

Neighbourhood Plan Consultation with Pupils at Idsall School Dec. 2014

This consultation was one of a number of consultations held with young people in Shifnal to identify key issues from young people's perspective which the Neighbourhood Plan will need to address.

This consultation was with a group of pupils from Idsall School from years; 8,9,10,11; 25 pupils in total with an even mix of girls and boys. They were all residents of Shifnal and had volunteered to participate in the discussion, which was held in the school's Lecture Theatre.

All the pupils also completed one of the Residents Questionnaires.

The format was slightly different from that used with the other 3 groups of young people.

First they were asked to say what their top 2 priorities would be for their Vision for Shifnal in 10-15 years:

- Improving the walkways to get to school. Quite a few of the paths need a better surface
- There needs to be more facilities in Shifnal for young people. In the parks, somewhere to sit down and a place where they can hangout, play on an x-box and charge their phones and meet their friends, which isn't a coffee shop but more of a place for young people
- The town centre and high street are dull and it needs to be improved and have better shops and shop fronts
- There needs to be better street lights in some places , in the parks and along the walkways as that would improve safety
- The new houses being built will mean more traffic and more children in the schools which will be overcrowded so all this is a big concern
- Keep Shifnal looking like a small town

Next, they were asked if there were any facilities for young people that were lacking in Shifnal:

- A shelter in the park (Beeches Drive) for when it is raining
- BMX track with proper surface and skate park
- Somewhere to sit down in the park
- Better equipment to use and lights
- Better toilets
- A rugby pitch

Then, asked if there was money available – What would young people like to see the money spent onto improve Shifnal?:

- A shelter and equipment in the park, as above.
- Somewhere for young people to chill and meet their friends, preferably with an x-box and phone charging facility and maybe fast food
- Paint the town centre to smarten it up
- Have better Christmas lights
- Improve the train station it needs painting and better shelters to sit in when it's raining. (The majority of the children used the train station regularly to go to Telford for example. They said it was better than the bus.)
- Swimming pool
- Skate park and BMX track
- A McDonalds

Pupils also talked about what they liked and disliked about Shifnal:

Like;

- Shifnal is in the country
- It has shops and schools which you can walk to
- It has food outlets and takeaways

Don't Like;

- Too much traffic
- Lots of new houses being built which will bring more traffic and pupils into the school(although it was noted that more people would be good for shops business)
- The High street is shabby and needs improving. It doesn't look that good as it's been spoilt with some of the shop fronts which aren't in keeping with other parts of the town