

Having Your Say

Mostly I like living in this town. It is fairly small and the people are friendly. However, there isn't really much for young people to do. I'd like to see more activities and facilities developed specifically for young people. In particular I'd like to see skate competitions, paintball and a water park. I'd like to talk to someone about my ideas for young people but who'd listen? After all I'm just a kid.

So, do you agree that no one will listen to a kid? Why? Why not?

Here are some things that you could do to get your point across. For each action listed, evaluate the effectiveness of each course of action.

Action	Reason	Effectiveness
Set up a social media group	Social media groups provide a space for people to communicate about shared interests. If the page receives lots of hits then this indicates support for the issue.	
Write a letter to the local newspaper 	People write letters to the newspaper to voice their opinions and to see if anyone agrees with them. If the newspaper receives a lot of letters on a particular subject then the editor might decide to investigate the issue further.	
Sign a petition 	People sign petitions to let politicians know what they think about a particular issue or problem. Petitions may be read out in Parliament.	
Organise a public meeting 	This is a good way of finding out what a range of individuals and community groups think about an issue. Sometimes politicians are invited to these meetings either to address the crowd or to simply hear what people think.	
Meet with your local Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)	People meet with their local MLA to put forward their views on an issue. While the MLA may not always agree, this is a good way of finding out what people in their electorates think.	
Participate in a public demonstration	Public demonstrations are pretty dramatic affairs and usually attract a lot of media coverage.	

So what advice would you give to the young person who wants more youth activities and facilities?
