



Annual Report for Longstanton Parish Council

April 2016

Firstly, apologies that I cannot be there to present the report myself. If you have any question resulting, then please do get in touch via our website www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk.

Facilities and activities

The bus visits for a 2 hours session on Tuesday evenings on the recreation ground car park with three youth workers. It contains 3 PCs with internet connection, games consoles, music, information rack, games and crafts, outdoor sports equipment and a tuck shop with hot drinks and pot noodles.

Our sessions are run informally and on a voluntary participation basis whereby young people can choose what they wish to join in with and when to arrive or leave.

Attendance this last year

Over the last 12 months the youth bus has visited on 31 occasions.

During these sessions we have had visits from 122 young people with an average attendance of 29 young people each week. This is our 2nd best attended village behind Warboys.

Approx. 57% male and 43% female, again a good balance compared with other villages. We also have a good age spread from 11 to 18 with the large majority around 14 to 15 years old.

What has gone on?

The young people of Longstanton enjoy the activities that are provided including playing on the games consoles, occasional use of craft activities and using the bus as a safe warm place to meet with friends. In the summer months we were able to use our sports equipment and play Frisbee, football and other games outside. They often take time to talk to the youth workers on an incredible number of different topics. These have included: school, exams and career choices, smoking and drug use, sexual health, family conflicts, relationships, self-harm, and many others.

As you will no doubt be aware, we have been kept informed by the parish council and police of issues involving young people in other parts of the village and where possible have warned all of the young people of the consequences of this behaviour.

We have been in discussion with the police and parish councillors to look at ways to help resolve these issues, caused by the few, in order to be able to continue our valuable service for the many. This has included facilitating a change of youth bus session times so that we can be in Longstanton at the earlier time of 4-6pm. A time that worked well in Longstanton from 2007 to 2011, and in other villages. We have yet to have an opportunity to run a 4pm session. We have also offered the option for a couple of local adults to act as volunteers helping on the bus to enable a youth worker to visit other parts of the village during the session.

Thank you for your time, we are looking forward to being able to continue our work and provision of services to your young people.