

## Appendix 2

Consultation was carried out through attending forums and public meetings to test out the themes that has emerged in the Strategy. Some of the most significant results are reported below.

### YPF... Art and Culture Consultation...24.09.08

We approached the YPF in a workshop style to find out what they understood about culture, some of their preconceptions and then their aspirations. How did they interact with Culture in Telford?

Some of the key findings were:

1. That young people had a sense of the world in terms of culture and given a choice they would want to go to new places, explore other countries and experience their food and culture, architecture, fashion and Art and cultural buildings and events.

2. The young people were asked 'What is Art / Culture?' and some of their answers were:

- Is a sunset art?...Does something have to have been influenced by 'man' to be art?
- Anything that is visually spectacular and anything in the World that is beautiful
- Anything that has been designed and that shows personality or involves skill
- Art is an 'expression' and everything can be included - Fashion, Music, Theatre & Performance, Outdoor events, Books, Architecture and sculpture

3. We asked young people where they can experience Art and Culture in Telford & Wrekin? Their answers included:

The countryside, the Wrekin and parks and gardens, Museums and leisure centres, The Place and other theatres, the town centre – art exhibitions, local areas where there is graffiti, schools through performance and art work, the cinema, bars and clubs with live music.

4. We asked the young people to Imagine a World without Art. What would be missing or lost? What would happen as a result? A sample of their thoughts is captured in relation to each thematic area

#### Health

- Mental Health and wellbeing would diminish; people would become paranoid, depressed, and apathetic
- Disabled people would not be able to access art as therapy
- Having nothing to do would increase weight gain
- There would be no relaxation or entertainment

#### Community

- No community events would mean less social interaction, limited experiences and less sharing of ideas
- People's houses would be bland
- Loss of common interests
- Less fun and lack of sensory stimulation

- People wouldn't be able to build relationships

### **School**

- Individuality would be gone
- People wouldn't be as open minded
- School would be sad and games would be missing
- There would be more aggression and negativity
- Pupils would be apathetic and performance would go down

### **Leisure Time**

- People would be bored and angry
- No communication or relationship building with friends and family, nothing to talk about
- People's emotional range would decrease nothing would impress/depress you!

### **5.The young people were asked for their One wish for the Future of art/culture in T&W?**

- Create a spontaneous performance space...create an atmosphere where everywhere is a performance space.
- Make sure that T&W has a range of things to cater for all religions and cultures....Asian clothes shops and religious buildings.
- High profile events....Music, fashion, Dance with good quality and well known performers
- An annual Arts and Culture Festival
- A fountain like in Birmingham
- A new Art Gallery
- More Public Art and Culture in Telford

**In summary the young people proved to be very knowledgeable about the role of arts & culture in their community and the possible effects of not having arts & culture in their lives. The young peoples aspirations for arts & culture in the borough gave credence to the outcomes of the arts strategy and its priorities for action in relation to young people and the wider community and environment they inhabit.**

## **Senior Citizens Forum Consultation 6.10.08**

For the senior citizens forum we examined the main themes for the arts strategy. The questionnaire related to the main themes of the strategy which would have most resonance for our senior community. A summary of the results is as follows.

- ***When asked when they last engaged with arts & culture and the frequency with which they engaged, more than half of the respondents took part in regular activity and more than three quarters at least bi weekly.***
  - ***The respondents regularly taking part in arts or culture related leisure pastimes listed the a wide range of activities including:***
    - Theatre, gardening, dancing, cinema, walking, painting, photography, flower and veg shows (exhibitor), concerts, art classes, viewing arts work, swimming, puzzles, walking in the park, music, creative writing, digital camera, Bridge.
  - ***Respondents also listed arts or cultural activities they would like to participate in or develop new skills in that were not currently available to them. The list included:***
    - Painting, Tai Chi, Dancing, Internet, Calligraphy, Art Gallery, Interactive Museum, Education Service, Town Centre.
  - ***Barriers to participation were listed as:*** Time, Cost, Work, Lack of transport, Children, Working full time don't have spare time, Health, limited spare time.
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- ***Respondents were asked to express how they saw that arts & culture could benefit their health.***
  - More than three quarters of respondents agreed that there were health benefits and these were expressed as mentally, creatively, physically, relaxation, keeping fit, mental stimulation, keeping your mind and body active, feeling positive and boosting self esteem.
  - ***Respondents were asked how they thought art could play a part in the development of public open spaces?***
  - Responses included design and attractiveness of a space, setting a standard of quality, bringing people and communities together, providing more outdoor space for the community to enjoy and relax in, creating community spirit and making places safe.
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- ***Respondents were asked if they thought that the heritage of Telford & Wrekin is important to the community?***
  - ***All respondents agreed that it was important for the following reasons.*** Tourist value, maintaining interest and history for future generations, Help people take pride in their environment, Gives a sense of place, community spirit, Engenders sense of belonging and history, the Roots of young people and the new town.
  - ***Respondents were asked what else would make Telford & Wrekin a more attractive place to live in? Was there anything missing?***
  - Some of the responses included, Major public events in the town park, a town centre with a creative heart of an gallery and arts centre, Swop shops for recycling more things, better public transport, a caravan park for tourist caravaners in the town centre, more places for young people to go and get

involved, more wild places, more facilities for less able people, play facilities for adults!

**In summary the senior citizens forum agreed with the principles that were drawn out in the arts strategy around regeneration, young people, the town centre, public spaces, health, heritage and advocacy for the arts in the community. These principles have been identified from our knowledge and research around the gaps in provision and the areas of influence for the arts service in improving the quality of experience for the community and thereby their quality of life.**

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