

MARCH 2023

YAB NEWS

News updates from the Norfolk Youth Advisory Boards



£107,000 granted for skatepark in Watton

After five years of campaigns, petitions, meetings and consultations, Breckland YAB are thrilled to announce that Watton will get a skatepark.

In 2017 young people from Watton approached Breckland YAB and asked if they could help them get a skatepark in Watton. The YAB undertook a consultation with the support from the Senior leadership team at Wayland Academy the YAB was able to speak with hundreds of the town's young

To contact any of the YABs click the logo below:



people and hear their ideas and views. With around 95% of students agreeing the town needed a skate park, the long journey began.

"IT'S SO EXCITING TO SEE ALL OUR HARD WORK FINALLY PAYING OFF. WE HAVE HAD SO MANY SETBACKS AND NEGATIVE FEEDBACK THAT WE WERE ALL STARTING TO BELIEVE IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN"

- Young Commissioner, Aimee

The YAB toured Norfolk looking at skateparks, speaking with skaters and designers to learn all they could about skateparks. They met

with Cllr Tina Kiddell, who was Mayor of Watton at the time, Tina put everything into supporting the young people to make their dreams happen.

sure the park reflected the needs of the young people. The park will include a 27 meter run, handrails, quarter pipes, banked ramps and ledges.

"IN THE EARLY STAGES WE KEPT HITTING BRICK WALLS [...] BUT LOCAL CLLR TINA KIDDELL AND CLLR WILKINSON HELPED US TO ORGANISE MEETINGS WITH BRECKLAND COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF BRECKLAND COUNCIL INCLUDING THE LEADER CLLR SAM CHAPMAN-ALLEN, AND COMMUNITIES TEAM MANAGER STEFAN CLIFFORD TOOK THE TIME TO COME TO OUR MEETINGS AND LISTEN TO OUR PLANS, THEY HELPED TO BRING THE WATTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB ON BOARD AND IDENTIFIED FUNDING.

IT WAS DOWN TO THE INCREDIBLE RESILIENCE OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE FANTASTIC PARTNERSHIP WORK THAT QUICKLY MOVED THE PROJECT FORWARD."

- Young Commissioner, Travis

Breckland Council announced earlier this month that Watton's Sports and Social club had been successful in bidding for £107,000. The skatepark was designed by young people during lockdown. They undertook several meetings with the design team to make

"THIS IS AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A SPACE FOR YOUTH WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES TO SOCIALISE, AS WELL AS PARTAKE IN SPORTING ACTIVITY.

WATTON HAS WAITED FOR FUNDING TO DELIVER A SKATEPARK, AND THE JOINT WORK BETWEEN WATTON SPORTS CENTRE AND SOCIAL CLUB, BRECKLAND COUNCIL AND BRECKLAND YAB WILL HELP DELIVER THIS EXCITING PROJECT."

- Mr Tobi Amadasun, Watton Sports Centre and Social Club

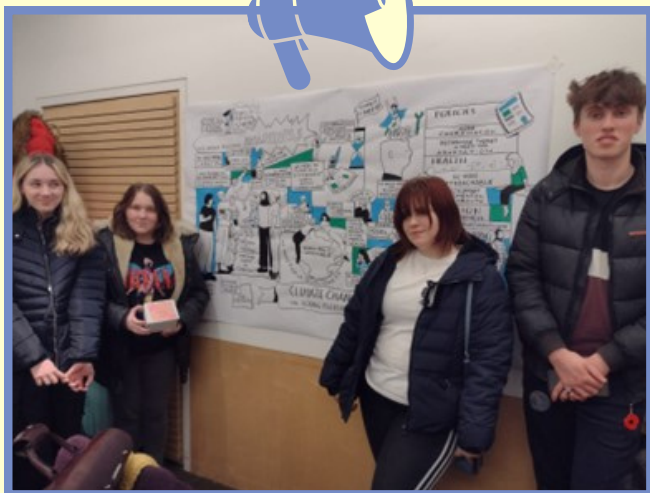
"THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW SKATE PARK IN WATTON IS WONDERFUL NEWS FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE TOWN. THE BRECKLAND YAB HAVE TIRELESSLY CAMPAIGNED FOR YEARS TO GET THE SKATEPARK FUNDED AND THIS IS HUGELY DOWN TO THEIR HARD WORK AND INFLUENCE. THIS DEMONSTRATES THE POWER OF THE VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND POSITIVE IMPACT THEY CAN MAKE."

- Paul Webb, NCC Strategic Lead - Youth & Participation

BRECKLAND & WEST NORFOLK

The Association of Young People's Mental Health Inquiry

Young Commissioners from Breckland and West Norfolk were thrilled to attend the Association for Young People's Mental Health (AYPH) Inquiry in Euston, London for the day in December 2022. The main purpose of the visit was for young people to have their voice heard, contribute to discussions with other youth groups in attendance and find out more about the impact of climate change on young people's mental health.



The AYPH Youth Advisory Panel is currently leading an Inquiry into how climate change is affecting young people's health in the UK. They have been collecting evidence from young people all over the country and presented their findings at the event. Young people heard from experts in health, education, policy and voluntary sectors. They spent the afternoon working together to

develop recommendations on how to build resilient communities in the face of climate change. Young commissioners enjoyed the event and came back with lots of ideas for their own climate change work.

Disability Campaign: All-Inclusive Parks for Young People

Breckland and West Norfolk are continuing work on their Disability Campaign to have all-inclusive play equipment fitted to parks. Breckland County Council have said that moving forward they will be thinking about and making sure that there is some all-inclusive play equipment in their parks, and are unsure as to why this hasn't been done previously. We continue to work hard and collect research.

Young commissioners and students from the College of West Anglia have had a healthy competition on logo designs to represent the campaign and have received many fantastic entries showing all the creative and artistic talents. The winner was Alana Reynolds from Breckland Youth Advisory Board.



WEST NORFOLK

Four West Norfolk Young Commissioners attended the King's Lynn Town Council Meeting in January to present their PowerPoint which included a recent piece of research in the local King's Lynn area, which asked about inclusive equipment in The Walks. They discussed the importance of this type of equipment to families and young people's lives and gave suggestions on the different types of equipment they would like to see in the park. They discussed their recent research and findings, along with ideas of equipment that they would like to see in The Walks.

The feedback received from the Councillors was very positive and they were impressed at the findings of their research and persistence in making this change in their local area.

Meadow of Hope

West Norfolk YAB have commissioned Blackfield Creatives to work with young people to create a meadow of flowers made from single use plastics which will be displayed across West Norfolk. Young Commissioners have been working closely with Blackfield Creatives to make these flowers and create a workshop video so that young people can also make them at home, school, or at a youth group.

The YAB also attended a Downham Market Town Council Meeting to talk about this project and gain permission to have the flowers displayed in their town.



The Council were very impressed with the young commissioners and were happy to have these flowers exhibited. These flowers will be displayed later in the summer to raise awareness of recycling and protecting the environment.

GREAT YARMOUTH

Diversity Training

This month, Great Yarmouth Young Commissioners took part in Diversity Training delivered by ASD Helping Hands. A fun and interactive session, which one Young Commissioner said was the best training for neurodiversity they had been on!



Norfolk County Council - Youth Voice Event

Great Yarmouth YAB attended NCC's Youth Voice event in February along with Broadland, Breckland, and West Norfolk YAB. There were numerous workshops throughout the day, which included the starting ideas for a FLOURISH animation and a Less Stress workshop based around Mindfulness and Relaxation. The mindfulness session was so relaxing that some young commissioners even fell asleep!



NCC 'YOUTH VOICE' DAY



NEURODIVERSITY TRAINING

NORTH NORFOLK

North Norfolk YAB have been working hard commissioning a wide range of projects to help improve the lives of young people across North Norfolk.

Here's an overview of some of the services we have fully or partly commissioned recently:

Friday night open-access Youth Group in Sheringham:

Run in conjunction with Sheringham Town Council and the YMCA. The group regularly has around 20 people attending each week and continues to grow in popularity!

Self-defense classes at Fakenham Academy:

Starting after February half-term. There will be two six-week courses training young people in Krav Maga. This suggestion originally came from our lunchtime YAG at Fakenham Academy to support our anti-bullying priority. Young people said they wanted to learn a physical skill to keep them safe and help them to feel confident.

A Cultural Crafts programme in North Walsham:

We are funding six young-people-only craft sessions which are completely free to attend. These will include silversmithing, candle making and scrapbooking, amongst many other crafts.



CULTURAL CRAFTS IN NORTH WALSHAM

Healthier Sheringham:

On Saturday 18th February, Young Commissioners attended a Healthier Sheringham event at The Lighthouse in Sheringham to help promote the work of the YAB. We made lots of connections with other local organisations, and learnt lots about what support is on offer in Sheringham to support young people with their health in every sense, mentally and physically! It was a fantastic event, opened by Sir Norman Lamb, and was a great opportunity to find out more about other groups and organisations in the area. Some of us even had the opportunity to learn a new skill with some brass instruments!



LEARNING NEW SKILLS AT 'HEALTHIER SHERINGHAM'

BROADLAND

Broadland YAB visited Broadland District Council to learn more about the role of the council in the local community. Young people met with staff from a range of teams and learned about waste management, recycling, recruitment, and housing, support for residents and lots more. It was a great learning opportunity for the young people and there was plenty of time to ask questions to further their understanding.

Norfolk County Council – Youth Voice Event

Broadland YAB also attended Norfolk County Council's Youth Voice Event and had a fantastic day!





**MAKING ZINES AT
NORWICH LIBRARY!**

Zine-Making Workshop

Young Commissioners had a great time attending Norwich Millennium Library's monthly zine-making workshop.

Mental Health Awareness Training

Broadland YAB joined forces with Norwich YAB to spend a day learning about mental health, which included what they can do to look after their own mental health but also how they can support their friends. They finished the day playing games and making glitter jars, both of which are great activities for their wellbeing.

SOUTH NORFOLK

South Norfolk YAB ended 2022 with their Christmas Intergenerational Project. Young people came together, to cook a festive meal, make and wrap gifts, and entertain older members of the community. It was a great success and young people said:

**"IT WAS REALLY FUN TO
SOCIALISE WITH PEOPLE
THAT YOU MIGHT NOT GET
TO SPEAK TO EVERY DAY."**

A group also attended the Pantomime in Norwich, enjoying a production of Jack and The Beanstalk, and really getting into the Christmas spirit!

Clinks Care Farm

Young people have been able to access the SNYAB projects - tending animals at Clinks Care Farm; carrying out conservation work at Quaker Wood; and looking after themselves at Wellbeing and Social Sessions.

"CLINKS FARM HELPS YOU BUILD SKILLS FOR WORK. IF YOUNG PEOPLE WITNESS VOLUNTEERS WORKING AT CLINKS, THEY MIGHT BUILD CONFIDENCE TO BECOME INVOLVED THEMSELVES. IT ALLOWS YOUNG PEOPLE TO BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS ABOUT WHAT CAN BE POSSIBLE AFTER SCHOOL."

NCC Participation Day

Young Commissioners had a busy half term with some attending the NCC Participation Day: With the Ormiston Families' "Breaking Barriers" Workshop.

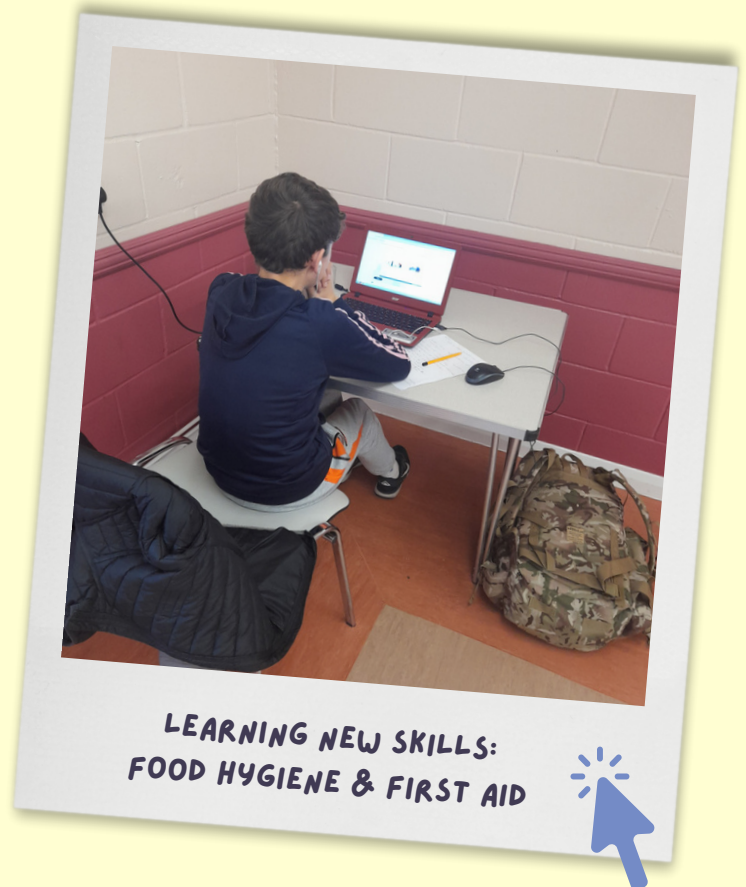
"IT WAS INTERESTING TO LEARN ABOUT THE PRISONS. I FOUND OUT THAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CAN GO AND VISIT FAMILY MEMBERS, AND PRISONS ARE BIGGER THAN PEOPLE MIGHT THINK."



New Skills & Qualifications!

Young people have also been achieving qualifications! One group all passed their First Aid, and one group gained their Food Hygiene Certificate. Both had a great time, and felt that "it was fun, entertaining, and useful." Congratulations to you all!

We are looking forward to our next Intergenerational event at Easter, and some follow up cooking courses, for those who have completed their Food Hygiene.



Houses of Parliament Visit

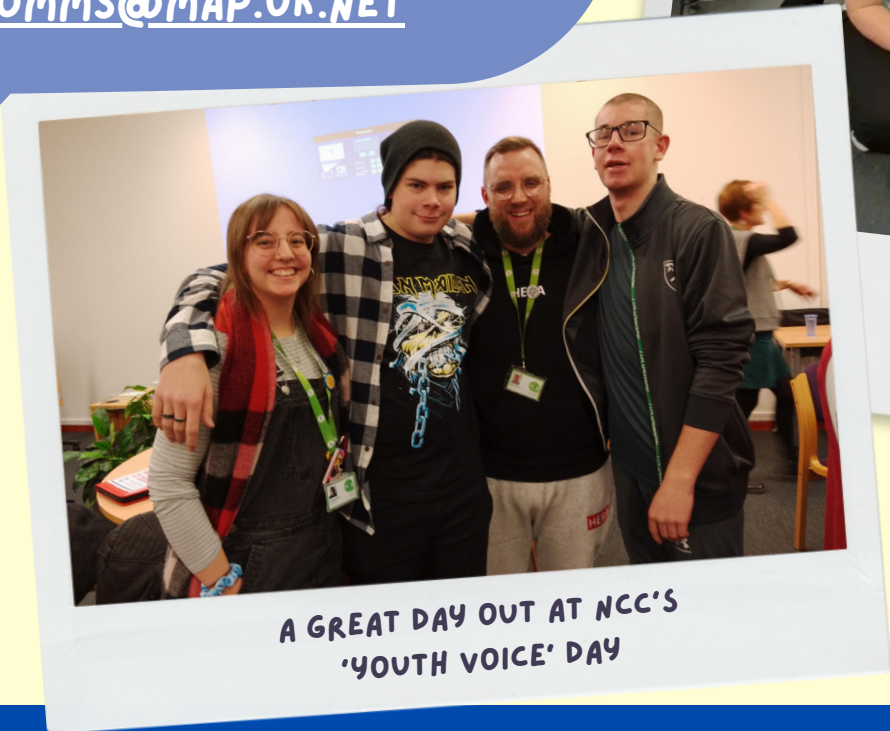
Some Young Commissioners, who are also Young Carers, attended a residential in London with other young people from the Norfolk Young Carers Forum. They visited the Houses of Parliament, which really helped them to understand where

their hard work fits in to influence national policy. The trip also included going to the theatre to see Mamma Mia and a visit to the Science Museum - a brilliant time was had by all.





IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT ANY OF THE CONTENT OR HAVE ANY FEEDBACK DO GET IN TOUCH! WE ♥ FEEDBACK!
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A GREAT DAY OUT AT NCC'S 'YOUTH VOICE' DAY