

Community Services Committee

Report Title:	Lord Williams's School ACE Week
Meeting Date:	16 July 2024
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on the support Thame Town Council provided for Lord Williams's ACE Week.

Update – Year 7's

1. Town Councillors and Officers welcomed the year 7 students, who became Councillors for the day giving them the opportunity to experience local democracy first hand. They debated, had to decide on local issues and vote on making future improvements and changes to the town centre.
2. Each Tutor group considered the seven proposals, choosing two proposals to present to their peers and Councillors. As a group they then voted on the project they MOST want to see implemented in Thame.
3. The topics discussed over the week and voted first as a group were:-

Projects	Total Votes Cast
Covered Bike Racks	5
Dedicated Cycle Lanes	38
Electronic Noticeboard	41
More trees/green areas in the Town Centre	62
More shaded seating	62
Town Square	69
Water Fountains	83

During the debates, the students incorporated other ideas to be included in the vote during their sessions.

Legal Graffiti Walls	7
More toilets around parks and rugby club	9
BMX Track	14
Floodlights at the park and skate park	7
Seating around the town hall to include shaded areas	4
Make Thame more accessible for the visually impaired	3

4. The students then experienced individual ballot choices by choosing their top three proposals and placing them in the ballot box.

The top three votes collated were:

1. 175 votes = More shaded seating
2. 165 votes = Water fountain
3. 135 votes = Town Square

5. Councillors and Officers also took the opportunity to ask the following questions with the following top 10 answers provided.

Things you want to see in Thame:

- 1 40 votes = Primark
- 2 38 votes = MacDonalDs
- 3 32 votes = More shops
- 4 26 votes = More parks
- 5 25 votes = Cinema
- 6 22 votes = JD/Sports direct
- 7 17 votes = Waterpark
- 8 16 votes = KFC
- 9 10 votes = More green areas
- 10 9 votes = Poundland

Things you don't like about Thame:

- 1 47 votes = Litter
- 2 25 votes = Too busy
- 3 20 votes = School
- 4 14 votes = Nothing
- 5 13 votes = Traffic
- 6 12 votes = Boring
- 7 10 votes = Vapes/Cigerates
- 8 9 votes = No Primark
- 9 8 votes = Vanalism/Graffiti
- 10 7 votes = Pollution

How do you find out what's going on in Thame:

- 1 81 votes = Parents
- 2 64 votes = Signage
- 3 45 votes = Friends
- 4 32 votes = Social Media
- 5 30 votes = Facebook
- 6 23 votes = People
- 7 23 votes = School
- 8 21 votes = Parents on Facebook
- 9 20 votes = Local news
- 10 19 votes = Don't know

What do you like about Thame:

1	152 votes = The shops
2	142 votes = The Parks
3	20 votes = The Fair
4	16 votes = Football Club
5	14 votes = School
6	13 votes = The people
7	12 votes = Cuttle Brook
8	11 votes = Skate Park
9	11 votes = The pubs/Resturants
10	8 votes = The Market

6. The data collected will be used in the creation of the Council's strategy and will be published more widely in the coming weeks.
7. Lastly, a thank you from the Officers to all the Councillors who helped make the sessions run smoothly. Lord Williams's Teachers are very happy with the formate of the sessions and look forward to coming back next year.

Update – Work Experience

8. Thame Town Council welcomed a work experience student into the office, who captured all the data from the 12 x year 7 sessions and other office work assigned from scanning minutes, imputing other data requirements, and assistance with capturing how many Information Centre leaflet are taken throughout the week. All the Officers were very impressed with their work.

Action

- i) **To note this report**