



## **Framlingham, Wickham Market and villages Community Partnership**

### **Action Notes of the Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 12 January 2023 at 6.00pm**

#### **Core Membership:**

**ESC Councillors** – Councillor Carol Poulter (Chairman), Councillor Maurice Cook, Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Councillor Lydia Freeman

**Town and Parish Councils** – Klaus Fortmann (Campsea Ashe Parish Council), Cllr Ivor French (Chairman, Wickham Market Parish Council), Cllr Adrian Revill (Chairman, Hacheston Parish Council), Richard Cooper (Marlesford Parish Council), Cllr Paul Ashton (Yoxford Parish Council)

**Partnership Organisations** – Dick Jenkinson (Wickham Market Good Neighbour Scheme)

**Others present** – Ben Bix (Democratic Services Officer), Joss Mullett (ESC Communities Officer), Nick Khan (Strategic Director), Stuart Watson (CYDS Project Manager), Cath Caudwell (Wickham Market Partnership), Nick Corke (Hour Community)

**Apologies:-** Cllr John Cross (Great Glemham Parish Council), Jane Healey (Green Print Forum), Cllr Marion Hone (Chairman, Framlingham Town Council)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Action Notes</b>  The action notes of the meeting held on 6 October 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Community Partnership Board Update</b>  Nick Khan updated the Partnership on the most recent meeting of the Board which had discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accessibility of rural transport and the challenges of social isolation</li><li>• The Government's Shared Prosperity Fund had allocated £2.75m to East Suffolk Council over three years to enable the development of community facilities and hubs, including investment and support for digital infrastructure and circular economy projects in local community facilities.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rural England Prosperity Fund had introduced a 21st century community and business hub grant programme to provide critical upgrades and improvements to community facilities fit for 21st century use. It was open to village halls, churches, community buildings and commercial spaces that were looking to refocus.</li> <li>• Progress of the Ease the Squeeze Programme – particularly the introduction of Warm Rooms and Warm Spaces.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Current projects update - Feedback from the Task and Finish Group</b></p> <p>JM updated Members that the three task and finish groups that had been established had now met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The transport group was well attended and had benefitted from the knowledge of local Members</li> <li>• The Mental Health group had considered the student life report and discussed support for bereavement</li> <li>• The intergenerational skills exchange group had discussed the growth of the Wickham Market Men’s Shed, how it benefitted surrounding parishes and how the Partnership could support its continued growth</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Burroughes was of the view that consideration should be given to the nomenclature of the mental health group to instead be ‘emotional health’.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Community issues, including Youth Voice themes</b></p> <p>Councillor Poulter had observed the ongoing challenges of recruiting volunteers for community activities, which was also apparent where Parish Councils had not been able to attract Members; and invited other Members to speak:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Ashton commented that engagement between the Community Partnership and Parish Councils could be re-energised for the forthcoming year which would encourage participation – the community partnership had funding that parish councils could bid for and should be made more aware about</li> <li>• Nick Corke highlighted the continued pressure on transport for medical appointments within the elderly population and urged that core funding was needed</li> <li>• Ivor French updated the Partnership on the Warm Rooms initiative in Wickham Market which was operating twice a week. Take up had been poor initially, but had improved recently, and the initiative would continue</li> </ul>



	<p>until March. Nick Corke added that the take-up of Warm Rooms in Framlingham had been good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dick Jenkinson advised that the Men’s Shed in Wickham Market had continued to grow and needed new premises</li> <li>• Richard Cooper explained that improvements to Marlesford Community Centre had progressed including the provision of wifi connectivity, it was hoped that funding could be secured for improved heating. The village was concerned about the future impact of the Sizewell C development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of the Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Members noted the date of the next meeting as 9 March 2023 at 6.30pm. The proposed meeting location would be the new Castle Community Rooms, Framlingham.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Ground Rules for Community Partnerships - To note the ground rules</b></p> <p>At the invitation of the Chairman, those present noted, and were content with the ground rules for partnership meetings.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Update on proposed replacement for the Katch electric taxi-bus service</b></p> <p>Nick Khan updated those present that East Suffolk Council were considering options for a ‘Katch 2’ replacement service for the Katch bus service that could no longer be funded by Suffolk County Council. The service had ceased in December 2022 as the fare income did not cover the costs of the provision of the service. There was a clear willingness amongst local councillors to re-provide the service, subject to improved routing and modern methods of booking the service. It was clear that the provision of the service was not just about the cost implications, the service was a community benefit, take-up of 150 users per week had been reasonable, there were environmental benefits and some infrastructure was already in place. The CP Board had considered the matter in December and were supportive of the assembly of a project team. The team had now formed and would work on refreshing the route to include more stops in villages, licensing arrangements, vehicle options, options for the recruitment and support of drivers and introduce a fare structure that would utilise app and phone booking and payment systems.</p> <p>Nick Khan explained that options being considered included the engagement of an existing community transport provider and that a pilot project would run for one year before being reviewed. Viability would continue to be a challenge, but the service would be promoted to multi occupancy users to encourage take-up and regular use.</p>

	<p>Members welcomed the update and commented as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing of the service was crucial to its viability</li> <li>• During Covid, the service had proven to be a lifeline for many residents</li> <li>• Connectivity with other services and alignment with opening times of local facilities was necessary</li> <li>• Consideration should be given to convoluted processes whereby those that qualified for bus passes could instead apply for £100 of travel vouchers, but that those could not yet be applied for online</li> </ul> <p>Nick Khan responded accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alex Heys, the Communities Manager was part of the project team and had a background in marketing and utilisation of social media tools</li> <li>• Young people could also use the service and marketing would be aligned to increase uptake amongst that cohort</li> <li>• SCC had provided some resource and were supportive of improving the service by engaging in the project</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) JM to facilitate the engagement of the Partnership transport task and finish group with the project; and</li> <li>2) Once established, the 'Katch 2' service be promoted by Partnership Members in their local communities.</li> </ol>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Re-allocation of funds to new priorities</b></p> <p>JM explained that two previously funded initiatives had returned the funds allocated to them totalling £5,800. Those funds could now be repurposed in accordance with the partnership's new priority themes.</p> <p>a) At the invitation of the Chairman, Cath Caudwell (CC) explained the proposal to relocate the Wickham Market Men's Shed. The existing buildings (sheds and portacabin) housed both the archive centre and the men's shed facility. A solution had been found to relocate the archive centre to a bespoke wooden cabin behind the library, which in turn would free-up the existing buildings to be fully repurposed for the sole use of the Men's Shed. Users of the Men's Shed would use their skills on the construction of the wooden cabin. Funding of £6050 had already been secured and support was sought from the partnership for the remaining amount of £3,000.</p>



	<p>The Chairman sought endorsement for the project and with the assent of the those voting members present, it was <b>agreed</b> to endorse a funding allocation of £3,000 to the Wickham Market Partnership of the total project cost of £22,050.</p> <p>b) Stuart Watson introduced the Wickham Market CYDS Project. The youth project had been established in response to reports of anti-social behaviour. The village hall had been chosen as a suitable premises, but take-up had now exceeded capacity. It was desirable to maintain engagement through the age groups and the school had been identified as a more suitable premises. Ivor French concurred and emphasised the importance of the project to the Parish Council. Funding of £2,800 was requested for CYDS to continue to deliver the service.</p> <p>The Chairman sought endorsement for the project, and with the assent of those voting members present, it was <b>agreed</b> to endorse a funding allocation of £2,800 of the total project cost of £12,200 to the Wickham Market CYDS Project.</p> <p>Maurice Cook reflected on the transport priority of the partnership and explained that the Hour Community Charity had been providing transport support to help vulnerable residents attend medical appointments. The charity wished to source a third vehicle with an accessible swing-arm seat and had secured CIL funding from Framlingham Town Council of £23,000. The shortfall of £4995 was being requested from the partnership.</p> <p>The Chairman sought endorsement for the project and with the assent of the those voting members present, it was <b>agreed</b> to endorse a funding allocation of £4995 to the Hour Community Charity.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Budget Update</b></p> <p>JM explained the current budget profile for the partnership and reminded Members that each of the three task and finish groups would report back to the March meeting of the partnership with their proposals for their £4000 allocations. It was forecast that at the end of the financial year there would be an unspent allocation of £6000 which JM undertook to bring forward suggestions for how the remaining allocation could be utilised, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the partnership to the March meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> JM to liaise with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman on utilisation of the forecast unspent funding allocation.</p>

The meeting concluded at 7.27pm