



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2019

Present: Eva Garayalde (Chair) Lola Ruffles and Kirsty Coldwell (Level2 Youth Project)
Denis Ciocan, Rubie Fisk, Ava Hoang, Willow Jameson, Connor London, Alicia Little and Sally Long (Causton Junior School)
Ruby Davies, Harvey Lee, and Julia Steele (Colneis School)
Tobi Pinner, Alfie Stollery, Ava Watson, Lily Wright and Corinne Stockdale (Grange Community Primary)
Maisie Calver, Charlie Hogger, Sophie Lucking, Eva Smith, Milly Willcox, Faith Witmore and Kate Bennett (Trimley St Mary School)
Chloe Winlow (Communities Officer East Suffolk Council)
Cllr Seamus Bennett and Sharon Harkin (Felixstowe Town Council)
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

Observing: Maddie Pawlowicz (Information Co-Production Adviser, Engagement Hub Children and Young People's Services, Suffolk County Council)
Will Pope.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received, Rev Andrew Dotchin, Jonny Lowdell, Places for People Leisure and Cllr Doreen Savage (Felixstowe Town Council)

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 27 March 2019, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

4. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS

Causton Junior School representatives told the Forum that since the last time the Forum had gathered together a lot has been happening at Causton Junior School. They then introduced their new Youth Forum representatives who will be taking over their roles in September this year. They will learn a bit more about what the Youth Forum is and how it works by attending today.

Causton School told the Forum that the Elmer trail is now in full swing in Ipswich in support of the St Elizabeth Hospice. The Causton's Elmers along the trail are in Christchurch mansion and the other one is near the Ipswich tourist information centre.

The School enterprise held yet another successful event a couple of weeks ago. The enterprise groups in total have raised nearly £300 and the winning enterprise group i.e. the

group which makes the most money will soon need to decide what they should spend this well earned money on.

The representatives from Causton School told the Forum that they had a visit from a group called Art Solutions and each class spent the day working on an item for displays in the communal areas of the school.

The whole school had entered the Felixstowe in Flower competition and they were eagerly waiting to hear the results of this which would be announced shortly.

Looking ahead, next week the school will be participating in sports day and this involved the Year 1 and 2 children from Maidstone joining them for the morning. They were just hoping the weather is good. They are also looking forward to Causton's summer fayre which will be happening on Friday 28th June this year. The chocolate tombola always goes down a treat. They are hoping to raise a lot of money at this event so that we can invest some money into their school.

5. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS

Colneis School representatives told the Forum that they are continuing to enjoy their final year at primary school and are looking forward to the activities they have planned for the summer term. In the final week of the spring term, their school performed its annual school play. This year it had been 'Wind in the Willows' and they performed it over three evenings to a sell-out audience of relatives and friends. The cast of fifty had worked tirelessly from January to learn their lines, dances and songs. They were lucky to have a live band playing for them which really added to the atmosphere.

Before Easter, they were also visited by an organisation called 'Just Enough UK'. The organisation delivered a workshop on Modern Slavery to all of the Year 6 children. This is what they learnt about:

- The history of slavery
- How it was abolished in the UK by William Wilberforce
- Why it did not go away
- How people are tricked into slavery today
- The kind of jobs slaves are made to do
- Characters in fiction who are slaves
- How many slaves are in the world today
- The five signs of slavery
- How one person can make a change

The workshop used storytelling, comedy and role play to explain the problems that exist in our country today. The students thoroughly enjoyed it but, more importantly, learned a lot from it.

The students also took part in a workshop on 'How I Sleep' last week where they learnt about the importance of sleep and the factors which prevent us from getting a good night's rest.

This year Colneis Junior School Y6 residential trip was to an activity centre on Mersea Island. They had a mixture of weather which included one solid day of heavy rain followed by a very wet night. They camped in tents and participated in a range of activities, including:

- Archery
- Caving
- High Ropes
- Cycling

- Swimming
- Kit Carts
- Bushcraft
- Team Swing
- Adventure Course

They had a great time !

6. **GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS**

The representatives from Grange School told the Forum that now their SATs were finished they felt they could relax and get back to normal school life. It was the time of year when classes enjoy visits and trips. The schools Years 1 & 2 had a very exciting visit from Suffolk Fire & Rescue. After a short talk about fire safety, the children were shown all the equipment, including what the children called a “giant pair of scissors” which was for cutting metal and a light which helps to see through smoke. The children were then allowed to sit in the fire engine and spray water with the hose. They enjoyed this part of the visit most according to the reports which were written in class later.

Grange Schools Years 3 & 4 went to the School Farm & Country Fair and had a great time visiting the interactive zones and hands-on learning activities. They watched a gun dog display and saw many other animals including sheep, chicks and alpacas. This event helped the children learn the importance of agriculture to Suffolk and was a lot of fun at the same time.

Grange School representatives told the Forum that they went to Landguard Fort on 22nd May. Despite having to walk 2 miles to get there, they really enjoyed their guided tour learning how the fort was used for defence in World War 2. However, the best bits had been their lunch on the beach and then their own exploration of the fort and scaring each other with ghost stories! Walking back had been more challenging but it had been a great day!

The representatives told the Forum that they were now looking forward to their own residential trip on 1st July when they would be going to Belchamps in Essex and they hope to have lots of fun doing all the exciting activities.

Grange School parent/teacher association, Friends of Grange, have been working extremely hard to raise money for Grange school. The three events before half term, had been the Mother’s Day gift sale, Easter Egg Raffle and School Discos which were very successful and raised £470 which had been excellent. The school had just had the Father’s Day gift sale and regular class cake sales were now taking place. The Grange School representatives told the Forum that like most schools, the Summer Fair was the best money raiser of the year, so FOG was busy planning that. They said it was a lot of work for the volunteers, but the school were very grateful for the money that is raised for all the little extras which the school cannot provide. They especially like the Breakfast Club FOG provide for the school during SATs week and the posh afternoon tea they had laid on at the end of the tests, the Grange School representatives wanted to thank them very much.

The school children all know that good learning is really helped by good attendance, so each half term, the class with the best attendance receives a reward of a non-uniform day on the last day. Other rewards they get in the school are based on the DOJO points system. All pupils are awarded points for good work and behaviour and given certificates when they reach certain targets. The team with the most points at the end of term receive a special fun afternoon. The schools Blue team won a sports afternoon for the most points in the Spring term.

The representatives thanked Felixstowe Town Council for holding the Youth Forum at the Town Hall. They think it is a great opportunity for schools to share information and learn about the wider Felixstowe community. The representatives had really loved taking part and hope their successors will too.

7. KINGSFLEET SCHOOL

Kingsfleet School representatives told the Forum that in their last report they had mentioned Elmer and their fundraising for Saint Elizabeth Hospice. The school's little elephant 'Kingsley' is now with a herd of other small elephants at the Buttermarket in Ipswich and has already enjoyed a trip to the Suffolk Show.

In the school's assemblies this term they have been focusing on making a difference. They had looked at how they could all make a small difference that could change things for the better. Some of the changes they had looked at were about how they could make a positive change to themselves, the people around them, their home, their school, the area they live in and even the World.

The schools most recent focus has been on recycling. The Government wants to reduce the amount of single use plastic, so the school has decided that this was a good place to start. As part of their whole school writing focus this term, all the classes have written a letter to their school council representatives with their ideas. The School Council will meet next week to discuss the ideas and come up with a plan. The school children are all passionate about it, they hope that if they all make some small changes at their school they can make an impact, but it needs to become a habit not just something that is done once or twice.

The representatives of Kingsfleet school told the Forum that on Friday 5th July they are having their school Enterprise day. This is a big project and involves the whole school. Year 5 and 6 have been working together and have formed companies that will be designing, making and selling a variety of products. They are all hoping to make a profit, 50% of the profit will go to charity and 50% we will put towards a class treat. Year 3 and 4 are making games for people to play at the event and Year 1, Year 2 and Foundation stage are providing refreshments. They were all looking forward to it, but they still have a lot of work to do.

Kingsfleet representatives told the Forum that they will be celebrating Suffolk day again this year with a range of activities and a special 'Suffolk Day Lunch' made by the staff in the kitchen. They are having a special fish and chip lunch to celebrate that they are a seaside town and Dawn, their school cook, is making a special sponge cake.

8. TRIMLEY ST MARY SCHOOL ITEMS

Trimley St Mary School representatives told the Forum that they have enjoyed representing their school at the Felixstowe Youth Forum and they would like to thank everyone for having them on the forum. They introduced their 3 new reps for next year – Sophie, Faith and Charlie who are looking forward to taking over from them in September.

The representatives told the Forum that the children in Year 5 had gone to the West End in London in May to watch the stage version of Aladdin. They left school at 10 o'clock and on their way into London they went past lots of the special sites, this included Big Ben, Tower Bridge, Houses of Parliament, Canary Wharf and The O2. The show started at 2:30 and they had really good seats to see the stage. They were amazed at the quality of the costumes, singing and dancing. They are now using what they saw to help them prepare for their end of term production of Aladdin. The school are already in full swing; learning the songs, dances and the lines.

The school have been working hard to gain the next stage of The Woodland Trust school award and have recently been successful at gaining the Silver Award. This has taken a lot of hard work by the whole school, working on different aspects of trees in a range of subjects. For example, the Year 3 children made a pledge to help trees, the children in Year 2 made

posters about their recent trip to a wood. The school are now already planning how they can work towards the Gold Award.

The representatives told the Forum that the schools Eco-Garden was coming along really well and is now ready for the children to start using throughout the summer term. They have recently installed some special posts with magnifying glasses on the top to help the children look at the plants, leaves and creatures that they find in the garden. They had also been very lucky to have been chosen to be part of Trimley Open Gardens that took place last weekend, they had lots of visitors from the village having a good look at the garden and finding out about how they use the school grounds. The children in Years 3 and 4 have been finding out about their local environment. They were lucky to have a visit from Helen Greengrass from Felixstowe Forward, who came to talk to them about proposals for Felixstowe and activities they can get involved with. They asked to pass on their thanks to Helen and Felixstowe Forward. They have also been out and about exploring Trimley using maps and compasses to follow directions. They have been mapping different land use and finding out how many facilities there are in the village of Trimley.

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum that it was the time of year for lots of great school trips. The children in Early Years have been to the beach with Kate Osborne from Beach Bonkers, Year 1 are getting ready to go to Landguard Fort to look at the history of the seaside and Year 2 were off to Foxburrow Farm on Friday.

Trimley St Mary's Year 6 had also had a visit from a First Aider where they had been shown how to perform resuscitation and how to use basic bandages. They were also very excited to be getting ready to go and find their Trimelephant on the Elmer Parade in Ipswich over the summer holidays.

Finally, they told the Forum that they were visited by Ofsted at the beginning of May and have been given another grade of "Good" which they are all very pleased with. Lots of them got to speak to the Inspector and show her their books, she had been very impressed by the school children's behaviour and attitude to learning.

9. LEVEL 2 YOUTH PROJECT ITEMS

The representative from Level 2 told the Youth Forum that during the Easter Holiday Level Two had been really busy offering young people activities, trips & visits. Their youth hub had been open for young people to go & chill-out & chat with staff about any issues they had. Trips had been arranged away from the Hub included The Press Start Gaming Lounge, Escape Room & Bounce.

The Level 2 representative told the Forum that Children in year 6 were now visiting Level Two twice a week. On Mondays the girls attend the girls group, and on Thursdays boys can go to the boys group. On Tuesdays both boys and girls can go along to Level 2's Year 7&8 sessions so they can make friends and see familiar faces for when they get to high school.

In the open sessions young people have been discussing various topics such as personal hygiene, sugar intake, smoking and the dangers of addiction, bullying, and self-esteem. They have also had visits from local artists, who are going to be doing some art activities in sessions over the summer.

They have recently taken their Outreach Bus for 6 weeks to the Kirton Recreation Ground on Wednesdays after school. This had been really popular for young people and their families. Level 2 are hoping to run these sessions again in September on a more permanent basis. The Outreach Bus is currently at Stennetts field every Wednesday 4 - 5:30pm and this will run through the summer holidays.

Level 2 have already booked for their Summer trip to Harry Potter World. This is open to all young people in Year 6 and above. Level 2 asked if anyone would like to go with them could they please complete the forms which are on the table or get in contact with Level Two direct. There will also be open sessions every Tuesday and Thursday and other trips and activities during the summer holiday.

The representatives told the Forum that if anyone would like to know more about Level Two, please attend their open sessions or get parents to like them on Facebook or visit the website. They thanked Felixstowe Youth Forum for allowing them to be part of this brilliant young people's connection and they have enjoyed listening to all your achievements. They said they hoped everyone had have a great summer and they look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

10. **FELIXSTOWE COMMUNITIES OFFICER, EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL**

Chloe Winslow, Felixstowe Communities Officer from East Suffolk Council introduced herself to the Youth Forum. She told the Forum about the Felixstowe Academy initiative Period Poverty. This was for girls who had no money or access to sanitary products. It was an inspiring initiative and will be spread over the whole county.

Ms Winslow was planning to hold another intergenerational event for local schools and older members of the local community to join together for activities celebrating the past, present and future of the town. She will be contacting the schools in September after the summer holidays with the details.

11. **PLASTIC ACTION**

Daniel Wareing, Environmental Sustainability Officer, East Suffolk Council thanked the Forum for inviting him to the meeting. He wanted to talk about interesting ways you can be green in the environment in particular plastic harming. There are all sorts of actions you can take to reduce our impact to the environment. For example, you could use canvas bags rather than plastic bags or use refillable water bottles instead of plastic bottles. He told the Forum that as today was National Refill day you should look out for the blue symbol below in windows of shops and organisations where you can refill your bottles:



Takeaway restaurants were being encouraged to refill reusable cups. There is even now available toothpaste tablets although expensive there is no plastic waste.

Daniel Wareing told the Forum that he was co-ordinating recruiting Plastic Action Champions in the area. If and Members or schools were interested and wanted further information, please use the following link:

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/plastic-action/plastic-action-champions-and-volunteering/>

A Member of the Forum asked if he was aware of the Ipswich strike for Climate change. Daniel Wareing told the Forum that he thought this was a positive thing that the protesters were doing, and it was important for adults to listen to them as it was the young people's future. The strike however does need to be made positive and fun for everyone to learn about climate change.

12. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Sharon Harkin told the Forum that Felixstowe Town Council now had a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Councillor Nick Barber had been elected as Mayor and Councillor Mark Jepson had been elected as Deputy Mayor. There were now five new Councillors elected, Darren Aitchison, Seamus Bennett, Sharon Harkin, Margaret Morris and Mick Richardson. The Town Council had recently launched a new magazine which had been delivered to every household in the town. The Town Council was hoping for articles from the local schools and organisations. Inside the magazine it explained how to submit articles and the format they should be sent in.

The work is progressing on the upgrade of play equipment in three play areas in Felixstowe. Gosford Way and Allenby Park will be fully refurbished with a range of items suitable for toddlers, juniors and teenagers. Cavendish Park will gain a Multi-Use Games Area aimed at teenagers. The project is expected to be completed for the summer holidays.

Cllr Sharon Harkin told the Forum that there had been a conference to discuss the future of Felixstowe. They discussed many topics including making the town a nice area to live and work in. Lots of ideas came out of the discussion, which was run by Felixstowe Forward, part of East Suffolk Council.

Felixstowe was hosting Suffolk Day this year which is on Friday 21st June. This will start with the Mayor welcoming BBC Radio Suffolk to the town at 7am, followed by Dignitaries from all over the county congregating on the Town Hall steps to launch Suffolk Day, with the Suffolk flag being raised in the Town Hall Gardens. The Mayor will then go to Landguard Fort for their flag raising and an event to celebrate all the good work their volunteers do. Then he is returning back to the Town Hall to help serve free tea and cakes with his fellow Councillors outside the Town Hall for everyone. In the evening the Mayor will attend the Suffolk Remembers event which is run by the St Elizabeth Hospice to reflect and remember loved ones. The next day it is the Felixstowe in Flower Launch Day at the Triangle in the Town and everyone was welcome to attend.

Cllr Seamus Bennett told the Forum that he was newly elected Councillor and he was interested in how Members of the Youth Forum were elected to attend the meetings. Representatives told him they had to stand up and tell their school why they should be elected and then students had to vote for them. In another school the Year5 students were asked to write a piece on why they wanted to become Youth Forum Members and then the students with the best pieces of work were interviewed and it was decided after this. At Level 2 Youth Project the format was similar to the Big Brother Diary on tv, based on their answers and/or a speech they then had a private voting system.

Cllr Sharon Harkin asked Maddie Pawlowicz who was visiting the Youth Forum to observe from the Children and Young People's Services, Suffolk County Council for some feedback on what she had seen at this meeting. She told the Forum that there was a real community feeling about the Forum which was a real strength

Cllr Sharon Harkin then read the following message from Cllr Doreen Savage:

“ I am so sorry to miss the last meeting for this academic year of the Youth Forum, but I have to be at a meeting in Stowmarket.

Thank you to you all for the wonderful contributions you have made to our meetings over the year and also for the excellent way you have chaired the meetings when it has been the turn of your School.

I hope all the year 5 pupils who will be attending our meetings after September have enjoyed today's meeting and can I wish all of you year 6 pupils great success and happiness when you move on to your new Schools in September. Good luck.”

13. FUTURE MEETING DATES 2019-2020

Members agreed the future dates for the new academic school year as follows:

6th November 2019 (Chair Causton Junior School)

29th January 2020 (Chair: Trimley St Mary)

25th March 2020 (Chair: Felixstowe Academy)

29th April 2020 (Chair: Colneis Junior School)

17th June 2020 (Chair Kingsfleet Primary School)

These would all be held at **4pm – 5pm at Felixstowe Town Hall.**

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 6th November 2019** (Chair to be Causton Junior School) at **4pm – 5pm at Felixstowe Town Hall.**