

# Young Voices

## Young people's ideas on improving Peacehaven take shape

Young people's ideas on what they'd most like to see happen to improve Peacehaven are now taking shape with the planning of a community Get Down event in October at the Joff Field, Peacehaven.



Meeting at the Joff Youth Centre to plan the Community Get Down Event

The idea of a community Get Down event is to create a sense of ownership and pride in the area, as well as being a fun day out for local residents - young and old! There will be something for everyone - music, fashion, art, sport, family activities and much, much more! Watch this space for details, times and dates - everyone in the Peacehaven and Hollington area is welcome!

### **Improving Peacehaven and Hollington .**

This summer, more than 1,000 young people in Peacehaven and Hollington voted on how they'd most like to improve their neighbourhoods. The overwhelming winner in Peacehaven was the community Get Down event, now being planned (see above).

In Hollington votes were more widely spread. Winning ideas (in order of support) were:

- Play equipment for the Wishing Tree Field Playground
- Community Sports Event
- Improvements to the Hollington Youth Centre

How to put these ideas into action will be explored with the young people and local groups during the coming weeks. More details soon.

Putting into action the ideas of young people on improving Peacehaven and Hollington came about as East Sussex Children's Services provided some money to enable children and young people in these areas to practically address some of the issues they identified. This followed last year's 'Emotimapping' by young people of Peacehaven and the subsequent vote on what they would like to see taken forward, both organised by [The Campaign Company](#) on behalf of ESCC. ([see Young Voices archive](#)).

If you live in the Peacehaven or Hollington area and would like to get involved, please email [Brendan McGowan](#), Participation Manager, Children's Services, ESCC or contact [The Campaign Company](#).

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## **Young Parents tell it like it is**

The Peer Education project is a group of young mums and dads who go into schools to talk about the realities of being a young parent. They talk about what changes they have had to make to their way of life and show how different their lives are from other people of their age.

The group, who are trained in Sexual Health and Child Protection, tell young people about ways they can protect themselves from becoming pregnant and show them places to go for contraception.

They successfully applied for funding from the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) and now have number of projects on the go, including

making a film about life as a young parent, which they aim to show in schools and youth clubs. They recently took part in the Hastings Carnival Pram Race and Play days in the Park.



Peer Education Pram Race

To find out more, please email [Tracy Gilbert](mailto:Tracy.Gilbert@hastingsyouthcentre.co.uk), Teenage Pregnancy Project Community Support Worker, Youth Development Service, Hastings, or phone 01424 430493 or 07971 289180. (NB: Young people's bus fares to attend the group, which meets on Tuesdays between 10am-12pm at Hollington Youth Centre, Wishing Tree Road North, St Leonard's, will be reimbursed).

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## Parklive

RESPOND Youth Project managed this event for the first time in conjunction with the East Sussex Youth Development Service and Hastings Beer and Music Festival.



The Parklive event

The Event was a huge success and all tickets were sold out. RESPOND would like to thank everyone for their support in making this event a success.

The added achievement for the Black and Minority Ethnic community is that RESPOND young people were given the opportunity to show they were capable of actually "Pulling Off" this event with minimal adult support.

Working alongside agencies and businesses was a massive leap forward for these young people.

And the sun was shining throughout.

Email [RESPOND](mailto:RESPOND) to find out more about what they do.

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## **Young people give their views on youth advice services**

Over 2,000 young people have told the County Council what information and advice they need about educational choices, careers and lifestyles.

The teenagers were consulted in a review into the availability and effectiveness of support for young people. Parents, carers, schools and other stakeholders were also asked for their views.

Plans to respond to the views expressed in the review are already being taken forward - for example making sure that all schools and colleges signpost where to find information, advice and guidance, and also linking advice services to the new Individual Learning Plans which all young people will have in future.

The advice will be wide-ranging covering education and career choices along with subjects such as alcohol, drugs, sexual health, and managing money.

For more about information, advice and guidance services for young people email the [\*\*Children's Trust Manager\*\*](#).