

Swale Youth Forum



Wednesday 4th December 2019

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Faversham

09:30am- 12:30pm

Schools:	Delegates from Queen Elizabeth Grammar, Highsted Grammar, Oasis Academy, The Sittingbourne School, Fulston Manor.
In Attendance:	Sue Maidens (SBC)
Apologies:	Abbey, Borden Grammar School, Westlands

NO	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
1.1	Queen Elizabeth hosting the event and made the introductions.	
2.	Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting	
2.1	Went over the minutes from the last meeting, no actions or amendments required.	
3.	Ice Breaker	
4.	<i>Purdah – what does it mean?</i>	
4.1	<p>Sue Maidens spoke about what Purdah is, and why this means that the Councillors and the Mayor could not attend the Youth Forum today. Purdah is a specific time within the pre-election period where extra care needs to be taken regarding any events or publicity that could be seen to support a candidate or a political party. There is a traffic light system issued to those affected to help judge what is and isn't allowed during this period.</p> <p>Sue informed the students that there will be no hot topics in this Youth Forum, however the Councillors will return at the next Forum on 5th February, so think of good hot topics for the next meeting.</p>	
5.	Refuse and Recycling	
5.1	<p>Information regarding what can and can't be recycled was provided, to help those unsure especially when it comes to specific Christmas related items, such as Christmas crackers and advent calendars.</p> <p>Sue Maidens spoke about the different authorities involved with Swale's Refuse and Recycling. For example, SBC are responsible for organising the collection of the waste, however KCC are responsible for the disposing of the waste. However, it was discussed that there is a problem with contamination of waste, where in Swale, the contamination rate is just under 10% of all waste, with 1.3% of our waste going to landfill.</p> <p>Sue set a task based around this for the students to complete for the next youth forum which will focus a lot on Climate Change and the Environment. Each school is to provide a 5-minute presentation about their campaign for ways to increase the recycling rate by 10%. This is to include things such as how you</p>	ALL

	would research, or why people are currently not using food waste bins.	
6.	Volunteer Swale Awards 2020	
6.1	<p>Sue Maidens spoke about the Volunteer Swale Awards and explained that the awards are our chance to recognise the work of volunteers in our Borough. Volunteers affect a lot of different aspects of your lives, through after school clubs such as Scouts and Brownies, to Youth Groups and even charity work.</p> <p>Sue explained that we are trying to encourage nominations for young people, to recognise the work of our Young volunteers in the Borough, and explained how easy the nomination process is.</p> <p>All nominees receive a certificate and a badge, with the event being held on Friday 13 March 2020 for all finalists.</p> <p>If you know of anyone who you think should be nominated, then please do so, and celebrate the wonderful contribution of our Volunteers.</p> <p>Nominations close on the 22nd December.</p>	ALL
7.	RNLI	
7.1	<p>Lucy, Lifesaving Manager from the Swale and Thanet RNLI, has attended the youth forum to explain the recruiting process to join the RNLI.</p> <p>Lucy provided a lot of information regarding who the lifeguards are, what they do, the role of a lifeguard and the key safety messages that they try to spread amongst the community regarding being safe on our beaches and in the water.</p> <p>For example, the red and yellow flag that you may see on our beaches represents that it is a lifeguarded beach. The flag will also be seen in the safest part of the beach to swim in; away from hazards such as rocks and rip tides. The black and white flag represents that there are activities going on, kayaks, canoes, surfboards, boats, etc. that would be make it unsafe to swim in this area.</p> <p>Lucy spoke about the qualifications needed to be a lifeguard, what you would get out of it and the benefits of joining the RNLI. If you were unsure if this option is for you, you can shadow a lifeguard where there is no need to complete the qualification, but you will be exposed to the day to day life of a lifeguard. Lucy provided leaflets with contact details, and also encouraged to look for them on Social Media through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.</p> <p>Vacancies are advertised in January 2020 ready for the new season.</p>	
8.	Break	
9.	Christmas Quiz	
10.	Faversham Recreation Ground	
10.1	<p>Brooke Buttfield spoke about the Focus Area project, which through the Community Safety Unit are trying to find ways to tackle crime, reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), and identify and support any vulnerable people living in the area that the project is focused on. The Community Safety Unit is a multi agency</p>	

	<p>hub that includes officers from Swale Borough Council, Kent Police, Youth Engagement, etc. Brooke asked the students what they would like to see in terms of activities in Swale and has stated that a survey maybe created to gather more ideas regarding what is really needed from a young person's point of view.</p> <p>Ben Simon spoke about Faversham Recreation Ground and the environment. Indicators of a warming world were discussed, and how to be sustainable now and in the future to reduce the effects of the damage to our Environment. There are many different species of trees, plants, animals and fish that are greatly reduced in numbers. Citizens Science are doing surveys to know which species are doing well, and what species needs help. Ben Simon will provide a further update at the Youth Forum on 05.02.20.</p>	
11.	Plastic Waste in our waters	
11.1	This was not discussed due to timing.	
12	Cultural Inclusion Presentation	
12.1	<p>QE did a presentation on Cultural Inclusion and the popular forms of Cultural Experiences that can help to gain new perspectives on other cultures. A presentation regarding the Cultural Change exchange and the benefits that this brings to both students and Schools. Examples of their own cultural change exchange experiences were shared with the Forum.</p> <p>The students encouraged those attending to ask about different experiences that they may be able to take part in with their school.</p>	
13	Any other business	
13.1	<p>The Recycling Beach Fish will be discussed at the next youth forum on 5 February 2020, so all were encouraged to think about which of the options were preferred.</p> <p>Sue also mentioned that we are unable to host the Swale Youth Forum on 5 February at Swale House, so encouraged a school to volunteer to host.</p>	
14.	Close	
	Date of next meeting: 5th February 2020	