Farmingville, NY - The Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area hosted the second stop on Councilwoman Kepert's Community Chat Tour on Tuesday. Joining the Councilwoman was Assemblyman Hennessey, Legislator Browning and Legislator Calarco. About forty community members came out to hear from their state, county and town leaders. Councilwoman Kepert kicked off the community chat by welcoming the community, "Community Chats are a good way for the community to learn about the initiatives that the Town is working on and for me to hear from the community about their concerns and ideas on how to improve the quality of life for the Town of Brookhaven."

The Councilwoman discussed many of the projects she has worked on in the North Bellport community since elected, "North Bellport is made up of a lot of young people, and when we did the community visioning much of the focus was on improving the parks to provide positive recreational opportunities for the youth in the area. This input provided clear direction to invest in park improvements at Robert Rowley Park and Martha Avenue Park."

In response to the issues raised about park safety, Assemblyman Edward Hennessey noted that he secured funding for law enforcement for security cameras targeted to the 3rd Assembly District. "The location of these cameras will have to be determined. But I look forward to working with Councilwoman Connie Kepert and the Town of Brookhaven to find ways to help and empower the community of Bellport," said Assemblyman Hennessey.

Legislators Browning and Calarco also fielded questions from community residents on how to lift the youth in the community up. Legislator Browning stressed the importance of working together and stated, "All of our agencies have to work together to move our youth in the right direction."

Legislator Calarco stated, "We can't just assume we know the interests of the youth. Like other communities have done, we need to survey the youth to hear directly from them about what their interests are and then provide that."

In addition to the elected officials, Suffolk County Police Officers from the 5th Precinct were present. Officer Aceveda informed the community that as the community liaison he will be at Robert Rowley Park on a regular basis after school hours with a ball ready to play. He stated that the first day he was out there he attracted 10 kids and the next day there were 20 kids feeling safe and enjoying the park.

Councilwoman Kepert concluded the chat by stating that she will continue working with the residents and her colleagues at town hall to advance the will of the community. Stay tuned for details on the Councilwoman's next community chat.