



Swavesey Action for Youth - Update Autumn 2008

SAY was set up following a public meeting, called by the Parish Council in October 2006 to discuss how more facilities for young people in the village could be provided. This was well attended and following the meeting interested parties met and established a voluntary group. Leaflets were designed, printed and delivered to households in the village to encourage more people to become involved with the management and running of SAY. Unfortunately very few responses were received and the committee attendance dwindled.

Over 18 months the small SAY Committee worked to obtain funding grants in order to set up youth projects for the village. Some major grants were won and used as follows:

A '**Celebration of Youth' Day** was held at the Village College to both launch Swavesey Action for Youth and provide an opportunity to meet with the young people to try to find out what they wanted from a Youth Group.

An Awards for All Grant was awarded which enabled a **Dance and DJ project** to take place for 8 weeks during June and July this year. This was reasonably successful, however many more places could have been filled.

A County Council Young Lives grant was also awarded, which was applied for to set up a weekly **junior youth club**. The youth club ran every Wednesday for two terms earlier this year. After a promising start unfortunately attendance fell and by the end of May this year the youth club had to stop through lack of attendance.

SAY had a stall at the **Swavesey Festival Day** to advertise the group and to talk to young people about youth activities.

Parish Council grants have been used to pay for the visits of the **Connections Youth Bus**, which visits Market Street every second Thursday. This has been successful with reasonable numbers of young people attending. At present the bus is continuing to visit until December this year.

The Committee has found that although there appeared to be initial support for establishing youth club activities within the village, there do appear to be existing activities which the majority of young people already take part in, such as the many after-school clubs run by the Village College, the Bethel Church youth club and the existing football and scout groups. Following the results of the activities mentioned above, the Management Committee has now decided that it will instead try to support and assist the existing activities within the village, rather than try to set up any additional ones.

However, **WE REALLY DO NEED THE LOCAL COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT IF SAY IS TO CONTINUE**. If you are interested in volunteering, helping with the Management Committee or have suggestions as to how we can support village youth activities, please drop Linda Miller or myself an email jon.butler@cambridgeshire.gov.uk , lindamiller@ntlworld.com

We are not looking for lots of time from you, the Management Committee meets approximately once a quarter for an hour or so. There may be other meetings as projects come forward. Volunteer time to run any projects or clubs will be as required and obviously the more volunteers we have the less time each one will need to give.

Jon Butler
Acting Chair