

## **Kesgrave, Martlesham, Rushmere St Andrew, Purdis Farm and Carlford/Fynn Valley Community Partnership**

### **Local insight summary in preparation for Community Partnership priority review, April 2022.**

Prior to the April 2022 meeting of the Community Partnership, all members and Town/Parish Councils within the Partnership area were invited to share their local insight with East Suffolk Council. The aim of this was to compare data with the realities seen by key stakeholders within their communities in preparation for a Priority Review in April 2022.

Conversations ranged over four main topics – general overview, current issues, potential solutions, and views on the priorities for the coming financial year. This information should inform the priority setting and actions taken in the coming year against those priorities.

The notes included in this report have been summarised and are not exhaustive. It also includes insight from Kesgrave High Schools School Council and anonymous Youth Voice comments via the East Suffolk Council website.

For the 22/23 financial year, the Community Partnership priorities should be 'SMART' – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound. These details will be discussed in the upcoming meeting.

### **General Comments summary**

Participants were asked for their views on the data pack that was provided in advance of the meeting.

1. **Young people** – the feedback from the young people was appreciated and was considered to be useful. There were requests for this input to continue. Concerns were raised about the impact the pandemic has had on young people, and questions raised about the Partnership can respond.
2. **Progress being made** – respondents felt that positive change has occurred because of the Community Partnerships so far and this should continue. It was also acknowledged there is still significant work to undertake, particularly relating to road and traffic safety.
3. **Pockets of deprivation** – it was noted that although there are areas in the CP that are affluent, it doesn't mean there are no pockets of deprivation within our area. It was suggested that consideration is given to these areas when agreeing projects.
4. **Environment** – maintaining current environmental assets, improving habitats and encouraging residents to engage with schemes was a consistent theme throughout the discussions.
5. **Everyone facing similar concerns** – covid, energy price rises, increasing costs of living and mental health were issues facing the entire Community Partnership population.

### **Current issues**

Participants were asked to consider what are the current issues, or causes of issues, in their local area.

| Issues being faced                                                            | Number of mentions |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Active travel infrastructure – walking, cycling, etc                          | 7                  |
| Mental health – waiting lists, pandemic impact, loneliness and isolation, etc | 5                  |
| Roads and traffic                                                             | 4                  |
| Local environment – protecting and maintaining                                | 4                  |
| Young people – mental health, safe spaces to congregate                       | 3                  |
| Lack of volunteers                                                            | 3                  |
| Public transport in rural villages                                            | 3                  |
| Cost of living                                                                | 3                  |
| Loss of pre-covid community activities                                        | 2                  |
| Communication with the public                                                 | 2                  |
| Requirement for local data                                                    | 1                  |
| An ageing population requiring more services                                  | 1                  |
| Covid recovery and its impact on people                                       | 1                  |
| Community dynamics relating to working from home                              | 1                  |

There appears to be local interest in continuing to improve the local active travel infrastructure. This was particularly prevalent in the rural communities and related to safety concerns of walking and cycling on country roads.

Mental health discussions were linked with the current CP priority of 'Isolation and Loneliness'. It is accepted that statutory services are seeing ever increasing demand for mental health services across a range of ages and backgrounds. Concerns related to mental health were also linked with young people in our communities.

Giving young people a safe and consistent space to spend time was mentioned on several occasions, both within the more urban and rural areas alike. When discussing these points, themes relating to improved mental health and 'calm' activities were mentioned regularly.

### Potential solutions

All respondents were asked what practical action might be taken against these issues. The following list also includes suggestions made by Kesgrave High School Council representatives and are listed in no particular order.

1. Direct engagement with cohorts to encourage them to interact with the community more post covid.
2. IT group to enable residents to access online services that will benefit them.
3. Upskilling residents and key contacts in mental health support to embed the skills within all communities.
4. Engage Churches in the Community Partnership and support their efforts relating to isolation and loneliness.
5. Good Neighbour Schemes.
6. Make practical improvements to active travel infrastructure.
7. After school café/venue available on a regular basis for high school age young people.
8. Marketplace events for communities to meet health and wellbeing providers and other stakeholders
9. Practical improvements to the natural environment.
10. Encourage pre-pandemic community provision to restart.
11. 'Calm' community garden/space to improve wellbeing.
12. Extend the Katch on-demand bus service to Carlford and Fynn Valley villages.
13. Support current community organisations to increase their provision – eg 'Kesgrave Wombles'
14. Support healthy cooking courses for young people
15. Improve community communication tools

16. Updated data mapping for hidden needs issues
17. Small scale social events to bring people back to community settings
18. Better public transport for young people
19. Young people's counselling services
20. More recycling/bins in urban areas
21. Greater representation from Parish Councils in the CP area
22. Extend the Katch Service in to Carlford/Fynn Valley villages that use Wickham Market as their hub
23. Financially support historic CP projects that can evidence strong outcomes and value for money
24. Continue to work with schools to engage young people in the CP process
25. Review volunteering opportunities and if they're fit for purpose
26. Use of felled trees as fuel where appropriate - a 'wood bank'

There will be additional solutions available to the Community Partnership. It is recommended that more detailed work is explored on this topic in the future before allocating funding to projects.

### **Priorities**

Overall, respondents were keen to keep the priorities as they are – isolation/loneliness, environmental care and road and traffic safety, although not necessarily in the same order. The ordering of the priorities will need to be completed at a Community Partnership meeting.

The respondents noted some other points in regards to the priorities. Three representatives noted the importance on young people, whilst four noted eagerness to support peoples mental health. The cost of living crisis and isolation in rural areas were also highlighted.

The Community Partnership priorities should be SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound. Detailed discussion is required to narrow the focus of each priority in order to focus resources over the coming year.