



## **MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2018**

**Present:** Ruby Davies(Chair), Millie Fisher, Harvey Lee and Julia Steele ( Colneis Junior School)  
Denis Ciocan, Rubie Fisk, Willow Jameson and Alicia Little (Causton Junior School)  
Ruby Ambrose, Toki Pinner and Corinne Stockdale (Grange Community Primary)  
Maisie Calver, Eva Smith, Milly Willcox and Kate Bennett (Trimley St Mary School)  
Rev Andrew Dotchin (Level 2 Youth Project)  
Joshua Abbott (Volkerfitzpatrick)  
Maxine Stephens (Vokerfitzpatrick)  
Clare Baker (Felixstowe Forward)  
Cllr Doreen Savage (Felixstowe Town Council)  
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

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

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Felixstowe Academy, Level 2 Youth Project, People for Places Langer Primary Academy and Cllr Mark Jepson (Felixstowe Town Council)

### **3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 27 June 2018, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

### **4. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS**

Causton School representatives told the Forum that they were excited to be at the Youth Forum and learn of the things which will be happening in Felixstowe this academic year and hope to be able to contribute their ideas so that Felixstowe can continue to be a town which supports and promotes activities for its young people. One of the representatives told the Forum they had enjoyed taking part in the Carnival, especially the pantomime theme. They had been on the winning float and they were dressed up as members of a rock and roll band which had been a lot of fun.

Representatives told the Forum that their Year 6 enjoyed a week away at Thorpe Woodlands residential centre in Thetford Forest. They enjoyed the big swing, which had two levels, both very high. The Year 6's who didn't go on the trip completed activities which included trampolining at Brackenbury, going to Foxburrow Farm.

The representatives from Causton told the Forum that their whole school had taken the afternoon off their timetable for an Enrichment session this was where they mixed with other year groups and complete activities such as Art, Chess, Enterprise, Eco Club, Sports, Science, Forest School and RE which includes a trip to the local Mosque.

Youth Forum representatives asked the Causton representatives how long the Enrichment session had been going on in the school and who in the school helped run it. It was explained that it was the teachers but extra helpers did come in. The groups are changed every 4 weeks. They were asked what their favourite session was and the Enterprise session was the favourite. This was where the group was given money and the group had to make a profit, the winning group who made the most profit would receive a prize.

## **5. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS**

The new Colneis School representatives introduced themselves. They told the Forum that with the secondary school application process having recently closed, many of the Year 6 children at their school had been talk the opportunity to attend a variety of open days so that they have a chance to consider all of the options. It has been really interesting to see all of the facilities which secondary schools have to offer. We have been particularly impressed with the facilities available for sport, art, music and science across all of the schools.

The representatives told the Forum that they have been lucky to have been out on 3 day trips so far this academic year. As part of their Geography topic on rivers and coasts, they had spent one day down at Felixstowe Ferry observing the mouth of the River Deben. They then spent a second morning out this week looking at the sea defences which are in place in Felixstowe to protect the land from the sea. Within this topic, they also learnt about the Great Storm of 1953 and how it impacted on Felixstowe. As part of their trip to the seafront this week, they stopped at the Tourist Information Hut and talked about the '2 minute beach clean-up' drive that Felixstowe has signed up to.

Last week, they visited Crucial Crew where they learnt about a number of personal safety topics including, fire safety, water safety, road safety, anti-social behaviour and basic first aid.

Colneis school representatives told the Forum how they were looking forward to attending the end of WWI Remembrance Service at St Peter and Paul's Church. A group of 30 children from Year 6 will be attending. They have been talking in their classes about the Remembrance Events that are happening across the country. Finally, the Colneis representatives spoke about their Christmas Fayre which is due to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> November at 3.30pm and they welcomed everyone to attend. There will be Christmas gifts on sale as well as a raffle.

Doreen Savage asked the Colneis representatives which activity they enjoyed the most when visiting Crucial Crew as she had been and found it a very worthwhile experience. Colneis response was that they had enjoyed it all but especially the smoked room which was a very scary experience.

## **6. GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS**

The representatives from Grange told the Forum that they became an Academy on 1st November and were now part of the Orwell Multi Academy Trust or OMAT for short. They told the Forum that this has not made a lot of difference to the school as their name and uniform were not changing. Although this has meant that three teachers and two teaching assistants had decided to leave the school. It had been quite difficult to replace them in the middle of term, so they were managing with supply teachers and their Head and Deputy Head were teaching more. One of the teachers leaving was Miss McElroy who had been at Grange for 35 years and had never worked at another school. She decided to retire and start taking things easy after such dedication to the school. They gave her a beautiful vase which came in handy for all the flowers she received! The representatives told the Forum that they would miss her and the other staff who left but they knew that once things settle down, Grange will be back on the up!

Grange School representatives told the Forum that they have already had some interesting sports activities this term which included having a Martial Arts afternoon with Premier Sports, a

football tournament and the Paarlauf. They also have a gymnastics club running and a fencing club is about to start.

The representatives told the Forum that after the lovely summer holiday, they were glad to come back to school to find the willow weaving artwork which they had made for Art on the Prom and had been returned to school for display. These were now hanging in the hall. They had really enjoyed taking part in that project and seeing their work displayed in the gardens on Art on the Prom Sunday. Soon after they had returned to school, the Grange Year 3 and 4 children were involved in an event that made them TV stars! There had been a beach clean which was a joint venture with the Marine Conservation Society, Sky Ocean Rescue and Ipswich Town. First the children took part in a workshop about caring for their local environment. The Ipswich Town mascot also turned up! Then they walked to the beach and were joined by three Ipswich Town players who helped with the litter pick (after some instruction from the children!). All this was filmed and some children were interviewed. This was then on Sky TV for everyone to see. This had been a fantastic opportunity for children to become involved in the wider community.

Their Year 5 children also went to a CoSpace Rescue taster day at BT with other Primary schools. They had learnt to code and programme a virtual reconnaissance robot which was then able to pick up and deposited objects in designated places. In the competition a team from Grange were victorious and are now on the CoSpace Rescue Winners Wall of Fame team!

## 7. TRIMLEY ST MARY SCHOOL ITEMS

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum that over to help with their learning outside the classroom. On the field, they have had a multi-gym installed, to use in their PE lessons and at lunchtimes. They have also had 2 small world areas built, which are made of 6 tyres and in each tyre is a miniature world. At lunchtime, each class can bring out a tub with different themed toys to use in the small worlds. The schools outdoor library has also been added to with small reading nooks and their newest addition - Elmer the Elephant! They also have writing belts, filled with pens, pencils and notepads to use wherever they want plus new that over the summer holidays, they were very lucky to have had lots of work done at their school blackboards and sports equipment. See photographs below:



The children and staff in Early Years at Trimley St Mary school also received a big surprise when they came back to school in September. The schools outdoor area had been made over with lots of fabulous new resources for the youngest children in the school. These included a cover over the mud kitchen, along with a set of tables and chairs so they could be used as a café, den building poles fixed into the

ground for building tents and shelters all year round. Also a new garage for the bikes and scooters and a row of shops to add to the fun, along with lots of new bike helmets, writing trollies, wet weather clothes, a music wall and a fabulous new herb garden.



Representatives from Trimley St Mary School reported that as part of the Year 5 and Year 6 summer holiday Brilliant Beginner homework task, the children had to try to persuade people to use less plastics. The projects varied from power points showing the effects of plastic pollution, to models made totally out of plastic. This term their hard work had continued; they have taken part in a litter pick and survey along the beach, had an assembly with Plastic Free Felixstowe and presented their findings to the children in Year 3 and 4. Their next step will be to find out how they can use less plastics in areas of their school including the kitchens, office and cleaners.

Representatives told the Forum that they have already seen a variety of performances this half term! At school, KS 2 watched a performance of The Hobbit, while KS 1 would be watching Sleeping Beauty in the next few weeks. The children in Year 3 and 4 were also very lucky to be invited to watch Awful Auntie by David Walliams at The Regent in Ipswich. They had said it was very funny, well written, great costumes, fantastic acting and gave them lots of ideas for story writing back at school. All the schools year groups had now completed their first Learning Together of the new school year. EYFS had a phonic session where the new children and parents, KS 1 had a reading focus. The children in Years 3 and 4 looked at inference and deduction when they are reading. While the children in Year 5 and 6 spent a session looking at the arithmetic paper they will have to do in May. For some of our parents it had been a shock when the children beat them in a timed times table challenge!!!!

Coming up they have a Remembrance service at St Martins Church, a Nativity play and their Carols round the tree and Christmas craft evening and they will tell the Forum more in January !

The representatives were asked where the money had come from to be able to all this wonderful work in their play field etc. It was confirmed that with Sports Premium funding and help from local companies as well as help from parents and staff.

## 8. **FELIXSTOWE FORWARD**

Clare Baker told the Forum that she had two certificates to present to Langer Academy and Felixstowe Academy who have completed Dementia Awareness. Felixstowe Forward is now working closely with local retailers on a BID (Business Improvement District). A BID is a partnership between a local council and local businesses which is intended to provide improvements to the town by a charge on shop ratepayers. Part of this process is a retail questionnaire and Clare asked if each school would complete the form and return it asap.

Clare Baker told the Forum that if any schools would like Helen Greengrass to visit them to talk about dementia please contact her via email [Helen.Greengrass@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Greengrass@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

## 9. **VOLKER FITZPATRICK**

Maxine Stephens, Project Skills Co-ordinator thanked the Youth Forum for inviting her and her colleague Joshua Abbott to the Youth Forum. She told the Forum that they were working on a project to deliver a new third rail terminal on Howlett Way, Trimley St Martin. The project was

on behalf of Network Rail which included building a railway station and new railway track to meet Felixstowe port's growing transport demands. She was trying to engage the local community and part of this was to manage a skills academy. This means engaging local schools, colleges, charities as well as local community groups as there was a skills shortage. There was an opportunity for schools to undertake educational activities concerning this but the opportunity would need to be taken up by Easter as they would then be moving on. Joshua Abbott, Environmental Advisor explained that it was a good idea to engage with the primary school age rather than at a later stage in the school life.

Rev Andrew Dotchin explained that his son was an Engineer who worked as a modern apprentice on the railways and although the hours were very long it was very rewarding so if you can take up the opportunity it would be a good thing. Doreen Savage encouraged schools to sign up to the idea.

*Rev. Andrew Dotchin left the meeting at this stage.*

Maxine Stephens explained that the first stage would be to meet with the schools and discuss options around the schools curriculum and fit this in with the Volker Fitzpatrick project. Lorna Mosen was asked to forward Maxine's contact details.

## **10. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

Cllr Doreen Savage explained that she and the Town Clerk had been having meetings with SCDC to discuss play equipment in Felixstowe. The Youth Forum has an annual budget of £2000 which can be spent on projects in the town. In the past the Youth Forum have sponsored the Christmas ice skating rink as well as a trampoline for the Carnival. An idea has been put forward that the Youth Forum may wish to be involved in contributing towards the new play equipment scheme to buy additional equipment to upgrade play areas in Gosford Way, Old Felixstowe and Allenby Park. The Forum agreed to discuss this and get back to the Forum in January, where a decision has to be made.

Doreen Savage told the Forum that the Mayor of Felixstowe will be opening the Christmas Ice Rink at Great Eastern Square on Thursday 20 December. Skating is free of charge, from 11am to 7pm, Thurs 20th to Saturday 22nd and 10am to 6pm on Sunday 23rd Dec. Skates of all size are provided and there is no need to book.

Felixstowe Town Council along with the Royal British Legion were holding various Remembrance events to commemorate the ending of WW1. These included:

**Friday 2nd – Sunday 18th November:** Exhibition "WW1 Felixstowe" at the Library

**Thursday 8th November:** Schoolchildren lay poppies at local cemeteries/churchyards

**Friday 9th November** Schools' service at the War Memorial (10.45-11.15am)

**Saturday 10th November:** Festival of Remembrance at St Johns Church, 7.30pm

**Remembrance Day Sunday 11th November:**

Civic Remembrance Service 9.45am, St Johns Church

Civic Act of Remembrance 10.45am, War Memorial

Remembrance service at the war graves, Felixstowe Cemetery 12 noon for 12.15pm start

Felixstowe Remembers and 'Battles Over' Beacon Lighting, 6.15pm – 7.00pm, War Memorial

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 30th January 2019** (Chair to be Kingsfleet Primary School) at **4pm – 5pm at Felixstowe Town Hall.**