



**NOTES OF A MEETING HELD
ON 10th March 2003**

**Venue: Council Chamber
Stroud District Council**

Time: 4.30pm – 6.30pm

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

A= Apologies/Absent; P= Present

Nico Mustafic (Chair), Rednock	P	Marcus Angell, Marling	A
Katy Dainton (Vice Chair), Stroud High	P	Juzer Esmailji, Marling	A
Hollie Aldridge, Berkeley Vale	A	Iman Fadaei, Marling	P
Louisa Hayward, Berkeley Vale	A	Dan Snell, Marling	A
Jemma Grieve, Katharine, Lady Berkeley's	A	Catherine Jones, Stroud High	P
Sophie Mitchell, Katharine, Lady Berkely's	P	Dan Flack, Thomas Keble	A
Lisa Hogg, Maidenhill	A	Katy Costigan, Thomas Keble	P
Becci Saynor, Maidenhill	A	Euan Howard, Rednock	A
Sam Williams, Maidenhill	A	Alex Hutchinson, Stroud College	A

OTHERS PRESENT

Democratic Services Officer	Public Relations Officer
Community Safety Officer	Cllr Barbara Tait
Cllr Miranda Clifton	Cllr Tony Shortt
Anthony Bellringer, Electoral Commission	Annie Nayyar, Children & Young Peoples Unit
Vanda Brown, Children & Young Peoples Unit	Steve Miles, Youth & Community Service
Debbie Lang, Youth & Community Service	Cashes Green Youth Project
Fee Clark, Connexions	

SDYC02/03.14

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

An amendment was made to the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2003, the venue for the meeting was the Council Chamber and not the Members Lounge. Once amended the minutes were accepted as a correct record.

SDYC02/03.15

FUNDING REQUESTS

Cashes Green Youth Project

Dan and Kylie, two members of the Cashes Green Youth Club, presented a request for funds for disco equipment for the Cashes Green Youth Project. The club has only been open for 2 to 3 months but has already proven to be very popular with both juniors and seniors.

Councillor Tony Shortt added that the project was very well run and that any new equipment would be looked after.

The Community Safety Officer stated that the project was very well managed and that any additional equipment would be a boost to the children of Cashes Green.

After discussion the Youth Council decided that £800 should be given to the Cashes Green Youth Project.

RESOLVED: **£800 to be provided to the Cashes Green Youth Project towards disco equipment.**

Prima Arts Project

Debbie Lang presented a request from the Prima Arts Project for funds towards a art project working with young people. The project consisted of fridge doors being used for templates for graphitti art and involved pieces being done by professional artists and young people. The project also aimed to provide sex education to young people. Any contribution received from the Youth Council would go towards the cost of materials. Funding from the Youth Service was being given to the project.

After discussion the Youth Council stated that they felt that this project could be quite successful as Prima is well known. The Youth Council decided that £700 should be given to the Prima Arts project.

RESOLVED: **£700 to be provided to the Prima Arts project to contribute towards the cost of materials.**

Wotton-Under-Edge Team Scheme

Debbie Lang presented a request for funding from the Wotton-under-Edge Team Scheme for £500. The team scheme ran a number of events each year for youths that had helped to reduce the issues around crime and disorder in Wotton-under-Edge, the scheme operated in partnership with the Crime and Disorder Partnership. £1000 from the Crime and Disorder Partnership had been donated along with £500 from Wotton-under-Edge Town Council and £250 from Renishaws.

After discussion the Youth Council decided that £500 should be given to the Wotton-under-Edge Team Scheme.

RESOLVED: **£500 to be provided to the Wotton-under-Edge Team Scheme project to contribute towards the cost of materials.**

Stonehouse Youth and Community Centre

Debbie Lang presented a request for funding from the Stonehouse Youth and Community Centre for funding towards the cost of resurfacing the Basketball Court and fixing and improving the lights around the court.

After discussion the Youth Council decided that as the request was not urgent consideration of the request would be deferred to a later date.

Stonehouse Dance Group

Debbie Lang presented a request for funding from the Stonehouse Dance Group for £500 towards travel costs in order to allow the group to attend the Southwest Regional Finals for UK Youth which they had reached.

After discussion the Youth Council stated that it would be a shame not to help the group attend the finals when they had worked so hard to get to such a stage and so they decided to give £400 to the Stonehouse Dance Group.

RESOLVED: **£400 to be given to the Stonehouse Dance Group towards travel and accommodation costs for attendance at the Southwest Regional Finals.**

Minchinhampton Youth Club

Debbie Lang presented a request for funding from Minchinhampton Youth Club for a residential to South Cerney for a group of twelve people. It was estimated that the trip would cost around £288.

After discussion the Youth Council decided to give £288 to Minchinhampton Youth Club for the residential.

RESOLVED: **£288 to be given to Minchinhampton Youth Club towards the cost of a residential to South Cerney for 12 people.**

Several funding requests were deferred to be considered at the next meeting of the Youth Council.

SDYC02/03.16 CONNEXIONS

The Chairman invited attendees from Connexions to introduce themselves.

Fee Clark, the Community personal Assistant introduced herself and explained what Connexions was all about. She explained that Connexions was the new face of support services for young people aged 13 to 19 and had taken the place of the careers service. She explained that through first stop shops, access zones and personal advisors they would provide support, information, advice and access to new opportunities to young people, especially those in particular need. She stated that she hoped that Connexions would be able to work together with the Youth Council in the future.

The Chairman thanked Fee Clark for her attendance and welcomed the opportunity for the Youth Council to work closely with Connexions.

SDYC02/03.17 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES UNIT

The Chairman invited the Children's and Young Peoples Unit to introduce themselves, he apologised for the mistake on the agenda which referred to them as the National Youth Agency.

Vanda Brown introduced herself as a Team Leader for the Children and Young Peoples Unit, she also introduced Annie Nayyar of the Children's and Young Peoples Unit and Anthony Bellringer of the Electoral Commission. She informed the Youth Council that the Children and Young Peoples Unit was working together with the Electoral Commission on a project entitled Yvote?/Ynot?

Vanda Brown and Annie Nayyar described the work of the Children and Young Peoples Unit. The Children and Young People's Unit has the important task of supporting Ministers, including the Minister for Young People John Denham, as they develop, refine and communicate the Government's overarching strategy for children and young people. We are tasked with joining up policy-making across Departments and removing barriers to effective working. As part of this work the Children's and Young Peoples Unit are promoting active dialogue and partnership with children and young people, and with the voluntary sector. They are also responsible for the administration of the Children's Fund, which aims to prevent poverty and social exclusion amongst children and young people.

The Y Vote?/Y Not? Project aims to identify what young people think are the reasons behind the increasing evidence of voter disengagement, what needs to be done to tackle it and by whom.

Vanda Brown and Annie Nayyar also informed the Youth Council of a website entitled 'Headsup' which had been created by the Hansard Society and was currently piloting, the website offered information on Citizenship training and could be used by under 18s to discuss various youth issues.

The Youth Council were informed of Regional Roadshows that would be taking place across the country that would be looking at how young people should be engaged in local politics.

Anthony Bellringer described the 'New Initiatives Fund' to the Youth Council. The Electoral Commission have established a New Initiatives Fund to provide financial support for innovative projects which are aimed at raising public awareness and understanding.

The representatives from the Children and Young Peoples Unit and the Electoral Commission invited the Youth Council members present to discuss the issues raised, during the discussion the following points were raised: -

- It is important that the opportunity for young people to be involved in political discussion is available and accessible.
- The opportunity for Young People to engage with Government Ministers was a good idea.
- Citizen education in schools was a good idea and could help improve young peoples interest in politics, however Youth Council Members felt that it was important that it became a standard part of the curriculum to ensure that all schools were covering the subject.
- Class issues needed to be dealt with if voter turnout was to be improved as it was generally believed that the middle-upper classes were the ones empowered to vote.
- Young people tend to have a negative attitude towards politics and particularly politicians.
- Young people don't feel that their vote counts, the issue of University fees was raised as an example where young peoples views appear to have been ignored by Government.
- Education is important so that young people are not afraid of politics.

- The opinions of older generations needs to be addressed as young people will not be interested in politics if parents and grandparents are not.
- The issue of a feeling of isolation for young people in rural areas was raised.

The Childrens and Young Peoples Unit and the Electoral Commission representatives invited the Youth Council members present to discuss how political involvement amongst young people in Stroud could be improved, during the discussion the following points were raised: -

- Billboards and Posters advertising elections would be good as repetition of an event could make young people more aware of elections and the right to vote.
- It was generally felt that the Electoral Commissions cinema advert was a good idea.
- Democracy week was raised as an opportunity for something to be done to make young people aware of local political institutions and the opportunity to vote.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from the Children and Young Peoples Unit and the Electoral Commission for attending the meeting and suggested that the Youth Council looked at ways of becoming involved and perhaps tackling such issues that had been raised.

SDYC02/03.18 **SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS**

A number of agenda items were deferred to be discussed at the next meeting of the Youth Council as the meeting was suspended.

SDYC02/03.19 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was decided that the next meeting should be held soon as a lot of the business scheduled to be discussed today had to be suspended because of a lack of time, it was decided that the next meeting of the Youth Council should take place on Monday 24th March 2003 and would include the business that was not discussed today.