

Item 11 – Email from County Councillor David Hall

- Dear WR&L Parish,

The youth group which provides open access youth provision in West Rainton would like to continue providing sessions in the Village. The funding for open access youth work was cut in march this year and I found £12k for them to keep going until Jan/Feb 2018, and we are restructuring them into a CIO with new trustees.

The new CIO will need to start asking parish councils in the areas it operates in to fund the activity in that parish. I think we will be needing to ask West Rainton for £6k for 12 month's running costs for work within West Rainton & Leamside, which is principally the wages for the youth workers and sessional workers, and some other costs associated with the sessions including room hire. It will also of course use and look for grant funding for specific projects. As a primary funder the parish would be able to feed directly into the choices of projects for the village if it wants to at any time.

If we can secure the wage running costs for youth provision in the village it means it will be sustainable. If parish's can commit to provide £6k each year then there will always be youth work in its village, and by a youth project it will have a direct say in what it wants to see it doing.

I don't know the best timing to make the request of the parish. Would it be now or at the annual finance meeting?

I know you have a form and process for normal requests for funding but I do not think this request fits into that and that instead it is for the parish to consider funding it as part of core spend, such as it does for its own wages and village maintenance activities from the precept it receives.

Coxhoe made an increase in its precept to specifically cover its youth workers. One of their youth workers also acts as a community development worker as well, which would be an aim to grow the service into over-time so as to reach all ages and wider community projects. Other parishes may be able to fund it out of current levels of income.

I would be happy to provide any further information required and for myself or another trustee or youth worker to attend a future meeting of your choosing if you would like.

Best wishes,

David

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