

Our Balbriggan

# Public Realm Strategy

*MAKE SPACE*

Presentation 1 - Our Town, Our Say



the paul hogarth company



Our Balbriggan 2019 – 2025 Rejuvenation Plan

# New Thinking Fresh Leadership Ambitious Initiatives



# Town Rejuvenation Map

1 - 2 YEARS ①

## RAILWAY VIADUCT AND RNLI BOATHOUSE

Up lighting of viaducts all year round. Restoration and refurbishment of the RNLI Boathouse for social, community and commercial use. Develop social and enterprise offerings and place making events in Railway Viaduct arches.

2 - 4 YEARS ②

## BREMORE CASTLE

Spectacular visitor attraction. The restored castle will be open to the public and large groups with a banqueting offering. The site will include exhibition space, possibility of a cookery school, beautifully restored walled garden with restaurant/café.

2 - 4 YEARS ③

## REIMAGINE THE HARBOUR AREA

A leisure destination which makes the most of its scenic location, attracting walkers, visitors and diners. A place where people meet and linger and enjoy the authentic experience of a small working fishing port nestled into a walled harbour, overlooking a wonderful beach, connecting with a rejuvenated quay street, main street and other leisure and tourism opportunities.

2 - 4 YEARS ④

## REDEVELOP THE HEART OF THE MAIN STREET

Create a new street edge by demolishing single residential dwelling, improving visibility and access to river, landscaped green, water features, pathways, planting and event space. Re-purpose existing derelict buildings, in line with overall plan, maintaining existing facade and features and attracting new social and economic enterprises.

2 - 4 YEARS ⑤

## BREMORE REGIONAL AMENITY PARK

A premier regional park destination with landscaped features, walkways and world class play facilities. Amenity to include restoration of Martello Tower, Boathouse, public bath area and Bells Cottage. Elevated connectivity with beach ramps, cycle way, enhanced seating, art installations and kiosk space.

2 - 4 YEARS ⑥

## TRANSFORM QUAY STREET

Widen footpaths and increase flow and visibility from main street to a transformed Quay Street, Viaduct and Harbour area. Maintain car park amenity, remove kerbing, enabling its usage in evenings and weekends as a quality civic and meeting space. Develop linear park featuring seating, planting and other green features along the river bank.

3 - 5 YEARS ⑦

## RAILWAY STREET

Improvement scheme designed to provide better connectivity and flow between beach (new ramp), station and main street. Streetscape improvements, signage and refurbishment scheme.

3 - 5 YEARS ⑧

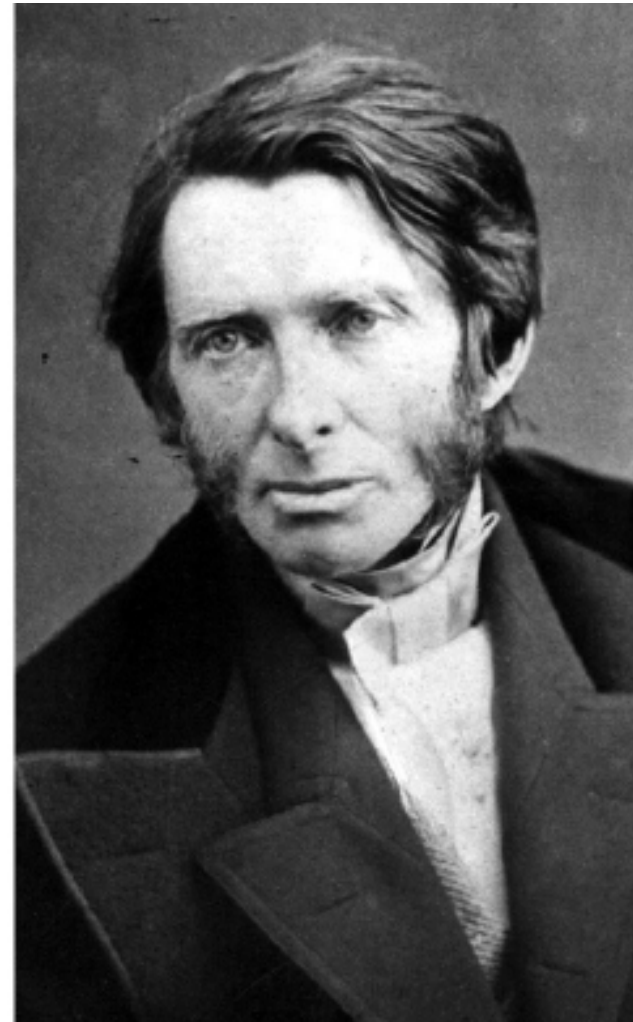
## BALBRIGGAN TO SKERRIES GREENWAY

Initial focus on Castle (Bremore) to Castle (Ardgillan) Coastal Way. Cycle & Pedestrian facilities and upgrades to connecting residential areas. Expanding upwards to Gormanstown and below to Skerries.



“The measure of any great civilisation is its cities and a measure of a city’s greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces, its parks and squares”

John Ruskin





# Placemaking

Placemaking is a process that draws on the ideas, resources and commitment of a local community along with urban design to create valued places. Once started, placemaking is on-going, with a community creating and developing the spaces where people pursue their business, recreational and social interests in a self-determined way.

For placemaking to be a success, the people of Balbriggan need to be involved.

The plan recognises that to turn places into attractive people spaces, the norms, values and assumptions assigned to some spaces need to be challenged. A placemaking

budget will support ideas which make use of urban design principles. A separate budget will be put in place to support a calendar of events and activities throughout the year in spaces throughout the town.

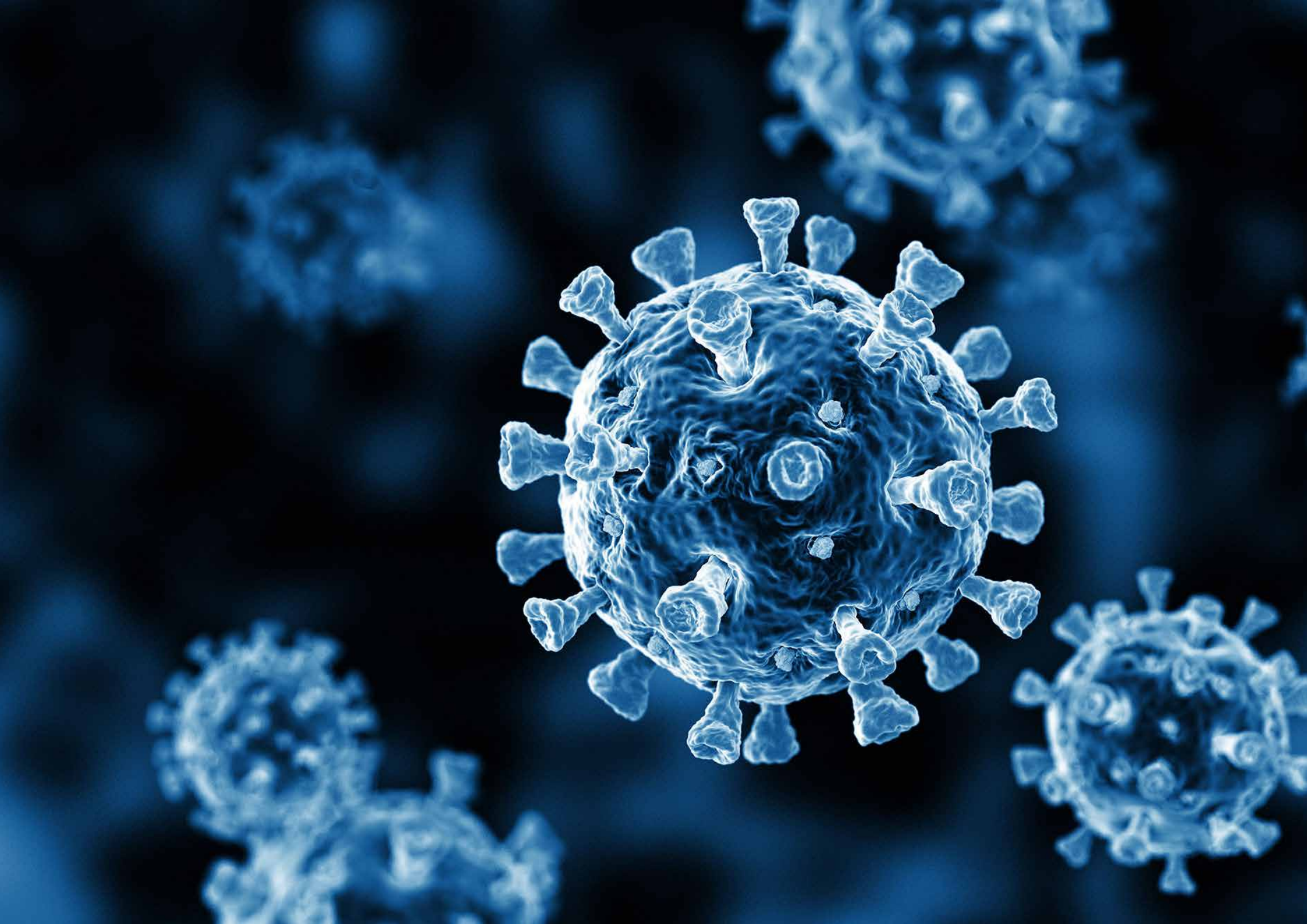
The Our Balbriggan programme office, located in the Town center will work in partnership with the community to ensure the principles of good place making are embedded in the delivery of the towns plan.



Redevelop the Heart of the Main Street

Placemaking capitalises on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well-being.

“For placemaking to be a success, the people of Balbriggan need to be involved”



## Online Workshops

Accessibility  
& Inclusion

Children, Play  
& Sports

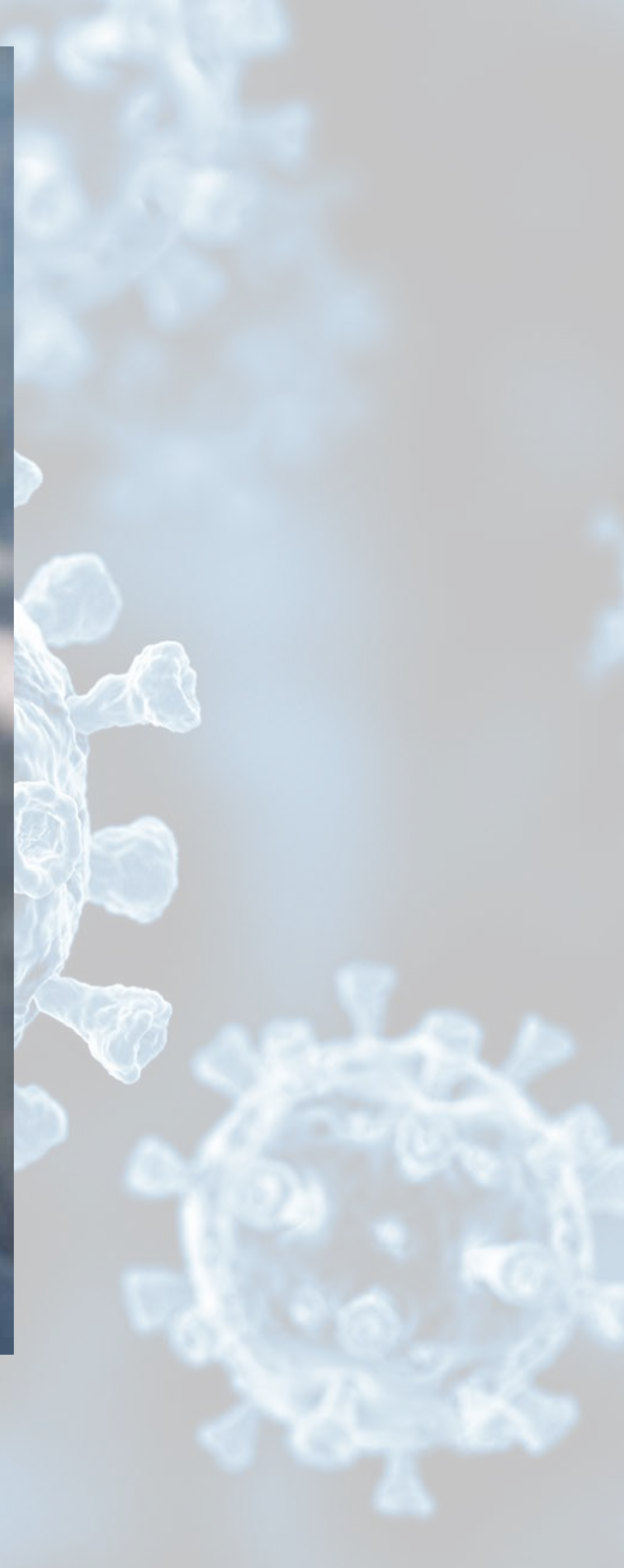
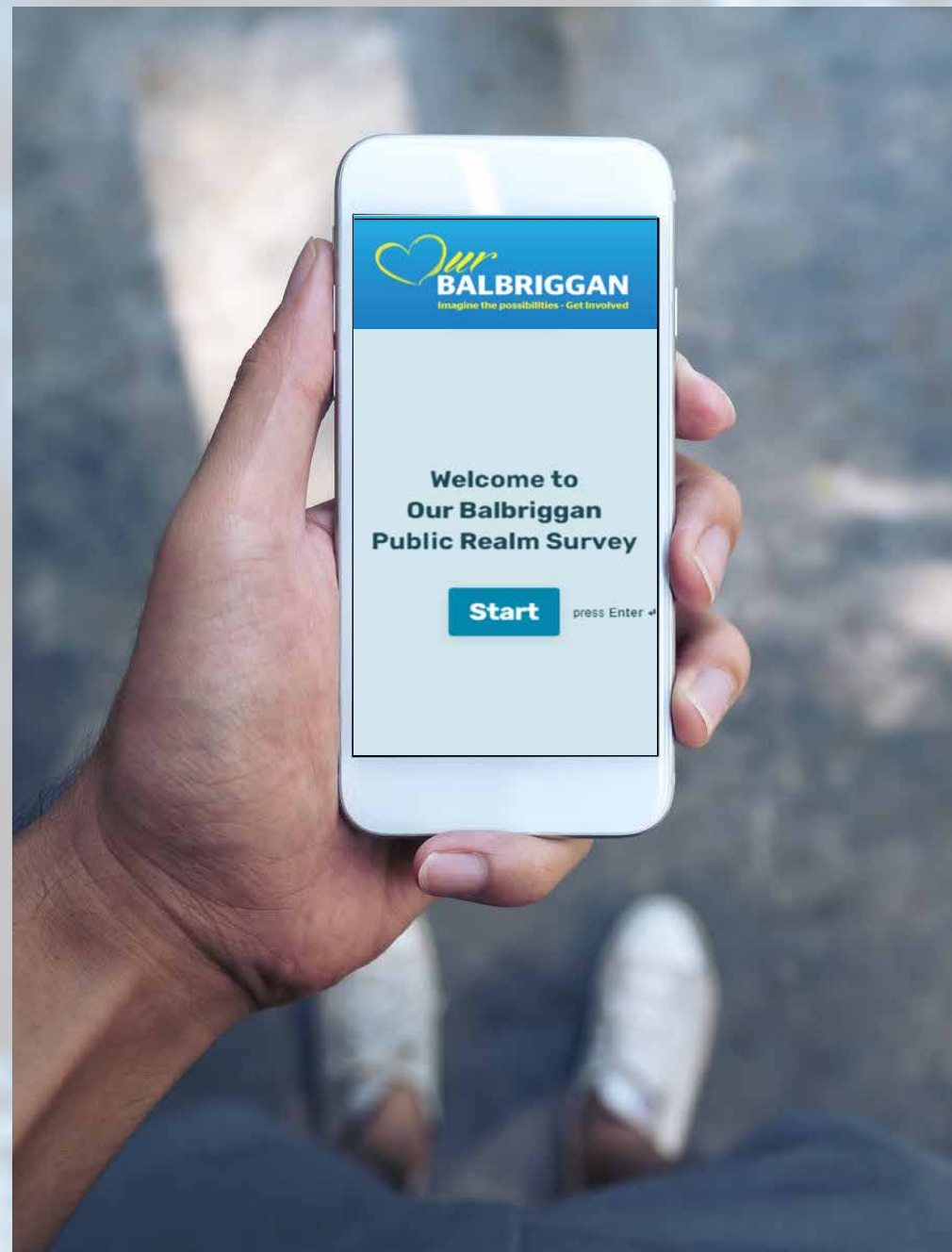
Evening  
Economy

Green & Blue  
Spaces

Walking,  
Cycling,  
Wayfinding

Young  
People



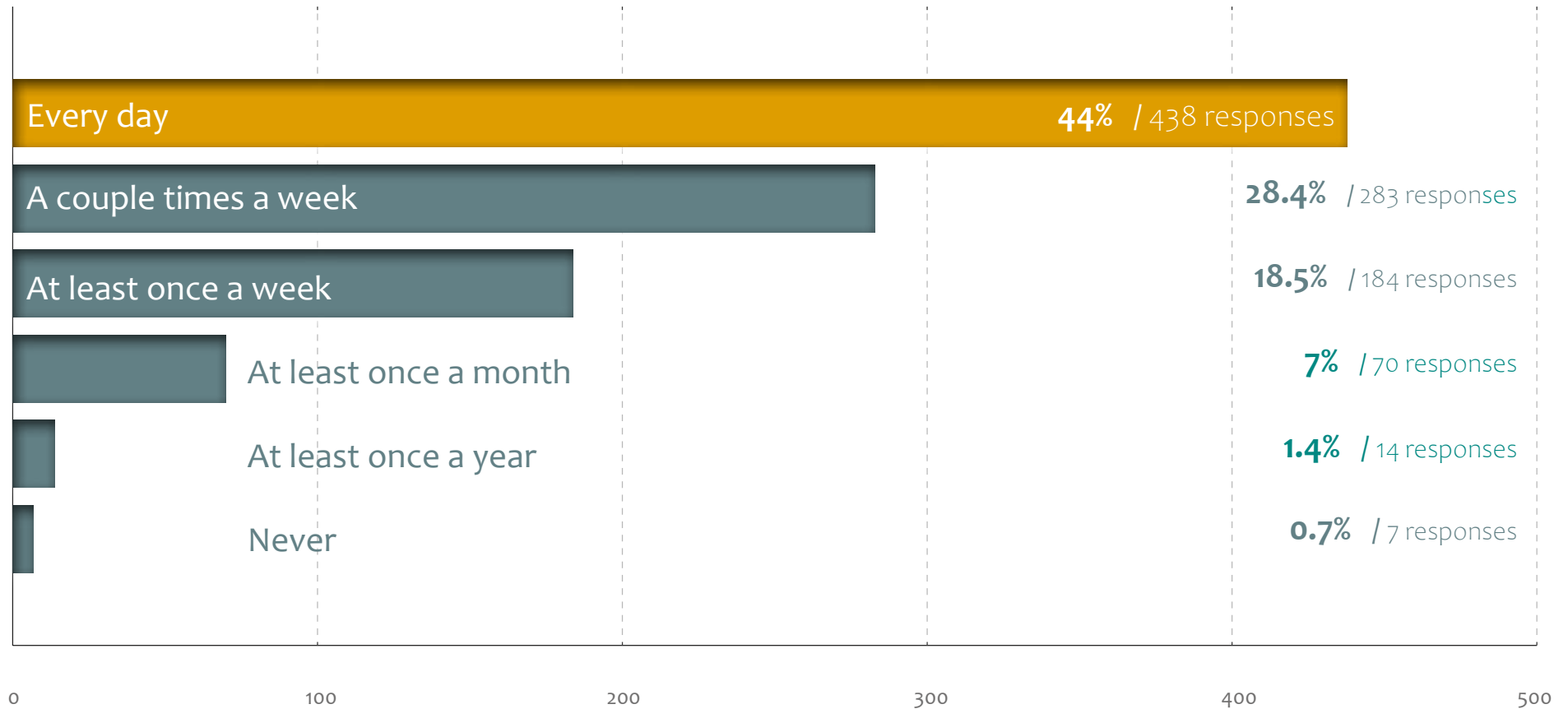




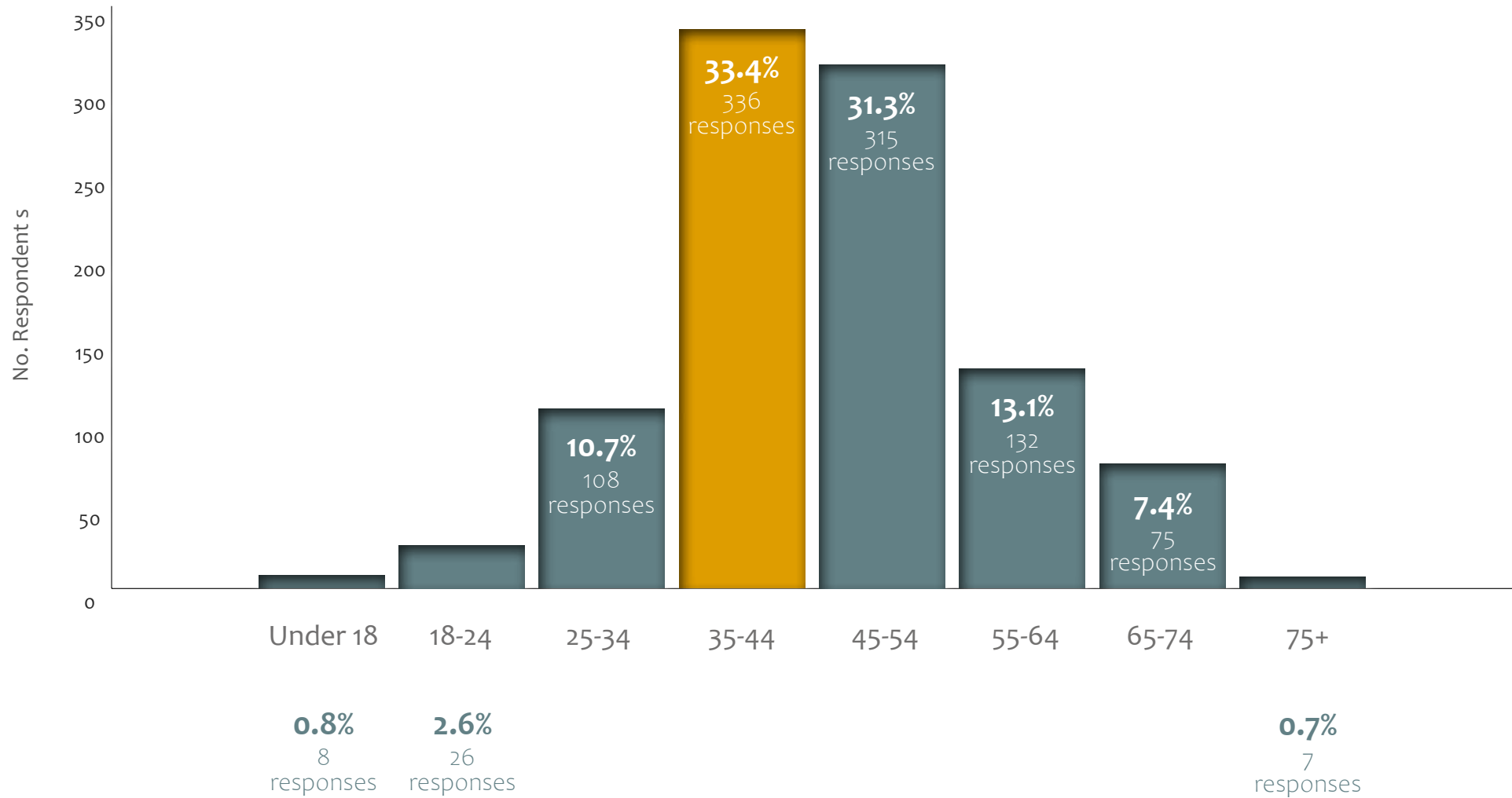


1012 Responses

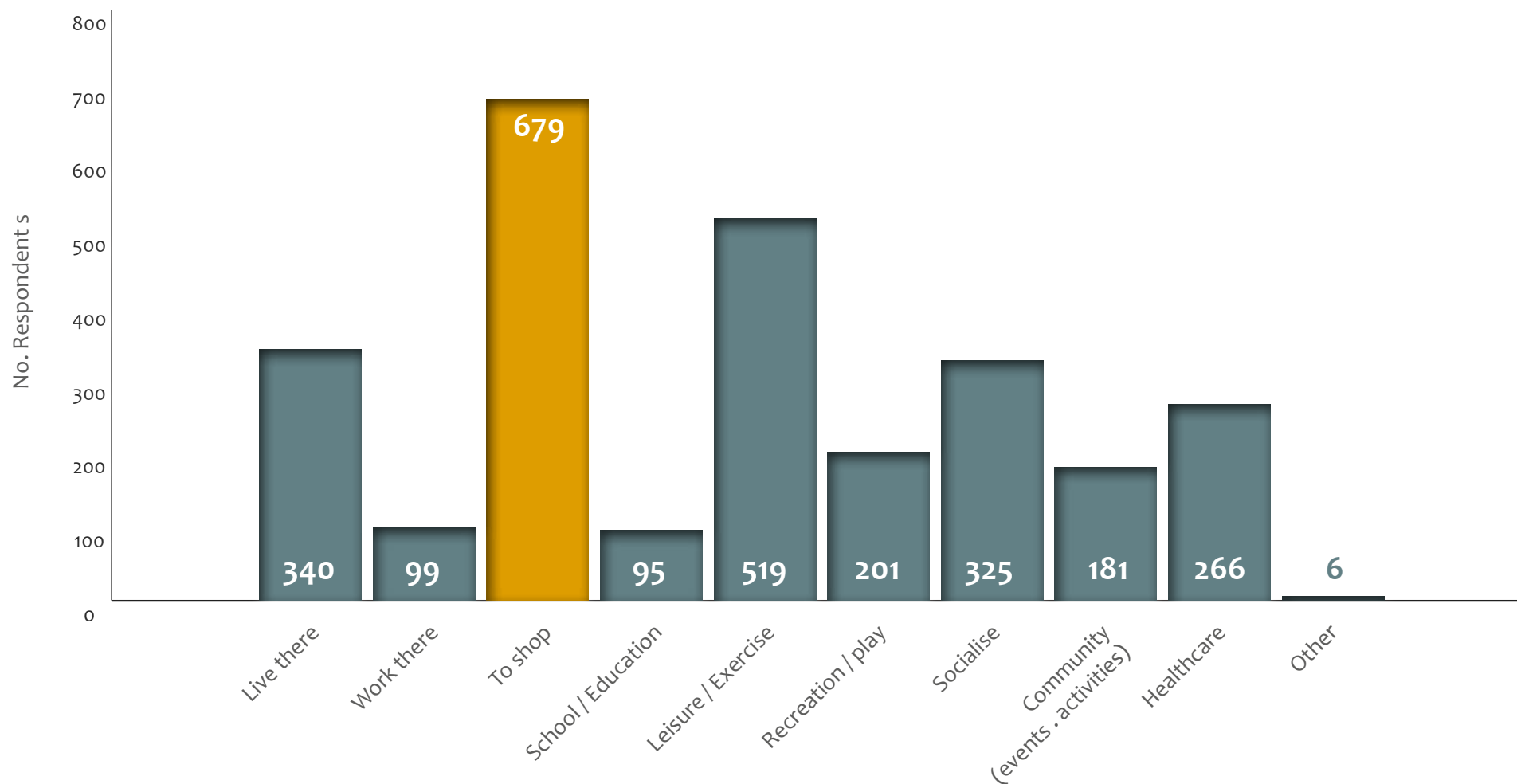
## Q1 How often do you visit Balbriggan Town Centre?



## Q2 Age Range



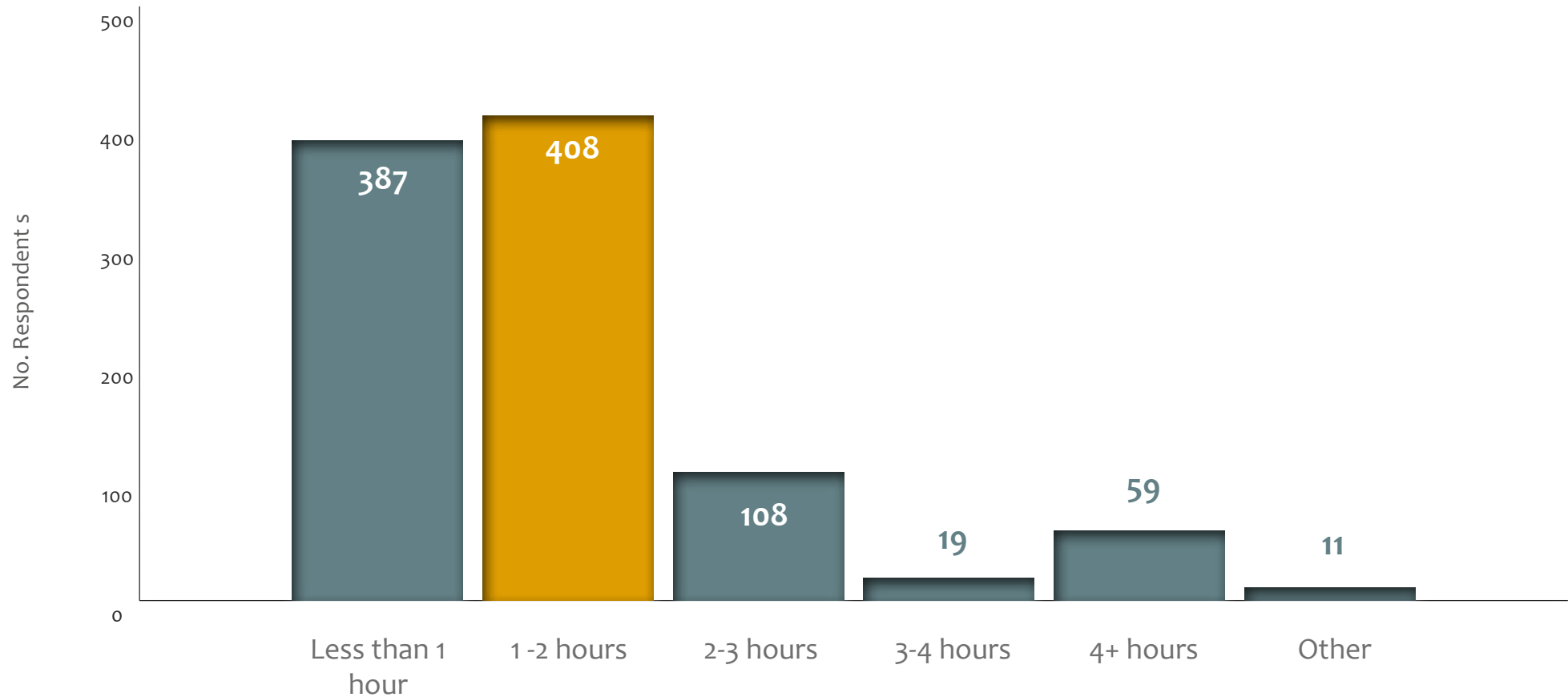
### Q3 Why do you visit the centre?



978 out of 1012 answered

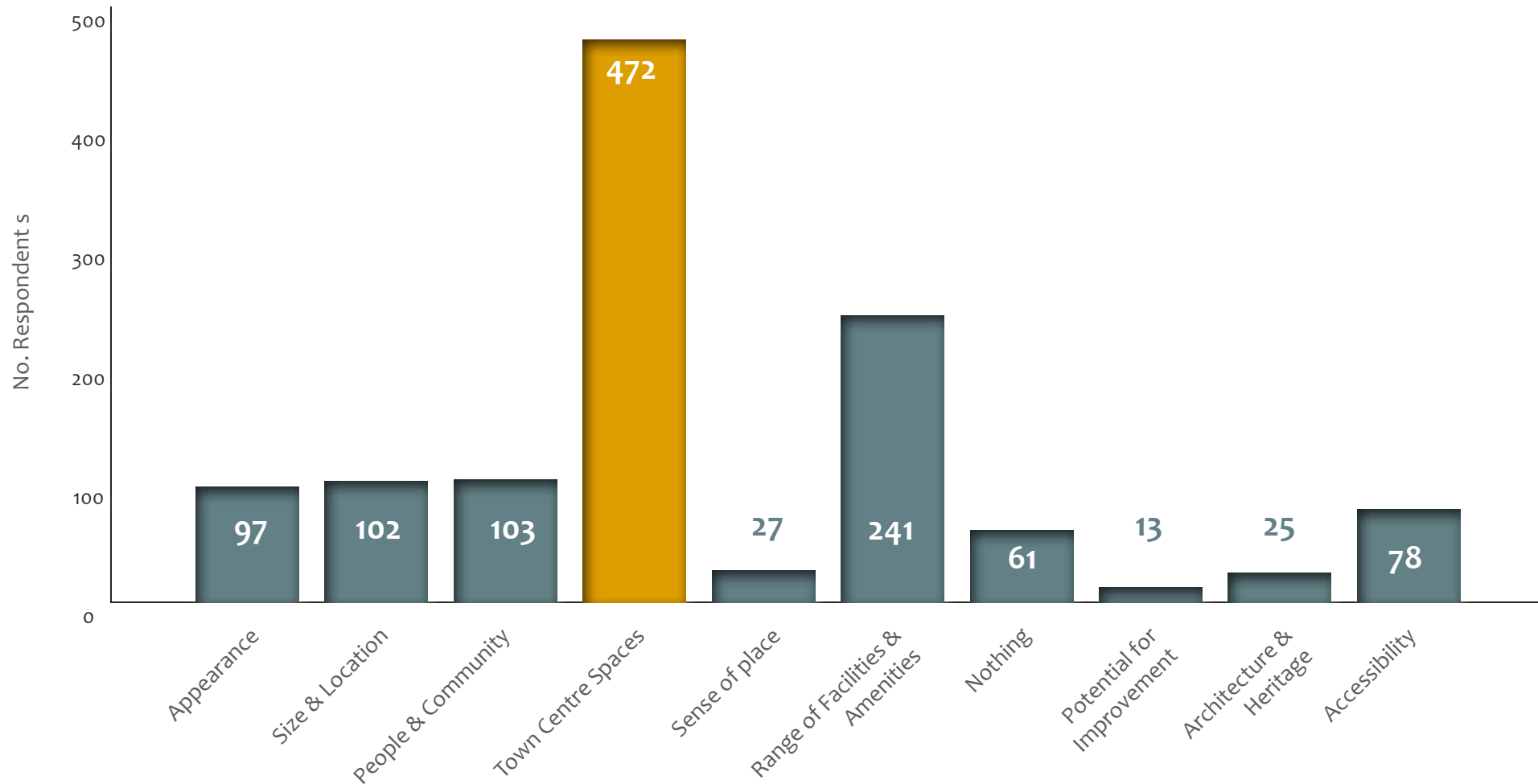


#### Q4 When you do visit the centre, on average how long do you spend there?



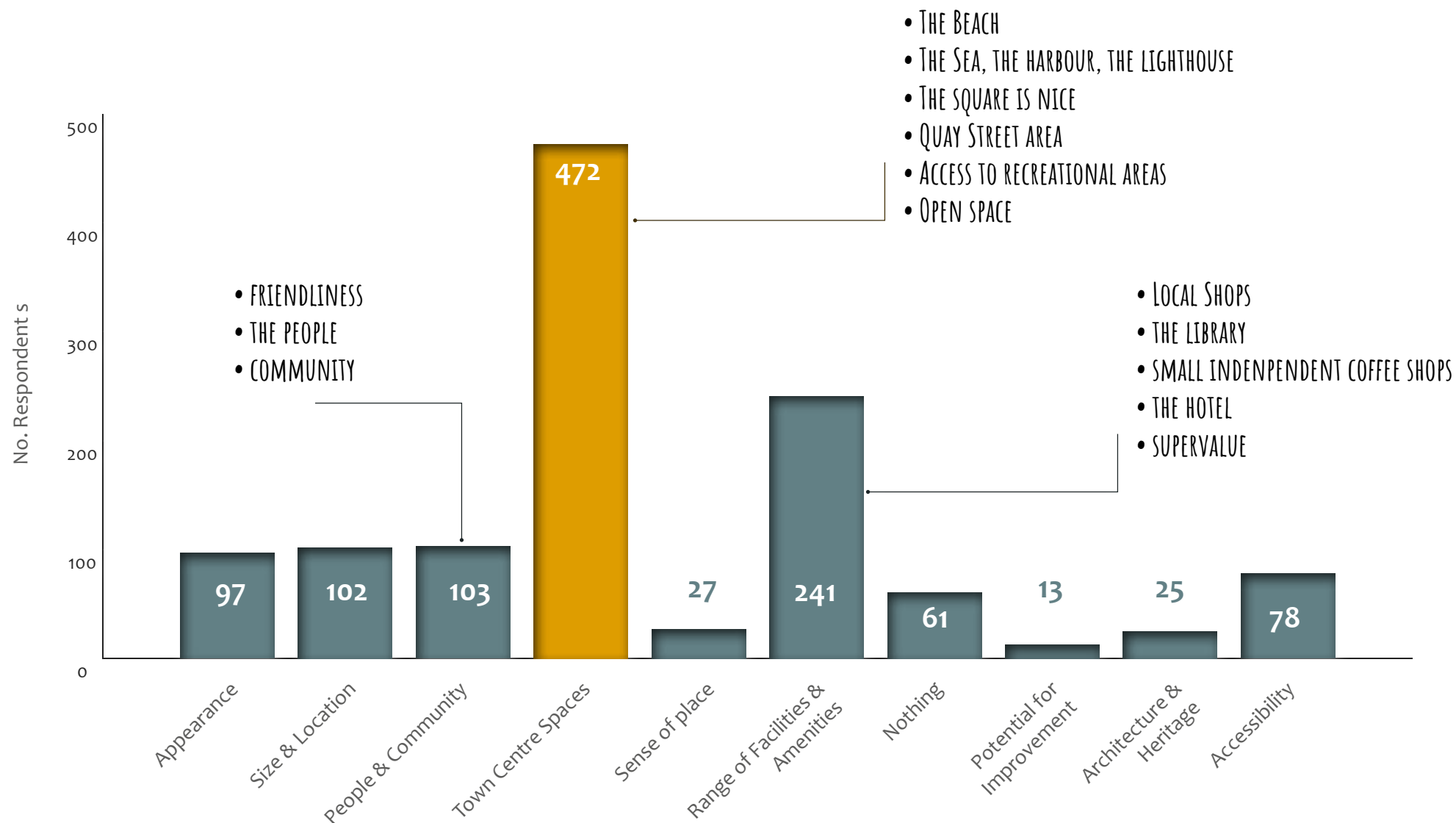
992 out of 1012 answered

## Q5 What three things do you **like** about Balbriggan town centre at present?



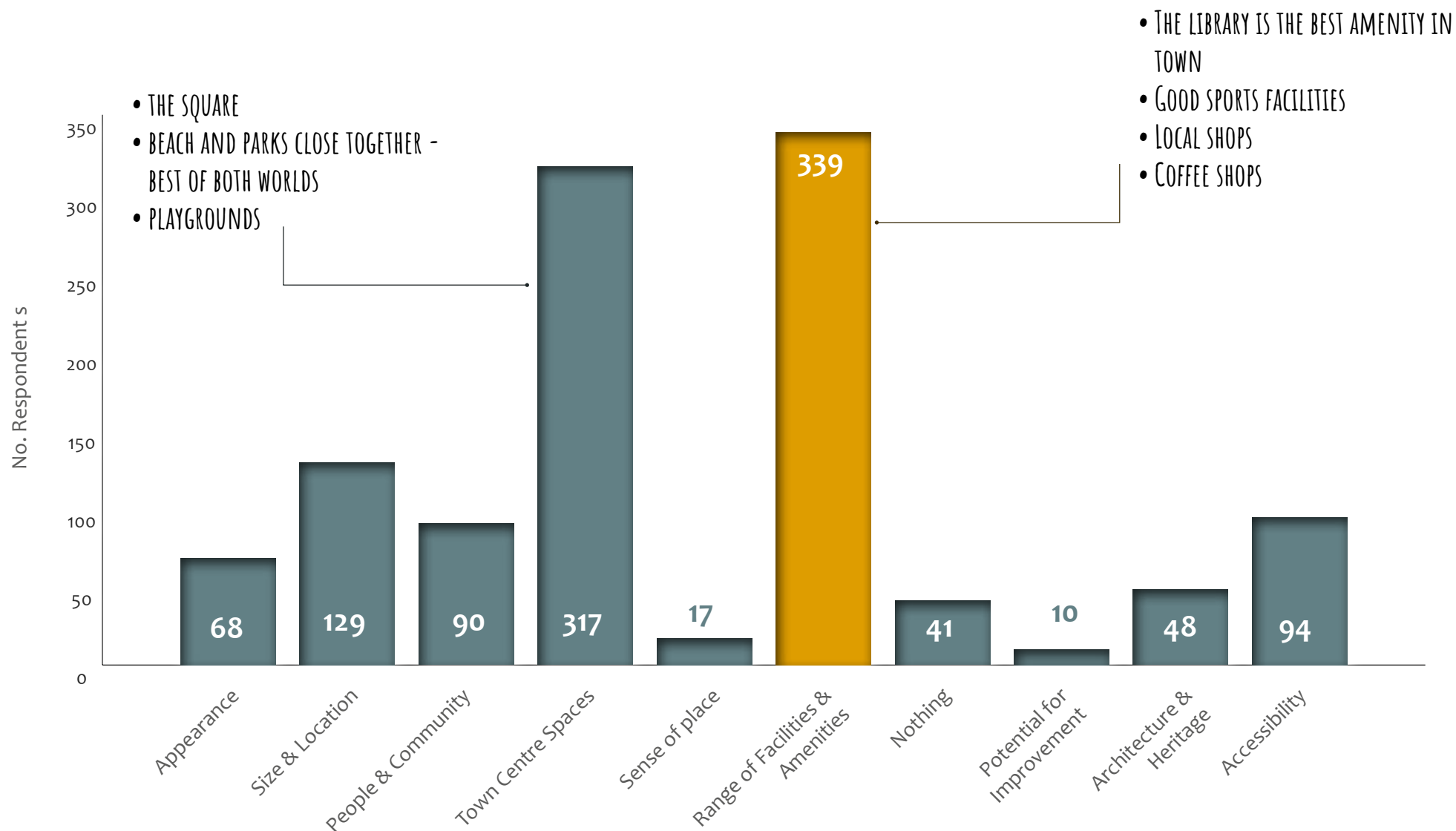
Like 1

## Q5 What three things do you **like** about Balbriggan town centre at present?



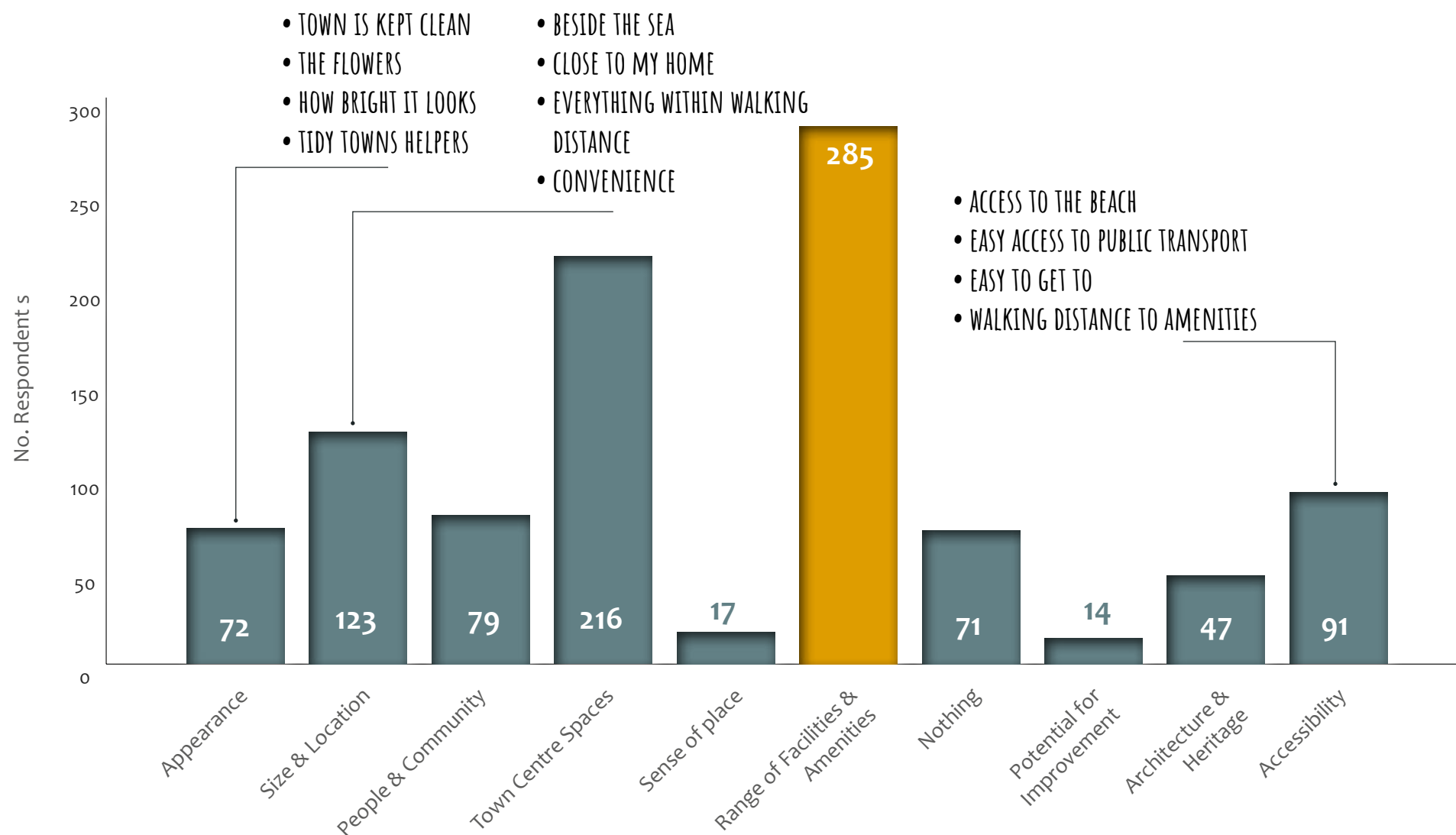
Like 1

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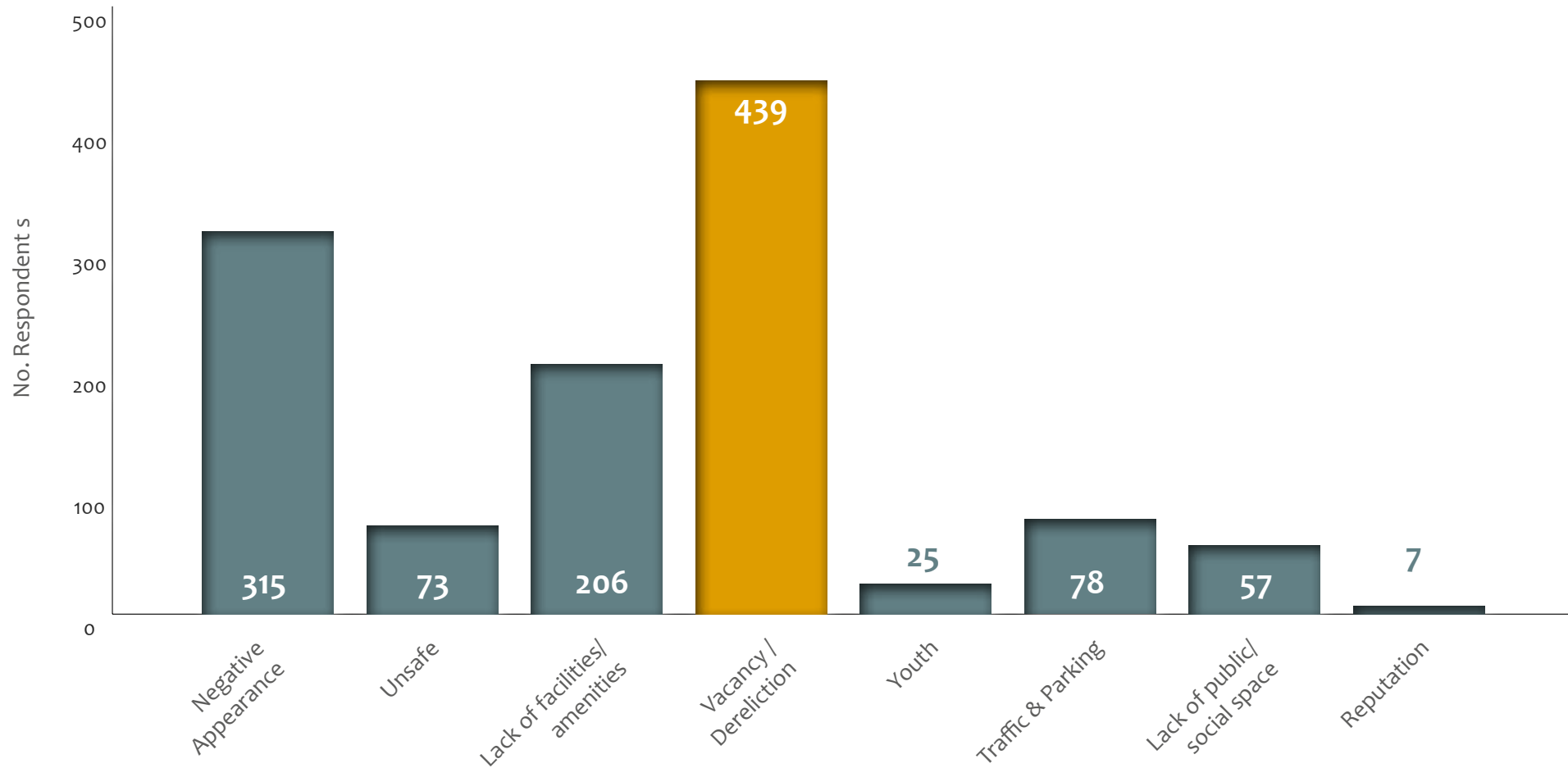




## Q5 What three things do you **like** about Balbriggan town centre at present?

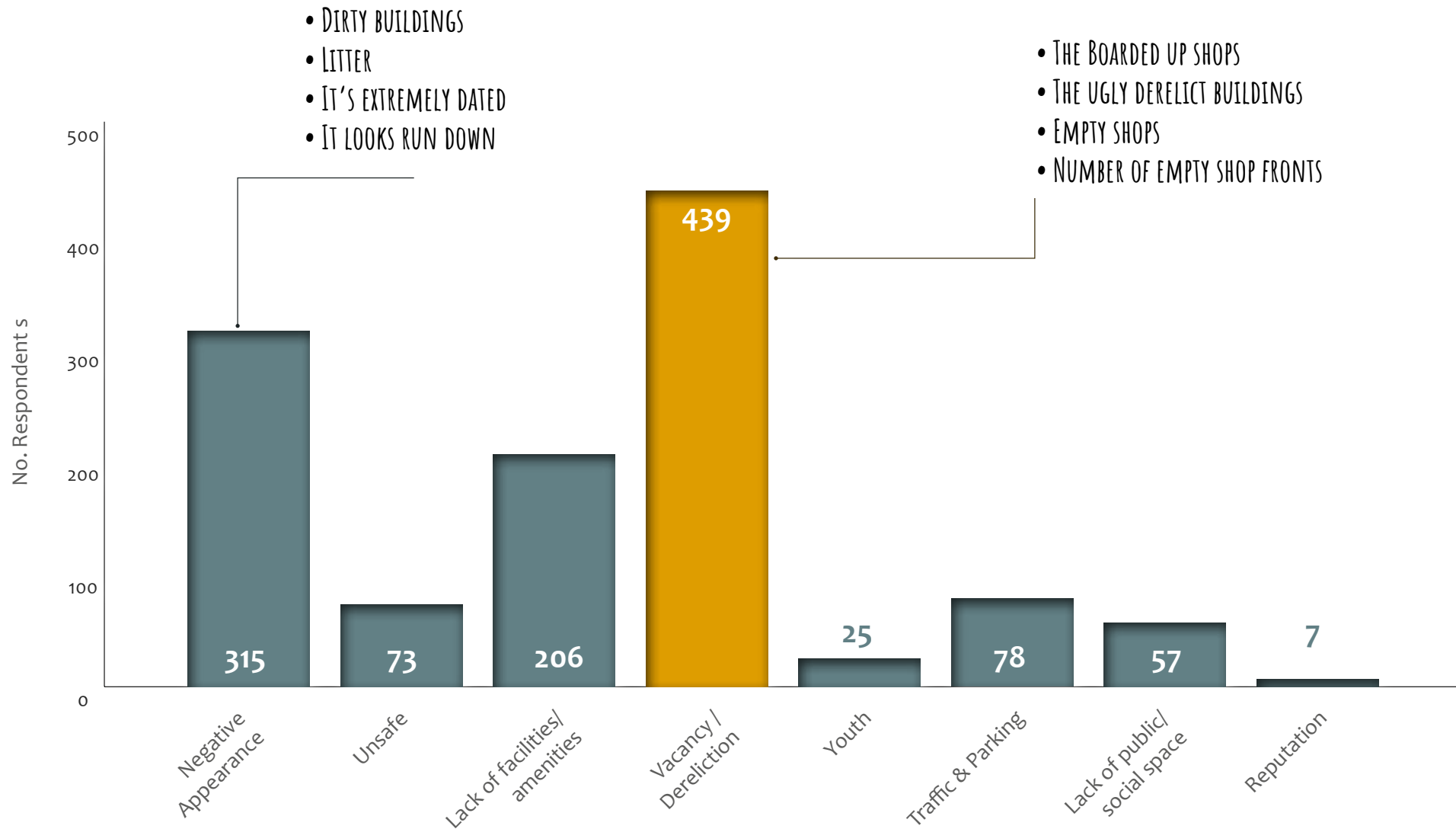


## Q6 What three things do you **dislike** about Balbriggan town centre at present?



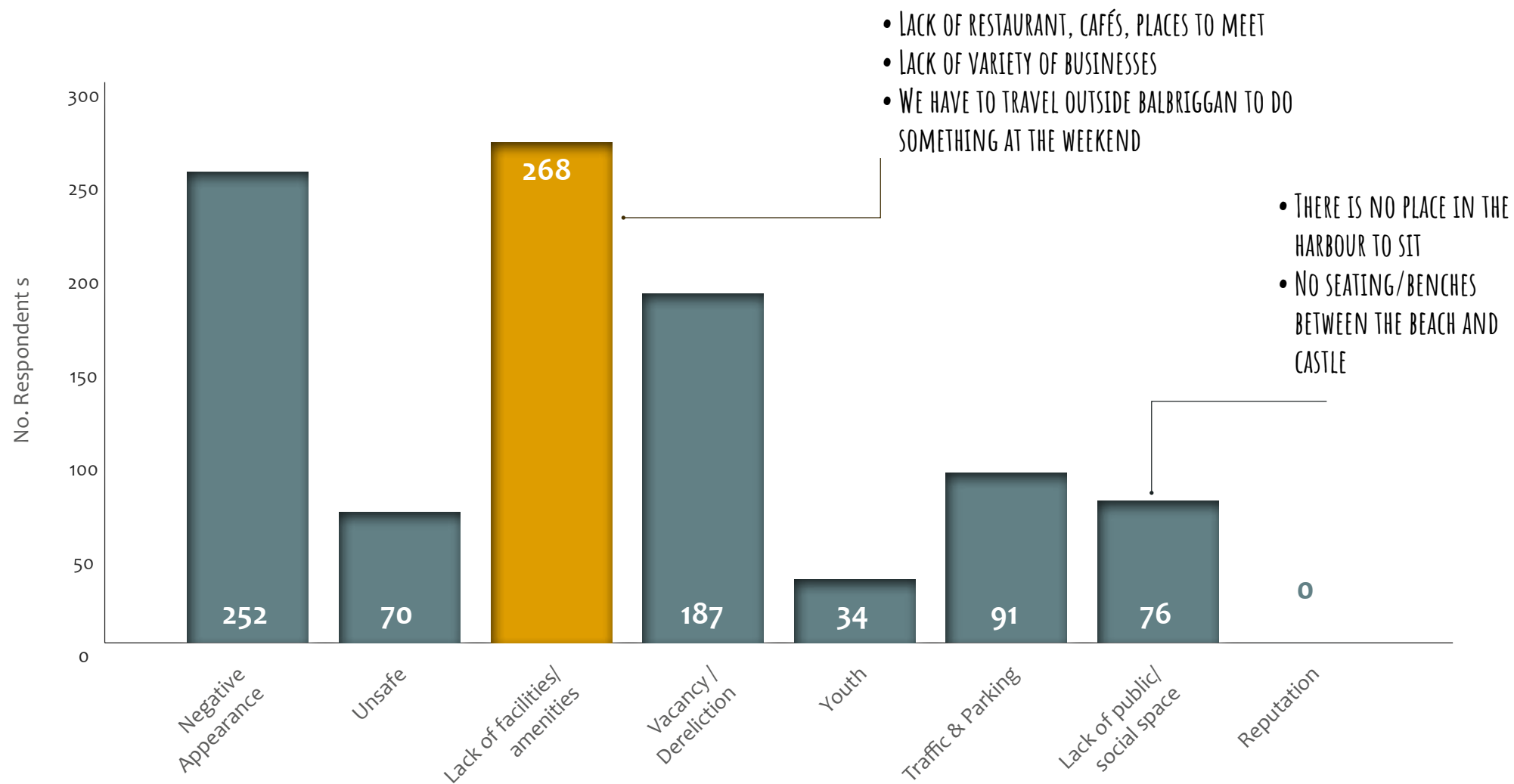
Dislike 1

## Q6 What three things do you **dislike** about Balbriggan town centre at present?



Dislike 1

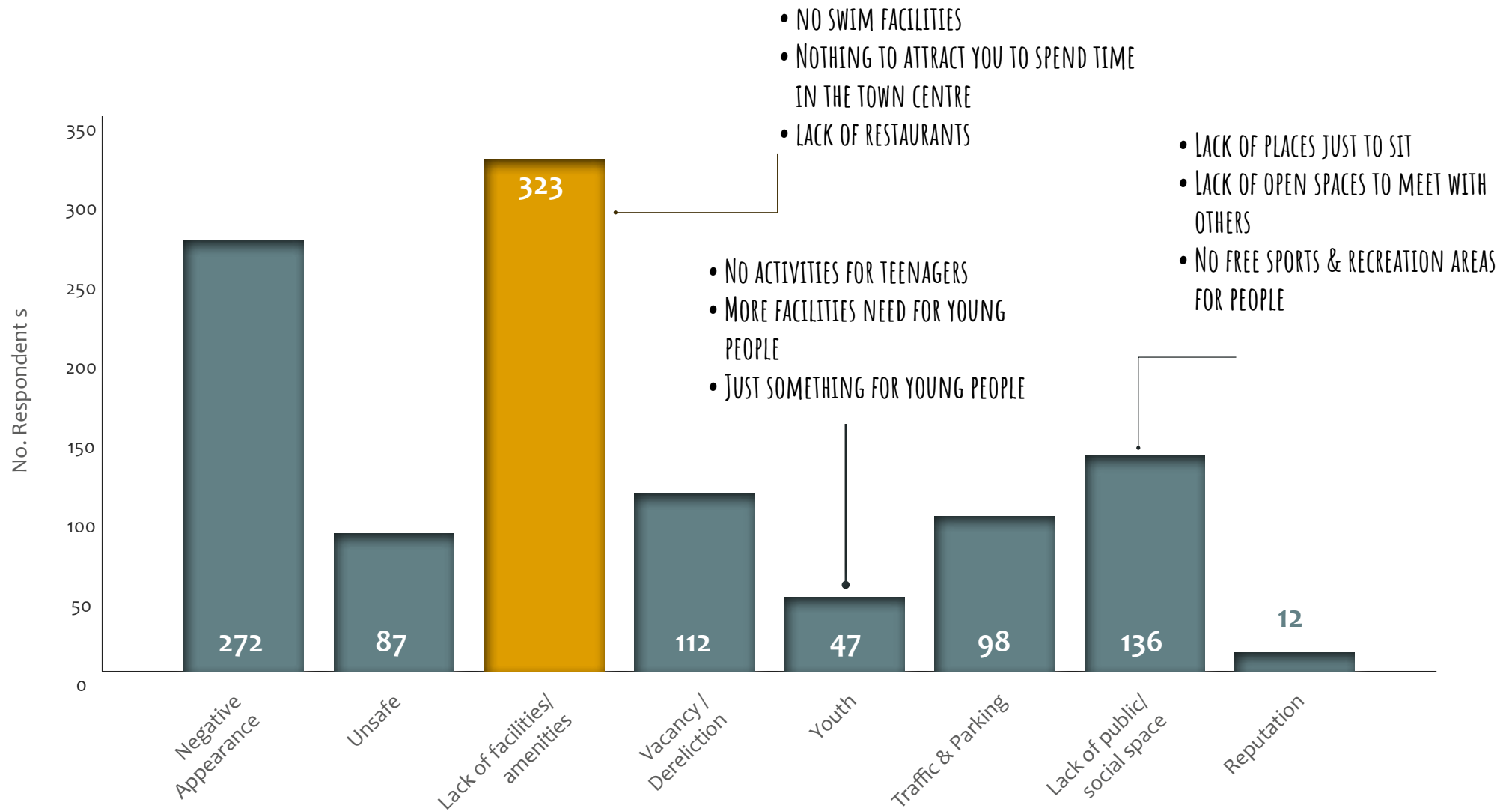
## Q6 What three things do you **dislike** about Balbriggan town centre at present?



Dislike 2



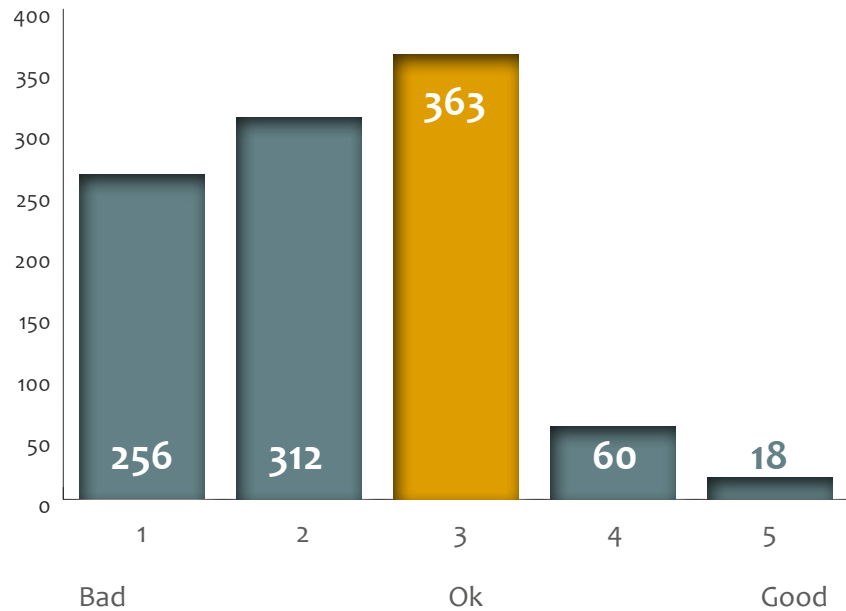
## Q6 What three things do you **dislike** about Balbriggan town centre at present?



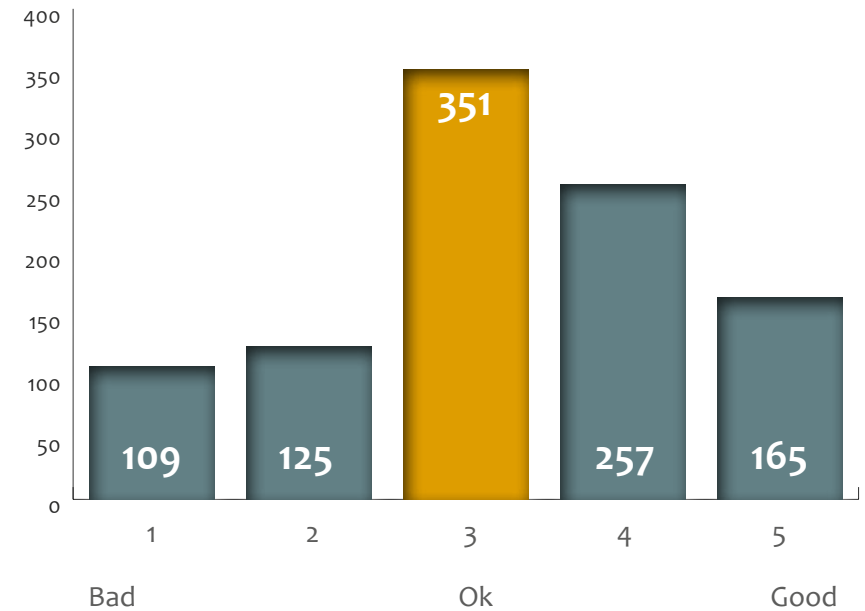
Dislike 3

**Q7** Thinking about Balbriggan Town Centre, please score the following aspects of the existing public realm?

### The Quality of:



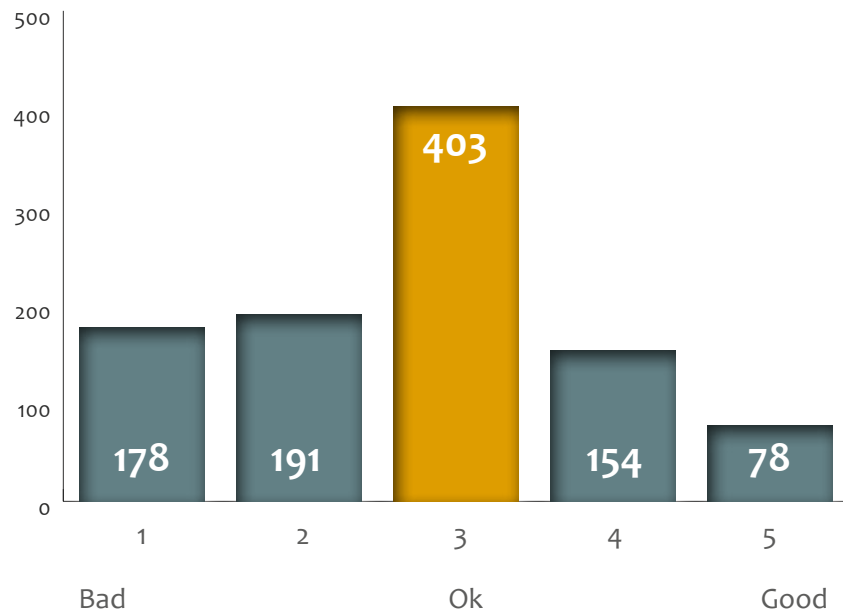
**a. First Impressions**



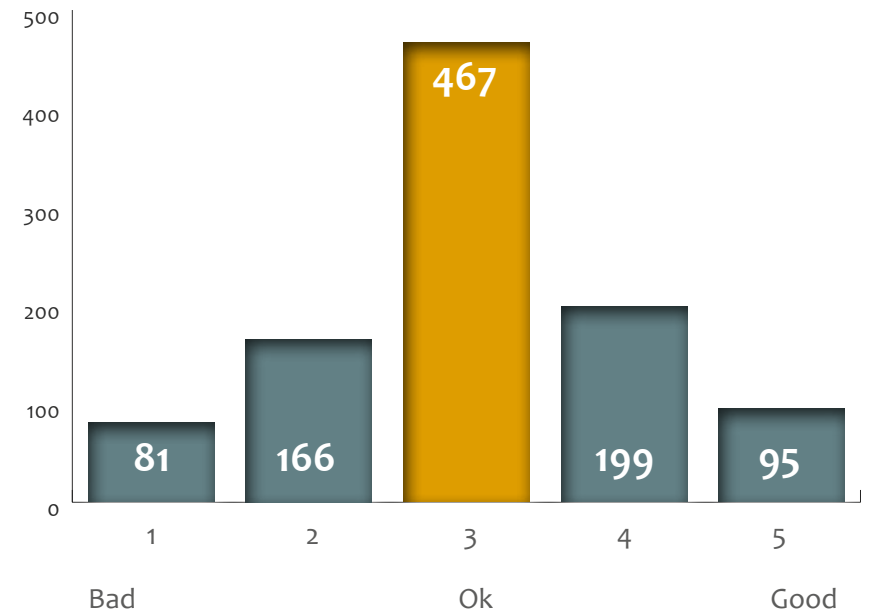
**b. Public Transport Connections**

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### The Quality of:



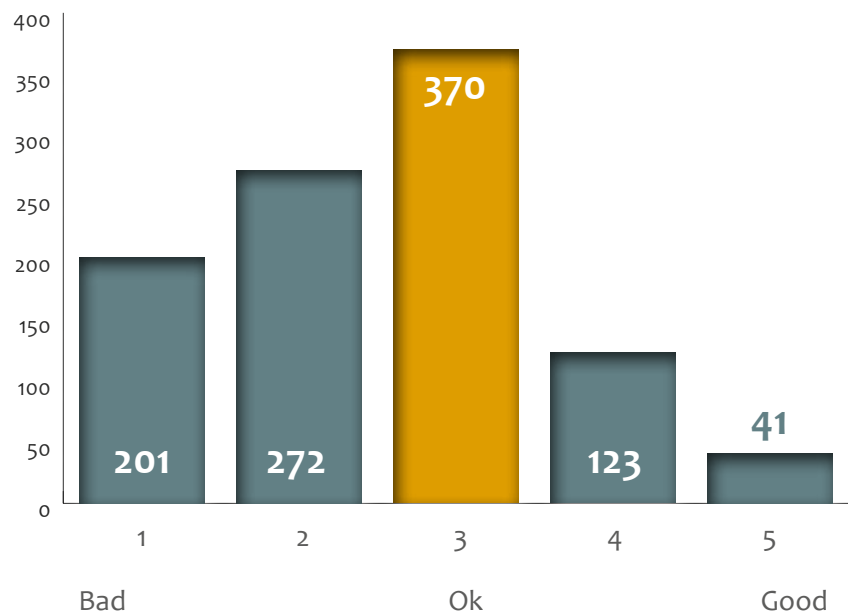
c. Car Parking



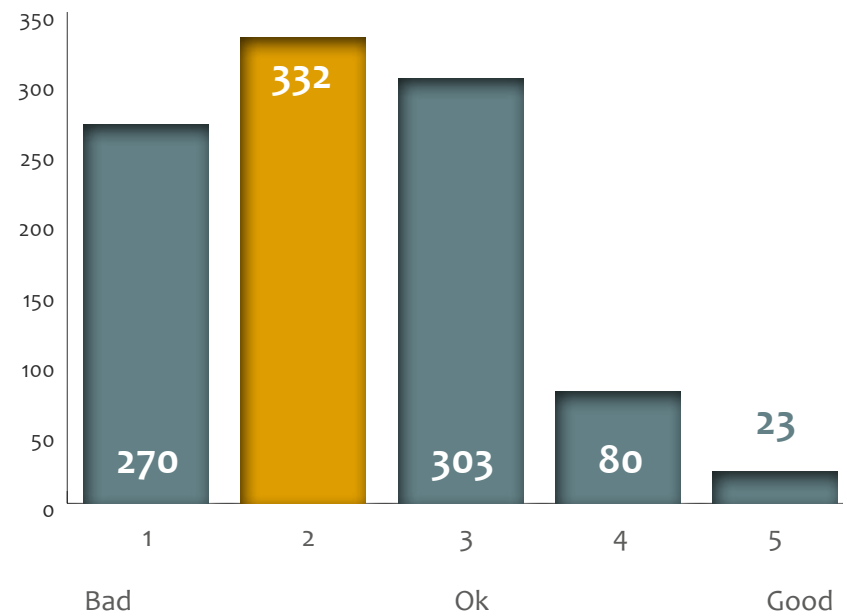
d. Signage and Finding Your Way Around

**Q7** Thinking about Balbriggan Town Centre, please score the following aspects of the existing public realm?

### The Quality of:



**e. Pavements & Footpaths**

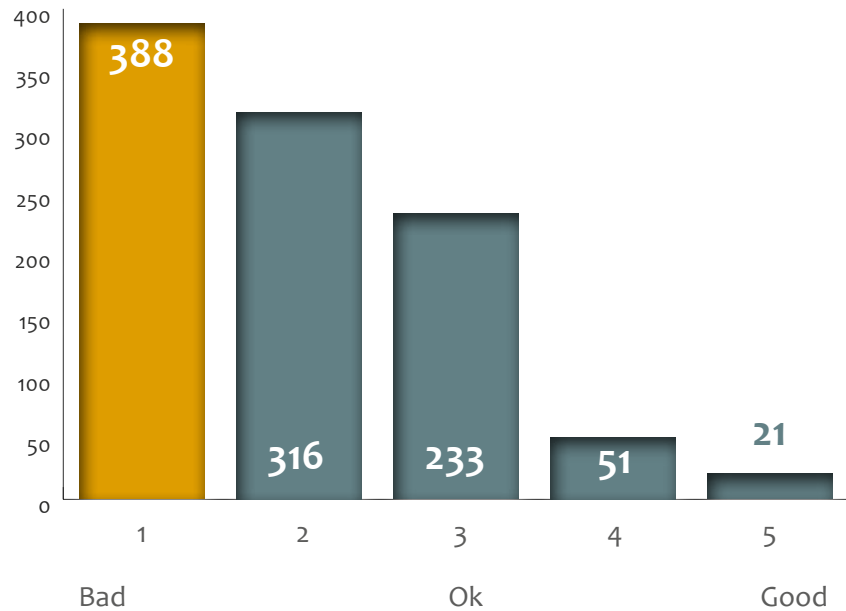


**f. Access for wheelchairs, buggies and those with physical difficulties**

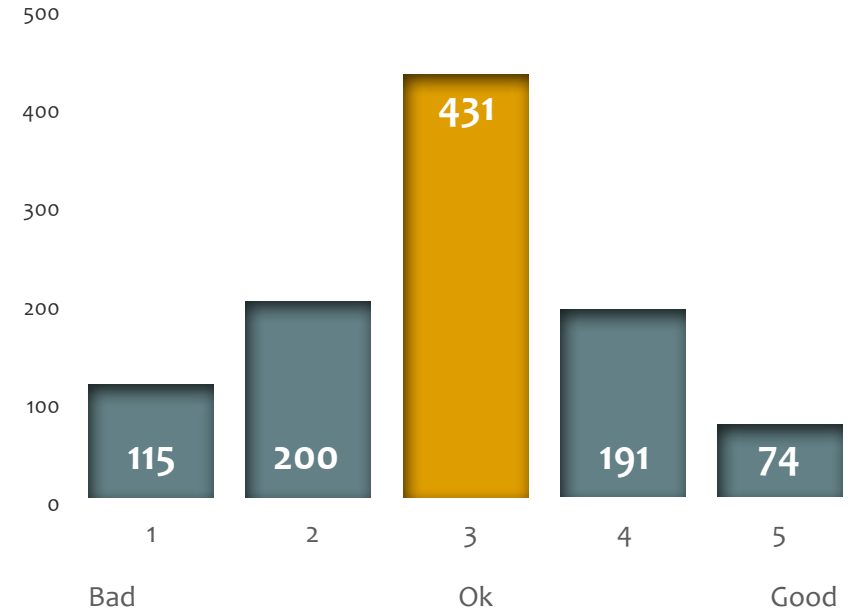


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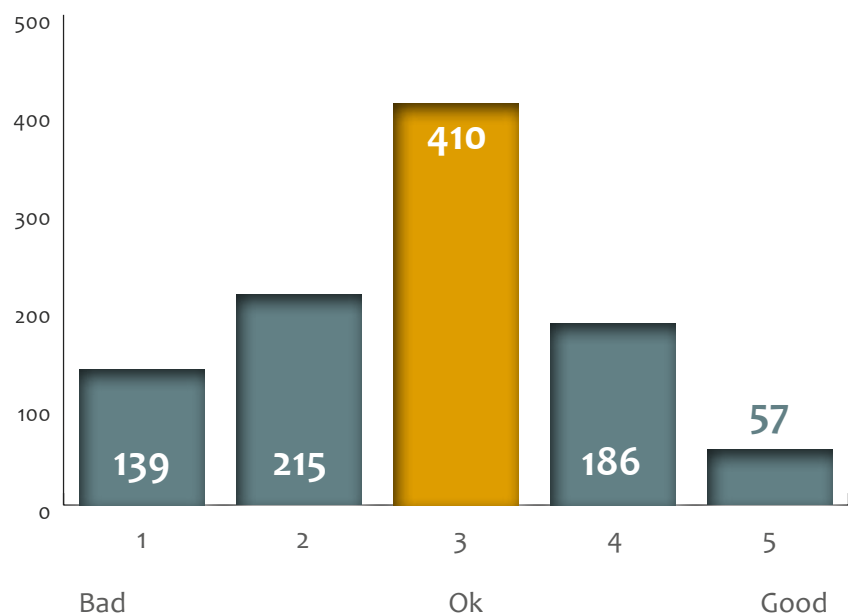
g. Cycle Paths and Facilities



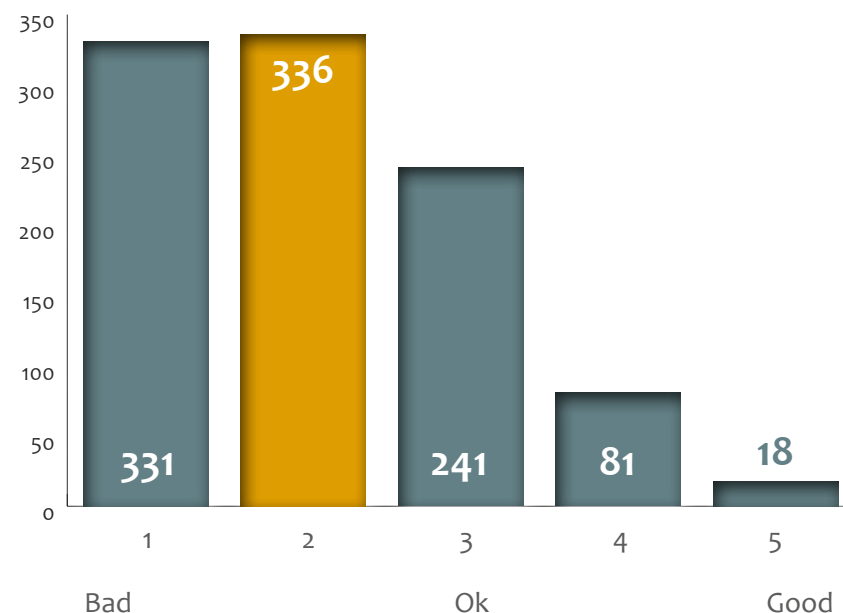
h. Pedestrian Crossings & Road Safety

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### The Quality of:



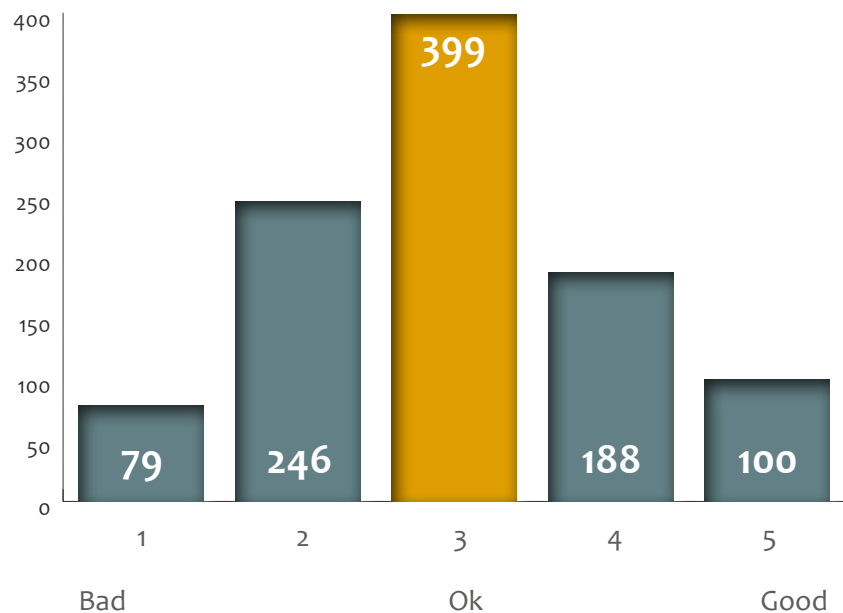
i. Lighting and the town centre after dark



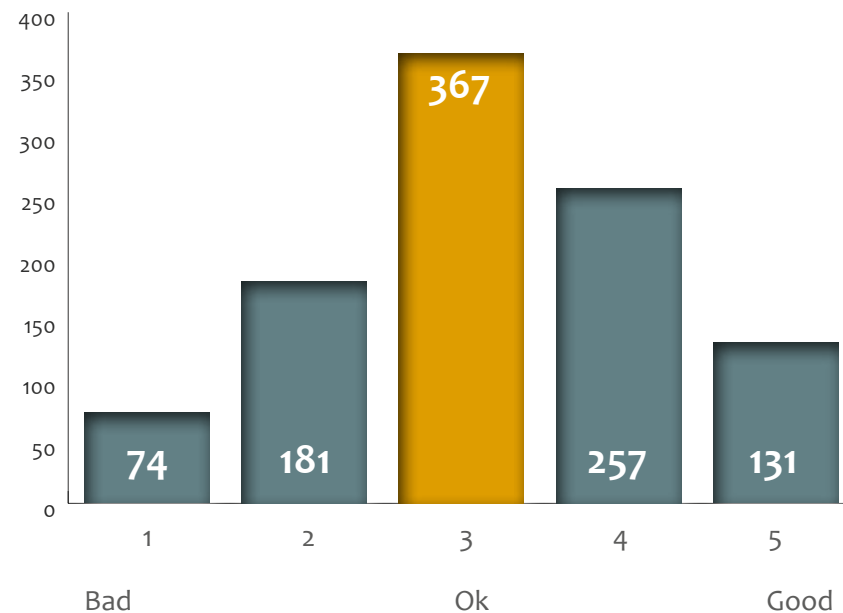
j. Cleanliness and provision of bins

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**Access to:**



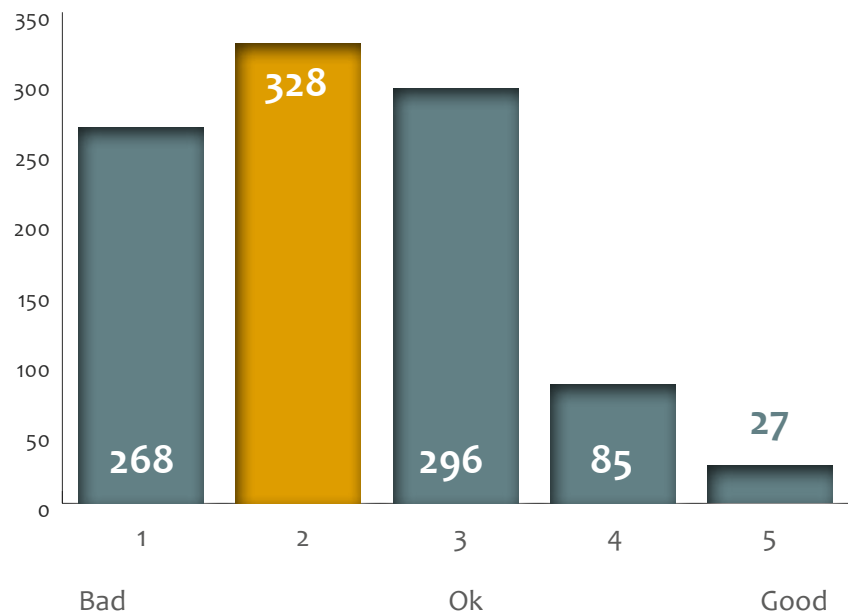
**l. Parks and other green spaces**



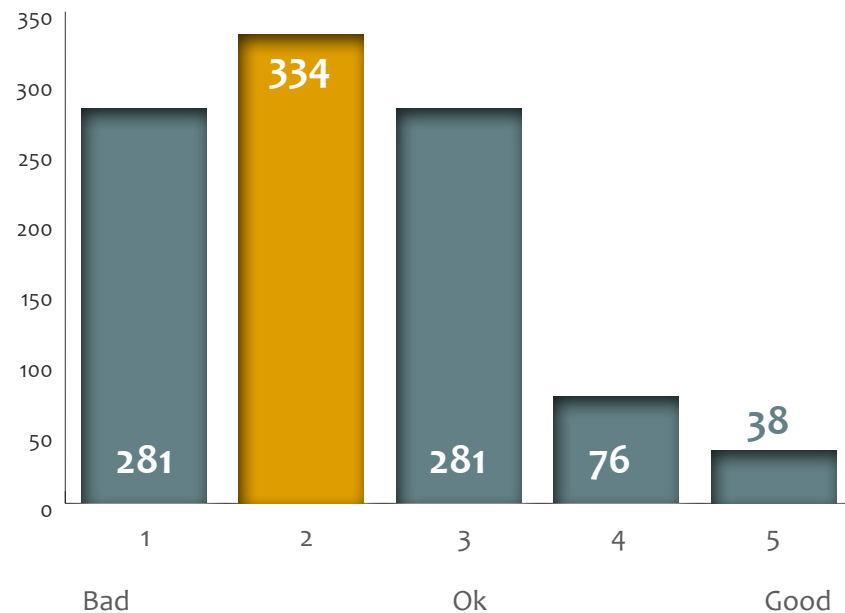
**m. The beach and other blue spaces**

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**Access to:**



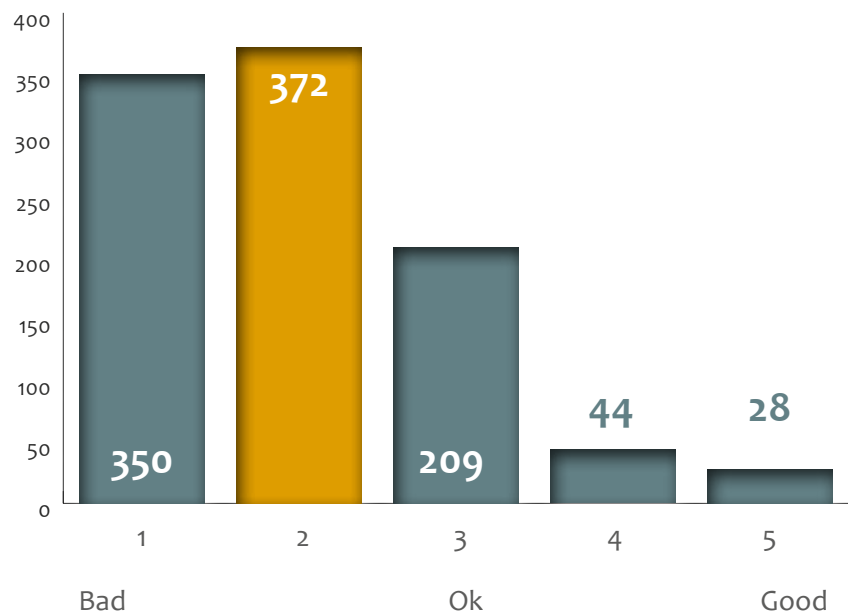
**n. Squares and car free pedestrian spaces**



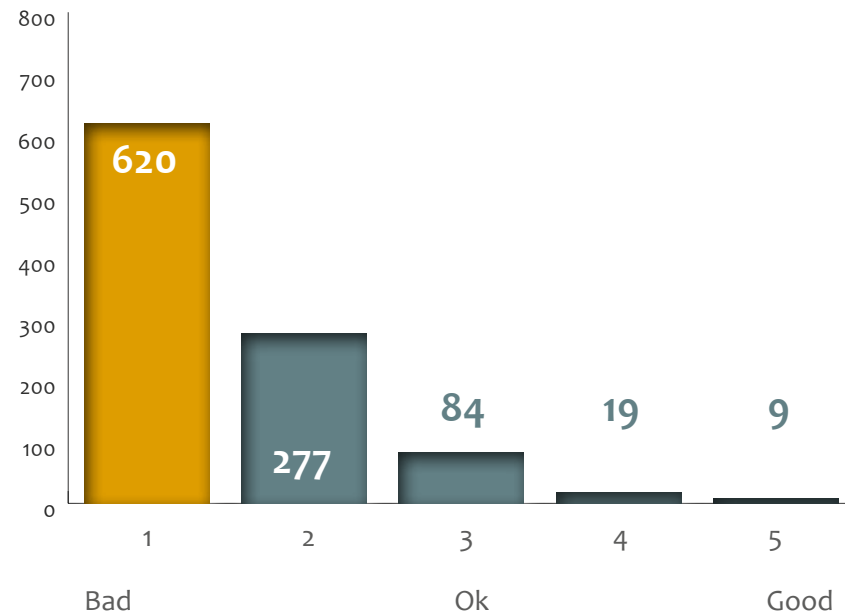
**o. Natural spaces -  
wildlife habitats and biodiversity**

**Q7** Thinking about Balbriggan Town Centre, please score the following aspects of the existing public realm?

**Access to:**



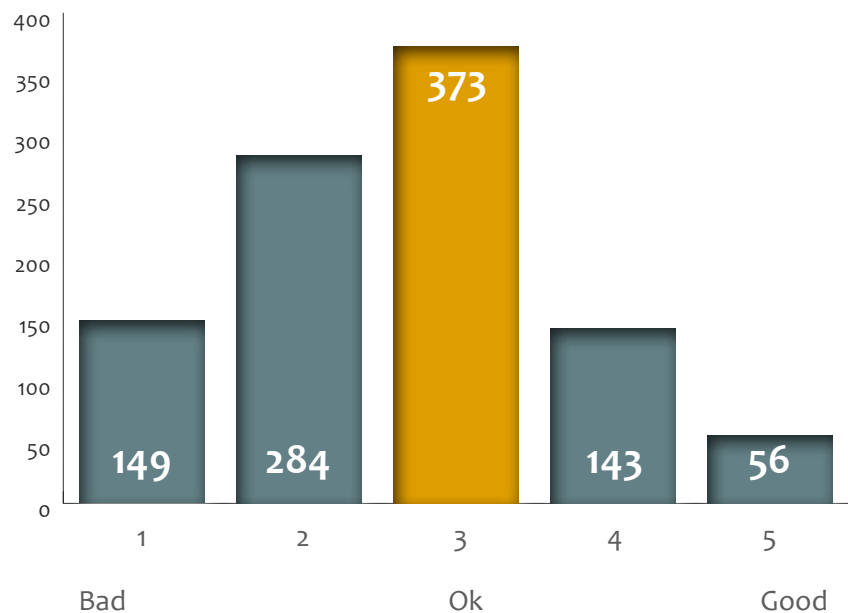
**p. Places to sit outside (benches etc)**



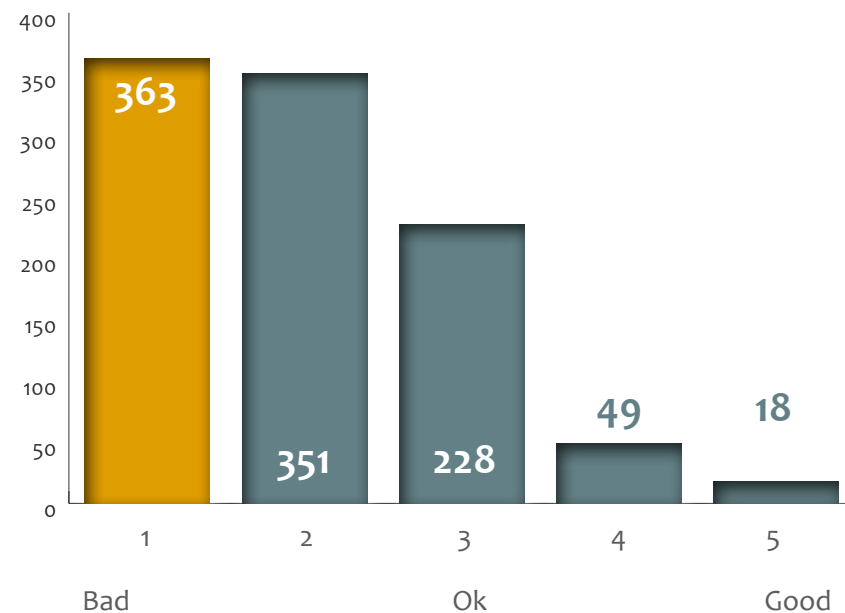
**q. Places to eat or drink outside -  
cafes, restaurants etc**

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**Access to:**



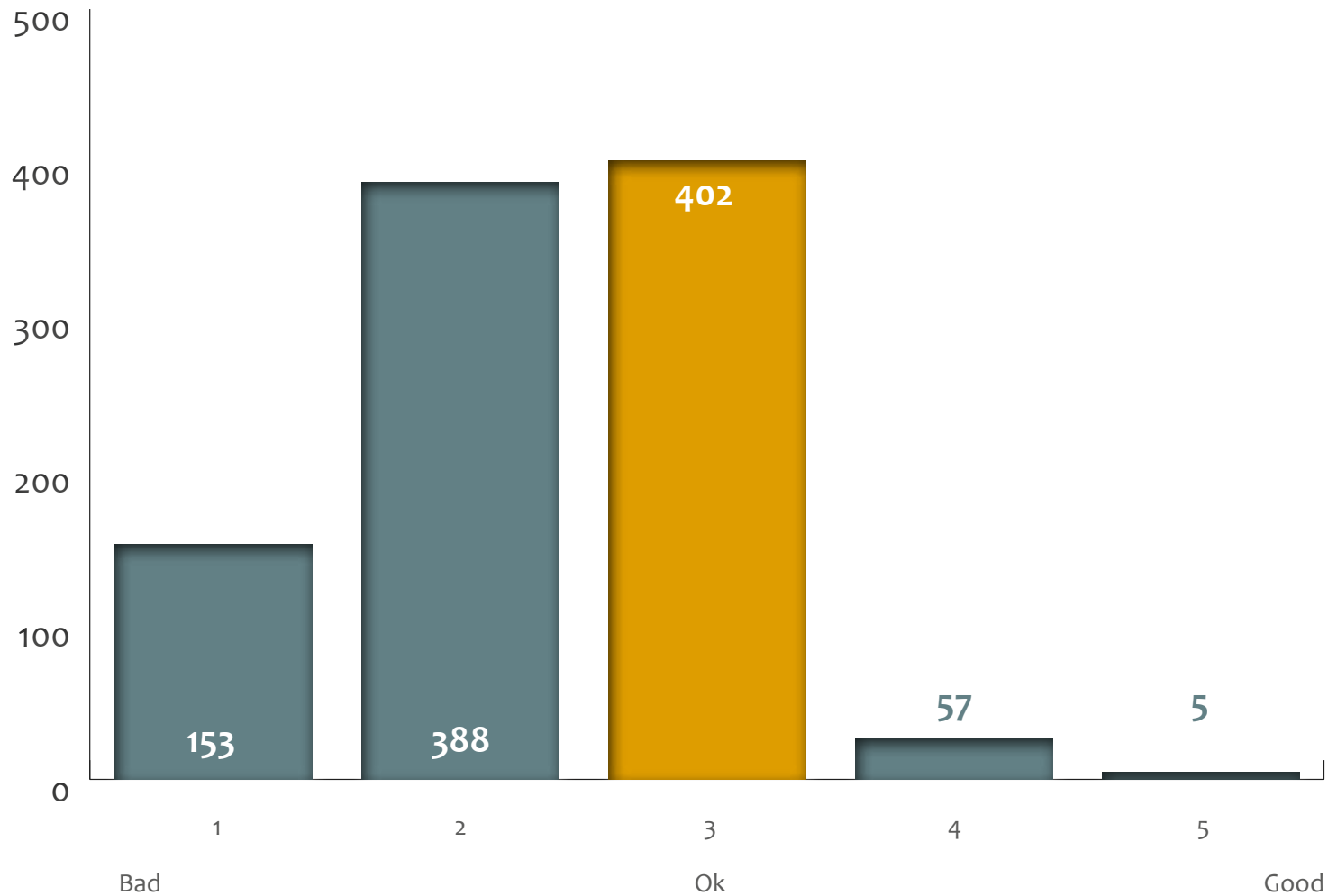
**r. Places to play outside**



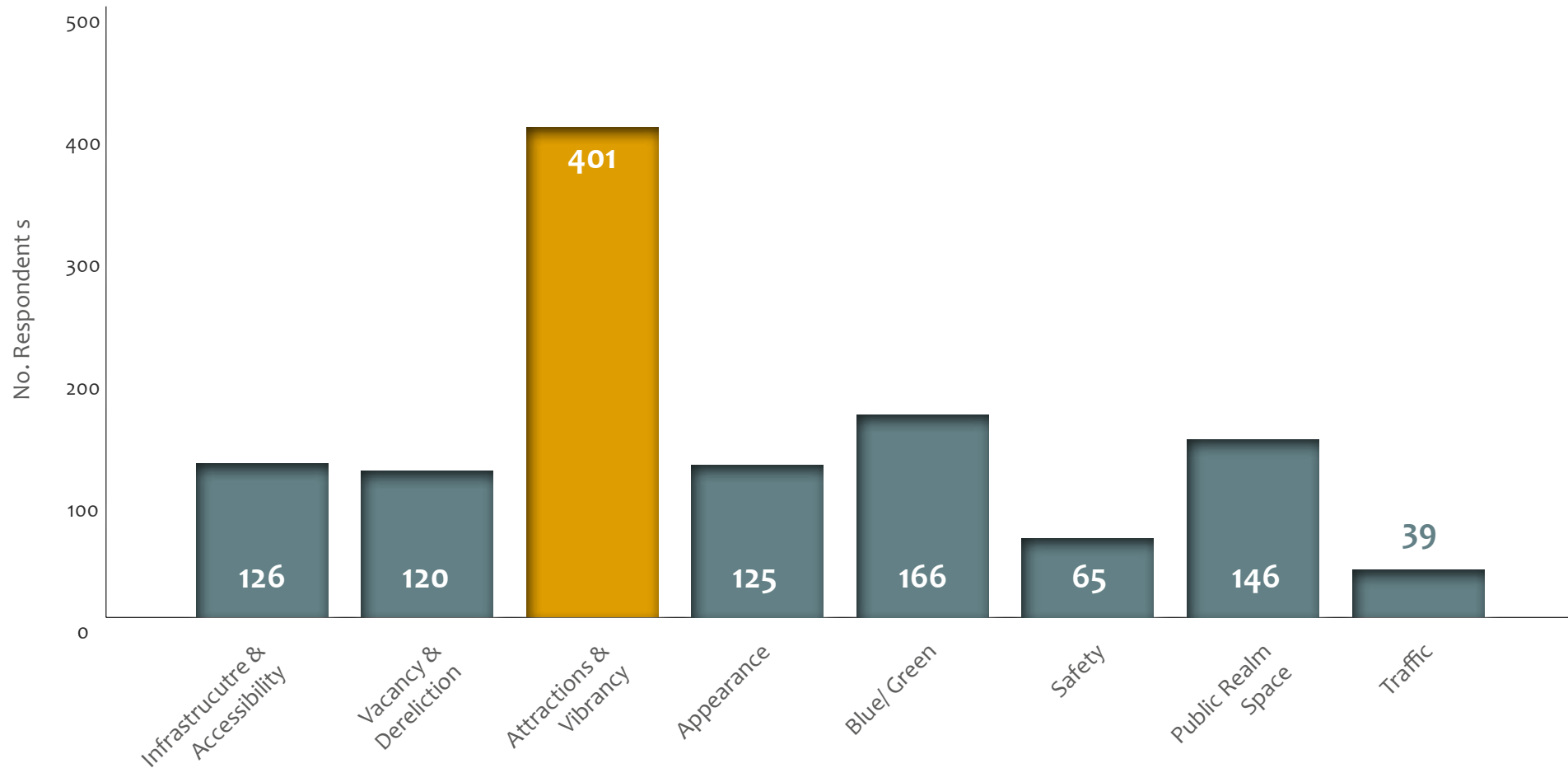
**s. Places for events outside**



**Q8** Overall, how would you rate the quality of Balbriggan's public realm at present?



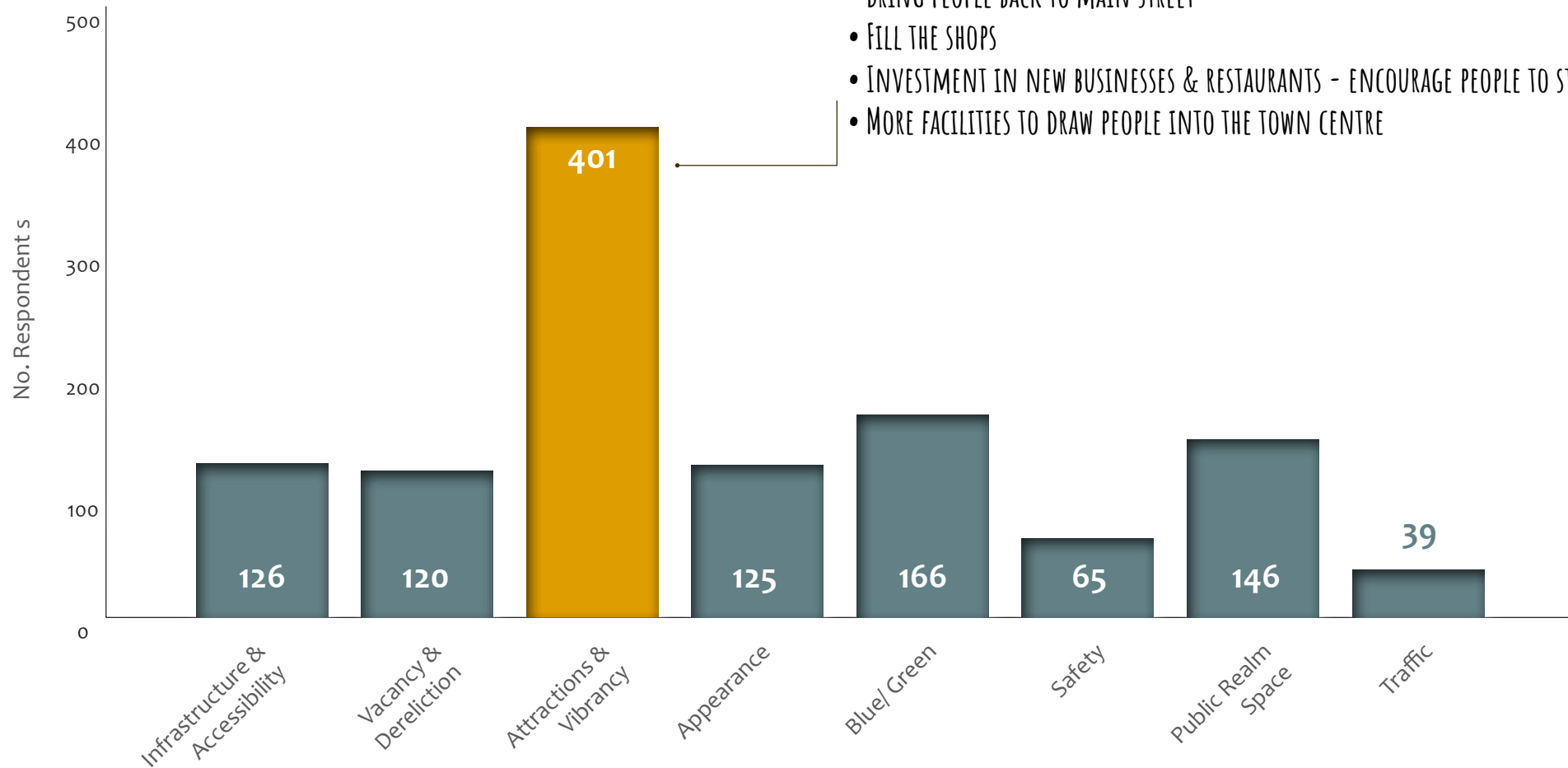
## Q9 What are your top 3 priorities for Balbriggan's Town Centre Public Realm?



Priority 1

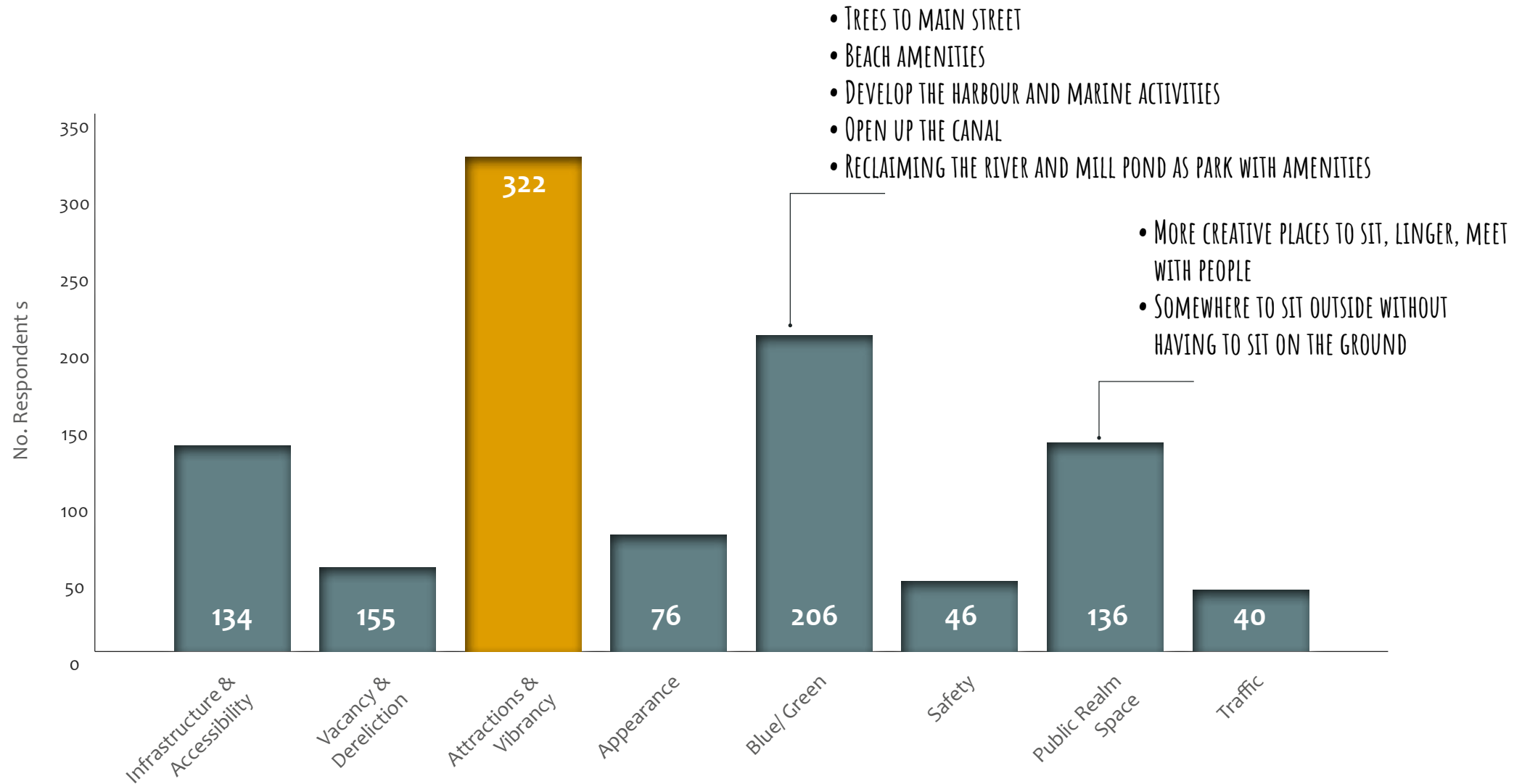
## Q9 What are your top 3 priorities for Balbriggan's Town Centre Public Realm?

- MORE OUTDOOR DINING
- TIDAL POOL/SWIMMING POOL
- BRING PEOPLE BACK TO MAIN STREET
- FILL THE SHOPS
- INVESTMENT IN NEW BUSINESSES & RESTAURANTS - ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO STAY
- MORE FACILITIES TO DRAW PEOPLE INTO THE TOWN CENTRE



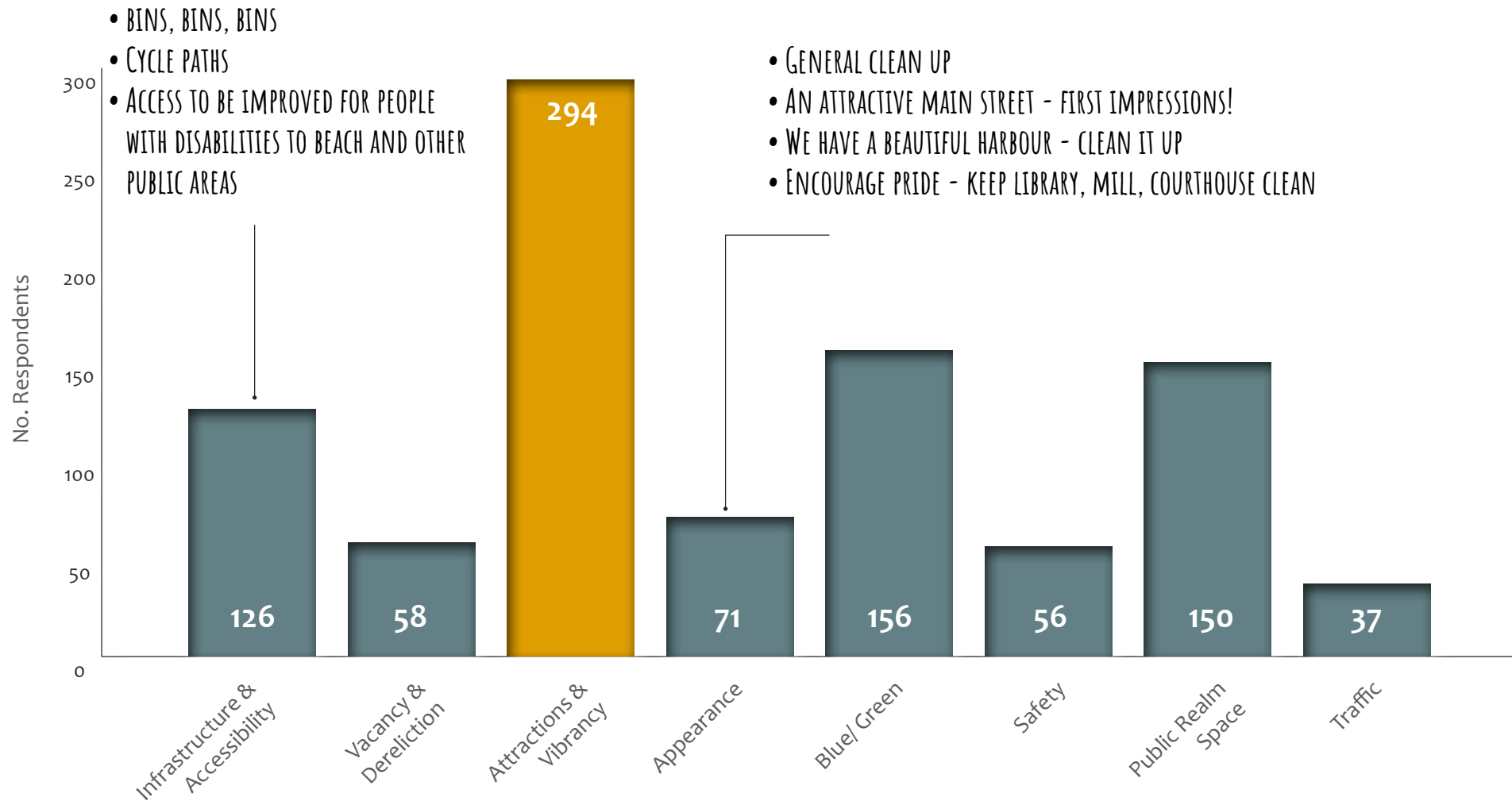
Priority 1

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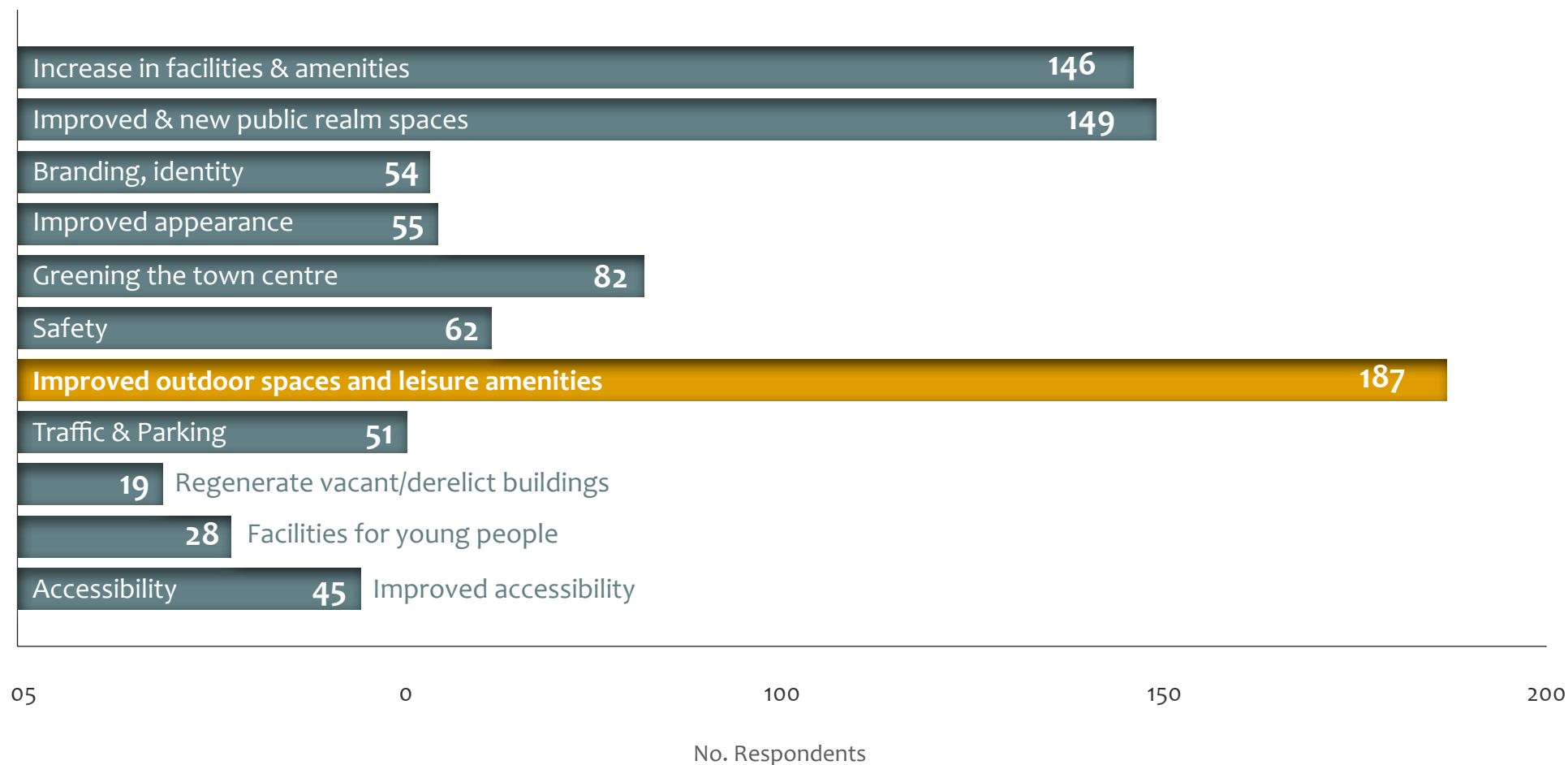
### Priority 2

## Q9 What are your top 3 priorities for Balbriggan's Town Centre Public Realm?



Priority 3

## Q10 Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for Balbriggan's streets and public spaces?





## Q10 Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for Balbriggan's streets and public spaces?

### Improved outdoor spaces and leisure amenities

187 responses

- A BOARD WALK ONTO THE SAND FOR WHEELCHAIR, BUGGY ACCESS
- SWIM PLATFORM AND TIDAL POOL ON THE BEACH
- NEED FOR MORE OPEN GREEN SPACES, ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUNDS
- MORE SPACES FOR OUTDOOR SOCIALISING AND COVERED TO ENSURE THEIR USABILITY ALL YEAR. GREATER PROVISION FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE TO USE SPACES. MORE LIGHTING IN BEACH AREA AT NIGHT
- USE THE COASTLINE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE COMMUNITY

### Increase in facilities and amenities

146 responses

- FARMERS MARKET, POP UP SHOPS
- MORE OUTDOOR DINING/COFFEE SPACE
- STOP ADDING BARBERS AND FAST FOOD SHOPS
- GET COMMERCE REVIVED IN THE TOWN AND PUBLIC SPACES WILL IMPROVE
- WE NEED A WEEKLY CRAFT+ORGANIC MARKET
- MORE SMALL LOCAL SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS

## Q10 Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for Balbriggan's streets and public spaces?

### Improved & new public realm spaces

149 responses

- PEDESTRIANISE PARTS OF THE MAIN STREET FOR OUTDOOR DINING. BUSKERS AND SHOPPERS
- OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY IS AN EXAMPLE OF A FAILED PUBLIC SPACE, DISSUADING PEOPLE TO USE IT WHEREAS QUAY STREET PARK HAS GREEN SPACE TO GIVE RELIEVE TO PEOPLE TO MOVE OFF THE BEACH AND ENJOY A PICNIC ON THE GRASS, SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC SPACE THAT SHOULD BE ENLARGED
- REPAIR PAVEMENTS
- IMPROVE OUTDOOR SEATING

### Greening the Town Centre

82 responses

- MORE TREES
- MORE GREEN
- THINK OF WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY
- FOLLOW SUIT OF WHAT OTHER TOWNS HAVE DONE. EXTEND PATH WIDTH. ALLOW OUTDOOR AREAS FOR FOOD AND DRINK. INCORPORATE PLANTING INTO THE NEW DIVIDERS

Our Balbriggan

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