



Uttlesford District Council

Chief Executive: Dawn French

Uttlesford Youth Council

Date: Tuesday, 5th February, 2019
Time: 5.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber - Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden,
CB11 4ER

AGENDA PART 1

- 1 Introduction to Uttlesford Youth Council**
To welcome and introduce new members to Uttlesford Youth Council.
- 2 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
To receive any apologies and declarations of interest.
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting** 5 - 8
To consider the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 4 Digital Forum**
To discuss the proposal for a 'Digital Forum' to enable the Youth Council and local young people to contribute their ideas relating to the future Garden Communities.
- 5 Constitution** 9 - 14
To consider proposed amendments to the Youth Council's constitution.
- 6 Housing Working Group** 15 - 26

To receive an update from the Housing Working Group, with reference to the progress made following the Housing Seminar on 1 December 2018.

7 Working Groups

To receive any updates relating to the Youth Council's working groups.

8 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Youth Council has been scheduled for 7 March 2019.

For information about this meeting please contact Democratic Services

Telephone: 01799 510369 or 510548

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General Enquiries

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Agenda Item 3

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

Present: Councillor M Wolter (Chairman)
Councillors H Ataparmakova, J Balchin, T Birkbeck, N Davies, A Haus, E Reid and F Wolter.

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

Also present: District Councillor P Fairhurst (UDC) and PC Glenn Braden (Essex Police).

YC41 **GUEST SPEAKER(S)**

PC Glenn Braden gave a presentation to the Youth Council on the power of the Police to 'Stop and Search'. He provided an overview of the law and the rights of the public if they were to be stopped and searched by a police officer. Members discussed their own experiences with PC Braden and provided feedback on how they perceived this aspect of policing.

YC42 **INTRODUCTION TO UTTLESFORD YOUTH COUNCIL**

Councillor Fairhurst was invited by the Chairman to address the new members of the Youth Council. He said the Youth Council was a great opportunity for young people to stand up and speak for what they believed in. As the representatives of young people in the District, youth councillors had real power to make a difference and he asked that they took this opportunity.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Fairhurst and he left the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed H Ataparmakova, J Balchin and F Wolter who were seeking co-option to the council. They were asked to leave the meeting whilst the Youth Council deliberated on their co-option.

RESOLVED to co-opt H Ataparmakova, J Balchin and F Wolter as full Members of the Youth Council.

YC43 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies were received from Youth Councillors R Davey, W Evans, A Mchugh and E Wilson.

YC44 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**

The minutes of the meetings held on 8 May, 4 July and 11 September were agreed as true and correct records.

YC45 **HOUSING SEMINAR**

Councillor Birkbeck presented a report summarising the Housing Seminar for young people that had been held on 1 December. Those that attended the event participated in workshops, question and answer sessions and debate. It had been a worthwhile experience and had raised interesting questions on how young people could engage with the planning process going forward.

Members discussed the recommendations in the report. It was agreed that advice would be sought from senior planning officers who had been involved in the seminar, to ascertain what would be the best way to involve young people in the planning process in future.

A letter was tabled that had been received from the Chief Executive of Uttlesford District Council, praising the work of Councillor Birkbeck and the Youth Council that had led to the Housing Seminar taking place.

YC46 **CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP**

Members discussed the need to update the terms and refresh the membership of the Constitution Working Group (CWG). Councillor Birkbeck had produced a revised constitution but matters such as term limits, co-option, and deputies required further work.

The Youth Council agreed to hold a meeting of the CWG on Friday, 14 December.

YC47 **WORKING GROUPS**

The Youth Council discussed working groups and the following were considered to be active:

- Housing
- Mental Health
- Communications
- Police
- CWG

Members exchanged contact details and agreed to hold regular working group meetings, so work could continue before the next Full Youth Council meeting.

YC48 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)**

Members agreed to reschedule the meeting on 7 January 2019 to 5 February 2019.

The Democratic Services Officer informed the Youth Council that a Prospective Candidates' Day was being held at the UDC offices on 21 January 2019. Although they would not be eligible to stand for election in 2019, they were welcome to attend and learn what being a district councillor would entail.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm.

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This is an amended document and not the actual constitution. Highlighted objects have been changed.

Constitution of the Uttlesford Youth Council

Objectives

The Uttlesford Youth Council exists to give the young people of Uttlesford a voice in the affairs of the Uttlesford District Council (UDC). It endeavours to represent specifically the views of young people, especially on those issues in which they have particular interest.

The Youth Council will be recognised in the Constitution of the District Council, and its members will be invited to attend meetings of the Full Council and will be offered a suitable speaking slot to voice matters of concern to young people up to twice annually, and also exceptionally, by prior arrangement with the Democratic Services of the District Council.

The Youth Council will engage with the District Council on any matters of concern and the District Council will in turn undertake to provide a response within ten working days of the matter first being raised.

Electing councillors

Eligibility

Candidates for the Youth Council must

- (a) be aged at least 13 on the 31st of August in the calendar year in which the elections for which they are standing are held, and no older than 19 when they stand for election, and
- (b) be either
 - (i) living or working in the district, or
 - (ii) attending school, college, or sixth form in the district.

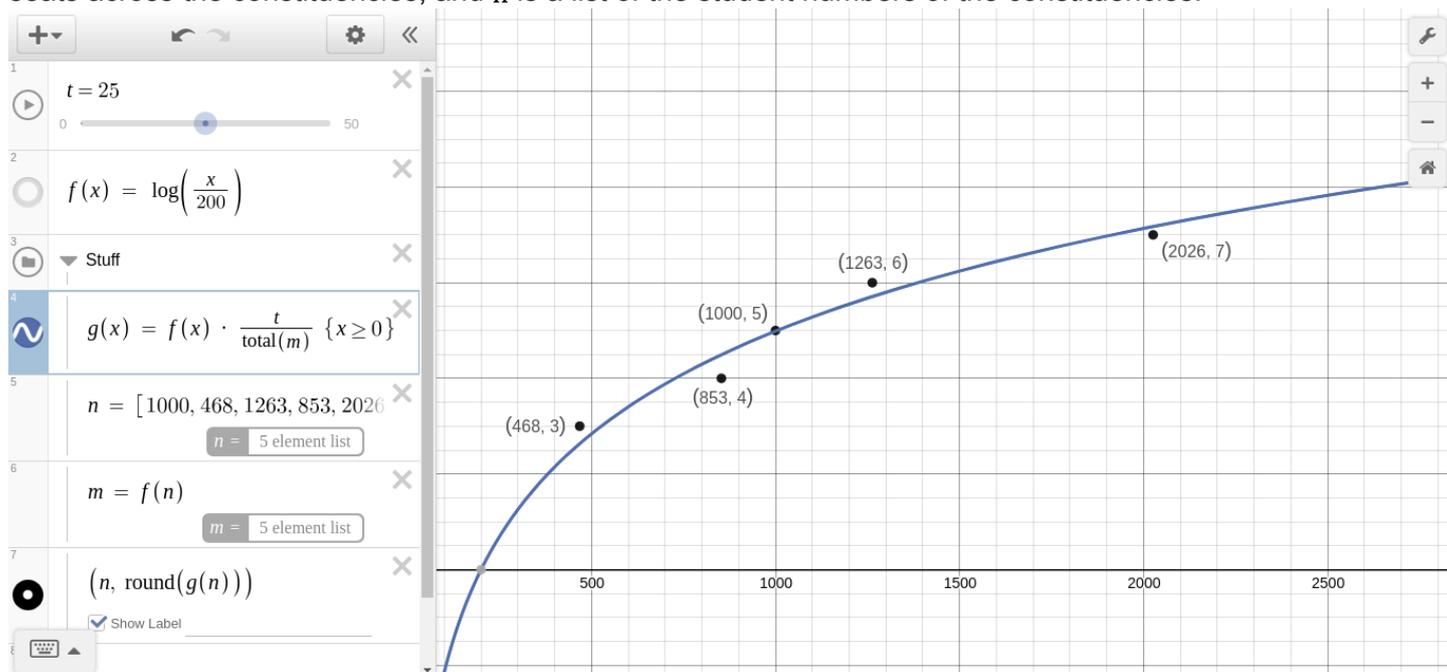
There is no limit on the number of terms that a councillor may serve, nor any restrictions on standing consecutively.

Election pools (constituencies)

A number of seats on the council be available for each secondary school, college, and sixth form in the district, with weightings based upon their sizes thus:

Constituency	Number of students (201601)	Number of seats
Felsted School	~ 1,000	5
Forest Hall School	468	3
Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form Centre	1,263	6
Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport	853	4
Saffron Walden County High School	2,026	7
Residents not attending school in the district	-	3
	Total:	28

The number of seats for each constituency is calculated according to this graph, where t is the total number of seats across the constituencies, and n is a list of the student numbers of the constituencies:



In addition to the school-based seats, three seats are available for residents of the district who meet the eligibility criteria but who do not attend school, college, or sixth form in the district (see table above). Those who wish to stand for the Youth Council will be invited to apply by application. Applications will be considered by the Youth Council at the first meeting after the election and successful candidates co-opted.

If the Youth Council has any vacant seats following elections or after resignations, then it may, by majority vote, co-opt an eligible member (as per the Eligibility criteria) for each school will be taken from the list of candidates in descending order of votes given to each candidate (beginning with the candidate with the highest number of votes). ~~removed deputies section~~ If a councillor cannot attend a meeting, then they **may choose** to nominate somebody to act a substitute. Councillors are not obliged to send a substitute but may wish to if they know they will vote on an agenda item, or have some notices to give out.

Any seats belonging to a councillor whose term has not expired and who is not standing down will not filled by election.

Elections shall **take place during school hours in** October or November annually, **as decided by the institution.** The terms of the councillors-elect will begin on the day of election. The duration of each term shall be **approximately two years, ending on the day of the next election.**

Each institution may decide eligibility to vote.

The full guidelines for holding elections can be found in the Election Guidelines document, and should serve as the primary point of reference.

General principles

The Youth Council will adhere to the following principles:

- (a) Although councillors are still permitted to be a member of a political party whilst serving their term, the Youth Council itself will always be strictly **nonpartisan**, and all meetings will be conducted on that fundamental principle.

- (b) Councillors will not miss school, college, sixth form, or work to undertake any duties for the Youth Council, unless in exceptional circumstances where it has been permitted for the councillor in question by
 - (i) their school, and
 - (ii) their parent or guardian (if under 18 years of age).
 - (iii) their employer
- (c) All councillors shall endeavour constantly to remain aware of and represent the interests of their constituents.
- (d) Councillors must be clear over who they represent.

Meetings

- (a) The Youth Council will hold a full meeting every other month, scheduled in the previous meeting to be
 - (i) during the first week of the month,
 - (ii) in a venue in Uttlesford to which either the Uttlesford District Council or the Essex Youth Services has access, and
 - (iii) from 17:30 to 20:00,
 - (iv) with the first 30 minutes from 17:30-18:00 allocated for public speakers or other speakers if needed.
 unless otherwise agreed. Meetings may be held more frequently if necessitated by urgent business to be considered.
- (b) Meetings of the Youth Council are open to members of the public, district councillors and officers for attendance or contribution, by prior arrangement through contacting someone nominated by the Youth Council if they want to contribute. Any young person whom the Youth Council represents is permitted by prior arrangement to attend an open-session forum at the beginning of the meeting and participate in discussions, but will have no vote. The Youth Council may vote to expel any person on the basis of disruptive behaviour. First and foremost youth council meetings should be led by the youth councillors; the participation of officers and District Councillors is limited to the discretion of the chair.
- (c) Minutes will be taken at full council meetings, by a member of UDC Democratic Services confirmed for the role at the beginning of the meeting, comprising at least
 - (i) a list of all councillors present and all apologies received,
 - (ii) details of proposals made and the outcomes of votes upon them,
 - (iii) any significant contributions to discussions by a councillor
 Minutes will be published on the Youth Council's page of the website.
- (d) An agenda for each full council meeting will be produced and circulated with at least five full days before the meeting. The agenda will include the undermentioned standard items as well as any matters for discussion as agreed by the chairman. The standard items are:
 - (i) apologies made by councillors who cannot attend the meeting,
 - (ii) minutes of the last meeting to be signed off for accuracy,
 - (iii) any items of business specified on the agenda,
 - (iv) any other urgent business, and
 - (v) the date, time, and venue of the next meeting.
- (e) A meeting of the Youth Council will only be quorate if it comprises
 - (i) at least five councillors
 - (ii) (including) the chair, vice chair or nominated acting chair

Proposals

Proposals

Any councillor may make a proposal in a meeting.
The proposer may withdraw their proposal at any time before voting.
The procedure for motion to be considered is as follows:

- (a) The proposal must first be seconded.
- (b) The proposal is then opened for discussion and debate by the councillors present.
- (c) Whilst discussion is open, the proposer may agree to amend their proposal, or any councillor can propose an amendment. If either the original motion or any amendment proposed is seconded, it will be put to the vote and determined by a majority show of hands.

Majority show of hands

First those in favour of the motion will be asked to raise their hands, and then those against. Each councillor may only vote once. Any hands which are not raised will be counted as abstentions. For the motion to be passed, a simple majority of councillors who voted must vote for the motion.

If the vote is tied, a second discussion period shall ensue, followed by a second vote. If this is also tied, the person acting as chairman will have a casting vote.

If sent before the vote is conducted, a written, signed, statement of intention may be used as a substitute for attending and voting, in the event of a councillor's absence.

Chairmanship

Chairman

Election

A chairman will be elected with a term of two years, in the last full meeting under the chairmanship of the incumbent chairman. Any councillor may stand for the role of chairman, including the existing chair. Time will be allocated towards the end of the meeting for candidates to make a short speech, and for a vote to be taken from all attending councillors. Written statements of intention to vote should also be counted. The chairman will be elected by secret ballot. The candidate with the plurality of votes (the most votes, whether or not by overall majority of those present) will be elected.

The chairman-elect's term will begin at the end of the meeting in which they are elected.

Role

The chairman will be responsible for

- (a) chairing full meetings during their term (including ensuring that minutes are taken, directing the Youth Council through the agenda, and overseeing discussions and voting),
- (b) agreeing agenda items for full meetings during their term,
- (c) appointing councillors to working groups and appointing chairmen of working groups, and
- (d) communicating with the chairmen of the working groups to ensure that they have the resources needed.

After a second discussion period, the chairman receives a casting vote to determine the outcome of a tied vote. The chairman can delegate work as agreed to the vice chairman either at or outside of formal meetings, provided that a report back is made to the next meeting.

Vice Chairman

Election

A vice chairman will be elected at the same time, and with the same term and method of election, as the chairman.

Role

The vice chairman will chair meetings in the absence of the chairman. They are expected to assist with the chairman's work outside of meetings.

Working groups

A working group is a voluntary team of councillors which exists to research and make proposals relevant to the terms of reference on which it has been set up. A working group may be created by vote at a meeting. Upon the creation of a working group, the chairman will either before the conclusion of the meeting or immediately after the meeting has finished:

- (a) appoint councillors to serve on the working group — the chairman will ask for a show of hands for volunteers, and should appoint an appropriate number of councillors to the working group, taking into account the number of other working groups on which each councillor sits and the distribution of schools across the councillors,
- (b) appoint a chairman, or two co-chairmen, of the working group — the chairman will ask the working group's members for a show of hands for volunteers, appointing the chairman or co-chairmen based upon suitability for the working group —, and
- (c) with the members of the working group, agree suitable terms of reference and a date by which the working group must report back, and set a date, time, and venue for the first meeting of the working group.

At the discretion of the working group chairs, non councillors may join a working group. Their degree of involvement is entirely dependent on the working group chair.

Ceasing to be a councillor

A councillor will cease to be a councillor

- (a) at the end of their term of office, failing re-election,
- (b) upon formally resigning, by means of signed letter given to the chairman (or vice chairman if the resigning councillor is the chairman),
- (c) upon moving out of the area or school, college, or sixth form which they represent,
- (d) by failing to attend **three** meetings in a row, **which would place the matter under discussion** having received a warning letter after missing two in a row, or
- (e) by being expelled for poor attendance and poor performance. If a councillor misses **three** meetings in a row, their expulsion on the basis of poor attendance will be put forwards for discussion at the third meeting. The rest of the Youth Council is to vote upon the matter, guided by evidence of how likely the councillor is to adequately improve their attendance in future meetings, and how useful the councillor has been to the Youth Council outside of the Full Council meetings (such as in working groups).

Recognition of contribution

Upon a Youth Councillor reaching 10 hours of volunteering with the Uttlesford Youth Council, they should be presented with a formal statement of recognition, signed by the Chair and a member of the District Council. The statement should be presented upon leaving the Youth Council to the outgoing Councillor, and should recognise the amount of hours and roles held within the Council.

Sourcing these statements of recognition is the responsibility of the Chair. These volunteering hours should include all time spent working with the Youth Council, including working groups, full meetings, or any other time spent, including individual work.

Constitutional review

A proposal can be made at any Council meeting to amend any part of the Constitution. The Constitution will be approved by the District Council and any amendment must be agreed by majority vote at a Council meeting.

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

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 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 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 .

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