



News release

17 November 2015

Young people influence the future of Cranleigh

A consultation exercise has given young people the opportunity to express their views on how they would like to see Cranleigh in 2030.

Volunteers from the Cranleigh neighbourhood plan steering group have met with year ten students from Glebelands School and members of Cranleigh Youth Club. The young people received a short presentation explaining what neighbourhood planning is about and were then asked to answer a series of questions about living in Cranleigh.

Neighbourhood plan volunteer Lynda McDermott spent time with students from Glebelands School and says: "Cranleigh's neighbourhood plan will have a 15-year shelf-life so it is vital that the opinions of all age groups are represented. The young people at Glebelands School were very keen to take part in the consultation and took the exercise very seriously. I found it interesting to listen in on their discussions about what it is like to grow up in Cranleigh, their aspirations for the future and their views about the provision of services and facilities for young people."

The results of the questionnaire showed that of those Glebelands students who responded, most were of the opinion that the heritage and character of Cranleigh is important. The majority want to go to university and 86 per cent see their career involving travel to another town or city.

Of all the young people surveyed, over 90 per cent feel safe when out and about without their parents. Eighty per cent get around Cranleigh on foot and 11 per cent catch the bus. Sixty-nine per cent say they use the surrounding countryside for activities.

Although more than 80 per cent do not use any art, dance, music or film facilities in Cranleigh, over half said they would like a conventional style cinema. They would like a cinema that shows the films they want to see and that does not involve them needing to plan ahead and book tickets in advance. While the majority said they do shop in Cranleigh, there was a desire for clothes shops aimed at young people.

Lynda McDermott adds: "The survey results have provided us with a really good insight into what it is like to be a young person living in Cranleigh. We have found out about some footpaths that would benefit from improved lighting and have learned that our young people would like a little more to do. Some want to be able to hang out in a coffee shop environment, while others would like opportunities to take part in sports such as badminton, mountain biking and rounders.

"Overall, the young people were pleased to be asked for their opinion about Cranleigh's future and took the exercise very seriously."

The results of the consultation have contributed towards the emerging Cranleigh neighbourhood plan, which will be shared with the public on Thursday 26 November between 3 and 8pm at Cranleigh Village Hall. All residents, regardless of age, have a final opportunity to have their say about the future of

For **further information** about this press release contact:

Jane O'Leary, Chair of Cranleigh neighbourhood plan steering group at chair@cranleighbp.org or on 01483 276100.



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Cranleigh by taking part in the third community questionnaire, which will be delivered to homes during the middle of November.

Further information about Cranleigh's neighbourhood plan can be found at www.cranleighnhp.org.

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