



Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum

Public Consultation: Morpeth School Students' Young People's Survey

July 2016

Thank you to Morpeth School for their support with the survey

The Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum wishes to thank all the students who completed the survey, and the senior management team of Morpeth School.

The survey was carried out at the end of the school year after exams, and it is a mark of the staff's dedication that they made time to enable their students to participate and give them a voice about the wider communities in which they live.

The answers provided by students demonstrate they are thinking critically about their neighbourhoods and have clear ideas about how they can be improved. We need to ensure that their views are included in the proposals that will eventually emerge in a future Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Plan.

Mike Mitchell

Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum committee member

31 July 2016

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1.0 Introduction

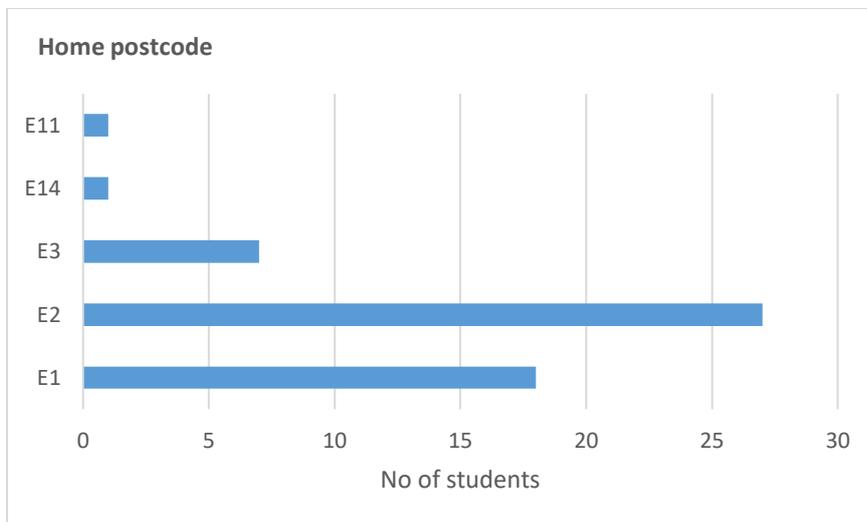
Morpeth School is a co-educational school for pupils aged 11-18 years rated 'Outstanding' in its most recent Ofsted report. Following a brief meeting with the school's senior management team in early July, an English teacher, Jo Bailey, kindly agreed to help organise the completion of a short 'Young People's Survey' during the last weeks of the summer term.

2.0 Findings

54 students aged 12-15 years completed the survey.

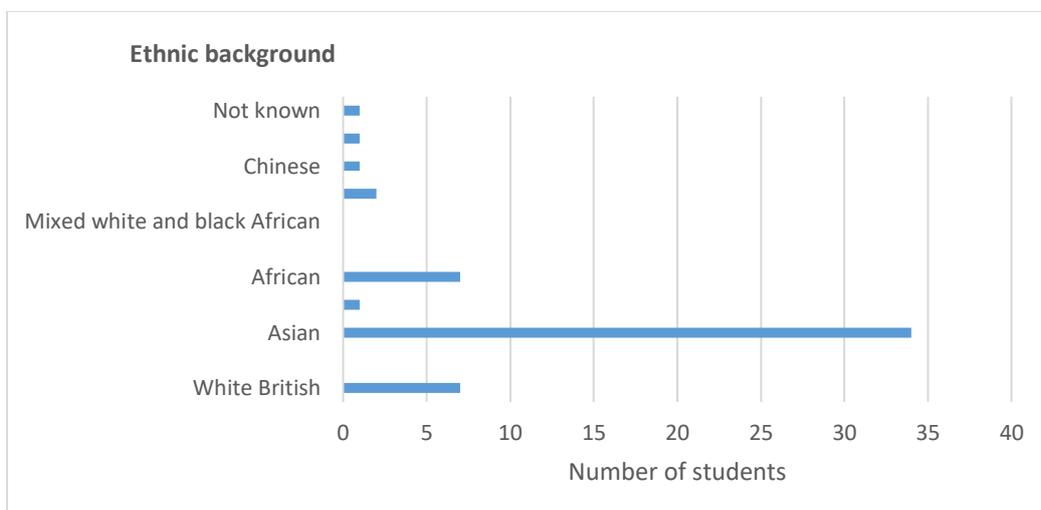
50% lived in E2, 33% in E1, 13% in E3 and 2% in each of E14 and E11.

2.1 Home area



2.2 Ethnic background

63% of participating students were of Asian background, with 13% each of white British and African heritage. Four other ethnic groups comprised the remaining 23%.



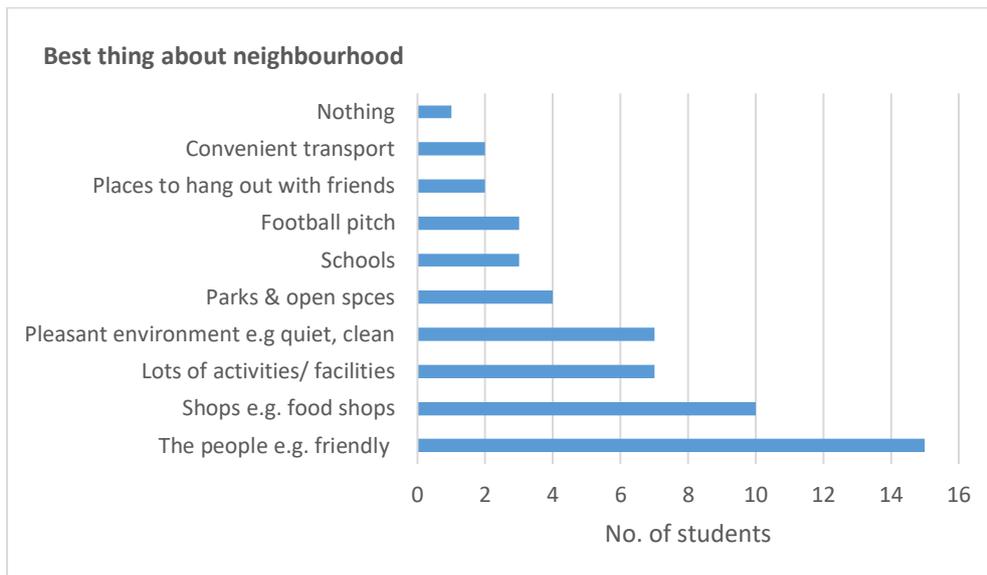
3.0 Survey questions

Students were asked to respond briefly to seven questions:

3.1 What is the BEST thing about your neighbourhood?

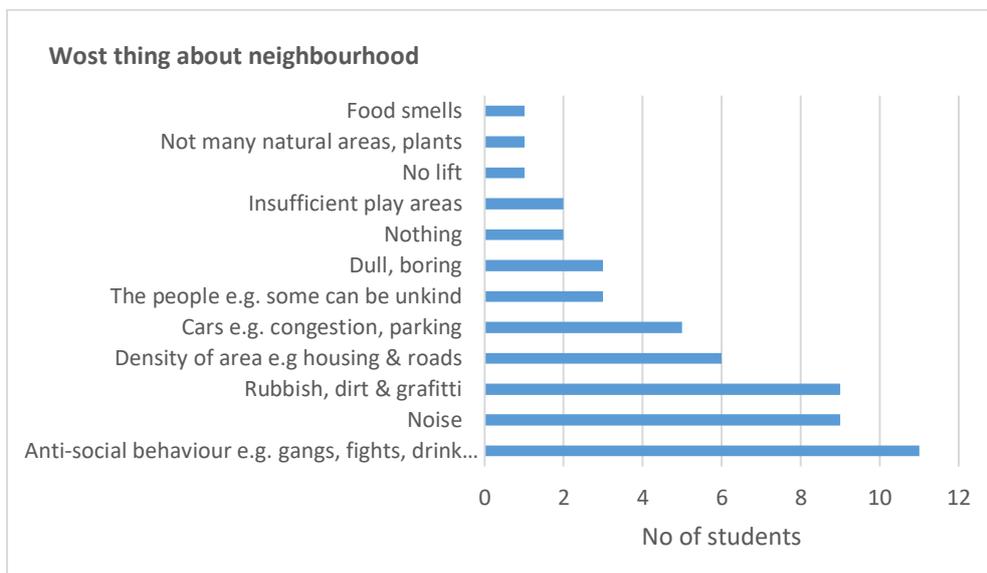
The biggest group (28%) said “The people” were the best thing, often referring to friendliness. Remarks like “Friendly atmosphere” and “We all know each other and get along” emphasised the sense of community and cohesion felt by this group.

The proximity of shops, including take away shops, was mentioned by 18% of respondents, whilst 13% mentioned lots of activities/facilities, with the same per cent mentioning the pleasant environment (e.g. it was quiet or clean).



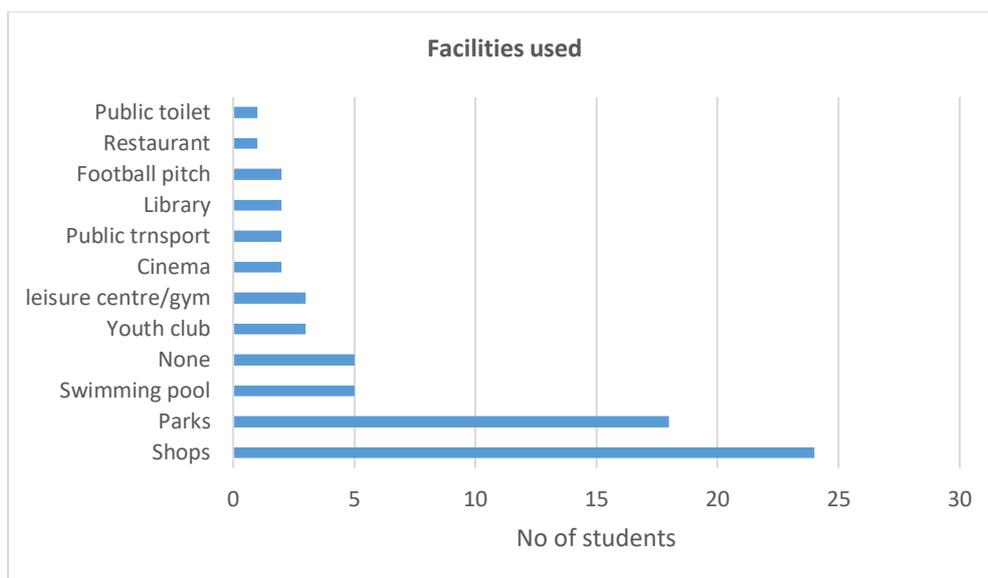
3.2 What is the WORST thing about your neighbourhood?

Anti-social behaviour was mentioned most often (20%), with gangs, fights, drinking and drugs being cited. This was followed by noise (17%), and rubbish, dirt and graffiti (also 17%). The density of housing and roads was mentioned (11%), and cars (9%).



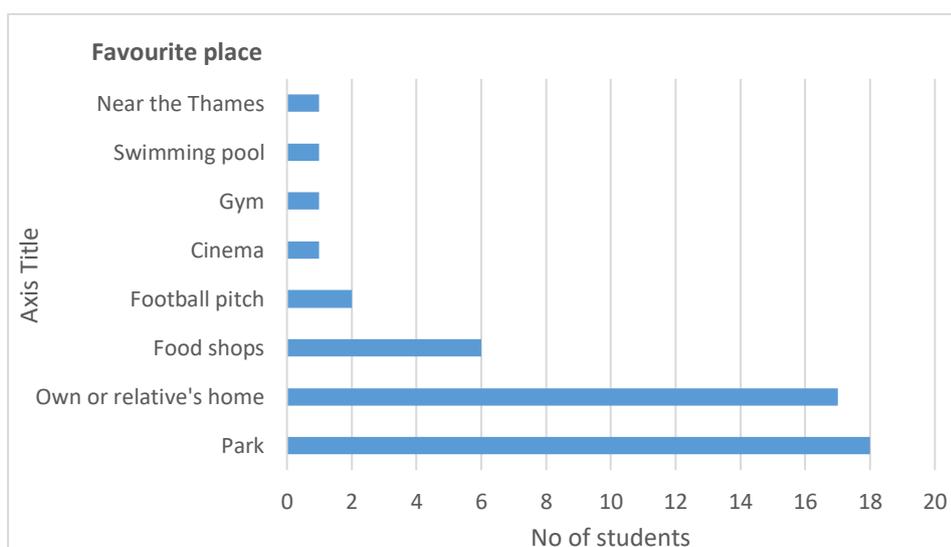
3.3 What FACILITIES do you use in your neighbourhood?

44% of pupils used local shops, with food and convenience shops being mentioned, unsurprising given respondents were teenagers. 33% of pupils used local parks and shops, and parks were mentioned more than three times as often as swimming pool (9%) and over five times more than youth clubs (6%). The small number saying they attend youth clubs was particularly surprising. 9% said they didn't use any facilities.



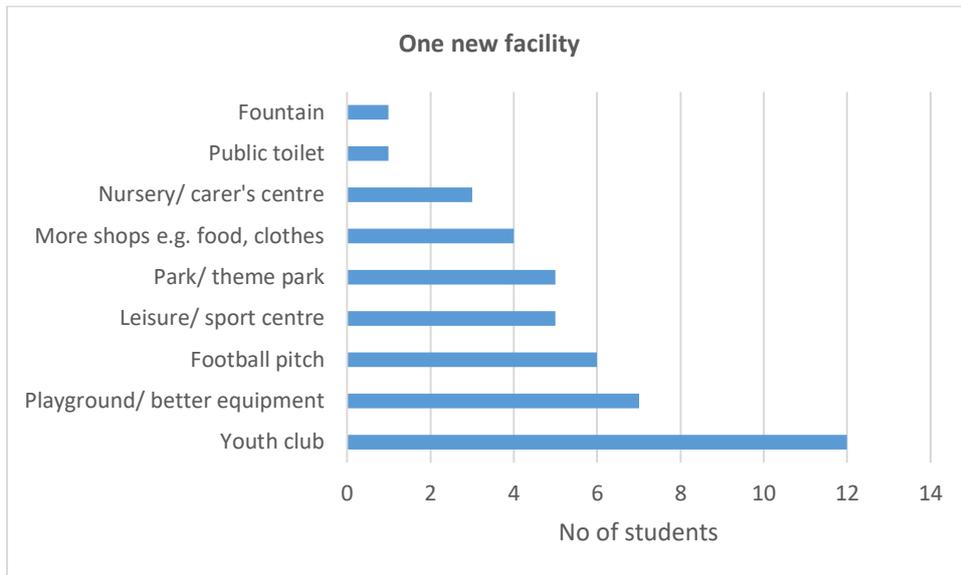
3.4 Where is your FAVOURITE place to go in your neighbourhood?

The park was mentioned as a favourite place most often (33%), with own home or that of a relative mentioned nearly as much (31%). This may indicate the importance of family and the home in Bangladeshi culture and help explain why nearly one in ten reported not using local facilities in the previous question.



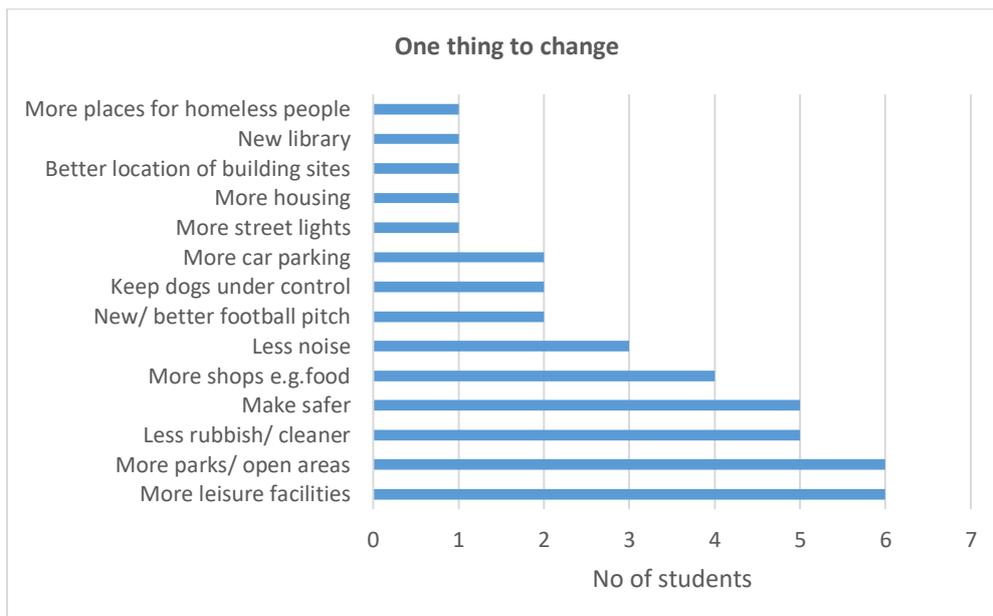
3.5 If you could choose one new facility in your neighbourhood for young people, what would it be?

Different sorts of leisure facilities were mentioned by 65% of pupils. Youth clubs were mentioned by 22%, contrasting with the 6% who reported attending one in question 3.3. Play areas or better play equipment was mentioned by 13%, football pitches by 11%, leisure/sports centres by 9% and parks (including theme parks!) by 9%.



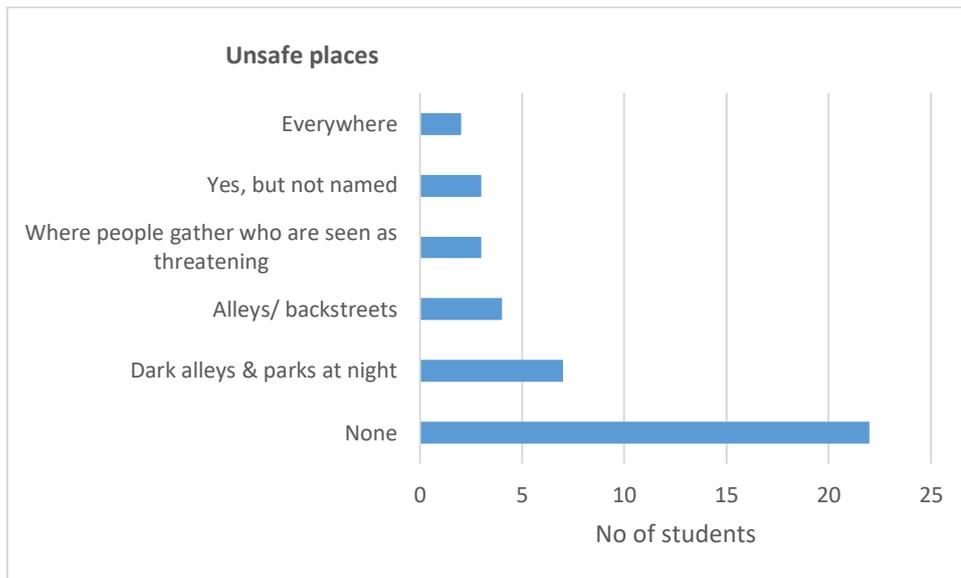
3.6 If you could change ONE THING about your neighbourhood, what would it be?

The desire for more leisure facilities was also highlighted by answers to this question, with 13% saying they wanted this. The popularity of parks and open areas was also mentioned by 13%. A cleaner and safer environment were both mentioned by 9% of pupils.



3.7 Are there any places or areas you don't feel safe to go in your neighbourhood?

44% said there was nowhere they didn't feel safe to go in their neighbourhood. This confirms the perception of a friendly neighbourhood reported by 28% of students in question 3.1. Dark alleys and parks at night were mentioned as unsafe by 13%, and alleys and back streets by 7%. Places where people who are seen as threatening gather, were also perceived to be unsafe by 7% of students. A small number (5%) perceived everywhere to be unsafe, perhaps again highlighting that a small minority of young people don't often venture far from home.



4.0 Summary of findings

The ethnic background of students was roughly as expected, with 63% having an Asian, mainly Bangladeshi heritage. There were no students from an Eastern European background, but this may not be representative of the overall school population.

A strong sense of community and friendliness among peers was evident in responding to the question about the best thing about students' neighbourhoods.

The popularity of shops, especially take aways came through in the question about facilities used (44%), as did the popularity of parks (33%). The popularity of parks is borne out by a similar per cent (33%) reporting that parks were their favourite place in their neighbourhood.

The importance of home and family was shown by 31% mentioning their own home or that of a relative as their favourite place, perhaps signifying the importance of the local extended family among the Bangladeshi community.

Regarding the desire for new facilities, youth clubs were mentioned by 22% of students, contrasting with only 6% saying they attend one. The fact that 65% of students mentioned leisure facilities of some kind demonstrates a clear desire for more or better youth leisure provision. This is supported by the answer to the question about changing one thing in their neighbourhoods. Better leisure facilities was mentioned by 13% of students, with a

similar per cent mentioning more parks or open areas. The desire for cleaner and safer neighbourhoods were the next most common subjects reported.

The fact that 44% of students reported there weren't any places they felt unsafe to go in their neighbourhoods may reflect a general perception of their areas being generally safe and friendly, as reported in answers to the best thing about their neighbourhoods. Concern about walking down alleys and back streets by day or night, being in parks at night, and being in places where groups gather who are perceived as threatening, were the specific risky areas which were mentioned.

