

GREAT WAKERING YOUTH PROVISION UPDATE

(Forward Plan Ref. No. 15/07)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress of the project to provide additional facilities/services for the young people of Great Wakering.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Both the District Council and Great Wakering Parish Council have allocated funds specifically for increasing levels of youth provision in Great Wakering. As a result of these allocations, representatives from both the Parish and the District Council have held numerous meetings over the past few months to discuss the possibilities and the best ways of utilising these resources to maximise the benefit to young people.

3 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 3.1 As a result of the initial discussions between the Parish Council, the District Council, TASCC team (Essex County Council Team Around The School, Child and Community), Police, RAVS (Rochford and Rayleigh Association of Voluntary Services) and Star Partnership, three potential options were chosen to be included in the consultation process.

- 3.2 The options as detailed at the meeting of the East Area Committee on 12 September 2007 were as follows:-

- Metal containers converted into young peoples' meeting areas.
- Teen shelter.
- X Games area (skateboard park including areas for BMX, scooters and roller skates/blades).

A fourth option of a free music/disco night was also considered as a further consultation tool and, if popular, a continuous event.

- 3.3 A limited response was received from the consultation process which was undertaken in the village by the TASCC team, local volunteers, Police and Leisure Centre staff. During the month of October 2007, young people were consulted on a number of occasions and in various ways including:-

- On the school buses that run from Great Wakering to King Edmund School.
- Whilst taking part in activities at the leisure centre.

- Police & the Locality Team (from the TASCC Team) also consulted with the young people who were out and about in the village during October 2007.
- 3.4 Whilst many young people were asked to take part in the consultation, only 54 formal responses were received which highlighted the most popular option as the converted container as a meeting place. However, there was not an overriding response and this was closely followed by the X Games area and teen shelter.
- 3.5 However, the converted container is not only the most costly option but also has further resource implications such as staffing/volunteers, utilities and ongoing maintenance, and, potentially, needing planning permission. A number of teen shelters would be a one-off cost, still allow the young people a meeting place and have little or no resource implications in terms of staffing/volunteers, utilities and ongoing maintenance.
- 3.6 Whilst the skate park was the second most popular choice, the limited number of responses could not, at this stage, justify the financial resource required. Members may wish to be aware that a previous consultation with the adult residents of Great Wakering received a negative response to a skate park in the village.
- 3.7 The music/disco nights, which are to be hosted at the Great Wakering Leisure Centre, will provide a new and additional facility for the young people of the village whilst enabling the District Council and its partners to continue the consultation with the young people around other ideas they may have and ideas around the potential sites for the two shelters on the recreation ground. Dates of these nights are listed below:-
- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Friday 14 December | 11 – 14 years |
| Saturday 15 December | 14 – 17 years |
| Friday 11 January | 11 – 14 years |
| Friday 18 January | 14 - 17 years |
| Friday 15 February | 11 – 14 years |
| Saturday 16 February | 14 – 17 years |
- 3.8 After evaluating the consultation results and through extensive discussions by the District Council, the Parish Council and their partners, experience has highlighted that the teen shelters are an effective and well used facility for young people, allowing a centralised meeting point for them as well as a focus for detached youth work. For this reason this is the preferred option of the District Council, the Parish Council and partners. However, further consultation will be carried out to identify the potential for further options in the future. The two teen shelters, dependent on final design and size, will cost in

the region of £15,000-£20,000. The potential sites for the shelters will be decided with the young people but will be sensitive to the residential areas near the recreation ground.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Increasing the provision of facilities for young people in Great Waking could contribute to a positive impact on the level of crime and anti social behaviour in the area.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of providing any additional facilities for the young people of Great Waking would be met from monies allocated in both the District Council and Parish Council budgets, in addition to exploring the potential of obtaining external grant funding where appropriate. The District Council currently has £52,500 (of which £27,500 is revenue) allocated for additional young provision in Great Waking and further £65,000 allocated in the 2008/09 budget. The Parish Council has a sum of £10,000 allocated for the same purpose.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Board **RESOLVES**
- (1) To note the preferred option and agree to the provision of two teen shelters for the young people located on the Great Waking Recreation Ground.
 - (2) That further consultation be carried out to determine longer term options for youth facilities in Great Waking.

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Background Papers:-

None

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