



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2017

Present:

Elise Gorski, Charlie Webb (Chair) and Kirsty Coldwell (Level2)
Liam Campbell-Smith, Aaron Read and Sally Long (Causton Junior School)
Olly Martin, Martha Simmons, Merley Teye-Botchway and Julia Steele (Colneis Junior School)
Ruby Briggs, 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 Kate Bennett (Trimley St Mary School)
Steven Downes, Operations Manager (Felixstowe Leisure Centre)
Sgt Peter Street (Felixstowe Police)
Martin Andrew (Suffolk County Council, Road Safety)
Stephen Wyatt (Felixstowe Fairtrade)
Cllr Doreen Savage (Felixstowe Town Council)
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

Observing: Julia Illott, Co-Production & Childrens Right Lead from Suffolk Assembly of Youth.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the school academic year and everyone introduced themselves.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Helen Greengrass, Felixstowe Forward, Cllr Mark Jepson and Ash Tadjrishi (Town Clerk).

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 28 June 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 Junior School introduced themselves and told the Forum that they were really looking forward to their year as Youth Forum Members. They explained that their school was in the middle of Activities Week and some of the Year 6's had gone to Thorpe Woodlands Adventure Centre in Thetford Forest. Those that remained had been doing activities which included trampolining at Brackenburg, badminton and table tennis. They hoped to visit Foxburrow Farm and go swimming in Colneis School swimming pool later in the week.

Causton School representatives told the Forum that recently in their school assembly the whole school had been asked if they had visited the new pier and what their views were on it. Approximately 90% of pupils had been and their comments to the following questions were as follows:

- What do you think ? - Good, Awesome, Brilliant, Fun, Amazing
- What would you improve ? – Nothing, an Upstairs, Bigger Bowling Alley, Longer Pier.
- What is the best part ? – All of it, Everything, the Café

The Causton School members told the Forum that their Year 4's were taking part in the Causton Bake Off. They were all looking forward to the competition and the teachers were looking forward to the tasting ! They were also planning to plant over 60 trees in their school grounds which had been given to them by the Woodland Trust, this was the third time they had done this !

Ten Year 5 children had been given the exciting opportunity to attend a residential programme with Yes Futures. They would be learning resilience, confidence, helping others and meeting lots of new people. After this they would be learning about working in the workplace. They were really looking forward to this and they would report how the children got on at the next meeting.

They had recently had a non-uniform day and instead of asking for £1 donations the children were asked to bring in a food donation. At their Harvest Festival Assembly they donated the food to the Salvation Army so it could be added to their food bank for local people in need. Causton School Members then passed around a photo of all the food collected within their school, see below:



5. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS

The Colneis Junior School representatives introduced themselves to the Youth Forum. They told the Youth Forum that their Year 6 students had enjoyed the start to the year and had taken a number of roles and responsibilities around the school as they were now the oldest year group in the school. This included answering the school phones at lunchtime, delivering messages, supporting the younger children at play times and managing the music at assemblies.

Representatives from Colneis Junior School told the Forum that they had been following, with interest, the planning application for the re-development of the former Cavendish site on the seafront. They had a vote with pupils, staff and school community on whether they thought the proposed development should go ahead. After counting all the votes an overwhelming majority of people were in favour of the development. They hoped to continue to monitor the progress of this.

The representatives told the Forum that their Geography topic this term was 'Coasts & Rivers'. In September they had visited Felixstowe Ferry where they studied some of the features of the River Deben including the point at which it meets the North Sea. They hoped to visit Felixstowe beach where they would learn about how sea defences are used to protect our town and homes. They had also been building their own fairground rides out of recycling rubbish. As part of this, they will be learning about how forces act on the fairground rides. They had worked in small groups where they had learnt about the importance of sharing ideas and co-operating with others.

In English, they had been studying the 1953 Flood, in which a huge storm surge swept down the east coasts of Britain, killing hundreds of people. Felixstowe was one of the coastal towns affected by the storm and they were learning about how things have changed in the last 60 years to help ensure that if a similar storm does happen again it would not have such a huge impact on the town.

Finally the Colneis Christmas Fayre was taking place on 30 November at 3.30pm which included a raffle and everyone was welcome to attend.

Lorna Monsen suggested that Colneis School might like to visit a Felixstowe Town Council Planning & Environment Committee Meeting and it was agreed to liaison with Julia Steele concerning this.

6. GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS

The representatives from Grange School told the Forum that they were looking forward to hearing all the news from other schools and learning about what was happening in our town. At Grange Primary they would soon be having a new acting Headteacher as their Headteacher was leaving soon to have twins. This was not unusual at Grange as two other teachers had also had twins in recent years.

Grange School representatives told the Forum that their Memorial Garden in their school grounds for their late Headteacher, Mrs Reynish had been officially opened by her husband which was a very moving occasion. Over 60 guests attended and admired the garden which now had a plaque on the wall and a colourful Shaun the Sheep figure on display. Refreshments had been served and a donation of over £150 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support. The garden had also won first prize in the Schools Environmental Project category in the Felixstowe in Flower Competition and some children and Mrs Loyd who designed the garden attended the Awards Ceremony to collect the trophy.

The representatives told the Forum that the school had recently gained the Sainsburys Gold Sports Mark due to the hard work of their PE Co-ordinator. Their Year 6 teacher had also entered their school into the BBC's Terrific Science scheme. This involved taking part in national scientific experiments and entering the data online. They were therefore made a 'School of Excellence' which was wonderful.

At last years Fairtrade event Mrs Stockdale and some past Year 6 children performed a short play which was filmed by Felixstowe Fairtrade. It can be found on their website and you can view it using the following link <http://www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk/>

7. LANGER PRIMARY ACADEMY SCHOOL ITEMS

Representatives from Langer Academy told the Forum that they had only had a couple of meetings so far as School Council. They had already come up with some ideas for their Council to work on.

Since the last Youth Forum Meeting they have had new play equipment installed at the school which the pupils are really enjoying. They are considering new football nets, some

more skipping robes, making an allotment when they old play equipment used to be and creating an eco area using the flowerbeds vegetable patches and compost bins.

The representatives told the Forum that as they were a beach school they thought a great way to promote themselves and support the local environment would be to organise a litter pick on the beach near their school. They invited everyone to get involved with their litter pick and go out together a few times during the year and clear the beach. Their year 5 and 6 classes went to London to visit Greenwich Observatory, they had a really early start and had to leave at 7am, after a long coach journey and walking up a really steep hill they got to the Observatory which was amazing. They watched a 3D movie about the planets and the outer solar system which concluded their topic for this term on Space. Langer School library was now completed with lovely coloured walls and furniture which the children really enjoyed going to. They had library ambassadors to keep it tidy and collate the weekly reading challenge, with a winner choosing a book of their choice and Librarians who organised the books.

8. TRIMLEY ST MARY SCHOOL ITEMS

Representatives from Trimley St Mary School told the Forum that they had started their new school year with lots of new initiatives and fun activities across all year groups. These included their Year 5 and 6 children having a night as a refugee. This was part of their theme Natural Disasters and they were told to leave their homes with only a small bag of belongs for overnight. They met at the school at 6pm to be given their Refugee number and shown to a tent. Luckily some of the parents and teachers had already set the tents up ! Later in the evening they were given a small cup of hot chocolate and a biscuits to get through the night. It was very cold and didn't get much sleep. In the morning they were sent to the hall to have toast or porridge before gathering their belongings, having a wash and going to their first lesson. They were very tired and smelly by the end of the next day and very relieved when school finished. It had been an amazing experience and made them think about how horrible it would be to be a real Refugee.

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum that this year saw them changing their school colour team and make them part of their every day school life. They had always had school colour team but only used them at Sports Day. Now the teachers had started giving out house points for good work, showing great manners or going above and beyond. Everyone really enjoyed trying to win a house point for the colour team. Every week in assembly the children looked at how many house points each colour had won, at the moment the Green Team were winning. If you wanted to apply to be house captain or vice captain and act as role models for the younger children Year 5 and 6 children could apply for the job and they would get a special badge and have other important jobs to do for their team.

Representatives from Trimley St Mary School told the Forum that some of them had decided to start a more exciting school newspaper for the school. This included a news page, a competition page, a subject page and an interview page. The newspaper will change each week eg a new front cover or more or less pages and be fortnightly. They have so far completed and published 2 newspapers.

In the summer term their Year 6 children wanted to raise money to hold a leavers disco so they set up a car wash for the teachers. All the teachers had to do was sign up for a day when the car wash was being held and their car was washed for £5. They also had a cake sale for the younger children at playtime.

Each year group had been focusing on SPAG, Spelling and Grammar in having

9. LEVEL2 YOUTH PROJECT ITEMS

Level2 representatives told the Youth Forum that Level2 had during the school summer holidays action packed activities and it was now back to normal running their weekly open

sessions which continue to be well attended. They welcomed four new youth workers who now work in 5 of primary schools in Felixstowe. This means Level2 works with young people as young as 7 up to 25 years of age. The youth workers provide one to one support and small group work where young people can explore feels and emotions around various topics such as anger, safety, self-esteem, friendships and confidence. At Trimley St Mary school the youth workers will soon be going in at lunch time to be available to chat with young people. This is a free service that they are able to offer due to funding which young people can benefit from it. The youth workers would like to say a big thank you to the schools they are working in and are really grateful for such a warm welcome.

Representatives from Level2 told the Forum about their refurbished minibus which has now got their logo and name on and can be used as a mini Level2 out and about in the town and surrounding villages. It comes with an awning, outdoor tables and chairs, outdoor lights, wifi, music system and will also be able to provide hot and cold drinks and snacks.

Level2 youth reps have been attending the Suffolk Assembly of Youth meetings where they have the opportunity to meet young people across Suffolk. They are organising a big event for Easter next year. The event is for all young people, organisations and schools to come together to share in a day of fun activities such as music recording, graffiti art, pool, food and workshops with the theme mental health. Julia Illott, a representative from SAY was observing today's meeting and she had brought some goodies ie pens for Members to take away with them. If you wanted further information please chat with her afterwards.

The representatives invited everyone to Level2's Open Day on Saturday 11 November, 2-4pm to come up to the Hub to look around, meet some of the youth workers and see their new minibus.

10. **PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE**

Steven Downs from Places for People Leisure told the Forum that although he was based at the Leisure Centre he was also representing Brackenbury Sports Centre. They had just had their busiest summer period in 10 years which included lots of inflatable sessions. They had just had an Halloween Party which included turning the swimming pool water orange and having the inflatables and flume on. In the main hall there had been games and a disco. Tickets had sold within 15 mins so they organised a second session. They were expecting the Christmas period to be as busy as the summer period. Below is a photo of the Leisure Centres reception decorated for Halloween:



They had recently been involved in National Fitness Day. This included free sessions and open days for members of the public to encourage people to try new sports and activities. Their staff along with Places for People staff across the country and with some public participation saw 14,019 people completing 310,385 squats which they are waiting to hear if they had broken the World Record squat challenge.

Steven told the Forum that the newly named Deben Leisure Centre in Woodbridge had been closed for refurbishment and was on schedule and would soon be a two storey building. It was hoped to be completed by summer 2018 and then it would be the turn of Leiston Leisure Centre to be refurbished followed by Felixstowe Leisure Centre.

Brackenbury Sports Centre was holding an activity day on 21 December which included a dance camp and sports camp, if you would like to attend please book using their website. If you had any further ideas for events to be held at the Leisure Centre or Brackenbury please contact Steven via email: stevendownes@pfpleisure.org He also asked what Members thought about the possibility of having a cinema poolside and asked that they let him know by email.

11. ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS

Sgt Peter Street introduced Martin Andrew from Suffolk County Council, Road Safety to talk about the Road Safety Officer scheme available to schools. Martin Andrew asked the Forum if any Members knew if their schools had joined up in the Road Safety Officer scheme. They confirmed that Colneis had joined and Langer School were in the middle of joining up. Schools would need 2 or 3 children usually Year 4 or 5 responsible for road safety for the whole school with a staff member and maybe a parent helper. One school gave out prizes to who parked nicely outside their school and Martin provided the prizes ! There are lots of other ideas on the following website <http://www.suffolkroadsafe.net/children-and-young-people/junior-road-safety-officer/> To join, an adult would need to be nominated as point of contact . If you needed more information please contact Martin using the following email: Martin.Andrew@suffolk.gov.uk Mrs Stockdale asked who were responsible for the scheme at Langer School and Mrs Gorski confirmed that it was herself and their Lollipop Lady and there had not been a lot of paperwork involved. Members were encouraged to visit the website for further information.

12. FELIXSTOWE FAIRTRADE FORUM

Stephen Wyatt asked the Forum who had heard about Fairtrade and if they knew that Fairtrade was not a charity but was an organisation to help encourage supermarkets to give a fair price for producing foods including Bananas. He gave an example of how much money went to the growers through Fairtrade. He was asking Members if they would like to help with the 2018 Fairtrade Fortnight which is 26 February – 11 March. He would be emailing schools direct about this and to look out for his email. Last year was very successful and as Grange School mentioned they did a short film on youtube concerning this which can be found on the Felixstowe Fairtrade website.

13. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Doreen Savage told the Forum that it was great to see all the new members at the meeting and she hope they enjoyed their year as Youth Forum Members. She told the Forum that Felixstowe Town Council had recently received the Gold Award for demonstrating best practice in governance, community engagement and business planning and the Youth Forum had helped to achieve this.

Felixstowe Town Council was again arranging an Ice Skating Rink at Great Eastern Square, outside Solar supermarket. The rink is being sponsored by the East of England Cooperative and also supported by two County Councillors who have allocated part of their individual Locality Funding towards the venture. Other activities being planned alongside the rink include rides for smaller children and a stall serving hot food and drinks. The Mayor will open the ice rink at 11am on Wednesday 20th December. Members of the public will be able to use the rink between 11am to 7pm from Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd December (inclusive). It will be free and this will be the third year which should again be a great success for the town.

Doreen Savage told the Forum that the year long exercise of allowing cycling on the Prom had now ended. The Town Council had first approached the District Council to see if this would be possible and Felixstowe Forward (part of SCDC) led a consultation. There had been very few complaints and a report would be sent to the District Council's Council meeting on the results of the consultation and asking that cycling on the prom became a permanent activity.

Budgets were now being set for the next financial year 2018-2019 and the Youth Forum had £2000 which needed to be allocated before April 2018. Doreen Savage asked that all Members come back with some ideas at the next meeting of the Youth Forum in January 2018 on how the budget may be spent. In the past the Youth Forum agreed to use their budget on a band for the Queens Birthday celebrations in the Spa Gardens, the ice skating rink and an outside cinema.

Doreen Savage said that there had been a lot of interest in the community about the new Pierhead refurbishment. Many were asking why there had been no refurbishment on the long pier out to sea. The private owners had paid over £75,000 just for the small stretch behind the pierhead building and as the long pier was in a worst condition there was no plans to continue with the refurbishment at the moment.

This year's Moment of Reflection is to be held on Friday 10th November and is especially for young people, the short service is to be led by Rev Andrew Dotchin. Local schools had been invited to attend and It was hoped that it would be well attended. Doreen Savage explained that on 31st January 2018, the next Youth Forum meeting it would be the 65th Anniversary of the North Sea floods where over 40 people died in Felixstowe. There was a permanent Flood Memorial near Langer School and along with a church service there would be a small ceremony at the memorial. Members agreed to hold a minute silence at the next meeting to commemorate the loss of lives.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Julia Ilott from Suffolk Assembly of Youth thanked the Youth Forum for allowing her to observe their meeting. She was very impressed and thought everyone was amazing !

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 31st January 2018** (Chair to be Causton Junior School) at **4pm – 5pm at Felixstowe Town Hall.**

Could Members please bring their ideas on how the Youth Forum might consider how they might use their budget for appropriate projects.

Please be aware that there will be a Minutes Silence for the 65th Anniversary of the North Sea Flood Victims.