



## NOTES OF THE MAIN GROUP MEETING ON:

**Date:** Monday 18 July 2022

**Time:** 16:30

**Venue:** Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

### **YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Cate James-Hodges **(L)** (Archway School)  
Jack Blakey (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)  
Katie Bray (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)  
Fin Smith **(BYC)** (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)  
Maxie Wells\* (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)  
Gabe Lowery (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum)  
Ben Stone (Marling School)  
Megan Land **(EN)** (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)  
Brandon Watkins\*\* (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)  
Morgan Smith **(HWB)** (Rednock School)  
Charlie Hayward (Stonehouse Action 4 Youth)  
Alice Standing **(BYC)** (Stroud High School)  
Lily Haines (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)  
Tom Wickham-Bassett **(LD)** (Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF)  
Alyssa Pearce (Thomas Keble School)  
Lily Stothard (Wotton Youth Forum)

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

P	Jacob Bray (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	A
AP	Ellie Archer (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	A
AP	Olivia Burke (Nailsworth and Minchinhampton YF)	A
P	Barney Cookson (Thomas Keble School)	A
P	Joel Clark (Wotton Youth Forum)	A
A		
P		
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AP		
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#### **EX-OFFICIO**

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

**\*\* = Chairperson \* = Vice-Chairperson (L) = Leader**

**P = Present A = Absent AP = Apology given # = present for part of meeting**

**Principal Members: (AB) = Anti-Bullying; (HWB) = Health & Wellbeing; (EN) = Environment; (LD) = Local Democracy**

**(BYC) = Representatives to the British Youth Council**

#### **Others Present**

Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer (SDC)  
Seb Williams, Youth Work Officer (SDC)

## **1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson (Maxie Wells) welcomed members to the meeting and chaired the meeting throughout. Apologies are listed on the record above, plus Cllr Nigel Prenter (SDC Community Services and Licensing Committee).

## **2. Minutes of the last Meeting on 20 June 2022**

Proposed by Cate James-Hodges and Seconded by Maxie Wells. The minutes were approved, as being accurate following a vote (1 Abstained, 0 Against, 6 For).

Minutes from 21 March would still be presented at the next meeting.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **a) Approve Minutes of meeting on 21 March 2022**

Proposed by Ben Stone and Seconded by Cate James-Hodges. The minutes were approved as being accurate following a vote (1 Abstained, 0 Against, 6 For).

### **b) Nominations for Neighbourhood Watch Association Reps**

Alice Standing confirmed that she would represent SDYC at the meetings of the association.

### **c) Calendar Dates 2022-23**

The list of calendar dates was shared in advance and confirmed for the year ahead.

### **d) Letter of Support to Levelling-Up Fund Bid from SDYC – Confirmation**

It was confirmed that a letter, co-signed by the Chairperson (Brandon Watkins) and Leader (Cate James-Hodges), was drafted and sent to the SDC Director of Place (Brendan Cleere) with regards to SDYC supporting the bid in principle.

### **e) Round 3 Nominations – Principal Member for Anti-Bullying**

Members were reminded that this role was still vacant and is open for nominations.

### **f) SDYC Safeguarding Standards Group – Feedback / Update (Cate)**

Cate gave an overview of a recent meeting of this group, that welcomed Dave Jones (Business Manager for Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership). The group explored with Dave, the recommendations stated in the county's 2021 Section 11 Children's Safeguarding Audit Report, which recognized the work of SDYC at the time, acknowledging the changes suggested by SDYC members as youth panelists. At the meeting, the group analysed a range of requirements in respect of the recommendations, particularly with regards to what changes were needed to help improve the practice of relevant agencies. Mostly, this was in respect of children and young people having the right to be heard on matters affecting them (as per the UNCRC). The group agreed that the title of Standard 4 (in the audit framework) should be changed and that criteria should be created to direct the agency, as to what was needing to be audited. Another meeting of the group was due to be held to continue this work through to completion.

Ben asked if this work was in anyway linked to that of the SDYC Manifesto statement titled 'youth voice and safeguarding' and the respective project being worked upon by the Local democracy Focus group – it was clarified, that the two were mutual separate but did relate to the overall principle of improving the inclusion of young people and greater respect given to children and young people's rights.

### **g) Tell It Like It Is: Art Workshop / Advisory Work – Feedback (Jack / Katie)**

Whilst Jack and Katie were not present at this meeting, Steve confirmed that they both attended the workshop and have already given advisory feedback to SDC's Children and Young People's Health Development Officer. Overall, this was a very positive experience for them and the recipients of the feedback – its possible similar workshops will be set-up as a result.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **Creative Sustainability CIC, Planet Cheltenham, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust & InterClimate Network – Climate Action Survey**

A county-wide survey has been launched to investigate how young people (aged 11 – 25) are engaging in

climate action. It focuses on the topics of climate change, eco-anxiety and solutions. The aim is to gather the thoughts of young people in order to better address their needs, understand where they are getting information from, and how best to support them in making change. Deadline for responses is 4 October. Cate was able to clarify that this has evolved. It was agreed that all youth voice representatives should receive this information via email and were encouraged to look out for coverage via social media.

### **Maia Thomas – Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Consultant**

Maia was guest speaker at the recent BYC Regional Youth Voice Convention and is a consultant, strategist and international speaker on EDI. Following a request at the event for more information from her about her services, Maia sent an email with contact details and more information. The potential for running an educational workshop in Stroud district, with possible link up with SDC EDI Working Group and SDC Apprentices was briefly discussed at the meeting – Steve would find out about costs from Maia, with view to a future invite.

### **Read for Good**

Run Readathon and Improve wellbeing: Author Cressida Cowell is at a virtual event this Autumn with Waterstones regarding her latest venture, Which Way to Anywhere. The online event is for 45 minutes, and attendees have a chance to win £1000 of national book tokens, free books etc. The event is on 9 September 2022.

### **Cotswold Canals Connected - Paddleboarding Sessions in August & September**

This opportunity linked to encouraging teams to race against each other in the Cotswold Canal Trust Raft Race (on paddleboards). There are discounted sessions on the day of the 'race' for young people and their guardians (£5 instead of £25). However, SDYC are being offered free sessions in advance. Members agreed this should be explored and many expressed interest in participating.

### **Youth Support Team (YST), Stroud**

YST are promoting their Food and Fun programme at Stroud Youth Centre, Ryeleaze Road, Stroud during August. There will be free food and activities between 11 am and 3pm on 3, 17 and 31 August. Book in advance. It was agreed that this information would be sent to members.

## **5. Updates from School & College Councils and Local Youth Forum Groups**

Archway School – no report.

Berkeley Vale YF – no representatives were present.

Cam & Dursley YF – the group has made more progress with their Pedestrian Safety Project. They will be visiting the nearby village of Coaley, with regards to potentially doing some advisory work with their parish council. The group will also be designing promotional posters for the autumn.

Cainscross YF - no representatives were present.

Chalford Cubed YF – no representatives were present.

Hardwicke YF – no representatives were present.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – no representatives were present.

Maidenhill School – no representatives were present.

Marling School – no report.

Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF – the group were due to meet again the following day.

Rednock School – some students were being optimistic about the school re-starting a student voice body in September.

Stonehouse Action 4 Youth – no representatives present.

Stroud High School – applications for being a Prefect, had been sought and were now in the process of being decided upon ahead of the next term starting in September.

Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF – communication with Stroud Town Council regarding 'The Bench Project', was ongoing.

Thomas Keble School – no representatives present.

Wotton YF – no representatives present.

## **6. Presentation from Member of Youth Parliament for Stroud and Cotswold, Maya Samuel**

Unfortunately, Maya was unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. Members agreed to invite her to present at the next main group meeting.

## **7. Leadership Team Report, 12 July 2022 presented by Cate James-Hodges**

### **Assessment of SDC Committee Work Plans**

Members were asked to note; that the Leadership Team have identified a number of work plans across the four SDC Committees, that have potential links with young people and the interests of SDYC. Some need greater exploring and questioning. These can be explored over the course of the year, through various channels of engagement with SDC. The opportunity to attend each committee meeting is available from SDC.

A list of the potential links to joint working were shared with members via the report document.

### **SDC Performance Monitoring Meetings**

Members were asked to note; that the members of the Team, plus Chair and Vice Chair will endeavour to attend SDC Performance Monitoring meetings for the year ahead, with each member taking on at least one of two representative roles for each Committee.

### **Assess 2022/23 Key Project and Issues, plus Manifesto**

Members were asked to note; that the Team assessed the 2022/23 Key Project and Issues list, plus the Manifesto followed by some informal prioritising that would be discussed in project team and focus groups in due course.

### **View #ManifestoMonday Graphic**

The Team viewed the #ManifestoMonday graphic produced by Seb and made a few small tweaks – they were otherwise pleased with the production.

Following further discussion and viewing by members present at this meeting, it was recommended that the graphic produced is used for promoting the SDYC Manifesto.

### **View New Website**

The Team viewed the new Stroud Youth Voice website produced by Seb – they highlighted a few parts that needed amending, but overall, they were impressed with the production.

Following further discussion and viewing by members present at this meeting, it was recommended that the Stroud Youth Voice website goes 'live' once a few suggested aspects are amended.

### **BYC Annual Council Meeting (ACM) – consider submission of new policy motion / policy amendments**

The Team assessed the British Youth Council (BYC) Manifesto, with view to considering if any statements should, from the perspective of SDYC, be amended and / or additional statements should be added. After much discussion, the Team felt that the SDYC Manifesto statement titled, 'Youth Voice and Safeguarding' should be developed as a motion proposal ahead of the BYC ACM on 17 September 2022, particularly as there was nothing in the BYC Manifesto relating to this subject – submissions are now carried out online via a portal that is now open. The Team felt that reference to the UN Rights Respected Schools programme should be made during the presentation of the motion proposal, and that it calls on the education sector and local authority safeguarding partnerships to reform their policies and practice accordingly.

Following a brief discussion amongst members, it was proposed, SDYC submit a motion proposal to the 2022 BYC ACM based on the SDYC Manifesto statement regarding youth voice and safeguarding. The motion proposal should be:

#### *Youth Rights, Youth Voice and Safeguarding*

*'The British Youth Council believes that children and young people cannot be adequately safeguarded, unless they know their rights and are able to exercise all their rights according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We call upon the education sector and local authority safeguarding partnerships to reform their policies and practice accordingly.'*

### **Meeting with the Stroud Member of Parliament – Update**

Members were asked to note; that a meeting with the Stroud MP has yet to be agreed for September.

The report was proposed by Cate James-Hodges and seconded by Tom Wickham-Bassett.

Following a formal vote, the report was approved.

## **8. British Youth Council (BYC) Report – Alice Standing**

Alice gave an overview of **BYC Youth Voice Convention** at Exeter College on 25 June.

The initial guest speaker was Maia Thomas, an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Consultant from Exeter, who delivered a talk about the Feed Our Community project which began as a foodbank in 2021 and has distributed over 1,200 parcels. She highlighted her experiences of racism growing up in Exeter and steps we can all take to subvert racial stereotypes and combating racism in schools (for example, being an upstander not a bystander, and checking our biases).

Attendees at the convention accessed various workshops in two groups. One workshop focused on leadership and diversity, detailing what made a good or inspiring leader, how leaders rise to power and diverse leaders. First-hand experiences regarding discrimination were shared in the room. The equality act, particularly the 9 protective characteristics were discussed (these include age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation) in reference to barriers to leadership that people under the 9 characteristics potentially face and how we can overcome these barriers and support.

The other workshop detailed skills needed to run a focus group effectively. Each group was further split in two and presented their own focus group on a topic (sustainable fashion, education, climate change was among topics chosen) and feedback was given to each group on what went well and improvements they could make.

Due to a second guest speaker not arriving, a staff member from Wiltshire gave an informative talk on communication and valuable conversation skills. He provided icebreaker tasks and conducted an active listening exercise. Key communication skills included: active listening, affirming, using metaphors, asking open-ended questions and over-shooting.

Toward the end of the event, SDYC representatives got to meet others from different areas of the southwest, to discuss the work and projects SDYC are involved with or leading on, as well as the role of SDYC in the community. We learnt about the other representatives' projects and organisations as well.

Other information received from the BYC included:

The **Young Leaders Collective** – a new flagship programme designed to empower the next generation of young leaders. BYC are recruiting between 40 and 50 young people aged between 16 and 21 as part of this programme.

**Policy motion Submissions** – member organisations were encouraged to submit their policy motion by the deadline of 10 August.

The **BYC Youth Futures Foundation** are recruiting to their **Future Voices Group** again, following the success of the first cohort of young people – deadline for applications, are 31 July.

## **9. Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group (GYCG) – Update from Cate James-Hodges**

Cate highlighted that the work of herself and Megan, as part of the GYCG, had led them to present at the forthcoming County Council Transport Forum – they will be presenting to a range of adult stakeholders and decision-makers, the various matters and issues of concern for young people regarding transport. The statistics stem from work that SDYC did with Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership (GCRP) and will particularly highlight the need to decarbonize transport methods.

A discussion was held amongst members regarding the work previously done with GCRP during the pandemic. It culminated in the need to invite them to update on the 'deep dive' findings of the survey and discuss possible next steps regarding a county-wide transport group, which SDYC had previously said they'd like to be part of – it was noted that this was also raised in the SDYC Annual Review.

## **10. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings and Events**

- a) SDYC Safeguarding Standards Group Meeting – TBC
- b) SDYC Leadership Team Meeting – TBC
- c) Officer and Leader Photoshoot – TBC
- d) Housing Performance Monitoring Meeting – 2 August 2022
- e) CS&L Performance Monitoring Meeting – 3 August 2022

## **11. Any Other Business**

### **a) Training and Information for Manifesto Commitments**

Cate suggested that training and information gaining events / activities would be good, with regards to various statements in the SDYC Manifesto; particularly that of the following commitments: Disability, Learning Difficulty and Neurodiversity; and Promotion of Racial Equality. It was agreed that this should be explored further.

## **12. Date of the Next Meeting: Monday 19 September 2022**