

Isle of Wight Member of Youth Parliament



Elspeth Venn

I'm Elspeth, I'm 16, I live in Bembridge, and currently attend sixth form at Sandown Bay Academy. I am standing as a candidate for the Isle of Wight Youth Council representing the Sandown Bay area, and as a candidate for the member of Youth Parliament. I take a keen interest in politics, current affairs and law. I also have a strong personal interest in the quality of life of the Island's youth.

I am standing for Youth Council representative and member of Youth Parliament as I thoroughly support the idea that the Island's young people should take an active role in the organisation of their local area, and despite the fact that many of the young people on the Island are below the legal age to vote, we should make the best of the opportunities we have. Furthermore, I understand that many

young people on the Island have strong views regarding the Island's transport system and lack of fun, affordable activities and facilities for use on the Island. It is hugely important to me that these views are shared and taken into consideration, so that we can make a difference across the Island.

1. The ability to voice their opinions, even if they are not able to access the opportunities to do so, for example the youth councillor scheme. This could be done by increasing the number of meetings and discussion opportunities available to young people, to allow them to share their ideas in a friendly environment without large commitments.
2. Access to a wide variety of affordable activities for all young people. It is important for young people to have access to a range of opportunities, and with the recent closure of many youth clubs and other activities, including those catering for young people with disabilities. I believe it is of great importance that this is addressed.
3. Access to efficient, economic and efficient transport across the Island, allowing them to travel between school or college and their homes at convenient times, without experiencing a negative attitude from the drivers, or an unreliable service.

If I were elected to either the Youth Parliament or Youth Council, the main thing I would hope to achieve would be a drastic change in the attitudes towards young people on public transport, primarily the buses. The ability to use the Island's bus services quickly and efficiently is essential for the majority of young people, as many of us use the buses to travel to and from school or college, and other important events. From speaking to my peers and other young people across the Island, it has become clear that many feel that the prices charged by the Island's bus companies are far too expensive. Furthermore, people often find that the driver's requests to see a form of ID are made in a rude, unreasonable manor, and there appears to be a lack of agreement between drivers as to what is an acceptable form of identification. By changing the way young people are treated on the buses, I hope to improve the quality of day to day life for many young people across the Island.

Overall, people should vote for me because I am dedicated to improving the quality of the services available to young people island wide and passionate about listening to and voicing the opinions of young people all across the island.

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Daniel Rue

I am standing as a candidate for the Isle of Wight Youth Council representing the Shanklin area and as a member of Youth Parliament.

I have lived on the Island for 8 years and in Shanklin for 5 years. I currently attend sixth form at Christ the King College where I am doing my A Levels. Even though I may not be the loudest individual around I feel am a passionate person who cares about the community and who aims to make a difference to the lives of young people around the island. Recently I've tried to really get involved with a lot of things especially in my school such as age UK and young enterprise. I feel I have a lot to offer in terms of interacting with young people but also to be able bring my own ideas to the table. I hope one day to enter a career in either business or politics and I see this as a great chance to grow as a person whilst also being an influential force in bringing about change. For me I see the values of caring, helping and giving in young people key in order to bridge the gaps between them and older people in which some I feel misunderstand and often stereotype the young for the actions of others.

What is important to young people on the Island?

1. I feel a broader range of activities need to be made available to help young people grow and feel part of the community
2. The cost transport can be quite high and better value to youngsters should be made accessible
3. Better communication between the Council and all young people is vital in order for issues to be resolved.

What would I want to Achieve?

If elected, my main aim over the course of the two years is to see the percentage of young people taking part in community activities to rise significantly.

Why vote for me?

I feel that I offer a unique perspective on life, which will be beneficial to bringing about real change on subjects that matter to the young people of the Island. The young people deserve a voice and your vote can make that happen.

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Chloe Nixon

My name is Chloe Nixon and I have lived in Shanklin my whole life. I have just turned 15, and I attend Sandown Bay Academy. My main interests are scouting, dance, drama, travel and music.

I have been a member of the scouting family for 7 years and I am currently a young leader with 1st Newchurch and attend Explorers in Newport. I started theatre school (Spotlight) at Shanklin theatre at the age of 5 and I have participated in numerous amounts of productions and this Christmas I will be performing in 'Sleeping Beauty'. I have been fortunate to have been able to visit numerous countries and always enjoy discovering the diversity of the local cultures and customs. I enjoy playing the Piano and often accompany friends during school recitals.

I am a very confident approachable outgoing person. I would relish the opportunity to be a represent on the youth council as feel I would be able to put forward the views and idea's of my peers with enthusiasm and conviction.

What is important to young people on the Island?

1. Travel
2. Out school activities
3. Family and Friends

What would I want to achieve?

I hope to be able to either get free travel to school for every student or atleast bring back the student rider as it didn't just help with getting to school, it also had a great aid in getting people to be involved with activities outside their area for example, I live in Shanklin, My explorer unit is in Newport (there isn't one in my area for my age group).

Why vote for me?

I believe I could make a difference and help my peers get their point across cause I have NEVER been asked my anyone, my views on anything and I think they should be heard.

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Oskar Mason

My name is Oskar and I go to Cowes Enterprise College. I am in year 7. I am standing as a candidate for the Isle of Wight Youth Council representing the Cowes area and as a member for Youth Parliament. I enjoy going to the skate park, playing basketball and walking my dog. The reason I want to be on the youth council is because I think I can make a difference. I'm sure you've heard lots of people saying things like "I will listen to your views" but when I say that I mean that.

In my opinion, the three most important things to young people in my area are:

1. Somewhere to be with friends
2. A good education
3. Having our opinions valued

If I am elected the one main thing that I would hope to achieve is upgrading the skate park in Cowes.

I think I should be a youth council member because I can fairly represent your views, I'm not afraid to speak out and most importantly, I understand you.

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Natalia Kerr

Hello I'm Natalia and I am standing as a candidate for Youth Parliament and as a Youth Councillor in East Cowes. I go to Christ the King where I am a Senior Prefect and recently took part in a mock court trial. In my spare time I am a voluntary youth worker in Cowes and enjoy spending time at the beach.

- Youth unemployment is a massive issue and we need to change that. If I were elected I would campaign for smaller businesses to offer employment and volunteering opportunities for young people to give them the experience needed to go forward in the working world.
- I would also like more recognition and easier access to apprenticeships and vocational courses. I believe this is a valuable way to give young people the skills needed in a competitive world.
- I believe that there should be more places for young people to go, feel safe and be themselves, There should be more facilities for young people such as youth clubs, drop in's and cafes.

I believe the Island could be a great place for young people to live. Your voice needs to be heard. So vote for me if you want someone who will listen to what you want, represent you and try to make a difference for you.

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Lawrie Mason

I am standing as a candidate for the Isle of Wight Youth Council representing the Cowes area and as a member for Youth Parliament.

My name is Lawrie and I am currently in the sixth form at the Isle of Wight College. I have lived in Cowes for the last five years I enjoy kayaking, scuba and snowboarding in my spare time. I have been an active member of the Youth Council for the last three years and would very much like to continue to represent the voice and opinions of young people. In my time on the youth council I have been involved in many projects including promoting better standards of youth facilities and encouraging youth employment.

In my opinion, the three most important things to young people in my area are:

1. Transport
2. Fun
3. Jobs

If I am elected the one main thing that I would hope to achieve, is cheaper transport for young people of the Isle of Wight.

Vote for me and you will have an experienced youth councillor to speak for you on the matters that are important to you. I will listen to all points of view and represent everyone fairly.

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Willoughby Matthews

Hi, my name is Will, I'm 14 and I live in Cowes. I have two sisters and a brother and I go to Medina College in Newport; the subjects I enjoy the most are Music and Technical ICT. My main hobby is sailing, which I do at Gurnard Sailing Club and from the many clubs in Cowes. I sailed in Cowes Week this year, in the Sonar class from which we gained a tremendous 4th place! I go to the Cowes Buccaneers Explorer Scout Unit at 2nd Cowes Sea Scouts and I am part of Cowes Sea Cadets, which has encouraged me to join the Royal Navy as a Logistics Officer when I leave school. I am actively involved with IYWAC (Island Youth Water Activities Centre) of which I am part of the Young Users Group, which I have been for three years. Treatment of youths on the Isle of Wight is important to me, as we are often treated like Second Class citizens. I dislike litter, and I don't like hunting!

What is important to young people on the Island?

- Recreational Facilities for minimal price – Things to do out of school that don't cost much e.g. sports clubs and drama/music groups etc.
- Cheap Travel – particularly to the mainland.
- Employment Opportunities.

What would I want to achieve?

The main thing that I would like to achieve if elected is more availability of outdoor sporting opportunities for young people on the Isle of Wight.

Why vote for me?

You may well ask, why vote for me? Vote for me, because I will campaign to make the Isle of Wight a better place for you. I will campaign for more provision for young people and more activities available for you, such as water sports, music and art!

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Freddie Green

My main policy if elected as one of the representatives for Newport West would be to work with the community to create places for the youth to socialise safely together during the week and weekends. A good example of this would be Newport's youth cafe where young people can come and socialise safely together. My policy would be to create more of these cafes around the island for younger people to give the youth a place to spend their free time positively.

My second policy if elected would be to create more sports facilities for the youth around the island from a MUGA to other facilities which may be wanted by the community for the youth, be it a basketball area, football ground or even an area to play cricket with friends. My goal would be to give the youth whatever sporting facility they wish for their area in the North West constituency.

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Aaron Wilkins

“Our responsibility, Our Future, Our Island ”
The future ... it's in your hands;

My name is Aaron Wilkins, I am fifteen years old, I am standing as a candidate for both the Isle of Wight youth council for Ryde and for the UK member of youth parliament. I attend Medina College, my interests include; swimming, History and socialising with my friends. In the future I wish to pursue a career in government at a local or National level. My passion for politics is only rivalled by my belief in the improvement of the position of young people in my local area.

We are the next generation;

In the future we will be the ones at work, the ones who are voting, and the ones who are running the country. Therefore we must make a change, because our generation will be responsible. I believe we have the right to speak out, to have an opinion in Justice, our health, our education, public services and our future prospects. I am passionate, honest, dedicated and enthusiastic and I will be the voice that our generation deserves. To make the changes that need to be made ... “I need your help. “VOTE CHANGE, VOTE AARON WILKINS”.

What do I want to achieve?

If you elect me I would like to campaign on the following issues:

- Encourage more competitive pricing on public transport including liaising with Southern Vectis and the train service.
- Better communications between schools on the Isle of Wight to minimise anti-social behaviour, bullying and prejudice.
- Work with connections to develop a mobile outreach service to better serve the Youth population.
- Pioneer a new scheme of youth activities and cheaper recreational activities.
- An Island 'youth' festival to encourage a positive view of young people and work to actively reduce underage drinking and support for drug awareness.

My main aim;

To provide a voice for young people and to encourage a better general opinion of young people on the Isle of Wight.

We are the future after all!

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Clarissa Lander

Hello, my name is Clarissa Lander, I am 12 years old and I live in Ryde. I live with my mum, dad, sister and dog. I go to Ryde Academy. My interests are swimming, going out with friends, cooking and talking to people. I think happiness is important because if you are not happy it's important to find out what's wrong. If you elect me I will do my best to sort out what's wrong.

What is important to young people on the Island?

1. More things to do in winter.
2. Tackle bus prices.
3. Encourage more business.

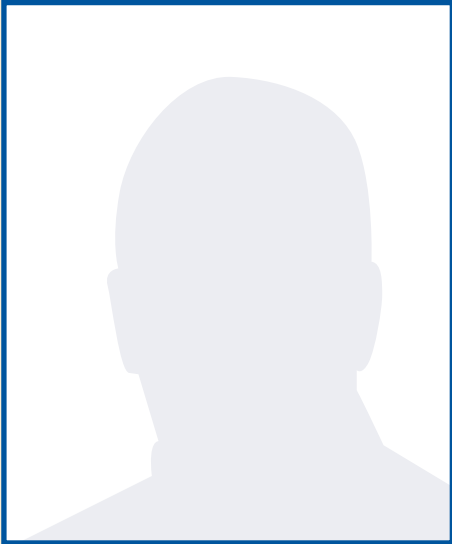
What would I want to achieve:

To get more things for people to do in the winter.

Why vote for me:

I think you should vote for me because I will try my best to get what you want in your area to happen.

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Jordan Westwood

Hi, I'm Jordan, I'm 12 and I attend Ryde Academy. I'm currently the secretary for the School Council at Ryde. I live in the Ryde area, my interests are playing the saxophone, football, sport, listening to music, going down the park with friends and sometimes relaxing while playing on consoles.

I feel the most important thing for me is kids, teens expressing themselves freely in a safe environment. If I was elected, I would probably try my best to get more youth clubs, parks built for kids or teens to express themselves and hang out. I would also try and improve transport and leisure facilities. So that's me, I'll hope you'll vote.

What is important to young people on the Island?

1. To be able to have fun in a secure environment.
2. To have the best possible leisure centres and transport.
3. To express themselves freely.

What would I want to achieve:

To upgrade leisure facilities and parks. To let kids and teens to hang out and express themselves.

Why vote for me:

If you vote for me I will try my best to improve parks, leisure facilities and transport.

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James Lush

I'm James and I'm currently in my first year at Ryde Academy 6th Form (Year 12). I've recently moved to the Island permanently while I am doing 6th Form, but I've been coming to the Island ever since I was two weeks old to see relatives over here. I know the Island well and have great friends over here who I've known for years. I'm really into my sport and play lots of different one's using various facilities across the Island like Westridge Golf Club and the local football ground in Seaview to play football with mates.

At Ryde, I am studying Government and Politics, something I've been passionate about for years and I also am studying BTEC Sport which is what I'm to use hopefully for a job in sport when I'm older. I am putting myself forward for both Youth Council and Youth Parliament as I am interested in getting involved in a local and national level.

What is important to young people on the Island?

1. The bus times and prices. I'd also like to look at the issue of bus routes, for example quite a few young people use Smallbrook Stadium for the gym and various other clubs they run there but there is no easy way for young people to get there unless they get a bus and then a walk along very dangerous roads.
2. Feeling cut off from the mainland because of the prices of the ferries. Also, think about creating more links between the schools on the Island and also between schools on the mainland to open more possibilities.
3. The youth not knowing what's going on with local plans, so I would like to publicise more to the youths in my area and hopefully gain my support for the projects in the process. Also, know publicity for sport in my area or in schools.

What would I want to achieve:

Make communications between the council and youth better and make the youth better informed about local projects such as Haylands site for Ryde Academy.

Why vote for me:

I will try and be as proactive as possible and will always be open to new ideas from young people and to talk to anyone about issues involving young people.

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Robert Selby

If elected, I will aim to:

- Improve the service of Southern Vectis and extend the half-fare to 21.
- Create and promote more arts and sports programmes for young people.
- Create an Island Student Union for more co-operation between Island Schools and Sixth Form colleges.
- Relax the drinking age.
- Lower the voting age to 16.

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Josie Fessey

Introduction:

Hi, I'm Josie. I'm 16 years old and I live in Ryde. I am currently taking my A-Levels at Ryde School and in my free time I volunteer at 'Save the Children' charity shop, write creatively and run every morning. I am openly LGBT and I am an activist for the rights of both women and gay people. If elected, as well as trying to change things for young people on the Island, I will ensure that issues pertaining to equality and diversity are brought to the front and centre of Youth Parliament where they belong.

I have been improving my public speaking in anticipation for the election by attending the debating society at my school and I feel that being elected MYP would offer me many more opportunities for personal and professional growth and development.

In the future, I would like to work as a writer or in the field of English literature.

What is important to young people on the Island?

Unfair cost of public transportation on the Island for young people.

Broader access to institutions of higher education, both academic and vocational, for young people on the Island.

Making cultural and leisure activities more affordable for young people on the Island.

What would I want to achieve:

I would hope to achieve the opportunity to represent the views of the Island's young people in Westminster. If I am elected, I will ensure that the experiences of the young people in my constituency will influence the decisions being made on both a local and national level and I will attend both local and national events as much as possible.

Why vote for me:

Young Island voters should vote for me to represent them in Youth Parliament because I'm intelligent, enthusiastic about the position, I learn the ropes quickly and I promise to fight to make sure that the voice of young people on the Island is heard.