



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH
2016

Present: Elise Gorski, Chelsea Hillier (Chairmen) and Shez Southernwood (Level2)
Daniel Phillips, Megan Watts, Alicia Little and Jane Pilcher (Causton Junior School)
Anna Gilbert, Kaci Harrison-Gladding, Billy Smith and Rebecca Wyard (Colneis Junior School)
Courtney Sadler, Anthony Storer and Corinne Stockdale (Grange CP School)
Ebany Churchill, Jade Hallen, Ollie Hazell and Adrian Lawson-Frost (Felixstowe Academy)
Councillors Christina Barham, Doreen Savage and Josh Vartan (Felixstowe Town Council)
Ash Tadjrishi (Town Clerk) 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 Helen Greengrass (Felixstowe Futures) Jonny Lowdell (Places for People Leisure) and the Town Clerk, Ash Tadjrishi.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27th JANUARY 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 27th January 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 that their Council representatives who usually attended were all rehearsing their school production of 'Pig' a version of Sheep Pig by Dick King-Smith.

Colneis Junior School had found out from all of their 320 students what they would like to see in Felixstowe in the future. The response to the question: What yearly events in Felixstowe would you like to be held in the town were as follows:

Summer fairs, religious festivals (like the parks in Ipswich have), schools to be involved in floats for Felixstowe Carnival, Bake off, parade of boats, petting zoo/farm open day at the seafront, circus, whole community sports day for adults and children,

stunt competitions, lego model competition, dog show, RC car day at the beach, football event at Langer Park, celebration event, growing competitions, kit karts, obstacle course/mud-run, food festivals, more sports events, environment day, Halloween celebrations, music festivals, summer fashion show, air show, dance show, scoter festival, games convention, swimming races in the sea, performing arts festival, bike contests, organised man hunt, Geocache, Extreme Fest, Euro gamer, safety event, potato rolling completion and flash mob dance.

The response to the question: What shows, or sort of shows, would you like to see at the Spa Pavilion when it reopens, was as follows:

Hairspray, Jurassic World, One Night Only Street, Batman, Annie, Horrid Henry, James and the Giant Peach, musicals, action shows, comedy, more pantomimes, WWE, Felixstowe's got Talent, Punch and Judy, storytelling, famous people, fashion show, Disney shows, Waiting for Christmas, clowns, dog shows, magic shows, Maze Runner, Cats, dance shows, music/singing competitions, gymnastic shows, famous singers, Chuckle Brothers and concerts.

The response to the question: Do you have any ideas for what the triangle canopy in town could be used for, was as follows:

Choir, brass bands, dancing, shows for toddlers, plays, storytelling, talent shows, stunts, dances from around the world, street acts, raffles, auctions, mimes, rappers, bands, display our flag, exhibitions (flower, art and science), DJ booth, mini concert, advertising for sports clubs with demonstrations to encourage children to get active, homeless soup kitchen/food bank, football skills, face paints, trading stalls, music, bubbles, comedy open mike and pet show.

The response to the question: There has been lots of money spent on the Spa Gardens. What events could be held there for children and families, was as follows:

Academy jazz band and other youth groups, treasure hunt, bouncy castle, Felixstowe flower competition, water fights for fun, photography competition, art, films like they have at Chantry Park in Ipswich, parties, child Olympics, scavenger hunt, Samba band, fairs, night light show, giant garden games, fireworks, Easter egg hunts, pet competitions, music, messy crafts, nature trail, charity runs, traditional dances, sweetie stands, band, mini-markets, gardening clubs and giant picnic.

The response to the final question: When would you like there to be more events in Felixstowe was as follows:

School holidays	-	174 students
Christmas	-	15 students
Weekends	-	105 students
After school	-	26 students

Councillor Doreen Savage told the Forum about an music event in the Spa Gardens on Sunday 24th April 12-4pm which will be free. They hoped to have three different types of music in different parts of the garden. There would be more information on the VisitFelixstowe website: <http://www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk> She told the Forum that Helen Greengrass from Felixstowe Forward was trying to encourage more use of the Triangle. There would be no payment by schools if they wanted to hold an event just a form to be completed. If you are interested please contact Helen Greengrass on email Helen.Greengrass@eastssuffolk.gov.uk Doreen Savage thanked Colneis Junior School and asked Lorna Monsen to pass on all the hard work Colneis School had done on their project to Helen Greengrass.

5. GRANGE SCHOOL ITEMS

The Grange School representatives told the Youth Forum how much they enjoyed the recent Fairtrade event at Level2. Patrick, the Kenyan farmer was a good speaker and funny. We would like to thank the Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum for inviting them and planning the event. Grange School have close links with the community near their school and often visit the Firs Care Home to entertain the residents or do craft activities with them. The residents also visit their school when they are able to see their plays. Grange School told the Forum that they are also linked to the Cavendish Community Association who present cups on Sports Day, arrange a short story and poetry competitions and judge the Community Awards each year. The representatives asked the Forum if any other schools have links in the community like their school did. Colneis Junior School told the Forum that their school choir visits Nursing Homes and it was believed that Maidstone Infant School also visited Nursing Homes during the Christmas period. Felixstowe Academy held once a year a big Care Home event where they invite all care home residents to visit the Academy for the day for students to entertain them and provide lunch.

Representatives from Grange School went to a swimming gala and came 4th which was their best result ever. Trimley St Martin School came 1st and the Grange students gave them a round of applause as they returned to their coach. The school later received an email from Trimley St Martin School congratulating them on their sportsmanship. On World Book Day Grange School decided to try something different, everyone was asked to dress a potato as a book character. Grange School had lots of entries, including Gruffalo, Cat in a Hat, Mr Men and several Minions. A prize was given to a winner in each class.

6. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Causton Junior School representatives told the Forum how much they enjoyed helping organising the Fairtrade event held at Level2 on 7th March. They attended meetings leading up to this event in and outside school. They made a question and answer game along with a poster about climate change which was received very well at the event. Many of the parents and children enjoyed reading and learning from the information they had provided about climate change in relation to Fairtrade in Kenya. The students enjoyed meeting Patrick the farmer from Kenya and to find out directly from him how buying Fairtrade products benefits his, his family's and community's lives. Causton Junior School also held their own Fairtrade breakfast to help raise awareness of Fairtrade to the students in their school. Parents and carers were invited to join them in enjoying lots of Fairtrade breakfast items which were kindly donated to the school by Waitrose. They charged £1.50 per student for the breakfast and the money went towards the St Elizabeth Hospice fundraising scheme 'Pigs gone wild'.

Representatives from Causton School told the Forum about World Book Day which the school centred around the book 'Where the wild things are' by Maurice Sendak. The students and staff were asked to dress up as a 'wild thing' of their choice. The school had once again taken part in 'West end in Schools' workshop and each class had the opportunity to take part in a 'Where the wild things are' dance class. This was finished with a school assembly for everyone to share the things they created.

The school was looking forward to Sport Relief where they were being encouraged to 'Spend a pound and run around'. In the afternoon the students would be competing in a number of sports events to raise money for the charity.

7. FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY ITEMS

Felixstowe Academy told the Youth Forum that their show Bugsy Malone in February had been seen by over 7000 parents and students from local schools. The Mayor

had sent a thank you letter to the all the students involved which was read out to the Youth Forum Members.

Representatives from Felixstowe Academy told the Forum about their fundraising for Sports Relief. Amongst the activities they had a 24hr Sportathon with 50 students representing all year groups taking part in 13 different sports. There was also a cake bake competition, non-uniform day and Wattbike Challenge.

On Monday 14th March members of the Felixstowe Academy student council joined the Mayor and members of the local community to help raise the Commonwealth Flag as part of a Commonwealth celebration. It was a very windy day to raise the flag with lots of photographs taken for the local newspaper. It was hoped more people would attend next year and it was hoped to remind Youth Forum members at the meeting nearest the date next year to attend. Doreen Savage thanked Felixstowe Academy for attending.

Felixstowe Academy told the Forum that they would soon be in full examination mode. Summer exams would start in the beginning of May.

8. LEVEL2 ITEMS

Level2 representatives told the Youth Forum that all their session were running well with good numbers of young people attending. There Year6 sessions are really lively with a good mix of children from all schools. The services Yr6 children can benefit from is the Young Carers session and 1 to 1 mentoring service which supports young people who may be struggling with a mental health issues, or dealing with something difficult in their lives. The Year 6 children also had fun in Level2's Topic Room where they learnt about being safe online, what to do if they feel unsafe or see something that worries them. They can also learn about healthy eating, making healthier choices and the positives and negatives about mobile phones.

The new kitchen at Level2's Youth Hub is now looking fantastic and is much user friendly enabling them to cook for fun or for the older young people to learn how to cook meals for themselves. The next project would be to upgrade their toilets.

Level2 had hosted a Fairtrade event at their youth hub where a tea farmer called Patrick from Kenya visited the area and explained why buying Fairtrade products helped him and his community.

Representatives from Level2 told the Forum that their Detached Team have been out and about in Felixstowe on Thursday evenings at the skate park, Langar park and around the town centre.

9. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Christina Barham told the Forum about a 24hour Shakespeare marathon on 4th & 5th June 2016 to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare at The Avenue Theatre, Ipswich. This was to raise money to promote reading between families. Anyone can take part, all you have to do is decide on a piece or extract you want to perform from any of the 37 plays and 154 sonnets by Shakespeare. This can be anything from 1 minute to 30 minutes. You can perform this on your own, with your friends or a group. All you have to do is ask people to sponsor you, the minimum donation amount to take part is only £10. If you would like to watch you can buy a ticket for a specific section of the marathon (minimum donation of £2), then when you arrive your hand will be stamped and you can come and go as you please. Further details were on the theatre website: <http://redrosechain.com/shakespeareathon/>

Doreen Savage told the Forum that the Fairtrade Events had all been brilliant and she thanked everyone who had been involved. It had been very interesting to hear from Patrick the tea farmer about how the 3% payback that is given to Fairtrade farmers goes towards the upkeep of their school, hospital and, transport. These facilities had been provided by the community and had been very beneficial to everyone..

Doreen Savage told the Forum about the Friends of the Seafront Gardens AGM which had been well attended. The Friends would like to get young people involved in their gardening sessions. These take place on the third Saturday in each month between 10am-12noon. Suffolk Coastal Norse has confirmed that if enough young people were interested they may be able to supply a special section just for young people. Doreen Savage asked that Forum members asked their schools if they were interested and report back to the next Youth Forum meeting. She also asked if the Forum thought it would be a good idea to hold a photographic competition for young people on similar lines to the Landguard competition.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 18th May 2016** (to be Chaired by Causton Junior School) at **4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall.