

Swale Youth Forum



Wednesday 31st January 2018
Council Chamber, Swale House
09:30-12:30

Schools:	Delegates from Abbey School, Westlands Academy, Oasis Isle of Sheppey Academy,
In Attendance:	Mayor of Swale Cllr Colin Prescott, Leader Cllr Andrew Bowles, Cllr Nicholas Hampshire, Cllr Cllr Mike Henderson, Cllr Ken Ingleton, Cllr James Hall, Sophia Ramm (SBC), Helen Stock (SBC), Daniel Quinn (SBC), Jack Finch-Harding (Ideas Test), Patrice Good (Kent Wildlife Trust), Martin Keelor (Kent Wildlife Trust), Carl Konadu (2-3 Degrees), Azzees Minott (2-3 Degrees), Ben Rose (KCC)
Apologies:	Cllr Mike Whiting, Fulston Manor School, Borden Grammar School, Highsted Grammar School, Sittingbourne Community College Queen Elizabeth Grammar School.

NO	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Welcome, Introductions and apologies	
1.1	The Chair of the Forum, Mayor Cllr Colin Prescott, Cllr Mike Henderson, Cllr Nick Hampshire, Cllr Andrew Bowles, Cllr James Hall and Cllr Ken Ingleton welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting	
2.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for their accuracy and were agreed as correct.	
3.	Ice Breaker	
3.1	Short introductory ice breaker session and all of the members of the Swale Youth Forum participated.	
4.	Ideas Test	
4.1	Jack Finch-Harding, the newly appointed Youth Program Manager of Ideas Test, gave an introduction to Ideas Test with a particular focus on activities for young people. Jack explained that Ideas Test are an organisation which frequently host events that many young people may be interested in, and that this would be a partial solution to the frequent Hot Topic that there is a lack of activities in the Borough of Swale. He also went on to explain upcoming events (Feb-Apr) by Ideas Test and informed the Forum of the date and timings of them, in particular highlighting the free, popular 'Start Up Slam' workshop; which is a variety of 4 creative workshops designed to cover most areas of the arts.	

Swale Youth Forum



5.	Kent Wildlife Trust	
5.1	Patrice Good and Martin Keelor from the Kent Wildlife Trust informed the Youth Forum about their 'Wooden it be Crafty' campaign. The campaign is located in Cromer's Wood (coppice woodland) and is largely based around the completion of mini-projects during school time. These are designed to promote skills such as woodland management as well as improving the students' personal development in areas such as planning, communication, budgeting and teamwork. Each individual 'Wooden it be Crafty' campaign can take a maximum of 10 students and lasts between 6-10 weeks.	
6.	2-3 Degrees	
6.1	Carl Konadu, CEO and Azzees Minott, Managing Director of 2-3 Degrees introduced themselves and their organisation as a training company that inspires and equips young people with the power to make positive decisions. They then led a short communications workshop which consisted of a multitude of activities designed to improve the communications skills of all the attendees. These undertakings highlighted the importance of communication techniques whilst also making the Youth Forum aware of skills such as being able to correctly articulate an opinion and usage of effective persuasion techniques.	
7.	Break	
8.	2-3 Degrees	
8.1	2-3 Degrees continued leading their various activities after the break, which proved beneficial to the attendees in improving their communications skills. Towards the end of the session they highlighted the importance of improving communication skills for both the workplace and for personal use. 2-3 Degrees also made the Forum aware of the use of networking in the workplace, and highlighted techniques to enable the Forum to do this effectively.	
9.	Hot Topics	
9.1	<p>Opportunity for delegates to raise and discuss key issues affecting young people in their school and wider area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified the heavy vehicle traffic at the Halfway traffic light system and recommended the installation of a roundabout. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cllr Hampshire explained that this is a Highways issue that Kent County Council are responsible for. ○ Cllr Ingleton also commented that roundabouts aren't always the most appropriate solution for heavy vehicle traffic at junctions; this would likely prove to be very expensive at Halfway as it would require demolition of multiple, occupied buildings. • The Forum questioned the Councillors about road safety for children attempting to get to school near roads with heavy vehicular traffic, and highlighted the need for more crossing points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Councillors explained that creation of crossing points (for instance, a Pelican crossing) is an issue for 	

	<p>Kent County Council, and that temporary measures which may be sought (such as crossing guards) would fall under the responsibility of local schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One area of particular concern highlighted by the Forum was the road network surrounding The Abbey School, due to its high speed nature. ▪ The Council replied by saying plans had been considered to install a roundabout although these had been shelved, implementation of traffic lights were currently being considered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Council also highlighted the fact that some students do not use existing crossing points on their journeys to/from school, so that it was a social issue; one that wouldn't be automatically resolved by the inclusion of new crossing points. ○ A linked question was that a concern was raised about motorists ignoring speed limits in built-up areas, and had the Council created plans to respond to this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Council answered that this is an issue of policing existing laws, and therefore is an issue handled best by Kent Police. However the Council also advised that the Police have limited resources and that the issue of speeding may be neglected for other policing priorities. The Council also made the Forum aware of current anti-speeding measures such as traffic surveys to identify hotspots and an ongoing anti-speed campaign. • The Forum complained that a lack of evening activities for young people was leading to an increase in antisocial behaviour and crime. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ben Rose stated that there was less an issue of a lack of activities, more a lack of awareness about existing clubs and groups. However he went on to remind the Forum that improving the awareness of such organisations was this one of this year's priorities. He also offered to visit schools and host assemblies about local activities, if there was interest in doing so. <p>The three remaining Hot Topics ('Restaurants in Sittingbourne, Making young voices heard and awareness of the Swale Youth Forum) were noted down and are planned to be discussed at the next meeting on the 14th March 2018, due to the meeting overrunning its time allowance.</p>	
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any other business 	
10.1	<p>Dates of next meetings...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14th March 2018 • 2nd May 2018 • 20th June 2018 	
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close 	

Swale Youth Forum



12.	End of Meeting	
-----	----------------	--