

Calne CAYPIG (Community Area Young People's Issues Group)

CAYPIG is a Wiltshire County Council Youth Development Service Voice and Influence/Youth Democracy initiative, which replaces the late LYPIG (Locality Young People's Issues Group). The CAYPIG exists in each community area, so there is one in Calne, a different one in Chippenham and a different one in Corsham. This is the same model throughout Wiltshire. Any young person aged 13-19 can join a CAYPIG, where the idea is that they can raise issues that they are concerned about in their community, e.g. Calne suggested new ideas to improve the community, have a say on existing issues and to have a voice and make a positive impact. They will feel empowered, with the guidance and support of Youth Development Coordinators/Workers to become as involved as they wish and to make a positive contribution, achieve, gain new skills, increase their confidence, gain knowledge about their community, learn how to negotiate with adult members of the community, put forward ideas and so on. In Calne, the CAYPIG model is that young people meet once every 4 weeks to raise and discuss new issues/concerns, produce an agenda and decide upon relevant adult members from the community to invite, who can listen to their issues and help them take action, to initiate and be part of change where they live; to ultimately improve life for young people in the Calne area and for others in the community. The aim is to have a representation of young people from across Calne and the surrounding villages, not just those who are in contact with Youth Development Workers. To date, the Calne CAYPIG has members from most areas of Calne and from some outlying villages. There are 20 young people on the membership. The initiative is new and is being actively promoted throughout the community, so that it will eventually involve a fully inclusive diverse range of young people.

There has been two 'big' CAYPIGS (young people and adult members) to date, these were in September and December, every 3 months is the model. Minutes get circulated afterwards, along with action points set by individuals/organisations at the meeting. A lot of action has been taking place since the first meeting, which is very positive. The next 'big' CAYPIG is in March, invites will be issued during late January.

ISSUES RAISED TO DATE & ACTION TAKEN

- Healthy eating outlet- young people wish to set up and run, with help, a smoothie/juice/milkshake/healthy snack outlet in Calne. They would like to convince a local business person or group to help them. They would like to take joint lead in setting it up, managing it and working voluntarily at it, to start, with the intention of being paid once they reach 16 years old. They understand that whoever runs it with them may want to be paid but voluntary help would be ideal. They need to find funding to start the business venture and secure a lease on an empty retail unit in Calne town centre. To date they have been running a trial smoothie juice bar at Calne Youth Development Centre, at Bluez n Zueez police partnership discos that take place monthly at John Bentley School and at local events, the latest being the Calne Town Council Xmas Event in the Town Hall. They have started a petition to ascertain demand and interest, where there has been a positive response, with well over 500 signatures; they plan on getting lots more! The offer to run a smoothie bar at the Xmas event came from the Rotary Club, who was interested in their idea, which was a boost to the young people. They have spoken with someone from the Chamber of Commerce for Calne who gave them lots of sound advice which they were very pleased with. The school is also interested in helping them put together a business plan and the Youth Development Service in Calne will help with this as well as every stage of the process.

- School councils/Youth Town Council- Young people feel that their ideas and suggestions at school are not taken forward affectively to the school council, via their year representatives. Also, they feel that the reps are the 'popular' young people so that not everyone is given a fair chance at becoming a rep. John Bentley School have invited CAYPIG members to attend school council meetings and young people have attended at least once since September, which was interesting so they could see how the process works. Sally Willox hopes to link school council reps into the CAYPIG. She will be speaking with the school and meeting school council reps. The school will regularly raise the concerns and CAYPIG issues to the council to keep them informed and feed back any news to the 'big' CAYPIGS. Young people wanted to see Calne Youth Town Council reinstated so that some CAYPIG members could be part of it, as this will be a good place to meet a wider range of Town Council adult representatives who will be able to help with some issues and concerns. The Town Council has re-started the Youth Council and young people from CAYPIGS and the school council has been attending. They meet every 2-3 weeks in the Town Hall Council Chambers. CAYPIG members will be attending but only a proportion, as the school council reps from primary and secondary schools in Calne will also be there. This is a positive development and will continue to raise the profile of CAYPIG to a wider range of young people and hopefully interest them into linking in. CAYPIG issues will also be raised and addressed at the Town Council meetings. Sally Willox or a member of Calne Youth Development Centre will attend frequently to support the process.
- Calne Area Boards- Young people have been informed as to what these boards are, how they will impact the community and how they can become involved. They have found it difficult to understand but have grasped the basics and have agreed that they do wish to be involved. They have said that this can be in person, along with the Youth Development Coordinator for support. They would like CAYPIG members to be part of the board agendas but also to be able to have involvement and a say in all town issues, not just be there for CAYPIG. This is very positive and has been accepted by the board members and will ensure that the younger generation is having an impact on their community and a positive involvement. Young people from CAYPIG have attended one Area Board and one Task Group meeting to date. They were both found to be valuable and interesting. Young people were received well at both, given time to speak, were put on the agenda, questioned and thanked. It was a beneficial experience to both young people and the wider adult community. They will continue needing support to understand the language of the boards but this will need to be adjusted by members if young people are to be fully included in the process.
- Transport- Young people feel that transport into Chippenham or Swindon and outlying villages/towns, (number 55 service) is too expensive, when compared to other county's services and that the bus drivers sometimes charge them adult fares, thinking that they are older than the child ticket age range. Expensive fares make it difficult for them to attend other activities, such as the cinema, ice-skating, shopping, meeting up with friends and so on. It was suggested that they attend a meeting with the transport provider in the future or invite them to a CAYPIG, as no-one locally can really make any changes. This action was accepted by the CAYPIG and all local providers were invited to the December CAYPIG - Stagecoach, APL Travel, Calne Community Transport and Connect 2 via Devizes Taxi firm that operate it. Response was only received from Stagecoach, the local number 55 service, and they attended the last CAYPIG, in December, which was received very

positively and was a big bonus! Wiltshire County Council's Transport Executive was also invited but could not attend unfortunately. WCC negotiate and set transport routes, prices, etc with the local providers so it is very important to be able to consult with them if change is going to take place and be sustainable. CAYPIG will invite them to the next meeting and feel it may be more beneficial to arrange a meeting with them and transport providers alone as a lot of time is needed to discuss issues. Also, young people would like transport to get them around town in the evenings, so that they can attend the Youth development Centre, sports centre, library and so on. Transport networks are extremely limited after 5pm, meaning a lot of young people have to stay in all the time and are excluded. John Bentley School have offered the use of their new minibus to transport young people around in an evening but it is difficult to get drivers and for an organisation to take on this role. This has not been finalised yet. It was also suggested that Calne Connect 2 service or Community Transport be contacted to see if they could extend services later in the evening and maybe add to their existing routes. Again, this issue will be discussed at a future dedicated transport meeting. The Calne Area Board has agreed to help arrange this important meeting.

- Social spaces- Young people have been raising the issue that there are no designated teenager only play areas and that they feel pushed out of existing parks because of younger children and families. They would like an area that they can take ownership of and feel that they belong there without feeling a nuisance to others. They asked Calne Town Council what is happening with the plans for an area like this at the North end of Calne but these plans seem to be on hold presently. No further information has been fed to CAYPIG since September. The facilities for skaters/bikers was raised too and young people would like improved lighting at the existing bowl and to develop dirt hills somewhere, either at the existing site or somewhere new. Calne Town Council will be approached about this once a plan has been put together by young people from the skate/bike community. Youth Development Workers are helping with this process.

Young people from Cherhill raised the issue that there is nowhere for them to socialise in their village and it was suggested that they completed a funding bid for equipment. They have agreed to do this. This message has been echoed from Bremhill, too. Calne Youth Development Centre has met with both young people and parish/district councillors concerning these areas of Calne Without and have offered to support weekly youth sessions in the villages but made it clear that they cannot solely set up, manage and run the facilities due to other commitments and staff issues. The youth development workers are more than keen to reach these marginalised young people and offer youth opportunities to them, including leisure, personal and social development, support with life issues such as substance misuse, sexual health, general health, mental health, careers, bullying and just for general support. Dialogues will continue and I understand that funding bids have been submitted for Cherhill/Yatesbury for resources for youth provision, which is promising. It is very important that a wide range of young people can access youth development workers and it would be great, in the future, to be able to rotate provision among the outlying villages to include more young people.

Young people have also raised and discussed that they feel there is too much dog mess around Calne, especially on play areas and that they hope the Town Council will speak with them about this as soon as possible. It was suggested that Calne should consider an Astroturf facility as this would be very beneficial for all members of the community to improve and develop sport opportunities. This idea has been welcomed and will form future discussions.

Young people have also raised concerns about the 'flying of the flag' campaign, as they have been reading about it in the newspapers and they would like more information as to what is the current position with this. They are hoping that Calne Town Council will address this at the next 'big' CAYPIG.

This list of items is not exhaustive but is a brief overview of issues raised at CAYPIG's.

Thank you on behalf of the young people of Calne for reading this. Please contact Sally Willox, Youth Development Co-ordinator for Calne on (01249) 812509, sallywillox@wiltshire.gov.uk to discuss any issues, find out more, offer assistance or if you wish to attend a future CAYPIG. Young people would be willing to speak with you, too.