



NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

15.03.2010

Venue: Stroud Youth Centre

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

Thomas Lydon, Marling**	P
Rob Price, Marling	A
Becky Batting, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Kamila Gebicka, Cam & Dursley YF	Ap
Kit Powell, Thomas Keble	P
Alex Buckley, Thomas Keble	Ap
Isobel Holley, Stroud High	P
Rosemary Dickinson, Stroud High	P
Kieran Chadwick, Archway	P
Robin Ellis-Cockcroft, Archway	P
Ben Dewfall, Katharine Lady Berkeley	Ap
Emma Sankey, Katharine Lady Berkeley	Ap
Lindsey Driver, Rednock	P
Annie Pickering, Stonehouse VoYS	P
Connor Walker, Stonehouse VoYS	A
Isobel Tyrrell, Minchinhampton YC	A
Megan Roberts, Minchinhampton YC	A
(Rudi) Blue Morgan, Stroud College	A
Petra Lalikova, Stroud College *	A
Dave Holder, Maidenhill	P
Millie Gardiner, Maidenhill	P
Alex Phelps	A

EX-OFFICIO

Jess Howell, Cam & Dursley YF	A
Hilary Dixon, Katharine Lady Berkeley's	A
Frank Gillison, Vale of Berkeley	A
Andrew Burbidge, Nailsworth YF	A

DEPUTY MEMBERS

Vicky Law, Cam & Dursley YF	Ap
Beth Jones, Cam & Dursley YF	Ap
Emma Topping, Katharine Lady Berkeley	A
Will Robson, Katharine Lady Berkeley	P
Archie Flexen-Cook, Thomas Keble	A
George Thomas, Thomas Keble	A
Cerys Bradley, Stroud High	Ap
El Linsell, Stroud High	Ap
Charlie Cox, Archway	A
Lynford Short, Archway	P
Amy Neason, Minchinhampton YC	A
Ashley Skerten	Ap

CO-OPTIONS

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Miles, Senior Hear By Right Youth Officer, SDC
 Eddie Whitlock, Co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch
 Helen Smith, Youth Worker, GCC Youth Service

Minutes of the meeting

Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed members and guests, Helen Smith (GCC Youth Service) and Eddie Whitlock (Neighbourhood Watch) to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Kamila Gebicka, Alex Buckley, Ben Dewfall, Emma Sankey, Vicky Law, Beth Jones, Cerys Bradley, El Linsell, Ashley Skerten and Hagar Niblett.

Minutes of the last meeting – 22 February 2010

They were agreed as being an accurate record.

Matters Arising

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) – discussion with local MP's

Tom confirmed that he had communicated with Stroud Districts MP's (David Drew and Geoffrey Clifton-Brown) asking for semi formal talks with SDYC regarding their view on making the UNCRC law in its own right – now awaiting a response from both.

SDC Community Safety Service Showcase Event – feedback

Nine members attended and all felt it was a positive event although few adults took the opportunity to come and speak to them, however they did have a good conversation with Stroud Beresford Group's who were promoting their Women's Refuse Centre. One adult district councillor was critical that SDYC members did not have a formal presentation - members tried to speak to him afterwards to explain the purpose of the evening and that they were happy not being showcased on this occasion. It was suggested that a future showcase for SDYC could be held in November.

Positive Activities Review

The Chair highlighted that the low response and lack of action from many members had led to not qualifying for the £600 funding. Members suggested that questionnaires were not a favourable method in which to consult and added that the time frame given was far too short. It was concluded as a missed opportunity to get the opinions of young people, despite the decision by members to go ahead with this approach being made. Those members that did carry out the work were thanked for their efforts.

SDYC Mailing Review

The tick box style document for the review was again circulated to ensure any members not previously listed were included.

SDC Housing Improvement Plan

It was agreed to invite Peter Nourse, SDC Head of Asset Management and Cllr. Debbie Young, Cabinet member for Housing to the next SDYC meeting on 19 April, in which to discuss various ideas regarding the Council's Housing Improvement Plan – Lindsey highlighted that they were looking to extend this opportunity to a longer term relationship of actively involving young people.

Correspondence

European Youth Workers Visit to Gloucestershire – 23 March

Steve extended an invitation to members to assist him with delivering a 30 minute presentation to a group of youth workers visiting the county from various European countries. The event would be held at The Wilderness Centre, Forest of Dean on 23 March. Becky, Lindsey and Kieran expressed interest and would confirm in the near future.

British Youth Council, Summer Convention's

A series of one day events in July and August are being run by the British Youth Council at various venues around the country – the nearest Summer Convention event will be in Cardiff on 5 August. It was agreed that further information for members would be sent via email.

Stroud Access Group AGM invitation

Steve highlighted that the annual general meeting of Stroud Access Group would be held on Wednesday 24 March at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill. Whilst Rosie, Kit and Will were the nominated SDYC representatives, other members were welcome to attend as well.

Respect Your Life, Your Choice – new resource document

Individual members took a look at a new resource document entitled 'Respect Your Life, Your Choice' published by the Police and the Children's Safety Education Foundation. It being aimed at young people, members was asked to give feedback on its suitability and potential use in the district. Comments included that whilst the content was good and informative; the front cover was not relevant and a little too young for teenagers. These comments would be passed on to the Head of SDC Community Safety.

Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forums

Marling – Tom highlighted that the school were looking to hold a *Marling's Got Talent* competition.

Stroud High – Rosie reported that a review of the new uniform was taking place and a new card board & plastic bottles recycling system was being considered. A joint Eco-committee will soon be organised with Marling.

Thomas Keble – Kit updated members on the commitments of year 10 and 11 regarding exams. One student had entered a cooking competition for which he was receiving support for. The school news letter was not being distributed that well.

Archway – Kieran reported that discussions had taken place regarding a radio show for the school. Students were raising money for Sports Relief and the school was now involved with Marling Build an Aeroplane Project.

Stroud College – Ashley highlighted that an action group against the security name tag system had been formed in light of recent discussions at the student council meeting and some students reportedly not being allowed on site without them.

Maidenhill – nothing to report

Voice of Young Stonehouse – The training residential mentioned at the last meeting, was reportedly a good experience for the small number that attended.

Rednock – Lindsey reported that Steve had attended recent school council meeting promoting representation to SDYC, however she felt the students and resident teacher had not responded as positive as they could – it had been agreed, if additional nominations were not forthcoming then student ambassadors would be offered the opportunity to undertake this role. The school council also gave their opinions on the new Virtual Tutor group identification based on different colour clothing etc.

Cam & Dursley Youth Forum – There had been no progress since the last meeting with regards to the Connect Dursley project. However an interim youth centre had been agreed in principal with the Chantry Committee whom over see the Lister Social Club site.

Neighbourhood Watch – Eddie Whitlock

Eddie explained the work of Neighbourhood Watch (NW) highlighting the geographical areas each 'Watch' covers. He's employed by the Police as an Administrator, with there being 371 watches in Stroud District each with a voluntary co-ordinator covering a total of 12,000 houses. Their aim is to make people's quality of life better through a wide range of work including crime reduction/prevention work, looking at issues involving fire & rescue services, speeding traffic, graffiti and litter. Kingswood has the biggest Watch in the district with all residents involved. NW are keen to find out how they can engage with young people i.e. in schools, on streets, and what would stimulate young people to get involved or influence the work being done - Is it something young people would be interested in, if so how do they go about it? Current facilities include a website, a messaging system and a Mobile unit. Members asked, what does a Watch do exactly? And, what issues relating to young people are they looking at currently? Eddie explained that a Coordinator receives information and passes it onto residents and vice versa, acting as the hub for the Watch with interaction with specific agencies and organisations thereafter. He added that NW has done work in schools around protecting personal property. It was suggested by members that a youth version of NW could be a more youth friendly way – this led to suggesting Local Youth Forum's potentially having a role. Another idea was to create an NW information point in youth centres or shelters. It was noted that school council's already do a similar thing regarding personal property but overall most ideas were very positive. Becky agreed to speak to Cam & Dursley Youth Forum to share these ideas. Eddie was thanked for this attendance.

SDC Core Strategy – Consultation Day

Ben presented an overview of the work he had been doing with SDC Planning Strategy team to find a way that young people could have input into the SDC Core Strategy. The initial conclusion was to hold a specific consultation day for SDYC members to focus on the key aspects of the strategy, thus allowing for an interactive session to be experienced rather than just a questionnaire style approach. Ben proposed this should take place on either Friday 9th March or Monday 12th March, Lindsey seconded this proposal.

Following discussion it was agreed that this approach was the best option given the time scale and the nature of the issue – the 12 April was agreed. Ben then added that a public consultation was taking place in Dursley on Saturday 27 February as part of a district wide road-show – Ben, Rosie and Steve would be attending to gain a greater insight.

10th Anniversary Celebrations

The Chair reminded members the anniversary year was now underway but no plans had been made. Lindsey added that something needed to be organised and the work had to start now. Ideas shared included, a formal event involving past members. Venues suggested included a school hall and Stroud Sub Rooms. Other suggestions were, to invite adults who work with SDYC i.e. SDC officers, members and various local community people, a formal event should have a key note speaker. Steve reminded members that a committee was already compiled - other members were added; Lindsey, Rosie, Robin, Lynford, Dave, Millie, Izzy H, Tom. It was agreed the committee would meet on Thursday 25th March at 4pm on a 'back to back' basis with the Litter Recycling Project Team. Members were encouraged think of themes and venues in the meantime.

Easter Break Members Programme

The Chair highlighted that a handout was available for each member on the training and activity programme planned for the second week of the Easter break. In addition to this a taster session on participation and consultation skills has been set for Tuesday 30 March, ahead of the 2 day event on 14/15 April. The purpose of this training was to give members core skills in which to potentially form a specialist group to plan and deliver consultation workshops. It was decided to hold a team building activity on Friday 16 April – various ideas were discussed, with a strong suggestion that an outdoor activity was preferable followed by a group meal afterwards. The Canal Restoration project was highlighted as a possibility. Members were asked to forward any more ideas urgently.

Social Network & Website Project

The SDYC project team would meet with Cam & Dursley Youth Forum as soon as possible to make progress with this project.

Litter Recycling Pilot Project – update

Izzy reported that a meeting was held last week to discuss potential sites for the five remaining bins. It had been agreed to carry out site visits this week, using information from SDC Neighbourhood Wardens and Public Space Officers as well as local knowledge from young people. A monitoring schedule was also discussed and would be confirmed when the emptying dates were known. The Chair highlighted that he wanted to stay involved with this project.

Youth Cabinet Report

Rosie reported that Sea Cadets in Stroud needed more time to complete their project – this was agreed. Two final applications had been received for the Talented Young Sports Performers grant programme - Sofia Moore, a local basketball player has been selected for European competition and has asked for support towards expenses involving transport, coaching and competition. James Taylor is a recognised heptathlon athlete with type 1 diabetes and has been offered a scholarship to Millfield School, Somerset to further his development in his chosen sport. Following the proposal from Rosie and seconding from Lindsey, members agreed to support both applicants to a maximum of £250 each. Kit would be visiting Cam & Dursley Youth Forum this coming Wednesday 17 March in her role as Youth Cabinet member for Community Cohesion.

Any Other Business

There was no further business.

Date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Monday 19 April 2010 in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill at 4.30pm.