

Southern Wiltshire Community Area – Youth Partnership Forum (YPF)

16th May 2024

Meeting at Newton Tony Memorial Hall

Attending: Rich Rogers, Zoe Clewer, Richard Pearce (Clarendon Juniors FC), PC Josh Bankhurst, PC Rachel Gunn, Nicky Williams and Julie from New Life Community Church, John Fuller (Alderbury PC), Richard Britton and Karen Linaker

- 1. This was the first meeting of the new Youth Partnership Forum, the overall objective being to facilitate stronger joint working to build on existing arrangements that support positive activities for young people.**
- 2. The attached slides were talked through – and general support voiced for the proposed structure and plan for the YPF**
- 3. The YPF also talked through data from the latest Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and reflected in particular on the key issues around deprivation, health, education and crime as part of how new collaborations around facilitating positive activities for young people need to carefully reflect the needs within this assessment**
- 4. The discussion included the following key points:**
 - (a) The greater challenge is engaging 13+ to be/stay in positive activities, with the task of supporting U13 being relatively simple in some parishes
 - (b) There are increasing complexities around providing the right kind of support for young people with varying degrees of mental health needs, which can often be too big an ‘ask’ for volunteer run village youth clubs
 - (c) Catapulting has been a regular occurring form of ASB in Downton, Redlynch in the past – helped now by the PSPO, but is currently more prevalent in Alderbury, along with a range of other issues, including axing vegetation in local woods to make bike tracks and illegally fishing on private land.
 - (d) Detached youth work is needed in villages like Alderbury where ASB often becomes the default where there is little by way of parental influence/guidance, activities or facilities
 - (e) Social media can often hinder the calming of ASB, instead it can whipping up local tensions, and deflect away from formal channels of reporting to the police – offering them an opportunity to engage and tackle
 - (f) The area board is deepening its collaboration with Trafalgar School in particular with young people recently engaging in focus groups, and local events, and offering to partner with an area board initiative to match volunteering opportunities to pupils, including those on the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme
 - (g) Transport to activities remains an issue requiring further discernment, investment, innovation
 - (h) There are some great examples where organisations within villages and neighbouring parishes are already collaborating to jointly work on youth

engagement, and the YPF would be keen to learn more about these and encourage additional such examples

- (i) Future YPF meetings might better be online to encompass a broader range of representatives, or in the future could be activity themed to also involve young people, e.g. a football themed engagement

5. Possible next steps:

- a) continue the initial work of raising the profile of what we hope for the YPF
- b) Set a date for the next YPF meeting and work hard to encourage more to attend – consider if this is better online or in person
- c) Ongoing conversations with key interested individuals, partners, activity providers to stimulate better awareness of the YPF model and their role in it
- d) Find a way to raise funds to pay a YPF co-ordinator and a youth worker, in collaboration with parish councils and community groups
- e) Organise an Area Board Youth Fun Day to: (i) further raise the YPF profile and vision (ii) secure youth voice and influence for the YPF
- f) Explore how we might make a Leisure Credit scheme work in Southern Wiltshire