

# Marlborough Youth Network

## NOTES

10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – 4pm

Meeting: via Teams

Attendees:

(CT) Cllr Caroline Thomas, Wiltshire Council and Marlborough Town Council

(AJ) Andrew Jack, Wiltshire Council

(LY) Louisa Young, Wiltshire Council

(MM) Maeve McNeill, St Johns

(JS) Jimmy Scragg, Marlborough College

(DO) Dominique Oughton, Wiltshire & Swindon Sport (WASP)

(SW) Simon Wells, Marlborough Sports Forum

(FS) Fergus Stewart, Youth for Christ (YFC)

(SD) Steve Dewar, Youth for Christ (YFC)

(VH) Valerie Hood, Trustee Aldbourne Youth Council

(LF) Lisa Farrell, Marlborough Youth Forum Youth Club

(RS-W) Richard Spencer-Williams, Marlborough Town Council

(SR) Sophie Roberts, Kennet Valley Parish council

(JD) Jude Deaman, Connect Young People

(BB) Becky Bye, Rethink

### 1. Welcome and introductions:

(CT) Wiltshire council Cabinet member for Highways, Marlborough Area board Lead for Youth Priority and Marlborough Town councillor. CT explained this was the first meeting of the Marlborough area youth network and the intention was to explore whether people felt a network would be beneficial. Asked for quick introductions to include key activities and what do you think your organisation could contribute and benefit from in terms of having a mutually supportive network.

(MM) St Johns School

Assistant vice principle and safeguarding lead. 1800 pupils from the area and has worked at the school for 24 years. Emerging from a challenging time and the school are finding that young people and their families are requiring more input particularly in terms of mental health and returning to school. Anything that helps young people reconnect would be beneficial.

(JS) Marlborough College

Outreach & partnership lead and sits on sports forum and engagement with local primary schools.

(DO) WASP & Marlborough Sports Partnership

Health and well-being manager for WASP with a focus on getting more people active particularly the 25% across Wiltshire who are inactive. Youth engagement – the Sports forum will be holding a festival this year 6<sup>th</sup> May.

(SW) Chair of Marlborough Sports forum

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Links all the sports clubs in the town along with St Johns, the College and the councils. In addition to grants that are provided to athletes, enables a joined up thinking approach such as in the response to the Marlborough neighbourhood plan where they ensured inclusion of the consideration of sports facilities.

(FS and SD) Y4C

Project going in Marlborough for about a year and SD has been mentoring in St Johns. They are currently advertising for a part time youth worker. They have a pop-up van which means they can conduct detached youth work and take it into any community estate work with the police, churches and groups.

(VH) Aldbourne Youth Council

Run a youth club for young people 11-18 lots of activities to help build their relationships. Youth worker is leaving at the end of the month and so are hoping to get some help and guidance from other organisations.

(LF) Marlborough Community Youth Project and Trustee of Marlborough Area Youth Forum which is taking over running the Marlborough youth club.

LF has worked closely with children for 10 years. Friday evening youth club also provide a hot meal. Lots of youth problems emerging. As a group, desperate for volunteers, more information and courses. Would be interested in visiting other youth clubs. Currently re-recruiting for a youth worker. ACTION LF: MM & JS invited LF to get in touch to discuss 6<sup>th</sup> Form volunteers. FS & SD asked LF to get in touch regarding volunteers and training needs.

(RS-W) Marlborough Town Council

Has a background in youth work and happy to support and get involved.

(SR) Kennet Valley PC

Had a youth club used by about 20 kids but now lacking the support of a youth worker and volunteers with knowledge about current legislation etc so it has been stopped. PC would be keen to try and start something up again.

(JD) Connect Young People

Supports young people from 10/11 – 18 years who are using drugs / alcohol with harm reduction interventions. Can help with PHSC lessons and could do adults information sessions but mainly focused on young people.

(BB) Rethink

Will be setting up board games cafes across Wiltshire and would like to roll out to Marlborough in due course. Has a community service database of all the available groups in the area.

### Main Themes

CT highlighted the main themes that had come out of the introductions around

- Benefits of Engagement – in and out of school – to support wellbeing

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- Young people facing difficulties/pressures due to social media, access to drugs and making good choices
- Support needed to attract volunteers and recruit / retain youth workers
- Role of Youth clubs / drop in centres in addition to more formally structured sports clubs and cadets/scouts

### 2. What may we be able to do?

Key point raised that everyone was keen to back was the importance of engaging with young people and getting a youth voice in needs analysis, decision making and planning.

SF survey from summer 21 generated 547 responses from St John's students. One of the questions was: Are you involved in any groups or activities? 256 said yes, mainly sports, but 203 were not involved in any activity, which accounted for 40% of respondents.

Discussed possible barriers to participation - transport had been highlighted as a key issue in the survey.

Need a survey / listening mechanism but recognised the risk of survey fatigue. A future survey needs to be focused on a clear outcome so the benefit of feeding in is clear.

RS-W noted that following some issues in the town's open spaces over the summer / autumn, the town council are looking into possibility of a youth council with a brief to feedback on young people's experiences in using those spaces. Could be material or small points but TC would benefit from young people's insight into experience of a park space, a space's use and their experience of them for planning.

This may apply in all the parishes and would be good to engage different young people who might like to give their views. LF noted there was a youth council previously with representation from St Johns, the college, and the youth centre, but that young people could feel intimidated when there are too many adults in the room, and it takes time for them to trust individuals and open up to anybody.

Could do some activity around listening to young people. Discussion around consultation fatigue and so considering linking into the sports festival questionnaire as there is a tangible outcome at the end.

**ACTION:** SW/DO to share questionnaire that is going out for the upcoming festival with the group with a view to seeing if there are any questions that are felt could be added that could inform the group. Link: <https://forms.gle/gFxLpv4aYVS54o3f8> comments and suggestions needed by **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January** please e-mail any thoughts directly to DO [Dominique@wiltssport.org](mailto:Dominique@wiltssport.org).

### 3. What as a network could we help each other do?

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Discussion about what the network could work together on to help each other. Suggestions included:

- Facilitating training for volunteers (YFC offered to help with this)
- Keeping each other informed of plans and working together.
- Potential to share volunteers – possibly a ‘volunteer bank’
- Come up with creative ways of talking to young people
- Consider the parents and families and how they can be supported. How to reach/engage the parents that do need to support their children, perhaps via lower stakes events at school and other venues? Having a place to stop and chat at the Sport Festival was suggested.

**ACTION:** Link to parenting courses offered by Wiltshire Council [Parenting courses - Wiltshire Council](#)

(VH) Aldbourne Youth council have a committee of young people who provide their youth voice.

Barriers highlighted included transport from the villages. Discussed possibility of providing transport and / or considering how young people can access activities and events.

Communication – important for parishes to be included with communications about events and activities taking place in Marlborough.

Transport options discussed – college highlighted insurance can be an issue with borrowing minibuses.

Ramsbury Flyer [ramsburyflyer.org](http://ramsburyflyer.org)

Link services [About \(marlboroughlink.org.uk\)](http://marlboroughlink.org.uk) – Monday – Friday focused on Older & Vulnerable but also people in need.

Wiltshire Connect [Wiltshire Connect - Connecting Wiltshire](#)

#### 4. How might we operate?

Proposed to initially meet every 6 weeks – **ACTION:** Invitation to be sent out for 21<sup>st</sup> February.

May be useful to draw up terms of reference for the group and allocate roles.

**ACTION:** AJ to find a template as a starting point.

**ACTION:** To expand invitation to include other groups such as uniformed groups (CT, JS, SD, AJ)

**ACTION:** Contact list of e-mails &/ telephone numbers for the group (LY).

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Consider recruiting volunteers (could work with deputy town clerk who has a list) and putting them on the DBS update service.

### 5. AOB

Upcoming **Youth Festival Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May** - the Sports Forum will need volunteers 😊. Happy to add any flyers promoting activities to the goodie bags that are given out on the day.

Could have a volunteer recruitment stand? Can also use it as an opportunity to engage with young people and parents/carers. Suggestion of having recruitment stands for clubs e.g. scouts / cadets etc.

CT, LF, SD & FS all volunteered to help on the day  
AJ volunteered to help in advance of the event

### Contact List

Name	Organisation	E-mail / Telephone Number
Cllr Caroline Thomas	Wiltshire Council	<a href="mailto:Caroline.thomas@wiltshire.gov.uk">Caroline.thomas@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>
Andrew Jack	Wiltshire Council	<a href="mailto:Andrew.jack@wiltshire.gov.uk">Andrew.jack@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>
Maeve McNeill	St John's School	<a href="mailto:mmcneill@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk">mmcneill@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk</a>
Jimmy Scragg	Marlborough College	<a href="mailto:JRBS@marlboroughcollege.org">JRBS@marlboroughcollege.org</a>
Dominique Oughton	WASP / Sports Forum <a href="#">Wiltshire &amp; Swindon Sport</a>	<a href="mailto:Dominique@wiltssport.org">Dominique@wiltssport.org</a> 07786 221235
Simon Wells	Marlborough Sports Forum <a href="#">Marlborough Sports Forum</a>	<a href="mailto:simonwells15@btinternet.com">simonwells15@btinternet.com</a>
Fergus Stewart	Youth for Christ <a href="#">YFC</a>	<a href="mailto:fergus@wiltshireyfc.org.uk">fergus@wiltshireyfc.org.uk</a> 07789 838418
Steve Dewar	Youth for Christ	<a href="mailto:steve@wiltshireyfc.org.uk">steve@wiltshireyfc.org.uk</a> 07340 930845
Matt Lambert	Aldbourn Youth Council	<a href="mailto:chair@aldbourneyouthcouncil.co.uk">chair@aldbourneyouthcouncil.co.uk</a> 07555 575469
Lisa Farrell	Marlborough Youth Forum Youth Club	<a href="mailto:lululf@hotmail.co.uk">lululf@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Richard Spencer-Williams	Marlborough Town Council	<a href="mailto:townclerk@marlborough-tc.gov.uk">townclerk@marlborough-tc.gov.uk</a>
Sophie Roberts	Kennet Valley Parish council	<a href="mailto:clerk@kvparishcouncil.org.uk">clerk@kvparishcouncil.org.uk</a>
Jude Deaman	Connect Young People <a href="#">ConnectYP</a>	
Becky Bye	Rethink <a href="#">We are Rethink Mental Illness</a>	<a href="mailto:rebecca.bye@rethink.org">rebecca.bye@rethink.org</a>

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David Durton	Wiltshire Council Leisure Centre	<a href="mailto:david.durston@wiltshire.gov.uk">david.durston@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>
Insp Ben Huggins	Wiltshire Police	<a href="mailto:Benjamin.Huggins@wiltshire.police.uk">Benjamin.Huggins@wiltshire.police.uk</a>
PC Jason Steele	Wiltshire Police	<a href="mailto:Jason.Steele@wiltshire.police.uk">Jason.Steele@wiltshire.police.uk</a>