



NOTES OF THE MAIN GROUP MEETING ON:

Date: Monday 20 February 2023

Time: 16:30

Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

VOTING MEMBERS

Jack Blakey (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	Ap
Katie Bray (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	Ap
Fin Smith (BYC) (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	P
Maxie Wells* (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	A
Arlo Lowery (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum)	Ap
Megan Land (EN) (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)	P
Brandon Watkins** (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)	P
Morgan Smith (HWB) (Rednock School)	A
Charlie Hayward (Stonehouse Action 4 Youth)	A
Alice Standing (BYC) (Stroud High School)	Ap
Cate James-Hodges (L) (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)	P
Alyssa Pearce (Thomas Keble School)	P
Barney Cookson (Thomas Keble School)	A
Lily Stothard (Wotton Youth Forum)	A

DEPUTY MEMBERS

Jacob Bray (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	A
Ellie Archer (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	Ap
Alanah Williams (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	A
Amelia Collins (Thomas Keble School)	Ap

EX-OFFICIO

Tom Wickham-Bassett	A
Lily Haines	A
Ben Stone	A

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)
Becky Poole, Democracy, and Information Governance Officer (SDC)
Daisy Bennett, Democratic Services & Elections Officer (SDC)
Cllr Nigel Prenter, SDC Community Services and Licensing Committee
James Haynes, 2030 Community Engagement Board and Tutor at Archway School

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chairperson (Brandon) welcomed members to the meeting, plus guests Becky Poole, Democracy, and Information Governance Officer (SDC), Daisy Bennett, Democratic Services & Elections Officer (SDC), James Haynes from the 2030 Community Engagement Board and Tutor at Archway School, and Cllr Nigel Prenter, Stroud District Council. Brandon confirmed that a quorum had been met. Apologies are listed on the record above.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting on 23 January 2023

Proposed by Cate James-Hodges and Seconded by Alyssa Pearce. The minutes were approved, as being accurate following a vote (5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained).

3. Matters Arising

a) SDC All Member Information Event on Youth Service & Health & Wellbeing (8 February) – Feedback

Cate, Brandon, Alyssa, and Megan prepared and presented various aspects of work including project, programmes involving adults over the last year. The event was felt to be a good experience, despite the low attendance from District Councillors. The presentation on Health and Wellbeing service would be shared via YouTube soon.

b) Youth Voice Rep' Self-Assessment & Service Update

Steve confirmed that the online portal had closed, and all responses would be processed and will influence future strategy, project, and programme planning. Members were thanked for their contributions.

c) Healthwatch Gloucestershire Survey – Any Participants?

No members highlighted they had participated in this survey.

d) Gloucestershire County Council Decarbonising Transport Survey – Any Participants?

No members highlighted they had participated in this survey.

e) SDC Taxi and Private Hire Emissions Policy Survey – Any Participants?

No members highlighted they had participated in this survey.

f) Reopening Stonehouse Bristol Road Station – Consider Campaign Support

Members felt a site visit would help them understand more about this campaign and efforts to reopen the station. This would be explored for the spring / early summer.

4. Correspondence

SDC Cultural Strategy Consultation

Following a meeting with Steve, Damian Hebron from 64 million Artists is keen to consult with all youth voice representatives regarding the development of a new SDC Cultural Strategy. Damian's organisation has been commissioned to help the Council create a strategy reflecting the districts culture. Members agreed this would be good but needed more information on when and exactly what they would be consulted on. It was felt that a late afternoon / early evening event would be good or one in the Easter school / college break. Options would be circulated soon.

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

Archway School – no representatives elected.

Berkeley Vale YF – no representatives present.

Cainscross YF - no representatives elected.

Cam and Dursley YF – no report.

Chalford Cubed YF – no representatives present.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – no representatives elected.

Maidenhill School – no representatives elected.

Marling School – no representatives elected.

Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF – Megan reported that a visit to Nailsworth Youth Club had taken place. The club mainly had 11- to 14-year-olds in attendance at the time of the visit. Megan and Seb were there for approx. 2 hours and did informal promotion of the youth forum group. They chatted to all those there and received a positive response. It was hoped that Minchinhampton Youth Club would be visited soon.

Rednock School – no representatives were present.

Stonehouse Action 4 Youth – no representatives present.

Stroud High School – no representatives present.

Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF – no report.

Thomas Keble School – it was noted that two students had expressed an interest in the fourth representative position to SDYC. It was expected that an election would be held.

Wotton YF – no representatives present.

6. SDC Performance Monitoring Meetings (Housing; and Community Services and Licensing)

Housing – Cate and Megan attended the meeting. They reported that many system errors had occurred causing issues with tracking progress. The main challenge was the aspect of quality vs quantity.

Community Services and Licensing – Cate and Alyssa attended the meeting, which was less affected by system errors. The development of an SDC Anti-Social Behaviour Policy was highlighted by Cate and Alyssa, as being import to SDYC in which to have input – it had been agreed that a draft would be sent to SDYC soon.

7. Presentation on Voter Identification – Becky Poole, SDC Democratic Services and Elections Service

Becky gave an overview of the changes being made to the democratic process with regards to the introduction of 'voter identification' for all voters. This change has been brought about through legislation. There are different types of personal identification that is accepted, but essentially without presenting one of the acceptable types, voters will not be able to vote. Becky explained the various new challenges this presents and what the new experience will be like during polling day at all elections. She highlighted that young voters may be most likely to need greater promotion of this new approach, and whilst there are not any elections (bar the potential of any in parish / town councils) expected, the SDC Democratic and Election Service will be doing soft launches throughout 2023. Feedback from members on how, where and when was as follows:

Engage via social media; access schools with roller screens and presentations in tutor groups and / or school community groups; encourage promotion at BYC regional events, where SDYC could assist in the southwest. SGS College, Cirencester College and University of Gloucestershire were other places highlighted as being potential places to promote these changes.

SDYC agreed to assist and support throughout the year. Potential support at future elections / polling stations was also discussed.

8. Co2 Reduction in Gloucestershire Schools – James Haynes, 2030 CEB and Tutor at Archway School

James introduced his research and stakeholder analysis work on heat reduction in schools, as part of a university dissertation. He explained that it included consultation on social and political issues and was accompanied by a questionnaire. Members were asked a series of questions – these and the members general responses, are as follows:

Do you think its important to reduce energy consumption and if so, why?

Yes, but the cost of fitting reduction methods needs to be reduced. Acknowledged that if systems were not upgraded, then it will cost more in the long run!

Whose responsibility is it to do this?

UK Government (Department for Environment and Rural Affairs). Whoever commissions the contracts for energy provision in organisations, businesses, and homes. Schools' budgets were noted as being very 'tight'.

Are you aware of teams in SDC or schools, who are responsible for reduction methods?

Some members were, but many highlighted that the need to wear coats in the winter during lessons was widespread but contrasted with some schools not allowing students to do so. Warmer rooms were needed to learn better.

Do students / schools have time to do energy reduction methods?

Members felt that schools needed to listen to students a lot more.

What communication is had with external organisations?

Members noted that SDC were being pro-active and had set up the 2030 Community Engagement Board. They noted that a couple of members were involved with Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group.

Can schools afford to fit reduction methods?

Suggestions came in the form of, turning waste food into energy on site and producing food through local co-operatives. Introducing more lessons on climate change / energy use and consider the risks involved with expenditure.

Are members aware of local and/or national policies to reduce emissions in schools?

No, members were aware of any.

James thanked members for participating and highlighted his gratitude for the time to discuss these matters. James was thanked by the Chair for his attendance.

9. Leadership Team Report (Cate)

Review SDYC Manifesto & Key Projects and Issues

It was recommended to members: That the statements relating to the following manifesto titles are amended in the SDYC Manifesto for 2023/24 - Environment, Carbon Neutral and Climate Emergency; Improving Sexual Health Services; Improving School Nursing; Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing; Youth Friendly GP Surgeries; and Youth Rights, Youth Voice and Safeguarding; the manifesto statement titled Young Persons Mental Health First Aid Training is combined with that on mental health and emotional wellbeing.

It was noted: That other statements will also be reviewed as part of the SDYC Annual Review and/or Leadership Team ahead of the Annual General Meeting, particularly the statements on Anti-bullying and influencing SDC Decision-Making.

GSCP Safeguarding Audit 2022 – Takeaways and Follow-ups

It was noted: That SDYC would have the opportunity to 'sign-off' the GSCP Report, once the Independent Scrutineer and Chairperson produces a draft report.

Update on recruitment for vacant youth work officer post

It was noted: That a mini review is being carried with SDC Community Services.

Letter regarding outcomes of Hardwicke Youth Forum's work

It was noted: That the letter for Hardwicke Parish Council is being drafted by SDYC Leader and SDYC Chairperson.

10. British Youth Council (BYC) Report

Southwest Regional YouthCon – Saturday 4 March

The next BYC regional youth voice convention will be on 4 March in Bristol – as usual, SDYC are allocated 4 places at the event. A programme will emerge in due course and confirmation of who will attend – members were asked to confirm their attendance in the coming days. Brandon and Cate confirmed they would be attending this event.

BYC Members Meeting – Success Stories: Champions of Youth Boards (21 February)

An opportunity to learn the experiences of young people on youth boards across the UK. Young Trustees can provide first-hand experience, work alongside, and influence high profile decision-makers on behalf of other young people. Members were encouraged to consider attending this event.

11. Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group (GYCG) – Update from Megan Land

Megan updated members on the work of the group during the last month or so, this included:

The group meeting with the following: Severn Trent Water to discuss matters on water supply management; Future Me Glos regarding leadership of Climate Gloucestershire; and Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership regarding their county-wide work which now includes the creation of resource packs. Megan also mentioned some work with Stroud Climate Action Network forum.

12. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings and Events

- a) **Engagement Charter Project Team Meeting** - TBC
- b) **BYC Regional YouthCon – 4 March**
- c) **Local Strategic Partnership Meeting – 10 March** – Cate would be presenting and welcomed a co-presenter if anyone would like to join her.

13. Any Other Business

Knife Angel, Gloucester Cathedral

A visit to the Knife Angel exhibition at Gloucester Cathedral on either 22 or 24 February, was being coordinated by Seb. Cate and Brandon expressed interest.

14. Date of the Next Meeting: Monday 13 March 2023 (Annual Review Event)