

Allhallows Youth Club Report to Annual Parish Meeting April 2016

Allhallows Youth Club is based at The Brimp Youth Centre and is run entirely by volunteers. The Youth Club has been running for over six years and is a great asset to the community of Allhallows.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers, both past and present, who have given their valuable time to improve the lives of young people in our local community. The Youth Club also has an impact on the wider community as Kent Police have advised that crime, especially anti-social behaviour, is reduced on the nights that the Youth Club is in operation.

The Youth Club currently operates on two nights a week (Tuesday and Friday) and welcomes young people aged 8 and over split over different sessions. We welcome new volunteers and have several past members who are now volunteer leaders.

As the Parish Council is aware, the Youth Club secured funding to purchase a football arena and gained sponsorship of over £60,000 to have the arena installed and other works, at The Brimp. The football arena is extremely popular and is open to the public when Youth Club is not in operation.

Youth Club is very popular and we have a range of activities on offer to young people including table tennis, pool, shuffle board, darts, scalextric, tv/games room, arts and crafts, board games to name but a few. We also operate a tuck shop that the volunteers stock and manage.

The Youth Club Committee volunteers also manage the building. This involves a lot of work throughout the year in administration to ensure that good governance is observed. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who have given up their time to help us maintain the building and grounds on Project Mornings.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Cleaner for the marvellous job she does and also the Street Cleaners who keep the football arena area clean and tidy for the public to use. You all do a fantastic job.

This report is being read out on behalf of the Youth Club because we are at this present time running a Creative Music Workshop with a professional musician whom we secured funding to run workshops with the young people. We have also had workshops in cake decorating, glass painting, magic and jewellery making to, name but a few.

Unfortunately, all of this may soon change. At the April Parish Council meeting a decision was taken to make the post of Cleaner at The Brimp redundant. The Youth Club pays all the costs of the Cleaner including the salary, back to the Parish Council. The Parish Council had been made fully aware before their meeting that if this decision was taken then the Youth Club would ultimately close.

The Youth Club saves the Parish Council over £1,000 a year by cutting the grass. It has maintained the football arena for free even though this is the responsibility of the Parish Council. It has paid for all of the necessary annual building checks such as fire extinguisher maintenance and electrical inspections even though these are the responsibility of the Parish Council.

The Youth Club is an unincorporated association which means the organisation has no separate legal identity and is unable to enter into a Contract of Employment. All of this was explained to the Parish Council Clerk prior to their meeting.

The Youth Club are not willing to change their legal structure. The volunteers, many of whom are in full-time employment, are not willing to change the way the organisation works – the current arrangement has worked perfectly well for four years. The volunteers should be supported in the work they do, not have added administration and stress foisted upon them with no consultation.

The Parish Council has made an uninformed and ill-advised decision which needs to be rescinded. It is very simple: if the Parish Council upholds its decision to make the post of Cleaner at The Brimp redundant then the Youth Club will ultimately close.

Please support your local Youth Club. The volunteers provide a vital service to the young people and wider community of Allhallows.

Mark Skudder
Chairperson of Allhallows Youth Club
April 2016