

**Sevenoaks Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Working Group**  
**Held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at the Town Council Offices**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 p.m.

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.00 p.m.

**Present:**

Cllr Chloe Gustard ( <b>Chair</b> )	Apologies	Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Apologies
Cllr Catherine Daniell ( <b>Vice-Chair, Deputy-Leader</b> )	Present	Cllr Gareth Willis	Apologies
<b>Co-opted members</b>			
<b>Sevenoaks Youth Council:</b> Harry King Madeleine Politzer	Apologies Apologies	<b>Sevenoaks District Council:</b> Maxine Quinton Kelly Webb	Apologies Apologies
<b>Kent County Council:</b> Vacant	–	<b>West Kent Communities:</b> Richard Dowling	Present
<b>Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust:</b> Peter Robinson	Present	<b>National Trust:</b> Amy Sabine	Present

<b>Substitute</b>		<b>For</b>
Cllr Sally Layne	Present	Cllr Chloe Gustard
Cllr Lionel O’Hara	Present	Cllr Gareth Willis

**In attendance:** Town Clerk, House in the Basement Youth Café Manager and Youth Committee Clerk.

**70.** In the absence of the Chair Vice-Chair and Deputy Leader Cllr Catherine Daniell Chaired the meeting.

**71. Apologies for Absence:**  
Received and accepted as noted above.

**72. Requests for Dispensations:**  
There were no requests for dispensations.

**73. Declarations of Interest:**  
There were no declarations of interest.

**74. Minutes of Youth Services Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**  
It was agreed to receive and accept the minutes as a true record.

**75. Minutes of Sevenoaks Youth Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**  
It was agreed to receive and note the minutes.

**76. House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB)**

**76.1. Manager’s Report**

Daren Mountain reported that the SEN group on Tuesday has been going well. The NEET project is still ongoing and while they are still seeing small numbers the feedback from both the parents and young people has been positive with parents reporting a noticeable difference from the young person. It was also

**Sevenoaks Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Working Group**  
**Held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at the Town Council Offices**

noted that a few of the young people who had been attending the sessions have started to attend the other groups at House in the Basement. Daren reported that over the summer school holidays, the project will be pausing, with the potential for a rebranding of the project with new posters and publications to come into effect for the new school year to help promote the project.

It was also noted that.

One of the young people who had been attending the NEET project had been helping with the gardening in preparation for the South East in Bloom judging and was even engaging with the Judges on the day.

Daren reported that a Youth Worker meeting had taken place with many of the different youth workers within the Sevenoaks area attending.

The Working Group heard that West Kent Housing has helped fund a Coach to be provided to take up to forty young people who attend House in the Basement, SAYT and West Kent on a trip to Broadstairs. This will be taking place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2024 with young people meeting the coach at the Stag Car Park.

**76.2. House in the Basement in Bloom- It is your neighbourhood entry.**

It was noted that House in the Basement had been entered "It's Your Neighbourhood" and they would find out the results sometime in September.

**76.3. Finance Cost Centre Reports, April- May 2024**

The Finance Cost Centre reports for the House in the Basement Youth Café for April-May 2024 were received and noted.

**77. Current Matters and Completed Matters report.**

That the Current Matters report be received and noted.

**78. Reports from Co-opted Partners**

The following reports from Co-opted Partners were noted:

**i) West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)**

Richard Dowling reported that the outreach detached work with House in the Basement has been going well. They had seen young people out The Vine, Greatness Recreation Ground, Mill Pond Woods, Bradbourne Lakes and the Tarmac Quarry Site. It was also noted that they had started to see more sixth-form students.

The Working group heard that West Kent Youth Trust are holding Street dance sessions over the summer. They are also assisting with Photography sessions at House in the Basement. Richard also reported that they had received funding to supply their free holiday clubs from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of August at Hope Church.

**Sevenoaks Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Working Group**  
**Held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at the Town Council Offices**

There are spaces for up to thirty young people at a time with three different elements to the day, active, creative and food.

Richard also reported that they will be attending the Family Fun Day at Greatness Recreation Ground and will be bringing a funfair-like stall for the event. He informed the working group that they would be bringing a Coconut Shy, Hook a Duck and other types of funfair stalls.

The fun day at Greatness Recreation Ground is funded by the Town Council as part of the SDC district-wide Summer Playdays. In addition, Sevenoaks Town Council will be providing a Dinosaur event

**ii) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust**

Peter Robinson reported that since the last meeting, the Alpha Group had finished and that they are currently working with the young people who attended the Alpha Group to create a follow-up project. They have been heading to Holly Bush on Tuesday trying to engage with more young people as they are noticing that many of their current members are starting to reach the end of their school years.

It was also noted that they will be taking five young people with two seniors on a summer camp. Peter also noted that SAYT will be holding a sponsored walk from the Thames Pathway to Tower Bridge to raise £2,000.

**iii) National Trust- Knole**

Amy Sabine reported that since the last meeting Knole had taken place in the Great Big Green Week during which they had guided walks and handed out *Discovery packs* for young people to help interact with the park around them.

Amy reported that they have been busy with eleven young people attending for general work experience and two for careers-based work experience. They are currently trying to increase the number of young people attending for D of E based Volunteering as they currently provide mentors who have been DBS checked to support these individuals.

It was noted that in the summer holidays, Knole will be holding *Summer of Play* during which they provide several different game items Like Cricket and Kite flying. It is free for young people and families to use on their visit.

**79. Grant for Skateboarding Equipment**

The working group discussed the proposal to allocate funds for purchasing skateboarding equipment. This equipment will be available for individuals who might otherwise be unable to afford it, allowing them to borrow it and participate in skateboarding activities. The initiative aims to promote inclusivity and provide opportunities for all members of the community to engage in this sport.

**Sevenoaks Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Working Group**  
**Held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at the Town Council Offices**

The Working group agreed to allocate £500 to the funding for the skateboarding equipment.

**80. Skate Park event at Greatness Recreation Ground**

The Working group heard that Sevenoaks Town Council have been approached about providing a skateboarding event over either the summer holidays or the October half term. It was noted that in the past these events have been very well attended. The Working Group flagged that the requested amount to fund this event would not leave much for any future events or grants.

**RESOLVED:** Sevenoaks Town Council to look for sponsors for this event and work with West Kent and Sevenoaks District Council to fund the event. Sevenoaks Town Council to allocate £500 each to the funding of the event.

An update sheet was circulated to the working group. The report outlined that STC had been approached about the use of the skate park for private lessons. It was noted that this would involve the sectioning off areas of the Skate Park and limiting public use of a space that has previously been free for the public to use at any point.

The Working Group suggested that if the Council wanted to go ahead with this it would be best to see if there are certain days of the week where fewer people use the site that could be offered at a charged rate for lesson provider. It was noted that timetables similar to the ones used for the MUGA at the Bat & Ball Centre would need to be created to help identify what's going on and when.

**RESOLVED:** To liaise with the Skateboard Coach to agree the following:

- Small charge for use which would be reinvested into skateboarding activities.
- Agreed regular day and time that is least disruptive to other users.
- Information to be provided to skate park users (as per MUGA sign)
- Ensure the skateboarding coach has all of the following in place: Public Liability Insurance, Risk Assessments, and Safeguarding Measures.

**81. Press Release**

No press release was issued.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed .....

Chair

Dated .....