

ATTLEBOROUGH MATTERS

Issue 4



Latest on the
Attleborough
Neighbourhood
Plan –
See page 7!

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Dear Attleborough residents and local businesses... Your town needs you!

After a considerable period of research, planning, consulting and many discussions, the time has at last come to release our draft of the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan (ANP) to the community, including neighbouring villages (Besthorpe, Gt Ellingham, Old Buckenham). This will be a major step in engaging with local people keen to feed into the decision-making process about how the town develops over the next 20 years.

The consultation process will be in two parts which are designed to let the ANP go forward to a referendum in May 2016.

PART ONE - Informal Consultation over the weekend of the 24/25th October. Town Hall, Saturday 9am-12pm and Sunday 11am – 3pm. Just turn up to view the maps showing the broad overview of the ANP and complete feedback forms provided. Everyone welcome.

PART TWO - A 6 week main, statutory consultation period starting mid November. Further details of this will be announced shortly.

Information on the ANP will be fed through the town council website, the local press, social media, posters, leaflets, displays in town and other activity. There will also be a further edition of Attleborough Matters in December with an update on the results of the informal consultation.

The town council recently showed its commitment to the ANP process by agreeing to fund the work needed to finish the plan. Members of the ANP Steering Group have committed hundreds of hours to pulling the proposed document together. We now hope the town will get behind it and give feedback which can be included in the final document to try and ensure that Attleborough is developed in the right way to accommodate the proposed growth in the town.

The ANP process has already brought many positives to the town. Not least the formation of the Retailer's Forum, which is a group of independent business owners from the high street who are getting fully involved with the town. In this edition you will find a roundup of this summer's "Bike Fest" which was organised by them and they have ideas for more events.

It is with sadness that we have seen the resignation of John Taylor, the town mayor. Whilst it is disappointing that John will not be in place to see the ANP through to the referendum stage we wish him well and look forward to working closely with the newly appointed mayor over the coming months.

The Christmas lights switch on is taking place on the 6th December, by which time the main consultation period should be well underway. The ANP team will be there to meet and greet people keen to share their view of the proposed plan.

We hope to see many of you there. It really is crucial over the coming weeks that the town gets behind the ANP process and that people give their views. Consultation with the local community is a major part of the neighbourhood plan process and bearing in mind that the future of Attleborough is at stake, I hope you will see the importance of getting involved.

Richard Middleton

Chair Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



ATTLEBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – your town, your voice

THE NEXT STAGE

Work has continued on the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan over the summer and we are making good progress. We intend to issue a draft of the Plan for consultation in November.

Previous editions of Attleborough Matters have informed you of areas being looked at, in terms of what Attleborough as a town and community need now but also what it will need and if the town grows by another 4,000 houses and the population increases from 10,000 to 20,000.

This will be over the period 2016-2036 with the growth area located to the south west, accessed primarily by a new link road off London Road through to Bunn's Bank. Whilst this sounds a long time, it is necessary that we start to plan now and ensure Attleborough remains a thriving, attractive community in which we all want to live, work and play.

We have been working very closely with Breckland Council to ensure that the emerging plans, policies and projects which are being developed are fed into the Breckland Local Plan and that the Local Plan supports ours.

The Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan is looking at seven major themes and developing options which will be consulted on over the coming weeks and months.

THE LOCAL ECONOMY

The plan is based on securing more economic investment and jobs. Attleborough is identified as a key economic growth location, being located on the A11 and with excellent rail links. To achieve this the plan will seek to identify more employment land and promote a range of employment types. We also want to ensure the town centre is protected and enhanced, providing a range of retail opportunities whilst protecting independent retailers. We are looking to make sure any additional retail facilities will be provided in the new housing areas.



HOUSING

Attleborough is planned to grow with 4,000 new homes over the period 2016-2036. Since 2009, approximately a further 1,500 residential units have been granted planning permission or been completed on top of the existing 4,000 houses.

This is why we need the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the town is developed in a planned and coordinated way, with the required and appropriate facilities for the current community and for the expanding community.



TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

A new link road will be the main access to the additional housing. We are also looking at how we can address congestion issues in the town centre and also make it more attractive and safer to encourage cycling and walking, making Attleborough potentially, a leading cycle town!

We are also looking at communications, improving current communication facilities which allows more people to work more flexibly.



HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELLBEING

We are aware that currently there are deficiencies in some sectors of health provision. However we are working with the health providers and doctors looking at new health provision and delivery. We are also aware that it is not just clinical health provision, we need facilities for younger people and the increasing older generation require different needs and care.



EDUCATION

You may be aware that the County Council have released plans to relocate the Infant School to a new site creating a new primary school. The existing Junior School will expand to provide a second primary school. This will allow the Academy to expand into the Infant site to accommodate the new growth. We are also looking at education provision and facilities for pre-school and post-school requirements.



SPORTS, LEISURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Plan is considering a number of options which is based on previous consultation and input for the community. At this stage we are looking at if we can provide a new indoor sports centre linked to the Academy and a new outdoor sports hub with new changing, social and associated facilities and an artificial pitch, based on Gaymer's Playing Fields.

This new community facility will cater for the increased population and include new Play Hub at the recreation ground. Improving and making provision for more open space and ensuring that this is provided in the new development and is sympathetic to the environment. We would like a new linear park to link to new housing.



ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND DESIGN

It is essential that growth does not harm the environment, so we will ensure that new housing and building enhances the natural environment. We seek that the growth is sustainable economically but also through using sustainable energy sources, use of water and use of materials and design.

We wish Attleborough to be attractive and different and have the highest quality design, reflecting the aspirations of the town, whilst improving and enhancing the historic core of the town.

All the elements of the Neighbourhood Plan are being drawn together quickly now and we look forward to consulting on a completed Plan in the near future.

Have your say...

The first consultation on some of the key ANP areas takes place over the weekend of the **24th and 25th October 2015** at the Town Hall as follows,

Saturday 24th October 9-12noon, Attleborough Town Hall

Sunday 25th October 11-3pm, Attleborough Town Hall

Residents and businesses in the town are welcome to drop by and add their comments to the initial proposed plans on display. This will then be taken forward to a formal consultation which follows shortly after. Further information of this stage of the process can also be found on the town council website www.attleboroughtc.org.uk and feedback can be sent through on email to info@attleboroughnp.org.uk.

Ed Tyrer, Project Manager, Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan.

Attleborough

my kind of town



Working with the community, businesses and organisations to ensure the town continues to grow and prosper.

The Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan
is near to completing a draft stage.

Details of key areas will be on display
at Attleborough Town Hall
Saturday 24th October 9am – 12pm
Sunday 25th October 11am – 3pm

Drop by and add your views!

*Feedback will be considered for the final draft plan
going to public consultation later this year.*

Input from local businesses, organisations and residents is essential to ensure the plan moves forward and is implemented.

For more details

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What a wheelie good summer in town...

Attleborough Bike Fest

After asking businesses to decorate a bike and enter them for the Attleborough Bike Trail the summer bike fest began early August. The response from locals was fantastic with the bikes being a real talking point throughout the summer holidays. We have had people say how much their children enjoyed going into town to search for decorative cycles, with families venturing out in the fresh air on many occasions to walk the streets looking for bikes. To date 130 trail maps have been submitted and a few dedicated hunters have found 100 plus bikes!! At its peak over 150 bikes were on display in the town and surrounding areas.

A fun day planned for the 31st August and prior to the Tour of Britain day on the 12th September, was not dampened by the August Bank Holiday downpour.

A fun fair and planned dance extravaganza had to be cancelled when the weather was hard going outside, even for ducks! Stalls penned for the car park were moved into the Town Hall whilst live music performances showed real British bulldog spirit and continued under cover outdoors, as did the bbq king, Tony Perkins. Despite the weather conditions the day was a fantastic success. The town came out in force and was shocked and overwhelmed by the amount of people who came out to enjoy the day.



The rain arrived once again early on the morning of the 12th September, but disappeared quickly allowing the sun to position itself proudly in the sky, shining over what turned out to be an incredible day in the town centre. Watching the likes of Bradley Wiggins and co race through the town and seeing the amount of people who turned out to watch and support all involved on the day, exceeded expectations. The town square was buzzing with live music, the funfair and numerous stalls. "In the many years of working and living in the town I can honestly say I have not seen so many people at an event"

"Attleborough businesses have all worked hard to get the bike fest up and running with the trail maps and both fun days arranged over the summer months. We all run our own businesses and have given time to try and get the community spirit back into Attleborough. The response from people has been so positive and encouraging. We are all very proud of what we have achieved in such a short space of time and truly hope that we can continue to keep the community spirit going" Anna Lancaster, Myhill's Electrical.



The team of Tim Cobb, Anna Lancaster, Paul Goldsmith, Tony Perkins, Nigel Howes, Vanessa Beales and Sarah-Louise Harwood would like to give special thanks to Sam Taylor, Adam Cossey, Dave Bickel and the Town Hall team and everyone else who has supported us along the way. We hope to continue putting on fun events throughout the year.



Look out for the ghost walk on the 31st October and Pumpkin Fest during October.

Look out for more town centre events in your regular Attleborough Matters publication or sign up to follow the Attleborough Town team on Facebook.



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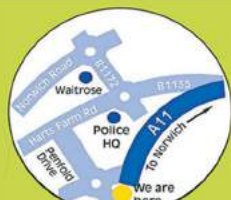


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Attleborough High School

We have known for some time about proposals for the town to grow and also that we, as the former Attleborough High School and now Attleborough Academy, were the designated secondary education organisation that would be expanded alongside the growth of the town.

We have been in talks with colleagues at the County Council Education Department for some time. The national estimate for growth is for 14 new students of secondary age to appear for every new 100 houses built. So, with a proposed 4,000 houses for the town, this could mean an eventual rise in our roll by over 500 new students taking our student body to around 1400, including a larger Sixth Form of around 300 students.

We have always been aware that these proposed houses would not all appear at the same time they will be built and sold gradually in phases and we will have no control whatsoever over which year groups the new students enter. With a national formula, there is no guarantee that it would definitely be 14 new students per 100 houses. They might all appear needing to go into one of our year groups or they might all be of Primary School age. It simply depends on the profile of the families who move into the town. Unless the completed expanded Academy with all the new buildings were in place before the new students arrive, planning to accommodate them was always going to be a challenge. Clearly this was not going to happen and so we set about with the County Council drawing up the Master Plan which was completed in March 2014 and contains various phases of building work which are due to commence in 2016.

6.0 Potential Development Areas

Attleborough Academy Norfolk

6.11 Potential Areas for development



Due to the expertise and resources in our Academy Chain, Transforming Education in Norfolk (TEN Group) we were successful in a bid to receive a portion of the ring-fenced £2 billion available from the Government funded 'Priority School Building Programme'. We were one of only five schools in the County and also one of only 277 schools nationwide to have been chosen.

Since I became Headteacher (now 'Principal') I have always pledged to develop our facilities with the needs of the community in mind in order that the new facilities can be of full benefit to the community and not just sit in darkness after the school day. With this in mind, I have sat on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Committee to try to ensure that the Academy Master Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan were united in proposing facilities which have mutual benefit for the community and the Academy.

We did, indeed, plan and host the launch of the awareness of the Neighbourhood Plan at the then High School in October 2013, whereby we took the whole school off timetable and all students worked with various experts to propose their own ideas for the future of the town. The whole community were then invited in to view the students' ideas. Since this time, there have been many meetings of this committee at the Town Hall and it has been heartening to see the determination and the resilience of the members of this committee all pulling towards achieving the best possible results for the town.

Our plans have always centred around two opportunities for growth on the site whereby we would need to grow and improve our Sports provision and also provide plans for taking over the current Attleborough Infants School site. We therefore drew up plans for a possible 'Sports Village' some four years ago and presented them at the Community Meeting held at that time. These detailed plans are still being discussed for integration into the final Master Plan and Neighbourhood Plan.

The current Attleborough Infants School site is situated between Attleborough Academy Norfolk and the Adult Education Centre ("ACE" Centre). In the growth plan for the Attleborough area, a newly built site is proposed for Attleborough Infants School and for them to convert to a Primary School on this new site for September 2017.

If we are to inherit and develop on this site, then it makes sense to develop a facility that benefits Sixth Form provision for the area as well as benefitting the community in terms of adult training and also the business and enterprise community. The vision is therefore to create a diverse education and training provision on this site which will meet the educational needs for Sixth Form students but will also contribute to fulfil the training needs for the local business community and also the retraining needs of adults within the community.

The development of a diverse and inclusive provision for Sixth Form age students which will benefit students in the area fulfils a greater need than simply creating another 'Academically' focussed provision. It will be more prudent and more beneficial to maintain a Sixth Form with an academic emphasis but also to widen the provision to include a strong technical and vocational and 'STEM' (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Centre.

Continued overleaf

Attleborough Academy, Norfolk is part of the TEN Group, "Transforming Education In Norfolk". This group also includes City College Norwich (CCN), the University Technical College Norwich (UTCN) and Wayland Academy (WAN) all of whom have specific and considerable expertise in Technical and Vocation Education. The collective expertise of this group in this field is unmatched in this area. This thus gives the proposal unrivalled credibility and an authentic opportunity with the maximum chance of success.

The new provision would facilitate progression to University or the world of work and it would produce young people who are well rounded and able to access both Higher Education and work possessing the skills that meet the needs of our local economies. We cannot however achieve this vision alone. We will need to create the right employer engagement and curriculum mix whilst still retaining academic rigour and aspiration. We have already held tentative talks with some local businesses with the idea of setting up sector 'academies' so that we, in a true partnership with local business, can start to fill some of the skills gaps that local businesses are experiencing. This could well mean that local businesses will sponsor or coach, mentor or teach in the new skill centre. If any local business wishes to get involved then please contact our Head of Community, Mr Brighten. The growth of new facilities therefore provides exciting new opportunities but we are very aware that whilst growth will be healthy in providing greater opportunity, we will need to whole heartedly retain the focus on care, respect and inclusion which has always been at the heart of our core values.

Neil McShane, Principle, Attleborough Academy





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ATTLEBOROUGH MEANS BUSINESS...

There is a thriving business community in Attleborough. As the town grows and the neighbourhood plan has a focus on employment it is a great place to be doing business now and in the future.

The Attleborough and Snetterton Business Forum was set up just under 5 years ago to give a collective voice for the local business community. Currently 70 organisations of all sizes and from a diverse range of business types, all passionate about the town and its future, meet quarterly for breakfast.

The recent meeting at Breckland Lodge had a focus on planning for economic growth for the town and the wider district.



At the meeting **Cllr Ellen Jolly**, Executive Member for Income and Prosperity at Breckland Council, said that as part of the council's commitment to help local businesses develop and thrive, it is working on an 'Open for Business' plan that looks at how – together with partners – it can work better and smarter, attract inward investment and improve local infrastructure. The council will be holding further talks with businesses, town councils, county partners and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership to see how this can be achieved, as well as launching initiatives to enhance its five market towns.

Ed Tyrer, spokesperson for the ANP has been working on pulling the neighbourhood plan together and urged businesses to get their business and their staff focused on providing feedback on draft proposals about to be made public.

As a by-product of the work going into the neighbourhood plan it has generated an interest of a different kind. A retailers forum has launched to encourage high street traders to work together to create themed events in the town centre which encourages local residents to drop into town. The first summer long campaign with a bike theme has been an overwhelming success despite the weather doing its best to dampen the occasion. A working group is now in place to take forward further themed activity throughout the year.

www.brecklanddirectory.co.uk carries news and information about Attleborough and the wider area. It also has a directory of local businesses which is a free listing for local companies and is an ideal tool for residents to search for products and services.

And last but not least Attleborough Matters has been set up to communicate to 6,000 plus residents and businesses on a regular basis, the latest news on the plan as well as promote local events and businesses.

Attleborough really is “open for business”. If you run a local business and want to get involved in any of the above activity please contact Valerie on 01603 702374 or email valerie@thelivelycrew.co.uk.



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What has this got to do with the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan I hear you ask?

As part of the Open Space review we are covering Cemeteries and Crematoriums as this is important. Why? It is important that as a Community we have somewhere to bury our loved ones or to cremate and remember them and Attleborough has its own problems and issues.

Cemeteries

As you may be aware the current cemetery for Attleborough, owned by the Town Council, is sited behind the Queens Square Car Park. A few years ago an extension was acquired. However, with approximately 35 burials a year being held Attleborough will run out of cemetery space within 6 years and at present the Town Council is finding it difficult to obtain land that is suitable.

The neighbourhood plan along with the Town Council are calling on local land owners who may have land in the local area that they currently do not use or wish to dispose of to contact the Town Council to register their interest. The neighbourhood plan is also making representation to land agents for the urban extension to assist the Town with this urgent problem. As you can imagine it is not as simple as obtaining any piece of land as tests have to be carried out to test its suitability, infrastructure built etc. All of this takes time, time that Attleborough is running out of.

Cemeteries cannot be positioned anywhere. Graves cannot be positioned in a flood plain, have to be of suitable soil type, not within 30 metres of running or still water, 10 metres from a dry ditch etc. Considered sites have to be submitted to the Environment Agency for consideration. This is an urgent problem for the Town Council and it is hoped that land owners within Attleborough or its surrounds will come forward to offer land. To protect future needs the Town Council would like to acquire a site in the region of 25 acres. However smaller sites may be considered.

Crematoriums

At present Attleborough residents have to travel to Earlham in Norwich City, to St Faiths on the Northern side of Norwich or to the West Suffolk Crematorium close to Bury St Edmunds to cremate our loved ones. This causes many issues at a time of distress due to availability, distance travelled, traffic hold ups and the physical ability to travel that distance. Planning permission has been recently granted to build a new crematorium, to be privately run, at Scoulton between Watton and Hingham. This is obviously good news and is welcomed and it is hoped to be open for November 2016.

Woodland Burials

Woodland burials are also available with the nearest site being at Colney, Norwich or near Bury St Edmunds

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Play Time

As part of the neighbourhood plan we are looking at open space which includes Children's outdoor play. The recent open space assessment carried out by Breckland Council stated that Attleborough currently has a deficit of play areas and the value of what play areas exist at Toddler, Junior and Teenage provision are all below average. A recent study has found that almost half of preschool age children don't play outside each day and are far too sedentary.

Why does this matter?

The benefits of outdoor play are well documented, and include: -

- Increasing physical activity
- Increasing the body's vitamin D levels
- Reducing anxiety and improving mood
- Improving concentration and focus enhancing imaginative and creative play
- Promoting problem solving and leadership skills
- Developing stronger immune systems
- Socialisation by both children and guardians

Less time spent playing outdoors may be linked to:-

- Obesity
- Type II diabetes and high blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Anxiety disorders and depression
- Attention deficit disorder



There has never been a more important time to make outdoor play a priority for the children in their lives. It is one of the best things that we can do for their health, education and well-being. The neighbourhood plan is looking at ways that it can add value to existing play areas and the promotion of an outdoor play hub possibly based at the recreation ground consisting of good quality, interactive play equipment. Outdoor play linked to nature is also important and when looking at open space we will be looking at how we can link outdoor play with nature.

What do you think? What would you like to see in Attleborough?

Your ideas and comments would be much appreciated and can be given by contacting Attleborough Town Council, Town Hall, Queen's Square, Attleborough NR17 2AF

Tel: 01953 456194 Email: enquiries@attleboughtc.org.uk

Alternatively you can visit the Neighbourhoods website at www.attleboroughnp.org.uk , register and leave comments

Health Walks

As part of the neighbourhood plan's gathering of information regarding open space, sport and leisure we are coming into contact with many different organisations. Did you know that there were organised health walks held within Attleborough and surrounding areas? For the benefits of walking and contact information please read below:

Attleborough Health Walks

Benefits of walking more

Walking is a great way to find out more about the area you live in and to meet new people. Research has also shown that it is an excellent activity for you to help improve your health. Just 150 minutes of moderate activity a week can have many benefits including: keeping your heart, muscles and bones healthy; reducing your risk of heart disease and diabetes; lowering your blood pressure; reducing feelings of stress; and giving you more energy.

What is a Health Walk?

A health walk is a short, locally held walk, where you are encouraged to walk at your own pace, but if possible, slightly faster than normal. The aim of the health walks is to encourage and support people who are trying to increase their activity levels and lead a healthier lifestyle.

Trained volunteers lead our walks, with leaders where possible at the front, middle and back of the group. The volunteers are on hand to support all walkers, whether you're just starting out or have been walking regularly for a while. Health walks are 90 minutes and under and are supported by Fit Together, Walking for Health, The Ramblers & Macmillan Cancer Support. Walks above 90 minutes are supported by North Norfolk Fit Together and our own insurance.



How fast do I need to walk?

We encourage everyone to walk at their own pace.

It's not a race or a competition and as with any exercise the important thing is to start gently and build up gradually. We have trained volunteer leaders at the front, back and in the middle of the group, so although the group may spread out you will not get left behind. Walking at your own brisk pace is not about how fast you go, but about how you feel. On a health walk you should: feel warmer than if you were strolling; your heart should beat a bit faster – but not be pounding, and; be breathing a bit faster – but still able to talk.

For more information on Attleborough Health Walks or within Breckland please contact Stephanie Middleton on 07771 618565 or stephanie.middleton@activenorfolk.org
The current programme of walks can be found on a leaflet available from the Library, Doctors surgery, Lloyds Chemist or the Tourist Information Centre

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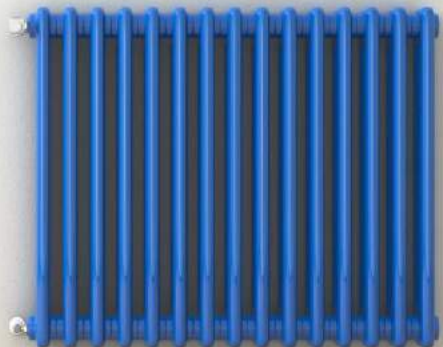
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Who We Are:

We are a locally based Youth Project who since 2008 has been aiming to identify and serve the needs of young people within Attleborough and the surrounding villages. We have been developed by the Attleborough based Lighthouse Charity founded by Christ Community Church.

Ignite – Drop-In and Detached Support:

The Ignite Youth Project began as a group of Volunteers delivering detached work on the streets of Attleborough; meeting young people and building relationships to identify immediate needs.

The young people has a need for a “safe space” to socialise so by the end of 2008 Ignite started providing a weekly youth drop-in at the local Scout Hut.

In Spring 2014 Ignite moved on, pursuing a more permanent youth venue, while continuing to offer a weekly detached street support and a monthly drop-in, using the Francis Room. Evidence of the need and success of this provision can be easily seen in the fact that Ignite has seen over 80 local young people access the drop-in Jan - Sept 2015. Ignite continues to seek a more suitable venue.



Ignite – Drama and I.T.

Ignite Drama was launched – a creative week long summer project providing local young people with the chance to develop and share creative skills. Since its start attendees have represented over 8 local primary and secondary schools. 2014 saw the drama project take on a very valuable intergenerational focus – senior citizens were invited to join the young people to share memories of their childhood days.

2014 also saw the birth of an intergenerational I.T. project – “I.T. Made Simple” providing young people the opportunity to teach and share their I.T. skills and knowledge with senior citizens.

Both projects have provided Youth Volunteering opportunities.

Ignite – local Issues

Over the past 7 years Ignite has connected with a vast number of young people and through this engagement has been well placed to identify many of the issues young people are currently facing in this community of Attleborough. It's also really important to note that these issues are representative of many segments of the local youth population, including the most “hard to reach” young people that are often under-represented. The following list is by no means exhaustive:

Drugs and Alcohol; Relationship/Family challenges; Low aspirations; Limited social and emotional support structures; Breakdown in Education; Limited recreational and leisure facilities leading to boredom and disconnection from the local community; Anti social behaviour, vandalism and a variety of risk taking behaviour; Unmet spiritual needs; Lack of voice within the community/local organisations

Report compiled by: Deborah Carter July 2015 Office: 01953 452865 Mobile: 07989 049345



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