

Responses to questions raised at Stevenage Youth Council Wednesday 24 October 2018

Councillor Jim Brown and the Scrutiny Officer, Stephen Weaver attended a meeting of the Youth Council on Wednesday 24 October 2018. The following responses are based on 12 completed surveys.

- Have you ever had to contact the Council? In person at the Customer Service Centre, by telephone, by letter, by email or via the website?

Answer:

11 answered no

1 answered yes

- If the Council was to contact you what method would you prefer? e.g. Social Media (if so which method, twitter, Facebook, other? or face to face at a meeting?)

Answer:

By letter: 2

By email: 8

By Social Media: 6

Face-to-face: 4

- What issues would you most likely wish to contact the Council about?

Answer:

Bus Services & increasing cost of bus fares: 5

Feeling safe and violence towards young people: 3

Look & cleanliness of the Town Centre: 2

Current state of services for YP & schools: 2

Parks/social care/empty shops: 1

- If you were contacted by the Council to complete a short survey would you complete it?

Answer:

Yes: 10*

No/unlikely: 2

*Caveats – If the survey was via social media (1 response); If relevant to young people (1 response)

Discussion at the meeting

At the meeting Cllr Jim Brown and the Scrutiny Officer were able to discuss the Youth Council's views about the Council's engagement with young people.

It was pointed out that there are 18 other young people's groups who regularly use Bowes Lyon House via the HCC Youth Connexions and Youth Service so it would be a good place to visit to get views of young people face to face. The local athletics club at Ridlins was also suggested as a good group to approach with over 100 young people attending per evening.

Others suggested that making approaches to schools would be a good idea as young people may be more willing to talk to the Council about issues that affect them in their own environment. The upcoming Youth Conference was also suggested as a good place to get the views of young people.

The issue of bus services, regularity, reliability and increases in fares was raised as an issue of concern for young people and it was suggested that this concern could be referred to the Bus User Group Stevenage (BUGS), with the view that perhaps young people could attend one of their meetings.

The issue of raising questions at Council meetings and the youth council attending other Council Scrutiny Committee's was discussed. It was felt that if a smaller less formal meeting could be set up then Youth Council members may be more inclined to attend.

On the issue of whether young people had been actively engaged about the town centre regeneration, the Youth Council said they had not but were aware of some of the changes that were taking place. The Youth Council were not aware of the future plans and would welcome young people being consulted about these plans.