

Askbristol Report

smoke-free Bristol

**On-line discussion
2 August – 29 September 2006**

Smoke Free Bristol – Analysis of discussion comments on Askbristol

The Smoke Free Bristol discussion forum took place from 2 August to 29 September 2005. During this period of time a total of 136 people logged on to askbristol and within this discussion forum, 21 people made 30 comments

Thread: Would you like to see smoke free legislation introduced by the government before the planned date of 2007? (3 responses from three people)

Respondents felt that speeding up the legislation would be a good thing. Two of the respondents felt that a total ban would be welcome.

Quote:

“Given the overwhelming evidence of damage to health caused by passive smoking, let alone the numerous discomforts; it is essential that legislation is introduced far quicker than is currently proposed.

“We should follow the Irish approach of a total ban. This reduces the legal complexities of trying to deal with the definition of "serving food". This will only benefit the English legal establishment who will no doubt spend many expensive hours arguing over it. “

Thread: Have you had any negative experiences from second hand smoke? (seven replies from seven people)

All respondents felt that second-hand smoke was an unpleasant experience. Comments centred on the need to wash clothes and selves after being in a smoky environment, the effect on their lungs and one person mentioned being burnt by a cigarette while walking down a street due to a smoker's supposed carelessness. Two respondents expressed some sympathy for smokers, but this didn't seem to be echoed by other respondents.

Quote:

“I hate smoke but it seems impossible to have a smoke-free night out. Smoke smells revolting, clings to your hair and clothes and is a health hazard. I'd like to be able to go out without experiencing other people's smoke, but if smoking is only banned where there is food, it won't make much difference. “

Thread: How can we persuade people from areas or backgrounds with a high level of smoking to give up? (two replies from two people)

One respondent suggested increasing the duty on tobacco by 300% and having heavier fines for illegal imports. The other respondent stressed that people should be able to make the decision for themselves but that it should be made as easy as possible for them to do so.

Quote:

“How about appealing to their vanity - i.e. here are two twins. One has smoked all his / her life, one hasn't. Can you tell which (you usually can).”

Thread: Would you like to see more smoke free pubs, clubs and leisure facilities in Bristol? (17 comments from 16 people)

Most people felt that more smoke free facilities would be welcome, particularly where people were eating and where children were allowed. Two people disagreed though and one of those felt that smoking was being unfairly singled out as a health risk when she felt that traffic pollution was just as bad.

Some people felt that stronger legislation imposing a ban on smoking in all public places would be best and quoted examples from Italy, Ireland and New Zealand where such a ban had worked well.

Most people felt that non-smokers should have a greater choice of places to go where smoking was not permitted and felt that smoke prevented or deterred them from visiting many public places.

Quote:

Personally I can't wait for the legislation to come in since outside a Friday / Saturday night, most of the watershed bars and restaurants need the lunchtime food trade to exist. If Italy for goodness sake can manage to do this, how come this country struggles - is the licensed trade so powerful that we have to remain in the dark ages?

In the meantime maybe the healthy city smoke free NHS campaign needs to be resurrected, inviting such bars and restaurants to either display a badge indicating consideration for the health of their customers or not as they choose. Perhaps the city council and local NHS can issue leaflets on where to lunch or dine, split between their smoking policies and not having a silly half way "smoking in some parts" get out clause which doesn't really work.

Quote:

Yes. Absolutely. I would like the choice to go to a smoke free bar or pub. It's about choice. I hate smoking but feel that smokers should have somewhere they can go to smoke if they want, but that the more smoke free places that there are, the less people will smoke. I know plenty of people who smoke only when they are in a social situation and when other people are smoking. The less people smoke, the less other people smoke?!

Thread: What more can the Smoke Free project do to move them closer to their goal? (one reply from one person)

No relevant comments were made in reply to this question.