

PLYMSTOCK AREA YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Meeting Notes

Friday 24th January 2020 at 13.30 at Plymstock United Church

Present:

Members:

Marley, Thaila, Beth and Matt (Plymstock), Dan and Harley (Plymstock 6th Form), Noah and Ava (Dunstone), James and Olivia (Oreston), Sammy and Annabel (Goosewell), and James and Hannah (Elburton).

Apologies from Coombe Dean and Pomphlett.

Adults:

P.C. Glenn Hawkins (Devon and Cornwall Police), Claire Turbutt (Public Health, Plymouth City Council), Kieran (PCC), Becky Littler (Plymstock School), Councillor Kathy Watkin (Plymstock Radford), Adele Gibson (Dunstone), Jo Penk (Goosewell), Jo Williams (Elburton), John Stephens (UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador) and Caroline Chapman (Community and Families Worker).

Apologies from Bradie Mee (Coombe Dean), Helen Burrows (Pomphlett) and Councillor Rebecca Smith

1. **Welcome** John welcomed back those who attended last time and those who were attending for the first time or as a guest.
2. **Introductions** Everyone introduced themselves and explained their role.
3. **Recap of last meeting: ideas from the children and young people**

John emphasised how the children and young people's thoughts, ideas and opinions were important to help shape community life for children and young people in the Plymstock area.

Copies of the last meeting notes were shared that included the group's thoughts of what they like about living in Plymstock, don't like, and how they think Plymstock could be an even better place to live and grow up in.

These notes will be sent with these meeting notes. Schools are asked to give a copy to each child / young person who attended and to representatives from schools unable to have attended so far.
4. **Plymouth Herald newspaper article**

Following the last meeting, Carl Eve, a reporter for Plymouth Herald/Plymouth Live published an article entitled 'The forgotten part of Plymouth where kids have nothing to do.' The article highlighted the limited provision for leisure and

socialising opportunities for children and young people in Plymstock compared to similar sized or smaller communities such as Plympton and Ivybridge.

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/forgotten-part-plymouth-kids-nothing-3628831>

5. Renaming the group

Everyone decided the name of the group should change to Plymstock Area Youth Parliament instead of Plymstock Children and Young People Community Forum which is too long!

The aims of the Youth Parliament have been sent with these notes. School are asked to give a copy to each member.

6. Outcomes of the adult meeting (20.01.2020) shared with young people

The Plymstock Community Group which met on Monday 20 January considered the Youth Parliament's valuable feedback and ideas from their last meeting. They also discussed information collected by school staff from parents/carers about past and current facilities and activities in Plymstock.

The adults learned that young people want somewhere safe to hang out and understand that there may be a cost involved – nothing astronomical! The research shows that there is a lot of provision for 5-11 year olds so we need to concentrate on the needs of 11-17 year olds. However, we need to have the voice of all ages as the primary-aged children are the future teenagers in Plymstock.

It is great that Councillor Smith and Councillor Watkin have said they would like to pool their community grants to help the young people have better facilities. The adult community group is keen to turn their ideas into actions and get things done for them. This is focussing on working to set up a temporary bike / skate park in central Plymstock during the Easter school holidays. To do this, members will check out costs involved, permission to use the land in certain parts of Plymstock e.g. behind the Plymstock Community Centre. They will then need to plan, staff and advertise the event to the young people of Plymstock. The Youth Parliament members were keen and supportive of this plan.

The adult group also discussed the recent incident involving a large group of young people at Plymstock McDonalds.

7. Claire Turbutt, Plymouth City Council's Public Health Department

Having attended the adult community group, Clare was invited to meet the Youth Parliament to share an exciting initiative called the Green Minds Project. This involves learning how green and blue spaces, and any buildings within them, are used around the city. These include focussing on nature reserves, including Radford Park in Plymstock.

Project leaders will be conducting appreciative questioning to hear individual stories across the city. Claire was pleased to be able to gather the young people's voices to create stories about their time spent in green spaces.

The group discussed the possibility of Radford bird hide being a perfect, safe space for an outdoor classroom in woods – a space to be used by young people. Whilst there is an unofficial bike track through Radford Woods, this could be designated a safe recreational space to use in harmony with other park users. An outdoor gym could also be an idea to develop for use by both younger and older members of the Plymstock community.

8. Interactions and discussions

Claire and Kieran guided all adults in the meeting to record in writing the children and young people's stories of their lives from Saturday morning to Sunday evening. This was to help towards 100 face to face stories of life outdoors in Plymstock to find out how outdoor spaces – small and large, formal and informal - are being used.

Afterwards, the stories captured at the meeting were shared with the whole group. School staff agreed to do a further five in each school to help achieve the 100 stories from the Plymstock area; this is considered a good sample number to gain a reliable picture of people's experiences. Claire and Kieran are keen to continue their involvement with the Youth Parliament.

9. Next Steps

- 1) John to email meeting notes to all schools asking them to forward to all named young people and to those who have not attended yet.
- 2) John to contact schools who could not attend about the next meeting.
- 3) School representatives to cascade the Youth Parliament work to their School Council / Children's Parliament / Senate.
- 4) Members of the Plymstock Youth Parliament to think about fundraising ideas to help fund their ideas.
- 5) Adult school representatives to record children's/students' 'stories' from a range of backgrounds and bring to the adult meeting on Monday 16 March at 09.30.
- 6) John to plan democracy training for members to further the work of the Youth Parliament.
- 7) John to arrange for the Youth Parliament to meet with Sir Gary Streeter, the local Member of Parliament.

10. Date for next meeting of Plymstock Youth Parliament

Friday 20 March 2020 at 13.30 - 15.00 at Plymstock United Church.