

Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and villages Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 27 February 2024

ESC Councillors – Cllr Alan Green (Chair), Cllr Paul Ashton, Cllr Sarah Whitelock

SCC Councillors – Cllr Michael Ladd

Town and Parish Councils – Alison Ayres (Clerk, Carlton Colville Town Council), Cllr Chris Thomas (Carlton Colville Town Council)

Partnership Organisations – Frances Peebles (Kessingland Community Groups)

Others present (non-voting) – Gemma Fraser (Communities Officer, East Suffolk Council), Katy Cassidy (Democratic Services Officer, East Suffolk Council), Vicky Eyles (Carlton Marshes)

Apologies: Cllr Julie McLean (Kessingland Parish Council), Cllr Annette Dunning (SCC Cllr for Halesworth Division)

1	<p>Action Notes</p> <p>The notes from the meeting held on 6 December 2023 were agreed.</p>
2	<p>The Wilder Communities Project Presentation from Vicky Eyles, Carlton Marshes</p> <p>The group received a presentation from Vicky Eyles, Wilder Communities Officer for Suffolk Wildlife Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffolk Wildlife Trust has received Heritage Lottery grant funding for just under £2 Million and some of that grant is for starting land acquisition at Worlingham Marshes. There is currently a match funding appeal taking place for the land purchase - £775,000. • Worlingham Marshes is 381 acres of land, further down Waveney valley past castle marshes. To the south there is wet woodland for creatures over winter and roost, and above the railway line is old fenland area which will be managed to be brought back to what they should be like and encourage biodiversity. In the Clay bedded area, lots of scrapes are being installed to encourage breeding waders and ducks etc. The goal is to think landscape wide rather than separate areas. • Vicky is new in post and will be working with existing and new community groups in and around Lowestoft. The remit is Waveney Valley to Beccles with

the aim of reaching out to communities and improving natural green spaces, focusing on how and where people access nature, do they visit Carlton Marshes and if they don't explore what the barriers may be.

- Interested in connecting with local groups and networking. Currently working with primary schools, women's group, as well as exploring connections with immigrant populations and those on lower incomes. The goal being to encourage more engagement with nature.
- The Heritage fund is looking to see lots of different strands to the way Suffolk Wildlife Trust engages with community groups. Examples given were a poetry group and plays in the amphitheatre. The aim is to think creatively about getting people engaged with nature.

Questions for Vicky Eyles (VE)

Alison Ayres (AA) asked about cycling/walking links as part of the new development. VE confirmed one route already in place, walking from Carlton Marshes to Oulton Broad South Station, train to Beccles and then a walk through marshland and Anglers way back to Carlton Marshes. VE confirmed the aim was to add those to the project as guided walks to encourage more people out and the Communications Team were producing more printed information about walks and routes that can be taken.

Vicky is already engaged with Wellness on Wheels as part of the Lowestoft Community Hub Team and the project was being promoted there.

Micheal Ladd (ML) asked about connecting communities and how far South the project boundaries stretched. VE confirmed if the activity can be linked to the project and show impact, Heritage Fund would cover Southwold/Reydon remit.

Sarah Whitelock (SL) suggested promoting the project to other Community Partnerships in the local area and Gemma Fraser (GF) agreed to facilitate links.

VE confirmed she was already working with the First Light Festival and they will be there this year running activities on the beach. Plan is to take sound hide and they have recorded the dawn chorus at Carlton Marshes and planned to do the same at Worlingham and would be setting up activity using those sounds on the beach.

Chris Thomas (CT) asked if Worlingham Marshes was signposted. VE confirmed not as yet as the funds had only recently been granted, but plans were for the Reserves Team to add signage.

CT asked how the project was engaging with schools/scout groups. VE confirmed there was a schools project called Wilder Schools – a 3 year project where they go into school to increase biodiversity in their grounds. In addition, other engagement officers based at Carlton Marshes link with schools, visits to Carlton Marshes can either be self-guided tours or a visitor engagement officer led visit. Re scout groups and brownies, VE confirmed one of the visitor engagement officers has been compiling list of local groups with a vision to reach out to them as they had lots of activities to offer for badges.

VE advised there is a Young Wardens programme for 11–16-year-olds offered from Carlton Marshes that could be scaled down for scouts/brownies.

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Project Updates

Gemma Fraser (GF) gave an update on the projects that the Community Partnership has provided to date and the remaining funding to be allocated by 31 March 2024.

Resources were demonstrated and the project successes celebrated. (Briefing sheet attached to meeting notes.)

Actions from the Project Updates:

Supporting Mental Health in Primary Schools - GF to send counsellors report with activity carried out to date.

Cost of Living project – Awarded to 5 school but not all schools engaging, discussed ideas for increasing uptake:

- Recognised the work that teachers have to do, agreed to approach finance officers with grant opportunities.
- PA to contact Bramfield School
- Carlton Colville hold quarterly community engagement meeting, inviting schools, scout groups etc.
- GF will be distributing packs to schools, Councillors invited to join, good promotional opportunity to raise awareness to other schools

Sothwold Men's Shed

- Promotional campaign taking place and public meeting happening 16 March 2024, aiming to attract attendance of more than 10.
- Originally looking at wooden structure, now looking at metal containers clad and lined for security due to the equipment that will be held there.
- Cost would be slightly more, but as it is modular, can start with what can be afforded and build on it.
- Supported by the Southwold Millennium Foundation, idea that it would run itself longer term. As it would be on charity land, a licence agreement would need to be established.

Carlton Colville Chinwag

- Huge uptake, very popular activity with between 25 and 40 attending each month.
- Meet the first Friday of the month at Uplands Community Centre, Lowestoft.
- Lowestoft men's shed involved with teas and coffees.
- Discussed possibility of running it more frequently, difficult due to reliance on volunteers.
- CT extended invitation to group to visit Chinwag.

Volunteers

- Ideas for increasing volunteers were discussed.
- Lowestoft buy back scheme, shared services where volunteering exchanged for return services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GF – CAS carried out volunteer research project, 12 month ongoing project. Gather outcomes to date to inform next steps. GF advised 6 month outcome project was due end of March 2024.
4	<p>Remaining funding for 2023/24</p> <p>Project ideas:</p> <p>Community Soup Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GF would need support to run this. • 3 community organisations to organise 4 community soup events a year. • Guidebook and training provided and organisations pitch for funding and event is held to decide who gets funding. • Follow up event 3 months later to discuss impact. • Group discussed about management of funding and whether it would be simpler for community partnership to manage grants. • GF – Community Soup should be a bottom up initiative, equipping communities to do it themselves. • Work with established body such as Southwold and Reydon voluntary help centre, and if necessary commission through CAS. <p>Youth Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth café starting in Carlton Colville. Funded skate sessions with skate Suffolk – 10 sessions for Carlton Colville currently funded, additional funding would be welcomed. • Kessingland have one employed member of staff to run the group, looking to appoint another. • Gaps in rural communities and barriers such as transport • Could transport be provided to link rural communities to youth projects in other areas. <p>Project Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining funding to be allocated for a youth club focus. • Where youth clubs already exist expand transport to their areas • Introduce new provision where it doesn't currently exist. • Build on successful provision such as The Loft, Southwold, very informal youth provision. <p>Action – Community Partnership agreed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate remaining 2023/2024 funding to feasibility study and develop project in accordance with results of study. • Carry out feasibility study, focusing on youth research, transport and new provision. • Access youth voice via schools.

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Date of the next meeting

Discussion around meetings – Community partnership every quarter, in between rural forum. Alternate evening and daytime meetings.

Wednesday 5 June 2024 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm – venue to be confirmed

Tuesday 17 September 2024 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm – venue to be confirmed
(Transport museum?)

Wednesday 11 December 2024 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm – venue to be confirmed (The Loft, Southwold?)

Wednesday 4 March 2025 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm – venue to be confirmed

The meeting concluded at 12.00pm