



COUNCIL

Wednesday, 26 February 2020

CABINET MEMBERS' REPORT AND OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To receive the Cabinet Members' Report and the Outside Bodies Representatives' Report to Council, for information.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All Wards in the District
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Steve Gallant Leader of the Council

CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Mary Rudd, Cabinet Member for Community Health
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Community Safety Partnership Event

The CSP held a 'Safer and Stronger Together' event on 3rd February. This was attended by a wide range of partners and is effectively the springboard for the relaunch of the CSP and the development of a new CSP Action Plan setting out the Community Safety and ASB priorities for East Suffolk. Work around Community Safety includes additional training for staff and partner organisations around Gangs and County Lines and ongoing delivery of Prevent (Preventing Violent Extremism) Training.

Fit and Fed Summer Activities

The Communities Team worked hard last summer holidays to deliver, in conjunction with a range of partners, the largest ever programme of summer activities in a range of market town locations. Additional 'Fit and Fed' funding was secured by Suffolk County Council to provide lunch each day for young people on free school meals.

The biggest programme was delivered in north and south Lowestoft with four-hour sessions offered four days a week for four weeks. The most popular activities were the climbing wall, boxing and cricket. The new sites at Britten Field and Normanston attracted good numbers so, if funding is available, it would be good to continue these as well as the original programme of beach activities. The Department for Education announced at the end of last year that they would be providing a 'Holiday Activities and Food Fund again in 2020 and the County Council has approached ESC to be a delivery partner in the project. Additional requirements for 2020 are the addition of nutritional education for both children and their families/carers.

At the review meeting for the Fit and Fed programme in Leiston and Saxmundham it was agreed that there was a clear need for continued support and activities in subsequent school holidays. Similarly, in Carlton Colville the ambition is to organise summer activities across the six-week summer holidays next year following the successful pilot this year.

Crucial Crew Plus

Nine of the thirteen target schools have signed up to be part of the Crucial Crew Plus (CC+) programme which is aimed at 13- 15 years olds and provides short snappy presentations (delivered by a range of partners) on a range of personal and community safety issues including drugs and alcohol, County Lines, staying safe online and consent. The next phase of CC+ events started in January.

The Waveney Youth Council meeting in February 2020 included a workshop, delivered in partnership with the police, on the key themes of Crucial Crew Plus after the members of the Youth Council identified 'Keeping Safe' as a priority. Very well received by school staff and students.

Crucial Crew

The Crucial Crew event for the south of the District was attended by a total of 870 pupils and at the final day of the event The Rotary Club awarded Julia Catterwell from the Communities Team with the Paul Harris Fellow Award for her partnership work with them to deliver Crucial Crew over a number of years.

Whitton Project

This project is a direct response to recent ASB issues involving young people on the Whitton estate in Lowestoft. Following the huge response (more than 200 participants) to the temporary ice rink and associated consultation exercise, Whitton Project. We are on phase 3 of the project, working in partnership with Lowestoft Town Council, and an application to pocket parks funding for the green itself for £25K was submitted on 20th December. The money has to be match funded. We should find out by the end of February if the bid is successful or not.

An event is planned for the evening of 20th February at Whitton Residents Hall targeting young people 14 years and above, including free boxing and drum and bass sessions.

County Lines

The County Lines event on 17th October in Lowestoft attracted 65 attendees and the guest speaker was Tony Saggars, a national expert on Urban Street Gangs and County Lines. More localised events organised by the team include an awareness session delivered to Just 42 volunteers and the Town Council in Woodbridge and Alter Ego theatre production performances in schools to raise awareness of the dangers of County Lines.

Dragonfly Unit

This unit is a twelve-bed unit at Carlton Court for young people who need short inpatient stays in relation to conditions such as depression, anxiety, psychosis and eating disorders. The team is working with the Attic PRU on a couple of projects including a memory box project linked to a local residential care home and a music project based around steel drums.

Compassionate Communities

The project on the Deben Peninsular is progressing well with a number of 'Compassionate Companions' now trained to support those who are at end of life and their families. Further events are being planned locally with a target of 10 by March 2020.

A workshop event was held at the new Pear Tree Centre in Halesworth on January 29th to explore what a Compassionate Community is and identify priorities for a Compassionate Communities programme in the town. It was well attended by a wide range of partners and local groups who had lots of great ideas about how to make Halesworth a 'compassionate community'.

Live Well events

Live Well has now launched in Bungay with the aim of raising the profile of VCSE groups in the area, encourage people to be more active, increase volunteering levels and generally improve health and wellbeing. This has led to the development of a database of local groups and how to access them and a range of networking events.

The Team has worked with Community Action Suffolk to organise a Wellbeing event at the Kirkley Centre in the February half term building on the successful session in the October half term, which was attended by more than 50 young people. The event will promote activity and health, with some information stalls but mainly activities including music, art and craft, food savvy smoothie bike and boxing.

An event is planned at the same venue in Kirkley on 7th April targeting the older community, with lots of information stalls and some holistic free sessions planned (acupuncture, beamer chair therapy) to entice people in.

Connected Communities

The provider for the new mobile social prescribing project aimed at four of our Community Partnership areas and targeted at people over 65 in rural areas is Suffolk Family Carer. This scheme complements the four existing social prescribing schemes that cover East Suffolk. Events are being held in the target areas to promote the scheme and highlight issues around social isolation. Almost half a million pounds of funding has been secured from Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG to extend the Connect for Health (C4H) social prescribing programme in the south of the area up to March 2021 – great news!

Dementia Support

Dementia Café, Kesgrave launched in late October and attendance has tripled in three months. We have provided resources for the group and will be working with the Treasurer to ensure they remain sustainable for the long term.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Letitia Smith, Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism
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Community Partnerships

Eight Community Partnership Workshops were held in October/November 2019. Attendance ranged from 30 to almost 80 and they will provide an excellent starting point for our new East Suffolk Community Partnerships.

The top three priorities from each workshop were as follows:



Community Partnership Priorities

Lowestoft and northern parishes	Kesgrave, Martlesham and villages	Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula	Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and villages
1. Improve mental health and wellbeing (45)	1. Reduce social isolation & loneliness (27)	1. Active and sustainable transport provision (39)	1. Active and sustainable transport provision, particularly rural (27)
2.= Tackle childhood obesity (31)	2. Environmental care and sustainable transport (23)	2. Village Hub – bringing services to people (28)	2. Reduce social isolation and loneliness
2.= Reduce social isolation – all ages (31)	3. Support people to age well/Traffic and road safety (17)	3. Youth Engagement, opportunities and services (21)	3. Facilities, activities and employment for young people (20)
Felixstowe Peninsular	Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages	Framlingham, Wickham Market and villages	Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages
1. Community spaces and physical enhancements (35)	1. Active and sustainable transport solutions / community transport (47)	1. Developing opportunities for young people (24)	1. Transport and access to services (30)
2. Social isolation and loneliness (33)	2. Reduce social isolation and loneliness (42)	2.= Reduce social isolation and loneliness (22)	2. Economic Regeneration / High Streets (28)
3. Education – aspirations, ambition and standards (24)	3. Improve wellbeing and enable people to live healthy lives (34)	2.= Alternative, active and sustainable transport provision (22)	3. Housing that meets local needs (18)

The first meetings in each area are being held in January and February and the first Community Partnership Board, which bring the eight Chairs together with a range of strategic partners including the County Council, Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups, will be held on March 16th 2020. A workshop was also held for almost 50 people at the East Suffolk Partnership Annual Forum on Friday 15th November. Delegates considered the East Suffolk Data Pack as well as some of the findings from the individual workshops and identified social isolation, transport, housing quality/warmth, mental health and transport as some of the priorities at East Suffolk level.

Young People

Youth Voice is being rolled out across the whole District from January 2020, including the creation of a 'Youth Voice' website for young people who don't attend some form of education e.g. NEETS and home schooled. Locations are currently being identified to host suggestions boxes in the north of the district, including schools and youth settings.

Youth Take Over Day took place on Friday 29th November in Lowestoft with the theme being Eco-Day and a focus on things such as plastic pollution, global warming, being eco friendly, recycling etc. The organisers from the First Light Festival joined students for the afternoon to gather views from schools on how to make next year's festival more eco-friendly.

The Team worked with the East Suffolk Council Apprentices to deliver a workshop at the East Suffolk Partnership Forum on youth engagement, which particularly focussed on good and bad examples of youth engagement to influence future services and projects in East Suffolk.

Following the launch of the Cultural Strategy, the Ness Fest Youth Cultural Festival was held during October half term week offering a range of 10 creative activities. More than 100 young people participated directly and usage of the library doubled during the week. Other highlights include the fact that the Festival was co-designed with a group of 10 young people who formed a Ness Fest Youth Team and that it also involved a group of adults from the Involve Active additional needs group.

Disability

The Waveney Disability Forum is still working with partners to improve Beach Access at Lowestoft South Beach for people in wheelchairs, people using crutches and parents with pushchairs. Forum members provided feedback to working group on design specification of the proposed boardwalk (funded by ESC) and project is now out to tender.

The Forum is organising a Disability Information and Awareness Day in the spring in order to help promote services and support for people with disabilities and their carers and families.

Intergenerational Activities

The Muncheon Mingle Inter-generational Project has received 2 awards for the work with isolated communities in Beccles – ‘Community Group of the Year’ at East Suffolk Business and Community Awards and ‘Community Group of the Year’ at The Stars of Suffolk Awards.

The next Muncheon Mingle (MM) event in Beccles in February is themed around Valentines day to focus on those who do not have loved ones to share the occasion with. Students from both Beccles high schools are attending a Social Isolation public event being organised in the town to help maintain the profile of the MM project.

A new intergenerational project has been launched in Felixstowe called the Felixstowe Friendships Project. ESC, with the help of the Dementia Action Alliance, have developed a programme of events with Kingsfleet and Colneis Primary schools, paired with various care homes in the area. The initial launch, held at Kingsfleet Primary School, included year 5 students designing the project, meeting the care home staff and an adapted Dementia Friends session.

From March 2020, the children will be writing a pen pal letter to their ‘buddy’. Following this, every other month will see a visit to their buddy care home in between letter exchanges. Activities will include board games, reading, arts and crafts etc. and to celebrate the Women’s Tour in June, the groups will be doing specific activities designed around bicycles. The project promises to tackle social isolation and increase community spirit, especially for those without grandchildren/parents. Other intergenerational projects at the end of 2019 include a Tea Dance at Saxmundham Market Hall supported by students at Saxmundham Free School, an event in Woodbridge involving the Woodbridge Dementia Project and Melton Primary School talks in Halesworth about an inter-generational project working with local primary schools and the second . Kesgrave High School Christmas Intergenerational Event, which was well attended by older people from the local area with refreshments and entertainments provided by the students.

Hidden Needs and Social Isolation

One of the projects funded through the Hidden Needs grant scheme has involved volunteers working with Melton Primary School to help with reading classes and two days of improving the school grounds by painting fences etc.

A range of meetings have been held in Kessingland with an enthusiastic group of local people keen to set up a Men’s Shed, potential premises have been identified and the Halesworth Men’s Shed are mentoring the group. Meetings are also being held to establish a potential Men’s Shed in Oulton Broad and the Council is working with members of HAZ community group on a potential Shed in north Lowestoft to explore potential premises.

A new 'Chinwags' group was launched in conjunction with Age UK in Woodbridge in January 2020. This is one of a number of new groups that was funded through the East Suffolk Partnership 'Hidden Needs' funding which will continue under the auspices of the new Community Partnership Board. A Good Neighbour Scheme is a voluntary initiative run by a group of local residents who want to help their people in their locality to enjoy a better quality of life by offering them support with everyday tasks. This can include offering a lift to a hospital appointment, taking a dog for a walk because the owner is unable to, picking up essential shopping items or just popping in for a cuppa and chat. These groups are especially needed in the rural areas where services/support are either unavailable or local people are unable to access them due to limited transport. There is a network of GNSs in East Suffolk supported by Community Action Suffolk and new schemes have recently started in Orford, Rendlesham and Tunstall.

The Team has provided a range of advice and support to a group of young mothers who have set up the Kessingland Fitness project – a range of fitness activities on the local community centre field - with the aim of combatting social isolation and helping with mental health and self esteem. We are also working with the Town Council in Carlton Colville on a new Community Hub in the local Methodist Church and with Ashley Academy Trust and Broadlands Residential Home on a Memory Box Project – boxes will be presented by the students to the older people at an event in February. The Free Little Library is a project connected to the Lowestoft Seagull Men's Shed who have agreed to make the little library box which is to be located on a site in Pakefield. One idea is that when books are borrowed and left each person is encouraged to write on a postcard, leaving a message or poem etc for next person to read when borrowing the book.

Via the teams Facebook page, a request for a 'talking bench' was made to tackle social isolation. The bench will have a plaque to encourage people to have a chat to each other and the Communities Team is working with the Town Council and Lowestoft Vision to identify existing benches that could become talking benches, new sites and funding, with the ultimate intention to roll these out across the District.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor J Mallinder, Cabinet Member for the Environment
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I attended the Suffolk Local Access Forum Steering group at the end of January. It was particularly interesting as we discussed the impact of the coastal path and loss and movement of footpaths at Friston. Coastal path proposals are fully supported by myself and the Steering Group especially in regard of encouraging resident and visitors to enjoy and appreciate our amazing biodiversity and environments on our doorstep. Concerns were raised in reference to the impact to birdlife but it was felt that with the correct fencing - as suggested by the Suffolk County Council footpaths representative, and positioning the paths the correct side of river and coastal walls, the impact would be minimal. The biggest problem is dogs so I will be looking at PSPOs as and when they are necessary.

Extension of the coastal path is a great project and fully support their proposals. SPR at Friston seem to have a total disregard of footpaths and access to the countryside and its disappointing their lack of regard to local paths walked over 100 years. I confirmed we at East

Suffolk although agree in principle to clean renewable energy, do not accept SPR's proposals as they stand and will continue to work for our residents to make sure we get the best deal possible. A presentation was given by our planning department on RAMS and I look forward to both elected ward members and the AONB being involved in a strategic level in determining projects and allocation of spending.

I attended the Suffolk Waste Partnership meeting where we discussed the performance of our facilities and looked at the longer strategic plans. Ultimately we need to wait for national government to confirm minimum requirements before we change any systems or engage with any new polices. We continue however to reinforce our message of reduce / reuse and recycle.

I attended the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management project, supporting Cllr David Ritchie and also the Coastal Partnership East Board meeting.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor R Kerry, Cabinet Member for Housing
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The Council is aware of the high priority of Housing to the current Government as well as the local communities in our district. The adoption of three new strategies in Housing in the last 6 months with another due shortly demonstrates that the Council's Housing Service recognises this and is taking a range of actions to meet these priorities.

In 2020 I can inform you that my housing teams will be undertaking many new initiatives which includes:

- Progressing on the redevelopment of the post office site in Lowestoft to provide 9 units of accommodation in the town centre as well as bringing a new retail unit onto the high street that will help to regenerate the centre. The planning application will be considered in the coming months;
- Helping to address the issue of rough sleeping in our district by submitting a bid for funding to employ a qualified senior social worker to work with homeless vulnerable adults in our district. We are also seeking funding for two outreach workers. We are waiting to hear the outcome of this bid but we are hopeful and it should make a great positive impact on addressing the problem of homelessness in East Suffolk;
- We have been funded by the Government through an *Innovation bid* to develop a scheme working with the voluntary sector to pilot a new approach to hoarding and self-neglect. By working with our partners we intend to develop best practice around decluttering, with ongoing support for tenants to achieve long term improvements in their mental health and reduce the incidence of recurrence;
- We have a 'Landlord's Digital Plan' of digital transformation work for our Landlord service that has already commenced. This will improve customer service and operating efficiency in the housing management service and includes:

- the introduction of predictive analytics for rental income,
 - online rent accounts for tenants,
 - text messaging for customer service,
 - computer based scheduling of maintenance works across East Suffolk District and a substantial move to paperless, mobile working.
- We have been successful in bidding for S106 properties in Darsham, expanding the Council’s housing stock into the south of the district – the first council housing here for nearly 30 years and an objective that we intend to continue with;
 - The Council’s involvement with the CityFibre project that will deliver a full fibre network across the county, but specifically for us in Lowestoft, Felixstowe and Woodbridge. This initiative will bring great benefits to residents in those towns, something that the Housing Team wish to take advantage of with our move to increased digitalisation for our service.
 - We will be involved in a new Housing Supply and Demand project as a partnership with the Suffolk Office of Data and Analytics and will pilot techniques to predict and inform future requirements for social housing. This will potentially provide essential information to help direct our future council housing development at locations where it is needed and of the type that is needed.

All together this highlights the broad range of the housing service and the different initiatives being undertaken in the coming year to improve the lives of our tenants and our communities.

Outside Bodies Representatives Reports

Felixstowe Landguard Partnership Committee	
Representative:	Councillor Stuart Bird
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NEW AGREEMENT

Still with English Heritage for signing off. The Governance Review may require an alteration of the wording of the agreement.

GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Two workshops and three fact finding visits to other Heritage sites conducted. Next review meeting is in March.

CAR PARKING CHARGES

These will come under the wider ESC parking charges review, with the aim to simplify tariffs. New charges planned to be implemented in April.

FELIXSTOWE MUSEUM

2019 visitor numbers were up. Meeting agreed a need to promote Landguard more fully as a visitor destination.

FERRY

2019 saw the equivalent of 38000 one way passengers.

NATURE RESERVE RANGER

The post is currently vacant, it is being advertised as a 12 month FTC.

BUDGET

Healthy but amounts were earmarked for future expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

APPENDICES – None

BACKGROUND PAPERS – None