



Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10 August at The Fromus Centre, Saxmundham

Core Membership:

ESC Councillors – Councillor Tony Cooper (Chairman), Councillor Tom Daly, Councillor John Fisher

SCC Councillors – Cllr TJ Haworth Culf

Town and Parish Councils – Councillor Julian Cusack (Middleton Parish Council), Councillor Lesley Hill (Leiston Town Council), Councillor Paul Richards (Snape Parish Council), Councillor Mary Schedrin (Friston Parish Council),

Partnership Organisations –Sharon Cuthbert (Leiston GNS), Di Eastman (IP17 GNS), Chiara Saunders (CAB)

Others present –Luke Bennett (Partnerships Manager), Zoe Botten (Communities Officer), Jo McCallum (Town Development Co-ordinator), Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer)

| Item | Discussion |
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| 1. | Welcome and Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Helen Greengrass (Leiston Change Manager), Cllr Marianne Fellowes (Aldeburgh Town Council), Caroline Rinder (Leiston Town Council) |
| 2. | Notes of the Meetings of the Community Partnership The action notes of the meetings held on 18 May 2022 were agreed. |
| 3. | Community Partnership Board Update Luke Bennett (LB) updated the group on the activity of the Community Partnership Board. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations from the Peer Challenge had been put into an action plan which had been shared with the agenda. • East Suffolk was part of a programme on the cost of living crisis, alongside the County Council, Citizens Advice and other local and county wide groups. Proposal forms for the projects coming out of this were being produced this month, and a bid would be going into the UK shared prosperity fund. • Ease the Squeeze website for this project would be launched early August and shared with community groups. Communities would be encouraged to set up projects such as warm rooms and community pantry. <p>The CP raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LB confirmed the next step would be to share information with Parish and Town Councils • Anyone interested in hosting a warm room should contact Zoe Botten (ZB) • LB confirmed agencies could share data on those who needed help to a certain extent, but would be aware of GDPR when doing so. • Chiara Saunders raised a campaign encouraging people to cancel their energy direct debits. CAB had been campaigning for people to not do this due to the potential impact on their credit score and other issues. Those who needed help understanding their bills could have help from the CAB and other groups. • Cllr Tom Daly (TD) asked how far the Council could realistically step in and fill the gap, caution was needed on creating the expectation that the Council could solve all the issues. |
| 4. | <p>Current Projects</p> <p>A project update had been shared with the agenda, ZB added the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy movers projects were starting in September with 7 settings signed up. • Majority of talking benches were in place, when all benches had been installed there would be some communications and information sent out. • Alde Valley High School and Saxmundham High School were signed up to the dental project. Some primary schools were taking part in a similar project being run Suffolk County Council. |
| 5. | <p>Election of Vice Chair</p> <p>Cllr Tom Daly nominated Cllr Julian Cusack, this was seconded by Cllr Mary Schedrin.</p> <p>By a unanimous vote, Cllr Julian Cusack was duly elected Vice Chair for the 2022/23 municipal year.</p> |

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| 6. | <p>Towns Development Programme</p> <p>Jo McCallum introduced the Town Development Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme was focussing on work in Bungay, Halesworth and Saxmundham to support the town centres and build on existing initiatives to encourage growth. • Delivery would be through both the economic development team and the community partnerships. • Currently looking at the expansion of markets, issues with volunteer availability, dementia friendly towns, and looking at setting up pantries and other projects with the cost of living. <p>The CP raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What help was available to small business rates when rate relief schemes ended, as this tended to be when businesses had to shut. • Possible pedestrianisation of town centres. This was being considered but was very difficult to do due to the nature of the towns. An update on plans for Leiston town centre would be shared in due course. • The need to balance the requirements of those who had to drive to towns and those who could walk • Transport from the villages to the towns did need to be considered, both public and on demand transport, and cycling and walking routes. |
| 7. | <p>Annual Service Providers Forum</p> <p>The task and finish group had suggested holding a forum in October for service providers in the area. Helen Greengrass had identified 140 groups in the area who would be involved.</p> <p>The forum would aim to identify gaps in service and where groups could work together.</p> <p>The Community Partnership agreed that the forum should go ahead, and highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging an external facilitator for the day, to help widen the scope of the forum and bring in a new way of thinking • Organisations which could not attend to provide information packs so that they could still be represented |
| 8. | <p>Action Plan</p> <p>A workshop was held to discuss actions for the following year against the CP Priorities.</p> |
| 9. | <p>AOB</p> |

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| | <p>ZB confirmed that there was an updated data pack for the area which would be presented at the December meeting, a link to the pack would be shared ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Mary Schedrin asked where people wanting to start a business could go to understand the process and get support. JM and ZB would share information with the group.</p> |
| 10. | <p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting would be held on the 12 October in Aldeburgh</p> |

The meeting concluded at 5.25pm