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BRTC's consideration of a request to relocate bench from High Street to replace two older style benches in York Road, Bognor Regis.

Submitted by: Heather Allen, BR BID COO, 21.09.23

For consideration by: Elected Members of BRTC Communities Engagement and Environment Committee.

Executive Summary

Following requests for support from businesses in the eastern end of High Street, the Bognor Regis Business Improvement District (BRBID) has carried out background research and consultation into the potential relocation of a bench associated with anti-social behaviour (ASB) to submit to Bognor Regis Town Council's Community Engagement & Environment Committee.

This paper provides key information on the types and frequency of reported ASB issues taking place, identifies ownership and maintenance responsibility for the benches at High Street and York Road, estimates cost elements and potential funding streams for the relocation, and gives an overview of BR BID research and consultation activity with stakeholder partners and businesses to date.

The BID Board of Directors respectfully asks Elected Members of BRTC's CE&E Committee to make the final decision regarding next steps, and offers its support in delivering the outcome of the decision made. No financial contributions are sought from BRTC at this time.

The issue

The BID's activity follows complaints from businesses about the use of the bench at High Street (east) for highly visible drug taking, drug sales, street drinking and anti-social behaviour. Businesses also report litter gathering around the base of the bench. This combination of factors is reported to deter footfall and create an unpleasant environment for the people that work and live there.

What are we asking of BRTC's CE&E Committee?

Elected Members of BRTC's CEE Committee are respectfully asked to consider the relocation of the bench, in light of the information presented, considering business and community needs, and give direction on future action. No funding commitment is requested or attached to the decision.

The BID offers its ongoing support for BRTC in delivering any future activity with regards to the bench.

Indicative costs and potential funding streams, subject to decision by BRTC CEE Committee:

The following information is provided for reference only. BRTC's CEE Committee's are **NOT** being asked to allocate any funding at the present time.

Actual costs for carrying out the relocation of the benches has not been calculated at the time of writing. More precise cost estimates and responsibilities for delivery can be pursued following the decision.

- It is estimated that costs will include approximately six "man hours", plus vehicle / transport costs, materials to make good holes left in public realm at High Street and York Road, removal and disposal of 2 x old benches from York Road.
- The relocation activity may be eligible for a £500 grant from the Police Property Fund via partners at Sussex Police.
- BR BID may seek permission from BRTC to utilise part of their generous allocation of 50 hours of Town Force Team time towards this project.
- As the proposed activity contributes to the BID's Welcoming Town aim of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (at High Street), and the installation at York Road constitutes an improvement to the look and feel of the public realm, the BID can contribute towards costs of the exchange.
- Please note that as the two benches currently located at York Road are the responsibility of ADC (Property & Estates), the BID cannot contribute funding towards their removal / disposal.

Other considerations for BRTC's CE&E Committee:

Elected Members are asked to consider whether the use of the bench as a location for anti-social behaviour outweighs its facility as a place to sit and rest. The following information is shared to help frame considerations:

- That any changes made would also impact all other users quietly enjoying the space. That any changes made would likely relocate the problems experienced at High Street (east) to another area of the town centre
- That the relocation of the bench from High Street (east) will not address the underlying issues leading to the types of problematic street drinking or anti social behaviour being reported.
- That Installing CCTV in the public realm is complex, subject to stringent data protection requirements, requires a trained operative to review footage, plus agreement from all parties involved in the installation and management of the scheme, as well as installation and ongoing cost commitments.

High Street Bench: Site details

The bench on High Street is positioned on the southern side of the road, outside the ex-Post Office building which has been closed for at least five years. The absence of people going in and out of or inhabiting the building make it more attractive for anti-social uses as it is relatively undisturbed.

Aside from the Sussex Police 360 degree camera at the junction of High Street and Clarence Road, there is no additional CCTV facing onto the public realm at High Street (east), or specifically capturing activity at the bench.

The bench is the only seating in the public realm in High Street between the northern entrance of The Arcade and the junction with Clarence Road.

The bench is close to the bus stop located at the junction with Sussex Street. However, unlike a purpose-built bus shelter with seating, the distance from the bench to the bus stop suggests they are unconnected. As an observation, the existence of a loading bay directly in front of the bench may obscure any waiting bus passengers' view of the road, and equally obscure any potential passengers waiting on the bench from the view of the bus driver.

Following the BID's arguments for prioritisation, the eastern section of High Street - from the junction with London Road to the junction with Clarence Road - has been identified as a key route in the multi-stakeholder Wayfaring Strategy initiative. As a result of funding secured by the BR Regeneration Board on behalf of stakeholder partners, this section of High Street (east) will benefit from a major investment in signage, visual enhancements and (subject to agreement from BRTC) co-ordinated catenary flags in the financial year 2024-25. The identification of High Street (east) as a key route between the Train Station and Butlin's will undoubtedly raise its profile and contribute to the perceptions visitors form about Bognor Regis.

Replacement of existing (grey) refuse bins with new belly bins has been identified as a priority project for the next available tranche of funding. A full project proposal has been developed by the BID COO, and submitted to ADC Economic Development.

Responsibilities & Permissions for the benches

- The street furniture in both High Street (east) and York Road is owed and maintained by ADC (Property & Estates). *(source: Property & Estates LW email to HA 05.05.23)*
- The benches are positioned on the Highway in both locations under a licence issued by WSCC Highways. *(source: WSCC Highways Manager email to HA 11.05.23)*
- For transparency in decision making, if the bench is relocated as described, WSCC would issue a new S115 license to Arun District Council to position the "new" bench at York Road. *(source: WSCC Highways Manager email to HA 11.05.23)*

Consultation: Bognor Regis Stakeholder Partners

- ADC Property & Estates supports the final decision of local stakeholders, reached following consultation. *(source: LW email to HA 05.05.23)*
- WSCC Highways supports the final decision of local stakeholders, reached following consultation. *(source: MT email to HA 11.05.23)*
- BR BID supports the final decision of local stakeholders, reached following consultation.
- Sussex Police supports the final decision of local stakeholders: *(source: SgtSF email to HA 11.05.23)*
- In response to concerns from businesses in that location, BRTC Cllr. Goodheart contacted the BID directly by email (11.05.23) to express support for activity to reduce ASB in that area.

Consultation: Bognor Regis Business in High Street (east)

The BID carried out a consultation with the 13 businesses in the section of High Street that are most impacted by activity taking place at the bench and would be most impacted by its bench's removal.

Consultation was by means of a survey, which was hand delivered to the 13 business in May 2023, with an online version available via a QR code on the hard copy. A series of in-person follow ups from the BID Ambassador encouraged businesses to complete the survey. Following three weeks of in-person visits, a total of eight business surveys were completed and returned.

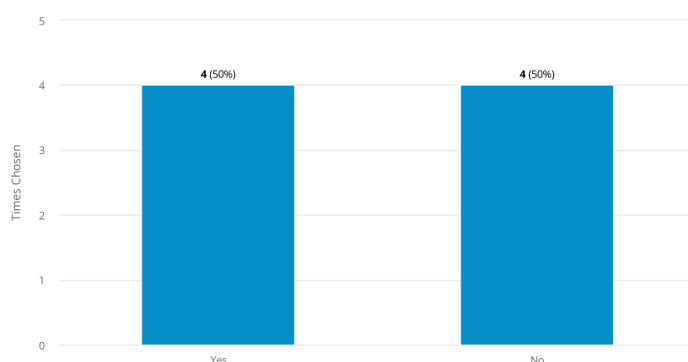
- Details of the 13 businesses consulted are at **Appendix A**.
- A copy of the survey distributed to businesses is attached at **Appendix B**.

Results of Consultation: businesses

Analysis of responses shows that four businesses supported moving the bench, and four were against moving the bench.

Do you want the BID to work with partners to remove the bench from outside the old Post Office

Number of responses: 8



Additional comments from consultation with businesses

Additional comments from businesses in favour of moving the bench

- **Written response 1:** Regular anti-social behaviour. Groups of adults drinking all hours of the day, which we believes puts people o² walking down this end of town
- **Written response 2:** Bench is used for drug dealing and taking, used by large amounts of drinkers which causes fights and anti social behaviour, Drugs smoked and needles used on the bench, Drunks sleep and urinate next to the bench.
- **Written response 7:** The bench needs to go.

Additional comments from businesses against moving the bench:

- **Written response 3:** After discussing with the staff in the shop, we feel the bench should stay as it helps the elderly.
- **Written response 4:** This bench is the only one to provide rest for the elderly etc whilst waiting for the bus or a lift. The dealers will move on to another bench. Maybe the towns

wardens could patrol better the area. It has been more common to witness anti-social behaviour outside The Punch & Judy pub on that bench. Maybe the school could patrol parents waiting for their children if it is problem for them. Ultimately moving a bench is not the problem!

- **Written response 5:** A number of customers use the bench, we do not feel removing it will in anyway tackle the issues listed above. Having been a victim of vandals and anti social behaviour, we feel a better use of the money and resources would be to invest in CCTV on our end of the High street and more visible Police & Community Wardens.
- **Written response 6:** The bench outside the post office provides a welcome place to sit, especially for the elderly people, or people waiting for the bus. All benches wherever they are located will always be used in an anti-social way. The answer is better security and better policing.

BID Activity following consultation with businesses:

- Unfortunately, the survey responses did not evidence consensus of opinion, with a clear 50/50 split of businesses in favour of removing or retaining the bench.
- At the BID Full Board meeting on 15th June, Directors guided the BID Team to be led by evidence, and to continue to monitor the situation going forwards and present for further consideration should instances of ASB be reported.
- Directors advised the BID Team to take no further action with regards relocating the bench at that time.
- On 28th June, businesses were advised of the outcome by letter, delivered by hand by the BID Ambassador.
- An anonymised version of the letter is attached as **Appendix C**.
- In the letter, businesses were encouraged to report all incidents of ASB they witnessed taking place at the bench site as follows:

“Next steps for businesses:

- *If you witness a problem at the bench that is urgent / criminal, please call Sussex Police on 999*
- *While the Police should be the first point of call for all ASB related matters, you can also contact the Community Warden via the radio network, or by telephoning: 07912 292406*
- *If you witness a problem that appears anti-social, but is not urgent / criminal, please report through the data secure DISC app as a PUBLIC REALM REPORT, using ****ASB Hotspot: High St East Bench**” as the subject of the report and **“Bench High Street East”** as the area.*
- *As well as being recorded on DISC, all Public Realm reports submitted through DISC for this area will be emailed directly to me (HA)”*

Monitoring ASB issues at High Street bench

While monitoring of all incidents specific to the bench reported via DISC and to Sussex Police is ongoing, the number of reports submitted in the **87 day period** (28.06.23 – 18.09.23) is as follows:

- Sussex Police: Sussex Police has confirmed that **no (zero) incidents detailing ASB** at the location of the bench have been reported via their channels from either businesses or the community during the monitoring period.
- DISC Reports: **18 reports** (*from one business*)
- Anonymised reports detailing the type of ASB activity taking place at the bench are attached as **Appendix D**.

Contextualising DISC Reporting Data

To provide context for Elected Members, in a similar 85 day period (01.07.23 to 18.09.23), **41** incidents have been reported (*by one business*) detailing ASB at the Station Square location.

Incidents by Premises Bognor Regis BID Business Crime Reduction Service

This section shows the Premises for/in which Incidents were reported. Some incidents will have been reported without a Premises being specified.

[Printable PDF](#)

[Export to CSV](#)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Twelve months to date
** Station Square - Asb **			27	81	80	4	10	7	6	7	11	5	6	4	8	27	6	101

Additional ASB Reduction Activity: High Street (east)

The BID / BRTC funded Warden has continued to include the eastern end of High Street as part of their 7/7 patrol of the town centre. Businesses in the area have also been visited by the BR BID employed Business Crime Reduction Engagement Officer.

Each business interaction with the eight (8) hour per week Business Crime Reduction Engagement Officer is recorded. During the 83 day monitoring period 28.06.23 to 19.09.23, the BCR Engagement Officer recorded a total of **13** visits to businesses in the eastern end of High Street. Full details of these visits is attached at **Appendix E**.

Each business interaction with the 5/7 warden and Engagement Officer is recorded. During the monitoring period 28.06.23 to 19.09.23, the five day a week warden recorded a total of **34** visits to businesses in the eastern end of High Street, Full details of these visits is attached at **Appendix E**.

During the 83 day reporting period, a total of **47** in-person visits were made to businesses in the area.

In addition, the BID Team has continued to report littering issues in the area to ADC Cleansing, and requested a specific focus on regular and deep cleansing around the bench in a walk-round meeting with Biffa on 18th July 2023.

Proposed relocation site – York Road

It is proposed that the single bench from High Street could be transferred to replace the two older style benches on York Road.

The style of the High Street bench matches those at the junction with London Road (outside Arcade Chambers entrance) and is much closer in style to those at Place St Maur. This would create more of a design “tie” in this important connecting route between the town and seafront.

Current

Bench at High Street (east)



Benches at York Road



Detail – York Road benches

Having been in situ for approximately 20 years, the metal frames of the two benches currently on York Road are quite rust damaged and have potentially reached the end of their life. A survey was distributed to all businesses and residential dwellings at York Road asking for feedback on the potential bench-change. No responses were received. A copy of the survey is attached as **Appendix F**.



Artist's impression of High Street bench relocation to York Road



APPENDIX A: List of Businesses operating in the vicinity of the bench at High Street (east):

1. Blue Raspberry Hair
2. D'Light Express
3. Ecoswap
4. Grandad's Front Room
5. Istanbul Barbers
6. James Jewellers
7. Julz Interiors
8. Sight & Sound
9. Southernbrook Estates
10. Stonepillow Restore
11. Tina's Barbers
12. Your Mortgage Centre
13. Yummy Kebab

All 13 businesses were invited and encouraged to take part in the consultation.

APPENDIX B: Copy of Survey distributed to businesses High Street (east) (May 2023)



Removing the bench _ High Street (east)



BOGNOR REGIS
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

TERM 2 : 2023-2028

Removing the bench outside the old Post Office

The Bognor Regis Business Improvement District's is working with partners at Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council to remove the bench located outside the old Post Office at the eastern end of High Street. This follows complaints from businesses about it being used for highly visible drug taking, drug sales, street drinking and anti-social behaviour. It also attracts a fair amount of litter around the base which is unsightly. This combination of factors deters footfall and creates an unpleasant environment for the people that work, visit and live there. The request to remove the bench is supported by Sussex Police.

The bench doesn't belong to the BID so we have to go through a formal process to have it relocated. Part of that process includes consulting local businesses and residents around the area to make sure you know about the plan and have the opportunity to feed back your thoughts.

The plan is to move the bench from High Street to another place within the town. We will also be consulting with businesses and residents in the proposed new location to make sure they know about and are happy with the plan.

The closing date for completing the survey is **11pm on Friday 26th May 2023**.

How we will use your data: *

[Click here to read data protection statement](#)

[Click here to skip to the next section](#)

Data Protection Statement

This survey is intended for all businesses and any residents we can reach that could be affected by the decision to move the bench at High Street.

We're asking for you to feed back on issues that are relevant to your area. We've asked for details of your name, business name and location so we can evidence the concerns that affect geographic "zones" of the town. We'll use responses to create a summary report that won't include any of the personal details you provide.

You are not under any obligation to complete this survey, and any information you share is **by consent**.

If you agree in the question, we will use the contact details you've provided to ask you to repeat the survey at a later date to check whether your thoughts and feelings have changed, and if you're satisfied with the outcome.

This only affects businesses, not residents: As part of the BID's operations, we manage a database which contains details about businesses in the BID Area and the names and contact details of people that work in the businesses so we can record our interactions with you. The BID has a **legitimate interest** for holding this data.

Any data you provide when completing this survey will only be used for the reasons outlined above.

Please enter your details so we know who's completing the survey: *

First name

Last name

Business name or your address
if you are a resident

Email address

[Click here if you'd like to read details from the formal request to WSCC and ADC about removing the bench](#)

Info

Current location

The bench on High Street is positioned on the southern side of the road, outside the ex-Post Office building which has been closed for at least five years. The absence of people going in and out of or inhabiting the building make it more attractive for anti-social uses as it is relatively undisturbed. There is no CCTV facing onto the public realm that covers this location.

While there are no reports through the BID's crime / ASB reporting platform dated any later than 2021, the BID will build up a more detailed written case (including statements from businesses and support from Police / ADC ASB Team) if required to support the request. It is understood that the matter was raised with Sussex Police, and that Insp. NID had said he would look into its permanent removal in 2022. Unfortunately, Insp. NID has now moved on to Horsham.

Support for the removal of the bench.

- The proposal is put forward based on reports of the bench's misuse by businesses in the eastern end of High Street. The BID COO will arrange a survey of all other businesses to garner their support.
- The proposal is supported by the Bognor Regis Business Improvement District in line with its commitment to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour under its "Welcoming Town" objective.
- The proposal is supported by Sussex Police. A written statement from PS SF of the Bognor Regis Neighbourhood Policing Team states: "I have spoken to several members of the local business community and Police community support officer colleagues when forming the following opinion. I also note that there was an occasion that the bench was in fact removed and the impactful groups gathering lessened significantly. I would say on behalf of Sussex Police that we support the removal / relocation of the bench currently located outside the vacant Post Office on the High Street to prevent its use as a gathering point for anti-social behaviour. Any other support you require please don't hesitate to ask." PS FENNER CF184"
- The proposal is implicitly supported by Cllr. Steve Goodheart, in an email in response to concerns from businesses in that location dated 11.05.23. The BID COO will arrange a survey of elected members to garner their support if required.

Mitigating potential objections

While there is a bus stop located at the junction with Sussex Street, unlike a purpose-built bus shelter with seating, the distance from the bench to the bus stop suggests they are unconnected. As an observation, the existence of a loading bay directly in front of the bench would obscure any waiting bus passengers' view of the road, and equally obscure any potential passengers waiting on the bench from the bus driver.

While it could be argued that it is the only place to stop and rest in this section of High Street, this can be countered by its prevalent use for anti-social behaviour which outweighs its attractiveness as a place to sit. It could be also be argued that, as the only piece of street furniture on this section of High Street, its presence is incongruous with the rest of the street scene.

Responsibilities / Permissions

The street furniture in both locations is the responsibility of ADC (Property & Estates), under a licence issued by WSCC Highways.

Costs

The cost of carrying out the relocation of the benches has not been calculated at the time of writing. However, as the proposed activity contributes to the BID's Welcoming Town aim of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (at High Street), and the installation at York Road constitutes an improvement to the look and feel of the public realm, the BID can contribute towards costs of the exchange. The BID may approach stakeholder partners at Sussex Police for a grant to contribute towards the relocation of the bench, and Bognor Regis Town Council for permission to allocate their annual contribution of 50 hours of Town Force Team time for this purpose.

Do you want the BID to work with partners to remove the bench from outside the old Post Office *

Yes

No

Is there anything else you'd like to add or tell us about the bench?

Are you happy for us to follow up at a later date so we can see if removing the bench has made a difference in your area?

Yes

No

That's fantastic - thank you so much.

No problem - the feedback you've given here is really helpful by itself!

APPENDIX C: Letter updating businesses (28th June 2023)



BID Hub:
c/o The Track, Station Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1QF
Email: info@brbid.org
www.brbid.org

28th June 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Update on potential bench move from High Street to York Road.

The BID Team recently carried out a consultation with the thirteen most affected businesses at the eastern end of High Street regarding the possible relocation of the bench outside the old Post Office. Following three weeks of in-person visits, a total of eight business surveys were completed and returned.

Unfortunately the survey responses did not evidence consensus, with a clear 50/50 split of businesses in favour of removing or retaining the bench. Those in favour of removing the bench cited issues with drug taking, drug selling, street drinking, ASB and litter. Those in favour of retaining the bench cited its importance as a resting place for their customers, including elderly and vulnerable community members. No recent reports of ASB or other issues with the bench have been recorded on DISC.

At the recent BID Full Board meeting on 15th June, Directors guided the BID Team to be led by evidence, and to continue to monitor the situation going forwards and present for further consideration should instances of ASB be reported. Directors advised the BID Team to take no further action with regards relocating the bench at this time.

Noting feedback from businesses highlighting the bench's use by elderly and vulnerable people, it was suggested that the BID Team make use of empty poster sites at the location to signpost to support services. It was confirmed by a member of the BID Team that use of these poster sites would not conceal or impact any existing boards currently used by businesses to promote the "East End". It is suggested that the two organisations that could be signposted to were Change Grow Live and Age UK.

This news will undoubtedly be received well by half of the businesses consulted at High Street, and with disappointment by the other 50%. I would therefore like to reassure you that, while the bench will not be moved at this time, the BID Team and Sussex Police are keenly aware of historic issues at the location and are keen to avoid any recurrence.

Next steps for BR BID Team:

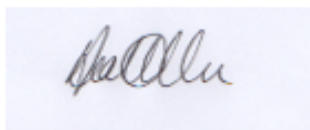
- No further action will be progressed to relocate the bench by BR BID at this time
- Partners at WSCC, ADC and Sussex Police will be advised of the outcome
- Residents and businesses at York Road updated that bench will not be relocated
- The BID Team will continue to monitor the situation
- The BID Team will secure display collateral from the two agencies CGL and Age UK

Next steps for businesses:

- If you witness a problem at the bench that is urgent / criminal, please call Sussex Police on 999
- While the Police should be the first point of call for all ASB related matters, you can also contact the Community Warden via the radio network, or by telephoning: 07912 [292406](tel:07912292406)
- If you witness a problem that appears anti-social, but is not urgent / criminal, please report through the data secure DISC app as a PUBLIC REALM REPORT, using "**ASB Hotspot: High St East Bench" as the subject of the report and "Bench High Street East" as the area.
- As well as being recorded on DISC, all Public Realm reports submitted through DISC for this area will be emailed directly to me


Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information as to how this decision was reached.

With kind regards,



Heather Allen
BR BID COO
Email: heather@brbid.org
Tel: 07917 692690

APPENDIX D: Anonymised reports submitted via DISC reporting app during monitoring period: 28th June 2023 – 18th September 2023.

Report date	Shared with the permission of National Business Crime Solution 
25/08/2023	NOMINAL and one other drinking alcohol and shouting and swearing in Polish.. This bench is an ongoing anti- social gathering area that sadly is not anti social enough to matter the important part of the town ie anywhere but the East End which the BID cares not one jot about
25/08/2023	NOMINAL and one other male drinking alcohol and shouting and swearing in Polish on the bench that is deemed not anti social enough to warrant its removal despite so so many reports
15/08/2023	NOMINAL was seen openly dealing to another person on the bench that isn't anti social enough to be classed as anti social apparently
10/08/2023	Unknown Eastern European male. Drunk and still openly drinking in the street shouting abuse at random people as they walk by. Strange to find these actions emanating from a bench that is deemed not to be anti social by the BID... ???
08/08/2023	Tall dark skinned male dealing Apple products to a known shoplifter and partner in the bench that causes no problems
08/08/2023	NOMINAL who was visibly and audibly drunk sat with two other men Street drinking on the bench that apparently causes not enough anti social behaviour to be moved. NOMINAL was constantly swearing in Polish and even though not the mother tongue of Bognor Regis it is still understand by enough people to be considered antisocial
08/08/2023	Gentleman' in picture decided to jack up on the bench. When asked to move on he vacant VERY abusive. Strange activity for a bench that is not attracting anti social behaviour according to the BID
04/08/2023	Two Eastern European males known for anti social behaviour of many types... Drinking on the bench that was deemed not to be anti social enough to be removed or classified as anti social and met with NOMINAL and one other
03/08/2023	Very drunk male shouting obscenities at women ONLY. VIOLENTLY THROWING FULL BEER CAN at wall and then going to shop at end of High St for more alcohol
25/07/2023	NOMINAL and one other openly drunk in public and shouting and spitting on floor. One Lady who was sat there quietly got up and walked away from the non- anti social bench that causes and attracts anti social behavior
19/07/2023	NOMINAL and one other street drinking and in a drunken state on the bench that apparently isn't causing or attracting any anti- social behaviour
18/07/2023	NOMINAL and one other street drinking and swearing loudly and shooting on floor constantly on the bench that is not known for anti social behavior apparently.
07/07/2023	Three Eastern Europeans on bench that causes no problems apparently. Drinking alcohol and randomly shouting at nothing in particular. Constantly spitting.Male in red is known to shoplift and female is "ID required" on DISC.
06/07/2023	3 x NOMINALS and one other well known miscreant drinking and shouting at passers by. Couple of people approached them and a 'transaction' took place before thru left and those three stayed put. Can't think why this would happen in a place not known for anti- social behaviour
01/07/2023	Group of individuals drunk and being abusive to one another and passers by.Loud, abusive language and making people feel uncomfortable to the point they were crossing the road.
30/06/2023	Eastern European drunk man sat on bench... walked across road and was asked by a black man if he had a lighter. The Eastern European racially insulted him in Polish and then head butted him. We helped move the aggressive male on and ensured the young assaulted man was as well as could be.
30/06/2023	Two heavily intoxicated homeless females. One called (NOMINAL) and her cousin (NOMINAL) were drinking sherry on the bench whilst shouting at each other and randomly abusing people. Business Warden had asked them to take their alcohol out of town so they came down here to the bench that causes almost no anti social behaviour hence it STILL being where it is.
29/06/2023	(REPORTER NAME), (STAFF NAME) and one other witnessed (NOMINAL) openly dealing to a male on the bench that 'apparently' does not attract enough anti social behaviour to warrant its removal.

APPENDIX E: Details of in-person visits to businesses in High Street (east)

Interactions are recorded when the Community Warden or Engagement Officer goes into a business – however briefly. However, interactions do **not** reflect every time the Community or Warden Engagement Officer is present in or patrolling a specific area of the town. This complex piece of tracking work is currently being fine-tuned.

Due to this data being recorded historically, with a member of the BID Team transcribing info from pocket books to the BID Database, the dates of visits are accurate, but times should be discounted, as they reflect the time the record was added to the database.

Business Crime Reduction Engagement Officer visits to businesses in High Street (east): 28.06.23 - 19.09.23

Please note that the BCR Engagement Officer only works for 8 hours per week, usually delivered across two days.

Employer	Interaction Type	Interaction Date
GOOD AND FAIR SHOP LTD	Visit	19/09/2023 13:01
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	14/09/2023 12:54
James Jewellers	Visit	05/09/2023 09:37
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	15/08/2023 07:21
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	04/08/2023 07:09
Eco Swap	Visit	04/08/2023 07:08
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	27/07/2023 09:39
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	25/07/2023 09:35
Punch & Judy Pub	Visit	06/07/2023 10:08
Cancer Research UK	Visit	06/07/2023 10:00
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	04/07/2023 09:58
Eco Swap	Visit	23/06/2023 10:07
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	23/06/2023 10:07

BCR Officer: Total engagements with businesses in High Street (east): 13

Community Warden visits to businesses in High Street (east): 28.06.23 - 19.09.23

Please note that, while seven day a week warden service is in place, the interactions for the Community Warden shown here only reflect the five day a week warden's engagements.

Business	Interaction Type	Interaction Date
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	16/09/2023 14:00
GOOD AND FAIR SHOP LTD	Visit	14/09/2023 12:55
Brent Lodge Bird And Wildlife Trust	Walk-through	14/09/2023 08:37
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	12/09/2023 08:19
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	08/09/2023 08:05
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	05/09/2023 07:28
Cancer Research UK	Walk-through	05/09/2023 07:25
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	30/08/2023 18:36
Eco Swap	Walk-through	24/08/2023 13:17
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	24/08/2023 13:12
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	24/08/2023 07:31
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	23/08/2023 12:59
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	18/08/2023 14:45
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	18/08/2023 08:34
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	17/08/2023 08:23
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	10/08/2023 07:37
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	08/08/2023 07:45
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	04/08/2023 14:58
Grandads Front Room CIC	Walk-through	02/08/2023 15:42
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	28/07/2023 09:12
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	26/07/2023 12:15
Grandads Front Room CIC	Street issue report	25/07/2023 11:57
Cancer Research UK	Visit	22/07/2023 10:26
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	22/07/2023 10:25
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	21/07/2023 10:29
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	20/07/2023 09:16
Eco Swap	Visit	20/07/2023 09:15
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	07/07/2023 10:46
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	04/07/2023 10:18
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	04/07/2023 10:12
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	30/06/2023 11:02
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	29/06/2023 10:05
Grandads Front Room CIC	Visit	21/06/2023 12:27
Cancer Research UK	Visit	21/06/2023 12:27

Total engagements with businesses located in High Street (east): 34

APPENDIX F: Copy of Survey distributed to businesses and residential properties York Road (May 2023)

Upgrading the benches at York Road



Changing the benches at York Road

The Bognor Regis Business Improvement District is working with Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council to replace the two benches on York Road. The benches have been in place for around 20 years, and are now quite rusted and past their best.

The existing benches doesn't belong to the BID so we have to go through a formal process to have them changed. Part of that process includes consulting local businesses and residents around the area to make sure you know about the plan and have the opportunity to feed back your thoughts.

The plan is to replace the two older style benches either side of the tree with a longer, slightly narrower single bench, as shown in the images below. There is no funding to replace the two existing benches, so the options are really to keep the two older benches as they are, or to replace them with the more modern style.

The closing date for completing the survey is **11pm on Friday 26th May 2023**.

How we will use your data: *

[Click here to read data protection statement](#)

[Click here to skip to the next section](#)

Data Protection Statement

This survey is intended for all businesses and any residents we can reach that could be affected by the decision to change the benches at York Road.

We're asking for you to feed back on issues that are relevant to your area. We've asked for details of your name, business name (where relevant) and location so we can evidence the concerns that affect geographic "zones" of the town. We'll use responses to create a summary report that won't include any of the personal details you provide.

You are not under any obligation to complete this survey, and any information you share is **by consent**.

If you agree in the question, we will use the contact details you've provided to ask you to repeat the survey at a later date to check whether your thoughts and feelings have changed, and if you're satisfied with the outcome.

This only affects businesses, not residents: As part of the BID's operations, we manage a database which contains details about businesses in the BID Area and the names and contact details of people that work in the businesses so we can record our interactions with you. The BID has a **legitimate interest** for holding this data.

Any data you provide when completing this survey will only be used for the reasons outlined above.

Please enter your details so we know who's completing the survey: *

First name

Last name

Business name (or your address if you are a resident)

Email address

[Click here if you'd like to read details from the formal request to WSCC and ADC about changing the benches](#)

Info

Proposed bench upgrading - York Road

It is being proposed that a single bench currently located on High Street could be transferred to replace the two older style benches on York Road.

The style of the High Street bench matches those at the junction with London Road (outside Arcade Chambers entrance) and is much closer in style to those at Place St Maur. This would create more of a design "tie" in this important connecting route between the town and seafront.

Responsibilities / Permissions

The street furniture in both locations is the responsibility of ADC (Property & Estates), under a licence issued by WSCC Highways.

The images below show that the metal frames of the two benches currently on York Road are quite rust damaged and have potentially reached the end of their life.

Costs

The cost of carrying out the relocation of the benches has not been calculated at the time of writing. However, as the proposed activity contributes to the BID's Welcoming Town aim of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (at High Street), and the installation at York Road constitutes an improvement to the look and feel of the public realm, the BID can contribute towards costs of the exchange.

The BID may approach stakeholder partners at Sussex Police for a grant to contribute towards the relocation of the bench from High Street to York Road, and Bognor Regis Town Council for permission to allocate their annual contribution of 50 hours of Town Force Team time for this purpose.

Please note that as the two benches currently located at York Road are the responsibility of ADC (Property & Estates), the BID cannot contribute funding towards their removal / disposal.

Existing benches at York Road

Are you happy for the BID to work with partners to change the benches at York Road? *

Yes

No

Is there anything else you'd like to add or tell us about the benches?

Are you happy for us to follow up at a later date so we can see if removing the bench has made a difference in your area?

Yes

No