

A MANIFESTO FOR BERWICK UPON TWEED



We, the young people of Berwick upon Tweed, being aware of our role as the future citizens of our Town, here present our Manifesto for Berwick. Our requests to the current Council and citizens of Berwick fall into two categories: one category concerns the immediate improvement of the town for all its people. The other will address the needs of Berwick's young people, giving them the space and opportunity to grow into the fine citizens needed to make a Better Berwick.



1. Inasmuch as the young people of Berwick are concerned for all the people of Berwick and those who visit our fine town, we call upon the Council to be more diligent in the rapid removal of rubbish from the streets. In particular our valued friends the market traders need industrial receptacles for their use and these must be regularly emptied and replaced.

2. In so far as we want our town's distinctiveness to be preserved we wish the Council and others with long pockets and power to create incentives for new and varied businesses to establish themselves in Berwick adding thereby to the economy and diversity of the town and filling the empty premises which, like dead pixels on a screen, disfigure our town centre.

3. For the sake of visitors to our town – may they be many and arrive with full purses – we must have clear, friendly and welcoming car parking. Further, we believe the disc parking system to be an unnecessary burden upon our visitors and that a simple system of free ticket parking would serve them better and place them in a more receptive mood to enjoy their visit and shop without concern for parking infringements.

4. In our research for the celebration of our 900th anniversary we have become aware that our town's heritage is rich and long but that art works have been hidden or forgotten. We call upon the town's Council and its shopkeepers to take pride in our appearance and restore the beauty, old and new, of our town.

5. Many of those aforementioned visitors arrive and depart by rail. We ourselves would like to explore beyond the boundaries of our town – numerous though its attractions are – and would wish for the sakes of our visitors and ourselves that there would be later services to and from the station.

6. We wish to correct the erroneous belief of adults that we young people are permanently attached to our screens. On the contrary we value conversation and activity and the enjoyment of outdoor pursuits. To which end we ask for

more parks accessible and welcoming to young adults. These parks should contain fitness areas or gyms, skate parks, rockets and trampolines. We would particularly like Go Ape style climbing areas.

7. Whereas there are complaints that young people hang about the town making adults nervous, we wish to point out that merely standing in groups and laughing is neither a public offence nor a nuisance. Moreover we respectfully suggest that, were there suitable facilities, we would readily congregate indoors in the evenings, our otherwise excellent town not being blessed with Mediterranean evening weather. Such facilities might include use of the premises of the Youth Hostels Association, the Leisure Centre and the Holiday Camps. There should also be cafes open by rotation in which we might peacefully pass our time enjoying the gentle arts of conversation and the mellifluous sounds of our music.

8. For the enjoyment of these facilities, parks etc., we ask the Council to provide a Youth Map for our use and that of young visitors. And we desire a Teen Card for students and young people offering discounts and offers in shops, cafes and restaurants. This would benefit us and traders in equal measure.

9. While we are delighted to have in Berwick our own college which attracts other young people and which we can attend, we believe that it should develop a greater range of academic subjects offering us the opportunity to remain here rather than being compelled to seek educational quality elsewhere and that it should become a campus college bringing more students to live in and enliven the town.

10. To continue the work we have done to create this manifesto and to ensure that young people in Berwick are consulted and considered in all Council activities, we call upon the Council to appoint a Young Persons' Community Worker to work alongside us and to help us establish a Youth Council for the town.

IN CONCLUSION we urge the Council to give careful consideration to our manifesto remembering as you do the heritage of this town that you will pass into our hands and noting that we will be in charge when you are old, that some of us will choose your care homes and that for the enjoyment of your twilight years you will want us to have grown up with wisdom and compassion!

BERWICK GUIDING, SENIOR SECTION
22nd October 2015