



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

Minutes

Chair: Daniel Turner

Vice Chair: Sonny Bazzoni

Apologies: Cllr. Aniket Patel, Zaara Ahmed, Riya Bhargava, Matthew Carter, Lauren Marks, Sydnae Smith, Simran Tiwana, Aliza Zarras.

Attended: Sonny Bazzoni, Frank Cullis, Alec Ivanov, Cameron Khadem, Sammy Miller, Natalie Moffat, Bianca Nedelcu, Martin Prinsloo, Oscar Prosser, Daniel Turner, Finlay Wall-Banks.

Absent: Archie Flynn, Jamie Schooling

Officers: Wendy Cockbill, Di Gilson-Butler, Isabella Cray.

1. Registration

2. Introductions and Welcome by Chairman Daniel

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

3. Guest Speaker Councilor Aniket Patel

The Chairman had received apologies from Cllr. Aniket Patel.

4. Questions

No Questions for Cllr Patel.

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

Roding Valley – Now must wear masks around school, some teachers want mask in lessons. One-way systems in place. Also, lots of teacher of sick.

Davenant – One-way system being enforced, masks to be worn in communal areas.
Ongar Academy – Not Enforcing masks, year 11s have just finished their mocks. Lots of Covid cases and a lack of teachers, so lots of supply teachers. The bus drivers having

Covid affects transport getting to school. Corridors being cut off to certain year groups to stop mixing.

6. Update from officers Di & Wendy

6.1 Climate Action Youth Conference feedback

67 pupils and 6 teachers attended the conference representing; Davenant Foundation, Debden Park High, Epping St Johns, Roding Valley High, West Hatch High. There were 93 live views on the webcast and 297 archived views, people watching the webcast after the event. There were a further 157 views on Facebook.

The event was deemed a great success as the focus was on Climate Action and young people's engagement to make a difference in local democracy.

The Chairman Councillor Helen Kane and Councillor Aniket Patel, the Community and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder, attended the event and both commended the event as a great success with the focus being on the young people and the environment.

Guest speakers included; Councillor Holly Whitbread, Housing Services Portfolio Holder Councillor Jaymey McIvor, Georgina Blakemore, Chief Executive of Epping Forest District Council, Fran Edmonds, Climate Change Officer EFDC, Nick Hill, Sustainable Travel Officer ECC, Ashleigh Howard, Food & Nutrient, Health & wellbeing officer, Jess Hedges, Countryside Officer, Countrycare, EFDC, Martin Prinsloo & Kemi Odeyemi, Members of the Young Essex Assembly, Seb Maxam & Tom Yiangou, School Challenge ECC

The morning began with an Ice breaker by Lucy Vandermark from the Health and Wellbeing team. It was a fun and welcoming induction for the young people's first Council Chamber experience. The web cast is available

https://eppingforestdc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/613344

Fran Edmonds, Climate Change officer hosted a fun and engaging quiz around saving energy, and environmental issues and lifestyle choices.

The Youth Councillors hosted a youth debate, the topic of the debate was *this house believes the blocking of roads and other disruptions, is the right way to get climate action.*

The debate was Chaired by Youth Councillor Finlay Wallbanks, The Proposition by Youth Councillor Bianca Nedelcu and the Opposition by Youth Councillor Martin Prinsloo. The results of the debate were 60% For 40% Against

Youth Councillors held the #HaveYourSay consultation, high lighting the top ten issues concerning young people in the Epping Forest district.

The top issues were;

59 Young people voted on what issues they would like the Youth Council to address as their 2022 project.

- 32% Sexual Health Education
- 27% Underage Vaping
- 10% Knife crime awareness training
- 8.5% Stop & Search - understanding the law
- 8.5% Learn about budgeting, managing money
- 7% Reduce plastic in everyday life, organise clean up days
- 5% Substance abuse
- 2% Online security
- 0% Bullying awareness in schools
- 0% More things to do for young people – youth groups

57 Young people voted on what changes they can make.

- 23% Plant a tree to protect the planet
- 18% Eat less meat
- 16% Switch off lights at home and in school
- 11% Turn down the heating at home
- 9% Reduce waste
- 7% Walk to school (where possible)
- 7% Shop local to reduce carbon emission
- 3% Be more active
- 3% Fly less reduce your air miles
- 3% Recycle more

Officers fed back how well the Youth Councillors worked as a team. They were very professional and mature, and delivered an outstanding conference.

6.2 Christmas Social

The Christmas get together at top golf has been postponed and for now will be on zoom. Ideas for the zoom social would include, party games on Jackbox, Kahoot and Psych.

Action: Working group Sonny, Sammy, Daniel, Finlay to plan the Christmas social.

6.3 Youth Elections 2022

Youth council elections will be held in March. Everyone to work in their own schools to promote the work of the Youth Council and to encourage pupils to stand in the forthcoming Youth Elections.

Action: All youth councillors will give presentations in their schools.

7. Any other business

Finlay - has been accepted for scout's explorer to go to South Korea 2023.

Di – Still waiting for response from Chief Inspector Ant Allcock about knife crime video.

The meeting ended: 20:30

Date of Next Youth Council meeting on Zoom: Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 19:00 – 20:30