

MAYD21/24

Possible removal of the Youth Shelter in Melbourn

I was sorry to hear about the incident on the Rec with the youth shelter.

I agree with you that it is an asset we would really like to keep in place. The damage is unsightly but does look repairable .

My recommendation from a Cambridgeshire County Council Community Coordinator for Youth Perspective, would be to that we would encourage as many spaces for young people as possible in an area, to offer them a safe space to meet, which is visible to the community, so to keep this asset if possible.

The shelter I thought was well used, by many members of the community, younger and older from the Melbourn community, not just young people, so the loss of this asset would have an impact on all members of the community, and essentially the young people who use it and respect this asset. If this was to be taken away, the young people may still gather in that area, or move on into other areas of the village to meet and gather.

Ideally, we would encourage work with those Young People who may have damaged it, to build a relationship with them and facilitate behaviour change so this is not repeated anywhere else in the area, and encourage them to engage with other positive activities they could be participating in.

As in idea, If those responsible could be identified, as well as others who use the area and want to get involved. We would look to work with positive role models in the area and the young people and encourage them to help repair the damage that has been done, and help with a repaint so they feel some ownership over the shelter, and to respect and look after it as it's their work, to deter this from happening again.

This type of project was successful when we did the 'Graffiti 'Free wall' At the cricket Pavillion on the Rec, and is still used well today.

It could be a partnership event with Jay from MusicMix from the village who has developed a relationship with a number of young people in the area through their project, and Kilo - A graffiti artist who is experienced in working with young people who struggle and display challenging behaviours.

The Young people could work with Kilo to design what they would like to put on the panels during a couple of sessions, and spray this on the Shelter with Kilo at another session.

This would enable a change in behaviour for the young people, and promote growth and development of their social skills, helping them to build trusting relationships with positive male role models who work with young people, and take more ownership of the shelter and prevent it from being exposed to ASB.

It may be possible to apply for funds from the OPCC fund for this project as it was reported to Police, or we could look for other funds to support this project.