



Hayle Civic Hub Children's Consultation



As part of the redevelopment of Hayle Library, 90 children aged 10–11 (Year 6) from Bodriddy and Penpol Schools were consulted: about what they value in the community, how they currently use the library, & what they want the new space to offer. Children provided quantitative responses through voting cards & rich qualitative ideas through Restorative circle discussions.

Introduction

The development of a local community hub will offer opportunities for children's personal development in the schools' wider context. The children were consulted in innovative and creative ways, making choices expressed through a visual code* which they could do with anonymity. They enjoyed the process of being consulted together, and then in smaller groups talking in greater depth about the local changes and future possibilities. They showed imagination and creativity in reflecting on ideas together.

Consultation Objectives

- To understand current use of library & council services in Hayle.
- To identify community priorities for facilities, services & activities in the proposed Hub.
- To capture barriers to access & preferences for future operating hours.
- To explore local attitudes towards community identity, civic life, & "Pride of Place".

When consulted during an assembly, the children said....

How often do you use the library?

Weekly or more: 7.8%
Occasionally: 48.9%
Never: 43.3%

What do you currently use the library for?

Borrowing books: 60.9%
Computers & WiFi: 17.2%
Wildlife & community garden: 21.8%

Which activities would you like to see in the new space?

Art & cultural events: 40.9%
Clubs for young people : 47.7%
Community gatherings: 11.4%

2/3^{rds} of the children are interested in being part of a Youth Council

73% of children expressed interest in being involved in a Democracy Café



*Children indicated their votes by holding up green, yellow, or red cards; multiple choices were allowed.



What the children love about Hayle...

We asked 90 children what they love about Hayle. Here's what they had to say...

Friendly community

Local places & history eg Paradise Park, Memorial Wall, toy shop

Nature and Wildlife eg seagulls, birds, beaches

Food and treats eg pasties, chips & ice cream!

Children strongly associate Hayle with **warmth, friendliness, and the outdoors.**

What the children want the new library space to be...

When the children were asked how the hub could be a place for everyone in Hayle, they suggested...

Sensory room with beanbags

Warm space

Chatty space

Free wifi

Support for parents

Calm and quiet space

A welcoming space for people who don't have a home

Cafe/Food options

Artwork in the space made by the community, including children

Play area for younger children

Donation area for food

Wheelchair accessible areas

How should the hub look and feel?

This was what was important for the children:

Indoor plants

Bean bags & blankets

Soft sofas and comfy seats

Forest mural

A restorative, community-minded environment

A space to express feelings

Animals (Therapy pets visiting)

Fairy lights

Children value emotional safety, comfort, belonging and inclusion to characterise the community hub.

What the children would like to see more of in Hayle...

When asked if there was anything they'd like to see different in Hayle, the children said....

More spaces for young people

Protecting wildlife

Less litter, more bins

Tackling vandalism (special graffiti art walls)

More indoor activities eg cinema

Another park/outdoor space for young people

These ideas highlight a desire for youth-friendly, safe, active and environmentally conscious spaces.

What activities do the children want to see in the space?

Art and crafts

Cooking/baking (including pasty making!)

Tablets or computers available

Support groups for neurodivergent young people



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Key Insights and Themes

Across all data, children are asking for a library that is:

1. Multi-use and youth-friendly
2. Emotionally safe & restorative
3. Sensory and inclusive
4. Connected to nature and animals
5. Community-powered
6. Fun and imaginative

How children want to hear about the opportunities they expressed interest in

Online (email/school website): 28.7%
Posters & leaflets: 38.8%
School assemblies: 32.6%

How children felt about being consulted?

Thankful Excited
A great chance to Proud
speak out Joyful
Awesome Enjoyed
working in a
Surprised circle
Interested
Happy

This highlights that children value being included in local decision-making.

Barriers and Motivations

We asked the children what would prevent them from getting involved in these activities (joining a youth council, being part of a democracy café or attending the library).

- Library not open late and not open at weekends
- Parents working late
- Traffic from tourism
- Feeling busy, darker evenings

Barriers show a need for extended hours, safer/accessible timings, and transport solutions

When can the children get involved?

After school: 32%
Weekend: 35.9%
School holidays: 32%

Conclusion

The children's consultation shows a strong appetite for a reimagined Hayle Library as a warm, inclusive and multi-use community hub for children, young people and families.

Children want a space that builds on the library's role as a trusted community anchor, offers flexible areas for reading, creativity, wellbeing and social connection, and includes welcoming features such as comfortable seating, food provision, and nature-connected spaces that reflect Hayle's local identity. The findings also highlight the importance of accessibility and inclusion, with children identifying barriers around opening times, transport, and the need for emotionally safe, sensory-friendly environments. Together, their voices present a clear vision of the library as a community-powered space where young people feel welcome, valued, and involved in shaping Hayle's future.



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