



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th JANUARY 2016

Present:

Fraser Forsey, Charlie Webb and Archie Wilks (Chairmen) and Rebecca Wyard (Colneis Junior School)
Daniel Phillips, Billie Smith, Megan Watts, Alicia Little and Jane Pilcher (Causton Junior School)
Anthony Storer and Courtney Sadler, Corinne Stockdale (Grange CP School)
Elise Gorski, Chelsea Hillier and Shez Southernwood (Level2)
Ebany Churchill, Ollie Hazell and Adrian Lawson-Frost (Felixstowe Academy)
Helen Greengrass (Felixstowe Futures)
Jonny Lowdell (Places for People Leisure)
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 the Ash Tadjrishi, Town Clerk.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11th NOVEMBER 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 11th November 2015, 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 about a visit their school had from Live Well Suffolk concerning healthy eating. The Representatives showed the Forum Members their 'sugar' board showing drinks and their sugar content. It was shocking to see all the sugar that was put in the drinks especially as some were labelled as healthy drinks. They learnt that their packed lunch should have an item from each of the main food groups:

Carbohydrates (bread, pasta and rice)
Protein (meat, fish, eggs, nut and pulses)
Dairy (milk, cheese, yoghurt)

Fruit
Vegetables

Colneis Junior School would be holding an assembly at their school to educate all their students on healthy eating and every Wednesday there will be Eat Well Monitors who will give out stickers to people who are having a healthy packed lunch. Youth Forum Members were asked to speak to their neighbours around the table to see who had enjoyed a healthy lunch that day and anyone who had achieved food from the 5 groups were given a sticker.

Colneis School representatives told the Forum that they have been working on producing anti-smoking films to enter this year's Live Well Suffolk Oscars. They hoped to be as successful as last year. This year they would be entering adverts and a short film to persuade people not to take up smoking.

Colneis School have been busy getting on with the second stage of their projects with Fairtrade. They had run a Fairtrade stall at their Christmas fair. They brought 12 Fairtrade trinket boxes that had sold really quickly and two boxes of chocolate bars that were popular. The Year6 students had attended two meetings with Fairtrade and helped to plan a Fairtrade event in Felixstowe. They are all looking forward to working with the Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum again.

5. GRANGE SCHOOL ITEMS

The Grange School representatives told the Youth Forum about their very sad news that their Headteacher, Mrs Reynish had passed away. Her funeral was in the Christmas holidays and lots of people were able to attend. The Deputy Head teacher has been standing in for Mrs Reynish and will continue until the new Head teacher starts in September 2016.

Representatives from Grange School told the Forum that their school choir went to sing in the Young Voices concert at the O2 the day before which they had really enjoyed, especially singing with other schools. They didn't get home until 11.30pm so the students were very tired but were allowed to start their school day later than the other students.

The school house points were growing fast for good behaviour and good work and it was exciting to see them increasing on their noticeboard.

6. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Causton School representatives told the Forum that they had a visitor from St Elizabeth Hospice to talk to the students about how to raise money for the St Elizabeth Hospice. In the Summer they are holding an art event called 'Pigs Go Wild' which would be an interactive trail that will feature more than 40 pig sculptures across Ipswich and beyond. The visitor from St Elizabeth Hospice told the students about the project mascot, a pig called Tally Ho and wanted ideas of different challenges the mascot could attend. This was to help raise money to sponsor a pig and then design, decorate and be part of a trail which will feature more than 40 pigs across Ipswich and beyond.

At the last meeting of the Youth Forum Members were asked by Felixstowe Forward what sort of events they would like to see in Felixstowe. Causton School would like to keep the ice rink all year round as it was such a big success. All Youth Forum Members agreed it was a lovely idea and most Members had used it.

Doreen Savage thanked Causton for such a lovely idea and thanked the Youth Forum for using £1000 from their budget for this project.

7. FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY ITEMS

The representatives from the Academy told the Youth Forum that their new Principal, Mr Williams had now been in charge of their school for two terms. He had made an huge impact on the Academy with early English Language exams going extremely well. 59% A-C pass rate already and about 20 students within a mark or 2 of a C grade which will be re-marked. This would mean that the pass rate could be even higher which is a big improvement on last year.

Felixstowe Academy was holding a school production of Bugsy Malone. Rehearsals were in full flow with a massive cast of actors, singers, dancers and musicians. The show will run from Wednesday 10th – Friday 12th February. A special show for all local primary Y6 students would be held on Tuesday 9th February.

Academy representatives told the Forum about the Academy's PBL Book Project. PBL was a project based learning method which built personal skills for the students. The Book project was where students made a page for a book on someone they admired, explaining why they admire that person, their life stories and what they have achieved etc. The completed book is now on a tour of Felixstowe and has or will visit the following places, if anyone wanted to see it:

11th January - Salvation Army

18th January – Felixstowe Radio

18th- 25th January - Hope Trust

25th January – 1st February – White Gables

1st - 8th February – Felixstowe Library

At the end of their last term the Academy students held their annual 'Giving Back to the Community' event. Local residents from Care Homes were invited to the Academy for a day of celebrations, bingo and lunch, all hosted by the Student Council and prefects. The event was a huge success and they had over 60 visitors all of whom had a great day and were already looking forward to the next event.

8. LEVEL2 ITEMS

Representatives from Level2 told the Youth Forum that all Level2 sessions are running well with good number of young people attending. They would be holding Year6 sessions running after the February half term on Tuesdays from 4pm-5.30pm. Level 2's Young Carers session is open to young people from Year 6, who care for someone on Wednesday 4pm-5.30pm. They also have a 1 to 1 mentoring service to support young people who may be struggling with a mental health issue, or dealing with something difficult in their lives that is causing them distress. The young people can meet with their Mentor for about an hour each week for up to 10 weeks. Young people who have received mentoring all report that they had found this support really helpful.

Level2 representatives told the Forum that with some of the funding from the Big Lottery they now have a dedicated Early Intervention Topic Room. Every week it focuses on a different topic and it is staffed by a dedicated topic room worker, activities, information and guidance. This month they have looked at stress, anxiety and sleep. This year Level2 would be focussing on its own detached work on 3 main areas, the Adastral Close estate, including supporting the young people living with their families on the Caravan sites and also Trimley and Kirton villages.

Level2 representatives told the Forum that Felixstowe Town Council partly provided funds in a form of a grant for Level2's new kitchen. They have now been able to provide cooking to teach older young people independent living skills and how to cook on a budget. They were now working on upgrading their toilets and wash rooms.

9. PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE

Jonny Lowdell told the Youth Forum about the 30th Anniversary event they held to commemorate the opening of Felixstowe Leisure Centre. They had over 1000 members of the public visiting the centre over the weekend. All events had been free and included a big Raffle and Radio Town 102 FM and Radio Suffolk were at the event. The feedback had been very good.

Refurbishment was still ongoing and the Health Suite, Sauna area and soft play area were included in this work.

Jonny Lowdell told the Forum that they were busy organising the February half term events. They were going to use InstructAbility which is a multi award winning bespoke programme designed to engage disabled people in the fitness industry. They were aiming to increase more fitness opportunities for disabled people by holding a wheelchair rugby taster event on 28th February 2016 at 10am at Brackenbury Leisure Centre. He encouraged everyone to go to Brackenbury Sports Centre and watch. If anyone was interested in participating, you did not need to be disabled, but you did need to be aware that when it came to scoring you would get less points than the disabled player. A Colneis representative asked if there wheelchairs available for children or was it just adults only. Jonny Lowdell confirmed that children would be able to play. Other activities that were planned were as follows:

Mon 15th Feb - HOLLYWOOD ALL STARS

Activities such as Dodgeball, Lacrosse, Baseball, and a 3 Point Shootout plus much more active fun !

Tue 16th Feb - MURRAY & McIIROY MADNESS

Activities on the day include Tennis, Volleyball, and Frisbee Golf, and not forgetting the children's favourite 'Soak the Coach' competition!

Wed 17th Feb - SHOOT & SCORE

The 'Shoot and Score' course not will include the fundamental skills needed to play Football, Basketball and Handball successfully.

PA Dance 16 Feb 2016 09:00 - 15:00

Performing Arts Course that incorporates various different dance styles including street dance and Cheerleading.

Jonny Lowdell told the Forum that Leeds Beckett have won the Healthy Lifestyle Tender, which had previously been run by LiveWell Suffolk. Leeds Beckett (now branded as more life) will be taking over the Healthy Lifestyle agenda from 1st April 2016, they along with other partners are working with them to ensure smooth transition and continuation of school projects.

10. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD

Helen Greengrass thanked the Forum for all their ideas they had come up with on what they would like to see happen in Felixstowe. She told the Forum Members that it had been a very busy period for Felixstowe Forward. She asked the Forum if they were aware that all 8 Seafront Gardens were now opened to the public. The last garden that opened was the Town Hall Gardens which included a splendid Shelter. The garden lights were scheduled to go on at 5pm each evening and the Forum Members were encouraged to have a look as they went out of the Town Hall that evening. She hoped this would encourage more visitors to the town. She would now be developing a resource pack for schools or clubs and any school interested please contact her via email Helen.Greengrass@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

Felixstowe Forward hoped to soon hold a small community event for the burying of the time capsule which the schools had kindly donated items for. There was still time to donate items that reflected things that were relevant to today. This would not be an event for the general public as they would like to keep the whereabouts of the capsule a secret as it could be vandalised.

Helen asked if Members had been to the Landguard Christmas Event which was held in December 2015. There were lots of activities for children and a range of craft and gift stalls. Throughout the afternoon, there had been live music and entertainment with the traditional Christmas carols, which had been very festive. The Felixstowe Museum had presented a special room of seasonal displays and there had been Christmas storytelling and a Santa's Secret Grotto. Some of the Youth Forum Members had attended and said it had been amazing and hoped it would be repeated. Landguard Fort would be reopening for the 2016 season very soon and would be holding activities in the February half term.

Helen told the Forum that the Triangle area was available to book free for schools and community use. It was an important public space located in the heart of the Felixstowe town centre and had been provided to support local people and visitors to the area. It was possible that Schools would like to use it for showcasing their work. If you were interested please look at the following website:
<http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/felixstowe-forward/triangle/>

Josh Vartan asked Helen if it was possible to have some information about the wildlife in the Seafront Gardens displayed. Helen told the Forum that some of the wildlife needed to be secret to protect the wildlife, especially the protected colony of wall lizards which was only located in 47 places in the country and Felixstowe had the only colony in Suffolk. These lizards hide in the winter but on a sunny summer's day you may see one especially around the arch cascade area. Members from Level 2 asked if it was possible to have young people helping in the gardens. Helen said she would support any young people who were interested in setting up a youth gardening club as the gardens were for all of us as a community resource. Doreen Savage said that she would take away an Action from the meeting to look at the possibility of having a junior section of the Friends of the Seafront Gardens. The Friends of the Seafront Gardens met once a month on a Saturday for 2 hours, which was great fun and young people would be a great asset.

The boating lake planning application had now been granted. Work was hoped to start soon which would include making the area look nicer by landscaping it and making the space more user friendly by installing an electrical hook up. This would make it easier for holding events as well as being used for an additional car park if needed.

11. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Doreen Savage thanked the Forum on behalf of Felixstowe Fairtrade for all their help in working with them in different projects concerning Fairtrade. In Felixstowe Library there will be a display showing all their hard work. Felixstowe Fairtrade were hoping to have a farmer from Kenya visit Felixstowe in the next few months and it was hoped that a breakfast would be arranged at the Town Hall for the farmer using as much products from Fairtrade as possible.

The Ice Rink at Christmas had been a huge success and it was hoped that it would be possible to have this again in December 2016.

Doreen Savage encouraged everyone to go to the VisitFelixstowe website <http://www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk/> which shows a programme of things happening in Felixstowe for children and families throughout the year. This year was Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday and discussions were going ahead on how to celebrate this in the town. One option was to hold a music and dance event in the new Town Hall Gardens. The music could be from all the eras that had covered the queen's reign and maybe the Youth Forum could help with modern day music if this option went ahead. Another option that could coincide with this would be a picnic on the Prom. The Youth Forum was asked if they would like to contribute to this cause and it was unanimously agreed to contribute £1000 from their budget towards elements of the celebrations. Doreen Savage thanked the Youth Forum on behalf of the Felixstowe Town Council.

12. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Members agreed the draft dates for March 2016- March 2017 as distributed with Agenda, with one amendment for March 2016. The dates agreed are as follows:

16 th March 2016	-	Chairman: Level2
18 th May 2016	-	Chairman: Causton Junior School
29 th June 2016	-	Chairman: Felixstowe Academy
9 th November 2016	-	Chairman: Grange Community Primary School
25 th January 2017	-	Chairman: Colneis Junior School
22 nd March 2017	-	Chairman: Level2

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 16th March 2016** (to be Chaired by Level2) at **4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall.