

Lesbury Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

Young Peoples' Views - Leisure

My name is Will Brunger and I am in Year 11 at the Duchess High School. I live in Lesbury. I attended several meetings, developed a questionnaire and analysed the responses, to complete the volunteering section of my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

How was the Questionnaire Developed?

A meeting was held with Pam Allen, chairperson of the Lesbury Parish NDP Steering Group. We talked about how the survey might be structured and about leisure options for Lesbury Village Hall and the Parish.

We wanted to form a focus group, with other young people including girls but we weren't able to get others involved.

Instead I used the ideas we had come up with in our meeting, along with some new ones, and created a questionnaire, which was reviewed by Pam Allen, and printed off by the Parish council.

How was the Questionnaire Distributed?

At our meeting we had discussed options for getting the survey to the young people, completed and returned. As we were unsure where all the young people lived in the Parish, we agreed the best way would be to see if the schools were prepared to give out the questionnaires and collect them in afterwards. We contacted the schools. Hipsburn School agreed to distribute, and the High School agreed to, once the questionnaire had been approved by the Head, Mr Hall.

The High School asked for 40 blank questionnaires, and Hipsburn School asked for 60. These were delivered to the schools.

Duchess High School: Admin staff worked out who lived in the parish and gave Form teachers questionnaires with named children on. These were given to the young people in form time, and they were asked to complete and return to the Form teacher. The Form teacher returned these to the admin team. 33 questionnaires were completed and these were collected.

Hipsburn Primary School: Admin staff gave each teacher a pile of questionnaires and asked them to give to children who lived in the Parish. Children were allowed to complete at school or take home. 13 questionnaires were completed and returned to the admin team, and these were collected.

How were the Completed Questionnaires Analysed?

I used a Tally chart to record all the responses from the questionnaires, being careful to separate out male and female responses and high school and primary school responses. I then put the information on an excel spreadsheet.

Recipients of questionnaire: young people living in Lesbury Parish aged between 8 and 16 years old. Questionnaires were distributed by Duchess High School and Hipsburn Primary School.

Responses: 46 questionnaires returned: 33 from the High School and 13 from the Primary School.

The responses were approximately a 50:50 male /female split. (High School: 18 male, 15 female. Primary: 6 male, 7 female)

Analysis: See excel spreadsheet

Summary

Village Hall

The top three activities that young people in the Parish would most like to see in the village hall are:

1. Table Tennis 19 out of 46 (popular with the full age range surveyed)
2. Archery and a Pool table (both of these are a strong preference for those over 11)
3. Table football (h), Cookery club (f/p) and martial arts (p) and film club.

Not far behind was a strong interest in Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) or similar schemes and a youth club.

Other suggestions for the village hall were other types of dance (x 1).

My thoughts:

- Table tennis sessions, film club and archery sessions should be easy to set up, as the parish already has the equipment.
- Could the community fundraise/ get a grant to set up a youth club with table football and pool table etc. (equipment could be used by everyone in the community) The youth club could also include table tennis and films. Cookery classes could be run separately or could be part of a youth club.
- Do we have adults in the community who could/would teach archery, cookery, run youth club?
- Could we invite a martial arts teacher to run a club in the village hall – could be an all ages session. Useful for fitness and self-defence.

Lots of young people are keen to do D of E, or similar award, to help them with their future (job/university applications.) Many schools across the country run the scheme, but unfortunately Duchess High School doesn't. However, Alnmouth Explorers do run D of E.

Leisure Facilities other than Village Hall

These options were very popular and in general had much more support than the village hall options.

Top three places went to:

1. Gym, (mostly high schoolers) – 31 out of 46
2. Trampolining facilities, which was a popular choice across the age groups – 30 out of 46
3. Ten Pin Bowling facilities (mostly high schoolers) – 24 out of 46

The rest of the other options followed closely behind.

Other suggestions for leisure facilities were:

- Swimming pool x 7
- 'small shop'/'corner shop'/'post office' x 6
- 'off road bike tracks'/'ramps'/'jumps' x 6
- Leisure Centre x 4
- New park x 4
- Indoor 3G football pitch x 3
- Go Kart Track x 2
- Rugby pitch x 2
- Small café/a place to hang out x 2
- Hockey pitch
- Climbing Wall
- Fishing

My Thoughts:

- Young people in Lesbury Parish are very keen to have more leisure facilities based in Lesbury Parish and they are thinking big!
- Although the Parish has a shop/shepherds hut cafe and a pub, these facilities aren't available to young people (shop/cafe is shut by the time the school buses return from Alnwick).
- A leisure centre could include lots of the activities young people would like to have, and be great for the whole community, plus provide a café/meeting place.