

Broxbourne Youth Council Minutes

22 October 2025 (week 5/10)

Participants: Youth Mayor Havana Marshall, Deputy Youth Major Tej Nundah, Recruitment Officer Ayla Kayaga, Health Officer Anastasia Filimonova, Darcey Moore, James Vaciago, Zara Djemal, Thomas Vaciago, Olivia Marshall, Amelia Evans, Liberti Kenny, Grace Watts

Facilitators: Mike Warby (Services for Young People) , Alessandro Principato (Broxbourne Borough Council)

Minutes by Alessandro Principato

1. Welcome and introductions

The Youth Council introduced themselves and participated in an ice breaker activity.

2. Local Youth Projects

The group discussed the different projects currently available at the Waltham Cross Young People's Centre. Members raised questions about how accessible these projects are, noting that it can be difficult to get involved if you haven't been referred. There was also conversation around the youth nights and whether Services for Young People (SFYP) could make them more open and inclusive, as some activities now have specific age restrictions.

Members also asked for more clarity on certain projects, who they are aimed at and how young people can access them. An additional idea was suggested to hold a Prom event at the Waltham Cross Young People's Centre for children who are not in mainstream school.

Action: Havana to email Mark Hughes regarding the issues raised and to potentially request a meeting to discuss them further.

3. LMD Updates

The group discussed inviting councillors to take part in LMD judging, particularly those who are able to speak another language. It was agreed that the judging will focus solely on language fluency and accuracy, with no consideration of political views.

The group also reviewed the LMD flyer and agreed that the text for 'Year 7 to 11' should be made larger to ensure it stands out. Other than that, the poster was approved by the Youth Council.

Action: Havana to type up the rules and processes for LMD.

4. Youth Council Promotion

The Youth Council were delighted with the new flyer and QR code and have requested for it to be approved by The Council's Communications Team.

Action: Havana to look into gaining access to Youth Council X page.

Action: Havana to confirm four 20kg weights for her gazebo.

5. Mental Health

The group discussed issues around the publicity and accessibility of local mental health services. They spoke about how information could be made more accessible with ideas including more posters in schools and youth centres, and the idea of a guest speaker was mentioned.

Guest Speaker ideas included:

- Herts Homeless could be invited to speak.
- First Aid courses are available, a great chance to gain a qualification.
- Career support and advisors could attend to offer guidance.
- A focus on skills development and charity involvement was also suggested.

6. UK Youth Parliament

Havana provided information on the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP), a national programme that gives young people aged 11–18 the opportunity to represent their peers and campaign on issues that matter to them.

Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) are elected locally, through school elections, where students vote for their Local Youth MP.

Once elected, MYPs work with young people in their area, attend events, and take part in national campaigns and debates, including sessions held in the House of Commons. The UKYP helps young people develop skills such as leadership, communication, and public speaking, while ensuring their voices are heard in decisions that affect them.

7. Debate

The group debated University fees and how University courses are becoming less affordable. They also discussed increasing train fares.

8. AOB

The group was informed about the Knife Angel, a national monument designed to raise awareness of the impact of knife crime, which is currently on display in Welwyn Garden City throughout October. As part of the wider engagement programme, an art competition is being held for young people under 25, with entries accepted both individually and in groups across various art forms.

Application forms and more information about the competition - including Rules and Terms & Conditions - can be found here: <https://www.herts-pcc.gov.uk/getting-involved/how-to-get-involved/knife-angel-art-competition/>