

Wroughton Session on behalf of Wroughton Parish Council

Our first session was Tuesday 1st August and since then we have been out every week. The core team has been myself and Aaron Webb (who previously did the work for you so his input and knowledge of Wroughton has been beneficial). On the odd days that Aaron hasn't been able to come out with me, other colleagues from SMASH have joined the sessions. One week (that was particularly nice weather!) we had six adults supporting the young people.

We have run the first, second and third Tuesday in the month in the heart of Wroughton and the last Tuesday of the month up at Thorney Park.



We have taken sports equipment out to Maunsell Way and have also walked the streets looking for young people. Of the young people we have found that we have been able to chat to them, introduce ourselves and ask about what sort of youth provision they would appreciate. The key things that have come up are that young people want a safe space that they can collectively gather, that is warm and dry, that has space to charge their phones and that they can meet with safe adults. This has been the recurring voice of young people.

We have been able to partner up with the local PCSO's and in particular Justine. This was fantastic as she knows local young people well and was able to introduce us to a few on that particular evening.

We were really excited to have Jinder (basketball coach) and two assistants to the session on 3rd October. We had 12 young people attend which was fantastic. The young people really enjoyed it and would like more targeted activities like that. We hope that this will help us to connect to more young people and build relationships with them through sport.

It has been lovely to see the pump track in use regularly by both children young and old and adults as well, the atmosphere around the track is always positive and people are very respectful of other users. I personally love to see all the tricks that people can do on it and Aaron has been lent bikes from young people to have a go. This has been the place that we have engaged most with young people, we have additionally found some young people around Tesco that we have been able to introduce ourselves to.

Thorney Park has been quiet but of the few young people we have seen they have been interested in finding out who we are and have been happy to chat.

Number of interactions with young people:

Wroughton Central: 44

Thorney Park: 5

Age range: 8-16

Topics Discussed: School, home, wanting a safe space for young people.

In summary, my thoughts are that there is not a high level of young people out and about on the streets. Nor have we interacted with a young person on a consistent basis. However, the feedback from young people (street work) is that they would like a warm, safe place, somewhere to charge phones with trusted adults present. The young people that attended the basketball activity overwhelmingly requested more of these sorts of events.

