



Willingham Community Plan – Youth

PROGRESS REPORT

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1. Introduction

Under the Willingham Community Planning Group (WCPG) formed in February 2021 to prepare a community plan for the village, a sub-group started to form to look specifically at including youth in the plan and how to get their input.

Wanting to build on the achievements for youth from the 2008 plan and considering some of the prevalent issues over the past few years (e.g. mental health and wellbeing, covid pandemic, state of the planet etc.), WCPG felt that it was important to hear from youth directly, separately and anonymously, specifically on:

- what they think of the village now (for youth) vs their future vision of the village (for youth);
- what facilities youth are/have been accessing and awareness (or not) about them;
- what specific facilities and activities of all sorts they would like to have in Willingham for teenagers; and
- what issues they worry about/are important to them about their futures, e.g. skills for employment, work experience and their ideas on how the village might be help.

During the survey design phase we consulted with all known youth activity leaders running groups in the village at the time, including the Willingham Youth Trust. We also approached pastoral and special education needs staff at Willingham's catchment schools which are Willingham Primary School (WPS) and Cottenham Village College (CVC).

Additionally, we originally intended to run focus groups with young people 11-18 years old to gather their thoughts on survey content, design, format and delivery etc. However, due to covid lockdowns and restrictions, we instead approached and agreed with Willingham Primary School to run a trial version of the youth survey with Year 6 in July 2021. We also gathered feedback from older youth from informal invitation via friends, family, networks etc. The feedback was used to make changes and produce a final version, and we thank everyone who contributed to the production and delivery of the youth survey.

2. Survey Format and Delivery

The fully GDPR compliant youth survey consisted of a single survey with 48 questions with a more or less 50:50 mix of multiple-choice style questions and comments throughout 9 sections. In order to increase the chances of respondents filling in the survey with the most useful information, we made specific format decisions including: (i) 24 questions were obligatory to answer in order to be able to submit the survey online – all of these were multiple-choice style questions, (ii) the remaining questions were optional and largely comment-style with reminders to use key words and phrases only. We also produced paper versions of the survey including a version for any respondents who prefer larger text and less content on each page.

The survey was designed to take 15-20 minutes to complete and covered the following 9 sections:

Section 1 'Let's start with the basics...'

This filtered out any respondent who did not meet the age and residency criteria for the survey. Age was requested to help understand the demographics.

Section 2 'What do you think about Willingham?'

This asked them to describe what they like and dislike about Willingham.

Section 3 'Where do you like to hang out?'

Section description: 'What makes you want to leave your tablet, mobile or gaming behind? Where do you go? What do you do?'

Section 4 What do you want to do in Willingham?

Section description: 'What new activities would appeal to you to have in the village? Some may already exist.'

Section 5 What do you think about?'

Section description: 'These questions ask about your worries. (The next section asks you what support you might need to help you with them.)'

Section 6 What would be useful to you?'

Section description: 'We asked about your worries, now tell us about what support you would like.'

Section 7 What do you do during the day?'

Section description: 'It's useful for us to know what you spend most of your days doing, in or outside of Willingham, and if you are content with your education, training or work.'

Section 8 How do you get out and about?'

Section description: 'Life during teen years changes massively from being more local to sometimes commuting an hour or two a day. What works well and what doesn't? What you do need as you become more independent?'

Section 9 Becoming more involved'

Section description: 'You're almost finished! Just some final questions on what to do if you have more ideas in the future and how we can get news to you.'

Information about the survey was communicated to the youth of Willingham in a variety of ways. These were via: the Willingham News; social media to parents; WPS year 6 parent/carer and pupil information, CVC years 7-13 for Willingham-based parent/carer and pupil information; flyers; public meetings (for adults); posters for youth; and word of mouth on informal social media between young people.

Online and paper surveys were launched mid-November with both WPS and CVC kindly collaborating to allow Willingham-based pupils to complete the online and paper survey at school. Paper surveys were also available to collect/drop-off from the Co-op, Willingham Library and WPS. Walk-in help sessions with the adult and youth surveys ran on two Sundays in November with two fully DBS enhanced volunteers present to help with reading or filling in the survey for any children under 16 years of age.

The survey was eventually closed (after several extensions) in mid-December.

3. Survey Response

More than 120 online and paper surveys were received, of which 114 met the criteria for analysis. Nearly 70% of all respondents were aged 11-14. As the survey was broadcast to Year 6 as a whole to complete at WPS, we had a 17% return from pupils aged 10. Data from the age 10 cohort will be included but teased out in the report results and analysis from the target youth cohort aged 11-18. The number of returned surveys were lower than anticipated, however, this may partly be explained by the upswing in covid cases in schools and the absence of pupils on the day(s) when the survey was completed at schools. The survey results comprise a wealth of incredibly interesting and valuable data to help implementors make positive changes to their lives and those of future generations of young people in Willingham. We'd like to thank everyone who responded to the survey.

General statistical analysis was done by MS Forms Premium and on-going deeper analysis by Microsoft Excel tools and we are anticipating to use SQL shortly (tbc).

4. Report

The structure of the report will be similar to the 2008 plan report.

5. Finance

No financial costs were accrued to the Parish Council budget for the youth survey. Costs were covered in-kind.