



Harlow Youth Council Full Youth Council Meeting Monday 3 March 2008

Present

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|---------------|------------|-----------|
| Alex | Gracie | Matt |
| Bridget YEA | Hannah YEA | Megan Bod |
| Charlie | Jack | Michael |
| Charlotte YEA | Jasmin | Sam YEA |
| Chloe | Jennie | Sean |
| Daniel | Jordan | Sophie |
| Danielle | Josh | Tara |
| Doris | Kinjal | Zoe |
| Georgina | Leroy | |

Chair: Tara

Minutes: Matt & Sam

Guests in attendance

Diane Butler – Harlow Council
Cllr Durcan
Cllr Millington
Ruth Morton – Essex CC Int. Youth Support

Clare Ratcliffe ECC YEA Support Worker
Sherilyn Turkington ECC YEA Support Worker
Lynn Seward – Harlow Council

Apologies

Bharat

Absent

Megan Bay

Welcome and Introductions

- Matters Arising From Full Youth Council Meeting 4 February**
 - Visit to Harlow Recycling Centre** will be arranged for May Half Term. Youth Councillors wishing to attend are **Charlie, Charlotte, Danielle, Daniel, Hannah, Jack, Josh**
 - IT Training** for youth councillors to be arranged for Spring school holidays. Youth councillors wishing to attend are **Alex, Bridget, Charlie, Charlotte, Danielle, Doris, Georgina, Hannah, Jack, Josh, Megan, Michael, Sean, Sophie, Zoe**
- Feedback from Joint Leaders**
 - The council budget** has been set. Harlow Council tax is one of the lowest in Essex.
 - Youth provision.** Due to the closure of the swimming pool, the savings of £300k will be spent on youth provision in the town to help combat anti social behaviour. Adult councillors will work with youth councillors in their ward to spend the money on youth related projects such as kick walls. The Council is looking at ways to support the

Penguin swimming club to continue their training by working with schools with pools to share access.

iii) Recycling. Harlow Council is supporting the recycling project ECCO who are now recycling batteries.

iv) Community safety. Harlow council are supporting the Community enforcement officers to focus on the local community, preventing graffiti, waste and dog fouling. James Dickinson will be contacting the Youth Council for their support.

3. Questions for joint leaders:

i) First Avenue trees. Charlotte, the YEA environment youth representative expressed her concern about the loss of mature trees on First Avenue and could Councillors confirm what trees were being removed? Cllr Durcan explained Essex County Council will be building a new bus lane and the underpass will be extended. The trees with orange tape are being protected, not removed. The others will be removed and there will be a replanting scheme after the work is complete. All the trees have been examined by a tree expert. **Charlotte** expressed her concerns that the new trees will be small and could be broken down and not replaced. Therefore there would be a significant loss of trees along First Avenue.

ii) Ladyshot/Churchfield trees. Georgina was worried about the loss of trees in the Ladyshot area as they too had orange dots on them. **Action: Cllr Durcan suggested email him the details and he will check out which trees are being removed.**

anthony.durcan@harlow.gov.uk

iii) Skate park update. Tara asked if the skate park had been delayed due to electrical problems. Cllr Durcan reported that electricity companies have advised that further work is required to install CCTV and lighting, but this will not delay the opening.

iv) Debate. Hannah asked if Councillors had a date for the next debate. Cllr Durcan explained that adult councillors have elections in May and therefore a date will be set around June/July after the election to allow the new adult councillors to settle in. Cllr Andrew Johnson is keen to take part.

v) Old Harlow Underpass. Matt reported the broken lighting in the First Avenue underpass by Mark Hall School to old Harlow. Cllr Durcan said that lighting is an Essex county council issue and sadly lights are vandalised. Youth councillors need to let Contact Harlow know; they will issue a repair ticket and give you a reference number. You will get an email to let you know that the work has been done. **Contact Harlow** on 01279 446655 or **Email:** contact@harlow.gov.uk. Cllr Durcan also suggested contacting the local Police community

safety Officer or P.C.S.O at **Harlow Police** Station on 01279 641212 so that they are aware of the HOTSPOT areas to patrol.

vi) Members' room. **Tara** asked if Youth Councillors can use the cupboard in the member's room to store their equipment and files. Cllr Durcan said he will see if any cupboards are free, but saw no reason as to why they can not be used by the youth councillors.
Action: Diane to check with Andrea

vii) The Square update. **Hannah** requested an update. Cllr Durcan said that the Square One partnership were taking over the building, Bill Rammell has been meeting with Essex County Council, but Essex will not support young people to use The Square if there is a bar. Rock School will be moved to another venue; The Grove, Harlow College, The Playhouse, and Latton Bush Centre are all being considered. Square One will organise 16+ nights and over 18 nights. Essex will leave the Square on the 1st June. **Bridget** said it was important that The Square/Rock School remain in the town centre so that everyone can get there.

4. **Feedback from Lynn Seward Head of Community services.**
 - i) **The redundancies** in the Respect team will not affect the service. Middle managers have volunteered to go. There is extra money from the government for a new youth task force to tackle anti social behaviour.
 - ii) **Sport and leisure Activities programme.** **Tara** suggested the programme is improved as the publicity needs to be more interesting. Lynn Seward said there is going to be a consultation with youth clubs and activity groups to see what people want to participate in. **Bridget** said can the programme focus on other sports as well as indoor ones.
 - iii) **The Gateway Leisure centre** will be included in the official training camp in the 2012 Olympics.
 - iv). **National Year of Reading.** Any ideas on how to promote this to lynn.seward@harlow.gov.uk
5. **Brentwood Youth Council Feedback.** **Kinjal** reported that **Hannah, Kinjal, Jack, Josh and Sean** were invited to Bradwell Youth centre to do a presentation about Harlow Youth council and the Young Essex Assembly. Castle Point and Colchester youth groups asked many questions about setting up a youth council. Overall it was a good experience for the 4 new youth councillors. **Kinjal** said they worked well as a team and valued **Hannah's** experience.
6. **Youth and Community Project Groups**
 - i) **Fairtrade launch.** **Doris, Georgina and Josh** attended the event. **Josh** said it was very informative and the food was good.

ii) Maunds Hatch update. Michael reported that the boxing and judo club has been taken over and they are planning to build a 2-storey building.

iii) Netteswell Ward underpass project. Josh and Jack were waiting to hear from Cllr Linda Pailing. **Josh and Jack** to contact their ward Cllrs by email: Linda.pailing@harlow.gov.uk, ian.jackson@harlow.gov.uk and edna.stevens@harlow.gov.uk

iv) Harlow Common. Daniel reported that Prentice Place is undergoing redevelopment.

v) Youth Café. Matt reported that the café group had £1,500 to spend on furniture. The preview evening is Wednesday 12th March. The group are currently working on a presentation for the preview evening and **Sam** is making a DVD of photos and music.

vi) Harlow Education Consortium conference. Jon O'Conner invited **Charlie, Charlotte, Danielle, Hannah, Kinjal, Matt** and **Sean** to run a session at the 'Partnerships to improve Education' conference. **Sean** said they spoke about their aspirations and healthy eating.

vii) Bush Fair ward meeting. Jennie would like to know if a date has been agreed to meet the ward councillors. Bush fair youth cllrs to contact chris.millington@harlow.gov.uk and eleanor.macy@harlow.gov.uk

vii) Young Essex Assembly. Hannah reported that they had a sitting on the 23rd February and it was decided that 11 and 12 year olds could stand in the next YEA election. **Bridget** said it was a really good debate. They discussed increasing the term of office to 3 years but agreed to keep the 2 year term. **Hannah** said the Harlow members spoke about our residential and how good Harlow is! Ruth informed the meeting that Essex County Council Schools Children and Families directorate are now working with the 0 – 19 age group. **Sam** has made a DVD of the February residential.

7. Diary Updates

i) International Women's Day Saturday 7 March 10 – 4.30pm at the Latton Bush centre. Diane needs volunteers to run the HYC and YEA information stall. **Action: Charlie, Danielle, Gracie, Jack, Jordan and Zoe agreed to help.**

ii) Youth Café Preview Night on 12th March. Press and adult Councillors invited. Youth Café group to work on a presentation. Anglia TV has asked to visit the café. The official opening is on Hannah's birthday Friday 28th March at 4pm

8. Any Other Business

i) Night walk for St Clare's Hospice. Bridget would like the HYC and YEA to join in the fund raising event on 21st June. The walk starts at 22.00 hours from the town centre to old Harlow and back. The theme is pink. Walkers are: **Bridget, Charlotte, Chloe, Danni, Gracie, Hannah, Jasmine, Jennie, Jordan, Megan, Sophie and Tara.** **Action: Bridget will organise the HYC and YEA group and send out consent forms.**

ii) Essex Youth Build. Michael informed the group about courses in construction and health and safety, first aid and manual handling.

iii) Paringdon School. Michael reported that the school would like the youth council to do a presentation to the junior school council during school time. Volunteers were **Charlie, Charlotte, Chloe, Danni, Jack, Jennie and Michael.** **Action: Permission will be required from parents and schools. Michael to confirm the school assembly dates with the school teacher.**

iv) L8R is an On line Peer Mentoring service. Young Concern are looking for volunteers aged 16-25 to attend 4 training sessions in mentoring and then become on line peer mentors. You will be paid for your work at £10 per hour. **Action: Bridget, Doris and Sam to contact Robert Locke at Young concern. 01279 414090**

v) E mail etiquette. If you send an e-mail please be professional and avoid using text language.

vi) Canal Boat Away Day Monday 31 March. Please arrive at the Moorhen Marina at 9.30am. The boat will return to the marina at 4.30pm. Lunch is provided. Please return the signed consent forms to Diane at the One Stop Shop by Tuesday 25 March.

v) Self Esteem Project. Hannah asked if the funding from the women's group was still available to run a self-esteem project. **Action: Hannah to contact Maureen maureen.pearman@harlow.gov.uk**

Next meeting: Monday 7 April

Time: 18.30 – 20.00

Venue: CR2AB Civic centre