

Primary School Consultation (June 2017)

With the help of the teachers, we carried out a consultation with the young people at Ruishton CofE Primary School aged 5-11 (up to school year 6). We issued the school with 7 questions and asked them to gain feedback to those questions from the pupils in the way they felt most appropriate for the age groups. For the youngest 3 classes, we were not able to differentiate between those who live in the Parish and those who live elsewhere. Where answers clearly relate to other Parishes, they have not been included in this report. In addition, due to the age group, some of the more creative suggestions have also not been included such as the need for a Science Museum, more Unicorns and a hot tub!

A. Year groups 1-4 (3 classes) answered the questions as classes. Key findings from these groups are:

Question 1: What do you like about living in Ruishton, Thornfalcon or Henlade (the Parish)?

The top answers included living near friends, it being a friendly place and playing football. They also liked it being close to Taunton. Of least interest was it being close to the countryside.

Question 2: What don't you like about living in the Parish?

The clear top answer was not enough sports/leisure activities followed closely by too much traffic.

Question 3: What would you like to see here in the future?

There were many answers to this with key themes being activity related such as more cycle paths, play parks/skate park, youth club/café and indoor/outdoor sports facilities. A "pop up" youth club/café was also suggested.

More nature places to encourage ladybirds and butterflies.

A shop was also mentioned by all 3 classes.

Question 4: What do you like to do in your free time?

Playing with friends/playing outside, computer games/Xbox, doing sport and doing creative activities were the key themes.

Question 5: How can we protect the environment in our area?

Picking up litter was the strongest theme including more rubbish bins.

Question 6: Do you walk or cycle to school?

Of these classes, 27 walk to school and 17 cycle.

Question 7: How do you feel about walking or cycling to school, do you feel safe?

Of these 3 classes, 39 said they felt safe and 19 said they did not feel safe. Walking from Stoke Road being dangerous was specifically identified by someone. *(Due to how these classes completed the survey some of those who use cars may also have answered this question).*

B. Year groups 4-6 (2 classes) answered the questions as individuals therefore, it is easier to identify who lives in the Parish (58 pupils) and these responses relate to those living in our Parish:

Question 1: What do you like about living in Ruishton, Thornfalcon or Henlade (the Parish)?

Overwhelmingly, the top answers were living near friends and it being a friendly place. Being close to Taunton was also important. Of less importance was being close to the countryside.

Question 2: What don't you like about living in the Parish?

The clear top answer (29) was not enough sports/leisure activities followed by too much traffic (18) and then hard to cycle or walk around the village (8).

Question 3: What would you like to see here in the future?

Again, the key themes were activity related with 31 wanting to see more outdoor sports facilities. 27 would like more indoor leisure facilities/space and 25 would like to see a bigger, or more, parks. 28 pupils would like a café with 17 of these pupils specifically stating a youth club/café. 29 pupils would like to see a shop in the parish and 16 would like to see more cycle paths. 6 pupils also identified community allotments.

Question 4: What do you like to do in your free time?

These were similar to the younger groups, however the top 3 were much clearer with playing with friends both inside and outside was top with 21, playing football 15 and computer games/Xbox/computers etc was 10. Being physically active is clearly of importance to this group with 41 comments relating to the range of physical activities listed compared to 23 comments of a non-physical activity.

Question 5: How can we protect the environment in our area?

These responses fell into two areas, rubbish and transport. 20 comments were made about picking up litter and having more rubbish bins. Organised litter picking was mentioned on 5 occasions as suggestions.

Transport comments included more cycle paths (4), increase walking or cycling to school (5), more people walking or cycling to work (6). The need to reduce speeding/reckless vehicles was mentioned on 6 occasions. There was a clear theme of trying to get people to walk or cycle rather than use vehicles.

Question 6: Do you walk or cycle to school?

Of these classes, 30 walk to school, 31 use a car and 4 cycle/scoot.

Question 7: How do you feel about walking or cycling to school, do you feel safe?

Of the 34 who walk/cycle/scoot to school 29 commented that they feel safe with 2 saying they do not feel safe (3 did not comment). Of the 29 who said they feel safe they commented that this was because they do it with parents/friends, 1 did not feel safe when cars come zooming past and 1 commented that the paths are narrow in areas which does not make them feel safe at that part of their walk.

In summary, speeding traffic was a key theme as was the wish for more outside space for sport. Littering is of importance and suggestions were given for reducing litter. Many walk or cycle around the village, not just to get to school, and it is clear that being able to do this safely is of importance. A café/shop, including the idea of a pop-up youth café, was mentioned by a large number of the pupils.