

# Swale Youth Forum



**14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**  
**Council Chamber, Swale House**  
**09:30-12:30**

<b>Schools:</b>	Delegates from Westlands Academy, Isle of Sheppey Oasis Academy.
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Deputy Mayor of Swale Cllr Samuel Koffie-Williams, Leader Cllr Andrew Bowles, Cllr Mike Henderson, Cllr James Hall, Cllr Nicholas Hampshire, Sophia Ramm (SBC), Helen Stock (SBC), Daniel Quinn (SBC), Russell Fairman (SBC), Dr Anne Logan (University of Kent)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Fulston Manor School, Borden Grammar School, Sittingbourne Community College, Abbey School

NO	ITEM	ACTION
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome, Introductions and apologies</b>	
1.1	The Chair of the Forum, Deputy Mayor Cllr Samuel Koffie-Williams, Cllr Mike Henderson, Cllr Nick Hampshire, Cllr Andrew Bowles, Cllr James Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting</b>	
2.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for their accuracy and were agreed as correct.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Ice Breaker</b>	
3.1	Short introductory ice breaker session and all of the members of the Swale Youth Forum participated.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Active Lives</b>	
4.1	<p>Presentation by Russell Fairman on 'Active Lives', a Sport England initiative which targets children and young people and has the ultimate aim of getting more young people active. Active Lives will achieve this by developing the following areas in young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical literacy.</li> <li>• Swimming proficiency.</li> <li>• Wellbeing.</li> <li>• Self-efficacy.</li> <li>• Levels of social trust.</li> </ul> <p>So that actions undertaken are appropriate, Sport England is collecting data from schools across the country about the existing level of regularly physical activity demonstrated by young people, and ways to improve this. This is being gathered via a 44 question survey and the results of this will be used to help shape policy; such as the PE and sport premium and the Childhood obesity plan.</p> <p>RF then explained to the Forum what Swale Borough Council was doing in support of these national actions. By undertaking 'Towards an Active Swale', SBC has recently adopted a new framework which will help getting young people more active although for this to be truly effective the distributed Active Lives surveys would need to be completed by both attendees of the Forum and the schools in the Borough. As part of this framework, SBC currently has</p>	

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	<p>6 priorities for getting more young people active, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active You.</li> <li>• Active and Healthy Lives.</li> <li>• Active Facilities.</li> <li>• Active Training.</li> <li>• Active Together.</li> <li>• Active Promotion.</li> </ul> <p>RF highlighted the fact that these were necessary as currently 24% of Swale do less than the recommended 60 minutes of activity per week. Helen Stock then took over briefly to discuss the 'Active Promotion' priority and collected various online and social media information from the Forum about the best way to promote Active Lives.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Anti-Bullying</b>	
5.1	<p>Presentation from anti-bullying ambassadors from Oasis Academy on the work they do. Showcased a variety of actions aimed at both combating existing bullying issues and prevention of bullying in the future. Examples of such actions would be hosting talent shows in primary schools, staff training and the creation of an anti-bullying pledge which was signed by members of staff at the Academy.</p> <p>The presentation also highlighted the variety of fund and awareness raising activities that were undertaken in the previous year (such as workshops) and particularly emphasised efforts undertaken on 13 - 17 November due to Anti-Bullying week. The presentation then went into detail about the role of anti-bullying ambassadors during day-to-day school life and how young people can get and provide support; they also had various promotional leaflets containing information on bullying and distributed these to the Forum as well as signposting a bullying hotline (which is reached via text message). Also briefly spoke on the dangers of cyberbullying and how to stay safe online.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Youth Forum Review</b>	
6.1	<p>Sophia provided the attendees an opportunity for the Forum to feedback on the Swale Youth Forum Meetings and to suggest ideas and changes for the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At present, there are 6 Swale Youth Forums per school year.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Forum believed that this was slightly too many and argued that a lower number would encourage higher attendance; for example 4.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Brainstorming of ideas on how to raise awareness of the Swale Youth Forum and to encourage greater attendance.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Forum came up with a number of ideas to do this, which are as follows:                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make a Swale Youth Forum Snapchat account to be able to publicise the Forum to local youths.</li> <li>2. Update the Swale Youth Forum Twitter account.</li> <li>3. Creation of a promotional video about the Swale Youth Forum for presentations; such as at school assemblies.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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<b>7.</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Suffrage Movement</b>	
8.1	<p>Presentation from Dr Anne Logan on the Suffrage Movement and its rich history from its beginnings in 1867 to 1928. Identified that the peak years of the Suffrage Movement lasted 1906-1918 and underlined the differences between Suffragettes (Militants; WSPU led by Emmeline Pankhurst) and Suffragists (Constitutionalists; NUWSS led by Millicent Fawcett) and their actions throughout the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.</p> <p>Also discussed the actions of lesser known groups such as the WFL and their non-violent, civil disobedience protests such as tax and licencing resistance actions. After a brief discussion about Kent based activists, Dr Logan then discussed some historical arguments that were proposed against giving women the right to vote and their corresponding political supporters; Lord Curzon for instance. This set up the Forum for the next task.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>MP Debate Task</b>	
9.1	Step back in time to debate the 'proposed' changes to those eligible to vote.	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Hot Topics</b>	
10.1	<p>Opportunity for delegates to raise and discuss key issues affecting young people in their school &amp; wider area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of recreation and leisure activities for teenagers on the Isle of Sheppey           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sophia advised the Forum that Ben Rose (KCC) was working on a calendar of events during the summer which would contain information on this; and Ben will be invited to attend the next Swale Youth Forum</li> <li>○ A Councillor emphasised the point that more communication is needed between the younger generation and SBC/KCC so that local government are aware of the things youths would like to see. The Forum was also informed that many different grant schemes existed for ideas that would serve the community.</li> <li>○ Additionally the example of the Sittingbourne Skate Park (originally petitioned for by young people in Sittingbourne) recently gaining planning permission was displayed to the Youth Forum as a demonstration that effective communication to authority could result in action being taken.</li> <li>○ The Forum held a general consensus that the preference existed for activities that were either cheap or free and were available to individuals of all ages.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Forum complained of an issue regarding excessive litter in Queenborough's waterways, adding that this was an environmental hazard which was likely to get much worse if left untreated. A solution immediately proposed by the Forum was to source funding for more bins to be placed around the site.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A Councillor commented that this is an issue with the landowners as it would be necessary to distinguish responsibilities between the Council and the landowners.</li> <li>○ They then went onto say that the Council already has fines in place and has the power to seek prosecution against fly-tippers; a particular problem across Swale. The Forum was then advised to report fly-tipping hotspots to the Council, so that action could be taken to safeguard against this.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lack of awareness around anxiety in schools which in turn has led to</li> </ul>	

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	<p>a lack of available support. The Forum listed that classroom size could be an example of an issue for schoolchildren affected by anxiety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recommended to report mental health issues to teachers as they would be able to better understand their needs as well as being able to direct to resources to deal with specific issues.</li> <li>○ Also a Councillor raised the point that it was perfectly normal to feel anxious in certain situations; such as during an exam and other techniques would be more appropriate to deal with these nerves than techniques used to combat the recognised medical condition of anxiety.</li> <li>• Should young people use their voices?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are already many examples of this being done recently; such as the 2-3 degrees workshop at the previous Swale Youth Forum meeting which had an emphasis on the development of communication skills for young people.</li> <li>○ Advised that the fact that the Swale Youth Forum exists shows that the Council is eager to listen to young people and that they have existing outlets for communications of thoughts and comments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>11.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Any other business</b></li> </ul>	
11.1	<p>Dates of next meetings...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 May 2018</li> <li>• 20 June 2018</li> </ul>	
<b>12.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Close</b></li> </ul>	
<b>13.</b>	End of Meeting	