

**Meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council**  
**Held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022**  
at House in the Basement Youth Café,  
Stag Community Arts Centre, London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ZZ

**Meeting Commenced:** 6.00 p.m.

**Meeting Concluded:** 6.45 p.m.

**Present:**

**Youth Council Members:**

Kate Willis, Chairman	Present	Maya Goodrich	Present
Anna Tarasheva, Vice-Chairman	Present	Valentina Groves	Present
Phoebe Critchlow, Treasurer	Present	Darcy Hogg	Present
Henry Barden de Leon	Present	Isabella McGlynn	Present
Mahedy Basher	Present	Maximilian Pound	Present
Emilia Britain	Present	Vincent Rands-Webb	Present
Jasmine Geer	Apologies	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; and Andy Watson, Kenward Trust.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Received as shown above.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

**3. Finance Report**

The Treasurer advised that the current balance of the Youth Council budget was £1,834.60. It was anticipated that items of expenditure would arise as projects developed.

**RESOLVED:** to note

- (i) the income and expenditure report for the Youth Council 2021/22; and
- (ii) that the balance as at February 2022 was £1,834.60

**4. House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB)**

Daren Mountain, Manager of HitB, advised that the Youth Café was being relaunched following the extensive closure periods arising from the pandemic. A lot of focus was on promoting HitB, including Daren visiting schools. A half term trip to Bewl Water had been arranged.

Daren reminded Youth Councillors of the opening times:

Tuesday (SEN) 5.00 – 8.00 pm  
Wednesday 4.00 – 8.00 pm  
Friday 4.00 – 8.00 pm  
Saturday 2.30 – 8.00 pm

He invited Youth Councillors to come along, to use HitB as a place to meet friends and relax, or to volunteer. He also advised that it could be used as a venue if young people had a campaign or activity that needed space.

Daren also asked for suggestions for activities and ways to draw people to the café. Youth Councillors felt that the front of the Youth Café could be made more appealing, particularly by being lit at night. The Youth Council meeting was followed by an informal discussion where ideas and opportunities for Youth Councillors to contribute were discussed.

It was noted that HitB was working with Sevenoaks District Council on the Young Mentor Project and had prepared a survey to record the impact of Covid-19 on young people, their lives, and their hopes for the future. Youth Councillors were invited to complete the survey.

As part of the same project, a Skate Park Fun Day was being held at Greatness on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 11.00 – 4.00 pm. There would be exhibitions from professional skateboarders and BMX riders, workshops, music and food from the funds provided for completing the survey. A visit to the indoor Skateboard Park in Hastings was also being arranged for the summer.

#### **11. Youth Council Two Year Programme 2021 – 2023**

The notes of the workshop were received. It was noted that key questions considered at the workshop had been included in the HitB Youth Survey, to obtain responses from a wider group of young people:

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

Youth Councillors welcomed the widening of the consultation and looked forward to considering all responses at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the notes of the workshop held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 to discuss issues and share ideas for Sevenoaks Town.

#### **12. HRH The Queen Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

It was noted that there was an extended Bank Holiday weekend from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in celebration of HRH The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Town Council was busy planning activities to mark the occasion including:

- participating in the national Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon Trail, with a lighting ceremony taking place by the war memorial from 9.30pm (beacon lighting at 9.45pm)
- a family event at Vine Gardens, including food/stalls/music from the 7 decades of The Queen's reign
- preparation of a Souvenir Brochure
- holding a make a crown competition
- a literary competition for young children based on "If I was Queen or King for the day....."

Youth Councillors were invited to forward any ideas to the Town Clerk, in particular suggestions for activities to engage young people of their age group.

**13. Sevenoaks Town Council's Draft Green Community Investment Plan 2021**

The Town Clerk presented the Draft Green Community Investment Plan, setting out the Town Council's aim to put in place affordable and practical initiatives with long term green benefits for the local community and to support and encourage residents to pursue individually. The Plan set out climate change initiatives under five themes: Buildings, Transport & Movement, Making Sevenoaks Greener, Consumption, and Information and Access to information.

She thanked Sevenoaks School for the detailed response they had submitted as part of the public consultation exercise.

Youth Councillors expressed their support for cycle paths and discussed some of the challenges this presented. It was noted that the powers to introduce cycle paths lay with Kent County Council who considered the strategy on a county wide basis. It was noted that changes to the Highway Code in favour of cyclists would help encourage more people to cycle, which in its turn could help to slow down traffic.

It was noted that the Plan set out practical things that the Town Council could do.

Youth Councillors expressed their support for 20 mph speed limits and also raised the issue of the unsightly Farmers Site by the railway station. They were advised that the Farmers Site was owned by developers who were not planning to develop the site in the near future. The Town Council however was looking to take action to improve the look of the outside of the site.

**14. Youth in a Changing Climate**

The Youth Council noted the Youth in a Changing Climate report prepared by Groundwork UK, a federation of charities mobilising practical community action on poverty and the environment. The report explored the perspective of young people, aged between 16 and 25, on climate change and discussed barriers which prevent young people from taking climate action.

**15. National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Young people Case Studies**

The Youth Council noted the NALC Young People Case Studies which set out examples of work with young people carried out by Town and Parish Councils.

**16. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 in the Council Chamber at the Town Council Offices.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.