

## **Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership**

**Action Notes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 21 September 2022**

**at Lound Plant Centre, 6pm**

ESC Councillors – Councillor Paul Ashdown (Chairman), Edward Back, Peter Byatt, Linda Coulam, Janet Craig, Louise Gooch, Keith Patience, Mary Rudd,

SCC Councillors – Councillors James Reeder and Melanie Vigo Di Gallidoro

Town and Parish Councils – Jill Brown (Lound Parish Council), Councillors Steve Pavey (Corton Parish Council) Andy Pearce (Lowestoft Town Council), Miles Thomas (Lound Parish Council)

Partnership Organisations – Danny Steel (Lowestoft Vision), Phil Aves (Lowestoft Rising)

Others present –

Megan Clifford (Senior Financial Inclusion Officer), Gemma Fraser (Communities Officer), Judith Hobbs (Lound Church), Helen Rawlins (Lound Plant Centre), Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities), Jennifer Ozinel (Lound Parish Council) Rosemarie Paige, Brian Paige (Lound Village Hall), Dee Quayum, Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer), Claire Taylor-Haigh (Women Like Me)

Item	Discussion
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Cllr Ashdown (PA) welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies from Councillor Andree Gee and Keith Robinson, and Nicki Cooper (Public Health Suffolk).</p>
2	<p><b>Action Notes</b></p> <p>The Action Notes from the last meeting held on 21 June 2022 were agreed.</p>
3.	<p><b>Board Update</b></p> <p>Nicole Rickard (NR) updated on the recent Community Partnership Board meeting. The board received presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ease the squeeze</li> <li>• Transport and travel programme</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social isolation and loneliness workstreams</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Project updates</b></p> <p><b>Walk in the park</b> Phil Aves (PAv) updated on the project which aimed to reduce social isolation through group walks. The project had been delayed due to Covid but had run this summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Averaged 15-18 people attending per week across twenty weeks</li> <li>• Some walks had been changed around due to accessibility issues</li> <li>• Walks enabled people to share stories and histories of the area</li> <li>• Did not reach as many people as hoped despite marketing efforts, however several other organisations had been running similar events through the summer aimed at more specific groups (mental health walks etc.)</li> <li>• Access Community Trust would be taking learning forward through other projects</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth clubs</b> PAv updated the meeting on the project which had been run in conjunction with walks in the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• activities encouraged young people to learn about nutrition, health and trying different food</li> <li>• Offered as a safe place for people to drop in, some people brought family with them due to anxiety about being alone, so group did expand slightly</li> <li>• Approximately 18 people attended each week</li> <li>• Some activities have been incorporated into other projects</li> <li>• Access Community Trust have acquired a new building and will be opening youth mental health café for teenagers, running every day after school and some of the activities will be feeding into this.</li> </ul> <p><b>School planters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 schools now had planters, there was funding for more schools to join</li> <li>• Project was being expanded as part of the Board Ease the Squeeze project to provide planters/window boxes to enable people to grow their own food</li> <li>• PAv suggested training teachers on how to plant up planters as part of the winter outdoor day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Game On</b> Cllr Gooch (LG) summarised the game on project, which would tie in with the warm rooms project.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A day would take place at Waterlane Centre to gather local games groups to enable them to network and encourage communities to get involved with the groups.</li> <li>• LG would be applying for a grant from Lowestoft Town Council to pay for hire charges and any sundries.</li> <li>• Date still needed to be confirmed with the centre, but it would be a weekend in November (5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>).</li> <li>• If this event was successful, the group would look into how this could be tied into warm rooms going forward.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> CP agreed that they would provide support to the game on project as necessary, either through funding or advertising.</p>
5.	<p><b>Community Issues</b></p> <p>Following earlier discussion on planters, Cllr Byatt asked that Parish and Town Councils consider whether they had any land available which could be given over to community allotments and gardens, to enable people to both grow their own food and to grow food for local food pantries.</p> <p>PA summarised a project to create a community hub in Lowestoft incorporating a food bank, uniform bank, café and other community facilities. PA asked whether the Community Partnership would be willing to allocate £5,000 to the initial set up and rent costs. Going forward the rent would be covered by the other groups going into the space and sharing the rent.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The Community Partnership agreed that £5,000 be earmarked for the initial set up and lease costs for the community hub, subject to an outcome proposal being received and agreed via email.</p>
6.	<p><b>Date of Next meeting</b></p> <p>20 December 2022, location to be confirmed.</p>
7.	<p><b>Financial Inclusion Officers</b></p> <p>CP received a presentation from Megan Clifford, Senior Financial Inclusion Officer, on the financial inclusion team.</p> <p>The team worked with residents across the district to help them manage their money through budgeting, access to benefits and ensuring payments are correct, low level debt management and access to cost of living payments. Referrals are received from other agencies or online self-referral.</p>

	<p>Team also refers people to citizens advice and national step change and disability organisations, including DANES, for more complicated debt issues.</p> <p>Financial roadshows are taking place across the district to help raise awareness of the team and other agencies who can help in the area (housing, mental health), and the team are going into schools and other community facilities to provide on the ground assistance for those who do not use the internet.</p> <p>NR confirmed that funding for the team was coming from Covid grants the Council had received.</p>
8.	<p><b>Warm Rooms Project</b></p> <p>PAv introduced the Councils warm rooms project which was being rolled out across East Suffolk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two tiers of warm room were being looked at, one for smaller rooms (under 15 people) and one for larger (over 25 people) with a grant for each which would cover the cost of the electricity, heating and teas and coffee.</li> <li>• The aim was for rooms to be open twice a week for around six hours. There was some flexibility in this, but rooms would need to be open for an extended period of time in one day.</li> <li>• Some venues may already be running as another facilities (lunch clubs, over 60s clubs etc) and funding would be available to help these groups expand this offer.</li> <li>• There was the hope that this CP area would have two small and four large rooms funded by the central pot, with the community partnership being able to fund additional rooms. PAv highlighted the importance of ensuring that some of these were in rural areas.</li> <li>• There was no expectation to provide lunches etc. as part of this, just tea and coffee.</li> <li>• Most rooms would run during the day time, but there was no specific hours which had to be covered and it would be good to have some which covered the early evening period.</li> <li>• A number of organisations in Lowestoft had expressed interest, and PAv expected more facilities to come forward than there was funding for.</li> <li>• Funding would cover 22 weeks from mid-October to mid-March.</li> <li>• Balfour Beatty had committed to funding refreshments in the rooms which would enable the funding to be stretched further.</li> <li>• Lowestoft Town Council was making rooms available free of charge, but would need help staffing them. Other groups had made similar offers and would need volunteers rather than funds.</li> </ul>

- The rural coffee caravan was running a related project to bring this project into rural areas.

There was discussion about what needed to be considered as part of each warm room, and what other groups could provide volunteers or funding.

**ACTION:** £16,000 to be allocated to warm rooms project for this CP to extend warm rooms project in this area.

The meeting concluded at 7.51pm