**MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th MAY 2015**

**Present:**

Ally Mckinnon and Ebony Churchill (Chairmen) and Adrian Lawson Frost (Felixstowe Academy)

Jasmin Fee, Betty Freeman, Tyler Johnson and Rebecca Wyard (Colneis School)

Josh Rolfe, Isaac Smith and Corinne Stockdale (Grange CP School)

Ben Cooper, Leah Martin and Wendy O’Connor (Level2)

Ollie Smith and Ally Mckinnon Felixstowe Academy

Moira Chapman and Helen Greengrass (Felixstowe Forward)

John Biglin (Felixstowe Seafront Gardens Community Development Officer)

Gillian Benjamin (SCDC Active Communities Team)

Councillors Doreen Savage and Margaret Morris (Felixstowe Town Council)

Ash Tadjrishi and Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

1. **INTRODUCTION**

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

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence have been received from Shez Underwood, Level2 and Samantha Barton, Places for People Leisure.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25th MARCH 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 25th March 2015, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, were agreed as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**4. LEVEL2 ITEMS**

 Level2 reported that all their session were running well and a good number of young people were attending. They were meeting up with young people around the town at places like the new Trim Trail site and the skate park. During the Easter holidays they enjoyed a chill out day at their Youth Hub, ice skating at Chelmsford, a great day at the circus in Great Yarmouth and a pool tournament at the Q-bar in Felixstowe.

 Level2 representatives told the Forum that in the May half term they will be continuing with their preparations for the Felixstowe and Trimley Carnivals and a day trip to Pleasurewood Hills Theme Park.

 In the Youth Forum Year 6 session they carried out a survey to find out what young people enjoy about going to Level2. The following was the response:

* It gives young people a safe place to be and somewhere there is always someone to talk too.
* Its fun, and you get to meet new people and get food and stuff !
* It gives me a place when I am sad, when I don’t feel safe and I can talk to anyone at Level2
* It’s a good place to hang out with your friends and make new friends
* Somewhere I can go without my brother

The representatives from Level2 reported there was now a new April-July 2015 Programme published as follows:

Tuesday 4pm-5.30pm School Years 7 & 8 Open Session

 7pm-8.30pm Girls Zone – School Years 7-11

Thursday 4pm-5.30pm School Year 6

 Transition to High School

Friday 8pm-9.30pm School Years 9-13

Monday to Thursday 10am -12Midday

Open for Young People age 16-25 to drop in for information, advice and guidance on many issues, including NEET, job search, benefits and housing.

Thursday Evenings 7-8.30pm

Youth Workers will be out and about around the town and Trimley villages doing Detached Youth Work.

**5. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS**

 Representatives from Colneis School wanted to apologise for not attending the last Youth Forum due to their school production of Matilda. This was a huge success and everybody enjoyed it. The play and music had been written especially for the school and the music had been performed by professional musicians. This enabled the school to raise £547 for the school charities Oxfam and EACH.

 Colneis representatives told the Forum that their Year6 had been learning in their PSHE lessons about the bad effects of smoking and alcohol. They were able to make an anti-smoking film called ‘Kids Know Best’ which had been entered into the Live Well Suffolk Oscars. To view this type: Colneis, Live Well Suffolk Oscars into YouTube. Please give the video a ‘Big Thumbs Up’ if you liked watching it ! They had been busy revising for their SATs which had been hard work but rewarding when they score high in practice tests.

 Colneis representatives reported that the school had been working towards becoming a Fairaware School. FairAware is the first Fairtrade Schools Award, and supports the school to find out about Fairtrade activities already going on in school, and learn about issues around Fairtrade. The schoo’ls council had carried out questionnaires as part of the learner audit. It was very time consuming to count and record 134 children and adults who took part in the questionnaire. They hoped to move on to the next stage which was a learning challenge after their SATS.

 Representatives from Colneis School told the Forum about their history topic which they have been working on since January 2015 about WW2. Throughout the term they have taken part in various projects related to WW2 with projects in Science and Drama. In March they took part in WW2 week, where for two days they dressed up as children during the war. When they arrived in the playground they were greeted by their ‘very’ strict teachers who after checking that they had their gas masks were made to feel that they had been evacuated.

The Colneis representatives were happy to report that three children from their school had won an art competition called Animal Magic. Their art work had been displayed at an art exhibition in Aldeburgh as well as in the Felixstowe Magazine. They were also celebrating coming second in the Felixstowe Swimming Gala.

Doreen Savage congratulated the representatives on all their achievements and asked what had happened to their parking survey. Rebecca Fryer reported that they had published in their School Newsletter a Code of Conduct for School Parking and borrowed a large banner for the school gates from the Police. This had now improved the situation but Mrs Fryer was not sure how quick it will come back. Rosemary Avenue was still very busy so they would like to do a survey of traffic in the future.

**6. GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS**

 Representatives from Grange School reported that their SAT’s tests were starting soon and once they were over they will be able to enjoy things that are going on at school like after school clubs and later.

 Grange School Eco Councillors recently attended an interesting event called Wildlife Trust Coastal Champion at Landguard Point. Every school in Felixstowe sent representatives from each class and they took part in lots of activities including studying crabs and lobsters up close, picking up litter and finding natural items on the beach. The idea was to inspire each school to start their own project. They have chosen recycling and have already started by giving each class a small green bin for food waste which will be put into their new compost bin and eventually become manure. All the schools will be meeting again to make presentations and enter the competition to find the Coastal Champion.

Grange School Representatives reported that the whole school had joined in with a project organised by the Year 1 teacher which involves Shaun the Sheep. It covered many aspects of the curriculum including Art, DT and Literacy. Their school is now overrun with brightly coloured life size sheep made of papier-mache ! Years 1 to 6 are also entering a competition to design a gadget for Shaun to use. Representatives then passed around the poster from the project showing the Forum about the confusing signs on how to get Shaun back to his farm using different calculations.

The representatives from Grange School told the Forum that most classes had trips planned for this term which they were all looking forward too.

**7. FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY**

 Representatives from Felixstowe Academy told the Forum about preparation for their forthcoming examinations which was affecting all aspects of school life. As the Election was forthcoming the 6th Formers from the Academy were having their own internal Elections, if they had registered to vote All major parties were running and the results were due Friday morning.!

Felixstowe Academy representatives told the Forum that the last 3 days of the school summer term were Activities Days. This was called FXAspire and was a fun, learning and opportunity experience. It gives staff and students the time to work and have fun together in a very different way. This builds and cements relationships and gives students the chance to see their teachers and support staff in a different light. Likewise staff had the opportunity to see students ‘shine’ at something they enjoy and often excel at, other than their own subject. There were over 43 different activities, some were free and some were expensive especially the trips abroad.

Representatives from the Academy told the Forum that their 6th Formers were planning a number of charity events for East Anglian Children’s Hospice £50 challenge. Form representatives met EACH recently to take receipt of the £350 that will kick start fundraising activity for a very worthwhile cause.  If they did not raise any funds through activity events from this amount then they would have to double it ! With each 6th Form Tutor Group taking on the challenge it was hoped that this results in lots of cash for EACH.

Mr Salter their Principal had decided to leave the Academy and interviews would be starting very soon to find his replacement. Mr Salter had been Head of Deben High School as well as later Orwell High School and been in charge with the joining of both Deben and Orwell High Schools to form Felixstowe Academy. Doreen Savage sent best wishes to Mr Salter for the future.

The Year 9 students had received a visit from Felixstowe’s twinning town Wesel students. Email addresses had been exchanged between students and it was hoped that a visit to their High School could be arranged soon.

**8. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

 The Town Clerk, Ash Tadjrishi told the Forum that the UK General Elections along with Local Elections for Felixstowe were happening tomorrow. Margaret Morris and Doreen Savage, Youth Forum Members were hoping to be re-elected for Felixstowe Town Council. This was up to the Felixstowe residents who had registered to vote. Four Councillors had not put themselves forward for re-election, so out of 16 Felixstowe Town Councillors there would be at least 4 changes so it was a very interesting time for Felixstowe Town Council.

 Doreen Savage reported that all Leisure Centres run by Places for People in our area had now signed up for the Stay Safe scheme. The scheme is co-ordinated by Suffolk Hate Crime Service but supported by many agencies, and vulnerable people whom are registered on the scheme carry a card. This Stay Safe Scheme gives vulnerable people a short term safe place to go if feeling threatened when out and about and helps people feel confident in their community. Shops, businesses and public buildings which are a Safe Place will have a sticker displayed in their window.

Doreen Savage asked the Forum if they were planning to enter Felixstowe in Flower this year especially as it was the 30th Anniversary. She would be visiting all the local schools to talk to students about the Grow Bag Competition, School Project Competition and Sunflower Competition as well as giving out sunflower seeds and forms.

**9. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD**

Felixstowe Forward replaced Felixstowe Futures as of 1st April 2015, and Helen Greengrass has been appointed as the Felixstowe Forward Change Director.

The Triangle Space in Hamilton Road is busy with bookings, including a live rock band on Sat 30th May (raising money for the Samaritans) and a ‘Discover Landguard’ information day on 6th June including museum items on display and a vintage car.

The Triangle is available for hire - please contact Moira Chapman on Tel: 01394 444576 or Email: felixstowe.forward@eastsuffolk.gov.uk. The space is free for Community use, with charges applicable for commercial use. A small admin fee is applicable for use by those without the correct insurance cover.

The Seafront Gardens contractors, Breheny, are making fantastic progress. Despite the ponds being cleared for works, some smooth newts, tadpoles and water snails have recently been found in the Arch Cascade pond. Some of the paths have also been re-surfaced. Part of Garden 7, along with all of Garden 8, is now open.

Updates and photographs are regularly shared on the Seafront Gardens Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/#!/FelixstoweSeaFrontGardens>) and website (<http://www.felixstoweseafrontgardens.org.uk/>).

The Spa Pavilion introductory event to launch the plans, and engage with the community and other interested parties is on 5 June 2015, between 11am and 1pm. If you would like an invitation to the launch event, or wish to find out more about the opportunities for local theatre productions, please contact Ray Anderson at ray.anderson@spapavilion.net. Webpage is: [www.spapavilion.net](http://www.spapavilion.net)

At Martello Park, the South Seafront development, the new toilet/changing facilities are currently in the process of being built (currently awaiting a completion date).

Doreen Savage asked the Forum what they thought of the Trim Trail and did they like it ? The Forum agreed they liked it a lot and had seen a number of people use it.

**10. PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE**

 Sam Barton sent her apologies to this meeting but asked if their Newsletter could be distributed.

**11. COMMUNITY ACTION SUFFOLK**

 Gillian Benjamin, Development Officer, Community Planning from Community Action Suffolk told the Forum about the possibility of holding a bigger version of the Youth Forum. This could be in the form of a Youth Ambassador who will be able to give young people in Suffolk Coastal district a voice to influence decisions within the District Council when deciding their policies. Initially this would be for the students of the 6 High Schools spread out throughout the District but later would be for the students from the Primary Schools as well. The funding was coming from the Local Strategic Partnership to start this project. There had been a project called Suffolk Coastal Team Voices in the past which had brought young people from across the District together, but there had been problems when the funding ran out after 18 months. A great deal of the funding had mostly gone on travel costs. Waveney District Council had a very successful group but this was very much smaller. The Forum Members asked where the meetings were to be held and wondered if the video conferencing facilities of Felixstowe Academy would help with travel costs and also reduce the carbon footprint.

**12. TOUR OF SPA GARDENS**

 It was agreed that weather permitting on the last meeting of the Youth Forum on Wednesday 24th June the Youth Forum would meet at the Town Hall at 4pm to tour the newly refurbished Spa Gardens. It was agreed that Lorna Monsen would contact the Youth Forum Members via email asking for confirmation of names of those who would be attending but numbers would need to be kept at a minimuml.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Please note that at the last Youth Forum meeting of the school year on 24th June 2015 will be a tour of the Spa Gardens. If this is not possible due to the weather the meeting will be held at the Town Hall and be Chaired by Grange Primary School. Thereafter the next meeting will be in the new school year on Wednesday 11th November 2015 and will be also be Chaired by Grange Primary School.