



Sevenoaks Youth Council

Meeting of Sevenoaks Youth Council 9th February 2022 at 6.00pm

**House in the Basement Youth Café, Stag Community Arts Centre,
London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ZZ**

Youth Council Members:

Henry Barden de Leon	Darcy Hogg
Mahedy Basher	Isabella McGlynn
Emilia Britain	Max Pound
Phoebe Critchlow, Treasurer	Vince Rands-Webb
Jasmine Geer	Mia Stack
Maya Goodrich	Anna Tarasheva, Vice-Chairman
Valentina Groves	Katie Willis, Chairman

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk, Alison Futtit, Senior Committee Clerk, and Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café.

AGENDA

1.	Apologies for Absence To receive and note apologies for absence.	
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting To receive and adopt the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 3 rd November 2021.	Attached
3.	Finance Report To note the balance of the Youth Council budget 2021/22.	Attached
4.	House in the Basement [HiTB] Youth Cafe To receive and consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HiTB report for November 2021 to January 2022 • HitB survey relating to impact of covid on young people https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HY7D2G6 	Attached Attached
5.	Youth Council Two Year Programme 2021-2023 To agree notes of the workshop held on 3 rd November 2021 to discuss issues and share ideas for Sevenoaks Town.	Attached

6.	HRH The Queen Platinum Jubilee Celebrations To consider suggestions for celebration of HRH The Queen's Jubilee and seek volunteers from Youth Council to help with events.	—
7.	Sevenoaks Town Council's Draft Green Community Investment Plan 2021 Youth Councillors are invited to consider and comment on the draft Plan.	Attached
8.	Youth in a Changing Climate For information – report prepared by Groundwork UK, a federation of charities mobilising practical community action on poverty and the environment across the UK.	Attached
9.	National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Young People Case Studies For information - to note examples of work with young people carried out by Town and Parish Councils.	Attached
10.	Date of Next Meetings 2021/22 To note the dates of meetings 2021/2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23rd March 2022 at 6.00pm • 18th May 2022 at 6.00pm To be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Council Offices.	Attached

Annual General Meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 3rd November 2021

at Sevenoaks Town Council Chamber, Bradbourne Vale Road TN13 3QG

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 6.55 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Henry Barden de Leon	Present	Isabella McGlynn	Present
Mahedy Basher	Apologies	Maximilian Pound	Present
Emilia Britain	Present	Vincent Rands-Webb	Present
Phoebe Critchlow, Treasurer	Present	Mia Stack	Apologies
Jasmine Geer	Present	Anna Tarasheva, Vice-Chairman	Present
Maya Goodrich	Present	Kate Willis, Chairman	Present
Valentina Groves	Present		

In attendance: Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet, Sevenoaks Town Mayor; Linda Larter, Town Clerk; Alison Futtit, Senior Committee Clerk; Cllr Andrew Eyre; and Cllr Richard Parry

1. Welcome by the Mayor

Cllr Dr Canet, Sevenoaks Town Mayor, welcomed youth councillors to the first meeting of the new Youth Council, elected following a year's break due to the Covid pandemic.

Cllr Canet explained that the chief campaign for her mayoral year was "Give it a Grow" encouraging more people to get involved with gardening, supporting wildlife and helping the community to protect the local green environment.

She thanked the youth councillors for giving their time to get involved with the community, emphasising that what they say and do as a Youth Council can help make a difference. She looked forward to hearing about the issues that concerned them and ideas for what they could do to make an impact.

2. Apologies for Absence

Received as shown above.

3. Election of Chairman

Two youth Councillors put their names forward to be Chairman of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2021-2022. A vote was taken by show of hands.

RESOLVED: That Kate Willis be elected as Chairman.

Kate Willis took the Chair and invited nominations for the election of Vice-Chairman and Treasurer.

4. Election of Vice-Chairman

Two youth Councillors put their names forward to be Vice-Chairman of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2021-2022. A vote was taken by show of hands.

RESOLVED: That Anna Tarasheva be elected as Vice-Chairman.

5. Election of Treasurer

Two youth Councillors put their names forward to be Treasurer of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2021-2022. A vote was taken by show of hands

RESOLVED: That Phoebe Critchlow be elected as Treasurer.

6. Appointment of Youth Council Representatives to the Youth Services Committee

It was noted that two representatives from the Youth Council were invited to attend Sevenoaks Town Council's Youth Services Committee.

RESOLVED: That consideration be given at a future meeting to appointing representatives to Sevenoaks Town Council's Youth Services Committee.

7. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 12th February 2020

The Minutes were received and adopted.

8. Sevenoaks Youth Council Constitution

RESOLVED: To receive and note the Sevenoaks Youth Council Constitution.

9. Finance Report

RESOLVED: to note

- (i) the income and expenditure report for the Youth Council 2021/22; and
- (ii) that the balance as at October 2021 for the Youth Council budget was £1,834.60

10. House in the Basement

Youth Councillors received an update report on the House in the Basement Youth Café. It was noted that numbers attending were low since the re-opening in June. The Town Clerk asked the Youth Council for ideas to help revitalise the Youth Café. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Council would be held in the Café.

11. Preparations for Two Year Programme

The Youth Council adjourned for a workshop to discuss issues and share ideas for Sevenoaks Town. The suggestions will form the basis of a two-year work plan for the Youth Council, to be discussed at the next meeting. (To be circulated separately)

It was noted that the key was to consider the issues raised and work out what the Youth Council could do to make improvements.

For example, the issue of young people's mental health had been raised. Youth Councillors were asked to consider:

- What kind of support was needed?
- Where and how would it be best to advertise services available for young people
- How to get young people to understand what was available and how to access it
- What the best way was to communicate information to young people
- What the Youth Council could do or influence about mental health provision

12. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at the House in the Basement Youth Café.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

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Agenda Item Sevenoaks Town Council**9A** Youth Council General Income and Expenditure:
7555/38

2021/22

		Expenditure £	Income £
Carried Forward from 2019/20:	879.60		
Unspent budget 2020/21:	500.00		
2021/22 Budget allocated:	500.00		
Total 01/04/21 starting balance:	1,879.60		£ 1,879.60
YC App Form Leaflets	03/09/2021	£ 45.00	
		£ 45.00	£1,879.60
Available Funds		£1,834.60	
		£ 1,834.60	

Agenda Item Sevenoaks Town Council**9B** Youth Council **Charity** Income and Expenditure:
7555/38

2021/22

		Expenditure £	Income £
Starting Balance:	01/04/2021		£ -
Budget allocated:	0.00		£0.00
		£ -	£0.00
Available Funds		£ -	
		£ -	

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Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Council - 9th February 2022



The House in the Basement has had a few changes since the last meeting, a new manager has been appointed and started on 1st January. Daren Mountain has worked with HitB in different capacities over the last 5 years and comes with many years of youth work experience in different settings.

We continue to open 4 days a week with our SEN night on a Tuesday proving to be popular with young people and parents alike. There is an extended menu available.

The following feedback was received from parents of young people attending the Tuesday Club:

“The adults were absolutely lovely and made my two feel right at home. My son is very hyped at going again next week.”

“My son was there this evening, he loves going every week. “

There are increased numbers of young people attending, especially for SEN club on Tuesdays, Generally, 8-15 young people attend each session, with several new faces. Occasionally we only have 2 people come.

Daren plans to promote HitB over the coming months with Schools work, detached youth work and partnering with other youth work agencies, hopefully this will increase the footfall at the Youth Cafe.

In partnership with West Kent Housing Association, a visit to Bewl Water for canoeing, archery etc. has been arranged during half term.

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Youth Council - 9th February 2022**

Young Mentor Project

HitB is working with Sevenoaks District Council on the Young Mentor Project and has prepared a survey to record the impact of Covid-19 on young people, their lives and their hopes for the future (see attached).

Several Youth Surveys have gone out and it is available to complete online:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HY7D2G6>

Responses are coming back and being collated.

In addition, a mini Youth Festival is being organised at Greatness Skate Park on Weds 6th April 11am-4pm. This will include demonstrations from professional skateboard and BMX riders, competitions and workshops.

Sevenoaks Youth Survey 2022

COVID Effects

To see how we protect your data, please visit the following link: [HERE](#)

1. About you:

First Name:

School:

Postcode:

2. Age:

☐ 11☐ 15☐ 12☐ 16☐ 13☐ 17☐ 14☐ 18

3. Do you feel the Covid pandemic had any impact on you your friends?

☐ Yes☐ No

Comment:

4. Did the events of the last 18 months to 2 years make you feel different in any way?

☐ Yes☐ No

Comment:

5. Do you feel more, or less confident about the future after the pandemic? What reasons do you have for your answer?

☐ More confident

☐ Less confident

☐ No change

Comment:

6. What are your thoughts on mask wearing?

☐ I don't mind

☐ I find it difficult

☐ I am exempt for medical reasons

7. What are your thoughts on social distancing?

☐ I don't mind

☐ I find it difficult

8. What did you think of the lockdowns?

☐ I didn't mind them

☐ I found them difficult

Comment:

9. What are your thoughts on being vaccinated?

☐ I want to be vaccinated

☐ I don't want to be vaccinated

☐ I cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons

Comment:

10. How did it affect you not being able to attend school clubs and other social events during lockdown?

- ☐ I was okay with not attending clubs
- ☐ I found it difficult not attending clubs

Comment:

11. Are you finding it difficult to go back to school & clubs since the pandemic?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Comment:

12. Did you know there is a free, safe, fun space in Sevenoaks for young people, open Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

13. We have a Youth Council in Sevenoaks to voice the opinions of young people to those in local government. We would also like your feedback on:

What is the main problem
young people face in
Sevenoaks

What is one improvement
you would make to
Sevenoaks? (Facilities,
Clubs etc.)

What, in your opinion,
should the Youth Council
do for young people in
Sevenoaks?

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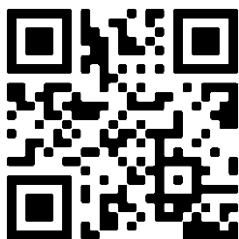
Sevenoaks Youth Council – 9th February 2022

Sevenoaks Youth Council - Workshop Notes 03.11.2021

What is the main problem for young people in the Sevenoaks Area?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health • Mental health (but that's more general, not just Sevenoaks) • Not engaging with other young people enough – not enough options for this • Not enough events/places where young people can express their creative/musical skills • Climate change • People not taking climate change seriously • Traffic is a big issue for everyone • No safe ways to cycle into town • Air pollution
What one improvement would you make for Sevenoaks Town if you could?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More events where the town comes together (e.g., free music events, food or local business stalls on the Vine) • Greater town collectivity • Improve sense of town community • Pedestrianising Sevenoaks • More cycle lanes through town • Better bikes/cycle access • More bike paths • Improvement to bus routes in and around Sevenoaks (they are terrible) • Plant some more trees • More trees outside of Knole • More bins around town • Reduce traffic • More recycling • Reduce air pollution • Decrease carbon emissions • Increase recycling • Reduce waste • Improve mental health of young people • Make a comprehensive Green Plan • Help local businesses
If money was no problem, what facilities would you like?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle and scooter infrastructure • Add a bike path to every relatively main road • Electric bikes (down by the station) • Bike racks near schools so people can have more eco-friendly ways to travel

Sevenoaks Youth Council – 9th February 2022

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More electric car chargers available to make it easier to charge cars, as it is a growing need • Access to free mental health facilities • Increase & better mental health provision • Reduce traffic • Increase pedestrians • Increase independent shops in the town • More recycling bins
What would you do in the next year?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve water quality in Leisure Centre • A better place to have more live music all year round • More cycle lanes & paths/better access for bikes • Add more green areas and make Sevenoaks a greener place • Maybe flower beds or flower boxes on the High Street, to provide more support for bees and pollinators • Focus on pedestrianisation and reducing traffic • Reducing litter on streets • Help local businesses
What would you do in the next 2 years?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant 1500 trees • Try to improve bus routes so that more people can access facilities and use less cars • Better public transport e.g., electric buses, cycle hire etc • Electric bikes and buses • Bottom-up development so: make sure that the whole town is included in decision making • Mental health provision – specific therapy • A comprehensive recycling programme e.g., asking people to separate home bins out • Pedestrianised High Street • Promotion of independent shops • A place for homeless people to stay the night • A solar farm • A 400-metre running track



Sevenoaks
TOWN council

DRAFT Green Community

Investment Plan 2021

Extension to Community Investment Plan 2019 – 2023

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Draft Green Community Investment Plan 2021
Extension to Community Investment Plan 2019 – 2023

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Draft Green Community Investment Plan 2021

Extension to Community Investment Plan 2019 – 2023

1. Summary

In November 2019 Sevenoaks Town Council (STC) resolved to make the following its Number 1 Priority:

- To recognise the Government and KCC declarations for aiming for Zero Carbon.
- To integrate this within the vision and throughout the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and within the Town Council's general operation.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted some of the STC original plans from 2019. However, STC has used the time to refocus its draft Neighbourhood Development Plan on climate and green issues, identifying policies which would contribute to a more sustainable town.

At a meeting in November 2021, Councillors met to review STC's original 2019 climate change initiatives and considered additional and new proposals. It was agreed that STC should communicate more to the public about the practical local initiatives it was already undertaking and its plans for the future and that STC should take a local leadership role, providing information about simple measures that can be taken in helping the local community to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to help the planet.

Friends of the Earth states: *"Parish and Town Councils may not be as powerful as local authorities, but they can 'do their bit' in addressing the climate and nature emergency and be a force for change."*

Impact: Community Carbon Calculator – provides the following information as at November 2021

Sevenoaks

20.1t CO₂e*

per-household consumption footprint
(p.a.)

EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO₂e)

Consumption of goods and services	7.17
Housing	4.48
Food and diet	4.36

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Travel	4.02
Waste	0.03
*CO2e stands for "carbon dioxide equivalent" and is a standard unit of measurement in carbon accounting. It expresses the impact of a number of different gases collectively as a common unit.	

For further information see the Impact calculator developed by Exeter University

<https://impact-tool.org.uk>

STC's overall aim is to put in place affordable and practical initiatives with long term green benefits for the local community and to support and encourage residents to pursue individually. Little steps together, reducing Sevenoaks carbon consumption footprint = big changes to the planet.

STC's Green Community Investment Plan (appendix to STC Community Investment Plan 2019 – 2023) brings together all of its climate change initiatives to publicise to and involve the local community and progress practical delivery under the following five themes:

- Theme 1 Buildings
- Theme 2 Transport & Movement
- Theme 3 Making Sevenoaks Greener
- Theme 4 Consumption
- Theme 5 Information & Access to information

2. STC Community Investment Plan 2019 - 2023

In 2014 Sevenoaks Town Council (STC) set out its first ambitious £4m Community Investment Plan to restore and improve community facilities. Building on the success of that Community Investment Plan the 2019 second document continued with the original 2014 plan and set out additional priorities for the next four years which increased investment to £6.5m+, for further details see appendix.

The STC 2021 Green Community Investment Plan moves away from primarily investing in community facilities and towards investing in the local environment and making Sevenoaks greener.

3. Theme 1 - Buildings

3.1 Sevenoaks Town Council's buildings and assets

STC when constructing new buildings will aim for them to be as



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Extension to Community Investment Plan 2019 – 2023

sustainable and eco-friendly as possible. Existing buildings to be more sustainable with reduced carbon footprint where practicable.

The new Bat & Ball Centre is as eco-friendly as possible.

- Rebuild instead of new build.
- Eco friendly and sustainable materials.
- Solar panels.
- Motion sensor lighting.
- Additional insulation.
- Improved heating and ventilation systems.



STC has agreed to research costs and practicalities for the following for its buildings:

- Solar panels.
- Motion sensor lighting.
- Additional insulation.
- Improved heating and ventilation systems.
- Energy audit for each building

3.2. Draft Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) can be viewed at sevenoaksndp.wordpress.com and is currently at draft stage in preparation for a referendum. Following a hoped-for successful referendum an Action and Implementation Plan would be the next step.

The NDP is based upon a vision and accompanying set of objectives. An important focus for the plan is to improve the health and well-being of the people that live within the NDP area. The plan also recognises the importance of addressing the nationally declared climate emergency and supporting sustainability.

The NDP draws upon the town's existing strengths, reflects the positive qualities identified by the local community and identifies the following number of challenges and opportunities.

Respond positively to climate change and encourage a more sustainable approach to both land use and lifestyle choices.	Deliver a sustainable expansion at Greatness, on land currently being worked to extract gravel by Tarmac Ltd (subject to release from Green Belt) in order to deliver new homes to meet local needs.
Enhance and preserve the town's heritage assets and special open spaces.	Unlock new opportunity for leisure, recreation, and community infrastructure – including a new watersports lake as part of this development.
Enhance the arrival experience into the town to create a more welcoming impression.	Grow the town's economy and support the creation of new jobs.

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Enhance the town's network of roads, footpaths and cycling routes to improve connections and create a safer and more attractive environment for users.	Deliver new community assets including a new community centre at Bat & Ball and new health and education provision.
Improve access to, and better connect, the town's open spaces	Deliver enhanced recreational and sports facilities for the town.
Regenerate and revitalise the Northern Sevenoaks area around Bat & Ball Station	Enhance the town's thriving cultural scene.

Objective 14: to promote high quality development that enhances the town and consolidates vacant or underutilised land.

Objective 15: to deliver a range of new homes to meet local needs.

Objective 16: to provide homes that are energy efficient and minimise environmental impact.

3.3. Energy Audits for Buildings

STC will carry out Energy Audits for its buildings. It is noted that other Transition Towns (*Transition Towns is a voluntary movement focusing on benefits of Local Money, Local Skills, Local Power with the aim to improve the local climate*) had initiated Energy Audits for homes. STC will research further and signpost residents to such initiatives and provide practical cost effective solutions for residents to improve energy use in their own homes.

4. Theme 2 – Transport & Movement

4.1 Reducing cars / traffic particularly in relation to school traffic

The NDP is progressing to referendum and includes relevant proposals. It was noted that subject to a successful referendum the NDP would then move to an Action and Implementation Plan – see section 3.2. for further details.

4.2. Cycle Racks

New facilities to park 30 bikes have been installed at the Bat & Ball Centre. Previously also at Bat & Ball Station.

Plans are in place with KCC for the installation of cycle racks, which double as planters, in the town centre. Cycle planters will be installed at STC office / Business Hub site.



STC will consider opportunities to install cycle racks on the rest of its estate and public open spaces.

4.3 Increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists

The NDP is progressing to referendum and includes relevant proposals. It was noted that subject to a successful referendum the NDP would then move to an Action and Implementation Plan – see section 3.2. for further details.

Draft Green Community Investment Plan 2021

Extension to Community Investment Plan 2019 – 2023

4.4. Proposals for 20 mph, one way systems, and shared space

The NDP is progressing to referendum and includes relevant proposals. It was noted that subject to a successful referendum the NDP would then move to an Action and Implementation Plan – see section 3.2. for further details.

4.5. Encourage increased use of public transport – buses and trains – by having improved Facilities

STC wants to encourage increased use of public transport – buses and trains – by having improved facilities.

STC is committed to working with the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership (DVCRP) to encourage more local sustainable travel. The DVCRP aims to

- Brings together six separate stations: Swanley, Eynsford, Shoreham, Otford, Bat & Ball and Sevenoaks
- Encourages passengers to visit local tourism attractions along the line
- Connecting communities to their railway and boosting local economy
- Working to improve station facilities, accessibility, and the natural environment
- Linking the use of the train to sustainable modes of transport e.g., walking and cycling
- Raising awareness of local heritage and culture including the artist Samuel Palmer

Subject to funding availability – STC considers proposals to increased bus usage is important. Building on the success of the introduction of the No 8 Bus and subject to funding availability STC would want the provision to move to a half hourly provision and available in the evening. STC would also support where possible other bus initiatives. STC provides the wooden bus shelters within the town.

4.6. Electric Vehicles & Charging Points

STC has purchased its first electric vehicle and will continue to invest in electrical vehicles and equipment where possible as it replaces its vehicles.

STC aims to install electric car charging points at its sites. Electric charging points have been installed at the Bat & Ball Centre and it is hoped will soon be installed at the STC Office / Business Hub site.



4.7. Car Club and Car Sharing

A Car Club operating similar to other towns should be supported by STC, potentially by grant funding, but not operated by STC.

4.8. Create liaison between individual schools' safety and travel schemes to reduce overall town congestion

STC are supportive of School Safety & Travel Schemes and will seek to arrange a meeting between schools to discuss these and review the overall school travel congestion.

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Extension to Community Investment Plan 2019 – 2023

- 4.9 Programme of installing QR codes on signposts identifying walking and cycling routes
STC will include and encourage other providers to provide information on signage to include walking and cycling routes – include QR codes where possible.
- 4.10 Continue to support Cycling Strategy for Sevenoaks
STC would continue wherever possible to work with SDC / KCC and other agencies to improve local cycling provision. STC would also support schemes that enables cycle renting.
- 4.11 Feasibility study for cycle path from Bat & Ball Station to Dunton Green Station
Within the Northern Sevenoaks Masterplan commissioned by STC was a proposal to link Bat & Ball Station and Dunton Green Station via a cycle path. STC believes there are potential benefits to current and new residents, commuting to London, commuting locally to schools and for shopping and leisure. STC want to continue to investigate the feasibility of this and will be obtain costs for a professional Feasibility Study.
- STC will also lobby for the inclusion of the proposal in KCC / SDC Cycling Strategies / Movement Strategy / LC WIP and also liaise with Dunton Green Parish Council.
- 4.12 Encourage cycle path across Knole Estate
STC to liaise with and encourage Knole Estates to create a leisure cycle path across its land, alongside the existing path/route from the main entrance gate to the rear gate at the junction of St Julian Road and Fawke Wood Road.
- 4.13 Draft Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Development Plan
Objective 6: to work with the District Council, and Kent County Council, in consultation with neighbouring Parish Councils, to identify a long term strategic approach to transport in Sevenoaks to respond to and mitigate any impact of new development on the existing network.
Objective 7: to promote a co-ordinated approach to transport and movement that encourages use of sustainable transport modes, including walking and cycling, and reducing pollution levels, whilst ensuring that the centre is still accessible by car.

5 Theme 3 – Making Sevenoaks Greener

- 5.1 Trees (Noting: Right Tree – Right Place)
A particular feature of Sevenoaks is its trees. Sevenoaks is famed for its oaks but there are many other species and individual trees that are important to the character and ecology of the town.
- STC maintains and manages more than 38 hectares of public open space of which approximately 26 hectares are covered in trees. STC wants to plant more trees and where possible fruit and nut trees.

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In 2020 STC planted 790 trees and plans for 2021 are progressing with over 300 planned up to November. STC would keep a running total – clearly available for public to view e.g., on its website and linked to the national database.

Where there used to be tree lined avenues, STC will encourage the public via resident associations to plant trees in their front gardens (subject to KCC permission). STC will consider providing grants for trees to voluntary organisations and will support the Queen’s Jubilee Tree Canopy initiative.

When there is a need to fell trees STC will repurpose for posts and bollards where possible.

5.2. Adopt a Tree

In 2021 STC launched an Adopt a Tree in Sevenoaks project.

Why Adopt a Tree?

- Trees benefit the local environment
- Help improve air quality
- Provide homes for wildlife
- Food for insects
- are visually attractive

Where can the trees be planted?

There is a list available of land owned and maintained by Sevenoaks Town Council. These areas vary in size and many of the trees to be planted would be understorey trees and hedgerow bushes, but all of them would be extremely beneficial to the local environment.

Can I plant the tree myself?

If your tree is going to be planted in a Town Council park or open space, then you can come along and help with the planting. If your tree is going on a roadside verge, unfortunately you will not be able to help as safety guidelines must be followed when working on a public highway.

The Choice of Tree

It is important that the right tree is chosen for the right location to enhance its chance of flourishing. Native species will be chosen for the most part with an emphasis on fruit and nut trees. You are encouraged to water and nurture your tree and watch it grow over the years.

The Cost

Your tree can be planted at one of our parks and following the planting, you will receive a certificate with a picture of the newly planted tree and a plan showing its location. If you would like to be in the photograph, this can be arranged. Individual plaques are not provided, but if you would like to provide your own, we can attach to the stake. Standard tree - £100 (10/12 cm bare root wrapped tree). This price includes purchase of the tree, digging a hole for its roots, adding compost, installing an irrigation pipe, backfilling, mulching, and staking.

Planting

The best months for planting trees are December and January. So that we can plant new trees during this time, our deadline for applications is 30th September. This gives enough time to order the trees, agree and mark the final locations and organise planting.

Once the tree is planted Sevenoaks Town Council will be responsible for maintaining the tree. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee the lifetime of the tree, and we will not be able to replace any trees, which do not establish themselves. If the tree is near your home, you can increase its chances of survival by giving it water during periods of drought and hot weather. For queries, please email psl@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

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- 5.3 Link Sevenoaks open spaces together with ‘green routes’
Via its NDP proposals STC will Improve access to, and better connect, the town’s open spaces

- 5.4 Give it a Grow project
In 2020 the Mayor, Cllr Dr Canet launched the Give it a Grow project encouraging all residents to become involved in making Sevenoaks greener.



- 5.5. Sevenoaks in Bloom and STC Planting
The annual Sevenoaks in Bloom garden competition plays a vital role in celebrating and directing focus onto the value of plants and their impact on the community and environment. This in turn transforms areas into better places to live, work and visit and help to make residents, businesses, and communities proud of their town. STC will continue with its edible gardening project. Including edible foods within planting in public open spaces and encouraging residents to pick and use. Planting will be chosen that encourages bees. STC are indebted to its many volunteers who participate in helping to make Sevenoaks in Bloom a success.

STC in its horticultural processes will minimise the use of fungicides and pesticides and create a Biodiversity Policy. Sustainable planting will also be used.

- 5.6 Sustainable boundaries
STC is aware of the considerable environmental benefits to creating sustainable boundaries to properties e.g., hedging compared to fencing. STC will review its following policies for Planning Committee recommendations (it should be noted that STC does not make the final decision relating to planning applications, this is with Sevenoaks District Council, the Planning Authority):

- Sustainable boundaries e.g., hedging
- Porous front drives
- Trees – planting 2 for each 1 removed
- Signs – not internally illuminated – light pollution and energy.
- 1m boundary distance

- 5.7 Streetlighting to LED provision
STC owns and maintains some of the streetlighting in Sevenoaks and has been putting in place a plan of conversion to LED.

Where floodlights are provided on STC land it will be planned to move to LED and decrease light pollution.

Christmas Lights will also be planned to move to LED.

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5.8 Acquisition of Land

Very rarely, but occasionally land does come up for sale in Sevenoaks. STC will consider putting in place process and 'in principle' resolution to enable STC to obtain additional land if it could be used for community benefit e.g., additional woodland or community orchard.

5.9. Draft Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Development Plan

Objective 4: to recognise the significant contribution that trees and hedgerows make to the town's character and biodiversity.

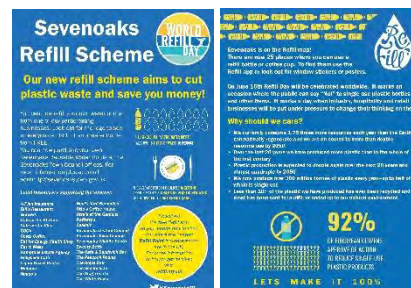
Objective 5: to protect, improve and enhance access to existing publicly accessible open spaces and create new publicly accessible open spaces and green infrastructure.

6 Theme 4 - Consumption

6.1 Promote Refill Scheme

STC will continue to promote the Refill Scheme encouraging people to use refillable bottles rather than plastic; install as many drinking water facilities as possible and encourage businesses to provide free drinking water.

STC will continue to lobby for drinking fountains to be provided at Railway Stations.



6.2. Sevenoaks Plastic Free Pledge

In response to the global problem of plastic pollution, Sevenoaks Town Council and Sevenoaks Youth Council have committed to phasing out single-use plastic across all its facilities. This also means it strongly encourages groups and organisations to find alternatives to single use plastic when using Town Council venues.



We recognise that crowded events such as fetes, parties etc real glasses can provide a safety hazard. In these circumstances STC encourages the use of sturdy plastic cups that can be cleaned and reused and ultimately can be recycled.

Where single use items are unavoidable, we encourage the public to provide genuine compostable alternatives, and take responsibility for their proper disposal.

STC will continue to campaign and support campaigns for reducing litter and encouraging more recycling.

STC will raise awareness of these matters to all users of its facilities.

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STC would be participating in a recycling scheme for the banners for them to be used as flooring for horse stables, dumbbells, traffic cones, punch bags etc. It was also noted that they could be used on allotments to suppress weeds.

6.3. Installation of drinking fountains

Drinking water refill facilities have been installed at the new Bat & Ball Centre and Bat & Ball Station Café.

External drinking water refill facilities will be installed at The Vine Gardens and Greatness Recreation Ground during 2021 / 2022.

6.4 Enabling community initiatives for sustainable living e.g., Toy Library, Community Orchards, Community Cycle Workshops, Repair Café, promotion of alternative resources e.g., nappies.

STC will – where possible – support and develop community initiatives for sustainable living. STC will work with partners including KCC, SDC and Abacus to progress this provision.

6.5 Zero Waste Shop – research viability and support provision in Sevenoaks

STC would support the provision of a Scrapbox* facility, working to reduce waste. It was noted that a building and volunteers would be needed. STC to work with KCC, SDC and Abacus to try and progress a project.

Good example in Norwich: - The aim of Scrapbox is to educate people about the re-use of clean, safe Commercial and Industrial 'waste' as re-usable resources. Scrapbox collects from businesses waste materials such as 'overs', reject goods, ends of ranges etc. which would otherwise be thrown away and makes them available for art, craft, drama, technology and even recycling lessons. The project helps to delay resources being sent to landfill or incineration, which takes time and energy.

Organisations and individuals then pay affordable amounts for the resources they purchase for their projects. Particularly useful to groups who provide art, crafting, music, drama, and technology activities for communities such as schools, nurseries, care homes, crafting groups for the elderly and vulnerable plus community artists etc.

6.6. Food Waste

Sevenoaks currently operates a Foodsafe scheme where supermarkets and other businesses offer surplus, close to sell by date to voluntary organisations. STC will support this where possible.

6.7. Supporting Businesses

Via the Town Team which includes membership from Sevenoaks District Council, Chamber of Commerce, local stakeholders, and businesses there is an appetite to coordinate and support local businesses in progressing likeminded climate change initiatives. This could include commercial waste services, recycling, green electricity, carbon offsets. Sevenoaks doesn't currently have a BID (Business Improvement District), however there is much that can be learned from BIDs in other locations on such projects.

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7. Theme 5 – Information & Access to Information

- 7.1 Signpost residents to existing schemes e.g., compost provision, energy audits
Bearing in mind that “Household consumption is responsible for more than 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions.” (Gale, 2020, *The Sustainable(ish) Living Guide*).
STC will research how to signpost residents to existing schemes, including subsidised compost bins. STC is aware that there is considerable information available from many sources and that sometimes public want this filtered and diluted to enable them to consider their own personal practical measures to make a difference to the climate change agenda.
- 7.2 Facilitate a Reduce, Reuse & Recycle programme of informal education events – sewing / mending; repairs; plant based home cooking; gardening
STC could facilitate a programme of informal education events – sewing / mending; repairs; home cooking; gardening etc, with the aim of Reduce, Reuse & Recycle
- 7.3. Information to enable residents to make practical and changes
STC will aim to increase communication to the public about the practical local initiatives it was already undertaking and its plans for the future and to take a local leadership role, providing information about simple measures that can be taken in helping the local community to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to help the planet.

STC’s overall aim was to put in place affordable and practical initiatives with long term green benefits for the local community and to encourage residents to pursue individually. Little steps together = big changes to the planet.

STC will clearly identify its Green Initiatives and plans on its website and on social media however is also aware that not all its residents have easy access to or able to use ‘smart phones’, ‘apps’ and the ‘wider internet’ and will bear in mind methods of communication to avoid where possible ‘digital exclusion’.

8. Implementation

- 8.1. Produce Green Community Investment Plan and publicise widely
STC to create a ‘Green’ Community Investment Plan setting out aims and objectives – to be an appendix to the current 2019 – 2023 Community Investment Plan.
- The ‘Green’ Community Investment Plan to be heavily promoted providing information about STC aims and objectives and encouraging stakeholders, partner organisations, resident associations, community and voluntary groups, schools, and residents to work with STC on these and other initiatives they may have.
- 8.2 Create STC Green Grant Fund for voluntary organisations
STC to create Grant Fund (similar to Community Resilience Fund) to be able to provide grant funding for Green Initiatives e.g., planting trees.

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8.3 Recruitment of Kickstart employee (government funded) to work on projects identified within the Green Community Investment Plan

STC to recruit additional resource / 6 month Kickstart employee (government funded) for administration relating to progressing projects identified within the Green Community Investment Plan aims and objectives.

8.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) referendum if successful move to NDP Action Plan

The Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is currently at draft stage in preparation for a referendum. Following a hoped for successful referendum an Action and Implementation Plan would be the next step.

8.5 Review STC Planning Committee Recommendations policy

STC is aware of the considerable environmental benefits to creating sustainable boundaries to properties e.g., hedging compared to fencing. STC will review its following policies for Planning Committee recommendations (it should be noted that STC does not make the final decision relating to planning applications, this is with Sevenoaks District Council, the Planning Authority):

- Sustainable boundaries e.g., hedging
- Porous front drives
- Trees – planting 2 for each 1 removed
- Signs – not internally illuminated – light pollution and energy.
- 1m boundary distance

8.6 Agree procedure for appropriate Land Acquisition

STC will consider putting in place process and ‘in principle’ resolution to enable STC to obtain additional land if it could be used for community benefit e.g., additional woodland or community orchard.

8.7. Involve the next generation

The Youth in a Changing Climate Report 2021 from Groundwork indicates the following key findings:

- Young people do not need convincing about the threat posed by climate change; almost all young people feel that tackling climate change is important to them personally.
- Most young people want to be involved in climate action and feel that knowing more about local environmental activity would help them to do so.
- Young people are less confident in their knowledge about climate change; most feel that they do not learn enough about climate change in school, with documentaries and social media more likely to be their primary source of knowledge.

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- The pandemic created a greater opportunity for some young people to explore nature and learn about climate change independently and by connecting with groups online, but also made it more difficult for some other young people to engage because of worries about work and health.

STC will continue to work with Sevenoaks Youth Council, local schools, local youth groups to encourage involvement in local community environment and climate change initiatives.

9. Where does the money come from?

Wherever possible Sevenoaks Town Council aims to provide community facilities at the lowest cost possible to reduce the burden on the tax payer. At the same time providing the facilities that the community wants and needs. This is often achieved by volunteers assisting in this for which the Town Council continues to remain grateful.

There are some facilities which are not commercially viable including maintenance of public open spaces and play areas, these do not generate income as they are free for public use.

Sevenoaks Town Council has a policy that wherever possible external funding should be sought initially for Capital Projects. External funding could be from grants, sponsorship, and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The Sevenoaks Town Council has a good track record for obtaining external funding for projects.

Where does the £1,858,154, 2021 – 2022 Sevenoaks Town Council budget come from?

Annual Precept £1,239,898	Income from Services £557,482	Earmarked Reserves £60,774
67%	30%	3%
Of the budget comes from the domestic ratepayer's precept (council tax). The Town Council does not receive any portion of business rates or government grants.	Of the budget comes from fees and services such as community halls, sports pitches, markets, cemetery, and cafes.	Of the budget will be from Town Council's Earmarked Reserves. £41,075* supports Bat & Ball Station project during initial years of opening, and £39,700* funds the No 8 bus, offset by an increase of (£20,000) revenue reserves. External grant funds*

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10. How can I make a comment or become involved?

Sevenoaks Town Council are inviting comments on the initial Green Community Investment Plan up to 30th January 2022, these will then be reviewed. Comments can be forwarded to the Town Clerk, Sevenoaks Town Council, Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3QG. Alternatively emailed to townclerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

The Town Council and its Committees meet most weeks, and each meeting has a time allotted for the public to address Councillors. A schedule of meetings can be obtained from the website at www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk or by contacting the Town Council on 01732 459953 or emailing council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

The Town Council will work with community, voluntary groups including Resident Associations and businesses which would like to make a contribution towards Greening Sevenoaks.

Sevenoaks Town Council wherever possible will include public participation in its projects and currently there are opportunities for the public to be involved via the following – please contact the offices if these are of interest to you:

- Friends Groups – Cemetery, Parks & Open Spaces, Bat & Ball Station
- Bat & Ball Centre / Bat & Ball Station User Group
- Sevenoaks Youth Council (11-18 Age)
- Sevenoaks in Bloom
- Give it a Grow campaign – using and learning gardening skills
- Sevenoaks Town Team
- Repair Café proposal – volunteers would be needed with sewing, woodwork etc repair skills

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Appendix

Sevenoaks Town Council Community Investment Plan 2019 – 2023

Further information

In 2014 Sevenoaks Town Council (STC) set out its first ambitious £4m Community Investment Plan to restore and improve community facilities. Building on the success of that Community Investment Plan the 2019 second document continued with the original 2014 plan and set out additional priorities for the next four years which increased investment to £6.5m+, for further details see appendix.

The STC 2021 Green Community Investment Plan moves away from primarily investing in community facilities and towards investing in the local environment and making Sevenoaks greener.

STC remains mindful of the financial resources required to maintain current community facilities and meet the ambitions of its Community Investment Plan and also to be adaptable for future opportunities which benefit residents of the town.

The Community Investment Plan enables public and partner organisations to be aware and comment on the STC's long term plans. The Community Investment Plan and related strategies has also assisted STC in being successful in obtaining external funding for its capital projects.

It should be noted that capital projects are in addition to STC's provision and maintenance of community facilities, for a full list of these community facilities please see www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk. The capital projects are normally delivered 'in house' by professional staff supported by appropriate paid professionals e.g., architects, and quantity surveyors. The STC staff carry out these roles in addition to their 'day job' which is maintaining and administering community facilities. This creates real value for money but does mean the availability of all resources need to be considered when implementing ambitious plans.

Ref	Project	Funds Invested	Funded by	Status
1	Replacement of Raleys Gym – investment into new facilities at Sencio Leisure Centre	£95,000	Sale of Raleys	Completed
2	Replacement of Indoor Cricket School – funds provided to Sevenoaks District Council in s.106 agreement	£150,000	Sale of Raleys	Funds moved to SDC as part of s.106 agreement
3	Café on the Vine – restored historic building and brought back into useful community use.	£150,000	ICET grant and STC reserves.	Completed
4	New Play Area near the Town Centre – Buckhurst Play Area	£100,000	Sale of Raleys CETB grant	Completed

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5	Greatness Recreation Ground – new public toilet, fencing, additional benches and play equipment.	£50,000	CIL ICET grant	Completed
6	Multi Use Games Area (to replace tennis courts at Community Centre) awaiting construction of new centre	£100,000	Sale of Raleys	Completed
7	‘Free’ recreational facilities – additional play equipment at Kippington Meadow	£4,000	Kent County Council Cllr Crabtree Member grant.	Completed
8	<p>Sports Strategy</p> <p>The Sports Strategy involving 40 local sports clubs has been completed and is an appendix to the Neighborhood Development Plan.</p> <p>3G Football Pitch installed at Greatness</p> <p>3G Rugby Pitch at Knole Paddock</p> <p>3G Hockey Pitch at Hollybush (contribution)</p>	<p>£450,000</p> <p>£500,000</p> <p>£50,000</p>	<p>Sale of Raleys</p> <p>Sevenoaks Mayor’s Fund</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Planning Permission refused.</p> <p>Completed</p>
9	<p>Neighbourhood Development Plan</p> <p>Completed to draft stage awaiting Local Plan development.</p> <p>Masterplan for Northern Sevenoaks developed and supported by approximate 70% of local community. Provides plan for regeneration and investment in the area.</p> <p>No. 8 Bus – orbital bus route connecting residential areas to town centre. Winner of UK Community Bus 2018.</p>	<p>£100,000</p> <p>£150,000</p>	<p>STC Budget</p> <p>KCC s.106 (Sainsbury development) and community transport fund.</p>	Development Stage
10	<p>Stag Community Arts Centre (STC has a 25-year lease)</p> <p>Capital investment including air handling system</p>	£150,000	Sale of Raleys	Completed
11	<p>Bat & Ball Centre</p> <p>Refurbishment and extension of old building</p>	£2,750,000 (Core cost)	Sale of Raleys £1.2m CIL Public Works Loan Board	Completed
	Total capital investment into community facilities	£4,649,000		

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Projects not included in 2014 original Community Investment Plan

Ref	Project	Funds Invested	Funded by	Status
13	Bat & Ball Station building refurbishment (25-year peppercorn lease)	£1,452,000	Heritage Lottery Fund CIL Railway Heritage Trust STC Budget	Completed
	New Access Ramp to Platform 1	£60,000	CIL	completed
	Cycle racks at station entrance.	£29,000	CIL	completed
	Cycle racks on community centre land adjacent to ramp.	£45,000	CIL	completed
	New Pedestrian Access to Otford Road	£35,000	CIL	awaiting KCC permission
	Additional capital investment into community facilities	£1,621,000		

2019 Community Investment Plan

14	Sevenoaks Business Hub	£265,400	STC Budget	Completed
15	Development of Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership	£3,000 p.a.	STC Budget	Completed

	2014 Capital Investment Plan into community facilities	£4,649,000		
	Additional total Capital Investment Plan into community facilities	£1,621,000		
	2019 Capital Investment Plan into community facilities	£268,400		
	Total Community Investment	£6,538,400		



YOUTH IN A CHANGING CLIMATE



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As a young person, climate change is an important topic for me. We are facing a crisis along with everyone in the world. I feel we have to try to fix the previous generation's mistakes and make a better future for not only us but also generations to come, along with supporting our wildlife and animals. I personally feel very strongly about our animal species becoming extinct and the destroying of their habitats due to climate change.

I feel this report is a very accurate representation on how young people are feeling in this current crisis. I agree that young people should be getting educated on this at an early age preferably in schools so they have the best start. I feel there needs to be more information about climate change and ways people can make a difference. For example, simple changes people can make in their daily lives that if enough people did would make a difference.

People in power need to understand how this is affecting young people – they see their futures as non-existent and feel their voices are not heard. They do not feel like they are taken seriously enough when this crisis is affecting them more than ever.



> Paige Gallone,
Groundwork North
East & Cumbria Youth
of Today Board

Climate change is a global crisis felt by not only humans, but several other species that make up our natural environment. Humans are heavily reliant on natural resources, some of which have been exploited and almost entirely depleted, causing irreversible changes to our complex eco-systems.

The findings presented within this report demonstrate that an overwhelming proportion of young people believe the school curriculum did not teach them enough about climate change and nature, a matter which almost all young people felt is important to them. This report shows how urgently our government needs to act on the net-zero target to protect our futures.

Covid-19 has proven that we are capable of making drastic changes to our lives when faced with adversity.

I believe that same level of urgency is needed from people and our government to collectively tackle climate change.

This begins with reaching a common ground on the climate crisis – we must shift the way we perceive nature and understand that everything within our natural environment is inextricably interconnected, therefore must be protected.

The government and large companies must take corporate responsibility by adopting a framework which cares for nature, as well as humans, and by taking the necessary actions to decrease emissions. Responsibility to take action should not fall entirely at the hands of young people. We hope this report serves as a reminder of the importance of taking climate action collectively and involving young people in decisions which impact their lives the most.

Young people want to be listened to – they are our future leaders and deserve to be heard.



> Radya Syed, report
co-author & Kickstart
policy & research trainee
at Groundwork UK

Executive Summary

Climate change affects us on a global scale, but its negative impacts are also increasingly evident in our local communities. Young people are worried about climate change and are becoming increasingly aware of how it will affect their futures. Following the recent lockdowns, some young people have had the opportunity and felt the need to learn more about the climate and nature emergencies.

Being inclusive and giving young people a voice in decisions that affect their futures is important to Groundwork. We believe it is imperative to understand how young people feel about the global threats attached to climate change so that we can help turn their anxiety into action.

This report explores the perspectives of young people between the ages 16 and 25 in the UK on climate change and discusses barriers which prevent young people from taking climate action. The report was produced by Groundwork UK following focus groups and an online survey of 500 young people.

Key findings:

- > Young people do not need convincing about the threat posed by climate change: almost all young people feel that tackling climate change is important to them personally.
- > Young people are less confident in their knowledge about climate change: most feel that they did not learn enough about climate change in school, with documentaries and social media more likely to be their primary source of knowledge.
- > Most young people want to be involved in climate action and feel that knowing more about local environmental activity would help them to do so.
- > The pandemic created a greater opportunity for some young people to explore nature and learn about climate change independently and by connecting with groups online, but also made it more difficult for some other young people to engage because of worries about work and health.





- Some young people still feel excluded by climate and environmental movements and struggle to find examples of people like them who are involved in climate action.
- Young people want to see positive changes in their communities come out of climate action, including better public transport, better access to nature, and opportunities for green careers.
- Young people think they are not being taken seriously enough in decision making by local authorities and the government and want to see more action from those in power.

Recommendations:

We are calling for **four changes** to help young people engage with climate and the environment, and to build the greener futures they want:

1. **More opportunities to learn about climate change, the environment, and green careers**
2. **A more diverse and inclusive environmental sector**
3. **Young people's aspirations for a greener future to be at the heart of efforts to 'level up' communities**
4. **A greater say for young people in making decisions about getting to net zero**

Further detail on ways to achieve each of these recommendations is set out in the final section of the report.

Section 1: Introduction

Climate change is causing significant impacts on the environment, ecosystems, and the economy across the world. Increasing greenhouse gas emissions have exacerbated the impacts of climate change at an alarming rate.

The lives of people all over the world are fundamentally changing as a result, leaving young people and children experiencing the most devastating effects. The socio-economic, cultural and environmental foundations of their lives will be impacted, as will access to education and threats to their mental and physical health¹.

Young activists and advocates are increasingly getting involved in climate change discussions with policy makers.

¹Skovdal, M. & Benwell, M.C. (2021), 'Young people's everyday climate crisis activism: new terrains for research, analysis and action', *Children's Geographies* 19(3), pp.259-266

The School Strikes for Climate started with one inspirational young woman in Stockholm and spread to over 150 countries all over the world. However, not all young people are involved in climate activism to the same degree. Although 77% of 16- to 24-year-olds describe themselves as very or fairly concerned about climate change², among some young people there remains a perception that the environmental movement is 'not for them'.

Groundwork is a federation of charities mobilising practical action on the environment and poverty throughout the UK. We work with young people with different backgrounds and life experiences in a whole range of ways. Some young people come to us through our environmental programmes, and others encounter us through our youth employment programmes or our youth work. We want to ensure that the perspectives of all young people are heard and valued as the UK navigates its path to net zero carbon emissions.

This report explores the perspectives of young people living in the UK, aged 16-25, on climate change and the barriers which prevent young people from being involved in environmental action in the ways they want to be. It highlights what positive changes young people say they want to see made in their local area.

The report is based on three focus groups with young people, recruited through Groundwork's programmes and youth networks, and an online survey of 500 young people conducted between July and September 2021.

²BEIS – Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2021), 'Official Statistics: BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker: Wave 37', Gov.UK [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/beis-public-attitudes-tracker-wave-37>



What is climate change?

Climate change is the long-term shift in weather conditions which affect our planet. It is a phenomenon that has shaped the physical characteristics of Earth over millennia. However, the over-consumption of fossil fuels since the Industrial Revolution means that we are now experiencing rapid changes to the climate caused by human activity – known as anthropogenic climate change. Overuse of fossil fuels has drastically altered the composition of naturally occurring gases in the atmosphere which has caused global warming and speeded up the process of climate change.

Climate change is characterised by changing weather conditions caused by increased sea surface and atmospheric temperature. This causes:

- Increased frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts, flooding and hurricanes.
- Coastal erosion and destruction.
- Flooded landmasses below sea-level.
- Species extinction or near extinction.
- Change in crop growing seasons.

The impacts of anthropogenic climate change are widespread. However, people who experience poverty in the global south are disproportionately affected. The impacts of climate change are also unequal in the UK, often impacting first and worst on people who have the least power and who contribute least to pollution. This means that climate change is an important social justice issue.

Threatened futures

Young people are key stakeholders in the decisions taken in response to the climate crisis, because what we do now will affect the conditions they live with in the future. **Some of the threats faced by future generations include food shortages, increased risk of disease, contamination and scarcity of water supply, and polluted air.**

Experts have concluded with 'very high confidence' that climate change is already contributing to disease outbreaks and premature death, a fact that will significantly affect mortality and the health of future generations³. It is estimated that present-day changes to air composition are responsible for 470,000 premature respiratory deaths and 2.1 million cardiopulmonary diseases and lung cancers every year⁴.

Global warming increases the risk of heat-stress, which particularly affects children and young people. There can also be less obvious outcomes of changing weather: evidence shows that hot temperatures can lead to an increase in aggression and violent behaviour⁵.

The potential impacts of climate change set out above are very serious and frightening, and it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the risks and the scale of change needed. In a cross European survey of people aged under 35, 90% believed that climate change will negatively affect the lives of young people⁶.

In a separate survey of UK schoolchildren between the ages of 13 and 18, 77% said that thinking about climate change makes them anxious⁷. Experiencing natural disasters is known to have adverse effects on mental health. In a study of UK residents affected by displacement caused by flooding, it was observed that the prevalence of mental health disorders was higher among residents who were displaced in comparison to those who experienced flooding but were not displaced⁸.

³Hansen, J., Kharecha, P., Sato, M., Ackerman, F., Hearty, P.J., Hoegh-Guldberg, O., Hsu, S.L., Krueger, F., Parmesan, C., Rahmstorf, S. and Rockstrom, J., (2011), 'Scientific case for avoiding dangerous climate change to protect young people and nature', arXiv preprint arXiv:1110.1365.

⁴Silva, R.A., West, J.J., Zhang, Y., Anenberg, S.C., Lamarque, J.F., Shindell, D.T., Collins, W.J., Dalsoren, S., Faluvegi, G., Folberth, G. and Horowitz, L.W., (2013). Global premature mortality due to anthropogenic outdoor air pollution and the contribution of past climate change. Environmental Research Letters, 8(3), p.034005.

⁵Miles-Novelo, A. and Anderson, C.A., (2019). Climate change and psychology: Effects of rapid global warming on violence and aggression. Current Climate Change Reports, 5(1), pp.36-46.

⁶Climate Outreach (2021), 'Young Europeans say we need system change to tackle climate change – but most don't know what 'climate justice' means', Climate Outreach [online]. Available at: <https://climateoutreach.org/young-people-europe-climate-justice-spark/>

⁷Global Action Plan (2020), 'Transform Our World Press release: Turning anxiety into action'. Available at: <https://www.globalactionplan.org.uk/news/transform-our-world-press-release-turning-anxiety-into-action>

⁸Munro, A., Kovats, R.S., Rubin, G.J., Waite, T.D., Bone, A., Armstrong, B., Beck, C.R., Amlôt, R., Leonardi, G. and Oliver, I., (2017). Effect of evacuation and displacement on the association between flooding and mental health outcomes: a cross-sectional analysis of UK survey data. The Lancet Planetary Health, 1(4), pp.e134-e141.





Addressing climate change now may help to prevent the worsening of extreme weather events such as heat waves, floods, wildfires, and droughts –which will disproportionately affect poorer countries and communities. Decarbonisation has the potential to prevent further deaths and biodiversity loss and to bring about improvements in our quality of life. The potential benefits of decarbonisation include improved physical health through sustainable transport, greater wellbeing because of being more connected with nature, and more resilient local economies through the creation of ‘green jobs’.

Climate change mitigation is a step towards protecting our ecosystem services, economy and livelihoods which are otherwise threatened. However, we also need to invest in climate change adaptation – ensuring our villages, towns and cities are protected from the disruptive impacts of climate change that are already ‘locked in’.

Youth activism

Despite the threats, **many young people are responding to the climate crisis with energy and creativity.** In 2019, young people made national headlines through the School Strikes for Climate, with demonstrations held in towns and cities across the UK as well as internationally.

The protests were inspired by the then 15-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg, who rose to prominence after her first appearance at the UN's climate change summit in 2018. Her activism led to the climate strike movement Fridays for Future becoming an international movement involving millions of activists joining protests and strikes. The aim of the strikes was to urge governments to act on the climate crisis immediately.

The Covid-19 pandemic put a stop to physical school strikes and demonstrations – but some young people continued to organise and advocate online, taking part in digital strikes and raising awareness of key climate issues.

The efforts of young climate protesters played a part in motivating UK parliamentarians to declare a climate emergency in May 2019 and similar motions were passed by devolved parliaments and local councils across the UK⁹. Young activists were able to meet with members of the IPCC and parliament, and this activism undoubtedly helped shape the response of policymakers.

⁹UK Parliament (1 May 2019), "The most important issue of our time," Opposition calls to declare climate emergency, UK Parliament [online]. Available at: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2019/may/mps-debate-the-environment-and-climate-change>



Inclusivity



Despite the positive successes achieved by young activists, **there have been continued concerns expressed about the diversity and inclusivity of the environment sector**, referring both to campaigners and people working in environmental professions. This matters because it risks meaning that environmental messages do not reach some audiences and that some people feel excluded from climate related activities.

Lack of diversity in the environmental workforce can put some young people off pursuing careers in the environment sector. A 2017 report found that 97% of environmental professionals and 94% of workers involved in horticulture or landscape design identify as White British¹⁰.

Previous studies have found that students from ethnic minority backgrounds are more likely to say that they are discouraged by this. These students are also less likely than their peers to have experience of engaging with nature or of the environment sector. When asked what they think should be done to address this, students suggested raising awareness of 'green jobs' at all levels of education and offering more opportunities for young people to be exposed to environmental work¹¹.

Prior to the pandemic, there had been several high-profile climate demonstrations – led by the School Strikers and groups like Extinction Rebellion – which had increased the level of attention afforded to climate change in the media.

However, there was a perceived lack of diversity among activists in some of the most high-profile groups, which made some young people feel that the movement was not for them. Research conducted by Aston University found that activists who took part in Extinction Rebellion protests were 'typically highly-educated and middle-class': a third of the protesters in London 2019 had postgraduate degrees and two-thirds identified themselves as middle-class¹².

¹⁰Norrie, R. (2017), 'The Two Sides of Diversity: Which are the most ethnically diverse occupations?', Policy Exchange [online]. Available at: <https://policyexchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/The-two-sides-of-diversity-2.pdf>

¹¹National Union of Students (NUS) (2018), 'Race, inclusivity and environmental sustainability: A scoping study', Sustainability Exchange [online]. Available at: https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/files/20181206_nus_race_inclusivity_and_environmental_sustainability_report.pdf

¹²Saunders, C, Doherty, B., Hayes, G. (2020), 'A New Climate Movement? Extinction Rebellion's Activists in Profile', Centre for Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity [online]. Available at: <https://cusp.ac.uk/themes/p/xr-study/>



Opportunities

Of course, while climate change presents a risk to young people's futures, **the shift to a low carbon economy also presents some opportunities for young people to live and work in a different way.** As well as exploring their feelings about climate change, we wanted to ask young people what they want from a greener future.

One of the opportunities for young people in the fight against climate change is the chance to forge a 'green' career. In 2018 there were 185,000 full-time workers in England's low-carbon and renewable energy economy – and it is estimated that this could rise to almost 700,00 by 2030 and over 1.18 million by 2050¹³. Of course, all industries will need to decarbonise for the UK to meet its goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, meaning that understanding climate change and protecting the environment should be core competencies of every job.

Other benefits that could potentially be achieved through addressing climate change include better public transport, less air pollution, a thriving natural environment, warmer homes, and access to healthier, locally grown food and sustainable products.

The next section of this report will explore all these themes with young people, finding out what they think about climate change and biodiversity loss, how they want to be involved in environmental action, and what they want from a greener future.

¹³Local Government Association (2018), Local green jobs – accelerating a sustainable recovery. Available at: <https://www.local.gov.uk/local-green-jobs-accelerating-sustainable-economic-recovery>

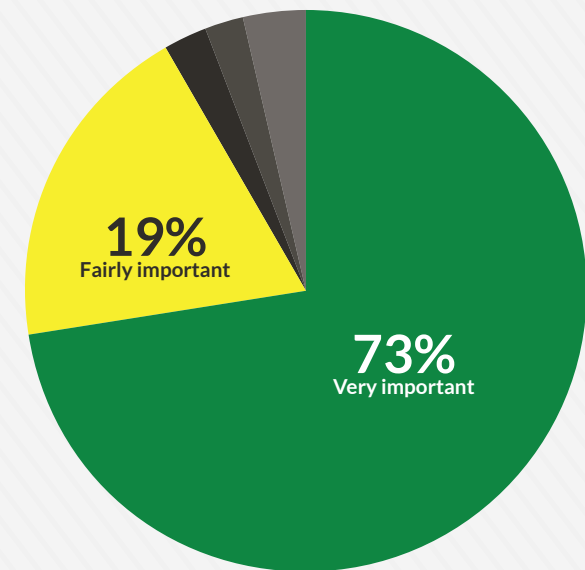


CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES

Section 2: What did young people tell us?

Young people from all walks of life think that climate change is a significant issue. **92% of the young people in our survey said that tackling climate change and protecting the environment is important to them personally.**

How important is tackling climate change and protecting the environment to you personally?



- > 2% Neither important nor unimportant
- > 2% Not very important
- > 3% Not important at all



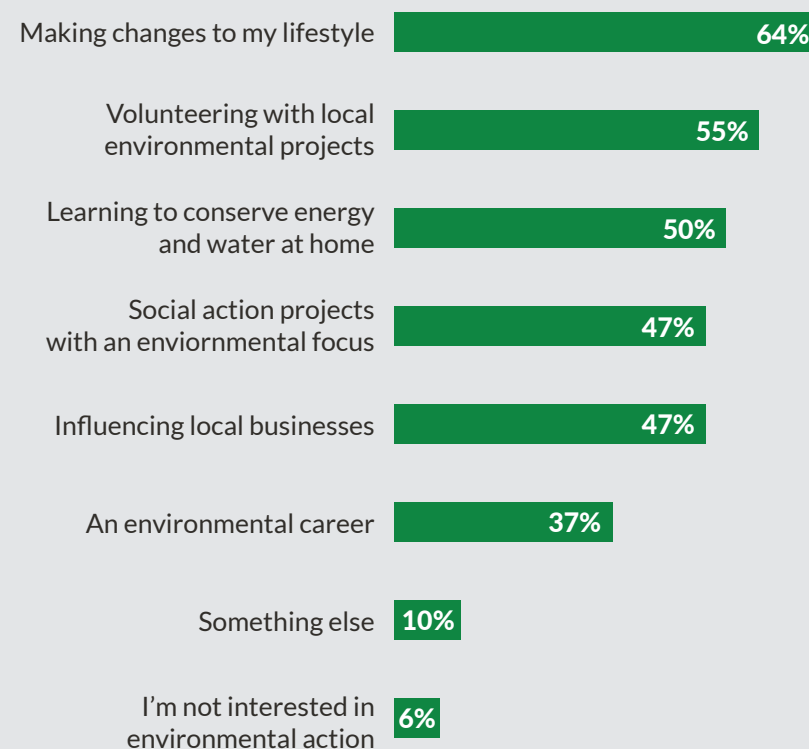
Young people were less confident about their knowledge about climate change: 56% said that they knew ‘a lot’ about climate change. However, even among those that said that they only knew ‘a little’, over 90% said that tackling climate change was important to them personally.

Many young people made links between their personal experiences and what they know about the effects of climate change. Some of the young people who took part in our focus groups were already noticing changes in the weather affecting their lives and hobbies in the UK. They spoke about how flooding had become more frequent in their local areas and noticed that the weather was more unpredictable, identifying climate change as a probable cause of this. One young person noted that there had been snow on the pitch for the Champions League semi-final between Manchester City and Paris Saint Germain which took place in May, remarking that **“that’s not normal!”**. However, some young people told us that, although they feel climate change is important, there are other, more immediate challenges which occupy their thoughts day-to-day. Some of the young people we spoke to described climate change as **“a background issue”** and told us that **“work and mental health are more important to me”**.

Around half of the young people we surveyed had been involved in climate action in the past and just 13% said they were not interested in getting involved in climate or environmental action in the future.

When asked what type of environmental action they would like to be involved in, the most popular answers were making changes to their lifestyle (64%) and volunteering with local environmental projects (55%).

What kind of environmental action are you interested in?



Lifestyle changes

The survey results show that **young people are ready and willing to make changes to their lives to combat climate change and improve the environment.** However, the focus group discussions betrayed some disillusionment about the impact of individual actions given the scale of the challenge:

“Everyone recycles but lots of problems come from big companies... it makes you wonder what washing a tin out really does, what can we actually do?”

Feeling that anything they do personally is not going to have a big enough impact can be disempowering for young people, making them feel that they don't have control over their future.

In the focus groups, it was striking how often recycling was the first environmental action that came to mind for young people. This association may reflect the number of public education campaigns around recycling, compared to relatively low levels of environmental education in schools. However, it suggests that many young people have a limited view of the changes that need to be made to combat climate change and the possibilities those changes present.

Young people did reference other lifestyle changes that they had made or would consider making to live a more sustainable lifestyle. Half of young people in our survey said they wanted to learn more about how to conserve energy and water at home.

Some of the young people we spoke to had changed their diet due to concern about the environment by eating less meat or, in some cases, going vegan. Others spoke about trying to reduce their consumption through buying clothes second-hand, using public transport and avoiding flying.

Of course, a young person's individual contribution to climate change is often relatively small – they generally have less disposable income and less decision-making power than older adults. While acknowledging that collective changes could be powerful, many of the young people we spoke to said that they wanted to see more done by people with the resources and positions to make a bigger difference, such as politicians and business leaders.



Activism

Many of the young people we spoke to felt that lobbying the government was among the most important things they could do to contribute to tackling climate and environmental issues. However, many of them felt that young people were not being taken seriously by policy makers.

“Young people have cultivated an image of urgency and empowerment – adults and people in power don’t seem to take us onboard or engage with us regularly. They don’t listen to us or involve us in decision making and policies.”

There was a sense of disheartenment among some young people who felt that their voices are not heard by people in authority. In our survey, less than one in five agreed that “young people are listened to when decisions about climate change and the environment are made”.

“Young people are just fed up - they want to be listened to. There’s fantastic action from the younger generation but adults and people in authority are not looking out for us or acknowledging us.”

Some young people told us that the pandemic had made climate activism more accessible to them. For young people living in rural areas or smaller towns, the move to online organising has helped them to connect with groups and get involved in ways they wouldn’t have been able to beforehand.



Local volunteering

Young people are enthusiastic about the idea of getting involved with environmental action in their local areas – 55% of the young people surveyed said they were interested in environmental volunteering and 47% were interested in environmental social action – but many weren't sure how to go about it.

Many of the young people we spoke to said they were not aware of what environmental activities were happening locally to them or how to get involved. For example, although many local authorities are developing climate action plans, the young people we spoke to knew very little about what decisions were being made in their area and how they could have a say. Some young people felt that a lack of awareness meant they were unable to take part in community projects and climate campaigns taking place such as Fridays for Future, with one citing:

“I would like to take part in campaigns and protests – our school didn't tell us it was an option to go. It wasn't advertised as much as it should have been - so if I wanted to go there was never the opportunity... I wish there were more chances to campaign locally and not just in major hubs.”

Being involved in local action can also help to combat the 'eco anxiety' that some young people experience. While activism can often take a long time to produce tangible change, young people can see the impact of community activities more quickly, helping to keep them motivated and optimistic.

Which support do young people want?

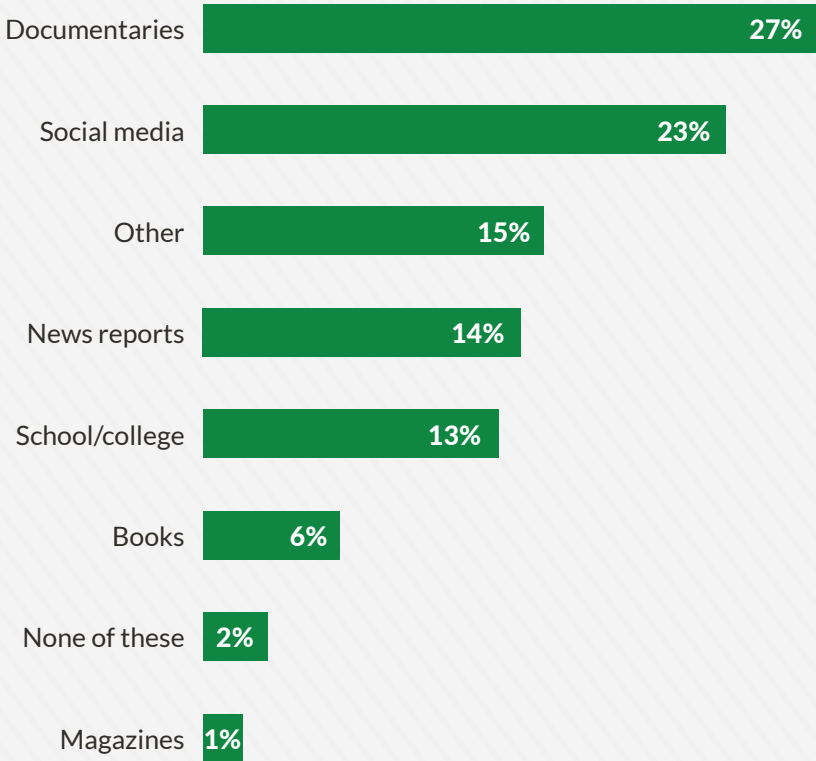


Where do young people get their information about climate change?

The more knowledge young people have about climate change, the more they will feel empowered to act. We wanted to know where young people got their information from about the climate and nature emergencies and what impact this might have on the way they respond.



Which of these sources taught you the most about climate change and the environment?



Documentaries

Documentaries were the most important source of information for 27% of the young people who took part in our survey, challenging the idea that young people always prefer to get information in shorter formats. The popularity of nature documentaries by influential figures like David Attenborough may have played a role in encouraging young people to think about the environment and seek out similar content. The availability of documentaries on a wide range of subjects on streaming platforms such as Netflix means that it has never been easier for young people to access information on environmental issues.

Some of the young people in our focus groups spoke about watching documentaries on climate change and the environment at home during lockdown, and how this had spurred them to get involved in campaign groups.

Social media

Social media content continues to shape the perspectives of young people on a wide range of issues and is often the source of information that young people rely on to keep updated with world matters. 23% of young people said that social media was the information source that taught them the most about climate change.

Popular social media influencers also have an influence on young people's perspectives by making certain topics visible and relevant to their followers. Social media movements tend to have a limited lifespan as topics trend across platforms, but some young people continue to use their platforms for activism.

The rise in popularity of social media platforms means that youth-led discussions about climate change can reach a wide audience and in turn influence attitudes, behaviours, and consumer habits.

Other sources

News reports (14%), books (6%) and magazines (1%) were less likely to be the primary information sources for the young people who took part in our survey. This implies a preference for visual media, an important lesson for environmental organisations looking to engage with young people.

Of the young people that selected 'other', the majority cited university, their own research, or personal contacts with people who were interested in climate change.

School and college

66% of the young people who responded to our survey said they didn't learn enough about climate change at school. School or college was the primary source of information on climate change and the environment for just 13% of young people. The young people we spoke to emphasised that the limited space for learning about climate change and the environment in the school curriculum meant that young people did not learn enough about the topic. Many felt that they had only been taught about climate change for the purpose of an exam and had not learned enough about how it might affect them or the social and political decisions connected to it.

“When it comes to remembering and thinking about climate change, we're not getting this passion and influence because we don't get extra marks for that in an exam. I think there should be a dedicated curriculum for climate change specifically so people will be more engaged in the topic and feel a sense of urgency towards it rather than putting it in a science course.”

“There's a limited curriculum when you're younger – I think that's where you can teach the passion. Because there's obviously not going to be any tests, it's going to be the time to teach them about the environment and thinking sustainably and how to make energy without harming the planet.”

Is environmentalism for me?

Many of the young people we spoke to **said that they didn't see people like them reflected in the environmental movement.** Young people expressed concern about whether their perspectives were reflected in some of the highest profile campaign groups.

"A lot of people involved in climate change are the same sort of people – for example Extinction Rebellion, it is sort of typical middle-class people, white British middle-class. There's lack of diversity... because it doesn't look representative it puts other people off from being involved."

We asked a group of young people from the North East of England whether they knew anyone who they would describe as 'very green'. Many of them struggled to think of people in their own social circle and some of them associated being involved in doing things for the environment with a more old-fashioned world view:

"My grandad was an old hippy so he's into that stuff, he's the only person I know who's super green."

As well as feeling excluded by some protest groups, young people can also feel disenfranchised by a lack of affordable environmental choices for them as consumers:

"...our individual behaviour can be counted as climate action – using less plastic, using more sustainable things. I think one of the barriers in that case could be economic factors. Because of course [fast fashion] is not eco-friendly but it's cheaper and not everybody can afford to go to places that make things more sustainably and ethically... at the moment, being sustainable is more of a status thing."



The impact of the pandemic

We asked young people whether experiencing the Covid-19 pandemic had changed the way they felt about climate change and the environment.

Some young people made direct links between the pandemic and humans' relationship with the natural world, worrying that the climate crisis and other environmental threats would make a similar event more likely in the future.

"It has made me realise that public health and the environment are very much interlinked, it has shown me that we need to stop encroaching on nature as the more we invade nature and live closer to it, there is a higher chance we may catch new diseases which we don't have an understanding of which could cause more pandemics."

Many people spoke about having an increased awareness of the importance of nature and local green spaces. As one young person told us:

"I feel like people have connected more with green spaces if they had some during the pandemic because that's the only place they could have gone. I think we need to keep that connection going because it improves mental health, general health and makes people more passionate about the environment."

Most respondents felt a closer connection with nature and felt that the lockdown gave them the opportunity to learn more about climate change and the environment. For some, this had also made them more concerned about inequality in access to nature. Groundwork's recent *Out of Bounds* report found that, although local parks and green spaces had been a lifeline for some people during the pandemic, others missed out on the benefits either because of insufficient local provision, complex barriers making it difficult for them to access nature or feeling unwelcome or unsafe in natural spaces¹⁴.

Some young people were concerned about some negative habits which had developed during the pandemic, for example, reliance on single-use plastics for hygiene reasons and a big increase in online shopping. They noted that there had been some positive changes, such as fewer people flying, but weren't confident that these changes would be sustained in the long term.

¹⁴Groundwork (2021), *Out of Bounds: equity in access to urban nature*. Available at: www.groundwork.org.uk/OutOfBounds





Some young people expressed that lockdown gave them the opportunity to explore their interests because they were less constrained by the school curriculum. The pandemic also gave some young people the opportunity to get involved in climate action that they wouldn't have had before. The reliance on technology to stay connected with people and places meant some were more likely to participate in environmental activities and campaigns.

"I think the pandemic has made climate action more accessible. Everything is now online which means anyone can join...The fact that everything is online means that we can welcome more people that might have cared about the environment before but didn't have the chance to say it or discuss it."

"I think the pandemic has opened up more of a chance to make a change. It's normal to meet someone in South Africa or Northern Ireland to campaign more on a global level. In terms of action that's very good, I myself have never met any members in person before it's all been online."

However, for others the stresses of the pandemic had left them with less capacity to think about the environment. For young people who were shielding or who lost family members to Covid-19, this was naturally at the forefront of their minds. The economic impacts of the pandemic also hit many young people hard and it is unsurprising that this was the priority for many young people:

"Covid is an immediate problem so it's at the forefront of our minds, then the economy and money is a key concern for lots of people now."

For some young people, the pandemic experience had made them more optimistic about the possibility of change. For example, one young person felt that the pandemic enabled young people to have a better understanding of how government decisions affect their lives and thought that awareness of ministers and politicians could increase young people's engagement with climate action:

"There's been a big focus on politics. Everyone knows who Boris Johnson is, everyone knows who the chief medical officer is. The more young people that get to understand the framework of government and politics – the more they get to engage them and write to them and email them... they can make change – that's what politics is – it's about influencing, debating and making change."

Other young people pointed out that the pandemic had required us all to make changes to our lives overnight, proving that the sort of changes that the climate crisis requires of us are achievable:

"The pandemic has shown us that huge changes to our daily lives on a collective scale are possible in response to a global emergency. We need to respond to climate change in the same way."

Imagining positive futures

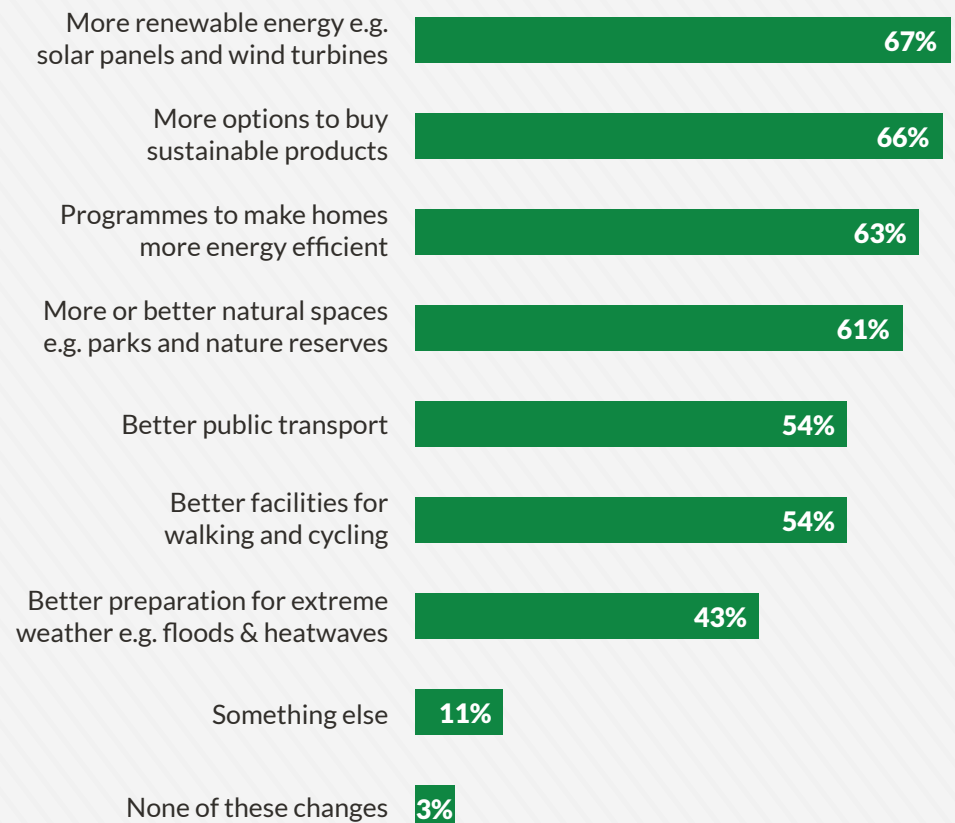
When talking about climate change, it can be easy to focus on the threats it presents to young people's futures. Thinking about positive futures and the opportunities that the transition to net zero presents can often feel more difficult.

We asked young people what changes they would like to see in their local areas a result of climate action and found that there was a significant appetite for change among the young people we surveyed and spoke to.

In the focus groups, young people were keen to emphasise the links between climate change and social justice, recognising climate action as an opportunity to solve other problems at the same time.

“People need to realise that climate action doesn't just solve climate issue but solves huge inequality within different aspects of life. For example: food wastage, millions of people in UK are struggling to eat, yet we waste over millions of tonnes of food every year. By solving that, we'll be saving planet, resources and food and people struggling to eat. More the general inequality aspects rather than just saving planet but about solving other inequalities too.”

What changes would you like to see in your local area to make it more environmentally friendly?



Public transport

Better public transport was a priority for many of the young people we spoke to – something that would make a real difference to their lives as well as reducing carbon emissions. Some of the young people in our focus groups lived in former mining villages in County Durham and were frustrated with being reliant on patchy and infrequent buses or lifts from their parents if they couldn't afford their own cars.

"I don't think more public transport could ever be a bad thing!"

In cities, bike rental schemes and better infrastructure for walking and cycling were popular ideas to help young people get around quickly and easily on a budget.

Investment in green spaces

Young people reiterated the importance of having good quality natural spaces close to where they live. They felt that investment in parks and green spaces can increase interest in nature and the environment within the community as well as bringing a wide range of benefits to health, social connections, and the local economy. Making sure that access to nature is fair across society was a priority for many of the young people we spoke to.

Green initiatives and options

Many young people wanted to see a future where it didn't cost extra to be 'green' and where more people were thinking about and protecting the planet.

"The biggest change I'd like to see is more people taking action on climate change and willing to be responsible and have more knowledge. Another thing – breaking the stigma. I feel like there's a stigma against climate change. For example, some of my mates throw bottles to the ground and I go 'hang on a minute – why don't you recycle that?' and they go 'it's not cool.'"

"People complain about wind turbines being an eyesore, same with solar panels which I see on lots of the newer buildings, but I like seeing them and think they look cool."

Green careers

Many young people were optimistic and enthusiastic about the possibility of new green jobs being created in their local areas:

"I think of new industry, new ways to move like electric cars, wind power, things like that. My grandad was a miner and my grandma worked in a factory, so classic 1950s North East jobs. I feel like the jobs

of the future will be very different from what they knew and they wouldn't know what they were, but I don't feel like they're inaccessible for me and our children will be doing very different jobs in the future."

Many of the young people we spoke to said that the prospect of contributing to reduced carbon emissions or nature recovery through their working lives appealed – but it could be difficult to know where to find these roles or what career paths were available.

"Online there's not much awareness of green jobs and not much on the internet about where to look for them. Also volunteer activities – it was difficult to find them because we're not told where to find them."

Lack of careers advice means that young people are often unaware of employment opportunities including green jobs, limiting the diversity of new entrants to the sector.



Section 3: What next?

These conversations demonstrate that **young people do not need to be convinced of the importance of acting on the climate change and nature emergencies.** Young people are all too aware of the scale of the threat and want to be part of the solution. However, they also want to see adults and people in positions of power playing their part.

For organisations like Groundwork, these conversations have highlighted the need to spend more time talking to young people about what they want from a low carbon future. Too often climate communication focuses on the negative consequences of not acting on climate change or the things people will need to 'give up'. Spending more time exploring the opportunities that could be presented by the transition to a low-carbon society will help to engage more young people in influencing decisions and taking practical action to build a better future.

They also highlight the need to ensure that the environmental movement is more inclusive.

Environmental organisations and activist groups need to show that they are welcoming for people from diverse walks of life, with different perspectives to bring. The sector needs to do more to ensure that there are accessible pathways into volunteering, activism, and employment so that young people can build their skills and realise their ambitions while contributing to the work that needs to be done.

So, what can we do to make sure that every young person has a say in how we reduce our carbon emissions and put nature into recovery?



> 1. More opportunities to learn about climate change, the environment, and green careers:

- Climate and nature should be a golden thread running through the school curriculum, with opportunities for young people to understand the science, the social and economic impacts, and the choices we need to make to reach net zero.
- We need to create more opportunities for young people to learn about the careers available in the low carbon and environmental sectors at school, college, and in higher education settings.



Case study: climate education in schools

In 2021, Groundwork has been working with Net Zero Leiston and Alde Valley Academy to develop a climate change action plan project with the school, as part of the town's ambition to create a pathway to net zero.

The project began by engaging pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 to find out what environmental issues they were most concerned about. Groundwork then undertook a detailed on-site environmental review, identifying big and small changes that could reduce the school's carbon footprint. The findings were shared in an assembly and pupils volunteered to become Green Guardians, taking an active part in tackling climate change by making the school more sustainable.

17 enthusiastic pupils volunteered to become Green Guardians and have been working closely with Groundwork and Net Zero Leiston to make changes around the school and raise awareness of sustainability.

“We only have one planet and want the school to improve. We are particularly concerned about the lack of recycling” – Group of Year 7 Students.



> 2. A more diverse and inclusive environmental sector

- Environmental organisations must speed up their work to increase the diversity of their workforces and volunteers, addressing barriers to entry for young people from under-represented groups.
- We should create and subsidise more entry-level positions in the environment sector to enable young people from more diverse backgrounds to access low-carbon jobs and grow the industries that will be needed in the future. As a step towards this, the government should use the model developed for the Kickstart programme to fund environmentally focused year-long job placements for young people – as proposed by those piloting a National Nature Service.



Case study: first steps into green careers

Groundwork's Green Teams engage young people in developing green spaces for communities and climate, all while gaining invaluable work experience and self-esteem.

Green Team training is done on-the-job, with the teams doing real work to make the communities where they operate greener and better. Team members also get additional help and support that reflects their individual needs, such as mentoring, qualifications and guidance.

Most trainees are under the age of 25 and many have left school with few or no qualifications. The hands-on and outdoor nature of the scheme suits many trainees who often tell us that they did not do well in the school classroom. It is also common for trainees to face multiple barriers getting into work, including mental or physical health issues, or other challenges, such as growing up in care.

For many, Green Teams serves as the first step into a horticultural career. However, it can also be valuable as a stepping stone onto other opportunities. All participants are left with a greater appreciation of the importance of protecting and improving their local environments.

“Sparking curiosity and excitement about the natural world in young people is an incremental part of placing more value in nature and thus a big step in the successful management of the climate emergency.”

– Lauren Griffiths, Green Team participant, 19.



> 3. Young people's aspirations for a greener future to be at the heart of efforts to 'level up' communities

- Government funding programmes to regenerate disadvantaged areas and revitalise town centres should prioritise initiatives that promote a positive vision of low carbon communities with more public transport, energy efficient homes, good quality green jobs and access to nature at their heart.
- The newly titled Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities needs to align its efforts with the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' plans for nature recovery to address the inequality in access to nature experienced by many young people.
- Our economic recovery strategy should prioritise support for environmental enterprises, creating jobs in local communities and giving young people more control over their consumer choices.

Case study: climate friendly food

Food production and consumption is responsible for 26% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The Food Wave project provides young people a platform to take action in Manchester through direct street and community engagement with the general public and promote a change in their food consumption behaviour.

Groundwork and partners worked with young people to understand the importance of climate-friendly and pro-environment food consumption. The 'street action' programme young people delivered between July and September 2021 encouraged Manchester citizens to change their food consumption behaviour and actively promoted the shift towards ecological and inclusive urban food systems.

"I'm active in my local climate action group and volunteering for this event has helped me to develop the carbon supermarket concept as a way to engage with our own local community at our future events. I also enjoyed meeting and discussing ideas with like-minded people in person, especially after a year of Zoom meetings!" – Jon Curry, Foodwave participant.

> 4. A greater say for young people in making decisions about getting to net zero

- A Wellbeing of Future Generations Act should be introduced for the whole of the UK, building on the model in place in Wales. This would require decision-makers to think about the long-term impact of their decisions and to work with communities and young people to address multi-generational problems like poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

- We need to increase the availability of publicly funded youth work to equip young people to participate fully in their communities and increase their confidence and capability to influence decision-making about the environment.



Case study: young people as green leaders

Groundwork's national Green Leaders programme provides free mentoring to help young people design their own community projects. Individuals with a passion for the environment can learn the skills needed to inspire others to take action to protect their local green spaces.

Young people are supported to design, create and start their own campaigns, events or action groups to improve their local green spaces. Whether creating nature guides, rewilding a patch of unwanted space, or planting trees to combat pollution – Green Leaders makes change happen.

Rachel, a participant in Groundwork's Green Leaders programme who hadn't previously been interested in environmental issues, reflected that the course had changed her point of view¹⁵:

"I wasn't too bothered [but] it does make a massive impact. It made me understand a lot more about the environment, [how to] change one thing to make such a massive impact."

¹⁵Eadson, W, Sanderson, E., Devany, C., Gore, T. & Ramsden, S. (2019), 'Green Leaders programme evaluation: summary report', Groundwork [online]. Available at: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/about-groundwork/reports/our-bright-future-green-leaders-summary-report/>



GROUNDWORK YOUTH IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

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nalc

Case studies
Young people

**National Association
of Local Councils**

www.nalc.gov.uk⁷³

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FOREWORD

This booklet of case studies is designed to be used by county associations or local (parish and town) councils as an example of work that can be completed within your community. These are all examples of good practice and demonstrate actions large and small to benefit local councils and the young people in their areas. This booklet is segregated into chapters; consulting young people; curating green spaces; funding youth groups; playgrounds and skate parks; running and supporting fitness and activity sessions; working with stakeholders; young councillors (18-30); youth councils and youth clubs and youth services. It is designed to incorporate all areas of working with young people and will be added to in due course.

If your council has done something similar; please contact NALC at policycomms@nalc.gov.uk.

CONSULTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Hexham Town Council, Northumberland

Electorate 9,500

Precept: £ 340,000

Expenditure: £498,513

Hexham Town Council grants aid to Hexham Youth Initiative. The council provides a skate park, outdoor gym equipment and play areas. The council also attends a School Parliament and a Youth Council and at virtual hustings at Middle School.

Horton Kirby and South Darenth Parish Council, Kent

Electorate: 3,800

Precept: £106,858

Expenditure: £153,967

This has very recently started and so is in its infancy. The parish council wants to engage with the younger community to find out what they would like to see in their parish and how we can help. A youth worker from West Kent Health is visiting the parish on a weekly basis and is starting to engage with young adults, gain their trust and will include the parish council with their feedback.

Olney Town Council, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes

Electorate 7,000

Precept: £ 285,000

Expenditure: £387,900

Olney Town Council maintains playgrounds and local sports fields. The council supports sports clubs; offer rooms for youth groups and supports young volunteers on things like Duke of Edinburgh award.

CURATING GREEN SPACES

Bearpark Parish Council, County Durham

Electorate: 1,579

Precept: £ 23,408

The council worked in partnership with Busy Bears Day Nursery and Durham County Council to educate young children on the importance of not littering. Bearpark Parish Council invited Durham County Council's civic pride team to attend the nursery and talk to the children about litter. The civic pride team read a story with a range of props and explained to the children why they shouldn't litter and how to look after the environment. A litter pick then took place, with children from the nursery, together with members of Bearpark Parish Council and Bearpark Community Partnership all taking part.

Burton in Lonsdale Parish Council, Yorkshire

Electorate: 600

Precept: £17,500

Expenditure: £32,601

Burton in Lonsdale Parish Council has invested in additional equipment at the local recreation ground to appeal to a broader age range. The council has added play equipment for toddlers to the children's playground, installed a twelve station outdoor gym and attracted a junior soccer club to relocate to our village

Chalfont St Giles Parish Council, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes

Electorate: 4,698

Precept: £222,426

Expenditure: £197,840

Chalfont St Giles Parish Council provide two playgrounds, one Multi-use Games Area, one tennis court and support four sports clubs in the parish. The areas are inspected once per week for wear and tear issues and there is an annual playground inspection which highlights any issues.

Lound Parish Council, Suffolk

Precept: £1,700

Expenditure: £2,000

The Parish Council have been very helpful in supporting a parish councillor below the age of 30. They have also been proactive with their desire to maintain and even improve areas within the village that might be used by children or young people, such as the village green or Lound heath. For instance, ideas such as tree/shrub plantings and the possibility of a children's play area have been investigated for the village green (although the latter is not currently set to

occur). All of these factors combined make the village green and heath even more pleasant places for all people within the village community. Lastly, the Child and Vulnerable Adults Policy operated by the council commits the council to protecting any children or vulnerable adults in relation to activities involving the council.

Peacehaven Town Council, East Sussex

Electorate: 11,256

Precept: £ 640,705

Expenditure: £820,000

The council worked in partnership with the Big Parks Project to improve recreation and leisure facilities at Centenary Park. The park, managed by the council, is now a go to outdoor destination featuring two playgrounds; a skate park; extensive sports facilities, including multi use games area with floodlighting for tennis, netball and football; cycle and walking paths and an award winning café. PTC has a Youth Working Party. We have been working with Peacehaven Community School regarding survey of student's activities; this will be published very soon as part of a full report from the WP. Also, we are looking at the activities at the JOFF Youth Centre and Council's support and funding (that was put on hold due to Covid lockdowns) should now be taken forward.

Steeton with Eastburn Parish Council, Yorkshire

Electorate: 4,000

Precept: £68,000

Expenditure: £100,000

Steeton with Eastburn Parish Council is the corporate trustee body for Eastburn Playing Fields Association. Eastburn playing field was redeveloped over a three year period by the Parish Council. The project was supported by Playbuilder, Yorventure, WREN, Ward Investment Fund and Community Spaces Lottery Fund. The project included the replacement and installation of exciting new play equipment for all ages, a bicycle skills area, drainage of the pitch and a wetland area with native species planting.

FUNDING YOUTH GROUPS

Amphill Town Council, Bedfordshire

Electorate: 14,000

Precept: £ 741,892

Expenditure: £780,000

Amphill Town Council have applied to the Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit fund for joint funding for a company called 4YP to provide local outreach youth work in the town. The town council doubled the budget to be able to successfully support this project.

Barkham Parish Council, Berkshire

Electorate: 2,539

Precept: £65,555

Expenditure £ £66,254.95

The council manages the Sam Hosgood Sporting Endeavor Fund. Barkham residents under the age of 18, who represent England in their chosen sport are invited to apply for a grant to put towards the cost of training and travel.

Berkswell Parish Council, Warwickshire and West Midlands

Electorate: 2,669

Precept: £43,598

Expenditure: £56,170

Berkswell Parish Council use grant funds to support youth activities organised by local groups for example, Scouts; Schools (Duke of Edinburgh Awards schemes) and, local sports clubs. In the last year the council has also provided grants directly to local schools to help make up shortfalls in income and increased costs due to the pandemic.

Billinghurst Parish Council, Sussex (East and West)

Electorate: 4,000

Precept: £352,463

Expenditure: £892,999

Billinghurst Parish Council bought a building that will house a Youth Hub and coffee shop. In addition to the usual play areas and skate parks (the council are about to replace a skate park, following a hugely successful public consultation) we also fund Sussex clubs for Young People to deliver youth sessions every week. We have also bought a High St property, the upstairs the council will rent out as a flat to help offset the loan cost, and the downstairs will be let to SCYP as a Youth

cafe / hub offering all sorts of youth advice, one to ones, counselling, activities etc. The council are also looking for a site to house a Pump Track.

Bridport Town Council, Dorset

Electorate: 8,500

Precept: £728,341

Expenditure: £1,416,421

Bridport Town Council's corporate plan includes a priority to provide education, employment and leisure opportunities for young people. The main projects identified for this purpose are:

- To safeguard and promote Bridport Youth Centre, which was rescued from closure by the Town Council in 2015 and receives revenue funding and other support from the Council.
- To help secure premises for an indoor skate park identified as a priority through consultation with young people. The facility was delivered in 2020 with financial and operational support from the Town Council, who also obtained planning permission.
- To support and help secure premises for a Creative/Music Hub.
- To investigate development of a new outdoor skate park. This too was identified as a priority via consultation and a project has been initiated to deliver an Olympic-standard skate park as part of a major refurbishment of a local park. This project also aims to deliver a performance stage and upgraded play/sports facilities.
- An ongoing programme of play area improvements.

The council is also developing its approach to engaging young people in its work. We work with schools and the Youth Centre to ensure involvement in projects, but we aim also to establish a Youth Forum, particularly focused on 'hard to reach' young people. The traditional Youth Council approach tends to appeal to a narrow and often more privileged audience.

Buckland Brewer Parish Council, Devon

Electorate: 690

Precept: £13,500

Expenditure £ 20,480

The council set up an education support fund to assist residents with the cost of studying. Residents aged 16 or over who have lived in the parish for at least a year and are attending college or university are eligible to apply for up to £500 to be put towards travel costs, books and other learning tools. Furthermore, approved a grant of £300 to an organisation dedicated to promoting youth projects in the parish, and has provided a set of goalposts for its amenity field. At its next

meeting the council will be approving a tender for the provision of outdoor fitness equipment aimed at older teenagers and adults and will be marking out a football pitch once the positioning of these facilities is agreed.

Burwell Parish Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Electorate: 5,505

Precept: £162,357

The council provides support for a number of youth related activities in the village. This includes funding for the summer reading challenge at Burwell Library, discounts on the hire of local council controlled amenities for youth clubs and societies and provision and maintenance of recreation grounds throughout the village. Anyone involved in a youth group in the village is invited to get in touch with the council to see how the council can help.

Chatteris Town Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Electorate: 8,000

Precept: £151,000

Expenditure: £148,500

Chatteris Town Council funds a fortnightly youth club for 7 to 12 year olds, which also runs holiday clubs, and we support the Connections Bus which carries out youth work with teenagers. During the pandemic the council has funded outreach workers and has helped the District Council to maintain local play areas.

Egremont Town Council, Cumbria

Electorate: 8,000

Precept: £153,000

Expenditure: £248,000

Egremont Town Council support a local youth club and an outreach club with a £1,000 grant to award one or the other of these clubs to support the work they are doing with young people in the community.

Faringdon Town Council, Oxfordshire

Electorate: 5,790

Precept: £ 435,577

Expenditure: £ £369,059

The council runs a youth grant funding scheme. Specialist, voluntary and community groups, whose work targets the needs of young people in Faringdon, are invited to apply to the council for grants of up to £2,000. Applicants must fill in a form setting out the project or activity they wish to apply for funding for and demonstrate the local need for it. Priority is given to initiatives which cover one or more of the following areas: tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, helping and

supporting young people, assisting organisations to provide youth festivals, supporting school councils to invest in local projects, services that meet the needs of vulnerable young people and assisting young people to gain employment, education and training. Funding can cover the cost of specific projects, purchase of equipment, facilitation of youth groups and youth programmes and can be put towards initiatives that tackle anti-social behaviour. Assistance in kind, such as use of rooms at free or reduced rent, can also be considered.

Frome Town Council, Somerset

Electorate: 27,000

Precept: £ 1,802,305

Expenditure: £ £2,021,812

Frome Town Council hosts an annual youth conference for year 8's in local school and deliver a participative play strategy for everyone, development of a Family Information Networking Directory, A focus on Young Peoples Mental Health, support for all organisations working with children and young people, delivery of events and engagement opportunities for Children and Young People.

The council has one Full Time Employee Children and Young People's project officer. This job shared role has a focus on enabling local services and organisations to increase their capacity to meet the changing needs of children, young people and their families. The council places an emphasis on engagement and participation; building community asset based models stemming the flow of families and young people reaching crisis through local support and activity. Young people are integral to the development of these services and we work hard to reach them in the places where they are.

Gillingham Town Council, Dorset

Electorate: 12,000

Precept: £ 943,000

Expenditure: £ 980,876

In 2015, Gillingham Town Council secured funding from Dorset County Council's Health and Wellbeing Legacy Fund. A grant of £9,400 was awarded to help towards refurbishing a playing space in the town and providing a place where young people naturally like to meet. The remaining £5,600 was to provide outreach support to address health and well-being issues such as diet, exercise, sexual health, drugs, alcohol and bullying.

At this time, the County Council funded youth centre closed and a much larger bid for £247,600 to The Big Lottery Reaching Communities was unsuccessful. Despite these setbacks, the town council remained committed and focused on reallocating ear-marked reserves and took out a Public Works Loan of £127,000 to complete the £350,000 capital project. The recreation ground was re-named Hardings Park and re-modelled as a destination play area with a multi-use games facility, outdoor

table tennis, concrete skate park, and 17 pieces of play equipment suitable for toddlers and teenagers.

At the time, the population of children aged between 0-17 living in the town was 2,463. The town council needed to prove to the young people that they were being listened to, but it was also important to tackle the increasing anti-social behaviour.

Hollinswood and Randlay Parish Council, Shropshire

Electorate: 5,489

Precept: £ 230,660

Expenditure: £ 244,740

Hollinswood and Randlay Parish Council established a Youth Provision Partnership so that the council can work together to support, encourage, and represent the young people of our area. Working with their local authority, this year the council will employ a Youth Support Worker, with special responsibility for SEND children, which will encourage and support young people of all ages and abilities and, provide one-to-one care for special needs and disabled residents, too.

Knutsford Town Council, Cheshire

Electorate: 10,647

Precept: £ 455,298

Expenditure: £475,303

The council jointly administers the Millennium Bursary with the Knutsford Lions. Students from Knutsford or Toft in their second year of university are invited to apply for the £530 award, which can be used to assist with a specific project or dissertation. Applicants must fill out a form and submit a statement of no more than 200 words setting out how the money would benefit their studies. All applicants are then invited to an interview with a panel consisting of members of the council and the Knutsford Lions, who seek to better understand how the bursary can help the students with their studies.

Leighton-Linslade Town Council, Bedfordshire

Electorate 31,201

Precept: £ 2,265,946

Expenditure: £ 2,580,871

Leighton-Linslade Town Council fully funds a Teenage Advice and Information Centre which offers drop-in support, one-to-one's, specialist groups for additional needs, a Youth Forum, school holiday activities and engages young people in wider community projects (e.g. In Bloom). The council support external providers with specialist services e.g. sexual health. The council contributes funding towards activities run by partners e.g. football, bike repairs, boxing, basketball. We regularly invest in their facilities with annual play area refurbishment. Recent

projects include outdoor table tennis tables and outdoor gyms. In 2021, the council aspires to provide a fully inclusive adventure play area to allow children of all abilities to play together. The council also support many local groups with grant funding, such as local Scouts and GirlGuiding groups.

Nailsworth Town Council, Gloucestershire

Electorate: 4,626

Precept: £316,522

Expenditure: £321,067

Nailsworth Town Council is the majority funder for the town's Youth Club, which operates out of a building and runs outreach support and holiday activities. Nailsworth Town Council also funds PlayRangers during school holidays, support projects to tackle 'holiday hunger' and consult with the Youth Forum. Nailsworth Town Council provide well maintained parks, open spaces and sports facilities (football, table tennis, tennis and outdoor gyms). The council are coordinating education, family and young people organisations to explore extra support which can be offered to families and young people throughout the holidays as part of post-COVID recovery.

Newbury Town Council, Berkshire

Electorate:

Precept: £1,135,249

Expenditure: £1,942,500

Newbury Town Council has a service level agreement with Berkshire Youth to support their detached youth work outreach programme in the town. The council also invite primary schools to the Town Hall on an annual basis to meet the town council. They are also hoping to host a youth event via Zoom targeted at secondary school students to run a series of short 20 minute workshops on how we can make our town more inclusive for young people.

Peasedown St. John Parish Council, Avon

Electorate: 5,126

Precept: £251,452

Expenditure: £209,063

By providing up-to-date outdoor activity areas such as skate parks; new play equipment, youth shelter, Multi-Use Games Area, and so on, all of which the young people have been consulted on directly. Peasedown St John Parish Council tries to work with the school on activities, particularly where they link to education and the curriculum e.g. Commonwealth Day event. The council supports the local 'Mini Police' both financially and with promotion and activities. This is a scheme run by our local Police Community Support Officer's and the local primary school. Each

year they 'interview' a selection of a year group to join the mini police, we assist with purchasing equipment for them to use as part of their activities e.g. first aid, litter picking, walkie-talkies, and so on. The council provides a financial contribution to the Youth Partnership, which goes to the employment cost of a youth worker, following the loss of this service from their Local Authority. Work with uniformed groups to provide things like storage facilities on our land, community grants to help them buy equipment for their activities, and so on.

Skelton and Brotton Parish Council, Cleveland

Electorate: 13,000

Precept: £135,000

Expenditure: £181,715

Skelton and Brotton Parish Council provide holiday activities for young people; including fitness and dance classes, drama classes, pantomimes and, Christmas Parties. The council provides free hall rental for local cinema projects and goody bags for local sports events. The council also funds local youth groups and organisations, for example Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Scouts and so on. The council is funding a BMX track resurfacing, outdoor gym equipment, play areas, a mini golf course and an outdoor table tennis table.

Southwater Parish Council, Sussex (East and West)

Electorate: 8,000

Precept: £ 687,312

Expenditure: £ £798,012

Southwater Parish Council funds a Chief Information Officer to manage council run facilities that offer youth facilities and Southwater Youth Project. The project is run by the local churches. In addition, the council have set up a fund to manage leisure facilities that offer youth sporting activities in various forms. They also own and run two skate-parks, one being re-built currently using S106 monies and with input from the community. Southwater Parish Council run two Multi-Use Games Area's and 11 play areas and supports an independent Friday Night youth club and employ two youth leaders of their own.

Stowey Sutton Parish Council, Avon

Electorate: 1,263

Precept: £23,625

Expenditure: £35,900

Stowey Sutton Parish Council raises funds with a service provider so that the parish council can fund a weekly mobile youth service to attend the parish and provide two hours activities for children aged 8-19. This service has also provided

outreach work during the past 12 months to ensure support for young people during COVID pandemic.

St Austell Town Council, Cornwall

Electorate: 15,500
Precept: £762,958
Expenditure: £1,118,000

St Austell Town Council rents premises to a charity Young People Cornwall and provide £20,000 per annum grant for youth services in the town. We work closely with Young People Cornwall who provides a Youth Information, Advice and Counselling Services, youth centre, activities for young people and outreach services.

Stroud Town Council, Gloucestershire

Electorate: 10,412
Precept: £735,880
Expenditure: £1,345,980

We fund Play Rangers at 2 sites in town, support community organisations e.g. a toddler group and provide grants. We manage several parks and play areas. A councillor is appointed to liaise with our local youth forum and we appoint a councillor to have a special interest in matters relating to children and young people.

Tenterden Town Council, Kent

Electorate: 6,426
Precept: £603,839
Expenditure: £811,000

Appointment and funding for additional youth worker to ensure smooth running of county funded youth cafe. Appointment of service provider to handle transition from current youth club venue to a purpose-built youth hub as part of a recreation ground project which includes a new skate park.

Timsbury Parish Council, Avon

Electorate: 2,600
Precept: £75,000
Expenditure: £ 90,235

Timsbury Parish Council has part grant funded a faith group running a youth club and activities for younger ones. They have contracted the previous Primary

council youth services mainly for older ones, in conjunction with four other parish councils in the area. The council also part funds the independent charity that runs the play area and the recreation field where many sports are played which includes young teams.

Willingham Parish Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Electorate: 3,250

Precept: £130,000

Expenditure: £175,000

The council lease facilities at a peppercorn rent to the Youth Trust for youth club activities and the public hall to the Scouts etc. The youth teams are given free use of the recreation ground and pavilion. A significant improvement/expansion to the playpark has been carried out over the last few years.

Woughton Community Council, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes

Electorate: 8,600

Precept: 574,899

Expenditure: 988,307

Woughton's dedicated youth service works across the parish, offering both open access and targeted approaches to support local needs. Built upon an informal education approach, the service support hundreds of young people and their families every week. The team works collaboratively with a range of community partners and the young people themselves to design and deliver the service. Sports and the Arts, alongside health & wellbeing, development and life skills feature heavily as the basis of activities offered through the broad programme. Junior and senior youth clubs, music projects, dance classes, Young parents and LGBTQ+ support groups, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) sessions and those focusing on independent living, safer relationships and sexual health are some of the activities on offer.

Working from a dedicated youth space which has a recording studio and performance space, quiet 121 rooms, kitchen and café, a gym (alongside housing a 2012 Olympic pool table!) and outdoor gardens, the service also provides the Play Ranger service, offering family focused play sessions using our open green spaces. This is an excellent example of where the team links to the wider council support, with families accessing advice, wellbeing and mental health or community fridge services as a result of children accessing youth service. The Youth service is an essential part of the community, built over many years, creating a parish where young people are valued, heard and supported. 'Every Child Matters' sits at the heart of the service, with the safeguarding of our young people sitting across the council's delivery, with our Youth Manager as our Safeguarding Lead. The impact is seen in reduced ASB, gangs and knife crime in comparison to neighbouring parishes, reduced pregnancy and STI levels.

Increased higher educational aspirations and attainment. Investment brings benefits in both the short and longer terms.

Woodley Town Council, Berkshire

Electorate: 21,047

Precept: £1,203,188

Expenditure: £1,928,008

We had an SLA with Just Around the Corner charity, based in Woodley, which has come to an end. JAC carried out detached youth work (3 sessions each week) and provided further support for young people needing their help (JAC also works in schools and at their centre with young people).

Yate Town Council, Avon

Electorate: 18,035

Precept: £1,334,190

Expenditure: £1,508,057

Yate Town Council (YTC) runs the Armadillo Youth Café for young people. The Armadillo team has remained focused on reaching children and young people in need throughout the pandemic period. During the first lockdown, provision moved online and younger attendees found this a vital tool for keeping in touch. As lockdown restrictions lifted, we added outreach/detached work to the program; a new form of delivery for our service. Through this, many young people received support; the team engaged with other youth groups and emergency services which gave young people a sense of security, knowing professionals were looking out for them when in the community.

When restrictions allowed for community buildings and indoor hospitality to open, our team began phased reopening of youth café sessions, alongside detached, digital sessions, support groups, triage and 121. We began working with schools and other children's services to identify and prioritise services for children most at risk of detriment to physical and emotional health due to the pandemic, then gradually opened sessions up wider. The service offered shorter sessions which allowed us to open for multiple groups simultaneously, expanding our reach and increasing contact.

During the second and third lockdown there was a visible sense of despondence within certain year groups – in response, YTC created 'Bags of Happiness' – pick up packs filled with wellbeing items, advice, guidance and treats to help lift low mood. During this time, we launched a new LGBTQ support group, from which new links with secondary schools were formed and this pilot will inform future work. The team also facilitated support groups for young people with learning difficulties, disabilities and "at risk" mental health providing a lifeline for those who were struggling with limited support services available. YTC also funds a youth provider to provide youth services in Yate, owns a mobile youth services minibus,

maintain multiple play areas, multi-use game areas (MUGAs), teen street shelters and a BMX and skateboard park. In April 2021, we will be opening a multi-activity building which will be home to the local youth boxing club.

The council runs the Armadillo Youth Venue and Café, in Yate, South Gloucestershire. The youth venue and cafe has been built to provide a contemporary, safe environment for all young people of the locality aged between 11 and 17 to use and enjoy. The centre offers high quality facilities including Cafe area serving hot and cold drinks, snacks and confectionery, DJ booth, 60 seater community cinema, Pool Table, Table Tennis, Air Hockey Table, X-Box and Games, TV and Basketball and workshops giving young people the opportunity to learn new skills. For young people not interested in attending a conventional youth centre the council offer the opportunity to obtain help and advice in a mobile mini van known as an Urban Vehicle for Information and Education (Urbie).

PLAYGROUNDS AND SKATE PARKS

Bradninch Town Council, Devon

Electorate: 1,668

Precept: £ 44,350

The council received almost £80,000 in grant funding from Viridor, TAP fund, a housing developer and solar panel developer for refurbishment of a recreation ground. Work was undertaken in two phases. The first phase involved replacing an old wooden hut, installing a new wheelchair accessible roundabout and a table tennis table. Phase two included installing new fencing, a zip wire, games tables, adult gym equipment, new swings and upgrading the wooden slats on benches with recyclable material. The council hopes to embark on a third phase of work which will involve replacing the existing skate ramp with a new and improved version.

Collingham Parish Council, Nottinghamshire

Electorate: 2,369

Precept: £ 44,020

Expenditure: £ 45,485

The council secured £70,000 in grant funding to refurbish the local skate park. The funding came from WREN's FCC community action fund and will be used to replace the existing metal ramps and build a new concrete skate facility for all ages and abilities. The new facility will be suitable for both scooters and BMX bikes. The new design was voted for at various public consultations.

Flintham Parish Council, Nottinghamshire

Electorate: 495

Precept: £14,600

Expenditure: £29,349

We maintain two play parks in different parts of the parish which is split by a major main road. These are well used by younger children. We help to maintain a sports field/cricket ground which is used by some teenagers. A number of organisations in the parish work with young people and the parish council is always ready to help with small grants/advice as and when appropriate. Councillors are involved as committee members on a number of parish organisations.

Framlington Parish Council, Suffolk

Electorate: 3,083

Precept: £157,196

Expenditure: £286,719

The Town Council provides grant funding to the Youth Groups and organisations as well as providing space in a purpose built facility on the recreational field which also has toilets, meeting room, storage and kitchen etc. We have a skatepark, basketball area, play equipment, five a side football area, outdoor fitness equipment and will shortly install a concrete table tennis table and Boules pitch.

Kegworth Parish Council, Leicestershire and Rutland

Electorate: 2,922

Precept: £116,180

Expenditure: £ 117,676

The council carried out refurbishment of the Whatton Road play area in Kegworth. New items installed as part of the refurbishment include a basket swing, roundabout and teddy bear swing. The new play equipment is inclusive and was chosen following consultation with pupils at Kegworth Primary School. Funding for the refurbishment came from Section 106 contributions.

Kirton in Lindsey Town Council, East Riding and North Lincolnshire

Electorate: 2,600

Precept: £102,739

Expenditure: £131,345

The Town Council provides and maintains the town play area and is looking to run multi-sports sessions for young people in the late spring through to autumn. Kirton in Lindsey Town Council is Trustee of the community sports pavillion for the town, catering for a wide range of sports and activites for young people as

well as other age groups. The Town Council is looking to run an additional sports centre and is in consultation with organisations and residents about this currently. Kirton in Lindsey Town Council continues to engage with young people and involve them in events and encourage organisations and groups within the town to cater for their wider needs. Kirton in Lindsey Town Council is also Trustee of a local charity which provides financial support for residents who are in financial need for any reason, including age.

Laverstock and Ford Parish Council, Wiltshire

Electorate: 6,424

Precept: £ 221,070

The council worked with four major housing developers to ensure that new play areas were built to the highest possible standards. The council are particularly proud of their neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP) and local equipped area for play (LEAP) at their Old Sarum settlement, which they developed themselves with financial contributions from developers. When designing a competitive contract the council used Barrowby Parish Council's (Derbyshire) contract specification as a base and looked to the 'Design for Play' manual to inspire bidding companies to come up with inspirational designs. The LEAP features a motte and bailey layout whilst the NEAP includes a solar powered DJ mixing desk to attract young teenagers. In both cases the council involved young residents in the selection of play equipment.

Newport Pagnell Town Council, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes

Electorate: 18000

Precept: £ 953,996

Expenditure: £ 1,003,841

We have recently been in contact with 15 young, local bike riders (some of whom ride BMXs internationally for England) about our new cycling facility. They will be acting as site champions to encourage many more young people to take up cycling and use the site.

Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council, Hertfordshire

Electorate: 4,493

Precept: £ 205,212

The council installed new play facilities for children aged 2 to 11 following extensive consultation with the local community. Local residents were initially consulted via a request in the parish magazine 'Update' for suggestions for the new playground and were invited to become involved in developing it. This resulted in a working group being developed consisting of four Mums with children in the village primary school. The working group gathered information on playgrounds and was supplemented by responses to the magazine article,

publicity at village events, input from other local councils and information on playgrounds visited by residents both locally and on holiday. Six play companies were contacted and site visits made, with the companies being invited to submit a bid. The winner was chosen by the working group according to a scoring system they had designed to rate each bid.

Peter Tavy Parish Council, Devon

Electorate: 250

Precept: £10,000

Our Parish Council has supplied and maintained a wonderful playpark with a variety of age ranged equipment. A local beauty spot 'the mill pond' is maintained by the Parish Council many young people over the years have learnt to swim there. The Parish Council own and are responsible for two church cottages which have in the past helped young people of the Parish get a foot on the property ladder. The cottages are at a low rent giving the tenants opportunity to save for a place of their own whilst having independence.

Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council, Nottinghamshire

Electorate: 6,531

Precept: £ 308,798

The council secured £255,000 in grant funding to refurbish the local skate park. This included £125,000 from Rushcliffe Borough Council, £40,000 from Nottinghamshire County Council's local improvement scheme, £55,000 from Sport England and £35,000 from the WREC FCC Community Action Fund. The money raised will be used to replace the existing wooden skate park with a concrete structure.

Skelton and Brotton Parish Council, Cleveland

Electorate: 13,000

Precept: £134,800

This as we know has been a difficult year. The parish council have done a lot of work with youth for youth. The scouting groups (this includes Rainbows Brownies Guides Rangers in the female sense) have been holding treasure hunts sport activities and many outdoor exercises throughout the year. The parishes usually help with rent for premises every year, this year we have helped with outdoor activities. Groups have not been able to collect subscriptions so have been cash poor to hold events. We at the parishes have helped as much as requested. There has been a refurbishment of gym equipment in the exercise fields at Brotton. £20,310. There has been BMX resin resurface at Skelton £7,496. The continuation of play areas updated and kept safe.

St Stephen Parish Council, Hertfordshire

Electorate: 11,111

Precept: £ 569,373

Expenditure: £ 692,851

The council embarked on an ambitious playground refurbishment programme which saw new equipment installed in most play areas owned by the council. This included Greenwood Park play area, where an old 'witches hat' climbing frame and two other pieces of equipment have been replaced by a large Spacenet climbing frame, with extensions and 'hangout seating,' plus a Triple Rope Trail for younger children, and a set of Turning Bars. The council has also installed a large area of play sand which provides further varied play opportunities. The programme was funded through S106 contributions.

Welwyn Parish Council, Hertfordshire

Electorate: 7,400

Precept: £ 428,957

Expenditure: £156,388

The council manages two play areas in Welwyn. Whitehill Play area is aimed at younger children and contains an obstacle course play house and swing suitable for a parent and child to use together. Ottway Walk Play Area is designed for older children and has climbing equipment, a zip wire and large roundabout with 'chariot' seat suitable for those with physical disabilities. There is also a kick wall for football practice and a basketball net. The council undertakes weekly checks of all equipment in both play areas and commissions an annual full inspection by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

Westbury Town Council, Wiltshire

Electorate: 11,164

Precept: £918,313

Expenditure: £918,313

The council took over management of ten play areas in Westbury following an asset transfer process instigated by Wiltshire Council. A playground refurbishment programme was undertaken, with play equipment in six playgrounds removed for repair. This included Becks Mill play area, where Section 106 money was used to fund the purchase of upgraded train themed equipment.

Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council, Staffordshire

Electorate: 2,200

Precept: £55,000

Expenditure: £86,000

The council used grants (HS2) to fund the development of a highly regarded and well used BMX (pump) track. This track is in the midst of a nature park which also has fitness equipment that is used by young people within the parish. The Council has a 22 year old Councillor who is responsible for social media and publicity.

Wigginton and Hopwas Parish Council, Staffordshire

Electorate: 1,000

Precept: £22,000

Expenditure: £41,517

Maintaining a well-used play area, providing equipment from 0-16+ cradle swings, toddler climbing frame, seesaw, roundabout larger climbing frame plus basketball hoop and football goal and net. Smaller play area in rural village only amenity kick about wall, swings and play tower with slide.

Wigginton Parish Council, Yorkshire

Precept: £58,386

Expenditure: £62,584

Along with our neighbouring village, Haxby, we support by regular grants the Haxby & Wigginton Youth & Community Assoc. which runs various youth groups for the area. Support is also given by grants when requested to Churchfield Open Space Committee who organise an area with play equipment, an all-weather football pitch for general public use and outdoor gym equipment for all ages. Other grants are given to local schools and playgroups to support projects they may need support to complete.

Yardley Hastings Parish Council, Northamptonshire

Electorate: 629

Precept: £15,339

Expenditure: £ 31,470.66

Our village is a close-knit community and there are plenty of volunteer-led activities taking place across all age groups. The Council is aware of these, but does not feel the need to become actively involved. Currently there is no youth group in the village, but we have a very popular primary school in the village with a very supportive "Friends" group. The Council rents a Recreation Ground from the local landowner, and is currently in the process of installing new play equipment to the value of c. £60k (to replace similar equipment which was over thirty years old). This was preceded by a consultation exercise amongst the young people in the village.

RUNNING AND SUPPORTING FITNESS AND ACTIVITY SESSIONS

Chippenham Town Council, Wiltshire

Precept: £3,406,852

Expenditure: £3,961,965

Chippenham Town Council has continued to deliver high quality PE lessons within primary schools in the town throughout the COVID pandemic. Coaches have continued delivering all aspects of the PE curriculum to key worker and vulnerable children. Alongside of the curriculum delivery is the 'Healthy Heroes' programme that the schools have the option of engaging in.

'Healthy Heroes' is a health and well-being programme designed to educate children with the knowledge they need to lead healthy, positive and active lifestyles. It takes the form of two hours of curriculum delivery every week for a term, one hour being classroom based and the other, a practical PE lesson.

Healthy Heroes has been created from a social need to equip youngsters with the skills and knowledge to be able to be both physically and mentally healthy. It is nationally recognised that childhood obesity is at an all-time high which is a frightening statistic, however much of this is due to a lack of knowledge as to how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. With high levels of gaming and screen time being heavily used by young people today, the coaches also discuss the negative impact on both physical and mental health of too much screen time in addition to other health related issues such as diet, sugar and peer pressure. Healthy Heroes will endeavour to create more understanding about health through the engaging and interactive lessons to encourage children to consider realistic strategies to improve their health. The practical lessons are fun and designed to not only introduce children to sport and activity, but also highlight the enjoyment.

Kesgrave Town Council, Suffolk

Electorate: 12,891

Precept: £302,000

Expenditure: £258,664

The Town Council currently owns and maintains, basketball court, 2 play areas (0-12yrs), MUGA & teen shelter, outside gym equipment. We also support/pay for a Youth Club once a week - term time, provided by 4YP for teenagers 11-14yrs. We are currently looking at taking on 2 more play areas from East Suffolk Council (ESC) and working with other partners to provide further older teenager facilities/equipment. We work with the local primary schools and High school in bringing the community together, such as conservation projects (supported by ESC funding) and a new pen pal scheme bringing young and old together. This is as well as involving the schools in Remembrance Day service. We organise an

annual fun day for families (this year including Segway's, climbing wall for the older children) and Christmas events, light switch on, Ice Skating rink weekend. A roller skating rink day in July for youth and families.

South Normanton Parish Council, Derbyshire

Electorate: 7,428

Precept: £315,000

The council works in partnership with Bolsover District Council to deliver the Active Communities Programme. The programme includes a wide range of formal and informal activities designed to keep children and young people active and occupied, including an accredited learn to cycle programme for children aged 3 to 6 years old. South Normanton Parish Council circulates marketing and promotional materials advertising the programme, determines the cost of participating in each activity, collates a register of participants and operates a reserve list where necessary.

Winchcombe Town Council, Gloucestershire

Electorate: 3,934

Precept: £220,480

Expenditure: £220,480

Financial support for local youth scheme. Constructing Winchcombe Park with wheeled sports area, cycling play area. We already run and support a local playing field, play parks and artificial grass facility, especially for football and hockey. We are also supporting local newly formed Youth Council.

WORKING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council, Hampshire

Electorate: 4,000

Precept: £154,700

Expenditure: £176,846

We are working in partnership with 25 local youth organisations and statutory partners to fund a full time youth worker (£10k p.c. contribution, plus provision of office space, uniform and laptop). We are providing support and mentoring to local youth groups, establishing a community youth forum where groups can regularly meet to exchange news, projects, collaborate on funding bids, improve governance and share best practice. We are running a series of summer holiday activity camps, subsidised to keep costs at £10 per child per day for childcare from 8.30am to 4.30pm. We work closely with local schools and are funding a new school library and community space using CIL funds.

YOUNG COUNCILLORS

Middlezoy Parish Council, Somerset

Electorate: 680

Precept: £11,330

Expenditure: £55,227

The council are keen to recruit young people onto the council, as well as supporting grant applications that work with this cohort through sport and leisure. The council maintain play equipment within the village also.

YOUTH COUNCILS

Aldenham Parish Council, Hertfordshire

Electorate: 7,723

Precept: £ 636,934

Hosts a youth council for residents aged 11 to 18. Radlett Youth Council meets once a month and has a number of aims, including giving young people a voice and say in their local area, listening to what young people want and taking action by speaking to the relevant services, empowering young people to improve the area themselves, improving young people's employment opportunities by promoting volunteering, and running events and supporting initiatives to make Aldenham a safe area for young people. Activities undertaken by members include fundraising for the local special school, quizzing local MP Oliver Dowden and organising a family sports day.

Brockham Parish Council, Surrey

Electorate: 2,500

Precept: £38,000

Expenditure: £400,000

Our Youth Council aims to pull together all different groups of young people to engage in community events and vote for things they care about. The Parish Council commits to listen to the young people and include their vote in discussions that are relevant to them.

Camelford Parish Council, Cornwall

Electorate: 2,357

Precept: £ 262,831

Expenditure: £290,000

The council worked in partnership with a local secondary school to organise a photography competition. Pupils in year ten at Sir James Smith School were encouraged to take photos promoting Camelford and submit them to a judging panel consisting of two councillors and a council officer. The top three entrants were all awarded Amazon vouchers, whilst the overall winner worked with the council to photograph local events and provide photos for the council's website and other marketing material.

Chulmleigh Parish Council, Devon

Electorate: 1,224

Precept: £30,500

The council ensures the views of younger residents are taken into account at the monthly council meetings. Students from the local community college are invited to give feedback on the activities of the college and how they feel they are being helped as part of the "public participation" agenda item. The council has reported that this not only assists in the public relations of the college, but also gives the pupils' confidence to attend a formal meeting and address councillors, something that will stand them in good stead in their future lives.

Cranleigh Parish Council, Surrey

Electorate: 9,000

Precept: £412,040

Expenditure: £482,869

We have a Youth Council that meets monthly supported by Councillors and the Clerk. They set their own agenda which focuses heavily on climate change. The Clerk is mentoring them through the Duke of Cornwall Community Safety Award. We have a large well equipped play park as part of our wider recreation grounds. Our recreation grounds are also being used by uniformed youth groups due to social distancing requirements. We also have a Sports Hall and pavilion that houses a nursery. Prior to COVID-19, we providing funding and helped source volunteers for the Friday Night Project in the Leisure Centre to provide activities for young people and hope that this will re-start again later this year.

Diss Town Council, Norfolk

Electorate: 6,356

Precept: £571,428

Expenditure: £673,151.

The council launched a new youth council for Diss in September 2018. The aims of the youth council are to create a safe and better environment for young people, build a more harmonious community and for young people to have more of an influence over what goes on in Diss. At present there are seven youth councillors, however the intention is for the youth council to have up to twelve in future.

Hertford Town Council, Hertfordshire

Electorate: 21,185

Precept: £1,237,290

The council instigated the creation of one of the first youth town councils. The youth council consists of eight councillors, two from each of the local secondary schools and forms an advisory subcommittee to the town council. Formal meetings are held at Hertford Castle every eight weeks and are chaired by the Mayor of Hertford. Since the youth council was founded in 1990 its achievements have included installation of litter bins in the town, organisation of Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremonies, installation of a sensory garden in the castle grounds and production of a recycling guide. Youth councillors also help out at public events, including castle open days and attend events such as civic services and mayor making.

Martock Parish Council, Somerset

Electorate: 3,791

Precept: £362,036

The council hosts a youth parish council for elected members aged 11 to 18 who represent youth issues and needs in Martock. The youth council meets weekly and has five main roles, namely to ensure a local group of young people meet as a mirror of Martock Parish Council; to enable access to a wider range of young people's opinions and act as a voice for all young people; to support the work of other Martock groups and the delivery of the Martock Local Community Plan; to manage the Youth Parish Council budget and to provide a mechanism to enable issues of concern or praise to be brought to the attention of local decision makers. Activities undertaken by members include fundraising for local and national charities, mentoring of younger people, delivering school assemblies to highlight the Youth Parish Council and visiting London to learn more about national politics.

Penrith Town Council, Cumbria

Electorate:

Precept: £454,233

Expenditure: £358,294

The Town Council is engaging with young people aged between 14-25 living in or close to Penrith, to facilitate, support and empower them to have a voice and influence the things that matter to them. Recognising that young people are the future of the town but may face significant challenges and barriers, Penrith Town Council has set up a 'Youth Advisory Panel' to represent the views of young people in the Town. The Youth Panel will enable young people in different age groups to advise the Town Council on issues that affect or concern them. Councillors will then be able to reach a better understanding of the needs, hopes and aspirations of younger generations. The hope is to bring about greater benefits to the Council's decision-making.

Redruth Town Council, Cornwall

Electorate:

Precept: £720,615

Expenditure: £755,390

The Town Council administrates a Youth Council open to 10-18 year olds who live or go to school in the parish. Areas of focus are chosen, and decisions taken, by Youth Councillors, with the support of Council officers. Youth Councillors report regularly to the Council on their work. Activities have included a visit to the Houses of Parliament to witness democracy in operation at a national level. Currently the focus is on climate change and environmental issues. The Town Council is also working to build a skatepark, giving local young people a new facility.

West Horsley, Surrey

Electorate: 2,300

Precept: £83,274

Expenditure: £93,700

We are developing a Youth Council designed to shadow and support the full Parish Council. The idea is to give the young people a voice and a chance to participate in local community matters. We aim to help them understand how they can continue to contribute to their community in adulthood.

YOUTH CLUBS AND SERVICES

Alcester Town Council, Warwickshire and West Midlands

Electorate 600,000

Precept: £ 300,000

Expenditure: £ 300,000

Our council have reopened the Youth Club and taken on a part time Youth Leader to run weekly sessions. We organize a Youth Council in a local secondary school and the young people can discuss ideas for the town. We apply for funding for various activities and different types of support and we are currently delivering a project for young people around mental health. We have a new mayor that wishes to support young girls around exercise. We look after and order new equipment for our playgrounds and skateparks and work closely with the schools to help support initiatives and activities for young people, such as: a play around environmental issues called GULP, drama activity around bullying, developing a film around school pressures and mental health issues, developing Youth Mental Health First Aid courses for young people, talking to young people in secondary schools around issues important to them and allowing their ideas to be put into practice in their own schools.

Askam and Ireleth Parish Council, Cumbria

Electorate 3,000

Precept: £ 24,500

Expenditure: £21,500

The village was experiencing problems with youth antisocial behaviour. We contacted a Youth Group based in Barrow in Furness, Drop Zone, who have experienced youth workers and support other areas of the Borough of Barrow in Furness. Drop Zone now come to the village and do outreach work with our young people and the parish council support this work by paying for a meeting hall, equipment and activities for the young people. We also support our local youth action group, cubs and scouts, rainbows and brownies with financial donations each year so they can put on special events and have days out with the young people. We have a good relationship with our local primary schools. Each year we hold a Christmas story time for the younger members of our community in our library to promote the library. We started by having guest story tellers, but the children took over and they sat in the 'big chair' and told stories to the others. It was wonderful to see. Due to covid most of these activities have been cancelled or scaled down. But we hope we can begin soon working with our young people.

Beccles Town Council, Suffolk

Electorate: 8,041

Precept: £122,695

Expenditure: £235,430

The council produces the 'Beccles Youth Express,' a magazine promoting youth organisations and providing a voice for young people in Beccles. The magazine was the brainchild of the Beccles Youth Champion Team at Beccles Town Council and highlights the wide range of organisations offering activities for young people in Beccles, including Beccles Rowing Club, Thirst Youth Café, River Waveney Trust and Beccles 2nd and 5th Scout Groups. The magazine also features recommendations from young residents and was funded through a grant from Waveney District Council's enabling fund.

Bitton Parish Council, Avon

Electorate: 7,370

Precept: £94,000

The council took over the running of Oldland Common Youth Club from South Gloucestershire Council. A range of activities are offered at the youth club, now called the New Tracks Youth Club, including pool, table tennis, table football, music, electronic games, TV, cooking and arts and crafts. There is also a weekly games and sports session with a sports coach and occasional outings. The youth club is open two nights a week and is for young people aged 11 to 18.

Brewood and Coven Parish Council, Staffordshire

Electorate: 7,000

Precept: £167,000

Expenditure: £140,000

Grants for Scout Hut renovations, re-building skate parks and sports changing room block, exploring a new youth shelter, 3 outdoor gyms supplied, new play equipment in three playing fields, subsidised fees for rugby tots, boot camp and football. Association with cricket club, grant for tennis coaching and equipment, provision of 16 laptops for local schools to help with digital poverty.

Central Swindon North, Wiltshire

Electorate: 30,000

Precept: £ 1,320,553

Expenditure: £ 1,465,992

As a youth service we look to deliver a range of activities across the parish these activities include youth clubs, breakfast clubs, half term provision and disability programmes. We deliver our programmes working in partnership with local church groups, Swindon borough council, Wiltshire police and local schools. As a

service we work with over 60 young people on a weekly basis. The youth service we started has been in operation now for over 2 years and has grown from strength to strength the councillors have been very supportive in the work our youth worker has delivered over this period.

Cirencester Town Council, Gloucestershire

Electorate: 15,287

Precept: £990,000

Expenditure: £1.1 million

Cirencester Town Council is supporting young people through various joint initiatives. These include, setting up a youth hub with the district council and a youth organisation with department for work and pensions, funding supporting young people into training, education and employment. In addition, connect-innovate-resource which is a joint charity initiative for young people in employment connecting them with volunteering opportunities which meet social, economic and environmental needs.

Corsham Town Council, Wiltshire

Electorate: 10,300

Precept: £985,000

Expenditure: £850,000

Working with young people, and offering opportunities and activities for them, is an important part of Corsham Town Council's work. One recent example is Corsham Hub Club which was set up as a way of offering 14-18 year olds – a group often forgotten – something to do on a Friday evening, and was also aimed at preventing anti-social behaviour. Funded by the Town Council but run by a specialist sports coaching company with a proven track record of working with teenagers, Hub Club was seeing a group of around 15-20 predominantly older teenage boys turning up every week. The decision on the sports played was down to them (usually football) and the Town Council has also funded a Bluetooth speaker so they can listen to their own music at the same time. Hub Club runs for an hour, for 48 weeks out of 52, and is due to restart, post-pandemic, after the Easter holidays. The slightly younger age-group, 12+, has Corsham Youth Zone (CYZ), a pop-up youth club, which also runs on a Friday night. While the Town Council does not run CYZ, it does help to fund them via an annual grant.

Countesthorpe Parish Council, Leicestershire and Rutland

Electorate: 5,924

Precept: £ 391,217

Expenditure: £391,620

The council manages Countesthorpe Library which is open five days a week and offers a wide range of facilities and services, including a children's area, study space and homework help. The library also plays host to a number of activities

and group meetings, including Little Bookworms and the summer reading challenge.

Coxhoe Parish Council, County Durham

Electorate: 3,431

Precept: £137,651

Expenditure: £143,452

We provide youth clubs in both villages. Usually there are four sessions a week plus extra holiday activities. Over the last year most activity has been on zoom. The sessions are for ages five (reduced from seven during pandemic) to sixteen. Our staff work with young people to find out what they want to do. We have an Ambassador scheme for young people to take on extra responsibilities.

Cranleigh Parish Council, Surrey

Electorate: 8,849

Precept: £412,040

Expenditure: £442,866

The council provides funding for the 'Friday Night Project,' a youth club for 11 to 17 year olds. The youth club is part of a new strategy from Waverley Borough Council to engage with young people in the community and offer them an opportunity to get involved in new activities, socialise with others of similar ages or relax in the café. The youth club offers a wide variety of activities including gym, table tennis, workout classes, virtual cycling, racket ball, squash and pool. Funding also comes from Waverley Borough Council, Active Surrey and Places Leisure.

Dunstable Town Council, Bedfordshire

Electorate: 30,017

Precept: £ 2,393,969

Expenditure: £ £2,393,969

The council partnered with a young people's counselling service to deliver sessions in schools identifying what causes stress.

Grove Corner is a youth hub in the heart of Dunstable. Grove Corner offers provision for young people, 4 evenings per week. With the brand new state of the arts gaming suite, featuring high spec gaming machines, the latest VRs and fully functioning gaming chairs; free pool and a multipurpose entertainment box; including chrome casting and connecting to Bluetooth to play your own music; Grove Corner caters for all.

Currently due to government guidance, Grove Corner sessions need to be pre-booked prior to attendance due to only 15 people per session being able to

attend. Social distancing, masks (unless except) and hand sanitization will be required.

Drop in sessions are for young people to do exactly that (however until government guidance changes, these sessions will currently need to be booked prior to attending) drop-in for as long as a young person wants to enjoy the Grove Corner facilities with friends, speak to youth workers and be involved in discussions and chat about current and emerging issues young people may be facing or know someone who is experiencing.

The gaming sessions are specifically for young people to come and game. This is available to do on the gaming machines or on the state of the art VRs. These sessions are open to beginners or those who are more advanced in their gaming. It is a chance to learn from one another and share knowledge and have fun.

Ellesmere Town Council, Shropshire

Electorate: 1,488

Precept: £232,680

Expenditure: £277,758

We are working with the New Saints Foundation on a youth project to get on the streets and find out what the young people want. We are providing a building for youth cafes to take place and we fund school holiday provision for youngsters.

Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council, Hampshire

Electorate: 7,764

Precept: £432,417

The council operates the Y-Zone youth centre in partnership with Eastleigh Borough Council and Bishopstoke Parish Council. Y-Zone is open every weekday and caters for young people aged 10-17. Activities and facilities on offer include table tennis, Wii, computer access, Xbox, air hockey and a pool table. A youth worker is also available to provide information, advice and support on topics including bullying, anger problems, relationships, sexual health, sexuality, alcohol and drugs on a one to one basis. The youth centre is home to two youth clubs, an afternoon club for young people aged 10 to 13 and an evening club for 13 to 17 year olds. Both clubs meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Attendance at the afternoon club costs 50p per session while the evening club is free to attend.

Ferndown Town Council, Dorset

Electorate: 13,891

Precept: £ 838,303

Expenditure: £ £27,425

The council provides a programme of activities for young people aged 10 and above in the Ferndown area. Young people in the town are offered the choice of

attending either an informal drop in session free of charge or, for £1, a more formal activity based session. Drop in sessions offer young people the opportunity to choose what they want to do, with laptops available for those who need them to complete homework. The more formal activity sessions help broaden young people's views and experiences by promoting other cultures and ways of living as well as providing information about awareness days. At all sessions there are a range of activities and sports on offer such as pool, games consoles, arts and crafts and darts. There is also a well-stocked coffee bar selling sweets and refreshments. Attendees are encouraged to take responsibility for the youth club by helping to run sessions and standing for a place on the youth council.

Great Aycliffe Town Council, County Durham

Electorate: 19,847

Precept: £1,697,500

Expenditure: £ 2,832,100

The council operates St Oswald's Pre School. Up to 40 three year olds and 12 two year olds can attend either half or full day sessions at the nursery, which follows the Early Years Foundation Stage. In addition to classroom based learning children can participate in outdoor play, short walks to local places of interest such as the library and interact with visitors such as the Fire brigade and Police. Learning journals are provided for parents so they understand what the child is doing and are able to contribute to and support their learning.

Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council, Shropshire

Electorate: 878

Precept: £29,929

Expenditure: £30,649

The council stepped in to pay for a qualified youth worker to continue at Nesscliffe Youth Club following Shropshire Council's decision to cut its youth service budget. Funds were raised by increasing the precept by £3,500 per annum, a move that was taken following consultation with residents.

Haverhill Town Council, Suffolk

Electorate: 18,749

Precept: £1,039,734

Expenditure: £1,858,959

The council employs a youth skills manager to help young people reach their full potential. The youth skills manager works with local businesses to secure apprenticeship opportunities for young people; provides advice and guidance to young people at risk of finding themselves not in education, employment or training; encourages local businesses and the education sector to work closely together; helps young people secure work experience and taster days and

coordinates local training programmes. The youth skills manager role was created as part of the One Haverhill Partnership, an alliance bringing together all three tiers of local government, the business sector, education, police, health, voluntary sector, Havebury Housing, Abbeycroft Leisure, education and the faith communities to provide one voice for the town.

Haydon Wick Parish Council, Wiltshire

Electorate: 10,000

Precept: £851,158

Expenditure: £1,484,295

We recently recruited a part-time temporary youth worker for our Parish. Our youth worker has overseen the re-opening of our popular skate park. We have launched community engagement sessions including local artist workshops with youths, have free community youth football sessions starting next week and are working with a local charity to offer life skills session to older youths who may be targeted by gangs/ County Lines

Hedge End Town Council, Hampshire

Electorate 2,392

Precept: £ 752,978

Expenditure: £946,393

Hedge End Town Council employs a part-time youth team leader (22hrs/week) and 2 sessional youth workers to deliver youth activities for young people in Hedge End. We run a weekly youth club for young people with additional needs and a counselling and drop in project for young people with additional needs. We will be starting a junior youth club soon as well as supporting ad hoc youth events over the summer such as a skate jam. We have run holiday activities like a nature trail, Christmas craft competition and Easter egg colouring. We financially support a health clinic and counselling project for young people run by a charity. We own and maintain 11 parks with playgrounds, woodlands, a fishing pond plus MUGAs, tennis courts, 2 skate parks and basketball courts for use by the community. During the summer we have a large paddling pool with snack kiosk which is well used by families. We have 3 preschools which are based in Town Council halls and numerous children's groups like sports and music clubs also hire our buildings to run their activities.

Redruth Town Council, Cornwall

Electorate: 11,268

Precept: £844,876

Expenditure: £913,151

Took over management of Redruth Library and Information Service as part of Cornwall Council's devolution programme. The library is currently open four days

a week and offers a wide range of facilities and services including free wifi, computers with internet access, scanning, printing and photocopying and processing of national concessions bus pass applications. For children the library offers book start rhyme time sessions for the under-fives and a young readers book club for children aged ten plus.

Ryde Town Council, Isle of Wight

Electorate: 18,453

Precept: £844876

Expenditure: £844876

The council developed “Network Ryde,” a new youth project supporting young people in and around the town to achieve their potential and have fun. The first phase of this project has seen the opening of ‘147,’ an internet café offering services for young people aged 11 to 19 and adults with disabilities up to the age of 25. Sessions currently held at 147 include a trainee enhancement programme for young people aged 15 to 24 who are not in education, employment or training, a lunchtime drop in session for home educated young people, an arts and crafts session for young people with additional needs and their siblings and a weekly Xbox and Wii tournament night. The council also works with other local venues to facilitate events under the ‘Network Ryde’ banner. At present this includes a weekly games night at Waterside Pool.

Saxmundham Town Council, Suffolk

Electorate: 3,378

Precept: £223,000

Expenditure: £239,736

The Council provides the Youth Booth building to a local charity and pays all the bills on the property. The Council also grant funds local organisations that provide activities for young people. The Council have set up a youth working party to look at how the Council supports young people in the community. The Council provides a skatepark, 2 play areas and activities and events in their Market Hall.

Shefford Town Council, Bedfordshire

Electorate: 7,500

Precept: £296,080

Expenditure: £308,420

Our Youth Involvement Team carry out numerous activities in Shefford and the wider area to support children, young people and their families, including: one to one mentoring in schools and at our dedicated Youth Hub; detached work where our specialist youth workers will engage with hard to reach young people out in the community; virtual youth clubs and group sessions; home visits; community events such as the Graffiti Project, ‘Use Ya Feet, Get off the Street’ Football

Project, Street workout fitness classes; and working closely in partnership with Bedfordshire Police, the Community Safety Team at Central Bedfordshire Council, Grand Union Housing Group and other partners in safeguarding meetings.

Shenley Brook End and Tattenhoe Parish Council, Milton Keynes

Electorate: 18,541

Precept: £765,755

The council employs a youth team providing vital outreach to young people in the parish aged 8 to 18. The youth team runs two weekly youth clubs. Furzton Youth Club takes place every Tuesday from 16:30 to 18:30pm at Ridgeway Community Centre. Activities on offer include cooking, games, crafts, projects, trips and sports. Shenley Brook End Youth Club runs every Thursday from 15:45pm to 17:45pm at The Oak Tree Centre and includes games, arts and crafts. Entry is free and the youth team welcomes new members with ideas for new activities. The youth team also provides football sessions at Tattenhoe Pavillion.

Shinfield Parish Council, Berkshire

Electorate: 12,500

Precept: £488,797

Expenditure: £611,797

We have a vibrant Youth Club (64) members from 11 to 15 year old, who have been kept interacting with our Senior Youth Worker and two Youth Workers throughout the COVID lockdowns via Social Media. We also Provide sport facilities and playgrounds throughout the parish. We co fund a young persons drop in centre with Wokingham Borough council. All youth service providers know to contact us for grant funding and issue grants of up to 30k per annum. We have a councillor whose remit is to ensure we reach out to youth groups in the parish. Three councillors and the Clerk are active trustees in local youth and sporting clubs.

Shrewsbury Town Council, Shropshire

Electorate: 72,000

Precept: £1,525,610

Expenditure: £3,679,000

Shrewsbury Town Council self-funds a now well established youth service, that comprises of 6 open access youth club sessions, support of various sports activities, detached youth work and an alternative curriculum (AC). All but the AC is open to all young people, who can come and take part in whatever they choose once registered with us. The AC is referral based and is an early intervention that we set up for young people at risk of being permanently excluded from school, and therefore vulnerable to exploitation. This was in response to the increasing

levels of county lines activity in the town, and the strong links to those who are excluded from mainstream school. We are currently working on developing a youth forum/council once we have re-established after returning from Covid restrictions.

Sonning Common Parish Council, Oxfordshire

Electorate: 3,143

Precept: £ 156,643

Expenditure: £ £8,879

Sonning Common Parish Council run a youth centre for 10-16 year olds, two nights per week. We have three play areas and a skatepark and are currently building a new recreation ground which will include a MUGA, new play area, walking track, flat pitch areas and possibly a biking pump track.

South Swindon Parish Council, Wiltshire

Precept: £ 2,567,193

Expenditure: £10,000

During these difficult times we have embraced working on a 1:1 basis or in small groups up to six people. This will now hopefully change now restrictions have become easier. During the pandemic we have offered mental health care, social and emotional warmth and fun activities for all the parish to embrace and enjoy. These could be quizzes around local parks or on-line activities. Often I have met with young people for drinks and a walk to ensure their well-being needs have been met. We have also carried out art activities in the park. On-line support has been a must during these difficult times.

St Ives Town Council, Cornwall

Electorate: 8,735

Precept: £131,000

Expenditure: £966,811

This is a priority for the Council. We worked with the schools to undertake a large youth survey - 300 responses on what young people wanted for the town. We hosted a youth summit with report on action plan. We have allocated an annual budget to develop the action plan. We secured accelerator funds for a very significant concrete skate park for the town which is complete this month and will be the base for a community cafe and employing a summer skate ranger. We are working with social media advisors and young people to develop a social media what's on channel project - based on Instagram hashtag campaign with a simple static website to promote the full range of activities taking place in the town.

Tetbury Town Council, Gloucestershire

Electorate: 800

Precept: £ 389,480

Expenditure: £299,823

The council is supporting the Young people by providing half term activities & working with the Youth to achieve a sheltered area for them to have a place to go to. Maintaining & improving the playgrounds. We also support TAYCT who support the mental health of the Youth in the town.

Thurston Parish Council, Suffolk

Electorate: 2,649

Precept: £105,162

Expenditure: £222,445

Provision for young people in the village is becoming an increasing priority as the population grows. The Parish council have provided and maintained play areas for younger children. In addition there are local clubs e.g. football, cricket, scouts etc that benefit from facilities provided and maintained by the PC. Recent additions to facilities include a youth shelter and a gym trail. Plans are being developed to expand the latter further. An embryonic Youth Council has been established and work is ongoing to consolidate this through partnership with local schools. There is a demand for a skate park and the PC are exploring land options to develop this together with additional sporting facilities. Currently the PC are considering a discussion paper outlining ways in which young people can be supported and integrated into the decision making process. Suggestions include provision of a drop-in centre for advice, A youth worker to develop a clearer link with young people and their needs, exploring opportunities for young people to volunteer their help within the community.

Woodbridge Town Council, Suffolk

Electorate: 8,500

Precept: £101,000

Expenditure: £303,000

We have started a group 'Youth Voice' to help young people in the area contribute their views to the Council and promote the issues that most affect them. We have funded their membership of the British Youth Council; we provide small grants to around a dozen organisations each year, many working with young people. We have three main parks, all with play areas which we are further enhancing with new equipment and equipment for disabled youngsters. We have funded free school meals during the pandemic as well as given funding the help schools purchase laptops.