



# VILLAGE OF STIRLING

Municipal Development Plan  
Community Input: Focus on Youth

Summary Results  
October 2021



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In the Fall of 2021, the Village of Stirling disseminated the survey "Community Input: Focus on Youth" to attain feedback from the Village youth. The survey was dispersed to students in grades 9 and 12, and contained 11 questions designed to ascertain general attitudes and priorities for youth in the community.

The information contained in this summary document has been compiled from twenty-four (24) surveys: sixteen (16) responses from grade 9 students and eight (8) grade 12 students.

### Initial Insights:

- Grade 9 and Grade 12 students value the 'small-town' atmosphere, and agree that Stirling is a safe, quiet community.
- Generally, students want to see more activities including: a dedicated skatepark, more recreation amenities and better pool hours.
- The biggest issues facing Stirling are the lack of services and employment, and growth of the Village.
- The ideal community for Grade 9 students includes more recreation facilities, an indoor pool and a skatepark. For Grade 12 students, the ideal community includes more restaurants and more retail options.
- The playground, library and sports fields are among the top-rated recreation facilities in Stirling.
- Students identified more options for grocery/convenience stores and a skatepark as businesses or services that would benefit the community.
- Most students participate in school-organized extracurricular activities. Some travel to Lethbridge for additional activities.
- The majority of Grade 9 and Grade 12 students agree that there are not enough activities for youth in Stirling.
  - Respondents indicated that they would like to see more 'unstructured' or leisure activities (i.e. skatepark, walking/hiking trails, basketball courts, etc.).\
- After graduation, most students intend to leave for schooling or employment opportunities.
  - Almost 50% of Grade 9 students indicated that they would like to return to Stirling to live.

## 1. What do you like most about living in the Village?

Grade 9:



Responses:

- I appreciate the new renovation on the school the most out of everything in Stirling. I love coming to a clean environment to learn, to focus. It also feels like something that unites us. It brings us together.
- quiet. Not that many cars on the roads. Peaceful and not busy.
- I love the country side. Being semi-close to the school
- I really like the school. But mostly the gym, because that is what attracts most of the people
- I most love about Stirling is that its small, quiet and safe
- I like living in Stirling because I can easily make friends and everyone is polite and kind
- The Stirling pool has always been a favourite of mine. Its always been a great/fun activity and a fun place to socialize with friends and family
- That there are such few people and how connected everyone is
- Its quiet. I like that its always quiet and peaceful
- I like that it is small so that everybody knows everyone, you can walk, ride your bikes, drive everywhere with no troubles. You have a lot of close friends. Alberta is a beautiful place, and the sunsets are great here.

- I really like the fact that everything is relatively close together so you are not required to walk long distances
- There's not a lot of traffic, and everything's a walking distance
- I love that everyone knows everyone, and that the people are very caring and compassionate. I also love the school. The teachers and students are awesome. I also love that in Stirling you can walk everywhere, and can just play street hockey on the streets without worrying about traffic.
- I wouldn't say I particularly like living in Stirling but the people in the community are great.
- I like that everyone is super friendly.

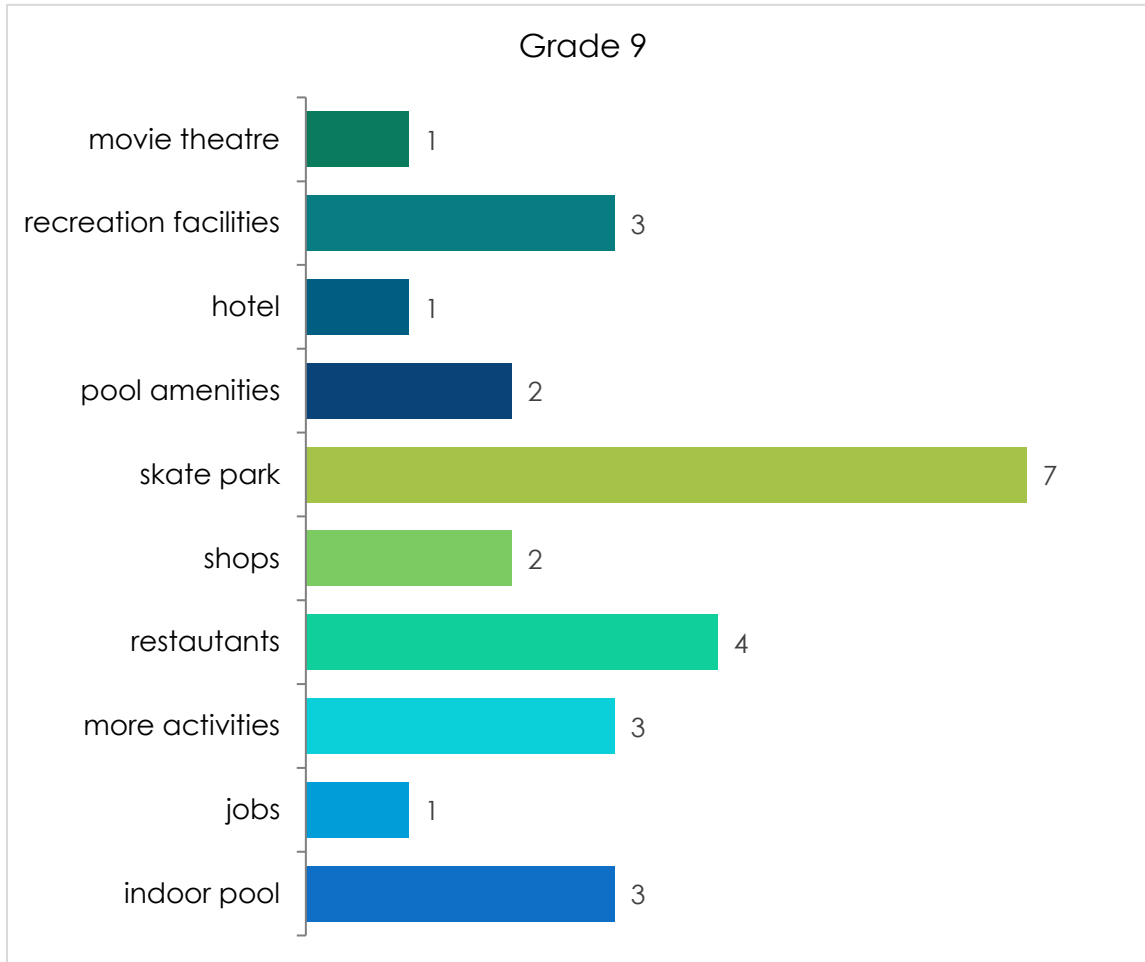
Grade 12:



Responses:

- Its close to Lethbridge where there is a Wendys. It has a nice safe community.
- The quiet peace and looking at the stars
- Its small and peaceful.
- Its cozy
- The community. I like the small town vibe.
- Small place
- We are close to Lethbridge
- Less people

2. **What do you think would make Stirling a better place to live?**

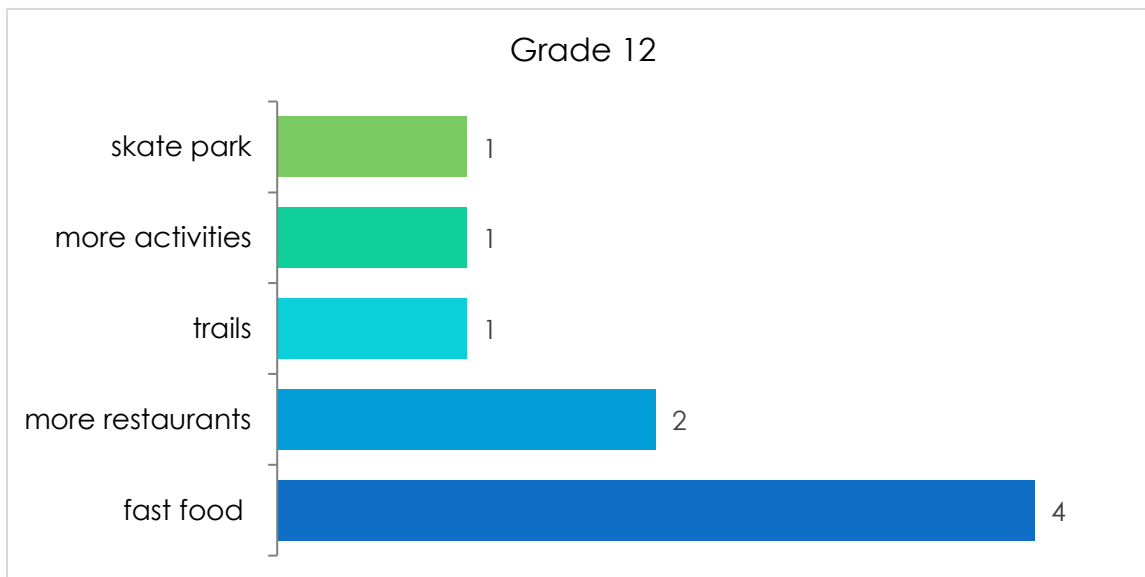


Responses:

- I think an indoor pool would make Stirling a better place to live. As a youth, I struggle with finding job opportunities to earn money for university. I have big dreams, and I know it requires work. I would love to work at the pool, have steady income.
- Not so centralized on religion. Although it is a mormon majority community it would be nice to have activities for youth to partake in that doesn't involve religion. A ymca.
- Making the pool indoor and a skate park also the road a little better more restaurants and places to buy more stuff.
- To make Stirling a better place, I would really like to open up more stores. Whether it is a clothing or food store. It doesn't really matter to me.
- If we had a skate park and a hot tub at the pool
- We need a skatepark because lots of people have to go to the Stirling parking lot because it has smooth sidewalks and smooth road we hop the curb. Kids in Stirling (including me) are desperate to have a skatepark
- Perhaps another local hotel would make it so more people would be able to stay in Stirling
- A skatepark. More things to do around Stirling
- I think that adding a bunch of new recreational stuff would make it great. For example, we could add a skate park, big outdoor basketball courts, volleyball sand courts

outside, get the pool up and running, maybe turn pool into indoor pool, like the Y in Lethbridge, and get some more restaurants and food places.

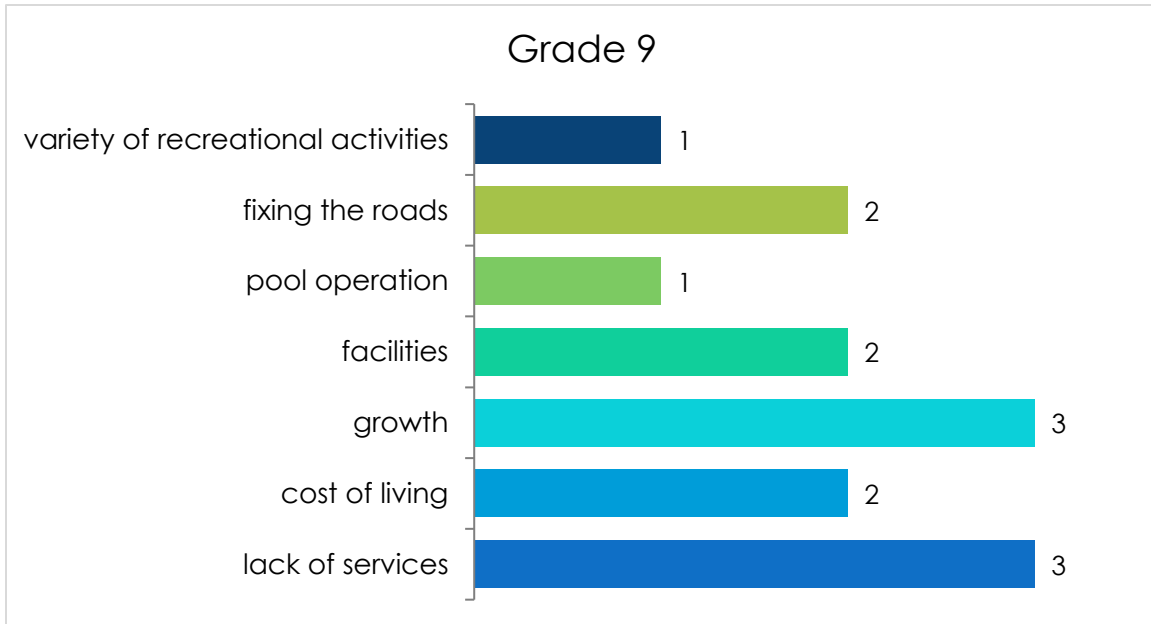
- A movie theatre because people wouldn't have to drive all the way to Lethbridge to see a movie. Also, less emphasis on sports as I am not interested in sports
- If we didn't have the Nelson's polluting our air with poo
- I think it would be awesome if Stirling could have a skate park. Lots of youth would benefit from that, as well as adults.
- Living in Stirling can often be boring. There's nothing for the youth to do. I think having opportunities for youth to go and connect with others is important, here are some of my ideas: volleyball courts, skateboard park, indoor pool so we can use it all year round and also for jobs. We could get rid of one of the baseball diamonds for a skate park since no one uses them.
- If you made the pool bigger and indoor so we could use it a lot more and it would make more money for upgrades to parks and things like that. I think if Stirling got a gym, people would use it. And if we had a DQ and a YMCA



Responses:

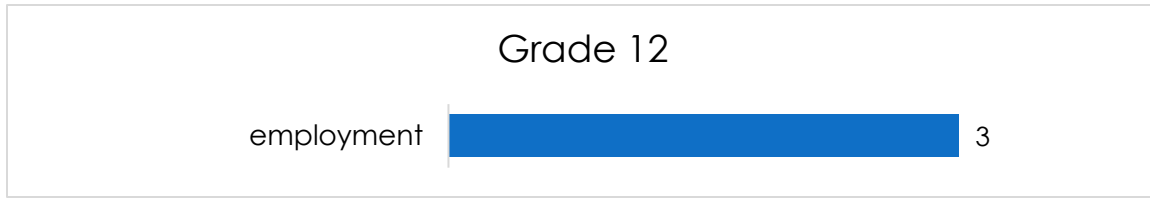
- Build a Wendys. More places to work ex. Wendys.
- Don't know
- A better choice for food then Hickory Street
- More trails and other outdoor activity options, fast food
- More ways to entertain ourselves. A wendys wouldn't hurt either.
- Wendys
- A skate park, lower prices at the store, WENDYS!!!!
- More places to eat. Build a wendys.

3. **What do you feel is the most important issue facing Stirling in the future?**



Responses:

- I believe the most important issue facing Stirling in the future is the cost of food. The local market has high prices, and Hickory Street is a restaurant, not well suited for vegetarians. We struggle with making lunches everyday. I don't think one-day hot lunch program is enough.
- Too far away from places you can shop. Street side market overprice everything and its cheaper to drive to walmart. If we had a closer option (grocery store) here we wouldn't have to.
- Building the town making it bigger.
- I think we do not have enough facilities. It would get boring, and people would start leaving.
- Nelson Ranch
- We need to open back up the pool or there's going to be a lot more complaints
- One issue that I have slowly take action was the fixing/oiling the roads that could go a bit faster. However, the speed needs to move faster. And cover more streets.
- I don't know, I feel like Stirling is heading in a good direction
- I think that one big issue that Stirling is facing is the roads, they are awful, they're not even, they have pot holes everywhere and every intersection looks like crap. I also feel like we should start expanding Stirling, making it a lot more like Raymond, I would love that. Adding more housing, food places, recreational stuff like above, fix roads and expand the community.
- A lack of diversity in recreational activities for people who aren't interested in sports or other activities of that nature
- Honestly, I would say development. I have lived here all my life and there hasn't been a whole lot of change. There is nothing for youth to do except swim for only 2 months of the year.
- If COVID lock downs happen again.

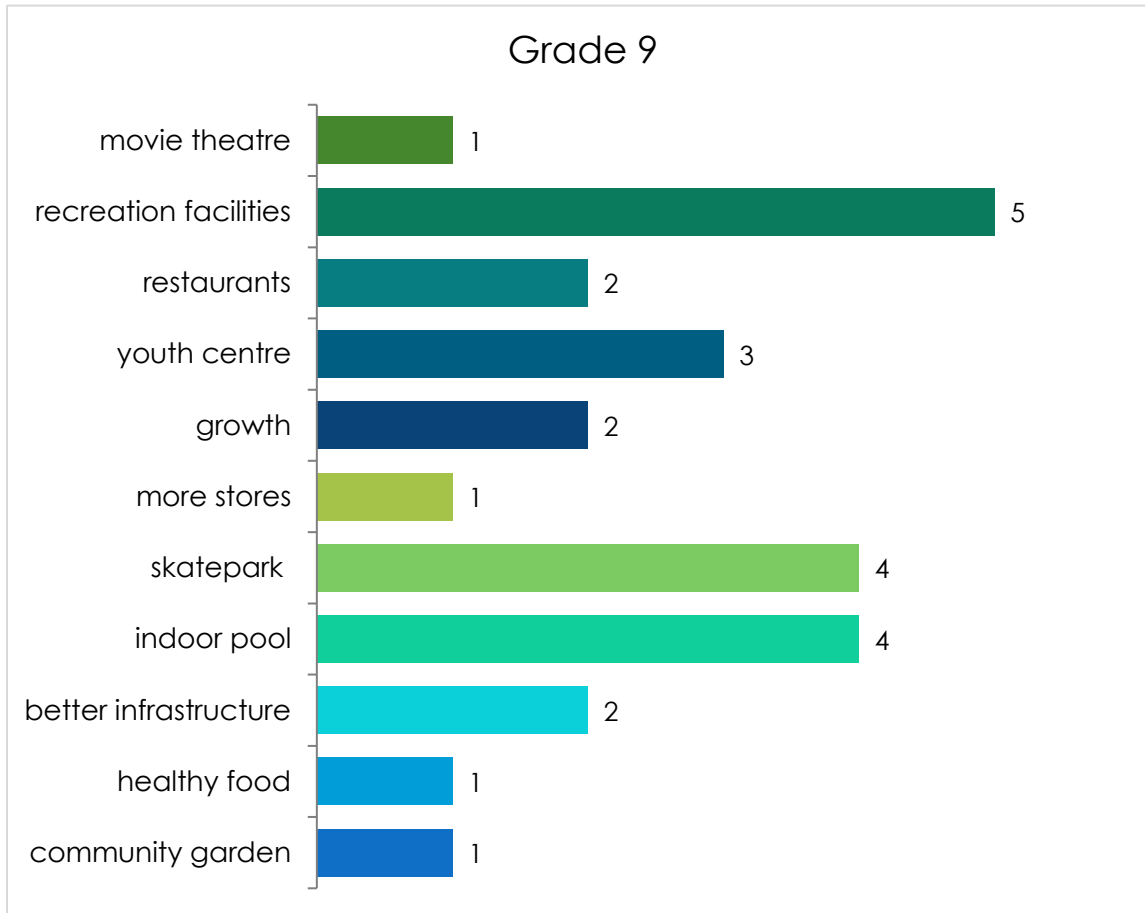


*Responses:*

- No employment. People leaving/depopulation. No Wendys.
- Don't know
- Unemployment
- Everyone moves away
- I honestly don't know
- Not sure
- We don't have a wendys
- The lack of employment



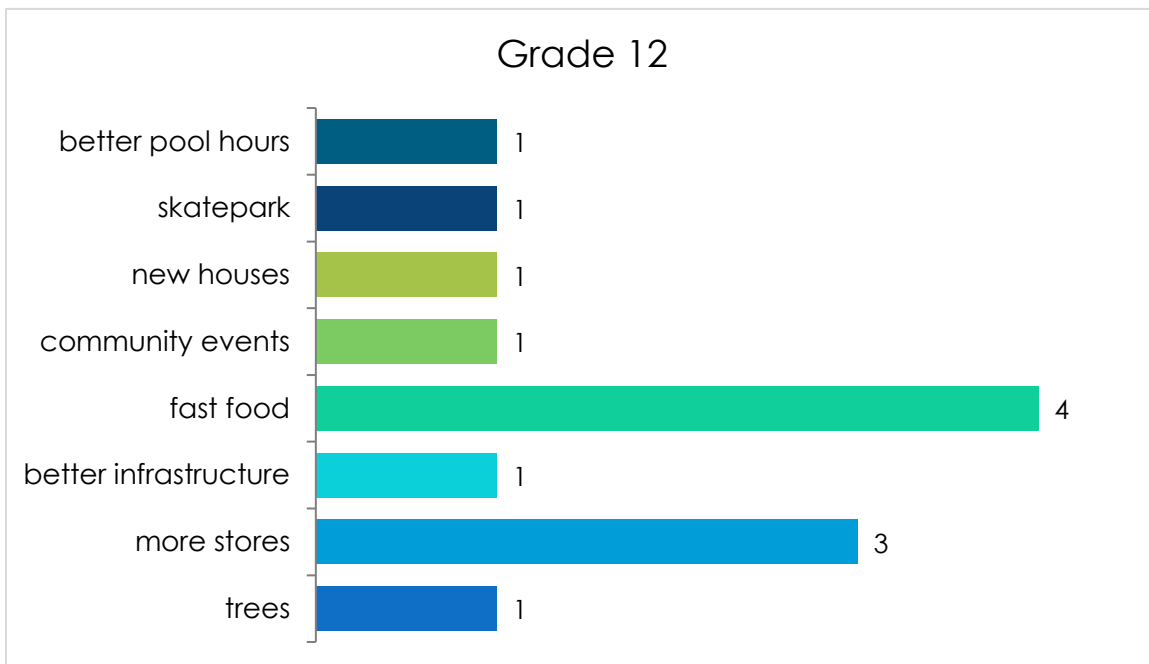
4. **If you could plan the ideal community, what would it include?**



Responses:

- I would include a community garden. It would teach children and adults valuable life skills, and the importance of health. It would be a stress relief to the parents who try to feed their kids with three meals a day. I believe it would create a sense of belonging.
- More infrastructure while still keeping it quiet.
- An indoor pool with a skate park beside it also Stirling being about 2-3 blocks bigger.
- Lots of stores, things to do, indoor pool and rodeo grounds.
- It would include a hot tub at the pool
- Better places for the teenagers to do such as: a fair building with half for a movie room and the other half for games or just hanging out. Cafeteria. Lounge
- Like I said above, a skatepark and it doesn't need to be big. In my opinion everyone will love, especially the kids
- It would include inside pool so it can be used more after than just 2 months. But I would especially include skate park, that will be used a lot
- Multiple restaurants, skatepark, good school, swimming pool, library, spray park, trampoline park, animal shelter, better parks, national parks, escape rooms, dance clubs, hot tub at pool, shopping mall.
- It would include many more residents many more recreational sites, everything that needs to be fixed gets fixed, better community.

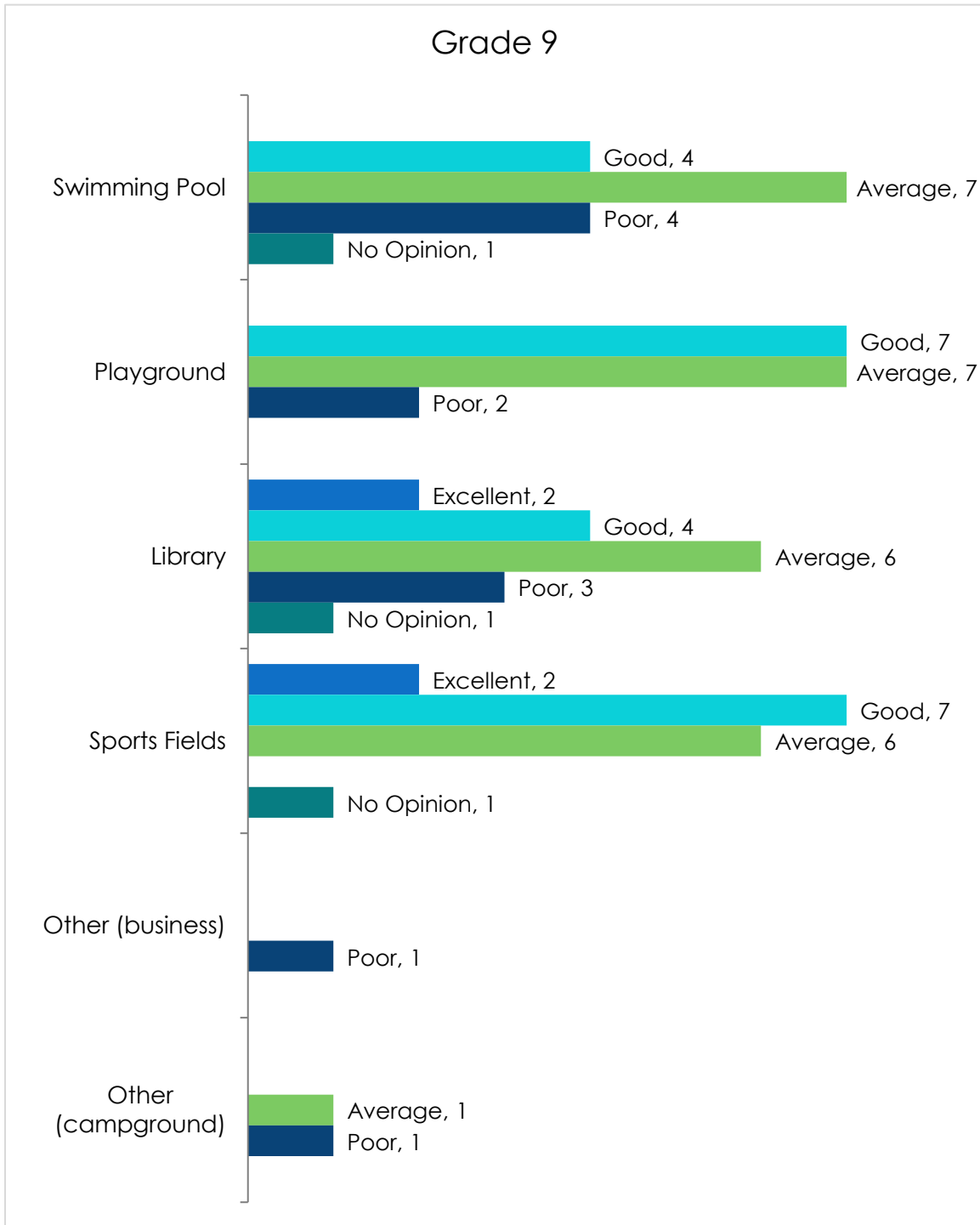
- An ideal community for me would include a good school, quality houses, and a store with relatively low prices.
- A rock wall, DQ, and skate park
- It would have a nice skate park, an indoor swimming pool, and a nice school, church and library. I also think that an ideal community would also include an ice rink, and a movie theatre.
- Again, more youth activities to do. Another thing is the library. The past summer I went there many times and didn't find an interest in any books. They are all outdated. In Cardston they have like a teen den, I think its called Epic or something, but its a place for teens to go and hangout. They have many things like rock wall, pool tables, ping pong, video games, etc.
- If I could plan the ideal community, it would have a skatepark a YMCA a big school with some stores to buy snacks from and a haunted mansion.



Responses:

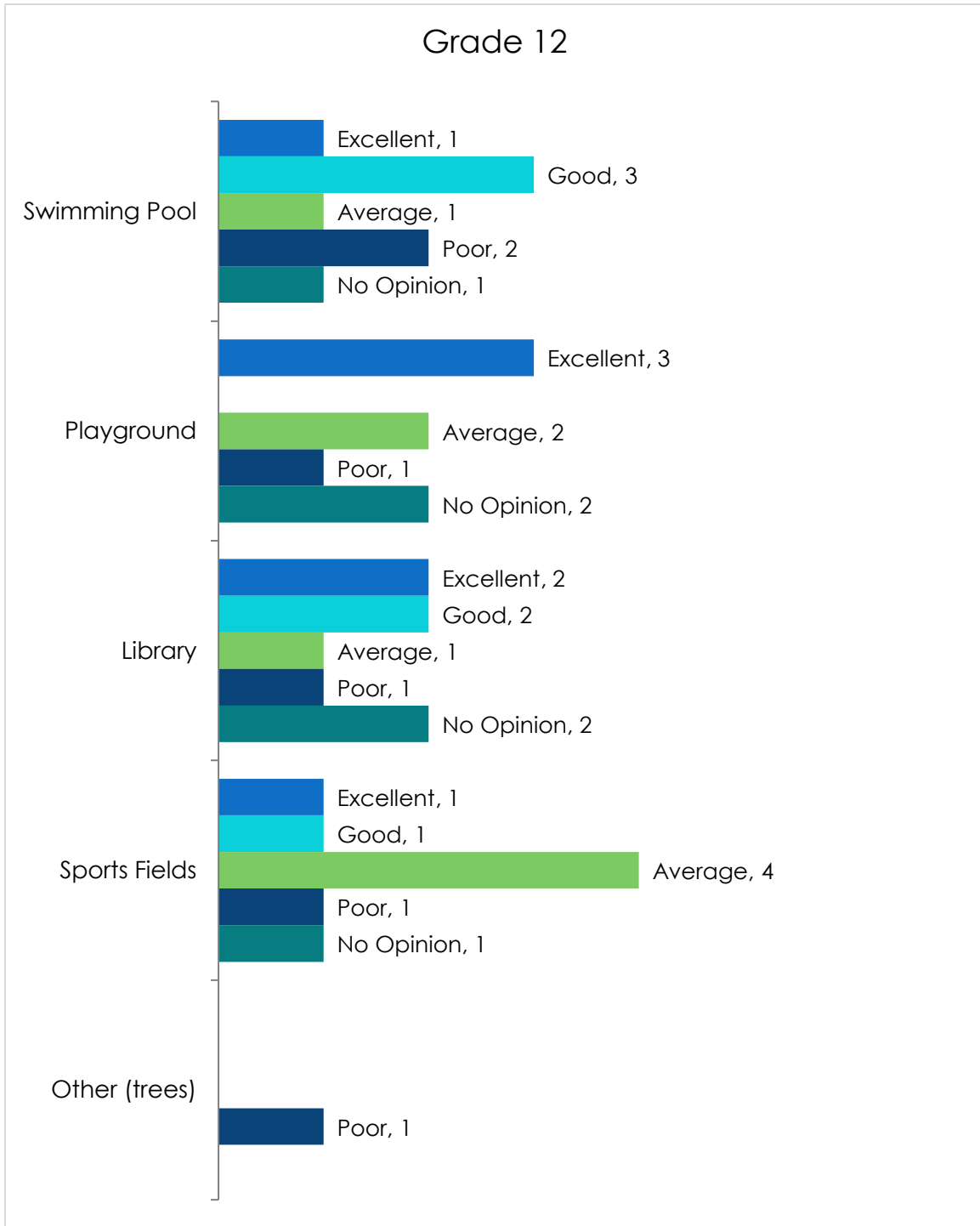
- Trees, multiple stores/restaurants, smooth roads, a wendys.
- Wendys
- Community events often
- A wendys
- A few new houses and stores
- Low prices at the store, a skate park, a pool that is actually open. With a wendys.
- Places to shop or eat

5. **How would you rate the following recreational services:**



'Other':

- Business – poor
- Campground - average
- Campground – poor



'Other':

- Trees - poor

6. **What types of businesses and services do you think would benefit the community?**



*Grade 9 Responses:*

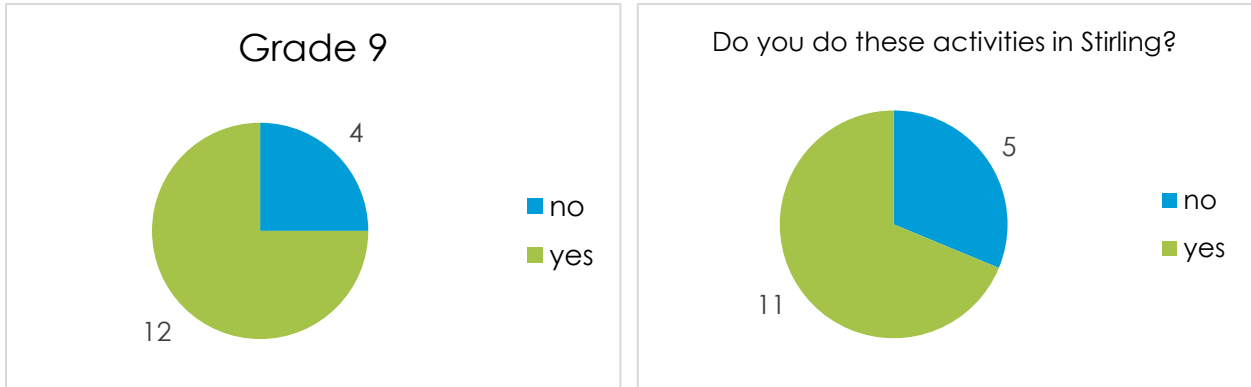
- I think another grocery store would benefit the community. Things that create jobs for all ages. Perhaps a Service Centre where you could volunteer to help others, like food banks and seniors centres. Maybe a humane society, run by volunteers who love animals.
- Fast food place (KFC) a closer grocery store. Indoor pool. Ymca. Turn pond into public park. Golf area.
- More restaurants and also more street side markets so they have someone to compete with.
- Dairy Queen, Subway, clothing sotres, volleyball and basketball courts, running path, hot tub in the pool
- Car wash
- Better stores (keeping the Street Side Market). More space for the teenagers
- Skatepark or indoor swimming pool so that we can use the pool for all 12 months of the year instead of 2
- A skate park. Motel/hotel or even another store like the Street Side Market
- Fitness centre, fast food place
- More restaurants, grocery store

- I think food restaurants would 100% benefit Stirling, more sports teams happening, skatepark, better running pool, basketball courts, volleyball courts, football fields, and many more.
- I believe a skateboard park would benefit the community by having an area where people can use their skateboards in a safe environment instead of being in danger of vehicles.
- I think that having a movie theatre would greatly benefit Stirling. Lots of people would go to it, making more income for Stirling.
- I think an indoor pool would cost a lot in the beginning but over time would make it worth it both money and recreational wise. For swim club, we (in order to get better) need actual lifeguards that will teach and help us to learn, not some teenager who sits on the side and does nothing
- I think Stirling needs a skatepark because there are a lot of skateboard riders and bmx riders in Stirling.

*Grade 12 Responses:*

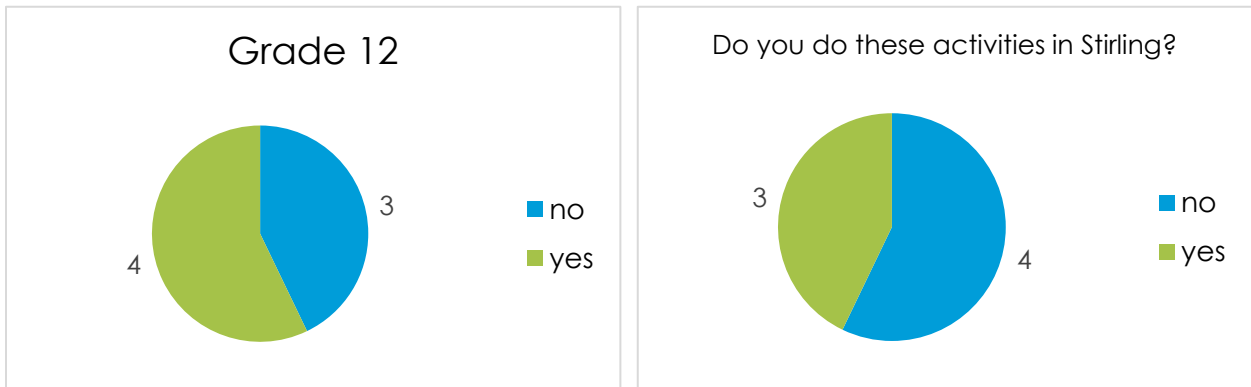
- Another store to get rid of the monopoly. Wendys
- Wendys
- A cheaper store
- A wendys
- Wendys
- Wendy

7. **Are you part of any organized sports or activities?**



Responses:

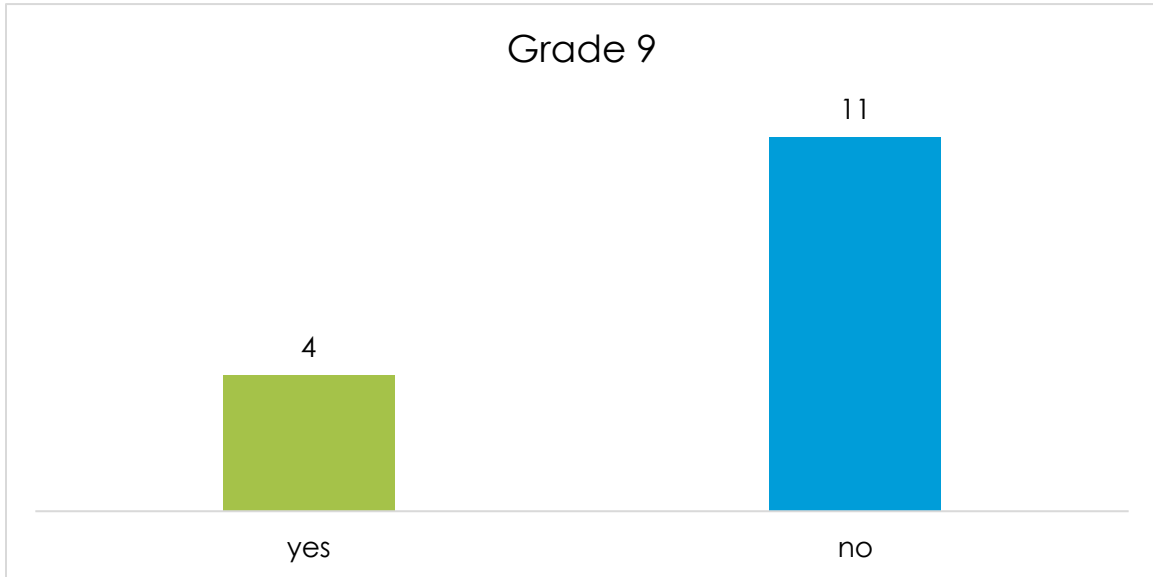
- I participate in Volleyball and band in Stirling, as well as my youth group. I do piano in both Stirling and Lethbridge, and I'm signed up for language classes (French, English) in Lethbridge. I also recently finished Bronze Cross at the Lethbridge Pool.
- School provides 100%. Volleyball, golf, soccer, baseball, football
- Basketball, soccer, football (Lethbridge)
- Basketball, volleyball, rodeo
- Young mens
- Soccer, basketball, scootering, volleyball
- I do basketball, soccer, baseball with friends, volleyball
- Soccer
- Basketball, volleyball
- Badminton, soccer, volleyball, basketball, swim club
- I participate in volleyball
- Swim club, basketball, volleyball, soccer, badminton
- Laser tag and sports



Responses:

- Student council, basketball, wrestling, soccer, hope squad, wendys club
- Wrestling
- Dance, choir
- School sports
- Basketball

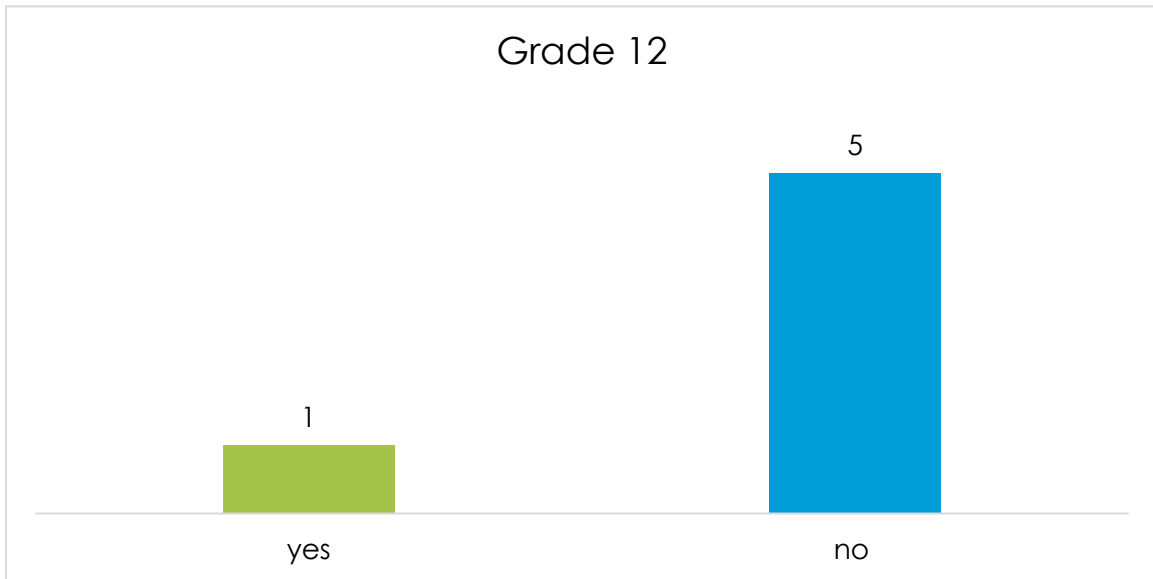
8. **Do you feel there are enough things for young people to do in Stirling?**



**What other activities for young people would you like to see in Stirling?**

- I would greatly appreciate language classes here in Stirling. I've always been fascinated with both sign language and French. As I mentioned before, I believe it would be very beneficial to have more job opportunities for youth.
- I listed tons <-- that way
- A skate park better basketball court. Indoor pool.
- Running club
- Skate park
- Skate park, indoor swimming, public gym, race way (for like biking - skateboarding, stuff like that)
- Skate park! Please we need a skatepark because so many people would get into it!
- Skatepark, an improvement on the pool. And especially the basketball courts
- Jobs for younger people
- Skatepark, spray park, hot tub at the pool
- Baseball, softball, football, hockey
- A safe skateboard park
- Skate park, outside volleyball nets, better soccer nets, a rock wall
- A skate park and movie theatre
- A den for us to go and hangout with fun activities to do. Indoor pool, volleyball courts
- A skatepark, laser tag and a youth activity centre.

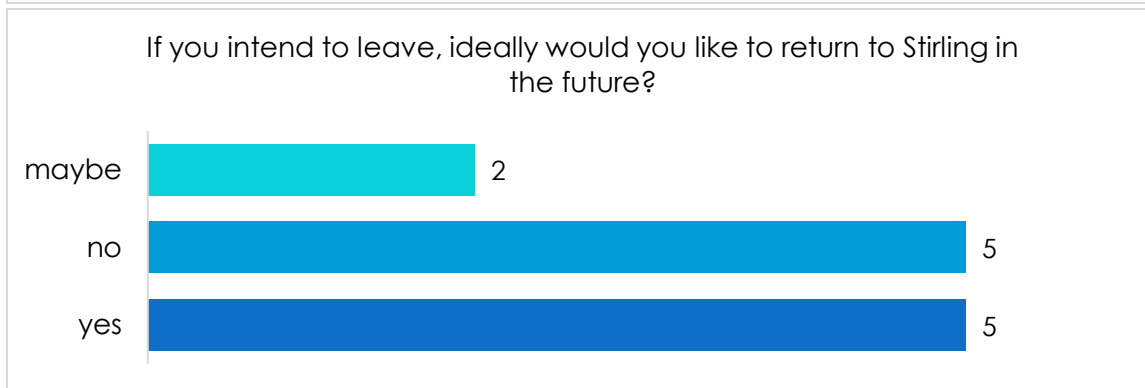
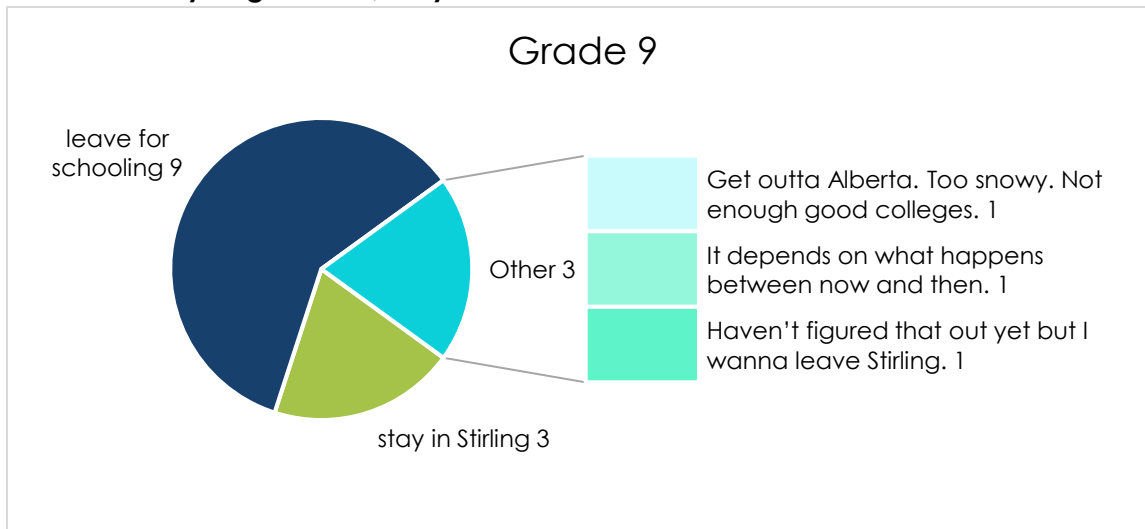




**What other activities for young people would you like to see in Stirling?**

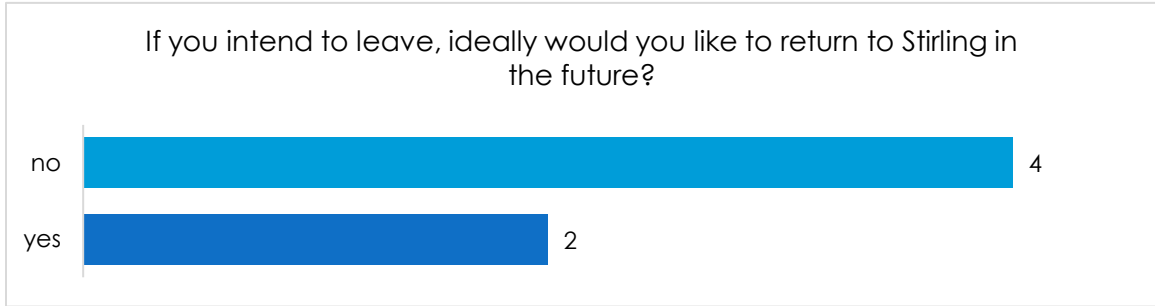
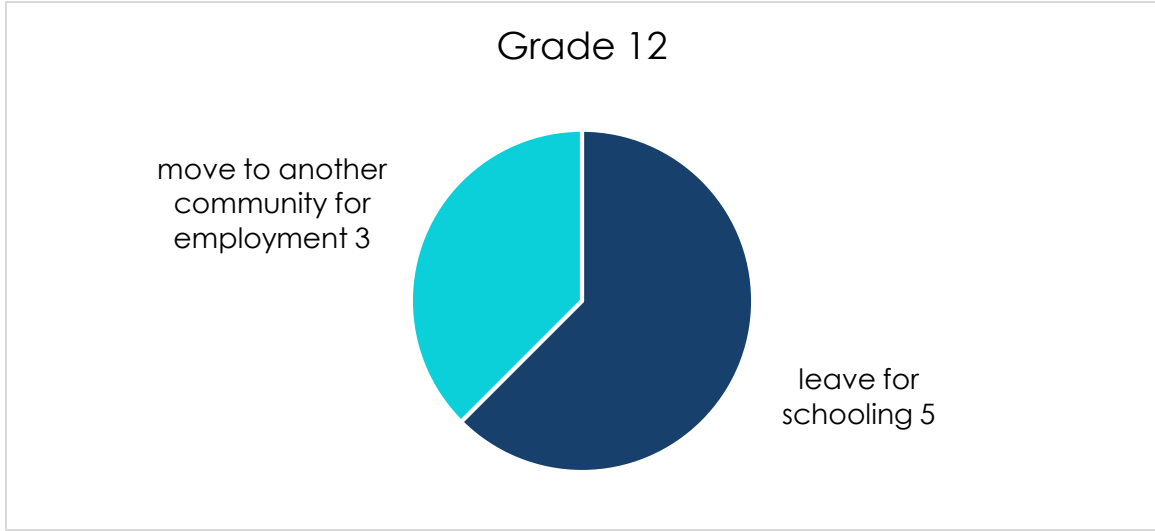
- More places to hangout. More businesses to go to. Going to wendys (you could put it by the yellow house).
- Wendys
- Corn maze
- Skateparks, mini golf, just small things like that.
- Plant a forest for hiking
- Wendys
- Roller coaster

9. Once you graduate, do you intend to:



**What would make you return to Stirling in the future?**

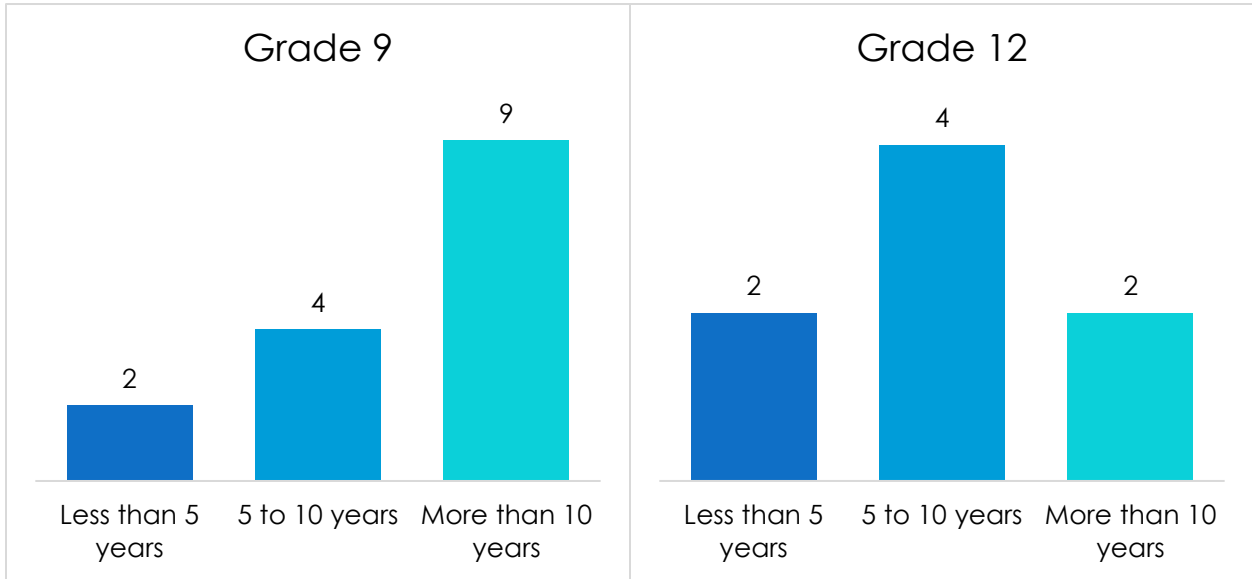
- I would return to Stirling in the future for 2 reasons: I'd be able to pursue the career of my choice, and if I thought this would be a good place to raise my family.
- Nothing
- Better pool, better sports area, and probably a skate park.
- Lots of facilities, nice school/pool and indoor rodeo grounds
- It being a quiet, small and safe place
- If there were more activities to do etc
- If the population continues to grow, and there to be more buildings other than homes like libraries, schools, stores.
- I don't know, maybe if something was happening to my family, also to visit family and friends, that's about it.
- It is a relatively small and quiet community
- Well, being a part of a small school sucks because you don't have that many opportunities or real friends for that matter. So if I have kids (which I probably will) I don't think I would return because of that.
- I think it would be a good place to raise a family, and I like the community.
- Development with youth activities



**What would make you return to live in Stirling in the future?**

- Wendys
- Wendys
- If it was close to Calgary
- More food places
- The community. And a wendys
- Mountains and forest
- A wendys
- Wendys

10. How long have you lived in Stirling?



11. What grade are you in?

