

11. Young People

The village has a much lower number of young people than the UK average as the Spa attracts older people and those retiring. Nevertheless, the young people are a valuable part of our community adding a vibrant dynamic that improves the lives of other generations. It is even more important therefore that every effort is made to ensure the young people of Woodhall Spa enjoy their growing up and want to stay and bring up families of their own within the Spa. There are many challenges to overcome if the future generation are going to stay part of this community and these are addressed in other sections of this plan - affordable housing under 'Development and Planning', for example.

It was excellent to have some feedback from younger people (this was done as part of a different survey and the response was not as strong as the general survey) and it was perhaps surprising that the young people have the same likes and dislikes about Woodhall Spa as the adults and were voicing the same concerns over anti-social behaviour, vandalism and need for increased police presence, proving that it is certainly the minority of 'yobs' who cause upset for everyone.

Many young people are active, involved in clubs (47%) and sports, disappointingly only 25% said that they went to the Youth Club. When asked what could be done to improve the Youth Club a number of young people said more activities whilst the most common suggestion was to improve the appearance and make it bigger. The young people of the village certainly seem to be active, enjoying a great number of activities and pastimes including; Cycling (60%) fishing (38%) riding (52%) shooting (39%), walking (67%) running (57%) swimming (84%) football (59%) and tennis (73%).



Youth in action in the Youth Club

When asked about the negatives of living in Woodhall Spa there were three repeated answers, vandalism, not enough police and finally a comment that could be linked very easily to the other two 'nothing to do at night'.

There must be a look at investment into the young peoples services and facilities, especially for the over eevens, which can be accessed in the evenings to improve their quality of life. It is common knowledge that boredom leads to misbehaviour amongst youths and therefore looking for ways of increasing facilities may, as a by product, reduce petty crime and vandalism.

Young people were also asked what they liked about Woodhall Spa. The responses were varied. A third said that they liked the atmosphere - quiet, non-threatening and pretty. Other comments were focussed on their favourite places, with popular spots being the Kinema, swimming pool, the video shop, Jubilee Park and the shops.

A service that young people were not happy about was the public transport; they felt that it was inadequate in a number of areas, mostly on a Sunday. As mentioned elsewhere in the Plan, a redesign on bus timetables may help reduce the isolation caused by the rural nature of the village.

What improvements our primary school children would like to see (these are all quotes from work contributed by the children of St Andrews Church of England Primary School)

- Build up the roundabout
 - Put a 10 cm curb around it
 - Plant flowers in it

- Bright flowers so people with eyesight problems can see them
 - The flowers should spell out Woodhall Spa
 - Use primroses, bluebells, buttercups, sunflowers and blossoms
- More facilities for the disabled
 - Ramps into every shop
 - Staff should offer to help them reach something
 - Aisles should be wider
 - More disabled toilets
 - More disabled parking slots
- More family restaurants so that the whole family can go out and enjoy the meal
- More facilities
 - Shopping so people don't have to travel
 - Big clothes store - youth orientated
 - Toy store with CDs and videos
 - Claire's Accessories
 - Specialist shops such as army surplus, designer, camping and games
 - Youth facilities
 - Skateboard ramps
 - Gyms for children
 - Spa for children
 - Upgrading of Youth Club
 - Running track
 - Laser point shooting range
 - Availability of musical instruments
 - Snooker club
 - Sports Centre
 - More tennis courts
- Environment
 - More environmental parks
 - "Woodhall Wilderness" - (picture supplied of serene park land with lakes and families having picnics) - a place to have a quiet afternoon having lunch with the family without being crowded by lots of tourists
 - Bring back the train track; it might take away some of the traffic and provide us with extra transport



Woodhall Station circa 1940

What we want to achieve	What do we need to do
We need more facilities for our young people (especially 11-15s) to keep them from hanging around on the streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We'd like to have a "Youth Cafe" / drop in centre - suggested sites are Coronation Hall or old Mustang Sally's site • We need to find a way of providing more sports facilities
The Jubilee Pool needs a pricing structure to encourage local young people to use it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the summer months we'd like cheap tickets local young people to encourage them into the Jubilee Pool after school and during the school holidays
Better public transport	<i>See plans in Services and Infrastructure section</i>
Our young people want to feel safe and not threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet again a need for a managed drop-in centre
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a visible police presence.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly find out from young people what issues they have about crime and safety in Woodhall Spa