

## STROUD DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2000 at 4.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud.

### MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENT:-

Nina Costigan (Chair)	Thomas Keble
Cheryl Holley	Maidenhill
Dan Snell	Marling
Marcus Angell	Marling
Francesca Lane	Stroud High
Katy Costigan	Thomas Keble

### Also Present:-

Cllr Bob Eccles	Chair, Stroud District Council
David Marshall	Information Officer, Stroud District Council
Phil Sullivan	Community Safety Officer, Stroud District Council
Eddie Whitlock	Administrator, Neighbourhood Watch Association
Bernard Brown	Neighbourhood Watch Association
Dave Timbrell	“ “ “ “ “
Fred Chance	Stroud Team Leader, Youth and Community Service

### Apologies:-

Lucy Brookes	Berkeley Vale
Lee Stopford	Maidenhill

(It was also noted that Andrea Richings and Chloe Carpenter had left their respective schools and that Lawrence Anderson had resigned from the Youth Council)

<u>Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2000</u>	<b>Accepted as a correct record.</b>
<u>Youth Council Headed Notepaper</u>	The suggested logos circulated with the agenda were considered and one was chosen.  <b>A copy of the logo would be circulated with the minutes.</b>
<u>Stroud Substance Action Group</u>	Katy Costigan had attended the Action Group's meeting on 11 July and she explained who had been involved and gave a brief resume of current developments.

	<p>Phil Sullivan suggested that it might be useful if minutes from the Action Group's meetings were sent to the Youth Council and for the Youth Council to appoint a representative to attend their meetings and report back.</p> <p>A programme of Action Group meetings/venues would be available in due course.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that a separate representative would be appropriate for each Action Group meeting, to be decided as and when needed and depending on the programme of meetings; Katy Costigan agreed to attend the meeting due to be held in approximately one month.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Neighbourhood Watch Association</u></b></p>	<p>Eddie Whitlock explained the important role which the Association saw for involvement of young people in senior schools as contacts/co-ordinators on crime prevention issues.</p> <p>The Association would support the pupils with equipment to mark items of value, which assisted the Police in returning stolen property, and in promoting awareness of crime prevention. He asked whether the Youth Council supported the initiative as, with that support, he would feel able to approach the schools directly. However, the Council might wish to consider the matter further before any approach was made and a representative of the Association would be happy to visit any school wishing to know more.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that each member would discuss the matter within their individual school council to obtain their general view on the proposal and whether they wanted a visit by a representative of the Association.</b></p>
<p><b><u>High Sheriff's Fund</u></b></p>	<p>Phil Sullivan explained the 'Crime Beat Scheme' and that any bid for funding could be either Youth Council based or from an individual school. He would be happy to give further advice on any detailed suggestions for an initiative.</p> <p><b>The Council noted the information and Phil Sullivan agreed to request further leaflets on the Fund which he would bring to the next meeting for distribution to individual schools.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Stroud District Secondary Schools Drug Framework</u></b></p>	<p>Phil Sullivan distributed sufficient copies of the Framework for the schools represented at the meeting. Copies would also be sent to Heads of the other secondary schools.</p> <p>He stated that the Framework had been developed by Colin Hassall, was one of the first in the County to be implemented and related to drug education and the</p>

	<p>management of drug-related incidents.</p> <p><b>The Youth Council welcomed the initiative.</b></p>
<b><u>'Child Safe Scheme'</u></b>	<p>Phil Sullivan explained the scheme which provided a system, through shops, to assist when young children were lost. Training was given to an appropriate member of staff and the network included involvement with the Police. He gave examples of how the scheme had been able to successfully find children very quickly.</p> <p><b>The Youth Council noted the information.</b></p>
<b><u>Truancy in Senior Schools</u></b>	<p>Phil Sullivan explained the two issues involved, firstly the need for a system supported by both the Police and Education authorities and a pass designed to authorise a student to leave school premises during normal school hours.</p> <p>He emphasised that the main purpose of such a system would be as a preventative action to protect children.</p> <p><b>The Youth Council supported the scheme.</b></p>
<b><u>Age Concern – 'Message in a Bottle' Scheme</u></b>	<p>Phil Sullivan informed the Council of a scheme, originating in Australia, which was being promoted by Age Concern. Where vulnerable/elderly people lived alone, full details of important information such as medication, doctor's details, contacts etc., were kept, in a bottle, in the fridge (probably the last place to burn in a fire). In the event of an emergency these details could be of vital importance to ambulance/Police. The scheme would be in operation in Stroud shortly and countywide in due course.</p> <p>He suggested that if any of the Youth Council members knew of a person who would benefit from the scheme he would be pleased to have details.</p> <p><b>The Youth Council supported the scheme.</b></p>
<b><u>Save the Children Fund/National Youth Agency</u></b>	<p>Fred Chance gave brief information about a letter to Colin Hassall, from the Save the Children Fund, referring to an opportunity organised through the National Youth Agency about young people's participation in decision making. The South West was one area which was involved and he understood that two Learning Seminars were due to be held which members of the Youth Council might find interesting and useful.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that Fred Chance would obtain further details.</b></p>

<p><b><u>Stroud District Council – Cabinet Structure</u></b></p>	<p>David Marshall explained the District Council's past Committee system and its new Cabinet structure. The Leader of the Council, Mrs Nolder, was keen to involve Youth Council members and had suggested that they might wish to take their involvement in decision-making a stage further by forming a 'shadow' Youth Cabinet. Each cabinet member could be responsible for a particular area eg housing, could 'shadow' the relevant District Cabinet member and attend District Cabinet meetings to represent young people's views.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that the suggestion would be discussed at the next meeting.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Grant from Stroud District Council</u></b></p>	<p>David Marshall advised that the grant of £3,000 was now available and he would need suggestions from the Youth Council on how the money might be spent on benefiting young people.</p> <p>The fund was available for schemes through schools, village communities etc.</p> <p>He also referred to the separate funding provided by the District Council specifically for young people's initiatives. Fred Chance explained that this grant was for young people, or individuals working with young people, who were then given the responsibility of taking decisions on how the funding was spent.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that the matter should be discussed at the next meeting.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Participation in Youth Council meetings</u></b></p>	<p>The members present were disappointed at the lack of attendance of students at Youth Council meetings. It was appreciated that some members of the Council had now left their schools and that it was probably too early in the term at present for others to have been appointed.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that students other than those elected to the Youth Council would be encouraged by Council members to attend meetings (noting that only those elected should vote on items such as expenditure).</b></p>
<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p>	<p><b>The next meeting was scheduled for Monday 9 October 2000 at 4.30 p.m. at Ebley Mill.</b></p>

The meeting ended at 5.58 p.m.

Note: Copies of suggested new logos for Stroud Subscription Rooms are enclosed. At the moment, we are asking different people what they think. If you have a favourite, please let Dave Marshall know as soon as possible!