

TITLE: LETCHWORTH YOUTH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To brief the Committee on the progress of the Letchworth Youth Council and how the grant funding provided by the Committee is being spent.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In order to ensure that the Youth Council is developed with full supports of other agencies, the Community Development Officer set up a multi agency partnership and held a number of meetings leading up to the establishment of the Youth Council.

The Partnership includes NHDC, Heritage Foundation, Letchworth Garden City Council, Herts Integrated Youth Support Services, Herts Police, North Herts Homes and the Extended School Coordinators.

A questionnaire survey at Highfield, Fearnhill and St Christopher Schools was carried out. 97 young people returned completed questionnaires and expressed an interest to play a part on the Youth Council.

A meeting was held on 11th March 2008 at NHDC inviting all those young people who expressed an interest via the survey, as well as representatives from other local youth based agencies.

From the young people attending, a formal Youth Council Steering Committee was created. They also devised an action plan which included visiting different sites and venues in the town from where they may be able to base the Council and run their activities.

The Heritage Foundation provided a free mini bus and site visits took place on Wednesday, 9th April 2008 to visit Letchworth Garden City Council Offices, Mrs Howard Hall, Jackmans Youth Club & the Grange Youth Club.

After the site visits, the majority agreed that Mrs Howard Hall was their preferred venue, for the following reasons: central location, young people friendly and able to offer a lot more for young people.

Members of the Youth Council Steering Committee met again on Thursday 17th April 2008 at Mrs Howard Hall and a formally elected by secret ballot the officers of the committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary & Treasurer) through a secret ballot to form the first Letchworth Youth Council.

The Community Development Officer is continuing to support the Youth Council members with developing policies such as Terms of Reference, opening a bank account and developing future plans, which includes an official launch event later in the summer.

4. BUDGET

4.1 The Letchworth Area Committee at its meeting on 22 December 2004 allocated a grant of £2,000 for the development of a Youth Council.

4.2 Out of the Letchworth Area Committee's allocation of £2,000 the following expenditure has occurred:

Description	£
Initial printing / leaflets	50.00
Meeting room hires	24.00
Postage	53.72
Food/ refreshment (3 meetings)	47.89

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other legal implications pertinent to this report

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix ?? of the report, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2008/09.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no human resource and equalities implications pertinent to this report

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

8.1 Consultation has taken place with the respective agencies, organisations and ward members with regards to the activities and events in connection with the Youth Council.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well - being for young people in Letchworth Garden City.

10. APPENDICES

None

11. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 11.1 Ashuk Ahmed, Community Development Officer - Letchworth x4225
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- 11.2 Stuart Izzard, Senior Community Development Officer, x4854
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12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 Advice for Local Councils on Creating a Youth Council.
- 12.2 Letchworth Youth Council Survey Response.

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