



Harlow Youth Council Minutes 4 June 2007

Present

Andrea
Ben
Charlie
Charlotte YEA
Danielle
Darrell
Doris
Georgina
Hannah (Minutes) YEA
Katie
Laura – HYC reserve

Leroy
Michael
Mina
Perry (Chair)
Rosie
Ruby
Sam YEA
Sophie – HYC reserve
Tara
Tyler

Nick Erica Bromage – One stop Shop
Diane Butler - Harlow District Council
Cllr Tony Durcan – Joint Leader
Maggie Lawlor – Rainer
Tracey Gray – Harlow Council
Cllr Chris Millington – Joint Leader
Ruth Morton – Essex Youth Service
Nick Robinson – Epping Forest Council
Nigel Varnam – Essex Youth Service

Apologies

Adam
Bharat

Bridget YEA

Gracie
Stephen

Welcome and introductions

Minutes from Last meeting Agreed

1. Questions to Joint leaders

Ruby: Is there an update on the stunt bikes? Cllr Durcan said that he had written suggesting a meeting with the young person; he is awaiting a reply.

Sam: Is there an update yet about joining training with the adult councillors? Cllr Durcan said that there would be an open invite to the Youth Council to attend the Councillors' training.

Hannah: Will the structure of the debate on July 16th be formal? Cllr Durcan said that the debate structure will be formal, but he wants it to be as relaxed as possible. The Comprehensive Performance Assessment inspectors will be present and it will be a good opportunity for them to see how the adult councillors are working together with the youth councillors.

Perry: Has the cab company responded to the council's complaint? Cllr Durcan said there has been no response from the cab company and he encouraged the youth cllrs to report any further incidents to him.

Sam: What shop is being built in the Water Gardens? Cllr Durcan said he was unsure, Maggie added it may be a building society. **Perry** said he hoped it would be Debenhams, Cllr Millington added that Debenhams may be part of the proposed Harvey Centre expansion or Town Centre North redevelopment.

Tara: What is happening about The Square, as there is rumour that it may be knocked down and replaced with a car park? Cllr Durcan said he

was unable to answer Tara's question about The Square becoming a car park. He confirmed that Angel Housing own the building and land, the lease expires in 2011. Nigel said that at the last meeting a proposal was suggested that someone runs the Friday and Saturday nights independently of the youth service. He said he was unsure if there was another meeting. Cllr Durcan has reassurance from Essex CC that The Square will not close.

Action: Cllr Durcan to contact MP Bill Rammell for an update. He will forward Bill's response to Diane for the youth councillors.

Tyler: What is happening about the Skate Park? Cllr Durcan said the delay is due to council officers re-negotiating the skate park plans to fit the budget. The delay will result in the temporary skate park being closed for repairs as the wooden ramps are worn out and unsafe. Harlow Council will use some of the skate park budget to repair the temporary park, as the new skate park will not be completed for this summer as planned. Hannah asked where could the people skate while the skate park is closed? Cllr Durcan said that a bylaw exists that prevents people skating in public places like the Harvey centre.

Doris: Café update – response to newspaper article. Cllr Durcan praised Rosie for her excellent response.

2. Epping Forest District Council

Nick the Young People's Officer, Epping Forest, invited 4 members of the Harlow Youth Council to a meeting in Epping to give their advice about setting up a Youth Council. Nick complimented the Youth Councillors on their professionalism and how well the adult Councillors support them. He said Harlow had achieved a great deal. **Hannah** suggested he contact the Epping Forest YEA (Young Essex assembly)

Questions to the youth council

Nick: What are the main responsibilities undertaken by the youth councillors?

Ruby: Attending regular youth council and project group meetings to represent the young poeple in Harlow aged 13-19.

Nick: What are your achievements?

Tara: The skate park, the youth café and the kick walls. Giving advice and support to other young people wishing to set up youth council's including links with young people in Holland.

Cllr Durcan: Involved in the repositioning of playgrounds.

Nick: What have you gained?

Tara: Confidence, not shy any more.

Ruby: More confident, presentation skills, body language, chairing meetings, taking minutes at meetings.

Tyler: Learned more about Harlow and met new people.

Nick: Is there anything that is frustrating or you would like to change?

Tara: Nothing as everything is good.

Tyler: Breaks are too short.

Perry: Lucky to have strong links with the adult councillors, they are very involved, active and willing to help us. The Chief |executive is also very supportive and willing to help us.

Action: Nick to email details to Diane, Perry, Sam, Tara, Ruby and Danielle. Cllr Durcan offered his support to Nick.

3. Essex Youth Service

Nigel Varnam, Manager of West Division, Essex Youth Service, thanked the youth councillors for the opportunity to meet with them formally. He handed out copies of the Essex Youth Service annual report and referred to the awards evening at The Square, page 2. Nigel said he was happy about the changes at The Square, although numbers had dropped on the Thursday youth night. **Tyler** suggested about changing the Thursdays to Saturdays as young people have school the following day. He explained that the staff were told not to book any acts after the 8th April and they haven't been able to book sufficient acts for Saturday nights although they are looking to restart Saturday nights. He also spoke about the review of the Outdoor centres and a possible relocation. Cllr Durcan said that Tracey Chapman had told him there was no closure on the agenda.

4. Dog Fouling Campaign

Tracey Grey from the community safety team at Harlow council talked about the forthcoming National "Poop Scoop Week" starting 26th June. She said that there were loads of dogs in Harlow and people needed to be educated about cleaning up their dog mess. She said that the Crucial Crew ran a competition for year 6 to design a poster for the "Poop Scoop Week". The winning design will be printed on the free biodegradable dog poo bags. They have received over 300 entries, which are on the Active Harlow Website. They are also going to be issuing information leaflets to dog owners. The campaign starts on the 26th June outside the Civic centre, there will be a "dog poo" chair and people will be filmed talking about their experiences.

Bridget suggested educating school children during school assemblies, they will then educate their parents.

Tyler asked Tracey to visit Passmores school as the school could be involved.

Hannah asked for a map with the location of the dog bins.

Tyler suggested having sign posts to the dog bins. Tracey said that the hot spots change during the time of year and weather. The enforcement officer would be able to advise where extra bins are sited.

On the week of 2nd July, The RESPECT team will be visiting shopping centres of Harlow, consulting people about the dangers of dog fouling. They will be issuing free dog bags. Youth councillors can help out on the van. **Action: Tracey to email dates and times to Diane to forward to Charlie, Andrea, Tara, Michael, Darrell, Sam, Charlotte, Hannah.**

5. One stop shop

Erica bought some fliers about the One Stop shop opening. **Perry** and **Doris** visited the building last Friday and they both said it was good. **Perry** described the layout. The centre will open on the 18th June. There are two official launch dates. Friday 13th July will be for the MP and adult guests including the O.S.S. youth council reps involved in the redesign. Saturday 14th July launch is for young people and everyone is invited. Fliers will be handed out on the Saturday in the town centre.

6. Youth Café

Leroy said that they had agreed the colour scheme and décor. He said the next week meeting is Wednesday 13 June. **Perry** said anyone could attend the meeting. Maggie asked about opening times of the cafe. **Rosie** said it was yet to be decided. Maggie raised the question of access via the Harvey Centre and Little Walk as they close at 8pm.

7. YEA

Hannah said posters are available at The Square showing the action points of the YEA. She said that the transport subgroup were working with the leisure subgroup to develop the B.I.T.E. cards. **Charlotte** said the environment group have invited an Essex Environment Councillor to the next meeting.

8. Project Group Feedback

Active Harlow - Perry gave his apologies to the Active Harlow meeting as he has exams.

The C.Y.P.S.P. (Children's and Young People Strategic Partnership) **Hannah** spoke about her meeting with Lonica, Matthew King's replacement. Lonica has agreed to be Hannah's CYPSP mentor at meetings. **Action: The group have a vacant seat for a HYC youth rep to join Hannah, the YEA rep. Meetings are monthly.**

Environment - Charlotte will be attending the climate change talk at the Civic Centre tomorrow. Parents and school have given permission for her to attend a daytime meeting.

9. Diary Updates

Canal Boat launch – all invited 9 June at noon.

The presentation to the General Assembly on 14 June. As it was during school time and most youth councillors are taking exams it was agreed to give apologies.

Youth concert - Charlie asked about the auditions for the Youth Concert. Diane said nobody turned up for the last auditions but a new date will be issued soon.

National Bike week - Sam asked if it was compulsory to attend the National Bike week. Diane said no

Olympic Conference - Perry requested further information about the conference on Thursday 21 June. **Andrea** and **Perry** agreed to meet with Chris Purvis to produce a presentation on behalf of the youth Council.

10. AOB

Town Park Meeting - Andrea would like a copy of the minutes

Jack Petchey - Katie said the next meeting is on the 13th June at 4pm the Square.

Rainer open day - on the 25th July; anyone wishing to attend contact Maggie Lawlor.

Youth Matters consultation - Nigel said he will send information to Diane and Ruth

HYC Minutes - Sam suggested they are sent out one week before the meeting so that people can read them and complete any actions, and they should bring the minutes to the meeting to save paper.

Accreditation - Ruth asked about the CCV question sheets, they were due last month.

Transport survey – **Hannah** asked for surveys to be returned by the end of the month.

Harlow college - **Perry** said the daily targets were unrealistic. If you do not complete them, you can not go home until 7pm. **Perry** suggested the Youth Council should write to the principal to raise the issues the young people and students have. **Rosie** said that the new principal was not interested in young people's views. Diane suggested that the youth councillors attending Harlow College should support each other and write to the papers expressing their concerns. **Perry** to write a letter to the principal on behalf of the HYC.

Mi-Pod – The youth bank, who funded the Mi-Pod, have requested that HYC do a presentation about the Mi-Pod exhibition stand that has been purchased. **Tara, Sam, Danielle** and **Charlie** volunteered to do the presentation to the Youth bank panel on 28th November. The Mi-Pod is being made especially to the group's specifications and is due next month.

Get well Cllr Greg Peck – Get well card was circulated and signed wishing Cllr Peck best wishes from the Youth Cllrs.

Speakers Bank Gala evening on Thursday July 5th. Anyone wishing to attend the public speaking gala must complete an application form and parents must complete a consent form by Friday 15 June. Limited seats. .

Fire pass internet access at home. The I.T. department will take 2 weeks to action the individual HYC email addresses. Youth Councillors who do not have internet access at home will be able to use the members suite to access emails. The harlowyouthcouncil@harlow.gov.uk email will remain the generic email address on all HYC correspondence. Youth Councillors using their own HYC email must reply to emails within 5 days.

Action: Diane to send questionnaire to see what IT requirements youth cllrs have.

Cabs - Diane will be on leave from 11th – 24th June. If you want to book a cab home during the next week, contact Karen in the YPIC office, **Mina** or **Perry**.

Next meeting:

Date: Monday 2 July

Venue: CR2A & CR2B Civic centre

Time: 18.30 – 20.00