

Attachment 1

Charlton's Youth Club- Update to PC AGM (May 2023)

The Youth club continues to be very well-received by our young villagers and we have approx. 12-15 young people attending our weekly term-time sessions at the Community Centre. A recent survey of 14 youth club members found the top three issues identified as effecting young people in the Charlton's were:

- Boredom
- Having nothing to do
- Lack of youth facilities

The survey found the top three things that young people identified as being good about youth provision at the youth club were:

- The friendliness of youth workers (100%)
- Opportunity to hang out with friends (79%)
- Youth workers understand the needs of young people (71%)

The survey also showed that 29% of the attendees felt the youth club was "excellent", 29% rated it is as "Very Good" and 42% said it was "Good".

When asked how attending the youth club has made a positive difference to their lives, we had the following responses:

Helped me stay out of trouble	36%
Increased confidence	36%
Learning to make informed decisions	21%
Learning to get on better with people	43%
I feel better about myself	29%
Learning new skills	7%
I am less bored	86%
I am less lonely	36%
I feel happier	21%
More involved in community	14%
I am making meaningful progress in my life	7%
Raised dreams and aspirations	0%
More aware of how my behaviour affects others	14%

As the above survey results show, the Youth Club plays an important role in helping young people in our village feel connected to each other and their community as well as providing valuable opportunities for self-development and insight, and helping to entertain and provide some enjoyment for our younger villagers outside of the school and home setting.

The club continues to employ 2 youth workers from the Community Youth Project to run the weekly sessions, supported by a small group of volunteers. Thanks to the generosity of the community centre committee who do not charge us to use the hall and field, our main fixed costs are the

employment of the 2 youth workers which totals approx. £6,000 per year. As we no longer receive any funding from the county council for youth provision we rely entirely on grants and fundraising to raise this money to keep the club afloat. Currently we have enough money to last for another year and are currently looking for funding opportunities to help secure the club beyond 2024.

I'd like to thank the Parish Council for their annual grant. Also thanks to Peter Moulding and members of Charlton's churches for their kind donation to the club in April, and to Margaret Hutchins and Andrea De Berker for raising money for the club at a recent Village Cafe. We are very lucky to have the support of the village and it is greatly appreciated by myself and all of the club members. We have also secured a regular yearly income from Glastonbury Festival of £1400.

Assuming an annual grant of £1500 from the PC and the new money from Glastonbury Festival this leaves an annual funding shortfall of approx. £3000 which needs to be plugged by fund-raising and smaller grants in order to keep the club going. As I am the only person raising this money, there is a big risk that I will not be able to secure this money to keep the club going as I have a number of other commitments which currently take priority.

Kate O'Boyle

Village Youth Club Co-ordinator