

TRAWDEN TEENS CONSULTATION EVENT, 23/11/2021

Fifteen participants aged between 14-15 attended Friends of Trawden Playground's consultation event held at the Trawden Arms 23/11/2021. Of those attending, eight had previously volunteered at FTP's launch event. All participants are residents in Trawden. The consultation was also attended by Karen Howarth (CYAG), Melva Burton and Ann Holmes (Trawden Parish Council). Many thanks to Adam and Jo at the Trawden Arms Community Pub for hosting this event.

Key points arising from the discussion follow below:

1. In response to a question as to whether FTP's work with young people aged over 13 (12 being the age limit for users of Trawden Playground) should be identified separately, the participants agreed unanimously on the name Trawden Teens. All projects benefiting this older age group will be branded as Trawden Teens.
2. Participants agreed that wider recognition of local teenagers' needs was essential and also wanted to resolve the tension arising from teenagers using the community shop, library and grounds. They suggested meeting with:

- Trawden Forest Community Centre trustees
- Trawden Community Shop directors and volunteers
- local residents who have complained about teenagers' behaviour

3. With regard to future Trawden Teens activities, participants suggested working with:

- Coldwell Activity Centre
- CYAG
- Trawden Athletics

4. Participants would like to have space in the Trawden Community newsletter and on social media platforms to promote their activities and share their views.
5. At present there are up to 20 young people involved in Trawden Teens. A poster in the community shop and library to publicise Trawden Teens' quarterly meetings would help to reach out to other teenagers in the Trawden Forest area.
6. Participant agreed unanimously that what they want above all else is a shelter where they can meet their friends: somewhere they can get together just to talk and relax indoors. At present there is nowhere local they can go, other than Ball Grove during daytime, or up to Taylors shop. Transport and cost were mentioned as the main reasons why children and young people have so little choice: going to see a film means travelling to Burnley and the cost is prohibitive.
7. They have been told to leave the community library and grounds. Older residents complain, take photos of young people congregating around the community centre and in some cases residents have behaved threateningly towards them.

8. Teenagers need a year-round safe space to socialise outside of their own homes, particularly after Covid's restrictions. A shelter is an inexpensive option and the main issue is finding and securing a suitable central location. FTP will look into this on behalf of Trawden Teens.
9. Karen Howarth (CYAG) is hoping to organise a Wednesday night youth club at Trawden Forest Community Centre, which was welcomed by those attending.
10. Trawden Teens want to be directly involved in helping to raise funds for their own initiatives as well as the playground. They have offered to help with managing stalls and cleaning up in addition to planning events. Participants
11. The next FTP event will be held 18/12/2021 at the Trawden Arms Community Pub, featuring a range of Christmas crafts workshops aimed at children and young people (e.g. decorate your own cookie, making Christmas tree ornaments, etc).
12. Future events will include a springtime family fun day and Easter fun run (subject to agreement with Trawden Athletics or Pendle Running group). FTP trustees' suggestion of a day pass for a "Tough Mudder" course, climbing/bouldering and kayaking were added to the list of activities.