

Tuesday, 02 June 2026

Meeting of Sevenoaks Youth Council
10th June 2026 at 6.00 pm
Town Council Chamber
Bradbourne Vale Rd,
Sevenoaks,
TN13 3QG

Youth Council Members:

Aahana Verma	George Kelly	Pendar Ahmadvazir
Aalim Saeed-Tirmizi	Harry King	Penelope Muccino
Adelina Suslikova	Henry Thomas	Penelope Rowbotham
Aditya Srinivasan	Ines Wang Neto	Poppy-Grace Dixon-Lyon
Aidan Hirst	Ishwar Sharma	Reuben Foulkes
Alex Jin	Jasper Barnes	Rhea Engineer
Ali Esad Kutuloglu	John Ng	Riddley McDermott
Alice Warren	Joshua Maddox Aquino	Riley Ferguson
Alicia Ho	Joshua Maretlane	Russell Street
Allegra Delli Rocioli	Julien Beck	Ryan Zhaeentan
Angelos Maroulis	Karam Kandhari	Sarah Pardasany, Social Media Officer
Arina Evtushenko	Katie Lo	Sayeesha Boysen
Aryana Mahdavi Ardestani, Chair	Kisali Wijesekara	Shinki Yu
Audrina Chan	Lily Court	
Ayan Motwani	Lizzie Hunt, Treasurer	Shiv Lamba
Benjamin	Lukas Abromavicius, Vice Chair	Simi Akintoye
Caspar Tillieux	Mackenzie Willis	Sofia Vittoria Moschini
Catherine Barden de Leon	Mark Bielikov	Sophia Yu
Charlotte Bagoee	Mark Bielikov	Sophie Sheridan
Chelsey Dai	Max Oser	Summer Chen
Clement Isong	Max Rowland	Susanna Local
Cynthia Chen	Maximilian David	Taani Shukla
Cyrus Tillieux	Megan Philips	Thomas Heregods
Dhriti Pasumarty	Milly Anscomb	Vihaan Sharma
Ethan Cook	Mirabel Poulson	Vyom Bhandari
Eva Wang, Social Media Officer	Franz Lahura-Sturm	
Finn Chadwick	Naima Karki	

AGENDA

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive and note apologies for absence.
----------	--

2	Guest Speaker: CONNECT TO WORK To receive a talk from Connect to Work
3	MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON 18th MARCH 2026 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on Wednesday, 18th March 2026. (pages 4-8)
4	VIDEO ON TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS To receive a video from Linda Larter MBE, CEO and Town Clerk of Sevenoaks Town Council, on Town and Parish councils.
5	FINANCE REPORT To note the budget for 2025/26 (page 9)
6	CURRENT MATTERS REPORTS To receive and note the Current Matters report (pages 10-12)
7	HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE To receive and consider the Manager's report (pages 13-14)
8	PLASTIC FREE SEVENOAKS PLEDGE To consider ways to re-promote the Plastic Free Sevenoaks pledge to businesses and to Schools within the Town. (page 15) To note, there is a refill scheme for water bottles in Sevenoaks, which is accessible via the Refill App: www.refill.org.uk Shops that are signed up to the refill scheme (like Costa) have these stickers in their windows: 
9	KENT POLICE INTERDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP To note, the local Kent Police IAG has asked if a representative from the Youth Council might be available to attend their meetings. The Kent Police IAG is a group of community volunteers who work with Kent Police to improve policing services across the county acting as critical friends. IAGs were created to challenge conventional thinking, to give an independent perspective on issues and to work as partners with Kent Police to inform improvements in service delivery.

	To note the date of the next Kent Police IAG would be: <i>Thursday, 9th July -18.30 at Sevenoaks Primary School</i>																																		
10	FRIENDS OF RHEINBACH To note that the Friends of Rheinbach have asked whether the Youth Council can help them set up a modern pen pal system with young people in the Town of Rheinbach. The Friends of Rheinbach is a community group within Sevenoaks that organises events/ trips with the Town of Rheinbach in Germany, one of the two towns with which Sevenoaks is twinned.																																		
11	UPCOMING EVENTS <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Event Title</th><th>Date of Event</th><th>Time</th><th>Location</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Open Mic Night</td><td>26 June 2026</td><td>5.30 pm- 7.30 pm</td><td>House in the Basement Youth Cafe</td></tr> <tr> <td>Art on the Vine</td><td>27 June 2026</td><td>10 am</td><td>The Vine Gardens</td></tr> <tr> <td>Family Fun Day</td><td>4 August 2026</td><td>10.30 am- 1.30 pm</td><td>Greatness Recreation Ground</td></tr> <tr> <td>Skateness</td><td>5 August 2026</td><td>11 am- 4 pm</td><td>Skate Park at Greatness Recreation Ground</td></tr> <tr> <td>HitB Broadstairs Trip</td><td>12 August 2026</td><td>10 am – Approximately 6 pm</td><td>Meeting at South Park Car Park</td></tr> <tr> <td>Street Food Festival</td><td>29 August 2026</td><td>10 am- 4 pm</td><td>The Vine Gardens</td></tr> <tr> <td>Vegan Market</td><td>3 October 2026</td><td>10 am- 4 pm</td><td>The Vine Gardens</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Event Title	Date of Event	Time	Location	Open Mic Night	26 June 2026	5.30 pm- 7.30 pm	House in the Basement Youth Cafe	Art on the Vine	27 June 2026	10 am	The Vine Gardens	Family Fun Day	4 August 2026	10.30 am- 1.30 pm	Greatness Recreation Ground	Skateness	5 August 2026	11 am- 4 pm	Skate Park at Greatness Recreation Ground	HitB Broadstairs Trip	12 August 2026	10 am – Approximately 6 pm	Meeting at South Park Car Park	Street Food Festival	29 August 2026	10 am- 4 pm	The Vine Gardens	Vegan Market	3 October 2026	10 am- 4 pm	The Vine Gardens
Event Title	Date of Event	Time	Location																																
Open Mic Night	26 June 2026	5.30 pm- 7.30 pm	House in the Basement Youth Cafe																																
Art on the Vine	27 June 2026	10 am	The Vine Gardens																																
Family Fun Day	4 August 2026	10.30 am- 1.30 pm	Greatness Recreation Ground																																
Skateness	5 August 2026	11 am- 4 pm	Skate Park at Greatness Recreation Ground																																
HitB Broadstairs Trip	12 August 2026	10 am – Approximately 6 pm	Meeting at South Park Car Park																																
Street Food Festival	29 August 2026	10 am- 4 pm	The Vine Gardens																																
Vegan Market	3 October 2026	10 am- 4 pm	The Vine Gardens																																

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council Held on Wednesday 18 March 2026 in the Bat and Ball Centre, Crampton's Road, TN14 5DN

Meeting commenced: 18:00

Meeting Concluded: 19:00

Present:

Aahana Verma	Apologies	Kisali Wijesekara	
Aalim Saeed-Tirmizi	Apologies	Lily Court	Apologies
Adelina Suslikova	Apologies	Lizzie Hunt, Treasurer	
Aditya Srinivasan		Lukas Abromavicius, Vice Chair	Apologies
Aidan Hirst	Present	Mackenzie Willis	Apologies
Alex Jin		Mark Bielikov	
Ali Esad Kutuloglu		Max Oser	
Alice Warren		Max Rowland	
Alicia Ho		Maximilian David	
Allegra Delli Rocioli	Present	Megan Philips	
Angelos Maroulis	Present	Milly Ancomb	Present
Arina Evtushenko	Apologies	Franz Lahura-Sturm	
Aryana Mahdavi Ardestani, Chair	Apologies	Mirabel Poulson	
Audrina Chan		Morgan Ingerfield	
Ayan Motwani		Naima Karki	Present
Benjamin		Nelly Schiefer	Present
Caspar Tillieux		Pendar Ahmadvazir	Present
Catherine Barden de Leon		Penelope Muccino	Apologies
Charlotte Bagoee		Penelope Rowbotham	Present
Chelsey Dai		Poppy-Grace Dixon-Lyon	
Clement Isong		Reuben Foulkes	
Cynthia Chen	Apologies	Rhea Engineer	Apologies
Cyrus Tillieux		Riddley McDermott	Present
Dhriti Pasumarty		Riley Ferguson	
Ethan Cook		Russell Street	
Eva Wang, Social Media Officer	Present	Ryan Zhaeentan	
Finn Chadwick	Present	Sarah Pardasany, Social Media Officer	Present
Franz Lahura-Sturm	Present	Sayeesha Boysen	Apologies
George Kelly	Present	Shinki Yu	
Harry King	Present	Shiv Lamba	
Henry Thomas		Simi Akintoye	
Ines Wang Neto	Apologies	Sofia Vittoria Moschini	Present
Ishwar Sharma	Apologies	Sophia Yu	
Jasper Barnes	Present	Sophie Sheridan	Apologies
John Ng		Summer Chen	Apologies
Joshua Maddox Aquino		Susanna Local	Apologies
Joshua Maretlane	Present	Taani Shukla	Apologies
Julien Beck	Present	Thomas Heregods	
Karam Kandhari		Vihaan Sharma	
Katie Lo		Vyom Bhandari	

In attendance: Linda Larter, MBE- CEO & Town Clerk of Sevenoaks Town Council, Holly Braizer- Deputy Manager of House in the Basement, Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk.

Sevenoaks Town Council

1 – In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer, the Social Media Officers Eva and Sarah Chaired the meeting.

2- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that many of the Sevenoaks School students had exams the following day and would not be attending due to this.

Apologies for absence, as shown, were received and noted.

2 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2026

The minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on Wednesday, 11th of February 2026, were agreed as a true record.

3 - FINANCE REPORT

It was noted that the balance of the Youth Council budget for 2025/26 was £1,101.70

It was also noted that the Youth Council budget would increase by £500 at the start of the new financial year (1st April 2026).

The Charity funds raised by the last Youth Council would be paid to their chosen charity, which would reduce this cost heading to £0.

4 - KOOTH MENTAL HEALTH

The Youth Council received a video from Kooth Mental Health outlining who they are and how they support young people. The following points were noted:

- It was noted that Kooth is a website system that is free and anonymous for young people to access.
- It can be accessed by typing [Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) into the browser.
- They have a range of different resources to help young people manage their mental health, such as articles, one-to-one talks and forums.
- They run 24/7 for 365 days of the year.
- You can chat to a member of their team from 12 pm -10 pm Monday to Friday and 6 pm- 10 pm Saturday and Sunday

It was noted that many of the Youth councillors present at the meeting had not heard of Kooth before. The Chairs noted that they could help promote Kooth via the Youth Council's social media by sharing their posters and other elements. It was noted that the youth councillors were interested in creating some short-form content for social media to help promote Kooth.

The Youth Councillors also noted that they could take some of the posters into their schools to help promote this. It was agreed this would be via the volunteer group at HitB.

Sevenoaks Town Council

5 – YOUTH COUNCIL MENTAL HEALTH REPORT

The Youth Councillors received the mental health report that was carried out by the previous Youth Council. The youth council discussed ways that they could help to progress some of the ideas put forward in the report. They came up with the following:

- Promoting Kooth to Schools.
- Holding an event during Mental Health Awareness Week. It was suggested this could be held at HitB. However, it was noted that HitB is a small space and might be better to have this somewhere else, like the Bat and Ball Centre, where there is more room.
- Promoting HitB as a safe space for young people to go to after school.

HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE

The Youth Council heard from Holly Braizier, the Deputy Manager for House in the Basement, that the last two months had been very busy, seeing more young people over the course of the month than they had previously.

Holly also reported that the Open Mic Night events had been going well, with the next one set for the 24th of April.

It was noted that on Thursday evenings, Daren, the Manager of House in the Basement and Youth Workers from Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust have been taking the new STC Community Bus to Greatness Recreation Ground for detached youth work.

6 - CLIMATE FAIR

The Youth Councillors heard that last year, the Youth Council had a stall at the Climate fair on Saturday, the 2nd of May 2026, where they handed out bracelets they had made with the message “Stay Green” on, as well as business cards printed on seed paper that had information about the Youth Council.

The Youth Councillors agreed that they would like to have a stall at the event and to carry on with the bracelets with the same message, though it was agreed that it would say “Stay Green 2026” and information would be printed on seed paper.

7 - THE VINE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

The Youth Council received the report from Kent Police regarding the renewal of the Vine Public Spaces Protection Order and was asked what their thoughts were on renewing it for another two years. They were informed this had been put in place two years ago due to a spate of Anti-Social Behaviour at the Vine. It was mentioned that since it was put in place, the police have rarely enforced it.

Many of the youth councillors were in favour of the renewal of the Protection order; some asked if similar Protection orders could be applied to other green spaces in the town, like

Sevenoaks Town Council

Buckhurst Environmental Park by Knole, due to concerns that placing it solely at the Vine could and has displaced the gatherings to these areas that are harder to police.

It was noted that the youth council would like to know the number of people that would be counted as a gathering.

The Youth Council also thought that there should be posters on the Vine about littering and smashing bottles.

RESOLVED: To recommend the renewal of the PSPO for the Vine Garden for another two years.

8 - STC Youth Services Social Value Report (2024-2026)

The Youth Council noted that at the Annual Town Meeting held on the 9th of March 2026, the question was asked by a young person: “What is the Town Council doing for youth this year?” Linda Larter, the Town Clerk for Sevenoaks Town Council, informed the Councillors that the Youth Services Committee had requested this report to outline all of the different youth activities and Grants from different organisations that the Town Council Supports.

9 - Upcoming events

It was noted that the following events were scheduled to take place:

Event Title	Date of Event	Time	Location
<u>Great British Spring Clean</u>	27 March 2026	10.30 am	Pontoise Close TN13 3ES
		2 pm	Millpond Wood TN14 5AF
<u>Vegan market</u>	4 April 2026	10.30 am - 4 pm	The Vine Gardens
<u>Open Mic Night @ HitB</u>	24 April 2026	5.30 pm- 7.30 pm	House in the Basement Youth Cafe
<u>Climate Fair</u>	2 May 2026	10 am - 4 pm	The Vine Gardens
<u>Rock Painting for South and Southeast in Bloom</u>	3 May 2026	12.30 pm -2 pm	The Vine Gardens
<u>Professor Slugs House of Bugs Theatre show</u>		2 pm - 4 pm	
<u>Health and Well-being Fair</u>	30 May 2026	9.30 am- 4 pm	The Vine Gardens
<u>Sevenoaks Business Show</u>	5 June 2026	10 am- 2 pm	Bat & Ball Centre TN14 5DN

Sevenoaks Town Council

<u>Open Mic Night @ HitB</u>	26 June 2026	5.30 pm- 7.30 pm	House in the Basement Youth Cafe
<u>Art on the Vine</u>	27 June 2026	10 am	The Vine Gardens
<u>Family Fun Day</u>	4 August 2026	10.30 am- 1.30 pm	Greatness Recreation Ground
<u>Street Food Festival</u>	29 August 2026	10 am- 4 pm	The Vine Gardens

There being no further business the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed
Chair

Dated

2026/27

Agenda Item	Sevenoaks Town Council
3B	Youth Council Charity Income and
	7555/43

9

Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Council Meeting – 10th June 2026

Current Matters

NB: Updates are shown in red.

Item	Minute No	Item	Status	Latest update
	7- 11/02/2026	Priorities Mental Health	ongoing	• Use social media to raise awareness and share resources available • To arrange a series of community events with specific themes, e.g. mindfulness • It was felt that outdoor activities, in Knole Park for example, might be more attractive to some people • An inclusive charity football match in the summer was suggested. • A mental health focused event should make the most of spaces available – e.g. HitB, Bat & Ball Centre, Knole Park and West Kent Mind • To work together with other schools • There was discussion of whether people experiencing mental health challenges would attend an event or would prefer the anonymity of reaching out via social media • The idea of developing an App, as a safe platform for communication, was raised. It was noted that this would have to meet safeguarding guidelines. • It was also noted that resources did already exist and researching and signposting to these would perhaps be more beneficial • youth councillors emphasised the importance of sharing information with their schools and friendship groups perhaps through school assemblies and school social media accounts • Publicity material needed to be produced that would engage people. The Town Clerk advised that there were courses available for peer

Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Council Meeting – 10th June 2026

Item	Minute No	Item	Status	Latest update
	4- 18/03/2026			mental health training: If youth councillors were interested this could be arranged She also advised that a mental health organisation had given a presentation to the previous Youth Council and suggested it would be useful to repeat this. Youth Councillors commented that whilst many of them had raised their concerns about youth mental health, it was important to identify need. The Town Clerk informed them of the Mental Health Survey undertaken during the previous Youth Council's term of office and it was agreed that it would be useful for this to be considered at the next meeting. PRIORITY: From the discussion the key priority that emerged was to promote awareness of mental health resources and how to access, and to consider how the Youth Council could be an intermediary to get word out to other young people. KOOTH MENTAL HEALTH The Youth Council received a video from Kooth Mental Health outlining who they are and how they support young people. The following points were noted: • It was noted that Kooth is a website system that is free and anonymous for young people to access. • It can be accessed by typing Kooth.com into the browser. • They have a range of different resources to help young people manage their mental health, such as articles, one-to-one talks and forums. • They run 24/7 for 365 days of the year. • You can chat to a member of their team from 12 pm -10 pm Monday to Friday and 6 pm- 10 pm Saturday and Sunday It as noted that many of the Youth councillors present at the meeting had not heard of Kooth before. The Chairs noted that they could help promote Kooth via the Youth

**Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Council Meeting – 10th June 2026**

Item	Minute No	Item	Status	Latest update
	5-18/03/2026			Council's social media by sharing their posters and other elements. It was noted that the youth councillors were interested in creating some short-form content for social media to help promote Kooth. The Youth Councillors also noted that they could take some of the posters into their schools to help promote this. It was agreed this would be via the volunteer group at HitB. YOUTH COUNCIL MENTAL HEALTH REPORT The Youth Councillors received the mental health report that was carried out by the previous Youth Council. The youth council discussed ways that they could help to progress some of the ideas put forward in the report. They came up with the following: • Promoting Kooth to Schools. • Holding an event during Mental Health Awareness Week. It was suggested this could be held at HitB. However, it was noted that HitB is a small space and might be better to have this somewhere else, like the Bat and Ball Centre, where there is more room. • Promoting HitB as a safe space for young people to go to after school.
	7- 11/02/2026	Youth Council Promotion	Ongoing	• Youth Council social media could be used to promote HitB and other organisations, and to advise of campaigns • Youth Councillors noted the government was considering whether to introduce a social media ban for under-16s • People to be encouraged to follow Instagram. • Social media to be used to raise the profile of the Youth Council and what it was doing, and what's happening in Sevenoaks.

Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Council- Wednesday 10th June 2026



House in the Basement Youth Café Manager:

March 2026 Figures:

We saw 217 young people attend, with 4 of them new over the 17 sessions we were open. We had 50 SEN young people attend over 4 SEN sessions. We also carried out 4 detached sessions using the new community bus.

April 2026 Figures:

Over the 15 sessions we were open for, we saw 172 young people attend, with 20 of these being new. We had 26 SEN young people attend over 4 SEN sessions. We also carried out 3 detached sessions using the new community bus.

April & May have been a combination of busy with quieter patches over the Easter & May half-term holidays, our SEN evening has been busier with new members joining.

Detached youth work with the STC electric bus has continued every Thursday in partnership with SAYT. We see a regular group of young people each week at Greatness Park, and over the last few weeks, we have also diverted to the leisure centre/environmental park, as some ASB has been occurring there occasionally.

Our youth volunteers have been very busy smartening up the outside of HitB with painting, artwork & planting out for Britain in bloom.



A busy open mic night showcasing local youth talent went well & our monthly pool tournament continues to be popular.

**Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Council- Wednesday 10th June 2026**



HitB was present with a table at the Sevenoaks District Council's well-being fair at the Stag theatre in May, with lots of networking & good conversations had.

We also held a girls' night on the 30th of May.

Plans are afoot for several summer events & projects, including Skateness returning in August, a beach trip to Broadstairs again in August & fishing workshops in partnership with Southeast Rivers Trust.



Plastic Free Sevenoaks



In response to the global problem of plastic pollution, Sevenoaks Town Council and Sevenoaks Youth Council have committed to phasing out single-use Plastics across all of its facilities. This also means it strongly encourages groups and organisations to find alternatives to single-use plastics when using town council venues.

What's the problem?

Plastic pollution is a global challenge. Every year, the world produces millions of tons of plastic, of which half is estimated to be single-use. Much discarded plastic ends up in rivers, waterways, and oceans, finally entering the food chain.

What does single-use mean?

Single-use plastics (SUP) is plastic that is most used once before being regarded. The most common SUP items are disposable water bottles, plastic bags, plastic straws, takeaway coffee cups and other plastic serve ware (e.g. food trays, plastic cutlery and individual sauce sachets).

What could be used instead?

Many SUP items can easily be replaced by reusable alternatives, such as water glasses or bottles, crockery, and metal cutlery. Event attendees can be encouraged to bring their own reusable bags, water bottles and coffee cups. Paper straws have now replaced plastic ones.

Can tap water be provided in Sevenoaks?

In 2019 the Sevenoaks Town Partnership (Now Sevenoaks Town Team) launched the local Refill Scheme, where local businesses who are willing to fill up water bottles will be promoted. Reducing the need to purchase plastic water bottles.

What single-use alternatives are acceptable?

Where single-use items are unavoidable, we encourage the public to provide genuinely compostable alternatives and take responsibility for their proper disposal (e.g. separating them from other waste and disposing of them in appropriate waste bins to ensure proper breakdown). It should be noted that even compostable single use items have implications for the environment and therefore should be limited wherever possible.

What is Sevenoaks Town Council doing to address the matter locally?

The Town Council is:

- Working with the Sevenoaks Town Team to launch the Refill Campaign to reduce the need for Plastic Bottles.
- Across its facilities, it will commit to reducing the use of single-use plastics.
- Raising awareness of the issue to users of its facilities.
- Launching an anti-litter campaign to encourage more recycling and less litter.
- In 2024, they launched their Green Community Investment Plan with many initiatives.
- Launching its FREE reusable party kit for the community to hire.
- As well as Asset Management, improving sustainability across the board.

If you have any questions or would like more information



Call us on:

01732 459 953

Email us at:

Council@Sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Or visit our website:

www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk





SEVENOAKS SKATENESS 2026



**5th
AUG
2026**

Hosted By:

KING RAMP

kingramps.co.uk

FREE EVENT

Where:

**Greatness Skate Park,
TN14 5AA**

When:

**5th August 2026
11 Am until 4 Pm**



Sevenoaks
TOWN COUNCIL

HOUSE IN THE
Basement