

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2001 at 4.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud.

Thomas Keble

Berkeley Vale

Berkeley Vale

MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENT:-

Nina Costigan (Chair) Stewart McKane (Vice Chair)

Chris Miller Cheri Clifford

Thomas Whitbread

Lucy Dale Hayden Fry

Dan Snell Marcus Angell Juzer Esmailji

Euan Howard Nico Mustafic

Katy Costigan

Also Present:-

Cllr J N Stephenson-Oliver David Marshall Phil Sullivan Leader of the Council Information Officer, Stroud District Council Community Safety Officer, Stroud District Council

Apologies:-

Shannon Peacey Lucy Dale Thomas Whitbread Francesca Lane Maidenhill Maidenhill Katherine Lady Berkeley's Stroud High School

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2001	Accepted as a correct record.
<u>Matters Arising from</u> the Minutes	

Katharine Lady Berkeley's

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Maidenhill Maidenhill

Marling Marling Marling

Rednock Rednock

Thomas Keble

-Stroud Substance Action Group	 Phil Sullivan distributed copies of an information card available through the Stroud Substance Action Group, in conjunction with the Council's Community Safety, which gave advice on what to do if a discarded syringe was found. The card was being distributed to all senior schools in the District and he asked Youth Council members to check that these were being passed on to pupils.
Validate UK – Proof of Age Card	Phil Sullivan circulated copies of the application form to be used for the Proof of Age Card, explaining that the card would be a 'credit-card' type which could not be forged or obtained other than by verification through individual schools. To date he had had positive feedback from 7 schools.
	The cards would cost £2.50 each and, apart from being proof of age for age-related goods, they could be used to obtain some discounts.
	The official launch of the scheme would take place on 31 May 2001 at the Forest Green Rovers Ground, Nailsworth. He hoped that members of the Youth Council would apply for the cards and be able to lend their support by attending the launch.
	The card had been in use in the Forest of Dean for 12 months, Cirencester for 6 months and was also launched in Cheltenham the previous week. Gloucestershire Trading Standards would be writing to suppliers of age-related goods in the Stroud District to ensure that they were aware of the scheme.
	Cheri Clifford mentioned a magazine article she had read regarding a youth court system running in America. Phil Sullivan asked for a copy (enclosed for information).
Crime and Disorder Act 1998	Phil Sullivan explained the background to the District Council's involvement with this Act and the 3 year Strategy which had evolved between the County Council, District Council, Police and Probation Service. This Strategy was in its third and final year.
	Under the legislation a new Strategy would have to be developed at the end of the 3 years and an Audit undertaken prior to that to establish any problems. The Audit would involve consultation with the public and he would be contacting as many people as possible for their views.
	He asked if the Youth Council would be prepared to act as a consultative body for the Audit as part of the process for

	the next 3 years and explained an initiative at Stonehouse under the Strategy which involved young and old persons. He also requested whether individual members would be prepared to act as a 'channel' for consultation with their peer groups within their schools. Agreed that the Youth Council accept the consultation and that views expressed should be individual ones rather than a concensus.
<u>Youth Council</u> <u>'Shadow Cabinet' –</u> <u>Update</u>	Councillor J N Stephenson-Oliver, the new Leader of the District Council, gave brief details of the 'no confidence' motion at a recent meeting of the Council which had resulted in the change in its political administration. The Cabinet now consisted of 5 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats and an Independent.
	He explained that the Conservative Group had been in 'opposition' for a number of years and the new Cabinet was on a steep learning curve to deal with the considerable increase in responsibilities and the level of work involved. The Conservatives would also have to work more closely with the two other political groups, a situation which he personally supported as he felt that individual skills and abilities were important and as many members as possible should be part of the system regardless of political background.
	He was supportive of the 'Shadow Cabinet' process which had already been set up with the Youth Council. However, he felt that it was a little early in the new Administration to be able to implement the next stage, which was the involvement of Shadow Cabinet members in discussions at Cabinet. He would need to talk to his Cabinet members first to ask their views and he would envisage that if this was acceptable it might be implemented at the next Cabinet meeting in 2/3 months
	He asked when re-elections for the Youth Council might take place and the Chair stated that it was anticipated that several of the current membership would probably not be available after this academic year because of moves to higher education. However, it was planned that, at least for an initial meeting of the Youth Council at the beginning of the school year, the old and new members would have the chance to work together. Cllr Stephenson-Oliver agreed that this would be beneficial and suggested that it might be extended to a meeting of the Cabinet around that time.
<u>Cinema Proposals for</u> <u>Stroud</u>	In relation to the next meeting of Cabinet, he raised one item which would be part of that agenda – the cinema proposals for Stroud – and asked the members present for their views. He explained that the 'bus station lease was on a short term basis but he could not envisage that, if it had to be moved, it would be possible to find a similar

	Parliament in due course. He stated that the web site for the Parliament was
National Youth Parliament	The Vice Chair was disappointed that it had not been possible for the Gloucestershire representatives on the Youth Parliament to meet the Youth Council but hoped that Fred Chance might be able to provide feedback on the Parliament in due course.
	The members agreed that they would like it to be a social event and that an item to discuss this would be on the next agenda.
Informal event for Youth Council members	Lita agreed that, in conjunction with Fred Chance, it had been proposed that she would co-ordinate an informal get- together for everyone. However, Fred Chance had been on leave and until she could discuss with him a venue, resources etc. it would be difficult as yet to plan this.
Youth Council Web Site	It was agreed that David Marshall would provide a form for each of the Youth Council members to complete with their details, so that these could be included on the web site. The form would be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.
Any Other Business	
	He agreed to attend the Youth Council's next meeting and provide an update on the Cabinet decision.
	Cllr Stephenson-Oliver confirmed that the previous Administration had been very supportive towards a cinema provision and had worked towards this. Both the results of a survey of the public and general letters to the Council also supported the need.
	Some of the members also suggested that the existing site for the 'bus station was a less than pleasant place and if a better facility could be provided this would of benefit to all those who used it. Others commented that it was important to ensure that 'buses were easily accessible by both young and old.
	The Youth Council members supported the proposal to provide a cinema as a much needed facility for young people in particular but also as a means by which to encourage people generally back into Stroud and help its regeneration. Stroud was losing a lot of its businesses.
	sized facility locally. It was more likely that there might be split sites to accommodate the 'buses and the maintenance but this would obviously have to be the subject of further discussions.

Date of Next Meeting	Monday, 2 April 2001 at 4.30 p.m.
	Dan Snell particularly commented on a new scheme in Stonehouse which involved young and old in an effort to overcome the perceived difficulties each group might have with the other. He also explained the suggestion of a 'Youth Shelter' in Nailsworth where young people could congregate and the local discussions which were taking place on this.
	Marcus felt that it had been a good opportunity to pass on their views and a good point of contact for the Police to put their views forward.
Feedback on Shadow Cabinet Work	Dan Snell reported that he and Marcus Angell had attended the all day Housing Strategy event held by the District Council on Friday, 9 February. The day had included various workshops, including one on involving tenants in initiatives such as community safety, and had been very interesting.
	to the information. The Chair reported that a recent programme about Youth representation and the Youth Parliament which had not included anything about the existence of the Youth Council, an error which she hoped to correct by contacting the makers of the programme.

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