

NOTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON:



Date: Monday 30 May 2022

Time: 16:30

Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

Cate James-Hodges (<i>Archway School</i>)	P
Jack Blakey (<i>Berkeley Vale Youth Forum</i>)	P
Katie Bray (<i>Berkeley Vale Youth Forum</i>)	P
Fin Smith (<i>Cam & Dursley Youth Forum</i>)	P
Maxie Wells (<i>Cam & Dursley Youth Forum</i>)	P
Gabe Lowery (<i>Chalford Cubed Youth Forum</i>)	AP
Ely McFadden (<i>Chalford Cubed Youth Forum</i>)	A
Ben Stone (<i>Marling School</i>)	P
Megan Land (<i>Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF</i>)	P
Brandon Watkins (<i>Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF</i>)	P
Morgan Smith (<i>Rednock School</i>)	P
Charlie Hayward (<i>Stonehouse Action 4 Youth</i>)	AP
Alice Standing (<i>Stroud High School</i>)	P
Lily Haines (<i>Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF</i>)	P
Tom Wickham-Bassett (<i>Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF</i>)	P
Alyssa Pearce (<i>Thomas Keble School</i>)	A
Phoebe Davies (<i>Wotton Youth Forum</i>)	AP
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>)	AP
Olivia Burke (<i>Nailsworth and Minchinhampton YF</i>)	A
Barney Cookson (<i>Thomas Keble School</i>)	P
Joel Clark (<i>Wotton Youth Forum</i>)	A

EX-OFFICIO

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 (SDC)
Seb Williams, Youth Work Officer (SDC)
Cllr Nigel Prenter (SDC)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The retiring Chair welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting (AGM), those attending for the first time. Apologies are listed on the record above.

2. Minutes of the meetings on 14 February 2022 and 21 March 2022

The minutes of the main meeting on 14 February was approved as being accurate. Proposed by Brandon Watkins and Seconded by Cate James-Hodges.

The meeting on 21 March was not accurate and would be re-presented for approval at the next main meeting.

3. Matters Arising (from 14 February and 21 March)

a) SDC: Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review:

The involvement of SDYC in the LGA review, was acknowledged by those carrying out the work and by Stroud District Council – the subsequent report reflected a very positive position of continued development towards becoming an exemplar council.

b) Changes to Organisation / Group Representation:

It was noted that both Fin Smith and Brandon Watkins were now representatives of Cam and Dursley Youth Forum and Nailsworth and Minchinhampton Youth Forum respectively.

c) Litter Recycling Bins:

A response from SDC Waste and Recycling Service had been received, acknowledging that the bins were now looking 'tired'. The changes that had been made in recent years to the waste and recycling collection scheme were outlined. The Council have begun moving towards 3-way compartment bins to reflect the household kerb-side waste system, rather than the 4-way system used for the bins with SDYC logos attached, as well as other 'old-style' bins. The SDC Manager for this service has requested data on current usage of the bins and contamination problems. This information will be shared with SDYC once it's received.

4. Correspondence

SDC Customer Care Standards

SDC are refreshing their Customer Care Standards to ensure everyone that contacts / has contact from services, receive an excellent service. Principles are: Helpful; Friendly & Understanding; Fair & Honest; Accessible to Everyone; plus, statements on what to expect when contacting via various methods. This was an opportunity to assess and give feedback. Members agreed that the SDYC Leadership team should look at this in more detail.

Tell It Like It Is – Health-based Art Project

This was an opportunity for a few members to carry out some youth assessment work on a health-based art project / activity for 9–14-year old's with Create Gloucestershire. SDC's Healthy Lifestyles Officer was looking for two SDYC members to participate and give feedback. Jack, Katie, and Fin expressed an interest and would be sent more details.

SGS College & Creative Media – New Curriculum on Sustainable Futures

A new curriculum on sustainable futures is being developed by SGS College. Members were asked if they would be interested in developing or promoting this - they agreed that more information would be needed. Members acknowledged that SGS College had not enabled student representation to SDYC to exist for some years and would like to pursue this matter via promotion of SDYC – it was further noted that this may be best done in September.

Retiring Members

It was noted that the following members had now retired from SDYC: **Phoebe Davies** (Wotton Youth Forum); **Conner Roberts** (Cam and Dursley Youth Forum); **Ely McFadden** (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum).

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

Archway School – one student has come forward and expressed interest in being a new representative to SDYC. Respective information will be sent to the School Head, Kieron Smith who was taking a strong interest in student voice.

Berkeley Vale YF – the group were recently involved with helping recruit a new youth work service provider for Berkeley Town Council. This stemmed from their survey report presented last year and some advisory work since. They had been involved in the selection process including the viewing of presentations and use of a scoring matrix. Krunch (a youth service provider based in South Gloucestershire) had been chosen. They are currently waiting to meet them to further the groups work to ensure improvement are made to the area for young people.

Cam & Dursley YF – no report.

Cainscross YF - no representatives were present.

Chalford Cubed YF – no representatives were present.

Hardwicke YF – no representatives were present.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – no representatives were present.

Maidenhill School – no representatives were present.

Marling School – no report.

Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF – the group had recently welcomed a new member, Ava Clements.

Rednock School – no report.

Stonehouse Action 4 Youth – no representatives present.

Stroud High School – no representatives present.

Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF – communication with Stroud Town Council regarding 'The Bench Project' had been pursued but with no response.

Thomas Keble School – no report

Wotton YF – no representatives present.

6. Leadership Team Report from meeting on 25 April 2022, presented by Ben Stone

Plan B for AGM & 2022-23 Officer/Leadership Nominations & Elections: In light of the need to reschedule the SDYC Annual General Meeting, the Leadership Team made plans to complement the online elections and encourage more members to interact beforehand, with a 'social event' on 7 May.

Members were asked to note; *that the Leadership Team agreed the details of a youth voice social event, a revised timetable for nominations & elections, and a rescheduled date for the AGM.*

Updates on Project Teams and Focus Groups: Having viewed the proposed key projects and issues for 2022/23, a particular for discussion was had on the statutory youth voice project and its links to the SDYC Safeguarding Standards Group's work with the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

Members were asked to note; *that the Leadership Team considered the current projects and issues that needed actioning and made a note of the proposed list of key projects and issues for 2022/23 listed from the recent Annual Review event.*

Manifesto Proposals: Following the Main Group's approval of proposed statements for the 2022/23 SDYC Manifesto, the Team prepared presentations for the following: *Environment, Carbon Neutral & Climate Emergency* statement; plus, *Youth Voice & Safeguarding* statement.

Members were asked to note; *That the Leadership Team prepared the manifesto statement presentations ahead of formally proposing them at the AGM.*

Meeting with the Stroud Member of Parliament – Update: The Team felt it was a good idea to accept a meeting in September with Siobhan Baillie, Stroud MP.

It was recommended to members; *that a meeting is set up with the Stroud MP for September and that two meetings per year are considered for the future.*

SDC Performance Monitoring Meetings: The team discussed attendance at the following meeting: Community Services & Licensing (11 May); Strategy & Resources (12 May) Housing (16 May).

Members were asked to note; *those members of the Leadership Team would endeavour to attend the forthcoming SDC Performance Monitoring meetings, with the representational support from the SDYC Chair and Vice Chair.*

The report was proposed by Ben Stone; seconded by Tom Wickham-Bassett and approved by members.

7. Manifesto Statements, presented by Cate James-Hodges and Tom Wickham-Bassett

Both of the following statements had been approved by the 2021/22 membership for inclusion as proposals for the 2022/23 SDYC Manifesto – the formal proposals were:

a) Environment, Carbon Neutral and Climate Emergency

'As the lead youth voice organisation in the district, Stroud District Youth Council will continue to encourage young people and all educators to be actively involved in the efforts to become carbon neutral and address climate and ecological emergency by 2030.'

Proposed by Cate James Hodges and Seconded by Ben Stone. Following a formal vote, this statement was approved for inclusion in the 2022/23 SDYC Manifesto.

b) Youth Voice and Safeguarding

'Stroud District Youth Council believes that children and young people cannot be adequately safeguarded, unless they know their rights and are able to exercise all their rights according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child UNCRC.'

Proposed by Tom Wickham-Bassett and Seconded by Brandon Watkins. Following a formal vote, this statement was approved for inclusion in the 2022/23 SDYC Manifesto.

8. Annual Review Report from event on Monday 21 March 2022, presented by Ben Stone

A report was presented on the outcomes of the SDYC Annual Review Event that took place at Ebley Mill.

a) What's Changed, Changing & Not Changed

Part One

The workshop enabled members to look back over the last 12 months with the aid of the notes from main meetings. *A timeline featured 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 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.

Impact made in the last 12 months: As a result of the work carried out by members...

What's Changed?

- Involvement with development of SDC *Equality, Diversity & Inclusion* draft policy
- Involvement in SDC Performance Monitoring.
- Involvement with development of SDC Council Plan.
- Co-designed Youth Voice Collective logo.
- Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy input / consultation.

- Participated in Community Organising Training.
- Included Racial Equality statement in Manifesto.
- SDYC spoke at SDC Council – First time Ever!
- Consulted on 'Active Stroud' Branding.
- Invited and attended interviews with LGA Peer Review of SDC
- Articles in Stroud News Journal by SDYC leader.
- Jemma's departure.
- Re-Acquainted link with Neighbourhood Watch Association.

What's Changing?

- Recruitment/selection of Youth Officer.
- Youth friendly GP Surgery initiative.
- Regular updates from SDC Healthy Lifestyle Officer at Health Focus Group.
- Involvement with the 2030 Community Engagement Board / environmental pressure groups.
- New T-Shirts.
- C- Card Training.
- Promotion of UNICEF Right Respective Schools Program.
- Statutory Youth Voice Project / Campaign.
- New Members Welcomed.
- Mental Health First Aid Training (Accredited Training).
- Litter/ recycling bins refurbishment.
- Joined Votes at 16 Coalition.
- 2030 Strategy Input.
- Involvement with SDC Hear by Right assessment.
- Recruitment of SDYC reps.
- Relationship with Eddystone Trust regarding Sexual Health Services.
- Interacting with MP's.
- Influencing SDC Decision Making.

What's Not Changed?

- Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership's Youth Empowerment Project.
- Active support for Stonehouse Train Station campaign.
- No Election of co-options.
- Initial opportunity to develop relationship Future ME Gloucestershire not pursued due to their uncertain future.
- No Policy Motions to British Youth Council.
- Involvement with Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group.
- Progress with Anti-Bullying Project.
- Interaction with County Councillors.
- No interaction with Political Group Leaders.
- No promotion of Kooth and mental health support services.
- Stigma and lack of teaching around disabilities.
- No profiling of COVID impact on Young People.

Part Three

Key Projects and Issues 2022/2023

It was generally felt that previous key projects and issues should continue – with the following either incorporated into established projects and issues or will be developed as a specific project.

The following should be added:

- Support the campaign for a second Train Station for Stonehouse.
- Pursue potential involvement with Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group.

- Involvement with the recruitment/selection of an SDC youth work officer.
- Regular updates from SDC Healthy Lifestyle Officer at Health Focus Group.
- Involvement with the 2030 Community Engagement Board
- Promotion of UNICEF Right Respective Schools Program.
- Encourage SDC to refurbish SDYC branded litter recycling bins.
- Get more involved with Votes at 16 Coalition.
- Involvement with SDC Hear by Right assessment.
- Continue involvement with SDC's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy.
- Continue involvement in SDC Performance Monitoring.
- Continue involvement with Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy work / consultation.
- Continue links with Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Part Four

Members expressed their highlights and low points of the last 12 months. They were as follows:

Highlights

- Opportunity to work with SDC more through scrutiny/performance monitoring.
- New members joining in March 2022.
- Local Democracy Focus Group projects regarding Statutory Youth Voice.

Low points

- Jemma leaving and no replacement recruited (to date).
- Low attendance at SDYC meetings, during and post covid pandemic.
- Got 'slammed' at British Youth Council online ACM → (Not members fault)
- British Youth Council's online meetings: Awful!
- 2030 Community Engagement Board
- Relationship with Member of Youth Parliament was not positive.
- No photoshoot with Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership following a lot of work.
- A Local Strategic Partnership meeting.
- No progression with Youth Friendly GP Surgery initiative.

It was noted that since the Annual Review Event, SDYC were now being represented on both the Gloucestershire Climate Youth Group and the 2030 Community Engagement Board by Cate James-Hodges and Megan Land.

The report was proposed by Ben Stone and seconded by Brandon Watkins. Following a vote, the list of Key Projects and Issues were approved for 2022/23.

9. British Youth Council (BYC) Report

Steve ran through the latest BYC Members Newsletter and highlighted the following: The series of regional youth voice conventions coming up on 25 June (see item 19d); various news regarding the UK Youth Parliament activities; and the process for submitting policy motions to the BYC Annual Council Meeting. There were also details of an opportunity to gain mentoring support for those aged 16 to 30, who are considering a political career.

10. SDYC involvement with SDC Performance Monitoring – reports from recent meetings

a) Housing – presented by Cate James-Hodges

Cate attended and reported the following: Possibly the least amount of overlap or synergy regarding the work of SDC's Housing Service with young people, however Cate raised the point that there is nothing available to enable young people to get onto the property ladder. She suggested a 'jargon buster' is introduced regarding the high number of abbreviations and technical words used throughout. Discussion on the number of 'void' properties, those that were owned by SDC but not suitable for living in. Cate also noted the efforts to move towards enabling SDC tenants to live in more energy efficient properties.

b) Strategy & Resources - presented by Ben Stone

Ben attended with Cate and reported the following: A wide range of services seemed to feature in this performance monitoring meeting, which made it difficult to follow – once again, a 'jargon buster' was suggested by SDYC representatives to help with use of abbreviations and technical words.

c) Community Services & Licensing – presented by Tom Wickham-Bassett

Tom attended with Cate and reported the following: There was discussion on food banks, regarding the barriers and referral requirements. SDYC was acknowledged in the Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy. General feeling from SDYC representatives was that this performance monitoring felt the most organised.

11. Chairpersons Report for 2021/22 – Lily Haines

Lily gave a comprehensive report on the last year, reflecting on the challenges and barriers that have occurred, as well as the achievements from the hard work of those involved. She highlighted that the covid pandemic had continued to restrict the progress of various projects and initiatives, but acknowledged that some had flourished through the commitment, leadership and influence of established members; notably Ben Stone, Cate James-Hodges and Tom Wickham-Bassett. Lily stated that the new opportunities to work closer with SDC decision-making through assessing committee work plans for example, were an important feature of the year - from having input into the overarching Council's Plan and formation of strategies such as Leisure and Wellbeing, to the performance monitoring work, it's still been a progressive and impactful 12 months. Whilst youth work staff recruitment hadn't gone to plan following Jemma's departure, she thanked Steve and Seb for their tireless commitment throughout.

Lily made references to the youth councils increasing profile and impact with other organisations - some for the first time, such as Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership. She included the Local Strategic Partnership as another example of a long-term relationship and the positive effects of SDYC can have when involved with 20-year strategies such as the SDC Leisure and Wellbeing.

Lily thanked all youth council members and the Councils youth work staff. She said that the collective dedication to influencing change in our community has inspired her greatly and added: *'Without you, our youth workers would not be able to facilitate young people's voices as much as they have, and I am sure this next year will bring even more success and impact to the youth council's work.'*

Lily continued: *'As my term of Chair comes to an end, I would like to thank all our members for their devotion to their roles, for being there when I have not, for staying passionate about their work even after facing many changes in recent years. Over the last 5 years I have been on the youth council, I have been involved in many projects, seen many Chairs come and go, and been able to experience the development of the youth council's work and partnerships firsthand. I have grown up being part of SDYC, from 13 to nearly 18, and I am thoroughly grateful for this experience and the effect that it has had on young people such as ourselves both in Stroud and Gloucestershire. I urge all of you to make the most of the unique opportunities SDYC gives us, to stay committed, to stay involved. Across the years my biggest sentiment has always been to go for that leadership role: despite how confident you feel. You are all part of the future of yourselves and the youth council, so make the most of it, don't be afraid to step up and give back.'*

Lily concluded with a quote from Franklin D. Roosevelt: *'We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.'*

Lily was thanked by her fellow members and youth work staff.

12. Acknowledgement of Member's Service

This item was postponed until next meeting, due some data not being available.

13. Election Results 2022/23 - Round 1:

a) Round 1 Results

The results of the online elections, were as follows:

Chairperson – Brandon Watkins; **Leader** – Cate James-Hodges

14. Nomination of Co-Options

It was noted that last year's (2021/22) nominees were Gloucestershire Young Carers; Gloucestershire Young Farmers, however it was also accepted that the last 2 years was not conducive to enabling their representation to happen. It was agreed nominations would be considered further at the next meeting.

15. Nomination of Officers & Leaders 2022/23 – Round 2:

It was noted that nominations for the following positions would be open from 31 May:

- a) **Vice Chairperson**
- b) **Principal Members:** *Health & Wellbeing; Environment; Local Democracy; Anti-Bullying*
- c) **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 interests. Tom undertook this role last year and shared his thoughts and experiences on being involved. It was agreed this would be considered at the next meeting.

17. Calendar Dates for 2021/22

A copy of the calendar dates was not available but would be presented at the next meeting.

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 Safeguarding Standards Group Meeting – TBC
- b) 2030 Community Engagement Board Meeting – *Tuesday 7 June 2022*
- c) Local Strategic Partnership Meeting – *Friday 10 June 2022*
- d) BYC Southwest Youth Voice Convention, Exeter College – *Saturday 25 June 2022*

20. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

21. Closing Comments from 2022/23 Chairperson

Brandon thanked those who had voted for him in the online elections. He expressed many thanks to Lily for her service over the past year as Chairperson. He encouraged all members to participate and take the opportunities made available, highlighting that 'you only get out, what you put in'. He added that he was keen to help others to get involved and was looking forward to working with all members during the next 12 months.

22. Date of the Next Meeting: Monday 20 June 2022