

## Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership

### **Action Notes of the Meeting held at Beccles Town Council Monday 18 December 2023**

#### Attendees:

Cllr John Adams (Bungay Town Council), Jackie Ball (Thirst Youth Hub), Susan Clements (Ringsfield and Weston Parish Council), Lorna Collins (Earthwake), Sue Collins (Bungay Community Support), Cllr Tony Dawes (Bungay Town Council), Cllr Winifred Evans (Rumburgh Parish Council), Emma Healey (Halesworth Volunteer Centre), Cllr Colin Hill (Beccles Town Council), Cllr Beth Keys-Holloway (East Suffolk Council), Phil Love (Waveney Centre), Cllr Pauline Midwinter (Shipmeadow and Barsham Parish Council), Cllr Zach Miller (Shipmeadow and Barsham Parish Council), Cllr Joan Price (North Cove Parish Council), Cllr Sheryl Rumble (East Suffolk Council), Eric Sewell (Apollo Youth Centre), Cllr Caroline Topping (East Suffolk Council), Catherine Wilson (Earthwake), Cllr Geoff Wakeling (East Suffolk Council)

Others present – Jo Belfield (Communities Officer), Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities, East Suffolk Council), Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer)

Apologies: Cllr Toby Hammond (East Suffolk Council), Cllr Anthony Specca (East Suffolk Council), Cllr Ash Lever (Suffolk County Council), Ian Bond (Barnby Parish Council)

Item	Discussion
1	<p><b>Notes of the Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p>
2.	<p><b>Where are we now?</b></p> <p>Nicole Rickard (NR) updated on the most recent meeting of the Community Partnership Board.</p> <p>The Board had agreed £146,000 for tackling inequalities funding which includes workstreams on mental health and wellbeing, poverty, and young people's health. Examples of projects the board were considering as a part of this work were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Wellbeing leaflets</li> <li>• Pillow swap for sleep health</li> <li>• Poverty Proofing the School Day report implementation</li> <li>• Projects to benefit people with disabilities living in poverty</li> <li>• Access to counselling in schools</li> </ul>

- Reproducing the Lowestoft Healthy Habits booklet for all schools

Jo Belfield (JB) updated on work since the last meeting. £900 had been spent on hot water bottles, slipper socks and fleece hoodies for the youth club. £5,000 had been allocated to winter warmth. Of this, £1000 had been allocated to comfort food which now could not be used for this, this money had been returned to the pot. It was agreed that this be allocated to warm welcomes in the smaller villages.

The group discussed the next steps and feedback on these projects

- Caroline Topping (CT) stated that many groups in towns were already opening for various meet up rooms, and in Beccles the only work had been to collate this information. They had been given some financial support to add extras to the meet up rooms. This was a more sustainable model as it did not require new volunteers to be found.
- Looked after children were the most vulnerable and often presented to hospitals, would the impact of ill health on this group in particular be considered? NR confirmed it would.
- Phil Love (PL) asked if the pulsate programme that had been run in Lowestoft could be repeated here. The group agreed this would be a good idea to teach people the basics of cooking.
- CT stated that she wanted projects to include rural parishes rather than just focussing on the three towns, and how the groups in the towns could reach out into parishes to share their experiences and skills.
- The group discussed how the Healthy Habits booklet could be introduced in this area.
- NR commented that this had been well received and included lesson plans to get the schools on board. Some of the activities also included families/parents outside of lessons. It was produced with help from the National Literacy Trust and so fit into a wide range of lessons.
- SR updated on a project which was being piloted in the Lowestoft CP area to make sports equipment available through locker systems. This project could be extended to other areas depending on its success in Lowestoft.

### 3. **Small Grants Scheme**

Jo Belfield (JB) asked the Partnership to consider if they would like to run a small grants scheme. Any scheme needed to have a clear purpose and pot of money, and the grants would need to be evaluated afterwards and be able to sustain themselves after the grant had finished.

The group discussed how previous small grants schemes had assisted groups in the area, including Earthwake.

JB asked the CP what they would like a small grants scheme to cover.

CIlr Rumble suggested allocating £10k to small grants.

	<p>CT confirmed that anyone turned down would be directed to funds which might be more appropriate.</p> <p>NR confirmed projects would have around six months from receiving a grant to start their project, this could be extended if necessary.</p> <p>The CP discussed whether the scheme should focus only on the priorities or have a wider remit. As the two priorities did cover quite a broad area, it was felt that the grants scheme should focus on projects that met the two priorities.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> 10k to small grants scheme for projects which met the CP priorities.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Workshop Outcomes and Projects</b></p> <p>The group held a workshop to identify projects against the priorities and who might be able to deliver these. The following projects were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance classes – including seated dance classes</li> <li>• Extending Dementia Cafes into existing cafes</li> <li>• Cooking lessons based on food bank parcels</li> <li>• Electric cycle conversion – skill sharing and enabling people to get around</li> <li>• Adult skill classes, particularly for parents of young children</li> <li>• Communal meals and cooking classes</li> </ul>

The meeting concluded at 20:12pm.