

NFYFC Youth Forum 31st January, Kingswood Centre, Bembridge, Isle of Wight

Present: Danielle Mc Nulty (Chairwoman) (Gloucestershire – South West), Amy McWhirter (Lancashire – Northern), Freddie Wootton (Bedfordshire – Eastern), Rachel Black (Bedfordshire – Eastern), Alice Longmire (Cumbria – Northern), Nick Bundy (Suffolk – Eastern), Charlotte Scott (Somerset – South West)

In Attendance: Hannah Talbot (NFYFC Chairman), James Eckley (NFYFC), Jodie Green (NFYFC)

Apologies: Georgie Morris (Shropshire – West Midlands), Will Hooper (Somerset – South West), Matthew Ranson (Surrey – South East), Elin Harvard (Brecknock –Wales), Helen Bellew (Devon – South West), Toby Hall (Staffordshire – West Midlands), Kate Leeming (Yorkshire – Northern), Joanne Gregory (Derbyshire – East Midlands), Sioned Davies (Radnor - Wales), Ffion Phillips (Pembrokeshire – Wales), Sophie Winzer (Somerset- South West), Gwawr Hatcher (Ceredigion – Wales), Laura Wrisdale (Lincolnshire – East Midlands), Chloe Harris (Herefordshire – West Midlands), Sulwen Richards (Carmarthenshire – Wales)

1 Welcome, Introductions and apologies for absence

1.1 Danielle welcomed the group, welcoming Charlotte attending first meeting with the forum.

Action

Minutes to be sent to members that were unable to attend

2 Confirmation of previous minutes

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on the 17th October 2015 were signed as a true and correct record.

Action

No action required

3 Review of last meeting action points

3.1 Danielle went through the action points from the last meeting and confirmed as complete or to be discussed further in the agenda.

Action

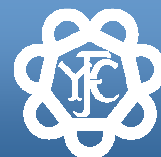
No action required

4 Correspondence received by the forum

4.1 The forum have received an email from Steph at the Farm safety Foundation but this was deferred until later in the agenda

Action

No action required



5 Local Area Feedback on activities for younger members

5.1 Area Feedback

Northern – Alice (Cumbria) feedback that they have a large amount of junior members in county and they are working on fun meetings and practice for competitions to keep the meetings lively and active. The Cumbria youth forum attendance has fallen slightly so the group are looking at ways to attract new members on the forum.

- *Report emailed in from Amy S - The Youth Forum in Cumbria is still going strong and we have now been running for officially a year - can you believe it?! In the summer we held our Rally Day where junior members from the clubs in the county participated in various activities to win points in order to be in the running for the newly bought trophy! This was a huge success and we were really happy that we had met our target (Bringing the two districts together) with many of the members going away having met new people and having a great time. At our last meeting we looked back at the Rally Day and decided what we liked, didn't like and would change about the day. It was decided that this should become an annual event, but because we have most of the paper work already sorted it would not take as much time to organise and we can therefore look to start a new project. And so our new project is... To start a County Junior Residential Weekend (wooo)! This was an idea that was thought up from the members, but also took the ideas from the National Youth Forum's idea of encouraging area weekends. We have only just started looking at this so not a lot has been organised as of yet. Unfortunately our AGM meeting had to be cancelled due to a large amount of snow falling the night before. However we have rescheduled the AGM meeting to take place on the 11th of February where we will have our first change of officers, which is highly exciting.*

- Amy (Lancashire) had lots of juniors that form part of open clubs and activities for them are built into the club programmes. Amy had tried to establish a forum within the county but despite enthusiasm at the start the meeting was cancelled due to low attendance – feedback was issues with transport by parents. The group discussed ways in which this could be addressed such as older members bringing the younger ones to a meeting with them and the younger ones ‘breaking out’ into their own meeting. Amy also felt a lack of communication and ‘buy in’ from club officers didn’t help as they didn’t ‘sell’ the forum to their younger members.

Eastern – Freddie (Beds) the county have lots of juniors members, some are very young and in light of this they are running a special meeting for them once a month. The new member’s week went well and member numbers are good in Beds. Freddie highlighted the lack of competition with the Eastern area as many counties don’t compete.

-Nick (Surrey) gave feedback that the county where finding it difficult to find junior club leaders and parents were reluctant to support as volunteers. The group suggested that the club leaders could run the club on a rota basis with parents, have joint meetings with seniors to save the need for specific leader on occasions and fun and games nights that older members could support on a rota basis.

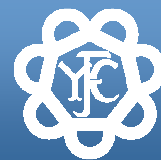
South West – Charlotte (Somerset) the county currently has lots of 14-15 year old members and a lack of 16-17 year olds which is making it difficult at clubs as the members that would naturally go into leader roles at clubs are missing. They are planning a juniors and senior day within county. Charlotte also mentioned that the county juniors took part in the SW area weekend and had a great time.

South East - No member in attendance

West Mids – no member in attendance

Wales – No member in attendance

East Mids – No member in attendance



6 Watch that Cowpat!

- 6.1 The group spoke about the project to date and the Natwest funding. The group felt that we should get pictures of the game being handed over at area meetings for Natwest. Now the games are in the majority of areas the forum decided that they should write a letter to the areas and counties to explain why they have been given a game and how to use and monitor it going forwards. It was felt that we need the counties to log all events the game is used at in order to report back to Natwest at the end of the summer. It was also suggested that we should have a Facebook page to log the journey of the game and as an easy way for members to share pictures of their usage of the game.
- 6.2 In terms of looking at wider opportunities for the game Jodie shared contacts that we had received from international school meals day and the Crunch and how we might link them with the game.
- 6.3 The group also felt that we should publicise the game in the media and through local organisations – Jodie suggested the FACE newsletter as this would reach field to fork organisations and schools. Alice suggested the Farming Network Charlotte suggested Farm Link. It was also decided that we should ask Sam to send an article to the Farmers weekly and Farmers Guardian. Also to a youth work magazine Children and Young People Now and to the British Youth Council Good New stories column – this will help to show Natwest that we are spreading the word of the game.

Jodie to draft a letter for Area and county and send to Amy and Alice to approve on behalf of the group
Jodie to follow up contact from ISMD and Crunch and feedback to the group
Jodie to speak with Sam (NFYFC Comms) regarding circulation of articles to publications

7 Open Farm Sunday – 5th June 2016

- 7.1 Jodie shared the proposed timeline of activities between now and OFS, the group were happy with the events listed and were keen to get involved with each getting a watch that cowpat! game to an event in their local area to showcase it and promote YFC.

Action

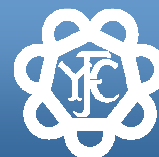
Jodie to meet with Annabel from OFS to plan the next steps for the promotion of OFS throughout YFC
Jodie to draft letter to counties and from the club mailing – Amy and Alice to approve
Forum members to identify their local OFS event - start planning who they will get involved and book their area game.

8 Yellow Wellies update and future plans

- 8.1 Jodie informed that group that a new template had been drafted for Yellow Wellies events to allow members to have more details about the events they are attending and what is expected of them before they arrive. This had been shared with Steph and will be used for future events.
- 8.2 Danielle shared the correspondence from Steph regarding set dates for Farm Safety Days and summer shows that she would like the forum to attend.

Action

- Jodie to share Yellow Wellies dates on the forum Facebook group for members to sign up to attend
- Forum members to continue to share yellow wellies posts on Facebook



9 British Youth Council Meeting

- 9.1 Danielle shared the presentation on the BYC with those members that have no experience of the BYC year cycle and how YFC fits into it. Danielle informed the group that the two motions put forward by the forum on more access to agricultural careers advice in schools and workplace safety have been included in the BYC manifesto.
- 9.2 The next national members meeting will take place on March 5th in London – Danielle asked if any members would like to attend – Freddie, Nick and Charlotte expressed an interest. Jodie to share details with them and on the Facebook group.
- 9.3 Amy asked if her Ffion and Rachel had been registered for the online voting as they haven't received anything – Jodie to follow this up with the BYC and feedback.

Action

- Jodie to share details of the next BYC members meeting on the Facebook group
- Jodie to follow up the online voting registration with the BYC

10. Forum Finances

- 10.1 Danielle shared the 2015 budget summary with the forum, detailing costs of running the forum and any additional spends. Grants and sponsorship will be carried over into the 2016 budget but core funding will not. The 2016 core budget for the forum is yet to be decided.
- 10.2 The group are currently sponsored by the Farm Safety Foundation (Yellow Wellies) until March 2016 and then Christina will negotiate a further funding agreement or alternatively approach new sponsors.
- 10.3 The group spoke about potential projects they could look at in terms of investing their grants back into the federation to improve it – they discussed the possibility of looking at the marketing of the organisation and how it appeals to future members, looking at a careers project to encourage young people into agriculture and also at transferrable skills like the Extended project qualification and how this could be linked with YFC.

Action

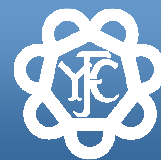
- Jodie to bring marketing materials to June meeting
- Jodie to look into the careers project as a follow up to the BYC manifesto motion – looking at a careers portal for YFC
- Jodie to work with Alice, Amy S and Hannah on EPQ and how YFC can link up with these

11. Junior Area Weekends

- 11.1 The group would like to contact area committees to introduce and get feedback on the idea of junior area weekends and to see if an area would be interested in piloting a weekend. Joy from the SW has expressed an invitation for other areas to visit the SW weekend to see how it works or to send a group of members to it if the area don't feel they can coordinate their own at this point.
- 11.2 Charlotte gave feedback on the SW area weekend as she has attended as a participant – hearing this feedback the group felt that the age range for the weekend should be 13-17years old.
- 11.3 The group also discussed the logistics of club exchanges and would like to look into and possibly promote exchanges as another option for younger members.

Action

- Jodie to draft a letter from the forum to the area committees to gain feedback on junior area weekends
- Jodie to draft club exchange guidance, steps for planning and example weekend plan.



12. County Youth Forums

12.1 Jodie shared the youth forum running a meeting plan with the group and the pages from the Source –the group felt these were good resources to support counties in planning a forum meeting. Jodie gave feedback on the session at chairman's weekend and the barriers that the county chairs gave to starting and running forums.

12.2 The group would like to look at the fold out leaflet mentioned in October to give to county chairs to explain what a forum is and the benefits of it address some of the issues they have with setting up and running one – the group also talked about the possibility of creating a Utube video to be launched with the leaflet.

Action

- Jodie to find costs for the fold out leaflet
- Members to think about content for a Utube video to promote county youth forums

13. AGRI Joint Working

13.1 Danielle gave the group information on the Dream machines project and encouraged the members to enter a design and also encouraged them to run it as a club night within their counties.

13.2 Following on from previous discussions we will be looking at how the forum can address careers information to support YFC members. Jodie mentioned the idea of a skills/careers portal where members can search careers they are interested in and existing YFC members that are in those careers can speak to them about the routes they took and the career they are in. Jodie will also look into attending the Big Bang Careers fair to look at how large industries recruit and how this is different to agriculture.

13.3 Farm safety continues to be a topic supported by AGRI steering group and the forum.

Action

- Members to enter the Dream Machine competitions and try to run as a club activity
- Jodie to look into ways the forum could address access to agricultural careers advice

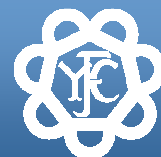
14. Feedback on Ski trip

14.1 Danielle feedback to the group that the 2016 U18 ski trip had to be cancelled due to lack of participants. The forum shared and promoted the trip as much as possible but it was unfortunately not enough. The group discussed the situation and Jodie gave feedback that the in the history of NFYFC U18 trips they are notoriously difficult to fill (aside from the first year of tall ships) – the group felt that this could be due to the lack of identification with the national office and lack of willingness for members to attend when they don't know people. The forum has decided to focus on the area weekend and club exchanges as opportunities for younger members.

14.2 Hannah shared information about a possible exchange idea with America that could be done as a pilot with the forum before being trailed on the YFC travel programme as an opportunity for U18 members. Members felt that this trip could work and would be happy to pilot it. The group discussed costs and timings of the trip. Charlotte suggested the trip could be biannually so that hosting and travelling took place in alternate years. Hannah to send more information on the trip to Jodie who will send to forum members.

Action

- Jodie and Hannah to work on America exchange pilot with the forum



15. Any Other Business

- 15.1 Future meeting dates – the next meeting of the forum will take place on the 25th June as part of the National council weekend in Warwickshire. The October meeting location is to be decided.
- 15.2 The forum discussed ideas to improve attendance and decided on a buddy system for reps in their area – Jodie to send out details of members in each area for forum members to make contact and encourage them to come along to the meetings.
- 15.3 Residential 2017 ideas – Jodie spoke to the group about the suggestion of moving the residential weekend back a week to the first week in February in order to make the NFYFC calendar slightly easier to coordinate. The group discussed the following locations Ulster, Lake District, Suffolk, Devon and Jersey - Jodie to research and feedback options. The forums were made aware that the residential trip in 2017 will be sponsorship dependent.

Action

- Jodie to share the forum diary on Facebook
- Jodie to share forum members names to set up a buddy system
- Members to identify and encourage forum members in their area to attend.
- Jodie to look into residential 2017 options and feedback in June

Action Points from January 2016 meeting

- Minutes to be sent to members that were unable to attend
- Jodie to draft a letter for Area and county and send to Amy and Alice to approve on behalf of the group
- Jodie to follow up contact from ISMD and Crunch and feedback to the group
- Jodie to speak with Sam (NFYFC Comms) regarding circulation of articles to publications
- Jodie to meet with Annabel from OFS to plan the next steps for the promotion of OFS throughout YFC
- Jodie to draft letter to counties and from the club mailing – Amy and Alice to approve
- Forum members to identify their local OFS event, start planning who they will get involved and book their area game.
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