



Our plan – Our future

Workshop and survey at Much Wenlock Primary School - January 2012

An active and lively group of children, aged between 7 and 11 years gathered to respond to questions about the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood plan.

Thirty six children from this wide age group used voting pods to answer each question.

They were encouraged by their Head Teacher to take part in discussions about each question before they voted. There was a further opportunity for the children to respond after voting by writing other ideas and suggestions on post it notes.

The questions were prepared to reflect the main themes of the Plan, which some of the younger pupils found more difficult, but by the end of a very busy hour everyone had taken part and were still discussing ideas as the session closed.

We now know that the town's young people in this sample feel good about Much Wenlock because they have friends and family nearby, feel safe, enjoy the Leisure Centre and countryside and, for some, enjoy the quiet and friendship of a small town.

However, the children did not feel good about so much traffic in the town, most felt there were not enough activities for them and there were difficulties travelling to other places. One area of the town was highlighted as difficult for crossing the road, the Gaskell corner and Victoria Road.

Most of the children came to school by car or walked, and a few cycled. They also commented that their families only sometimes used the local bus service, adding that most families shopped in Wenlock once a week.

Answers to the question about important buildings in the town, resulted in the Primary School, as might be expected, being voted top, followed by the Leisure Centre, an historic building either the Guildhall or the Priory, and a certain butcher's shop! Other important buildings suggestions were the Museum and William Brookes School.

The children's response to being "green" was supportive of more walking, recycling rubbish and cutting traffic pollution.

The highest number of "post it" responses was to the question "what do you feel Much Wenlock needs more of?" Answers: Football stadium, more shops, go-kart track, BMX track, fishing pool and even a zoo!

The voting pod result also came out as the highest percentage for more things for young people. For their own futures many recognised the importance of jobs in the town, very few mentioned more houses as they could not say whether they would remain in the town when adult.