



# Sevenoaks Youth Council

## Meeting of Sevenoaks Youth Council 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 6.00pm

Sevenoaks Council Chamber,  
Bradbourne Vale Road,  
Sevenoaks,  
TN13 3QG

### Youth Council Members:

Aanya Sidhu- <b>Chair</b>	Maya Goodrich
Harry King- <b>Vice-Chair</b>	Bea Hayward
Simba Li- <b>Treasurer</b>	Cristian Hunter-Garcia
Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Sharma Ishwar
Catherine Barden De Leon	Miko Keen
Rosie Blackmore	Madeleine Politzer
Dexter Buhmann	Jospeh Soanes
Elena-Teodora Dragoi	Aditya Vara
Ayush Gautam	

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk, Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café, Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Committee Clerk

### AGENDA

1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> To receive and note apologies for absence.	
2.	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b> To receive and adopt the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2024.	Attached (pages 03-05)
3.	<b>Finance Report</b> To note the balance of the Youth Council budget 2024/25.	Attached (page 06)
4.	<b>Current Matters</b> To receive and note the Current Matters report.	Attached (pages 07-09)
5.	<b>Kooth Mental Health</b> To receive a talk from Shelley on behalf of Kooth Mental Health.	

6.	<b>House in the Basement [HiTB] Youth Café</b> <a href="#">House in the Basement - Home (weebly.com)</a> To receive and consider the Manager's report	Attached (pages 10-12)
7.	<b>Summer Youth Provision Report</b> To receive and note the report on the summer youth events hosted or coordinated by Sevenoaks Town Council.	Attached (pages 13-14)
8.	<b>Halloween Silent Disco</b> To note the Halloween Silent Disco will be taking place on Friday the 1 <sup>st</sup> of November at 4 pm till 6 pm.	Attached (pages 15-16)
9.	<b>Date of Next Meetings</b> To note the dates of future meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at House in The Basement, TN13 1ZZ</li> <li>• Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at the Town Council Chamber, TN13 3QG</li> <li>• Wednesday 05<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at House in The Basement, TN13 1ZZ</li> </ul>	-

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council**  
**Held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

at Sevenoaks Town Council Chamber, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG,

**Meeting Commenced:** 6.00 p.m.

**Meeting Concluded:** 6.49 p.m.

**Present:**

**Youth Council Members:**

Aanya Sidhu- <b>Chair</b>	Absent	Maya Goodrich	Apologies
Harry King- <b>Vice-Chair</b>	Present	Bea Hayward	Apologies
Simba Li- <b>Treasurer</b>	Absent	Cristian Hunter-Garcia	Present
Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Apologies	Sharma Ishwar	Apologies
Catherine Barden De Leon	Absent	Miko Keen	Apologies
Rosie Blackmore	Present	Madeleine Politzer	Apologies
Dexter Buhmann	Absent	Jospeh Soanes	Present
Elena-Teodora Dragoi	Absent	Aditya Vara	Absent
Ayush Gautam	Absent		

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk; Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk.

1. In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Harry King Chaired the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence**  
They were received as shown above.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**  
**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
4. **Finance Report**  
It was noted that £1,720.10 had been carried over from the previous financial year 2023/24 and that the Youth Council had been allocated £500 at the start of this financial year 2024/25.  
  
**RESOLVED:** To note that the current balance for 2024/25 was £2,220.10
5. **Current Matters Report**  
**RESOLVED:** To accept the Current Matters Report.
6. **House in the Basement Youth Café (HiTB), Managers report:**  
The Youth Council heard from Daren Mountain that the Youth Café is doing well. Daren also reported that the NEET (not in Education, Employment, or Training) project was still ongoing with small numbers in attendance. It was noted that the NEET project was undergoing a rebrand to try and gain more publicity. The Youth Council was handed a draft poster to get their thoughts.
  - Large amounts of text, perhaps needs to be slimmed down or bullet-pointed.

- Key information in the left box could be made clearer.
- Portrait rather than Landscape.
- It is unclear from the image what it is about, an image of friendly faces may be better or footprints.
- It is very in your face which may not appeal to young people with anxiety.
- Remove the Next Steps and have Moving Forward as the title. Maybe having this towards the bottom of the page.

**RESOLVED:** New posters to be created taking on board the Youth Council's advice to promote the NEET Project.

It was noted that there is no clear signage for the opening times for House in the Basement. The Youth Council noted that signs or posters with the opening times would be useful especially on the door to HiTB to advertise.

## **7. Charity- Friends for Families**

The Youth Councillors noted that it would be useful to have some form of flyers or posters from Friends for Families to help promote the charity as they can take these to schools and local companies.

The Youth Council expressed an interest in holding a bake sale at House in the Basement to help raise money and awareness for the charity. Daren noted that Friends for Families could have a stall outside House in the Basement during the sale to help raise awareness.

It was also noted that House in the Basement with West Kent Youth Trust have held Silent discos in the past towards Halloween and a similar event could be done by the Youth Council to help raise funds for their chosen charity. The Youth Councillors mentioned that a costume competition could be held with a prize for the best dressed to help entice young people to attend with entry prices for the event going to their chosen charity.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. To hold a fundraising cake sale in September
2. To hold a fundraising Halloween Disco and Fancy-Dress Competition in October.

## **8. Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey and Posters**

Harry noted that he had handed copies of the surveys to his form in school. He informed the Youth Council that while some of the ideas that were mentioned may not be actionable by the Town Council, However, it had got young people actively involved in talking about mental health.

The Youth Council received posters designed to allow schools to fill in the relevant information to help young people identify who they can go to get help or advice for things like mental health. It was noted that if these were put up around schools the target audience may not read them in case of persecution for peers, some schools have bulletins in the morning where these could be shown to avoid this.

**RESOLVED:** The mental health posters and surveys are to be sent to schools at the start of the new school year in September 2024 with a completion deadline of the end of September.



**9. Workshop ideas how to promote the Climate Change Youth Forum**

The Youth Council heard that previously the Town Council invited schools to attend the Climate Change Youth Forums and that there was a good level of interest at the start of the project but due to administrative issues there had been a decision to branch out to solely asking young people if they would like to attend an evening meeting. It was noted that these meetings had not been well attended.

- The Youth Council noted that an incentive similar to the Youth Council such as being able to place attendance of these meetings on a C.V. or counting it towards DoF volunteer may improve attendance.
- Designing posters with signup sheets for schools to use may also help.
- It was noted that going back to the school Eco Councils may be an option as schools gained from the conversations through talking to one another.

**RESOLVED:** To coordinate and arrange with schools to attend the next and future meetings of the Climate Change Youth Forum.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED:**

- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 6 pm in the Town Council Chamber
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 6 pm at House in The Basement
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6 pm in the Town Council Chamber
- Wednesday 05<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 6 pm at House in The Basement

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

## 2024/25

[illegible]

## 2024/25

	Expenditure £	Income £
<b>Starting Balance:</b>	01/04/2024	£ -
<b>Budget allocated:</b>	0.00	£0.00
	£ -	£0.00
<b>Available Funds</b>	£ -	
	£ -	

**Sevenoaks Town Council  
Youth Council Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Current Matters**

**NB: Updates are shown in red.**

Item	Minute No	Item	Status	Latest update
	<a href="#">11)- 1/11/2023</a>	Priorities	After the Workshop the Youth Councillors discussed some of the ideas that had been suggested, it was noted that Mental Health was one of the key themes. It was also suggested that more can be done for the promotion of local sports clubs and mentoring schemes.	
	<a href="#">12)- 17/01/2024</a>		<b>Resolved:</b> It was noted that the Youth Council agreed that the Environment should be their main Priority. <b>Resolved:</b> It was noted that the Youth Council agreed that Mental Health and Well-being should be their Second priority with Community being their third.	
	<a href="#">9)- 20/03/2024</a>		During the last meeting the Youth Council mentioned a Survey for young people to use for any mental health issues and to report incidents like bullying and to help sign post young people to where they can get help. It was suggested that a poster could be created for young people to have at school and the Town for them to know who to contact for help any issues be that at home or at school.	A draft Survey and poster have been prepared.
	<a href="#">12)- 15/05/2024</a>		<b>RESOLVED:</b> To receive and note that a Draft Survey had been created.	
	<a href="#">13)- 15/05/2024</a>		<b>RESOLVED:</b> To receive and note a draft mental health poster had been created.	
	<a href="#">08)- 10/07/2024</a>		<b>RESOLVED:</b> The mental health posters and surveys are to be sent to schools at the start of the new school year in September	

**Sevenoaks Town Council**  
**Youth Council Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Item	Minute No	Item	Status	Latest update
			2024 with a completion deadline of the end of September.	
	<a href="#">7)- 17/01/2024</a>  <a href="#">7)- 15/05/2024</a>  <a href="#">7)- 10/07/2024</a>	<b>Youth Council Charity</b>	<p><b>Resolved:</b> The Youth Council agreed to support <b>Friends for Families</b> over their two-year term.</p> <p>Representatives from Friends for Families attend the Youth Council Meeting it was mentioned that the Chairty would be delighted to receive any funds that the Youth Council could raise and mentioned the charity would be happy to give the Youth Council boxes with the charity name on for events. The Youth Council discussed the different ways they could raise money either through a raffle held during school or Sevenoaks Town Council events or doing cake sales or “Bake off” challenges at House in the Basement.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>1. To hold a fundraising cake sale in September</p> <p>2. To hold a fundraising Halloween Disco and Fancy-Dress Competition in October.</p>	Charity representative has been invited to the meeting on 15 <sup>th</sup> of May 2024.
	<a href="#">11)- 17/01/2024</a>  <a href="#">7)- 20/03/2024</a>  <a href="#">11)- 15/05/2024</a>	<b>Climate Change Youth Forum</b>	<p><b>Resolved:</b> To note the first meeting of the Climate Change Youth Forum will be taking place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 at 6pm.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To note the next meeting of the Climate Change Youth Forum, takes place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April at 6pm with Guest speaker Trevor Kennet, Head of Direct Services at Sevenoaks District Council on “<i>Recycling in Sevenoaks</i>”.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the Minutes of the Climate Change Youth Forum held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2024.</p>	Trevor Kennet was unable to attend due to a bereavement. He will be invited to a future meeting.

9

Sevenoaks Town Council  
Youth Council- Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024



**House in the Basement Youth Café Manager:**  
**July 2024 – August 2024 report:**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of July new fire doors were installed by the Stag Theatre at House in the Basement. These doors were funded by the Sevenoaks Town Council at the recommendation of the Youth Services Working Group to the Community and Wellbeing Committee. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of July the new PC's that were partly funded by Kent Youth Trust were installed in House in the Basement.



August & the school summer holidays always see a drop in numbers attending Hitb as people holiday etc, this has once again been the case this year. Whilst we see fewer young people in Hitb itself a number of workshops & trips meant overall we saw more young people in August than we would normally, especially new faces.

An SDC family Funday at Greatness Park early in the month saw 3 Hitb staff attend. Although many were under 11 years old it was a good opportunity to network with parents/carers & other Youth/children's organisations that were there.

**Sevenoaks Town Council  
Youth Council- Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**



A dance Workshop in partnership with West Kent housing at the plaza suite in the Stag Theatre saw 9 of us getting involved in an energetic couple of hours of dance.

A trip to Sevenoaks Wildlife Centre for a photography workshop involving 11 young people using different types of cameras & media to take shots of the wildlife was met with enthusiasm.



37 of us went off to the beach at Broadstairs on the 23rd, the weather was kind & dips in the sea, and games on the sand & ice cream were had.



SEN Tuesdays continued through August with fewer coming and some new faces.

A young person recently completed his D of E community service with us at Hitb & we also had a Knole Academy student do his work Experience with us in July.



**Sevenoaks Town Council  
Youth Council- Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**



We have received a substantial grant from SDC for photography equipment as well as delivering photography sessions.

The Darent Valley community rail partnership has provided a grant for STC/Hitb to deliver rail safety information & education to young people.

A grant application has also been submitted to Southeastern Rail to supply a trip to the Bluebell railway for 24 young people either during the October or February half-terms. The grant includes the travel to and from the location as well as the activities on the railway such as a trip on a steam train and a day looking at how railways work and the different jobs within the railway sector.



**Sevenoaks Town Council  
Youth Council - Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Summer Youth Provision Report 2024**

Over the Summer Holiday, Sevenoaks Town Council hosted a range of different free summer activities for young people of various ages at a variety of locations around the town.

**Family Fun Day**

(Funded by Sevenoaks District Council) As part of the District Council's summer play provision put on with Play Place, the Town Council hosted a Family Fun Day that saw Dinosaurs take to Greatness Recreation Ground with West Kent Housing bringing a variety of fairground attractions like Hook a Duck and Coconut Shy, along with House in the Basement and a large inflatable dart board. Around 200 people flocked to the event in brilliant sunshine with slushies and candy floss on hand for refreshments.



**Children's Theatre Shows**

We were pleased to provide our popular free children's theatre shows again during August at the following venues: Bat & Ball Centre, Pontoise Close Play Area, Greatness Recreational Ground and The Vine Gardens. This year's production was Wind in the Willows put on by the talented Cats Grin Theatre Company. The events were well attended despite some wet weather on Thursday 22 of August but overall, just over 350 people attended the theatre shows over the week.

- Bat & Ball Centre: 60-70 people,
- Pontoise Close: 50-60 people,
- Greatness Recreational Ground: 25-30 people (rainy day),
- The Vine Gardens: around 200 people.

Sevenoaks Town Council  
Youth Council - Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024



**Skateboard Event**

We were delighted to have received sponsorship from Kent County Council, Sevenoaks District Council, and West Kent Housing to fund a skateboard, BMX, and scooter event at Greatness Skate Park this year. The event was hosted by King Ramps who brought along TJ and Austin Terry who had been on Britain's Got Talent for their daring scooter tricks in 2022. The event saw over 100 young people attend, along with the Kent Fire and Rescue Service talking to young people about careers within the Fire Service. We also had Andy from Kenwood Trust talking to young people about making the right life choices regarding substance abuse and other issues that can negatively affect their quality of life.





Sevenoaks  
Youth Council



# HALLOWEEN DISCO



## MUSIC & COSTUME CONTEST

JOIN US ON FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2024  
FOR SPOOKTACULAR TIME  
OPEN TO ALL AGED 11-18  
FROM 4 PM-6 PM

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE SEVENOAKS YOUTH  
COUNCIL CHARITY: "FRIENDS FOR FAMILIES"



Friends For Families  
Sevenoaks

The Bat & Ball Centre, Crampton's road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN



HOUSE IN THE  
Basement

Sevenoaks  
Youth Council

# HALLOWEEN DISCO

## MUSIC & COSTUME CONTEST

JOIN US ON FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2024

FOR SPOOKTACULAR TIME

OPEN TO ALL AGED 11-18

FROM 4 PM - 6 PM

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE SEVENOAKS YOUTH  
COUNCIL CHARITY: "FRIENDS FOR FAMILIES"



The Bat & Ball Centre, Crampton's road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN



HOUSE IN THE  
Basement