

## SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### Youth Service Delivery Committee Meeting held at Grange Youth Centre, Shrewsbury At 10.00am on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

#### PRESENT

Councillors A Mosley (Chairman), I Jones, N Laurens. Councillors Mrs Moseley & Pardy arrived after the commencement of the meeting.

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Andy Watkin (Responsible Financial Officer) & Adam Purnell (Youth & Community Development Officer)

#### 16/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor Mosley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Flaxivity as he was Chairman of the Friends of Flaxmill at which the Town Council operates a youth session.

All present declared non-pecuniary interests as both Town & Unitary Councillors in any matters relating to agreements between both Councils.

#### 17/18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Youth Services Delivery Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were submitted as circulated and read.

#### RESOLVED:

**That the minutes of the Youth Services Delivery Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

#### 18/18 GRANGE CENTRE UPDATE

- 18.1 Kitchen Upgrades** – Improvements in the Kitchen have been downgraded to meet the Committees budgetary limit. The Kitchen has now been ordered at a cost of £6500 +VAT and shall be fitted in the February Half Term
- 18.2 Container Storage** – The concrete pad has been prepared and the flat-pack container ordered and delivered. A time slot is awaited for staff to build the container.
- 18.3 Fixtures & Fittings** – The Youth & Community Development Officer provided a list of necessary fixtures and fittings to convert the building from a Youth Centre to a Community Centre. A discussion ensued about quality of chairs and projection equipment to ensure enjoyable use of the building.

**RESOLVED:**

**That a budget of £15,000 be allocated**

- 18.4 Branding & Signage** – The Youth & Community Development Office reported on branding discussion with the various Youth Sessions at the Grange.

**RESOLVED:**

**That members of the Committee submit 3 names and a decision be taken on the one receiving most favourable response**

- 18.5 Launch Date** – The Youth & Community Development Officer had pencilled in Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April as a launch of the newly branded Centre. This was the start of the East Holidays and would be a good time to showcase activities. A number of local organisations had agreed to be part of the event.

## **19 CLUB ACTIVITY**

The Youth & Community Development Officer presented his report into activity across the various teams. Overall, all areas were seeing increase in activity. The key areas included:

- 19.1 Sundorne** – numbers fluctuated from week to week but averaged about 10. Shrewsbury Academy is very supportive of the work, but it remains a difficult demographic. Rather than traditional youth sessions, the team were looking to have themed events (like Roller-Disco) to make better use of the space.
- 19.2 Grange Pre-Juniors** – was the session that has replaced the Kynaston Community Centre session. This had proved very successful
- 19.3 Grange Juniors** – was still busy averaging 18-20, but there had been a number of behavioural issues with a few individuals. The Youth & Community Development Officer was doing one-to-one sessions with some through the schools with a hope of addressing these behavioural issues.
- 19.4 Monkmoor** – Since Christmas, the single Junior Session had been split to two 90-minute sessions for Juniors and Seniors. There were a few ASB issues associated with young people hanging about outside the Youth Club.
- 19.5 The Hive** – steady numbers of around 12-14 attend the session with a number coming from the Meole area. The Youth & Community Development Officer has been working with some for nearly three years and they are starting to look at serious subject areas for young people
- 19.6 Flaxivity** – Steady numbers but the majority are there purely for the ramps. Youth Workers are generally not busy at these sessions, which are predominantly male dominated.
- 19.7 Meole** – The Youth & Community Development Officer has met with the new Youth Worker at Trinity Church. Church youth activity has been low in part due to changes in staffing and difficulty in retaining volunteers. The Detached Team has continued to visit the estate on a weekly basis and the Trinity Youth Worker has been encouraged to go out with the Team.

Councillor Laurens expressed his concern about the lack of structured youth activities; he would raise this with the vicar.

**19.8 Sport & Support** – The team had joined forces with Embrace to offer Tuesday night sports sessions at the Grange Sports Centre. This session, though in its infancy was going well.

**19.9 Detached Youth Work** – the team was out twice a week and had focussed on areas where a gang culture was developing, particularly the Quarry and Monkmoor Recreation Ground. They had found that a number did not want to engage. TH team was still encouraging attendance at the structured sessions.

## **20 LONG-TERM OPTIONS**

**20.1 Flaxivity** – there was only another 18 months left on the lease therefore an alternative location was required particularly for the popular skate ramps. Ramped had been looking at alternative sites to create an indoor skate park and community café and if the right venue was found there was potential funding streams through the Sport England Community Asset Fund. The Town Clerk & RFO raised the need to find an alternative use for the Ditherington Community Centre due to dwindling usage. Members also discussed Castlefields Community Centre being the other Town Council asset with similar community usage.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the matter be discussed further at the next meeting**
- (ii) That the Committee visits Flaxivity, Ditherington & Castlefields ahead of the next meeting**

**20.2 Meet Place** – Councillor Laurens and the Town Clerk had met with representatives of the Meole Estate Community Action group who wish to expand the Meet Place. Doubling the size of the indoor space would allow greater activities to take place not just to support the youth of the estate but the whole of the community. Trinity Church had agreed to contribute £20,000 towards the cost with the Town Council now agreeing to the same on the condition that Severnside Housing does likewise.

## **21 COUNTY LINES**

The Town Council had arranged a training session with Craig Pinkney a national specialist in young people and the effect of gangs and drug dealing. Originally designed for the Youth Team, the training session was attended by 50 people from all Team Shrewsbury Partners. It became evident that a multiagency approach was required to work together to address the ongoing issues but also develop a programme encouraging resilience for young people against both this and all other forms of exploitation. The Youth & Community Development Officer had arranged a workshop to explore the commitment of other organisations to develop an Exploitation Awareness Roadshow to go round schools.

## **22 ACTIVITIES**

**22.1 Youth Work Week Video** – The Youth & Community Development Officer was congratulated on creating a very informative video outlining the work of Young Shrewsbury.

**22.2 Community Cooking** – The Youth & Community Development Officer had been working with five families, which had been targeted through Early Help to encourage them to eat more healthily on a budget but also use cooking as an activity to bond the family. The food Hub, Tesco Community Champion and Chris Burt from Mytton & Mermaid had been involved in the project.

**22.3 Easter Activities** – The Youth & Community Development Officer was preparing a number of activities over the Easter Holiday to tie in with the launch of the Community Centre at the Grange.

## **23 BUDGET**

**23.1 2018/19 Budget** – The RFO advised that both income and expenditure was on par with the budget

**23.2 2019/20 Budget** – Council has now set the new budget and had assumed that no funding was forthcoming from Shropshire Council. The whole of the Youth Service would be part of core funding. An additional £15,000 had been set aside for one-off capital improvements to community centres with an additional £5,000 a year revenue budget for repair and maintenance.