



NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

23.02.2009

Venue: Stroud Youth Centre, Stroud

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

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

EX-OFFICIO

Rose Horton, Stroud High	A
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

DEPUTY MEMBERS

Rebekah Batting, Cam & Dursley YF	P
Kamila Gebicka, Cam & Dursley YF	Ap
Joe Clift, Vale of Berkeley	Ap
Chantelle Martin, Vale of Berkeley	Ap
Harry Bush, Marling	Ap
Harry Shankar, Marling	P
Alex Buckley, Thomas Keble	P
Kit Powell, Thomas Keble	P
Cerys Bradley, Stroud High	P
Isobel Holley, Stroud High	P
Kieran Chadwick, Archway	Ap
Kurtis Herbert, Archway	A
Isobel Tyrrell, Minchinhampton YC	P
Jodie Nixon, Minchinhampton YC	A
Joanna Bullingham, Stonehouse VoYS	A
Rudi Blue Morgan, Stroud College	A
Edward Taylor, Stroud College	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)
 Jemma Grieve, Youth Worker for Cam & Dursley (GCC Youth Service)
 Jane Bullows, Regeneration through Sport Manager (SDC)

Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to Stroud Youth Centre.

Apologies were received from Harry Bush, Kieran Chadwick, Kamila Gebicka, Chantelle Martin, Joe Clift, El Linsell, Andrew Burbidge, Cllr Karon Cross, Cllr John Jeffreys and Phil Sullivan.

Minutes of the last meeting – 12 January 2009 & note cancellation of 2 February meeting

It was agreed that they were a true and accurate record of what took place.

Matters Arising

a) Emergency Planning; Training for Parishes – 22 January – feedback from attendee's

The training was good and the members that attended learnt new things. Rosie would continue to take a leading interest as Youth Cabinet member for Community Cohesion.

b) Federation of Small Businesses – attending March 16 meeting

It was confirmed that Terry Morgan from the Federation of Small Businesses will be attending the next meeting to explain to members what the FSB do and to explore ways of developing better work experience programmes for young people, particularly through schools.

c) ID Cards – progress update

At the last meeting there was a lengthy debate on ID cards. Tom highlighted that whilst it was a good debate, there are other things that the youth council could be focusing on and added that it won't go ahead if the District Council refuses to pay for it. Hilary thought that it would be good to raise the issue at an adult Cabinet meeting. Rob, Amy, Cerys, Alex, Kit, Cameron and Hilary expressed an interest in setting up a group to take it forward. Liam asked if there was some way members could inform young people about ID cards and perhaps go to schools and youth forums and educate them. The Youth Cabinet would discuss at their next meeting.

d) Hate Crime Awareness day – 27 February – Return of Booking Forms

Steve informed the group that it was too late to reply to this event and that it was unfortunate that only one youth councillor was able to attend. Steve highlighted to members that opportunities would arise in the future and were there for members to go and get more information on the issues they are concerned about. The event was holding workshops about Hate Crime and people from all agencies would be in attendance e.g. Police, Fire service, Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council, Neighbourhood Wardens and Parking Attendants.

e) Participation Charter – urgent feedback from emailed document

All members should have received information in the post or by email about this. This was drawn up by Gloucestershire CYPD. It is a contract which they want organisations to sign up to when they are working with young people. It states that young people should be involved from the start, let them be heard and make sure that staff aren't patronising. Steve wanted feedback on the document. A member stated that it was a good document to give to organisations to show them what young people are saying and how they want to get involved and it highlights that young people are serious about what they are doing.

f) SDYC Information Boards – response update

The boards have been in the pipeline for quite a while. The boards are for all schools, colleges and youth forums to use as an information point for youth council business. Steve urged those who haven't yet ordered their board, to speak to their teacher/youth worker to find out if the boards are wanted and to reply by Wednesday 11 March.

Correspondence

Vision 21

Vision 21 are organising a Climate Change Condensed event in Gloucestershire. It is an event promoting Zero Waste week and focuses on some champions in Cheltenham. It is an event that is taking place on a series of different dates, with the next one being on 26th March at the Guildhall in Gloucester. SDYC have the chance to have cheap entry. It is between 6pm – 9pm. Annie, Cerys, Rosie, Izzy and Kit are expressed interest in attending this event.

Stroud District Access Group AGM invite

We have had relationships with this group before. They are an adult run group that campaigns and advices on the issues of access in the community for disabled people in the district. It is a voluntary run organisation and they are inviting SDYC members to their Annual General Meeting. They have a guest speaker who is from the Severn Branch of the Marines Society and Sea Cadets Association his name is Stephen Smith. He was a youth officer for the British Legion for a number of years. The meeting is on the Wednesday 18th March at Ebley Mill at 7pm. Rosie, as Youth Cabinet member for Community Cohesion will attend, Ashley was also suggested as Vice Chair.

Primary School Forum

Organisers of the Primary School Forum are looking for a theme to base this year's workshop on. Last year the event was held on World Environment Day and the theme was Recycling and Energy Reduction. The following themes were suggested; Bullying, Environmental issues. No particular date was suggested.

SDYC text service

Steve asked members if they had the SDYC Text Service number in their phones. Steve requested that all members store his work mobile number and the text service number separately. He added that when members reply to the text service, they should make sure the reply text starts with 'SDYC' otherwise the message will not get through to Steve and it will go to the SDC IT department first.

Steve's Work Mobile – 07896 690140 SDYC Text Service – 07851 729229

Play Work Update – Jane Bullows, SDC Regeneration through Sport Manager (RTSM)

Jane reported that she was designing a new page for a website to promote Play Work in the district. She gave handouts of the website page and asked for feedback. Members suggested that cartoons would not be a good option as there are plenty of photos of areas in the district. Jane added that the website is costing her department £600 and asked if there was any way in which the youth council could contribute towards its cost. Jane asked the youth council to look at the website and forward any comments on to Steve by the end of March. There will be a link to this website on the Stroud District Council website.

Talented Young Sports Performer – Jane Bullows, SDC Regeneration through Sport Manager

Only 2 applicants for this quarter so Jane asked to look at the 2 applicants and ask if a decision has been made on what funding to give them and is it being advertised enough to schools. There is not much advertising about this funding around schools. Jane's worry is that there are a lot of talented athletes who are at national and international levels are not hearing about this money.

Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forums – reports from members

Minchinhampton Youth Centre – when the weather is better Minchinhampton Youth Centre will be holding an Allotment Project. This gives members the chance to grow their own vegetables.

Voice of Young Stonehouse – are going to paint a bus stop within Stonehouse.

Marling School – Hagar Niblet (a Marling student) has recently been made the International Climate Change Champion for the UK. He was selected by the British Council. Progress is being made with work on their Green Travel Month Initiative which will be linked to the Green Travel Week promoted locally.

Stroud High School - are currently working on their Climate Change programme and are focusing on an Eco campaign. The school will be getting a new uniform in the near future.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – Hilary agreed to speak to the head teacher about the SDYC Info boards. She will visit Year 9 to talk about the School and District Youth Council's.

Thomas Keble – The head teacher had informed the students about a prestigious award which they have won for the fourth time in a row – what award?

Cam & Dursley Youth Forum – They hope to get the result from the MyPlace grant funding for the new Youth Centre in Dursley in a week or so. The project team have come up with a second plan in case they do not get the grant. They will also be visiting the Salmon Youth Centre in Bermondsey, London – the first world class Youth Centre to be built from a pilot programme run by the government (the forerunner of the Myplace Grant programme).

Vale of Berkeley College – are writing up a new behaviour plan, as behaviour by students in classes is not what it should be. The involvement of the School Council is not known at this stage.

Litter Recycling Pilot Project – update

Steve showed members the pictures of what the bins will look like. He confirmed there will be more than the original 7 bins ordered and further sites were being looked at – if anyone knows or any ‘grot spots’ please let him know ASAP. The bins should be delivered at the end of March and installed soon after.

Power-Down Project – update

Members will remember John Meadley coming to visit the Youth Council to talk to them about Power-Down. Tom reported that he had been contacted by John regarding Green Travel Week which all secondary schools in the Stroud District have been invited to partake in. Tom attended a meeting at the District Council Offices recently whereby attendee’s had asked SDYC members to help promote this Initiative in their schools. There are 3 different areas:

- Encourage businesses to become involved
- To promote cycling and walking in ways that will change habits which lead to lasting change
- To illustrate to Stroud District Council what can be achieved when promoting Green Travel to employees

There are different things happening at each registered venue/organisation.

SDYC Member Training Update –

a) *Team Building Residential, Date & Venue – confirmed as the 16, 17 & 19 April*

The residential event that was planned for February had to be postponed due to the snow. Subsequent plans include a venue in Cirencester for accommodation and an adventure park called Head 4 Heights also in Cirencester. On the 17th there will be the second part of the training on Homelessness from Shelter Peer Education project. On Sunday 19, a one day event will be held at the Wilderness Centre with the environmental themed programme based on that planned for in February. More info will be mailed direct to members.

b) *New Members Training, Date & Venue – confirmed as the 6, 7 & 8 April*

For those members who have come on board since October and didn’t attend the last training residential in October, this is the chance to catch up with the introductory training – a Residential event to be held in the Cirencester area. More info will be mailed direct to members.

c) *Stroud Rural Peer Education Project Anti-Bullying Initiative Training – Date & Venue*

The dates offered for the training were Thursday 26th March or the Wednesday 8th April from 4pm to 7pm. Unfortunately agreement could not be reached due to other previously agreed commitments – more dates would be sought and agreed at the next meeting.

d) *Shelter Peer Education Homelessness Training – confirmed as Wednesday 25 March*

A programme delivered by those who have experienced homelessness, it will be held at Stroud Youth Centre, starting at 4pm. This training will be followed up on the 17th April which is an extended training session to learn more about homelessness and the causes and issues of being homeless. Steve highlighted that this was an important part of the SDYC training programme, as members needed to gain greater knowledge in which to represent those young people with housing issues.

Youth Cabinet Report

Liam reported that the Youth Cabinet will be reviewing the Talented Young Sports Performers Grant programme and the Youth Initiative Fund in the coming months. Essentially they are considering opening

up the TYSP Grant to allow access to non-sporting individuals (i.e. to include performing artists and musicians) with an increase of more allocated money. This would mean that the 'Sport' would be dropped from the title.

Meanwhile 2 applications for the Talented Young Sports Performer Grant had been received in the last period, they are as follows:

1. Kelly Young – GB Swimming (World Transplant Games)

Kelly is a shining example of tenacity, courage and determination; having had a liver transplant at the age of 1, she has gone from strength to strength and from 2002 onwards has taken part in the British Transplant Games – Kelly's prowess is in the pool and in 2008 she won 3 gold and 1 silver medals. In 2007, Kelly was selected to represent GB at the World Transplant Games, where she again excelled and won 7 gold medals in the pool. As well as competing, Kelly spends hours seeking funding and raising the profile of organ donation and now needs funding for 2008 World Transplant Games in Australia; she has to fund her own equipment, travel and competition fees. The work that Kelly does is outstanding and she fully deserves YTSP help.

RTSM Officer Recommendation: HIGH amount £300

2. Jake Turley – GB Rifle Team

Jake is a great example of a non-mainstream sports performer; he receives very little funding from his Governing Body and sets up charity ideas/events to raise money to fund his travel and expenses. This year, Jake has been selected for the GB U19 Rifle Team at the Open Championships in South Africa and is seeking funding for equipment and clothing that is required by the GB Team (£950). Jake works hard to organise events and fully deserves YTSP support.

RTSM Officer Recommendation: HIGH amount: £300

Liam reported that the constitution states that the maximum grant given should be £250. Following lengthy debate at a recent meeting, the Youth Cabinet agreed that they should give each applicant £250 and then look to change the constitution at the 2009 AGM. This was proposed by Liam and seconded by Jess.

SDYC members felt this was not fair in light of the likely under-spend for the current budget year and a previously agreed amount of £300 awarded last year. The RTSM Officer informed members that the application form detailed £300 as the maximum amount; however SDYC Youth Cabinet had not been informed of this.

Hilary proposed an amendment, that £300 be awarded to each applicant and that the Youth Cabinet should continue their intended review. The motion was seconded by Amy.

The amendment was voted upon and the Motion was carried in favour.

Liam reported that the Youth Cabinet would be doing a **Review of the SDYC Constitution**. This review will include the issue at the last AGM of not having enough voting members to fill all the Youth Cabinet positions - there was quite a lot of discussion about making an amendment to allow deputy members to stand for election. Comment was made that Deputy Members have been democratically elected as well as Voting members and the election should be respected and allow the Youth Cabinet to consist of voting members only.

It was highlighted that whilst each individual youth cabinet member has got a specific portfolio (an area of responsibility which are similar to the adult members version), a more relevant youth version needed to be created – this would be drafted by this year's members.

The Youth Cabinet has begun to consider how they could take on more responsibility for their own work – Steve would be advising them on how best this could happen. Liam added that communication between youth cabinet members needs to be improved, so they can take on more and make decisions together particularly when it comes to the youth cabinet meetings.

A competition entitled '**Get Snappy**' had been run by Gloucestershire County Council where young people had the opportunity to take pictures and say what was wrong with their local area and what needed to be changed – The vast majority all came from Stroud district, including the three winners! This competition was delivered as a creative form of consultation to get ideas about what areas should

look like and what young people would like. It was felt by members that whilst the County Council have obviously taken the views seriously, it was questioned if they had the authority or the resources to do anything about them. Steve highlighted that communication had been shared with SDC on the issues and photos taken in Stroud district, and it had been agreed that Local Youth Forum's in the respective areas would be informed of the issues raised.

Members Packs & Duke of Edinburgh Award

Steve handed out Members Packs which included a folder, a pen, pencil, note pad, dividers and plastic pockets in addition to Validate form and information on the Neighbourhood Warden Service – members were asked to use these to support them in their role as District Youth Councillors and bring them to all meetings.

Steve formally announced that Stroud District Youth Council was now an Access Organisation to the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme. The packs outlining details will be sent out in due course.

Any Other Business

On Friday 13th March Cerys will be doing an interview with Stroud FM. Liam is happy to help Cerys with this.

The next meeting is on Monday 16th March at Stroud Youth Centre at 4pm.