



**DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED ACTIONS
TASK AND FINISH GROUP (YOUTH)
THURSDAY 18th MARCH 2021 7:30PM**

Via Private Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 860 7850 4726
Passcode: 091165

MEMBERS: Councillors-

P Barlow
J Bayford
S Hicks
C Jay
C Lager

J Williams (Chairman)
J Kempf (Vice Chairman)

OFFICERS: N Smith - Deputy Town Clerk

1. CLERKS REPORT

To receive a verbal report on matters arising.

2. ESSEX YOUTH SERVICE

To receive a report from the Essex Youth Service.

3. UK PARLIAMENT WEEK

To receive an update on the proposed UK Parliament Week collaboration with New Rickstones and Maltings Academies.

4. MALTINGS ACADEMY MEETING

To discuss the outcomes of a meeting between Mrs JoAnn Williams and Maltings Academy Students ([attached at page 2](#)).

5. YOUTH LOGO

To discuss the appropriate use of a Youth Logo ([attached at page 4](#)).

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other items of business to be handled by the group.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To give an indication of when the group should reconvene.

ITEM 4

15 May 2018- Meeting with students from Maltings Academy- Witham Town Hall Council Chambers

Purpose of the meeting, which was originally requested to the then Town Mayor JoAnn Williams by Maltings Academy Head Teacher Emma Baker, was to basically see what the students of Maltings Academy might do to raise their positive profile in the Town, showing the good things that they do and therefore highlight the fact that the youth of Witham, and Maltings Academy, are good, positive role models. This message needs to get out to all the people of Witham so that young people are not feared or all tarred with the same brush as the few annoying troublemakers.

Here are the ideas I took away from the meeting. I have highlighted in red those things which we either promised to do to help or ideas where we might be able to help, should the students so wish:

- 1- Primary School/Infant School Play days – the students are going to negotiate with the head teachers of the schools to move this great idea forward.
- 2- Have a Carnival Float for the 90th year of Carnival (and hopefully beyond) with bucket carriers next to the float collecting for charity. **We offered to help with contact into the Carnival Committee if needed.**
- 3- Hold a showcasing evening, perhaps outside of the school, in the Town Hall or the Public Hall. New Rickstones Academy already do something like this and it would be great for Maltings to do it. **We suggested also using Community Day as a forum for this sort of thing and got Pauline in touch with them in the hopes they might be able to participate in this year's Community Day in June.**
- 4- Coffee morning for the elderly, sponsored by the students, to reach out to the elderly in the community and help them get to know how lovely the students of Maltings really are. **We spoke about advertising an event like that via the Witham Luncheon Club and in the various care homes throughout Witham. Moorfield Court was suggested as perhaps a good first choice as it is near the school.**
- 5- More football pitches open to the students – this would give them something to do as well as go some way to curbing childhood obesity. Some students from Maltings actually play for Witham Town Football Club and could encourage more kids to come and play football if there were places for them to play. **I was shocked to learn that there are no pitches that the young people can use outside of school PE to play football after school and on holidays and weekends for free. Even the ones at the academy cost money and are charged hourly for kids to play. They sometimes put in £2 each to rent the pitch for an hour, but this is not something they can do daily or regularly. Surely there is something that can be done about this. One of the boys told us that sometimes you see a group of kids hanging out who would much rather be playing football but have no where they can play. He says they probably look like a sinister group to some, but that is definitely not the case. Because travellers and people who have done damage to some of the available fields have caused bollards or gates to go up so no one else can access the pitch, this further blocks these young people from potential football sites.**
- 6- Bicycles – need to build a bicycle park (similar kind of thing to the skate parks) where young people could ride their bikes in a safer environment. There is also little or no bicycle safety taught in the schools, so this needs to be considered. It might also be nice to get a Club or group together for bicycle repair. There is a group within the Academy known as the Malting Missile who design can build and repair and race cars. Perhaps there can also be a group there who works on bicycles? **Perhaps some of this can be sent to BDC,**

perhaps some of the BDC Councillors money could go to this and I will also contact Jason from Boys Brigade to see what their thoughts are as they run the Tour de Witham bicycle race, etc. If you want to contact him directly, his name and email are: **Jason Pheifer**<jason@2withamboys-brigade.org.uk

- 7- Have an open evening for Businesses. This is a great idea. The Academies already hold open evenings for prospective students and their parents. It would be great to have businesses come in and see the incredible work (and the facilities at the school) that is done by the students. This could perhaps encourage them to offer apprenticeships or maybe even career ideas for the young people.
- 8- Several of the students would very much like to work in local charity shops as volunteers. The problem is that most restrict the working age to 16 and above. Most of these year 10 students are under 16. What can we do to help? I said I would personally be happy to go around and talk to the various charity shops and see what their policies are and then we know what we are dealing with. I will endeavour to have this done in the next week or so. We have shops that are begging for volunteers, so it would be great if something could be done to allow these young people to volunteer.

That covers most all my notes. I have also contacted Robbie Bryson from the Braintree and Witham Times. He is on holiday until the 22nd of May, but I asked him who the students might contact to perhaps get a Journalism workshop done at the Academy and also what he can do to help the students get more positive stories in the paper on a regular basis. I have given him Mr Degun's email and I hope he will get back to him next week. If I hear anything personally, I will certainly pass it on. Robbie's email address is : robbie.bryson@newsquest.co.uk

Thank you to these wonderful students and their Head of Year, Mr Degun, for some incredible ideas and hard work. I look forward to working with you all when needed to see these ideas go forward.

[BACK TO AGENDA](#)

ITEM 5:



[BACK TO AGENDA](#)