

1) **Apologies for Absence** : George McCreedy, Ashley Brown, Jennifer McGee, Lisa Robinson

Attendances and welcomes : Gerry Price, Joshua Lowes, Joe Marshall, Lauren Young, Bethannie Westgarth, Adam Crolla, Stephen Burrows, Pam Kidd, Catherine Hubbard Coats, Caroline Gibb, Claire Phillips, Tasbiha Mukhtar, Carol Quinn (at 4.20)

Welcome to new members.

2) **Minutes from Last Meeting and matters arising.** The format at this meeting was slightly different, with most items being discussed as matters arising, hence the different format of the minutes.

3) **New Members:**

- PTCYPF Fliers, still ongoing.
- Logo Competition: 1 entry so far (Claire handed in several at the end of the meeting) The meeting agreed to extend the closing date until after Easter.

4) **Youth Unemployment** : The Forum wished Imelda Good Luck and all echoed the sentiment that we are sorry to lose her after all of the hard work and time she has given to Young People of Prudhoe

5) **Issues from Young People:** Smoking behind the "Top Shop"

- PCB asked about time and JL said it was mostly before school. Also a new group of PCHS students hanging around the bench
- CQ reported back on issues facing Young People including some exploitation with apprenticeships

6) **Young People's Wish List**

- The Forum asked Young People for ideas on any small projects we could fund

7) **Highfield Park**

- GP reported that PTC have submitted a request for updated equipment and are hopeful it will be approved. GP also asked for ideas for equipment from Young People. CQ mentioned that some young people had requested a Climbing Wall. PCB asked if schools would be approached for ideas. GP is optimistic about grant funding and contacts will be made with those interested as soon as possible.
- The Forum also asked Young People to think about activities Young People would like to see at Highfield Fest this year. Suggestions include Graffiti Art, Climbing Wall and archery. We also need to ask others about rugby, skaters, bmx etc.

8) **Petition to the Duke of Northumberland**

- We think the petition is almost as complete as we can, although it has not yet been taken up at PCHS. It will be taken up to Alnwick Estates ASAP.

9) **Highfield Middle School Parking Issues:**

- There has been no progress. With a new build possible at Highfield Middle there will be a need for increased parking. There are currently 32 spaces with 37 car using staff. GP will see if he can raise the matter again with Highways. PK reiterated that her major concern is for children's health and safety. It remains a problem without a solution at the moment. There have been near misses with the potential danger to children and adults. PC Burrows offered Road Safety. LY said it is mostly year 8's who are walking on the road. CG would welcome as well as CP. To arrange suitable times for PCB to visit both Highfield and St Matthews. Probably Friday 15th May for both schools.

- PCB alerted the forum to **SafetyWorks** in Newcastle. It is in a large factory, with Metro and Railway Line installed with rooms in house for dangers within the home, a park for ASB, police custody suite. Facilities could be useful for pupils to look at. Highfield use for Year 6 as part of PSE and it is definitely worth a look. PK may be able to include St Matthews's students.

10) **Boxing Club**

- Going well with a steady membership and perhaps the possibility of another night to cope with the numbers.
- A group from KEVI have requested to visit to look at our facilities.

11) **East Centre and Youth Service Update:**

- Evening sessions are busy with detached workers encouraging membership out on the street. Also encouraging young people to become members of our Forum
- There are several Young People who attend the centre also interested
- Staff are working on Key Funds with Young People, Personal Safety, Cyber Safety, relationships, CV's, Job and Apprenticeship applications and other issues of importance to Young People.
- LMAPS have given WNYS £6000 which has been agreed to spend on a resi at Whithaugh Park in the summer. It will cover safety, including cyber safety, relationships as well as team work and activities.
- New computers are to be installed at The East for Young People to access. Each young person will have individual log ins. This makes for greater safeguarding and monitoring. Young People will be able to access social media again and we hope to take advantage of this to create a higher profile led by Young People.
- On Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June, Northumberland Youth Service will host the Kielder Challenge 2015. Young People from across Northumberland will take part in a number of exciting challenges including an epic cycle around Kielder Water, with participating teams having the opportunity to win prizes for the Youth Project of their choice.

12) **£100 Challenge**

- Highfield Middle School has 2 challenges ongoing, with "Slurp" selling hot drinks and "Supersuds" washing cars for teachers, including business and loyalty cards.
- A smaller group of girls is making cakes. With the profits they are making activity boxes with a girl who has lost her sight. They have approached the RVI so visiting siblings can use the boxes too.
- Eats @ The East is running the challenge, selling food at reasonable prices.
- Junior Tuck Shop is also running the challenge.
- We are also trying a Loom Band Knitting Challenge, making hats for babies
- Still waiting to hear back from Ferndene
- The most successful challenge so far has been Prudhoe Youth Club Football. They used the £100 to buy signed football strips and footballs to auction at a celebration evening and raised £1500

13) Any other business

- Princes Trust reported on their recent course running from the East Centre. Team 3 is coming to an end with Team 4 starting on 27th April.
- BW and AC explained criteria to join the course, NEETS 16 – 25. The work carried out by the teams are community based.
- GP commented on how well received the refurbished badger has been, from members of the public and PTC alike. He asked if it had been weatherproofed. AC explained that some of the stones have not “taken” the paint and cold weather, frost and dew hasn’t helped. Princes Trust will consider refurbishment in the future. PK said it was fantastic the Badger has been refurbished, having tried to involve Highfield Students before, but Health and Safety was a huge issue. AC and BW have involved sensible older Young People with ropes and harnesses. Stones were cleaned then painted. All comments from the meeting were positive and AC said it should require a lot less maintenance in the future. There has been some excellent publicity in the Courant and The Chronicle next week. BW said the team worked so well on the Badger and are very proud of their accomplishment, teaching them new values and a sense of pride and ownership in the local community. GP hopes the Princes Trust will maintain contact with PTC and again thanked the staff for their involvement.
- GP reported that at the last PTC meeting Ash presented the way funding is used for the Youth Service in Prudhoe. The presentation was supported by the whole of the Town Council and has changed the general views of some members.
- GMC has been trying to contact EW re street lighting. It has been passed on to TR.
- Cycling Tour of Britain has its 2nd day starting in Prudhoe in September. AB has said there are opportunities for stewarding courses for up to 15 young people.
- CQ asked the meeting if anyone had seen our 22 folding chairs which have mysteriously vanished from the centre.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday May 20th 4.00pm