South Kirkby And Moorthorpe Youth Action Plan

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Youth Action Plan

As part of the South Kirkby Community project Minsthorpe Community College and its students feel they have an important role to play. Their views are vital in working towards the regeneration of the area for the future of the community.

The Student Council at Minsthorpe Community College have helped to organise and carry out a questionnaire, based on that used in the South Kirkby Community Project. Over 1200 students responded in this survey and we have reached some conclusions regarding the findings from this survey. We would like our conclusions to become a part or the action plan for the regeneration of the South Kirkby and Moorthorpe area and have a voice of our own in the community.

Our Youth Action Plan has highlighted various needs for the young people in the community as well as issues within the community as a whole. A brief outline of these needs is given below.

- **The need for ICT in the community and it's various uses.**
- **The need to replace and improve what provisions are already available.**
- **The need to update and improve local transport networks**
- **The need for a safe place for young people in the area to socialise**

Our action plan is centred on these four issues and are discussed in more detail in the following pages.

Minsthorpe Community College would like to thank the Yorkshire Planning Agency and the South Kirkby and Moorthorpe Community Project for giving us the opportunity to participate in something which, we feel, will benefit the community for years to come.

Area Of Concern: ICT in the community

The questionnaire results showed that there is an interest in I.C.T in the area, such as jobs in I.T and learning new skills on a computer. There is also an interest in having an internet café in the area as it was mentioned frequently in the questionnaire results.

More and more jobs nowadays need and require I.T training and even the most basic of jobs (such as jobs at NEXT, which is a major employer in the area) require their staff to be competent when using a computer. This suggests that more I.C.T courses should be available in the local community as this would provide people with better job prospects. 48% of people in South Kirkby and Moorthorpe who filled in the questionnaire said that they would like more jobs to be available in the I.C.T industry. These jobs could include jobs in call centres, offices, banks and schools; where computers are an integral part of the job. The use if I.C.T. is also required for jobs, such as sales, where I.C.T. is not necessary an integral role in daily work but is required form time to time.

 The I.C.T courses that are currently available in the area are not well enough advertised this is shown by the big interest in more jobs in the I.C.T industry. (Improve services, revamp, re-advertise)

8% of people who filled in the questionnaire said that they had never used a computer before and 24% said that they were not confident using one. This is a major problem in the technological world that we live in as you not only need I.C.T for jobs, you need it for most tasks: such as setting up a VCR. This fact also supports the assumption that more computer courses should be available in the area so the people can learn about I.C.T and improve their chances of getting a job. 69% of the young people questioned said that they had access to a PC and 55% of people said that they had access to the Internet. This is also evidence that supports that more computer courses are needed in the area as if there were more available more people may be interested in having a home computer and actually using one.

The Internet is becoming a more increasingly used technology in modern society too with e-mails being sent more frequently than ordinary mail. 5% of people who filled in our questionnaire said that they had never used the internet before and 21% said that they did not feel confident using the internet. This supports the fact that an Internet café would be a good idea to improve people's understanding of the

internet; this could be done over time, waiting until a suitable outlet became available and until the necessary funding could be obtained.

A possible location for an internet café for young people would be in a youth club if such a facility were to be set up. It also supports the fact that more computer courses should be available so that people can learn about the Internet and computers.

Email and multimedia were the poorest results in the I.C.T data collected. 18% had never used email and 44% didn't feel confident using it. This is probably because email was never available on the college computers until this year and glitches are still being worked out with the system. 33% of the young people who filled in the questionnaire had never used multimedia and 58% said they didn't feel confident using it. Again this is probably because their primary computer use is in college and in college all applications are available over the network. The use of multimedia is not required and is in fact locked out for security purposes. Another reason why the numbers for multimedia may be so low is population's general misunderstanding of the word. Multimedia can mean any type of removable media in a computer but people may have mistaken it for any type of audio/video package.

Area Of Concern: Improvements in current provisions

Within Moorthorpe and South Kirkby there are many existing areas, which could be improved upon. The Student Council at Minsthorpe Community College feel that the following ideas are cost effective as well as pleasing to the residents of this area.

One of the points raised by the survey were the pavements. With only 3% of the students (37 out of approximately 1030) commenting that the pavements in this area are 'very good', we have growing concerns that this is one of the factors that effect the mood of the community and the safety of pedestrians. This implies it is also on the council's interest to repair the pavements, if anyone were to trip over any subsidence or cracks within pavements the council would be liable for claims.

Cracks in the pavement are not aesthetically pleasing and can add to an area's bad reputation in the community. The S.E.S.K.U. is developing a large residential community as well as becoming an important business district and we would like the area to have a good image.

Areas such as Shephards Gardens, Play areas and recreational ground were also high on the list of priorities of the students and the results that were returned in the survey were disappointing. 2% of respondents thought Shephards gardens were 'very good', 5% said the play areas were 'very good' and 8% said recreational ground was 'very good'. We would propose that the council should reinstate these facilities, making repairs and replacements required, so that the facilities available meet current safety standards and parents feel assured about using these facilities regularly.

It is important that children have a safe place to play. Current provisions are broken, dirty or "frequented by drug users". In addition to making areas suitable for young people and children, the safety of these areas need to be addressed, such as lighting, access to the areas and possible CCTV on the areas.

From the survey it was apparent that children and young people have few places to socialise and they recognise that hanging around streets is not a desirable way to spend their time. There is a great need for a social area or youth club, which is attractive to young people in the area. Our ideas on this are outlined in detail further into our plan.

Area Of Concern: The need to improve local transport networks.

Local transport is highly important to this area as the S.E.S.K.U. sprawls along the borders of Barnsley, Pontefract and Wakefield. A network of public transport is vital to transport people about the county and we are aware that many families are using their cars and feel that they cannot use the service provided.

Buses

The survey highlighted some very important results and shows urgent action. 44% of students surveyed said the bus service was Very Poor to Average. Some of the top reasons students gave for their low opinion are detailed below.

Almost all students who were not satisfied with the services said that the timetables were out of date and could not be relied upon for details of bus times. When buses do arrive there is a huge amount of graffiti on the seats, torn seats and very little is done to address antisocial behaviour. This creates a bad atmosphere on buses and makes people feel uneasy.

The need for more services was also highlighted. There are no services to the Upton area after 6 pm, which means that people cannot get to or from these locations or people cannot attend evening activities. There is an element of isolation felt by some students.

There was a high volume of complaint that bus fares were too high. This may be due to the fact that students have been charged adult fares because they do not hold a suitable pass. While students want to hold these passes, not even the bus drivers themselves know how to obtain the required under age pass.

Suggested Improvements

We suggest that the council liaises with the bus companies to replace the existing timetables with the current service timetable. We would like to see buses cleaned and discuss the possibility of additional services to bridge the gap left after 6pm.

We feel that there is too little information published about under age passes and their availability. We should be encouraging the use of public transport in line

with the current government initiative to get people out of their cars. This area is very commuter orientated and we think more could be done to tackle the environmental issues.

Trains

The rail network is another vital link to the three major towns close to the S.E.S.K.U 39% of students said the train service was Very Poor to Average. Detailed below are some of the issues raised in our survey regarding the rail services to Moorthorpe train station.

The car park has a scattering of potholes and from the exterior looks very dank and unwelcoming. There is a run down pub, which is falling to pieces and boarded up. The place feels unsafe and more so due to the lack of good lighting. The current run down areas are known in the area for attracting drug users and vandals. Overall we found that the train services were not at fault. It was the station, access to the platform and the surrounding areas, which were found to be in most need of improvement.

Suggested Improvements

Moorthorpe train station would benefit from a new car park and waiting area that is well maintained and well lit. We would like to suggest that the area is brightened up with artwork from local schools and clubs. This has been done already in various public transport buildings and has improved the image of them greatly.
We would like the local council to liaise with the rail companies to install CCTV for added safety and ensure services are kept to a high standard.

Our overall impression from the students is that they are not proud of the area as a whole and we think that people passing through the area by bus or by train are given a false impression of the area by the drab and unkempt areas.

Run down Pub next to Minsthorpe Train Station

Unsafe building needs repair or demolish

Disused area near Minsthorpe Train Station

Moorthorpe Station Car Park

Current platform at Moorthorpe Train Station

Current Station buildings

Area Of Concern: The need for a safe place for young people in the area to socialise

A Youth Club

The student council have come to the conclusion that a youth club or youth centre would be a good idea to get youths of the street and have somewhere safe to go. Many respondents complained that youths cause trouble and hang around in big gangs on the streets; people complain that they feel threatened by these gangs. Other respondents recognised that, while they did hang around in l large gang, they were not intentionally being threatening but had nowhere else to go. A youth club would be the perfect answer. The service would need to be attractive and offer entertainment to local young people. Services such as an Internet café have been suggested but this could be built upon. If the council could support a youth worker to be based in a youth club more services for young people could be offered from a friendly outlet.

We have recently heard that South Kirkby Church is being renovated to be turned into a community centre; however, youths may be turned off the service, as it

was a church. Instead of the church, an alternative building could host the youth club; such as South Kirkby Grove or possible a new building on wasted land.
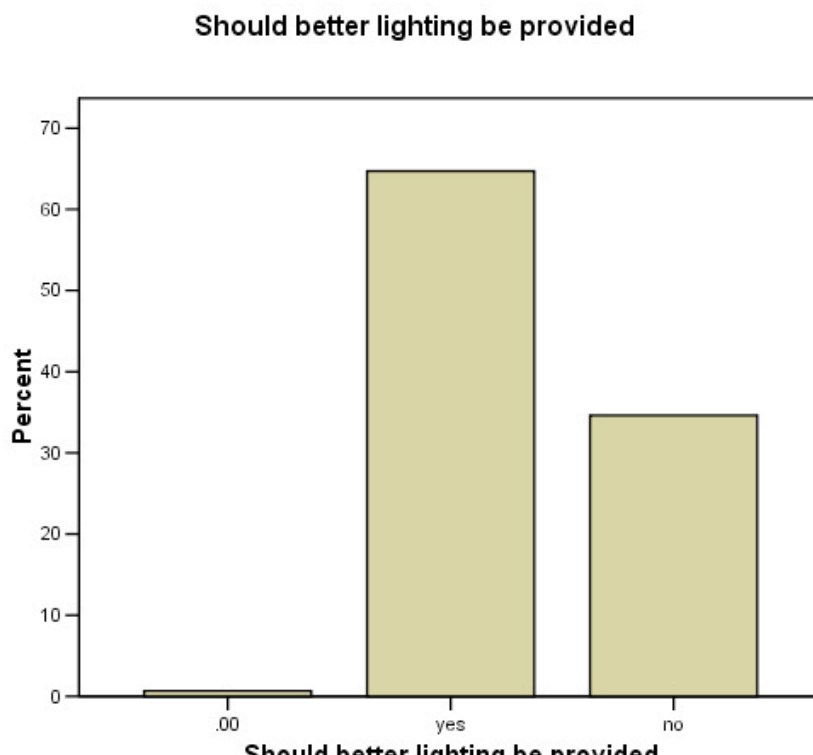
Advice, Work and Training

Within a youth club arises various opportunities to offer help and advice top the young people in the area. As we found from the questionnaire, students wanted somewhere they could turn to for advice. Units such as: Drinking advice, life coaching, connexions centre (outside college as MCC already has a connexions access point on campus), family planning clinics, weigh loss advice, drugs advice, sexual health advice (including gay/ lesbian advice, STI advice and contraception advice). Students did raise the issue that they would wish that all advice given and discussions had would be kept confidential.

We wish to put forward and Internet and computer room within the youth club, this was young people can learn computer skills, take youth, peer training courses, use the resource for homework and research into their choice of career. Our survey showed that the majority of students didn't feel confident using a computer or a multimedia package. Training within a youth club or support personnel available would boost confidence and help people who wish to work with I.C.T.

Community Safety

The results from the survey suggest that people felt safest during the day or in their own home. The time they felt most unsafe was in the dark. This is mainly because the street lighting is very poor. Comments were also made about drug users on the streets and drug dealers frequenting particular well known areas and, as we have already stated, people felt intimidated by gangs of youths. We felt that the results of the surveys reflected stories told by parents to keep their children from any harm and could be somewhat exaggerated.

Should better lighting be provided

Many people suggested CCTV cameras in social black spots, which have attracted crime or vandalism. This, in conjunction with better street lighting, will make the community feel safer. Community safety officers were a positive reinforcement idea. These officers to supervise areas of the village but more visible officers could be added to ensure the safety of the community.

In Conclusion….

The student council have put together what we feel is a viable plan of action and one which the council can take on board in conjunction with their current plans for improving the South Kirkby and Moorthorpe area.

We are thankful for the opportunity to take part in this venture and have offered continued support in the improvement plans for our local area.

Without improvement in this area the community as a whole will lose confidence and security. People should take pride in their area and this pride will be lost quickly without improvement and sustained facilities.

About The Respondents

Gender:
493 (39%) male

520 (41%) female
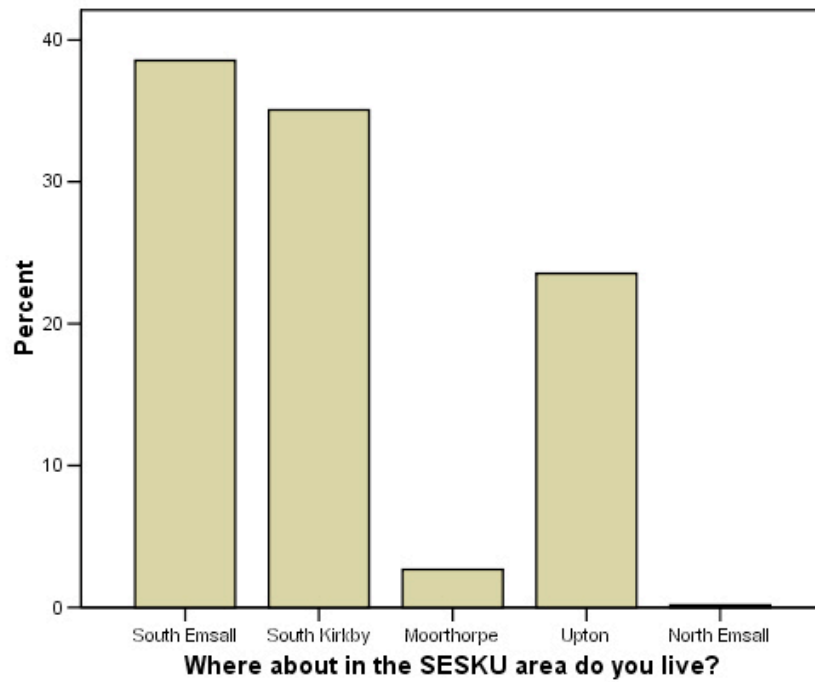
Year Group:
208 (17%)   Year 7

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112 (9%)        Year 8
233 (19%)    Year 9
181 (14%)    Year 10
188 (15%)    Year 11
52   (4%)    Year 12
38   (3%)    Year 13
18   (1%)    Year 14
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From the results we collected we can see that the largest population of students taking part in the survey were in year 9. These students have reached a point in their career, at which they can start planning any future job prospects. They will be of an age to take advantage of the new facilities. They desires and needs have been made clear by the surveys completed and we hope that these needs will be met to ensure the best possible future for young people growing up in the area.

Where the respondents live:

Where about in the SESKU area do you live?

Where about in the SESKU area do you live?

As most of the respondents came from South Kirkby and Moorthorpe (or very close by) we feel that the results compiled here are very significant of the opinions held by people in the area.

Results of analysis

<u>Section A: South Kirkby and Moorthorpe.</u>
432 from South Kirkby   - 34%
33 from Moorthorpe   - 3%

In total 37% of results from South Kirkby and Moorthorpe residents.
Although this amount doesn't seem to represent a lot of people in the area concerned,
it does include 100% of people who will use the area most frequently.

	Very Good		Good		Average		Poor		Very Poor	
Shephards Gardens	25	2%	120	10%	371	30%	275	22%	267	21%
Pavements	37	3%	160	14%	543	43%	293	23%	133	52%
Play Areas	66	5%	189	15%	355	28%	310	25%	239	19%
Recreational Area	103	8%	290	23%	454	36%	179	14%	133	11%

Most frequent suggestions:
More play areas, Improve current play areas and repair damage, Area needs cleaning,
roads need resurfacing, more things to do, sort out Moorthorpe train station.

<u>Section B: Shopping</u>
Comments about the area.
Very good 80 (6%)   Good 329 (26%)   Average 560 (45%)   Poor 167 (13%)
Very Poor 68 (5%)

<u>Section C: Suggested Services.</u>

	Would like in area		Would use	
Library	186	15%	267	21%
Youth Facilities	613	25%	437	35%
Youth Activities	530	42%	441	35%
Sports	895	71%	849	74%

Most popular sports wanted: Skate park, Ice skating, Football pitch and somewhere to
hang out.

<u>Section D: Health Provision</u>
Pregnancy - 612 (49%)   Doctors - 521 (41%)   Drug Abuse - 669 (53%)
Opticians -   437 (35%)   Counselling – 560 (45%)   Dentist – 504 (40%)
Smoking advice – 650 (52%)

Most popular suggestions were STI clinics, hospital, physiotherapy and confidential
services. Just the need to speak to someone about things without their parents having
to know.

Section E: Work and Training.

Retail – 508 (40%) I.T. related – 599 (41%) Call centres – 411 (33%)
Warehousing – 461 (37%) Manufacturing – 414 (33%) Construction – 438(35%)
Electronics – 591 (57%) Clerical – 357 (28%)

More jobs for 14+ required, mechanics suggested, KFC / fast food restaurants (also listed as a want from earlier sections and validated by creation of jobs)

	Not used		Not Confident	
PC	99	8%	297	24%
Internet	58	5%	266	21%
Email	231	18%	552	44%
Multimedia	410	33%	733	58%

Be aware of possible misunderstandings with words used in survey.

Section F: Transport.

	Bus		Train	
Very Good	63	5%	153	12%
Good	262	21%	399	32%
Average	254	20%	349	29%
Poor	189	15%	73	5%
Very Poor	115	9%	61	5%

Buses never on time, timetables wrong at bus stops, poor state of repair. No buses to Upton after 6pm.

Satisfied? Yes – 678 (54%) No – 360 (29%)
Even students who marked yes for satisfactory commented that they rarely used public transport, as cars were available.

Own car – 42 (3%) Parent's Car – 486 (39%) Bus – 379 (30%)
Train – 45 (4%) Motorbike – 48 (4%) Walk – 593 (47%)
Other – 149 (12%)

Section G: Community Safety.

	Very Safe		Safe		Unsafe		Very Unsafe		No View	
Day	312	25%	630	50%	49	4%	28	2%	26	2%
Dark	84	7%	323	26%	266	29%	230	18%	36	3%
Home	748	60%	231	18%	23	2%	20	2%	18	1%
Street	162	13%	534	42%	291	23%	11	1%	34	3%

Main comments were about dark streets, no lights, drug users and drug dealers hanging around streets and being intimidated by large gangs of youths. Most people had written what their parents would like to hear…..

Police Wardens – 541 (43%)   CCTV – 652 (52%)   Lighting – 670 (53%)
Safety Officers 513 (41%)
No real comments or suggestions were made in this area.

Section H: About Respondents.

Male 493 (39%)   Female – 520 (41%)

Year 7 – 208 (17%)   Year 8 – 112 (9%)   Year 9 - 233 (19%)
Year 10 – 181 (14%)   Year 11 – 188 (15%)   Year 12 – 52 (4%)
Year 13 – 38 (3%)   Year 14 – 18 (1%)
While this may not be representative of the people in the area, it is representative of the school population and hence is the people who will use the area most frequently.

Having jobs – 201 (16%) These were mostly paper round, Babysitting and working at NEXT.

872 (69%) said they had access to a PC
6865 (55%) said they had access to the internet.

Section I: Interest in finding out more.

971 (77%) of people gave their names, 263 (21%) of those wanted more information and 182 (14%) said they would be interested in helping with the improvements.

Main points people wanted to makes was to make sure this information was used positively and not swept under the carpet…..