



Issue #8 September 2014

# LATEST NEWS

From Fenland's Youth District Council

Hello and welcome back after the summer holidays!

We held our first meeting of the new school year on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at Fenland Hall. It was a very busy and lively meeting as you can see by reading some of the highlights in this newsletter.

As we have entered the new term, we are keen to attract new members to replace some of the familiar faces who left us last year. If you are interested in joining the Youth District Council, or would like to get a better idea of what is involved in being a rep, then please speak to any of the current reps at your school, or to your teacher who will be able to point you in the right direction. We are happy for prospective reps to sit in on any of our meetings so you can gain a better understanding of how the YDC works.

## Meet our Councillors

A new feature of our newsletter this year will be a series of interviews with our YDC Councillors. We will feature a different Councillor in every edition. We hope this will make it easier for students to approach us within school if they have something they would like us to raise with the YDC

## YDC debate

Wisbech Grammar School chose a tough and emotive topic for our debate with the question "*Animal testing; yes or no?*" After some lively discussions back and forth, it was the "yes" camp who took the honours this time, as they managed to convince our only "unsure" rep that the benefits of testing on animals outweighed the negatives but there really was very little to choose between the two. Sir Harry Smith will be chairing the next debate, and we are looking forward to their choice.

## Democracy Day 2014



This year Democracy Day is being held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. This popular event is open to year 10 students across Fenland, and gives them an opportunity to see how the democratic process works and the difference that can be made by anyone who exercises their right to vote. There will be the ever popular 'political speed dating' session in the afternoon, where students have the chance to quiz local decision makers about issues that are important to young people in our community.

# YDC Grants 14/15

The YDC were pleased to receive a grant application from Wisbech Lawn Tennis Club. They were one of the groups who had put in an application at the Great Grant Giveaway, and the YDC made the recommendation that the application be deferred. This time round the club were awarded £480 towards the cost of hiring a qualified coach for 12 weeks. The coach will run an after school club for two hours per week for children and young people starting in February 2015. The focus will be introducing tennis to a wider audience with the focus being on mini-tennis and encouraging children to enjoy the sport. We look forward to hearing how well the young people have got on at the end of the project.

**We would also like to let you know that we have grant funding still available for 14/15**

**If you know or are part of a community based youth group that could benefit from a YDC grant, please encourage them to apply.**

**It could be that they need to replace some old sports equipment that has seen better days? They may wish to take their young members on a team building trip but can't afford the cost of the coach hire? We are happy to consider all applications on their individual merits, the forms are (fairly) easy to complete, and it could be your group or club that benefits!!**

For more information please contact Sharon Dove on 01354 654321 or [sdove@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:sdove@fenland.gov.uk)  
There are also details on the website (including the application form and the terms and conditions) <http://www.fenland.gov.uk/article/3864/YDC-Grants-scheme-20142015>

# Cycle Safety 14/15

We have decided that our project for this year is going to be around cycling; cycle safety, cycle maintenance, cycle awareness and the health benefits that regular cycling can bring.

There are a number of areas that we are looking to develop and explore, but first of all we need to do a bit of research, and this is where we are looking for your help!!

We have some ideas and thoughts about some activities which are all things bike related, but we really need to know if there will be enough young people interested to make these events worthwhile.

We will be speaking to our teachers about our ideas and to see what is already available through school, but we have also come up with some suggestions which could take place out of school hours if there is enough interest.

So if you see us wandering around with a clipboard and a brief questionnaire, or if we just run **\*\*WALK\*\***, sorry walk not run(!) up to you in the corridor, please spare us five minutes to let us know what you think (nice answers only please) because there might just be something in there that you like the sound of!



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: [ydc@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:ydc@fenland.gov.uk)



: 01354 654321



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