



**Epping Forest Youth Council Meeting  
Tuesday 2 February 2021  
Minutes**

**Chair:** Zaara Ahmed

**Vice Chair:** Riya Bhargava

**Apologies:** Archie, Samantha, Harriette, Cameron

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Francesca Edmonds – Climate Change Officer EFDC  
David Burt – Active Travel Officer  
Paul Wilkinson – Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Transport Strategy

**Matters arising from previous minutes**

There were no matters arising from previous minutes

**1. Climate Change**

Fran gave a presentation about the role of the council and the issues concerning the future.

**Questions and comments from the Youth Councillors**

**What do you believe is a crisis our community can face due to the impacts of climate change?**

*Flood damage, overheating and water stress. The elderly and those less affluent will be affected more.*

**People have suggested before that climate change has been occurring for centuries but has just been getting worse due to rising CO2 emission... what is your comment on this?**

*The temperature of the earth changing, more recently the levels of CO2 in the atmosphere have increased significantly.*

**Why do you think some people believe that climate change is just a hoax?**

*Might be because they don't see the effect themselves. Could be too inconvenient to make changes.*

**How do you believe climate change has impacted on wildlife globally? Have you heard of any interesting stories that have been related to these two topics?**

*Polar ice caps melting and less habitat for polar bears and more recently the wildfires in Australia.*

**What are some things we can do to reduce the carbon dioxide and methane emissions locally?**

*Electric vehicles, trying to make more sustainable journeys and using less energy in homes and producing less waste.*

**Do you think the congestion charge zone expanding will help ease climate issues in the Epping Forest district?**

*There could be some benefits, the congestion charge zone may encourage people to use public transport.*

**How is the Epping Forest district reducing climate change on a small scale and on a larger scale?**

*Small scale – looking at councils' own operations, house building programme will be climate change ready. Larger scale – district wide actions and getting everybody involved. E.g. tree planting strategy, from peoples back gardens to schools.*

**Do you think Covid has had a positive impact on reducing emissions?**

*In terms of transport, certainly during the first lockdown but not so much more recently. People driving more now than using public transport as they don't want to mix with others. It has shown people that they can change their ways.*

Francesca explained that there will be a members briefing in the next couple of weeks to talk about the climate action plan. There will be consultation going forward. Will be good to talk to the Youth Councillors again as they represent young people in the district.

The Chair thanked Fran for attending the meeting and consulting with the Youth Council.

**2. David Burt – Active Travel Officer for Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Team  
Paul Wilkinson – Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Transport Strategy**

David consulted with the Youth Councillors and asked them different travel questions:

45% of Youth Councillors walk to school and 25% travel by bus.

The Youth Council felt that safety was most important to them when travelling by public transport.

David explained the transport strategy and why adding extra roads doesn't work, it's also expensive and they cause social and environmental problems.

There are problems with electric cars – you do not reduce the number of cars, the batteries etc.

83% of Youth Councillors want to own a car within the next 10 years.

In the future there will be a Car club (Zip car) – will put cars in your neighbourhood for people to hire to save people from having to own a car.

Demand responsive transport is an option. It's a minibus transport service but you book it like a taxi. It then collects other people along the way to go to similar destinations.

Public transport is massively important. It carries a lot of people – mass transit can often be sustainable using electric hydrogen buses.

The Youth Councillors were asked what does great public transport look like?  
Fast, efficient, clean, Wi-Fi, affordable, eco-friendly, safe, quiet, reliable, speed, quiet.

### **Questions from the Youth Councillors**

#### **How do you think COVID-19 has affected active transport?**

*Early on in March 20 saw a great increase in walking and cycling. People have gone back into work and have now seen an increase in travel. Cycling had increased but not as much as it was. People tend to walk to shops now to get out of house.*

#### **Do you believe that residents do not feel as though forms of transport are not sanitary enough to some standard level?**

*Public transport has been hit hard by Covid lockdown and the whole issue of, is it safe to travel by public transport. Companies all upped their cleaning regimes. Using sanitisers especially around touch points, many no longer taking cash. As we move out of Covid and people get vaccinated, will people have the confidence to travel? e.g. City of London. Depends on if businesses decide that people need to go back into the workplace or continue to work from home.*

#### **Do you believe that most residents feel afraid to travel at night?**

*I don't know in terms of statistics, some people are afraid to travel at night. Buses and bus stations have CCTV. Depends on mode of transport, cycling, bus, car.*

#### **Do you agree that this may be due to fears over knife crime and other unsafe situations?**

*Yes, knife crime not ideal, there isn't an association between transport and knife crime. We could make transport safer. All transport has a certain amount of risk. Perception of how safe you are makes a difference when looking at planning.*

#### **Do you know any ways to reduce this stress of the general public?**

*Surveillance, CCTV etc.*

The Chair thanked David and Paul for consulting with the Youth Council.

### **3. Homeschooling updates**

Daniel – getting a whole day off school because we have been having so much screen time.

Lauren – Wellbeing Wednesday – have time to catch up on schoolwork, then have an hour for exercise and an hour for cooking and an hour to do something you enjoy. Also have mini break out rooms so we can catch up with our mates.

Oscar – Davenant Foundation School - Drop down day tomorrow

Aliza – lessons cut down to 50 minutes

Martin – Children’s Mental health week – in the morning something we enjoy, afternoon, Webinar on Zoom - nurture, mind, body, spirit.

Sonny – Epping St. John’s have been through 3 or 4 timetable changes. Made everyone start at same time 3 x 100-minute lessons a day with only short breaks in between. People couldn’t cope so the school now give breaks - 40 mins work, 20 mins break, 40 mins work and so on. There is a loss of learning time per day with the increased break time.

#### **4. Topics for discussion at the next EFYC meeting on 9 February**

##### **4.1 DevelopMe consultation**

The meeting will start earlier at 6pm on 9<sup>th</sup> February. The DevelopMe app is for people looking for work and looking at developing new skills (fore 16+). It will be launched in March and the Youth Council will trial it first to see what they think of it. This is a great opportunity for EFYC.

##### **4.2 Spark 2 Life**

The #consequences roadshow has been made into a virtual roadshow. They will start at 7pm after DevelopMe. Feedback will be helpful before we launch the virtual program in school next term.

**Action:** John’s story has been sent to Youth Councillors in advance to prepare some questions.

##### **4.3 Amnesty International**

Bianca would like **Amnesty International** to talk to the Youth Council about their work.

**Action:** Bianca to contact them

#### **5. Updates from Di and Wendy**

##### **5.1 MiLife C19**

The artwork for MiLife C19 has been received. Di thanked everyone who had responded with their comments on the artwork.

There will also be merchandise including pens and face masks with the logo on.

##### **5.2 ECVYS survey**

Thank you to those who have sent their survey in.

**Action: Everyone needs to complete it and send to Di and Wendy so we can ensure we receive the £200 grant from ECVYS.**

##### **5.3 Census**

**Becky Moreton would like the Youth Councillors quotes for her article about using the census. If you have used the census for your family history, then please send your quote to Di.**

**Action: please send Di a photo of yourself and write a statement on how you found using the census material.**

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **6.1 Monthly meetings.**

Di clarified that the Full Youth Council meeting is the first week of the month, the minutes from the meeting should appear each month on the council system but this is awaiting democratic services to address. Youth Councillors rotate the role of the chair so everyone will have the opportunity to be a chair.

**Action:** Democratic services to confirm dates for Mod.Gov training for staff, to enable them to load the EFYC minutes from March 2020 – the present date.

### **6.2 EFYC Training**

Youth Council Training is arranged for week 3 of the month, week 2 and 4 of the month are assigned for consultations or urgent matters for discussion.

### **6.2 iPad issues**

Oscar and Frank have problems with their iPads. Wendy will try to fix this.

***Action: if any other Youth Councillor has a problem with their iPad, then they must report it to Wendy immediately.***

## **7. Date of Next Full Youth Council Meeting**

Tuesday 2 March 2021

Chair            Riya

Vice Chair    Tomor

***Action: Please email Wendy once you have read and understood the minutes, as well as any actions that need to be completed.***