

St. David's Community Survey



February 2022



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Department of Planning

BLDC

BERMUDA LAND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

St. David's Community Survey 2021

Introduction

In 2021, the Department of Planning embarked on a community planning initiative, the aim being to focus planning efforts at a community and neighbourhood scale, and to create Community Plans which would better enable community needs to be addressed. These Community Plans would complement the island-wide Bermuda Plan and help to provide ongoing updates to the Bermuda Plan.

St. David's was chosen to be Bermuda's first community planning area. This aligned well with a new approach being taken at the Bermuda Land Development Company (BLDC) to engage more intently with the St. David's community to ensure that BLDC's efforts in Southside reflect the needs of the St. David's community as well as the rest of the Island. As such, a collaboration between the Department of Planning and BLDC commenced, and in September 2021 the Department of Planning's Senior Planning Officer (Forward Planning) was seconded to BLDC to oversee the preparation of a St. David's Community Plan.

Methodology

The first step in preparing a Community Plan for St. David's was to ask the community their views about St. David's. A short online survey was designed comprising 11 questions. The survey examined what St. David's residents and visitors most like about St. David's, what they least like, and what suggestions they have for improvements in St. David's.

A key objective of the St. David's Community Survey was to gain a representative sample from the St. David's community in terms of responses from residents of St. David's and visitors to St. David's, input from residents living in different residential communities/postcode areas, and input from residents and visitors of different age cohorts.

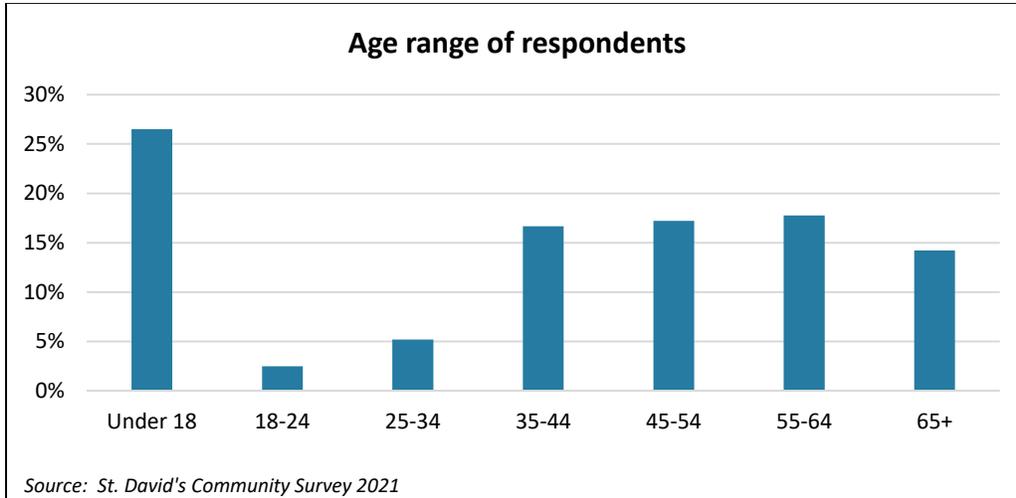
The survey was launched on 10th November 2021 and open until 17th December 2021. A video was produced to promote St. David's and to invite community engagement and participation in the community survey, and postcards were sent to every address in St. David's with a link to the survey. The community survey was promoted on two morning radio talk shows as well as on social media, including the Department of Planning and BLDC websites and facebook pages, and the Government's online consultation hub, the Bermuda Citizens' Forum. In addition, emails were sent to key stakeholder groups in St. David's including BLDC tenants, Clearwater Middle School, the St. David's Historical Society and St. David's Cricket Club.

Results

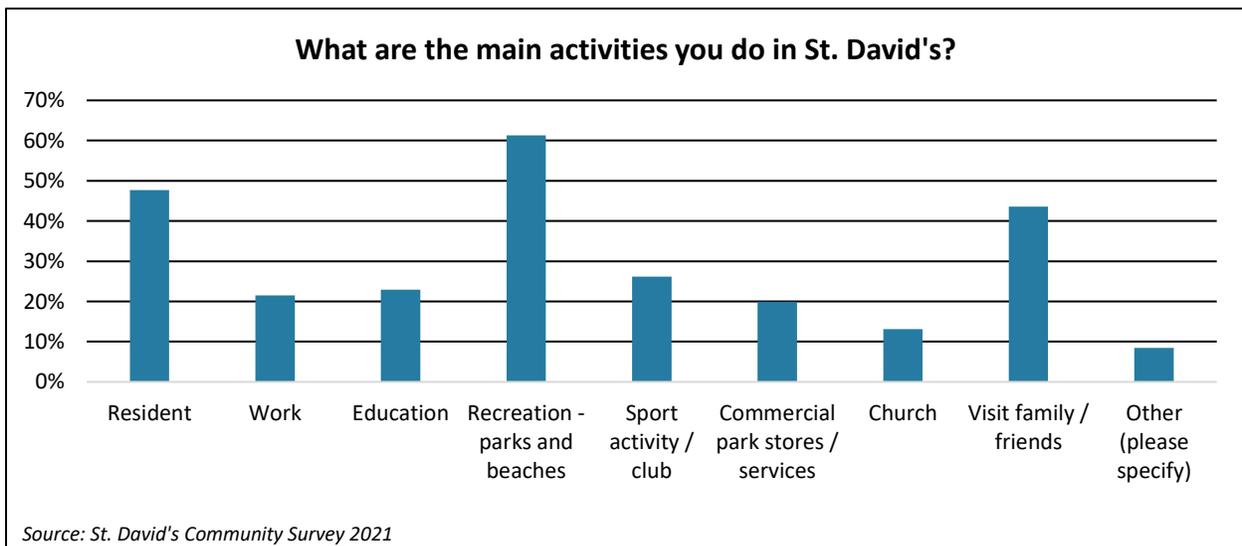
There were a total of 373 responses to the St. David's Community Survey. Over half of responses (215 or 58%) were from St. David's residents which represents just under 10% of the resident population of St. David's. The remaining 42% of responses were from 'visitors' to St. David's.

Nearly half of the St. David's residents who responded to the survey live in the DD01 postcode area, while 28% live in the DD02 postcode area and 23% live in the DD03 postcode area. This provides a reasonable representation of responses from the different residential communities within St. David's.

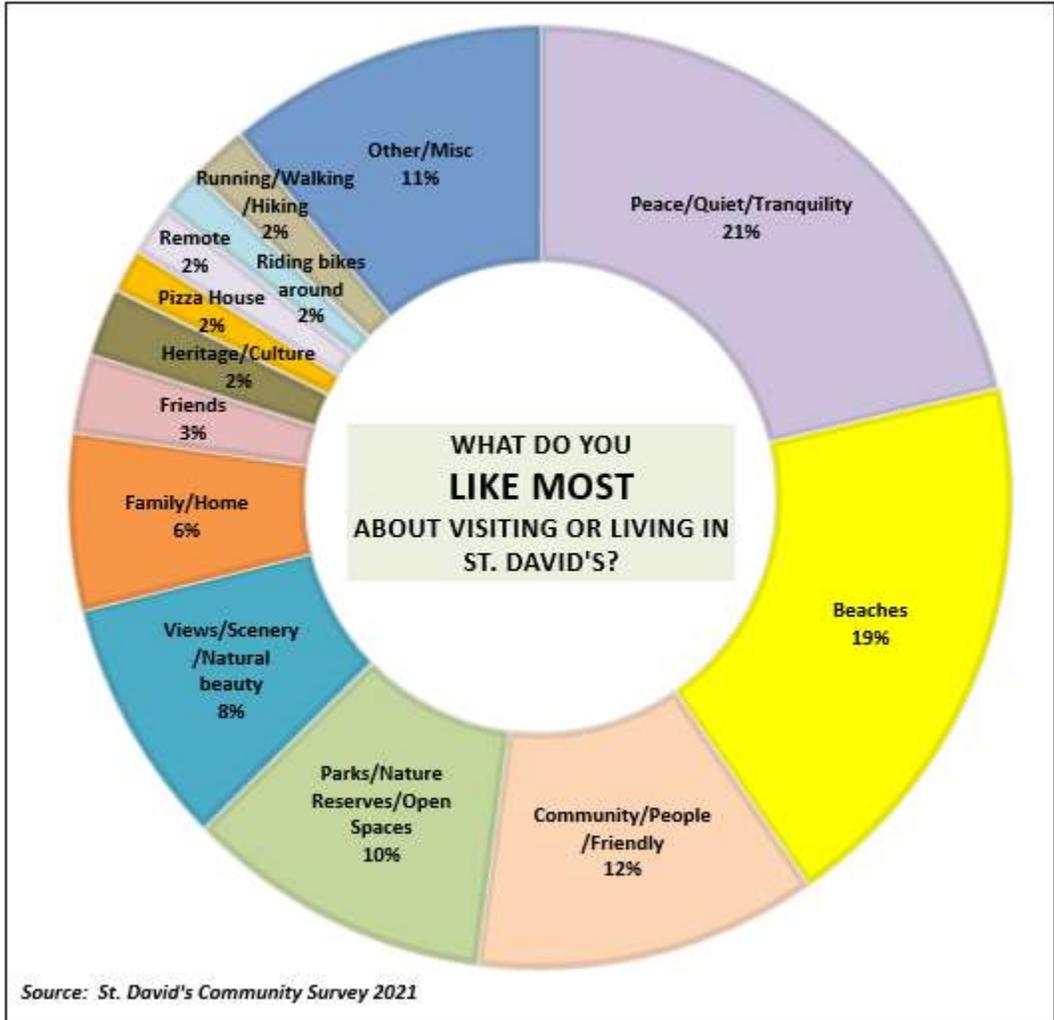
It was encouraging to see so many young persons participating in the community survey, particularly the students at Clearwater Middle School, with a quarter of respondents aged under 18. There was an even distribution of respondents from the 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64 and 65+ age groups; however there was a low response rate from the 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 age groups.



In response to the question 'What are the main activities you do in St. David's', over 60% of respondents said they visit the parks and beaches, and 44% come to St. David's to visit family and friends. Over a quarter of respondents are involved in a sporting activity or club in St. David's. A fifth of respondents visit St. David's for work or education reasons and/or the commercial park.



There were two clear favourites with regard to what respondents like most about visiting or living in St. David's – firstly, the peace/quiet/tranquility and secondly, the beaches. St. David's friendly community, its parks/nature reserves/open spaces, as well as its natural beauty/views/scenery also scored highly.

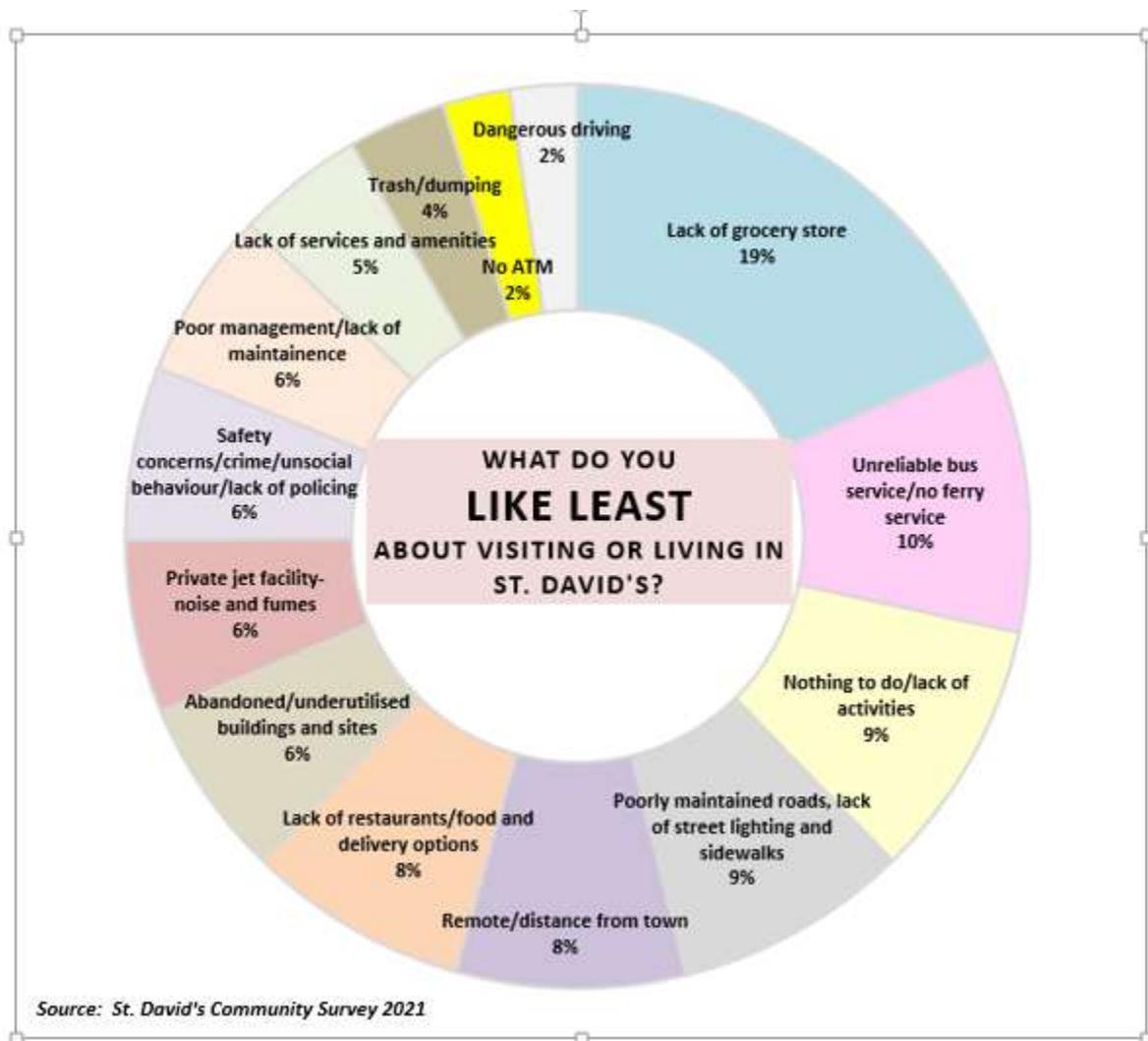


By far the biggest 'dislike' about St. David's is the lack of a grocery store. This received nearly one fifth (19%) of all mentioned dislikes.

Other dislikes ranking highly included unreliable/poor public transport and lack of a ferry service. This ranked particularly highly as a 'dislike' amongst the under 18 year olds who face challenges getting to and from school by bus.

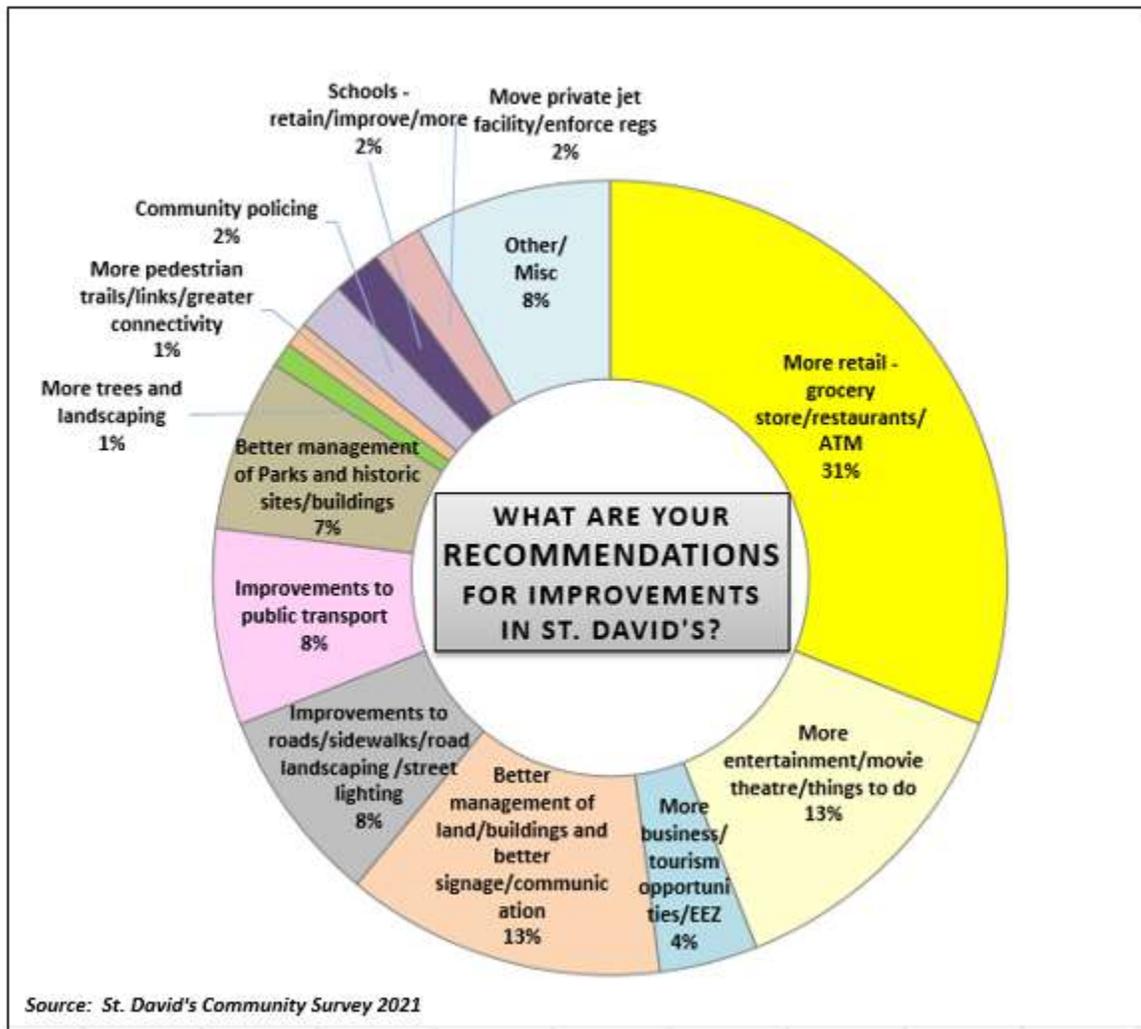
Also scoring highly as a 'dislike' are the poorly maintained roads, lack of street lighting and sidewalks, and the lack of activities and things to do. A lack of restaurants/food and delivery options is also a concern of many, as are the noise and fumes from the private jet facility.

There are concerns about safety and the lack of community policing. A number of St. David's residents and visitors also mentioned disliking the abandoned/underutilized buildings and sites as well as the lack of management and maintenance in the St. David's area.

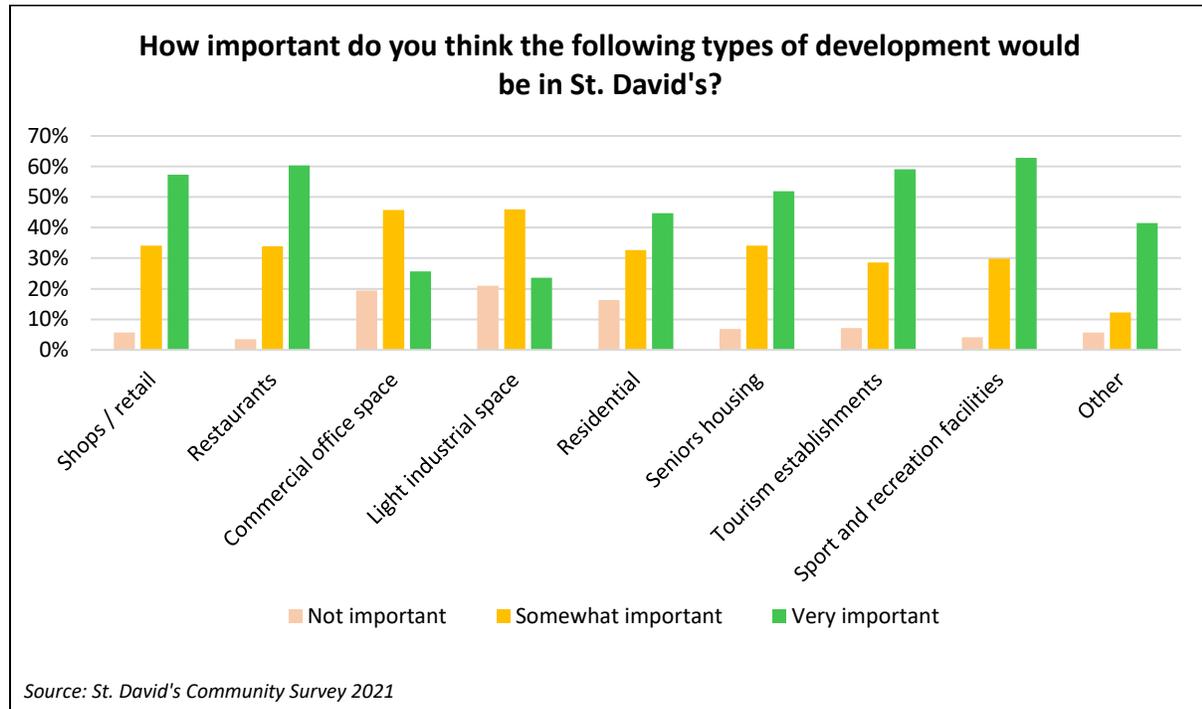


Respondents were asked to provide their top three recommendations for improvements in St. David's. Out of a total of 683 recommendations provided, nearly one third (212 recommendations or 31%) was the recommendation for more retail/restaurants/ATM. The recommendation for a grocery store, specifically, received 21% of all recommendations.

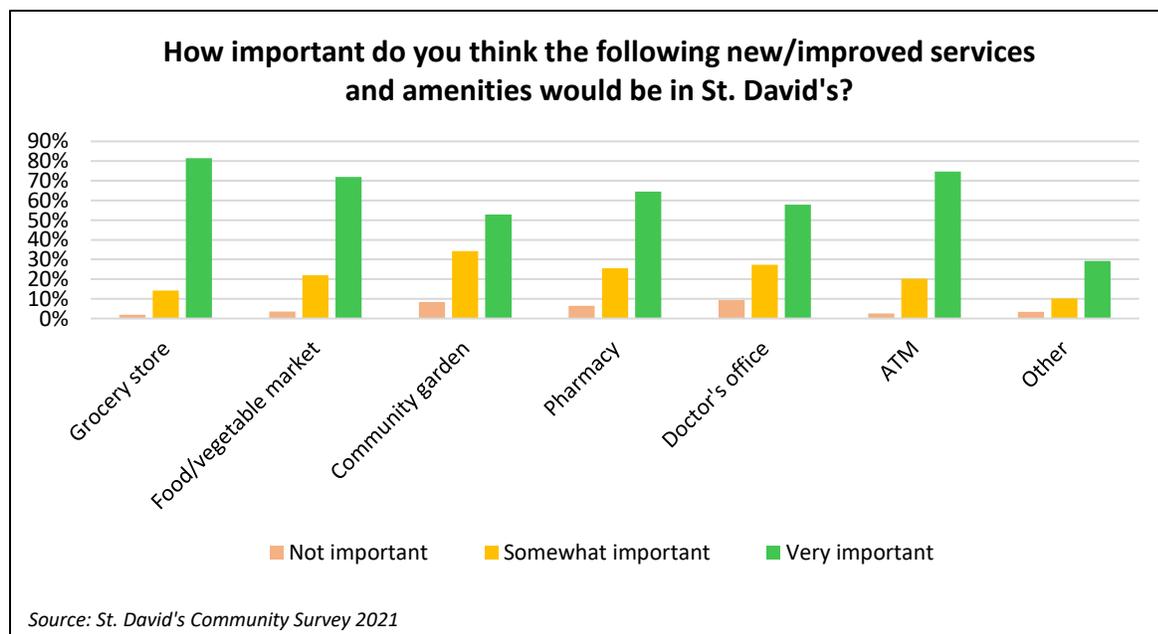
The recommendation for more entertainment activities, a movie theatre and generally 'more things to do' received 13% of all recommendations, as did the recommendation for better management of land/buildings and better signage/communication. The recommendation for improvements to public transport and the road infrastructure also scored highly (8%).



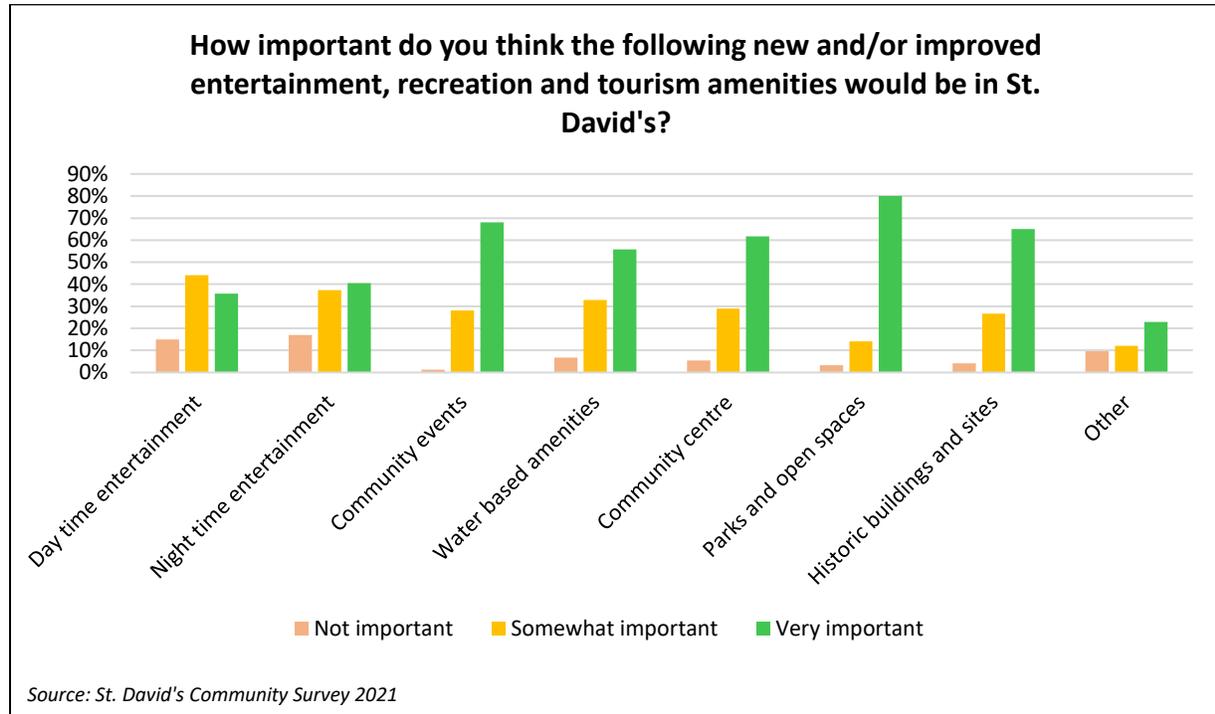
Respondents were asked to indicate how important they feel certain types of development are in St. David's. Sport and recreational facilities scored highest, with 63% of respondents considering sport and recreational facilities to be 'very important'. Restaurants, tourism establishments and shops/retail also ranked highly with just under 60% of respondents considering them all to be 'very important'. Seniors housing is also considered 'very important' by 52% of respondents.



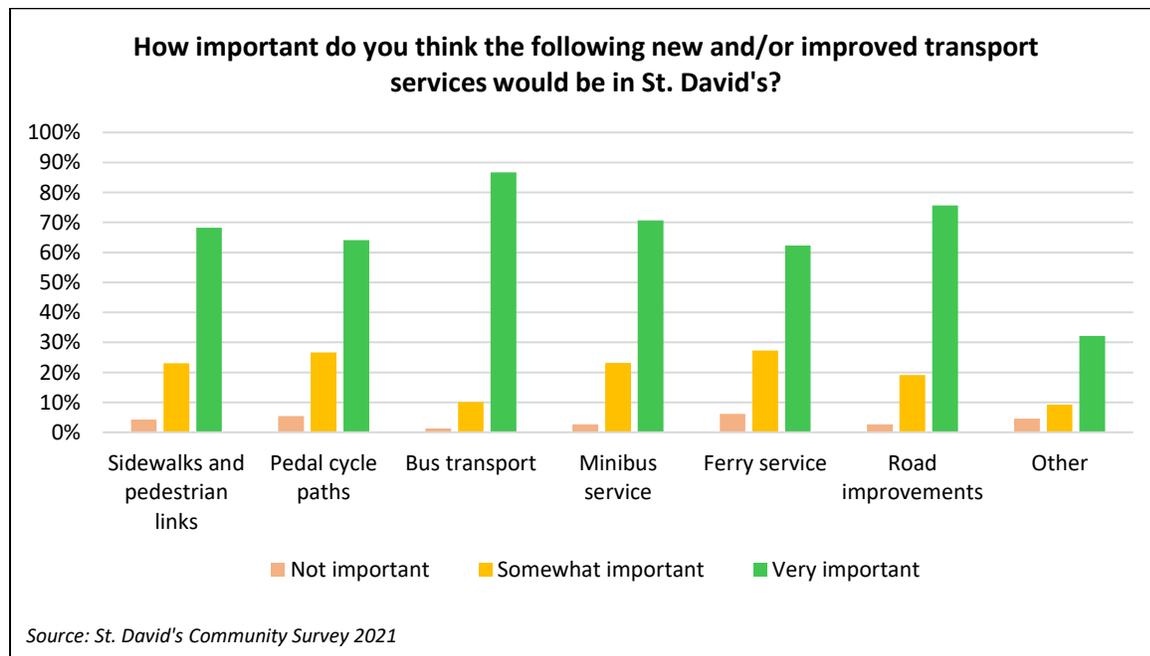
When asked to rate the importance of various new or improved services and amenities, 82% of respondents regard a grocery store as 'very important', 75% rated an ATM as 'very important' and 72% rated a food/vegetable market as 'very important'.



In terms of new or improved entertainment, recreation and tourism amenities, 80% of respondents consider parks and open spaces to be 'very important', 68% rated community events as 'very important', and 65% consider historic buildings and sites to be 'very important'.



When asked to rate certain transport service improvements, 87% of respondents consider bus transport improvements to be 'very important' in St. David's, and 76% of respondents also rate road improvements as 'very important'. New and/or improvements to the minibus service and sidewalks/pedestrian links also rated highly as 'very important' for St. David's.



Next steps

The St. David's Community Survey results provide valuable insight into what St. David's residents and visitors like most about the area and what concerns they have. There were also some useful recommendations provided. Whilst a number of these recommendations have no doubt been raised previously, these community survey results do shine a clear light on what the community considers to be most important at the current time, and help to establish a framework for discussion and action.

One of the main recommendations garnered from the St. David's Community Survey is the community's desire for a new grocery store and associated services such as an ATM and pharmacy.

This recommendation has been identified as a priority action item which warrants further research and assessment. To gain a more detailed understanding of the community's needs, a follow-up St. David's Grocery Store Survey will be conducted. This survey will ask questions related to where the St. David's community currently shops for groceries, how often they are likely to shop at a new grocery store if one were located in St. David's, and which site(s) in St. David's they prefer for a possible new grocery store.