



PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL
YOUNG PEOPLE'S FORUM

Prudhoe Town Council Young People's Forum Meeting: Wednesday 21st March 2018 @ 4.00pm

Venue: East Centre

Time	Agenda	Actions
4.00 – 4.05	1)Attendances and welcomes Apologies for absence	Eddy Wilkinson, Gordon Stewart, Angie Scott, Jennifer McGee, Clair George, Carol Quinn, Catherine Hubbard Coats, Pete Jorysz, Stuart Rutherford, Zoe Dixon, Gerry Price, Chris Cuthbert, Margaret Boonstra George McCreedy, Ashley Brown, Tim Knight, Ian Warburton, Sharon Walton, Peter Cheshire, Ken Stow, Luke Shears
4.05 – 4.10	Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted and agreed as a true record
4.10 – 4.35	3)New Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are still needed. AS asked about publicity for the Forum which CQ said is currently leaflets and posters. MB suggested that Young People could raise issues and concerns through us that we can report back. CHC reported that GS had met with Young People at East Junior Club re skatepark at Eastwoods Park, they made very positive contributions SR keen to hold meeting at Highfield Middle joined by members of an active School Council.Recently due to ASB in Prudhoe, proactive responses including Assemblies with PC Sharon Walton GP wants to increase the profile of the Youth Service, and create interest with Youth Groups to become further involved. Dividing the meeting for different age categories remains a good idea. GP continues to be supportive of the day to day activities run out of the East Centre. Also queried the possibility of opening on Fridays and Saturdays, cost factors etc. CHC said that experience has shown that if we open on a Friday evening, Young People may be "under the influence" and we cannot work with them in the building, Very specific activities could be held on other days.GP asked if Outreach would be more appropriate for Friday and Saturday evenings. CHC maintains that flexibility would be preferable as sometimes we only see 3 Young

		<p>People over the whole session. CHC and CQ plan to do one Friday night a month in the east, perhaps hosting a film night.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AS said it is hard to target those Young People causing problems. CHC says those Young People know where we are and have our contact numbers. ● AS talked about fun activities in Prudhoe (CQ said we do have fun too) AS said it was not advertised. CG explained we do not have a Facebook Account, with FB being blocked on our work computers. We are not allowed to have work content on our personal computers. JMc suggested putting info on PTC web page. AS mentioned posters and leaflets again and said the East is not for every child. CG explained that we have a very much Young Person led agenda, planning ahead with Young People in mind. PJ asked if we also relied on Word of Mouth, we also work in partnership with other organisations. AS said parents packs were given out in the past and wants her children to come to a pro-active service. CC said we also need to get the message out to parents. ● SR said Highfield Middle could add posters/timetables to Parent Mail. He also said he didn't know this forum existed although C Gibbs has attended regularly in the past CQ said. ● JMc said a lot of the Town Councillors were baffled that the Youth Service has not applied for grant funding this year. CHC explained that a Youth Service review is under way, JMc said the money is sitting there for Detached work etc. GP requested proposals on costings then meeting to discuss how the Town Council can continue to support Youth Service, with activities being sustained. CHC explained that funding received from NCC prioritises where we can use it. ● PJ noted an irregular and inconsistent attendance at forum meetings and suggested contacting various members again to encourage consistency. CQ has updated and extended the mailing list. ● It was agreed to add Communications, Profile & Publicity to the next agenda
4.35-4.45	4) Youth Unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CQ has received info from Know Northumberland from GS. Thanks for that ● Apprenticeships are going online for both NCC (200 county wide) and Gateshead. ● CS asked if Apprenticeships were advertised on PTC web page. AS has attended local conference re putting them on Reed Recruitment. ● JMc queried wages paid, which are currently £3.70ph. Discussion followed on the exploitation of Young People when they have worries about their future. In the past apprenticeships guaranteed jobs and enough to live on. GS said the vast majority of people do gain employment and they are very popular. ZD started off with an apprenticeship, Young People need something to work towards. JMc agreed Young

		<p>People need confidence and hope for the future. MB mentioned Christians Against Poverty Employability clubs. CC said at an Apprenticeships meeting it had been said it was hard to recruit from Prudhoe. With Community Action Northumberland, GS is working towards 100% employment promoting local businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JMc said we hear all the time about skill shortages and apprenticeships should help. CG said all apprenticeships require GCSE Maths & English now which Young People sometimes have to retake, whereas before such academic levels were not required. ● GP suggested we invite a Senior Officer from NCC to speak at one of our meetings ● CC said that academia is pushed in High Schools, with a stigma still being attached to those not attending Universities. ● ZD noted that QEHS have regular Sixth Form bulletins advertising apprenticeships. ● CHC said many Young People are not confident and are being pushed into academia, being very stressed by exam pressure in both Middle and High School
4.45-4.55.	5)Issues from Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CHC reported more partnership working with CSE and SORTED ● EW said there is still a lack of street lighting on Moor Road, with Young People from Ferndene and the new Cottier Grange and Humbles Wood estate being nervous and intimidated walk up and down on dark nights. This has been going on for around 7 years. GS said this will be happening when the road is relaid. EW was pleased with this news and still hopes for a bus service. AS asked if it would make a difference when a right of way is opened. EW said no as it is through the woods. GS to meet with Ian Twizell (Ferndene) to further discuss.
4.55-5.15	6) Parks and Hotspots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GS provided a synopsis of a special MAM meeting held Thursday 15th March. ● "A meeting was held last week at Highfield Middle School (Thursday 15th March 2018) to develop links between partners and encourage discussion. The meeting was convened hoping to agree a holistic approach concerning issues relating to young people in the town. Those attending represented Business, Schools, Northumbria Police, Town Council, County Councillors & The NCC Youth Service as well as Parents, Carers and Governors. <p>Discussion included recent incidents of disorder & damage as well as the provision of support for the young people and their families.</p> <p>The attendees brought with them a wealth of experience and suggestions which will be considered (and hopefully actioned) for the benefit of the whole community. We envisage that this will be the first of many meetings focusing on the key objective :all parties joining forces to ensure the very best quality of provision for all."</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Police reassured the meeting that ASB in Prudhoe is much lower than Ponteland and Hexham and CCTV coverage has improved. Crime is low and the way it is recorded is not as accurate as we would like and often minor. The meeting was reminded it is not just Young People who are drinking and taking drugs. ● ZD said current hotspots could be related to WIFI availability (eg. Waterworld and Library), especially if Young People are low on data. It would be ideal to have WIFI hotspot they could access, however there is no WIFI in The East Centre as conversations would cease. It would prove difficult to limit Young People's access to phones. ● GP said community members are not reporting incidents to the Police, rather they post them on Facebook, which Police are unable to monitor. ● CQ agreed it had been an excellent meeting and JMc said Neighbourhood Management Meetings were also useful.
5.15-5.30	7) East Centre & Youth Service incl Detached	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CHC reported that NCS is happening again this Summer and anyone interested should contact us. It involves 1 week away from the County with Outdoor Activities, 1 week in a Northumberland Residential and Two weeks Social Action in the Community ● The Youth Service in Prudhoe will be working in partnership with PCHS, and NDAS and involvement with EHA referrals and 1-1 work. AS queried this. CHC explained it is not necessarily the start of a care plan and is at lower level referral before Social Services become involved. It can involve health issues, eating disorders, violence, mental health team, school health services, Talking Matters, Youth Services and schools. ● GS will donate £100 to The East Centre for a Prudhoe Treasure Trail project to be developed with Young People. Thanks to GS. ● Geo Caching is also a possibility ● Graffiti Art is booked for the Summer, possibly for West Wylam Shops. (Boards already decorated and are here in storage) ● PTC is putting out a survey to the local community to build up a picture of local needs ● JMc said a survey will be conducted amongst local people to see what local people would like to see at The East, it is different to the survey above. GP said it may become more of a community centre whilst at the same time not interrupting the work of the Youth Service and building up a partnership profile. PTC are hoping to relocate to Open Door building with CAB

	8) Any Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JMc passed on thanks to Highfield Middle School and the wonderful work carried out there ● CQ asked if anyone knew of any boxing coaches available as our Coach is sadly leaving us. It would be a shame if the facility was to be discontinued. GS suggested contacting John Niblo
	9)Date and time of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wednesday 21st March 2017 @ Highfield Middle School Pod
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●

