



# South Queensferry & Kirkliston

# The Involvement & Review Process

September 2018

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2018

## **What is YouthTalk**

YouthTalk is a process that supports large numbers of young people to have a say about things in their community. This can be about how services are provided, issues they think affect them or to simply let everyone know how they feel about their area and what they think could be done to change things.

The process typically lasts 6 – 8 months and uses different ways to involve young people. Young people are also at the very heart of the process, guiding the way things should work and helping to create new ways to involve young people.

Adults are important too as they can then work with young people to help change things, make things better or just listen to young people. This is normally at the final stage of the involvement process through the 'gathering'.

After the 'gathering', the real work begins in terms of ensuring what can be delivered or changed happens. Key to this is the continued involvement of young people having oversight of the developments and wherever possible, being involved with the development and delivery of the activity. In South Queensferry and Kirkliston, this will be supported by an adult group known as the Youth Engagement Partnership and its membership can expand to reflect the outcomes to be taken forward.

YouthTalk was devised by the City of Edinburgh Council in 2013 and has been carried out in different parts of the city. It has been recognised by the Scottish Parliament as a model of good practice and also by the Scottish Government Education Inspectorate as an exemplar model to engage with young people.

It is intended that by the end of 2019, YouthTalk will have taken place in key areas of the city, predominantly but not exclusively around those small areas identified in the [Locality Improvement Plans](#).

## **What's been going on in South Queensferry and Kirkliston?**

Since February 2018, young people aged between (secondary school age) 11 – 18 years have been encouraged to give their views about local activities and facilities, what it's like to be a young person in the community and issues linked to this. This was carried out by youth workers within school, existing community provisions and through street-work.

The age group has been identified where it is good to understand what young people feel or have concerns about at two key times in a young person's life – transition into high school and life beyond school. Often when discussing views about activities and facilities, other issues affecting young people are brought up such as concerns with health and wellbeing, safety and their place in their community.

Experienced youth workers help provide a positive environment for the discussions or to simply have a say and do not 'lead' the young people. Where the discussion moves to other issues, this is directed by young people themselves.



## **Other Highlights:**

- The engagement methods identified 3 main themes for improvement; Existing Youth Facilities and activities, green space and cleanliness and sports and recreation.
- Young people identified improvements to be made so that facilities meet their needs and become more relevant to their development.
- Parks and greenspace have been identified by some young people as being non-young person friendly, in need of upgrading and in some cases with poor cleansing standards;
- Traditional youth service provision or facilities were often mentioned positively and negatively depending on the views or experiences of the individuals;
- From the locally based organisations that returned information, it was suggested that there was adequate weekend provision for young people.
- Many providers, particularly sports based and those engaging young people with wide ranging issues continue to rely heavily on unpaid volunteers;
- Some facilities have been identified as old in terms of their fabric and in need of upgrading;
- There is a lack of provision for older young people e.g. 14+ years;
- A lack of gender specific sports clubs was highlighted e.g. girls football team
- A perception that bus and train services to and from the city centre are both infrequent and inadequate
- Not enough services to deal with LGBT, wellbeing issues etc
- There was no concern in the neighbourhoods in terms of fear of crime or issues such as lack of CCTV or poor lighting;

## **How were young people involved?**

Once the core group was established, they were asked their views on what other activities could be used to involve greater numbers of young people. From this, the following methods were put in place:

- A poll of young people in the high school where they were asked their thoughts about existing facilities and activities;
- A mapping process where young people were asked to identify good areas/facilities and activities, the same but ok and the same but poor. Some discussion was held to identify what things were as they indicated.

- School based activity including questionnaires;
- Youth club mapping and questionnaires;
- Street based activity (awaiting returns)

From this, over 600 opinions, views, comments and concerns were put forward.

### **Youth Clubs and Street Work:**

To engage with as many young people as possible, youth clubs in both South Queensferry and Kirkliston areas were used to conduct face-to face interviews to establish their views on current and future provisions. Likewise, targeted street-work sessions were undertaken in both communities to identify the views of young people, who weren't currently accessing any youth services/provisions.

### **Street-Work:**

During July and August 2018, Street-work engaged with young people they met on the streets of South Queensferry and Kirkliston. An update on the outcomes will be provided as soon as possible.

### **Opinion Poll – South Queens Ferry High**

In June 2018, Queensferry High School pupils were asked during a morning break to give their opinion to – *“What do you think of local youth facilities and activities like youth clubs, leisure centres, parks, sports clubs, outdoor activities, arts and crafts etc?”*

Responses as follows:

<b>Answers</b>	<b>Queensferry High School</b>	<b>Total %</b>
Very Good	134	37%
Like To Have	128	36%
Not Good/Needs Improved	96	27%
Total	358	358

Whilst it is clear this is a simple snapshot, opinion poll, it helps gain a general understanding of what young people think about the current situation and can help organisers develop the wider YouthTalk process based on the responses.

### **Mapping**

Since April 2018 the core group have engaged in a local mapping exercise where they have used community maps of the area to highlight what they deem to be facilities.

Those involved used a colour coding system where Green was very good, Amber was things we'd like to have and Red was not good/needs improved. Discussions took place around the choices to better understand some of the feelings associated with the choices. It is worth noting that young people were not prompted to discuss things in any order,

which ensured there was a degree of randomness to the outcomes, the following examples reflect this.

Key: Kirkliston - (k)  
South Queens Ferry - (SQF)

Location/Facility	COLOUR	WHY?
Bad fencing at Railway (k)	Red	Unsafe, old, not child friendly
Bad Littering at Burnshot Road (k)	Red	Makes the place look untidy and has environmental consequences
Conifox (k)	Red	Too Expensive not teen friendly
Potholes at the Glebe (k)	Red	Dangerous to cyclists and they cause damage
Doctors (k)	Red	Multiple issues re: appointments and lack of community links
Gateside Road (k)	Red	Bikes stolen and hut vandalised.
Bad Fencing at River (k)	Red	Unsafe. Needs replaced.
Alison Park (k)	Red	Dodgy Fences and litter
Buses Route (k)	Red	No late buses
Kirkliston Roundabout (k)	Red	Bad Litter
Pike Pool (k)	Red	Dirty and Dangerous
Underpass at (SQF)	Red	Scary, needs lights and needs cleaned
Dangerous Road to Tesco (SQF)	Red	Needs improved for safety reasons
Bridge Barriers at (SQF)	Red	Unsafe needs upgraded
The VAT run at (SQF)	Red	Needles on the ground
Bowling Club at (SQF)	Red	Broken wall that needs fixed and is dangerous
Ashburnham Road (SQF)	Red	Uneven pavements
Park and school gate (SQF)	Red	Drug use going unnoticed, unchallenged
Parks and Local walk-ways	Red	Littered with dog poo bags
Electricity Substation (SQF)	Red	Broken wall needs fixed
Station Slope (SQF)	Red	Poor access
Construction site (SQF)	Red	Lack of safety
Toppies (SQF)	Red	Drunks and drug users hang out unchallenged
Scoutstoun Avenue (SQF)	Red	Poor street lighting. More lighting needed
Better cycle paths (k)	Amber	Current ones need improved
Late and frequent buses (k)	Amber	Current service isn't good enough
New Shopping Centre (k)	Amber	It would enhance the community
LGBT Group Kirkliston Community Centre	Amber	There currently isn't one
Photography Club Kirkliston Community Centre	Amber	Give Y/P more to do. Greater choice.
Gymnastic Club Kirkliston Community Centre	Amber	Give us more to do

Health Advice Centre – Kirkliston Library	Amber	There currently isn't one
Career Advice – Kirkliston Library	Amber	Help us get jobs
New Teen Park at Alison Park (k)	Amber	The park is aimed to much towards younger children
Pike Pool – (k)	Amber	It needs cleaned it up. Restore it to its former glory
Outdoor Trampoline Park (k)	Amber	We need more activities to do
Leisure Centre (k)	Amber	We need a bigger leisure centre with a pool
Outdoor Basketball Park	Amber	We need more outdoor activities
Local Businesses (SQF)	Amber	To provide more local work experience opportunities. There aren't enough now.
Public Buildings (SQF)	Amber	To showcase more Art work
Public and private leisure facilities, clubs etc (SQF)	Amber	To provide free gym and club access to all under 16's. It's too expensive.
Skatepark (SQF)	Amber	There isn't a skatepark and we want one
Youth Clubs (SQF)	Amber	To provide LGBTQ + Advice as they don't at present
Flumes at pool (SQF)	Amber	We need more fun activities
A new teenage park (SQF)	Amber	To give us greater choice and another place to go
Youth Clubs – open al hours (SQF)	Amber	We need a purpose built chill out youth café and HUB
A Music Studio (SQF)	Amber	So, we can learn to play and produce music
More Litter Bins (SQF)	Amber	Not enough at the moment
Safer Cycle Paths (SQF)	Amber	The cycle paths are unsafe and need improved
A climbing Wall (SQF)	Amber	It will give us more to do locally
Echline Park (SQF)	Amber	We need sheltered seating at the park
Port Edger (SQF)	Amber	We want free water sports as they are too expensive
Roseberry Hall	Amber	More youth clubs. There isn't any at the moment.
Grass at Kirkland Park St (k)	Green	Well maintained and accessible
Dog walking field (k)	Green	Safe place to take your dog a walk
Kirkliston Community Centre	Green	Lots to do
Scotmid (k)	Green	Good local shop
Conifox (k)	Green	Good facility
Library (k)	Green	It has a teen area
Church (k)	Green	It was nice flowers and is clean and friendly
Alison Park (k)	Green	It's safe for teenagers to go/hang out
Leisure Centre (k)	Green	It has lots of things for teenagers to do
Fast food Shops (k)	Green	Food is ace
Echline Park (SQF)	Green	Good, safe park for teenagers

Local Restaurants (SQF)	Green	Good food and welcoming
Port Edgar (SQF)	Green	Excellent facility if you can afford it
Rosberry Hall (SQF)	Green	Excellent, well run community facility
ScotMid (SQF)	Green	Good supermarket
The beach (SQF)	Green	Excellent walks and well maintained
The Museum (SQF)	Green	We can look at historical stuff
The Shops (SQF)	Green	The local shops are welcoming and have good stuff
Train Station (SFQ)	Green	Good train service
The Rec (SQF)	Green	Good for teenagers to meet and socialise
Nessie (SQF)	Green	Nice local statue
Ferry Glen (SQF)	Green	Good area for teenagers to hang out go walks etc

## **The Gathering**

We now have a good idea of some of the issues or concerns that young people have in the area. Now we need to explore these a bit further but with a view to now looking at how we can support young people to create change.

The Gathering will bring together 50 – 60 young people with some key adults to openly discuss the outcomes to date. The discussion quickly turns to generating ideas to make improvements. This is the part where reality plays a huge role. We know for example that budgets and resources are reducing so how do we develop things differently, how can we work together sharing resources to make a difference?

The format of the Gathering will be as informal as we can possibly make it. Discussions will focus on the three themes:

- Young people and activities:
  - Are we aware of what exists, the type of activities and when they take place? Thinking of some of the comments received, what type of things would help create more positive activities and how can we do it?
- Open/green space and cleanliness:
  - What is a good green space, what does it include? How do we tackle issues with litter and general cleanliness? What can be done to help improve outdoor spaces?
- Sports and recreation
  - What's available? Is there capacity to increase access? Can we develop new sports and if so, who should be involved?

## **Other Issues**

It is recognised that the gathering cannot cover every single issue raised and this is why they have been grouped where possible. Other issues will not be forgotten and will be developed further after the gathering and young people will be invited to get involved with this.

A final part of the event will be to ask young people how we continue to engage, keep them informed and work together better to create more positive opportunities and services in the area.

## **After the Gathering**

The YouthTalk involvement stage and the gathering is only the start of the process. The outcomes will be taken forward by the Youth Engagement Partnership and discussions are underway for Queensferry High to be involved in helping to ensure young people remain involved.