



**NOTES OF THE MAIN GROUP MEETING ON:**

**Date: Monday 23 January 2023**

**Time: 16:30**

**Venue: Coordination Room, Ebley Mill**

**YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

Jack Blakey (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	P
Katie Bray (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	Ap
Fin Smith <b>(BYC)</b> (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	Ap
Maxie Wells* (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	A
Arlo Lowery (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum)	A
Megan Land <b>(EN)</b> (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)	P
Brandon Watkins** (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)	P
Morgan Smith <b>(HWB)</b> (Rednock School)	Ap
Charlie Hayward (Stonehouse Action 4 Youth)	A
Alice Standing <b>(BYC)</b> (Stroud High School)	Ap
Cate James-Hodges <b>(L)</b> (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)	P
Alyssa Pearce (Thomas Keble School)	P
Barney Cookson (Thomas Keble School)	P
Lily Stothard (Wotton Youth Forum)	A

**DEPUTY MEMBERS**

Jacob Bray (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	Ap
Ellie Archer (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	A
Alanah Williams (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	Ap
Amelia Collins (Thomas Keble School)	P

**EX-OFFICIO**

Tom Wickham-Bassett	A
Lily Haines	A
Ben Stone	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; (HWB) = Health & Wellbeing; (EN) = Environment; (LD) = Local Democracy**

**(BYC) = Representatives to the British Youth Council**

**Others Present**

Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer (SDC)  
Seb Williams, Youth Work Officer (SDC)

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

The Chairperson (Brandon) welcomed members to the meeting, particularly Amelia a new representative from Thomas Keble School. He confirmed that a quorum had been met. Apologies are listed on the record above, plus Cllr Nigel Prenter (SDC Community Services and Licensing Committee).

## **2. Minutes of the last Meeting on 21 November 2022**

Proposed by Cate James-Hodges and Seconded by Megan Land. The minutes were approved, as being accurate following a vote (6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained).

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **a) BYC Membership Feedback – arrange meeting with BYC Leadership & Membership Manager**

Further to the agreement to invite Sarah Godfrey from BYC to an online meeting to discuss various membership matters, it was noted that Monday's and Wednesdays would now be the best days that Cate, Brandon, Fin, Alice, Morgan, and Tom could make.

### **b) Round 3 Nominations & Election Results – Principal Member for Local Democracy**

Following the announcement on social media, it was formally acknowledged that Alyssa Pearce had been elected as Principal Member for Local Democracy.

### **c) Youth Voice Rep' Self-Assessment & Service Feedback – Online Portal**

Members that had yet to complete the self-assessment, were encouraged to do so before the upcoming deadline – a final call-out would be made for all youth voice reps.

### **d) Recruitment – Local Youth Forum Groups and Representation on SDYC from Schools**

Cate gave an overview on recent visits to Katharine Lady Berkeley School and Maidenhill School. All youth voice representatives were being encouraged to promote themselves and their groups work with view to recruitment. Jack agreed to speak to KLB School tutors regarding election of reps. Megan agreed to promote to others from the Stroud district who sit on the Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group.

### **e) Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils (GAPTC) Network Meeting (29 Nov) - Report**

Cate, Alyssa, Jack, Katie, and Steve attended the online event and gave a presentation on the theme of 'young people and youth voice'. They collectively highlighted the work of all groups within the youth voice vehicle, as facilitated by SDC youth work team. They also had the opportunity to hear from Chippenham Town Council's (Wiltshire) about their development of a youth council. Some conversation was had regarding Huntsgrove parish and the lack of facilities for the growing youth population on this new housing development. It was suggested that representatives from SDC Planning, and Housing services should be invited to a future SDYC Main Group Meeting, to explore why this has happened and to seek solutions.

Members agreed, attending this event was good experience.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **James Haynes (Archway School Tutor & 2030 CEB Member): CO2 Reduction in Gloucestershire Schools**

An opportunity to be involved in research on CO2 reduction in schools across Gloucestershire and discover the relevant barriers schools find from building materials and space heating energy use. There are currently some Non-Government Organisations (NGO's), schools and local authorities involved, and James would like to conduct some interviews with a wider range of people and would love for us to be involved. Members agreed to invite him to the next Main Group Meeting or a subsequent one thereafter.

### **Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Decarbonising Transport – Survey:**

GCC long with all other Gloucestershire authorities, declared a climate emergency in 2019 and subsequently adopted a Climate Change Strategy. Their carbon reduction targets are:

- The county council's own operational emissions to be net zero by 2030.
- Emissions from all sources across the county to be net zero by 2050.
- The county to work with partners to deliver an 80% reduction in emissions by 2030, relative to 2005.

GCC committed to reaching net zero emissions from all sources across the county by 2045 and want to

hear from as many people as possible, so please share this link widely and take the survey.  
<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/journey-to-net-zero>

### **SDC Taxi and Private Hire Emissions Policy – Survey**

SDC are currently consulting on a proposed new taxi and private hire emissions policy. The long-term aim is a zero emissions policy, but in the meantime an interim policy will reduce emissions by phasing out higher polluting licensed vehicles. A [link to the consultation webpage](#) has the details of the proposal and a short survey that can be completed to make comment. They will be sharing the link with taxi and private hire trade, town, and parish councils as well as relevant agencies and groups. The consultation ends on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

### **Healthwatch Gloucestershire**

Last year Healthwatch Gloucestershire worked with young people on a Young Listeners Project to find out how they would improve the health and care services they use. They are keen to hear from young people aged 14 – 25 to find out what affects their mental health and if they feel there is the right social support available. Are there other types of support they would like to see that are not currently available and if so, what would they look like? Their findings from this new project will build on the previous work and continue to focus on the need for better mental health care for young people in Gloucestershire. They wish to consult as many young people as possible. The active engagement phase of the project runs between **11 January 2023 and 9 February 2023**.

The survey link is: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/YoungMentalHealth/>

### **Reopening Stonehouse Bristol Road Station - Submission of Strategic Outline Business Case**

A Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for Stroudwater Station has been prepared on behalf of Stroud District Council in partnership with Stonehouse Town Council. If successful, the councils look forward to working with the Department for Transport (DfT) and other stakeholders on a more detailed Outline Business Case stage which would involve planning the proposals in greater detail as per DfT Transport Appraisal Guidance. It is understood that this would require a more detailed examination of their value for money, exploring the affordability and funding requirements and the development of a preferred option delivery strategy. Members acknowledged that they had previously expressed support for the wider community campaign and highlighted that they would be interested in exploring this further.

### **Youth Support Service (YST) – Something Fabulous!**

YST wished to promote Something Fabulous an LGBTQ+ group. They have created a safe space for LGBTQ+ young people aged 13-19. Based in Stroud town, Fridays! 5pm to 7pm. It's for those exploring their identity, activities, and opportunity to influence. £1 per session.

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

Archway School – no representatives elected.

Berkeley Vale YF – Jack reported that the group were meeting the following day and would be exploring how they could meet up with Krunch regarding the new youth provision in the town.

Cam & Dursley YF – no representatives present.

Cainscross YF - no representatives elected.

Chalford Cubed YF – Alyssa highlighted that the group were awaiting to hear back from Chalford Parish Council and Frith Youth Centre regarding potential future projects that they could work on together.

Hardwicke YF – no representatives elected.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – no representatives elected.

Maidenhill School – no representatives elected.

Marling School – no representatives elected.

Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF – Megan reported that Nailsworth Youth Club had replied to her contact and the group would be meeting again in 2 days, to discuss a visit opportunity.

Rednock School – no representatives were present.

Stonehouse Action 4 Youth – no representatives present.

Stroud High School – no representatives present.

Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF – no report.

Thomas Keble School – whilst Amelia was welcomed again to SDYC, it was noted that the fourth representative position to SDYC was yet to be elected. Year Group and School Council meetings have begun.

Wotton YF – no representatives present.

## **6. SDC Performance Monitoring Meetings (Environment)**

Megan reported on the last Environment Committee Performance Monitoring meeting. She reflected on the Building with Nature Framework involving flood intervention work – with this, there is an opportunity for SDYC to visit one of the sites, which members agreed to explore. Retro-fit work regarding energy efficiency was discussed as was transport emissions work. The adoption of a new local plan will start in Spring 2023. Overall, a positive meeting.

## **7. Local Strategic Partnership Meeting – Report from 25 November**

Cate reported that whilst the original meeting plan was to hold discussions on the theme of 'education and learning' it was changed to 'employment skills' ahead of the meeting taking place. Presentations came from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) regarding their employment and skills Hub in Gloucester, and Creative Sustainability regarding their 3<sup>rd</sup> Space venue and the work they are doing in facilitating the Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group (as commissioned by GCC) – they also run art sessions for those aged 16 to 25 and assist with those needing to access work and/or further education.

The opportunity for SDYC to present at the next meeting in March on the theme of education and apprenticeships was accepted by Cate and other members were encouraged to attend and assist.

## **8. Post Cop27 Conversation: SDYC & 2030 Community Engagement Board Workshop**

Megan gave an overview of on the workshop that took place before the festive break. She reflected on conversations held in the workshop that were facilitated by Ann Finlayson of Sustainable Environmental Education (SEEd). It was acknowledged that the outcome report from COP27 was difficult to read, making the known outcomes not as accessible as it should be. However the following points from the report and workshop were highlighted by Megan: \$100 billion a year was promised in 2020 for adaptation, but only \$20 billion has been paid so far; Fossil fuel industries attended COP27 on mass; America has re-entered the Paris Agreement 2015; There is still no accountability for not meeting deadlines or pledges; Aim to get more young people involved in both the conversation and the policy work; Greenwashing was evident of places like Egypt and the oil states of the Middle East; Overall, the base solutions aren't there, there is still too much reliance on the individual.

It was agreed that another workshop should take place in February, with week commencing Monday 13 being ideal for Megan, Brandon, and Cate – this would be shared with the 2030 CEB.

## **9. Leadership Team Verbal Report (Cate)**

Considering the recent team meeting only having Cate and Megan in attendance, a verbal report with no decision-making was given. Cate highlighted those conversations took place between her and Megan on the following: The relevance of some manifesto statements, with a refresh being probably needed; the development of a youth voice engagement charter was yet to progress, but much needed; follow-up points regarding the safeguarding audit work with Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership and how this relates to the youth rights, youth voice and safeguarding project being developed by the Local Democracy Focus Group.

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

### **Southwest Regional YouthCon – Saturday 4 March**

The next BYC regional youth voice convention will be on 4 March in Bristol – as usual, SDYC are allocated 4 places at the event. A programme will emerge in due course and confirmation of who will attend, will be required nearer the time.

### **UK Parliament Youth Voice Contract**

The 'contract' from UK Parliament to facilitate the UK Youth Parliament and associated programmes has been held by the BYC for several years, more recently this has been renewed on a year-on-year basis. However, the next contract is for 2 years – news of the organization that has won it, will be announced soon.

## **Youth Focus Southwest - Regional Youth Work Unit**

It has recently been confirmed that Youth Focus Southwest (the Regional Youth Work Unit for the Southwest) will be facilitating BYC work in the region until April and possibly thereafter, if BYC wins the UK Parliament Youth Voice contract.

### **11. Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group (GYCG) – Update from Megan Land**

Megan updated members on the work of the group, this included:

The group met with author Mark Ballabon for a discussion about his new book *Home*, and related climate points.

A guest speaker, Wayne Lewis from GCC held discussions about the coming year's proposed budget - essentially there isn't much being spent on sustainability, and there are issues which could be addressed. The top priorities don't reflect the following matters: there's too much focus on highways; sustainability is a top priority, but the funds do not reflect that; focus on young people's services is good.

Two members of the group have done a radio interview with Glos FM recently.

Group trip to Gloucester Repair Cafe on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

Presenting results of Interclimate Network survey to Cheltenham Borough Council on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Tewkesbury Nature Reserve have offered the group some biodiversity work.

BeyondCOP21 symposium on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March will be attended with a stall by some group members.

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

- a) **SDYC Leadership Team Meeting – TBC**
- b) **Engagement Charter Project Team Meeting - TBC**
- c) **SDC All-Member Briefing on Youth Service & Health (online) – 8 February**
- d) **BYC Regional YouthCon – 4 March**
- e) **Local Strategic Partnership Meeting – 10 March**

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

#### **New SDC Head of Community Services**

It had been recently announced by SDC that recruitment for a Head of Service for Community Services had been successful, with Ange Gillingham being confirmed as the new post holder. Cate had been actively involved with the recruitment process (as SDYC Leader), by way of being a member of the 'partner panel' who carried out interviews of the short-listed candidates. The involvement of an SDYC member in such a recruitment process for a Head of service was acknowledged as being a first, reflecting the increasing commitment of SDC to actively involve young people in their decision-making.

**14. Date of the Next Meeting:** Monday 13 February 2023