

Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 21 February 2023

Lowestoft 60plus Club

ESC Councillors – Councillor Paul Ashdown (Chairman), Cllr Edward Back, Cllr Janet Craig, Cllr Andree Gee, Cllr Louise Gooch, Cllr Malcom Pitchers,

SCC Councillors – Councillor Melanie Vigo Di Gallidoro

Town and Parish Councils – Cllr Neil Livingston (Somerleyton, Ashby and Herringfleet Parish Council), Cllr Peter Lang (Lowestoft Town Council), Cllr Miles Thomas (Lound Parish Council),

Partnership Organisations – Phil Aves (Lowestoft Rising), Danny Steel (Lowestoft Vision), Matt Grafton (CAS)

Others present –

Luke Bennett (Partnerships Manager), Sally Connick (Literacy Trust), David Lawrence (Kirkley Peoples Forum), Chiara Saunders (CAB), Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer), Louise Thomas (Communities Officer)

Apologies – Cllr Jenny Hinton (Oulton Parish Council), Cllr Mary Rudd, Cllr James Reeder, Cllr Peter Byatt, Cllr Andy Pearce, Cllr Linda Coulam

Item	Discussion
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Cllr Ashdown (PA) welcomed everyone to the meeting, which would be the last before the new administration following the elections in May. Cllr Ashdown thanked Danny Steel for his work as Vice Chairman, Phil Aves for his work in Lowestoft and the area, all the parish, town and district Councillors who regularly attended, and all those from the voluntary sector who gave up their time for the meetings.</p> <p>Cllr Ashdown reported that the CP had spent over £85,000 in the last four years, and thanked Louise Thomas and the Communities team for their work in getting projects running and funded. Funding was allocated for the partnership to continue into the new administration.</p>
2	<p>Action Notes</p> <p>The Action Notes of the meeting held on 2 December 2022 were agreed.</p>

3.	<p>Board Update</p> <p>There had been no update since the last meeting.</p>
4.	<p>Project updates</p> <p>Louise Thomas (LT) updated the Partnership on the following projects</p> <p>Warm Rooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 in Lowestoft, mixed attendance across days and locations. Some had very few attendees, others were regularly well attended. The highest attendance was at Roman Hill St Andrews, there were existing groups at this venue which had helped with attendance. • Feedback was positive, the venues that had been successful had use activities and food as part of their offer which had helped, and it was clear that there did need to be something for people to do at the warm rooms. • Warm packs were also being distributed, some ready-made packs and some where residents could request a specific piece of equipment, bespoke package (up to £100) to help in their circumstances. £3.5k has been used to fund 100 £100 bespoke winter warmth packages for 100 Lowestoft residents. Referrals are via professional or volunteers but not self referral, due to limit of only a 100, it is not being widely advertised as there was limited availability. <p>PA asked the Partnership to consider how the warm rooms project could be continued through the summer and next winter to support priorities of social isolation and mental health. PA suggested changing the name to warm welcome rooms to make the social aspect clearer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Somerleyton the name had been changed to Social Saturday to encourage a more of a social atmosphere. • PA agreed that the idea although started as a help with cost of living and heating, but it was clear that they had more of an impact on social isolation and mental wellbeing due to other help available for heating. It was clear that there was a need for community and social spaces • There was a need to ensure the correct audience was reached for the rooms, could they be advertised to carers who could then recommend them to the people they helped. • Phil Aves (PAV) commented that social workers had been briefed, and they should be passing this information on. • There was a discussion about more vulnerable people not wanting to go into warm rooms due to concerns following covid and many had suffered with ill health due to the isolation. • Comment was also made that venues need to be chosen more carefully to ensure they feel welcoming and that there were volunteers to welcome people in.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA commented that the food element did need to be revisited, while ESC had purposefully not included a coffee and cake style offer in warm rooms due to conflicting with other priorities, it was clear this was a driver especially in areas where people were struggling with food costs. • PA asked how people could encouraged to attend warm rooms, especially from rural areas, would a regular day to pick people up and take people in be better to coincide with other activities? • There was no agreement on a best day, but it was clear that certain times/days needed to be avoided due to conflict with times when on demand buses were busy. • There were a lot of activities the buzzbus could be used for, but there was a lack of volunteer drivers. This was a common issue across CP areas, and it might be possible to do some joined up work in this area. <p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group agreed that the emphasis for warm rooms should now be on the social aspect to help with social isolation and mental health. • The group asked that the scheme be renamed 'Warm Welcome' Rooms • £3700 from warm rooms to go into warm welcome to continue this work into April/May/June in preparation for the new year.
5.	<p>Project Proposals</p> <p>LT confirmed that there was around £1000 remaining in the budget which had been allocated to planters. PA asked if some of this funding could be allocated to Pakefield Church Hall Garden to allow them to continue.</p> <p>PAv confirmed that the funding from the planter project had been rolled over for the last two years, and most schools had taken up the project in some way or another and the project was now coming to a natural end with some money remaining. Many of the pantries were now looking at how they could grow food for distribution.</p> <p>There was a suggestion that various growing schemes could be joined up with cooking classes and community cooking events. LT agreed this was a good idea, but as the projects were being run by so many groups from various funds it would not be practical to coordinate. Groups were being set up to grow food and provide to various pantries and this was a good starting point.</p> <p>ACTION: Remaining funding be allocated to Pakefield Church Garden</p> <p>Participatory budgeting for schools</p>

LT summarised a project which would allocate £1000 each to two schools for students to propose ideas for how the money could be spent to benefit their community under one or all three of our CP priorities.

The group agreed that this be allocated, and support was offered from CAB to help students budget and prepare presentations.

ACTION: £2000 to be allocated to participatory budgeting for schools.

SPOT Wellbeing

LT summarise a project to fund two additional SPOT Wellbeing courses (£3,000). Each course runs over six weeks, one half-day session per week. Each session has three elements to it – an exercise session tailored to the needs and abilities of those attending, a socialising element to develop relationships and an information element about a different topic each week – for example nutrition, falls prevention or common health conditions.

Referrals were received via several routes – either through health professionals such as GP surgeries or social prescribers, through friends and families, or as a self referral. SPOT Wellbeing already have the contacts within the health services to ensure that those who would benefit from the course are able to access it.

Courses funded by the Partnership would run in Lowestoft in late 2023, with the one course funded by the CP Board being run in the summer.

PAv did not think there would be an issue with running a project and filling places, especially over the longer period of time. SPOT would work with the communities team to identify the best locations and clients for these courses.

ACTION: £3000 to be allocated for SPOT wellbeing courses.

Pulsate

Cllr Gooch (LG) summarised a proposal for healthy cooking classes for families in need with young children. Classes would be run with the food bank, and would be based on the food available through healthy start vouchers. At present the plan was to arrange the scheme for the May half term, but care needed to be taken around the pre-election period.

PAv commented that he could hold the money through Lowestoft Rising and distribute as appropriate.

PAv agreed to match the £1000 funding to extend the project further.

Game On

There had been positive feedback from the game on sessions over the winter, and there had been suggestions to repeat it. LG suggested East Point Pavillion as a venue and would look for a suitable date.

6.	<p>Date of Next meeting</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>A fund had been set up by the Hornsea3 offshore wind companies to support community projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch in Summer 2023 (June/July with a three month period for organisations to apply) • Grants will cover work on community buildings, health and wellbeing projects - you can get an idea from the Grantscape website under East Coast Community Fund Grant. • £700,000 per annum available over 10 years. • Projects will be funded for a 2 year period, and once a project is completed you cannot reapply for another 2 years - although this may reduce to 6 months. • They are looking for one applicant to apply and to take responsibility for the funds although the applicant can work with partners. • Small grants of between £500-£5000 will be available. • Main grants of between £5001 and £75,000 will be available as long as match funding worth 20% is provided but this could be by using volunteers and giving their contributions a monetary value. • These details are not yet confirmed but would be in April -the fund would then be on the Grantscape website. <p>Household Support Fund had been set up by the County Council for smaller support such as white goods, up to £500. More details needed to be confirmed and would be sent round when available.</p>
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The meeting concluded at 5.49pm