



Meeting 12th February 2018, 6 – 7 pm

Day Centre, Dowding House, Commercial Way, Paddock Wood

Attendees

Emily Mackie (Chair)

Elizabeth Thomas (minutes)

Eileen Wilson

Alice Boyle

Derek Boyle

Caitlin Marks

Sarah Woodcock

Louise Bale

In attendance:

Josh Boyle

YC 1 Apologies received from Carol Williams

YC 2 Minutes of last meeting & matters arising:

EM summed up the achievements of Youth Council to date including the creation of a logo and detailed comments to the Community Centre project.

EM expressed the concern that it was difficult to complete larger projects when the group was small – need to increase Youth Council membership.

EM stated that KCYC are working on mental health & wellbeing in young people. It was suggested that Youth Council could make a leaflet to inform young people how to seek help from mental health services, providing contact details and information about local services. This could be posted on PWTC website.

YC3 Councillor Sarah Hamilton, Kent County Councillor & Chair of KCC Youth Panel attended to discuss concerns the young people had with public transport and to advise the Youth Council about changes to the buses, to reinstate some services such as the 6 between Paddock Wood and Maidstone.

Issues raised by Youth Council included:

- Long waiting times for buses/long intervals between services causing stress if buses are missed
- Overcrowding on buses
- Two thirds of Mascalls pupils (around 1,000 young people) come from outside Paddock Wood travelling in by car or public transport
- Under 16 travel pass operates between specific hours, which makes it impossible to take part in after school activities unless additional fare is paid. It cannot be used in the evenings or at weekends, despite being more expensive each year.
- Price of the 16+ travel card – it is more expensive & increases every year. JB outlined changes and asked why an Oyster system or free travel card cannot be provided as in London. SH was asked to rethink the process
- Could there be cameras on buses?
- There is no integration between rains & buses & little communication between service providers

Councillor Hamilton was asked to consider these issues and agreed to feedback to Youth Council.

YC 4 Sarah Woodcock asked that the Community Centre project become a standing agenda item

YC 5 AOB: Eileen will undertake some training with the group at the next meeting.

There will be a town litter pick on 29th April 2018.

Next meeting: 12th March, 2018, 6 pm, Day Centre, Commercial Road