

Emergency General Meeting Statement

The Trustees of BYP are determined to preserve the legacy of the organisation into the future and have had considerable discussions with others in the field to prepare for this. We call an EGM to ask for support of all our loyal members, staff and volunteers to take BYP forward in the years to come.

Since taking office in May 2018 the current Trustees have reviewed in-depth the operations of BYP and it quickly became apparent that there were numerous fundamental structural issues threatening the future of the organisation.

Financially the organisation has always in recent times had to rely upon not only the core grant from the Local authority but numerous additional grants from other sources. When taking office the core grant was almost immediately suspended due to past reporting issues and whilst this has since been reinstated, there is no reason to expect this to be continued into the long term given the position with Local Authority and arts funding. Furthermore, whilst applications have been made for several other grant sources these are often for incredibly specific projects or indeed the criteria of such applications falls outside the remit of BYP.

BYP has always relied heavily upon significant volunteer commitment. It is clear that volunteer engagement at BYP has fallen significantly over recent years and this affects all aspects of the organisation from the difficulty in recruiting Trustees and the willingness/ability of such individuals to give the significant time required for the organisation right through to struggling with the organisation of shows, chaperones, refreshment sales etc often increasing the pressure on the leaders of the groups.

Whilst the management of BYP we believe has been stabilised of late, we are of the opinion that an organisation of this nature requires artistic drive in order to move forward from various quarters and whilst Trustees would strongly commend the work of all involved with BYP, they do feel that this is often limited particularly due to the additional other pressures as mentioned above.

Financially BYP has been loss making for several years and in order to address all of the above issues as well as this fundamental problem, we are of the opinion that major structural change is required within the organisation. The current group of Trustees stood in 2018 essentially at a point when no one else was willing to do so in order to avoid constitutional crisis or immediate closure of the organisation. The current Trustees stepped in, in order to review the organisation attempting to make this fit for the future, however, from the outset they did not intend on standing for these positions year after year. As such the EGM has been called to seek to elect a new group of Trustees who can drive the organisation into the future which is readily accepted as potentially involving changes to the way the organisation is run, structured and managed. Current Trustees would like to place on note that their main priorities for the organisation are to preserve its legacy and the years of hard work by numerous individuals and furthermore, to ensure that the ethos of BYP continues into the future providing accessible youth activity delivered through the performing arts.

Should a suitable number of trustees not come forward for the EGM the existing trustees will remain in office for the time being and do have a potential alternative action to secure the future of the organisation and would propose to relay this to the membership as soon as they were able to do so.

The meeting is to take place on Wednesday, 18 September 2019 at Little Lane Community Hall at 7pm. Nominations for Trustees will be published prior to the meeting and anyone wishing to stand should email their details to jl.oconnor1@gmail.com or call to discuss on 07525 990620. All nominations for Trustees must be made by 11 September 2019.

The proposed order of business for the EGM is as follows:-

1. Confirmation/ratification from the membership of the previous election of Trustees in November 2018 where a quorum of members was not present
2. Confirmation/ratification from the membership of the previous election of Trustees in May 2019 where a quorum of members was not present.
3. Resignation of existing Trustees (if enough nominees have been received for new trusteeship)
4. Election of a chairperson for the EGM.
5. Election of new Trustees.
6. AOB.

The meeting is open to all members of BYP, however, please note that only full members of 18 will be eligible to vote.