

Membership + recruitment:

There are approx. 12 active members from most of the secondary schools in Skipton and the surrounding area and our bi-weekly meetings will resume in September with the option of joining online. We have seen a drastic increase in the number of members over the past few months with most members coming from Chloe's outreach work in schools (e.g. 4 new members joined us from Water Street School after a session).

We plan to launch a new recruitment campaign at the beginning of the academic year throughout the different schools and youth groups in the local area.

AGM:

On the 12th of July we held our AGM, which was the highest attended out of all of the youth councils in North Yorkshire. A new Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer were elected. The new leadership have not managed to meet over the Summer holidays but are hopeful to do so in the coming weeks.

Community Safety Working Group Committee:

We have been attending the group's meetings and have done several things in collaboration with it, including the Keep Skipton Tidy campaign and the Youth Opportunities Survey.

Keep Skipton Tidy:

We have been asked to spearhead a new 'Keep Skipton Tidy' campaign by the Working Group and have planned several initiatives under this.

- 1) Logo - Year 6 students designed different logos for this campaign which were then voted upon at the Politics and Youth Social Club. It was decided that the 2 winning designs should be combined at the Working Group.
- 2) Litter picking competition - The Youth Council plans to run a litter picking competition with the different schools and youth groups in and around Skipton. It involves different classes/groups going out on a litter pick and submitting a photo as evidence to the Youth Council. For each photo that is submitted, the group will be awarded 1 entry into a prize draw. Skipton Town Council has given us £300 for the prize, which is likely to be a day out somewhere (e.g. Trampoline park). This will probably be launched in the Summer term of 2024 but will be discussed in our next meeting.
- 3) Awareness campaign - This includes assemblies in schools via Chloe and some Youth Councillors have expressed an interest in producing a video to help raise awareness and get people involved in our competition (Cllr. Morgan has offered assistance with this). Posters, leaflets and stickers will also be used to encourage people to stop littering (e.g. show pictures of wildlife injured due to littering). The Working Group has suggested that they could put the logo on beer mats.
- 4) Litter Heroes - We have signed up as #litterheroes and so have access to the group's logos and online resources. We will also be able to submit pictures for their social media to help spread awareness.

Youth Opportunities Survey:

The Working Group asked us to create and launch a survey for young people bringing to light what free clubs and activities they would like to see made available to them, as well as outlining how safe they feel in and around Skipton. This was done with the hope of establishing new groups, activities and events that are free and accessible to young people as well as gaining insight about Skipton's problems from a different perspective so that they can be addressed.

Results found that:

- 1) Young people are unaware of clubs/activities available to them,
- 2) Many would like a 'safe space to hang out',
- 3) Most young people feel safe in Skipton,
- 4) Stopping antisocial behaviour and littering will make young people feel safer and
- 5) Vaping is a major issue in Skipton.

A detailed report of the results will be provided to the Working Group and the Craven Herald.

Vaping campaign:

We have decided to begin a campaign against underage vaping, focusing on raising awareness of the uncertainties of the effects of vaping, the legal age of vaping and the environmental impacts that disposable vapes have.

Some members have suggested starting a new petition to restrict the accessibility of disposable vapes or promoting a pre-existing one, which is something we will discuss in our upcoming meetings.

Youth Assembly:

Representatives from SYC have been attending online meetings for the formerly named North Yorkshire Youth Cabinet, with discussions centred around how the group should progress in the future. This culminated in the AGM on the 11th August where we met in Northallerton. We debated on several things and decided:

- 1) Permit representatives from the Youth Council, youth groups and the MYP to join us from York,
- 2) To change our name to the Youth Assembly for York and North Yorkshire,
- 3) Decided that it would be led by the 4 MYPs.

Skipton Sheep Day:

The Youth Council spent several meetings planning and preparing for our stall at Skipton Sheep Day. We advertised the group and its campaigns, sold badges and oversaw a 'hook-a-sheep' competition, with us making over £40 profit. 6 volunteers from SYC helped over the day and 1 new member was recruited.

Youth Politics and Social Club:

During March and April this year we ran a Politics and Youth Social Club with up to 20 young people in attendance in Skipton library. It included debates, Q&As, games and snacks and functioned both as a youth club and as a way to engage with young people (e.g. discussed the possibility of a graffiti wall which was proposed as an idea by a member of the youth council and they voted upon designs for the Keep Skipton Tidy logo).