

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN CENTRE & EVENTS COMMITTEE
MONDAY 27th July 2020

Contact Officer: Paul Hodson, Town Clerk

Youth Activities Programme Summer 2020

1. Recommendation

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members agree to allocate £3,698 towards the total cost of £5,698 and to commission Action 4 Youth to provide the programme of activities described. Of this, £3,000 would come from 301 4094 Youth Project, and £698 from 303 4273 One Off Events.
- 1.2. It is recommended that members agree to allocate up to £600 towards the cost of preserving the Lace Hill snake to ensure the activity undertaken to create it is protected. This would come from 303 4273 One Off Events.

2. Background

- 2.1. It is possible that this summer will be a challenging time for families slowly coming out of lockdown, and for young people who have already had several months of limited opportunities to socialise, particularly with the likelihood of having less family holidays and less formal, particularly indoor activities available to them. Although social distancing measures are lifting, it will remain difficult to run the traditional holiday activities for children and young people, whilst childcare from grandparents may be difficult.
- 2.2. In previous years the Buckingham Activities Group has funded a range of activities over the summer. Funding has been provided from the Town Council, the now expired Local Area Forum, and some years ago by Thames Valley Police. The programme was initially set up to help address anti-social behaviour in the town. This, linked with Play Around the Parishes, has provided a range of activities for young people in the town.
- 2.3. Many of the usual activities, including basketball workshops and Play Around the Parishes have been cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions.
- 2.4. This reduction in activities, combined with a reduction in family holidays, will leave less for young people to do over the summer. Given that young people have already been under lock down for some months, and now are still restricted by the social distancing measures, the risk of increased anti-social behaviour over the summer is significant.

3. Buckingham Activities Group

- 3.1. In previous years, the Buckingham Activity Group put together a programme of summer activities for young people in Buckingham. A range of organisations arranged activities and provided funding.
- 3.2. A meeting of the Buckingham Activities Group was held on 2nd July 2020 via Zoom. The notes of the meeting are attached to this report. None of the groups represented had any firm plans to provide physical activities over the summer. Councillor O'Donoghue agreed to work with youth club volunteers to provide a treasure hunt over the summer.
- 3.3. The basketball workshops usually facilitated by the Town Council were not able to go ahead due to advice from basketball's governing body.
- 3.4. No criticism was made of each organisation's position, as all the groups represented have had to make decisions based on their own circumstances. But it was clear that the overall situation was that no plans were in place for any physical activities to be provided for children and young people over the summer. (Other than some sports specific activities run by clubs).
- 3.5. Buckinghamshire Council have subsequently advised that they are not going to provide the usual Play Around the Parishes sessions this year, following advice from their Public Health team that government advice should be interpreted to mean that no gatherings of more than 6 people are allowed.

4. Proposed Programme

- 4.1. Several organisations were asked whether they could provide some form of youth activities during the summer which would be open to all. The only organisation able to provide a proposal was Action 4 Youth. Action 4 Youth is a Buckinghamshire charity with a wide remit, including running an outdoor adventure and learning centre, operating the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and a number of other programmes such as, the National Citizen Service for the area and the Inspiration Programme. They also represent a membership of youth clubs and organisations, including Buckingham Youth Club, and are contracted by Buckinghamshire Council to provide support to Buckingham Youth Club. This proposal is distinct from their other work, and would require to be separately funded.
- 4.2. Each activity will be delivered by two qualified youth workers. Over the four weeks, four different youth workers would be used. The Wednesday activities would be aimed at the under 12s, and the remainder for 13-18 year olds.
- 4.3. The first hour of the initial sessions will be spent in outreach work and engaging with young people. The ratio of engagement to activity delivery will

depend on the success of the engagement work. A maximum of 15 young people will be able take part in each activity. Detailed plans will be provided and signed off by the Town Clerk for each activity before it goes ahead, to ensure that the latest Covid 19 guidance and legislation is adhered to.

4.4. The sessions will be very informal and it is anticipated that young people will join in at various times. Where possible staff will be flexible in allowing young people to join in during sessions as they wish as long as they don't exceed the capacity of 15.

4.5. There is no provision for indoor alternatives in wet weather. Activities will take place wherever possible, and if engagement is possible but no actual activity, then that will take place. In the case of extreme weather activities for the day will be cancelled.

5. Indicative Timetable

5.1. Kayaking may not be possible in the river! The provider will visit the site to clarify this beforehand, and if it is not possible, and alternative activity will be provided.

Monday 3rd August	Tuesday 4th August	Wednesday 5th August	Thursday 6th August	Friday 7th August
	Kayak/ SUP 1-4pm	Play in the Park 1-4pm	Pavement Art 1-4pm	1-4pm Umbanda drumming
Monday 10th August	Tuesday 11th August	Wednesday 12th August	Thursday 13th August	Friday 14th August
	Archery 1- 4pm	Play in the Park 1-4pm	Health and Wellbeing 1- 4pm	1-4pm Multi sports
Monday 17th August	Tuesday 18th August	Wednesday 19th August	Thursday 20th August	Friday 21st August
	Kayak/ SUP 1-4pm	Play in the Park 1-4pm	Kwik cricket/ sports 1-4pm	1-4pm Yoga
Monday 24th August	Tuesday 25th August	Wednesday 26th August	Thursday 27th August	Friday 28th August
	Archery 1- 4pm	Play in the Park 1-4pm	Treasure Trail 1-4pm	1-4pm Umbanda drumming

6. Cost

6.1. The total cost of providing the activities listed would be £5,698. This would include the provision of the activities provided, along with an end of programme report which will include the numbers of attendees for each session, a reflection on how the engagement went, and proposed approaches and changes for any future work.

6.2. Buckinghamshire Council has allocated funding for local Buckinghamshire Councillors to support local responses to the Covid 19 restrictions. It is proposed to apply for the maximum £2,000 from this fund to contribute to the costs of this programme. This will require the agreement of three local Buckinghamshire Councillors.

7. Lace Hill snake

Residents and young people from Lace Hill are creating a “snake” using rocks and pebbles which they have painted. Residents have requested the Council supports them in preserving the snake. This is likely to take the form of the rocks being concreted in to a suitable location and a plaque being placed next to the snake. It is estimated that this will cost approximately £600.