

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Youth Service Delivery Committee
Meeting held at Grange Youth Centre, Shrewsbury
At 10.00am on 15th May 2019

PRESENT

Councillors A Mosley (Chairman), I Jones, Mrs P Moseley, N Laurens, K Pardy & D Vasmer

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Andy Watkin (Responsible Financial Officer), Adam Purnell (Youth & Community Development Officer) and Heather Phillips (Administration Assistant)

24/18 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.

25/18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Youth Services Delivery Committee meeting held on 23rd January 2019 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Youth Services Delivery Committee meeting held on 23rd January 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

26/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

26.1 Ref: Min: 20/1 Flaxivity – Ramped are not pushing for an alternative location for the club at the moment.

26.2 Ref: Min: 20/2 Meet Place – Housing Plus had not provided an update regarding a contribution towards expanding the Meet Place. The Housing Association is however, going through merger proposals. Councillor Laurens felt there was a need to consider alternative options including erecting a demountable on the site where a previous facility sat.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the Town Clerk raise the Meet Place with the Chief Executive of Housing Plus;**
- (ii) **That the cost and viability of using demountables be explored.**

27/18 THE GRANGE CENTRE

- 27.1** The Youth & Community Development Officer reported that the launch event on 14th April 2019 was busy throughout the day.
- 27.2** There was some interest in booking the centre, but no ongoing bookings had been received to date. A Refugee group booked the Centre soon after and there has been interest from a craft group.

It was proposed that a similar event be repeated in the summer.

There were also some enquiries about holding parties at the Centre. The Committee recognised that there were some obstacles to accommodating these events ie the opening/closing of the building, checking the building afterwards and someone being available to deal with any problems that may arise, especially as most of these events are likely to take place at weekends. Councillor Parry commented that a system needs to be devised for this and that it would have to include the receipt and return of deposits. It was also noted that the lights for the building are located in the Office.

Members discussed the possibility of having a community group running the Centre in the future (as do other community centres in Shrewsbury) and it is intended that the ongoing coffee mornings might eventually produce a group that will run the centre on behalf of the Council in the future. Councillor Jones suggested that a wrap be devised for the Admag inviting locals to help run The Centre but this was not deemed to be the most productive way of getting people from the local community involved at the moment.

The Youth & Community Development Officer is pressing on with the coffee mornings and the numbers in attendance are increasing. There has been some discussion from attendees regarding setting up groups and making bookings.

28/18 CLUB ACTIVITY

The Youth & Community Development Officer presented his report into activity for the Spring Term 2019. Overall, the numbers for all clubs have remained steady. (It was noted that youth groups are staffed at roughly 1 member of staff per 10 young people.) The key areas included:

- 28.1 Grange Pre-Juniors** – this club is very busy. Half of the young people that attend go to the nearby Sports Centre with a trained sports member of staff and the facilities are used free of charge.

- 28.2 Grange Juniors** – steady attendance. Although numbers are not that high, the young people who attend are in need of this facility.
- 28.3 Sundorne** – attendance has picked up. The club opened one day over the February half term break from 10 am – 4 pm: 28 young people attended and some of these have since joined the club.
- 28.4 Monkmoor** – this club has now split into two groups due to its popularity: Juniors and Seniors. The Junior numbers have been slower to climb than the Seniors. Monkmoor Seniors was closed on two occasions: once as a consequence of bad behaviour and once due to staff shortage (illness).
- 28.5 Flaxivity** – some general statistics were provided by Mike Jeffrey and the average weekly attendance during the Spring Term was 15.
- 28.6 The Hive** – steady numbers. Recent work includes education on sexual health which was a need that had been raised.
- 28.7 Meet Place & Meole Estate** – see minute 26.2 above.

29/18 DETACHED WORK

A report by Miriam Turner on recent detached activities was received by the Committee. The Youth & Community Development Officer reported that numbers of young people met while undertaking detached work had increased due to improvements in the weather. The team visit the same places regularly in order to build up relationships with the young people they meet.

There is an emphasis on ‘sport and support’ and a number of young people are met at the 5-a-side pitch at Kynaston Road. A significant number on the sidelines of the pitch are willing to engage with the youth team and they visit the young people in this area every week where possible.

The Committee noted that there is drug activity on Stanley Lane (particularly around the time children finish their after school detentions), around Castlewalk Footbridge (although this has greatly improved since the Council cleared the undergrowth) and at Worcester Road. The Town Clerk urged anyone who sees such activity to let Ruth Jones (Office Manager) know so that it can be logged and used to inform police. The Youth & Community Development Officer is aware of some young people who use drugs but emphasised that providing them with something to do, like playing football, gives them an alternative and distracting activity.

30/18 EASTER ACTIVITIES

The Youth & Community Development Officer reported that the expenditure for the launch event which took place over Easter (see minute 27/18 above) was £200 for food & drink and £500 for the staff and activities. The following events also took place:

- 15 young people took part in a fishing event at Dorset Pools – negotiation led to obtaining free bait.
- Sundorne Youth Club was opened for a day and 28 young people attended.
- The Arts Council hired The Grange Centre (and paid for Julie Brotherton's time) to run a consultation session focussing on young people's involvement in the arts.

There were no costs associated with these activities excepting the Youth & Community Development Officer's time.

31/18 ADDITIONAL FUNDED PROJECTS

31.1 Reach Out to Music Project – this will be run every Tuesday after half-term. Its aim is to encourage a passion for music. There will be some taster sessions run at other clubs to encourage participation and also in schools specifically for young people at risk of exclusion.

31.2 Fishing Project with Divert – after half-term, a weekly fishing session run by 'Divert' will commence and an angling club will be set up with a view to creating a 'match scene'. The young people involved were specifically targeted by the Youth & Community Development Officer but it was noted that there had been no interest from any girls as yet.

31.3 5-a-Side Session at Monkmoor Recreation Ground – funding from BLT to the sum of £500 had been received to set up these sessions in order to help divert young people from involvement in County Lines.

31.4 Gym Sessions at Sundorne – funding from BLT to the sum of £500 has been secured to fund gym sessions for vulnerable young people who are not yet engaging with the youth team.

The Youth & Community Development Officer reported that the cooking session he provided for families was a great success and the programme begins again for another 5 families. Donations for this are provided by Shrewsbury Academy and Tesco. Councillor Mosley asked that this income be shown on the budget.

32/18 PLANS FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY

The Youth & Community Development Officer proposed the following activities:

- Another event similar to April's launch event in order to build on its success. A budget for this will need to be agreed.

- Opening Monkmoor Youth Club for some sessions during the summer holiday as per last year and possibly open Sundorne in addition for one or two sessions.
- A trip to a theme park for those young people who rarely have the chance to leave Shrewsbury. A 59-seater coach would need to be hired for this at a cost of £340. As an example, Alton Towers would charge £22 per child (staff would get in free of charge) and it was proposed that each young person contributes £10-15 of the cost. Proposed pick-ups would be at Grange, Monkmoor and Sundorne areas.
- A 5-a-side tournament with a cost of 2 support works (£50 per hour); some girls might be interested in this as well as boys.
- Some girl group activities, particularly at Monkmoor, which would involve the cost of staffing, room hire and materials.
- A camping trip to Wild Lodge, Knighton. Accommodation in bell tents had already been promised free of charge but a port-a-loo would have to be budgeted for. The Youth & Community Development Officer said that this would be a good opportunity to target specific young people who would benefit from such an experience. Proposed dates are 5-7 August.
- Grange Primary School Holiday Club – activities will be run for 3 days during the start of the summer holidays.
- X-Games Competition – it is possible that Ramped might be involved with this activity.

The Town Clerk reported that Shropshire Council had confirmed funding support to the value of £30,570 and proposed that the money be used create long-term innovative activities to both increase young people resilience but also a focus for youth engagement through the Big Town Plan. Councillor Mosley proposed that a Youth Forum be set up for this purpose. He also would prefer to see more ongoing activities as opposed to costly one-off activities in order to benefit a higher number of young people.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Youth & Community Development Officer provide the committee with more detailed information about proposed summer activities including potential impact on young people and a breakdown of costs involved, in order that the Committee can make an informed decision.**
- (ii) That the Youth & Community Development Officer and the Responsible Finance Officer to work on a programme of activities up to a budget of £5K and email to the Committee.**

The Town Clerk left the meeting.

33/18 AUTUMN TERM

The Youth & Community Development Officer said that next Autumn Term would be the same as previous and to note that Flaxivity has 1 more year to run. The youth group side of Flaxivity is not working; most young people that attend are riding only.

34/18 COUNTY LINES

The training session with Craig Pinkney was held. It was noted that building resilience in young people is the way forward in preventing exploitation. The following two solutions were recommended by professionals in the field:

- (i) A performance arts piece for schools (with accompanying follow-up session). One such company, called Loudmouth, would charge £525 + VAT for a performance for 300 people.
- (ii) An alternative provision to which schools could refer specific young people could be provided.

The committee noted that activities need to be rolled out for September.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Youth & Community Development Officer to provide information on potential activities for the next meeting including costs, objectives, potential targets for participation and expected (measurable) outcomes.**
- (ii) That Councillor Vasmer contact Shropshire Council's new Director of Public Health to find out what is proposed for county-wide activity activities.**
- (iii) That records of evidence of the effectiveness of any activities be kept in order to apply for further funding as well as to inform any lobbying for change to Shropshire Council policy. (The impact of activities could be measured by comparing exclusion rates before and after.)**

35/18 ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITY

The Committee recognised that this issue needs a new approach. It was suggested that each youth club form a group who then nominates one person to attend a Forum. Councillors would be part of this forum and Councillor Mosley expressed his wish to attend.

Councillor Mrs Moseley left the meeting.

36/18 BUDGET

The Responsible Finance Officer circulated the Youth & Community Services Budget for 2019/20 and actual year ended 2018/19 to all present. It included all the financial activity under that cost centre including the Ditherington and Castlefields community centres. Councillor Mosley said the addition of these two community centres distorted the budget

figures and that they should be omitted. Some debate followed as to which committee should receive this part of the budget instead.

RESOLVED

That the figures from the community centres be removed from the Youth & Community Services Budget and be submitted to the Finance & General Purposes Committee instead.