

Y-CAT meeting – Friday 3 November 2017

Locks Heath Free Church, 8pm-9:30pm

Attendance – 33 Young people, 4 parents

A Y-CAT meeting took place at Locks Heath Free Church with a focus of speaking to Cllr Woodward and asking questions that young people may have.

Concerns were raised about Genesis Youth Centre closing down following recent information publicised that it would be knocked down to make way for housing. Cllr Woodward assured groups that if this was to happen a brand new facility would be built first for the user groups to move in to before Genesis would be demolished.

Issues raised at last meeting:

A Youth Petition was put forward by young people who asked for a teen shelter to be installed at Stubbington. It was also brought up at the Youth Conference in September. Thanks to fundraising by Y-Services and Fareham Borough Council agreeing to pay the rest, a teen shelter will be installed at Stubbington next year. The Leisure and Community Team will carry out some further consultation later this year to agree where the facility will be located on the open space.

Questions:

Young people were given the chance to ask Cllr Woodward questions that had been written down and put into a ballot box before the meeting.

Q. Genesis is home to a youth club for children with special needs. It is the only social outlet for them. Taking Genesis away will take away their youth activity.

A. Plans to potentially build housing at the site have been around for a number of years and was in the 2015 Local Plan. Genesis would only be knocked down if a new building was built first. This would be a facility suitable for both youth and community activities.

Q. *Young people talking about Genesis:* It gives young people a chance to make friends, it's good value, it's the only place we feel accepted, we can have fun and stay safe, it teaches life skills. We wish for Genesis to stay open.

A. Very important points. We want to make sure that we can get an even better building with more space if the plans go ahead.

Q. What are you doing about homelessness?

A. Some of the homeless people you see aren't actually homeless, they just come to Fareham to beg and we have introduced a Public Spaces Protection order to help deal with these people.

We have a hostel in Fareham for those that are genuinely homeless and we work with many agencies that offer help but some people just won't engage with us and don't want the help.

Q. Why are there no bowling alleys in Fareham?

A. We used to have one but it didn't make much money so the company that run it decided to close down.

Q. Why are there not many football goals? And why do the ones that we do have, have no nets?

A. We do have many goal posts around Fareham. They don't have nets as they get stolen or vandalised. If you have any thoughts about where there should be goals let us know.

Q. There needs to be more mental and sexual health drop ins.

A. Youth Clubs can give support and Y-Services offer drop ins for 11-19 year olds. They are at XP, CEMAST, Henry Cort, Odyssey and Genesis. All of the info is on www.yservices.co.uk

Q. There is a negative influence on social media. What is being done?

A. The Government are working with social media companies to help stop trolling etc. There are billions of fake accounts and they need to be taken down quicker. It is an offence to abuse people online and people can be prosecuted. The best advice is to not look at the horrible comments.

Q. Can you clean up the public toilets?

A. We do have a cleaning company that go in a couple of times a day to all public toilets. If there are any in particular that are especially bad please let us know.

Q. Why don't we learn about youth clubs in school?

A. Y-Services do make contact with schools but if it's not in their National Curriculum then it's not in their interest. Young people are the best ambassadors for the clubs they go to and can share information with their friends.

Q. Why don't parks have street lamps?

A. Normally because there are homes nearby which can be affected by the lights.

Q. Can the Council set up a driving service to help 16-17 year olds drive?

A. This is for driving schools to do. We do offer free taster driving sessions for 15-16 year olds as part of our Access All Areas scheme.

Q. Where are the skate parks?

A. We have six skateparks in the Borough. They are located at Park Lane by Fareham Leisure Centre, Portchester, Titchfield, Stubbington and there are two in Locks Heath.

Q. Why do we need that much housing?

A. People need somewhere to live as the population is growing. We are currently consulting on our Local Plan which goes up to 2036. The government say we need to build a quarter of a million homes every year.

Q. Can students get discount in shops?

A. If you join NUS you can get a card which will enable you to get discounts.
<https://www.nus.org.uk/en/nus-extra/>

Q. Are the council prepared to help young people learn about taxes/mortgages etc and why isn't it taught in schools?

A. Young people should be able to learn about these things. Citizens Advice offer support and advice about money. I will speak with people in education to see what is being done about this.

Q. Why don't schools teach about the LGBT community?

A. I would have thought it would be taught in PSHE. I will speak with people in education.

Q. Can we have brighter lights in alleys?

A. Let us know which specific alleys. Lights are supposed to be set at certain intervals in the area so there is a certain amount of space between each light.

Q. Why are buses never on time?

A. Eclipse buses are on time as they have a dedicated lane. Other buses get stuck in traffic.

Q. Why don't students get free or cheaper bus tickets?

A. It is down to the bus companies. Fareham give free bus travel to young people in the summer that come along to Access All Areas. Bus companies are forced to give pensioners free bus travel so that means there is no money left for students.