MINUTES of the meeting to discuss Youth Club Provision in Hurstpierpoint, Tuesday 25th January at 10:00am at Court Bushes Community Hub, function room.

Representatives Present:
Cllr Majsai – Chair of Community Engagement Committee
Chris Cook – Sussex Clubs for Young People
Lisa Williams– Sussex Clubs for Young People
Alison Bennett - Mid Sussex District Council Councillor for Hurstpierpoint and Downs ward
Nicola Brewerton – Mid Sussex Voluntary Action
Lorna Cooksey – Assistant Clerk

Apologies:
Ian MacDonald – Sussex Clubs for Young People
Cllr Llewellyn – Chair of Council
Sally Blackmore - Community Engagement & Events Officer Mid Sussex District Council
Regina Choudhury – Community Development Officer at Mid Sussex District Council
Dawn Rennie – Clarion Futures
Kate Jackman – Hurst Music Group
Andy Wright & Holly Prescott– Active Sussex
Mike Allen – MSDC Community Projects Officer (Young People)

MINUTES

1. **Introduction:** Cllr Majsai thanked everyone for attending and explained that the agenda order wouldn't be followed today to allow for time to hear from everyone who needed to leave earlier.

2. **Update from Sussex Clubs for Young People:** Lisa Williams explained that she had been running the Mini Community Ambassadors programme at Court Bushes**.** This group was set up in December and Chris Cook confirmed there was funding for six months to run this project. Lisa explained that at the moment numbers are low with only 2-3 youths attending whereas last night they had a detached session and engaged with 8 children. The idea behind the group is to support the young people with ideas to improve the community. So far, the ideas that the children are most passionate about include planting an oak tree, improving the skate park, having more youth club sessions and an event where they can make and sell items. Lisa and Chris agreed it had been a slower uptake then wanted but as the weather improves, they hope for more interest. Lisa confirmed that she will be attending an assembly at St Lawrence school with her colleague James Middleton to try and encourage more involvement in this group. Chris Cook confirmed he had been contacted by Sally Blackmore about more playdays happening this year and some of these will be based in Hurstpierpoint. He discussed that there still was no long-term commitment for funding of the youth club in Hurstpierpoint but that SCFYP are working hard on networking and finding different groups who may be able to support the group, such as the Pump Track parent group. Chris confirmed that the Thursday youth club are now using the function room in Court Bushes while it is too cold to be outside.

SCFYP have also successfully employed people from Willow Way and will continue to look at potential job opportunities. Cllr Majsai thanked Chris and Lisa for the report submitted by James Middleton and advised that she would raise at the Estates & Facilities meeting about the issue with cars coming into the car park too fast.

Action: Cllr Majsai and Cllr Bennett to connect SCFYP to the Pump Track Parent group and potential upcoming meetings.
Action: Chris Cook to send Lorna Cooksey the job advert for a youth worker and this will be posted on the Parish Councils Facebook and website page.
Action: Cllr Majsai to raise at the E&F meeting about the issue with car speeds coming into Court Bushes.

3. **Update from Mid Sussex District Council:** Cllr Bennett confirmed that since the meeting in November she had contacted Norman Webster the Cabinet Member for Communities and he confirmed that the review of the youth offer only included Play Days On Tour as youth provision and funding is the responsibility of the County Council. Cllr Bennett confirmed that she had fed back that the playdays were very popular but that the short notice and ad hoc approach needed improving. Cllr Bennet discussed the improvements to the skatepark, new pump track and the proposed all weather surface for the football club. It was explained that all decisions sit with the District Council to decide what is possible and where the funds could come from and at present there was no movement on these ideas. It was confirmed that Court Bushes is on a list and flagged as a priority area but to expect this to not be a fast decision. Cllr Bennett confirmed to SCFYP that the Pump track group had not got any concrete plans or set locations it is just an idea being discussed. Chris commented that there is a youth investment capital project that the pump track could apply for, but they need to be ready to apply. Cllr Bennet agreed that they were not ready but would let them know about the fund. It was discussed that the District Council would need to give planning permission for a pump track and there had been one recently put in Bolney which is a positive step.

Action: Sussex Clubs for Young People encouraged to ask the young people to write to MSDC about the ideas for new improved facilities at Court Bushes.
Action: Cllr Bennett to update everyone by email if any more information is found out about the improvements to Court Bushes.
Action: Cllr Majsai to ask for an update at the Estates & Facilities meeting and feedback by email to this group on any new information on the pumptrack/skate park etc…
Action: Cllr Bennett to inform the Pump track group about the Youth Investment fund.

4. **Update from the Parish Council:** Cllr Majsai explained that the main purpose of these meetings was to find a partnership model to support the youth club for the future. She explained that this was unfortunately not achievable at present as all the different parties involved cannot commit to any long-term secure funding and this doesn't look like it will change in the future. The Parish Council cannot take on solely funding the youth club especially as the Community Governance Review currently being undertaken by MSDC could affect our budget in the future. The only solution would be for the Parish Council to raise the

precept and this couldn't be justified for the small amount of young people who attend on a Thursday. Cllr Majsai confirmed that she did feel that this group is very valuable for sharing updates and potential funding streams. Cllr Majsai asked for SCFYP to keep the Parish Council updated at all time about any issues with funding running out. Nicola Brewerton agreed there is funding out there, but you need to be actively applying for grants and the supporters group idea for the youth club would be a great solution for this. Chris confirmed that Lisa/James would be the best place to speak to parents to see if they have the capacity and ability to take on a supporter's group. It was suggested that the Pump Track parents may be a good option for this and to team up.

Action: Lisa SCFYP to approach parents to see if anyone would form a 'supporters' group' to write grants on behalf of the youth club. Nicola Brewerton can support with this.

5. **Next Meeting:** June 2022, for a general update across the groups to identify if we have any issues and how to carry on working closely together to improve the youth provision in the parish.

Meeting closed: 10:38am