

Broxbourne Youth Council Minutes

1 July 2026 (Week 10/11)

Participants: Youth Mayor Havana Marshall, Recruitment Officer Ayla Kayaga, Ayan Maradia, Thomas Vaciago, Chase Hall, Teddy Hall, James Vaciago, Declan Twum, Gabrielle Robinson, Scarlett Robinson, Jadelle, Tiana Lealy-Paul, Ishan Khan, Esther Boateng

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

(Broxbourne Borough Council)

1. Introductions

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

2. Girls Group Sleepover

Gabrielle introduced the sleepover project and provided an update on the recent sponsored walk, which successfully generated donations of sanitary products and other essential items for local clinics.

It was confirmed that the sleepover project has been approved in principle, although a date has yet to be agreed. The group discussed potential fundraising opportunities to support the project, as well as the possibility of arranging self-defence sessions and inviting mental health professionals to attend and engage with young people as part of future activities.

3. Summer Fayre Project

The SEND Youth Council Chair provided an update on plans for a Summer Fayre, which the group hopes to deliver in July to raise funds and bring the community together.

Proposed activities included a cake sale, with local supermarkets to be approached for donations, treat bags sold at £2 each, an artwork table where young people can create their own artwork, a water balloon sponge activity, stalls, soft drinks, music, a bouncy castle, and a treasure hunt.

Funds raised would support Herts Young Homeless, with additional ideas including tote bags and a raffle. The Youth Council discussed hosting their own stalls at the

event, and it was agreed that the SEND Youth Council and Broxbourne Youth Council would meet on 7 July to further develop plans.

Work is also underway to secure raffle prizes from local supermarkets, with promotional posters currently being designed.

A provisional date of Friday 10 July was suggested for the Summer Fayre.

4. Linguistic Mayor's Debate

The group reflected on the Linguistic Mayor's Debate, a successful new project that provided young people with an opportunity to develop their public speaking, debating, and presentation skills. Members praised the overall organisation of the event and the chance it created for young people to engage with civic processes and showcase their ideas.

What Went Well (WWW):

- High-quality presentations and clear event structure.
- Microphones and facilities.
- Positive atmosphere throughout the event.
- Chamber layout enhanced the debating experience.
- Provision of refreshments for participants.
- Awards ceremony and involvement of the Mayor.
- Created new opportunities for young people to engage and develop skills.

Even Better If (EBI):

- More opportunities for direct debate and discussion between schools.
- Increased participation from schools across the borough.
- Greater attendance from Youth Council Cabinet members.
- Debate topics more closely linked to issues affecting young people.
- Schools asked more than one question during each round.
- Consider holding the event earlier in the academic year, potentially in April, to maximise participation and engagement.

5. Youth Council Elections

Havana introduced the upcoming Youth Council elections and outlined several leadership and representative positions available to members.

These included the roles of Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor, Recruitment Officer, and Health Officer, with additional discussions around creating dedicated Social Media and Environmental Officer roles.

6. UK Youth Parliament

Linton shared that Ayan and Havana were elected to represent Broxbourne at UKYP.