



## Blockley Parish Council

# Children and Young People Strategy 2021-2025

Blockley Parish Council serves the communities of Blockley, Aston Magna, Paxford, Draycott, Ditchford and Northwick Park. We're here to represent parishioners and deliver local services, as well as improve quality of life and community cohesion for everyone who lives and works here.

We value all our parishioners – including children and young people – and this document outlines how we will work to improve the quality of life and community cohesion for the cohort of parishioners aged 5-19.

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### **Introduction/Setting the scene**

Blockley Parish Council has provided activities for young people in the parish for the past eight years, commissioning external providers to run youth work sessions at the Sports and Social Club. The outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020 necessitated a halt to this work, with the National Youth Agency providing guidance that only very limited work could continue:

- Online and digital youth services
- Detached/outdoor local youth services
- 1-2-1 sessions with high-need young people (indoors)
- Small group work sessions indoors with high need young people

*(NYA Managing Youth Sector spaces and activities. 2020; p.12)*

The Parish Council chose to use this enforced break in our direct provision to review our work. We worked with a consultant to ensure future provision best met the needs of children and young people, whilst also providing best value for money.

This strategy document is the result of that review and will direct the Parish Council in our decision making over the next four years (June 2021-August 2025).

## **Seven Key Themes**

The Parish Council is aware it has limited resources of time, money and personnel, and so will direct our resources into seven priorities. Six of these are paired together; one stands alone. The Parish Council is committed to:

- 1) Providing activities for teenagers, and
- 2) Using the relationships built with teenagers in these activities to tap in to what young people want, encouraging them to represent themselves through democratic structures.
  
- 3) Being more engaged with other community groups, especially those with facilities, resources or activities that can benefit children and young people, and
- 4) Communicating and publicising this information more widely in the parish, using digital and physical methods to do so.
  
- 5) Developing informal sports opportunities for 8-18 year olds, in very local areas, for those not involved in formal sports and/or don't want to travel out of the Parish, and
- 6) Developing outdoor space(s) suitable for teenagers, where they feel welcome and 'at home'.
  
- 7) Developing an accessible hub for children, young people and families.

## **Our plan for delivering our seven key themes**

*Blockley Parish Council will:*

- 1) *Provide activities for teenagers, and*
- 2) *Use the relationships built with teenagers in these activities to tap in to what young people want, encouraging them to represent themselves through democratic structures.*

We intend to commission an external agency to provide weekly youth work sessions, starting as soon as is practically possible. The commissioning document will be drawn up in partnership with the consultant working with us, and will be specifically directed to:

- a) Provide weekly fun, engaging and developmental youth work sessions for young people aged 8-18
- b) Focus the work on getting young people to use their voice to inform the Parish Council in all of our key themes
- c) Work towards there being informal and formal routes for teenagers in the Parish to directly influence all of the key themes from 2022 onwards

Blockley Parish Council will:

- 3) *Be more engaged with other community groups, especially those with facilities, resources or activities that can benefit children and young people, and*
- 4) *Communicate and publicise this information more widely in the parish, using digital and physical methods to do so.*

We intend to work as a whole Parish Council to link up things that are already available, working with existing structures to improve the “offer” to children and young people. Specifically, we commit to:

- a) Creating a role on the Parish Council of “Community Group Liaison”, whose task it will be to communicate in to the Council on the activities, resources and opportunities that are available already in the village
- b) Create, and keep up to date, a list of community groups and resources that may be of benefit to others in the community
- c) Encourage all the Council members to keep up with developments in committees and organisations in the Parish through their informal networks
- d) Appoint someone to manage social media on behalf of the Council to communicate all of this information out to local communities.

Blockley Parish Council will:

- 5) *Develop informal sports opportunities for 8-18 year-olds, in very local areas, for those not involved in formal sports and/or don't want to travel out of the Parish, and*
- 6) *Develop outdoor space(s) suitable for teenagers, where they feel welcome and 'at home'.*

We recognise that children and young people in the local area often take part in formal sporting activities, often a car journey away from their home. We encourage and support this. We also recognise that the distance to these activities can be a barrier to some families, and that not all children and young people want to be involved in organised sport and would prefer informal activities and spaces. Therefore, we commit to:

- a) Working with the Sports and Social Club to explore how we can involve more children and young people in sports on that site
- b) Working with our commissioned youth work provider and young people to explore possible sites for an informal space for young people to socialise.

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Blockley Parish Council will:

- 7) *Explore developing an accessible hub for children, young people and families.*

The Parish Council would like to develop a building that acts as a hub for children, young people and families in the Parish. We recognise that this will take some work to explore the feasibility of taking on the responsibilities of such a building, but if one comes available will:

- a) Encourage a committee to form to take on the running of the building (i.e. not run it ourselves but support an entity to do so)
- b) Encourage that space to be used for multiple activities, from youth work, to interest groups, mother and toddlers groups, school use, after school get togethers...the only limit is the imagination of the committee and children, young people and families who use it!

- c) To encourage the committee to rent space in the building, if possible, to help fund the activities and building as a whole

### **Concluding remarks**

Blockley Parish Council values all of the children, young people and families that live in our communities. We will review this plan on an annual basis and welcome input into it from all who have a stake in it, especially children and young people themselves. We will actively set up routes for this input to happen through our commissioning of youth work in the next 12 months. We hope and intend that by the time this strategy is half way through its life, children and young people will be directing it as equal partners with the Council.

## Action Plan

Needs/Gaps BPC want to meet	Actions to meet those gaps	Key Performance Indicators	Target date	Responsible Person
Provide activities for teenagers	Commission an organisation to re-start youth activities at the Sports Club, with a particular focus on getting young people involved in directing their own provision	Commissioning document written Advertisements placed inviting tenders Commissioning process complete Youth work activities begin	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021 22nd June 2021 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2021 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	Chime Management/Clerk Clerk Clerk Newly commissioned body
Use the relationships built with teenagers in these activities to tap in to what young people want, encouraging them to represent themselves through democratic structures.	To use the commissioning process to direct the commissioned body to work on this area specifically, bringing in their expertise in this area	Commissioning process complete Informal representation from young people on this strategy Formal representation from young people on this strategy – reporting to PC meeting Youth champions or youth council instated	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2021 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	Clerk Newly commissioned body Newly commissioned body Newly commissioned body

Needs/Gaps BPC want to meet	Actions to meet those gaps	Key Performance Indicators	Target date	Responsible Person
<p>Be more engaged with other community groups, especially those with facilities, resources or activities that can benefit children and young people, and</p> <p>Communicate and publicise this information more widely in the parish, using digital and physical methods to do so.</p>	<p>Create a role on the Parish Council of “Community Group Liaison”, who’s task it will be to communicate in to the Council on the activities, resources and opportunities that are available already in the village</p>	<p>Role created, and appointed at Parish Council meeting</p>	<p>31<sup>st</sup> December 2021</p>	<p>Chair</p>
	<p>Create, and keep up to date a list of community groups and resources that may be of benefit to others in the community</p>	<p>List created, and a suitable medium agreed on to communicate this to parishioners</p>	<p>31<sup>st</sup> December 2021</p>	<p>Community Group Liaison councillor</p>
	<p>Encourage all the Council members to keep up with developments in committees and organisations in the Parish through their informal networks</p>	<p>A standing item on the agenda for all members to feedback information on community groups and activities</p>	<p>30<sup>th</sup> September 2021</p>	<p>Chair/Clerk</p>
	<p>Appoint someone to manage social media on behalf of the Council to communicate all this information out to local communities</p>	<p>Appointment to this role made</p>	<p>30<sup>th</sup> September 2021</p>	<p>Full council</p>

Needs/Gaps BPC want to meet	Actions to meet those gaps	Key Performance Indicators	Target date	Responsible Person
Develop informal sports opportunities for 8-18 year-olds, in very local areas, for those not involved in formal sports and/or don't want to travel out of the Parish	Appoint a Community Group Liaison (CGL) role on the Parish Council	Role created, and appointed at Parish Council meeting	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021	Chair
	CGL to approach sports and social club and explore opportunities and barriers to enabling this	Meeting attended, and reported back to full council	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	CGL
	Informal sports and drop in sessions started, on a weekly basis, to benefit both social club and C&YP	Sessions begin	Summer 2022	CGL and Newly Commissioned Provider
Develop outdoor space(s) suitable for teenagers, where they feel welcome and 'at home'.	Commission an organisation to re-start youth activities at the Sports Club, with a particular focus on getting young people involved in directing their own provision	Commissioning document written	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021	Chime Management/Clerk
		Advert placed	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2021	Clerk
	Consultation (formal and informal methods) with young people to research equipment, siting etc	Commissioning process complete	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2021	Clerk
Sessions begin		1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	Newly commissioned body	
		Informal representation from young people on this topic	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021	Newly commissioned body
		Formal representation from young people on this topic – reporting to PC meeting	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	Newly commissioned body

Needs/Gaps BPC want to meet	Actions to meet those gaps	Key Performance Indicators	Target date	Responsible Person
<p>Developing an accessible hub for children, young people and families.</p>	<p>Engage with heritage society about future lease</p> <p>Feasibility study and discussion on lease renewal</p> <p>Encourage a management structure/committee to form to be able to take on such a hub</p>	<p>Meeting arranged/ communication started</p> <p>Projected costs/income resolved</p> <p>Likely timetable formulated</p> <p>A capable management committee formed to take on the running of the building, with terms of reference agreed</p>	<p>September 2021</p> <p>November 2021</p> <p>November 2021</p> <p>January</p>	<p>Lead person from Council to be identified.</p>