

UNCONFIRMED



Minutes of a Meeting of the **Community Partnership Board** held at
The Fromus Centre, Saxmundham
on Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 10am

Community Partnership Board Members Present:

Caroline Topping (CP Board Chair)
Chris Abraham (Chief Executive of Community Action Suffolk (CAS)),
Paul Ashdown (Chair of the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership)
Bobby Bennett (Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities)
Inspector Liz Casey (Safer Neighbourhood Team, Suffolk Constabulary)
John Fisher (Chair of the Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and Villages Community Partnership)
Katie Graham (ESC Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism),
Alan Green (Chair of the Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and Villages Community Partnership)
Louise Hardwick (NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Integrated Care Board)
Michael Ladd (Suffolk County Council representative)
Stephen Molyneux (Chair of the Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership)
Sally Noble (Chair of the Framlingham, Wickham Market and Villages Community Partnership),
Rosie Smithson (Chair of the Felixstowe Peninsula Community Partnership),
Edward Thompson (Chair of the Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley Community Partnership),
Lisa Perkins (Vice Chair, Adastral Park & Research Realisation Director for BT)

Others Present:

Julia Bates (East Coast College)
Luke Bennett (Partnerships Manager, East Suffolk Council),
Kay Bonning-Schmitt (Economic Development Programme Lead, East Suffolk Council)
James Chandler (Skills and Investment Lead, East Suffolk Council)
Andy Crump (Inspire Suffolk)
Michael Gray (Suffolk County Council)
Jasmine Joolia (Suffolk County Council)
Nick Khan (Strategic Director, East Suffolk Council),
Mags Lambert (Project Manager, East Suffolk Council)
Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities, East Suffolk Council and NHS Norfolk & Waveney / Ipswich & East Suffolk Integrated Care Boards),
Amy Ryan (Suffolk County Council)
Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer, East Suffolk Council)
Darian Vormund (New Anglia Enterprise Hub)
David Walford (Department for Work and Pensions)
Marie Webster-Fitch (Economic Development Manager, East Suffolk Council)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Beth Keys Holloway (Chair of Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Villages Community Partnership), Melanie Craig (Suffolk Community Foundation) and Roger Wright (Britten Pears Arts).

2 Welcome and Introduction (Caroline Topping)

Caroline Topping welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new Councillors who would be sitting on the Board.

All those present introduced themselves.

3 Election of a Vice-Chair

Caroline Topping sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the 2023/24 year. She then proposed Lisa Perkins for the role and Lisa was seconded by Paul Ashdown.

There being no other nominations it was

RESOLVED

That Lisa Perkins be elected as Vice Chair for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

4 Minutes

Caroline Topping presented the minutes from the last meeting held on 15 March 2023.

There being no comments or amendments to the minutes it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

5 Community Partnership Priorities

6 Focus on Community Partnerships (Katie Graham)

Items 5 and 6 were considered together.

Nicole Rickard recapped the work done to set up the Community Partnerships, the priorities that had been agreed and the projects funded so far by the Community Partnership Board. Community Partnership meetings had been set up to be a solutions and partnership focussed means of delivery, not just a system for handing out grants.

Nicole Rickard and Katie Graham summarised the eight Community Partnerships and their individual priorities. The priorities of both the Board and the Community Partnerships had been developed using a combination of data provided by Suffolk County Council and local insight from residents and community groups. This approach was being used to refresh the priorities to ensure they continued to be relevant. Nicole Rickard summarised some of the projects that had been run through the Community Partnerships in the last four years.

Nicole Rickard confirmed that funding for Community Partnerships had been agreed for this and the next financial year from New Homes Bonus.

7 Ease the Squeeze Programme Update

An update had been circulated with the agenda on the work done so far under the Ease the Squeeze programme to help with the cost of living.

Nicole Rickard highlighted the following points:

- There had been approximately £1 million allocated to the cost of living programme, and so a wide variety of projects were delivered.
- Partnership working and match funding had been very important. For example funding from Suffolk County Council for the Cost of Living Community Grant fund had meant that smaller projects could be funded which might not have otherwise been possible.
- East Suffolk Council had worked with a number of charities and groups they had not worked with previously.
- 850 cost of living referrals had been dealt with so far, these were becoming more complicated compared to earlier referrals.

In addition to these points, Nicole Rickard summarised the learning from last year that would be taken forward to adapt the programme for the 2023/24 year. Partnership working had been important, and a data led approach was supported. Workshops had been run with partners to help shape the programme and this would be repeated this year.

Regarding specific projects, there had been some issues with the branding of warm rooms as people did not want to be seen to be going somewhere for warmth so there was a stigma attached. As a result some Partnerships had already changed the branding for this (to Warm Welcome and Community Rooms). The Comfort Food project had also been very hit and miss across the district and it was felt that the money for this could be used elsewhere with smaller food projects in individual areas.

Other issues that had been identified included ensuring branding and messaging was clear so that people understood what the Council could and could not do, and more work needed to be done to reach rural communities, including through the proposed mobile Community Pantry and Advice Hub.

It was agreed that a task and finish group on social isolation would be reconvened to help shape this programme and report back to the Board in the near future.

Caroline Topping commented on the role of council officers in setting up projects and accessing extra funding and thanked them for their work.

Chris Abraham asked whether any work could be done to understand why referrals that were coming through now were more complex. Nicole Rickard confirmed that there were several reasons for this. Some people had been referred earlier on for help and had now come back for further support, others had complicated life situations and had not prioritised finances until they had become overwhelming, and some had not acted on earlier advice around budgeting and prioritising and got into more difficulty. More work could be done on prevention and on signposting people to other sources of help.

Nick Khan commented that Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) software was being introduced at ESC to identify which people were heading into difficulty based on their interaction with the Council around Council Tax and rents. This had been used by London authorities and by ESC during Covid and looked promising in terms of being able to identify people before they reach crisis point.

8 Outcome Proposal - Buzzabout (Demand Responsive Transport Service)

Nick Khan summarised work done to date on the transport and travel priority. Two demand responsive transport pilots are underway in the district. Katch in the Framlingham/Wickham Market/Campsea Ashe/Snape area and Buzzabout in the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes area. The aim for these services was for them to become as financially sustainable as possible, whilst they would ideally be self sustaining this would be difficult and it was recognised that they provided benefits in other areas like social isolation and mental health..

Mags Lambert summarised the data that had been gathered on the Buzzabout service in the last twelve months. The majority of journeys were to Lowestoft, and mostly for shopping. The service had operated on a Monday and Thursday, with Thursdays being a much more popular day. Going forward this would be changed to Tuesdays and Thursdays to increase uptake.

The service was mostly used by people over 55, and work would be done to target a wider demographic. The Board discussed use of the service by children, and agreed that it would be good to see if this could be increased to provide safe access to schools and clubs.

It was noted that a large number of users were from the Gunton area. Paul Ashdown commented that Gunton had only recently lost its bus service, and so it had not been much of a change to switch to Buzzabout. In other areas people needed to be persuaded back to a bus service.

Luke Bennett summarised the outcome proposal to extend the Buzzabout service for another 12 month period.

On the unanimous agreement of the report it was

RESOLVED

That £30,000 be allocated to extend the Buzzabout pilot to August 2024.

9 Date of Next Meeting - To be Confirmed

It was noted that the next meeting would be held 13 September 2023 at 2.00pm in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House.

The provisional date of the Annual Forum is the 22nd March 2024.

10 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Skills Workshop

A workshop on funding available from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Attendees discussed challenges and opportunities around the skills priority and how funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund should be prioritised.

The outcomes of the workshop and progress on the programme would be shared with the Board.

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Chair