

**Report of the Gore District Youth Council meeting, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Civic Avenue, Gore on Monday 12 May 2014, at 5pm.**

**Present** Devin Kubala (Deputy Chair), Renee Moyles, Brayden Scott, Paige Ogilvy, Alec McWhirter, Hamish Goatley, Skyla Mill, Luke Howden, Abigail Visser, Tomazina Koppen-Pavlovich, Alex Parish, Cirque Gammel.

**In Attendance** Youth Activities Worker Kylie Aitken, Youth Development Coordinator Kayla McIntosh, Corporate Support Officer Kylie Weir

**Apologies:** Georgia Johnston, Megan McCall, Olivia Nicholson, Georgia Nicol, Alice Robertson, Amy McCabe, Grace Kelly, Jordan Edwards, Sian Davis, Tayla Marlow, Andrew McLeod, Tyron Belt

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes from the Gore District Youth Council meeting held on Monday 31 March 2014 were confirmed. Alex Parish moved that they be received and this was seconded by Alec McWhirter.

**2. Summary of Interschool Social**

Hamish Goatley and Skyla Mill addressed the Youth Council on the interschool social. Skyla informed the group that they had a good turn out with the highlight being good food and music. Everyone there had a good time and it was a good way to catch up with friends.

Kayla informed the Youth Council that about 80 year seven and eight students attended the interschool dance and won prizes for best dancing and best dress.

In response to Alec the interschool social included students from Gore High, St Peters, Blue Mountain and Menzies. The Police turned up in support of the social.

Luke informed the group that as an observer he believed it ran really well and everyone was in a good mood with no negative influences or any trouble. He believes if this event was run again the Youth Council would get a good response.

### 3. Summary of the Ice Party

Renee Moyles addressed the Youth Council on the ice party. They had a good turnout of 50 people attending however, this number was down on the year before Renee believed that only having limited time to advertise, holding it at the end of the school holidays and Duck shooting weekend lowered the numbers.

Kayla informed the Youth Council that Renee organised the whole event and it was a real shame other Councillors did not support her after she had done such a great job. The Youth Council is about being a team and Councillors should still come along even if they are not involved. Kayla stated that it was also disappointing a lot of the Youth Councillors who were there left half way through the event and didn't help with any of the clean-up.

### 4. Council Agenda Items

Deputy Chair Devin Kubala and Renee Moyles lead the discussion on council agenda items.

#### **Young Ambassador**

The Young Ambassador Awards night is to be held on 22 May. Tickets are on sale and are \$5 from the Visitors Centre.

A discussion was held on what they thought the Young Ambassador was all about and what the Young Ambassador Competition could give back to the participants, most of the Councillors were not sure about the competition at all.

They discussed some of the implications that they believed could put people off applying. Some of these ideas were

- Time Commitment.
- Having to stick around for the year or can they be away for a part of it
- Public speaking.
- Association to the Gold Guitars and if they have to be a member of the Gold Guitar Committee.
- Not having enough time to give the role justice.
- Can they apply and still go to University.
- Seeming more formal than it should.
- Limited youth in Gore.
- Age group being so spread out with being from 18-35.
- Relate it to the Gold Guitars as it used to be the Gold Guitar Queen then changed to young Ambassador and the winner still has to escort the Tamworth Queen around events.

## **Legal Highs**

Devin informed the Youth Council that Legal highs are now illegal however there is a small loophole that legal highs can be sold. Our three local Councils are joining as one and only one region could sell these legal highs throughout the three regions if they were found to be safe.

Kayla informed the Youth Council that they are only illegal until they are deemed safe, if they are found to be safe then businesses are going to utilise this loophole to sell the drugs.

Discussion was held around what the Youth Council thinks of the small area defined under the three Councils agreement for the legal highs to be sold from. The Youth Council likes the idea of the three Council's joining together as a united front as it sends a positive message that we don't want legal highs.

Devin informed the Youth Council that His Worship the Mayor had received 150 emails asking him about legalising cannabis and had asked for the Youth Councils thoughts on this. The Youth Council held discussion around this subject and what they personally believed for this situation.

*Cirque Gammelin now joined the meeting at 5.26pm*

Luke believed that the Youth Council needed as a body needed to be careful how they approached the subject as they are making an uneducated decision.

*Paige Ogilvy now left the meeting at 5.30pm.*

The Youth Council came to the conclusion that it should remain illegal as there has been some evidence that it can cause harm to people, however there are worse drugs in the public as well.

## **Draft Annual Plan 2014/15**

Devin informed the Youth Council that the Summary of the Draft Annual Plan had been provided to the Councillors on their table and gave them some time to peruse the summary to give feedback on their ideas. Devin informed the Councillors of submission forms being available if they feel strongly on a subject that they can write in.

Kayla informed the Youth Council that the Speed dating event with the Councillors is going to be on 13 May at 6.30pm. If the Youth Council cannot make it they need to notify Kayla of their apology.

## **5. Reminder about the expectations of Youth Councillors**

Kayla addressed the Youth Council on the expectations around participation, apologies, associating yourself with the Council during non-youth council events and social media guidelines.

Kayla informed the Youth Council that because half of the Youth Council members could not make the meeting she was not going to go into great depth on this matter and would wait until the next meeting when more Youth Councillors were available. Kayla wanted to inform the Youth Council of the consequences of saying they were going to do something and then not doing it or not putting in an apology for meetings.

It was decided that this item would be carried over to the next Youth Council meeting.

## 6. Planning and an update on the Youth Week activities

Alec informed the group since their last meeting he has been organising a district mufti day with the help of Luke. The theme is “down memory lane” and on the 22 May they are encouraging local businesses around Gore to dress up as they did when they were young. On 22 May Alec, Luke, Jordan and Alice, with Kayla supervising, are going to go around businesses, which have signed up and will collect their donation to go towards the rebuilding of St Johns.

Alec has visited businesses and currently only have five confirmed:

- SBS St James Theatre
- Noel Leeming – donate a prize for the category ‘best dressed businesses’ as they cannot donate money.
- The Library
- La Hoods – will also donate a prize
- The Gore District Council

Businesses that are going to get back to the Youth Councillors

- Peter Cairns
- H and J Smith
- Paper Plus
- Postie Plus
- Van de waters
- Total Body Gym
- Unichem pharmacy
- B & B Sports
- Country Living
- Rockleigh Jewlers
- The Ensign

Alec informed the Youth Council that he was also thinking of organising a mufti day at the local schools with a gold coin donation. Alec has written letters to all the schools and has explained the cause and asked permission for them to carry out the mufti day.

Discussion was held around what prizes were needed for the District Mufti Day. Subway had been contacted for some platters.

Alec was congratulated for all the work he had put into getting this idea off the ground.

*Paige Ogilvy now returned at 5.50pm*

Kayla asked the Youth Council if they had put together their proposal for the Battle of the Schools as she is to be away from 30 May and all the reporting would need to be completed. The Youth Council could still hold this event in June however, they would have to get someone else to do the reporting and would all have to pull together and organise the event on their own. The decision was made to carry the event over to the following year.

Kayla suggested to the Youth Council about making “Youth Week” their last event as they are running three events during this time with the cheap movie, mufti day and pink shirt day for anti-bullying. This way they could utilise the spare time to make these three events run really well and gain better prizes and get more businesses to support the Youth Council through the mufti day event.

Kayla informed the Councillors that for the cheap movie night those who are helping are to be there at 6.15pm to help collect money for the tickets and are required to stay behind and help clean up.

Discussion was held around the pink shirt day for anti-bullying by wearing the t-shirt to school on 23 May. Permission has been provided from school principals for the Councillors who volunteer to wear them over their uniform for the day. The Councillors were informed that they don't have to wear it so if you are not comfortable please say so.

#### 7. Information on “Clash of the Youth Council” Event in Winton.

This is a battle between the Gore and Invercargill Youth Councils in a game and challenge night. Those who are a part of this competition need to meet at 4.45pm at St Peters car park by the hostel. The competitors are required to wear their t-shirts.

#### 8. Information about the potential for a community art project

This item was disestablished as it was no longer relevant to the Youth Council. It was going to be an art project to reflect perceptions on legal highs.

The Youth Council were given UNICEF applications which are due on 16 May to attend a Youth congress in Christchurch on the 11-13 July to go you have to apply and if you get in might be able to look at ways to fund them. Kayla informed the Youth Council that she can be a reference if they wish. To apply the age group is between 15-20 years old.

The next meeting is to be held on 26 May at 5pm.

The meeting closed at 6.14pm.