



## Harlow Youth Council Minutes 6<sup>th</sup> August 2007

### Present

Bharat  
Charlotte YEA  
Darrell  
Hannah YEA - Chair  
Leroy  
Michael - secretary

Perry  
Rosie  
Ruby  
Diane Butler - Harlow Council  
Cllr Rob Eschle

Harry Harrison – Gt Parndon Residents Assoc  
Maggie Lawlor – Rainer  
Kelly Lean – Harlow Council  
Cllr Chris Millington – Joint Leader  
Ruth Morton – Essex Youth Service

### Apologies

Adam  
Bridget YEA  
Charlie  
Danielle  
Doris  
Georgina

Gracie  
Mina  
Tara  
Sam YEA  
Stephen  
Carole Banks – Youth Cafe

Erica Bromage – One stop Shop  
Cllr Tony Durcan – Joint Leader  
Lonica Vanclay – Essex County Council  
Lynn Seward – Harlow Council

### Absent

Andrea  
Ben

Katie  
Laura

Sophie

## Welcome and introductions

### Minutes from Last meeting - Minutes agreed

- 1. Feedback from the Joint leaders.** Cllr Millington said that the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (C.P.A) inspectors had completed their inspection and they were pleased with the Council's improvements and the working relationship with the youth council. The Youth Councillors had been congratulated in the Weekly Information Sheet (W.I.S) for holding the transport debate during the inspection.  
**Action: Perry suggested holding a more formal debate with adult councillors in the near future.**

Cllr M. spoke about Local Democracy Week in October and the event 'I'm a Councillor get me out of here' where local councils and schools work together to engage with pupils; the pupils get to talk to local councillors, have their say and learn about local democracy and citizenship. Diane said that the Youth Council Hustings Day and election campaign workshops are held during Local Democracy week therefore youth councillors may be over stretched to participate in both events. **Action: Cllr M to keep the youth councillors informed**

**Questions to Joint Leaders.** Perry asked for a skate park update. The skate park plans were finalised in July and will go to the Planning Committee in September. The plans were available to view at the meeting. Once planning has been approved the work will take 18

weeks to complete, therefore the park will be completed by February 2008. **Action: Tara to attend the planning meeting.**

**Ruby** asked for an update on the damaged statue in the water gardens. Cllr M said the council had contacted the artist who no longer had the mould, therefore repairs could not be made. **Hannah** objected to young people being associated with the YOBS branding as what evidence was there that young people had vandalised the statue?

2. **Art Project.** Kelly is working with the Renaissance team and the Harvey Centre to run an art project transforming empty shop fronts into community murals. The shop next to the Youth Café has been boarded up and the café group could either work with Kelly on an art project linking it to the café or come up with some ideas on what the mural could be. It could be graffiti, mosaic, etc. **Rosie** said there was too much graffiti art in the town and a mural would be better. **Perry** said the café signage above the café was being done free of charge and that they were holding a competition to name the café; the winner will chose the logo. **Action: Diane to arrange a meeting with Kelly and café group.**
3. **Youth Café update.** Carole is meeting the contractors on the 7 August and construction work will start soon. Youth councillors felt that they were not fully consulted on the café decisions. **Action: Diane to meet with the café group.** The youth councillors signed a card to thank Rosie's mum for her generous donation to the café project.
4. **Youth Festival & Town Show.** Diane asked for ideas for the youth councillor's information stall at the Youth Festival on Saturday 18 August, Berecroft Fun day on 19 August and the Town show on Sunday 2 September. **Hannah** suggested promoting the Youth Café. **Darrell** suggested having the HYC YEA and YB art board on display. **Perry** suggested promoting the forthcoming Hustings day. **Action: Publicity sub group members Michael, Ben, Charlie, Mina, Perry, Sam to meet Diane Monday 13 August at 6pm to agree stall and publicity. Perry gave his apologies.**
5. **YEA update.** **Hannah:** the next YEA meeting is 1<sup>st</sup> September. Ruth said the YEA has agreed to reimburse YEA members lost wages when attending YEA meetings. **Hannah** was interviewed on 10.17 radio about the Bill Rammell report on young people's funding. **Perry** said that Cllr Lorna Spenceley said in her speech when she stood for chairperson that she would like to work more with young people; therefore he will invite her to a HYC meeting.
6. **Great Parndon Resident's Association.** Mr Harrison spoke about the residents association for Great Parndon and extended a warm welcome for **Bharat** to attend the meetings as he lives in the Ward. Mr Harrison welcomed other youth councillors to attend their ward meetings, to ensure that young people's voices were being heard

across the town. **Michael** said he attends his Neighbourhood Action Panel meetings (N.A.P) **Ruby** offered to attend the Great Parndon meetings with Bharat. My Harrison said that the community need to hear from young people as places like the Katherine's common room is under used, plans are also being made to relocate the Staple Tye doctor's surgery to the play area and how will young people feel about losing a play area? The next GPRA meeting is on the 9 August. **Action: Bharat to contact Mr Harrison for future dates of the Great Parndon meetings.**

7. **Qualifications.** Ruth reported that 24 members of the Youth Council, Young Essex Assembly and YouthBank have completed their ASDAN Certificate in Community Involvement (C.C.V) portfolios at Level Two and the external moderator will be assessing them on 9 August. If the folders are passed, students will be awarded a qualification equivalent to 2 x GCSE grade B's. **Action: Ruth to text results on Thursday.**
8. **Jack Petchey update.** Six youth councillors attended the Jack Petchey and Speakers Bank gala evening in July. Over 10,000 year 10 pupils took part in Europe's biggest public speaking event.
9. **Project group feedback.**  
**Harlow College. Darrell, Perry & Katie** called a meeting with the principal of Harlow College to discuss the recent staff changes and threat to quality of service and education for the young people of Harlow. **Perry** said that he had failed to consult with the young people; the principal's response was that he did not have to as he had 30 years of experience. **Perry** felt that the figures used by the principal did not include St Marks 6<sup>th</sup> form and were therefore not truly representative of Harlow's figures. The youth councillors asked college governor Cllr Eschle for his support. Cllr E suggested writing directly to the college governors and to the High Sheriff, Lady Diana Kemp-Welch. **Action: Diane to send governors' contact details to Darrell. Darrell and Perry to write to the High Sheriff and college governors for their support.**

**Children's and Young People's Strategic partnership (C.Y.P.S.P).** **Hannah** reported that the C.Y.P.S.P group will be known as the C.Y.P.S.P board. The next meeting will be 17 September at 4pm in the civic centre. **Action: Hannah and Ruby to attend.**

**Fire pass.** Harlow Council's IT department have enabled firepass for youth councillors. They have also arranged for 'harlow.gov.uk' emails to be forwarded to personal email addresses. This facility must be treated with respect. Please do not reply to any of the forwarded emails from your personal email address. The 'harlow.gov.uk' emails have been set up for safety, confidentiality and professional reasons. Use only your 'harlow.gov.uk' email address for youth council business and correspondence.

Diane will send everyone guidelines on how to use it. All youth councillors and YEA members have a hyc or yea email address as well as the generic one [harlowyouthcouncil@harlow.gov.uk](mailto:harlowyouthcouncil@harlow.gov.uk). **Action: Invite an I.T. representative to the next meeting to clarify any problems being experienced.**

#### 10. Any Other Business

**Perry** said that some of the youth councillors, YEA and youth bank members would like to organise a prom style dinner and dance. **Action: Perry, Ainee and Bridget to organise.**

**Rainer.** Maggie would like to bring the 2 new project workers to the Sept or Oct meeting. The next information day will be on 3 Oct at 09.45. All welcome, but apologies as it is during school hours. Perry and Hannah would like to use the filming and editing equipment at Rainer. **Action: Maggie to check if this is possible.**

**FairTrade.** Letter received from Thomas Newens on behalf of the Harlow FairTrade town group, offering their support and advice about FairTrade products for the youth café. **Action: Contact details passed to café group**

**Interview panel for CMLD teams.** **Hannah, Perry, Georgina and Bridget** were invited to sit on a panel on 19<sup>th</sup> July to interview applicants for posts in the CMLD teams in Essex. **Hannah** thought some of the interviewees had some good ideas, one being a 'positive images' fashion show, building young people's self esteem and confidence. **Mina** and **Doris** sat on the panel for the CMLD advanced practitioner posts on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Thanks for their contribution were given on behalf of Steve Oldacre and Nigel Varnam.

**Berecroft Fun Day.** **Michael** said the fun day was on Sunday 19 August at Berecroft hardstanding from 1 – 4pm. everyone is welcome but he would need help to run the HYC and youth bank stall. **Ruby** volunteered to help

**Next meeting: Monday 3 September**  
**Venue: CR2A & CR2B Civic centre**  
**Time: 18.30 – 20.00**