



**MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2018**

**Present:**

Liam Campbell-Smith, Amy Lee and Aaron Read (Chairs) Caspar Van Gameren (Causton Junior School)  
Elise Gorski and Kirsty Coldwell (Level2)  
Martha Simmons, Merley Teye-Botchway, Isabella Williams and Julia Steele (Colneis Junior School)  
Tegan Cameron, Olivia Porter, Jack O'Reilly and Corinne Stockdale (Grange Community Primary)  
Sophie Hudson, Rylie King and Sarah Gorski (Langer Primary Academy)  
Paige Cannell, Josh Dunning, Owen Young and Christina Ashford (Trimley St Mary School)  
Rev Andrew Dotchin (Level Two, Air Cadets, Girl Guides, Langer Primary Academy and St John's Church)  
Alan Mulchal and Stephen Wyatt (Felixstowe Fairtrade)  
Helen Greengrass (Felixstowe Forward)  
Cllr Doreen Savage (Felixstowe Town Council)  
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

**1. MINUTE SILENCE**

A minute silence was held to commemorate the loss of lives on the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the North Sea Floods.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Steven Downes, Operations Manager (Felixstowe Leisure Centre) and Ash Tadjrishi (Town Clerk).

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2017**

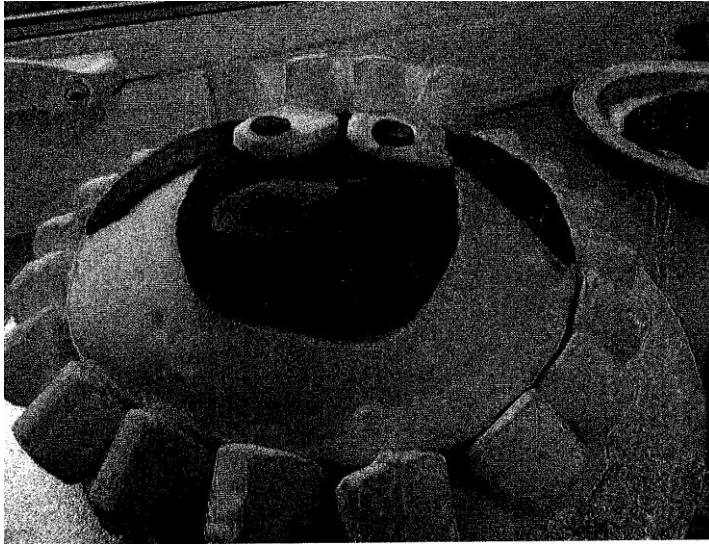
The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 1 November 2017, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, were agreed as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**4. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS**

Representatives from Causton School told the Forum about their week at Thorpe Woodlands. They had a fun, exciting and messy week with amazing activities ie tree trekking, raft building, canoeing and much more. They were all very sad to leave this amazing place. One of their Year 5 pupils had been on a Yes Futures PGL camping trip in Surrey. Where they had slept in cabins and met lots of new friends. The activities included a zip wire, challenge course and campfires.

Causton School representatives told the Forum that they were beginning to prepare for SATS which included reading comprehension, writing and lots of revising ie fractions, division and multiplication. Pupils had been starting school at 8am to accomodate this.

Two weeks ago the representatives told the Forum that they had held the final of the Causton Bake Off. The standard was very high and the cakes included a giraffe, unicorn, Shaun the sheep, a hedgehog and a flower. The winner was the Shaun the sheep cake by Grace (please see below)



Grace was interviewed about the competition and she said that she was very happy that all her hard work had paid off and she thought all the competitors were great.

Causton representatiives told the Forum that they were looking forward to their annual event Causton's Got Talent Competition. Everyone has a chance to audition and they have had in the past all sorts of acts including dancing, singing, acting, comedy and much more. Every year was different and it was a lot of fun.

## **5. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS**

The Colneis Junior School representatives introduced themselves to the Forum. They told the Forum that last year they had studied the 1953 storms as part of their Geography topic on rivers and coasts. They had learnt about the lives lost, particularly in Felixstowe and therefore they were honoured to be remembering those who lost their lives today, 65 years on from the disaster.

Since the last meeting they have enjoyed many school Christmas events. This included their Christmas fayre and performing a total of 6 Christmas concerts which raised money for charity.

Representations from Colneis School told the Forum that their Year 6 classes had starting learning about WW2. As part of this they had been visited by a real-life evacuee. The evacuee had described her experiences of being evacuated and about living and surviving the war. She described how Winston Churchill was her absolute hero and what she thought of Hitler which was 'unprintable' and explained how the problems which Hitler had caused throughout Europe were truly evil. ! They had also learnt in detail how the war had started. For part of the project they had dressed up as WW2 children and underwent a mock up experience of being billeted to foster families. They endured WW2 lessons including dictation, handwriting and arithmetic. Every time the air raid siren sounded, they had to imagine they were moving to their air raid shelters and hide under their desks ! In the future they would be visiting Duxford Air Museum to learn about the aircraft used in the war.

Colneis School representatives told the Forum that their school play would be taking place during March. This year they would be performing 'A Midsummer's Night Dream'. A cast of 50 children were already busy learning their lines, songs and dances.

## **6. GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS**

The representatives from Grange School told the Forum that they had an interim Head teacher as their Head teacher had now given birth to twin boys. They had received a visit from Ofsted in November and were awaiting the results, although the new interim Head teacher was already making changes. The skip outside the school was now completely full! Unfortunately though they have had to close their after school club as not enough children were using it.

Grange School representatives told the Forum that their school library was now quite old and many books were out of date and very tatty. They would like to convert a classroom into a brand new library but obviously this would cost a lot of money which the school does not have. They were applying for various grants and they hoped to raise money by holding a book fair and possibly a second hand book stall. They said it would be lovely to have a quiet area where children could enjoy reading interesting books. A renewed interest in reading should also help children at Grange to attain good reading and writing results. Doreen Savage told the representatives that there may be a possibility of applying for a grant for this either from the Town Council and/or from an Enabling budget that the Suffolk Coastal District Cllrs have access too. However, there are restrictions on this including the fact that any project would need to be for a community use and it would be advisable to look on line to look at the constraints.

The representatives told the Forum that at the school recently they had found a scene of devastation apparently caused by a tornado! Desks were over-turned, tree branches and leaves were all over the classroom. They had to clear this up, including hoovering and the work was timed so that they could work out the cost of the work. This was inspired by the project they were studying called "The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore". They also wrote an article about tornadoes using some facts found on line. This enabled them to cover the subjects of Literacy, Maths and ICT all due to one tornado!

## **7. LANGER PRIMARY ACADEMY SCHOOL ITEMS**

Representatives from Langer Primary Academy told the Forum that since the last meeting they had been very busy coming up with ideas and achieved many things. In November their school council had held an assembly for the first time. They were a bit nervous but introduced themselves and explained why each of them wanted to be a school councillor. They now had a display board to use to promote ideas and they had decided to use a plastic wallet so pupils could put any questions they have for them in it. They also hope to have a drop in and chat with session.

In December 2017 KS2 had a carol concert at St Edmunds Church and they performed to their parents. Everyone had a brilliant evening and the pupils received a standing ovation which made them feel very proud. The Year 1 and Reception class had performed a nativity play called 'Kiss for the baby' for their parents and the whole school. It had been very good and the young pupils had been very brave as some of the children had never taken part in a school production before. They had also held a Christmas fair. Each class were given a colour and each child was asked to bring in a donation for the tombola. There was a lot of different stalls and they managed to raise over £230.

Langer representatives told the Forum that their Road Safety Officers were enjoying going out with their lollipop lady and the parents were becoming more aware of where to park safely around the school. Two teachers had said goodbye to Langer School and they

wished them well in their new ventures. The two classes recorded a video for them as part of their goodbye. After Christmas they had welcomed two new teachers to replace them.

In early January 2018 classes 3 & 4 went to the British Museum in London which was part of their topic this term on Egyptians. In February Y6 would be taking part in the Swimming Gala at the Leisure Centre which Felixstowe Primary Schools take part in annually and they hoped to see some of the other Youth Forum Members participating in it.

The Langer School representatives told the Forum that earlier that afternoon all the pupils of Langer School had taken part in Moment of Reflection to commemorate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the North Sea Floods at the Flood Memorial in Langer Road which was at the bottom of their playing field.

## **8. TRIMLEY ST MARY SCHOOL ITEMS**

Representatives from Trimley St Mary School told the Forum that since the last meeting they have been in contact with Martin Andrews from Suffolk County Council about starting up their own Junior Road Safety Officer scheme. Traffic and parking is a big problem at their school with lots of parents parking on the pavements to keep the High Road clear and there had even been a few occasions when children walking to school have nearly been hit by a car ! So far, they have sent out applications forms for the scheme to their Y5 & Y6 pupils and they were now in the process of selecting the children for these posts. After this the next stage will be another meeting with Martin to find out the next step. They will be able to update us on this at our next Youth Forum meeting.

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum that everyone had been given an 8C's reward booklet. This was a reward scheme which included stickers, which could be given out during the course of the school day. The scheme looks at all skills some which might not always be seen in academic subjects and some pupils at their school are great at. The 8 areas are Collaboration, Curiosity, Confidence, Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Craftsmanship and Capability. This has proven to be very popular.

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March it is World Book Day and they will be having a Legends of Literacy Day. This is linked to their SPAG learning and a teachers training day after Christmas. They will all be dressed up in characters which may include The Noun Clown, Agent Adjective and the Capital Letter Kids. They are also learning The Grammar RAP to sing in assembly and will share lots of photographs at our next meeting.

Representatives from Trimley St Mary school told the Forum that they were very busy with lots of different school trips planned. The children in Early Years will be going on their local walk to the shop, to post a letter. Year 1 are going to visit the docks as part of their Foodtastic project, Year 2 are off to Framlingham Castle to discover what life was like as a knight. Years 3 & 4 have had a visit from the Dental Nurse to help them look after their teeth and in Years 5 & 6 they are getting very excited about their visit to Leicester, to the National Space Centre at the end of March. Also not to mention the Year 6 residential trip to Thorpe Woodlands and their Legends of Literacy Parent Learning Together sessions.

## **9. LEVEL2 YOUTH PROJECT ITEMS**

Level2 representatives told the Youth Forum as this was the first Youth Forum for 2018 they would like to update the Forum on some of brilliant things that have happened since there last meeting. They had another successful end of year for their Big Lottery Early Intervention Project with a visit from a man from the Lottery. He was very happy with all the exciting activities they have been doing in their open sessions and the learning that takes place. In the open session, young people have explored topics such as drugs and harmful substances, equality and diversity, physical exercise and positive relationships. They are currently looking at emotional well being where they are thinking about how they feel each day and working out what affects their mood. In their community involvement activity, young

people had pulled together to supply the Basic Charity Shop with six Christmas shoe boxes for local elderly people. Level 2's open afternoon went well in November and they had lots of visitors through their door. They are hoping to have more of these events later on in the year. They told the Forum that mentoring referrals continue to increase and their relationship with the local GP's has improved.

Young people have taken part in some martial arts classes with their qualified martial arts instructor. In these sessions they have also taken part in some mindfulness activities. Youth workers have also been into Felixstowe Academy to deliver teaching on positive relationships to Year 10 students. Some of the older teenagers who attend Level 2 have gone to the Gainsborough Sports Centre in Ipswich every other week where they can get to take part in organised gym routines as well as doing their own free running activities. As well as this there had been two very popular trips to Corby skate park with the next visit planned in April.

Level 2 representatives told the Forum that they are very proud to have their 5 star rating for their kitchen area and young people are involved in food hygiene. A couple of things they would like to let Forum Members know about are:

The Boys Only Group is now on Thursday 4pm-5.30pm. This is open to all boys Year 6+  
The Girls Only Club is now on Monday 4pm-5.30pm. This is open to all girls Year 6+  
There will be flyers going to all local schools and all open sessions will be continuing during the school holidays.

## **10. PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE**

Unfortunately Steve Downes was unable to attend today's meeting so Lorna Mosen read out the information supplied by him concerning half term activities being held at the Felixstowe Leisure Centre and Brackenbury Sports Centre:

### **Felixstowe Leisure Centre**

The Half Term Pool Programme is now out and this will include fun sessions every day as well as two inflatable pool parties (Tuesday 11.15-12.45 and Thursday 14.15-15.45). There will be a Swimming Clinic – They are running a crash course for swimmers who would benefit from an intensive week of Frontcrawl or Breaststroke swimming lessons at a great price of £27.50 for the week. (leaflet attached)

### **Brackenbury Sports Centre**

Brackenbury Sports Centre will be holding Xtra time Sports and Dance Camps, for 4years old and above, £10 a day [www.xtratimesportsdevelopment.co.uk](http://www.xtratimesportsdevelopment.co.uk)  
Lorna will email members copies of the leaflets concerning the above events.

## **11. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD**

Helen Greengrass told the Forum that unfortunately she was unable to come to the first meeting of the new academic year. All the three local Councils, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Felixstowe Town Council all work together with a lot of the local businesses in the town centre, surrounding areas and associated with the Port. All the businesses have done well over the last year but we must continue to encourage people to visit our lovely town of Felixstowe. It had been the best tourism season for 12 years and Felixstowe Forward were making sure the town was ready for the new season this year. There was a new VisitFelixstowe website <http://www.visitfelixstowe.org.uk/> which showed all the events in the town. The big event dates for Felixstowe this year would be the Felixstowe Carnival, the Felixstowe Book Festival, Car Rally, Art on the Prom, Kite Festival and a new event Steampunk Halloween Festival at Landguard. These events and others will encourage people to visit the town and it was hoped to bring more business into the town.

Helen told the Forum that Felixstowe was hoping to become the first Felixstowe Dementia Town in the Suffolk Coastal area. The Felixstowe Dementia Action Alliance, alongside Suffolk Coastal District Council has been set up to achieve this. Anyone can become a dementia friend and any business organisation can work toward being more dementia friendly. If any school would like Helen to visit and talk in their assemblies to talk about dementia please email her Email [Helen.Greengrass@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Greengrass@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) Further information can be found on [https://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local\\_alliances/14357\\_felixstowe\\_dementia\\_action\\_alliance](https://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances/14357_felixstowe_dementia_action_alliance)

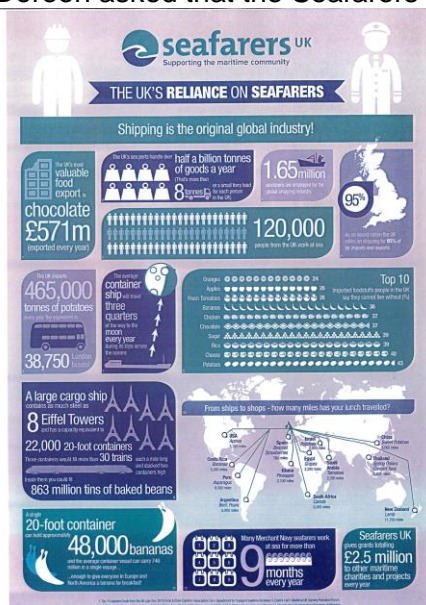
Helen told the Forum that Suffolk Coastal District Council had published its Felixstowe Leisure Vision document and were asking for everyone to take part in their survey, asking what they thought about leisure in Felixstowe. There was a limited budget but she asked if we had a brand new sports centre, possibly at a different site, what would you like to see provided there? It was agreed that Helen would ask Tim Snook, Suffolk Coastal's Commercial Contracts Manager for Leisure to attend, if possible, our next meeting in March. Doreen Savage told the Forum that it may be similar to the sports centre in Norwich which was amazing. The survey would be open until April 2018.

**12. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

Doreen Savage asked the Forum for their options on how they would like the 2017-2018 Youth Forum budget of £2000 to be spent. After much discussion it was agreed that Lorna Monsen would send the schools a form to complete so they could ask their pupils back at school to vote for their top three choices and also to vote for the top three aspirational projects they would like to support in Felixstowe. This would need to be returned no later than after half term.

Doreen Savage asked the Forum if they had visited the free Christmas Ice rink in the town, which half of the members had. She told the Forum it was hoped to have this event again for Christmas 2018. She also told the Forum that every year the Town Council launched their Civic Awards for people who did amazing things in the local community. One of the awards was the HMS Ganges Youth Trophy which was presented to a local young person (aged 21 or younger) or organisation supporting young people in Felixstowe. It would be lovely if the schools could nominate any aspiring pupils or local organisations. The forms for completion were on the Town Council website [www.felixstowe.gov.uk](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk) or contact Lorna. The Civic Awards would then be presented at the Annual Town Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at Felixstowe Academy.

Doreen asked that the Seafarers leaflets below be distributed to the Forum:



She explained that Felixstowe had the largest port in the UK and if there wasn't for seafarers nothing would be transported around the world. Seafarers could be separated from their friends and families for up to a year and precious shore leave is not always available. She explained that there is a Seafarers Centre at the Port. The centres worked very hard and Felixstowe's seafarers centre helps the seafarers when they are visiting Felixstowe port. She invited anyone to visit the Felixstowe seafarers centre to see the good work they do. A primary school in Ipswich had visited the centre and presented all the gifts from their Harvest Festival to be given out for the benefit of visiting seafarers. She urged all local schools to pay a visit to the Centre.. Helen Greengrass told the Forum that her father was a seaman and had been away for up to 2 years and as a little girl her mother made use of the Liverpool Seafarers centre. It was a very hard life for families left at home while their loved ones were away sometimes in terrible weather. Rev Andrew Dotchin said the centre was also looking for old mobile phones even if they were broken. The phones needed to be able to connect to the internet as the seafarers used them to keep in contact with their families. Further information can be found here: [www.missiontoseafarers.org/felixstowe-and-haven-ports](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org/felixstowe-and-haven-ports)

### **13. FELIXSTOWE FAIRTRADE FORUM**

Alan Muchal told the Forum that Stephen Wyatt had attended the last Youth Forum meeting to talk about Fairtrade. He wanted to now invite all schools to their Fairtrade Family Fun Day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 10am-4.30pm at Felixstowe Library to learn all about Fairtrade through games, quizzes, puzzles and even to taste the Fairtrade chocolate as they would be having a chocolate fountain. Alan asked if schools would like be involved in a display for the event. Helen Greengrass agreed to coordinate this which could then be used in conjunction for any possible future events and activities. Each school would need to explain why they enjoyed coming to the Youth Forum and what it means to them.

### **14. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Members agreed the future dates for May and July 2018 would be as follows:

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 - Chairman: Grange Community Primary School

27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 - Chairman: Trimley St Mary

### **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 28th March 2018** (Chair to be Felixstowe Academy) at **4pm – 5pm at Felixstowe Town Hall.**