

**THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a meeting of the**  
**Youth Working Party**  
**held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 19:00hrs**  
**in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thattham**

Present: Councillors Suzanne Adamantos, Justin Pemberton, and Ben Schiffer-Harte.

In attendance: Emily Moseley (Community Engagement Manager), Jamie Douglas (Response), Joseph McCormack (Berkshire Music Trust), Lyse Moss, Paige McShane (Thattham Youth), Kerrie Hiscocks (Berkshire Youth), Rosie Flower (ASD Family Help), Debbie Southwell (WBC Libraries), Helen Randall (PALS/Girlguiding), Andrea Brookes (Newbury Pride), Caroline Coopey (2nd Thattham Scout Group), Dave Wraight (WBC), Ethan Doe (Taceham Hundred Scouts), Casey Knight (Taceham Hundred Scouts).

**YWP/2025/30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Steevenson, P Pemberton and Cottam.

**YWP/2025/31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Adamantos – Trustee of Thattham Youth and Swings and Smiles  
 Cllr Schiffer-Harte – Football related activities.

**YWP/2025/32 YOUTH PROVISION IN THATCHAM**

**1. Areas Where Youth Services Are Lacking / Could Be Improved**

- a. It was considered that there was lots of organised/uniformed/sports groups but little open-access youth provision.
- b. Dave Wraight (WBC) presented findings from a youth survey with 600 respondents from Kennet School. **(Action: Dave Wraight to send survey results to Community Engagement Manager)**

Key issues identified included:

- Lack of accessible activities, particularly indoor recreational options.
- Need for more social spaces for young people to meet safely.
- Desire for improved mental health support.

**2. Engagement and Barriers to Access**

- a. Concerns raised about young people living more than 10 minutes away from central facilities and therefore less likely to engage.
- b. Discussion on the importance of:
  - Familiar faces and trusted relationships with youth workers.
  - Outreach to young people not currently engaging with services.
  - Reducing barriers to access, including cost, transport, and awareness.

**3. Facilities / Infrastructure Improvements**

Ongoing concerns about the suitability of all current venue (safety issues, poor acoustics, lack of amenities). It was considered that there should be venues across the town which could be used for and by young people.

## Youth Working Party – Minutes – 25 November 2025

### **YWP/2025/33 VISION & PRIORITIES FOR A YOUTH STRATEGY**

The group discussed key priorities to shape the developing youth strategy:

- a. Creation of safe, welcoming spaces for young people across Thatcham.
- b. Ensuring facilities are accessible, including for families with preschool-aged children and those with disabilities and neurodiversities
- c. A holistic youth work approach, including:
  - Youth workers attached to schools and community settings.
  - Focus on positive relationships between young people and trusted adults.
- d. Integration of data to inform planning for a new youth team.
- e. Ensuring efforts are not duplicated across agencies and that momentum is maintained.
- f. Recognition that financial resources are available for youth-related activities.
- g. Consideration of community safety, with updates from police:
  - Increased visibility of drug-related social behaviour, although no matching rise in referrals.
  - Specific areas of concern included Safar and Broadway.
  - Mention of distribution of drugs via social media.
- h. Acknowledgement of the need to improve the built environment to support safer movement and gathering spaces for young people.

### **YWP/2025/34 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing was raised.

### **YWP/2025/35 ITEMS TO RECOMMEND TO F&GP**

Nothing to recommend

### **YWP/2025/36 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 7pm

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:59hrs.