



**Youth Council Meeting
Tuesday 7th September 2021**

Minutes

Chair: Martin Prinsloo

Vice Chair: Bianca Nedelcu

Apologies: Cameron, Jamie, Sammy, Zaara, Megan, Matthew

Attended: Alec, Aliza, Archie, Bianca, Daniel, Finlay, Frank, Lauren, Martin, Natalie, Oscar, Riya, Simran, Sonny, Sydnae, Tomor

Officers: Wendy Cockbill, Di Gilson-Butler, Isabella Cray, Duncan Haslam, Paul Messenger

1. Registration

2. Introductions and Welcome by Chairman Martin

Martin welcomed Guests, Youth Councillors and officers to the meeting.

Diane explained the housekeeping: all Youth Councillors should arrive 15 minutes early for signing in and getting to the room, the muster point in the event of a fire is on the green at the front of the Civic Offices. Youth Councillors to bring their charged iPads to all meetings.

Diane introduced Isabella Cray from the business support team, Issy will be taking the EFYC minutes.

3. Guest Speaker Paul Messenger – Town Centre Manager EFDC & Duncan Haslam.

The youth councillors were asked for their ideas about how the future of the High Street will look and how can visitors be attracted to the high streets. The Youth Councillors said;

- They preferred the well-known high-street brands, as they lacked trust with smaller businesses on the high-street.
- Shops need to be online too.
- They would like to see more book shops and more shops near or in schools, as lunch time will create more business for the high-street.
- Build health centres and have G.P.'s near highstreets as people who visit are more likely to pop into the shops in the Highstreet.
- Encourage better known branded shops to attract people shopping locally.
- Improve transport to high streets especially at peak times.

They said that they would you like to see;

- Attractions such as pop up shops

- Festivals
- Funfairs
- Fashion shows
- Skate parks
- Promotions
- Create places where young people want to visit with friends.
- Integrate the necessities similar to supermarkets.

4. Epping Forest Youth Conference

Some of the youth councilors who have attended Youth Council Conferences gave feedback about their experience. A discussion took place on whether to limit the number of questions per pupil as this gives more people the opportunity to speak. Youth Conference date is Friday 19th November 2021. The theme will be Climate Change.

The main points discussed were;

- Have good food
- The chairperson to ensure everyone gets an opportunity to speak
- Put pupils at ease but telling them they can ask questions
- A great goody bag, pens, water bottles, T- Shirts

Action: Everyone to watch the 2019 Youth Conference

https://eppingforestdc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/457041

5. Updates from EFYC members including schools and confirmation of school changes if relevant

Braeside school – Simran and Riya have both left therefore there will be no representation until the 2022 election. Simran is now an independent Youth Councillor attending Forest School and Riya has moved to West Hatch High

Chigwell school – Cameron sent apologies. Zarra is now attending Chigwell and will be reporting back with Cameron at the next meeting.

Davenant Foundation school. Archie & Martin, Reported that the One-way system in the corridors is a good thing as stops congestion but the downfall it takes longer to get to lessons. The class and year bubbles have ended.

Debden Park High school, Daniel reported that Matthew has moved to the New City College. Daniel is looking forward to raising his profile in the school.

Epping St. John's school, Sonny reported he has left and will be an independent Youth Councillor. The school are completing a 20 mile walk to promote health and wellbeing raising money for charity.

King Harold Business and Enterprise Academy, Tomor has left and will also be an independent. He starts Harlow College next week. There will be no representation at KHA until the next election.

Roding Valley High school, Frank, Natalie, Bianca and Sydnae reported the Sixth formers have their own building, everything is back to normal. Can only visit certain toilets and long queues for food at breaks.

The Ongar Academy, Finlay reported there is a new headteacher, Mrs Michelle Steadman

West Hatch High school, Aliza & Riya reported there are no longer any restrictions and they have brought in more teachers for the new school year.

With Youth Councillors moving to new schools, there will be no Youth Council representation in 3 of the 9 secondary schools; Braeside, Epping St Johns and King Harold Academy, until the Youth Election in March 2022.

6. Update from officers

6.1 MiLife C19 updates from schools. Epping St Johns, West hatch and Braeside school all onboard. Roding Valley, Debden Park and Davenant will be starting this term. No response from Chigwell, Ongar and King Harold.

Action: All Youth Councillors to sign into the website and complete an activity.

<https://www.rbf.org.uk/milifec19>

6.2 Independent Advisory Group (IAG). The 3 Youth Council representatives on the IAG group will be giving a Youth Council update at the next meeting on Wednesday 13 October.

Action: Archie, Martin & Sonny to attend IAG rehearsal on Monday 11 October @ 18:00 – 19:00

6.3 Happy Fest is being organised by the Epping Playground Association on Sunday 26 September at Lower Swains Playground in Epping. The event will include activities, food stalls and entertainment.

Action: Tomor and Sonny to attend as volunteers.

6.4 We are Safe Film has been delayed as waiting for the police to approve

6.5 Introduction to Sign Language training has been booked for Tuesday 21 September. It will start at the earlier time of 18:30 and finish at 20:30 at the civic offices. Special thanks go to Martin for funding the training with his Jack Petchey grant and Ann Wallbanks for sourcing the trainers.

7. Topics for discussion at the full Youth Council meeting 5 October

- Youth Conference
- Extinction rebellion
- Climate justice

Action: Daniel and Sonny to lead discussion.

8. Any other business

- Finlay was awarded the Jack Petchey award for his outstanding contribution to the youth council.
- Samantha has resigned from the Youth Council due to her new 6th form commitments. Sam has served 3 and half years as a Youth Councillor representing the pupils at Braeside school, she will be joining the 6th form at Davenant Foundation. The Youth Councillors formally thanked Sam for her contribution to the Youth Council and wished her good luck for the future.
- Sonny, Finley, Aliza, Natalie, Sydnae would like to volunteer for future Town Centre projects with Paul and Duncan.

The meeting ended: 20:30

Date of Next Youth Council meeting: Tuesday 5 October 2021 at 19:00 – 20:30

Venue: Civic Offices, Ground Floor