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**Manifesto for Essex
Youth Summit
11th September 2021
Delegate Biographies**



Our Youth Panel



Flo Merrick

I've always been very passionate about issues involving our climate and climate justice and have demonstrated this through my involvement in the Chelmsford extinction rebellion group whereby I've made speeches and helped lead the Chelmsford youth climate strike in 2019. I've continued this passion in striving for positive changes in my school this year- creating our first gardening club for the youngest students in the school in which we are currently campaigning to establish a pond as part of our journey in encouraging biodiversity within our school grounds, we've also had the luck of producing harvests in our mini allotment which the students were then able to take home- shining light on self-sufficiency and how easy it is. This summit strikes me as an enormous opportunity and one I know I can take a lot from moving forward.

Izzie Djuve-Wood

I'm 15 years old and over the past few years my interest for environmental matters have grown so much. I'm very big on fossil fuel consumption and how we can use more renewable energy sources, as well as global crisis' including natural disasters like floods, wildfires linked to animal extinction and tornadoes. Additionally things like how different countries tackle climate change on a whole are very important to me to. I hope to help everyone come to a conclusion on what they believe, and that climate change is not something to be overlooked. I want to instigate change in people's lives so we can all tackle it together, things like changing our diets and consuming less harmful things that do damage to our planet. Whether it's a big change I make or a small one, every moment matters."

Lola Folkard

I believe one of the most pressing matters that are causing our climate to change in a not so welcome way would be the environmental impact that slaughterhouses and mass animal farming. In my understanding slaughterhouses take up a lot of energy and put animals in very harsh conditions where animals such as chickens cannot move much if at all. These animals are also fed on pills and are deprived of sunlight this is astronomically bad for the animals, let alone the people that eat this. Another way animals are impacting our environment is through their methane production. By this I mean cow's flatulence. To explain more, cows give off 27% of the world's methane emissions per year. One way I have been personally combating my environmental carbon footprint in this area of climate change is that I have recently become a vegan. I understand that even though me becoming a vegan lowers my carbon footprint it does not greatly impact our environment as a whole and this is why I would like this opportunity so I can educate myself and I can take that knowledge elsewhere so others can make better environmental decisions.

Isabell Watts

I am 12 years old, and my hope for the future is that I want my children to live in a world with trees, nature and animals. I hope for pure air everywhere and for people in third world countries to have access to clean water.

What's the point of holding a key if you don't use it? That's what I have done for a very long time, and I want to learn. How can you sit there and watch animals die because of climate change? Plastics filling the oceans in every corner of the earth, floods and death, time moves but a hope flickers. I want to help in any way I can. The biggest thing in my life is my belief. I am a Christian and I am usually ashamed of it, but I don't want to be. Christians (but not only Christians of course) are called to protect our earth and look after the environment.



Maddison Shellum

I am 12 years old and a girl guide. I was doing my campaign badge for the environment because I believe that animals shouldn't have to suffer from other peoples and our own choices. People should be helping and caring for the environment not harming and damaging it. People should also make the choice of walking or cycling instead which causes the issue of putting toxic gases into the atmosphere.

Josie Hill



I'm 11 years old. I'm concerned about climate change and the environment and something needs to be done now more than ever. Over the years there have been campaigns and activists fighting for change and for their voices to be heard, but still our planet is still in crisis.

With all the conflict and war in this world, sharing this planet is something we all have in common. Surely saving this world we live in is something we can all agree on!

Why not focus all the fight there is towards each other and channel it into making a difference - but for the good in the world!

We are the youth of today and the adults of tomorrow, but if something doesn't happen now then it will be our children, our children's children and further future generations sitting here in years to come pleading for change - but with less chance of seeing a positive change, because the damage would already be done. We can try to undo the damage, but at some point this will be beyond repair.

We need to come together and not only educate the children at the youngest of ages and continue this throughout their education as part of the curriculum, but also educate the naive and remind those older of the dangers.

We are fortunate enough to have a huge range of social media platforms - why not use this to our advantage? Get the facts out there- have companies, celebrities, organisations and everyone from all walks of life share their stories, ideas, plans and passions for our world.

Let's make something go viral that's actually pro-active, constructive, and that saves and unites the world together!

Josefine Backman-Juliff

I'm 13 years old. I have always loved nature from an early age and now I am aware of how badly we are treating our planet and I know we have to do something to save it! Even if I'm young, I know I have a voice and I am using it to make a difference. We can all make a difference and I want other young people to know that too! I want people to know that, even if you only do a small thing to help fight climate change, it can still make a difference, like recycling and not to litter.

I came up with an idea that I want to spread the word about how we can make litter picking more fun and if we start with getting young people and families involved in something I have been planning for a long time, 'For 4Earth, Pick it up, Save a life' I feel that there is so much we can do, but the people in charge have to start listening to us, as we are the future and we want a future for our children too, and their children and so on!

Naomi Ojo

I am 16 years old and I am the current Youth Mayor of Basildon. In my role as Mayor, I present the views of young people to the Councillors to ensure that our voices are heard; I also act as a representative of the youth at events. For many years I have been a member of the Basildon Borough Youth Council, where I am involved in planning projects to improve the Basildon borough for young people. I have always been passionate about making the borough a safe and comfortable place for people to live in.

This year, after being voted Chair of the Basildon Borough Youth Council, I was also given the opportunity of being Youth Mayor. This is an honour I was very proud to accept, especially as this is the first time that young people will have a representative on the council.

As Youth Mayor, I aim to be the voice of young people, ensuring that views and ideas are heard and to act as their representative. In addition to my role as Youth Mayor, I am an active member of the Basildon Borough Youth Council where I take on the role as chair.

Maizat Mustapha

I am the deputy youth Mayor of Basildon. I am sixteen years old and I'm just about to start sixth form. I've grown up in Basildon and so I have always been interested in the affairs and actions that take place in my hometown.

My role involves assisting the Chair of the Youth Council in meetings and maintaining a smooth conduct throughout, all the while ensuring we represent young people's views across Basildon.

As a young person myself, I have a passion for bringing about collective thinking and solutions to problems and other societal issues that affect young people and society as a whole.



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Cllr Peter Schwier |

Deputy Cabinet Member to the Leader / Climate Czar

Peter was born and bred in Gt Maplestead, Essex. A former 3rd generation farmer, who also ran a small engineering business in Braintree. He has previously lived in France and North America. Peter has been a Parish Councillor for 4 years. Currently a District Councillor on Braintree District Council (2nd 4 year term) in his home Ward of Gosfield & Greenstead Green. County Councillor in his home Division of Hedingham. He is Deputy Cabinet Member to the Leader with responsibility as Climate Czar.

Cllr Julie Young

Councillor Julie Young has been at the forefront of local politics for over twenty years as a Borough Councillor in Colchester serving the Greenstead ward and at Essex County Council from 2001-2021 serving Wivenhoe and Greenstead. She is known for her tenacious approach, her willingness to champion human rights and for being a bit of a fire brand. She had a hugely successful year as Mayor of Colchester from 2015 to 2016 and raised the highest amount for charity of any Mayor. She has been a non-executive director of two health organisations and Trustee at the Mercury Theatre and Firstsite in Colchester. She currently chairs the Environment and Sustainability Panel at Colchester Borough Council and is passionate about developing community orchards and gardens.

Tom Davies

Tom has over twenty years' experience as a photographer and a college lecturer, currently teaching at Harlow College, Essex. As a passionate advocate of education to not only provide careers, but also real values to aid young people in finding their direction in life, he believes it is crucial that the malaise of current political and economic trends of today do not alienate and further polarise us, but we can imagine a near future that is more positive; actively engaging young people in the political process so they are invested in society, where they feel they belong.

Efe Ehigie

I work within Essex County Council as a Youth & Community based Commissioner, supporting Essex Youth Service. In my role as a Youth & Community based Commissioner, I help support the Basildon Borough Youth Council along with the Young Volunteers programme where we aim to inspire young people to find their place in society, make a difference by contributing as active citizens and enabling their voices to be heard regarding issues that matter to them and society.

In a previous life, I worked in financial services and had extensive volunteering experiences working alongside Princes Trust and other charity organisations prior to joining Essex Youth Service, where our focus was always to introduce and get young people in charity causes and other sustainable development activities.

Seona Ford: Chair, Essex Book Festival

I'm Essex born, was a teacher, am a parent, grandparent, reader, swimmer.

My grandfather had a small baker's shop; when biscuits got broken he put them in a special drawer and sold them to children for a penny a bag. When I was a young parent in France in the 1980s I learnt that other mothers took wine bottles to be recycled and re-used bags at the shops: two examples that have helped to shape my whole life's attitude towards waste and conservation. We can all do our bit, however small!

Sam Warren: Environmental and Sustainability Officer Chelmsford City Council

From a young age I have been fascinated by nature, wildlife, and our planet. As I grew up I learnt about climate change, our shrinking ozone layer, and the mass biodiversity loss that we are currently experiencing, I couldn't understand why more hadn't been done to stop this sooner. Since graduating from my degree studies in 2019 I have been working in an environmental team at Chelmsford City Council, developing the Love Your Chelmsford programme which aims to bring positive climate action to the city. I believe that we each have our roles to play in fighting climate change on a personal level, whilst our governments and world leaders must go about ensuring every aspect of society works collectively towards a greener future.

Prajwal Pandey: Co-Chair of the Essex Climate Action Commission

My role is to raise the voices of the young people of Essex, to help shape recommendations for Essex County Council, and to ensure that our collective action as a county goes far enough in protecting our environment and future generations. I am also an elected member of both the Young Essex Assembly and the UK Youth Parliament, where I also organise campaigning on various environmental issues, including climate change. In doing such work, I aim towards achieving a Net Zero Essex by 2050 or sooner.

Pat Gaudin: Trustee and Board Member of Essex Book Festival

I have been a trustee and board member of the Essex Book Festival for seven years, and have belonged to my book group for over 20 years. I have attended the Festival since its inception. Originally from Scotland, I came to Essex 25 years ago. Much of my career has been spent in public relations/communications and corporate strategy, most recently as an independent consultant in the local public sector across the eastern region. I have also lectured on PR diploma and university courses in particular at UAL (University of the Arts London) College of Communication. Essex Book Festival has become more and more varied and diverse and in recent years has increasingly engaged children and young people. The launch of the Young Essex Manifesto for Essex in 2020 was a wonderful catalyst for this year's Youth Summit, which is such an important event in exploring what has to be done to achieve a greener future for Essex.

Councillor Rose Moore

Rose is passionate about the protection and restoration of wild spaces, bringing nature into urban areas and increasing understanding of our interconnectivity – both as fellow humans and carbon-based life forms.

Rose is a Liberal Democrat City Councillor, elected in May 2019 to serve the residents of Chelmer Village & Beaulieu Park ward. Since 2020 she has been Cabinet Member for Greener and Safer Chelmsford.

As a Cabinet Member, Rose helps shape local policies. Her areas of responsibility include parks & green spaces, street care, waste & recycling services, and the city's two markets. She also leads on the Climate and Ecological Emergency, ensuring that it is at the heart of policymaking. This includes reviewing actions taken across all areas of the council to reduce carbon emissions and boost biodiversity. Rose works closely with the Love Your Chelmsford team, who promote sustainable living, green spaces, and volunteering opportunities in the community. Rose is keen to champion young voices. She chaired a vibrant CSES panel discussion as part of Future City in October 2020 - CSES Centenary – What will the next 100 years bring - CSES (chelmsfordses.org.uk) and keeps a copy of the Manifesto for Essex close by for inspiration.

It has not been possible to collect biographies from all delegates. Use this space to make notes on other people you get to chat to.

Who else did "we" meet?

Notes:



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