

**Sevenoaks Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Working Group**  
**Held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at the Town Council Offices**

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

**Meeting Concluded:** 7.45 p.m.

**Present:**

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

<b>Substitute</b>		<b>For</b>
Cllr Lise Michaelides	Present	Cllr Catherine Daniell
Cllr Tony Clayton ( <b>Deputy-Mayor</b> )	Present	Cllr Libby Ancrum ( <b>Mayor</b> )

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

- 160. Apologies for Absence:** Received and accepted as noted above.
- 161. Requests for Dispensations:** There were no requests for dispensations.
- 162. Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 163. Minutes of Youth Services Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**  
It was agreed to receive and accept the minutes as a true record.
- 164. Minutes of Sevenoaks Youth Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**  
It was agreed to receive and note the minutes as a true record
- 165. Grants Report**
- 165.1 Progress on Grant Applications Submitted by STC**  
The Working Group received and noted the report of grant applications that had been submitted by the Town Council and successfully obtained. It was noted that there was only one application still waiting for approval.

**2024/25**

<u>Organisation</u> <u>name:</u>	<u>Reason for Grant:</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Applied for:</u>	<u>Progress:</u>
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Awards for All	Staff salaries at HITB	£10,000	Full amount received
Helping Hands	SEN evenings	£2,000	Full amount received
DVCRP - Rail Safety	HITB for delivering rail safety sessions	£2,000	Approved
Members Grant	Towards Skate Jam	£500	Approved
West Kent	Towards Skate Jam	£500	Approved
SDC	Towards Skate Jam	£500	Approved
SDC - Cultural Grant	To fund photograph lessons at HiTB (camera and external instructor)	£1,000	Approved
Kent Youth Trust	contribution towards three new gaming computers	£1,000	Full amount received
South Eastern Rail- Customer and Community Improvement Fund	A Trip for 24 young people to visit the Bluebell Railway with tours around the different aspects of the Railway and ride on a steam train while teaching young people about the different jobs in the railway.	£5,994	The grant application has been submitted.

**165.2 Youth Outreach Budget and Grant Application Received.**

The Committee received and noted that the balance of the 2024/25 Youth Outreach budget was £4,397.

**RESOLVED:** To RECOMMEND to the Community and Wellbeing Committee that a grant application request be awarded under the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011 Sections 1-8 refers) as follows:

Grant Ref No	Organisation Name & Charity Reg	Purpose of award	Grant Application	Grant approved
6	Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival Young Musician of the Year	Towards the cost of hire of the venue with competition standard piano for the Young Musician competition	£650	£650
<b>Total awarded</b>				<b>£650</b>

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

**166.1 Manager's Report**

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The Youth Services Working Group received Daren Mountain's report. Daren had mentioned that they had seen fewer young people at House in the Basement over the summer months, he reported that this is normal with many young people going on holidays. Daren also noted that many different events were hosted over the summer, with Photography and Dance Sessions being run in partnership with West Kent Housing. It was also noted that House in the Basement had just received a grant from the Darent Valley Rail Partnership to go into schools to run rail safety sessions.

**166.2 Finance Cost Centre Reports, June-July 2024**

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

**167. Craft Equipment for HitB**

The Working Group received a request for funding to buy a Cricutjoy cutting machine for House in the Basement for craft events. The item was priced at £170.99 on Amazon.

**RESOLVED:** to RECOMMEND to the Community and Wellbeing Committee that a Cricutjoy cutting and printing machine be purchased for the House in the Basement from the Youth Outreach Budget, at a cost of £170.99.

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

The following reports from Co-opted Partners were noted:

**i) Sevenoaks District Council, Community Safety**

Maxine reported that Abbie Caine is currently looking at restarting the mentoring project, it was also noted that Abbie and Sevenoaks Town Council were in conversation about possible skateboarding sessions for the October half term. Maxine also mentioned Abbie is currently working on cooking projects for SEN young people within Swanley, but they are looking at the possibility of branching out if there is funding. Daren Reported that this would be something House in the Basement would be interested in for the Tuesday SEN Group. It was also noted that they were currently looking at holding a party over the October half-term for Ukrainian refugee young people.

The Working Group also heard that there had been a few cases of anti-social behaviour at the multi-story car park next to the Leisure Centre, the young people involved had been identified and served with notices. It was also noted that there had been some issues around the seating area at the Leisure Centre; to address this the District Council had cut the bushes and removed the permanent seating area with the café bringing out seating during their opening times.

Maxine reported that there had been some issues at the Bat and Ball Railway Station, but they had recently had a large-scale operation with British Transport Police and Southeastern Rail; since this, they had received fewer reports of anti-social behaviour. It was noted that in the reports they had received, some of the young people involved had been issued with WIPs, which means that are not permitted to travel without an adult present. Maxine

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advised the Councillors that this problem was being seen across the district, the advantage at Bat and Ball Station was the CCTV coverage can be easily accessed by Kent Police.

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

Although Richard Dowling was unable to attend this meeting, he had forwarded a report from Ben Renolds regarding the Youth Outreach within Sevenoaks from June to August.

The Youth Services Working Group received and noted the reports.

**iii) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)**

Peter Robinson reported that over the summer holidays, they had held a summer camp for five young people and three staff. He also reported that as the days start to get shorter, they were looking into how the outreach in the Hollybush area will develop.

**169. Summer Youth Events**

The Youth Services Working Group received and noted the youth summer provision report.

**170. Current & Completed Matters Report**

**11.1 Current Matters Report**

It was noted that the NEET project posters had been redesigned and were starting to be redistributed. Councillors mentioned it may be worth dropping into food banks and doctor's surgeries with leaflets and fliers about the project as this could help to raise awareness. It was noted that The Education People had offered to help get the information into schools through their contacts.

**RESOLVED:** that the Current Matters report be received and noted.

**11.2 Completed Matters Report**

**RESOLVED:** that the Completed Matters report be received and noted.

**171. Skateboard Lessons**

It was noted that Daren had been in contact with the provider and would be holding a meeting soon to discuss future options about holding sessions at the site, noting the arrangements agreed at the previous meeting.

**172. Press Release**

**RESOLVED:** To issue a press release promoting the NEET project using extracts from case studies, anonymised.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed .....  
Chair

Dated .....