



**CHIPPENHAM
TOWN COUNCIL**
Improving the quality of town life

Chippenham Youth Council

Meeting 22 February 2021:

Items on the agenda:

Chairman's Announcements:

Councillors Nick Murry and Sandie Webb were elected as Councillor representatives for the Youth Council.

Youth Councillors were encouraged to turn their cameras on so everyone can see each other during the meeting.

Homelessness in Chippenham

Jo Kitching from Doorway and Lisa Thomas from Alabare/Unity House joined the Youth Council to present on the work they do to tackle homelessness in Chippenham.

The causes of homelessness include mental health and addiction issues, relationship breakdown and eviction. The current Covid-19 pandemic has made some of these issues worse.

Alabare/Unity House:

Unity House is a hostel for homeless people based in Wood Lane, Chippenham, currently housing a total of 21 residents from the age of 16+. They work with people who have been sleeping rough and refer them to other organisations which can help them.

Doorway:

Doorway is a charity that provides practical support for people aged 16+ who haven't got a home. They support two primary groups, those that have to sleep outside, known as rough sleepers, and those who are homeless as they don't have their own front door - for example they are staying with friends, in a hostel etc.

Wiltshire Police/ Police Cadets

The Youth Council has received interest from both the Police Cadets and a representative from Wiltshire Police to attend a future meeting if the Youth Council would find this useful.

After discussion it was agreed that engaging with both groups, but the Police Cadets as another youth group.

Future Chippenham Consultation:

The Community Engagement Manager for Wiltshire Council presented on the Future Chippenham Consultation for a new distributor road around the town. The full presentation and video showing the three proposed road routes will be circulated to the Youth Councillors after the meeting for their consideration.

An e-newsletter is available if Youth Councillors wish to get more regular updates on the scheme.

Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman:

The Democratic Services Manager updated the Youth Council regarding the process for voting a new Chairman and Vice Chairman. A test vote was undertaken to ensure everyone understood the process.

Isabelle Pettinger expressed interest in running for the position of Chairman, and with no other Youth Councillors expressing interest and 8 votes in favour Isabelle was elected.

Ruby Eggleton, Declan Kiely, Faye Hadden, Ayla Erencan and Thomas Berry all expressed interest becoming Vice Chairman. A Majority vote of 3 was recorded and Ruby Eggleton was elected as Vice Chairman.

Isabelle Pettinger took over the role as Chairman from this point.

Update to Full Council:

Youth Councillors discussed the opportunity to attend the Full Council Meeting on 24 March 2021, from 7pm.

After discussion Youth Councillors agreed they would like to attend the Full Council meeting and provide an update on what they had been doing and their priorities for the future.

Future Agenda Items:

The future agenda items were discussed, and the following items were highlighted as priorities for the next Youth Council meeting.

- The Youth Council update to Full Council on the 24 March
- Response to Future Chippenham Consultation
- Social Media Update
- Mental Health Awareness
- Recruitment of Youth Council members