

Collaborating with young people on environment and climate change challenges

Students from Benjamin Britten High School (Lowestoft) and Sir John Leman High School (Beccles)

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East Suffolk
Community
Partnerships
Bringing ideas to life



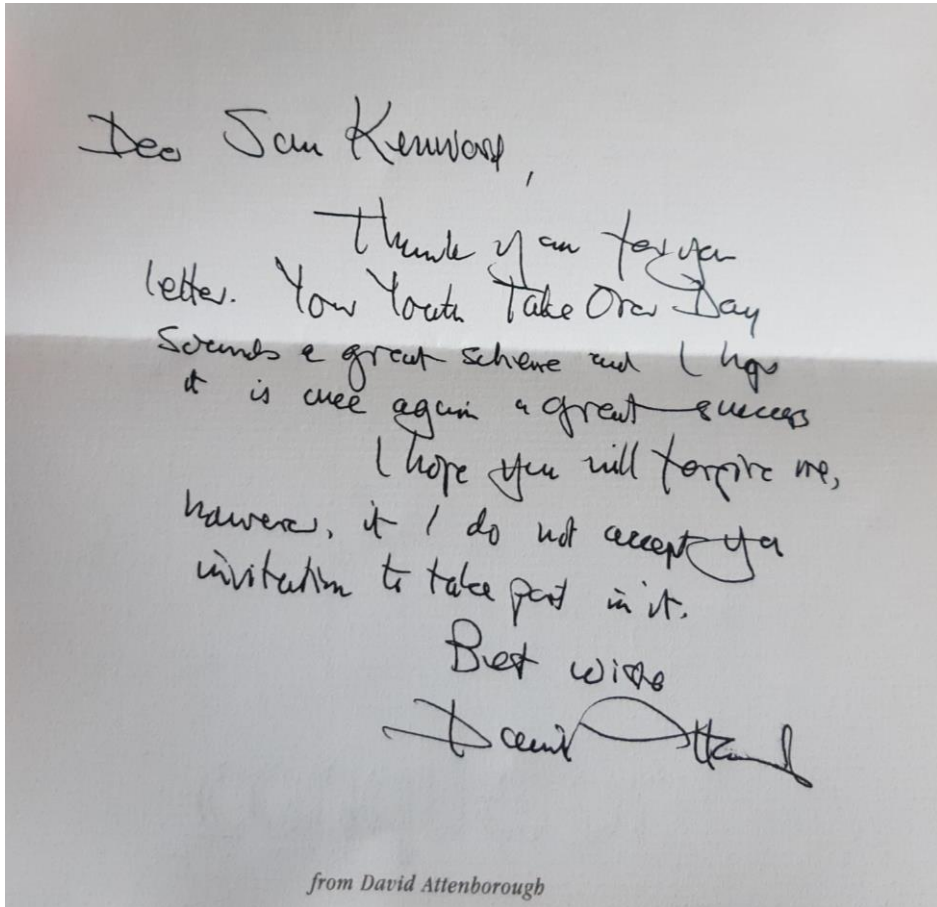
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Aim of the workshop and key messages



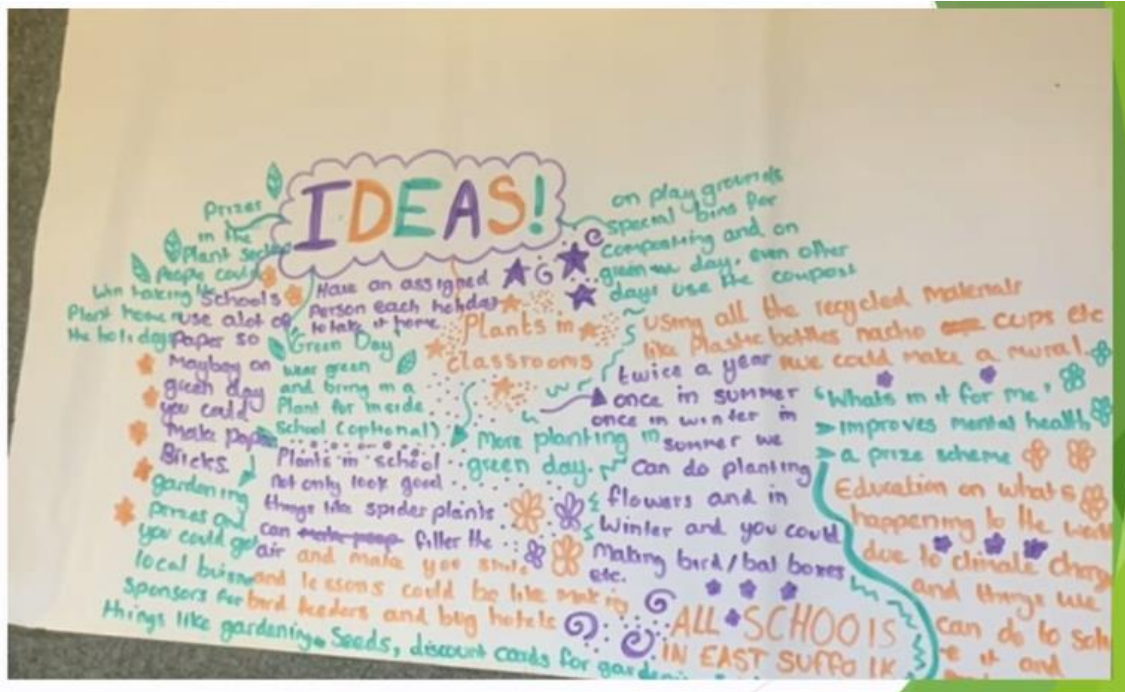
- ▶ You will find out more about Youth Take Over Day 2022 and the exciting potential that came out of it
- ▶ It is really important to engage with young people and see what they think and want AND make sure stakeholders with your collective skills, knowledge and experience can help deliver what young people are saying and work with young people to deliver
- ▶ Today is about seeing how you can work with young people and bring your skills, knowledge and experience to help ideas happen

Introduction and background



- ▶ Youth Take Over Day took place on 25th November 2022
- ▶ 6 schools participated on the day and one additional school participated via a pre-submitted video submission
- ▶ The day included presentations from Professor Mike Brock from University of East Anglia and also Daniel Wareing, East Suffolk Council Environmental Sustainability Officer
- ▶ There was also a letter read out from Sir David Attenborough to inspire students for the day!
- ▶ East Suffolk Council holds Youth Take Over Day every year as a way to empower young people to take ownership on the issues they care about most

The YTOD 2022 challenge



- ▶ The challenge was to put together a big idea around the environment and climate change that could be delivered in our local community to meet the vision of the world in 2070
- ▶ A judging panel heard presentations and ideas from each school and decided the winner
- ▶ The winners of the challenge was Benjamin Britten High School

Our ideas - Benjamin Britten (1)

- ▶ **Plant more trees and wildflowers around the school to make the school a nicer place to be for the students and to support better biodiversity**
 - We will apply to the Woodland Trust and The Tree Council to try and get more trees for the school and create an outdoor classroom space on one of the large fields
- ▶ **We also want to plant a wildflower meadow in an area of long grass behind the PE building**
- ▶ **Work with Carlton Marshes to design and build some nest boxes for birds (Buzzards, Robins, Crows, Gulls and Jackdaws) around the school site**
 - We will write to Carlton Marshes ,a local wildlife charity, and ask them to be part of our project and give advice on how best to design our nest boxes for these species of birds.
 - Students will work with Design and Technology teachers to build the boxes.
- ▶ **More clear recycling bins around school grounds, inside and outside - as we don't feel there are enough bins that actively encourage recycling**
 - Want to pitch to the school leadership that they need to buy new/more bins for the school site
 - Bins should contain separate areas for recycling and non-recycling
 - It may be possible for us to work with a local company to design our own bins for the site. We hope making this a competition could encourage more students to engage with our ideas.



Our ideas - Benjamin Britten (2)

▶ **We want to work with the school canteen to reduce the amount of plastic sold.**

- We will organise to meet with the school canteen to see how we can reduce the plastic sold by them.
- We hope it may be possible to get some sort of **refill station for flavoured drinks** instead of bottled drinks. This should also be cheaper.



▶ **Further raise awareness of environmental issues within the school and beyond.**

- We hope to include some of what we do in the school newsletter to share the good work with others.
- We can also share our ideas on the school social media streams to include the community.
- We will also like to become involved with The Green Print Forum as this seems like a great initiative



“Every school has potential, we just need to execute it”

Our ideas - SJLHS

- ▶ Our idea is a ‘Green Day’ with an Eco Award Scheme that rewards students for the hours put into keeping and maintaining the school plants.
- ▶ Awards would be garden vouchers for students to buy e.g., seeds so they can grow produce at home
- ▶ One day each term for a different year group. Year 9 in Autumn, Year 8 in Spring and Year 7 in Summer
- ▶ Each year group will have a day to learn about the environment as a cross curricular day so we can learn more about it!
- ▶ Lessons could include recycling old wood/pallets and making bird boxes, planters and bug hotels, planting bulbs, seeds, flowers and plants around the school and in classrooms.
- ▶ We would like to trial the ‘Green Day’ with 5 students from each of the 3 year groups. These students could then be our Eco Team to help drive the project forward.
- ▶ The Eco Scheme Team members would be responsible for maintaining the school grounds e.g. watering plants, composting
- ▶ We would like special bins in outside areas so students can put food waste for composting
- ▶ We already have lots of tools and equipment as we have an established allotment area
- ▶ We are also planning to use recycled materials to create a mural/art work on walls around the school
- ▶ Asking parents, local gardeners, Mens Shed and businesses to volunteer to help
- ▶ The project will help improve students mental health as well as making the school look good
- ▶ Eventually this could be for all schools in East Suffolk! Not just us!

Other ideas!



▶ East Coast College (Lowestoft):

- Wild plants to be grown more often to protect the habitat.
- Clear clean water so they don't have rubbish of any type in e.g. aluminium cans, plastic bags.
- Plant more trees to absorb carbon (Co2).
- We would work with Fritton Lake, Suffolk County Council or other organisations to help protect animals from extinction, and plants and trees from being cut down and being destroyed by animals.
- Rewilding the forest of Fritton Lake
- Local shops to sell items in recycled plastic packaging
- Fritton Lake should provide litter collecting programmes.
- Encourage people to recycle in different ways, including:
 - Taking your own containers that are made from recycled plastic to re-use
 - Re-use cardboard boxes that aren't damaged, e.g. storage, and organising to take items you don't use to charity shops in
 - Cleaning up litter as part of a litter collection programme

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- Preventing overfishing to prevent extinction.
- Create charities to help our local endangered species set up a protected habitat and work with other local charities to do so like RSPCA, local zoos and Seal and bird Rescue Trust

▶ Alde Valley (Leiston):

- Stop using plastic bottles for still and sparkling water and use aluminium cans instead – crush them before putting the cans in bin
- Ask local farmers and suppliers for the equipment we need to encourage more wildlife (Animal and insect homes, plants and more) – the national woodland trust give trees out for free on request. Garden centres in the area may also help

Other ideas! 2



- **Felixstowe School:**
- Changing plastic bottles to metal ones
- Adding 20p to plastic water bottle prices and that 20p can go to environmental agencies or to pay litter pickers, working with local industries.
- Create a litter picking job for teens above the age 13 and get paid for it to entice people to pick up litter – working with the town council
- Fines for littering and then money is used to pay for litter picking equipment and to pay litter pickers – working with Suffolk police.
- Petitioning Morrison's and Lidl to remove plastic from the supermarket
- Schools teach children how to care for green spaces and alert people of how serious littering is and its effects in our society
- Try make more houses include a garden - with local developers
- Schools with a spare green section should include a forest or flower field
- Old, unused areas and buildings should be knocked down and turned into green spaces - working with local building agencies
- There should be less smoking areas.
- Animal highways to connect greenspaces
- Add more solar panels to car parks
- Petition the government to chop down the usage of fossil fuels and convert into cleaner energy for the environment
- Work with local residents to introduce heating curfew in summer to save gas and electric and stop it from being wasted

Delivering it! Example

Thinking about the key messages slide, young people have come up with ideas for community action to meet their vision for the environment and they have provided the 'what?' and their enthusiasm

It also needs stakeholders with your skills and knowledge to help realise this



So everyone is playing their part to realise and deliver a really positive community action

Example: Idea - tree planting schemes is what young people wanted as this will help neutralise the amount of carbon in the atmosphere



Adults can help realise this by:

Finding some funding for this

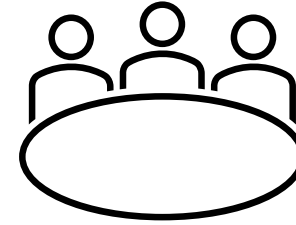
Speaking with landowners to try and get locations for these trees

Encourage donations by garden centres etc

Finding volunteers who can help look after trees e.g. watered

Ensuring tree planting sites are secure & free from vandalism & criminal damage

Bringing ideas to life - table discussion



- ▶ On your tables for 20 minutes, please discuss these key questions:
 - ▶ Which ideas do you feel are most achievable/deliverable?
 - ▶ How can we deliver and act on the ideas? Tangible ways
 - ▶ How to make sure there is sustainability in that community solution?
 - ▶ How to continue the conversation with young people? The means and channels of communication with young people
- ▶ We're looking forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas!
- ▶ Please get one or two key points ready to share and nominate someone to put them forward!
- ▶ Please actively include the young people on your tables in the discussion!

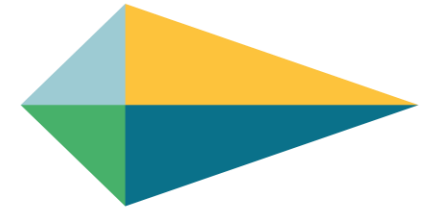
Group discussion

- ▶ What are your key points?
- ▶ What are the key themes in working together with young people to effect meaningful change on complex issues?

Conclusion

- ▶ It is a two way street and stakeholders can really help young people to develop effective positive community solutions and help deliver them
- ▶ Doing this can really help deliver effective solutions to complex issues that affect young people
- ▶ Before you leave the room today, please complete a post-it note with **one key thing you feel your organisation can do to put into place what young people are saying around this topic or other topics**

Thank you!



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