



NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON

11th October 2004

**Venue: Restaurant
Stroud District Council**

Time: 4.40 pm – 6:05pm

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

Ryan Castle, KLB	P	Chris Nicholls, KLB	P
Katy Dainton, Stroud College	P	Laura Northcott, Thomas Keble	A
Jenny Dando Stroud High	A	Justine Pemberton, Rednock	P
Nikki Deeley, Maidenhill	P	Emma Pinchbeck, Stroud High *	A
Alex Farrow, Marling	P	James Radford, Maidenhill	P
Grace Jackson, KLB	P	Rachel Rendell, Thomas Keble	A
Polly Lord, KLB	P	Frankie Rushton, Stroud High	P
Nico Mustafic **	P	Ceri Wills, Rednock	P

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Councillor Miranda Clifton	Dave Marshall, SDC
Councillor Barbara Tait	Steve Miles, Glos Youth Service
Councillor Dorcas Binns	Clive Hammond (Head of Accountancy and Audit)
Councillor Stephen Glanfield	Mark Harsant (Policy and Review)
Ann Sharman (Elections)	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS FOR 2004/05

The Chair welcomed new Members to the Meeting and all were invited to introduce themselves.

NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the previous meeting held on 20th September 2004 were accepted as an accurate record by those present. (The amendment of the incorrect name under 'Community Safety' is noted to be Phil Sullivan instead of Phil Park.)

FAREWELL FROM COUNCILLOR BARBARA TAIT

This was Councillor Tait's last meeting with the Youth Council; she is handing over to Councillor Dorcas Binns, following the full Council meeting on 14 October.

Councillor Tait expressed the enjoyment she has had from working with the Youth Council over the years. In response to this, Katy Dainton publicly thanked Councillor Tait on behalf of all Youth Council Members.

YOUTH CABINET REPORT

Two applications have been received for funding from the Youth Initiative fund. These are:

1. Break dancing Wreckognised Awards

This is intended for young people who are not in mainstream education. They have applied for £800. It was also suggested that the Youth Council logo is printed on the break dancer's sweatshirts etc in order to advertise the Council when they are performing. Funding was agreed.

The group are performing at the Youth Arts Showcase on 31 October at the Bacon Theatre.

2. Stroud GAP

This group is also concerned with young people who are out of the mainstream education system. The main aim is to provide training and information to young people who may not receive such help, in order to help them be self-sufficient.

It was agreed to support Stroud GAP.

BRANDING THE STROUD DISTRICT

Read & Woolf are working with the Local Strategic Partnership and Stroud District Council in order to find ways to promote the Stroud District, regionally, nationally and internationally.

They consider the Youth Council to be the future of the District and therefore value their opinions.

The presentation was of a sample website for the Youth Council to use in order to market themselves to the youth community. It is considered, a virtual place where young people can come together, incorporating a forum, SMS messaging and campaign tools, and has been designed to be driven by the Youth Council.

In general the feedback received was good and Members commented that the site looked impressive and indicated that in principle this was a tool they would like to have access to. Concerns of cost and accountability were raised, to which Read & Woolf stated that there was no specific budget and that it would be important to keep the site updated, not allowing it to go stagnant.

It was agreed that the Youth Cabinet would discuss details of this prior to the next Youth Council meeting on 01 November.

BUDGET 2005/06 CONSULTATION

Clive Hammond provided Members with a handout detailing Stroud District Council's priorities for the future. He explained that the Council is currently reviewing its annual spending and is required to put a report to Cabinet in December (Dec 16th). Clive asked the Youth Council to consider whether the items listed on the handout were priorities to them, and, should there be any changes?

Councillor Stephen Glanfield asked Members to consider the impact some decisions could make, for example: spending an extra £66,000 of revenue money would add 1% to Council Tax.

It was agreed that the Youth Council would take this information away and would run a workshop at the next meeting (01 November) to generate ideas and feed back into the budget process.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND DEMOCRACY

Ann Sharman invited 1-2 Members of the Youth Council to attend the 'Young People in the Election Process, Are we listening' conference in Brighton to be held February 2005.

Representatives of Stroud District Youth Council would form part of a panel including Youth Parliament Members and would be required to give a ten minute presentation of their views on the Youth role in the election process as well as fifteen minutes of questions and answers. The event is currently still in the planning stages, so Ann was unable to provide specific information about topics to be covered.

It was also noted that parental consent would need to be provided.

It was agreed that some of the Members not present at the meeting would be consulted and Ann will be informed of those wishing to attend.

PRESENTATION BY DANIEL MARSHALL

Daniel gave a presentation because he was concerned that he had not made himself clear in his previous letter.

Daniel has noted that religion is not a topic covered by the Youth Council's Constitution, yet equal opportunities are considered a key issue.

As a Cabinet Member last year, Daniel commented that whilst he considered it a worthwhile experience, learning new things, he didn't actually feel as though he had helped young people in his role. With these two issues in mind, Daniel proposed that there is an Inter-Faith Councillor elected to represent the Youth Council in order to act as the voice of youth regarding religion.

Daniel put himself forward for this role, saying that if it was decided this could go ahead, he would provide individual commitment to a group effort, in order to undermine and eradicate ignorance. This proposal was discussed and the following issues were raised:

There are other minority groups other than race who would also need to be considered and require representation

Practical achievable goals would need to be set

The majority should be considered alongside the minority.

It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the AGM.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Following Phil Sullivan's request at a previous Youth Council meeting, Community Safety has been added to the agenda as a standing item. There were no items to discuss this week.

TRAINING EVENT

Steve Miles provided a background to the training sessions and welcomed the new Members.

Steve confirmed that this year's training event would take place at Center Parcs, Longleat on 20-21 November.

The timetable for the event was not confirmed, although Steve mentioned that it would be similar to the previous year's i.e. 1 full day of training and the second day using the leisure facilities. A programme would be confirmed in time for the next meeting.

Steve is aiming to put a training package together, working with the peer working group in order to run a workshop regarding consultation.

The Youth Council AGM date was confirmed as being 22 November 2004.

POSSIBLE CHARITY EVENT

Following the success of the recent Youth Council Gig, Steve thought it might be good to arrange a black tie/ball social event, in order to bring Youth, MP's, District Councillors and dignitaries together.

This would be a paid ticket event, with proceeds going towards a young person's charity.

It was agreed that this was a good idea. In order to move this forward, it was agreed that a sub-committee would be drawn up.

It was noted that consideration should be made to under 18's regarding licences/venues etc, as this is a youth event.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alex had requested that a leaflet was handed out to all Members, giving details about an event encouraging Youth Councillors and District Councillors to talk with each other.

The final figures for the Youth Council Gig were announced as being £541. It was agreed to increase the amount given to each band from £50 to £60, and to put the remainder in the operational budget.

In response to discussions at the previous meeting to change the food provided at Youth Council meetings to include finger foods, Dave Marshall asked if today's food was an improvement. The general response was that this is OK, however it was requested that hot drinks and alternative cold drinks also be provided.

Dave Marshall also asked those Members who have not yet received an ID card to arrive 15 minutes early for the next meeting in order to arrange for photos to be taken and for the collection of cards.

Dave Marshall distributed leaflets regarding the Cotswold and Vale Primary Care Trust for Members to have a look through.

Katy Dainton reminded Members that there will be a Cabinet meeting on 1st November at 4 pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 1st November 2004, Council Chamber, 4.30pm