

SOUTH HOLLAND YOUTH COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting held on 21st July 2008

Present: Peter Darley; Richard Skells; Jason Howling; Rebecca Candy; Hannah Pearce; Chris Santry; Rebecca Harriss; David Tulley; Stella Morgan, EBP; Alex English; Georgia Gilbert; Victoria Wade, LCC; John Potter, consultant; Steve Jackson, Spalding Energy; Graham Scorthorne, SHDC

1. Welcome and Introductions

Oliver reminded all that he was piloting the webcasting equipment at the meeting. Chris opened the meeting and no new youth council members needed introducing. Victoria Wade from Lincolnshire County Council, present to discuss accessibility and transport, and Stella Morgan from EBP introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for the last meeting were received from Stella Morgan.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

All had received minutes of the meeting on the 16th June 2008

4. Matters Arising

a) British Youth Council

The BYC provides resources for all youth councils in the UK. The cost of annual membership is £50 and John said membership would be very worthwhile as the BYC provides support, information and access to resources. John also mentioned that for trans-national projects the funding is acquired through the British Council. There were no objections to becoming a member and John said he would look into it.

b) Leader+ Update

Leader+ invited SHYC representatives to a forum to gather people's perceptions of the organisation. Chris attended saying that representatives from most local secondary schools were also present. The general opinion of those present at the forum meeting was that they had made a start but there was still a long way to go with regards to agriculture and horticulture. Many were worried about the future of *4Seasons* and other projects such as *Growing the Future*.

c) RAZ Transport Forum – 17th September

SHYC representatives were invited to the Transport Forum following comments made at a previous meeting. Shell, an organisation for people who want to progress in careers will be present as well as Terri Marshall from the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership. Victoria mentioned that the main concerns for young people were accessing and leaving vocational subjects and transport out of school hours. Chris and Jason will attend but Richard was unsure. Victoria Wade was present to listen to SHYC's concerns about transport so the YC had the following, unscheduled discussion.

Transport

Vicky asked how people accessed information for transport and other schools. David said connexions, colleges and sixth forms came to his school. Oliver had problems finding transport to Peterborough Community College saying the application process

didn't work for him and he will have to subsidise himself to get there. It was mentioned that EMA often covers transport costs for people who struggle to afford it. Vicky mentioned an activity based pilot project "Go For It" so that people at a disadvantage receive £25 for activities. Few YC members had heard of this and John expressed a concern about people who don't have computers as it was advertised online. He says a strategy is needed whereby people are told.

It was mentioned that if a late 505 bus left from Spalding between 10.30 and 11 it would be used. Graham said OAPs have benefits for travel and children have none and it was discovered that all SHYC members depended on parents to get to meetings as bus times were unsuitable. John said that at his old school the buses took circle, not spoke, routes so that people were dropped almost immediately home. This took more time but children were safer. There was also a concern that young people in education over 16 were paying for a school bus when there is a reasonable service bus using the same route. Therefore, to attend after school activities people are paying twice because they have to use the service bus to get home.

Chris suggested that private bus contractors should have better communication with each other, schools and pupils especially with the advances in instant communication in today's society. An LED screen at the bus stop was suggested so users could see if the bus was running on time or had been cancelled for any reason. Vicky mentioned that there had been some opposition to such screens in Long Sutton because it looked too modern and it was vandalised. Oliver said he has arrived at the bus stop to find the bus has left early, so they should wait until the time they are meant to leave. Richard mentioned that when he changed his school bus company the bus didn't keep to the times so he was frequently late for school.

With regards to anti-social behaviour on buses it was noted that CCTV has had a great impact and has reduced incidents. This could potentially make later buses more possible. Vicky asked how we would like a later bus to be advertised. Becky said that whenever she's used the internet the times aren't always accurate. Stella suggested using the local papers and Hannah suggested that if there was a demand for the service word would spread quickly anyway.

Vicky gave out questionnaires asking for young people's opinions of accessibility in Lincolnshire.

5. Correspondence

- - 6a. DSA Test Centre Update - As a result of Chris and Becky attending a discussion about the closure of the Spalding Driving Test Centre and forwarding a convincing argument to keep it open John Hayes invited them to the House of Commons to present their case. Oliver (on Chris' behalf), Becky and Graham then travelled to London to find that the meeting had been cancelled. Graham said that Craig Jackson, John Hayes' PA, had been in regular contact with him prior to the meeting and said that John Hayes would call the members who attended to apologise in person but none have been received as of yet. The test centre has now closed and the youth council was unable to express their opinion before it did.

6. Subgroup Updates

Communication Portfolio – The meeting was on the 7th July. Full details are in the Communication portfolio minutes which have been sent to council members.

- With regards to radio training by Tulip Radio, Jason said he would like to do it. Chris suggested that the topic to be discussed is given out before the show so that the presenters can give the opinions of SHYC having consulted them prior to the broadcast. This was agreed by all and Oliver mentioned that Tulip are very keen to get involved so will give the council a time slot suitable for our audience.

- Chris expressed a concern about the point made about collective responsibility, saying that he agrees that it provides a safety net if everyone's opinions are culminated, however, it is time consuming to collect such information, especially as we only meet once a month. He mentioned that for the DSA meeting they had 48 hours notice so couldn't consult the council. Graham said that as long as he knows in instances such as that it was OK. Graham also said that we have to do our best to keep each other informed and we have Graham and John as a backup if contact can't be made with other members.

It was agreed that the council must remain democratic, subgroups should be given parameters and that there should also be a standing group containing at least one adult to make decisions on behalf of the council when there isn't time to collect everyone's opinions. It is important that SHYC overcomes some of the inertia of democracy by definition so that decisions can be made efficiently.

- Social Event Portfolio

The meeting was held on the 10th July. The event will be held on Thursday 16th October from 5pm to 7.30pm. SHYC members should be at the South Holland Centre by 4.30. Full details are in the minutes of the subcommittee meeting which were distributed by David. The guest list is now 88 after Graham suggested we invite the 33 senior officers and members of SHDC.

7) Roles and Responsibilities of Officers and Council Members

8) Holbeach Town Plan

Rescheduled for next meeting.

9. AOB

- John reminded the council that Leader+ funding ceases in December, saying that there was an opportunity arising to pursue further funds at the LAG meeting that week. He said that there are three areas worth exploring: Youth exchanges, Youth initiatives and Youth Democracy with the third being the strongest point to use in applying for funds. It was unanimously agreed that SHYC wished John to approach the LAG to pursue money for the project.
- £305 has been kindly donated by the George Farmer Technology College, raised at their celebration for the *Growing the Future* project, for the Youth Garden.
- Stephen asked us to consider slots available for tours of the power station which he would send to Chris via email.