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TENTERDEN

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'Show more concern for our youth'

DRAMATIC PLEA AT TOWN MEETING

TENTERDEN Youth Club's leader, Mr. Bob Matthews, told a public meeting at the Town Hall on Wednesday that the town ought to show more concern over its young people "who want to stay here and make a career."

In Tenterden, he said there were 110 employment opportunities for young people, in High Halden 120, and in Bethersden 230. "I don't think the rural character of High Halden or Bethersden has been altered unduly," he said.

There was nowhere for young people to go, Mr. R. Lloyd, chairman of the town's Young Conservatives, told the meeting, which was organised by Tenterden Trust.

"Trying to break into Tenterden for youth was like backing into a brick wall. We don't want to change Tenterden; we want to be let in," he said.

The Mayor, Cr. Reuben Collison, who was one of an audience of over 120, "rose in defence of young people."

"I ought not to have to force my daughter to go into a public house for her entertainment," he said. There ought to be "something like a coffee bar" for young people.

Dr. T. H. E. Taylor-Jones, one of a panel of speakers, told the audience: "I don't think you will keep the youth who are worthwhile. They will want to see the world."

"And we want to keep Tenterden as Tenterden, not turn it into a Maidstone, Ashford, or London."

Ald. Ken Jessop said he would like to see Tenterden stay its present size, but that was not possible. Future expansion would depend very much on Kent County Council.

The borough council could not accept any more applications for development because of lack of adequate sewerage.

Tenterden Youth Club