

Swale Youth Forum



Wednesday 6th November 2019
Council Chamber, Sittingbourne
09:30am- 12:30pm

Schools:	Delegates from The Sittingbourne School, Westlands, Borden Grammar School, Oasis Academy.
In Attendance:	Mayor of Swale Cllr Ken Ingleton, Sue Maidens (SBC), Cllr Richard Palmer, Cllr James Hunt.
Apologies:	Cllr Roger Truelove, Cllr Julian Saunders

NO	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
1.1	A welcome from Sue Maidens who is covering Sophia Ramm. Welcome from the Mayor (Ken Ingleton).	
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	
	There was some discussion regarding what we are passionate about, and the following were some of the answers: Recycling, Bus Times, Global Warming, Helping young children, History of the Island, Safety of the people in the streets, climate change, mental health, housing and provision for the homeless, Environment and providing a good education for everyone.	
4.	<i>Chairing the Swale Youth Forum – what it takes?</i>	
4.1	Jack Connor discussed his experiences with the Swale Youth Forum. He attended for the first time in Year 8 where there was a talk regarding resilience, and has continued to attend, building on his confidence, even chairing the forum which he never thought he would be able to do. Jack explained the process regarding chairing the forum and what it involved. Jack asked the students if they had any further questions about the Youth Forum. None were raised.	
5.	KYCC (Kent Youth County Council) Elections	
5.1	Jack explained that the KYCC meet in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Maidstone at the weekend, and discussed the upcoming elections. The ballot paper was shown, and it was explained how this should be completed. Jack explained the process regarding the campaigns that are run by the KYCC and how you can get involved with the process. KYCC are currently working on Mental Health and Anti-bullying campaigns. Jack spoke about the campaign that he is involved with, (Curriculum for life) campaign.	

	The elections are from the 11 th – 24 th November, with Swale Borough Council and Highsted being held as polling stations.	
6.	What would you like to see from future Youth Forums?	
6.1	<p>The ideas that the students had to improve the Youth Forum included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Street Walks • Trips to other schools to see how they deal with bullying • How knife crime affects young people • Talks to help self confidence • People coming in to talk about Mental Health and talking about their experiences, (including bipolar) • Visit a nearby university, focusing on the progression to university • Increase social and cultural integration • Trips to rural areas, historical places • Team building and life skills workshops • A trip to Parliament • Have a speaker coming in to speak about Young Carers and what they do. • Ideas test coming in 	
7.	Break	
8.	1920s Weekend – Promotion of the 1920s Festival	
8.1	Martin Goodhew spoke about the 1920s weekend. Asked the students if they wanted to get involved with the event. Martin asked the students for their thoughts on the event and they think it's a good way to learn about Sittingbourne heritage.	
9.	The Mill Skate Park Wheely Good Project	
9.1	Tanya from Brogdale CIC spoke about the Mill Skate Park Wheely good project. The Wheely Good art project is a free graffiti art project for students of all ages at the local schools. Went on to explain that all the artwork that the youngsters work on will be visible across the skate park.	
10.	Squarecube Artisans	
10.1	Richard Jefferies spoke about the Metal fish bins idea for Minster beach and asked the students for their thoughts on the idea. If the funding becomes available, they could be available next year. Looking into organising art workshops for the students. There will be projects across Minster next year that the students can get involved with.	

11.	Plastic Waste in our waters	
11.1	The students have been encouraged to discuss this in their friendship groups and to google for more information. This will be discussed at the next meeting.	
12	Hot Topics	
12.1	<p>Q – Why is Nando’s being cancelled? A – Cllr James Hunt confirmed that Nando’s hasn’t been cancelled.</p> <p>Q – Do you agree with the idea of having a fish bin on the beach? A – Cllr Richard Palmer: “We can make a difference in terms of our local pollution, it’s an interesting idea”. Mayor Ken Ingleton: “The majority of the plastic now is coming from the sea, it’s a good idea but need to encourage people to pick up other people’s rubbish as well as their own”. Jack: “Encourage your Councillors to do litter picks in your local area”.</p> <p>Q – What steps has the Council made to encourage the use of electric cars? A – Cllr Richard Palmer: “There needs to be charging points for this. We are encouraging people to use solar energy”. Mayor Ken Ingleton: “The problem is the usage of it. People are reluctant to buy electric cars because they can’t charge them”. Cllr James Hunt: “Problem is there are lots of different types of charging for the cars”.</p> <p>Q – Is there anyway the Council can provide solar panels? A – Cllr Richard Palmer: “I will look into this and get back to you”.</p> <p>Q - Culture representation and cultures around us? A – Cllr James Hunt: “It’s down to who is voted for the elections. Councillors can only give support”.</p> <p>Q – What can be done to promote Mental Health and Young Carers? A – Cllr Richard Palmer: “That would be a KCC Social Services issue. Schools and parents have a role to play in addressing bullying”.</p> <p>5 of the hot topics cards focused on Mental Health, with some focus also on sexism and discrimination.</p>	
13	Any other business	
13.1	The next meeting is going to be at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School.	
14.	Close	
	Date of next meeting: 4th December 2019	