

261103 – Item 16 - Youth Stakeholder Group Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday 15 October

Time: 1–3pm

Venue: Moretonhampstead Community Club

1. Purpose of the Meeting

Wellmoor brought together local stakeholders to review and discuss the findings from the youth consultation work carried out over summer and early autumn. [REDACTED] presented the results of the youth survey alongside additional data gathered by [REDACTED]. The group explored emerging themes, reflected on the insights, and considered next steps using the Social Health Framework.

2. Key Findings from Youth Consultation

2.1 Activities and Opportunities for Young People

- Young people reported limited activities aimed at their age group, noting that many existing opportunities (e.g., wellbeing walks) are designed for older residents.
- They would welcome guided or led walks specifically for young people.
- Improvements to the play park and skate park were frequently mentioned.
- Young people expressed a desire for more influence in local decision-making. Sam noted this was encouraging and that the council is interested in exploring the idea of a youth council. [REDACTED] emphasised that for such a group to be successful, young peoples input must be acted upon or interest may decline.

2.2 Age Group for Engagement

- The group agreed that the ideal age for initial engagement is 11–13, when young people have left primary school, are receptive to new ideas, and are likely to stay involved if engaged early.

2.3 Visioning and Community Mapping

- [REDACTED] (Devon Community Foundation) suggested developing a vision for Moretonhampstead 2035, mapping out aspirations for youth provision and community wellbeing.
- This vision could then be shared with young people and the wider community for comment and co-design.

3. Strategic Themes Discussed

3.1 Relationship with the Sports Centre

A central challenge identified is how to engage and collaborate with the Sports Centre, given its importance to youth provision in the town. Strengthening this relationship is seen as essential for long-term progress.

3.2 Community Perception of Young People

- The group noted tensions between encouraging young people to be active outdoors and concerns from some older residents about noise.
- Work is needed to improve community perceptions and build understanding between age groups.

3.3 Youth Café Concept

- The idea of establishing a Youth Café was discussed.
- Bovey Tracey's model is working well, and the group has been invited to visit to learn more.

4. Quick Wins and Immediate Actions

4.1 Public Transport – Sunday Bus Service

- Young people highlighted the lack of a Sunday bus service as a barrier to independence and participation.
- The group asked whether the Council would write to Country Bus to explore reinstating a Sunday service and understand any barriers.
- A community bus option could also be explored.

4.2 Reaching Under-represented Young People

- Some young people were not reached by the survey.
- The group asked whether the Council would approve the Clerk spending a day in the Sentry speaking with users of all ages to gather views on youth provision and potential improvements.

4.3 Improvements to the Sentry Play Park

- The current play park is functional but not well-suited to toddlers and not engaging for teens.
- The group asked whether the Council would consider improvements if funding can be secured.
- Any redesign would require community consultation and youth involvement in co-design.

4.4 Information Hub for Youth Activities

- Young people reported they do not know what is available locally.

- A quick fix would be to create a single website listing all youth activities, similar to [Totnes Pulse](#).

5. Recommendations for Council

1. Sunday Bus Service

- Write to Country Bus to request consideration of a Sunday service and identify barriers.
- Explore community transport options if a commercial service is not viable.

2. Sentry Engagement Day

- Approve the Clerk spending a day in the Sentry to gather wider views from young people and residents.

3. Sentry Play Park Improvements

- Support exploring improvements to the play park and authorise the Clerk to seek funding.

4. Youth Voice

- Explore the establishment of a Youth Council and consider how young people can be involved in future consultations and project design.

5. Visioning and Partnerships

- Support creation of a “Moretonhampstead 2035” youth and community wellbeing vision.

6. Youth Café Exploration

- Note the potential value of a Youth Café and support further investigation, including the clerk attending a visit to Bovey Tracey.