



**MINUTES**  
**OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**  
**TUESDAY 22 AUGUST 2017**

Held at 7pm in Council Chamber B, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford

**PRESENT:**

Councillors T Combellack (Chairman), J E Thurman (Vice-Chairman),  
B Buschman, M J Edwards, R A Inglis, K A Khan, F A Purdue-Horan,  
Mrs M Stockwood (substitute for Councillor M Buckle), J G A Wheeler.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

M Emerson	YouNG Intern
D Mitchell	Executive Manager – Communities
P Phillips	Environmental Sustainability Officer
L Webb	Constitutional Services Officer

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillor M Buckle.

**6. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**7. Notes of the Previous Meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on Thursday 1 June 2017 were accepted as a true record.

**8. Review and Future of YouNG**

The Executive Manager – Communities presented the report of the Chief Executive to provide the Group with a progress report on the review and future of the YouNG project. The Executive Manager confirmed that the Group's comments and contributions would be published in a final report to Community Development Group in November, 2017. The report noted that the YouNG project covered three areas; work experience, YouNG markets and the YouNG Goes Euro project, and that in total the Council currently spent £220,000 per year supporting young people. This spend included the YouNG net budget, contributions made to fund the Careers Enterprise Company and the Positive Futures project, which the Council would continue to fund until December 2020.

The Executive Manager noted that the main bulk of the YouNG budget covered the salaries of the YouNG employees, which currently consisted of two interns, one apprentice and seven YouNG Ambassadors. The seven YouNG ambassadors worked to promote YouNG in their schools through assemblies and utilising social media, as well as in assisting in the organisation and running of the YouNG Markets.

The Executive Manager informed the Group that the Chief Executive had recently held a meeting with Positive Futures and NGi, who currently lead on the YouNG Goes Euro project and the Careers Enterprise Company initiative, to investigate if there were any potential opportunities to work more closely together with either Positive Futures or NGi taking a lead role.

The Group asked for further clarification about the level of success of the most recent YouNG Market. The Executive Manager assured Councillors that the Council had received excellent feedback from the YouNG Market stall holders and the YouNG Intern reported that during the most recent YouNG Market confidence and abilities of those who had previously sold at a YouNG Market had increased. The Executive Manager advised that the YouNG project was an efficient method for the Council to meet their objective of supporting young people to develop the skills needed to enter, and be successful in the workplace.

The Executive Manager asked the Group for their thoughts on whether the £220,000 budget for the Council was sufficient enough to meet the Council's objective of supporting young people within the Borough, as well as whether the budget should be reduced in order to make a saving. Members of the Group discussed the quantity of YouNG employees and whether they believed that Council's management role should be reduced over the next three years.

The Group were aware that there were a number of projects similar to YouNG currently operating in Rushcliffe secondary schools such as Young Enterprise and Aspire and believed that for the amount of money that the Council was investing in young people, the school's response was limited. Members of the Group agreed that the Council should still support the YouNG Project, that the YouNG Ambassador programme and the employment of interns should continue and that other opportunities should be investigated that could potentially provide further funding. The Group also suggested that current employees of YouNG should be given the opportunity to continue their employment at Rushcliffe Borough Council where possible and that YouNG should be promoted to new businesses in the Borough as well as to the businesses who were members of the Strategic Growth Boards.

The Group felt that moving forward the YouNG project needed to be more focused, concentrating on fewer elements, with its main focus being on business and employability skills and that there should also be somebody employed full time, with sufficient experience in order to manage the project. The Group also requested that they receive further clarification of the objectives for the future of YouNG.

The Chairman requested that the Group should be provided with information of the current career paths of the first cohort of those who had taken part in the YouNG Project in order to help quantify the success of YouNG.

The Group agreed the following summary

- They were supportive of continued budget provision at the same level (£220k per annum) for a three-year period to assist in partnership negotiations.

- They valued the ambassadors, apprentices and interns and found it difficult to prioritise in any one area.
- They would like the programme to be more focussed but also delivering to a wider audience.
- They acknowledged opportunities for increased partnership working with Positive Futures / NGi with an emphasis on the need for clear full time management of the programme moving forward.

The Group thanked the Executive Manager - Communities and the YouNG intern for attending the meeting and answering their questions.

**It was RESOLVED that:**

- a) the progress to date regarding initial discussions and the emerging delivery model of YouNG, its links to the other young people related projects that the Council fund and deliver, and how this links to the strategic task of 'facilitating activities for children and young people to enable them to reach their potential', be noted.
- b) the comments of the Group on the future plans for the continuation, or otherwise of YouNG be incorporated into the report of the Chief Executive, and that the report be presented at the 21 November 2017 meeting of the Community Development Group prior to the report being submitted to Cabinet.
- c) the Group be provided with information regarding the current career paths of the first cohort of those who had taken part in the YouNG Project.

**9. Tree Protection and Promotion in Rushcliffe**

The Environmental and Sustainability Officer gave a presentation to the Group on tree protection and promotion within the Borough. The Environmental and Sustainability Officer advised that the trees and woodlands policy was currently included in the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy which had been approved by Cabinet in November 2015. It was noted that Woodland coverage currently stood at 575 hectares or 1% of the Borough with this relatively low figure being largely due much of the land in the Borough having been mainly used for arable farming. The Environmental and Sustainability Officer informed the Group that areas with larger tree cover in Rushcliffe included Cotgrave Forest and Borders Wood. It was also noted that the areas with the lowest coverage of trees were in the Vale of Belvoir. The Environmental and Sustainability Officer asked the Group to consider:

- Whether the borough had sufficient coverage of trees and woodlands
- The direction and options that the council should take on tree protection and planting within Rushcliffe.

- What recommendations, if any, would they like to be taken Cabinet for their consideration.

The Group expressed concern about the low number of trees in the Vale of Belvoir as well as in the urban areas of the Borough and agreed that the Council should be promoting the planting of trees. The Group also suggested that the Council should look at the possibility of forming partnerships with land owners and seeking grants from organisations such as the Woodland Trust in order to promote increased tree planting.

The Executive Manager – Communities advised the Group that the Council were promoting tree growth within the Borough in many different ways. The Group was advised that during the Sharphill housing development only twenty trees were removed to enable the development to take place, however, there would be a significant number of trees included in the development plans associated with the proposed Park.

Members of the group made further suggestions on how tree planting could be promoted across the Borough which included asking children to ‘name a tree’ where they could be recognised for helping the environment. The Environmental and Sustainability Officer stated that one of the main issues that the Council faced when promoting tree growth within the Borough was that the Council did not own most of the land so the only way in which tree planting and protection of existing trees could be promoted was by encouraging land owners to plant more trees and by enforcing planning restrictions and Tree Protection Orders. Members of the group suggested that if a tree was removed from a landowners own plot they must inform the Council and replace it. The Executive Manager noted that this proposal could be communicated to residents through Rushcliffe Reports, but that the Council would have limited powers to enforce it.

The Chairman encouraged members of the Group to spend a proportion of their Community Support Scheme Grant on the promotion of tree planting within their ward. Members of the Group also suggested that the Borough could work with the Town and Parish Councils to proactively conserve and promote trees and woodlands in their local area and that Councillors could nominate groups and organisations who had promoted tree growth within the Borough for the Rushcliffe Community Awards.

The Executive Manager recommended that tree protection and promotion could become an item at a future Parish Forum and that there was an opportunity for Councillors to upgrade the policies stated in the Local Plan Part 2 with regard to tree protection and promotion. Members of the Group agreed that a further report should be presented to the next Group meeting before any recommendations were taken to Cabinet.

The Group thanked the Executive Manager - Communities and the Environmental Sustainability Officer for attending the meeting and answering their questions.

**It was RESOLVED that:**

- a) That the report of the Executive Manager – Communities be noted.

- b) That the comments and suggestions made by the Group with regard to tree protection and promotion within the Borough be incorporated into a further report to be presented at the 21 November 2017 meeting of the Community Development Group prior to a report being submitted to Cabinet.

#### 10. **Work Programme**

The Group considered and agreed its work programme. It had been agreed that a further report considering Tree Protection and Promotion in Rushcliffe would be presented at the next meeting.

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>
21 November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update on Rural Broadband</li><li>• Review and Future of YouNG</li><li>• Tree Protection and Promotion in Rushcliffe</li><li>• Work Programme</li></ul>
20 February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of the Public Spaces Protection Order</li><li>• Work Programme</li></ul>

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

## Action Sheet

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP - TUESDAY 22 AUGUST 2017

Minute Number	Actions	Officer Responsible
8.	a) The Group to be provided with further clarification about the future objectives of YouNG.  b) The Group to be provided with information regarding the current career paths of the first cohort of those who had taken part in the YouNG Project.	The Chief Executive.  Executive Manager – Communities.
9.	A further report to be presented to Community Development Group before recommendations are taken to Cabinet.	Executive Manager – Communities.