

# Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan

## Young Persons' Survey 2019

### **The consultation process**

The survey was designed by a sub-committee and approved by the full Steering Group. The Steering Group recognised the need to include the views of young people aged 11-18 as the plan will last till 2028 and all this age group will be adults during the plan period. The rationale behind the questions was to understand the following:

- Do young people think they will be living in Battle Civil Parish in ten years' time and if not why?
- What do young people like about living in Battle Civil Parish (with a view to ensure that where possible the Neighbourhood Plan can protect or maintain these elements). Equally what is not liked and how could the Neighbourhood Plan improve on these matters.
- What maybe missing from Battle Civil Parish for young people and how could the Neighbourhood Plan support these aspirations in the future (potentially through CiL money funding).
- Understand how young people use transport links to and from Battle Civil Parish and again explore how the Neighbourhood Plan could potentially support young people in the future.
- Allow an opportunity for young people to make any further comment on a Neighbourhood Plan (even though they will not be able to vote in the referendum).

### **The questions asked**

The survey was of 11-18 year olds living in Battle Parish area. Following a short introduction to explain who was doing the survey and what its purpose was, the following questions were asked:

- Age
- Town
- School attended
- If expected to stay or move in 10 years time
- ...and the reason for saying this
- What they liked about their current location
- What they disliked about their current location
- Tickboxes for wanting Swimming pool, Sports facilities, Skate park, Cycle lanes/tracks, Community centre, and Other [to be typed in]
- Do you use the bus or train?
- Rate the service on scale of 1-5
- Suggested improvements to public transport
- Any comments about housing

## How was the questionnaire distributed?

A PDF version of the survey was sent via email to the headmaster of the following schools within the parish:

- Claverham Community College [Secondary school in Battle]
- Battle Abbey [Private school in Battle]
- Battle and Langton [Primary school in Battle]
- Netherfield Primary [Primary school in Netherfield]

An online-version of the questionnaire was constructed using 'Google Forms', and a link to this was published online in the following places:

- "Battle Neighbourhood Plan" Facebook page
- "Battle, East Sussex Community Group" Facebook group
- "Battle (town in East Sussex) Community" Facebook group
- "The Darvel Down Appreciation Group" Facebook group
- "Netherfield WhatsOn" page (copied from DDaG by a Netherfield resident)

The steering group also approached a Battle Town Councillor known to have strong links with local youth groups, and this resulted in a small number of paper forms being completed.

## Responses

All responses were entered onto a spreadsheet here: <https://tinyurl.com/tmu8j55>

Considering all responses, the following general statistics are available:

- 6% were completed online, mostly as a result of social media publicity
- 36% expected to remain in their current town in 10 years time
- 87% of responses came from those attending Claverham Community College. It is known to the steering group that this school has historically had a good track record of getting involved with such surveys.

## Likes, dislikes, and Wishlist

Of those who thought they would **remain where they are in 10 years time**:

- 29% valued being near family and friends
- 23% said they generally liked the area
- 13% said they enjoyed the community feel and friendliness of locals

Of those who thought they would **move out within 10 years time**:

- 26% would be moving to take employment elsewhere
- 22% said there wasn't much to do in this area
- 20% wanted to attend university

When questioned on their general "likes" of the area:

- 17% enjoyed the quiet and peacefulness of where they live
- 16% liked the shops
- 15% valued the community feel
- 13% enjoyed the countryside around where they live
- 12% thought that people were friendly
- 11% enjoyed living near to friends and family
- 11% enjoyed the recreation facilities
- 11% merely thought that the area was nice
- Other points of merit were the compact size of their area (e.g. easily walkable), the low crime, the historic nature of the built environment, the local events and clubs which one can attend.

When questioned on their general dislikes of the area:

- 34% reported a "lack of things to do" locally
- 25% disliked problems relating to traffic, congestion, parking and speeding
- 15% weren't satisfied with the shops
- Other dislikes are a lack of sports facilities, poor public transport, poor internet and phone reception, youth crime, unwanted housing development, litter / untidyness, and feeling unrepresented in local matters

The "I would like to see the following..." section was a series of checkboxes, the respondents were asked to tick as many boxes as they wished.

- 76% wanted a swimming pool
- 52% wanted sports facilities
- 43% wanted cycle lanes and/or tracks
- 32% wanted a skate park
- 21% wanted a community centre
- 33% filled in the "Other" option. Answers included a Cinema, Youth club, Bowling alley, additional Recreation, Fast food, and others

## Transport

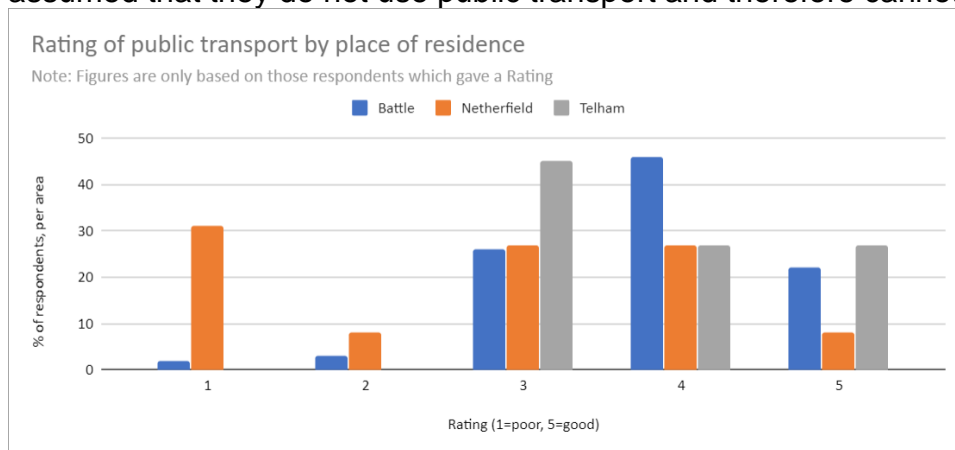
Regarding public transport, 20% of respondents use the bus, and 56% use the train.

The questionnaire asked for a rating of public transport, from 1 (poor) to 5 (good).

From those respondents that gave a rating, this was the distribution:

- 1 – 5%
- 2 – 4%
- 3 – 27%
- 4 – 43%
- 5 – 20%

The numbers are perhaps more revealing when analysed per area, and expressed as a percentage of respondents in that area. Note that for this chart only, respondents to the questionnaire that did not answer this particular question are not included in the analysis, it is assumed that they do not use public transport and therefore cannot provide a rating.



From all the questionnaire respondents, suggestions for improving public transport were:

- 9% wanted a more frequent service
- 8% wanted better punctuality
- 5% wanted lower fares
- 4% wanted to improve cleanliness
- 3% wanted additional facilities, both at stations/stops, and on board
- Other suggested areas for improvement were staff friendliness, quicker journeys, less overcrowding, more environmentally friendly busses, increased safety, and a bus lane.

## Housing

These were the opinions gathered. While the sample size in Battle is good (275 respondents), the low number of respondents from Telham (13) and Netherfield (41) means that percentage figures for those areas will not be an accurate representation of desires. The “Overall” figures however are more meaningful.

- Those respondents wanting no further developments was 15% in Battle, 31% in Telham, 20% in Netherfield (16% Overall)
- Concerns that countryside and/or wildlife habitats are taken by development was 16% in Battle, 0% in Telham, 10% in Netherfield (Overall 15%)
- The desire for more affordable/cheaper/smaller housing was 8% in Battle, 15% in Telham, 5% in Netherfield (Overall 8%)
- The desire for modern-looking buildings was 7% in Battle, 8% in Telham, 10% in Netherfield. (Overall 7%)
- Lower percentages mentioned wanting traditional-looking buildings, Infrastructure worries, the desire to see eco-friendly buildings, and housing reserved for local people

## Notes

Note that most questions were open-ended with freeform replies, which have been analysed to create a finite list of identifiable opinions. Although using open-ended questions has resulted in an unbounded and wide range of responses, it is expected that the same set of questions asked with tickbox options would give a different set of results. For example, asking “Why do you like the summertime?” might produce a lot of responses of “It’s hot”, however if you offered tickboxes for “It’s hot”, “it’s dry”, and “it’s not windy” then the answers would be different.

Unlike a census, the data collected was not truly representative of every single 11-18 year old living in the parish, it is only a subset, which will be skewed in several ways. For example, a large percentage of forms completed came from students attending Claverham college, merely because the staff there are historically known to be good at engaging with public questionnaires with their pupils, more so than other schools.

Because of this, some statistics will not make sense if represented graphically, for example a comparison of respondents whose hometown is Battle / Netherfield / Telham will be misleading.

Even the questions regarding public transport are affected in this way, as the number of responses from Netherfield is low, and residents there have a particular problem as there is neither a regular bus service or railway station.