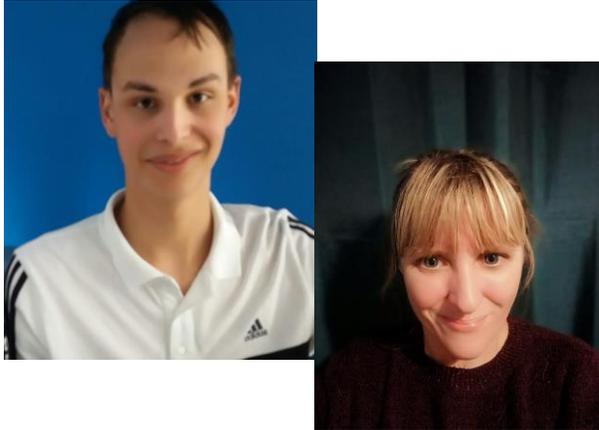


FRIENDS OF FOREST GREEN

Winter 2018 Vol.1 Issue 1



Hi Luke and Georgina here, you may recognise us, we are community organisers and have spent the last 6 months talking to as many of you as we could about your loves, concerns and ideas for the local area. We will be continuing to speak to as many of you as possible and listen to what you have to say about the local area. We are interested to know what you love about the area, what your concerns are and any ideas that you have for community action.



We're based at the Arkell Centre however, you'll often see us in and around the community so come and say hi.

So... Why have Community Roots CIC been door knocking in your area?

Community Roots CIC have been working together with Stroud District Council's Health and Wellbeing team over the last 6 months to find out what the local residents in Forest Green have had to say. We have named this project '**Friends of Forest Green**'. We know what the statistics and data say but, we know that's not the whole story.

Community Roots CIC are specialists in grassroots engagement in communities and uses an approach called community organising which involves 'listening' to residents about what they love about where they live, what concerns them and if they have ideas for projects or activities they could help make happen.

Community Organising encourages people to look within their personal networks to bring about positive change in their local community. This leads to improvements led by the real experts – the residents that live in the area!

So... what did we find out?

There were many things that you love about where you live, as well as things that concern you.

We know that these concerns are shared by other communities too and we are focused on hearing ideas and solutions to overcome these. So far, we have heard some great ideas that could address these concerns.

The things that were commonly mentioned and that people felt most passionate about in our conversations have been put into three sections:

A Sense of Community, Your Concerns and Ideas for Actions, Projects and Activities.

A Sense of Community

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These are 5 of the top loves you told us about:

- It's quiet and peaceful with beautiful views
- There is a good sense of community with lovely neighbours and good people
- People have family and friends close by
- Great connection with Forest Green Rovers
- Sense of freedom, can go on long walks anywhere

Your Concerns

These are 5 of your top concerns:

- Lack of things for young people (13 years old +) to do and the rising prices of houses for the next generation
- Drug & Alcohol activity in the area
- The amount of traffic associated with the main hill
- Fears the community isn't being well looked after with litter, dog mess, cracked roads and pavements around the area
- Young people feel pushed out and intimidated by young adults

"Quiet and nice neighbourhood, with beautiful views."

"Concerned About the Drugs and There's Nothing for Young People to do"

"There's a Close Knit, Friendly Community Who Look Out for Each Other."

"The Traffic on Main Road Is A Concern but Don't Think Much Can Be Done."

Solutions & Ideas for Action!

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Over the last 6 months, there were some great ideas here are some of the more popular ones:

- A local Sunday league football team for young people
- Litter picks and tidy up of Forest Green
- More use of the Arkell Centre with a small local group running it
- Scope for a café or bar and shops
- A photography group
- Sports summer clubs for young people
- A local walking group
- And, a new resident's group

They're NO banks and nothing really up the top of Forest Green in Terms of shops etc. Only the one!



Photo by Elliot Stanley a Local Young Person of a great view from Miles Marling Field.

"I Love the Sense of Freedom. I Can Go on Long Walks and Dog Walks Anywhere."



Photo by Elliot Stanley of the Youth Shelter at Miles Marling Field



"More Use of the Arkell Centre, Would Be Good. Get Small Group Running It."



Photo by Elliot Stanley of 'The New Lawn – FGR'

Would You Like to Start A Walking Group...?

Are You Interested in Cleaning Up the Area...?



Photo by Elliot Stanley of the Graffiti & Litter

Do You Have A Passion for Photography...?

Would You Get Involved in a Residents Group...?

These are just some of the ideas we are working with residents to help make happen.

So... What Happens Next?

Whether you're interested in any of these ideas or not...

We want to hear from you and listen to your views and ideas for community action!

You'll find us in and around the area every week and we would like to hear from you. We would like to hear your views on the area and ideas. Drop us an email, text or contact us by phone to find out how you can get involved in the project and start making ideas happen for your community.

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"We Need More Investment into Young People and Into Local Projects."

"There Is Definitely Scope for A Permanent Café/Bar in A Forest Green"

"I Feel We Don't Need to Change Just Look After the Community Better. Go on Litter Picks, Pick up Dog Mess, Cans, Empty Bins Etc."