



Supporting Our Community

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL SEEKS RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON TOWN'S YOUTH PROVISION

Godalming Town Council (GTC) is conducting a survey to determine whether residents believe existing youth provisions meet the needs of our community and how they might be improved. Although there are many superb youth groups in Godalming, there is no general 'youth club' or dedicated youth centre. In response to concerns raised over many years regarding the lack of such provision the Town Council is considering opening a youth drop-in space for young people of secondary school age to use after school. The drop-in would provide a safe space for young people to socialise and meet friends and be able to access local and national youth services as well as the opportunity to meet a professional youth worker if they wished to discuss issues of concern.

The drop-in would be managed by qualified and experienced youth workers employed by the Council, who would support young people in a non-judgmental, safe and caring environment and would provide a range of activities for young people and would be 'their space'. It would be overseen by a GTC Youth Services Management Group of elected councillors and service organisers/leaders.

Although a suitable building/location has not yet been agreed, the anticipated costs of providing a dedicated youth drop-in supported by qualified youth workers would be in the region of £80,000-£100,000 per year with anticipated initial set up costs in the region of £100,000, which equates to £10 per year (approximately 19 pence per week) to the Band D council tax. These figures are based on an assessment of the costs other local councils have experienced in setting up and running their youth services.

Funding for such a provision would need to be provided by the community. Whilst the lack of such provision has been raised many times, GTC wishes to seek the views and support of the community before agreeing to provide and fund this service for the town's young citizens. To have your say please complete a short survey which can be accessed at <https://godalming-tc.gov.uk/consultation/>

Ends...

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