

Which establishments on Warwick University's campus are safe spaces for students?

A project by Sage Dunn

Why is this project important to me and other Warwick students?

- Spending power = our power
 - Reflecting our political positions is important
 - Personal ideologies (e.g. choosing to support independent/small over chain businesses)



So what is a 'safe' space in terms of a business?

- A safe space can be a place that fosters an environment free from harm - so how does this translate to café's, restaurants, shops?
 - Causes they support
 - Brands they use or products they sell and their ideologies
 - Price points
 - Accessibility
 - Clientele

How did I find out if Warwick's businesses are 'safe'?

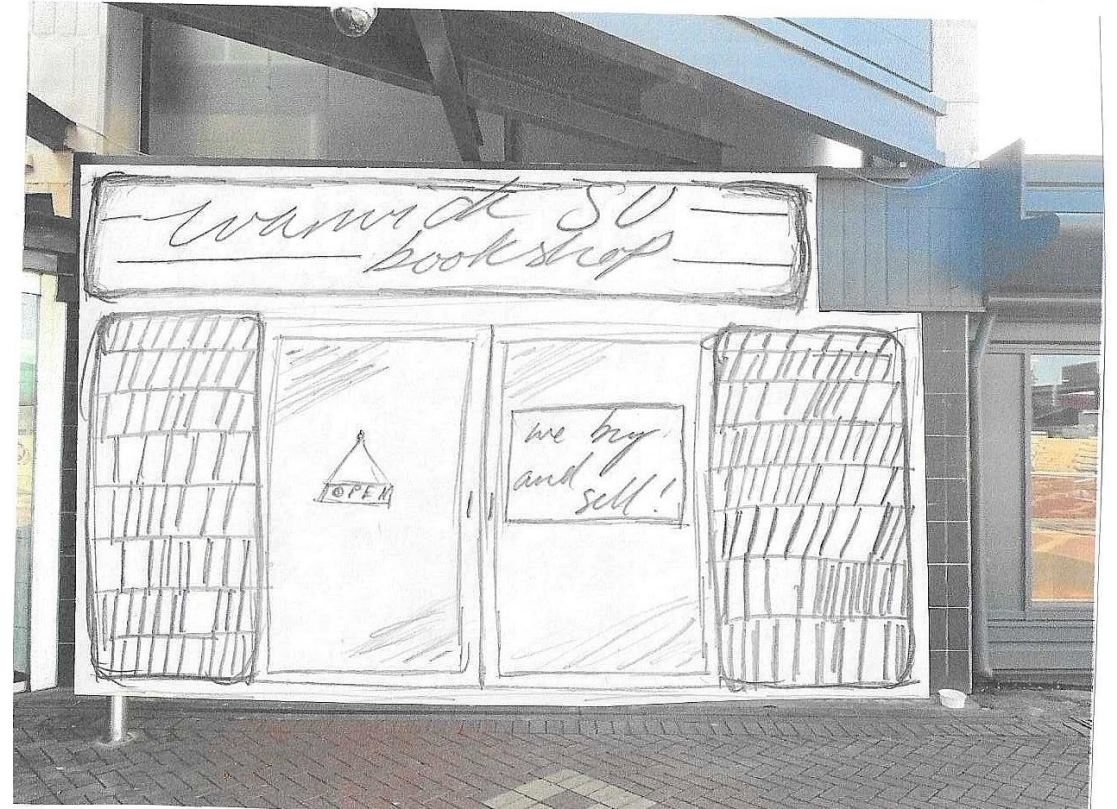
- In-depth interviews with 9 Warwick University students
- I asked them 10 questions surrounding their opinions and habits surrounding the businesses on campus
- Interviews were semi-structured, I asked the same 10 questions but sometimes asked for elaboration or follow up questions
- I gained in depth insights into not only the habits of consumers at Warwick, but also the rationale behind their habits

What did these students think?

- My three conclusions from these interviews:
 - Students prefer to support their university
 - When on campus, students like feeling like they're in their own bubble
 - Students need more services on campus that aren't already there
- So how can Warwick accommodate for this?...

Proposed change 1:

- Swapping the Pret for a used bookshop
- Students deemed Pret 'unsafe' due to their political ideology and which causes they fund as a company - the café has been the site of a few protests the past year on campus.
- A used bookshop could be Student union run - a quality that participants said was important to them - and could introduce a buy/sell scheme
- This would create jobs for students, and access to books they need for their degrees without breaking the bank.



Proposed change 2:

- Swap the Library café with a student union run café
- The ground floor café space as a space for evening socialising without alcohol
- This could create more jobs for students, with better hours that are completely outside the working day
- Starbucks was also the target of some protest in the past year at Warwick



Proposed change 3:

- Creating a space inside the student union for a student financial advice center
- Using the space inside the student union once a week to give students access to financial advice
- Creates a more comfortable environment for talking about money, as sometimes asking for help can be intimidating
- The advisors could be students equipped with the right tools - as an extension of the residential assistant's team, or as a new role of the student union staff



Thank you for listening