

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON
5th SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 8.15 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mrs J Burns
Cllr Mr M Harris
Cllr Mr V Sewell (Chairman)
Cllr Mr A Tremain (*arrived at 8.17 p.m.*)

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
Mr G Walsh (HAWK Youth Worker)
Ms K Craig (Part time Youth Worker)
Ms S Lord (Youth Development Co-ordinator, Sevenoaks District Council)
1 member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr J Gaywood.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Committee held on 22nd June 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Cllr Mr A Tremain arrived at the meeting.

4. Sevenoaks District Council

The Committee welcomed Sophie Word, Youth Development Co-ordinator, Sevenoaks District Council.

Young People's Action Plan 2006

The Committee referred to the Sevenoaks District Council's Young People's Action Plan 2006 entitled "What it's all about..." and "What we are going to do...".

The Committee was informed of a scheme in Glasgow which had offered free swimming to every school child at the local sports centre and by doing so had encouraged more people to use the centre. Sophie Lord explained that one of the objectives of the action plan was to explore opportunities for discounts at local leisure centres and that the District Council was discussing the issue with Sencio Community Leisure. She explained the "Passport to Leisure" was a subsidised leisure scheme provided by Swanley Town Council, which allowed young people in Swanley to access the White Oak Leisure Centre at a reduced rate.

Hire of Sevenoaks mini bus

The Committee considered a letter dated 5th July 2006 from the Head of Community Development, Sevenoaks District Council in which she outlined arrangements for the hire of the Sevenoaks minibus including costed examples of excursions to the Gillingham Ice Bowl and swimming at White Oak Leisure Centre, Swanley. She explained in her letter that the minibus scheme for out of hours use by youth groups was heavily subsidised by the District Council and was available at the reduced rate for upto 3 trips per annum. However she confirmed that it may be possible to extend the number of subsidised trips for Hartley provided the monthly budget allocation had not been exceeded, but would only consider extending the scheme on a booking by booking basis and so advised to book the minibus early. She confirmed that the District Council was not able to provide the service free of

charge, but explained that it may be possible to access some external funding to assist with the trips.

The Committee considered it was unfair for the District Council to charge for the travel time of the minibus to and from the depot and that in doing so Hartley was being penalised because of its location at the edge of the District. Whilst the Committee did not entirely agree with the principle of charging for the use of the minibus, it did accept the reasons for doing so, but felt that charging for the travel time increased the cost of the trips beyond the means of young people.

Mr Walsh explained he had access to the Swanley minibus which would cost less than the cost of the hire of the minibus through the District Council's scheme and confirmed he was qualified to drive the minibus.

The Committee explained the difficulties experienced by young people in accessing the leisure facilities in Swanley, Sevenoaks and Edenbridge, particularly as the public transport provision in this area was either non-existent or very poor. The Committee expressed its concern about the cost of public transport and supported any initiative to introduce free travel for young people.

8-12 Project

Sophie Lord explained that funding had been secured from Kent County Council for an 8-12 project in the Sevenoaks District and it was hoped that the project would be extended to develop limited 8-12 work in the HAWK project area. Initially the project would be delivered from the New Ash Green youth centre one evening a week, but explained at this stage it would not be possible to extend the project into Hartley and West Kingsdown due to difficulties in finding a suitable venue. It was understood that Heather Walshe from West Kent Xtra had been in discussion with Hartley Primary School about the use of the school as a venue for the project.

The Committee confirmed that the Council had made provision within its current budget to assist financially with the set up costs for delivery of this project. Mr Walsh confirmed he had access to equipment and craft material for the project.

Sevenoaks District Play Strategy

The Committee considered a letter dated 30th June 2006 from Sally Ratchford, Regeneration and Youth Manager, Sevenoaks District Council in which she briefly explained the current position regarding funding via the Big Lottery Fund's Children's Play Programme. Sophie Lord explained that the District Council was in the process of conducting surveys with young people and whilst no feedback on the results of the survey was available yet, it was hoped that a play strategy in its draft form would be available in the autumn. She confirmed that the draft strategy would be circulated to all partners including Parish Councils for comments. She explained that the funding through the Big Lottery Fund's Children's Play Programme was limited, only £212,082 for the whole of the Sevenoaks District.

Sophie Lord made the Committee aware of another source of funding entitled the Big Lottery Fund's "Playful Ideas" programme which supported projects costing between £10,000 and £250,000 and focussed on innovation and new ways of providing for children's play. Applications for this source of funding were open until 31st December 2007.

RESOLVED: That the reports, as set out above, be noted.

5. Youth Worker's Report

Mr Walsh reported that the Summer Scheme had been a great success. Sophie Lord explained that 29 young people had attended the summer scheme on 4th August at Woodland Avenue. The poor turn out could not be explained, as the summer scheme had been widely publicised in primary and secondary schools and posters and programmes had been distributed locally.

Mr Walsh reported that the motor cross project had been abandoned due to difficulties in obtaining the necessary completed parental consent forms. He hoped to take a group of young people to Tree jumpers at Fawkham to allow them the opportunity to ride quad bikes.

It was explained that Hartley had experienced a spat of graffiti, particularly at the Pavilion, Manor Field which had been successfully removed by the Graffiti-buster team. So far the graffiti had not reappeared at the Pavilion, but the staircase at the Cherry Tree shops had once again been graffitied.

Mr Walsh reported that a HAWK website had been set up and could be viewed at www.hawkproject.fusiveweb.co.uk Mr Walsh explained he had access to computer software to create music and make CD's.

RESOLVED: That, the Youth Worker's report be noted.

6. Community Warden

The Committee expressed its disappointment that the Community Warden was not present at the meeting. It was reported that the matter would be taken up with Kent County Council.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

Mr Walsh and Ms Lord left the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

7. Budget 2007/08

The Committee considered the draft youth budget for 2007/08. The Committee felt that the subsidised minibus scheme provided by the District Council should be utilised for the benefit of Hartley's young people. The Committee felt that the Woodland Avenue play area could benefit from a new item of play equipment and considered that it may be possible to assist with the provision of new equipment from its budget.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) the draft budget for 2007/08, as set out in appendix 1, be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration and,

(2) funding from the current budgetary provision held by the Youth Committee under miscellaneous expenses be made available to sponsor three trips for the young people of Hartley to external venues to be agreed.

8. Grants

The Committee considered a number of funding opportunities as set out below:

(a) Youth Opportunities Fund 2006/08

(b) Youth Capital Fund 2006/08

(c) Small Community Capital Projects Fund 2006/07

RESOLVED: That the report on the funding opportunities, as set out above, be noted.

9. Youth Shelter

It was reported that costings were being obtained for the supply, installation and cleaning of a litter bin at the youth shelter in Woodland Avenue.

RESOLVED: That, consideration of the provision of a litter bin be deferred.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17th October 2006 at 8.00 p.m. at Hartley Library subject to confirmation that the Youth Worker can attend.

The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Budget 2006/07	Spent so far (upto Aug 06)	Projected expenditure to 31st March 2007	Estimate for year	Budget 2007/08	Notes
1,350.00	-	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,350.00	
1,450.00	-	60.00	60.00	1,450.00	Hire of portable toilet for Youth Zone visit – August 2006
1,200.00	-	-	-	1,200.00	
4,000.00	-	1,410.00	1,410.00	4,000.00	