



East Suffolk
Community
Partnerships

Bringing ideas to life

Lowestoft
& northern
parishes

Lowestoft and northern parishes Community Partnership

East Suffolk Councillors:

Councillor Paul Ashdown (Chairman)
Councillor Edward Back
Councillor Peter Byatt
Councillor Linda Coulam
Councillor Janet Craig
Councillor Tess Gandy
Councillor Andree Gee
Councillor Louise Gooch
Councillor Frank Mortimer
Councillor Trish Mortimer
Councillor Keith Patience
Councillor Malcolm Pitchers
Councillor Keith Robinson
Councillor Mary Rudd

Suffolk County Councillors:

Councillor Steve Ardley Councillor Craig Rivett
Councillor Jenny Ceresa Councillor Jamie Starling
Councillor James Reeder Councillor Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro

Partnership Organisations:

Local Town and Parish Councils
Suffolk Constabulary
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Clinical
Commissioning Group
Community Action Suffolk
Lowestoft Rising
Business Community
Youth Community
Environment

Members of the **Lowestoft and northern parishes Community Partnership** are invited to a meeting to be held remotely via Zoom on **Wednesday, 30 September 2020 at 6.00pm**

This meeting will be broadcast to the public via the East Suffolk Council YouTube Channel at <https://youtu.be/pe4g6EuvYOs>

Agenda

Pages

-
- | | | |
|----------|--|--------------|
| 1 | Welcome and Apologies for Absence
The Chairman will welcome everyone to the meeting and receive any apologies for absence. | |
| 2 | Election of a Vice-Chairman
To elect a Vice-Chairman for the Partnership for the 2020/21 Municipal Year. | |
| 3 | Notes of the Last Meeting
To confirm the notes of the last meeting held on 15 July 2020. | 1 - 5 |
| 4 | Update from the Community Partnerships Board - 7 September 2020
To receive an update from the Community Partnerships Board held on 7 September 2020. | 6 - 8 |
| 5 | Update on 2019/20 Funded Project
To receive an update in relation to the "Voice of a Friend" project. | |
| 6 | Update from Task and Finish Groups
Phil Aves will provide an update in relation to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish Group's activities, including the latest in relation to the Walk in the Park Project.

Nicki Cooper will provide an update in relation to the Childhood Obesity Task and Finish Group's activities, including the latest in relation to the Healthy Movers Project in an Early Year's setting as discussed at the last meeting. | |
| 7 | Dates of Future Meetings
To confirm the following dates of future meetings:

Wednesday, 2 December 2020 at 6.30pm
Wednesday 3 March 2021 at 6.30pm | |

Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Partnership Meetings

The Council and members of the partnership may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Democratic Services Team (in advance), who will instruct that they are not included in any filming.

If you require this document in large print, audio or Braille or in a different language, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01502 523521 or email:

democraticservices@eastsoffolk.gov.uk



The national Charter and Charter Plus Awards for Elected Member Development
East Suffolk Council is committed to achieving excellence in elected member development
www.local.gov.uk/Community-Leadership

Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 15 July 2020 held remotely via Zoom

Core Membership:

ESC Councillors – Cllr Paul Ashdown (Chairman), Cllr P Byatt, Cllr L Coulam, Cllr J Craig, Cllr A Gee, Cllr A Gooch, Cllr F Mortimer, Cllr T Mortimer, Cllr M Pitchers and Cllr M Rudd.

SCC Councillors – Cllr J Reeder and Cllr M Vigo Di Gallidoro.

Town and Parish Councils – P Armstrong (Corton Parish Council), S Foote (Lowestoft Town Council) and J Nicholls (Blundeston and Flixton Parish Council).

Partnership Organisations – P Aves (Lowestoft Rising), N Cooper and K McCormack (SCC – Health and Obesity Reduction), L Light (Community Action Suffolk), B Parish (Lowestoft Church and Faith Groups) and D Steel (Lowestoft Vision).

Others present – S Baker (Chief Executive and Lowestoft Vision Representative), L Bennett (ESC Partnership Manager), S Meeken (Political Group Assistant for Labour Group), N Rickard (Head of Communities), L Thomas (Communities Support Officer), R Tucker (Communities Officer) and S Davis (Democratic Services Officer).

Item	Discussion
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Chairman, Councillor Ashdown, welcomed everyone to the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that apologies had been received from East Suffolk Councillors Back, Patience and Robinson, Emma Ratzer (Access Community Trust) and Councillor Melanie Wright (Blundeston and Flixton Parish Council).</p>
2.	<p>Notes from the last meeting held on 11 March 2020</p> <p>The notes from the last meeting on 11 March 2020 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>

3.	<p>Community Partnership Board Update – 23 June 2020</p> <p>The Chairman referred to the update report on the agenda and it was noted that there was a small correction to section 2 relating to the potential impact of Covid-19. The list of issues the Board had focussed on was incorrect as “Housing and Welfare Support” was included twice but one should read “Communities and Inequalities”.</p> <p>The Partnerships Manager reported that initial data suggested there was more need in this Partnership area but the Board did not want to pre-empt this. It was noted that the Board had agreed to top up the Hidden Needs Funding to £100K and the deadline for applications was the end of this week. The point was made that the Hardship Fund was vital, as were the roots that Partnerships had in rural areas. The Partnerships Manager concluded that some initial scoping work had now commenced on “rural proofing” work.</p>
4. 5.	<p>The Community Partnership’s Priorities The Community Partnership’s Projects</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that the above two items be discussed together and, firstly, invited Phil Aves from Lowestoft Rising to give an update from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish Group and the impact that Covid-19 had on their activities since the last meeting.</p> <p>The Partnership was reminded that it had previously been agreed to allocate the full £10K budget for 2019/20 to the Walk in the Park project to meet the objectives of the Social Isolation theme agreed by the Partnership. Phil reported, however, that Covid-19 had meant this project had been put on ice but could be resurrected once the Government changed the restrictions on large gatherings. The second part of the project had been for the youngsters taking part in the walks to then gather at Sam’s Café so they could mingle and give/receive peer support but again this was currently on ice because of Covid-19. He reflected that during lockdown it was apparent that a lot of people had taken to walking so he hoped that this project would be popular once it started. Phil continued that, as a result of the Community Hub, help had been provided to those that needed it in terms of obtaining medicines, food etc and it had quickly been realised that a lot of people were feeling isolated so the Communities Team had put in place a telephone support service for those who were isolating and alone. About 150 people were now regularly receiving weekly calls and it was being proposed that this service be continued. The CAB currently had an existing “Social Prescribing” contract in place and it was felt that a “befriending” type scheme across this Partnership area would be an extension of this. The CAB had quoted a cost of £9,935 for 3 hours per day, 5</p>

days per week to manage the process and pair up those who want to befriend with those who want to access the “Voice of a Friend” service. The point was made that, in addition to this new service being an extension of the existing contract, the CAB would be able to identify and draw in a number of people who would be able to benefit from the new service and would more easily be able to expand it. Phil suggested using the £10K from 2019/20 given the Walk in the Park project was currently on ice. He also proposed that the CAB start the new service from 1 August as the Communities Team would be standing down the Community Hub at the end of July. Rachel Tucker, Communities Officer, added that the Community Hub was now starting to lose a large number of the volunteers as they were returning to their day jobs so something needed to be put in place to ensure the most vulnerable continued to be supported. Phil reported that he had submitted an article to the Lowestoft Journal encouraging people to donate some time to help those who felt isolated and he pointed out that this volunteering could be done from home.

The Partnership agreed that the CAB was ideally placed to co-ordinate the new “Voice of a Friend” scheme in the Lowestoft Partnership area and the point was made that other Partnerships might want to contract the CAB to provide this service in their areas. Danny Steele stated that there were three Rotary Clubs within the Lowestoft area who might be willing to volunteer and it was agreed that Phil would liaise with Danny on this.

Phil clarified that Officers were currently working through the Council’s procurement process for enabling the CAB to take on this Service and the Head of Communities stated that she did not foresee any issues with this. It was also agreed that the CAB would need to ensure that safeguarding measures were in place to protect the vulnerable.

AGREED:

That the proposal to use the 2019/20 £10K funding to contract the CAB to provide a “Voice of a Friend” Scheme be agreed as detailed at the meeting.

The Chairman invited Nicki Cooper from Suffolk County Council to give an update on the Childhood Obesity Task and Finish Group’s activities since the last meeting.

The Partnership was reminded that it had been agreed to focus activity on three primary schools within the Partnership area, two in Lowestoft and one in the northern parishes. Nicki reported that the final details had been put in place for the project when Covid-19 had struck, however, the Task and Finish Group was meeting next week to discuss moving the project forward. It was also noted that the bidding process for the second stage of the Shaping National Lives Fund had

been put on hold but would be starting again next week. In relation to the Youth Sports Trust's Healthy Movers project which aimed to encourage young people to incorporate more movement and activity in their daily lives, Nicki reported that this seemed to be something the Partnership might be interested in but it was unlikely schools would want to start a brand new project in September given the current situation as it would add more pressure on them, although they might want to take part in, say, January. She suggested, however, that early years providers might be more interested in starting a new project in September given it would support youngsters in increasing their physical activity and motor skills. She concluded that this would be discussed in more detail by the Task and Finish Group next week.

Several comments were made regarding the three schools chosen and the Head of Communities explained that the idea had been to choose a school that was already part way on their journey and two other schools that were further behind so that they could mentor each other, and share skills and knowledge of what had worked or not.

Nicki reported that a place based system approach created a safe place where it was easier for families to come together and to encourage them to be more active and eat less but the Partnership was reassured that it was not about putting children in a position where they were unhappy or belittled.

Partnership members were asked if anyone wanted to join this Task and Finish Group and it was agreed that Councillor Rudd would join.

Reference was made to a number of activities that would be put on over the summer months including "summer in a box" which included a whole range of activities for a family within a box, put together by professionals and funded by the DfE; a booklet of cultural activities created by the Cultural Partnerships; and a summer trail organised by Lowestoft Vision whereby children would be invited to various locations, take a photo and submit them with the winner receiving a £100 voucher. The need to ensure that disabled children and adults could take part in these activities was stressed.

The Chairman suggested that the statistics from the Communities Hub be shared with the Partnership The Head of Communities reported that she had taken a paper to the Lowestoft Rising Board on the whole community response to Covid-19 and she stated that this would also be shared with Partnership members as it focussed on Lowestoft and the northern parishes.

	<p>AGREED:</p> <p>That details of the community response including statistics from the Communities Hub be made available with the notes of the meeting and Councillor Rudd would join the Childhood Obesity Task and Finish Group.</p>
6.	<p>The Community Partnership's Core Membership</p> <p>The Partnership reviewed the Core Membership list.</p> <p>Reference was made to previous discussions regarding disabled access to the beach and a query was raised as to whether someone representing disabled groups should be invited to join the core membership. The point was made that if there were specific issues identified relevant people or organisations could be invited to join the Task and Finish Groups as an advisor.</p> <p>Further clarification was sought on the Amsterdam Programme detailed in the notes of the last meeting and reference was made to whether this would include organisations that the Hardship Fund had helped out with Business Grants eg a group in Pakefield/Kirkley offered physical activities to young people to tackle obesity. Nicki stated that she would send a link to a 4 minute YouTube video that explained the programme in more detail to include with the notes.</p>
7.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <p>That the next meeting take place on Wednesday, 30 September 2020 at 6.00pm.</p>

The meeting concluded at 7.15pm



Report to the Lowestoft and northern parishes Community Partnership – 30 September 2020

OUTCOMES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

1. Progress since the previous meeting held 23 June 2020

At its previous meeting, the Board had considered the potential impacts of Covid-19 on East Suffolk people and places. As a result, several Board Members put themselves forward to form a Task Group to consider the following issues and report back to the September meeting of the Board:

- **Social isolation and loneliness:** Top priority overall for the Board (and for six of the eight East Suffolk Community Partnerships)
- **Sustaining Community Hubs and Community Resilience/Empowering/Capability:** How do we capture and retain community energy – and fill any gaps?
- **Supporting the most vulnerable communities and people:** Covid-19 has not impacted every place and age group equally – how can we reduce these differences during recovery?

The Task Group met on 4 August.

Key decisions:

The Board agreed the following recommendations from the Task Group:

Action 1: Invest £50,000 additional funding in the Hidden Needs grant programme aimed at tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness in identified hot spot areas.

Action 2: Fund 25 additional GrandPads or equivalent (cost £25,000) to enable people with limited resources and no IT equipment/Wi-Fi to get connected (particularly in the north of the District).

Action 3: Hold a focus group with our Community Response Groups to identify what interventions have worked best to support those who are isolated and lonely and expand/sustain these groups.

Action 4 - Invest £100,000 in a new East Suffolk VCSE “Bounce Back Fund” to focus on four themes:

- Help local VCSE organisations and community groups to survive and thrive in a new context e.g. funding for infrastructure, promotion, adaptation, or other relevant costs

- Help local community buildings to reopen and resume enabling community activities safely e.g. for signage, PPE, disposable plates and cutlery
- Help youth organisations, groups, and clubs to adapt their activities and continue to support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of young people
- Help organisations who involve volunteers to thrive and grow in line with the volunteering strategy and campaign

Action 5: Allocate £5,000 of funding for a specific East Suffolk Volunteering Campaign to help people to get into volunteering as a pathway back into work, retain new Covid-19 volunteers by offering them additional volunteering opportunities, and support existing volunteers to continue in a new context. (District-wide campaign but with a specific focus on areas such as Lowestoft where volunteer numbers are low).

Action 6: Work with the key Covid-19 response groups in East Suffolk to develop a place focussed approach to Hardship and Food Poverty and scope out any additional resources required.

Action 7: Task Group to meet again with a particular focus on ‘Vulnerable People and Places’ to develop proposals for the December Board meeting.

2. Transport

Transport is one of two key priorities for the Community Partnership Board (alongside Social Isolation and Loneliness), however the recent focus of the Board has been on social isolation and loneliness and the Covid-19 response. Transport issues remain a priority (and key element of the discussions in many of the Community partnerships) and the Board is now keen to make progress, particularly given the links to other key areas of activity e.g. isolation, health and wellbeing and youth activities.

Key decisions:

The Board agreed the following actions to refocus on this priority:

Action 1: Put plans in place to ensure that the Transport priority is given substantive focus during the Community Partnership Forum in November (see below).

Action 2: Commission some additional resource to work with the Board to identify potential ‘quick win’ transport projects and help local organisations and groups to develop these with a tight focus on delivering tangible outcomes on the ground.

Action 3: The Board be prepared at its meeting in December to allocate funding from the 2020/21 Community Partnership Board budget to this priority - ringfenced to support local project development and delivery.

3. Community Partnership Annual Forum: 2 – 6 November 2020

As a response to Covid restrictions on events/social contact the annual forum planned to be held at Trinity Park Conference Centre has been cancelled. The Board has agreed to host a week-long programme of virtual events in its place.

Forum Purpose:

- For the Community Partnership Board to host 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 (Social Isolation and Transport) and individual Community Partnerships.
- To celebrate early wins 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.

The theme of the event is “**East Suffolk: Bringing Ideas to Life**”. Delegates will have the opportunity to join as many sessions as they wish throughout the week. The programme and booking details will be circulated by the end of September and members of the Community Partnerships are encouraged to attend and support the event, as well as to help promote the event to their wider networks.

Luke Bennett, Partnerships Manager
8 September 2020