

Tadley & District Youth Action Council August 2026 Update

It has been a very busy summer with the final design of **The Tadley Mural** being agreed, painted and unveiled on the 10th August. Amy, one of the Two Lost birds was excellent at leading the planning and engaging residents across the age ranges in its painting. This did result in her own painting, due to the support of residents, being adversely affected. Our thanks go to Councillor Flahive for the time he spent talking to interested residents during community sessions which freed Amy up to focus on the painting. Jo, a published historian and the other Lost Bird, was particularly helpful in looking at the history of Tadley. Youth Councillors, Noah (Chairman) and Pippa (Secretary) did an excellent job at leading the unveiling event, with the support of Borough Councillor Kerry Morrow and Ria Meiszner in setting up the unveiling frames as well as liaising with the management of Sainsbury's and Starbucks. Noah and Pippa thanked the supporters of the project as well as introducing the Mayor, who commented on how much everyone was committed to the project- a real community effort. There is a lovely post on Facebook under Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane. As the project came in under budget, the remaining funding is being used for Jo to professionally produce and print the information leaflet which will be available in Starbucks and on-line. Having secured grants, the cost to TTC has been limited to just the plaque and costs related to the artist's expenses on painting days and the unveiling event.



The Youth Action Council held another litter pick on Tadley Common on the 30th August.

Saturday Pitch Up- The three sessions (25th July plus 1st and 8th August) were not well attended. The few people that did attend, seemed to enjoy using the equipment.

Summer Games Night- With the inclusion of the adults, we did manage to have a rounders match on each of the three sessions (29th July plus 5th and 12th August) but again attendance was disappointing. However, the final session coincided with the solar eclipse and everyone stayed after to enjoy the event together. There were a lot of families and groups also on the common for the eclipse so the opportunity was taken to talk to people about the Youth Council with at least four teenagers showing some interest.



Each session needed to be run by a Tadley Town Councillor plus an adult volunteer and with Councillor Ann Morrow being out of action following a knee replacement, we would like to thank Town Councillors Waterfield, Wilson-Thomas, Slimin and Neilson (who seemed to particularly enjoy the rounders) for attending a session as well as Kerry and Ria for volunteering at all the sessions.

It is felt that there was not sufficient interest to warrant the cost of finding a way to store and make the equipment easily available. However, the Youth Council want to retain the equipment whilst they consider how to canvass young people and maybe offer other events as we still feel there is a need to encourage these types of activity.



The Youth Action Council entered a **Scarecrow in the August Trail**. Emma Nicholson, Kerry and Ria supported the young people in building the scarecrow as well as a vehicle to seat The Child Catcher who was employed by Baron and Baroness Bomburst to snatch and imprison children in the 1968 film Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Another project was running over the Summer with Youth Councillors identifying possible clues to form a **Tadley Trail**. It is hoped that we will be able to produce a trail early in the Autumn by forming a working party to select the best clues, identify a route and design the leaflet.

The new Constitution has now been agreed which amended membership to offer two levels of involvement. It has also amended the eligibility for membership to those young people studying in educational Years 6 to 13. Some of our Youth Councillors have suggested that they visit the local primary schools to promote the Youth Council to Year 6 pupils in the autumn. Some youngsters and parents expressed an interest whilst painting or at the mural unveiling so we are hopeful that more youngsters will become involved with the Youth Council this autumn.

Councillor Ann Morrow
Chairman of the Youth Council Working Party