



Harlow Youth Council Minutes 3rd September 2007

Present

Andrea	Perry	Cllr Tony Durcan – Joint Leader
Danielle	Ruby - Chair	Cllr John Paul Goddard
Doris - Secretary	Sam YEA	Simon Hill – IT services Harlow Council
Hannah YEA	Stephen	Ruth Morris – Rainer
Katie	Tara	Cllr Chris Millington – Joint Leader
Michael	Joss Albone – Harlow Council	Ruth Morton – Essex Youth Service
Mina	Diane Butler - Harlow Council	Lynn Seward - Harlow Council

Apologies

Adam	Darrell	Sophie
Bharat	Georgina	Carole Banks – Youth Cafe
Bridget YEA	Laura	Erica Bromage – One stop Shop
Charlie	Leroy	Maggie Lawlor - Rainer
Charlotte YEA		

Absent

Ben	Gracie
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Welcome and introductions

Minutes from Last meeting - Minutes agreed

- 1. Feedback from the Joint leaders.** Cllr Durcan reported that the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (C.P.A) inspection results were due tomorrow. One inspector from the Northumberland/Durham area was impressed with the work of the youth council and we hope to hear from him after the inspection is complete. Cllrs Millington and Durcan are working on next year's budget, they would welcome any comments from the youth councillors regarding what they see as the critical services for the community and young people. There was also a discussion about the adult committee structure and introducing a new cabinet style with a debating chamber; decisions would be made by a collective committee. The council will go through a consultation process to decide on any changes. Cllr Millington reminded the youth councillors to submit any comments they have about the play strategy consultation by the end of September.
- 2. Questions to Joint Leaders.**

Town statue. Perry requested an update on the town park statue. Cllr Durcan said that the statue was beyond repair so the council is working with the civic society to look at other options. Sam suggested the councillors consider the replacement statue being made from waste/recycled materials. Cllr Durcan said they would be sensitive to eco-friendly materials.

The Square. Tara reported that at the Town Show one of the bands said that the Square is closing down. Cllr Durcan confirmed that he had

not heard anything for a while. **Tara** said that bands are not being booked so there is no programme from October. **Action: Cllr Durcan to investigate.**

Cycle track lighting. **Ruby** reported that the cycle track lighting is always out. Cllr Durcan said that the lights are vandalised as quickly as they are repaired. **Tara** suggested doing a sponsored bike ride to log the broken lights. **Ruby** said that the control boxes are being damaged and that there is a need for more police patrols to prevent this from happening. **Ruby** said that the police patrol during the daytime but not at night when it is needed. **Perry** suggested improving the design of the street lamps so that when one light is damaged the others will remain on. **Ruby** suggested having solar panel lighting. Diane advised youth councillors to take a note of the number of the streetlight that was not working and to report it to Contact Harlow on 446655 or email them on contact@harlow.gov.uk **Action: Invite the PCSO team leader to a future meeting to discuss their role.**

- 3. Local Democracy Week.** Cllr Goddard was keen to involve the youth councillors in the Local Democracy week events. Cllr Goddard had identified some funding to run an event and requested volunteers to meet with him next week to look at what events could be held. Some suggestions included speed dating-style 'meet an adult councillor', 'question time' at The Playhouse and a formal debate with the adult councillors on local issues. **Action: Danielle, Hannah, Michael, Ruby to meet with Cllr Goddard.**
- 4. Feedback from Lynn Seward Head of Community Services.** Lynn reported that Chairperson Cllr Lorna Spenceley is involved in a project looking at young people's aspirations. Lorna is working with local businesses, schools, parents and school governors. Lorna would like to involve the youth councillors and the youth council can decide whether they all meet with Lorna or to form a small sub group. **Action Lynn to contact Diane with Lorna's dates.**

The summer activities programme went well with most events being booked. Lynn referred to the recent publicity about the swimming pool banning people from wearing shorts whilst using the pool. This was due to a health and safety reason as the longer shorts can be made from a heavier material and may have pockets which can cause problems if in trouble as they can cause a lot of drag.

The **Town Show** was a wonderful event. Lynn thanked everyone for their contribution to the day running the youth information stalls. One issue was raised about youth council balloons being used by one of the political parties. Lynn advised all youth councillors not to align to any political party, as the youth council is a neutral body. Cllr Goddard requested that all party members be reminded that the youth council is a politically neutral group.

Perry asked how is the skate park looking? Lynn said that the planning meeting is tomorrow. **Tara** asked if the skate park could be stopped at the planning stage. Cllr Middleton said yes if the design is not to approval.

5. **IT services – Simon Hill.** Simon explained the need for an IT security policy at Harlow Council as it is a business and a high level of security is required to prevent viruses from damaging the system.

Perry said that the computers in the member's room often had no connection to the Internet.

Doris said that not all the computers in the member's room are working.

Tara requested the youth councillors have access to MySpace as they have an unofficial HYC web site with a forum space. Simon explained that MySpace was not a secure site and open to abuse.

Hannah said that there was a block on the Yahoo Groups and can this be unblocked, as the YEA use Yahoo Groups to consult with young people?

Ruby said that Google still have the old youth councillors' names and photos in its history, can this be removed?

Mina, Doris, Perry, Stephen and **Michael** are still experiencing problems accessing Firepass at home.

Cllr Durcan asked if the member's suite was working out for the youth councillors – they all agreed it was.

Action: Simon to send IT policy to Diane for circulation.

Simon to check that Firepass has been set up for Mina, Doris, Perry, Stephen and Michael to use at home.

Simon to speak to his manager about providing IT training to the youth councillors (including using Firepass and Outlook) during the school holidays or after school.

6. **Rainer - Ruth Morris.** Ruth works with Maggie at Rainer. Ruth is looking for young people interested in volunteering in the community. Ruth is also looking to recruit 8 peer educators aged 18 – 25 to support young people in the community. The pay is £8.22 per hour and the 8 vacancies that will be advertised in the press and on the Rainer web site. For further information e-mail Ruth.morris@raineronline.org
Telephone: 0771 722 7058

7. **Youth Café update. Doris** reported that the competition to name the café had ended and a decision had not been made about the winner, as they could not agree. Therefore they would be seeking advice on how to select a winner.

8. **YEA update. Hannah** reported that funding had been agreed to run a countywide transport survey visiting the main towns in Essex. **Hannah** said that the Harlow survey had served as a pilot for Essex. **Stephen** asked if the transport survey would just be surveying buses? **Hannah** would like to adapt the young peoples transport survey and extend it to adults.

9. Project group feedback.

Active Harlow – Perry. The youth councillor's comments and ideas have been fed into the Active Harlow action plan. Active Harlow members thanked the youth councillors for their input.

Ward Meetings – Diane. Ward meetings are arranged by the ward members and usually meet once a month. It is the duty of the youth councillor to attend the ward meetings on a regular bases. As some wards were under-represented by youth councillors, **Tara** and **Sam** agreed to move to the Netteswell Ward; **Michael** and **Danielle** agreed to move to the Sumners & Kingsmoor ward. The lone youth representatives were encouraged to take buddy to the ward meetings; buddies do not have to be a youth councillor. **Action: Youth councillors must contact their local ward councillors to get the dates of the ward meetings.**

Harlow Common ward meeting – Hannah and **Michael** to attend to discuss the youth issues for the area.

Hustings day Monday 22 October. Diane would like a sub group to assist with planning the event and leading the workshops on the day.

Action: Andrea, Danielle, Doris, Hannah, Katei, Michael, Mina, Perry, Ruby, Sam agreed to join the Hustings sub group.

10. Certificate in Community Volunteering. Ruth reported that 24 members of the Youth Council, Young Essex Assembly and Youth Bank passed their ASDAN Certificate in Community Involvement (C.C.V) portfolios at Level Two. They have been awarded a qualification equivalent to 2 x GCSE grade B's. Well done everyone who took part in the course.

11. Any Other business

First Aid – Sam volunteered to run a basic first aid training course for the HYC/YEA/YB group.

Agendas – Doris requested that future agendas are timed to prevent over running.

Berecroft fun day 9th September – Michael asked for volunteers to run the HYC/YB information stall. **Ruby, Andrea** volunteered.

Youth Café fashion show – Funding is being sought from the women's network to run a fashion show to raise self-esteem. **Hannah,** and **Perry** would like to volunteer to help with the show.

Old Harlow Ward Meeting – Andrea has met with her ward councillors and a kick wall is being discussed for the area.

Jack Petchey funding – Tara and **Perry** to decide what to spend their £600 awards on.

Next meeting: Monday 1st October

Venue: CR2A & CR2B Civic centre

Time: 18.30 – 20.00