

RHYL YOUTH ACTION GROUP
Youth Consultation Report

NO FRILLS DOCUMENT



November 2008

A consultation event undertaken by young people; for young people living in Rhyd,
by members of the RYA G

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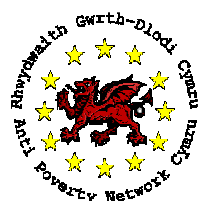
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Foreword

Ann Jones (AM)

I am delighted and honoured to write the forward to this excellent report produced by the young people from RYAG together with assistance from Rhyl Town Council and Denbighshire County Council for the young people of Rhyl.

Their methodology and their findings make interesting reading showing that if the community embraces young people then there is such a lot to learn. I want to say a huge thank you and well done to the young people who gave their time to conduct the survey and produce this report. Your dedication to our town is first class and I hope that the contents of your report and your continued input will help shape the future of Rhyl.

Ann Jones

Introduction

This report represents the views of close to 50% of the total population of young people living in Rhyl.

Rhyl Youth Action Group started this consultation to hopefully find out the views of the young people in Rhyl; what they thought of their town and what they would like to change. We are hoping to find possible funders that can help some of the things that the young people think need changing or improving in the town

The Consultation

The consultation consisted of a "Visioning Event" to enable young people in Rhyl to create a document identifying their wish list of things that need improving in the town. RYAG hoped to create a "top 10 best things in Rhyl" as well as a "top 10 things that are needed / missing in Rhyl". This was intended to be tied in to an ongoing publicity campaign – GR8 – in the local paper, and to the WAG funded Youth Bank scheme.

Comic Relief and the Tudor Trust funded the project to train and support a group of about 12 young people from the town, so that they could consult their peers. RYAG were looking to work with young people that were already involved with RYAG, but also with some young people that do not currently link in to RYAG. Some, but not all, of the young people had worked with Wavehill before.

The young people were aiming to complete approximately 700 individual interviews and focus groups with other young people from Rhyl. Information was to be gathered using a number of methods such as interviews, self completion questionnaires, group discussions etc, and the information collected would then be used to produce this document to be distributed to stakeholders and other funders.

Every young person interviewed was offered a free young persons information book from Canllaw Online, over 400 were given out.

Wavehill's Role

Wavehill offered advice, training, and guidance to RYAG's two trainee youth participation workers and to the young people themselves on methodologies that could be used, how to undertake consultation, and the best ways to pull together and present the information.



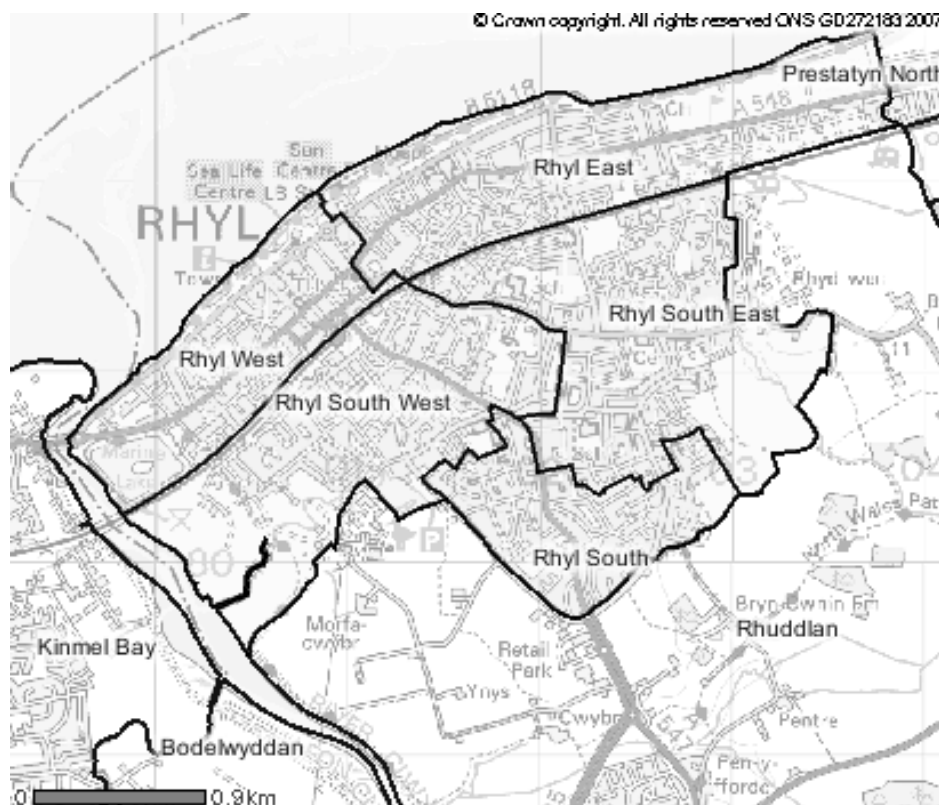
Background

This section of the report includes details and information on Rhyl and life for young people in Rhyl. This information is useful in that it gives the report and the findings of the survey, a background and context.

Rhyl has a population of almost 27,000; 2,930 of whom are between the ages of 15 and 24. It is the largest town in Denbighshire and the second largest in North Wales. It has 5 electoral wards:

- Rhyl East
- Rhyl West
- Rhyl South West
- Rhyl South East
- Rhyl South

These wards are shown in the map below:



The official Index of Multiple Deprivation splits Wales into 1,896 areas, each with about 1,500 people.

They are ranked according to eight factors, including income, health, crime rates and the quality of the physical environment. Rhyl appears in the overall

top 10 three times and comes out worst for community safety, based on the amount of crime and fire.

Part of the Rhyl West Ward (Rhyl West 2) tops the list of deprived areas. Rhyl West 1 was ranked fourth on the list closely followed by Rhyl South West 2 in fifth.

High unemployment, crime, and the poor health of residents are all issues that affect the young people of Rhyl.

Key figures from the 2001 Census show us the following:

Population

	Rhyl East	Rhyl West	Rhyl South West	Rhyl South East	Rhyl South
Male	2074	2151	2348	3441	1709
Female	2479	2101	2804	3857	1925
Total	4553	4252	5152	7298	3634

Number of young people in Rhyl

	Rhyl East	Rhyl South	Rhyl South East	Rhyl South West	Rhyl West
People aged 15	43	43	113	106	60
People aged 16-17	108	64	205	194	132
People aged 18-19	73	52	136	129	125
People aged 20-24	181	152	399	306	309
	405	311	853	735	626

Economic Activity

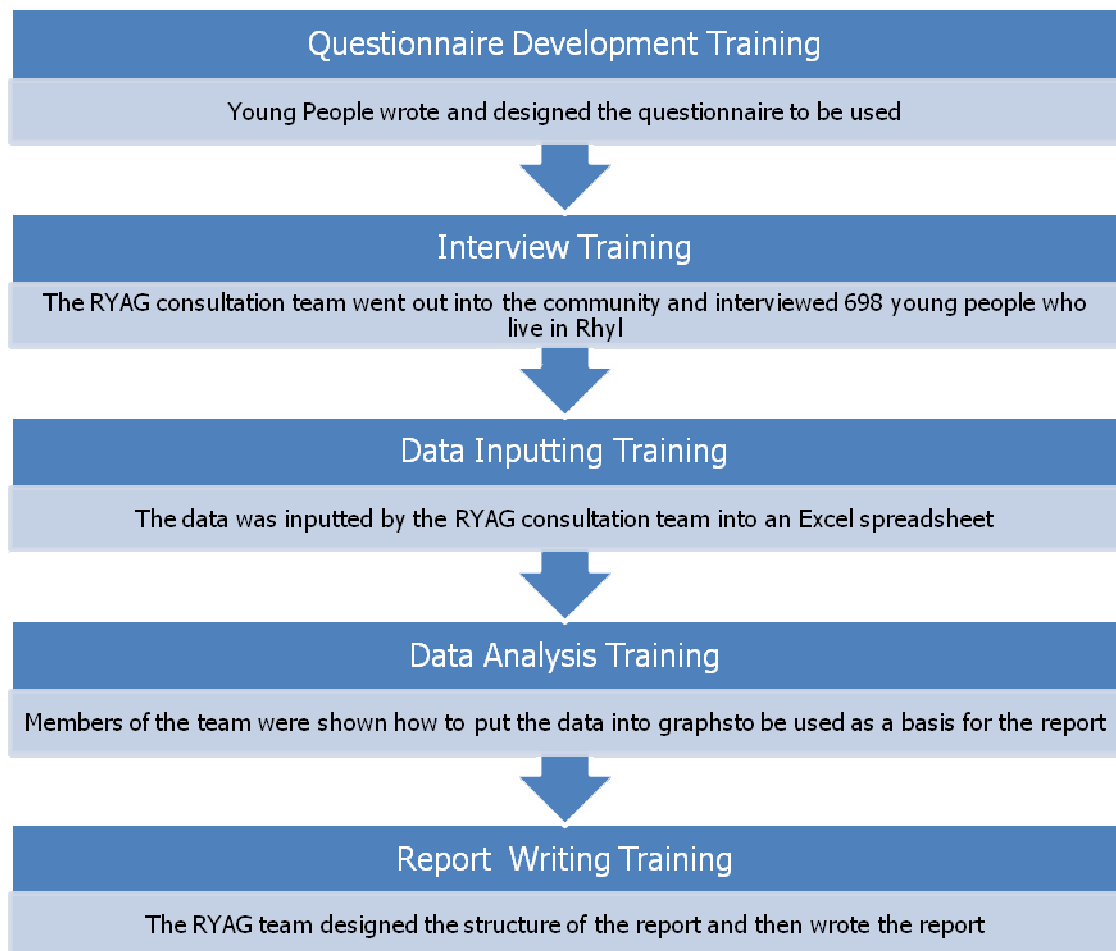
	Rhyl East	Rhyl West	Rhyl South West	Rhyl South East	Rhyl South
Working age	66.5%	74.2%	66.7%	68.4%	71.3%
Economically active	52.9%	53.9%	55.4%	63.1%	57.7%
Economically inactive	2.1%	46.1%	44.6%	36.9%	42.3%

Methodology & Data Analysis

This section of the report describes the process, or methodology, that was used during the consultation.

The RYAG consultation team were trained and supported by Wavehill through each element of the consultation process. The diagram below shows the methodology in detail, each element comprising a training workshop followed by the work undertaken by the young people.

Methodology



As the methodology shows, the young people who formed the consultation team attended 5 training sessions as well as undertaking all of the fieldwork and administration involved in the consultation.

Results

This section of the report includes analysis of the data collected during the survey and highlights any issues arising from that data.

The following questions were asked to just under 700 young people.

Numbers in brackets indicate the number of responses.

Figure 1 Which Ward do you live in? (698)

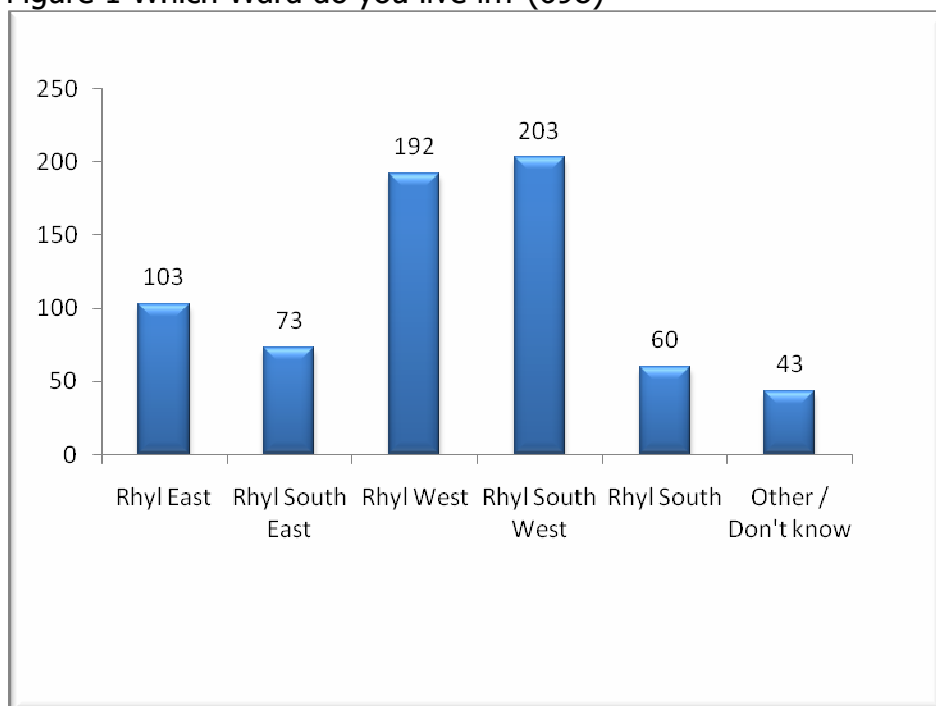


Figure 1 shows the Rhyl wards that the young people live in; it shows a good spread across the town.

Figure 2 Gender (698)

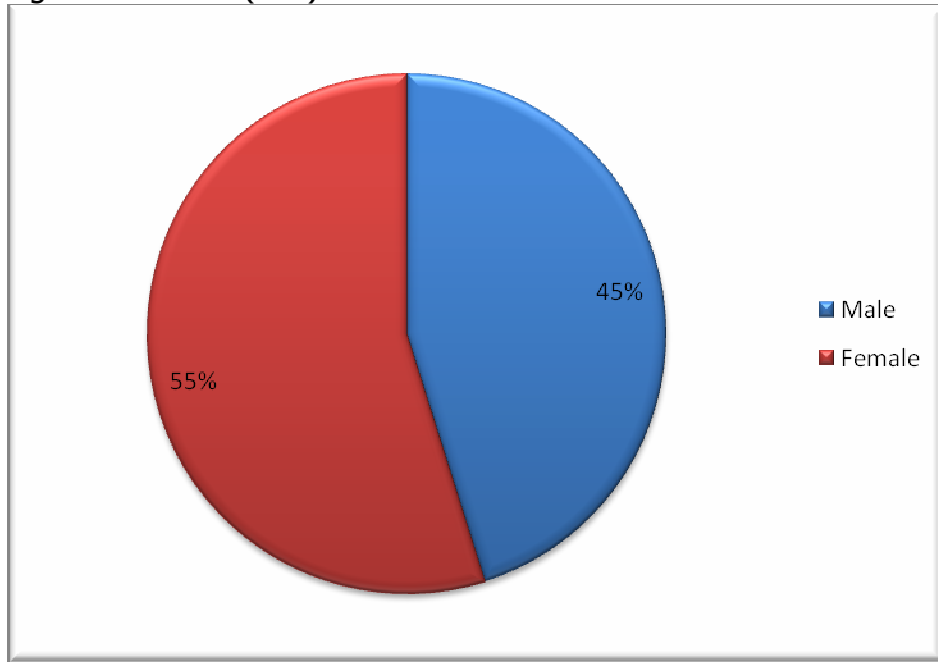


Figure 2 shows us the gender of the respondent. There is a slightly larger proportion of females to males but this is not far enough from a 50/50 split to make a difference to the overall analysis.

Figure 3 Age (698)

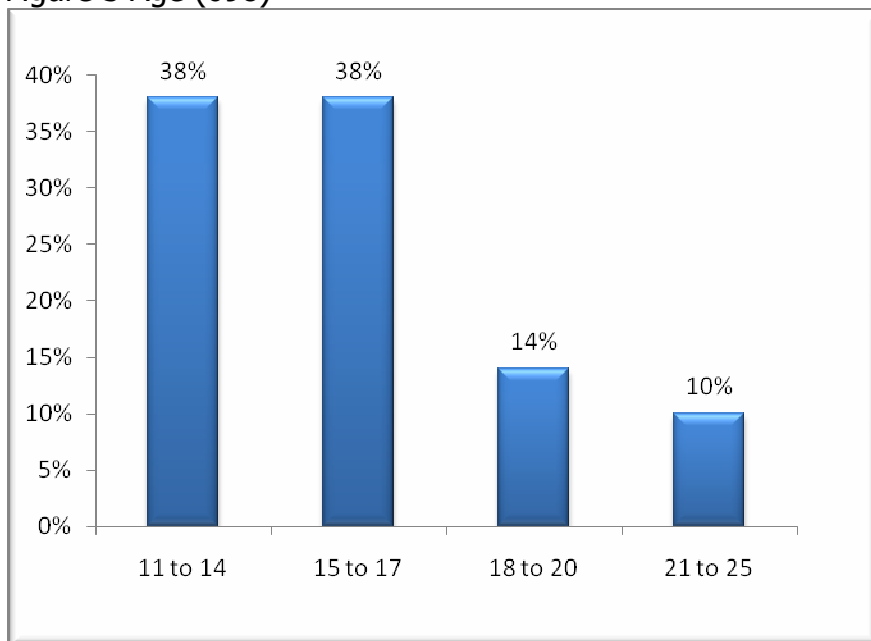
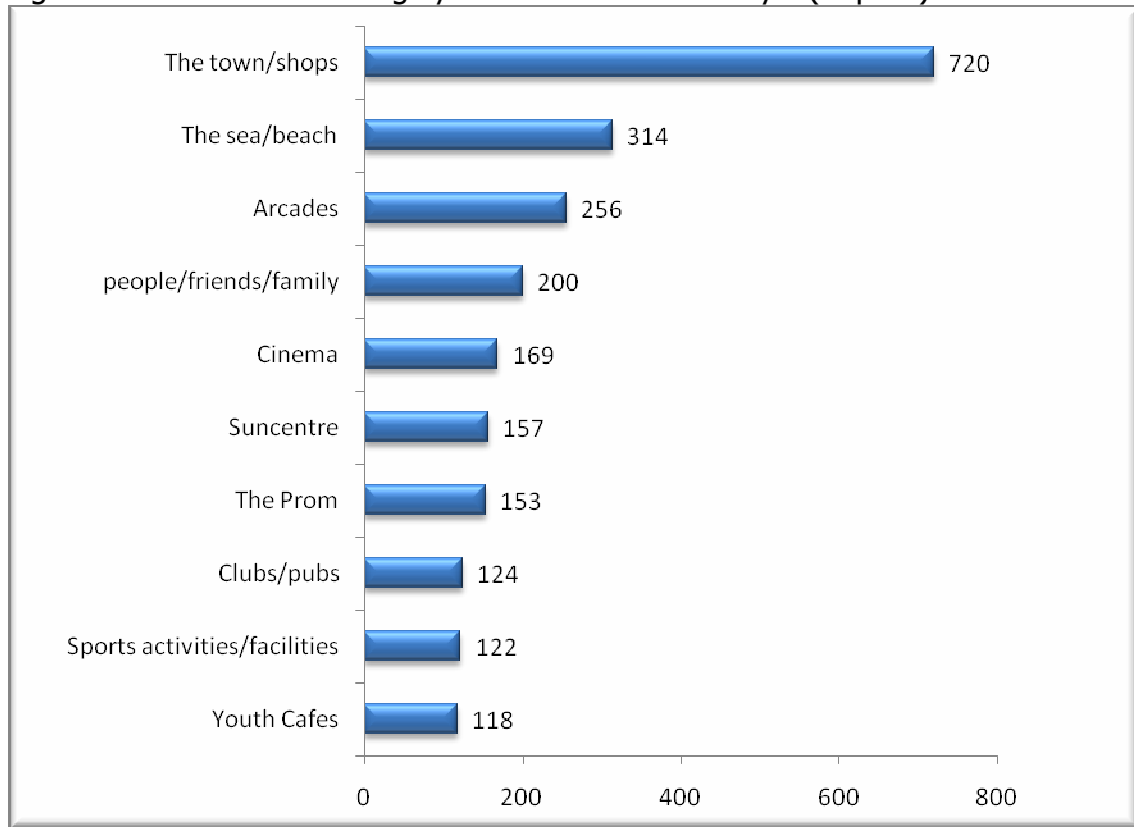


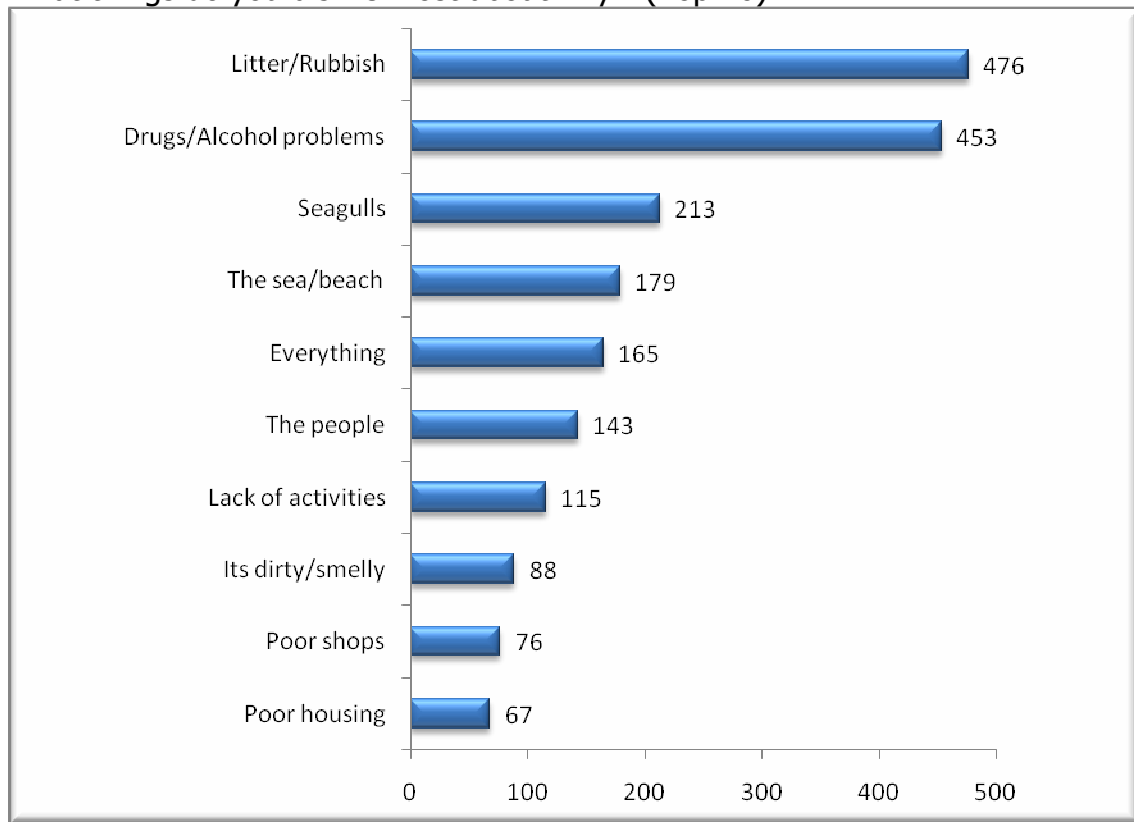
Figure 3 shows a breakdown of the young people interviewed by age group; the spread shows that those interviewed were of the age group most likely to be involved with or be a target group of RYAG.

Figure 4: What are the things you like most about Rhyl? (Top 10)



The graph above (Figure 4) shows clearly that the town and its shops are the most favourite things in Rhyl amongst young people. The following nine favourite things highlighted are all facilities that the town has to offer, except for 'people, friends and family' which came fourth on the list.

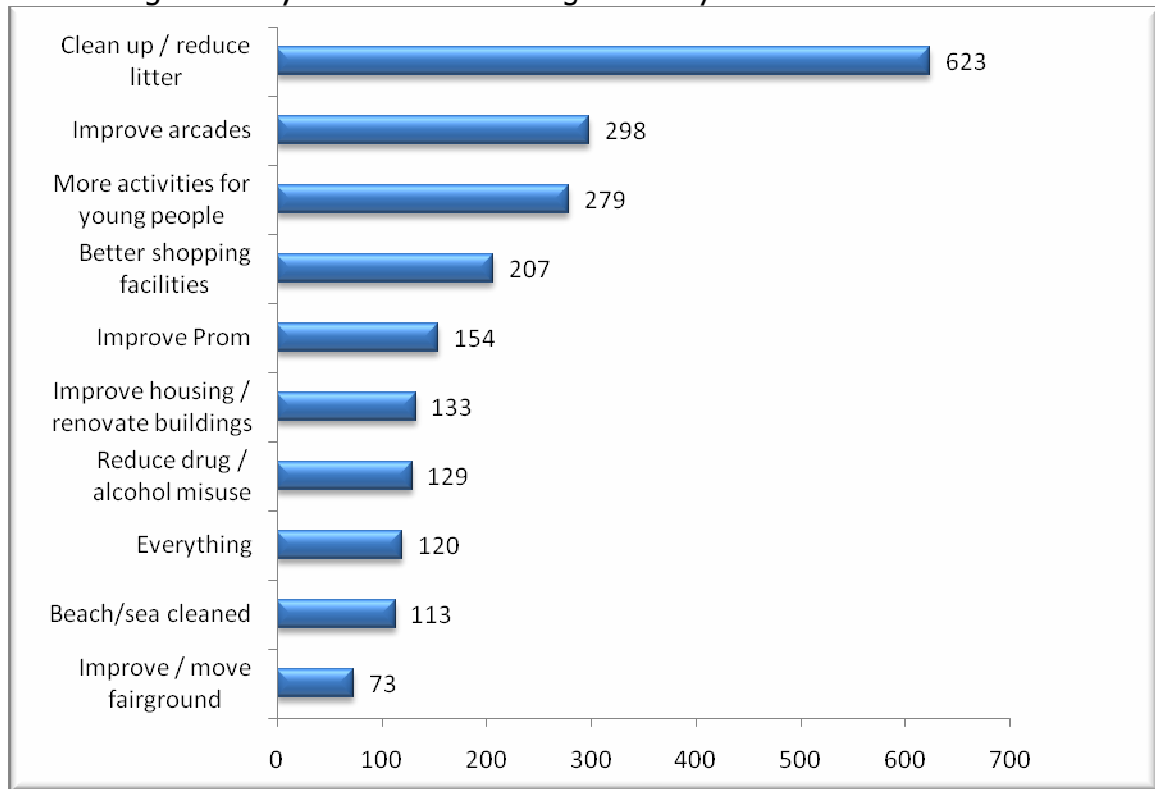
Figure 5
What things do you dislike most about Rhyl? (Top 10)



The graph above (Figure 5) shows that the environment (litter and rubbish) and drug and alcohol problems are the two things that young people most dislike about Rhyl. The other issues highlighted during the survey are on the whole environmental with the exception of 'the people' which came sixth on the list.

Figure 6

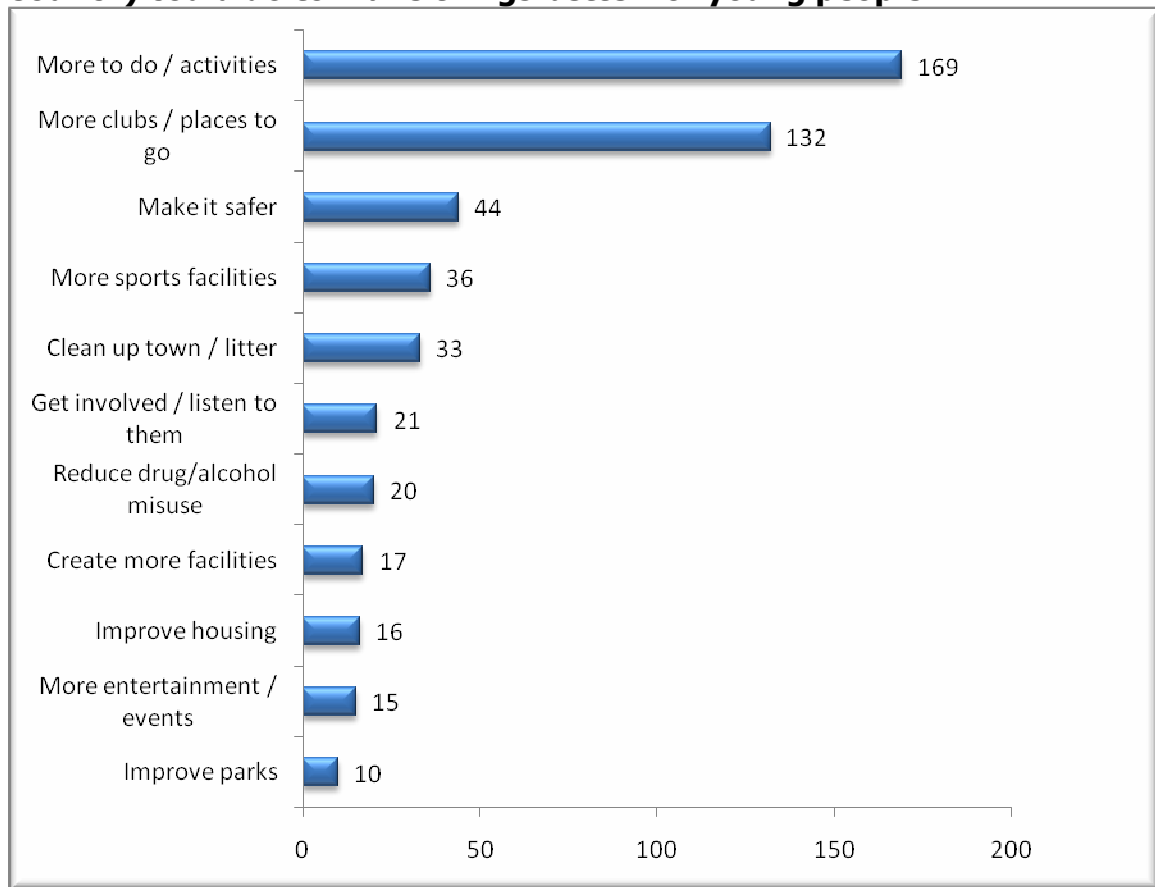
What things would you like to see changed in Rhyl?



Respondents were able to give more than one answer to this question and as Figure 6 shows, a large the majority of young people 89% (623 out of 698) mentioned 'clean up the town' or 'reduce litter' as the priority. These answers all link to the top ten dislikes discussed earlier.

Figure 7

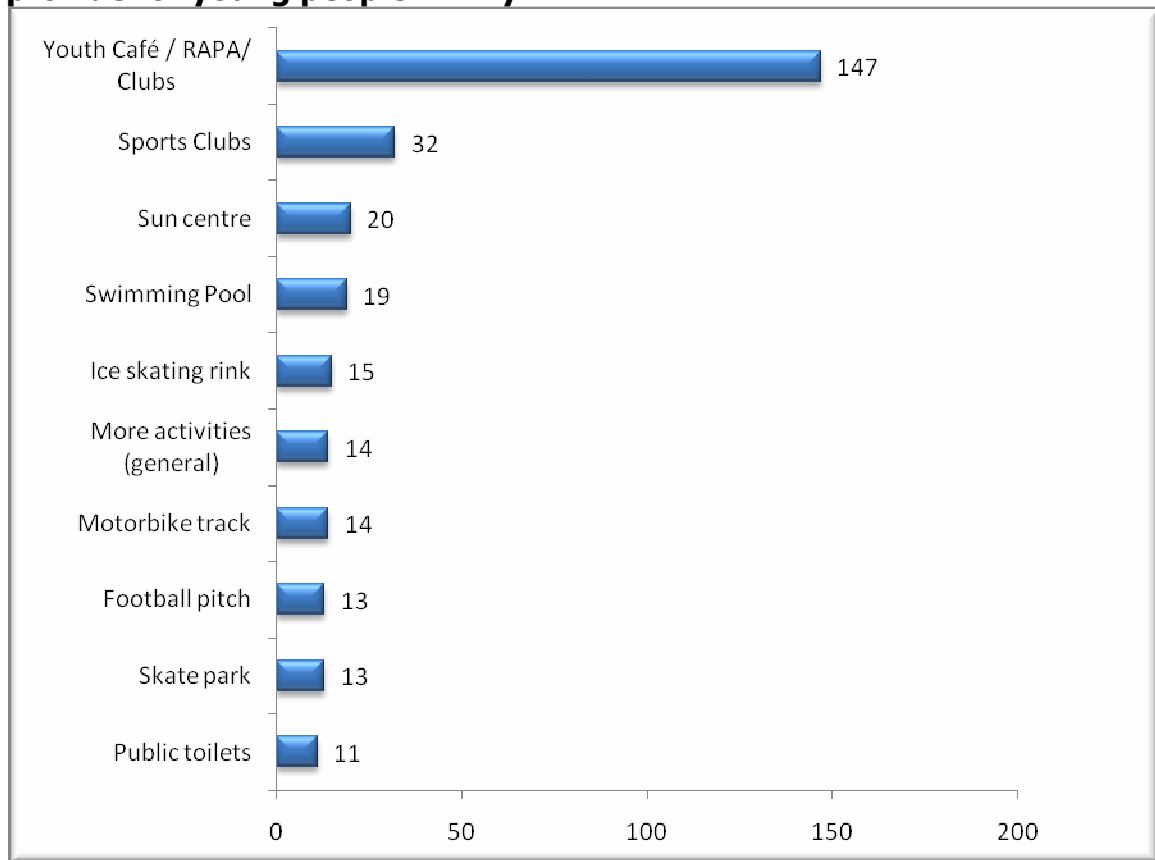
What is the one thing that the local council (DCC/Rhyl Town Council) could do to make things better for young people?



Interestingly although young people were most concerned about litter and rubbish in the town Figure 7 shows us that only 33 felt that the council should be doing something about it. This would lead to the assumption that they feel it is a community issue and that other means of dealing with the problem need to be considered.

Figure 8

What is the one facility that the local council could improve or provide for young people in Rhyl?



The graph above, Figure 8, shows that meeting places for young people such as the Youth Cafes are of the highest priority for improvement or provision amongst the young people. Other suggestions mainly centre around facilities for sports but the numbers show that these are much less of a priority than meeting places.

Figure 9

If this can be done in the next 2 years would you like to help?

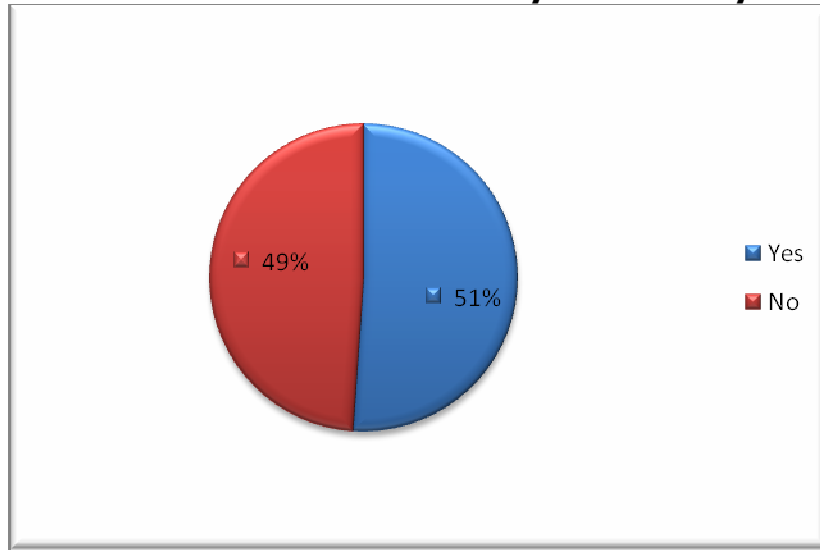


Figure 9 shows that just over half (51%) of those interviewed are prepared to be involved and help with improvements to or the development of facilities. This shows a large degree of commitment on behalf of the young people of Rhyl in the improvement of their own community assets and will lead to a greater degree of ownership.

Figure 10

What would be the best way for the local council to keep in touch with what young people in Rhyl think about things?

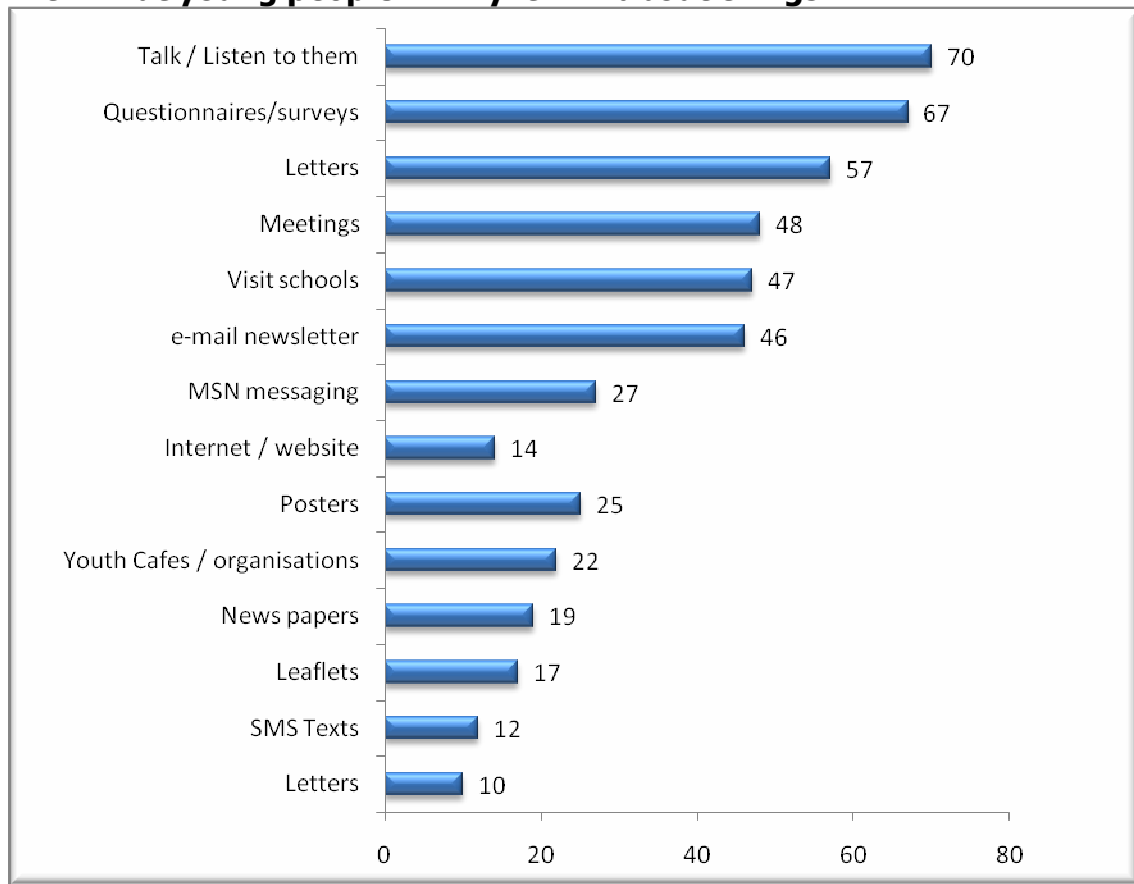
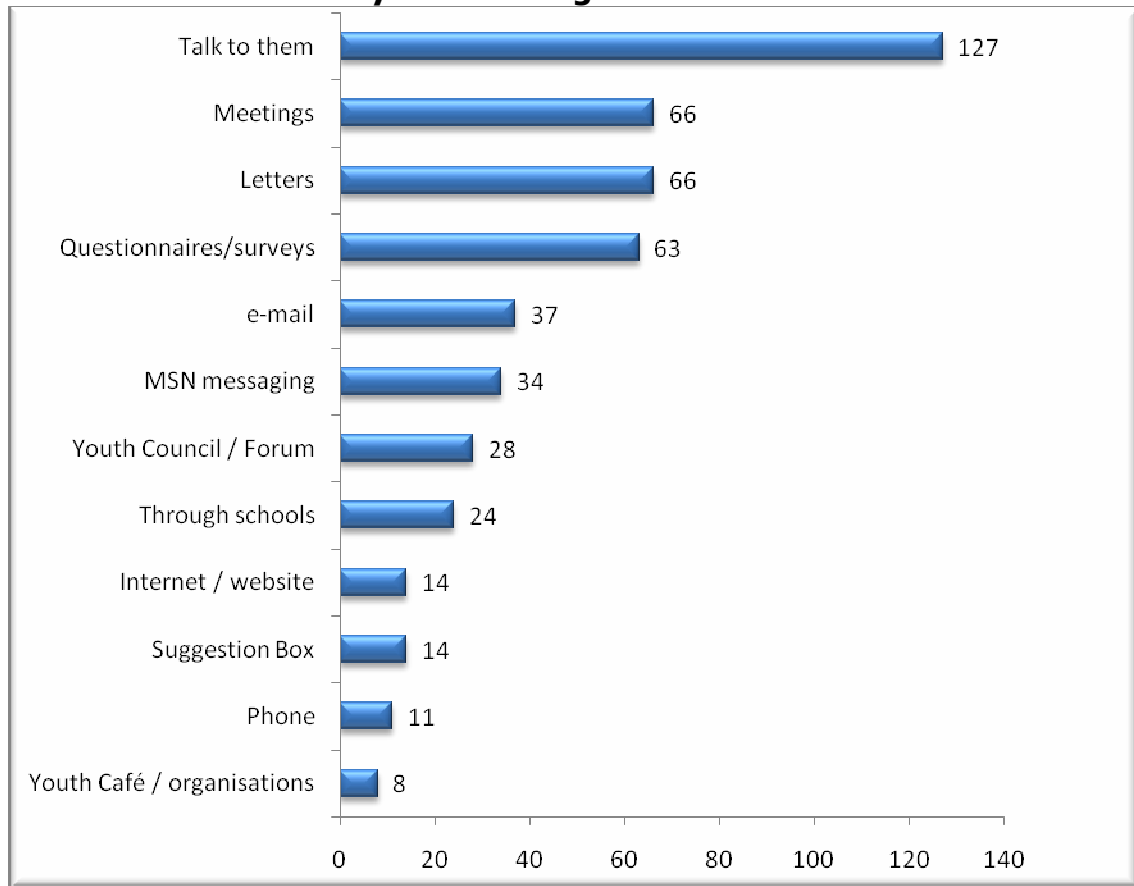


Figure 10 shows that the two main ways that young people want the local council to find out their views are through, 'Talking and Listening' and 'questionnaires or surveys'. It is interesting to note that newer forms of communication such as email and the internet do not rate particularly highly on this list and therefore more traditional forms of engagement may be most appropriate.

Figure 11

How do you think young people in Rhyl can make sure that the local council know what they are thinking?



As with the previous graph, Figure 11 shows that young people see 'talking' to the council as the best means of getting their views across, followed by more traditional forms of consultation such as meetings and surveys rather than electronic/virtual engagement.

Figure 12

Do you think young people should get more involved in local issues and politics? (693)

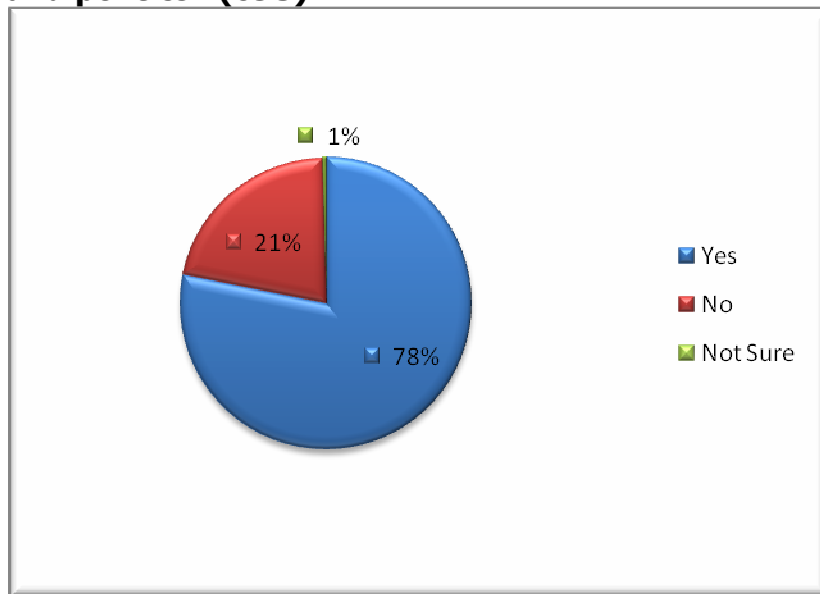


Figure 12 shows us that a large majority (78%) of the young people interviewed believe that they and their peers should be more involved in local issues and politics.

Recommendations and actions

This is the final section which summaries the key salient points of what the young people think of Rhyl currently and what they want to happen next.

Draft Conclusions

1. The young people of Rhyl care greatly about their town and wish to be involved in its future.
2. The environment is a key issue for young people in Rhyl;
3. Keeping the town clean is viewed as an issue for the community as a whole not just the council;
4. Young people would like to see improvements and development of meeting places and activities available to them;
5. Over half would be prepared to be involved in the improvement of facilities;
6. Talking and Listening and other traditional forms of communication are seen as the best way for the council to engage with young people; and
7. There is a real willingness on the part of young people to be more involved in local issues and politics.

Recommendations

1. Enhanced funding for environmental quality projects actively involving young people should be made available to Rhyl.
2. More community facilities should be made available to young people. Existing youth centres and places for young people should be opened for longer periods and be able offer a wider more flexible range of services and support.
3. Young People's involvement in the development and regeneration of Rhyl should be prioritised by stakeholders. Stakeholders should build upon the systems currently in place to deliver and monitor this. This includes repeating this survey annually to provide longitudinal tracking of improvements and issues.

4. Mechanisms should be established and resourced to enable young people to make direct contact with Rhyl Town Council, Denbighshire County Council and the Welsh Assembly Government. Improved and more inclusive systems than are currently in place.
5. Clear and Accountable feedback on the progress the findings of this report should be made available to the young people of Rhyl. The format for this feedback can be discussed.

Actions taken by RYAG

1. Funding has been made available for environmental projects via YouthBank, young people can access grants of up to £4000 to undertake projects which "clean up" the town.
2. RYAG are currently working with Rhyl City Strategy to develop a HUB in the centre of Rhyl which will provide more activities for Young People.
3. RYAG hopes to work with Rhyl Going Forward and Rhyl City strategy to ensure young people are involved in regeneration projects through meetings, consultations and direct action.
4. RYAG intends to develop a system where young people can have month access to their MP, AM and local Councillors and WAG. This is currently being developed with our AM and WAG officials.
5. RYAG will produce a full feedback report in 6 months time for young people in Rhyl, this will be distributed as widely a physically possible. RYAG also intends to run another consultation event similar to this in the summer of 2009 and will seek funding to continue this process thereafter.
6. RYAG will seek funding to open our centre to young people for additional hours.
7. RYAG will seek to work with other agencies to make funding more accessible for young people, enabling them to run their own projects and activities.

Acknowledgments

The young people, staff & volunteers involved in the event....

Jamie	Debbie
Chloe	Amy
Ryan	Charlene
Georgie	Sammy
Casey	Wynne
Louise	Jenny
Sam	Shane
Chesney	

Thanks to those who supported this consultation....

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Gareth, Julia, Ali, Jenny and Susan (Rhyl City Strategy)
Wynne Randles (Y.I.P)
Canllaw Online and the Credu Team

all of our funders

And most importantly, every young person from Rhyl who gave up their free time to be interviewed!

Competition

At the time of the consultation a competition was run, Ann Jones AM chose at random a number for the winner, the lucky winner Lauren Pendleton has won a new 80gb Playstation 3.

Congratulations to Lauren

Sample Questionnaire

RHYL YOUTH ACTION GROUP

Introduction - hello my name isI'm from Rhyl Youth Action Group. We're speaking to young people in Rhyl to find out their views about the town to see if there's anything they would like to change or improve.

A Have you already done a questionnaire on Rhyl recently? *(If 'Yes', thank the person for their time and move on)*

Yes	
No	

B Do you live in Rhyl? *(If 'No', thank the person for their time and move on)*

Yes	
No	

1 Which Ward do you live in?

Rhyl East	Rhyl South East	Rhyl West	Rhyl South West	Rhyl South West

If the interviewee does not know the name of their Ward, please ask for their postcode. Postcode:

If they do not know their Ward or Postcode, please ask for their road / street name.

2 Gender

Male	
Female	

3 Age

11-14	15-17	18-20	21-25

4 What are the things you like most about Rhyl?

1
2
3

5 What things do you dislike most about Rhyl?

	5a. Why?
1	
2	
3	

6 What things would you like to see changed in Rhyl?

1
2
3

7 What is the **one** thing that the local council (DCC/Rhyl town council) could do to make things better for young people?

--

8 What is the **one** facility that the local council could improve or provide for young people in Rhyl?

--

9 If this can be done in the next 2 years would you like to help?

Yes		<i>If 'Yes', Name and contact number</i>
No		

n.b. all contact details remain confidential and will not be passed to a third party

10 What would be the best way for the local council to keep in touch with what young people in Rhyl think about things?

--

11 How do you think young people in Rhyl can make sure that the local council know what they are thinking?

--

12 Do you think young people should get more involved in local issues and politics?

Yes	
No	

*Would you like your name putting into the prize draw?

Yes		<i>If 'Yes', Name and contact number</i>
No		

Thank you for your time

Interviewer	
Date:	
Location	