



## **STROUD DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2001 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud.

### **MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENT :-**

Keith Roberts	Berkeley Vale
Callan Trump	Berkeley Vale
Lucy Churchill	Maidenhill
Hayden Fry	Maidenhill
Shannon Peacey	Maidenhill
Marcus Angell	Marling
Juzer Esmailji	Marling
Dan Snell	Marling
Nico Mustafic	Rednock
Euan Howard	Rednock
Philippa Radford-Hancock	Stroud High
Jenny Steer	Stroud High
Emily Cooper	Thomas Keble
Joseph Ireland	Thomas Keble

### **Also Present:-**

David Marshall	Public Relations Officer, Stroud District Council
Mark Sharwood	Sustainability Co-ordinator, Stroud District Council
Nigel Studdert-Kennedy (Cllr)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Leisure, Stroud District Council
Barbara Tait (Cllr)	Deputy Leader, Stroud District Council

### **Apologies:-**

None received

<b><u>Opening remarks</u></b>	Cllr Barbara Tait welcomed the new members; each introduced themselves.
<b><u>Election of Chairman</u></b>	Marcus Angell was elected unopposed as Chairman.
<b><u>Election of Vice Chairman</u></b>	There were two nominations for the post of Vice Chairman - Hayden Fry and Dan Snell. After a secret ballot, Dan Snell was elected.
<b><u>Election of Youth Cabinet</u></b>	<p>Barbara Tait explained the areas (“portfolios”) covered by each Cabinet member. Members were then elected to the Youth Cabinet as follows:-  Community Strategy: Jenny Steer  Economic Development &amp; Leisure: Joe Ireland  Environment: Philippa Radford-Hancock  Finance &amp; Corporate Services: Hayden Fry  Housing: Shannon Peacey  Planning: Keith Roberts  Rural Affairs: Juzer Esmailji</p> <p>David Marshall explained that members of the Youth Cabinet could speak at “real” Cabinet meetings - the next one being held at Ebley Mill on 30<sup>th</sup> October (7pm). This makes the Stroud District Youth Council the only known one in the country where members have a direct role in decision-making.</p> <p>Barbara Tait invited Youth Cabinet members to meet members of the “real” Cabinet at Ebley Mill on 15<sup>th</sup> October at 4:30 pm.</p>
<b><u>Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2001</u></b>	Accepted as a correct record, with one amendment: Dan Snell attended; not Marcus Angell.
<b><u>Matters arising</u></b>	<p>It was reported that Fred Chance (Stroud Team Leader, Youth &amp; Community Service) would be unable to attend meetings for the foreseeable future. A temporary replacement is to be appointed soon.</p> <p>A thank you letter (for the Youth Council’s £275 grant) with photos was circulated from the Horsley drama group.</p>
<b><u>Provision of a skateboard ramp in the Stroud area</u></b>	<p>Hayden Fry and Joe Ireland explained what they felt was needed in Stroud. The existing skateboard park in Chippenham was felt to be a good model. Whilst members were generally in favour of the idea, there were reservations over cost and the question of who would use it. Issues centred on indoor/outdoor, metal/concrete and whether users could realistically be charged. One member made the point that a good park could well attract a lot of young people to Stroud.</p> <p>Nigel Studdert-Kennedy advised that he would shortly be visiting skateboard parks in Yate and Thornbury to see for himself. However, the likelihood was that any skateboard park in Stroud would have to privately funded, though</p>

	<p>facilitated by the Council.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that Keith Roberts, Hayden Fry and Joe Ireland would meet at 4.30 on 8<sup>th</sup> October to draw up their wishes in more detail.</b></p>
<b><u>Stratford Park Leisure Centre</u></b>	<p>Mark Sharwood explained the scrutiny process, particularly in relation to Stratford Park Leisure Centre. Comments by members centred on the pool, which was felt to be dirty and too small. Suggestions were that there needs to be a smaller pool (for children) and possibly a cover over the present open-air pool. A request was also made for a student discount scheme.</p> <p>There was then a brief discussion about the adjacent Museum in the Park. Only one member had so far visited; all but two would do so if admission was free.</p>
<b><u>Local Democracy Week</u></b>	<p>David Marshall explained that this is a national publicity initiative aimed at encouraging more people to vote in local elections. As the week begins on 15<sup>th</sup> October, it was agreed that the informal Youth Cabinet meeting that afternoon could be used for a press photo.</p>
<b><u>Twinning</u></b>	<p>Due to the time, members agreed to hold this item over until the next meeting.</p>
<b><u>Any other business</u></b>	<p>Jenny Steer reported that she is also a member of the County Youth Forum. This would be meeting in Cheltenham on 27<sup>th</sup> October - everyone welcome.</p> <p>David Marshall reported that the Council is currently facing an issue regarding Stroud Bus Station. This will have to close because the new cinema and leisure complex is being built on the site. Some bus spaces will remain in front of the cinema, but most will be temporarily located in front of the Medical Centre. The long-term plan is to locate the bus station alongside the railway station, but the temporary plan has attracted a lot of criticism. Members agreed that the Cinema is the priority and that the temporary inconvenience was acceptable.</p>
<b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b>	<p><b>It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at Ebley Mill on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2001.</b></p> <p>Members requested that a representative from Stagecoach be invited to respond to members' concerns over bus services. Other items for the agenda will include feedback from the skateboard sub-group, twinning and a Youth Council website.</p>

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm