



## NOTES OF THE MAIN MEETING ON:

**Date: Monday 22 November 2021**

**Time: 16:30**

**Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill**

### **YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Cate James-Hodges **(EN)** (Archway School)  
 Emma Champion (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)  
 Saul Traquino (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)  
 Fin Smith\* (Cainscross Youth Forum)  
 Maxie Wells **(HWP)** (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)  
 Amber Lowery (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum)  
 Annabelle McFadden (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum)  
 Miki Bailey (Hardwicke Youth Forum)  
 Tom Werrett (Katharine Lady Berkeley School)  
 Nell Porter (Katharine Lady Berkeley School)  
 Bliss Ackland (Maidenhill School)  
 Skye Rees (Maidenhill School)  
 Ben Stone **(L)** (Marling School)  
 Alfie Stick (Marling School)  
 Megan Land (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)  
 Evie Urquhart (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)  
 Morgan 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 **(LD)** (Stroud Town Five Valleys YF)  
 Brandon Watkins **(AB)** (Thomas Keble School)  
 Carina Marlot (Thomas Keble School)  
 Phoebe Davies (Wotton Youth Forum)  
 Lily Stothard (Wotton Youth Forum)

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

AP Conner Roberts (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum) A  
 A Ellie Archer (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum) A  
 AP Baz Leach (Hardwicke Youth Forum) A  
 P Olivia Burke (Nailsworth and Minchinhampton YF) A  
 P Billy Smeaton (Nailsworth and Minchinhampton YF) A  
 A Joel Clark (Wotton Youth Forum) A

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Helen March A  
 Claire Gee A  
 Millie Radford A  
 Archie Gent A

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

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

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

#### **Others Present**

Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer  
 Seb Williams, Youth Work Officer  
 Jemma Grieve, Youth Participation Officer  
 Cllr Nigel Prenter, Stroud District Council #

## **1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Introductions were given by those in attendance. Apologies are listed on the record above.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting on 18 October 2021**

Minutes were formally presented and agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by: Brandon Watkins; Seconded by: Tom Wickham-Bassett.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **a) SDYC / GCRP Transport Group Meeting & Photo Shoot – Update**

Seb confirmed that unfortunately the planned meeting for 26 October was postponed – a new date was being sought. The following members expressed interest in attending: Fin, Maxie, Tom W-B, Brandon, Ben and Alice.

### **b) Youth Voice Representative Training – feedback**

Members who attended, really liked the casual and informal nature of the event - it subsequently encouraged new youth voice representatives to become more participative as the day progressed.

## **4. Jemma's Departure from SDC**

As SDYC Leader, Ben thanked Jemma for all her hard work, commitment and energy in the role of Youth Participation Officer for the last 3 years 9 months. Members joined him, in wishing Jemma the very best for the future.

Jemma expressed how emotional it had been making a decision to leave a role that she had 'loved'. She reflected on what she described, as an amazing time working with many young people who had been equally amazing. Jemma thanked all those in attendance and many others, including Steve and Seb as work colleagues, for being part of the youth voice family. She wished everyone well.

## **5. Recruitment and Selection of new Youth Participation Officer**

Steve gave a brief overview of how and approximately when, the recruitment and selection process for a new officer will take place. He confirmed that youth voice representatives will be involved. More details will be shared once the vacancy is being promoted.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA)**

SWEA were promoting an online survey seeking the post COP26 views and opinions, of people of all ages – they are looking to engage with communities on climate action. The survey is available via: <https://chester.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/climate-action-and-communities-questionnaire/>

### **SDC 2030 Community Engagement Board**

SDYC have been given the opportunity to take at least one place on the board. Leadership Team will discuss this in more detail.

### **UNICEF Rights Respected Schools Programme**

The SDC Youth Work Team and Megan met with David Powell, an advocate of the programme. A broad discussion on how this programme evolved and a number of inspiring experiences were shared by David. Megan and the youth work team felt this had huge potential for schools in Gloucestershire and they would be promoting it to those in Stroud district. More information was shared via the website.

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>

Members comments included: *young people need to receive more education on this; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child needs to be included more in the school's curriculum; this could work, if schools put effort into it.* It was agreed to invite David into to talk more about the Rights Respected Schools programme.

## **Active Stroud – now Live!**

Following input into the branding at the last main meeting, this online service is now live and accessible via:  
Facebook: @activestroud/ Instagram: @active.stroud/ Twitter: @ActiveStroud/

## **Neighbourhood Watch Association**

Date of the next meeting is Thursday 25 November at 4pm online. Tom W-B agreed to attend.

## **Millie Radford Research & Reflections**

Former SDYC member, Millie Radford would like to attend a future main meeting to do some quick research and reflections on her time as a member and how it has helped her in current studies. Members felt this would be good and would like to welcome Millie back on a date to be agreed.

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

Archway School – no representatives were present.

Berkeley Vale YF – no representatives were present.

Chalford Cubed YF – no representatives were present.

Cam & Dursley YF – work with Abi from Creative Gloucestershire regarding an art project at the Quarry Chapel in Cam called Teen Create Group was underway. The group would also be judging the Christmas Window Competition in Dursley with the Town Council in the next few days – they would also be in attendance at the Town's Light Switch-on and window competition results.

Cainscross YF – a new group was being developed and had met on four occasions.

Hardwicke YF – no representatives were present.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – no representatives were present.

Maidenhill School – no representatives were present.

Marling School – at the last school council meeting, an idea storming activity was carried out to explore projects for the next term.

Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF – whilst the group were low on active numbers, the aforementioned UNICEF Rights Respected Schools programme link had emerged from the work of Megan in this group.

Rednock School – Morgan met the head teacher recently as planned. The discussion was encouraging and efforts to kick-start youth voice in the school were progressing.

Stonehouse Action 4 Youth – Holly, a young people's 'link-person' based at May Lane GP Surgery in Dursley recently attended a meeting in which to discuss various health and wellbeing matters highlighted by young people – a series of 'help books' were shared with the group and discussions evolved as to how these could be beneficial.

Stroud High School – at the recent student council meeting, discussions on sexual harassment were held regarding the potential of placing an information board up on this topic. However, some fears were noted, that it might 'trigger' traumatic feelings for some students. Some posters would be visible and a survey was being created, with view to the results informing the creation of a new policy in partnership with Marling School.

Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF – whilst plans for recruitment to the group ongoing, the town council were being pursued regarding the delay in the 'bench project'. It was hoped this matter would be resolved soon.

Thomas Keble School – Brandon highlighted that the meetings of the school council clash with his commitments of being a School Ambassador (role formerly known as Prefect). It was hoped this might change from January and the start of a new term.

Wotton YF – no representatives present.

## **8. Health Focus Group Report from meeting on 15 November, presented by Maxie Wells**

### Healthy Lifestyles Update

It was recommended to members; that more discussion is had on the various project ideas and planned activities presented to the group.

### Future Me Gloucestershire – reflections on joint meeting

It was recommended to members; That interaction with Future Me is put on hold until their future as a project group is resolved.

### Sexual Health and the C-Card

It was recommended to members; That the sexual health and c-card training by The Eddystone Trust should be postponed until early 2022.

### Youth Friendly GP Surgery Initiative

It was recommended to members; That a new focus should be given, as to how the initiative can address the issue of young people not feeling able to access services from GP surgeries in the near future.

Proposed by: Maxie Wells; Seconded by: Brandon Watkins. The report was approved.

### **9. British Youth Council (BYC) Report**

Recent information from BYC has included the following:

- Various calendar dates regarding Make Your Mark and the UK Youth Parliament elections for 2022.
- BYC COP26 Autumn Workshop – the last in a series of online discussions was taking place on 1 December 5.30pm to 7.00pm.
- Campaign resources available include that relating to: mental health; transforming education; plastic pollution.

### **10. SDC Performance Monitoring - Reflections**

- a) Community Services and Licensing (Tom and Maxie)** – this was Maxie's first experience of this meeting and she felt there was plenty of chances to ask questions of officers from the various services, as well as give comment when necessary. Tom added that it was, once again, a great opportunity to influence decisions and give input to service delivery.
- b) Environment** – Cate attended this meeting and commented how different it was to that of other committee's performance monitoring arrangements. Only four attended, with the Strategic Director of Place the only officer presenting the report. She noted that, due to the changes to the SDC Council Plan, arrangements would change again to what each committee would receive reports on.

### **11. GSCP Safeguarding Section 11 Audit Process – Youth Panel: Feedback and Evaluation**

The opportunity to form a youth panel for the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership Safeguarding Section 11 Audit, was taken in response to an invite from the partnership, by the following members: Maxie Wells; Morgan Smith; Megan Land; Brandon Watkins; and Cate James-Hodges. This needed a big commitment from the aforementioned members, through both a pre event briefing session and a whole day working alongside the adult safeguarding specialist panel. The purpose was to enable, for the first time ever, young people to influence through active participation, the auditing and scrutiny process of safeguarding in Gloucestershire.

Members agreed that both the preparation beforehand and the welcome and support on the day, was excellent – adult involvement made them feel very much part of the auditing process and equal to the work of the adult panel. Members felt that the adults worked hard to involve them and listen to what they had to say. There were lots of opportunities for the youth panel to ask questions, compare and contrast the presentations from each of the various services who submitted written reports in advance. SDYC members gave positive and constructive critical feedback to the officials of the partnership and the independent Chairperson – this included a thorough evaluation at the end and on reflection. Recommendations to further develop the process and involve young people more in future was given. The partnership has indicated that they would like SDYC to help them develop their recommendations.

Members agreed this was an amazing opportunity that was taken to influence and set a new level of youth participation in a statutory requirement to audit safeguarding for children and young people in the county.

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

- a) Local Strategic Partnership Meeting – 3 December
- b) SDYC Health Focus Group Meeting – TBC
- c) SDYC Leadership Team Meeting – TBC
- d) SDYC Anti-Bullying Project Team Meeting – TBC
- e) SDYC Environment Project Team Meeting – TBC

### **13. Any Other Business**

#### **New Youth Voice Branding – Feedback on Design**

Following various informal conversations with members during the last 6 months, a new youth voice branding / logo was presented. It features a 'loud haler' with the established strapline 'The active voice for young people in Stroud District' featured on it. All logos of each local youth forum group, as well as the SDYC logo are positioned coming out of the loud haler. This is featured in front of the modern Gloucestershire county flag, demonstrating that the youth voice vehicle is not only unique to Gloucestershire, but also carries out county-wide work, as demonstrated.

Members gave feedback comments and respective amendments will be made and re-presented at the next meeting.

**14. Date of the Next Meeting:** Monday 13 December 2021