

Proposal to create a permanent Youth facility for Wickham Market.

In January 2022 the ASB in Wickham Market was brought to the attention of the Woodbridge & District ASB meeting by me as PC representative, from this with the help of Joss Mullet (Communities officer East Suffolk) and Stuart Watson (CYDS project) we started to look into an outreach programme with a youth group being formed in June 2022 in the committee room of the Village Hall the grant of £4,000. This group was run by professional youth workers from the CYDS project and was well attended, to ensure this valuable provision is accessed by all it needed to move to a larger venue the local primary school in January 2023.

But, with wanting to make it available to all ages and increase the days and times available we need a permanent dedicated safe space for the young people to meet up. CYDS currently have three facilities: -

Saxmundham with 80 people, Leiston with 200, Yoxford with 37 (times to be confirmed). All the above have drugs/alcohol problems as does Wickham Market bearing in mind those that attend the facilities do not necessarily live in the village.

My proposal is that we put a temporary/portable building on the playing field by the skate park/multi-sports court with solar panels. This has many advantages easy to access, easy to organise sport activities and as Stuart mentions in his letter help young people to feel part of the local environment with activities like tree planting, community garden etc. possibly the climate change working group could support.

Stuart would be happy to come and talk and answer any questions but first he needs our approval so that CYDS can apply for planning permission and funding to achieve this for the young of the village this has to be the next step forward so that we as a Council can provide a facility for our young people to be happy and proud to use in years to come.

Regards

Cllr. Ivor French