

NOTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON:



Date: Monday 24 May 2021

Time: 16:30

Venue: Online via Zoom

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

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

DEPUTY MEMBERS

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

EX-OFFICIO

Helen March	A
Claire Gee	A
Millie Radford	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

Others Present

Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer; Seb Williams, Youth Work Officer; Jemma Grieve, Youth Participation Officer;

1. Welcome and Apologies

The retiring Chair welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Apologies are listed on the record above. It was that the total number of those present did not meet the required amount (a quorum) for a formally recognised AGM – it was therefore acknowledged that this meeting could only go ahead informally, with decision-making rescheduled for the next meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 22 March 2021

The minutes of the last main meeting were acknowledged following an amendment to the Marling School report, which should reference the student council not school leadership team. These would need to be presented at the next Main Meeting for approval.

3. Matters Arising

a) Youth Voice Rep' Training Events – feedback from MHFA Training and Community Organising Course:

The Mental Health First Aid Training received very positive feedback – it was well presented, despite the difficult topics. It was very engaging, well balanced and well run. The resource book was a very welcome addition to that of previous MHFA courses. Many participants 'loved it!'. It was a unanimous 'yes' to doing it again. The course was accredited and therefore participants would be receiving certificates soon.

The Community Organising Course received mixed reviews. Some questioned how useful it was in their respective roles as youth voice representatives, although the learning of skills in general could be useful. Delivered over three sessions / days, some said the course could have been shorter with the same content, as some tasks didn't need to take as long as was scheduled. The course has potential to be adapted more for young people in similar roles.

4. Correspondence

Museum in the Park – Meet the Experts programme

Members were reminded of the 'Meet the Expert' programme at the Museum in the Park – details of this had been previously shared to members via email. Those with an interest, were asked to enquire as soon as possible.

Message from retired District Councillor, Miranda Clifton

Having not stood for re-election as a District Councillor at the recent local elections, Miranda Clifton had written to SDYC to express her thanks for the welcome and enjoyment she had experienced over many years during her two terms as a District Councillor. She wished members well for their future and that of SDYC in general. Members all agreed, that Miranda's support and encouragement had been of great benefit and were very grateful for this – the Chair asked for these comments to be passed onto Miranda if possible.

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

Archway School – a student council meeting was due to take place on 25 May. Potential projects are being revisited and information about the Ambassadors role was being gathered, particularly the part of advocacy for other students. Cate was due to meet with the Head Teacher afterwards to share. The school were looking to promote the idea of a 'Green Week' as a fund raiser for environmental charities.

Berkeley Vale YF – no representatives were present.

Cainscross YF – no report was available.

Cam & Dursley YF – no representatives were present.

Chalford Cubed YF – members recently met youth workers from Frith Youth Centre and discussed programming ideas. The group agreed that a couple of questions regarding the youth centre would be included in the survey. The group were offered the youth centre as a meeting venue. Links with Thomas Keble School were being pursued.

Hardwicke YF – no representatives were present.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – the student council meetings were now taking place online. They have been asked about their experiences of pandemic 'lockdown' and home learning, followed by returning to school and the broader education programme. Year 13's about to leave school, so would not be attending student council meetings or

interacting with school governors.

Maidenhill School – the school council still hadn't met since February 2020.

Marling School – campaign on local elections was held to encourage voter registration. Ideas for the future function of the council have been discussed. Community groups have met and work has commenced on carbon neutral and mental health projects. New additional representatives to SDYC have been elected.

Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF – no report was available.

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

Stonehouse Action 4 Youth – no representatives present.

Stroud High School – no representatives present.

Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF – the group met Finlay from Street Spaces and discussed walking and cycling routes and related matters with view to ideas of how these could be improved. The group met Craig Fellows, new Neighbourhood Warden and discussed potential projects at Capel Mill regarding graffiti. Further discussion on the Bench's Project was had.

Thomas Keble School – the SDYC reps' promoted the travel needs survey to teachers, in which to get it shared amongst all students at the school.

Wotton YF – no representatives present.

6. Health Focus Group Reports from meetings on 12 April and 17 May 2021, presented by Ben Stone

Report from 12 April

Healthy Lifestyle Officer Update: Members were asked to note; that SDC's Healthy Lifestyle Officer, presented to the HFG the suggested Talk Club for young people and members provided feedback on the idea.

Sexual Health Promotion: Members were asked to note; that the HFG requested training from The Eddystone Trust on sexual health for the purpose of informing the creation of a video promoting sexual health.

SDC Members Information on Youth Service Event: Members were asked to note; that the HFG was informed of the SDC Members Information on Youth Service Event and preparation of a presentation on the Youth Friendly GP Surgery Initiative has been made.

PPG Presentation Feedback: Members were asked to note; that Jemma updated the group on the PPG presentation using the report provided and that the HFG indicated the usefulness of the report in guiding issues relating to young people and the impact of COVID-19.

Mental Health First Aid Training Feedback: Members had it recommended; that Mental Health First Aid Training is offered in the 2021/2022 SDYC Year to all members.

Exam Stress and School Pressure: Members were asked to note; that the HFG researched Kooth to gain a greater understanding of the website and that further discussion on promotion will take place.

Future Me Gloucestershire: Members were asked to note; that the HFG was informed of Future Me Gloucestershire and provided feedback to Jemma on possible information needed.

Report from 17 May

Healthy Lifestyle Officer Update: Members were asked to note; that HFG received an update from SDC's Healthy Lifestyle Officer, on the topic of Artlift, a service for adults with mental health issues such as depression based on referrals and the group provided feedback on the idea.

Sexual Health and the C-Card: Members had it proposed to them, that the training offer provided by The Eddystone Trust is accepted and open to all SDYC representatives to attend.

Members had it recommended to them; that if the opportunity to become C-card champions arises that members over 16 take up the roles.

COVID-19 and the impact on young people: Members were asked to note; the HFG looked at information pertaining to counselling from TIC+ and statistics for Stroud so as to allow members to gain an insight into the circumstances in which the HFG's work is conducted.

Exam Stress and School Pressure - Kooth: Members were asked to note, that the HFG discussed the promotion of other relevant services in relation to exam stress and school pressures.

Future Me Gloucestershire: Members were asked to note; that the group reviewed the Future Me Gloucestershire document and agreed to meet with them.

Youth Friendly GP Surgery Initiative: Members were asked to note; that the group was reminded of the Youth Friendly GP Surgery Initiative and discussed the promotion of the project.

Members had it recommended to them; that a training session should be offered to all SDYC representatives

involved with the Youth Friendly GP Surgery Initiative.

It was acknowledged that both of these reports would need to be presented at the next Main Meeting for approval.

7. Leadership Team Report from meeting on 18 May 2021 inc Manifesto Statements, presented by Lily Haines

Manifesto Statement: Promotion of Racial Equality: Members had it proposed to them; that the following should be included in the SDYC Manifesto:

Promotion of Racial Equality:

'As a group of diverse young people that function in a representational role, Stroud District Youth Council are acutely aware of the need to educate everyone in our communities about social matters. Young people can face many forms of prejudice and inequality as they grow up – which is unacceptable. However, we recognise that just because of their ethnicity and skin colour, those with a Black or Asian heritage or any ethnic minority background, can face additional discrimination their whole life – this should not be happening. We look to institutions in our society to properly work together, to ensure equality and justice consistently improves for everyone. The opportunity to enable young people from all cultures and ethnic origins to be part of this change, should not be missed. Equality and justice are not lone destinations, but a combined lifelong journey for all of us.'

It was acknowledged that both of this report would need to be presented at the next Main Meeting for approval.

8. Annual Review Report from online event on Monday 19 April 2021

A report was presented on the outcomes of the SDYC Annual Review that took place via Zoom – this would normally be carried out in March but was rescheduled due to the impact of the pandemic. This review considered the last 7 months, since the 2020 Annual Review (in November 2020), which was delayed due to the covid pandemic. We used an online facilitating resource called, a 'Miro board' – this proved very useful and interactive.

a) What's Changed, Changing & Not Changed, presented by Cate James-Hodges

Part One: The online workshop enabled members to look back over the last 7 months with the aid of the notes from main meetings. A timeline featured on the Miro board and all projects, initiatives, opportunities, events and activities that were either led or informed by SDYC were considered.

Part Two: Subsequently, to determine how member's felt how the aforementioned projects, initiatives, opportunities, events and activities have impacted either them or the communities whom they represent, we used a simple 3 category approach – this is taken from the national youth participation standards titled 'Hear by Right'.

The theme for this next stage of the review was 'Impact'. Below are bullet points from discussions held in this stage the workshop. The impact made in the last 7 months, as a result of the work carried out by members is:

What's Not Changed?

- Election of co-options.
- School nursing.
- Liaison with Transition Stroud.
- Local Democracy Group not met - lobbying and writing to CEOs of district councils not completed.
- Adopted Lords not contacted (however there's been no reason to due this period).
- Healthy eating initiative hasn't progressed – this should be removed from the key projects and issues list.

What's Changing?

- Environment Project Team have had meetings relating to the SDC Carbon Neutral 2030 strategy formation & work continues to make progress.
- Met with The Eddystone Trust - hoping to create promotional video for c-card and sexual health work.
- The C-Card survey went out to schools in Feb/Mar and it instigated conversations in some schools.
- SDC Leisure and Wellbeing Review, scoped work in the future.
- Cate attended a BYC South West Speaks on Poverty as SDYC Rep' on BYC.

- Met with David Rawlings, SDC's Healthy Development Lifestyle Officer, our work continues with him (via HFG projects).
- Stonehouse Train Station Campaign presentation received – to be explored further.
- PPG network covid impacts on YP report. Statements were submitted with future work possible.
- Anti-bullying project work and analysis continues.
- Joint work done with Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership to create and launch a youth travel needs survey. Results yet to come in and there will be work to follow up on.
- Planned for SDC's Members Information Event. Whilst event had been postponed, preparation continues for when its rescheduled.

What's Changed?

- New members joined.
- Meetings were held via Zoom and MS Teams.
- Online tea and biscuits informal sessions allowed social time in the pandemic.
- Cotswold & Stroud MYP Katie Adsett attended SDYC and we were able to share what we'd been doing & explored possible collaboration. Further discussion would be held at a later date.
- National Condom Day (14 Feb) - our statement went out to promote c-card
- Jemma returned to work and helped enable more work to continue.
- Gloucestershire CCG consultation of members on mental health service experiences.
- Cate presented at SCCAF. Knock on effect of members invited to SDC Full Council
- BLM Statement affirms where we stand with such issues
- Backing Kooth as the school stress and exam pressure. New tool for young people to use.
- Community Organiser training (Community Roots) - gaining an accreditation.
- Undertaking Mental Health First Aid training - certified 16+ course
- SDYC attendance & input to SDC Performance Monitoring meetings - increased SDYC influence over council decision making.
- SDYC attended & spoke at SDC Full Council for the first time (ever)!
- Tom (as Chair) advocated in a SDC Full Council meeting for the SDC Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion draft policy to be made a public consultation. More work on this is in the pipeline.
- Cate (as PM for Environment) advocated in a SDC Full Council meeting that the SDC 2030 strategy and master plan should be approved following input from SDYC.

Key Projects and Issues for 2021/22, presented by Tom Wickham-Bassett

Part Three: It was generally felt that previous key projects and issues should continue - with exception of the healthy eating issue, which we don't have capacity to tackle yet; and the Child Friendly Gloucestershire Initiative, which we have had little influence over its progress and direction. It was proposed that the following should be added;

- Promote access to Kooth and other relevant mental health support services in relation to school and exam stress and other causes of poor mental health
- Proposal to include a statement regarding Racial Equality into manifesto
- Profile impact of covid 19 on young people (off the back of the PPG report)
- Youth Travel Needs Survey Follow Up

Part Four: Members expressed their highlights and low points of the last 7 months. They were as follows;

Highlights - New Members Joining; Certified Mental Health First Aid Training 16+; Speaking at the SDC Full Council Meeting; PPG Network covid impacts on YP report; We got the C-Card info out to schools in Feb/Mar; Getting elected as Chair and working with everyone together (Tom); Community Organiser workshop – Community Roots.

Low-points - lack of seeing people in person; no residential.

It was acknowledged that both of this report would need to be presented at the next Main Meeting for approval.

9. British Youth Council (BYC) Report

Steve ran through the latest BYC Members Newsletter and highlighted the following: BYC have opportunities to join their Board of Trustees with application deadline, 21 June; BYC member organisations are sharing their top tips for coming out of lockdown, gathered from workshops – these are available on their website; Rural England CIC have launched a survey to explore the ‘state of rural services’ and are keen to hear from young people from rural communities; The Big Ask is the largest ever survey of children in England, designed to find out what their concerns and aspirations about the future are – members can take part online.

The newsletter will be sent to all SDYC members via email and encouraged to access the respective survey’s and information.

10. GCRP / SDYC Transport Group Report – Survey Promotion

Seb gave a brief update on progress of the work with the GCRP. This mainly focused on the youth travel needs survey which had seen a huge number of responses from across the UK and some overseas countries. However, as the survey focus was on the county, it was currently being ascertained how many came from those young people in Gloucestershire. Members were encouraged to keep promoting it and subsequently asked for it to be extended into July. The GCRP were also keen to ask for initial advice from members on a future project and would be send information through in due course.

11. Chairpersons Report for 2020/21 – Tom Wickham-Bassett

The report from Tom, covered the previous eight months due to delayed SDYC programming and elections, as a result of the covid pandemic. He reflected on the unusual circumstances that the pandemic has enforced, with changes and challenges throughout, but felt that the youth council had ‘made the best of it’ with meetings, activities, training and general communication held almost entirely online and via social media. However, the more recent move towards a return to face-to-face interaction with the SDC youth work team he said ‘was pleasing’. He acknowledged the departure of some long-serving members and also the gaining of new ones. The welcome of Seb to the youth work team, was marked with a very different introduction that would be normal to new SDC staff – Tom made particular note of the challenges the youth work team had faced, with their own health and wellbeing in the context of helping support so many fellow members – he went on to thank them for their continued hard work and devotion to what he referred as, ‘a noble profession’ (youth work).

Tom highlighted the achievements of SDYC over the last eight months: from the input into the SDC leisure and wellbeing review; to others, including: continuing the work on sexual health services with the Eddystone Trust and national condom day; completing a consultation with the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group on mental health services in the area; introducing a course of mental health first aid training to the rest of the youth council. One of our biggest achievements has been the creation of a county-wide youth travel needs survey, which is currently ‘live’ now, this has been in unison with the Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership.

Whilst his term as Chairperson was reaching an end, Tom emphasised the importance of ‘community’ and of the relationships built with other people. He said: *“It is only through this that we as a youth council have done all this work, in a year when it has seemed like the rest of the world was against us.”* He continued: *“It is only through unity that can truly build the society in which we want to live. While it may seem in today’s Britain that this is becoming increasingly difficult, with all the divisions sewn into society at the moment, this youth council continually gives me hope for the future of the district and for the future of the country.”*

He finished by adding: *“Maybe, just maybe, the biggest impact of this youth council is not the actions we do or the changes we make, but the friends and relationships we make along the way.”*

Tom was thanked by his fellow members.

12. Acknowledgement of Member’s Service

Whilst this was a feature of all annual general meetings, it was agreed this would be postponed until next meeting, due to low numbers and the meeting being held online.

13. Election Results 2021/22 - Round 1:

The results of the online elections, were as follows:

Chairperson – Lily Haines; **Vice Chairperson** – Fin Smith; **Leader** – Ben Stone

14. Nomination of Co-Options

It was noted that last year's (2020/21) nominee's were Gloucestershire Young Carers; Gloucestershire Young Farmers, however it was also accepted that the last 12/18 months was not conducive to enabling their representation to happen. It was generally felt that both organisations should be approached to seek their interest in taking a role in the future.

15. Nomination of Officers & Leaders 2021/22 – Round 2:

It was noted that nominations for the following positions would be open from 26 June;

- a) **Principal Members:** Anti-Bullying; Environment; Health & Wellbeing; and Local Democracy.
- b) **Representatives to the British Youth Council:** 2 Positions

16. Nomination of Representatives to Neighbourhood Watch Association

Steve explained the background to this opportunity, highlighting the associations important work helping to support communities with their resilience in tackling community safety matters. The association meets quarterly and usually at Stroud Police Station. There are two representative roles available and these could be self-nominating roles, unless there were more than two expressing interest. Lily Haines put herself forward for one of the roles.

17. Calendar Dates for 2021/22

A copy of the calendar dates was circulated prior to the meeting – members were asked to note these for future reference.

18. SDYC Project Teams and Focus Groups – self nomination (voting and deputy members)

Members were encouraged to become active members of either the two project teams (Anti-Bullying and Environment) which work on one project; and / or the two focus groups (Health and Local Democracy), which work on more than one project.

19. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings and Events

- a) SDYC Health Focus Group Meeting – *Monday 14 June 2021*
- b) SDYC Anti-Bullying Project Team Meeting – *TBC*
- c) SDYC Environment Project Team Meeting – *TBC*
- d) SDC Members Information Event for Youth Service - *TBC*

20. Any Other Business

Local Election Results for SDC: Steve highlighted that the political administration for SDC was likely to be similar to the last 5 years, with a Labour led coalition with the Greens and Liberal Democrats.

21. Closing Comments from 2021/22 Chairperson

Lily thanked those who had voted for her in the online elections. She expressed many thanks to Tom for his service over the last 8 months as Chairperson and made reference to the challenges of doing so in the circumstances of the pandemic and chairing meetings online – this was also extended to all members that had participated, despite the difficulties many had faced. She expressed how keen she was return to normal face-to-face meetings when safe to do so and highlighted a strong desire to make progress with the many projects and programmes SDYC have lined up.

22. Date of the Next Meeting: Monday 21 June 2021