



Assets & Services December 2022 14.b

RESULTS OF SAFFRON WALDEN YOUTH CONSULTATION

Background Summary and online survey information

SAFFRON WALDEN – ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE 2021, *The Times*

SAFFRON WALDEN “An ancient beautiful market town dating back to the 11th century, famous for its medieval half-timbered streets, listed buildings and Victorian market square, blessed with green spaces, great schools and within easy reach of London and Cambridge”. Sounds wonderful - and so, it is! **WHAT??** I hear them cry ... so, what is it really like for young people living in Saffron Walden?

In reality, are they **‘Suffering Boredom’?** SWTC set out to engage them in a consultation on the use of facilities and activities provided for their age group within the town. This was their chance to **have their say** and to democratically help steer the direction of youth provision for them and their friends.

What do young people do in Saffron Walden out of school?

There is a large selection of activities, clubs and societies available within Saffron Walden for young people; from dance, performing arts, music lessons and groups, team sports, martial arts and uniform groups; to writing groups, coding lessons and music mixing.

The towns’ schools also all offer a wide selection of clubs and activities, most of which take place straight after school.

Outside of school or these activities, is there anything else young people would like available?

An overview of SWTC’s aim:

To better understand the needs of our young people within our community; enabling us to improve upon current facilities and run fun activities whilst securing grant funding to make this possible.

An overview of the consultation's core objectives:

To engage with our young people, let them have their say and to establish a working group of young people to lead on developing new ideas.

To promote positive wellbeing and environmental core themes through our facilities and activities.

To be inclusive to everyone aged 11 to 18.

To secure and spend available funds fairly, wisely and appropriately on projects highlighted from this consultation.

Learn about the project:

Led by Saffron Walden Town Council, its consultation aimed to capture a consensus from the young people in the community on how we can improve upon the social offering to our young people. It will share this information with other youth organisations and schools. Establishing a working group of young people to develop a vision is an aim for 2023. The Events & Activities Officer met with the Deputy Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Designated Mental Health & Wellbeing Lead at Saffron Walden County High School. Together they helped compile the consultation questions and aid implementation throughout the school community within year groups 8 – 13. The consultation was also shared with community groups, charities and sports clubs, with a paper version also available from the Tourist Information Centre.

'Youth Consultation - Have your say!' Respondents were asked the following:

Want more for you and your friends to do?

Looking for fun activities in Saffron Walden in the evenings, at weekends and in the school holidays?

Is a youth hub in the centre of town something that would interest you?

Saffron Walden Town Council would like to give you the chance to "**have your say**" and shape where we spend funds in 2022 and beyond.

Prize:

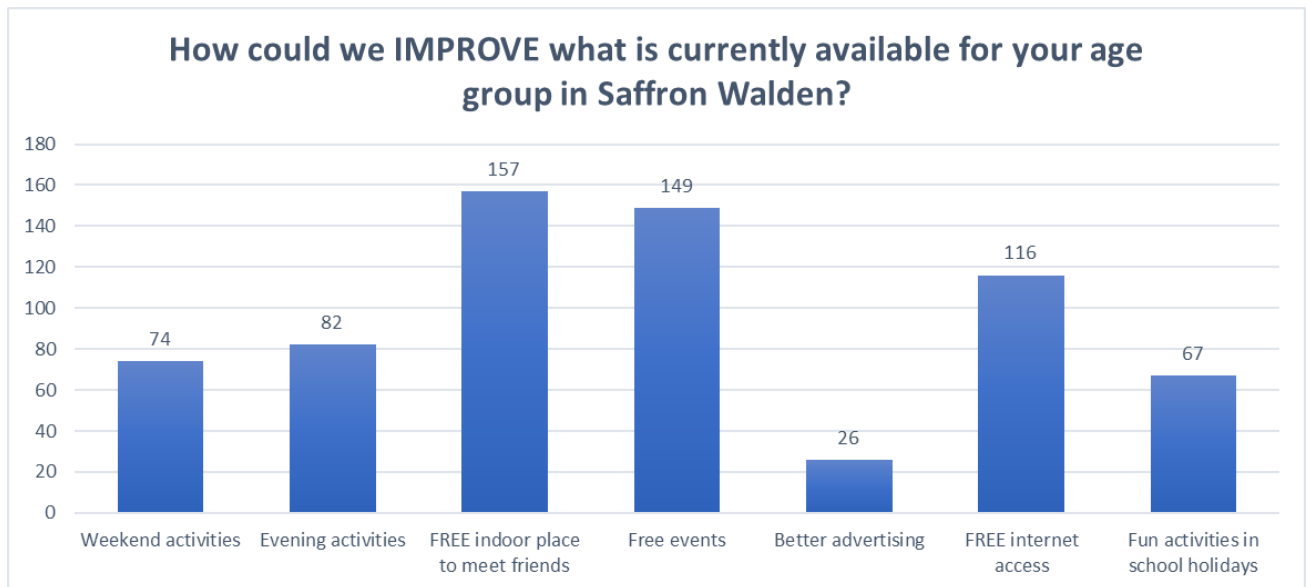
By completing the consultation, respondents had the opportunity of winning a £25.00 voucher from a Saffron Walden shop of their choice!

Results:

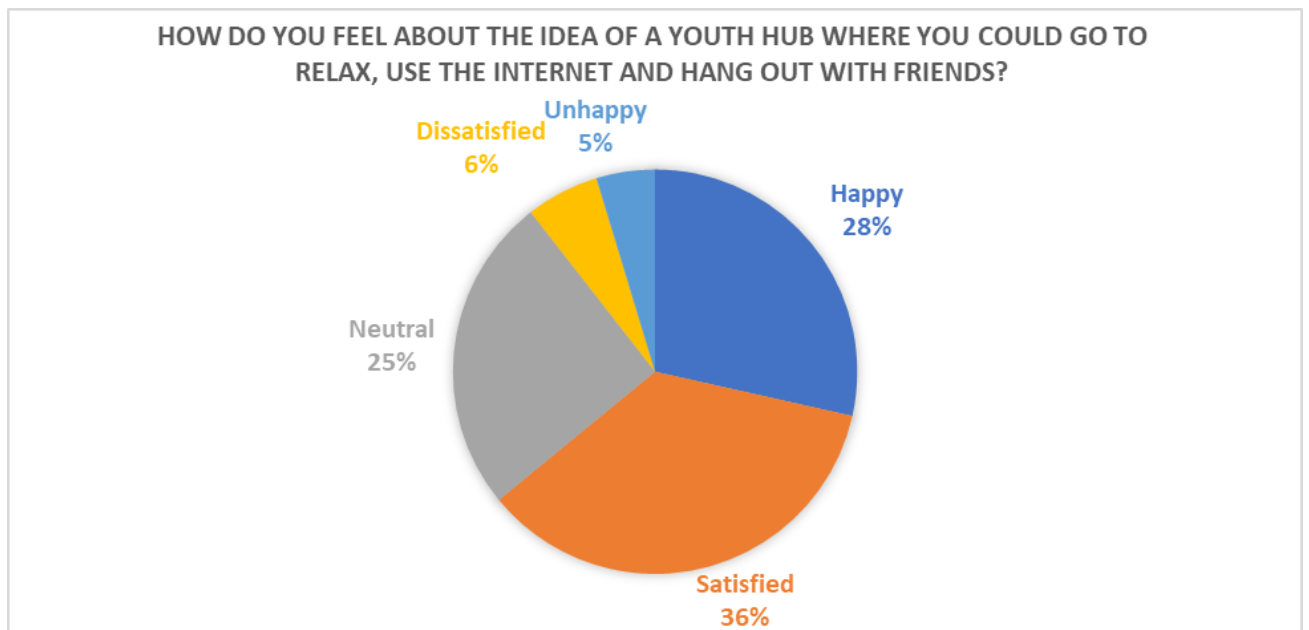
A total of 264 young people between the ages of 13 - 18 took part in the on line consultation; see results below.

Consultation Results

1. How could we IMPROVE what is currently available for your age group in Saffron Walden? (max 3 chosen)



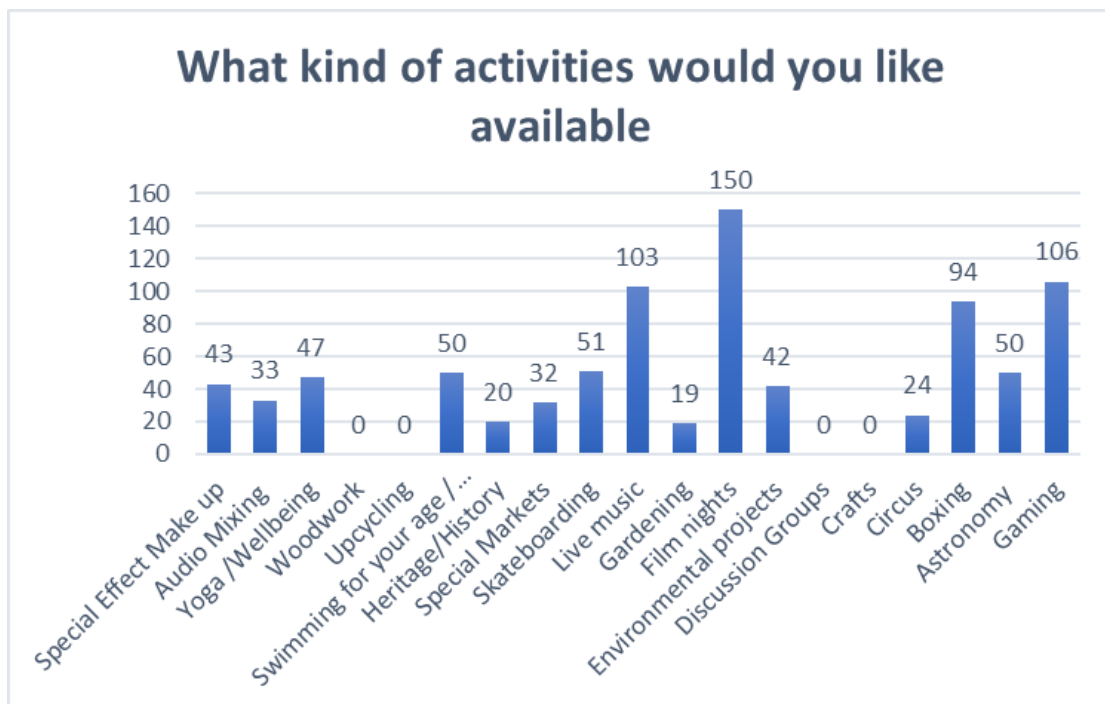
2. Do you like the idea of a youth hub where you could go to relax, use the internet and hang out with friends?



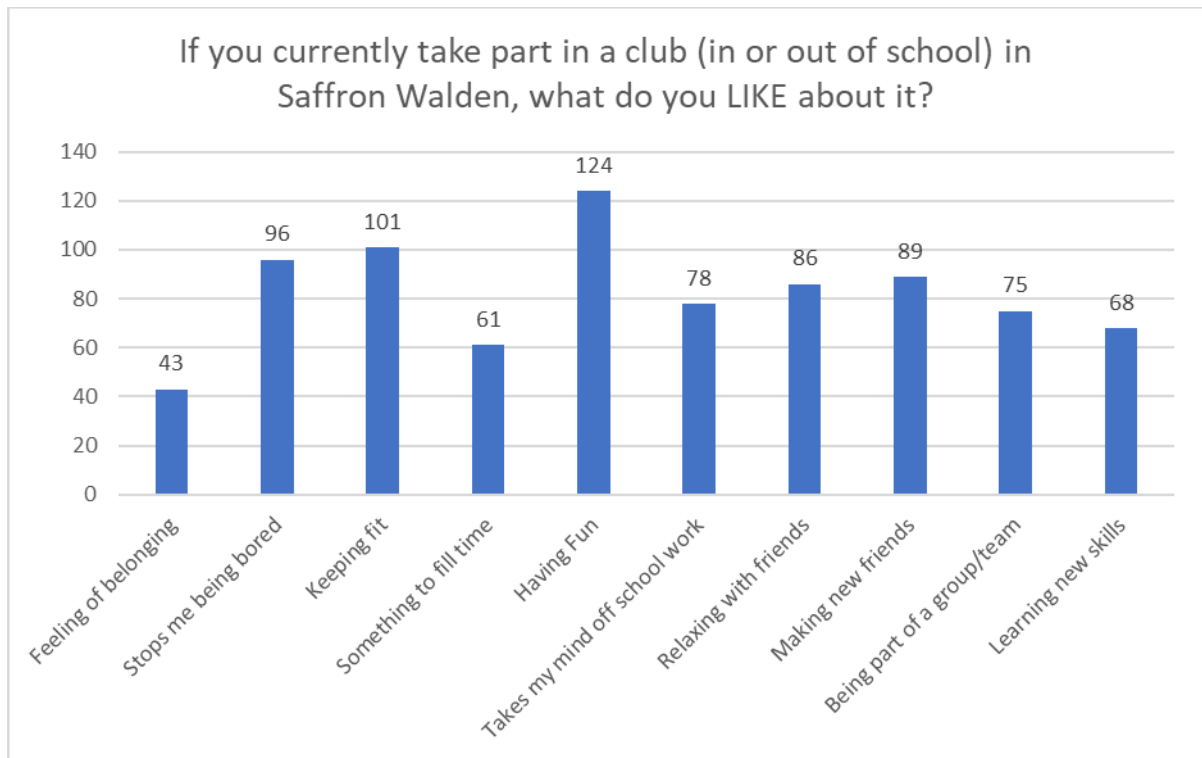
3. Would you take part in an organised group activity / outing, for example a trip to London?



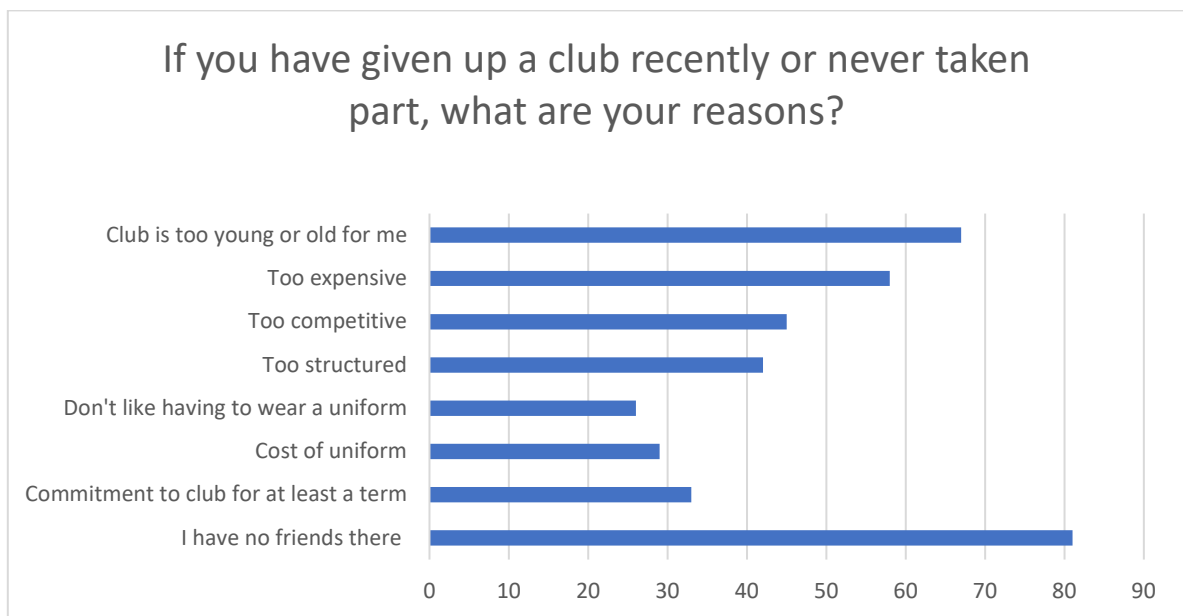
4. What kind of ACTIVITIES / OUTING would you like available in the evenings, at the weekends and in the school holidays in Saffron Walden? (max 5 chosen)



5. If you currently take part in a club (in or out of school) in Saffron Walden, what do you LIKE about it?



6. If you have given up a club recently or never taken part, what are your reasons?



7. What is your age group?

