

20th October 2022

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE** to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG on **Wednesday 02th November 2022 at 7.00pm**. Town Councillors are reminded that they have a duty to state a Declaration of Interest prior to the appropriate agenda item and to consider the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.17 when reaching a decision.

Please note that the proceedings of this meeting will be streamed live to YouTube for the public to watch via the following link: <https://youtu.be/nRZ2BA1EYIA> and may be recorded in line with regulations set out in the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. A copy of Sevenoaks Town Council's procedure for the recording of meetings is available online at sevenoakstown.gov.uk or by request.

Members of the public wishing to address the Committee should notify the Town Council by 12 noon on the day of the meeting. Members of the public not wishing to be recorded should put this request to the Clerk at the earliest possible opportunity.



Town Clerk

To assist in the speedy and efficient despatch of business, members wishing to obtain factual information on items included on the agenda are asked to enquire of the Town Clerk prior to the day of the meeting.

Committee Members:

Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet (Chairman)	Cllr Andrew Eyre
Cllr Richard Parry (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr R M C Hogarth
Cllr Libby Ancrum	Cllr Tom Morris Brown
Cllr Nick Busvine	Cllr Claire Shea
Sevenoaks Youth Council: Vacant KCC: Victoria Walters SDC: Kelly Webb, Maxine Quinton	SAYT: Caroline Berry West Kent Communities: Richard Dowling

AGENDA

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To enable any questions previously submitted by members of the public on any matter to be drawn to the attention of the Town Council.

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive and note apologies for absence.	Town Council Offices Bradbourne Vale Road Sevenoaks Kent TN13 3QG
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2	<u>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</u> To consider written requests from Members which have previously been submitted to the Town Clerk to enable participation in discussion and voting on items for which the Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. (s.31 & s.33 of the Localism Act 2011).	-
3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any declarations of interest from members in respect of any items of business included in this agenda.	-
4	<u>MINUTES OF THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 07th September 2022</u> To receive and sign the Minutes of the Youth Services Committee held on 07 th September 2022.	-
5 5.1 5.2	<u>HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT [HiTB] YOUTH CAFE</u> To receive and discuss the following reports: HitB Manager's Update Report Finance Cost Centre Reports: • August 2022, • September 2022.	Attached Attached Attached
6	<u>YOUTH COUNCIL</u> To receive and note the Minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 07 th September 2022.	Attached
7	<u>REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED PARTNERS</u> i. Kent County Council ii. SAYT iii. SDC - Community Safety Team iv. West Kent Communities (Quarterly Report Attached)	-
8	<u>CLIMATE CHANGE YOUTH FORUM REPORT</u>	Attached
10	<u>PRESS RELEASE</u> To consider any agenda item considered appropriate for a press release	-

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Committee

Held on 07th September 2022 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Meeting Started: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 8.00p.m.

Present:

Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet, Chairman	Present		Cllr Libby Ancrum	Apologies
Cllr Richard Parry, Vice-Chairman	Present		Cllr Roderick Hogarth	Apologies
Cllr Nick Busvine	Present		Cllr Tom Morris Brown	Apologies
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Present		Cllr Claire Shea	Present
Cllr Rachel Parry, Mayor (ex- officio)	Present			
Co-opted Members:				
Richard Dowling, West Kent Communities	Present		Victoria Walters, Kent County Council	Apologies
Maxine Quinton, Sevenoaks District Council	Apologies		Caroline Berry, SAYT Dawn Hallam, SAYT	Present Present

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

Representations received from Members of the Public: none.

Please note that due to technical difficulties the recording on YouTube did not work.

293. Apologies for Absence

Received as noted above.

294. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

295. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

296. Minutes of Youth Services Committee held on 29th June 2022

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

297. House in the Basement Youth Café

297.1 Update Report

The Committee received the HiTB Manager Daren Mountain's report and it was noted that due to the kitchen flooring awaiting repairs at House in the Basement they are currently only able to supply snacks. More parents have been enquiring about the hot food meal deal for their young people.

Daren also expressed that with the trips and events that have occurred over this year it has felt like a re-launch

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted, and to record the Town Councils gratitude for the staff's additional efforts which were resulting in higher attendance numbers.

297.2 Finance Report to 30th June 2022

RESOLVED: That the Finance Cost Centre report for the House in the Basement Youth Café to 30th June 2022 be noted.

298. Reports from Co-opted Partners

Noted following reports from Co-opted Partners:

(i) Kent County Council (KCC)

Although Victoria was unable to attend this meeting, she had stated a report would be sent at a later date.

(ii) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)

Dawn Hallam reported that events like the trip to Hastings with House in the Basement and a trip to Thorpe Park had been very well attended during the summer.

She also reported that through the summer holidays they saw a varied number of young people at Greatness Recreation Ground and wondered how this might be reflected as the days grow shorter.

(iii) Sevenoaks District Council, Community Safety

Although Maxine Quinton was unable to attend this meeting, she had forwarded a report from the District Council about events in Sevenoaks Town.

“We received reports from Stag Theatre regarding young people causing a nuisance. These young people have been identified and served with Acceptable Behaviour Agreements with their parents present.

ASB reports have reduced in Sevenoaks Town Car Park, however, it still remains area that PCSOs patrol regularly.”

(iv) West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)

The Committee received Ben Reynolds quarterly report which covered April to June. Richard Dowling noted that there had been a few issues with young people in the town.

299. STC Youth Events

Mayor councilor Mrs Parry reported that many of the events she had attended had been well received with many people enjoying the variety that had been presented over the summer.

It was noted that Sevenoaks Town Council was to hold a Climate Change youth forum to talk with schools about what they are doing to tackle the Climate Change problem.

The Committee also heard plans to hold a silent disco for young people in Sevenoaks.

Sevenoaks Town Council

300. E Sport Tournament

The Committee noted that the Town Council had been approached about holding an esports tournament within the town. It was agreed that this would need a good period of time for promotion and does provide an opportunity to engage with wider groups in the community.

RESOLVED: To progress with plans for an event in Easter 2023 school holidays.

301. Youth Grant Application

The Committee received the grant application from Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival Young Musician of the Year. It was noted that this was a good cause and the committee moved to approve the application.

RESOLVED: To provide a grant of £600 to the Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival Young Musician of the Year and to encourage increased promotion for the public to attend the event as audience.

302. Press Release

RESOLVED: To issue a press release in relation to the grant of £600 for the Musician of the Year competition

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed
Chairman

Dated

Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Services Committee – 2nd October 2022



Manager's Report,

September figures:

We saw a total of 173 Young People, 17 of those were new.

We had 19 new Young people attending SEN.

We were open on 17 Occasions.

We have had 4 SEN sessions.

HiTB report October 2022:

Numbers continue to rise at HiTB especially on Friday & Saturdays with over 20 on a regular basis, takings have also increased in the cafe as numbers rise & the kitchen has re opened.

SEN group is slowly re-growing after a blip in numbers over the school summer holidays.

The silent disco is to go ahead in partnership with SAYT & West Kent Housing at Bat & Ball Centre on Friday 21st October.

During the Britain in Bloom judging House in the Basement received a Level 4-thriving award, the judging scores and criteria are shown overleaf.

South & South East in Bloom - Its Your Neighbourhood 2022

HOUSE in the Basement

Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)

The group is working towards things such as:

Being inclusive of local people

Local ownership and direction

Making a difference to local people

Involving local people with planning, decision-making, communication & implementation

Representative of the local community

Getting support (e.g. from local council, grant aid, sponsorship, in-kind aid etc.)

Planning for the future

Working in partnership with other organisations (i.e. police, community support officers, environmental groups etc.

Total Points Assessed (Out of 40)

34

Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)

The group is engaged in environmental activities such as:

Conservation (e.g. resources, heritage, wildlife, built environment)

Composting

Recycling

Creating, maintaining or improving green space

Sharing knowledge and skills

The group is engaged in addressing environmental issues such as:

Fly-tipping

Fly-posting

Litter

Graffiti

Dog fouling

Total Points Assessed (Out of 30)

20

SECTION C - Gardening Achievement (30% or 30 points)

The group is employing good gardening practices appropriate to the area, such as:

good plant choice

Good maintenance, presentation and management

Creativity

Innovation

Overcoming site difficulties

Enhancing the area through gardening

Total Points Assessed (Out of 30)

23

GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED

77

LEVEL ACHIEVED

Thriving (4)

Areas of Achievement

This basement location is used by local young people and provides them a much-needed place of their own. Apart from the facilities, seating, kitchen a place to be etc, it also gives young people a means to express their interest in matters Green. Outside of the "club" vegetables are being grown to a good standard and this makes the connect often needed between the younger members of our society to the wider world. Congratulation on a well-deserved award.

Areas for Development

Should the opportunity arise connect the House to the other planted areas in and around the main car park as this will extend their work and involve them in a slightly larger project.

Results		
Level	Description	Points
	Establishing (1)	0 - 35
	Improving (2)	36 - 52
	Advancing (3)	53 - 68
	Thriving (4)	69 - 85
	Outstanding (5)	86 - 100

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 31/08/2022

Month No: 5

Cost Centre Report

		Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
50	<u>Youth Cafe</u>										
1022	Letting & Hire of Facilities	216	183	(33)	1,070	915	(155)	2,200		0	
1211	Sale of Goods	127	30	(97)	632	150	(482)	358		0	
1350	Revenue Grant income	0	0	0	500	0	(500)	0		0	
	Youth Cafe :- Income	343	213	(130)	2,201	1,065	(1,136)	2,558			0
4010	Gross Pay	3,228	2,631	(597)	15,685	13,155	(2,530)	31,572		15,887	
4270	Employers Pension Contribution	56	105	49	281	525	244	1,263		982	
5410	Repairs & General Maintenance	2,984	72	(2,912)	3,004	360	(2,644)	863		(2,141)	
5500	Equipment Hired and New	1,223	0	(1,223)	1,223	0	(1,223)	0		(1,223)	
6010	Light Heat & Cleaning	43	0	(43)	68	0	(68)	31		(37)	
6101	Telephone	50	39	(11)	250	195	(55)	470		220	
6200	Printing & Stationery	61	26	(35)	68	130	62	309		241	
6240	Computer/ Data Base/WP's	24	34	10	164	170	6	404		240	
6281	Furnishings,Furniture/Eqpt	0	0	0	214	123	(91)	493		279	
6320	Staff Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	206		206	
6330	Welfare/Hospitality	1	0	(1)	1	0	(1)	31		30	
6340	Staff Uniforms	0	0	0	75	26	(49)	103		28	
6460	Publicity & Democratic notices	0	10	10	7	50	43	124		117	
6500	Goods for Resale	164	30	(134)	1,043	150	(893)	358		(685)	
6505	Cafe consumables	0	0	0	32	0	(32)	0		(32)	
6635	Professional Fees Licensing	0	0	0	423	144	(279)	286		(137)	
6869	Special Events	450	0	(450)	2,380	0	(2,380)	0		(2,380)	2,200
6900	Sundry Expenses	0	21	21	172	105	(67)	252		80	

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 31/08/2022

Month No: 5

Cost Centre Report

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
6922 Health&Safety/Risk Assessments	71	97	26	385	485	100	870		485	
Youth Cafe :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>8,355</u>	<u>3,065</u>	<u>(5,290)</u>	<u>25,476</u>	<u>15,618</u>	<u>(9,858)</u>	<u>37,635</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,159</u>	<u>2,200</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(8,012)</u>	<u>(2,852)</u>	<u>5,160</u>	<u>(23,275)</u>	<u>(14,553)</u>	<u>8,722</u>	<u>(35,077)</u>			
8001 plus Transfer from EMR	270			2,200						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(7,742)</u>			<u>(21,075)</u>						
Grand Totals:- Income	343	213	(130)	2,201	1,065	(1,136)	2,558			
Expenditure	8,355	3,065	(5,290)	25,476	15,618	(9,858)	37,635	0	12,159	
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(8,012)</u>	<u>(2,852)</u>	<u>5,160</u>	<u>(23,275)</u>	<u>(14,553)</u>	<u>8,722</u>	<u>(35,077)</u>			
plus Transfer from EMR	270			2,200						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(7,742)</u>			<u>(21,075)</u>						

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 30/09/2022

Month No: 6

Cost Centre Report

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>50 Youth Cafe</u>										
1022 Letting & Hire of Facilities	126	183	57	1,196	1,098	(98)	2,200		0	
1211 Sale of Goods	195	30	(165)	827	180	(647)	358		0	
1350 Revenue Grant income	0	0	0	500	0	(500)	0		0	
Youth Cafe :- Income	<u>321</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>(108)</u>	<u>2,522</u>	<u>1,278</u>	<u>(1,244)</u>	<u>2,558</u>			<u>0</u>
4010 Gross Pay	3,591	2,631	(960)	19,276	15,786	(3,490)	31,572		12,296	
4011 Mileage	55	0	(55)	55	0	(55)	0		(55)	
4270 Employers Pension Contribution	56	105	49	338	630	292	1,263		925	
5410 Repairs & General Maintenance	0	72	72	3,004	432	(2,572)	863		(2,141)	
5500 Equipment Hired and New	108	0	(108)	1,330	0	(1,330)	0		(1,330)	
6010 Light Heat & Cleaning	0	31	31	68	31	(37)	31		(37)	
6101 Telephone	50	39	(11)	299	234	(65)	470		171	
6200 Printing & Stationery	62	26	(36)	130	156	26	309		179	
6240 Computer/ Data Base/WP's	17	34	17	180	204	24	404		224	
6281 Furnishings,Furniture/Eqpt	0	123	123	214	246	32	493		279	
6320 Staff Training	0	206	206	0	206	206	206		206	
6330 Welfare/Hospitality	0	31	31	1	31	30	31		30	
6340 Staff Uniforms	0	26	26	75	52	(23)	103		28	
6460 Publicity & Democratic notices	0	10	10	7	60	53	124		117	
6500 Goods for Resale	195	30	(165)	1,238	180	(1,058)	358		(880)	
6505 Cafe consumables	0	0	0	32	0	(32)	0		(32)	
6635 Professional Fees Licensing	0	0	0	423	144	(279)	286		(137)	
6869 Special Events	0	0	0	2,380	0	(2,380)	0		(2,380)	2,200

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 30/09/2022

Month No: 6

Cost Centre Report

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
6900 Sundry Expenses	5	21	16	177	126	(51)	252		75	
6922 Health&Safety/Risk Assessments	67	387	320	452	872	420	870		418	
Youth Cafe :- Indirect Expenditure	4,206	3,772	(434)	29,682	19,390	(10,292)	37,635	0	7,953	2,200
Net Income over Expenditure	(3,885)	(3,559)	326	(27,160)	(18,112)	9,048	(35,077)			
8001 plus Transfer from EMR	0			2,200						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(3,885)			(24,960)						
Grand Totals:- Income	321	213	(108)	2,522	1,278	(1,244)	2,558			
Expenditure	4,206	3,772	(434)	29,682	19,390	(10,292)	37,635	0	7,953	
Net Income over Expenditure	(3,885)	(3,559)	326	(27,160)	(18,112)	9,048	(35,077)			
plus Transfer from EMR	0			2,200						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(3,885)			(24,960)						

Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 7th September 2022

at Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN133QG

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Henry Barden de Leon	Apologies	Darcy Hogg	Apologies
Mahedy Basher	Apologies	Isabella McGlynn	Apologies
Emilia Britain	Apologies	Max Pound	Apologies
Dexter Buhmann	Present	Vince Rands-Webb	Apologies
Leah Campbell-Sergeant	Apologies	Elena Rozo-Navarro	Apologies
Von Ming Fung Chu	Apologies	Aanya Sidhu	Present
Phoebe Critchlow, Treasurer	Present	Mia Stack	Present
Neil Gandhi	Present	Anna Tarasheva, Vice-Chairman	Apologies
Jasmine Geer	Apologies	Katie Willis, Chairman	Present
Maya Goodrich	Apologies	Torsa Younus	Apologies
Valentina Groves	Apologies		

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk; Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Cllr Andrew Eyre; Andy Watson, Kenwood Trust; Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Committee Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Received as shown above.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 22nd June 2022

The Youth Council noted previously agreed projects.

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 22nd June 2022.

3. Finance Report

It was noted that the Youth Council Budget in the agenda did not include the £500 spent on the inflatable dart board

RESOLVED: That the current balance shown for the Youth Council budget be amended to reflect the spend on the inflatable dart board.

4. House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB)

RESOLVED: To note the report of Daren Mountain, Manager of HitB.

5. Talk from Kenwood Trust

The Youth Council received a talk from Andy Watson from Kenwood Trust talking about who Kenwood Trust are and what they are doing in the community. He explained some of the key problems they tend to interact with,

- like young people smoking, and mentioned the recent increase in numbers of young people using disposable vape pens. He moved on to mention the effects that smoking can have on the body as well as the effects of people sharing vape pens.
- He then moved on to talk about the different types of drugs that are commonly seen in use by young people like cannabis and edibles,
- He also talked about how he would approach young people and what measures he takes to make them feel more comfortable like placing a physical barrier between himself and the people he is talking to while on outreach.
- He then talked about the Cascade programme that Kenwood Trust work with schools to produce where older students help younger students to understand the risks and dangers around drug use and knife crime.

6. Visit to the House of Commons

The Youth Council welcomed the opportunity to visit the House of Commons on the 18th of October and the chance to talk to the Sevenoaks' MP Laura Trott after the tour. They then heard from the Chairman Katie Willis on her personal experience on the previous visit.

The invitation would be resent to Youth Councillors as a reminder and a request for them to respond as soon as possible to enable arrangements to be made.

7. Offer of CPR Training from Sevenoaks Fire Brigade

The Youth Council noted that Kent's Fire and Rescue Service had offered free CPR training to the young people of Sevenoaks. The Youth Council discussed the possibility of this being hosted at House in the Basement during the school holidays for drop in sessions for young people that would want to undertake this event.

8. Sevenoaks' Soroptimists: Literacy Day

The Youth Council were informed that Sevenoaks' Soroptimists had invited some of the Youth Councillors to give a talk on the impact that Covid-19 has had on young people with school work and how they have coped with the different ways of learning that have occurred as a response. It was noted that this event would take place on Tuesday the 13th of September at 7.30pm.

9. Youth Council Priorities

The Youth Council received a list of the previously agreed projects with the current progress that has been carried out on each. Daren Mountain explained that he is currently awaiting a response from the Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) monitoring scheme to help set up a Mental Health Workshop for young people.

It was noted that there is currently a woodland project underway where a lot of trees would need to be planted and any help with this endeavor would be appreciated.

With regards to the aim of encouraging more bees into Sevenoaks, Councillor Eyre advised that he was looking to place a bee hive on top of the Stag Theatre.

The Youth Council reviewed the football table options and decided that it might be best to have a trial run with the first option priced at £129 to see how much use it receives.

Daren explained that during the winter months House in the Basement would be holding a few movie nights and perhaps one or two structured gaming sessions.

10. E sports Tournaments

It was noted that Sevenoaks Town Council had been approached about the possibility of holding an E sports Tournament which was met with enthusiasm from many of the Youth Councilors. However, the point was raised that the types of videos games allowed to be used would need to be considered.

11. Climate Change School Forum

The Youth Council noted that on the 30th of September there will be a Climate Change Youth Forum held for schools to talk about what actions they are taking. Youth Councillors were asked to ensure their schools were aware of the event.

12. Date of Next Meetings

- 2nd November 2022
- 18th January 2023
- 22nd March 2023

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Sevenoaks Town Council
Sevenoaks Youth Services Committee – 02nd November 2022



Places to live. Space to grow.

Quarterly Report Sevenoaks Town Detached

Period 1st July to 30th September 2022

If you would like to discuss anything from this report in further detail please e-mail, Lead Youth Worker Ben Reynolds at; ben.reynolds@wkha.org.uk

Background

West Kent Housing Association is commissioned through Kent County Council to deliver detached youth work sessions over the entire Sevenoaks district on a rolling basis. Alongside this we aim to support young people and encourage their participation in Youth Voice platforms, whether that's starting one or supporting a pre-existing platform.

Below is our summary for the previous quarter.

July to September summary

In the last quarter we have spoken to 71 young people in the Sevenoaks area.

We have seen a decrease on detached as we spend the summer holidays delivering fun days, and our summer programme across the district.

We attended the Sevenoaks family fun day alongside Play Place on the 11th of August where we engaged with 113 young people, offering a competition on a Nerf shooting alley.

We continue to deliver detached on Greatness, the Vine, Bradbourne lakes, and the High Street. Most young people we have met at Greatness, with an increase of young people hanging around at Bradbourne lakes.

Conversations consist mainly on education and well-being, with a few groups we have been discussing anti-social behaviour and the consequences of their actions. Through observations they have little understanding of how their behaviour affects other people in the area, specifically related to language, smoking and littering. Although we have recently met this group they engage with staff really well.

We are hoping to continue meeting the same group next quarter, although our September engagements have been low, due to staff annual leave and bad weather.

Conclusion

Number of engagements on detached has dropped due to our summer programme and staff annual leave.

But the engagement that have been made continue to be positive and we are starting to meet and engage with new young people out and about.

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We will continue to deliver detached in the stated area, and will expand our delivery in response to areas highlighted to us, wither through observations, information from partners, or knowledge gained through social media.

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Sevenoaks Youth Services Committee – 02nd November 2022**

Sevenoaks Climate Change Youth Forum

30th September 2022

On Friday the 30th of September 2022 Sevenoaks Town Council held the first Climate Change Youth Forum which was aimed at encouraging secondary schools to talk to one another about the actions their schools are taking to help combat the current climate crisis.

Councillor Dr Merilyn Canet opened the forum by welcoming all of the delegates from Sevenoaks school, Walthamstow hall and Trinity School. It was noted that other schools wanted to attend future meetings but had not been able to attend that date. She outlined how the Bat and Ball Community centre where the forum took place was built on an older foundation with many of the design features being more eco-friendly. The delegates from the schools then took turns to talk about what actions they were taking to combat climate change.



Sevenoaks School's Climate Action team started the forum by informing us on how their own buildings that have been constructed with sustainability in mind, through increased insulation and adding solar panels. But they had also noted that while these infrastructure improvements were able to be done on a new building it was harder to place these on to buildings that have a listed status and wondered if any of the other schools in the area had come across the same problem and if they had a way of integrating these changes.

Their Climate Action Team have implemented many different ideas from introducing carbon offset flights for school trips that occur abroad by using a company that plants trees. During a school Green Week they looked at gauging how much food is wasted by weighing the waste and showing this to other students, over time they did see a reduction of food waste. Alongside this they have started to

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look at meat alternate options and having meat free meals. They are currently thinking about introducing a traffic light system into the dining hall to show the carbon foot print of each item. The Climate Action team also talked about placing a biodigester to help with food waste and some of those they have researched can have a gas syphon that could be used for heating. They mentioned that there is a price range of between £20,000 and £60,000. Sevenoaks School aims to be carbon neutral by 2032. Sevenoaks School and Trinity School both mentioned that their catering is managed externally and therefore there is a limitation on their waste management.

We then heard from Walthamstow Hall's Eco Council/Sustainability Club who gave a short presentation (see attached). They talked about Eco schools ([Secondary & College - Eco Schools \(eco-schools.org.uk\)](https://eco-schools.org.uk)) which is a pupil based initiative where they give set topics to the different schools to try to tackle over the year and for completion of this the school receive a commendation which has to be renewed yearly.. They explained that they had created a gardening club to address biodiversity matters was introducing more native plants and looking into combating CO₂ emissions through planting more trees and introducing wild flower meadows. The school has planted 11 trees and 6 metres of hedgerow in 2021-2022 to encourage biodiversity. We also heard about how they hosted an impact day in June to hear from designers and their own teachers about how they are tackling the climate problem. At the impact day students recorded a 'pledge to the planet'. Money raised at this event went towards their Eco Schools Green Flag. They also supplied boxes around the school to collect plastics that are difficult to reuse. These were also identified as being within certain shops such as Boots in Sevenoaks. They think there could be a benefit for having a more town wide approach for collecting and recycling of difficult plastics. They are also using an app called Olio which is an app that connects people who have a surplus of edible food with those who need or want the food. Additionally another way they are looking to reduce food waste is by allowing second servings of food during lunch time. They mentioned that some of their goals for the future are to add solar panels to the main building as well as introducing more vegetarian options during meals.

Following this, the representatives from Trinity School talked about their forest school which was introduced to discuss effects of large scale deforestation, and the impact that has on the wider landscape, as well as learn about the environment. Forest schools also have the effect of increased pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours and care of the planet. They have been encouraging students to grow their own vegetables through the introduction of the hope garden to help cut food miles. They have also started worm composting boxes to help break down organic matter and aid the creation of fertilizer for the garden. It was also mentioned that while Trinity make the effort to separate their waste in to different recyclable material it ends up being put together when it is collected.

This sparked a conversation regarding how the waste in Sevenoaks is collected in comparison to other places that do have separate waste collections which was noted that Sevenoaks District Council handle the rubbish collections around Sevenoaks and the wider district. Following on from this it was asked if it could be possible to place collection bins for hard to break down and reuse plastics around the town or if it would be possible to do something like the refill scheme with these bins where businesses could supply the bins.

Sevenoaks school then brought up about the issue of cycling and how it would be good if there were designated routes for young people to take to get to schools that they would feel safe on. It was mentioned that there is currently a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) being carried out by Sustrans which looks into introducing safer walking and cycling routes in the town.

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Additionally a 20 mile an hour speed limit in Sevenoaks from Kent County Council around the High Street and some school zones. Details of both of these would be forwarded to everyone.

Also discussed was the environmental impacts of making electric cars, which Trinity School brought up. They mentioned that although electric cars seem better than fossil fuel powered cars, the environmental impacts in their production in terms of raw materials and energy is huge. Therefore it may be better to continue to use your fossil fuel powered car until you need to replace it, rather than just buying a new electric car.

It was noted that future meetings, perhaps four per year, with other schools across Sevenoaks Town would be useful and that in person meetings were preferred with the possible creation of an e forum for teachers to share some of the ideas and activities that there school are doing.

Potential topics for future meetings Included:

Eco-Schools,

Recycling

A satellite image of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet. The image captures parts of Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. The landmasses are green and brown, while the oceans are a deep blue. White clouds are scattered across the scene. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

Good practice on Climate change at Walthamstow Hall

Overview

We have enrolled in Eco-Schools, a pupil-based initiative, to help us target certain areas of sustainability each year.

Last year the topics were:

- Waste
- Global Citizenship
- School grounds

By achieving these targets, we were able to gain our first Green Flag award in July



Waste

- We are using the Olio app to share excess food with those who can use it. In the first month, we saved 75 meals, saving 136kg in Carbon Dioxide.
- We now allow second helpings to reduce food waste: we encourage pupils to take only what they know they can eat and return for more if still hungry.
- Wally have also saved 8 REWORKED boxes of difficult-to-recycle plastic so far. So that's 960 litres of hard to recycle plastic waste. (approx. 73kg in weight).
- We are reducing the amount of paper we use, in favour of online resources, and recycling what we do use.



Global Citizenship

- We took part in The Big Plastic Count run by Greenpeace. This aimed to make the Government more aware of the amounts and types of plastics causing the issue. It also helped raise awareness in school.
- We have helped by raising money for the international charity WWF
- We also had a vegan/fairtrade/local/plastic free cake sale back in June



School grounds

We planted a total of 11 trees at Wally last year:

- We also have a 6-metre section of native hedgerow! With the estimate that trees planted sequester CO₂ at an average of 25 kilos per tree per year, which is a total of 275kg per year.
- To improve the school grounds, we have maintained the wildflower meadow and have planted snowdrops for added value in late winter.



Impact day

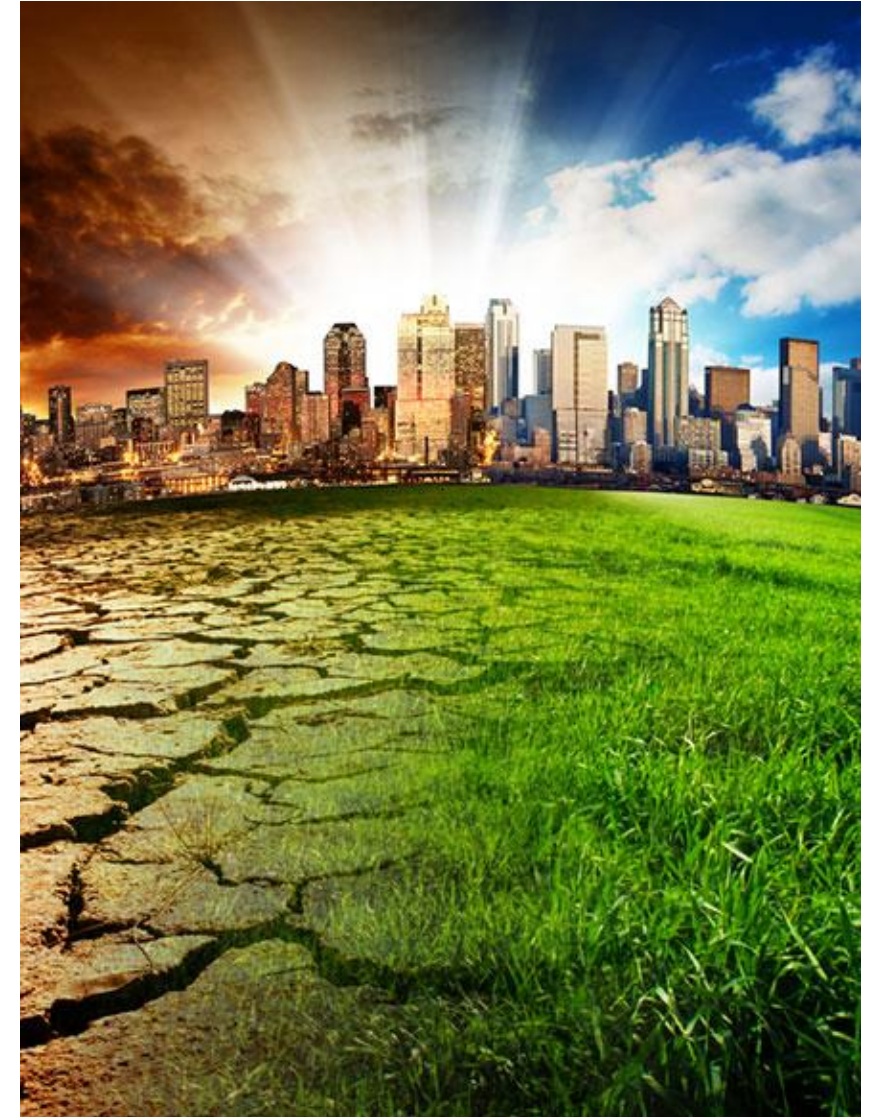
- This was held in June.
- This gave year groups the opportunity to hear about how designers are tackling sustainability, including our own alumni.
- Students recorded a 'pledge to the planet', promising a small action that together as a community, makes a difference.
- The money raised went towards our green flag application and the reworked boxes.



What next?

This year, the Eco-Schools topics are:

- **Biodiversity:** where we will be aiming to introduce more bird houses around school and encourage more pupil to attend gardening and wildlife club.
- **Healthy Living:** we aim to make plant-based option more accessible in school lunches and make people more aware of the environmental benefits of a plant-based diet.
- **Energy:** we aim to reduce the amount of energy we are using and to introduce more renewable energy. The school has had solar panels on the swimming pool roof for many years and plan for more on the roof of our main hall.



We also had our first Eco council meeting of the year on Monday where we discussed these three issues and students were able to voice their opinions of how we can tackle the different topics.

We are at the beginning of our journey to beat climate change and reach 'Net Zero'. We recognise that there is still a lot that we can do. But we hope to continue the progress that we have been making, with the aim of helping to tackle the current climate crisis

