

Broxbourne Youth Council Minutes

25 March 2026 (Week 10/10)

Participants: Ikari Watson, Grace Watts, Liberti Kenny, Edward Odulaja, Declan Twum, James Vaciago, Thomas Vaciago, Ayan Maradia, Nashaya Benjamin, Gabrielle Robinson, Scarlett Robertson

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

Apologies: Linton Sutherland (Services for Young People)

Minutes by Alessandro Principato

1. Introductions

The group introduced themselves, took part in an ice-breaker activity, and were given a tour of the recently refurbished Waltham Cross Young People's Centre, the Youth Council's first session there since the renovations were completed, where they were shown the range of facilities now available.

2. Guest Speaker – Tom Culley (National Apprenticeship Ambassador Network)

The Youth Council welcomed a visit from Tom Culley, former Mayor around 2016, who spoke about the early development of the Youth Council, including its impactful Bus Campaign that successfully influenced local bus timetables, its newspaper section, and other achievements that strengthened its reputation.

Tom discussed how young people can effectively voice concerns to local Councillors, the types of events the Youth Council can engage in, and the origins of the Youth Council logo, encouraging members to explore national and international Youth Councils for inspiration. The group also reflected on the former Broxbourne Youth Week, shared how each member joined the Youth Council, and discussed promoting the Council in schools through BASH Headteacher meetings.

Tom highlighted the value of Youth Council involvement for interview confidence and CVs. Conversations also covered the current Youth Council agenda, involvement with Love Hoddesdon events, building community links, and wider issues such as education pressures, the proposed social media ban for under-16s, and pathways including T Levels, V Levels, and diverse post-16 options.

3. Local Issues

Edward raised the idea of promoting LMD within schools, and several Councillors suggested delivering assemblies to increase awareness and engagement. The group also discussed

the need for better shops and more recognisable, inviting brands in Waltham Cross to improve the local offer for young people. Members expressed interest in learning more about the Brookfield Development and proposed inviting a Councillor to a future meeting to discuss how the plans could benefit young people and provide new opportunities.

Highleigh Garden Village – could use the same concept for the Brookfield Development.

4. Debate

The group took part in a debate around AI usage within education and had further conversations around AI in the workplace.