

Summary

LEDBURY TOWN PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE for Young People 11 – 18 years old



- In the autumn and winter 2013/14 385 young people between the ages of 11 and 18 completed a questionnaire on life in Ledbury. 344 were students at John Masefield High School and the remainder were either at schools and colleges outside Ledbury or were in work or looking for work. 65% of the young people lived in Ledbury.
- The age profile was weighted to those between the ages of 12 – 14 (66%), with 11% aged 17. Other ages were fairly evenly represented.
- Just over half of respondents were female.
- Nearly 75% liked Ledbury and 72% thought it was a friendly town. Most agreed that it was attractive and peaceful but only 28% found it interesting and 44% clean.
- When asked of the good things in Ledbury those things mentioned most were shops (Greggs and Tesco particularly mentioned), the recreation ground and parks, history/historic buildings, the swimming pool and the fact that Ledbury is a safe place to grow up in.
- When asked of the things to make it a better place to live in the most frequently mentioned things were shops aimed at young people particularly clothes and games shops, more leisure activities, a cinema and a better swimming pool.
- The recreation ground is popular especially as a place to chill out with friends and the use of the open space generally is appreciated. Most felt that toilets were needed along with more shelters and the provision of a café/soft drinks outlet.
- Nearly half of the young people use the woods for recreation and the New Mills play area and the Walled Garden were popular for a substantial minority.
- The most popular out-of-school sport was swimming and the use of Halo Gym/leisure centre was mentioned by a significant minority.
- Nearly three quarters would watch films in Ledbury if suitable ones were available and more than half were keen to have a drop-in café. One third wanted a sound recording studio.
- 68% would use play equipment suitable to teenagers and nearly half mountain biking facilities. More seating and more open spaces for sport were also popular.
- Three quarters felt safe all or most of the time in Ledbury. 45% felt that drinking alcohol and drug taking were problems in Ledbury with the Recreation Ground, the Line Bank, the Walled Garden, Lawnside and Tescos mentioned as areas of concern especially in the evening. The most mentioned ways in which Ledbury could be made safer were better lighting (especially on the Line Bank), more visible policing and CCTV on the Recreation Ground.
- Nearly three quarters felt that parking in the streets was an issue and 45% thought that speeding was an issue. Popular sitings for pedestrian crossings were Bye Street Bridge Street and Hereford Road.
- More than half felt that they needed advice and information concerning careers and college and university education, while a significant minority wanted more information on clubs and facilities and health problems.

- 40% felt they were not given to opportunity to have their say about what happens in Ledbury (20% thought they were and the rest had no opinion). Frequently mentioned thoughts included that they are not listened to and people have a poor opinion of younger people (stereotyping). A number mentioned that this was the first time they had been asked for their opinions and it was good! Just over half thought that a Youth Council would be a good idea with 30% having no opinion. 17% would be interested in being involved in a Youth Council.
- Just over half do not expect to stay in Ledbury once they are adult. Reasons given were for more career/work opportunities, university, travelling to new places and the fact that there were no jobs in Ledbury and that it was boring.
- Items topping a wish list were a cinema, fast food outlets, bigger skate park, better swimming pool, better and more jobs and clothes shops for young people.

JUNE 2014