

Brigstowe Village Band Survey Summary

Participation: 18 band members (slightly more than half of the membership) responded.

All correspondents disclosed their identities.

Question 1 was concerned with what members see as the spirit and ethos of BVB. Overwhelmingly correspondents characterised the band as friendly, welcoming, inclusive and fun. The ethos is seen to be characterised as “sharing the joy of reconnecting with traditional folk music and dances”, and is closely linked to the band’s repertoire.

Action: By appointing Laurel Swift as our new musical director we have safeguarded the continuation of inclusiveness and type of repertoire of the band. Musical director, steering group and membership will strive to maintain the friendly and welcoming atmosphere and continue to make rehearsals and performances a pleasurable experience.

Question 2 explored what members like about being in BVB and consisted of 17 statements to be rated as very important, important, neutral, not particularly important or unimportant. For ease of evaluation the first two and last two categories respectively were pooled. Statements to be rated comprised aspects of leadership and organisation, band repertoire and activities, performing and benefits to the individual members, such as social contact.

Organisation: An overwhelming majority of correspondents like the way that the band is led, and a large majority like the way the band is organised. A majority like the fact that membership does not make many demands on them and a somewhat smaller majority values the fact that someone else does the organisation and they can just play. For a majority of correspondents it is not important to get involved in the organisation.

Action: None necessary immediately, but steering group will offer opportunities to those members who would wish to get more involved.

Band repertoire and activities: An overwhelming majority liked the style and genre of the music played and identified with the perceived spirit of the band. Large majorities do not value the opportunities to sing, dance or act.

Action: As pointed out above continuity of style and ethos of the band is safeguarded through the recent appointment. Singing, dancing and acting are unlikely to become a routine part of general rehearsals, but continue to be practised separately by interested subgroups.

Performing: A large majority enjoy the opportunity to perform at gigs and like the performance programmes.

Action: None required, although in view of individual comments a widening of the repertoire for group contributions may be considered.

Individual Benefits: Correspondents overwhelmingly valued the social contact, opportunities to improve as individual players and improving as a group.

Action: Measures introduced at the last practice of introducing a “standard” repertoire and less complicated performance arrangements, as well as recent guidelines and set pieces for playing for dancing should assist with improving familiarity and confidence.

Question 3 explored the opinions concerning the way ahead with questions to be replied to with simple “yes”, “no”, “not sure” answers. Questions related to performance and rehearsal frequencies and willingness to engage with assisting in the organisation of the band. The latter is a way to enhance inclusivity.

The answers concerning the frequency of gigs were inconclusive and even somewhat contradictory with small majorities stating that the “band does enough gigs” and that “the band should do more gigs”.

As far as rehearsal frequency is concerned, a majority of the respondents think that the band rehearses enough and half the correspondents do not want any more rehearsals.

For three of these four questions the number of “not sures” was high.

Action: Leave rehearsal frequency and number of gigs approximately the same.

Regarding involvement with the organisation, there is overwhelming support for contributing on a one-off basis.

Action: Steering group to distil priorities from the detailed comments made in the survey (to follow) and identify projects and tasks which can be taken on by the wider membership.

BVB : Steering group : January 2019

