



## YOUNG INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING 23/01/2019 – 18:00

**Meeting commenced at 18:10**

### **Attendees Present**

Adam Wood (Yorkshire & YI Events Officer)  
Ben Gman (Eastern Counties)  
Carl Pearson (Scotland)  
Scott Holman (South East)  
George Pykov (YI Secretary)

Jakob Marshall (East Midlands)  
Joe Simons (UKIP Students & YI Media Officer)  
Nathan Ryding (YI Chairman)  
Zak Weaver (Wales)  
Sebastian Walsh (North West)

### **1. Welcome & Apologies for absence**

- Apologies received: Reece Coombes (SW)
- Absent with no apologies: George Ireland (West Midlands), Eric Jothy (London)

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

- N/A

### **3. Matters arising for discussion & consideration**

#### **3.1. Chairman Report**

**NR:** Nothing has really happened this year so far at a YI level. Patrons push mentioned at last exec meeting. Graphics and promo will be created for this. Party chairman will also be pushing this at a national level.

**NR:** Has been having conversations with new party treasurer. Main party will be starting to fund YI unlike ever before. Stressed importance of helping the main party even more now this is happening (attending events, organising action days etc).

**NR:** Local elections coming up shortly with a possible GE and possible European Election. We want as many YI as possible to be standing in locals to change perception that UKIP is a party for the elderly as we have an extremely active youth wing. Stresses importance of keeping our social media active. We can create YI target seats for YI candidates that have a chance of winning or coming in very close.

**NR:** Mentions leadership election happening after the locals. The exec and YI as a whole *will not be endorsing specific candidates*. They will only be endorsed on an individual basis. YI positions shouldn't be abused for endorsing candidates.

**JS:** Same thing applies for official Facebook/Twitter accounts.

#### **3.2. Regional Chairman Reports (Goals for the year etc.)**

**AW (Yorks):** Hoping to bring up a communication base from the ground up from branch to regional chairman and attending regional meetings. Making sure that he is there to answer any and all enquiries. Also sends out a regular monthly regional update.

**JM (EM):** Main goal is to capitalise on the nationalist message. Hopefully organising more presence at marches and helping local branches gain more local councillors and combat the national negative image that we have. Wants to set up localised campaigns to help the party gain force locally.

**BG (EC):** Supporting the main party with action days. By the end of his term he hopes to have built a stronger platform for someone to be able to effectively take over.

**JS (UKIPst):** Recently set up 2 more UKIP Students university societies. Going forward he hopes to get more societies set up and recruiting students from Hub. Main focus is on growing societies.

**CP (Scot):** Has been appointed interim Scotland chairman. Hopes to reform YI Scotland; currently only 4 regions but wishes to revert to old structure of 8 regions after a poll amongst YI Scotland Hub members. Goals are to double the members (from 50), hoping to fill all committee positions, and get county chairs elected.

**SH (SE):** Get younger members more involved in YI and branch meetings and keep up with action days. Has been invited to the Surrey committee meeting and is attending more regional meetings to speak with regional chairmen with the hopes of getting YI onto the agenda.

**ZW (Wales):** Inactive region so hopes to get more people active. Works for UKIP Wales so has strong links to AMs and officials. Hopes to get more AMs to be patrons and has already got Gareth Bennett AM to sign up as a patron.

**SW (NW):** Has met with UCLAN UKIP society to formulate a plan of action for the year and is hoping to set up a debate with the Labour & Conservative societies on campus. Hoping to have a few campaigns around campus in a Crowder's 'Change My Mind' style.

### 3.3. Aims for this year as a youth wing (NR)

**NR:** Started with 800 members in first term and have gained over 2000 by this point. By the end of this year the aim is for a membership of 5000. Wants to make the main party and country more aware of the existence, presence, and effectiveness of YI. Stresses that, regardless of views on internal politics, we need to be welcoming of all members. Wants 50 Gold patrons by the end of this term. Will also be opening the YI shop. Also the possibility of 2 YI conferences however this is unconfirmed. Will be holding a joint UKIP Wales/YI conference with tours of the assembly offered by Gareth Bennett. AW will be going to Rome on NR's behalf to meet representatives of Lega, AfD, Vlaams Belang, and United Russia amongst others. Will also be meeting the French National Rally.

### 3.4. The role of a Regional Chairman & Expectations (NR)

**NR:** Role of regional chairman is to essentially be in charge of YI in your specific region. First point of contact for any young person in that region. Stresses importance of this role for YI as an organisation.

**NR:** National council last year was not as good as it could have been. Mentions responsibility for chairmen to hold a social event once every 3 months as a minimum. Could be a fundraiser, pub visit, etc.

**SW:** In terms of fundraising, would this be only for the party or for any other issue?

**NR:** Fundraising can only be for the party however you can fundraise for your region and YI can set up a bank account for that region at the discretion of the Exec.

**NR:** Emails must have 'YI Regional Newsletter/Update' in the subject. Recommends using Mailchimp for ease. Make sure to BCC all emails to prevent GDPR breaches. As regional chairmen, you are entitled to attend regional meetings however you will be attending as a non-voting observer. Please follow all rules set by the NEC and by the YI chairman.

**JM:** Suggestion about northern conference to be in Derby

**GP:** Cannot guarantee the city. Lots of factors involved in choosing the conference venue.

**NR:** Agreed with GP. Added that we are looking at reintroducing evening events this year as well.

**NR:** Mentions that all comments for media/press must be referred to NR or JS immediately before proceeding.

**JS:** Local media can be just as savage as national press.

#### 4. **Proposed Items**

4.1.

#### 5. **Any other business**

5.1. JS item

**JS:** Proposes that we move national council meetings to Discord rather than Skype

*Council generally agrees with this*

**JS:** Lots of benefits of using Discord

5.2. JS item 2

**JS:** Wants to create a YI media team with people that can design good things for social media. Can be informal but wishes to formalise this in future.

**NR:** To formalise this then it must go through the Exec.

5.3. Next steps (GP)

**GP:** General admin. Nothing of note for minutes.

**Meeting adjourned at 19:10**