



# Youth facilities have Huge impact

The year ahead promises to be a lot more interesting for young people in Wychavon. As well as the W-Factor, Art in the Park and the Party in the Park summer events, there are now two more youth projects that are up and running.

Both of these projects are giving young people somewhere to go and something to do, even during the dark winter evenings.

The first of these projects is the Youth Bus, which we bought and began refurbishing early in 2009.

The idea behind the Youth Bus is to take it out to visit the young people in our rural villages - the kinds of places where public transport and social activities are limited. The Youth Bus is going to be a place where they can hang out and have fun with their friends, play computer games, use the internet, listen to music, and get advice and guidance from a range of support agencies on issues affecting them. Basically the Youth Bus will be a place for them to have a great time with their mates and be safe off the streets.

Back in December 2009, the Community Safety Partnership and other local partners had done as much as they could afford in terms of buying the bus, converting it and making it safe for the road. They then went out and about around the villages to discover what the young people wanted to see on the bus in terms of entertainment and facilities. Well the great news is that now, thanks to being awarded £30,000 specifically for the Youth Bus by the West Mercia Criminal Justice Board, we are now in a position to really deliver what the young people want on the Youth Bus.

And thanks to the money, we can also give the Youth Bus a fantastic new look on the outside too. The designs have taken some inspiration from the young people in Wychavon and for the first time anywhere we can reveal how the bus will look (see above). A local company, Pablo Productions, has also made a video free of charge so the bus can be documented as it transforms from a standard coach to a multi-use mobile youth centre.

So now you know what to look out for, watch out for the Youth Bus in a village near you!

**For more information or to book the Youth Bus to visit your village, contact Rob Mace on 01905 775233, or e-mail [robin.mace@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:robin.mace@wychavon.gov.uk).**

## So Spa, so good

Meanwhile, over in Droitwich Spa, the Spa Youth Zone has firmly established itself as one of the places to be for the town's young people. In fact since it opened in May 2009, Spa Youth Zone has been getting over 200 youngsters a week coming in to use the facilities and staying off the streets.



Feedback from people using the Spa Youth Zone has been extremely positive, just see on the next page.

And following this feedback, staff are looking to provide more classes and activities such as dance, drama, street art and music over the coming year for those who want something a little bit different.

On top of these fun activities, the Spa Youth Zone has also provided opportunities for young people to take part in alcohol awareness and healthy eating classes, as well as an organised visit to the Network Rail 'no messin' event in Cardiff, which is a safety initiative aimed at keeping kids off rail tracks. More education courses will be run later this year.

A range of other service providers are also using the Spa Youth Zone, including The Prince's Trust, Worcestershire County Council Children's Services, St. Basil's (a homelessness charity), and also WANDS run a young parents group at the zone every Wednesday from 12.30-2.30pm.



Spa Youth Zone now has permanent planning permission to continue operating at the site. So why not get down there yourself.



## Views from young people

**How do you feel now that the youth zone has got permanent planning permission?/what do you think about the news?**

"It's great news, the zone has made Droitwich a better place to be so I'm really glad it can stay."  
**Emily Bourne**

"Really good news as it will benefit everyone and provide a lot of help for young people and also helps young people volunteer and make a difference."  
**Laura Burbury**



"I think it's fantastic that it can stay because it will stop youths getting into trouble with the police, the zone is a great place to meet new people and will help improve young peoples lives."  
**Andy Brow**

"It's good, as everyone likes to come down and chill out, big friendships have been built with the staff too, everyone has fun down here and the youth workers take the young people and their work seriously."  
**Rich Woolley**



"It's fantastic, really useful connection to get young people involved in volunteering, we now have the ability to plan ahead to create more opportunities for young people."  
**Carol Yates, V Project Leader**

**For more information on Spa Youth Zone contact Rob Mace on 01905 775233, or e-mail [robin.mace@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:robin.mace@wychavon.gov.uk).**