

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ITEM 7

WARMINSTER AREA BOARD  
Thursday 2 September 2010

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## Partner update for CAYPIG

### **Warminster Development Centre for Young People-Community Area Young People's Issues Group, Specifically looking at Skate Park and Transport Issues and Youth Exchanges**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To highlight issues that affect young people within Warminster and surrounding villages these include the continuing issues that surround the skate park within Warminster Town Park and also transport issues in the Warminster Community Area – young people not being able to access out of school hours activities.
2. An update of service in relation to opportunities available for young people and resources .

#### **Background**

1. On 10 July 2010 the young people put on a skate event in the newly refurbished skate park, this was part of Warminster Festival, which was opened by the Mayor Sue Fraser. The day was a great success with 80 young people taking part in the various activities that were put on. There was excellent press coverage of the event and the participation of the competitions were well attended. It was great that Councillor Andrew Davis was on hand to give out the prizes to the winners of the various categories.
2. The young people are delighted with the new teen shelter that has been put in the skate park and it is exactly what they wanted, the young people would like to finish of the graffiti that was done on the fun day which can be seen on the ramps where they have been boxed in.
3. Young people have been given money from the Area Board for an art sculpture to be put in the park on the condition that we have planning permission which we are still waiting for.
4. There is a lack of buses from outlying areas, including villages, to transport young people into Warminster to access the services they may wish to use. Buses don't stop near where they live and do not run

at times suitable to their needs. Young people's safety is a major issue because they want to be able to access a bus at a safe, well-lit location, times when the clubs/services they access close, to avoid loitering and at locations near the clubs/services they wish to use, to avoid long walks, especially if it is late or they are on their own/small groups. Without safe, accessible transport, young people will lose out. Many parents/carers do not allow their children to walk to places when it is late or dark and those young people, who are allowed, don't want to as feel vulnerable.

5. Young people of the CAYPIG are currently looking into the prospect of linking up with other organisations such as the Minster Church for the possibility of using their resources and access to minibuses and volunteer drivers and will look to seek funding for this from Area Board and would like to put together a proposal and a presentation for the Area Board in September for this highlighted and maybe gain some interest and offer of support from other businesses and community organisations in Warminster.
6. Young people of the CAYPIG are currently looking in to doing a joint International Youth Exchange with Westbury CAYPIG, destinations are yet to be decided and will need to be discussed along with Westbury as to where they would like to go. This stemmed from a joint CAYPIG residential that took place at the beginning of August this year, the group who went came up with the idea of going abroad next year for a cultural exchange with another youth group from another country. The CAYPIG will look to put in a proposal for the next Area Board meeting in November for use of the Young Peoples fund that is left over. The young people are already coming up with their own fundraising ideas for this project to go ahead. This is to be discussed in more detail at the next CAYPIG meeting.

## **Main Considerations**

- Young people's needs.
- More benches and looking into the signage (making it more user-friendly to young people and children).
- Ensuring that young people are recognised by being positive influences within the local community i.e. Fun in the Park, Community art sculpture, Sponsored Skate.
- Parent/guardian opinions.
- Explore existing transport routes/times including villages.
- Meet with transport providers to highlight young people's concerns.
- Isolation of young people.
- Options for improvements to transport/new initiatives.
- Funding for transport initiatives.
- Positive impact on young people through being able to access 'out of school hours' services.
- Recognising the importance of the voice & opinion/influence of young people

- Costs to young people when they access transport.
- Safety of young people.
- Young people's desire to expand their knowledge culturally and experience new challenges.
- Young people to look at fundraising opportunities for future projects.

## **Recommendation**

- Look at further improvements to the skate park and the town park in relation to the friends of the park and Wiltshire Council's 5-year plan and that young people's involvement is welcomed.
- Develop signage for the skate park to make it more welcoming and young people to take ownership and responsibility for their own actions within the skate park.
- The existing transport provider's public bus routes/timetables are explored.
- Transport providers from current services should be invited to the Warminster CAYPIG and possibly future Area Boards.
- Further consultation/in-depth questionnaire with young people reference the times they want buses to operate and from what specific locations, this has been initiated but needs continuing.
- Young people to look at fundraising initiatives for International Youth Exchange for next year.

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