

What makes a good quality of life in Derbyshire? Consultation with local people on their priorities for Derbyshire

Young People

What activities were undertaken and why?

Officers attended Fairfield Youth Centre and the launch of the Amber Valley Youth Forum to talk to young people about what makes a good quality of life. Interactive sessions were run at Eckington and Woodville Youth Centres and teachers at Frederick Gent School ran a session with pupils as part of the citizenship curriculum. A small session with children in care was also run.

Surveys and questionnaires reveal what is important to local people but a variety of reasons may influence their choices. The idea of this consultation was to peel back the layers and get people talking openly and honestly to develop a better understanding of local priorities and use the feedback to help shape future plans, strategies and projects (e.g. the Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy and partners' own corporate plans). People were specifically asked what is important to their quality of life to open the discussion and then chose their top priorities.

The sessions focused on the following 19 topics:

- Strengthening a sense of community
- Climate change
- Highways, roads and transport
- Access to services
- Parks and open spaces
- Support people to live independently
- Affordable decent housing
- Fire safety
- Road traffic collisions
- Educational attainment
- Crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime
- Qualifications, skills and job prospects
- Vibrant towns and village centres
- Health and well-being
- Reduce, re-use, recycle
- Clean streets
- Activities for adults
- Activities for children and young people
- Tourism

When did the consultation take place?

Discussions took place between September 2008 and January 2009.

How many people were involved?

About 135 young people were involved and the following feedback forms outline their views.

Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2014 Consultation Feedback



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Young People:		Amber Valley Youth Forum Launch
Top Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime • Strengthening a sense of community • Parks and open spaces • Activities for children and young people 	
Comments:	<p>Feeling safe at night was important to this group of young people they felt that it influences the way they feel and act in that it stops them getting out and about. They were also keen to impress that that not all young people hanging about were up to bad behaviour.</p> <p>Some of the young people would like to see a greater sense of community and would especially like to see a more tolerant society with greater acceptance of those who are different.</p> <p>Parks and open spaces were seen as important not only for keeping healthy and active but because they provide an ideal space for fun. The young people recognised the links between a healthy life and exercise and felt that this was another reason why parks and open spaces were important. They would also like more clubs, activities and courses to encourage young people to learn new skills and hobbies.</p> <p><i>'Reducing crime is the most important thing to me as it will be a better world for everyone and I want to be in the police force so its important to me and I am interested in crime and things like that'.</i></p> <p><i>'Building a sense of community is important to me because people think all children are bad'.</i></p> <p><i>'Parks and open spaces to keep fit and healthy'.</i></p>	
Top priorities for all youth groups consulted based on comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for children and young people • Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime • Tackling climate change • Improve qualifications, skills and job prospects • Strengthening a sense of community 	
Bottom priorities for all youth groups consulted based on comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to services • Tourism • Supporting people to live independently • Activities for adults • Reduce road traffic collisions 	

Top 5 County Priorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Improve health and wellbeing2. Highways, roads and transport3. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime4. Affordable decent housing5. Activities for children and young people
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Young People: Caring Voices Forum	
Top Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways, roads and transport • Improve qualifications, skills and job prospects • Activities for children and young people • Improve health and wellbeing
Comments:	<p>This was a small group so there were only a few comments to look at however, there were some pertinent comments. One person commented that they would like cheaper transport as they don't have enough allowance to get out and about. Another reiterated this, asking for it to be free to those under 16. The young people in this group also wanted more opportunities to train in a work based environment.</p> <p>Many of the things the young people talked about related to their free time and being able to enjoy themselves, e.g. being able to go to the cinema, and have access to the swimming pool and gym (for free or at a reduced price) and having the latest gadgets.</p> <p>Money was also important to the group so that they could buy and do the things they wanted, however, they also recognised that simply giving more money wasn't the answer as some would spend this on drink and drugs.</p> <p><i>'There should be more places where gigs can be held and more clubs for under 18's'.</i></p> <p><i>'Freedom to get to places is important. There is a need for young people to have enough money and allowance to use the buses'.</i></p> <p><i>'There should be better maintained bridle ways'.</i></p>
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Young People:		Eckington
Top Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening a sense of community • Highways, roads and transport • Improve, qualifications, skills and job prospects • Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime • Tackling climate change & reduce, re-use, recycle 	
Comments:	<p>Strengthening a sense of community was really important to this group who chose it as their top priority. This is not surprising given how actively involved they were in their local area, some of them were involved in the local parish council and others had campaigned to get the group set up to give the youth of Eckington a place to express their opinions. They believed more could be done in schools regarding citizenship education and making young people aware of how they can influence decision making.</p> <p>They were very annoyed with limitations with the B-line card as it meant that due to the location of Eckington some bus companies who were based in nearby Sheffield refused to accept them and return fares were impossible to purchase with a B-line card making the journey very expensive.</p> <p>The group already understood that fear of crime is disproportionate to the levels of crime and recognised that this impacts on people's sense of community. They also felt that it was unfair that young people were stigmatised as being anti-social for simply hanging around.</p> <p>Their hopes for the futures primarily centred on their careers and education but tackling climate change was also important.</p> <p><i>'Recycling is key to the new energy source which I am the genius behind'.</i></p> <p><i>'Have to fight battles to get into the community as young people are thought of negatively'.</i></p> <p><i>'Need to educate people because crime is low and fear of crime is high and this lowers a sense of community'.</i></p>	
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Young People:		Fairfield Youth Centre
Top 5 Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime • Tackling climate change • Reduce, re-use, recycle • Clean streets • Activities for children and young people 	
Comments:	<p>Young people in Fairfield were concerned with feeling safe and particularly reducing crime in their area. They would like to see a reduction in crime and would like to feel safer on the streets. They particularly would like to see drug use tackled.</p> <p>Climate change and the environment were also important to them; they would like to see more recycling and more investment in the planet for the future. They recognised the need to reduce the carbon emissions, understood global warming and the impact of the polar ice caps melting. When asked about their future they wanted more people to recycle and also felt that ideally we should be more eco-friendly and protect the planet for the next generation.</p> <p>Living in a nice environment was important to the young people of Fairfield. They would like the streets to be cleaner and for less rubbish to be present on the streets.</p> <p>Young people in this group believed that youth clubs provide a safe area for kids to have fun and socialise. They would like more social and sporting activities for young people to help keep out of trouble and they recognised the broader benefits of doing activities out of school.</p> <p><i>'It's really important to me because without youth clubs and stuff, we would be hanging around and some of us would end up committing crime and vandalising stuff'.</i></p> <p><i>'It is important to have clean streets because we don't want to have rubbish in the roads'.</i></p> <p><i>'There needs to be more facilities for young people available because there isn't any available in Buxton e.g. bowling, cinema'.</i></p>	
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Young People:		Frederick Gent School
Top Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime • Improve fire safety • Improve health and well-being • Affordable decent housing • Educational attainment 	
Comments:	<p>Young people here wanted to feel safer on the streets and were worried about injuries and deaths from crime. They also believed that people should have more respect and care for others and that there should be more police patrolling the streets.</p> <p>They also chose improving fire safety as one of their top priorities; they were the only group to do this. They felt that fire safety should be taught in schools.</p> <p>They recognised that being healthy helped you live a happier and longer life.</p> <p>They were also worried about house prices and having somewhere reasonable to live when they were older. They wanted to be proud of where they lived and wanted to make sure that there was enough room for their families.</p> <p>They thought that all children should have the right to a good education and acknowledged the link between, a good education, work, money and standard of living.</p> <p><i>'Crime and the fear of crime are important so you can walk down the street at night and feel safe'.</i></p> <p><i>'Improving fire safety is important so you can get to safety if there was a fire'.</i></p> <p><i>'Health and wellbeing is important because there will be less ill people and more happy people'.</i></p> <p><i>'Decent homes are important because the people who don't get enough money from working, how would they afford a decent house without getting into debt'.</i></p> <p><i>'I think everyone should have the right to a good education so they can get a good job and get enough money for their needs'.</i></p>	

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Young People: Woodville	
Top 5 Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling climate change • Activities for children and young people • Improve qualifications, skills and job prospects • Affordable decent housing • Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime
Comments:	<p>Activities for children and tackling climate change were by far the most important issues for this group. Not only did they choose climate change but they felt this closely linked in which a cleaner environment. They would like to see more activities arranged after school to help keep them fit and healthy and so that they can meet new people</p> <p>For the future these young people want to be able to earn enough money to have a good quality of life and there were a few comments around affording a mortgage and having a nice home. Improving their qualifications, skills and job prospects was also important so as to enable them to have a good job with a good wage.</p> <p><i>'More people are kind and care about the environment and everyone walks everywhere'.</i></p> <p><i>'It is important to have qualifications and skills so that we can have a job that we enjoy'.</i></p> <p><i>'We need to have somewhere we can afford to live'.</i></p>
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**Bottom 5 County
Priorities:**

1. Activities for adults
2. Improving fire safety
3. Reduce road traffic collisions
4. Tackling climate change
5. Tourism