

Rough Sleepers

Survey themes

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Do you feel safe?			Are Rough Sleepers a problem, if at all?		Qualitative detail - Rough Sleepers		In favour of PSPO - Rough Sleepers?	
safe	During the day	86.40%	not a very big problem/not a problem at all	63.10%	Positive	The approach outlined seems reasonable and compassionate	No	55.50%
	Early evening	86.40%						
	After dark	53.50%						
unsafe			fairly big problem/big problem	29.20%	Negative	Criminising the vulnerable is wrong, moving the problem elsewhere could be dangerous, local government/government at fault. MBC should be providing shelter	Yes	37.70%
	During the day	2.40%						
	Early evening	2.40%						
	After dark	13.10%						
(not answered/don't know)		Day - 11.3%/ Eve -24.4%/ Dark -33.3%		7.75%				6.80%

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Demographic/equality information on respondents							
Live in the borough	Live in the area affected by the PSPO	Male	female	Age group	Disability yes/no	Religion	Ethnicity
Yes - 70.2%	Yes - 17.7%	41.90%	58%	Under 16 - 0.7%, 16-24 - 6.4%, 25-34 - 17.9%, 35-44 - 22.9%, 45-64 - 34.3%, 65-74 - 14.3%, 75 or over - 3.6%	Yes - 87.5% No - 12.5%	Christian - 39.4%, Buddist - 2.4%, Hindu - 0, Sikh-0, Jewish - 0, Muslim 0.8%, 40.2%, Prefer not to say - 17.3%	White Bristish - 98.3%.Irish 1.7%. Asian/Asian British - Indian 33.3%, Pakistani 0), Bangledeshi - 33.3%, Chinese - 33.3%, Black/ Black Briitish - Afrian - 0%, Carribbean - 0% Mixed - white/black Carribbean - 0%, White/Black/African 0%, White/Asian - 100%
No - 13.9%							

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And how it compares to actual picture for Maidstone...
Population - 161,000 (nomis)
Male - 79,000 (49.38%) (nomis)
Female - 81,900 (50.62%) (nomis)
Disabled population - 4,700 (2.9%) (nomis)
Region - 62.9% Christian, 26.2% No religion, 1.1% Muslim, 1.0% Hindu, 0.6% Buddhist, 0.1% Sikh, 0.1% Jewish, 0.1% Agnostic. 11,043 people did not state a religion. 627 - Jedi Knight and 14 people- Heavy Metal (2011 Census)
Ethnicity - 88.6% of people living in Maidstone were born in England. Other top answers for country of birth were 1.1% Scotland, 0.8% Wales, 0.5% South Africa, 0.5% Ireland, 0.5% India, 0.3% Northern Ireland, 0.3% Hong Kong , 0.2% Zimbabwe, 0.2% United States (2011 Census)

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Qualitative detail:

This enters dangerous territory of criminalising people who need support and help.	The town centre is relatively safe and warm. Driving homeless and often sick residents into dark and cold outlying areas will cost lives.
It is immoral to criminalise people who are homeless and are forced to sleep rough especially when this is a failure of local government to provide adequate housing or central government to address mental health needs / provide appropriate benefits.	The approach you outline above seems reasonable and compassionate enough to advise and assist, even though we know there maybe some individuals who choose this lifestyle. But their behaviour does make some people feel unsafe.