

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH PUBLIC MEETING held at Audley Pensioners Hall, Church Street, Audley on Thursday 4th February 2016 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Revd J Taylor
 Councillors: Mr M Whitmore, Cllr A Frankish, Mrs V Pearson, Mr R Kinnersley, Mr C Cooper, Mr D Butler, Mr R Garlick, Mr P Breuer, Mr R Moody

Clerk – Mrs C. Withington
 There was 35 members of public present (signed on register)
 Sgt Gritton and PCSO Blythe present

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p>Issues Surrounding Anti-Social Behaviour In The Village And The Future Of The Comrade Shelter</p> <p>Revd Taylor opened the meeting by stating that Audley has become a hotspot for ASB and that the purpose of the meeting is to allow residents to put forward their views and proposals in particular with regards to the shelter on Castle Hill.</p> <p>An immediate resident reported concerns that this gangs of youths are having on their health. In particular she wished to see the shelter knocked down and a memorial of some sort put back in its place.</p> <p>A business owner reported the large amounts of criminal damage and high cost amounting to £12,000 over a 3 year period. It was noted that the shelter is used when the weather is bad, so an alternative should be found for them.</p> <p>Discussion took place as to why the youths chose to hang around in that area, which is mainly due to the proximity with the shops, it being lit and being moved on from other parts of the village. Unfortunately the Queen Street site is dark and muddy in the winter months. PCSO Blythe explained the measures that can be followed if there is persistent young offenders. However this group of youths changes on a frequent basis, as they tend to move between Silverdale, Waterhayes, Chesterton and Audley so it is often not the same faces. There is a programme of support in place to work with these youths in relation to drugs and alcohol, youth workers, and a programme with PMT to learn skills.</p> <p>Revd Taylor agreed to raise the issue of chewing gum on the ground and an organised litter pick with the youths to clean this up with the Borough Council/Police meeting on Friday 5th February.</p> <p>Another immediate resident reported issues relating to rubbish being thrown over into his garden, and the rowdy behaviour keeping their small children up at night. Music is being played until 12/1am.</p> <p>Discussion took place about holding a meeting with the youths to understand what they want.</p> <p>Another resident reported that 11 bin liners of rubbish had been collected around the community centre, which had been cleaned only 2 days before. There have also been incidents of arson on the Community Centre, although this seems to be one or two known older individuals – not necessarily linked to the youths.</p> <p>Issues on the Millennium Green were discussed, with every seat on the green being damaged or destroyed over the last 15 years.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JT</p>

It was suggested that a multi-agency approach needs to be taken to get to the root cause and to include the youths in any discussions. The youths should be educated about the background and repaint it.

A cinema club was also discussed, and this is something that could be considered for the Community Centre. This was raised as a suggestion by the high school during the meetings held in 2012/13. It was pointed out that as a result of those meetings, the skate park at Queen Street was installed – in answer to their request.

Sgt Gritton stated that if the shelter is boarded up, it may as well be demolished. It was noted that there is consideration being given to a number of other projects to work with the youths such as lighting/shelter on Leddys Field, SPACE programme, PMT skills programme for underachievers, litter pick during half term, BBQ etc. The police will be meeting with the youths to find out what they want.

A show of hands was taken and there around 14 people who believed it should be demolished with around 7 people who thought it should be kept open.

Revd Taylor thanked everyone for their comments and views, and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm