**MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2014**

**Present:**

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

Saskia Aldous, Alicia Little and Sue Moss (Causton School)

Tahlia Mays and Josh Rolfe Corinne Stockdale (Grange CP School

Jessica Pond, Symone Slater and Shez Southernwood (Level2)

Sam Barton (Places for People Leisure)

Mark Kichenside (Vicar at Christ Church, Felixstowe and Chaplain to the Royal British Legion)

Stephen Wyatt (Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum)

Councillors 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 Charlie Scott, Causton Junior School, Felixstowe Academy and Councillor Margaret Morris.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 8th October 2014, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, were agreed as a true record and the Chairmen was authorised to sign them.

**4. UPDATE FROM FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

Doreen Savage reported that it was lovely to see so many children at the two Remembrance Events in the town.

Doreen Savage told Youth Forum Members that the Yacht Pond area by the Leisure Centre had been under discussion for a long time as it had been hoped the area would be used as a compound for works on the new Pier development. Unfortunately the Pier was not now starting until late Summer 2015 so Suffolk Coastal District Council have been drawing up a scheme to change the area into a car parking venue, with some landscaping and a performance area. Work on the Spa Gardens had started again with lots of work being done around the gardens. The entrance to the Pram Walk had already been tidied up and this had already improved this area. Felixstowe Town Council was still waiting to hear news about the Spa Pavilion on who the interested party was. It was hoped that they would come forward with an offer by the end of November. The interested party are looking to re-energise and re-launch the Spa Pavilion as an entertainment venue, along with a refurbished restaurant and other services.

The Clerk reported that the Trim Trail was progressing well and it was hoped to be in place for Spring 2015.

The Clerk asked the Forum Members if they had all received Spring bulbs donated to the Forum by the Town Council to help take part in Felixstowe in Flower 2015. These were also given to Kingsfleet Primary School and Langer Academy and it was hoped this would encourage them to re-join the Youth Forum.

Doreen Savage reported that she had asked Stephen Wyatt to attend the Youth Forum as a representative of the Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum as they would like to encourage more young people to be involved.

**5. FELIXSTOWE FAIRTRADE FORUM**

Stephen Wyatt asked the Forum if bananas were £1.00 from the local shops how much of the £1.00 would the grower actually get ? After much discussion Stephen broke it down to the following:

Owner 17p

Worker/Grower 3p

Exporter (unripen) 14p

Ripen by Importer 23p

Seller 43p

Fairtrade do not think this is fair. The person who works on the crop should get more money. Fairtrade’s aim is to set up a contract with the grower with a guaranteed price plus money to spend in their community on such things as education. Then to the delight of the Forum, Stephen handed out Fairtrade chocolate to all the Youth Forum Members. Stephen asked if any Forum Members were interested in joining Felixstowe’s Fairtrade Forum especially for a day in the half term in February when they hoped to decide what to do to promote fairtrade in the town. They hoped to have an Open Day for young people in the Café Libra in Felixstowe Library and he needed help from young people to decide what to do on that day. Stephen said he would speak to Members who were interested at the end of the meeting. Doreen Savage suggested that the Youth Forum Members take Stephen’s request back to School Councils to let as many children as possible know.

**6. THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION IN FELIXSTOWE**

The Town Clerk introduced Rev Mark Kichenside to the Forum. Rev Kichenside was the Chaplain for the Royal British Legion in Felixstowe. Rev Kichenside told the Forum that the Royal British Legion had been formed after WW1 to help ex service men and their families. Along with the Haig Fund who are responsible for the red poppies that are worn throughout Great Britain they now work alongside Help the Heroes. This year is the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of WW1 where over 65% of the people who died were under 24 years old. The WW1 reflections in August involved young people from the Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, Air Cadets and St John Ambulance Cadets. At this year’s Remembrance and Armistice Day Causton Junior School had supplied the Town Council with some heart felt poems concerning WW1 and WW2. These were displayed in the Council Chamber for dignitaries and members of the public to view.

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

Sam Barton reported that Brackenbury Sports Centres half term activities were very successful. The ‘Frozen’ workshop was over-subscribed and an additional workshop had been organised. On Monday 22nd December there would be a free taster day with Premier Sport which includes multi sport at Brackenbury Sports Centre. This is aimed at 5-12 year olds and all schools will be sent leaflets shortly. The Street Dance Workshop was also very popular and another workshop was organised for January 2015 which will be in partnership with Suffolk Sport and a dance group. This would be aimed at 14-25 year olds. New Handball sessions had be organised and will be aimed at 11yrs+ starting Tuesday 13th January between 6.30pm - 7.30pm with the aim of developing a junior and adult club in the sport.  Further Bike Professionally courses have been organised for Spring 2015. A new Junior Netball Club was hoped to be started at the Felixstowe Academy.

Sam reported that, along with a colleague she visited Langer Primary Academy through Suffolk County Council’s Raising the Bar scheme. They had a 15 minutes question and answer session with the children with the children asking them a lot of questions concerning their jobs working for Places for People Leisure. Sam said that she would be willing to visit other schools in the area.

**8. LEVEL2 ITEMS**

Level2 representatives reported that all their sessions were running well with good numbers of young people attending. In the October half term they opened their Hub to invited visitors who use Level2 from different sessions. The aim of this was to form a Young Voices steering group for Level2 as a way of getting to hear the views, ideas and opinions of the young people who use their facilities and services. This group will meet 3 times a year with tasks to follow up on between meetings to enable them to get a real feel for where young people would like to see their project going in the future.

During the half term they also enjoyed two day trips out, one travelling from Felixstowe by train to Colchester two shopping and also Rollerworld; and another day trip using their mini bus to Great Yarmouth Hippodrome Circus.

After a great demand last year Level2 are now able to offer Year6 sessions starting after Christmas. Shez will be visiting all 7 junior schools in the town over the next few weeks to let schools know about this. The new sessions will be held on a Thursday after school from 4pm-5.30pm.

**9. CAUSTON SCHOOL ITEMS**

A representative from Causton School thanked the Town Council for the donation of
Daffodil bulbs. They had planted them on the grass by their main entrance so that they can be seen and enjoyed by everyone visiting the school in the Spring. Photographs were then passed around the Youth Forum showing Causton pupils planting the bulbs but unfortunately one has already been dug up by the birds which has now been re-planted !

To help raise funds for Children in Need this year Causton School would be holding a cake sale and hoped to raise a lot of money for the charity.

Causton School representatives told the Forum about discussions their School Councils were having about starting new School Clubs. Some of the ideas were a Drama Club, Lego Club and Writing Club. The new Writing Club could then start a school newspaper letting everyone know about what is happening at the school.

The representative from Causton School gave the Forum an update from the last Youth Forum Meeting in October about their House Teams. It had been decided to name the teams after Olympians so the red team is now called Farah after Mo Farah, the Green Team is called Redgrave after Sir Steve Redgrave, the blue team is called Ennis after Jessica Ennis and the yellow team is called Hoy after Sir Chris Hoy.

**10. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS**

Colneis School Representatives reported that they had two successful learning experiences that they have taken part in over the last few weeks. Firstly, an E-Safety Trainer visited their school to carry out a session with Year6 children on ‘How to Stay Safe on the Internet’. They found out about all the different age certificates that games and social media sites hold. Although there are age restrictions, children still use media sites that they should not use. They found out that it is illegal to lie about your age on a social media site. After school the teachers then took part in a training session where they learnt that there was in fact so much that they actually didn’t know about the internet. To reach out to the parents, another training session was carried out for them. It was concluded at the end of the whole day and evening that, in fact, the children knew more than the adults, and could definitely recognise more apps ! The second experience was visiting the Crucial Crew which lots of schools attended. Crucial Crew is a series of workshops that presented the children with dangerous or challenging situations, such as a fire in a bedroom and finding a man unconscious on the floor. They engaged in role play exercises to deal with the situations. The children really enjoyed the experiences as it was a lot of fun at the same time as learning.

Representatives of Colneis School said that following Councillor Savage comments at the last meeting of the Youth Forum they decided to find out how irresponsible the drivers were being outside their school. This was a huge job and they started on Colneis Road. Last week they stood outside the school with clipboards, recording how many cars parked on yellow lines. The results are as follows:

8.30 – 8.35 - two cars

8.36 – 8.40 - one car

8.41 – 8.45 - three cars

8.46 – 8.50 - three cars

8.51 – 8.55 - one car

8.56 – 9.00 - five cars

Only one of these cars was not a parent. They also noticed that people were pulling into the bus stop to drop children off. There were approximately eight different cars using this as a drop off point. Since carrying out their data they have noticed lots of cars on doubled yellow lines. Parents have been pulling up next to the yellow road island and stopping to let their children out in the middle of the road. So their next job is to go down Rosemary Avenue where there are double yellow lines. Once this is completed they would like to do after school surveys. The children recorded car number plates and are still discussing whether to name and shame ! Maybe if they spot them again they will report them to the Mrs Reed their Headteacher.

Doreen Savage thanked the children for all their hard work. Along with Joan Sennington she had attended the Crucial Crew Workshops as well and found them fascinating especially when the Fire Service had shown a ‘mock up’ of potential dangerous things that are in every ones houses. For example, Lap top on the bed, Deodorant on the radiator. Doreen Savage said that she would report back to Suffolk Coastal District Council on how much the children had enjoyed the Crucial Crew Workshop and hopefully funding would be forthcoming to hold future workshops.

**11. GRANGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS**

Representatives from Grange School told the Forum about two charity dress-up days their school have had recently. They held a Roald Dahl Day and raised £157 for the Roald Dahl’s Marvellous Children’s Charity and their school and a ‘Wear it Yellow’ day which raised £115 for the Children’s Cancer Trust. The school was really looking forward to Children in Need wear everyone will be wearing their pyjamas !

Grange School representatives thanked the Town Council for their Daffodil bulbs which arrived just in time as the school was going to buy some !

The representatives told the Forum that they recently enjoyed the Paarlauf which was held at Langer School. This involved relay races against other Felixstowe schools and they were very happy with their results as this had improved from past years. They also had a very enjoyable Harvest Festival and collected a lot of tinned and packet goods. The members of St Marys Church visit the school regularly to perform bible stories for the children and they were able to take the food collected for poor families in the area.

Grange School representatives told the Forum about their reward system at their school. Whenever they achieved something or did something kind for others, they were awarded a star pupil point. When they had collected 10 points, they got a bronze medal and certificate, 20 points a silver medal and certificate, 30 points a gold medal and certificate and 40 points a platinum medal and certificate, which was quite rare ! Already in the Reception and Year 1 class three bronze medals had been awarded.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Grange School reported that they were having problems again with litter in their school grounds. They were going to try Posters again to see if that would help stop the litter bug. lt was suggested that the school contact the Environment Dept., Suffolk Coastal District Council but it could be a just one person as there is not a lack of bins in the area.

The Chairmen wished all Members of the Youth Forum a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 28th January 2015** at **4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall (to be **Chaired by Level2**)