

YOUTH CONSULTATION 2014

What it feels like to be young in Ilfracombe

Who we surveyed

In September 2014, Community Engagement Co-ordinators from Ilfracombe Town Council, working alongside One Ilfracombe, sent out a survey to different age groups of children in Ilfracombe. The aim of the survey was to find out what children thought of where they live, what activities they took part in and what improvements they thought could be made.

- Ilfracombe Infants school - **141 children**
- Ilfracombe Junior school – **15 classes, 369 students**
- Ilfracombe Academy - **255 students**
- 6th Form and Petroc students – **121 students**
- 18 – 24 year olds – **34 people**

A total of **920** young people engaged with us in the survey

What is good in Ilfracombe at the moment for young people?

The top responses to things that make Ilfracombe a positive place are:

Cinema: The majority of young people felt the cinema was the best thing to do in Ilfracombe. At the Junior School, the Academy & 6th Form & Petroc it was the most popular

Nothing: With the exception of the Infants School, many young people felt there was nothing good in Ilfracombe

“No because there is nothing to do the green opposite the frier is out of bounds to kids. Kids are just hanging out around on street corners there is nothing to do”

Environment: Many young people enjoy the benefits of the natural environment of Ilfracombe. The beaches, parks, open spaces & nature walks were among the most popular

“For me personally it's the forests at the back of Challacombe Farm but in general I think it's the beaches”

Clubs: The many clubs available in Ilfracombe were appreciated by some students

Facilities: The swimming pool, the skate park and the football pitches were among the many facilities thought good in Ilfracombe

What activities outside of school/college do you attend in Ilfracombe?

Sports Clubs: With a wide range of different sports, sports clubs was the top response. Ranging from tennis, football and swimming, to surfing, kayaking and skateboarding

Performing Arts & Music: The Performing Arts were also very popular, with the three youngest groups participating most in circus skills, ballet, dance, drama & music

Youth Clubs: Youth Clubs were used across all five groups, such as Slade Community Centre, Friday Club/ Lighthouse Club, St John's Ambulance, and the Devon Youth Service

Organised Groups & Clubs (through service providers): Among the younger students surveyed clubs such as Cubs, Scouts, Brownies & Guides were very popular. For the older age groups, antenatal classes, baby & toddler groups and Fathers Club were frequented the most

Spending time with friends: Many spend time with friends using the facilities around Ilfracombe

What could be better?

Facilities & Activities

More sports facilities, more variety and improved shops, better park equipment, free activities to get young people off the streets

“A better sense of community between the older and younger generations of Ilfracombe”

Environment

Improving the high street and making shops look more appealing, litter and dog mess control, improve traffic

“Painting the shop fronts so they look more appealing - like a different colour for each shop”

Other

More facilities for young people, better advertising and communication, improve transport

“Better advertising of things to do in Ilfracombe because no one ever knows what's going on”

Would you like to have more of a say in Ilfracombe's future?

The percentage of students from each group that said YES they would like more of a say in Ilfracombe's future were:

45% of Infants school students

100% of Junior school students

Just over **57%** of Ilfracombe Academy students

Nearly **49%** of 6th form & Petroc students

Over **67%** of 18-24 year olds

How could we involve young people in decisions about Ilfracombe?

The majority of young people, across all groups, felt a stronger presence in schools & colleges would be the best way to involve young people.

“Have meetings in Schools and Clubs and Churches about decisions to get them involved”

The **Infants & Junior Schools** thought assemblies and meetings at school would be a good way to involve them, and The **Ilfracombe Academy & 6th form & Petroc** students felt targeting schools with petitions and surveys were a good way to communicate.

“Show the children their action plan of what they want to achieve and come into school and gather the children's thoughts”

Many young people felt some kind of School or Young People's Council was a good idea. The **Infants school** wanted a school council to enable them to vote and help make decisions; whilst the **Junior school** wanted the School Council to go to Town Council Meetings, and maybe take over for the day. The **Ilfracombe Academy & 6th form & Petroc** students would like a Young People's Council.

“We could have a child equivalent of the Town Council”

The majority of the **Junior school** also thought some kind of club for children such as Young One Ilfracombe, After School Town Council Club, Childrens Government, or Pupils Voice would be a good

way to engage with young people.

Both 6th form & Petroc students & 18-24 year olds thought more advertising and use of social media was needed, along with holding more events.

“Petitions around school, Facebook page”

What kind of things would you like to do if it was available?

The top responses to what young people would like to see available in Ilfracombe are:

Leisure Facilities: The youngest wanted to see the Fair more frequently and a Theme Park nearby. Ice Skating, Bowling, & Go-karting were also very popular. The Juniors wanted bungee jumping, skydiving & a zip wire

Sports Clubs: Many young people wanted better sports facilities with a wider variety of sports available. The swimming pool and a football pitch were the most popular as facilities needed

Socialising: The older groups wanted more clubs for them, with places to go to socialize. The younger groups wanted more variety of clubs, and the Skate Park to be improved

Community: Many wanted more events organized for both young people and the community

Other facilities: The main facilities wanted were more shops on the high street, food stalls, such as Ice Cream vans, and Hotdog & Burger stands on the seafront, and a crèche at the gym

Are there any facilities you would like to see in Ilfracombe?

Sports & leisure facilities: Many would like to see better sport & leisure facilities in Ilfracombe. The most popular were Funderzone, Ice skating/ Rollerblading, Improved Swimming Pool, Indoor & Outdoor Football pitch, Bowling, a sports centre, a theme park and a water park. Some also wanted somewhere to ride their bike

High Street & Harbour: Some young people want a better variety of shops including a new supermarket, a toy shop and a spider market! Takeaways restaurants and cleaner toilets were also suggested

Community: Youth centres and places to meet with internet access were requested, along with a recording studio. Some wanted more events and festivals held in Ilfracombe

Would you like any support?

Training: 19% of Ilfracombe Academy students; just under 20% of 6th Form & Petroc students; 35% of 18-24 year olds

“Training - for later in life like how to handle bills and work etc”

Bullying: Over 18% of Infants School; Nearly 50% of classes at the Junior School; nearly 24% of Ilfracombe Academy students; 13% of 6th Form & Petroc students; Just over 29% of 18-24 year olds

Homework: Over 18% of Infants School; nearly 19% of Ilfracombe Academy students; 13% of 6th Form & Petroc students

Volunteering: Just under 26% of 6th Form & Petroc students

Drugs: 40% of classes at the Junior School; 27% of Ilfracombe Academy students; 13% of 6th Form & Petroc students; Just over 29% of 18-24 year olds

“Drugs and smoking – a more friendly approach – not like a school lecture – street patrol support”

Smoking: 53% of classes at the Junior School; nearly 26% of Ilfracombe Academy students; nearly 11% of 6th Form & Petroc students; Nearly 24% of 18-24 year olds

“To prevent teenagers taking up the habit just to look cool”

Relationship issues: Nearly 24% of 18-24 year olds

Health: Nearly 18% of Infants School students wanted support around water safety; 53% of classes at the Junior School wanted advice on first aid & health and safety

Caring for family: 40% of classes at the Junior School

Advice on strangers: Nearly 18% of Infants School students wanted advice on strangers

Do you see yourself staying in Ilfracombe?

Infants School:

42.5% said YES; 36% said NO

Junior School:

35.5% said YES; 64% said NO

“Not very nice walking around Ilfracombe - too much litter, too many criminals, doesn't feel very safe, many unpleasant people”

“Not enough job opportunities. No opportunities for jobs such as Veterinary, Equestrian, Zookeeper, Midwifery. My dream career can't be achieved here. Most of the class feels there are more opportunities for their chosen careers elsewhere in Devon”

Ilfracombe Academy:

Just over 13% said YES; 59% said NO

“No, because I'm hoping to live in France and I don't feel completely safe in Ilfracombe”

6th Form & Petroc:

Nearly 11% said YES; Nearly 73% said NO

“No, would stay in the area but not in Ilfracombe, don't like some areas - quite dirty. Family would make me stay, also if it became a bit better (reputation wise)”

“There is a bigger world outside Ilfracombe - not much for careers if you don't want to own a business or work at Pall”

“Would like to stay in Ilfracombe as it is a nice place to live as most of my family live here. More likely to stay here if the jobs were available”

18-24 year olds:

Nearly 53% said YES; 38% said NO

“No, need to look elsewhere for work”

“No, I'd like to live somewhere where there is more going on”