

# Survey



## The power of small businesses in Penge is big

We're big believers in supporting small businesses - not just during a pandemic, but all year round. After all, local businesses are the backbone of our economy.

Which is why we decided to conduct a short survey about local residents' thoughts when it comes to buying products and services in SE20. We wanted to know whether the first lockdown in March had caused residents to shop locally more. And whether they would continue to do so.

We were blown away with the response. More than 100 people got involved, shared their views and name dropped their favourite shops!

We already know that you're a friendly bunch, but 54% of Penge people said they feel more involved with the community than they did 12 months ago. Which is great news. And a massive 88% of respondents said they would continue to shop locally within the next 12 months. With 96% saying they shop locally for food, 61% for trades (think: builders, plumbers and electricians) and 40% spending their hard-earned cash in the town on presents and gifts. Clothes, health and wellbeing and hospitality services also made the list.

People gave a mixed bag of positive reasons for why they liked shopping locally. 81% said they liked helping and supporting the local community.

And 54% felt that shopping local is easy. Whilst 46% said you get to talk to business owners and people in the area.

We also asked what one thing could make shopping locally better. The most useful reply for local businesses (and a really easy win) was a plea for up to date opening times to be listed on Google. Particularly useful in the current climate. People also wanted more parking, and additional places to 'hang out'. (We need to spread the word about free parking at Blenheim Car Park)

Our last question encouraged people to name drop their favourite local business. There was lots of positive support for a range of services and stores.

But it looks like the Murray Bros Butchers came up trumps, with the Penge Food Centre and Blue Belle Café a close and respectable second and third!

As you may know, I established SE20 Community Magazine just over 15 years ago in a bid to connect local businesses and Penge residents. I've been passionate about our area since time began. So, it was great to see such a positive community response. Here's to our local Penguin community!

Belinda