



Food Buying Habits during Covid-19 in Brighton and Hove

July 2020 Survey Findings

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Introduction

Background

The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP) is a not-for-profit organisation aiming to bring together residents of the city by helping them learn to cook, eat a healthy diet and grow their own food, whilst tackling food waste and food poverty in partnership with the council and a range of local organisations.

Food Matters is a national charity working to ensure social and economic justice intersects with sustainable food system planning and has been working with the Food Partnership for over a decade to make Brighton and Hove a place where good food plays a central role in the city's culture, economy and wellbeing.

BHFP responded quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic, working to coordinate a citywide emergency food response with other local organisations (this includes the city's 17 food banks, FareShare Sussex, The Bevy, Real Junk Food Project, Chomp, Lunch Positive, Children's Centres and the Trust for Developing Communities). They also linked with the befriending organisations, Carers Centre, older people's services, Possibility People, and community centres.

BHFP heard many anecdotal stories of people changing their food buying habits over the last few months due to the impact of Coronavirus. BHFP and Food Matters worked together to design and run this survey to get a clearer picture and understanding of the types of changes that were being made and whether people plan to continue with these changes. We hoped to identify any areas where BHFP and local businesses and organisations could support and encourage people to continue with any positive steps – such as supporting the local economy, shopping more sustainably (fewer food miles, less plastic and more seasonally) and wasting less. We also wanted to identify less than positive changes to people's food buying habits to understand what could be done to address any issues that arose.

The Survey

The survey was aimed at residents in Brighton and Hove, and was initially shared via BHFP's social media and e-newsletter, and other food networks including HisBe, One Church, Florence Road Market (market and veg box scheme), Ashurst Organics (veg box scheme), Brighton Food Factory, Barcombe Nurseries and various Brighton and Hove mutual aid Facebook groups. Between the 1st and 31st July, we received 772 responses. Of those 772, 43 responses were from outside of the BN postcode, so this data was excluded from our results, leaving 729 responses. We have included a map in the appendix showing the reach of the responses. Of these 729 responses, 63% (456) were from within the boundaries of Brighton and Hove (BN1, BN2, BN3, BN41, BN42). We asked people, where possible, to respond on behalf of their whole households, meaning the 729 responses were made on behalf of 1806 people.

Working with neighbouring partners the survey was also distributed in adjacent areas with BN postcodes, and the results have been shared separately with those areas.

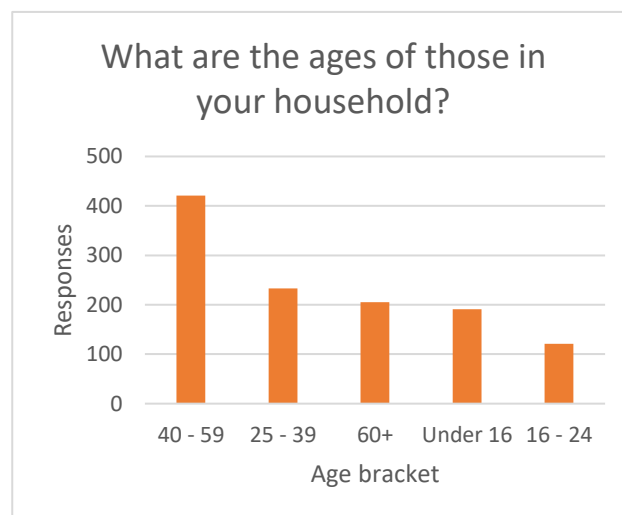
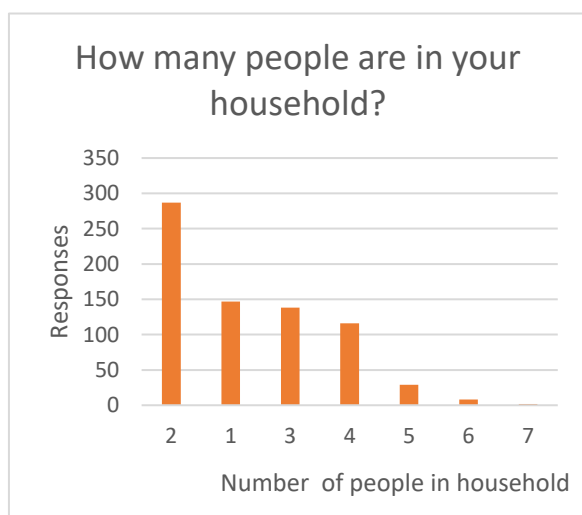
It is worth noting that because the survey was shared by local businesses including HisBe, Florence Road Market and Ashurst Organics, this means the audience and responses include many people

already using veg box schemes, who already choose to buy some or all of their food locally and independently. This means the results may be biased, as many respondents are already more aware of shopping locally/sustainably and food systems issues. We did not ask about financial constraints to buying food however a separate survey of people experiencing food poverty and food access issues was undertaken by BHFP at the same time, you can see the results of that survey [here](#).

Some of the questions we asked were broad, as we were seeking qualitative examples of people's experiences, which of course resulted in a very broad set of anecdotes. We received over 700 answers for all four questions in this style, asking about peoples' experiences of supermarkets, independent shops, food deliveries and people's plans for looking ahead 3-6 months. For this reason, we have grouped together the most common themes from the responses, with example quotes. We have also included general comments from people with their own ideas and suggestions.

Survey Results

- 729 responses were made on behalf of 1806 people
- 63% (456) of responses are from within the boundaries of Brighton and Hove
- 39% share a house with 2 people, 20% live alone and the remaining 41% live with 3 or more people
- 36% are aged between 40-59 years old

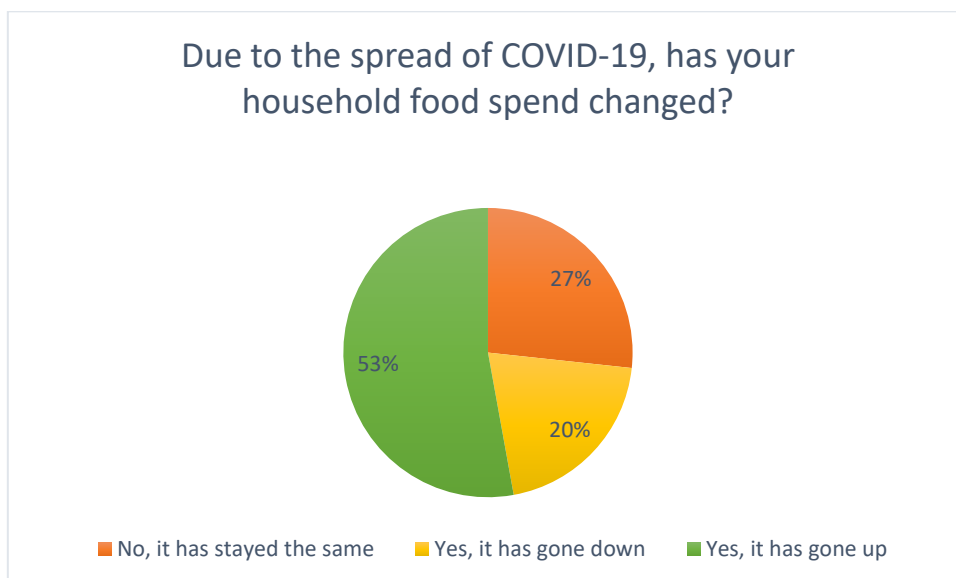
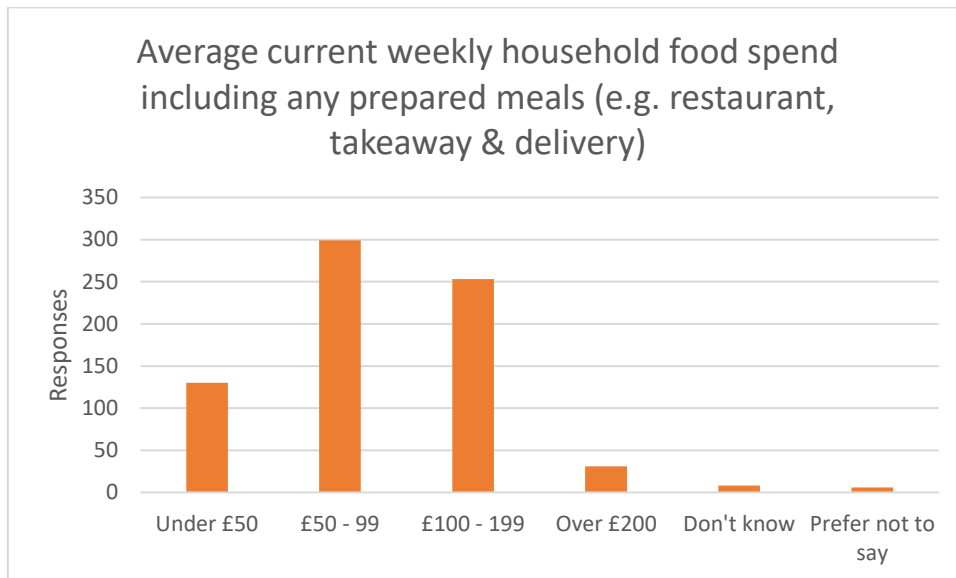


Overall Themes

- 53% of people are spending more on food ingredients since the spread of COVID-19.
- People are physically shopping LESS in supermarkets – due to fears around the virus, being anxious to be in busy places, disliking the queuing systems.
- 57% of people are spending MORE in local, independent shops – mainly to support local businesses and to avoid supermarkets.
- Food from local/independent shops is more expensive, but for many the positives - such as better quality, less plastic, more sustainable produce, supporting the local economy - outweigh the increased costs.
- 42% of people are spending more on food deliveries from local independents e.g. veg boxes, small grocery shops and food markets.
- 69% of people want to continue with new consumer habits – including shopping more locally, growing more, cooking more, avoiding plastic.

Household Spend

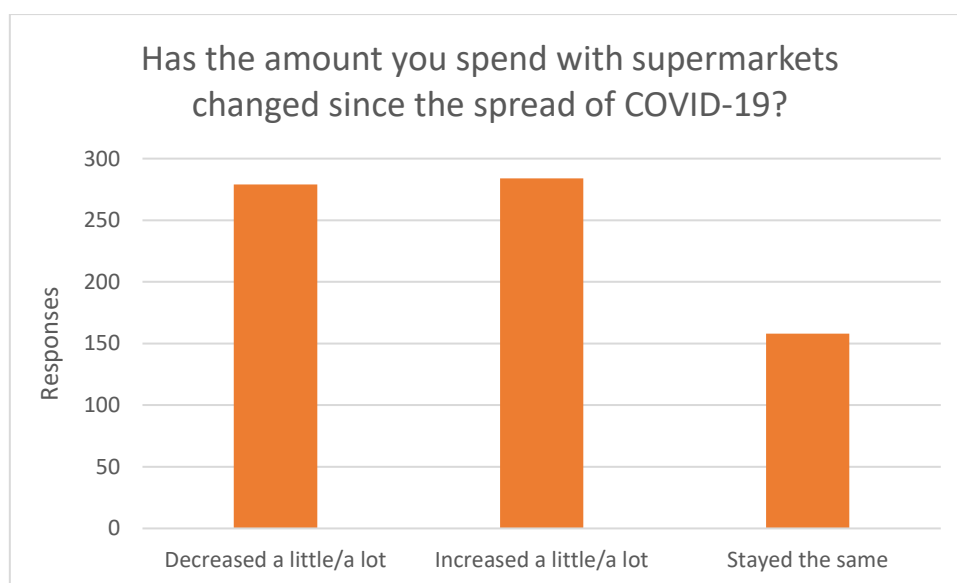
53% of people report that they are spending more overall since the spread of COVID-19. Many people say they are spending more on their household food because they are at home more, with less options to buy food outside of the home and more time to cook. The majority of people (76%) spend between £50 - £199 per week on food (per household).



Experience of using supermarkets

People were asked to share their recent experiences of shopping in supermarkets, including any positive or negative experiences they had, and why they made any changes.

We also asked about their spend and found **there was a clear split between those spending more in supermarkets, and those spending less**. Overall, some people were spending more because they had a higher food budget due to cooking more at home, whereas those spending less in supermarkets tended to shop elsewhere, in local/independent shops.



Supermarkets - Common themes

Less frequent shopping/avoiding supermarkets completely

People are generally avoiding going to the shops as frequently as normal, and instead buying more in one go/stocking up. This is to minimise exposure to COVID-19, but also to avoid queueing systems in place outside of shops. People are using independent or smaller, local shops near them – preferring the safer shopping experience as well as wanting to support their local businesses.

- *I visit less frequently but purchase more on each visit*
- *Less popping in on the way home from work and being more organised with the shopping list*
- *Less big supermarket visits and stocking up on ingredients to make more dishes from scratch*

Fear, anxiety and stress in supermarket

People are avoiding supermarkets due to fear of contracting COVID-19, they report the experience as stress inducing, with worries over other customers and staff not social distancing or wearing face masks. People also find the long queues stressful.

- *I find supermarkets stressful - even more so now!!! No social distancing in most supermarkets and STAFF DO NOT WEAR MASKS!*

- *Quite a long queue so you don't just pop in. Not many wearing masks.*
- *Lack of social distancing or care for other customers has been particularly frustrating. Sometimes I have come away crying.*

More online ordering/click and collect

Many people have moved over to online ordering. There have been some positives from people using online ordering – such as better meal planning and for some, less food waste. Negatives have been people struggling to get delivery slots and having to order larger amounts of food due to minimum spend requirements, resulting in more food waste. Reports of short shelf lives on fresh food have also led to more food waste. Some people have stopped ordering online to ‘free up’ slots for people who need them more.

- *We only order online now either with the supermarket or on Deliveroo. People in the supermarket were not taking notice of social distancing.*
- *I order everything online now, I worry about not getting a slot when I want so tend to order much more than I would in case I cannot get another for a while. Home deliveries usually means shorter sell by dates so I buy less fresh food*
- *I'm shielded and I had terrible trouble getting food for the first month or so as I wasn't on the data base to start with so couldn't get delivery slots, when food is delivered most of the time the dates on the food are all within a day or two so it doesn't last the whole week and a lot of the time food has been damaged and inedible due to bad handling or storage prior to delivery. So overall a very stressful, time consuming and not pleasant experience having to shop online.*
- *The sell by dates are not long enough for me versus the amount I have to buy to get a delivery*
- *First time doing online shopping but there's a minimum spend which works out expensive when shopping for one person so you tend to stock up.*

More plastic/packaging

People dislike the amount of plastic wrapped food from supermarkets, and also report that online deliveries have returned to using more plastic bags. This is expected to be a temporary measure in place around COVID-19 safety, but it was clear from the survey findings that people want a return to decreased/complete removal of plastic bags in online deliveries.

- *There are less offers and sadly plastic carrier bags are back being used for home shopping deliveries from Asda.*
- *There is so much more packaging when shopping at supermarkets - definitely a downside*
- *Annoyed that our Tesco bag-free delivery no longer possible. Lots of bags now*
- *Avoided as much as possible as felt like chaos and everything comes in plastic*
- *Negatives are not always getting what we'd like and a big upsurge in plastic bags used to deliver our shop.*
- *Ordering less online from Ocado (urgh, there's too much packaging!)*

Better meal planning and more home cooking

Some people are being more organised with their shopping – planning ahead to ensure they get everything they need, writing lists, using up store cupboard ingredients and generally cooking more at home. This is often due to people already being at home, having more time, and not buying their usual convenience food outside. Online ordering also encourages planning and being less tempted by unnecessary treats.

- *We reduced the number of supermarket visits to a max of one/week (or less) and started meal planning so we had all the necessary ingredients for the planned meals*
- *Starting doing weekly meal plans instead of shopping adhoc for meals. Thought more carefully about meals, and how to use everything up over a week, as easy to assume every meal will be eaten at home.*
- *Doing a lot more home cooking. Cooking in bulk and freezing*
- *We now have a “family shopping list” that is updated and prepared for each shopping visit to minimise time spent out and are less likely to be distracted by bargains we don’t need*
- *A food list is made from what we already have available, and a shopping list is made to fill in gaps for ingredients or restock staples. This has created less food waste.*

“A positive is that we sorted out the food cupboard and used up stuff we'd had lying around a long time. I used to enjoy mooching around supermarkets but I now I get in and out as quickly as possible with my shopping list arranged to match the shop layout so I can be efficient”

Supermarkets - Less common but notable themes

More food waste

Although many people reported less food waste due to different habits, there were 15+ comments from people saying they have increased their food waste due to reaching minimum spend amounts online, bulk buying leading to waste, and short shelf lives with online ordering

- *We seem to have a bit more waste as we are buying some things ‘just in case’*
- *As we are shopping less frequently, we are buying larger amounts and this has increased our level of food waste-particularly vegetables*
- *Find I still waste more food due to rigid weekly delivery than when I went shopping once food had run out.*
- *Buying too much fruit & veg to reach minimum £40 spend to avoid delivery charge (on top of delivery pass), too much waste.*
- *As we are shopping less frequently, we are buying larger amounts and this has increased our level of food waste-particularly vegetables. I am hoping this can be reduced by encouraging everyone in the house to plan their meals ahead.*

Increase in prices/less offers on

- *Spending more in supermarkets because we are eating more at home and the cost has gone up because the offers have gone*
- *Items have noticeably increased in price and many have been difficult to find or have been out of stock for weeks*
- *Offers on products reduced massively so prices more expensive than before*
- *Noticed fewer special offers, and smaller range Offered.*

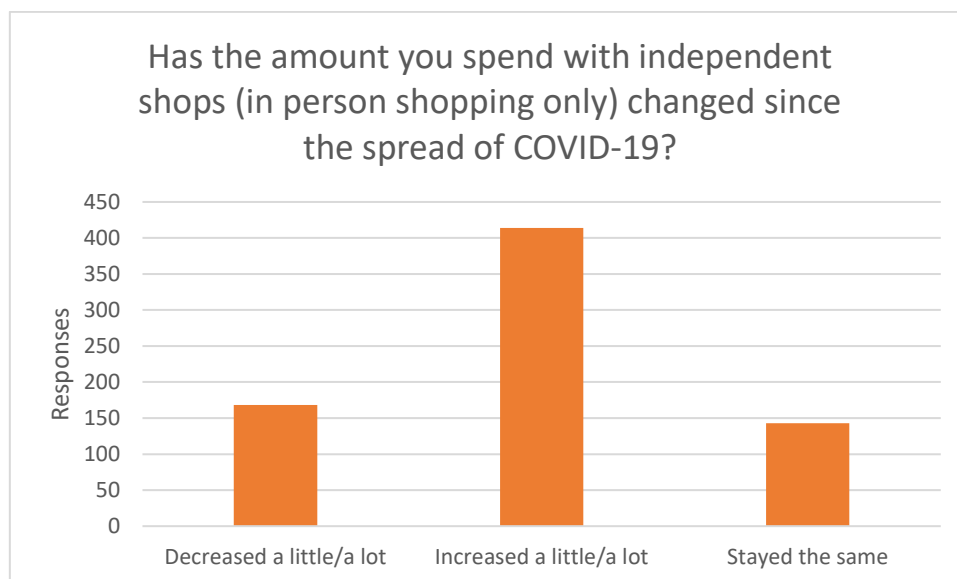
Experience of using independent shops

People were asked to share their recent experiences of shopping in independent shops, including any positive or negative experiences they had, and why they made any changes.

57% of people are spending more in independent shops.

Many people either already shopped in independent shops or have started to during lockdown, in order to avoid supermarkets. People generally had a more positive experience shopping locally, and many don't mind paying a higher price due to convenience, better quality, less plastic, supporting the community and having a friendlier and safer experience.

It is worth noting that although we specified 'independent' shops, a number of people refer to their local mini/express shops in their answers – which means non-independent retails are included in the responses.



Independent Shops: Common themes

Prefer to spend locally and support their community

People choose to shop locally for a number of reasons, but many get a lot of joy in supporting their local businesses – especially during difficult times.

- *Use local shops much more now, smaller more regular shops, items were restocked more quickly, nice to speak with shop owners getting to know them more and supporting them to keep going, more mindful of what I'm buying, fresher more locally sourced products, walking more to local shops rather than getting in the car.*
- *I became more conscious of how important it is to support independent local businesses*

“Shopping locally supports those who kept open during lockdown. Profits stay local rather than going to rich shareholders”

More expensive – but other positives outweigh this

Respondents found that independent shops are often more expensive than supermarkets, but are generally happy to pay more as they are accepting that the extra cost is offset by the positives compared to shopping in larger supermarkets – the convenience, better quality, less plastic, friendlier and safer shopping and supporting the local economy.

- *It feels much more ethical despite being more expensive*
- *Local is a bit more expensive but has been more reliable and we felt it was important to support local business*
- *Less plastic packaging was the bonus but it's more expensive*
- *It felt safer staying local, less people and more care taken. Also less hectic! I much rather give money to local independents but can work out more expensive.*
- *Even though it's more expensive than supermarkets we've generally found the quality of fruit and veg better from local shops and local fruit n veg boxes*
- *I would be happy to pay more to shop locally from independent retailers, but I cannot justify spending in some cases up to 50% more than I would in a supermarket.*

Feels safer

On the whole people report that their smaller, local and independent shops felt safer than large supermarkets. It's easier for small shops to implement social distancing measures, such as only allowing 2 people in at a time and ensuring people wear face masks. The shops, though much smaller, felt less crowded.

- *It felt safer going to my local shop as it's very close to the house and meant I didn't have to walk into town. It's more expensive and very limited though.*
- *Easy access, friendly service, easy to distance from other shoppers, safe and clean shopping experience.*

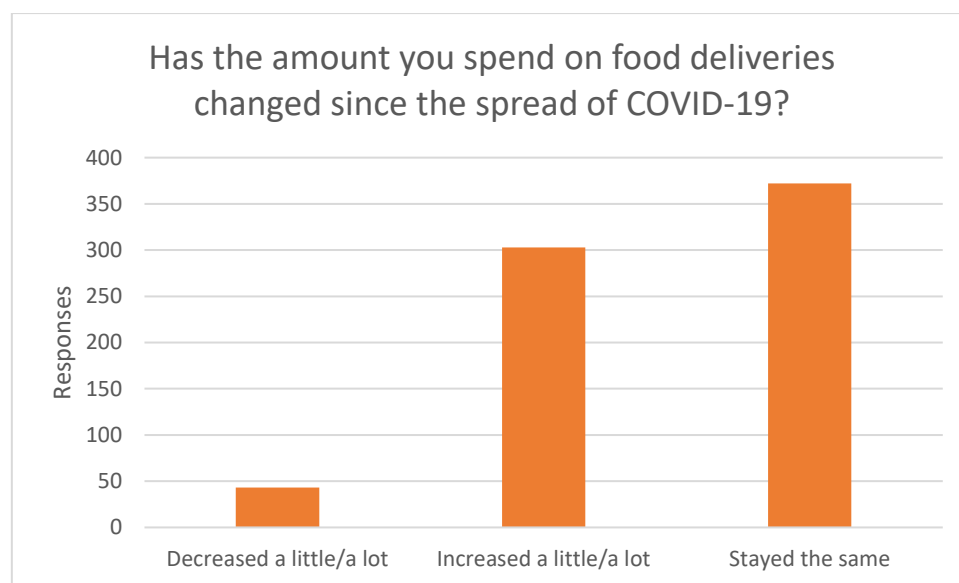
Independent Shops: Less common but notable themes

- **Better quality, fresher produce**
- **People prefer independents because of sustainability/zero waste/refills/less plastic**
- **Prefer the personal feel / friendlier / community spirit / getting to know the staff**
- **Convenience in terms of less queuing, and being in walking distance – avoids mileage**

- Independents that offer deliveries: extremely positive, would be great if this continued
- People often use them to top up other shopping (from supermarkets/online orders)
- Less choice/range of items

Experience of using food deliveries

We asked people to share their recent experiences of using food deliveries (e.g. veg boxes, food from local shops but not supermarkets). **42% of respondents say they are spending a little/a lot more on food deliveries** from independent places, which is extremely positive for the local economy. Overall people have had positive experiences, and once again the negatives of the produce being more expensive are offset by the better quality food, the convenience of having it delivered, and the ethics of supporting local, independent retailers.



Food Deliveries: Common themes

Better quality food

Overall – people are happier with the better quality, fresher items they receive in food deliveries, especially the fresh veg, meat and fish.

- *We've found the quality much better than supermarkets and we are happy to pay a bit more because of this and to help support small, independent suppliers.*
- *I love having food delivered by friendly local suppliers. the fish, fruit & veg, bakery and meat has been absolutely brilliant quality.*
- *Deliveries have been prompt, excellent quality and communication and helped increase a feeling of connectedness within our local community*

More expensive, but offset by positives

- *Had fruit and veg deliveries. More expensive but good quality. Can get next day delivery.*
- *We have had vegetables and fresh fish delivered in recent months. It has been more expensive but there have been pluses - fresher produce and no need to travel to the shops.*

- *Essentials are now all delivered from local deli, excellent personal service and local products (milk, bread, eggs, cheese) but obviously this is expensive.*

Veg boxes: too big

Over 30 people mentioned that they find veg boxes too large, especially for single person households. People have found they end up with food waste, or they are deterred from buying one in the first place due to the cost for a single person. A small number of people also wish to be able to customise their veg boxes.

- *As I am on my own, veg boxes tend not to be worth it for me (too much food)*
- *I no longer use a veg box scheme because they contain too much produce for a single person.*
- *I get too much in one go. It lasts longer but still too much*
- *Don't use veg boxes as they don't tend to be geared to single people so you end up with too much stuff and not as much variety as I'd like.*
- *Want to find a place that does veg boxes where we can customise the content*
- *I am looking for plastic free goods, I like to pick my own groceries, I love personalised boxes,*

Food Deliveries: Less common but notable comments

- **Fish deliveries** – great quality but expensive / the minimum order amount is too high
- **Varying quality in veg boxes** – mostly good but some bad experiences

Looking ahead: food buying over the next 3-6 months

We asked people if they expect to continue with any of the new ways they have sourced food over the next 3-6 months, and which changes they expect to make.

Of the 729 responses, **502 people (69%) wish to continue new shopping habits.**

- 298 people want to continue to shop locally/independently
- 57 people want to continue with veg box/are seeking to buy a veg box
- 54 people want to continue shopping online/click and collect
- 37 people want to continue growing their own produce
- 31 people mention avoiding plastic/packaging



Looking ahead: Common themes

Continue using local/independent shops

Many people either already shopped in this way or have started to more since lockdown. Those who are newer to this way of shopping speak positively about discovering their local independents (see 'Experience of Independent shops' section p 8-9). Although many people wish to continue shopping in local and independent shops, not everyone wants to do this for their *whole* food shop, but to 'top up' their shopping from elsewhere. The most common things people mention they will continue to buy locally are eggs, bread, meat and their veg box delivery.

- *Will continue to try and support local as much as we can but also have to do some supermarket shops for convenience as working full time*
- *We plan to keep up the support of more local businesses and hope to be able to move away from the supermarkets again completely*
- *We will mainly focus on local farm shops and our veg box for what we need with top up shops at the local shop and the odd trip to the supermarket.*⁷

"I will definitely use independent shops more than I used to. They have been invaluable throughout lockdown and am sure have seen a boost in sales but I'd like that to continue so I will continue shopping there for certain things even if I can get them cheaper in a supermarket"

Continue use of veg/fruit box

Lots of people want to continue with their veg box deliveries, overall people are very happy with better quality, more seasonal and local veg.

- *Getting veg boxes delivered is convenient and safe. I can see myself doing it in the long run.*

- *We like getting the veg box and getting our bread from the local bakery, so expect to continue with this. I'm worried that prices will go up*

Continue with less frequent shopping

- *Big shops less often rather than daily shops*
- *I don't want to spend most days in a supermarket on my way home from work ever again. I would like to change some of the supermarket items to bulk buy or buy plastic free from local shops if I can*
- *Continue with one big shop a week then get a few treat items from a bakery at the weekend*

Continue growing own veg

An unexpected and very positive outcome, with more people having more time on their hands, more people have been growing their own veg and they wish to continue this new activity. Those who were already growing veg have been increasing the amount they grow, and also wish to continue.

- *I will probably be made redundant in a few months' time so we will continue to rely on home-grown produce as much as possible which is better financially. I will continue using veg box scheme as I have done for years - good quality fresh food that doesn't cost the earth.*

“I began growing my own food which is now starting to ripen and be ready to eat so if that continues I will try to be more self-sufficient in the future. I will also bulk cook and freeze food to reduce costs”

Continue more cooking/less meals out

There were over 60 comments on this question saying people have been cooking more at home, cooking more from scratch and planning their meals ahead. There were positive outcomes of this, with people finding it costs less, is healthier, and results in less food waste. Some report using up store cupboard ingredients and being more organised with their cooking.

- *I like this way of planning my meals in advance and only doing one trip to the shops per week, so I know exactly what I am going to eat each day of the week and I save time.*
- *I will probably be working from home more, so I expect to continue making family meals that take a little longer*
- *I've been baking more bread and experimenting more with unfamiliar vegetables and new dishes since the lockdown. I hope that will also continue*
- *Sticking with menu plans and creating interesting dishes out of random veg*
- *Buy locally, plan my meals to waste less food and continue to cook at home*

“I will continue to meal plan - much less food waste, much cheaper!”

Conclusion

This survey provided an interesting and valuable snapshot into the habits of over 1800 residents in the Brighton, Hove and surrounding areas. There were no major, unexpected outcomes from this survey, but moving forward there are areas we and local businesses could work on to encourage people to continue with the positive changes to their food shopping and cooking habits.

Recommendations for those supporting retailers

- Encourage/support local shops who started doing deliveries to continue with this. This will enable people to continue with having food delivered - whether it's because they're shielding / protecting their health or it's just more convenient. This will encourage more money to be kept within the local economy, rather than people going back to the big supermarket delivery services.
- Encourage/support local shops to continue with safety measures. With many customers choosing to shop locally to avoid supermarkets, it's vital these customers continue to feel safe in smaller, local shops – especially if/when supermarkets start to relax their safety measures.
- Advocate for shops offering online ordering to use less plastic. Supermarket customers used to be able to select bagless deliveries but this was removed due to safety measures. Could paper bags be used for loose items which need to be bagged (e.g. fruit and veg measured by weight)? Could zero waste/refill shops offer a delivery service?
- Explore new methods for enabling a more joined up approach to direct sales from local suppliers

Recommendations for retailers

- Better/longer shelf life for online ordering
- Smaller veg boxes – especially for single households
- More customisation available for veg boxes
- With an increase in people bulk buying, there is also the need for better planning to avoid food waste (especially veggies/fresh items). Although food waste was less commonly mentioned, any promotion around bulk cooking/better planning/freezing portions/fermenting etc could be useful.

Appendices 1,2 & 3

1. Comments from respondents

We have collated some of the suggestions and ideas from the survey responses and additional comments section at the end of the survey.

Independent shops / places selling local produce / markets

- *I am interested in shopping more locally but I'm coeliac and the eco refill shops make me anxious about cross contamination. Perhaps I would shop locally more if I could be sure about the safety for allergy sufferers.*
- *I would like to support independents more but I also want to feel safe. Their shops are often small and easily crowded.*
- *Worthing currently doesn't have sufficient outlets supplying local foodstuffs, especially cheeses, baked goods, meat and fresh vegetables.*
- *I'd like to be able to source locally-grown organic vegetables more easily, without subscribing to a veg box scheme*
- *It would be great to have a central bank for all local produce, so I didn't have to spend so much time sourcing, arranging payments and delivery/collection. It could all be handled by a central body/co-op kind of thing!*
- *There is a 'truck' (mobile "farm" shop - **The Sussex Peasant**) that parks up around Brighton selling what so-called farm / organic produce. It has impacted local shops who have to pay rates and rent and staff. I will never use this, as they just park up, and don't pay rent or rates.*
- *Nowhere sells Free Range meat in Lancing. This has been a big problem for me and I hope it changes!*
- *I wish there were more weekly fruit and veg markets in Brighton with seasonal and local produce, but with AFFORDABLE prices. I come from Germany and we have weekly markets all over the place*
- *More open space markets if there are any. Love to see more*
- *If there was a volunteers market garden I'd join [opportunities for people to volunteer at market gardens].*
- *More local direct stuff & farmer's markets in B&H please*
- *I'd be very happy to be involved with purchasing directly from farmers especially as USA food safety might be making an impact on supermarket produce as we leave the EU. I am definitely motivated to buy direct from farmers etc*

Food delivery

- *I may still get fresh fish delivered from time to time, especially if the variety they offer improves/ depending on seasonality. I will shop at the greengrocers at **Fiveways** if can get delivery. I will try again to get eggs delivered but website for happy eggs was dreadful and fox kept eating the ones I got delivered with my milk! (**Milk and More**).*
- *I would be interested to know how the elderly who may not be internet connected are able to access these kinds of local veg box/market schemes?*
- *It would be good to have local facilities deliver, eg greengrocers, butchers and bakeries deliver or have a click and collect service available. I am very in favour of supporting local businesses*

- *I would like to see all the fruit and veg which isn't "the right shape etc" be sold in a more direct manner*
- *I would like to find a fruit and veg box that suits me. No giant vegetables, no squished tomatoes & not the same products every week and value for money.*
- *I'd love to be able to use local farms & **Teba** [independent food retailer in Portslade] to do ALL our food shopping.*
- *I think **Ashurst Organics** is brilliant but it needs an updated online system, probably an app, and a better social media presence. We can't help with the online system, but my friend is a graphic designer and together we are setting up a business coaching & brand consultancy service. We are passionate about food and sustainability. We'd be happy to look at a discounted fee for a 'case study' if you're interested (We'd be open to being paid in veg!)*
- ***Morrison's** 'door step delivery' have run an amazing service for older and vulnerable people to order from a list of 50 essential food items over the phone for next day delivery with no delivery charge or minimum order. I really hope this continues as other larger supermarkets have not been running accessible services like this one.*
- *If **Infinity** or **Fiveways Fruits** did deliveries I would buy from them. It would be great to get a ULEV [Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle] delivery route for independent shops like this. I'd be happy to join up with neighbours to order a delivery for the same day. Perhaps this kind of group buying could be incentivised through the market?*
- *I keep messing up with the cut off time for the Saturday boxes. **Flourpot** often put a post on IG [Instagram] saying "order before 12pm today" etc. This would be good. I think you could use IG more as advertising tool. [respondent referring to **Florence Road Market**]*
- ***Florence Road Market** started doing deliveries and if they keep that up I'll want to try it.*
- *I'd like to keep accessing **Flo road market** through a pick-up box scheme if it carries on!*
- *I did not like the mandatory buy 2 give 1 away with Florence rd market [Only one respondent mentions this – but it is unclear why they thought it was mandatory]*

Allotments/growing

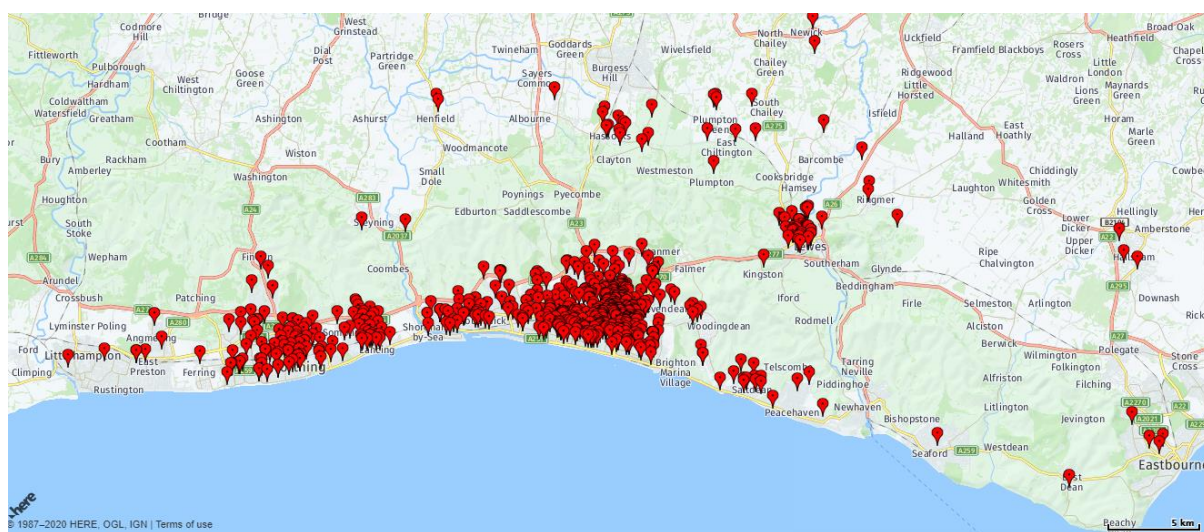
- *A local scheme to help connect allotments and individual growers to enable swaps when there are gluts would be amazing. Also, a connection between food banks (organisers and users) and gleaning networks during summer months could be very beneficial. I run a local community food project (SoulFood) and work with Feedback so please get in touch if you would like to discuss this further*
- *I would like to see more opportunities for growing local food, I'd like to see greater appreciation of the oats, barley, wheat and rapeseed oil grown on our doorstep.*

Other

- *It would be extremely good if the local mental health places that supply food could use locally produced and organic food - places such as Preston Park Recovery Centre and Mill View. There is a barely any vegan food and nothing organic or apparently local. A better diet would help people's mental health in so many ways.*
- *Supermarkets really need to reduce packaging esp for online customers*
- *Get waste food collections as part of the refuse collection*
- *I very much wish B&H had responsible food waste disposal for composting. Disturbs me to have to put food waste into general waste / landfill.*
- *the government school dinner vouchers can only be used in supermarkets (WHY??), so some of our weekly spend has to [be] in supermarkets now*
- *It would be good if there was a web site listing local independent businesses and contact details*

2. Map of BN postcode survey responses

As mentioned in the introduction, we received responses from residents in surrounding areas of Brighton and Hove. This map displays all BN postcodes who responded.



3. Survey Questions

1. How many people are in your household?
2. What are the ages of those in your household? (tick all that apply)
Under 16; 16-24; 25-39; 40-59; 60+
3. Postcode
4. Average current weekly household food spend including any prepared meals (e.g. restaurant, takeaway & delivery). If you live in a house share but you buy your food separately, just answer for yourself.
Under £50; £50-99; £100-199; Over £200; Prefer not to say; Don't know
5. Due to the spread of COVID-19, has your household food spend changed?
Yes, it has gone up; Yes, it has gone down; No, it has stayed the same
6. Due to the spread of COVID-19, has your household food spend changed?
1-5 (1 = Decreased a lot; 3 Stayed the same; Increased a lot)
7. Please tell us about your experience of using supermarkets recently - why you made any changes, any positives/ negatives of this experience etc.
8. Has the amount you spend with independent shops (in person shopping only) changed since the spread of COVID-19?
1-5 (1 = Decreased a lot; 3 Stayed the same; Increased a lot)
9. Please tell us about your experience of using independent shops recently - why you made any changes, any positives/ negatives of this experience etc.

10. Has the amount you spend on food deliveries (e.g. veg boxes, food from local shops, not including supermarkets) changed since the spread of COVID-19?
1-5 (1 = Decreased a lot; 3 Stayed the same; 5 Increased a lot)
11. Please tell us about your experience of using food deliveries (e.g. veg boxes, food from local shops but not including supermarkets) recently - why you made any changes, any positives/negatives of this experience etc.
12. What other ways have you been sourcing food since the spread of COVID-19?
Meal kit delivery (e.g. Hello Fresh, Gousto etc); Prepared meals from restaurants/ takeaway; Friend/ neighbour providing meals or food; Food bank; None; Other
13. Please provide the names of any veg boxes or independent shops/ delivery schemes you have used if you can remember.
14. Over the next 3-6 months, do you expect to continue with any new ways you have sourced food?
Yes; No; Unsure; Not relevant, shopping habits have stayed the same
15. Please tell us more about any changes you expect to make to your food buying habits in the next few months.
16. If you are vegan/vegetarian, feel free to skip this question. The Food Partnership is looking at supporting more direct buying schemes, including those where consumers can purchase meat directly from local farmers. Would you be interested in purchasing lamb, pork, fish or other meat in this way? Please leave your email if you would like to know more. Feel free to leave any comments on your interests as well.
17. Do you have any other comments you'd like to add? Alternatively, if you're happy for us to call for a more detailed follow up about your experiences, please leave your phone number. It will only be used for this purpose and not shared outside of the organisation.
18. As a part of your shopping, would you be in a position to support those in need of food by:
Making a one-off financial donation;
Making a regular financial donation;
Donating food items;
'Paying it forward' – e.g. buying a veg box for those who can't afford it;
Purchasing food from a business/ organisation that donates profits to those in need;
Purchasing food from a business/ organisation that also offers lower-price or free food to those in need;
None of the above;
Other