



Meeting Date: 29th June 2022

Location: Swale House

| Meeting Agenda | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| TIMING | ITEM | LEAD |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | Welcome, Introductions and Apologies | Chair/Vice Chair |
| 9:45 – 10:20 | Great Big Green Week <i>Young people are invited to take part in a competition where they can enter an idea for a project to promote positive action against climate change in their local area.</i> | Grace Couch – Swale Borough Council |
| 10:20 – 10:45 | Dementia Café and Community Projects at Oasis <i>Oasis Academy have successfully run a dementia café and worked with local care homes across Swale. Summer and Shelbie will share some of the work which they have been doing.</i> | Oasis Academy – Summer & Shelbie |
| 10:45 – 11 | Break | |
| 11:00 – 11:45 | Young Peoples Safety in Swale <i>The Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Scott, will give a short presentation around his role and the work he completes. He will then be available to answer young peoples questions concerning safety in Swale.</i> | Mr Scott (Police and Crime Commissioner) |
| 11:45 – 12:20 | Hot Topic Questions <i>A chance for young people to ask questions about their local area and concerns they may have to Councillors.</i> | ALL |
| 12:20 – 12:30 | Any Other Business <i>A chance to add in topic's for conversation and put ideas forward for Septembers meeting.</i> | Chair / Vice Chair |
| 12:30 | CLOSE | Chair/ Vice Chair |
| Date of next meeting | TBC | |
| | Each school is welcome to send up to six delegates to join the debate and propose motions at the Forum. | |

Swale Youth Forum

June Meeting

Schools in attendance: Fulston Manor, The Abbey School, Oasis Academy.

School apologies: Westlands School, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar, Meadowfields school

Councillors in attendance: Cllr Jayes, Cllr Dendor, Cllr Clarke (Mayor)

Officers in attendance: Zoe Burns, Grace Couch

Guest speakers: Mr Scott (Police and Crime Commissioner), Amanda Turner (Swale Youth Hub Manager)

Minutes:

- 1. Introductions:** Young people introduced themselves and school. Icebreaker activity to get to know each other was also carried out using starburst.
- 2. Youth Climate Competition (*Grace Couch*):** An introduction to Swales Climate and Ecological Emergency action plan was given to the group. Grace informed the group about the up coming plans for Great Big Green Week including the launch of the Youth Climate Competition ([click here for information leaflet](#)). The group was split into smaller teams and given areas to look at to think of projects which could be run as part of the competition. (*Please see appendix 1 for ideas*). Feedback was given with the opportunity for others to make comments and feedback.
- 3. Oasis Academy – Dementia Café:** Group members from the Oasis school gave a short presentation showcasing the work they do around dementia in the local community. The group shared reasoning as to why they wanted to become involved as well as some of the awards they have achieved for their hard work. *For more information around being a Dementia Friendly school or starting dementia work then please email.*
- 4. Safety in Swale – Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Scott:** Mr Scott was invited to speak to the forum and answer questions concerning safety in swale. A short introduction was given about his role and his plans for safety within the community. The forum was given the opportunity to ask Mr Scott questions on the spot. (*Please see appendix 2 for questions and answers*).
- 5. Hot Topic Questions:** Attending Councillors, Mr Scott and Amanda (Swale Youth Hub) took questions from the young people around topics of concern to them.
- 6. Any Other Business (AOB):** Amanda and Zoe asked if young people would be keen to host meetings over the summer to give opportunities to work on projects together. With the new reconnect summer bus pass the meetings could rotate around swale and an online meeting could be help. The group agreed that they would like this opportunity. More information will follow.

Swale Youth Forum

June Meeting – Appendix

Appendix: Item 1: Youth Climate Change Competition Ideas

Education:

- Theme Park rides to show the affects of climate change – *Money raised goes towards helping the environment.*
- Show the effects on not just us but also the environment, animals and other countries.
- Put advertisements out on social media, in magazines and create posters
- School allotments
- Tree planting within schools
- Fund workshop days in schools – *teaching students about climate change and how they can help.*
- Run litter picking events – *the school which collects the most litter wins a coupon in the canteen.*

Litter:

- Community Service instead of detentions
- Knuckle down on fly tipping
- Promoting using less plastic
- Litter picking
- Making art pieces out of litter collected. *Art pieces created can be put in an exhibition.*
- Putting more bins in local areas. *Especially near beaches for fish and chip rubbish.*
- Putting signs on bins to allow for people to know what rubbish to put in them. *Have bins in public which allow for rubbish to be separated/ recycled.*

Wildlife:

- More food available for wildlife
- More reserves with protection
- Crossings for animals across busy roads.
- Training days on how to look after wildlife
- Awareness on social media
- Speed limits on roads to prevent wildlife being run over
- Cruelty laws to stop wildlife being hurt/ injured
- Online panels for conservationists
- Event Days in public areas

Transport:

- Encourage bus companies to use electric bus/ eco friendly buses
- Free bike servicing
- Encourage more students to walk or cycle to schools
- Support shops in country sides to allow for people living in town to shop there. *Reduce people travelling into towns for shopping.*
- Transport workshops. *Cycle lessons for young people in schools.*
- More lights on walkways to help with safety
- More bike sheds/ storage
- Increased number in charging stations

Swale Youth Forum

June Meeting – Appendix

Appendix: Item 2: Police and Crime Commissioner Question and Answers:

Lack of police presence within our community which has led to anti social behaviours and vandalism :

There are dedicated police resources within town centers. When issues arise, plans will be created to help tackle issues. If there are any issues which you would like to make the policing teams aware of, please contact your local station.

Cyberbullying is a growing issue. What are your targets?

Cyberbullying can be hard to police as we can be unsure where the individual is which can make prosecution difficult. We are asking social media sites to help increase securities to help prevent bullying. We have funded a project called “Is it worth it?” which tours schools and talks to students about cyber bullying and the consequences. As a community we need to work together to help stamp it out.

Prison rehabilitation services for inmates which are being released.

We are looking at services in prisons to help reduce resentment when inmates are released. New probation and rehabilitation services for offenders are being looked at through funding charities to work with individuals.

What is being done to help reduce knife crimes in Swale? What is being done to remove them from our streets?

Knife crime is a top priority. Specialist equipment is being brought in to help find knives on individuals including walk through gates and wands. Sweeps of public places are being carried out to find knives which have been stashed in parks and country parks. The homicide due to knife crimes in Kent are lower than other areas. The Violence Reduction unit is also working with at risk young people and creating pledges to help reduce risk of carrying knives in public.

What is being done to help prevent shops selling to individuals who are underage?

We are working in partnership with local authorities to do test purchases. If retailers are found to be selling to underage individuals, then they will be held accountable for this. If you are aware of any shops within Swale who are selling to young people, then please contact your local police to make them aware.

What is being done to protect the elderly within our communities?

We have carried out a survey which showed that young people within our communities felt more at risk than the elderly. There is a need to help people understand what services are available to them and how they can be accessed. We are also looking at carrying out more work to support women and children within our communities.

What support will be made available to young men within the community?

Due to stigmas, a lot of cases of violence towards men are not brought forward/ reported. There is a lot of work being done to try and help reduce these stigmas. We are working with dedicated services to support victims of violence.

Racism and within the community: there is a lot of focus on black lives matter but not for others such as religious groups or brown individuals. What is being done to support them?

We need to come down heavy and hold people to account. There are lots of services within the community to help individuals who have been victims of hate crimes. We are also encouraging our diversity and inclusion team to meet with religious groups within the communities and build relationships, so they feel comfortable coming forward. This includes School officers working with teaching staff and parents to help reduce hate crimes within schools. Hate crimes are “learnt” behaviours so it is important that this work is carried out.

Swale Youth Forum

June Meeting – Appendix

Appendix: Item 2: Police and Crime Commissioner Question and Answers:

What is being done to help reduce the number of E-Scooters on the road or make them safer? :

E Scooters are currently illegal in the UK unless part of a scheme such as the one in canterbury. If Police see young people or adults on scooters, they are able to confiscate them. In the case of young people, if an E Scooter is confiscated, they will need to a parent or carer to pick it up for them. E Scooters can be used on private land with the landowners permission.

If a homeless person was reported committing a crime, would the same punishments be in place for them?

The council are working hard to help fight homelessness within Swale. If a homeless person was reported to be committing a crime than an informed approach will be taken to help find a resolution. Each case is dealt with on an individual basis however.

What Happens if an individual is falsely accused of a crime?

It is difficult to deal with false allegations. After a crime has been reported it has to be investigated by officers. If there is some truth to the allegation then investigations will be taken further to allow for a case to be built, this is when an individual will be charged. If no evidence can be found than no charges will be made against the individual.

What have you done so far?

There are four areas we have been working around:

Prevention: This area is key. We have been working with Local Authorities helping to provide funding for schemes to help prevent crimes.

Engagement: We have been working within schools and communities to help engage residence. This includes the work which we are doing around county lines. We have recently funded a project called Catch 22 which supports young people up to 25 who are risk of being criminal exploited.

Enforcement: There have been 800 more employed officers to help make a presence within our communities. With the increased presence we are hoping for an increase in charges.

Rehabilitation: Working closely with our partners to help rehabilitate those who have committed crimes to help change their ways and successfully reintegrate back into society.

What can we expect to see in the future?

LESS CRIME! What every police officer is working towards. Less crime within our communities. Due to Covid our statistics have become blurred. However there has been a drop in crime numbers.