

## **Friends of Felixstowe Library**

### **Felixstowe Children's Library project 2020 update**

24 August 2020

#### **Background**

This project will fund the complete refurbishment of the children's section of Felixstowe Library. It is many years since the library was last refurbished in 2006, and due to the fact that the area is so well used, it now looks worn out and in serious need of improvement if we are to continue to provide an attractive, modern and comfortable service for children and young people, and their parents and carers.

We have based our proposals on advice from the library manager, Steph Merrett, and members of the Suffolk Libraries Senior Management Team who have knowledge of other similar projects. We have had detailed plans drawn up by a specialist company, F G Library and Learning who have successfully installed improvements in other Suffolk Libraries branches.

The children's library refurbishment will include specific facilities for children with individual needs (e.g. sensory wall, hideaway section and a reading den for all children to use, but which will be of particular benefit to children on the autistic spectrum, or with other special needs).

It will also mean the area has new moveable equipment and storage, which will allow the library to be used for larger children's events (e.g. in the past the library has held Harry Potter themed events and the 'Felixstowe.docs' arts event).

The refurbishment project will provide modern and brightly coloured new surroundings throughout the children's library, with a seaside theme.

We were pleased to give a presentation about the project to Felixstowe Town Council's Civic and Community Committee on 19 February 2020, and delighted that funding was committed to the project. We were also most grateful for a funding contribution from Cllr Graham Newman, and Suffolk Libraries IPS.

#### **Progress report August 2020**

Initial designs, specifications and costings were in place, and we were preparing a funding package, when Covid 19 resulted in the closure of libraries and a halt in project activities in March 2020. In July we re-visited our proposals, and following further advice and discussion, we carried out some adjustments to the proposed layout. We are delighted that the Felixstowe & Peninsular Community Partnership and Cllr Tracey Green have also recently been able to commit funding. We are now ready to proceed with the project

***Our final proposal is as follows:***

**FGL Libraries bespoke designs and equipment**

- Shelving along walls
- 2 bespoke story walls, with reading den, starlight hideaway, and associated shelving and storage
- Graphic wall panels and pin-boards
- 2 'Kinderbox browsers', specialist display table, sea theme story rug
- Shelving for teenage section books

**New flooring**

**Decorator**

**Furniture and mobile storage**

**Total cost: £30591**

***Funding package:***

	£
Friends of Felixstowe Library	3000
Felixstowe Town Council	10000
Cllr Graham Newman (SCC Enabling Communities budget)	5591
Cllr Tracey Green ( ESC Enabling Communities budget)	4000
Felixstowe Peninsular Community Partnership	5000
Suffolk Libraries IPS Ltd	3000
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>30591</u></b>

We are most grateful to all our funders for their valued support.

Sarah Wilson  
Chair, Friends of Felixstowe Library  
24/08/2020