



NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON;

Date : Monday 18th June 2012

Time : 16:30

Venue: Fresh Ground Cafe, Cainscross

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

Ellen Wightman, (Thomas Keble)	A
Kate Jones, (Thomas Keble)	P
Kit Powell, (Bussage & Chalford)	Ap
Robin Ellis-Cockcroft**, (Stroud Town)	P
Kieran Chadwick, (Archway)	Ap
Luka Chadwick, (Archway)	Ap
Kathryn White, (Rednock)	P
Shannon Eden, (Katharine Lady Berkeley)	Ap
Miriam Smith, (Katharine Lady Berkeley)	A
Kirsty Driver, (Berkeley)	P
Roxy Mould, (Berkeley)	P
Annie Pickering, (Stonehouse)	Ap
Chloe Boulton, (Wotton under Edge YF)	P
Laura Forrester, (Wotton under Edge YF)	A
Millie Gardiner, (Maidenhill)	Ap
Neil Bond, (Maidenhill)	A
Max Freedman, (Marling)	A
Rob Sidwell, (Marling)	A
Laura Byng*, (Stroud High)	Ap
Sally Holditch, (Stroud High)	Ap
Stephanie Davies, (Stroud College)	A

EX-OFFICIO

Lindsey Driver,	P
Emma Sankey,	Ap
Rosemary Dickinson,	A

Others Present

Steve Miles, Senior 'Hear by Right' Youth Officer, Stroud District Council
Helen Smith, Youth Support Worker, Self Employed

DEPUTY MEMBERS

Amy Allard, (Archway)	A
Mary Holditch, (Stroud High)	Ap
Holly Abbott (Stroud High)	P
Lydia Stephens, (Maidenhill)	Ap
Ruth Pilston, (Katharine Lady Berkeley)	A
Eva Gilder-Hodgson, (Katharine Lady Berkeley)	Ap
Jessica Fisher, (Wotton under Edge YF)	Ap
Abi Lee, (Wotton under Edge YF)	A
Charlotte Bignall (Thomas Keble)	P

CO-OPTIONS

Reece Campbell, Young Carers	A
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**** = Chair * = Vice-Chair P = present A = absent Ap = apology given**

Minutes of the meeting

Welcome and Apologies

All members were welcomed to the meeting; apologies were received from Kit Powell, Kieran Chadwick, Luka Chadwick, Shannon Eden, Annie Pickering, Millie Gardiner, Laura Byng, Sally Holditch, Mary Holditch, Lydia Stephens, Eva Gilder-Hodgson, Jess Fisher and Emma Sankey. A special welcome was given to Cllr Simon Pickering (Green Party) who is the new SDC Executive Policy Lead for the Environment. The Chair asked for member's agreement to replace the Youth Cabinet Agenda item with a Discussion on the Council's Environment with Cllr Pickering – this was agreed.

Minutes of Last Meeting – 28th May 2012

Robin explained due to low attendance at the previous meeting members should go through the minutes to benefit those who did not attend. Minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Youth Panel Elections

Steve reminded members that due to the low attendance at the previous meeting, the youth panel elections weren't able to be discussed in great detail, although Kieran Chadwick has agreed to be on the Panel. Steve has researched into possible training opportunities for the group around managing grant funding although two companies have been unsuitable and therefore a new plan will need to be put in place to coincide with the latest funding deadline. Currently the panel have 6 members (Kirsty, Charlotte, Roxy, Kathryn, Kit and Kieran) – members should let Steve know if they also wish to be on the Panel urgently.

Correspondence

Lark in the Park

The Door Youth Project in Stroud has organised a 'Lark in the Park' event in Berkeley - a brand new music festival for the whole family. They have headline acts such as *Doreen Doreen* and *Shire Straits* plus appearances from Peppa Pig and Buzz Lightyear. There will also be free crafts and a story telling tent as well as bouncy castles. It is due to take place in the meadow at Berkeley Castle on 3rd and 4th August 2012 (Friday 19:00 – 23:00 and Saturday 10:00 – 23:00) but there is currently an 'early bird ticket' available if you order before 1st July. All funds raised will go towards The Door Youth Project. For further information visit their website at www.larkinthepark.info.

SkillZONE

SkillZONE is a life size 'village' in Tuffley, Gloucester and is being run by the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service and supported by Gloucestershire County Council – they are looking to recruit volunteers. It is due to open in September 2012 and they would like members of the public to help escort groups around the scenarios, encouraging visitors to identify dangers and actions to reduce/avoid the risk. The selected candidates will receive training and will be required to give a minimum of two days per month. Volunteers will become a highly valued member of the SkillZONE team, have an input into the development of the centre and become an ambassador for the centre in your community – it is also a fantastic opportunity to gain work experience and learn valuable skills.

The village is a fully interactive learning environment which teaches people of all ages how to recognise dangerous situations and stay safe. There are 16 zones, which cover a range of scenarios including road, rail and water safety, an internet cafe, as well as opportunities to cover home and personal safety. Application packs are available volunteer@glosfire.gov.uk. They welcome applications from all sections of the community. Steve mentioned the potential to arrange a youth council trip to the village.

Stroud Jobs Fair

Friday 6th July 2012, 12:00 – 4:30pm at the Subscription Rooms, Stroud. Stroud Jobs Fair is a free entry event offering a wide range of local employer vacancies, training opportunities and job seeking advice. Major local companies will be advertising the jobs they currently have on offer. This is the first jobs fair organised in Stroud by TABS Training and they hope it will be a successful event. Refreshments will be available from the cafe on the ground floor throughout the day. For further information contact TABS Training on 01453 751555.

Jubilant Stories

Steve has received an email from Richard Holmes who is a project manager for the Barnwood Trust, he was informed via Laura Byng to get in contact with the youth council. They are in the process of establishing a new initiative at the called Jubilant Stories, which is in essence a project that seeks to encourage people to share positive stories of how friends and neighbours have come together in their communities to make life better for others. They are trying to unearth hidden stories that have previously gone unnoticed and put them in the spotlight to offer inspiration to other communities and encourage more citizen led action.

They would like to explore how more young people can get involved in the project and encourage them to share more of their stories – they are holding a ‘street convening’ in Stroud on Saturday 7th July 10:00 – 13:00, during the event they are looking for people to join himself and local theatre artists to start conversations with the public and encourage them to share their community stories which they will hope to publish online at www.jubilantstories.org. There are already a few stories online. They have also commissioned a smart phone app which is currently in the process of being tested. If you would like further information or would like to get involved you can contact Richard directly on 01452634018/07794992741 or email him on richard.holmes@barnwoodtrust.org.

Forest of Dean Youth Participation Event 2012

Steve has received further correspondence from Kate Wyatt who co-ordinated an event at the Forest of Dean where Robin, Jess and Chloe presented to the group about the youth council and answered a number of questions. The feedback received is very positive and Stroud Youth Council was recognised as a strong contributor to the event.

Discussion on the Council’s Environment - Cllr Simon Pickering, Executive Policy Lead for Environment

Simon addressed the group and explained he is the newly elected Executive Lead for the Environment policy area and explained that the new executive members are very committed about moving from a cabinet system where one person had the control of a particular service area, to a committee system. The reason for this is that the cabinet system did not have many councillors involved in discussions and making decisions, whereas a committee system has more councillors actually discussing the issues therefore increasing their level of involvement. During the transition period they are going to be holding Policy Panels, where they discuss the items they are bringing forward to the Executive Committee or to the Council. The Panels will be a politically balanced group shadowing the committee system.

Simon explained that his area is specifically for the environment covering areas such as making the Council properties more energy efficient, working on projects with private sector housing to make them more energy efficient and minimising the energy use in Ebley Mill as well as generating electricity by renewable methods. The government are launching called Green Deal in the autumn which people will be able to borrow money for energy efficient initiatives in your own home. Waste and recycling is another responsibility, and many members may have noticed the new large green recycling bins that have been delivered across the district which will hopefully increase the recycling capacity of the district as a total as in recent years Stroud have fallen in figures compared to other authorities. The new scheme will allow you to recycle anything but plastic bags, polystyrene, food and green waste and hard plastic toys on your door step, which will be collected every 2 weeks. Following questions, Simon explained the new scheme in further detail. He also asked members as to whether the recycling bins the youth council piloted a few years ago resulted in positive figures of how much it recycled. Steve explained that it was checked over a 9 month period when it first began, however it was then handed over to Public Space Service to continue - from the data received for the 9 month period, it had been considered very successful. Simon said he will research into getting hold of the data.

Robin asked why the biogas generator for Stratford Park wasn’t set up yet. Simon explained their had been a plan to collect food waste and green waste into a mechanical machine that would rot it down, this would then produce methane which would be burnt and therefore create energy – this was going to be used in the swimming pool, museum in the park. However once the waste goes into the transporting vehicles, it becomes the legal ownership of the County Council and unfortunately they wouldn’t let SDC use all the waste. Simon added that SDC also wanted them to give us a refund on what it costs to dispose of our food waste, which was several million pounds. Currently they are unwilling to give us enough money back to make the scheme viable from a cost point of view, however, SDC will continue to under go discussions and negotiations in the near future.

Simon was thanked for attending the meeting.

Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forum's – reports from all

Stroud High

Nothing to Report.

Katherine Lady Berkeley

Sports day has been confirmed for Thursday 28th June 2012. There is an end of year party organised by World Challenge participants.

Marling

Nothing to Report.

Rednock

Kathryn reported they have started making steps in recruiting new members for September and generate interest in the Youth Council; Head Teacher will book assembly slots for September. Also discussing how we can get more involvement between the lower school and sixth form.

Archway

Steve reported he has sent information to a new representative from Archway named Amy Allard. Other representatives will be known by July.

Berkeley

Roxy explained they haven't had a meeting recently.

Wotton-Under-Edge

Chloe reported that the youth forum met with the architect last Tuesday to discuss further plans for the new youth centre. The contractors are not far off starting work. The centre was due to ready at the end of September.

Local Strategic Partnership Meeting - Report

Kathryn reported there was a Local Strategic Partnership meeting last week and featured a presentation from Robin about the work of the Employment Working Group (EWG) and their findings into employment related issues. Robin explained to the members that a number of findings related to young people. One being that whilst there are employment opportunities within the district for those under 25, the main concern is the quality of advice and guidance (i.e. careers advice) for people who are leaving school and sixth form colleges. The report was put together by the EWG which Robin was part of. On 16th July 2012 he will be travelling to Westminster with other representatives from the partnership to present their findings to MP's for Stroud and Cotswolds in particular. Robin will circulate the report to the group for those who wish to read it.

SDC Youth Strategy Development - Update

Steve reported there wasn't a mass of information to share about the strategy due to the changes in political administration at SDC, which was reported at the last meeting. However Steve still needed to make a presentation for the Corporate Team and was waiting on a date to do this. The strategy document is currently in a draft format, and explains how SDC are going to spend the £150,000 budget and how it's going to support youth work across the district over the next 3 years.

Steve explained he has some quotes from young people about youth work, both from in and outside the youth council however he would like to gather some more from current members experiences. They can be about school councils, youth clubs, etc.

SDYC Projects Reports/Meeting Arrangements

Health Focus Group

The group still have not met since the last youth council meeting – this needed to be arranged due to up coming work. Kirsty also showed her interest to join the group. Helen suggested they make contact with her this week to organise a suitable date.

Eat Well, Waste Less

Unfortunately Kieran wasn't present at the meeting to provide an update, however Steve informed members that the next stage of project was being co-ordinated by Dilys Warren, Health and Wellbeing Officer at SDC who is setting up a meeting with Berry Blue Café in Cam to discuss the project and consider them as possible partners.

Any Other Business

South of Stroud Youth Partnership Interviews for Youth Work Service Contract

A number of youth council members explained about their involvement with the South of Stroud Youth Partnership (SOSYP) interview process for their youth work service contract in the Berkeley, Cam, Dursley and Wotton under Edge areas. Principally young people from the geographical areas participated in three separate workshops facilitated by each respective candidate and then carried out an interview with each one afterwards. Various comments were made by members involved and included the following; *'it was ok but the adults didn't listen to us'*, *'I enjoyed being involved but felt the wrong candidate was chosen by the adult panel'* and *'why did they bother involving us if they weren't prepared to take our opinion seriously'*. The negative comments were as a result of the adult panel choosing the candidate that was placed last by the young people. As there was other non-SDYC members involved, an official debrief session would take place soon and feedback would be shared with SOSYP thereafter.

There was no further business.

Date of the next meeting: Monday 9th July 2012, 4:30pm in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill