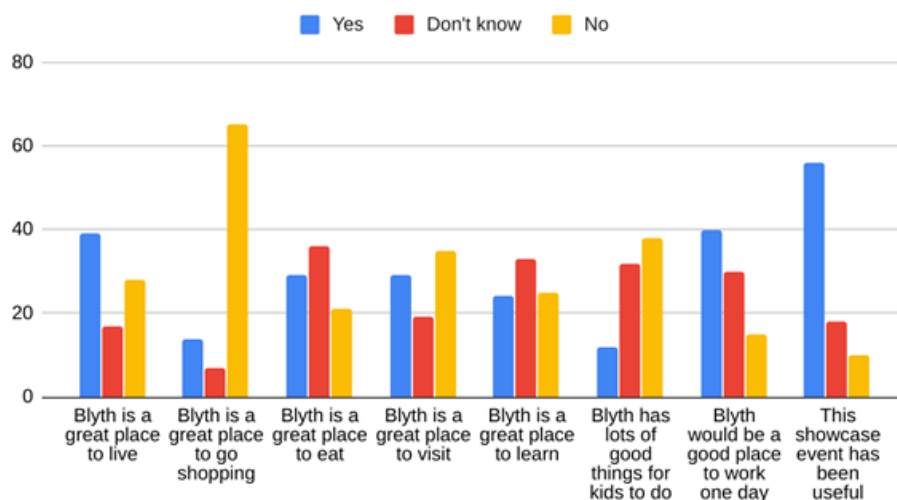


## Blyth Town Forum - Showcase September 2019

BTF held its first Showcase in September 2019 in the Marketplace. It was an open event and over 2,000 members of the Blyth community attended, including children and those who have lived and worked in Blyth for many years.

The purpose of the event was to showcase County Council projects in the town - road, rail, regeneration and to enable partners to showcase too - Advance, Active Northumberland, Ascent Homes, ORE Catapult, Phoenix Theatre, Leading Link, Silkz, Headway Arts and Blyth Town Council.

In total the Forum received 277 feedback forms and emails as a result of the day. The following are responses to some of the questions we asked:



### We got lots of good feedback about the things that you like about Blyth:

Responses to this question varied wildly from “Nothing!” to “Everything!”. Several key aspects are clearly important to the people of Blyth. The most predominant recurring themes are:

- The people, their passion and the sense of community
- The Beach (inc Beach Huts and fields around it)
- The (Ridley) Park
- Coffee Shops

### There were lots of helpful suggestions on the things people would like to see change in the town centre:

The main recurring themes were on security, substance misuse, housing, the Marketplace, retail, reputation, cleaning, creating an attraction, transport, food & drink offer, infrastructure and the Showcase event.

The overwhelming message that the Town Forum got from the Showcase was the wonderful passion of the people of Blyth, and your determination to see it develop and grow back into a thriving town again. There is much to celebrate about Blyth; its rich heritage, cultural offer and events, the success of development along the quay and riverside and our wonderful beach and park.

### Responding to feedback:

The partners involved in the Town Forum are working hard to capitalise on this and to deliver change. Some of the things we are doing will be visible already and others are going on behind the scenes:

- Operation Aurora - a police initiative designed to combat anti-social behaviour in the town centre
- The use of the mobile police van in the Marketplace
- Energising Blyth - using the Future High Streets Fund to support and fund our plans to make the town centre fit for the future
- Blyth Town Deal - An opportunity to widen our investment strategy across the whole town and bid for further funds to regenerate the town centre, boost business and improve infrastructure
- The development of the Northumberland Line, link road and an upgrade to Bowes Street.
- The ongoing refurbishment of the leisure centre

You told us that the Showcase event was useful, so we planned another one in February 2020.