



NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON

15.10.2006

**Venue: Whitemead Forest Park, Parkend,
Nr. Lydney, Glos.**

Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

Amy Jade, Minch Youth Club	A	Meg Brown, Wotton Youth Club	P
Ashley Skuse, Wotton Youth Club	P	Ben Smith, Stroud College	A
Becky Perry, Peer Education Group	A	Ruth Royall, Stroud Youth Centre	A
Dean Morgan, Archway	A	Ceri Wills, Rednock	Ap
Elsie Kenny, Rednock **	Ap	Josephine Marshall, Stroud High	A
Erfan Fadaei, Marling	A	Josh Conway, Painswick Youth Club	A
Georgina Greenwood, Stroud High	A	Ben Challis, Marling	Ap
Joe Tarran, Painswick Youth Club	A	Danielle Russell, Minch Youth Club	P
Katherine Birkin, Thomas Keble	Ap	Amy Lang, Dursley Youth Centre	A
Sam Durn, Stroud College	A	Mandy Noble, Cashes Green YP	A
Tadhg Martin-Haydock, Thomas Keble	A	Freddie Whittaker, Archway *	P
Stuart Gardener, Maidenhill	A	Max Webb, Stonehouse YC	A
Dan Mcintosh, Maidenhill	A	Kelly Hooper, Cashes Green YP	A
Rose Horton, Stroud High	P	Oliver Timms, Marling	A
Emily Thomas, Stroud High	P	Alex Jones, Cam & Dursley YF	P
James Austin, KLB	P	Emma Mears, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Thomas Lydon, Marling	P	Rhian Davies, KLB	P
Gordon Pritchard, Nailsworth YC	P	Mike Green, Nailsworth YC	P
		Tiggy Elmer, Minch Youth Club	Ap

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Miles, Senior Hear By Right Youth Officer, SDC
 Kathleen Maunsell, Glos Youth Service
 Danny James, Glos Youth Service
 Cllr Dennis Andrewartha
 Sinead Chambers, Youth Council Support Officer, SDC

WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Freddie Whittaker (Vice Chair) chaired the Annual General Meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from the following;

Phil Sullivan, Head of Community Safety, SDC
 Tiggy Elmer, Minchinhampton Youth Club
 Cllr. Chas Fellows,

Cllr. Barbara Tait,
Cllr Miranda Clifton,
Cllr Elisabeth Bird,

NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Copies of the previous minutes were unavailable for this meeting so Steve gave a brief report.

REVIEW OF THE LAST YEAR & IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

Steve presented the outcomes from the last meeting. These can be found in the minutes of Monday 2nd October 2006.

AMMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

- a) **PART 2, COMPOSITION. To read:** - *'The youth council comprises of 2 voting representatives and 2 deputies from each youth club or forum under the remit of Gloucestershire Youth Service in the Stroud district.'*

Proposed by: - Freddie Whittaker, Archway School.

Seconded by: - Meg Brown, Wotton Under Edge Youth Centre.

This motion was passed.

- b) **PART 2, THE CABINET. To read;** - *'The Vice –Chair is not eligible to stand for election to the cabinet.'*

Proposed by; - Freddie Whittaker, Archway School

Seconded by; - Danielle Russell, Minchinhampton Youth Club

This motion was passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & CABINET

The following youth councillors were elected as officers of the youth council;

Chair – *Gordon Pritchard*

Vice Chair – *Rose Horton*

Leader of Youth Cabinet – *Rhian Davies*

The following youth councillors were elected as youth cabinet members

Community Cohesion – *Emily Thomas*

Environment & Rural Affairs – *Freddie Whittaker*

Finance & Corporate Services – *Emma Mears*

Health and Wellbeing – *Meg Brown*

Housing – *Ashley Skuse*

Planning – *Alex Jones*

Regeneration & Tourism – *Tom Lydon*

The meeting discussed a number of ways that ideas for the future could be implemented and the youth council could operate this year. James suggested having a group of youth councillors that visits all the youth clubs in the district to see what they are doing and how they do things - it was noted that it should be the responsibility of the representatives to inform the youth council of these aspects and encouragement should be given for them to do so.

In light of an exercise on 'consultation' earlier in the day facilitated by the Stroud Peer Education Group, James suggested the youth council should go out on the streets in particular towns and ask the youth population what they want – it was highlighted that a Questionnaire had been produced during the previous year and was ready for launch (see agenda item 7). It was agreed further consideration would be given to a 'consultation' project run by the youth council.

Tom suggested having two groups that focused on schools and youth clubs respectively and they could hold a meeting every 2 months. Freddie stated that the group would then be getting 2 inputs because the some youths go to youth clubs *and* go to school (and vice versa). The meeting was unclear how this would work and what benefit it would bring; particularly as much effort had been made to 'integrate' the two groups over the last year.

Freddie suggested that the Youth Council needed to establish two committee's that would undertake two defined areas of work. The group had highlighted this during the weekends training sessions and were in general agreement.

Rhian proposed that the youth council should establish a marketing and publications committee. It would cover the production of columns in local newspapers, have an active involvement in the development of the website into a more interactive resource and look at ways to introduce a range of 'branding items' e.g. t-shirts, hoodies, mugs etc. This was seconded by Meg and unanimously agreed.

Ashley proposed that the youth council should establish an events committee. This committee would undertake the coordination of events and activities, therefore they led by young people – current ideas include a local DJ event, a local live bands event and a social programme for youth councillors and young people to engage with.

UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Steve briefed the meeting what the UK Youth parliament was and that elections for this organisation would be held in January. He highlighted that both current voting & deputy representatives (Ceri Wills & Ben Challis) were members of Stroud District Youth Council during the last 2 years. This item is a permanent feature on the youth council agenda.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Freddie stated that the questionnaire is now ready to be launched after 18 months of preparation.

Steve said that the questionnaire (the youth council's first of it's kind) was designed to cover a number issues that needed further consultation. The highest number of returns from individual schools and youth clubs will each win a digital camera plus a the name on a completed questionnaire would be drawn at random 'from a hat' for a third digital camera prize – the consultation exercise has been set up to run until May 2007.

Alex said that they could hand the questionnaire out to tutors of each year / group at school.

It was suggested that some schools aren't interested. This was supported by James as he believed that schools who do not listen are a big problem - he highlighted that he didn't know anything about the youth council until he came away, suggesting that the profile of SDYC needs raising!

Emily suggested delaying the questionnaire to agree a sort promotion strategy before a grand launch.

This would be discussed at the next meeting.

FUTURE DATES FOR MEETINGS & EVENTS

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that meetings would be every 3 weeks initially and be reviewed after Christmas & New Year.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 30th October at 4:30pm at Stroud Youth Centre.

ANY OTHER BUISNESS

Steve thanked Freddie for chairing the meeting, for the attendance of Cllr. Dennis Andrewartha and those youth councillors present. Thanks were also expressed towards the staff team of Steve, Kathleen, Danny and Sinead for there work throughout the weekend.

They're being no further business the meeting was closed.