



# NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON

14.07.2008

**Venue:** Stroud Youth Centre

## YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Natalie Smith, Archway  
 Freddie Whittaker, Archway  
 Thomas Lydon, Marling\*\*  
 Rob Price, Marling  
 Meg Brown, Wotton YC  
 Alex Jones, Cam & Dursley YF  
 Jessica Howell, Cam & Dursley YF  
 Ellie Cairns, Thomas Keble  
 Liam Baker, Thomas Keble  
 El Linsell, Stroud High  
 Rosemary Dickinson, Stroud High  
 Matt Stump, Berkeley Vale Youth Project  
 Luke Smith, Berkeley Vale Youth Project  
 Harriet Dudbridge, Katharine Lady Berkeley's  
 Hilary Dixon, Katharine Lady Berkeley's  
 Toby Gardener, Stonehouse Youth Forum  
 Matt Hellier, Stonehouse Youth Forum

### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

Rebecca Redding, Thomas Keble  
 Cameron Patterson, Thomas Keble  
 Kieran Nurdin, Archway  
 Beth Townsend, Archway  
 Sophie Coleman, Berkeley Vale Youth Project  
 Sian Ainsworth, Katharine Lady Berkeley's  
 Henry Guy, Katharine Lady Berkeley's  
 Rebekah Batting, Cam & Dursley YF

### **EX-OFFICIO**

A	Anna Pearson, Stroud College	A
Ap	Gordon Pritchard, Nailsworth YC	A
P	Mike Green, Nailsworth YC	A
P	Owen Wichard, Stroud College	A
A	Emily Thomas, Stroud High	A
P	Danielle Russell, Minchinhampton YC	A
P	Rhian Davies, KLB	A
P	James Austin, KLB	A
P	Erfan Fadaei, Marling	A
P	Amy Barker, Wotton YC	A
P	Tinake Van Ginkel, Stroud College	A
A	Ashley Skuse, Wotton YC	A
Ap	Emma Mears, Cam & Dursley YF	A
Ap	Rose Horton, Stroud High	Ap

### **CO-OPTIONS**

**\*\* = Chair   \* = Vice-Chair   P = present   A = absent   Ap = apology**

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Steve Miles, Senior Hear By Right Youth Officer, SDC  
 Sinead Chambers, Business Support Assistant, SDC  
 Cllr John Jeffreys, SDC Cabinet member for Health & Leisure

## Youth Council Minutes

### Welcome & Apologies for absence

The Acting Chair welcomed members to Stroud Youth Centre. Apologies were received from Rose Horton, Beth Townsend, Luke Smith, Sophie Coleman, Harriet Dudbridge, Hilary Dixon, Freddie Whittaker, Cllr Sarah Lunnon, and Cllr Karon Cross.

### Minutes of last meeting – 14 July 2008

The minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

### Matters arising

a) *Visit to Ark House – feedback*

Liam, Jess, Hilary and Ellie visited Ark House. Members received a brief tour and an overview of how this venue operates as housing for homeless 16 – 25 year olds. They have 3 buildings in which client's progress from a supported environment to independent living over an average period of 6months. The Youth Initiative Grant given to them has been used to buy an exercise bike to date, with other things to follow. Ark House invited SDYC members along to their next open day to have a greater look around and meet some of the clients there - question and answer opportunities will be available. The open day is on the 8 August. Liam, Jess and Alex were all interested in going to the open day.

b) *Stroud SCS Project Team – update*

Project team members have been unable to meet yet due to holiday commitments and were also unable to attend at short notice, the 'adult event' held on 27 June at the Sub Rooms. Tom, El, Rob and Rosie have agreed to sit down and discuss this matter as soon as possible.

c) *Stonehouse Rotary Club Invite*

Steve hasn't had any feedback from the Rotary club yet as regards what was being expected. What is understood is that they have themes throughout the year at their meetings and the one in September is based on young people, hence why they have got in touch with the youth council.

d) *Election of Youth Cabinet Leader*

Alex proposed Liam Baker and Rob seconded. The motion was passed. Liam would be the new Youth Cabinet Leader until the Annual general meeting in October.

e) *Youth Opportunity Fund Application – feedback*

The application drafted by Harriet to support members training programme for the next 12 months was successful with a grant of £3500. Further funding would be required to underpin the scheduled programme.

f) *Two Year Membership – to receive draft document*

Steve presented a draft document regarding the idea of a two year membership. The principal aim is to increase the levels of participation and active involvement of members in the role of district youth councillor. Among the objectives are; to improve continuity and involvement thus being more effective, allow members to personally develop further, and have more and different types of training.

A new structure was produced to reflect the new election process. A breakdown of when schools, colleges and local youth forums would hold elections (in which to break the current cycle) was presented and highlighted that all membership groups/organisations would elect representatives during September 2008, with half of the collective groups/organisations re-electing in September 2009 and the other half re-electing in September 2010. Each membership group/organisation would then re-elect every two years thereafter.

A question was asked of how the membership groups/organisations were divided? Steve outlined that is was based on balancing a equal set of schools, colleges and local youth forums from different geographical areas but with no prejudice towards any particular group/organisation.

It was agreed to develop the draft document into a formal proposal for presentation at the Annual General Meeting in October under 'Changes to the Constitution'.

### **Correspondence**

1. Youth Bank UK are offering a training package for young people who are involved in grant making. They have a range of resources including information, advice and guidance, monitoring and evaluating in addition to training courses to set up youth banks. They also produce training around the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds. Steve wondered if anyone was interested in doing the training package in connection with SDYC Youth Initiative Fund. This was agreed in principal by the members; however more information was needed around cost etc.
2. A British Youth Council annual convention celebrating 60 years is taking place in August – SDYC members have received an open invitation. The event will be held at Nottingham Trent University. Following interest from Tom, Rob, Jess, El, Liam and Alex, Steve agreed to obtain more information.

### **Play Work consult – Jane Bullows**

Jane had visited SDYC earlier in the year regarding the play work strategy, asking members if they could give a view point on the following three questions;

- *What type of consultation and how could it look?*
- *Play Work logo ideas - what should it look like?*
- *New web site – would young people use it & how should it look?*

During her return visit, the following responses were received from members;

- Questionnaires are possibly not a good idea, because whilst people can fill them in at their leisure, you may not get the best result with regard to returns.
- Do questionnaires 'out on the street' and get people to fill them in with you.
- Focus groups are good because people can just keep coming up with ideas, but if you are doing a questionnaire on the street you don't really have time to think about it.
- Take them to youth forums and schools.
- Go to play areas e.g. skate parks, multi use games areas.

The four local youth forums in existence and affiliated to the district youth council could act as focus groups. Jane would like members to help deliver consultation with these groups.

Jane talked about having a play work logo, as they don't actually have one that represents young people. Jane asked members if they have had any thoughts on logos like colour, size etc.

Members suggested what they **wouldn't** want to see on a logo;

- Black and white
- Little people that don't look like people – stick people
- No cartoon characters – it makes it too young
- Lots of writing

One member suggested having a circle with a skate ramp in the background and a slide in front of it and just the word play. Members also suggested making it into a competition and getting prizes. Jane asked members if they could give Steve feedback at the next meeting e.g. select some secondary

schools and primary schools. It was suggested that the winning design may need to be changed to suite; Jane was very reluctant to change a winning design thus changing someone's work.

It was suggested that the current Stroud District Council website is not something that young people go and look at - Jane is therefore creating a separate website for play development with a newsletter page informing people what's going on. It was highlighted that their could be an option to have a youth forum element. Member's opinions on the idea of a dedicated website were as follows;

- Colourful font needed
- More graphics, less words
- Loud colours, no dark ones
- Would like games option
- Link it to school/local youth forum and district youth council websites

### **Update from schools, colleges and local youth forums – members update and information sharing**

*Cam and Dursley Youth Forum* – Have won another award (jointly with World Jungle), this time with the Gazette; the one off 'youth award' was given as a result of being nominated by a local youth worker and was given to the youth forum because of the community based work they have done during the last 2 years. Cam and Dursley Youth Forum are also doing fun days with World Jungle during the summer.

*Thomas Keble* – are the first school in the country to win International Comenius Project Award three times in a row. TK are looking at tuning in with the elections and the two year membership.

Katharine Lady Berkeley – came joint 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Latin plays.

### **Youth Cabinet Report – Youth Initiative Fund Applications**

Liam reported that the Youth Cabinet had met regarding the latest round of Youth Initiative Fund applications, of which there were four entries. The following was reported and outcomes proposed by Liam (the agreed outcomes are stated in italics);

**Severnside Scouting (1<sup>st</sup> Frampton Guides and Rangers)** were asking for £5000, they have been running since pre-war and they have over 30 girls and over 70 scouts. This money was to re-model and modernize their toilet facilities which will also make them more accessible to disabled users.  
*It was proposed to award them £1000 - **Resolved***

**Scratch and Skate**, a local festival for Cam & Dursley, is in its third year. It is planned that over 200 young people will access and be involved with live music and DJ's, MC's and various bands. The week long event hopes to attract interest from local young people. A total of £300 was requested.  
*It was proposed to award them the full £300 - **Resolved***

**Maxine Ashby** is a local young musician and was asking for £884 towards her tuition fees. She has been playing various instruments since the age of 5years and has been playing the piano for 2 years - her mum is now unable to afford to pay for her future lessons. She has very high grades in music and is currently on grade 6. Youth Cabinet highlighted that whilst this is clearly an exceptionally talented individual, this grant fund is not set up to support individuals. However, they were keen to 'sign post' her to other grants that do, i.e. the Youth Opportunity Fund and the County Youth Arts Grant.  
*It was proposed to forward a letter highlighting the above – **Declined***

**Eastcombe Scouts** were asking for £1000 to purchase tents to replace their current old and well worn out ones. A camping trip on how to look after the tents was being planned by them in September – any such new ones would be used for this purpose.  
*It was proposed to award them £1000 - **Resolved***

Jess seconded this proposal – the vote was unanimous.

## **Stroud Fringe Festival**

No report available as Freddie wasn't in attendance.

## **Litter Recycling Pilot Project**

The project team met last week to decide what design the bins should be and what art work should go on them. They decided to go for strong colours with a generic picture covering the front and two sides of each bin. The picture should be that of an 'idyllic countryside scene' depicting Stroud as a district. The previously researched 'scary facts' regarding rubbish from the Stroud District would also feature as would the previously agreed campaign slogan. The project team proposed that they should create short stories involving wildlife and farm animals that are affected by litter and general rubbish. Each bin will have its own individual story but when compiled will all be part of one large story. Steve added that a graphic designer would produce this art work via the SDC Marketing department and above information will be forward to them as soon as possible. It was highlighted that once all the above has been produced, the bins should be ready within 6-8 weeks.

## **Climate Change Panel Event – Report**

EI and Steve attended the recent event held at Egypt Mill, Nails worth. The panel of national and local experts covered topics in relation to climate change, whereby advice and recommendations will be forwarded to SDC thereafter.

Outcomes for SDYC include an open invitation to a zero carbon home designed and built by Mike Hillard of Rodborough – the house entitled 'Tranquility' is a private home for Mike and his family but also offers evidence that a zero carbon foot print is possible when used as part of a dedicated lifestyle. Mike advises companies and organizations all over the world about issues concerning climate change and has carried out detailed research on the subject. Members agreed to take Mike up on his invitation – Steve will contact him to arrange this as soon as possible.

Severn Wye Energy Ltd an organization that delivers advice and guidance in addition to programmes of research and education on the subject of energy, also asked SDYC if involvement in an educational programme was of interest. It was agreed Steve and EI should find out more about the programme's and to report back at the next meeting.

## **Members Training Event – Autumn 2008**

Steve highlighted that he was currently looking for a venue and dates in October for the 4 day, 3 night residential event. He added that once all elections are complete in the September information is forwarded to elected members regarding the event. Whilst Whitemead Forest Park, the accommodation venue for the last two years would be ideal, they have given mixed answers to recent enquires with the latest response highlighting they have no vacancies for the chosen dates. However Steve expressed some concerns as to the reasons for this. Further work would be done on this matter.

## **Any Other Business**

No other business.

**Date of the next meeting** – Monday 4th August 2008, at Stroud Youth Centre.