



## NOTES OF THE MAIN MEETING ON:

**Date: Monday 22 February 2021**

**Time: 16:30**

**Venue: Online via Zoom**

### **YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Cate James-Hodges (Archway School) - **EN**  
 Emma Champion (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)  
 Saul Traquino (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)  
 Fin Smith\* (Cainscross Youth Forum)  
 Jasmine Beese (Cainscross Youth Forum)  
 Maxie Wells (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)  
 Coban McGee (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)  
 Amber Lowery (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum)  
 Miki Bailey (Hardwicke Youth Forum)  
 Leon Linton-Blake (Hardwicke Youth Forum)  
 Beatrix Herbert (Katharine Lady Berkeley School)  
 Archie Gent (Katharine Lady Berkeley School) - **LD**  
 Bliss Ackland (Maidenhill School)  
 Skye Rees (Maidenhill School)  
 Ben Stone (Marling School) - **HWB**  
 Billy Smeaton (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)  
 Evie Urquhart (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)  
 Morgan Smith (Rednock School)  
 Ted Smith (Rednock School)  
 Charlie Hayward (Stonehouse Action 4 Youth)  
 Lotty Trunks (Stroud High School)  
 Alice Standing (Stroud High School)  
 Lily Haines (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)  
 Tom Wickham-Bassett\*\* (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)  
 Brandon Watkins (Thomas Keble School)  
 Carina Marlot (Thomas Keble School)  
 Phoebe Davies (Wotton Youth Forum)  
 Lily Stothard (Wotton Youth Forum)

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

P#	Conner Roberts (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	A
P	Ellie Archer (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	A
A	Baz Leach (Hardwicke Youth Forum)	A
P	Tom Werrett (Katharine Lady Berkeley School)	A
AP	Nell Porter (Katharine Lady Berkeley School)	P
P	Tayla Handbury (Maidenhill School)	A
A	Olivia Burke (Nailsworth and Minchinhampton YF)	AP
P	Megan Land (Nailsworth and Minchinhampton YF)	AP
A	Sophie Miles (Rednock School)	A
A	Freya Sinclair (Wotton Youth Forum)	A
AP	Joel Clark (Wotton Youth Forum)	A
P		
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#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Helen March	A
Claire Gee	A
Millie Radford	A

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

Amie Radford (Gloucestershire Young Carers)	A
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**\*\* = Chairperson \* = Vice-Chairperson (L) = Leader P = Present A = Absent AP = Apology given # = present for part of meeting**

**Principal Members: (AB) = Anti-Bullying; (HWB) = Health & Wellbeing; (EN) = Environment; (LD) = Local Democracy**

#### **Others Present**

Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer; Seb Williams, Youth Work Officer; Jemma Grieve, Youth Participation Officer - Stroud District Council

Cllrs Nigel Prenter & Miranda Clifton - Stroud District Council

Cllrs Carol Kambites & Theresa Watt – Stonehouse Town Council & Stroud Water Train Station Campaign Group

An Introduction to Zoom took place from 4pm - whereby those in attendance who were not used to the online video platform and / or the format for this meeting, were able to question and test various aspects of this function. It also gave a chance for informal conversation between members to take place between those who had not done so for many months.

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, particularly those attending for the first time, as well as Cllrs Nigel Prenter and Miranda Clifton, plus guests Cllrs Carol Kambites and Theresa Watt from Stonehouse Town Council and Stroud Water Train Station Campaign Group. Apologies are listed on the record above.

### **2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 18 January 2021**

The minutes of the last main meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record, following an amendment to the report from Marling School which should read that they were looking to 'reform' not change the House System.  
*Proposed by: Ben Stone; Seconded by: Fin Smith.*

### **3. Matters Arising**

**a) SDC Leisure & Wellbeing Review Event on 28 January - Feedback (Tom & Cate)**

Tom W-B briefed the meeting on the adult District Councillor focused event and stated that it was better than he expected regarding the breadth of discussion – he had subsequently recommended that SDYC participated in a youth focused version.

**b) Youth Voice Leisure & Wellbeing Consultation Event on 16 February – Feedback (All)**

Following the aforementioned event, youth voice representatives from across the district were invited to attend the online consultation event led by SDC health and wellbeing officers. Whilst it was almost 3 hours long, members felt it was worthwhile. Discussions were both interesting, informative and highlighted the huge amount of ideas and matters of importance to young people. The relevant SDC officers thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. It was understood that future consultation on this huge project, would feature again in the future.

**c) MYP (Cotswold & Stroud) Katie Adsett – to note meeting with Ben postponed**

It was noted that the meeting planned for Ben and Katie would be reset, following the need to postpone.

**d) SDC CS&L Performance Monitoring – Feedback from meeting on 17 February (Ben & Lily)**

Ben and Lily attended the above meeting and found it to be insightful and welcoming. They were looking forward to the next meeting of this type and to having greater involvement in this aspect of work with SDC.

### **4. Correspondence**

**BBC Radio Gloucestershire – Young Peoples Mental Health**

An opportunity has arisen from BBC Radio Gloucestershire to contribute to their campaign work regarding young people's mental health. They are offering the chance for SDYC to be a 'live guest' but are also open to other creative ideas. It was agreed this should be discussed in more detail by the SDYC Leadership Team.

### **5. Updates from School & College Councils and Local Youth Forum Groups**

Archway School – Cate reported that she had further meetings with the Head Teacher and senior management team. Discussions had focused on implications of the pandemic on students - planning for their return to attendance at school was the priority. She also informed them about SDYC led projects etc.

Berkeley Vale YF – work continued on the design of a consultation regarding youth provision in the town and surrounding area.

Cainscross YF – no report was available

Cam & Dursley YF – no report was available

Chalford Cubed YF – plans to meet the youth worker from Frith Youth Centre had progressed but pandemic restrictions meant it would possibly be online for an initial introduction.

Hardwicke YF – no representatives were present.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – no student council meetings had taken place recently.

Maidenhill School – the school council still hadn't met since September.

Marling School – plans for a student well-being event were underway. Student Council committees were due to take place soon.

Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF – no representatives present

Rednock School – no report was available.

Stonehouse Action 4 Youth – no representatives present.

Stroud High School – no representatives present.

Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF – the group recently met with Kate the deputy clerk at Stroud Town Council to discuss their projects for the community including the previously planned benches project, which the group were set to be involved with prior to the pandemic.

Thomas Keble School – there had been no student council meeting since the end of 2020.

Wotton YF – recent discussion had focused on footpath lighting on the main route to and from KLB school. Promotional ideas were also shared.

## **6. Stroud Water Train Station Campaign – Presentation from Cllrs Carol Kambites & Theresa Watt**

Carol and Theresa were welcomed to the meeting. They gave an overview of the campaign to re-open the train station on the Gloucester to Bristol line in Stonehouse. Its basis being, the most requested issue for change in the local Neighbourhood Plan and comes following many years of conversations and efforts on this matter. The stations closure in the 1960's due to government policy at the time, meant there was no longer access to the rail network from the locality to get to Bristol – the other rail station in the town is on a different line (Gloucester to Stroud and Swindon). Bus services to Bristol have not been viable or available for many years. Recent data indicates that Gloucestershire has the lowest percentage of rail users due to the lack of stations in operation. Stonehouse Town Council and campaign group have applied to the Department of Transport to begin the process of re-opening – benefits highlighted, include: enable tourism linked to the restored canal to flourish; meet the need of increased housing, particularly west of the town; increase the social mobility of young people in accessing jobs and further education without needing to move out of the area; and provide a link between the Stroud valleys and the south west.

Members commented on the benefits this would bring to young people and their communities – they felt really positive about this campaign. Following their questions with regards to funding and the timeline (if successful), members learnt that most infrastructure was still in place from when it closed. Therefore, a possible 5-year preparation period may be needed to re-open - organising train stoppage times and overall timetabling would be needed.

Members asked what SDYC could do to help (?). It was suggested by Carol and Theresa that signing the petition and lobbying County Councilors to support this campaign would be of huge help.

Members recognised that this campaign links well with the work that SDYC have been doing with Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership regarding a county wide youth survey on all types of public transport. A potential site visit was suggested and agreed upon, once the covid pandemic restrictions allow.

Carol and Theresa were thanked for their presentation. It was agreed that SDYC would discuss further how they can support this campaign.

## **7. Reports from meetings of Project Teams and Focus Groups**

**a) Anti-Bullying Project Team** – report from meetings on 20 & 27 January, presented by Ben Stone:

### Introductions & Purpose of the Project

Members were asked to note, that a new project team had now emerged and the members got to know each other during the two meetings, whilst becoming familiar with the purpose of the project.

### Analysing survey results

Members were asked to note, that many answers / comments were hugely sad and concerning, however it was ultimately hoped a positive development would begin in the battle to reduce and remove bullying experiences from the lives of young people. The team will now be analysing more statistical data and drawing conclusions from the respective answers / comments in which to create the report.

Proposed by: Ben Stone; Seconded by: Cate James-Hodges. Following a vote, the report was approved.

**b) Leadership Team** – report from meeting on 25 January, presented by Lily Haines:

### Update on Projects & Initiatives from Project Teams & Focus Groups

Members were asked to note, that the team discussed the status and progress of each project and initiative. They recognised the impact of the pandemic on these plans and acknowledged significant efforts with regards to making progress with the respective environment, anti-bullying and transport projects.

### Update on British Youth Council (BYC) Regional & National Events / Opportunities

Members were asked to note, that the team discussed BYC events and opportunities with respect to SDYC plans.

### Statutory Youth Voice: Communication with District Councilors, County Councilors & County Director of Children Services

It was proposed that the SDYC Leader (co-signed by the Chair) writes a formal letter to leaders of each District Council, the County Council and the County Director of Children Services regarding the SDYC manifesto statement that calls for a meaningful and representative youth voice vehicle to be created by each local authority. The letter will refer the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and highlight the benefits to each local authority and their respective communities. It will promote the SDC supported model as an award winning example, but it wouldn't specify which youth voice model each district should create.

### Invitation from Katie Adsett (MYP for Cotswold & Stroud) to meet with Stroud MP

Members were asked to note, that the invitation from Katie Adsett (MYP for Cotswold & Stroud) to meet with Stroud MP, was declined due to the prior arranged commitments of relevant members.

### Future meetings with District Councilors

Members were asked to note, that some SDYC members would be attending forthcoming meetings with District Councilors regarding the Leisure and Wellbeing Review and Performance and Monitoring of Community Services and Licensing.

Proposed by: Lily Haines; Seconded by: Ben Stone. Following a vote, the report was approved with an amendment to item 3 regarding not specifying which youth voice model each district should create.

**c) Health Focus Group** – report from meeting on 8 February, presented by Ben Stone:

### Introduction to David Rawlings, Healthy Lifestyle Development Officer at SDC

Members were asked to note, that the HFG has met with David Rawlings, the Healthy Lifestyle Development Officer at SDC, and discussions took place relating to future collaboration on health for young people.

### National Condom Day Promotion

Members were asked to note, that the HFG has used the artwork from last year to promote National Condom Day 2021 and that a new poster has been created for promotion on SDYC's social media.

### C-Card and The Eddystone Trust (EST)

Members were asked to note, that the HFG met with Rachel from EST to discuss the C-Card scheme and sexual health. Additionally, an email would be created relating to the C-Card survey for SDYC Representatives to forward to School Head Teachers.

Members were also recommended to consider the training offer from EST regarding C-Card and sexual health.

It was proposed that an SDYC video is created by the HFG to promote sexual health and the C-Card scheme.

#### Any Other Business

Members were asked to note, that the HFG discussed a variety of issues, upcoming events and potential projects.

Proposed by: Ben Stone; Seconded by: Cate James-Hodges. Following a vote, the report was approved.

### **8. British Youth Council (BYC) Report** – presented by Cate James-Hodges

Cate highlighted that two online events had been held for the south west region during the month. The first involved a presentation on Kooth, the mental health & wellbeing website – she felt that it was very user friendly and noted that it didn't need personal details to be given, in which to access the information and services. Cate recommended that SDYC considers championing Kooth. The second event was titled 'The Big Conversation', it included workshop themed discussions as follows:

- Digital Divide – young people not having access or the ability to learn or participate online, highlighting that training and additional support was also important.
- Period Poverty – this was led by the Red Box charity
- Food Hunger – which highlighted on government food parcels not being nutritious enough and clearly in need of improvements.

### **9. Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership (GCRP) – Update**

The latest work of the combined GCRP / SDYC Transport group was presented to the meeting. Members had previously had the opportunity to view the most recent draft survey and subsequently gave comment. The inclusion of questions that related to knowing the protected characteristics of participants was felt to be important, alongside some that related to discrimination on public transport. The opportunity to win a prize reward for those completing the survey was felt to be essential in promoting the survey. The group would mainly focus on promotion and marketing at the next meeting.

### **10. SDC Carbon Neutral 2030 Strategy – Statement from SDYC**

The work by SDC to produce a strategy for the reduction of carbon in the district had gathered pace since the SDYC Environment Project Team had last met – it subsequently meant that any further input from SDYC into the strategy documents, ahead of decisions and approval being made by SDC, needed to be done urgently. The opportunity for SDYC to have a written statement include in the document had arisen. It was agreed that, as there was no time to coordinate an Environment Project Team Meeting to formulate a statement - which would need to then be agreed by SDYC main group - this statement should be prepared by the Leadership Team, with Cate (PM for Environment) taking the lead. The statement should reflect that written in the SDYC Manifesto and what had already been agreed approved following the project team's work to date.

### **11. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings and Events**

- a) SDYC Anti-Bullying Project Team Meeting – Wednesday 24 February
- b) SDYC Leadership Team Meeting – Monday 1 March
- c) SDYC Environment Project - TBC
- d) SDYC Health Focus Group Meeting – Monday 8 March
- e) Community Rail Partnership / Youth Transport Group – TBC
- f) SDC Members Information on Youth Service Event – Thursday 15 April

### **12. Any Other Business**

#### **Community Organising – Young Peoples Training (Community Roots)**

Online training for all youth voice representatives is being made available via an arrangement with Community Roots, a community development organisation commissioned by SDC. The training will be 3 x 3hour sessions (over 3 days) and include: development of listening skills; exploring communities; using skills and gaining knowledge in

reality. It is a quality assured course with a certificate. Members agreed that the forthcoming Easter break would be the best time to hold this course.

#### **Stonehouse Climate Action Forum webinar**

Cate and Jemma attended the webinar, following an invite from the hosts. Cate did a 10-minute presentation on the work of SDYC, particularly regarding the environment but also highlighted other projects. A question and answer session was also a feature, which Cate participated in. There were 43 attendees plus panelists representing 8 countries from 5 continents. Coverage from the event will be available on YouTube soon.

#### **13. Date of the next meeting**

Monday 22 March 2021