



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

THURSDAY 10 APRIL 2008

In Attendance:

LF, HB, & BR (Halewood College), DS (Halewood C of E), NH (St Andrew the Apostle), EJ (Halewood resident – St Hilda's), CP, DL & RH (Halewood College)

Elected Members : Cllrs Sue Smith & Cllr S.Moretta.
Town Council Staff : John Green.

Apologies: No Apologies received.

At this point the Chairman welcomed the four new members of the Youth Council to their first meeting, namely EJ, CP, DL and RH. The Town manager asked that they complete contact details, and he promised to send copies of the Constitution and Code of Conduct to them to sign and return.

Did Not Attend : HW (Holy Family), RD (St Mark's RC), SG (Greengates), HY (Plantation).

YC25/2008 – To approve the minutes of the meeting of 14 February 2008.

The minutes of the meeting of 14 February 2008 were read and duly accepted.

Proposed: HB (Halewood College)
Seconded: NH (St Andrew the Apostle)

YC26/2008 – To discuss matters arising from the minutes of 14 February 2008

(i). LF agreed to produce this article for each newsletter starting for the May 2008 edition.

(ii). The Town Manager further reported about the launching of the website, and a discussion took place about members of the Youth Council taking ownership of the web page for the Youth Council, and, (within the parameters of the template system),

suggesting content and page appearance. Individual members pledged to contact the Town Manager with their suggestions.

YC27/2008–General Purposes & Environmental Committee of 6 March 2008.

The minutes of the General Purposes & Environment Meeting were received and discussed. The Town Manager gave an overview of the issues raised at the above meeting.

(i). It was noted that initials and not names were now being used in all copies of the minutes, so as to safeguard the identities of Youth Council members in accordance with Child Protection legislation.

YC28/2008 – Any Other Business

There were a significant number of other issues discussed:

(i). The Youth Town Council were encouraged to consider a project they could identify as their own. This raised a great deal of discussion, and it was thought that members could develop a survey to put to as many students in their respective schools as possible as to the idea of developing a “drop-in” centre in Halewood for young people to congregate in. The survey would need to be developed in time for the July meeting, with a view to obtaining responses before the summer term ended. It was said that there was nowhere for youths to go, and that ideally it could be self-supervised. Admittance could be on a swipe card basis, only issued by a pupils respective school, with the facility of “red-handing” any individuals card who have broken rules or caused issues, thereby not allowing entry. Another request was that any adult workers at the site should be “around 26-ish !”. Other Youth Organisations would be invited to assist in running the proposed Centre. The new Halewood College Learning Centre was mentioned as a potential site, but students, (particularly those from the College), felt that going back to the place where they went all week was not what they wanted, and a separate location was more desirable. Two sites were mentioned, the old Library when this relocates to the new building, and the Family Centre, both on Leathers Lane. Members of the Youth Council will begin sending ideas for the Town Manager to draft into a questionnaire, who will then seek the Chairman of the Youth Council’s approval prior to the July meeting when it can be formally adopted.

(ii). The Town Manager reported on an update on the website (see also YC26/2008 (ii) above), and also handed a copy of the 2007-2008 Annual Report to the members of the Youth Council. He said that there was a page outlining the beginning of the Youth Council in this years report, but hoped that members of the Youth Council would provide the article in future years.

(iii). The Town Manager reported the progress being made on a potential twinning with Ballinasloe in the Republic of Ireland, and the history behind the planned twinning. He further reported that the Town Council were hoping to agree to create a “Twinning Sub-

Committee” later that evening at full Council, and would be seeking a member of the Youth Council to be a representative on that committee. The Chair asked for anyone who may wish to be the representative, and it was agreed that BR (Halewood College) be the nominated representative, who was delighted to accept.

(iv). There were several enquiries by members of the Youth Council about by who, and why, the trees on Leathers Lane had been recently planted. Although some were fearful about vandalism of these trees, it was generally agreed that the work, undertaken by Knowsley MBC was welcomed to improve the appearance of the Lane.

(v). Linked to (iv) above regarding vandalism, there was some discussion about the congregation of young people, particularly from the College, on the Wood Road Playground. There was mention that many students used this as a meeting place during lunch time, but that perhaps improved lighting or CCTV could deter the anti-social element who frequent of an evening. The Town Manager said that lighting would be a problem because of potential light pollution affecting nearby homes across Wood Road. He further said that there was no proof that students from the College were involved in acts of vandalism, but highlighted the Borough Bye-Law which is supposed to restrict access to playgrounds across the Borough to those under the age of 12 years. Litter left after lunch time congregations were an issue, although this is an “educational” issue to ask people to dispose correctly of litter.

(vi). A member of the Youth Council mentioned the issue regarding the potential loss of Wardens in the area, who always approach groups in a polite, respectful way, and hoped that the service would be retained.

(vii). A member of the Youth Council, which was echoed by other members, highlighted that people always perceived and highlighted the bad aspects of youths in the Town. He gave an example of a group of Youths from the College who are organising a visit to the weekly Pensioners Bingo Session to assist with the Bingo, make cakes etc. It was agreed that this sort of news should, (once it takes place), be reported in an article in the Halewood News.

YC29/2008 – Close of meeting, and date of next meeting

Being no further business, the Chair of the Meeting thanked all for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 7:12 p.m. The next meeting of the Youth Town Council is scheduled to take place on Thursday 10 July 2008 at the One Stop Shop, 5-21 Ravencourt, LeathersLane, Halewood, commencing at 6 p.m. This is subject to the timetable for Full Council meetings being agreed by Town Council at the Annual Meeting on 15 May 2008.