



Sevenoaks Youth Council

**Meeting of Sevenoaks Youth Council
28th June 2023 at 6.00pm**

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

Youth Council Members:

Katie Willis, Chairman	Maya Goodrich
Emilia Britain, Vice-Chairman	Bea Hayward
Phoebe Critchlow, Treasurer	Madeleine Politzer
Catherine Barden de Leon	Max Pound
Henry Barden de Leon	Vince Rands-Webb
Mahedy Basher	Elena Rozo-Navarro
Dexter Buhmann	Aanya Sidhu
Leah Campbell-Sergeant	Mia Stack
Von Ming Fung Chu	Billy Thajudeen
Lauren Foster	Torsa Younus
Neil Gandhi	Niki Zhang
Jasmine Geer	

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

AGENDA

1.	Apologies for Absence To receive and note apologies for absence. To note Valentina Groves has left the Youth Council.	
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting To receive and adopt the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 18 th January 2022.	Attached
3.	Finance Report To note the balance of the Youth Council budget 2022/23.	Attached
4.	House in the Basement [HiTB] Youth Café House in the Basement - Home (weebly.com)	Attached

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive and consider HiTB report 	
5.	Youth Council Elections To note that Youth Council elections will be occurring at the start of September. The closing date for entries is Friday the 29 th of September 2023. The first meeting of the new youth council will be held on Wednesday 8 th of November 2023.	
6.	Climate Change Youth Forum To receive the report from the Climate Change Youth Forum held on the 20 th of April 2023. To note meeting of the 15 th of June 2023 was postponed.	
7.	Date of Next Meetings To note the dates of future meetings: Wednesday 13th September 2023 Wednesday 08th November 2023 Wednesday 17th January 2024	-

Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 22nd March 2023

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

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Henry Barden de Leon	Present	Valentina Groves	Absent
Mahedy Basher	Absent	Max Pound	Absent
Emilia Britain, Vice-Chairman	Present	Vince Rands-Webb	Absent
Dexter Buhmann	Absent	Elena Rozo-Navarro	Apologies
Leah Campbell-Sergeant	Absent	Aanya Sidhu	Apologies
Von Ming Fung Chu	Present	Mia Stack	Absent
Phoebe Critchlow, Treasurer	Present	Billy Thajudeen	Absent
Lauren Foster	Absent	Katie Willis, Chairman	Present
Neil Gandhi	Absent	Torsa Younus	Absent
Jasmine Geer	Absent		
Maya Goodrich	Absent		

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Received as shown above.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 02nd November 2022

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 18th January 2023.

3. Finance Report

It was noted that the £752.65 for the Design a Christmas light should have been allocated to the youth outreach budget.

RESOLVED: To note that the current balance was £967.45

4. House in the Basement Youth Café (HiTB), Managers report:

Daren reported that Youth Councillor Aanya Sidhu had attend an SEN night at House in the Basement giving a coding session for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math's). It was also noted that the hats coats and scarves that were gathered and delivered to House in the Basement by members of the Youth Council have been very popular.

5. HiTB Youth Café- 10 Year Celebrations

It was noted that on Saturday 1st of April 2023 House in the Basement would be celebrating their 10th year with a formal event of the adults starting at 3pm till 4pm with a party for young people starting at 4pm.

It was noted that the Youth Council are invited to attend both events.

RESOLVED: That the Youth Council donate £200 from its funds towards the celebration event.

6. West Kent Mediation

The Youth Council noted the work that is being carried out by West Kent Mediation and schools to help support young people.

7. Anti-Social Behavior at the vine

The Youth Council noted that in the recent weeks there had been large gatherings of young people at the Vine that are causing Anti-Social Behavior and Criminal damage to the site.

It was noted that police have sent a message to schools as well as social media asking parents to be aware of these gatherings and asking “do you know where your young person is?”. It was also noted that the police have been given a dispersal order to be able to move on large groups that gather over a period of 48 hours.

The Youth Council heard from Linda Larter the Town Clerk about plans to put a permanent Public Spaces Protection order in place in case of any future instances so that the police have the power to diffuse the situation.

The Youth Council agreed with the idea of putting the order in place.

8. Feedback on the Youth Council Website

The Youth Council noted the website had been updated to include a list of local companies and organisations that offer work experience and volunteering opportunities for young people though there has not been much foot traffic to the site. The Youth Council suggested contacting local schools and Duke of Edinburgh coordinators to ensure they know about the resource and perhaps promotion of the website through the use of flyers and QR codes may help to boost the foot fall to the site.

It was noted that the Youth Council would like the following items to be added to the website:

- A Discussion board
- Ask a Youth Councilor- a place where young people can submit questions to the youth council.
- Tips for obtaining work experience

9. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED: To note the next meeting of the Youth Council would be held on Zoom.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Council – 28th June 2023



Manager's Report,

March figures:

During March we saw 216 young people (the most since Covid).

We were open on 19 occasions.

We saw 22 new young people & took over £400 (the most since Covid).

Over the course of the Tuesdays SEN clubs we saw 30 Young people.

April figures:

During April we saw 209 young people, 7 of which were new to attend House in the Basement.

Over the course of the Tuesdays SEN clubs we saw 23 Young people.

We were open on 14 occasions through out the month.

The takings exceeded £400

We were open a few days less in April due to bank holidays & Staff shortage on one occasion, hopefully that has been rectified by employing Levi Lee on a Zero hours contract, Levi will specifically work on Saturdays traditionally a more difficult day to get staff to work. Levi comes with lots of experience & also works for SAYT.

We had 44 young people one Saturday which stretches us, especially from a space point of view.

We celebrated 10 years of HiTB on 1st April with a Burger Bar & HiTB birthday cake, both generously donated to us by Perfect Cuisine.

Partnerships with West Kent housing & Kenward trust continue with regular visits from both at HiTB.

New flowers & a re-planted mini kitchen garden are being enjoyed after planting out in early April, part of this was to coincide with the kings Coronation & partly as our entry to South East Britain In Bloom.

The Mentoring programme continues with more referrals to us, the extended 18 month funding comes to an end in June, but we are exploring ways of extending some sort of provision for Sevenoaks young people with a Mentoring programme, hopefully still in partnership with SDC, West Kent, Millwall FC, Layberry Foundation , Bridges Youth Cafe & Kenward trust.

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We hope to finally have a mural of some sort in partnership with Kent wildlife trust to promote the green sands way.

May figures:

During May we were open on 17 Occasions,

During which 188 young people attended.

Over the course of the Tuesdays SEN clubs we saw 31 young people attended.

With 15 new attendees.

Sevenoaks Youth Council



Are you interested in becoming a Youth Councillor?

If you are aged 11- 18 years old, and want to improve or make changes in your community?

Becoming a Sevenoaks Youth Councillor is a great opportunity to get involved in local politics and to have an impact on your town.

As a Youth Councillor there are many different responsibilities that you would have from: attending the Youth Council meetings, to carry out research & hold events.

It looks great on UCAS applications as well as counting as Volunteering/ Community services for awards such as DofE ASDAN & IB's CAS.

If you would like to be considered or want to find out more about the role please scan the QR code below to check out the Youth Council website.



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Sevenoaks Climate Change Youth Forum

20th April 2023

On Thursday the 20th of April 2023 Sevenoaks Town Council invited schools to attend the first meeting of the year. Unfortunately, due to exam season apologies were received from, Weald of Kent, Sevenoaks school, Knole Academy, Trinity school, West Heath School and Tonbridge Wells Boys Grammar School as well as apologies from Trevor Kennet.

In Attendance:

Sevenoaks Town Council	Councillor Dr Merilyn Canet, Chairman of Youth Services Committee
	Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk
	Jonathan Letendrie, Climate Project Officer
Walthamstow	Mrs Emma Brown
	Amelie

Guest speakers: David finch and Aimee Howe

Councillor Canet open the meeting welcoming all those in attendance.

The meeting was started with a general discussion about ancient woodland and how it not only benefits the wider community such as aiding with mental health through mindfulness walks and other activities but also how it is an important environment for different species, being extremely valuable for biodiversity.

Kent Wild Life Trust

Aimee Howe from Kent Wild life Trust explained about how Kent wildlife Trust are currently finishing a conservation project to help protect the ancient woodland in Sevenoaks. This project is referred to as the Sevenoaks Greensand Commons project. She also talked about the different ecosystems in the area such as heathland which is rare in this part of the country.

It was noted that there has been a difference in opinions in the recent years over wildflower meadows or grass verges with many people verbally expressing their disliking of these stating that they look messy or unkept. This is due to the Victorian idea of having gardens with well kept grass with straight edged borders which is an idea that has been passed down over the years. There have been many different studies that show having these areas that allow many of the native species of plants help with the biodiversity of the area with insects and pollinators. It was also noted that St. Nicholas Church has been conducting research on the Biodiversity on their site.

It was also mentioned that Sevenoaks Town Council takes part in “No Mow May” where grass is allowed to grow and depending on the species flower and urged other places to also take part in this. Mrs Brown from Walthamstow Hall asked if the Town Council used herbicides on any of their sites, it was replied that the use of Herbicides is detailed in the Biodiversity policy of the town council and is only used when dealing with non-native invasive species and only the minimum required amount. It was noted that many places like schools often hire contractors for spraying due to the chemicals, and that these contractors often spray unintended plants.

Sevenoaks Climate Action Network

We then heard from David Finch from Sevenoaks Climate Action Network (SCAN), he explained that SCAN had been running for over 2 years and that they are aiming to be a net-zero organisation. He noted that on Saturday the 29th of April they will be holding a Sevenoaks Climate Fair on the Vine Gardens. There would be 32 stands on the day all from different organisations ranging from net-zero to sustainability and that on the day there will be a large range of guest speakers from different organisations like Extinction Rebellion. David also mentioned that Trinity School would be doing a fashion show in partnership with Oxfam to show the importance of using second hand clothing as we have become more of a throw away society.

Mural

The Youth Forum heard that Sevenoaks Town Council in partnership with House in the Basement and Kent Wild Life Trust would like to place a Mural with an environmental theme on the wall near the access ramp for House In The Basement. It was noted that in a previous discussion with the Sevenoaks Youth Council that a climate change theme and a Greensands Common theme would be an interesting idea and wanted to hear the Climate Change Youth Forums opinions on what sort of topics should be incorporated. It was noted that the design would need to be agreed before June 2023 for Kent Wild Life Trust to help fund the project. Aimee suggested that schools to hold a competition to design the Mural.

School Travel Plan

It was received that after the last meeting Walthamstow Hall have got a travel plan in place and have tried to contact Kent County Council about the possibility of placing a pedestrian crossing close to the school in order to make it safer for young people who might be walking or cycling to get to and from the site. Kent County Council has been slow to respond to their queries and no progress has been made as of yet. It was noted that they could petition Kent County Council to try to progress this through the parent groups and young people in the school.

Engaging With Young People

The young people at the meeting were asked how we could better engage with them about the climate change and sort of events they would like to see. It was noted that events with some form of practical element would be greatly accepted such as a bee box making work shop for solitary bees or perhaps helping out with planting of trees.

Another point that was brought up was that curriculum changes would be beneficial to fighting climate change and understanding the natural world. The students from Walthamstow Hall expressed interest in a potential Natural History GCSE. This would enable young people to explore the world by learning about organisms and environments, environmental and sustainability issues, and gain a deeper knowledge of the natural world around them.

Aimee informed the Youth Forum that Kent Wild Life Trust host a range of conservation activities that schools can get involved with, such as forest skills. She also detailed that they run a employability skill day at Hadlow college for students who wish to enter the conservation/environmental sector in the future. It was also noted that Kent Wild Life Trust have a fully funded 4 week course that they can offer to schools until the end of June for one day over the 4 weeks to learn a range of different conservation skills as well as the wider environment and the different habitats and eco-systems. Walthamstow Hall were enthusiastic about these opportunities, as they had mentioned that it can feel as though a lot of effort and activities are available for

engaging primary school aged students, but that there is seemingly less available for secondary aged students.

It was also noted that Sevenoaks Town Council are currently looking to add a youth article in the Sevenoaks Town Crier and that the Sevenoaks Youth Council would be holding their elections in September, should any of the students who attend the Climate Change Youth Forum wish to find out more about the Youth Council please go to www.sevenoaksyouthcouncil.weebly.com.

Alternatively they can scan the QR code below.



Enovert:

Enovert is one of the UK's leading operators of non-hazardous landfill sites. Our portfolio includes a mix of operational and closed landfill sites located throughout England and Wales.

Enovert is also a significant generator of renewable energy, primarily based on the extraction of landfill gas from our landfill sites. In total, Enovert's sites produce approximately 194 GWh of electricity each year – enough electricity to power 75,000 homes

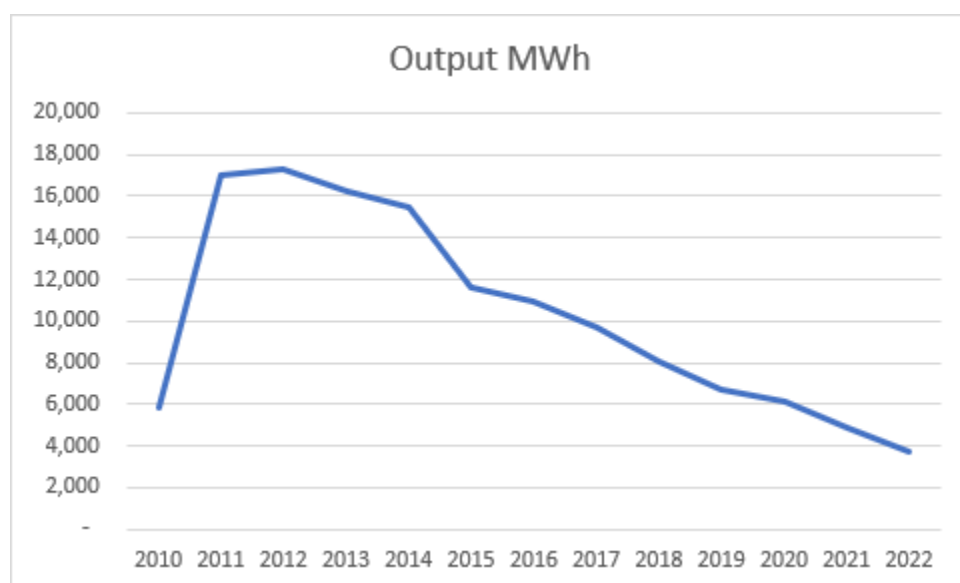
At all of our sites, methane-rich landfill gas (which is formed naturally as organic material buried in the landfill anaerobically decomposes over time), is extracted and used to generate electricity that is exported to the National Grid.

The technology for electricity generation from landfill gas is well established. We are able to safely extract gas from its landfill sites using a network of wells and collection pipes operated under negative pressure. The gas is used to power gas engines driving an alternator that generates clean renewable electricity which is then exported via the National Grid.

Our Greatness non-hazardous landfill site, near Sevenoaks, was predominantly used for the disposal of household residual waste (which had a significant organic content). The site is now closed to new waste inputs however Enovert continues to be responsible for the site (including the management of landfill gas) as the site goes through restoration and long-term aftercare.

Enovert installed a 3.4 MW capacity landfill gas installation at Greatness in 2010 which was accredited under the Government's Renewable Obligation Scheme. As of January 2023, the site had exported a total of 134,000 MWh.

For closed landfill sites, gas generation slowly declines over time as the organic waste is depleted. Greatness still generates approximately 4,000 MWh each year and is expected to continue to do so for some time. This compares to a peak of approximately 17,000 MWh in 2012.



Interesting links:

Below are some links to different companies and campaigns that aim to help schools make our planet a little greener, some of these you might already be aware of.

Kids Just Recycle

[Need to earn extra money for schools? Kids Just Recycle Can Help](#)

Recycle 4 School

[Textile recycling fundraising scheme for schools | Recycle 4 School](#)

The Big Battery Hunt

[Home - Big Battery Hunt](#)

Recycle 4 Charity

[About \(recycle4charity.co.uk\)](#)

Green Schools Project

[About us - Green Schools Project](#)