

Annual Report for the Wotton Youth Liaison Group September 2012 to September 2013

The opening of the new Youth Centre means that the last year has been an exciting time for the Wotton Youth Liaison Group [WYLG]. Some of the highlights of 2011/12, together with our plans for the future are set out below.

The New Youth Centre

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Youth centre launch a big hit

YOUNG people in Wotton-under-Edge celebrated the launch of their new youth centre.

The much-anticipated facility opened on Saturday, when Cllr June Cordwell, Stroud district councillor for Wotton, cut the ribbon to officially open the premises, which is in the town's former police station in the Chipping.

More than 40 people, including members of the Youth Forum, attended and toured the refurbished building.

The Youth Forum has been instrumental in the planning stages of both the refurbishment and the centre's youth services.

The Wotton Youth Liaison Group (YLG) is currently finalising plans for these services, but plans initially to offer three core services; one weekly open session in the centre, one weekly outreach session promoting the new service and one fortnightly Youth Forum meeting.

As well as opening the centre on more days, the YLG hopes to add additional services including after-school study sessions, outdoor and team activities and training courses to improve employability, such as first aid and health and safety.

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Young people in Wotton highlighted these as the kinds of services they would like in research carried out by the Youth Forum at the start of the year.

Stroud District Council will be providing five hours of support a week to the centre and the youth centre currently has £13,500 in the bank from fundraising, but will need to continue to gain funding to maintain a fulfilling programme of youth activities.

Mark Lovell, chairman of the Wotton Youth Liaison Group (YLG), said the opening had been a resounding success.

"The feedback about the new youth centre was overwhelmingly positive and people were particularly impressed by the quality," he said.

"I was especially pleased to see how many young people came to check out the new centre."

The YLG said it would like to thank Cllr June Cordwell, Sue Hunt, George Carter, the Wotton town crier, everyone who helped with the launch and all the centre's supporters.



WOTTON Youth Forum members Chloe Boulton and Ryan Pilkington at the opening of the new centre on Saturday GSR1414H12



CLLR June Cordwell cut the ribbon to officially open the centre

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THE new youth centre after its opening GSR1413H12

The new Youth Centre opened on 17th November 2012. The event was introduced by Town Crier George Carter and the ribbon cut and the Centre declared open by June Cordwell. For June, the opening of the centre was the culmination of many months of hard work to both raise the funds for the conversion of the Police Station into the Youth Centre and to drive forward the conversion itself.

The primary funding source for the conversion came through grant monies from Gloucestershire County Council. WYLG contributed £6,000 to the conversion and also bought the computers and Television for the Centre.

Service delivery in 2012/2013

Youth Service Delivery from the new Centre started in November 2012 with a weekly after-school study session and an evening open Youth Club session. This service is funded by Wotton Town Council and delivered by Young Gloucestershire.

The service delivered by Young Gloucestershire has proved very successful with over 100 Young People registered with the Centre and over 30 attending the centre each week.

In addition, the Youth Forum has continued with meetings once a fortnight at which Young People meet to discuss issues of relevance to them. The Youth Forum is part of a district wide network feeding into the Stroud District Youth Council which inputs into Stroud District Council. The Youth Forum is jointly funded by Stroud District Council and WYLG.

Linking with the Community Sports Foundation

Sarah Watt has joined the WYLG and has provided an excellent link into the Community Sports Foundation. She has engaged with the Young People to obtain their feedback with particular emphasis on the Skate Park which is scheduled to be built as the next stage of the Sports Foundation's work. The Young People have provided input into its design, its name and some fundraising. Monthly consultations will continue throughout the process to ensure the Young People retain a feeling of ownership over the project.

Service delivery in 2013/2014

The existing services through Young Gloucestershire will continue and from November 2013 there will be additional services funded by WYLG and delivered in partnership with Wotton Town Council. Working together, WYLG and Wotton Town Council have selected *Youth and Community Services* as the provider for the additional services. Wotton Town Council will be the contracting body with Youth Liaison providing the funding of £13,000.

The new services being provided are:

- An additional open session each week during school term time to provide a safe, relaxing, recreational space for Young People.
- An outreach session each week to engage with young people and get them involved with the centre and their community.
- Support for the Youth Forum Meeting
- Outdoor/Team activities to build confidence, emotional resilience and team-working skills.
- Short courses and training sessions to build confidence, widen horizons, increase skills and improve employability in the short and medium term.

The funding has been raised from a wide variety of sources and details are set out in the Financial Report. WYLG continues to be profoundly grateful for the generosity of the people and businesses of Wotton for the support they have given. Once again, Wotton demonstrates its strength as a community.

Fundraising

With the completion of the centre in November 2012, the primary funding objective for 2012/13 was to raise funds to continue support for the Youth Forum and maximise the monies available for additional service delivery. Putting together a 'cocktail' of funding it can prove frustrating for both donors and recipients because nothing can be delivered until all of the funds for a complete package have been secure. To put it bluntly – you can't have half a session. Nevertheless, we are delighted that, thanks to the generosity of a wide range of donors, we have been able to put the right package in place to launch the additional services in November 2013.

Whilst our new services are fully funded until November 2014, we need to secure delivery beyond November 2014. So fundraising activity will need to continue to ensure that our Young People are provided with the services they need.

The Future

The opening of the new youth centre and the success of the services being delivered mean that 2012/13 was a special year for WYLG. For 2013/14 we look forward to working with Wotton Town Council in delivering additional services to our Young People.

We also want to build on Sarah Watt's successful work in getting Young People's input into the Community Sports Foundation and Skate Park and will be looking for other opportunities to link up with the huge range of community organisations in Wotton and the surrounding district.

A note of thanks

The people and businesses of Wotton, Kingswood and the surrounding areas, have continued to provide generous support to the WYLG in a wide range of ways. WYLG are grateful for their on-going support.

I would like to thank Wotton Town Council for taking on the role of the commissioning body for the new services and for their on-going support for Youth Services in Wotton.

I would also like to thank the committee of the WYLG who have given freely of their time and effort to support the development of Youth Services in the Wotton area.

Mark Lovell
Chair, Wotton Youth Liaison Group

Financial Statement 2012/2013

| Balance Summary | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | 01-Sep-12 | Net Movements | 31-Aug-13 |
| General | £4,842.33 | £9,471.99 | £14,314.32 |
| Building | £6,251.00 | -£5,935.07 | £315.93 |
| Total at Bank | £11,093.33 | | £14,630.25 |
| Cash in hand | £89.00 | -£89.00 | £0.00 |
| Total | £11,182.33 | £3,447.92 | £14,630.25 |

| General Fund | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Item | Income | Expenses | Net |
| Grants and Donations | £12,871.58 | | |
| Subs to Recreational Trust | | £25.00 | |
| Youth Centre Launch expenses | | £112.72 | |
| Youth Forum | | £1,969.87 | |
| Transfer to Building Fund | | £1,292.00 | |
| Total | £12,871.58 | £3,399.59 | £9,471.99 |

| Building Fund | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Item | Income | Expenses | Net |
| Grants and Donations | £450.00 | | |
| Transfer from General Fund | £1,292.00 | | |
| 3* PCs | | £630.00 | |
| Snooker Table Trolley | | £233.79 | |
| TV for youth centre | | £577.98 | |
| Youth Centre Crockery | | £162.30 | |
| Youth Centre Stackaboxes | | £73.00 | |
| Share of build cost of Youth Centre | | £6,000.00 | |
| Total | £1,742.00 | £7,677.07 | -£5,935.07 |

| Cash in hand | | | |
|--------------|--------|----------|---------|
| Item | Income | Expenses | Net |
| Cinema Trip | | -£89.00 | |
| Total | £0.00 | -£89.00 | -£89.00 |

List of Donations 2012/13

| Fund | Donor | Amount |
|---------------|--|-------------------|
| General Fund | Second donation from Meet Me In Winter | £75.72 |
| | Big Lunch | £2,176.01 |
| | St Mary's Church Summer Fete | £835.25 |
| | Ladies circle | £700 |
| | Coffee Morning at Town Hall | £124.10 |
| | Oakleaze holdings | £500 |
| | Stroud District Council Youth Development Fund | £4,605 |
| | Gazette 4 Youth | £702.50 |
| | Baptist church - donation | £300 |
| | Donations at opening | £20.00 |
| | Donation for opening expenses | £25.00 |
| | Stroud District Council Youth Activity Fund | £1,000 |
| | Donation from Lodge of Sympathy | £1,208 |
| | Donation from Lodge of Sympathy | £100 |
| | Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund | £500 |
| Building Fund | The Ark Coffee Shop | £250 |
| | Gloucester Market Towns Forum | £200 |
| Total | | £13,321.58 |