

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SEVENOAKS YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2018 COUNCIL CHAMBER

The Town Clerk welcomed the 20 new and the 5 returning Youth Councillors to the first meeting of the new Youth Council term for the 2018 to 2020 period:

Roshni	Agarwal	Present	Ola	Kujawska	Present
Eva	Azazoglu	Present	Emily	Mahoney	Present
Alexander	Black	Present	Megan	Ng	Present
Samuel	Crawford	Present	Louisa	Phillips	Present
Tasha	Dambacher	Present	Michael	Roberts	Present
Ronnie	Day	Present	Rose	Spurling	Present
Charlotte	Foulds	Present	Gabby	Tan	Apologies
Oscar	Goodwin	Present	Loic	Thiry	Present
Matthias	Jammot	Present	Amy	Vickers	Present
Meera	Jassi	Present	Jacob	Watson	Present

Tom	Chapman	Present
Sam	Chard	Present
Phoebe	Crichtlow	Present
Amber	Warrender	Present
Katie	Willis	Present

Also, In Attendance

Cllr Mrs R Parry and Cllr R Parry

Cllr M Canet

Linda Larter MBE, Chief Executive/Town Clerk

Michèle MacDonald, Committee Clerk

The Town Clerk advised that the order of the meeting would be

A. Welcome and brief introduction by the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Roderick Hogarth.

B. Informal Discussion

followed by the meeting.

WELCOME BY THE MAYOR AND BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The Mayor welcomed all to the Town Council and provided a brief introduction outlining his role.

The Mayor recommended that the new Youth Council to be ambitious as the Town Council likes positive outcomes and said, "*our ears are wide open to hear you*".

Photos of the Youth Councillors were taken with the Mayor:



Workshop

All Youth Councillors were asked to walk around the Council Chamber and use the Post It Notes to comment on the questions posed. Answers would be circulated with the minutes and ideas would be discussed at the next meeting.

1) APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: to agree and accept apology received from Youth Councillor Gabby Tan.

2) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Six youth Councillors put their name forwards to be Chairman of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2018-2019.

Voting cards were circulated and collected by Cllr Mrs Parry to be counted and checked by the Town Clerk and Committee Clerk.

RESOLVED: Youth Councillor Tasha Dambacher be elected as Chairman. Tasha would like to look at cultural opportunities and help offer more work experience opportunities.

Youth Councillor Tasha Dambacher took the Chair and invited nominations for the election of Vice Chairman and Treasurer.

3) ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Six Youth Councillors put their name forwards to be Vice Chairman of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2018-2019.

Voting cards were circulated and collected by Cllr Mrs Parry to be counted and checked by the Town Clerk and Committee Clerk.

RESOLVED: Youth Councillor Charlotte Foulds be elected as Vice Chairman. Charlotte likes to work as a team to make decisions and would like to focus on mental Health issues.

4) ELECTION OF TREASURER

Four Youth Councillors put their name forwards to be Treasurer of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2018-2019.

Voting cards were circulated and collected by Cllr Mrs Parry to be counted and checked by the Town Clerk and Committee Clerk.

RESOLVED: Youth Councillor Matthias Jammot be elected as Vice Chairman. Matthias has an interest in maths and looks forward to managing the funds.

5) FINANCE REPORT

The Chairman confirmed the balance the balance of accounts at £944.32 in the bank. An additional £500 is available annual in April with further funding being obtainable in the way of grant applications.

6) MINUTES

RESOLVED: the notes of the meeting of the Youth Council meeting held on 19th September 2018 be received and adopted.

7) SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

The Town Clerk asked all to read this document, also on the Youth Council website: www.sevenoaksyouthcouncil.com , and forms the rules of the Youth Council and highlighted one of the rules of not attending 3 consecutive meetings, results in one no longer being a Youth Councillor.

8) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Youth Councillors suggested having a board to survey young people with a white washable board to ask "*What one thing in Sevenoaks would make it better for young people*" at the Christmas Lights Switch On Event on Friday 30th November 2018.

Youth Councillors are to let the Committee Clerk, Michèle MacDonald, know whether or not they can attend the event as volunteers for the Youth Council.

9) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: to hold an extended meeting of the Youth Council on Tuesday 4th December 2018 at the HOUSE in the Basement Youth Café, Basement of the Stag, London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ZZ from 6 to 8pm.

All to note the change of venue and timings.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6:58 pm.

2018 Question Posed to Youth Council	Aims Progressed 2018-2020
What one improvement would you make for Sevenoaks Town if you could?	
Providing students in school with a special train card similar to the bus card already available	
Increase the amount of road signs in order to help safety of pedestrians	
More school signs – safety	
Improve recycling Sevenoaks	
Increase environmental initiatives: • more recycling • less plastic consumption	
School signs on the main road	
Have more help available for young people with mental health problems	
Increase zebra crossings and road safety	
Have more zebra crossings, especially in areas around schools to make it safer for the people	
Free wifi in town for locals/students	
Increase the amount of public benches	
Improve recycling and increase number of toilets	
Increase access to work experience placements and cultural activities	
Put more zebra crossings between Ottos and Poundland	
Affordable Housing	
Improve marine environment	
Interconnect the people of Sevenoaks further	
Increase awareness of environmental initiatives to make sponsorship viable – electric buses etc	
Improve roads – eg make them wider	
Make Transportation cheaper	
Improve the recycling	

2018 Question Posed to Youth Council	Aims Progressed 2018-2020
What is the main problem for young people in the Sevenoaks Area	
Not that much to do	
Opportunities offered in Sevenoaks aren't taken up by enough young people	
Lack of work experience placements	
Mental health issues	
Lack of culturally enriching activities or ways to showcase skills	
No museums/cultural attractions	
Lack of facilities for young people to use if they are visiting in Sevenoaks	
Inefficient public transport (e.g. buses are expensive)	
Lack of events for young people to connect with others from different schools	
Signal and WIFI connection in some areas of Sevenoaks is quite bad	
Knowledge of where and who to go to if need of support or to meet others	
Connecting with people of the same age at different schools	
Not enough events for Youth	
Buses!! To school are very packed	
Very few young people get out and socialise with each other	
Meeting people that you don't regularly see (different schools) etc	
Lack of entertainment?	
Lack of good and affordable public transport	
Dangerous driving	
Lack of pavement etiquette	
Lack of work placements for young people	
Expensive Transport	
Trains!	
Jobs aimed at 17+	
Lack of mobility because of experience transport	
No science labs	
I would say that the main problem is that there are not main events in the year	
Public Transport being delayed and inefficient as well as fairly expensive making it more difficult to travel	
Delayed trains	

2018 Question Posed to Youth Council	Aims Progressed 2018-2020
If money was no problem, what facilities would you like	
Not that much to do Opportunities offered in Sevenoaks aren't taken up by enough young people	
Public Art Club	
All sport centre	
24 hour library	
Music concert hall	
Social Club – like film society/cooking club	
Theatre Club	
Less Potholes	
Roads made especially for bikes e.g. part of a pavement would be just for bikes	
Better sports facilities	
A pedestrianised town centre	
More places for young people to go e.g. shelter/benches	
Better entertainment facilities: specifically ones which attract the youth e.g. bowling alley, sports centre etc	
Opera	
A new gym sports/centre	
Better sports facilities and gym facilities	
Affordable housing	
Climbing/Bouldering Centre	
Study centre & library (after school week-ends)	
Access to work experience (magazine and incentives for local business to take young people)	
Have better facilities available in our hospital and have more staff available so there wasn't much waiting in hospital	
Extended leisure facilities e.g. larger cinemas, sports centres	
More free/non-structured areas to go with friends outdoor & indoor	
A music festival aimed at the tastes of young people in the community	
A bowling alley	
A better cinema/new cinema like the one in Orpington	

2018 Question Posed to Youth Council	Aims Progressed 2018-2020
What would you do in the next year?	
Try to reduce/subsidise for rail prices for school children commuting to school (16 year olds should not be paying the full adult price!)	
Campaign for discounted train fares for all students in school education as the student rail card cannot be used in peak travel times	
Introduce silent fireworks to help and calm down anxious pets	
Fill in pot holes, especially alongside Solefields Road and areas highly used for school children.	
Campaign for discounts to transportation fares	
Ban single use plastic	
Cut down on plastic packaging in general	
Increase the amount of public spaces where one can eat (benches)	
Try to create a comprehensive list of work experience or volunteering in the area	
Try to set up a way to allow students to talk to a councillor or similar in regards to mental health issues.	
Recycling bins through the centre of town	
Raise awareness of the importance of recycling and reducing food waste	
Improve pedestrian crossings – specifically where pathways aren't wide enough (e.g. next to the Church)	
Improve Road Safety and reduce congestion	
I would, cut down on non-recyclable and plastic waste as well as introduce more means to recycle	
Use paper straws (environmentally friendly)	
Safety road signs	
I would increase the number of young people using HiTB and also upgrade it	
Improve environmental initiatives	

2018 Question Posed to Youth Council	Aims Progressed 2018-2020
What would you do in the next 2 years?	
Free music lessons	
Increase access for confidential support for young people and places to go to talk to others and get support	
Improve recognition of the Sevenoaks Youth Council	
I would try to increase availability and accessibility of work experience placements and organised cultural events or extracurricular workshops to increase access to extra curriculum and cultural outside of mainstream education	
I would improve spaces for young people to go to	
More benches – with tables	
I would try to create a large event that is aimed at young people coming together	
To ensure there are more leisure facilities in Sevenoaks that are used by many people	
Increase and improve entertainment and leisure facilities for young people: • museums • theatres	
More attractive, accessible and fun things to do in town	
Improve menus at restaurants	
Reach out & partner with local companies to increase work experience opportunities for students	
Extend and improve public transport facilities	
Extend cultural and social events for young people (but also in general)	
Improve pedestrian access to shops and safety when moving around the town	
Holding a skateboard day at the local skate park	
Improve connectivity between all young people Sevenoaks to make it easier to meet others and networking etc.	
Increase number of fast foods/famous restaurant to encourage students to spend more time in town	

2018 Question Posed to Youth Council	Aims Progressed 2018-2020
What would you do in the next 2 years contd.?	
Create a peer mentoring/academic initiative in which teenagers struggling with school work or settling in can go to others for help	
Improve shopping areas	
Campaign for grammar school in Sevenoaks	
Have more facilities for people who don't have enough money on them to go to a restaurant or a café or for people who can't afford food from somewhere in Sevenoaks.	
Campaign for student railcards for students in school education as the current one cannot be used in peak times or increase age of child to 18 to 16 for train tickets	
I would like to reduce the levels of plastic consumed by the public	
I would like to reduce the levels of pollution	