

## **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><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></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><b>Notes from the last meeting held on 11 March 2020</b></p> <p>The notes from the last meeting on 11 March 2020 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>

3.	<p><b>Community Partnership Board Update – 23 June 2020</b></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><b>The Community Partnership’s Priorities</b> <b>The Community Partnership’s Projects</b></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><b>The Community Partnership's Core Membership</b></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><b>Date of next meeting:</b></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