

Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Committee
Held on 28th June 2023
in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG

Livestreamed and available on YouTube until Minutes are accepted by Town Council
Meeting: (<https://www.youtube.com/live/zZW0PyiDSx0?feature=share>)

Meeting Started: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 8.02 p.m.

Present:

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

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.

At the start of the meeting the Councillors and the Co-opted members introduced themselves

172. Chair

RESOLVED: To confirm the election of Cllr Chloe Gustard as Chair

173. Vice-Chair

RESOLVED: to confirm the election of Cllr Catherine Daniell as Vice-Chair

174. Apologies for Absence

Received as noted above.

175. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

176. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

177. Minutes of Youth Services Committee held on 22nd March 2023

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

178. House in the Basement Youth Café

178.1. Update Report

The Committee heard from Daren Mountain the Manager for House in the Basement that Sevenoaks District Council had placed a bid in for a mentor plus project to supplement the current Youth Mentoring project. This would open up support of NEET young people. These are young people not in education, employment or in additional training. It was noted that House in the Basement may become a venue for the service.

It was noted to ask SDC for the figures of young people that are currently not in education, employment or in additional training.

Daren also informed the Committee that Perfect Cuisine had helped out over the weekend supplying a BBQ for the young people, he also mentioned that they would be working with House in the Basement in October and in December but the dates of this is still to be confirmed. This was generous as all provided free of charge,

It was also noted that House in the Basement had Pre-Covid been a part of the FairShare programme and had completed all of the training to rejoin the programme which would allow House in the Basement to receive and use excess food from local supermarkets and if there is any, they do not use there is the option for this to be given to local food banks.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

178.2. Finance Report March- April 2023

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

179. Minutes of Sevenoaks Youth Council

RESOLVED: To receive and note the Minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 22nd March 2023.

180. Reports from Co-opted Partners

Noted following reports from Co-opted Partners:

(i) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)

The Committee heard from Peter Robinson from SAYT who firstly wanted to thank the previous Sevenoaks Town Mayor, Mayor Rachel Parry, for raising over £12,000 for SAYT as her charity last year. It was noted that another £1,300 had yet to be added to the final total.

Peter explained that the bus run by SAYT for Young people goes to Kemsing on a Tuesday evening and Greatness recreational Ground on a Thursday evening and have seen a shift from predominantly older young people being at the site to now seeing a younger group of young people visiting. During these visits they have been talking to them about the use of social media. He also noted that the Deputy Mayor Councillor Libby Ancrum had joined them on one of the Thursday evenings.

It was noted that SAYT is currently considering changing the times of their visits to both Kemsing and Greatness during the summer holidays to help engage with more young people that might perhaps not know what to do at that time.

Peter also mentioned that SAYT have been doing some work with local schools, specifically Trinity and Knole where they have been engaging with young people on the playground and giving talks in the classroom for more structured engagement.

Peter reported that over the summer holidays SAYT are hosting a trip to Snowdonia for 11-18 years and have been loaned a minibus from Trinity school to help with this, they have eight young people confirm their attendance and have had talks with other companies about supplying footwear for those who might need it.

It was also noted Levi Lee who works for SAYT also now works at House in the Basement on Saturdays.

(ii) West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)

The Committee heard from Richard Dowling from WKYS that due to the uncertain situation with KCC and the current contract that WKYS have with them to help provide youth services and provisions due to run out on the 31st of March 2024 they are unsure what the future holds. They are currently trying to secure funding to keep the project going for the future.

Richard also reported that Ben Reynolds, who works with the outreach programme normally sends out a quarterly report that is still being worked on but was able to give some information from this report in advance. From April to June, they have seen 213 young people around the Sevenoaks area, with the majority being seen at Greatness and the Vine. It was noted that they are starting to see a decrease in the number of young people gathering at the Vine, though there are still a few groups on a Friday evening. The conversations that they have been having during these visits are around actions and consequences and the image of young people based on what is occurring on the green.

Richard reported that in terms of Greatness they are starting to see more young people using the space and engaging with the skate park, most of the conversations have been around exam stress and the amount of litter at Greatness. Richard also reported that during November the levels of young people using the site tend to die off every year and starts to increase again in March the following year, he speculated that this is to do with the light and changing of the times.

Richard noted that the Young Adventurers Club that is run from Hope Church is going well and is attended by around 16-20 young people with more on a waiting list to join. As part of the current contract with KCC they are currently working with St. Johns Primary school to engage with them on emotional wellbeing and self esteem.

Richard also reported that last year they had run two summer schools in Edenbridge and Swanley and for this year they have received funding to run four of the summer schools which will be running in Sevenoaks at Hope Church, Edenbridge Swanley and Hartley. These will be running for young people aged 8-12 from Monday the 21st of August through to Friday 25th of August for 2 hours and 59 minutes. These events are free for all young people to attend with a maximum capacity for 40 young people.

Richard also reported that in the October half term WKYS and House in the Basement will be hosting another silent disco this time with a Halloween theme for young people at the Bat & Ball Centre.

181. STEM opportunity for young people at House in the Basement

The Committee received the report from Team Repair about an opportunity to supply House in the Basement with a class room repair kit to teach them how to repair items that they might otherwise throw away.

It was also noted that there may be an opportunity for young people to engage with the Repair Café in St. Luke's Church at a future date.

RESOLVED: To purchase 1 session pack at £375 for use over time at House in the Basement from the Youth Out Reach Budget.

182. Design a Christmas Light Competition 2023

The Committee received the report of last year's Christmas light competition.

The Committee heard from Mayor Councillor Claire Shea that the project was fascinating to see the level of engagement from young people and is a valuable project as it allows young people to engage with the Town.

RESOLVED: To fund the Design a Christmas Light Competition for £700 from the Youth Outreach Budget.

183. Climate Change Youth Forum

The Committee received a report for the Climate Change Youth Forum from the 20th of April 2023.

It was noted that the meeting for the 15th of June 2023 was postponed, with a rescheduled date in the works.

It was also noted that year 9 students have been invited to attend the Climate Change Youth Forum due to many of the older students having commitments with exams and preparations for these.

RESOLVED: The report was noted and received.

184. New Youth Council

The Committee received notice that Youth Council elections will be held in September and the closing date will be 29th of September 2023.

185. Skateboard Park Petition

The Committee received the report regarding the petition being circulated regarding the Greatness Recreational Ground Skatepark as well as some recommended actions.

It was noted that many of the Councillors felt that the current skatepark used at the site is in a tired state. The current skatepark was installed in response to concerns from local residents about the noise from the skate surface and boards when in use, it is also the preferred surface for Skaters.

The Committee noted that the footprint of the building cannot be made larger or it would encroach on the football pitch and the ground cannot be excavated due to the capping over the landfill underneath the site.

RECOMMENDED: For the Finance & General Purposes Committee to review the options for funding the repairs as per option 1 to the skate park at £40,000.

186. Proposals for addressing youth problems on the Vine.

The Committee noted that the Public Spaces Order had been proposed to the Youth Council and Youth Services Committee at the last meeting and will be considered by the District Council's cabinet on the 13th of July. Following this it is likely it will have a six-week public consultation predicted to start on the 24th of July. This order will give the police the power to intervene in activities carried out on a public space that would be detrimental to the quality of life to those who live locally and use the space.

187. Press Release

RESOLVED: To put together and circulate a press release on the Christmas Lights and STEM opportunity for House in the Basement.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed Dated
Chair