



Chairperson's Report

Welcome one and all to the first annual general meeting of East Hampshire Youth Council; it is very good to see so many of you here.

The youth council has been in operation for two years now, but as the first year was centred upon getting the youth council started and making it as effective as possible we have merged the two, making it our "first year".

This first year was a lot about setting up the youth council, as I have already mentioned, and about getting the youth council out into the public domain – as with young people not knowing about us, we sort of become defunct. To get ourselves into the public domain we created many links with other related organisations, such as the British Youth Council, United Kingdom Youth Parliament, Hampshire County Youth Council and Hampshire Youth Clubs & Isle of Wight, to name a few.

Not only did we do this but we also set up our own website, to publicise ourselves and we also ensured that our press releases were printed in local newspapers through-out East Hampshire so that we could help raise the profile of ourselves and also the profile of other young people in East Hampshire.

Along with this we have also recently set up our Money Pot Fund. This is a certain section of our budget – it was £3,000 last year – which goes towards giving small grants (with a cap of £250) to projects which help or involve young people. This was started in January and in three months we managed to give away £3,000 in grants, which I think is quite impressive. We now have £5,000 for the Money Pot this financial year, although judging by the success of last year I'm not sure how long it will last!

Along with these we have also attended many events and made many presentations to people. We have been part of the EHDC Performance Board, helped put together the local youth magazine "Screaming Out Loud" as well as attending meetings on ID Cards and Youth Centres, amongst many other things which I don't have time to mention!

So, what have I gained from being a member of the youth council? The youth council has helped me to become more involved in my local community. It has allowed me to see things that young people do which I wouldn't usually see and to interact with people I wouldn't usually do. This is shown with my, and many other member of the youth council's involvement with CAT Mark. Cat Mark stands for Care Action Team and it is a scheme by which young people inspect places and organisations which are connected and run for young people. This really does open up your eyes to how much good work people do be they young people or adults helping young people. The training CAT Mark provides is also invaluable, it challenges and changes attitudes towards for example disability.

The youth council has also allowed me to see how the council works, this is the same for many others on the youth council, especially those that took part in Take Over Day on the 7th November last year, in which young people take over posts held by adults and do them for the day, it is an eye-opening experience for both the young person and the adult as I'm sure Cllr Ferris Cowper will tell you!

Most importantly as well, the youth council has introduced me to some great people.

To conclude I think most of us here are pleased with the youth council and what we have achieved and learnt. And so without further a do let us continue with our first AGM! ☺