East Elmbridge Engagement Event:

2nd December, Cobham Free School

NAC Engagement Overview

Event Overview
We met with a group of peer-elected students at the Cobham Free School on the 2nd December as part of the Youth Booth initiative. Representing the diversity of the local community, these young people took part in a focus-group style session designed to make conversations lively, inclusive, and genuinely youth-led. We used tactile engagement techniques—such as group drawing, shared writing on large sheets of paper, and open discussion both with us and among themselves—to help students express their views comfortably and creatively. Their insights, shared in their own words, were then presented to NAC members to inform youth-focused priorities and recommendations for East Elmbridge and represented in this report.

Participation
We engaged with **20** young people from the student council

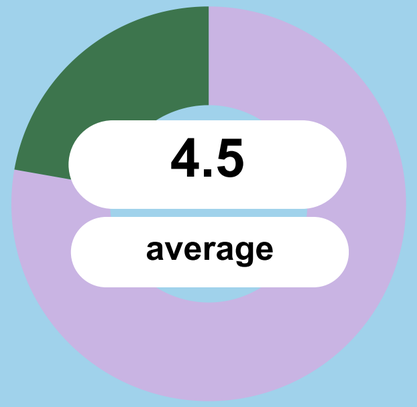


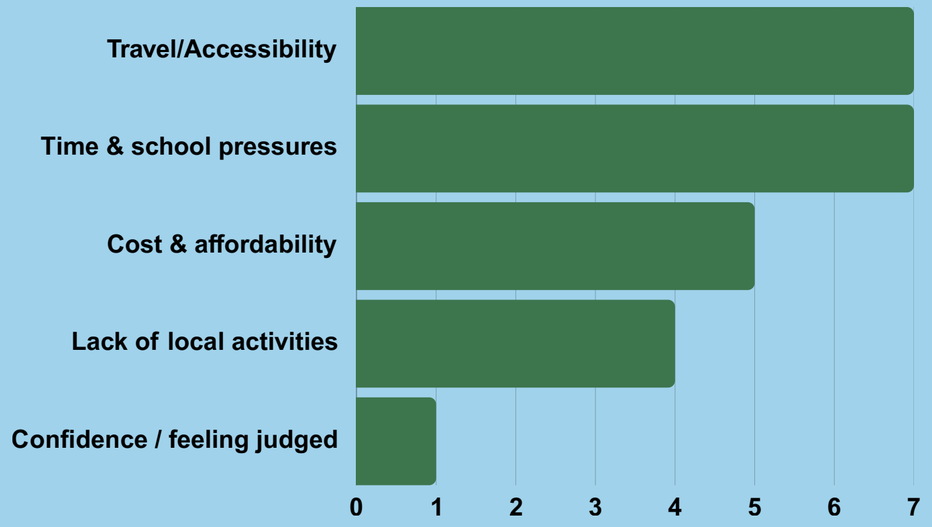
Resident Insight & Feedback



On a scale of 1-10, how listened to do you feel in your community?

Youth Voices
"Nobody has asked us what changes we'd like to see where we live before"





Things that stop me from doing these activities more often are

Youth Voices
"The closest leisure centre is too far to go to, and there are no bus routes that are close by that can take you there"



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Resident Insight & Feedback



If I had to plan my perfect weekend in the local area it would include…

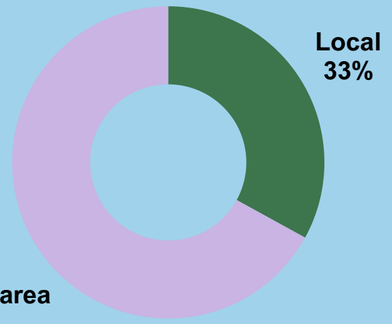
Youth Voices
"I'd go to the cinema and then shopping with friends" (outside of the area)

Youth Insights

Young people told us that while they value the local sports facilities—such as Excel, the gym, football pitches and tennis courts—many of the activities they most enjoy, like going to the cinema, shopping, bowling, swimming, arcades and other entertainment venues, are only available outside the area. From their perspective, this means that most of their ideal weekend activities require travel, with sports being the main option available locally. Their feedback suggests that they appreciate what currently exists but would welcome more youth-friendly social and leisure options in Cobham.

These views reflect their own experiences and perceptions, shared in their own words, and highlight the factors that they feel make it harder to engage regularly in the activities they enjoy.

This chart shows how many young people would spend their ideal weekend locally versus travelling elsewhere



If I could add one thing to my area for young people it would be

Youth Voices
"Free transport for teenagers with busy parents e.g. like the app which allows free transport for old people but for teenagers"

"A space for 16-17 year olds to listen to music, dance and socialise. It would just allow us to meet new people, de-stress, chill and listen and dance to music"

