

Minutes of the Gedling Youth Council Meeting: Monday 22nd September 2025

5.30 - 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre

1. Welcome, apologies received

Apologies received from planned guest speakers Jae Hodgson, East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) Youth Committee Lead and Liam Jackson, EMCCA Careers Hub Lead have given apologies in advance. Jae will attend the next meeting on 3rd November.

Apologies received from new member Athena. (Fatimah Malik and Freddie Vokes advised that they would attend late).

2. In attendance: Lydia Yates, Charlie Rose, Evelyn Rose Parker, Emma Leah-Price, Kayanna McCulloch, Tilda Hatton, Jude Blakey, Lexie Garratt, Alex Eggleston, Finley Dunn, Sophia Benedek, Freddie Vokes, Fatimah Malik, Leyla Abass, Muhammad Malik, Jane Ansell, Amy Beckworth, Cllr Kathryn Fox, Tom Montgomery.

3. Icebreaker, to be put forward by the Chair

Members were asked by the Chair to introduce themselves, give their age and school attended.

4. Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 28th July 2025, matters arising

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th July were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising:

- A proposal to put forward a motion to County Parliament/Young Peoples Board regarding concerns about PHSE sessions in schools will be discussed at this meeting.
- Gedling representation on that body also carried forward to this meeting, as Amy was absent.
- Amy will ensure that all new and existing members are added to the group chat.

5. Items raised by members in the Youth Council Group Chat / at last meeting

Gedling representation at Nottinghamshire Youth Parliament and proposed PHSE Campaign

It was AGREED that members would work with Amy on a motion to put to the Youth Parliament/YP Board during the social session at 7pm, after this meeting.

The matter of Gedling representation on the Youth Parliament Board was discussed, including the potential for better alignment of the current three - year term of Gedling YC Chair with Youth Parliament elections. Amy AGREED to consider options to ensure formal Gedling representation and report back at the next meeting. It was noted that members of Gedling Youth Council are currently attending or deputising (Freddie is the representative, Lydia the Deputy and Jude and Charlie have each stood in where needed), however it is ad hoc.

AGREED: An agenda item on the matter to be added to the next meeting

Standing items:

6. Youth Mayor updates

Lydia reported that all previous concerns around notification of engagements and support have been resolved, and that she has been attending a lot more events and is looking forward to an upcoming meeting with a group of young people in Carlton.

Lydia also asked for suggestions for a Youth Mayor Charity, as she had been invited to nominate one.

(Post meeting footnote: The current Youth Mayor protocol does not include provision for a Youth Mayor Charity which therefore needs to be scoped, due to potential additional resource needs and risk management requirements)

ACTION NEEDED: JA to discuss with the Civic office and Legal Team.

7. Gedling Social Mobility Commission: updates from Youth Council representative

Fatimah reported back on her attendance at the June Social Mobility Commission meeting, where Digital Inclusion was discussed. Fatimah noted that Jane had engaged on the same subject with members at the previous meeting.

Plans for a new Leisure Centre in Carlton were presented, where Fatimah had suggested separate sessions for Women and Girls only, and for other groups with specific needs.

Fatimah offered to act as a conduit for the views of wider young people and YC members into the Social Mobility Commission going forward.

8. Opportunities for Youth Council / Youth Mayor Promotion and Communications – key issues, initiatives (GBC Communications)

Rob McCleary, Communications Manager flagged the annual Pride of Gedling Awards and urged member to nominate for the Dylan Barker Young Peoples Award. This award is made based on exceptional citizenship or other achievements, and it was noted that Youth Council members Freddie Vokes (winner) and Muhammad Malik (runner up) had been past nominees. Nominations need to be submitted by Friday 26th September. Rob also asked

members what they would like to champion in press and PR. Lydia suggested 'Inclusivity', which is her Youth Mayor theme for the year.

**9. Proposal for a trip to Parliament at the invitation of Michael Payne, MP –
Proposed date and arrival time Weds 29th October: 11.10am**

Tom Montgomery, Constituency Support Officer, Office of Michael Payne MP and former Gedling Youth Council member, gave an overview of the offer. Jane confirmed that a recent email callout had resulted in some initial responses. Members in attendance were asked to give their final interest and availability via show of hands, which resulted in the following draft list of participants:

Interest registered to date:

- Charlie Rose (off to Uni tbc?)
- Lydia Yates
- Stella Clarke
- Jude Blakey
- Finley Dunn
- Lexie Garratt
- Alex Eggleston
- Iris Pitt
- Evelyn Parker
- Kayanna Lee – McCulloch
- Sophie Benedick

Cllr Fox kindly pledged funding from her Portfolio Holder Young Peoples Out of School budget to cover expenses of the trip. A number of suggestions for content were put forward, including a request to attend PMs Questions in the public gallery, which Tom agreed to look into.

AGREED: A final schedule and arrangements for the trip will be drawn up at a meeting with NCC Youth Services, who will then liaise with Tom to finalise the event.

10. Fiona Hextall: Overview of Health and Wellbeing work with Young People and Communities in Gedling

Fiona Hextall gave a comprehensive presentation about Health and Wellbeing programmes delivered across the Borough that target Young People and Families. This included Family Food Clubs rollout, A Primary School Sports event in Arnot Hill Park, Commissioning of PEK to deliver Mental Health engagement in Youth Club sessions, Integrated Neighbourhood partnership work with Health and Leisure in Arnold and commissioned out of school fun days and skate jam activities in local parks, community settings and town centres.

Members put forward questions and suggestions around older young peoples use of Leisure facilities, including better signposting to fitness advice and use of equipment in Leisure centres; also food education, and raised issues with food technology

courses in schools, which members advised are 90% course work and 10% practical, or, in one member's experience, alternated weekly with engineering and graphics subjects. The general view was that food awareness and enrichment is getting lost under technology focus and risk management elements.

Fiona advised that some work had been done with parents and younger children on cook and eat 12 - week courses. She advised difficulty resource wise in rolling out further, due to funding and a lack of tutor expertise capacity in that area

Fi supported ideas around Leisure and Fitness, and urged member to approach fitness advisors, who are there to help, and advise friends to do the same.

Members would appreciate personal fitness plans.

She also advised of the difficulty in accessing Secondary schools and academies, however would report these comments into the Children and Families Service/ NCC Education Service contacts.

Lydia flagged the Apps that are offered by private gyms that are useful in helping YP to manage their use of fitness offers. She also queried the current 14 - year lower age limit to youth gyms in the Borough, which Fiona advised will shortly be lowered, however will require young people under 14 to be accompanied by an adult.

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

- Lydia proposed Positively Empowered Kids new organisation 'Next Move Youth' be invited to a future meeting.
- JA Confirmed that EMCCA Youth Parliament lead Jae Hodgson would be attending the next meeting.
- The Police Commissioners 'YP Big Conversation' event circulated earlier was also flagged for members to register attendance.

Jane reported that

12. Social session and refreshments in the Beeston Room at 7.00pm

Members worked with Amy on a 'motion' raising concerns about PHSE lesson standards in schools, to be put to the County Youth Parliament / YP Board

Future meeting dates:

- **2025:** 3rd November
- **2026:** 23rd February