

PRESS RELEASE

A Youth Council for Midsomer Norton

At its meeting on Monday 7th October, Midsomer Norton Town Council voted to establish a Youth Council as part of its work to engage and involve younger people in the town. The Youth Council will have its own constitution and its membership is likely to mirror that of the Town Council, having 11 Youth Councillors of which one will be elected as the Chair. The Youth Councillors should be aged between 11 and 18.

In an initiative being led by Cllr Sara Box, the Council is earmarking an initial budget of £1,000 for the Youth Council to use for activities for younger people. Cllr Box explained “The idea came about when I was working with the Town Clerk to identify how we could engage with younger people and we saw a number of examples of towns running Youth Councils. The Youth Council will run alongside the Town Council and it will provide us as Town Councillors with a great sounding board as well as creating a formal link to our younger people and the electors of the future. We are also looking at how we can support the work of the Somer Valley Children's Centre Services in its efforts to address a number of issues that families in the town face with regard to the development of children.”

The Town Council will work with schools in the area to arrange elections and hopes that the Youth Council will meet formally by the end of 2013. Anyone who lives in or close to the Midsomer Norton electoral area is welcome to seek election and the Council would welcome interest from potential Youth Councillors who attend schools or colleges outside of the town. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact the Town Clerk on 01761 418701 or by email - townclerk@midsomernortontowncouncil.co.uk