



Youth Forum

Minutes of a meeting of the Youth Forum held at on Wednesday 10 May 2023 at 4.30 pm.

1. **Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies**

Present: Jamie Wells (WNC), Aimee Luck (WNC), Sadie (Public Health) Poppy (Delapre Abbey), Morcea Walker, Haroon (NSB), Tracy (NSG), Lola (NSG), Kyla (NIA), Skye (NA), Bella (GA), Dan (WPS)

Apologies: Cllr Baker, Henry (CS), Hannah (KC), Michaella (WPS), Kayla (WPS), Lissy (NA), Kamron (BC), Cllr Smith

Young people requested Aimee to chair this meeting as a guide. Young people to take over next meeting.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Recap of minutes and actions; reminders included-

- To send over numbers to be added to the WhatsApp group

3. **Public Health Strategy input**

Sadie presented slides to the group explaining the local plan; to be shared with minutes

Public Health are consulting on the Local Plan which guides the future development of the town. It is important to capture young people's views as this plan will be in place from 2026 – 2040 and will impact their lives.

The slides give an overview of what a Local Plan is and the steps to creating it.

The forum were then asked to consider;

1. What is important for you on the following themes? (*Housing and community; landscape and design; employment and education; transport; housing design; pollution*)
2. How can we make sure the plan has a healthy impact on these areas?
3. Is there anything else that you would want to tell us about how these themes affect you?

Young people discussed, and summary of views captured from forum members below:

- Transport is an issue for schools; buses being late or not arriving, it's too expensive for a lot of people.

- Housing design: a lot of new housing areas are ugly and poorly designed/built.
- Pollution; towns like Northampton have more and more cars on the road contributing to pollution
- Parks; gang culture is taking over public green spaces and a lot of young people don't feel safe. Parks and play areas also need to be cleaner; vapes, balloons, and glass are a constant problem.
- Community spaces; There isn't much in the area and most people feel they need to travel out to town. This is either because there isn't anything available or it hasn't been promoted well enough. We need more activities like bowling, ice skating and other activities/things to do. There are enough open spaces.
- Employment; young people mainly get jobs through their family. It's hard to go out alone as a young person and find work.
- Walking or cycling; people don't feel safe because of the gangs. There aren't many safe routes or enough places to store your bike safely.
- Food; too many fast food options and not enough healthy ones. More fast food stores popping up near schools is unacceptable. People should be given better options.

4. **Delapre Consultation**

Poppy-Showed a prestation slide via Teams

Heritage consultancy works are currently working with Delpare Abbey to change the 19th central stable. Delapre Abbey is over 900 years old and was originally a nunnery, but is now a heritage sight and hosts a range of events and activities.

The project is called "stable future" and aims to create a vibrant cultural experience that has a positive wellbeing impact on the area, contributing to the wider regeneration of the town.

The young people were asked a series of questions and key points from the discussion are captured below:

What does wellbeing mean to you?

- Upholding peoples mental and physical health.
- Personal wellbeing and community wellbeing, for example, personal wellbeing is happiness and a good state of mind, whereas community wellbeing could be harmony between groups, everyone feeling connected; plus having a strong culture in areas is key; like music and food

What effects wellbeing"?

- Having a place where you feel welcomed
- Nature
- Having things in the area to look forward to.

- Northampton can feel like a negative place with lack of things happening. The group also acknowledges communication may be the barrier to this
- Social media fixates on negative press and bad incidents are shared and stand out more than positive messages which can give a bad impression.

What would help bring young people to heritage sights?

- Events relating to the royal family, especially with the coronation.
- Supporting biodiversity; something to make the place look more attractive linking to nature.
- Events linked to popular tv shows such as 'Bridgerton' and 'Queen Charlotte' – this was a very popular idea amongst the group.
- Fashion events, going through local historic fashion.
- Opportunities for small community and family events such as birthday parties.

Final comments from heritage consultancy

We are in the phase of design and are looking for a youth panel to help feedback and provide thoughts on the design. If anyone is interested, please speak to Aimee/Jamie who will pass on details.

Aimee to connect interesting members to Poppy about joining the panel.

5. **Project Work - Identified priority 1**

Moved to next meeting due agenda running behind

6. **Youth Action Plan**

Forum members agreed to continue to be part of; Heritage Tours, Youth Summit, UK Parliament week and Holocaust Memorial Day.

Aimee to circulate updated Action Plan.

7. **Any Other Business**

Nothing further to share

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

~~31st May — Activity and Problem solving Day at Mereway Fire Station.~~

UPDATE: *Unfortunately, this has been **cancelled** due to low number of forum members confirmed to attend. Appreciate this is exam season for most young people in the group.*

Action: All to advise if Wednesday 14 June, 4.30pm is a good date to reschedule or prefer to skip a month and return for July, after exams.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

Chair: _____Aimee Luck_____

Date: _____10.5.2023_____

West Northants Youth Council
Memorandum of Understanding

Scope: This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is between West Northamptonshire Council, Northampton Secondary Schools or local youth organisations, Parents and the Young People representing the Youth Council.

It is understood that the Youth Council will be elected, by their School or Youth Organisation. The MoU sets out responsibilities, frequency of meetings, support and management arrangements and principles, and purposes of the agreement for the Youth Council.

Principles and Purposes: The MoU has the key principle of creating an understandable and clear agreement on operational arrangements for the Youth Forum. The MoU will establish an open communication channel between young people, the Council, other statutory organisations and community and voluntary organisations, representing and supporting young people.

The purposes of the Youth Council:

1. Ensure that all young people in Northampton have a voice
2. Young people are not just representing themselves but providing a voice for young people's thoughts on issues locally
3. To engage young people (aged 13-19 yrs) in a consultative process that empowers them to share their views, interests and needs with each other so that their collective voice will inform Service Providers, and contribute to the decision making process in relation to service planning and the deployment of identified resources
4. Ensure political leaders and officers engage proactively with young people via consultation and engagement
5. To promote equality for young people
6. To stimulate and improve communication between WNC, young people and other organisations in the West Northants
7. To act on issues that are, important to young people accessing our services and in the local community
8. To feed back information from meetings and projects to their school and peers, and promote public youth council events

Frequency of meetings

Youth Council meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise stated, from 4.30pm to 6.30pm. Meetings will take place face to face at the Guildhall with an option to join virtually. Where meetings take place in holidays a full day meeting/activity will be arranged between 10am and 3pm.

Opportunities to participate in other activities/meetings may arise and will be communicated to the members by email.

There is an expectation that members attend as many meetings as possible and send apologies if unable to attend. If two consecutive meetings are missed, a valid reason will be requested.

Staff Support

This involves ensuring the youth forum is influential within the Council and that their voices are heard and acted upon. An officer from West Northamptonshire Council will be present at each meeting. They will help co-ordinate, guide and support the young group by giving them confidence to make positive contribution to the meetings.

It is the role of the staff to promote the forum across West Northants, while acting as an advocate for the forum and establishing links with other youth and community programmes. All officers will have DBS clearance.

Chair and other Responsibilities

The aim is for the group to be run by the youth members with staff present for support. The members will take on responsibilities such as chairing the meeting and taking notes. These roles will rotate each meeting.

Areas of work:

The Youth Council will develop a 12 month rolling action plan, focusing on issues that matter most to young people. These issues will be collated through a number of channels including surveys.

Refreshments

Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be provided at each meeting. There will be an expectation for youth council members to bring lunch with them, or money to purchase lunch where appropriate. However, if there is a difficulty with these, please get in touch with us to discuss alternative arrangements. No refreshments can be provided for virtual meetings.

Travel

There will be an expectation that youth council members arrange suitable travel arrangements to and from face to face meetings and forum led events. However, if there is a difficulty in arranging travel to and from meetings, please get in touch with us to discuss alternative arrangements.

Review: This document will be reviewed annually, along with the action plan.

This is a copy for you to keep.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact Aimee Luck (Community Safety and Engagement Project Officer) on 07557496415 or email aimee.luck@westnorthants.gov.uk