

Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held at Ilketshall St Margaret Village Hall 27 February 2023

Core Membership:

ESC Councillors – Cllr Judy Cloke (Chairman), Caroline Topping, Tony Goldson

Town and Parish Councils – Cllr Tony Dawes (Bungay Town Council), Cllr Beryl Matthews (Wissett Parish Council), Cllr Annette Dunning (Halesworth Town Council and Suffolk County Council)

Partnership Organisations – Eric Sewell (Apollo Youth Centre)

Others present – Chris Bally (Chief Executive, East Suffolk Council), Sam Kenward (Communities Officer), Poppy Lovell (CAS), Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities), Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer), Colette Warner (Integrated Neighbourhood Team)

Apologies: Cllr John Adams (Bungay Town Council), Emma Healey (Halesworth Volunteer Centre), Cllr Sarah Plummer (East Suffolk Council), Sue Collins (Bungay Community Support), Cllr Alison Cackett (East Suffolk Council), Cllr Joyce Moseley (Halesworth Town Council), Cllr Linda Kersey, Cllr David Ritchie (East Suffolk Council)

Item	Discussion
1	<p>Notes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p>
2.	<p>Community Partnership Board Update</p> <p>Nicole Rickard (NR) updated the meeting on the community facilities grants. There were two different funds offering grants, one that was Suffolk wide and one that was national (Jubilee Fund). Groups could not apply for both. Jubilee Fund was larger, maximum £75,000 but only 25% of costs would be funded. £3m total pot, capital only.</p> <p>Local fund was still to be confirmed, awaiting confirmation of funding from Rural Prosperity fund. Maximum grant would be £30,000 and could fund 80% of costs plus 10% volunteer time. Included funding for both capital and revenue costs. Focussed on rural areas only.</p>

	<p>The next board would focus on transport and include an update on the mental health projects funded by the Board. NR would send round an update on this to the CP.</p>
4.	<p>Community Partnership Projects Update</p> <p>A written update had been shared with the meeting.</p> <p>Sam Kenward (SK) highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMART objectives had been approved and were being worked on. • Village Halls - six halls had been identified for work, two were signed up. Councillors agreed to follow up with those village halls that had not engaged. • Volunteer leaders had met last week, around 16 organisations attended. Helped identify what was missing from the plan, feedback was generally good. • Childhood obesity – SK and SC had met with Suffolk County Council about their new strategy which included involvement of the community and voluntary sectors. Strategy would be launched early summer and there would be meetings about how this could be launched in Bungay as an early trial. • OneLife Suffolk - work on this would be ending in September when this new work begins.
5.	<p>Community Issues</p> <p>SK updated on the following issues:</p> <p>Youth Voice report had been received, feedback emphasised the importance of mental health support and a project proposal had been prepared for this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the next youth voice, the question was being asked on what specific provision people would like to see, and what projects they were already aware of. • Other feedback was focussed on loneliness and social isolation. • SK reported that Youth Voice was becoming much more focussed to ensure that funding was put in the right place. <p>Cllr Dunning (AD) referred to feedback from Bungay High and asked if the mental health training had been mentioned in the feedback. SK confirmed this had been mentioned, and although feedback was positive it was clear that demand was outstripping supply, especially following on from the pandemic. There was also a need for more support for more complex mental health issues that the schools could not help with.</p>

	<p>The partnership discussed mental health and wellbeing around young people and made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP surgeries were being funded to have a psychiatric nurse, which would hopefully increase capacity for more serious issues. • NR confirmed that the project proposal that is in partnership with the Carlton Colville, Kessingland and Southwold Community Partnership could potentially be discussed by the Board following the pilot. • Young people had not developed certain social and life skills during the pandemic, which would impact their ability to integrate into the workforce and build relationships. • Eric Sewell (ES) commented that young people were noticing the financial and relationship issues their families were under, there seemed to be no direct way to solve the issue. • Parents also struggled to cope with the issues their children were facing, and the partnership asked whether there was a possibility to offer training to parents to help them cope with issues their children were facing. • NR confirmed that there was some funding available which could be used to offer training for parents from Mind Suffolk. • Parents needed to be targeted to ensure that those that were most in need were prioritised, and to ensure that children that were home educated were also captured. • The partnership discussed how people who had left school but were not yet in work or were just entering the workforce could be supported. This was the hardest to reach demographic as they were not necessarily engaging with any social services, and could not afford to go out to any of the services such as gyms and doctors surgeries. There was also an issue with people not being able to go to larger towns for work due to lack of transport. • There were existing services which could provide help in all these areas, but there was a lack of coordination between the services for people to access them more easily.
6.	<p>New project proposals</p> <p>Counselling provision in secondary schools (£2170) Funding an extra day a week of counselling provision in Beccles. Carlton Colville, Kessingland and Southwold partnership had also allocated funding. If successful the project would be taken to the CP Board and other schools to demonstrate the results of having this extra provision.</p> <p>ACTION: Community Partnership agreed to allocate £2170 to fund this project.</p>

	<p>Community Rooms</p> <p>Money had been allocated to warm rooms in 2022, but there were still funds remaining in this pot. A proposal had been prepared to refocus the rooms on providing community spaces rather than solely warm rooms to keep them running through the spring and summer with a focus on social and community activity.</p> <p>Cllr Topping asked how people could bid in to this money. SK commented that the process would be similar to the warm rooms funding, but it would be stressed that the importance was on community social spaces. AD asked if the programme could ensure all warm rooms were mapped so they could be shared, and whether rooms which didn't receive funding but still went ahead could also be mapped. There was also an issue with places ensuring they properly identified themselves as a warm room/community space when they were also open for other business.</p> <p>NR confirmed there would be a review of warm rooms to see what could be done better for the next year.</p> <p>ACTION: Partnership agreed to reallocate £3,600 from warm rooms to community rooms.</p> <p>SK suggested using the remaining funding (£539) to expand 'Back in the Groove' programme which currently ran in Bungay and Holton to provide chair based exercise classes. Funding would be used to extend these classes, as they were paid for on a donation basis and through fundraising.</p> <p>There were similar classes in the Pear Tree Centre and the group discussed if the funds could be split between the two. The group agreed that the funding would go to the Bungay group, and SK would look into how this type of activity could be expanded across the CP area with a bigger project in 2023/24.</p> <p>ACTION: £539 to be allocated to Back in the Groove programme.</p>
7.	<p>CP Feedback</p> <p>SK summarised projects the CP had funded in the last four years, and asked the group to send through any feedback on the CP to him to inform the meetings in the new administration.</p>

The meeting concluded at 20:03pm.