



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2015

Present:

AJ Storer and Courtney Sadler (Chairmen), Corinne Stockdale (Grange CP School)
Daniel Phillips, Billie Smith, Megan Watts and Alicia Little (Causton Junior School)
Fraser Forsey, Charlie Webb, Archie Wilks and Rebecca Wyard (Colneis Junior School)
Leah Martin and Shez Southernwood (Level2)
Moira Chapman and Helen Greengrass (Felixstowe Futures)
Jonny Lowdell (Places for People Leisure)
Sally Thompson (Suffolk County Council)
Steve Wyatt and Alan Muchal (Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum)
Councillors Christina Barham, Doreen Savage and Josh Vartan (Felixstowe Town Council)
Ash Tadjrishi (Town Clerk) Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

1. INTRODUCTION

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence have been received from Felixstowe Academy.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 24th JUNE 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 24th June 2015, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, were agreed as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

4. SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL RAISING THE BAR

Sally Thompson thanked the Youth Forum for letting her attend the meeting to explain Raising the Bar and how it works within local schools. She told the Forum that Felixstowe had been a pilot area and it had given local businesses and schools an opportunity to be linked within our area. Students were given an opportunity to meet different people within business and question them. Sally Thompson had just been transferred to a new role where she works with Secondary schools only. In Felixstowe's case this will be the Felixstowe Academy. For primary schools a broker is available that schools can contact for help, supplies etc to help bridge between education and businesses which should be in place by the end of the month. If you would like to contact them please use the generic email address: wis@suffolk.gov.uk.

Doreen Savage said that this was a good idea and that Felixstowe schools were very lucky to have some fabulous companies in the area to be linked with.

5. CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN FELIXSTOWE

Ash Tadjrishi explained to the Forum that there were lots of fun things in store for Christmas this year in Felixstowe. The Town Council supports numerous Christmas events within Felixstowe including supporting the Christmas Lights supplied by the Lions Club. The Mayor has been invited to start the Christmas Celebrations by switching the Christmas lights on in the town. This will take place on Saturday 28th November 2015 at 5pm at The Triangle. This year the Town Council has organised for an ice rink to be brought to Great Eastern Square in the run up to Christmas. The ice rink will be a temporary synthetic structure and would be environmentally friendly. Other activities being planned alongside the rink include rides for smaller children and a stall serving hot food and drinks. The Mayor will open the ice rink at midday on Saturday 19th December. Members of the public will be able to use the rink between midday to 8pm from the 19th until Wednesday 23rd December. On Sunday 20th December it will open from 10am-6pm. The best thing of all was that it would be completely free. This would hope to be a very popular event so you may need to be patient as there may be a long queue !

The Town Clerk asked Youth Forum Members if they would like to contribute part of their £2000 budget given to them by the Town Council towards this project which was primarily for young children in Felixstowe. The Youth Forum Members were asked to vote and it was unanimously agreed that the Youth Forum would allocate £1000 of their budget toward the project. The Town Clerk thanked the Youth Forum and asked them to keep in mind any other projects within Felixstowe that the Youth Forum may wish to contribute to in the future. A member of the Forum asked the Clerk how this money was found and the Clerk told the Forum that the rink is being sponsored by the East of England Cooperative and also supported by several District Councillors who have allocated just under £500 each from part of their individual 'enabling communities budget' towards the venture.

6. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS

The representatives from Causton Junior School told the Forum about their Year 6 residential trip to Thorpe Woodlands Adventure centre in Norfolk. It was enjoyed by all who went, although some students were scared of heights when going on the zip wire. They were also to canoe down a very long river which was enjoyed by all. Some of the Year 6 students were unable to go on the residential trip so they had an activity week instead. This included trampolining at Brackenbury Sports Centre and a visit to Foxburrow Farm.

Causton Junior School's school council have been asked to think of different ideas to raise money for the British Heart Foundation and their school which they hoped to share their ideas with the Youth Forum at the next meeting.

7. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS

Colneis school representatives introduced themselves and told the Forum a little bit about themselves. They told the Forum that they enjoyed being in Year 6 because they were given a lot of responsibilities within the school, which included selling poppies for Remembrance Day and helping to organise their schools Children in Need events.

The representatives gave the Forum an update of the anti-smoking film that was entered into the Live Well Suffolk Oscars with the students from last year's Year 6

students. Along with Mrs Wyard they were invited to the Oscars at Whersted Park Manor House where they were treated like movie stars and walked down the red carpet ! Colneis School won the Best Smoking Film Oscar.

Colneis school representatives told the Forum that they were very proud as the school had shared Cross County award this year.

The Colneis School Year 6 had already been on three school trips this new school academic year. They had been on a field trip along the coast of Felixstowe for their Geography lesson as well as a trip to Felixstowe Ferry to learn about the River Deben. Their third trip was an activity morning with the Rotary Club called Crucial Crew where they learnt about:

Fire safety
 Stranger danger
 Healthy eating
 First aid
 Drugs, smoking and alcohol
 Road safety
 Anti-social behaviour and
 Electrical safety

Colneis School representatives have had their first School council meeting and prior to this the representatives talked to their class about how they can ensure that everybody was kind to everybody else and nobody uses unkind or inappropriate words. Lots of children said that the slightest mean things could upset them, and that it only needs to be said once to be remembered forever. Some of the words that the children used to describe how it made them feel when people in or out of school are unkind where as follows:

<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
Sad	Frustrated	Upsetting	Worthless
Lonely	Upset	Disappointed	Tiny
Angry	Tearful	Sad	Invisible
Shy	Scared	Unhappy	Guilty
Annoyed	Worried	Alone	Discriminated
Want to be alone	Hated	Invisible	Lonely
Upset	Depressed	Lonely	Hurt
Invisible	Want to cry	Hurt	Unsettled
Don't exist	Sick	Unfair	Unwelcome
Left out	Disappointed	Sickness	Alienated
Broken heart	Gutted	Want the world	Feel you don't
Disappointed	Anxious	swallow you up	belong
Unhappy	Hurt your feelings		Feel you are
	Left out		making a mistake
	Annoyed		Crushed
	Lonely		Powerless
	Cross		Unwanted
			Like nobody cared
			Disliked
			Down in the
			dumps
			Unfriendly

And the worst Wish they were a pencil and could be rubbed out by an eraser.
 From the feedback they have now decided to:

Hold an assembly to raise any of their concerns and share their ideas
Make posters to put around the school and
Make a display in their hall.

8. GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS

Representatives from Grange School told the Forum that their Headteacher was still unwell and that the Acting Head was continuing to do a great job. Unfortunately the Crossing Patrol man was recovering from an operation and a replacement was unable to be found which was a worry for many parents and staff. They had recently been awarded the Sportsmark which is an award that shows their school takes sports and keeping fit very seriously. Their Sports Day in the Summer was quite competitive and very well attended by parents. They had a fine day so the children were able to have their dinners outside or a picnic with their parents. Cavendish Community Association presented the winners cups and the Deputy Mayor also attended.

Grange School representatives loved being in Felixstowe over the summer holidays. The refurbished Spa Gardens were looking great and the new play equipment at Martello Park was fantastic. They were also looking forward to visiting the newly reopened Spa Pavilion and hoped it would be a great success.

Grange School Choir was busy practising, as they were attending the O2, in London in January 2016 for the Young Voices Concert. The choir will also be visiting the Firs Care Home in December to sing carols to the residents.

9. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Doreen Savage told the Forum about Remembrance Day on Sunday 8th November and Armistice Day which had happened earlier today. There were a lot of people who attended the Remembrance Sunday and especially a lot of young people in the cadet forces who paraded in front of the Town Hall and War Memorial on the seafront. It was a special day even though it is a sad occasion.

10. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD

Helen Greengrass told the Forum that over the last few months Felixstowe Forward had been having lots of discussions with local organisations asking for their views on what was happening in the town. Helen wanted to hear from young people in Felixstowe too. She asked the Forum the best way of capturing the views and asked the Forum members to go back to their schools to ask their fellow students. One idea could be a suggestion box or a noticeboard where students could pin their ideas on it for everyone to see. Helen set a challenge to the Youth Forum Members as representatives of their schools, to say what they really think of Felixstowe.

Helen told the Forum that Felixstowe's logo was Great Days By The Sea and wanted to make this more visual throughout the town. She asked the Forum Members what does the logo mean to them ? What sort of events would they like to see in Felixstowe ? She said she was looking forward to hearing the different ideas from the students.

Moira Chapman told the Forum that they still had the information provided by the schools for the time capsule and hoped to organise this next year with possibly a small ceremony. She told the Forum that the Spa Gardens were nearly completed and asked the Forum Members if they had time to fill out a questionnaire as part of the requirement of the Heritage Lottery Fund. They hoped that the Spa Gardens would be used by all schools as part of their curriculum.

11. PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE

Jonny Lowdell told the Forum that the school activities half term week had been very busy. There had been a coloured pool party which was very full and received good feedback. The staff had raised £300 for their chosen charity Heart UK by doing numerous events including a sponsored onesie day.

Jonny asked the Forum Members if there were any activities that were not available either at the Leisure Centre or Brackenbury Sports Centre that they would like to see and if so to bring the suggestions to the next Youth Forum meeting.

Jonny told the Forum that unfortunately the Leisure Centre pool would need to be closed from 9th December 2015 for 8 days as there would be work on relining the water flue. Due to the recent bad weather there had been serious flooding in the crèche area of the Leisure Centre and £30,000 of damage accrued.

Josh Varten asked if the Summer Camps earlier in the year had been a success and Jonny confirmed that they had, especially Operation Camouflage, the boot camp which was held at the barracks in Woodbridge. The young people were even able to learn about the environment.

12. LEVEL2 ITEMS

The representatives from Level2 told the Forum that all the sessions were running well with good numbers of young people attending. During the Summer Holidays they had enjoyed trips out and about to different places including a walk over the roof of the O2 Arena in London. They also went on another great day trip to Aldeburgh Carnival where they stayed out late and joined in the lantern parade.

Level2 representatives told the Forum about their new Young Carers Sessions which are now open to young people from Year 6 to Year14 who care for someone. Over the next few weeks Shez, Level2's Project Manager will be visiting all 7 Junior Schools over the next few weeks to chat and give out details of the Year 6 sessions and taster events. Since the last meeting of the Youth Forum, Level2 have been successful in getting a grant from The Big Lottery for three hundred and seventy thousand pounds. With the money they have been able to employ more staff and Level2 look forward to meeting the new Year6 students soon.

Level2 distributed flyers to the Youth Forum showing them the letter introducing themselves to parents giving details of Level2 and their activities to new parents of Year 6 students.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Stephen Wyatt from Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum asked the Youth Forum Members if they had heard of Fairtrade and all the Members had. He told the Forum that the most popular Fairtrade item sold was bananas! Stephen Wyatt then went on to say that if a banana was £1.00, what would the percentage of the £1.00 would be? He asked what the Forum Members thought the owner, worker, shipper, ripener and the shops would get ? Surprisingly the Forum were told that it would be broken down as follows:

Owner	- 17p
Worker	- 3p
Shipper	- 14p
Ripener	- 23p
Shops	- 43p

Fairtrade was about better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. The money helps the local community, for example for schools and health care. In February 2016 a Tea farmer from Kenya would be visiting Felixstowe and as the Members of the Youth Forum did such an excellent job at the Fairtrade Festival at the Library earlier in the year Stephen hoped they would be able to help with this visit.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 27th January 2016 (to be Chaired by Colneis Junior School)** at **4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall.