



MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: Christopher Beasley (Chair), Jake Macleod, Laramay Spratt and Julia Steele (Colneis School)
Ava Hoang, Connor London, Ava Watson, Alicia Little and Sally Long (Causton Junior School)
Levi Brinton, Lily Wright and Corinne Stockdale (Grange Community Primary)
Alastair Sheeran and Kyrsty Beattie (Kingsfleet Primary School)
Charlie Hogger, Sophie Lucking, Faith Witmore and Kate Bennett (Trimley St Mary School)
Kiara Baldwin, William Farrow and Megan Burt (Felixstowe Academy)
PCSO Ben Sagi (Suffolk Police)
Cllrs Doreen Savage, Seamus Bennett and Sharon Harkin (Felixstowe Town Council)
Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

Observing: Cllr Mike Sutton & Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, Woodbridge Town Councillors.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. Cllr Sutton from Woodbridge Town Council explained that they were hoping to start a Youth Forum at their Town Council and were advised to look at Felixstowe's Youth Forum to see how it was run.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received by Langer Primary Academy, Level 2 Youth Project and Jonny Lowdell, Places for People Leisure

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19 June 2019, 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

The representatives from Causton School told the Forum that they were very pleased to have been chosen to be a part of the Felixstowe Youth Forum for this academic year. All three of them were looking forward to all the discussions and decision making that they will be a part off.

Causton representatives told the Forum that in July they had become an Academy and were now a part of the Seckford Education Trust. They explained that this had been an exciting move for the school and there have been some changes as a result. The changes had included a new school uniform which meant they now wear green jumpers instead of maroon and they also had a new school logo. The new school logo was chosen because it represented two things: the clock on the church at St Mary's in Walton and the numbers one

and two identifying KS1 and KS2. Since becoming an Academy they have also noticed a massive improvement in the school dinners !

The representatives told the Forum that this term Causton had been invited to enter a competition in relation to the new Walton Christmas light switch on. The competition involved designing a front cover for the programme which will be given out to people who attend the switch on event. They thought this was a great idea to get the children from the school involved in a local event as it makes them feel part of the local community.

On Friday they were looking forward to attending the short service at the War memorial. Years 3, 4 and 5 would be attending this important event.

In their role as Youth Forum representatives they had completed the questions for the Felixstowe Town Council's draft business plan for 2020-2024 which they hoped to be included in the final version.

5. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS

The representatives from Colneis Junior School introduced themselves to the Youth Forum. They told the Forum that their first task as newly-elected School Council reps was to gather ideas from their class mates about the questions raised on the Town Council's business plan. The business plan was to help to reduce our impact on the environment, they believe they can make a very simple and effective change by being much more careful with their use of lights through the winter months. As a school, they know that they can reduce the number of lights they have on at any one time and the length of time they leave them on for. Colneis school are going to make this their first area to focus on. They are also currently exploring the merits of having a Smart Meter installed so that we can actually monitor the schools usage.

The Colneis school representatives told the Forum that Colneis would normally go on their residential trip at the end of the school year and this has been to Mersea Island in Essex in recent years. For the first time this year, they went away at the start of the school year, on September 9th, this time to PGL at Bawdsey. They walked down from school to Felixstowe Ferry and took the ferry across the River Deben, thereby saving on coach costs. Everyone had an absolutely brilliant week, supported by the PGL leaders – Michael and Alex. As well as participating in many outdoor activities, they spent the week singing camp songs and building new friendships. The weather was kind to them with only one day of rain.

They had been very fortunate to have the opportunity to attend a Computing Coding event, hosted by BT at Adastral Park in Martlesham Heath in October. They had spent the day learning how to programme a 'Crumble Pot' robot, by setting lights and the motors. At the end of the day, they raced their Crumble Pots against each other, with the fastest being the winner. It had been a great opportunity to further develop their coding skills and to meet with children from other schools.

Last week, they had 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.

They were looking forward to attending the Remembrance Service at The Cenotaph on Friday this week.

The Colneis Christmas Fayre would be taking place on Thursday 12th December at 3.30pm and everyone was welcome. There will be Christmas gifts on sale as well as a raffle.

6. GRANGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS

The representatives from Grange Primary School introduced themselves to the Forum. They explained that at the end of the last school year they had been very sad to lose their Headteacher, Mrs Coleman who had decided to leave the school to spend more time with her family. This meant that their Deputy Head was now in charge for the time being. Interviews for

a new Headteacher were held at the beginning of term and representatives from Years 1 to 6 did their own interviews with the three candidates. The candidates were very impressed with their searching questions and their excellent behaviour. Whoever was chosen will not be starting until after Christmas.

The Grange School representatives told the Forum that most of their KS2 went on a trip to the famous Royal Albert Hall, London to see the Youth Primary Proms and enjoyed a picnic in Hyde Park for lunch before the event. The Royal Albert Hall had been amazing and they had listened to all sorts of music. Their favourites had been the big band who had played 'Rockin Robin' and a percussion group who played a song called 'Typewriter'. They had also had a chance to participate by learning a song and the Latin rhythms to go with it. It had been a very long day but they had enjoyed it immensely. The KS1 children had also enjoyed some activities. The Reception class had visited the Ipswich Transport Museum and had a great day climbing onto trams, fire engines and buses. They had also received a visit from the Community Police Officer along with Year 1 children. She had told them about her job and the children asked questions and dressed up as police officers. They were also able to switch on the siren and flashing blue lights in her police car, which they thought was the best bit!

Representatives from Grange School told the Forum that there were lots of things going on in the school, including martial arts and Level2 clubs. The choir were learning Christmas songs to perform at a concert in Ipswich and the Year 6 had received a visit from a Felixstowe Academy Maths Teacher who gave them a maths lesson which they had been really enjoyable! The schools Tag Rugby team had been very competitive at the Tag Rugby Festival in Ipswich, despite being novices at the sport. They had improvement throughout the tournament and their last game had been very impressive. They were now looking forward to the Pyramid competition.

7. KINGSFLEET SCHOOL

The representative from Kingsfleet School introduced himself and gave apologies for the two other Youth Forum representatives who unfortunately could not make the meeting. He reported that in their last report they mentioned that 'Kingsley', their fundraising elephant for St Elizabeth Hospice had joined a herd of other small elephants at the Buttermarket in Ipswich. Kingsley is now back at Kingsfleet and is standing proudly in their school hall. More information about Kingsley can be found on their school website.

In assemblies this term Kingsfleet have been focusing on courage. They had learnt that courage is not the absence of fear but something we show when we overcome fear. To help them understand fear and some of their other emotions a bit better, they have also done a bit of brain science, finding out all about the amygdala. Amygdala is a tightly packed group of cells deep within the centre of the brain that controls your emotions. The representative told the Forum that it was worth finding out about because once you start to get to know what is going on inside you it makes it a bit easier to understand and control things like fear and anxiety – which is really just your body's way of keeping you safe, although they also found out that sometimes your brain works so hard to protect you, it sometimes hits the panic button by mistake! They also watched the film Inside out in one of their assemblies.

This piece of learning also helped their Year 6 students when they went on their residential trip to Mersea Outdoor Centre. They had an amazing time and they were faced with a lot of new challenges and showed lots of courage overcoming their fear. The representative told the Forum that when he faced the climbing wall, he was a bit scared because it was very high, but he believed that he had courage in himself and eventually made it all the way to the top. The same thing happened on the giant swing, he really didn't want to go on it, but his friends helped him believe in himself and he ended up going to the highest point (15m) before swinging back down. He said it was like being blown in face by a leaf blower!

The Kingsfleet school representative told the Forum that the school had enjoyed taking part in the sports events in Felixstowe. They enjoyed going to other schools and competing against

each other. So far they have been to cross country and parlauf and next week they would be going to a rugby festival at Trimley St. Martin.

8. TRIMLEY ST MARY SCHOOL ITEMS

The representatives from Trimley St Mary School told the Youth Forum about how they started the new school year with the great news that they have been awarded the GOLD Green Tree School award. Over the last 2 years they had been using their school grounds and especially the trees to help them with their learning. In the Summer term the children in EYFS, held their end of Reception "Tree Party" in the schools eco-garden. Activities included pond dipping, mini-beast hunting, wax rubbings of the trees, a sensory walk and a picnic. The school sent the Woodland Trust photographs of the Tree Party and received enough "tree points" to reach the GOLD award.

This term the Trimley St Mary school children in Year 6 had been taking part in forest schools every Friday afternoon, in a special part of their school grounds that they had been transforming each week. So far, they had made a log circle, a fire in the fire pit, toasted marshmallows and made a new compost area. The children are asked to bring in their old clothes and wellies to help them really enjoy learning outside. Their next outdoor project at school was to draw some designs for the new flowerbeds that were renovated over the Summer holidays at the front of the school in the Edwardian block. They were hoping to use books and authors as part of their inspiration. The schools Gardening Club were also awarded the RHS Gardening Level 2 award, over the summer. This was in recognition of the work they had done in the Summer term, planting up big vegetable planters, weeding the gardens and keeping the eco-garden. Along with their certificate they were given 2 gardening books to help with their gardening this year.

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum that just before half term their wonderful Trim Trail elephant returned from the St Elizabeth Hospice Learning Herd in the Elmer Parade where he had been over the summer. They were delighted to find out that they had achieved the most votes on The Buttermarket Facebook page and won 10 tickets to the cinema. Mrs Ashford, the schools Headteacher had the tough job of deciding who went to the cinema!

The representatives from Trimley St Mary school told the Forum that in their new school term they have already been out and about. The children in Year 3 and 4 had been to watch Horrible Histories at The Regent in Ipswich to kick off their new topic Enchanting Egyptians. The Year 1 children had been on a local walk around Trimley looking at different types of houses and buildings. The children in EYFS have been busy settling into school and making new friends.

9. FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY

Representatives from Felixstowe Academy told the Forum about their charity week. They had a fantastic end to their Summer term which had included their first whole Academy 'Charity Week'. They held a Race for Life colour run, where students ran laps around the schools grounds including running through a funnel of powdered paint ! There was also a non uniform day and other activities and competitions. The students ran a 'Slum Survivor' experience also where over 30 students spent two days and one night in a makeshift shelter on the school grounds and eating only two meals a day of rice and dahl. These students had an experience of what it was like to live in a slum and also raised money to build toilets overseas. Throughout their charity week they raised nearly £5000 for a range of local, regional and national causes.

Felixstowe Academy representatives told the Forum how they have enjoyed the start of the new school year. There were lots of opportunities available to make the start of high school much easier. These included staff visits to the local primary schools, open days and taster days plus a fresher's fair. The freshers fair was being held shortly and is for all Year 7's to see the dozens of after school clubs that they can join. This was a great opportunity to make news

friends and try something new. The representatives then spoke about their own personal experiences.

10. PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE

Apologies were received from Jonny Lowdell, Places for People Leisure. Due to structure changes a representative has been unable to attend but he advised they have just appointed a local Operations Manager who will be starting in January and it was hoped they will be able to represent Places for People Leisure in the future. In the meantime, his report was tabled as follows:

Felixstowe Leisure Centre

1. Working with many local business owners recently, linked to “keep it local” campaign by trying to encourage our members to use local shops, bring in receipts to the centre in exchange for free activities which has worked really well and helps promote the local economy.
2. We are working with many national partners on long term health condition programmes, trying to engage with people in the benefits of being healthy.
3. We attended a couple of schools on National Fitness Day in September, looking to do more outreach work in the coming months if any school is interested in linking up? Again so we can share the fun and importance of being healthy to the younger generation and make it habit forming.
4. Announcement from ESC about the commitment to build the new leisure facility, exciting times for the town and more updates to follow early next year.
5. Holiday Activities, if any school has ideas of any activities they want to see at their local centres please get in touch (through Lorna) so we can see what we can do

Brackenbury Sports Centre

1. Holiday Activities go from strength to strength, latest October half term saw us running our traditional sports camps but also a Mary Poppins themed dance day.
2. Children in Need activities planned at the centre, mainly for children in our gymnastics and trampoline classes and a chance for them to bring their parents along for the week to get involved.
3. DMT is here.... Double Mini Tramp sessions are launching at Brackenbury next week, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4e-ndA8hCk> , another fun and new activity to keep children active and hopefully produce some contenders for the future Olympics.

11. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Felixstowe Town Representatives thanked the Forum members for completing the Business Plan survey. They told the Forum about the setting up of the Town Council’s Climate Emergency Working Group which discussed ways of helping the local environment e.g look at planting more trees in Felixstowe to help reduce the town council’s carbon footprint.

It was soon to be Remembrance weekend and it was hoped that all schools would be sending representatives to the Schools Moment of Reflection on Friday 8th November starting at 10.45am around the War Memorial on the seafront as well as the numerous Remembrance events organised in the town. Following the Schools Moment of Reflection, the schools would be invited to lay a wooden cross followed by light refreshments in the Town Hall afterwards.

Felixstowe Town Council representatives ask that Forum Members think about how they would like this year’s £1000 (April 2019-April 2020) Youth Forum budget to be spent. They asked that each school/group bring three possible feasible ideas to the next meeting for discussion.

Cllr Doreen Savage told the Forum about this year's synthetic Ice Rink, provided by the Town Council and sponsored by the East of England Coop. It would be returning to the Great Eastern Square from Friday 20th – Monday 23rd December 2019. It will be opened daily from Friday, Saturday and Monday 1100-1900 and Sunday 1000-1800. The Grand Opening will be made by the Mayor of Felixstowe on Friday 20 December at 1100. There will also be rides for smaller children and stalls serving food and drinks. Admission was free (including free skates), and there was no need to book.

Cllr Savage introduced Ben Sagi the Town Council 's PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) to the Forum. He was sponsored by the Town Council to address local matters in the town. PCSO Sagi told the Forum that he was working with schools about ideas to stop car engines running outside their schools which was very bad for people's health and the environment. Cllr Bennett told the Forum that this had also been discussed at the Town Council's Climate Emergency Working Group. Apparently, although this was not a legal requirement it was recommended to switch all car engines off. If the Police were to get involved they could enforce this and there was also a possibility of a fixed fine of £30. Cllr Harkin asked if the schools would put this in their Newsletter and maybe hold a poster competition within the school to promote this.

PCSO Sagi had also been looking at cycle safety at schools especially now that the afternoons were getting darker and he encouraged everyone to wear a cycle helmet and also a hi-vis jacket to help keep safe. Cllr Savage told the PCSO that there were some dangerous issues with bikes and cars at Felixstowe Academy that needed to be looked at especially when it was the start and end of the school day. She wondered if there was a possibility of the Maidstone Road entrance being opened again to help alleviate this.

The last Youth Forum meeting of the school academic year (17th June 2020) Youth Forum members have been invited to hold their meeting at Landguard Fort. Members agreed this was a lovely idea and thanked the staff for the invitation and very much looked forward to it.

The representatives from Felixstowe Town Council thanked everybody for their wonderful reports.

12. AOB

Colneis School representatives told the Forum that their Junior Road Safety Officers would like if possible, a zebra crossing installed on Beatrice Avenue. The lollipop lady had been on holiday for the last couple of months and wondered if there was a possibility of putting a zebra crossing on the avenue. Lorna Monsen said she would email Colneis School the contact details of the local Suffolk County Councillors, who are responsible for highways in Felixstowe so that the school could email them directly about the problem. The PCSO told the Forum that he was aware of the problem and would be checking the situation.

Members asked for feedback from Woodbridge Town Councillors who had been observing the meeting. They told the Forum that they were most impressed with how well organised Members were and the support they were given by the schools. They particularly loved AOB with the in depth discussion taking place and it showed how important dialogue was between the Town Council and young people.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 29th January 2020** (Chair to be Causton Junior School) at **4pm – 5pm at Felixstowe Town Hall.**