

One of The YES Planning volunteers, Rebecca Evans, describes her involvement in the 'Canny Planners' project

"I played the role of chair in the planning committee play which was devised to show the decision-making process on a hot food takeaway. This was valuable because it demonstrated how a planning committee operates, while also highlighting to pupils the contrasting perspectives that stakeholders may have on the topic. I also led a couple of activities in the online live sessions, where for example pupils thought about their own neighbourhoods and ranked what aspects of places are most important to them. It was great to hear the reasoning behind some of the answers and made me reflect on my own answers. Pupils got to hear different opinions from their peers about place, which showed that place-making is not always straightforward, as well as hinting at why some planning issues can be contentious. This project has helped me gain more confidence in presenting and engaging with larger groups of people, and I believe it was a positive experience for pupils in knowing more about the practice of planning and exploring issues that affect us all."