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**A CONSULTATION  
of  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
by  
WICKHAM COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION**



**Conducted during the Autumn Term of 2008**

with the help of  
Hampshire County Council  
Recreation and Heritage



**The Trustees of Wickham Community Association** recognise the importance of young people in our community. They are our future and we should give their views as much attention as the adults.

The Parish Council and the youth organisations help to provide facilities for young people. We also are lucky to have a beautiful natural rural environment. **BUT**

- Do the young people like what they find?
- Is it what they want or need?
- How can we keep in touch with them?

To find out, we designed a short questionnaire which was issued through schools and clubs during the Autumn term of 2008. Our target age range was 8 to 15 years. The 2001 Census for Wickham Ward gives 236 children or 9% of the total population in that age bracket. We managed to obtain the views of 155 young people (66% of the target population), the bulk of whom fitted into the target age and geographical criteria.

**GENDER:** Of the 155 replies, 92 came from Boys and 63 from Girls. We were interested to learn if their views differed so, where possible, we have split the results between the sexes.

Not everyone responded to every question so the number of responses is shown in brackets by the column headed Boys or Girls. We have also expressed the weight of their views in percentages. Sometimes the percentage gives a better indicator than pure numbers.

We also asked about preferences, indicated by faces:  
In the report, we refer to these faces as:-



'Like' ; 'Middle' ; 'Dislike'

**HOW MUCH DO YOU LIKE LIVING HERE?** 81 boys and 58 girls replied  
There were three options:-

	<b>Boys (81)</b>	<b>Girls (58)</b>
Like	63 (69%)	47 (75%)
Middle	13 (14%)	8 (12%)
Dislike	6 (6%)	3 (5%)

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?** Tick any that apply:

	<b>Boys (92)</b>	<b>Girls (63)</b>		<b>Boys (92)</b>	<b>Girls (63)</b>
Chill out - On your own	48%	43%	With friends	74%	76%
Hobbies:	53%	67%	Sport	65%	63%
Clubs	54%	67%	Music	50%	70%
Family fun	54%	59%	Cinema/theatre	47%	63%
IT games/internet	75%	59%	Shopping	28%	70%

## PLEASE TELL US HOW MUCH YOU LIKE THESE PLACES

(NB. The following tables give the results of two questions - 'Which place do you like' and then, 'How often do you use it?')

The two tables show that the most liked and most used place is The Square - and the girls like it more than the boys.

It is interesting to see that the places provided for play (the Play Areas, Rec and Skateboard Park) are only marginally more used but less popular than the more natural areas (water meadows and railway line).

The Community Centre is more popular with the girls, who use it more. The same applies to the Youth Club, but the difference is not so marked.

The School Pool has a popular vote, particularly with the girls, but appears to be under used.

Place	Boys (92)				Like/Dislike							Frequency of use				
	Like	Middle	Dislike	No reply	Never	In last year	In last month	Weekly	Daily	No reply						
Play area near you	51%	20%	9%	20%	14	14	24	17	16	7						
Water Meadows	60%	18%	9%	13%	21	24	23	17	4	3						
River Meon	40%	22%	10%	18%	40	23	13	7	4	5						
Railway Line	52%	24%	11%	13%	22	15	23	17	10	5						
Recreation Ground	46%	22%	16%	16%	30	16	20	8	8	10						
School Pool	46%	12%	17%	25%	33	41	4	3	2	9						
Youth Club	39%	14%	21%	26%	55	5	4	16	3	9						
Skate Park	48%	15%	16%	21%	38	10	15	13	6	10						
Wickham Square	53%	22%	14%	11%	6	5	14	33	26	8						
Community Centre	40%	21%	18%	21%	26	18	14	13	10	11						

Place	Girls (63)				Like/Dislike							Frequency of use				
	Like	Middle	Dislike	No reply	Never	In last year	In last month	Weekly	Daily	No reply						
Play area near you	38%	27%	21%	14%	12	3	17	16	12	3						
Water Meadows	56%	21%	14%	9%	11	9	24	9	4	6						
River Meon	33%	27%	26%	14%	24	14	17	1	1	6						
Railway Line	48%	24%	17%	11%	14	11	12	13	7	6						
Recreation Ground	41%	33%	13%	13%	15	12	13	13	3	7						
School Pool	58%	13%	16%	13%	18	33	2	1	3	6						
Youth Club	49%	23%	14%	14%	30	2	3	18	2	8						
Skate Park	44%	19%	23%	14%	25	8	7	8	9	6						
Wickham Square	63%	16%	11%	10%	3	2	5	16	32	5						
Community Centre	52%	27%	11%	10%	11	9	9	11	18	5						

## **WRITTEN COMMENTS**

We also asked the young people to write comments. The most frequent remarks concerned the loss of the Scout HQ (37) and the need for swimming facilities (27).

14 people wanted an adventure park. Most of these comments came from people on the other side of the village to the equipment in the Recreation Ground. Reading the comments gave the overall impression that young people do not like to be too far from their own home area and are conscious of safety - e.g. one Wykeham Field resident asked for a zebra crossing by Scats, presumably so that he could get to the Recreation Ground area.

We also noticed that the young people surveyed in Knowle and other settlements near Wickham missed having any activities close to them.

Of course there were a lot of other ideas from individuals. Of these the general theme is that people want to have more group activities. Clusters of ideas included: sports (7); performing arts (6) and general youth activities (8).

## **FORMATION OF A YOUTH COUNCIL**

We also asked the respondents if they would be interested in joining a Youth Council, which would meet about four times a year. We were very pleased to receive forty positive replies which will be followed up.

## **CONCLUSION**

We were very pleased with the number of responses and hope that the information can be used by anyone interested in furthering the needs of young people in our community. We know that there are a number of other village organisations which will be interested in their views and we look forward in working with them, helping to give a voice to the young people in our community.

We also hope that this survey will be the start of giving young people a feeling of ownership of the community in which they live.

Wickham Community Association will be happy to share the outcomes with others. Please feel free to contact us as below with your feed back.

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