

## Sevenoaks Town Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Committee Held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

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

**Meeting Concluded:** 7.50 p.m.

**Present:**

|                                                         |           |  |                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cllr Richard Parry, <b>Vice-Chairman (in the Chair)</b> | Present   |  | Cllr Libby Ancrum                     | Apologies         |
| Cllr Nick Busvine                                       | Apologies |  | Cllr Roderick Hogarth                 | Apologies         |
| Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet, <b>Chairman</b>                  | Apologies |  | Cllr Tom Morris Brown                 | Apologies         |
| Cllr Andrew Eyre                                        | Present   |  | Cllr Claire Shea                      | Present           |
| Cllr Rachel Parry, Mayor (ex- officio)                  | Present   |  |                                       |                   |
| <b>Co-opted Members:</b>                                |           |  |                                       |                   |
| Richard Dowling, West Kent Communities                  | Present   |  | Victoria Walters, Kent County Council | Remote Attendance |
| Maxine Quinton, Sevenoaks District Council              | Present   |  | Caroline Berry, SAYT                  | Present           |

**In attendance:** Town Clerk, Committee Clerk, HitB Manager.

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

**100. Chairman**

**RESOLVED:** To confirm the election of Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet as Chairman

**101. Vice-Chairman**

**RESOLVED:** To confirm the election of Cllr Richard Parry as Vice-Chairman

**102. Apologies for Absence**

Received as noted above.

**103. Requests for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**104. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**105. Minutes of Youth Services Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and accept minutes as a true record.

**106. House in the Basement Youth Café**

**106.1 Update Report**

Daren Mountain, Manager of the House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB), presented his report:

## Sevenoaks Town Council

- During Easter holidays we opened longer hours, although we actually saw fewer young people. We had several new young people, mainly in the year 6/7 age group
- Visits to some schools were planned in the next few weeks
- The monthly pool tournament has continued, and a weekly darts tournament was commencing on Wednesday nights
- A trip to Layberry Farm had been arranged for May for the SEN members.

Since the last report:

### March Figures:

- Opened for 18 days, of which 5 days were for SEN Club
- 107 young people attended, 7 of whom were new
- 51 were SEN, 2 of whom were new
- Total of 9 new young people attending
- Took £161.32

### April Figures:

- Opened for 16 days
- 76 young people attended, 11 of whom were new
- Took £88.42

### Youth Mentor Project

Some of the new young people attending HitB completed youth surveys and 52 responses have been received to date.

At the last meeting of the Youth Services Committee, members raised questions about the Youth Mentoring Project, which Maxine Quinton undertook to follow up. Maxine advised that:

- Data [from the surveys] would be used to feedback to the funder and would be shared as part of the expression which is the output of the project. This would help design future young person services.
- Anyone could refer to the service, a parent, a school, social worker or even the young person themselves.
- Jenny Godfrey would be happy to come along and speak to the Committee regarding the project if they would like her to.

### Skate Park Fun Day

The Skate Park Fun Day held on 6<sup>th</sup> April was a success with approximately 60 young people attending over the 5 hours of the event, even though the weather was challenging.

West Kent, Kenward Trust and SAYT joined with HitB: West Kent provided free smoothies and Kenward Trust offered advice around drugs and alcohol. Some good conversations were held and leaflets handed out for HitB & the pool tournament. HitB was pleased to receive a visit from the Deputy Mayor.

## Sevenoaks Town Council

The following feedback was received from the event:

*"Just wanted to let you know all went well with the skate park event despite the less than idyllic weather. We had to stop a couple of times briefly to let the rain pass but lots of the young folks endured the weather and got stuck in with the lessons. and watched the pro riders do their thing.*

*We didn't have enough competent riders to do the competitions, so we gave the prizes out to some locals that use the park regularly and came and got involved. We got some nice thank yous from some happy parents and plenty of local young folks enjoyed themselves, so weather aside it went well I'd say."*

*Pete King, King Ramps*

*"Well done all! It was a fantastic event and it was so encouraging to see so many young people in attendance, even through the showers and cold weather it did not stop all the young people getting involved. You all did a brilliant job with your various stalls and the skate park exhibition looked really good. It was brilliant that there were skate boards there and all the young people got a chance to learn some new skills. My own children had a great time too so thanks so much for all your hard work."*

*Holly Brazier, SAYT*



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

### **106.2 Finance Report to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance Cost Centre report for the House in the Basement Youth Café to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 be noted.

### **107. Sevenoaks Youth Council**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the Minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.

### **108. Reports from Co-opted Partners**

Noted following reports from Co-opted Partners:

#### **(i) Kent County Council (KCC)**

Victoria Walters reported that the Early Years team was providing focused support across Sevenoaks District, including working with schools on dialectic

## **Sevenoaks Town Council**

therapy and Healing Together programmes. She noted that demand for services had increased.

Outreach work was not currently taking place in Sevenoaks Town, but it was hoped to do so in the future. KCC was currently recruiting a number of key youth service posts in the Sevenoaks area.

A project mapping the entirety of Sevenoaks was underway, as part of a countywide project, to find out what young people say about public spaces and whether they feel safe.

### **(ii) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)**

Caroline Berry advised that Holly Brazier was leaving SAYT and would be greatly missed in her role, although she would continue to stay involved as a volunteer. Caroline also informed the Committee that two new youth workers had been recruited. A joint trip to London Zoo had taken place recently between SAYT and West Kent Youth Services.

The Committee congratulated SAYT on the recent £1,000 grant that they had received from Souter Trust for new equipment for the summer holidays.

The Mayor advised that she had chosen SAYT as her nominated charity for her mayoral year and looked forward to raising funds for the project.

### **(iii) Sevenoaks District Council, Community Safety**

Maxine Quinton advised that all seemed quiet at the present with no anti-social behaviour issues reported. The problems at the Town Centre Car Park had ceased at the moment. Some quad bike nuisance had been reported at Greatness Recreation Ground and was being followed up. The District Council was offering additional summer play days.

### **(iv) West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)**

Richard Dowling presented the Quarterly Report provided by Ben Reynolds, lead Youth Worker, WKHA:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> January to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 summary**

During the previous quarter we have engaged with 71 young people during our detached youth work.

We've been delivering detached work at Greatness Park, The Vine, and the High Street primarily, with most interactions happening between Greatness Park and the High Street. We are continuing to build awareness of HOUSE in the Basement, and prioritised advertising the skatepark event during March.

Most young people we've seen out and about are new young people, who we've been introducing ourselves to, letting them know what we do and what's on offer in the local area. We've caught up with a few of the older young people who are now in further education or apprenticeships in the area, seeing

## Sevenoaks Town Council

how they've been doing and how they are faring in their new locales, supporting and advising them where required.

As the weather improves, we will be expanding our detached areas to cover more rural locations like the wildlife centre, and Hollybush, as well as responding to any information we get from partners and find on social media.

We are starting to see more young people, and will continue to deliver detached work and expand our routes going onwards to the summer.

### **109. Design a Christmas light**

The Committee noted details of a youth competition to Design a Christmas Light. The winner would have their design made into a Christmas Light, 1.2m x 1.2m and column mounted, which would become part of the Town Centre display.

**RESOLVED:** That Sevenoaks Town Council hold a young person's Design a Christmas Light competition and that £600 be allocated from the youth budget for the purpose.

### **110. Youth Provision in Northern Ward**

It was noted that at the previous Youth Services Committee, officers and youth workers were asked to meet to discuss potential provision of youth services within Northern Ward.

The Committee was advised that a meeting had taken place on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to look at the possible locations for this as well as potential events that could take place. It was felt that within current resources, a joint staffing of a monthly provision could be achieved.

It was noted that Sevenoaks Football Club had confirmed in principle that, subject to availability, the current pavilion could be used monthly. Longer term plans for some regular use of the new pavilion, possibly the gym area, were noted.

It was noted that SAYT would be considering reintroducing the SAYT Youth Bus to Greatness Park, once new staff were settled in.

A further meeting would be held to progress this project.

### **111. Kent Chess Grant Application**

**RESOLVED:** That authority be delegated to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Town Clerk to consider and approve the grant application, if received, from Kent Chess.

### **112. Press Release**

**RESOLVED:** To produce a press release relating to the Design a Christmas Light competition

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Dated .....