

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

EAST DORSET YOUTH FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th April, 2001 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor S. G. Flower - Chairman

Present: Councillors J. P. Holland and G. P. Humphrey, Mr. Joe Bell (Allenbourn Middle School), Ms. Helen Gibson (Ferndown Upper School), Ms. Clare Jackman (Ferndown Upper School), Mrs. Cherie Murray (East Dorset Youth Council Coordinator), and Mr Julian Houldey (Queen Elizabeth School Governors).

Also in Attendance: Councillors D. B. F. Burt and F. H. Hutchings.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs S. E. Laird (Vice-Chairman), Mr Mark Yates (Allenbourn Middle School), Mr Fraser Fergie (Ferndown Upper School) and Ms Lara Small (Queen Elizabeth School).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February, 2001 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

DELEGATED BUSINESS

4. Community Strategy Presentation

The Head of Environmental Health Services gave a presentation on the Council's new duty to support the economic, social and environmental well being of the residents of East Dorset and to seek the views of the Youth Council representatives.

It was noted that the Council would facilitate dialogue between organisations and empower them to take action to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the residents of East Dorset. The Forum discussed ways in which people could bring issues that concerned them to the Councils attention. It was reported that members of the public could send in petitions, ask questions at committees or send a deputation to them regarding issues that concerned them. The Youth Council representatives were advised that

they could contact their local councillors who would assist them with any enquiries or problems that they may have.

5. New Council Structure

The Head of Committee Services gave a presentation on the results of the recent consultation exercise on the Council's new decision making structure and to seek the views of the Youth Council representatives.

The Forum discussed the proposed new decision making structure of the Council. It was noted that the 4th Option was the preferred option of the youth council representatives. The Forum was advised that it would be working closely with the new Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in future under the new structure.

6. Youth Council Update

The Youth Council Co-ordinators reported that varied progress had been made within each Youth Club with regards to electing young people to represent them at the Youth Forum meetings. It was reported that Mark Quinn the Verwood Youth Leader had already elected representatives at Verwood Youth Club, but it was noted that elsewhere that this process had not begun yet, as the young people were more active when they had a particular issue that concerned them. It was suggested that the Council should promote Local Democracy in schools to educate young people, but it was noted that previous attempts to do so had not been taken up by the majority of schools. The Forum discussed the idea of having Councillors surgeries in schools. It was reported that much of the disillusionment with the Council by young people was due to a lack of communication explaining why certain decisions had been reached.

The meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.