



BRIEFING NOTE TO SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE – 5 SEPTEMBER 2013 YOUTH COUNCIL

The purpose of this Briefing Note is to update the Scrutiny and Overview Committee on the Youth Council's progress to-date and to seek comments and/or recommendations for any further work that might benefit the Youth Council and young people living in South Cambridgeshire.

- The Park Life event was hugely successful and the Youth Council was very pleased with the organisation of the entertainment area, especially since this year the entertainment area was organised quite differently. In previous years the village colleges' Arts Development Managers have organised a range of activities including costume and puppet making and story-telling so the Youth Council felt a little apprehensive about how well the entertainment area would be received this year. yCllr Louis Pascuzzi led a small group of yCllrs who worked tirelessly to make sure that the day was well organised and fun for everybody that attended. Nine locally based groups and solo artists played live music to enthusiastic audiences throughout the day, and although two of the groups largely consisted of adult musicians, the Youth Council was very pleased that by far the biggest majority of musicians were young people living across the District. yCllrs Louis Pascuzzi, Dale Hargrove, Gemma Steele and Charlotte Lomas along with some of their friends, attended all day to help promote the Youth Council, make sure the bands and musicians were organised and the equipment put up and taken down as appropriate. At the Youth Council's meeting on 17th August it was agreed that if Park Life continues as an event for the District Council, then the Youth Council would like to continue to organise the entertainment area to build on the success of this year.
- Also at the entertainment area, ycllrs carried out the '10 sofas, 10 minutes' conversations as previously reported. Thirty eight young people were interviewed by yCllrs and asked the following questions: "Tell us what sort of community you'd like to be part of?"; "Tell us how you think this could happen?"; "and how do you think you could help?". A detailed break-down of the responses is being drafted but generally young people would like to be more involved in the things that happen in their villages and towns, helping to organise events and have a say in the kinds of events that are happening. Safety and anti-social behaviour is also high on their lists of concerns and wanting to work with their local communities to keep places safe and free from violence – this information will be fed into the Children and Young People's Strategy that is currently being prepared by Mike Hill, Director of Environmental Health at SCDC as well as presented to the next Cambridge Conversation event in February 2014.
- YCllrs Louis Pascuzzi, Dale Hargrove, Callum Hatch and Bella Forster-Lewis attended the Summer Business Forum and at Elms BMW in Cambourne where they chatted to businesses about employment opportunities for young people and asked what skills employers look for. Some interesting feedback received by yCllrs from

employers was that some of the biggest gaps in existing companies is the lack of ability in existing employees relating to IT, the web, social media and how quickly these change and advance – this is definitely a gap employers look for young people to bridge. They also had the chance to talk to the speakers from BskyB, BT, the Chamber of Commerce, BMW and also the founder of the Big Issue, John Bird. The Youth Council have been invited to speak further about young people in the work place and skills and employment opportunities at the next Business Forum in the Autumn (date to be confirmed.)

- As previously reported, work on next year's election has now begun and nomination slips are available in the current edition of the South Cambs Magazine; information will also be available on the Youth Council Facebook page and through secondary schools throughout the District. Just to reiterate: if more than 20 young people volunteer then there will need to be an election so the current Youth Councillors are preparing lots of promotional literature to help raise the profile even more.
- The Report on the schools survey is currently being drafted so the time table has slipped slightly to present this to Scrutiny and Swavesey Village College.
- yCllrs Dale Hargrove (Northstowe) and Callum Hatch (Planning and Housing) attended the Council for two weeks' work experience during July. Both yCllrs worked in their respective specialist areas (eg, Dale = Northstowe Team, Callum = Housing) and very much appreciated the insight it gave them into the work and responsibilities of the Council. It's helped their roles as yCllrs become clearer and the Youth Council is currently working with the lead officer to see how practicable it would be for all yCllrs to have some work experience in their specialist area.
- At its meeting in August, the Youth Council also discussed progress of the Youth Council to-date and how best to take it forward next year. It was agreed that while there have been great successes this year (especially being its first year), similarly a strong focus for the rest of this year and next year is to raise the profile of the Youth Council with young people as well as to work more closely with Council Portfolio Holders.

**Tracy Mann
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August 2013**