



Ollie Simons, YAB Engagement Worker



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Since the YAB's last update, the young commissioners have been involved with many exciting events and projects across the district. A highlight of the autumn was the Taverham High School Wellbeing Event where young commissioners spoke to their peers about their role at the YAB. The first YAB Engagement Project Networking Event also took place in October which saw a number of parish councillors and clerks meet to discuss youth engagement in their communities. Thank you to all who were able to attend.

In the autumn, the YAB welcomed a new senior youth and community worker, Emma Rush, to the team. After spending time delivering youth work abroad, Emma has returned to the UK with some great ideas and bundles of enthusiasm. Say hello to Emma at [emma.rush@ymcanorfolk.org](mailto:emma.rush@ymcanorfolk.org)

Upcoming events for 2017 include the launch of the new YAB 2017 annual project, the second YAB Engagement Networking Event and in-school parish council sessions where young people will be invited to find out more about the role of their local town or parish council.

### **YAB Annual Project 2017**

The results of the YAB's annual survey showed that priorities for young people in Broadland were bullying and cyber-bullying, positive friendships, and confidence and self-esteem. From this, the YAB has designed a project which will work with a range of young people in the district to tackle problems in these areas. The YAB is currently in the process of appointing a local youth organisation who will run this scheme on their behalf. The chosen organisation will be announced soon.



Young commissioners at the Taverham Wellbeing Event

## **The Annual Town and Parish Council Meeting and the YAB Youth Engagement Project**

Ollie Simons, the YAB Youth Engagement worker, spoke at Broadland District Council's Annual Town and Parish Meeting which invited parish and town councillors and clerks to share their thoughts and experiences.

Ollie promoted the ongoing youth engagement project which supports and facilitates young people's engagement with their town or parish council. The event was attended by over 40 people and led to fitted discussion between the YAB and town and parish councillors.

The main aim of the youth engagement project is to host assemblies and workshops in Broadland schools where parish councillors can speak with young people about what the council's role is, what it does and how it operates. Young people's lack of understanding of the role of their local council is one of the main hurdles which parish and town councils face and it is hoped that the school sessions will help to combat this.

## **Sprowston Youth Engagement Project's Celebration Event**

Over the past two years, the Broadland YAB has supported the Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) to deliver a youth café in Sprowston. The project has been very successful with more than forty young people visiting the youth café regularly. To mark the success of the project, the SYEP held a celebration event at B2B in Sprowston. The evening included performances from the young people and videos created by the young people which showed the great work which the SYEP has carried out. It was a pleasure for the YAB to attend the event and to speak to the young people about their experiences.

## **Acle Youth Club**

The Acle Youth Club was relaunched in September 2016 with the support of YMCA Norfolk and Acle Parish Council. Since then, the new club has been very successful with between 15 and 20 local young people attending each week. The parish council has now secured more staff so the club can run into the foreseeable future.

If you would like to **promote youth engagement** with your town/parish council please contact Oliver Simons at [oliver.simons@ymcanorfolk.org](mailto:oliver.simons@ymcanorfolk.org) or 07771895524

For other general **Broadland Youth Advisory Board enquiries** please email [broadlandyab@ymcanorfolk.org](mailto:broadlandyab@ymcanorfolk.org) or call 07436107636.

