



Broadstairs Youth Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2026 at 10am in the Council chamber, Pierremont Hall, Broadstairs.

Present:

- Cllr Mike Garner, Chairman of the Council and Town Mayor
- Cllr Joanne Bright, School Liaison Councillor.
- Students and accompanying teacher from Stone Bay School
- Students and accompanying teacher from The Charles Dickens School
- Students and accompanying teacher from St Georges C of E Foundation School
- Students and accompanying teacher from Dane Court School
- Students and accompanying teacher from Thanet College
- Kirsty Holroyd: Town Clerk BSPTC
- Abigail Barton: Civic and Support Officer BSPTC
- Mia Tillet: Events Supervisor
- Lawrence Grant: Community Officer TDC
- Tony Marmo: Head of Coastal and Public Realm – TDC
- Dan Gooch: Open Spaces Manager - TDC

37. Welcome and Introduction by Cllr Bright and Cllr Garner who explained a little about their roles and what they were hoping to achieve via this forum.

38. School Delegate Introductions – Cllr Bright asked everyone to introduce themselves.

39. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting – 1 October 2025

It was agreed the minutes were an accurate record of what had been discussed at the last meeting.

40. School Projects Update

Abi has been in talks with Charles Dickens School Gardening Club and Anti-bullying club to help them redesign their dilapidated sensory garden. This project is to help the children to use skills such as design, planning, budgeting, English and math skills they will also be learning at school in a real-life setting.

The overall aim of this project is to create a peaceful space within the school grounds that will be a haven for pollinator insects and an antibullying, mindful space. Abi will be helping the children to apply for a gardening grant through the In Bloom scheme to help fund this. A proposal will be sent to Council for consideration.

Bulbs have also been donated to Stone Bay School as part of this engagement project. We are looking forward to receiving updates from them once they are planted.

Mia reported on the Winter Ball event she is currently organising with Charles Dickens School for 20 February. Unfortunately, insufficient tickets have been sold to let it go ahead at present and everyone was encouraged to buy tickets as soon as possible. Closing date for sales is 13 February.





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These opportunities are open to other schools and students should let their teachers know if they have a project in mind. Teachers can then discuss possibilities with Town Council officers.

41. Open Spaces improvements

Tony and Dan gave a presentation on TDC's work to improve play and sport facilities across the District.

- Strategy to consult on the need for a new leisure centre for the District
- Improvements at various skate parks.
- Improvements at various play parks
- Consultation on Jackey Baker's Recreation Ground
- Installation of an outdoor gym at St Peter's recreation ground.
- Athletics track improvements
- Warre Recreation Ground
- Home advantage programme @ Garlinge, Hartsdown and Dane Park.
- Dane Valley MUGA – resurface, outdoor gym and seating area

Projects come from community voice. TDC doesn't act unless the community says they want it.

Cllr Bright asked if young people had any ideas for improvements.

- Volleyball and badminton especially on the beach. Tony Marmo will look into beach volleyball. Volleyball in halls is not something they've had any feedback on. They will calculate if they have sufficient in the district.
- Advertising for new facilities – students didn't know they existed. Need to be publicised. Tony says we need to feedback to TDC Comms team. Cllr Bright ask where they would usually find out about facilities – Facebook. Communicate through the school. posters on noticeboards
- How to keep play areas safe? Knife crime, ASB. Lawrence replied – knife bins are positioned around the District and have been very successful at removing knives from the streets. If people feel unsafe, they must report to TDC. Some measures can be taken : better lighting, cutting back foliage, if area has become ASB hot spot TDC will let police know and they will patrol, CCTV is being upgraded, benches can be moved to better areas – small things make a difference..
- One teacher suggested the production of youth magazine. Young voices and articles. Busy Broadstairs for young people. Cllr Bright thought maybe a project for this forum or for Thanet Youth forum.

42. Thanet Youth Council update

Lawrence explained the role of the Thanet Youth Forum which caters for 11-18 year olds meets once a month on a Wednesday evening. He reported on the recent Christmas wellness project the group had undertaken. Gifts were collected from members of the public and schools and distributed to families and individuals in need via Oasis and Foodbanks. In total 72 hygiene and food parcels, with more toys being received and distributed immediately prior to Christmas.





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A second project is now underway: The Forum members are producing a video to counter the negative image people sometimes have of young people. It also aims to paint Thanet in a better light. It will be celebrating positive things about our area. Young people are contributing ideas, messages, reels and words. Students explained the things they liked about Thanet and how their hometowns made them feel. Murals, beaches, events, food festival fun fairs, summer fireworks, open spaces, things that bring families together. Lawrence invited everyone to send something in and get involved.

Lawrence also reported on Active Thanet which he is currently promoting. He is working with TDC's Open Spaces team to make spaces more inviting. Government grants are coming and TDC needs input from young people on how to spend it.

43. Upcoming Youth Events

** students from Dane Court Grammar School had to leave the meeting*

Cllr Bright reminded everyone about Winter Ball and Valentines Movie Night happening at Pierremont Hall and told them about paid work opportunities with the Town Council events team. Flyers were available with information about all three things.

44. Proposals for future projects

None

45. Date for next meeting: May/June 2026

Cllr Bright and Cllr Garner thanked everyone for their time and their valuable contributions and closed the meeting at 11.00am.

