



## NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON;

**Date : Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**Time : 16:30**

**Venue: Fresh Ground Cafe, Cainscross**

### **YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Ellen Wightman, ( <i>Thomas Keble</i> )	Ap
Kate Jones, ( <i>Thomas Keble</i> )	P
Kit Powell, ( <i>Bussage &amp; Chalford</i> )	Ap
Robin Ellis-Cockcroft**, ( <i>Stroud Town</i> )	P
Kieran Chadwick, ( <i>Archway</i> )	P
Luka Chadwick, ( <i>Archway</i> )	P
Kathryn White, ( <i>Rednock</i> )	P
Shannon Eden, ( <i>Katharine Lady Berkeley</i> )	Ap
Miriam Smith, ( <i>Katharine Lady Berkeley</i> )	Ap
Kirsty Driver, ( <i>Berkeley</i> )	Ap
Roxy Mould, ( <i>Berkeley</i> )	P
Annie Pickering, ( <i>Stonehouse VoYS</i> )	P
Chloe Boulton, ( <i>Wotton under Edge YF</i> )	Ap
Laura Forrester, ( <i>Wotton under Edge YF</i> )	Ap
Millie Gardiner, ( <i>Maidenhill</i> )	P
Neil Bond, ( <i>Maidenhill</i> )	A
Max Freedman, ( <i>Marling</i> )	P
Rob Sidwell, ( <i>Marling</i> )	A
Laura Byng*, ( <i>Stroud High</i> )	P
Sally Holditch, ( <i>Stroud High</i> )	P
Stephanie Davies, ( <i>Stroud College</i> )	A

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

Mary Holditch, ( <i>Stroud High</i> )	Ap
Lydia Stephens, ( <i>Maidenhill</i> )	P
Ruth Pilston, ( <i>Katharine Lady Berkeley</i> )	A
Eva Gilder-Hodgson, ( <i>Katharine Lady Berkeley</i> )	P
Jessica Fisher, ( <i>Wotton under Edge YF</i> )	Ap
Abi Lee, ( <i>Wotton under Edge YF</i> )	Ap
Charlotte Bignall ( <i>Thomas Keble</i> )	P

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Lindsey Driver,	A
Emma Sankey,	Ap
Rosemary Dickinson,	A

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

Reece Campbell, Young Carers	Ap
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#### **Others Present**

Steve Miles, Senior 'Hear by Right' Youth Officer, Stroud District Council  
Helen Smith, Youth Support Worker, Self Employed

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

## Minutes of the meeting

### Welcome and Apologies

Welcome was given to everyone. Apologies were received from Kit Powell, Shannon Eden, Miriam Smith, Kirsty Driver, Chloe Boulton, Laura Forrester, Mary Holditch, Reece Campbell, Jess Fisher, Abi Lee and Emma Sankey.

### Minutes of Last Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> February

All minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the last meeting, subject to one amendment regarding apologies for absence from Reece Campbell.

### Matters Arising

#### ***Member Training Early Spring 2012***

The recent planned training event over February half term break was cancelled at last minute due to lack of participation from members; the organisation who were planned to run the event were thankfully understanding of the situation, however in the future Steve and Helen would like to avoid similar situations. Some members questioned whether it would be more suitable to participate in training during school time, although Steve noted members would then need clearance from schools.

Both Steve and Helen explained the work that went into the training and how much organisation is involved. Not everyone returned their 'when available' reply slips. It was also noted that members training is scheduled into the youth council calendar and agreed at the start of the year. Overall, members need to be more organised and prepared for residential training and one day events

A general discussion was held regarding members training and a few people felt whilst it is fun it can be unnecessary, however a few older members expressed that they learnt a lot and gained experience from the training when they first joined. One suggestion was to hold members introductory training on a Monday evening (to cover young peoples rights) then follow this up by a team building activity on a Saturday morning.

Steve also mentioned that older members could take a leadership role during training to help the new members in the group; he added that peer education and support is most valuable.

#### ***County Hate Crime Event; 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012***

Those members who wish to attend this event need to confirm with Steve as soon as possible; he explained the youth council's connection with the Hate Crime Group through SDC's Community Safety Service. The County event only occurs every three years and there is around 2 or 3 spaces available for youth council members. As Kit is the youth cabinet member for community cohesion she would be a natural member to attend, Steve would contact her. Laura B, Robin, Millie and Lydia also expressed a desire to attend; they will let Steve know within the week.

#### ***SDC Core Strategy/Local Plan***

SDC Planning Service public consultation around the Core Strategy / Local Plan is currently active. They would like to confirm a date with the youth council to set up an event to consult young people. Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March is a possibility however Steve is on annual leave. He has offered other possible dates; 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March. A note was made on how many members can make each date. Steve will report back to them and let members know as soon as possible.

#### ***Youth Exploring Sustainability Lego Logo Competition***

Last meeting Robin gave a presentation to the group about the 'YES' project and mentioned their logo competition, he will be judging this. Members were asked to encourage local schools and youth forums to enter the competition; it has to include the word 'yes', made of Lego and be as sustainable as possible. Winner will receive a £50 voucher.

#### ***Nailsworth Community Workshop Celebration Event; 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012***

Roxy attended the event on her own; she reported that the event was about celebrating all the work they have done and achievements made as a result of workshops based programmes taking place to help individuals. Steve thanked Roxy for attending and explained to current members the youth council supported the community workshop a few years ago through the Youth Initiative Grant Fund.

## **Correspondence**

### ***Plain Packs Protect Partnership***

The Plain Packs Protect Partnership are looking to give help and advice with regards to packaging for cigarettes – the aim being to make packaging look as least intriguing as possible for young children and thus to stop smoking. There is a website, [www.plainpacksprotect.co.uk](http://www.plainpacksprotect.co.uk) which members can sign up to. Helen noted the potential to bring this up at the next SDYC Health Focus Group meeting.

### ***Stroud on Water Event***

Received an email from the Stroud on Water organisation, they are looking to recruit volunteers for the children's programme on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012 in Stroud. They note it would give those completing child related courses great experience and you do not need a CRB check as parents will remain responsible for their children whilst they take part in activities as well. It would only require 2 hour shifts. Details of the event can be found on [www.stroudonwater.org.uk](http://www.stroudonwater.org.uk), members to let Steve know if interested.

### **Progressio Charity - United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development**

Details on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil were received from international development charity Progressio. They are running a campaign that will make sure the conference leads to a positive outcome, the theme is 'Waterproof' and involves people sending them photo's depicting this theme. Photos need to be sent in by 20<sup>th</sup> April and must include water related products. Robin suggested all members bring a water related item to a future meeting, e.g. umbrella, coat, wetsuit, watering can and we can get a picture taken – this was agreed. After a discussion it was decided the photo shoot will take place to coincide with the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Ebley Mill – we may be able to get a shot from above and potential to have the canal as a background.

### **Stroud College**

Stroud College are starting a 2 week long course named Suited, Booted, and Recruited. It begins 20<sup>th</sup> February and participants must be unemployed to attend and will receive a brand new free outfit to use at potential interviews. Students will receive useful qualifications in first aid and customer services for example, as well as learn certain key skills like CV writing and presentation. The College will provide a free lunch every day, however participants must not be in education, training or be employed.

### **Community Arts Project – Inside Out**

The project wishes to address community perception of empty buildings across the Stroud district, they believe an empty building is a dead building. The suggestion is to 're-populate' the buildings by putting up large 900mmx13.50mm black and white images of local people. They've been working with the Stroud Valley Arts Group and have spoken to owners of the buildings they'd like to use. They would also like to talk to the youth council as well as other community groups members feel would be interested in the project.

### **Maiden**

Steve and Helen explained that Maiden is a web based system which holds all statistics for the county; it is run by the County Council however the information is publicly accessible via their website. Child poverty has now been added to the statistics and the highest 10 wards of child poverty in Stroud district are; Slade 22%, Trinity 18%, Valley 18%, Dursley 16%, Cam 15%, Cainscross 14%, Central 14%, Stonehouse 14%, Farmhill and Paganhill 14%, and Upton St Leonards 13%. They also provide other useful information such as amount of drug usage in a specific area and the percentage of those who don't hold basic qualifications; these statistics may be useful to the different youth council projects such as health focus group.

## **Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forum's – reports from all**

### ***Katherine Lady Berkeley***

Eva reported that she had spoken to Steve briefly before the meeting regarding school council meetings and how they seem to be currently non-existent. She added that it is becoming hard to represent the views of students as those involved (including tutors) are seemingly not dedicated enough and therefore they've had no system or structure. However, recently the tutor councils have been separated into groups; i.e. *community, education and environmental* and each person is responsible for their subject, although enthusiasm is still bleak.

### **Rednock**

Kathryn reported that the student council recently interviewed and appointed new ambassadors for the School; had their first meeting of 2012 and they have started looking into the 'YES' campaign. Students also got the community leaders, tutors and teachers to nominate students who they believed would be active on the school council.

### **Stroud High**

Laura reported that the student council structure has changed; a new head girl and new house leaders have been appointed.

### **Thomas Keble**

Kate and Charlotte reported that the school had held a modern foreign languages morning; people from different professions attended and spoke to students about how they use languages in their careers, trying to promote languages at GCSE level. A new head teacher has been appointed and she begins in September, the school council did help the process by asking job relating questions during the interview stages.

### **Maidenhill**

Millie and Lydia highlighted that the school council meetings are now occurring once again, the next one is next week. They are currently been discussing the refurbishment to the school; double glazing and a new entrance have no been confirmed.

### **Marling**

Whilst there was no report, it was noted that Marling School needed to begin the process for nominating deputy members to SDYC.

### **Archway**

Kieran and Luka highlighted that Archway also needed to nominate deputy members to SDYC in addition to re-organising the school council. Kieran said he would get in contact with the lead tutor, Steve Saville. Archway was recently Ofsted inspected; Archway was taken off special measures.

### **Berkeley**

Roxy, Kirsty and Tom have formally spoken to the Berkeley Town Council regarding the consultation work they have been carrying out in the area – they will return in 3 weeks to present their findings. Whilst attending the recent meeting with the town councillors, a local young person spoke out about how he would like a skate park in Berkeley. Members had agreed to meet with him to discuss what his and his friends' views are.

### **Stonehouse Youth Forum**

Annie reported that whilst Stonehouse Youth Forum were scheduled to have a meeting last Thursday, nobody attended due to a series of reasons, however the next meeting is on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March and a better response is expected.

### **SDC Consultation with Young People – Progress Report**

In October 2011 the youth council attended a consultation event with Stroud District Council in which officers and councillors attended. They discussed a number of topics; *apprenticeships* and *training*, *budgeting* and *finance* and *volunteering*. A report of the findings was constructed shortly after and youth council members subsequently asked for an update 6 months later on actions carried out by the Council. The update is as follows;

Having met with Policy Officers recently, Steve highlighted that the district council's decision to invest £150,000 to spend on youth services over the next 3 years is clearly in response to that consultation and various other pieces of work involving SDYC. The district council have also increased the number of apprenticeships they are taking on this next year, jumping from 6 to 10, they are also looking to put some sponsorship aside for careers and apprenticeship programmes and do some community based work. Career Fairs, like the ones that already occur at local schools, is also something the district council are interested in attending in the future. And due to the consultation, a number of youth council members have been allowed to sit on the employment working group meetings.

There's a need to start planning ahead for a similar consultation event in October 2012 as there will also be a new Policing County Commissioner elected around the same time. Steve asked whether the youth council would like to nominate a few members to work in a small working group that plan and shape the consultation. Steve also asked

whether it would be easier to have online surveys instead of paper-based copies this year in which the youth council agree with – these questions would be discussed again in the near future.

### **LSP Employment Working Group - Report**

Laura and Robin attended the recent Employment Working Group meeting. Currently unemployment is 14% for 18 – 25's in the district; this does not include those in education. Ongoing topics include *apprenticeships in the district* and *accessibility to opportunities*. Shirley Hill from the Valley and Vale Business Partnership leads the group and is currently creating a report that will review all the previous and current work. At the next meeting the group are to decide on the most important aspects in the report that need further work; this report will eventually be presented to Neil Carmichael, MP.

### **SDC Youth Strategy Development**

As the youth council are aware, £150,000 is to be invested into youth work services; SDYC need to help the council decide what to do with the money. It is to be spread over three years. Steve gave a brief overview of the current position of support structures and systems as well as practice in the district. Members were encouraged to forward thoughts and ideas relating to the £150,000 to him before 1<sup>st</sup> March, as this will be the main topic subject being discussed at the youth cabinet meeting/leaders meeting.

### **Youth Cabinet Report- Annie**

Next meeting is this 1<sup>st</sup> March at Ebley Mill at 4:00pm. It was agreed that the meeting would include Robin and Laura to form a leadership group on the youth strategy work.

### **Report from SDC Housing Management Forum – Millie**

No meeting has occurred since Millie last reported back. Next meeting is Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm; will report back after this. Steve has been supporting Millie at the meetings but if other members wish to attend as well please let Steve know; Roxy expressed an interest.

### **SDYC Projects Reports**

#### ***Health Focus Group.***

Millie reported on discussions at the previous meeting where Guide and Pals attended; we reviewed their presentation and discussed what was positive. There was a lot of information to take in for one session however it was all knowledgeable for their group and therefore were grateful – they also seemed genuinely interested in our point of view. We are holding another meeting in March sometime, would like to get in contact with the NHS as we recently read a report about the event in which they held. The brought a wide variety of people in to see how they felt about the NHS and the equality side to the service. Lydia expressed her desire to join the group.

#### ***Eat Well, Waste Less***

Kieran noted the project team were meant to have a meeting last Monday, however due to ongoing issues in getting hold of Stroud College it seemed pointless; it was agreed to recommend an allocation of a further 2 week period to speak to Stroud College otherwise we will find an alternative partners to work with.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **SDC Minibus**

Steve reported that the new SDC Minibus has received the SDYC logo as part of the graphic decals on the vehicle. Further to this, SDC Community Safety Service has asked to carry out a photo shoot with members. It was agreed to do this on 2nd April to co-inside with the other photo shoot.

#### **BYC Youth Voice Award**

Kathryn was given her award certificate for the BYC Youth Voice Award.

**Date of the next meeting was agreed: Monday 19 March 2012 at Fresh Ground Café, Cainscross**