**MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2014**

**Present:**

Talia Mays and Josh Rolfe (Chairmen) Corinne Stockdale (Grange CP School

Charlie Scott, Alicia Little and Sue Moss (Causton School)

Jasmine Fee, Betty Freeman, Tyler Johnson and Becky Wyard (Colneis School)

Jessica Pond, Symone Slater and Shez Southernwood (Level2)

Sam Barton and Jonny Lowdell (Places for People Leisure)

Councillors Margaret Morris, Doreen Savage and Joan Sennington (Felixstowe Town Council)

Ash Tadjrishi (Town Clerk) Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

1. **INTRODUCTION**

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

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Corinne Cappell, Felixstowe Futures and Felixstowe Academy.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25th JUNE 2014**

Sue Moss, Causton School asked that an amendment to the minutes of meeting held on 25th June, Item 8 to say Kuncharamn Malaravan has won a scholarship to Ipswich School. With that amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 25th June 2014, were agreed as a true record and the Chairmen was authorised to sign them.

**4. UPDATE FROM FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

Doreen Savage reported that in Spring 2015 along with Suffolk Coastal District Council, Felixstowe Town Council hoped to install a Trim Trail behind the Leisure Centre where the donkey rides had been. There were also ideas in the pipeline to improve the Pier and Marlborough areas. The contract for the continuation of the Spa Gardens refurbishment would be signed soon and work would commence again very shortly.

The Clerk reported that in July the Town Council approved the possibility of funding Youth Forum projects and would consider this when looking at Town Council budgets for 2015/16 and this would hopefully be available April 2015.

As per the Youth Forum minutes of the meeting of 25th June it was agreed that Felixstowe Town Council would distribute some Spring bulbs to all Primary Schools and members of the Youth Forum. It was hoped to get them delivered as soon as possible for planting.

**5. UPDATE FROM PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE**

Jonny Lowdell introduced Sam Barton, their Community Engagement Manager. Sam told the Youth Forum about her new role working with Places for People Leisure. The new role involves promoting leisure facilities for children, families and adults and to improve sporting opportunities for all. She would be meeting local organisations and seek funding for improving facilities and create more opportunities. In the October half term week they were holding the following Workshops at Brackenbury Sports Centre:

‘Frozen’ Dance Workshop for 4-7 year olds.

Street Dance/Hip Hop Workshop for 8-14 year olds.

RideSmart - a fun and safe way to introduce young people to the world of cycle sports for 8-12 year olds.

Multi-Sport Afternoon – for children with disabilities over the age of 12.

Learn to play Cricket – for children with disabilities over the age of 14.

They would like to set up a new project called Street Games which is aimed at 11-25 years to get young people off the streets and these would probably be held on a Friday or Saturday. A questionnaire was available on request.

Jonny Lowdell told the Forum that the Leisure Centre would be holding their coloured pool party for Halloween which would involve turning the pool water orange! Further details are on their website:

<http://www.placesforpeopleleisure.org/centres/felixstowe-leisure-centre/swim>

Doreen Savage asked why the cost for the workshops was so expensive especially for the younger age group. Sam Barton explained that it was the company that ran the workshops that control the price and that they had over 40 children signed up for the ‘Frozen’ workshop.

Sam Barton reported that she would be visiting Langer School in November to help raise aspirations. Members of the Youth Forum were told that Suffolk County Council also did something similar called Raising the Bar, see the link below:

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/plans-and-policies/raising-the-bar-briefing/>

**6. LEVEL2 ITEMS**

Representatives from Level2 reported that all sessions were running well. 2014 looked like it will be a record year with 5150 visits by young people. The Summer holiday activities went well, especially the Felixstowe and Trimley Carnivals, winning 2nd place in the Felixstowe Carnival. They had visited London and enjoyed a river cruise along the River Orwell. They were now looking forward to the activities in the October half term which would include a trip to Great Yarmouth Hippodrome circus, a day in Colchester shopping, Rollerworld and a Halloween fun session at Level2.

Level2 representatives told the Forum that they had been working hard with a local artist to brighten up their hall and stairs area with a massive art mural. The young people all had a chance to add their own ideas and it is now completed and makes the area very welcoming. The mural includes good messages about respecting each other and reaching personal goals.

Shez Southernwood would be visiting all the Primary and Junior Schools after Christmas to promote the start of their New Year 6 sessions at Level2. These would be run after school at their youth hub starting after the February half term 2015. In the meantime Lorna Monsen would distribute, with the minutes, key rings giving Youth Forum Members Level2’s website address where you can find out more about Level2 and what they do.

**7. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS**

Representatives from Causton Junior School told the Forum that their school had introduced a new token scheme. This was represented by their PE colours of red, green, blue and yellow. They were thinking of renaming the different colours for the token scheme to Olympian names but this was still ongoing. At the moment the lead is green and the tubes which collects the individual tokens can hold up to 800 tokens !

**8. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS**

Colneis Junior School representatives introduced themselves as this was their first meeting. They were elected by their classes as this year’s council representatives. Already they have held an assembly to promote safety on the paths and roads. Just before Summer, it was brought to the attention of the school council that there was an issue with children riding too fast on their scooters and bikes on the pavements during busy times before and after school. It was also noticed that children were not being as careful as they should be when crossing the roads. Last year’s council representatives gathered ideas for a Code of Conduct from their classes. The council representatives then had a meeting to produce the Code of Conduct.

At the assembly for the whole school they shared the code of conduct. They then carried out drama scenarios and a mini quiz to find out what they had remembered. Their Code of Conduct is as follows:

Children scooting and cycling should:

* Walk their scooter or bike when the paths are busy, especially between Colneis School and the corner of Rosemary Avenue;
* give way to pedestrians;
* ride at a sensible speed;
* look behind before stopping and
* ride single file.

They also thought it was important that people dropping children off at school, park in sensible places and keep their speed down. The second part of their Code of Conduct is:

Drivers should:

* Stop in sensible places, not yellow lines;
* drive more carefully and follow the 20’s Plenty’ rule and
* be aware that children are learning to become more independent and will be new to crossing roads and riding on the roads.

Pedestrians remember:

* STOP LOOK LISTEN !
* Find a safe place to cross with a clear view of the road and
* Walk across the road

Doreen Savage congratulated Colneis Junior School on all their hard work. She had driven down Sunningdale Drive that afternoon and it was mayhem, cars were parked everywhere and people couldn’t get through. Joan Sennington said it was impressive that Colneis Junior School were able to administer cycle training for their pupils.

Jonny Lowdell stated that Brackenbury were hoping to start cycle training courses called Bikeability next year and if any pupils were unable to attend their school cycle training they will be able to go on these courses. Please see link <https://bikeability.dft.gov.uk/> Margaret Morris said that all schools had similar problems regarding parking at schools and everyone agreed.

**9. GRANGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Grange School representatives were very pleased to be representing their school and looking forward to sharing views with the Youth Forum. Over the last school year 2013/2014 there were fourteen children in the whole school who attended school every day. This was a fantastic improvement on the previous year when there were only three ! They all received a £5 book token and a medal. Grange School are linked with the Cavendish Community Association and each year they give awards at Sports Day and also present Community Awards to children at the school who have given their time serving the community. Thirteen children received a certificate and voucher for helping in many different ways.

Representatives of Grange School reported that as a goodbye to their Year 6’s, on the last day of Summer Term, they were all presented with a Grange School mug and a memory stick which they hoped would be helpful at Felixstowe Academy. There were not too many tears but there was probably because they were all going to the Academy together.

Grange School representatives said that the introduction of free school meals for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 has meant that their cooks have been serving a lot healthier, tasty food to the children at lunchtime. Not every child has taken up the free meal option, however and quite a few still have packed lunches. Some schools offer a cold lunch but unfortunately Grange do not have the hall space to do so.

**10. COMMUNITY ACTION SUFFOLK**

Victoria McElhinney, Young People’s Health Ambassador for Community Action Suffolk introduced herself to the Forum. She had taken over from Jemel Fox who had visited the Youth Forum in the past. Her role was to listen to children and give them a voice. She would be visiting youth groups around the county and report back to Suffolk County Council and the NHS. The Youth Forum told Victoria about the work they had done with Jemel Fox, her predecessor and Lorna Monsen agreed to send Victoria the work they had done on Mental Health issues for young people as soon as possible.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Doreen Savage congratulated the schools on their entries to Felixstowe in Flower. Causton Junior School came third in the Gro-Bag competition and second in the Schools Environmental Project and Colneis Junior School came first !

Joan Sennington asked if there was any possibility of encouraging Langer Primary Academy and Kingsfleet Primary School to participate in the Youth Forum again. The Clerk was asked to write to both Head Teachers to ask if this was possible.