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MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th MAY 2017

Present:

Chloe Barker and Henry Botwright (Chair) and Kyrsty Beattie (Kingsfleet School)
Bethany Huggins, Francesca Lynch and Julia Steele (Colneis Junior School)
Cole Collins, Georgia-Ruby Diaper, Logan Hollis-Roberts, Alicia Little and Sally Long
(Causton Junior School)
Kai Hoang, Erika Lempek and Corinne Stockdale (Grange Community Primary)
Lewis Daily, Evie Reke and Sarah Gorski (Langer Primary Academy)
Ellie Southgate, Grace Wells and Kate Bennet (Trimley St Mary School)
Elise Gorski, Chloe Nimmo and Kirsty Coldwell (Level2)
Ebany Churchill, Tom Davies, Kirsty Laird, Victoria Walker and C Fell-Nicholls
(Felixstowe Academy)
Steven Downes (Places for People Leisure)
Councillor 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

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Jepson, Jonny Lowdell (Places for People Leisure) and Ash Tadjrishi (Town Clerk)

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 22nd MARCH 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 22nd March 2017, 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 that they have continued to be very busy at their school. Their school play, The Jungle Book took place before the Easter holidays and was an enormous success. There were three evening performances and two daytime performances. The play was enjoyed by all the audience and the feedback had been excellent.

Colneis Representatives told the Forum that last week was SATs week for all Year 6 children across the country. They had to complete 6 test papers across a range of subjects including maths, reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar. The Year 6 children are very relieved that the SATs are now over and they can now look forward to their final weeks at Junior School. Next week staff and ambassadors from Felixstowe Academy were visiting Colneis Junior School to talk to Year 6 children about the transition in September to Secondary School. This will give them an opportunity to meet them and ask any questions.

Colneis School representatives told the Forum that everyone was very excited as the Year 6s would be soon going on their residential trip to Mersea Island in Essex. They would have the opportunity to try a variety of activities including high ropes, caving, aerial runaway and making kit-karts, hopefully the sun will shine ! The children who had chosen not to go to Mersea Island will be completing a variety of local outdoor activities in Felixstowe.

5. GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS

The Grange School representatives told the Youth Forum that their SATs tests went well and they put this down to the fact that everyone stayed calm and stress free. They were now looking forward to Sports week, their residential trip to Belchamps in Essex, the Year 6 play and now the famous 'Grange has got Talent' which was held at the end of the term.

The representatives from Grange told the Forum that Mrs Reynish's Memorial Garden was nearly ready to be opened. They were planning a big opening ceremony where they plan to invite Mr Reynish and his family as they had also been involved in the project. They were planning to invite those who had helped with funding the project including the Co-op, Cllr Doreen Savage and Suffolk Coastal District Council. However they were worried about advertising the opening in the local newspaper as this might encourage vandals to spoil the garden. They asked if any Cllrs had any thoughts or ideas about this. Cllr Doreen Savage said one of the best ways to deter vandalism was to have volunteers looking after the garden who would then have a personal interest in it, whether it be parents, teachers or students. Doreen asked if they had thought of asking for plants to be contributed to the Garden so that all the community had an interest in it. The representatives said they would take away these ideas and discuss it with their teachers and students.

Grange school representatives told the Forum about their schools plans for the future. Unfortunately they would be closing the School Nursery in September due to lack of children. Due to less funding they cannot afford to run the School Nursery with less children and therefore the money will be used on other things. The children from the School Nursery will therefore go to the Nursery at The Oaks which is next door to the school. Grange school will be starting an after school club so along with the breakfast club all school age children can be looked after from 8am to 6pm which will help working parents with childcare. Many of their Teaching Assistants will therefore be changing their hours to accommodate this. This will be a big change for the school and they were hoping everything will run smoothly.

6. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

The representatives from Causton Junior School told the Forum how happy they were that SATs had now finished. They had worked very hard over the last few months so that they could do their best in their tests. They were now looking forward to their trip to Landguard Fort to learn about Felixstowe's heritage and what happened on Darrell's Day in 1667.

Causton representatives told the Forum that their Year6 production was very soon and they would bring photographs of the event to the next meeting.

7. KINGSFLEET PRIMARY SCHOOL

The representatives from Kingsfleet Primary School told the Forum that their Reading Council welcomed Tracey Corderoy, the childrens author, to the school to officially open their school library. In the assembly Tracey shared one of her stories Shifty Miffty and Slippery Sam where the whole school was captivated by her reading the book. At the celebration Tracey cut the ribbon and everyone had a piece of a delicious cake baked by the school cook. The library is now a much nicer place to relax and enjoy the great books.

Kingsfleet representatives told the Forum that their School Council were helping to plan their school Suffolk Day. This was a day where they would celebrate things that make Suffolk great. They have made a good start but still had lots to do. The event would take place in June and they hope it would help everyone in the school appreciate our county and its history.

The school association, the KSA, were preparing for the Kingsfleet Talent Show which was due to take place shortly. This will enable the school children to share their talents with everyone and would be a fun evening.

8. LANGER ACADEMY SCHOOL ITEMS

Representatives from Langer Academy reported that their Year 6s were currently on their residential trip so they had stepped in from Year 5. The Year 6s had been attending a breakfast club whilst the SATs were taking place and were glad they were all over.

The new water fountain that the school council had campaigned for had now been installed. The school children in Langer had recently enjoyed a Pestaurant session. This is a company that comes into a school offering types different sources of protein including edible bugs such as mealworms and buffalo worms. The younger children had enjoyed a tour of the Town Hall and were looking forward to a tour of Landguard Fort. This was to link with their school topic on Felixstowe.

The school had enjoyed another successful book fair which raised £736.83. The school will get half of this amount to buy new books for their library. A nice quiet area has just been set up in a cosy corner of their playground. They had astro-turfed a small area and put large comfy bean bags to relax on.

The representations from Langer School told the Forum about their beach school. This is where they have lessons at the beach whenever possible. Recently their Early Years and KS1 sent messages in a bottle out to sea and they have just received letters from other school children from just down the coast in Holland on Sea, Essex. Tomorrow they were celebrating Empty Classroom Day and they would be having lessons outside. They really enjoyed working outdoors and learnt lots of new things.

9. TRIMLEY ST MARY SCHOOL ITEMS

Representatives from Trimley St Mary told the Youth Forum that they had been very busy this term. They had been awarded the Fair Active Award from the Fairtrade Foundation for their work with the Felixstowe Fairtrade Fiesta and the Fairtrade flapjack project.

The representatives told the Forum that they had applied for some free trees from the Woodland Trust which have now been delivered. The trees were Hazel, Rowan and Silver Birch. The school council were involved in designing where the trees would be planted by researching where they would grow best. A parent helper who is also an Ipswich Park Ranger came into their school to show the students how to plant them. They are looking forward to watching them grow and to see what wildlife they help attract into the school grounds.

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum that their Years 5 and 6 opened a museum in the school hall on the last Friday before Easter holidays about Anglo Saxons which was their classroom topic for that term. There was a model village made by the students, a display of bags and tunics that they had sewn and jewellery and biscuits that they had made. Parents were able to buy these objects as part of their whole school Enterprise project. On May 26th Trimley St Mary School were holding their own Race For Life. This was in memory of one of their Teaching Assistants, Mrs Jane Watts who had sadly passed away earlier this year. They were going to wear blue PE kits that day along with special celebration cards on their backs and they will be fundraising for Cancer Research UK.

Representatives from Trimley St Mary School told the Forum that now their SAT's were finished they were getting really excited about their summer school production The Lion King. The teachers had surprised the students by announcing that they could go to London to watch the live stage show in the West End. They would be leaving school at 3pm but not returning until 1.30am in the morning so they would be a few tired children and staff the next day !

The Trimley St Mary School would like to send their congratulations to their friend Rebecca McCafferty who they nominated for the HMS Ganges Youth Award this year. Rebecca and her family, along with Mrs Bennett attend the Awards Evening at the Town Hall where Rebecca was presented with her Certificate for Outstanding Service to Felixstowe by the Mayor of Felixstowe. The school is very proud of Rebecca for all the extra help and support she gives her family.

10. FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY

Representatives from Felixstowe Academy reported that they were at the beginning of the exam period for GCSEs and A Levels. They were a lot of after school support as well as during the school day.

In February they have been partnered with a school in Durban, South Africa where they were able to Skype the students as part of the Open Air Schools 96th Birthday.

Felixstowe Academy representatives told the Forum about the activities they had around Red Nose day this year which had included car washes, cake sales and leg waxing. Their Year 8 students would shortly be making their options for GCSEs and a meeting for parents and students would be held shortly.

This year FXAspire was running for two days towards the end of the Summer term, options include water sports, visiting West End shows, horse-riding and even a Pokemon walk !

11. LEVEL2 ITEMS

Level2 representatives told the Youth Forum that Level2 had had a busy couple of months. Their Easter holiday activities were very popular with over 40 young people going on trips which included Jump Street and Colchester Leisure World. Twenty eight young people in Year6 came on some activities and they were asked for feedback and ideas for future trips, one of which was a trip to London. So in May half term this had been arranged, they would visit Madam Tussauds and the London Dungeons. There had also been a three day trip to Tunstall Forest where 10 young people spent 3 days building a coracle. All the young people did a fantastic job working together in teams and were taught new skills by the people at the forest through the Young Roots Scheme. On the last day they took their coracles on the lake and all three sailed.

Representatives from Level2 told the Forum that their Open Sessions were still very popular and numbers were increasing in all of them. There had been new young people coming to their Year 6 sessions. This was a great opportunity for young people to meet those from other primary schools so they can make friends before seeing each other at the Academy. Level2 had been focusing on physical health and exercise over the past month so some of the Open Sessions had been at the park. They had played rounders and football and used the equipment at Martello Park to increase their exercise. They had also done an assault course competition at Level2 and a true or false quiz to help young people learn more about physical health. Over the next month they would be focusing on healthy eating so they would be trying lots of new healthy foods, cooking and looking at portion sizes.

Level Two had started a new project 18-25 year olds living in supported housing in Felixstowe. On Thursday mornings two youth workers deliver bacon rolls and have a chat

with people. So far this was working well and young adults seem to enjoy having people from Level2 offer support in this way. Level2 was working closely with MyGo, who are able to work with young people age 16-24, offering them support with jobs, training, apprenticeships etc. The Friday night open session at Level2 is for Year10 plus and is really busy with up to 60 young people each week. MyGo often come to this session to offer support and lots of young people have found this helpful.

The representatives from Level2 told the Forum that their AGM was on 22nd May and if you wanted to find out more about Level2 and see what they had been up to over the past year to go along. They are really pleased that the new Mayor, Cllr Nick Barber had chosen Level2 as one of his charities and they will let everyone know about the fun events that would be arranged shortly. Level2 had lots of things available for young people in the town which included:

Weekly Open Sessions

Holiday Activity trips and visits

1-to-1 Mentoring Services

Youth and Family Mentoring

Support for young people with gender or sexuality issues

Support of young people not in school for whatever reason

Small group sessions from June to October for those students who may need a little extra support to make a positive transition to High School for whatever reason

Use of their Hub by way of a class treat or alternative learning environment for a particular curriculum element such as PHSE.

12. PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE

Steven Downes reported that there was major work being done on the Health Suite at the Leisure Centre shortly, this would include a new sauna and upgrading the showers and changing rooms. The flume in the swimming pool area was also being upgraded. This was to include a traffic light system rather than relying on a Lifeguard to allow you down.

Steven reported that they were just finishing the half term programme for activities at the Leisure Centre which would include inflatable sessions at the swimming pool. The summer holiday activities would include canoe courses, personal survival course and diving courses. There was also an opportunity for a free trial swimming lesson on 20th May which would include a months free swimming for one lucky winner !

Felixstowe Leisure Centre would be involved in the Armed Forces Weekend on Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th June 2017.

Between 16th-26th June is Drowning Prevention Week. This is a National campaign from the Royal Life Saving Society. One person drowns every 20 hours in the UK and hundreds more suffer life changing injuries through near drowning. Felixstowe Leisure Centre will be holding courses for adults and children during this time which will include showing how to use a defibrillator and how Life Guards are trained. Leaflets about all these events will be coming out soon.

Steven Downes then reported on news from Brackenbury Sports Centre. During half term week Brackenbury will be holding different activities which will include dance, trampolining and basketball. They are also holding Boxing courses for students from 11 years old upwards. Please look at their website to book these classes.

Level2 representatives asked that advertising about the activities at both the Leisure Centre and Brackenbury be in paper format as they hold a support session for 18-25 year olds for housing etc and they have no internet access.

13. YOUTH FORUM BUDGET 2017-2018

Members noted that they need to consider how they might like to use the Youth Forum Budget for 2017-2018 in order to support projects or activities for young people in Felixstowe. Members were asked to bring suggestions to the next Youth Forum Meeting on 28 June 2017.

14. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Doreen Savage thanked the Forum for agreeing to use last years (May 2016-May 2017) Youth Forum budget of £2000 towards the outside cinema which was planned for **Saturday 29 July 2017**. Doreen then read out the top three choices of films which were Jaws, Finding Nemo and Goonies. The film Jaws was now classified as a 12 rating so may not be possible to show.

Doreen Savage then told the Forum about this year's Felixstowe in Flower Competitions. She was visiting local schools with the Mayor to promote this. The Co-op had kindly donated Sunflower seeds and these were being distributed around the schools with competition forms.

Doreen reported that Felixstowe was lucky enough to be chosen to hold the Armed Forces Weekend on 24th & 25th June. This was a huge event for Felixstowe which Felixstowe Town Council is sponsoring. For more information please see link below <http://www.visitfelixstowe.org.uk/suffolk-armed-forces-weekend>

There will be events for young people where the Trim Trail is on the seafront and the organisers would like young people to get involved in this.

Felixstowe Forward will be holding their annual event on 20th July at the Orwell Hotel to look back and see what Felixstowe Forward has done over the past year. They would like young people to be involved and further details will follow shortly.

Doreen Savage told the Forum that the new Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr Nick Barber would like to attend the next Youth Forum Meeting on 28th June at the Spa Pavilion.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 28th June 2017** (to be Chaired by Langer Academy Primary School at **4pm – 5.30pm at the Spa Pavilion. Felixstowe.**