



# Broadstairs Youth Forum

**Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 10 am in the Council chamber, Pierremont Hall, Broadstairs.**

Present:

- Cllr Joanne Bright, School Liaison Councillor.
- Cllr George Rusiecki, Broadstairs and St. Peter's Town Mayor.
- Students and accompanying teacher from The Charles Dickens School.
- Students and accompanying teacher from St. Georges.
- Abi Barton: Community Engagement Officer.
- Rachel Cox- Biodiversity Officer - TDC.
- Sarah and Amanda from Sports Connect- TDC

## **56. Welcome and Introduction**

**Introductions were received by** Cllr Bright and Cllr George Rusiecki.

## **57. School Delegate Introductions**

Students, Officers and Councillors present were asked to introduce themselves. Each person gave an explanation of their roles.

## **58. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026**

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

## **59. School Projects Update**

Community Engagement Officer Abi discussed upcoming projects that students and teachers can get involved in. This included the upcoming “big plant week”. This is opportunity for volunteers to help plant 1200 bulbs and some trees from 21<sup>st</sup> November to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

All present were also made aware of the Town Council Gardening Grants scheme that has now been updated by council to cover community applicants giving opportunities for ‘neighbourly projects’. All were reminded that they are entitled to apply for funding if they have a project that is suitable.

## **60. Sports Connect Presentation**

A presentation was received from Sarah of Sports connect who detailed the following 5 sports projects across Thanet:

Open Sport, future pathways, limitless, education and training, coach and development. Sports connect also explained their impact figures and social value and stated that there are currently no locations in Broadstairs and how they are looking to change that.

Students were asked where they would like to see new locations. Various were suggested all around Thanet.





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Students also suggested beach volleyball and more use of Viking Bay, in town locations near transport, beach safety, going into schools and all girls' sessions.

Students requested that more promotion of sports connect workshops and events are to be promoted directly through schools.

### 61. Climate change and biodiversity projects presentation

A presentation was received from Rachel Cox, climate change projects coordinator at TDC. Students were shown slides explaining what climate change is, the effects we may be experiencing and how TDC are working to help reduce their emissions to meet the Net Zero by 2050 strategy that they have.

A detailed explanation of how TDC are doing to meet their Net zero promise included:

- Their net zero strategy
- Biodiversity strategy
- Installing solar panels on council owned buildings
- Swapping gas boilers for air source heat pumps in council owned buildings
- Green skills and careers workshops for 16-25 year old
- Home energy service
- Air quality strategy
- TDC Open spaces team creating pollinator patches and mini woodlands across the district
- Updating flood defences
- And lots of upcoming educational events!

Students asked Rachel how they can help fight climate change?

Rachel explained that there are lots of things they can do that will make a difference. From small things like turning off lights to offering to cook plant based meals for their parents to help lower their carbon footprint. They were also told about volunteering days, litter picking or planting, joining gardening clubs and enrichment classes.

Rachel asked the students what their ideal Thanet looked like.  
The students answered the following:

- Cleaner, less litter
- More greenspaces, woodlands and trees
- Nature integrated into our streets
- Not enough bins, more art/painted bins
- More attention to smaller grass verges, making flower patches and tree planting
- More accessible.





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- Easier to read, picture-based education signs to stop other kids vandalising patches that are there.

Community Engagement Officer Abi, explained that the Town Council is aiming for more pollinator patches across our town and has 2 already with education signs that are picture based, but took the opportunity to ask the students what changes they think should be made to the Town council signs before they are to be replaced next year.

The students suggested that they are to be more accessible and maybe include brail. They also suggested changing the background from a picture to a plain colour like blue.

### **62. Upcoming Youth Events**

Students received the dates for the upcoming youth events, this included the under eighteens events such as a Halloween party, film night and Christmas film night and market. Flyers were available with information about the events.

### **63. Thanet youth Council Update.**

No update received due to absence.

### **64. Proposals for future projects**

None Received

### **65. Questions and any other business.**

One student asked where they can find information about projects and events across Thanet all in one place.

Abi directed the students to Broadstairs Town Council Website, TDC website, social media pages including don't miss Broadstairs and their website too.

### **66. Date for next meeting: TBC**

Cllr Bright thanked everyone for their time and their valuable contributions and closed the meeting closed 11:14am.

