

Shaping Next Steps for Uredale Report

For Uredale Community Partnership: Culture & Green Space Working Group

Workshop held at Ripon Arts Hub
Tuesday 3 February 2026, 2–5pm

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Figures 1-3: Participants during workshop

Table 1: Assets Mapped in Uredale

Place	Physical Assets	Cultural Organisations/Groups/Businesses	Cultural/Creative/Heritage Practitioners
Skelton	Skelton Community Pub		
	Christ the Consoler Church		
Skelton on Ure	Newby Hall	Newby Hall	
Langthorpe	Coronation Hall		
Bishop Monkton	Bishop Monkton Village Hall		
Markenfield	Markenfield Hall		
Norton Conyers	Norton Conyers House		
Sharrow	Sharrow Church		
Melmerby	Hambleton Brewery		
Ripon	Outwood Academy	Ripon Community Poppy Project	Bryony Harris (musician)
	Ripon Grammar School	RAOS Musical Theatre Company	Mimi Poskitt (cultural producer)
	Ripon Men's Shed	Ripon International Festival	David Stead (visual artist)
	Ripon Community House	Ripon Concerts	Monica Gabb (visual artist)
	Library	St Cecilia Orchestra	Andy Bates (heritage crafts)
	Hugh Ripley Hall	Community Orchestra	Rose Ferraby (visual artist)
	Spa Gardens	Ripon Live Music	Ronny Krippner (Ripon cathedral choir director)
	Little Ripon Bookshop	Ripon Choral Society	Tom Sands (folk musician and organiser)
	Kirkgate Galleries	Ripon Cathedral Choirs	Jeremy Carnall (cellist and conductor)
	Town Hall	Ripon Writing Group #1	Skelldale Singers
	Little Ripley	Ripon Writing Group #2	All for One Choir
	Ripon Arts Hub	Poetry Society	Ripon City Morris
	Ripon Museums	Black Swan Open Mic Night	Ripon Mummers
	Ripon Cathedral	Ripon Museums Trust	Ripon Rock Choir
	Holy Trinity Church		
	Market Place	Ripon Theatre Festival	
	Ripon Racecourse	Ripon Wilfrid Folk Club	
	Old Railway	Ripon City Council	
	Ripon Walled Garden	Ripon Youth Theatre	

	Allhallowgate Methodist Church	Ripon Dance Academy	
	The Portly Pig	Ripon Charity Pantomime Group	
	Ripon Bowling Club	U3A	
	The Ripon Inn	Ripon Photographic Society	
	Ripon YMCA		
	Chapel of St Mary Magdelene (Leper Chapel)	RHATS (historical & archaeological society)	
		Ripon Community Orchestra	
		Ripon City Band	
		Ripon BID Events	
		Upstage Academy	
		Trinity Singers	
Fountains	Studley Royal Park	National Trust	
	Fountains Abbey		
North Stainley	North Stainley Village Hall	North Stainley Arts Society	Jane Ramsden (painter)
			Sharon Hockin (visual artist)
Low Grantley	Grantley Village Hall		
	Grantley Hall		
Kirkby Malzeard	Mechanics Institute	Kirkby Malzeard History	Kirkby Malzeard Sword Dancers
	Kirkby Malzeard Village Hall		
	Mowbray House		
Grewelthorpe	Grewelthorpe Village Hall & Community Centre	Grewelthorpe Gigs	Emily Roberts (musical theatre director)
	Himalayan Garden & Sculpture Park		
	Druids Temple		
Masham	Masham Town Hall	Masham Folk Gigs	Barbara Bradley (Grewelthorpe Historian)
	Peacock & Verity	Masham Musical Society	Ian Scott Massey (visual artist)
	Masham Community Office	Masham Players	Charlotte Morrison (ceramicist)
	Black Sheep Brewery	Masham Photographic Society	Charlotte Titterington (visual artist)
	Happy House Masham	Masham steam fair and sheep fair	Gaynor Pearson (stone carver)
	Swinton Park	Masham History (heritage project)	Josie Besant (visual artist)
	Masham CofE Primary School		Mark Cronfield (actor/director)

	St Mary's Church		Nolan Staley (visual artist)
	Masham Methodist Church		Jo Garrick (visual artist)
			Tony Rudd (organist and conductor)
			Simon Palmer (visual artist)
			Nick Reed (programmer)
Ripley		Ripley Live	
Fearby	Fearby Village Hall	Fearby Pantomime Society	
Dishforth			Dishforth Military Wives Choir
Copt Hewick			
		North Yorkshire County Council events	

3. Key issues, barriers and gaps

In the second activity, participants worked in groups and identified issues around making culture/creativity more geographically equitable and accessible for all ages, by mind-mapping the responses to three consecutive questions:

Question 1: What are the specific issues in Uredale in contrast to the rest of North Yorkshire?

Question 2: What are the barriers to access for all to cultural spaces/activities in Uredale?

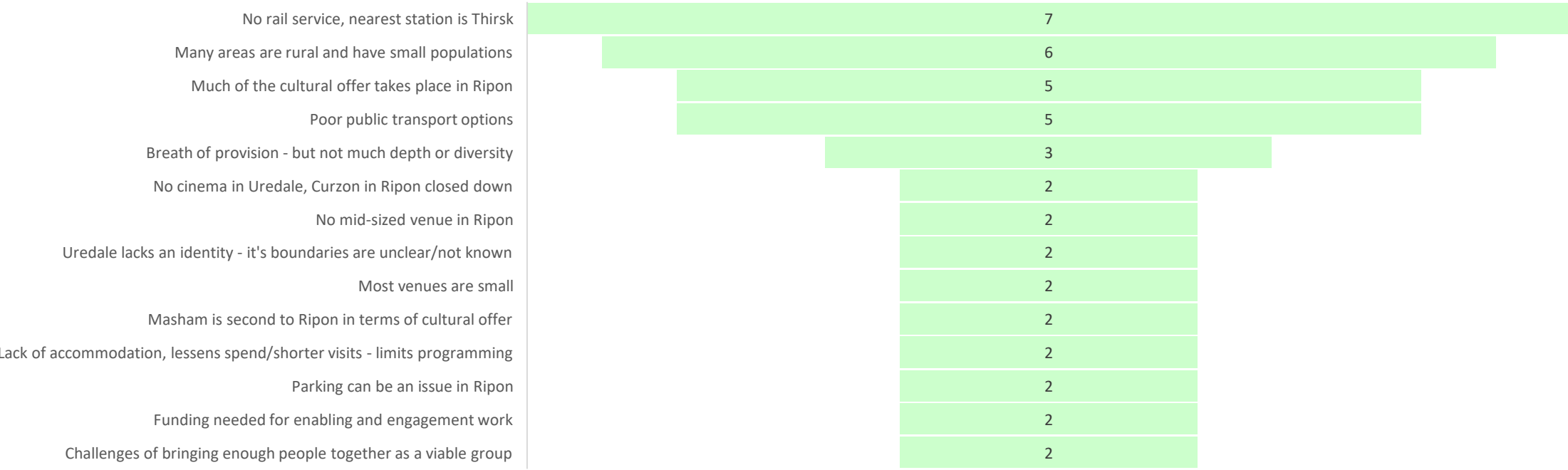
Question 3: What are the gaps in quality cultural opportunities in Uredale?

Themes arising from each of the discussion questions covered a wide range of topics, for detailed responses to each question see Appendix 2.

3.1 In Question 1, the most frequently identified themes are presented in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Most frequently identified themes, in answer to: what are the specific issues in Uredale in contrast to the rest of North Yorkshire?

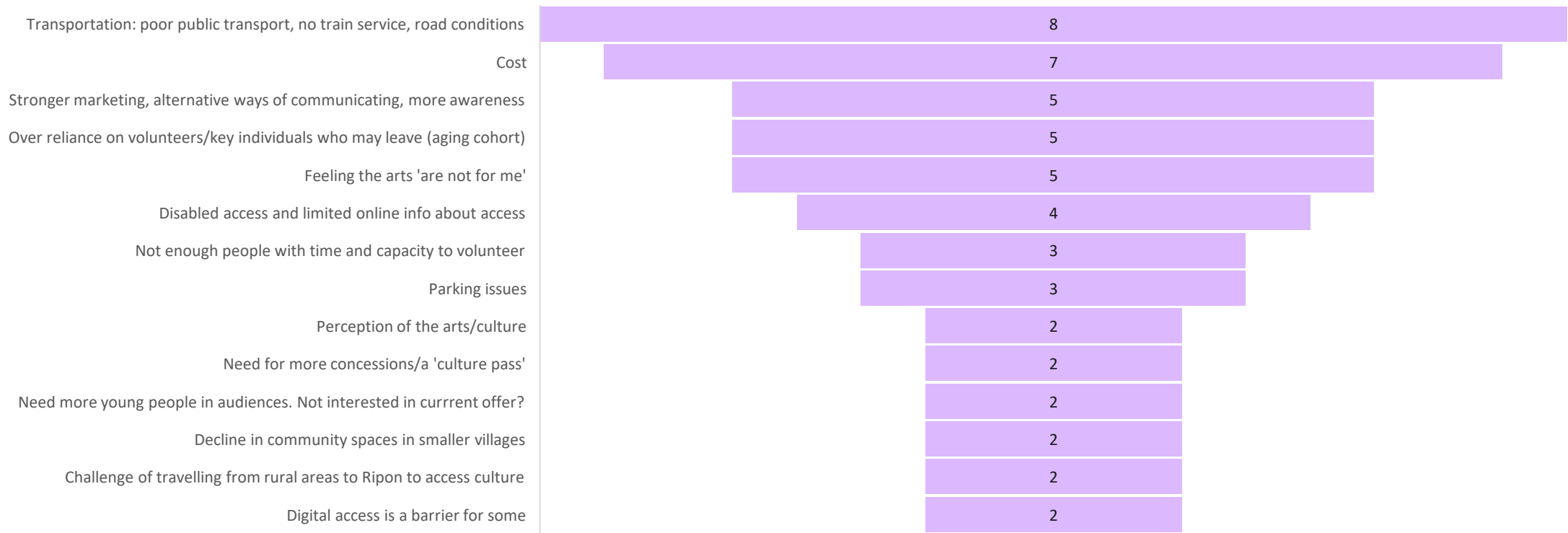
Question 1: What are the specific issues in Uredale in contrast to the rest of North Yorkshire



3.2 In Question 2, the most frequently identified themes are presented in Figure 6.

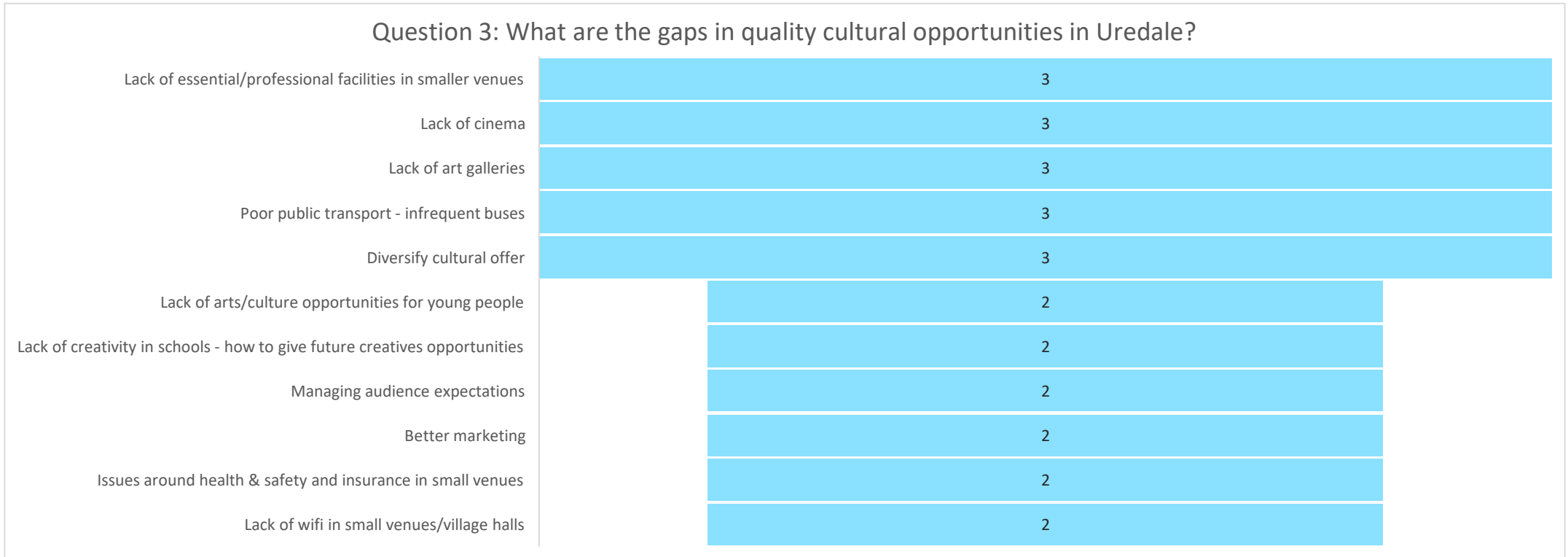
Figure 6: Most frequently identified themes, in answer to: what are the barriers to access for all, to all cultural spaces/activities in Uredale?

Question 2: What are the barriers to access for all, to all cultural spaces/activities in Uredale?



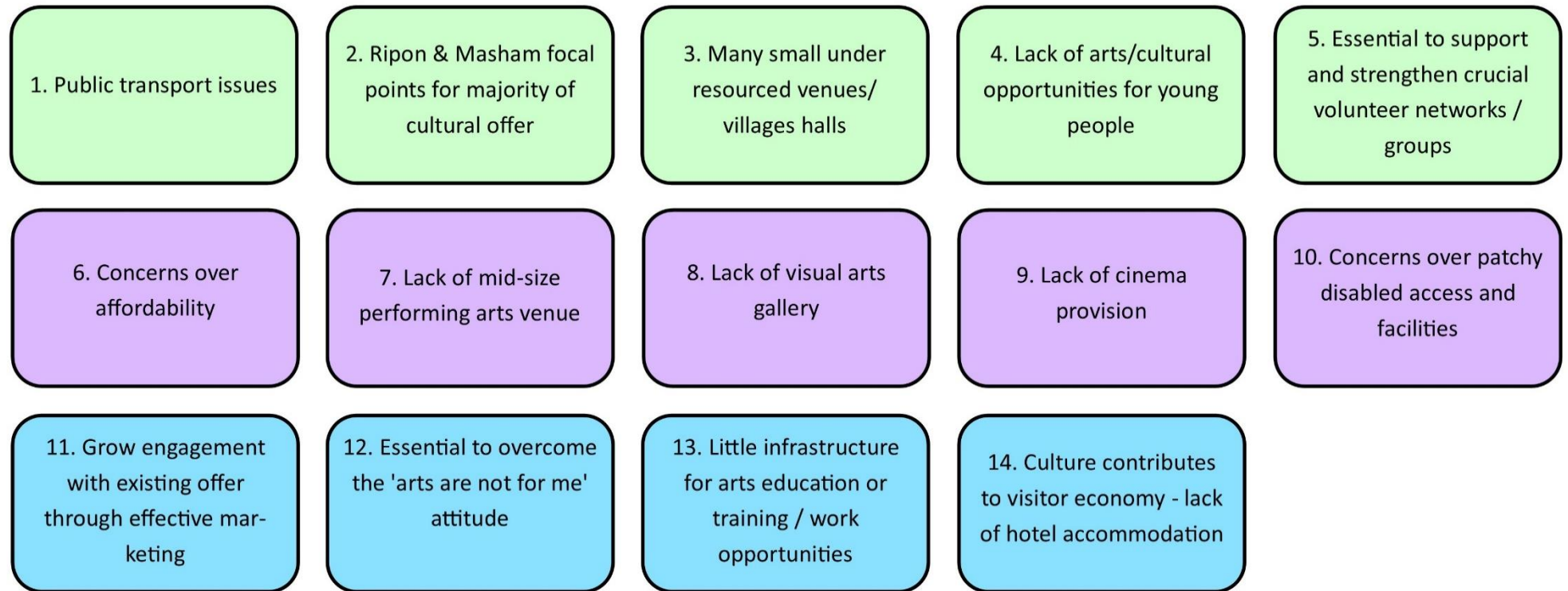
In Question 3, the most frequently identified themes are presented in Figure 7.

Figure 7: Most frequently identified themes, in answer to: what are the gaps in quality cultural opportunities in Uredale?



3.4 Across the 3 discussion question responses, analysis has identified 14 key themes which were mentioned most frequently during the activity, they are presented in Figure 8.

Figure 8 14 key themes mentioned most frequently in relation to issues, barriers and gaps towards making culture/creativity more geographically equitable and accessible for all ages in Uredale



4. Action planning

During the workshop six issue themes were identified from the mind-mapped discussions on issues, barriers and gaps towards making culture/creativity more geographically equitable and accessible for all ages in Uredale.

The third workshop activity took these six issue themes as the focal points for another set of mind-maps. They were:

- 4.1 Enhancing spaces for cultural programming / infrastructure
- 4.2 Culture for social connectivity
- 4.3 Travel / accessibility / public transport / audiences moving
- 4.4 Engaging young people / intergenerational challenges
- 4.5 Not for me culture / perception / marketing
- 4.6 Capacity building / skills development

Participants worked together in small groups, to find solutions in the form of actions, looking at a). Quick wins, b). Medium-term actions c). Long-term actions. They wrote on colour coded cards red for Quick Wins, Orange for Medium-term actions and blue for Long-term actions.

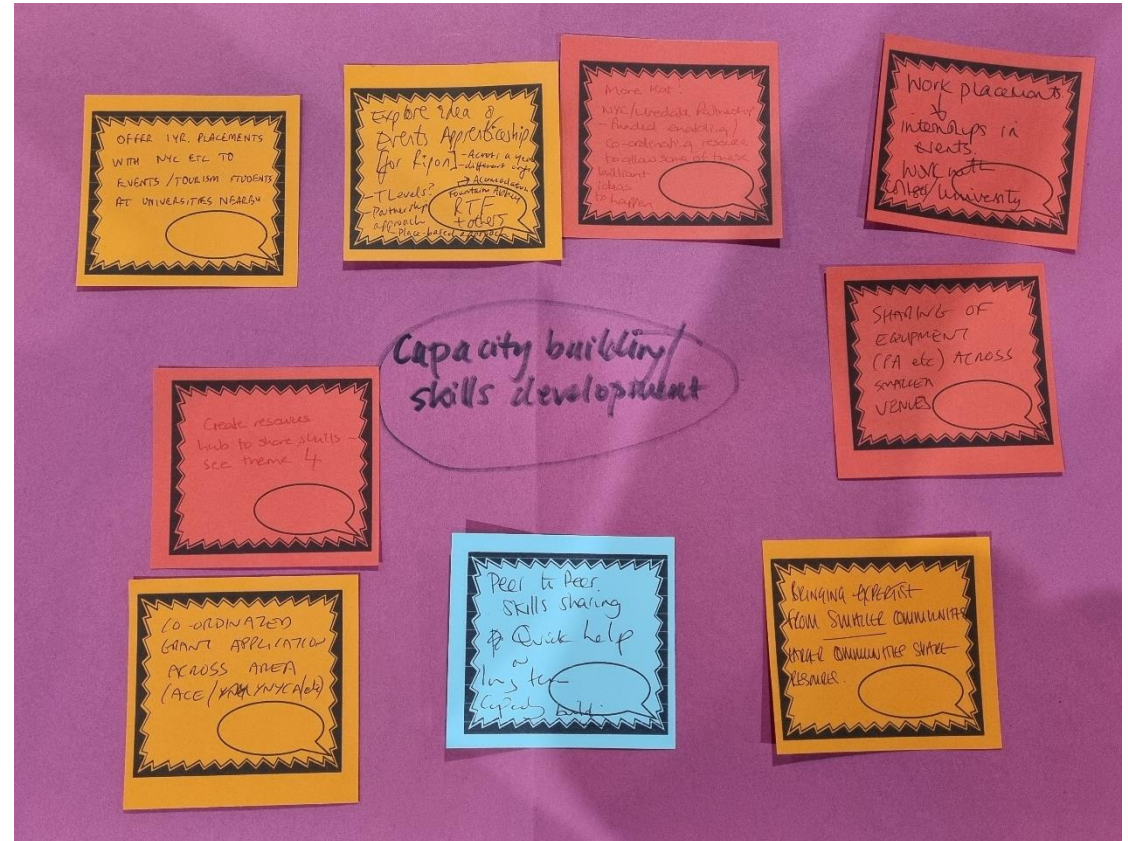


Figure 9 Issue theme mind-maps

They were also asked to mark down who might lead or collaborate on delivering this action. Participants rotated around the room contributing to each of the six issue themes in turn.

Tables 2 to 7 present all of the responses gathered in this activity. The responses are numbered for easy reference, but are presented in no particular order, and some ideas repeated in more than one issue theme. Where leads or collaborators have been identified, they are in italics.

Tables 2 to 7: Action planning responses

Issue 4.1: Enhancing spaces for cultural programming / infrastructure

Quick Wins	Medium Term	Long Term
1. Celebrating / learning from and using current improvements e.g. Ripon Museums & Fountains Abbey	1. Compile skills database [H]	1. New modern space for large events
2. First Step into Arts e.g. Family shows tasters	2. Set minimum standards for venues – ie loop system, audio-visual facilities, kitchens, toilets. <i>Who: Fountains Abbey could share minimum standards [A]</i>	2. Currents facilities questionnaire to cover all accessibility issues facilities, to be produced - for all venues listed [A]
3. Campaign and petition Curzon, the cinema		
4. Can the Cathedral have some loos please!		
5. Audit of existing facilities from village halls to bigger venues. List to be made of all facilities - to be held in library & online. <i>Who: Charlie Studdy – with expenses [A]</i>		

Issue 4.2: Culture for Social Connectivity

Quick Wins	Medium Term	Long Term
1. Create an intergenerational festival – everyone doing one activity, in one month & promote as a festival [B]	1. Develop intergenerational projects in our outreach plans. <i>Who: Ripon Theatre Festival [B]</i>	1. Diversifying spaces: pop-up events - aspirational
2. Guide to setting up new events ‘toolkit’ – [with] point of contact	2. Events within community (pub poets, street theatre etc)	2. Aspirational events – in unusual small places
3. PR distribution – visit schools/pubs/community hubs	3. Roadshow of activity - mobile ‘Fun Bus’ – rural touring [D]	

Issue 4.3: Travel /accessibility /public transport / audiences moving

Quick Wins	Medium Term	Long Term
1. Lobbying for Thirsk Station - Ripon shuttle bus. <i>Who: Ripon BID and Uredale CP [C]</i>	1. Free parking at times for cultural events – negotiation needed [E]	1. Park & Ride
2. Outreach – enable activity to be taken out to community e.g. Theatre Festival	2. 'Little White Bus' type activity [D]	2. Train station. <i>Who: many partners</i>
3. Connect with transport group of Uredale Community Partnership <i>Who: Felicity C L, Justin NT</i>		3. App & private buses & venues. Sign up with private bus companies - people book online via app [D]
4. Creative solutions to parking e.g. Tesco pass to cultural events. <i>Who: Tesco [E]</i>		

Issue 4.4: Engaging young people / intergenerational challenges

Quick Wins	Medium Term	Long Term
1. Think family	1. Create a project team to look intergenerational projects & programming. <i>Who: North Yorkshire Council, Age UK, Ripon BID, Ripon Theatre Festival, Library, schools, Fountains Abbey [B]</i>	1. Nursing homes, nurseries & youth clubs on same site
2. Establish a young people's programming group to run Youth Arts Festival. <i>Who: Ripon Theatre Festival [F]</i>	2. More events for parents & teenagers together e.g. Karaoke	2. Commissioning work for young people - co-creating. <i>Who: Ripon Theatre Festival [F]</i>
3. Be part of county wide intergenerational works & planning - stay involved	3. Cultural groups to talk to each other regarding programming etc – an active group	
4. Include scouts & cadets & guides in planning events [F]	4. Creches and early starts for some events	
5. Also visiting young people's groups (e.g. starting at Ripon Museums) asking what cultural events do they access?	5. Uredale listings based in themes with location and audience – comedy, music and family etc	

6. Intergenerational festival see theme 3 - Create an intergenerational festival – everyone doing one activity, in one month & promote as a festival [B]	6. Familiarisation event for teachers. <i>Who: UCP / cultural partners</i>	
7. Creative intergenerational projects in summer. <i>Who: Ripon Theatre festival and other partners</i> [B]		

Issue 4.5: Not for me culture / perception / marketing

Quick Wins	Medium Term	Long Term
1. Feedback/ consultation with different audiences - to see what, how & when. <i>Who: groups putting out a shared consultation</i>	1. Wider range of ages / backgrounds on organising groups	1. Talk their language e.g. Use Tiktok to connect to young people. <i>Who: work with schools, YMCA, Youth Connect</i> [G]
2. Culture activity networking - steps [forward] from today - 'get involved'	2. Residents [arts] weekend - like in York, family focus, affordable	
	3. Listening & engaging with young people into the organising team [G]	
	4. Mixed family groups	
	5. Different audiences - different PR methods, family	
	6. Events listings, social media, language used, feedback/consultation	

Issue 4.6: Capacity building / skills development

Quick Wins	Medium Term	Long Term
1. Create resources hub to share skills [H]	1. Offer one-year placements with North Yorkshire Council etc to events/tourism students at universities nearby [J]	1. Peer to peer skills sharing - quick help on long term capacity building [I]
2. More Kat - NYC/Uredale Partnership - funded enabling, co-ordinating resource to allow some of the brilliant ideas to happen	2. Co-ordinated grant application across area. <i>Who: Arts Council of England, North Yorkshire Combined Authority)</i>	

3. Sharing of equipment (PA etc) across smaller venues [I]	3. Bringing expertise from smaller communities - larger communities share resources [I]	
4. Work placement internships in events. Who: works with colleges / university [J]	4. Explore idea of events apprenticeships (for Ripon), across a year, different organisations. Look at T levels? partnership approach, place-based approach. <i>Who: Ripon Theatre Festival, Fountains Abbey and others</i> [J]	

4.7 10 key action points

10 key action points are listed below. These are ideas which were suggested by more than one participant, and are represented across the issue themes. They are identified within the tables, by a letter in a square bracket.

- A. Understanding and research into current venue facilities across Uredale
- B. Developing intergenerational projects and events
- C. Lobbying for better transport in Uredale
- D. Using private bus transport to take audiences to events or to take events to audiences
- E. Lobbying for better parking options in Ripon when cultural events are on
- F. Co-designing programming for and with young people
- H. Creating a resource / skills database
- G. Working with young people on culture marketing
- I. Sharing equipment, resources and skills between venues and organisations
- J. Creating work experience, apprenticeship, work placements for young people

5. Workshop feedback

At the end of the workshop participants were asked to feedback, answering two questions:

5.1 What will you take away with you from the workshop?

5.2 What you would like to see happen next?

Feedback responses are presented in Table 8.

Table 8 Workshop feedback

Participants	5.1 What will you take away with you from the workshop?	5.2 What you would like to see happen next?
1	Where there's a will there's a way	Some real potential with quick wins/with big impact
2	A better sense that Uredale might be a useful 'zone'	Identify funds to apply for – re some of the ideas
3	North Yorkshire County Council might be able to help us (culture section)	More liaison between cultural events
4	Action plan needed to implement some great ideas	Feedback is crucial to move forward with UCP
5	Wider understanding of what is happening already of barriers shared	More people on working group & development of database that has venue/facilities/audience activity
6	Better understanding of Uredale as an area and Ripon in particular	Keep/start talking (Whatsapp?)
7	Understanding more about the working group and its aims	An update from the working group – next steps
8	The value of working together rather than in silos	Prioritising a few items that we could get on with
9	A better understanding of Ripon's culture	Commitments to implement ideas
10	Energy & ideas	Ideas into action – Working Party to discuss which
11	Intergenerational theme & how we can achieve more by working together	Let's <u>do</u> something - even if small - let's make it happen. Enabling resource at the partnership - more Kat
12	Take away - great to see us working together	3 or 4 key things we can get on with (e.g. the apprenticeship idea has legs)
13	Lots of ideas & experiencing available in the area	Get Together to discuss petitioning The Curson – might arrange in March

6. Recommendations and final notes

In conclusion, the workshop was energised and upbeat. It is clear there is a lot of knowledge and expertise within the sector, and desire and potential for more collaboration in the cultural sector across all scales. These notes and recommendations are to support the Working Group in forming a set of priorities around which the sector can take action in the near future, as well as identifying medium and long-term goals. Following the workshop, it is hoped the energy and enthusiasm of the workshop participants can be harnessed to work together to achieve those goals for culture and the arts in Uredale.

1. Due to time restrictions, we only discussed 6 issues themes within the final action planning activity. A number of other issues were raised in activity 2 (see Figure 8 on page 9) and not directly addressed in activity 3. I recommend the Working Group spends time considering whether some of those issues not discussed in more depth, should be taken forward as priorities.

2. As we've seen, there a wide range of issues in Uredale that need addressing by the Working Group and by the sector as a whole. Recruiting more members into the Working Group is a good idea, perhaps also forming a wider Culture Network (including village halls and other community venues like pubs), from which to recruit participants to smaller working parties, in order to initiate actions to deliver goals and priorities. A Culture Network could programme quarterly programming get-togethers and be a space to promote opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing.

3. I recommend taking forward the idea to research into young people's voice and their wants and needs in relation to culture. This would this engage a group(s) of young people directly in culture itself, additionally, if that research was a participatory co-design process with the young people, using social media and podcasts for example, it would draw in many more young people into culture taking place in Uredale. The research would identify what young people, who feel disengaged from what is currently on offer, want to see, hear and take part in. Furthermore, I think this would be highly fundable.

4. If a Culture Network were set up, events such as a teacher familiarisation event - looking forward to what's on offer in the year ahead that their young people / children can be part of - could be programmed collaboratively.

5. The work experience/apprenticeship idea is a strong one. I recommend looking into links with York St John University's students – where degrees in music, theatre and film are taking place.

6. Actions were identified which included widening participation in the arts, including a focus families and people who think it is 'not for them'. Exploring working more with organisations that are experienced in rural touring such as Rural Arts (<https://www.ruralarts.org/what-we-do/on-tour/>) and Blaize (<https://blaize.uk.net/>), might bring sharing opportunities, advice and resources to those smaller venues in rural parts of the area. It maybe that sharing touring companies in one programme – where for example a musician does a circuit of several venues over a few days, has potential in Uredale.

7. All of the range of ideas suggested to identify resources available in smaller venues, to share resources and equipment, to share advice on minimum standards, should be followed up, in order to enhance and strengthen capacity in Uredale for culture.

8. One of the issues raised in Activity 2, on whether the concept of Uredale is problematic or not and to whom, might be worth discussing further. If it is seen as an issue, I recommend undertaking some positive communications work to make clear the boundaries (especially the area to the east of the A1) and to support current and future collaborative work, which will enable a stronger cultural sector.

9. Supporting and strengthening culture focussed volunteer networks and groups is essential for a sector which is in large part run by volunteers. Concerns around an aging volunteer population, could be linked to finding young people for work experience roles. The role of volunteering as a social connector, which is essential for health and wellbeing across a person's lifetime, could be used to recruit more volunteers, via a communications strategy. Social prescribing might also have a role here.

10. I recommend following up the call for more visitor accommodation. The significance of Uredale's visitor economy, will play a (possibly significant) role in supporting cultural programming and assets such as museums and heritage sites. The Working Group could link to other civil society groups who are lobbying for more visitor accommodation. There could be potential for funding partnerships, and for repositioning culture and the arts to a more valued place within Uredale's economic strategy.

11. Ripon currently has the largest number of assets in Uredale, with Masham following with the second largest number. Workshop participants identified that there is a challenge to bring performing artists of any scale into Uredale, due to the lack of a mid-sized theatre venue in Ripon. By making links to economic strategy, it may be possible to realistically make acquiring this venue a long-term goal.

12. I noted that the visual arts were not talked about in such depth during the workshop and that there is no art gallery which is taking on touring shows. I'd like to suggest growing the number of people in the working group with an interest in the visual arts, after all Uredale has plenty of potential for new cultural assets such as sculpture trails in beautiful nature settings. Whilst it may not be possible to have the full range of all art form areas at every scale in Uredale, due to population size and density, the Working Party and the sector could seek to make stronger links to other culture assets and resources in nearby towns and cities in North Yorkshire, such as Harrogate or York art galleries.

13. I recommend exploring who else might be involved in crafts production, sales and teaching in Uredale, such as ceramicists and also creative writers, who may be living and working in the area. As part of strengthening the understanding across the board, of the current ecosystem of the arts and culture in Uredale.

14. Another topic that didn't come up is the potential in Uredale for more site-specific or outdoor theatre, music and dance at openair cultural and heritage sites, which might link into ideas for touring productions around the area, and bringing culture to more rural parts.

15. Finally, I recommend the Working Group supports the current volunteer-led call for a film and/or cinema offer in Ripon, perhaps seeking a community asset transfer (via a local authority buyout) of Curzon cinema, other options could include a Uredale-wide project, which sees a summer touring outdoor cinema bus travelling around the area.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Attendance List

The workshop was attended by 17 participants.

Table 9 Attendance List

Name	Organisation
Nick Reed	Masham Town Hall
Jo Anne Scott	North Yorkshire Council Culture Team
Kate Staines	North Yorkshire Council Culture Team
Tim Dabell	North Yorkshire Council Events and Parks Officer
Jan Reed (WG)	Peacock and Verity, Masham
Tina Salden	Ripon Arts Hub
Carol Pyrah	Ripon Cathedral
Mandy Whitehead (WG)	Ripon Civic Society
Rosemary Livingstone	Ripon Concerts
Karen Windall	Ripon Film Society
Huw Parr	Ripon Film Society
Alexa Vernon (WG)	Ripon Museums Trust
Charlie Studdy (WG)	Ripon Theatre Festival
Katie Scott	Ripon Theatre Festival
Mick Stanley (WG)	Ripon Community
Justin Scully (WG)	Fountains Abbey, National Trust
Kat Nellist	Uredale Community Partnership

Appendix 2

Appendix 2 presents the in full responses gathered from the mind-mapping activity asking participants to work in groups and identify issues around making culture/creativity more geographically equitable and accessible for all ages, by mind-mapping the responses to three consecutive questions:

Question 1: What are the specific issues in Uredale in contrast to the rest of North Yorkshire?

Question 2: What are the barriers to access for all to cultural spaces/activities in Uredale?

Question 3: What are the gaps in quality cultural opportunities in Uredale?

Question 1. What are the specific issues in Uredale in contrast to the rest of North Yorkshire?	
Issues identified	Number of responses
No rail service, nearest station is Thirsk	7
Many areas are rural and have small populations	6
Much of the cultural offer takes place in Ripon	5
Poor public transport options	5
Breadth of provision - but not much depth or diversity	3
No cinema in Uredale, Curzon in Ripon closed down	2
No mid-sized venue in Ripon	2
Uredale lacks an identity - it's boundaries are unclear/not known	2
Most venues are small	2
Masham is second to Ripon in terms of cultural offer	2
Not enough visitor accommodation, enabling bigger spend/longer visits - limiting programming	2
Parking can be an issue in Ripon	2
Funding needed for enabling and engagement work	2
Challenges of bringing enough people together as a viable group	2
Cultural activities are often one off or new	1
Only one large-scale cultural offering which unites the whole community (RTF)	1
Much cultural offer is led by committed volunteers - often amateurs	1
Need more co-ordination of events across Uredale	1
More partnerships are needed	1
Hard to attract significant artists to small venues	1
Lack of support for cultural professionals	1
Lack of funding	1
Lack of awareness of what's on offer	1

Uredale is bisected by the A1 - do people to the east of the A1 consider themselves part of Uredale?	1
Lack of further education provision - limits creative career paths for young people	1
Issues finding volunteers to support cultural programming	1
Lack of cultural opportunities for young people	1
Lack of independent arts spaces	1

Question 2. What are the barriers to access for all cultural spaces/activities in Uredale?	Number of responses
Barriers Identified	
Transportation: poor public transport, no train service, road conditions	8
Cost	7
Stronger marketing, alternative ways of communicating, more awareness	5
Over reliance on volunteers/key individuals who may leave (an aging cohort)	5
Feeling the arts 'are not for me'	5
Disabled access and limited online info about access	4
Not enough people with time and capacity to volunteer	3
Parking issues	3
Perception of the arts/culture	2
Need for more concessions/a 'culture pass'	2
Need more young people in audiences. Not interested in current offer?	2
Decline in community spaces in smaller villages	2
Challenge of travelling from rural areas to Ripon to access culture	2
Digital access is a barrier for some	2
Date clashes	1
Not enough one-off activities for families	1
Not enough hotel accommodation	1
More outreach needed from Ripon especially	1
Not recruiting young people into volunteer or paid roles	1
Attitudes towards young people	1
Limited intergenerational opportunities	1
Need a cinema and film society	1
Hard to get funding - as its considered an affluent area	1
The A1 is a physical barrier for the in East Uredale	1
Lack of essential facilities in some smaller venues	1

Need to change programming to adapt to what young people want	1
People are less social	1
Need year long programming not just festivals	1

Question 3. What are the gaps in quality cultural opportunities in Uredale?	Number of responses
Lack of essential/professional facilities in smaller venues	3
Lack of cinema	3
Lack of art galleries	3
Poor public transport - infrequent buses	3
Diversify cultural offer	3
Lack of arts/culture opportunities for young people	2
Lack of creativity in schools - how to give future creatives opportunities	2
Managing audience expectations	2
Better marketing	2
Issues around health & safety and insurance in small venues	2
Lack of wifi in small venues/village halls	2
Masham local history museum and study venue	1
Ability to host bigger artists - need mid-sized venue	1
Ripon needs a military museum	1
Ripon needs a museum about Ripon	1
Need a big summer event in Ripon	1
Its expensive to hire venues	1
Find opportunities to connect beyond Uredale	1
Disabled access is poor in venues	1
Key individuals do a lot	1
Existing voluntary groups are under pressure to 'be everything for everyone'	1
Lack of investment in cultural spaces	1
Need a dedicated culture hub in Ripon	1
Knowing what facilities are available in village halls etc	1
Harnessing the night time economy	1

