

Minutes Youth Council Meeting
30th June 2008
6-8pm Barnsley Town Hall

Welcome: Lauren Simmons new participation worker for area 5, Alys Hoyland on work experience.

Apologies: Mica Sheldon

Members Present: Ash T(Chair), Sam H, Chris, Alaina, Beth, Tanya, Bec N, Sam M, Osman, Omar, Hesi, Tili, Jacky, Leanne, Hayley, Charlie, Becki, Hope, Nathan, Stefan

Workers Present: Clare (YCC), Lauren, Ricky, Emma T

Minutes: Agreed and passed as a true record

Matters Arising:

YOF - Members were informed that all the boroughwide YOF funding for this year had been allocated, therefore the possibility of doing an exchange will have to be put on hold.

Spirit of Barnsley - members were informed that ex Youth Councillor Katie had been successful in winning a Spirit of Barnsley award.

D of E - members were asked about their current knowledge of the Duke of Edinburgh, a member of the DofE would attend the next meeting to give members more info.

Hospital Open Day - Clare invited all members to the Hospital Open day, lots of activities were planned for the day.

Alton Towers - Members were asked if the 20th August was a good date to book the Alton Towers trip for, majority of members agreed.

Youth Council AQA's: Clare explained about the AQA accreditation and certificate, members were given worksheets to complete.

Underpass Development: Cllr Bruff had approached Clare to gain the views of members on the possible development of the underpass between Doncaster Rd / Sheffield Rd and the Alhambra. Overall comments were, if the area was developed for young people it may still not feel like a total young persons space as adults would still need to walk through the area. Members felt that this could cause conflict and may widen the gap between young people and adults further, they also felt that it would put a lot of young people off using the space. The reason they use areas such as John Riddell house is because its out of the way of other people and feels like a young persons area.

All members agreed that the underpass should still be developed but as a space for all ages to use and feel safe doing so. Suggestions of how to improve the space were a water feature similar to the type outside Sheffield station, more flowers, benches, better lighting and more importantly improve the general safety of the area, as lots of people do not use it because they don't feel safe. Clare would feed these comments back to Cllr Bruff.

Scrutiny and Alcohol: The youth councillors were given the following info:

The Children and Young peoples services scrutiny commission want to find out what are the questions they should be asking young people to find out the real situation in Barnsley regarding underage drinking?

What is the situation in Barnsley at the moment? What behaviour are young people engaging in?

When are they drinking? Where are they drinking? Where do they get it from?

Why are they drinking? - boredom, peer pressure, culture? What affect does drinking have on learning?

Health issues - are they aware of potential damage, is there a link to sexual health, are they concerned about health risks

What would make young people chose an alternative to drinking (what would make them stop)?

The youth councillors came up with the following ideas: How to gain young peoples views: Targeting youth groups, Outreach working within the community, Be informal, Don't be too 'pushy' with the questions, General questions, If you target a group they may feel pressured, picked out, Talking to a camera rather than writing, Confidential and anonymous, Be in a group with your friends and a worker who you trust so you feel comfortable, Easy, clear questions, If did in school may be embarrassed, Could do them in PHSE, Young people could ask the questions, Online questionnaires, Freebies for filling them in, Do in town centre / school/ youth clubs, Young people asking other young people, Tick box, Confidential, Booths like on big brother

Potential questions:

Do you think underage drinking is a problem in Barnsley? Do you socialise with people who drink on a regular basis? Do you drink on a regular basis? Where do you drink? Tick boxes with range of places. Is it easy for young people to buy alcohol? Why do you think young people drink?

Situation at moment: Need to be stricter guidelines, Out of control, Alcohol is really easy to get hold of, Drink in homes, More adverts about consequences, Young people are aware of risk but there not bothered, Educate earlier, Workshop notes to be sent to Paul Crompton at the scrutiny office.

Summer Provision: Emma T and Ricky did a flipchart exercise to gain the views of members on the suggested summer provision programme. Members liked the idea of a big brother diary room and made suggestions on how to best attract young people.

Interchange: Members had raised issues in the past about young people being moved out and not being treated fairly in the interchange. Andy had spoken to the Chief Executive of the council about some of these issues. He had requested that any concerns be put in writing so he could personally feed these back to the interchange management board. Clare asked members to get these to her for the next meeting.

A.O.B: Clare announced that she is pregnant and planning to go on maternity leave in December. All members congratulated her.

Date of next meeting: 14th July 2008