

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 .