

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

19 May 2009

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 TM YOUTH FORUM UPDATE

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the work undertaken by the Youth Forum.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Youth Forum meet five times a year and is a panel of young people representing the views of young people who live in the area of Tonbridge and Malling.

1.1.2 In 2008 membership of the Youth Forum was consistent with an average of 18 young people attending each meeting. Members ranged from 10-18 years and came from a number of different schools and youth groups.

1.2 Youth Forum Update

1.2.1 At the Youth Forum meeting held on the 18 November 2008 the Co-Chairs of the Forum Francesca and Kelsey Heard announced their resignation due to other outside commitments. They did, however, take the opportunity to pass on their appreciation for the experience and opportunities that the roles had given them. Their announcement began a process of reviewing the Forum and on the 16 December 2008 members of the Youth Forum elected new Co-Chairs, an Administrator, a Webmaster and an Events Manager. The positions were filled as follows:

Co-Chairs:	Alex Rolfe and Beth Surgenor
Administrator:	Becky Venis
Webmaster:	Joe Heskett
Events Manager:	Amy Squires

1.2.2 At the end of 2008 the new TM Youth Forum Co-Chairs were also elected onto the Kent County Council Youth Council and will now form part of the 48 young people who work closely with officers and elected members of Kent County Council, informing them of young people's issues and concerns.

- 1.2.3 The Youth Forum Leaflets and posters have recently been re-designed in order to ensure that the content is relevant and up to date and to help to attract a wider range of young people. These are now going to print and will be distributed to local schools, youth groups and community groups.
- 1.2.4 Members will be aware that in 2008 members of the Youth Forum starred in, and helped produce, a promotional DVD aimed at explaining what the Youth Forum does and how to get involved. Having now spent time developing a teacher's pack and promoting this to various people, including having spoken at a Parish Partnership Panel, it is the Youth Forum's intention to further promote this directly in schools in order to encourage other young people to have a say on local issues.

1.3 Events

- 1.3.1 As a result of the new position of Events Manager being created in the November 2008 Youth Forum elections, a steering group was set up to plan and organise the Forum's involvement in future events. The first steering group met on the 10 November 2008 to look at what events were coming up, what their involvement might be and how best to engage with young people. As a result of this meeting the Youth Forum decided that they would like to be involved in the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Festival of Sport held in partnership with Tonbridge Lions on the 26 April 2009. The event was designed so that parents and young people got the opportunity to try out various sports and to talk to representatives from clubs within their local community.
- 1.3.2 The Youth Forum decided to use this opportunity to take a MiPod (an interactive big brother style diary room) to inform young people about the work of the Youth Forum and to find out whether young people would like a youth event to be held in Tonbridge and Malling. In preparation for the Festival of Sport the steering group met for the second time to design a questionnaire that could be used to find out what message young people wanted to get across to the public and what kind of workshops/activities they would like to have at a youth event. The steering group also worked closely with the Sports Development Team to incorporate questions into their youth event questionnaire to gain the views of young people on a variety of sporting and general issues.
- 1.3.3 On the day six members of the Youth Forum attended the event and were able to gain the views of 30 young people. The questionnaire will now also be sent out to schools and youth groups to gain the views of a wider range of young people. Please find attached a copy of the questionnaire at **[Annex 1]**.
- 1.3.4 Members will be pleased to know that our Co-Chairs Alex Rolfe and Beth Surgenor have been invited to host the 2009 Try Angle Awards. The Try Angle Awards are run in partnership with Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council to celebrate the achievements of young people who try to do their best, often with little recognition. As well as being involved in hosting the event representatives from the Youth Forum will also have a stand on the night

informing young people about how they can get their voice heard by joining the TM Youth Forum.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 The Council has powers to undertake this activity by virtue of Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 Activities brought forward by the Youth Forum will be funded from the Youth & Play Development Revenue budget. It is also planned that the Youth Forum will make applications for external funding.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 The Council's key priority is to "give priority to involving and meeting the needs of young people". To achieve this there is a need to consult with young people to ensure resources are targeted at identified needs and demands.

1.7 Policy Considerations

- 1.7.1 Young People, Crime & Disorder Reduction.

Background papers:

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Nil

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