



PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL
YOUNG PEOPLE'S FORUM

Prudhoe Town Council Young People's Forum Meeting: Wednesday 18th April 2018 @ 4.00pm

Venue: Highfield Middle School

Time	Agenda	Actions
4.00 – 4.05	1) Attendances Apologies for absence Welcomes	<p>Sharon Walton, Darren English, Gordon Stewart, Carol Quinn, Ashley Brown, Caroline Gibbs, Margaret Boonstra, Tim Knight, Pete Jorysz, Stuart Rutherford, Eddy Wilkinson, Gerry Price, Callum Wilkin, Chris Cuthbert, Angie Scott, Erin Turner, Millie Barker, Megan Short, Thomas Pratt, Liam Dobbin, Charlotte Watson, Ellie Lancaster</p> <p>GMC, JMc, PH</p> <p>Welcomes and intros, especial welcome to Young People present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GP introduced Young People to the purpose of the meeting. They were from Years 6 & 7, some members of Highfield school council. GP asked if they were familiar with The East Centre. Some were and some not. GP explained that the East had various clubs and activities for different age groups, where they are able to talk to experienced Youth Workers about anything and to receive support. CHC further explained there are different sessions for different groups and open in the school holidays as much as possible. Friday evenings Youth Workers are out and about in Prudhoe, meeting up with Young People for support. Trips out are organised as well as residentials (lads early in the year and girls in October) social mixing with groups from around Northumberland. We operate a Daytime drop in offering support on a variety of issues and needs, health and wellbeing and support sessions at PCHS on a weekly basis. GS asked about subs. These are only collected on a Thursday at Junior Club to cover costs of food etc.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other funding available from other sources to purchase eg Bird Boxes for The Manors. GS asked if Young People liked attending the East centre. A resounding YES. MB said she enjoys being involved in cooking and the weekly girls session, but doesn't think it looks at it's best. Would like to see it decorated and refurbished. The office is full of paper and the outside needs some attention too. MB wants curtains. The toilets need fixing as they got locked in a couple of weeks ago. CHC suggested they become the East decorating crew. • CQ reported that Prince's Trust are coming back and could possibly include repainting the centre as part of their community work. Graffiti art is planned in the centre in the Summer involving Young People, to take more ownership and help design more Young Person friendly environment. AS asked if Young People wanted the centre to be open on nights they are wandering around. Yes because they don't go to other places. CG asked where LD and TP go. They go to Scouts and Highfield Park. They like the swings and the ramps the best and LD said he preferred the old park. • GP asked Young People if they would like more of their friends to go, they said no as it would get too crowded. PJ asked how they had found out about The East. Most from their family. SW asked how it was advertised. AB replied NCC have Facebook Page, Website and Instagram for Youth Service and all Youth Projects/Clubs in the county. TP thought the activities could be advertised a bit better in shops and GS mentioned the Electronic Board in the Spetchells and Hexham Courant. CG asked Young People who don't go to the East if they would like to try it? Unsure. CHC asked if Young people would be interested if we came out to parks and did some outdoor work. Yes. CW said we need more colourful logos and outside signs need updating to encourage more people to attend. At 4.30 Young People left. • At this point GP asked if the forum had found that worthwhile. All agreed there were valuable comments, with AB adding that matters could be carried forward, with additional funding being required for cosmetics. GP asked AB to let PTC know of reasonable costings.
4.05 – 4.10	2) Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to the agenda

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted and agreed as a true record apart from: • AS said she had not mentioned Reed Recruitment. It was NCC. To be amended • CG and CQ are working on new leaflets and posters. • GP asked if Young People were mostly "under the influence" on Fridays. SW and CQ agreed, with age groups from 14 upwards now drinking higher alcoholic content. (CQ mentioned latest intel "The information is from North Tyneside but may be relevant to our area. A number of bottles of vanilla bean extract have been found among other discarded alcohol bottles and cans where children are known to congregate and drink. A 100ml bottle contains 35% alcohol. I am advised they are exempt from licensing and psychoactive substances legislation, so there are no controls on who can buy them. Apart from the alcohol it may be dangerous to directly drink it. I am also advised no press releases are going to be issued as this may spread the trend.) • CHC said Youth Work is not just about getting Young People "off the streets". Dynamics of Detached work are different and we need a set of objectives and constructive projects for Friday Evenings. Working with those who have been drinking brings up a whole set of safety issues. CHC wondered if Waterworld could provide structured activities, although a lot could not afford, and wondered if there was any funding available through Active Northumberland for discount. • MB confirmed to SW that The Gate Youth Club runs every second Friday from 7.00. It hosts between 5 & 15 with a core group of 7. Using guidelines from The East Centre, security has been increased to ensure no alcohol is brought into the premises. Activities in a faith based group include Food and refreshments, discussion, aspirations. It is a mixed group with more girls than boys. • GP reported to EW that contractors have been appointed for new lighting scheme towards Ferrdene and the new estate, which will mean an increase in traffic during the summer. • SW said that WiFi is now switched off in the evening at the Spetchells to discourage YP hanging around there to use the signal. CHC said that WiFi will not be installed at The East. • CHC said the NCS Summer Programme is now full
--	--	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP asked if there had been any responses to requests for a boxing coach. Not as yet, CHC to approach John Niblo
4.10 – 4.35	3 & 4) NewMembers/Communications, Profile & Publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SE was to add to People of Prudhoe. CHC said there is scope for Highfield Middle to gather info. GS has a list of all Youth Groups in the area. Highfield share info on Social Media and Parent Mail.m • CG said we do hand out lots of leaflets aimed at relevant age groups • GP said we could include information in PTC regular quarterly report, with the next being distributed in June. We could achieve a wider distribution with this. • GS said that Tyne Valley Express (contact Mike Doherty) covers free community events from Crawcrook to Hexham. CHC said this may be useful for Happy Faces too, who now have another Youth Worker from NEYouth. Their top capacity is 30+ with DBS'd volunteers. On Monday night they meet at St. Matthews, but are looking for another venue. They have football at Fermene on Tuesday evenings with an age range of 7-15, with Newcastle United Foundation and Prudhoe Youth Football. CG asked if any Highfield Middle students attend Happy Faces. AS said no, but it not only for Special needs, also for those not happy or intimidated. Happy Faces really exploring Sports. • CHC reported that anyone attending Priory School can access Gateway Club straight from school, accompanied by Youth Workers and collected by families. It is run alongside Senior Club so there is a crossover/transition to independent living skills. • PJ queried that given our restrictions on Social Media, is there a time/capacity to visit schools ? The Motor Project have visited HM and we are always welcome there, but sometimes difficult to fit into other schools schedules. AB said we are promoting Summer at the moment which we can again promote through Parent Mail. GP queried the Summer Programme and put that out with the newsletter which may attract new users and avoid comparisons with last year.
4.35-4.45	5)Issues from Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP said said this is rather a broad statement and should be modified to "Ideas/issues identified by Young People". CG suggested we do more work on this with Young People so they will be more aware of what they are able to say, with

		<p>School Councils bringing forward issues and the whole school picture. CG said Years 6 & 7 are really keen to be involved. AB reminded us that the running order of the agenda should ensure Young People are first, a possible way forward to keep enthusiasm going. CG said in the past, Young people have attended the forum regularly, then drop off after starting PCHS. AB suggested a more Young Person friendly Participation activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SR said work has started in pastoral sessions on what Young People like/don't like in Prudhoe. CC asked if we could be invited to School Council Meetings and GP asked if someone was available to attend from Ferrdene. This would be variable depending on individuals and abilities.
4.45-4.55.	6) Youth Unemployment	<p>GS reported on latest figures released yesterday. Unemployment rate at its lowest since 1975. GP said it would be valuable for figures to be age specific</p>
4.55-5.15	6) Parks and Hotspots & Recent Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SR reported on an issue involving pupils jumping into the river from Ovingham side. SW suggested marine unit may advise GS reported on drinking issues by The Manors, liaising with CQ and Manors on this problem. GS has spoken to the licensee at NISA where we believe the alcohol is being purchased. There are no signs of conventional drugs. NISA maintains alcohol is not being sold to underage Young People, GS will be visiting again. There is graffiti on the pipe and a lot of rubbish. YP 13+ are drinking and playing loud music there. SW reported that one of the ring leaders has just been to court for related offences.
5.15-5.30	7) East Centre & Youth Service Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young People are moving farther out of the centre of town as nights grow lighter. GP asked we cost out Friday and Saturday evening work with additional services. Funding is available to put that in place. SW said there are vulnerable kids out there who do engage with both Police and Youth Service. AB agreed there should be a primary concern for their safety. The quality of Youth Work and structure is important. CQ reported on recent EHA (Early Help Assessment) Training. Staff are able to give Young People an holistic care package. AS queried referral procedure. Anyone can refer, sometimes through regional hub, referrals may also be made to Youth Service

