



# **Youth Strategy 2023**

# Youth Strategy Aims

- *Ensure there are opportunities for personal and educational development*
- *Involve young people in the life of the village*
- *Help young people make good choices that lead to successful and happy futures*
- *Hunts Grove is a fun and rewarding place for young people to live*
- *Support all young people regardless of religion, ethnicity, sexuality, background, gender/sex or any other characteristic*

# Youth Strategy Pillars



## Provide

We will provide a selection of activities and services, focusing on those that cannot be provided by others and where these offer value for money.



## Involve

We will involve young people in decisions affecting them and will create opportunities for young people to get involved in the work of the council and in the community.



## Promote

We will increase awareness of existing offerings from providers including charities, sports clubs, specialist providers, public authorities and others.



## Support

We will support providers of activities seeking to start or expand offerings in and around Hunts Grove.



## Provide

We will provide a selection of activities and services, focusing on those that cannot be provided by others and where these offer value for money.

- The Parish Council will seek to provide a selection of activities and services of benefit to young people from those that are not/cannot be provided by others in ways that are sufficiently accessible to Hunts Grove's young people. Not duplicating other offerings will maximise what can be provided to young people, avoid impacting on local organisations & businesses, and ensure value for money for council tax payers.
- Such offerings may involve detached youth work and (when facilities allow) a youth club. Community events can also be a useful setting for activities.
- The Parish Council will engage with and seek advice from partners including Stroud District Council and Hunts Grove Primary Academy.



## Involve

We will involve young people in decisions affecting them and will create opportunities for young people to get involved in the work of the council and in the community.

- The Parish Council will seek to involve young people in decisions that impact on them. Youth provision will be more effective if it is guided by young people, and young people can bring different perspectives and valuable insight to the Parish Council's wider work. Involving young people creates opportunities for personal and educational development.
- It is desirable to have a dedicated Youth Voice forum for Hunts Grove although this requires significant and ongoing investment in staffing/volunteering that needs to be balanced against other options and activities/services. Encouraging participation in the Stroud District Council's Youth Voice group in Hardwicke is a short term option.
- Other options include seeking youth representation on Parish Council working groups, particularly on youth provision, and creating chances for young people to participate in organising and running Parish Council events.



## Promote

We will increase awareness of existing offerings from providers including charities, youth organisations, sports clubs, specialist providers, and others.

- The Parish Council will use its communications to increase awareness of opportunities offered by a wide range of commercial, public and third sector organisations. We will invite providers to participate in and promote themselves at Parish Council-run community events.
- We will seek to identify and establish links with the range of providers offering activities and services in and around Hunts Grove.
- We will use appropriate platforms to reach young people and parents.



## Support

We will support providers of activities seeking to start or expand offerings in and around Hunts Grove.

- The Parish Council will look to support providers by offering advice and information, connecting them to others who can help, considering grant applications, advertising for volunteers, and (if possible in future) seeking to provide suitable facilities/equipment.
- We will also seek to influence and inform SDC's decisions and priorities, as well as the planning and delivery of relevant facilities by Crest.
- The Parish Council can support Hunts Grove's young people take advantage of opportunities by factoring their requirements into our transport thinking and plans to help them access offerings outside of Hunts Grove. This could be improving active travel, and potentially promoting lift sharing mechanisms.



Risk	Mitigations
<p><b>Parish Council bandwidth:</b> We are a small but busy council with competing priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase number of councillors in May 2024</li> <li>• Consider broadening working group to include non-councillors</li> <li>• Build our efforts over time</li> <li>• Influence SDC to provide support</li> </ul>
<p><b>Funding:</b> Our budget is not large with competing pressures to limit the precept and deliver services, whilst also preparing to replace the ManCo.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and grow budget allocation</li> <li>• Carefully choose what we provide to maximise value for money and impact</li> <li>• Seek grant funding where possible</li> <li>• Influence SDC to provide support to reduce costs of providing as a parish</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lack of knowledge:</b> Councillors are not expert youth workers and do not have professional expertise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue engagement with SDC youth services</li> <li>• Develop increased knowledge through learning, research and engagement</li> <li>• Use expertise of Parish Clerk</li> <li>• Learn from other parish and town councils</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lack of facilities:</b> There are currently no indoor facilities other than the primary school, which is busy, has limited storage and is not a suitable environment for older youths including because there is no opportunity for them to own the space. The planned community centre will not offer everything that we need – and may not be managed by the parish council, limiting opportunities to develop it further in future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use detached youth work to reach young people where they are</li> <li>• Influence plans for community centre, sports pitches and other amenities, including neighbourhood centre</li> <li>• If the parish can assume management/ownership of facilities, use CIL money and explore grant funding to further improve and/or facilities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Connectivity:</b> There are significant offerings for young people in neighbouring communities but public transport is not always attractive/suitable and there are issues around cycling and walking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active travel work can improve connectivity to locations</li> <li>• Support future plans for improved bus services</li> <li>• Explore potential for supporting lift sharing</li> </ul>



## **Actions so far**

- Established a youth working group of councillors and clerk
- Engagement with senior youth worker at Stroud District Council
- Have sought assistance from Stroud District Council to scope youth services, and influenced councillors to support
- Obtained grant funding from Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to conduct scoping work
- Continued to engage with Sportily as an existing provider within Hunts Grove
- Received representations from sports clubs seeking to operate within Hunts Grove, and sought to understand their needs
- Discussed with Crest the potential for changing provision on sports pitches to cater for more sports across the year
- Attended event organised by Sportily and parents on 29 April to hear and discuss ideas from young people and parents.

## **Next steps**

- Consider how to govern youth strategy going forward
- Progress with scoping exercise
- Continue to engage with and influence Stroud District Council, including its approach beyond the current 2020-2024 strategy
- Develop comms plan
- Develop links with providers
- Continue to seek improvements to sports pitches and community centre so they can support greatest volume and range of activities
- Test this strategy with young people
- Develop more detailed delivery plans.