

Monday, 02 February 2026

**Meeting of Sevenoaks Youth Council**

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 6.00pm**

**Harry Garret Hall,  
Bat & Ball Community Centre,  
Crampton's Road,  
Sevenoaks,  
TN14 5DN**

**Youth Council Members:**

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

**AGENDA**

<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> To receive and note apologies for absence.	
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2	<b>MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2025</b> To receive and adopt the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on the 26th of November 2025.	Pages (03-08)
3	<b>MESSAGE FROM LAURA TROTT, MP FOR SEVENOAKS</b>	
4	<b>FINANCE REPORT</b> To note the budget for 2025/26	Page (09)
5	<b>HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE</b> To receive and consider the Managers report:	Pages (10-12)
6	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEVELOPING HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT YOUTH CAFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE</b> To discuss ideas as to how the Youth Council can make House in the Basement Youth Cafe more appealing to young people	
7	<b>RECEIVE THE NOTES FROM THE WORKSHOP HELD DURING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b> To receive the notes from the workshop held at the Annual meeting and discuss potential objectives and priorities for the next two-year term.	Pages (13-16)
	<b>Dates for the next Youth Council meeting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at the Bat &amp; Ball Centre, TN14 5DN.</b></li> </ul> <b>Other Meetings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sevenoaks Town Council Annual Public meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 7 pm at the Bat &amp; Ball Centre, TN14 5DN.</b></li> </ul>	

## Sevenoaks Town Council

### Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council

Held on Wednesday 26 November 2025 in the Bat and Ball Centre, Crampton's Road,  
TN14 5DN

Meeting commenced: 18:00

Meeting Concluded: 19:00

**Present:**

<b>Aahana Verma</b>	Present	<b>Henry Thomas</b>	Present	<b>Penelope Rowbotham</b>	Present
<b>Aalim Saeed-Tirmizi</b>	Present	<b>Ines Wang Neto</b>	Present	<b>Poppy-Grace Dixon-Lyon</b>	Present
<b>Adelina Suslikova</b>	Present	<b>Ishwar Sharma</b>	Present	<b>Angelos Maroulis</b>	Present
<b>Aditya Srinivasan</b>	Apologies	<b>Jasper Barnes</b>	Present	<b>Rhea Engineer</b>	Present
<b>Aidan Hirst</b>	Present	<b>John Ng</b>	Apologies	<b>Riddley McDermott</b>	Present
<b>Alex Jin</b>	Present	<b>Joshua Maddox Aquino</b>	Present	<b>Riley Ferguson</b>	Present
<b>Ali Esad Kutuloglu</b>	Present	<b>Joshua Maretlane</b>	Present	<b>Russell Street</b>	Apologies
<b>Alice Warren</b>	Present	<b>Julien Beck</b>	Present	<b>Ryan Zhaentan</b>	Present
<b>Alicia Ho</b>	Present	<b>Karam Kandhari</b>	Apologies	<b>Sarah Pardasany</b>	Present
<b>Allegra Delli Rocioli</b>	Present	<b>Katie Lo</b>	Present	<b>Sayeasha Boysen</b>	Present
<b>Arina Evtushenko</b>	Present	<b>Kisali Wijesekara</b>	Present	<b>Shinki Yu</b>	Present
<b>Aryana Mahdavi Ardestani</b>	Present	<b>Lily Court</b>	Apologies	<b>Shiv Lamba</b>	Present
<b>Audrina Chan</b>	Present	<b>Lizzie Hunt</b>	Present	<b>Simi Akintoye</b>	Present
<b>Ayan Motwani</b>	Present	<b>Lukas Abromavicius</b>	Present	<b>Sofia Veloso</b>	Apologies
<b>Caspar Tillieux</b>	Present	<b>Mackenzie Willis</b>	Present	<b>Sofia Vittoria Moschini</b>	Apologies

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<b>Charlotte Bagoee</b>	Present	<b>Mark Bielikov</b>	Apologies	<b>Sophia Yu</b>	Present
<b>Chelsey Dai</b>	Apologies	<b>Max Oser</b>	Apologies	<b>Summer Chen</b>	Present
<b>Clement Isong</b>	Present	<b>Max Rowland</b>	Apologies	<b>Susanna Local</b>	Present
<b>Cynthia Chen</b>	Present	<b>Maximilian David</b>	Apologies	<b>Taani Shukla</b>	Present
<b>Cyrus Tillieux</b>	Present	<b>Megan Philips</b>	Apologies	<b>Tabitha Peters</b>	Apologies
<b>Dhriti Pasumarty</b>	Present	<b>Mila Skoko</b>	Present	<b>Thomas Heregods</b>	Present
<b>Ethan Cook</b>	Present	<b>Milly Anscorb</b>	Present	<b>Thomas Mather</b>	Present
<b>Eva Isgren</b>	Present	<b>Mirabel Poulson</b>	Present	<b>Vihaan Sharma</b>	Present
<b>Eva Wang</b>	Present	<b>Morgan Ingarfield</b>	Present	<b>Vyom Bhandari</b>	Present
<b>Finn Chadwick</b>	Present	<b>Naima Karki</b>			
<b>Franz Lahura-Sturm</b>	Present	<b>Nicholas Chan</b>			
<b>George Kelly</b>	Present	<b>Pendar Ahmadvazir</b>			
<b>Harry King</b>	Present	<b>Penelope Muccino</b>			

**In attendance:** Cllr Tony Clayton- Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Cloe Gustard- Chair of Sevenoaks Town Councils Youth Services Committee, Linda Larter MBE- CEO & Town Clerk of Sevenoaks Town Council, Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet, Holly Brayzier- Deputy Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café, Samara Devlin Jones- Youth Worker for House in the Basement Youth Café, and Ieuan Chandler-Wilson- Youth Committee Clerk for Sevenoaks Town Council.

### **1 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive and note apologies for absence.

### **2 - MAYOR OF SEVENOAKS (CLLR TONY CLAYTON) TO WELCOME THE NEW YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council received an introduction from the Mayor of Sevenoaks, welcoming them to the Youth Council, expressing that he wishes them the best over

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the next two years and that they continue the outstanding work of the Youth Councils that have come before, from founding House in the Basement Youth Café to the publication of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey report.

A photo was taken with the Mayor of Sevenoaks,



### 3 - INTRODUCTIONS

Linda Larter MBE, CEO & Town Clerk for Sevenoaks Town Council, introduced all of the staff and Cllrs who were present at the meeting before outlining how the elections would work. Each candidate who wished to stand for a position was invited to speak, and all youth councillors were invited to cast their votes on paper.

### 4 - ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

The Youth Councillors received nominations from the following:

Aryana, Harry, Lukas, Summer, Alicia, Julien and Lenardo

**RESOLVED:** That Aryana be elected as Chair.

### 5 - ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIR

Due to the Election of the Chair being close, the Youth Councillors were asked if they would like the person with the second most votes to be the Vice Chair. A vote was held and the motion carried.

**RESOLVED:** That Lukas be elected as Vice Chair.

### 6 - ELECTION OF THE TREASURER

The Youth Councillors received nominations from the following:

Shiv, Harry, Lizzie and Riddley,

**RESOLVED:** That Lizzie be elected as the Treasurer.

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### 7 - ELECTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER

The Youth Councillors received nominations from the following:

Eva, Sarah, Ishwar, Franz and Arina,

Due to a close election, the Youth Council elected two young people to share the position.

**RESOLVED:** That Eva and Sarah be elected as the Social Media Officers.

### 8 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER 2025

**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on Wednesday, 10th September 2025, as a true record.

### 9 - FINANCE REPORT

**RESOLVED:** To note the current Youth Council Budget for 2025-2026 was £1,101.70

### 10 - HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE

Holly Brazier reported that House in the Basement is the Youth Café under the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks and provides a safe space for young people aged 11-17 with an SEN club every Tuesday, and they are open on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

The Youth Council received thanks from Holly for all of their support for the House in the Basement in the past, from funding equipment to helping to provide projects and trips for the young people who visit. Holly also reported that over December, House in the Basement had a number of events coming up:

- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December- Open Mic Night
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December- Girls Night (boys are welcome too)
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December- Art Session by Cygnets School for Art
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Party

### 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 right now?**

- Social Safety
- To feel supported and safe, no matter their identity
- Safe Spaces to meet in town
- Awareness/ education on politics
- More activities
- More Community/ Volunteering/ Work opportunities
- Transport

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- Waiting lists for diagnoses
- Financial Literacy
- Bigger pavements on High Street
- Spaces for Peaceful Contemplation

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

- More free indoor spaces for young people
- More activities for young people
- More youth clubs
- More events outside of schools
- Food and shelter provided to those in need
- Better SEND support
- Youth Fair
- More communal areas
- Shopping mall
- More green spaces/ gardens/trees
- Free transport
- Large community centre at the heart of the town
- Make E-bikes more accessible
- More School Housing
- More shops for teens
- Plastic-free Sevenoaks
- Less litter/ better rubbish collection
- Christmas Market
- Mental health areas
- Cycling lanes
- Prevention of the loss of natural habitat
- Installations for Teenagers
- Help for newcomers to feel at home

### **What topics would you like to focus on over the next two years?**

- Bringing the youth council important decisions
- The future of the Stag under the Government
- Raising More money
- Charity work
- Mental health
- Public transport/Regular shuttles
- Community Engagement
- Equality
- Increase in fun activities
- Make Sevenoaks Greener

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- Child-friendly advertisement
- Diversity, Equality, Inclusion
- Youth events
- Food Kitchen
- Days out for struggling families
- HitB
- Community Activities
- Environment

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

- Making Sevenoaks more welcoming/ safer
- Raising money for more charities
- Increase/ Improve Mental health awareness
- More indoor eco-friendly spaces
- Help improve Sevenoaks/ more accessible
- More diversity
- Build a stronger sense of community
- More opportunity for youth jobs
- Reduce plastic waste
- How do councils work
- Increase Street Lights
- Green
- Build confidence/ public speaking
- Meaningful change

There being no further business, the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed .....  
Chair

Dated .....

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

2025/26

		Expenditure Income		Committed
		£	£	£
Carried Forward from 2024/25:	1,850.37			
<b>2025/26 Budget allocated:</b>	<u>500.00</u>			
<b>Total 01/04/25 starting balance:</b>	<u>2,350.37</u>		£2,350.37	£ -
Skatepark Event		£ 750.00		
Restringing of Guitars				£100.00
DJ Beginners Kit		£ 148.67		
Donation towards coach cost to Broadstairs		£ 250.00		
		<u>£ 1,148.67</u>	<u>£2,350.37</u>	<u>£100.00</u>
<b>Available Funds</b>		<u><b>£ 1,101.70</b></u>		
		<u><b>£ 1,101.70</b></u>		

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

2025/26

		Expenditure Income	
		£	£
<b>Starting Balance:</b>	01/04/2025		£ -
<b>Budget allocated:</b>	0.00		£0.00
Cake Sale			£ 18.00
		<u>£ -</u>	<u>£18.00</u>
<b>Available Funds</b>		<u><b>£ 18.00</b></u>	
		<u><b>£ 18.00</b></u>	

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 Youth Services Committee- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026



**House in the Basement Youth Café Manager:**

**November 2025 Figures:**

In November, we were open for 17 sessions, seeing 213 young people, 22 of whom were new. We also held 4 SEN sessions, seeing 50 young people attend.

**December 2025 Figures:**

160 young people visited House in the Basement over December. We were open for 13 sessions. We were closed for a few sessions due to the way the Christmas breaks fell this year, but we still saw 7 new young people attend and held 4 SEN sessions, with 42 young people attending.

**Upcoming events:**

- First Friday of the Month Pool Tournament
- Every Friday Peer Mentoring 5:30-6:30 pm
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 5:30 pm- Open Mic Night
- Last Wednesday of the month Darts Tournament

**House in the Basement Annual Report:**

HitB is a free, drop-in café for young people aged 11-17; no sign-up is required; simply pop in on any day we are open. It provides a safe and welcoming space for young people to relax, meet friends, make new connections, access information and advice, and receive homework support.

Visitors can take part in a variety of activities, including music, art projects, chess, pool, board games, and video games. With some themed nights and workshops being held at the venue. The café also offers low-cost hot meals, with meal deal options available.

For more information about House in the Basement Youth Café, please visit our website:

<https://houseinthebasement.weebly.com/>

**The Youth Café is open:**

**Tuesday-** 5.00 - 8.00 pm (SEN Club)

**Wednesday & Friday-** 4.00 – 8.00 pm

**Saturday-** 2.00 – 8.00 pm.

The manager, Daren Mountain, is supported by youth workers as well as volunteers, some of whom are from Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust. During the last year, HitB has seen a steady increase in attendees, with 2274 Young people attending over 198 sessions. 221 of these young people had not attended before. HitB also saw its highest number of young people attending

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the Tuesday SEN Club since COVID-19, with over 460 attendees over the course of 50 sessions held throughout the year (January 2025 - December 2025).

HitB is very grateful to the following organisations for grants received in 2025:		
Organisation	Reason for Grant	Grant Award
Tesco- Stronger Together	Free lunches in the School Holidays	£1,125
Kent Youth Trust	Three gaming chairs for the House in the Basement	£250
National Lottery	Running Costs for the House in the Basement	£10,000
Sevenoaks Arts Society	For running an arts session with Cygnets Arts School	£250
Lottery Fund	Towards salary costs	£10,000

Over the course of the year, a wide range of events, activities and trips were held, including:

- Regular arts and crafts, rock painting, nail art nights and monthly Pool and Darts Competitions.
- Free food vouchers for young people over the summer holidays funded by Tesco’s Stronger Starts.
- Hosting a total of 9 open Mic Nights with one on the Vine as part of the Music on the Bandstand.
- Hosting a free games night with Home and Away gaming.
- Joint detached work with West Kent Housing Youth Services.
- Attendance at International Women’s Day Lunch on 8th March.
- Skateboarding sessions provided by Samsara Sport and funded by Sevenoaks Town Council & Sevenoaks District Council.
- BBQ with food provided by the wonderful team at Perfect Cuisine.
- HitB attend the Sevenoaks District Council's Family Fun Day.
- Arts Workshop- Funded by Sevenoaks Art Society and hosted by Cygnets Art School.
- Visit and photography session at the Kent Wildlife Reserve in August.
- Hosted a Girls Pamper and Pizza session & a Girls Christmas Craft Session.
- Trip to Broadstairs attended by 40 young people.
- Skate Jam in July, bringing the giant inflatable dartboard.
- Rail safety Sessions at the Bat and Ball Station, funded by the Darent Valley Rail Partnership and facilitated by the Rail Safe Project, hosted by Sevenoaks Town Council and House in the Basement.
- Outreach work to local schools and detached youth work at Town Council events like the Christmas Lights Switch-on.
- Very popular Christmas Party, with food being provided by Perfect Cuisine.
- Young people and staff also helped prepare HitB for the Britain in Bloom judging, with the weeding, watering, deadheading and the decorations, which resulted in HitB receiving “Outstanding”

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HitB also celebrated Paula Woolhouse, who has been in youth work for over 40 years.

They also saw 9 young people complete their Duke of Edinburgh Volunteering sections with HitB. Many of these young people received their bronze awards, with a few receiving their silver awards. This occurred alongside other students from local schools who took part in work experience and volunteering opportunities.



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**Notes from the Workshop held at the Annual meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

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 right now?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Safety</li> <li>• To feel supported and safe, no matter their identity</li> <li>• Safe Spaces to meet in town</li> <li>• Awareness/ education on politics</li> <li>• More activities</li> <li>• More Community/ Volunteering/ Work opportunities</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Waiting lists for diagnoses</li> <li>• Financial Literacy</li> <li>• Bigger pavements on High Street</li> <li>• Spaces for Peaceful Contemplation</li> </ul>
<b>If money and practical issues were no problem, what would you like to see in Sevenoaks?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More free indoor spaces for young people</li> <li>• More activities for young people</li> <li>• More youth clubs</li> <li>• More events outside of schools</li> <li>• Food and shelter provided to those in need</li> <li>• Better SEND support</li> <li>• Youth Fair</li> <li>• More communal areas</li> <li>• Shopping mall</li> <li>• More green spaces/ gardens/trees</li> <li>• Free transport</li> <li>• Large community centre at the heart of the town</li> <li>• Make E-bikes more accessible</li> <li>• More School Housing</li> <li>• More shops for teens</li> <li>• Plastic-free Sevenoaks</li> <li>• Less litter/ better rubbish collection</li> <li>• Christmas Market</li> <li>• Mental health areas</li> <li>• Cycling lanes</li> </ul>

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- Prevention of the loss of natural habitat
- Installations for Teenagers
- Help for newcomers to feel at home

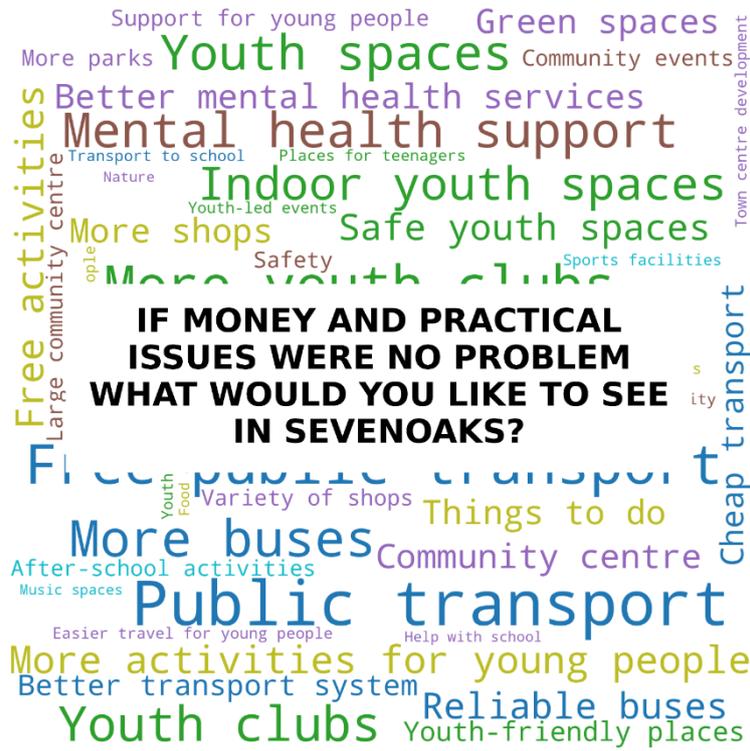
**What topics would you like to focus on over the next two years?**

- Bringing the Youth Council important decisions
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