



NOTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON

29.10.2008

Venue: Speech House, Forest of Dean

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

Thomas Lydon, Marling**	P
Harry Bush, Marling	Ap
Alex Jones, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Jessica Howell, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Liam Baker, Thomas Keble	P
Cameron Patterson, Thomas Keble	Ap
El Linsell, Stroud High	P
Rosemary Dickinson, Stroud High	P
Jack Young, Archway School	Ap
Fran Ballinger, Archway	A
Hilary Dixon, Katharine Lady Berkeley's	A
Lindsey Driver, Vale of Berkeley	P
Frank Gillison, Vale of Berkeley	P
Andrew Burbidge, Nailsworth YF	Ap
Connor Walker, Stonehouse VoYS	Ap
Gemma Durn, VoYS	Ap
Isobel Tyrrell, Minchinhampton YC	P
Jodie Nixon, Minchinhampton YC	Ap

EX-OFFICIO

Rose Horton, Stroud High	A
Freddie Whittaker, Archway	A
Luke Smith, Berkeley	A
Matt Stump, Berkeley	A
Natalie Smith, Archway	A
Emma Mears, Cam & Dursley YF	A
Eleanor Cairns, Thomas Keble	A
Harriet Dudbridge, Katharine Lady Berkeley's	A

DEPUTY MEMBERS

Rebekah Batting, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Kamila Gebicka, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Will Loggins, Vale of Berkeley	A
Chantelle Martin, Vale of Berkeley	A
Rob Price, Marling	P
Harry Shankar, Marling	A
Alex Buckley, Thomas Keble	P
Kit Powell, Thomas Keble	P
Cerys Bradley, Stroud High	Ap
Isobel Holley, Stroud High	P
Kieran Chadwick, Archway	P
Kurtis Herbert, Archway	P
Megan Roberts, Minchinhampton YC	Ap
Amy Neason, Minchinhampton YC	P

CO-OPTIONS

**** = Chair * = Vice-Chair P = present A = absent Ap = apology**

OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Miles, Senior Hear By Right Youth Officer, SDC
 Danny James, Senior Youth Worker, GCC Youth Service
 Carol Novoth, Neighbourhood Warden, SDC

Minutes of the AGM

Welcome & Apologies

The 2007/08 Chair welcomed members to the 2008 Annual General Meeting. The minutes from the last meeting were not available so members will consider them accurate at the next meeting.

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

Training Event Review / Initial feedback

Initial feedback was taken from members over the past 3 days of the training event. The following are the key points raised;

- The food was top notch
- 'Fit Staff'
- Activities have been amazing
- The Golf day was excellent
- Actually doing the training has been a lot more fun, round of applause to Steve and Danny for facilitating everything.

Amendment to Constitution

All members had information in front of them regarding the Two-Year membership proposal. Steve explained that it was initially discussed by last years youth council and endorsed to be a formal proposal to change the constitution at the 2008 AGM.

Motion –

'The SDYC constitution (part 2.7) is amended as such to allow increase of the term of membership from the current one year to a two year period' as detailed in the full proposal document'.

Proposal Document -

The aim is to increase the participation levels and active involvement of representatives of schools, colleges and local youth forums. The objectives are:

- Improve continuity of members involvement
- Allow members to further develop into their roles as active members
- Increase members ability to act as district youth councillors
- Increase tailor made training opportunities for members

How would it work?

All schools, colleges and youth forums will elect or nominate their 4 representative members in September 2008 as normal. The collective membership would be split into 2 electorates. Electorate 1 will consist of four schools, 1 college and four local youth forums. Electorate 2 will consist of 3 schools, 1 college and 4 local youth forums. Electorate 1 will hold elections in September 2009 and every 2 years there after. Electorate 2 will hold elections in September 2010 and every 2 years there after.

Voting members and deputies will continue to be elected or nominated at the same time. If any elected member was unable to continue their full term at any time then a by-election will have to take place by their respective school, college or youth forum. The proposed make up of electorates is based on geography and current active status as a representative member or organisation."

Electorate 1

Marling
Rednock
Maidenhill
Katharine Lady Berkeley
Stroud College

Electorate 2

Archway
Stroud High
Thomas Keble
Vale of Berkeley
Stroud Town Youth Forum

Cam and Dursley Youth Forum
Minchinhampton Youth Forum
Berkeley Vale Youth Forum
Cainscross Youth Forum

Nailsworth Youth Forum
Wotton under Edge Youth Forum
Stonehouse Youth Forum

Proposed by El Linsell, Seconded by Alex Jones

Unanimous decision, motion was passed.

Election of Officers

Steve highlighted that the term of office was for a 12 month period and that members wishing to stand would need to give consideration to this. He highlighted that Tom had been elected as Chair in June (2008) due to the relinquishing of the post by the previous holder. This followed his term as Vice Chair since October 2008.

Election of Chair...

Steve chaired this part of the process.

Tom was proposed by Rosie and seconded by El – as there were no further nominations *Tom Lydon was elected as Chair*

Election of Vice Chair...

There were no nominations for this position.

El proposed that we leave the election of vice chair to a later date and review the situation at Christmas. This voted on and it was a unanimous decision in favour.

Election of Youth Cabinet

Leader

Liam was proposed by Alex and seconded by Rob – there were no further nominations.
Liam Baker was elected as Youth Cabinet Leader

Community Cohesion

Rosie proposed by El and seconded by Jess – there were no further nominations
Rosie Dickinson was elected as portfolio holder for Community Cohesion

Health & Wellbeing

Jess was proposed by Rosie and seconded by El - there were no further nominations
Jess Howell was elected as portfolio holder for Health & Wellbeing

Environment

El was proposed by Rob and seconded by Jess - there were no further nominations
El Linsell was elected as portfolio holder for Environment

Finance

There were no nominations for this position

Planning

Alex was proposed by Rosie and seconded by Kieran - there were no further nominations
Alex Jones was elected as portfolio holder for Planning

Housing

Lindsey was proposed by Frank and seconded by El - there were no further nominations
Lindsey Driver was elected as portfolio holder for Housing

Regeneration & Culture

Frank was proposed by Jess and seconded by EI - there were no further nominations
Frank Gillison was elected as portfolio holder for Regeneration & Culture

It was noted that the position of Deputy Leader will be elected at the next Youth Cabinet Meeting.

Key issues/projects for 2008/2009

Cheaper bus fares for 16-18 year olds

This has been an issue that the district youth council have covered in the past and has been very successful for a very short period of time. Four years ago the youth council brought in Stagecoach and cross examined them and also the County Council as well. That was to drive down the price that a 16, 17 and 18 year would pay to go on a bus. Currently it is the same price as an adult. In terms of equality you can still be in full time education at that period of time but you still got to pay for adult fares, which is an unfair balance and they discussed it with the member of youth parliament for Gloucestershire. Recently over the past couple of weeks Tom met David Drew who is the MP for Stroud and also the other UKYP member for Gloucestershire and between them selves they decided to set up a meeting with Stagecoach to discuss this because he feels that if it was achieved four years ago it can be done again. Other issues that we proposed to bring forward were that senior citizens have a free bus pass so can't Under-18s have a free bus pass or at least a reduced bus pass fare. Leading on from that the school buses which are contracted by the County Council would be something that the Tom will look at as well.

Canal Restoration Project

The canal project is aimed at linking with the Sharpness and Thames and River Severn. It is a massive regeneration project. There was a lottery bid for the section at Stonehouse to the Saul Junction to reinstate the link. A youth councillor from last year was part of the project and was the youngest person to be involved. The youth councillor was then involved with a DVD production which went with the lottery bid and also actually had a piece in the application itself. It was quite a lot of input from that councillor. Unfortunately the lottery bid was turned down on this occasion but SDC are really keen for members to stay linked with that.

Litter Recycling Project – will be on the next agenda

Support for Stroud Fringe Festival

That was agreed this last year unfortunately the Fringe Festival did not happen. The Youth Council gave the Fringe a large grant to help them and they were also going to be playing a big part in the event but it was cancelled due to lack of funding from other places. The money from the Youth Initiative Fund was received back from the Fringe Festival.

Dursley Youth Centre and May Lane

Steve gave a brief overview to members earlier in the day and will be on the next agenda.

Attendance and commitment from members

A lot of work was done over the weekend learning about the youth council. There are more members to join the group who were not able to go to the training.

Climate Change Panel

It is a panel of local, nation and international experts. There is a project which has just started up called Power Down but in short it is aimed to get the amount of energy used by schools down which are the biggest users of energy in the county.

Free Running

Danny and Steve will be meeting with Heads of Service to discuss that in detail and the outcome will be reported back to the youth council.

Germany Exchange

There was interest from a group of youth workers from Germany who wanted to do an exchange. The work that SDYC are doing is a long way down the road from Germany have got. There are no details on an exchange it is just something that is being talked about.

Homelessness

There was a piece of work done last year by Liam who was the cabinet member for housing. It is just to support young people who are experiencing homelessness. There is some housing for them which exists in Stroud Town.

National Youth Work Week – Voice of Young People Event - 3 November

This is a showcase style event designed using the theme of '*Promoting the voice and influence of young people*'; it will involve all youth participation groups in the district who will be giving various presentations on their work to an invited audience of adult district councillors, professionals from various organizations and businesses. Stroud District Youth Council will have a 10 minute presentation slot, the Chair will open it and the Youth Cabinet Leader will give closing remarks at the end. The event entitled 'Voice of Young People' is from 7-9pm and is to be held in the Council Chamber at Ebley Mill.

SDYC Calendar Dates

It was noted that all calendar dates were sent out in the post and will be available on the website.

Any Other Business

Members gave a well deserved applause for Danny, Steve and Carol for all the arrangements for the training residential.

Date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Monday 10 November 2008 at Stroud Youth Centre, 4.30pm