

Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held on Monday, 9 March 2020 in Halesworth Day Centre, London Road, Halesworth, IP19 8LW

Core Membership:

ESC Councillors – Cllr J Cloke (Chairman), Cllr E Bramley-Crawshaw, Cllr A Cackett, Cllr G Elliott, Cllr D Ritchie and Cllr C Topping

SCC Councillors – Cllr T Goldson

Town and Parish Councils – B Prior (Bungay Town Council) and D Wollweber (Halesworth Town Council)

Partnership Organisations – J Howell (HACT), B Howard (HACT) and S Mortimer (CAS).

Others present – L Bennett (ESC Partnership Manager), S Carter (Democratic Services Officer), S Halsey (Communities Officer) and G Hirst (Communities Support Officer).

Item	Discussion
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from G Birrell and G Catchpole (Beccles Town Council), S Collins (Bungay Town Council) and ESC Councillor L Smith (Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism).</p>
2.	<p>Notes</p> <p>The Notes of the meeting held on 3 February were agreed as a correct record, subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusion of apologies from ESC Councillor A Cackett • Bungay (not Beccles) table tennis on page 5
3.	<p>Report back from the Improve Wellbeing Task and Finish Group</p> <p>The Communities Officer introduced Councillor Graham Elliott who gave a report back from the Task and Finish Group.</p> <p>Councillor Elliott reminded the CP that it had agreed to tackle priority 3 and set up a Task and Finish Group to consider ideas and report back on proposals to spend the £10,000 available in the current year. The first two priorities relating to Transport and Loneliness had initially been put aside as strategic priorities</p>

which were to be considered by the CP Board. Both of those priorities could be tackled more thoroughly in the next financial year.

The Task and Finish Group had comprised members from Beccles, Halesworth and Bungay and had proposed several ideas which included fresh air, getting people talking and eating healthy food, and included funding for summer activities.

As a Member of the Task and Finish Group, Councillor Elliott outlined the projects the Group had discussed as follows:

Beccles - £3,500

- Goose Green Orchard
- Land locked area without public access but in public ownership
- Turn into community orchard for all Beccles residents

Bungay - £3,500

- Reclaiming Old Cemetery
- Aspirational work caring for God's acre
- Turn into tranquil green space for those walking or wishing to sit

Halesworth - £2,000

- Wellbeing community bench
- Full details as project summary

Summer Activities - £1,500

- As project summary

The recommendation from the Task and Finish Group was to allocate funding as follows:

£3,250 each for Beccles and Bungay

£2,000 for Halesworth

£1,500 for Summer Activities

The Communities Officer tabled full details for each of the proposed projects together with photographs showing the Beccles and Bungay sites. He asked for each table to discuss the proposals and provide feedback so that funding could be allocated prior to the end of the financial year.

Feedback from Table Discussions

Goose Green Gardens Community Orchard, Beccles

Good project, brilliant idea

What not to like

	<p>Could be really successful Identify match funding</p> <p><u>Reclaiming Bungay's Old Cemetery</u> Good idea Welcome informal paths through site Need to consider suitable access for the disabled as the site was on a hill Much needed particularly as near to the new community centre</p> <p>The Bungay Town Council representative confirmed that volunteers from the allotments and other groups had offered their services.</p> <p><u>Meet us at the Bench, Halesworth</u> Councillor Elliott reported that the Task and Finish Group believed it would be good to do something in memory of Richard Woolnough, a community orientated worker who had been involved in the Millennium Green and cycle route.</p> <p>Whilst the proposal was generally supported, questions were raised over the allocation of staffing costs, the location, the need to widen parameters for communal seating area, style of bench to be used and its location. The moving of the bench into the church/church hall on winter was also questioned.</p> <p>It was unfortunate that the Halesworth representatives on the Task and Finish Group were not present at the CP to give a full response. The Communities Officer explained that staffing related to people who would help facilitate the sessions. Whilst the location had not been fixed, it was believed benches were normally bolted down; it was not straightforward to just move a bench in winter.</p> <p>The CP was of the opinion that the concept was a good idea, the style and location of the bench should be considered, as too a notice board for explaining the 'come and meet'. For community use and possibly picnics too, it was suggested that the Millennium Green might be a better location for the wider community to use.</p> <p>The Communities Officer proposed that Emma Healey from the Volunteer Centre be approached to lead the project in partnership with others and he would make contact with Emma to see how the project could work based on the original idea and changes suggested by the CP.</p> <p><u>Summer Activities Programme for Beccles, Bungay and Halesworth</u> Good idea for keeping youngsters busy in the summer Involvement with youth clubs Possible provision in Worlingham</p>
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	<p>Use of community bus provision for youngsters in the villages Open access for all to attend Potential for activities across the market towns to be marketed as same project so any young person (within agreed age category) could attend any of the sessions in any area</p> <p>In response to questions, the Communities Officer explained that additional funding would be required to deliver five sessions per market town and he was already communicating with partners to achieve that. Various locations would be considered to deliver the sessions with some areas using one location to deliver all sessions throughout the holidays, but others might wish to use different locations within communities across their town. Consideration would also be given to possible water sports provision if there was a facility locally that could provide it safely and if funding allowed.</p> <p>Comment was made about the fact that there was isolation in rural communities for youngsters and a pilot scheme for picking up youngsters from the villages could be considered. The Communities Officer explained that resources could be put into rural transport but it had previously been found that younger people were not likely to use it. The CP noted that round trips to villages by HACT could take some two hours and it was difficult to be certain that improved transport links would be in place for the summer.</p> <p>The CP was reminded that travel providers and rural transport would be discussed in the next financial year.</p>
4.	<p>Allocation of Funding for the 2019/20 Financial Year</p> <p><u>Goose Green Gardens Community Orchard, Beccles</u></p> <p>This was fully supported.</p> <p>Consensus of opinion from those present AGREED funding of £3,250. ACTION – Stuart Halsey</p> <p><u>Reclaiming Bungay's Old Cemetery</u></p> <p>This was fully supported.</p> <p>Consensus of opinion from those present AGREED funding of £3,250. ACTION – Stuart Halsey</p>

	<p><u>Meet us at the Bench, Halesworth</u></p> <p>The provision of a bench for the community was supported.</p> <p>Consensus of opinion from those present AGREED in principle funding of £2,000 subject to the Communities Officer liaising with the Volunteer Centre for that organisation to take the proposal forward in consultation with the Halesworth Town Council and Millennium Green Trust.</p> <p>ACTION – Stuart Halsey</p> <p><u>Summer Activities Programme for Beccles, Bungay and Halesworth</u></p> <p>The CP supported another year of providing summer activities.</p> <p>Consensus of opinion from those present AGREED funding of £1,500.</p> <p>ACTION – Stuart Halsey</p>
5.	<p>Proposals for the 2020/21 Financial Year</p> <p>The Chairman expressed thanks to the members of the Task and Finish Group who had proposed such useful and well considered projects for the three main towns.</p> <p>The Chairman explained the need to have a commitment from the representatives of the partners that they could attend the CP meetings or ensure that substitutes were appropriately briefed to ensure continuity. Moving forward, the CP would need to consider its membership and its future direction as to whether it should continue with the current topic or consider one of its other priorities, even though priorities 1 and 2 were being addressed by the district as a whole and, therefore, potentially attract more funding.</p> <p>The Chairman further advised that she would be attending a CP Board meeting on 16 March which was likely to bring further information forward for this CP's next meeting. She proposed that, at its next meeting, the CP could decide on its priorities for the 2020/21 year, how efforts could be focussed and encourage more involvement from the rural villages and settlements.</p> <p>It was proposed that ESC Members raise the profile of the Community Partnership when they visited parish meetings.</p> <p>The Communities Officer advised that people seeing the benefits of money being spent in the community would itself encourage interest. Parishes would need to come forward with their proposals as all ideas would be given consideration.</p>

	<p>The Communities Officer reminded the CP that there was a £25,000 budget for 2020/21 and the CP would need to consider allocation, for example half to be used as a lump sum(s) and half being split into smaller grants.</p> <p>As Assistant Cabinet Member for Transport, ESC Councillor Cackett advised that she would be attending a meeting the following week with Andrew Reid at the County when they would be looking at transport for jobs, colleges, etc.</p>
6.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The Chairman thanked all for attending that evening and expressed the view that everyone had made a flying start to the Community Partnership. She expressed thanks to the officers – Stuart, Sarah, Georgina and Luke – for their help and guidance, particularly behind the scenes, which had contributed to helping the CP reach this point so efficiently.</p> <p>Monday 27 April 2020 had been put in the diary for the next meeting and, looking ahead, the Chairman asked for clarification as to best time to hold the meeting, whether it be afternoon or evening. The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that Ilketshall St Andrew Village Hall had been provisionally booked to hold the meeting.</p> <p>Consensus of opinion of those present was to continue to commence at 6.00pm.</p> <p>ACTION – Sarah Carter</p>

The meeting concluded at 7.25pm.

Subsequent to this meeting, the CP meeting due to be held on 27 April was cancelled due to the restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic.