



**MINUTES PLANNING MEETING  
HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018  
HOUSE in the BASEMENT**

Roshni Agarwal	Present	Ola Kujawska	Present
Eva Azazoglu	Apologies	Emily Mahoney	Present
Alexander Black	Present	Megan Ng	Present
Samuel Crawford	Present	Louisa Phillips	
Tasha Dambacher, Chairman	Present	Michael Roberts	Present
Ronnie Day		Rose Spurling	Present
Charlotte Foulds, Vice Chairman		Gabby Tan	Present
Oscar Goodwin	Present	Loic Thiry	Present
Matthias Jammot Treasurer	Present	Amy Vickers	Apologies
Meera Jassi	Present	Jacob Watson	Present
Tom Chapman	Absent	Sam Chard	Present
Phoebe Crichtlow	Present	Amber Warrender	Present
Katie Willis	Present		

**Also, In Attendance**

Linda Larter MBE, Chief Executive/Town Clerk

Michèle MacDonald, Committee Clerk

Charlotte Marchant, Manager HOUSE in the Basement Youth Cafe

The Town Clerk gave a summary of the existence of the HOUSE in the Basement Youth Café [HiTB] and informed all that the Youth Councillors had raised £150,000 to open the venue on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012. A video would be shown at a future meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council.

The venue is a pop in café where young people may meet friend for 10 minutes, do homework, use the internet if they wish free of charge. Food and drinks are deliberately kept low cost. HiTB is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays and hopes to open on Thursdays in the New Year. A Tuesday Club for those living with disabilities was held in the past, to give young people over time the confidence to mingle with other young people on other days of the week. The Town Council is looking at re-opening the Tuesday Club.

Part of the Youth Council's mandate is to act as a development Board of HiTB which includes promoting the venue being involved in activities and menu choices.

HiTB offers an 8-week volunteer course, which has shown universities/colleges/employers that young people are interested in volunteering activities and community engagement outside their peer educational curriculum.

The Town Council is linked to the Stag Community Arts Centre and thus room hire and assistance can be open to the Youth Council for any events they plan. For example, when the Open Mic Nights take off, the Plaza Suite could be available to be used for Soundwaves as in earlier years.

The Town Clerk asked the Youth Council to spread the word in their schools, with their peers at home, and if able to hold assemblies with their year groups.

Youth Councillor Tasha Dambacher took over as Chairman to start the meeting.

10) **APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED:** to agree and accept apologies received from Youth Councillors Amy Vickers and Eva Azazoglu.

11) **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** the notes of the meeting of the Youth Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be received and adopted.

12) **FINANCE REPORT**

The Chairman confirmed the balance the balance of accounts remains unchanged at £944.32.

13) **PLANNING TWO YEAR TERM OF YOUTH COUNCIL**

Five questions were posed at the Annual General Meeting for the new Youth Councillors to answer using Post It Notes and the answers circulated with the minutes.

The Youth Councillors discussed the answers to the five questions:

- a. What one improvement would you make for Sevenoaks Town if you could?
- b. What is the main problem for young people in the Sevenoaks area?
- c. If money was no problem, what facilities would you like?
- d. What would do in the next year?
- e. What would you do in the next two years?

The Chairman invited all to give suggested items to work on. To summarise, the following suggestions were considered as the way forward:

a. **What one improvement would you make for Sevenoaks Town if you could?**

- i. ***Environmental matters*** – separate bins. The Town Clerk asked Youth Councillors would be willing to assist in promoting an anti-letter campaign digitally

potentially including an App. It was hoped that new litter bins with separate sections would be installed in 2019.

The Town Clerk advised that the Sevenoaks Town Partnership [Town Council and local town businesses] will shortly promote the fill up your bottle as other areas do and would welcome the Youth Council's help to campaign for this to happen in Sevenoaks.

- ii. **Mental Health for young people** – it was suggested that peer mentoring system be set up by Youth Councillors with help from the Town Council and Sevenoaks MIND. The HiTB Manager suggested an evening relaxation event. The Committee Clerk advised that the HiTB is open out of school hours and at the weekend and can be used to help young people requiring some help to pop in for the staff to signpost to those who are trained to assist.
- iii. **Get to know community better** – Youth Councillors wished to learn more about their local town
- iv. **Train discount for 16-18year olds** - a former Youth Council had linked up with the British Youth Council to nationally survey the idea to ask Govt to expand this now that the School age had increased from 16-18. This could easily be resurrected by this Youth Council.
- v. **Student discounts** – youth councillors were interested to learn that the Stag operates “Friends of the Stag” whereby discounts on some shows, three free cinema tickets and a price reduction in the Stag Café for a one off annual payment of £20.
- vi. **Zebra Crossings and Road signs** – The Town Clerk advised that the KCC and District Council are the providers and that are so many rules and cost factors to consider. A map of the town would be provided at a letter meeting to discuss problem areas.
- vii. **Spread the word about the HiTB Youth Café** – Youth Councillors suggested they write newsletters and promote via Instagram etc
- viii. **Work Experience** - Youth Councillors were keen to find employers offering places. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council, HiTB, The Stag Community Arts Centre, Sevenoaks District Council and the Sevenoaks Town Partnership have spaces available and should be contacted. The Town Clerk agreed to bring the subject up at the Chamber of Commerce meeting the following day asking companies to update the Committee Clerk. The Town Clerk agreed that a list be drawn up of Work Experience Placements with contact and website information and placed on the Youth Council website.
- ix. **Marketing and Advertising Sevenoaks Youth Council** – The Town Clerk advised that notice boards around the town could be used to market events. Youth Councillor Emily Mahoney volunteered to set up Instagram, Snapchat and social media for Sevenoaks Youth Council. The Committee agreed that the way forward be
  - a. To set up the social media platforms – Emily offered to set up Instagram and Oscar offered to set up a What's App Group. Since the meeting is was noted that for those youth councillors younger that these sites permitted, the Committee Clerk would email out the same information to include everyone.

- b. To advertise the Youth Council by word of mouth amongst their school peers and promote to pupils in other schools to interconnect with local schools
- c. Then arrange events once these sites have audiences. The Town Clerk advised that the Stag give free cinema tickets as prizes
- x. **Revamping HiTB** – Youth Councillors agreed that the HiTB needs revamping and offered to meet up with the Manager to make it a minimalistic venue with plants and re-arrange the contents. The Town Clerk advised that the HiTB is their venue and the Youth Council has £900 in the bank which could be used to attract other young people if it remains open and suitable for all.
- xi. **Culture/Art** – the Stag Café has a wall which is available to hire out free of charge and could be used by the Youth Council to have art events outside their schools for the local people to enjoy. Youth Councillors were keen to include young person’s art in HiTB.
- xii. **Free Music lesson and Open Mic Nights** – Youth Councillors offered to promote the forthcoming event on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and add to the social media sites soonest. Wagamama provide Free tasters at these events.
- xiii. **Book Club** – the HiTB cabinet was suggested as a “Swap Book”, for young people to donate books they have read to build up a book club.
- xiv. **Chess Club** – Youth Councillor Jacob Watson, who plays for Kent and is part of the England team, would be happy to run a chess club at HiTB

**b. What is the main problem for young people in the Sevenoaks area?**

- i. **Art Culture** - The Youth Councillors discussed the lack of art galleries locally and aim to set up a mini gallery for school art using the Stag Wall Art and social media to promote this.
  - a. The HiTB Manager advised that there are 5 spaces to partake in a six-week art project.
  - b. Youth Cllr suggested a mural could be painted on a HiTB wall.
- c. **If money was no problem, what facilities would you like?**  
 Various ideas were discussed and the following agreed upon:
  - i. Larger **multi-screen cinema**
  - ii. **Bowling alley** - to have a draw factor for the town of Sevenoaks
  - iii. **Cycle Paths** - The Town Clerk advised that in the forward planning for the Norther Area of Sevenoaks, the local youth had been consulted and cycle paths from the Bat & Ball Station to Dunton Green and around the Leisure Lake [deriving from the quarry] will be implemented and the Town Council is currently looking at how to set up electric bikes for hire.
  - iv. **Traffic**
    - a. There is no Motorway Turn off to Sevenoaks. Local village roads are not suitable or wide enough for large lorries
    - b. Buses to school are over crowded
    - c. Benches should be placed at all bus stops for the elderly
    - d. One-way system with London Road and High Street
    - e. Pedestrianised Zones in the town

The Town Clerk advised that the Youth Council have the opportunity for their voice to be heard by Town Councillors and any ideas can be discussed and Members involved.

**d. What would do in the next year?**

- i. Ask for the next firework display to use silent fireworks. The Committee Clerk will ask the Roundtable.
- ii. Train Youth Councillors for peer mentoring so that Youth Councillors may help at the HiTB for local youth's mental health issues. The Samaritans to be asked to assist.

**e. What would you do in the next two years?**

- i. Marketing – Youth Council and HiTB
- ii. Peer Mentoring
- iii. Social Media first – then events and campaigns. HiTB Manager to message all with Facebook Page.
- iv. School Assemblies
- v. Word of Mouth – peers – other schools – brownies – scouts – guides – cadets etc
- vi. Shape HiTB – cool venue to draw young people in – minimalistic style - art in HiTB – White Board Walls

**14) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To receive and note that the next meeting of Youth Council will be held in the **Council Chamber at 6pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

If any Youth Councillor has items for the Agenda, please email to the Committee Clerk, ten working days in advance of the meeting to be included in the Agenda.