



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28th JUNE 2017

Present:

Abigail Dunnett, Marta Mickalac, Augustinus Skierys (Chair) and Sarah Gorski (Langer Primary Academy)
Bethany Huggins, Francesca Lynch, Teddy Smith and Julia Steele (Colneis Junior School)
Cole Collins, Georgia-Ruby Diaper, Casper van Gamera and Sally Long (Causton Junior School)
Kai Hoang, Erika Lempek, Aimee Mayers, Talisha Mays and Corinne Stockdale (Grange Community Primary)
Paige Cannell, Josh Dunning, Rory Gardiner, Grace Wells and Kate Bennett (Trimley St Mary School)
Elise Gorski, Chloe Nimmo, Charlie Webb and Kirsty Coldwell (Level2)
Kirsty Laird (Felixstowe Academy)
The Mayor and Mayoress of Felixstowe, Cllr Nick Barber and Mrs Judy Barber
Cllr Doreen Savage (Felixstowe Town Council)
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the school academic year and invited the Mayor of Felixstowe to address the Forum.

The Mayor told the Forum that although he had only been in the role about six weeks he wanted to explain the role of the Mayor and what it entails. He explained that the Mayor is the Chairman of the Felixstowe Town Council's full Council Meetings, an Ambassador of the Town as well as representing the town which involves a lot of hand shaking, speeches and smiling. The past week his Engagements had included Raising the Flag for Armed Forces, Placing a cross for remembering victims of Passchendaele, Presentation of the Haig Cup, Suffolk Day, Welcoming the biggest Container ship to Felixstowe, Visiting the Cutty Sark in London to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the UK's first container terminal, Armed Forces Weekend, 5 meetings, 10 events and 4 speeches. Being Mayor was a lovely important role. He had recently visited all the local infant and primary schools promoting Felixstowe in Flower. He then asked if there were any questions.

The Mayor was asked about the size of the OOCL container ship? The Mayor confirmed that it was 210,890 gross tonne, measuring 400 metres in length with a width of 58.8 metres. There was 83 steps up the gang plank with 16 flights of stairs to get to the Bridge ! The turnaround was 36 hours in Felixstowe the ship can have 21,000 20ft containers on board and 5000 were taken off within this time. He was also asked what he was most looking forward to, which he replied was visiting the local nursing and residential homes over the Christmas period. The Mayor thought the best thing he had done so far had been visiting the Cutty Sark. There had been a lot of important people there including Baronesses, Ambassadors, our local MP and the Lord of London. It had been a very long day with the event finishing at midnight and then catching a train back to Felixstowe at 6.am the following day to get back for the Armed Forces weekend.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Kingsfleet Primary School and Ash Tadjrishi (Town Clerk) and belated apologies from Cllr Jepson.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17th MAY 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 17th May 2017, 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 since the last meeting in May the children had been very busy at school. The highlight had been their residential trip to Mersea Island in early June. They had stayed at an outdoor adventure centre, camped in tents and enjoyed a week of outdoor activities which included:

- Climbing wall
- Archery
- Aerial Runway
- High Ropes
- Bush Craft
- Swimming
- Off-road biking

The weather had been quite bad at the beginning which included 50 mile an hour winds and heavy rain. Everyone just carried on and used the tumbler dryer a lot !

Later in June eight children participated in the Great East Swim at Oulton Water. The children had to complete some training in open water before the swim and on the day they swam 250 metres in wetsuits and swimming hats. They are extremely proud of Aiden Pilcher who won the race and all the other seven children who successfully completed the challenge.

The majority of Colneis Year 6 children will be progressing to Felixstowe Academy and are having an induction day shortly. Colneis Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher were both retiring at the end of summer. They have both been at the school for many years and will be greatly missed.

The Colneis representatives thanked the Youth Forum for giving them the opportunity to attend throughout the year.

5. **GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS**

The Grange School representatives told the Youth Forum they were madly practising their Year 6 play which is the style of a comic book called The Adventures of Super Stan. The play is quite funny and contains a few comical film and music references. There are even minions in it !

They are looking forward to their residential trip to Belchamps in Essex and this is the first year in a long while that *all* the Year 6 children are going.

Their Book Club had been reading 'The Last Wild' by Piers Torday and they will have the opportunity at the Felixstowe Book Festival to ask the author questions. They think

Felixstowe is very lucky to have such a good library and to hold this festival which attracts a lot of people into the town. Also a big attraction was the Armed Forces weekend which had a fantastic flying display. They hope it will happen again.

Sports had played a big part in Grange Primary School's summer term. So far they have taken part in Quadkids in Ipswich where Erika had come third in the long distance race. They also had a cricket and rounders competition and Area Sports was happening in the near future. Their Schools Sports Day was this week which rounds off a whole week of sports.

Some of the Staff and Governors were taking part in a sponsored darts match to which parents and children were invited. This was to raise money for new books for the Early Years children. Money raised through these sorts of events were becoming increasing popular due to Government cut backs.

Kai told the Youth Forum that he had been lucky enough to be nominated for an award in the SCC Raising the Bar awards. Although he didn't win he had a great evening and received a certificate and a £10 Amazon voucher.

6. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

The representatives from Causton Junior School expressed to the Forum how quickly their year had flown past representing their school.

They told the Forum that their school had organised a Bake Off which had been a very popular event within their school community. Twelve children from Year 6 took part with 6 children going through to the final with one winner! There was a Technical challenge, which was to make shortbread with jam in the centre and the Showstopper Challenge had the theme of 'Summer'. The winner had made a sponge cake in the shape of an ice cream, which was very impressive with different textured effects.

There had been an able, gifted and talented workshop at Causton school which all primary schools had been invited to. Reception children took part in a master chef workshop, Year 1's and 2's had a creative writing workshop, Year 3's an art workshop and Year 5 a science workshop. There was a lot of fun, as well as learning which took place.

Causton Junior School representatives told the Forum that they were looking forward to their Sports Day as well as transition sessions for all year groups which included the Year 6 going up to the Academy. There was also a Year 6 prom and a production which this year was The Jungle Book and rehearses were going well.

They were very much looking forward to the Open Air Cinema which the Youth Forum helped fund and it was hoped it would be well supported.

7. LANGER PRIMARY ACADEMY SCHOOL ITEMS

Representatives from Langer Academy told the Forum that were unable to attend the last meeting due to their residential trip to African Adventure in Sizewell, Suffolk which is a Christian Organisation. They rebuilt an African village which had supposedly been invaded by rebels, this included bridge building, water purifying, campfire and traversing. The representatives then passed around photos of their residential trip to Members of the Forum.

On their return they have been planning their school summer fete which is to be held on 30th June at 2pm and everyone is welcome.

Langer School representatives told the Forum that they had celebrated the first Suffolk Day in their school. They had an assembly all about Suffolk and several classes had lessons on finding out different unusual facts about Suffolk. They then asked the Forum members if

they realised Suffolk had the longest village high street which was in Long Melford ? At the end of the day all the pupils and teachers went to the beach to have a photograph of the whole school which included their new Reception Teacher who was at the school to meet her new class in September. The photograph even made it into the local paper !

Recently there had been a lot of public interest in a whale that unfortunately had been washed up on the local beach. As Langer Primary Academy School was very close to the scene all the pupils wanted to see such a big creature up close. Two of their Year 6 children were interviewed along with their Year 4 teacher on the local BBC channel and they all felt like celebrities for a while.

Langer Academy reported that their Year 3 and 4 pupils went on a tour of Landguard Fort recently where they tried on a jacket of a soldier from 1800's. There was also a musket display where they were able to fire a small musket, which was very loud ! KS 1 children also had a fun day where it was dress up as a Pirate day, which was very colourful. They went on to the beach to see the vessel OOCL Hong Kong depart from Felixstowe Docks which was the first port of call on its maiden voyage. This was the biggest container ship in the world with the capacity to carry over 21000, 20ft containers.

Three students from Langer Academy attended the Raise the Flag for the Armed Forces Celebration at the Town Hall which was to mark the start of Armed Forces week which concluded with a weekend of celebration, music and re-enactment at the Beachside events area. All the armed forces were represented and this was incorporated with Darrell's Day on the Sunday at Landguard Fort. There was also a brilliant Kidzone with loads to do.

KS2 students were busy rehearsing for their school production Alice in Wonderland. All Year 6 students had to audition for their parts and the school had some real talent ! Rehearses were paying off and the students were very excited to try on their costumes which were being made especially for them.

As some students would soon be biking to Felixstowe Academy on the busy roads some Year 6 students did their bikeability badge through Suffolk County Council. This is where students learn to ride on the roads safely. This involves 2 hours practising on the playground and then 6 hours riding on roads. Other Year 6 students prepared for their school fete which was being held later in the month.

8. TRIMLEY ST MARY SCHOOL ITEMS

Representatives from Trimley St Mary School told the Forum that they had been very busy with loads of different projects. Over the last month the children in Year 5 had been writing letters to apply for the important position of Youth Forum Representatives for the next school academic year. As part of a special literacy lesson the children had to think about what to put into their letters. They needed to say why they would make a good representative, what their strengths were and why they wanted the job. Five children were chosen to have an interview with the current reps and three were chosen. Congratulations go to Paige, Owen and Josh.

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum about their School Race For Life which the whole school took part in. Each year group took turns throughout the morning to run. Before the session started there was a funky dance warm up with the sports coach and then a minute of reflection to think about the reasons they were running. During the run loud music was playing to keep everyone motivated and to run more laps. Everyone had a great time and over three thousand pounds was raised.

Year 5 & Year 6 children from Trimley St Mary School went to London to watch The Lion King as their school topic this term is Jambo Africa. Following the awful events in London and Manchester all the parents and children had been to an Extraordinary meeting where it was explained that lots of extra precautions had been put in place by the school, the bus

company and the theatre to make sure everyone was safe. On the way into London they saw lots of famous sites including London Eye, Big Ben and Westminster Abbey. The show was amazing from start to finish. The costumes looked great, the music was loud and fun and they got lots of ideas for their school performance. The journey home was very quiet as it was a very late night but the website was constantly updated to inform parents of progress during the trip.

9. FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY

A representative from Felixstowe Academy reported that they had recently held a mock election alongside the recent General Election in order to encourage young people to increase their political awareness, understanding of the different parties and the electoral process. They had over 40 students who ran the 5 main political parties, creating posters and badges. They had even got students 'to register to vote' by signing their name. Some students did cast their vote and other voted in tutor groups via digital survey. 503 votes were cast and the Election winner was Labour with 41.6% of the votes.

Friends of Felixstowe Academy held a second Clothes Swap event. The event was very successful with over £400 raised to go back into the different departments to support the students. New equipment had been purchased including a new drill for the DT dept as well as seeds and growing materials for their Food Technology department and also a variety of items for their SEND department including puzzles which encourage social skills.

Up to 24 Felixstowe Academy students attended The Scholars Programme, 6 from each year. These students had been selected to be part of the prestigious scholars programme which is led by the Brilliant Club. The Brilliant Club works by placing PhD researchers to work in state schools to deliver programmes of academic enrichment to small groups of pupils. Through a combination of university trips, in-school tutorials and online resources, they support pupils aged 10-18 to develop the knowledge, skills and ambition needed to progress to highly-selective universities.

The Felixstowe Academy representative told the Forum that one of their sixth form students was setting off from the Leaning Tower of Pisa to walk 220 miles to the Colosseum in Rome. This was to raise money for a diabetes charity as he had recently been diagnosis with this condition and wanted to prove that diabetes shouldn't stop you from doing anything ! if you wanted to support the Thomas Curry please go to the following link:
<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/walkitaly>

The Felixstowe Academy representative told the Forum that some Year7 students were lucky enough to visit the UK Headquarters of Microsoft as part of Global-Edu Week. Students were immersed in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) and this included taking part in coding workshops and an interschools quiz which encourages them to explore careers in these sectors.

10. LEVEL2 YOUTH PROJECT ITEMS

Level2 representatives told the Youth Forum that Level2 had just had their Annual General Meeting. It was their biggest and best AGM by far, with lots of people from different organisations attending and lots of young people sharing their stories.

In the half term in May some of the staff from the local Marks & Spencer shop volunteered to paint the whole of the open space area of Level2, giving it a much brighter fresh look. Level 2 Youth Project wanted to thank them for all their hard work and for wanting to help them in the first place. There had been two trips organised in the half term which lots of young people attended, these were Ultimate Ninja, the Empire Cinema and a trip to Madame Tussauds in London. Level 2's Summer holiday activities will include :

Mersea Island Aerial Runway & Climbing

Hippodrome Circus & Water Spectacular
Jump Street & Empire Cinema
Mersea Island Adventure Course & Archery
Crabbing @ Felixstowe & Bawdsey
The Playground in Bury St Edmunds
Area 25 Martlesham
Pleasure Wood Hills
Level Two Drop In @ The Beach Hut

Further information can be found on the booking form on the following link
www.leveltwo.org/summer-holiday-programme-now/

Level Two will be participating in both the Trimley and Felixstowe Carnivals this year. At the Felixstowe Carnival on Sunday 23rd July they will have a stand near the Trim Trail from 12.30pm providing art and craft activities for children.

Representatives from Level2 told the Forum that in their Open Sessions young people had been taking part in activities about Positive Friendships, Personal Space and Online Safety. They had looked at what makes a good friend, what is important to them, how to communicate with others and how they can look after themselves if they are in a situation they are not comfortable with. This is very important when using social media as they found lots of young people had said that they had friends online who they didn't know ! They then looked at how they could be more careful when using Snapchat, Instagram and other social media sites.

The representatives told the Forum that as they are Reps at Level2 they are going to be talking more often to the other young people who come to the sessions so that they can find out what they think is needed for young people in Felixstowe. In September they are going to be doing some fun activities to get feedback about various things including ideas for the 2017-2018 Youth Forum budget and asked the Forum for ideas on how they get feedback from their schools concerning this.

11. YOUTH FORUM BUDGET 2017-2018

At the last meeting of the Youth Forum, Members were asked to consider how they would like the Youth Forum Budget for 2017-2018 to be used to support project or activities for young people in the town and report back at the next meeting. Trimley St Mary suggestions were as follows:

Roller Skating Rink
Outdoor Sports Area
Funfair
Football Pitches
Nerf Gun Courts
Paintball Area
Laser Tag
Outdoor Library

After further discussions with the Forum the following ideas were suggested:

Roller Skating
Graffiti Wall
Seasonal Activity Tent
Pop Concert
Mobile Climbing Wall
Inflatable Laser Tag
Colour Gala Dash

Although some ideas may not be viable Members were encouraged to go back to their schools and ask their students for ideas.

12. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Doreen Savage thanked everyone for all their input in the Youth Forum meetings throughout the year. It had been absolutely brilliant listening to the ideas and hearing what the schools have been up to. Doreen Savage told the Forum that she attended monthly Safer Neighbourhood Team meetings and a continuous item on the Agenda was local schools uptake on the Suffolk County Councils Junior Road Safety Officer Project. Colneis Junior School reported that they had signed up to the scheme and Langer School reported that it had been difficult to get off the ground and maybe it would be possible for local schools to get together to track progress. It was suggested that Members could send their views/feedback to Lorna at the Town Hall. One of the problems seemed to be that an adult needs to be nominated as point of contact and support the children throughout the project.

Doreen asked if any Members went to the Armed Forces Weekend. It had been a fantastic event which brought in a lot of people into the town. A lot of people had worked extremely hard especially the Felixstowe Forward team. She hoped that this would be built on and hopefully a similar event could be held again in the town. The Felixstowe Carnival was the next big event for the town and also the Multicultural Day in August at the Triangle which is linked to the International Market being held down Hamilton Road.

Doreen wished all students Good Luck to everyone who leaving their Primary School and going up to their new High School.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 1st November 2017** (to be Chaired by Level 2 Youth Project) at **4pm – 5pm at Felixstowe Town Hall.**