



**Harlow Youth Council meeting
Monday 5th March 2007
Civic Centre**

Present

Adam	Gracie	Tara
Andrea	Hannah	Diane HDC
Ben	Leroy	Ruth ECC
Bharat	Michael	Erica Bromage Connexions
Charlie	Mina	Maggie Lawlor: Rainer
Charlotte	Perry	Mason Milwards School Council
Danielle	Rosie	Pat Arnold Community Engage
Darrell	Ruby	
Georgina	Sam	

Apologies

Cllr Tony Durcan	Lynn Seward	Bridget
Cllr Chris Millington	Matthew King	Doris
Cllr Jean Clark	Malcolm Morley	Katie

Absent

Ashley	Stephen
Kelli	Tyler

Chair: Ruby
Minutes: Sam

Minutes from last meeting: agreed

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Joint Leaders - apologies

3. Harlow Council feedback - Lynn Seward & Matthew King - apologies

4. Connexions One Stop Shop & Youth Council offices.

The youth councillors have lost their office at Occasio House due to the refurbishment of the One Stop Shop by Connexions. Erica confirmed that the youth councillors will not have a hot desk in the new One Stop Shop, they will be able to use the One Stop Shop when open and after hours, if supervised by a member of staff. Hannah asked how many people will the conference rooms hold as the Youth council are looking for a venue to hold meetings? Erica confirmed that the 2 new conference/training rooms would hold 12 – 30 people. The Building work is on schedule and it will be open in May/June. The official opening will be July. The next meeting about the One Stop Shop will be to meet the designer; it is on Wednesday 22 March at the town library. Further information contact Erica at Connexions.

Diane is in temporary office accommodation in the Young People's Information office until the refurbishment work is completed. Her new phone number is 446012. In June Diane will move into a shared office in the One Stop Shop. Due to confidentiality issues, youth councillors will not be able to use the staff office.

5. Young Essex Assembly.

Transport sub group. Hannah reported that the sub group would be putting pressure on Arriva to raise the child fare to 16 and change the age for the bite card.

Environment sub group. Charlotte reported they are trying to set up environment committees in schools to improve recycling. County Hall to improve how it recycles their waste. They hope to invite Lord Hanningfield to a future meeting. The possibility of having online meetings was discussed.

Sexual relationship sub group. Sam reported that they would like to meet with Ben Adams to revive the Sexual Health meetings in Harlow.

6. Youth Parliament. Bridget will attend the next UKYP residential as the deputy for Harlow and Epping. They are looking at recycling issues and projects. The next UKMP Meeting Saturday 7th April.

7. Jack Petchey grants.

Bridget has to decide what to spend her £600 grant on.

8. Dog Fouling in Milwards school grounds.

Michael reported that he has received a letter from Councillor Nick Churchill about dogs fouling inside Milwards School grounds. Michael would like to know if anyone would help design posters to raise people's awareness about the dangers of dog fouling in public areas. The group discussed various deterrents such as:

- Put plastic bags next to bins.

- Have a dog fouling Awareness day/Campaign

- Visit the school and work with the young people to design posters.

- Speak to Governors or Friends of Milwards.

- Introduce a fine

- Invite the police to work with the schools

Perry suggested to sending the school pupils an Youth Bank application to apply for a Youth Bank grant to cover the costs for the posters or a sign asking people not to let their dog foul in the school grounds. Andrea suggested forming a small group to visit the school to discuss the problems.

Action: Perry to send the school a Youth Bank grant application form.

Action: Michael and Andrea to contact the school to arrange a meeting with the following Youth Councillors, Michael, Darrell, Ruby, Danielle, Tara, Charlie, Georgina, Charlotte and Andrea.

9. Active Harlow

The Active Harlow launch day went really well and there were lots of activities to try. The guest speakers included Bill Rammell MP and Cllr Greg Peck. Ruby and Perry met with Helen Afford and Diane to talk about the barriers

they had experienced during the adult meetings. Diane and Helen suggested a contract that would guide adults working with the youth councillors to use plain English, avoid using three letter acronyms and take responsibility for the young person until they are collected after evening meetings.

10. Transport Survey

Hannah has produced a transport survey for youth councillors, young Essex assembly members and friends to work as mystery shoppers on the bus services. The information will enable Hannah to analyse the bus services and how the drivers treat young people. Hannah will distribute the survey pads to everyone over the next month. Ben asked what size were the pads? – A5 size. Charlie asked if friends could complete the survey? Yes. Rosie asked if the bus company should be informed that the survey is being conducted? No as it is a mystery survey to get a true picture of the service being given. Andrea, Ben, Bharat, Charlie, Charlotte, Danni, Darrell, Georgina, Gracie, Hannah, Michael, Perry, Rosie, Ruby, Tara volunteered to help Hannah conduct the surveys in schools and college. The questions include... Did the driver charge you the right fare for your age? How good was their driving? Was the communication good between you and the driver? Was the bus clean?

Action: Hannah to arrange a meeting with all bus companies to discuss standardising the service, as prices are not consistent. Diane suggested inviting the local MP and other bus user action groups.

11. Kick Wall Review - Michael reported back from the kick wall review meeting at Larkswood. People felt that the area should have lighting, that there was a need for a second goal mouth (one at each end), the grass gets waterlogged so it is only useable in dry weather, young people can not play basketball and football at the same time therefore to move the basket ball hoop away from the goal mouth. Finally to fence the area as the ball goes into the road a lot.

ACTION: Diane to ask Youth Bank to send Mike Duckmanton a youth bank grant and Youth opportunity fund application form to fund floodlights and fence.

12. Project group feedback

Newsletter group – Sam, Perry and Ruth were working on this terms newsletter.

Action: Any stories or information to Ruth by 20 March

Project group Booklet – Ruth circulated the new project group booklet with each youth councillor's main job for the year. Darrell requested to be the Education representative, Stephen and Adam to be the Police representatives.

Action: Ashley, Gracie, Kelli and Tyler to contact Diane by the next meeting to confirm their jobs for the year

13. Residential Feedback

The residential focused on team building skills, accreditation and course work. Everyone felt that it was a great opportunity to get to know each other and focus on the completing evidence for the Youth Council and Young Essex Assembly accreditation.

14. Retired Youth Councillors Award

In recognition for their community work the 4 retiring youth councillors, Antwan, Herbert, Robert, Tara, all served the full 2 years. They were presented with a certificate and voucher at February's full council meeting. Parents and youth councillors said it was an enjoyable night and thanked Cllr Greg Peck and Paula for organising the event.

15. Diary Update

Mina distributed the new diaries, as she is the office support person with Diane.

16. Any Other Business

Diary - Andrea asked if two copies of the diary could be sent out - a copy for youth Cllrs/YEA and a copy for parents?

Global Exchange Event 30th March – invitations were sent Ben, Danni, Doris, Mina, who expressed an interest in attending. **Action: Consent forms to be returned by 26 March**

Young Mayor visit – The young mayors office have invited the Youth Council/YEA to Lewisham on Wednesday 11 April to talk about their role/work and to learn how Harlow operates. **Only 10 places are available** Andrea, Ben, Bharat, Charlie, Charlotte, Danni, Doris, Hannah, Leroy, Michael, Mina, Perry, Rosie, Ruby, Sam, Tara would like to attend. **Action: Consent forms must be returned by Monday 2 April. As places are limited they will be given to the first 10 who return consent forms.**

Full youth Council - Ben requested more notice when meeting times change. Diane reported the earlier time was announced at last months meeting. **Action: Please read your minutes and letters. Being on time and being up to date is your responsibility.**

Harlow 60th anniversary meeting – Ruby asked if they were able to get time of school to attend it? No school must come first.

Passmores school display board - Perry and Tara reported their school had ordered a display board for Youth Council and Young Assembly information. Thank you Mr Goddard at Passmores School.

Youth café - Rosie asked if the Café meetings could be rescheduled to a Wednesday due to college commitments. **Action: Carole Banks to arrange**

Next meeting: Monday 2nd April @ 6.30 – 8 pm
Venue: CR2A & 2B Civic Centre