

**Thaxted Youth Club**  
**Community Committee, item**

**Committee:** Community Committee  
**Date:** 8 June 2006  
**Title:** Thaxted Youth Club – Request for a Contribution towards New Building  
**Author:** Gaynor Bradley

**Agenda Item**

**14**

Item for  
decision

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**Summary**

Thaxted Youth Club has embarked on a project to build a new Youth Centre at an approximate cost of £150,000. The Club's Treasurer has written to the District Council to request a contribution towards this development.

**Recommendations**

That this Committee considers, in policy terms, whether to support the fundraising towards the £52,000 shortfall on the project by way of a request to Operations Committee and the Full Council for additional capital resources.

**Background Papers**

Letter from Thaxted Parish Council dated 2 May 2006.

**Impact**

Communication/Consultation	N/A
Community Safety	Provision of a Youth Club contributes towards young people's safety
Equalities	Provides a service for all local young people where access to other services is very limited
Finance	Any proposed contribution towards funding will need to be considered by both the Operations Committee and Full Council.
Human Rights	N/A
Legal implications	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	Thaxted
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

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#### Situation

- 1 Thaxted Youth Club is a registered charity and currently occupies a 19<sup>th</sup> century building on Broxted Road that was the old National School and is owned by the Club. The location of the building has advantages in that it is situated away from neighbours so there are no noise nuisance issues and there is sufficient parking for parents to drop off and collect young people. However, the building is in very poor condition and considered to be beyond economic repair. Therefore, the decision has been taken to demolish the existing building and construct a new one as there are no suitable alternative premises available in Thaxted. A planning application has been submitted to the District Council and a decision will be made by 16 June 2006.
- 2 The existing Youth Club provides activities for 25 to 35 young people from Thaxted and surrounding parishes on three evenings per week. It has been running for many years and provides a much needed provision for local young people. In the absence of developing a new building the Club would have to close within the next two years.
- 3 As previously mentioned the overall cost of the project is likely to be in the region of £150,000, to date, £47,000 has been raised and it is understood that £50,000 has been secured from another fund but this has not yet been confirmed in writing. The assumption, therefore, is that there is a shortfall of £52,000. The Club receives regular financial support from the Parish Council and local charities which together with fundraising activities by volunteers keeps the Club on a sound financial footing.
- 4 The District Council has been asked to contribute towards the cost of this project for the benefit of young people in Thaxted and the surrounding areas.
- 5 The Capital Programme agreed by the Council in February 2006 contains no provision for a contribution to this scheme. If this Committee decides to support the application for funding, the Operations Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006 will need to consider the proposal in the light of the Council's overall capital resource position and make an appropriate recommendation to the meeting of the Full Council on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

#### Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That insufficient funding will be raised to pay for the new building	low	high	An extensive fundraising campaign has commenced and two thirds of the estimated cost of the project has already been raised.
That the planning application will be	unknown	high	Unknown

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refused.			
That funding this project might set a precedent regarding possible other future applications	high	high	If funding is awarded to this project it might be possible to stipulate that it is considered to be a one off contribution because of the nature and value of this particular project.