



# Uttlesford District Council

Chief Executive: Dawn French

## Uttlesford Youth Council

**Date:** Tuesday, 11th December, 2018  
**Time:** 5.30 pm  
**Venue:** Council Chamber - Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden,  
CB11 4ER

### AGENDA

**1 Guest Speaker(s)**

To receive the invited guest speaker.

**2 Introduction to Uttlesford Youth Council**

To introduce Uttlesford Youth Council to new members.

**3 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

To receive any apologies and declarations of interest.

**4 Minutes of the previous meeting(s) 5 - 16**

To consider the minutes of the previous meetings held on 8 May, 4 July and 11 September 2018.

**5 Housing Seminar 17 - 28**

To receive a summary on the Housing Seminar held on 1 December 2018.

**6 Constitution Working Group**

To consider the establishment of a Constitution Working Group.

**7 Working Groups**

To receive any updates relating to the Youth Council's working groups, and to consider proposals relating to the establishment of new working groups.

**8 Date of next meeting(s)**

The next meetings of the Youth Council had been previously scheduled for the 9 January 2019 and 7 March 2019.

**For information about this meeting please contact Democratic Services**

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# Agenda Item 4

**UTTLESFORD YOUTH COUNCIL held at COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN, CB11 4ER, on TUESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2018 at 5.30 pm**

Present: Councillor M Wolter (Chairman)  
Councillors T Birkbeck, R Davey, A McHugh, and E Reid.

Officers in attendance: B Ferguson (Democratic Services Officer) and J Starr (Community Officer).

Also present: District Councillors P Fairhurst, A Gerard, M Lemon and B Light.

## YC32 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Youth Councillors H Briffa, A Gerard and J Reid.

The Democratic Services Officer said the Youth Council had not achieved quorum and therefore no resolutions could be passed at the meeting.

## YC33 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meetings held on 8 May and 4 July were agreed as true and correct records, although formal approval was deferred until the next quorate meeting.

## YC34 **SPEAKING AT FULL COUNCIL**

The Youth Council discussed the possibility of speaking at the next Full Council meeting on Tuesday, 9 October.

Councillor Birkbeck said this was a good opportunity to raise the profile of the Youth Council and a number of councillors should attend as representatives.

There was agreement that the Chairman and Councillor Birkbeck should represent the Youth Council. They would provide a general update on the ongoing work of the Youth Council, with particular regard paid to the upcoming elections.

## YC35 **ELECTIONS**

Councillor Birkbeck said the aspiration was to hold the Youth Council elections in October. They would take place across a number of schools in the District, although much work needed to be done to coordinate the vote.

The Community Development Officer said a new school had opened in Uttlesford, Stansted Airport College, and its students could potentially join the Youth Council.

Members discussed the difficulty of communicating with schools and having the opportunity to promote the Youth Council to students e.g. presenting to an assembly. The Youth Councillors agreed that the assistance of District Councillors in arranging these events would be helpful.

The Chairman said holding successful elections across the District was the immediate objective of the Youth Council. Members agreed that there was an urgent need for new councillors and the preference was to have elected, rather than co-opted, representatives on the Youth Council. To ensure that the widest catchment of young people could be involved, elections should be held in schools.

Councillor McHugh proposed inviting teachers and head teachers from local schools to a meeting whereby a plan could be formed to hold elections across the District. Members agreed this was a good idea.

At the request of the Chairman, the District Councillors present agreed to assist in arranging the meeting with schools.

The meeting would take place at the Council Offices in Saffron Walden on 2 October at 5.30pm. The Community Development Officer and Members agreed to make the necessary arrangements with schools as follows:

- Felsted School – Community Development Officer to contact Councillors Felton and Mills.
- Forest Hall, Stansted – Community Development Officer to contact Councillor Sell and Mrs White.
- Helena Romanes School, Great Dunmow – Councillor Davey to speak to the Head Teacher.
- Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport – District Councillor Fairhurst to contact Mr Culpin.
- SWCHS, Saffron Walden – Community Development Officer to contact Mrs Smith.
- Stansted Airport College - Community Development Officer to make enquiries.

District Councillor Lemon said there were young people who lived in his ward but went to school outside of Uttlesford, in Bishop's Stortford, for example. He said they too would be welcome to participate in the Youth Council and he would contact those concerned.

Councillor Birkbeck said he would provide 'election packs' at the meeting, which contained the necessary information and materials to hold and promote the Youth Council elections.

YC36 **CONSTITUTION**

The Community Development Officer said he had spoken to the Assistant Director – Legal Services who would advise the Youth Council on any changes they wished to make to the Constitution. A meeting would be arranged in the near future.

YC37 **HOUSING SEMINAR**

The Community Development Officer said the Housing seminar had been scheduled for 1 December and would be held in the Council Chamber. The event would be sponsored by the Youth Council but all young people would be welcomed and encouraged to attend. The exact format of the day had yet to be decided but there was agreement that it would be beneficial if there was a strong interactive element to proceedings, as well as educational content on the issues surrounding housing and planning. There would also have to be a mechanism for ascertaining how young people felt about key planning issues, such as feedback forms or voting systems. The Youth Council would then use such information to provide feedback to Full Council.

The Community Development Officer said he would arrange a meeting with senior planning officers to discuss the details and itinerary of the event.

Members were informed of an invitation from the Chief Executive for two Youth Councillors to accompany the Council on a visit to an existing garden town near Cambridge. The Community Development Officer said the Council would like to hear the views of the Youth Council in regard to the design of the proposed Garden Communities.

YC38 **UPDATE FROM WORKING GROUPS**

**Housing Working Group**

Due to the upcoming housing seminar, Members agreed to hold a meeting of the Housing Working Group to discuss arrangements for the day. The meeting was set for the 25 September at 4.15pm and would be held in the Council Offices, Saffron Walden.

**Communications Working Group**

Councillors recognised that much work was required on promoting the Youth Council and attracting new members. There was a particular need to advertise and promote the upcoming elections.

Councillor Birkbeck said he and the Chairman had spoken to a journalist at the Saffron Walden Reporter newspaper and the Youth Council would have a press release on elections and the scheduled Housing seminar.

Social media was discussed and the various platforms that could be utilised. The Chairman said the membership of the Communications Working Group would be renewed following the upcoming elections and promoting the Youth Council through social and print media would be its primary aim.

#### YC39 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for the 7 November 2018. The Community Development Officer said he had two requests from Essex Police regarding the Youth Council. The first request was to carry out a consultation with young people regarding their general attitudes towards the police; the second was to seek views on the proposed formation of the Police Cadets in Uttlesford.

The Youth Council agreed that this would be a worthwhile exercise and invited a representative from Essex Police to attend the next meeting.

Councillor Davey said it would be good if there was a slot for presentations at every meeting, to inform and educate the Youth Council on a variety of issues.

Councillor Reid said she could reach out to Kemi Badenoch, the local MP, and invite her to attend a meeting.

District Councillor Fairhurst said he could invite a member of Toastmasters, an international group that promotes public speaking, to the next meeting.

Members agreed that this would be beneficial for the Youth Council and welcomed the opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers. The Community Development Officer said meetings could begin at 5.30pm in future to allow 30 minutes of guest speaking before the formal meeting would commence at 6.00pm.

#### YC40 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Reid asked if any progress had been made in regard to the proposed Youth Council certificate.

The Community Development Officer said he would make enquiries with the printing company who were potentially producing election posters for the Youth Council.

The Democratic Services Officer said he would speak to the Executive Support team who sourced the ceremonial gifts that were received by the Chairman of Full Council at the end of their term. He would ascertain whether a certificate could be produced and, if so, what it would look like.

The meeting ended at 7.35pm.



**YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING held at the COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD  
SAFFRON WALDEN at 5.30pm on 4 JULY 2018**

Present: Councillor M Wolter  
Councillors T Birkbeck, R Davey and O Woor.

Officers in  
attendance: R Dobson (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager), B  
Ferguson (Democratic Services Officer), F Gardiner (Communities  
Manager) and J Starr (Community Officer).

Also present: District Councillors P Fairhurst and B Light.

**YC25 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors H Briffa, J Fairhurst, A McHugh, E  
Reid, J Reid and District Councillor Lemon.

The Democratic Services Officer said the Youth Council had not achieved  
quorum and therefore no resolutions could be passed at the meeting.

**YC26 MINUTES**

Members deferred approval of the minutes until the next quorate meeting.

**YC27 NATIONAL DEMOCRACY WEEK**

The Democratic and Electoral Manager explained the electoral registration  
process for potential electors aged sixteen or seventeen. Throughout the  
presentation she stressed the importance of registering to vote; if potential  
electors had not registered before an election, they would be unable to exercise  
their right to vote on polling day.

She said sixteen or seventeen year olds could register in a variety of ways but  
the most straightforward method was to register online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-  
vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). She added that a National Insurance number would be required.

Members agreed in principle that it would be helpful if the Democratic and  
Electoral Services Manager visited schools to talk about the importance and  
practicalities of electoral registration.

The Community Officer said this could be progressed as a joint initiative between  
the Youth Council and Electoral Services, particularly if scheduled during the  
Youth Council's election period in September or October. He said it would be a  
good time to promote democracy in a general sense.

Councillor Birkbeck said young people were not interested in 'National Democracy Week' but they were interested in democracy. Schools were continuously informing pupils of the importance of democracy, but this was not enough to create sufficient enthusiasm or engagement with young people. He said holding a mock referendum on a relevant and pressing issue, such as abortion, would be a good way to generate youth engagement with democracy.

The Chairman said a Democracy working group would be established at the next quorate meeting to help take this issue forward.

## YC28 **YOUTH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

As the meeting was not quorate the Chairman deferred the decisions on changing the constitution and co-opting new members until the next meeting. She said the items would be on the next agenda.

Councillor Birkbeck asked for the amended constitution to be included with the minutes of this meeting (please see attached).

Members said they were happy to speak at Council and requested a Youth Council item on the next possible Full Council agenda.

## YC29 **PROPOSED PLANNING/HOUSING SEMINAR**

Members discussed the proposed planning/housing seminar. There was general agreement that young people were interested in the issues of planning and housing, and they should contribute to the Local Plan in Uttlesford.

The Community Officer said the seminar needed to be arranged before the Uttlesford Local Plan consultation period ended in September, to ensure young people in the District contributed towards their views to the consultation process.

Councillor Birkbeck said those invited to address the seminar should display a range of views on planning issues, including local groups and officers at the council, so the young people who attended were truly well informed.

Councillor Fairhurst said the Assistant Director – Planning should arrange a consultation with the Youth Council and requested officers to contact him.

The Community Officer said a realistic date for the seminar was likely to be in early September, but he would keep Members informed.

## YC30 **WORKING GROUPS**

Members discussed the following Working Groups

- **Plastics** – Councillor Birkbeck requested an item on the next agenda.

- **Elections -**

Councillor Birkbeck tabled a draft resolution, which included a motion to adopt proposed election guidelines in the constitution (resolution and guideline documents attached). As the meeting was not quorate, a binding resolution could not be made. Members discussed the prospect of holding a virtual meeting by using social media or voting buttons via email.

- **Communications** – The Chairman and Councillor Birkbeck had arranged to meet a journalist at the Saffron Walden Reporter to help raise the profile of the Youth Council and increase participation before the scheduled elections in September.

The Community Officer said the Youth Council now had a formal Council email address and he would circulate details following the meeting.

YC31

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)**

- 11<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> January at 5.30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm

The meeting ended at 7.00pm.

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**YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING held in the COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD  
SAFFRON WALDEN at 5.30pm on 8 MAY 2018**

Present: Councillor J Reid – Acting Chairman  
Councillors T Birkbeck, H Briffa, R Davey, A Gerard, A McHugh, E Reid and I Whittle.

Officers in attendance: B Ferguson (Democratic Services Officer) and J Starr (Community Officer).

Also present: District Councillors A Gerard and P Fairhurst; and former Youth Councillor C Yallup.

**YC19 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Wolter. Councillor J Reid acted as Chairman in her absence.

**YC20 ELECTIONS AND RECRUITMENT WORKING GROUP**

Councillor Birkbeck provided an update on the work of the Elections and Recruitment working group, which had met a number of times since the last Youth Council meeting. The working group had drafted guidelines for schools who wanted to hold elections and this document was tabled for Members' consideration.

The Youth Council discussed the election guidelines and there was agreement that if the draft was to be distributed to schools, a change to the Youth Council constitution would be required.

The Community Officer said the Young Essex Assembly (YEA) could possibly help in the task of running elections, and their advice could be sought when the Youth Council held its training and YEA induction session. He said the proposal would require a change to the constitution and advised councillors to seek legal guidance before confirming the amendment.

AGREED to seek the legal advice of the Assistant Director – Governance and Legal Services on the constitutional change to the elections procedure.

As well as drafting guidelines, the Elections and Recruitment working group had produced an 'Elections pack' that could be distributed to schools. The pack would contain election aids, such as guidance, posters and communication materials, which would help student bodies hold elections in their respective schools.

Charles Yallup, a former Member of the Youth Council who had been assisting the Elections Working Group, presented an election poster he had designed, and asked for comments.

The Youth Council discussed the design and there was general agreement that the poster was effective. Members agreed that communication materials needed to be bold and forceful, to ensure young people were engaging with the Youth Council.

The Community Officer said there was still a budget available to the Youth Council, and printing posters and communication materials would be an appropriate outlay.

#### YC21      **STRUCTURE PROCEDURES**

The Community Officer said there needed to be more correspondence between Youth Councillors and himself in between meetings, to ensure that agenda production was driven by the Youth Council. He said Councillor Wolter had come in to help prepare the current agenda, but the responsibility should be shared by as many Youth Councillors as possible, to reduce the burden on the Chairman. He added that communication needed to be improved even on subjects such as transport to and from meetings, as taxis were available if Councillors requested them.

#### YC22      **UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED TRAINING DAY / PLANNING SEMINAR**

The Community Officer said the YEA training and planning seminar still needed to be scheduled.

District Councillor Fairhurst said he would be available to help present the planning seminar. He said Nigel Brown, the Development Manager at the Council, would also be invited.

Members discussed the topic of planning and agreed it was one of the most important issues facing the District.

The Community Officer said he would circulate a link to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to Youth Councillors.

Members discussed when the seminar could take place.

AGREED to hold the planning seminar at 4.00pm on 30 May, 2018.

#### YC23      **DISCUSSION ON WORKING GROUPS – PROGRESS / NEW GROUPS**

Members discussed the following:

## Communications

Members accepted the invitation of District Councillor Fairhurst, who had offered to take members of the Communications working group to see a journalist at the Saffron Walden Reporter.

## Mental Health

The Community Officer said he could arrange a meeting with the Council's Communities team, who were working with mental health organisations that went into schools to educate pupils on the issue of mental health. He said the Communities team would be keen to hear the views of the Youth Council and there was an opportunity to have a real input on policy in this area.

Councillor Whittle said the Community Officer should contact the Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), which specialised in young people's mental health.

## Plastics

District Councillor Gerard said the Scrutiny Committee had recently discussed the issue of recycling and the views of the Youth Council were welcomed. He said a trip to the District's recycling facility was also a possibility.

The Youth Council discussed plastics, and the broader subject of recycling. Litter picks, recycling schemes and requesting retailers to ditch plastics were all mentioned.

Members agreed to put plastics, and the proposition of a dedicated working group, on the next agenda.

YC24

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 4 July at 5.30pm.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm.

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<b>Committee:</b>	Youth Council Housing Working Group	<b>Date:</b>	4 December 2018
<b>Title:</b>	Report on the Youth Housing Debate/Seminar held on 1 December 2018		
<b>Report Author:</b>	Youth Councillor Tom Birkbeck <a href="mailto:youthcouncil@uttlesford.gov.uk">youthcouncil@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>	<b>Item for decision:</b>	No

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## Foreword

The leadership of the Youth Council sincerely hope this report demonstrates our capability to promote democracy for young people. It is our fervent wish to continue this democratic process among young people. Youth Councillors would be pleased to meet or exchange emails with elected members and officers who have read this and look forward to hopefully corresponding with some of you over our ideas, which require facilitation from full council.

## Summary

This report summarises the opinions of young people concerning housing locally and what they think are important points in the development of the housing process going forward in Uttlesford. The debate was split into two parts; one part led by Nigel Brown on existing communities vs building entirely new ones, and one part led by Simon Payne on what is important in a community and on the “Ebenezer Howard” concept of garden communities. Point 6 refers to the former, and 1-5 the latter.

### 1. *Concerning housing directly*

- Ecological design, and using ecologically and sustainably sourced materials, was the most important issue as voted by young people in this section. In terms of direct design features, lots of natural light was mentioned as a way to combat need for constant heating, but the use of renewable materials and energy sources was seen as a priority in reducing environmental impact of housing both in and beyond construction.

- Access to high quality primary and secondary schools ranked very highly, and was suggested as a “USP”; Unique Selling Point, for any new developments. I cite the North Cambridge/Eddington community, with the Cambridge University Primary School, as evidence of this being a good methodology in creating successful, sustainable communities.

- Properly affordable housing was listed as something important to young people. In order for young families to be able to move in, not only should houses be affordable, but should be in decent state of repair and include all necessary “white goods”. This is due to the financial challenges faced by young, first-time buyers.

Other important issues were raised, and just because they did not receive as many votes does not mean they should not be considered. Some examples

were the need to be welcoming to all races, nationalities and religions; the debate around old/modern style house design; garden sizes; fitting in with communities in terms of design; large rooms in open plan as opposed to small rooms; freedom of interior design choice; quality of homes; not building on green belts; and safe outdoor spaces. Background paper 1 details these points further.

## 2. *Opportunities to maintain fitness and health in communities*

- Walking, cycling and running routes through the countryside was the highest voted recommendation from young people for fitness opportunities. Existing footpaths do not meet the needs of cyclists and runners in winter. The group recommend creating routes that lead out of urban spaces and into green ones.

- A local sports centre, and sporting facilities were highlighted as another key requirement. Not just the provision of these spaces, but provision of these spaces *affordably* – not everyone can afford a gym membership or a swimming pool membership. In addition to general green space, there should be designated playing field sites. These should have floodlights so they are not redundant in winter.

- General access to gyms and large open areas, while overlapping with other issues, was seen as important to getting people to keep fit and healthy. In spite of online recreation becoming more prominent, people strive to improve themselves physically (perhaps as a result of interaction online with those who are doing the same) and need space to do this.

Also mentioned was the key issue of mental health provision, and not separating that from “fitness” and therefore not providing for it when considering general health; noise insulation to provide for quiet times; and repeated a few times was the general call for more opportunities for exercise/fitness. Background paper 1 details these further.

## 3. *Technology and its role in the future of development and housing*

- Really good broadband was voted as the key issue in the role of technology. It was decided that it needs to not just be adequate but “super-fast”, to not leave anyone behind. Internet links were shown as key thanks to the increase in people working from home and needing this internet to be consistent and high speed. In addition, digital recreation was mentioned as one of the key reasons for the broadband speed requirement.

- Technologically driven environmental control inside houses was also highlighted as a key issue. Technology needs to be driving insulation, air conditioning, heating, recycling, water usage; everything needs to be driven from the front with new and effective tech, in a *sustainable and ecological* way. Especially regarding recycling, which was highlighted as needing to be simple and to be the “most environmentally friendly” way of recycling available, minimising landfill and nonrecyclable/nonreusable waste.

- One issue highlighted was future proofing for automation. Young people don't know how AI and automated services will look in the future, but just reading the news makes it blatantly clear that it needs to be provided for in housing development. That could be through leaving infrastructure open to the implementation of "house-AI". Also, young people want jobs that are not at constant risk of redundancy through automation.

Also mentioned were whether communities will have a say in the tech provided; integration of communities with tech and setup; digital community congregation/communication; electricity; development of houses by generalised formula or feedback samples; affordability of tech and mandatory (or not) nature of tech. Details of these issues are available in background paper 1.

#### 4. *Transport*

- A key conclusion of this debate was the need for *affordable, subsidized, and regular* public transport. Expensive public transport systems reduce the independence of young people, make it difficult to get around, and are a huge problem for many people in a world increasingly shunning car travel. Saffron Walden suffers from a high volume of car traffic which has caused it to fail air quality and carbon emissions tests. Improved, cheap public transport was suggested as the solution to this for a new community.

- The forum agreed that all new streets should have bike lanes. Cycle lanes encourage healthier lifestyles and lower carbon emissions and should not be overlooked when planning for transport infrastructure in a new community.

- Improved access to trains and links between transport modes was also highlighted. The group highlighted the need for better links because they do not feel it is easy to travel.

Also discussed were spreading out infrastructure to encourage walking; and the careful balance of auto/pedestrian authority. Further discussion of these points can be found in background paper 1.

#### 5. *Amenities and leisure*

- Voted more important beyond any other issue in this section was the need for community and recreational areas. These spaces need to be for learning new, useful things, like cooking and playing instruments; or for leisure like cinemas and swimming pools. The focus group saw continuing access to libraries as essential for any community. Also suggested were spaces for learning instruments like a music centre with rentable instruments and space for music teachers to teach in, provision for adults to make new friends when they are no longer in schooling through things like language classes, fitness sessions, sports groups, regular lectures and debates, internet gaming "LAN cafes" and so forth. This point had an high number of very creative and interesting suggestions which can be found in background paper 1.

- Green space everywhere was also seen as an important part of leisure. Trees should line all the streets, which should have green space woven into them: not only should there be large designated green space areas like the SW common and Bridge End Gardens, but the group thought it should be possible to see greenery from all windows. This links to exercise/fitness and the recommendation of running/cycling tracks. Landscaped green spaces were also commented on; Bridge End Gardens was seen as “better” as a green space than the common thanks to its landscaping.

- Finally, gardens were spotlighted as an important leisure time activity. Gardens should be built into all houses, it was argued, even if only through rooves/balconies, but also community gardens (allotments) should be regular in placement and spread between streets and areas. People should have access to these community gardens if they want to grow things (which should be encouraged) regardless of wealth. Green rooves, with solar panels and carbon dioxide absorbing plants, should be woven into shops and large community spaces.

Also discussed were community discussions and fair conductance of these; the need for less “big” shops and more small/artisanal shops and more deliveries; police stations in town to give feelings of safety (ram raids and drugs in SW mentioned); and a variety of facilities and provision for different social groups. These are detailed in background paper 1.

#### 6. *New standalone developments vs extensions of existing communities*

A debate was conducted on whether new developments should generally attached to old ones or stand alone, in the manner that UDC is planning to develop.

Arguments that suggested they should be attached to old ones included provision of amenities and community functions the new community might not immediately have built up, as well as infrastructure. Also, it was suggested that trying to “pigeonhole” people into communities which they have no freedom to leave and participate in other communities could be cause for social unrest.

Arguments that suggested they should be entirely new builds entailed the encouragement of new communities to grow and develop, not putting strain on old developments and avoiding building on greenbelts. Most importantly and much discussed was the forcing of responsibility for developing infrastructure and amenities onto the developer: promises cannot be so easily broken if they are developing an entire town. Developing standalone communities was seen as a way to stop developers from breaking these promises and might perhaps reconcile “the developer” with “the population”, two camps that are seen to be much at odds with one another.

## Recommendations

7. Millie Wolter, our incumbent chair, and I are looking to push youth involvement in housing further and would like to meet anyone who has suggestions or ideas to discuss them. Some of our preliminary ideas are below, but the youth council email is at the top of the document and we would like to hear from anyone with ideas. Essentially, please get in touch!

Idea/Recommendation
Ongoing funding for a regular panel of young people to be consulted on housing. Involvement of young people needs to be constant in the process. Ongoing funding from the council outside the youth council budget for a defined plan/methodology of contacting young people for opinions would help to create this necessary channel of communication that the council has expressed so much desire for. This idea is further explored in background paper 2.
Addition of “seats for young people” at any debate or consultation on housing or development.
Permanent addition of young people to the committee meetings where developments are given planning permission, even if without a vote but as a contributor to the discussion.
Answering of the questions raised by young people (see <i>Questions</i> section) by relevant authorities, such that I might report back to members of the forum.

## Questions

8. The following questions were raised for UDC to answer. Please email responses [youthcouncil@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:youthcouncil@uttlesford.gov.uk) and we will share them with the housing focus group. It is important that they receive answers, to give our pilot group of young people faith in the system we hope to create.
- Is it financially feasible to subsidise housing in a commuter area like Saffron Walden for people who live there, to make sure it is not completely a commuter settlement?
  - To what level will automation affect job provision?
  - How do UDC propose to consult on what leisure provision should be available in their new communities?
  - What say will communities have in the technology that is provided – will it be “mandatory”, for example, to have AI built into your house? Obviously that is dystopian, but what provisions are being made now to make sure these choices are being offered and life could continue “tech-free”?
  - How do communities that already exist plan on integrating tech so they don’t get left behind and become “old fashioned”?

- How will power in the three garden communities in Uttlesford be supplied, and is it sustainably sourced?
- Are houses currently designed by a general formula, or are they designed from feedback samples of populations planning on living there? If there is a formula, please could it be shared?
- What provision is there that people are not left behind by tech because they cannot afford it?
- Is there a plan to future proof broadband and services provision without need for constant roadworks?

### **Background Papers**

9. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and have been attached:
  - 1: Summary of Housing Seminar document.
  - 2: Expansion on the proposal for a youth body, fielded by the council, to sit and debate on new developments.

## Uttlesford Youth Council – Summary of Housing Seminar

### Feedback from Housing Event - 1 December 2018 2pm – 4.30pm

*Some of the points are what young people found important, and some are questions that people would like answers to. If any councillors/officers could provide answers, they can email them to [youthcouncil@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:youthcouncil@uttlesford.gov.uk) who will relay them to the people who wrote the questions.*

*Summary written by Sarah Nicholas. Red highlighted = 3 most important issues from each topic as voted by young people.*

#### Housing

1. Ecological design / using materially ecologically sourced / lots of natural light in the houses / use renewable materials
2. Access to high quality primary and secondary schools, make schools and new settlements stand out (USP of the settlement)
3. Welcoming to all communities, nationalities and religions / spread out / mix together houses and facilities to make them accessible to all.
4. Properly affordable housing / Is it financially feasible to subsidise housing in an area like saffron Walden for those who work there? / if the target for residents are young, new families, then more of them will likely not have the money to improve their houses immediately. It may be helpful to have basic amenities included in the houses from day 1.
5. Old style house design / not just cramming houses and having a fair-sized garden / Modern design inside – rustic/'community' design on the outside. / Modern design is often a good solution to problems with accessibility of houses, both economically and physically. The traditional design of houses is not only more expensive but also impractically designed for the disabled and for young families with children.

Large rooms as opposed to lots of small rooms / bigger houses / bigger bedrooms as used for living and sleeping by teens especially. / freedom interior design choice – minimal, rustic, based around a hobby. / Open Plan opportunity for privacy / Quality of homes to be improved, better insulation, better connections, Tower blocks futuristic, sustainable community, outside green areas.

Do not build in green belts around cities.

Outdoor spaces safe place to live. Reduce pollution. Better access to cycle paths, job opportunities.

#### Fitness and health

1. Walking routes through the countryside / Running/cycling routes readily available
2. Local sports centre that is affordable / areas specifically designated for sports use – play football / Floodlights

Despite online recreation becoming more prominent, many people also strive to improve themselves physically as a direct result of seeing others on the internet doing the same, **as such gym(s) and access to large open areas would be important.**

Although noise insulation could partially solve the problem, public spaces and other establishments should be a decent distance from the majority of homes to allow for silence when it may be needed.

## Technology and Gizmos

1. Good broadband and connection / appeal to people who need it for work / fast WiFi / If a lot of people are to live in these areas, internet links are key, especially considering that more and more choose to work from home – consistent and high-speed internet is crucial (also crucial for entertainment).
2. Well insulated houses to save energy / built in environmental elements in houses so that people don't have to put them in themselves. Simple recycling facilities in each house, with different types of rubbish being collected.

AI will advance in houses

Digital congregation or community / some communities have really strong for example facebook communities which help organise things.

To what level will this automation affect job provision? / Is this provision of leisure or showing things in people's faces and tell them to be happy? / what level of communities have a say in what these technologies will provide? / How do these communities plan on integrating? / How is it going to be set up?

How will power for these technologies be supplied? / are houses designed by a generalised formula or are they being designed by feedback from samples of populations planning on living there? / how affordable will this be? / Is the technology mandatory?

## Transport

1. Good and affordable / subsidized public transport. Expensive public transport systems reduce independence of young people.
2. Bike lanes on every street
3. Underground car parking / parking spaces, strict parking / generally less cars.
4. Access to trains / links between transport modes / transport links, especially public transport, must be a priority especially as cars are becoming more unpopular amongst young people. / Close travel access such as a train station within the town or community. This would be more useful as trains are used a lot by young people and those who do not drive.

Spread out infrastructure (eg shops) so people more likely to walk.

Balance between roads with pedestrian authority for example Saffron Walden Market Square and with auto authority like Thaxted Road which is not good. Some cities/towns achieve a really good balance on all roads that makes an inhabitant not feel the need to go by car.

## Amenities, Leisure and Having Fun.

1. Have mature trees lining all the streets / green space woven into streets – not only large designated 'green space areas' / Landscaped green spaces not just a common



- like Bridge End Gardens SW / seeing green space from windows of all houses / space to run which is green i.e. not a street.
2. Community Areas / recreational areas – young people learning new useful things (cooking, playing instruments) / leisure facilities e.g. cinemas and swimming pools / A library absolutely vital – many people tend to want to learn things in their free time, especially due to the internet exposing people to new concepts. / having structure and organisation in new communities as opposed to just sprawls of houses. Music Centre – has instrument and teachers to try and make it easier for people to learn. / Access to practical recreational activities and be educational and open. / Provision for adults to meet and make friends once they are no longer in schooling eg language classes, fitness sessions, sports groups, regular lectures, internet gaming at so called “LAN cafes”
  3. Gardens – community gardens spread between streets and areas / accessibility – close knit communities / equal access regardless of wealth. / vegetable growing space at houses without the need of travelling to allotment / multi-purpose good quality open space / Green roofs and solar panels on shops and large community spaces.

Community discussions being conducted in a fair way not by opportunity or volunteer samples

Less big supermarkets and shops – more deliveries.

Shops make more jobs, so more shops are good

Police stations in the town. The recent ram raids have highlighted the minimal police presence in the area. That goes without mentioning the drug problems in Saffron Walden. People feel insecure despite living in relatively low crime area.

A variety of facilities and provision for different social groups, selling things people want and need.

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**On the proposed youth council body for involving young people in housing**

Our seminar was a success and has shown the creative power of young people in Uttlesford and why they should be leading the way in housing development. However, this process needs to be *ongoing* if UDC is to keep its commitment to hearing the voices of young people on local issues.

In draft form, our proposal is for an annually renewing budget for the youth council to advertise for and host more debates, seminars and consultations for young people to get involved. Organising our most recent one was not easy and required advertising, which due to limited budget was not very fruitful in producing lots of young people. A renewable budget would let us incentivise young people to come and run more widespread and effective advertising that reaches all of Uttlesford instead of just our fairly SW centric crowd.

The youth council have not done any analysis into potential costs for this scheme, but believe that it should be independent of the Youth Council budget and not affect the UYC budget provisions.

A channel of communication must be established that can be drawn upon for any major changes in housing and development in the local area. Youth input on the stansted passenger expansion was limited, and this proposed body would have – to give an example of potential workings – called upon young people in Uttlesford to give a verdict on whether they believed it was a good thing or not.

As mentioned in the report we are still looking at ways to increase youth involvement in the housing process and this has seemed most promising to us, but we are looking to meet with elected members and officers to further discuss how we can increase youth involvement. Please get in touch through the youth council email, [youthcouncil@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:youthcouncil@uttlesford.gov.uk) .

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