

# Broxbourne Youth Council Minutes

## 14 January 2026 (Week 1/10)

**Participants:** Youth Mayor Havana Marshall, Deputy Youth Mayor Tej Nundah, Recruitment Officer Ayla Kayaga, Health Officer Anastasia Filimonova, Thomas Vaciago, James Vaciago, Zara Djemal, Gabrielle Robinson, Nashaya Benjamin, Edward Odulaja

**Facilitators:** Linton Sutherland, Natasha Morgan (Services for Young People), Alessandro Principato (Broxbourne Borough Council)

Minutes by Alessandro Principato

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Youth Council introduced themselves and took part in an ice-breaker activity.

### 2. UKYP

Havana updated the group on the current stance of UKYP, explaining that due to the national situation there is uncertainty over whether the project will be able to run this year, and that sessions for those who registered their interest have been cancelled.

### 3. Aspirations

The group outlined their aspirations for the new term...

*Youth Mayor Havana Marshall*

- Addressing key issues that young people are facing locally and/or nationally.
- Challenging issues such as banning social media for 16-year-olds.
- Local transport challenges.

*Deputy Youth Mayor Tej Nundah*

- Preparation, Finalisation, and Delivery of the LMD project.
- Smaller focus groups to work on various projects, allowing more voices.

*Recruitment Officer Ayla Kayaga*

- Publicity – Banners and other promotional materials.
- Social Media Promotion

The group discussed the idea of creating a TikTok page, with some members feeling that TikTok may not align with the Youth Council's brand and expressing a preference for Facebook.

Concerns were raised about the type of content that would be shared on TikTok, how it might portray the Youth Council, and the suitability of Facebook for the target audience. It was also noted that there would be no obligation for members to show their faces on social media.

The group explored potential ways TikTok could still be used, such as short five-second clips to create adverts or deliver key messages. Overall, the discussion focused on branding, public perception of the Youth Council, and emphasising the opportunities available to young people.

#### **4. Guest Speakers**

Havana shared that she had recently contacted Tom Culley, Cllr Clune, and Lewis Cocking MP. Subject to confirmation, Cllr Clune is scheduled to attend on 21 January to provide advice on CV writing and employability.

Louise Bouttell (Prevent lead) from Hertfordshire County Council will be attending on 28 January to cover current societal issues around extremism and counterterrorism.

As part of Feeling Good Week in February, Herts Music Service will attend on 11 February to give young people the opportunity to play steel band drums and ukulele.

Jada Palmer (Youth Programme lead) from Beezee Maximus will be attending on 4 March to deliver a workshop around exam stress, goal setting, body image, and personal development.

#### **5. Open Day**

The young people shared several ideas for an open day, including promoting the event widely, decorating the building to advertise it, and promoting the open day within schools.

Additional suggestions included offering snacks and other incentives to encourage attendance, planning a set date in advance, creating opportunities to meet the Mayor, and setting up different activity stations around the room.

## **6. Annual Conference**

The group shared ideas for a potential annual conference, proposed to run on a Saturday from 10am–3pm and hosted by Broxbourne Youth Council. Suggestions included speeches from cabinet members from different Youth Councils, discussions on current projects, key topics and shared challenges, as well as interactive games and activities.

Members highlighted the importance of mixed-group sessions to support relationship-building between councils, alongside political quizzes and networking opportunities.

The conference was suggested to take place at Hertfordshire County Council or the Stevenage offices.

The group then split into smaller groups to research potential venues and develop ideas for the conference agenda, including agreeing the aims and goals of the event. Further ideas included inviting guest speakers, mayors and councillors, promoting UKYP, and ensuring the conference remains engaging and youth-focused.

Practical considerations discussed included:

- Food and refreshments, including tea and coffee
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Photographer and media coverage
- Press releases and interviews throughout the day
- Content creation during the event
- Charity-related activities
- Discussion topics and agenda structure
- Dress code (formal or casual)

## **7. AOB**

None at this moment in time.