

## WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

### LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

#### Youth Work – Toothill & Freshbrook

#### Agenda Item 3

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 At the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting on 12 June 2019, the Committee received a report as requested by Cllr Exell to consider investing in youth work in Toothill. The report identified those areas in West Swindon most at risk of social exclusion and child poverty. The Committee agreed the following action (Min. 47)

*RESOLVED that a sub group be created to take this discussion further in conjunction with representatives from Toothill Youth Club with membership reflecting Toothill, Freshbrook and Westlea.*

- 1.2 Since June, Councillors formed a Youth Working group and have met with groups supporting young people in Toothill. As a result, the existing groups in Toothill have committed to continue to support young people whilst also seeking opportunities to work together. Toothill Church have since submitted a grant application for £7,837.50 to the Parish Council to provide a youth engagement evening. This was approved by Full Council on Monday 23 September 19.
- 1.3 The Youth Working Party also identified that there are young people who are likely to be at risk to crime, and, anti social behaviour. The new and existing provision may not automatically appeal or connect with vulnerable young people who are already disengaged or disaffected. One solution is to undertake outreach work. Existing organisations in Toothill indicated that they did not have the time or experience to offer this as part of their current work.
- 1.4 Outreach work involves speaking to young people in places and locations where they are already playing or gathering. Swindon Borough Council recommend two qualified youth workers to work together to connect with local young people in Toothill and Freshbrook and gain an understanding of interests, issues and ideas for engagement.

#### 2. The Proposal:

- 2.1 To commission Swindon Borough Council through a Traded Services Agreement, to provide two qualified youth workers to run an initial consultation / research with young people on the estate using detached youth work

methodology. The youth workers will gather information / evidence and report back to the Parish Council what young people are saying about any provision they access, would like to access, any provision want / need. How they spend their social time, how they access the community etc.

2.2 This would run initially as two x two hour sessions, twice weekly for five weeks. The youth workers would then provide an initial feedback to the Leisure and Amenities Committee with recommendations for next steps.

2.3 The costs for the first phase are:

£177 per session (classed as a half day – 4 hours in total)

Ten sessions over five weeks

Total: £1770.00

2.4 Linking with Swindon Borough Council would also enable the existing organisations operating locally to connect with experienced and trained youth workers which would potentially provide useful advice and links to wider support. Provision would need to be made to allow further commissioning of professional youth work support.

### **3. Financial Implications**

3.1 The Parish Council has set aside £1,000 for youth projects per annum. This initial consultation phase would exceed the budget amount. The Leisure and Amenities Committee should also consider the option to continue a traded services agreement with Swindon Borough Council to provide a professional youth work presence during the duration of the youth projects in Toothill. The result of this could maximise participation and ensure that local volunteers have a professional and experienced person to connect with.

### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 That the Committee note this report and approve the expenditure proposed in 2.3.

Paula Harrison  
Parish Manager