

Newchurch Parish Plan Youth Consultation 2008



Addendum to Newchurch Parish Plan 2008

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We would like to express our thanks to Estelle Thomas from the Isle of Wight Rural Community Council for her support, Sue Curd who volunteered her help during the initial planning stages of our consultation and Sarah Trowell for her assistance. Also to those at Newchurch Primary School who helped construct the Planning for Real model, which added a great interactive dimension to the original parish plan consultation event, and to those who took part in the rest of the consultation process.

In addition, we would like to thank Rosie Messing and the Newchurch Cubs, Beavers and Scouts for their presentation of young people's likes and dislikes within the parish, which they displayed at the Newchurch Parish Plan consultation event. They put a great deal of effort into taking the photos and provided an excellent display.

Given the efforts of all of these people, we hope this additional piece of voluntary work leads to improvements in the facilities available for the young people in our parish.

¹ The Parish Plan Youth Sub-Committee evolved from the Parish Plan Steering Committee and consisted of Lorraine Shotter and Sue Turrell.

1. Introduction

The work undertaken as part of the Newchurch Parish Plan highlighted a real need to investigate the requirements of the young people within the parish, on the basis that:

- Whilst we received a staggering 448 completed initial questionnaires from the households in the parish, we had very few comments from people under the age of 16.
- The greatest number of comments from the questionnaires related to the lack of facilities for young people within our parish.
- The results of the Planning For Real² exercise undertaken as part of the Parish Plan Consultation Event, indicated a keen interest in seeing improved community and leisure facilities, with the single largest number of comments being aimed at playground facilities for children.
- As a rural area with a number of small settlements, Newchurch Parish is less well provided with recreation and other amenities than would be found in many other areas.
- The results from the initial parish plan questionnaire indicated the greatest need for more leisure facilities was felt in the areas of Winford and Apse Heath, where the populations of young people and children are highest.

As a consequence of these findings, we felt it imperative to focus a piece of work purely at the needs of the young people in our parish. And more importantly, we felt it essential to obtain the views of the young people themselves, as to exactly what facilities they would like to see developed in their parish in the future.

As part of the development of the main Newchurch Parish Plan, we had asked a variety of young people, including Newchurch Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and some from the local primary school, to take photographs³ of things they like and dislike within the parish. This produced some very good visual results, however we found that this was easier to monitor as part of an organised group activity rather than by handing out cameras to individuals⁴.

In order to generate robust quantitative results and perform detailed analysis on which to base our recommendations, we felt that we needed to look at generating a further questionnaire aimed specifically at young people. For practical reasons, and given the geography of the settlements within the parish, it was felt the best way to reach as many young people as possible for a targeted consultation was via the local schools. We hoped that this would enable us to get the opinions of a good cross section of the young community, and cover a wide range of age groups.

We therefore designed a two page questionnaire for the young people to complete themselves. The aim was to find out how the young people spent their spare time, what activities and sports they took part in, whether they attended any clubs, how they got about, and whether

² The “Planning for Real” exercise used a large three-dimensional model of part of the parish as a focus for people to put forward and prioritise ideas on how their area could be improved. It was a highly visible, hands-on, community development tool, which people of all ages found easy and enjoyable to engage in.

³ All the photographs contained throughout this document were taken as part of the “Like/Dislike” camera consultation.

⁴ We would also note for future reference that it may prove more cost effective to work with inexpensive digital cameras, where pictures can be saved for review, and eliminate the need to process unfinished traditional films.

they felt it was easy and safe. We asked them if they already attended a youth club, and to indicate if they would be interested in attending such a club at a variety of locations in the parish. We also asked them if they thought they would use a variety of recreational activities e.g. playground, bike ramps, tennis courts and a hang-out shelter, and if they had any suggestions as to where they would like to see these sited. A copy of the questionnaire is included in Appendix A.

As a first step, we wanted to invite all the children from Newchurch Primary School to complete the questionnaire. For the primary schools we decided that the questionnaires would have to be sent home so that parents/carers could help the children complete them, although we hoped that the answers would still come from the children themselves. Within the questionnaire we asked for the respondents to identify the area where they lived, so that we could analyse the response by local need. We were also able to separate the results of those who lived in the parish with those who lived outside of the parish. However, the results indicated that the pupils who attend the local primary school but live outside of the parish were highly likely to regularly attend clubs and activities within the parish.

In addition to Newchurch Primary School, we also approached Arreton Primary School, Godshill Primary School, Lake Middle School and Sandown High School, in order to access a good cross section of the young population. Although we tried through official Isle of Wight Council channels to establish the specific numbers of our parish children that attend each school, we were not given access to this information. However, we felt that the schools we approached were most likely to have the largest concentrations of our parish children. Ideally we would have liked to include more schools further afield where our parish children may possibly attend, but resources in terms of time and manpower working on this part of the parish plan meant this was not possible. All the schools we approached, except Newchurch Primary School, are sited outside of our parish but they were asked specifically to target only those pupils who came from within Newchurch Parish.

The number of responses received from Newchurch Primary School, were a little lower than we had hoped, although the timing of the questionnaires coincided with the announcement of the proposed restructuring of schools on the Island. To encourage a higher response at Lake Middle School a member of our sub-committee made a presentation to those children at the school who lived within Newchurch Parish. This took place during one of their assemblies, and included an explanation about the consultation process we were undertaking, and why it was important for us to find out their thoughts and ideas for the future of our parish. As the children were asked to complete the questionnaire at the end of their assembly, this resulted in a very high response rate for this age group.

In total we received 172 completed youth questionnaires, of which 20 came from young people living outside the parish. The total of 152 young people from the parish filling in questionnaires compares with an estimated total of around 460 children in the 4 to 18 years age group, living in the parish, based on results from the 2001 Census. We believe that this response gives us a sufficient sample size, though it is disappointing that more children in some age groups did not respond. We feel confident in using the questionnaire results to investigate specific areas for analysis and produce a series of proposals based on what the young people of our parish told us they would like in their area. This consultation document is designed to be used in conjunction with the Newchurch Parish Plan in developing the facilities in our parish.

2. Photographs of Likes and Dislikes



As part of the original parish plan consultation a cross section of the young people of our parish were given disposable cameras and asked to take photographs that reflect what they liked and disliked about Newchurch Parish. We have included a selection of the results within this document.

Cameras were supplied to the Newchurch groups of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and to a number of children from Newchurch Primary School. We also invited a sample of local families from a variety of locations in the parish and with children of differing ages to participate in this visual consultation. The results were displayed at the parish plan consultation event and made interesting viewing for those who attended.

The parish facilities, including the school, church, corner shop, post offices and various village halls were all positive landmarks according to the young people. They also liked having the Watery Lane recreational area and the Observatory within the parish. They felt the car park facilities in the village by the school were important.



The young people liked living in a rural area and took photographs of the pretty country lanes, footpaths and bridleways and the open spaces, including the National Trust land at Borthwood Copse.

They also took pictures of the cycle paths, river and Alverstone Mead.



Interestingly they also took a number of photographs of local architecture which they liked, including the Old School House, renovated farm houses, quaint and thatched cottages.



They were particularly keen on the recycling bins near the school and the dog litter bins to ensure a clean and safe environment.



They liked having a “local” pub in the parish, as a place for the whole family to enjoy.

As regards their dislikes, these focussed on untidy and unkempt semi-rural areas with photographs taken showing weeds and overgrown areas in a number of locations around the parish.



There was concern with discarded litter which they felt had a negative impact on the community.

Their dislike for unkempt areas also extended to properties, where they photographed damaged buildings and broken fences.





There was strong dislike for a number of road issues. Most of these concerned the general dilapidated state of our roads, with poor road surfaces and uneven road edges, but they also included certain dangerous roads, including the Fighting Cocks junction, and the pinch points in Newchurch.

Some of the photographs that were taken depicted overgrown, dirty and unreadable road signs, including some with graffiti. The Cubs and Scouts had to clean the 30 speed limit sign pictured below, before they could read it.



A number of photographs illustrated the broken seats in a bus shelter in the parish. There was also concern about how dirty the bus shelter was. One photograph displayed the bus timetable in Newchurch as it was felt that by only listing the time the bus left Newchurch, there was no indication of arrival time at any point and also no information as regards bus connections.

Whilst the photographs provided an excellent visual display and summary of the young people's likes and dislikes, we feel that these should be analysed in conjunction with our questionnaire findings and not used in isolation since they only reflect the views of the individuals that took the photographs.



*We would like an
adventure playground
with swings
seesaw
climbing frame
roundabout
seats for Mums
fence to keep
dogs out
please*

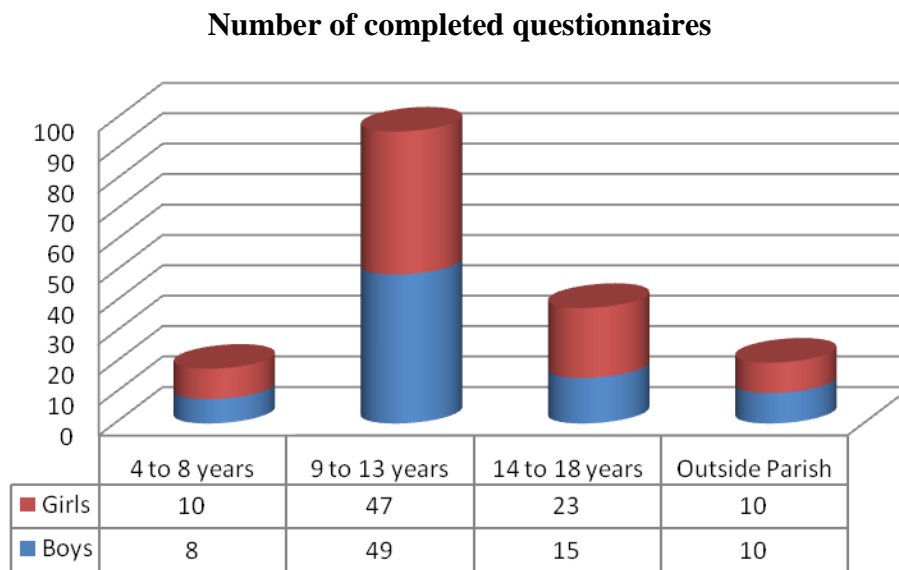
.....And one final thought from the young people themselves.

3. Main Findings from the Questionnaire

3.1 Analysis of Respondents

In obtaining feedback from the young residents of the parish it was important to achieve questionnaire responses from a good cross section of people under the age of 18, as we believed there would be different requirements from young people in different age ranges. Figure 3.1.1 shows the spread of responses we received from a total of 172.

Figure 3.1.1



88% of responses were from children in the parish. The 9 to 13 year age group represented by far the highest number of responses. This was because the Lake Middle School children completed the questionnaire during an assembly following a presentation by a member of the Parish Plan Youth Sub-Committee, and the completed questionnaires were all handed in at the end. There was a fairly even spread between the number of girls and boys completing the questionnaire in each age range.

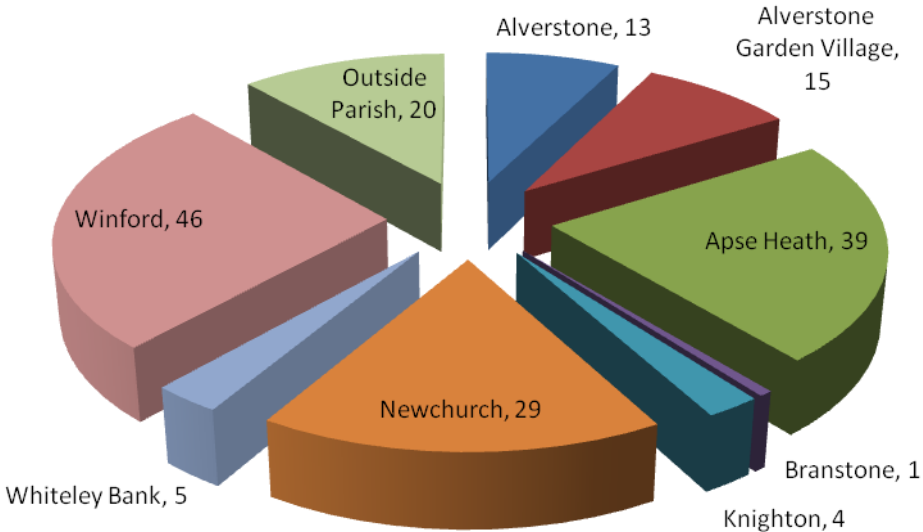
The categorisation between age groups that we have used to represent our results was dictated partly by the school’s age ranges, e.g. primary, middle, and high schools, but also by the patterns that emerged from the responses within these age groups.

Figures from the Office of National Statistics website, based on data from the 2001 National Census, show the population spread of under 18’s in our parish at that time to be: 133 in the 4 to 8 year age group, 155 in the 9 to 13 years, and 179 in the 14 to 18 years group. Assuming the figures for each age group are similar today then the implication is that our sample sizes as proportions of young people in the parish are fairly small for the lower and upper age groups, being 14% and 21% respectively, but are very high for the 9 to 13 age group, being 62%. Even with the smaller sample sizes however, we believe our results to be statistically significant and worthy of interpretation.

Figure 3.1.2 illustrates the locations in which the respondents lived. The highest number of responses came from the areas of Winford (27%), Apse Heath (23%) and Newchurch (17%). We had expected a relatively higher response from the Winford and Apse Heath areas, since these are where the population of young people is thought to be concentrated within the parish. However we felt that the number of responses from the village of Newchurch itself was surprisingly high, as it is often assumed that there are relatively few young people living within the village.

Figure 3.1.2

Breakdown of respondents according to where they live

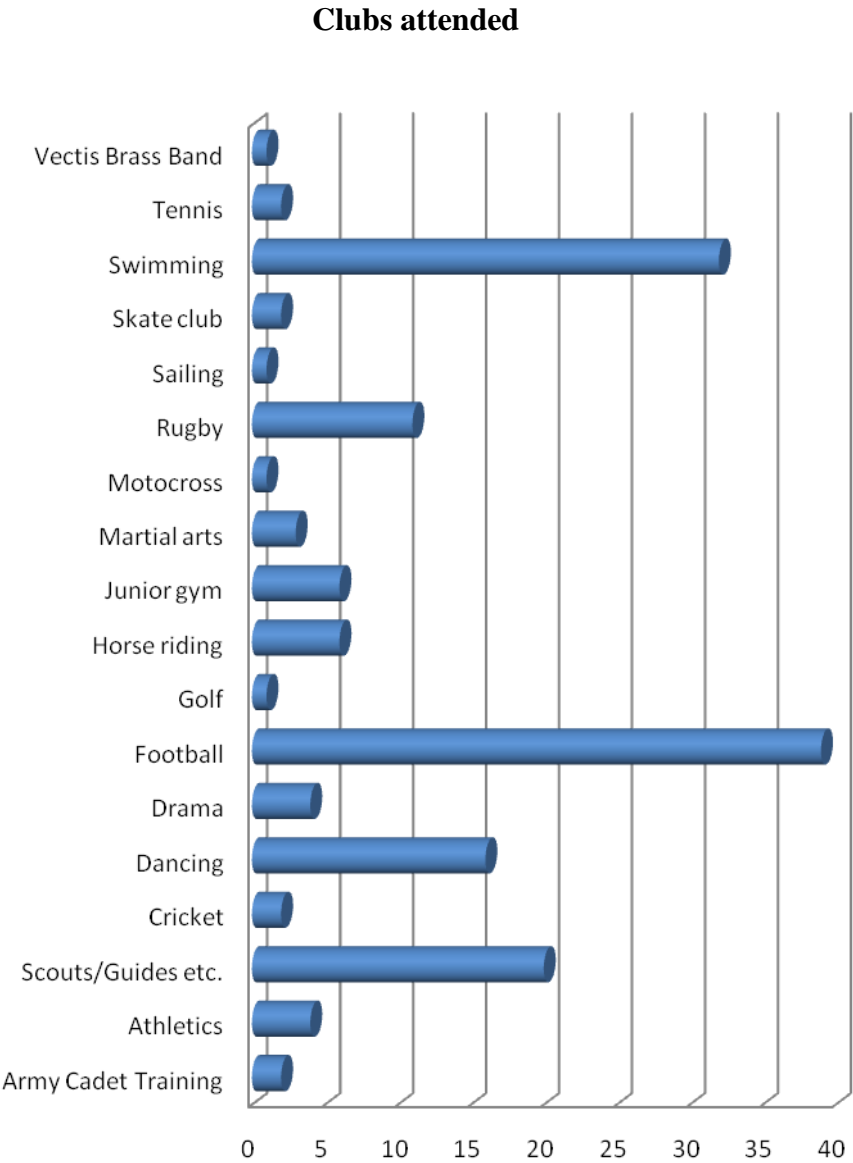


3.2 Clubs and Sports

We felt it was important to understand what the young people of our parish currently do in their spare time, and then to establish what, if anything, they would like to see set up in the future. These questions were open ended as we specifically steered away from a tick box list so that we did not influence their choice of answer. Overall, 67% of the respondents said they attend at least one club. When we analysed this by age group, a very significant 72% of the 4 to 8 age group attended at least one club, compared with 38% of the 9 to 13 age group and 45% of the 14 to 18 age group.

Figure 3.2.1 represents the numbers of respondents who said they take part in different clubs. The most significant statistic was for football, where 23% of the respondents said they attended football club. The majority of these were boys, although the figure included 7 girls, and the most popular football clubs attended were Newchurch and Brading. The second most popular club was swimming. Of those that said they attended swimming club 66% specifically said they went to the Heights. Having this leisure facility nearby is an advantage since it is well used by our young population, and whilst outside the parish, it is clearly close enough for them to benefit.

Figure 3.2.1



The Scouts and Guides also proved popular, and this group included Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Rainbows. 65% of those that said they attend these clubs go to the groups held at Newchurch Church Hall, and these cater for boys and girls. Due to its popularity, there is currently a waiting list for the Beaver group, which takes 6 to 8 year olds. Interestingly, these groups at Newchurch also have children attend from outside the parish, for example from Arreton, Brading and Godshill, which suggests that the views collected from young people living outside of the parish should be considered in this consultation, where appropriate, as it reflects the needs of local children and further supports the needs for facilities in the parish. The other clubs worth mentioning were dancing, where half of the children pursuing this activity attended the Gillian Cartwright School in Shanklin, and rugby, taking place at various locations across the island.

When we looked at the data broken down by age group, we noted that football and dancing were popular across all the age groups, whereas the popularity of swimming and Scouts/Guides/Cubs/Beavers/Rainbows is concentrated solely in the 4 to 8 and 9 to 13 age groups.

Figure 3.2.2

Which sports do you like to play?

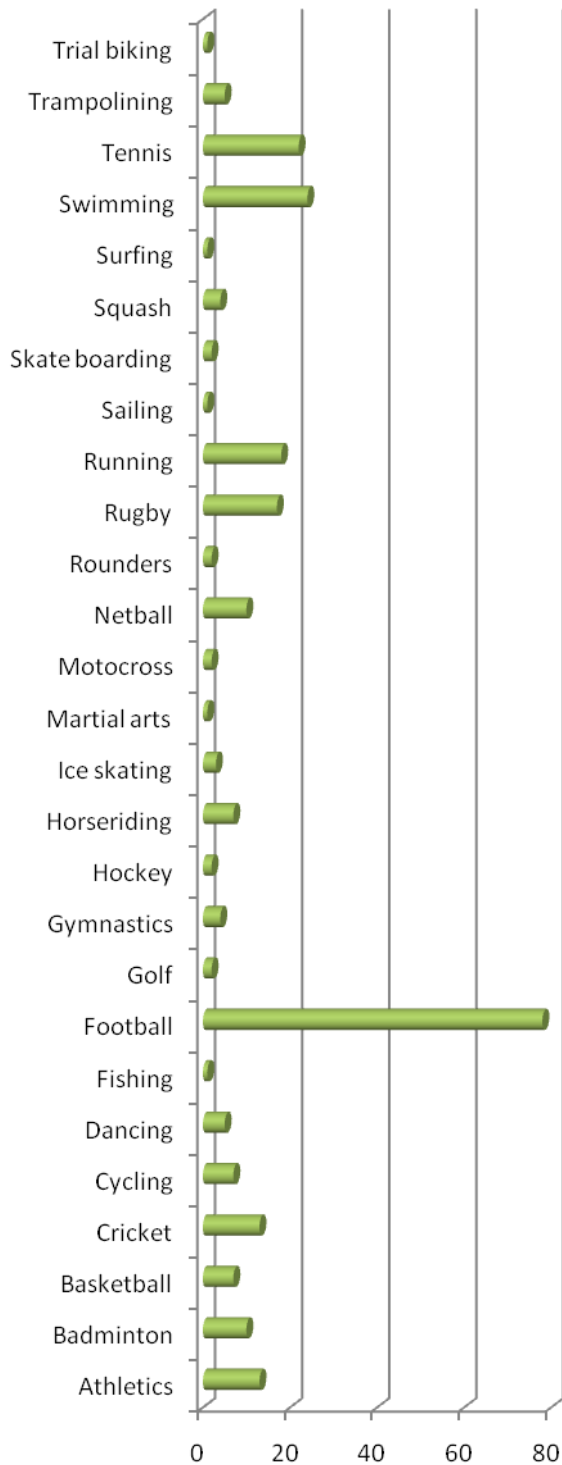


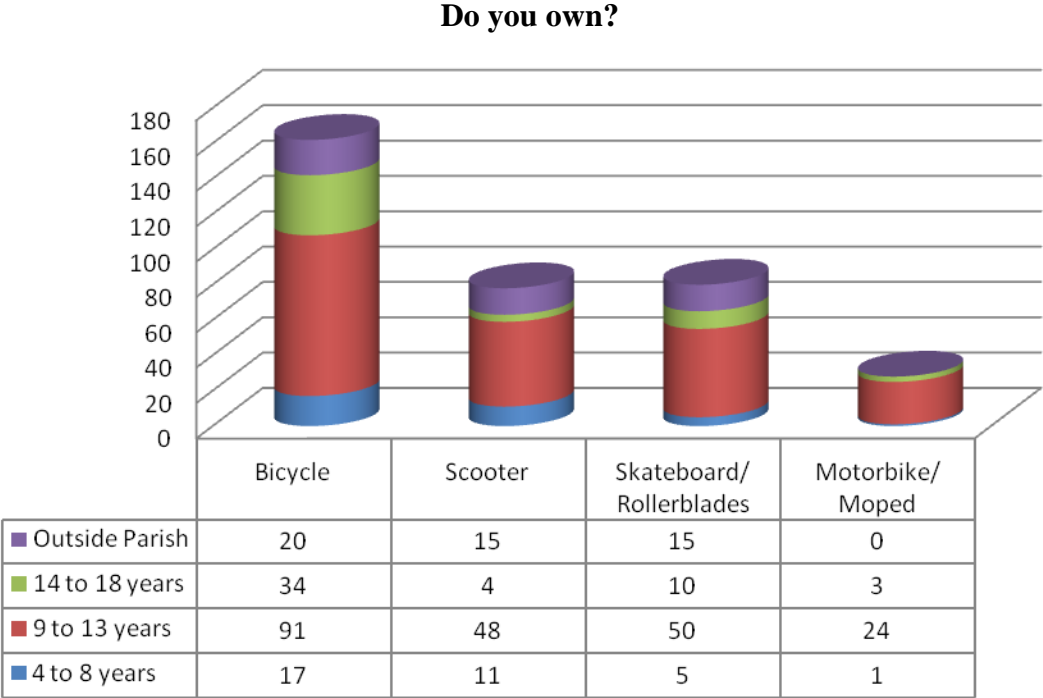
Figure 3.2.2 shows the most popular answers to the question “Which sports do you like to play, if any?” Again football proved very popular, being mentioned by 45% of the respondents overall. This shows a strong level of support for public areas for playing ball games and specifically a public football pitch for use by our parish’s young population. Swimming was also another popular sport, suggesting that the use of a nearby pool is important, for example the Heights. Again, rugby featured quite strongly in the responses and tennis was also popular, although we were unable to establish from the results exactly where our parish children go to play this.

As regards the interest in sports by age group, our analysis displayed a very similar pattern to that for clubs, in that it diminished as the children grew older. There was a huge interest in football by the 4 to 8 age group, and in fact 83% of those in that age group that responded said they played it. The level of support for football was also relatively high amongst the 9 to 13 and 14 to 18 age groups with 55% and 26% respectively. When we analysed the results for tennis by age group, they displayed a very different pattern from this, in that the level of interest became more significant in the higher age group, with 24% playing it, compared to 12% of the 9 to 13 age group and 22% of the 4 to 8 year olds.

3.3 Leisure Transport and Toys

Our next set of questions offered a tick list to establish which items were owned by the young people in our parish. They included bicycles, scooters, skateboards or rollerblades and motorbikes or mopeds. The results are shown in Figure 3.3.1⁵.

Figure 3.3.1



It is interesting to note from these results the large percentage of the respondents that do own these items, particularly 94% owning a bicycle. Respondents to the original Newchurch Parish Plan questionnaire did make numerous unfavourable comments concerning children playing out on the streets, riding their bikes and skateboarding up and down the roads and pavements. This does raise the question of where our young people are able to safely use these without causing a nuisance to local residents.

What is surprising from the results is that within the parish 25 out of the 113 responses under the age of 14 ticked to say that they own a motorbike or moped. Whilst some may question the integrity of this response, it may be a reflection of the rural nature of our parish. Perhaps some young people have friends or relatives with land which they can legally use for this purpose. From the responses of the 9 to 13 year age group there were suggestions for somewhere safe to ride motorbikes legally and the introduction of a motorbike club.

3.4 Meeting Friends

When we asked the question “Where do you go to meet up with friends”, we received an interesting selection of answers, which appear to alter somewhat by age group and the area

⁵ The responses from those who live outside of the parish are shown in purple in Figure 3.3.1, Figure 3.8.1 and Figure 3.8.2.

the young person lives. While a large number said that they met in friends’ houses, a number of young people from the Apse Heath/Winford area mentioned the street, or a local field as their meeting point. A significant number of comments from the original parish plan were from people concerned about children playing in the street, particularly in the Winford area.

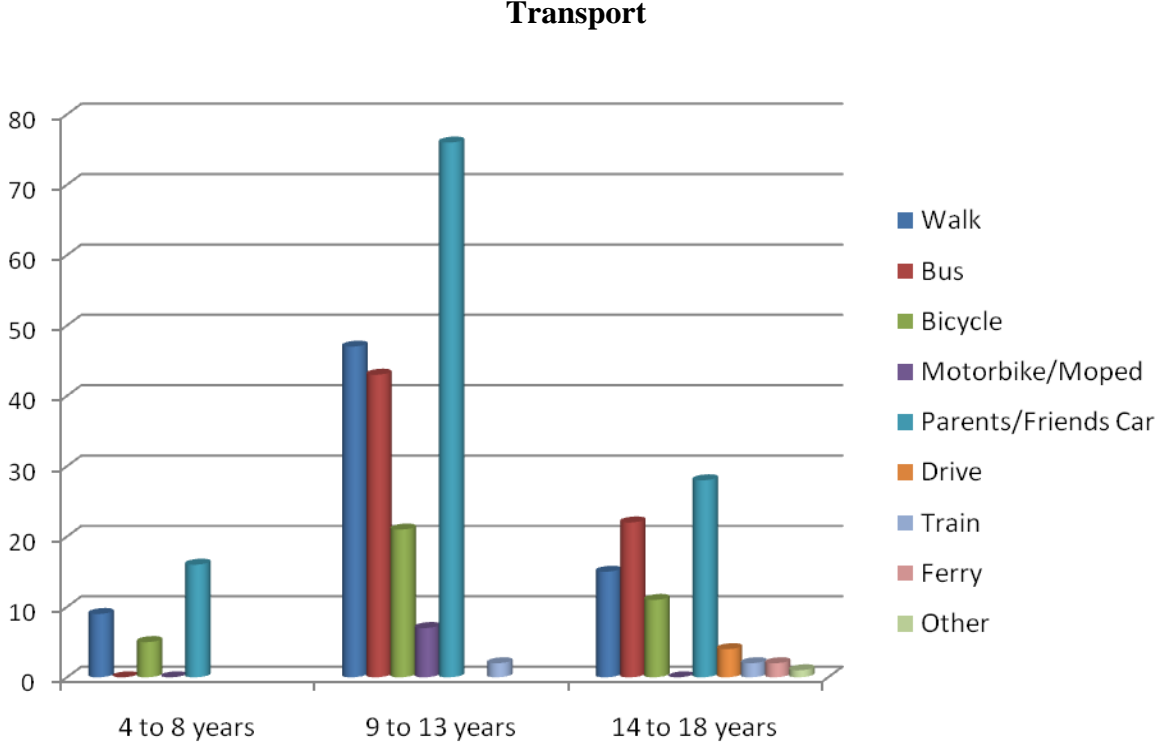
If you analyse the results to this question by age, this is where there appeared to be a distinctive split to the answers given by those in the three different age groups. Those children under the age of 9 tended to meet at their friends’ houses, or Space Island⁶. Those in the 9 to 13 age group showed more interest in meeting at clubs and specifically youth clubs, or in the street or fields. In contrast, those over the age of 13 inevitably stated that they liked to meet in a town: Shanklin, Sandown, Newport or Ryde.

These results highlight a real need for a suitable area to be provided for the 9 to 13 age group to meet somewhere near to the Winford/Apse Heath area. In view of the statistics in section 3.3 above, we would suggest there is an obvious need for this area to accommodate those young people who wish to play, socialise with friends, kick footballs, ride their bikes and use their skateboards and rollerblades.

3.5 Transport

Figure 3.5.1 illustrates how young people get around. Not surprisingly for our rural community the majority of young people stated that their parents or friends take them by car. It appears that living in our parish with young children would be very difficult without the use of private transport to drive them to friends’ houses, clubs, sports and activities.

Figure 3.5.1



⁶ Space Island is a children’s indoor activity play centre, based in Lake.

What is interesting to note is that whilst 94% of the respondents of all ages confirmed they owned a bicycle, of those only 26% said they used their bike to get around. Given these figures, it would be interesting to now ask the question why this is so? From the general comments we received, a number of the children stated that they do not feel safe going out and about due to the busy roads and fast traffic, and we would suggest that these may also be reasons for the relatively low use of bicycles to get around.

The other more popular modes of transport are walking which 47% of the respondents said they did to get to where they wanted to go, and 40% took the bus. The use of the bus was the second most popular response from the 14 to 18 age group.

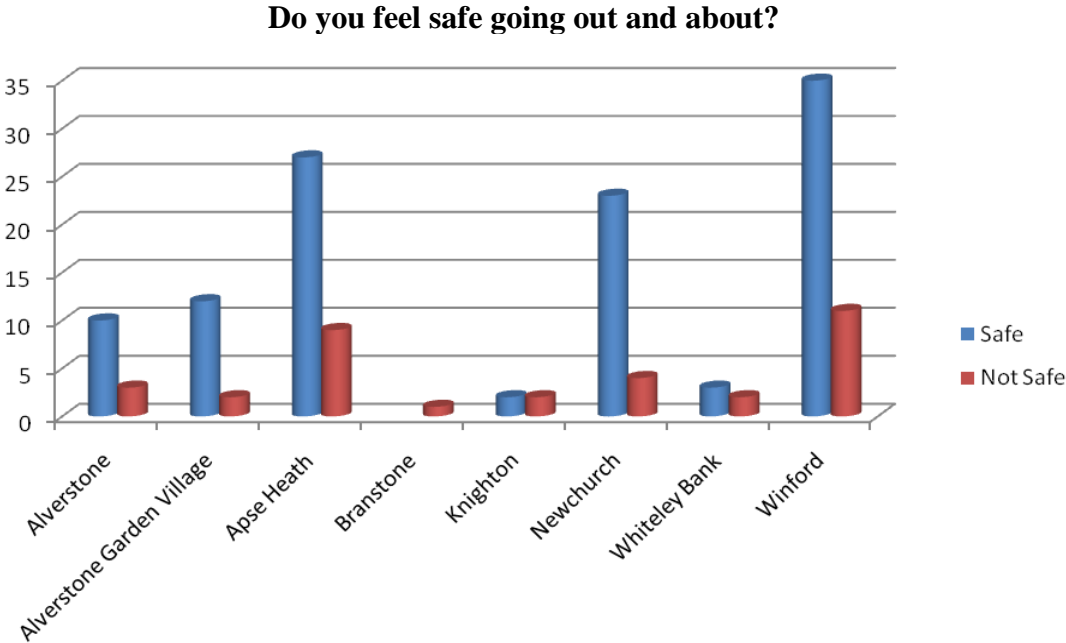
3.6 Safety and Ease of Getting Around

Our next set of questions focused on how safe the respondents felt in getting around and how easy it was to do so.

The responses to the question “Do you feel safe getting out and about?” indicated that the majority of young people do feel safe in our parish. For the more remote and rural areas of Branstone, Knighton and Whiteley Bank however, safety was more of an issue and the respondents from these areas specifically commented on the lack of street lights, lack of pavements and fast cars. The most popular suggestions we received to help improve safety across the whole parish included:

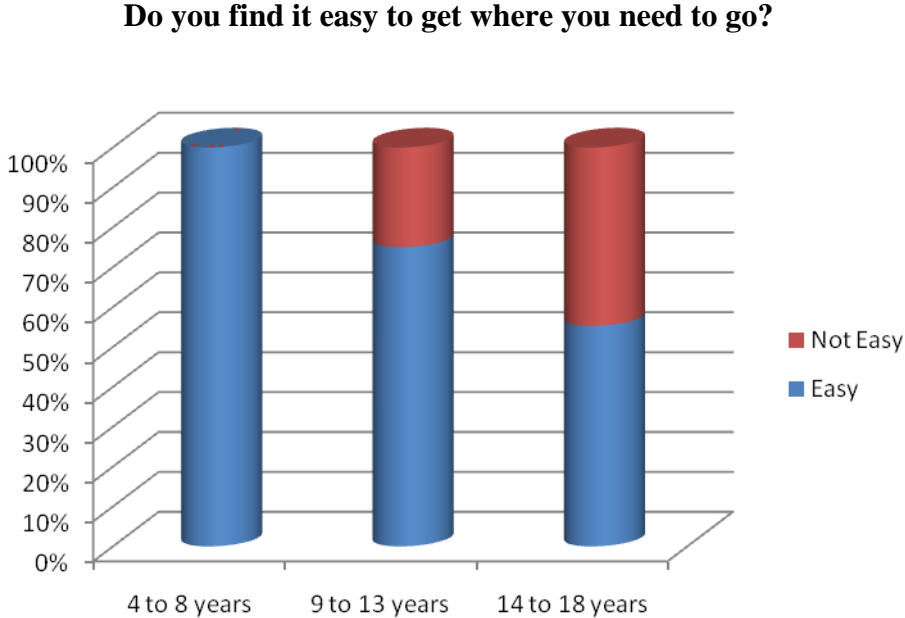
- Increase street lighting
- More pavements
- Slow the traffic down
- More police presence
- Have a place nearby where we can play, so we don’t have to travel a long distance

Figure 3.6.1



As regards to the ease of getting about, we found that as the average age increased there was a very noticeable rise in the difficulty the young people found in getting out and about.

Figure 3.6.2



For the 4 to 9 age group, the difficulty in getting about was usually due to the fact that ‘Mum was too busy and not able to take us’. They also had some concerns with the fact that they lived a long way out and felt the roads were too busy.

The responses from the other age groups and specifically the over 14’s were much more significant and the reason they put for this was purely due to the buses. The problems seemed to focus on:

- Most buses only go direct to Newport or Sandown (and not Shanklin)
- Infrequency of buses
- No late buses after 4pm in some areas
- Buses being unreliable and not arriving according to the timetable.

3.7 Spare Time

We asked “What do you do in your spare time?” These answers were again very much dictated by the age group of the respondent. Aside from the clubs, activities and sports that we have already mentioned previously in this report, the more popular past times for each age group, in no particular order of significance, were as follows:

Age range 4 to 8 year olds	Play at home Play with friends Go to the park Meet at friends houses Go out on my bike
Age range 9 to 13 year olds	Computer/Play Station/MSN Messenger Watch television Meet up with friends Listen to music Read books
Age range 14 to 18 year olds	Shopping Watch television Computer Music Cinema Meet up with friends

For the young people age 9 to 13, it appears from our results that apart from organised clubs and sports or meeting with friends, their other past times tend to be activities they do in their own home. Once they get beyond the age of 14, they spend most of their time doing things they organise themselves e.g. shopping, or the cinema, and relatively few attend any sort of organised club, sport or activity. This was supported by the data we received in our earlier questions about sports and clubs. In addition, when we asked for suggestions for things they would like to see developed in the area, we received a large list of clubs and facilities from the 4 to 8 and 9 to 13 year age groups, but the comments from those aged 14 and over were geared more towards better bus services and a village shop. Although our recommendations for additional facilities cater mainly for the younger age groups, we would suggest that further consultation with the older age group may be beneficial, particularly those at the lower end e.g. age 14 to 16, to ensure their inclusion in the development of future facilities.

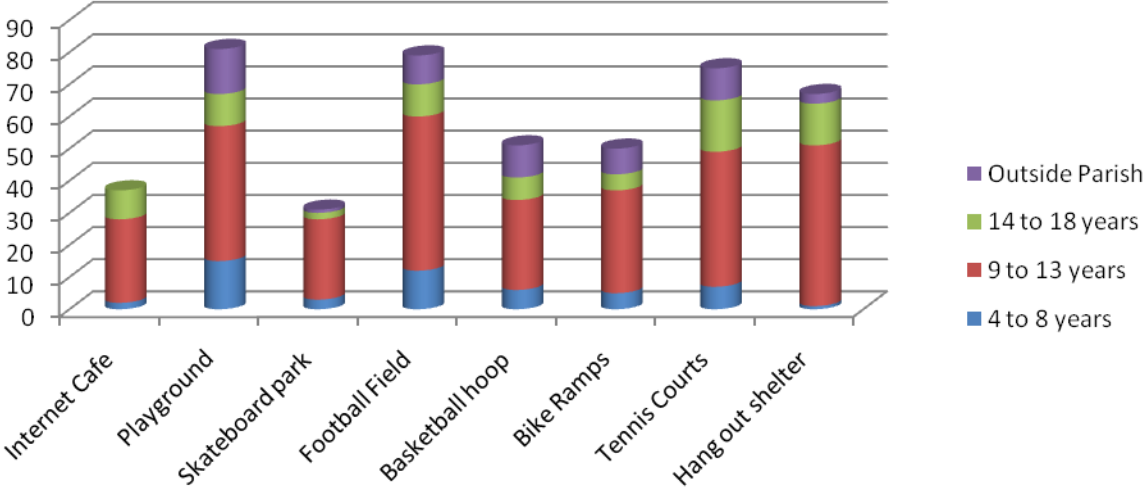
3.8 Options for the Future

Our final set of questions provided the respondents with a tick list of potential facilities and asked them if they would use them and where they would like them to be located. We also asked about the support for provision of a youth club in the parish.

Figure 3.8.1 on the following page shows the level of support for the various options put forward. The vertical axis represents the number of children who ticked to say they would use the facility.

Figure 3.8.1

Would you use any of the following?



As you can see the most popular recreational facilities the young people would like to use are playground equipment and a football field. The playground equipment is especially popular with the lower age group, as 88% of these children said that they would use such facilities. This reiterates the high level of support from the adult’s responses to the original parish plan questionnaire and the single largest number of comments from the Planning for Real exercise, which were concerned with the lack of playground facilities for young children. The nearest playground for the children of our parish is at Lake, in excess of 3 miles away. Given the rural nature of our area, the young people’s comments about there being nowhere safe to meet up with friends, the difficulty in getting around, and especially the need to travel some distance on main roads, it would indicate strong support for some local facilities. From the data, the most popular areas suggested for these facilities are, in order of preference: Winford, Newchurch, Apse Heath.

The high level of support for a football field is not surprising, given that football was shown to be both the most popular sport and club attended by our respondents. There is an existing football pitch available to the public at Watery Lane, however it is also used by the local football clubs who pay to have access at certain times. Given the obvious support for such a facility in the parish it would be useful to know why this football ground is not used more by the young people. Whether it is a question of the wrong location, not being close enough to the more densely populated areas and with no pavements or street lighting on surrounding roads, or if there are issues with access and the ability to use it for an informal game of football outside of club hours. We understand there is some confusion amongst local residents as to whether they are permitted to use the site for general recreation use, or whether it is for the exclusive use of the local football clubs and other organised activities.

Thirdly, tennis courts were highlighted as a facility which would be widely used especially by the 14 to 18 age group. Referring back to the question “Which sports do you like to play?” it was noted that this was also shown to be a popular recreational activity, most significantly by the 14 to 18 age group respondents. In terms of location, given the ability for those in the older age groups to independently travel around, a position within the parish that is easily accessible by a frequent bus service would be beneficial. The nearest public tennis courts to our parish are at Sandham Gardens in Sandown, although these are recently looking in need

of some repair. There are also further tennis facilities at Newport and tennis clubs at Ventnor and Ryde.

The 9 to 13 age group were very much in support of a hang out shelter, in fact 49% of the respondents of this age group said they would use one. Hang out shelters can be any sort of meeting place, usually outside, but specifically for young people to meet up with their friends. The greatest support for this was from young people in the Winford and Apse Heath areas. The results from the original parish plan also indicated that the expressed need for more recreation areas is very high in Winford and Apse Heath, and that, for example the levels of need expressed are more than twice as high in Winford, at 73% than in Alverstone at 36%.

It is worth mentioning here, that whilst we included in our analysis the responses from young people outside of the parish, you will see from figure 3.8.1 that their responses generally mirror those given from young people within the parish. So whilst they made up only 12% of the respondents, we felt it was valuable to include their answers in our analysis.

At the present time, there is no youth club facility within our parish and we were keen to find out the level of support should one be considered for the future, and where the respondents would like this to be located. The options we gave as suggestions for this were based on using existing village halls, or the mobile youth club bus. We were also keen to find out if the young people already attended any youth clubs, and if so where these were.

Figure 3.8.2

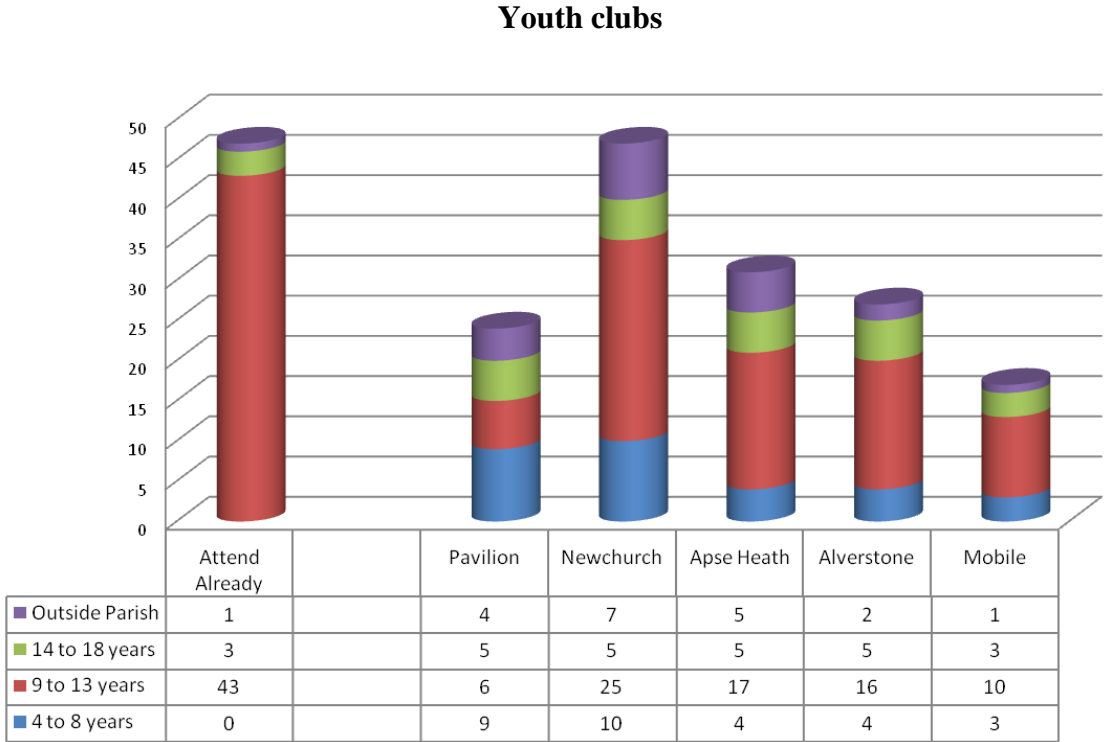


Figure 3.8.2 shows the number of young people who said they would attend a youth club at various locations across the parish. The first column shows the number who said they already attend a youth club, the majority of these, 93.5%, were from the 9 to 13 age group. This

represented 43% of all the responses from this age group. TC's at Shanklin was shown to be the most popular venue for the young people from our area.

The idea of providing a local youth club within the parish appears to be reasonably popular amongst all the age groups, although the most significant number of responses were from those under the age of 14. The fact that there is no existing facility within the parish means the young people have to travel several miles to attend such a club, thereby eliminating it for some. And given the existing clubs only take children from approximately age 9, this also eliminates all those in the 4 to 8 age group who said they would use such a facility. Further research needs to be undertaken to look at the feasibility of setting up such a club for the younger age groups.

There were a surprising number of young people in favour of setting up a youth club in Newchurch, in fact figure 3.8.2 shows that this was significantly the most popular location, followed by Apse Heath. The Newchurch Parish Plan made reference to the fact that a significant number of comments received from respondents of the questionnaire pointed to the need for a youth club, as well as children's playground facilities and whilst they reported as a short term issue that the provision of a youth club be investigated for the Winford/Apse Heath areas, our research from the young people themselves would suggest that Newchurch appears to be a preferred location. However, we must not ignore the issue of transport which has been previously highlighted in this report, especially for those in the older age groups. We recommend further investigation be undertaken to confirm the preferred location.

It was also shown that a number of young people from outside of the parish would be interested in attending a youth club in our area. 35% of the responses from those who attend Newchurch Primary School, but reside outside of the parish, said they would attend a youth club in Newchurch.

3.9 Suggestions

Finally we asked the young people for any suggestions they had for things they would like to see developed for them in the parish in the future. This provided us with an interesting selection of ideas to include in this consultation. Again we have split these subjects into the age groups of the respondents, as the replies appeared very similar within these groups.

Age groups	General Suggestions	Ideas for clubs
4 to 8 years old	Playground Safe area to play More information about clubs that are run in the parish Clubs and activities held in the local school Sports taster clubs	Football Tennis Dance Gymnastics Drama Exercise to music Self defence
9 to 13 years old	Safe area to hang out Youth club Café at Winford/Newchurch/Alverstone Shop to buy sweets/magazines at Newchurch Playground More buses More pavements Place to ride motorbikes legally Skate park	Football Dance Street Dance Karate Laser club/Paint ball Running club Friendship club Motorbike club
14 to 18 years old	More direct buses to places other than Sandown and Newport (e.g. to Shanklin and Ryde) More convenient bus stops More shops e.g. village shop at Alverstone	Sports club Horse club Yoga Cycling

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

In conclusion, whilst the responses received from the under 9's and over 13's age groups were a smaller percentage than we would have liked, we do feel that the information we have received has been sufficiently replicated from each of the age groups to make a robust and comprehensive analysis. On that basis, we would make the following recommendations for additional facilities in our parish:

1	<p>Playground equipment should be provided within the parish: The preferred location for this would be Winford, Newchurch or Apse Heath</p>
2	<p>Football field / football area: There is a strong need for safe areas to be available locally for the young people to practise this very popular sport, particularly in the Winford/Apse Heath area.</p> <p>Obviously there is already a facility at Watery Lane, but it is unclear to local residents whether it is generally acceptable for them to use it for unsupervised recreational activities. There is also the issue of the remote location. We recommend as a short term measure promoting the use of the existing facility, by advertising times when informal use for football or other activities by the young residents would be welcomed. This would be a positive way forward to make it a more widely used and accessible facility in our parish and would help to highlight whether the remote location is a significant issue for our young residents.</p> <p>Further effort should be made to provide “football friendly” areas close to the main residential areas.</p>
3	<p>Somewhere for the 9 to 13 age group to hang out and meet friends: This should include a youth/hang-out shelter, basket ball hoop and provision for a bike/skate ramp, and should preferably be in the Winford or Apse Heath areas.</p>
4	<p>Youth club: Our research together with the findings from the main parish plan support the provision of such a facility, although further research amongst the young people should be carried out to determine the preferred location, considering issues with transport. It is also important to establish the feasibility of such a club for the younger age groups. Consideration must also be made as regards the type of facilities to offer the different age groups, which could possibly include the provision of internet access.</p>
5	<p>Tennis courts: This has been included due to the level of support in response to our questions on sports and clubs. It was also a very popular suggestion raised by the respondents of the main parish plan, and was highlighted in their short term action plan for investigation. Perhaps wider use of the Watery Lane site could be investigated in this regard.</p>

6	<p>Investigation into buses serving the parish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved bus service directly to Shanklin and Ryde • Option that more buses could run later in the day • Increasing the frequency of buses • Checking timetables are correct and informative • More reliable service with buses running according to timetable
7	<p>Safety issues which the young people felt needed addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More pavements • Slower traffic • Increased street lighting • More police presence

In terms of timescale, we felt all these items warranted an immediate investigation, with particular focus on the provision of playground equipment, suitable areas to play football locally and somewhere for the 9 to 13 age group to meet, since our analysis showed these to be the key requirements. It may be that further research should be carried out to specify exactly what the young people would like in their designated area, as regards the type of playground equipment, design of youth/hang-out shelter and positioning of bike/skate ramp.

It is interesting to note that the majority of the recommendations listed above were also put forward by the respondents of the main parish plan and listed within their short term action plan. However this youth consultation has provided us with further valuable detailed input from the young people themselves on these important issues.

Whilst we do not feel it is our remit here to allocate responsibilities, this Youth Consultation Plan, together with the recommendations will be forward to the Newchurch Parish Council for review and action.



Appendix A:

Newchurch Parish Plan Youth Questionnaire 2008

Many people in the Newchurch Parish are very concerned that there is little for younger people to do in this area. We would like to change this but need your help. By completing this questionnaire you will help us to generate a list of proposals, which will be put forward for consideration.

Are you a boy or a girl? How old are you?

Do you live *in* the parish or *outside*? Which area do you live nearest to? (Please circle)

In	Alverstone Knighton	Alverstone Newchurch	Garden Village	Apse Heath Whiteley Bank	Branstone Winford
Outside	Arreton Sandown	Godshill Shanklin	Lake Wroxall	Ryde Ventnor	Other

If you live *in* the parish please tell us the name of a road *near* where you live

Do you go to any clubs like Football training, scouts, dancing, swimming club? Yes No

If so what, and where?

.....

Are there any specific clubs you would like to see set up just for young people to attend?

.....

Which sports do you like to play, if any?

.....

Do you own:

Bicycle	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scooter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skateboard or rollerblades	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motorbike or moped	<input type="checkbox"/>

Where do you go to meet up with friends?

.....

.....

When you go out how do you get there? (tick boxes)

Walk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycle	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motorbike/moped	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parents/friends take you by car	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please list)	<input type="checkbox"/>

.....

Do you find it easy to get where you need to go? Yes No

If not, why not?

Do you feel safe going out and about? Yes No

If not what would help to make you feel safer?

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Would you use any of the following? If so, where would you like them to be?

Internet café	Yes	No	where?
Playground	Yes	No	where?
Skateboard park	Yes	No	where?
Football field	Yes	No	where?
Basketball hoop	Yes	No	where?
Bike ramps	Yes	No	where?
Tennis courts	Yes	No	where?
Hang out shelter to meet up with friends	Yes	No	where?

Do you attend a Youth Club? Yes No

If yes, which one?

Would you use a Youth Club at any of the following venues?

Watery Lane Pavillion	Yes	No	
Newchurch Church Hall	Yes	No	
Apse Heath Methodist Hall	Yes	No	
Alverstone Village Hall	Yes	No	
Mobile Youth Club bus	Yes	No	where?

Do you have any other suggestions for things you would like to see developed in this area for you? (Please use this space)