

**YOUTH INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER
SAFFRON WALDEN at 6.00pm on 6 JUNE 2007**

Present: John Whittaker – Chairman
Councillor A Yarwood – UDC
Gerry Smith – Essex Boys' Clubs
Geoff Parker – Essex Scouts
Becky Hill – EST Connexions
Kathryn Nessling – Essex Police Schools Liaison Officer
Dan Rankin – Essex Police
Frankie Hasson – Essex Social Services
Ann Jones – Essex Youth Service
Chris Pegley – Essex Young Peoples D&A Service
Diana Cross – Rainer
Jason Thomson – Essex Fire Service
Darren Godfrey - ECYS
Calley Hookway, Michelle Mooney, Emma Norris, Luke
Shasha and Ben Walford – Uttlesford Youth Forum
Fiona Gardner, Gaynor Bradley, John Starr and Ellen
O'Malley – Uttlesford District Council.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the visitors and new Members to the group.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Lindsay Allen, Sophie Atkinson and Brenda Towle.

2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2007 were confirmed as a correct record.

(i) Minute 3 – Matters Arising – (iv) Electronic Communication

Gerry Smith informed the Members of the Youth Forum about the plans for Electronic Communication and asked for their opinions.

The Chairman suggested that this matter should be continued in the Youth Forum in order to ensure it could be covered in depth.

3 UPDATE ON PLAY STRATEGY

Gaynor Bradley reported that a consultation had been carried out in order to gather opinions on the application. This proved to only confirm the expected, that younger children are well provided for whereas teenagers are not. She said that until the lottery application has been completed there were no further developments to be made. The Leisure and Community Development

Manager warned Members that a lot of similar applications have been refused, and if granted the £250,000 fund would not go far in Uttlesford.

4 UPDATE FROM AGENCIES/PROJECT REVIEWS

Claire Prior, the Extended Schools Co-ordinator gave a presentation on the Essex Children Trust Approach on Every Child Matters. She explained that full details are available from www.everychildmatters.gov.uk and that the policy framework is defined through the agreed Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) www.essexcypp.org/cypp.

John Whittaker questioned the effects this would have on the Youth Initiatives Working Group, and Claire Prior explained that it would allow the group to have a larger influence. Councillor Yarwood commented that communication was far more effective if it was direct and not carried out through policy frameworks. Emma from the Youth forum suggested that younger representatives visited the schools, as communication from the students peers would prove far more constructive. The Chairman commented that this idea was promising, which should be thought about and discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Geoff Barker suggested that the idea of direct communication from youth to adult should be demonstrated in the Youth Initiatives Working Group. The group agreed that it would be beneficial to have a regular input from the Youth forum members, and it would be looked into.

5 FUNDING APPLICATIONS

John Whittaker reported that there had been no reports of bids or applications made as yet for funding.

Gerry Smith asked whether the Respect bid could be considered even though it was not on the agenda and Geoff Barker said he too knew of a bid that had also not on the meeting's agenda. John Whittaker said that the bids would most likely be approved as the funding is ring fenced and available before September.

ACTION: John Whittaker to organise a paper chase in order to see whether the bids would raise any funding problems, if not then they would be approved.

6 MEETINGS RE-STRUCTURE

John Whittaker asked that the terms of reference be sent out alongside the minutes especially as the youth representatives would be attending on a regular basis.

7 UPDATE ON SKATEPARKS – SAFFRON WALDEN/GREAT DUNMOW

John Starr, The Community Development Officer showed a slide show of the skate parks construction. He then explained that there had been an open day on Sunday 3 June which had over six hundred visitors. The Community Development Officer then explained that the Dunmow Skate Park has been refurbished and that there was a plan in place for a new ramp.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Increased Communication in Schools

Darren Godfrey proposed a plan to increase communication and awareness in schools on a regular basis and suggested a visit to one school a week in the area. It would be an open service, for anyone wishing to come along, and would help identify needs and allow for freedom to speak.

Michelle from the Youth forum suggested that the communication and information is made through sixth formers, similar to the scheme at the school she attends, which has proved very successful. Claire Prior, Extended Schools Co-ordinator, agreed that this was an excellent idea. Frankie Hasson asked what could be done for those that are not in school or not attending on a regular basis. Claire Prior replied that the best course of action would be to get the foundations in place in schools and then focus on those outside schools.

The Chairman suggested that this be brought forward to the next meeting and a proposal should be put forward as part of CYPSP (Children's and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership). Fiona Gardner commented that funding should also be considered.

ACTION: Claire Prior and Darren Godfrey volunteered to put together a draft plan and they would consult the Leisure and Community Development Manager, Gaynor Bradley.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm