

Press Release – 5th December 2008

“Bradley Stoke are pleased to announce their decision to implement plans which Cllr Brian Hopkinson has been working on over the last year to provide a New and larger drop in Youth Club with its own Cafe. Cllr John Ashe welcomes the decision by the now one year old Conservative Controlled Bradley Stoke Town Council to dramatically change what he describes as the tokenistic youth provision which has up until very recently seems to have been mainly aimed at ages of up to 13 or if not aimed much less achieving in numbers of youths and the older age groups.. This new facility is aimed to cater for a much greater age range of Youth with probably 80% being between the ages of 19 and 15 and to create a larger capacity and more comprehensive facility than Bradley Stoke has so far enjoyed. Cllr Brian Hopkinson says that “Youth’s deserve a good place to go somewhere warm and welcoming so that they can meet with their friends chill out get some hot food, perhaps play snooker etc. but most of all have a place where they want to go.” Brian who is a South Glos Cllr for Bradley Stoke and Stoke Lodge and who initiated this new venture is looking to get the new facility up and running as soon as possible. Funding has been allocated for the new financial year from the Conservative led Council who have formed a partnership with South Glos to provide both financial help and youth team expertise. To accelerate the venture Brian proposed to Bradley Stoke that they authorise monies to employ South Glos youth team to employ the URBI (A mobile Youth Club on wheels) to engage with groups of youths in their own streets. Brian also proposed this to Patchway Town Council with who he is vice chair to employ the Urbi in Patchway and in Patchway Common which adjoins Bradley. The new youth facility will be open to the youths in Patchway Common as Patchway has agreed to help fund the new club. The URBI will commence shortly as both Patchway and Bradley Stoke Councils have both agreed to URBI funding at least to the end of this financial year.

The new venue for Youth which will be open in the new year will be the Brook Way Community Centre. The Centre will facilitate well over a 100 youths or more and which will be open on Friday Nights as well as other nights in the week. The aim will be to build momentum of the club until it becomes open 5 nights a week and possibly be open on Saturday’s during the day as well. Brooke Way even has a hard court playing surface where 5 a side, netball and other activities might be enjoyed as well as those facilities inside. Additional community work will then be facilitated in both the Jubilee and Baileys Court as dedicated Youth work in one centre will be able to concentrate resources more affectively. Rob ones Mayor of Patchway already has some good ideas of additional community provision these existing buildings can be used for. Rob Jones is also a member of CYP Children and Young People committee at South Glos.

Bradley Stoke is now a very large Town and getting to the new venue which is reasonably central to the main Youth population will be relatively easy for those who live close by however for those farthest away and nights which are wet and cold may well put off many so there will be regular transport rain or shine laid on in the form of a youth bus for those which need or want to use it.

Looking further ahead Bradley Stoke has been chosen as one location by South Glos to create three hubs of excellence for Youth work which are currently still in the design phase these are planned to be developed over the next few years. Brian encourages residents who are interested in helping, possibly in a volunteering way to contact him on 01454 864074 or e mail at brian.hopkinson@southglos.gov.uk any one with a decent snooker table or similar equipment which they may wish donate would equally help.”