

The latest government reports state that;

Young people in the UK face significant challenges including financial instability (poverty, housing, job insecurity), poor mental and physical health (anxiety, depression, obesity linked to diet), social isolation and increased online exploitation, rising crime (knife crime, drug dealing), and disruptions to education and social development from the pandemic and austerity, leading to a lack of opportunities and support. (say reports from the House of Lords, Barnardo's, Nacro, the University of York, the GOV.UK Youth Strategy, and King's College London).

Even without the above statement we all recognise that we have a responsibility to the youth of our community which now requires serious consideration. (Our parish population has now reached over 5,100.<sup>1</sup> and growing).

We have discussed previously the need for a provision of a youth facility and have a standing commitment to support the youth.

I would like the Parish to now push this agenda forward as a priority (our commitment was made in the Strategic Plan in 2022<sup>2</sup> )

I would like us to commence with a study of providing a Youth facility (probably on the Old Rec) to provide a permanent joint facility for the Scouting association, the Cadets, a Youth Centre ,Day centre and all other youth initiatives we have now and other uses that a large hall could be utilised for (Safe space , Food bank , Warm Hub.Home school meeting space etc).

I also propose that we visit as many comparable facilities and organisations to better understand needs and how to support them and also to meet with the local schools for similar fact finding.

I want to add here that we should also have consideration that if a 2 floor building is planned then the upstairs could provide fit for purpose parish Offices and meeting room.

Such Good Works need to be funded.

As a guide from the parish records The Hub building cost (in 2014) £650,000 including commercial kitchens.

I believe we need to make a start now in investing in the next generations and look forward to a full and frank discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics estimates

<sup>2</sup> [Document-4.24-Melbourn-Parish-Council-Strategic-Plan-v2-July2022.pdf](#)