As a resident of greater Bath (by which we mean Bath and the surrounding villages) what kinds of businesses would you like to see in your local communities, and what kind of support do your favourite businesses need?  In our most recent meeting, the Residents Associations’ of greater Bath expressed concerns for our business community, and we are now in conversation with decision makers about the future.

If you feel so inclined, we would welcome feedback as to what YOU want to see in your local community so we can fee that back. Our lifestyles are changing thanks to technology, flexible working, travel limitations and of course periods of lockdown. We have the chance to cultivate businesses that suit how we live now and in the future. What does this look like to you? While business development impacts traffic, planning, parking and environmental issues, here we are just talking about business so please keep your answers to that.

Thank you so much for your time!

1) What changes have you noticed in your local high streets over the course of the last year and how do you feel about them?

2) Have any shops you loved shut in the last 12 months? If so, have you found a substitute that you like as much?

3) What would you like to see more of in greater Bath? Retail? Beauty? Restaurants? Professional services? Essentials? Nightlife?

4) Have there been any positive changes to the way local businesses are run in response to COVID that you would like to see continue once restrictions are lifted? E.g. sanister in stores; automated ordering and payment in restaurants, etc.

5) How do you feel about the balance of big chains, medium-sized chains and independents in greater Bath?

6) What changes do you think the council, local landlords and other large stakeholders in greater Bath’s business communities could make to improve our local high streets?

7) Do you feel that it is easy to set up and sustain a business in greater Bath? If not, why not?

8) Is there another town or part of a bigger city (e.g. London, Birmingham or York, etc.) that you think has the right mix of shops, services, residences, etc.? Are there any businesses present in other places that you wish would open in greater Bath?

9) If you could create a Christmas Market or another type of Christmas experience that would benefit local businesses and residents, what would that look like?

Please return this completed questionnaire to kari.elizabeth.erickson@gmail.com