



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM **HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH 2018**

Present:

Tegan Cameron, Olivia Porter, Jack O'Reilly (Chairs) and Corinne Stockdale (Grange Community Primary)
Liam Campbell-Smith, Amy Lee and Aaron Read, Caspar Van Gameren and Sally Long (Causton Junior School)
Amie Laws, Isabella Williams and Julia Steele (Colneis Junior School)
Josh Hunt, Jo Mark, Freddie Idehen, Fraser Forsey (Felixstowe Academy)
Melissa Bennis, Caiden and Kyrsty Beattie (Kingsfleet Primary School)
Paige Cannell, Josh Dunning, Owen Young and Kate Bennett (Trimley St Mary School)
Laura Hack, Project Manager & Tim Snook, Commercial Contracts Manager – Leisure (Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils)
Paul Grant (Felixstowe Forward)
Cllr Mark Jepson (Felixstowe Town Council)
Cllr Doreen Savage (Felixstowe Town Council)
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

1. INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Level 2 Youth Project and Ash Tadjrishi (Town Clerk).

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 31 January 2018, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, 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 big art project. They are hoping to have a street artist visit their school. Mrs Carr, the art teacher's idea is to get a huge piece of wood and let the Yr6 students use spray paint. It is hoped that this will be a legacy for when they leave Causton Junior School and move up to high school. Although this project will not be happening for a while they will keep the Youth Forum Members updated.

Causton School representatives told the Forum that in their last term they had held a Science Club. They made CO₂ out of ingredients which most people have in their cupboards, these were bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, a test tube and a balloon. First you put the vinegar in the test tube, then get your balloon and bicarbonate of soda and pour into your balloon. Then put

your balloon over the rim of the test tube and shake your balloon and make sure your bicarb falls out. Finally, your balloon will inflate !

The representatives told the Forum that last time they talked about their SATs and they are still preparing for them as they are just in May ! The teachers organised an Easter club where the students had to arrive at school early and prepare yet more for the SATs, although they did get breakfast. If you attend 3 sessions or more you will be given a free cinema ticket ! They also talked about their talent show at the last meeting. It was now very close, in fact tomorrow. There would be many acts similar to the one they had on their Year6 trip. There had been lots of practise and as so many people wanted to enter the show the practise sessions had to be organised into groups !

5. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS

The Colneis Junior School representatives told the Forum that following on from the retirement of their Head Teacher, last July the school governors had now appointed a new Head Teacher called Mr Girling who will join Colneis in September. He is currently Head Teacher at Melton Primary School and everyone was looking forward to welcoming him in September.

Since the last Youth Forum meeting the Year 6 students had been continuing with their learning about World War 2. In early March they visited the Imperial War Museum at Duxford where they explored the aircraft which were used by both the British and the Germans during the Battle of Britain. They also experienced the D-Day Landings and had an opportunity to learn about some of the exceptional personal experiences of those who fought so bravely to protect our country.

Representatives from Colneis Junior School told the Forum that their school play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' had been performed all this week with the final performances that night. The cast and crew had been working hard both during lunchtimes and after school since Christmas and the play has been a huge success. The play included students from all of the four year groups.

Last week for Sports Relief the school all took part in a Skipathon. Every student had to count how many skips they could do in two minutes. The highest scorer from each class then went into a final. The winner, who was from Year 6 managed a terrific score of 307 skips. In addition, they all wore sporty clothing and as a result raised money for this worthwhile cause.

They were now continuing to prepare for their upcoming SATs tests and had been working through practice questions and will be spending the remaining weeks revising all of the relevant topics.

6. GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS

The representatives from Grange School told the Forum that having obtained some funding from a Councillor and using the commission they earned for their book fairs they have now started preparations for their new supersized library. This will include painting the ceiling and walls, ordering a new carpet and buying lots of new books. They had managed to get some books from the Schools Library Service which was closing down. During the Easter holidays, school staff were going into the school to move furniture and stock the shelves. This was so they can hopefully start to use the library when the school re-opens after the Easter holidays. The Friends of Grange, (their Parent/Teacher Association) plan to raise some more money for extras such as some colourful chairs and rugs. Eventually it will be a great area to hold events where parents can come into school to share lessons with their children and hopefully encourage more parents to visit the school to find out about what goes on in the school.

Grange School were hoping to make an all-weather running track at the school so that everyone can have a 10 minute run after lunch. This was to encourage children to keep fit

and not to put on weight although this was proving difficult as they were very expensive. The school did have various sports clubs so they were able to take teams to most of the inter-schools competitions. They will be having a Sports Week in June where they hope to have a visit from an Olympic athlete plus lots of events that the whole school can get involved in. At the moment they plan to have some of their Key Stage 2 children go to Pipers Vale for gymnastics and also a shared event for Years 1 and 2 at Maidstone Infants. Each class appoints two Sports Leaders to help Mrs Gibson, the PE teacher with the events.

Some Members had attended the Fair Trade Fun Day at Felixstowe Library. Although this was a Saturday and it had snowed quite a few people also attended and seemed to enjoy the day. The Members ran the Treasure Hunt where children had to search for Fair Trade packets and boxes hidden in the children's section of the library. They also helped with roll a 2p and Spot the Difference games which the children especially enjoyed. The chocolate fountain was fantastic and they got through a lot of bananas which were dipped in the delicious Fairtrade chocolate ! It was hoped that this event had help raise awareness of Fair Trade products in Felixstowe and they wanted to thank Stephen Wyatt, Alan Mulchal and the other organisers for letting them join in.

7. KINGSFLEET PRIMARY SCHOOL

Representatives from Kingsfleet Primary School introduced themselves to the Youth Forum. They reported that at the end of January their Key Stage 2 students took part in the Young Voices, the largest school choir in the world, at the O2 Area in London. It was a very long day, but it had been a great opportunity to sing in such a well known place with so many other children. They wanted to thank all the teachers who made it happen.

Kingsfleet representatives told the Forum that they had planned to celebrate world book day but unfortunately the Beast from the East brought snow and ice to Felixstowe, so the school was closed so the event was rescheduled for the following week. When it did happen they all enjoyed sharing their favourite stories and writing their own stories to share with other year groups. They also had a visit from Music in Felixstowe to play some music to celebrate the day.

Representatives told the Forum that they were very proud to be supporting the St Elizabeth Hospice by fundraising for a mini Elmer elephant. This was similar to the Pigs gone wild campaign from last year. The elephant is a patchwork elephant created by the author David McKee . The Elmer character was chosen because Elmer and St Elizabeth Hospice both celebrate their 30th anniversaries in 2019.

For Sport Relief Kingsfleet school took part in the 'Walk a mile' challenge. Luckily the weather was good and all their year groups were able to complete the one mile course and they raised £160.

As part of the Fairtrade fortnight a representative from the Felixstowe Fairtrade group led two assemblies to raise awareness of Fairtrade and how they can support farmers to get a fair price for their produce. Some children had also been to the Fairtrade event in Felixstowe Library.

To mark British Science Week the Year 6 students visited Adastral Park. It was an opportunity to find out more about the exciting things that go on at BT and gain hands-on experience with activities relating to science, technology, engineering and maths.

Kingsfleet representatives told the Forum that at their last school council meeting they discussed ideas for new pieces of play equipment. They had lots of different ideas but a decision had not been reached as yet. They also looked at the information that came out with the last Youth Forum minutes about reducing plastics in the school. They already do a

pretty good job but sometimes the kitchen give out small plastic spoons for deserts, so they have now asked if more metal teaspoons can be bought.

Kingsfleet School would like to thank the Rotary Club for organising the Football Tournament at Portman Road. It had been an amazing opportunity to play at the Ipswich Town Football ground, the teams even got to meet a couple of the Ipswich Town players. It was especially exciting as Kingsfleet won the tournament !

8. TRIMLEY ST MARY SCHOOL ITEMS

Representatives from Trimley St Mary School told the Forum that since the last Youth Forum meeting they had now appointed some Junior Road Safety officers. These are a mixture of Year5 and Year6 pupils who are going to work together to look at how they can improve the traffic situation outside their school. They have arranged a meeting with Martin Andrews, Road Safety, SCC after the Easter holidays and they hope to launch the project in the Summer term.

Trimley St Mary are pleased to announce their new school logo ! Earlier in the year a competition was held and they had so many entries it had been impossible to pick just one design. So it was decided to use a selection of entries to come up with one striking new picture. The new logo will now consist of:

- A tree as Trimley means woodland clearing in Anglo Saxon
- The 4 house colours – red, blue, yellow and green
- The 8 branches denote the new 8C's of their learning which we mentioned at the last meeting.
- A church window, which can be seen in the tree trunk and shows their links with the local church.

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum that unfortunately due to bad weather MC Grammar was not able to make the trip from London on World Book Day as the trains were all cancelled, but they carried on regardless and had a 'Grammartastic' day ! Therefore they had another 'grammar day' when MC Grammar was able to visit the school. This included a very noisy but fun singing sessions with MC Grammar on the mic leading the rapping. He filmed it and uploaded on his Twitter account singing the Noun Rap. In the morning Years 1,3 and 4 worked with MC Grammar in a special workshop and he also visited the Early Years class to look at their fabulous costumes and to talk to them about their favourite Legend of Literacy. At lunchtime he went into their playground to sign autographs and join in their games. The afternoon workshops for Years 2, 5 and 6 who all got their turn to play some of the grammar games like ADD Spice and Paradise. They ended the day with another whole school assembly where some lucky children went onto the stage and shared their work. It had been an amazing day and had helped them realise how important and fun SPAG(Spelling Punctuation and Grammar) is.

Representatives from Trimley St Mary told the Forum about their trip to the Space Centre in Leicester. They had to get up very early but everyone was very excited and on the coach everyone was singing along to the music which made it very noisy. They learnt how rockets flew by experiments with water and antacid tablets, which when they were mixed together created a big explosion !.They were told about different planets, constellations, galaxies and Earth. After lunch they climbed the rocket tower and explored the rest of the centre in groups. There was even a simulator which took you up to the Ice Moon of Jupiter. The journey home was a lot quieter as lots of people fell asleep. It was certainly a great school trip that they would never forget.

9. FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY

The representatives from Felixstowe Academy told the Forum about their recent production of Glee. It had been over four months of practice and had involved more singing than acting. No student had been turned away and had also involved working several evenings a week after the school day.

Within the Academy once a fortnight in the Library they hold Student Voice which is to give students a voice within the school.

Felixstowe Academy had recently held a 24hour Sports Event which helped raised approx. £4000 for Sports Relief. The money will go to different projects including people from Kenya, people suffering from Malaria and people who suffer from sexual exploitation.

The Youth Forum congratulated Felixstowe Academy for their amazing achievement in raising so much money for Sports Relief.

10. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD

Paul Grant told the Forum that this weekend marks the start of the 2018 summer season during English Tourism Week. To launch the season in Felixstowe they had held an event which included local business people, the Mayor and volunteers. Also at the event the 6 nominees that have been shortlisted for the VisitFelixstowe Tourism Award was announced, these were:

Suffolk Armed Forces Weekend
Festival of Fabric
Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club
Felixstowe Carnival Proms Concert
Felixstowe Museum
Felixstowe Pier

To cast your vote please go on the VisitFelixstowe website, the closing date is 20 April 2018. <http://www.visitfelixstowe.org.uk/visit-felixstowe-tourism-award-2018/>
The winner will be announced as part of the Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday 9 May 2018 at Felixstowe Academy.

Over the Easter period Landguard Fort & Museum will be open for the new season. During the winter season the volunteers had been very busy with repairs and cleaning everywhere. An Easter egg hunt and quiz trail was organised at Landguard Fort for everyone to enjoy during the Easter school holidays. It was also hoped to have an open air cinema showing a Star Wars movie in the summer. In October a new Steampunk event at Landguard Fort and Felixstowe Museum will be happening. This will feature live music, cabaret acts, a steampunk market place, children's entertainment and refreshments.

Paul asked the Members if they had visited the Fort and many Members had and enjoyed their visit.

11. LEISURE VISION – SUFFOLK COASTAL AND WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCILS

Tim Snook, Commercial Contracts Manager thank the Youth Forum for inviting him and his colleague Laura Hack to the meeting. He told the Forum that Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils were consulting Felixstowe residents about what they would like to see for Leisure in Felixstowe. Suffolk Coastal was looking at redeveloping all of its Leisure Centres. Felixstowe Leisure Centre was now coming to the end of its days and it was now a great opportunity to improve Leisure facilities in Felixstowe. This could be in the form of a brand new Leisure Centre in another area or to redevelop Brackenbury Sports Centre. Next in line is Leiston Leisure Centre and then it would be the turn of Felixstowe. He showed the Forum

possible ideas of a new Leisure Centre and asked the Forum Members for ideas on what they would like to see ie a bigger gym and dance studio, bigger swimming pool and flumes and a third generation synthetic football pitch. This was a once in a life time opportunity and would need to last 30/40 years. If a new Leisure Centre was decided this would take approx. 4/5 years to complete. Tim asked that everyone take away his survey and bring back to the next meeting for Lorna to collate and forward on to him.

The full survey and further information can be found on

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/sportandleisuredevelopment/suffolk-coastals-leisure-centre-redevelopment-programme/felixstowe-leisure-review/>

Over 600 people had already completed it.

Representatives from Grange School asked if it would be a brand new facility and it was confirmed that it was more likely to be rather than revamping Brackenbury Sports Centre. Their representatives said they would like to see a larger leisure pool as well as a teaching pool possibly with moving floors !!

Representatives from Trimley St Mary asked if the inflatable would be a brand new design or the same sort of flue. Tim said that there may be an opportunity to have something new and much bigger for everyone to use.

Representatives from Felixstowe Academy asked if there was going to be a racing swimming pool. Tim said that they hoped to have a new facility with 8 lanes.

Representatives from Causton School said they would like to see a dance studio with dance teachers and a new football team. Tim said that they hope they would have funding from Sport England and they would like to see all the community involved.

Cllr Doreen Savage explained that they were looking at different sites, an 85 station gym, 2 dance studios, maybe squash courts and bowls club. Suffolk Coastal District Council would need to look at the balance of the business side of the Leisure Centre with the community side.

12. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Doreen Savage told the Forum that it was really important that everyone has input in to the Leisure Vision survey as it would be for the next 40 years and the youth forum members would be the ones who would benefit from this new facility..

Doreen Savage told the Forum that Felixstowe in Flower was starting again for 2018. The Mayor along with Sue Faversham and herself would be visiting all the local schools shortly to explain the event and different competitions and she hoped everyone would join in.

At the recent Town Council meeting they discussed the aspirations of the Youth Forum for Felixstowe to become a single-use plastic free town. The Council have given delegated authority to the Finance & General Purposes Committee to develop a policy phasing out the use of single-use plastic products on the following basis:

- Phase out, wherever practically possible, single-use plastic across Council's activities.
- Immediately resolve to no longer use single-use plastic catering equipment such as plastic containers, cups, cutlery, drinks bottles, straws or plastic promotional items (e.g. flags etc.)
- Work with local businesses and the media to promoting the phasing out of single-use plastic and encourage others in the town to move towards biodegradable, paper and other alternatives.

- Requesting suppliers and service providers contracted by the Council to cut single-use plastic.

Doreen thanked everyone for completing the suggestions form for spending the Forum's budget for 2017/18 and top of the list was trampolining. It was hoped to have a suitable trampoline at the Carnival for which the money would be used but this was still in planning stage.

Doreen wished everyone a Happy Easter.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Mark Jepson explained to the Forum that he was the elected Cllr for the seafront area. VisitFelixstowe part of Suffolk Coastal District Council had produced a questionnaire to ask for views on what they would like to see on the seafront in Felixstowe, particularly in the South Seafront area. He asked the Members to take back to their schools the questionnaire on this topic and return the completed form to Lorna at the next meeting.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 2nd May 2018** (Chair to be Felixstowe Academy) at **4pm – 5pm at Felixstowe Town Hall**.