

Felixstowe Youth Forum

Felixstowe Town Hall, Wednesday 8th November 2023
from 4pm-5pm.

Minutes

1. Introductions:

- Colneis Junior School
- Trimley St Mary Primary School
- Level 2
- Felixstowe School
- Debbie Frost – Felixstowe Town Council, Deputy Town Clerk
- Sue Faversham – Felixstowe Town Council, Civic Events Officer
- Darren Aitchison – Felixstowe Town Councillor
- Bernard Price – Felixstowe Town Councillor
- Margaret Morris – Felixstowe Town Councillor

2. Apologies:

- Grange Community Primary School
- Kingsfleet Primary

3. School Presentations

Colneis Junior School:

Madeline, Florence and Henry are pleased to attend their first ever Youth Forum meeting. They gave thanks for the reflective keyrings given to all the children and Fairfield and Colneis. It's lovely to see that the children are using them by hanging them on their coats and bags. They love being in Year 6 as they get to take on more responsibilities and have the opportunity to stand to be elected for house captains. They also hand out certificates in assembly and feel very grown up by being allowed to sit on the benches.

Year 6 has been a very sporty group so far. They have sent teams to various sporting events such as football, Paarlauf, Cross Country, hockey and rugby. There are lots of events coming up too. At the beginning of the year, they attended PGL at Bawdsy . It was an amazing experience and made their friendships stronger as they had to work together to overcome challenges. They faced their fears, and this boosted their confidence. They took part in lots of activities including the giant swing, climbing wall, zipline, canoeing, rafting and

much more. The food was great, and they got to sleep in rooms with their friends for a week.

They are taking place in showdown again and can't wait. They are learning to sing and dance to supercalifragilisticexpialidocious and will perform at the High School.

In Year 6, they chose rivers to research and completed projects on their chosen rivers. To improve their public speaking skills, they then presented the projects to the rest of their peers.

Their Eco Warriors are looking forward to a new project; helping to support the 'Saving Our Suffolk Swifts' campaign. They already have swift boxes at school and are now getting a local artist to paint a mural on the wall. Children have designed art to give the artist ideas. They will be making a video of the whole project and look forward to sharing it with Youth Forum.

The children showed a photograph of all the books they bought with the £50 voucher they won from the

4. **Trimley St Mary:**

The students from Trimley St Mary – Nathan spoke about as part of the creative curriculum forest schools they have been learning about natural disasters and the habitat around us. They had to do a little film about the damage which covered floods volcanic eruptions, tornados and hurricanes. They thought about how they may impact more locally. Emily spoke about local habitats in Science and conservation and what we can do locally. They looked at a map and spotted from the air where we lived. Logan spoke about a walk to Trimley marshes, on the walk they are going to collect seeds of different plants to observe them of what they look like and how they grow and develop. In science lessons they have looked at the rivers. They are very much looking forward to their local walk, as they have had problems with the weather, too much mud and not being able to go .

Level 2

Callum spoke to the group about Level Two. Level Two is for Year 6 up to age 26.

Monday is Year 6 only 4-5.30pm and the Saturday session is 10.30 - 12 open access for all ages.

Monday is a busy session with about 40 people a week attending

Level two run sessions 6 out of 7 days a week.

Wednesday is the YES session for year 10, Thursday Year 7 – Year 9 plus 2 outreach.

They have now returned to pre-covid numbers attending.

The group asked whether Callum could come to school and talk about Level Two? Callum will check with Shez and come back to the group.

5. Theme & Format

The children are not over keen on speakers from outside organisations but do enjoy taking part and especially enjoy coming to the Town Hall's Council Chamber. It is good for the schools to take it in turns in chairing the meetings and having 5 minutes each to present to the other schools.

The group talked about themes and the environment does appear to be a popular topic, but it may be useful to see themes that are being done in class and use some of these from the presentations to determine a theme.

It was felt disappointing that there are only a few schools that attend, and although all schools are invited, more needs to be done to encourage them. Resources seem to be an issue as it can be difficult to find a teacher to bring the children.

The reflective keyrings had been hoped to be a step into schools to see what Youth Forum does as part of their road safety campaign.

Keyrings – not all schools have had a presentation.

Level 2, Felixstowe School and Colneis did presentations for Fairfield, Kingsfleet and Colneis. Trimley did their own. Felixstowe School did their own.

We need to ask Shez when we can get the bus and go around other schools.

Cllr Bernard Price spoke about the environment referring to Langer school and cars idling. It has been proven that high tree hedges reduce the particulates (car fumes) by 76%. It was suggested that the Youth Forum writes a letter to Suffolk County Council and thought be made into which schools this could be done at.

6. Youth Forum Budget

Colneis have come up with a few ideas but are happy to get the Council reps to talk to their classes and gather lots of ideas like last year. Their ideas so far are below and have an eco-focus:

- Swift boxes in other schools, like they have done.
- Litter picking equipment
- Seed packets
- More trees planted.

The contact for the Swift group in case any schools are interested is:

swifts@suffolkbirdgroup.org and keeling.chris@icloud.com

The Group also discussed that a healthy snack (fruit and veg) for pupils would be a good use of the grant. These could be supplied from local grocers and allotment holders.

The group spoke about Litter free and the pledges for each business to pick up the litter in their areas of business operation.

Felixstowe is constantly changing. Trimley suggested that it would be good to have a map of walks. Each school could do some maps of close by walks.

Attendees were also asked what snacks they would like at Youth Forum, all were in agreement that they like pringles but maybe some carrots or healthier foods as well .

7. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 24th January, 4-5pm.