



## **Beeches Community Board – Young People Sub-group**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10am via MS Teams**

### **Meeting Notes and Actions**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Dev Dhillon – Chairman – Buckinghamshire Council

Councillor Barbara Gibbs – Buckinghamshire Council

Councillor John Carey – Burnham Parish Council

Councillor Marilyn Rolfe – Farnham Royal Parish Council

Paula Prince – Burnham Resilience Group

Stuart Parker – Community Youth Development Manager, Family Support Service – Buckinghamshire Council

Debbie Hulme – Community Coordinator, Family Support Service – Buckinghamshire Council

Becca Nutley – Community Youth Ventures CIC

Jack Pearce – Beeches Community Board Coordinator – Buckinghamshire Council

#### **1. Notes and actions from last meeting**

- Youth Councils: The group supported setting up a Youth Council and discussed how to take this forward. It was agreed that local scout and guide groups should be approached, as well as local schools and youth clubs. Consideration would need to be given to how the youth council was set up and how representatives would be chosen. It was noted that other Community Boards had invited young people to their sub-group meetings and it was agreed that this should also be done in Beeches. It was agreed that youth representatives should be identified and invited to the next meeting of the sub-group.
- Youth outreach work: The group agreed that there was a need to engage with young people who were not part of youth clubs or other organised activities. It was suggested that the Council's youth workers could carry out a scoping exercise to find out what the needs of young people in the area were and what activities or provision they would want. This could then be fed back and opportunities for outreach work with external partners could be explored. It was noted that LEAP had provided funding for a boot camp in

Denham in response to the wishes of young people, similar activities could be provided in Beeches if young people felt that they were needed.

## 2. Items submitted for discussion

- Lack of secondary education provision in Burnham: The group discussed this issue which had arisen following the closure of Burnham Park Academy in 2019. This had meant that children from Burnham were attending a variety of schools outside the area, leading to a fragmented youth society in Burnham. There was some support amongst the group for a new school in Burnham however it was acknowledged that pupil numbers would pose a significant challenge. For a new school to be viable it would need to be successful enough to attract both pupils from Burnham and children from outside the area.
- Mental health and wellbeing for young people: It was noted that lockdown had led to a lack of face to face contact amongst young people which had a negative impact on mental health. Schools had noticed more pupils with mental health issues and behavioural issues since returning after lockdown. Organisations such as the Burnham Resilience Group had been providing activity packs to schools during the pandemic but it was felt that additional resources were needed. It was noted that the Council did have an early help forum which was solutions focused and provide support and advice. Often services for young people were available but they were not always well publicised. It was noted that there was a national initiative to provide help to parents with children suffering from anxiety which could be explored. It was also recognised that teachers at Bourne End E-Act Academy had received training on mental health first aid and this could be explored for other schools in the area. The group queried whether mental health first aid training could be funded by the Community Board, and it was agreed that this should be explored and brought back to the next meeting.

## 3. Actions and next steps

- Jack to approach local youth clubs to discuss representatives for a youth council. Paula to contact Burnham Scouts/Guides, Dev to contact Burnham Grammar School and John to contact Bourne End School.
- Jack to arrange a meeting with Stuart and Becca to discuss youth outreach.
- Jack to circulate FOI information on Burnham Park Academy pupil numbers once received from Dev.
- Debbie to send info to Jack on early help which would be circulated.
- Jack to explore national initiative for parents of children with anxiety.
- Jack to find out whether the Board could fund mental health training first aid for teachers and youth club workers.

## 4. Date of next meeting

- Jack to identify a date in early December for the next meeting and circulate to the group