis. A third (6 or 31.6%) work for an organisation. One response was received from Bourne Festival Footlights and one from a member of the management committee at Deepings Community Library.

55. Responses were received from practitioners aged 25 and over. Half of the practitioners that responded were aged between 55 and 64.

56. When asked about their employment status, practitioners were either in full time or part time work or retired. No responses were received for the categories entitled “currently seeking employment” or “currently not in paid work.” This is illustrated in the pie chart below:

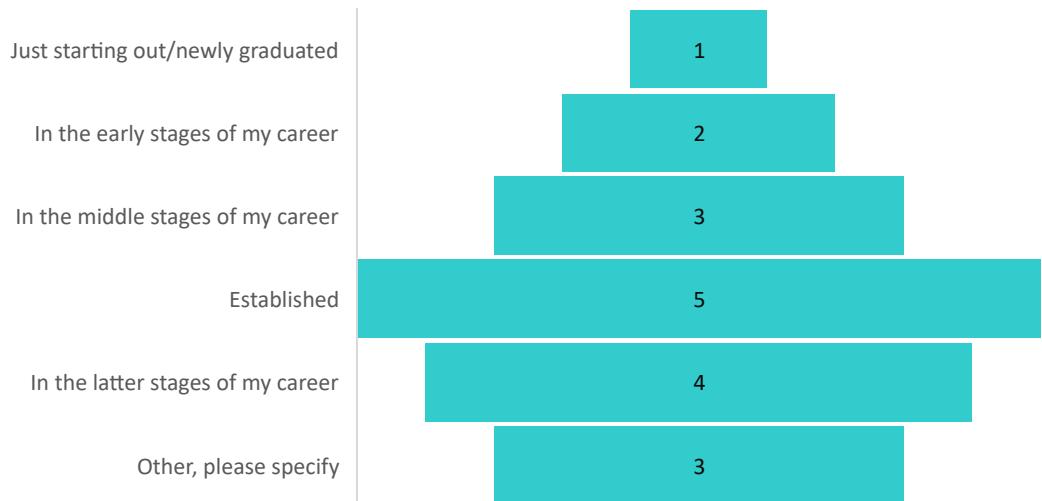
Q13. What is your employment status?



57. Those choosing to answer “other, please specify” described themselves as self-employed or freelance.

58. Most practitioners chose to describe themselves as established or in the latter stages of their career, when asked to identify where they were in their career lifecycle, as illustrated in the tree diagram overleaf:

Q14. How would you describe where you are in your career?



59. Three arts practitioners said that they had a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more which reduced their ability to carry out day to day activities.

60. Over three quarters of arts practitioners (15 or 78.9%) said that they were interested in helping to shape the bid the Council is looking to submit to the Arts Council for extra funding later this year, and submitted their contact details. They will be contacted by the Arts and Cultural Services Manager in due course.

Conclusion

61. The importance of providing arts activities and cultural events close to where people live should not be under-estimated. Perhaps not surprisingly, where people live correlates to the venues they visit. When asked about which of the venues they had visited, respondents were much more likely to have visited one of the Council's venues in the south of the district, than the north. The Guildhall Arts Centre in Grantham had been visited by 25 respondents -16.6% of the sample. Stamford Arts Centre had been visited by 157 respondents - 89.2% of the sample.

62. This is also the case when people were asked if they would be interested in taking part in more of the arts activities and cultural events listed, if they were available locally. The majority - eight out of ten respondents (159 or 80.7%) - said that they would.

63. A significant proportion of responses to the public survey were received from people from the Deepings and surrounding area – most notably from those who use the community library. Stressing the importance of reading as a cultural activity and the library as a venue where events could be

provided, respondents using this facility were keen to promote the library as a community facility and one where arts activities and events could be hosted, if funding was available. Whilst the scope of this consultation focused on council run venues, those representing the library wanted SKDC to know that they were open to a discussion, as illustrated here:

“I am a committee member of Deepings community Library. We are a very active voluntary organisation and would dearly love to be involved in raising the profile of arts in the Deepings.”

64. Arts practitioners were, in the main, receptive to the idea of either extending their provision to include the areas of Bourne and the Deepings, or increasing the amount of provision in these areas. This is important as it illustrates a willingness by practitioners to improve provision in these areas – which if the application for arts council funding is successful -will enable an increase in provision.
65. The cost and availability of venues in Bourne and the Deepings remains a constraint, however. This was highlighted by arts practitioners as being one of the main barriers to provision for them, along with funding and financial support. This will be a factor which will have to be addressed as part of any proposals to improve provision in these locations going forward, if the bid for funding from the Arts Council is successful, as it was mentioned by both practitioners and members of the public that participated in this consultation.

Prepared by Deb Wyles
Communication and consultation
7 August 2024