#

**Clerk Report – Nash Mills School Youth Engagement November 2024**

## **Council Actions Required (agenda items)**

* To consider NMPC’s involvement with the school democracy curriculum and to determine councillors who may wish to be involved.

## **Background**

In Sept the clerk attended the SLCC Youth Engagement Summit 2024. This followed her suggestion that NMPC should consider the creation of a ‘youth council’. The positive reports from the course reiterated her view that the needs of our younger stakeholders were vitally important in working to build a council that engaged with all demographics affected by decision making in their local area. Engaging with our younger residents would enable the council to consider projects from an alternate perspective.

Learning that democracy formed part of the national curriculum at primary level prompted me to contact the local headteacher to gather his views on whether his pupils may have an appetite for engagement prior to bringing the matter back to council as an agenda item.

The Head was very positive and welcomed the idea. His suggestion is below, and I am bringing this to the council as I would like the council to support this step as a more suitable initiative for our size council rather than starting a youth council at the present moment.

*The children are usually very insightful when we speak to them and give, often, a very different perspective to the ones we have formed!  I'd be more than happy to facilitate something if helpful and wondered if it would be good perhaps if a group of councillors wanted to come to speak to some of our classes to discuss their role and ask some pre-prepared questions about the local area.  I wondered if, for example, they asked about where the children feel most safe locally or any places that didn't feel as safe?  If the children felt that enough was done to be proud of the area or to look after it?  All of this would be within the realms of our Key Stage 2 pupils' opinions!*

*If this was of interest and you could organise a team, perhaps an afternoon session where they spent around 30 minutes with 3 or 4 classes would work?*

*I think this type of work is really important and happy to help where we can.*

*Thank you for asking us!*

## **Considerations & Clerk Recommendations**

The clerk **recommends** that NMPC take this valuable opportunity offered by the school and makes contact with the Head to arrange something for the spring term.

* The clerk would need to verify that Cllrs attending will be fully supervised, if not their DBS status would need to be checked **prior** to attendance.
* All Councillors will need to familiarise themselves with the NMPC safeguarding policy prior to attending the school.
* Cllrs will need to be available for an afternoon session, during school hours.

Nikki Bugden

Clerk & RFO

1/11/2024