



Youth Project Update

Prepared for: Full Council meeting - 4 June 2018

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BACKGROUND

The Parish Council completed an £80,000 play project in Summer 2017 which is aimed at toddlers and children up to the age of around 12. As a result of some anti-social behaviour in the village, the Parish Council began to discuss how to improve the provision for older children and the possibility of funding a new youth club.

RESEARCH - ESTABLISHING THE NEED

In Spring 2018, a questionnaire was handed out to year 6 children at the primary school (ages 10-11), children at the high school bus stops and copies were left at the butcher's and Post Office. 38 replies were received. Children were not asked for any personal information, such as name/contact details. The results of the questionnaire are as follows:

32 are interested in attending a new youth club

Ideas for what to do: Snacks/food (12), X-box (11), Outdoor sport (8), Table tennis (4), Art (4), Wifi (4). Other ideas with lower scores are karaoke, singing, dancing, cooking, crafts, games, relaxing, films and table football.

Children were asked where they would like to see the youth club and 17 said they are OK with the school hall. 5 do not want it at the school hall. Other ideas are South Green Park (5), Social club (3), Church Room (2), Cafe Verde (2).

The most popular days of the week to hold a youth club are Thursday (15) and Friday (12). Two children said 'any day'.

RESEARCH - YOUTH CLUB OPTIONS

Discussions were held with the church youth club leader to see if they would like to expand provision for a weekly youth club. The North Breckland Youth for Christ youth café (NBYC) is held on two Tuesdays each month after school at the church rooms. They have two X-boxes, pool table, table football and offer other activities. The café is for children aged 10 and above and mostly attracts children from the final year at the primary school and the year above from Mattishall children who attend the local high schools. NBYC also runs a youth café for high school age children from 7-8.30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. They average 9 children each session. These activities are funded from supporters and some grant funding. There isn't a plan to increase the provision at the moment but volunteers and the leader were very keen to talk to the parish councillor who attended one session and be involved if that is what the Parish Council is looking for.

Three members of the Parish Council visited a YMCA-run youth club in Old Catton. The YMCA already run several youth clubs in Norfolk. They can offer a package whereby they run the youth club with their own staff (usually 2), they bring most of the equipment needed (it's possible to borrow equipment from other clubs) and all food. The parish councillors and clerk who attended the youth club at Old Cotton were very impressed with the young leader and the activities offered. Snacks were offered (children have to pay for these) and games were being played.

Other youth-related activities in Mattishall are the Cricket Club, run on Monday evenings during the Summer months, and Scouts, run on Monday evenings.

BUDGET/FINANCES

The Parish Council set aside £8,500 in the 2017-18 budget for a youth provision. However, it would be wise to obtain funding to part-fund the first year. Funding is available from the Children in Need Small Project fund (under £10,000), Active Norfolk and Sport England (both part of the Big Lottery) and Momentum.

COSTINGS

| YMCA youth club for Mattishall | Cost for 6 months | Cost for 12 months |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 'Bronze package' | £ 3,500 | £ 7,000 |
| Hire of school hall at £40 per week x 25 or 50 weeks | £ 1,000 | £ 2,000 |
| Purchase of equipment | £ 400 | £ 800 |
| | £ 4,900 | £ 9,800 |

TIMESCALE

If the Parish Council decides to ask the YMCA to run a youth club at the June 2018 meeting, the youth club could be set up to start as early as the school Summer holiday (late July). The YMCA can help with applying for grant funding (checking grant applications prior to submission).

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

The Parish Council needs to decide whether it wishes to support a new youth club. If so, there needs to be agreement on the provider, age group, venue, how much to provide funding for initially and how long the provision is for.

There appears to be a need for a further youth provision in Mattishall. Children have been enthusiastic with their responses. The suggestion is for a youth club for the 10-16 age group for a Thursday or Friday night.

The YMCA looks to be a good option initially; they provide the staff, policies and knowledge. They have suggested a 6-month initial commitment (which the Parish Council could manage financially) to judge demand and suggest applying for grants during Summer 2018.

The alternative is not to run a separate youth club or work with the church group to ask them to expand their provision. The costs of the church group have not been explored at this stage.