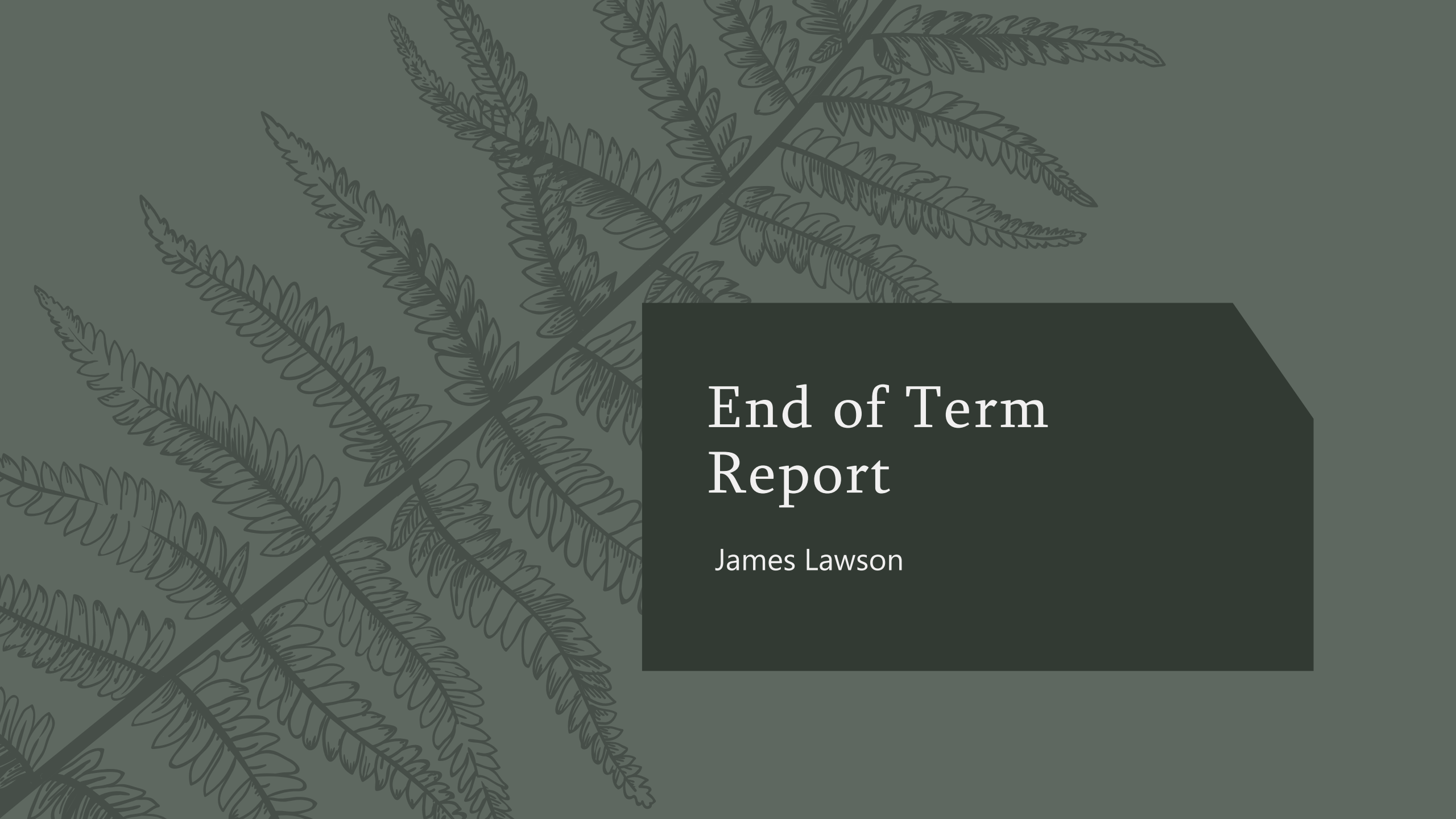




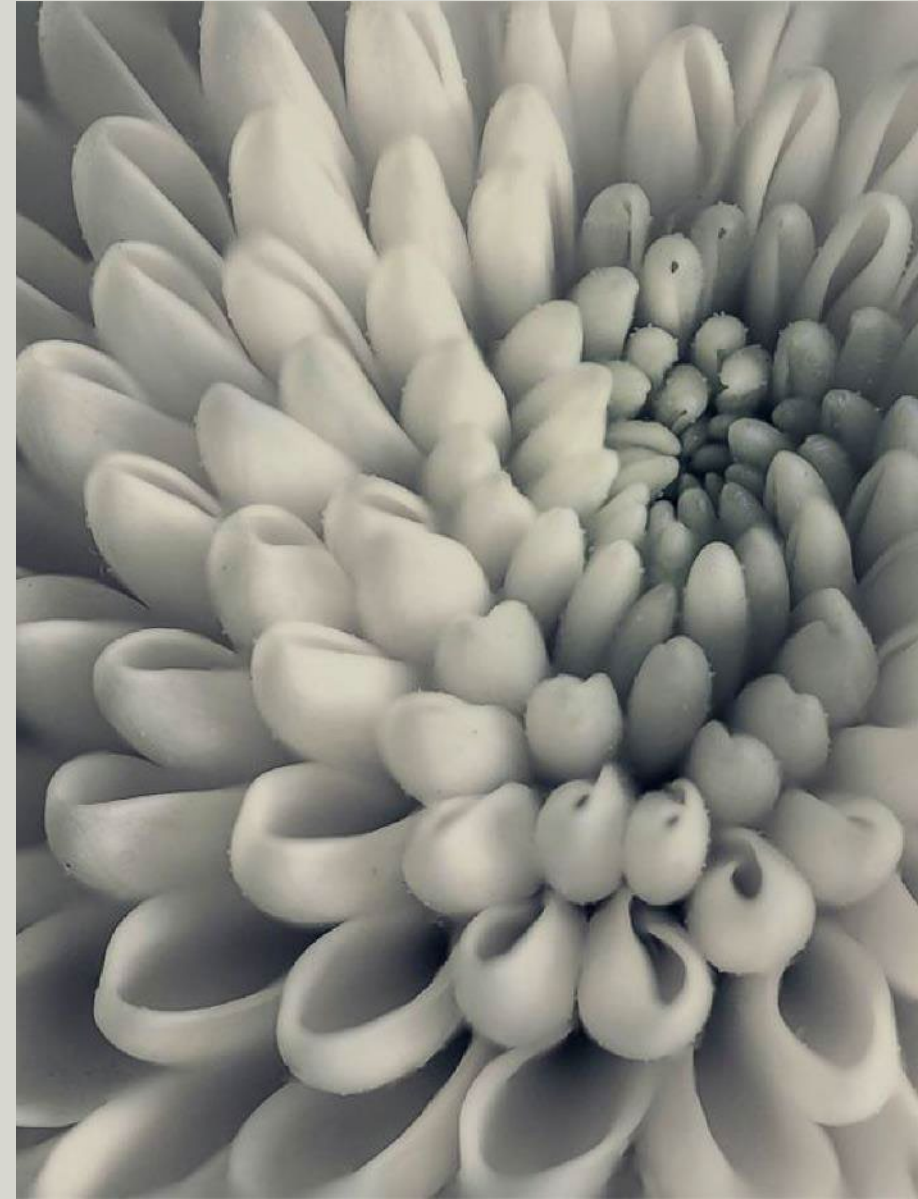
End of Term Report

James Lawson



Young People and the Fragile Environment:

While my campaign was mostly focused on the environment, I designed it in a way where I could tackle other issues like transport but in a sustainable way. During my time as Member of Youth Parliament, I also worked on projects that didn't fit my campaign agenda, but helped represent and support young people.



Research and Survey Young People's Opinions:



Transport Survey

I designed a survey alongside the Office for Gideon Amos MP that asked young people their views on bus transport in Somerset. This was a huge success because we spent a long time networking in order to obtain the most responses.



Existing Data

I used existing data and networked with other organisations across the county to speed up the data collection process and ensure that my goals could be completed with reasonable levels of data to support them.



Focus Groups and Meetings

I regularly attended focus groups and meetings across the county so that I could listen and address young people's concerns. I attended some events that only had adults in attendance which made my search for data more difficult, but some meetings were exclusively for young people.

Raise Awareness of Environmental Challenges:



Somerset Sustainable Futures

I made two keynote speeches at the Somerset Sustainable Futures Event in Taunton. This was a huge success as hundreds of young people were in attendance and I unlocked many more opportunities as a result of it.



Articles and External Work

In opportunities alongside and with Youth Parliament, I wrote articles and lobbied decision makers to make changes. From global companies to local councillors, I made sure that many people were aware of the challenges.



Restore Nature Now

I went to a huge protest in London with over 100,000 people that demanded the restoration of our natural systems through more sustainable governance.



Other Speeches:

I made many other speeches to a huge variety of different people; from youth workers to climate activists. In each one, I made the climate change the foremost priority.

Networking:

Somerset Sustainable Futures:

I connected with local environmentally conscious organisations and we received many inquiries afterwards.

Climate Action Network:

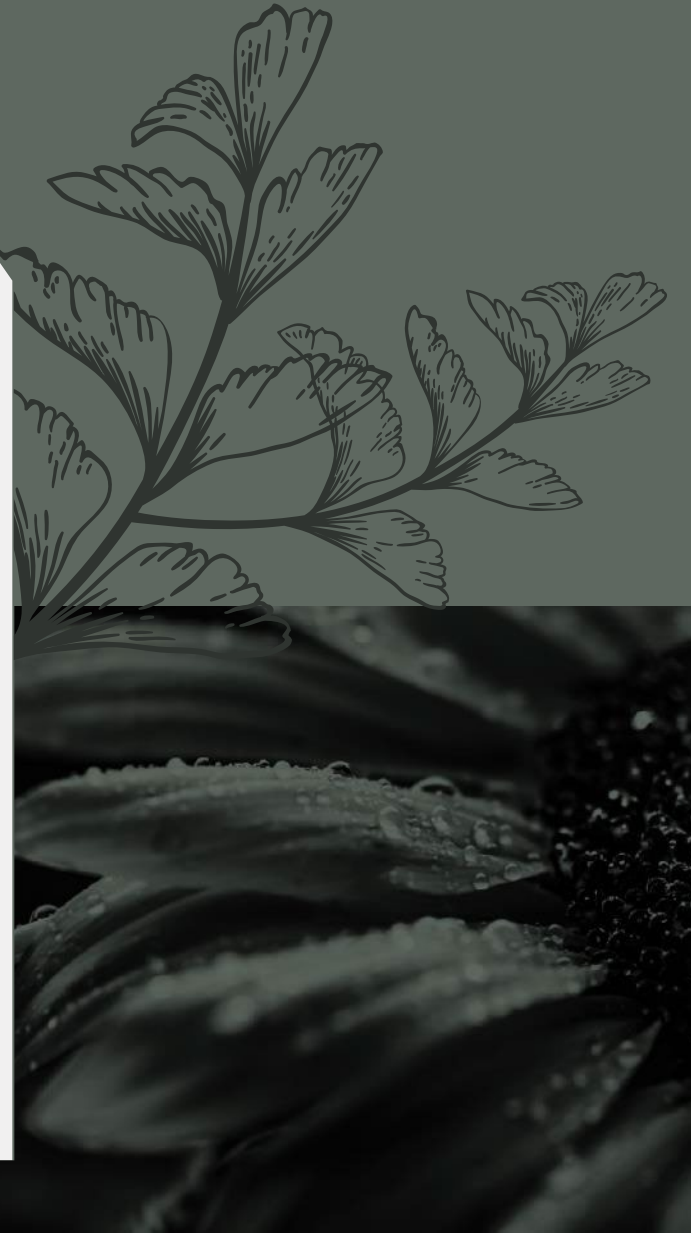
I was able to learn a lot about campaign management and problems through the eyes of adults, but not young people.

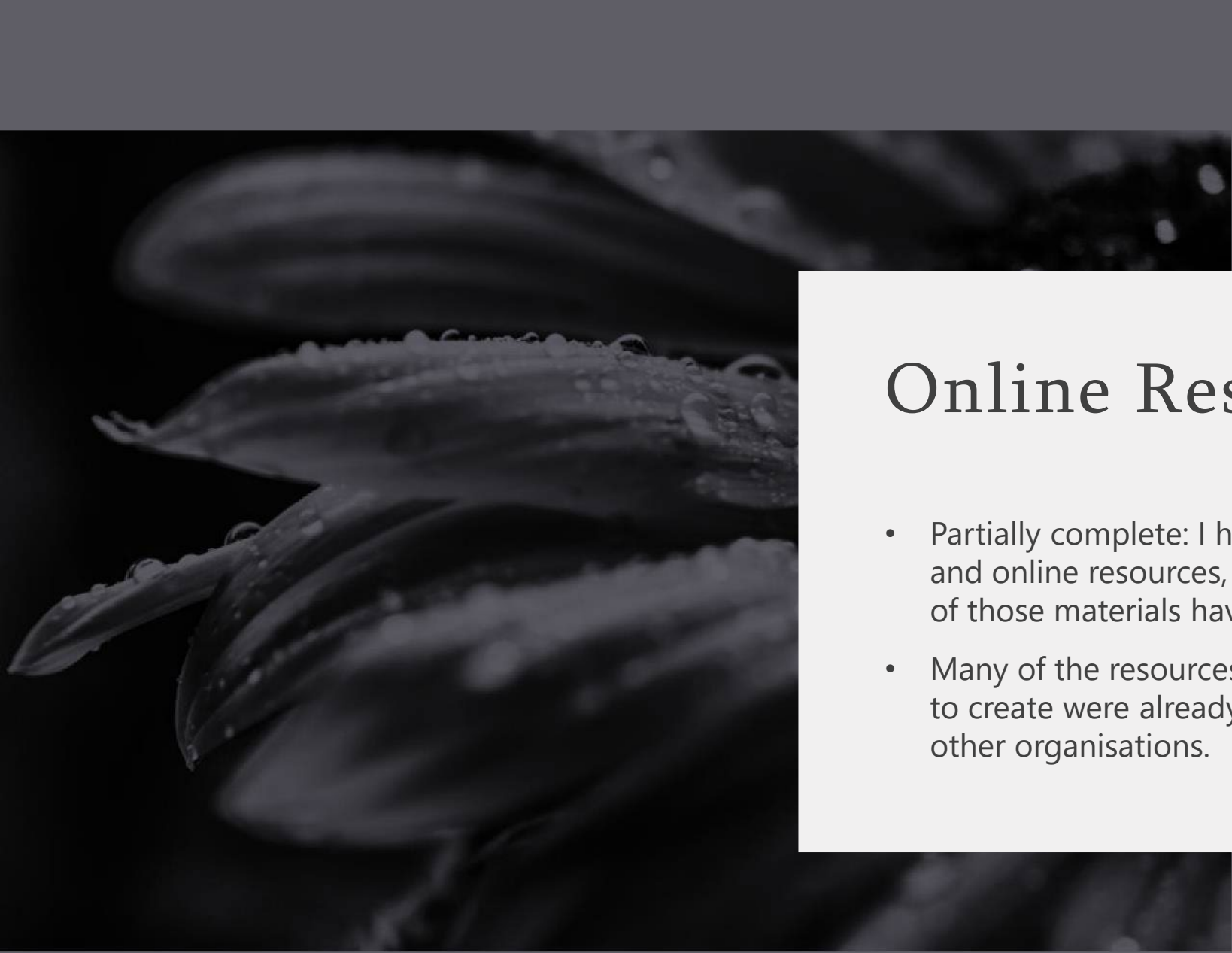
Emailing Local MPs and Councillors:

I was able to very successfully network with almost all of the decision makers in Taunton through emails and at events.

Other Events:

I've attended so many things that I can't remember all of them, but other useful networking opportunities were at children's parliament and smaller events across the county.





Online Resources:

- Partially complete: I have created physical and online resources, but the distribution of those materials have been inconsistent.
- Many of the resources that I was looking to create were already available from other organisations.

Connecting with External Organisations:

Council Organisations:

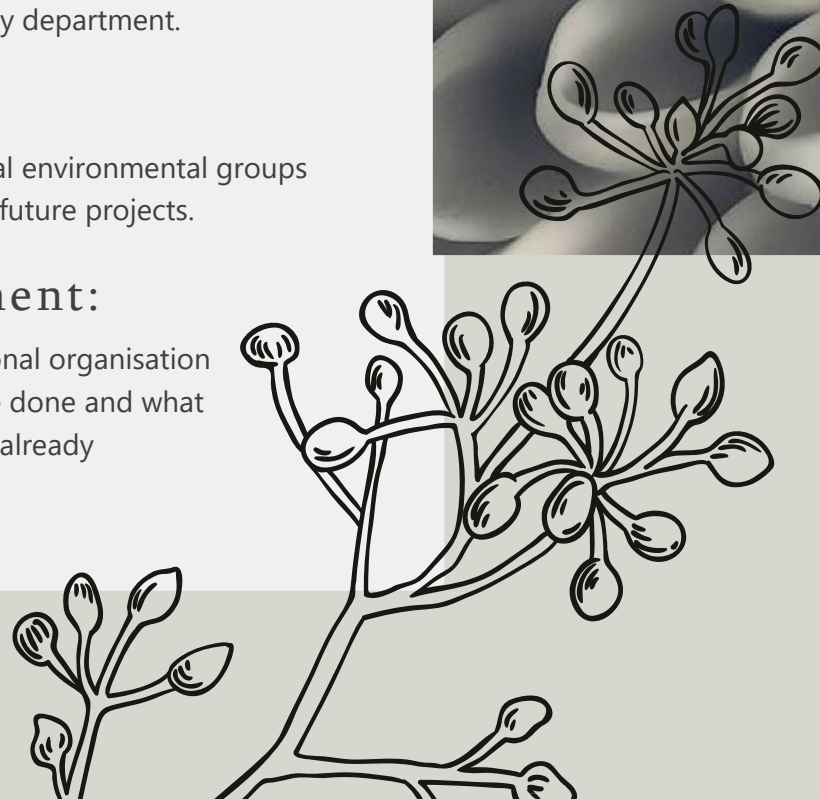
I met with several councillors and also attended a green fayre where I met people from the Taunton Town Council sustainability department.

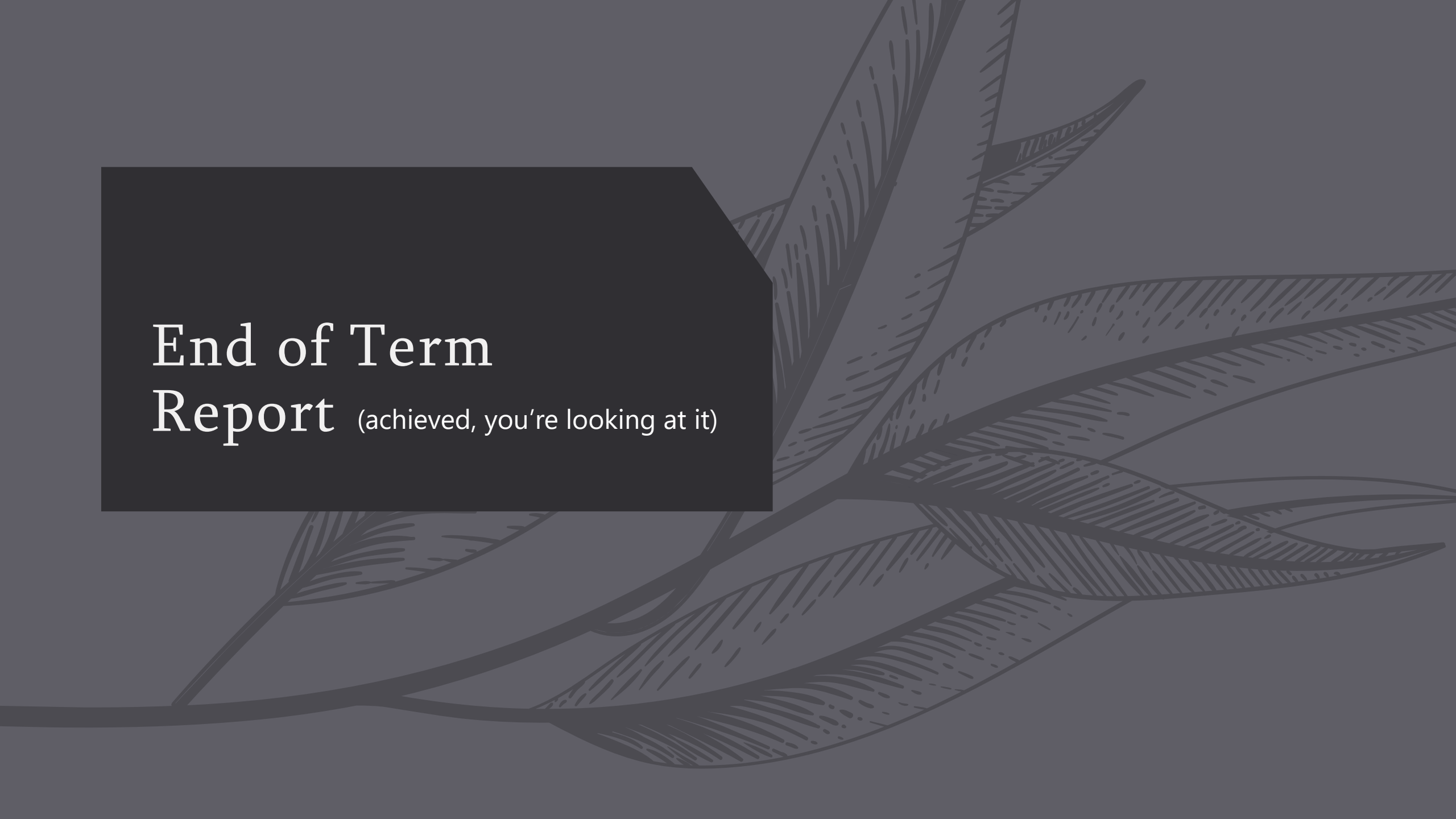
Local Groups:

I emailed members of local environmental groups to ask for suggestions on future projects.

Youth Parliament:

I was able to use the national organisation to find what needed to be done and what other young people were already achieving.



A stylized, dark gray illustration of a plant with long, pointed leaves and a central stem, set against a dark gray background. The leaves have fine, parallel lines indicating texture.

End of Term Report (achieved, you're looking at it)



Summary

When I joined Youth Parliament in late 2023 I had one goal: to improve the lives of young people in Somerset through direct action. However, my greatest successes were often indirect and achieved not on my own, but with other organisations. While policy and changes implemented directly by me do not exist, I still made a difference by relentlessly networking and engaging with young people until I found projects that had space for youth voice. I took every opportunity possible and made mistakes but those were outweighed by the success of the overall campaign. I would not change a single thing about my campaign if I had the opportunity to deliver it again. I am grateful to all the people who made it possible.

