

Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held at Bungay Community Centre on Monday, 6 June 2022

Core Membership:

ESC Councillors – Cllr Judy Cloke (Chairman), Cllr Caroline Topping (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Tony Goldson, Cllr Sarah Plummer, Cllr David Ritchie

Town and Parish Councils – Cllr Linda Kersey (Worlingham Parish Council), Cllr Beryl Matthews (Wisett Parish Council), Cllr Tony Dawes (Bungay Town Council)

Partnership Organisations – Fran Bedding (CAS), Edward Elphick (Youth Representative), Sue Collins (Bungay Community Support)

Others present – Tibbs Pinter (Suffolk Youth Project), Helen Bateman (CAS), Poppy Lovell (CAS), Sam Kenward (Communities Officer), Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities), Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer), Jo McCallum (Town Development Co-ordinator), Stacy Cosham (Town Development Co-ordinator)

Item	Discussion
1.	Welcome and Apologies Apologies for absence were received from Lee Drewery, Cllr Annette Dunning, Cllr Joyce Moseley, Cllr Graham Catchpole, Cllr Richard Stubbings, Phil Love, Cllr Alison Cackett, and Emma Healey
2.	Notes of the Previous Meeting The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.
3.	Community Partnership Board Update A written update had been shared with the agenda. Nicole Rickard (NR) added the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next meeting would be held on 13 June and would include discussion on the Peer Challenge Action Plan, the CP Annual Report and the report on tackling inequalities and cost of living.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board have proposed a new cost of living programme of around £500,000. Funding would come from a range of sources including £100,000 from Councillors own enabling funds. • Workshop has been held on the cost of living and potential projects to identify the 15 projects that would go forward.
4.	<p>Community Partnership Projects Update</p> <p>A written update had been shared with the agenda. Sam Kenward (SK) added the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health and wellbeing action plan shared from the last meeting has been updated and shared. CP does not have to take all actions now but can refer to it in the future.
5.	<p>Election of a Vice Chairman</p> <p>Cllr Caroline Topping was nominated by Cllr David Ritchie and seconded by Cllr Tony Dawes.</p> <p>There were no other nominations.</p> <p>Cllr Caroline Topping was duly elected Vice Chairman.</p>
6.	<p>Town Development Programme</p> <p>Jo McCallum and Stacy Cosham introduced the Town Development Programme which aimed to support town centres and communities to build on existing initiatives and support the creation of new projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently focussing on Bungay, Halesworth and Saxmundham. • Taking information from town surveys and the economic development team to help promote the towns. • Focus on market days, both increasing the number of traders and raising awareness of markets. • Also assisting with the Communities Team projects on cost of living initiatives. • Aware of issues around volunteering capacity following Covid and looking at how volunteers can be recruited and managed. • Also looking into the dementia friendly towns initiative and how towns can be made more welcoming to people with dementia and autism. • Currently focussing on the three towns but will hopefully roll the project out to others in due course.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each town was selected for a different reason, based on information from the People and Places Report and where the Council was less involved.
7.	<p>Youth Survey</p> <p>Helen Bateman (HB) and Poppy Lovell presented the results of the East Suffolk Rural Youth Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next step was to work with communities to identify people who would be interested in or already do support young people, and working with young people to understand their needs and interests. Both groups would then work together to develop solutions and fill gaps identified. HB confirmed that the survey results can be filtered to see the differences between age groups, but local consultation and discussion was important to determine what the issues were in each area. Survey had not specifically focused on SEN provision, but this could be a future focus.
8.	<p>Current Issues and Emerging Themes</p> <p>Rifle Hall, Halesworth</p> <p>Cllr Tony Goldson (TG) had submitted a project proposal on behalf of the Rifle Hall in Halesworth as Chairman of the Rifle Hall Trust. The hall needed to refurbish the toilets to include disabled facilities.</p> <p>Around £65k would be needed in total, an application had been submitted for lottery funding for around £30k and Halesworth Town Council would be contributing £5,000.</p> <p>Updating of the toilets would enable the Rifle Hall to be used as a meeting space by everyone in the community. Following the pandemic there was a great deal of uncertainty and fear about meeting up with others, along with other mental health concerns. A meeting space was needed which people could feel safe in and take part in activities.</p> <p>Many community buildings were inaccessible and support was needed to install disabled facilities. The CP asked that there be some level of monitoring of the benefits of the project. Whilst this would be difficult on monitoring exact usage of the facilities, it was important to monitor how public funding was being spent.</p> <p><i>Cllr Goldson left the meeting at this point to allow the Partnership to discuss the project.</i></p>

The Partnership accepted the lack of facilities in the Rifle Hall was an issue, people struggled to find disabled toilets and many of the disabled toilets currently in place were not suitable for certain disabilities.

The Partnership agreed that there was a need for this project, but was unsure whether the CP should provide funding. The Partnership generally helped projects that were not eligible for bigger funding such as lottery grants, and as this project would be other organisations could be approached before the CP offered funding.

The Partnership agreed that they would like to see some more information before the decision was taken on whether to fund or not to see what the renovations would include.

The Partnership suggested that the funding team could provide some assistance to help the Rifle Hall identify and access other funding pots first. CAS had a village halls advisor who could also provide some guidance.

ACTION: It was agreed that the application for funding would be deferred to later in the year when more information was available on the project. In the meantime the communities and funding team would provide guidance on other funding to access first.

Community Partnership Showcase and Infomarket

SK introduced the projects and stated that the showcase and marketplace events would be combined so that audiences weren't split, and money could be spent more effectively. Events had already taken place in the market towns which had proved popular.

- Would build on previous events but incorporate previous event feedback to improve the events.
- NR confirmed that one event could be combined with a wider East Suffolk Council event on the cost of living.
- The Halesworth event had previously been held in the Pear Tree Centre which had been provided free of charge as part of co-organising with them.
- An extra incentive was needed to get people to attend – needed to demonstrate what people would get out of the event.
- Need to ensure information is handed out at the right place – food banks, school lunch clubs, GP surgeries which were trusted sources of information.
- Also need to ensure that information reaches people who are housebound. Need to raise awareness of what is available in the area so that people can get in touch with their support services.

ACTION: £2,700 to be allocated to Infomarket events

	<p>Tree of life project</p> <p>SK introduced the project which aimed to engage people with nature as a way to improve mental health and wellbeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership suggested getting in touch with Greener Growth and including vegetable growing as part of the project. • A maintenance schedule needed to be considered as part of a project – so that wildflower areas do not get overgrown with invasive species and vegetable plots were harvested and pruned appropriately. • Existing groups who do similar activities would be engaged, such as Bungay Earthwake. • Would include single sessions of free yoga in the towns open space, with the potential to increasing this to a seasonal offer depending on take up. <p>ACTION: £815 to be allocated to tree of life project</p>
9.	<p>Workshop on CP Priorities and Actions for 2022/23</p> <p>SK led a workshop on the CP priorities for 2022/23.</p> <p>Results of the workshop would be shared after the meeting.</p>
10.	<p>Dates of Next Meetings</p> <p>Mondays at 6pm 19 September, 19 December 2022 and 27 February 2023.</p>

The meeting concluded at 8.31pm.



East Suffolk
Community
Partnerships

Bringing ideas to life

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Bungay,
Halesworth
& villages