

**From:** CRAVEN, Benjamin 6039 <  
**Sent:** 14 October 2020 20:22  
**Subject:** Youth Club Application

Hello Victoria/Stephen,

As mentioned at our recent Community Priority Setting Meeting it was recognised that during the past few months there has been a clear increase in ASB related activity. This has been throughout most of our areas and mirrors the picture elsewhere. This is deemed to be due to the fact that youths are bored and restless due to heightened restrictions and the lack of youth provisions that have been available. Furthermore it is recognised that it has been a challenging time for many families and many have found isolation difficult, subsequently impacting mental health, anxiety and depression.

I was very impressed with the series of events that you were able to secure funding for in July. I am aware that both yourself and Stephen Swain worked hard under challenging circumstances to arrange a series of 4 evenings of activities including Street Dancing, Football, and Bike Maintenance. Although I was unable to attend these evenings myself, members of my team did attend and were full of praise for the positive impact these had on many of the youths who attended. I am aware that many of the youths who attended were deemed vulnerable and attending these events allowed them to receive much needed support along with also deterring them from committing ASB. Overall this had a very positive impact and I am not aware of any negative feedback/complaints on the back of these events being held.

I was aware that the scheme was subject to a detailed risk assessment which I was cited on prior to its approval. This included ensuring that activities took place in outdoor, open spaces, ensuring PPE was provided and ensuring activities were contained to smaller groups to ensure no larger gatherings and allowing distancing to be maintained.

It is recognised that as we enter the winter months it is likely that Covid restrictions will become ever heightened. As such this will likely be a difficult winter period for many youngsters throughout our Community. As a Community Policing Team we would support Groundworks holding additional bi-weekly mentoring evenings to combat this. This would be on the provision that these events would adhere to the local COVID restrictions in place at the time. It would also be on the provision that should local restrictions be heightened based on the three tier system that these events may need to be changed/stopped. It is recognised that due to the time of year these events would be held in an indoor setting however there would be a requirement for these to be Covid safe and fully risk assessed.

I am aware that the purpose of these sessions is to provide an array of support, advice and education along with hot food and an opportunity to meet others in a safe and secure way. From a Policing perspective this can only have a positive impact on the individuals involved and wider local Community. It is likely that these events will also provide a necessary distraction and reduce ASB levels. Where members of the local Policing team are able to partake in these events this also provides a positive opportunity to build rapport and relations.

Kind regards,  
Ben

**PS 6039 Ben Craven  
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