

Minutes of the Youth Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14 January 2004 at 7.30pm at Milton Community Centre

Present: HM Smith (chair) EH Baker RH Chapman L Henderson PK Oldham LC Twinn
In attendance JE Coston (till 9pm) The clerk

1 Apologies for absence - IR Cowley PC Shulver

23/04 **2 Minutes** – the minutes of the meeting of 28 November 03 were approved and signed as a true record.

24/04 **3 Youth Building Replacement – Coles Road or The Sycamores?**

HMS had contacted Karen Finney of Kids R Us, Neil and Jackie Hutchinson (both youth workers and assistants at Kids R Us) and PC Shulver for their views. Noted that the youth club had more years 7 and 8 attending. Improved guidelines for behaviour at the club were in place and years 7 and 8 were respecting these rules. Kids R Us did not wish to move to a building at The Sycamores. PC Shulver hoped to attend the meeting on 28 January to give his views.

Committee stressed that the youth needed a youth building not a building that could be used by the youth. EHB had produced a document “What is a youth building?” – to be circulated to meeting on 28 January. The building must have facilities that support the youth work and youngsters’ personal and social development.

The advantages and disadvantages of both sites:

The Sycamores

Advantages:

- No disturbance and perceived intimidation to other users of the Community Centre. (Although it was noted that minor vandalism still occurred at the Community Centre).
- Other youth facilities ie skate park, basketball court were at The Sycamores.
- Purpose built youth building with all the facilities to support youth work.

Disadvantages:

- Poor disability access across car park.
- Difficult for MCC staff to manage.
- Security problems.
- Difficulties of attracting other partners and therefore funding.

Coles Road

Advantages:

- As part of a larger project for MCC it could attract funding.
- A loan could be secured after October 2005 (when present loan expires).
- Easier for staff to manage.
- More facilities for other groups eg scouts, kids R Us (though other uses must not conflict with evening (youth) use).
- Teenagers should be valued as part of the community. Being based at Coles Road would enable them to interact with other members of the community.

Disadvantages:

- Disturbance to other users and neighbours eg Barnabas Court.
- Possible loss of green space.
- Would parents of younger children be comfortable with older youths “hanging around”?

Conclusion:

No formal vote was taken but the majority of the Committee were strongly in favour of a youth building at The Sycamores if partners and funding could be found. The difficulties of funding this project were recognised and Committee would therefore be willing to consider a building at Coles Road.

Action: *EHB to produce a paper for the meeting on 28 January.*

The meeting ended at 9.40pm.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date