



**SPEAKING OUT:** Members of the 10th Lincoln (Waddington) Scouts who spoke to the Echo about the results of a survey on attitudes to teenagers.

# It's great that young people have a voice

## I AGREE completely with the survey results about teenagers (January 18).

A few people cannot be held responsible for the entire teenage population.

I am overjoyed at the fact that young people have finally been able to air their views formally and be heard, rather than be judged by the irresponsible actions of a minor group of delinquents.

**DANIEL WALKER**  
Lincoln.

■ Being a teenager myself, I know all about this sort of stereotyping.

I'm fed up of seeing on the news that all 13 to 18-year-olds classed as violent people.

I don't go out on a Friday night to get drunk and abusive and I don't smoke.

I have a job every other Saturday and this year I have been accepted on a young apprenticeship at Lincoln College and Lindum Group.

Yes, I can go out and have a laugh with my friends, but not at the expense of getting drunk and abusive.

There are two-sides to every story and in this case it's moshers and chavs.

I have no doubt that local Lincoln people will have seen them hanging out at City

Square opposite the Waterside Centre, but the ridiculous thing is that police community support officers have to stay around that area because fights break out between these two sides. The only difference between these two social groups are that they listen to different music and wear different clothes.

**J. DRAKE**  
Lincoln.

■ Not all these kids are bad, just a few. The police seem to be stopping them for nothing.

These kids need somewhere to go where they can air their views and talk. We need more youth activities. Stop spending money just on students; spend it on all youngsters.

**KIRSTY EDWARDS**  
ermine, Lincoln.

■ As someone who was recently in your paper speaking out against anti social behaviour, I would like to make a point. I agree most teenagers are wonderful and helpful and it is the few that spoil it for others. I watch out for people who are anti-social and it seems to me it is certain families - for instance, a father who teaches his son it's okay to swear, do drugs, and hit people

just for the sake of it.

None of us have the right to call anyone anti-social unless we have seen them doing anti-social things.

I would certainly welcome any teenager to come on my mums army committee, as long as they agree that anti-social behaviour in adults or children is unacceptable and unfair on the rest of society, and try and help stop it.

**MARY MARTIN**  
Lincoln.

■ I totally agree, these kids need somewhere to go, be with their mates and just "be kids".

How about asking the kids what they want in their area and stop tarring them all with the same brush?

**J. WATSON**  
Lincoln.

■ These youngsters are stereotyped. There is the odd yobbish element, but most of these youngsters just want somewhere to go and hang out.

A certain dress code does not make them a criminal.

The council and police need to help more instead of bullying them into submission.

**TED EDWARDS**  
Ermine, Lincoln.

Lincolnshire Echo