

## **Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership**

### **Action Notes of the Meeting held remotely via Zoom on Monday, 1 February 2021 at 6.00pm**

#### Core Membership:

ESC Councillors – Cllr J Cloke (Chairman), Cllr E Bramley-Crawshaw, Cllr D Ritchie, Cllr C Topping.

SCC Councillors – Cllr T Goldson

Town and Parish Councils – S Collins (Bungay Town Council), B Prior (Bungay Town Council).

Partnership Organisations – F Bedding (CAS), E Healey (Halesworth Volunteer Centre), P Love (Access Community Trust).

Others present – S Carter (Democratic Services Officer), S Halsey (Communities Officer), N Rickard (Head of Communities).

In attendance – L Sampson, Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC)

Item	Discussion
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>The Chairman of the CP, Councillor Judy Cloke, welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out a few housekeeping points to assist with the smooth running of the meeting. The Chairman reminded those present that the meeting was being broadcast live on the Council's YouTube channel.</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr A Cackett (ESC), G Birrell and G Catchpole (Beccles Town Council) and A Dunning and D Thomas (Halesworth Town Council). In addition, there were late apologies from W Summerfield (Worlingham Parish Council) who had initially joined the meeting but lost connection.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Laura Sampson from SALC. The CP was advised that Laura had been seconded for four hours per week to not only support all eight CPs but support the engagement of the Town and Parish Councils. It was hoped to fill the gaps in representation on the CPs, thus strengthening the input from Town and Parish Councils in each CP area.</p>

2.	<p><b>Notes</b></p> <p>The Notes of the meeting held on 2 November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.</p>
3.	<p><b>Feedback from the Community Partnership Board on 7 December 2020</b></p> <p>The CP received a report which provided details of the progress and outcomes of the CP Board meeting on 7 December 2020.</p> <p>The Chairman took the report as read unless members of the CP had specific questions. There were none. The Chairman highlighted the success of the Grandpads and also made reference to the Enabling Communities budget for special projects where there was still some monies available.</p> <p>The Head of Communities advised that a list of projects had been drawn up which could be considered for funding from the unspent Enabling Communities budget. One successful project was the provision of Grandpads, simplified tablets with 4G built in. They were not cheap but had proved to be beneficial particularly for older people or those struggling with other forms of technology. It was important to identify anyone who could benefit from a Grandpad and also get some into the rural communities in this Community Partnership's area.</p> <p>In response to questions, the Head of Communities confirmed that the cost including VAT was £1,150 with a built in 4G card for two years. Therefore, there was no extra cost to the user. That was a special price to the Council due to the quantity purchased. It was hoped to buy a further 30 and whilst a bid for funding had been turned down by the County Council, other bids had been submitted to the Lowestoft Charity and NHS England. Not all of the available Grandpads were allocated at the moment. The Communities Officer advised that, from his allocation, three were being used, a further three were currently being set up, and a further four not yet allocated.</p>
4.	<p><b>Small Grants Scheme</b></p> <p>The Chairman reported that, following the allocation of £10,000 to a Small Grants Scheme, the Small Grants Panel had met the previous week and decisions had been made. The Chairman expressed thanks to Melissa Williams in the Funding Team for her invaluable support.</p> <p>Unfortunately, it was not possible to share details of the applications with the CP that evening as the applicants themselves had not been notified of the outcome. However, the Chairman gave an overview explaining that 13 applications had been received, seven were approved, two applicants were required to provide further</p>

	<p>information on their applications and four applications were being rejected because the Panel was of the opinion that the applications had not met the criteria of the scheme. An allocation of £5,689 had been made to the approved projects, leaving £4,311 unallocated. If the further two projects on which additional information was required were funded, that would bring the total to £7,647, leaving £2,362 unspent.</p> <p>The Communities Officer thanked those present for circulating the information on the scheme and to Bungay TC for producing a flyer. It was quite an achievement to have received 13 applications. The Communities Officer advised that because the allocation of finance had already been made to a Small Grants Scheme, the underspend would be carried forward into the new financial year of 2021/22.</p> <p>Comment was made that the CP could give consideration to allocating a further amount in the next financial year to the Small Grants Scheme and then run another round in April.</p>
5.	<p><b>CP Funding – Allocation of available finance for 2020/21</b></p> <p>The Communities Officer advised that the CP had about £15,000 still to be spent in the current year, that was before the end of March. Anything not allocated would not be carried over.</p> <p>Ideas for consideration were discussed:</p> <p><u>Bungay ‘Mental Health Friendly Town’ Initiative</u></p> <p>Cllr Collins gave a presentation and overview of the proposal and how Bungay might use CP funding. To build up resilience in the town, support the community and strengthen and support organisations, the slides presented to Bungay Town Council were shared with the CP. The proposal to address mental health issues would cover two of the CP’s criteria – social isolation and Covid impact. The funding would focus on Bungay and the scheme could potentially be offered to other towns if they were interested in participating. The package for approximately £5,000 included bespoke training, ongoing support, resource packs, website/social media and travel for support workers.</p> <p>The CP supported the proposal and welcomed the idea that it could be rolled out to the three market towns, including some rural areas, using the available finance of £15,000. That might also result in economies of scale and discussion should take place with Access Community Trust as to how they might like to see a rollout and tailor need to a particular area.</p>

#### Over 55s Isolation Programme – Extra Time

Councillor Topping gave an overview of the proposal by Norwich City Community Sports Foundation which would provide a 16 week programme for 40 people per week offering 2 hours of group work; the first hour would be physical activity chosen by the participants on the 3G sports pitch with the second hour being devoted to social sessions including, for example, quizzes, crafts and tea/coffee. The proposal was in line with the CP's priorities and costs would be in the region of £4,224.

Whilst noting that the tennis and rugby clubs' portacabins could be available for use as indoor facilities in bad weather, comment was made that with the county in lockdown, this might be better considered for funding in the next financial year. However, it was agreed that the proposal should be considered and the organisation be given an indication if funding was likely to be allocated.

#### Clinks Care Farm at Toft Monks

Councillor Topping gave brief details of the Covid project which would focus on supporting residents from Beccles who were at high risk due to obesity, and also those who were experiencing serious challenges and setbacks in their recovery from long Covid. The proposal would include signposting from GP surgeries, offer exercise, fresh food, fresh air, advice on healthy living and preparing home cooked food.

In response to a question relating to the farm being based in Norfolk, the Head of Communities advised that any funding could be allocated to projects just over the border but would be for people in the CP's area only. There might be other sources of funding to support this proposal.

#### Transport Initiative

The Communities Officer reminded the CP that its other priority which had not yet been addressed was Transport. He proposed that a Task and Finish Group be set up to discuss ideas including both active travel and vehicular transport to address this priority. There had previously been discussion about using BACT to transport people from the villages into the market towns which would help not only to regenerate the towns but also social isolation.

The Head of Communities advised that £80,000 had been allocated by the CP Board for Transport initiatives and some of that funding could be available for use for a local project emerging from the Community Partnership. If there was no immediate transport project, the CP could consider inviting the newly appointed Transport Officer to a future meeting and then involve that person in a Task and Finish Group. She reminded the CP that a further £25,000 was available in the next financial year if it wished to focus on other projects being proposed.

	<p>The Chairman proposed that transport be put on hold until the next funding round and that other projects needed to be ready and signed off before the end of the financial year.</p> <p><u>Halesworth Community Bench</u></p> <p>The Chairman reminded the CP of the project in Halesworth that had been allocated £2,000 for the provision of a 'Meet us at the Bench' in Halesworth. Although the money had been allocated, a definite scheme and completed outcome proposal form had not been submitted and approved. If the scheme was not progressed, the money would need to be allocated elsewhere. Ms Healey advised that discussions were ongoing with the Town Council and she confirmed she would report back to the next meeting with something firm and a clear proposal.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Emma Healey</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the Bungay and Beccles projects should be considered in more detail so that the organisations could be advised accordingly and appropriate finance allocated if the schemes were supported. Nominations were sought for a 'New Projects Task and Finish Group' which would meet and submit firm proposals to the next meeting of the CP. The membership of the group, supported by the Communities Officer, would be as follows:</p> <p>Cllr Judy Cloke Cllr Sue Collins Emma Healey Cllr Caroline Topping</p> <p><b>ACTION: Stuart Halsey</b> to set up the T&amp;F Group meeting</p>
6.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The CP noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 22 March 2021 at 6.00pm.</p> <p><b>ACTION: All – diary note</b></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. The lively discussion had resulted in some interesting projects coming forward.</p>

The meeting concluded at 7.13pm.