

Minutes of Paddock Wood Youth Council Meeting

8th February 2016, 6 – 7pm

Present

Carol Williams (PWTC)
Derek Boyle (PWTC)
Helen Fenner
Sarah Stanley (PCSO)
Katharine Ridger (Brownies and Rainbows)
Joshua Boyle (Army Cadets)
Alice Boyle (Guides)
Megan Woodgate (Guides)
Amy Fenner (Scouts)
Alicia Thompsett (Pathfinders, St Andrew's)
Anastasia Osbeck (St. Andrews)
Peter Hamilton (New Gen, St Andrew's)
Henry Atkins (Explorers and Paddock Wood Athletics Club)

Apologies

Mollie Dew (Pathfinders, St Andrew's)
Nicki Folland-Smith (Mascalls & Street Cruiser)

YC1 Welcome and introductions

Carol gave an introduction to the upcoming changes that will affect the town and the youth living here. Attendees introduced themselves and gave brief information about the group they were representing.

YC2 Role of the youth council

An introduction to the role of youth councils was provided, asking the group to outline any personal experience of school councils. In summary, the council plans to look at issues that are important to children and young people that feed into the town council work.

The young people were asked to take issues discussed back to their organisations and share information from the youth council meetings. In future meetings the members of the youth council can bring forward issues and ideas from discussions within their groups.

YC3 & 4 Role of the neighbourhood plan

Carol and Derek briefly outlined the neighbourhood planning process, providing examples of issues that we would ask the Youth council to discuss, such as personal safety, transport and other facilities important to young people growing up in Paddock Wood. The following points were raised and discussed by the group:

- If we have lots of new houses then we will have lots of changes in the town.
- One impact will be that there will likely to be a new primary school in the town.
- The Neighbourhood Plan will influence how the town will be developed, as it must be considered by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council.
- Buses – frequency of running to other local villages and the big towns
- Safety- road and passageways
- Demand for Youth groups will grow and more facilities will be needed.
- Outdoor areas for army cadets, scouts, guides and other youth groups –grass and hard standing, are required
- Capacity of youth organisations –where will volunteers come from?
- The young people would like more information about the range of activities offered in Paddock Wood. Discussions included a Youth page on the Town Council website with youth group profiles outlining the types of activities undertaken, town notice boards displaying all the available groups and new notice boards outside of the schools. Information could also be displayed in school reception areas.
- Can we have more public toilets in parks? The issue of anti-social behaviour related to public toilets was discussed
- Encourage the responsible use of open spaces
- Open events for youth groups to see if people like them, taster events and Inter organisation events held each year. Build upon the Play Paddock Wood annual events, showcase and volunteering opportunities
- “Top 3 things that we do in our organisation” as a way of advertising what each organisation does
- Evening youth café – 6pm to 8pm or extend to 10pm at weekends
- Book club at the library? Extended open hours with a focus to encourage evening usage
- Time map of all of the activities in the town
- Quiz nights for children – fund raiser
- Volunteering opportunities across the town for young people
- Outdoor café near war memorial with improved lighting
- Play areas in the town for older children
- Use of the land behind Tesco?
- Take reps round Foal Hurst Wood to look around and think about how it can be utilized
- Putlands pond – how can it be used?
- Other organisations using the athletics track?
- Making everyone aware of each other’s facilities
- Ask Putlands about other groups – e.g. young people’s gym sessions
- Contact Mark Airey for paddockwoodian

YC 5 Dates of future meetings

It was agreed that Monday is the best day for future meetings, which will be held between 6pm to 7pm on the 2nd Monday of the month:

- 14th March
- 11th April
- 9th May
- 13th June

Suggestions for activities at future meetings will be to:

- invite members from the Kent Youth Council to talk about their work
- Invite Chair of Community Centre Committee & Neighbourhood Planning Committee

Members can contact Derek and Carol via the town council office on the number and email at the top of the minutes.

Other clubs to make contact with:

- Gym club meets at east Peckham
- Trampoline club
- Dance groups
- Football clubs

Additional Information:

There are **three key Neighbourhood Planning dates** coming up. These are open to all members of the public, including young people:

Visioning Event, Thursday 17th March, 7.30 to 9.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood Places can be booked through paddockwoodtc@btinternet.com

Two-day Design Forum, 27th & 28th April from 10am to late on 27th and all day on 28th with a final public meeting at 7.30pm. Anyone can attend during these days for as long as they can spare. Please tell your parents/friends about these events.