



NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON;

Date : Monday 19th March 2012

Time : 16:30

Venue: Fresh Ground Cafe, Cainscross

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

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

DEPUTY MEMBERS

Mary Holditch, (<i>Stroud High</i>)	P
Lydia Stephens, (<i>Maidenhill</i>)	P
Ruth Pilston, (<i>Katharine Lady Berkeley</i>)	A
Eva Gilder-Hodgson, (<i>Katharine Lady Berkeley</i>)	Ap
Jessica Fisher, (<i>Wotton under Edge YF</i>)	Ap
Abi Lee, (<i>Wotton under Edge YF</i>)	Ap
Charlotte Bignall (<i>Thomas Keble</i>)	P

EX-OFFICIO

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

CO-OPTIONS

Reece Campbell, Young Carers	A
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Others Present

Steve Miles, Senior 'Hear by Right' Youth Officer, Stroud District Council
 John Meadley
 Anna Bonallack
 Chris Jockel
 Charlotte Galling,

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

Minutes of the meeting

Welcome and Apologies

Welcome was given to everyone, including guests John Meadley (Transition Stroud), Anna Bonallack, Chris Jockel (both from Creative Sustainability) and Charlotte Galling (SDC, Community Development Officer). Apologies were received from Ellen Wightman, Kate Jones, Miriam Smith, Chloe Boulton, Laura Byng, Eva Gilder-Hodgson, Jess Fisher, Abigail Lee, Emma Sankey and Helen Smith.

Minutes of Last Meeting – 27th March

Amendments for Archway Schools update were noted; all other minutes of the meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

County Hate Crime Event; 24th March 2012 – confirm members attending

Steve reminded those who shared their desire to attend the event that confirmations were required urgently; Kit cannot attend, however both Roxy and Lydia would still like to.

SDC Core Strategy/Local Plan – confirm date for consultation event

This has been on the agenda for the last few meetings – last time Wednesday 28th March was chosen as a good date, the event will start at 4:00pm and transport will be provided. Members were asked to make a huge effort to attend.

YES (Youth Exploring Sustainability) Logo Competition

Robin apologised to members for reading the competition rules wrong; it is not a 'Lego' competition, but a 'Lego Logo' competition - the logo can be made from anything you like, e.g. computer, free hand, material, etc. Members were asked to forward this information on to schools and other youth groups – there is still the £50.00 prize.

YES (Youth Exploring Sustainability) Residential

John Meadley, Anna Bonallack and Chris Jockel attended the meeting to talk to the youth council about the YES (Youth Exploring Sustainability) project and a possible residential event.

John explained that over the last 6 years he's been trying to encourage schools around the district to focus on the environment as a learning establishment. He has come to learn that nothing will happen unless firstly the School (more specifically the Head Teacher and Governors) decide that this is something they want to do, and secondly that a teacher has to have something in their job description regarding the environment. With this experience, over a period of a year, John negotiated the release of a teacher from Marling School with Alison Mills, the former Head Teacher. Together with Transition Stroud, a local organisation which focuses on the environment, they managed to raise £1,350 which paid for the release of a teacher for half a day a week over 2 terms in which to focus on an environment project.

A number of meetings occurred 9 months later and the outcome was to enable all secondary schools within the Stroud district to do what Marling have done. The objective was to allow schools to learn what it means to be sustainable, although it was noted they would need funding to fulfil this idea. The idea of 'YES' created, and the project would allow each school to explore what they would like to do about the environment, look at energy, or water, local food, how we can cope the financial situation, etc for three years.

There are three important partners in this initiative; Transition of Stroud, Stroud District Schools Partnerships and the 'young generation', which includes Stroud District Youth Council). The other partners want the youth council to lead this initiative on behalf of their peers (the 'young generation').

Chris and Anna both work for Creative Sustainability; they originate and contribute practical community and environmental projects in the Stroud district, known as a community interest company. They run camps for mixed groups of young people, including disabled. They also co-ordinate and develop a national children's charity – SVWCF, and focus on edible landscapes and education for sustainable development (ESD). This has a lot of relevance to young people and moves beyond the conventional boundaries of sustainability in schools and the curriculum. For the YES Project their aim is to keep the school as the central hub and that the learning that takes place in the school is also learnt by the local community.

Creative Sustainability received £10,000 of funding from the Big Lottery to develop the YES Project into a wider programme and is currently going through the process of applying for £1 million grant. The YES Project is central to this application.

The key changes they hope the project will bring include; help people get a deeper and wider understanding of what being sustainable means, help the media and stereotyping of young people, and also enable those without a voice an opportunity to be heard. The aim of a residential event is to create an opportunity and space where young people can explore ideas, the issues that need addressing and what level or extent the youth council would like to be involved in the wider programme; as a group or individually.

Members were asked to visit the funding website. It was noted that the YES project is the only one that involves the younger generation which is something they are hoping will work in their favour. The program of this proposed residential is yet to be finalised but they would like the youth council's input. The original idea was to have a camp where members will build it from scratch, including walk and talk sessions as well as having fun at the same time. However this needs to be organised as soon as possible; pencilled dates include the last weekend of the Easter Holidays. There's also an opportunity to involve other schools such as St Roses that aren't part of the youth council. Some youth council members ask what they would need to bring – both Anna and Chris reassured members that they would only need to bring clothes and a sleeping bag; all other equipment will be provided and if you don't have the appropriate attire they would resolve the issues easily, e.g. buy a new pair of wellingtons.

Robin highlighted that not all schools are represented fully on SDYC at this current time; Marling only has representation from Year 13's, and therefore in the future the message may not get across – you would preferably need year 7's, 8's and 9's to drive the project within the schools; need a younger lead. It was noted Marling do have a group dedicated to the YES and therefore a potential to get a member of this group to attend the residential.

In principal most members would like to say yes, however need to check calendars for dates. E.g. 12th – 15th April 2012. More information would be sent out in due course.

Community Development Officer

Charlotte Galling attended the meeting to explain her new role within Stroud District Council as a Community and Sports Development Officer. It is a brand new post that has never been created before and consists of two part time jobs to make it up to one full time; one is based in Sports Development whilst the other is in Housing. Charlotte explained that her work will be with children and their communities and she'll deliver projects ranging from sports to cooking etc, and try to sustain these projects. She added that as the youth council have a voice on behalf of peers in schools and the local community, it would be a good to develop a link – any views or ideas either now or in the future on things you would like changed or adapted in the community contact Charlotte via Steve.

Progressio Charity/UN Conference – 'waterproofing' themed photo shoot

Occurring in Rio, Brazil and they are running a campaign for the need for water. The photo shoot is too happen next meeting; members would be as creative as possible. It was noted that the date of the next meeting has been brought forward due to the bank holiday, Sally agreed to co-ordinate the shoot.

SDC Transport Photo Shoot – confirm date

This would also occur at the next meeting, involving members and the new SDC vehicles including minibus.

Correspondence

Events for Young Mums to be and Teenage Parents

Gloucestershire Youth Support Service will be holding a couple of events for young mums to be and teenage parents, to provide them with assistance and information. Events will be held in the form of a trade fair and they are inviting representatives from relevant organisations to attend and set up a stand/give out leaflets etc. SDYC have been invited. First event has already happened, next one; Thursday 29th march 12:30 – 2:30 at Stroud Youth Centre. It was agreed SDYC would not be able to attend this event.

Stroud Food Bank Fundraising Event

Stroud Food Bank are proposing a 3 day fundraising event in May/June in the Shambles area and will be looking to demonstrate what it is like to be homeless, which in turn results in having no money, health problems etc. Members

were asked if they would like to donate some time to helping out and volunteering. The email address to respond to is; will@strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk.

Stroud Health, Wellbeing and Substance Action Partnership

Stroud Health, Wellbeing and Substance Action Partnership are meeting on 2nd April in the Committee Room at Ebley Mill at 2pm. Although SDYC have never had a representative on the partnership, however the opportunity to do so has arisen in light of recent issues raised by the SDYC Health Focus Group. They will be discussing young people's access to substance misuse which is a topic that has risen before. If interested please let Steve know in the next week.

Gloucestershire LINK

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) hosts the Gloucestershire LINK, a network of people who help to influence and improve health and social care services in Gloucestershire (soon to become Local HealthWatch) and have been talking for some time about improving out links with young people. The GRCC Assistant Chief Executive, Barbara Piranty has spoken to Phil Sullivan about the youth council and would like for LINK to come along to a meeting and talk about what they do and ask how they might like to engage with us to ensure the views of young people are represented properly regarding local health and social care services. Members agreed to invite them to the next meeting.

Home Office Teenage Rape Prevention Campaign

Teenage Rape Prevention Campaign was launched by the Governments Home Office to run from 5th March to 29th April 2012. The main aim is to prevent teenagers from becoming victims of rape, sexual violence and abuse. It will encourage teenagers to re-think their opinions and views around the subject. The objectives are; raising awareness of the issue, improve understanding to what constitutes rape. The background to this campaign is from an organisation called Violence Against Women. Would any members be interested in receiving more information about this campaign? Sally and Charlotte expressed an interest to take a closer look at this.

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

Katherine Lady Berkeley

Shannon reported that the school were getting involved in Sports Relief with a number of activities.

Rednock

Kathryn reported that a substantial number of meetings with both investors, Sixth Form Council and School Council recently; They have been trying to accomplish similar things although neither committees talk to each other and discuss this. The school council are looking at new uniforms and bags.

Stroud High

No report recorded.

Thomas Keble

Charlotte highlighted that Year 9 options have just been chosen. The school have put together a play; Midsummer Nights Dream.

Maidenhill

Millie and Lydia reported that they have been informed today about the interviews for the new head teacher and that students will get the opportunity to talk to the candidates. New windows are currently being installed, and the mock exams begin next week.

Marling

Max reported that the 'Great Escape' (a 24 hour activity to travel as far from Stroud as possible with only £15 per person) is occurring shortly to raise money for Help for Heroes. Need to get some new members on board the youth council.

Archway

Luka reported that Archway was taking part in Sports Relief.

Berkeley

Kirsty and Roxy reported that they were having a meeting tonight with the town council to present outcomes from the consultation they have done recently. One objective is to set up a local youth forum.

Stonehouse Youth Forum

Annie reported that they had held a meeting recently. It was fairly successful, Lydia attended with two other young people. Another meeting planned next month.

Local Strategic Partnership Report

Robin and Kathryn recently attended a meeting; most of the time they were discussing the current economic situation and the younger generation – thinking about alternatives to University e.g. apprenticeships. Discussions were being lead by Shirley Hall who heads up the Employment Working Group which both Robin and Laura Byng are members of, as well as the new head of Stroud and Filton College.

At the next LSP meeting Robin will be presenting a report on progress of the Employment Working Group.

YES Project Residential (13-15 April)

The group noted the dates suggested which seemed like the best option; two nights would be more favourable. Many members would like to attend the residential and after a group discussion it is decided it would be best to attend as a youth council group and then after the residential to decide on the pathway they take.

Youth Cabinet Report inc Youth Funding Panel Report & SDC Youth Strategy Development

Annie presented the work carried out recently by the Youth Cabinet and Leaders of SDYC. It had been agreed they would have another meeting with our MP in the near future regarding the cross government policy on young people entitled *Positive for Youth*.

The Youth Funding Panel had also met to assess the final Youth Activity Fund application for Round Two from Frith Wood Youth Centre, it was agreed to award them the maximum £1000.

SDC have allocated £150,000 in their budget for the next 3 years to youth work development. Input from SDYC included; things about leadership, being inspiring, supporting and delivering community work. Suggestion to split it up into these groups; about youth participation, front line youth and community work (actual youth clubs, things for young people to do and places to go), networking (so everything can link up together). Members felt that the employment of youth workers were important, and support for skate parks and refurbishment of youth facilities as well. It was also suggested that the promotion of services was needed as before they joined the youth council they didn't know about what was available. Steve will be presenting the strategy to the SDC Executive Board.

SDYC Projects Reports

Health Focus Group

Millie explains they met with Helen recently and prepared a questionnaire regarding thoughts and opinions on the health service.

Eat Well, Waste Less

Eventually received communication from Stroud College; need to meet with them. Robin and Steve attended Stroud Older Peoples Forum last week, gave an updated and there is still keen interest from them. Need to move quickly on the proposed event.

Date of the next meeting was agreed: Monday 2nd April 2012, 4:30pm at Ebley Mill.