

THAME YOUTH PROJECT GROUP REPORT (TYPG)

Why TYPG

The youth of Thame represent the future of the town, creating a link across the generations. Thame has a well developed sports infrastructure, with the support of the council there has been improvements in the Football, Rugby, Cricket facilities, whilst the Skate Park has proved to be an invaluable investment.

Currently there remains a significant percentage of the youth that do not fall under the sporting or uniformed group umbrella and also may require support and positive influences to reduce anti-social behaviour. This gap has recently been recognised by Thames Valley Police in its 2018 report to the Council

Thame Youth Project Group is a voluntary team dedicated to providing an environment where the young people of Thame can engage and speak freely and obtain advice from positive role models. Young people can attend at no cost, providing the service to all sectors of the society across Thame. The group currently work with the local schools and utilise social media to promote themselves with the youth of Thame. The team has a strong belief there needs to be engagement with the youth on their terms, within their environment to gain their trust and respect to enable them to provide support as and when it is required.

How Does TYPG work?

Currently TYPG provide two youth café's in loaned church premises, these are split by school years 7-9 and 10 -11, staffed by volunteers and with the partial support from the Barley Hill Church youth worker. Attendance across both approximates to 70 young people per week. This represents a small percentage of the potential youth that the group could serve

These café's provide recreational facilities, refreshments and the opportunity for relationships and trust to be built enabling volunteers to support when young people may be influenced by peer pressure, to become involved in anti-social behaviour, drugs or petty crime.

The key focus areas are:-

- To continue the youth café's and expand the attendance.
- To establish an outreach programme to engage the youth and gain their trust to become a part of the project.
- Reduce the instances of anti-social behaviour.
- Provide positive support to youth where their home life may be problematic.
- With the support of TTC, develop a short and long term strategy for the provision of youth services and funding for Thame.
- Employ a full time Youth Worker to expedite the key focus areas.
- Working with TTC obtain permanent premises for the youth and the project.

What can TTC & TYPG achieve together?

- TTC have agreed to carry forward FY18 funding, (£15K) in FY19 budget an additional £15K has been allocated. To enable recruitment of a Youth Worker confirmation of the equivocal amount of £15K in FY20 is required.

- To set up a joint project team with TYPG to identify suitable permanent premises and secure funding from the s106 funds available for Community Facilities.
- For TTC and TYPG to develop a youth strategy as part of the new Thame neighbourhood Plan for a five year period from 2020

Conclusion

Today a large part of Thame youth are under served, leaving potentially vulnerable young people open to negative influences. As an upper middle class town we often focus on the “nice” aspects of our society. It is clear that behind many doors life for our young people is not so good and as a community we should be reaching out to help. By TTC and TYPG coming together we can make a difference in a positive way to the young people of Thame