

Sevenoaks Youth Council



Meeting of Sevenoaks Youth Council

26th November 2025 at 6.00pm

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

Youth Council Members:

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

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	MAYOR OF SEVENOAKS (CLLR TONY CLAYTON) TO WELCOME THE NEW YOUTH COUNCIL
3	INTRODUCTIONS
4	ELECTION OF THE CHAIR
5	ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIR
6	ELECTION OF THE TREASURER
7	ELECTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER The Social Media Officer will: • Assist in creating and sharing engaging and appropriate content across the Youth Council's approved social media platforms. • Promote youth events, meetings, and achievements to help raise the profile of the Youth Council. • Liaise regularly with the Youth Committee Clerk and the Town Clerk to ensure all communications comply with Council policies and procedures. • Adhere to all safeguarding and data protection guidelines relevant to social media use. Eligibility: Please note that, in line with current rules and regulations, anyone wishing to take on this role must be aged 16 or over
8	MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER 2025 To receive and adopt the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on Wednesday, 10th September 2025 (Pages 03-15)
9	FINANCE REPORT To note the budget for 2025/26 (Page 16)
10	HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE To receive and consider the Manager's report: (Pages 17-22)
11	WORKSHOP IDEAS FOR FUTURE YOUTH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES
	Date of next meeting: Wed 11th February 2026, Bat and Ball Centre, TN14 5DN at 6 pm.

Sevenoaks Town Council

Sevenoaks Youth Council



Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council

Held on Wednesday 10th September 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices,
TN13 3QG

Meeting commenced: 18:00

Meeting Concluded: 18:41

Present:

Simba Li- Chair	Apologies	Sahej Kandhari	Absent
Rosie Blackmore- Vice-Chair	Absent	Esme Lefevre	Present
Harry King- Treasurer	Apologies	Joshua Marelane	Apologies
Bianca Agarwal	Absent	Riddley McDermott	Present
Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Present	Sofia Moschini	Present
Catherine Barden De Leon	Absent	Ayaan Motwani	Present
Jasper Barnes	Absent	John Ng	Present
Dexter Buhmann	Absent	Errol Okundi	Absent
Lily Blackburn	Absent	Jaxon Pang	Absent
Catherine Campbell-Pitt	Apologies	Madeleine Politzer	Absent
Charlotte Doe	Absent	Elif Sabanci	Absent
Ayush Gautam	Absent	Drago Schwalber-Janaway	Absent
Maya Goodrich	Apologies	Jospeh Soanes	Absent
Bea Hayward	Absent	James Tang	Absent
Lizzie Hunt	Present	Ines wang	Present
Christian Hunter-Garcia	Absent	Aditya Vara	Absent
Ishwar Sharma	Apologies		

In attendance: The Deputy Town Clerk/ Responsible Finance Officer, Youth Committee Clerk and The Manager of the House in the Basement Youth Café.

1 – In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair and the Treasurer, Aryanna chaired the Meeting.

2 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received and accepted as noted above.

3 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY

It was agreed to receive and accept the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on Wednesday, 9th July 2025.



4 - FINANCE REPORT

It was noted that the DJ Kit had been purchased for House in the Basement for £148.67. The Youth Council noted that during the Climate Fair, some had been given Youth Council t-shirts and proposed that the New Youth Council could purchase new t-shirts for Youth Councillors to wear at events.

RESOLVED: To note the current Youth Council budget for 2025-2026 was £ 1,351.70.

5 – CURRENT & COMPLETED MATTERS REPORTS

The Youth Council received and noted the Current Matters Report,
The Youth Council received and noted the Completed Matters Report.

6 - SUMMER EVENTS REPORT

The Youth Council received the summer events report.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the summer events report.

7 - HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE

The Youth Council received the House in the Basement Managers' report.

It was noted that over the Summer holidays, there was an Open Mic Night held at the Vine Gardens and a Photography workshop (Wednesday, 27th of August) held at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve. It was also reported that over 35 young people attended the House in the Basement Summer trip to Broadstairs. The Youth Council also heard that House in the Basement held a Celebration for Paula to celebrate 40 years of Youth Work.

8 - FUNDING HITB BROADSTAIRS TRIP

The Youth Council noted that in the future, they could hold fundraising events to help pay for items such as the Coach for the House in the Basement trips. It was noted that they would like to have a stall at future events like the Christmas Lights Switch-on to do this.

RESOLVED: To fund £250 for the coach fare for young people to attend the Broadstairs Trip.

Sevenoaks Youth Council



9 - WEST KENT BADGER GROUP

The Youth Council received a presentation from the West Kent Badger Group, who outlined that they are primarily a volunteer-based organisation that helps to monitor, rescue and relocate badgers after they have been reported to them

. It was noted that they work with the Folly Wildlife Rescue Centre in Tonbridge Wells, to help house and look after the badgers. The Youth Council heard that Badgers are a protected species and are protected by Law under the Badger Protection Act 1992.

It was noted that the West Kent Badger Group also record the deaths of Badgers from Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) and may at times be asked to investigate the death of a badger if it is thought to be suspicious due to the protection of badgers. They reported that the number of Badgers reported dead from RTAs has increased in the last couple of years.

They reported that if any of the Youth Council members are interested in helping with the protection of badgers, they are more than welcome to either sign up to volunteer with the West Kent Badger Group or to volunteer with the Folly Wildlife Trust.

10 - YOUTH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

It was noted that the Youth Council Elections had started and were running until the 1st of October. Any Youth Councillors who wish to continue for another two years need to resubmit their entry forms if they have not done so already.

There being no further business the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed
Chair

Dated

West Kent Badger Group

By Kathie Foster



What we do

- Rescue and rehabilitation
- Badger protection
- Badger advice
- Badger talks and events
- Badger sett surveying and monitoring
- National support

Rescues and rehabilitations

- Work closely with Folly Wildlife Rescue
- Have a network of volunteer rescuers
- Undertake training & provide equipment
- Assist with badger releases



What happens to a rescued cub?

- Hand reared until weaned – 12 weeks
- Kept at Folly in small group – 5/6
- Sometimes swapped with other rescue centers
- Released late August September
- Supported in the wild until independent



Badger Protection

- Badger are protected under the Badger Protection Act 1992
- Report badger crime to the police
- Monitor setts at risk – gather evidence
- Assist with investigations
- Review developments, ensure badgers, their setts and habitats are protected



Badger advice and Talks

- Badgers in gardens
- Talks
- Events



Sett surveys and monitoring

- Keep records of RTA's
- Conduct surveys
- Empower people



National Support

- Badger Cull
- Changings in planning law
- Writing to MP's
- Protesting
- Increasing public awareness



What can you do to help badgers?

- Find out more about badgers
- Report any badger crime
- Report any dead badgers
- Volunteer with Folly Wildlife Rescue
- Join the West Kent Badger Group!





THE END

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

2025/26

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

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

2025/26

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

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House in the Basement Youth Café Manager:

August Figures:

Over the course of August, we saw 155 young people, 24 of whom were new and were open for 18 Sessions. We also saw 30 young people attend the Tuesday SEN Club, which was held over 4 evenings.

We also attended the SDC family fun day, handing out flyers and raising awareness about the House in the Basement to families and young people in the town.

we had an open mic night on the vine, which was well attended & well received. We also took 35 Young people & staff to Broadstairs for the day for a beach trip. At the end of August, we had a second photography workshop at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve.



September Figures:

We saw 205 young people, with 19 of them being new. We were open on 17 occasions throughout the month and also saw 42 SEN Young people attend the 5 Tuesday sessions.

September saw another in-house open mic night with several new faces & acts, we also started on Fridays peer mentoring from sixth formers on the youth council, offering subject tutoring to the young people attending HitB.

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Local youth workers from various organisations & churches met at VEC one lunchtime as a follow up to previous meetings earlier in the year, allowing youth workers to exchange ideas & look at projects we can work on together in partnership with one another.



HELP IN ALL SUBJECTS WITH
HOMEWORK AND EXAMS

October Figures:

October was slightly busier than September, with 209 young people attending over 18 sessions; 23 of these were new to HitB. It did, however, see a busier SEN club with 63 young people attending over 4 Sessions, making this one of the busiest months post-COVID.

HitB hosted a girls' pizza & pamper evening one Friday, which was then followed by another open mic night on the next Friday.

At the end of the month, Perfect Cuisine provided a BBQ for us all at HitB on a Saturday afternoon.

Some of our staff have completed training in various areas over the last 3 months.

We also won Outstanding in the "It's your Neighbourhood award" for South and Southeast in bloom. A huge thank you to all of the House in the Basement Staff, Volunteers and Young People who helped get us In Bloom ready. From deadheading and weeding to decorating the insides of House in the Basement and putting together all of the Lego Flowers.



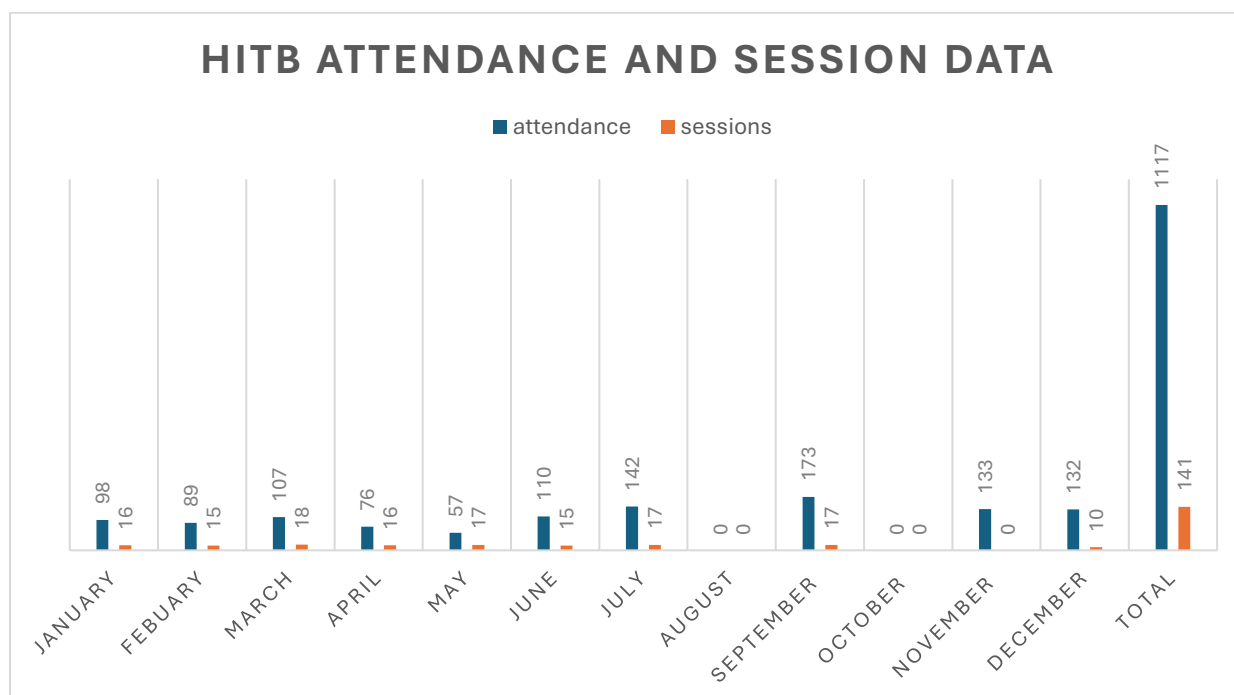
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It should also be noted that House in the Basement has seen more young people this year in comparison to last year, as well as more young people who have not engaged with HitB before. Please see a list below of the recorded figures over the last four years:

Year	Total Footfall over the course of the year	Total no. of new young people that year	The total no. of Sessions held that year
2022:	1117	N/A	141
2022 SEN:	149 (to note only 6 months of data recorded)	N/A	N/A
2023:	2155	171	180
2023 SEN:	362	N/A	49
2024:	1867	156	166
2024 SEN:	268	N/A	51
2025:	1901 (total up to October 2025)	192 (total up to October 2025)	168
2025 SEN:	368 (total up to October 2025)	N/A	42 (total up to October 2025)

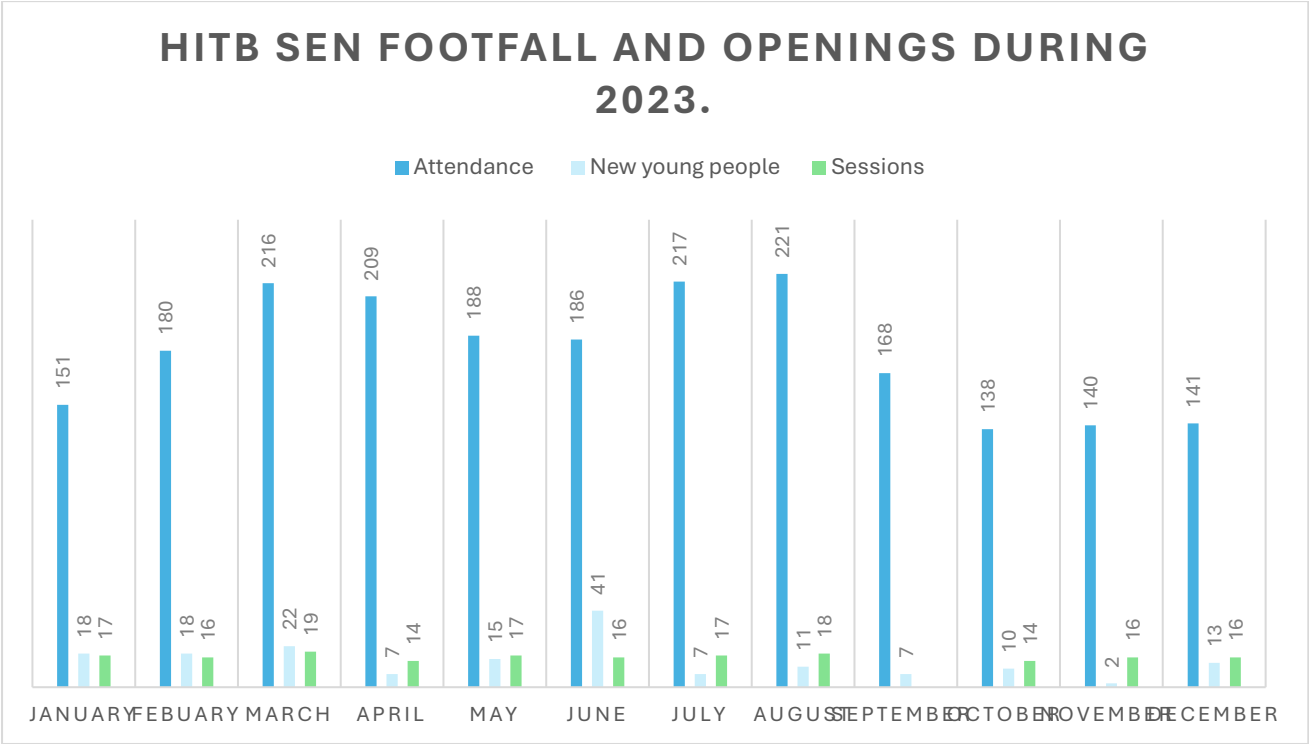
Below is a breakdown of the monthly footfall for each year.:

2022:

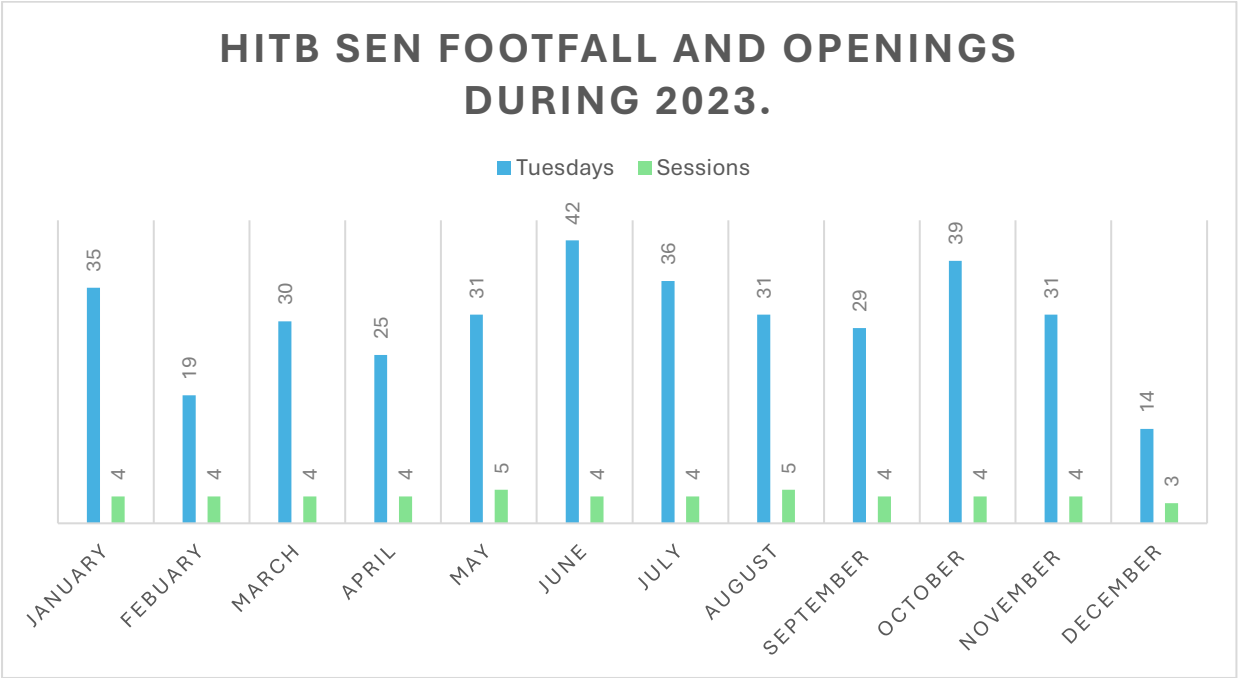


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2023:

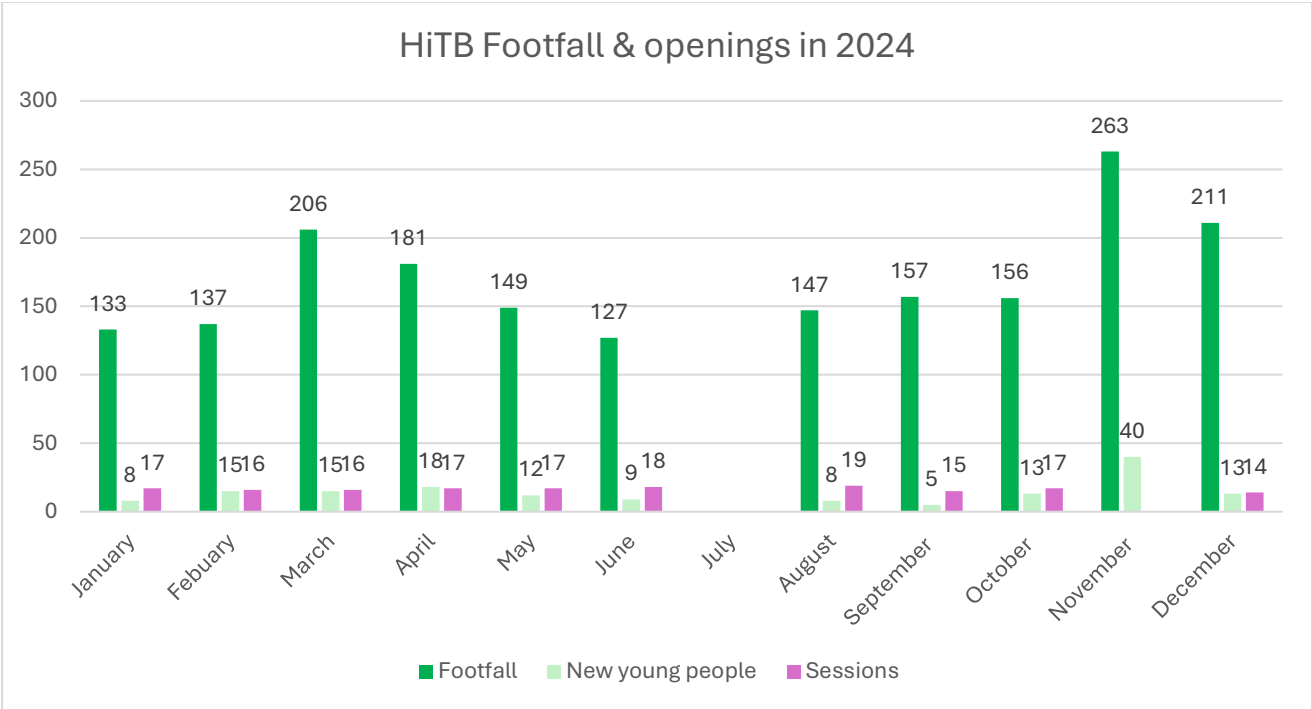


2023 SEN:

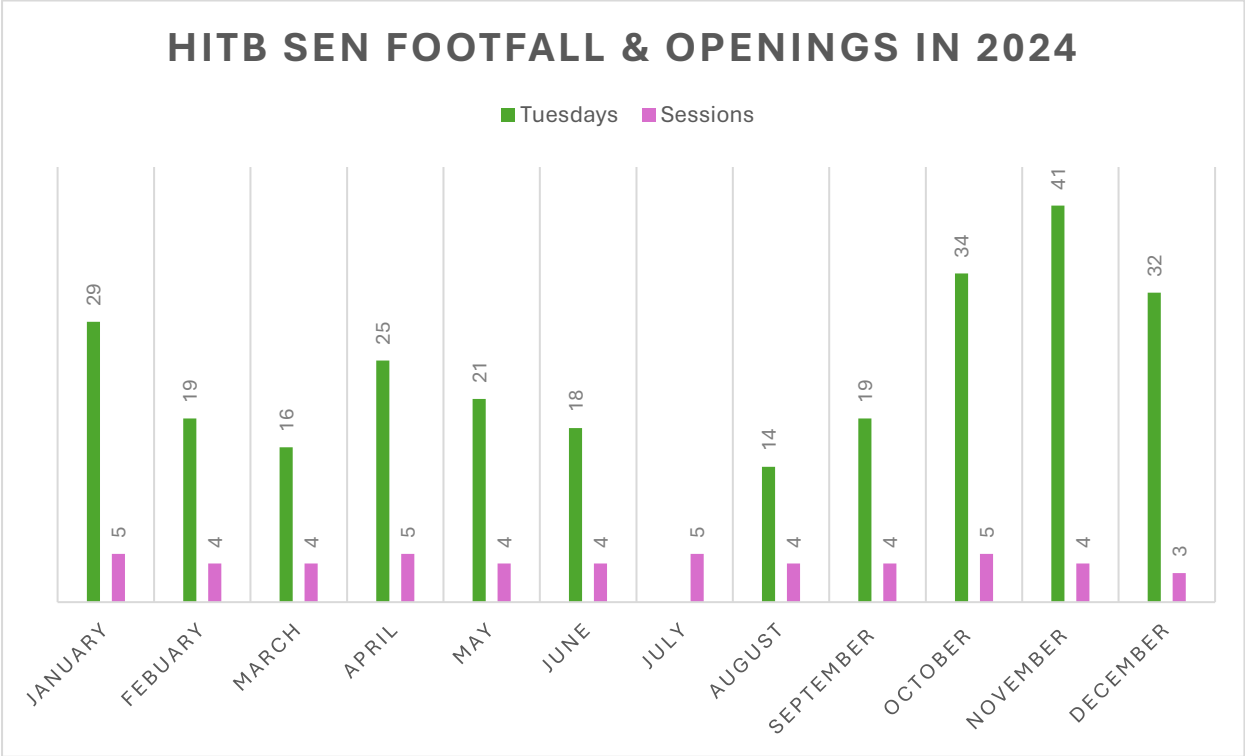


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2024:

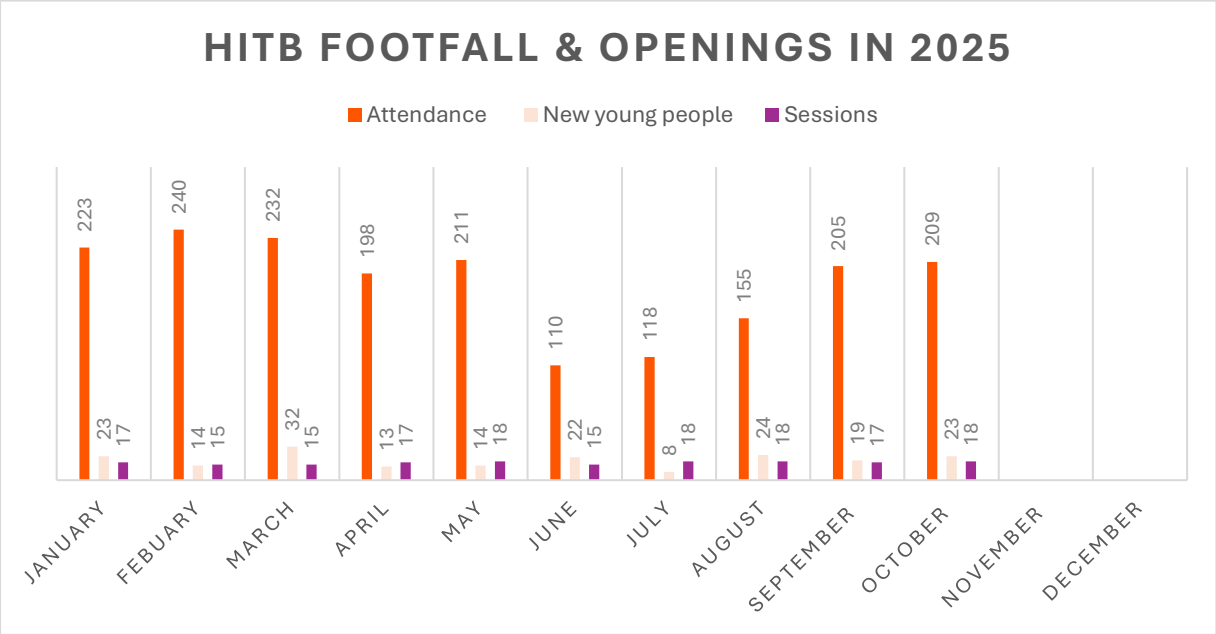


2024 SEN:



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2025:



2025 SEN:

