

1964

Council's support for Youth Club

ACTION by Tenterden Borough Council in support of the successful Youth Club was promised by the General Purposes Committee.

It was recommended that a joint committee of three members of the council, together with the Mayor, should meet representatives of the club to consider the question of seeking an interview with local member of Parliament, Mr. W. F. Deedes. They are to discuss the attitude of the Kent Territorial Auxiliary Forces Association over the letting of the Drill Hall to the club.

The club, only nine months old, was likely to find itself without a home in September. Shortly after the club started using the Drill Hall that the rent of £2/5/- would have to be reviewed. A figure of £5/5/? was mentioned for the use of the hall for one evening a week.

The club approached the Town Council for help and the council wrote to the Army authorities.

The reply from Brigadier H. King Lewis, secretary of Kent Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, was received by the committee.

The mayor, Alderman Frank Foreman, took exception to the manner in which the council's suggestions had been considered.

Alderman Ken Jessop said, "I was shocked by the tone of the letter. It gives no support at all to the youth.

"This Brigadier seems to have one idea in mind and that is to deny the use of this hall to youth. I fail to see the officer's attitude in any way, shape or form.

"We should contact our M.P. and use any power we can to reverse this decision."

Councillor Colin Troughton-Smith was one of several members who felt it was essential to give all possible support and assistance to the club.

Councillor Douglas Good said he felt that all members would be shocked by one particular paragraph in the letter which stated that it would be quite wrong for Tenterden Youth Club to be supported either directly or indirectly from the Defence Vote which is the sole source of the association's public funds.

Councillor Good stressed that the council would have to act quickly.

"I would like to move that the council pay the difference between the present £2 odd and the exorbitant £5/5/-, payable from September onwards. I think that we should show that we support the youth club."

This was agreed unanimously and it is to be recommended to the council that the increased rent be paid from September until March 31 next year.

YOUTH CLUB WANTS TO BUILD A CENTRE

TENTERDEN Youth Club wants to build a prefabricated wooden youth centre on land owned by the Church Commissioners near the Glebe Hall.

The club's application to the borough council for planning permission has been recommended for approval by the planning committee, subject to the submission and approval of details.

At present the club rents the Drill Hall in the town but the arrangements are unsure since the club—backed by the borough council—reacted strongly against hints by the landlord, the Kent Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, that they wanted more money for the hall after September.

Cost of building

In fact, the association has said that the best way out of the situation is for the club to quit the Drill Hall in the autumn. Meanwhile the council has asked Mr. William Deedes, the Ashford M.P., to help and has offered to pay the increased rent.

Dr. Hugh Gompertz a founder of the club said this week that an L-shaped building is planned. It would have a hall as big as the one in the Drill Hall, a quiet or committee room, a kitchen and room for a billiards table. There would also be toilet facilities.

It was hoped that the cost of the building excluding furnishings would be less than £5,000. "Quite a substantial sum has already been guaranteed and we think we can probably raise the rest on guarantee or appeal without too much trouble," said Dr. Gompertz.

If everything goes well the club believes the building could be up in September.

COMMENT

A chance for youth

TENTERDEN, the only ancient borough in the Weald with a population of more than 5,000, may soon emulate nearby villages by establishing a Youth Club. Several well-known local people have met to discuss the probability of having a Youth Club which will not have any direct association with other organisations run by churches.

This is a step that should interest not only the youths of the town but their parents as well. A public meeting is to be called to discuss the inauguration of the club and it is hoped that there will be a good response.

It must seem strange to many people that a town the size of Tenterden cannot provide facilities for the entertainment of its youth, cannot in fact 'lay on' anything to occupy the minds and hands of the future citizens of the borough. We understand that attempts have been made in the past to provide such facilities but proper guidance and control were lacking and we are not suggesting that any heavy hand should be applied to the running of a youth club.

That there should be a 'parent' committee is desirable for planning activities and programming, but the running of the club should be left to the youths themselves under the guidance of a qualified leader. Such a method has proved successful and we instance the highly successful club at Rolvenden.

One of the difficulties confronting any organisation is the finding of suitable premises and probably another is finding the money to rent a place where games and sports can be played. In Tenterden the only place available at the moment might be the drill hall and all the necessary equipment is already there.

Keenly interested in the forming of a youth club, several people in the town have met to discuss the project and they have intimated that they are ready to subscribe financially towards the initial outlay involved.

Here is a chance that is too good for the youth of the town to ignore, one that will give the youngsters the opportunity to prove that they, too, can accept responsibility.

Tenterden Youth Club