



## 3. Youth

### THE ISSUES

- ✓ Lack of an informal indoor location for youth to meet
- ✓ Lack of a suitable outdoor place to meet
- ✓ Opening hours at the Youth Club
- ✓ Additional play/recreation facilities especially for the older age group needed
- ✓ Ball games in residential areas.
- ✓ More safe cycle tracks

#### ISSUE - An informal indoor location for youths to meet

3.01. The survey represented the view of almost 400 youngsters in the parish ranging from nine to eighteen years and as such is an important reflection of their needs and aspirations. The most significant response was that the youngsters just wanted a comfortable indoor place where they could meet their friends, ideally in the town centre. This request came from all age groups. Seventy two percent wanted a computer café, a requirement that could be combined with the above. Fifty five percent wanted an outdoor place to meet and only. Only 30 % said they would like more access to the Youth Club.

3.02. The lack of something to do and somewhere to go was seen not only as an issue for the youth, but for adults as well. There were numerous comments on this in the section on the Town Centre.

Nearly 88% of youth just want an indoor place in which to meet their friends

*"A modern café/hangout for teens would be ideal."*

*"The town is full of estate agents and banks and the parks have nothing to do in them, no wonder the kids hang around the centre."*

*"Need for a good local café and meeting place."*

*"Lots of teenagers hang around due to lack of activities."*

*"No facilities for the teenager . No youth oriented cafes."*

*"Nowhere for the teenagers apart from street corners and pubs! "*

*"Provide somewhere for the youngsters to go instead of loitering outside Spar- can be intimidating."*

*"Some where for teenagers to hang out... as this is all they want to do, hence hanging around on the streets."*

*"Something for the youth to do to avoid congregating outside Spar late at night."*

*"Stop drinking on the streets, need a coffee bar with music and snooker tables for the teenage groups to keep them off the streets."*

### ISSUE - An outdoor location for youths to meet

3.03. Fifty five percent of youngsters wanted an outdoor place to meet. With the lack of such a place they hang around St Mary's Close and in front of Spar. Here they often seen as being intimidating. Another place used when the weather is inclement is the bus shelter. And this can conflict with bus passengers. All that is required is a place that is specifically their own.

### ISSUE Opening hours at the Youth Centre

3.04. The Youth Centre [funded by Cornwall County Council] is in a converted chapel in Liskeard Road and contains pool tables, computers and a coffee bar. Whilst many parents are not aware of its presence most of the youth seem to know what is there. However the main problem is a staffing issue. The club is only open two or three evenings a week, and not during the school holidays or at the weekends. It also only caters for youths between the age of thirteen and twenty five, the younger children cannot attend.

Only 10% of youth go to the Youth Club

3.05. Only ten percent of the youngsters said they went to the Youth Club in their spare time and only thirty percent wanted more access to the Youth Centre compared to the eighty eight percent who wanted some other place to meet. Going to a youth club is not considered 'cool'. Another serious problem is that the Youth Service does not cater for children under the age of 13 years. Many of the children who responded to the survey and wanted somewhere to go were *under this age*.



*"Park is really boring - nothing much to do there." [11 yrs]*  
*"Its too small and it needs more facilities at the park." [12 yrs]*  
*"Nothing to do and boring." [14 yrs]*

*"Doesn't have a lot to do, youth club isn't very good nothing interesting to do." [15 yrs]*

*"Town park is not clean and taken over by people who drink and smoke all hours. There is nowhere to go and hang out with friends in a safe environment." [16 yrs]*

## ISSUE Recreational facilities for youth

3.06. Callington has two Recreation Fields, one at Saltash Road and one at Launceston Road, there is also a large area in the new development by the Liskeard roundabout. There are a total of five areas with play equipment in them, and there is an extensive skate park facility at Saltash Road. With the comments made about recreation it was clear that it was the older group [over eleven years] that were dissatisfied with facilities.

## ISSUE Ball games in residential areas

3.07. There have been issues with children playing ball games in residential areas that are under the management of Caradon District Council. The children want to play but residents find balls thumping against their fences or going into their gardens a problem. Following legal advice attempts were made to stop football by placing boulders on the grassed areas.

*"2 places to play football have been ruined because they banned ball games and put rocks and benches made of metal and wood," [11 yrs]  
"Old people stop us from playing football in the crescent," [12 yrs]*

3.08. This situation has created some conflict between the needs of the youth and those of older generations. A recent development is that more children are tending to play in the street which brings them into conflict with vehicles.

The shortage of playing fields is also mentioned in the chapter on Leisure.

## ISSUE Safe Cycle Tracks

3.09. Several youngsters commented on the fact that there was nowhere 'safe' for them to ride their bicycle. Adults commented on the lack of safe cycle routes to the schools. The Primary School regrets that there is no one in the area able to provide cycle proficiency training for their pupils and obviously without this, it is not safe to allow the children to cycle to school.



## THE VISION

- ✓ A Youth Café in the centre of town
- ✓ An outdoor place to meet
- ✓ Increased opening hours at the Youth Club
- ✓ Further recreational facilities for teenagers
- ✓ More space for ball games
- ✓ Safe cycle training and more routes for cycles

## THE SOLUTIONS

### SOLUTIONS Youth Café

3.10. There is an overwhelming need for a Youth Café in the centre of town, but the question is how can it be achieved? The youngsters wish to be in the centre and not marginalised to the outskirts. Although there is a café at the youth centre it has very low usage, possibly due to location, limited opening times and restriction to children of thirteen years or over. A youth café needs to be open from school closing time, through weekends and in the school holidays and must be open to all youth.

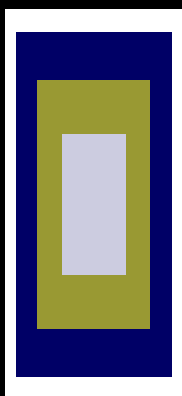
3.11. At the time of writing this there are no vacant shops in Fore Street and none in the lower part of New Road. The arcade opposite the car park would be an ideal location by putting the ground floor into use it would remove this 'eyesore' that so many people have commented on. However, this property is privately owned by a long-standing resident of the town. Advances from people wishing to use the site for various purposes have not got met with any success, the owner prefers to leave it as a deteriorating 'eyesore'.

3.12. Another alternative that the Town Council will investigate is to allow the use of one end of the Town Hall for youth. This would mean moving the Council Chamber to the other end of the building, probably on an additional floor. However this is a large project which will need careful consideration and research into grants that may be available. However the Council could use some of its reserves towards such a project if the ratepayers considered this good value. With such a project the initial costs may be found but very careful thought has to be given to the long-term sustainability. Staffing costs will need to be met and whilst funding may be available initially the cost of this may eventually fall on the rates.

## POLICY STATEMENT

THIS TOWN CONSIDERS THE PROVISION OF A YOUTH  
CAFÉ IS HIGH PRIORITY AND WILL INVESTIGATE ALL  
POSSIBILITIES

The Town Council is willing to work with the Youth Service, private business, land owners, volunteers and youth who can assist with this priority.



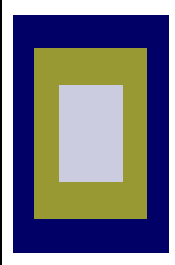
## SOLUTIONS An outdoor place to meet

3.13 As well as an indoor place young people also need an outdoor space that they can call their own. This needs to have some shelter from the weather and preferably some lighting. A report conducted by the Tames Valley Police indicated that the provision of Youth Shelters had a positive effect on the incidents of vandalism in towns. These shelters can be of different designs and made to accommodate 'street art'. Possibly locations for this are adjacent to the skatepark, so that the less active can congregate in the same area as active members of the community. A subdued form of lighting can be provided by solar power, although this creates a higher initial expense.

## SOLUTIONS Youth Club opening hours

3.14. The Youth Club is funded entirely by the County Council Youth Service which like most services appears to operate under considerable financial restrictions. However it could be asked whether Callington is getting a reasonable share of the resources available?

## POLICY STATEMENT



PRIORITY: THE YOUTH CLUB OPENING HOURS  
SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE FRIDAY AND  
SATURDAY AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

## SOLUTIONS Recreational provision for older children

3.15. Judging by the comments in the survey the provision of play equipment for those ten years and under is considered reasonable, but there is little for those over ten years.

3.16. Skate park. By the time this is published the skate park at Saltash Road Recreation Ground will have been extended and will provide an additional facility for the youth. However this is only a section of youth and usually only males.

3.17. The following additional facilities were mentioned by youth at a public

meeting:

- ✓ Shelters with lighting at night [see 3.13.]
- ✓ Basketball area
- ✓ Multi-use games area
- ✓ More facilities at the Launceston Road site for those from the north of the town and Kelly Bray



*Youth shelters come in many designs, this one has a solar power unit for low level lighting.*

3.18. The Town Council has always had a policy of maintaining, updating and expanding the recreational equipment. In the future more attempts should be made for grant funding to increase the budget allocation. It is acknowledged that it is very important to consult with the youth on what type and design of facility they require.

## SOLUTIONS Ball Games

3.19. The problems of ensuring that this town has adequate provision for ball games is also covered in the chapter on Leisure [page xxx]. Suggestions have been made for the allocation of fields, which could be used for both formal and informal games. The lack of suitable provision for informal ball games within the housing development between Tavistock Road and Southern Road is a planning failure that it is now difficult to rectify. We would recommend that the District Council look at the provision of pathways to enable children to reach the Saltash Road Recreation Field safely.



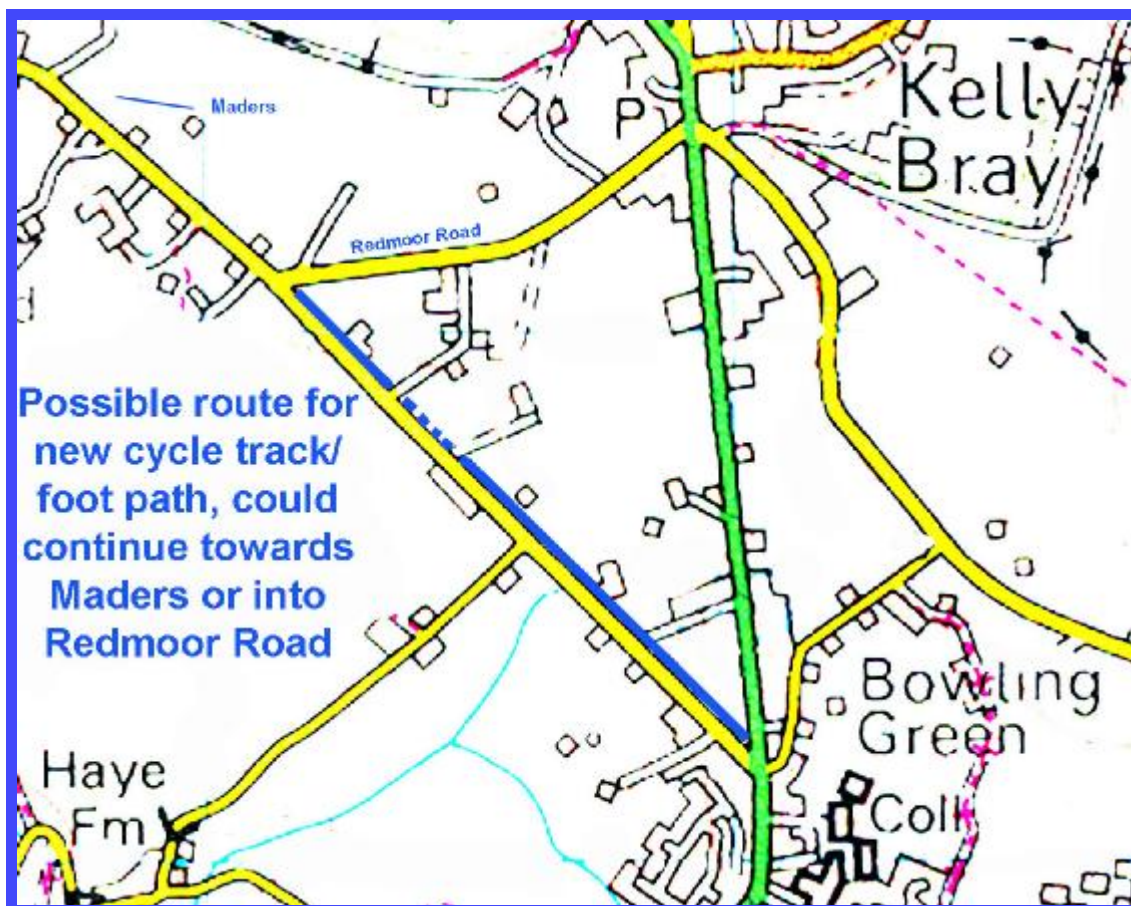
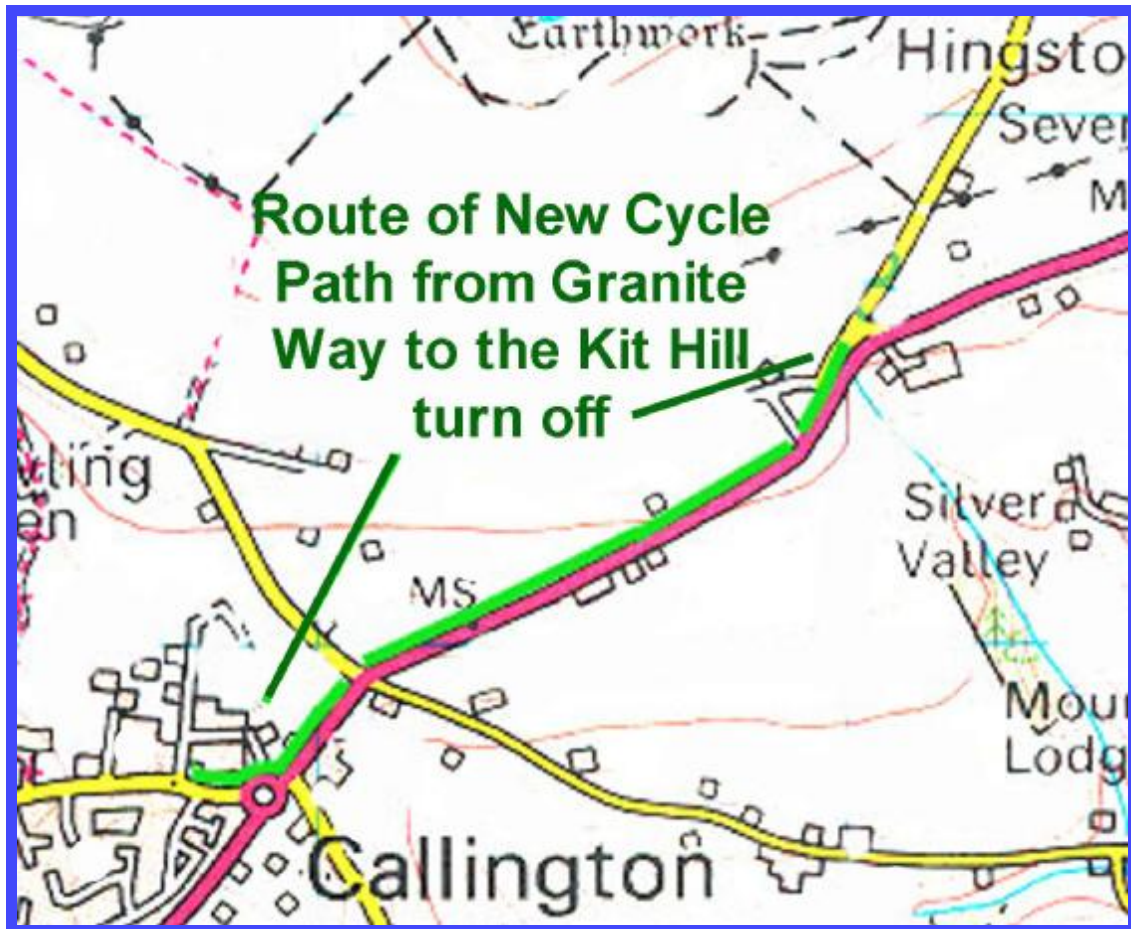
### POLICY STATEMENT

ALL FUTURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS MUST PROVIDE ADEQUATE RECREATIONAL SPACE SO THAT CHILDREN PLAYING BALL GAMES DO NOT COME INTO CONFLICT WITH HOUSEHOLDERS.

## SOLUTIONS Safe cycling

3.20. The first priority is to get Cycle Proficiency Training available in the town, this is probably best done through the schools and the County Council.

3.21. The County Council does have a policy of trying to improve cycle routes, however in towns such as Callington, where the roads are narrow this is not easy. The County will soon be installing a safe cycle track from Tavistock road



to Kit Hill and hopefully further into St Annes Chapel. As this track is up on the verge it will be ideal for children and youth to use and should provide a safe means of getting to Kit Hill which is an important open recreational area. If this route proves popular perhaps others can be developed? Another possible route for such a track that could be used for cyclists, horse riders and walkers is along the wide verges of South Hill Road. As some irresponsible persons drive at a speed that is totally inappropriate considering the wide range of other users of the road, this safe alternative would be welcomed.



**POLICY STATEMENT**

**THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL WORK WITH THE COUNTY COUNCIL TO INCREASE SAFE CYCLE ROUTES**

**ACHIEVING THE VISION**

VISION	PARTNERS	FUNDING	TIME SCALE
3.22. Youth Café	Town Council, County Council Youth Service, land owners, business, youth.	Town Council, County Council, business, grants.	Medium-term
3.23. Better Youth Club opening	County Council youth service	County Council rates	Short-term
3.24. Teenage recreational facilities	Town Council and youth	Town Council rates & grant funding	Short-term
3.25. Ball Games	District Council for pathways. See Leisure for fields.		
3.26. Safe Cycle tracks	Town Council and County Council	County Council probably from grants	Medium-term