

Holbrook Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultation

Youth Focus Group conducted at Holbrook Academy on 6th February 2019

A group of Year 11 students, male and female, currently residing in Holbrook, participated in the focus group facilitated by Sarah Pawlewski.

Key themes:

Housing

Social spaces

Free leisure/sports facilities

Jobs and apprenticeships

Findings:

The Admiral's Quarter site is seen as "modern, posh and out of character with the rest of the village". The students want to see "Holbrook stay as Holbrook", i.e. without change.

The students stated categorically that they do not want any additional housing in the village. They would be happy to move out into nearby towns and villages to find somewhere to live in the future. One student thought they might move back later when they have children.

They are concerned that additional housing would create more strain on the village amenities, particularly the doctors surgery which they felt was already overstretched.

They would like to see more sports and leisure facilities, particularly free facilities such as an outdoor gym and climbing wall.

The students stated that they missed the local shop called Scrivs and would like to see another shop like that in Holbrook. Scrivs used to stock sweets, magazines, cards, gifts etc.

Overwhelmingly the students would like to see more indoor social spaces, such as a youth club. At the moment they tend to go into Ipswich, or to Alton Water or the Reade Field which are all outdoors. They suggested that the village hall could be used as a venue one evening per week.

They would be quite happy to travel outside the village to post-16 education and to find work. One student said they would like more apprenticeship opportunities in the village. Part-time jobs opportunities available in the village would also be helpful.

Buses are not widely used by this group at present. As discussed, once they start to attend post-16 education and training they will find this more important.

Street lighting, particularly in the new development at Admiral's Quarter is viewed as annoying. The new pedestrian crossing on Ipswich Road is also annoying and seen as unnecessary. However, the students stated that they would like more street lighting along The Cut which is dark and "creepy" at night.

The students stated that they would prefer to answer questions about the Neighbourhood Plan via Social Media, particularly Instagram. They also stated that it would be best to complete it at school if it is going to be paper-based.