

Brockham Youth Council - 2011 Review

Brockham Youth Council

Brockham Youth Council is a community group run by youth & adult volunteers and mentored by Brockham Parish Council.

Our purpose is very simple - we identify what recreational, social and sports activities young people in Brockham aged 11-18yrs want to do, source any funding needed and then organise the activities so that as many young people as possible in the village can take part.

We have been running for just over a year now and what a year it has been!

Skate Brockham

The first project chosen by young people was to have access to skate facilities, a long running request from young people in Brockham.

Providing a proper skatepark always takes a very long time and a lot of money to make happen so we decided to have a short-term plan which would also help test demand for skate facilities.

With money from the Poland Trust, the Bonfire Committee and the National Lottery Awards for All programme we organised the Skate Brockham project and arranged for a mobile skatepark to visit the village monthly during the spring and summer. North Downs Primary School worked with us on this, allowing us to set this up in the playground and skaters, scooters and BMX could come along and use the ramps for the whole day.

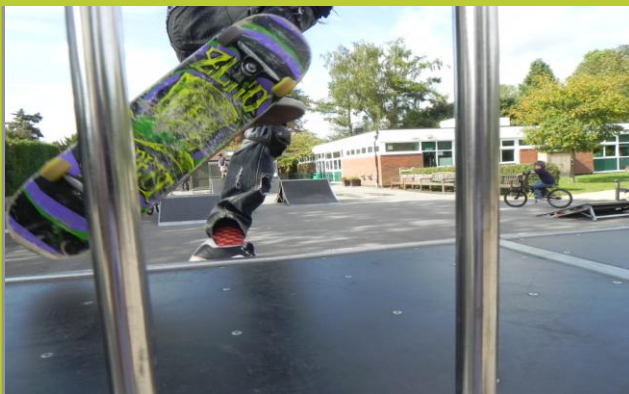
Now we are into the autumn and winter months we have monthly trips to an indoor skate facility at Skaterham in Caterham, with transport there and back provided.

This has been a hugely popular project with 84 young people coming regularly to skate, scoot or BMX since March.

In the long-term we are looking at possible solutions to provide a permanent skate facility in the village. We are working with the Parish, District and County Councils to look at site options and funding possibilities.



Skateboards, scooters & BMXs using the mobile skatepark



Using the ramps at North Downs Primary School

Help us raise £1,000

Bring us your old mobile phone to recycle

Our target is 200 phones

Bring to the Youth Café on Wednesdays or to
74 Nutwood Avenue, Brockham

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Youth Cafe

One of the most exciting things we have started this year is the Youth Cafe which takes place every Wednesday, throughout the year, 5.00 – 7.00pm in the Village Hall Club bar.

Young people wanted somewhere local to meet up with their friends and socialise. The village hall was the obvious choice, offering a central & perfectly equipped facility with a bar area, pool, darts, TV, music, pinball & jukebox.

We raised the idea with the Village Hall Committee who agreed to help us with a 2 month trial where they provided staffing and use of the bar for free so we could gauge demand.

The trial went very well and lots of young people came and used the cafe with an average of 25-35 young people each week. Over the trial period 74 different young people came along.

We had an official launch party in July and we are now planning our Christmas party. Young people are providing the music both in the form of our own local band Noize and by running the disco.

At the moment we are working with the Committee to buy some new equipment for the Youth Cafe but that will also be available to other users of the club, including a table tennis table, an air hockey table, a football table and a variety of board games.

'The youth cafe has been a great new venture & the Brockham Village Hall Club Committee is very pleased to be working with the Youth Council on making it a success. The young people of the village are our future members & we are keen to involve them in the club. It also highlights again what a versatile venue the Village Hall & Club are for the community as a whole', said Ian Williams, Chair of Brockham Village Hall Committee.

This project has been funded by Mole Valley Housing Association, Gatwick Airport, Community Trust, High Sheriff Youth Awards and J&J Franks as well as a fundraising sponsored bike ride last June by the young people, organised by local volunteer Una Duffy.



Thanks to our Supporters

- National Lottery Awards For All
- Brockham Parish Council
- Poland Trust
- Brockham Bonfire Committee
- Mole Valley Housing Association
- Gatwick Airport Community Trust
- High Sheriff Youth Awards
- J&J Franks
- The Boardroom, Dorking
- Sported

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Latest Projects

Table Tennis Club

Lots of people were interested in doing table tennis regularly and even taking part in leagues & competitions

We successfully applied for a grant from a new community sports programme called **sported** which is allowing us to buy all the equipment we need.

We are working again with North Downs Primary School who are allowing us to use the school hall for the club. The school will also benefit as they will be able to use the equipment during school hours. The club will be run by parent volunteers and we expect to be up and running in Feb/March.

Bushcraft Courses

Young people asked to learn bushcraft/survival skills and we have been lucky enough to find someone in the village able to teach this. We are running three 1 day courses in the New Year and 36 young people can book up to take part.

The fundraising for this was done entirely by the young people and involved a sponsored skate in September and by selling biscuits, friendship bracelets and jewelry at local craft fairs and events.



Future Projects

We have a couple of future projects under investigation.

Conservation Team

Members of the Youth Council recently helped the Poland Trust plant over 100 trees in Poland Woods. The chance to get muddy, wet and find worms was greeted very enthusiastically and the Youth Council will now be helping the Parish Council clear and restore the local pond in the village. We are looking at setting up a regular conservation group to help with path clearing, planting and conservation work around the village.

Art Club

Young people have also been asked if they would like to take part in an art club and the answer was a resounding 'Yes'. They want to try sculpture and graffiti art and would like to have an art exhibition or competition.

We start fundraising for these two projects in the new year and hope to get them started by the summer holidays.

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Committee News

Our committee meets quarterly. It is made up of young people aged 11-18yrs supported by 2 parent volunteers and 2 mentors from the Parish Council. The meetings are open to anyone who wants to come along.

At the meetings we discuss the different projects we have going on and what ideas the young people have for future projects and how we can raise money for the projects.

The young people also take the lead in promoting the group and have designed a logo and banners for the group, set up a Facebook page and are advising on how to set up the group's own website.

Joshua Hamilton , 14yrs, has been our Chair for the first year and we are just about to elect a new Chair. We all want to thank Joshua for his hard work and commitment to the group. He has come along to all meetings and events over the year and has been a brilliant fundraiser.

The Youth Council would also like to thank all the parents, volunteers and supporters who have helped us over the year, without whom we could not have done all the brilliant things we have done this year.



Youth Matters