



# Sevenoaks Youth Council

**Meeting of Sevenoaks Youth Council  
17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6.00pm**

**House in the Basement,  
In the Basement of the Stag Community Arts Centre,  
London Road,  
Sevenoaks,  
TN13 1ZZ**

**Youth Council Members:**

Aanya Sidhu- <b>Chair</b>	Maya Goodrich
Niki Zhang- <b>Vice-Chair</b>	Bea Hayward
Simba Li- <b>Treasurer</b>	Cristian Hunter-Garcia
Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Sharma Ishwar
Catherine Barden De Leon	Harry King
Rosie Blackmore	Madeleine Politzer
Dexter Buhmann	Elena Rozo-Navarro
Elena-Teodora Dragoi	Jospeh Soanes
Ayush Gautam	Aditya Vara

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk, Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café, Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Committee Clerk

## **AGENDA**

1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> To receive and note apologies for absence.	
2.	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b> To receive and adopt the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 08 <sup>th</sup> November 2023.	Attached
3.	<b>Finance Report</b> To note the balance of the Youth Council budget 2023/24.	Attached
4.	<b>Youth Council Website Report</b> To note the report on number of views from the Youth Council Website.	Attached

5.	<b>House in the Basement [HiTB] Youth Café</b> <a href="https://www.houseinthebasement.com/">House in the Basement - Home (weebly.com)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive and consider HiTB report</li> </ul>	Attached
6.	<b>Anti-Littering Poster</b> To consider holding a competition for a Anti-Littering poster with the winning design being used to help stop littering near Mill Pond.	
7.	<b>Charity</b> To consider a local Charity to support and fundraise for over the two year term.	
8.	<b>Youth Council Representative for the Youth Services Committee</b> To consider electing a representative to attend the Youth Services Committee meeting.	
9.	<b>Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) on the Vine- Update</b> To receive an update on the Public Spaces Protection Order for the Vine	
10.	<b>Sevenoaks Summer Festival</b> To consider being involved in ideas and assisting with operating the Summer Festival 2024. <a href="https://www.sevenoaksfestival.org.uk/">https://www.sevenoaksfestival.org.uk/</a>	
11.	<b>Climate Change Youth Forum</b>	Attached
12.	<b>Notes from the Workshop held at the Annual Meeting and to discuss priorities</b>	Attached
13.	<b>Date of Next Meetings</b> To note the dates of future meetings: <b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Sevenoaks Council Chamber, TN13 3QG</b> <b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – HiTB Youth Café, TN13 1ZZ</b>	-

## Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council

Held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

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

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 6.50 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Present	Simba Li	Present
Catherine Barden De Leon	Present	Madeleine Politzer	Absent
Dexter Buhmann	Absent	Elena Rozo-Navarro	Apologies
Elena-Teodora Dragoi	Present	Aanya Sidhu	Present
Maya Goodrich	Present	Jospeh Soanes	Present
Bea Hayward	Absent	Aditya Vara	Present
Sharma Ishwar	Present	Niki Zhang	Present
Harry King	Present		

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk; Mayor Cllr Claire Shea; Cllr Gareth Willis, Councillor for the Town Ward; Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Committee Clerk.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Received as shown above.

**2. Introductions**

Each of the Youth Councillors gave a brief introduction as to why they wanted to join the Youth Council.

**3. Welcome from the Mayor of Sevenoaks**

The Mayor, Councillor Claire Shea, welcomed all the new Youth Councillors to the Sevenoaks Youth Council stating that she could not wait to see what the Youth Council would achieve in the next two years and looked forward to working with them on future projects.



**4. Election of the Chair**

Five youth Councillors put their names forward to be Chair of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2023-2024. A vote was taken by drawing lots, giving each of the Youth Councillors one vote for a candidate of their choice.

**RESOLVED:** That Aanya Sidhu be elected as Chair.

Aanya Sidhu took the Chair and invited nominations for the election of Vice-Chair and Treasurer.

**5. Election of the Vice-Chair**

Four youth Councillors put their names forward to be Vice-Chair of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2023-2024. A vote was taken by drawing lots, giving each of the Youth Councillors one vote for a candidate of their choice.

**RESOLVED:** That Niki Zhang be elected as Vice-Chair.

**6. Election of the Treasurer**

Five Youth Councillors put their names forward to be Treasurer of the Sevenoaks Youth Council for the period 2023-2024. A vote was taken by drawing lots, giving each of the Youth Councillors one vote for a candidate of their choice.

**RESOLVED:** That Simba Li be elected as Treasurer.

**7. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**RESOLVED:** To review the minutes at the following meeting to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January.

**8. Finance Report**

**RESOLVED** to note:

- 1) that £500 had been put towards funding a re-opening event for the Greatness Recreational Ground Skate Park; and
- 2) that the current balance was £1,720.10.

**9. House in the Basement Youth Café (HiTB), Manager's Report:**

The Chair gave an explanation regarding what the Youth Café is and some of the work and projects that they carry out. It was noted that House in the Basement was hoping to do a soft launch of the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) project later this month with a more structured launch in January 2024.

New Youth Councillors were encouraged to visit the Youth Café and introduce themselves to the Manager.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the report from Daren Mountain, Manager of HiTB.

**10. Youth Survey Results**

The Youth Council received feedback from the COVID-19 survey that was given to young people to help gauge the impact COVID had on the lives of young people. The Youth Councillors noted the responses to the following questions:

- What is the main problem young people face in Sevenoaks?

- What is one improvement you would make to Sevenoaks? (Facilities, Clubs, etc.)
- What, in your opinion, should the Youth Council do for young people in Sevenoaks?

It was noted that the common themes from these responses were clubs and facilities, mental health, improved safety and cycling.

The Youth Council noted that it would be useful for another survey to be created for schools and local young people to gauge what they would like to see in the town.

#### **11. Workshop ideas for future Youth Council Activities**

The Youth Council adjourned to participate in a workshop to discuss and share ideas for Sevenoaks Town.

##### **What do you think is the greatest need for young people now?**

1. Mental wellbeing, support (for anything such as problems)
2. More open spaces
3. Communication
4. Mental health support
5. Education
6. Accessible social activities
7. More communal support and shared spaces

##### **What do you want to achieve in your two years as a Youth Councillor?**

1. Give other young people a voice
2. Improve the overall mental health and wellbeing of young people in Sevenoaks
3. I want to improve mental health support for young people dealing with personal struggles (peer pressure into drugs, alcohol, eating disorders and toxic relationships)
4. More Youth Council members (inclusive and diverse and a willingness to contribute),
5. More community spaces and pedestrian friendly areas
6. More available clubs and activities to the public
7. More activities and chances where young people can discover what they are good at
8. I want to improve Sevenoaks as a Town especially environmentally, a way to encourage cycling in the town
9. Improve mental health support in the town
10. To help young people and give some people a chance to speak

##### **If money and practical issues were no problem, what would you like to see in Sevenoaks?**

1. More cycle lanes
2. More Greenery/ Shrubbery
3. More dedication to sustainability
4. Add more streetlights in neighbourhood areas (hopefully powered sustainably)
5. More spaces for people to speak and communicate even if they have health issues and more open schools
6. A general safe place for young people to go without worrying about anything,
7. The creation of new activity centers
8. More outreach into schools; workshops on anti-social behavior
9. Free counselling services
10. More fun events; themed parties/discos at House in the Basement
11. Paths for cycling/ cycle lanes
12. More parks and open spaces

13. More spaces for young people to socialize and enjoy themselves
14. More available methods of travel
15. More available clubs and activities
16. Mental health improvement and events

After the workshop the Youth Councillors discussed some of the ideas that had been suggested, it was noted that Mental Health was one of the key themes. It was also suggested that more could be done for the promotion of local sports clubs and mentoring schemes.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** To note the dates of future meetings:

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

**Agenda Item** Sevenoaks Town Council  
**3A** Youth Council General Income and Expenditure  
 7555/43

2023/24

		Expenditure £	Income £
Carried Forward from 2022/23:	1,720.10		
<b>2023/24 Budget allocated:</b>	<u>500.00</u>		
<b>Total 01/04/23 starting balance:</b>	<u>2,220.10</u>		£2,220.10
Skatepark Workshop	03/11/2023	£ 500.00	
		£ 500.00	£2,220.10
<b>Available Funds</b>		<u>£1,720.10</u>	
		<u>£ 1,720.10</u>	

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

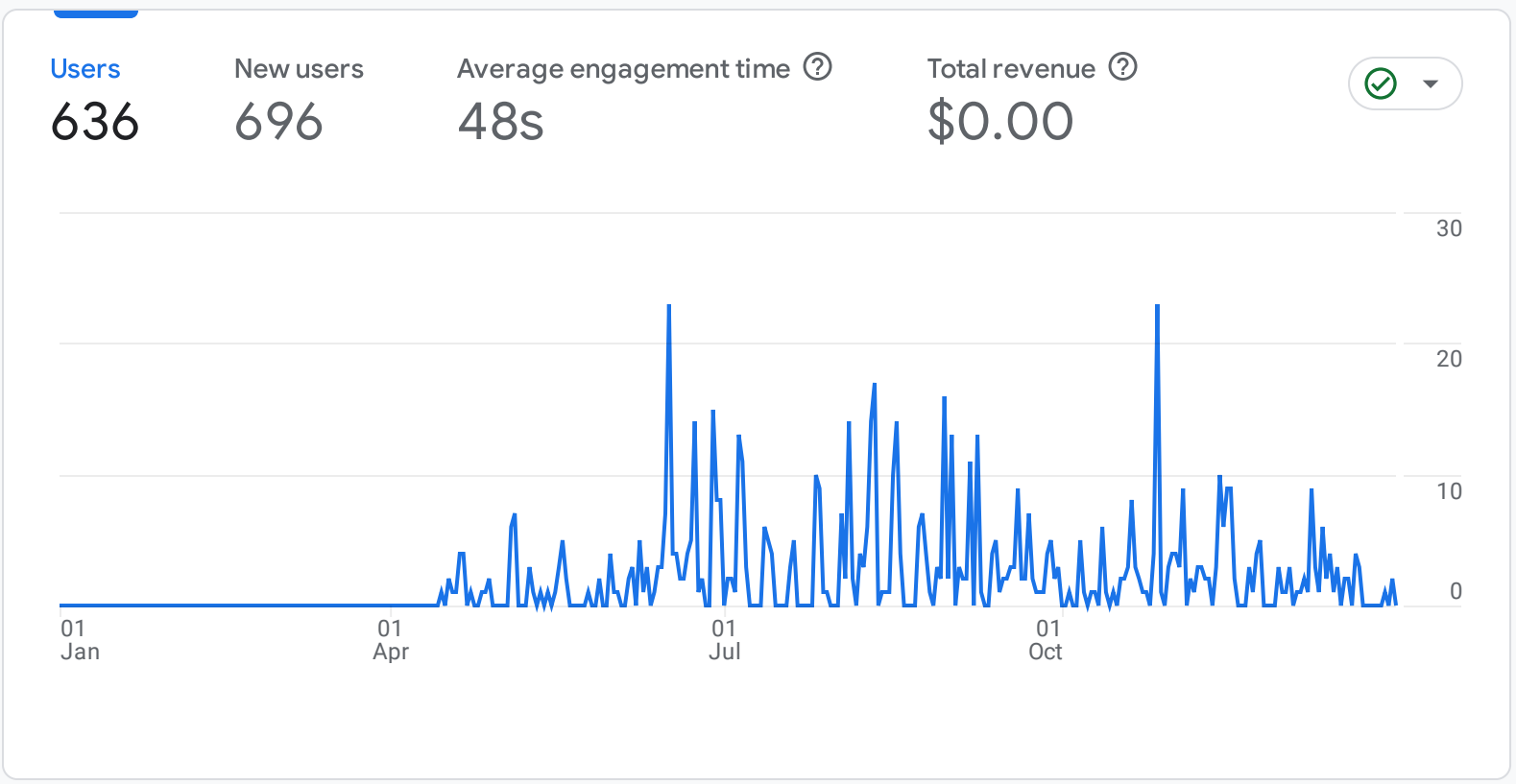
2023/24

		Expenditure £	Income £
<b>Starting Balance:</b>	01/04/2023		£ -
<b>Budget allocated:</b>	0.00		£0.00
		£ -	£0.00
<b>Available Funds</b>		<u>£ -</u>	
		<u>£ -</u>	

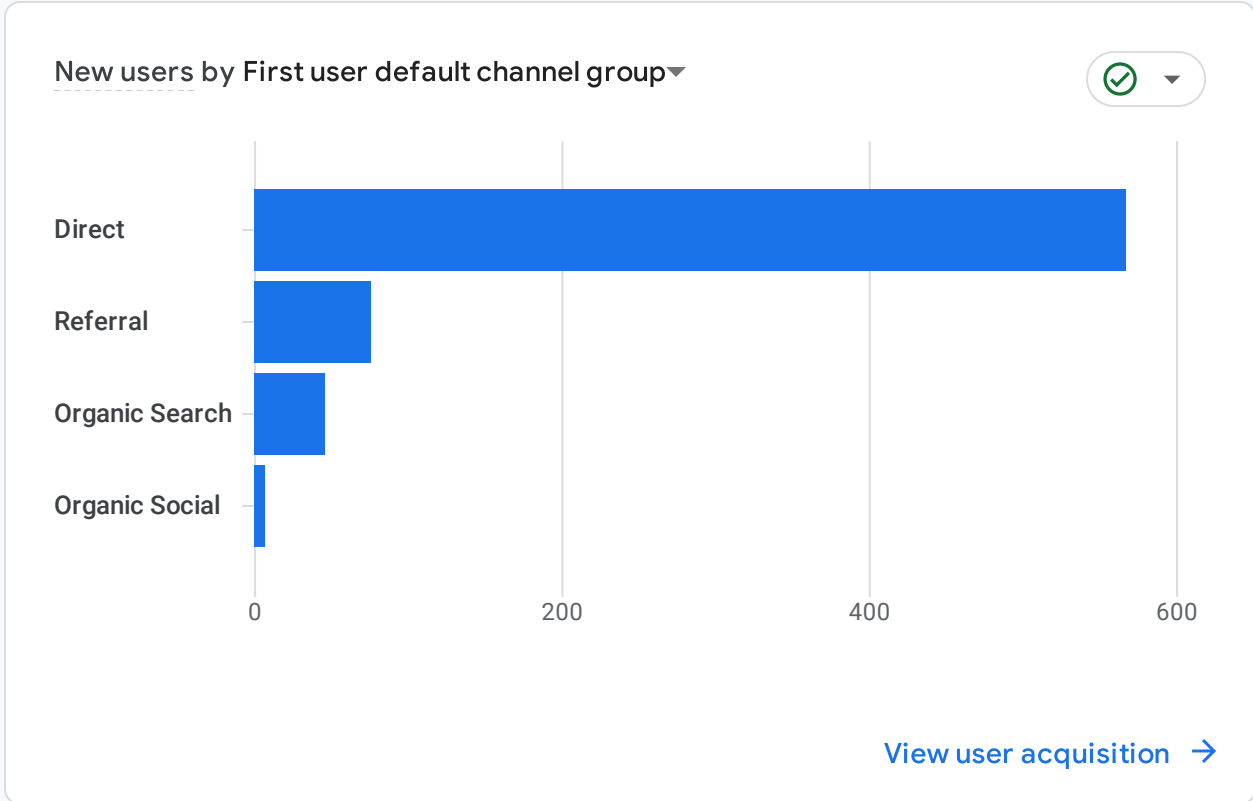
All Users Add comparison

Custom Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2023

Reports snapshot



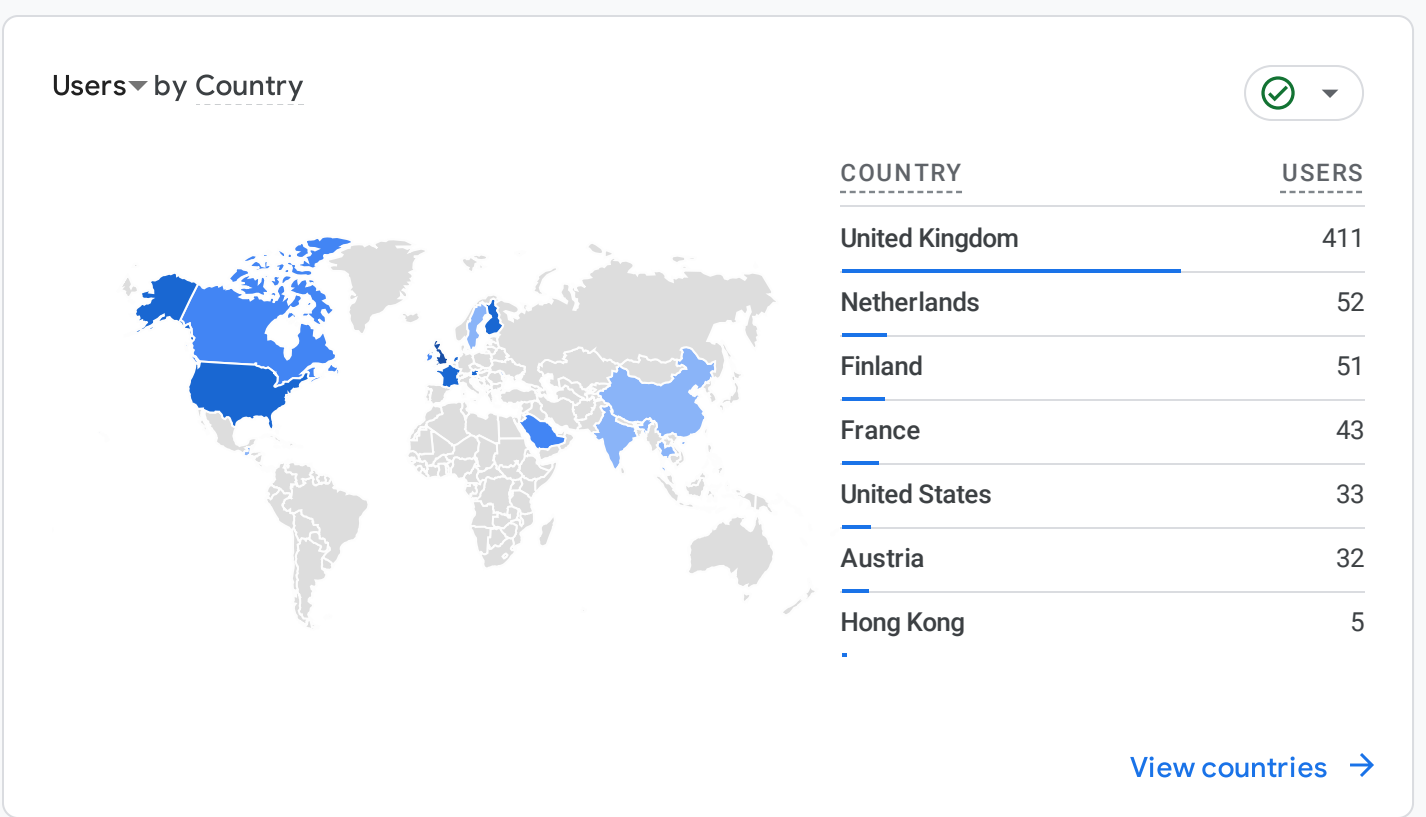
WHERE DO YOUR NEW USERS COME FROM?



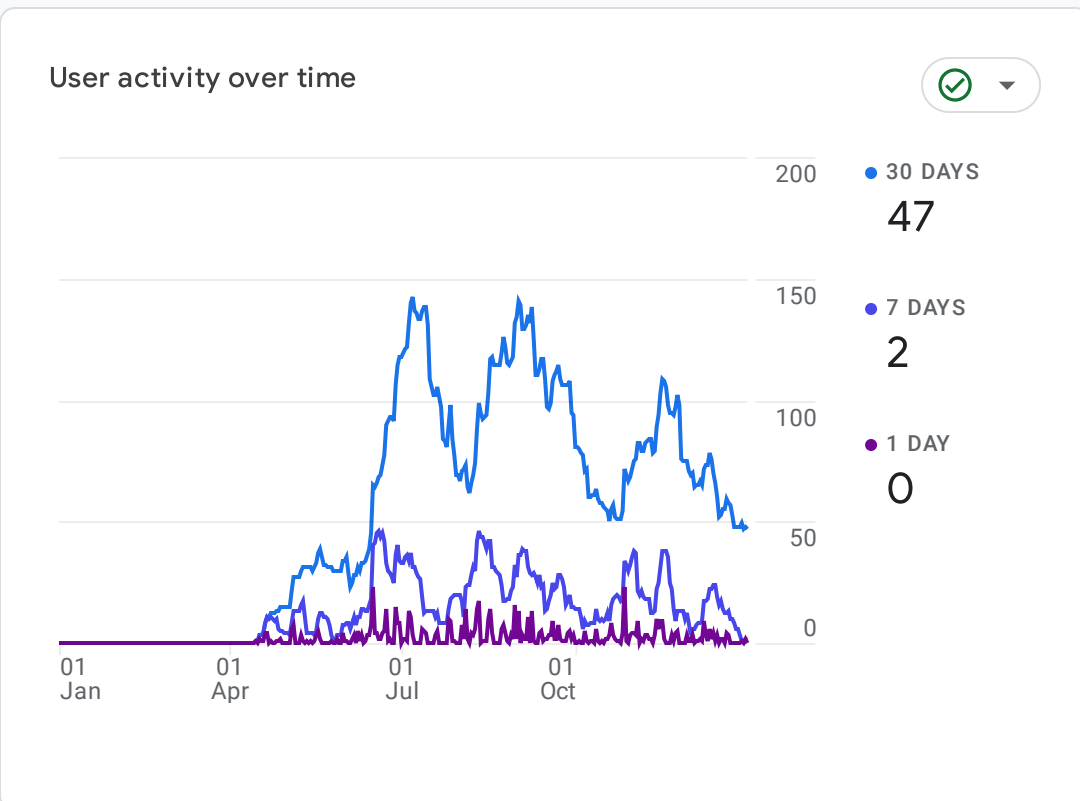
WHAT ARE YOUR TOP CAMPAIGNS?

**Sessions by Session default channel group**

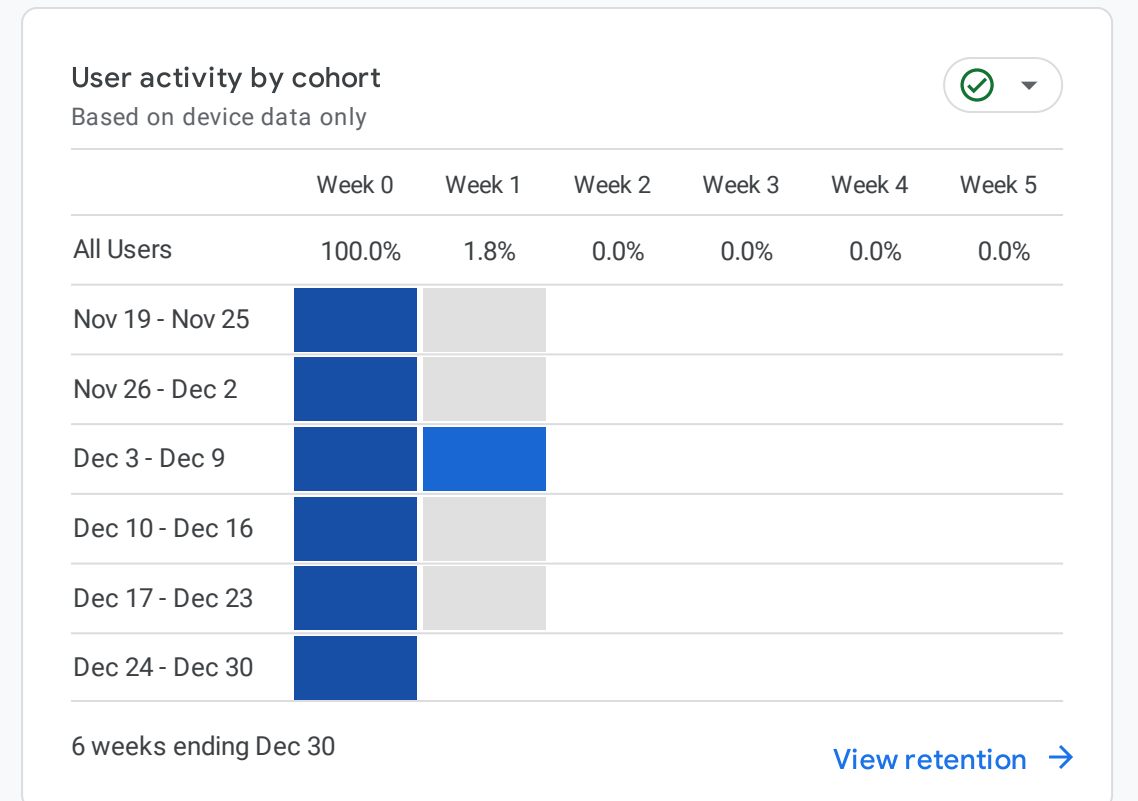
SESSION DEFAULT CHANN...	SESSIONS
Direct	609
Referral	169
Organic Search	92
Unassigned	14
Organic Social	7



HOW ARE ACTIVE USERS TRENDING?



HOW WELL DO YOU RETAIN YOUR USERS?



WHICH PAGES AND SCREENS GET THE MOST VIEWS?

**Views by Page title and screen class**

PAGE TITLE AND SCREEN CLASS	VIEWS
SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCILLORS ...	833
Join the Youth Council - SEVENOAKS...	105
Work Experience - SEVENOAKS YOU...	98
Events - SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNC...	82
Minutes of the Meetings - SEVENOA...	77
Meeting Dates - SEVENOAKS YOUTH...	71
Apply to Join the youth council - SEV...	63

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP EVENTS?

**Event count by Event name**

EVENT NAME	EVENT COUNT
page_view	1.7K
user_engagement	1.1K
session_start	902
first_visit	696

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP CONVERSIONS?

**Conversions by Event name**

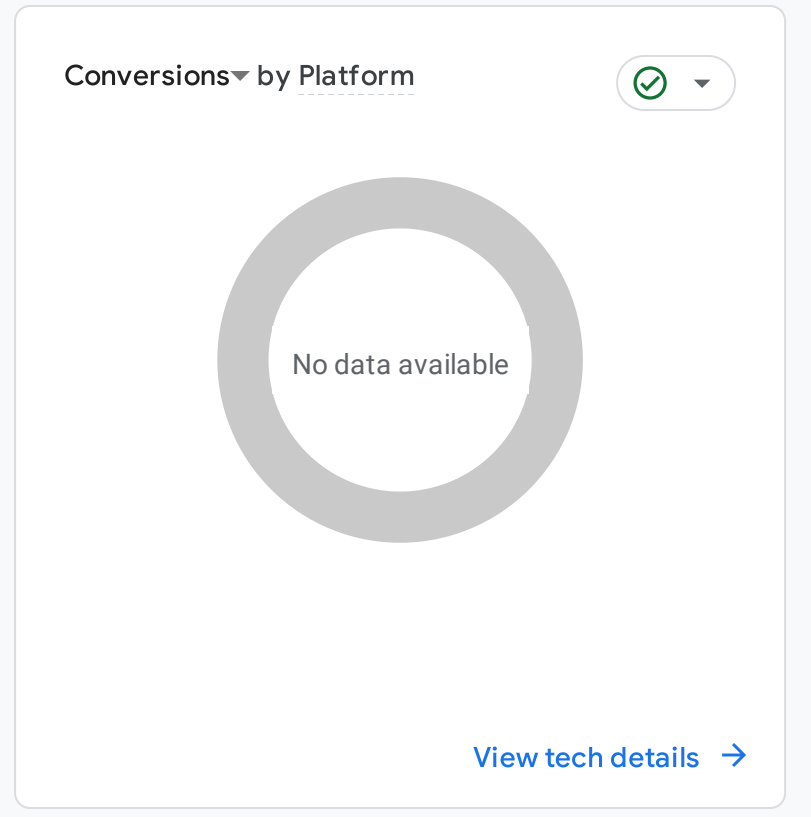
No data available

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP SELLING PRODUCTS?

**Items purchased by Item name**

No data available

HOW DOES ACTIVITY ON YOUR PLATFORMS COMPARE?





Sevenoaks Town Council  
Youth Services Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024



**House in the Basement Youth Café Manager: October 2023- December 2023 report**

**October figures:**

During October we saw 138 young people and 39 SEN Young People, 10 young people were new to House in the Basement.

We were open 14 times and were open for 4 SEN during the month.

We attend the re-opening of the Skate Park and saw over 200 over the course of the day.

A Silent Disco was held with West Kent Housing Providing their support, equipment and DJ skills on the night, despite the sale of around 30 tickets we saw less than half of that on the night.

We took over £260 during the month.

**November figures:**

During November we saw 140 young people, we saw 31 SEN young people with 2 new young people attending House in the Basement. We were open a total of 16 times with 4 SEN sessions.

We have had a lot of staff sickness at HiTB recently but we have managed to open on all but one occasion.

Attendance was good, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays.

The Tuesday SEN Club had a steady attendance of 12 young people.

Wednesdays have been quieter.

Saturday 4th November was jacket potato day, thank you to Perfect Cuisine again.

Christmas events would include a couple of parties, and Perfect Cuisine had kindly offered to cook a Christmas dinner on the 22nd December.

We have restarted the winter coat, hat & scarf scheme from last winter, which was popular.

Kassia has joined the staff team & has been a great addition, she recently stood as a local Councillor & has a real heart for the Sevenoaks community.

Two of our young people are going through D of E volunteering & the STC/HiTB apprenticeship scheme respectively at the moment.

**Sevenoaks Town Council  
Youth Services Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

The NEET project has been frustrating as apart from Weald, secondary schools are not engaging with this project, we cancelled our November & December speakers/provision & unless something drastically changes in the next few weeks, we may have to do the same for January & February.

**Decembers Figures**

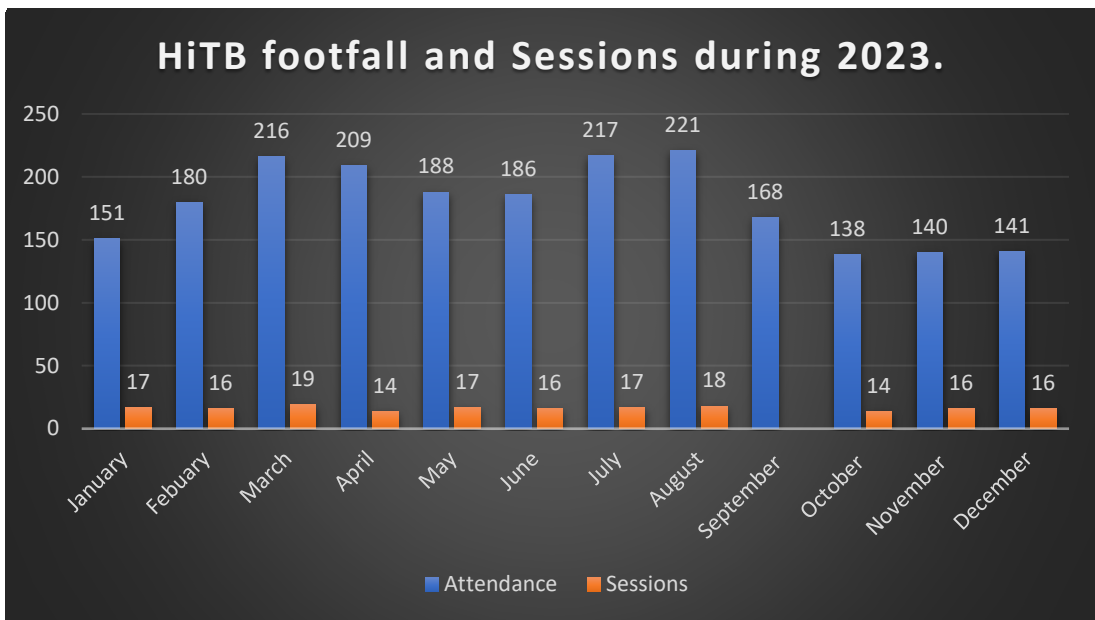
During December we saw 141 young people, we saw 14 SEN young people with 13 new young people attending House in the Basement. We were open a total of 16 times with 3 SEN sessions.

A huge thank you to Florence and her fantastic team from Perfect Cuisine who on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December gave us an amazing Christmas dinner for our Christmas party.



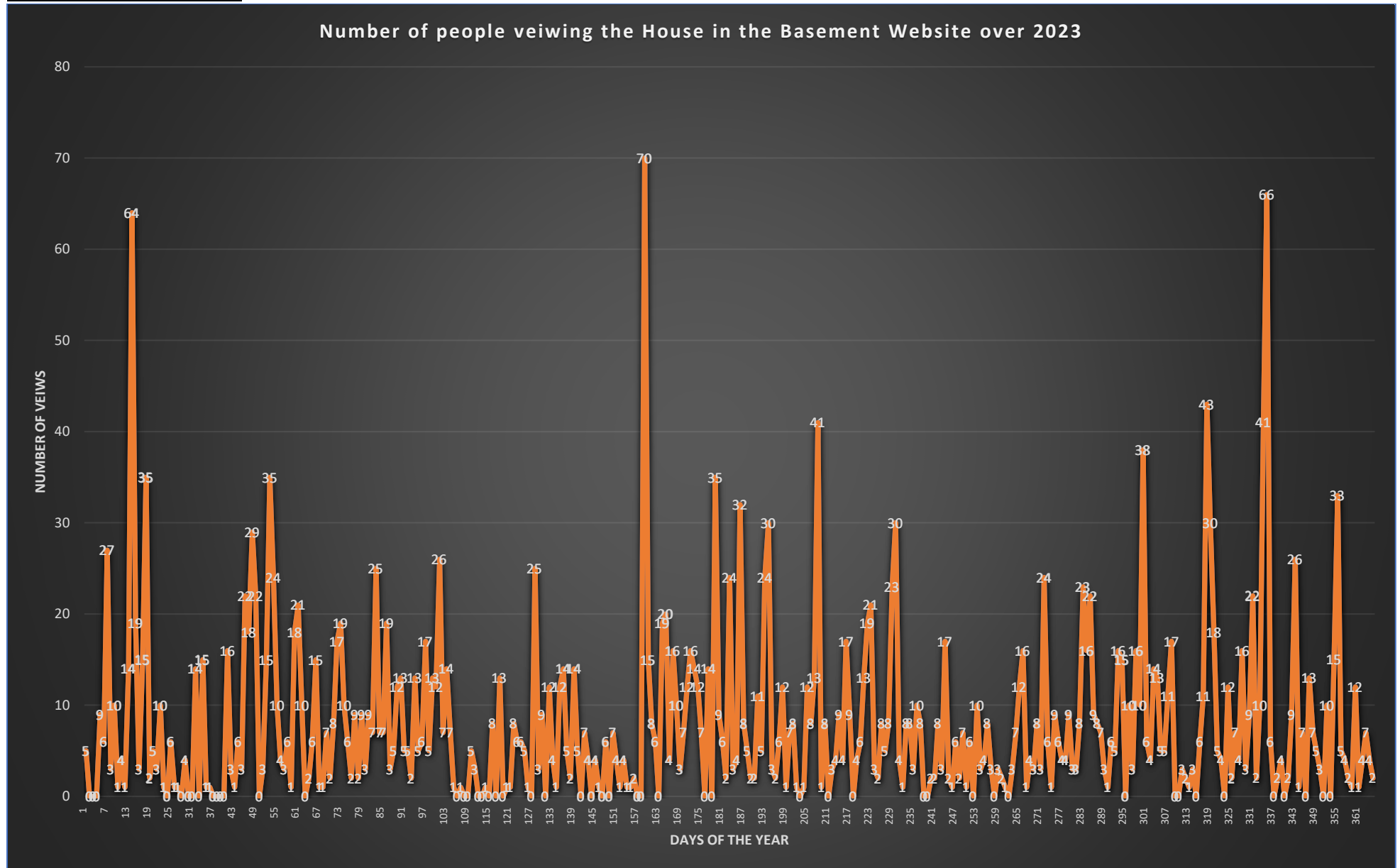
**Total Figures for 2023**

Through out the year of 2023 we saw a footfall of 2155 young people, we were open for over 180 sessions during the course of the year.



Sevenoaks Town Council  
Youth Services Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Website Figures for 2023



**Calling All Young People with a  
Passion for the Planet**

# **SEVENOAKS CLIMATE CHANGE YOUTH FORUM!**

**WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2024**

**WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL 2024**

**WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE 2024**

**WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

**TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2024**

**From: 18.00 at:**

**The Council Chamber, Sevenoaks Town Council  
Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG**

If you are aged 11-18 years old, Sevenoaks Town Council would like to invite you to discuss the Climate Crisis and what you would like to see happen in the Town and your local schools.



If you are interested in this opportunity please email:

**[Youthwork@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:Youthwork@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)**

**or Phone: 01732 459 953**

Sevenoaks  
TOWN COUNCIL



**Sevenoaks Town Council  
Sevenoaks Youth Council  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Notes from the Workshop held at the Annual meeting.**

The Youth Council adjourned to participate in a workshop to discuss and share ideas for Sevenoaks Town.

<b>What do you think is the greatest need for young people now?</b>	
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2.	More open spaces
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4.	Mental health support
5.	Education
6.	Accessible social activities
7.	More communal support and shared spaces
<b>What do you want to achieve in your two years as a Youth Councillor?</b>	
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4.	More Youth Council members (inclusive and diverse and a willingness to contribute),
5.	More community spaces and pedestrian friendly areas
6.	More available clubs and activities to the public
7.	More activities and chances where young people can discover what they are good at
8.	I want to improve Sevenoaks as a Town especially environmentally, a way to encourage cycling in the town
9.	Improve mental health support in the town
10.	To help young people and give some people a chance to speak
<b>If money and practical issues were no problem, what would you like to see in Sevenoaks?</b>	
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