

Meeting Minutes
Ceredigion Youth Council
Council Chamber, Penmorfa
Friday 20 October 2023

(10:00 – 14.00)

Present:

Ysgol Bro Pedr & Urdd Ceredigion (YC Chairperson 2022-23)
Ysgol Bro Teifi
Ysgol Bro Teifi
Ysgol Penglais & Goats Youth Hub
Ysgol Penglais & Goats Youth Hub
Coleg Ceredigion & Aberystwyth Community Ambassadors
Coleg Ceredigion & Aberystwyth Community Ambassadors
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig & Urdd Ceredigion
EHE & Talybont Youth Club
Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron
Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron
Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron
Ysgol Bro Pedr
Ysgol Bro Pedr
Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi

Also Present: Gwion Bowen (Children and Young People's Participation Officer, Youth Work and Engagement Service), Lowri Evans (Team Manager, Youth Work and Engagement Service – Ceredigion County Council) and Councillor Wyn Thomas (Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

Speakers: Tesni Woodfall (Equality and Inclusion Officer, Policy and Performance Service – Ceredigion County Council) and Iestyn Morgan (Electoral Services Engagement & Processing Officer, Legal and Democracy Services – Ceredigion County Council)

Apologies:

(Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig), (Ysgol Penglais), (Ysgol Penglais),
(Ysgol Henry Richard), (Ysgol Henry Richard), (Ysgol Bro Pedr), (Ysgol
Bro Pedr), (Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron), (Ysgol Bro Teifi) and Elen James (Chief
Education Officer, Ceredigion County Council)

Meeting Agenda:



Agenda Cyngor
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MINUTES

1 Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

Gwion Bowen opened the meeting by welcoming the new Youth Council to the Chamber.

This year's membership will be Ceredigion's 9th Youth Council.

GB and LE introduced themselves and their roles.

Apologies noted.

GB informed the Youth Council of 'housekeeping' arrangements.

- Speakers
- Translation devices
- Fire Exits
- Toilet facilities
- Lunch and refreshments

Youth Council members introduced themselves and which schools / organisations they are representing.

GB explained that a register will be going around during the meeting to collect e-mail addresses for correspondence, and asked if members could note any dietary requirements for future reference. Membership forms will also be distributed during the meeting and/or by e-mail in due course.

GB explained that following today's meeting a MS Teams Hwb Channel will be created to share information.

2 What is our Youth Council and 2023/24 Youth Council structure?

GB presented to the Youth Council, providing background information and explained the current structure of the Youth Council.



Cyfarfod 1af Cyngor
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3 Have your say on Second Home and Long-term Empty Property Council Tax Premiums

GB shared information around the consultation which has launched asking for views on what level of council tax premiums should be charged on long-term empty properties and second homes in Ceredigion.

Currently, there is a 25% extra charge on top of the normal level of council tax for second homes and long-term empty properties in the county.

In Ceredigion, 33,856 properties are responsible for paying council tax. Of these, 2,289 (6.8%) are either second homes or long-term empty properties. Most second homes are located around the coastal areas, with long-term empty properties generally being seen in more urban areas.

Ceredigion County Council wants to hear from citizens on the future level for these council tax premiums, including what impacts any change could have on local communities, the Welsh language, tourism, and the economy.



Treth Tai Gwag a ailgartrefu.pptx



Poster Second Home and Empty Property.p

Youth Council members shared their thoughts and opinions on the topic of second homes and long-term empty properties, which included influence on the economy, house prices and available housing for young people (rental / to buy). Young people provided with details to respond to the consultation.

4 Environment and Period Dignity Sub-groups Workshops

GB explained that there are two sub-groups to the Youth Council. Members can choose one in which to participate. The Youth Council split in order to undertake two sub-group workshops.

GB and LE presented information to both sub-groups and what has been undertaken by the last Youth Council.

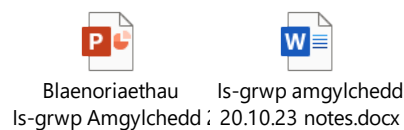
<u>Environment Sub-Group</u>	<u>Period Dignity Sub-Group</u>
<p>Participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 	<p>Participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.

Environment Sub-Group

During the Environment Subgroup workshop and as a starting point for discussion, GB shared the Subgroup's priorities for the year 2022 - 2023.

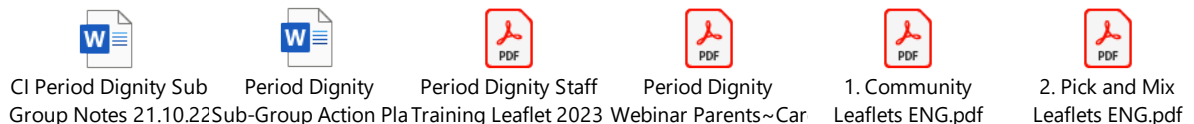
Having recognised what had worked well in 2022 - 2023 and what potentially needed to be done to progress the sub-group's work in 2023 - 2024; members decided to prioritise a £500 environment project for 2023 - 2024.

A brief task was provided by GB for the Environment Subgroup members to discuss and share ideas around an appropriate environment project to be prioritised for the forthcoming year. The Sub-Group will confirm which project to pursue at our next meeting in the new year on 02.02.24.



Period Dignity Sub-Group

LE shared information around what the last Youth Council's priorities were in terms of period dignity. LE shared a copy of their action plan, and the new sub-group members will have the opportunity to establish their own priorities for 2023-24.



[Period Dignity in Ceredigion - Ceredigion County Council](#)


Some ideas were shared around what the group would like to focus on for this year, and these ideas will be explored further in future meetings.

Period products samples were shared to understand which items young people preferred.

5 A word from Councillor Wyn Thomas, Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Councillor Wyn Thomas, Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills welcomed the new Youth Council for 2023-24.

Cllr Wyn Thomas explained his role within Cabinet and highlighted the important role of the Youth Council in Ceredigion as a platform for young people to have their voice and opinions heard. Adding that the Youth Council is also an opportunity for all members to represent the views and opinions of other young people living in Ceredigion.

	<p>Cllr Wyn Thomas explained that he was looking forward to the new annual programme and to have the opportunity to listen and engage with all youth council members during the forthcoming meetings.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Youth Council Chairperson Election 2023/24</p>
	<p>GB presented the opportunity to become the Youth Council Chairperson for 2023-24. GB explained the role, and its responsibilities.</p> <div data-bbox="746 517 949 645" style="text-align: center;">  <p>Etholiad Cadeirydd Cyngor Ieuenctid 202</p> </div> <p>IM (Chairperson for 2022-23) talked of his experience as Chairperson and the skills he has developed from being in the role. IM encouraged new members to consider the opportunity.</p> <p>GB thanked IM for his commitment and efforts as Chairperson for 2022-23.</p> <p>GB explained the election process and thanked everyone who put their names forward to become Chairperson (JP; YUA, AD; YBT, RA; Penweddig, IH; Penweddig, CD; Penweddig, TD; Penglais).</p> <p>A vote was held and it was announced that Rosa Waby, (Year 12) Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig was successful in being elected by the Youth Council as Ceredigion Youth Council Chairperson for 2023-24. RW was congratulated on her appointment.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Ceredigion Draft Equality Plan 2024-28 Consultation</p>
	<p>Tesni Woodfall (Equality and Inclusion Officer, Policy and Performance Service – Ceredigion County Council) joined the Youth Council meeting to present Ceredigion’s Draft Equality Plan 2024-28 consultation.</p> <p>All public authorities must publish a set of objectives and a plan that describes what they will do to reduce inequality and address prejudice and discrimination.</p> <p>People were asked for their views about equality in the Dyfed-Powys area during the summer. The answers received have helped us to put together an important draft Strategic Equality Plan to make life better for those who are disadvantaged because of their characteristics.</p> <p>The Council’s draft equality objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be an equal opportunities employer. • foster good relations and tackle prejudice. • ensure engagement and participation, respect and access to services. • provide fair and inclusive education.

Youth Council members participated in the consultation and took part in a group discussion.



Canlyniadau
Cyflwyniad Cynllun di

<https://www.menti.com/aldpqm7eipoc>

8 Ceredigion Local Democracy Week

To recognise this year’s Local Democracy Week 2023, Iestyn Morgan (Electoral Services Engagement & Processing Officer, Legal and Democracy Services – Ceredigion County Council) presented to the Youth Council to highlight the political process in Ceredigion, especially for young people.

Local Democracy Week takes place on a national and local level and aims to encourage the public, particularly underrepresented groups such as young people, ethnic minorities, and disabled people, to get involved in the democratic process.

The Welsh Government defines local democracy as every person having an ‘equal opportunity to influence change...ensuring that local policies and services reflect the needs and preferences of local communities.’



Cyflwyniad
Pleidleisio yn 16 ac 17



9 United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) Presentation and Ceredigion UKYP Member election

GB presented the opportunity for the Youth Council to elect Ceredigion’s next UK Youth Parliament, Member of Youth Parliament. Aled Lewis (Year 13, Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron) is Ceredigion’s current UKYP MYP and will finish his term at the end of November 2023.



Cylfwyniad ASI - MYP
Presentation 2023.ppt

GB explained that there is now the opportunity for young people to declare whether they wish to nominate themselves for the UKYP election. Young people who wish to do so will have 30 seconds to 'pitch' why they would like to take on the role to the rest of the Youth Council. The Youth Council will then vote, by placing their ballot papers into the ballot box at the front of the Chamber. Each young person has one vote. The votes will be counted during lunch and the successful candidate will be announced shortly after lunch.

Six young people put their names forward and were congratulated for doing so, as it is not an easy task to speak in front of so many others especially in a setting like the Chamber. Each young person gave a short explanation to support their application. Those who ran for election (JP; YUA, AD; YBT, IH; Penweddig, CD; Penweddig, BLI; YBT, CJ; CC).

The ballot was held, and it was announced that the successful candidate, who will be this year's Member of UK Youth Parliament for Ceredigion is: Aeron Dafydd (Ysgol Bro Teifi). AD was congratulated, and others were acknowledged for putting themselves forward.

10 Information Sharing and Date of Next Meeting

GB called for any other business from members. None reported.

GB shared copies of service membership form.

GB shared information and asked for interest in scheduling a visit to the Senedd in Cardiff into this year's Youth Council programme, likely to be during February Half Term 2024. Youth Council members demonstrated an interest in this activity.

GB shared information and materials around Hate Crime Awareness Week.

GB shared information about the next meeting which will be held again in the Chamber on the 02/02/2024.

Dates of 2023-24 meetings:

Meeting 1; 20/10/23

Meeting 2; 02/02/24

Meeting 3; 20/03/24

End of office, Pawb a'i Farn Event; 12/07/23



Youth Council Flyer
2023.24 (Eng).pdf

GB explained that sub-groups may meet before the next Youth Council meeting, most likely over MS Teams. Sub-groups may meet more regularly to ensure project / campaign work can progress. More information will follow to sub-groups in due course.

GB asked all members to sign out on their way out of Penmorfa and wait for their transport in the reception area.

GB thanked the group for a productive and positive first meeting of the Youth Council 2023-24.

Youth Council meeting minutes are presented to both the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Full Cabinet, in order to ensure that the views of young people are fed into the democratic process in Ceredigion.