**MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 26th MARCH 2014**

**Present:**

Kuncharamn Malaravan , Jessica Wardley (Chairmen) and Sue Moss (Causton School)

Helena Amos, Zulaiha Tfhikar and Rebecca Fryer (Colneis School)

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

Jessica Pond, Symone Slater and Wendy O’Connor (Level2)

Jonny Lowdell (DC Leisure)

Councillors Jan Garfield, Margaret Morris and Joan Sennington (Felixstowe Town Council)

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

1. **INTRODUCTION**

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

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Langer Academy, Shez Southernwood and Councillor Savage.

**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. HIGH SHERIFFS AWARD**

Members discussed the wonderful news that Felixstowe Youth Forum had been short listed for the High Sheriffs Suffolk Youth Organisation of the Year Award. Four representatives have been invited to attend the High Sheriffs Ceremony on Wednesday 2nd April at the Waterfront Auditorium, University Campus Suffolk in Ipswich. The High Sheriff’s office needed to know names of attendees as soon as possible, after much discussion it was decided as Level2 were already attending on their own behalf and Colneis School were holding their school play, Grange School would represent Felixstowe Youth Forum and if possible Causton School would send a representative.

**5. UPDATE FROM CAUSTON SCHOOL**

Causton School representatives reported that after the last Youth Forum meeting they have been discussing the issues that were raised within their School Council. The school wanted to mark the National Women’s Cycling Race that was visiting the

town on Friday 9th May. Some of the suggestions were holding children’s bike races, a cycling day, making banners etc and selling themed cakes. If there was a fund raising event and a lot of money was raised some of the money could be spent on the following:

* Update facilities in local parks
* Give money to charities such as E.A.C.H.
* Spend money on more healthcare facilities
* Spend money on the ‘update’ of certain places in Felixstowe like Felixstowe pier and Spa Gardens

Representatives from Colneis School also told their class about the Youth Forum’s discussion on public health services for young people. They asked their class the following questions:

What healthcare services are local to you ? The response was as follows:

* The Walton Surgery
* Felixstowe Hospital
* 111
* Dental Services
* Morrison pharmacy
* Lloyd pharmacy

What is good about our healthcare services ? The response was as follows:

* Calm
* Friendly, kind staff
* Happy to help, will do everything they can
* Stickers !!
* Treatment works
* They will try to recommend what is best for you

They also discussed whether there should be more counselling for young people and if there was would it only be for the people who needed it most. Everyone agreed that there should be more counselling available for young people in our area and they should be friendly like Level2 as they are a brilliant example ! They also believed that counselling should NOT be just for the people who really needed it for several reasons. One of these was, how do you class someone’s problem to be more or less important than another person’s problem ?

The Causton representatives reported that they held at Charity Sports Relief Day and raised over £200. This included a cake sale, raffle and many sporting activities ending with a game of netball between the Year6’s.

**6. UPDATE FROM COLNEIS SCHOOL**

Colneis School representatives reported that they have been very busy carrying out questionnaires to find out what would make children visit the sports centres in Felixstowe more. Every child completed a questionnaire answering the following questions:

* Do you visit Felixstowe Leisure Centre and how often ?
* Do you visit Brackenbury Sports Centre and how often ?
* What activities fo you participate in ?
* Can you think of anything that Felixstowe Leisure Centre could do to make you visit more ? What clubs, sports or activities would you like them to offer ?
* Can you think of anything Brackenbury Sports Centre could do to make you visit more ? What clubs, sports or activities would you like them to offer ?
* Can you think of anything that Brackenbury Sports Centre could do to make you visit more ? What Clubs, sports or activities would you like them to offer ?

The papers attached to these minutes are the results of the questionnaire. Members congratulated Colneis School in all their hard work and they passed their findings to Jonny Lowdell from Brackenbury Sports Centre to take away with him.

**7. UPDATE FROM GRANGE SCHOOL**

Representatives from Grange School reported that they had held a Year 6 assembly for their parents and the rest of the school. The assembly was science based and included subjects such as global warming, the ozone layer and carbon footprint. The students acted as news presenters to introduce each subject. There was a lot of laughs and there were comments that they could be even the next Ant and Dec !

Grange School representatives said they had hosted the Sport Relief Mile at the weekend where many people had fun running and raising money for a very good cause along with pupils giving a £1 for wearing sporty clothes in school. They also held a Swimathon in their swimming lessons and a good time was had by all.

Grange School had recently held two Mother’s Day lunches where mums go into the school to have a school lunch with their children. These were very popular and one day they had had 36 mums attend. Grange School kitchen also provides a birthdays lunch for pupils however in September when free school meals for all children in Key Stage 1 is introduced these may have to stop due to the extra 70 pupils who will be eligible for free lunch.

**8. UPDATE FROM FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

Gordon Mussett reported that he was looking at road and rail access into the town. Delays on the A14 when the Orwell Bridge was closed and the trains delayed or cancelled in and out of the town affected everyone. The East Suffolk Growth Group who had put a plan to address these issues had come up with the following ideas:

A North Ipswich Bypass

and

Electrifying the Felixstowe Branch Line.

The Town Council were looking at introducing a discount rate for young adults in renting allotments in the town. This was to encourage outdoor activities and the joys of growing your own food. Allotments are like a small garden not attached to your house and are plots of land next to each other. If the Town Council agrees there will be a Press Release asking for young adults interested to contact the Town Hall and if possible the Town Hall staff will rotavate the plot for easy digging.

Lorna Monsen reported that the Youth Forum had received a request from Suffolk Coastal Services to join together to initiate Spring Clean Suffolk 2014. Members were asked to go back to their School Councils, nominate a location and the Forum would discuss at the next meeting.

The Mayor, Jan Garfield reported that she had visited the new Felixstowe Academy and it was incredible. Each corridor was painted a different colour to differentiate the different subject areas. Each pupil would be given a map which was designed like the London Underground Map showing the different areas.

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

Jonny Lowdell reported that the new Community Officer will start in April. Their job will be to go out into the community to see what exactly the public would like for leisure facilities in Felixstowe. Members from Colneis School asked if it was possible to have a children’s club or maybe a squash league in Felixstowe.

Jonny Lowdell reported that at Felixstowe Leisure Centre they were trialling a new session called BikeBlitz. This was for 11-15 years old on a Saturday morning which was a combination of 30 minute indoor cycling session and a 30 minute body weight circuit training session which was aimed to improve overall health and fitness levels. There was also a Junior Bootcamp for 11-15 years old on a Wednesday afternoon and a Sunday morning. This junior class incorporates drills designed to enhance agility, speed, power, strength and quickness. The class would involve moving around to a number of different stations, each designed for specific exercise.

In the Easter holidays, Felixstowe Leisure Centre would again be having their Family Supersaver Ticket. There would be Chip and Dip Sessions all through the Easter holidays which was hoped would be a great success. In the Summer holidays the Leisure Centre would be holding crash courses which would include Canoeing, Diving and Beginners Lessons.

The gym at the Leisure Centre would be closed for a few days for refurbishment but was hoped to be open as soon as possible.

Jonny Lowdell thanked Colneis School for all their hard work in questioning their pupils and producing the wonderful graphs (attached) which was invaluable from an operator’s point of view.

**10. UPDATE FROM LEVEL2 ITEMS**

Representatives from Level2 reported that Level2 were very busy with over 396 individual young people visiting them and over 1950 visits in total.

February half term activities went really well and the young people were now looking forward to Level2’s Easter Holiday Programme which included a trip to Mersea Island and Outdoor Adventure Centre; A Jungle Experience at Level2 with hands on experience; Boys Chill Out Day, A Girls Pamper Day and many more exciting activities.

Level2 representatives said that as a community project Felixstowe Travelwatch have asked Level2 to design and paint a large mural for the Railway Station at Felixstowe. The design will be of a train with carriages and each carriage looks at Felixstowe throughout the years from the Second World War through to today.

The Management Board who looks after Level2 have been visiting them to see what the young people would like to happen in the future in the sessions held at Level2. This would help plan the way forward and they were hoping to form a Level2 Youth Council.

Representatives from Level2 said that their facebook page and website were working well with a lot of information for young people, parents and anyone interested in finding out more about Level2. Level2’s website is <http://www.leveltwo.org>

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 21st May 2014** at **4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall (Chairman Felixstowe Academy).