



NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

29.11.2010

Venue: Stroud Youth Centre

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

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

DEPUTY MEMBERS

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

EX-OFFICIO

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

CO-OPTIONS

**** = 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
Phil Sullivan, Head of Community Safety Service, SDC
Dilys Warren, Health & Wellbeing Officer, SDC
Pamela Tawse, Chairperson of Stroud Older Persons Forum
Dan Barker, Neighbourhood Warden, SDC
Vicky Wright, Accreditation Officer, GCC Youth Service

Minutes of the meeting

Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed members and visitors to the meeting. Apologies were received from Kamila Gebicka, Alex Buckley, Charlotte Gigg, Jens Newton, Jasmin Walker, Izzie Lee and Cllr Frances Roden.

Minutes of Last Meeting – 8 November 2010

The minutes were agreed as being an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Domestic Abuse Event – 25 November

It was noted that this event was not targeted at young people and apologies were made to those who expressed initial interest - no members attended for this reason. However if members wished to explore the issues of domestic abuse, then a specific workshop could be co-ordinated.

Stagecoach Mega Weekend Offer – member's feedback

Whilst the majority of members knew about this offer, no-one used it. The concerns about this offer included *lack of consultation beforehand; not a good time; made no difference; Date not relevant to young people, not useful at weekends, no bus services available after 6pm anyway; ok if you are in urban area but not if you live in rural area*. It was agreed that formal communication with Stagecoach was required expressing these concerns, linking up with the desire to meet with them to discuss concessionary fares as an on-going issue. A letter is to be drafted by Emma as lead Youth Cabinet member on this.

Correspondence

Season House Open Day – 17 December

Members have been invited to attend the official open day of the youth housing assessment centre in Summer Street, Stroud – the centre named Season House will be open from 1pm onwards. Lynford agreed to attend in his Youth Cabinet role with others local to Stroud town.

Gloucestershire 10:10 Awards – nomination for Best Recycling Project

Following nomination for the Best Recycling Project in the Gloucestershire 10:10 Awards, SDYC has been shortlisted as a finalist – the winners will be announced at a ceremony on 9 December. A photographer from Gloucestershire Media was present to take a group photo.

SDC Annual Report 2009/10

A copy of the recently published annual report for SDC depicting the Litter Recycling Project on the front cover was shown to members. Steve also highlighted photos and text with reference to the same project in the Community Safety Service's section of the document. All of which demonstrated the high profile SDYC has within the District Council.

Additional item – Address from Phil Sullivan, Head of Community Safety Service, SDC

Phil reflected on the importance of SDC having a close relationship with SDYC, explaining that the Senior Youth Officer role was vital to the Councils desire to work with young people and noted the recent Corporate Consultation event as being a huge success. He added that the opinions of young people also reach other adult organisational partnerships as a result e.g. Crime and Disorder Partnership, who mainly see young people as potential victims of crime and not perpetrators, despite what media often say. Phil encouraged members to support each other as youth councillors and take up the opportunities that arise in which to make a difference in the community. He thanked members for all their hard work and commitment and reflected on the work of Steve Miles, thanking him for his service in often challenging aspects of the work.

Love Food, Hate Waste Project – Dilys Warren, SDC Health & Wellbeing Officer

Dilys introduced herself and Pamela Tawse, and gave a brief overview of the work of this project so far. Whilst it was noted that a difference in title had been used at the SDYC Training Residential event this was a follow on from that presentation.

Dilys gave facts on food waste i.e. 5.1 million tonnes of whole potatoes thrown away each year, an average of £15k - £25k of food thrown away in a life time, Gloucestershire households throw away 3kg food a week mostly ending up in land fill, savings of £420 a year per house could be made.

Dilys explained that the project originated from discussion at the Stroud Older Persons Forum as is based on a national initiative. The Forum met with Stroud College who have agreed to join this project as has Rob Rees (The Cotswold Chef). One key aspect which the Forum wishes to share is the experience of 'rationing' in both First and Second World Wars. This will primarily be an Intergeneration project and will aim to be cost neutral through partnership working. The objectives include provision for young people and families' inc. students to have a range of positive opportunities on the issue of food, create practical demonstrations using media to capture and broad cast via webcasting and launch a campaign in spring /summer 2011. A sub group will be formed and involve SDYC reps - a 3 yr plan will be created and the group will hope to get supermarket sponsors.

Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forums

Vale of Berkeley College – Blake & Roxy reported that their school council had organised a trip to the Houses of Parliament in the New Year.

Rednock – Tom, Kathryn & Lindsey reported that work had begun to revamp the role of Prefects and the system used to select and operate them. The school council had also been involved in the selection panel for interviewing the deputy head and they were rewriting the school charter from a young person's perspective. A room is now dedicated to school council use. A recent web conference with Maidenhill School Council via Skype had been deemed unsuccessful, however a tour round the Stonehouse School to exchange experiences would be held soon. Steve commended members involved with this excellent news on the back of last years presentation and ongoing interaction between district youth councillors.

Thomas Keble - Kit highlighted that she had also been approached by Maidenhill School Council to participate in a web conference and would be pursuing this as well. Mock exams have started and Neil Carmichael was visiting Year 10's to talk about university tuition fees. The schools will be reviewing its achievement system.

Katharine Lady Berkeley - Nothing to report.

Archway- Kieran and Lynford reported that the Library had been revamped with the input from students.

Voice of Young Stonehouse - Annie reported that membership is still very low but efforts to make a film about the area would hopefully promote the work and increase numbers. The forum also attended the good will evening in the town.

Cam & Dursley Youth Forum - Becky announced that the forum would be discussing the recently announced cuts to the youth service with their County Councillor, Dennis Andrewartha following a successful meeting with another County Councillor (Peter Braidwood) who visited those regarding Police Authority matters. Laurie added that recent fundraising event raised over £100 event. The forum had drafted a petition, which was handed round the meeting for discussion later.

Wotton under Edge Youth Forum - Laura reported that forum members had completed the first section of Act by Right (skills development and training pack). Also they would be attending the forthcoming Christmas Under the Edge event in the town in which to promote themselves and gain support for the petition (as previous minute). Members had been attending the Youth Liaison Group expressing

concern on the issue of youth service cuts which was being discussed.

Maidenhill - Millie highlighted that plans for a new school uniform were progressing with blazers and ties being the main change. The new building will open for use in January. Millie added that whilst she remains as SDYC rep' until September she would not be able to sit on school council until the elections take place in February.

Stroud Town Youth Forum - Rosie reported that she and Robin were heading up this newly formed youth forum following a very successful initial session with 12 young people attending from different youth groups from within the area. Kit agreed to attend the next session in her role as Youth Cabinet member.

Stroud Validate - Dan Barker & Andy Murray, SDC Neighbourhood Warden's

Dan introduced and gave a brief overview of Stroud Validate, the young person's identity card. Whilst this was no longer available to young people in schools, this was an exclusive opportunity for SDYC members only. Benefits of this card were highlighted with members able to have photos taken during the meeting - 12 members took this up.

Youth Cabinet Report

Lindsey reported that whilst each of the agreed projects / issues for the year had Youth Cabinet members leading on them, some would require members to join the respective project teams (carried out later in meeting). Correspondence was received from James Taylor, the last successful applicant of Talented Young Sports Achievers Grant (programme now suspended) thanking SDYC for their support and Stroud Rock School reported on the successful outcome of their project which had been delayed due to issues on venue hire - a CD recording of their performance was expected soon. Lindsey added that SDYC Hoodie stocks were now down to the last few and for new ones to be purchased a source of funding would need to be found - whilst she also asked if any changes should be made, members felt generally happy with them. Youth Cabinet will be meeting for a longer session in the New Year.

Duke of Edinburgh Award & ASDAN Award Accreditation - Vicky Wright, Accreditation Officer, GCC Youth Service

Duke of Edinburgh Award - Vicky gave an overview of the programme and suggested that members were probably covering most sections already through current work. She highlighted the three levels i.e. Bronze, Silver and Gold each having four sections entitled *volunteering, physical, skill* and *expedition*. The timescales to complete each section increase with each level. Gold also has a residential aspect as well. Members noted that some schools did not do DofE but were informed that participants could sign up independently, via an open access organisation/club (Nailsworth Youth Club was registered) or via SDYC. The initial cost for bronze and silver was £12 and £18 for gold. Recent changes were that participants no longer used a book to record their entries as a new electronic version was being used. Vicky reminded members that the expedition and residential has an extra cost but was dependant on size of group, venue and facilities used. Participants have until aged 25 yrs old to finish. Eight members highlighted they were doing DofE via schools.

ASDAN - Vicky noted that all members who attended the autumn training residential had completed an ASDAN course. They are primarily short courses in a wide range of categories inc. *activities, volunteering, citizenship, environmental* to name a few – these can be done over 10, 20, 30 hours. They are evidence based and use an experiential learning approach to all participation. They are excellent for the work being done through youth participation and add value to work already being done, not create more work.

Each category has four *levels, bronze, silver, gold and platinum* – it was agreed these would be included in future activity planning as and when suitable.

SDYC Project Team Members for 2010/11

It was noted that the list drafted for 10th Anniversary Committee at the last meeting, contained too many members for the team to function, therefore a smaller team of approx 8 members would need to be considered. Each Youth Cabinet member reminded members of the purpose of each project they were leading on. The following project teams were agreed;

SDYC 10th Anniversary Event - *Lindsey, Kit, Rosie, Becky, Roxy, Laurie, Chloe, Laura, Millie and Beth*

Social Network & Website Project – *Lindsey, Kathryn, Emma, Tom and Kirsty*

Love Food, Hate Waste Project – *Kieran, Robin, Lindsey, Kathryn, Elly, Kit and Annie*

Litter Recycling Project – *Annie, Millie, Robin, Kirsty, Lynford, Kieran and Rosie*

It was noted that not all key issues and projects require a team of members at present, but would be re-assessed during the year.

Proposed Cuts to Youth Services

An overview of *Meeting the Challenge*, the County Council's proposal to save £108million over the next four years, of which £3.6million will be cut from children and young peoples services. The headline is that the current youth service will be completely cut and replaced with a new targeted support service focussing on youth offenders, those not in education, employment and training, and others at risk. Whilst this is officially a proposal to communities, service users and those delivering the current services, it is commonly known to be a very firm outline of what council members will agree on come the final decision in February 2011. SDYC members had received information on the proposals ahead of the meeting and agreed that the consultation process and documentation was structured in a way that led participants towards the Councils favoured conclusion. Debate and discussion was held on each of the points in the questionnaire, with general agreement that it was not a suitable document in which to express individual or group views.

Discussion was held as to how members could share views and collate them in a way that could be shared with the adult decision-makers concerned. Cam & Dursley Youth Forum introduced their petition (as previously mentioned) which was supported by Wotton under Edge Youth Forum. It was agreed that enough time was available to have a well thought out process to convey the views of those affected - Facebook was suggested as a key tool with further debate at the next SDYC meeting. It was agreed that the Petition would be circulated for comment and to gauge support.

SDC Scrutiny Event for the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership

Lindsey reported that she had attended a one off market style event at Ebley Mill with Robin, in which to promote SDYC and answer questions from the SDC scrutiny committee members - with youth participation delivered by SDC being a 'string to the bow of the partnership'. This was followed by a more formal meeting in the Council Chamber which heard a presentation from the Fire & Rescue Service with other organisations sharing questions and answers on their work. Robin remarked that out of the five organisations which spoke out, three promoted the work they were doing or intend to do with SDYC. Kit agreed to follow up some of the points made in her role as Youth Cabinet member.

Additional item - Neighbourhood Watch Committee Report

Kit reported on the recent meeting of Neighbourhood Watch which was also attended by Lynford. They promoted the Duke of Edinburgh Award as a potential way of Neighbourhood Watch engaging more with young people - Vicky Wright confirmed that they had been in contact. Kit also described a project that was presented to the meeting entitled *Ageing Naturally Together (ANT)*, this was delivered as pantomime style workshop focusing on teaching older people to eat healthy, have exercise regular

and also covered issues like sexual health. A young persons version was being considered, entitled *Growing Up Naturally Together (GRUNT)* and was currently piloting in the Forest of Dean - Kit added that they had expressed some concern as to how this would be delivered in schools and youth groups without being patronising or stereotypical.

Members Team Building Event - 20 December

Robin explained that due to a proportion of established members not being able to attend the autumn residential, a team building event during the morning of the 20 December (date of the next meeting) would be feasible and asked for members support - a brief explanation of the type of event it would be given, with the emphasis on festive fun. Members agreed this should take place. The event would start at approx 10am.

Any Other Business

Transport and Communication - Steve highlighted the challenges faced when transporting members to and from meetings etc and asked for greater communication well in advance - he reminded members of the various methods of communication available i.e. Text (both his mobile and SDYC system), Phone (mobile and land/office line) and Email. Members were asked to consider alternative methods of transport if possible in support to current issue of Warden Officer shortages.

Date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Monday 20 December 2010 at The Museum in the Park, Stroud, 2.30pm.