Broxbourne Youth Council Minutes

11 November (Week 7/11)

Participants: Youth Mayor Zara Djemal, Deputy Youth Mayor Thomas Vaciago, Health Officer Lily-Rose Blackford, Social Media Officer Monroe Clarke, Ayan Maradia, Dylan Djemal, Grace Watts, Liberti Kenny, Paula Dilello, Gabrielle Robinson, Tanisha Balasingham, George Vaciago, Chase Hall, Scarlett Robertson

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

Minutes by Alessandro Principato

1. Lowewood Museum Project – 'Futureproofing Our Community's Heritage'

Tony Catarinicchia (Community Engagement Officer) and Nigel Spencer from Lowewood Museum introduced the museum and outlined plans for a future refurbishment focused on showcasing local people, communities, and contemporary stories. As part of this work, the museum is seeking to capture and preserve young people's experiences through creative formats such as artwork, poetry, photography, music, personal stories, short films, and digital projects, with contributions potentially forming part of a future exhibition and the museum archive.

Nigel encouraged members to consider what a "story" could be and discussed the current lack of youth representation within the museum. Ideas developed through the project would also be shared with other local youth groups, making use of existing resources such as art, music, podcast, and media facilities.

Members discussed potential themes, with Zara suggesting an exhibition exploring the impact of COVID-19 on young people. Ideas included a mannequin recreating a COVID-19 test, information on stockpiling supplies and educational disruption, audio recordings of personal experiences, songwriting, and interactive displays featuring sounds and stories. Members also suggested promoting the project through local schools.

The museum is aiming to work with a range of youth groups and hopes to display contributions during June or July next year. Youth Council members were also invited to attend Lowewood Museum's Community Thank You Day on 5 December. The project aims to make the museum more contemporary, reflective of the wider community, and representative of young people's experiences.

Useful Links

Festive Thank You Day: Festive Thank You at Lowewood Museum
Lowewood Museum Impact Report 2025-2026: View Impact Report
Bloomberg Connects: About Bloomberg Connects (Lowewood Museum is also available through the Bloomberg Connects app)

2. **Anti-Bullying Workshop – Maria Vaciago**

Members took part in an anti-bullying workshop, including a "Truth or Lie" activity and discussions around bullying, banter, and the differences between the two. The session explored the mental and emotional impacts of bullying, the importance of speaking out, and how behaviours can affect relationships throughout life.

Members also completed moral dilemma activities to encourage discussion and challenge perspectives.

3. **Buddies Activity**

Members participated in a “Buddies” activity in pairs, this time discussing favourite school subjects and interests. Introduced by Youth Mayor Zara, the activity is aimed to improve group cohesion and help members get to know one another better.

4. **AOB**

Youth Mayor Zara Djemal and Deputy Youth Mayor Thomas Vaciago will be attending the annual Mayor’s Debate at the Council Offices on 18 November as part of the judging panel.

The schools participating this year are:

- Goffs Academy
- Haileybury Turnford
- St. Mary’s High School
- Robert Barclay Academy