



**MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

**Present:**

Kai Hoang, Erika Lempek (Chairmen) and Corinne Stockdale (Grange Community Primary)  
Bethany Huggins, Francesca Lynch, Teddy Smith and Julia Steele (Colneis Junior School)  
Cole Collins, Logan Hollis-Roberts, Georgia-Ruby Diaper and Alicia Little (Causton Junior School)  
Felix Avery, Reid Bowen and Darryl James (Felixstowe Academy)  
Chloe Barker, Henry Botwright and Kyrsty Beattie (Kingsfleet Primary School)  
Abigail Dunnett, Abir Hussain, Marta Michalak, Augustinas Skeirys and Sarah Gorski (Langer Primary Academy)  
Dylan Wakefield, Charlie Webb and Shez Southernwood (Level2)  
Rory Gardner, Ellie Southgate, Grace Wells and Kate Bennett (Trimley St Mary School)  
Peppy Barlow and Sally Wilden (Woven Theatre Company)  
Alan Muchal and Stephen Wyatt (Felixstowe Fairtrade)  
Helen Greengrass (Felixstowe Forward)  
Jonny Lowdell (Places for People Leisure)  
Councillors Doreen Savage (Felixstowe Town Council)  
Ash Tadjrishi (Lorna Monsen)  
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Rev. Andrew Dotchin, Vicky Foster, Police Community Support Officer and Cllr Christina Barham.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, were agreed as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**4. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS**

Representatives from Colneis School introduced themselves to the Forum. They told the Forum that their Year 6 children had enjoyed the start of the new academic year and had taken on a number of roles and responsibilities across the school now that they were the oldest year group. This included being responsible for answering the school phones at lunchtime, delivering messages, supporting the younger children at play times and managing the music for assemblies. They had asked their school

friends for ideas on how the £2000 could be used to support young people in Felixstowe. The favourite ideas were a graffiti wall and a seasonal activity tent.

Colneis representatives told the Forum about their Geography topic this term called 'Coasts and Rivers'. In September they visited Felixstowe Ferry to study some features of the River Deben including the point at which it meets the North Sea. They would also be visiting the beach in Felixstowe to learn about how sea defences are used to protect the town and homes. They had an excellent day at Suffolk Crucial Crew where they learnt about personal safety. This also included road safety, electrical safety, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drugs. The highlight was the 'Fire Experience' where they practised what they would need to do if they were trapped in a bedroom in a blazing house! They had learnt a lot from this visit.

Last week Colneis School had built their own fairground rides out of recycling rubbish. As part of this they learnt about the forces acting on fairground rides. They worked in small groups, which turned out to be frustrating at times but they did learn a lot about the importance of sharing ideas and co-operating with others. They have also been very busy in English studying the play Macbeth written by William Shakespeare. The students had acted out the play and learnt about the main characters. Lastly they told the Forum about their forthcoming Christmas Fayre which is due to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> December and everyone was welcome.

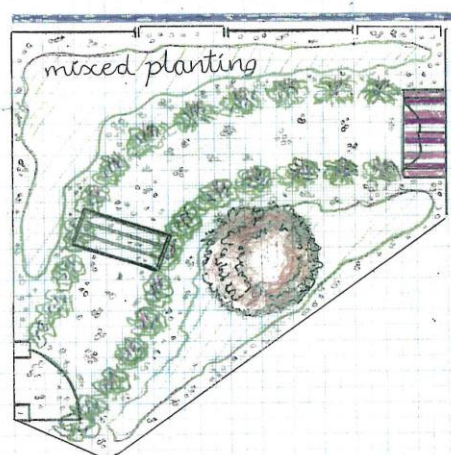
## 5. GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS

The Grange School representatives told the Youth Forum that their new Headteacher, Mrs Coleman had settled in very well at their school. She is kind and helpful, bringing lots of new ideas to help their school improve and respects past events at their school. A Teaching Assistant at their school had designed three different designs for a Memorial Garden for their late Headteacher, Mrs Reynish. The whole school voted for their favourite design and no 2 design was chosen which the representatives passed around the Members. Please see below:

### The Christabel Reynish Memorial Garden Concept 2

A colourful 'busy bee' country garden...

- Again, cost effective and low maintenance gravel base with stepping-stones strategically placed to allow access to planting
- School walls and picket fence to be painted
- Focal points - a candy striped painted arbour to the side wall with an avenue of lavender making to it from the gate. A small latticed arch just inside the gate will provide height and structure for an evergreen scented climber.
- Planting (again predominantly purple) will provide year round interest with the use of evergreens and architectural foliage - and typical country garden planting. Children to contribute with the creation of wildlife habitats and bunting with a musical theme. To create more colour and movement the garden will be dotted with brightly coloured windmills and pots, hand painted by the children...



**Ideas for planting:-**  
 Tree - Acer Palmatum 'Bloodgood'  
 Evergreen climber - Trachelospermum Jasminoides  
 Verbena 'Rigida', Verbena 'Bonariensis', English Lavender, Clematis  
 'Comtesse de Bouchaud', Buddleia, Geranium, Allium hollandicum,  
 Nepeta, Penstemon, Purple phormium or cordylone, Echinacea purpurea,  
 Escallonia 'Donard Beauty', Delphinium - 'Fanfare' or 'Bruce', Euonymus,  
 Lupins, Phyllostachys Nigra, Stachys, Philadelphus...

Drawn for Grange  
 Community Primary  
 School  
 September 2016

Scale 1:50

Grange School have just learnt that they have been awarded £300 from the Co-op Green Token Scheme which will help with this project.

Friends of Grange School, the parent/teacher Association have also asked the children at school to come up with ideas for spending £3000 which they have managed to raise for their outdoor area. Grange School Council has come up with a lot of ideas so the school is hoping that extra play features will appear in the playground soon. The students told the Forum that they were still enjoying their Forest Schools activities. They have made dens, planted trees and learnt all about Charles Darwin.

Representatives told the Forum that their Year 5 and 6 recently went to Clifford Road School to visit the bomb shelter which is underneath their playground and school. They said it was very interesting, especially when they played a recording of an actual air raid. This visit really helped their school World War 2 studies.

## **6. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL**

The Causton School representatives told the Forum that they were delighted to be chosen by their Teacher to represent Causton Junior School at this year's Youth Forum and they were looking forward to sharing all their achievements, news and events which are due to take place at their school during this academic year.

The representatives told the Forum that they had been on a residential visit to Thorpe Woodlands in Thetford. The representatives then read out abstracts from their diaries. This included having to make their own beds on arrival and a tour of the site. After lunch they were split into groups for the week so they could all do team building games, which included orienteering and clues challenge in the forest. On the second day some of the boys were up at 5.30am ! Later some groups had canoeing and they finished this with jumping in the river which resulted in bringing some frogs back to the centre ! The night ended with a scavenger hunt outdoors.

Looking forward, the representatives told the Forum that they were proud to be sending three representatives to lay a poppy wreath on Armistice Day, to help remember those who have lost their lives at war.

## **7. FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY ITEMS**

Felixstowe Academy representatives told the Forum that the Felixstowe Academy Student Action Groups were now organised and representatives from each year group were involved and able to jointly make decisions for the Academy. They had recently had a Sixth Form Open Evening and this was very well attended and the feedback was very positive. Year 7 students had been involved in a day of Science experiments called Experiments in Sweets. They were able to do all unusual experiments involving sweets including soaking Haribo in acid for 6 hours to see how this affects them. In the evening parents visited the Academy and learnt what the students had been doing during the Experiments in Sweets day.

Representatives from Felixstowe Academy told the Forum that they are in a new collaboration with Trinity College, Cambridge to build mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills. The three year initiative is aimed at raising aspirations and ambitions of students and supporting Teachers. The project will enable them to be involved in many activities that their students may not have had the opportunity to participate in before. It will improve their ability to engage with problems and help them understand that not knowing the answer is just the start.

## **8. TRIMLEY ST MARY PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS**

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum that they are settling back into school after their summer break. In October the Year 6 students went to Stratford St Andrew

to take part in Suffolk Crucial Crew. They really enjoyed it and learnt how to cope in certain situations.

Representatives from Trimley St Mary told the Forum that as part of their Harvest celebrations they have been having a tin and toiletries collection. Everyone was asked to bring in a tin, packet or some toiletries to donate to the BASIC charity food bank. They also had a special assembly led by one of their School Governors who also told them about harvest in other parts of the world including countries with Fairtrade schemes. After school they were able to buy a special Fairtrade flapjack made from Fairtrade ingredients to help raise funds for BASIC and Fairtrade.

The representatives told the Forum that this year in their school had seen the start of a new Singapore maths scheme called 'Inspire'. Each maths topic had a problem for them to solve and the books show them a range of ways to solve the problem. If they get stuck on a problem they could read on or go back in the book to find out where they had gone wrong. The representatives told the Forum that they were enjoying this way of learning.

The school had been taking part in the Everlasting Light Project in aid of Tearfund and they had sent a large group to the recording of the CD at Kesgrave High School in October. They are still practising the songs ready for the performance at the Spa Pavilion in December.

#### **9. KINGSFLEET PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS**

Kingsfleet representatives thanked the Youth Forum for inviting them to join the Forum. They told the Forum about their Community week that was held at their school during the Summer Term where they invited the local community to share their skills with them. In September they invited the guests back to the school for a thank you tea hosted by the School Council.

Representatives from Kingsfleet told the Forum that they were very proud to work with other schools in Felixstowe and surrounding areas to support Tearfund. Tearfund is a leading relief and development charity, working in partnership with Christian agencies and churches worldwide to tackle the causes and effects of poverty. There would be a concert at the Spa Pavilion between the 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> December. They have also invited Margery Girling House, a sheltered housing complex to their Christmas performances at school and will be visiting them nearer Christmas to sing some Christmas Carols for them.

Kingsfleet School Council is now leading one school assembly every half term. They have led one so far where the theme was Courage. The School Council focus is to try to make lunchtimes more enjoyable.

#### **10. LEVEL2 ITEMS**

Level2 representatives told the Youth Forum that they had had a great year. Since January 2016 Level2 had supported 719 different young people and had made over 6150 contacts. There had been a real increase in the number of young people age 10-25 years in need of support with mental health issues, or feelings of being unable to cope with everyday life. During the October half term Level2 enjoyed trips out to the Flux Freestyle trampoline centre, the Cinema, Paint balling, a scavenger hunt in Rendlesham Forest and a day trip to Great Yarmouth including the Hippodrome Circus.

The Level2 representatives told the Forum that they were part of a youth voice group. They meet for a breakfast meeting to share ideas and ways that we feel they can improve Level2 for more young people to enjoy. Within this meeting they discussed ideas for now the £2000 Youth budget could be spent. The most popular idea was for an outside cinema.

The Level2 representatives told the Forum about their early intervention Topic room which is funded by the Big Lottery. This will be available to enjoy soon as they are beginning to work with all local junior and primary schools to let the Year 6 children know all about Level2. Shez will soon be visiting all the local schools and taking in letters for parents inviting them to a taster session at their Youth Hub on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November. This will be an opportunity for both you and your parents to see all the good work that happens at Level2.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November Level2 are taking part in the Felixstowe Christmas Light Switch On. This year Level2 are one of the Mayor's Charities and there are lots of fundraising events taking place over the Mayoral year that all the community can get involved with. For more information on what Level2 does and can offer young people then please go to their website <http://www.leveltwo.org/> or find them on Facebook. The representatives then gave out pens and keyrings for our Members advertising Level2.

**11. LANGER PRIMARY ACADEMY**

The representatives from Langer Primary Academy thanked the Youth Forum for inviting them to observe at the meeting. They hoped in future to attend and participate in sharing news of their school.

**12. FELIXSTOWE FAIRTRADE**

Stephen Wyatt from Felixstowe Fairtrade asked the Youth Forum Members if they would be happy to help again during Fairtrade Fortnight (27<sup>th</sup> February-12<sup>th</sup> March 2017). He asked that any school that was interested in being involved to contact him via email [stephen.n.wyatt@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.n.wyatt@gmail.com)

**13. PLAY AT LANDGUARD FORT**

Peppy Barlow from a local company, Woven Theatre Company, congratulated the Youth Forum on a wonderful meeting. She told the Forum that she was working towards an application for an Arts Council grant for a specific play at Landguard Fort in September 2017. The play would be about Philip Thicknesse, who was Governor of Landguard Fort 1753-66, he was a viper to his enemies but a hero to his men who he refused to punish physically he was also adored by his three wives. He was a great traveller and a champion of the Native Americans who he met as a young man in Virginia, USA. Peppy would like to involve all local schools in different ways, for example asking the students to act in the crowd scene of the play outside the fort, or be involved in a school competition to produce pamphlets for the event. A package will be sent out to schools shortly. If you wish to contact Peppy her email address is: [peppytrack@uwclub.net](mailto:peppytrack@uwclub.net)

**14. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD**

Helen Greengrass thanked the Youth Forum Members for their fantastic presentations.

Felixstowe Forward is producing a Digital Visitor Guide and asked Members what young people would like to see in the guide. She asked what ideas do they have that would make more people visit Felixstowe ?

Helen told the Forum that last year when it was first mentioned to have a time capsule in the Spa Gardens there had been a lot of interest. She asked Members to resubmit ideas that depicted life in 2016, once buried, this would then be dug up in 50 years time. Helen said she would send out information out about this to all schools.

She asked the Members if they had noticed that the Pierhead building had now been demolished and a new building was in the process of being rebuilt. This was due to be open in Summer 2017.

The Felixstowe Carnival theme for 2017 would be Seaside Traditions. Landguard Fort were holding a Big Festive Family Treat on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December which included craft & gift stalls, live music, choirs, carols and a visit to Father Christmas in his grotto which will need to be booked in advance. There would be late night shopping in Felixstowe every Friday up until Christmas with free car parking from 3pm. There would also be entertainment every Friday at the Triangle which will make a lovely Christmas atmosphere. These included Suzi the Spa Panda, members of the panto and Spa Pavilion staff and JS and The Lockerbillies.

#### **15. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Clerk told the Forum he was really impressed with the turn out for today's meeting, the first of the new academic school year. He hoped that it would continue as the Youth Forum was a good place for sharing information.

He told the Forum that some schools participated in this year's Felixstowe in Flower competition and he presented Kingsfleet Primary School and Colneis Junior School with their certificates. He asked the Members if they had seen the work that had begun on the new Pierhead building as well as the new landscape area where the old boating lake used to be. This was now a new Events area and the Clerk asked the students what events they would like to see in this area.

Ash told the Forum that Felixstowe Town Council was pleased to announce that they had organised the return of the free synthetic ice rink at Great Eastern Square in the run up to Christmas. It would be opened by the Mayor mid-day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December and finish on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 8pm. Last year it had been extremely popular so if it is busy please try and visit again. This had been made possible this year thanks to the Locality Budget contributions from County Councillors' Graham Newman and Nick Barber.

Ash reported that Josh Vartan who attended the Youth Forum as a Felixstowe Town Councillor had recently resigned from the Town Council and therefore there was a By Election the next day in the South Ward of Felixstowe. It was hoped to have a new representative for the Youth Forum elected at the next Full Council meeting in January 2017.

Doreen Savage told the Forum that she would like to echo the Clerks sentiment and there was now representation from every Felixstowe primary school attending today's meeting. She told the Forum that she had been to a meeting where PSCO Vicky May attended and there had been a safe cycling leaflet produced which would be available to schools. It was hoped that someone involved with road safety would be able to attend the next forum. There was also a possibility of becoming a Junior Police Cadet from the age of 13 years old and Suffolk Police had gone to Felixstowe Academy to make students aware of this.

Doreen told the Forum about the Seafarers Centre in Felixstowe. This was a centre for visiting seamen to Felixstowe. The centre in Carr Road provided facilities like internet, a shop, games, TV and somewhere to relax for all seamen who had been on board the ships for a very long time. The ships have a quick turnaround before sailing out of the port again, so being able to visit the Centre is very welcome. The seamen can also have many issues around mental health and bereavement and there are clergy who visit the ships when in port and help them with their problems.. Ranelagh Road Primary School in Ipswich had visited the centre after doing a topic on the sea and brought their Harvest Festival gifts to the Centre to be distributed by the clergy visiting the ships to the seamen. The gifts included toiletries, coffee, tea

and biscuits. Doreen would like to encourage all schools to visit the centre and learn about seafarers without whom much of the food and goods we all enjoy would not be available for us to buy..

Doreen told the Forum that she had recently been to the Landguard Partnership AGM representing Felixstowe Town Council. The Landguard Partnership was set up to make sure the Landguard Peninsula was managed in a sustainable manner. This included Landguard Fort, Landguard Nature Reserve and Felixstowe Museum. The Landguard Peninsula was a great educational facility and we were very lucky to have it on our doorstep. She encouraged everyone to use it especially as part of the school curriculum. Please see <http://www.discoverlandguard.org.uk/educational-and-group-visits/educational-visits/> for further information.

## **16. PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE**

Jonny Lowdell from PPL told the Forum that Felixstowe Leisure Centre was having new investment in it and some works had just started to expand the gym, update the sauna, steam and wet room area. They were also redeveloping the Children's Funtasia area and therefore it would be closed 14<sup>th</sup> November-18<sup>th</sup> December.

Jonny told the Forum that they had recruited 4 new apprentices who were on Open University courses. One was on a Life Guard course, two were on a Management course and the fourth was on a Gym course.

They were piloting exercise projects where trained staff were going into two care homes in the town and giving chair based exercises to the residents. This was going very well and it was hoped that it could be spread to all care homes in the town.

## **17. YOUTH FORUM BUDGET**

The Town Clerk explained that the Youth Forum had a budget of £2000 available until the end of March 2017. It was a great opportunity to do something for visitors and people who live in Felixstowe. Schools had already submitted some great ideas such as a graffiti wall and outdoor cinema. The Clerk advised that Felixstowe Town Council would email a current shortlist to Youth Forum Members so they could consider these and any other ideas they might have. It was asked that any other ideas be referred back to the Town Council by early January so that all options could be considered at the next Youth Forum meeting.

## **18. FELIXSTOWE POLICE**

Although Vicky Foster, Police Community Support Officer had sent her apologies Members were asked to read her report that was on the table. This included issues with anti-social behaviour in the summer break and Halloween period. PCSO Foster made visits to local schools including Causton Junior and Maidstone Infant Schools where they were able to wear the uniform and see the lights on the police car flash.

## **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017** (to be Chaired by Trimley St Mary Primary School) at **4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall.