

# SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FROM TEIGNMOUTH'S YOUNG PEOPLE

## PUPILS FROM TCS SECONDARY AND PRIMARY GROUPS SAY WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE AVAILABLE FOR THEM IN TEIGNMOUTH - summer 2020

Pupils at the secondary school and years 4 – 6 in the primary school were asked to watch a short video on what a Neighbourhood Plan is, and then say what they liked/ wanted to see available to them in Teignmouth. They were singled out, as a group, because it became clear from the main consultation exercise that hardly any young people had taken part, yet the plan would be in place for the next 20 years when they are growing up, starting work, going to college, looking for accommodation, having families of their own, etc. The results were encouraging, 40 responses from 950 possible upper school children and 16 from a possible 162 in the primary school. All in all, a far higher response rate than the adults who were invited to visit at least half a dozen consultation meetings in November 2019 (approximately 133 from a 2011 Census population of 14749) The detailed responses and analysis of the 2 surveys are available if required.

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The responses for both age groups were remarkably similar:

### Secondary

Develop a larger age-segregated skatepark/play park with more equipment

Somewhere to meet up and hang out

Have a burger somewhere that's undercover / meeting place?

Revamp the swimming pool and open it all year add a toddler pool; create a wave pool (great attraction for surfers)

Music/drama/arts/performance provision including release date cinema

Need better clothes shops, high street brands, more free, all-day parking

Sort out the Pier – decorate, modernise and improve its facilities – restaurant, different games machines, etc, brighten/ tidy up the town, better and more public loos, fine people for littering, etc.

Other activities/improvements – trampoline park mentioned several times, free astro-turf, cycle paths, marina, university, ice rink, fair/circus, outdoor gym at the lido, lockers for beach property recycle bins for equipment.

### Primary

A bigger/age-segregated skate park;

A bigger play park with more swings and climbing equipment for the older primary children (echoes of the younger secondary children) and a bigger water park bit, available all year;

An indoor play area (like IKEA has, where the children are dropped, while the parents go shopping; a place for kids to meet up in the town centre; more kid-friendly places to eat- all adult food and we don't like it!!!

A bigger and indoor swimming pool, available all year round with more slides and facilities (inflatable sessions) with maybe a summer membership discount scheme;

Other facilities - A video games store; an ear-muff store; an ice rink (to learn a new skill); a free astroturf where anyone can play for free/a multi-sports facility (football, basketball, etc) where kids can exercise and have fun; sea-snorkelling (to see fish in their native habitat ) for 7+ with supervisor; sports clubs of any sort – currently there aren't any; do more for the environment with trees, etc; more money for the beach, the

local police, lifeguards and our hospital and finally, modernise the pier and improve it, it's one of our main attractions.

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All of these should give not only the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee but the whole Town Council plus District and County Council Representatives food for thought, particularly re the need to take on board the thing that permeates through between the lines, Teignmouth needs a really good modernisation plan to adjust to the needs of today's young people and tomorrow's adults and to shed its shabby, outdated and rundown appearance. This is particularly pertinent at the moment when we have a shrinking High Street anyway, now assaulted by the effects of COVID 19 and more businesses disappearing as new ways of shopping become more popular. We have had more leisure time due to COVID and a resurgence of healthy living ideas is high on the agenda as we go forward – gym membership and equipment purchase is beyond the means of many, so how can we implement the ideas that our young people have given us about free/low cost exercise/sports provision, maybe with summer membership subsidies, and encourage activity clubs to set up and remain viable? How we try to work this into our NHP policies and get our District and County Representatives to fight our corner for us in getting support for development schemes and inclusion in infrastructure funding is something we need to work on, as a matter of some urgency.

The Town needs a set of prioritised schemes, similar to the 21 schemes outlined in the March 2010 planning document produced by Teignbridge, A Vision for Teignmouth – reconnecting a community with its town. While we have no plan or targets, we cannot take anything forward. We need to encourage maintenance of existing clubs located at Bitton House and support sports/activity clubs struggling to make ends meet, even before COVID struck with the vengeance it did. We need to develop better lines of communication with not only our community but, for them to make their views heard by our District and County Councils. The Vision of our NHP should help us to define what Teignmouth wants to see in the medium-term future, and how our policies can help to achieve it. We are in line for a large housing development at the top of Exeter Road which is likely to completely overstretch the existing infrastructure in the locality as well as the town's and without our NHP in place are unlikely to be able to influence anything much, but that focusses the mind of what we should be able to do with our Plan, when Made.

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