



Issue #9 December 2014 

LATEST NEWS

From Fenland's Youth District Council

We held our last meeting of 2014 on the 26th November and I'm pleased to say that not only did we have a packed agenda we also welcomed a number of new students from Neale Wade Academy and Sir Harry Smith who came along to observe the YDC in action! We will keep our fingers crossed that they liked what they saw, and are ready to make a commitment to the YDC.

YDC debate

Sir Harry Smith gave us the small matter of "*The death penalty – yes or no*" as our latest debate topic. As with previous debates there were contributions from everyone, including our student observers, and it was clear that there had been some research carried out prior to the meeting. I think it is safe to say that everyone present did not agree with the death penalty, despite the best efforts of Councillor Tanfield who took to the role of Devil's advocate very well indeed!

Our opinion matters!

It was great to welcome back Nicola Fenton, the outreach worker for the Police & Crime Commissioner. Nicola wanted to let us know about a survey which has been launched to obtain the views of Fenland residents about their feelings of crime in their community. Nicola was keen to find out the best way to promote this to the young people of Fenland, and asked for volunteers to attend some informal sessions where issues relating to crime and policing could be discussed. I'm pleased to confirm we had a number of members agree to attend and their details have been passed to Nicola so the necessary arrangements can be made. We'll keep you posted on the outcomes.

Our opinion matters (part 2)!

At our last meeting Councillor Tanfield informed us of a proposal to reduce our grant fund as part of a wider service review. To give us further information about this proposal we were pleased to invite Dan Horn (Head of Housing and Community Support) and Sarah Gove (Housing and Communities Manager) to the meeting. They provided us with some context to the proposal and how it was part of a wider spending review which is taking place across the whole Council. Both Dan and Sarah are very keen to make sure our views on the proposal are heard, and there is still time to let them know what you think.

A special email has been set up for responses, and we were reassured that any responses received would be passed on to Councillors as part of the formal consultation process.

The email address is ydcconsultation@fenland.gov.uk and there is still time to submit a response before the consultation closes on **19th December 2014**

YDC Grants 14/15

We had two grant applications to assess from 20Twenty Productions and the Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets in Wisbech. 20Twenty Productions applied for £1000 to fund a project involving young people from the four market towns making a film about the types of activities they would like to see available in their local communities. The Girls Venture Corps applied for £500 to purchase IT equipment for use during presentations as part of their syllabus work. The equipment would also be available for use by other community groups on request. After some serious discussion we decided to award £500 to each of the applicants and hope that the grant will make a positive difference to their respective groups.

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.

We consider grants for a wide range of projects / trips / equipment for any amount between £100 and £1000. The application form is quite easy to complete and it could make a real difference to the organisation and the young people who attend.

For more information, please contact Sharon Dove on 01354 654321 or 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/9085/Youth-District-Council>

Democracy Day 2014



Democracy Day 2014 was held on 23rd October at The Boathouse in Wisbech and it was a huge success! We had over 50 students attend and the feedback from all of them was really positive. As expected the most popular part of the day (for the students anyway) was the 'political speed dating'. I've had some excellent reports from our guests who were extremely impressed with the quality of the questions they were asked.

We'd also like to thank our Chair and Vice-chair for opening Democracy Day and speaking so confidently and eloquently. Claire and Ben were once again excellent ambassadors for the YDC, as were all of our reps who attended on the day.



On behalf of the YDC we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year...see you in 2015



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