



## NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON

28.02.2011

**Venue: Stroud Youth Centre**

### YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Beth Jones, Cam & Dursley YF  
 Kamila Gebicka, Cam & Dursley YF  
 Kit Powell, Thomas Keble  
 Alex Buckley, Thomas Keble  
 Robin Ellis-Cockcroft\*\*, Stroud Town YF  
 Rosemary Dickinson\*, Stroud Town YF  
 Kieran Chadwick, Archway  
 Lynford Short, Archway  
 Emma Sankey, Katharine Lady Berkeley  
 Lindsey Driver, Rednock  
 Kathryn White, Rednock  
 Roxy Mould, Vale of Berkeley College  
 Blake Hewer, Vale of Berkeley College  
 Annie Pickering, Stonehouse VoYS  
 (Rudi) Blue Morgan, Stroud College  
 Charlotte-Louise Grigg, Stroud College  
 Chloe Boulton, Wotton under Edge YF  
 Laura Forrester, Wotton under Edge YF  
 Millie Gardiner, Maidenhill  
 Jordan Wilson, Maidenhill  
 Rob Sidwell, Marling  
 Max Feedman, Marling

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Thomas Lydon, Marling  
 Becky Batting, Cam & Dursley YF  
 Izzy Holley

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

Ap	Laurie Watts, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Ap	Jess Lyons-Lynch, Cam & Dursley YF	P
P	Luka Chadwick, Archway	P
A	Charlotte Smith, Archway	P
P	Jens Newton, Thomas Keble	P
P	Ellen Wightman, Thomas Keble	P
P	Kirsty Driver, Vale of Berkeley College	P
P	Jasmin Walker, Vale of Berkeley College	A
P	Tom Williams, Rednock	P
P	Izzie Lee, Wotton under Edge YF	Ap
P	Abi Lee, Wotton under Edge YF	P
Ap	Lydia Stephens, Maidenhill	A
P	Neil Bond, Maidenhill	P
P	Dave Holder, Stroud College	A
A	Jakob Sparrow, Stroud College	A

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

A
Ap
A

\*\* = Chair    \* = Vice-Chair    P = present

A = absent    Ap = apology

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Miles, Senior Hear By Right Youth Officer, SDC  
 Helen Smith, Youth Support Worker, Sub-Contracted from GCC Youth Service  
 Carlos Novoth, Public Space Manager, SDC

## Minutes of the meeting

### Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed members and visitors to the meeting. Apologies were received from Kamila Gebicka, Beth Jones, Roxy Mould, Becky Batting and Izzie Lee.

### Minutes of Last Meeting – 31 January 2011

The minutes were read through and agreed as being an accurate record.

### Matters Arising

#### **Members Team Building Event – cancellation & future plans**

Thanks was given to the six members who returned forms from parents, however it was not viable to hold an event, again due low numbers. This issue was discussed - it was generally was felt a team building event was needed as soon as possible in which get to know each other better and focus on the group work. A quick show of hands highlighted that 17 members could make a day during the Easter break, 16 could make a Saturday and 11 a Sunday. Options would be compiled in due course.

#### **Anti-bullying Awards**

Feedback from members included; Elly highlighted that TK are running a programme. Members were reminded that the schools listed in previous minutes were actively involved and would be attending an event at Ebley Mill on 17 March – they were encouraged to find out what was going on. SDYC were invited to attend the event also.

#### **Proposed Cuts to Youth Service – Petition Update**

Steve reported that the petition was handed in on 1<sup>st</sup> February to Shire Hall and totalled 2100 signatures (additions were added in the final 24 hours). As this didn't reach the target 5000, it was not debated at the GCC Cabinet meeting when the decision regarding the cuts was made. However, it was noted that the efforts of all involved equated to an excellent example of social action by young people.

#### **Co-option – Young Carers**

Following initial discussion at the last meeting, it was agreed that representation from Young Carers would be of huge benefit to the work of SDYC, increasing the diversity of membership. Lindsey proposed that Reece Campbell of the young carers group in Stroud be co-opted to SDYC for the remainder of the year, this was seconded by Millie - Members voted unanimously in favour. Reece and the leaders of the Young Carers group based in Stroud would be informed of this decision.

#### **(Additional Agenda Item) Stratford Park Skate Park Lighting – Carlos Novoth**

As a follow up to correspondence at the last meeting, Carlos gave an overview of discussions with Stroud Town Council regarding this potential project. £12,000 made available through building development money and it is understood that the town council had held talks with young people about lighting at the skate park some time ago. Carlos highlighted initial research gave three viable options. Members asked questions about maintenance and eco-lighting. Stroud Town Youth Forum was happy to lead a focus group on this.

### Correspondence

#### **Letter from CYPD re Petition**

A letter from the Children and Young Peoples Directorate (CYPD) was read out regarding the Petition (as discussed previously); it also noted a letter from Kathryn sent on behalf of SDYC. The letter from the CYPD Lead Commissioner explained that plans would continue to refocus services towards vulnerable and at risk young people and negotiations with community based groups would continue in which to enable them to deliver universal services. Members said they would welcome the opportunity to become involved in shaping services, in particular how the £50,000 given to district would be spent.

## **Young Peoples Services in Cainscross Parish**

Cainscross Parish Council is to discuss services for young people within their community and will be holding a meeting on 9 March. Representation from SDYC was requested – Neil, Annie, Robin agreed to attend. It was noted that this parish have a huge population of young people, but had suffered from proportionately low levels of service in recent times compared with other communities.

## **Resignation from Izzie Lee**

It was noted that Izzie Lee had resigned from her role as deputy member from Wotton under Edge Youth Forum – a replacement would be found by them in due course.

## **British Youth Council Re-launches Votes at 16**

BYC are campaigning again to lower of voting age to 16. Various issues were discussed including the fact that a number of recent decisions have been made by MP's which directly effect those under the current voting age (of 18) i.e. university fee's and education maintenance allowance. It was agreed that a proper debate should be held once more information was obtained from BYC.

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

*Vale of Berkeley College* – Kirsty reported that the school council were still yet to meet in 2011.

*Rednock* – Lindsey reported that students are being encouraged to 'go outside' during break times and a temporary covering was being considered for protection from the rain.

*Thomas Keble* – Kit reported that the school council had come to an agreement with Alex, allowing him to focus on other work – Ellen would be taking on the voting roll and a new deputy was being sought. Some talks were being held as to the possibilities of TK becoming an 'academy school' with students and parents involved.

*Katharine Lady Berkeley* – Emma reported that a number of students were reportedly interested in being representatives and communication had begun between Steve and the tutor that is leading on this.

*Archway* – Lynford highlighted that the school were continuing with work regarding Ofsted's special measures.

*Voice of Young Stonehouse* – Nothing to report.

*Marling* – Rob reported that the recent trip to New York was successful, the programme included meeting UK Ambassador to the United Nations and work around women's rights. Robin added that a student research group had begun. The build a plane project (as reported last year) was progressing well.

*Stroud High School* – Annie highlighted that there had been a number of problems following recent elections for representation to SDYC and would investigate.

*Wotton under Edge Youth Forum* – Laura reported that Forum had looked at possible buildings that could 'home' a temporary youth centre – this would be ongoing.

*Maidenhill* – Millie announced that the school council now had a President in Alex Allcock.

*Stroud Town Youth Forum* – Robin highlighted the 'lighting project' (as reported at last meeting and discussed later) would become the forum's focus in the coming weeks.

*Cam & Dursley Youth Forum* – Laurie reported on a recent meeting with Cllr Brian Tipper regarding youth service cuts. Work was ongoing with regards to influencing how youth work in the community should be delivered in the future.

Steve reminded members that when inviting adults (in particular elected adult members) to meetings

to discuss issues of concern, it was important that they made the issues and questions clear to adults in which to receive specific answers. He highlighted that this was a learning process for everyone.

### **Tripswitch 2011 – Progress Report**

Robin reported that a special meeting for young people and school representatives would be held on 3 March at Cainscross Parish Council Office – the purpose was to focus on how the programme could be more students-led.

### **Love Food Hate Waste Project**

Kieran reported on the inaugural meeting with other project group members involving various organisations including SDC, Stroud District Older Person Forum, Transition Stroud and Stroud College. Initial ideas were shared with view to establishing a platform on building an intergenerational programme linking each of the organisations. Members discussed how SDYC could be actively involved and would be looking to express how this can happen, at future meetings.

### **Future of Youth Participation in Stroud district - update**

Steve & Helen reiterated that universal youth and community work does not feature in GCC future plans for young peoples services, however SDC are fully supportive of youth participation. Recent information suggested that 6-8 youth work posts across county will be included in the new structure, but work will be delivered as a *social care model* and not from a *community development* perspective - it was not known if these will be full or part time posts. The new service will be urban focussed with 56% of resources delivered to Gloucester and Cheltenham areas, with only 14% in Stroud district.

Members asked how youth work provision would be delivered. Local parish and town councils are working together with youth groups and local partnerships to find ways of funding youth work. In Stroud district, Wotton is the only community that will loose their youth centre building as a result of the cuts.

Youth Cabinet had been briefed on the differences between community development-based youth work and that which centred on positive activities only – further work would be undertaken by them in due course. It was agreed that SDYC should respond when appropriate during the next 2-3 months, to ensure young people help shape how youth work should be delivered.

### **Youth Cabinet Report**

Lindsey reported on the work of the Youth Cabinet and highlighted that funding was available to purchase new polo shirts for members, these would feature a new updated logo and the SDYC strap-line. Shadowing sessions held recently with SDC were positive. The key issue of concessionary bus fares for young people would be raised with our local MP as a follow up to discussions in the autumn. It was hoped this would be combined with a trip to the Houses of Parliament. With reference to the development of local youth forums and following a successful piloted experience led by Cam & Dursley Youth Forum and Kit, other youth forums were to be encouraged to link up with their Neighbourhood Management Panel to get young peoples voice heard when communities discuss the priorities for the Police. Issues in the media were being monitored that have links to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### **10 Anniversary Committee – Progress Report**

Lindsey reported on the outline programme for the event on **Sunday 20 March**. Access to the Sub Rooms for setting up would be from 1pm with the Reunion starting at 2pm. This would be followed by a workshop run by the British Youth Council from 3.15pm whilst a market style promotion area would be open involving a range of organisations who have benefited from SDYC or have given support over the years. The main show will start at 5pm and finish no later than 7.30pm.

Steve confirmed that Cllr Frances Roden, Leader of SDC had agreed to speak and an invitation had gone out to the Chair of SDC when the youth council was launched in March 2000. Some ex-members

had been invited to speak, in which to give reflections on their time as a member and life since – five had agreed to date.

It was emphasised that every current members (voting & deputy) would need to be in attendance on the day.

It was agreed that parents of current members would also be invited.

### **Any Other Business**

ASDAN Activities Awards – members who attended the autumn training residential received award certificates for the work they did during the four day event.

**Date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Monday 14 March 2011 at Stroud Youth Centre, Stroud, 4.30pm.**