East Elmbridge Engagement Event:

4th November, Claygate Youth & Community Hub

NAC Engagement Overview

Event Overview
We visited Claygate Youth & Community Hub on 4th November as part of the Youth Booth initiative, specifically to capture young people's voices in their own words—raw and authentic—about their experiences of the local area. These insights were shared with NAC members to help inform any local recommendations around youth in East Elmbridge.

Participation
We engaged with **25** local young people on the evening

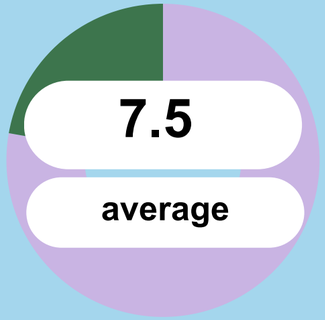
Engagement Approach
We used interactive games and creative challenges to spark meaningful conversations about community life, creating a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere where ideas and perspectives could be openly expressed in a familiar setting.



Resident Insight & Feedback



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



Things that stop me from doing these activities more often are

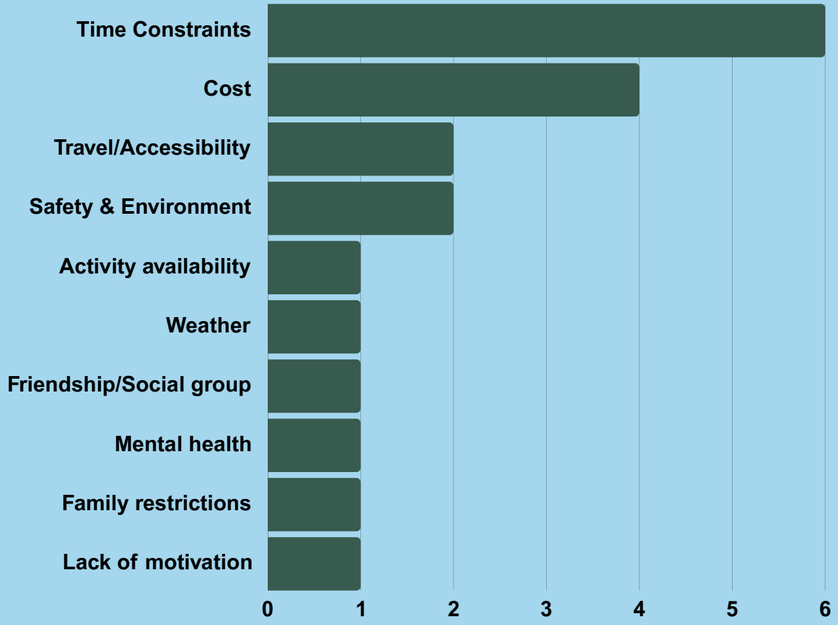


Photo from the day



Youth Voices

"I feel 8 out of 10 talked to and listened to, and I enjoy living around here!"

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Youth Voices

“More lights in the Rec, we’d hang out there longer if we could”

Youth Voices

“If I could add one thing to my local area for young people it would be safer spaces to hang out with friends (maybe indoor or closed) instead of always a public park

Youth Voices

“If I could add one thing to my local area for young people it would be more crossings. It feels really unsafe to walk around because there aren't many crossings so you end up just crossing where it's convenient

Resident Insight & Feedback





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

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

Youth Insights

Young people shared that local activities are valued but limited. Young people often rely on self-discovery or digital entertainment due to a lack of structured options.

They also told us that they travel for variety and excitement, seeking facilities not available locally. Safety concerns (e.g. in Kingston) influence choices.

Theme	Key Requests	Insight
Lighting & Safety	More lights in alleyways & Rec, CCTV near basketball court	Safety is a major concern for walking routes and recreational spaces.
Social & Recreational	Indoor hangout spaces, skate park, theme park, soft play for teens	Young people want vibrant, safe spaces beyond parks.
Sports & Physical	Goals in Rec, Astroturf, outdoor gym, horse riding, Go Ape-style activities	Strong demand for sports infrastructure and creative outdoor activities.
Education & Support	Free GCSE support, quiet study spaces	Need for multi-purpose hubs offering academic support.
Community & Niche	Dive hubs, events for dive clubs, WhatsApp community	Interest in specialised hobby communities and digital engagement.