



## NOTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON:

**Date : Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Time : 16:30**

**Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill**

### **YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Helen March** (Archway School)	P
Katie Pugh (Archway School)	AP
Emma Champion (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	P
Claire Gee (Cainscross Youth Forum)	P
Shannon Griffin (Cainscross Youth Forum)	P
Thomas Haynes (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	P
Maxie Wells (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	P
Miki Bailey (Hardwicke Youth Forum)	P
Leon Linton-Blake (Hardwicke Youth Forum)	P
Jonty Fuller (Katharine Lady Berkeley School)	P
Amy Jones (Katharine Lady Berkeley School)	AP
Ben Stone (Marling School)	P
Marcus Fuller-Watts (Marling School)	P
Billy Smeaton (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)	P
Hope Edgell (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)	A
Morgan Smith (Rednock School)	P
Amelie McKenna (Stroud High School)	AP
Catherine Loewenthal (Stroud High School)	AP
Lily Haines (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)	P
Hannah Macadam (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)	P
Frankie Fry (Thomas Keble School)	A

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

Catherine James-Hodges (Archway School)	P
Denicia Blake (Archway School)	A
Jasmine Beese (Cainscross Youth Forum)	P
Ryan Decarteret (Cainscross Youth Forum)	P
Conner Roberts (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	P
Ellie Archer (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	AP
Baz Leach (Hardwicke Youth Forum)	P
Finlay Smith (Hardwicke Youth Forum)	P
Tom Wickham-Bassett (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)	P
Millie Radford (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)	P

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Lauren Davies	A
Alexandra Parker	A
Holly Hughes	A
Luna Stephens	A
Rebecca Hunt	A
Issy Llewellyn	AP

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

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

**Principal Members: (ET) = Employment & Training, (H) = Housing, (E) = Environment,  
(LD) = Local Democracy, (HWB) = Health & Wellbeing**

#### **Others Present**

Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer, Stroud District Council  
 Jemma Grieve, Youth Participation Officer, Stroud District Council  
 Evie Urquhart, Nailsworth and Minchinhampton Youth Forum  
 Lindsey Driver, Former SDYC Member (2008-2011)  
 Kathy O'Leary, (new) Chief Executive Officer, Stroud District Council  
 Cllr Mattie Ross; Cllr Steve Robinson; Cllr Miranda Clifton; Cllr Doina Cornell;

## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, especially those attending for the first time. Guest speaker, Lindsey Driver was also welcomed 'back' to an SDYC meeting, as were District Councilors as per the attendance list above. Apologies are listed on the record above. The Chair mentioned that some agenda items would be taken in a slightly different order to that stated.

## **2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record. *Proposed by Tom Wickham-Bassett; Seconded by: Maxie Wells.*

## **3. Matters Arising**

- a) **Anti-Bullying Survey – Update & Launch:** The survey was now set up via the online portal and ready for launch. A link will be sent to all members and distributed to various community stakeholders.
- b) **Sexual Health Services Workshop (The Eddystone Trust) on 1 April – Feedback from Members**  
The workshop was shorter than expected; there was no information on the secret shopper aspect – subsequently some members registered their interest. Members also expressed interest in being C-card Champions (8 in total).
- c) **Youth Friendly GP Surgeries Presentation to Stroud & Berkeley Vale GP Forum – Report**  
Ben explained that he, Tom H and Issy delivered the presentation to the Forum recently and highlighted that they received a very positive response – they noted that some aspects of the SDYC proposal was soon to be incorporated into the statutory requirements. The Chair of the GP Forum, Dr Simon Opher offered to meet SDYC Health Focus Group to discuss how the proposal can be further developed.
- d) **Voter Registration Workshop on 16 April – To note Postponed:** It was noted that following the postponement a workshop would be arranged for second week of June (probably the 10 June).

## **4. Correspondence**

**Ofsted Survey from the British Youth Council:** the BYC are working with Ofsted to gather young people's views to improve their online tool for learners and feed into their inspection report development. This link will be forwarded to members to access the survey <http://bit.ly/2KZtHCg>

**Telephone Support Line & Text Chat Service for Parents and Carers:** NHS Gloucestershire CCG have recently launched another service regarding young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing. The telephone support and text chat based service is being piloted for two years and will be delivered by TIC+. The Freephone number is 0800 625675.

**Local Youth Award for Nailsworth & Minchinhampton Youth Forum:** Nailsworth Town Council recently awarded Nailsworth and Minchinhampton Youth Forum their youth award for the positive impact the group had made in the area during the last year. This was in recognition of their hard work to help the local community with consultation on plans for redeveloping the Miles Marling Recreation Field at Forest Green and support for the local water refill scheme. Group visits to other local youth projects have also enabled them to connect with other young people, in the quest for increasing young people's voice in the locality and further afield. Group members, Billy Smeaton and Evie Urquhart received the award at the Councils annual event.

## **5. Chairperson's Report – Helen March, SDYC Chairperson for 2018/19**

The 2018/19 year ended with Helen March as the Chairperson. Helen reported on a significant year for young people having a voice and being heard and highlighted many of the achievements of youth voice representatives across the district, including those young people involved locally with the work of the Council's nine local youth forum groups. She made reference to the work with various community organisations including parish and town councils on things like reviewing Stroud Subscription Rooms, redeveloping recreational space at Forest Green and promoting the Jenner Museum in Berkeley. The engagement work with Neighbourhood Wardens and PCSOs to learn about and

give opinions on, community safety issues was also mentioned.

Complimenting this work, Helen added that getting involved with county wide initiatives such as Gloucestershire 2050 and Child/Youth Friendly Gloucestershire, alongside mental health youth advisory work with the NHS Gloucestershire CCG was important – whilst being pleased that SDYC were the first youth organisation to be consulted by the OPCC led Youth Friendly Gloucestershire team, she added that findings presented by SDYC, have since helped guide the next steps for the initiative. The youth councils work on a youth friendly GP surgeries initiative, whilst helping to improve school nursing and sexual health services were considered significant milestones regarding young people's health and wellbeing. A similar position was reflected upon with youth democracy work in promoting voter registration and SDYC's involvement with last year's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on women getting the vote – this was matched by seeing Stroud District Council officially support the campaign to lower the voting age to 16.

Helen thanked SDC in general for their continuous support of youth voice, in particular the youth work team, Steve, Jemma and Rachel; she stated their continuous support is invaluable and without it we wouldn't be able to have nearly as much of an impact. She finished by saying that it was exciting to see what SDYC's twentieth year will hold and equally for what the future is going to hold.

#### **6. Reflections & Journey of a Former SDYC Member – Lindsey Driver, former SDYC Leader**

Lindsey was introduced as a former SDYC member who had held the position of Leader during her time from 2008 to 2011. She gave an insight into how she became a member, recalling the closer of Vale of Berkeley College (the school she represented on SDYC) despite the voice of young people and the local community being heard but not taken into consideration, as a significant experience that paved the way for future social action and motivation on key youth issues.

She referenced the campaigning regarding cuts to the county youth service in 2010 following virtually no consultation being held and her attending an event at Shire Hall as an occasion whereby her and fellow youth voice representatives got to have a say and be heard. On reflection she had learnt 'that you can't always affect change that has happened, but you can affect the future.' She encouraged members 'not to sit on your doubts' and speak out whenever you have the opportunity, as the moment soon passes.

Lindsey, who latterly represented Rednock School on SDYC, went onto share her highlights including the residential training events and recalled the learning of skills and techniques that she later used in her career training whilst at university and placements in Spain and France. She also gave an insight into how such experiences and learning has enabled her to be successful in other aspects of her life. Lindsey finished by encouraging members to take as many personal development opportunities as possible; quoting E.E Cummings, '*It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are*'. Lindsey was thanked for her valuable presentation and time – she remained for the rest of the meeting and interacted with members during the break.

#### **7. Presentation of Members Service Awards – Kathy O'Leary, SDC Chief Executive Officer**

Kathy was welcomed to the meeting. In presenting respective members with their service award certificates, she also stated how pleased she was to introduce herself to members as the new Chief Executive of SDC. Speaking positively about young people having a voice and influencing adult decision-making she asked how members had become involved, either via an election or otherwise. She quoted Mahatma Gandhi in encouraging members to 'be the change you want to see (in the world)'. Kathy went on to recall some of her experiences of the district since her arrival late last year. She presented certificates and badges to the following members; Jonty Fuller (3 years) and Hannah Macadam (1 year). Amy Jones (3 years) and Katie Pugh (1 year) were not present, but were acknowledged. All were congratulated on their effort, commitment and overall service to ensuring young people had a say in what matters affect them.

#### **8. SDYC Election Results**

Elections had taken place a few days prior to the meeting via the youth council's online portal. In each contest, voting members have the option to vote for 'Re-Open Nominations (RON)' as well the candidates who have been

nominated. Each contest had only one nominee / candidate alongside RON. The results were as follows;

- a) Chairperson: **Helen March** was elected
- b) Vice Chairperson: **Lily Haines** was elected

It was noted that nominations for Leader, Principal Members and BYC Representatives would be taken during Round 2 – this will open as soon as possible during the next few days.

## **9. Constitution Changes**

The following motions had been presented to the 2018/19 youth council, it was required in the constitution that for changes to be formally made, such proposals were required to be considered and approved at the annual general meeting. The following were presented;

- a) **Creating a Manifesto** - Motion: *'The youth council will produce a manifesto document which will be subject to amendment and agreed annually at the annual general meeting. It will contain formally agreed views from the membership and pro-active statements and will subsequently form the policy for projects, initiatives and campaigns to be worked upon throughout the ensuing year.'*

Proposed by: Jonty Fuller; Seconded by: Thomas Haynes. Following a vote, this motion was approved.

- b) **Manifesto Content** - Motion: *'The inaugural SDYC Manifesto statements will be as follows; SDYC believes that the voting age in local and national elections and referenda should be lowered to aged 16 and subsequently supports the national votes at 16 campaigns. SDYC believes that reform of the voter registration system should take place – principally moving from a current 'opt-in' system to one that enables people to 'opt-out'. SDYC will strive to have greater involvement in SDC decision-making matters of concern to young people. SDYC will work with NHS Clinical Commissioning Group to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing. SDYC believe that young people should be able to access good quality sexual health education and services. SDYC will work with Gloucestershire County Council's commissioned provider to improve sexual health services and reduce STIs. SDYC members will be offered mental health first aid training on an annual basis. SDYC believes that students should have access to good quality school nursing. SDYC will work with NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and local GP surgeries to create a framework that enables surgeries to meet the needs to young people. SDYC will consult with the youth population of the district regarding their experiences of bullying in schools, communities and homes with view to developing a future anti-bullying campaign'*

Proposed by: Jonty Fuller; Seconded by: Thomas Haynes. Following a vote, this motion was approved.

- c) **Officer & Leader Minimum Length of Service** - Motion: *'A minimum term as an SDYC member of six months service for Chair, Vice Chair and Leader and a minimum term as an SDYC member of three months for Principal Member and BYC representative roles, is required prior to being nominated for a position of office or leadership.'*

Proposed by: Ben Stone; Seconded by: Maxie Wells. Following a vote, this motion was approved.

## **10. Updates from School & College Councils and Local Youth Forum groups**

**Archway School:** GCSE'S are now approaching for respective students. Student Council have met recently with new representatives to SDYC having been elected.

**Berkeley Youth Forum:** The group were continuing their planning work for an event with older people living in a local sheltered housing scheme.

**Cainscross Youth Forum:** The group were due to review their recent community event and bake sale, which included work with Randwick Scouts to help clean up the community. Support also came from Hardwicke Youth Forum and a member from Cam and Dursley Youth Forum.

**Cam & Dursley Youth Forum:** Currently planning a community event now titled, 'Scratch and Skate' to held on 8<sup>th</sup> August at the Jubilee Fields in Cam from 1pm-5pm – this followed results from a survey which was carried out mainly

in Rednock School, and aims to promote young local musicians and enable young people to experience activities related to music and skateboarding. Support is coming from respective town and parish councils. The event will be a joint working effort including The Door and World Jungle. Members recently also attended planning meetings for the Dursley Summer Fair with view to attending the event later in the season – it had been agreed that the group will be judging the window display competition in town.

**Hardwicke Youth Forum:** The previously highlighted community youth survey had brought 200 responses so far. The group logo had been completed and would feature on clothing and promotional material.

**Katharine Lady Berkeley School:** Still no school council, however students had been involved with recruitment and induction of new head teacher. Jonty and Amy would be leaving school in few weeks, to enable them to focus on their A level exams. The school had been contacted to encourage them to elect new representatives.

**Marling School:** A school council meeting had finally taken place later in week. Particular acknowledgement was given to Ben who had been hugely proactive in getting their student voice body to meet, by heavy discussions with teachers.

**Nailsworth & Minchinhampton Youth Forum:** The group had recently met the Town Clerk in their new offices. Members hoodies had now been given out and they were planning to attend with a display board, the annual meeting. Members were very pleased to win the town councils Youth Award.

**Rednock School:** No report.

**Stroud Town & Five Valleys Youth Forum:** The group are currently doing some consultation regarding the local area and are asking questions relating to young people's views on their community and how to improve it, as well as specific aspects alongside wider topics relating to youth issues. The survey has now gone 'live.'

## **11. Mental Health Awareness Week – 13 to 19 May 2019**

Members were reminded that national mental health awareness week was approaching, giving an opportunity to have a profile or focus on any youth related matters. Last year's efforts were reflected upon.

## **12. Key Issues and Projects for 2019/20**

Members moved into a workshop style break-out group, in which to consider the key issues and projects for the year ahead. It was acknowledged that some issues and projects were already determined by the previously agreed manifesto. Reference was made to the Annual Review report, previously circulated. It was agreed that a document will be created that features the outcomes of the break-out work and subsequently presented at the next meeting.

## **13. SDYC Project Teams & Focus Groups for 2019/20**

Whilst the formation of the groups and project teams were not carried out, a discussion on an environmental project was had. It was agreed that consideration on this idea would continue once a project had been identified.

## **14. Agree Principal Member Roles for 2019/20**

Following discussions at length, it was agreed via a series of voting that the following Principal Member roles would exist for 2019/20;

- Principal Member for Anti-Bullying
- Principal Member for Environment
- Principal Member for Health and Wellbeing
- Principal Member for Local Democracy

Nominations would be received in Round 2 of the Elections.

### **15. Election of Co-options**

Members had discussions on the role of the Ex-officio and who could be invited throughout the year ahead. Suggestions include: young farmers; young carers; and, members of youth parliament. This would be considered further at the next meeting.

### **16. Any Other Business**

There was no further business.

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

Monday 20 May 2019 at Stroud Fire Station