

# Youth

In addition to the main questionnaire and open consultation special arrangements were made for young people's views and ideas to be ascertained. There were two free film shows aimed at the younger and older youngsters which included facilitated sessions to ascertain the young people's views and a special youth questionnaire was completed by 29 young people (9 of whom live outside the village but visit or temporarily reside on a regular basis). Overall responses covering young people's interests embraced some 56 under the age of 18. This section is devoted to youth but sport is such an important activity for young people that the reader is urged to consider the Sports section of this plan alongside this youth section.

Figures from the 2001 Census show the number of 4 -15 year olds to be 60 and 16 - 24 year olds to be 55.

The village cricket club has been closed for a number of years and the football club closed at the end of last season. Junior football posts, available for casual use on the playing field, are used on a regular basis and a casual village cricket match brought out a good number of people over a wide age group, including youngsters.

There has been no village youth group for a number of years and young people have little opportunity for socialising together in the village, especially the over 10's as they tend to go to several different schools in the area. The recent introduction of children's cinema has provided an opportunity for socialising but unlike the adult evening screenings has not proved popular, possibly due to choice of film and timing of screenings. Discussions at the open days and youth film shows showed that many young people find this lack of community social life distressing.

The youth consultation showed a substantial proportion interested in a Youth Club, Football Club, Cricket Club, Cycling Club and an Arts & Crafts Club. Significant numbers were also interested in possible day trips to a theme park, beach or physical activities. There was also significant interest shown in archery, climbing, horse riding, ice skating, snowboarding, swimming tennis, ten-pin bowling and trampolining. The less formal consultation at open days and the facilitated youth sessions brought forward further suggestions for a MUGA , climbing wall and BMX track. A small number of young people already participated in some of these activities away from the villages, using parental transport; all expressed disappointment that they had to travel in this way.

Further, more than half of the responses of the main questionnaire said that they would use facilities such as a mountain bike area, skateboard park, hard games area, or youth theatre group.

What is unambiguously clear from the results of the consultation is that there is a latent demand for proper youth facilities in the villages. However, the way in which the survey covered young people's interests, with the split between the main questionnaire completed by households and the youth questionnaire, suggests that further, more detailed, consultation with the villages' young people is necessary.

This should be focussed both so that it includes a greater spread of the younger population and to narrow down the wide number of possibilities which, quite clearly, could not all be provided. It must also ensure that any proposals that require significant investment would be supported by a sufficient number of families to justify the effort and cost.

Many of the activities in the young people's aspirations could be undertaken under the umbrella of a, properly supported, youth club although many young people might prefer to be offered "pick & mix" ad hoc facilities and activities. It is therefore proposed to involve the County Council's Youth Service to assist with further investigations as a preliminary to making firm proposals to be added to this Village Plan as an annex.

### The Jubilee Playground - (Children's Play Area)

The play area situated alongside the village hall is well used and of a good standard. Equipment and grass area are well maintained with 87% of respondents being pleased with this facility. Suggestions for additional equipment included a bigger climbing frame monkey poles and bars for the slightly older children

<b>Proposals</b>		
<b>No</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Proposed Actionee</b>
J 1	Approach County Youth Service for assistance in eliciting detailed views from young people on clubs, activities and facilities	SPFA & PCSG
J 2	Prepare formal proposal and action plan for provision of young people's facilities in the villages as annex to this Village Plan	PCSG & SPFA
J 3	Consider additional equipment for the Jubilee Playground children's play area	SPFA