

# Swale Youth Forum



**Wednesday 5th February 2020**  
**The Abbey School, Faversham**  
**09:30am- 12:30pm**

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

<b>NO</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b>	
1.1	Introduction from the Abbey School who was hosting the youth forum. Apologies from Oasis as there had been a tragedy with one of their students. Also, not in attendance were Fulston Manor, Westlands and Borden Grammar.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting</b>	
2.1	Went over the minutes from the last meeting, no actions or amendments required.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Ice Breaker</b>	
<b>4.</b>	<b><i>Cllr Tim Valentine – Climate &amp; Ecology Emergency</i></b>	
4.1	<p>Tim Valentine did a presentation on Climate and Ecology Emergency. Spoke about Climate Change and the Borough's response to help Climate Change.</p> <p>Cllr Valentine spoke about the Carbon Footprint and the global temperature over the last 35 years, showing that on average the temperature is increasing. Everyone was shown a projection of what the temperature would be like if countries were not committed to climate change. He spoke about a climate change risk and impact assessment for Kent and Medway saying predictions for temperature changes and sea level etc over the next 60 years if change was made or change wasn't made. The students were shown a flood risk map of Kent demonstrating which areas are most vulnerable to floods.</p> <p>SBC have declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency.</p> <p>Looked over the 2018/19 carbon emissions for SBC operations. Analysed the carbon emissions from Swale over a 12-year period and how much of this is due to industrial and commercial, domestic and transport.</p> <p>Spoke about the plan to insulate all the houses in the Borough and decarbonising them.</p> <p>Spoke about transport and trying to walk or use public transport as appose to driving, resulting in producing less carbon emissions. Covered the benefits of reducing carbon emissions. Some of those would be better air quality, warmer homes.</p> <p>Cllr Valentine asked everyone to reflect on how you could reduce your carbon footprint and the students shared their ideas.</p>	

5.	<b>Break</b>	
6.	<b>Steve Gill Boyz-2-Men Project Diversity House</b>	
6.1	<p>Steve Gill spoke about the Boyz-2-Men project at Diversity House. Activities in the project are filming, music and radio projects. There's lots of workshops for the 3 different areas. The project is to help prevent violence, anti-social behaviour, gang crimes etc. Steve spoke about the key stakeholders that want to help them with the project, Kent Police being one of them.</p> <p>There may be possible work experience for the project working on the radio. The positive outcomes to come out of the project are confidence building, ability to say no to criminal activity, more resilience and improved team working skills.</p> <p>Sheppey FM deliver radio training for students.</p>	
7.	<b>Plastic Waste in our waters</b>	
7.1	<p>This was about putting a large plastic fish on the local beaches to put rubbish in instead of littering. The students then had to choose from 3 different options to choose from and they decided on option 1. The results were as follows:</p> <p><b>Option 1 Welded Metal Frame Design £1930 – 10 Votes</b>  <b>Option 2 Bolted Metal Frame Design £1475 – 8 Votes</b>  <b>Option 3 Wooden Construction £1737 – 2 Votes</b></p> <p>The Forum discussed rolling this project out to other places in Swale. There was discussions around a fundraising campaign to source recycling bins in schools and a campaign to raise awareness. This will be discussed further at the next forum.</p>	
8.	<b>Food Waste Campaign Task</b>	
8.1	<p>Schools went through and discussed the research that they had done that was set at the last youth forum meeting. Students discussed ways to reduce food waste. Sittingbourne School gave a presentation.</p>	
9.	<b>Hot Topics</b>	
9.1	<p>Q – Why is there not enough jobs for young people in Faversham?  A – The Cllr's were unsure with the question asked. However, they felt that legislation could be a factor involved in there not being jobs offered to students.</p> <p>Q – What could be done to introduce more electric cars?  A – More charging points are being introduced across the Borough. There are 6 charging points in Sittingbourne, 4 in Sheerness. A possible government intervention encouraging the use of electric cars could help this.</p> <p>Q – Why do you dig up roads when it causes so much disruption?  A – This could be due to errors being made with previous works which is leading to more road works.</p>	

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	<p>Q – If you made houses carbon neutral, wouldn't there be more money? A – The price of the house would be more expensive, but the bills would be cheaper.</p> <p>Q – Why aren't all new houses being built with solar panels? A – Since the new administration came in this problem has been challenged. A lot of houses being built in area will have them.</p> <p>There were several Hot Topics cards which were not put to Councillors as we were restricted by time. Cllr Richard Palmer asked SM to send these questions out by email and they could be answered at the beginning of the next forum.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
10.1	This Saturday there is a youth information event at Faversham Town Council.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Close</b>	
	<b>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	