



NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON

25.02.2008

Venue: Stroud Youth Centre

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

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

DEPUTY MEMBERS

Rebecca Redding, Thomas Keble	A
Cameron Patterson, Thomas Keble	P
Kieran Nurning, Archway	Ap
Beth Townsend, Archway	P
Rosemary Dickinson, Stroud High	A
Sophie Coleman, Berkeley Vale Youth Project	Ap
Jessica Howell, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Rebekah Batting, Cam & Dursley YF	Ap
Sian Ainsworth, Katharine Lady Berkeley's	Ap
Henry Guy, Katharine Lady Berkeley's	Ap

EX-OFFICIO

Anna Pearson, Stroud College	A
Gordon Pritchard, Nailsworth YC	A
Mike Green, Nailsworth YC	A
Owen Wichard, Stroud College	A
Emily Thomas, Stroud High	A
Danielle Russell, Minchinhampton YC	A
Rhian Davies, KLB	A
James Austin, KLB	A
Erfan Fadaei, Marling	A
Amy Barker, Wotton YC	A
Tinake Van Ginkel, Stroud College	A
Ashley Skuse, Wotton YC	A

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
 Joanne Jordan, Stroud District Council
 Chris and Marmeena from Shelter Peer Education Homelessness Project.

Youth Council Minutes – Monday 7 January 2008

Welcome & Apologies for absence

The chair welcomed everybody to the Youth Centre including our guest speakers; Chris Keppie and Marmeena from Shelter Peer Education Homelessness Project and Jo Jackson from Stroud District Council.

Chris gave the group a presentation on the work that they do around the district for youths who are having problems at home and feel that they would like to move out of home or if they have already moved out and are 'sofa surfing' at friends. The project gives advice to young people who are having difficulties with living arrangements and they guide them through a process until they have somewhere comfortable to live, whether it is going into accommodation especially for young people or talking it through with the families involved. Marmeena gave her story of how she became homeless and how she became living where she is now. Homelessness for youths in Stroud is a big problem and there aren't enough spaces for them to go. There are only 2 homes in Stroud that can cater for their needs; The Painswick Inn Project and Ark House. These homes offer a place from the age of 16 – 25, there is a long waiting list for both projects. Members were keen to have another visit from the Shelter Peer Education Homelessness Project as they were very interested in the topic. Liam said that he would get into contact with Chris to see what they could arrange.

Minutes of last meeting – 10 December 2007

The Chair highlighted that an amendment to the minutes posted to members was needed, due to omitting unintentionally omitting from the Youth Cabinet report regarding the verbal resignation of Luke Smith as Youth Cabinet member for Finance. The election for this vacancy was added to the revised agenda as an item under matters arising.

Matters arising

- **Members training update** – Initially Steve wanted to hold another training event in the February half-term holidays but venues and dates for various activities & accommodation could not be synchronised. The group were interested in having another event, so Steve said that he would look into dates and get back to the group at the next meeting.
- **Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership Questionnaires** – No questionnaires were received at the meeting as members had filled them in and sent them back in the envelope provided.
- **Election of Vice Chair** – As Natalie had stepped down from Vice Chair it was now time to elect a new Vice Chair for the group. As both Rob and Tom were proposed by other members it had to go to a balloted vote. Tom was elected by a very small majority. They were both thanked for standing for this position.

Correspondence

- **Museum in the Park Walled Garden Project** – The museum were looking for young people to 'cast an eye' over their project and to cast opinions on the re-development of the garden. Members were very interested, so it was agreed the next meeting will be hosted by the museum – a 30 minute session would be allocated on the agenda for this activity to take place.

- **YOF/YCF Celebration Evening – 18 March 2008 – 6:00pm to 7:30pm** – The group were invited to an event at Shire Hall and to give a presentation display on SDYC. Rose, Jess, El, Hilary and Freddie were all interested.
- **Canal Restoration Project – Bridge to Bridge Project leaflet** – members were asked if they would like to design a leaflet for this, Nat, El expressed an interest, Alex was also mentioned as Youth cabinet member for Regeneration & Culture.
- **Gloucestershire Millennium Tree Party invitation** – The Great Gloucestershire Tree Party have invited members on the 4th March at Park Campus, University of Gloucestershire. Beth, Rob, Tom, El, Harriet, Hilary and Ellie were interested in participating.
- **Play Strategy Launch – 27th February 2008** – £200,000 has been awarded to Stroud District Council for play areas in the Stroud District from the Big Lottery Fund. Members were invited to come along to the launch which will be held in the restaurant at Stroud District Council. Jess and El agreed to attend.

SDC Budget Consultation Feedback – Cllr David Wride

Cllr. David Wride presented feedback on the SDC Budget Consultation carried out by members of SDYC in November/December 2007.

Students were asked to obtain opinions on the Council's budget via a questionnaire on spending priorities. Sixty-four questionnaires from schools and youth clubs were received. The feedback report was as follows;

1) The students were given a list of key services and asked whether they thought spending should be increased, decreased or remain at the same level.

a) Leisure Services was the students' highest priority (66%), with Town centre Improvements (57%) and Public Conveniences (51%).

b) The services that were most considered to require less spending were the Planning and Building Control (56%) and Car Parks (54%).

2) The students were asked whether there was any other area that they believed more money should be spent. Their answers are listed below:

a) Leisure activities – most wanted more things for teenagers to do e.g. skate parks (16/59)

b) Transport – there were a lot of comments about the cost of student bus fares (13/59)

c) Town Centres – cleanliness and safety (10/59)

d) Healthy Living – banning smoking in public areas (8/59)

e) Transport – encourage cycling and safer driving (3/59)

3) The students were asked whether there was any other area that they believed less money should be spent. There were very few responses to this (10 out of 64) and their answers were varied. Their answers are listed below:

a) Send less on flower baskets (3 responses)

b) Fair Trade (2 responses)

- c) Food shops (2 responses)
- d) Museum (1 response)
- e) Car Parks (1 response)
- f) Staffing (1 response)

4) The students were given four options in respect of increasing council tax. Of the 62 answers returned, the answers are as follows:

- a) 0% increase – 8/62 (13%)
- b) 2.5% increase – 5/62 (8%)
- c) 5.0% increase – 3/62 (5%)
- d) Other – local income tax preferred – 3/62 (5%)
- e) Don't know – 43/62 (69%)

5) The students were asked to prioritise six environmental policies. The results are summarised as follows:

	Low Priority	Medium Priority	High Priority	Very High Priority
Reducing anti social behaviour such as graffiti	43%	23%	18%	16%
Reducing the amount of dog waste	16%	28%	30%	26%
Removing fly tipping and abandoned vehicles quickly	21%	40%	30%	9%
Reducing litter and making streets cleaner	7%	40%	29%	24%
Improving the condition of parks and open spaces	7%	30%	22%	41%
Improving the habitats of wildlife	15%	30%	20%	35%

	Low Priority	Medium Priority	High Priority	Very High Priority
Encouraging households and communities to use renewable energy (e.g. wind, solar, water power)	16%	31%	20%	33%
Discouraging unnecessary car journeys	19%	35%	20%	26%
Encouraging walking, cycling and public transport	15%	27%	22%	36%
Encouraging households to invest in energy efficiency	13%	24%	33%	30%

The issue of Transport was raised, it being highlighted that concessionary fares for students did not exist – it was suggested that this issue be followed up by SDYC with view to seeking a reduction.

It was also highlighted that over 200 young people were consulted during this process – a huge increase on previous years. Members were thanked for their hard work on this important process for SDC.

Stroud Fringe Festival

Freddie presented the idea of SDYC being involved in this year Fringe Festival, either through personal involvement of individuals or as an official group. Members agreed that this would be good publicity for the youth council and would seek to be volunteers over the weekend. Tom, Rob, Liam, Ellie, Harriet, Jess and El were interested in this event.

Litter Recycling Pilot Project - update

- El gave an update on the progress of the project to date, highlighting the intended venues where bins would be sited. It had been suggested by the project team that a campaign should be carried out by SDYC to launch this project. A slogan would be also created and members were asked to forward ideas to Steve ASAP.

Stroud Night Bus Report

Due to the absence of Alex and Emma, Steve briefly mentioned that the recent re-launch had generally gone very well – SDYC members were very involved with this, having photos in the local press with interviews also being held.

Youth Cabinet Report

Freddie explained that the Youth Cabinet would be seeking to draft specific portfolios for Youth Cabinet positions – this was agreed to be the key project for them this year. To support this, members would be seeking to participate in ‘shadow days’ with their equivalent adult cabinet members in the April Easter holidays.

Assessment of the Gloucestershire Youth Offer would be another project the Youth Cabinet would undertake following a request from the Stroud Area Children & Young People Stakeholders Group who is overseeing the implementation of a local plan for integrating services across the district.

Germany Exchange Opportunity

Steve briefly explained that an opportunity may arise for some SDYC members to be involved in an exchange to Stroud’s twin district in Germany. More details would follow at the next meeting.

Hear by Right Group – adoption update

Following the progress of HBR towards adoption by SDC, members who had previously been part of this dedicated group agreed to meet again with view to being involved further. Steve agreed to arrange this and inform members in due course.

Updates from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forums

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

Any other business

Steve informed the meeting that Alex Jones & Emma Mears had been nominated for this year’s Gloucestershire Young People of the Year Awards, the presentation event will be held on Saturday 29 March 2008.

Steve conveyed the written apologies from a member of the Stroud Area Youth Service team following their comments made to SDYC members present at the recent interview event for the Senior Youth worker for Stroud. Members accepted these and now considered the matter closed.

Date of the next meeting – Monday 10 March 2008 @ Museum in the Park, Stratford Park