



Sevenoaks Youth Council

Meeting of Sevenoaks Youth Council 22nd March 2023 at 6.00pm

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

Youth Council Members:

Henry Barden de Leon	Valentina Groves
Mahedy Basher	Isabella McGlynn
Emilia Britain, Vice-Chairman	Max Pound
Dexter Buhmann	Vince Rands-Webb
Leah Campbell-Sergeant	Elena Rozo-Navarro
Von Ming Fung Chu	Aanya Sidhu
Phoebe Critchlow, Treasurer	Mia Stack
Lauren Foster	Billy Thajudeen
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 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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive and consider HiTB report January- February 2023 	Attached

5.	HITB Youth Café - 10 year Celebrations	Attached
6.	West Kent Mediation	Attached
7.	Anti-Social Behaviour at Sevenoaks Vine	
8.	Feedback on the Youth Council Website SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCILLORS - Home (weebly.com)	
9.	To also note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of the Youth Council is invited to sit in on the Youth Services Committee at 7pm on the 22nd of March 2023 	
10.	Date of Next Meetings To note the dates of future meetings: To Be Confirmed	-

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 18th January 2023**

At the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN133QG

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 6.51 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

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

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk, Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café, Aimee Howe, Kent Wildlife Trust, Cllr Dr Marilyn 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 2nd November 2022

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 2nd November 2022.

3. Finance Report

Aanya advised that she had started to raise awareness of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math's) while competing in a Robotics competition and was wondering if the Youth Council would be able to support this. It was noted that the Youth Council wanted to support this but not financially. A grant application could be made to Sevenoaks Town Council via its website.

RESOLVED: To note that the Youth Council had funded the purchase of a football table and contributed towards the purchase of an inflatable dartboard for House in the Basement. Current balance was £1,720.10

4. House in the Basement Youth Café (HiTB)

The Youth Council received a detailed report from Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement.

Daren reported that the last few Wednesdays they had seen a drop in numbers but they have seen more arriving on the Fridays and Saturdays. The Youth Council suggested the possibility of a low maintenance pet for House in the Basement, for example fish or Axolotl.

5. Talk from Kent Wild Life Trust

Aimee Howe from Kent Wildlife Trust spoke to the Youth Council about the Greensands project and outlined ideas for the proposed mural outside House in the Basement. The Greensand commons are areas of outstanding beauty with British heathlands which are quite rare; within these areas we see a number of different flora and fauna that we rarely see in other places in the country. The themes that were proposed for the mural are shown in Appendix 1. It was noted that at the next Climate Change Youth Forum these themes may be reviewed to incorporate wider views on Climate Change.

6. Climate Change Youth Forum

A detailed report from the 2nd Climate Change Youth Forum was received by the Youth Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

7. Christmas Light Competition Report

The Youth Council received a detailed report about the Christmas Light competition.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

8. House in the Basement 10 Year Celebration

It was noted that House in the Basement had been running for over 10 years And it was hoped a celebration event could be arranged.

9. Further Business

It was noted that the Warm Spaces project and HiTB would welcome donations of young people's hats and Scarves.

10. Date of Next Meeting

- Wednesday 22nd March 2023

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

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

2022/23

		Expenditure £	Income £
Carried Forward from 2021/22:	1,834.60		
2022/23 Budget allocated:	<u>500.00</u>		
Total 01/04/22 starting balance:	<u>2,334.60</u>		£2,334.60
Inflatable Dartboard Contribution	26/08/2022	£ 500.00	
House of Commons trip Train Fare	31/10/2022	£ 7.00	
Football Table	31/12/2022	£ 107.50	
Design a Christmas Light - Light manufacture & installation	08/02/2023	£ 752.65	
		<u>£ 1,367.15</u>	<u>£2,334.60</u>
Available Funds		<u>£967.45</u>	
		<u>£ 967.45</u>	

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

2022/23

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

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Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Council – 22nd March 2023



Manager's Report,

January figures:

We saw 151 young people, 18 of which were new.
We had 35 SEN young people, 2 of these were new.
HiTB was open for 17 sessions though out the month.
27 was the most we had at any one session.
We took in excess of £300 in the cafe in January.

February figures:

In February we saw 180 young people. Of this 18 where new.
We saw 19 SEN young people and where open for 4 SEN sessions as well as 12 regular youth café sessions over the course of the month.

Debbie Bowen has joined the staff team as a casual zero hours worker, as numbers increase with over 35 coming into HiTB last Saturday we do need to increase our staffing levels to be within safeguarding regulations, so Debbie will be a useful addition & brings youth work experience with her.

We were awarded with a thank you certificate from House in Edenbridge at their 10 year celebration for our collaborative work with them over the last decade. We have also been nominated for a community award at the upcoming Sevenoaks District Council Community awards.

The mentor program continues with a core future direction meeting in March at Millwall FC.

The table and graph below show how many young people have entered House in the Basement over the last 10 years.

**Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Services Committee – 22nd March 2023**

HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDED HITB FROM 2012-2022 (INCLUDING SEN)

<u>MONTH</u>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 Covid	2021 Covid	2022	2023
JANUARY	0	334	274	150	205	152	129	95	136	0	98	151
FEBRUARY	0	306	299	204	197	180	68	0	0	0	89	180
MARCH	0	441	248	156	259	194	95	150	0	0	107	0
APRIL	0	298	255	144	221	144	111	74	0	0	76	0
MAY	0	370	235	162	217	122	74	117	0	15	57	0
JUNE	0	310	214	114	159	141	0	108	0	49	110	0
JULY	388	231	175	175	178	140	18	121	0	42	142	0
AUGUST	419	242	184	91	179	156	17	148	0	20	0	0
SEPTEMBER	396	125	164	0	178	161	53	109	0	28	173	0
OCTOBER	521	174	235	193	202	140	68	84	0	23	0	0
NOVEMBER	315	166	161	143	143	162	33	121	0	0	133	0
DECEMBER	263	176	93	170	224	140	64	53	0	0	132	0
<u>YEARLY TOTAL:</u>	2302	3173	2537	1702	2362	1832	730	1180	136	177	1117	331

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HOUSE IN THE Basement



Reflecting through the 10 years

Sevenoaks Town Council and Sevenoaks Youth Council were successful in obtaining a very generous £150,000 grant from ibstock cory Environmental Trust for the conversion of the Stag Basement to a youth facility.

House in the Basement first opened its doors in 2012 and since then its has seen hundreds of Young People use the youth café either through out reach projects, school visits or events.

It has been a haven for young people aged 11-18 after school and during the holidays.

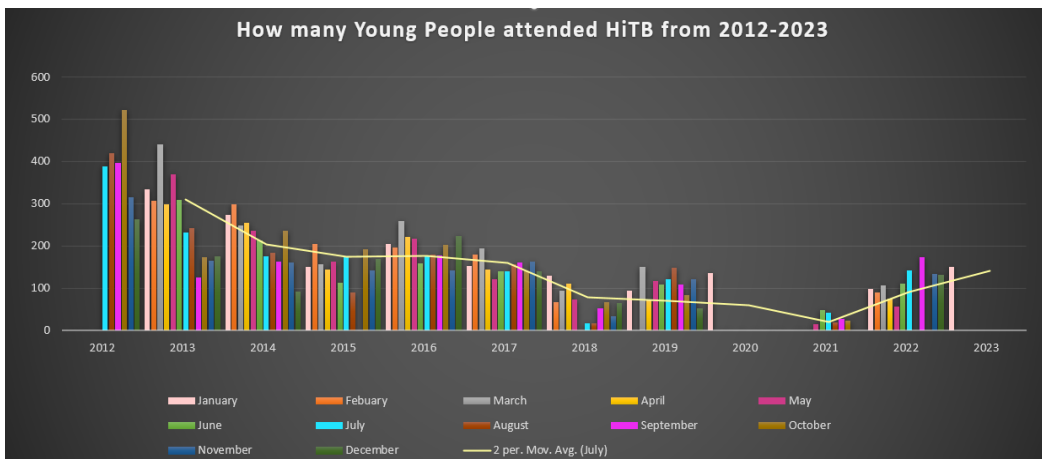
Though it has undergone a few changes over the last 10 years with new furniture and has even had a competition for young people to design and paint a mural on the wall outside.



How many Young People have visited

During the last 10 years House in the Basement has kept monthly reports on the total number of visitors they have had since they first open their doors in July of 2012. There have been days where the house is shut for events like the Christmas lights or due to the recent pandemic but the number of young people have remained surprising high over the years. The graph below shows the total footfall for each month From 2012 till January 2023. The estimated total of young people that have visited in the last 10 years is around

17,400.



Volunteering at HiTB

HiTB has been offering volunteering opportunities for young people since they opened for between 2 to 8 hours per week. Our volunteers engage with a wide range of activities. Sam who took part in the Volunteering programme said “The volunteer programme at HiTB has been a truly rewarding experience for me. Not only did I learn various skills but I made many good friends. This experience has given me the confidence and social skills needed for life in the work place. I cannot thank Charlotte enough for making my time volunteering at HiTB as enjoyable as it has been. I would highly recommend it to all young people looking to obtain practical experience in order to apply for a part-time job at a later stage because you need to have these skills in order to be successful in a part-time job application. It is also a great thing to put on a university application. You can also use it for DofE and ASLAN.” If you are

interested in volunteering with us please check out our website:

www.Houseinthebasement.weebly.com

or email:

info@houseinthebasement.co.uk

for more information.

Events

Throughout the last 10 years HiTB has hosted many different events, (the posters for some of these is shown on the right). During 2017 HiTB saw the start of the Open Mic Night events take off, these events allowed young people to display their musical talents as well as having a bit of fun.

HiTB have held many seasonal celebrations like their Halloween and Christmas parties over the years.

HiTB have also provided a series of

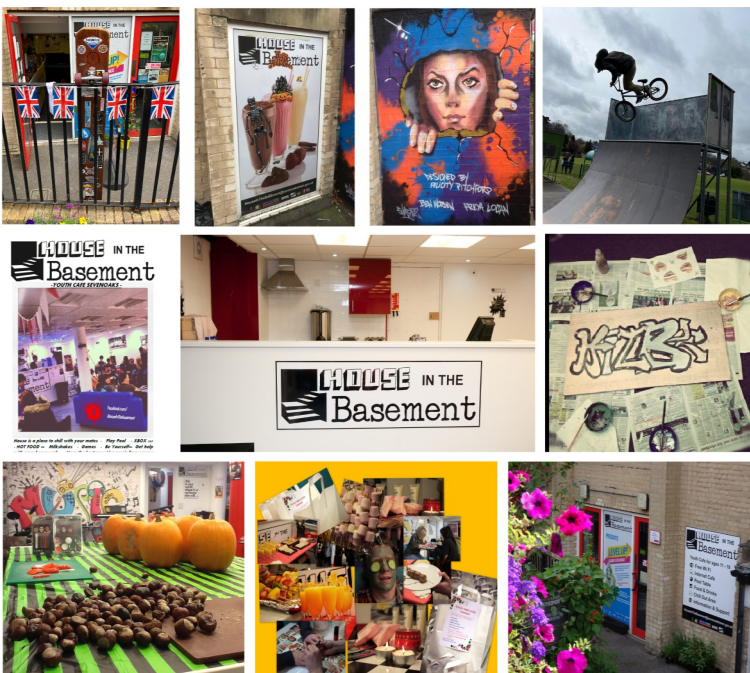
different trips over the years often with West Kent Housing. A favourite that is frequently held is a visit to Bewl Water, during this trip the young people who attend participate in a range of different activities from canoeing to archery.

In 2022 HiTB invited young people to join them on a trip to Hastings and the Source Skate Park. Despite the weather on the day there was an amazing turn out for the event.

In August House in the Basement joined Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust on a thrilling trip to Thorpe Park.

Over the last 10 years they have also done amazing detached work in the town during events like the Christmas lights switch on and fireworks nights. As a part of this they have also visited different schools across the area.

House in the Basement have also at times partnered with other youth workers from across the town e.g. Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust, West Kent Housing and Kenwood Trust for detached work.



Youth Mentoring scheme

Since the Autumn of 2021 House in the Basement has been working with Sevenoaks District Council along with many other youth organisations including: Millwall Community Trust, The Layberry Foundation and Right Mind counselling across the district to put together the youth mentoring scheme.

The Scheme aims to help mentor young people aged 11-18 who live or attend school in the Sevenoaks District area.

For more information about the scheme Visit:

[www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20026/
your_community/604/
mentoring_scheme_for_young_people](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20026/your_community/604/mentoring_scheme_for_young_people)

Address: House in the Basement, in the Basement of the Stag Community Arts Centre,
London road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1ZZ

Website: www.houseinthebasement.weebly.com Email: info@houseinthebasement.co.uk
Facebook: @HouseinTheBasement Instagram: @HitB_youth_cafe

Feedback:

“one of the reasons I like HiTB is that it’s a safe place for all young people to hang out, chat, get advice, a cheap meal & all in a very diverse atmosphere.”– Response given from a young person.

“As a youth worker at HITB , I love working here , the staff and young people are great to work with. The Youth Club has a great manager and we all work well as a team. The young people seem to enjoy themselves and participate in activities . I feel we make a great difference to them when they attend club.”-Paula Woolhouse, Youth Worker at House in the Basement.

HOUSE IN THE Basement
YOUTH CAFE FOR AGES 11-18

GAMES
FREE WIFI
INTERNET CAFE
POOL
CHESS
FOOD & DRINK
CHILL OUT
INFO & SUPPORT

OPENING HOURS:
Tuesday: 5pm - 8pm (SEN CLUB)
Wednesday & Friday: 4pm - 8pm
Saturday: 2pm - 8pm
(School Holidays - begins at 2pm instead of 4pm)

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

In the Basement of the
STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE
London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1ZZ
01732 466 593
info@houseinthebasement.co.uk

@houseinbasement
houseinthebasement

Sevenoaks TOWN COUNCIL
STAG SEVENOAKS

WEST KENT MEDIATION
Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls
Hollybush Close
Sevenoaks Kent, TN13 3UX

theoffice@wkm.org.uk dorothy@wkm.org.uk www.wkm.org.uk

PEER MEDIATION/RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WITHIN SCHOOLS

Peer Mediation in schools involves the training of a group of students in mediation skills to help their peers to solve their conflicts. Peer Mediation has been introduced into both primary and secondary schools

Why develop Peer Mediation in schools?

- *It teaches life skills to both mediators and ‘clients’*
- *It promotes an ethos of problem solving co-operation*
- *It raises self esteem and self confidence*
- *It develops empathy and valuing others*
- *It gives opportunities to young people on how to take responsibility*
- *It opens discussion on bullying and how it can be dealt with*
- *It increases integration and social skills*
- *It promotes equal opportunities because everyone is respected*
- *It allows young people to resolve conflicts for themselves without involving adults*
- *Helps create a calm, co-operative classroom atmosphere*
- *Gives pupils ownership of their resolution of disputes*

How does it work?

Arguments that are regarded by adults as trivial, can be very real to young people. For example, the type of arguments that an adult would respond to by saying “Just ignore them” or “play somewhere else”.

N.B. The mediators are taught that more serious problems such as bullying, physical harm, threatening behaviour, theft or damage to property are always to be referred on to a member of staff.

We ask for a group of approximately 10/12 students who are interested in becoming mediators and whom the staff feel would be suitable.

A one and half-days training is delivered. The first afternoon is **for the whole year group**, and a whole day is then devoted to training the chosen students. A school assembly is then held where the rest of the school learn about Peer Mediation, and the mediators are introduced to the school during the giving out of certificates. The staff and peer mediators explain to the young people how it will run and how it can be accessed.

Peer Mediation training skills

During the peer mediation training, students are taught mediation skills. These include:

- *Conflict resolution*
- *The knock-on effects of conflict & how conflict affects your life*
- *Basic listening skills*
- *open ended questioning*
- *Body language*
- *Differences between facts and feelings*
- *Recognising feelings*
- *Summarising*
- *Co-operative working*
- *Empathy*
- *How to recognise bullying*
- *Impartiality*
- *Why not to give advice*
- *Confidentiality*

What are the School's requirements?

The school must appoint a staff member to oversee this project, and this member of staff is required to attend all training, and subsequently manage the peer mediation scheme.

A quiet area for the mediators to work in during lunch times/break times.

A room set aside for training the students.

Follow up:

Each school is offered follow-up visits to see how their scheme is doing. Sometimes it is necessary to promote the scheme to the school again if there has been a dropping off of cases - maybe suggesting an assembly with a role play, or posters to be put up in classrooms.

Monitoring and evaluation will take place by assessment questionnaires which will be given to each school after the scheme has been established. Young people would be involved from the outset through consultation. We will consult with them so that we may have an awareness of their needs as individuals, as a group, and to establish the diversity and culture of their school. All children involved will be part of the evaluation process through feedback and future development.

Intended outcomes

- To implement and monitor a peer mediation/restorative justice project in schools.
- To encourage students to take responsibility for their behaviour and their relationships.
- To provide a means whereby small problems can be resolved and so prevent escalation of the conflict.
- Conflict is accepted as a healthy normal part of relationships when it can be managed constructively.

For further information, please contact Dorothy Walkington dorothy@wkm.org.uk or Amanda Bell, Chief Executive Officer on 01732 46 96 96 or theoffice@wkm.org.uk

Conflict causes pain and distress - mediation helps resolve the issues



Who we are...

WKM is an independent charity that has been offering confidential and impartial mediation services to the local community for over twenty years. Our aim is to resolve conflict and the breakdown of relationships between individuals, families and communities within West Kent.

What we do...

Neighbour/Community Disputes

Noise, harassment and anti-social or abusive behaviour are some of the causes of conflict between neighbours and communities. Tensions can also arise from small disagreements which become major problems when left unresolved.

Mediation helps people to solve problems, gives them new communication skills whilst supporting and rebuilding relationships. The process reduces stress, raises self-esteem and empowers individuals.

Parent Teenager Mediation

Parents and teenagers often find themselves in conflict with each other, with many young people finding it difficult to express their feelings. Mediation is a helpful process that promotes healthy communication between parents and teens about their needs and concerns.

Homeless Mediation

Our aim is to prevent young people being made homeless due to a breakdown in family relationships. Mediation provides a safe and supported environment in which to explore differences and helps families start talking again.

Restorative Justice (RJ)

Restorative justice encourages communication between victims and offenders with the support of mediators. It enables all parties affected by a crime to understand what has happened and to move forward in a positive way. It helps victims to express their feelings safely and offenders to take responsibility for their action and its impact on others. RJ achieves high levels of victim satisfaction and a reduction in re-offending.

Restorative approaches are now recognised to be effective in resolving multi-party disputes within the community, schools, families and at work.

Restorative Practices within Schools

Peer mediation in schools involves training students to help their peers resolve conflicts in the classroom, playground, at home and in the wider community. Young people gain valuable life skills and the ability to communicate their needs more effectively. We also offer our service to schools when internal disputes require impartial resolution.

Anger Management Coaching

This is an effective and straightforward method for helping young people to deal with their anger and learn better ways of dealing with confrontation, problems and disappointments. Anger is a habit - habits can be changed.

Workplace Mediation

When conflict at work develops into a dispute, communication can become difficult or stop altogether. Mediation helps resolve complaints that include victimisation, harassment, discrimination and bullying. It can reduce the number of hours lost through stress and improve performance.

How it works...

All WKM's mediators are volunteers drawn from the local community. They are trained and supported by WKM's small staff team. They work in pairs, visiting each party separately in their own home to identify the issues involved. They help both sides to look at practical ways of moving forward so that improvements can be made and agreements reached.

Mediation is not a legal process and any agreements are not binding in law. You have a right to seek legal advice and mediation does not prevent parties from initiating other procedures. All mediation proceedings are conducted on a "without prejudice" basis - what is said during mediation proceedings will be confidential.

"Thank you so much for the time and effort you have put into helping us resolve our issues with our neighbours. We really feel that a resolution would have been very difficult without your help. The mediation service is very worthwhile and has certainly been useful." Mr and Mrs W, Oford

"Words cannot express my gratitude for the impartial and professional way in which you handled my problem. You helped to bring some sanity in to the awful dilemma I was in." Mrs J, Paddock Wood

Client Charter

Our responsibilities, we will...

- Listen to you and respect your point of view
- Work with you to resolve your problems
- Keep what you say to us confidential

Helping us to help you, we ask you...

- To keep appointments
- To respect the other parties involved
- To respect WKM's staff and volunteers
- To keep to any agreement reached

Equality and Diversity

WKM recognise that many people in our society experience discrimination or lack of opportunities for reasons that are not fair. Our aim is to ensure that all voices are equally heard.



Agenda Item 6

Interested?

To find out more about our services and how we might help you, please ring us for an informal chat. The majority of WKM's services are free of charge. Within West Kent, but charges apply in some cases.

Can you help us?

WKM is supported by local authorities, housing associations, charitable foundations and individual donations. All contributions are very gratefully received. If you would like to make a donation or train to be a volunteer with WKM please visit our website for further details.

If you have any feedback to help us improve our services or wish to make a complaint please contact us at:

West Kent Mediation,

[Redacted address]

01732 46 96 96

theoffice@wkm.org.uk

www.wkm.org.uk



Youth Council
22/03/2023

COMMUNITY FUND



Charity Registration Number: 1100637
A Company Limited by Guarantee.
Registration Number: 4830437 England.

Helping resolve conflict in our local community

T 01732 469696

www.wkm.org.uk

MEDIATION

West Kent

Listen Talk Resolve



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