

# Wotton Youth Partnership

Registered Charity Number 289185

## Minutes 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Present: Mel Walker (Synwell Playing Fields), Francesca Evans and Victoria Robson (the Door), Andrew Beamish (Neighbourhood Warden, SDC), Bob Hughes ((Lions), Ken Tucker (District Councillor), Karen Dover (Dramatic Society and Wotton Baptist Church), Catherine Braun (District Councillor), Richard Hale (Town Council), Paul Barton (Town Council), June Cordwell (Chairperson), Henrietta Goodall (Secretary). Gemma Grieve and Steve Miles (Youth Officers, SDC) arrived late.

1. Apologies: Chris Young, George Butcher (District Councillor), Sarah Watt, Terry Luker (Town Councillor)
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2018. Minutes approved. Check Ken Tucker's email address
3. **Actions from last meeting:**
  1. OK Footpath to KLB: the Chair has written to the farm manager asking him to cut the hedge back.
  2. Lighting to path to KLB: Catherine Braun. It is going to be very expensive, and GCC has a limit on what it can offer - £5,000. Solar lighting may be less expensive - £25,000. Ideas needed for raising money/ management.
  3. Bearlands play area
    1. Catherine Braun - no date yet for opening until it is signed off as safe. Work should be finished early October.
    2. Ken Tucker - There are a lot of children using the play ground but they are noisy. Some local residents are struggling with the noise and there are some reservations despite the good work. Andrew Beamish, with the police, has been up to the play area, talking with the children. Seating is not in the same place as the equipment and will have to be moved. Fencing will go up to deaden noise. Ken Tucker offered to send in ROSPA inspectors to inspect the play area. Flower beds - get children involved so they respect the area. One or two families could be spoken to. Victoria Robson has plans for outreach work with The Door.
  4. Defibrillators Communicate: Bob Hughes reported there are 11 in total around Wotton with 7 from the Lions. They are well-signposted and clearly communicated. WYP congratulated Lions on the success of the project. They are registered with the ambulance service and insured so can they be replaced. Bob to give Andrew Beamish a list so he can pass it on to the Wardens' team. A defibrillators' course will be held at KLB sports centre at 10am on Sat 29th Sept.
  5. Publicity: we need to publicise what we do more. Ideas: send a report to the Wotton Times, Facebook page? Website? Richard Hale to look at putting up a Facebook site.
4. **Treasurer's report:** We don't need a big audit as our income is less than £25,000. Restricted funds £6,726.66, unrestricted £3,430.92, at bank £10,157.58; the last cheque signed was for the Mental Health Project. Victoria asked what is left for the Mental Health Project as she would like to know if they can carry on offering the service. The answer is £2,650.
5. **Activity in the Town:** Andrew Beamish: gave an update on current status. There are now 5 neighbourhood wardens in new, larger areas in the Stroud District. They are not

working so late now - 11am till 7pm. They are looking at anti social behaviour, flyposting/ tipping/ litter etc., in Wotton. They are also involved with Youth work - doing some transportation for the SDC Youth Council. Andrew is going to be involved with the Wotton Youth Centre. Ken is happy to take Andrew around the town. Andrew will continue 'surgeries' every two weeks in the One Stop Shop; times are in the window. Andrew has not seen many sign of problems in the Pitman Place play area, which belongs to the District Council. There is no bin available. The gate annoys neighbours when it swings, and there is a wooden gate which needs attention. Ideas needed of what to do with this area.

8.30pm: Gemma Grieve, Youth Forum, and Steve Miles, senior youth officer for Stroud District Council arrived. They had been to a conference in London about the present impact of Youth work.

6. **Correspondence:** the Town Council has a new Youth Contract with The Door, who have taken over youth provision in Wotton. Simon Gillings has sent a final report on the Mental Health Project to the WYP.
7. **Funding bids:**
  1. **Heritage project update:** from Paul Barton. KLB will be resuming interviews after the holidays with new Upper 6th formers.
  2. **Mental Health Project:** the target is to have Wotton as one of the first Mental Health Friendly Towns. Victoria wants to continue what had been achieved.
  3. **BMX track opening:** the opening took place and the area is well used by all ages.
  4. **Sensory Garden:** there is now a design: funding needed is £20,000 - already £3,000 has been raised. The aim is to start setting it up in May 2019.
8. **Youth Forum:** Gemma Grieve. Gemma has been on Friday nights to The Door sessions, and has had a week at KLB, building some new relationships. Now, after the summer holidays, she will be developing these further.
9. **Youth Centre report:** Francesca (Deputy Youth Leader) is going to do the Friday sessions at KLB. The Door has done 3 sessions for Wotton Youth Centre and no one has turned up so they will be going out on the streets to find out what the young people want to do. The plan is to work on building a relationship with the younger ones and find out what they are interested in; with this in mind, a special night for the younger ones is being planned.
10. **Reports from other youth providers:**
  1. **Conygres** - the Scouts are using Conygres as their headquarters. There are new pedestrian gates, new access to toilets and improved access for disabled people, new lighting and some other improvements. The building and car park improvements are yet to start.
  2. **Synwell playing grounds:** Mel Walker. No report as yet - Mel has come to see what WYP does. The group needs to make more of the huge space that they have. Congratulations to Mel and her group as Synwell seems to have woken up and is more active .
  3. **Karen Dover: the Dramatic Society** is involving young people in Y7 and upwards in youth drama on Wednesday nights and they are now practising for the Pantomine. About 15 young people are involved.
  4. **TSB** are putting up funds for sports activities in Wotton - Sharron would be able to apply.

**AOB:**

1. Paul Barton. The Blue Coat School has just been awarded best outdoor play area in the UK.
2. Victoria Robson: On 27th November at 7.30 Stonehouse Court Hotel there will be a young people's awards evening.
3. Catherine Braun: there is a fair trade fortnight from 25th February to 10th March. What might young people want to contribute? Any ideas how we can get young people involved?

Next meeting is AGM Tuesday 20th November at 7.30pm