

Thursday 21 September 2006

thelondonpaper

Our dreams for life after London

By Richard Moriarty,

Six out of ten Londoners are not actually from London and almost 20 per cent are just passing through, according to a poll carried out for thelondonpaper.

The specially commissioned survey found that 58 per cent of people living in London were born elsewhere, although 25 per cent have lived in The Smoke for more than 15 years.

Of those not from the city, 43 per cent moved because they were either relocated by work or were searching for a new job, while 24 per cent of people were motivated to move because they wanted to be closer to friends or family.

The poll, which thelondonpaper commissioned to discover more about the people who make up the world's greatest city, also found that 41 per cent planned to stay in London for the rest of their lives.

For those planning to leave, nine per cent will move within a year while 11 per cent will move in between three and five years' time.

The biggest reason to leave the capital according to the 1,000 people polled by The iD Factor in conjunction with ICD Research, is the high living costs (26 per cent) and lack of green spaces (16 per cent).

For those Londoners planning to leave, other parts of the UK were the most popular destination with 36 per cent, but mainland Europe was another draw with 31 per cent.

And for those remaining in London, 67 per cent of people strongly agreed that London is the best night out in the UK, with 42 per cent of people admitting to spending between £51 and £100 on an average night out in the capital.

Sixteen per cent admit to spending between £126 and £200 on an average night, while a flash 1 per cent blow £200 or more.

Despite Londoners' claim that their home is already a 24-hour city, 34 per cent admit to sneaking home between 11pm and midnight, while 36 per cent say they are in bed before 2am.

Almost two-thirds of those questioned wanted a greater police presence on the streets during the evening to help to cut down on anti-social behaviour and drunken violence.

Another 19 per cent thought longer licensing hours would add to the atmosphere. One-third of people also pointed the finger at Londoners themselves, claiming that friendlier people would

make a night out in the capital more enjoyable.

Londoners were vocal about the need for better public transport at night.

Two-thirds of them would like to see increased public transport, saying recent weekend extensions to Tube shutdowns are not enough.

Getting home remains a problem for most clubbers, with 27 per cent taking the Tube home, 14 per cent risking a night bus and 19 per cent using black cabs or taxi.

Despite the safety risk, 3 per cent of Londoner's admit to using illegal minicabs to get home, while 4 per cent walk.
