Wallingford Youth Council Constitution

Wallingford Youth Council has been set up to support and encourage the active engagement of young people in the decision making within the town. They will represent the views and opinions of the generation whilst influencing and inspiring change. They will work alongside Wallingford Town Council in making the town a better place.

Aims and Objectives

· To assist Wallingford Town Council by identifying issues affecting young people and providing advice on possible solutions

· To respond to enquiries from the Town Council on specific youth issues

· To encourage and engage the younger generation to get involved in projects and events in Wallingford

· To advise on youth grants

· To represent the views of the young residents in Wallingford

· To work as a team and make things happen

· To create opportunities and learn from them

· To promote the importance of a youth voice

· To make local government accessible to everyone

· To have fun

Membership

* No fixed number of Youth Councillors, but always an odd amount to ensure clarity when voting (9-11) **elected/appointed?**
* · Youth Councillors are all volunteers

· A chair and deputy chair will be elected by the Youth Councillors annually in May

· The term of office for all Youth Councillors will be 1 year

· Membership is open to young people who live in or within a 2 mile radius of Wallingford

· Members must be aged between 15 and 18 years old

· Each Youth Councillor must be willing to adhere to the What is Expected of a Youth Councillor code

Meetings

· The Youth Council will meet twice each school term

· The Chair will prepare the agenda for meetings, with support from the administrator

· Agenda will be distributed at least 5 working days before the meeting

· Decisions should be made after discussion where possible

· All decisions must be proposed, seconded and voted on

· A quorum will be five Youth Councillors

· Voting will be by a show of hands

· Town Councillors and Town Council staff can attend Youth Council meetings as observers

· Town Councillors and Town Council staff will not have voting right

· Minutes will be taken by the administrator

· Minutes will be distributed before the next meeting and will be approved at that meeting

Youth Councillor Duties

· Attend meetings- Send apologies for absence if unable to attend

· Resign from position if unable to attend more than 3 meetings consecutively

· Work co-operatively with other members

· Assist with the formation of groups to support activities and events arranged by the Youth council

· Assist with projects and issues relating to the Town Council

· Raise awareness of issues affecting young people

· Assist the Town Council with community engagement and presentations

· The Youth Council will present its public image under the guidance of the Town Council

Wallingford Town Council Support

· Provide meeting facilities

· Provide administrative support

· A budget may be provided to support Youth Council activities

· A nominated Town Councillor to regularly liaise with the Youth Council

· Recommendations from the Youth Council will be considered by the full council or the appropriate committee