



Community Partnership Impact Report

Kesgrave, Martlesham, Rushmere St
Andrew, Purdis Farm, Carlford and Fynn
Valley

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Impact Report – 2020 – May 2022

As the pressures of the pandemic have gradually reduced, the action of the Community Partnership (CP) has developed significantly. This document highlights the outcomes achieved by the CP so far, and outlines the plans for the next financial year.

The document will relate to works completed around the following priorities.

- Social isolation and loneliness
- Environmental care and sustainable transport*
- Helping people to age well
- Road and traffic safety

*Sustainable transport has not been explored by the CP as it was raised by a number of our similar Partnerships, and subsequently being explored at the CP Board level instead.

Priority One – Social isolation and loneliness

Kesgrave Chinwags (£9,040) – Chinwags have been taking place since Summer 2021 to great success. Each event has been receiving approximately 100 local residents for refreshments, entertainment and social interaction. The Chinwags are now financially sustainable and require no further grant funding from the CP.

Talking Benches (£2,893) – 7 benches were installed in 2021 to eliminate the barriers that prevent fresh conversations from taking place. Most of the benches are sited in more rural locations and have been well received by local residents. Healthwatch Suffolk provided small plaques that signpost to further support if required. Each bench is now in the ownership of the local land owners. This scheme has also been expanded across the district.

Mental Health First Aid Training (£5,708) – over 30 people that have regular public contact have been trained online in basic MHFA. This aims to equip the community with the skills to support and signpost people to the most relevant professional support. Attendees included hospitality staff, church volunteers, voluntary organisations and the safeguarding team from Ipswich Town Football Club, based in Rushmere St Andrew. In May 2022, an additional session was delivered to staff at Kesgrave High School that related to young peoples mental health.

Meet Up Mondays (1,000) – 2 additional sites were launched, both in Kesgrave in areas that surround a part of the town at greater risk of isolation and loneliness. Kesgrave Kitchen and Café 66 received promotional materials and advice about launching the events. Other hospitality venues were contacted, however no further interest was found. Therefore we are now looking to increase capacity at coffee mornings that are already happening across the area, including All Saints Church in Kesgrave that are supporting Ukrainian families new to the area.

SPOT Wellbeing (£5,040) – Six courses, each consisting of 6 sessions, have been delivered across the CP area – two in Kesgrave, one in Martlesham, one in Rushmere village, and two in Grundisburgh. The feedback has been entirely positive from attendees. Data shows that 92% of attendees feel their health and wellbeing have improved because of the course, and 86% feel less isolated or lonely. There are also examples of graduates now starting informal walking groups to maintain the healthy changes they've achieved.

Priority Two – Environmental Care

Small Grant Scheme (£10,818) – 10 grants were awarded in January 2021, ranging from £100 to £1,500. A total of £10,818 was allocated. Schools, voluntary organisations, church groups and conservation groups all benefited from

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the grants. Some included capital works to improve biodiversity and habitat, whilst others increased capacity for their current efforts. Many of these projects also have an additional benefit of improving peoples mental wellbeing.

Advice Hub (£2,000) – in partnership with Martlesham Climate Action Group and the Runway Café, a monthly repair hub is now in place along with weekly drop in advice sessions available to local residents. Run by volunteers, residents can receive accurate and balanced information about a range of environmental issues. Plans are developing to explore levels of interest for a similar provision in the rural area of the CP.

Green Communities (£5,520) – 4 small projects were completed, culminating in a document that can be shared with others to inspire and guide similar schemes. Westerfield Station has seen an increase in the habitat and biodiversity, Grundisburgh Play area now has climate resilient planting amongst the equipment, Bredfield have successfully installed solar panels on their village hall and shop, and Bealings Borrowers are bringing young families in to their churchyard to improve and learn about the local habitat. The overarching document is now available on the East Suffolk website and will be shared with the Green Print Forum.

Rewilding working group (£2,030) – a Partnership between several parishes, the group aims to increase local residents actions towards rewilding and the local environment. One example of this includes the provision of 2022 calendars to every property in Martlesham that provides advice and information about the local environment and how people can become involved locally. This work is ongoing and still developing.

Priority Three – Road and Traffic Safety

Road Safety Forums (£0 from the CP) – the CP identified that numerous parishes faced the same concerns relating to this topic. Therefore, a Forum was launched that brings people together to share expertise, knowledge and resource for the benefit of the entire CP area. Three quarterly meetings have been held so far, with a minimum of 10 out of 24 parishes being represented. Suffolk Police also kindly attend and support where possible. Outcomes so far included increased membership of local voluntary organisation SAVID (Safer Village Driving), collaboration between neighbouring parishes relating to Speed Watch, and Suffolk Police agreeing to use Speed Indicator Device data to inform their enforcement team of areas of concern.

Great Bealings safety improvements (£500) – Match funding was provided to support Great Bealings Parish Council in expanding the 30 mph limit through Boot Street, an identified area of high speeds and increased pedestrian risk. The project has been completed and continues to be monitored by regular Speed Watch in the area.

Road Safety Week (funded by the Community Safety Partnership, not our CP) – Several rural parishes came together in November 2021 to promote National Road Safety Week in partnership with the national charity, Brake. Five large roadside banners were installed in key sites around the villages, asking residents to ‘Slow Down, Save Lives’. This was complemented by a week of action from local Speed Watch groups, monitoring and reporting high levels of speeding in key sites. Suffolk Rural (formerly Otley College) also participated, sharing the message with 15,000 social media followers. It’s estimated that at least 45,000 vehicles passed the signage during Road Safety Week. In one hour, 14 motorists were reported for speeding at one site alone. Plans will be developed for further promotion of this national event in 2022.

Hi Visibility Vests for Primary School children (£3,000) – concerns were raised about pedestrians and cyclists across the CP area, particularly primary school age children. Whilst the creation of new footpaths and infrastructure is out of the scope of the CP, over 2,000 hi-vis vests have been distributed to seven primary schools within the CP area. It is intended for them to be returned and reused when appropriate, minimising future costs. One primary school has utilised their Junior Road Safety Champions to promote the message amongst their peers and parents to great success.

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Speed Indicator Device purchases (£9,950) – following extensive research in to other traffic calming measures, it was clear that ‘SIDs’ were the most appropriate option. The data included in them also demonstrates an actual impact on the driving behaviours of people. Subsequently, funding was provided to Rushmere St Andrew and SAVID for the purchases of three more SIDs. This will increase the reach of the scheme, give more data to act upon, and reduce the waiting time each site has before it hosts a SID again. These complement the current provision of SIDs and expand the options for other villages to participate in the scheme.

Gibraltar Crossroads improvements (£2,500) – data supplied by Suffolk County Council and public websites demonstrates that this particular junction is a site of several serious accidents in the past. The CP contributed towards the match funding that allows for practical safety improvements to be made to the junction, reducing the risk of further accidents in the future. Other partners, including our Vice-Chair contributed financially to the project that will be completed in due course.

Impact Map

Below is a link to our Impact Map – detailing all the outcomes linked to the Community Partnerships work. This will continue to be updated as further projects are proposed and delivered.

[Community Partnership Impact Map](#)

