

YMCA Emsworth Community Survey March 2021

Summary of key findings

This document is a summary of the key findings from the YMCA Emsworth Community Survey, delivered as part of the consultation process for the prospective new development of YMCA Emsworth Early Years, Youth and Community Centre.

The survey was made available both online and through a paper-based version hand delivered to local residents. Approximately 2000 postal copies were delivered. There were a total of **240** respondents.

What people like about their community

When asked how safe they felt in their community, 79.2% agreed or strongly agreed. 76.3% also said they felt a sense of belonging in their community, and 69.2% said people in their community were happy and healthy.

Respondents were also given the opportunity to discuss the things they like best about their community in an open-text question. The key themes raised were:

- **The community spirit:** mentioned in **130** times (**54.2%**).
- **The quiet and independent village feel:** mentioned **91** times (**37.9%**).
- **The open spaces:** covering easy access to nature, the coast and other green spaces. Mentioned **63** times (**26.3%**).
- **Local amenities and leisure opportunities:** mentioned **56** times (**23.3%**).

Local community need

When asked if they felt their community offers opportunities for people to thrive, only 45.0% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed. Additionally, 50% of respondents felt they don't get many opportunities to meet other people in the community.

Survey respondents were also given opportunities to discuss what they felt was needed to improve their community.

- **Local amenities/facilities.** This topic was mentioned **157** times (**65.4%**), covering a range of different services and facilities respondents would like to see available locally. Within this theme, **127** of these mentions (**80.9%** of above figure, **52.9%** of total) were regarding youth and community services.
- **Local infrastructure, maintenance / cleanliness and accessibility.** These topics were mentioned **87** (**36.3%**) times.
- **Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.** This topic was mentioned **37** times (**15.4%**), also including mentions of desires for greater local police presence.
- **Motorist related issues.** This topic was broad, including incidents of parking, traffic/congestion, poor driving and speeding. It was mentioned **28** times (**11.7%**).
- **Sense of community/connection.** This topic was mentioned **20** times (**8.3%**).
- **Other.** Other topics that were mentioned include: more environmental initiatives/protection for environment (14) less new builds, particularly housing developments (12) and governance and citizenship-related issues (2).

Community programmes/facilities

When asked specifically about what respondents would like to see in a new community venue:

- **62.5%** said they would like to see community programmes available for all age groups
- **58.3%** said that youth-specific facilities/activities would be important
- **53.8%** would like a Community Café

- **51.25%** would like a multi-use games area

Responses to the proposed YMCA Emsworth development

The following relates to Q6, an open-text question where respondents were asked if they had any views they wanted to share about the proposed development. This question was optional, and **138 (57.5%)** people responded. Of these:

Support

- Explicit support and enthusiasm for the project was expressed by **58** people (**42%**, **24.2%** of total).
- **33** people specifically chose to express the view that the youth services proposed would be of community benefit (**23.9%**, **13.8%** of total).

Concerns and Objections

Concerns were raised by **63** respondents (**45.7%**, **26.3%** of total). This includes those whose overall positions were both in support, as well as those opposed to the proposed development. Key concerns mentioned included:

- **Parking: 24** concerns raised (**17.4%** of Q6 respondents, **10%** of total).
Specifically how the proposed centre would impact parking for local residents, as well as concerns that there were not enough parking spaces incorporated
- **Building/site design: 20** concerns raised (**14.5%**, **8.3%** of total).
Concerns were raised regarding the design of the building, most notably the aesthetics, which some deemed to be out of keeping with the local surroundings. Several also raised concerns about the location of the MUGA.
- **Duplication of existing services: 18** concerns raised (**13%**, **7.5%** of total).
Specific concerns related to this topic included:
 - That existing services/facilities were already underused /not properly invested in, suggesting that these should be a focus for investment, and also related several inferences that the pattern of underuse and disrepair could also apply to this new project.
 - That the new development could place existing services at risk of closure.
- **Traffic/Congestion. 14** concerns raised (**10.1%**, **5.8%** of total).
Concerns were that the proposed centre would lead to increased traffic that the estate's infrastructure was not designed to deal with.
- **Lead to increase in vandalism/antisocial behaviour. 13** concerns raised (**9.4%**, **5.4%** of total).
This concern was often mentioned specifically in reference to the proposed youth services. Concerns about the centre itself being the target of vandalism and becoming run down as a result were also mentioned.
- **Noise: 12** concerns raised (**8.7%**, **5%** of total).
General noise, but several concerns specifically related to noise from people using the MUGA, as well as generally in the evenings/weekends.

15 people (**10.9%**, **6.3%** of total) took the opportunity to express explicit objections to the proposed development and/or state that they would not use it.