

PEOPLE COMMITTEE

19 MARCH 2019

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BOTTESFORD YOUTH CLUB PETITION

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider the Bottesford Youth Club (BYC) petition received initially at Full Council on 13th February which has been referred to this committee in accordance with Procedure Rule 24.

1.2 To update members on progress to date in relation to the Youth Club funding.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **That a further report is given in six months with an update on discussions.**

2.2 **That members note the outcome of the Safer Melton Partnership meeting held on 8th March 2019 in relation to funding for Bottesford Youth Club.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 On 13th February 2019 at Full Council, the Mayor was presented with a petition from Bottesford Youth Club to request the Council continue funding the Youth Worker post. (Attached as Appendix A).

3.2 The petition contained 362 signatures and raised the following matters to be addressed:

- The Youth Worker plays an integral role in contributing to the success of the only Youth Club in the village;
- Removal of funding for the Youth Worker post risks closure of the Youth Club and consequential adverse impact of closure which includes:
 - A significant amount of anti-social-behaviour in the villages will return;
 - The Young People of Bottesford and Vale of Belvoir villages will be at an increased risk of being involved in “County Lines” drug dealing/taking and other serious organised crime;
 - That the young people in the villages will not have a safe and fun environment to meet up, play, and talk about any issues affecting them.
- The petition also contained examples of how the club addresses a range of issues faced by young people and testimonials from volunteers and parents.

3.3 Melton Borough Council (MBC) has funded a Youth Worker post in Bottesford since 2007. Youth services are typically a County Council responsibility and the Borough does not provide funding to any other youth provision in the area. In times of financial challenge, key stakeholders must work with the Council to find alternative funding streams and self sustaining options such as greater engagement with the Melton Community Lottery.

- 3.4 MBC has funded this provision in Bottesford since 2007 the cost has usually been covered by external monies received for most of the intervening period. For the last two years this has not happened and the whole cost has fallen on the Council, hence a review was initiated as part of the Budget for 2019/20.
- 3.5 As a result of this review, a proposal was put forward to members at Full Council to withdraw the support given to the Youth Club, consequently putting the post of the Youth Worker at risk of redundancy.
- 3.6 MBC have been keen to engage with both the Youth Club and the Parish Council to explore alternative sources of funding and how we could support with this. Whilst communication lines had been open in this respect, BYC started a petition to highlight the impact of potential closure on the youths and community of Bottesford.
- 3.7 The petition was presented to the Mayor at Full Council on 13th February 2019 with 362 signatures. Whilst the number of signatories was below the level which required a more formal Council response the feelings and sentiment expressed of the importance to the local community were shared and recognised by the Council and therefore referred to the next meeting of the People Committee, in line with the procedure rule.
- 3.8 There was a discussion regarding the Youth Club as part of the budget setting item at the Full Council meeting on 13th February 2019. As part of that discussion there was agreement that funding would be provided for one more year, with the preference being for that money to be found through the Safer Melton Partnership. A meeting of that partnership is scheduled for Friday 8th March 2019 when this will be considered and the outcome will be reported verbally to this committee.
- 3.9 The offer of support from MBC to explore how this could be achieved remains as we look to enter into dialogue with both the Parish Council and BYC around their long term funding options.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This links with our organisational priority of becoming a more agile and commercial council, securing our financial future. Furthermore, it is in line with our objectives for the Melton Community Lottery to enable community groups to become self sustaining with reduced dependency on traditional local government grant funding.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 BYC have just 2 supporters registered on their Melton Community Lottery page. However, 362 supporters signed the petition. If just 250 of those supporters signed up to just one weekly ticket each, it would generate revenue in excess of what is required to fund the Youth Worker.
- 5.2 A decision was taken during the revenue budget setting item at Full Council on 13th February 2019 to fund the Youth Club provision for one more year, preferably through external community safety funding but if not then from the corporate priorities reserve; thus ensuring the council delivers both the required ongoing savings, whilst providing sufficient time for the youth club to make alternative longer term funding arrangements.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 None identified.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 It is important to note that the value of the service is undisputed across all stakeholders. This includes the police who are of the view that this is a valuable service which contributes to lower levels of ASB in Bottesford.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed at the time of the proposal to withdraw the funding support. However, this was not done on the basis of whether the Youth Club should continue but on the Council’s proposal not to fund the post. A full risk impact could not be done due to a lack of available information on the club’s finances which would have given an indication of whether they could continue to fund the post.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 .

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant				
	D	Low				
	E	Very Low			1,2	
	F	Almost Impossible				
			Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4

IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
1	BYC unable to source funding for 2020/21
2	BYC unable to retain Youth Worker post if funding cannot be sourced
3	

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 No issues relating to climate change.

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 Consultation has taken place with the Youth Worker whose role was directly affected by the proposals. Wider consultation continues to take place with BYC and the Parish Council with an early meeting scheduled to discuss non Melton Borough Council funding from 2020/21 onwards.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 Bottesford Ward particularly as well as other wards across the Vale of Belvoir.

Contact Officer Aysha Rahman

Date: 19 March, 2019

Appendices : Appendix A – Petition - Bottesford Youth Club

Background Papers:

Reference : X:\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\People Committee\2018-19\5 190319