



## NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

22.02.2010

**Venue: Stroud Youth Centre**

### YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

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

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

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

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

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

A	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

## Minutes of the meeting

### **Welcome & Apologies**

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Rosie chaired the meeting in her role as Youth Cabinet Leader – she welcomed members to the meeting. Vicki was congratulated on her birthday.

Apologies were received from Tom Lydon, Rob Price, Kit Powell, Kamila Gebicka, George Thomas, Charlie Cox and Hagar Niblett.

### **Minutes of the last meeting – 1 February 2010**

They were agreed as being an accurate record.

### **Matters Arising**

#### ***Vale of Berkeley College (VoBC) – proposed closure update***

Lindsey reported that in light of the local proposal to turn VoBC into an Independent Co-operative Trust School, the County Council had announced they would postpone the decision on its future until June 2010 – therefore the school will continue to function in the current format until July 2011.

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

Rosie apologised on behalf of her and Tom for not being able to progress this sooner – a way forward would be proposed at the next meeting.

#### ***Neighbourhood Watch - invitation***

Steve confirmed that Eddie Whitlock, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator would attend the next meeting to open discussions on how they could involve young people more in the work that they do.

#### ***UKYP Gloucestershire – meet the members***

Following input from SDYC members since the last meeting, Steve highlighted that UKYP Glos' were grateful to receive very brief outlines of the key issues for young people in the Stroud district i.e. *Transport and Concessionary Fares, Closure/removal of Youth Centres in Dursley & Stonehouse areas.*

Robin was congratulated on his recent election as Deputy Member of Youth Parliament for Stroud & Cotswolds.

A joint meeting between SDYC & UKYP Glos' would be set up in due course as planned, in which to pursue the key issues further.

#### ***Student Participation at Maidenhill***

Following the suggestion at the last meeting that SDYC should take a closer look at the 'Husting style' elections and general student participation in Maidenhill, Dave, Millie and Annie gave a brief overview of the system and structure being used. Now in its second year they reported of its successes and highlighted they would be pleased to do a more comprehensive presentation in the future – this was agreed and a date would be sought.

#### ***Member Team Building – half term week***

Steve reported that despite a request at the last meeting, he did not have any formal replies from members (other than a few verbal ones) regarding a team building programme, therefore nothing was organised.

#### ***Positive Activities Review***

Steve highlighted that he had only received 20 completed questionnaires from 3 members ahead of the deadline on 19 February – whilst it was noted that a very short time frame had been allowed for, it was felt that if members could respond urgently in which to reach a total of 100 then SDYC could still qualify for the £600 funding from the County Council in lieu of the work carried out.

#### ***SDYC Mailing Review***

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

#### ***Local Transport Plan Event - feedback***

The event was attended by Rosie, Beth and Hagar – Beth reported that whilst it was delivered in a fairly boring format they were able to give a positive input from a young person's perspective to the wide range of transport issues being consulted upon.

## **Correspondence**

### ***Step up Stroud: Get a Plan event***

Steve gave a brief overview of the evaluation from the event, highlighting that 89% of students rated their experience in the top three grades, over 50% of students used the day to explore other career options and 44% of students wanted more contact with businesses.

Whilst the event did not require the attendance of SDYC members, some members of Cam & Dursley Youth Forum did through their role as students at Rednock School and found it useful. Information on SDYC including the 2009 Annual Review was included in the delegate packs of approx 80 attendees.

### ***TripSwitch***

Helen Royal, the new co-ordinator for this initiative has made contact with view to welcoming more involvement from SDYC for the 2010 programme. Helen has asked if she could attend a SDYC meeting to give an overview of this years programme – this was agreed by members, but due to increasing presentations and the huge range of agenda items at meetings, Helen would be asked to focus on 2010 and not what happened in 2009. Handouts were suggested as a way of increasing the amount of information shared.

### ***SDC Budget Consultation***

Steve recently met with Jackie Godwin, SDC Policy & Communications Officer to consider how SDYC could assist with a more in depth and comprehensive consultation process to influence the councils budgeting. This was not carried out in 2009 by the Finance department, however as is now the remit for Policy & Communication department Jackie wishes to meet with members to discuss the best way forward – it was suggested that a project team could eventually lead on this project, however Emma could look at this in her role as Youth Cabinet member for Finance.

### ***Peace2Gether***

World Peace Day this year is 21 September, the theme is 'Creating a Culture of Peace' – following a request from a group called Peace2Gether; members were asked if and how they would like to be involved. Whilst Cerys & Annie expressed interest, they suggested an information pack for those want to know more would be better than a presentation.

### ***Hearing Unheard Voices Launch Event – 13 March***

This free event is being run by UK Youth in West Bromwich to launch the campaign entitled 'Hearing Unheard Voices' which aims to empower young people to be heard. The following members expressed interest in attending; Millie, Beth, Dave, Becky and Cerys.

### ***Resignation of Members***

Letters of resignation had been received from Ashley Skerten (representative from Stroud College) and Amy Sprason (representative from Rednock School). Ashley would be joining the Army in May 2010 and Amy was no longer able to commit the time to the role of District Youth Councillor. It was hoped replacements would be found by their respective organisations as soon as possible.

## **Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forums**

**KLB** – Emma highlighted that she had discussed the issue of the school council meeting more frequently in light of the reported level of participation taking place at Maidenhill, with the dedicated tutor. However this was met with a less than positive response.

**Stroud High** – Cerys reported that the school had recently won a nuclear power competition and a visit to London would take place next week as a result. Some students went to Strasbourg to take part in the European Youth Parliament session. El added that a Downfield Sixth Form visit to Washington also took place last week, where amongst a busy schedule they saw US President Barak Obama twice!

**Thomas Keble** – Alex highlighted that the school council had been given £1000 to allocate for specific projects, with the creation of a new seating area chosen as the project for this year.

**Archway** – nothing to report

**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** – Dave reported that the new build work would start in September and the election results for new President, Upper and Lower Chambers had been announced with Millie re elected as part of the Lower Chamber.

**Voice of Young Stonehouse** – Annie reported that the group had recent undertaken some training on a residential with view to recruiting more members. The big key issue for the town was the future of their youth centre following the announcement to shut it down.

**Rednock** – Lindsey reported that the titles of each ‘community group’ in the school had been decided i.e. and included Jenner, Hubble and Darwin – students did have some input. Steve confirmed that he would attend the next school council meeting.

**Cam & Dursley Youth Forum** – Becky reported that the Connect Dursley Project had been successful in obtaining planning permission on the May Lane site - however the issue of funding for this project to develop further was still a huge challenge, consequently there was no progress on the purchase of the electric garage. The youth forum had recently visited the Lister Social Club site following an invitation by the trustees in which to consider this as a second option. The youth forum would be attending their training residential in April.

### **SDC Community Safety Showcase Event (23 February) – Invite**

Rosie reminded members of the event taking place at Ebley Mill the following evening between 6pm and 8pm – an email had been sent to all members inviting them – refreshments would be served. The event would promote the work of the Community Safety Service including that on Youth Participation and the Hear by Right standards. Steve highlighted that members attending would not be required to formally present anything, but would have a high profile role in talking to other attendees and being present at the promotional stand during the break – Rosie, Lindsey, Kit, Becky and Vicki confirmed they would be attending.

### **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 9<sup>th</sup> March or Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Member Training - Update**

Steve reminded members that the Easter Break fortnight was highlighted in the SDYC calendar as being a time for extended training. In addition to that agreed above and at previous meetings, an introductory training session was discussed for those who had joined since November in addition to a teambuilding day for all members. Date options for either or both of these activities are; Friday 9<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>, Friday 16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April - feedback was requested urgently to Steve via text or email.

Details would be sent out as soon as possible about the concluding options.

### **Social Network & Website Project**

Cam & Dursley Youth Forum have been given the opportunity to pilot this project and have accepted – they will meet with the SDYC Project team and web designer in the near future.

### **Power Down**

No progress to report.

### **Litter Recycling Pilot Project – update**

Izzy reported that she had to cancel her shadowing day during half term due to family commitments and was unable to pursue the work of the project team with SDC Public Space department. However it was hoped the meeting this Thursday 22 February would assist with progress.

### **Youth Cabinet Report**

Rosie reported that all Youth Cabinet members (bar her and Izzy) continued their shadowing work last week during half term break.

An application to the Talented Young Sports Achievers Grant programme had been received from Liam Nicholls who has recently been selected to play for the England Cerebral Palsy (CP) Football team His costs for travel, kit, competition, coaching and accommodation is over £4500 per year – at present Liam's travels across the Southwest and to Telford for England training/matches, he also requires extra training and support due to his condition. Rosie proposed that full support should be given with a maximum of £250, Lindsey seconded this - Members agreed to support this application.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

Whilst a project team has been formed there has been no progress to date - members were reminded that action needed to take place soon as the anniversary year was now underway with no plans drafted as yet. The team would meet as soon as possible.

### **Any Other Business**

Cerys asked members if they would be interested in doing a Radio interview with her as a Stroud FM presenter this Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 4pm and 5pm. Rosie agreed to do this.

Will highlighted that he would not be able to attend the Stroud Access Group meeting this coming Wednesday at 7pm, Rosie also noted that she would not be able to attend – Ashley agreed to deputise in their absence.

Lindsey highlighted that during her shadowing day recently, she had spoken to Cllr. Debbie Young, Cabinet member for Housing and Peter Nourse SDC, Head of Asset Management regarding the Council's Housing Improvement Plan – she explained that the service delivery had been criticized in a recent audit report for not involving young people enough. Peter and Debbie had asked if they could attend a SDYC meeting soon to begin discussion on this issue with view to continued active engagement. A date would be agreed as soon as possible.

**Date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Monday 15 March 2010 at Stroud Youth Centre at 4.30pm.**