

Felixstowe Forward

Update June 2015

FELIXSTOWE
FORWARD

www.felixstoweforward.org.uk

Meetings held and attended

Attended:

Area Action Planning working group
Coastal Community teams (London)
Felixstowe Book Festival
Felixstowe Dementia Action Alliance
FTC Civic Service
FF Sponsor Group Inaugural meeting
Landguard Partnership Meeting
Level 2 AGM
Pier Development meeting
Spa Pavilion Open morning
Topping Out, Cautley house

Presentations to:

Corporate Management Team, Cabinet, SCDC
East Suffolk Board
FTC Council meeting

One to One meetings:

Adrian Cooper
Archant
Community Action Suffolk (Talent Match)
Dr Therese Coffey, MP
Felixstowe Book Festival
Felixstowe Spy (interview)
Mary Wyatt
Tim Yeo
Trading Standards

"A tremendous boost to the cultural aspect of Felixstowe life."

"At the next event at Felixstowe, I shall stay overnight and enjoy the seaside!"

"Long may Felixstowe Book Festival continue, it's a lovely way to be introduced to Felixstowe!"

Overview

June has been an exceptionally busy month. My inbox is alive and well and as news of Felixstowe Forward is filtering out, there is plenty of interest and many a voice and opinion on the direction Felixstowe should take.

My inaugural sponsor group meeting was held earlier in the month and it was a pleasure to have representation from Community Action Suffolk and Felixstowe Chamber of Trade.

We now have a logo for Felixstowe Forward and work has started on

updating the www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk website. An internal communications plan is being drafted to incorporate brand guidelines and key messages. Externally, a newsletter based on my previous report is about to be circulated around the town.

In the meantime do help spread the word and follow on twitter - @felixstowe4ward.

Helen Greengrass

Change Director

Helen.greengrass@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Tel: 01394 444577

Mobile: 07717 150993

Felixstowe Book Festival:

"This event is going from strength to strength with some great authors. The variety and choice is a very strong point. The venue is perfect for everything going on. This is a 'must visit' every year."

"A great book festival! The prevailing air of good will and mutual interest in books in the splendid atmosphere of the Orwell Hotel could not have been bettered. Thank you to all those who worked so hard and in so many ways contributed to make the event possible. A hugely enjoyable weekend for so many, and a valuable one for Felixstowe and its community!"

Felixstowe Book Festival

What a fantastic cultural event the Felixstowe Book Festival was last weekend.

I attended the Launch and as a volunteer throughout the weekend. The Orwell hotel buzzed with excitement, vibrancy and energy throughout both days and over 30 volunteers were kept busy running about helping to make it run smoothly.

Esther Freud and Terry Waite proved to be big attractions with both events sold out.

I attended a number of events and was impressed with the quality of the

speakers, their engagement with the audience and the interest all round.

Over 180 evaluations forms have been returned and a full report will be available in due course. I did a quick summary which confirmed an overwhelmingly positive response. Visitors were exactly 50:50 – 50% from Felixstowe, 50% from further afield. Of those visiting from further afield

88% confirmed spending money in local shops and cafes and 12% confirmed they had stayed overnight. This clearly indicates the economic value of such events to the Town.

The schools programme was a huge success and some of the work is on display at the library.

I hope to bring some examples of work to the meeting to show.



27th-28th June 2015



One of the children spotted this fascinating caterpillar Mullein Moth (*Cuculia verbasii*)



Do visit the Rose Garden one evening and see how the lighting enhances the gardens at night.



Seafront Gardens

www.felixstoweseafrontgardens.org.uk

Find us on facebook and follow our progress updates

A full project update can be found at

<http://www.felixstoweseafrontgardens.org.uk/news/project-update-no-9-june-2015/>

On Wednesday 24th June 2015, several representatives from local youth group Level 2, and schools (Grange Community Primary School, Colneis Junior School and Causton Junior School) were given a tour of the Felixstowe Sea Front Gardens project.

The group learnt about the plans and building work, and had an opportunity to ask the project team questions.

To learn more about Felixstowe Youth Forum please visit http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/Core/FelixstoweTC/Pages/Felixstowe_Youth_Forum_2.aspx. Learn more about the Level 2 Youth Project <http://www.leveltwo.org/>

Please note that the project board are working with SCN on a ten year maintenance plan which has yet to be finalised.

Whilst there is an urgency to open the gardens for the visiting public the Seafront Gardens project board are keen to complete any snagging issues before fully opening.

This is also a reminder that memorial benches can be sponsored at a cost of £250 for five years. Contact Customer Service, SCN on 01394 444000 or email tony.cini@ncsgrp.co.uk

Pier Redevelopment / Boating Lake

SCDC have confirmed that revised plans can be submitted as a variation to planning consent which means we are another step closer to the pier development.

FF has also helped the development secure the Section 30 agreement needed from the Environment Agency.

An officers group will meet later in July to progress matters forward. The developers are keen to have a decision about where to site their compound and the permissions needed to make this happen.

This meeting will also discuss the Boating Lake and if there are any opportunities for both projects to work together.

Landguard Partnership

The HLF Bid is progressing: A Round One application of approx. £3m. is due to be completed by the end of 2015. If successful the project will move into a two year bid development phase with funding of approx. £400k.

The Landguard Fort Trust is seeking £500k for essential roof repairs. These are likely to be included in the HLF bid.

FF is working with the Nature Reserve to chase up the dog control order from SCDC along with the

designation of the Northern section as a Nature Reserve. This will help give additional protection to the Reserve and raise its status.

Both the Viewpoint café and the ferry service are reporting a successful start to the summer season.

Can you help spread the word for the need for volunteers at Landguard Reserve over the summer period?

Contact:

Chris Hyde,
chris.hyde@eastsoffolk.gov.uk



Round Up:

Felixstowe Society are planning a Felixstowe Festival of Talks, April 2016: They will also be running a Heritage Weekend in September 2016.

Stephen Rampley and myself met with **Archant** to discuss how we could work together on the monthly Visit Felixstowe pull out.

The **Felixstowe Spy** did an interview with me earlier this month but this has yet to be published.

The Topping Out ceremony, **Cautley House (Bartlet)**, gave me a sneak preview of the apartments and views from the balcony. Stunning!

I met with **Dr Therese**

Coffey who was keen to know more about the FF initiative, its structure and governance and operational aims and objectives.

Discussions on social media and two meetings confirm a growing interest in an **urban park / community growing project** for Felixstowe. I would be interested to hear your views on this?

Publicity and promotion of events remains a constant thread in conversations along with the sudden removal of banners from railings. FF will look into a clear policy that can be communicated in its next newsletter.

A meeting with SCN has helped clarified responsibilities and reporting of issues. I am also aware that there is a **customer service point** at the Library for SCDC where I believe complaints and issues can be reported. I am looking into this to confirm if this is the case.

Talent Match is a new programme to help young people aged 18-24 who are long-term NEET (not in education, employment or training). Community Action Suffolk have approached FF to potentially develop a hub locally for Talent Match. More of this initiative in due course.

I also attended the **Felixstowe Dementia**

which is aiming to make Felixstowe a dementia friendly town. The model has been successfully implemented in Hadleigh with a toolkit. I know that Mayor Doreen Savage attended and I would be keen to hear your views on this initiative.



Keep up to date with what's happening in Felixstowe:

www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk

Follow Visit Felixstowe on facebook

Do you receive the regular Events Listing?

Contact Stephen Rampley, Events and Marketing Coordinator
Tel: 01284 675283
Email: stephen.rampley@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Marketing Felixstowe

Watch this space

Stephen has begun work on updating the visit Felixstowe website.

Stephen will be working with Ben Williams, SCDC intern, over the next few weeks to update the business directories.

Ben will also be working on

a new hospitality pack for the Town in preparation for a campaign to tour operators in September.

Please note the Great days by the Sea logo has been changed to link it with the Visit Felixstowe branding.

Retail Forum

FF facilitated the retail forum organised by the Felixstowe Chamber of Trade on Monday evening 29th.

The forum was set up following a survey of retailers in the Town to discuss the outcomes.

A formal briefing sheet will be available shortly but essentially the following key

areas were discussed:

- Pedestrianisation and shared access
- Car parking
- Promotion of the town centre (not just the seafront)
- Pilot project by Pierrots to combat the decline in high street footfall through a combined advertising campaign
- 'Trade local' campaign

- Coordination of a themed marketing campaign for Felixstowe
- Food festival.

These ideas and concerns will be shared at the event on the 17th for wider discussion.

Coming Up - Engagement Event

Felixstowe – taking the town forward and building a better future together.

17 July 2015
08.00 – 11.30am
Marlborough Hotel
Sea Front
IP11 2BJ

Developing a plan of action together

For Further information:

Contact Helen Greengrass

Helen.greengrass@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
Tel: 01394 444577
Mhile: 07717 150993

This event has attracted over 80 attendees and a press release will shortly be issued. Further information on the event, including the agenda and workshops, will be coming out later this week.

Please help promote the Felixstowe Forward engagement event.

Felixstowe – taking the town forward and building a better future together.

- How can we build on our successes?
- What are your current challenges?
- What would you like to see happen?
- What can we do together?

Date: Friday 17th July 2015
Time: 8.00 for 8.30 breakfast (bacon rolls and pastries) until 11.30am
Venue: Marlborough Hotel, Sea Front, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 2BJ
<http://www.marlborough-hotel-felix.com/>

Please help spread the word.

Issues

Please note:

Maintenance issues can be reported directly to Suffolk Coastal Norse customer services.

Contact details:

scs@ncsgrp.co.uk

Tel: 01394 444000

Light strings opposite FTC?

This matter is with the UK Power Networks who have responsibility. *Remains outstanding.*

Pigeons roosting in canopy

Response: Confirmation from Suffolk Coastal Norse that a deep clean will be undertaken when the pigeon deterrent fixing has arrived. Remains outstanding.

Boating Lake Tubs: Need weeding and are unsightly. Response: SCN have confirmed they will weed and

replant.

Weeding

Many complaints have been received about the weeding of the Seafront gardens, and other town sites including road verges. Response: These have been reported to SCN and to SCC.

Contact us at:

**Felixstowe Forward
Town Hall
Undercliff Road West
Felixstowe
IP11 2AG**

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01394 444577
07717 150993**

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Felixstowe.forward@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
Helen.greengrass@eastsoffolk.gov.uk**

Twitter: @felistowe4ward

Coming Up at the Triangle:

4 July Felixstowe Lions fundraiser

10 July F.A.C.T.S

11 July Felixstowe Horticultural Society

18 July St Johns Ambulance

25 July Suffolk Wildlife Trust

29 July Chief Constable and the PCC on tour

Felixstowe Forward is a joint venture between Suffolk Coastal District Council, Felixstowe Town Council and Suffolk County Council which is working with a wide range of partners, to tackle the town's key challenges and bring in improvements.