



**Minutes of EYL Executive Meeting
Held on 27/3/2021 via Zoom**

In attendance

- WT - William Tench - English Chair
FU - Fergus Ustianowski - Vice Chair & Western Counties Chair
AB - Adam Belcher - Yorkshire and Humber Chair
KF - Kieron Franks - East of England Chair
JP - Julius Parker - South Central Chair
LC - Loukas Christou - East Midlands Chair
OJL - Oliver Jones-Lyons - North East Chair (Arrived late, apologies in advance)
PG - Patrick Gilbert - West Midlands Chair
SC - Sam Cumber - London Chair
TDS - Taylor Donoughue-Smith - North West Chair
YM - Yan Malinowski - South East Chair
AW - Arthur Wu - Federal BAME Officer
EB - Elizabeth Barnard - Federal co-Membership and Branch Development Officer
KM - Katharine Macy - Federal Accessibility, Diversity and Standards Officer

Absent

- LJ - Luke Jeffery - Devon and Cornwall Chair

Chairs Reports

TDS - Has been focusing on Local Election and working on potential action days. Co-options on backburner due to lack of interest, will be pursued alongside a regional general meeting after the elections.

OJL - General Meeting and regional executive co-options have been de-prioritised due to local elections, but has a provisional list for Executive. Branch action plan in works, with a look at a tiering scheme for areas. Led the North team at the State Showdown. Helped in the federal Branch Review.

PG - Led Midlands Team at state showdown. Held a Regional AGM and has Executive in place. Did social media posts on 'meet the committee'. Looking into action days. Helped Policy Committee in run-up to federal conference.

LC - In contact with regional executive to further advertise the YL regional executive co-options. Been in discussions about a Nottingham city branch, almost ready to launch and hoping to do so in person when circumstances allow.

KF - Holding YL regional executive next week, but trouble reaching Cambridge University branch who have a seat. Helping with regional campaigning. New branch in Peterborough and Fenland.

FU - Full executive now in place. Stephen Williams now honorary president of Western Counties YL. Working with his executive on plan for local elections. On campaigns committee, updates Exec on Y&W, state showdown and Erasmus campaign.

JP - Preparing for executive co-options, got a couple of people interested. Planning to hold a general meeting. Attended regional executive meeting.

SC - YL Regional Executive up and running as of start of March, had social media promotion ran by a member of the Exec. Held a few phonebanking events, in addition to a London team at state showdown. Young candidate in a council by-election in Enfield - reached out on how to help. One London YL Exec member has started a London YL podcast. New branch in North + Central London.

AB - Tried to get in touch with all branches in Yorkshire and the Humber region. Hoping to hold a General Meeting after local elections. Has not yet had contact with Yorkshire and Humber Liberal Democrats.

WT offers to help if AB is having difficulty reaching them.

YM - Attended regional executive and is getting support from Regional Staff. Hoping to have some events after local elections, including a 'Meet an MP event'. Hopes this will allow contacts to be made to co-opt new people to YL regional executive. Trying to get knowledge of young candidates so he can arrange regional support and action days.

Local elections in England

WT - Encourages all regional chairs to get started a plan to hold at least one regional action day before the local elections. Will buy a prize for the regional chair who holds the most. Encourages them to use regional exec members, branch chairs or trusted members to hold action days if they can't personally attend.

FU - Campaigns committee are encouraging people to do in-person events, if they can. More impactful and better social connections.

OJL - Raises accessibility, and the possibility of hybrid action days with an in-person and phonebanking element.

FU - Agrees, but though encourages in person gets better results. Will do an events map of regional pages of YL website for people to put campaign events.

KM - Emphasis importance of hybridity - many people are still shielding.

OJL - Happy to sit on a Zoom for action days with people who cannot attend in person.

WT - If multiple in-person action days are happening, there is no reason why they can't have one joint zoom with people ringing different places. Also encourages regional chairs to get and circulate phonebanking codes that members in their region can call if they're free.

FU - Can set people up with Connect accounts, so contact him if someone needs one.

FU - Raises importance of safeguarding. There must be an adult present if under 18s at action day.

PG - Asks if there will be a second safeguarding training for regional chairs that could not attend the first one.

EB - MBDO can do so if there is demand. Encourages Regional Chairs to look at the branch guide which has some important information on safeguarding requirements.

WT - If action days are to be in-person, they should be easy to travel for young people - good bus and rail connections. Reminds regional chairs there isn't much time left so to come up with plans this week, if possible.

Regional Executive Co-options

WT notes that some regions have had success in filling an Executive but others have struggled, so is giving space for regional chairs to discuss successes and challenges.

SC - Full Executive in London. Advertise as much as you can. Got in contact with people setting up a branch who were eager to get more involved - his Executive has lots of people who are newer members. Let people know that they don't need prior experience and is a great way to get experience in the Young Liberals. Don't be too formal. Encourage people who attend regional events to apply.

FU - Western Counties Exec is based off county areas, so encourages people to represent their area. Messaged a lot of people encouraging them to apply. Because of the representative nature, it has a good snowball effect.

PG - Lots of his Executive come from university societies in the region, good relations with them help a lot.

English Young Liberal Branding

WT - Notes that the English Liberal Democrats have rebranded themselves as the Liberal Democrats in England. Is very opposed to Young Liberals in England and won't be doing it. However, thinks it makes sense to follow other branding decisions made such as colour. Asks for the Execs approval to move forward with making EYL navy.

PG - Asks why navy? Important not to look too much like Scottish Young Liberals who are also blue.

WT - Doesn't know - English ODI Cricket team used to play in Navy but was rebranded to bright blue in 2019. Thinks the colour is distinct enough from Scotland. Isn't too happy about the changes but thinks it is important we mirror the wider party as much as possible.

Aqua is mentioned by several members of the Executive.

WT, FU, KF, JP, LC, OJL, PG, SC and YM vote in favour of allowing WT to explore what a navy logo and wider branding would look like, to bring to the next EYL Executive.

AB votes against.

Regional Parties Committee Panels

WT - Outlines what the Regional Parties Committee (RPC) is. RPC needs panelists for legacy disciplinary cases, encourages people to let him know if they're willing to serve as a panelist so he can pass names on to Prue Bray and Kian Hearnshaw.

Any Other Business

Branch Review Update

EB - Branch review finished, thanks all the regional chairs who contributed. Will have improved contact data for all branches for regional chairs soon. Is going to meet with WT to talk about relationship between branches and regions.

OJL - Asks about if a mini region-specific branch review could be an important part of regional chair handover.

EB - Potential could be. Might be better handled on a federal level, but a lot on one person. Something to think about.

Action Days Revisited

PG - Asks about legality of travelling for campaigning.

WT - Will asks ECE on Monday and let regional chairs know as soon as possible.

Date of Next Meeting

WT - Six weeks time is the week beginning 3rd of May, the week of local elections. Proposes that the next meeting is instead held in seven weeks time.

Executive votes unanimously to hold next meeting w/b 10th of May.

Meeting ends at 18.03