

BUSINESS SURVEY

2016

BUSINESS SURVEY

1 SURVEY OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

1.1 Profile of respondents

A number of surveys were circulated by the BID wardens to the business located around the Holloway Circus traffic Island and a total of 28 surveys were returned.

Table 1 below shows the composition of each survey sample by sector.

SECTOR	2016
Retail	48.1%
Industrial	0.0%
Service	51.0%

Table 1.1: Survey sample by sector

The above table shows that the service and retail sectors are responsible for all of the responses.

Some 44.4% of the businesses responding have been in the area for more than ten years, and 29.6% had been in the area between 3 – 10 years. 25.7% of business replying had been established in the area for under 3 years.

1.2 Perceived crime problems

Businesses were asked whether they felt that the area in which they were sited suffered particular crime problems which were directly attributed to the presence of Holloway Circus/Thomas Gardens. The following is a list of perceived major problems.

Incident	2016
Begging	92.9%
Alcohol/ Intoxication	85.7%
Anti-social Behaviour	71.4%
Groups Hanging around	
Vagrants	64.3%
Drugs	60.7%
Threatening behaviour	46.4%
Robbery	
Vandalism	

Table 1.2: Perceived Problems

It appears that Begging, Alcohol abuse/Intoxication, Anti-social behaviour and groups hanging around are the perceived to be the major problems.

Other problems which they perceived to be associated with the proximity to Holloway Circus/Thomas gardens were;

Drug dealing
Shoplifters
Sexual harassment
Urinating

1.3 Witnesses any problems

The survey then asked if the respondents had actually witnessed any problems themselves on Holloway Circus/Thomas gardens. 64.3% stated that they had and listed the following;

Begging
Vagrants
Alcohol abuse/Drugs
Anti-social behavior
Groups of people loitering
Fights
Swearing
Rent boys and girls

Two of those surveyed made the following additional responses;

“ I have seen on various levels all of the above happen on a daily basis and been harassed”

“ Seen many groups arguing, aggressive, loud, fighting, much of this is a regular happening”.

1.4 Businesses a victims of crime

Some 62.5% of businesses responding believed they had been a victim of crime/offence in the last twelve months, as a direct result of the problems occurring on Holloway Circus/Thomas Gardens. The following are a sample of the problems experienced by the businesses;

“Harassment of our visitors puts off people and damages reputation of area”

“ The drunks approaching audience members” (Theatre)

“Shoplifting and abuse to staff”

“ Vagrants harassing guests” (Hotel)

“ Yes, people are worried about moving into area”

Some 61.1% of victims had not reported the crimes/offences to the police.

1.5 Crime prevention measures

The following table shows the views of businesses with regard to the need to improve existing environment and crime prevention measures. They were allowed multiple choice responses.

MEASURE	2016
Making subways safer environment (including lighting, cleaning and CCTV	88.0%
Better Lighting on Holloway Circus itself	80.8%
More police/warden patrols	57.7%
Increase CCTV	88.5%

Table 1.3: The need for improvements to crime prevention measures

The respondents would clearly support increasing the CCTV systems and making the subways safer by removing the graffiti, cleaning the area, increasing the lighting and again installing CCTV. As there are frequent patrols by the BID wardens this appeared to be of less importance, however, there were some comments about lack of police presence.

1.6 The CCTV scheme

Respondents were asked their perceptions as to the effectiveness of a CCTV system if it were to be installed. The following table shows the responses.

	2016
Reduce Crime	86.4%
Reduce fear of crime	75.0%
Improve detection	100.0%

Table 1.4: Effectiveness of the CCTV scheme

The responses received during appear to indicate a positive perception as to the capabilities of the CCTV scheme.

1.7 Further Comments

The respondents were asked if they had any further comments on any of the issues covered, or feel that certain issues have not been covered. The following are a sample of the responses.

“Even with the street wardens, attendance issues are growing worse”

“ Groups of beggars hanging around on Inge Street come from Holloway Circus, distributing their drugs and drink”

“ Begging is out of control”

PEDESTRIAN SURVEY

2016

PEDESTRIAN SURVEY

1. RESIDENTS SURVEY FINDINGS

1.1 Profile of respondents

Over a period of three days, face to face interviews were conducted at Holloway Circus/Thomas Gardens with people who used the location to access the city centre for a variety of reasons. Due to various reasons people were reluctant to stop and share their views on the location and therefore only 13 questionnaires were completed, however, the sample, albeit small, should be viewed as being representative of those using the area.

Some 58.0% of respondents were Male. Table 1.1 below shows the age profile of respondents.

	16 or under	17-34	35-54	55-64	65 or over
2016 survey	0.0%	77.00%	23.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 1.1: Age profile of survey respondents

The above age profile skews the responses towards the younger age groups, however, this may indicate that the more mature person does not use this location for a number of reasons.

1.2 Reason for using Holloway Circus/Thomas Gardens

When asked the reason for using the location all stated that when questioned they were using it to access their work, however, they also used it on occasions to walk into the city centre for leisure/shopping.

When questioned as to how many times they use Holloway Circus/Thomas gardens 36.4% several times a day and a similar percentage also stated they used it once a day. A further 18.2% said they used it three or more times a week and 9.0% once or twice a week.

1.3 Perceived crime problems

Respondents were asked if were aware of the type of problems, if any, that may occur on Holloway Circus/Thomas Gardens. The following are a list of their responses.

Drug Issues

Groups loitering

Anti-social behaviour

People shouting abuse

People having sex on the island

Drunks/Drinking/Alcoholics

Urinating

Homeless sleeping rough

Vagrancy

Mess and rubbish

1.4 Victims of crime

Some 66.7% of those interviewed had been a victim of crime/offences in the last twelve months. The following are a sample of the type of incidents mentioned.

- “ A drunk racial attack”
- “ Verbal abuse by individuals”
- “ Fear and sworn at by drug users”

Other comments;

- “ Tend to walk around and use another road”
- “ Fearful when with children and the only option at the traffic island is the long way round”
- “ Do not use because not safe”
- “ Crowd of people hanging around quite often – intimidating”

1.5 Personal Safety

When asked, 84.6% stated that they did not feel comfortable or safe when using Holloway Circus/Thomas Gardens.

1.6 Crime prevention measures

Respondents were offered a list of measures which might help to reduce opportunities to commit crime.

Measure	Percentage
Cleaning the area	81.8%
Lighting on Holloway circus itself	75.0%
Police/warden patrols	55.6%
CCTV	100%

Table 1.2: Percentage of respondents who believe measures need improving.

The most important measure was seen as being CCTV and this was followed by cleaning the area and then lighting. Patrols were considered less important but this could be due to the BID wardens patrolling the area regular.

1.7 The CCTV scheme

Respondents were asked their perceptions as to the effectiveness of a CCTV system if it were to be installed. The following table shows the responses.

	2016
Reduce Crime	72.7%
Reduce fear of crime	100.0%
Improve detection	100.0%

Table 1.4: Effectiveness of the CCTV scheme

The responses received during appear to indicate a positive perception as to the capabilities of the CCTV scheme.