



NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

19.04.2010

Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

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	Ap
Alex Buckley, Thomas Keble	P
Isobel Holley, Stroud High	P
Rosemary Dickinson, Stroud High	P
Kieran Chadwick, Archway	P
Robin Ellis-Cockcroft, Archway	Ap
Ben Dewfall, Katharine Lady Berkeley	Ap
Emma Sankey, Katharine Lady Berkeley	P
Lindsey Driver, Rednock	Ap
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	Ap
Alex Phelps, Vale of Berkeley	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	P
Beth Jones, Cam & Dursley YF	Ap
Emma Topping, Katharine Lady Berkeley	A
Will Robson, Katharine Lady Berkeley	Ap
Archie Flexen-Cook, Thomas Keble	A
George Thomas, Thomas Keble	P
Cerys Bradley, Stroud High	P
El Linsell, Stroud High	Ap
Charlie Cox, Archway	A
Lynford Short, Archway	P
Amy Neason, Minchinhampton YC	A
Ashley Skerten, Stroud College	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
 Helen Smith, Youth Worker, GCC Youth Service
 Carl Brazier, Strategic Head of Housing, SDC
 Cllr Debbie Young, Cabinet Member for Housing, SDC
 Helen Royall, TripSwitch Co-ordinator, Transition Stroud

Minutes of the meeting

Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed members and guests, Helen Smith (GCC Youth Service), Helen Royall (Transition Stroud), Carl Brazier (Strategic Head of Housing, SDC) and Debbie Young (Cabinet Member for Housing, SDC) to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Kamila Gebicka, Kit Powell, Ben Dewfall, Robin Ellis-Cockcroft, Lindsey Driver, Millie Gardiner, Beth Jones, El Linsell, Ashley Skerten and Hagar Niblett.

The Chair informed members about the recent traffic incident involving Hagar Niblett, who was hit at high speed by a car whilst travelling on his bike on the A38 near Hardwicke. Hagar suffered a broken vertebrae and upper arm but remarkably left hospital after only a few weeks following two operations – Steve highlighted to members that Tom had been a constant support for Hagar and his family throughout and asked everyone to give them their support in the coming months.

Minutes of the last meeting – 15 March 2010

They were agreed as being an accurate record with an amendment to the Archway item under Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forums – this should read; '*Kieran reportedStudents were raising money for Sports Relief and the school was now involved with the project with Marling Build an Aeroplane Project*'.

Matters Arising

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

Tom reminded members that efforts around this issue will be reconvened after the General Election on 6 May.

British Youth Council, Summer Convention's

A link to further information had been sent out to all members using BYC's monthly newsletter, some members had expressed interest – those who would like to attend, please let Steve know ASAP.

Stroud Access Group AGM invitation

Ashley Skerten attended this meeting, but was not present to give a report.

SDC Core Strategy Consultation Event – New Date

The original event had to be postponed due to low numbers, so a new date needed to be set. Tom highlighted the importance of SDYC giving input to this strategy and called upon all members to support this. Steve added that Ben Dewfall in his Youth Cabinet role (supported by Rosie) had done a massive amount of work to date in setting this up. Following discussion, Sunday 9 May was agreed as the favoured date.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forums

Marling – Tom reported that Marling had a new bike shed constructed. Work was now underway in relation to the student's involvement with TripSwitch programme. A debate between Parliamentary Candidates of all four political parties was being held at school on 20 April.

Stroud High – Cerys reported Build a plane launch this sat at Nympsfield gliding club, RAF will be attending, members invited. Rosie added that she will soon be less active in her role as representative for Stroud High due to forthcoming studying and examination commitments.

Thomas Keble – Nothing to report

Archway – Nothing to report

Maidenhill – Annie highlighted that the new school council was settled and functioning well. Tom reminded those present that the system used at Maidenhill had been acknowledged as being very good and a presentation on this would be held at a SDYC meeting soon.

Voice of Young Stonehouse – Annie reported that recent communication with Wycliffe College had been welcomed and meeting in future. She added that membership recruitment was still a concern with only a few people now involved – Steve highlighted that he was willing and able to help as part of his field work duties.

Rednock – In Lindsey's absence, Vicky reported that the Vertical Tutoring system had now begun.

Cam & Dursley Youth Forum – Becky reported that members had recently been on a residential training event to undertake the ASDAN accredited Act by Right participation skills training which involved focussed group and community work. This is now ongoing for the forum group.

SDC Housing Improvement Plan

CIlr Debbie Young outlined the SDC Housing Improvement Plan explaining the process and actions to date which followed a large review and audit, highlighting 108 points for improvement - one key outcome was the need to engage with young people i.e. those whom live as tenants in SDC owned houses (approx 5000) and those in housing association properties.

Debbie explained that they wanted to seek how they could communicate with young people and develop ongoing ways of engagement. Annie suggested the holding of fun days on estates or in main areas but not to just focus on housing issues and be very informal. Debbie suggested the SDC Keynotes newsletter could have input from young people, however members felt this would not reach young people in their homes. Tom supported Annie's comments and suggested an indirect approach would be best, using participative methods to build relationships and trust rather than launching into the 'big issue of housing'.

Debbie highlighted that SDYC were being involved at a very early planning stage, to get an idea of what would work/not work. She added, the Improvement Plan is ongoing and will evolve over time.

Other members gave their support to previous comments and noted that some younger teenagers may not be aware they are in council housing. It was felt that engaging directly with young people in school would not be advisable as this could lead to stigmatising those from different social backgrounds and then lead to other negative outcomes.

Whilst taking this point onboard, Debbie hoped that various methods of communication could be done through the school community link

Steve highlighted that active Local Youth Forums could be a valuable resource for communicating in some geographical areas. Additional ideas included the creation of a smaller members group to meet with SDC officers to look at the key factors and options.

Debbie agreed to come back to SDYC following further discussion with Lindsey and other members. Cerys and Annie expressed an interest in supporting Lindsey.

10th Anniversary Celebrations

Becky reported that the first meeting of this committee was successful, with the following ideas put forward;

What? – Showcase Event with presentation of things achieved, Buffet/Dinner Dance (like a wedding reception?) or Party with entertainment and live band, raise money for a young persons charity.

When? – Friday night during late summer/autumn i.e. August, September, October.

Where? – Junction 13 Bar & Night Club, Stroud Sub Rooms, The Barn @ Berkeley.

Who? – Past and present SDYC members, SDC members and officers, youth workers

Funding/Money? – Support from local companies/sponsorship, Youth Opportunity Fund, individuals pay for tickets to events.

The committee would meet again on Thursday 29 April.

Spring Training & Event Programme

The Consultation Day for the SDC Core Strategy was postponed due to low numbers. A new date was set as Sunday 9 May – members were asked to make every effort to attend as it was a key objective as well as an important opportunity to undertake.

Rosie gave an overview of the two day Dynamix training, highlighting the introduction of new techniques on participation and engagement – it was felt that whilst parts of the two day event were a bit non-active, the vast majority was good. Evaluation Forms have been sent out for completion. Steve explained it was an introductory course to using such techniques and could be the basis for a new style of project group in the future that would specialise in consultation work.

The member's team building event took place on the Cotswold Canal and contributed to the ongoing restoration project. Those who attended said it was really good and suggested that the opportunity to

promote voluntary work to others, should be followed up – Dave agreed to do this with Maidenhill School. Members also reflected on the huge achievement that was considered hard work but fun. A meal was had in Stroud Town afterwards.

TripSwitch Stroud – Helen Royall

Tom introduced the TripSwitch project, explaining the involvement from young people in previous years. Helen, added that TripSwitch was a partnership of 9 organisations who work together to provide a focussed approach to green initiatives. As this years co-ordinator highlighted the exciting plans for Green Travel Month (June) 2010 - the dates and brief details are as follows;

1 – 6; Low Carbon Week

7 – 13; Low Car Usage Week

14 – 20; Public Transport Week

21 – 27; National Bike Week

Helen was experiencing huge difficulty with communications with schools and asked members for support – she briefed members on the efforts so far. Tom highlighted that whilst Marling have always been involved and have done much work, they are happy to share their structure and processes with others. Members suggested that cycle tracks need to be established for safety reasons. However an ‘access to bike’ scheme was being promoted.

Local bus companies Stagecoach and Cotswold Green were considering the subsidy of their fares as they want more young people on buses – Helen suggested that this looked promising and would be a massive achievement and due in large to the involvement of the SDYC Chair. Tom reminded members of the huge work being done nationally on the same basis.

A ‘Green Day’ on Wed 16th June was also planned – input will come from businesses promoting ‘green’ products or services.

Social Network & Website Project

The initial meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 26 April, to receive initial thoughts and ideas from the designer Rob Plumley regarding the overall model – members will be asked to help shape this further. Steve asked members of the project team to confirm their attendance ASAP.

Litter Recycling Pilot Project – update

Izzy reported that the five new sites had now been confirmed and the bins had been installed. Each bin was scheduled to be emptied weekly on a Monday. Project team members agreed to carry out audit/monitoring of the bins monthly with possible transport support from the SDC Neighbourhood Wardens. Dave highlighted the positive impact from having new bins near Maidenhill School. However Cerys reported on the concerns of a teacher at Stroud High regarding health and safety issues of litter picking. Next project team meeting is on 22 April.

Youth Cabinet Report

Rosie reported that efforts to meet as a whole group had been difficult due to high levels of involvement with various projects. A date would be sought very soon.

Any Other Business

Annie asked if SDYC could consider supporting the 10:10 Campaign – she agreed to do a short presentation at the next meeting.

Dave informed members of a charity ‘Car Pull’ for Help for Heroes from Stroud Town and Stonehouse on Sunday 9 May.

Date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Monday 10 May 2010 at Stroud Youth Centre, 4.30pm.