

Unconfirmed



Minutes of a Meeting of the **Community Partnership Board** held via Zoom
on Monday, 1 March 2021 at 6.00pm

Steve Gallant (Chairman of the Community Partnership Board and Leader of East Suffolk Council),
Chris Abraham (Chief Executive of Community Action Suffolk (CAS)),
Paul Ashdown (Chairman of the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership),
Chris Blundell (Chairman of the Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn
Valley Community Partnership),
Jenny Ceresa (Chairman of the Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and Villages Community
Partnership),
Judy Cloke (Chairman of the Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Villages Community Partnership),
Tony Cooper (Chairman of the Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and Villages Community
Partnership),
Louise Hardwick (NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group),
Susan Harvey (Greenprint Forum),
Mark Jepson (Chairman of the Felixstowe Peninsula Community Partnership),
Tom McGarry (Head of Stakeholder Engagement for EDF Energy),
Lisa Perkins (Vice Chairman of the Community Partnership Board and Realisation Director for
British Telecom),
Carol Poulter (Chairman of the Framlingham, Wickham Market and Villages Community
Partnership),
Russ Rainger (Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC)),
Paul Sharp (Superintendent and East Suffolk Policing Commander),
Stephen Singleton (Chief Executive for the Suffolk Community Foundation),
Letitia Smith (East Suffolk Council Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism), and
Paul West (Suffolk County Councillor for the Bixley Division)

Others present:

Luke Bennett (Partnerships Manager, East Suffolk Council),
Norman Brooks (ESC Cabinet Member for Transport),
Sarah Davis (Democratic Services Officer),
Nick Khan (Strategic Director, East Suffolk Council),
Alexander Nicholl (Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport, Suffolk County Council)
Ben Porter (Funding Manager, East Suffolk Council),
Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities, East Suffolk Council and NHS Norfolk & Waveney / Ipswich
& East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups),
Kevin Wegg (Independent Living Administration Assistant) and
Nicola Wotton (Deputy Democratic Services Manager, East Suffolk Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Maddie Baker-Woods, Tim Passmore, Jane Topping and Roger Wright.

It was noted that Kerry Cutler had been replaced by Jane Topping, as the Superintendent and Southern Area Commander for Suffolk Constabulary.

An apology for absence was also received from Sally Longmate, who was to have attended the meeting as an observer.

Nicola Wotton read out the list of those present, for the benefit of the members of the public who were watching the meeting via YouTube.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Steve Gallant presented the Minutes from the last meeting of the Board, which was held on 7 December 2020 and, by consensus, those present confirmed that the minutes were a true record.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on 7 December 2021 be approved as a true record.

3. One Year On - Annual Impact Review

Steve Gallant shared a presentation 'One year on: Annual Impact review' which had been circulated to attendees prior to the meeting. The presentation covered the progress made over the last 12 months, meaningful achievements and projects which had received funding.

All eight of the Community Partnerships (CP's) had met on a regular basis and had each agreed to support a number of projects financially, which would be of benefit to the residents of their areas. A total of £247,951 had been committed, with 48 projects planned, completed or underway across all eight CP's this year. However, total project costs across all CP's amounted to £604,435.09. This was combined funding for projects either initiated, developed, or supported by the CP's, which represented a multiplier of 1.48 on the CP budgets (i.e., for every pound that ESC has invested through the CPs a further £1.48 had been contributed). This demonstrated the value that was added by working in partnership, by bringing budgets and funding streams together, around shared priorities.

The Community Partnership model was based on and IN communities, which had been envisaged as being centred on dynamic workshops and meetings in community spaces (villages halls community centres etc) to allow people to come together and problem solve local issues in their own local area. However, Covid had completely changed this and had added a whole new dimension to the issues faced by communities. The CP's

have responded magnificently by shifting their whole model to virtual working and managing to successfully develop a programme of work to support and coordinate elements of our community response to Covid across the whole of East Suffolk, as well as delivering on their own priorities. Several CPs have also set up Task and Finish Groups to make progress between meetings.

The Community Partnership Board (CPB) had also met regularly and had allocated significant amount of funding to projects which would benefit the residents throughout the district. It was noted that the CPB benefitted from the participation of a wide range of influential people, who had a wealth of experience to bring to discussions at Board meetings and the Task and Finish Groups. The CPB had committed a total of £250,852.27, while total project costs across the district amounted to £874,835.35. This was combined funding for projects either initiated, developed, or supported by the CPB, which represented a multiplier of 2.48 on the CPB budget (i.e., for every pound that ESC has invested through the CPB, a further £2.48 had been contributed).

A summary of the CPB priorities and impacts was then provided:

Priority: Isolation and Loneliness

Board Impact: Hidden Needs Grants, East Suffolk Volunteering Campaign, Grandpads, East Bags

Priority: Transport & Travel

Board impact: KATCH

Priority: Covid Impact

Board Impact: Covid-19 Community Fund, Good Neighbour Scheme, Bounce Back Fund

One of the greatest success stories for the CPs and CPB had been the large number of organisations who had worked together to deliver the projects for East Suffolk residents, and it was important to give the organisations involved credit for doing so.

Chris Blundell commented that he had not been able to attend the last CPB meeting and he sought further information regarding the Bounce Back Fund. Nicole Rickard reported that anyone interested in applying needed to complete an application form, which was available on the Council's website, under Community Grants. She confirmed that a request to increase the funding for the fund would be considered as part of the next Agenda item. Further information regarding the fund would be circulated to those present, outside of the meeting.

The Annual Forum 2020 had taken place virtually and had been a great success with many inspirational speakers. There had been 208 delegates and over 600 bookings for the various events, which took place over a week. It was hoped that a further event would be taking place in 2021.

Steve Gallant thanked all those involved with the CP's and the CPB and agreed that everyone should be proud of what had been achieved over the last 12 months.

RESOLVED

That the update on the Annual Impact Review be received.

4. Report from the Covid Impacts Task and Finish Group

Stephen Singleton reported that the Covid Impacts Task and Finish Group had met three times since it was formed, most recently on 5 February 2021. The group reviewed all the material considered at its previous meetings, about the impacts of Covid-19 in East Suffolk.

The Board considered one outcome proposal relating to the East Suffolk Buddy Up Programme which will build on the Suffolk model, designed and delivered by Community Action Suffolk (CAS), which, in turn, had emerged from the This Community Can programme. CAS were recruiting three members of staff to lead on their Isolation Buddies programme - one to work across Suffolk, one to focus on BAME and hard to reach communities and a legacy officer. All these roles were linked to the Covid Outbreak Management Fund's ambition to limit the transmission of Covid-19 by supporting people to stay well. The model involved the recruitment of Covid-Support Buddies, initially from Good Neighbour Schemes and mutual aid/Covid response groups. The East Suffolk programme will augment this model by providing additional capacity to focus on recruiting, training, and supporting Community Buddies and Digital Buddies/Champions in our District.

The aim was to support people to stay well and connected during the response phase of Covid-19 and then to support people to re-connect with community groups, activities, and facilities during the Covid-19 recovery phase.

Steve Gallant advised that since the meeting papers had been published, some of the figures within the recommendation were slightly amended. After further clarification and discussion, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) That the table attached as Appendix 1 to the report, which provided an overview of existing and potential responses to the impact on Covid-19 in East Suffolk be noted.
- (b) That the Task and Finish Group be mandated, working with partner organisations, to develop projects identified as a priority for 2021/22 funding from the Community Partnership Board and bring outcome proposals back to the June Community Partnership Board Meeting.

- (c) That £10,369 be allocated towards the Buddy Up Project, as per the outcome proposal attached as Appendix 2 to the report.
- (d) That the remaining amount left in the budget be allocated and that £11,500 be granted to the East Suffolk Grandpads scheme and that £22,049.73 be allocated to the Bounce Back Fund.

5. Feedback on the Transport and Travel Programme

Alexander Nicholl reported that the Programme Manager has started work on the programme, following the kind offer from EDF (who were providing the Programme Manager for 15 hrs p/w for 6 months). An update was then provided on the progress made to date:

- Kicked off both quantitative and qualitative data gathering, which is due to ramp up over the next couple of weeks.
- Produced a key contacts list to support the creation of the CPB transport and travel strategy and begun contacting all 8 Community Partnership Chairs to arrange a conversation.
- Created a plan of action for the path leading to the strategy and fed back to the task group for further input.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that the Programme Manager would contact all the CP Chairs in due course and the aim was to work in partnership with the CPs where possible.

Steve Gallant thanked all those involved in the Transport and Travel Programme, and he confirmed that East Suffolk Council was supportive of the further work being undertaken in relation to the use of hydrogen as a fuel.

RESOLVED

That the update on the Transport and Travel Programme be received.

6. Looking Forward

Nick Khan gave a presentation to the Board, which also available to view on the Council's website. When looking forward, there were a number of wider influences that would have an impact upon the future of the district. These included:

- Sizewell C
- Lowestoft infrastructure (Gull Wing Bridge / Flood Barrier)
- New major developments (garden neighbourhoods)

- Health and care integration/new health structures
- Focus on population health management
- De-carbonisation
- Digital innovation and growth (as an enabler)
- Transport shift (emphasis on non car-based travel)

The impact of COVID would also have repercussions on the district over the coming months and years, which would include:

- Opening up East Suffolk (our towns, businesses and communities)
- Helping our economy to recover as quickly as possible
- Supporting those at risk of being 'left behind' as we move to recovery
- Supporting the vulnerable/excluded (low income, workless and those with long Covid)
- Tackling health inequalities that were surfaced during the pandemic
- Helping community groups to resume their activities
- Ensuring our residents feel safe and confident in the 'new normal'

The Council was also focussed upon:

- Growing our Economy
- Enabling our Communities
- Caring for our Environment
- Delivering Digital Transformation
- Remaining Financially Sustainable

Steve Gallant sought some suggestions regarding Board priorities for 2021/22. There followed some discussion about Green Neighbourhoods, which would need to have a phased development and careful management, and mental health and wellbeing. It was noted that the current priorities still required further work and following further discussion it was

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board would maintain its focus for 2021/22 on its current priorities:
- Isolation and Loneliness (an even bigger issue than pre-Covid)
 - Transport and Travel (deliver more impacts at a community level this year)
- (b) That the Board would continue to tackle the impacts of Covid-19, with a specific focus on Vulnerable People and Places.
- (c) That the Board would also focus upon Mental Health and Wellbeing (which was the third highest Community Partnership priority), given its links to Isolation and Loneliness and a growing issue due to Covid.

7. Community Partnership Updates

Letitia Smith took the opportunity to thank the Community Partnership Chairmen, the Community Officers and Democratic Services for their ongoing hard work and support, during a very difficult and challenging time. Despite Covid, the Community Partnerships

had met virtually and 48 projects were now in the process of being delivered across the district, with £247,951 being spent to support them. Letitia then took the opportunity to thank all those involved, who should all be proud of these significant achievements.

Letitia then gave an example of the wide range of the projects that had been undertaken by the 8 Community Partnerships, which she felt represented best practice and innovation:

Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and Villages Community Partnership – They had supported an Art in a Bag Project, which provided different sets of activities, mainly for older people, who were unable to take part in their usual activities and who were experiencing loneliness and isolation.

Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Villages Community Partnership – They had supported BACT Community Transport and the ‘Meet, Greet and Treat’ events, which aimed to give people the confidence to go out again, to do their shopping or to attend any clubs or groups in their local area.

Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and Villages Community Partnership and Lowestoft and the Northern Parishes Community Partnership – They had both worked in collaboration on the ‘Voice of a Friend’ initiative, which also involved other partner organisations such as Citizens Advice. This was a befriending scheme set up by the Communities team at the height of the pandemic to help tackle social isolation and loneliness which had greatly increased due to Covid.

Felixstowe Peninsular Community Partnership – They had supported the Basic Life Charity, which provided food and fuel vouchers to those people in need, who were experiencing increased deprivation and hardship, due to Covid. They also supported FACT, which provided much need community transport.

Framlingham, Wickham Market and Villages Community Partnership – They had supported a new wheelchair accessible vehicle, which would assist vulnerable residents going to and from their medical appointments. Since Covid, the vehicle had also been used to deliver meals on wheels, prescriptions and shopping to those vulnerable people unable to leave their homes.

Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley Community Partnership – They had supported ‘Chinwag Kesgrave’ which had received significant press coverage and a positive response from residents. They also supported ‘Meet Up Mondays’, both of which helped to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership – They had set up a grant scheme which supported youth engagement and village hubs, which would help to bring services to people. A wide range of applications had been received from village halls and sports clubs.

Steve Gallant commented that the breadth of the projects being undertaken by the Community Partnerships was their strength, responding to local need, which was key to their success.

Tony Cooper commented that there had been a surge in demand for support over the last year, due to Covid, and he felt that this increased demand was likely to continue over the coming year, as part of the recovery from Covid. Steve agreed that we had moved from response to recovery, significant recovery support was required for our communities in the longer term, and this was key to East Suffolk Council supporting its residents.

Letitia then reiterated her thanks to all those involved with the Community Partnership, including officers

RESOLVED

That the Community Partnership Updates be received.

8. Any other business

Steve Gallant confirmed that there were no other items of business and he thanked everyone for their attendance and ongoing hard work for the Board.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 7 June 2021 at 6.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 7.41 pm

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Chairman