

Report Statement

Report Purpose:

Engaging the Youth

Author:

Town Clerk

Background

In the previous administration a very successful Youth Summit was held, with Cllr Shenton and Cllr Puttick involved. Cllr Barber, previously the Champion for Young People on CEC, is keen to continue on with this work, and is more than happy to lead.

The Town Council acknowledges that young people often have limited opportunities to express their views in a constructive way to the wider community. They are generally under-represented at meetings when issues which determine the town's (and possibly their) future are discussed.

Proposal

To create a Youth Forum, that provides a regular and genuine opportunity for the town's younger residents to comment, positively or negatively, on matters occurring within the town, and to enable a greater understanding of how they can play a key role in influencing change.

- Quarterly meetings can be arranged in the Town Hall, open to all young people who want to participate, and they set the agenda, and ideally, they would Chair the meeting.
- Councillors would be able to attend.
- Feedback would be given to Full Council, hopefully by one of the forum members.
- A budget could be set for the forum to complete project(s).