



## NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

23.11.2009

**Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill**

### YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Thomas Lydon, Marling**	P
Rob Price, Marling	P
Becky Batting, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Kamila Gebicka, Cam & Dursley YF	Ap
Kit Powell, Thomas Keble	Ap
Alex Buckley, Thomas Keble	P
Isobel Holley, Stroud High	Ap
Rosemary Dickinson, Stroud High	P
Kieran Chadwick, Archway	P
Robin Ellis-Cockcroft, Archway	P
Ben Dewfall, Katharine Lady Berkeley	P
Emma Sankey, Katharine Lady Berkeley	P
Lindsey Driver, Rednock	P
Annie Pickering, Stonehouse VoYS	P
Connor Walker, Stonehouse VoYS	A
Isobel Tyrrell, Minchinhampton YC	A
Megan Roberts, Minchinhampton YC	A
(Rudi) Blue Morgan, Stroud College	P
Petra Lalikova, Stroud College *	P
Dave Holder, Maidenhill	Ap
Millie Gardiner, Maidenhill	P

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Jess Howell, Cam & Dursley YF	Ap
Hilary Dixon, Katharine Lady Berkeley's	Ap
Frank Gillison, Vale of Berkeley	A
Andrew Burbidge, Nailsworth YF	A

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

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

Vicki Law, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Beth Jones, Cam & Dursley YF	Ap
Emma Topping, Katharine Lady Berkeley	A
Will Robson, Katharine Lady Berkeley	P
Archie Flexen-Cook, Thomas Keble	A
George Thomas, Thomas Keble	P
Cerys Bradley, Stroud High	P
El Linsell, Stroud High	P
Charlie Cox, Archway	A
Lynford Short, Archway	P
Amy Neason, Minchinhampton YC	A
Ashley Skerten	Ap
Carys Neale	Ap

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Steve Miles, Senior Hear By Right Youth Officer, SDC  
 Jemma Grieve, Youth Worker, GCC Youth Service  
 Helen Fitzgerald, Student Liaison Officer, Stroud College  
 Hagar Niblett, UK Climate Change Champion for Young People  
 Steve Marshfield, Photographer (also Health & Safety Officer, SDC)

## Minutes of the meeting

### Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting, highlighting that photos would be taken during the meeting with regards to it being the start of the 10th anniversary year.

An additional item to the agenda would be a brief presentation by Hagar Niblet on his work as UK Climate Change Champion.

Apologies were received from Kamila Gebicka, Kit Powell, Izzy Holley, Dave Holder, Beth Jones, Ashley Skerten, Carys Neale, Hilary Dixon and Jess Howell.

### Minutes of the last two meetings – 14 September 2009 and 28 October 2009

Both sets of minutes were agreed as being an accurate record.

### Matters Arising

#### ***SDYC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – planning***

It was agreed that a small working group should be set up to focus on a special programme. With view to involving past members, El, Annie, Blue, Becky and Vicki agreed to undertake this work.

#### ***Vale of Berkeley College (VoBC) – proposed closure***

Lindsey gave an overview of the proposed closure of Vale of Berkeley College. The issues of most concern were...

Reasons that have been given for the proposal:

- Poor GCSE results (even though the past two years, after the government brought in 'National Challenge', the results have been above 30%)
- The cost for a student attending VoBC is a lot higher than others schools in Gloucestershire.

Issues with the two reasons given:

- Not enough places in schools within a better geographical location.
- If the school closes, the catchment areas for other schools, such as Rednock, will change meaning that students already at Rednock and KLB may not get their place next year because VoBC students will take priority over those that live in places like Nympsfield etc.
- If the school closes, it will cost £190,000 per year to transport the children to other schools.
- The SEN students at the school aren't going to cope with the closure, the loss of friends and admission into a bigger school with new people, new staff that they aren't used to.
- If closure of the school takes place then the students that are currently studying their GCSE's are going to suffer as it will have an impact on their grades that they will then have an impact on the rest of their future.

Main Issue that SDYC can help with:

There has not been any information about a consultation with the students that are currently attending the school or any of the primary school students that wish to attend the school in September 2010.

Lindsey highlighted that there is a limit to the assistance that SDYC can do at the moment as there aren't any member representatives from the school, however she had spoken to a few students during her bi-weekly visits to the school and they do have one that is interested in coming on board. Steve agreed to contact Fiona Madden at VoBC to enquire about this.

It was agreed to set up a focus group that would consider the issues and see if SDYC should have a role, if so what and how? Rosie, El, Robin, Millie and Emma agreed to form a group to support Lindsey.

#### ***Training Event – feedback***

Members felt that sufficient feedback had previously been given, although it was generally was considered as being very good and possibly the best ever!

## **Correspondence**

### ***Junction 13, Club 13-17***

Following the successful opening of a dedicated evening for 13 to 17 year olds at a night club venue, the adult led steering group which is supporting this venture is looking for 'club promoters' to distribute marketing flyers. Members were offered this opportunity after agreeing in the summer (2009) to support this venture. The flyers were distributed to members in attendance. Blue expressed interest and requested more information.

### ***Overseas opportunities with youth participation – Hilary Dixon***

Hilary has recently returned to the UK from overseas ventures and offered to present outcomes of this and potential opportunities at a future SDYC. Members agreed and a date would be confirmed soon.

### ***Stratford Park Leisure Centre Focus Group***

An invitation had been received for members to attend the next focus group meeting regarding the Stratford Park Leisure Centre. This would take place at the centre on 6 January, 6.30pm. The following members agreed to attend; El, Alex, Millie and Becky.

### ***Young Communiversity***

This project seeks to engage young people in the realities and opportunities regarding the increasing need for sustainable communities. It stems from the Stroud Common Wealth's Stroud Communiversity, a showcase/exchange programme networking community activists. El and Hagar highlighted that they would be attending an event tomorrow (24 November) and would report back at the next meeting.

### ***Request from a Parish Councillor from Cheltenham district***

A request from a Charlton Kings Parish Councillor to attend a SDYC meeting had been received via Matt Wicker, Police Youth Participation Worker (based in Cheltenham). The purpose for this was to observe how a structured active model of youth participation worked in practice. Members agreed the Parish Councillor could attend and an invitation would be sent.

### ***Gloucestershire Music Forum***

Following the receipt of grant money from the Youth Initiative Fund, further correspondence was received from Emma Ordonez of Gloucestershire Music Forum about a new project. A request to visit a future SDYC meeting was met with a requirement for more information first before members commented further.

### ***Youth Involvement – PCSO Gary Lynch***

Following recent work by the Safer Stronger Community team, PCSO Gary Lynch would like to attend a SDYC meeting to discuss plans to involve young people more in community activities in the Stroud town and Cainscross area. Members agreed to this and a date would be offered to him in the New Year.

### ***United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

Steve highlighted recent media coverage on the creation of the UNCRC 20 years ago. He highlighted that that whilst this is the basis for modern youth participation, a campaign is developing for it to become part of UK law in its own right rather than entwined with the Human Rights Act. Members would be updated with progress in due course.

### **Hagar Niblett, UK Climate Change Champion for Young People**

Hagar gave an overview of his work since taking ON the role last year, which included information about the network of climate champions and the expanding program being run in 60 countries. He attended the World Youth Festival in Stuttgart this year to run workshops as the focus was on climate change. He highlighted his role in the more local Trip-switch Initiative this year and explained the intention to run it again next year. He was impressed by the interest and commitment of members and their involvement in the District Climate Change Panel.

### **Co-Options to SDYC**

Whilst the role of a co-opted member had rarely been filled, it was suggested that due to an increasing focus on environmental and climate change issues, SDYC should consider the input of a specialist. Hagar was nominated and duly elected in the non voting role for the duration of the 2009/10 year.

### **Nomination of Reps' to external groups, committee's & organisations**

*Stroud Access Group*

Kit Powell was nominated in her role as Youth Cabinet member for Community Cohesion with Will and Rosie supporting her.

#### *Youth Opportunity Fund Panel*

Emma was nominated in her role as Youth cabinet member for Finance with 3 other places to be confirmed at the next meeting – nominations were welcomed.

Rosie highlighted that following the re-focusing of the Youth Cabinet role, it was the Cabinets proposal to allocate one YOF Panel position to the portfolio for Finance. This was agreed. Further interest for the remaining three positions was expressed – formal nominations for this would be taken at the next SDYC meeting, ahead of the panel re-convening in January.

#### **Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forums**

*Stroud High* - Rosie reported that ongoing building work was causing much chaos for students and teachers and that the school council were looking at possible new student uniforms. Cerys added that an ambitious joint project (with Marling) involving the design and build of an aeroplane in which to raise money for charity was underway. The project would be student led with aviation engineering experts in support. Construction should start in January.

*Marling* – nothing to report

*Thomas Keble* – nothing to report

*Archway* – Kieran reported that students were raising money for a delegation from Kenya to visit the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen next month

*Maidenhill* – Millie reported that further building work in their drama hall would be starting after Christmas.

*Voice of Young Stonehouse* – Annie reported that consultation work carried out over the summer to find out what the issues are for young people in Stonehouse, has led to them linking up with Wycliffe College. Annie agreed to keep members updated on this and forward a report to the Youth Cabinet.

*Stroud College* – Petra reported that the college were producing a student newspaper and a peer mentoring group had been established.

*Rednock* – Lindsey reported that the school were setting up a lot of student based groups including an Eco group. The school were changing its tutor group structure to one that involved mixed year tutor groups, however no consultation had been held with students. Steve suggested that the Maidenhill model could provide an alternative to how student participation was carried out.

*KLB* – nothing to report

*Cam & Dursley Youth Forum* – whilst the forums work is covering many projects, Vicki highlighted the Breakheart Quarry Project being featured in the Big Lottery's 'Peoples Millions' funding initiative – voting for this was taking place today! Members were encouraged to vote via the dedicated number.

#### **Power Down**

Progress on this would feature in the Climate Change Panel report.

#### **Set up Stroud; Get a Plan! (Formerly Workforce Work Ready Project)**

Steve highlighted that progress on this had led to a Business to Student event being organised for 11 February 2010 at Stroud College. The focus would be on engaging with years 10 and 11 with an aim to involving 100 students from the Stroud based schools in which to encourage greater understanding between young people looking for direction on their career choices and opportunities through the business / private sector. The programme will feature 5 different themes and be based on 10 workshops delivered by the business community. An update will follow at the next meeting.

#### **Litter Recycling Pilot Project – update**

Members were reminded of where the project was at to date – the following members agreed to form the project team to see the project through to next year; El, Hagar, Vicki, Becky, Ben, Emma, Petra, Annie, Lynford and Robin – they will support project leader Izzy Holley.

### **Climate Change Panel - Report**

Tom highlighted that following the last meeting of this panel, Ecotricity had indicated they would be willing to financially support an initiative that would see all secondary schools in the district attend an event aimed at reducing energy use in schools. The following members indicated they would be willing to be the 09/10 SDYC representatives on the Climate Change Panel; Annie, Lynford, Robin, Millie, Hagar, Vicki and Emma – due to such interest, formal elections for this will be held at the next meeting.

### **Youth Cabinet Report**

*Youth Initiative Fund* – An application from Cam & Dursley Youth Forum had been received for £350 grant funding to support a clean up project at Cam Youth Centre. The project includes clearing away rubbish, re-planting pots and cutting brambles and grass. Equipment required included, hire of a skip container, plant pots, plants and a large bin. Other funding had been received from Parish Council & SDC Community Safety Service.

Rosie reported that whilst the application details were a little vague, upon confirmation it was agreed to propose full support for this project. This was agreed following a vote, with 9 for and 3 abstentions.

Rosie added that the work of the Youth Cabinet would start soon, with the Constitution Review as a priority and specific projects being the new focus of the group. She hoped that members would get to shadow the adult cabinet members in due course.

### **Any Other Business**

*Stroud District Cycle Strategy* - Steve presented information on the new Stroud District Cycle Strategy – this is currently at a draft outline proposal stage. The Project Advisory Panel will meet on 12 January at 2pm in Ebley Mill - To determine if and how SDYC should get involved with this project, a small group of members agreed to look into the written document in more detail. Hagar, Millie and Robin are to report back at the next meeting.

*Social Network & Web-based Project* – Steve gave a ‘heads-up’ on an emerging opportunity for members to become involved in a project around the issue of young people finding about things to do and places to go in their local community. This project has been given Youth Offer funding dedicated to it by SDC. More information will be discussed at the next meeting.

*Copenhagen Climate Change Event* – Annie highlighted that she would be attending the event next month and asked members to communicate via her ‘blog’ before 12 December and suggest questions to ask at the event.

**Date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Monday 14 December 2009 at Stroud Youth Centre at 4.30pm.**