



Sevenoaks Youth Council

Meeting of Sevenoaks Youth Council 22nd June 2022 at 6.00pm

House in the Basement, Stag Community Arts Centre,
London Road, Sevenoaks, TN131ZZ

Youth Council Members:

Henry Barden de Leon	Valentina Groves
Mahedy Basher	Darcy Hogg
Emilia Britain	Isabella McGlynn
Dexter Buhmann	Max Pound
Leah Campbell-Sergeant	Vince Rands-Webb
Von Ming Fung Chu	Mia Stack
Phoebe Critchlow, Treasurer	Anna Tarasheva, Vice-Chairman
Neil Gandhi	Katie Willis, Chairman
Jasmine Geer	Torsa Younus
Maya Goodrich	

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.	
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting To receive and adopt the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 23 rd March 2022.	Attached
3.	Finance Report To note the balance of the Youth Council budget 2022/23.	Attached
4.	House in the Basement [HiTB] Youth Cafe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive and consider HiTB report April to May 2022 • Offers of help for promotion 	Attached

5.	Review and Prioritise Youth Council agreed projects	Attached
6.	Date of Next Meetings To note the dates of future meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7th September 2022• 2nd November 2022• 18th January 2023• 22nd March 2022	-

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 23rd March 2022**

at Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 6.50 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Kate Willis, Chairman	Present	Maya Goodrich	Present
Anna Tarasheva, Vice-Chairman	Apologies	Valentina Groves	Present
Phoebe Critchlow, Treasurer	Absent	Darcy Hogg	Apologies
Henry Barden de Leon	Present	Isabella McGlynn	Absent
Mahedy Basher	Apologies	Maximilian Pound	Absent
Emilia Britain	Apologies	Vincent Rands-Webb	Apologies
Jasmine Geer	Present	Mia Stack	Present

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk; Alison Futtit, Senior Committee Clerk; Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Cllr Andrew Eyre; Iona Green, Heritage Engagement Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Received as shown above.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 9th February 2022

The Youth Council was reminded of the invitation to attend the House in the Basement Youth Café more often, and to share information with their friends and peers.

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 9th February 2022.

3. Finance Report

It was noted that the current balance of the Youth Council budget was £1,834.60.

4. House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB)

The Youth Council noted the report provided by Daren Mountain, Manager of HitB. It was noted that 12 new young people had attended and was suggested that it would be useful to ask what prompted them to come, where they had heard about it.

It was noted that the SEN group in particular was doing really well; the young people were enjoying attending and there had been an additional benefit in that parents had formed an informal support group.

Youth Councillors were reminded that some of them had offered to help at the Youth Café and were asked to get in touch with Daren.

It was noted that HitB had taken part in a trip to Bewl Water in the half-term and had arranged a Skate Park event for the Easter holidays.

5. **Youth Survey**

It was noted that the following questions under consideration by the Youth Council had been added to the Youth Survey being undertaken by HitB to explore the effects of Covid on young people:

- What is the main problem young people face in Sevenoaks?
- What one improvement would you make to Sevenoaks?
- What, in your opinion, should the Youth Council do for young people in Sevenoaks?

The Youth Council noted the responses received, together with a letter from Solefield School outlining ideas submitted by pupils via their Eco Committee. It was agreed that the feedback from the Survey and Solefield School would be considered at the next meeting, when the Youth Councillors would be looking at the list of things they wanted to do, identifying priorities and starting to draw up an action plan.

It was noted that a lot of suggestions related to more clubs and facilities, including music. The Youth Council queried whether it would be possible to relaunch Open Mic Night at HitB. The Town Clerk commented that we would need to find a musician to help.

Youth Councillors commented on the priorities they would like to explore:

- Reducing litter
- More litter bins in town
- Recycling bins
- Rewilding Sevenoaks
- Raising awareness of services and activities available for young people
- Helping young people to find volunteering and work experience opportunities
- Mental health/wellbeing support (could be combined with activities)
- More cycle paths
- More outdoor gym equipment in parks
- Reducing traffic speed to make roads safer for cycling

6. **Update on Youth Mentor Project**

The flow chart showing the full offering from the Youth Mentor Project was noted. The project was looking at the impact of the pandemic on young people, with the aim of offering support to young people who needed it, and to encourage a return to activities. In addition to the Skate Park event at Easter, HitB was arranging a trip to the indoor Skate Park in Hastings.

7. **Skate Park Event**

The details of the Skate Park Fun Day on Wednesday 6th April 2022, 11.00am – 4.00pm, were noted. Youth Councillors agreed to share the information with their friends and peers.

8. **Greening Sevenoaks Survey**

It was noted that Sevenoaks Town Council was undertaking a lot of work in relation to climate change. In order to obtain a base line against which progress could be measured, a Greening Sevenoaks Survey had been launched. The Youth Council agreed to ask family, friends and their school colleagues to complete.

The survey was available via the following link or QR code:
<https://qrco.de/bcrR02>



9. Appointment of Representatives to Other Bodies

Invitations for Youth Council representatives to join the following bodies were noted:

- Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve Working Group
- Sevenoaks Town Council Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group
- Sevenoaks Town Council's Youth Services Committee

Youth Councillors interested in these roles were asked to contact Alison Futtit.

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was requested that the scheduled date of 18th May 2022 be moved to the following week, 25th May, due to exams taking place.

Meeting to be held in House in the Basement Youth Café.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

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Agenda Item 9A **Sevenoaks Town Council**
 Youth Council General Income and Expenditure:
 7555/43

2022/23

	Expenditure £	Income £
Carried Forward from 2019/20:	1,834.60	
2022/23 Budget allocated:	500.00	
Total 01/04/21 starting balance:	<u>2,334.60</u>	£ 2,334.60
	£ -	£2,334.60
Available Funds	<u><u>£2,334.60</u></u>	
	<u><u>£ 2,334.60</u></u>	

Agenda Item 9B **Sevenoaks Town Council**
 Youth Council **Charity** Income and Expenditure:
 7555/43

2022/23

	Expenditure £	Income £
Starting Balance: 01/04/2021		£ -
Budget allocated: 0.00		£0.00
	£ -	£0.00
Available Funds	<u><u>£ -</u></u>	
	<u><u>£ -</u></u>	

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Sevenoaks Youth Council
22nd June 2022



Manager's Report

At the beginning of April we had a new winner for our monthly pool tournament, we are starting a weekly Darts tournament on Wednesday nights.

The Easter holidays saw us opening longer hours, although we actually saw less young people in the school Holiday. During this time we have seen several new young people, mainly in the year 6/7 age group. There is a trip to Layberry farm arranged for May for the SEN members.

Since the last report:

March Figures:

- We opened for 18 days and open 5 days for SEN
- 107 young people attended, 7 of whom were new
- 51 were SEN, 2 of whom were new
- We took £161.32

April Figures:

- We were open 16 days
- 76 young people attended, 11 of whom were new
- We took £88.42

Youth Mentor Project

Some of the new young people attending HitB completed youth surveys and we have had 52 responses to date.

Sevenoaks Youth Council
22nd June 2022

At the last meeting of the Youth Services Committee, members asked a few questions about the Youth Mentoring Project, which Maxine Quinton undertook to follow up. Maxine advises:

- Data [from the surveys] will be used to feedback to the funder and will be shared as part of the expression which is the output of the project. This will help design future young person services.
- Anyone can refer to the service, a parent, a school, social worker or given young person themselves.
- Jenny Godfrey would be happy to come along and speak to the Youth Services Committee regarding the project if they would like her to.

Skate Park Fun Day

The Skate Park Fun Day on 6th April was a success with approximately 60 young people attending over the 5 hours the event went on, even though the weather was challenging. West Kent, Kenward Trust and Holly from SAYT joined us. West Kent provided free milkshakes. Kenward trust offered advice around drugs & alcohol. Some good conversations were held and leaflets handed out for HitB & the pool tournament. We were pleased to receive a visit from the Deputy Mayor.

The following feedback was received from the event:

“Just wanted to let you know all went well with the skate park event despite the less than idyllic weather.

We had to stop a couple of times briefly to let the rain pass but lots of the young folks endured the weather and got stuck in with the lessons. and watched the pro riders do their thing.

We didn't have enough competent riders to do the competitions, so we gave the prizes out to some locals that use the park regularly and came and got involved. We got some nice thank yous from some happy parents and plenty of local young folks enjoyed themselves, so weather aside it went well I'd say.”

Pete King from King Ramps

Sevenoaks Youth Council
22nd June 2022

“Well done all! It was a fantastic event and it was so encouraging to see so many young people in attendance, even through the showers and cold weather it did not stop all the young people getting involved. You all did a brilliant job with your various stalls and the skate park exhibition looked really good. It was brilliant that there were skate boards there and all the young people got a chance to learn some new skills. My own children had a great time too so thanks so much for all your hard work.”

Holly from SAYT



Jubilee – Big Picnic Lunch



HitB attended the Big Picnic Lunch held on Friday 3rd June, to celebrate HM The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The event was extremely popular with thousands of people having picnics on Vine Gardens and the Vine Cricket Ground, enjoying the live music. The HitB provided fun and games for children, including activities ranging from Jubilee colouring, to soft archery and an inflatable 10 foot dart board!

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SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCIL		TWO-YEAR PLAN 2021-2023				
		Action	Progress	Timescale		
A. Improvements would like to see in Sevenoaks						
1.	Mental Health for Young People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve mental health of young people • Access to free mental health facilities • Increased & better mental health provision 	<p>To gather and promote information regarding available services</p> <p>Mental Health for Young People workshop?</p>				
2.	Environment <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People not taking seriously • Make a comprehensive Green Plan <p>Trees & Flowers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant more trees • Plant more trees outside of Knole • Add more green areas and make Sevenoaks a greener place • Flower beds or boxes in High Street to provide 	<p>To review and comment on Town Council's Green Investment Plan</p> <p>To design leaflets/posters/social media posts to promote engagement with planting activities amongst young people</p> <p>Plant a Youth Council Tree?</p> <p>To encourage engagement of young people with local activities</p>				

SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCIL		TWO-YEAR PLAN 2021-2023				
		Action	Progress	Timescale		
	<p>support for bees and other pollinators</p> <p>Waste & Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce litter on streets • More bins around town • More recycling bins • More recycling • Reduce waste <p>Electric Vehicles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make more electric car chargers available to make it easier to charge cars, as it is a growing need <p>Air Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce air pollution • Decrease carbon emissions <p>Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve water quality in Leisure Centre 	<p>Youth Councillors to be involved in/promote engagement of young people with In Bloom activities?</p> <p>Clean Up Campaign?</p>				

SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCIL		TWO-YEAR PLAN 2021-2023		
		Action	Progress	Timescale
3.	<p>Community</p> <p>Events Not engaging with other young people enough – not enough opportunities</p> <p>Events for Young People to express creativity/musical skills</p> <p>A better place to have more live music all year round</p> <p>More events where town comes together – free music events, food or local business stalls on the Vine</p> <p>Improved sense of town community</p> <p>Greater town collectivity</p> <p>Local Businesses Help local businesses Increase independent shops in town</p>	<p>To gather information and promote current opportunities</p> <p>To consider re-establishing the Young People’s Live on the Vine event at the end of the school year</p>		

SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCIL		TWO-YEAR PLAN 2021-2023		
		Action	Progress	Timescale
4.	<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>Cycling Need safe cycling routes into town</p> <p>More cycle lanes & paths</p> <p>Add a bike path to every relatively main road</p> <p>Better bike/cycle access More bike paths Electric bikes (at station)</p> <p>Cycle and scooter infrastructure</p> <p>Bike racks near schools so people have more eco-friendly way to travel</p> <p>Bus Routes Improvement to bus routes in and around Sevenoaks</p> <p>Pedestrianisation Pedestrianise Sevenoaks Increase pedestrians</p>			

SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCIL		TWO-YEAR PLAN 2021-2023			
		Action	Progress	Timescale	
B.	Long Term Wish List				
	Plant 1500 trees				
	Improved bus routes				
	Comprehensive Recycling programme				
	Pedestrianise High Street				
	Bottom-up development to make sure whole town included in decision making				
	Place for homeless people to stay the night				
	Cycle Paths				Town Clerk advised that in forward planning for Northern area of Sevenoaks local young people had been consulted and cycle paths from Bat & Ball Station to Dunton Green and around the Leisure Lake (deriving from the quarry) will be implemented.
	Traffic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic is a big issue • Reduce traffic 				NDP?
	400 metre running track				
	A solar farm				