



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM **HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2019**

Present: Jasmine Bacon, Tobi Pinner (Chair) and Corinne Stockdale (Grange Community Primary)
Denis Ciocan, Rubie Fisk and Alicia Little and Sally Long (Causton Junior School)
Eva Garayalde and Kirsty Coldwell (Level2 Youth Project)
Maisie Calver, Eva Smith, Milly Willcox and Kate Bennett (Trimley St Mary School)
Helen Greengrass (Felixstowe Forward)
Cllr Doreen Savage (Felixstowe Town Council)
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

1. INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Colneis Junior School, Langer Academy, Jonny Lowdell, Places for People Leisure and Cllr Mark Jepson (Felixstowe Town Council)

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 January 2019, 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

Causton School representatives told the Forum that their St Elizabeth Hospice Elmer Elephants, that they had bought ahead of the Summer trail in Ipswich are well on the way to being completed and they are looking forward to seeing the Causton Elmers displayed at the Suffolk Show in May and then as part of the trail in the summer holidays. They told the Forum that it had been good fun decorating them and the finished result will look amazing. The winner of the competition to design one of their Elmers was a girl from Year 4; her design was of Elmer wearing the Causton school uniform and it looked really effective.

For World Book Day the school was encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character, one of the Causton Youth Forum Members decided to dress up as Stella from 'Awful Auntie' by children's author, David Walliams. Alongside dressing as their favourite book character, they were also asked to bring in a potato that they had decorated to look like a book character also ! These were then judged and the winners were announced in school assembly. One pupil had also dressed two small potatoes as Thing one and Thing two from the same book.

Representatives from Causton School told the Forum that to improve their school environment some of the children have been busy planting trees and have helped clear the garden area so that it can be used for learning purposes.

5. GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS

The representatives from Grange School told the Forum that they have been very busy at their school preparing for SATs. All classes were doing tests so the school was often pretty quiet! They told the Forum that they had managed to have a few 'fun' days though. One event was World Book Day this was when the children dressed as their favourite book character. They had a few Horrid Henriks and various Harry Potter characters but also some more unusual ones like Gangsta Granny, Stickman, The Mad Hatter and Peter Rabbit. Then they had Red Nose Day where they wore something red in return for a donation to Comic Relief. They had managed to raise nearly £100 which was very good. The last interesting event was 'Blind Date With a Book'. This aimed to encourage reading by matching children to a book they might not normally read. Forty five children from Key Stage 2 took part and they had received a prize of a pencil and a bookmark for reading their book in the allotted time.

There had also been a bit of excitement at Grange School when some children had found an injured crow in the grounds. They decided to call on a well known Felixstowe lady called Nettie and with the help of a Year 5 boy, she managed to pick up the crow which seemed to have a broken wing. Nettie will look after the bird until it is well enough to be Released.

Representatives from Grange School told the Forum that Mrs Stockdale had brought six children from Year 5 to the 'Raise a Flag for the Commonwealth' ceremony at the Town Hall, which they really enjoyed (especially the refreshments afterwards!) They told the Forum that it is obviously important for schools to join in with community events such as these. They had good community links with Cavendish Community Association, the Firs Care Home and Morrisons, all of which were in their area. Morrisons had given them a box of books recently as a present on World Book Day which the school were very grateful for.

Friends of Grange, which is their parent-teacher organisation, had been very busy arranging events to raise money for the school. At the school they had a Mother's Day gift shop, this was where children could bring £2 to buy a wrapped present which they can choose themselves for their Mum or other female member of their family. The little ones especially enjoyed choosing their own present and were very proud of themselves.

6. LANGER PRIMARY ACADEMY SCHOOL ITEMS

Lorna Monsen drew the Forums attendance to the report on the table from Langer Primary Academy. Corinne Stockdale from Grange read it out to the Forum.

The report said that lots of exciting things have been happening at Langer over the past few weeks. These were a few of them:

Langer school's Year 5 have completed their time capsule project and visited the Town Hall and Spa Gardens to take part in burying it underground. They had completed lots of work to go inside it and it was planned to hopefully dig it up in 100 years.

The schools attendance and behaviour trophies had been reintroduced and they are also running a competition for pupils with 100% attendance to win a game of adventure golf. The school recently celebrated World Book Day and children came to school dressed as their favourite book characters. They also mixed up the classes and listened to a shared story with different teachers.

Red Nose Day had been a great success at the school. The students wore red to school and gave a donation on the gate. Their headteacher had decided not to sell red noses this year as

the delivery cost was too expensive. However, the School Council campaigned and managed to change Mr Moore's mind. A total of 230 red noses were sold at the school and lots of money was raised for Comic Relief. Langer School Council also requested that their water fountain could be repaired. They asked Mr Hurrell the caretaker and he ordered the part he needed and repaired it. Now they can have fresh drinking water whenever they need it.

Lots of Langer school children have been litter picking at lunchtimes with the schools new litter grabbers. Together they are working to make Langer a cleaner place for everyone. To celebrate good behaviour, the children who don't receive any yellow or red cards will now receive a good behaviour certificate at the end of each half term.

Langer School had a number of visitors recently including a dentist. The dentist gave them blue pills to chew which showed up the plaque on their teeth. The dentist showed them how to brush their teeth properly. They also had a visit from the police who spoke to them about E-Safety, how to keep safe online and cyber bullying. Also with Mother's Day lunch coming up they will be inviting mum's into school to have lunch with them.

Langer school Media Club were having a visit to BBC Radio Suffolk which they are really looking forward to seeing what it is like there.

Two weeks ago the school had a Science Week where they went to different classes to do different science activities. These included making slime, electric circuits, minibeasts and an egg drop challenge. Some children took part in a family workshop. Parents came in to do some arts and crafts activities such as making a bird feeder, a solar system mobile and sock puppets. They also had another open afternoon for parents who could come into their classrooms and do some work with them.

Langer School Year 6's are working hard to get ready for SATS. They are taking part in booster groups and have started an after school revision club. Year 3 and 4 are practicing for their Easter production. They were rehearsing lines and learning songs also planning to have an Easter egg raffle which the school look forward to every year.

7. TRIMLEY ST MARY SCHOOL ITEMS

Trimley St Mary School representatives told the Forum that on Saturday the 2nd March they went to Felixstowe Library with some other volunteers from Year 5 and 6 to help at the Felixstowe Fairtrade Funday. The children were in charge of running some games, these included a spot the difference, a Fairtrade quiz, a board game and the roll the penny game. They had a great time talking to members of the public and informing them about how Fairtrade helps people in farming communities. There was also a raffle and a tombola where they all won some yummy Fairtrade chocolates. They have recently renewed their Fair Active badge for another 2 years.

Representatives from Trimley St Mary school told the Forum that they had recently been awarded the Bronze Green Tree School Award from the Woodland Trust. They had been working hard to improve their school grounds and to encourage more learning outside the classroom. This winter the school children had planted trees in tyres around their new eco-garden as a boundary, and next week they will finish the area with some new sensory plants. After Easter their new furry and fluffy residents (Chickens & Guinea pigs) will be moving into their Summer homes, where children from across the school will help to care for them during the week and at weekends.

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum that recently it said in the local press that the school was having a Puffin crossing installed outside the school to help with traffic control and pedestrian crossings during the day. This is good news as it will mean that hopefully cars will slow down in the mornings and afternoons and children will be able to cross the High Road safely. However the school are very sad that they will be losing their lovely Lollipop lady who has worked on the crossing for 14 years. They will miss her a great deal.

The Trimley St Mary children in Year 3 and 4 have delivered a very important message this week in their production of The Emerald Green, a story about the destruction of the rainforests. They saw some super singing, dynamic dancing and awesome acting when they watched the productions on Monday and Tuesday. The songs were very emotional and really hit home about how we need to look after this special habitat.

This year the whole school had worked really hard to do well at the local sports events. So far, they had been successful at the parlouf, swimming gala, football tournament and showed great sportsmanship at the tag rugby tournament.

The Year 6 children in Trimley St Mary school had recently been to Thorpe Woodlands for their residential trip. Everyone loved it and hope they can go again. There were lots of activities and the instructors were very helpful and a lot of fun.

Cllr Doreen Savage asked the representatives what a puffin crossing was exactly, and explained that the funding for the crossing was the only funding that came to this area. The representatives said that they were not sure what the crossing was as unfortunately the school had received no consultation in the process.

8. LEVEL 2 YOUTH PROJECT ITEMS

The representative from Level 2 told the Forum that they had been really busy with lots of exciting things going on. In the open sessions they have been looking a whole range of topics, including online safety where they talked about the dangers and risks and how to look after themselves online, but also talked about everything that is good about the internet.

Last week in the girls group they looked at their daily food intake by drawing a food plate. They also played a game about food and nutrients. They were surprised to learn that Coca Cola has 0% fat, but actually it can still be bad for you because of other stuff in it.

The Level2 year 11+ group decided they wanted to change the name of their session to Young Adults Session. The young people take it in turns to cook for each other each week and have a proper meal time. Last week they also talked about smoking and made a big display about the dangers of smoking and the advantages of giving up. If you visit Level Two, make sure you check this out on the black board.

The representative from Level2 told the Forum that it's almost school holiday time again and the young people have chosen what they would like to do, they have 4 trips available; Recording Studio Experience, Bounce, Gaming Lounge in Ipswich, and The Escape Room. The hub will also be open on Tuesdays and Thursday 2pm-4pm. They would also be offering a 6 week workshop on Saturdays 11am-12:30pm starting on 6th April. This is open to anyone who enjoys dancing, media, creative writing or singing.

The representative told the Forum that the work within the local schools continues to be a success. Whole classes have been able to take part in mindfulness sessions, which has had positive feedback from both the staff and young people. These mindfulness sessions have also taken place at Felixstowe Academy with whole year groups, which they thought might be too many people, but it had been fantastic to have 100 young people laying down in the PE hall, relaxing and being calm! Youth workers have also been working with small groups within primary schools focusing on friendships, anger, self-esteem and transitioning to high school. Year 6's are already able to access Level 2 girls and boys only sessions, but after Easter they will also be able to come along to their year 7&8 session.

The Level Two representative told the Forum if Members would like to know more about Level Two please visit their Hub, or get parents to like them on Facebook or visit the Level Two website.

The representative told the Forum that in March the Suffolk County Council had declared a Climate Emergency she asked if the Town Council would follow in the County Council's lead and declared a Climate Emergency as well ? This would involve the Council doing everything in its power to completely cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. There was also a gathering arranged outside the Ipswich Town Hall on Friday 12 April to ask for clarification from the Government. Cllr Doreen Savage thanked the representative for her report and agreed that this was a challenge but does need to be addressed. She asked that the report be left with the Town Council to respond.

9. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD

Helen Greengrass from Felixstowe Forward reported to the Forum that she had exciting news. Last Friday it was announced that Felixstowe was to receive £950k from the Government to put towards the South Seafront area, from the pier onwards. Ms Greengrass then distributed early concept designs to the Forum which will change, but does give an idea of the sort of thing that may be possible. The first concept is a new café restaurant in Martello Park, just inside the entrance on the right hand side. The second is opening the grass areas along the promenade to make a more active space. The work should start in the next 2 years. She asked if the Forum had any ideas what they would like to see in these areas ie an all weather table tennis table. Suffolk Coastal District Council are also putting money into the scheme which will also include new interactive information boards. It was hoped that the Martello Tower will be used more by starting up a Friends Group which would hopefully give more access.

Cllr Savage said that she thought the second concept showed a lot of sand which would blow away and could also be polluted by dogs. Some thought needed to be given to this area. The Forum Members congratulated Ms Greengrass and her team for all the hard work that must have been involved in achieving this.

Helen Greengrass also told the Forum that a small pot of money had also been received from the High Street Clean up Scheme which was hoped to be used on chewing gum busting and a litter pick through the Alleyway at the side of Hughes Electrical store which will soon become the main walkway into the town from the Crescent Road car park.

Leaflets were then distributed advertising the different events planned at Landguard Fort starting at Easter right through to the end of the year.

Helen asked the Forum if anyone had spotted the painted yellow fish near public drains. This was part of the Yellow Fish Project, where they were to remind us that all litter and pollution actually finds itself out to sea through the drains and to remind us that drains are for water only. 'Only rain down the drain'

10. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Doreen Savage congratulated everyone for their excellent reports. She told the Forum about the new play schemes in three local parks which the Youth Forum were contributing to with their budget. The three schemes were Cavendish Park, Gosford Way and Allenby Park. Cllr Savage passed around the coloured drawings of the new schemes and the order was already placed and should start in May ready to use in early Summer. The upgrades were costing £265,000. These three areas have been identified as high priority and are set to be upgraded as part of on-going investment in the area of play. Gosford Way and Allenby Park will be fully refurbished with a range of items suitable for toddlers, juniors and teenagers. Cavendish Park will gain a Multi-Use Games Area aimed at teenagers. . Gosford Way will have all the play equipment replaced with 14 new pieces. In Allenby Park the surface area of the 5-a-side will be replaced and widened, the play area will get five new pieces of equipment as well as a multi-unit offering eight different activities. The Multi-Use Games Area being installed in Cavendish Park offers a range of leisure activities such as 5-a-side football and basketball.

It was announced that the Youth Forum will have a budget of £1000 in the new financial year 2019-2020. In May this year there will be local Elections which may mean different representatives around the Youth Forum meeting table.

The launch of Suffolk Day, Friday 21st June (on the longest day of the year) will this year be held in Felixstowe. This event was started originally by Radio Suffolk and was now in its third year. As the date this year falls on a Friday people are encouraged to spread any activities over the weekend. The Suffolk day celebrations will start at 7am with the Mayor of Felixstowe welcoming Radio Suffolk to our town. There will a proclamation on the Town Hall steps with all the Mayors attending from Suffolk towns, followed by afternoon tea at the Town Hall which is organised by local Councillors. On Saturday 22nd June the launch of Felixstowe in Flower will be held at the Triangle which will include stalls selling produce.

Cllr Savage thanked Grange School for stepping in to Chair the meeting at the last minute.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 1st May 2019** (Chair to be Level Two Youth Project) at **4pm – 5pm at Felixstowe Town Hall.**