



YOUNGER CHILDRENS' ELECTRONIC VOTING RESULTS

Profile

In the summer of 2008 the village primary schools took part in an electronic voting survey. Each child had a hand held voting "pod" and they responded to a series of questions about their interests, environment and their ideas for the future of Shawbury.

It was made clear to them that we valued their opinions as they would be the future adults of the village.



The results of each question were displayed instantly.

It was interesting to know that most of the children live in Shawbury, but that St. Mary's had a significant number from the RAF base, Stanton, Moreton Corbet and further away. Shawbury Primary tends

to be two-thirds Shawbury with the remaining third coming from different areas. This serves to emphasise the two schools' large catchment area.

Activities and facilities

When asked what they liked to do, the response varied between age groups, but it was either games or being around a friend's house. It was noticeable that one group particularly liked swimming and that very few frequented the local clubs (brownies, cubs etc). It is suggested that the uniformed leaders of the uniformed groups might be invited to the schools to inform children of their work.

As to where they go to play, for most it was home, garden or a friend's house with very few using the playing field or pod, probably because they were too young. One of the most useful questions was "Are there things you can't do because you can't get to them". A significant number said there were things such as swimming, judo, karate, dancing, ice skating they would like to do. Perhaps the likes of judo, karate or dancing might be something that could be considered at the Village Hall?

Transport and cycling

As one might expect in a rural community, most were taken to/collected from school by car albeit the majority of trips were under 5 minutes; a minority took 5 – 15 minutes and very few 15 minutes or more. The tendency seems to be that parents drop their children off on their way to work, even though it would only be a few minutes' walk. It is also possible that the



child's security is an issue for parents. Some children did choose to walk or cycle to school. When asked about the latter, a high proportion of children felt safe riding their bikes. Perhaps cycle training and improvements to pedestrian and/or cycle facilities in the village would encourage walking/cycling, it would also be beneficial for their health.

As previously mentioned, a significant number of children felt that Shawbury wasn't clean and tidy. Indeed, shortly after the survey Shawbury Primary School undertook a litter pick of the locality. Again, community and school involvement with litter picking would help raise awareness and possibly discourage offenders.

Personal safety

As to what children thought on the issue of safety, most felt less safe around quiet streets and around the Village Hall. Two of the groups containing the youngest (6/7 year olds) actually felt less safe at another school – It is understood that this was possibly to do with them moving around classes.

Finally, when asked about what new thing they would like to see in Shawbury, a bike track came top, with a park containing more play equipment second. A new play area has since been provided on the Recreation Ground and the Parish Council are planning to construct a dirt BMX track.

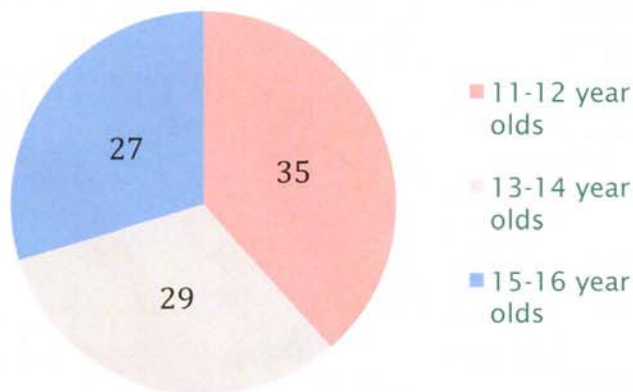


"The Village Bonfire" by Jessica May Williamson, winner of the children's Parish Plan illustration competition."



YOUNG PEOPLE'S QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

How old are you?



Profile

Given that the PPQ had set aside a section for this age group, the 94 responses we received was a little disappointing. However the responses were fairly evenly split between the three age ranges, 11-12 (35), 13-14 (29) and 15-16 (27), comprising 50 female and 44 males.

Of those responding 71.3% attended secondary school and 14.9% primary school. The remainder go to either college, work full or part time or are in training. Of those who had left education, 59.1% felt that they had had the support and advice needed to go on to training, apprenticeships and find a job. Given that 40.9% said they hadn't, perhaps this is an area that might be raised with Thomas Adams School.

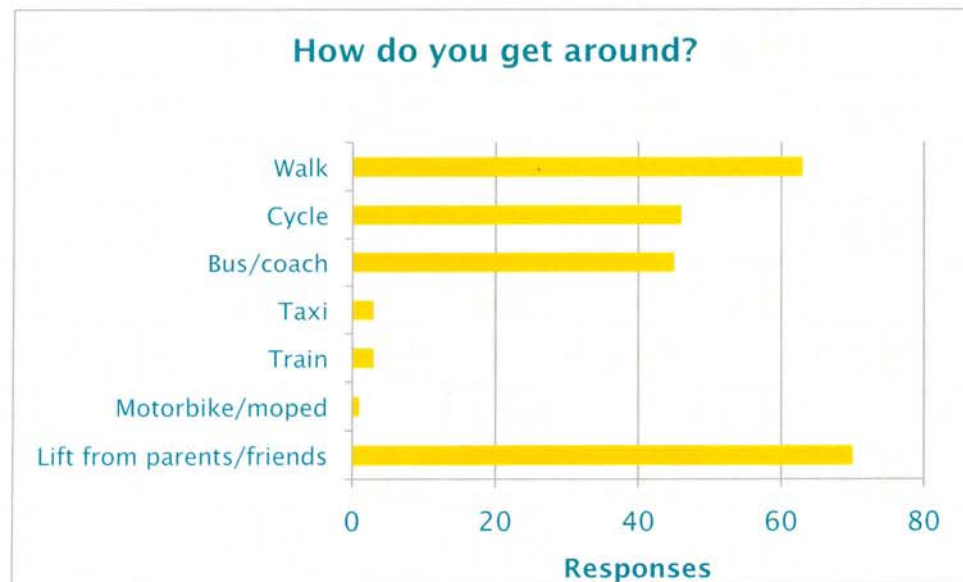


Activities and facilities

The PPQ also asked what young people did in their spare time. The results showed that they identified a number of activities, which have been grouped for easier recording; indoor activities 126, outdoor activities 99, organised/arranged 63, local 34, outside Parish 126 and other unidentified activities 12.

What do you do in your spare time?	Responses (any number of boxes could be selected)
Watch TV/use computer at home	76
Meet friends outdoors	65
Visit cinema, 10 pin bowling etc	54
Shopping elsewhere	51
Meet friends indoors	50
Organised sports activities	36
Telford Ice Rink	18
Shopping in Shawbury	17
Visit Library	17
Informal outdoor activities (i.e. BMX, skateboarding)	15
Scouts, guides etc	14
Other	12
Meet with friends at the youth pod	11
Shrewsbury Sports Village	8
Cruising in car	6
Church/religious activities	5
Pub/Club	3

Transport



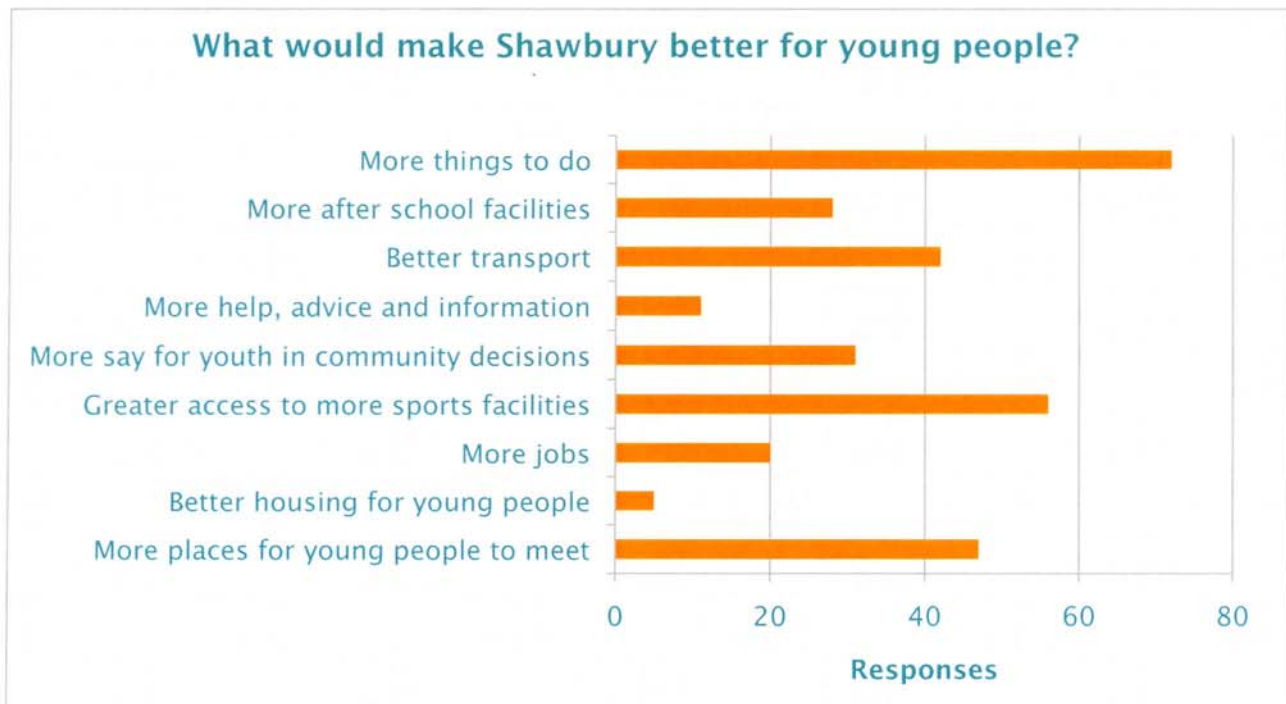
Our initial young people's surveys raised the issue of transport, so the PPQ sought to establish how young people moved around. Individuals were allowed to have more than one choice, and as can be seen the most common was

receiving a lift with friends and walking, followed by cycling and by bus/coach. Very few used a taxi, train or motorbike/moped. Transport is one of the greatest issues young people face when living in a rural community.



What would make Shawbury better?

We asked individuals, who were allowed to have more than one choice, what activities they would use if they were available. We received a wide selection of responses but the highest with 14.2% was for events (such as a disco) in the Village Hall. This was closely followed by tennis courts, youth/social club, and paths for jogging and cycling. These results have been passed to the Parish Council.



When asked what would make Shawbury better for young people, 23.1% said that they wanted “more things to do”, with greater access to sports facilities second with 17.9% and more places to meet and better transport third and fourth respectively.

With regards to young people’s thoughts on the play/recreation areas in the village, 84.9% felt they were poor and 15.1% just OK. Most (97.5%) felt that they needed more areas and



better equipment. Since this survey was undertaken, the Parish Council have provided a new high-tech POD and the Shawbury Action Group have been successful in obtaining funding for the provision of a playground and associated equipment. These facilities were installed in March/April 2009.

Problems

We then asked them what stops them from doing these activities and the main responses were that they were not available, which accounted for nearly a third of the responses and then cost. This was closely followed by transport and time. Perhaps young people could be transported to facilities and/or the RAF base allows young people of the community access to its facilities, as they have done recently.



There was a wide selection of responses to the question about what problems or worries do you have, with the top two being “bored with nothing to do” (10.3%) and “groups of young people hanging around” (10%).

What causes you a problem or worries you?	Responses (any number of boxes could be selected)
Being bored, having nothing to do	54
Groups of people hanging around	52
Dogs and dog mess	45
Vandalism and graffiti	44
Traffic/speeding	32
Not enough foot/cycle paths	31
Being hassled by older children	31
Being offered cigarettes, alcohol or drugs	31
Poor street lighting	23
Your property damaged or stolen	21
School/college work and exams	21
Litter in the street	19
Being bullied, not at school	19
Being hassled by adults	18
The youth pod	17
Being physically attacked	17
Joy-riders	17
Being bullied/teased at school	14
Excessive noise	8
Unemployment	6
Health and disability issues	3

Uniformed youth groups



Shawbury has a vibrant Scout and Guide Movement, which meet in the Scout and Guide Centre in Oak Drive (just behind the Elephant and Castle public house). The Scout and Guide Centre is run by a Management Committee, which comprises members of the public and representatives of the Scout and Guide Movement (ex-officio members).

The Guide Movement has three sections meeting at Shawbury; Rainbows (5-7 years), Brownies (7-10 years) and Guides (10-14 years). The Guides operate under a Divisional Commissioner and the Section is responsible for their own fundraising and finance control under the auspices of the Section Leader. There is a Senior Section (14-26 years) but no such Section currently operates in the village.

The Scout Movement has three sections meeting at Shawbury; Beavers (5-7 years), Cubs (8-10 years) and Scouts (10 – 14 years). Leading on from the Scouts, there are two further sections - first being the Explorers (14-18 years) which is a District-run Section (Tern Valley), who mainly meet at Market Drayton. The next section is the Scout Network, which is a County-run Section that meets in various venues around the county.

The Scout Group at Shawbury is a mixed group, which means they have girls within the Sections, who partake in all the regular activities undertaken. It is also an Air Scout Group, which means that the Scout Section partakes in Air Activities (as well as the usual scouting activities) and has an annual inspection by the Air Force. They are managed by a Group Scout Leader, along with an Executive Committee, comprising members of the public (mainly parents) and uniformed leaders.

Both Sections follow the guidance provided by Gilwell (the headquarters of Scouts and Guides) which ensures that the programmes and activities laid on are fun, entertaining, educational, but most of all safe. All Leaders have to undertake a full and thorough training

programme before they are authorised to lead meetings and adventurous activities. Leaders are also CRB checked every three years, and must hold a first aid certificate.

As with most groups run for the benefit of the young people in a community, be it a youth club, football, martial arts, dancing, Combined Cadet Force, Army Cadets, Air Cadets, etc., the leaders freely give their time. Contrary to popular belief they do not get paid for all the hours and commitment they put in.

Young peoples' priorities

Young people had identified Shawbury Parish's best feature as the library, with the shops, moat and football field/pitch joint second, and playing field and chip shop/take-aways joint fifth. The worst features are the youths



hanging around and vandalism/vandals; the POD and "nothing to do" were joint third. As regards the main priorities, these were as follows;

The Main Priorities for the Parish	
1st	Sports facilities
2nd	Youth/social club
3rd (joint)	Facilities on the playing field/park and more things to do
5th	BMX/dirt bike track
6th (joint)	Crack down/no vandalism, Skate park, a Park, CCTV, Less cars/speeding traffic and Tennis courts
	etc.....

A number of initiatives have been mentioned – promoting the work of the local uniformed groups, classes/sessions at the Village Hall, cycle training, improved pedestrian/cycle routes in the village, litter, bike track, support/advice for school

leavers, transport issues, developing a relationship with the RAF base to use their facilities, more facilities/things to do and a youth club. These have all been included in the Parish Plan Action List.