

Community Amenities and Activities

The vast majority of respondents (81%) felt that the Churches played an important role in the Community. There was also support in the further comments around the community spirit that can be seen in Wesham and this could be developed in collaboration with the Churches.

There was no specific organisation that the majority of respondents knew about. The Community Centre being the highest at 64%. Whilst there are a wide range of other community groups and organisations running in the community, that people attend and are aware of, there needs to be improvement of the information available about such facilities and activities going on in the community. Although 52% were aware of the bowling green only 6% of the respondents said they use it.

Wesham Jubilee Doorstep Green is a partnership between the Countryside Agency and The New Opportunities Fund (Lottery Distribution Body), with support from Wesham Town Council and local residents. A small committee was formed to find out what to do with the land at the corner of Derby Road and Park Lane. After public consultation it was decided to create a park, open spaces, a children's play area and a dog walking area. Funding was obtained from the Countryside Agency, up to 70% of the cost of the project. The balance being provided by 20% voluntary labour and 10% in cash. Since its completion, the Doorstep Green has been awarded the Green Pennant Award on three consecutive occasions.

Over 50% had a poor opinion of arts and entertainment available in the parish, with only 1% giving a "good" response.

There was some support for various sporting activities including



"There is a good sense of community in the town! The churches and community organisations are best placed to encourage and develop this."

"We need to develop our community but amenities need to improve to sustain it."

"The Parish should join with Kirkham to secure the swimming pool."

"Above all else please leave our Post Office in Wesham open!"

swimming 44% and keep fit/aerobics 31%. Several of the activities listed are already available in the surrounding area. However, 52% of people felt that there were adequate facilities within the community.

It was felt by 59% that it was easy to access a GP, but only 21% and 25% respectively felt that access to a dentist or hospital/ specialist health was good.

The Kirkham and Wesham Advertiser is considered to be the main source of information about activities and events in the parish (77%). Kirkham and Rural Fylde Express (41%). The use of notice boards (49%), notices in local shops (53%) and general "word of mouth" (52%) are other ways people are informed of what's going on. Only 13% utilise the Wesham Community Website or the Internet. In many categories people indicated that more information about the community was required by the general public.

Actions

- Look at the possibility of producing a regular 'Parish Information' booklet to promote existing activities and events in the parish, including the Community Centre, Churches and the Schools.
- Consider other means of publicising information, including the newly provided Parish Notice Board and the Wesham Web Site www.wesham.org.uk.
- Encourage the people of the parish to identify new activities which are currently not being catered for.
- Former NHS Land on Mowbreck Lane (Public Open Space) to be developed for community use. (see map on page 13).
- Create new dog walking areas.



Provision for our Children and Young People

Most people felt that there was not enough youth provision in the community, especially in the evenings, and that the creation of a Youth Club, Drop in Centre/Youth Cafe and improved facilities including a skate park, for example, may benefit the community in other ways, improving community cohesion and reducing anti social behaviour. Offers of help to create such facilities were forthcoming in the responses.

Without the knowledge of the available facilities for all ages, respondents had some difficulty in answering the question about youth facilities, however, 49% of people agreed that there were poor facilities for the 16-17 year olds and 42% for the 12-15 year olds. Some were aware of the successful uniformed organisations (Scouts, Guides etc) and the Christ Church youth club. Of the respondents 50% rarely use the recreation and play areas. (This may be because the percentage of respondents with young families was low).

“A fenced off piece of land could be used for 5 aside football, tennis or basketball this is a facility which could bring in a healthy revenue for the parish.”

“Whilst it is generally a pleasant place to live it lacks vibrancy and things to do. This is especially true for children and young people.”

“It concerns me regarding groups of teenagers hanging around - my daughter is one of them.”

“They get a bad press, they get bored, people feel intimidated by them.”

“I would willingly volunteer to provide facilities for our teenagers 11-15 eg. open up the old fire station!”

Actions

- A skateboard park is due to be erected on the Fleetwood Road Playing Fields site. - completed September 2008
- Provide new play equipment on this site using funds from the Section 106 agreement associated with the Weeton Road housing development.