

Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held Remotely via Zoom on Monday, 13 July 2020

Core Membership:

ESC Councillors – Cllr J Cloke (Chairman), Cllr E Bramley-Crawshaw, Cllr A Cackett, Cllr G Elliott, Cllr D Ritchie and Cllr C Topping.

SCC Councillors – Cllr T Goldson

Town and Parish Councils – G Catchpole (Beccles Town Council) S Collins (Bungay Town Council), A Dunning (Halesworth Town Council), E Healey (Halesworth Volunteer Centre), B Prior (Bungay Town Council), W Summerfield (Worlingham Parish Council), D Thomas (Halesworth Town Council).

Partnership Organisations – F Bedding (CAS), P Love (Access Community Trust), B Matthews (Wissett Parish Council).

Others present – L Bennett (ESC Partnership Manager), S Carter (Democratic Services Officer), S Halsey (Communities Officer), N Khan (Strategic Director).

Item	Discussion
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If discussions resulted in any voting, she proposed that those present agreed by consensus rather than a formal vote which could be quite time consuming as the meeting was being held remotely via Zoom.</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from G Birrell (Beccles Town Council), C Ellis (Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Parish Council), G Hirst (Communities Support Officer) and E Sewell (Apollo Youth Centre).</p>
2.	<p>Notes</p> <p>The Notes of the meeting held on 9 March 2020 were agreed as a correct record.</p>

3.	<p>Project Updates</p> <p>The Communities Officer advised that the money from 2019/20 had been allocated to the four projects identified at the CP's last meeting. However, all had been delayed due to the Covid19 lockdown.</p> <p>The Summer Activities had been due to start the following week; however, the money allocated would be carried forward to next year and it was hoped there would also be some match funding from the Town Councils as they had agreed to match fund for this summer.</p> <p>The Communities Officer would be touching base with the leads on the other three projects to get the funding transferred and see how each project could be progressed. With regard to the Halesworth project, Emma from the Volunteer Centre had not been available to attend a meeting regarding the project and, based on feedback received, the money would now be used for a similar but slightly different project but still meeting the agreed priorities. That would be presented to a future meeting of the CP.</p> <p>ACTION: Stuart Halsey</p>
4.	<p>Community Partnership Board Update</p> <p>The CP received a report which gave details on actions relating to Hidden Needs, Hardship Fund, Rural Needs, and Transport and Access to Services, the potential impacts of Covid19 on East Suffolk and areas of focus for the Board.</p> <p>The Partnership Manager advised that work on Transport and Access to Services had been delayed due to the focus on the Covid19 response but that would be picked up at the September CP Board meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded the group that the closing date for bids under the Hidden Needs Programme was 17 July. The second round would close at the end of September.</p>
5.	<p>To review and confirm the Community Partnership's Priorities</p> <p>The Communities Officer reminded the CP of its three priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healthy Living 2. Social Isolation – Task and Finish Group 3. Transport - agreed to look at later <p>The CP agreed that the three identified priorities were solid and the Chairman mentioned the issues that were being dealt with District wide at Board level.</p>

	<p>Comment was made stressing the importance of seeking evidence of the needs and priorities in current circumstances.</p> <p>The CP discussed the options and was of the opinion that, going forward, it was not clear at this stage what might be needed as everyone had been responding to the emergency brought on by Covid19 and providing an immediate response under difficult circumstances. Now was a chance to reflect on issues, support communities in a holistic way and seriously consider best form of spending.</p> <p>A comment was made that cycling was a growth area during the pandemic crisis and it had shown that better facilities were required. Overgrown pathways were becoming an issue but, as they were the responsibility of the County and District Councils, the CP's money should not be spent on that.</p> <p>The CP members were very much of the opinion that they should hold off making a decision on spending to ascertain needs coming out of the Covid19 pandemic. It was suggested that funding for the market towns and smaller parishes could go towards smaller projects yet to be identified and needs that might be highlighted moving towards Winter, for example, another lockdown, a recession, or supporting families with food.</p> <p>It was also recognised that a small sum of money for towns was a huge amount for parishes and Westhall and Rumburgh would welcome some financial support. It was important to recognise both emotional needs and practical needs whether it be welfare checks or financial requirements.</p> <p>It was noted that a questionnaire had been circulated in Halesworth to help identify local needs and concerns during Covid19 and for the future which could be shared with the group. The results of that should be available to report back in September for the CP to discuss.</p> <p>ACTION: Stuart Halsey</p>
6.	<p>Report back from the Tackle Social Isolation and Loneliness Task and Finish Group</p> <p>The Communities Officer explained that the Task and Finish Group would pick up on all the work that had already been undertaken by various groups in the community. It should be understood that volunteers and organisations had been working extremely hard over the last four months under Covid19 and some recovery time was needed.</p>

	<p>The Communities Officer confirmed, on behalf of the Task and Finish Group, it would be best to hold off rushing into spending any money so as to allow the time to determine best needs. Proposals for a Bungay project might be ready for September. He requested any project proposals be forwarded to him for inclusion in the next agenda. It was far more productive to submit written information, via the Communities Officer, to the CP for detailed consideration rather than relying on an oral report on the day.</p> <p>ACTION: All</p>
7.	<p>To consider the Community Partnership Projects to deliver against the CP's Priorities</p> <p>Rather than immediately allocating £25,000 available in the current year, it might be an idea to hold off from spending to see what might happen in the next few weeks. Lockdown under Covid19 was beginning to ease but the true situation was not yet known. There was the possibility allocating money to the three towns and smaller villages and, by the next meeting, each might wish to put in a funding bid for consideration. Project ideas would likely come out of the Covid19 situation.</p> <p>The Communities Officer advised that a youth survey had been launched through Youth Voice to get feedback over their concerns under the lockdown. That might be ready in September to feed into the bigger picture.</p> <p>ACTION: Stuart Halsey</p> <p>Concerns were expressed by the group over the lack of schooling particularly for vulnerable children and those who were also missing out on other activities such as scouts, judo classes, etc. Children under 12 years old did not necessarily understand the circumstances as a result of the pandemic. In Beccles, via the schools, it was reported that food had been provided to families during this difficult time. Some would also be struggling with IT too.</p> <p>Mr Love referred to Access Community Trust's 'The Pink Orange' which was supplying healthy household meal ingredient kits to Suffolk families. They were distributing free ingredient kits over the summer holidays to households that would normally receive free school meals in term time, full details of which could be found at https://pinkorange.co.uk/</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for their valuable input and she hoped that the CP would soon be able to meet face to face.</p>

	<p>In response to a member of the CP seeking clarification as to how the CP's allocated money would be spent, the Chairman explained that ideas and proposals would come back to the CP and it would be a collective decision of the group as to what projects would be funded. Then, the relevant application form would be completed and processed by the Funding Team.</p>
8.	<p>BBH CP Core Membership List July 2020</p> <p>The Chairman referred to the Core Membership document that had been circulated with the Agenda, which also gave details of other representatives who could be invited to attend future CP meetings, depending on priorities.</p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer advised there were two changes since its publication; Annette Dunning would be representing Halesworth Town Council replacing Dave Wollweber and Beryl Matthews was to be the representative from Wissett Parish Council. Also, it had been suggested by the Communities Officer that Sammie Charlesworth from Connected Communities Suffolk Family Carers be added to the pool of other representatives.</p> <p>The Group commented that more parish representatives, including Barnby, would be welcome and that the CP needed to engage with more volunteer organisations to ensure their needs were met. The Chairman advised that the core membership had to be limited otherwise it might become unwieldy and she pointed out that some voluntary groups were already on the list. Work with those groups was already being undertaken on a daily basis. Going forward the CP could review its membership after the first year.</p> <p>ACTION: Sarah Carter – to update list</p>
9.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The CP was asked to note the following dates for future meetings which, going forward, would commence at 6.00pm:</p> <p>Monday 14 September 2020 Monday 2 November 2020 Monday 1 February 2021</p> <p>ACTION: All – diary note</p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer advised that any extra meetings that might become necessary could be arranged at the time they were required.</p>

	<p>The Chairman thanked all for attending and participating in the meeting and hoped that the group might be able to convene in a meeting room for next CP in September.</p>
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The meeting concluded at 7.05pm.