**MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28th JANUARY 2015**

**Present:**

Azura Seeley (Chairman) and Wendy O’Connor, (Level2)

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

Betty Freeman, Tyler Johnson and Madalenas Pinto-Woods and Rebecca Wyard (Colneis School)

Nigel Dixon (Level2)

Moira Chapman (Felixstowe Futures)

Stephen Wyatt (Fairtrade Forum/Level2)

Councillors Margaret Morris and Doreen Savage (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 Causton Junior School, Sam Barton, Places for People Leisure, Shez Underwood, Level2, Councillor Joan Sennington

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12th NOVEMBER 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 12th November 2014, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, were agreed as a true record and the Chairmen was authorised to sign them.

**4. GET A LIFE PRESENTATION**

The Chairman introduced to the Youth Forum, Level2’s Get A Life Presentation which was its first showing outside Level2. Members agreed that it was a very enjoyable and informative slide show. The Clerk said it was a fantastic showcase and he was very encouraged to see it as it was built by youngsters. He would however recommend that the website address be put on as a point of contact. He was especially interested to hear the PSCO’s comments and the perception of anti-bully compared to the actual reality. He asked if Level2 had thought about adding local statistics to the presentation on how safe it is living in Felixstowe and the perception of local people.

Doreen Savage thought the presentation was excellent and it was interesting to hear about the perceived differences between young and older generations. Some years ago Suffolk Coastal District Council formed a group called Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices and the same perceptions were being expressed at that time. The members of SCTV decided to make a video on which they interviewed members of the older generation as well as young people to find out what they thought of each other. It turned out that there was not a problem as such and that perceptions were proved to be largely unfounded. Some of the young people interviewed thought that older people were rude at times to younger people, but otherwise there did not seem to be a problem.

Nigel Dixon from Level2 said that whilst filming for the Get A Life presentation at the Carnival in July 2014 which was on the seafront, people who they interviewed where from out of town and they were delighted to be given an opportunity to talk about their views and different ideas.

*The Clerk left the room at this point.*

**5. FELIXSTOWE FUTURES**

Moira Chapman reported to the Forum that the Triangle Space in the middle of Hamilton Road is available for hire; please contact Moira on Tel: 01394 444576 or Email: felixstowe.futures@eastsuffolk.gov.uk. The space is free for Community use, with charges applicable for any commercial use. The Lions Club have installed more electrical points at the triangle, enabling easier installation of the Christmas lights.

Moira explained that the privately-funded Pier development was delayed until later this year.

The Seafront Gardens project contractor is on-site and completion is expected by August 2015.  Stephen Wyatt asked if all the designs the schools had done towards the project were still being used and it was confirmed that there were very much part of the project, although there are potential issues as schools no longer have the original work.  There had been a new Seafront Gardens Community Development Officer appointed, who began this week, called John Biglin; he will be part time but flexible.  Stephen Wyatt asked as the Opening Day would be in August would it be possible to invite the schools before the school holidays.  Becki asked what sort of new ideas were needed from the local schools?  It was agreed to invite John Biglin to the next Youth Forum to discuss further.

Moira told the Forum that there was no further news on the redevelopment of the Spa Pavilion, although the outlook remains positive as legal terms are currently being discussed.

The South Seafront development is planned to have permanent toilets, and shower facilities, which would encourage more visitors to this popular site.  New signage has also been installed recently in the area detailing the history of the site.

**6. PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE**

The representatives from Places for People Leisure were unable to attend but sent the following report:

Brackenbury Sports Centre

Christmas Holiday activities with Premier Sport were FREE and consisted of Dance Workshops, Football and Multi Sports, for 5-12 year olds, 192 attended.

Frozen Workshop January 4th 2015 for 4-8 year olds, 28 attended

Handball FREE 6 week course, aimed at 11+ started January 13th 6:30-7:30pm, currently 10 participants regularly attending.

Street Dance 6 week course for 14-25 year olds, started January 14th 6:30-7:30pm £10 for 6 weeks, we currently 7-8 participants attending.

Coming Up

Brackenbury Sports Centre

TCHC ‘My Future’ 6 week NEET programme due to start again for 16-18 year olds, interviews Thursday 29th January.

Premier Sport Holiday Activities (all 9-3pm) – book on their website, £8.30 (5-12 year olds)

Mon 16th Feb - Football (48 max)

Mon 16th Feb, Tues 17th Feb and Wed 18th Feb - Multi Sports (48 max)

Tue 17th Feb - Fencing/Archery (16 max)

Wed 18th Feb - Dance Workshop (32 max)

Submitted Boxing application to Sport England to run regular weekly Boxing sessions, will confirm junior sessions once funding has been confirmed, hoping to start in April. We have received funding from the SCDC ‘Enabling Communities Budget’ scheme to work on an initiative with the local Police targeting certain young people.

Bikeability additional session to schools, March 30th and 31st £10

Felixstowe Leisure Centre

Live Well Suffolk – Child Weight Management course to start 5th February, will be Thursday afternoons.

Sportivate bid to work with the local Housing Association’s and put on a 6 week ‘Fitness Programme’ for 16-25 year olds with the exit route being a discounted gym membership has been submitted, will start in April if funding application is successful.

Looking to put on ‘Go Tri’ sessions and host events, and we are hoping to have a junior element, TBC.

**7. LEVEL2 ITEMS**

Further to the slide show shown earlier in the meeting Azura Seeley from Level2 reported that Level2 had started well this year. Their new Year6 young people had quickly settled into their session and they were seeing a good number of young people from each of the 7 Junior & Primary Schools. Azura drew Members attention to the flyer on the table which gave an opportunity to attend events being held by Level2. This included Boys and Girls Chill Out Days and an additional needs Chill Out Day.

**8. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Colneis Junior School reported that their school council had been very busy. They thanked the Youth Forum for their daffodil bulbs which were tracked down and planted in their garden. Also they thanked the Forum for the help in their concerns about irresponsible parking and driving outside their school as they have now been leant a banner from the Police.

Colneis Junior School reported that this year their school production was Matilda. The auditions were held 2 weeks ago and Jasmine who is a Member of the Youth Forum got the part of Matilda and Betty got the part of Hortensia.

The representatives from Colneis Junior School told the Forum that their school had brought a class set of ipads and were looking forward to using them. Before Christmas their Year6 took part in the Children Takeover Day. This was a day where the children literally took over. Their teachers sat on the carpet or at the desks whilst they took the register and taught the class. Children planned the lessons and had 30 minutes to an hour per group to teach the class. The children who weren’t teachers, were teaching assistants. Some children took the register then the numerous lessons took place. The children even got to mark the work and give out house points.

The children had lots to celebrate at Colneis School, two children in Year3 had logos they designed and won an ipad and a Raspberry Pi Computer Set. A number of children had had their stories and a poem published in a book and also a picture was published in a magazine. As part of the World of Work topic Colneis School had employees from different industries visiting them to encourage them to start thinking about their future. So far the visitors had been from BT, Nintendo and an IT organisation.

After a talk from Stephen Wyatt, a member of the Felixstowe Fairtrade at the last Youth Forum meeting the Colneis School representatives held an assembly to introduce Fairtrade to the whole school and asked for ideas for the Fairtrade Fun Fiesta which was being organised by Felixstowe Fairtrade in the February half term. Leaflets designed by pupils were then sent home with every child in their school. The feedback was then given to Stephen Wyatt to take back with him to discuss with Felixstowe Fairtrade Members.

**9. GRANGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Representatives from Grange School told the Forum that their Christmas events went really well and they are now working hard to start preparing for the SATS Tests in May. Other events they are looking forward to are their Mother Day Luncheons and a Maths Share Event where they parents come in for a morning to see what they are up to in Maths. They also have various clubs running such as Hockey, Football, Netball and a Reading Club which is ran by pupils for Key Stage 1.

Grange School representatives said that they really enjoyed preparing for the Fairtrade Fun Fiesta in half term. They had prepared invitations to be sent to all fellow pupils inviting them to the event. Posters designed by Grange School had been put up in their school and it will also be put in their January Newsletter. The representatives will be there on the day and hopes that everyone enjoys themselves and learn about Fairtrade. Moira Chapman and Level2 asked if an electronic version could be sent to them.

Stephen Wyatt thanked all the schools who have taken part in helping him organise the event on Tuesday 17th February at the Café Libra in Felixstowe Library.

**10. UPDATE FROM FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

Doreen Savage told the Forum that the survey on the redundant Donkey Field was on the website Felixstowe Town Council. This project with Suffolk Coastal District Council has become possible as funding has become available through the Outdoor Play Space Fund. The new facility for 14 years and over has a possible three options:

An Outdoor Gym which is aimed at people of all fitness levels and consist of equipment to help people exercise outside.

**A Trim Trail** is a adventure course for both adults and children aimed at helping to improve balance, coordination, flexibility and build strength.

And a Parkour area which is a sport which is based on moving freely through an area using only the abilities of the body and equipment and is used to help participants navigate easily across.

These examples are displayed in Felixstowe Leisure Centre and Felixstowe Library where visitors will also be able to submit their feedback during the consultation which closes on 1st February 2015.

Doreen Savage reported that the Boating Lake area was proposed to become a grassed area so that a range of events may be held there along with a car park.

 Specific elements of the design may include:

• Grassed informal open space

• A mix of hard standing car park and grassed events area (up to 70 cars), multi-functional to suit programme of events and general activity use for peak times

• Inclusion of cycle lane through the area

The final design details and costs are currently being worked up and will be finalised in January. Nigel Dixon asked if there could be some sort of strategic covering over the open space but this would be deemed too costly. There were three possible designs gone forward but these would need to be within the budget perimeters.

Premier Inn on the old Ordnance site has just started and although the first Wetherspoon planning application had been approved the second planning application had been turned down by Suffolk Coastal District Council as it was deemed too big.

**11. FELIXSTOWE FAIRTRADE FORUM**

 Stephen Wyatt thanked again the Forum for all their hard work for helping with the Fairtrade Fun time Fiesta and he hoped that everyone would attend the event on Tuesday 17th February at 1pm-4pm at Café Libra, Felixstowe Library. The event will include games, a quiz, a treasure hunt and free samples of Fairtrade chocolate and the chance to win a prize of Fairtrade goods. Café Libra are offering a 10% discount on their products on the day. Children should be accompanied by parents.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Lorna Monsen asked that all Youth Forum Members bring their diaries to the next Youth Forum Meeting to arrange the May and June meetings as schools will be rehearsing for their school productions and starting their SATs during these months.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 25th March 2015** at **4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall (to be **Chaired by Causton Junior School**)