

Agenda item number: 5

Date of meeting: 18th March 2019

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Recreation and Amenities Committee

Report by: Mel Alexander

Job Title: Town Clerk

Subject: Outreach Youth Events

1 Purpose of Report

For Committee to consider a proposal to host three events for young people; two at Dunstan Green Skate Park in April and one at Thatcham Family Fun Day in June.

2 Background

The Outreach Youth Project Partners, consisting of: Outreach Youth Workers, Berkshire Youth, Sovereign Housing, TVP Neighbourhood Police Team and church volunteers, would like to support a proposal received from the town's young people to provide a series of free events for young people.

During their engagement, the Outreach Youth Workers have sought the views of the town's young people regarding the activities that they would like provided. The young people have specifically asked for Skate Park Workshops/Demos and Graffiti Workshops.

The school Easter holidays provide an ideal opportunity to offer two events at the Skate Park; a Pro Skater Workshop & Demo one week, followed by a Graffiti Workshop the following week.

Also, it is proposed to introduce a "zone" with activities specifically aimed at young people at this year's Thatcham Family Fun Day. Hosting a Skate Park Workshop here would also showcase the pump track at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground. The Skate Park Pros would set up an area, incorporating the pump track, with mobile Skate Ramps, music and a PA. They would provide 2 x Pro Skateboarders and 2 x Pro BMXer's.

3 Details of Project

Two companies have been sourced to provide a one-day Graffiti Workshop and one-day Skate Workshop/Demos, during the Easter Holidays in April 2019 and a mobile Skate Park event at the Pump Track at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground during Thatcham Family Fun Day.

Both companies will provide pro/expert members of staff to show the young people tricks and tips. Both will also produce flyers and banners which will be displayed at Dunstan Green Skate Park ahead of the events. The Outreach Youth Workers will also be in attendance to engage with the young people and provide supplementary activities. Thereby enhancing their relationship with the young people.

At the last Outreach Youth Partners Meeting it was suggested that, to complement the Easter holiday activities, pizza could be provided for one event and local Church volunteers have offered to provide a BBQ for the other event. There will be a host of food vendors at Thatcham Family Fun Day.

The Outreach Youth Workers plus Berkshire Youth will also be in attendance at Thatcham Family Fun Day, providing complementary activities within the "young people's zone".

Should the events prove popular, sponsorship could be sought to provide similar activities in the future.

Providing these activities will offer encouragement to the young people that their engagement is important and valued, and will show that they have been listened to.

4 Financial Implications

Easter Holidays:

Skate Workshop - £1,750 for 3 members of King Ramps Crew 2 Pro Riders, MC and PA System, Generator and Gazebo.

Graffiti Workshop - £590.

Plus refreshments.

Thatcham Family Fun Day:

A 5ft Ramp with Demos and workshops, plus utilising the pump track, three riders plus a BMX'er - £2,400.

Total = £4,740 + refreshments.

Following the closure of Thatcham Detached Youth Project, £21,377.94 was transferred to the Town Council for the provision of activities or services for young people. It is proposed that up to £5,000 of this funding be used to fund this proposal.

5 Legislation

Local Government Act 1972, s145

6 Reference to Council Plan

Objective Three: To enhance the sense of community within Thatcham.

7 Consultation

This proposal has been put forward by young people of the town through engagement with the Outreach Youth Workers and is supported by the Outreach Youth Project Partners (detailed in paragraph 2 above).

8 Recommendation

That Committee agrees to provide the 3 events detailed in this report and that funding of up to £5,000 be allocated from the funding received from the Thatcham Detached Youth Project.
