



Hadleigh Youth Strategy

Hadleigh Town Council

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Purpose of this document

This document sets out proposals for provisions for young people in Hadleigh in response to the survey conducted with 603 young people, to address issues identified by young people in the town and the decisions made by Hadleigh Town Council who take the lead on this topic.

Progress Record

Youth Strategy Working Group commissioned:	22 nd April 2021 HTC21.128
Survey of young people:	24 th November 2021
Feedback to young people:	31 st May 2022
Draft strategy sign off by Working Group:	05 th July 2022
Strategy adopted by Full Council:	21 st July 2022 HTC22.219

Hadleigh Youth Strategy Working Group (HYSWG)

Following research and reports to council from then Councillor Lisa Gordon (see appendix 1), the Hadleigh Youth Strategy Working Group was formed with terms of reference in April 2021 under Hadleigh Town Council, though did not begin meeting until September 2021 (due to the pandemic).

Remit:

- To determine at the first meeting the age group that will initially be covered by the Hadleigh Youth Strategy Working Group, though in future this may be changed to reflect the needs of the local community.
- Develop a Youth Strategy for Hadleigh.
- Produce a 12-month and 3–5-year plan for the strategy.
- To work with relevant organisations and with young people to achieve this.
- To liaise with any other service/function that the Working Group may deem as suitable.

The first meeting of September 2021 ran informally without a chair and from October 2021 the chair of the working group was Councillor Gale Pryor with meetings held either in St Mary's Church or at The Guildhall, Hadleigh.

Current partners represented by at least one member in the group:

Hadleigh Town Council
Suffolk Youth Project
The Porch Project
St Mary's Church
Hadleigh High School
Abbeycroft Leisure Centre
Suffolk Family Carers
Suffolk Constabulary
Hadleigh United Football Club

Other contributors include:

Hadleigh & Boxford Patient Participation Group
Hadleigh Sea Scouts

The working group identified six key themes to consider:

Wellbeing including Mental Health
Physical Health
Safe Spaces
Mentoring
Work Readiness
Arts and Culture
Inclusivity and Equality
Early Years.

As The Porch Project and Hadleigh High School were key contributors throughout the working group, this strategy aims to cover the age groups they cover which is 11- adulthood.

The primary objective identified by the working group to progress was to undertake a survey of the High School students to inform the strategy. The full report of results from that survey can be viewed in appendix 2. The working group created a video to accompany these results for the school to play to the students (on Hadleigh Town Council's website).

Strategic Aims

1. Creation of a Youth Council to drive change and improvement in the lives of young people living and working in Hadleigh.
2. Supportive and responsive services available for young people in Hadleigh, to create opportunities and personal development.
3. Engagement of local community groups, volunteers, businesses, councillors and young people in a straightforward and effective way to create or enhance opportunities for young people.
4. A coordinated approach to project delivery to create a reduction of so-called issues and challenges that young people face.

These aims are based on four key goals:

1. Increased involvement and engagement of young people in Hadleigh.
2. Creation of a forum for young people to be heard without judgement or predetermination.
3. A positive place for people in Hadleigh to create a positive impression of young people and their achievements.
4. Reduced duplication whilst ensuring young people get the support they need on limited resources.

Objectives

The above strategic aims and goals will be met by the following six key objectives. To be reviewed and amended or added to, no less frequently than annually.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Measures</i>
Creation of a Youth Council under Hadleigh Town Council's Full Council	Year 1 then ongoing	By the end of the first year after this strategy is adopted, to have a functioning and regularly meeting Youth Council with full membership.
Quarterly networking / information sharing days between businesses, schools, voluntary and community organisations, the Youth Council and The Town Council.	Year 1 then ongoing	Meetings set up on a quarterly basis for those identified in the objective and the Youth Council members.
Establish a single service for information to be found easily by young people to speed up their actions to meet their own needs.	Year 1 and ongoing	By March 2023, to have a location or virtual location for young people to easily access a coordinated list of local activities and sources of helpful information and materials.
Create at least one high profile project or event per year with budget from Town Council and fundraising undertaken by young people.	Year 2, 3, 4, 5	Successful planning, implementation and running of the project measured by the project's outputs.
Enhanced facilities for young people in public places.	Years 3-5	An increase in the range of activities or facilities available.
Increased awareness of employment and educational opportunities for young people in Hadleigh.	Years 3-5	Life-skills workshops attendances and outcomes Vocational training and specialist support programmes Increased achievements Increased percentage of students reporting they have access to facilities and support Reduced unemployment rate for 18–24-year-olds.

To support the objectives identified, the Town Council will endeavour to support local groups and act as the pivot for information sharing and driving the objectives of this strategy to achieve its aims.

It will do this by hosting the Youth Council for Hadleigh and facilitating diverse and meaningful discussions between the young people and mentors, leaders, volunteers in the town. The Youth Council will provide a forum for young people in Hadleigh to have their voices heard and raise ideas and challenges that may not have been considered previously. The Youth Council will then be the young people's conduit for information and links between the Town Council and their communities.

The Town Council will support projects and events that the Youth Council will recommend if feasible and if budgets allow. With the support of the Town Council and its officers, and other organisations, these projects will be primarily lead by young people so that this objective can provide a great conduit for enhancing and harbouring skills and competencies through successful planning, implementation and running of the project, measured by the project's outputs.

Proposals for larger activities or projects should arrive from the activities of this strategy to be recommended to Full Council or other appropriate bodies for progression and enhancement of facilities for young people in public places and to increase employment and educational opportunities in Hadleigh.

Finance

The Town Council does not anticipate being the only funder of the activities involved in meeting the objectives and aims of this strategy. The Council is able to budget each year and in preparation of this strategy has budgeted £5k for the 2022/23 year and it is anticipated further budget years will be likely to include some funding for the Youth Council and potentially towards their projects. A number of sources for external funding may be applicable to meet more specialised elements of the overall strategy, yet to be identified.

Delivery and Youth Involvement

Once approved by Council, at each major project initiation, a working group or volunteer group will be formed to oversee delivery or for each minor project, the Projects & Finance Officer will lead a small project group, to work up a plan for the project and oversee delivery.

Some projects will be fairly straightforward and achieve a quick win. Any project sign-off and budget requests must be prepared fully and comprehensively, in a succinct and clear manner to Council by an Officer. Once this is complete it will enable the young people to progress the idea/project without the need to be second-guessed and repeatedly having sign-offs for each stage by older people. Progress will be reported to the Council at a meeting as deemed appropriate by the Town Clerk.

Youth involvement will primarily be guided and instructed by the Youth Council who will advise and liaise with older people and younger people to ensure the correct forms of communication and engagement are used throughout the strategy and its activities.

Further partners identified (in addition to those listed on page 3, but not exclusively or exhaustively) to help work through the objectives and attend the quarterly networking/sharing events are:

- Babergh District Council
- Benton End
- The Flying Guardsman
- Hadleigh Cricket Club
- Hadleigh Rugby Club
- Hadleigh Cycling Club
- Hadleigh Hares
- Hadleigh Badminton Club.

Appendix 1

Youth Council Update by Councillor Lisa Gordon to Town Matters Committee June 2020

Agenda item 17: To consider setting up a working group with partner organisations with a view to establishing a Youth Council. This is already being actioned via the Town Matters Committee.

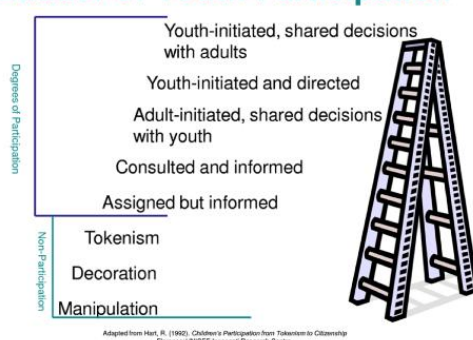
I brought this to a Town Matters Meeting last year and already have permission to set up a working group for this, although currently it is being worked on as part of the Youth Strategy Working group. I see potential for a specific Youth Council working group to be formed later down the line if needs be.

As part of my research on this, I attended Felixstowe Youth Forum in January.

I was due to meet with Jess Walker from Suffolk County Council, along with her colleague who supports the Suffolk Members of Youth Parliament as part of the UK Youth Parliament, but this was postponed due to covid-19. I am in contact with them about meeting soon. I have also contacted some other Youth Councils and am currently talking to Harlow and Aylesbury councils about their set up. Harlow Youth Council are sending some documents and more information.

I am keen for young people to be involved in the process of forming the Youth Council as much as possible and for participation to be active and not tokenistic (see ladder of participation).

Ladder of Youth Participation



At this stage, research has been conducted by adults and I am keen that, as this project progresses, we aim for higher levels of youth participation. I would suggest that we can get young people involved soon and be working at the level of 'adult-initiated, shared decisions with youth'. With the aim moving forward for the Youth Council to be 'Youth-initiated and directed' with facilitation and guidance provided by the Town Council.

My suggestion for next steps would be to begin consultation with young people and to have some young people on the working group to share the process in

setting up the Youth Council. The current situation with social distancing means this is more difficult than it would normally be but we can begin planning how to do this.

I envision that the Youth Council will be a more formal group with young people elected to serve for a specified time. There is scope to also have a Youth Forum or similar, in addition to the Youth Council, which would enable wider engagement and be a place any young person can bring ideas. This could be run/facilitated by the Youth Council members.

Links/resources

Town Council Youth Councils:

<https://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/about-felixstowe-tc/youth-forum/>

[https://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/the-council/agendas-minutes/youth-town-council/District/Borough Youth Councils:](https://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/the-council/agendas-minutes/youth-town-council/District/Borough%20Youth%20Councils)

<https://www.harlow.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-and-chair-council/youth-council>

<http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/about-stevenage/66910/>

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-projects/waveney-youth-council/>

National Level:

British Youth Council: <https://www.byc.org.uk/>

UK Youth Parliament: <https://www.byc.org.uk/uk/uk-youth-parliament>

UKYP runs an annual 'Make Your Mark' campaign to consult young people on the top priorities for campaigns.

Appendix 2

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

Prepared by Hadleigh Town Council Projects Officer, December 2021

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 24th November 2021. Answers received per age group was split as follows.

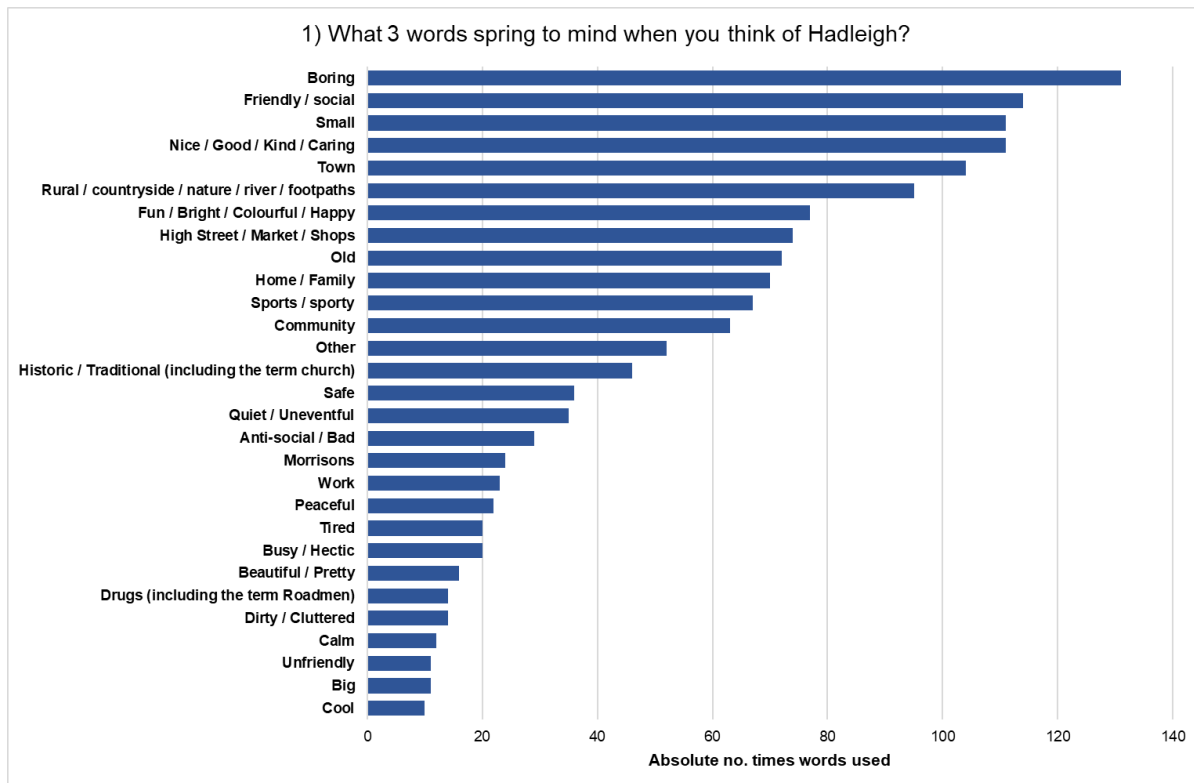
Year 7:	135	a response rate of 96%
Year 8:	73	a response rate of 45%
Year 9:	201	a response rate of 125%
Year 10:	124	a response rate of 84%
Year 11:	110	a response rate of 80%

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.

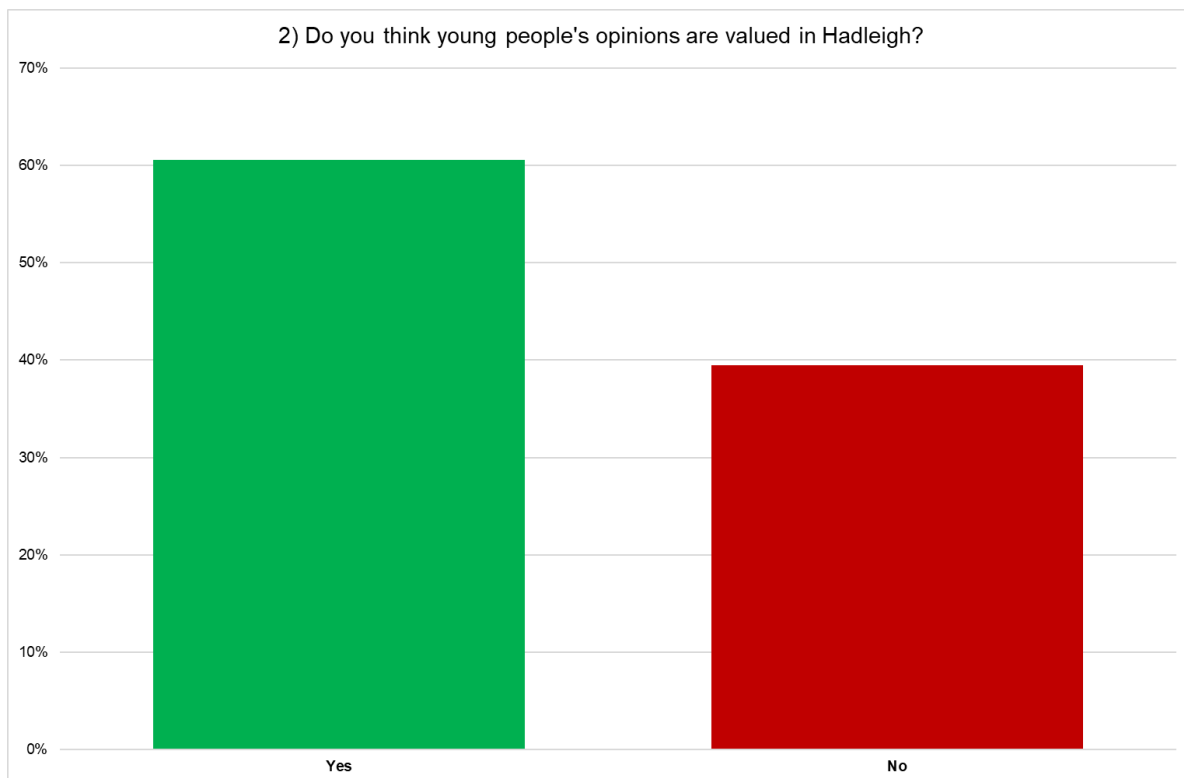


Question 1 about the words that spring to mind in young people when thinking of Hadleigh provides insight into the way that the town is perceived by young people. This data can help us to further investigate what causes these thoughts and help adults to see Hadleigh in the light the young people do.

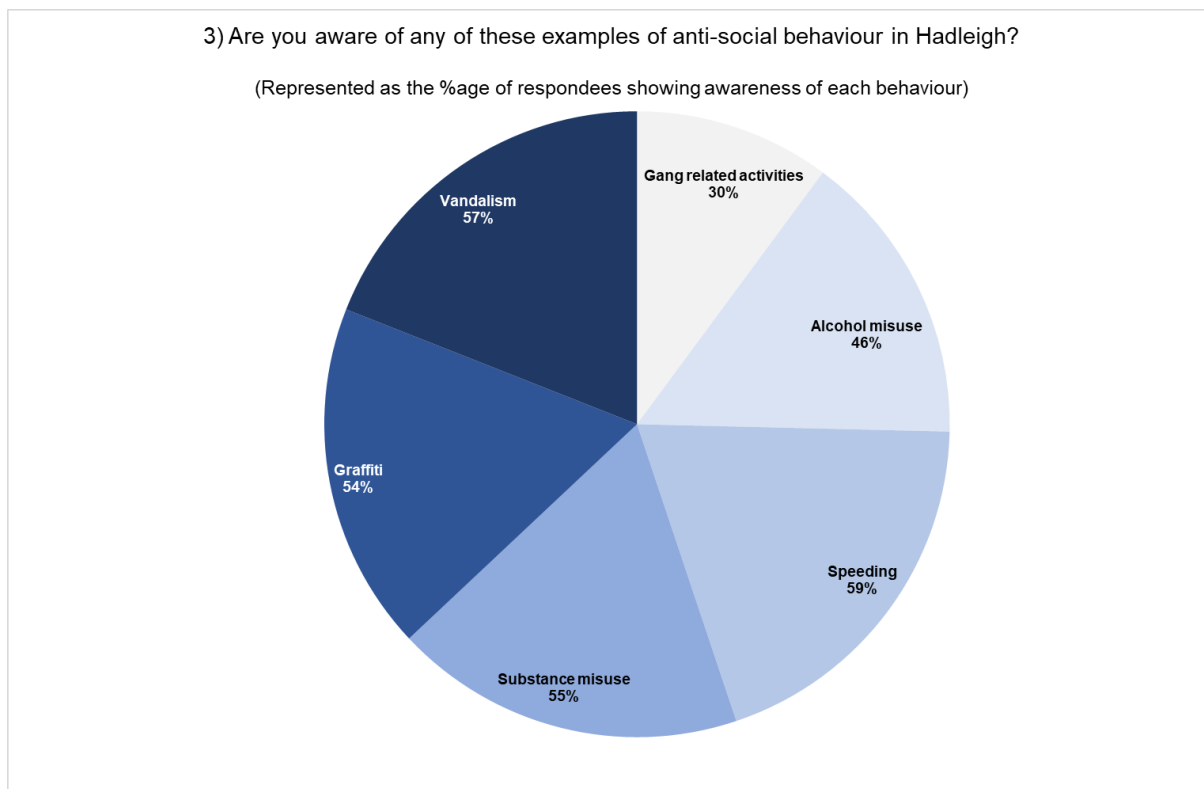
The responses were censored for inappropriate answers and responses of similar adjectives or synonyms have been grouped. The category of “other” refers to words with less than ten uses not falling into any of the other identified categories. These words include (but are not limited to) skatepark, sheep, 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

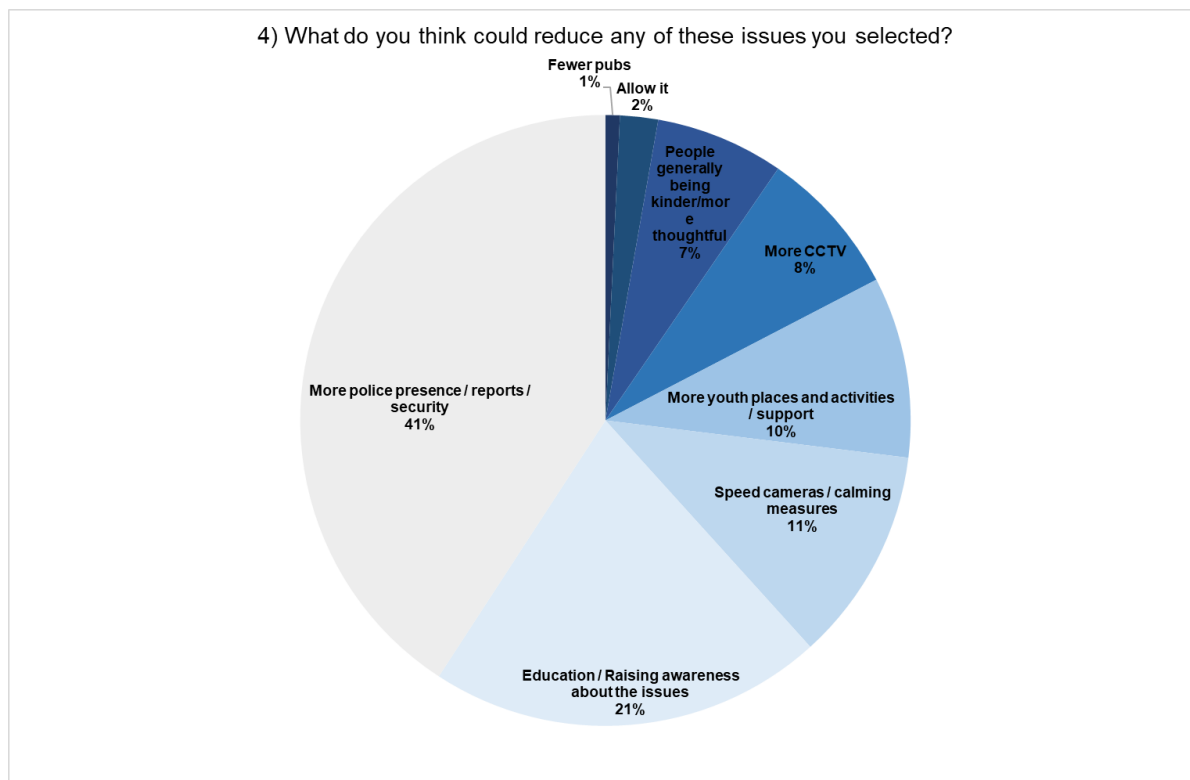
Graffiti – year 8

Substance misuse – year 11

Speeding – year 8

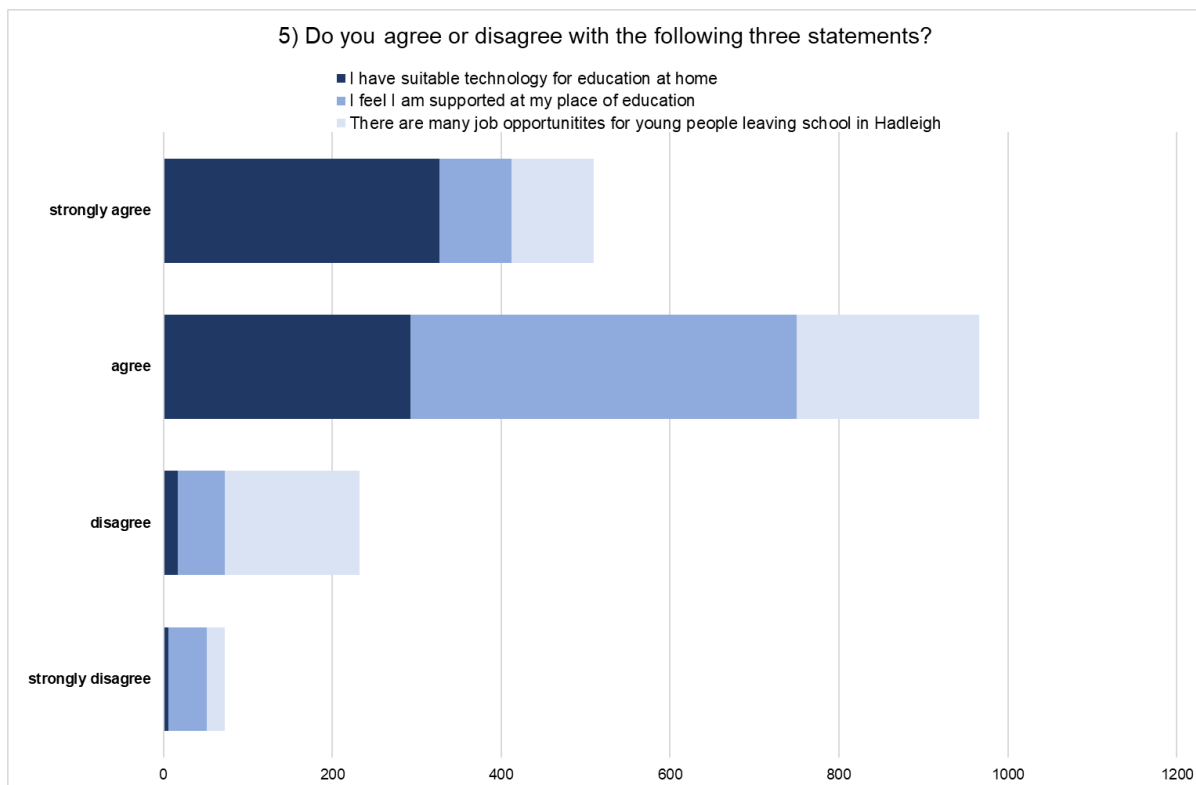
Alcohol misuse – 10

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.

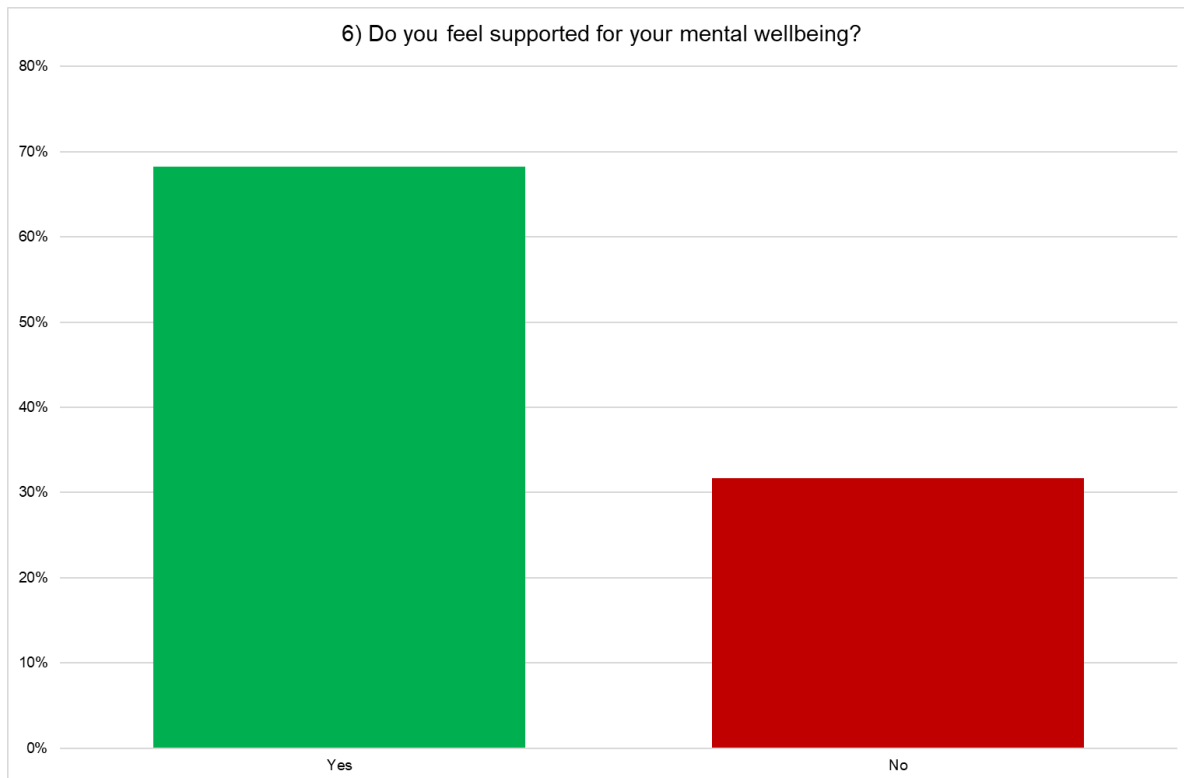


The responses detailed here are of absolute numbers selecting the scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree for each question. It is skewed slightly as all 643 students responding responded to the first two statements, but only 495 students detailed how much they thought there are many job opportunities 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.

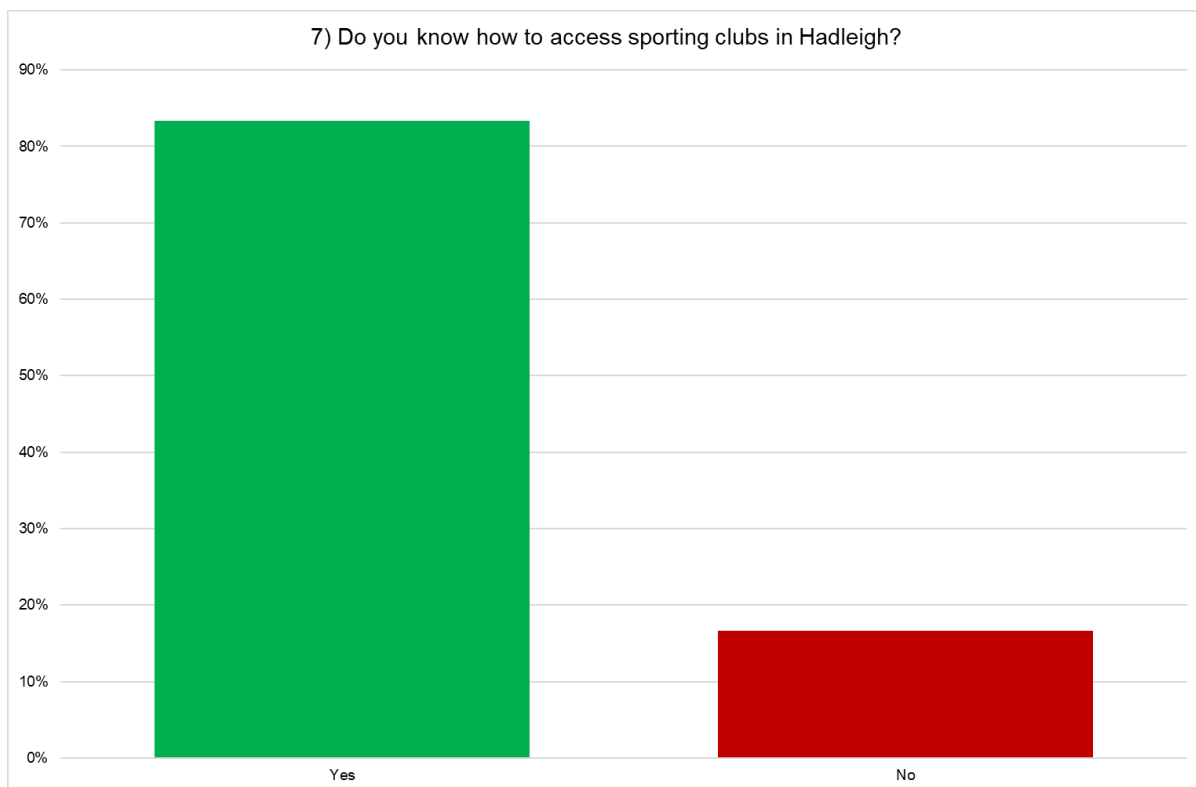
From the colour blocks we can see that there were no strong feelings towards the opportunities for jobs as a similar number of responses were received for both agree and disagree.

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.

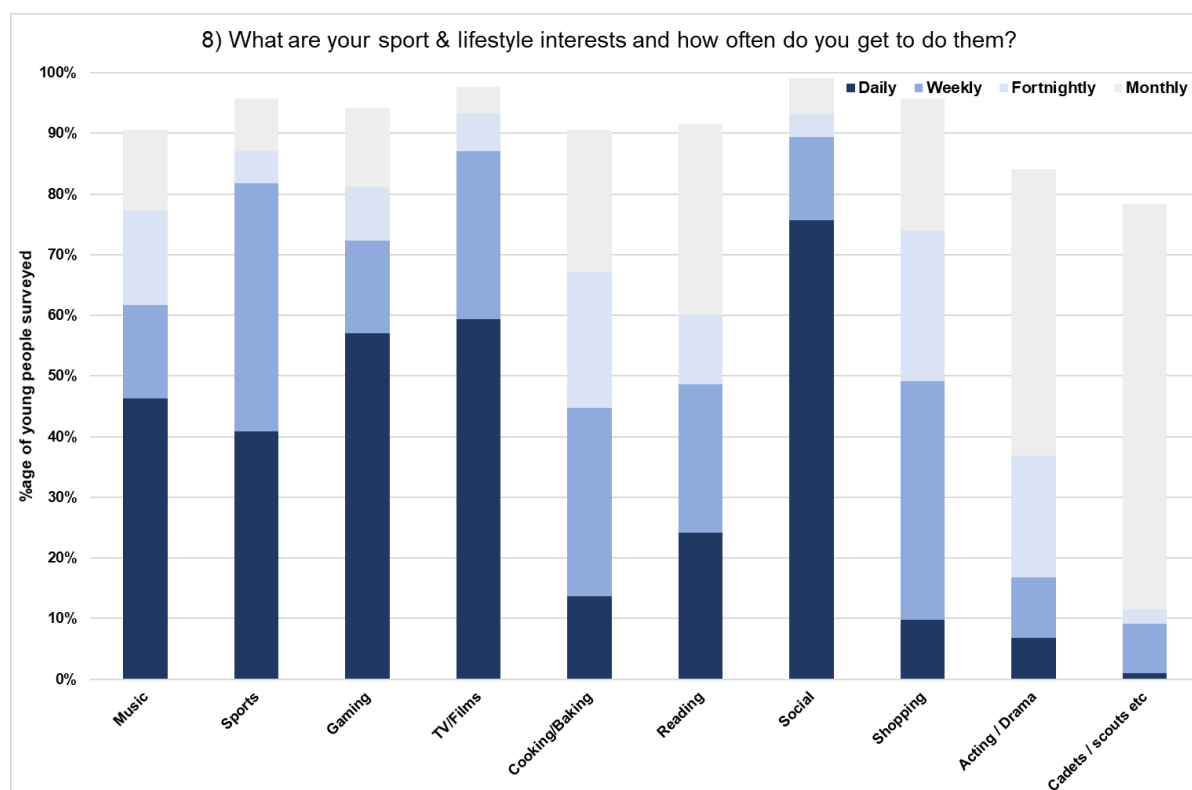


Whilst broadly a positive response, still 32% of young people surveyed reported that they do not feel supported for their mental wellbeing, so there is scope for more to be done in this area within Hadleigh.



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.

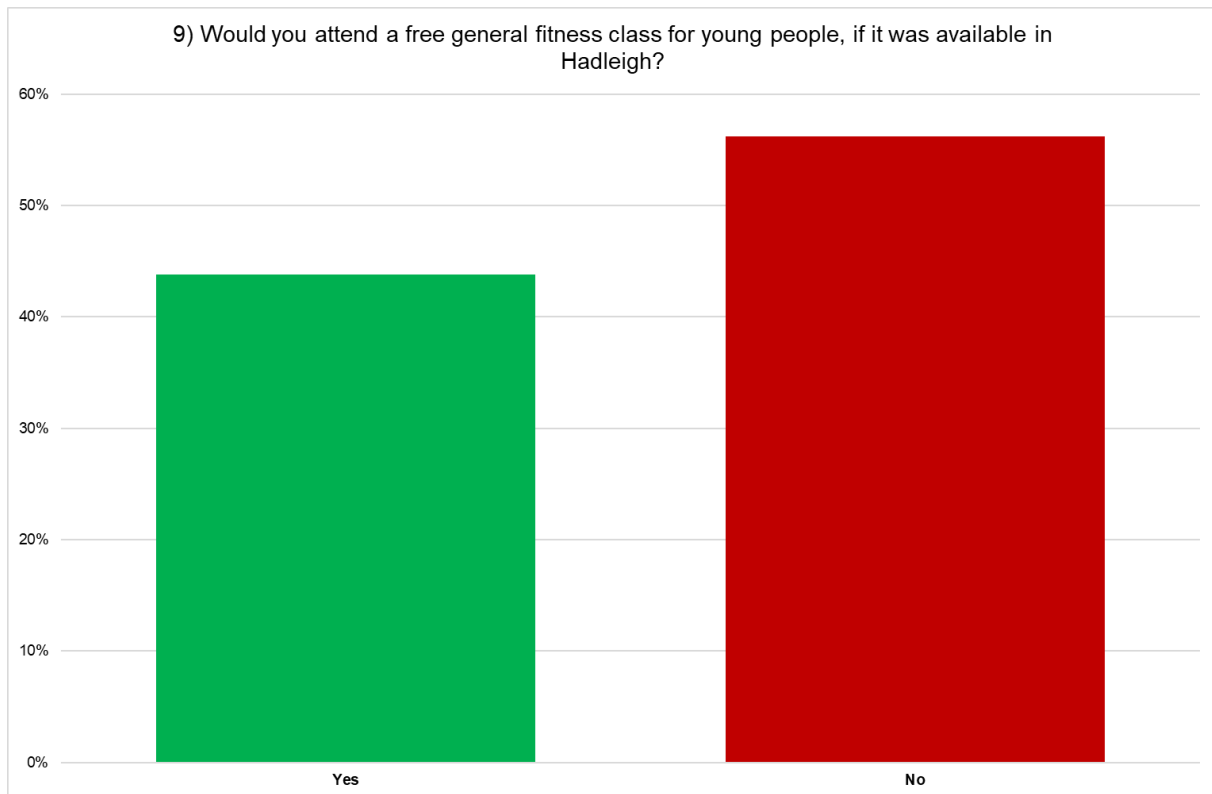


The purpose of question 8 was to gain insight into the types of activities young people enjoy in Hadleigh and how frequently they currently access these activities in order to identify any gaps.

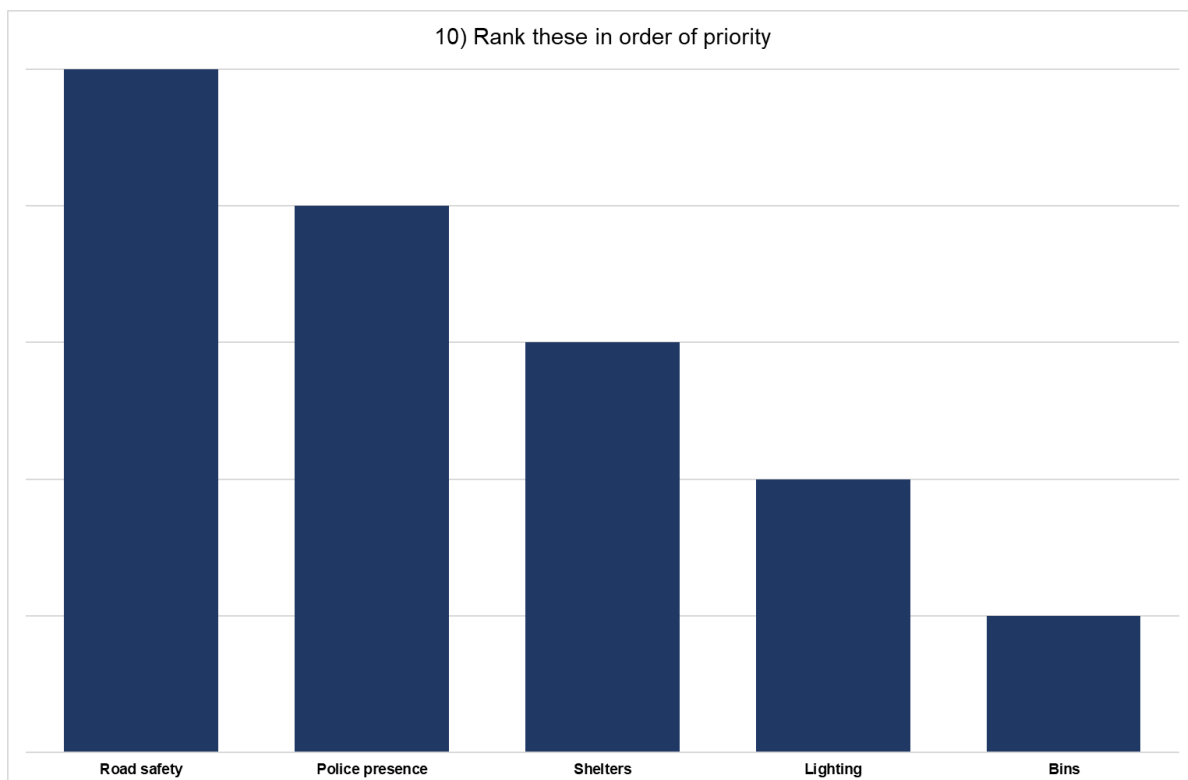
Unfortunately, the presentation of this question within the High School's survey may have been somewhat leading and closed as it was not an open-ended question as with the Explorer group. This may have produced some false reports of activities as potentially some students may have thought they had to 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.

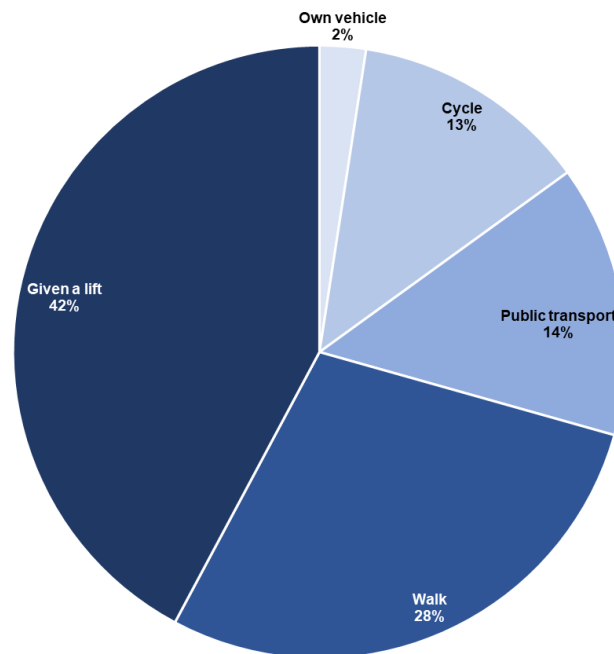


Given the response to question 7, it is not so surprising that 56% of young people would not attend a free general fitness class. Interestingly, 25% of the 280 young people who would attend a free general fitness class are in year 7.



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.

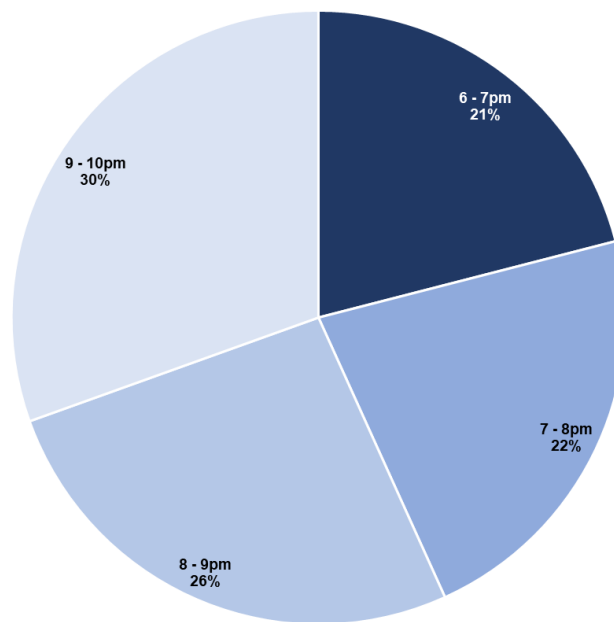
11) How do you get around Hadleigh and to other towns?



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.

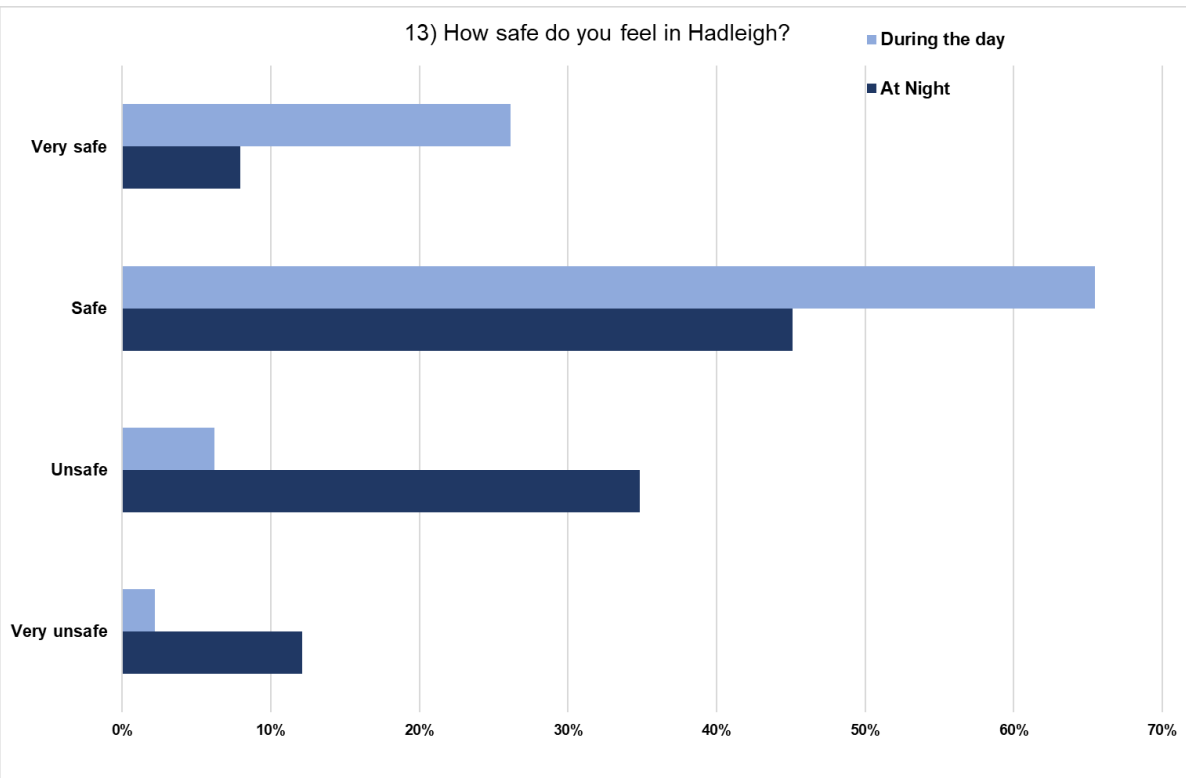
There is a clear area for improvement in the way that young people get around that that is cycling. Further investigation could provide answers as to why young people do not cycle so much and what could be provided to encourage more cycling.

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



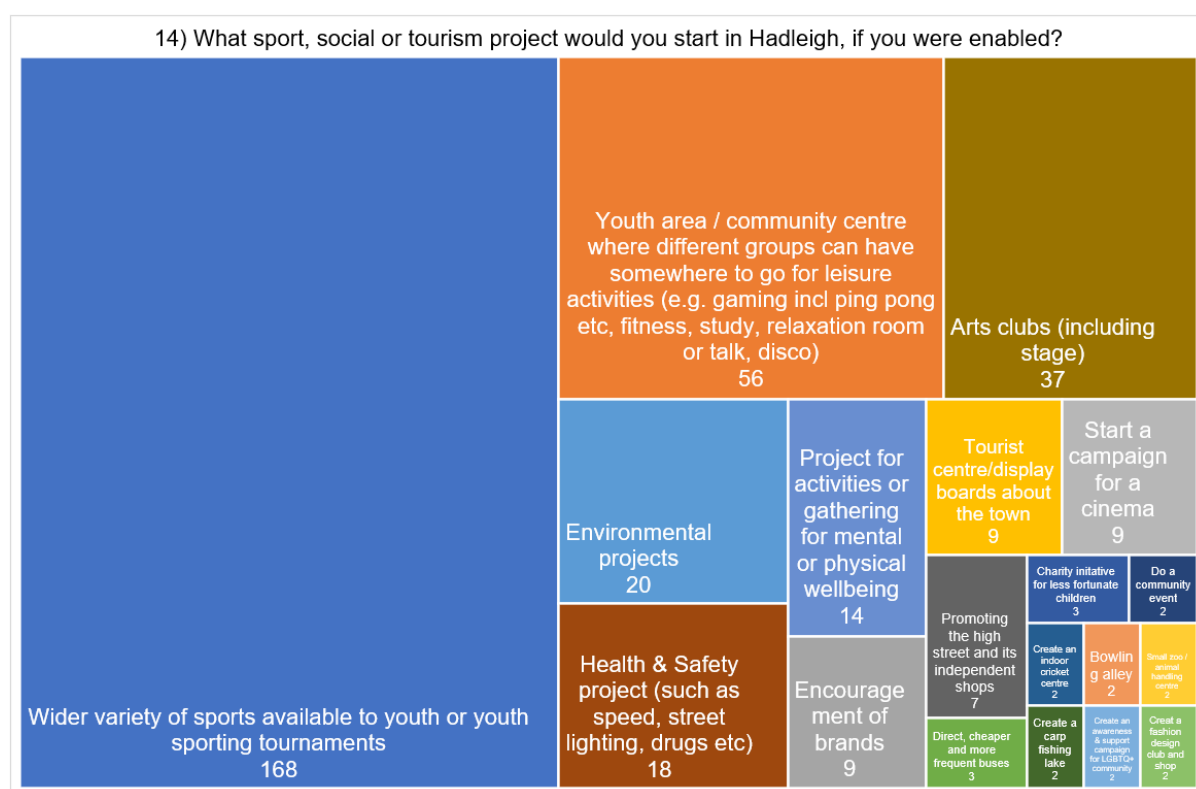
Every young person responding to the survey had an opinion of this question, which is great that they consider it an item of interest. The pie chart above details the results which are split fairly evenly between the time brackets provided. This could be a reflection on the five age ranges presented. 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>

Prepared by Hadleigh Town Council Projects Officer, December 2021