

Appendix 3: Consultation Events held in Shropshire Council run Youth Centres and projects.

As a result of Shropshire Councils budget situation and change agenda. They are changing the way universal youth provision is delivered. Universal coverage will be encouraged and delivered through the voluntary sector. The council have awarded an infrastructure support contract to Shropshire Youth Association (SYA) in partnership with Energize to support the sector through a range of initiatives.

The youth clubs that were previously delivered by Shropshire Council Positive Activities Team will no longer be delivered in house. An exercise has been undertaken to identify the areas of greatest need and funding allocated to those areas through their Local Joint Committees.

Shropshire Youth Association has been commissioned to facilitate sessions in all the councils youth centres and satellite projects to:

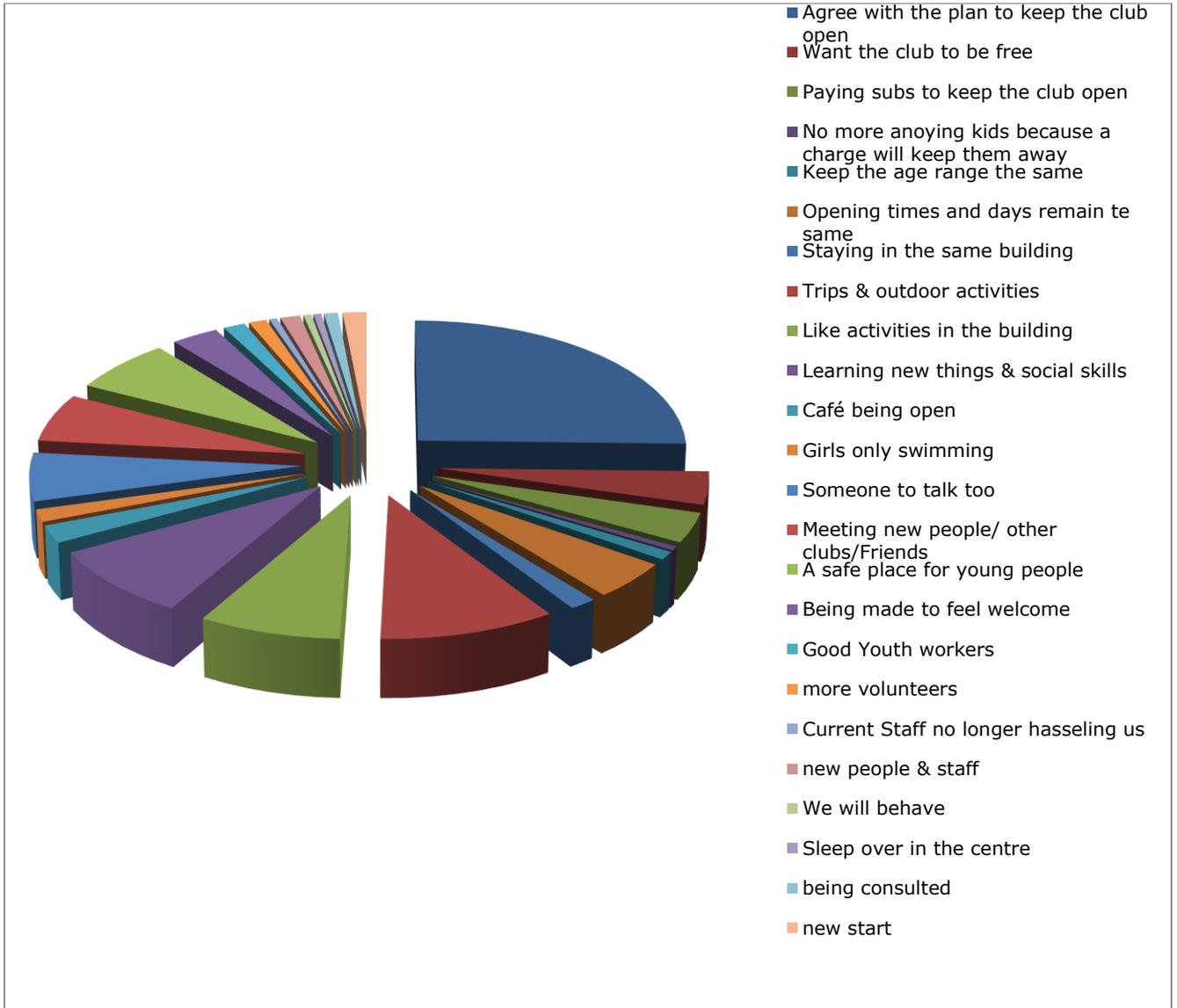
- Convey the message that the youth provision is changing
- Let the young people know that it is unlikely that the youth workers will work for Shropshire Council in the future.
- Inform the young people what the plans are for their area in the future.
- Seek their views on the proposals
- Try to identify some young people from each project to support community enablement officers and LJC members in the funding allocation process and future peer reviews.

The sessions followed a similar format in all areas, where we delivered a session to groups of around 12 young people, repeating the exercise until everyone had had the opportunity to take part (in some clubs some young people decided not to engage and we respected their choice). Having outlined why we were there the SYA worker handed over to the community Enablement Officer (CEO) to outline the commissioning intentions for the area, before engaging with the young people through 1 of 2 games to get their feedback on the plans, in many places we were joined by councillors who heard first-hand what young people thought.

In general young people were quite accepting of the changes and in many areas the change is realistically only a change in provider and maybe a change in staff. Some areas like Broseley, Craven Arms and Bishops Castle may lose their clubs because no funding or insufficient funding is available to replicate what they currently had. In these cases the young people were aware of the likelihood that their clubs would close and the youth workers and/or CEO's had already started to work through alternatives to mitigate for the loss.

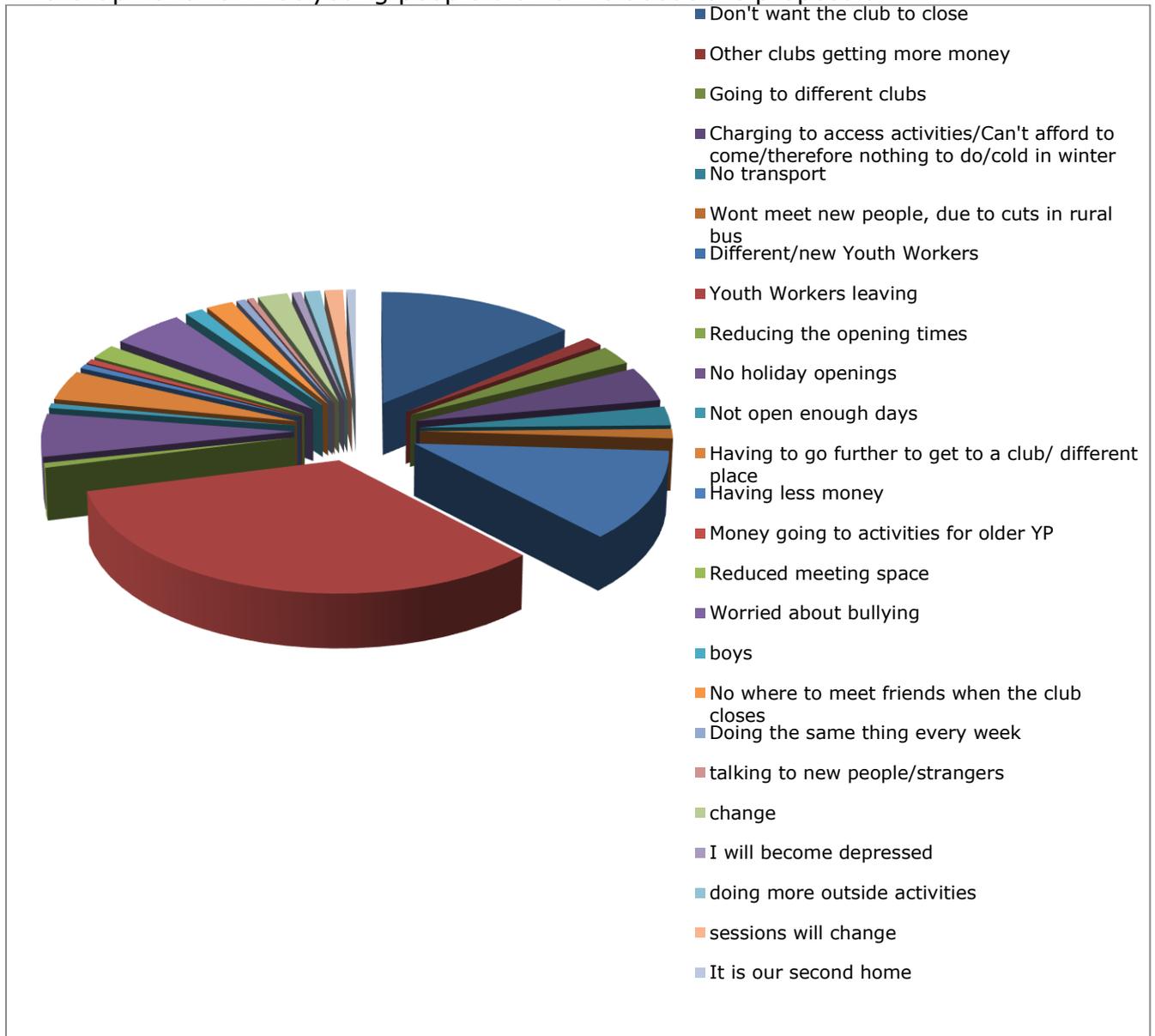
The results below reflect what young people felt was good and bad about the proposals:

The first graph shows the things that were liked in the proposal:



The headline message here is that young people broadly agree with the plans to keep clubs operating in the same venues, they want them to be places that provide activities both in the club and externally, safe and welcoming where they can meet and socialize with others.

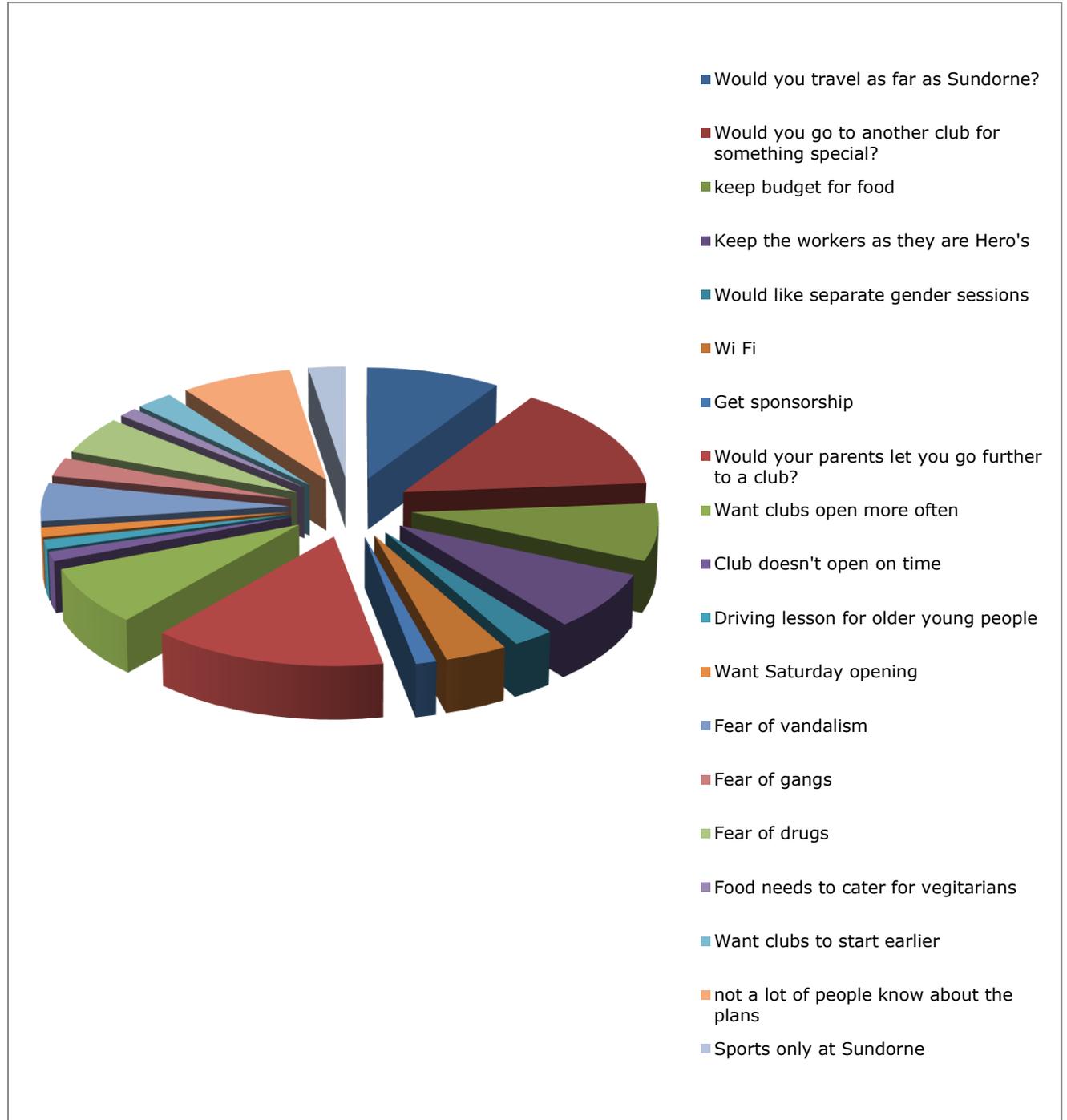
This Graph shows what young people didn't like about the proposals:



The clear message here is that young people don't want their youth clubs to close, they want to retain the current workers and don't want new staff to leave.

Tellingly some of the smaller comments reflect how they feel about the clubs and cost, comments like it's our second home and a fear of becoming depressed as a result of reduced or changed access.

Other comments that were made:



These comments are often club specific, the comments relating to Sundorne were used as examples to see if people in the Shrewsbury area would be prepared to travel for special events.

The fear of drugs and gangs came through strongly in Broseley where young people said that without the club they wouldn't be able to meet socially as they and their parents worry about older youths and gangs.

In conclusion

Fourteen sessions were delivered at twelve different venues; we used two different exercises to solicit the 1116 responses from 391 young people.