

Comments from Creative Activity pop up consultations, August 2024

Lynn Museum 08/08/24

54 people engaged with

Pin your big ideas here

[I would like...]

Straight theatre by professional artists as well as by our good amateur theatre companies.

Music – loud

More... toys, nature, animals, history

We like... weird walks [referring to walking trails created which look at weird histories of the town]

Kids art clubs & classes. Libraries are a great Norfolk resource. KL park & ride please!

Treasure hunt

Outdoor cinema

More communal spaces for all generations to sit and chat, do art activities. Children welcome. Not expensive.

More activities for children. Subsidised parking when using activities.

Weekly art/craft classes for children.

Short walking tours of historic buildings in Lynn specifically aimed at children/families.

Like the festivals that are put on. There's always something going on for the kids. A lot of free activities going on.

Children's drawings

"I like going to the cinema with my family." Seth, age 7.

"Lots of fun things to do." Lola, age 11.

Swimming pool.

Fun facts: This building [Corn Exchange] was found back in ancient Egypt. I think.

I would like to see more museums.

Notes from conversations

The Majestic Cinema is good for families, not too expensive like the multi-screens in Norwich.

The family mainly come to King's Lynn for events and the Majestic cinema.

There are lots of things for families to do, she can find things every day during the holidays, but finding the information is difficult and takes hours of research, it is not all in one place. Mostly finding out by spreading word of mouth and trawling Facebook and the internet.

There is a West Norfolk Headteachers network – they could be disseminating what's on to all schools.

Families were travelling from Derehem to King's Lynn even though Norwich is closer. They prefer King's Lynn.

There is lots for children to do, but not for toddlers to 5 year olds (early years), what's on offer is usually age 6+

High Street, 28/08/2024

Number of people engaged with: 32

Things they like about KL:

Corn exchange and majestic cinemas, Festival Too, looking forward to classic cars.

I think that Kinsely [sic] is a fun crazy and creative place they [sic] are lots of events and shops that I like e.g. T.K.Maxx Greggs Primark this place is fun. Like the cinemas were [sic] I watched Inside Out 2. Gifted, 10.

We go to the Corn Hall [Corn Exchange?] for gigs and coffee.

The festivals are well supported. And in the Corn Hall [Corn Exchange?] in the winter. Spin off of the classical festival.

Angels in St Nicks, feels safe, old buildings, stories of Lynn, museum is great.

Cinema is fantastic, affordable, and beautiful building.

I come for the antique shops!

My grandad was George Courtney-Green. Part of the police force in King's Lynn, then joined the planning committee. We love the museums and walking to discover things, like the sculptures popping up, all good for the kids.

Open Day was good to visit the buildings. [Heritage Open Day]

Lovely art galleries and heritage

We like the old buildings

King's Lynn is peaceful.

Beautiful buildings and history

Mark (8) – There are 2 McDonalds instead of 1

Amelia (8) – St James Swimming pool

Martin (6) – the river

We learn lots about KL at school. Lots of history.

Organ recitals at the church.

“I moved here in 1975 and I’ve never regretted it. I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else.”

“We’re quite lucky here, really.”

There are lots of free music events in KL. There’s a free music festival called Festival Too. There are classical concerts in the old venues like the Town Hall, Corn Exchange, Guildhall.

Arts & heritage – strong. Been to lectures on Captain Cook. Attend festival events. Clifton House – great place.

Interested in architecture. Passion in town for arts. Brimming with culture.

Sitting by the river is peaceful.

The walks, Lynnsport (leisure park).

Big market.

Things they don't like about KL:

Shops shut too early. Town closes down.

“They took the market away from us.”

Shame about the empty shops, happening everywhere.

No go-to area for information [about creative/arts events].

There’s no central hub of information for what’s going on in King’s Lynn - “You have to really want to find something.”

Art galleries and heritage not promoted enough.

Plenty of shops but too many shutting down because people don’t have enough money

Shopping centre has lost its heart. Shops closing.

Doesn’t feel safe or nice, too tired and sad in town. Lots of lovely terraced houses (London Rd) but not looked after.

People in rehab.

Things they would like to change/add/have more of:

Be good to have Tuesday Market Place screen and seats for longer. Families sit, buy food and stay in town.

A market day with food, cheese, pickles, would be good and affordable. Richer people travel for food but not everyone can. Street food during Festival Too.

There used to be Buskers Group called The Puppeteers, a local group. Used to be a good live music scene. I would like a jazz club! Before Covid – used to be vibrant in local pubs with more music.

Older people would go to festivals if they could get home on the bus.

Immersive art experience

Café in walks – art.

Poetry/writing workshops. Homeschooling opportunities. [High proportion of home schooling in West Norfolk]

Poetry/creative writing workshops would be good. Going to Wells to do a poetry workshop. Likes to write but isn't confident, opens you up to criticism.

Didn't know about the museums but would be interested.

Would be good [to have] cultural events through the year, not just for shops!

More entertainment, galleries and museums. More independent shops. Lovely to have more seating outside – a whole street for eating outside! Creative idea for children's trail activity around shops, like the Lego trail in the shopping centre we saw in Cambridge.

They should make more of the history of how King's Lynn was built.

Lovely heritage in the side streets, need to do more to promote them and "bring them into the town centre". Needs something in the town to get people to go out of the centre to [visit] the heritage.

We like the old buildings, they could make more [out] of them. Involve young people who are interested. Surprised how many old buildings there are!

Learning from Macclesfield – they reinvented the old festival, brought in regular market, this has attracted the independent shops etc. and changed perception of the town

There are beautiful buildings and history, need to make more of the history, I learnt it from the tv!

More pugs

Amelia (8) – would like a water park, a place to do art

Martin – a trampoline park

Make it feel safer. Family friendly music. Fill the empty shops. More busking in town. Like Hunstanton – a festival every week. All types of music for everyone. Likes to sing but doesn't have the confidence. 21 years old.

Main points –

People appreciate the old buildings and are aware of King's Lynn's deep history. Plenty of positive comments about the museums, art galleries and cinema. Many people mentioned Festival Too and other live music events hosted by the Town Hall and the Corn Exchange. People like the peaceful atmosphere of King's Lynn and the river.

Most of the things people don't like revolve around the look and feel of the town centre, many commenting that it is tired or run-down, and doesn't feel safe. Many feel that the heritage and cultural opportunities available aren't promoted well enough, and the promotion that does exist is too disjointed. Many people commented on the shop closures negatively impacting the "heart" of the town.

People's suggestions for improvements in the town centred on affordable things to do, with a particular focus on keeping people in the town centre.