



## NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON;

**Date : Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

**Time : 16:30**

**Venue: Fresh Ground Cafe, Cainscross**

### **YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

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

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

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

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

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

Young Carers Representative (To be confirmed)	A
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#### **Others Present**

Steve Miles, Senior Hear By Right Youth Officer, SDC  
 Helen Smith, Youth Support Worker, Self Employed  
 Gill Allard, Democratic Services, SDC  
 Sarah Weyman, Democratic Services, SDC

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

## **Minutes of the meeting**

### **Welcome and Apologies**

In the initial absence of the Robin, Laura Byng (as Vice Chair) chaired the meeting and highlighted that there were some additional items for the agenda as follows; Environment Initiative, Employment Working Group and Public Engagement Strategy.

Welcome was given to Gill Allard and Sarah Weyman from the SDC Democratic Service Team and to Stephanie Davies, the new representative from Stroud College. Apologies were received from Kit Powell, Kate Jones, Shannon Eden, Miriam Smith, Eva Gilder-Hodgson, Luka Chadwick, Jenny Moore, Charlotte Bignall, Emma Sankey, Lindsey Driver and Cllr Karon Cross.

### **Minutes of Last Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011 (Annual General Meeting)**

All minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record with the amendment that Max would be part of the Votes at 16 Project Team and not the Health Focus Group as listed.

### **Matters Arising**

#### ***SDC Corporate Consultation Event – receive report & discuss next steps***

During the last meeting, it was noted the Corporate Consultation Event was a good success and a progress review would be useful in 6 months time. Steve has met with both Robin and Laura along with SDC Policy Officers to discuss these next steps. A report had been compiled, with subsequent questions arising around how this information can be shared with other young people. Thoughts and ideas were requested, although as the youth council were yet to have received the report it was decided to re-visit this item next meeting. Steve would ensure the report is sent to all members.

#### ***Display Boards – member's feedback***

Members reported that the display boards were good quality and could become useful in the future, they also fit well with the boards already owned by the SDC Community Safety. However it was decided that some materials which weren't relevant or necessary to SDYC could be disposed of. Next step is to find a place to store them. Steve would enquire with SDC Facilities Team.

### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

#### **Employment Working Group**

Robin explained that the Employment Working Group was formed by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP); set up approximately a year ago to assess the employment issues within the district, specifically in the younger generation. The outcomes from various events and research have been received by the group and they are due to give their yearly report at the next LSP meeting. They would also like to hold an event in February, hosted by the Valley and Vales Business Partnership. This event will combine with the National Apprenticeship Week. They have asked if SDYC would like to become involved. Member felt positive about this, although more information would be required to make a definite decision due to exams, work loads, etc.

#### **Environmental Initiative**

Robin reported on an emerging initiative involving schools on the issue of environmental sustainability. He highlighted that John Medley, an active citizen within the Stroud community and passionate about the sustainability of the environment, is leading on a three year project, which involves the acquisition of money to employ a part time member of staff in each educational establishment within the district. All but one school (Maidenhill) are involved in the scheme to date. The overall aim is to dedicate more of their time to focus on sustainability factors and become more eco-friendly. They will work with the students to determine a number of objectives; these will be individual for each school, e.g. getting more sustainability focused studies into the curriculum. Progress updates will be made regular intervals over the next year.

#### **SDC Public Engagement Strategy - Gill Allard and Sarah Weyman, SDC Democratic Services**

Gill and Sarah explained that she has taken the lead on a project regarding a public engagement strategy, which will raise

awareness about local elections and democracy and about how young people can get involved. Gill added that she was initially looking to setting up a project group with two or three members from the youth council to work alongside her and other SDC officers – the initial piece of work needed to be complete by mid March 2012. Initial question is; do you think there are barriers to registering and voting? Whilst needing to include young people's views, Sarah suggested involvement in events and the drafting of literature for the public, etc.

Members were positive about this opportunity and Annie suggested an idea of a 'Question Time' style event similar to the one held at Stroud High School. She added that many young people in Year 13 will be allowed to vote in May and although it will not be a general election, people will beginning to understand about the different parties, how to vote, etc.

Annie, Laura, Kathryn, Roxy, Millie, and Kirsty all expressed an interest in this project. It was noted the first meeting should be around the second or third week of January. Further ideas should be forwarded to Steve.

### **Correspondence**

**Disability Awareness Event** - Stroud Access Group is planning this event for early next year and is looking to discuss the plans at their meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> December. They would be grateful for a number of representatives from SDYC. Kit, Millie and Sally expressed their interest in attending.

**Going-Green Event** - Forest Green Rovers in partnership with the NHS Gloucestershire, SDC, Ecotricity, Smiths Waste Management and Severn Wye Energy Agency are holding a series of events around Health, Energy and Waste. The first will take place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 16:00 to 18:00 with a workshop style activities based upon healthy eating lifestyles. This event comes highly recommended and it is noted the Health Focus Group should be interested. There is an age restriction of 15+. Kathryn has already signed up.

**Nailsworth Community Workshop** - Invitation received to attend a celebration event to mark two years since Practical Intelligence opened the doors to this workshop. There has been more than 100 community members between the ages of 8 and 80 who have attended regular classes. They would like members of SDYC to join them on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012 where a workshop at the Nailsworth Subscription Rooms will take place along with a presentation explaining their achievements and example of work. Those interested to let Steve know by 30<sup>th</sup> November. Kieran, Millie, Mary and Roxy expressed an interest.

**Discount Bus Fares** - Stagecoach and Stroud College have a deal, where all students and staff with a Stroud College ID badge that attend the college, will get a reduced bus rate on any journeys. Members gave the opinion this isn't fair for those attending sixth form at local schools. Steve highlighted this could have potential to build into the 'Concessionary Bus Fares' case for all young people. Members would like to investigate this further and asked Stephanie to see what type of deal they have got; do Stroud College subsidise the fares, or is it just a special one of deal?

**Gloucestershire Takeover Day** – Steve gave feedback from a recent YouthCAN (Participation Youth Network) meeting and highlighted the 'take over day' programme co-ordinated by the County Council involving 45 young people mainly from schools. This is a national recognised day where young people play a 'hands on role' in running organisations like councils. Next year they would like to put in more effort to promote a similar opportunity to involve more young people. Although they would like some comments and feedback from anyone who participated this year, the general feeling was the experience is more about who you do it with, instead of the actual day itself.

**Tenants Survey** - A recent survey was completed by tenants of Stroud District Council (these are people who live in district council owned properties), they received a 52% return. Steve highlighted one specific question asked, regarding 'Neighbourhood Problems' in which the top two answers under the 'lack of facilities' category were car parking and youth and community centres; this was noted by a number of Service Units and Steve is to have a meeting with Tenant Services regarding this.

### **Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forum's**

**Thomas Keble** – Elly reported on the schools charity fund which had reached £12,000.

**Rednock** – Tom gave a brief overview of the schools community plan involving the work they are doing with Dursley Town

Council. Kathryn added that the school were trying to find a solution to the lights being constantly left on automatically overnight.

**Stroud High** – Sally and Mary reported that a inter house public speaking competition was taking place. The talent competition during ‘rag week’ raised £2,000. The issue of more recycling bins had been requested.

**Marling** – Max and Rob gave a comprehensive overview on the latest developments. The table football had been returned and the issue of rubbish around the school had become a problem. They also promoted their Snow Ball event in December (date not recorded). A new composting initiative had begun and students and staff were supporting the ‘Movember’ facial hair initiative for Testicular and Prostate Cancer. The school were planning a Sixth Form evening and were also supporting the Stroud Town, Bee-Guarding project.

**Maidenhill** – Millie reported that the school council had not yet met since September, as it was understood the ‘system’ was changing. However it was noted that the SDYC reps were now on the Student Council.

**Berkeley** – Kirsty and Roxy reported that they (and Tom), had been working to set up a youth forum for the area. They were due to meet with a town councillor soon and were planning a street based consultation exercise around the town to ask what young people felt about their community. They would compliment this with presentations to various youth groups. The outcomes would be presented to the Town Council in which to inform their planning for youth provision in the area. Steve was supporting this work.

**Wotton under Edge** – Abi reported that they had finally met with the architect regarding the proposed new youth centre (former Police Station). They had given a presentation to the Youth Liaison Group as well as the South of Stroud Youth Partnership on their findings to date and review of previous consultation work in the area. Plan for further consultative work was under way.

**Stroud Town** – no report was given.

**Archway** – Luka reported that the school had raised money for Children in Need but was aware of the total figure.

**Cainscross** – Neil highlighted the progress made with developing youth work provision in the area. He reflected on a recent Parish Council Youth Committee meeting where a local resident presented the idea of an indoor skate park and activity venue which would develop into a centre for live music. The site identified was an empty premise near Ebley Mill and would essentially be a young person’s café bar facility open both in the day and at night. A business plan would be developed once a tenancy agreement was in place. Neil confirmed that the committee agreed this was a great idea and would like to be kept informed of developments.

**Stonehouse** – Annie highlighted that a new approach was being taken with the re-establishment of the youth forum, co-facilitated by PSALMS Youth Minister, Odele Harding with Steve giving support as well. She explained that whilst the first get together was low on number, flyers were created to give out at the Goodwill Evening.

**Stroud College** – Stephanie introduced herself, and said she was pleased to be on board.

### **SDYC Projects**

**Votes @ 16** – it was confirmed the team would meet on Monday 5 December at 4pm, Ebley Mill. Elly agreed to be part of this team in place of Kieran who was no longer able to.

**Eat Well, Waste Less** – team members were reminded about the meeting on Tuesday 29 November at 4pm, Ebley Mill. Transport requirements were noted.

**Health Focus Group** – it was confirmed the group would meet on Monday 12 December at 4pm, Ebley Mill. Members would pick up the work from last year regarding the NHS and also look at their Sexual Health Strategy.

### **Youth Cabinet Report**

Annie reported on the extended youth cabinet meeting held on 14 November. Kathryn was elected as deputy leader. Members had allocated leaders for the respective SDYC projects and key issues for the year. In light of the well documented changes to youth work provision, the idea that SDYC should undertake visits to various youth club / centre projects and organizations was suggested in which to gain views from a wider range of young people – they would be co-ordinated and possibly compliment the Votes at 16 consultative work. The Grant Funding Panel would meet with SDC Strategic & Senior Officers to review round one, ahead of undertaking round two next year. It was also agreed that the Community Safety Pack Initiative should be reviewed; Kit, Kieran, Annie and Millie agreed to attend a meeting with SDC Community Safety.

### **Cultural Olympiad in Stroud**

Kieran reported on a meeting with Ray Figg, SDC Head of Cultural Services. The Olympic Torch was scheduled to travel through Stroud district with a provisional route of Stroud Town and Painswick. They discussed the involvement of young people including those from schools. SDC would be involved with the safety aspect and the waste management aspects of the event.

Kieran also highlighted the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations scheduled for 2 – 5 June 2012. Again there was an opportunity for SDYC members to be involved. It was agreed to ask Ray to attend a future meeting to discuss the options further.

### **Update on Future Delivery of Youth Work**

Steve gave an overview of youth work development and highlighted the work he had done in Cainscross (most previously reported by Neil) and Stonehouse. He would soon begin work in Bussage / Chalford area by meeting with members of the Frith Youth Centre Committee. South of Stroud Youth Partnership were making progress and were currently working on a strategy with the support of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council – Steve had also offered his services.

### **SDC Housing Management Forum Report**

Millie spoke of her attendance at the Forum meeting recently and refereed members to the business under Correspondence regarding the Tenants Survey which had been presented to the Forum for discussion.

### **SDC Core Strategy**

Kathryn reported that she had recently met with Planning Strategy officers to gain an understanding of the work and how SDYC could re-engage following their input to the Core Strategy consultation work 18 months ago. She highlighted that a report was due to go to SDC Cabinet soon and feedback would be given thereafter as to how best SDYC can work with them in future.

### **Members Training for Spring 2012**

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

### **SDYC Reunion Social Event**

After a brief discussion on whether a social event could or should be held in January for current and ex-members, it was agreed that Kirsty, Robin, Mary and Millie would communicate over the next few weeks and report back at the next meeting.

### **Any Other Business**

There was no further business.

**Date of the Next Meeting – 19 December 2011, 2.30pm @ Museum in the Park, Stroud**