

**Presentation to Ledbury Town Council – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

**Ledbury Youth Activities Support**

Ledbury Youth Activities Support (LYAS) began in February 2016 in collaboration with young people from the Youth Council. It has now progressed to two evenings a week and has attracted over 170 young people.



The group has created a trustee board to manage the future of LYAS and has a wide range of volunteers which include a significant spectrum of experience and knowledge regarding young people. This has included a qualified youth worker, Police Community Support Officer, Former CEO and founder of Close House (the biggest provider of youth service in Herefordshire) & a management level qualified childcare provider amongst others.



Currently, LYAS is renting the Barrett Browning Institute Building on a minimal annual fee from Ledbury Places. Currently the facility is not fit for purpose and requires extensive improvements including a new front door, heating, toilets, wiring and general redecoration. LYAS intends to make use of the entire building and create a safe and secure location for all the young people of Ledbury on as many days/evenings as we can manage.

Improvements to the building will incur an ongoing increase in fees which will need to be met.

LYAS are now looking to create and manage a sustainable future. As such, the group is seeking to secure ongoing public funding to run alongside private income streams and donations. This is not only during the upcoming renovations to the Barrett Browning Institute (BBI) building but also on a perpetual basis which could increase as the success and viability of the group is developed.



The Ledbury Youth Activities Support group is currently moving towards charity status. We intend to work with Ledbury Places (who own the BBI Building) to make this a one-stop location for all the young people of the town and surrounding areas.

The main objective of the charity will be to support the young people of Ledbury through social & educational means. This will be targeted at the most disadvantaged, but all will be welcome.

LYAS has already developed an environment which encourages responsible behaviour. The young people now, more often than not, will self-police the drop in facility and take care of each other along with the fixtures and fittings.

In collaboration with the young people who attend the group, our volunteers, trustees and the information to come out of the Ledbury Town Plan in relation to provision for young people, we have devised new ideas for the use of the building. This includes a café, recording studio and activities room, all aimed and created in conjunction with the young people who use the facility

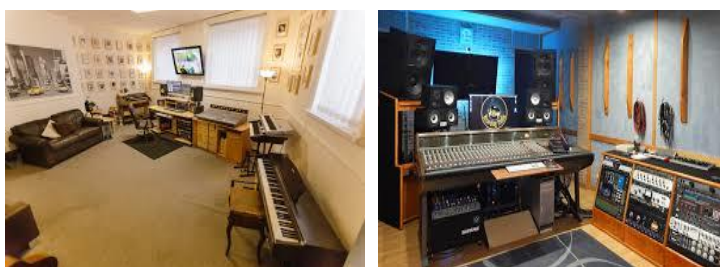


A ground floor café and stage including toilets. Fittings to include games, screens & mobile phone charging points. Potential to open to the public as popularity increases

(images are for concept purpose only)

An activities room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. This would be for recreation and games and could act as an overflow for the café downstairs during busy periods.

(images are for concept purpose only)



A Recording Studio on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. A space for the young people to learn and interact with music. It can also be rented out to provide an income stream. A sound engineer and equipment have already been sourced at reasonable cost

(images are for concept purpose only)

Apart from the obvious benefit of providing a safe, warm and welcoming environment during the nights the drop-in are open, the relationships developed with the young people is changing their behaviour generally within the town.

Parents and children have reported a decrease in issues arising at the Recreation Ground (The Rec) which has often been the main and only focal point as a meeting places for the young people of the town.

As explained above, ongoing funding will enable the group to develop a sustainable income strategy and work towards securing a multi-night operation. This will take the facility from a drop-in to a fully-fledged youth provider for all the 11-21 year olds of Ledbury.

This would be a significant and much needed resource for the town. LYAS request that Ledbury Town Council consider funding the project for £5000 for an initial 3 years, with a review after 2 years to consider project progress and future funding needs beyond the initial period.

**Thank you for your time & consideration**