



## Harlow Youth Council Full Youth Council Meeting Monday 12 May 2008

### Present

Alex	Gracie	Matt (Chair)
Charlie	Hannah	Megan
Chloe	Jack	Michael
Connor	Jasmin	Sam
Daniel	Jordan (Minutes)	Sean
Danni	Josh	Tara
Georgina	Leroy	Zoe

### Guests in attendance

Diane Butler Harlow Council	Ruth Morton Essex CC Int. Youth Support
Cllr Joel Charles	Lynn Seward Head of Community services
Cllr Lee Dangerfield	

### Apologies

Bayliss	Charlotte
Bharat	Doris
Bridget	Cllr Andrew Johnson (Leader)

### Absent

Kinjal	Sophie
--------	--------

### Welcome and Introductions

#### Agree minutes from last meeting:

**Amendment Item 5. Longbanks green area:** A consultation could be had with the residents of Longbanks about using the fields for activities such as football. Residents could work together to apply for funding to fence an area for recreation.

#### Matters arising from 7 April meeting.

- a) **Square meeting. Hannah** has arranged a meeting with Simon Walsh from County Hall on 9 June with Rock school, YEA and HYC reps only. Cllr Walsh will not attend any public meeting and does not want MP Bill Rammell present at the June meeting.
- b) **St Clare's hospice** charity fund raising Night Walk. £15 entry. It was agreed not to participate as no sponsorship money had been raised.

**1. Feedback from Joint Leaders.** In the absence of the joint leaders, a response to the youth councillors' questions had been received from Cllr Tony Durcan and Cllr Chris Millington.

*As my last act as joint leader I will try and answer the questions.*

- a) **First Avenue Trees.** Have they cut the wrong trees down on First Ave? **(Charlie)** *As far as we know the tree inspector has confirmed which trees are to be saved and which ones will be replaced. Why have they allowed so many mature trees to be removed? (Charlie) I can only assume some of the mature trees may have become a risk and the roots would have been damaged in the process.*
- b) **Recycling.** Can you explain why the recycling company leaves a lot of the waste in the street - Long Ley area? **(Jack)** *The team are only employed to pick up items within the blue boxes and white bags. If some items fall out then they will pick them up. They don't have the time or equipment to road sweep. Some people leave items out too early, which then get damaged or caught in the wind.*
- c) **Youth Café.** What do the Councillors think of the youth café? **(Jordan)** *It's cool; hope people use it.*
- d) **Quad bike complaints.** The Quad bikers are chopping down trees to build ramps in the New hall and Long Ley woods **(Bayliss)** *I will ask Lyn to check this out but as a youth councillor please reports any incidents directly to the police, making sure you get a crime number.*
- e) **Skate Park.** Why was it demolished before the new one is open? **(Michael)** *In June last year it was predicted that we would be without a skate park whilst the new one was being completed. As the youth councillors know we hit a few problems around the original site, size etc. We then hit another delay re lighting. We always knew the old area had to be replaced by April and we were hoping that any delay would be a matter of weeks. Anyone who has visited the new site knows it's nearly ready, it is fantastic and a credit to all those who helped design it.*
- f) **Town Park.** Why are there rose beds being placed when there could be a children's play area? **(Josh)** *This has always been part of the plan once we decided not to go with the extended lake. This is the quiet area of the park. As everyone uses the park a lot of people wanted a formal garden. The current outdoor play area in the park is one of the best in Essex.*
- g) **First Ave bus lane.** Will the bus stops be relocated along First Ave? **(Hannah)** *I'm not aware that any bus stops will be changed as a result of the bus lane. Hope this helps, whilst standing down as leader of the labour group I will still support the youth council. If you need any help then let me know.*

## **2. Feedback from Councillor Lee Dangerfield and Cllr Joel Charles.**

**Contact numbers.** Cllr Lee Dangerfield circulated contact numbers for Cllr Andrew Johnson the new Leader of Harlow Council, Cllr Simon Carter and Cllr Lee Dangerfield. They are all happy to receive questions or concerns by email. Cllr Andrew Johnson will attend future HYC meetings, as he is officially announced leader on 22 May 2008 at the annual council meeting.

**Young Chairperson.** Cllr Joel Charles is the youngest councillor at 22 and keen to work with the youth council. The Conservative councillors would like to support the Youth Council and suggested having a Young Chairperson to

work with the adult councillors to raise the profile of the Youth Council. A paper will be produced in the near future and he welcomed a debate.

Hannah said that the youth council had not been consulted with and that a young chairperson would undermine the role of the youth councillors who were elected, trained and experienced. The youth councillors had many issues and questions, which Joel welcomed. Joel suggested a further meeting with the youth councillors to discuss the proposal of having a young chairperson. Any queries or concerns to email Joel or Lee on [joel.charles@harlow.gov.uk](mailto:joel.charles@harlow.gov.uk) or [lee.dangerfield@harlow.gov.uk](mailto:lee.dangerfield@harlow.gov.uk)

Cllr Joel Charles assured the youth councillors that the new Conservative administration want to complement the work of the youth council and they will not impose anything on them or demean the work they do. Hannah agreed that the Youth Council needs to work with the new administration.

### 3. Feedback from Lynn Seward.

**Skate Park.** The park is open and the official launch will be held after the June bye-election. It was reported that due to the smell of cannabis, it is believed that drugs are being used on the site.

<b>Action:</b> Lynn to inform the Community safety team and dog handlers to patrol the area.
--

**Youth Café.** Lynn suggested that she contact the Youth Action magazine to do an article on the Youth Café, as it was a good example of young people leading a project. The youth councillors agreed.

Lynn suggested nominating the café for the Institute of Community Cohesion award. Youth councillors agreed.

<b>Action:</b> Lynn to progress the Youth Action article and Institute of Community Cohesion award nomination.
--

### 4. Project groups feedback

#### Young Essex Assembly groups

- a) **Transport.** Hannah reported that the YEA transport group are producing a DVD to raise awareness of the cost of public transport.
- b) **Environment.** Hannah reported that YEA environment sub group have produced a 'green pledge' to improve the environmental status of schools, colleges and youth clubs, this includes the youth cafe. The Youth Councillors will attend the launch event on 19<sup>th</sup> May in Galleywood with the view to signing the Green Pledge for Cafe Youth.

### **The Green pledge is:**

1. Set up an Environment Committee or appoint co-Champion(s).  
The committee/champions would become part of a county wide scheme with a meeting/ training once or twice a year.
2. Recycle paper / plastics / cans/ food waste
3. Wherever possible re-use items such as waste paper, refilling ink cartridges etc.
4. Make use of natural daylight rather than always using lights.
5. Use of energy saving light bulbs wherever possible.
6. Use central heating, air conditioners only when necessary.
7. Turn off electrical equipment overnight, do not leave on stand by.
8. Offer parents, etc., the option of receiving communications via email rather than letter.
9. Provide encouragement for people to walk / cycle and provide safe storage for bikes.
10. Make use of alternative energy sources.

### **Harlow Youth Council groups**

- a) **Funding. Bharat** applied to the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital fund to run an accredited training programme about youth councils and empowerment. The application was successful and £9k has been granted.
- b) **Jack Petchey.** Hannah and Michael to spend their £600 grant.

**Michael** decided to buy the 40 members of the Jack Petchey training group a £15 phone credit to use it for their HYC/ YEA/ YB work.

Action: Ruth to arrange once information regarding requirements for each network is received.
---

Tara, Michael, Perry and Hannah have 4 tickets each to bring friends and family to the Jack Petchey awards evening at the playhouse on 20 May. Leroy is to attend as the Jack Petchey representative.

Jack Petchey nominations for last term were submitted. The grant will now be awarded to two winners each quarter and each winner

will receive £300 to spend on a service or product of their choice to benefit the training group members.

A vote was taken to select one 1<sup>st</sup> year and one 2<sup>nd</sup> year youth council representative to sit on the Jack Petchey panel to assess the nominations.

Vote carried:  
Zoe elected the 1<sup>st</sup> year representative.  
Charlie elected the 2<sup>nd</sup> year representative.  
Hannah remains the YEA representative

**c) Prentice Place and Larkwood redevelopment plans.** Daniel reported that the Potter Street shops (Prentice Place) and area are being redeveloped. The playground and park will be moved as the land is going to be used for housing. The park needs to be away from the main road for safer play.

**d) Café Youth Survey.** Charlie and M. Boddy are working with café staff to design a questionnaire to survey the young people's views about the café and what they think works and what changes they recommend. Ideas such as themed nights, pool tournaments, the themed nights with a meal and drink. Once the questionnaire is completed, need volunteers to conduct the survey at the café.

**Opening times.** Doris reported feedback from young people saying the opening times need adjusting. It was suggested opening earlier for Saturday lunches and close earlier either 1 – 6pm or 2 – 7pm. Friday could open earlier as young people come straight from school and hang around outside waiting for it to open. The survey will give us more information.

**Publicity.** Cllr Joel Charles asked if the publicity was adequate? Hannah reported that staff had sent leaflets to all schools prior to opening, a follow up letter and more leaflets are due out this month. The posters and leaflets are on school notice boards and more publicity would be good. Jack reported Burnt Mill School discussed the café provision in PSHE class. Other schools made assembly announcements to promote the café. Diane has sent posters to communications to be displayed on all community notice boards.

**e) Neighbourhood Action Panel meetings.** Michael reported the Staple Tye NAP meeting is 13 May. Cllr Lee Dangerfield encouraged youth councillors to attend the NAP meetings as they cover local issues for each ward.

**Action:** Cllr Lee Dangerfield will ask the NAP contact to send Diane the dates of the NAP meetings so youth councillors could attend their local meeting.

**f) Youth Bank.** Tara reported the YouthBank group had attended a full day assessing Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Fund

grants. In July they have the second round for 2008 of Youth Opportunity and Capital Fund to award.

### **Any Other Business**

- a) **Thank you to Councillor Tony Durcan and Cllr Millington** for their support to the youth council and to all the councillors that retired.
- b) **Welcome new councillors.** We wish you all a great success in your new position and look forward to working with you all.
- c) **Youth councillors' surnames.** The press has refused to cover some HYC events as Harlow Council have followed Essex guidelines and not released surnames. Harlow Council does not have a policy on printing full names of youth councillors. Harlow Youth Councillors who were present agreed that their surnames could be printed in the press.
- d) **I.T. training** Anyone who missed the training to set up individuals' IT profiles must contact Diane to arrange for the settings to be set up.
- e) **Supervision** dates. All youth councillors to arrange a 30 minutes supervision date with Diane and Ruth. Times are from 4.00 – 7.30pm on Wednesday 11 June, Monday 16 June and Friday 20 June.
- f) **Global Xchange.** Diane has been selected to work with the Global Xchange project and the British Council to do a work experience in Java, Indonesia. (27 June - 20 July). The project in Indonesia will send a member of their staff to work in Harlow with the youth council for 3 weeks in October.
- g) **Mark Hall underpass.** Matt reported the Mark Hall underpass lighting was working – Thank you
- h) **Post Trays.** Everyone was asked to empty trays weekly and read the folder as it saves printing things 28 times.
- i) **Agenda items** in to Diane by 28 May.

### **Next meeting: Monday 2 June**

Time: 6.30 – 8.00pm

Venue: CR2A and 2B Civic Centre