

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th September, 2005 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, Ms L. Archer (Connexions),
Mr D. Auburn (Youth Development Officer, East Dorset District Council),
Mr. L. Clark, Ms S. Clark, Mrs S. Clark (Corfe Mullen Youth Centre),
Ms J. Duncan (Elections Officer, East Dorset District Council), Mr P. Hyde
(Communications Officer, East Dorset District Council), Ms. L. MacKenzie,
Councillor V. Redpath (Verwood Town Council), Mrs J. Ross , Ms. L
Sandford, Ms. K Skeats , Mrs A. Smith (Head Teacher, Trinity First School,
Verwood), Ms. E. Snow, Ms. H. Snow, Mr S. Stevens and Ms L. Ellis
(Committee Officer, East Dorset District Council).

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr N. Coombs and Mr. V. Morley.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June, 2005 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

DELEGATED BUSINESS

4. Local Democracy Week - 17th - 23rd October 2005

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member of the Forum and a copy of which appears as Appendix '1' to these Minutes.

The Youth Forum received a PowerPoint presentation from www.itext.it, who were providers of text services that assisted in consultation exercises, elections and youth based issues.

The general features of the system were demonstrated and involved the encouragement of young people to provide the local authority with their mobile telephone numbers, which would enable local authority to find out what issues, grievances, etc, young people had.

In addition, it was mentioned that Dorset County Council were considering purchasing the system.

Overall, the Youth Forum thought that the text based consultation was a

good idea and supported it, however they did raise the following concerns:-

- that young people may not necessarily be willing to use up their credit on a consultation text;
- e-mail should be used for consultation, in preference to text, as it was free. The pro's and con's of text consultation need to be compared with those of e-mail;
- that the Council should be looking at getting the young persons website up and running before looking into text consultation; and
- the Council would need to look into what additional resources would be needed to run text consultation eg staff costs.

The Youth Development Officer announced that, in conjunction with Christchurch Borough Council, a Youth Conference would be held in the week prior to Local Democracy Week 2005 and invited Members of the Youth Forum to attend.

The young Members of the Youth Forum agreed that they would like to use the Conference as the East Dorset Youth Forum platform for Local Democracy Week 2005 and not pursue any of the previously discussed events.

It was AGREED that:

- (a) text consultation be looked into further and a report be brought back to the East Dorset Youth Forum at a later date; and**
- (b) the Youth Conference, organised by the Youth Development Officer, be promoted as the East Dorset Youth Forum contribution to Local Democracy Week 2005.**

5. Soundburst 05 Youth Music Festival

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member of the Forum and a copy of which appears as Appendix '2' to these Minutes.

The East Dorset Youth Forum discussed the recent Soundblast 05 Youth Music Festival and raised the following points:-

- the general consensus of young people was that they would like to have another Youth Music Festival in 2006 and that overall the event had been success;
- on the day of the Festival good feedback had been received from both parents and young people;
- publicity and marketing of the event needed to be looked at;
- the site needed to be either bigger or smaller depending on your point of view;
- more bands were needed;
- more attendants were needed to help with the clear-up;
- two stages were promised, although there was only one on the day.

Many bands that auditioned were not approached about performing on the day. The Youth Development Officer said that there was only one stage available, due to the cost of hiring stages, each stage cost £2,500 each;

- a 'wash-up' meeting was scheduled for 15th September at 12.00 noon, to gather the opinions of those involved in the organisation of the Youth Music Festival. The Youth Forum were unhappy with the short notice given for the 'wash up' meeting, at which Members of the Youth Forum would be unable to attend due to other commitments or as in the case of the younger Members they would not be able to attend due to it being held in school hours. It was requested that the meeting be rearranged to a time when young people would be able to attend;
- concern was raised by all Members of the Youth Forum regarding the price increase at the event. It had previously been agreed by the Youth Forum that the entrance cost would be £2.50, not the £5.00 which was subsequently charged. The Youth Forum was very disappointed that they had made a minuted decision regarding the entrance fee and this had not been adhered to. Councillor S. G. Flower was concerned that this new decision had been made outside of the Youth Forum, without consultation with the Chairman and that this was not acceptable, the Youth Forum had made a decision on the entrance fee but this was not what had happened. There should have been more consultation with the young Members of the Youth Forum. The Young Members of the Youth Forum were concerned that the Youth Forum had made a decision and afterwards it was decided that their decision didn't matter;
- there was huge confusion on the day of the Festival, as to whether the entrance cost was £2.50 or £5.00. There was a large board with the entrance fee stated as £5.00 and it was felt that this had put off a lot of people coming into the festival. Further confusion was evident when those who challenged the revised entrance fee were then allowed in for £2.50. The Youth Development Officer responded that the price increase had been due to the cost of hiring the fun-fair and running the work shops;
- it was requested that a copy of the accounts for the Music Festival be brought to the wash-up meeting, as they were not available for this meeting. The Youth Forum asked if a profit had been made from the event, the response was no and the Forum was flabbergasted to find out that the Council did not know, so far, how much the Festival had cost. The Youth Development Officer believed that the cost of the Youth Music Festival was already over £6,000. Additional concern was raised by the Forum that the escalating cost of the Music Festival should have been raised at previous Forum meetings; and
- the young Members of the Youth Forum were thanked for raising the idea of a Music Festival and for their tenacity in pushing their idea along.

It was AGREED that the:-

- (a) 'wash up' meeting be arranged for a time that would be suitable**

for young people to attend; and

- (b) the accounts for the Music Festival be made available to view at the rearranged 'wash up' meeting.**

6. Any Other Items

East Dorset Youth Forum Website:- the young Members of the Youth Forum asked to be updated on the development of the Youth Forum website.

The Youth Development Officer confirmed that the text for the site had been written and was awaiting a meeting with ICT, to develop it. When the site was developed a PowerPoint presentation would be given to the Forum and afterwards amendments could be made, if necessary.

Concern was raised by the Forum that previously a Website Development Group had been set up but had not met. The Youth Development Officer replied that a page had been set aside which young people could develop.

The Youth Forum were concerned that the development of the web-site had been going on too long and in addition, asked what had happened to the meeting which they had asked to be arranged with the Graphic Design Team.

The Chairman of the Youth Forum suggested that the Bournemouth Council Youth Web site was a good example of how a web-site could be.

It was requested that now the Music Festival was out of the way the development of the youth web-site needed to take a higher priority.

Next Meeting of the Youth Forum:- the young Members of the Forum requested that at the next meeting of the Forum, the adults sat in the balcony of the Chamber and the young people chaired and ran the meeting from the floor of the Chamber.

The Chairman of the Youth Forum thanked both Lucy Sandford and Lucy MacKenzie for all the hard work they had done over the past few years for the Youth Forum and wished them success at University.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Chief Executive submitted a report, 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.

It was agreed that the next East Dorset Youth Forum would be held on Tuesday 18th October at 6.30pm.

The meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN