

**Robertsbridge U th Voice engaged YP aged 11-19 in the following ways:**

Up to 30 YP at the village youth club voted on two Neighbourhood Plan questions which they selected as of most interest to them.

2 YP were supported to put a NP question on their personal FB pages.

Up to 200 YP aged 11 – 16 were engaged by performances from musicians in school lunchtimes. They learnt of the Uth Voice workshops and Gigs and Three yr 11 young men performed a Letter written to David Cameron in front of the rest of the school.

Up to 40 YP aged 16-18 were informed of Uth Voice workshops and gigs via early morning busking outside the village train station.

Up to 150 YP were visited via English and Drama classes at the local secondary school, when performance poet, Tommy Sissons, inspired YP to name topics, and write spoken word poems on topics, that they wanted to speak out about

At the youth voice workshops 7 YP were mentored to produce song lyrics, speeches and Spoken Word poetry on themes of war, mental illness, drugs, music and education which they performed at a live music consultation event, the SPEAK OUT GIG.

10 YP performed at a village music and consultation event, SPEAK OUT GIG . Democratic representatives, namely the MP, district, county and parish councillors made speeches and 23 YP participated.

1 YP was supported to set up a You tube Channel to showcase youth opinion and videos from the SPEAK OUT GIG

An ongoing SPEAK OUT SESSION has been set up. Currently this is reaching 10 YP with YP on a waiting list. A parish councillor attends these sessions and has established a good relationship with YP and has responded to YP's concerns regarding vandalism as well as forwarding requests for youth facilities to the Parish council and those developers overseeing what will be a substantial residential development in the village.

The parish council have designated parish councillor Ross McNay to lead on youth matters and a parish council working group has been set up and £1000 set aside for youth related activities.

The video of the SPEAK OUT Projects has been shown to adult residents at two village events: the Neighbourhood Plan open morning and the Parish Assembly

A video documentary of the work can be seen on [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK5BWYOV2X\\_sfKQ-pqAR9w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK5BWYOV2X_sfKQ-pqAR9w)

### How the project met its stated aims:

AIM	SUCCESSFULLY DELIVERED ( 1-5 : 5 = V SUCESSFULL)	OUTCOMES ,CHALLENGES AND FURTHER WORK
To involve a wide range and ages of YP shaping the goals and key issues of it neighbourhood plan for the geographical area of until year 2028.	3	Of the NP questions, only the question on facilities and housing appeared as relevant to the YP. Up to 30 YP answering these questions. The YP’s posting on a YP FB page did not fly. However the NP steering committee continues to receive feedback from the YP who give feedback and designs regarding what should be built in the village for YP .
To introduce new, youth-friendly modes of self-expression and discussion into the democratic process in Robertsbridge.	5	The SPEAK OUT GIG was voted by YP an successful means of consulting them and their peers. YP’s feedback was: more music and different types of music and less speaking. To ensure this mode of expression represents value for money work is required on recruiting more local young bands from a wider range of musical genres and considering role of DJ’s and playlists. Turn out form other YP was low due to the date clashing with a party.
To set up a <b>Uth Voice</b> group , aka ‘ SPEAK OUT SESSIONS’ which, as well as encouraging YP to express themselves in words and music, relates ‘ a youth opinion’ to the village PC, adult electoral voters and other decision-making bodies.	4	The Uth Voice group has become a robust channel for Young people to express opinion to the parish council representative. Further work is required to enable YP to represent a wide range of youth opinion rather than just their own interests and opinions; and to plan, fund and execute some of their own ideas. The challenge of the on going Uth Voice group has been to stimulate YP to write in their own time and build up a substantial repertoire of music and lyrics.
To present YP with mode of self-expression, discussion and decision making that engages them and make the democratic process credible and attractive to them.	4	YP report that framing lyrics has given YP more confidence in their opinions. YP who were unable to write lyrics at first now keep a writing journal. Themes explored in lyrics include mental health, school, sexual harassment, drugs, vandalism and war. From the digital interface of the You Tube channel, videos are shared amongst YP’s peers albeit in a limited way since YP are still self-conscious about how they look and come

		across. Some YP have expressed a preference for audio digital platform. The democratic process is becoming apparent and locally, at parish level, is growing in credibility
To introduce YP to a wide range of contemporary, historical, social, political and environmental activists	3	Whilst YP engaged with Tommy Sisson , followed his radio and you tube coverage, there has been insufficient time to introduce YP to other examples.
To inform YP about the democratic structures in Robertsbridge who make decisions for the village	3	A wide range of YP have been informed but this information is not necessarily as yet retained. Getting access to school has been difficult but as a result of a visit by performance poet, Tommy Sissons, there is now a strong buy in by the English department.
To involve adult-volunteers from the village.	4	A total of 5 adult volunteers engaged with the YP with one of these volunteers , the parish councillors having a significant as evidenced by the fact that YP know the person by name and tell their friends about consultation meetings. A local journalist, and another artistic Robertsbridge resident will continue to engage directly with the YP . The clerk of the parish council and a Rother district councillor have taken roles on the working group and in fundraising.