

Inverleigh Community Survey- Youth Facilities and Services 2021

This short survey was put together by Inverleigh community members on behalf of the Inverleigh Progress Association. As a direct result of the 2020 COVID situation, it was identified that the youth could be better supported in our community. It was open for public consultation throughout February 2021 and attracted a total of 192 responses from a complete range of age groups.

The purpose of the survey was to help determine what facilities and services are needed in Inverleigh to cater specifically for youth aged between 12 - 20 years old.

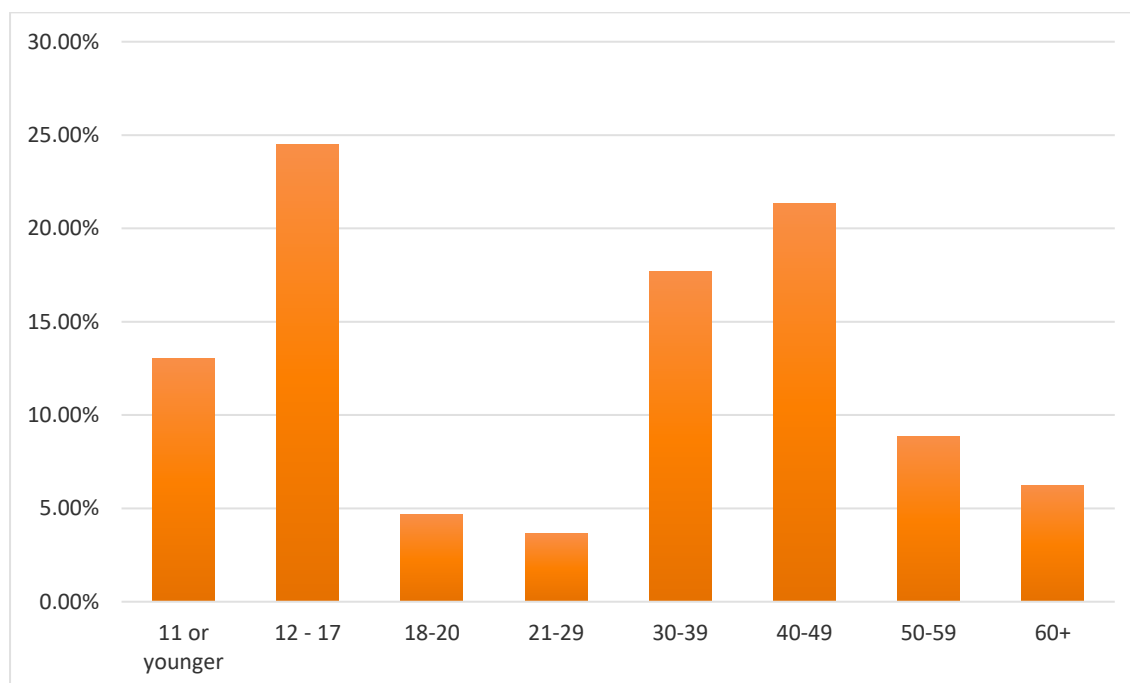
The results will assist the Inverleigh Progress Association in lobbying and seeking funding for improved youth facilities and services for the Inverleigh town ship.

The results are summarised via the questions asked in the survey. Some of the results have been edited for privacy reasons or represented graphically where it was deemed appropriate.

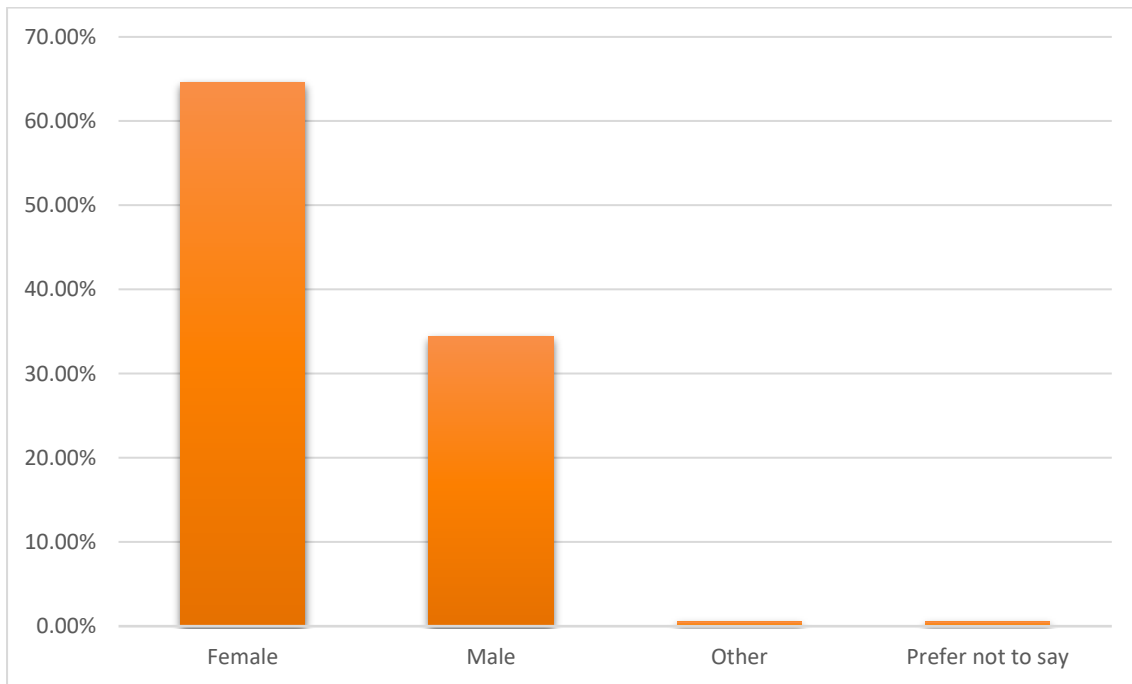
Question 1 - What is your postcode?

It was identified that 96.35% of respondents were from the 3321 post code. This is an excellent representation of the Inverleigh and surrounding community.

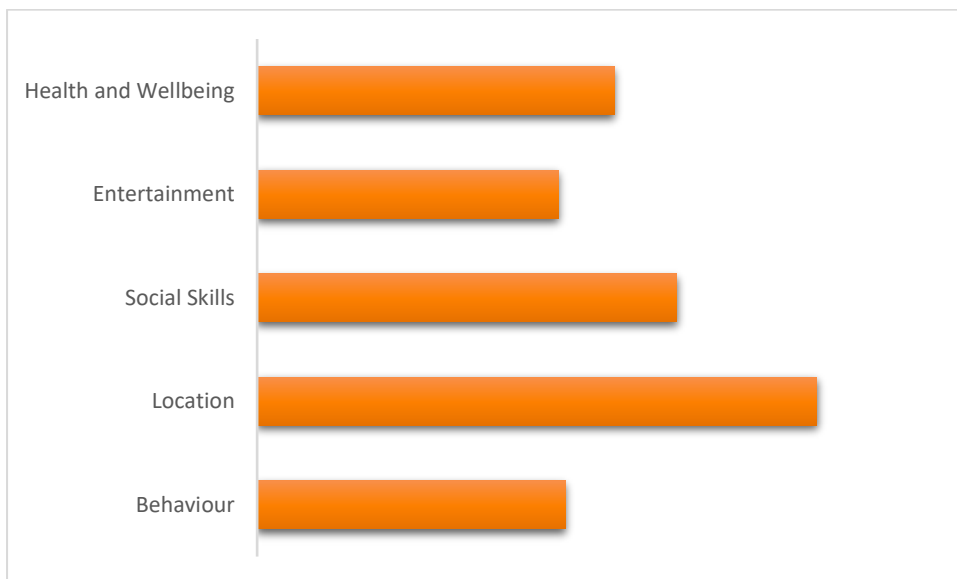
Question 2 – What is your age?



Question 3 – What is your gender?



Question 4 - Why do you think it is important to have facilities in Inverleigh that are suitable for youth (aged 12 - 20yo)?



The responses to this question have been summarised by the categories of health and wellbeing, entertainment, social skills, location and behaviour. Many of the answers mentioned a cross section of these categories, for example the health and wellbeing of youth was often mentioned with the location being a consideration.

The community have identified that it is important to have youth facilities located in Inverleigh because we are a regionally based community without easy access to surrounding towns. The importance of developing and providing opportunity for social interaction for local youth was tied in closely with the health and wellbeing. A number of answers also focussed on the need for youth facilities to encourage positive behaviours rather than destructive behaviours.

Question 5 - What facilities for youth (aged 12 - 20yo) do you believe are needed in Inverleigh?

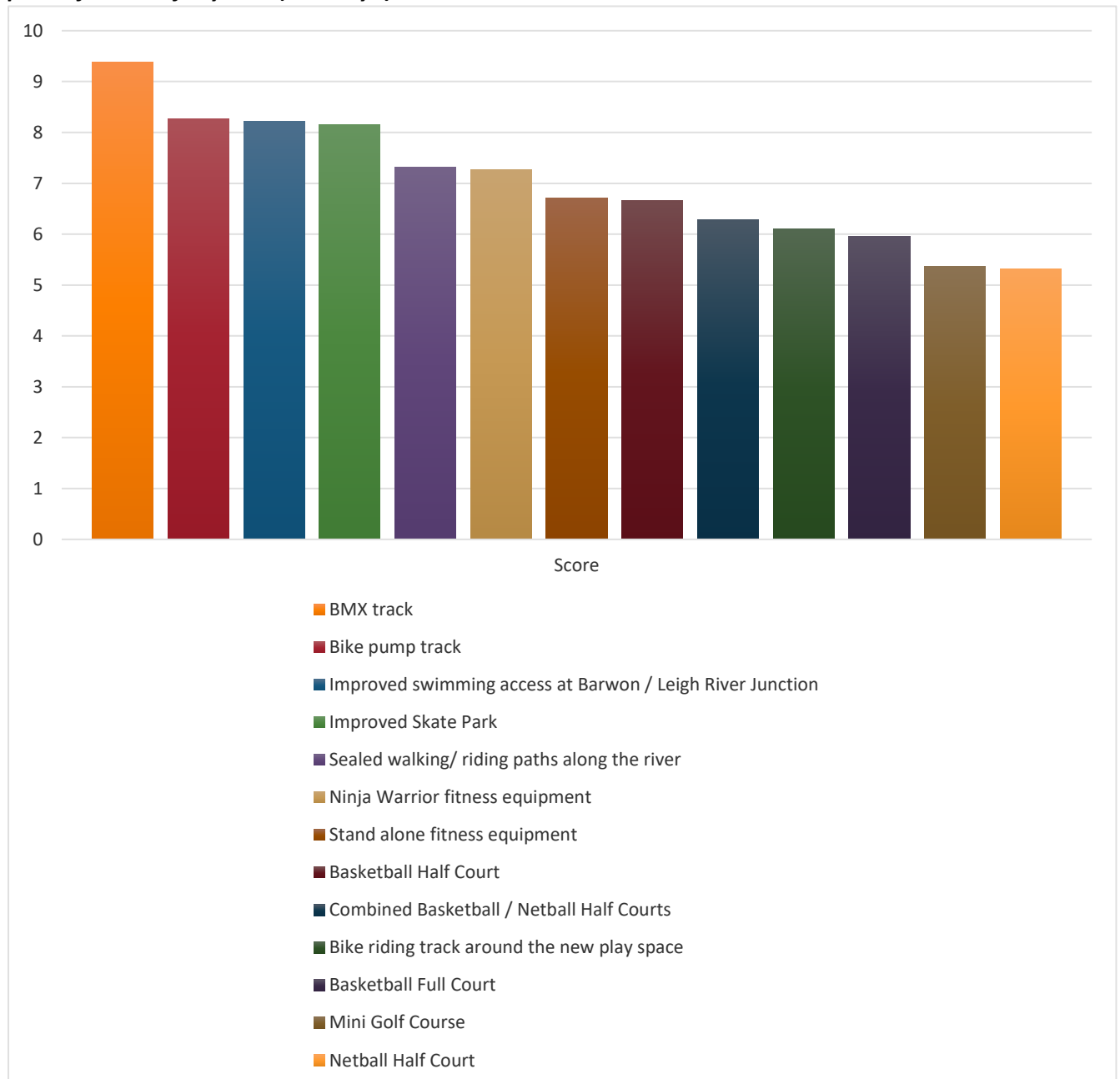
Most respondents answer this question with the facilities that we had already identified in Question 7 i.e. BMX track, Basketball court.

In addition to the facilities in the Question 7 poll, there were a small number of respondents that also suggested an indoor sports stadium, public pool, soccer nets, new tennis courts, supervised youth activities, community activity centre, public art space and youth hang out space.

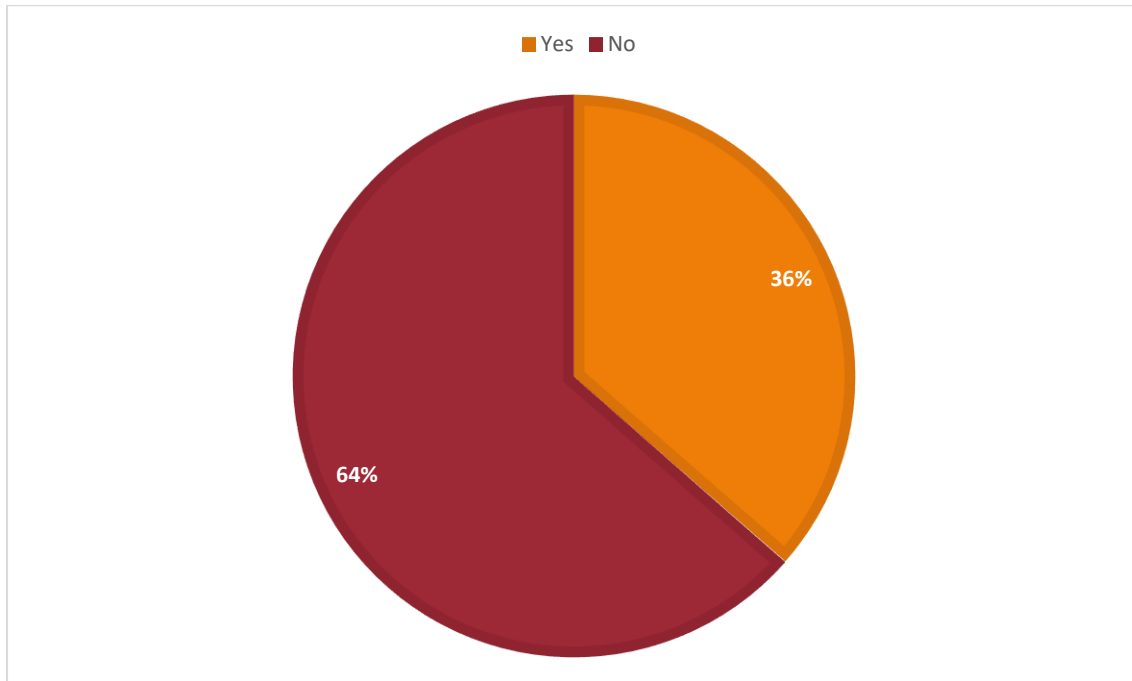
Question 6 - What facilities in Inverleigh are currently being used by youth (aged 12 - 20yo)?

The identified areas of Inverleigh which are currently being used by youth, include the primary school, the skate park, the playspace, the river, the shops, the river walk, Vic Park, netball courts, footy oval, service station, tennis courts.

Question 7 - In what order would you rank the importance of Inverleigh having the following public facilities for youth (12 - 20yo)?



Question 8 - Are you aware that Bannockburn has a Council run Youth Lounge (Drop in Centre)?



Question 9 - What do you think would encourage Inverleigh Youth to attend the Drop in Centre?

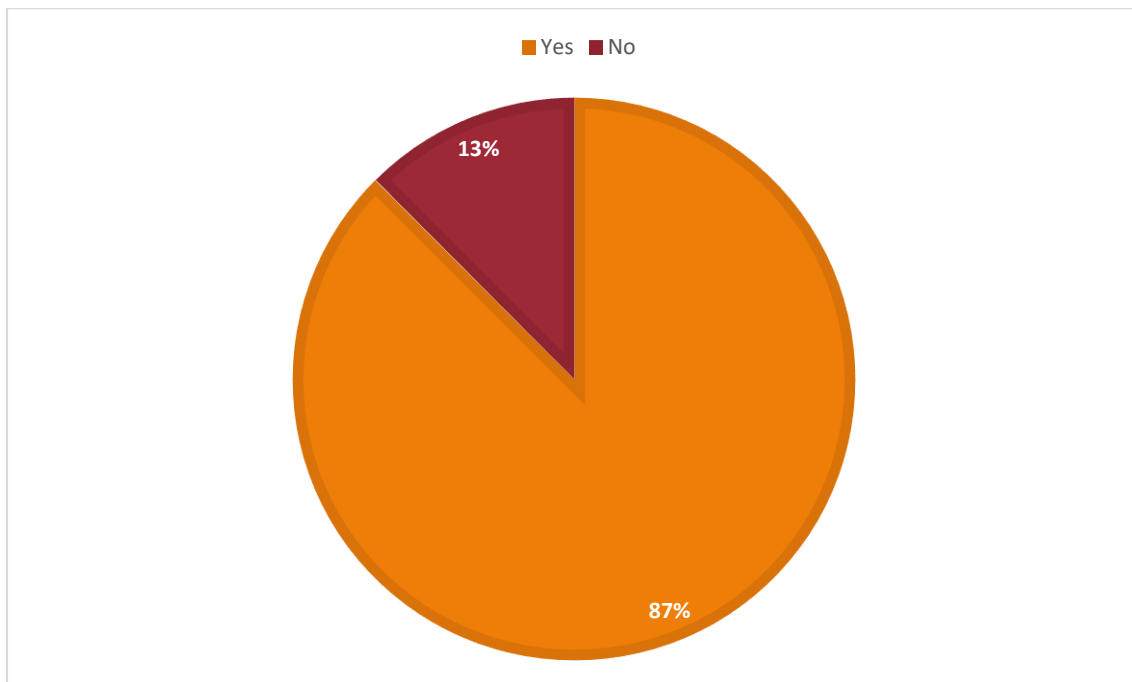
The respondents were very clear about the need for transport from Inverleigh and surrounds, and it was suggested multiple times that a shuttle bus is needed to collect regional youth. There were also repeated mention of the need for more advertising, scheduled activities, a change of name to make it relevant, providing a range of activities for the different ages, free food, music, Wi-Fi, gaming, enthusiastic youth leaders.

Other than the predominant answer of needing transport from Inverleigh and surrounds the answers reflect that the community is not yet knowledgeable about what the Drop in Centre has to offer.

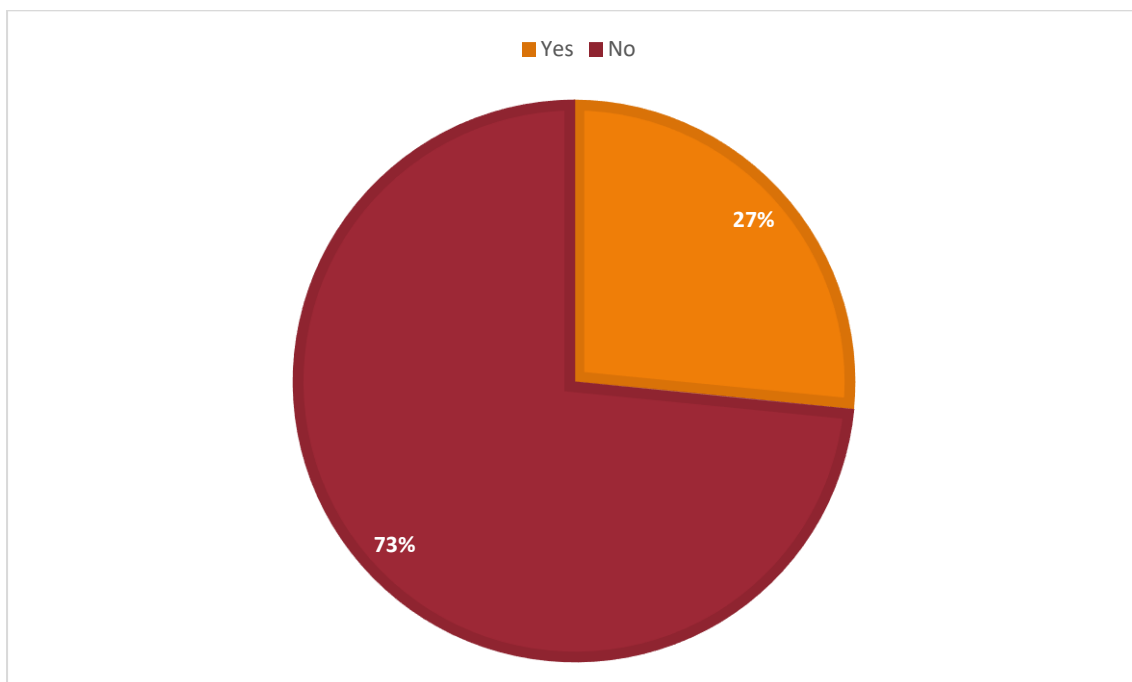
Question 10 - What do you think discourages Inverleigh Youth from attending the Drop in Centre?

The overwhelming answers were around lack of accessible transport, a perceived issue with bullying, not seen as local, restricted opening hours for those returning from Geelong high schools, not knowing what a drop in centre offers, the stigma of not being a cool place to visit and a strong reliance on parents to drop the youth off and pick up.

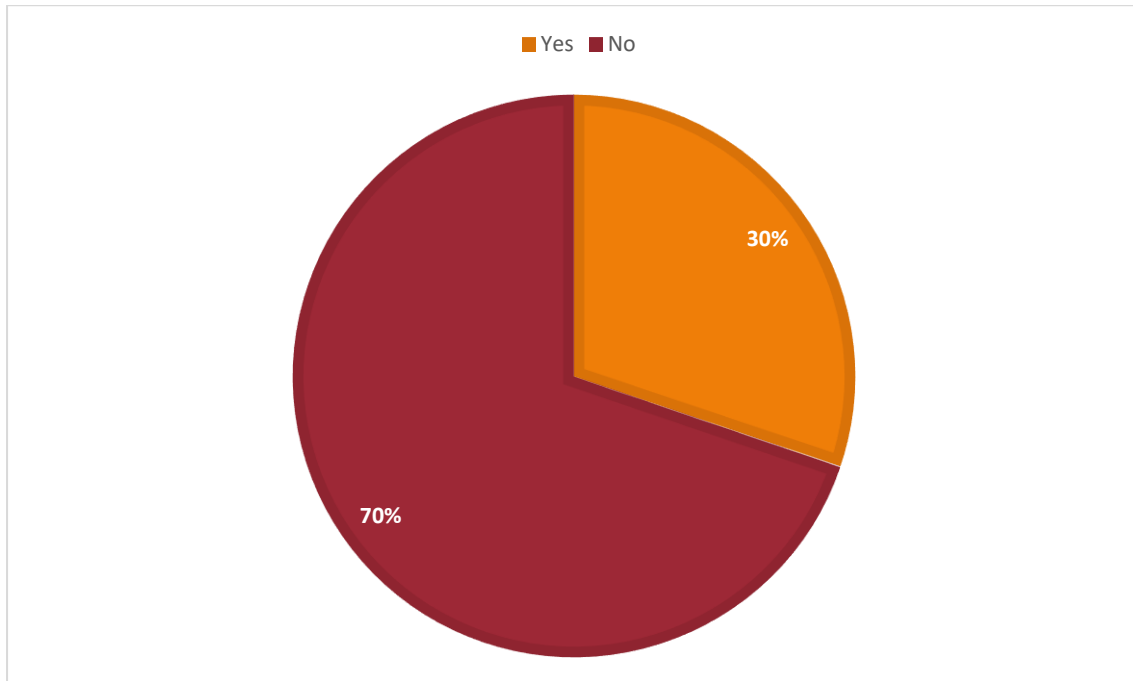
Question 11 - Do you think there should be local activities provided for Inverleigh Youth during the school holidays?



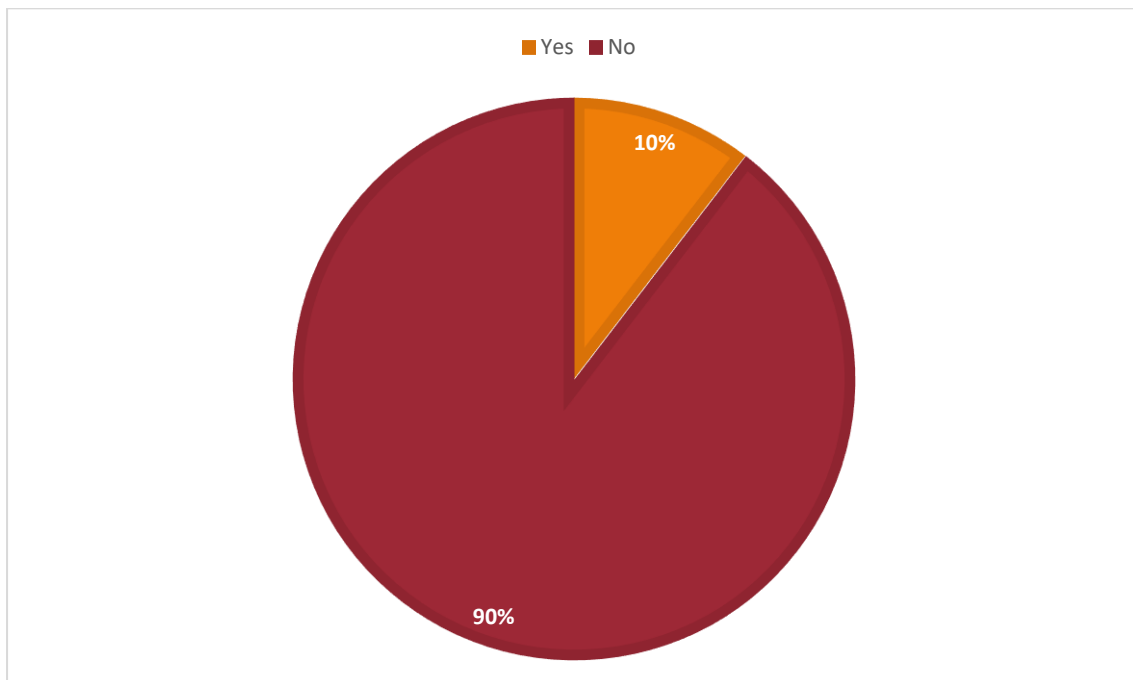
Question 12 - Do you have a particular interest or skill that would be beneficial in the further development of youth facilities or services?



Question 13 - Would you be willing to assist the Inverleigh Progress Association with further planning for new or improved youth facilities?



Question 14 - If you are aged 12 - 20yo. Would you like to be part of an Inverleigh Youth Advisory Group that is consulted about local issues?



Question 15 - What impact do you think the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the health and well-being of youth in the Inverleigh Community?

The responses to this question were predominantly of the notion that the pandemic has had a huge impact on the youth in our community. The frequent answers included the increase of youth feeling stressed, feeling less connected and isolated, feeling sad that they can't see their friends, increased screen time, feeling anxious, depressed and bored, feeling trapped, a perceived increase in youth obesity, and a noted reduction in social skills.

Question 16 - Do you have any other comments relating to facilities and services for youth (12 - 20yo) in Inverleigh?

The youth have been forgotten in the community
We don't have much and the football rooms are full of drunken adults who smoke - great role models. Also kids and adults are destroying the bush in the common on motorbikes and it's illegal and no one does anything to stop it
It's a real pity that vandalism led to the school refusing access to its playground after-hours.
I think a pool would be good for the youth of Inverleigh
We need more activities and facilities around Inverleigh
Progress association is all old people get some creative younger people involved
Lot needed appears funds go into facilities at Bannockburn
Inverleigh is disproportionately underrepresented in youth facilities and services compared to Bannockburn and other town centres with similar demographic profiles. There is obvious centralisation of facilities in Bannockburn and an expectation that all surrounding towns will access Bannockburn for these services. In reality young people can't travel to these facilities (lack of frequent public transport) so they are only servicing Bannockburn kids and families (e.g. YMCA centre, drop in centre, library, water park. The lack of services and facilities contribute to the problem of boredom for Inverleigh young people potentially leading to destructive behaviour.
What about a golden plains bike track I.e. Inverleigh to Teesdale / Teesdale to Bannockburn
Anything that you can implement to involve our youth and encourage them to be fit, healthy and constructive would be fantastic in our community
Really need to get youth doing things that are good
If there isn't going to be any services in Inverleigh and only Bannockburn, providing transport on certain days to encourage the kids to participate in the Bannockburn hub could be of great benefit
I would like to see Victoria Park. Improved with bbq and seating facilities. Improved landscaping. Perhaps gym equipment. A bmx track. It is a large park in the centre of the town and should be better utilized.
I would like to see facilities that could be used by all age groups such as extended walking tracks/picnic areas/improved landscaping, outdoor gym equipment or the like.
I want to see the walking tracks developed. This is for all age groups, including walkers, bike riders and horse riders. If a walk was developed through the common to Teesdale it would benefit both towns and encourage outsiders to visit including walking groups of all ages.
I would like to see an extension of the walking tracks at Inverleigh such as an Inverleigh/Winchelsea river walk or Inverleigh/Teesdale walk through the common to help invite all age groups to utilise the facility and encourage out of towners to visit our beautiful townships.
I think implementing either a workout gym service and a bus line would be highly beneficial for all people living in the town
please do something more interesting than more standard sport courts
Really need a good bike track for big kids
10-12 year olds are also just as important as we have a large number of active children that are out looking for things to do with their mates.

I also believe that the primary school has a problem with disinterested children at recess and lunch. Old, tired playground with very limited play space, playground and equipment. This should also be a priority with golden plains shire. All should be reviewed and improved for the wellbeing of our youth. The primary school desperately needs help.

Safe happy communities are connected communities. Bridging multigenerational gaps will provide respect and connection across the entire community - benefiting not just the youth of Inverleigh.

I just really hope that we see a change in Inverleigh for things we can do.

Public transport/bus service that connects Inverleigh to Bannockburn or Geelong

I'm not sure how possible it is to achieve some form of transport here- even if it's just buses on the weekend, but I really hope there can be something to make it somewhat easier for families here

Create activities in open spaces away from local businesses as the look of youth "hanging around" local venues can be off putting and intimidating to the older generation

Council has a responsibility to put in more services and facilities before we are flooded with all of the new houses that have been approved to be built in our shire.

With the new developments and increase in young families to this town I feel it is crucial that this age bracket have access to structured programs. They need the opportunity in their own town to access youth workers and people trained to offer support if they need it.

It's good to see this is becoming a topic of discussion. Well done, friends.

all these ideas are great, would love to see something actually happen

I really hope we get some developments happening from this survey

As much as I would love to see improvements to swimming access at the Junction. It attracts a lot of out of town people, it's becoming a bit of a place known for drinking. Golden Plains Shire and Inverleigh Progress Association will have to think about safety and vehicle access.

Sealed footpaths down Common Rd would help with roller blading etc. and keep them off the road.

The community will always pull together to get things off the ground, but just make sure you give everyone the opportunity to put their input in first.

Perhaps a youth worker who sets up on Saturdays in the town for kids to have a chat to

No, and I believe I would fit in well with the Bannockburn Youth Centre because I would know that I am not the only new child

There's heaps more teenagers here now but nothing to do if you don't play footy

Give us more things to do - the park is for little kids not teenagers

There nothing to do here you may as well go into town

Make it more fun to be here

Need to be working out what options are cost effective and/or realistic. For example I proved River access would be great, but unlikely funded by council or elsewhere due to someone needing to own accountability.

Also need to identify which options would be realistic from a budget perspective - i.e. ninja warrior course (also insurance considerations).

Mini golf good idea but on what land/cost/etc. Also activities need to be free

Whatever our youth decide they need to provide their full support and of their parents as well as the community. These are vital as once support finishes so does the activity, e.g. cubs.

It has always been very poor, with our growing population we have a growing number of wonderful youth with not a lot to do. Our lack of public transport has always been a disappointment however parents I feel realise that with leaving the city to enjoy the space, quite of the country comes at the cost and inconvenience of ferrying children around.

Engage the community, engage the council, and demand that developers introduce more open areas and playspace in large subdivisions. Engage the impacted youth and their families. Be aware of the fact that IPA may not be the best to led youth discussion as many members are too far removed from the age groups

It's boring here we need more things to do

Get something done sooner rather than later. The playground was really fast tracked. Rather than taking years to get a full project through the system get small stage done ASAP

Add pool tables to the pub for 18-20yr olds, and the older crowd as well. Also bring back the stuff for younger kids to play with at the pub. It's a great shame they took that away.

I've lived here for years and never met a local I go to school in Geelong and none of my friends live here , I don't play footy or netball so the chances of meeting local kids is zero
I think that facilities need to be located around the play park area where there is high visibility and the opportunity for families of multi needs and ages to visit together. There still needs to be a sense of challenge and space devoted to youth skills activities, while being open ended for use by others. Youth facilities would be so good for our young people, but also great for visitors who bring so much business to the town. I do think that services such as a youth team staffed drop in centre/youth group would provide a framework and meeting place which could facilitate youth initiatives for Inverleigh. At the moment I not think that young people have been educated and empowered about coming up with ideas and initiatives and I think that the youth team have a major role to play in coming to Inverleigh and meeting and working with young people here.
It would be great for the kids of Inverleigh to have access to a few more activities in our area that are fun and active and spending more time outside in a constructive way
Limited - Tennis courts need upgrading
I would really really like to see a safer swimming place for the youth. They will swim anyway so an area that is regularly checked for debris etc. would be ideal
Apart from footy and netball there's not much to do in Inverleigh and you may as well go into Geelong to have fun.
We are fortunate to already have so many facilities in our township and also wonderful natural environments in the rivers and the common
Please try to make this place as acceptable as possible
Park is good, but need something for older kids
Please get us a good bike track
There really isn't anything specifically targeting this age group at present – let's change that!
They need to be kept interested and more employment opportunities would be beneficial to our youth.
I think a youth engagement program would really help get a better understanding of what the youth want. Then try to facilitate and help them create something
Me and friends just want a place to hang out and not get told off or accused of doing things that we didn't do.
So glad you are asking. I don't have great ideas and I hope that those that do, are supported here. A really forgotten age group in play space planning.
Hoping this is something that will definitely eventuate, there is so many great suggestions above, let's get it moving.
I approached council several times about maintaining the current bike facilities in the Shire and was surprised at the lack of interest and funding for facilities. I have dealt with several other councils and they have always taken an active interest in these matters. The lack of overall planning for kids facilities is disappointing e.g. yet another kids playground built when there are so many others already scattered through town and yet we don't have a kids bike track or half court anywhere
Great initiative- please don't try to cotton wool on safety concerns, this age group needs challenges and risk taking
I think this is a great idea. As a mother of a 5 and 2 year old living in Inverleigh I am very interested to being involved
Inverleigh needs more. A public swimming pool for the local youth. Majority of kids ride their bikes around the town so a good bike track would also be great
Anything that keeps youth active is beneficial! They need to stay off technology as it's detrimental to their brain development.
On our travels in December last year we stopped in at the little town of Gundagai and they have an awesome pump track and skate park and half-court basketball with a generous area of green grass to play touch football or soccer cricket on and with a few undercover bbq areas it was really well done I took photos and video of the space in case Inverleigh can replicate especially the pump track it could accommodate bikes scooters and skateboards
More jobs would be good if local businesses were more open to letting me work to earn pocket money.
Putting the tennis courts near the football and netball club
Would be helpful to know which high schools the youth attend (ages and number of students at each school) then reach out to the schools for their input and possible involvement.

Activities or programs that increase employment prospects by developing hard and soft skills would place Inverleigh youth in an advantageous position so they're ready for life once they finish school!

Currently things are aimed at younger children

Don't over capitalise on more structured entertainment for youth, we live in a beautiful town with a river, walking tracks, and bush, we need to find ways of getting the kids outdoors to utilise it more than they currently do

Please please don't waste money on park style fitness equipment - this is not what young kids want and I've never seen the ones in Geelong being used...a proper gym at a footy club maybe. Also we need to make sure it doesn't end being more 'play' style bike tracks that only ends up being used by young kids. Young kids are already well catered for in Inverleigh. They need to be really challenging mountain bike type tracks.

I also noted netball courts were an option of the list - Whilst I think a basketball court is a positive addition, the town already has a number of netball courts already.

Wishing you all the best and look forward to the outcomes.

Can't wait for the results and hopefully some new projects built.

We need a bike park or skate park or half court, there are already 6 kids parks in Inverleigh at school, footy oval and parks and council just built another last year??

Keeping facilities in the town centre in a central location to make for a visible, safe environment with access to shops is important.

This is really important, so many at or going to be at this age.

Dirt bike riding is happening on properties and in the common. Its popular but opportunities to make it safer, provide training with say Meredith Bike Park etc. may be useful

We need to be proactive to provide the facilities our youth need as our town has grown dramatically in size and continues to grow.

Inverleigh is a beautiful place and we need to look after the youth. Without proper facilities, majority of the youth will leave, even worse is the families will leave because Inverleigh has nothing to offer. We need to get up with the times and keep moving forward to help the next generation.