

## LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>	<b>7 NOVEMBER 2019</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 23</b>
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Report prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

### **PROPOSALS IN RESPECT OF LEDBURY YOUTH GROUP**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a suggestion on a way forward in respect of a Ledbury Youth Group.

#### **DETAILED INFORMATION**

At the meeting of Council, held on 3 October 2019, it was resolved that the Town Clerk would provide a report in respect of a possible way forward with a youth group in Ledbury.

At that meeting it was suggested that a Youth Council would be a big commitment for the youth and that an alternative way forward should be considered. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to interact with the youth of Ledbury and ask what they would like to do.

As a result of those discussions the Clerk has put together some suggestions of a way forward for consideration by Members with a view to consulting the youth of the town on its implementation.

#### **SUGGESTED WAY FORWARD**

The Council are requested to give consideration to a Youth Forum or Action Group which could interact with the Council, similar to that of a Youth Council, but in a less formal way.

The proposal would be that a Youth Forum or Action Group be set up with membership of Ledbury youth from age 11 – 24 years. This is the age range that Youth Councils consist of and it allows for ideas from a wide ranging group of youngsters.

The make-up of the group should take into consideration all youth organisations within Ledbury, with an invite to provide members to be given to groups such as the following:

John Maesfield High School  
Cadet Groups (Army, Navy & Air)  
Sporting Groups  
Scouts and Guides  
Cultural groups such as music & poetry

It may be that not all youth organisations want to nominate representatives, but those who do should be asked to elect two representatives to the Youth Forum/Action Group to represent their views on the committee.

The Council could offer two members of the committee the opportunity to attend and take part in the Council meetings, either whole or part, and bring forward ideas and projects that they could ask the Council to support or work with the Youth group on. In return the Council should propose two Members to sit on the Youth Forum/Action Group, preferably the Town Mayor and one other (it may be worth considering one of the younger councillors for this role).

The Clerk has briefly discussed the idea of the Youth Forum/Action Group with the volunteers currently working with the youth in Ledbury and they have expressed a willingness to help the youth with setting up and running the Forum/Action Group.

The committee members, as their first task, should draw up a Constitution for the Forum/Action Group which will allow for their primary objective, which should be to represent the views and ideas of the young people from Ledbury and to take action on their behalf. As part of their constitution the Forum would need to elect a chair and vice-chair, annually.

Going forward, the Forum/Action Group would hold regular meetings to discuss issues raised with them by the youth of the town, some of which they could possibly manage as a group or bring to the Town Council for discussion and support.

Other Youth groups that have set up in this way have dealt with a number of issues such as:

- Organising litter picks
- Providing support at events in their towns
- Delivering Children's Rights Ambassador Workshops
- Litter bin reports
- Support plastic-free and recycling campaigns

The Council may wish to consider a small amount of funding for the Youth Forum/Action Group to enable the Committee to undertake training in things like the Children's Rights Ambassador training and to assist with projects etc.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members give consideration to the above suggestion and agree to hold discussions with the various youth groups within Ledbury to establish whether they would be interested in taking part in this or a similar group.