



NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON;

Date : Monday 2ND April 2012

Time : 16:30

Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

Ellen Wightman, (<i>Thomas Keble</i>)	Ap
Kate Jones, (<i>Thomas Keble</i>)	P
Kit Powell, (<i>Bussage & Chalford</i>)	Ap
Robin Ellis-Cockcroft**, (<i>Stroud Town</i>)	Ap
Kieran Chadwick, (<i>Archway</i>)	P
Luka Chadwick, (<i>Archway</i>)	P
Kathryn White, (<i>Rednock</i>)	P
Shannon Eden, (<i>Katharine Lady Berkeley</i>)	Ap
Miriam Smith, (<i>Katharine Lady Berkeley</i>)	A
Kirsty Driver, (<i>Berkeley</i>)	P
Roxy Mould, (<i>Berkeley</i>)	P
Annie Pickering, (<i>Stonehouse</i>)	P
Chloe Boulton, (<i>Wotton under Edge YF</i>)	Ap
Laura Forrester, (<i>Wotton under Edge YF</i>)	A
Millie Gardiner, (<i>Maidenhill</i>)	Ap
Neil Bond, (<i>Maidenhill</i>)	Ap
Max Freedman, (<i>Marling</i>)	Ap
Rob Sidwell, (<i>Marling</i>)	A
Laura Byng*, (<i>Stroud High</i>)	P
Sally Holditch, (<i>Stroud High</i>)	P
Stephanie Davies, (<i>Stroud College</i>)	A

DEPUTY MEMBERS

Mary Holditch, (<i>Stroud High</i>)	P
Lydia Stephens, (<i>Maidenhill</i>)	Ap
Ruth Pilston, (<i>Katharine Lady Berkeley</i>)	A
Eva Gilder-Hodgson, (<i>Katharine Lady Berkeley</i>)	Ap
Jessica Fisher, (<i>Wotton under Edge YF</i>)	Ap
Abi Lee, (<i>Wotton under Edge YF</i>)	A
Charlotte Bignall (<i>Thomas Keble</i>)	P

EX-OFFICIO

Lindsey Driver,	A
Emma Sankey,	Ap
Rosemary Dickinson,	A

CO-OPTIONS

Reece Campbell, Young Carers	P
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Others Present

Steve Miles, Senior 'Hear by Right' Youth Officer, Stroud District Council
 Jess Jenkins, Youth Support Worker, Wotton under Edge Town Council
 Christine Welsh, Gloucestershire LINK, Gloucestershire rural Community Council

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

Minutes of the meeting

Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chair, Laura Byng and members and guests, Christine Welsh from GRCC and Jess Jenkins (Youth Support Worker) were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies were received from Ellen Wightman, Kit Powell, Robin Ellis-Cockcroft, Shannon Eden, Chloe Boulton, Millie Gardiner, Neil Bond, Max Freedman, Lydia Stephens, Eva Gilder-Hodgson, Jess Fisher and Helen Smith (Youth Support Worker).

Minutes of Last Meeting – 19th March 2012

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

County Hate Crime Event; 24th March 2012 – Report

Roxy and Sally attended the event along with Steve and reported that Roger Coulson, the key note speaker, was outstanding and gave a good presentation about what hate crime is and how it can affect people's lives. They added that during the afternoon group work sessions were held to discuss various case studies. The groups were made up of different people from different organisations, which they agreed was useful as you got to hear different views and opinions. They received a welcome pack on attendance which included a programme, biography of all the guest speakers, a useful contacts sheet, poster, leaflet, pen and a badge; this was handed around members present to have a look at. The event was very successful and Steve added there is potential to do a session on hate crime with the youth council if members feel it's a subject they would like to look closely into – especially as there is a very good DVD that highlights important aspects available to share with people.

SDC Core Strategy/Local Plan – Report and return of questionnaires

The Chair asked which members have brought back their completed questionnaires with them; these were sent out with the minutes and should have included a PowerPoint presentation which explained what other members were told at the recent Core Strategy session, along with the questionnaire booklet itself and a link to the website which has more information regarding the consultation. The idea of this was that all youth members would have an understanding of what the questionnaire was about etc in the same way to those who attended the meeting.

Kathryn explained when they met with SDC Planning Team regarding the Strategy; they were reminded that the main aspect was the building of 3200 houses within the district before 2026 as well as creating jobs and a way of life for the increase in population. The strategy outlines the six geographical areas they are proposing to build new housing on, these include; Huntsgrove extension (on the border of Hardwicke and Quedgeley), Aston Down, North East of Cam, West of Stonehouse, Sharpness / Newtown and the Stroud Valleys. Discussions included the issue of building housing in areas which needed growth or had had their services closed in recent time (e.g. Sharpness), this could potentially be positive in the long run.

A number of questionnaires were completed and the youth council did complete some work regarding this topic two years ago; these questionnaires are valuable to the Planning Strategy Team and therefore they require as many returns back as possible. Steve explained the deadline for the questionnaires has been extended to Tuesday 10th April.

If any members would like an uncut version of the Strategy, please contact Steve for a copy.

YES (Youth Exploring Sustainability) Residential 13th – 15th April 2012

Laura asked members whether they had brought back booking forms for the residential next weekend; Steve had only received one reply so far. Members agreed at last session that it would be a good opportunity to attend, booking forms and extra information for parents was sent out recently, along with a pre-paid envelope. Steve reiterated the importance of returning these as soon as possible.

SDC Transport & UN Conference 'Waterproofing Theme Photo Shoot' – to note postponement

Sally explained that at last meeting everyone agreed that facebook was the easiest method of communication with regards to information and organisation for the photo shoot, however after creating an event on the social networking site, many members declined the invitation and therefore nothing has been organised. Some members expressed whether there is a need for the photograph, asking whether it be easier for people to do this individually and send the picture in themselves. It was agreed to cancel arrangements to hold a group shot.

Steve explained that even though the water themed shoot may not happen, there is still a desire and need to have photographs taken with the new minibus.

Stroud Health & Wellbeing Partnership meeting – Report

Last meeting Steve mentioned that Stroud Health, Wellbeing and Substance Action Partnership were having a meeting earlier today; there was the opportunity for any members to attend. As a youth council we do have a Health Focus Group and a couple of items on the agenda related to the current work that is taking place. The main topic of discussion was substance misuse, along with the Gloucestershire drug and alcohol working group. It was discussed that because of the restructure within the County Council, substance misuse services were affected; however it is now clear who young people should contact if they required information or support in these areas. 'Info Buzz' are the organisation that are commissioned by the County Council to provide Level 2 needs, this includes providing education, advice and intervention to young people in schools and community settings. Level 3 needs are met by the youth support service called Gloucestershire Young Peoples Substance Misuse Service (GYPSMS).

Contact Information for Info Buzz: David Rose, 01452 381770. admin@infobuzz.co.uk
Info Buzz Ltd, Unit 15 – 17 City Works, Alfred Street, Gloucester, GL1 4DF

Contact Information for GYPSMS: Rob England, 01452 551271. Robert.England@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Windsor House, 40 Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JJ

With regards to alcohol, the Home Office have recently published an alcohol strategy which does include commitment around minimum unit prices for alcohol, something that is heavily reported in the media at the moment. Also they wish to consult people on a ban on the sale of multi-buy alcohol discounts, run an innovative pilot sobriety schemes to challenge alcohol-related offending, as well as introduce stronger powers for local areas to control the density of license premises. Some members discussed the minimum unit price for alcohol – they felt that it was legislation and not a tax, therefore in the long run increasing profit for private companies that produce alcohol, which in turn they will spend on more advertising and research into more alcohol products. Roxy suggested that this is something the Health Focus Group will discuss in their next meeting.

Presentation on Gloucestershire LINK – Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

Christine Welsh gave a presentation about the Local Involvement Network (LINK), which principally involves volunteers of any age and background. The primary focus is to collect people's experiences and views on health and social care services. The presentation depicted why they collect the information and what they do with it; the views on services can be given to LINK confidentially. They meet with services such as the hospital trusts on a regular basis and then feedback to them, the information they have gathered. Reports are generated from the research where evidence is stated and recommendations are made; this is then reviewed further down the line. An example of their work is; LINK discovered many people complained about a problem with the administration of medicines, when this was reviewed the improvement was 50:50 and therefore a decision was made to return to the Trust to see if any further improvements could be made. They have just done a survey on access to information services.

Christine explained that LINK was very open to input from the youth council; members suggested the Health Focus Group should look at this in more depth and contact the LINK direct.

Correspondence

Elections – Purdah

Members were reminded that the District and Parish local elections are fast approaching and are due to take place on Thursday 3rd May 2012; if you are 18 and therefore eligible to vote, encouragement to use your vote is done so naturally. It is not the entire district that elections are occurring for, but a third.

There is a pre-election period known as 'Purdah' – essentially this means SDC staff must always be seen as politically neutral, especially in the run-up to an election. This period starts from 26th March 2012 and extends up to and including the Election Day itself. Many activities that would be perfectly acceptable at other times of the year could be questionable during an election period, some basic guidelines include;

- We are not allowed to do anything that might possibly be construed to affect support for or against any particular party

- Potentially controversial activities should be avoided, no councillors – whether standing for election or not – should be asked to be involved in promoting any consultation, openings or other events
- Press releases issued by SDC will carry comments from appropriate officers rather than the cabinet member
- Council work is not expected to cease during this period. Officers need to keep members informed in the usual way of ward or other matters but need to avoid involving them in any pro-active promotional activities
- Staff who may have political ‘friends’ on Facebook or other social media sites need to be careful about what they say during this period.

British Youth Council (BYC)

BYC are looking to collect all election monitoring data from Local Youth Council’s, UK Youth Parliament and Young Mayor Elections for this current academic year. This is the first time they have gathered all this information into one place and they hope it will be helpful tool for telling the story of youth democracy across the UK. Once all data has been collated they will share the information with everyone. Steve agreed he will complete the survey along with help from either Robin or Laura – this is via Survey Monkey and will be completed on behalf of Stroud District Youth Council.

District Network Group

The District Network Group (a strategic network of all district councils in Gloucestershire, plus the NHS and County Council who consider young peoples services) are arranging an event on Monday 16th July; this will be a ‘one year on’(from the cuts) themed event for young people services in Gloucestershire. Last year SDYC participated in a similar one-off event. There is an opportunity in the draft programme for young people to be involved in this years event; Steve will bring further information at next meeting.

Change of SDYC meeting date – The above date clashes with a future SDYC meeting, therefore members suggested moving the meeting date to the week before to 9th July. This was agreed.

Gloucestershire LINK

In addition to information shared previously, young people who are 16 to 18 and unemployed or not in education can learn some constructive skills and get some real hands on experience through an initiative created by the Breakheart Quarry Project in Dursley and the new South Gloucestershire and Stroud College – a promotional leaflets to promote what is going on at the project were handed round.

Guide and Pals

Guide and Pals attended a meeting previously and they promised to post the youth council information leaflets which were delivered recently; members were encouraged to help themselves to as many leaflets as you would like and share them around.

Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forum’s – reports from all

Katherine Lady Berkeley

No representatives present.

Rednock

Recently been planning ways to spend the school council budget as it never gets spent, and therefore currently researching into ways to spend the money proactively that would help the school – this is taking up most of the topic of conversation at meetings.

Stroud High

Trying to move forward with promoting SDYC to students, however this is taking a while. A discussion is had amongst Stroud High representatives and Steve regarding the lack of reliability and focus with the lead teachers; Steve to follow up with them afterwards.

Thomas Keble

Nothing to report.

Maidenhill

No representatives present.

Marling

No representatives present.

Archway

Nothing to report.

Berkeley

Kirsty and Roxy reported that they (with Tom Williams) had presented outcomes about their consultation work to the Town Council; it seemed a very positive meeting. They were hoping to create and set up a youth forum for Berkeley and also support the building of a skate park - some funding had been received for the youth forum. Steve commended the members for the presentation and all their recent work.

Stonehouse Youth Forum

Held another meeting last Thursday, Annie unfortunately sent her apologies although Steve also attended. They have some work to do regards making promotional leaflets that will explain to young people all the things that are available to them in the area and will be pursuing opportunities to increase forum members.

Young Carers

Reece reported that they had recently received some funding from Sports Relief and are planning a trip to Thorpe Park. He added that changes in support staff had taken place and that he was now helping run some sessions.

Co-Option Opportunity to SDYC

Steve explained that over the years he has received correspondence from people that know of a young person from St Roses School, Stroud (a co-educational special needs school) who was interested in the work of SDYC and being actively involved. Despite pursuing this in the past, no progress was ever made through the school. This has occurred again recently through another contact and as a result, understands the persons name is Ryan Davies and he is 17 years old.

Steve explained the reason why we have never had any direct representation from any establishment that covers disability, is because we try and encourage them to be represented through secondary schools or local youth forums. He added that a number of years ago we also tried to support the setting up of a youth forum for people with disabilities, a whole host of organisations wanted to come together, however nothing was ever developed by them; the idea was that with a larger 'community' of young people with disabilities working together they could be fully represented on the district youth council, rather than being tokenistic.

Members were asked to discuss the issue of co-opting people that could bring a certain set of skills and knowledge around specific issues to the membership. The members had a discussion and some felt Ryan could bring a valuable input and view to specific things such as the work undertaken by Stroud Access Group. It was noted that Co-opted members are only elected for one year, and Reece is currently the only co-opted member.

Steve will communicate with Ryan and let him know what the process is to ensure he wants to become a co-option before SDYC formally elect him.

Youth Cabinet Report - Annie

Annie explained to the group there was nothing further to report, however an email will be circulated to the youth cabinet members shortly regarding the proposed SDC youth strategy.

Pride in Your Neighbourhood (PiYN) Events

Steve explained that the PiYN events occur in the spring and summer months every year and it is a multi-service and agency approach to specific communities within the Stroud district. It is a chance for council employees, resident associations, the police and fire service, as well as local residents to do a more work in the community using a 'face to face' approach; many activities go on during the events such as litter picking, cycle maintenance, information sharing etc. The first one is Tuesday 17th April 2012 in Berkeley from 2:00pm to 7:00pm. Steve suggested the representation from Berkeley may want to extend their current work in the area and attend the event.

SDC Youth Strategy Development Update

The work the youth council did at the last meeting which Annie facilitated, had been pulled together by Steve and presented by him to the SDC Executive Board; this consists of the adult Council Cabinet and the Strategic Officer Team.

Steve explained that further information had been requested by the Board and this would be re-presented to the SDC Corporate Team (Strategic and Heads of Service Officer Team) in the first instance to look at it in more detail. There was a bit of resistance about adopting a strategy that they required more information on in order to make a decision. They principally want more information about what a local youth forum is and how it will benefit communities in general as well as young people. Therefore, we need to take a longer term approach on this; the youth strategy will be further developed in the coming months. Steve believes the youth cabinet could to be involved more, however the next step is unsure as of yet.

SDYC Projects Reports

Health Focus Group

A meeting hasn't been held for a while, this will be arranged.

Eat Well, Waste Less

Kieran suggests a date needs to be organised for a meeting with Stroud College and other partners in the project.

Any Other Business

Funding – Youth Panel

The youth panel was set up in which to allocate the £50,000 grant funding received from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). During Round One £12,552 was allocated in September 2011 and then in Round Two (Jan/Feb 2012) a further £26,000 was allocated, leaving £11,448 left in the grant to carry over to 2012/13. It is expected the Council will receive another grant of £50,000, however this has yet to be confirmed by GCC. If all goes to plan then there will be a fund of £61,448 to allocate during the current financial year. The adult district council has suggested we allocated the funding earlier in the year, and therefore the provisional application deadline dates suggested are 21st May 2012 for Round One and 17th September 2012 for Round Two. An option to do a further third round in January 2013 will also be available.

It was stated that the next SDYC meeting members will need to elect the youth panel for the 2012/13 year; Steve suggested that this panel should be diverse in membership and that they should also receive training, particularly as it is a large commitment – the work involves dealing with money, looking at applications, judging them and making decisions is a very real process which requires special techniques and skills.

Register to Vote

Annie reminded members that when young people turn 16 you can actually register to vote which means you become on the electoral role; if you visit www.aboutmyvote.com you can register.

Date of the next meeting: Monday 30th April 2012, 4:30pm at Fresh Ground Café, Cainscross