

## **Minutes of the Gedling youth council meeting**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024, 5.30-7.30pm in the council chamber**

**\*In attendance:** Freddie Vokes (Chair); Stella Clarke (Youth Mayor); Lydia Yates (Secretary); Charlie Rose (Treasurer); Fatimah Malik (Social Mobility Commission Rep); Muhammad Malik (Advisor); Leyla Abass, Alex Eggleston, Jude Blakey; Afina (surname tbc by Amy), Tilda Hatton; Poppy Greentree; Molly Wright.

**\*Attendees to be confirmed by Amy, who took the register at the meeting.**

### **1. Welcome, refreshments, apologies received**

- Apologies received from Alex Millar and Sara Agabani. Freddie Vokes to arrive late. Members welcomed new member Jude Blakey.

### **2. Nomination of interim chair and Vice Chair (AB)**

- Freddie was accepted as chair, AB outlined requirements for vice chair, members agreed that candidates would send words to Amy to vote online over the summer. ACTION: Members to email Amy with their expression of interest, Amy to feed back at the September meeting, all to agree successful candidate for Vice Chair.

### **3. Minutes of the last two meetings 19<sup>th</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> April, actions arising**

- Minutes were accepted as true record

### **4. Youth council members role and responsibilities**

- Jane outlined responsibilities including register signing, it was agreed that any ideas, suggestions and representation should be reported to Amy and Jane and discussed at YC meetings, before anyone takes action on behalf of the Youth Council. This is to ensure safety as well as to ensure democratic agreement is reached on any projects supported.
- The Youth Council Code of conduct to be signed by members present.

### **5. WhatsApp group chat discussions: subjects members wanted to raise and suggestions for areas of focus put forward at inaugural meeting**

- Stella raised awareness about an organisation named Phenomenal Futures, where she had completed her Work Experience. Stella asked members about setting up a meeting with Hilary Brown, Chief Officer. It was AGREED that Amy would look into the viability of any members aged over 16 holding a separate meeting with Hilary, which would need

to be supported by Amy. This being due to the sensitive nature of the support the organisation gives.

- Jane informed members about the Annual Grant Agreement between the Council and Phenomenal Futures.
- It was AGREED that Hilary Brown be invited to attend the next meeting in September.
- Lydia shared notes from the Youth Crime Commission Conference, attended by herself and members of the youth council.
- Freddie suggested a meeting with Nottinghamshire Police.
- It was AGREED that Gedling Police Inspector Mark Stanley be invited to the next meeting in September.
- Charlie raised some discussions he had had with GBC Leisure about local gyms and the wish to improve their relationship with young people. He has been asked to engage further on this, however had not had a follow up call.
- ACTION: Jane to email Johann Polak to urge contact with Charlie.
- Jude expressed concerns about child poverty in Gedling, asking what we can do to help, Jane clarified organisations that support the issues raised, including Holiday Activities and Food, Warm Spaces, the Gedling Guide to support, the GBC /CA Nottingham and District Annual Grant Agreement, which provides benefits and financial management support to vulnerable residents and households. Also NCC Children and Families Services/ Family Hubs in local communities.
- Jane agreed to follow up on queries raised to NCC youth service guest speakers at the Youth Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February – these included widening promotion, making suitable promotion to attract YP across age groups to increase take up of the Holiday Activities and Food offer, and offering / increasing services to those YP that don't feel comfortable attending Youth sessions.
- Fatimah suggested that the Youth Council hold a fundraiser, Amy agreed to scope and take that forward after the Summer break.

## **6. Youth mayor review – agreed actions (JA)**

- Stella and Jane spoke about the actions they're taking to improve the Youth Mayor role including: adding the Youth Mayor as an invitee option onto the Civic Engagement Request form, and increasing awareness of the role by the Youth Mayor giving statements of support in GBC Communications bulletins on key projects and initiatives.
- Alex raised concerns about the promotion of the Youth Mayor. Stella proposed that a Youth Mayor Role section should be added to the Gedling Youth Council dedicated webpage (Jane to add that to the webpage).

- Councillor Fox made members aware of the Contacts magazine. Freddie raised questions about reviewing that publication online. Councillor Fox confirmed that it is available online.
- Charlie suggested that the Youth Council should be promoted in the Contacts magazine, and that the Youth Council should give final approval on articles. It was AGREED that a member of the Communications Team would attend all Youth Council meetings going forward.
- Fatimah raised concerns about the need to make a clear distinction between the role of the Youth Council role and that of the Youth Mayor.
- It was AGREED that clarification would be given at a future meeting.

### **7. Appointment to the Gedling Social Mobility Commission**

- Councillor Fox made members aware of the GSMC and stressed the need for a young voice. Jane informed members that Fatimah Malik had been appointed to the Commission, and would shortly be inducted into the role.

### **8. Guest speaker Tanya Najuk, GBC Head of Regeneration and Welfare Ambition Arnold**

Tanya delivered A presentation informing members about the plan to revitalise Arnold.

- Charlie raised concerns about awareness and engagement, suggesting that more could be done to connect with schools about the matter
- Jude suggested that more support should be in place for small businesses, and also stressed the issue of climate change and carbon impact on Arnold town
- Cllr Barnes questioned the artists impression, with concerns about bus routes being disrupted, Tanya confirmed that the impression was purely artistic and not a valid representation but rather an idea, and that further feasibility testing and scoping would be done before implementation
- Charlie suggested that more big retailers would improve engagement in Arnold
- Tilda raised concerns about the access to the survey in which Tanya outlined the paper option offered at Arnold library including the translation option

**Carlton town board** – Tanya delivered a further presentation and asked for recommendations on how to allocate the funding.

- Members made similar suggestions to Arnold: bringing bigger retailers to increase engagement, plus other comments that were captured by Tanya from the discussion.

9. **Guest speaker expressions of interest to attend future meetings:** The following guests have expressed an interest in attending the next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September:

- It was AGREED that GBC Planning Policy officers, Gedling Police Inspector Mark Stanley and Hilary Brown of Phenomenal Futures would attend the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- It was AGREED that Jackie Wilson of Positively Empowered Kids, and Johann Polak, representing Gedling Youth Gyms, would be invited to the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**10. Any other business, meeting closed 7.30pm**

- It was AGREED that Anthony Moore from the Communications Team would be included in all future meetings, and that Communications opportunities would be a standing item on the agenda..
- It was AGREED that all future agendas would include a social break as the last part of the meeting: 7.00pm -7.30pm in the Beeston Room.

**11. Social time (30 minutes)** Members moved to the Beeston Room at 7.00pm, where further visual aids about the Ambition Arnold plans were set out, and members had the opportunity to make further comments.

**12. Future meeting dates:**

**2024:** 11<sup>th</sup> November

**2025:** 17<sup>th</sup> February; 28<sup>th</sup> April