

How To Heal Antisocial Behaviour in Old Wives Lees By Cllr. L.Mckay

It has been said that some acts of vandalism are victimless crimes. It is my belief that vandalism is never victimless, as it is unpleasant for those who witness it and equally unpleasant for those who are the recipients of its effects.

The Red telephone box in Old Wives Lees, has been vandalised and not for the first time. We have to ask ourselves, how can we encourage the culprits to recind and refrain from their anti-social behaviour. How can we stop this? How can we heal this specific anti-social behaviour in Old Wives Lees.

A CRY FOR HELP

The act of vandalism has been interpreted by some psychologists as possibly a cry for help from the perpetrator(s), who often as a consequence of feeling disconnected, misunderstood, or isolated from the mainstream of the life of the community are with impunity able to commit unpleasant acts without any consideration for how their anti-social behaviour will impact or affect others.

unfortunately we are not able to target the people who have carried out the recent vandalism as we have no means of identifying them, and consequently are not able to provide them with the compassion, support, or help they clearly need to become re-engaged enabling them to feel they are part of the whole organism, with a stake in the community and feeling they have roots in the village or villages in which they reside. It is well known that when people believe and accept they have a stake in the location, villages, area in which they reside, they will instinctively desire to protect and safeguard their environment and surroundings, and nstinctively choose not to destroy or deface it. We must work hard to ensure that everyone across the villages feel there is a place for them, wherever they reside. This is key to healing this community fracture.

COMPASSION NOT CONDEMNATION

When we experience behaviour which falls below the accepted norms, that we have come to expect, we need to help and support the perpetrators to start afresh and if restorative justice is necessary then we as a Parish council, and village community need to help facillitate the healing process. We need to empower and support the re-engagement of offenders and make every effort not to condemn.

SUPPORT GOING FORWARD

However because we do not know who the perpetrators are, as there were no cctv evidence, no eye witness evidence, no bystander witness evidence, and no confessions from the perpetrators, we cannot help them directly as we do not know who they are, but I believe that we can indirectly assist them by engaging in an open dialogue with all the communtiy, including the youth across the villages by asking them to provide their own ideas and suggestions for the use of the telephone kiosk.

In support of community cohesion and establishing a dynamic youth agenda, I will with the CPC work rigorously in collaboration with other agencies and individuals in the community to achieve the implementation of the following 6 year Youth Agenda Strategy: which will create and deliver a

dynamic Youth-Framework, which is -empowering,educative,participative,inclusive,expressive,and embedded in all the villages of the parish.

ACTION NOT WORDS: YOUTH AGENDA STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2021-2027

- 1.Latin Field Makeover and Annual 5 a side Football Tournament,which draws together the involvement of all three villsges
- 2.Community Youth Fund
- 3.Youth Representatives and Assistant Youth representatives
- 4.COWLS Good Samaritan Day
- 5.Youth Blog
- 6.Annual Activities Youth Programme delivered through Youth centres in the village
- 7.Group Trail Running and Group Trail Walking
- 8.COWLS Youth Council
- 9.Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- 10.Youth Agricultural Fair
- 11.Youth Business start-Up Training and Mentoring Programme
- 12.Community Fitness and Wellbeing Programme

If you want any further details about any of these programmes or want to communicate with me about the issue identified in the article you can contact me on the following:

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