

Youth Advisory Group (YAG) Review

Over the past 2 years the Malmesbury Youth Advisory Group has been looking at different projects in the local community. One of which included piloting a youth café. Many young people said, “we want more things to do and more places to go” within the Malmesbury area. After looking at a survey of over 700 young people, it was clear that young people in Malmesbury wanted a youth café. The Youth Advisory Group came up with an idea of running a pilot youth cafe within the Malmesbury Youth Development Centre. After piloting the youth café it was realised that there was no longer a great need for a youth cafe as new cafes and restaurants had opened since the survey was conducted.

Regarding the closure of the Youth Services and the redundancies of the youth workers, the Malmesbury YAG created a petition to save our youth workers from the proposed cuts. The Malmesbury YAG felt that the youth workers are essential as they support and guide all young people including the vulnerable. The petition was presented to councillor Laura Mays at County Hall in Trowbridge.

On the 2nd of April, Malmesbury YAG took part in the JSA (Joint Strategic Assessment). They discussed the top 5 prioritised needs of young people in the Malmesbury area. After the discussion, the projects were presented to the area board and then voted on. The top priority was making transport more affordable and more frequent so that young people can take part in further education and social activities.

With the new proposal of the youth provision, several YAG members will dedicate themselves to the Local Youth Network (LYN) as college representatives. Their role will be to advise area boards, recommend local priorities and help monitor the quality and effectiveness of youth activities. In future, YAG is planning on recruiting more young people of a wider age range to join the LYN were they plan to guide and support the new members.

Chair and Vice Chair Malmesbury YAG