

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
EAST DORSET YOUTH FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th July, 2004 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Mrs T. B. Coombs - Chairman
Councillor A. N. Skeats - Vice-Chairman
Present: Councillor D. Morgan, L. Clark, N. Coombs, Miss K Gurney, Miss L. Mackenzie, G. Munson, Mrs. C. Murray (Senior Area Youth Leader), Miss B. Ratcliffe, Councillor V. Redpath (Verwood Town Council), J. Revill, Miss L. Sandford, Miss L. Simmons, Miss K. Skeats, Miss E. Snow, Ms H. Snow and J. Wildash.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S. G. Flower, Mr V. Morley, Miss L. Shearing and Mrs M. Shearing.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June, 2004 were confirmed.

4. Local Democracy Week 2004 - Making Your Mark - 18th-24th October 2004

An extract from the Local Government Associations pages on Local Democracy Week were circulated to each Member of the Youth Forum and a copy of which appears as Appendix '1' to these minutes.

The extract highlighted that, at a recent conference delegates heard that a YMCA survey revealed that only 2% of young people thought that their local council had any power and 50% thought their council had no direct control or relevance to their lives. The LGA was encouraging councils to work together with young people and help to make the case for local democracy.

Members of the Youth Forum were asked to put forward ideas to promote young people and democracy for local democracy week and were further asked to discuss what they thought of the democracy evening held last year.

Members of the Youth Forum felt that the best way in which to do this would be to split into groups and discuss ideas, whilst the adults left the room.

The groups then presented their ideas the following were made: -

- Last years Local Democracy evening was good;

- Voting with the question wizard was popular;
- Group working was good;
- The democracy evening was too long;
- Refreshments should be provided;
- The previous local democracy evening had discussed the Youth Forum budget and although everyone contributed ideas it was felt that they still lacked input into how it was spent;
- Councillors should be at the event in order to meet young people;
- There should be a box or similar in which ideas, questions and thoughts could be put to the Councillors. This would enable young people who may be too shy to approach the Councillors direct, an opportunity to have their say;
- The democracy event should be a two-day event, possibly residential, with talks and workshops, as well as some activities;
- The event should be in school time;
- Refreshments and snacks should be provided;
- Everyone who attended should receive a certificate:

The Youth Forum were further informed of other ideas which had been thought of including 'I'm a Councillor get me out of here' where Councillors would go round to schools/youth clubs and would be voted out day by day.

It was felt that the only problem with the Question Wizard was that the questions were mainly yes or no answers, which meant that young people were unable to express how they felt, unless the question was specific.

Another idea would be to use flip charts, onto which could be put post it notes. This would allow more information.

Overall, it was felt that if items were discussed, in particular budgets and funding for young people in the district that the Youth Forum should receive regular feedback as to where the monies were spent.

RESOLVED that the above suggestions should be further discussed at the meeting in September.

5. Contamination of the River Stour at EyeBridge, Pamphill, Wimborne

A copy of a letter received from the Environment agency in response to an issue raised at the last meeting of the Youth Forum was circulated to each member of the Youth Forum and a copy of which is appears as Appendix '2' to these minutes.

In addition, to the letter received from the Environment Agency a leaflet regarding river pollution and canoeists was circulated.

The Youth Forum felt that the response didn't address their concerns and issues raised and that the Environment Agency should at least have carried out tests on the water and put up signs to say if there was pollution there. Concern was raised that people fish in the river and then may eat the contaminated fish.

The Youth Forum felt that their genuine concerns had been dismissed and that surely the Environment Agency should welcome comments and concerns about the wildlife and the environment and should address them as genuine concerns.

Overall it was felt that a letter should be sent to the Environment Agency advising them that the Youth Forum didn't feel that their concerns had been taken seriously.

RESOLVED that

- (a) Members of the Youth Forum write letters to the Environment Agency stating that they didn't think that the letter received from them was adequate nor did it address the feelings expressed; and**
- (b) all letters would be brought to the next Youth Forum meeting to enable them to be sent to the Environment Agency together.**

6. Youth Issues Action Group

A brief report was submitted for information, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member of the Forum and a copy of which appears as Appendix '3' to these Minutes.

The report showed that at present no money has been allocated to Youth Issues. The report provided a breakdown of the nine proposed areas of funding and their budget allocation for 2004/2005.

Members of the Youth Forum were asked to discuss each of the nine proposed areas of funding and whether this was the best way of utilising the £50,000.

In order to do this the Youth Forum split into two groups again and the adults left the room. Each each group discussed the amounts which were to be utilised for different projects.

The groups looked at each proposal and identified whether they believed the right amounts of money had been allocated. The outcome of the discussion was as follows: -

- (a)** Bus Scheme – it was felt that more money should be spent on this scheme than had been allocated;
- (b)** Register of Beds and Short Term Care and Accommodation for Young People In Need – it was felt that the appropriate amount of money had been allocated towards this proposal;
- (c)** Mobile Youth Scheme – it was felt that the appropriate amount of money had been allocated towards this proposal, providing that worked;
- (d)** Travel to Work Schemes – it was felt that more money should be awarded towards supporting travel to work schemes such as the scooter project;
- (e)** Computers – it was felt that more money should be spent on computer hardware;
- (f)** Mentoring Scheme – it was felt that less money should be spent on this scheme but that more effort should be put in;

- (g) Provision of Entertainment on Friday Night – it was felt that half of the amount of money should be awarded to schemes relating to the provision of Friday night entertainment;
- (h) Semi-Formal and Safe Meeting Places – it was felt that less money should be allocated to schemes relating to semi-formal and safe meeting places.
- (i) Promoting and Advising Parents About Issues Affecting Young People on Friday Nights – it was felt that less money should be awarded to such schemes.

In relation to the Bus schemes the Youth Forum asked how this project was progressing. It was felt that the best way of finding this out would be to speak to the Transport Theme Action Group.

The Youth Forum felt it would be valuable to invite a representative of the bus company to a subsequent meeting of the Youth Forum in order to discuss their proposed scheme. However, it was further felt that such an invitation would only be appropriate depending on how far the scheme had evolved.

In relation to the computer hardware the Youth Forum felt that broadband would be very useful. It was also questioned as to whether a sharing scheme would be appropriate. It was further felt that in some circumstances there may be a possibility of receiving donated hardware such as schools and organisations who update their hardware and may be willing to donate their old hardware to youth organisation within the district.

The Youth Forum felt that any money which was saved from allocating less to certain proposals should be spent on schemes supporting travel to work and also schemes relating to the provision of computer hardware.

Generally it was felt that although the Youth Forum have now received a list of the nine proposed schemes in which to allocate the £50,000 that the Youth Forum would have liked to receive feedback before they were at the final stages.

Further to this concern was raised as to the amount of money that had been allocated to each of the schemes, as the Youth Forum felt that there comments had not been taken onboard. The Forum felt that at all stages they should have been kept up to date with discussions which had taken place, what the general feelings had been and what had been decided in relation to the budget allocation.

It was suggested that feedback be given on the status and success of these projects.

7. Millennium Volunteers

A report was submitted to the Youth Forum for information, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member of the Forum and a copy of which appears as Appendix '4' to these Minutes.

Further to the request that the Youth Forum be updated on the Millennium Volunteers Project. The Youth Forum were informed that Peter Gritton would be attending the next meeting in order to discuss Millennium

Volunteers.

RESOLVED that Peter Gritton be asked in advance of the meeting whether he would be picking up those which have not yet been completed.

8. East Dorset Youth Forum Web Pages

At the last meeting of the East Dorset Youth Forum it was requested that suggestions for the new name for the East Dorset Youth Forum Web Pages be brought to this meeting, and if any new names had been created by young people it was requested that those names be raised at the meeting.

Members of the Youth Forum proposed the following names:-

www.eastdorset.youthforum.co.uk

www.kidzgo1st.co.uk

www.teentalk.co.uk

www.logonyouth.co.uk

www.haveyoursay.co.uk

www.eastdorsetvoice.co.uk

Members of the Youth Fourm (excluding the adults) proposed the following:-

First - www.logonyouth.co.uk

Second - www.kidzgo1st.co.uk.

RESOLVED that for the next meeting the Youth Forum it be investigated if it would be feasible to use either of the two preferred names for the East Dorset Youth Web Pages.

9. East Dorset Youth Forum Logo

At the last meeting of the East Dorset Youth Forum it was requested that suggestions for the new design of the East Dorset Youth Forum logo be brought to this meeting.

Members of the Youth Forum submitted ten ideas for logos. These logos were then voted on by the Youth.

RESOLVED that

(a) the top three logos be given to the Design and Print team at East Dorset District Council in order that they may looked at professionally and put into colour; and

(b) all three designs are to be brought back to the next meeting of the Youth Forum whereby a final logo will be decided upon.

10. Any Other Business

Members of the Youth Forum took this opportunity to raise the issue of bus passes and the free transport to school scheme, how the scheme worked and the distances from the school you would have to live in order to

qualify.

Members of the Youth Forum also discussed the date of the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the East Dorset Youth Forum be held on Tuesday 7th September at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber at East Dorset District Council.

The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN