

Weston-super-Mare Youth Council Meeting Notes

A.	Date of meeting: 10 TH March 2026
B.	Meeting Start Time: 18.00 pm
C.	Where is the meeting: 32, Waterloo Street
D.	<p>Attendance – Natalie (NM), Oliver (OM) Ian (IR) (IP) Lillie (LAP) Inara (IP) Alexa (AP) and Leo (L)</p> <p>Sam Bishop (SB) (Democratic Services Manager – (DSM WSMTC)</p> <p>Welcome and check in.</p>
1.	Apologies for Absence – Alli W (AW) YMCA Youth Officer and Zac (ZR).
2.	Declarations of Interest None.
3.	<p>Notes of Last Meeting – 10th February 2026</p> <p>Several grammatical errors were highlighted and noted.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the date on the Agenda was also incorrect and should reflect March.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: OM SECONDED BY: NM</p> <p>RESOLVED: Noting the grammatical errors, the meeting notes were approved.</p>
4.	Welcome new members The Chair welcomed Leo to the meeting and introductions took place.
5.	Youth Council Grants There were no grants to consider.
6.	<p>Youth Strategy Review</p> <p>Member noted the amendments made from the last meeting.</p> <p>Discussion took place that the Strategy could still be improved further and that the Youth Council's 'Purpose' needed to be defined.</p> <p>It was suggested that members research other Youth Council's Strategy and come back to the meeting with some ideas.</p> <p>ACTION: Defer for discussion at the next meeting.</p>

7. Presentations by Members

The Chair invited OM to make his presentation to the meeting, which was on the new National Resilience Strategy, released by government of which the key points were highlighted.

Resilience Strategy

Key Points

- **Drivers:** Cyber threats, service pressure, COVID/storm lessons, need for clearer planning
- **Aims:** Whole-society approach; stronger planning; better communication; community trust; long-term focus
- **Resilience Covers:** Infrastructure, cyber/misinformation, community cohesion, economy, climate
- **Local Role:** Update plans; improve communication; strengthen partnerships; build volunteers; involve communities
- **Young People:** Key in communication, misinformation, and planning; heavily impacted by disruptions
- **Discussion:** Youth awareness, inclusion in planning, local priorities, youth-led projects
- **Next Steps:** Increase youth engagement; embed youth voice; develop initiatives; strengthen partnerships

The Chair thanked OM for the presentation, leading to discussion on young people’s awareness of emergency planning. It was agreed this could be explored further through a future public consultation, potentially led by the Youth Council with council support.

Concerns were raised about misinformation on social media and environmental issues, noting the Town Council’s commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2023.

6. Newsletter Update

Members viewed the current status of the Newsletter highlighted that:

1. Submissions were still awaited from two members not in attendance.
2. The Upcoming dates sectioned needed to be updated as dates had now ceased.
3. Add the Annual Town Meeting on 27th April
4. Include a link to Visit Weston website for What’s On in Weston.

Discussion ensued on where it should be published.

Once finalised it was advised that this could be shared through the town council’s digital platforms as well as noticeboards.

OM had a list of school contacts where he would circulate.

	<p>PROPOSED BY: NM SECONDED BY: IR</p> <p>ACTION: That subject to all amendments made as detailed above, the Newsletter be approved for circulation by the <u>deadline of 1st April.</u></p>
7.	<p>Events</p> <p>Litter Pick – Date and location TBA</p> <p>Members noted that an email had been received from Sophie’s Super Litter pick informing that she was keen to join the Youth Council on a joint litter pick.</p> <p>Members were required to decide if they wished to join Sophie on a set date or set their own date and location and invite her along.</p> <p>It was noted that Summer lane was a particular problem area and that OM had already contacted the MP on the matter.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Youth Council could build a database of problem area hotspots to aid their Litter picking activities.</p> <p>ACTION: The Youth Council were happy to join Sophie’s Litter pick on a date TBA.</p> <p><i>7.03 pm At this point in the meeting IR left the meeting.</i></p>
9.	
10.	<p>Lanyards</p> <p>A design and quote had been received and was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>Members agreed the navy lanyard, quantity of 30, however would like to review the logo in line with their Strategy before pursuing.</p>
11.	<p>German Exchange Info</p> <p>Members noted all upcoming dates as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st March- The Exchange social - at YMCA Youth Centre Coleridge Road. Weston super Mare- 2pm – 5pm. • 24th March -Welcome Party at YMCA (Indian Curry) 7.30pm – 9.30pm • 31st March Farewell Party at YMCA (Indian Curry) 7.30pm – 9.30pm <p>It was noted that the council had kindly offered to pay for the food for the farewell event.</p>
12.	<p>Date for Bench Painting</p>

	<p>Members agreed that the date should be a weekend in April, once the bench had been base painted. The Grounds Manager would confirm when this had been actioned.</p>
	<p>AOB</p> <p>Discussion took place on the following areas of highlighted concern:</p> <p>Traveling communities and the associated litter/treatment and supervision of animals/vandalism and connection to county line activities which had been highlighted as awareness at certain secondary schools.</p> <p>Security guards on trains – particularly from Weston to Nailsea and Backwell as a result of antisocial behaviour from school students. Awareness on this should e highlighted and young people’s respectful behaviour on trains encouraged.</p> <p>Litter/mess left after bin day, especially around the Devonshire Road area.</p> <p>School Wars</p> <p>These topical areas of conversation should be highlighted to raise awareness in the community and gain traction on Youth Council digital platforms demonstrating public engagement.</p> <p>Youth Parliament</p> <p>OM extended an invite to the Youth Council for a future meeting date TBA.</p>
	<p>Meeting ended - 19.30pm</p>
	<p>Date of next Meeting - 7th April 2026</p>