



**Fun, Learning and  
Achievement**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the NFYFC Youth Forum Steering Group The Quality Hotel, Warwickshire on 23.06.18 @ 3.30pm**

**Present:** Beth Maskell (Suffolk - Eastern), Rachel Cooper (Suffolk - Eastern), Tom Barley (Northern), Megan Watkins (Herefordshire – West Mids), Lucy Jeyes (Warwickshire – West Minds), Ruth Cooper (Cumbria), Rachel Black (Bedfordshire), Jess Elliman (Hampshire – Eastern)

**In Attendance:** Lynsey Martin (Chair of Council), James Eckley (NFYFC Chief Officer) Jodie Green (NFYFC Staff) Chris Lloyd (BOM), David Clarke (BOM), Josie Murray (NFYFC Staff)

**Apologies:** Freddie Wootton (Bedfordshire – Eastern), Charlotte Scott (Somerset – South West), Thomas Oatey (Cornwall - Forum Chair), Georgia Burrell (Lincolnshire – East Mids), Nick Bundy (Suffolk - Eastern), Anna Hunt (Bedfordshire – Eastern),

**Actioned  
By**

### **Forum Admin and area/county activity reports:**

1. Welcome, Introductions and apologies for absence

Meg welcomed the group to the meeting and thanked them for attending the day, despite being a fun and sometimes emotional morning. Apologies for absence listed above.

2. Confirm minutes of the previous meeting – *February 2018*

The minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Review of last meeting action points \* (see reverse of agenda)

Meg ran through the action points from the previous meeting with the group. The majority were marked as complete or to be addressed on the agenda.

- Forum graphic – Jodie circulated a new version which included the area competition under the JMOTY column. Jodie to add final graphic to Youth Forum page on the website, Area nomination form and JMOTY competitions guidance.
- TOW – feedback is with comps committee regarding the discrepancy between males and females dress for weigh in. TOW association states that females can weigh in wearing non see through shorts and a top – discussion was about judges not allowing females to wear sports bras and insisting on t-shirts instead.

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4. Correspondence received by the Forum

a) LGBTQ+ - Matthew Naylor

The group discussed the project brief from Matthew Naylor and would be really interested to discuss how we could take this project forward with pilots in some counties to see if an online space for LGBTQ+ rural young people would be utilised. If the online network is successful meetings could take the form of a monthly get together in addition to the YFC meetings or could be tagged on to an existing meeting at a chosen frequency.

b) Competitions day stewards – Margaret Bennet – NFYFC Comps Officer

Email from competitions officer requesting support at competitions weekend. Rachel is happy to steward the JMOTY competition but may need to leave before prize giving. Tom is competing in Situations Vacant but would be happy to come and meet the new forum members and speak about the forum activities.

c) Rural Transport – AGRI consultation

The group looked at the rural transport consultation and discussed the transport that was available to them before they were able to drive. The group felt it was a necessity to have a car in their area and they spent money on this rather than other things. Before they could drive the most popular method was lifts from parents and all journeys were in the car, some parents would share lifts to save fuel costs and time driving around.

In terms of areas the transport arrangements differed. Jodie asked the group if they could have attended school/ after school clubs/work and social events using public transport. In Yorkshire (Northallerton) Tom felt that transport was very good and also Rachel said it was the same in Bedfordshire (maybe due to the proximity to Milton Keynes) and they could easily get around. The remaining counties Cumbria, Herefordshire, Warwickshire and Suffolk could not have carried out all the education choices and activities that they did with the use of public transport due to the infrequency and the time this would take for the journey.

5. Local area/county feedback on activities for younger members – member feed in on local activities including – club activities, county forums, competitions, activities for younger members

**Northern Area** – Tom gave feedback to the group regarding the younger members training and activity weekend within Yorkshire that were well attended.

Ruth (Cumbria) – Gave feedback on the Cumbria youth forum which has unfortunately had low attendance since Alice and Amy haven't been coordinating – no one has yet stepped in to organise this group.



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**East Midlands** – No rep present

**West Midlands** – Lucy and Meg gave feedback that juniors were busy in competitions practice and county shows!

**South West** – No rep present

**Eastern** – Suffolk – lots of junior activities are being coordinated successfully. Inter club competitions and social events are well attended.

**Rachel (Beds)** – Agreed with Jess that it can be frustrating in some areas that junior members only get to compete to a certain level unlike other areas.

**South East** - Jess (Berks) gave feedback on her frustration that competitions aren't as competitive as some other areas. Members often get through rounds and have nothing to go onto.

6. Forum finances report – Jodie presented the forum budget summary to the group for information. The group looked at the costs associated with the Edinburgh trip and discussed the possibility of a residential centre for 2019 to keep cost low and time spent arranging the weekend to a minimum.

### **Current Youth Forum Projects:**

1. Open Farm Sunday 2018

The forum would still like to link with the event and encourage clubs to be as involved as possible. Some counties held their competition rounds at the event and found that it helped with their recruitment.

The group felt it would be good to inform county offices for their newsletters and to add to their calendars. Where clashes occurred it was discussed that competitions could be held in farms as a demo to support with the event. Going forward, along with YFC's using the event as a recruitment tool we need to encourage clubs to work with local farmers to help them prepare for their event by assisting with the farm clean up and set up, doing demonstrations (shearing/milking/fence erecting) and offering farm tours or manning areas such as livestock to answer any questions.

The group felt it would be good to create a quick – how to get involved resource for members with a timeline.

2. Watch That Cowpat games and project resources

The two additional Watch that Cowpat games have been produced and will be presented to the larger logistical areas of the North and the South west to help with transportation

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and accessibility.

This funding will also support the production of fact card packs to accompany each game. Jodie shared the educational fact cards with the group so they could see the content. The cards are going to be printed in small packs and sent out to accompany the games. The group would like the cards to be printed in the colours matching up to the fact they display, potentially also with the YFC daisy logo on the back of each card. They would also like a sticker on each box about members sharing pictures of them using the game to support the production of a report for Natwest to thank them for their funding.

Following the completion of the game resources Meg spoke to the group about a potential new idea to support farm safety work. She would like to highlight the issue of children being injured on farms, in particular, being run over by farming vehicles. This could be reduced by the use of high visibility wear and the group discussed the idea of a high visibility strip that could be worn to potentially avoid incidents. Jodie/Meg will speak to Ed Ford (Ex-Officio) to see if this is an idea that may be considered by the farm safety foundation.

### 3. British Youth Council

Jodie spoke to the group about the BYC, how it works with NFYFC and the cycle of the motions and manifesto. Members discussed motions and how the meetings work. The group decided to put forward the topics of Rural mental Health, lack of affordable rural housing and possibly a seat at the table for young people in Brexit discussions – Jodie to speak to Sarah Palmer (AGRI officer) regarding this to discover the consultations that were/are available for young people to input into.

Motions deadline is Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – please could forum members check the Facebook group and read over the motions before they are submitted. The ACM will take place in Cardiff on the first weekend in September, add into diaries!

### 4. County Youth Forums

It was discussed at the last meeting that it would be useful to have an idea of which counties have a youth forum, what they do, how often they meet ect..... and then they could target support at the counties that don't have a forum or needed support with obtaining the views of the younger element of their membership. The group to create a list of questions for counties to complete. The group will create a Google survey for county staff to complete over the summer and this will be brought back to the October meeting for discussion.

### 5. Other steering group projects – *Personal Development, Agriculture and Rural Issues, Competitions, Events and Marketing*

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Jodie spoke to the group about the council/NFYFC structure and how the steering groups worked and the youth forums position and function within this structure. The group worked through the steering group agendas.

### Competitions

The group discussed the 2019-20 programme and gave suggestions –

- For sports including bubble football, Curling, lacrosse, bowls, ten pin bowling, badminton, table tennis and volleyball.
- Craft – needlework, quilting or knitting
- Dance – jive, line dancing and Morris dancing

Group put forward the following as potential themes – Tractors/machinery or something similar to my home county and british farming/food – they prefer the wider themes like magic and mystery as it gives so many more options.

They did say that the 'rare breads theme' would prove really expensive and there was a question as to if rare/special veg counted? Or does it have to be the meat element?

### Personal Development

The group would be interested in receiving information on train the trainer and the leadership challenge course if this returned in the future.

The group discussed the club efficiency scheme and the majority of clubs/counties took part in some form of monitoring and rewards for effectively running their clubs. Some counties gave points for attendance at county meetings and had competitions for the best minute's book which encouraged members to ensure this was done to a high standard. The group thought it would be good to have a basic standard for clubs to achieve before aiming to move up the levels.

Josie came in to the meeting to show the group the new AGRI schools curve module and the content of the session. The forum likes the use of cahoot and used it in their personal studies. They felt it would be a great addition to the training library.

The group also discussed the homestays and hosting elements of travel and they would be happy to stay at a person's home as long as they shared the same interested and knew what they would be likely to expect. They would like to know about any language barriers if a person came to stay with them in the future. If the hosting fitted in with their studies/work they would be happy to have someone staying with them or to take people out locally for a day to support another host.



## AGRI

The group discussed the rural transport survey and gave their feedback on their own counties and how they found transport locally before they were able to drive.

## Events and Marketing

The group discussed the annual convention event, following the morning session and was really disappointed about the outcome of the event. They discussed potential options for 2019 and the validity of these.

NYFW – the group would like to support the #trueyfc and wondered if they could do videos to show what they had got from YFC as an organisation to support the campaign.

Social media – the group discussed their current social media use and for personal communication they currently use Whatsapp/text/Facebook messenger and for their social media posts they like snapchat/insta and Facebook. They don't use twitter and find it clunky to scroll through and the content doesn't interest them.

## **Focus on the future:**

1. Annual Convention Event – covered in previous agenda points.
2. New Projects  
Farm safety project – covered previously in agenda in Watch that Cowpat  
The forum - what we would change in YFC? – deferred to October meeting
3. Sponsorship – Jodie updated the group that the Rural Youth Trust funded elements of the residential trip, the forum needs to write a thank you letter for the funding. Natwest have funded the production of the Watch that Cowpat games and we will need to report on this.
4. Forum Residential – the 2019 forum residential will take place the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019. The group discussed Edinburgh and agreed that it would be easier and maybe cheaper to go to a residential centre next year, suggested locations included Wales, Northern area (centre parcs) or potentially the south west (Cornwall). The group discussed the possibility of sponsorship for forum member t-shirt.
5. 2018 remaining meetings –**Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>**



## Any Other Business

1. Social members – covered during annual convention discussions
2. NFYFC Rules and By laws

Chris Lloyd came into the group to discuss the outcome of the discussions and the impact these may have on the forum. The outcomes now mean that the youth forum will continue to exist and will always do so in order to 'youth proof' the work of the steering groups of council to ensure we are representative of the membership demographic.

Meeting closed by Meg at 18.00

## Action points

- Jodie to send minutes to those members unable to attend
- Jodie to add forum Graphic and add to relevant places
- Jodie to feedback to TOW discussions to the Comps staff lead and steering group
- Jodie to open up communication with Matthew Naylor regarding the LGBTQ+ online project – forum members to feed in as required to support the project
- Rachel and Tom to steward/support the JMOTY competition at competition final day on the 30<sup>th</sup> June
- Jodie to feedback the groups thoughts to the rural transport survey to Sarah Palmer (AGRI)
- Open Farm Sunday to be promoted to the members via county offices, spring mailing and social media. Material to encourage YFC's to work closely with local farms to be drafted to support engagement with the event
- Watch that cowpat educational fact cards to be printed and sent out to accompany games and an additional two games to be produced thanks to Natwest. Card to include stickers to remind members to post pictures of them using the game on social media to support reporting to Natwest. Meg to present games to the North and SW areas at council.
- Meg/Jodie to send email to Ed Ford/Farm safety foundation to look into producing a resource with them to keep young people safe on farms.
- The group will be submitting motions to the British Youth Council and attending the September ACM to present these motions.
- Jodie/Meg to create a survey about County Youth Forums and send out
- Jodie to feedback steering group discussion to the steering group leads
- Forum to write a thank you letter to the Rural youth trust and Natwest for monies received.
- Jodie to work with Sophie to explore ideas for residential 2019 sponsorship
- Jodie/Meg to look at options for the February residential – 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> February
- Next meeting will be Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> at NFYFC ☺

Signed .....

Meg Watkins (Chair)

Dated:.....

June 2018

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