

Minutes of the Gedling Youth Council Meeting: Monday 28th April 2025

5.30 - 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre

In attendance: Lydia Yates, Stella Clarke, Freddie Vokes, Charlie Rose, Matilda Garland, Alex Truong, Aisha Ahmed, Madiha Fahim, Finley Dunn, Tish Phelps, Evelyn Parker, Emma Price, Noor Ahmed, Cllrs Fox and Barnes, Jane Ansell, Amy Beckworth.

Guest speaker: Kate Lindley, GBC Director of Transformation

1. Welcome, apologies received: Apologies received from Fatimah Malik

Icebreaker put forward by the Chair: Members introduced themselves with their age and their favourite crisp flavour

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 28th April 2025

Minutes were accepted as a true record by all members present

3. Items raised by members in the Youth Council Group Chat

None raised

4. Youth Mayor updates, including nomination of incoming Youth Mayor

Stella gave a review of the role, based on her year in office. She noted concerns regarding the recent lateness of notification of invitations to events, and asked that this be conveyed to the Civic Office.

Nominations for incoming Youth Mayor were made by Lydia, Alex, Jude, Matilda, Rakesh, Aisha and Noor. A secret ballot was held, with Lydia receiving a majority 11 votes.

Lydia Yates was duly nominated for Youth Mayor 2025/2026, to be formally appointed at the Annual Mayor Making Ceremony on Weds 21st May.

5. Gedling Social Mobility Commission:

Deferred to next meeting due to absence of Fatimah Malik

6. Standing Item: Opportunities for Youth Council / Youth Mayor Promotion and Communications)

Jane made members aware of Refugee Week, and an event taking place in the City, to celebrate and welcome refugees. Due to a lack of signed permission forms for new

and existing members, a photocall and Youth Council press statement was not possible on this occasion.

7. Guest Speaker: Kate Lindley, GBC Director of Transformation:

Kate presented details and aims of the Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy, currently out for formal consultation, which ends 2nd May.

Summary responses to the GBC Consultation and Engagement Strategy consultation (Kate Lindley, Director of Transformation)

All Youth Council members agreed that consultations should take place in schools, student PHSE sessions being the best setting, to maximise responses from young people and help them to understand the importance of the subject, and the need for their input, however all agreed that it is not easy for agencies to get into schools. (an action was agreed that the YC would raise this issue with the County Council as Education Authority, including the poor commitment given by teachers to content of PHSE sessions, which are supposedly scheduled to provide enrichment.)

Suggestion that workshops in schools and youth work settings are engaging, and more people can contribute/ creative, inclusive engagement.

Young people need clear background information to respond properly, and that information is best be shared using tools and techniques that young people respond to – there are lots of ways that information could be shared.

Young people respond to wider context, i.e. current Local Govt reorganisation and changes in power structures are things that young people would want to engage on, so use examples as to why consultation on the consultation strategy itself is important.

Maximise use of social media – need a consistent framework and toolkit for inclusive consultation. Tik Tok, Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook were all mentioned.

Engage via citizens assemblies, face to face engagement works best.

School newsletters were proposed as vehicles for promoting consultations

Important to say why you want to consult and pitch it to young people's future concerns, i.e. you may wish to raise a family in the Borough in the future, and this will help to shape their environment – get young people to think of the consultation in terms of their long- term future.

Young People can be negative / switch off from Council 'things', so it's important to show that any consultation will have an impact, use hooks that young people are likely to respond to.

Feedback loops are important – reinforce what people are saying in the outcome/report back, so that young people/others can see they've contributed to visible change.

8. Future guest speakers and areas of interest, upcoming Council Consultations and other developments

Proposed:

- Claire ward – Notts Police (already attended)
- Youth Crime Commission (already attended)
- Leisure representative (future meeting - Leisure Transformation)
- Positively empowered kids (already attended, invited to next meeting)
- Phenomenal futures (already attended and held a separate workshop)

9. Amy Beckworth: Youth Parliament, NCC Youth Services updates

Amy asked members aged 16 and over to give feedback on the Focus Group with Hilary Brown of Phenomenal Futures, and Stella provided an overview of the meeting to wider members.

10. A social session and refreshments were held in the Beeston Room at 7.00pm

11. Date of next meeting: Monday 28th July. Forward meeting dates are overleaf.

Forward meeting dates:

2025: 22nd September; 3rd November

2026: 23rd February