

Focus Group – Youth Parliament – Tue 29th Aug 2023

Present – Christine Galvin (ELC - Planning), Sinead Wanless (ELC – Planning), Caroline Davies (ELC Youth worker), FM (East Lothian Youth Parliament Rep), KF (East Lothian Youth Parliament Rep)

ABOUT YOU:

1) How do you normally get to / from school?

F: Walking – 10/15 mins to school

K: Public bus but school kids only

2) At lunchtime where is your favourite place go?

F: stay in school – lunch clubs (debating, eco committee, charity committee, musical rehearsal)

K: Scotmid for sandwich or sit in school with friends at social areas. S5 area.

3) On a school day what do you normally eat for lunch?

F: sandwich from home, fruit – other kids go to loco (10mins) or high street, Greggs, co-op

K: home wrap or Scotmid BLT – 2min walk from school. lots of kids go out of school to Scotmid, corner shop or Lidl

YOUR LOCAL AREA:

4) What do you like most about the area that you live in?

K: calm and quiet, green spaces, parks fields (Longniddry)

F: walks and exercise, tennis club, high street – get what I need (North Berwick)

5) Where do you prefer to hang out with friends?

K: Prestonpans as most friends there or Edinburgh. Go to houses, park, shop

F: beach in summer or lodge park/rec park in winter

6) What are the spaces for 'hanging out' like in and around your area?

F: not a lot to do. Need a shelter

K: average

7) What are the things you like to do outside of school time?

F: Tennis, running (no club), sports

K: help out at brownies and a ranger, running club (Haddington) and badminton

- 8) How easy is it to get to the activities or places you go (outside of school) by walking, wheeling, bus or train?
F: Incredibly easy. Suits needs, may be more if you lived in a more urban area – happy with what I have.
K: Pretty easy. Get dropped at Meadowmill. Harder if niche activity.
- 9) Is there anything we could do to make it safer or easier to walk, wheel or cycle to places you want or need to go?
F: East Rd hard to cross, lodge park has no lighting even though it's a convenient crossing. Mumbles of anti-social behaviour in the park too.
K: Lighting on path at Meadowmill esp in winter. Tempted with bus but safety is an issue

YOUR FUTURE:

- 10) Is there a place in East Lothian you'd like to live in, when you are older and have your own house?
K: Gullane, really nice houses and area (expensive) - move away then back
F: North Berwick but expensive – move away then back
- 11) Do you think there are opportunities to work or train (college, training scheme, university) close to where you live, when you leave school? (or do you think you will need to travel outside of your local area?)
F: hospitality or retail in North Berwick. Professional jobs less likely to be able to get from uni to North Berwick. University - political and historic realm – journalism – Glasgow maybe
K: foundation apprenticeships, trades and courses that are accessible – in the schools around EL and college ones in Edinburgh. 1/3 of the year doing this as well promoted. Tues and Thurs avo.
University - political and historic.

IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING US ALL:

- 12) Climate change is a big issue affecting us all, what would you like to see done to help tackle climate change?
K: more bins, and recycle bins, more biodiversity, less housing developments. Likes the Longniddry development, more character and green space, not a copy and paste – café being developed and could go with friends.
F: more green spaces, more accessibility via public transport, greater diversity where they live and be involved in their environment