



NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON

1st November 2004

**Venue: Council Chamber
Stroud District Council**

Time: 4:35 pm – 5:45pm

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Councillor Dorcas Binns
Mike Lewis, SDC
Councillor Miranda Clifton

Dave Marshall, SDC
Steve Miles, Glos Youth Service
Clive Hammond (Head of
Accountancy and Audit)

Mark Harsant, SDC

In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair, Leader and Deputy Leader, the meeting was chaired by Ryan Castle.

NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the previous meeting held on 11th October 2004 were not accepted as accurate by those present. It was agreed that the Minutes should read as follows:-

1. Break dancing - Wreckognise

This group was formed as part of the Stroud District Rural Project. 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 is performing at the Youth Arts Showcase on 31 October at the Bacon Theatre.

2. Stroud GAP (Group work/Activities/Participation)

This group is concerned with young people who need additional support and is based mainly on Archway School. Its 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.

SDC BUDGET WORKSHOP

Clive Hammond provided members with a questionnaire regarding how much Stroud District Council should spend next year, and which services should have priority. The group discussed the 6 questions and it was decided that members took the questionnaire back to their schools and consult with their colleagues. The results should then be presented back at the next meeting (November 22nd).

DRAFT LICENSING POLICY

Mike Lewis spoke about the Licensing Act 2003, which allows us to liberalise and rationalise the way we enjoy ourselves. Stroud District Council will soon become the licensing authority in the district; covering, for example, the licensing of pubs and clubs. The SDC Draft Licensing Policy 2004 will be presented to full council on 2nd December. Mike suggested the members of the youth council should distribute the draft copy to their respective school councils **and provide constructive feedback via e-mail to Mike before 22nd November**. The issue would be on the Agenda for that meeting.

A general point of concern was that Youth Councillors felt they were sometimes consulted on bulky items which had already been written, without anyone explaining the issues and guiding members through.

Dave Marshall highlighted that members should focus on the big issues in the policy raised in Mike's letter and consider whether you agree with them or not. Mike also asked members to consider having a youth representative on the forum. This idea was fully supported by the members.

YOUNG MUSICIAN AWARD

Ian Whittle (Dursley Rotary Club) and Jim Hutton (Stroud Rotary Club) spoke to members about the upcoming Young Musician of the Year Award. Last year this was held at Downfield Music Centre and won by Neil Roberts from Marling. The competition covers the whole district and some areas of Cirencester; it involves 17 secondary schools and 7 rotary clubs. All the schools should have application forms for the event. Jim highlighted that there is no formal application to the event but their music teacher should validate applications. Applicants should be at grade 7 or above. The heats, which are made up of Percussion, Wind, Brass, Piano and String are hoping to take place in January and the final on 20th February. Ian and Jim asked the members of the Youth Council if they could sponsor the event and put forward £1000

for prizes. Steve Miles highlighted that the Youth Initiative fund receives applications on a quarterly basis and there are other applications to consider before this one. An application form will be issued to Ian and should be received back by the next meeting.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT REPORT

Alex Farrow reported that he would be stepping down as the local MYP next month; the annual elections being held on 10th December. However, he would be staying on in a personal capacity as a member of the Procedures Group (SW).

He also reported that he had written to Stagecoach regarding a possible bus marshal scheme and youth ID cards. A reply is awaited.

TRAINING WEEKENED UPDATE

Steve provided a handout to members regarding the training event at Center Parcs, Longleat on 20-21 November. The pack included the programme for the event, outline timetable, covering letter and parental consent form. Steve encouraged all members to attend and highlighted how important the training session is. Forms to be returned by **Monday 8th November**.

YOUNG PEOPLE & DEMOCRACY

An information sheet provided by Ann Sharman on the conference to be held in Brighton in February 2005 was circulated. It was agreed that at the next meeting confirmation of the 2 people going would be agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alex asked whether the youth cabinet positions are to change in line with the SDC cabinet. Dave highlighted to members that the Youth Cabinet did not have to follow the form of the SDC cabinet; especially as members had previously stated that they would like a Cabinet more aligned to youth issues. Dorcas commented that the priorities, vision and goals of the cabinet have not changed even though some titles have. Dorcas added that it is just more strategically streamlined.

Dorcas asked to be supplied with a copy of the draft Youth Council constitution.

Alex reminded the group that there is an open invitation for Youth Council members to attend SDC Cabinet meetings, but highlights the fact that no one goes. David Marshall encouraged members to attend, pointing out that as Youth Councillors, they have role in representing young people's views on all issues, not just those directly affecting young people.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 22nd November 2004, Council Chamber.