

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

2nd November 2021

LJ/2021

26th October 2021

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCILLORS

AGENDA ITEM 8 – BRIDGNORTH YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

AIM

1. To receive an update following an initial scoping meeting of a Bridgnorth Youth Partnership.

BACKGROUND

1. Town Council RESOLVED on 17th November 2020 to:
 - a. Re-establish the Bridgnorth Youth Partnership to bring together all providers of youth activities in the town, as a platform for co-operation, alignments and accessing funding.
2. There was no formal decision made on what a partnership might look like neither was there a discussion about how it might be started, managed, overseen or supported (in terms of resource).
3. The Town Mayor recently contacted potential members of Youth Partnership and invited them to an initial Scoping meeting held on Wednesday 20th October at the Bridgnorth Community Hall.
4. The Informal notes of the meeting are enclosed.

DISCUSSION/ COMMENT

5. All but 2 of the organisations invited had some representation at the meeting. There was no representation from the Bridgnorth Endowed School or UK Youth. The meeting on 20th October took the form of a general introduction from those present to cover personalities, organisational responsibilities along with some aspirations and general sharing of knowledge.
6. The notes of the meeting have been circulated to all those that attended and those 2 organisations that had been invited but had not attended. Attendees have been asked to provide comment and begin to think of the benefits of a Youth Partnership forum and how it might be shaped in the early stages. Once some initial feedback

has been received it can be reviewed and the informal group might be able to consider refining purpose, vision and governance.

7. There has been no formal decision by the Town Council to appoint a representative to the Youth Partnership. However, that is not necessarily required as the Partnership does not exist. It seems appropriate that the Town Mayor might facilitate initial discussions around the topic and supported by appropriate officers of the Town Council.
8. Facilitation of a few initial meetings will require staff time but that is likely to be considered reasonable activity of the Council. Any longer-term commitment would need the Council to identify dedicated resources.

FINANCIALS

9. There is a small cost to the Town Council of hiring the meeting room in the Bridgnorth Community Hall.

SUMMARY

10. The Council expressed a desire to re-form (in some fashion) a Bridgnorth Youth Partnership. An initial meeting of likely major players has been held and informal discussions are likely to continue before any formal set-up can be proposed.

OPTIONS

11. N/A

RECOMMENDATION(s)

12. There are no recommendations



Lee Jakeman
Town Clerk

BRIDGNORTH YOUTH PARTNERSHIP – INITIAL SCOPING MEETING –
WEDNESDAY 20th October 2022

Introduction

- 1) At a meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council on 17th November 2020 the Town Council discussed a number of related items regarding Youth Service provision. (*Town Council minute 0141/2021 dated 17th November refers*), which included a decision to:
 - a) Re-establish the Bridgnorth Youth Partnership to bring together all providers of youth activities in the town, as a platform for co-operation, alignments and accessing funding.
- 2) Following recent comment, the Town Mayor wrote to a number of Youth Service providers and potential suitable partners to arrange an initial scoping meeting. That meeting was relatively well attended and held at the Bridgnorth Community Hall. The informal notes of that meeting are provided below.
- 3) The meeting had no formal terms of reference or specific youth service provision goals and has no agreed structure.
- 4) The Town Clerk agreed to write some notes of the discussion that took place and comments made.
- 5) A copy of the distribution list (to whom the invitation was sent):
 - Shropshire Council Youth Support – Area Lead (South) – Ian Hollingworth
 - Oldbury Wells School – Head Teacher - Lee Tristham
 - SYA – CEO – Richard Parkes
 - Bridge Youth Club – Youth Leader – John Prockter
 - Bridgnorth Safer Neighbourhood Team – Sgt - Kate Oen
 - Shropshire Council – Portfolio Holder for Children and Education - Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight
 - Bridgnorth & Morville Team Ministry – Rev'd Prebendary Simon Cawdell
 - UK Youth - Chief Operating Officer - Patrick Shaw-Brown
 - Bridgnorth Endowed School – Head Teacher - Barry Worth

Attendance / Apologies

6) In attendance:

- Sarah Barlow – Bridgnorth Town Council – (Town Mayor)
- John Prockter – Bridgnorth Youth & Schools Project (Manager)
- Rebecca (Becki) Bunger - Bridgnorth Youth & Schools Project (Youth Worker)
- Kate King – Bridgnorth & Morville Team Ministry - St Mary's, St James Hall Church, St Leonards Hall Church - (Youth Worker).
- Rev'd Simon Cawdell – Bridgnorth & Morville Team Ministry
- Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight – Shropshire Council - (Portfolio holder for Children & Education)
- PCSO Steven Dunn-Brown – Bridgnorth Safer Neighbourhood Team
- PCS Helen Oakley - Bridgnorth Safer Neighbourhood Team
- Richard Parkes – SYA – (CEO)
- Ian Hollingsworth – Shropshire Council – (Team Lead, Area Youth Worker Street work and detached)
- Lee Tristam – Oldbury Wells School (Head Teacher)
- Lee Jakeman – Bridgnorth Town Council - (Town Clerk)
- Councillor Dr Julia Buckley – Bridgnorth Town Council, East Ward.

7) Apologies:

- Patrick Shaw-Brown - UK Youth (Chief Operating Officer)

Summary of Discussion

- 8) Most of those present were known to each other with varying degrees of knowledge, e.g. reputation, light touch interaction or significant overlap. However, a general introduction was provided by each participant for the benefit of all. The introductions covered an outline of the organisations (what they did in and around Bridgnorth primarily) and individual's roles.
- 9) A general discussion then took place and the following provides a flavour of some of comments, themes, challenges, opportunities and points of interest. There was no intention to obtain formal general agreement to individual points (as being agreed by a committee) and so the notes below might well have competing demands, differing views, some ideas for things that might be done and are not in any order of priority; they were intended to be the 'start of the conversation':
1. The meeting is a useful forum for us to know and understand each other.
 2. Volunteers are always needed.
 3. There is a 'massive' shortage of qualified youth workers nationally.
 4. Youth Service provision requires a core of dedicated/qualified / employed staff to enable volunteers.
 5. Not sure that enough people know what you workers are or do – some educational piece of work for the townsfolk might be useful.
 6. Youth support activities not necessarily reliant on physical space.
 7. Pandemic likely to have caused issues

8. Would a youth forum work/ be useful?
 9. Can some of us work together to undertake joint activity?
 10. What factors are causing harm and distress?
 11. Are there existing funding opportunities?
 12. Can we create some form of matrix to show who does what?
 13. Is there a desire to become a formal (constituted) group?
 14. Shropshire Council youth provision anticipated to fully operational by January 2021.
 15. Raise awareness (youth activity/volunteering/ opportunities?)
 16. Youth support is a dynamic provision across a wide range of differing needs including: / social groups/ ages/ backgrounds/ physical abilities/ beliefs.
 17. What age groups do individual agencies target?
 18. Access to non-formal open space is helpful
 19. Encourage more tolerance.
 20. Engage the youth about what the youth might want/ need.
 21. Youth service providers present are a different beast to wider clubs and societies that provide some youth activities.
 22. Happy to share contact details with each other.
 23. Further discussion likely to be of benefit.
 24. Loose knit informal group adequate currently.
 25. Define the purpose /role / ambition of the group between all those involved.
 26. SYA beginning Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision.
 27. Outreach provision important.
 28. Engagement with UK Youth (former boys club) desired.
 29. Sporting, social and activity groups part of a wider conversation.
 30. Can Bridgnorth become a youth friendly town.
 31. Useful for Town Council to facilitate initial few meetings.
- 10) The Town Clerk agreed to document initial comments and distribute to all (those in attendance and those who had been invited but unable to attend). Attendees expressed willingness to consider items and offer comment before arranging a further meeting. No commitment to time scale.

Next Steps?

- 11) Attendees to review notes of meeting, consider options and aspirations with their organisations and provide some initial light touch feedback.

Lee Jakeman
 Town Clerk
 Bridgnorth Town Council