



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29th JUNE
2016 AT FELIXSTOWE SPA PAVILION

Present:

Charlie Webb, Archie Wilks (Chairmen), and Rebecca Wyard (Colneis Junior School)
Cole Collins, Logan Hollis-Roberts, Daniel Phillips, Georgia-Ruby Diaper
Megan Watts, Alicia Little and Sally Long (Causton Junior School)
Ebany Churchill, Rebecca Hammond, Jonah Ozanne and Chris Ozanne (Felixstowe Academy)
Kai Hoang, Erika Lempek and Corinne Stockdale (Grange CP School)
Elise Gorski and Shez Southernwood (Level2)
Matthew Caisly, Rory Gardiner, Grace Wells and Kate Bennett (Trimley St Mary School)
Rev Andrew Dotchin (St Johns Parish Church)
Vicky Foster (Police Community Support Officer)
Helen Greengrass (Felixstowe Forward)
Jonny Lowdell (Places for People Leisure)
Councillors Christina Barham and Doreen Savage (Felixstowe Town Council)
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

1. INTRODUCTION

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

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18th MAY 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 18th May 2016, 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 thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the Forum throughout the year. They thought it was a great chance to, not only share what everyone got up to at their school but also find out what everybody else does in the local schools. They also thanked the Spa Pavilion for hosting the meeting today.

Colneis School representatives told the Forum that they were very pleased to tell the Forum that One Life Suffolk (The School Health and Wellbeing Project run by Suffolk

County Council) loved all their anti-smoking films and were therefore invited to the 'Oscars' again this year and hoped to receive an award.

The representatives told the Forum about their residential trip to Mersea Island Outdoor Learning Centre which they had visited for a week. They had camped for four nights and joined in different activities throughout the week. The Forum was then treated to a mini movie of what they got up to ! The Forum Members clapped and thanked Colneis School for showing them their wonderful experiences they had on their residential trip.

5. GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS

The Grange School representatives told the Youth Forum that as their Year 6 children were on a residential trip to Belchamps in Essex they were representing Grange School and they would be continuing to represent the School in the new academic year. They told the Forum that they were looking forward to the last few weeks of school especially Sports week which starts on Monday. They are doing all sorts of sports activities, also an Olympic athlete is visiting their school and they have Sports Day at the end of the week, with a hot dog in a bag lunch which they were really looking forward too ! At the weekend their School Book Club attended a 'Meet the Author' event at the Library as part of the Felixstowe Book Festival. They were able to ask Polly Ho-Yen who wrote the book 'The Boy in the Tower' lots of questions and all the children said she was brilliant ! She took a lot of time signing all their books which was great.

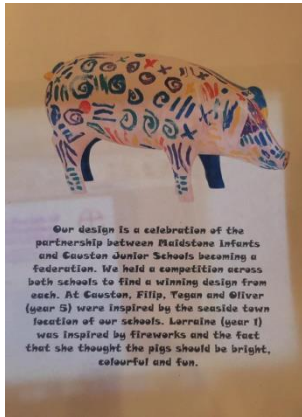
Representatives from Grange School told the Forum that they had visited the Spa Gardens recently. They had found this very interesting as they had been studying the book 'The Secret Garden'. Normally the school would have gone to Somerleyton Hall, near Lowestoft but this had proved too expensive so Mrs Stockdale suggested visiting the beautiful Spa Gardens. It had been a lovely day and they had learnt a lot about the history of the Gardens. They had especially enjoyed the water features and shelters and they had even found a secret wall covered in ivy ! The representatives thanked Helen Greengrass for the fantastic, interesting tour that she gave them.

6. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Causton School representatives told the Forum that they could not believe that this was the last Youth Forum of the School Academic Year as it had flown by. They reminisced about their year which included SATs, sporting events, the Fairtrade event where they got to meet Patrick Kaberia a farmer from the Michimikuru Tea Company in Kenya. They were now looking forward to their Prom, their school production and transition events.

Representatives from Causton School told the Forum that their own school transition was in full swing and the children within their school were preparing to move up to their new teachers. The Yr2's from Maidstone Infant School had been to visit them a couple of times and the Yr 5's had been paired up with the new Yr 3 classes to teach them about what goes on at Causton Junior School.

The Causton School representatives told the Forum about the 'Pigs Gone Wild' trail in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice which is now up and running in Ipswich. You can collect a map of the trail from many shops in Ipswich including Boots, the Town Hall, Pennikity Pots and the Suffolk County Council building. The Causton and Maidstone pig is decorated to celebrate the partnership between the two schools becoming a federation. They held a competition across both schools to find a winning design from each school. The Causton winners were inspired by their seaside town and the Maidstone winner was inspired by fireworks and the fact that they thought that the pig should be bright, colourful and fun. Please see photograph below of their pig :



Christina Barham asked the representatives from Causton how much the pig cost to sponsor and how did the school raise the money. The representatives told the Forum that the cost was £500 which was raised by many activities including a bacon & sausage breakfast for parents. There had been a big launch at Trinity Park and the pigs would be put along a 9 mile trail in Ipswich.

7. FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY ITEMS

Felixstowe Academy representatives told the Forum that the fire that had happened at their school during school time had been evacuated in 4 minutes which was brilliant as there were over 1300 students attending that day. The fire had started in the computer server room but wifi was now back on and available at the school..

Felixstowe Academy had recently welcomed local schools to their school. The pupils had loved using the equipment at the Academy and they were looking forward to meeting some of the pupils again in their Year6 Induction Day. The Year 6 pupils would be having taster sessions in Science, Maths, English, Media and Dance.

They were lots of forthcoming events planned at the Academy including Sports Day, music on the field and the final of the talent show. They hoped to raise in total approximately £10,000 for charity.

Felixstowe Academy were expecting record numbers of 6th formers in the new academic year. They had received a visit of 6th formers from a school in Luxembourg and hoped to arrange an exchange visit with them in the future.

8. TRIMLEY ST MARY PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum that their school has become a Fair aware school. Their Year 5 have filled out a questionnaire about Fair trade and had enjoyed games and lessons about Fairtrade bananas. They hoped to encourage more Fairtrade products at their school for example when parents attended school events.

Trimley St Mary School held a wildlife photograph competition with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. They had to take a photograph of a place special to them in Trimley or taken at Trimley Marshes. There were 3 winners across the school and the winning photographs were hoped to be published in the next Suffolk Wildlife Trust magazine.

The representatives from Trimley St Mary School told the Forum Members about their Reading Ambassador Club where children from Year 5 and 6 have a reading buddy that they visit and help in the younger classes. This has become really popular and some of the Ambassadors have 2 reading buddies.

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum about the experiment they had recently done involving two packets of seeds, one red and one blue. One of the packets had been into space with Tim Peake but they did not know which packet. They planted them both and had to measure the speed of growth, the height of the stalk and when they saw 2 true leaves. This was for one month. The result was that the red packet had grown taller and stronger than the blue packet of seeds. The blue packet had been up to space and this is what the Space Biologist had predicted.

Representatives from Trimley St Mary School told the Forum that their Year 5 and 6 students had been very busy learning their words and dance moves for their Summer production called Westerfield at War. This was about World War 2 evacuees coming to school and having fun and a smile on their faces during WW2. The school had two casts and was being performed next week. The Year 5 students had interviewed their current Year 6 students about their time at Thorpe Woodlands Residential Centre so they know what to expect when they have the opportunity to attend next year. The comments were as follows:

Amazing, Fun, Lots of space, Overcome our fears, Staff are kind, Awesome, Fantastic and a Great Experience.

9. LEVEL2 ITEMS

Level2 representatives told the Youth Forum that their Yr 6 sessions to work with young people who are struggling with the move from Junior School to High School was still very popular.

Level2 had received 5 brand new exercise bikes at their youth hub. These are very popular with all young people visiting Level2. They have set themselves a challenge to cycle the equivalent distance from Felixstowe to Rio in Brazil where the 2016 Olympics are being held. The distance is 5826 miles ! They are hoping to arrive at the destination on the 5th August in time for the start of the Olympics.

Representatives from Level2 told the Forum that their new youth club at Kirton is going well. This is for young people age 10 to 14 with the older young people age 15 to 19 provided with transport to Level2's youth hub using Level2's minibus. Some of the people Level2 work with when they are out and about on Detached work at the Felixstowe skate park successfully auditioned for the Co-op Juniors production of Starlight Express. They did really well and were even on the TV and in the local newspapers.

Representatives told the Forum that Level2 were now looking forward to taking part in both the Trimley and Felixstowe Carnivals over the summer season and had an action packed Summer Programme which is available on their website, facebook page and also was distributed to the Youth Forum Members.

10. PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE

Jonny Lowdell from PPL told the Forum that they were finalising their Summer Programme for 2016. They hoped to be able to offer different activities including badminton, tennis, trampolining and crash courses in learning to swim. In conjunction with Premier Sport the following activities will also be available:

Multi Sports, Football, Archery, Dancing/Performing Arts and Fencing

Jonny told the Forum that PPL were offering 6 free defibrillator training sessions as they had staff qualified to train members of the public. If you were interested in this training please contact himself or the Clerk to see if there were any places available.

To raise money for local charities the PPL staff had swam the same mileage as Tim Peake had travelled to and from the Space Station and had raised over £1000.

11. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD

Helen Greengrass thanked the Youth Forum for their contribution to suggestions on possible future projects for Felixstowe Forward which they had found very useful.

Helen told the Forum that the new open top bus tours around Felixstowe on Sundays and Wednesdays would be starting on the 24th July until the end of August. Also in July there was a Pirate's on the Prom one mile fundraising walk event. The best dressed pirate would win a prize ! Hot Rods would be coming to Felixstowe Prom on Saturday 27th August arriving any time after 11.30am. For further information on this and other events please visit the VisitFelixstowe website or facebook page.

Corinne Stockdale asked if the posters the Forum Members sent to Felixstowe Forward were used. Helen confirmed that they were put up on display at their One Year On Event at the Orwell Hotel and she had mentioned Felixstowe Youth Forum in her presentation. Felixstowe Forward hoped next year Felixstowe Youth Forum would become more involved.

Helen told the Forum that they had received over 500 responses to the Cycling on the Prom consultation, with 63.5% in favour of having the law lifted on no cycling on the prom. She thanked the Forum Members for their responses. The comments were sent to Suffolk Coastal District Council who would now look at the safety aspects of this and make a recommendation to their Cabinet. As of this moment the law still stands and therefore no cycling on the prom was prohibited.

12. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

The Clerk told the Forum that Felixstowe Town Council had made the initial enquiry concerning cycling on the prom and that the consultation had been really effective.

Ash told the Forum that the Town Council had had their most important meeting in May where a new Mayor, Cllr Jan Garfield had now been elected. The Mayor had launched Felixstowe in Flower and with the generosity of the Co-op Society had given away free grown bags and sunflower seeds to all local schools so they could enter the competitions. If you looked around the town and some streets in Felixstowe you will see the hanging baskets sponsored by different companies in Felixstowe.

Ash reported to the Forum that the Town Council had just ordered a flag pole which was to be sited in the Town Hall Gardens and will fly the Town Crest. The Town Council had had a very successful event to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday with over 200 people visiting the Town Hall to have tea and cakes with the Mayor and Councillors. There was also music kindly supplied by the Josh and Harry Cole.

Doreen Savage told the Forum that she had attended the Police Safety Neighbourhood Team Meeting and Vicky Foster was at today's meeting representing the Team. At this meeting Members raised concerns about cycling on pavements in Felixstowe especially adults. There was also concerns about parking outside the local schools and Doreen was able to let them know about all the hard work Colneis School had done about this outside Colneis School and passed on the minutes of the Youth Forum meetings where this was discussed. Felixstowe Youth Forum may be asked to do further work for the Safer Neighbourhood Team concerning both subjects.

Doreen told the Forum how lucky we were to have so much community spirit in Felixstowe especially when it comes to Felixstowe in Flower. Radio Suffolk had been

discussing the lack of hanging baskets in Ipswich and comparing them with other towns. Felixstowe was very lucky with sponsorship from local companies and she wanted to thank the schools for getting involved in Felixstowe in Flower.

13. FELIXSTOWE SPA PAVILION

Doreen Savage introduced Gary Wright, part owner of the Spa Pavilion to the Forum and thanked him very much for inviting Felixstowe Youth Forum to hold their last meeting of the school academic year at the Spa. Gary thanked Doreen for the kind words and welcomed everyone to the Spa. He told the Forum that they were working very hard to make the Spa a success. There was a continuing struggle to get acts to perform at the Spa as some acts the Spa was too big and for others the Spa was too small. They had achieved a successful Christmas and Easter Programme and hoped to achieve the same for the Summer Programme. In October they will be hosting a special show aimed at younger children from the TV programme Toy Factory.

A representative from Trimley St Mary School asked why the Spa Pavilion had been closed for over 3 years. Gary told the Forum that unfortunately the big company that owned the Spa were unable to afford the cost of running it anymore. Doreen Savage told the Forum that the District Council had been paying out £250,000 a year for the upkeep of the Spa and they could no longer do this. Thankfully Gary and his business partner came along and saved it.

14. FELIXSTOWE POLICE

Vicky Foster, Police Community Support Officer thanked the Forum for allowing her to attend their meeting. She was very impressed with the Forum and would be happy to attend all future meetings. The Police had received complaints from the members of public concerning youths climbing the canopies and using them as trampolines at Martello Park so these had now had to be taken down. A solution was hoped to soon be found.

Vicky hoped that she would be visiting the local schools soon and if you saw her please stop and say hello.

15. REV ANDREW DOTCHIN, ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

Reverend Andrew Dotchin told the Forum that Langer Academy Primary School was the only school in his Parish. He had an idea for 2017, he would like to invite all Year 6 pupils to climb St John's Church tower as this is the highest point in Felixstowe before they go up into their high schools. It was such a wonderful view of our wonderful town. He was looking at possibly holding the event after SATs maybe close to Ascension Day, finishing off with pizza. He wished all the Youth Forum Members well and hoped that when they grew up they grew up good.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 9th November 2016** (to be Chaired by Grange Primary School) at **4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall.