



NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

20.04.2009

Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

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

DEPUTY MEMBERS

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

EX-OFFICIO

Rose Horton, Stroud High	Ap
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

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, Cabinet member for Leisure & Culture (SDC)

Welcome & Apologies

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

Apologies were received from Kit Powell, Frank Gillison, Chantelle Martin, Hilary Dixon, Izzy Tyrell, Rose Horton, and Cllr. Karon Cross.

Minutes of the last meeting – 16 March 2009

The Chair apologised, that due to administrative pressures, the minutes were unable to be sent out with the agenda. Copies were available at the meeting and due to this extra time was spent analysing them. Steve asked members to check that mail in the post was being delivered as some problems had been experienced recently.

The minutes were accepted with the following amendments; Kieran was in attendance and not absent as detailed, Archway's project was entitled Bi-Har not Bee Hole, and Rednock & Stroud High are working with Severn Wye Energy Agency not South West Environment Agency – these would be amended in due course.

Matters Arising

a) Primary School Forum – date confirmation; Friday 19 June 2009

The Anti-Bullying Initiative workshop will be delivered to attendee's from primary schools. It is an afternoon event at Ebley Mill on Friday 19th June – SDYC members wishing to be involved in the joint delivery with Stroud Rural Peer Education Project will require authorised time away from school/college. Those who had attended the workshop training session last week would be invited to be involved with this event. However, members were reminded that they should manage their formal educational workload before volunteering and making additional commitments as a SDYC member during school/college hours. Members were also reminded that each school should be supporting persons in their role as a SDYC member.

b) Shelter Homelessness Peer Education Training on the 25th March - feedback

The feedback from members showed that the training was very effective and at times quite shocking as well. Members who participated seemed quite keen to become more involved with the project; this was mirrored by the peer educators and youth workers. Another Training Event was discussed with much enthusiasm – a date around week commencing the 20th of June would be organised. The following members expressed interest in attending; Kamila, Becky, Lindsey, Ashley, Annie, Andrew, Alex B, Blue.

c) Engaging Youth in Political Debate

Unfortunately this will not be feasible on account of the restricted window of opportunity given. Members still expressed interest and asked for notification of more opportunities for participation in the future.

d) Federation of Small Businesses

Everyone was encouraged to complete the questionnaire on www.fsb.org.uk/119 if not already done so - however a few members felt that the presentation was not very effective, but agreement was met on it being a worthwhile opportunity to put our views across. Tom highlighted that the Federation of Small Businesses were not always engaging with or thinking of young people and so the questionnaire is an easy way of changing that process.

e) Stroud FM Radio Opportunity - Cerys

Cerys reported that the opportunity to present updates from SDYC meetings or upcoming events via Stroud FM would be available once she returned to her role as a part time presenter during the summer.

Correspondence

The British Youth Council 2009 Conventions: This year the British Youth Council is holding 6 x one day conventions across the UK. Our closest will be in Swansea on Wednesday 5th August or in London on the Monday 3rd August. The booking deadline is the 30th June; it will cost £51 per member (with cheaper rates available). Steve highlighted that if there is a high attendance from SDYC, some additional funding will be required. The conventions are described as, 'a *get together with other Youth Councils to share ideas and opinions, take part in creative workshops and pick up useful tips, tools and techniques to become a more effective youth councillor.*

Gloucestershire Young Carers: an email was received from Glos' Young Carers, raising the question as to whether SDYC can help their organization. Issues with monetary problems was mentioned - Becky, who has just begun volunteering with the Young Carers, will be doing some research on how SDYC can help further. A suggestion was that workshops could be run by SDYC for Young Carers, which would be both fun and engaging. There was also the point raised of inviting this group onto the Youth Council as a co-option. This would be explored once Becky had carried out her initial work.

Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forums

Stroud College - Stroud College is embracing the Changing Gear Initiative. However as the college is closed during the period in which the Initiative officially takes place, they will be completing a mini Changing Gear Initiative project during May.

Stroud District Access Group has been invited into the college to give talks and spread the word on access for disabled people; they will also be providing workshops.

The College Student Eco-group has teamed up with the College Staff Eco-group to support each other in the planned projects.

A Peer-mentoring scheme is being formed, currently, in Stroud College. The peer-mentors will be focusing on help with homework on other small issues within the student body.

Blue Morgan has been nominated as the college's new SDYC voting member, replacing Dave Reynolds who is now the deputy member.

Thomas Keble School – Kit and Alex reported that £100 was being spent on seating and tables for the school outside recreation/chill out area.

Stroud High School – Rosie Dickinson was congratulated on being elected as the new vice chair of school council. The school council also decided to spend money on new outdoor benches.

Stroud High's Eco-committee had a meeting with the Marling Eco-committee, mainly to discuss the Changing Gear Initiative but hope to work together in the future.

Maidenhill School – Whilst Annie is not the official representative for Maidenhill, she reported that a new school council has been formed. Steve asked to be notified when they meet, in which to attend and support the development.

The teachers in Maidenhill have agreed to get to work using the 'Park and Stride' idea, as part of the Changing Gear Initiative.

Cam and Dursley Youth Forum – Jess reported that some money had been raised for the new Youth Centre in Dursley and will be put towards developing the new building project.

The youth forum has recently been forced to reconsider one of the current voting members position, due to continued absence from meetings. Whilst communication with Alex (Jones) has been attempted over this matter, a new voting member and deputy are likely to be decided at the next youth forum meeting. Tom and Steve paid tribute to Alex's work in the past, highlighting his immense contribution to SDYC during the last three years, especially in the work on the Stroud Night Bus Project.

The Cam and Dursley Youth Forum also showed off their new hoodies!

Archway School - More building work is taking place in Archway School, which will include the destruction of the terrapins.

Marling School - The Downfield Sixth form is looking to spend the last of its allotted capital for their new building. Possibilities include refurbishing the garden, the designs for which were supposedly created through a Marling and Stroud High competition.

This fact led to an issue in the Marling, Stroud High and Downfield Student Councils which amounts to a lack of consultation with students – it was highlighted that too much input from teachers and not enough communication between the student councils had been evident.

Steve highlighted the importance of using the Hear by Right standards as a powerful tool to enforce change in school, he added that no school or college had adopted the standards in the district but needed to in which to ensure that real student participation takes place.

SDC Core Strategy

Information on the Core Strategy of Stroud District Council was handed out; it is the formation of a long term plan for housing, employment, roads, transport, education and nature. The strategy is currently being created and everything was summarized in the booklet. Unfortunately the deadline for initial input was the 1st of May; however Steve would be meeting with the SDC Planning Strategy Manager to discuss how young people could/would be actively involved throughout.

Litter Recycling Project

The recycling bins had not been delivered to date, (due on 20 April) - they are expected soon though. Extra bins were purchased than originally planned, so the Litter Recycling Project Team will be working with EI the SDYC Youth Cabinet member for Environment, to decide on placements and promotion. Tuesday 28th April was a date set for the project team meeting.

Power-Down Project

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

Changing Gear Initiative

Tom is trying to arrange cheaper bus fares for the period of the initiative, by setting up meetings with Stagecoach. He is also trying to secure parking in Homebase and Sainsbury's during the Initiative period.

Steve also encouraged that all members involved should take pictures and make records of the work done by schools, college and SDYC members.

The name 'Tripswitch' has been adopted for Green Travel Month.

SDYC Training Update

The initial feedback was that the Training was useful, especially the workshop for Anti-bullying and the Team building exercises – a few members felt that the workshop was not as engaging as the rest of the training and could have involved more movement and participation. However members agreed that it was a much appreciated and valued session. Steve explained that it was based on them being trained as trainers rather than involved as participants from a community group. He added that those members looking at delivering the workshop at the Primary School Forum event would need to meet with the Stroud Rural Peer Education Project group to plan the delivery.

As regards the Environment Activity Day, some members found the musical instrument activity fun but felt it did not seem to have a purpose. It did however highlight the litter-recycling project in an

informal, fun and team-building format. To support the promotion of the project, lyrics for a rap/rhyme were created; these were read out by Blue to huge applause.

Youth Cabinet Report

In Liam's absence, Jess reported that the SDC Housing Advice Team had approached the SDYC Youth Cabinet regarding a book cabinet in the Youth Cabinet room at Ebley Mill - it was agreed the book cabinet could be obtained by the Housing team in exchange for chocolate cake (enough for all members).

An application for Youth Initiative Fund grant was submitted by The Stroud Valleys Cycling Campaign. They had asked for £500 towards the Changing Gear Initiative – the money would enable them to provide prizes etc for an age group of 11 to 18year olds whom participate in the initiative. The proposal to support this application in full was made by Jess Howell and El Linsell seconded. Tom Lydon, Rob Price and Rosie Dickinson all declared an interest in the application and so abstained from voting. The majority ruled in favour.

SDYC 10th Anniversary

Steve highlighted that March 2010 will be the official 10th anniversary of SDYC. Ideas were discussed on how to celebrate and commemorate the momentous event; these included a massive party, a ball or formal dinner and a fancy dress party involving tractors (!). Some members felt that all people connected to SDYC should be involved, including past and present members and adults members from Stroud District Council.

Steve suggested that members should elect a small group of people to take control of the organisation of ideas. It was agreed that this item would be carried forward to the next meeting.

Members Attendance at SDC Council Meetings

Members and Youth Cabinet members were reminded that they were welcome to attend the SDC Council and Cabinet meetings respectively in addition to other shadowing work. Steve highlighted that the Annual General Meeting will be sometime in May – this would be confirmed ASAP.

SDYC Administration Support

Due to the departure of Sinead Chambers from SDC Community Safety Service, and their being no replacement, the administrative support for SDYC has now been restricted. Steve asked for a volunteer to type up the minutes for this meeting – Cerys agreed to do undertake this. Steve also reminded SDYC that the administrative support will be affected further due to extended sickness within the department.

Any Other Business

There was no further business.

The next meeting is on Monday 11 May 2009 in Stroud Youth Centre at 4.30pm