**To Katie Dixon. LTPG St Mary Bourne**

**From Mark Bunting**

**YOUNG PEOPLES FORUM**

I refer to the request to provide analysis on the data provided in the Young Peoples Forum. The data supplied was taken from 14 boys aged between 11 & 16, and 7 girls aged between 12 and 16 who live in St Mary Bourne

The format of the questionnaire often requested opinions, and this report takes the major factual responses which were answered, but also (hopefully interprets and) picks up on the spirit of their replies.

For the purpose of analysis, some of the results have been split into boys and girls.

1. **What do you think are the benefits of living in a village?**

The word “quiet” was most often used. Tight knit community. Village shop. The air is cleaner. Countryside walks. Friendly people. Good school. Less crime.

1. **What are the drawbacks of living in a village?**

The lack of transport connections was the over-riding theme referred to. Answers as follows;

* No bus service.
* It is difficult to get into town.
* We aren’t near a town
* Not many people live here so friends at school don’t come very often.
* Most of my friends live in Whitchurch.
* Transport issues & few facilities.

Poor mobile phone services was also mentioned (more later)

1. **What are the important things to you about choice of secondary school?**

Some interesting analysis here – (See attached tables for Boys and Girls)

**The boys** were most concerned about subject specialisations and GCSE results, and least concerned about peer/friends pressure. **The girls** were most concerned about GCSE results and peer/friends pressure, and least concerned about sporting facilities.

1. **Communications**

The majority of children thought that you should have a mobile phone aged 11-12. They all know the cost of Phones / MP3 players. There is almost 100% acceptance that phones (MP3 players etc) should not be used in lessons!

There is huge frustration that the mobile phone signal is not better in St Mary Bourne and an almost unanimous desire for better broadband (even from the non-Facebook users).

A desire for better Wi-fi by/in the Village Hall was also noted.

The majority of the children were on Facebook (2 boys and 2 girls weren’t) and had definite views about communications. Usage of Facebook on a daily basis for the users varied from 10 minutes through to 24/7!

**Favourite answer for the Editor** – Q. What do you think we will be able to do with our phones in 2025? A. Brain implants (implanted in your head)……

1. **Village facilities – issues**

With regard to a meeting place there seemed to be a general desire to have more use of the Village Hall (be it for better communications, or just as a meeting place)

There was considerable demand by the boys who wanted a skate board park. The girls wanted more of a meeting place - a café or a social club seemed popular (and maybe this answer couples with better use of the Village Hall)

1. **Issues in the future**

There was one question here that produced a fascinating set of responses.

**Q. How could/do we adults help you feel valued in the community? And how can, do you value us?**

There was only one boy who answered this question, and all but one of the girls - all the responses are copied word for word below;

* Always saying hallo / replying
* Involving us with decisions that will affect us / By respecting our elders
* Make a younger generation & let us have a view on the community / Don’t know
* More involvement in decisions – nice playing areas / Respect you
* More involvement in community projects / The services provided
* Do not make St Mary Bourne bigger / Listen
* To provide community meetings for everyone to take action / as someone to make suggestions to.

**CONCLUSION – my views**

Any readers / interested parties/ LTPG should take note of the answers provided in Question 6. They should also note that better broadband, mobile phone reception and transport links are all important to the teenagers of St Mary Bourne.

Further research should be carried out as to whether the Village Hall could be better used as a meeting point for young people, and whether a skate park could be created.

Maybe a young persons meeting should be started at the Village Hall? Should they report to the Parish Council?

**MCB**

5/5/2014