

Chairman's Report 2010: presented by Jake Topp

Firstly, I wish to welcome you all to our AGM and thank you for coming. It's been a busy year to say the least and I believe we have achieved a lot in this time. Our Youth Councillors have been involved in a huge variety of activities all with the aim of representing young people and trying to improve their lives.

One of our key and ongoing projects is the Money Pot scheme. Being able to give young people the opportunity to think up project ideas, apply for money and to implement them is fantastic and there are some groups here who have taken that opportunity. We have given out grants to a huge variety of causes over the last year all of which involve young people and hopefully we'll be hearing from a couple of them later tonight.

We have also been publicising ourselves hugely this year to try and get the message out. We have done a couple of Delta radio interviews which were entertaining to say the least. We have also been utilising our website to the maximum as a new tool of communications by putting press releases up there and holding polls on it. Hopefully, we can use this even more in the future.

Our first campaign for this year has been to introduce proof of age cards for under 16's in East Hampshire so young people are not charged adult fares on the buses. I am pleased to say we have successfully created one and it should be distributed to those who want them, in the summer months. This year has been our first opportunity to directly help young people as last year was mainly spent setting the Youth Council up, publicising it and putting the Money Pot scheme in place. Young people asked for this through Citizenship classes and consultations and we have delivered it for them. This will be the first of many positive actions by this Youth Council, I hope.

Our second campaign has been our Youth Debt project. Our pilot drop in has taken place in the Bordon area, at Mill Chase School where young people can visit trained young money advisors with any questions relating to money. If the pilot is deemed successful, we will roll it out across more schools in the district. As part of this project we've also developed a help section on our EHYC website and an educational DVD featuring interviews with young people aged 11-21 regarding their spending, saving and earning. The idea is that young people will learn from each other which is why we have produced enough copies to ensure that each school and youth centre across the district will have 2-3 each. Part 1 of the DVD will be premiered later tonight.

I can't do this report without mentioning the brilliant Butserfest, the council ran music event for young people. Every year it gets bigger and better, with more people than ever before attending. The Youth Council were involved in selecting bands through the Butserquests and helped on the day to make it run smoothly. A cracking day out and I urge you all to go if you haven't before!

This is my last experience as Chairperson and I just want to say I have enjoyed it immensely. My personal highlight of the year and probably my time on the Youth Council was meeting David Cameron when he visited the area a couple of months back. It's the first time I have seen and met a big political figure and there was some real jealousy at the next Youth Council meeting.

Finally, I just want to thank our Youth Councillors for being on the Youth Council. Without them there isn't a council so thank you for all the evenings and sometimes days you have had to put up with me. I am amazed you're still here to be honest. Anyway, that's enough of me talking so let's move on with the AGM.