



## NOTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON:

**Date: Monday 16 November 2020 (Rescheduled)**

**Time: 16:30**

**Venue: Online via Zoom**

### **YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Cate James-Hodges (Archway School)	P
Emma Champion (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	A
Saul Traquino (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	A
Fin Smith* (Cainscross Youth Forum)	P
Jasmine Beese (Cainscross Youth Forum)	A
Maxie Wells (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	P
Coban McGee (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	A
Amber Lowery (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum)	A
Miki Bailey (Hardwicke Youth Forum)	A
Leon Linton-Blake (Hardwicke Youth Forum)	A
Beatrix Herbert (Katharine Lady Berkeley)	P
Archie Gent (Katharine Lady Berkeley)	P
Bliss Ackland (Maidenhill School)	P
Skye Rees (Maidenhill School)	P
Ben Stone (Marling School)	P
Billy Smeaton (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)	A
Evie Urquhart (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)	P
Morgan Smith (Rednock School)	P
Ted Smith (Rednock School)	A
Charlie Hayward (Stonehouse Action 4 Youth)	A
Lotty Trunks (Stroud High School)	A
Alice Standing (Stroud High School)	A
Lily Haines (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)	A
Tom Wickham-Bassett** (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)	P
Phoebe Davies (Wotton Youth Forum)	A
Freya Sinclair (Wotton Youth Forum)	A

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

Conner Roberts (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	A
Ellie Archer (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	#P
Baz Leach (Hardwicke Youth Forum)	A
Tom Werrett (Katharine Lady Berkeley)	A
Nell Porter (Katharine Lady Berkeley)	A
Tayla Handbury (Maidenhill School)	P
Olivia Burke (Nailsworth and Minchinhampton YF)	AP
Megan Land (Nailsworth and Minchinhampton YF)	P
Sophie Miles (Rednock School)	A
Lily Stothard (Wotton Youth Forum)	AP
Joel Clark (Wotton Youth Forum)	A

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Helen March (Retiring Chairperson)	P
Claire Gee	A

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

Amie Radford (Gloucestershire Young Carers)	A
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**\*\* = 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, (E) = Environment, (LD) = Local Democracy,**

#### **Others Present**

Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer; Jemma Grieve, Youth Participation Officer; and Seb Williams, Youth Work Officer - all Stroud District Council

An Introduction to Zoom took place from 4pm - whereby those in attendance who were not used to the online video platform and / or the format for this meeting, were able to question and test various aspects of this function. It also gave a chance for informal conversation between members to take place between those who had not done so for many months.

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting, particularly those new members attending for the first time. SDC Youth Work Officer was also welcomed to his first SDYC meeting since commencing employment with the Council at the end of June. Apologies are listed on the record above. The Chair highlighted that this meeting had been rescheduled from 24 April due to the restrictions imposed by the impact of the covid-19 pandemic.

### **2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 9 March 2020**

The minutes of the last main meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record. *Proposed by: Maxie Wells.*  
*Seconded by: Cate James-Hodges.*

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

### **4. Correspondence**

#### **New Member of Youth Parliament for Stroud & Cotswold**

There had been a recent by-election in Gloucestershire regarding Members of Youth Parliament. Katie Adsett had recently been elected for Stroud and Cotswold and subsequently been in touch to introduce herself to SDYC. It was agreed that Katie would be invited to the next main meeting.

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

Archway School – No student council set up yet since return in September. Cate is contacting the new lead tutor for student voice. Tom WB has been made Head student for the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Council.

Berkeley Vale YF – No representatives present.

Cainscross YF – Fin reported that in light of the departure of some members, Jas Beese had become a voting rep to SDYC and that recruitment was the priority.

Cam & Dursley YF – Maxie gave a brief overview of how the group had interacted during the pandemic to date, with most members still involved, albeit at different times. Meeting virtually online had been difficult.

Chalford Cubed YF – No representatives present.

Hardwicke YF – No representatives present.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – The school council were due to meet soon and would be co-chaired by the new voting representatives to SDYC, Beatrix Herbert and Archie Gent.

Maidenhill School – The school council is not yet running, but they did recently meet with Stroud MP, Siobhan Baillie to discuss various issues.

Marling School – Ben highlighted that the student council was being set up in a virtual style, with him taking the lead. The vacant representative roles to SDYC were also being considered.

Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF – Evie and Megan reported that they'd recently met the Forest Green Community Group regarding anti-social behavior in the area. During the pandemic they had met fairly regularly via online platforms and kept in touch with each other.

Rednock School – new representatives to SDYC had emerged during the early stages of the pandemic; Ted Smith and Sophie Miles are yet to be actively involved but hopefully that will change soon. Morgan highlighted that the student council had yet to meet since September. It was agreed that Jemma would contact the school and offer support.

Stonehouse Action 4 Youth – No representatives present.

Stroud High School – No representatives present.

Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF – Tom WB went through a number of projects that were still being worked upon or considered since pre-pandemic. Whilst a few group members had moved on, recruitment plans were underway.

Wotton YF – the group have voted in their representatives to SDYC and plan to be able to attend soon. Their recent

work has seen them re-engage with the issue of lighting for a local footpath.

## **6. Local Strategic Partnership Report from meeting on 11 September**

Helen gave a brief report on the meeting and highlighted that the themed focus was, 'What is the New Normal in Stroud district?'. This brought presentations from Renishaw, who were involved with the initial effort to design and manufacture ventilators for hospitals; The Long Table who were involved with the ensuring those in most need were getting food; and the overall efforts of SDC.

## **7. Health Focus Group Report – 7 September 2020** - presented by Ben Stone

### Key Projects and Issues Review

The HFG looked through the key projects and issues that were agreed by the youth council in May 2019. The group provided feedback on the key projects and issues.

- Members said they enjoyed participating in the pilot run of the Youth Friendly GP Initiative.
- Creating the logo for the Youth Friendly GP Initiative was a fun experience for members.
- The focus group expressed that the national condom day artwork was effective in highlighting sexual health.
- Members said that they liked the mental health first aid training.
- The focus group also thought that the amendment of the BYC manifesto to include a broader definition of disability awareness was a positive step.

**Members were asked to note:** that the group reviewed key projects and issues of the 2019/20 year.

### Ideas for the 2020/21 SDYC Year

The HFG looked at what projects can be taken forward next year and if any new projects should be considered. The following ideas were discussed:

- A project around school exam stress. It was discussed that if this idea was followed up on a survey would be a beneficial starting point for understanding how young people in the district think about exam stress.
- There was discussion over the Youth Friendly GP Initiative and it was believed that it may need amending to facilitate the more online focus of GP surgeries due to COVID-19.
- School nursing was mentioned and the HFG noted that Rednock school were doing a survey on school nursing and it would be helpful to find out the results of the survey.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) was another issue that the HFG may wish to take forward.
- Members also discussed a campaign around body positivity instead of healthy eating for the next year.

**Members were asked to note:** That the HFG discussed ideas for key projects and issues that could be implemented for the 2020/21 year.

Report proposed by: Ben Stone; Seconded by: Archie Gent. Following a vote, the report was approved.

## **8. Leadership Team Report – 15 July inc Manifesto Proposals** - presented by Helen March

### SDYC Manifesto Proposals

As requested by SDYC at the main meeting in March, the team discussed the two proposals regarding 'statutory youth voice for all local authorities' and 'improved education of disabilities, learning difficulties and neurodiversity', which SDYC representatives presented to last year's BYC Annual Meeting; with view to including them in the SDYC Manifesto. The team concluded that given both proposals were adopted by BYC, the following should be subsequently proposed at the 2020 SDYC Annual General Meeting for inclusion in the SDYC Manifesto – the two statements for inclusion in the SDYC Manifesto, are:

- **Disability, Learning Difficulties & Neurodiversity Awareness:** The stigma and lack of teaching in and around disabilities, learning difficulties and neurodiversity including ADHD, Dyslexia and Autism, must be addressed. We believe that people should be learning about these, especially in schools, in which to reduce the discrimination and ignorance that surrounds them. We must promote acceptance and inclusivity at all times.
- **Statutory Youth Voice:** We call on the government to make provision of a youth voice vehicle, a statutory requirement for every local authority (including county, district, unitary, metropolitan districts and London boroughs in England and Wales; local councils in Northern Ireland; and unitary authorities in Scotland). We will also lobby local authorities in Gloucestershire to follow the example of Stroud District Council in creating

a youth voice vehicle their geographical area.

**Members were asked to approve the proposal:** that SDYC should include the above statements regarding Disability, Learning Difficulties & Neurodiversity Awareness and Statutory Youth Voice.

#### Green Party Consultation Reply

The team discussed the request from the Green Party to comment on their consultation and agreed that they wouldn't do so directly, as the questions were politically aligned. However, they agreed that they should be sent the SDYC Manifesto and the aforementioned statements with regards to additional policies that would be proposed for inclusion in the SDYC Manifesto at the SDYC AGM.

**Members were asked to note:** that the Leadership Team replied to the Green Party consultation by highlighting the SDYC Manifesto regarding policies on issues of concern to young people.

#### New Member Welcomes via Video

As some schools had agreed their new representatives to SDYC, it was felt that a video call should be carried out with those new members in which to help them become familiar with SDYC and made welcome to the SDYC 'family'.

**Members were asked to note:** that new member welcome calls were made by Helen and Ben.

#### Black Lives Matter Statement & Promotion of Racial Equality

Following the global incidents (in the summer) regarding racial inequality and increased profile of the Black Lives Matter campaign, the team had previously communicated with each other to formulate and agree a statement on behalf of SDYC. The following statement was placed on social media;

*'Stroud District Youth Council wishes to support the statement made by SDC on 9 June 2020 regarding Black Lives Matter. They would also like to add the following;*

*As a group of diverse young people that function in a representational role, we are acutely aware of the need to educate everyone in our communities about social matters. Young people can face many forms of prejudice and inequality as they grow up – which is unacceptable. However, we recognise that just because of their ethnicity and skin colour, those from a BAME background can face additional discrimination their whole life – this should not be happening.*

*We look to institutions in our society to properly work together, to ensure equality and justice consistently improves for everyone. The opportunity to enable young people from all cultures and ethnic origins to be part of this change, should not be missed. Equality and justice are not lone destinations, but a combined lifelong journey for all of us.'*

The team subsequently felt that SDYC should explore how racial equality can be further promoted and would subsequently like to see this included in the 2020/21 list of key projects and issues.

**Members were asked to note:** The statement above was produced by the team with regards to Black Lives Matter.

**Members were asked to approve the proposal:** That SDYC should explore how racial equality can be further promoted.

Report proposed by: Helen March; Seconded by: Tom Wickham-Bassett. Following a vote, the report was approved.

#### 9. Annual Review Report - resented by Tom Wickham-Bassett

A workshop style event was held at Kingshill House, Dursley on 14 September – it would normally be held in March of each year. It enabled members to participate in an exercise to lookback over the previous 18 months to review projects, initiatives, opportunities, events and activities that were led or informed by SDYC.

- a) Presentation of What's Changed, Changing & Not Changed – this part of the review focused on 'impact' and the three aspects are taken from the national Hear by Right standards framework. The projects, initiatives, opportunities, events and activities were attributed as follows;

**What's Not Changed:** *Pressures and stress regarding exams; Healthy eating and body positively initiative; Voting age lowered to 16; Voter registration reform; Creation of environmental initiatives; Mental health and emotional wellbeing work with CCG; School nursing reform; Improving relationship with 'Adopted Lords'; Interaction with County Council; Interaction with MPs.*

**What's Changing:** *Youth Friendly GP Surgeries Initiative; Improving sexual health services for young people; Increasing the impact SDYC can have on SDC decision making; Continue involvement in Child Friendly Gloucestershire Initiative; Promote of racial equality (BLM campaign related) – exploring issues & methods.*

**What's Changed:** *Creation of youth friendly GP surgery initiative framework; BYC motions proposed and approved: statutory youth voice for local authorities; and education on disability awareness, learning difficulties and neurodiversity; Anti-bullying project data collected via largest survey by SDYC ever; Involvement in the development of SDC youth strategy and its approval including presentations at CS&L Committee meetings; Instagram and Twitter social media sites established alongside Facebook – all developed further over the year.*

b) Proposed List of Key Projects and Issues for 2020/21 – This part of the review identified the following projects, initiatives, campaigns and programmes to be worked upon during the remainder of 2020/21;

- Mental health first aid training done annually\*
- C-card champions and secret shoppers, continued championing
- Anti-bullying project consultation continue into report\*
- Interact with SDC political group leaders
- Continue social media presence and growth
- Pressures and stress regarding exams
- Healthy eating and body positively initiative
- Restart local democracy focus group
- Voting age lowered to 16\*
- Voter registration reforms\*
- Environmental initiative – Carbon Neutral 2030 (SDC)
- Youth Friendly GP Surgeries Initiative\* - this will now need to be altered to comply with new online policy's
- Improving sexual health services for young people
- Increasing the impact SDYC can have on SDC decision making\*
- Continue involvement in child friendly Gloucestershire
- Explore how to promote racial equality (BLM campaign related)
- Continue involvement in Child Friendly Gloucestershire Initiative
- Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing\*
- Improving School Nursing\*

\*These are already featured in the SDYC Manifesto.

It was acknowledged that SDYC will need to interact with Stroud District Councillors; County Councillors; Members of Parliament; and Adopted Lords as part of the general influencing of key decision-makers on many of the key issues listed above.

Following a short discussion and a vote, members agreed that the list above should form the basis of the key projects and issues for the remainder of 2020/21.

## **10. British Youth Council Report** – presented by Cate James-Hodges

Cate gave a brief insight into some BYC opportunities and details of the forthcoming Make Your Mark national consultation, the work of the Youth Select Committee and the Youth Futures Foundation. She highlighted how much she was looking forward to being the SDC representative to the BYC and attending future events.

## **11. Chairpersons Report for 2019/20** – presented by Helen March

Helen reflected on the last 18 months, with specific reference to the impact of the pandemic during the last nine months. She spoke of the way both the youth work team and youth voice representatives have adapted to a new way of communicating and working as a group and series of sub-groups. The departure of Rachael Hill from the youth work team and the subsequent recruitment of Seb Williams was highlighted, with involvement of members in the latter including her role on the interview panel. Helen stated how proud she was of the achievements of SDYC and the local youth forum groups – highlighting the Youth Friendly GP Surgery Initiative led by the Health Focus Group; the Anti-Bullying survey that received almost 900 responses; and making significant changes to the BYC policies, which were detailed earlier.

SDC's recommitment to having a youth service was also highlighted, with input from SDYC in the development of a four-year youth work strategy. The presentation of some young people's experiences of working with the Councils youth service, to adult decision makers was also very influential in driving forward the strategy and proved to be incredibly emotive for some councilors - showing how great an impact SDYC has on young people and how important the work we do in facilitating young people's voices. Helen felt this epitomized in the recognition which we received this year from the British Youth Council in the form of the BYC youth voice star award for youth-led organisation of the year.

This acknowledgment from the BYC as a national organisation was a huge honour and it really shows how far we have come in the last few years, having only presented our first formal amendment to the British Youth Council in 2018. With 2020 being our 20th Anniversary the award held even more significance, as it clearly shows how far the youth council have come and how much has been achieved by previous and current members over the last twenty years. Whilst we didn't manage to have the celebration we hoped for, I think to some extent the recognition of SDYC as the top youth voice organisation in the South West, acknowledged all of our hard work to an even greater extent.

In stepping down as Chairperson, having been an SDYC representative for four years, she felt privileged to have been allowed to be part of such an amazing organization – having started university and left home, could clearly see how much of an impact it has had on my life and how valuable it is to young people. She gave a massive thank you to Steve, for his continued guidance over the last two years. A huge thank you also to Jemma and Seb, who's commitment to youth work and facilitation of our goals has been essential.

Arguably most importantly, I also need to say thank you to all members. It has been such a pleasure to work alongside you all, your dedication to influencing change and ensuring that all young people are heard is truly inspirational and your continuous enthusiasm, even when facing so many challenges is what has made my role as chair so enjoyable.

In her Chairperson's report for 2018/19, she said that SDYC had seen a lot of change and faced many challenges and that 2020 has seen significantly greater change and far more challenges! However, member's constant determination and passion as a group had made her job as chair so much easier. Given the prominence of the Black Lives Matter movement this year, Helen felt it appropriate to end with a quote from the black leader Booker T Washington; "success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed". I am confident that SDYC will continue to overcome any challenges put in front of it and that 2021 will be an even more positive year for the youth council.

## **12. Acknowledgement of Members Service**

Steve explained that it was usual to present certificates to those members who have reached one and three years' service, respectively. However, due to the online nature of the event the names of those being acknowledge were read out, with view to certificates being presented at a later date. They were;

**One Year:** Cate James Hodges; Ben Stone; Morgan Smith; Emma Champion; Shannon Griffin; Maxie Wells; Ellie Archer; Conner Roberts; Evie Urquhart; Billy Smeaton; Fin Smith.

**Three Years and more:** Helen March; Claire Gee; Baz Leach; Miki Bailey; Leon Linton-Blake; Tom Wickham-Bassett; Lily Haines.

## **13. Election Results**

Steve announced the results of the following;

- a) **Round 1:** Chairperson: *Tom Wickham-Bassett*; Leader: *Lily Haines*; and British Youth Council Representative: *Cate James-Hodges*
- b) **Round 2:** Vice-Chairperson: *Fin Smith*; Principal Member for Health & Wellbeing: *Ben Stone*; and Principal Member for Environment: *Cate James-Hodges*.

It was noted that the remaining positions of office and leadership were: Principal Member for Local Democracy; Principal Member for Anti-Bullying; and Representative to the British Youth Council. These would be open for nomination in Round 3.

#### **14. Nomination of Co-Options**

It was noted that last year's (2019/20) Nominees were: Gloucestershire Young Carers and Gloucestershire Young Farmers. The process for nominating co-options was explained, with those nominated being approached ahead of any formal election. It was agreed that further discussion would be had at the next meeting on approaching these and any other organisations.

#### **15. SDYC Project Teams and Focus Groups** – self nomination (voting and deputy members)

The process of self-nomination was explained and members were reminded of the difference between project teams and focus groups. Those set up to function for the remainder of the 2020/21 year are as follows;

- a) **Health Focus Group** - involves work on more than one project
- b) **Local Democracy Focus Group** – involves work on more than one project
- c) **Anti-Bullying Project Team** - involves work on just one project
- d) **Environment Project Team** - involves work on just one project

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

- a) Tea & Biscuits via Zoom - *Tuesday 18 November 2020*
- b) CN 2030 Webinar via Zoom – *Thursday 19 November 2020*
- c) Community Rail Partnership / Youth Transport Group – *Monday 23 November 2020*
- d) SDYC Health Focus Group Meeting – *Monday 30 November 2020*
- e) SDYC Anti-Bullying Project Team Meeting – *TBC*

#### **17. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **18. Address from 2020/21 Chairperson** – Tom Wickham Bassett

Tom thanked Helen for all her work as Chair of SDYC for almost two years and wished her well for the future. He thanked those who had voted for him in the Round 1 elections and added that he was very proud to have been elected. He expressed how much he was looking forward to making progress in the remainder of 2020/21.

#### **17. Date of the next meeting**

Monday 14 December 2020 via Zoom.