

## Sevenoaks Town Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Committee Held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG.

**Meeting Started:** 7.00 p.m.

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.08 p.m.

**Present:**

|   |                    |  |         |
|---|--------------------|--|---------|
| Cllr Chloe Gustard ( <b>Chair</b> )                                 | Apologies          | Cllr Catherine Daniell ( <b>Vice-Chair</b> )         | Present |
| Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet   | Present            | Cllr Sally Layne                                     | Present |
| Cllr Clair Shea ( <b>ex-officio</b> )                               | Apologies          | Cllr Gareth Willis                                   | Present |
| <b><u>Co-opted members</u></b>                                      |                    |  |         |
| <b>Sevenoaks Youth Council:</b><br>Harry King<br>Madeleine Politzer | Present<br>Present | <b>Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust:</b><br>Peter Robinson | Present |
| <b>Kent County Council:</b> Vacant                                  |                    | <b>West Kent Communities:</b><br>Richard Dowling     | Present |
| <b>Sevenoaks District Council:</b><br>Maxine Quinton                | Present            | <b>National Trust:</b> Amy Sabine                    | Present |

| <b>Substitute</b> |         | <b>For</b>         |
|-------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Cllr Tony Clayton | Present | Cllr Chloe Gustard |

**In attendance:** Linda Larter, Town Clerk, Daren Mountain, HiTB Youth Café Manager, Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk.

**Representations received from Members of the Public:** none.

Prior to the meeting everyone introduced themselves and the Youth Councillors were welcomed to their first meeting.

**641. In the Absence of the Chair the Deputy Chair Chaired the meeting.**

**642. Apologies for Absence**  
Received as noted above.

**643. Requests for Dispensations**  
There were no requests for dispensations.

**644. Declarations of Interest**  
There were no declarations of interest.

**645. Minutes of Youth Services Committee held on 08<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**RESOLVED:** To receive and accept minutes as a true record.

## Sevenoaks Town Council

### 646. Minutes of Sevenoaks Youth Council held 01<sup>st</sup> November 2023

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the Minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 01<sup>st</sup> November 2023.

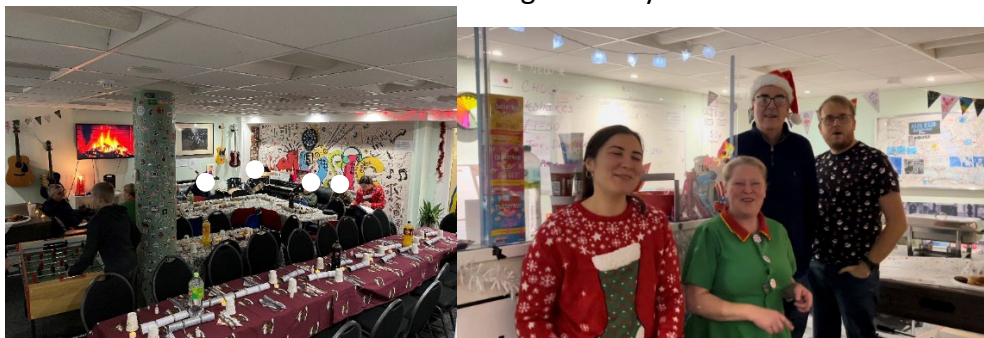
### 647. House in the Basement Youth Café

#### 647.1 Update Report

Daren reported that the NEET project was still going ahead but there has been a slow uptake from schools. He also stated that they are looking at a launch during Easter. Daren outlined that the NEET project is there for young people who are Not currently in any form of Education, Employment, or Training. Daren also stated they had arranged for speakers like the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Kenwood trust and other organisations to make the programme an interactive learning experience. The project will be running from 13:30 till 15:30 on Tuesdays. Richard from West Kent Housing enquired if there was an incentive to the schools, for example if students attend the NEET project it counts as attendance at school for one day a week. The Committee asked how the project was currently being advertised in the local area, Daren reported that posters have been created and primarily sent out on to the notice boards in the town, it had been placed on social media as well as newsletters, and was being well circulated in schools. It was reported that it might be possible to give the information about the project to Police Beat Officers to give out to any young people they might know of or encounter in the Community. It was noted that the primary objective of this project is to give young people a place where they can feel comfortable outside of their homes and where they can meet new people in a smaller environment than a school setting.

Daren reported that House in the Basement (HiTB) was currently doing well with Fridays and Saturdays still being their busiest days. He also noted that they are still seeing a range of new young people attending HiTB, Daren reported this could be due to varied factors such as word of mouth or young people bringing friends.

It was noted that a sit-down Christmas meal had been provided at HiTB. Perfect Cuisine was thanked for their continued generosity.



Councillor Layne expressed her praise for House in the Basement and their Youth Workers.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be received and noted.

## Sevenoaks Town Council

### 647.2 Finance Report September, October, and November 2023

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance Cost Centre report for the House in the Basement Youth Café be noted.

### 648. Reports from Co-opted Partners

Noted following reports from Co-opted Partners:

#### (i) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)

Peter Robinson reported that the Alpha youth group had paused over the Christmas period and will continue until February, they are currently looking to work with Knole and Trinity School. As reported in the last meeting SAYT do not have access to a bus as of yet and have not been able to conduct detached work at the Greatness Recreational Ground. It was noted that the offer from West Kent Housing about using their minibus still stands once they have found a safe location to park and leave the vehicle for prolonged periods of time. It was noted that they are currently talking to SDC about leaving the minibus in one of its car parks, it was also noted that they could talk to STC about the use the Bat & Ball Centre car park.

#### (ii) Sevenoaks District Council, Community Safety

Maxine reported that there had been Anti-Social Behavior at the Christmas lights with a Police Officer being injured by a firework. It was also noted that the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the Vine has been approved. There are other areas in the District where SDC are currently looking into applying a PSPO. Maxine also reported there had been issues at Bradbourne park car park with a few problems from vehicles, it was noted that many of the vehicles were from Dover, Ramsgate areas.

#### (iii) West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)

Richard reported that while the Councillors had three quarterly reports from their detached work there is a gap during the time, they held Fun Days as these are not covered by detached work. Richard noted that they are currently going through the process of an exit interview with KCC.

The Committee heard that the Young Adventurers group is doing well with a maximum of twenty young people attending. During Christmas they held a Christmas party for the Group with the young people selecting a mobile zoo for their activity.

Richard also reported that the toy appeal with Lidl had been successful with over twenty-one families in Sevenoaks receiving packages, including food parcels and vouchers for food from Sevenoaks District Council. It was noted that a thank you sign for those who donated to the appeal might be placed at the site.

It was also noted that West Kent Housing had been successful in securing all of the funding they need to operate for another year and are currently looking at trying to secure funding to aid the longevity of their Youth Programs.

**(iv) National Trust**

Amy reported that they have been very busy with the Snowman trails, which have now finished. They currently have 2 young people completing their Bronze DofE, 1 completing their Silver and 1 completing their gold DofE awards. It was noted that they are currently working on their Work Experience programmes. It was noted that the National Trust had just sent out their report for the year detailing that Climate actions are to be one of their focus points.

**649. SEN work experience opportunities**

The Committee received the following report that showed where the current work experience opportunities for young people is placed as well as an update on talks between SDC and The Education People to look into how to create something similar to signpost SEN young people and their parents/guardians to businesses and organisations who would be able to support work experience.

**“Special Educational Needs (SEN)- Work Experience Research Report**

*Since the last meeting of the Youth Services Committee, we have continued to ask local businesses and organisations if they are able to offer work experience opportunities to young SEN people. The responses that we have received from the different organisations and businesses in the Town have been added to the Youth Council’s current Work Experience page on the Youth Council website.*

<https://sevenoaksyouthcouncil.weebly.com/work-experience.html>

*With the help of Simon Harris and Maxine Quinton from Sevenoaks District Council we have also been in contact with The Education People who have created a Work Experience data base for young people on behalf of Kent County Council.*

[kentprospectus.co.uk/courses/work-experience-search](http://kentprospectus.co.uk/courses/work-experience-search)

*The link opens up to a data base that details what work experience is available near you based on a post code entry. There are different filters to help young people find a work experience the suites them.*

*Currently we are trying to arrange a meeting between ourselves, Sevenoaks District Council and The Education People to see what the best way is to compile this data from companies who are willing or perhaps even schools and how we present this data once it has been compiled.”*

It was noted that some businesses might benefit from training that smaller businesses may not have access to, it was also noted that staffing could also be a problem with some companies who might not have the capacity to always cover the need to be in sight and sound of a young person. The Committee noted that there are other projects such as the Fair Shot Café in Covent garden that offer opportunities to SEN young people.

**Sevenoaks Town Council**

**650. Skateboarding for girls**

The Committee received a report regarding the opportunity to provide free community Skateboarding sessions for girls at Greatness Recreational Ground. The amount asked would be £1,110 to cover two groups of ten young people for 1 hour at a time for a duration of 5- 6 weeks.

**RESOLVED:** To fund the sessions with the remaining Youth Outreach Grant Budget of £600 and to pay the remainder of £510 from the Youth Outreach Grant Budget in the new financial year.

**651. Family Hub and Commissioned youth decision**

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Youth Services Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**652. Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) on the Vine- update**

The Committee noted that the PSPO for the Vine had been approved and that during the Youth Council Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January Youth Councillors were shown three draft posters from SDC and had given feedback which the District Council had taken on board and created three new posters that the Committee were shown. It was noted that the posters contained a lot of text, but it was also noted that there may be a legal requirement as to what information must be on the poster. It was noted that the majority of the Committee preferred option three, including the representatives from the Youth Council. The Committee also noted that a QR code on this option might be of help for any individuals who wanted to see the area that the PSPO covered.

**653. Press Release**

**RESOLVED:** To put together a press release for the funding of Skateboarding sessions for girls.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed .....  
Chair

Dated .....