

**East Hampshire Youth Council**  
**6.30-8.45pm, 17<sup>th</sup> December '09, EHDC**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Lara, Damian Hinds (Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for East Hampshire), Jake, Becca, Dani, Matt, Sarah, Harriet, Hannah H, Elin, Lisa, Hannah, Heidi, Joanna and Harry

Items	Action
<b>Icebreaker – Ultimate Chocolate Thief</b>	
<b>1. Welcome, Introductions and aims of the meeting</b> – Jake welcomed everyone and introduced Damian to the group.	
<b>2. Apologies</b> – Jake read apologies from: Ellie, Charleigh, Tilly and Kirstie	
<b>3. Agree minutes of last meeting</b> – A few mistakes were noticed. Sarah said that she noticed the comment made to Councillors at the cabinet presentation, and said that the YP should be careful about their 'comebacks' as there are Youth facilities in Liss.	November minutes to be amended and resent
<b>4. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting</b> – The consultation for the Petersfield Youth Centre will be sometime in the New Year. Kev, who will be helping the YC with their banner project, will hopefully be attending the next meeting Lara is hoping to organise some CAT mark trainings for next March The budget and project update will be done in the New Year	
<b>5. Events/meetings attended since last EHYC –</b>  <b>CAT Mark Meeting</b> – postponed <b>YAF</b> – Joanna gave a background of the project. At the moment they are looking at getting free internet, a youth drop in centre, better transport and a cinema club in Bordon. However, they have come across many barriers, in particular legal issues and ways to raise money. There is a big problem with how to ban illegal websites over the Wi-Fi as this is the council's responsibility. Overall, it was a really productive meeting and the next meeting will be in January. <b>BYC Reception</b> – Jake, Harriet, Ellie, and Elin went to the BYC reception at the Houses of Parliament. It was a small group of about 30 people, mostly BYC members (past and present). It was hosted by one of the honorary presidents and MP for North Manchester, Nigel Evans, who spent over half an hour talking to the YP and seemed really interested in the YC. David Aaronovitch from the Times Newspaper also gave a speech about YP in today's society. It was a really fun and interesting evening. Photographs and a summary of the speeches can	

<p>be found at <a href="http://www.byc.org.uk">www.byc.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>Youth Debt DVD viewing</b> – it was a bit repetitive as everyone talked about food. Chris wanted to put some more interesting clips in between the interviews to break them up a bit.</p> <p><b>Youth Quiz</b> – it was fun. Jake explained the event to Damian. Mill Chase won and is very proud. It was brought up that the hosts, both this year and last, were from the winning school! Also, the YP said that the questions were worded badly and most of them weren't targeted at young people, as the quiz was meant to be. Heidi suggested that we had a young person round, possibly written by the YC, although this would mean that the YP would have to be disqualified from the event. Harriet picked up on the music not being loud enough in the spot rounds, and that the music in the music round was too old. Hannah said that there wasn't enough vegetarian food and this led onto a discussion about what food there should be – a buffet, nicer pizzas or salad? Lara decided that this should be discussed further nearer the time or next year's event.</p>	
<p><b>6. CAT mark for EHDC and EHYC</b> – Hannah explained the detail to Damian and all the YP who didn't know what it was. Matt asked about a Mock assessment and Lara said that we would be doing that now. Dani mentioned that YOF are starting to look at CAT marks to help with their bids, so if we were deferred it might make it difficult for us to get money. Someone questioned EHDC being assessed – is it really somewhere YP go? Is it relevant? Damian suggested that the council could be assessed as a whole, rather than just the building.</p> <p>The group split into 4 groups to assess different areas of the CAT mark.</p> <p><b>Feedback: <u>Involvement of Young People</u></b> – (EHDC) + citizenship lessons – lack of literature and a lack of obvious displays; nothing to show that YP are involved in East Hampshire (there is a hazy link between EHDC and EHYC. (EHYC) + YPs opinions are heard; meetings are run by YP; YP hold roles of chairman etc.; Events are predominantly run by YP in EHYC, which involve and engage YP; YP vote democratically; EHYC involves non-members as often as possible; YP in district elect the members. – The agenda could be written by YP; there could be greater participation of YP in voting; more publicity; the system to give feedback and make complaints could be more accessible; a suggestion box at every meeting.</p> <p>Should Jakes picture have a plaque to say who he is, and there are leaflets but they aren't well displayed</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Diversity</u></b> – (EHDC) + pictures of ethnic minorities; 'culture all'; screaming out loud on display; no ages; price ranges; large print versions; access to help for deaf people; helps everyone no matter what their situation is. – need more diversity on show; no material in other languages or brail; more posters with diverse social, economic, religious and race backgrounds. (EHYC) + code of conduct on agenda; good access; YC offers transport and travel money; YC accepts everyone; YC tries to represent all YP in our policy's; YC offers vegetarian options and accepts all medical conditions and minorities; YC involves councillors in meetings. – More posters in a box for visitors;</p>	

<p>Screaming Out loud should be offered in brail and different languages and the pictures could be put on the internet; YC could do an equality training day to help them to be more aware and inclusive; YC could have a shorter code of conduct or a slogan; the YC could put more outside schools to include those who are home schooled; more could happen in private schools; the Equal Ops policy should be on show at every event and meeting.</p> <p>Lara added that the YC should research the social-economic background of East Hampshire. Hannah said that the DC/YC shouldn't add more pictures of different races as it may seem forced and false. Lara questioned whether we should offer brail etc. on the agenda so that it can be accessed if necessary, rather than wasting things that we don't need.</p> <p><u>Links to other services – (EHDC)</u> most of this was actually environment and resources. + But there are lots of leaflets; dates on board of other meetings. – there could be more posters and leaflets for YP services. (EHYC) + Website; posters; youth councillors promote other services; YC takes part in various other groups and events; the youth debt DVD – promotes different services such as CAB; Butserfest includes other services, such as St John Ambulance; the Youth Quiz involves lots of groups, such as the young offenders, and ADYC. –YC could promote more services, such as connexions; leaflets should be available at all events and meetings, where possible, even if it is just a handful.</p> <p>The YC should do more promotion through the website</p> <p><u>Environment and resources – (EHDC)</u> + welcoming atmosphere; good decorations; it's bright; there's lots of information, leaflets and seating; the TV screen gives information that can be quite interesting; it is very open. - A computer for YP would be useful; it is a bit bland; it is often very quiet; the guys on the desk aren't very helpful; there could be a YP meetings board or the YC meetings could be added to the list of meetings; there could be more things on the TV about YP and the YC e.g. EHYC in action. (EHYC) + engaging, fun and accepting atmosphere; YP are easy to talk to and knowledgeable; meetings are productive. – Meeting places: can we make good progress here?</p>	
<p><b>7. Break</b></p>	
<p><b>8. BYC Manifesto</b> – Damian talked about the BYC manifesto and wanted to know the YC's views.</p> <p>1. Votes at 16 – Hannah liked the idea of votes at 16, apart from now that school leaving age has risen. Elin explained that YP did not necessarily have to stay in education, as long as they were doing something where they were learning, such as an apprenticeship. Hannah also argued that votes at 16 were irrelevant as most 16 year olds don't want to vote and wouldn't take it seriously. But Becca said that since you can make important decisions at 16, such as getting married, you should be allowed to vote. Heidi backed up Hannah's point of votes at 16 being irrelevant, whilst Matt said that it should be allowed as many YP would take it seriously and want to vote, so should be</p>	

<p>allowed to. Damian talked about votes at 16 and asked why YP, currently over the voting age, didn't vote – What are MP's doing wrong? Harriet said that she thought YP would get more respect if they were allowed to vote, and they might be listened to more, but she didn't know much about politics and thought this might be an issue for most YP as they wouldn't know who to vote for. Jo said that there should be more lessons on Politics in schools, as not all schools offered politics. Lara told Damian that citizenship lessons didn't go into enough detail and that teachers would probably be very biased. Becca suggested that 1 MP from each party could visit each school in their area to do a panel debate, so that YP could be heard, and would be more interested, without being biased. They could also find out more about each party's ideas this way. The YC had many arguments on whether 16 and 17 year olds would be interested in the vote, and would take it serious. Lisa said that she thought that more YP would find politics interesting if they were allowed to vote at a younger age, whereas 18 is too late to engage YP.</p> <p>2. A National Youth Transport Card that Gives a Third of Public Transport (under 25s) – Matt said that he found it surprising that this was so high up, as there were more important things. Damian clarified that this was just for under 25s – the wording he had was different to that on the agenda. Harriet thought this is good as it saves money for YP. Elin told Damian that the YC was already working towards a bus card for YP in East Hampshire so it was very important but perhaps not as important as others as it was already being dealt with in East Hampshire.</p> <p>3. An Equal National Minimum Wage – Harriet liked this, as did Lisa, although she added that it should include gender.</p> <p>4. End Child Poverty by 2020 – Harriet thought the deadline was good as it made the target seem more sensible than just ending child poverty.</p> <p>5. Invest in Youth Mental Health Services – Lisa said that she thought there were more important issues than this for YP, such as university fees. However, Becca argued that it was quite important as did Dani.</p> <p>Damian commended the YC and said that the YP should continue to try and fight off obstacles like the Wi-Fi website ban in Bordon etc. He also said that he would love to come back, especially if he was elected in the general election.</p>	
<p><b>9. Dates for your Diaries and volunteers</b> – group referred to list and confirmed</p>	<p>Lara to send reminders</p>
<p><b>10. AOB (schools, youth forums and councils)</b> – Youth consultation at Petersfield Christmas Festival – discussed earlier in the meeting</p>	
<p><b>11. Next meeting – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 6.30-8.45pm</b></p>	<p>Lara to send reminder</p>