

**Report of the Gore District Youth Council meeting, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Civic Avenue, Gore on Monday 31 March 2014, at 5pm.**

**Present** Georgia Johnston (Chair), Devin Kubala, Megan McCall, Renee Moyles, Olivia Nicholson, Georgia Nicol, Alice Robertson, Amy McCabe, Grace Kelly, Abigail Visser, Brayden Scott, Cirque Gammel, Jordan Edwards, Hamish Goatley, Skyla Mill, Luke Howden, Alec McWhirter, Alex Parish

**In Attendance** Cr. Anne Gover, Youth Worker Hannah Armstrong, Youth Development Coordinator Kayla McIntosh, Corporate Support Officer Kylie Weir

**Apologies:** Paige Ogilvy, Sian Davis, Tayla Marlow, Andrew McLeod, Tomazina Koppen-Pavlovich, Tyron Belt

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**1. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the Gore District Youth Council meeting held on Monday 16 September 2013 were confirmed. Renee Moyles moved that they be received and this was seconded by Amy McCabe.

**2. Summarise the group discussions from the planning day**

A summary was provided for the following questions asked at the planning day:

1. What do you want the Youth Council to achieve this year?

- Another Youth Awards
- Two events to finish the event programme
- Interschool social events
- Mixed School ball/prom for juniors
- Successful Youth Week
- Build Youth Council profile
- More Events

- Improved promotion of events
- Monthly activities
- Car wash to help raise money for St John
- Youth Council app

2. What are your expectations of fellow youth councillors?

- Attend meetings
- Speak up
- Encouraging
- Organised
- Cooperation
- Supportive
- Commitment
- Teamwork
- Pay attention
- Ideas into action
- Role models
- Punctuality
- Create the pie together

3. What are some ways you think we could encourage youth to stay in the Gore District?

- Apprenticeships and trades
- Meaningful work experience
- Trade tutorials
- More education about local opportunities
- More events
- Encouraging outdoor activities
- More jobs for young people
- Higher ranking job opportunities
- More opportunities for new people to the area – “clicky” community

4. What would you like to see happen for Youth Week this year? The theme is ‘Be the Change’.

- Ice party
- Cheap movie
- Youth ball
- Festival/concert
- Drive in movie
- Speech by someone influential
- Paint party
- Mud plug
- Mini top town
- Amazing race
- Colour walk/run

- Paint ball
- Fear factor
- Interschool social
- Environmental clean up
- Pay it forward – must pay it forward to get a ticket to the event
- Token for charity at the event
- Skate jam

### 3. Youth Council Committees

Determine what committees the youth council would like to have. Suggestions from the planning day were:

- Events
- Environmental
- Community
- Cultural

Georgia suggested that the committees get broken down into just two categories Events and Community, therefore allowing better focus groups and when planning a big project these committee groups can get broken down to focus on specific items. The Environmental and Cultural committees will become a part of the Community committee group.

Kayla advised the group that they will have three weekly meetings which will alternate between Council and Committee groups.

In response to Luke Kayla believed that they are a big enough group to split and therefore when they have a big event or issue to contend with they can split into smaller task groups to specialise on specific tasks to make the planning easier.

The decision made was to remove all committees unless there is a big event like the Youth Awards.

### 4. Council Agenda Items

Chairperson Georgia Johnston and Deputy Chair Devin Kubala lead the discussion on Council agenda items that the Council are going to be discussing at their meeting on Tuesday 1 April

#### **Legal Highs**

Georgia informed the Youth Council a bit about the background to why this has become a vital topic to discuss.

Discussion was held around the Youth Council's knowledge and any experiences of their peers taking or being around synthetic drugs.

Anne informed the group that Gore does not have as big of an issue yet, however, one boy in Invercargill has committed suicide after using these forms of synthetic drugs and another teenager had attempted suicide.

In response to Hannah the Youth Council believed it would be helpful to have synthetic drugs removed from shops to help reduce the exposure of youth to these harmful drugs.

Anne informed the group that the Government passed an act that actually doesn't give Councils permission to ban the sale of Legal Highs but can restrict where they the legal highs can be sold. This is why other Councils, their mayor's, members of public are being asked to get in behind the cause and try to get them banned so they can't be sold within out Districts.

In response to Alec there is nowhere in Gore that is currently selling Legal Highs therefore any of the synthetic drugs are being brought into the District from other locations.

Cirque informed the group that he has noticed one of the issues around synthetic drugs is the limited education on why legal highs are bad and that this needs adjusted to promote youth awareness and therefore take the thought process away from it being safe to try.

Hannah informed the group that part of the reason there is a lack of education being provided is because this is still a relatively new thing and there have been no long term studies carried out yet to gain the hard evidence needed. There is only what we hear in the media

Anne informed the Youth Council that in Gore over the last few weeks at the Women's Refuge safe house a man was on a legal high and destroyed the entire house. After taking the legal high he experience Manic Strength and major mood swings leading to him smashing the whole house. The Youth Council was also informed on how legal highs can affect a person's mental health which can affect them for the rest of their lives.

Abigail believes someone who has had experience needs to come and speak at schools and to social groups about why legal highs are bad, why they should be removed and why they believe youth shouldn't do it. Even without having hard evidence they can still make an impact on some youth's lives and help them make a better choice.

Luke stated even though legal highs are not prominent in the District they could use their Youth Week phrase "be the change" to make a stand and stand up to Local and Central Government to be against the sale of legal highs.

Anne advised the group that they need to keep in mind that this is an urgent matter, they need to come up with an idea now not in a few months.

Discussion was held around ideas of how they could promote the fact they don't want the sale of Legal highs in the Gore District, whether it be a short film, posters, essays, or getting someone in to talk about this issue with hard facts to school and social groups.

Alec believed that it needs to start by removing the stigma of youth being lead to believe that it is "just a party drug" before they could make any other impacts.

### **Feedback on new brand**

Discussion was held around what the Youth Council though of the new brand and logo, if they thought it was a good idea and some of the feedback they had heard from their peers.

In response to Alex Dry curst was the designer and received the Contract to carry out the work after the Council saw their design work.

The Youth Council believe the logo makes sense when the GO part is matched with an activity like Go Reading.

The overall opinion on the new District Brand was positive and believed that it was the fresh, vibrant look the District needed to entice people to our area and explore the options Gore has to offer. They believe it will be easier to tie into events by utilising the Go into Go County Music or Go Fashion. However, wondered if the confusion could be decreased a little if the District line was at the bottom of the stacked logo and not in the middle.

### **Meet and Greet with Councillors**

Georgia informed the group of how this speed dating event was run the previous year as a good opportunity to meet the Councillors and sit down in pairs to have a brief conversation with them and start to make links between the Youth Council and the Council. This event is going to be help on 13 May at 6.45.

## **5. Youth Council Communication**

Georgia brought to the attention of the Youth Council that there is a Facebook page they can all join to see photographs and updates of events happening. Encouraged them all to like the page and share the link with their friends.

## **6. Youth Week 2014**

Georgia brought the attention to the group that the Blue Mountain and St Peters ball fall either side of Youth Week this year and therefore recommends they focus on smaller events due to the fact nine seniors of the group will be busy with other commitments in School to support the setup of the ball.

Anne suggested that maybe the Youth Council could split into two groups so that one half not involved in the ball could arrange one event and the other half plan a smaller event

In response to Luke the theme for Youth Week was “Be the Change”. Therefore what they planned had to incorporate this into the event they planned.

Kayla advised they had to plan and execute two events before the 30 May and they had \$5000 to spend on each of these or they would lose the funding they had been given.

Olivia suggested that they should stick to the something small for the Youth Week and utilise the money for a big event now before everyone got too busy.

In response to Luke all the money must be spent and the events must be held before 30 May as part of the funding criteria.

In response to Kayla the group thought holding a cheap movie night was a good idea depending on the costs to hire the theatre and what was available to be viewed.

Alex asked if a pool party would be easier due to the staff at the pool setting everything up and the Youth Council just having to be there to run it and do the promotion depending on the cost of hiring the pool and inflatables.

Alec believed that the Youth Council needed something new not the same activities all the time. To keep peoples interest in it and make it refreshed each year.

In response to Luke they needed to keep the event close to the purpose for the theme otherwise it misses the purpose of being a part of the Youth Week.

Abigail suggested that they could tie two events together by having an inspirational speaker there to talk about how they have made or implemented a change before they have the pool party of other event they decided on.

In response to Alex there needs to be a time frame for two separate age groups so that smaller children can participate in the event, depending on what is chosen.

Amy voiced concern that not many older people attend their events anyway so maybe they should target the event to the younger age groups that look for something exciting to attend with their friends.

Cirque suggested that something towards the “be the Change” theme could be holding an Environmental clean-up at locations that Youth utilise. In

response to Alec focusing on selected areas involved with Youth helping them clean up the Skate park, playgrounds, river bed, and by having it well publicised to before the event of the rewards they could get and the benefit to the Community.

Anne informed the Youth Council has done something like this in the past where they went out and cleaned up a hill and road area out the back of Mataura, which worked out well.

Anne suggested that they can do two of the little events that don't take much organisation and still achieve their Ice Party.

Renee informed the group that this would be an easy task to achieve as they already knew the contacts and with having previous experience know what went well and where they can approve. In response to concerns raised the Youth Council previous members didn't believe there would be a lack of interest as people were complaining they didn't go the year before and they had received requests that night to have it again so they could participate next year as well.

Georgia called a vote on the following 5 options for Youth Week and called a vote:

1.	Pool Party	0
2.	Cheap Movie	0
3.	Ice Party	8
4.	Influential Speaker	0
5.	District wide workplace mufti day	10

In response to Luke the group would have to work out a strategy to get workplaces to participate and find out how they could create an incentive for them to want to help the Youth Council out.

Kayla informed the group due to having no real cost apart from advertising on the radio and in the paper, the money available for the event can be used for that and the rest can be used on other events the Youth Council wants to hold.

Kayla advised the group they could gain workplace support by making it a donation event where the proceeds could be used to go towards supporting the St John Ambulance, for the rebuild of their building, or a Youth Charity.

## 7. Other Business

After receiving their Youth Council t-shirts the Youth Council took a vote and decided to make the t-shirts their uniform for all Youth Council meetings.

Kayla reminded the group that they must come up with two events to host to utilise their funding money.

Luke advised the group of an event about to happen that Gerry Forde is running a Battle of the Bridges, where two towns come together and battle on stage through different challenges and all the proceeds go to local charities. Therefore why don't they host something like that where they make it a battle of the Schools and all the proceeds go towards a youth charity.

In response to Jordan yes they could put the proceeds towards the Youth Awards.

Anne suggested to the group to go and talk to Gerry Forde immediately and start putting a plan into action.

For the second idea the Youth Council would probably have to host it near Winter so they needed to keep that in mind before they tried to plan an outdoor event.

In response to Alex, they could host both a pool and ice party in conjunction dependant on the cost of hiring the facilities and other items they would need.

In response to Jordan they would have to investigate the dates as to when the pool would close down as this would affect the ice skating rink and potentially their event.

Anne recommended the group stick to something they had done in the past that they know went well and how they can improve on it.

Discussion was held around holding a second Ice party and what they would do to improve the event from last year to maintain the interest.

Kayla suggested the Youth Council nominate some Event Managers to help start the event planning and implementation.

- Event Manager for Battle of the Schools – Luke Howden
- Event Manager for Ice Party – Renee Moyles
- District Mufti Day – Alex Parish, Alec, Alice

The meeting concluded at 6.34

**Next meeting is 12 May, in the Council Chambers at 5pm.**