

## Sevenoaks Town Council



### Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council

Held on Wednesday 09 July 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Meeting commenced: 18:00

Meeting Concluded: 18:48

#### Sevenoaks Youth Councillors:

Simba Li- <b>Chair</b>	Apologies	Ishwar Sharma	Present
Rosie Blackmore- <b>Vice-Chair</b>	Present	Sahej Kandhari	Absent
Harry King- <b>Treasurer</b>	Present	Esme Lefevre	Apologies
Bianca Agarwal	Apologies	Joshua Marelane	
Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Present	Riddley McDermott	Present
Catherine Barden De Leon	Apologies	Sofia Moschini	Present
Jasper Barnes	Present	Ayaan Motwani	Apologies
Dexter Buhmann	Absent	John Ng	Absent
Lily Blackburn	Apologies	Errol Okundi	Apologies
Catherine Campbell-Pitt	Absent	Jaxon Pang	Apologies
Charlotte Doe	Absent	Madeleine Politzer	Absent
Elena-Teodora Dragoi	Present	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	Present	Aditya Vara	Absent

**1 – In the absence of the Chair, Rosie Blackmore, Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting.**

#### **2 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received and accepted as noted above.

#### **3 - THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF SEVENOAKS**

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Victoria Granville, attended the Youth Council meeting and thanked all the Youth Councillors for their amazing two-year service, spanning 2023-25, noting that they are the largest Youth Council post-COVID, with more youth councillors than Town Councillors. All of the Youth Councillors present received a certificate signed by the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Tony Clayton.



#### **4 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 07TH MAY**

It was agreed to receive and accept the minutes as a true record.

#### **5 - FINANCE REPORT**

The Youth Council noted that they had received a £500 increase in the budget

RESOLVED: To note the current Youth Council Budget for 2025/2026 was £1,500.37

#### **6 - HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE**

Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement, reported that they are still seeing large numbers of young people attending. It was noted that many of the Duke of Edinburgh young people have helped with the preparations at House in the Basement for the In Bloom Judging, which has included cleaning areas and planting plants.

Daren noted that there was a series of events happening over the summer holiday, including:

- Three Open Mic Nights- 11<sup>th</sup> July at House in the Basement, 14<sup>th</sup> August on the Vine Bandstand, 12<sup>th</sup> Sept at House in the Basement.
- A free BBQ facilitated by Perfect Cuisine for the 12<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Skate Park event at Greatness on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Broadstairs trip on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August.

Daren reported that during the summer holidays, House in the Basement will be open from 2 pm on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. However, the SEN sessions will continue to be on a Tuesday from 5 pm to 8 pm throughout the summer holidays.

#### **7 - EVERY CAN COUNTS**

The Youth Council heard that STC are currently exploring different ways to help with recycling. The Youth Council were asked if they wanted to partner with Every Can Counts, which supplies free can collection bin packs for organisations to use. It was thought this might be of use at House in the Basement.

It was noted that while Every Can Counts supplies the bins, they do not collect them and leave this for standard collection. The Youth Councillors also heard that the waste collection laws for businesses have changed, meaning the businesses are now

# Sevenoaks Youth Council



obligated to separate their waste. As such STC are currently looking at different providers to facilitate this.

## **8 - DJ EQUIPMENT FOR HITB**

The Youth Council received a request from House in the basement to help fund DJ equipment for young people to use to help them learn how to DJ.

**RESOLVED:** To fund the purchase of DJ equipment for House in the Basement for £172.59

## **9 - SEVENOAKS TOWN CENTRE DRAFT MASTER PLAN**

The Youth Council received a talk on the Sevenoaks Town Centre Draft Master Plan from the Sevenoaks Town Council, Planning Committee Clerk. They explained the importance of having a Masterplan as it helps create a coherent picture of what people might want the town to look like, which helps developers add and improve the town, as without this, you could end up with one or two developers duplicating what has already been provided. The Youth Council did a short exercise where they each drew either a head, torso, legs or feet (please see the appendix for the image of the outcome of the exercise).

One of the Youth Councillors asked if the local residents would be consulted on the master plan. The Planning Committee Clerk mentioned that the Surveys for the Sevenoaks Town Centre Draft Master Plan are already out and offered the Youth councillors to take one and fill it out.

## **10 - YOUTH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

The Youth Councillors noted that the Youth Council elections will be held in September. They were informed that if they would like to continue on the Youth Council, they just had to send in a completed form before Wednesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2025.

## **11 - UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS**

The Youth Council noted there was a large range of free Youth Events happening over the summer, including Skateboarding Sessions, the Skate Jam event and Open Mic nights at House in the Basement and on the Vine Gardens.

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

# Sevenoaks Town Council's Draft Town Centre Masterplan

What is a Masterplan?

What does the Masterplan want to achieve?

Who will fund and deliver the improvements  
that are proposed?

# What is a Masterplan?

- ▶ A visual Plan for how to make the town centre better in the future - like a design your “dream town” but for the whole town to agree. E.g:
- ▶ Where should new buildings go?
- ▶ How can we make it easier and safer to walk or cycle here?
- ▶ Are pavements wide enough for two people to walk next to each other?
- ▶ Can we plant more trees or add benches to make the area more pleasant?





# Guiding principles:

1



**TRANSFORM THE SENSE OF ARRIVAL**

2



**RESPECT AND CELEBRATE SEVENOAKS' UNIQUE HERITAGE**

3



**BE ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE**

4



**ENHANCE THE TOWN CENTRE OFFER**

5



**STRENGTHEN THE CULTURAL OFFER**

6



**ENCOURAGE ACTIVE MODES OF TRANSPORT AND REDUCE VEHICULAR TRAFFIC**

7



**CREATE A PEOPLE-FOCUSED PUBLIC REALM**

8



**GREEN THE TOWN CENTRE**

9



**PROVIDE A RANGE OF NEW HOMES**

10



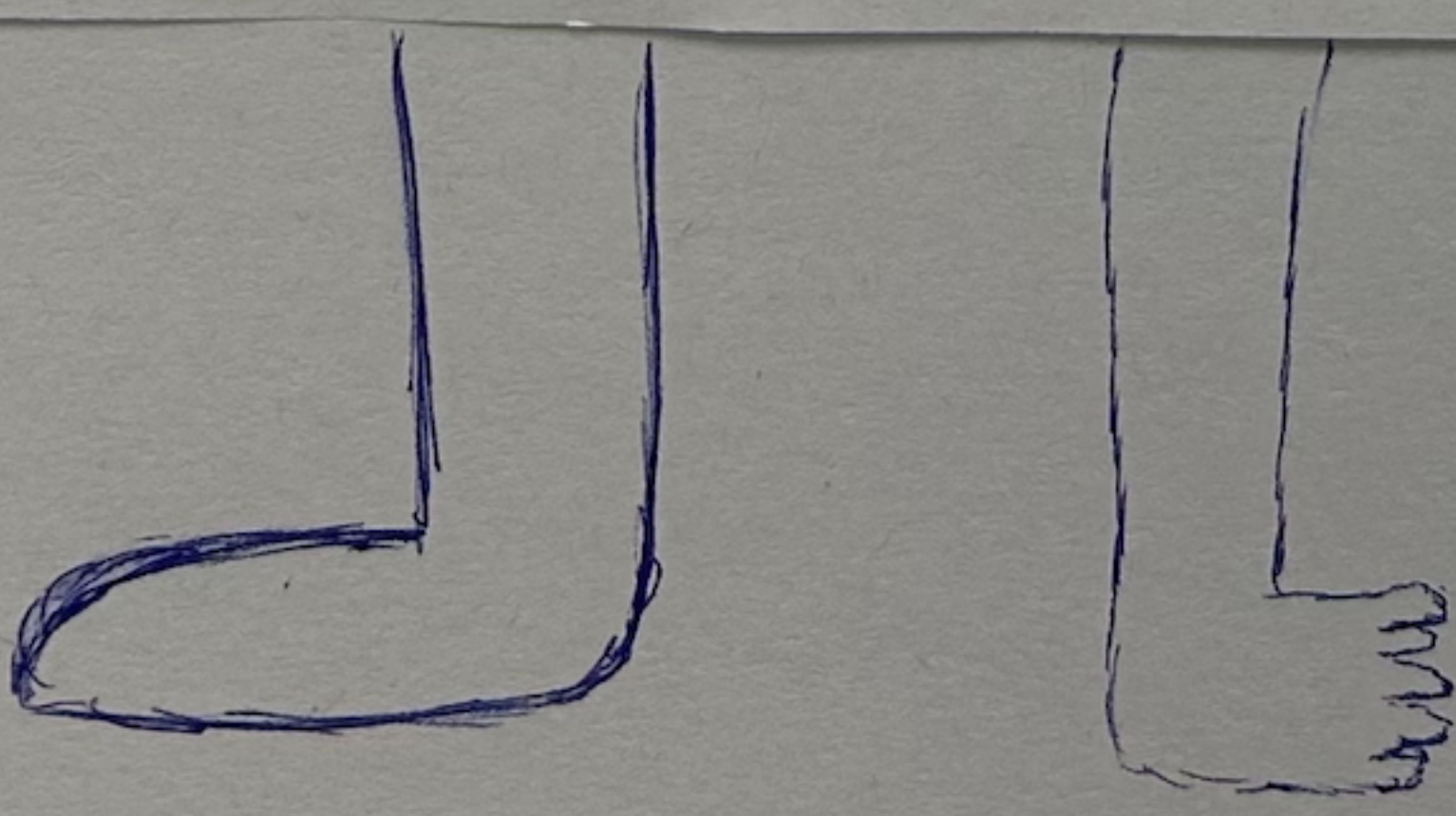
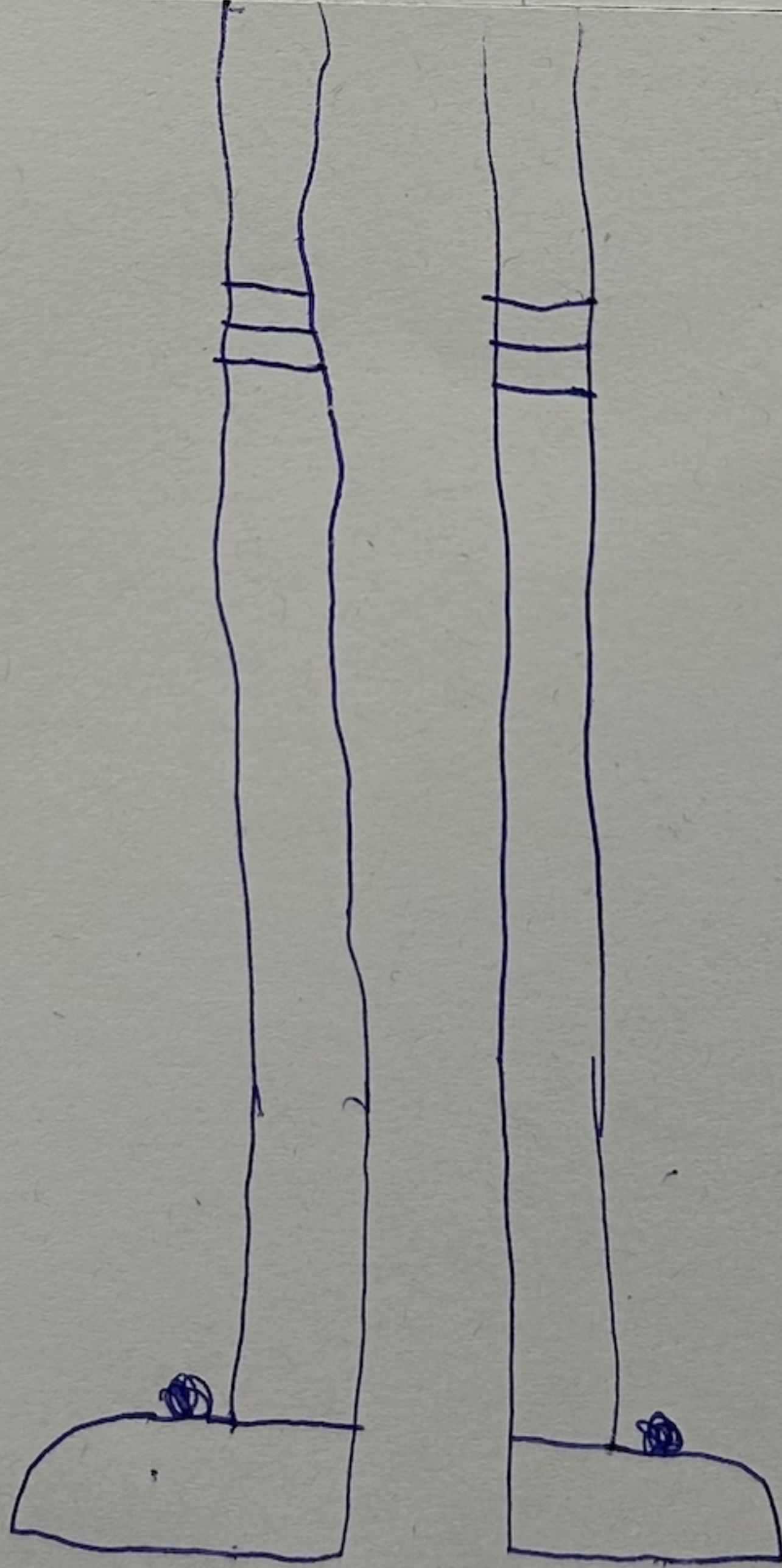
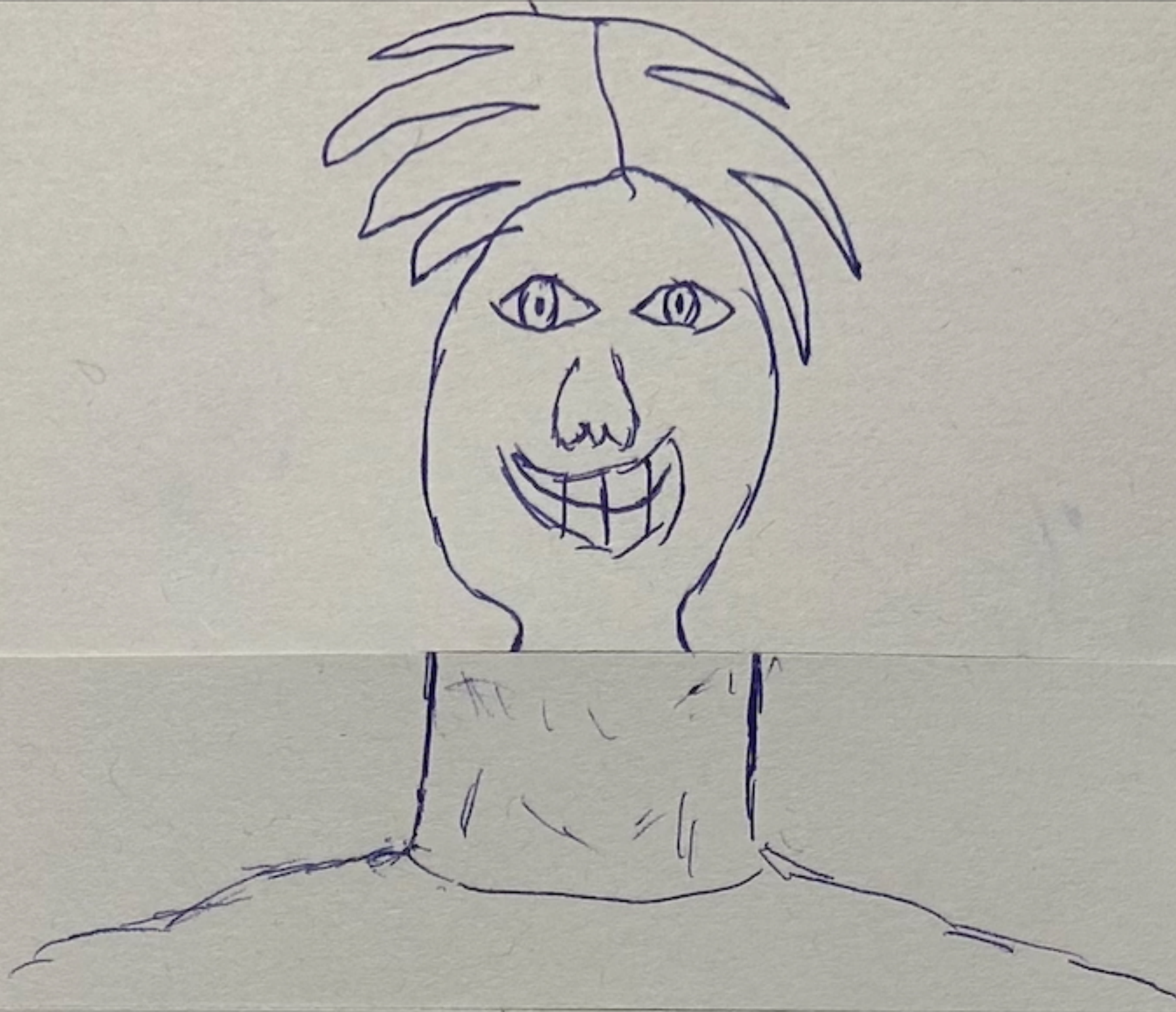
**DELIVER SMALL INTERVENTIONS, EVENTS AND EARLY WINS**

# Who will pay for or provide these improvements?

- ▶ Local landowners / developers
- ▶ Businesses
- ▶ Councils
- ▶ Groups, Organisations, Clubs

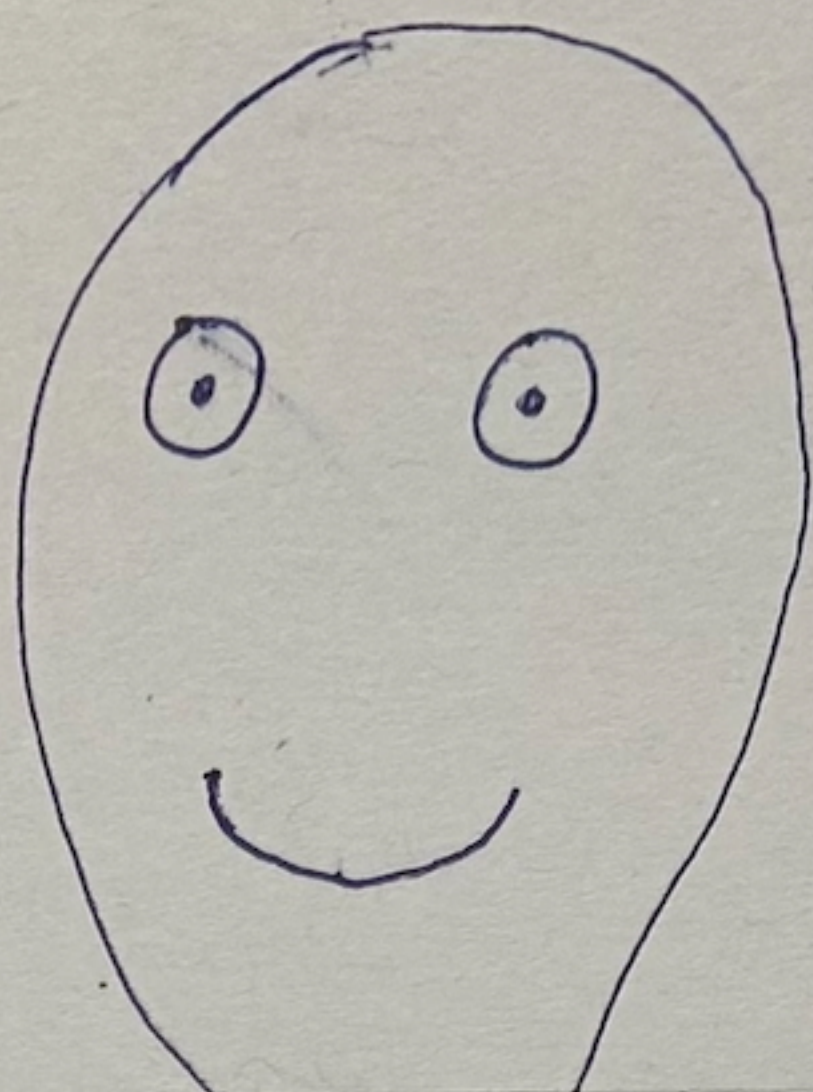




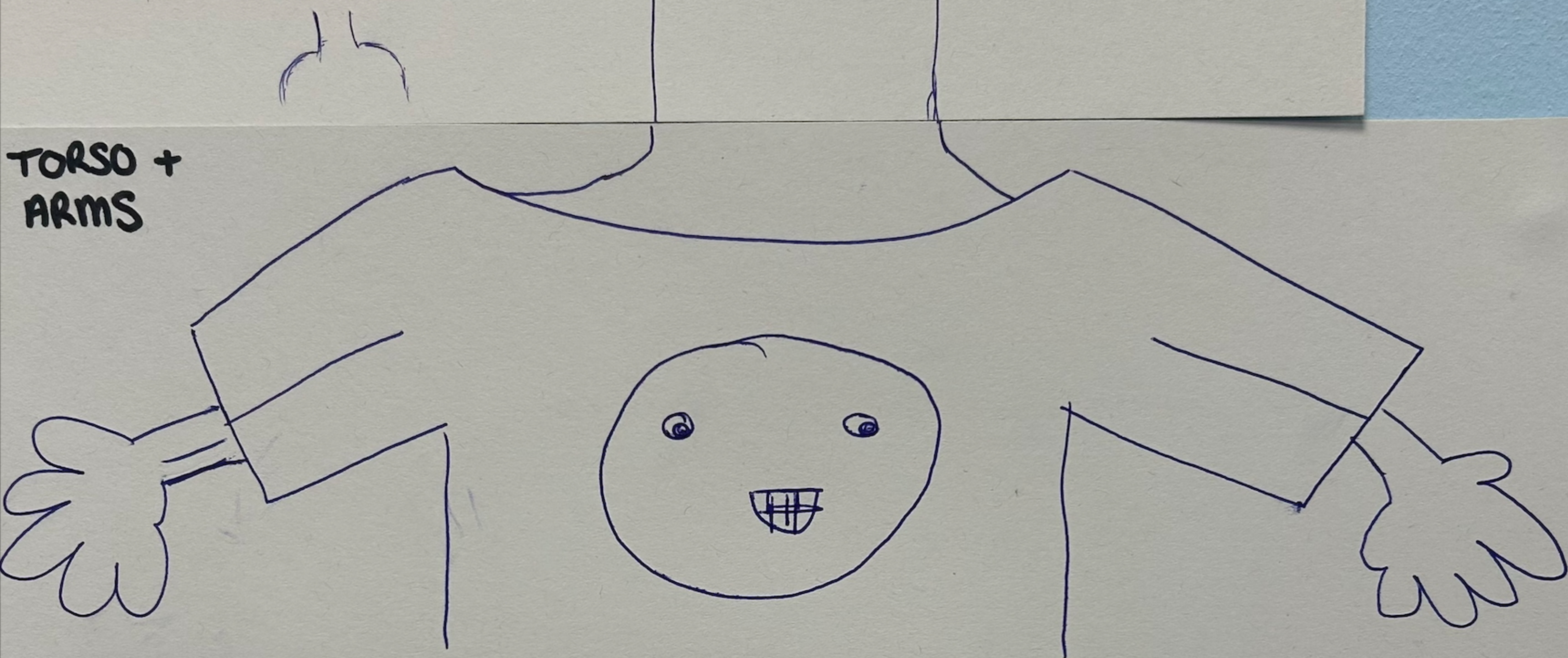




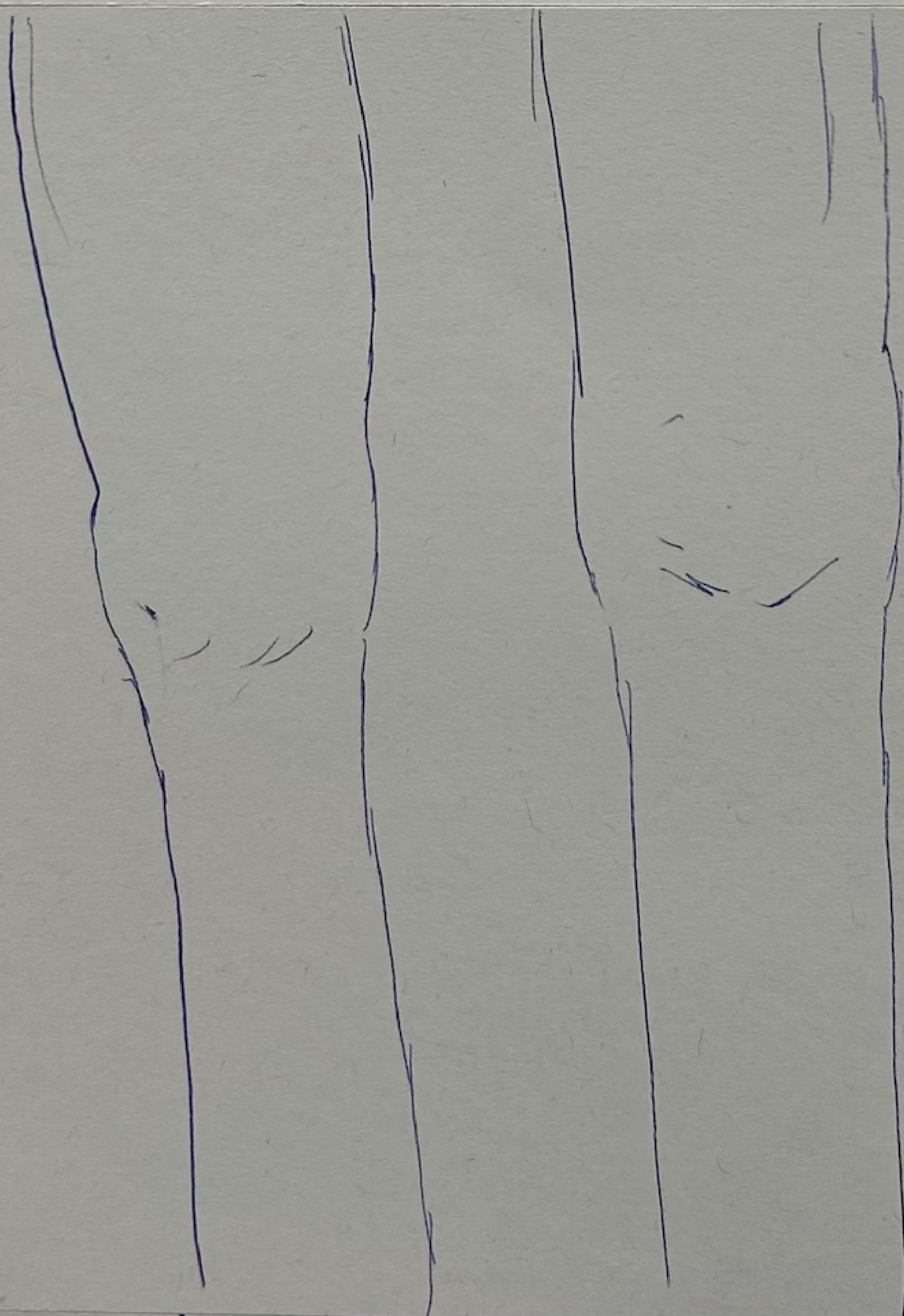
1. HEAD



TORSO +  
ARMS



3. LEGS



5. FEET

