

SHOP QUIZ

BURGH residents are to be consulted about the town's shops in a major survey by the Helensburgh Partnership.

The survey is part of a concerted attempt to attract more big-name retail brands to the town.

The Partnership — tasked with reviving the town — has appointed a leading firm of commercial property consultants to carry out the investigation into Helensburgh's shopping needs.

Colliers Commercial Real Estate Consultants will review the existing facilities and estimate the town's potential to absorb additional shops.

A crucial part of the study is the involvement of residents. A household telephone survey will be carried out next week to gauge the public's views.

Derek Anderson, chairman of the Helensburgh Partnership, said: "The questionnaire for the telephone survey has been specifically constructed to assist in addressing Helensburgh's needs in shopping terms. Residents are urged to participate in the telephone survey

By Frances Ridge

which is a fundamental part of the overall analysis."

The Advertiser revealed in October last year that retailers miss out on an estimated £20 million as shoppers take their cash elsewhere.

Compton McGill, President of Helensburgh's Retailers' Association, said the survey was a step forward but urged the Partnership to act quickly on its findings.

He said: "We welcome the fact they are carrying out the survey but feel frustrated that everything is moving very slowly.

"We hope the Partnership can bring an injection of new faces to the town in terms of retailers who will keep people in the town. But we need the people of Helensburgh to shop in the town.

"If the Partnership can attract other major retailers then we would welcome that as there are too many empty shops."

From Monday residents will be contacted as part of the survey. The results will be available during June and the full report is due at the end of July.