



Research Report  
into the needs of the  
**youth and community**  
of the Wheatley area



July 2004



# **Research Report into the needs of the youth and community of the Wheatley area.**

2nd Edition, printed 23 July, 2004

1st Edition, printed 15 July, 2004

Printed by Oxford Design & Photographic Ltd.

Layout and Design by Dan Evenhuis, Fusion Youth & Community UK

Copyright © 2004 by Fusion Youth & Community UK



# Contents:

## **1.0 Community Profile**

- 1.1 Summary of Findings
- 1.2 Introduction
- 1.3 How research was conducted
- 1.4 How the Research was Presented
- 1.5 A brief social history of the Wheatley Area
- 1.6 The Wheatley Area today

## **2.0 The Voice of the People**

- 2.1 The Community
- 2.2 Young people today - What the Older Generation says
- 2.3 Young people today - What the Younger Generation says
- 2.4 The Family unit
- 2.5 Services and Facilities
- 2.6 Activities
- 2.7 Social Issues
- 2.8 Employment
- 2.9 Road, Traffic and Transport
- 2.10 School and Education
- 2.11 The Church
- 2.12 Dreams and Visions for the Future

## **3.0 Recommendations**

## **4.0 Appendices**

- 4.1 Interview Questions
- 4.2 Questionnaire to Young People
- 4.3 About the Researchers
- 4.4 Special Thanks
- 4.5 Survey Statistics

## **5.0 References**

## **6.0 Contacts**

## **7.0 People We Interviewed**



# 1.0 Community Profile

## 1.1 Summary of Findings

- It was fascinating to discover that both the older generation and the young people themselves saw a clear need for an appropriate and safe place to socialise. While the older people felt there was a need for sound structure and good role models at these venues, the young people simply wanted a place to hang out that more represented their current needs. Other facilities for young people that were mentioned were parks with climbing frames and play equipment suited to older children, more hard play surfaces, a skate park and a suitable pavilion for the Wheatley playing field.
- It was encouraging to discover there was a strong sense of community and identity in the Wheatley area. There was the perception that there was lots to be involved in, many who were very active community members, with community events very well attended. However there was concern registered that this strong sense of community had the potential to go missing. It was perceived that some residents now, particularly those who commuted to work, were choosing not to fully participate in community life. It was understood that these people had little time, and other commitments and pressures but there was a longing that the whole community be drawn together. There was also a concern that the younger generation were on the fringes of the community and not fully involved. There was a desire expressed to involve the young people more in community life, and for generations to come together, however many were unsure how to go about this, and a number were waiting for young people themselves to take the initiative to bridge the gap.
- It was interesting to find that many of the older people interviewed perceived that there were plenty of activities such as sports, clubs, drama, music etc., for young people to be involved in, however the young people themselves unanimously agreed that they needed more to do. A disappointment was registered that while there were sporting facilities available, there were not sporting clubs that they could be part of in their local villages, and even the sports centre acknowledged that it did not offer much for young people between the ages of twelve and sixteen.
- The Churches of the Wheatley area will be pleased to discover that in general, many felt it still had a strong role to play within the community and also in responding to the needs of youth. It was a small minority that felt that the church no longer held any relevance whatsoever. It was however generally perceived that young people in the area no longer identified with the church, and that the church would need to be prepared to change in order to meet young people where they are at.

- It was interesting to find that a number of people interviewed expressed a concern that young people had no voice within the community. It was felt by some that forming a youth council, or some kind of youth forum would be a way for the older generation to stay in touch with the needs of youth, and at the same time would help to bring young people back to the centre of the community.

The researchers were most encouraged to find a high level of commitment by key community leaders to more effectively care for the youth of the Wheatley area.

In the light of these findings, Fusion Youth and Community commits itself to network with this community and its current services.

In releasing this report Fusion Youth and Community commits itself to engage at a new level with key stakeholders from such groups as community clubs and societies, district and parish councils, national government agencies, churches, school communities, business communities and local people of goodwill, to design new responses to the above issues.





## 1.2 Introduction

Fusion Youth and Community International emerged as a creative response to socially at-risk young people in Sydney, Australia in 1960. While it began as work amongst youth, the importance of a healthy and caring community to care for a new generation has led Fusion to include extensive community work.

It is our belief that where an individual experiences meaning and community that person is resilient and can best cope with the crises life can bring.

Fusion centres are established in response to research of local needs, and over the years this has led Fusion into such things as:

- Drop in centres / Youth Cafés
- Accommodation programs
- Craft and social activities for isolated women and single mums
- Special programs for teenagers who are not fitting into the school system
- Employment programmes

Care is taken not to duplicate programs or services that are already in operation, and it is Fusion's aim to work in harmony with existing services.

Today it is an international work with around 200 staff and thousands of volunteers in 25 centres around Australia, Europe and Canada.

In 1995, Fusion Youth and Community purchased the town of Poatina from the Hydro-Electric Commission of Tasmania, Australia. An Aboriginal word meaning "shelter" or "cave", Poatina provides a unique opportunity to care for socially at-risk young people in a supportive atmosphere and offers a wide range of training and job skills. Fusion is convinced that what is happening at Poatina, in growing an economy that gives people a future, and doing it in a way that helps them make transitions from a difficult past to a hopeful future, can happen in any suburb or town where there is will to do it.

Fusion aims to help communities find creative new ways of caring for their own young people. The research team saw the need to take the time to listen carefully to what people felt to be the strengths, weaknesses, needs and possible opportunities for the area, so that Fusion and other service providers could respond appropriately, hence this research report.



## 1.3 How the Research was Conducted

This research report was undertaken by Fusion Youth and Community to determine the needs of the Wheatley area and its young people. While there is no such thing as completely objective research, this research sought to cover a diverse range of people's opinions and data sources in order to give a report which is as accurate as possible. This type of research is known as qualitative research. Qualitative research attempts to get beyond facts and figures and explore the meaning of the realities it confronts. Qualitative research gives voice to a broad cross section of opinions and looks for themes rather than numbers.

Before Fusion commences any new programmes it is clear that we need to know where our efforts will be most useful. This report will form the basis of Fusion's strategy for action in the Wheatley area.

The research method included:

### **Interviews:**

The researchers sat down and extensively interviewed 32 key community leaders, service providers, business leaders, parents and youth about their perceptions of the Wheatley area (refer to 4.1 for a list of the interview questions and 4.4 for a list of interviewees). These interviews typically went for 35 minutes to an hour.



### **Questionnaire:**

As well as utilising statistics from the comprehensive questionnaire conducted by the Wheatley Village Plan committee in June 2003, Fusion Youth and Community asked a cross section of students at the Wheatley Park Secondary School to complete a simple questionnaire regarding a local youth café and sports. (See section 4.2 for a list of these questions).

Their responses were tabulated and form part of this research document. 205 young people completed the Wheatley Village Plan Youth Survey, and 150 students completed the questionnaire regarding the youth café and local sports.

### **Desk Research:**

Desk research consisted of compiling statistics from the National Statistics 2001 census of the United Kingdom, and from the Wheatley Village Plan Statistics gathered from the results of their comprehensive survey. The researchers also utilised the local Wheatley Library and the Wheatley History Group to build its summary of the history of the Wheatley area.

## 1.4 How the Research was Presented

Each interview was transcribed and quotes were collated into different categories. At the end of this process there were many, many pages of quotes, and it was clear we could not include them all. Thus the quotes that appear in this document are a selected sample deemed to be representative of the general themes that were identified in the interviews.

If you wish to see a full transcript feel free to contact Fusion Youth and Community.

## 1.4 A Brief Social History of the Wheatley Area

Wheatley has many claims to a colourful inheritance - the late Elizabethan manor at the west end of the High Street; Wheatley Bridge, the front line outpost for Cromwell's Parliamentary forces and the Royalist forces winter capital of Charles 1 at Oxford. Holton Park manor, originally the site of a moated Norman Castle, then the headquarters for Cromwell's forces, it is believed, in the last days of the siege of Oxford. The Park was held in private ownership until requisitioned as an American military hospital in the Second World War; by the 1980's the site of the campus of Wheatley Park School.

Wheatley has developed from an agricultural village on the London to Oxford road and has served / depended on travelers when routes and modes of transport changed, the village changed too. In the early 1960's the "Beeching axe" fell on many local train services, including Wheatley, closing nearly 100 years of passenger and train services providing transport to and from Oxford, London and beyond. The development and then extension of the M40 from London to Birmingham has put Wheatley adjacent to a major national thoroughfare and is often used as short cut to parts of Oxford avoiding the Headington roundabout.

Comprehensive schooling has been provided in Wheatley since 1972, supported vigorously in its early days by, its head David John at Wheatley Park School and subsequently by its current head Nick Young. The current head of the Primary School provides a significant provision to Wheatley area enabling the premises to be used for drama, concerts and other community activities. The John Watson special school and Nursery School located on the Primary School site provides a platform for integration with mainstream schooling. (Part of the John Watson School is used by the Sixth Form, thus providing an environment where education in the village can be run as an entirety)

Social and village events are enabled by facilities including a variety of public houses, what used to be a Temperance Hotel The Merry Bells, built by Mrs Miller at the end of the nineteenth century, The New Club, the Scout premises and Youth Centre near Wheatley Primary School. For some years young people in Wheatley have been able to meet at a variety of clubs and organisations which could be described as having a distinct or associated focus for young people including groups for sports, Brownies, Girl Guides and Scouts as well as drama and music.

The memories of many long established residents regarding Wheatley and its history are rooted in community activities where the nature of society was based on a local population that both lived and worked locally, where children, educated in local schools were involved in local activities. Improved communications, and a greater mobility means that the perspective of an agricultural community has been transformed in Wheatley. Greater mobility and improved communications mean its population are



more likely than not to work outside the local area and commute to Oxford, London and beyond.

These factors changes in transport and mobility, an age of low cost access to global information and the changing needs and expectations of young people for social opportunities bring a significant and vital change to the definition of what constitutes community in general and how provision can be made for the benefit of young people who live in, commute from or to Wheatley.

## 1.5 The Wheatley Area Today

Graph 1.5.1 shows the total population of the Wheatley Area\* by age. It is good to note the large number of 18 to 21 year olds, owing mainly to university students, but also the very low number of 21 to 30 year olds, almost half the number of the 53 to 57 year olds.

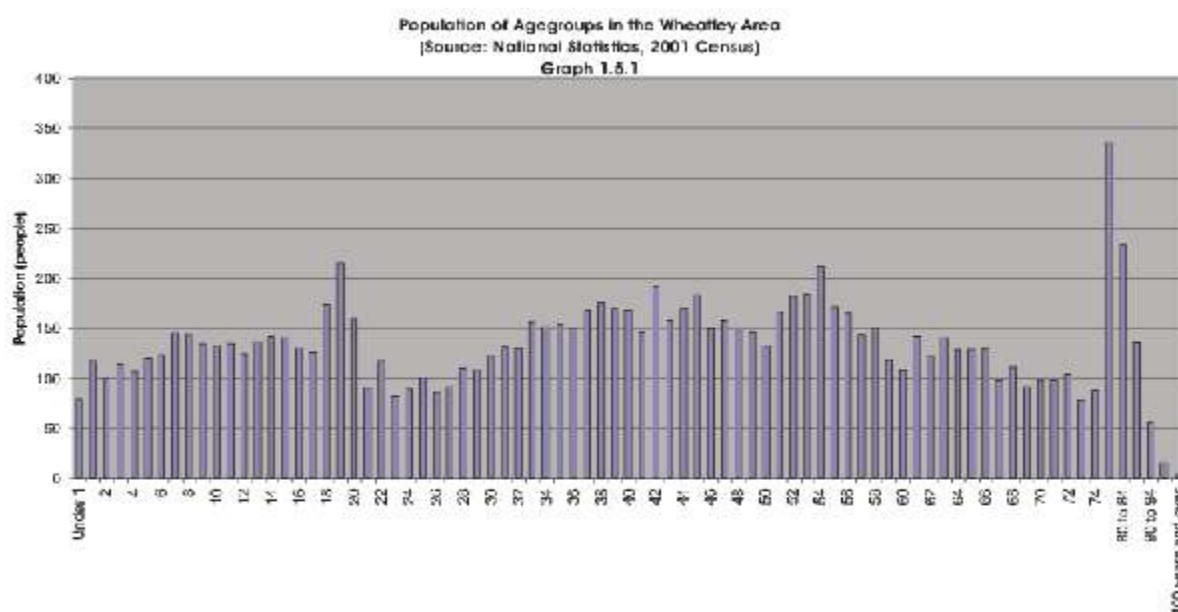


Table 1.5.2 indicates the number of young people in the Wheatley Area and of what percentage they make up of the community and also compares this with the nation's proportions. As you can see, the proportions are relatively the same.

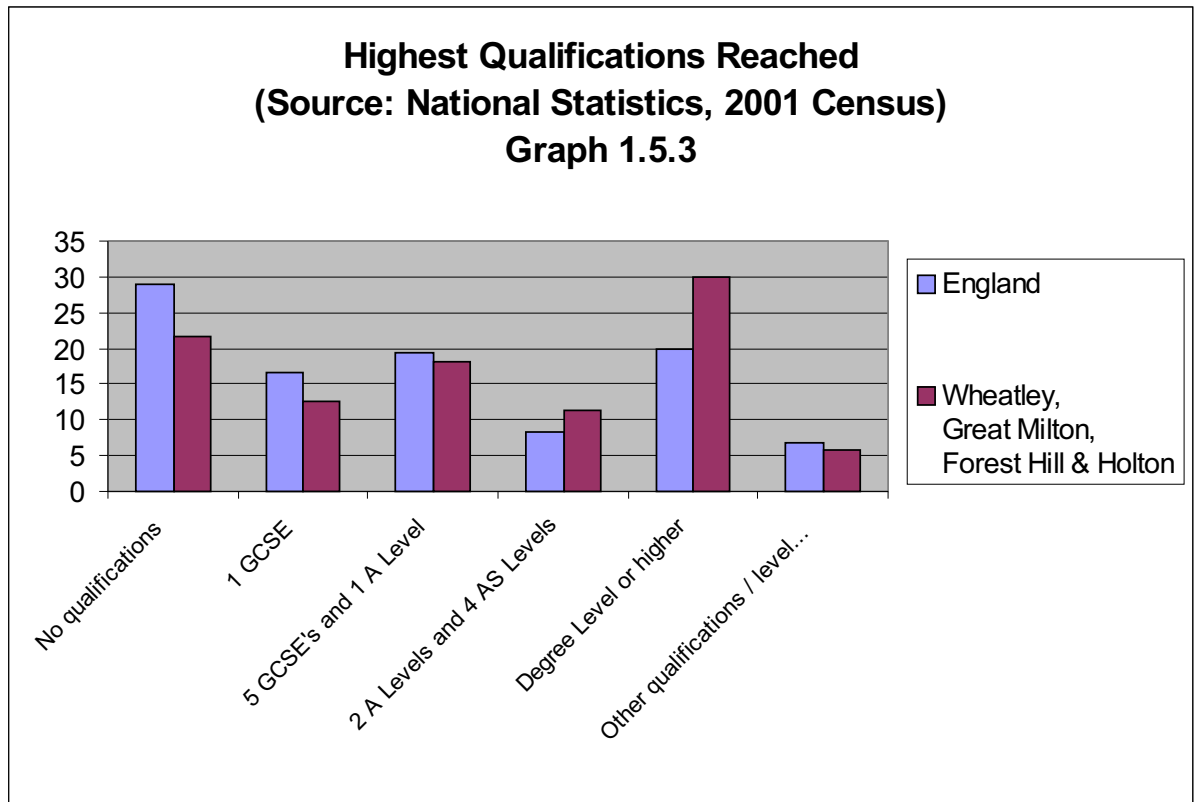
**Proportion of Teenagers compared with the whole Population**  
(Source: National Statistics, 2001 Census)  
**Table 1.5.2**

Wards	Total Aged 12 - 18yrs	Total Persons	Total in %
Wheatley, Great Milton, Forest Hill & Holton	974	10866	8.96
All of England	4366643	49138831	8.89

\* In this report, the Wheatley Area consists of the Wheatley, Forest Hill & Holton, and Great Milton wards, which contain the villages: Wheatley, Horsepath, Milton Common, Tiddington, Waterstock, Waterperry, Stanton St John, Beckley, Holton, Woodeaton, Forest Hill, Holton and Great Heseley. It was the desire of the researchers to also include Garsington and Cuddesdon within the statistics, but due to the organisation of data, was not possible.

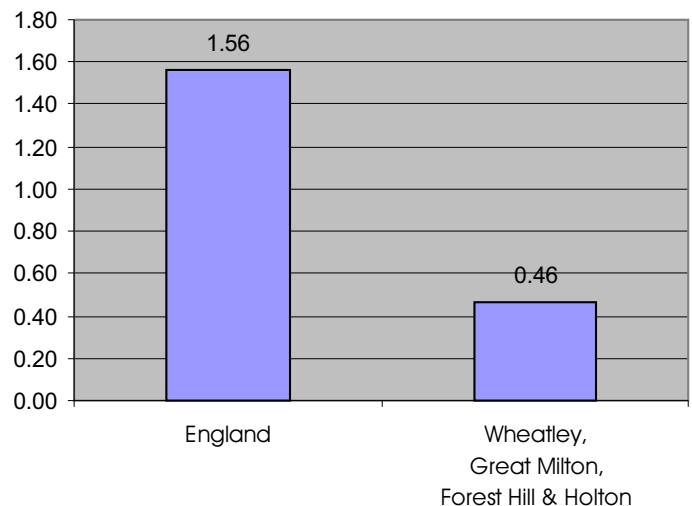


Graph 1.5.3 shows the maximum level of qualification reached by those living in the Wheatley Area. As can be seen, the Wheatley area has a larger proportion of residents who have not completed any formal qualifications, but there is a very high proportion of University graduates in the region.



**Percentage of Job Seekers Allowance Claimants  
against Population  
(Source: National Statistics, 2001 Census)  
Graph 1.5.4**

Graph 1.5.4 shows the number of people by percentage who are Job Seekers Allowance Claimants. This could indicate that unemployment in the Wheatley area is much lower than that of the whole of England, however, this would be strongly influenced by the cost of living in the Wheatley area.





## 2.1 The Community

*Within the Wheatley area there seems to be a mixture of feelings. There is a strong sense of community spirit and identity, particularly in those who have lived locally for a long time. However there is also a recognition that the fabric of the community is changing, particularly as more and more people choose to live in and around Wheatley and work elsewhere, choosing, for whatever reason, not to participate fully in community life.*

*A number of interviewees also expressed a concern that young people were not adequately catered for.*

### General Atmosphere

- "Wheatley has a nice feel to it. It's attractive."
- "I was attracted to Wheatley because it is a self-contained community, but not a small rural village."
- "Wheatley doesn't have many weaknesses. It is a perfectly pleasant area."

### Size and Diversity

- "I think Wheatley is changing a lot. It's getting a lot bigger. I think there's lots of different people around, and different ages."
- "I think that a lot of people have lived here for a long time, but there are also a lot of people who move in and leave as well. So there's a good mix of people in terms of new and those who've been around."
- "Rapidly developing in terms of housing and population."
- "There's a lot of elderly people as well who've been around for a long time."
- "I've always liked Wheatley. It's a very cosmopolitan place. It's a classic expanded village which doesn't attract the second home brigade from London, but it attracts a wide cross section of humanity."
- "We're having a small number of families from the minorities, and they integrate very well here indeed."
- "I think it's far enough from London to be not just a commuter village. It's only about 8 years since the M40 opened beyond Wheatley."
- "Wheatley is a commuter town, a dormitory. A lot of people work in Oxford, Wycombe or London and so therefore travel."
- "There is a mixture of affluent and not so affluent. For those not from wealthy backgrounds it could be difficult."
- "There are a lot of quite young families."
- "As accommodation gets more expensive, it means that the sort of people who can afford to move into the village is changing, which I think is sad. People who have lived in the villages for a couple of generations, their kids can't afford to stay there. And so you're getting real changes in the sorts of villages that they are."





- "Over the 20 years that we've lived here, because of the M40, a lot of people have come in from the towns. They can live here and work in London, Birmingham and Oxford, but they don't take part in the community. They push the prices of houses up so that local people can't even think about them. So the local people are disappearing."

### **Sense of Community**

- "The community spirit is a very positive thing."
- "There is no central hub of Wheatley no town square like in Thame."
- "The village has a heart, a centre which is the High St. where the shops are and people congregate there to meet and talk and do their shopping."
- "I think the community's got a strong centre. Well, for the middle aged and older, but I'm not so sure for the other ages."
- "When I look at Wheatley, I see a lot of very nice people, but I don't get the chance to meet them."
- "It's a quite close knit community. Everyone does seem to know everybody. There are quite a lot of extended families as well."
- "I think there could be more done for older people."
- "There are very well off people in the community, and there are those who are very obviously more disadvantaged. I think it's good to have a diverse community. I just think that there needs to be more going on that will bring them all together."
- "We find this area a very friendly community. They spend time with each other and attend local events, but this tends to relate to a core of the community. There are probably just as many people who are on the fringe and are not involved at all."
- "There's a community feeling about the place. It's not too big and there's a lot of social activities and different little groups about the village (produce, music and plays.)"
- "There are always lots of things going on in Wheatley. It's a good place to be really."
- "I think that it's a relatively safe environment."
- "There's a quite active Parish Council."
- "The people of Wheatley are very pressurised."
- "People have a lack of time. They are too busy, so it's hard to get them to do stuff."
- "I'd like to see more friendliness on the streets."
- "I wish more people would take more of an interest in voluntary activities and community activities. We need more volunteers to help with civic organisation, not just the same people all the time."
- "I don't like that old people don't feel safe with youth, but will avoid them. What's gone wrong when you have this situation."
- "The roads aren't safe. You can't let children out on their own. Mainly because



- you don't know who's around the corner."
- "There's a shortage of sheltered housing for the elderly."

### **Outlying Villages**

- "Given that Cuddesdon has no bus service, no post office, no shops, no doctors surgery, it is an extension of Wheatley which is a reverse of what it was like 150 years ago."
- "There are good connections between the different villages."
- "I think most people around here (Horton Cum Studley) are fairly comfortably off."
- "Wheatley seems to have a terrific community. I think a lot of the villages have. We have less of that here in Waterperry, perhaps because we don't have a central area."
- "One of the strengths of Forest Hill is that there are people who have lived there all their lives, and they feel really safe there. People are very committed to helping each other."
- "In the villages, kids feel safe walking along the street, even late at night."
- "I don't think there is a great sense of community in Forest Hill, but I think that it's changing."

### **Young People's Views**

- "Wheatley is quite a good area."
- "I get the impression that it is a well maintained area with a reasonable amount of things to do, the park and supermarket."
- "I think Wheatley is quite nice, depending on who you know."
- "Wheatley is a busy but quite rural place to live."
- "I think in general the Wheatley area is a very nice place to live."
- "It is nice and quiet, smells nice, clean area, nice friendly people."
- "I think that Wheatley is a good place to live because it has good access to other places, shops, recreational grounds and good sources of entertainment."
- "Strengths are shops, park, schools, etc, bus service (apart from prices)"
- "I think the strengths in Wheatley are its recreational grounds."
- "Its good as it has shops/pubs that make it better with a village life."



## 2.2 Young people today: How the older generation see them

*There is a strong feeling within the community that wider services need to be provided for young people. They also see a need for positive role models, and for young people to be encouraged and listened to. Some identified a lack of activities for youth which in some cases results in anti-social behaviour stemming from boredom. Others were concerned about the young people on the fringes who they perceive withdraw themselves from the community and choose not to get involved.*



*Other concerns identified included the effect of the media on young people and the pressure placed on them to achieve.*

### Activities

- "I wouldn't say young people had any needs. There are plenty of activities for them."
- "The problem with young people is that they always say that there's nothing to do, but I'm not sure what there would be that they would want to do at the end of the day."
- "There would be a lot of young people in Wheatley who would appreciate more to do."
- "Children today have got so much on, that they don't know which way to turn."
- "Youth are quite happy to sit in front of their computer, rather than going out for a 5 mile hike. Youth need to learn to get into groups and play more."
- "The youth want something informal. There is already heaps going on that is organised."
- "You get kids in a certain age group, between 13 and 18 years of age, when there is that period of time when they don't want to be involved, or don't want to be seen to be involved because it's cooler to be on the other side of the fence."

### Hanging Out

- "I think they need somewhere where they can have a game like billiards and snooker, have fun together, have a chat and a drink. Have plenty of music. Music's quite important."
- "There are not so many opportunities to hang out for young people. There are no coffee bars and if you're under 18 you can't go to pubs."
- "The kids need a chance to meet together, to do something great and fun together away from their parents which they like doing at their age."
- "I don't know who liases with the young people. I don't know if there is anyone in place in the community that canvases the views of the young people and who actually meets with them and speaks with them. I suspect this doesn't happen but I don't know for sure."

### Having a Voice

- "Young people don't feel that they are being represented, and that their views are not put forward; and they're not. If you bear in mind that the population of young people is quite large, their views are totally ignored and that's one of the problems."
- "I think that the parish council doesn't concern itself very much with the young people's requirements, and so the younger people see themselves as not catered for and perhaps isolated a little bit."
- "You have to consult with young people. You can't assume you know what they want."

### Relationships

- "The first step in helping youth is building relationships, getting to know them and building them up."
- "Youth need adults that aren't their parents where they can feel comfortable talking about things that they want to talk to someone about."
- "I've always been committed to the notion that young people have a huge amount to offer, and they're often stopped from offering it by an adult attitude of 'kids have limits.'"
- "The youth are very thoughtful and very understanding of their world and we don't use that enough."

### Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour

- "It (Wheatley) has a youth problem."
- "Children have a tougher time now than they have ever had."
- "There's an element of youth who haven't joined any organisation, and sometimes find their own entertainment in things like petty vandalism but that's hearsay, I have no facts."
- "We all go through a rebellious stage. You have to work with it to try and show concern and love and show (young people) that they're valued."
- "Teenagers should leave the planet for four years and come back when they're more human. Maybe they should bring in National Service."
- "The vast majority of youth are not troublemakers. There are a lot of followers, and a couple of so called leaders of trouble. They just need a little assistance and perhaps guidance through difficult years."

### Media

- "Some of the youth know more about TV characters than they do about their neighbours."
- "I don't like the type of stuff that they watch on videos. When they're 12, they're watching things designed for over 18's."



## 2.3 Young people today:

### How the younger generation see them

- "Some teenagers might not get up to any good."
- "When they/we get bored, they/we will often resort to danger or something that is not allowed."
- "Because some young people have a destructive rather than constructive attitude, I can't imagine anything provided for them that wouldn't be trashed."

## 2.4 The Family Unit

*Surprisingly only a few interviewees commented on the family unit, indicating that issues facing families, such as family breakdown and family isolation, were not major concerns. Those that did comment were concerned with the increased pressure placed on families due to both parents having to work to pay a mortgage. Concern was also raised for the level of cohesion within families.*



- "Family life is pressurised. Families are working hard to pay their mortgage there is little time for leisure."
- "One issue facing youth is family life. Inevitably where you have both parents working, you have problems. Family break-up is a problem. It leads into how young people regard themselves and their neighbours. It also affects their self-esteem and how they affect others."
- "There is a need in the village where a lot of families are very highly academic and focused on community, and maybe their kids have a specific need in terms of getting stressed about their studies."
- "I think you've got to strengthen the families. Jobs aren't from 9 - 5 now. They are more covering weekends. There's a lot of jobs now that have unsocial hours. And quite often, Dad can go out to work during the week, and Mum can go out and do the unsocial jobs when Dads at home. So the only time they probably meet is when they sit at home and have a meal."

## 2.5 Services and Facilities

*There were mixed feelings regarding the range of services and facilities available in the Wheatley area. Generally interviewees were happy with the level of services and facilities, however there were a number who indicated they would appreciate a few more shops, more adequate sports and leisure facilities, and a greater police presence. Overwhelmingly though, the community felt there needed to be a greater level of services and facilities provided for youth, which is shown strongly in the section on the community's dreams and visions for the future.*



### **Businesses**

- "Wheatley has good community groups, a good church community, a lot of sporting clubs. The school is a vital community area, which is good. It has ASDA, which is good."
- "There are still enough shops, banks, doctors surgeries and post office to keep it as an active village. It's just big enough to keep the shops from disappearing altogether."
- "I think there's still a need for one or two shops in the village."
- "I think that the village has grown in terms of houses, but not in terms of facilities to cater for that."

### **Sport and Leisure**

- "If you go to other villages, they've got a big social club come pavilion. A sort of place where a family can go and sit."
- "Perhaps the things that are missing in this area is hard play areas. Somewhere they can let off steam safely."
- "There aren't many cricket facilities here. Although there's the good, huge sports field at the primary school we have to go to Horspath for that. Likewise with football, we have to go to Holton for that. It's a shame that we have to go out of Wheatley to play such things."
- "Some of the youth complain because they are not supposed to go onto the sporting fields unless it's an organised game."
- "If you can find somewhere for both the youth and the younger kids to play in the recs, that would be great, because they don't mix very well."
- "The recreation grounds for the children are not very nice."
- "The sports centre is a very attractive place. There's plenty to do up there."
- "The Park Sports Centre is quite underused."
- "There are ample facilities here, but it's just about harnessing those young people to use them."
- "There was some talk about providing a covered area for the young people, where they could stand underneath, but because it's not quite as important as the other needs of the village, it's put on the backburner."

## Police

- "You don't see a policeman, even though there's a police building behind the Merry Bells."
- "A concern that I have is the police presence in Wheatley. A few years ago there was a great heralding of a team of people being based in Wheatley. I think it was a Sargeant, and 6 constables. I don't think we've got anyone now. But a local policeman is expanding the role in the village."
- "A local policeman goes on the year 5 camp which is great so the children can meet him before they get in trouble."
- "I think there's a weakness with the police presence and getting support and advice to help us deal with the issues of youth."
- "A little while ago, the police went into the primary schools to give lessons about 'Stranger Danger', fire in the home, and road safety. This was a very successful programme."



## Youth Centre / Hang Out

- "It would be nice if there was a meeting place for them. If you take them from 14 to 18, there isn't anything for them. They don't want anything organised, they just want somewhere to hang out and eat."
- "In Forest Hill, I know that various things have been tried for the youth. We have a green play area and park and there has been a building put there for the youth and the community but it's been vandalised to a point where it can't be used."
- "I suspect that because of County Council financial restrictions, what was once a thriving youth club with its own premises has really died a death. There is a lack of trained youth workers who would also reach out to the surrounding villages."
- "I don't know that the youth centre is very popular. I'd like to see something done about that like put on film shows or something. Make it more attractive."
- "If people want to resource the youth of Wheatley, they need to throw money at it. Young people have a right to a safe, warm, friendly environment. We either need people who can volunteer, or who can be paid."
- "I think there are lots of facilities, but just not enough people to lead them (young people)."
- "It's not just about buildings and having things for young people to do, it's also important for them to know they can access counselling services and health services, which boys are not so good at."
- "The majority of youth just want somewhere to go where they can escape home from time to time. Because they get fed up of the confines of their own home. But unless they've got somewhere specific to go, they end up just sitting in bus shelters, or hanging around the primary school."

## Young People's Views

- "I think more forms of entertainment for teenagers would be good."
- "I don't think it has any good facilities for people aged 13 and over."
- "I don't think there's many places for young people to go."
- "A youth club would be good, but if they were not so strict it would be great."
- "All young people enjoy recreational areas and places to go and have fun."
- "Young people need another park, tennis court and football pitch."
- "Something more for young people. There seems to be a gap - there is the park for children, pubs for over 18's but not enough for the gap."
- "Young people need somewhere they can go to without hanging around on streets where they can relax and chill-out."
- "Young people need somewhere to relax, to be safe and to meet up with friends."
- "To have a play area/footy pitch."
- "Somewhere to go if you're worried/upset about something in confidence."
- "Young people need somewhere safe to have fun and play. More grass areas to play football rugby etc."
- "Young people need a group looking out for everyone and not just police."
- "There aren't many safe places to go with friends."
- "I'd like to see the rec. with more things."

## 2.6 Activities

*These responses reveal that most people are quite happy with the number of different clubs, societies and activities in the Wheatley area. There were however a few interviewees who felt quite strongly that there was a need for more sporting clubs, and some who felt that there needed to be more activities aimed at the interests of young people.*

- "There are a whole lot of organisations in Wheatley: drama group, walking group, music group, over 60's group."
- "There are plenty of activities for young people."
- "There is a lack of organised social events. There is nothing really going on that we hear about. If there are things going on, they're not really well publicised."
- "There is lots and lots going on in the Wheatley area. People can't be bored here."
- "I think there's a huge lack of things for youth to do. I think back to when my kids were teenagers, there were youth clubs or places for the youth to go. It was a place where they belonged."
- "Anything I personally wanted to do, I could do in Wheatley. The activities that are available for me are there. Bearing in mind it is a rural area, the facilities have to be shared ie. the swimming pool is in Thame, the Sports Park is in Wheatley."

## **Sport**

- "Quite a few youth go up to the Sports Centre, which is good."
- "I think the county as a whole has suffered because the council hasn't had a sports development officer for a few years now. I think they have hired someone now, but it's only new."
- "Youth from 12- 16 don't really seem to want to do the activities that are provided at the Park Sports Centre."
- "I love that the Park Sports Centre has roller-blading on Saturday night for youth."
- "Sport is a great leveller. It doesn't matter if you're the richest kid in the village or the poorest if you've got a skill, you're level on the playing field."
- "If local people could be encouraged to form a cricket club, do more for the football, even an adult club."
- "Holton have got a great cricket club, but not Wheatley. It's a great shame because there's always been a great bit of competition between the two."
- "The Wheatley old boys cricket club was a great thing because we were all over 50 and we had matches with our sons. It doesn't happen so much now."
- "Sport is always a good thing across the generations."



## **Clubs / Society's / Programmes**

- "There are a lot of societies here. Historical and agricultural, which try to generate interest amongst the local people for that sort of thing."
- "There are a lot of clubs that are crying out for youth to become involved, but there is always a group who don't want to be involved with things organised by adults. But this is only a minority."
- "As soon as you organise something that's very formal, they (young people) won't want to go. They want to do it on their own."
- "It's mostly the over 30's who join in the Wheatley Society. There aren't any young people in this."
- "By having a youth group, we channel them into making use of that time to actually do purposeful things. And perhaps protecting them from ostracising others who might not get to go around to other people's houses."
- "I still think that the local youth groups are great. They help to build up local community. If we could run camps and other events that would be really great."

## **Drama / Music**

- "You've got the Wheatley Productions that do a drama twice a year. This involves quite a few from the community."
- "For people that are interested in the performing arts (which Wheatley Park is specialising in) there are opportunities for young children to take part in plays."
- "They've got a soul band at the school now which is brilliant."



## The Youth's Views

- "It doesn't really seem to be a problem as far as facilities, but rather clubs to join and actually use the facilities. Wheatley has football pitches, a sports centre, tennis and hockey pitches and rugby and track and so on, but no clubs to use them."
- "A good youth club or something fun to do. There are only recreational grounds which are good for younger children."
- "Because there is not a lot to do, nor are the bus services cheap or go on into evenings (later buses) people end up out on the streets in evenings."
- "My concern regarding young people in Wheatley is boredom. I don't think there is enough to do."
- "I'd like to see something more to do in the village."
- "There is a problem of not having anything to do in the village."
- "I'd like to see rock concerts and sports events."

## 2.7 Social Issues

*Many of the issues identified by those interviewed were to do with the antisocial behaviour of some young people, the gap between the generations and drugs and alcohol. It was interesting to note that many interviewed remembered a time when drugs were a major problem in the area, but few identified it as being a current concern.*

### Generation Gap

- "I don't like that old people don't feel safe with youth, but will avoid them. What's gone wrong when you have this situation."
- "Youth don't have contact with the older people like they used to."
- "It would be nice if the youth could meet the older people somehow. I do think there is a widening gap between young people and older people."
- "Older people are intolerant of youth. Perhaps we could work to bring the groups together."
- "Older people were brought up in the 40's when there was discipline in the home, and discipline in the school. Moral values were different. They can't relate to young people today because they haven't moved with the times. But young people are brought up in the 21st century. Their values are different."
- "If you go and speak to a young person in a rude and inappropriate way, you can expect to be treated in the same way. The view of respect has changed through the generations."





- "The last thing I want for my child is to have him hanging around the street."
- "About 5 or 6 years ago on a Friday night the youth used to come from surrounding villages and clog up the high street. There were hundreds of them. They don't do it any more though."
- "We hear lots of complaints about the youth hanging around on street corners and in the bus shelters, but most of the time they are not doing anything wrong."

### **Petty Crime and Vandalism**

- "There has been a building put there (Forest Hill) for the youth and the community but it's been vandalised to a point where it can't be used."
- "There's an element of youth who haven't joined any organisation, and sometimes find their own entertainment in things like petty vandalism but that's hearsay, I have no facts."
- "You're always going to get people who don't want to be involved in any form of organised activity and from then you develop into the people who hang around on the street corners and that develops into petty vandalism and antisocial behaviour."
- "There's still a lot of graffiti and a lot of litter and a lot of other antisocial behaviour. If that could be gotten rid of by making the youngsters a bit more civic minded, a bit more aware of their social responsibilities, I think that would be quite helpful."

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

- "Drugs are my main concern for young people."
- "Some years ago Wheatley hit the press as being the drugs capital of Southern England. Obviously that was a total exaggeration or fabrication I would say. Most places that are of a similar size, and have a secondary school and a university close by are always going to have some drugs knocking around."
- "I don't know if there is a problem of drugs anymore. Police really cracked down on this and it seems much better."
- "People talk about there being drugs, but I've never experienced it."
- "Most young people on the streets will know of some friends with drugs, or know someone who is taking it, but only soft drugs. There is no evidence to support any hard drug use in Wheatley any more."
- "I see kids smoking stuff and drinking."
- "I don't think that Wheatley has a serious drug problem any longer."
- "The kids here (Horton Cum Studley) don't have too many social issues. They're perhaps almost a little behind their peers in such things as drugs and alcohol."

### **Other**

- "The kids in the outer villages (apart from Wheatley itself) don't have as strong needs in coming to terms with teenage pregnancy, or suicide or other social issues. They see these issues from a point of observation."

- "There's no sort of barriers (against pornography on the internet and such things) everything is out in the open and it's there for the grabbing."
- "The media says, "you have to be beautiful, you have to be all these things otherwise you'll get nowhere." They look at themselves and say, "I'm not like that", and it frustrates them and makes them angry, because they'll never be like that. I think that it's our generation's fault in letting the media do what it's done."

## Young People's Views

- "One problem which we see lots is vandalism. There's phone boxes get smashed the rec is not very safe with bottles everywhere and the graffiti."
- "I am concerned about safety for young people."
- "A few years back I heard Wheatley was drug capital of Oxford, but I don't know how true that is. Stamping out stuff like that would appear a high priority."
- "Because there aren't a great deal of things to do in Wheatley a lot of gangs are finding other things to do such as graffiti and joy riding."
- "When they (young people) are bored, they will often vandalise."
- "It concerns me how many (young) people drink, smoke, and get stoned."
- "I am concerned about how much people smoke, take drugs and drink. And that people con them into doing it."
- "I'd like to stop things being vandalised when they (young people) are bored."
- "It has too many dodgy places and vandalism all round."
- "One problem which we see lots is vandalism. There's phone boxes get smashed, the rec is not very safe with bottles everywhere and the graffiti."

## 2.8 Employment

*There were not many comments regarding employment or issues to do with unemployment, which indicates it is not a major concern in the Wheatley area.*

- "There is a small amount of local business, particularly the shops. There is very little industry here."
- "I think the youth get input from the school as to where they need to go to sign on the unemployment register or to look for work if they need it."
- "There's not much employment here, not for young people anyway, and so they are forced to travel to Wycombe or Oxford instead."
- "If you're of the employable age, you can get a job no worries around here in Wheatley. If you can't get a job here, you just jump on the bus and go to Oxford." "Young people have plenty of opportunities for work."
- "ASDA employs a lot of young people and students from the university."
- "When I left school, there was apprenticeships and it was good in one aspect because young people were forced to work with older people who were teaching them a trade and so there was respect from younger people to the older generation."



## Roads, Traffic and Transport

*There were mixed feelings regarding transport and traffic. The problem of traffic within the village of Wheatley evoked strong emotion in some interviewees, while opinions were divided about the adequacy of the bus service.*

- "Wheatley developed during the time of pack horses. It was a main route. The roads are now clogged in mornings and tea time by cars and lorries. And the pavements are not up to scratch."



### Traffic:

- "The major problem of virtually every village in this area is traffic. The traffic is either going through or is created by parents driving their kids to school."
- "If you've got that volume of traffic going through, the roads are never safe."
- "They're fiddling around now with traffic calming, but this won't help. They won't get it right until they build a little bypass road around Wheatley."

- "I'd like to see less cars going to school."

### Buses:

- "Even though Wheatley is close to Oxford, having to catch buses is difficult."
- "There's a good bus service."
- "Certainly for the outlying villages, there is a problem of poor transport."
- "Although there is quite a good bus service that goes out of the village, I don't know when the last one goes at night. I think that is a problem."
- "I would love to see a local community bus that brings people to the Park Sports Centre or to ASDA. Some kind of improved transport between the villages."

### Other:

- "Car parking is a big issue. The Merry Bells and the other council car park are always full."
- "A lot of the youth want cycle paths; between the village and ASDA and not just a strip of road with a line down it, but a proper bike track. Perhaps also between the village and school."

### Young People's Views

- Young people need a better bus service.
- The bus services are not cheap or go on into evenings (later buses)
- (Wheatley) does have a good bus service.
- There is a problem of not being able to get anywhere else with buses only going every couple of hours (from Forest Hill).



## 2.10 School and Education

*While one or two interviewees were concerned with the pressure of high expectations placed on young people at school, the majority were generally positive about all that was offered at Wheatley Park Secondary School.*

- "This area has good schools."
- "Although Wheatley Park has students from Risinghurst and the city ring, the predominant atmosphere is rural."
- "I think the youth put too much pressure on themselves to perform."
- "They've got high expectations at school, getting homework from a much younger age."
- "The philosophy in schools has changed to the extent that teachers do not put as much time as they used to into extra curricula activities. I suspect this is due to so much paper work."
- "Wheatley Park tries to work with the more difficult children."
- "By and large the culture in the school is of students helping each other. We've got a long tradition of 6th formers helping in other classes."
- "There's quite a lot of extra curricula activities that go on after school. Conservation, sports and music."
- "I'd like to erode the separation between the year groups at school and get the different ages to mix more."
- "I would like to see the local youth workers coming into school assemblies more."
- "I'd quite like to serve healthy food at school during lunch times. I don't think there's much healthy food at the school."

## Young People's Views

- "I'd have people working as volunteers in lessons because in some classes there is one teacher, but all the kids need help and so the class gets really rowdy."

## 2.11 The Church

*A key part of this research was to evaluate how the community viewed the Church as a resource in caring for its young and servicing the whole community. Here is a cross-section of those responses:*

### The Church and Youth

- "The youth don't have any other forum than the church to hear the Christian message."
- "I recognise that churches will have to change if they want to attract younger people."
- "I think the church has a limited role in modern day society. I don't think the church is in tune with what the youth want, or what the youth need."





- "I'd like to see a youth group that's fun for the youngsters, but not emphasising that it's to do with the church. Especially for an older group like 14 - 18 year olds."
- "I think the church has got to take more part with the youth, get involved with them get to know them. Try to understand them. Talk to them, rather than talking at them."
- "I think the church is always

valuable. There is a sort of natural community there. The down-side is that the young people won't identify with it unless there are the personalities that enable them to overcome any prejudices or preconceived ideas."

- "There's a lot of different types of churches. The churches have done some good things with children lately, like the Easter thing at the Primary School."
- "I have a view that any formal local youth work should not be church based. It would be too exclusive."
- "I think the community is quite welcoming of youth centres, even if they are run by Christians."
- "The church youth group is a place where they don't have to perform, but where it's entirely about them having fun."
- "I don't think the church and church leaders have that much training about youth and their needs in the 21st century. I think they should be cautious about how much they do get involved."
- "It would be nice to see Sunday Schools as they used to be, but I don't think this would happen again, mainly because the parents don't go."
- "The youth need someone to take them under their wing and talk to them and listen to them, and just understand them. I think that this would be the church's role, and to teach the community to do this."

### **The Church in the community**

- "People find peace, direction, focus, vision and discipline - which is needed for life - through the Christian faith. So the church can give these blessings to people."
- "An important role of the church is community builder, such as social events."
- "It's up to the church to get out there, but it can't make people come."
- "All churches try to regenerate the fabric of society."
- "It's a duty of the church to look after the moral fabric of the society. Keeping feet on the ground, keeping a perspective and keeping people's minds open."
- "The first vicar of Wheatley was sent not only to preach the gospel, but to try and make Wheatley a better place. He built the church, the school, the vicarage, and ran a soup kitchen. If you're not doing any good in the community, then what good are you at all?"
- "I think with Wheatley Area Churches we have become better at working together to help the whole community, rather than just helping a small group of

- the community around us."
- "The church provides a well-established meeting place for community to gather.
  - "The church is just an old building that you walk past. It's irrelevant."
  - "I think the church should be 'funkier' and have more festivals."
  - "The church should be somewhere where you can go to talk to someone, not just a place where benefits are handed out."

## Young People's Views

- "I feel that the churches in the Wheatley area probably have a more negative impact on people at school because they come across as very traditional, and not appealing or accessible to young people."

## 2.12 Dreams/Visions for the Future

*When asked what sort of future they would like to see for the next generation many positive and encouraging dreams were disclosed. The core theme was the need for young people to find their place and their role within the community.*

### Role Models/Youth Workers

- "I would like to see more adults helping out in supporting what is going on for the youth."
- "I'd like the youth to have people who aren't teachers or relatives that they can talk to."
- "I think there should be mentoring programmew where a stable person adopts a delinquent; a good role model who talks their language and always has their best interests at heart."
- "I would put my money into people and not into things. I would get a group of people who are very committed and have the personality and energy to get things off the ground. Things come later."
- "I'd like detached youth workers to work with the young people who don't want to come to a building."

### Youth Café / Hang Out

- "I'd like the Youth Centre to have a cinema, music and film studio."
- "I would like to provide somewhere (for young people) to hang out a skate park, a youth centre and outdoor facilities like an all-weather pitch."
- "I would expand the youth centre to be a youth coffee shop with younger committed people running it that the teenagers can associate with easily."
- "I would set up a night clubby type of place for 14 years onwards, perhaps run by the 17 or 18 year olds."
- "I'd like to see a drop-in centre with a pool table and internet access. Designed specifically for youth in the evenings. A place that's clean, safe and drug free. Perhaps it could be available for others during the day as well."
- "If the kids can run their own coffee shop, I think they will be more interested."



### **Youth Forum**

- "I would like to see a forum where the kids could make their views known. To express what they want."
- "It would be good to have a group to consult with. Not so much a youth council, but a youth forum."

### **Sports / Recreation**

- "I'd like to see a new sports pavilion, perhaps at the primary school. It could be a pavilion and a coffee shop, with a skate park out the back."
  - "I'd like to see one or two sports clubs getting off the ground."
  - "I would like to see a motorbike club. To teach them how to ride them safely and maintain them."
- "The dance studio at the sports centre would make a good disco site."
  - "It would be great for the community to have an active SODC sports officer."
  - "I would like to see a swimming pool and a flood lit Astroturf pitch in Wheatley."
  - "I think young people should get out more from the village. It would be good to have adventure type holidays."
  - "I would like to see more children using bicycles and walking; it's sort of an independent thing."

### **Arts/Drama**

- "I'd love to go into schools and put on musicals."
- "I think it would be lovely to get people along to teach the young people to play the music that they want to play."

### **Community**

- "I would like the younger people to be brought more into contact with the older people."
- "I'd love the youngsters to think about what they could do for the rest of the community. It would show them that they have a part to play."

### **Young People's Views**

"I'd like to see a place built/developed for teenagers to go to after school, etc. A bit like a drop-in centre."

- "I think a strong youth club would be great."
- "I'd like to see youth have free time filled with something productive."
- "I'd like to see something more for the 'gap' in young people (those below 18 and above 10), Improved bus services to make it possible for young people to get out and about more. Very expensive at the moment and don't run regularly or late enough."



- "I'd like maybe another park, or activities in a hall or some kind of club."
- "I would like to see that there is a place to go and is a place to play around whilst safe. Also a café for kids, run by kids"
- "I'd like somewhere safe to play where there is no litter, not cigarettes everywhere and no-one around on mopeds in places."
- "We should make clubs and actual under 18's night clubs!! But make it good so there's not youth workers telling everybody to calm down. Make it like town hall, an internet café."
- "I'd like there to be some sort of club, although club sounds very elitist and isn't a word I like. I suppose they would do activities and educate the youth. It would obviously have to appeal so day trips and so on would be good. Run during the evenings in order to (although it sounds corny and extreme), keep them off the streets."
- "I'd like youth to be more involved with the development of Wheatley including organising productions, and village fetes."
- "I'd like large programmes to get everyone involved e.g. art - murals on some places, like public toilets. People to organise events such as days out."
- "I'd like there to be a place where you can drop into after school with soft/drinks/snacks available with pool tables, games consoles, etc. Also a media suite with full facilities/really good equipment (cameras, computers, etc) as I know some people are interested in that."
- "I'd like more supervised activities, an under 18's club which is also supervised, exciting things to do in the village and an Internet Café."
- "I'd like a bigger park with climbing frames, swings and slides and an all day youth club with different activities."
- "I'd like a massive park with everything for all kids aged 1 to 21 or so. No drugs, no drink. You could be safe and even feel it."
- "I'd like to show them (young people) the dangers of drugs and drinking and to keep everyone safe around the village."
- "I'd have people working as volunteers in lessons at school."
- "I'd like to set up a cooking club for homeless people in Oxford."





## 3.0 Recommendations and Conclusion

### Recommendation 1

That a suitable venue be found where young people can come and socialise and 'hang out' with their friends in an informal setting. It is recommended that this youth venue be available for young people to 'drop in' from when school finishes until early evening each weekday. It is understood that volunteers drawn from the local community would be needed to make this possible.

### Recommendation 2

That the current County Council Youth Centre be opened more than one evening a week possibly Friday and Saturday evenings (subject to support from volunteers).

### Recommendation 3

That a Youth task force be established of 10-15 young people who participate in decision making with youth related issues. We recommend that this group be represented by a variety of young people with diverse interests and backgrounds who would make recommendations to parish council. It would be our hope that a group like this would be resourced and supported by both the parish council and the local community, organising relevant community-building events and speaking on behalf of their peers in the region.

### Recommendation 4

That adult members of the community find ways to use their skills to serve young people. This could involve running sporting clubs or other interest groups such as a moped club, or craft group, or teaching various skills such as fishing, mechanics, beauty care, abseiling and rock climbing.

### Recommendation 5

That community events be organised in the village that are specifically aimed at young people, such as youth festivals, concerts, skate competitions, "battle of the bands", youth expo to let young people know the range of activities available to them throughout the area, community art projects.

In the light of these recommendations Fusion Youth and Community will seek to:

- Work on programmes that develop the sense of community in and around the Wheatley area, programmes that are particularly aimed at drawing generations together.
- Work to proactively bring together the needs of young people with the resources currently available within the community to serve the Wheatley area's young people.



- Work with the Oxfordshire County Council Youth work and Church youth groups to provide a united response to the needs of Wheatley's young people.
- Work to find an appropriate venue to establish a new youth centre/café that can be open from the finish of school until early evening.
- Utilise our experience to help establish this youth venue, and to recruit and train volunteers.
- Work with Wheatley Park Secondary School to provide programmes that help to build community within the school, help to build student's self esteem, develop student leadership, and that support students struggling within the school context.
- Establish recreational programmes for young people.

## **Conclusion:**

Our hope is that this research document provides inspiration and a way forward for bridging between generations and knitting the community of the Wheatley area even more strongly together. This research is an invitation for the community of Wheatley to join together to give every young person a place to belong and a community-base from which they can explore and complete their God-given potential.

## 4.1 Interview Questions

1. How long have you lived/worked in the Wheatley area?
2.
  - a) Tell us about your general impression of the Wheatley area.
  - b) What are some of the community's strengths? (What would you like to celebrate about the community)
  - c) What in the community do you think could be strengthened?
3.
  - a) What do you think are the needs of young people in the area?
  - b) What concerns you?
  - c) In a years time what would you like to see changed?
4. What programs or services do you know of that are available for young people in the Wheatley area?
5. What do you see as your role, if any, in working with young people?
6. Imagine you had unlimited resources and a team of youth and community workers at your disposal.... What would be your plan for the future of Wheatley's young people?
7. What do you see as the churches role in assisting the local community?



## 4.2 Questionnaire to Young People

### Young People Of the Wheatley Area



Personal Details:

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_.

Village: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_.

How long have you lived in the Wheatley area? \_\_\_\_\_.

1) If Wheatley were to have a youth café, what hours would you be most likely to use it? (You can tick more than one)

Time (eg: 3 - 6pm, 8 - 10pm)

Mon \_\_\_\_\_.

Tues \_\_\_\_\_.

Wed \_\_\_\_\_.

Thurs \_\_\_\_\_.

Fri \_\_\_\_\_.

Sat \_\_\_\_\_.

Sun \_\_\_\_\_.

None - I wouldn't use it.

2) What sort of things would you like to see happen in the youth Café?

3) Would you be interested in helping to run a Youth Café in Wheatley?

Yes  No

4) Are there any sports you would participate in if they were run in the Wheatley Area?

5) What other events / activities would you like to see for youth in the Wheatley Area



### **4.3 About the Researchers**

Dan and Danielle Evenhuis have recently moved to Wheatley from Australia to help establish and coordinate youth work for Fusion Youth and Community UK. Dan has been a secondary school teacher for seven years, and for three of those years was head-teacher at a school for socially 'at-risk' 16-18 year olds. He has completed a diploma in Youth and Community work and has been working with Fusion since 2001. Danielle has been a primary school teacher for five years, but took time out to complete her qualification as a youth worker in 2001. Dan and Danielle are about to become parents for the first time (possibly any day now as this is typed). They both really enjoyed the experience of meeting and interviewing local people for this research project.

### **4.4 Special thanks goes to:**

The Wheatley Village Plan Committee for the use of their statistics, findings and photos taken by students of the Wheatley Primary School

All those who participated in interviews

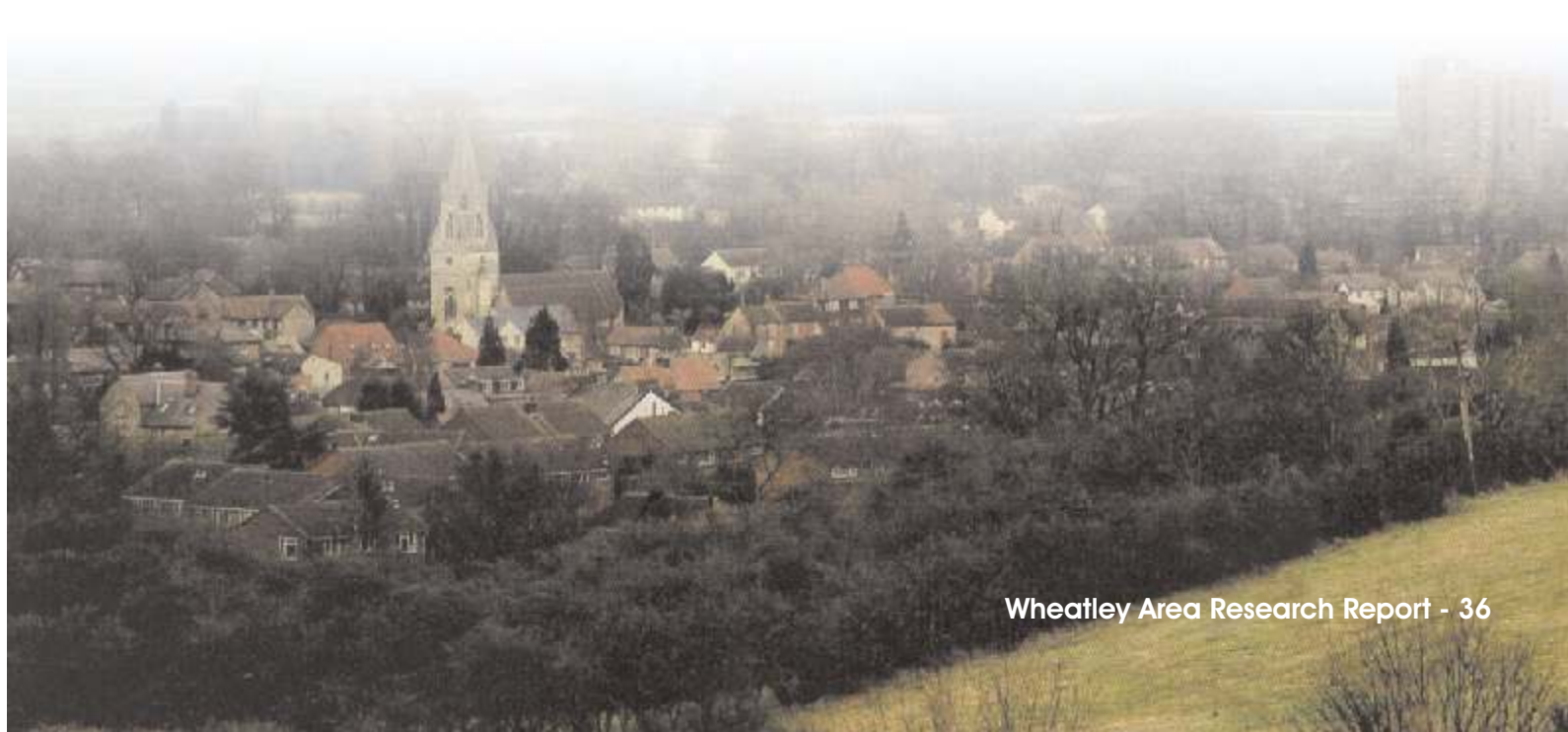
The Wheatley Archives - For permission to rummage around the archives to find photos and books

Cyril Newton - For writing "A brief social history of the Wheatley Area" and general support in publicity.

Jill and Gordon Ewbank - For taking a Saturday aside for data entry and spreadsheet expertise

Jennifer Newton and Veronica - For proof reading

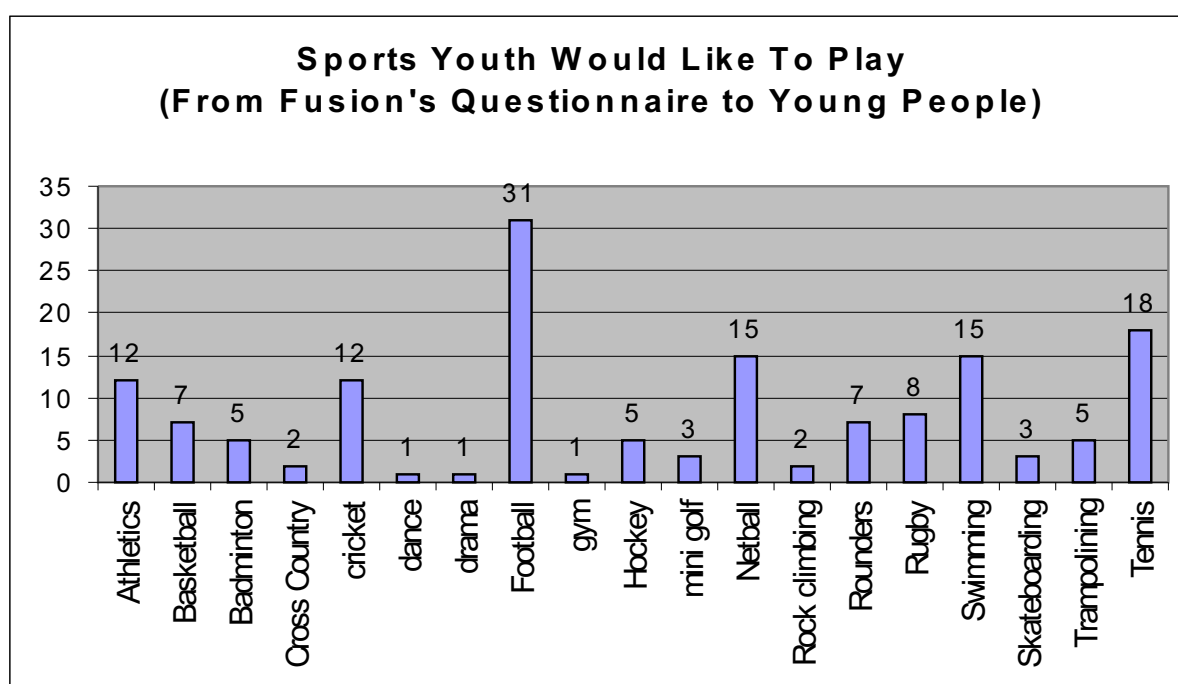
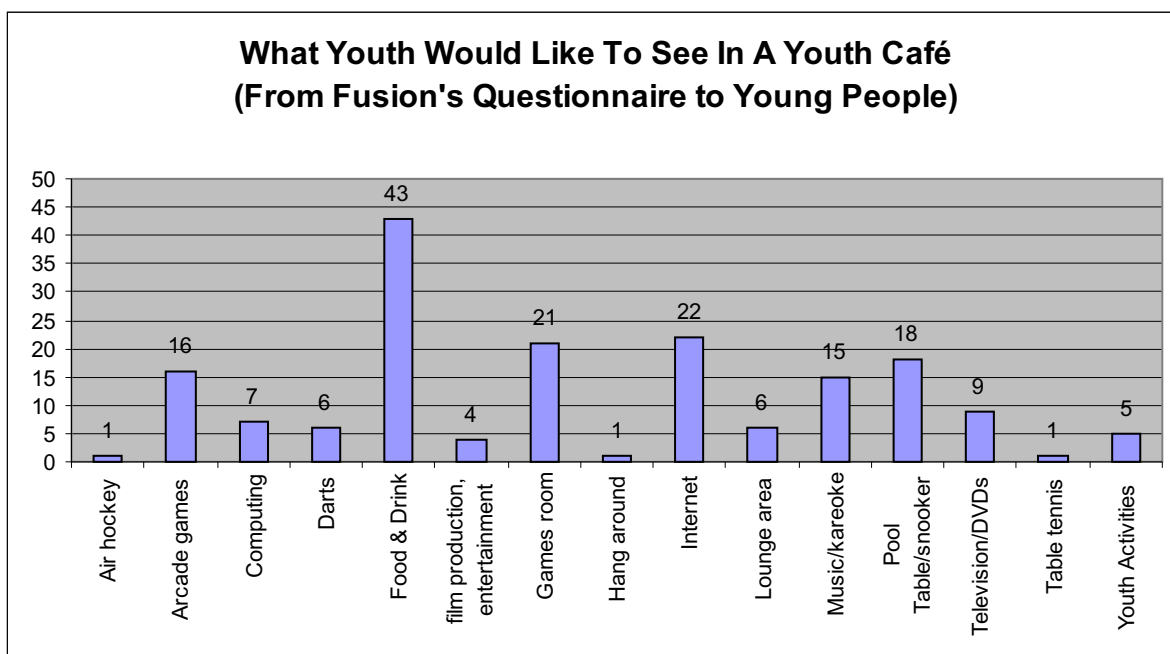
Jim Watson - For general support and encouragement



## 4.5 Survey Statistics

The following two graphs are the results taken from the questionnaire conducted by a sample of students from the Wheatley Park School. 150 questionnaires were completed. Some of the major findings are listed below:

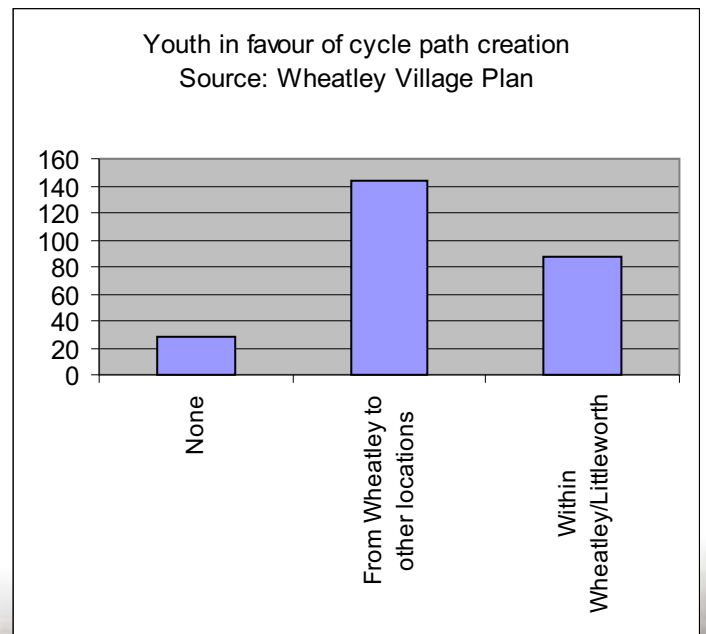
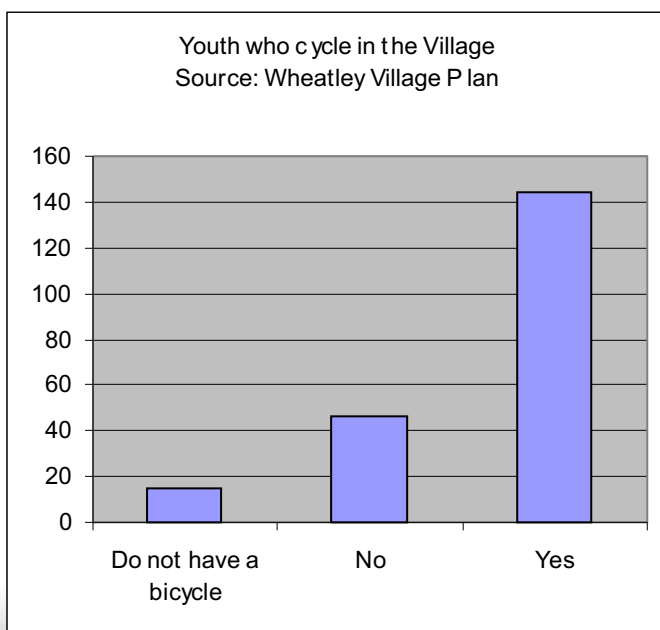
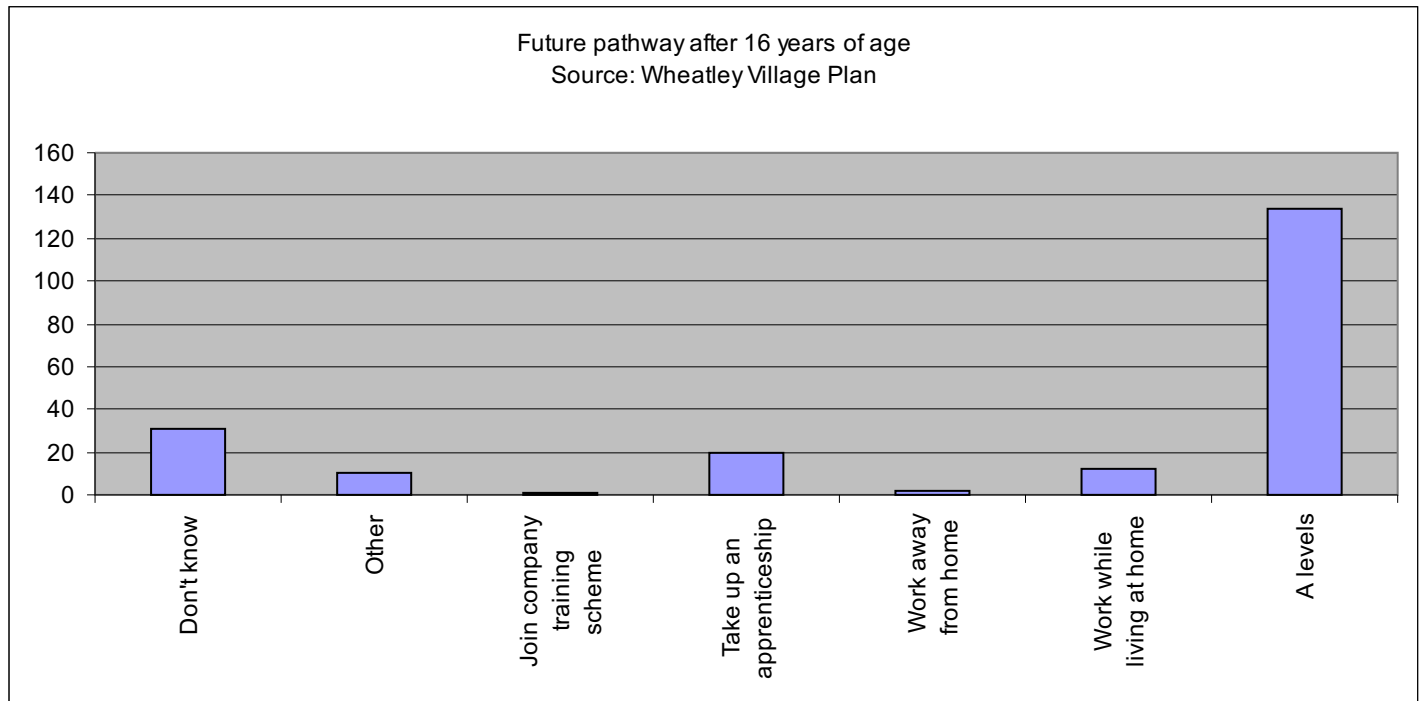
- 23% of the young people said that they would be interested in helping to run a youth café
- Most youth wanted to have a café open in the early afternoon (around 3pm - 6pm) or on Friday and Saturday night
- Most of the young people said that they would like to join sporting clubs in the area.



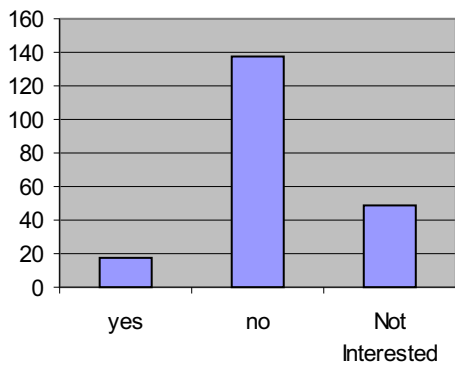


## A Selection of Statistics from the Wheatley Village Plan Survey

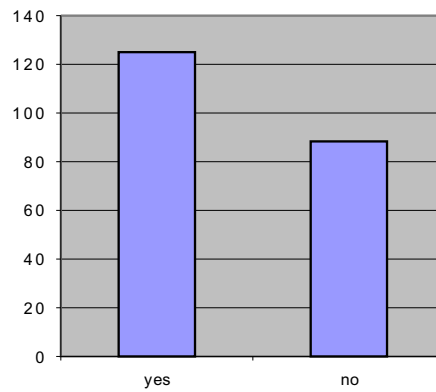
The following graphs are taken from the Wheatley Village Plan Survey which was conducted in June 2003. 205 young people between the age of 11 and 17 completed the survey.



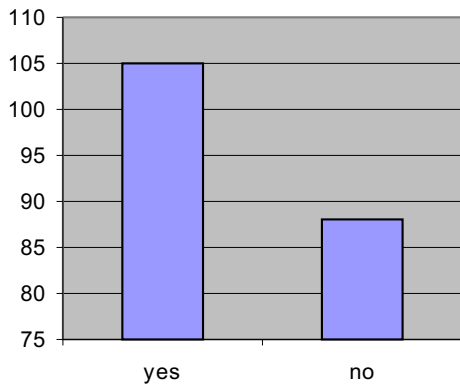
**Young People Who Use the Youth Centre**  
Source: Wheatley Village Plan



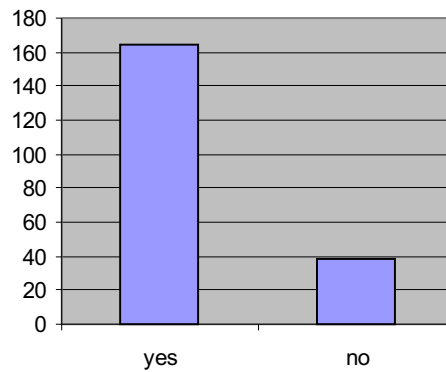
**Youth who would use a Youth Cafe once per week**  
Source: Wheatley Village Plan



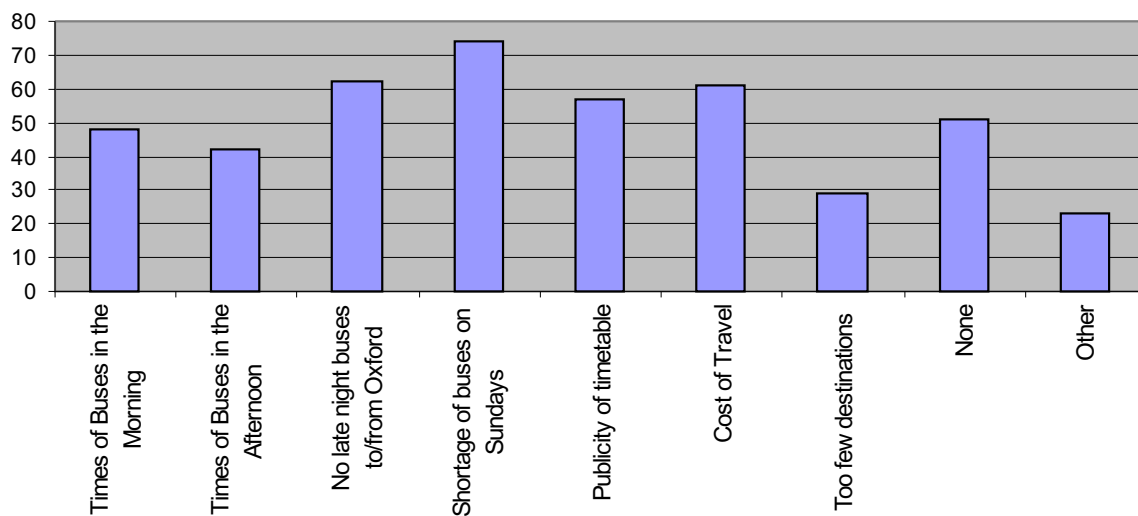
**Youth who would like the Youth Centre open more often**  
Source: Wheatley Village Plan



**Need for More Places for Young People to Hang Out**  
Source: Wheatley Village Plan



**Problems with the Bus Service**  
Source: Wheatley Village Plan



## 5.0 References

"Wheatley Celebrates" a booklet to mark Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee celebrations - Extracts from the Wheatley Records, 1977, Forward written by W. O. Hassall.

"The story of Wheatley and Holton Park.", Edited by John Fox, 2000, Alden Press, Oxford.

Wheatley Village Plan, June 2003 Survey Results (unpublished)

National Statistics Website, 2001 Census, July 2004, [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

## 6.0 Contacts

Fusion Youth and Community UK  
82 High St, Wheatley  
Oxon, OX331XP

Phone: (01865) 876 939  
eMail: [office@fusionyac.org](mailto:office@fusionyac.org)

Fax: 0870 119 1853  
[www.fusionyac.org](http://www.fusionyac.org)

## People Interviewed

Thank you to all those below who gave their time to be interviewed, your willingness to voice your opinions and ideas made this research project possible.

Paul Roberts	Senior teacher at Wheatley Park Secondary School
Clive Hallett	Headmaster of Wheatley CE Primary School
Bernice Rye	Wheatley District Commissioner for Guides
Julia Colclough	Manager, Wheatley Sports Complex
Jim Watson	Chairperson of Wheatley Society
Anne Purse	County Councilor / Beckley Youth club coordinator
Dan Wilkinson	Former coordinator of Wheatley youth club
Barbara Joiner	Secretary of the URC Church
Rev. James Watson	Vicar of St Mary's Anglican Church
Pam Bell	Health Visitor, Member of leadership team at the Granary Church
Kathy Hawley	Chairperson of Wheatley Area Churches, Member of Our Lady of Lords Catholic Church
Warwick Teague	Youth Group leader, Horton Cum Studley Anglican Church
Kirsty Teague	Youth Group leader, Horton Cum Studley Anglican Church
Bec Matthews	Holton Children's Ministry, Drama producer
Roger Bell	District Councilor
Paul Gregory	Thames Valley Police
Kevin Jackson	Oxfordshire County Council Youth Worker for Thame, Wheatley, Chinnor and Chalgrove.
Dawn Dunbar	Parent of young person
Bev Price	Parent of young person
Bruce Garrod	Parent of young person

### Young People:

Joy Dunbar  
Mary Hurst  
Leanne Jones  
Charlotte Gabard  
James Baxter  
Michelle Slater  
Hannah Halford  
Rishi Mullett-Sadaves  
Victoria Clark  
Sophie White  
Donal Arand-Shaw  
James Fudner

