

## **Report for Hadleigh Youth Strategy Working Group** **Young People Survey Results & Analysis**

### *Background:*

During September members of the Porch Project met to discuss challenges and positive attributes in Hadleigh for Young People. From this stemmed a set of thoughts which turned into questions that they prompted as necessary to young people in Hadleigh.

The Youth Strategy Working Group took this plethora of ideas and focused the feedback into 14 succinct questions covering the key areas identified by the Porch Project's initial research. These key areas were; education, mental and physical wellbeing, how young people perceive Hadleigh and feel they are perceived, challenges or negative behaviours in Hadleigh, transport and safety.

Following the initial creation of the survey by the sub-group, it was piloted by the Explorers group on 14 young people aged 14 to 18 in September. As the survey was altered slightly following this pilot, encompasses a slightly different age group and was undertaken in a different setting, these results are shown separately in appendix 1 document.

With a couple of minor tweaks to the survey, it was sent to the High School in November for distribution from years 7 to 11 (age range 11-16) and 643 responses were received. The results were fed back on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Answers received per age group was split as follows.

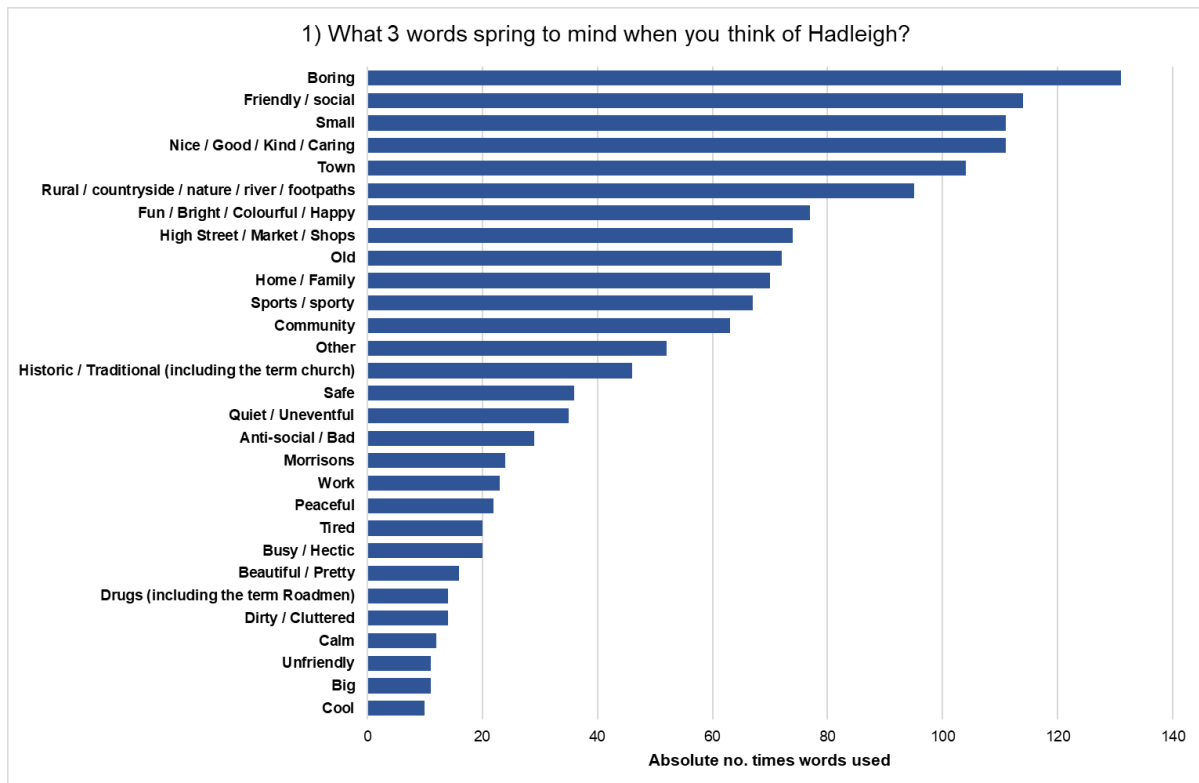
|          |     |                         |
|----------|-----|-------------------------|
| Year 7:  | 135 | a response rate of 96%  |
| Year 8:  | 73  | a response rate of 45%  |
| Year 9:  | 201 | a response rate of 125% |
| Year 10: | 124 | a response rate of 84%  |
| Year 11: | 110 | a response rate of 80%  |

Note the response rate of Year 9. There are only 161 students in Year 9 so it should be noted that the results will include some duplicate responses as it is deemed immaterial to the overall view of the young people and the ends of input to adjust would not be justified. This was due to confusion when completing at the school where some students duplicated answers.

Year 8 had a low response rate due to logistical difficulties at the High School within this year group's distribution.

The total response rate from the High School students was 86%, or 81% when adjusting down to the physical maximum possible responses for year 9 students.

Overleaf each question is presented in graphic form with further analysis or comments on the question posed below, where deemed necessary.

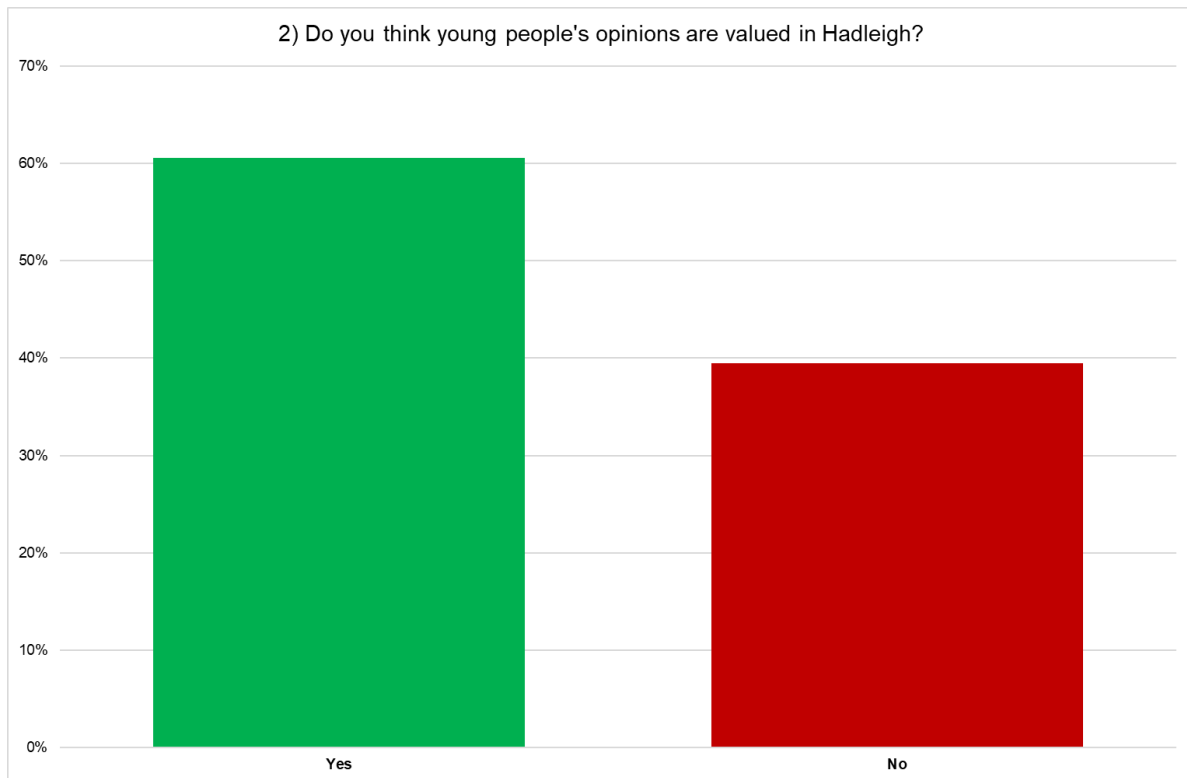


Question 1 about the words that spring to mind in young people when thinking of Hadleigh provides insight into the way that the town is perceived by young people. This data can help us to further investigate what causes these thoughts and help adults to see Hadleigh in the light the young people do.

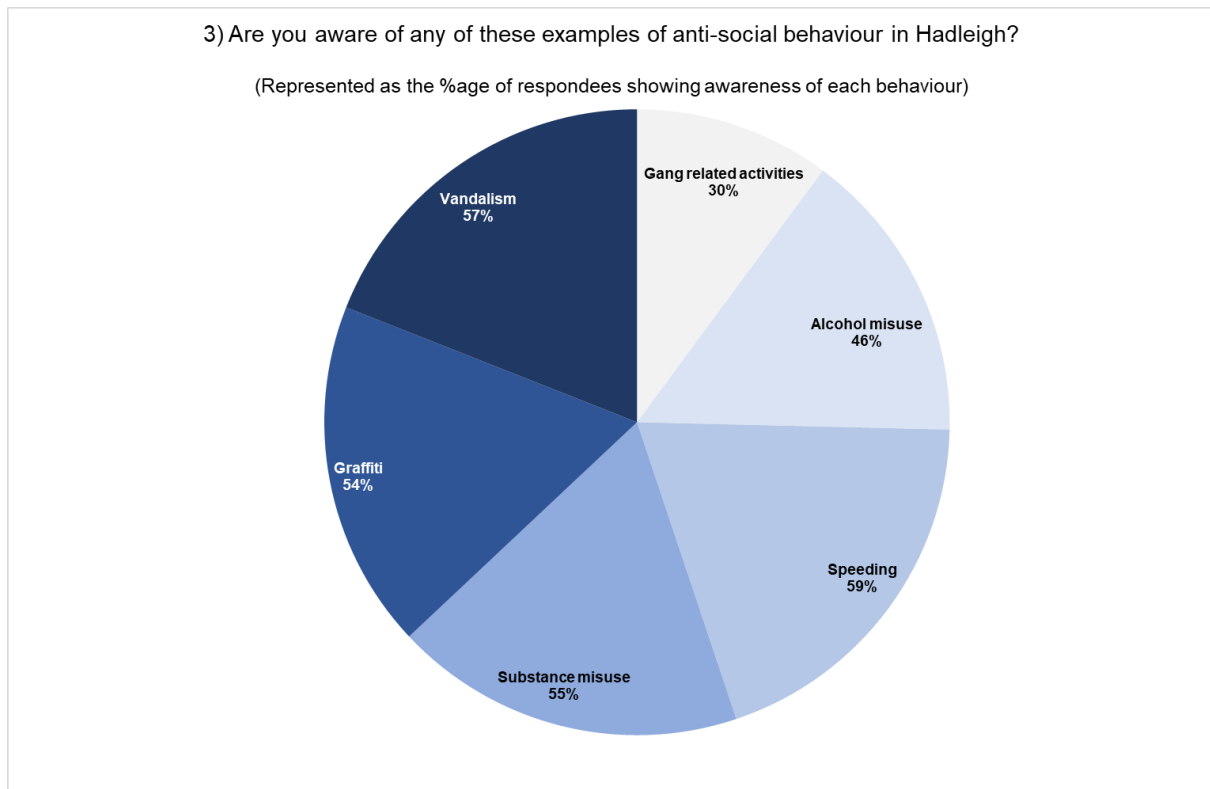
The responses were censored for inappropriate answers and responses of similar adjectives or synonyms have been grouped. The category of “other” refers to words with less than ten uses not falling into any of the other identified categories. These words include (but are not limited to) skatepark, sheep, organised, lack of diversity, new/modern, improving or future, free, unsafe or fear (used five times), depression (thankfully only used once), clean, alcohol (one use), adventure.

This chart shows that the most common word chosen to describe Hadleigh was “boring”. It is not unexpected to find this word used most frequently as young people often tend to find boredom more apparent than their elders. Contrary to this, the second most popular words were those falling into the group of friendly and social. Is it a concern that children in year 8 (aged 12-13) understand and referred to the term “roadmen”?

Looking at these 28 categories of words used, just over a third, at 10, have negative or unfavourable connotations (the words small and old have been lumped into this as it is assumed that as a young person these are used adversely).



Of the 643 responses received, 61% of young people feel their opinions are valued within Hadleigh. This is reassuring, but the emphasis now could be on established why the 39% feel their opinions are not valued and what can be done to turn this around.



This question was posed as a “tick all that apply” therefore the % numbers are of the total individuals responding i.e. 30% of the 643 who filled in the survey reported that they are aware of graffiti in and around Hadleigh.

It is important to note that there was no explanation or example of what was meant by the adults creating the survey accompanying this question. It is noted here for clarity as, for example, “gang related activity” in schools could mean something different to that in the wider community and young people’s perception of speed may vary significantly than those with experience in vehicles. Without context, the information gathered here is useful but not quantifiable any further than presented.

Detailed below is the year group in which each category was the most widely selected (by %age of total year group response number):

Vandalism – year 9

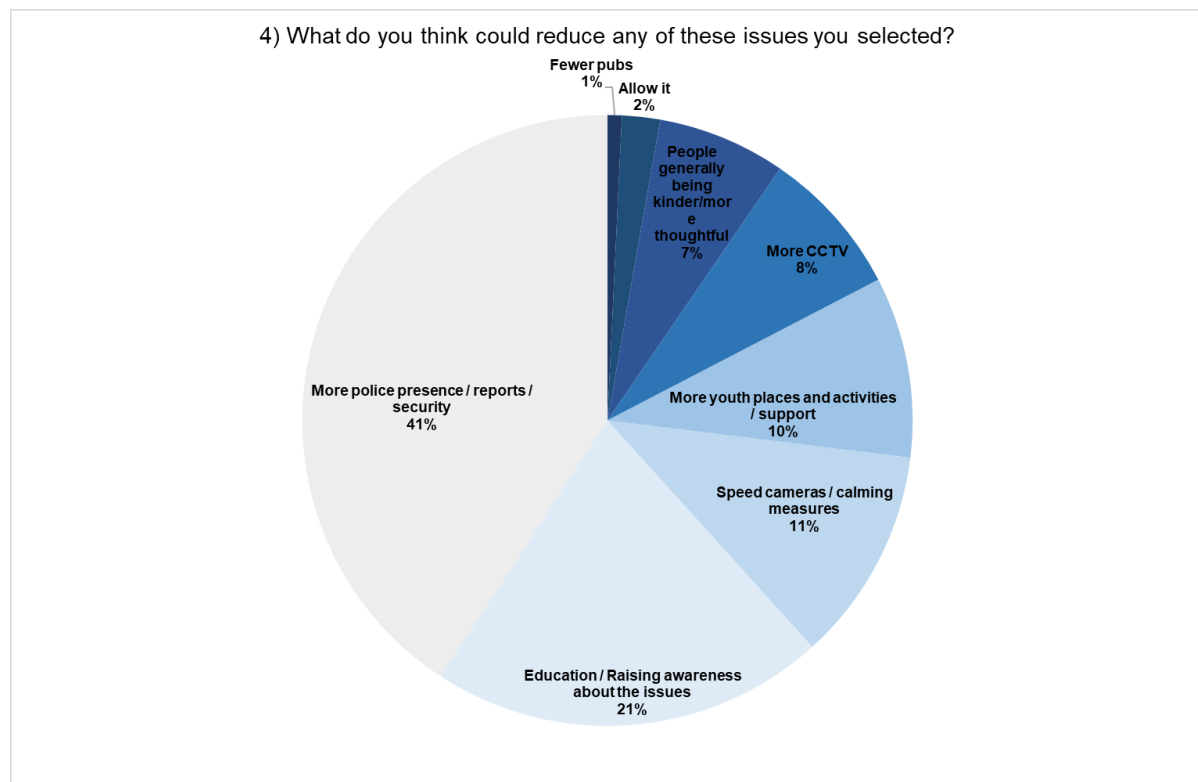
Graffiti – year 8

Substance misuse – year 11

Speeding – year 8

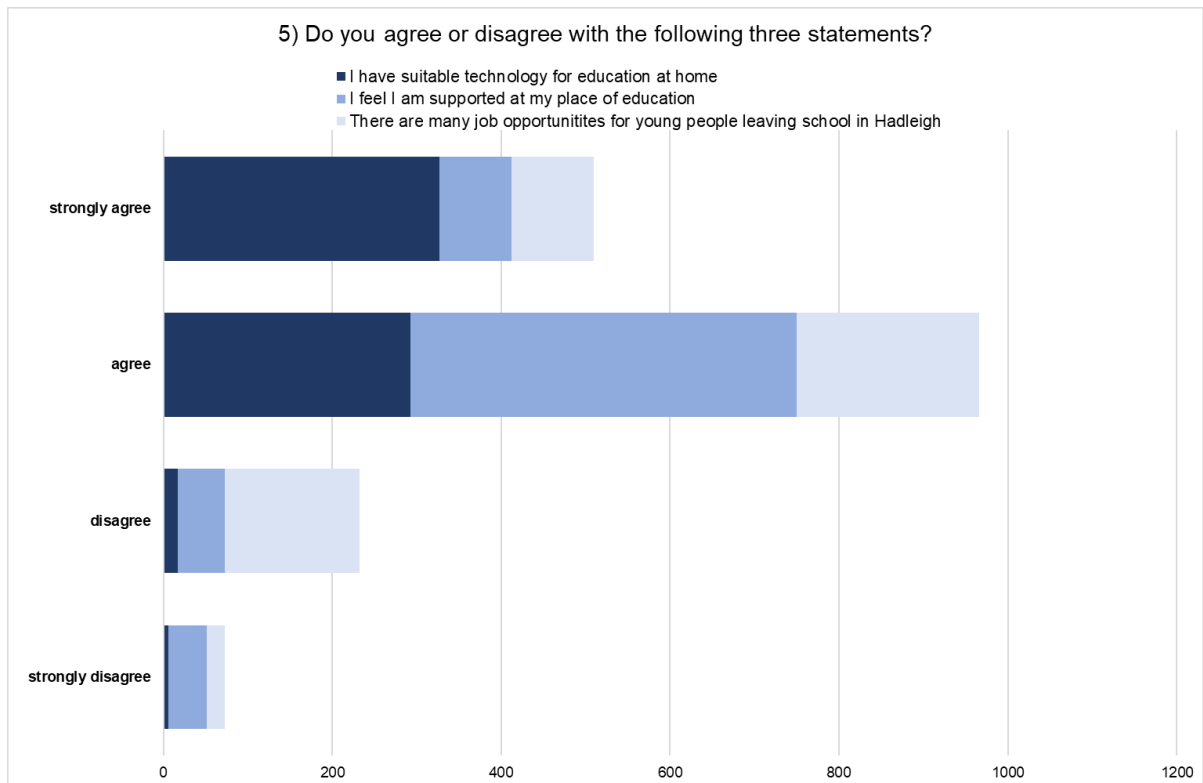
Alcohol misuse – 10

Gang-related activity – year 8.



Of those who responded to this question, 41% of young people are clearly aware that the police station is now redundant and that police presence “day to day” is low in Hadleigh.

Interestingly, the next highest suggestion by the young people in Hadleigh is to educate and raise awareness of the issues, repercussions, and socially acceptable behaviours.

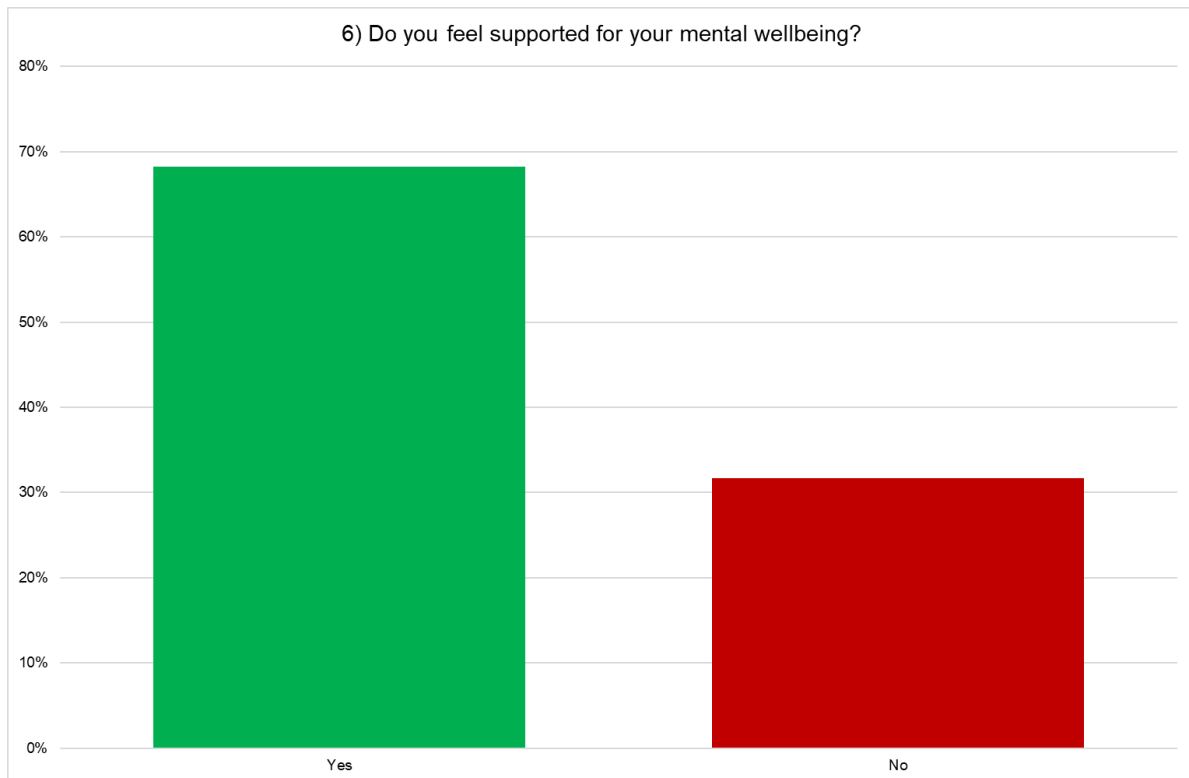


The responses detailed here are of absolute numbers selecting the scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree for each question. It is skewed slightly as all 643 students responding responded to the first two statements, but only 495 students detailed how much they thought there are many job opportunities for young people leaving school in Hadleigh. This could be due to a lack of knowledge, interest or not living in Hadleigh or other reasons. Therefore, it is best to look at the colour blocks to ascertain a comparison of how well the statements are received by young people.

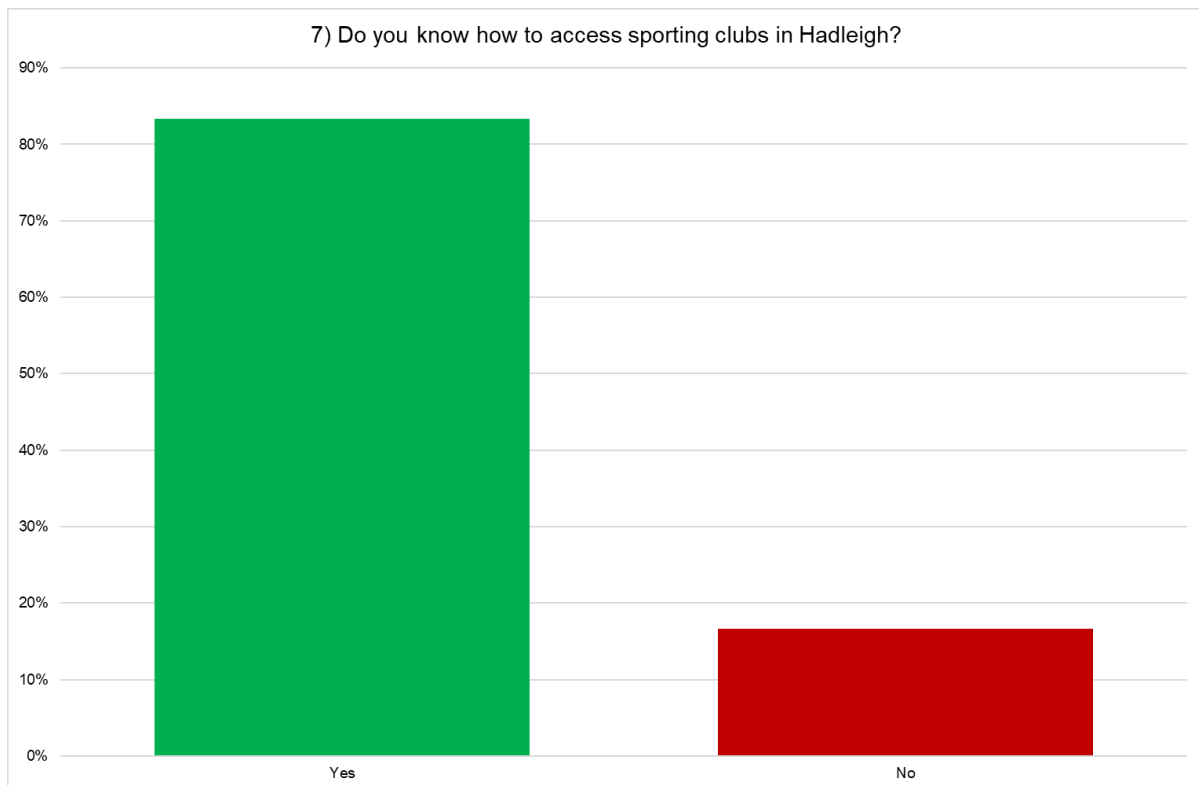
From the colour blocks we can see that there were no strong feelings towards the opportunities for jobs as a similar number of responses were received for both agree and disagree.

Pleasingly, the vast majority (only 23 of 643 young people indicating otherwise) reported that they have suitable technology for education at home. This may be further supported by the 2011 census information on employment status in the District and Hadleigh town which shows 39% of the Hadleigh working population are full time employed versus 37% in Babergh District, suggesting that Hadleigh is potentially more affluent than other areas.

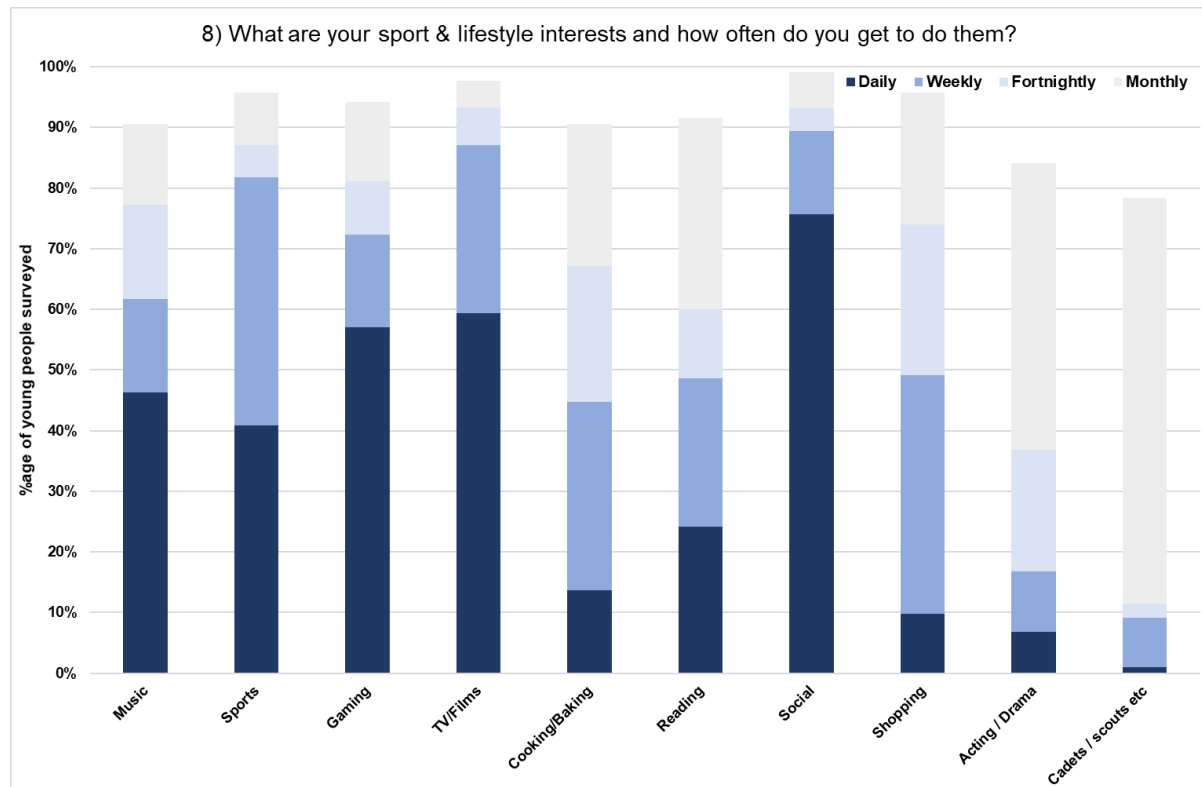
The middle statement of support at place of education is largely positive in the agree section.



Whilst broadly a positive response, still 32% of young people surveyed reported that they do not feel supported for their mental wellbeing, so there is scope for more to be done in this area within Hadleigh.



Focussing on the physical wellbeing of young people it seems that the majority know where to go to access sporting clubs in Hadleigh. This question is slightly ambiguous as it did not specify whether this is in the town as a whole or the school and whilst it may be that the 83% know how to access sporting clubs, we cannot tell from this question if they know about all the sporting clubs in Hadleigh and which of those are accessible to young people. This assessment is further evidenced in the analysis of question 14.

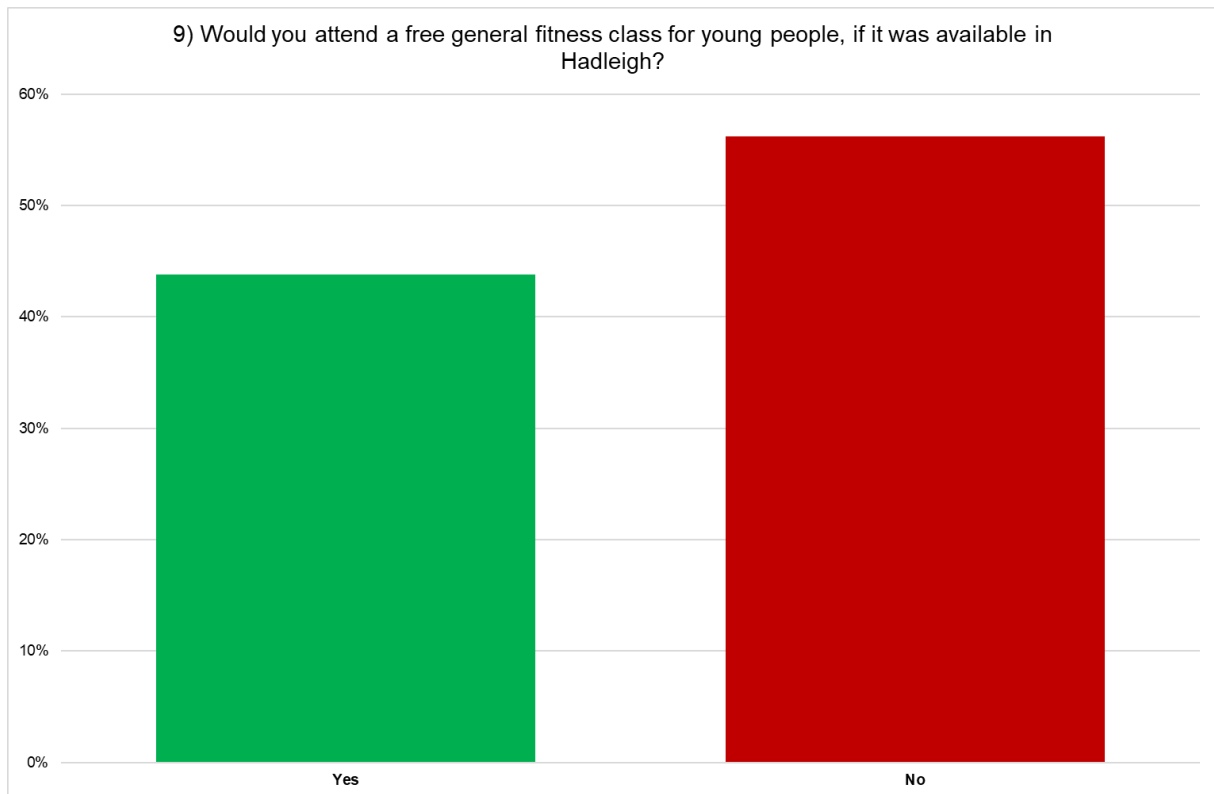


The purpose of question 8 was to gain insight into the types of activities young people enjoy in Hadleigh and how frequently they currently access these activities in order to identify any gaps.

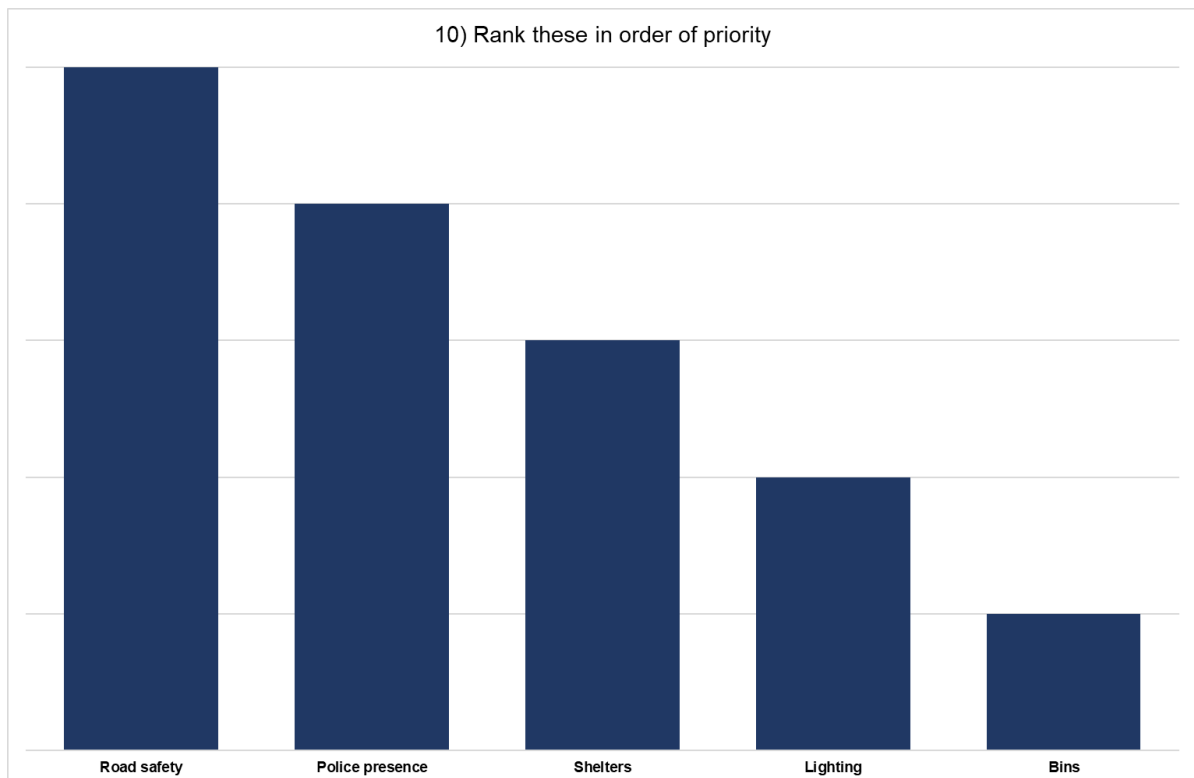
Unfortunately, the presentation of this question within the High School's survey may have been somewhat leading and closed as it was not an open-ended question as with the Explorer group. This may have produced some false reports of activities as potentially some students may have thought they had to answer all the categories, which was not the intention initially. However, this does provide a lot of information on the frequency of these activities even if they are not necessarily what the student may have picked up on themselves and some interests potentially missed.

It is also important to note that there were no guidance notes to this question presented so it may be that activities within school are included, which may again provide false data on actual interests, as opposed to those that young people do through curriculum. Other examples of ambiguity are TV/Films – is this going to the cinema or just watching a film? Shopping – is this going with parents to do their shopping or weekly supermarket shop or is it going out and buying things for themselves, do they enjoy it as an interest or is something they just do?

However, it does show that most young people presumably consider school very social and that there are a wide range of interests of young people in Hadleigh.



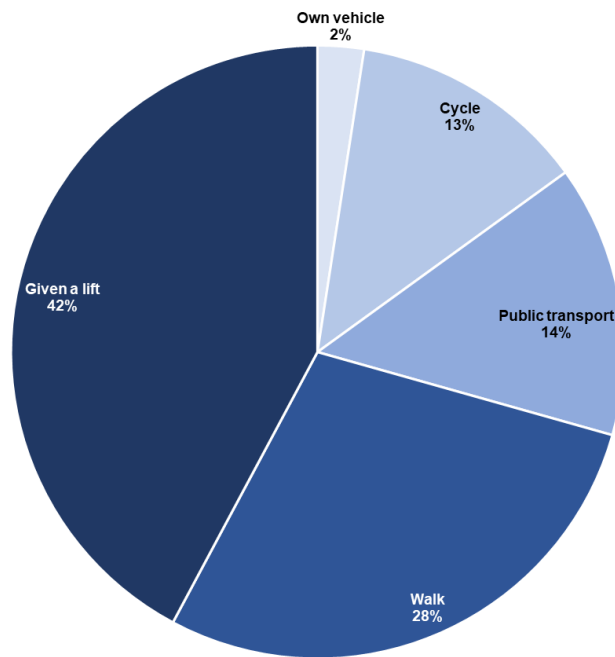
Given the response to question 7, it is not so surprising that 56% of young people would not attend a free general fitness class. Interestingly, 25% of the 280 young people who would attend a free general fitness class are in year 7.



Note the item shelters was posed in the question as “Access to sheltered areas” and bins was “Access to bins” and lighting as “Street lighting”. Shortened for fit on the chart.



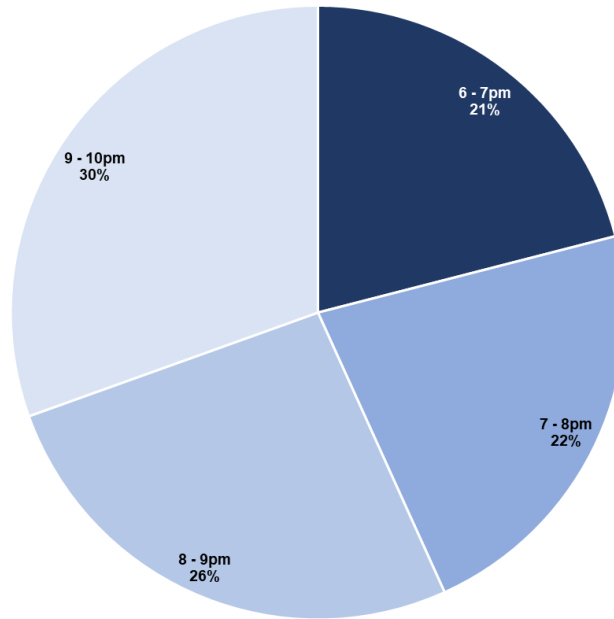
11) How do you get around Hadleigh and to other towns?



An important note here is that own transport was included as the pilot survey was up to 18-year-olds. This option remained to the High School students as from 16 years old a moped may be ridden. However, it may have caused some confusion as years 7-10 had a high number of this option selected, we have therefore transposed this into “given a lift” as it is assumed that those students probably thought the option for own vehicle referred to their parents’ vehicles but for the purposes of this survey, that falls into the “given a lift” category.

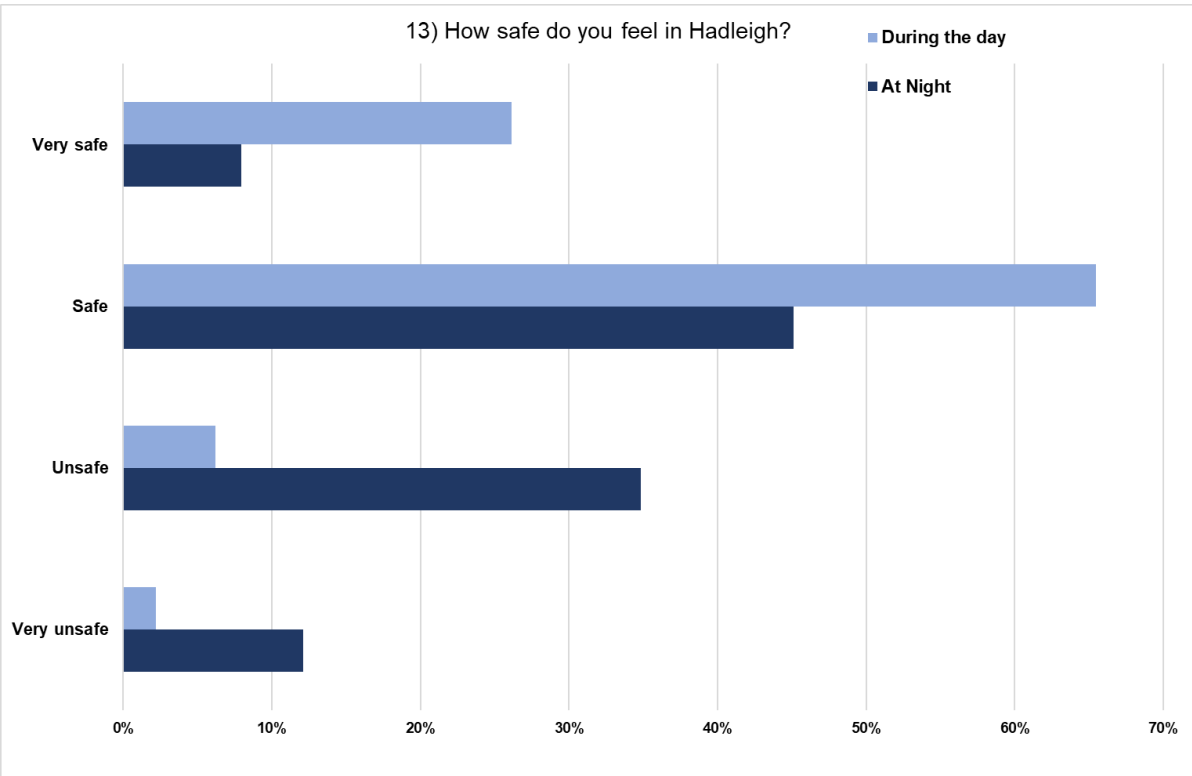
There is a clear area for improvement in the way that young people get around that that is cycling. Further investigation could provide answers as to why young people do not cycle so much and what could be provided to encourage more cycling.

12) What time should the last bus come back from Ipswich to Hadleigh?



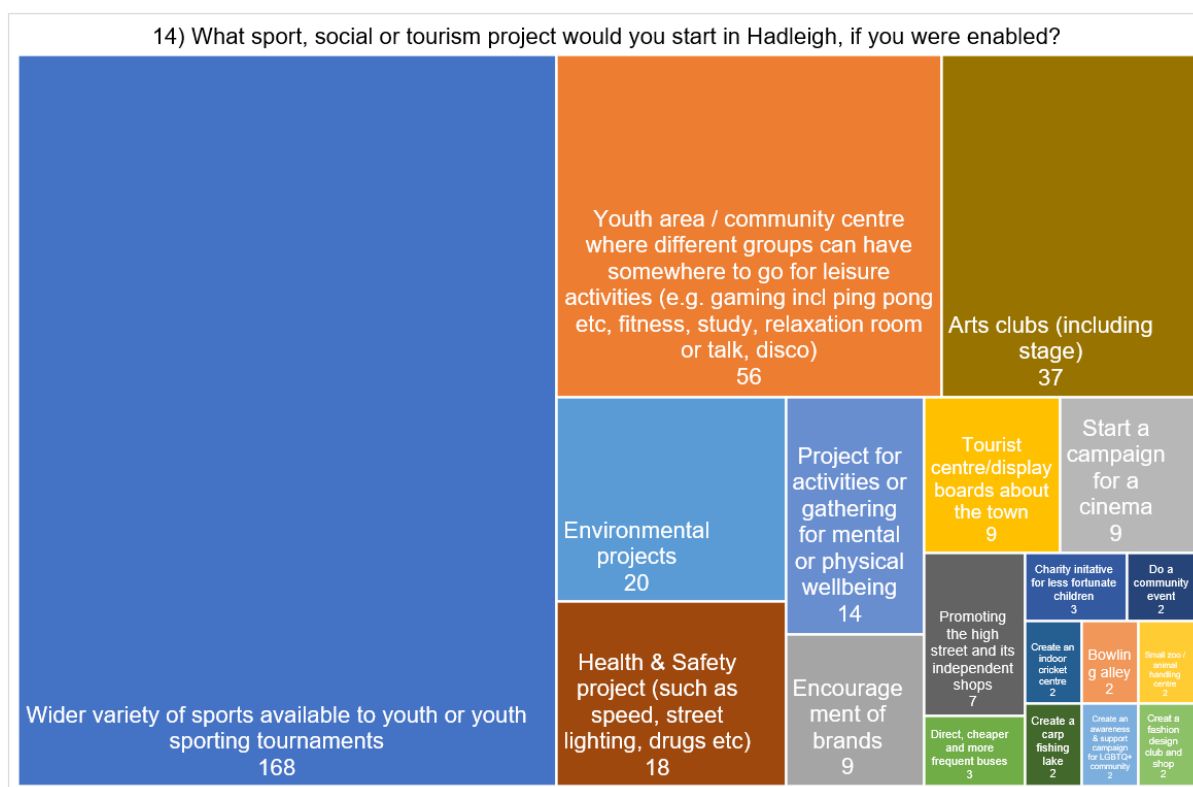
Every young person responding to the survey had an opinion of this question, which is great that they consider it an item of interest. The pie chart above details the results which are split fairly evenly between the time brackets provided. This could be a reflection on the five age ranges presented. If of interest, there could be further analysis done on this in the future. Currently, that last returning bus from Ipswich to Hadleigh leaves at 18:30.

13) How safe do you feel in Hadleigh?



This question was to highlight the feeling of young people and their safety in Hadleigh. The school altered the question from that taken to the Explorers to ascertain the feeling of safety during the day compared to night-time which was a sensible move in determining where the areas of concern may lie and what potential options to make young people feel safe all the time may be. This question should be kept in mind when reviewing back to the answers to questions 1, 3, 4 and 10 as it provides insight as to why those answers may be as they are.

Unsurprisingly there is a general feeling of young people that it is less safe at night-time than that of the daytime although throughout the whole day the overall consensus is that Hadleigh is a “safe” place.



This question posed a variety of ideas, in varying degrees. As with question 1, the ideas that were of a similar ilk have been grouped together and censored for inappropriate responses.

Under the general category of “Arts Clubs” the following apply:

Music, theatre, art, dance, choirs, 3d modelling, chess, writing, reading, film, cooking & baking.

Clearly, the largest response was around sporting activities. This is very interesting considering the responses to question 7 and the analysis of that question is further backed up here. The majority of the sporting responses were referencing starting clubs that already exist in Hadleigh, namely football, rugby, tennis, cycling, netball, gymnastics and skateboarding clubs. This indicates that a more inclusive environment for young people may need to be garnered in these existing clubs and potentially more targeted advertising to the young people. However, within some of these responses, girls and youth sections were referred to and this should be fed back to those existing clubs.

New ideas of sports included:

boxing, golf range, basketball, BMX specific club, clay pigeon shooting, archery, hockey, triathlon practice area, Taekwondo club, American football, racing areas (unspecified if this refers to bikes of any kind or go-karts or else).

Also, astro "cage" or pitches were mentioned a few times - this project is in progress by the Town Council and the school already have a pitch of this sort so more awareness is clearly needed towards the young people of the projects the Town Council are undertaking.

Other general areas of note which provide insight as to the awareness and consideration of young people in Hadleigh are identified by two young people specifically mentioned creating a small zoo / animal handling centre for the purpose of mental wellbeing and escapism and two were passionate responses about creating an awareness and support campaign for the LGBTQ+ community.

The school may wish to pick up on several year 7 students mentioning a project to stop bullying.

The Town Council have a pilot project in 2022/23 financial year called the "People's Pick" for which brief details can be viewed in the agenda and supporting documentation of the Town Matters meeting in August (link below) and it is widely thought that this group should encourage and assist young people with ideas to put them forward for this initiative when the timings come around. Although it should be noted this will be open to everybody in Hadleigh.

<https://hadleightowncouncil.gov.uk/agenda-for-town-matters-committee-meeting-26th-august-2021/#more-3104>