

**East Suffolk Community Partnership Board. Monday 6th December 2021**  
**Update: Community Partnership Annual Forum 2021**

**1. Recap:**

At the December 2020 Board meeting, it was agreed that the 2021 Annual Forum should be a combination of virtual and physical events but that ideally at least one day would be held at Trinity Park and be face to face.

Following discussion at the September 2021 Board meeting it was agreed that, as Covid-19 still had a significant presence in the district, region and nationally, holding an event for 150-200 people at Trinity Park would not be wise on the date scheduled in November. Therefore, it was agreed to postpone until March 2022.

**2. Current situation:**

Trinity Park is booked for an event for 200 delegates on 25 March 2022.

Uncertainty over Government imposing restrictions on events / social contact due to Covid-19 in the future remains a significant risk associated with organising a face-to-face event of this size. Therefore, any plans will need to ensure adequate social distancing, be flexible to potentially reducing the number of delegates if the situation changes and carry the disclaimer that it may be cancelled at late notice.

Careful thought is needed on how best to deliver the idea of hosting a programme of smaller face to face and/or virtual events in the weeks before (and potentially after) the event at Trinity Park to ensure that it does not compete for delegates time and potentially cause a fall-off in attendance at Trinity Park. This could be avoided by spacing out the smaller events over a longer period to both feed into/inform the Forum and support the implementation of actions arising from the Forum.

**3. Forum Purpose:**

- For the Community Partnership Board to demonstrate its leadership by hosting a high-profile event in East Suffolk for representatives from our communities, voluntary organisations, community groups, public services, and businesses, focussing on the strategic priorities identified by the Board and individual Community Partnerships.
- To celebrate success and demonstrate the impact of the Community Partnership Board and Community Partnerships.
- To enable the eight Community Partnerships to i) highlight the impact they are having within their communities and ii) problem solve shared challenges.
- To share knowledge and expertise in the Suffolk System and beyond to work together for the benefit of our communities and businesses in East Suffolk.
- To engage a wide set of stakeholders in the changes emerging from the LGA Peer Challenge of Community Partnership (and associated Action Plan) held in October 2021

**4. Forum offer (to delegates):**

- Excellent networking opportunities across a range of different sessions.
- To get up to speed on what is happening and what is on the horizon in East Suffolk.

- Opportunity to collaborate and improve life for everyone who lives and works in East Suffolk.
- A platform to promote their organisation or business to a wide audience.

## **5. Theme:**

'East Suffolk: Bringing Ideas to Life'. Use the event to highlight and support delivery of the Community Partnerships/Board priorities by addressing a range of challenges and opportunities thrown up by the Peer Challenge of Community Partnerships.

## **6. Content:**

Through a programme of engaging speakers, facilitated workshops and expert seminars we will set out to address:

### **1. People**

- How do we get the right people around the various Community Partnership tables?
- Are they representative of their communities?
- Are they fully engaged and are they playing their part in ensuring that existing local connections are being maintained and local priorities being addressed?
- How do we spot opportunities in terms of community engagement?

### **2. Process**

- How do we run events and meetings in a way that encourages collaboration, problem solving and the collective powers of influence?
- How do we ensure a constant 'feed' of issues into Community Partnerships from all parts of the community?
- Do our processes governance arrangements allow people to contribute in the most effective and meaningful way?

### **3. Outcomes**

- Developing a business model that will help us achieve your vision.
- How do we maximise value for money?
- What support do we need to operate better in an increasingly data led environment?
- How do we know when we are delivering the outcomes that we set out to deliver?
- Do we understand which projects are effective and which are not?

The programme will be backed up by a marketplace where a wide range of organisations can promote what they do and make important connections to build partnerships around shared priorities.

## **7. Resources:**

- Community Partnership Board budget (Venue, catering, event management, speakers etc)
- EELGA Events Management Team commissioned to provide practical support for Partnerships Manager (event management / delegate booking etc)
- Partner organisations planning and delivering individual virtual session
- Members of the Community Partnership Board are asked to consider what they could each contribute to the proposed programme, including supporting and facilitating sessions, identifying speakers, and providing video content.

## **8. Recommendations:**

Members of the Board are asked to:

- Agree the approach being taken to plan the next Annual Forum
- Make every effort to attend the event and consider what you could each contribute to the proposed programme.