

Appendix Three – Youth Appreciative Inquiry feedback

Blackbird Leys Youth Appreciative Inquiry – 15th December 2015

Question 1: What is good about Blackbird Leys?

Table 1

- **CDI (Community Development Initiative)**
- **Leisure Centre – well organised. Polite friendly staff. Variety of activities. Place for kids to burn off energy positively.**
- **Celebrations – community events**
- Green spaces and “concrete jungles” (street sports areas for example)
- Youth Clubs
- Affordable homes (in an expensive city)

Question 2: What can we do better?

Table 1

- Teaching adults about drinking and smoking habits.
- In school (or other venues) – workshops to support future aspirations of young people.
- Young people’s voices need to be heard – and acted upon. *“data gathered at these events is not acted upon. An official gets paid to gain the voice of a child, but it is not necessarily acted upon. They feel let down. They have a lot to say but do not have an ongoing platform”*
- “Music lyrics are wack. They shout to disrespect women, they swear and promote drug use. Songs aren’t put out saying be yourself”
- Promote “real” music not computers.
- Young people are not aware of everything that is available – different clubs/groups should be better promoted. E.g. a music club, CDI.
- Help older people find services and help

Question 3: How can we work together to implement ideas?

Table 1

- Set up forum with Positive futures
- Careers education in or out of school.
- Work with older people
- To have a community radio station to promote local talent, with positive images and individuality (not promoting alcohol, drugs, weapons, disrespect of women etc)
- Go to older people’s homes.
- Using technology (i.e. apps) to promote activities for young people.

Further information gathered including direct quotes

“People are surprised that good things come out of BBL. People have a negative image of BBL. People do not see positive images of the community. The Oxford Mail mainly produces negative images which people [of Oxfordshire] read and confirm people’s belief that BBL is a rough place.”

People do not know where to go to access services in BBL. **(this was in relation to drug/alcohol support services).**

“When you play the game you do not see the full picture however when you watch the game you can see the full picture. People are unable to see themselves for who they really are.”

Group held concerns that their voice is not heard. They believe the data gathered at these events is not acted upon. It’s believed an official gets paid to hear the voice of a child, but not to act upon it. “we feel let down”. “we have a lot to say, but do not have a regular place to speak”. Community clubs to broadcast services on a wider scale. “I want to be a lawyer, but how do I become a lawyer. There’s no club that helps me see a path towards becoming a lawyer. I wish clubs would prepare me for jobs.”

Transparency behind organisations – Thames Valley Police/OCC etc. We do not trust these organisations. Suspicion of what they will do with the feedback from young people.

Wish for a club that shows you how jobs are. Work experience at an early stage. Workshops regarding vocations and life skills. “young people need people from the field to show them jobs”

No clubs to help children who wish to go to higher education. “I have to research for myself. I would appreciate guidance.” Would like people who have completed higher education to speak to young people to influence them positively. “no-one should stop learning”

“Schools crush aspirations if you are not education focused.” “Education is a standard form.” The curriculum doesn’t fit everybody.

Radio station to promote stories and music from BBL. “music is a huge influence on us”. “what I see my nephew watch on TV scares me”

What Next:

- **Youth Forums led by OCC Youth Ambition**
 - This will encourage a continual consultation with young people in Blackbird Leys through forums.
- **Additional Appreciative Inquiries**
 - Take the AI to additional youth groups to ensure we communicate and listen to a wide cross section of the Blackbird Leys Community.
- **Improve communication and relationships**

Between young people and agencies such as Oxford City Council and Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Team