

NFYFC Youth Forum  
15<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 10.30am @ NFYFC, Warwickshire

**Present:** Amy McWhirter (Lancashire – Northern), Rachel Black (Bedfordshire – Eastern), Nick Bundy (Suffolk – South East), Freddie Wootton (Bedfordshire – Eastern), Jess Elliman (Berkshire – South East), Megan Watkins (Hereford – West Mids), Alice Longmire (Cumbria – Northern), Charlotte Scott (Somerset- South West)

**In Attendance:** Jodie Green (NFYFC)

**Apologies:** Toby Hall (Staffordshire – West Midlands), Kate Leeming (Yorkshire – Northern), Joanne Gregory (Derbyshire – East Midlands), Sophie Winzer (Somerset- South West), Gwawr Hatcher (Ceredigion – Wales), Laura Wrisdale (Lincolnshire – East Midlands), Sulwen Richards (Carmarthenshire – Wales), Hannah Britland (Staffordshire – West Midlands), Tom Oatey (Cornwall – South West), Aled Davies (Carmarthenshire – Wales), Georgie Morris (Shropshire – West Mids), Claire Tythcott (Devon – South West), Catherine Bunting (Derbyshire – East Mids), Anna Hunt (Bedfordshire – Eastern), Megan Afford (Nottinghamshire - East Mids)

### 1 Welcome, Introductions and apologies for absence

1.1 Amy welcomed the group to the meeting, welcoming Jess and Megan attending first meeting with the forum. Jodie and Amy briefed the new members on how the forum works, frequency of meetings and opportunities to work with external organisations.

#### Action

Minutes to be sent to members that were unable to attend

### 2 Confirmation of previous minutes

2.1 The minutes of the meeting June 2016 were approved by the group and Amy as a true and correct record.

#### Action

No action required

### 3 Review of last meeting action points

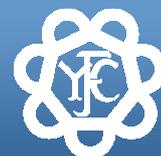
3.1 Amy went through the action points from the last meeting with the group and confirmed as complete or to be discussed further in the agenda.

3.2 Support for younger members and parents in competitions were raised. The group would like to create a support guide to increase understanding of different levels of competitions, how they differ and top tips to help younger members feel more confident completing and more prepared on the day. This guide should cover what members can expect from fun comps (i.e. Rally), club comps, inter club comps, county regional comps, whole county comps, area comps and national comps. May develop into top tips for each competition including what to wear, how to prep and things to help you perform more effectively. Jodie to pass on the brief to Comps team and forum members to support creation of this guide. Forum members to get footage and pictures of competitions to be used as part of a video, potentially line up a forum member for each level of competition to do a video diary of their day and what happens to help break down the barriers to competitions.

3.3 The group would also like to add the suggestion of Bingo to the comps programme and as a possible daytime competition for the Annual convention weekend to run alongside darts.

#### Action

- The group would like the forum to create a resource to inform YFC members the process for competitions so they know



what to expect as they compete and move onto further stages like area and NFYFC.

- Jodie to give feedback to comps steering group

#### 4 Correspondence received by the forum

##### 4.1 None received

##### Action

No action required

#### 5 Local Area Feedback on activities for younger members

##### 5.1 Area Feedback

Northern – Alice (Cumbria) – Youth forum has been running for 2 years, varied success holding the meetings but the events organised by the group have been excellent. They have had two whole county junior competitions days and a successful YFC showcase night, politicians and local schools were invited to attend.

Eastern – Rachel (Bedfordshire) – County issues (finance) currently prevent progress in the area of youth forum.

Freddie (Beds) – Looking at different activities to fill time at events like the ploughing match, to make best use of time rather than waiting around. Freddie to consult with younger members to get ideas on what they would like to add to the day to make it more interactive. Logistically there are issues with travel in the county – members find a 45 minute journey too much!

South West – Charlotte (Somerset) Explained that Somerset have a junior rep system and this is a bit hit and miss, they have some good ideas but they are not usually carried out, there doesn't seem to be enough of them to be effective – it would be better to have a number of reps from the clubs but she feels regular meetings wouldn't work due to the commitment required. The group spoke about the possibility of a consultation day where all junior members can come and have their say and their actions could be worked on throughout the year to improve the county for junior members.

South East - Jess (Berkshire) – No forum in the county, age range is generally low throughout and the county is small enough for members to meet regular to feedback and share opinions. Members currently not interested in comps, no one leading the way and members don't understand what's involved fully. The group discussed ways to promote competitions through sessions and practices, Jess gave feedback that members are interested in sports but she would like to promote comps like stock judging.

West Mids – Megan (Hereford) reported that the county has had a successful youth forum for some time and they continue to run a very well attended junior field day which is almost as big as the county rally.

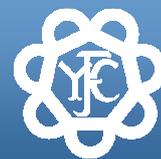
Wales – No member in attendance

East Mids – Email feedback from Laura Wrisdale

I have a youth forum role in my county and I've looked at the agenda for this forthcoming meeting. Regarding local activities feedback for younger members, I've come up with an idea of a Junior Jingle ball for members aged 10-15 at Christmas because it's a little social event where they can get to know other junior members as they mostly only see each other when competing at events. We want to get our youth forum involved more this year and we also have an idea of forming "countrysiders" clubs for junior members like how they have in Norfolk. This part is still in the process but it's something more for younger members.

The group discussed the function of the countrysiders and why some clubs felt it was better to split age groups, other preferred the larger age range and felt this worked well within their clubs.

Social events and U18's - The group had an open discussion on social events and how the age ranges differ throughout the country. Forum members felt that counties with very low lower age ranges for their events (14+) made it difficult for their own county which had higher age ranges as members were travelling to other county social events. Largely the counties had a 16+ social event system, with some county events being 18+ only. Counties had various policies when signing in guests and



allowing U18 non YFC members to events.

### Actions

- Members to contact Jodie/Cath/Matt if they need support with projects for younger members within their counties

## 6 Forum Finance Report

- 6.1 The group looked at the budget report for the forum and discussed the continued sponsorship of the Yellow Wellies campaign. Jodie highlighted that this could come to an end in March due to the forums lack of availability to attend events to support the charity. Members understood that if the sponsorship was withdrawn we would need to look for another sponsor to support the group and to allow funding for the residential trip to take place. If the group couldn't find a sponsor then they will need to apply to various finders to get the residential trip supported.
- 6.2 Amy raised that the core funding for the group from NFYFC is returned and re - gifted to the group at the end of each financial year but the grants remain with the group until they are spent.
- Forum to write a letter to the Yellow Wellies Campaign, thanking them for their sponsorship in 2016/17 in the New Year.

## 7 British Youth Council ACM Feedback and YFC Motions

- 7.1 Amy and Nick gave feedback on the ACM and presenting the motions to the meeting, feedback has been sent to the BYC regarding the meeting and how the format could be improved in future years.
- 7.2 The group gave feedback on the online voting to prioritise motions – some members found it difficult to log in to the system at first – the group felt that the prioritising was good as it allowed the transport motion the time to be presented.
- 7.3 The group discussed the workings of the BYC and how we feature in the cycle of the organisation. The group had discussions on the main topics from the meeting including Brexit and Non Binary Genders.

### Action

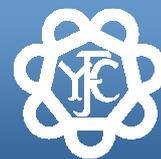
- Jodie to follow up feedback on ACM with the BYC staff
- Cath/Matt to circulate any events from the BYC that members may be interested in attending throughout the year.

## 8 American Trip Pilot Feedback – Future Farmers of America

- 8.1 Following a lot of conversations with Brett at the Future Farmers of America the decision was taken to cancel the trip. We didn't have enough time to ensure the trip could be run safely and it would have meant the people that went on the pilot would need to book a lot of holiday and find a large sum of money at short notice. Thank you to Alice and Amy for offering to attend but on this occasion it was not viable.
- 8.2 Jodie meet with Brett from the FFA in July and this led to discussions on the project he would like to run and the initial reasons for the pilot trip arranged with Hannah. On further discussion of this the trip didn't appear to meet the outcomes needed for the global agricultural literacy project. Brett is going to write up his project proposal and send it to NFYFC to see if we can work jointly with the FFA.

### Action

- FFA project plan to be shared with AGRI as a potential project on global agricultural literacy when received from Brett.



### 9 Forum Project Plans! Group Activity

- 9.1 Members took part in an activity to assess YFC from their point of view, positives and negatives and look at how they can improve some of these issues throughout the federation with targeted projects. Jodie to type up the results and compare to the 2010 and 2012 exercises.
- 9.2 Jodie to type up the discussion on the age of the federation and feed this into the governance review group of the Board of Management – the forum agreed that it was a waste of time to present to council as those in the room voting on it stood to be disadvantaged by it so they would never vote it through to AGM.

#### Action

- Jodie to type up and circulate the results to the group for discussion in February on which issues could be developed into projects that the forum could work on to improve the organisation.
- Jodie to send discussion on age within the organisation to James Eckley -James to respond to the forum.

### 10. Watch that Cowpat

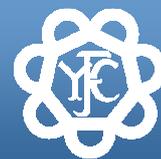
- 10.1 The next phase of the funding for this project from Natwest means the forum need to create some resources to accompany the game, lesson plans ect. We need every forum member to give ten food facts relating to the game that members can use when playing the game to add an educational element. These facts and lesson plans will then be added to the game webpage for download by the members.
- 10.2 Based on feedback from areas the group discussed options for safe transporting of the game in the form of a tube and box for the mat and board. The forum discussed who should pay for this resource and decided that the forum should pay for it in order to increase the longevity of the game.
- 10.3 The group would like to have reminders stuck on the bottom of the game so members send in pictures of them using for the sponsorship report.

#### Action

- Matt (Jodie cover) to email the forum with a picture from the mat and they should respond with ten fun facts about that spot on the game – backed up by fact, with a reference to where the fact came from if possible please.
- Lesson plan for the game to be developed by Matt/Cath and shared with the forum – this will then be uploaded onto the NFYFC watch that cowpat webpage.
- Jodie to ask Christine/reception to look into the cost of packaging for the game – share this with the forum before purchasing on behalf of the areas.
- Jodie/Matt to look into getting a reminder sticker printed for the bottom of each of the games to tell members where to share pictures when using the game.

### 11. Open Farm Sunday 2017 – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017

- 11.1 The group discussed plans to promote the event and how to do this locally, the group agreed that this was a busy time of year for YFC but they would look into it locally and ensure the message got through to clubs. Amy shared the plan of action from last year with the group.
- 11.2 Amy reminded the group to book out and use the game at all OFS events as it was an ideal opportunity to interact with the general public.



11.3 The group would like as much communication to go direct to members and clubs rather than through county as they felt on occasion it wasn't very effective or things got lost on their way down the organisation.

### Action

- Cath/Matt to meet with Annabel at OFS to make arrangements for the 2017 event
- Forum members to find a local farm taking part in OFS and get involved!

## 12. Yellow Wellies

12.1 Amy shared the winter timetable with the group and asked them to let her know which events they were able to attend. The continued sponsorship of the forum was discussed again. Members were reminded to continue to share posts from the yellow wellies team throughout the winter.

12.2 **Farm Safety Ambassador Forms** – Jodie reminded the group that as part of our sponsorship all forum members are registered as farm safety ambassadors so if you haven't returned your form please could you do so ASAP! Jodie to send out the link to an online form to the new cohort of forum members.

12.3 **Farm Safety Curve Session** – Successful pilot of the Curve module held in September, this will now be finalised and available for clubs to use upon request.

### Action

- Members to share social media posts by yellow wellies team
- Jodie to share farm safety ambassador form link – new forum members to complete please!
- Farm Safety Curve module is ready to use by members – Jodie/Matt to get this promoted on NFYFC social media and it will also be included in the autumn mailing to clubs.

## 13. Junior Area Weekends

13.1 Eastern - Amy gave feedback to the group on her attendance at the Norfolk country side campout – the county are happy for other counties within eastern area to be invited next year with a view to establishing an eastern area weekend. Ed Ford is supportive of this and will help promote locally.

13.2 The East mids area weekend will be coordinated by Leicestershire and other counties in the area will have the chance to attend. If this is successful the weekend could be a permanent feature in the EMA calendar.

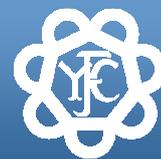
13.3 South West area weekend took place on the 19<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> August – Friday-Monday – Charlotte gave feedback that members enjoyed themselves and weekend may change to a weeklong residential (Monday-Friday) next summer. Feedback was given that some counties are more engaged than others but not sure why this is.

13.4 Northern area are looking at doing a residential in the future for over 18 members (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November) and if this is successful they will try to replicate for U18's.

West Mids, South East areas and Wales are yet to come back to us on plans for an U18 area residential. Jodie informed the group that previously Wales has organised successful national residential events.

### Action

- Amy to work with Ed on Eastern area residential



- Jodie to ask Emma from Leicestershire (East midlands) to invite forum members to the January 2017 residential

### 14. County Youth Forums – resources and video

- 14.1 At the last meeting the group decided to create a fold out pocket-sized leaflet on creating and retaining county youth forums for use by county officer teams.
- 14.2 The group also decided that they would like to create an accompanying video to release at the same time as the leaflet. The video would be highlighting everything great about county youth forums and how to address the barriers that can arise – this video is to be done during the February residential meeting.

#### Action

- Matt/Cath to work with the group on the leaflet content, design and creation – to be taken from the Source
- Forum to come up with rough script and ideas for the video to be filmed in February.
- Cath to support the making of the video with the group in February.

### 15. Residential Trip 2017

- 15.1 The trip will be taking place to Ulster (Northern Ireland) on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> February 2017. We will be flying into Belfast international airport on the Friday afternoon, the prices for flights are currently around £30-£50 dependent on airport – Jodie will give members a list of flight options for them to book and then members will be able to book these and let Cath/Matt know which flight you will be arriving on and claim this back.
- 15.2 The group looked at the range of activities available to the centre and selected some for a Facebook poll
- 15.3 If anyone is 17 or under we would like them travel with an NFYFC staff member from Birmingham or approved adult forum member from another airport if this is more local to them. Members will contribute £50 to the cost of the accommodation and activities.

#### Action

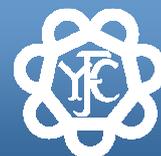
- Jodie to send out booking letters for the trip
- Jodie to create poll on the Facebook page for activities over the weekend
- Forum members to book with £50 contribution to the trip
- Forum members to book own flights, communicate this to Cath and then claim this back from NFYFC

### 16. Any Other Business

- 16.1 Youth Forum Diary – Please see updated diary! And let Jodie know which events you are able to attend
- 16.2 Countryside Challenge – Jodie shared the project information with the group and if they know of any community projects going on locally they should contact Cath at NFYFC as they could receive grant funding.
- 16.3 Jodie Mat leave – Jodie will be covered by Matt and Cath – any questions please go through to them at NFYFC and they will be able to help – they will also contact you to work through your group action points from this meeting.

#### Action

- Forum members to contact Jodie about any local community projects they are aware of
- Forum members to take note of updated diary!



### Action Points from October 2016 meeting

- Minutes to be sent to members that were unable to attend
- The group would like the forum to create a resource to inform YFC members the process for competitions so they know what to expect as they compete and move onto further stages like area and NFYFC.
- Jodie to give feedback to comps steering group
- Members to contact Jodie/Cath/Matt if they need support with projects for younger members within their counties
- Forum to write a letter to the Yellow Wellies Campaign, thanking them for their sponsorship in 2016/17 in the New Year.
- Jodie to follow up feedback on ACM with the BYC staff
- Cath/Matt to circulate any events from the BYC that members may be interested in attending throughout the year.
- FFA project plan to be shared with AGRI as a potential project on global agricultural literacy when received from Brett.
- Jodie to type up and circulate the results to the group for discussion in February on which issues could be developed into projects that the forum could work on to improve the organisation.
- Jodie to send discussion on age within the organisation to James Eckley -James to respond to the forum.
- Matt (Jodie cover) to email the forum with a picture from the mat and they should respond with ten fun facts about that spot on the game – backed up by fact, with a reference to where the fact came from if possible please.
- Lesson plan for the game to be developed by Matt/Cath and shared with the forum – this will then be uploaded onto the NFYFC watch that cowpat webpage.
- Jodie to ask Christine/reception to look into the cost of packaging for the game – share this with the forum before purchasing on behalf of the areas.
- Jodie/Matt to look into getting a reminder sticker printed for the bottom of each of the games to tell members where to share pictures when using the game.
- Cath/Matt to meet with Annabel at OFS to make arrangements for the 2017 event
- Forum members to find a local farm taking part in OFS and get involved!
- Members to share social media posts by yellow wellies team
- Jodie to share farm safety ambassador form link – new forum members to complete please!
- Farm Safety Curve module is ready to use by members – Jodie/Matt to get this promoted on NFYFC social media and it will also be included in the autumn mailing to clubs.
- Amy to work with Ed on Eastern area residential
- Jodie to ask Emma from Leicestershire (East midlands) to invite forum members to the January 2017 residential
- Matt/Cath to work with the group on the leaflet content, design and creation – to be taken from the Source
- Forum to come up with rough script and ideas for the video to be filmed in February.
- Cath to support the making of the video with the group in February
- Jodie to send out booking letters for the trip
- Jodie to create poll on the Facebook page for activities over the weekend
- Forum members to book with £50 contribution to the trip
- Forum members to book own flights, communicate this to Cath and then claim this back from NFYFC
- Forum members to contact Jodie about any local community projects they are aware of
- Forum members to take note of updated diary!