

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE YOUTH FORUM
HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WIGSTON ON TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2007
COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

Present: Councillor R E R Morris Chair

Councillors: L A Bentley, C S Gore, P A Hings, K J Loydall and Mrs R I Sylvester (6)

Officers in Attendance: Mrs J York, Ms C Knowles and A Wood (OWBC), A Clifford and J Hunter (Leicestershire County Council)

Also in Attendance: A Campbell, Mrs J Crane, Ms J Crowston, , F Funnell, Ms H Gask, , C Lewis, Ms H Merriman, J Newby, Ms C Palmer, Ms J Slatford and Ms V Smith.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor J Kaufman, Councillor Mrs S B Morris, Ms A Jelley, Ms J McCormick, Ms A Patel, Ms J Richardson and J Tipper.

17. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Prior to the approval of the Minutes, Mr Clifford queried the statement contained at Minute reference 11, adding that there were two representatives present at the meeting from the County Council's Youth Service. Councillor Gore therefore questioned why no report was given. The Chair confirmed however that the Minute record was accurate as this was the decision made by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Youth Forum held on 22 August 2007, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

18. POLITICAL SPEED DATING - UPDATE

Mr Clifford introduced this item which had taken place in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, 16 October 2007. It had been part of Local Democracy Week and well supported by the Borough Council with 45 young people attending. The purpose of the evening had been to break down perceived barriers between young people and elected representatives, and to profile local needs. Although youth work representatives were also in attendance, the event was young person led. Approximately 5 to 6 Members of the County Council Youth Forum had put this together, led by J Newby, who was present at the meeting. A whole host of issues had been raised, some of which had already been considered by the Council's Services Committee for input into next year's Service Delivery Plans. Other items included improvements to Willow Park (e.g. a shelter) and a graffiti wall.

Mr Clifford continued that with so many issues arising, these would need to be condensed into a written report.

The young people attending were drawn from three different strands of youth work, namely the 637 Bus, detached youth work and outreach work. Mr Clifford added that

those attending were not a typical audience, but represented hard to reach young people.

There had been positive feedback from the event, creating a momentum and providing stimulus to the Youth Forum. It was anticipated that this would be continued at the proposed Young Peoples' Conference to be held later in the year. Suggestions had arisen from the events of the evening, which had been relayed to Officers to consider in a working partnership.

19. YOUTH BUS - UPDATE

Mr Clifford reiterated information contained in the Minutes of the last meeting and that this facility continues to go from strength to strength with regular attendance at Willow Park on Wednesday evenings and also, Monday evenings at Coombe Park in Oadby. However Mr Clifford noted that this was not as well established with numbers attending nothing like as great as at the Wigston venue. It was agreed that such facilities take time to develop and that other venues were under consideration. Those young people attending were also drawn from hard to reach groups, which was pleasing.

Because of the success of this facility, it will be necessary to make contingency plans since no more than 45 could be accommodated at one time. In addition, due to the illness of the co-ordinator, the bus had not been present for the last two weeks and this situation needed to be managed.

Funding was available to maintain the facility until 31 March 2008 and a review of this would be undertaken ahead of the next financial year.

In response to questioning, Mr Clifford confirmed that the bus had visited Little Hill, but as reported in the Minutes of the previous meeting, potential conflict with the youth facility there, meant that this facility had not met with success. He also confirmed that currently, no detached youth work was being undertaken in Little Hill.

His department was now able to move forward and replace Mr Baker, who had previously managed the Wigston Young Peoples' Centre, following a period when it was led by Ms Collinson, who had now obtained employment elsewhere. It was anticipated that a part time post would be effective from 12 November.

During the subsequent discussion, Mrs Crane clarified that when the bus visited Wigston Club for Young People, it had been well populated because of its many facilities, but when this was located near to the shops on Launceston Road, it did not appeal to the young people who hung out there.

20. PRESENTATION BY SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE COLLEGE RE: WIGGLE FM

The Chair observed that there was no one present from the College to undertake this presentation.

21. YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE ON LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK

The Chair introduced Mr Hunter, who outlined the activities undertaken by the youth service during this initiative including visits to Guthlaxton College, Abington High School and Beauchamp College in Oadby. The 637 Bus had visited the campuses of the two Community Colleges and approximately three hours of footage had already been filmed

as part of a DVD to record the activities of both the County and the Borough Councils' Youth Forums. It is intended to interview the Young Peoples' Champion (Councillor Morris) and the Area Youth Co-Coordinator (Mr Clifford), together with the inclusion of the Supersonic Boom event and illustrate the way that young people are able to change things. It is anticipated that this DVD will be available by 31 March 2008.

22. SALVATION ARMY YOUTH WORKER REPORT

The Chair introduced Hayley Gask, who had started at the Youth Zone in South Wigston on 7 September, replacing Matt Elsey, who had now moved on, to a full time course of study.

Ms Gask commented that there had been a slow start, but that numbers were increasing to approximately 15 young people per week and went on to describe the facilities available at the club which were well known to those Members of the Forum who had attended previous meetings there. A feature of the sessions, which had been introduced this term, was a discussion on various matters taking up the final half hour of each session and Ms Gask was pleased that young people had been able to take part and discuss "heavy" matters quite freely.

Four regular members of the club had visited Alton Towers on 20 October, which had proved to be very successful and it is hoped that that another trip will be undertaken in 2008, with more young people attending.

During the subsequent discussion, Mr Clifford referred to a Young Peoples' Working model introduced in Blaby District, called the Blaby Practitioner Group, which considered how the various different groups working with young people could work in partnership to develop the work strategically and thus support each other's initiatives. Councillor Loydall suggested that the different representatives present at this meeting arrange to hold a meeting between themselves at some point in the near future, and that a report of the possibilities arising from partnership working be brought to the next meeting of the Youth Forum. Members concurred with this suggestion.

RESOLVED: That a report outlining the possibilities of partnership working by the different youth groups within the Borough, be an Agenda item for the next meeting of the Youth Forum.

16. HALF TERM ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator from the Borough Council (Ms Knowles) addressed the meeting, relating items from her written report which is filed as report page 25.

Members noted the sheer range of facilities offered by the 637 bus which is now up to maximum capacity, being utilised by Area South on four evenings a week until the aforementioned illness curtailed its activities recently. Consideration would therefore be given to a possible alternative mobile provision

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) The Chair introduced Andrew Campbell and Hannah Merriman from Beauchamp College who addressed the meeting regarding a National Conference to be held in

London on 19 November, which would be a practical event, involving eight workshops giving young people a voice in the management of the schools which they attended. A total of five students from Beauchamp College would be attending the event and they were looking to the Youth Forum for a financial contribution to the cost of travel and attendance. The total sought was £200.00.

Mr Campbell assured Members that a comprehensive report of the workshops and conference would be brought back to a future meeting of the Youth Forum.

From the Chair, Councillor Morris, proposed that the Youth Forum donate the sum of £200.00 to this venture, which was seconded by Councillor Loydall and upon being put to a vote, was carried unanimously. Mr Campbell informed the meeting that he was a Student Governor at the College and would welcome the opportunity to meet with members of the Area Youth Forum. Mr Newby confirmed that the next meeting would be on 29 November and that contact details could be exchanged after this meeting.

- (2) Mr Newby asked Members to join with him in raising funds for this year's Children in Need event by holding a sponsored leg waxing event, the chosen victim being Mr Clifford. A total of £50.00 was required to cover the cost of this event and in response, Members took up Mr Newby's request for sponsorship.
- (3) Mrs Crane presented a short report regarding the Wigston Club for Young People and was pleased to inform Members that a lot of work had been done, particularly electrical. The Club was compiling a 'wish list' of equipment and needed financial help. Membership was struggling due to the lack of facilities and poor state of the building. There were no pool tables, TV's or on line computers.

The Chair advised Mrs Crane to contact the Community Development Officer regarding the Youth Forum budget and the Legal and Admin Officer regarding the Youth Forum grant scheme.

- (4) The Community Development Officer informed Members of Christmas Capers, to be held in South Wigston on 15 December, including the next Heat for the "Battle of the Bands" Competition and requested those present to contact her with the names of any young people who were prepared to take part; there was a slot available for eight different bands. From this Heat, two winners would go through to the Area Heats.
- (5) Councillor Bentley informed those present of the Annual General Meeting of the Wigston Club for Young People, which will take place at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 20 November and welcomed the support of all Members, as this event is open to the general public.

The Meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.