

Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held remotely via Zoom on Monday, 14 June 2021 at 6.00pm

Core Membership:

ESC Councillors – Cllr J Cloke (Chairman), Cllr E Brambley-Crawshaw, Cllr A Cackett, Cllr T Goldson, Cllr S Plummer, Cllr C Topping.

SCC Councillors

Town and Parish Councils – Cllr S Collins (Bungay Town Council), Cllr A Dunning (Halesworth Town Council), Cllr R Lewis (Halesworth Town Council), Cllr B Matthews (Wissett Parish Council), Cllr B Prior (Bungay Town Council), Cllr C Punt (Westhall Parish Council), Cllr W Summerfield (Worlingham Parish Council).

Partnership Organisations – F Bedding (Community Action Suffolk), Sarah Mortimer (Community Action Suffolk)

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

Item	Discussion
1.	Welcome and Apologies 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. Apologies were received from ESC Councillor David Ritchie, Emma Healey (Halesworth Volunteer Centre), Phil Love (Access Community Trust), Les LeLean (Spexhall Parish Council). Rosemary Lewis from Halesworth Town Council attended the meeting as a substitute for David Thomas who was no longer a Town Councillor.
2.	Notes The Notes of the meeting held on 22 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

3.

Rural Proofing

The Community Partnership received a presentation from Sarah Mortimer from Community Action Suffolk (CAS), on a rural proofing approach for East Suffolk Community Partnerships.

The presentation covered the following key points:

- The initial meetings between CAS and the Community Partnership Chairs, to discuss rural proofing.
- The rural proofing toolkit developed with the information gathered at those meetings.
- How the toolkit could be applied to the work of the Community Partnerships.
- The support in place from Sarah Mortimer until the end of March 2022, including tailored support for each of the eight East Suffolk Community Partnerships.
- The what, why and how of rural proofing
 - The definition of a rural area
 - Provision of impactful projects
 - The reference to rural proofing in the updated Terms of Reference.
- Rural proofing projects and services, including examples of questions for each stage of a project.

Rural proofing was discussed by the CP and covered the following:

- Cover for rural areas compared to the towns
- Inclusion of smaller parishes
- Mental Health Friendly Towns and sharing of good practise
- Access to services such as dentists and doctors
- Areas affected by rural exclusion with no village shops
- Availability/lack of public transport to travel to hospital(s) and the bookable service provided by Beccles and Bungay Community Transport

The Communities Officer informed the CP of some interesting population statistics such as 63.6% of people lived in the market towns. This compared to the total area of which 12% was from the market towns. It was noted that the data was based on the 2011 census so while the general picture was likely to be the same, the figures were now likely to be different.

The Communities Officer confirmed that work would be undertaken on priorities over the summer period and he would be organising a workshop in July for the CP members to attend.

ACTION: Sam Kenward

	The Chairman thanked Sarah for an informative presentation and invited her to stay for the remainder of the meeting if she so wished. The full presentation would be published on the Council's website with the Agenda papers.
4.	Feedback from the Community Partnership Board on 7 June 2021 The CP received a report which provided details of the progress and outcomes of the CP Board meeting held on 7 June 2021. The Chairman was happy to take the report as read unless members of the CP had specific questions. The Head of Communities advised that it had been a very positive meeting and drew particular attention to the Task & Finish Group who had been asked to look at factors identified in the table in the report. In addition, there would be a focus on transport at CP Board level and each CP could feed its views into that piece of work.
5.	Small Grants Scheme The Communities Officer gave a verbal update with regard to the second round of funding which had run from mid May to 4 June 2021. A virtual drop-in session had been held with six organisations attending. Overall, there had been a good response to the scheme with 19 applications having been received. There was a good mix, both geographically and themes, which included youth, community radio and several new projects. The Grants Panel would be meeting at the end of June to appraise and consider the applications. The Communities Officer reminded the CP Members that they had allocated £10,000 in the current financial year and, with the carry forward of £3,726 from the previous year, the CP was in a good position to fund most of the grants that had been applied for, subject to the applications meeting the relevant criteria. With the 19 applications, there would be a shortfall as a total of £17,492.60 had been applied for, leaving a shortfall of £3,766.60. Approval was being sought now for that amount to be allocated to top up the small grants pot if all applications were approved, rather than waiting until the next CP meeting at the end of September as any successful organisations might welcome the funding through the summer period. The CP discussed the options and whether any additional funding for small grants might leave it short of funding for other schemes and on a vote, it was agreed in principle for the additional money to be allocated. The Head of Communities advised that it would be unlikely for the full allocation to be spent and it would be

	disappointing if the applicants had to wait for funding for their projects until September. ACTION: Sam Kenward
6.	CP's Priorities As it was the first CP meeting in the municipal year, the Communities Officer asked the CP to consider its priorities and decide on keeping its current priorities: - Transport. - Reducing Social Isolation. - Healthy lifestyle. The Communities Officer proposed either a brainstorming session or a survey monkey to seek everyone's thoughts as this would allow better conversations in September at the CP's next meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed to extend the survey to voluntary organisations. The CP noted that many people working in the voluntary sector and with charities were voluntary part-timers and not paid employees, so it might be difficult to get such groups to become more involved. It was noted that CAS and Emma Ratzner would provide additional contact details. ACTION: Sam Kenward
7.	Terms of Reference Following a review after the first year's operation, the Terms of Reference, as circulated with the Agenda, had been updated to take account of comments that had been received and also recommendations made by CAS as part of the rural proofing toolkit. It should be noted that all Parish Councils could be invited to attend and that the quoracy had been changed to six. The CP noted its updated Terms of Reference.
8.	Core Membership The Chairman explained that, with the widening of the Terms of Reference to include more parishes, it was proposed that representatives from Spexhall and Westhall become core member of the CP. Further proposals included: <u>Pool of other representatives</u> Add Martha Coleman, , the Bungay Community Support (BCS) Project Co Ordinator

	The new County Councillor for Beccles Peggy McGregor to remain in this group. <u>Core Members</u> Kathryn Ellis CCG to be removed as she had changed job roles. David Thomas had resigned from Halesworth TC and was to be replaced. It was agreed that Core Membership could be reviewed again in the future. ACTION: Sarah Carter
9.	Appointment of Vice Chairman On a nomination that was duly seconded, the CP agreed that Councillor Caroline Topping to be appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2021/22 municipal year.
10.	Date of Next Meeting It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 20 September 2021 at 6pm. The Chairman proposed that the next meeting of the CP be held in person in Holton or Bungay. With the new Community Centre in Bungay being available in September, this was agreed. ACTION: Sarah Carter
11.	Any Other Business The Head of Communities advised that as a result of recent work and an analysis of issues, concerns had been raised over domestic abuse and mental health in the community. She referred to three different courses over the next few months covering: - Domestic Abuse Community Advocates Training Programme - Introduction to Mental health first aid - Training Calls to Extremely Vulnerable and Suicide Awareness Full details would be circulated to all CPs via Democratic Services and everyone was being asked to share the information with their communities. Comment was made that it would be useful to have a hyperlink to a poster for posting on social media. ACTION: Nicole Rickard

The meeting concluded at 7.22pm.