

Waveney Youth Council Constitution / Terms of Reference

Name: Waveney Youth Council (WYC)

Main Aims and Objectives:

- Work in Partnership with Waveney District Council, and other partners, to Improve the area of Waveney for young people.
- Forming links between the Youth Council and other organisations.
- Interact with young people across Waveney and change the perception of youth and build bridges between generations.
- Provide a voice for all young people across Waveney.
- Ensuring Young People are involved in important decision making processes that assist with the development of local services that effect them.
- Promote, participate, and encourage young people to get involved in consultations, youth events, activities and projects.
- Celebrate the achievements of young people.
- Work in partnership with local press and partners to promote the work and views of the youth council.
- Research and access funding opportunities to benefit youth projects and ideas.

Membership

Membership of the youth council shall be open to all young people and prides itself on being an equal opportunities group.

The following schools, college's, youth groups and organisations are represented on the youth council at present;

- Benjamin Britten High School
- Ormiston Denes Academy
- East Point Academy
- Bungay High School
- Pakefield High School
- Sir John Leman High School
- Warren School
- The Ashley School Academy Trust
- Lowestoft Sixth Form College
- Lowestoft College
- The Attic
- Beccles Free School
- UK Youth Parliament

Members, who do not attend three or more youth council meetings without sending their apologies, will cease to be part of the youth council.

Attendees are only welcome by invitation only from the Waveney Youth Council Chair or by a majority decision at Youth Council meetings

Partners

Waveney Youth Council are currently working with the following partners, although not all will attend every meeting;

- Waveney District Council
- Suffolk County Council
- Suffolk Police

- Waveney MP (Peter Aldous)
- Lowestoft Rising
- Lowestoft Vision
- Community Action Suffolk
- Waveney Disability Forum
- UK Youth Parliament

The Youth Council will look to work with other partners as and when required.

Meetings

Meetings will be held once every half term with venues rotating across the Waveney area.

Apologies for attendance should be sent via the Secretary.

Voting can take place at meetings regardless of the amount of members attending, with decisions being made based on a majority vote. Where appropriate, votes can be cast by members not able to attend and sending their apologies. These votes must be sent direct to the Chair.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM), will aim to take place in November/December each year. Officers will hold their position on the Youth Council for 1 year, with re-elections taking place at each AGM. Officers can be re-elected to the same role for a maximum of 2 consecutive years.

Sub groups and additional meetings may take place as and when required to support the work of the youth council.

Changes to the constitution need to be agreed by at least half of the youth council members.

Meeting Rules

Everyone must respect each other and their views/opinions. If you want to talk or raise an issue, you must go through the chair person.

All attendees must avoid using unnecessary jargon

The meetings will not be used for political purposes or be aligned to any political party

Dissolution (ending of the group)

The group may be dissolved at any time by resolution agreed by two thirds of the members. Any funds remaining will be donated to a group with similar aims, agreed by the youth council.

Officers

- **Chair: Merynn Levett - Benjamin Britten High School**
- **Vice Chair: Nathan Bowkett - Lowestoft Sixth form College**
- **Secretary: George Butler – Benjamin Britten High School**
- **Social Media and Publicity Officer: Ray Wang - East Norfolk Sixth Form College**
- **Events Officer: Corey Soanes - Benjamin Britten High School**
- **Inclusion Officer: Joe Flatt – Ormiston Denes Academy**
- **Education Officer: Ryan Hawkins – Ormiston Denes Academy**

If you are elected as an Officer, keep to the agreed aims and objectives of your role.

Waveney Youth Council facilitator – Stuart Halsey – Waveney District Council