

Briefing Note – Tattenhall Youth Shelter

The Parish council is responsible for the youth shelter positioned on Chester Road opposite Glebe meadow. It is understood the shelter was installed in July 2007.

Previously there had been a fabricated shelter on the site for a number of years which had been used as a youth club but had been vandalised.

Although structurally sound the youth shelter has a poor appearance and needs repainting as minimum.



Facebook 19/05/2023.

The shelter was last painted in June 2019 by the Community Payback Team.

The issue of the Youth Shelter its decoration and behaviour of the young people using the shelter has been discussed by the Parish council on a number of occasions.

The location of the Youth shelter has also been discussed and it has been suggested it should be on The Park itself, however concerns were voiced that those using the shelter could be found intimidating by younger children.

Complaints have been received about the young people using the youth shelter shouting and swearing which those visiting the neighbouring graveyard have found distressing.

The Parish Council only has anecdotal evidence of what age group actually use the shelter, it is the Clerk's understanding that is 13 to 16/17 years olds.

Benefits of Youth Shelters

Thames Valley police conducted an extensive study on the benefits of youth shelters and found that as long as the shelter had been positioned correctly and managed properly crime rates and graffiti dropped in the immediate vicinity. Although a teenage shelter is not a complete solution of how to handle teenagers, they do go some way to providing teenagers with somewhere more preferable than the street corner.¹

¹ [The Benefits Of Teenage Shelters | Playdale](#)

Timeline:

April 2020

A Youth Council was formed and first met in April 2020, meeting virtually due to Covid restrictions. The Youth Council discussed the Youth Shelter on a number of occasions.

June 2020

The Youth Council identified a number of 'village improvements' which included:

- Lowering or removing the hedge around the Shelter
- Running a design competition to decorate the Shelter.
- Having a notice board in the Shelter specifically for information for young people.

A competition was run until end September 2020 for designs for the Shelter no entries were received.

December 2020

Parish Council concerns were discussed with the Youth Council regarding revamping of the Youth Shelter.

January 2021

Discussion took place at the Youth Council regarding negative connotations of 'graffiti' and it was agreed to develop the idea of an 'Art' works shop to revamp the Shelter.

March 2021

Youth Council organised a site meeting with a local artist at the Shelter to discuss art workshops to decorate the shelter.

June 2021

The Youth Council considered a design based on bright colours and the painting of the centre of the Shelter as a tree trunk and leaves on the roof.

July 2021

The Youth Council considered other design ideas and possible funding that might be available.

October 2021

It was reported to the Youth Council that the grant application had been submitted to run art works shop with a graffiti artist from North Wales². It was confirmed that the Parish Council had agreed to fund the workshop/s if the grant was not awarded.

November 2021

At the Youth Council a discussion took place as to whether the youth councillors would be interested in attending the workshop and also once decorated if they would use the Shelter, they confirmed they would not. It was noted the shelter was mainly used by teenagers who were seen as intimidating.

January 2022

The Parish Council discussed the Youth Council and noted it needed to grow and be more representative of the youth in the village and for a wider discussion to take place about shelter. It was agreed the Council could not retain the grant which had been awarded but would consider funding a project to decorate the Youth Shelter which had the support and involvement of young people.

² <https://www.facebook.com/dimeonenorthwales/>

July 2022

The Parish Council discussed employing/contracting a youth worker to engage with young people in the village to try and identify what young people were looking for in the village.

Previous meetings and discussions had confirmed that CW&C was not willing to provide any support.

Transition Tattenhall (July 4th Update) confirmed they were also looking at ways to engage with young people.

September 2022

The Council considered a quote from a youth worker to engage with young people. The council deferred the decision until the Council had run its priorities workshop and the result of Transition Tattenhall works in this area were known.

Other Matters:

Hedge

There has been some concerns voiced about the height of the hedge around the Youth Shelter and that is too low. It should be noted the youth shelter should be highly visible to prevent anti-social behaviour and for the protection of the young people using the Shelter. (It should be noted the Council has a duty to consider the impact on crime and disorder when making decisions.) The shelter is intended to be somewhere young people can meet in public.

Priorities Workshop

It was noted that some form of event needed to be run to coordinate the work various organisations in the village and identify priorities which working and engaging with young people may be one.

It has been difficult to find a facilitator for the event, it is hoped a facilitator can be found and the event organised asap now the Parish Councillors have been elected.

Youth Council

The Youth Council without seeking to detract from the work done by the Youth Councillors was not representative of the youth of the village this was partly a result of Covid restrictions, it is also reflective of the fact the young people who were willing to get involved with the Council are those which are already involved in clubs and other organisations and are active in the community.

Recommendations:

- 1) The youth shelter is repainted as soon as possible in current colours.
- 2) Parish Council grants permission for art trail to include temporary art in the shelter if possible, focusing on art young people have produced.
- 3) The Parish Council considers install small notice board in the shelter.
- 3) Council works with other community groups to develop a programme of engagement with young people preferably employing an experienced youth worker.

