

Social Health in Moretonhampstead – Youth Stakeholder Meeting

Date: Thursday 15 October 2026

Venue: Moretonhampstead Community Club

Attended by: [REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Purpose and consultation findings

The group met to review the findings of the summer youth consultation and consider how these could inform future opportunities for young people in Moretonhampstead.

The consultation gathered views from approximately 50 young people through surveys and activities, alongside local demographic data and conversations with community organisations. The findings highlighted:

- **Positive experiences:** Young people value Moretonhampstead's safety, natural environment and community activities
- **Places and activities:** There is demand for more affordable, age-appropriate places to meet, socialise and participate in sport and recreation
- **Transport:** Limited public transport restricts young people's independence and access to opportunities
- **Barriers to participation:** Cost, confidence, awareness of activities and having someone to go with can prevent young people taking part
- **Youth voice:** Some young people want more opportunities to influence decisions affecting their lives and community

Main discussion

Spaces for young people

The group explored the difference between designated spaces for young people and informal spaces they choose to use themselves (e.g. church porch, oak tree in Sentry, green spaces in housing estates.) This raised questions about how the town can become more welcoming to young people, how different generations can share public spaces and how negative perceptions of teenagers might be challenged.

The Sports Centre, Youth Club and Sentry were identified as important local assets offering different opportunities and challenges. Sam brought enthusiasm for exploring improvements to the Sentry, including facilities more suitable for teenagers, informed by further consultation with people who currently use the space.

Building connections at an earlier age

The transition from primary to secondary school was recognised as an important stage when young people can lose some of their connection to the town. Engaging children aged around 11–13, while maintaining opportunities as they grow older, could help strengthen their longer-term involvement in community life.

Developing a shared vision

The group discussed creating a vision for *Moretonhampstead in 2035*, imagining what a thriving, welcoming community for young people could look like. Rather than focusing on one large project, this could encourage a variety of opportunities and spaces, shaped by young people themselves.

Further engagement

There are opportunities to develop the evidence further through [REDACTED] family consultation for Knead to Connect around local food needs, and potentially through a younger Community Listener working locally, who may be able to gather additional perspectives.

Turning consultation into action

There was strong agreement that young people need to see practical responses to the views they have shared. Opportunities discussed included developing representation through a Youth Council, organising activities and trips, and improving information about what is already available locally.

Next steps and actions to explore

Action	Lead / involvement
Explore a Sentry engagement day and further youth-led consultation about improvements, including possible funding	Sam / Parish Council, supported by Wellmoor
Explore a Youth Council, building on the existing Youth Forum	Sam and [REDACTED]
Meet with [REDACTED] to discuss trip for the Youth Club	[REDACTED]
Look into a visit to the Bovey Tracey youth café to learn from their experience	[REDACTED] + interested partners + [REDACTED]
Share the consultation findings with youth providers with offer to include information in a simple directory of local youth activities	[REDACTED]
Contact Country Bus to explore possibility of a Sunday bus service	Sam + Parish Council
Explore practical activities responding to Youth Forum ideas, including a clothes swap with Proper Job	[REDACTED]
Develop the idea of a shared longer-term vision for young people in Moretonhampstead	Wider group, with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
Share learning/insights from wider families/young people consultation activities	[REDACTED]