



## **Felixstowe Youth Forum**

**Felixstowe Town Hall, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
**from 4pm-5pm.**

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Introductions:**

Colneis Junior School

Felixstowe School

Grange Community Primary School

Trimley St Mary Primary School

St Felix Primary

Langer Primary Academy

Debbie Frost – Felixstowe Town Council, Deputy Town Clerk

Sue Faversham – Felixstowe Town Council, Civic Events Officer

Bernard Price – Felixstowe Town Councillor

Margaret Morris – Felixstowe Town Councillor

#### **2. Apologies:**

Kingsfleet Primary School

Level 2

Darren Aitchison – Felixstowe Town Councillor

### **3. Play Area Improvements**

Colneis shared their thoughts about the Play equipment. They were really impressed at how much better the parks are now. Since they started school the equipment and new parks have become very impressive. Some of their ideas for the parks included soft floor like at the sea front's outdoor gym and zip-wires.

Sarah Shinnie spoke about the improvements to Gosford Way Park and Allenby Park. Covid then hit and then Langer Park was refurbished. Play equipment is for age groups of the Youth Forum and Sarah asked the group for ideas. The next two parks to be renovated are Walton Rec and Seaton Park. Sarah spoke about a Community Day which is being held on 13<sup>th</sup> April where companies who design and provide the play equipment will exhibit, to show all the different types of equipment that are available. Once that information has been assessed, then the companies will come back with some designs for the play areas.

Sarah explained the three age ranges, infant, junior and young people.

Play areas can be classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience using Fields In Trust (FIT) guidance.

LAP - a Local Area of Play. Usually small, landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.

LEAP - a Local Equipped Area of Play. Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users; often containing a wider range of equipment types.

NEAP - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play. Cater for all age groups. Often contain an extensive range of play equipment.

Youth/Casual - provision catering for older aged children and adults such as skate parks, basketball, MUGAs, outdoor gyms

We are looking to make the play equipment very accessible. Trampolines, monkey bars, climbing walls boulders something more challenging. Something more computer aided like Bat At. Sarah asked for ideas at Langer Park a few years ago. Equipment with a seat at either end and with a spring in the middle was suggested also Zip wires.

Drink refillable stations were also suggested but these can be difficult due to legionnaires disease. These are a good idea and could be a possibility on the seafront.

They are looking at collaborative play for example a long log that swings and involves several children to work together and help team work, Puzzles on the floor.

It was felt that a built in trampoline in the floor would be good fun.

The questionnaire consultation closed on 1 March, now the information will go out to Play companies. Both areas are going to have £150k spent on them. We want to make it inclusive so that equipment tends to be expensive. Some of the money will be spent on pathways to make it more accessible, Walton Rec will also have to have some fencing which is a sizeable amount of money.

Materials were spoken about, colours are more engaging, wood is softer but more likely to split. Metals get hot in the sunshine.

Everyone agreed that shade was an important factor in play areas. Seating was also talked about, a lot wanted shelters with seating. Division between ages was also agreed to be a good thing.

#### **4. School Presentations**

##### **Colneis Junior School**

The Year 6 children present every fortnight called the 'Vales Assembly' The assemblies are virtual on Zoom to the whole of Fairfield and Colneis. These assemblies promote their school values.

The Eco Warriors will soon be starting an exciting project they will be helping to design images, which will be painted on a wall that promotes looking after our planet and protecting wildlife.

**Felixstowe School** are planting outside the entrance, which is walked past by up to 2000 people a day, they hope that it will bring a smile to people's faces.

**Trimley St Mary Primary School** showed a slide show with children talking about their outdoor space.

Wildlife garden, bees, butterflies and insects. They spoke about an area where you can read with children older & younger.

**Set Felix Primary School** have lots of designated wildlife areas, and hope to purchase tools for the forest school. Their Gardening club is an after school club.

**Grange Primary** spoke about building a second pond on the school site, they are hoping it will bring a lot of wildlife to the area so that they can observe and look after it, over the coming years.

Red nose day brought lots of fun and laughter with the craziest hair dos! £90 was raised from the bake sale.

Puffins class has been going to Mill Lane Care Home every week and sharing their learning with the residents. As a school, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year visiting on a weekly basis and they enjoy learning from this. We were excited to hear about the Falcons class who have been swimming this half term in preparation to achieve their 25m by the end of their time at primary school. Falcons have also been enjoying weekly music lessons learning brass or woodwind instruments courtesy of Suffolk County Music Service.

Kestrels have been enjoying the privileges of Upper Key Stage 2 with sports leaders and eco club members. Red Kites have been working really hard in preparation for their SATS in May. They have also been completing their passport to Year 7 in readiness for High School next year.

**Langer School** are working to get their community garden up again, they invited volunteers to come in to weed it, many hands make light work. Within a few hours it was weeded. They are looking to set up a rain water harvesting system, purchase some compost bins, a food caddy and some seeds. Photos were shown.

**Colneis Junior School** spoke about the grant that are hoping to walk to purchase the items themselves. Underwoods are offering a 10% discount on their products such as bird boxes, seeds and garden tools some especially designed for children.

## **5. Any other business**

Felixstowe School spoke about needing more buses to the High school for children's safety.

Jeni Watts spoke about Field to Fork programme, they are giving away free kits, if schools would like the kit, they should phone 0333 016 2000.

East Suffolk Council are looking to invite 4 groups of 10 children to attend Abbey Grove Woodlands to have an educational fun afternoon to learn about the woodland and eco systems there. To find out more about what you want to see there, year 6 and above. Jeni gave out some handouts. Jeni can be contacted

via email on [jeni.watts@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:jeni.watts@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) . The idea is that young people can have an influence into the developments that are happening and the new leisure centre. There is currently lots of consultation with older people and East Suffolk Council are looking for input also from younger people.

Aaron spoke about his work experience at the Town Hall and visit to the Cemetery, Allotments and Broadway House in the Council's electric van.

**6. Date of next meeting** - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 4-5pm.

To be chaired by Trimley St Mary Primary School