



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th MAY
2016

Present:

Daniel Phillips, Megan Watts (Chairmen), Alicia Little and Sally Long (Causton Junior School)
Julia Steele, Charlie Webb, Archie Wilks and Rebecca Wyard (Colneis Junior School)
Madison Ambrose, Gracie Mann and Corinne Stockdale (Grange CP School)
Elise Gorski, Chelsea Hillier and Shez Southernwood (Level2)
Ellie Southgate, Grace Wells and Kate Bennett (Trimley St Mary School)
Helen Greengrass (Felixstowe Forward)
Jonny Lowdell (Places for People Leisure)
Councillors Christina Barham, Jan Garfield, Doreen Savage and Josh Vartan (Felixstowe Town Council)
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

1. INTRODUCTION

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from the Town Clerk, Ash Tadjrishi.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16th MARCH 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16th March 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 told the Forum their exciting news about their schools achievements. Colneis School have now achieved the second stage of becoming a FairAware School by receiving the FairActive award. This involved planning, organising and holding a Fairtrade event, helping with a Fairtrade assembly and running a Fairtrade stall at our Christmas fair that raised money and awareness of Fairtrade. They had also celebrated seven children from Year6 and one from Year5 having their stories published in a book called "Time Travelling Tales". The students were very proud to call themselves published authors.

The Representatives from Colneis School told the Forum that there had been a lot of media attention recently about SATs tests which were completed by all 7 and 11 year olds across the country much of the press had been quite negative. The tests for

Year 6 involved 6 test papers over 4 days, covering Reading, Grammar, Spelling and Maths. They therefore decided to interview some of their Year 6 students to find out what they thought of SATs and whether in fact they caused the stress to children that was portrayed in the press. Here are their results:

1. What did you enjoy most about SATs ?

The children talked about the fact that they enjoyed the peace and quiet of working in test conditions and that there was no homework. The most popular answer was that the children enjoyed being given sweets after each test. They also said that they enjoyed all of the praise that they received.

2. Which SAT did you like the most and why ?

There was a really mixed response to this question. Some people said they enjoyed the spelling test most because it was the shortest, whilst others enjoyed the maths and reading. This shows how different we all are in terms of our preferences.

3. Why do you think it is important to do the SATs ?

The children identified that it was important to sit SATs tests as it was good preparation for high school and also that it was a chance to prove what they were capable of.

4. How do you feel now that SATs are over ? Are you proud of your hard work ?

The comments were very positive for this question. Everybody said they were pleased that the SATs were over and most said they felt proud of their achievements.

5. Did you worry about the SATs ?

Out of 29 responses, 14 children said, ' No, they didn't worry'. The other 15 children gave responses such as:

'A little, but nerves made me try harder'

'Yes, but as soon as I did one SAT, I knew I was ready'

And, 'Yes because the SATs were made harder this year'

6. Do you feel more prepared for tests at high school now that you have done the SATs ?

The overwhelming response to this question was 'Yes'.

Finally the students asked their peers to sum up SATs in one word. An example of the responses were as follows: Scary, Silent, Exciting, Normal, Middle and Hard.

Colneis School representatives told the Forum that their School was continuing to promote healthy eating through their 'Eat Well Wednesday' campaign. All the children at the School are encouraged to bring a healthy lunch to school with them, and they can gain an award sticker if they meet the requirements of a balanced lunch. In order to gain this, children must demonstrate that they have all of the five food groups within their lunch – carbohydrates, protein, dairy, fruit and vegetables. Lots of children (and adults) at the School are proving that they can 'eat well'. The school will continue to promote this.

The Colneis representatives told the Forum that they only have a short time left in Year 6. They have a lot of exciting things to look forward to including the Felixstowe

Schools Rounders Tournament, visiting their High Schools, attending World of Work at Felixstowe Academy and Quad Kids. They also have a Sports Day shortly, the Olympics and their Summer Fair. The *most* exciting thing they were looking forward to though was their Year 6 residential trip to Mersea Island Outdoor Learning Centre, where they get to take part in fantastic activities and sleep in tents for a week with their friends.

5. GRANGE SCHOOL ITEMS

The Grange School representatives told the Youth Forum that the usual Youth Forum representatives were unable to attend the meeting so they had 'stepped in' at the last minute. They told the Forum that Grange School had now appointed a new Headteacher called Mrs Coleman who would be starting with them in September. She is coming from a very small Church School near Eye in Suffolk, so they believe she will notice the difference with their busy School and Nursery. They told the Forum that they had a special Year6 Breakfast Club all last week so that they could have an enjoyable and relaxing time before the SATs tests. The tests themselves were very hard but they think they coped well. Now the tests were over they were looking forward to their residential trip and their Year 6 play.

The representatives from Grange School told the Forum about the special things their School does to help children who have problems at home or School. Children come out of class for nurture groups to draw, talk and do sand therapy. They also have visits from people outside School for one to one care and once a fortnight five children visit Roger Cosgrove at Farm2form. These children are especially lucky to spend the day at the farm, helping out with animals etc and having a great time while learning a lot !

The Grange School representatives told the Forum that their Sport Relief Mile held at their School went well and they are looking forward to more sporting activities this team, including Cricket Competitions, Quadkids and the Rounders competition which is held at their School.

6. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Causton Junior School representatives thanked the Youth Forum for allowing them the opportunity to Chair the meeting as they had been looking forward to doing it.

The representatives told the Forum that their School was very busy, with sports events being the highlight for the school which including winning the Netball Tournament between Felixstowe Schools and being runners up in the Football tournament. They were very excited about being one of the first Primary Schools in Felixstowe to be starting a Tchoukball ball club. Their School had been inspired by the sponsored walk they did for their Caretaker Brian Jeery who sadly passed away at the end of the last academic year and also by the run they did for Sports Relief. Causton School feels it is really important to keep fit and healthy and as a result of this they have taken to running as a school every day around their school field for 15 minutes at the end of lunchtime. Using their maths skills, they have worked out that if they were to run 8 laps of their school field each day then they would have run a mile a day, which happens to be the title of the new whole school initiative 'A Mile a Day'.

Causton School representatives told the Forum they were glad the Year6 SATs week had finally been and gone and they were now looking forward to their end of year production and prom.

The representatives told the Forum that at the last meeting they had talked about the 'Pigs Gone Wild' evening being held in Ipswich this summer in aid of the St Elizabeth Hospice. Any School which has purchased a pig to design will have their pig on show somewhere in Ipswich soon. Currently at their School their pig is being painted

by the winners of the school competition which were three Year5 pupils. They enjoyed this fun activity for a very worthy cause and they hope that everyone will go along to see the Maidstone and Causton pig wherever it may be placed along the trail.

7. LEVEL2 ITEMS

Level2 representatives told the Youth Forum that they had very exciting news they had been chosen as one of the Mayor's Charities this year.

Level2 volunteers received a Certificate at the outgoing Mayor's Civic Awards this year, and one volunteer received a personal award from the High Sheriff of Suffolk.

Representatives told the Forum about Level2's Detached Team who continue to work out and about in Felixstowe. In the evening last week there were over 40 young people at the skate park. The young people at the park asked Level2 to organise a trip to Adrenaline Alley, which is an indoor skate park in Corby, Northamptonshire. The young people who went on the trip said it was a really cool day out. The Detached Team also had a very successful outreach fun day at Adastral Close where the residents enjoyed games, music, art & crafts and a BBQ. They are planning their next fun day for the residents in August. Next month the Team are venturing out to Kirton to run a pilot Youth Club in the local pavilion for young people in School Years 6 to 9. They are also providing transport for young people living in the village in School Years 10-13 so they can attend Level2's Friday night session.

The representatives told the Forum that apart from having fun and chilling out at Level2 they have also had fun in their Topic Room learning about relationships, personal hygiene and drugs. They were now busy preparing for both the Felixstowe and Trimley Carnivals so look out for them in the parade.

8. PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE

Jonny Lowdell from PPL told the Forum about the Felixstowe Sports Award Presentations. The Felixstowe Sports Council seeks nominations each February from affiliated clubs in the Mr Cobbler Sports Awards with trophies presented at the Annual General Meeting in March. PPL were developing plans to invest in updating the changing rooms and installing new pool lights at Felixstowe Leisure Centre. They were working hard with the Department of Health to use the Governments Eatwell policy in their café. The Eatwell Guide is a policy tool used to define government recommendations on eating healthily and achieving a balanced diet. This will enable the café to achieve an award. The level of award is based on a scoring system that takes into account the type of food on offer, cooking methods, and how businesses promote healthy choices to their customers. The higher the score the higher the level of award.

Jonny told the Forum that the Leisure Centre was holding a Learn to Swim Day for adults. If a member of the public register with the Centre they will also get a free lesson. Brackenbury Sports Centre was holding a Rotary Club Boxing Evening which last year raised over £15,000 for local charities.

The Leisure Centre has recently had a community defibrillator put outside their building. The machine is fully automatic and registered with the ambulance service. Emergency callers will need to dial 999 and will be told a code to release the equipment.

A Colneis Forum Member wanted to know what age you had to be to join the gym at the Leisure Centre. Jonny confirmed that you had to be 11 year old.

9. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD

Helen Greengrass thanked Colneis Junior School for all the work they had done in questioning their students about what they would like to see in Felixstowe in the future. She had forward the information on to the owners of the Spa Pavilion who have kindly agreed to host our next meeting on 29th June. This information would also help Felixstowe Forward with ideas of what people want to hold at the new arena area behind the Leisure Centre. Helen told the Forum that she would love to continue to have this feedback from all Youth Forum Members.

Helen thanked the Youth Forum for sponsoring one of the bands out of Youth Forum budget at the recent music event held throughout the Spa Gardens.

The sea water quality had been recently tested and the result is that the water is very good for swimming.

Helen asked the Forum to look across the road on the way out of the Town Hall tonight and see the new Beach Hut which is being used along with the new Beach Hut opposite Charlie Manning Amusements for Tourist Information. Volunteers will be manning it but please say hello if you are passing it.

The Spa Gardens have recently won two big awards. This included the Gardens winning the RIBA Suffolk craftsmanship award. The award recognises the quality of materials and craftsmanship in the creation of the gardens' new Town Hall gardens shelter. If Youth Forum Members would like to complete a survey on the Gardens please use the following link

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=145622252800>

Also the Martello Park had been nominated for a special award and Helen would bring news about this at the next meeting. The Martello 'P' Tower is now all restored and Helen asked the Forum what they would like to see in this area.

Felixstowe Forward were expecting the Pier Head to start work in early September.

Helen explained to the Youth Forum that Felixstowe Forward will be doing a project called One Year On. This year the event was being held on 22nd June. If any Schools would like to put a display together and let Felixstowe Forward have the display by Friday 17th June so they can be put on display boards for the event she would be very grateful.

10. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Doreen Savage told the Forum about the plans for the possibility for a new flag pole to be erected in the Spa Gardens next door to the Town Hall. It was hoped that young people would be encouraged to come along and help the Friends of the Seafont Gardens who were having one of their monthly gardening sessions this Saturday between 10-12noon. If Youth Forum Members wanted to help this Saturday they would be meeting near the Cliff Café. They met every third Saturday of the month.

Doreen Savage told the Forum that Felixstowe was very lucky as it now had 7 registered defibrillators located throughout the town. These included the Felixstowe Library, Felixstowe Leisure Centre, Martello Park, Felixstowe Ferry and Landguard.

Causton representatives asked if there would be any more defibrillators installed within the town. Doreen Savage told Members that if more funding became available that this would be possible, possibly along the seafont.

Doreen Savage reminded Members that we were now in a new Financial Year so the Youth Forum had £2000 to spend. The last Financial Year the budget was spent on the temporarily ice rink and for a band to play in the event in the Seafront Gardens. The ice rink had already been booked for December 2016 and it was hoped that it would be as good a success as last year.

Doreen congratulated all the Youth Forum Members on the fantastic Fairtrade event that they had been involved in. Felixstowe was the first town to have young people involved in arranging an event aimed at raising awareness of Fairtrade within young people.

Doreen told the Youth Forum about the Tea Party event the Town Council was holding as part of the Queens 90th Birthday celebrations. The event would be held on Sunday 12th June between 11am-4pm at Felixstowe Town Hall. Town Councillors will be serving free tea and cakes inside and outside the Town Hall and everyone was welcome.

11. CYCLING ON THE PROM

A representative from Grange asked what the current situation was about cycling on the Prom. Helen Greengrass told the Forum that at the moment cycling was not allowed but it was the view of the Town Council that it should be made legally possible that you were able to cycle along the Prom. Suffolk Coastal District Council did not feel they could lift the ban without a public consultation and therefore the consultation was taken on by Felixstowe Forward. The consultation period ended on 31st May and the outcome would be available in June. They had received an exceedingly good response from the general public with over 370 responses. With more people voting this means it will be a more democratic and a fairer result. Doreen Savage said that the Town Council had asked for the removal of the by law as there was no one available to enforce this law. If the outcome was to allow cycling on the prom then this area would be similar to the Shared Space Scheme in the centre of town. This would also mean there would be a trial period for a year to see if any incidents occurred. The Grange School representative responded that the whole of Grange School agreed that they would like to be able to cycle along the Prom. A member of the Forum asked if there would be a designated cycle lane marked along the area. Doreen Savage responded that this had been tried in other areas in the UK and unfortunately there had been a problem with people thinking they had a right to that area so this caused more problems. It was unlikely there would be a designated area on the prom.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 29th June 2016** (to be Chaired by Colneis Junior School) at **4pm** at **Spa Pavilion**.