

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

EAST DORSET YOUTH FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th November, 2004 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Mrs T. B. Coombs - Chairman

Councillor A. N. Skeats - Vice-Chairman

Present: Councillors S. G. Flower and D. Morgan, L. Clark, N. Coombs, Ms. L. MacKenzie, Ms. H. Parsley, Ms. B. Ratcliffe, V. Redpath (Verwood Town Council), Ms. L. Sandford, Ms. K. Skeats, Ms. E. Snow, Ms. H Snow, J. Wildash and R. Wilkins.

Also in attendance: Ms L. Ellis (Committee Officer).

1. Shadow Chairman

Ms L. Sandford, Shadow Chairman of the East Dorset Youth Forum, was elected to take the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from G. Munson, Ms. L. Shearing, Mrs. M. Shearing and S. Woodcock.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September, 2004 were confirmed.

5. Community Development Manager

An apology for absence had been received from S. Woodcock, Community Development Manger. It was agreed that this item would be deferred until the next meeting of the East Dorset Youth Forum.

6. Update on Youth TAG

In the absence of the relevant Officer it was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the East Dorset Youth Forum, at which a report also be provided on the recent consultation with Wilts & Dorset, to provide concessionary fares to young people in the District.

Two young Members of the Forum, L Clark and Ms L Sanford, requested that their details be forwarded to Community Strategy Officer for inclusion at future meetings of the Youth TAG.

The Chairman of the Youth Forum informed the Group that as a result of campaigning by young people and their Youth Members of Parliament in

Plymouth and Essex local bus companies had provided concessionary fares to all young people in those areas. The Youth Forum requested that the local Youth Member of Parliament, Alex Sachs, be invited to the next meeting.

AGREED that the:-

- (a) Chairman of the Youth Forum invite Ms A Sachs, Member of the Youth Parliament, Dorset to the next meeting of the Youth Forum;**
- (b) Community Development Manager report on the progress of the Youth Tag and the recent consultation with Wilts & Dorset; and**
- (c) Committee Officer forward the details of L. Clark and Ms. L. Sandford to the Community Strategy Officer.**

7. Pollution of the River Stour at Eye Bridge, Pamphill

The Chief Executive submitted a report 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.

Ms L. Sandford circulated a copy of the response, which she had recently received, from Mr J. Wardlaw, Environment Agency and a newspaper cutting from the Avon Advertiser (6th October 2004). In response, Mr Wardlaw explained that good bacteriological quality could not be guaranteed in any river or surface water for a number of reasons and concluded that an advisory notice would be useful at Eyebridge. A copy of this letter would be forwarded to the Environmental Health department at East Dorset District Council, who had responsibility for advice on human health matters.

The Chairman of the Youth Forum praised the young Members for raising the issue of pollution at the River Stour, for their perseverance in resolving the matter and for highlighting an issue that was of concern to members of the public in general and not just young people.

8. Any Other Business

The East Dorset Youth Forum expressed their disappointment at the lack of communication between the Forum and Officers. All the Members of the Youth Forum were frustrated that items to be actioned from the previous agenda had either not been actioned or not included on the agenda for this meeting. The Youth Forum believed that young people had every right to be heard within the Council.

The Chairman of the Youth Forum agreed to contact the Community Development Manager to raise the concerns of the Youth Forum. In addition, young Members of the Forum stated they would be contacting both Councillors and Officers to bring to their attention the issues the Youth Forum was facing.

The headings below were subjects which had been discussed at the East Dorset Youth Forum Meeting on 7th September 2004 and included actions

to be resolved at the me meeting.

Local Democracy Week 2004 - the young Members of the Forum felt let down that there had been no event at the Council to promote Local Democracy Week. Members of the Youth Forum had received a letter from the Head of Community Services asking them to contact him with their ideas and for assistance in arranging events for Local Democracy Week 2004 but were unsure what to then do. Provisional ideas for Local Democracy Week 2004 had been discussed at earlier Forum meetings.

It was suggested that for Local Democracy Week 2005, local schools should be invited to the Council offices and the young Members of the Youth Forum would present issues and ideas surrounding local democracy to the pupils.

East Dorset Music Festival 2005 - concern was raised that the Music Festival had been an agenda item at previous meetings of the Youth Forum but so far no meeting had been organised, even though there was an action needed to arrange a Working Group, from the last meeting. The Youth Forum was unaware as to whether any arrangements had been made for a Music Festival. The Youth Forum felt disappointed that with summer 2005 approaching it would now be too late to organise the Festival, even though the idea was suggested and discussed over a year ago. Some of the young Members of the Youth Forum reported contacting the Youth Development Officer but had received no response.

The Young Members of the Forum felt strongly that a message needed to be sent back to the Council as 'actions speak louder than words, we have already had enough words and no actions'.

All the Members of the Forum felt that it was urgent that a separate meeting be arranged to organise the Music Festival. It was agreed that a meeting be held on 17th November, 2004 at 6.00pm. In addition, it was suggested that one specific person should be in charge of the festival and an area should be available on the website, for people to register their interest in a Music Festival.

Following discussion, the Youth Forum agreed that the East Dorset Music Festival 2005 would be held on 23rd July 2005, at a venue to be decided.

AGREED that the East Dorset Youth Forum hold a meeting, at 6.00pm on 17th November 2004, to commence the organisation of the East Dorset Music Festival 2005

Youth Forum Logo - the Youth Forum had requested at the previous meeting that the Members of the Forum, who had drafted designs for a new Youth Forum Logo, be contacted to arrange an appointment to meet with a Graphic Designer, at the Council. It was envisaged that this would enable the logo designers to further develop their designs. This would of then allowed them to be brought back to this meeting, for the Forum to decide the winning logo. The Youth Forum were disappointed that this had not happened and that it would lead to further delay in choosing a winning design.

Youth Forum Website - the Youth Forum were disappointed that the resolution from the previous meeting had not been actioned and had not been included on this agenda.

One of the young member's of the Forum had typed the previously agreed name for the website, www.logonyouth.co.uk, into a search engine and had discovered that it was available to purchase. It was requested that ICT register the domain name and for this to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Youth Forum

It was agreed that for the next meeting of the Forum the young Members would research other Youth Forum websites and bring to the meeting ideas for the new East Dorset Youth Website

AGREED that the Community Development Manger request ICT to register the domain name www.logonyouth.co.uk and that this be confirmed at the next meeting of the Youth Forum.

In addition, Councillor A. N. Skeats distributed information cards which gave advice to young people on how to prevent and deal with bullying. The cards had been developed by West Moors Youth Club. The Youth Forum thought the cards were informative and a good idea, they also suggested that they be circulated to schools.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next East Dorset Youth Forum would be held on Monday 10th January 2005 at 6.00pm.

The meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.

CHAIRMAN