

Annual Report for the Wotton Youth Liaison Group September 2011 to September 2012

The last year has been an eventful and successful time for the Wotton Youth Liaison Group [WYLG], with a number of exciting developments.

The New Youth Centre

The focus of our efforts for the last year has been the building of the new Youth Centre. This is now rapidly taking shape as the builders, Young and Son, change the internal design of the former Police Station on The Chipping to provide a modern and bright venue for youth work. The new youth centre will be open by the end of October.

The majority of the funding for the new youth centre was obtained as a result of the success of a joint application to Gloucestershire County Council's 'Big Community Offer' by WYLG and Wotton Town Council. WYLG and the Town Council have worked with the architects and the young people in bringing the plans to fruition. As the key users of the building, the Young people have been central to this process in setting out their requirements for the new centre and being actively engaged in making decisions as the build has progressed.



The police station before the conversion



Work starts



Work in progress



The re-furbished exterior

Service delivery in 2011/2012

The WYLG has ensured that, despite not having a permanent youth centre, we have continued to provide youth work in the Wotton area during 2011-2012.

Since September 2011 there have been weekly youth work sessions on Friday evenings in the space rented in the Wotton Baptist Church School Room.

The workers from the Friday evening sessions have delivered two hours of detached youth work in the Wotton area each week.

There are fortnightly meetings of the Wotton Youth Forum, involving some of the young people worked with in the other youth work sessions, at i-Vitae in Kingswood, with a small cost for the refreshments which are provided by the venue. The Youth Forum is an integral part of the network which links with Stroud District Young people's Council. The Stroud District Council Participation Officer for Young people and a support worker convene the meetings of the Youth Forum and attend the WYLG in an advisory capacity.

The costs of the staffing, the Baptist Church and the Youth Forum have been met by Wotton-Town-Council, Stroud District Council and the WYLG.

WYLG funding has been possible because of the hard work of our founding Chair, June Cordwell, in gaining grant funding and also because of the very generous support we have received from the local community.

In addition to these sessions, the Young people have also supported a number of activities in Wotton including the Curry Night Fund Raiser, the Christmas Fair and the Church Fete.



Selling home-made cakes at
The Christmas Fair



At the Summer Fete

Service delivery in 2012/2013

The Youth Forum carried out a consultation with young people in the area and at KLB School, to find out their views on the new youth centre and the opportunities and activities that could be offered.

The young people would like the Youth Centre to be:

- FUN
- A place for young people to meet up and not do damage to the community
- Open to lots of different ages
- A friendly community
- Offering activities and courses
- A break from stressful home / school life
- Homely
- A place where you can relax

They would also like the Youth Centre to offer a range of activities and courses

Activities	Courses
COMPUTER GAMES TRIPS, OUTINGS SPORTS; FOOTBALL, TABLE TENNIS, BADMINTON, ARCHERY, MARTIAL ARTS, WALL CLIMBING, POOL TABLE SKATEBOARDING AND RAMPS DJ PROJECT COOKING	Babysitting course First Aid Self Defence Cooking Food safety and Hygiene Health and Safety Beauty Course

These needs will be met through a range of activities provided by local authorities and by the WYLG.

From October 2012 , core youth work provision in the Wotton will be delivered through the South of Stroud Youth Partnership [SOSYP] which was started in 2011 by the Town Councils of Berkeley, Cam, Dursley and Wotton to raise funds for the continuation of youth work in these areas.

Wotton is represented on this partnership by the two members of the Town Council who are on the WYLG. In June 2012 the partnership requested tenders to be submitted for the development and provision of youth work in the South of Stroud area. Following an interview process which involved young people from the Youth Council, the organisation Young Gloucestershire was selected to take up this work on a three year contract from September 2012 until August 2015.

Young Gloucestershire will provide one evening of open youth work in the new youth centre, support the fortnightly meetings of the Youth Forum in the youth centre and carry out detached youth work in Wotton and the surrounding area.

The new Youth Centre is a fantastic resource and WYLG are determined to maximise its use by building on the service provided by Young Gloucestershire. Building on the consultation carried out by the young people, WYLG are developing plans to deliver a range of services to supplement the core services being provided by SOSYP. Areas being investigated are:

- Provision of short courses for skills training eg Health and Safety, Babysitting etc.
- Using the Youth Centre as an after school study space once a week.
- Having a Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Centre meeting in the youth centre.
- Provision of activities to build confidence and widen horizons – eg outdoor activities.

Fundraising

Fundraising for WYLG for 2011/12 has been focused on two key areas:

- Raising the capital needed to invest in the structural development of the new youth centre.
- Supporting the provision of Youth Services in 2011/12 and the development of additional services in 2012/13.

The primary funding source for the new Youth Centre is Gloucestershire County Council's 'Big Community Offer'. Important additional funding has been received through Gloucester Market Town Forum, The Windsor Trust and the people of the Wotton area through donations from the Electric Picture House and the Blue Coat School.

Youth services are being provided from a variety of sources including Town, Parish and District Councils and also through generous donations from the people of the Wotton area through donations from the Diamond Jubilee Big Lunch, St Mary's Church Fete, The Ark coffee shop, Meet Me Winter, the Civic Society and Renishaw plc.

In addition, the young people ran a stall at the Wotton Town Christmas Fare to raise money for this project. In May the WYLG hosted an evening of Indian food which was not just a great success as a social occasion but also raised just over £1000.

The need for Fundraising never goes away and so Fundraising activity will need to continue after the opening of the new youth centre to support the activities and resources required to complement the core youth work funded by SOSYP.

The Future

The WYLG are looking forward to the next year with anticipation and excitement. The opening of the new youth centre and the development of new services, will once again, establish in Wotton a youth service with a secure base to meet the needs of our young people. The WYLG will continue to work with young people to develop the service.

A note of thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people and businesses of Wotton, Kingswood and the surrounding areas, who have provided generous support to the WYLG in a host of ways from making donations and supporting events to providing raffle prizes and items for auction.

The committee of the WYLG have given freely of their time and effort to support the development of Youth Services in the Wotton area and I would like to thank them for their continued work.

I would also like to give special thanks to June Cordwell, the founding Chair and driving force behind the WYLG and a tireless fund-raiser and champion for Youth Service Provision in the Wotton area.

Mark Lovell

Chair, Wotton Youth Liaison Group

Financial Statement 2012/2013

Balance Summary			
	01-Sep-11	Net Movements	31-Aug-12
General	£2,401	£1,942	£4,343
Building	£2,500	£4,251	£6,751
Total at Bank	£4,901	£6,193	£11,094
Cash in hand	£0	£89	£89
Total	£4,901	£6,282	£11,183

General Fund ¹			
Details	Income	Expense	Net
Grants and Donations ²	£3,589		
Christmas fair		£28	
Petty Cash		£153	
Printer Ink for Group Secretary		£54	
Youth Forum Premises costs		£200	
Youth Workers		£1,212	
Total	£3,589	£1,647	£1,942

Building Fund ³			
Details	Income	Expense	Net
Grants and Donations ²	£6,696		
Quattro - Architects Fees		£2,445	
Total	£6,696	£2,445	£4,251

Cash in Hand			
Details	Income	Expense	Net
Transfers from General Fund	£153		
Income from Christmas Fair	£64		
Spend		£128	
Total	£217	£128	£89

Total	£10,502	£4,220	£6,282
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Notes

1. General Funds are unrestricted and will be used to provide services to young people in the Wotton area.
2. See overleaf for list of donations
3. The Building Fund contains those funds restricted to use in the build and fit-out of the new Youth Centre.

List of Donations 2012/2013

Fund	Details	Total
Building	Private donation	£5
	Gloucester Market Towns Forum (Grant)	£1,300
	Electric Picture House (Donation)	£500
	Blue Coat School (Donation)	£74
	Windsor Trust (Grant)	£4,817
	Total	£6,696
General	Renishaw (Donation)	£300
	Wotton-under-Edge Civic Society	£37
	Stroud District Council Youth Activity Fund	£711
	Stroud District Council Youth commissioning (SDC)	£65
	CTC (Donation)	£200
	Meet Me In Winter (Donation)	£214
	Monies from Curry Night	£1,062
	Kingswood Parish Council (Donation)	£1,000
	Total	£3,589
Total		£10,285

Notes:

1. This list covers donations that had been banked as at 31 August 2012. WYLG would also like to thank the Diamond Jubilee Big Lunch, St Mary's Church Fete, and The Ark coffee shop for their generous support.