



# Andover Town Council

Item No.

**8**

To **receive** a report on the work already done by the Working Group.

To **decide** whether to continue with the Working Group under its current structure.

**To: C&E Committee**

**By: Cllr Farren**

**Date of Report: 9/1/2005**

## Background:

In 2023 it was decided to form a Working Group (WG) to identify opportunities for the Council to understand and rectify some of the issues surrounding Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) within the Parish of Andover. Initial conversations centred around working with Test Valley Borough Council and the police/rangers to more vigorously tackle ASB, while also identifying gaps in the provision of youth options with a view to filling them. Various issues were discussed. A youth activity directory was considered but determined to be complex and labour intensive, not to mention possibly overlapping or duplicating work already being done by other organisations. It was decided to undertake a youth questionnaire and tentatively agreed to explore the opportunity to purchase St. Andrews Church on Weyhill Road.

The youth questionnaire was compiled and distributed with several responses being returned. The current whereabouts of this information is unknown.

Conversations around obtaining St. Andrews Church were at best tentative and no realistic business plan was ever conceived as it was felt that any service it could provide was being fulfilled elsewhere.

Later, it was decided to rename the WG as the Youth Engagement Working Group (YEWG), with members moving away from tackling ASB and towards becoming an engagement provider.

The YEWG has not met for some time, causing some frustration to its members. However, with no development, progress, suggestion or direction, this lack of gathering appears moot.

## From draft Business Plan:

### 1. Help make Andover a welcoming, safe, and well cared for town

Actions	2025-26	2026-27
3.5 Services for younger people	Explore services for younger people  Consider and deliver recommendations from the Youth Engagement Working Group	Deliver recommendations from the Youth Engagement Working Group

## Recommendations:

Should the Town Council wish to continue exploring opportunities for youth engagement, in line with the draft Business plan, it should consider directing specific objectives and set both parameters and deadlines for the WG.

The YEWG would benefit from the enhanced skillset of current councilors now available to it.