

North Ayrshire Youth Conference

4th November 2016



Consultation results

Introduction

On Friday 4th November North Ayrshire Youth Participation and Empowerment Team (YPET) held their Annual Youth Conference in Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre, Stevenston. The conference is held every year in North Ayrshire to celebrate youth work and Young People in North Ayrshire. It is an event which recognises the dedication, commitment, citizenship and participation of young people in their schools and local communities.



Around 80 young people from North Ayrshire were in attendance and took part in a variety of workshops and consultation that ran throughout the day.

This provided the team with an ideal opportunity to ask young people about their thoughts on their local areas, based around housing needs, their local environment, perceptions of local facilities and job markets, then onto what would make their area a better place to live.

We wanted to gain an understanding of how young people feel about their local areas, we asked everyone to give their feedback on these points and it has been collated together form this report.

The report has been split into two sections:

Section one focuses on housing, the environment and parks within North Ayrshire
Section two focuses on local towns, transport and job opportunities.

These questions cover a wide range of topics to encourage young people to think about all aspects of their communities.

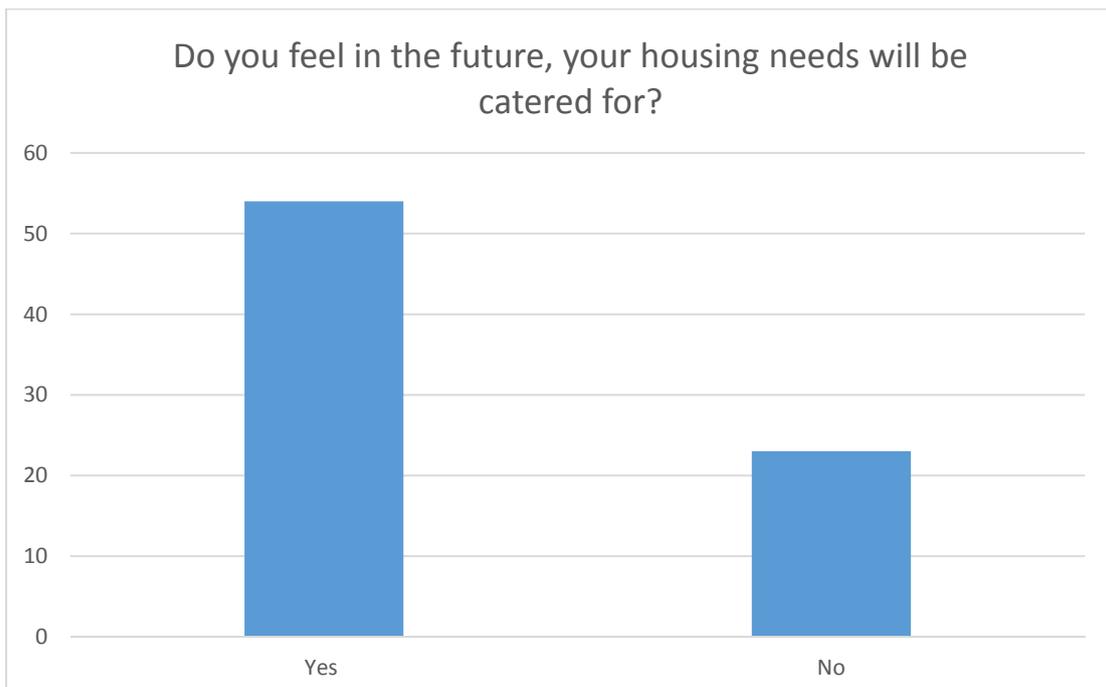
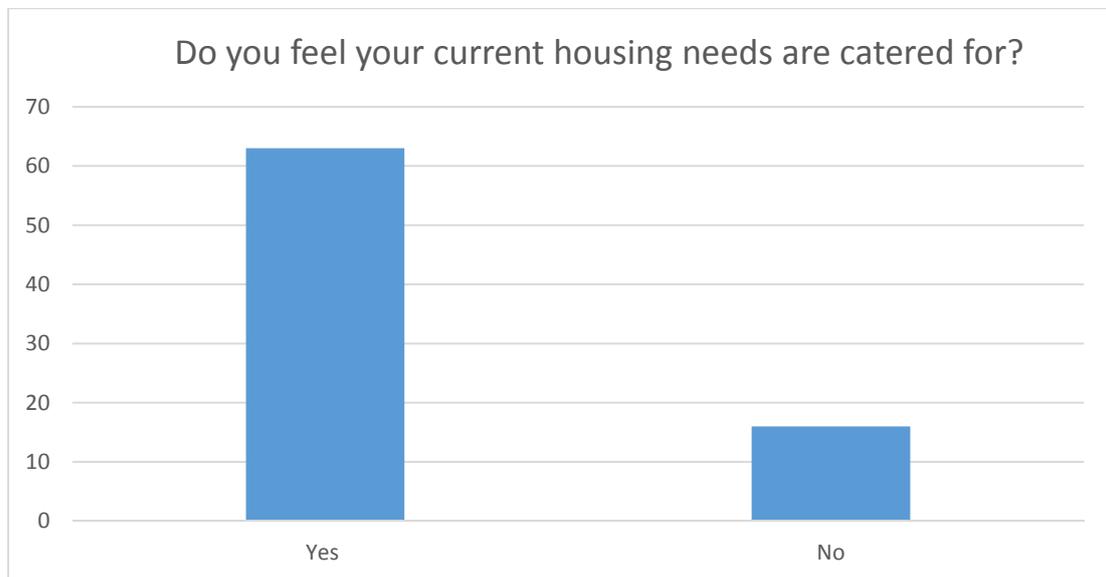
Section 1

Housing, the environment and parks in North Ayrshire:

For this section on the consultation we asked young people to think about North Ayrshire as a whole. We asked them a variety of questions.

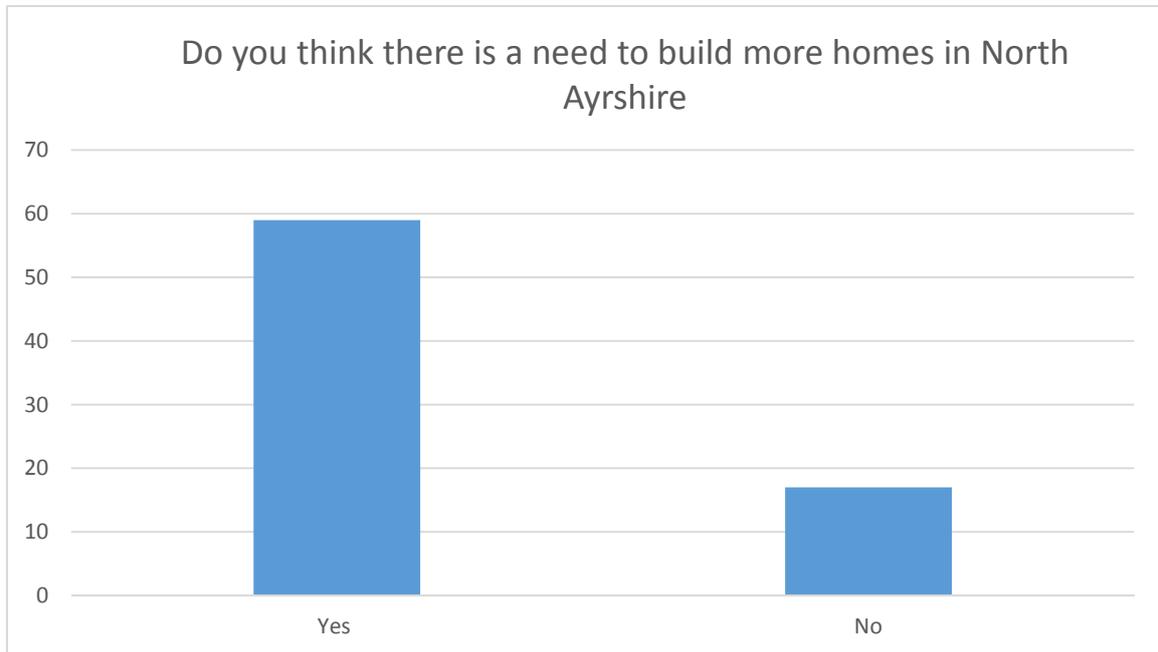
To begin the focus was placed on housing needs, they were identified as:

- The number of houses available
- The quality of the houses
- The size of the houses eg. 2 bed, 3 bed
- Location of where the houses are
- The different types of houses, flats, semi-detached, detached.



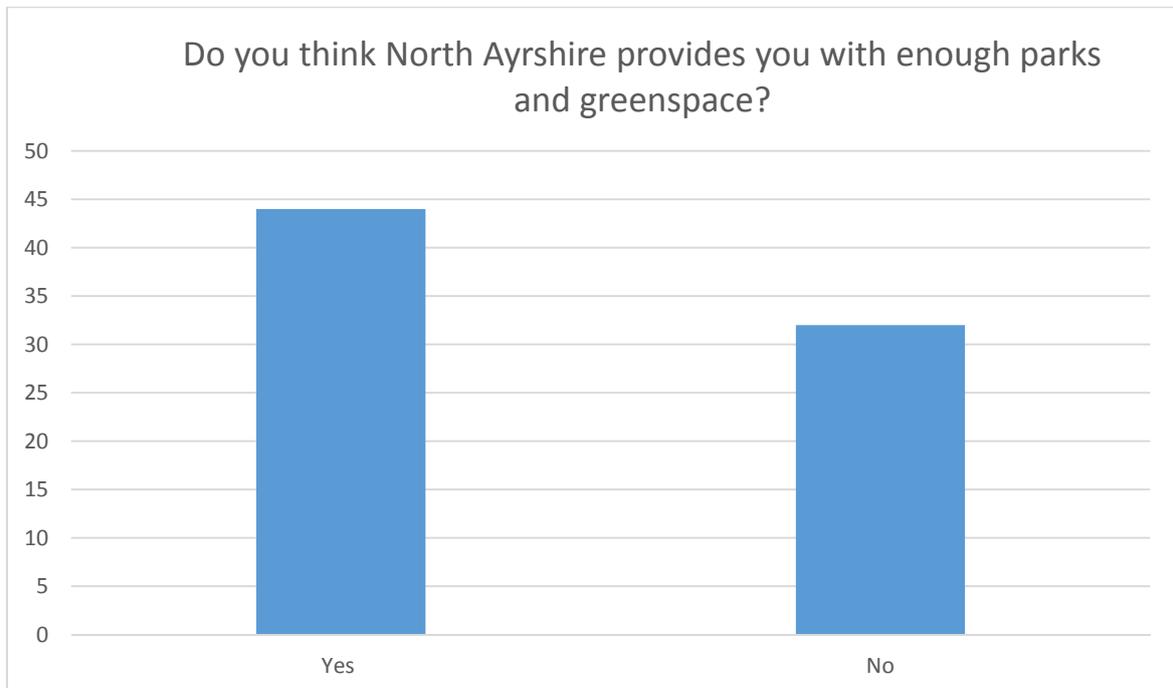
New homes:

We asked young people to think about houses North Ayrshire and asked them if there is a need to build more.

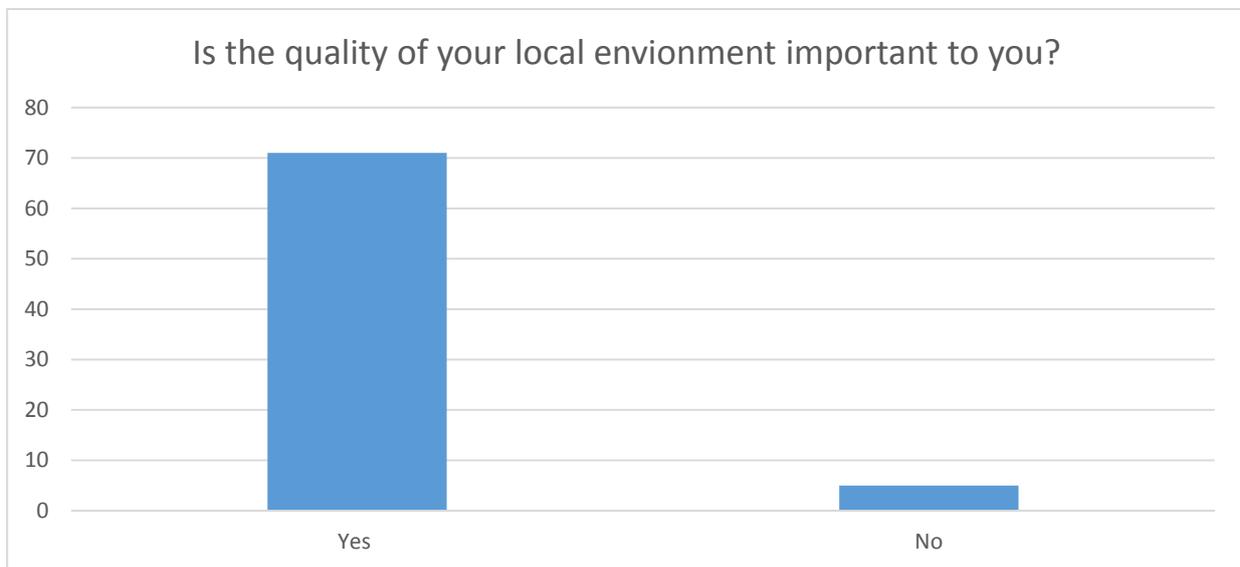


Your local environment:

We asked young people to think about their local environment and to think if there are enough parks and greenspace in North Ayrshire.



Taking into consideration the local environment in North Ayrshire we asked young people if their local environment is important to them.



As you can clearly see from this result young people are very considerate about their local environment and their local areas.

They have a good understanding of housing needs and the future for housing needs and they also identify they are happy with the amount of parks and greenspace in North Ayrshire although results show that there is a feeling that more space and parks would be desired.

The final question in this section asked young people to tell us if they knew what a 'local development plan' or a 'planning application'. Some of their answers are below:

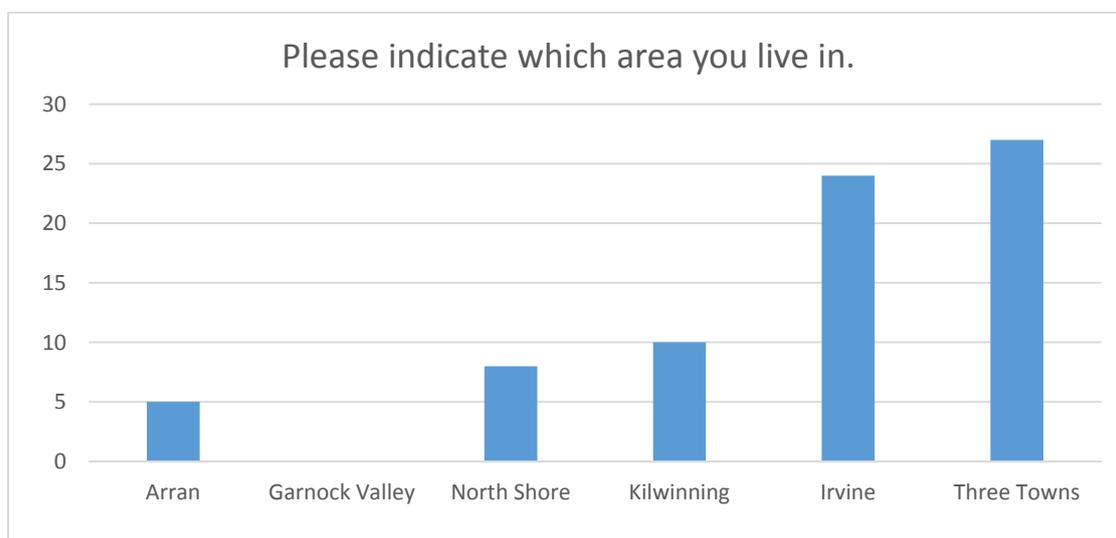
- *"I think it is a plan to improve development in your local area."*
- *"Things put in progress to change towns and better them for the community."*
- *"Changing the future."*
- *"Planning, regarding future development of area, expansion for housing/industries."*
- *"The proposals that's given to the council for future developments."*
- *"A plan for the future in North Ayrshire."*
- *"A plan that can help your community be better."*

From these comments it is clear to see that young people feel that local development plans and planning application are forms or processes that can help local communities thrive with the help of investment in local properties or businesses.

Section 2

Your local area:

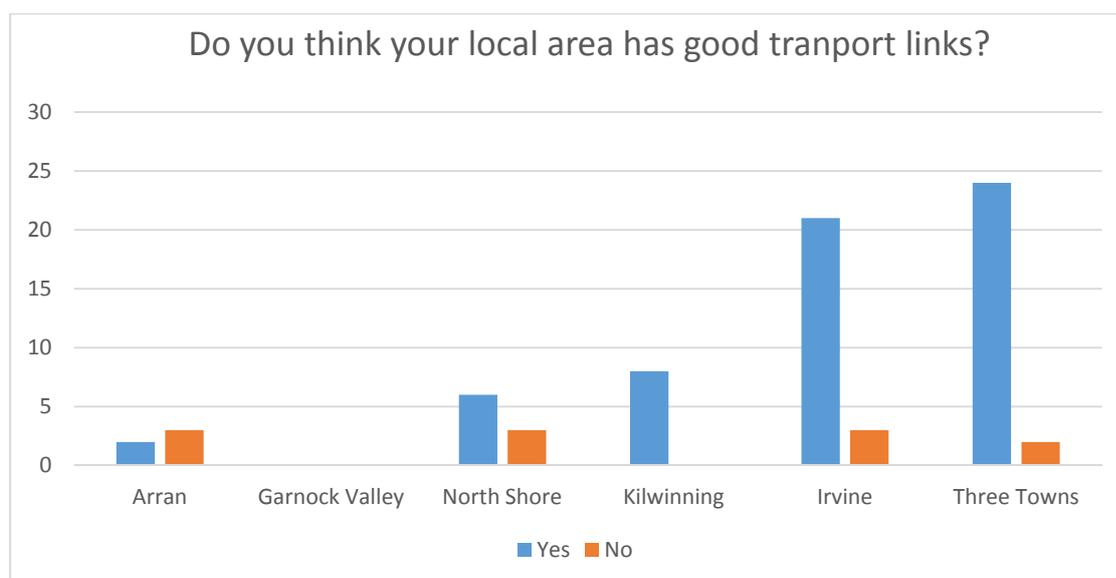
Young people were asked to identify which area they lived in. Young people from Garnock Valley were not in attendance at this event so there were no results gathered for this area.



We had the largest number of young people from the three town's area, closely followed by young people from Irvine. As two of the highest populated localities in North Ayrshire this number is reflected in our consultation.

Transport:

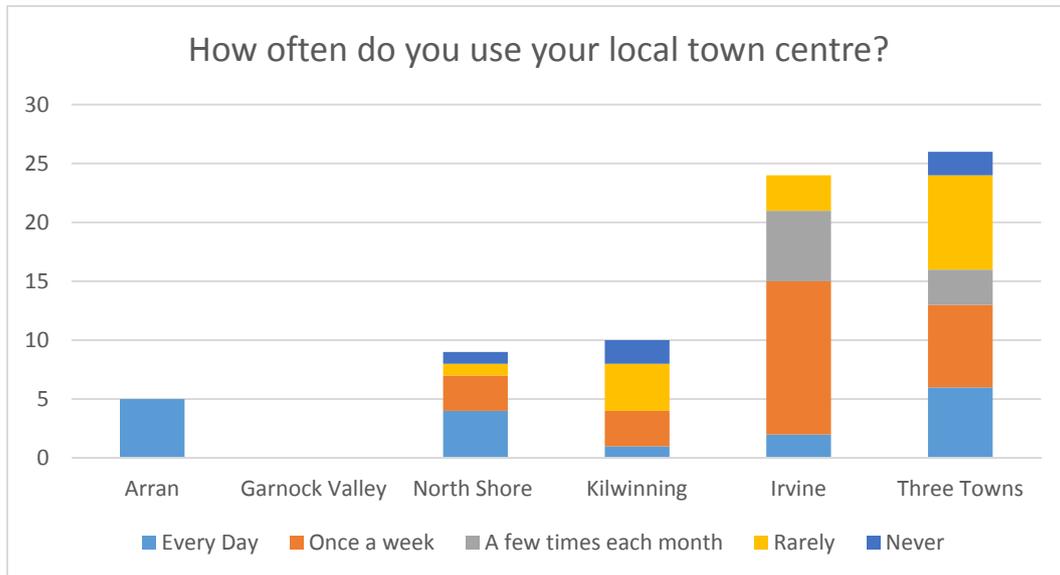
Young people were asked to think about their local transport links, such as good access to public transport; ferries, buses, trains etc and the road routes in their area and to tell us if they thought they were good or not.



Young people from urban areas in North Ayrshire are clear on identifying there are good transport links in their communities.

Town Centres in North Ayrshire:

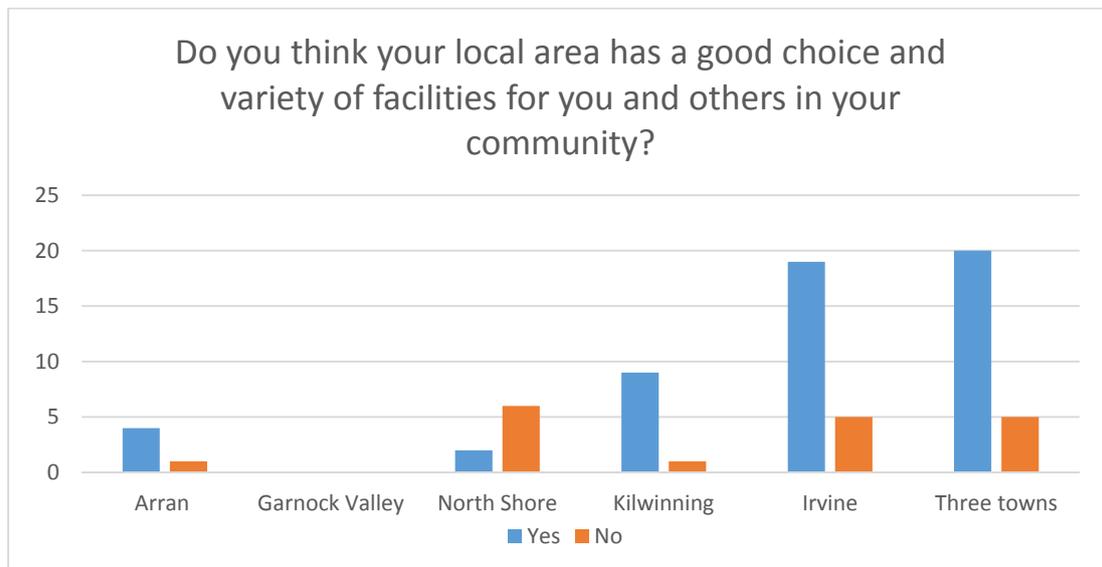
We asked young people to consider their local town centre and how often they use or visit this each month.



From these results we can see that on average young people tend to use their local town centre on a weekly basis.

Facilities:

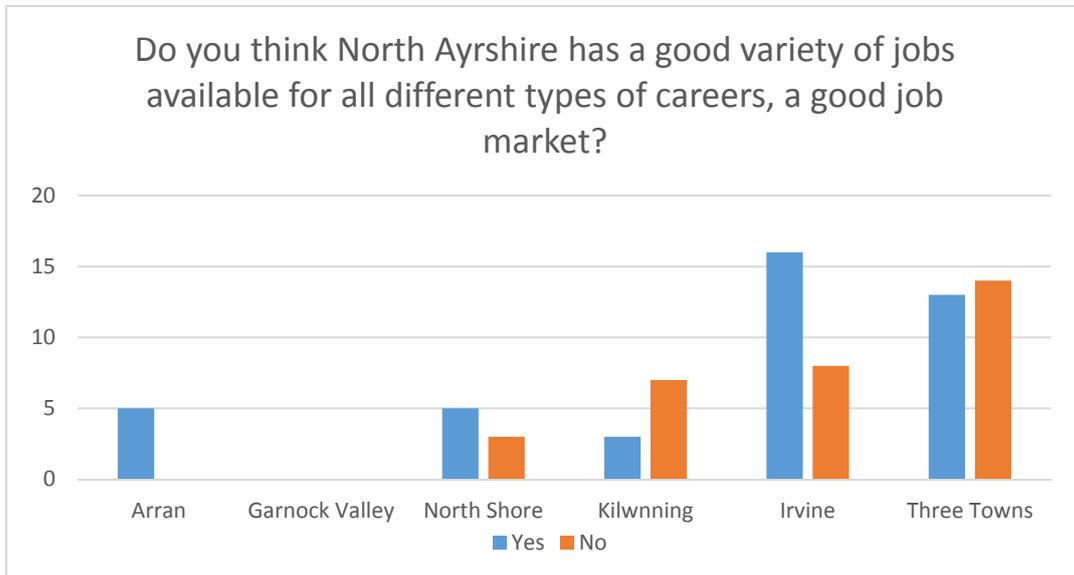
We asked our young people to think about their local towns, the facilities in them and if they thought they had a good variety for young people and other members of their community.



It can be seen that young people who reside in more urban areas are aware of the choice and variety of facilities in their local areas.

Job opportunities:

We asked our young people to think about career choices, future job prospects and how they viewed the job market in North Ayrshire.



Results from this question shows that young people who reside in different localities view their job prospects or their local job market in a different way. With Irvine being the main retail hub for the Local Authority and Kilwinning having excellent links to Scotland's major cities these factors may have an effect on the results shown.



Best place to live:

We asked our young people to respond with a few words or what they thought would make North Ayrshire or their local area a better place to live, a few of the responses were:

- *“More job for those seeking employment, more opportunities for teens, recovering addicts, parents etc like support groups, a lot of focus seems to be on younger kids.”*
- *“Better sporting facilities which young people can access.”*
- *“More parks with security.”*
- *“More places for people to hang around, more gathering sites.”*
- *“If it was litter free.”*
- *“More opportunities for Arran and Transport.”*
- *“For everyone to be more social and try to make new friends.”*
- *“More choices in groups and more chances in jobs.”*
- *“To have more open areas and more grass areas.”*

These are a few of the areas the young people have identified that they feel would make North Ayrshire a better place to live.



From the results throughout this consultation it is clear to see that the group of young people who completed this consultation are active in their communities, they have an understanding of the variety of different aspects that build communities and are confident and able to express their views on these areas.