



**Harlow Youth Council
Minutes
1 October 2007**

Present

Ben	Laura	Janet Galdolfi - TASCC
Bharat (Chair)	Sophie	Maggie Lawlor – Rainer
Bridget (YEA)	Tara (Secretary)	Cllr Chris Millington – Joint Leader
Charlie	Erica Bromage - Connexions	Ruth Morton – Essex Youth Service
Danielle	Diane Butler - Harlow Council	Nigel Varnam – Essex Youth Service
Darrell	Cllr Tony Durcan – Joint Leader	
Georgina	Cllr Rob Eschle	

Apologies

Adam	Hannah (YEA)	Rosie
Andrea	Leroy	Sam (YEA)
Charlotte (YEA)	Michael	Carole Banks – Youth Cafe
Doris	Mina	Lynn Seward – Harlow Council
Gracie	Perry	

Absent

Katie	Ruby	Stephen
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Apologies: Apologies from **Doris, Leroy, Mina,** and **Perry** as they are attending a first aid course. Apologies from **Hannah** who is attending a county transport meeting at County Hall.

Welcome and introductions

Minutes from last meeting. Corrections as follows
Cllr Millington's name spelt incorrectly.
Maggie Lawlor, **Bridget** and **Charlie** sent apologies.
Hannah and **Perry** to attend show.

1. Questions for the Joint Leaders

The Square - Bharat asked for an update regarding youth services at The Square and was it to be relocated? Cllr Durcan reported that there had been meetings with MP Bill Rammell, Circle Anglia and the Square One Partnership. The lease will be transferred to the Square One Partnership; there is a commitment from Circle Anglia not to close the centre until the lease expires. Whilst The Square is open, the Youth Service will continue to operate. It is not a long-term solution, as talks need to start about where it will be relocated to when the lease expires.

Housing. Sophie read that houses would be built on the land where The Square is. Sophie asked why Harlow needs more houses. Cllr Durcan explained that there was a need for social housing including low level flats for disabled people.

Recycling. Georgina asked what the future plans for recycling in Harlow are. Cllr Durcan said Harlow Council can do better; they have put an extra £50,000 into the budget. This will include new recycling bins in the town centre and Mark Hall. Flats are to have bigger bins to encourage recycling. Cllr Millington said they hope to work with Kier to look at special litterbins that support recycling. The long-term plan is to work with all district councils across the county of Essex to boost recycling. Another plan is to look at the rate we receive for the waste. Should we be separating the waste such as glass and paper, to receive a better rate?
ACTION: Diane to contact Kathy May to arrange a visit to the recycling centre.

Eco-projects. Laura asked how supportive was Harlow council of eco-friendly projects. Cllr Durcan said that both leaders' party manifestos supported eco-friendly projects and the new sports complex will reflect this. Cllr Millington said that planning applications would also take into account eco-friendly materials and initiatives.

Dog Bins. Laura reported that dog bins in the Staple Tye ward (St James and Stewards School cycle track) were not being emptied. Cllr Durcan explained that the bins are monitored and emptied according to use.

Traffic congestion on 2nd Avenue. Bharat asked if there were any plans to build new roads for access to the new sports complex and to relieve the congestion on Second Avenue. Cllr Durcan said no, but a new lighting system is planned. The current access meets the standards required.

Swimming Pool update. Cllr Durcan reported that the swimming pool had been closed due to health and safety reasons. They will be reviewing the decision over the next few weeks and will keep the HYC informed. In the meantime Harlow Council remains committed to transferring swimming classes into other areas. Cllr Eschle suggested any group seeking funds to continue their classes apply to the Recreation Trust for a grant. The Civic Centre reception has application forms.

4. Essex Youth Service feedback. Nigel Varnam from Essex Youth Service reported that the landlord wants to redevelop the site and demolish the Square building and the housing block next door. The Square One partnership plan to take over the lease from Essex County Council as from the 1st April and until the redevelopment work starts, youth work will continue at the centre providing the bar remains closed. The Square One Partnership wants to reopen the bar in the centre. If so, the youth service may move out. Cllr Durcan said that whilst The Square is there, youth work should be kept on site, whether there is a bar there or not, as the bar could be closed during youth work times. **Action: Cllr Durcan to keep Bridget and Tara up to date.**

5. Team around the School, Child and Community (TASCC). Janet Gandolfi is one of the managers of the new Integrated Service Delivery Teams for Children and Families. A TASCC team is a locally based, multi disciplinary team providing early intervention and prevention services for children and young people aged 0 – 19.

6. One Stop Shop Update. Erica reported that they are seeing 500 young people a week. The next stage will be to monitor the services. Erica is looking for 8 young people to work as youth representatives from the OSS, Youth Council, Foyer and school to assist with collecting the suggestions and feedback from the users. Also need young people to work on new publicity to promote the centre. **Action: If you are interested contact Diane or Erica at the One Stop Shop, Monday to Friday.**

7. Fundraising. Erica has been contacted by the Little Havens Children's Hospice, which provides respite care for life limiting children and their families. 2% of their funding is from the government. They serve the whole of Essex and only have 7 beds. Cllr Durcan said the communications team could promote this on the Harlow Council community web page, **Action: Erica to send the information to Communications. Erica is looking for volunteers to fund-raise.**

8. Café Update. Diane reported the café name had been agreed. The winning name was Café Youth. The electrics have been tested and new supplies fitted. The asbestos has been removed. Roc, who is working on the kitchen and toilets, are meeting next week and hopefully work will start on the 8th October. The café has been awarded £10,000 from Awards For All;

this will contribute to staffing costs, but the £7,000 bid to the Local Network Fund for the video project was unsuccessful. The café will need to make more funding applications. The Friends of YPIC, who are the charitable arm of the One Stop Shop, have been awarded zero rates for the café. Café Youth should be opening after Christmas.

9. Young Essex Assembly Update. **Bridget** reported that **Hannah** is working on the 'Save the Square' campaign. **Bridget** will be attending the UK Youth Parliament Eastern Region meeting this weekend. **Bridget** asked if Harlow Youth Council want to invite Hertfordshire Youth Parliament members to a future youth council meeting. **Action: Bridget to invite Hertfordshire members to a HYC meeting.**

10. Jack Petchey. **Ben** and **Danielle** reported that the panel met last week to decide who won the September award. The Jack Petchey panel decided that **Hannah** is the winner because of the work she has put into the transport survey across Harlow and Essex, also for her consistency and reliability at all other meetings. Well done, **Hannah**.

11. Health. **Georgina** and **Charlie** apologised that they have not been attending the health meetings. **Georgina** requested that Diane ask Linna to send the dates of all future meetings directly to them at home because they are not receiving information on time. **Action: Diane to contact Linna to add youth councillors to the health mailing list.**

12. Any Other Business

Rainer Information Day. Maggie invited everyone to the next information day on Wednesday 3 October at 11am Shield House, Pinnacles. **Bridget** asked if the event could be held out of school hours. **Action: Maggie said she would feed HYC comments back to her organisation.**

I'm a Councillor Get Me Out of Here! Cllr Goddard was disappointed that the youth council had not displayed any interest in 'I'm A Councillor Get Me out Of Here!' He felt his email had been ignored as no one got back to him. **Danielle** said that she had not received Cllr Goddard's email, as her email was not working at home. Several youth councillors said that they have been unable to log onto the computer system in the Members' Room, therefore unable to access hyc emails. It was agreed that email is not a reliable way to communicate with youth councillors. Telephone and letter is the preferred way, as not everyone has access to the Internet on a daily basis. **Action: Diane to send Cllr Goddard Danielle and Charlie's home numbers and addresses. Danielle and Charlie agreed that Cllr Goddard can contact them both during lunchtime tomorrow.**

IT and Firepass. **Bridget, Laura** and **Ben** didn't understand how to use firepass and would like some basic training. Guide notes were handed out at the meeting. **Action: Diane to arrange training with IT**

T-Shirts and Fleeces. Diane requested all youth councillors to collect their HYC T-shirt and fleece for Hustings day. **Bridget** asked if YEA members could have a HYC fleece. It was agreed they could.

Chocolate Run on Boxing Day. **Laura** is looking for volunteers to work on Boxing Day to help the chocolate run, serving Christmas dinner to the homeless. **Laura** suggested having a new post of Charity Co-ordinator for the Youth Council. It was agreed to include the new job in next year's options at the residential. **Action: Laura to get details for next full HYC meeting.**

Young Concern Trust Annual General Meeting. Young Concern had sent an invitation for a youth councillor to attend on Wednesday 17th October 7pm **Bridget, Charlie** and **Ben**

volunteered in **Andrea's** absence. **Action: Bharat to contact Andrea to see if she can attend. Diane to contact YCT to ask if 4 youth reps can attend the event.**

Training. Starting in January, **Young Concern is running self-esteem and anger management courses.** Contact Diane or Young Concern to book your own place 01279 414090

Harlow College follow up. **Darrell** agreed that he would write a letter to the college Governors for their support. **Tara** said that the situation as a student was not good as there were 111 students in one IT and Business class. Students are sitting on the floor, as there are not enough seats in a classroom designed for 26. Students are catching earlier buses to secure a seat in class. Students are being kept until 7pm as tutors have to check pupils' work before they leave. **Action: Darrell and Perry to draft a letter to the governors. Diane to send Darrell and Perry the governors contacts details.**

Hustings Day 22 October. Youth Councillors need to promote the Hustings day in and around schools. Volunteers to assist with the presentations to the school assemblies would be appreciated. **Laura, Sophie** and **Danni** volunteered to help with Stewards. **Charlie** volunteered to help with Burnt Mill. **Hannah** in Mark Hall. Anyone wishing to re-stand must send their forms in as soon as possible.

Parents' Evening on 8th October is for new candidates and parents to come along for a chat and to meet the staff and youth councillors. **Sophie, Laura, Bridget, Danielle, Bharat** and **Tara** to assist with the evening.

Attendance. Diane reminded youth councillors that they have a duty to attend at least 50% of the meetings that they are invited to. Meetings include Full Youth Council (12 a year), training (12+ a year) Ward Councillors' meetings, surgeries and project group meetings (monthly) plus the ad hoc event or conference. **Hannah, Michael** and **Perry** all have 100% attendance at full council meetings (January – September).

Ward meetings. Diane to re-send the ward councillors' contact details. The information is also on www.harlow.gov/hyc **Action: Youth councillors to contact their ward councillors and to attend ward meetings.**

Contact details. Everyone to make sure their details are correct on Diane's sheet.

ID badge. Let Diane know if your badge isn't working or if you have lost it as it will have to be cancelled. **Action: Laura and Sophie do not have an ID badge; Georgina and Bharat's badges are not working.**

Hustings Day rehearsal on 15th October 6-8pm @ Civic Centre CR2A/B. Everyone to attend. Volunteers to lead the day included **Bharat, Charlie, Sophie, Laura,** and **Georgina.**

Firework night Monday 5 November. **Tara** pointed out that the next meeting is on firework night; Maggie suggested starting earlier at 5.45 and finishing at 7pm to allow everyone to attend the firework show in the Town Park. Cabs will be provided home at 7pm from the Civic Centre. Anyone wishing to attend the firework show must make their own arrangements home. **Action: Charlie suggested walking down there together as a group.**

Next Full Youth Council meeting: Monday 5 November 5.30 – 7.00pm * IMPORTANT *
Please note the next Full Youth Council meeting will start and finish earlier at 5.45 – 7.00 to allow everyone to attend the firework show in the Town Park. Cabs will be provided home at 7pm from the Civic Centre. Anyone wishing to attend the Firework show must make their own arrangements for getting home.