STROUD DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL

Minutes of the inaugural meeting held on 7 March 2000 at 4.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud.

MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENT:-

Lucy Brookes	Berkeley Vale
Andrea Richings	Berkeley Vale
Stewart McKane	Katharine Lady Berkeley's
Cheryl Holley	Maidenhill
Lee Stopford	Maidenhill
Lawrence Anderson	Marling
Dan Snell	Marling
Lucy Mather	Rednock
Chloe Carpenter	Stroud High
Francesca Lane	Stroud High
Katy Costigan	Thomas Keble
Nina Costigan	Thomas Keble
Tom Cooper	Wycliffe College
Clare Jones	Wycliffe College

Also Present

Alan Caig	Head of Leisure, Stroud District Council
Fred Chance	Stroud Team Leader, Youth and Community Service
Colin Hassall	Gloucestershire Drugs and Alcohol Action Team Co-ordinator
David Marshall	Information Officer, Stroud District Council
Phil Sullivan	Community Safety Officer, Stroud District Council
Lesley Williams	Chair of Stroud District Council

Introduction	Each of the students introduced themselves and the school they represented and gave brief details of the issues which particularly interested them in relation to young people. The other persons present also introduced themselves and explained their involvement in the meeting. Alan Caig emphasised that this involvement was only intended as a mechanism by which to help and assist the student representatives to develop the Youth Council as a body which was organised and administered by themselves on behalf of the young people in the District.
Discussion for this meeting	Alan Caig explained the two items on which the students' views were being sought:- a) A framework on drug education and the management of drug-related incidents; and, b) the District Council's Themed Grants for Youth. He also suggested that some 'housekeeping' items might be considered, such as the frequency of meetings and future agenda items. Fred Chance congratulated the students on their election by their schools to this Youth Council. He asked them to consider what they expected to be able to gain from participation in the Council, reiterating that the purpose was to create an empowered group for young people in the District. He commented that the initial stages in the formulation of any new group/meeting were always the most difficult and he suggested that talking to others present who were from different schools might help in both getting to know each other and in understanding different points of view. The students agreed to spend a short time in 4 separate groups discussing what they saw as important issues for young people and how the Youth Council might deal with these. One spokesperson from each group would then explain to the meeting their group's comments.
Group 1	• The need for the provision of facilities for young teenagers – those under 18 – to keep them occupied. • Finance for schools to subsidise the costs of excursions for students – often these are very expensive and can effectively exclude some students who are unable to afford them. • The availability of cards similar to NUS but for students at school. • Cheaper 'bus fares for students.