

Broxbourne Youth Council Minutes

21 January 2026 (Week 2/10)

Participants: Youth Mayor Havana Marshall, Deputy Youth Mayor Tej Nundah, Recruitment Officer Ayla Kayaga, Health Officer Anastasia Filimonova, Thomas Vaciago, James Vaciago, Gabrielle Robinson, Nashaya Benjamin, Edward Odulaja, Liberti Kenny, Grace Watts

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

Minutes by Alessandro Principato

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Guest Speaker – Cllr Clune

Cllr Clune attended the meeting as a guest speaker and shared background information about himself, including his personal journey, experiences in elections, and reflections on motivation, ambition, and the importance of taking ownership and accountability. He spoke about resilience, influencing positive behaviour, and breaking away from cycles of negative behaviour, encouraging young people to focus on what they can control and to conduct themselves positively.

Young people engaged in discussion around a range of local issues, particularly anti-social behaviour and challenges affecting young people in the local area. Brookfield development (including McDonald's) was highlighted as a location associated with increased issues and negative influences, alongside concerns about young people not engaging in positive programmes.

Wider topics included gang-related issues, police capacity being impacted by non-priority crime, and the importance of open-mindedness when addressing local challenges and finding solutions to promote community stability.

Further discussions covered car meets, transport concerns including Arriva funding issues, and the impact these have locally. Cllr Clune also encouraged the development of public speaking and interpersonal skills, highlighting the value of building confidence, asking questions, and engaging positively with the public to access future opportunities.

3. UKYP

No further update on Youth Parliament delays, members are currently awaiting further information.

4. Broxbourne Report

Havana presented a new report focused on investigating the reliability and accessibility of public transport within Broxbourne Borough. The report will include an in-depth review of buses, trains, and taxis.

The group will work collaboratively on the development and delivery of the report, with Linton suggesting that it be kept manageable and concise.

5. Contact with Gravesham Council

Havana shared an email from a member of Gravesham Council highlighting similar public transport challenges in their area. The email outlined issues with buses being unreliable, unclean, and expensive, with young people reportedly paying up to £3 each way to travel to school.

It was noted that at Kent Youth County Council, the cost of bus fares was unanimously identified as the key concern, alongside concerns that 16–17-year-olds are required to pay adult fares despite not being legally considered adults. The sender also shared frustrations around bus companies, including Arriva, being unresponsive, but expressed hope that engagement could improve.

The overall aim of their campaign is to lobby young people's views to bus companies and encourage meaningful engagement.

6. AOB

None at this moment in time.