

## **Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership**

### **Action Notes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 19 September**

#### **Somerleyton Village Hall**

Attendees: Councillor Paul Ashdown (Chairman), Cllrs Back, Byatt, Gee, King and Robinson, Cllr Peter Armstrong (Corton Parish Council), Cllr Neil Livingstone (Somerleyton Parish Council), Cllr Myles Thomas (Lound Parish Council) Cllr Chris Ashdown (Oulton Broad Parish Council) Cllr Andy Pearce (Lowestoft Parish Council), Danny Steel (Lowestoft Vision), Sally Connick (Literacy Trust), Claire Taylor-Haigh (Women Like Me/Waveney VAS), David Bromley (Oulton Broad Sailing Centre) Laura Hampton (Wild East),

Supporting Officers: Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities ESC), Mags Lambert (Project Manager/Business Analyst ESC), Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer), Louise Thomas (Communities Officer), Rachel Tucker (Communities Officer/ASB ESC),

Apologies Nicki Cooper, Cllr Graham Parker, Cllr Vigo Di Gallidoro, Phil Aves, Sarah Foote, Cllr Malcolm Pitchers

Item	Discussion
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</b>
2	<b>Action Notes</b>  The Action Notes of the meeting held on 4 July were agreed.
3.	<b>Current Projects</b> <b>Buzzabout</b>  Mags Lambert (ML) updated on the Buzzabout project which had been extended for an additional year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service was currently most popular for shopping use</li> <li>• Mainly used by people from Gunton and Lowestoft</li> <li>• Aim in the next year was to increase use by other communities and sectors, particularly for people looking to get to school or college</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There would hopefully be third service started to link buzzabout with katch</li> </ul> <p>ML confirmed that leaflets and advertising material would be delivered and distributed. The app was not yet up and running and so there had not been too big of a push, this would be done at the start of October.</p> <p>Cllr Andy Pearce (AP) commented that people in Gunton had been relieved when this had been extended. There was a need for speedier communication and advertising of the service.</p> <p><b>Ease the Squeeze and Warm Welcome</b></p> <p>Four rooms warm welcome rooms were up and running, which were the most successful from last winter. Over 1000 people had attended these in a three-month period.</p> <p>Some of the warm rooms would be expanding to host other groups and information.</p> <p>It had been difficult to get groups to complete monitoring forms, whilst this was not so much of an issue with local funding, it was an issue when the projects had been funded through UK SPF over the winter. Going forward for this winter, money would not be released to rooms until monitoring form feedback was provided. This was the policy for all funding, and help was available for filling in the forms.</p> <p>Cllr Ashdown (PA) asked how the smaller rooms which had run in the parishes could access funding. Nicole Rickard (NR) stated that the funding pot was smaller this year, but they could still apply for it. There was recognition that some help was needed in rural areas and so funding was not exclusively for larger populations.</p> <p>NR confirmed that Councillors could contribute to warm welcome rooms through their enabling communities budget.</p> <p><b>Planters</b></p> <p>Approximately 15 schools had taken this up, and some schools had requested more.</p> <p>Very positive feedback had been received from the schools that had them, PA was speaking with the new men's shed in Denmark Road about producing planters.</p>
4.	<b>Updates</b>

### **CP Board**

CP Board met on the 13<sup>th</sup> September. Board discussed the projects which had been run around each priority and held a workshop to discuss projects around the tackling inequalities priority.

### **Oulton Broad Watersports Centre**

The Partnership received a presentation from Oulton Broad Watersports Centre.

- The Centre aimed to deliver opportunities to local community that they would otherwise not have access to.
- Lowestoft had opportunities for water based activities but many were excluded.
- During the 2023 season school attendance was increased by 300% as schools recognised the importance of activities, however there was a lack of involvement from schools from socially deprived areas.
- The centre hoped to attend the next Crucial Crew event to discuss water safety and promote the centre to schools.
- Requests has been received to accommodate up to 60 people at one time, beyond the current limit of 24.
- The centre was asking for funding to enable them to attract more profitable revenue so lower cost programmes could be extended to those from deprived area.
- The centre hoped to expand into corporate team days, and there had already been interest from large companies to offer this.
- A range of new equipment was needed particularly for adults.

PA stated this would be sent to task and finish groups to see how they could assist with this.

### **Task and Finish Groups**

Cllr King (GK) update on the task and finish group considering social isolation.

The group had been looking at introducing lockers containing equipment at Normanston park for leisure and sport activities, for example tennis equipment, football kit, skate equipment, bug catching kits and so on. This would be set up by a group based in Switzerland, and had been used around the world. It was hoped equipment could be sourced and maintained from local clubs.

GK stated that the company had very low statistics for equipment being stolen, and it had been used in deprived areas in other countries.

AP supported this idea, and this would complement the regeneration of the park which was being planned by the Town Council.

A proposal for this project would be received at the next meeting.

	<p>Claire Taylor-Haigh update on the mental health and wellbeing task and finish group.</p> <p>The group had focussed on how the CP could promote the existing solutions directory to the community and how warm welcome rooms could be promoted, particularly for more isolated individuals.</p> <p>It was thought that for the most isolated people the best option would be for a leaflet to be distributed to GP surgeries as this was generally the only place people regularly accessed.</p> <p>Cllr Byatt (PB) stated that there were plenty of people willing to distribute leaflets if they were made available.</p> <p>NR stated that Suffolk County Council were going to be distributing a leaflet and ESC would have a section on this to advertise what was available. A location specific page would also be added to the Ease the Squeeze website.</p> <p>The group also discussed how people could be transported to the warm rooms, and it had been suggested that an additional route for one of the transport services be set up to transport people to the warm rooms.</p> <p>There had also been a discussion with a befriending service, who were interested in expanding in the service but would need some funding to research what requirement there was in this area.</p> <p>A proposal would be brought to the next meeting for consideration</p>
5.	<p><b>Project Proposals</b></p> <p>Healthy Habits Sally Connick introduced the proposal.</p> <p>This would be sent out to all year 5 and 6 pupils. Although it did target people at an unhealthy weight, it could be used to encourage healthy behaviour in all children.</p> <p>PB asked that a mechanism for feedback was included so children could report on how much they had enjoyed the activities and the CP could understand what difference had been made.</p> <p>GK stated that giving teachers the pack with a lesson plan attached as this would increase use by schools, and suggested that an activity be done and then the booklet was handed out at the end so there was some invested interest.</p> <p>It was suggested that something be handed out on the completion of the project to encourage people to report back with their feedback.</p> <p>ACTION: the Partnership allocate £1500 to the healthy habits project.</p>
6.	<p><b>Community Issues</b></p>

	<p>WildEast</p> <p>Laura Hampton introduced the WildEast project. They had been given some money by Natural England to map biodiversity in the area and then looking where there were opportunities to increase biodiversity. The project included provision for community engagement to encourage awareness of nature and to fund community projects to increase biodiversity.</p>
7.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>There was no other business.</p>

The meeting concluded at 17.51pm