



NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

12.01.2009

Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill.

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

Thomas Lydon, Marling**	P
Rob Price, Marling	P
Alex Jones, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Jess Howell, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Liam Baker, Thomas Keble	P
Cameron Patterson, Thomas Keble	P
El Linsell, Stroud High	P
Rosie Dickinson, Stroud High	P
Jack Young, Archway	P
Fran Ballinger, Archway	A
Hilary Dixon, Katharine Lady Berkeley's	Ap
Lindsey Driver, Vale of Berkeley	P
Frank Gillison, Vale of Berkeley	P
Andrew Burbidge, Nailsworth YF	P
Connor Walker, Stonehouse VoYS	Ap
Annie Pickering, Stonehouse VoYS	Ap
Megan Roberts, Minchinhampton YC	A
Amy Neason, Minchinhampton YC	P
Ashley Skerton, Stroud College*	P
David Reynolds, Stroud College	P

EX-OFFICIO

Rose Horton, Stroud High	A
Freddie Whittaker, Archway	A
Luke Smith, Berkeley	A
Matt Stump, Berkeley	A
Natalie Smith, Archway	A
Emma Mears, Cam & Dursley YF	A
Eleanor Cairns, Thomas Keble	A
Harriet Dudbridge, Katharine Lady Berkeley's	A

DEPUTY MEMBERS

Rebekah Batting, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Kamila Gebicka, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Joe Clift, Vale of Berkeley	P
Chantelle Martin, Vale of Berkeley	P
Harry Bush, Marling	Ap
Harry Shankar, Marling	P
Alex Buckley, Thomas Keble	Ap
Kit Powell, Thomas Keble	Ap
Cerys Bradley, Stroud High	P
Isobel Holley, Stroud High	P
Kieran Chadwick, Archway	P
Kurtis Herbert, Archway	P
Isobel Tyrrell, Minchinhampton YC	Ap
Jodie Nixon, Minchinhampton YC	P
Joanna Bullingham, Stonehouse VoYS	A
Rudi Blue Morgan, Stroud College	P
Edward Taylor, Stroud College	P

CO-OPTIONS

**** = Chair * = Vice-Chair P = present A = absent Ap = apology for absence given**

OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Miles, Senior Hear By Right Youth Officer (SDC), Cllr. John Jeffreys SDC Cabinet member for Leisure & Culture.

Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill.

Apologies were received from Hilary Dixon, Annie Pickering, Kit Powell and Izzy Tyrrell.

Minutes of the last meeting – 15 December 2008

Jack stated that on the previous minutes it was noted that he was absent when he was present. This would be amended.

Matters Arising -

Sustainable Community Strategy Event; 'Tomorrows Stroud' – report – This event took place on the 28th November. The report will be emailed out to people as it is quite a large document. The report will be put into the Sustainable Community Strategy representing the opinions of young people. It is an important piece of work which the youth council fought to get involved in. SDYC has representation to the Local Strategic Partnership who oversees the development of the strategy being created by SDC. Tom and Liam need the feedback from the report as they are the representatives from the meeting.

Emergency Planning; Training for Parishes – 22 January – SDYC attendance

At the last meeting members had the opportunity to put their names forward to attend an evenings training on Emergency Planning. Emergency planning is a whole contingency of plans for when something goes wrong within communities whether it is local, county wide or even national. Most recently there were the floods in 2007 which affected a lot of people in Gloucestershire. Planning for such occurrences is important, especially with the climate change. This training course aims to bring together parishes so they can have specific plans personal to their parish or town.

Federation of Small Businesses – future links

As noted at the last meeting the Federation would like member's feedback on work experience programmes as delivered through schools. Tom explained that they feel young people are sometimes not given many choices and there is no infrastructure in place to make it a good experience for both parties. Whilst they would like members to help them get the views of the youth population, Tom suggested inviting Terry Morgan from the Federation of Small Businesses to talk to SDYC in which to inform members before making any commitments. It was agreed to offer the next meeting to Terry.

Extra Ordinary Council meeting – feedback & report

Liam, Rosie and Rob attended this meeting. Whilst they were not allowed to get involved in the meeting, listening in on the debate about the canals was very worthwhile. The single agenda item was centred on future developments of the Cotswold Canal project and concerned the financial commitment for SDC. The key outcome was a majority vote in favour of the long term financial commitment to regenerate the Canal from Saul to Brimscombe.

ID Cards – extended discussion on Home Office Plans for 2010 introduction

This item was brought up by Hilary after reading an article in The Guardian Newspaper. It is about young people and district councils and the introduction of ID cards and it is noted that Stroud District Council is not apart of the list that strongly opposes the ID cards – it also acknowledges that students being the ones that the card gets introduced to first. There is the potential of fines and even prison sentences for those who do not carry the ID cards at all times once introduced. Whilst this could be quite a controversial issue, the idea was to have a discussion on it in the hope that SDYC can influence the district council on its position.

The lengthy debate focused on what SDYC could do and how it affects young people. It was principally understood that the cards would be used to fight crime and would contain iris scans and finger prints. The cards are to be introduced at age 16.

Points that were raised during this discussion:

- They are a good idea but we need to look into the £1000 fine and a possible prison sentence for young people
- There is something not quite right about it and it feels as though they would be violating our privacy

- The chips in the passport already hold a lot of information in them so it would be just like carrying around your passport
- Fines of £1000 and prison is an extreme punishment for not carrying your ID card
- There is an issue with the personal information and also the government have a trend of leaving important personal information on public transport
- It is more of a risk to fraud if you lose your card
- They are a good way of proving who you are and if you are in this country for a reason and what you are doing
- How much is it going to cost? They are looking at £50 per card issued
- It is assumed that the ID would replace your driving license
- Other EU countries have already adopted the ID cards
- Get the adult Cabinet members and local MP's involved

It was suggested as there was much enthusiasm on this issue, members should set up a steering group and look at taking it to an adult Cabinet meeting to discuss this further and to find out what their feelings are on this issue. Steve congratulated the members on the excellent debate regarding the ID cards.

Correspondence

- *Gloucestershire Hate Crime and Incident Awareness Day* – Thursday 27th February held at the Five Valleys and Conference Centre in Nailsworth, 9:30am – 4:30pm. It is open to young people but will need clearance from schools and colleges etc. There are workshops covering gay, lesbian, bisexual transsexual issues, race hate, and older people. There is also an anti-bullying project as delivered by Stroud Rural Peer Education Project, disabilities and faiths. Attendees will get chance to attend 2 of those workshops one in the morning and one in the afternoon. If any members are interested please let Steve know.
- *A Participation Charter* which has been produced by Children and Young Peoples directorate which is a county wide organisation under the watchful eye of the county council. It covers things such as respect, involvement, listening, not being shy, being fair, language, staffing and giving good clear feedback. Steve will send the file out to members and has asked for feedback. The chair also expressed how important it is to get feedback on this topic.
- *The E News* – this is a document produced by the district council and it covers all the varied services across the council and Steve emailed everybody a copy to see what it is about and has requested feedback on this as most months there is a story regarding the youth council.
- Steve highlighted feedback from a recent Community Safety Service team meeting, where staff talked about the issues of young people – he asked them to come forward with any issues they are coming across in their day to day work. Contents of an email was read out as follows;

"I have felt for a long time that the following issue needs addressing urgently. Young people (usually female) are attacked on their way home after a night out. Some of these youngsters end up dead and some raped. If you watch Crimewatch it is very depressing that every Saturday night and other nights up and down the country this happens. Would it be possible to set up a local group who would be available to help in an emergency to collect a young person who has missed transport or is on their own or otherwise vulnerable? When you consider the trauma to the victim, police time and resources additional time, NHS services needed to investigate the serious incident and treat the victim, it might be well worth it financially as well as a valuable service to the community. This issue has been going on for decades and much of it is preventable. Young people often have less access to resources than many in the population. They often do not have their own car, can't afford taxis, and haven't made a plan if they find themselves in the dilemma if they have missed the last train home or their friends have gone home without them. They can't afford a night in a hotel or place of safety and they don't know what to do. Some young people do know what to do and many of them have parents who put themselves out on a regular basis to help keep their offspring safe, but for others we need to find another way. We have Childline, but not a service for people who find themselves in this situation".

It was suggested that this could be looked at with the Neighbourhood Wardens and Rosie offered to do this as the Youth Cabinet member for Community Cohesion if members wanted to take this further. It was noted that this isn't a planned initiative that is going to happen but is somebody's personal opinion and thoughts. It was suggested that there are charities and organisations that would love to do things like this but at the moment there is an issue of funding.

Some members felt that there are still a lot of risks with this approach, as when communicating on the phone you can't tell which person is priority and the service couldn't guarantee that they would be there on time before anything happened. There was a lot of interest in setting a group up about this issue but it was highlighted that the current work load for members was high.

Election of Vice Chair

Essentially this role is to support Tom as Chair and the elected member would be required to Chair meetings when the Tom isn't available.

El proposed Jack, seconded by Rob

Dave proposed Ash, seconded by Alex J

Following a secret ballot, Ash was elected as the new Vice Chair.

Update from Schools, colleges and local youth forums – reports from members

Cam & Dursley Youth Forum – are continuing their work with the Connect Dursley Youth Centre development project and will be carrying our consultation events in the area over the coming weeks.

Stroud College – an extension is being made to their eating area/refectory

Archway – Students have been warned to be aware of suspicious behaviour of anyone outside the school following the attempted abduction of a young person near Archway School recently.

Stroud High School – the new Downfield block will be open in June 09. Sixth Form students are going into primary schools and offering after school clubs on specific subjects.

Litter Recycling Pilot Project – update

A date for the next meeting was arranged – 26th January 2009. Steve will be in contact with the project team members soon.

Power-Down Project – update

For those members that have been following this there was a big discussion last time and there was a big document that was sent out to the people that were interested in getting more involved with this group. Steve hasn't made any recent contact with John Medley but he has been informed that he is back from his overseas work in Swaziland and he will contact him in due course.

SDYC Member Training Update – future training dates etc (available at the meeting)

Steve presented a training programme update containing the following information that was on offer for respective members;

6th – 8th February – Team Building Residential at the Wilderness Centre in the Forest of Dean, this will have an environmental theme which links in with current youth council projects. Steve needs to know whether members can or can not come as soon as possible.

16th – 17th February – New Members Training event for those who have joined since October 2008 – new members will have the chance to go on a residential to experience a similar programme delivered last Autumn. Steve explained that it would be a condensed course, but all the necessary training needs will be included.

Half term week the Youth Cabinet have committed themselves to again shadow the adult Cabinet member and respective SDC Head of Service.

It was agreed by members that they would like to receive training from the Stroud Rural Peer Education Group on the Anti-Bullying Initiative and wish to be part of the delivery programme. The dates that are being offered are, Tuesday 3rd and Tuesday 10th February after school. SDYC members will then be able to go out and deliver the Initiative workshops themselves.

Shelter Peer Education programme have been discussed previously regarding the group coming in to give training to give more knowledge to members around Homelessness. Steve has spoken to Shelter and they have suggested a session in early to mid March which will last around 2 hours and then they will return to give a days training around the Easter holidays. This was agreed and members required exact dates as soon as possible.

Steve noted that during the Easter holidays there could be a chance for members to do a further team building, focus group event.

Youth Cabinet Report

During the Youth Cabinet meeting members went through 3 Youth Initiative Fund applications. The following is a brief overview of each application and the decision from members.

Frith Youth Centre Project – age range 15 – 18 year olds – it is a media based activity and 10 – 15 people will be involved, it will last 6 months. The project does not involve any age restriction and is non-discriminatory. They have asked for £1776 - this was agreed.

Stroud Range Fighting – age range 15 plus, many people will be involved and is an ongoing project. The project does have age restriction due to the insurance. They have asked for £500 towards equipment - this was agreed.

Slimbridge Scouts – Any contribution of money for a new mini bus which they will use for their own use and will be accessed by other people within the community. It is an ongoing project with an age range of 6 – 16 year olds. It was agreed to give £1714 towards the mini bus.

Liam proposed and seconded by EI this report, all members were in favour, motion passed.

It was noted that Jess Howell was recently elected as Deputy Leader for the Youth Cabinet.

Any Other Business

The adult Cabinet meeting for January has been cancelled and the next one is on the 12th March.

Cam & Dursley Youth Forum highlighted that on 27th January they will be holding a young peoples consultation event in relation to the youth centre development project. There will be a chance for some members to go along and carry on the support to Cam & Dursley Youth Forum.

Steve as put out an offer to all schools, youth forums and colleges to have an SDYC Information Board on their premises – this will act as a focal point for SDYC members and is hoped will be a useful resources.

There was no further business.

Date of the next meeting: Monday 23 February 2009 at Stroud District Council at 4:30pm