

February 2024 Youth Forum Results, plus additional youth feedback

Date of Forum: 08/02/24

Location: Tresham College, Kettering

Purpose of forum: When discussing the topic of young people and the things they would like to see in our town, we decided a vital part of this would be to go out to spaces where young people will be and meet with them. A meeting was called with Tresham students and students from the secondary schools around Kettering were asked to send a representative, and only KBA proposed a student to attend but their parents were not able to bring them due to working hours. There were 13 Tresham students that attended the forum, plus one Tresham member of staff.

Summary of feedback

The following bullet points outline what was commented on or suggested.

- **Retro arcade (3)**
- **Social areas with wifi / youth centres (3)**
- **Archery (2)**
- **Indoor basketball (2)**
- **More pools (2)**
- **Interactive clubs (2) eg. Gaming clubs**
- Primark
- Better parks
- Taco bell
- Swimming pool improvements
- Large interactive outdoor games
- Volleyball club for Kettering town
- Gaming centre
- Sports clubs
- Nerf war
- Culturally diverse food
- Rage room
- Go-karting
- Lazer Maze (one in Kettering, can't get to Wellingborough)
- Open M&S
- Cinema in town centre eg. At Gala Bingo
- Film nights
- Survival skills
- Educational trips
- Expand the skatepark / indoor skate park
- BMX biking
- Places to rent a bike
- Pay for transport to Adrenaline alley

We discussed what ideal youth spaces would look like:

- Big room – possibly enough space to do some sports
- Wifi
- Projector for movie nights
- £1 or £2 per person
- One student suggested an idea for having rooms with different genres of music

What they liked in Kettering:

- Geek Retreat
- Kettering Arts Centre

What they didn't like in Kettering:

- Outdated places
- Closed shops
- Small swimming pool
- Poor transport
- Potholes
- Needs more green spaces/gardening

Based on the common themes, these were three proposals that emerged:

1. Friday Film Night at the Kettering Arts Centre
2. Youth Club at the Woodcroft Scout Centre
3. Create a basketball club at Tresham

Update on these proposals:

- One student who volunteers at the Kettering Arts Centre is liaising with the venue to find out if there is available every Friday night.
- The Woodcroft Centre has recently outlined that they are looking to encourage their space to be utilised more by other groups and members of the public. The Mayor has contacted the venue to discuss the feasibility of the second proposal and they have availability every Wednesday for a youth club, and are very supportive of the idea. They have even offered to help secure grants to assist getting the youth club established.
- The Mayor has been in touch with the Principal of Tresham College with regards to setting up a basketball club, and if there might be a sports coach willing to support this.

Top 10 common themes from previous feedback:

- 1. Better town centre shops / new shopping mall**
- 2. More football pitches (and better floodlights for playing afterschool)**
- 3. More community events and festivals (variety wanted, and more cultural events)**
- 4. Cleaner / less litter**
- 5. Improved safety / less drugs / more streetlights**
- 6. Water fight**
- 7. Arcades**
- 8. More parks / green spaces**
- 9. Bike parks**
- 10. Less vape shops**

Previous feedback from in person consultations:

- **Primark (4)**
- **“Get rid of crackheads” (3)**
- **More streetlights (3)**
- **More parks / green spaces (3)**
- **More security (2)**
- **Cleaner / more bins (2)**
- No vaping
- Starbucks in town
- Homeless shelter
- Pool table
- More football pitches
- Ice skating rink
- Pothole repairs
- Upgraded shops and cafes
- Arcades
- Foot golf
- Turn Bingo Hall into a theatre/cultural hub
- Free public toilets
- Outdoor basketball (revamp the one by the Ise Lodge Skate Park)
- Feminine products provided free in public bathrooms
- More outdoor seating

Previous feedback from KBA anonymous student survey:

- **More shops/better shops (12)**
- **Football stadium / football tournaments / more pitches (9)**
- **More community events and festivals (8)**
- **Water fight (8)**
- **Cleaner / less litter (7)**
- **Arcades (4)**
- **Less racism / more cultural events (4)**

- Bike parks (3)
- Water sports/water based events (2)
- More/safer parks (2)
- Less drugs (2)
- Less vape shops (2)
- New shopping mall (2)
- Pride festivals (2)
- Video game club
- Colourful streets
- Help the homeless
- Paintball
- Football Tournaments
- Mini Pride Parades
- Arts and Crafts
- Live bands (Also, people learning to play instrument)
- Skateboarding
- Bike races (Push bikes)
- Kissing booth
- Go kart racing festival

