Broxbourne Youth Council Minutes

14 October (Week 4/10)

Participants: Youth Mayor Zara Djemal, Deputy Youth Mayor Thomas Vaciago, Health Officer Lily-Rose Blackford, George Vaciago, Declan Twum, Chase Hall, Gabrielle Robinson, Tanisha Balasingham, Paula Dilello, Nashaya Benjamin, El-Elohim Obilanzila, Ayan Maradia, Delina Thomas, Grace Watts, Liberti Kenny

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

1. **Introduction**

Youth Mayor Zara led an icebreaker activity called 'Buddies', where members were paired together at random and given the opportunity to get to know one another. Participants then introduced their partner to the wider group by sharing various facts and information they had learned about them.

2. **Golf with Councillors**

Members reflected positively on the recent golf event, noting it was a good opportunity to connect with Councillors and discuss important issues.

3. **Elections**

The Youth Council discussed possible changes to the election process, including adding a question-and-answer section following candidate presentations. Members noted that, while this could help voters learn more about candidates, answering questions had sometimes proved challenging in previous elections.

The group also discussed the format of Youth Council meetings, including the three-hour election meeting held from 6pm to 9pm. Members explored the idea of holding one meeting each month in the Council Chamber, alongside sessions at community venues across the borough, with Pound Close in Hoddesdon suggested as a potential location.

There was also discussion around undertaking more community outreach projects in areas where issues affecting young people have been identified.

4. **Group Chat**

Members discussed group chat etiquette, agreeing that there should be one main group chat for general Youth Council updates, with a separate chat for Cabinet members. The group

also discussed the use of the main chat for sharing political updates, Youth Council news, and other relevant information.

5. **Public Transport**

Members discussed local public transport and reflected on the free travel schemes that were funded by central government during the summer holidays. The group also reviewed a response from the Hertfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Transport, which explained that funding pressures and budget constraints are the main reasons why free public transport is not currently available to young people during additional school holidays and half-term periods.

6. **Herts-wide Sports**

El-Elohim introduced an idea for a Hertfordshire-wide schools' sports tournament, which would see local schools competing in a range of sporting activities. The proposal included qualifying rounds leading to a main tournament, creating opportunities for young people from across the county to take part in competitive sport and represent their schools.

The Youth Council also discussed opportunities for more sports and team-building activities for members, with Waltham Cross Sports Centre suggested as a potential venue for sessions.

7. **Lowewood Museum Project**

Lowewood Museum are currently in the process of planning community engagement opportunities for a new project, 'Futureproofing Our Community's Heritage (FPOCH), which is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project aims to capture and preserve stories from across the Borough, including those relating to local industries, events, organisations, and the people who have shaped our community.

The Museum would like to incorporate young people's perspectives into the project and explore ways to make it more engaging and appealing for young people.

Linton introduced the project to the Youth Council and discussed the possibility of inviting Tony Cararinicchia, Community Engagement Officer, to a future meeting to gather members' views and discuss the project in more detail.

8. **Mark Hughes Meeting**

Members discussed the possibility of inviting Mark Hughes to a future Youth Council meeting to provide updates on current and upcoming Services for Young People (SfYP) projects, as well as to discuss any issues or concerns affecting young people. Members also expressed an interest in contributing ideas and feedback on future SfYP projects and activities they would like to see delivered locally.

9. Money Management

Members discussed the school curriculum and agreed that there should be a greater emphasis on money management and financial literacy to better prepare young people for adult life. Members felt that topics such as budgeting, saving, and managing personal finances should form a more significant part of education. The Youth Council agreed to explore writing to relevant decision-makers to share their views.

10. General Youth Projects

Zara provided an update on current SfYP projects in Broxbourne, leading to a discussion about the potential development of a boys' group. Members discussed the importance of providing a safe space for young people and suggested activities such as sports, music, and gaming, potentially based at Waltham Cross Young People's Centre.

Ayan shared that young people he had spoken to had expressed interest in the idea. Members agreed to speak with friends and peers to gauge demand, gather opinions, and identify what young people would like the group to offer. The proposal will also be raised with senior SfYP staff for consideration.

Action: Youth Council members to explore demand for a boys' group and gather feedback from local young people.

11. AOB

None at this moment in time.