**MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 29th JANUARY 2014**

**Present:**

Jessica Pond, Symone Slater (Chairmen) and Shez Southernwood (Level2)

Kuncharan Malaravan, Tom Rattle and Sue Moss (Causton School)

Reuben Bowen, Bryony Duffield, Daniel Martin, Tony Rix and Rebecca Fryer (Colneis School)

Kyle Flynn, Finn Hurden, Liberty Pinner and Corinne Stockdale (Grange CP School)

Jonny Lowdell (DC Leisure)

Councillors Margaret Morris, Doreen Savage and Joan Sennington (Felixstowe Town Council)

Lorna Monsen and Gordon Mussett, Acting Town Clerk(Felixstowe Town Council).

In part Jemel Fox, Young People’s Health Ambassador for Community Action Suffolk.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

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

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Langer Academy, Felixstowe Futures and Councillor Barber.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 29thJANUARY 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 29thJanuary 2014, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, were agreed as a true record and the Chairmen were authorised to sign them.

**4. UPDATE FROM LEVEL2**

Representatives from Level2 reported that all their sessions were running well with good numbers of young people attending. In December Level2 took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at the Salvation Army and the Youth Hub looked very festive with two Christmas trees. Shez Southernwood has now visited all Felixstowe Junior Schools to promote the new Year 6 transition to their High Schools that are now running from their Youth Hub. At the first session there were 66 young people and further sessions have had over 90 young people attend.

Level2 is working very hard to secure funds for holding different activities during the half term week in February. These will include the popular Pamper Days, Boys Chill Out day, Creative Art Mural Sessions and Ten Pin Bowling.

This month Level2 has worked closely with Langer Academy to provide a safe space for some of their pupils as they needed to set two short notice non-pupil days which was a huge success. Shez Southernwood reported that she is working with a group of students from Beacon Hill Special School as part of their ASDAN(Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) learning the pupils in school Year 10 & 11 need to take part in a physical team sport to get their awards.

At Level2’s Youth Hub, using feedback from young people they are starting in-house pool and table tennis tournaments. They had asked Felixstowe & District Sport and Recreation Council to fund an indoor 5-a-side football set.

The cost of running Level2 is £93,000 for 2014 and Level2 have created a ‘Blue Peter’ style fundraising awareness thermometer to help them understand and see when funding comes in how close they are to their target. One of their fundraising events they are holding at their Hub will be a smarties tube challenge.

Councillor Savage asked how the fund raising for Level2 was achieved. Shez Southernwood replied that most of the funds came from grant funding with occasional donations from individual donors or local charitable trusts. Due to Youth Services not being a top priority Level2 are only able to confirm their funding for sessions 6 months in advance. A Member of the Youth Forum asked if young people attending Level2 pay an entrance fee. Shez Southernwood explained that there was no charge for entrance but for occasional outings a small fee was charged. Part of Level2’s Mission Statement was to include all children from all works of life including children who may not have access to any funds. Over the last few weeks Level2 has experience a high demand of visitors with over 300 individual children visiting their Youth Hub. This was a record. A Colneis School representative asked if more sessions could be made available as some of the sessions had been very crowded. Shez Southernwood reported that unfortunately as qualified staff were needed there was not enough funding this year to achieve this but they hoped to be able to increase this next year.

**5. UPDATE FROM CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Causton School representatives hold a ‘Causton Got Talent’ event every year and the talent show is performed in front of pupils and family members. It was very popular with different acts including a pupil drumming and a Year4 student singing in Japanese.

Representatives from Causton Junior School reported that their school had introduced ‘Coffee Afternoons’ where each class took turns holding a special event every Thursday. The ‘Coffee Afternoons’ are open to parents and family members and involve activities for everyone to join in. One of the activities Year6 students and their family members were involved in was making animals which fed in to their School Topic on the Amazon Rainforest. These events are very successful and each class are able to hold one event every term.

**6. UPDATE FROM GRANGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Representatives from Grange School reported that they are still concerned about the track between Morrisons and their school, which is due to be developed into a proper path and cycle track. One of their School Governors was Councillor Sharman who was pressing for the work to be completed as the track gets very muddy in the wet weather. Unfortunately Morrisons will not give permission for this to go ahead and the only other option is to take part of the school land and cut down some of their trees. This was something the school strongly did not want to do and asked if the Town Council knew anymore about this situation.

Councillor Morris reported that a number of people were aware of this and were trying to bring some conclusion to this problem. One idea was to get a compulsory purchase order. Councillor Savage said that Felixstowe Town Council was lucky to have a Suffolk County Councillor as a Town Councillor. Councillor Newman was also the Cabinet Member for **Roads and Transport which includes Road Management and Maintenance, Public Transport and Rights of Way and the Town Council would contact him.**

**Grange School representatives reported that their choir went to the O2 in London for the Young Voices Concert. There were lots of schools from all over the South of England totalling 7,300 children. After rehearsing in the afternoon they held an evening performance in front of a large audience. The songs included pop and folk and a new version of the Lord’s Prayer. They had a great time and did not get home until very late.**

**The representatives reported that their School was very lucky as they had good opportunities to learn a musical instrument. A violin teacher gives Year5 pupils a violin lesson once a week. If you enjoy it, you can carry on with a lesson in Year 6. They also have a guitar teacher but numbers for these lessons are limited and you have to be serious about learning and practising at home in order to carry on.**

**7. UPDATE FROM FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Gordon Mussett reported that this was a very busy time for the Town Council as the Town Councillors have to agree the budget for the next financial year.**

**Suffolk Coastal District Council had been very impressed with all the hard work that Colneis had achieved through their Maths lesson on play equipment for Felixstowe.**

**Gordon Mussett reported that on May 9th 2014 Felixstowe will be holding the Stage 3 of the National Women’s Cycle Race. Members of the public were invited to join in with the cyclists from the War Memorial outside the Town Hall at 11am, the route would go down towards Langer Road, through the Shared Space Scheme and along through to Walton. The race will probably start in Trimley. This event will be broadcast on television daily between 7pm-8pm on Channel 4. Felixstowe Town Council were supporting the event and hoped to provide some sort of entertainment and maybe even some cycle races for members of the public. Schools will be asked to attend to the event which will pass some of the school gates.**

**Councillor Doreen Savage reported that there were some big ongoing schemes in Felixstowe for example the Spa Pavilion, Felixstowe Pier and Spa Gardens. The Spa Gardens hope to have a new contractor soon with the possibility of starting in May and the work will take approximately 1 year to complete. The Spa Pavilion was being marketed by Suffolk Coastal District Council and had 2 groups expressing an interest. Felixstowe Pier now had a year’s delay on starting but the work should start at the end of the Summer Season 2014. Councillor Savage asked the Forum if they had visited the Langer Viewing Point which was lovely and a big success with the Fort, Museum, Visiting Centre and Café and was a big asset for the town.**

**8. UPDATE FROM LEISURE FACILITIES IN FELIXSTOWE**

**Jonny Lowdell reported that Brackenbury Sports Centre were hoping to assist Suffolk Coastal District Council with facilities for their idea of a Sports Festival on May 9th to coincide with the National Women’s Cycle Race.**

**Brackenbury Sports Centre had launched a Clown School which included magic, juggling and riding a unicycle for 4 years olds and upwards. These sessions were held on a Saturday morning and have had 35 attendees since it started in January. Miss Fryer reported that there was also Circus Skill Lessons at Colneis Junior School as their Teaching Assistants all went on courses and she would let the attendees know that Brackenbury Sports Centre also held sessions.**

**Jonny Lowdell reported that in April a new Officer will be appointed to look after sports activities outreaching all schools in the area.**

**9. UPDATE FROM COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**Colneis representatives told the Forum about a company that visited schools to work with Year 5 students teaching them about making the right choices on the streets. The company visited Colneis to explain the importance of not breaking the law. They did this by telling a story about a girl who made lots of bad, little choices; they were then able to see that the wrong choices could lead to a criminal record and that you could have a criminal record at 10 years old. This of course would ruin all your life opportunities, such as your options for the school or university that you attend, and any job that you end up doing. If you would like further information visit** [www.eductionalentertainment.co.uk](http://www.eductionalentertainment.co.uk) The School also took part in the Crucial Crew event at Stratford St. Andrew organised by the Community Safety Team at Suffolk Coastal District Council/Waveney and they had enjoyed it very much.

**Representatives from Colneis School reported that following the talk at the last meeting on 13th November 2013 by Jemel Fox, Young People’s Health Ambassador for Community Action Suffolk asking for children’s opinions on the Health Service they had carried out a survey that asked the questions Jemel had suggested. The survey was carried out by 68 children in their Year6 and the responses are attached to the minutes.**

**10. COMMUNITY ACTION SUFFOLK**

**Jemel Fox, Young People’s Health Ambassador asked the Forum if they thought the 111 telephone system was a useful tool before you visited the A & E department of the local hospital or ring 999 in an emergency. The 111 telephone system was a direct line for instructions, guidance and advice when needed. Jemel was concerned that there was not enough counselling available for young people, especially for young people who self harmed. The Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation Trust specialise in mental health programmes, which is for severe cases ie suicide but there is a 6 week waiting list !**

**The Members of the Forum thought that most children looked up any aliments or problems that they may have on the internet.**

**Shez Southernwood reported that Level2 were trying to identify the most vulnerable young people especially when Year 6 pupils transfer from Primary School to High School as any problems can affect their attendance and school work. If a problem did escalate which required hospital treatment there was no facility to keep young people safe while waiting for an appointment and also after the treatment there was no exit strategy or encouragement to use the tools they had been given.**

**Doreen Savage reported that in the past when High Schools highlight vulnerable students with mental health issues and are referred to the Mental Health team there is no feedback as to the outcomes or treatment so the High Schools cannot support them as well as they want too. The point was made that the students attend their schools 38 weeks of the year but at the weekends and holidays there is no support whatsoever, public services need to be 24/7.**

**Shez Southernwood reported that we were very lucky in this area to have brilliant school nurses who share data and are part of the Community Nursing Team.**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 26th March 2014** at **4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall (Chairman Causton Junior School).